



World Meteorological Organization



Global Water Partnership

THE ASSOCIATED PROGRAMME ON FLOOD MANAGEMENT

Global Coordination



INTERIM STEERING COMMITTEE

FIRST MEETING

(Stockholm, 17 August 2001)

FINAL REPORT

OPENING AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

1.1 The Interim Steering Committee of the Associated Programme on Flood Management was constituted on the occasion of its preliminary meeting, held in Washington D.C. on 17 April 2001. Its first full meeting was held in the Conference Room of the GWP Secretariat in Stockholm on Friday 17 August 2001. The membership of the Committee is given in Annex I.

1.2 The meeting was attended by those listed in Annex II to this report.

1.3 The chairman, Mr T. Jonch-Clausen, opened the meeting at 19h00 and it was agreed to discuss the topics listed in the agenda contained in Annex III.

2. STATUS OF THE ASSOCIATED PROGRAMME ON FLOOD MANAGEMENT (APFM)

2.1 Technical Support Unit (TSU)

2.1.1 Mr A. Askew reported that, as promised, the first contribution of funds had been received from Japan at the end of July 2001 which, thanks to a spirit of pragmatic flexibility shown by the donor and the WMO Administration, had allowed the TSU to be established on 1 August 2001. Mr K. Miyake had arrived in Geneva and was now working full-time as a Professional Officer in the TSU, which was headed by Mr A. Askew and received support from other staff of the Hydrology and Water Resources Department of the WMO Secretariat, most notably Mr G. Arduino.

2.1.2 He emphasized that, while the TSU was physically located within the WMO Headquarters building, and its address was of necessity that of WMO, it was not considered part of the WMO Secretariat.

2.1.3 Mr F. Smiet advised the meeting that plans were in hand for The Netherlands to provide the financial support it had promised. The hope was that the payment would be made within two months.

2.1.4 Mr Askew reported that a letter had been received from France indicating that efforts were being made to second a Junior Professional Officer from that country to work on the APFM.

2.2 Regional projects

(Summaries of the status of these projects, as provided by their representatives, are attached as Annex IV.)

South America

2.2.1 The original project proposal of SAMTAC discussed in 23 April 2001 in Buenos Aires has since been revised to be more focussed and a separate inception phase has been introduced with a project proposal costed at about \$ 100,000. This was considered further at a meeting held recently in Puerto Alegre.

2.2.2 The activities planned for the inception phase, until March 2002, were identified as follows:

- (a) Preparation and planning of local workshops in detail (programmes, dates, participants, budgets) until September; local workshops to be held between October and December 2001; regional workshop to be held in March 2002.

- (b) Elaboration of papers on past flood events and their mitigation in all the countries, in order to compile them into a book on flood mitigation in South America that should be ready by the end of the Inception phase.

2.2.3 It was suggested that CIDA (Canada) or US-AID might be interested in funding the final project and support might also be obtained from IDB. As regards the inception phase of the project, Mr Kenzo Hiroki offered to investigate the possibility of funding from a Pan-Pacific Japanese Fund which had a particular interest in natural hazards, especially mud-flows and landslides. (Note: A meeting in Foz de Iguaçu in September 2001, Mr.Hiroki confirmed that Japan would support the SAMTAC initiative on workshops with local authorities with the sum of US\$100,000.)

Central America

2.2.4 A new project proposal had recently been drafted, aimed at reducing vulnerability to disasters and based on the policy adopted in 1999 for a regional approach to the problem. The lead was being taken by the regional Water Consultative Group, of which CATAC was a member.

2.2.5 The TSU was asked to offer advice to this Group on the further development of the proposal and it was pointed out that CATAC itself would need to endorse it before it could be submitted formally to TEC.

2.2.6 In the meantime, a 2-3 page summary of the proposal would be provided to Mr Hiroki so that he might investigate the possibility of obtaining at least some initial financial support from the Japanese fund referred to under 2.2.2 above.

2.2.7 It was noted that JICA had already expressed an interest in assisting projects related to natural disasters in Central America. Mr Hiroki agreed to contact JICA on the matter. A meeting of partner organizations of the project will be convened once financial support is confirmed.

South Asia

2.2.8 The SASTAC project proposal endorsed by TAC in December 2000 had since been revised. The latest version was dated February 2001. The TSU was invited to comment on the latest draft and Mr Hiroki was provided with a provisional copy so that he might discuss the possibility of JICA providing some support.

2.2.9 It was noted that TEC would need to consider the revised draft if it were to be considered more formally for funding.

South Africa

2.2.10 It was noted that the Southern African RWP were in discussion with the SADC Water Unit as regards a draft proposal on floods and droughts. The request was made that a copy of the present draft be made available to the members of the Interim Steering Committee.

3. FUTURE ACTION

3.1 Establishment of contact with other bodies

3.1.1 It was recognized that the most important requirement was to establish close working arrangements with the RTACs and RWPs implementing activities in flood management (FM). It was necessary to contact other APs of the GWP and IGOs and NGOs active in FM so that the AP could truly fulfil its objectives.

3.1.2 The TSU intended to launch a "virtual forum" through the 3WWF mechanism, not only to give the APFM visibility and obtain information, but also as a potential source of contacts for longer-term cooperation.

3.1.3 The channels of communication offered by the GWP and WMO would also be used to make contact with other bodies involved in FM and the members of the Interim Steering Committee were asked to advise the TSU of any such bodies of which they are aware.

3.1.4 A major effort should be made to contact institutions and organizations having expertise and actively involved in the socio-economic aspects of FM.

3.1.5 The list of contacts should include, not only international bodies, but also those operating at regional and national level.

3.1.6 This list of contacts could be very long and will provide a useful source of information and advice and/or a means of promoting the IWRM concept within FM. However, only a comparatively small number of the bodies listed could be recognized as partners and, among these, it might be useful to distinguish different roles for some. The TSU was asked to make specific proposals in this regard for inclusion in the Inception Report.

3.2 Assembling information on past floods and good practices

3.2.1 An extensive enquiry would be made to obtain information on both of these topics, recognizing that a lot of information exists and the challenge is to identify the relevant material and establish an efficient procedure for assembling a physical and/or virtual library and making its contents widely available. The other GWP/APs offered both sources and avenues for dissemination and above all the GWP Tool Box should be used.

3.2.2 There was particular interest in the development of a series of case studies, illustrating not only the flood problem, but also how best to manage floods, obtaining their benefits and minimizing their destructive impacts. The Tool Box had developed a format that might be used, the SAMTAC project referred to under 2.2.1 above could also offer not only a format but actual case studies. On-going projects in South-East-Asia and that of IAHS/WMO/UNESCO were useful potential sources of material. A specific offer was made of a case study for the Rio Lempa in Central America, and it was suggested to consider also The Netherlands for a contrasting location. One other potential source of case studies was FAO, through its early warning activities. There would need to be a special effort to identify case studies which incorporated FM within IWRM and demonstrated the positive as well as the negative aspects of floods.

3.2.3 It was recognized that this whole activity would extend over many years with refinement of the format and content of the case studies, the addition of new case studies and identification of new source material on good practices.

3.3 Support of regional activities

3.3.1 The actions and plans recorded under 3.1 above are specific to the regions concerned. In addition, some general remarks were made with regard to support to regional activities.

3.3.2 While the TSU has no formal control over or responsibility for the regional projects, it is to be pro-active in its advisory capacity. An exception to this may occur if a donor specifically requests the TSU to take on a more specifically practical role, in agreement with the RTAC/RWP concerned. The advice of TSU should be sought by RTACs and RWPs when developing proposals in FM and the TSU will be consulted by TEC on such activities.

3.3.3 The TSU may be able to assist in locating a donor to fund a particular regional project, but the primary responsibility in this regard lies with the RTAC or RWP concerned.

3.3.4 The funds available to the TSU to support regional projects should be used primarily to assist with their conceptual development, planning and coordination and not with their implementation.

3.4 Report of TSU activities and preparation of the Inception Report.

3.4.1 It was agreed that it would be useful to give some visibility to the APFM at the International Conference on Freshwater (Bonn, December 2001), even though the AP would not be formally launched until March 2001. It was proposed that an approach be made to the 3WWF Secretariat to incorporate this within their overall presentation to the Bonn Conference.

3.4.2 Towards the end of the year, a main task of the TSU would be to draft the Inception Report. This should report on the work done to date, not only at global but also at regional level, present a summary of the case studies and good practices, include a list of contacts and identify project partners, especially those from socio-economic fields. It would also identify the challenges ahead and present detailed plans and budgets for the achievement of the overall goals of the AP in the subsequent Implementation Phase. A first draft of this report should be provided to the members of the Interim Steering Committee in January 2001 so that their comments might be taken into consideration in its finalization for submission to the next meeting of the Committee.

3.4.3 The second meeting of the Interim Steering Committee needs to be held in March 2001. The chairman and TSU were requested to seek for a suitable occasion on which to convene the meeting, such as when the majority of members would already be present. This might be in conjunction with an event scheduled to celebrate World Water Day 2002.

3.4.4 The agenda for that meeting will be drafted by the TSU in consultation with the chairman and the invitations will be issued by the TSU.

3.4.5 Looking further to the future, the TSU was invited to give some thought to organizing an event at the 3WWF which would present the APFM in full, both its global and regional components.

4. OTHER MATTERS

4.1 Mr Askew advised the meeting of current plans for the WMO Secretariat to play a more proactive role at times of natural disasters of meteorological or hydrological origin. This might open the way for the TSU to become involved in a more practical on-line sense at such times of crisis.

4.2 He also raised the question of terminology and the need to standardize how the global and regional components of the APFM and their respective activities are referred to in documents. It was agreed that a proposal in this regard should be included in the Inception Report.

4.3 The meeting recognized the care with which the TSU was being identified as separate from the WMO Secretariat (see 2.1.2 above). At present it carried both the WMO and GWP logos as identification. However, it was agreed that an APFM logo should be chosen for use by both the global and regional components. This should match with the terminology to be used in future (see 4.2 above), the whole to be submitted the Committee for its consideration at its next meeting. Mr Hiroki offered to provide the TSU with information as to some of the designs submitted but not chosen for the 3WWF, and to check on the possibility for their adoption for the APFM.

5. CLOSURE

The meeting closed at 21h00. The chairman thanked all present for their active participation, particularly at the end of a very long day. Mr Askew promised to prepare a draft report of the meeting and circulate it to all participants for their comments before finalization.

**INTERIM STEERING COMMITTEE OF THE ASSOCIATED
PROGRAMME ON FLOOD MANAGEMENT**

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**INTERIM STEERING COMMITTEE OF THE ASSOCIATED PROGRAMME
ON FLOOD MANAGEMENT**

FIRST MEETING

(Stockholm, 17 August 2001)

AGENDA

1. Status of the Flood Management Associated Programme

- Status of the Technical Support Unit (TSU) (staffing, funding and planning of the inception phase) - WMO
- Status of the regional components and expected deliverables from the TSU in WMO - GWP South America, Central America, South Asia and Southern Africa regions

2. Discussion on next steps:

- Agreement on central priorities tasks, including identification of start-up regions, and the development of key components of the flood management programme,
- Plan for programme initiation and possible launching workshop,
- Timeline for milestones during inception phase (detailed work plans), project documents for regional nodes, project organization and partners, agreement with donors, etc).

STATUS OF REGIONAL PROJECTS

SAMTAC

SAMTAC held a interdisciplinary workshop on flood mitigation in Santiago de Chile in January 2001. The results of the workshop formed the basis of an AP proposal to be conducted over three years at a cost of USD 860,000.

In April, in Buenos Aires, this proposal was discussed with GWP-global and the Japanese donor. The latter indicated that Japan would eventually be interested in financing part of the proposal, namely the organization of workshops with mayors or local decision makers when the establishment of the AP on Flood Management - Global Coordination was announced and it was decided that Professor Tucci would be the SAMTAC representative on its Interim-Steering Committee.

The specific proposal for the mayors' workshops was developed to include four pilot projects in Argentina, Brazil, Colombia and Chile and sent to the Japanese donor.

In July 2001, a seminar on urban drainage was held in Porto Alegre bringing together the South American core group on floods. Each member described the pilot region/city that was selected in his/her respective country and a workplan was elaborated for the following half year. Besides the development of the local workshops, the group decided to advance already in objective 1 of the three-year proposal, which aims at an analysis of past floods and their mitigation. This objective coincides with the objective of the global project and, as South America is the first region to start with activities this year, it was pointed out that part of the overall budget dedicated to the development of proposals and the analysis of past flood events might be available for work in South America.

In July, Peru and Venezuela asked to be included in the list of pilot countries because floods are an item of high priority in these countries.

SASTAC

The original project proposal was revised in February 2001 on the basis of comments provided by and through SASTAC. Partner organizations in all the participating countries have mostly been identified and contacted. As the project is launched, a few more may join in. The project is now awaiting confirmation of funding. The Japanese have expressed an interest in funding it. As soon as confirmation of funding is available, the kick-off meeting of the partner organizations will be organized and for that a request will be made for USD 20,000, which is expected to be made available for this purpose.

SATAC

Southern Africa is a region characterized by extreme and cyclic events such as torrential floods and prolonged drought spells that have disastrous consequences on its fragile economies and livelihood of the people. Examples of these are the extreme drought experienced by most countries around 1992, and more recently the severe floods that were experienced during the 1999/2000 & 2000/01 rainy seasons. These flood events had disastrous consequences in several countries like Zimbabwe, South Africa, Swaziland, Namibia, and Mozambique in particular.

These catastrophic events which are still fresh in the memories of the peoples of Southern Africa, and the consequences of which are still being felt across the region required a co-ordinated approach to the issue of disaster management and preparedness. This issue of disaster management has been on the SADC agenda for a long time and the need to effectively deal with this problem reiterated at various SADC meetings.

In response to these concerns, SADC Water Sector Co-ordination Unit working with GWP Southern Africa initiated a process of formulating a regional programme on floods and droughts management. The Global Water Partnership Southern Africa supported the development of the floods and droughts programme proposal. A consultancy was commissioned to develop the regional programme. In the process of developing the regional programme proposal, the consultancy conducted a rapid overall assessment of the regional situation with regard to floods and droughts management from an integrated water resources management point of view, social and environmental aspects. Specifically, the consultancy;

- investigated and established the possibilities, practicability and desirability of developing a comprehensive programme for floods and droughts management in the SADC region, or whether these two aspects should be managed separately.
- investigated and established a general overview of the regional preparedness to manage flood events, with particular attention to institutional, technical, and infrastructural aspects.
- analysed the current practices and existing mechanisms of co-operation between Member States (at basin level), with particular emphasis to information exchange.

Based on the outcomes of the regional situation assessment, a draft programme concept was developed. The draft programme concept indicates the priorities, and resources required for the implementation of the FDMS programme, including tentative cost estimations for each project component of the programme.