



**World Meteorological Organization**



**Global Water Partnership**

**THE ASSOCIATED PROGRAMME ON FLOOD MANAGEMENT**



**FIRST MEETING OF THE  
APFM STEERING COMMITTEE**

*(Washington D.C., 24-25 March 2002)*

**REPORT**

## **1. OPENING**

1.1 The first meeting of the Steering Committee of the GWP/WMO Associated Programme on Flood Management was held in the Headquarters of the World Bank in Washington D.C. on 24 and 25 March 2002.

1.2 The names, affiliations and addresses of those who attended the meeting are given in Annex I. Ms T. Matiza-Chiuta had sent her apologies for her absence. The meeting had to be convened at short notice, which had made it impossible for her to get to Washington. Mr J. Fugl chaired the meeting on behalf of Mr T. Jonch-Clausen who was unable to attend.

1.3 The meeting adopted the agenda given in Annex II and used a draft of the APFM Inception Report as the basic document. As a consequence, the Committee addressed itself mainly to proposing revisions to this Report, the plan being to issue it as an agreed document which presents the goals and future plans for the APFM.

## **2. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE APFM**

2.1 The Committee endorsed in general the goals and objectives presented in the Draft Inception Report, including the meaning and use of the term Integrated Flood Management (IFM). However, proposals were made for amendments in certain aspects, as outlined below.

2.2 While floods, with some rare exceptions, are caused by natural phenomena, their magnitude and impact is often influenced greatly by man's intervention. In addition, while the impact of climate change on river flooding is as yet uncertain, the consequences of sea level rise on coastal flooding are not in doubt. The text should be revised to reflect these points.

2.3 It would also be useful to mention how, in urban areas, the major flood problems are usually related to flash floods and urban drainage.

2.4 It was recognized that while disaster prevention should be the main thrust of the APFM, disaster response could not be ignored.

2.5 Stress was put on the importance of the APFM - Global Coordination supporting the practical work at regional level, as reflected in the third and fourth objectives.

2.6 As regards the draft Concept Paper, it should be mentioned that, not only is it economically advantageous for some people to settle in the flood plains, but the poor often have nowhere else to live.

## **3. PARTNERSHIPS**

3.1 The Steering Committee endorsed the approach being taken by the APFM Technical Support Unit (TSU) as regards the identification of partners.

3.2 With respect to the proposed classification of partnerships, it was felt that this should not be presented so much as a hierarchy and that it would therefore be preferable to use the term "type" in place of "level" and combine the second and third types.

3.3 Some of the Type 2 partners may in time become core programme partners (Type 1) alongside GWP and WMO. As joint activities evolve, representatives from these partners should be included in the Steering Committee.

3.4 The request was made that the Dialogue on Water and Climate, and the Dialogue on Water, Food and Environment be included together with the various Associated Programmes (APs) because they were seen as being very similar in nature.

3.5 The references to the two HYCOS projects should be expanded.

3.6 The TSU was requested to make contact with the relevant APs and Dialogues to develop joint activities that would benefit both them and the APFM.

#### **4. REGIONAL ACTIVITIES**

4.1 The representatives of the Regional TACs who were present informed the meeting of current developments with regard to their plans for flood-related activities.

4.2 In order to assist close coordination between the global and regional components of the APFM, it was recommended that the regions and TSU exchange information and advise each other of current developments at least once every three months.

4.3 The committee endorsed the concept of pilot projects and was keen to see such projects initiated as soon as practically and technically feasible. It was recommended that planning and designing the pilot studies be seen as the first steps in implementing IFM, thus, emphasizing the fact that the APFM is more than just studies and that it does contribute to action on the ground.

4.4 On a broader front, the Committee confirmed that links established and support given by the TSU at regional level need not be limited to the RTAC but could include the regional bodies of WMO and also those of other partners whose activities are closely related to the aims of the APFM.

##### **Southern Africa**

4.5 In the absence of a representative from Southern Africa, the meeting took note of the message sent to the TSU by Ms Matiza-Chiuta. It noted that the region was relying on the SADC Water Sector Coordination Unit for action on flood matters. The view was expressed that, while cooperation with other regional bodies was to be encouraged, action by SADC could not be interpreted as action by GWP. If necessary, GWP-SATAC could implement its flood related activities in collaboration with SADC. However, it is worth reiterating the fact that GWP-SATAC should have its own plans for flood related activities if it is to continue as APFM's focal point for Southern Africa.

4.6 WMO was invited to seek ways of linking the APFM with the forthcoming second phase of SADC-HYCOS.

##### **South Asia**

4.7 Note was taken of the meetings held and planned for the region which were of relevance to the APFM. Some of these are included in paragraph 8.1 below.

4.8 It was suggested that the DHI-FRICS project might be able to work with APFM - Global Coordination to help regional coordination.

4.9 In order to commence implementation on the ground, it was recommended that the approach being proposed be implemented first in a pilot study in a country where there is a good prospect of obtaining funds for the full implementation. This would then be extended to neighbouring countries. SASTAC was encouraged to draw up plans for such a phased implementation, with the expectation of receiving some support from the APFM for the pilot study.

## **South America**

4.10 The meeting was pleased to learn of progress in planning the series of workshops involving city authorities, appreciating the generosity of FRICS (Japan) in providing the necessary funding and WMO in facilitating its transfer.

4.11 The approach being taken was particularly welcomed because of the importance it gave to the role of institutions and decision makers. SAMTAC was asked to ensure that the outcome was made available to the wider community through the GWP ToolBox. With this in mind, the APFM was asked to provide some financial support to the publication of the book on floods being compiled by Dr Tucci.

4.12 Noting the concept of IFM being promoted through the APFM, SAMTAC was encouraged to look also beyond the urban environment and ensure a more broad based study of flood problems in the region. It was agreed that this matter would be taken up at the "APFM/SAMTAC - Coordination Meeting on Urban Flooding", scheduled for 15 April in Porto Alegre, Brazil.

## **Central America**

4.13 The meeting was informed that the outcome of the First APFM Coordination Meeting (Geneva, November 2001) had been well received in the region and had encouraged thought to be given to increased collaboration in IFM.

4.14 CEPREDENAC had its origins in emergency response, but was shifting its focus to prevention and seeking new inter-agency cooperation. Recent studies of the impact of ENSO and climate change had led to new networks being established in the region. These developments could greatly facilitate the work on APFM-related projects.

4.15 In view of the above, CATAC was recommended to develop further its plans for IFM projects in the region, with a phased approach that offered an opportunity for the APFM to provide support to a pilot project within the next 12 to 24 months.

4.16 The current aim was to choose a sub-set of the countries in the region and work on a small number of small and medium sized basins, but much would depend on the level of funding available.

4.17 Low-cost early-warning systems for small basins might be included as one element.

## **5. GLOBAL ACTIVITIES**

5.1 The proposed types of meetings to be held under APFM - Global Coordination were endorsed by the meeting, as was the plan to finalize and publish the Concept Paper.

5.2 There was much interest in case studies and it was recommended that work on these be pursued as soon as possible so as to provide input to the 3<sup>rd</sup> World Water Forum and the GWP ToolBox. It was proposed that reference be made to "case studies" and "lessons learnt" rather than to "good and bad practices".

5.3 A number of participants provided suggestions as to where useful case studies might be obtained and some offered to provide material themselves. It was recognized that examples of a full IFM approach were likely to be rare and so the search should be for cases which illustrated facets of IFM and did not contradict the main philosophy of the approach.

5.4 The proposal that a paper be prepared on the economics of IFM was well received, noting that it would need to consider equity and not just financial issues.

5.5 The TSU was requested to play a coordinating role in the planning of flood-related activities at the 3<sup>rd</sup> World Water Forum (Kyoto, March 2003).

## **6. DISSEMINATION OF RESULTS**

6.1 The Committee welcomed the plans for a APFM web page and asked that it be made operational as soon as possible, in particular so as to offer the facility of the working space. The TSU was recommended to solicit photographs and movies which could be made available through the web site.

6.2 It was recommended that every effort be made to present the web site in a number of languages, even if the documents available through it were in English only. It would be important to make it clear what was available in what languages so as not to confuse or disappoint the user.

6.3 As mentioned above, the GWP ToolBox was seen as one of the principal means of disseminating the results of the project.

6.4 As regards the conduct of seminars and missions, stress was put on having an impact at regional and preferably national level, with considerable importance being attached to identifying and involving decision makers.

6.5 The Committee approved the logo chosen for the APFM and asked that electronic copies be made available to those APFM partners who might need to use it. The TSU was asked to establish a reasonable code of practice for the use of the logo.

6.6 The plans for the brochure were endorsed, with the request that it be translated at least into Spanish and French, and be put on the web as soon as it is available.

## **7. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

7.1 The membership of the Steering Committee was confirmed, as presented in the Inception Report. It was agreed that the RTACs that had either on-going activities in flood management or clear plans for such should be represented on the Committee.

7.2 The structure and operation of the TSU was noted.

7.3 Warm appreciation was expressed to both Japan and The Netherlands for their support of the APFM. The financial statement for the Inception Phase presented to the meeting was accepted. It was noted that it had taken some time to put in place the necessary agreements and procedures for financing and so only some 54% of the funds expected for the Inception Phase had been received in time to be used for the work. However, the remaining 46% was now available to help launch the Implementation Phase.

## **8. FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME**

8.1 Note was taken of a series of future meetings of relevance to the APFM, as follows:

- May 2002                      First International Coordination Meeting for WWF3
- June 2002                     Regional Consultation on Flood Management by ADB, JICA and JBIC
- October 2002                Regional Workshop on Floods by JICA
- November 2002              Second International Coordination Meeting for WWF3

8.2 While the general structure of the future work programme and budget was found to be acceptable, the TSU was requested to add more detail in both.

8.3 In particular, it was recommended that the various elements be clearly linked to the four objectives agreed for the APFM, with personnel costs associated with each.

8.4 To help link the various activities described in the Inception Report with these objectives, the TSU was asked to add an annex to the Report showing the connections.

8.5 One particular recommendation was to review the APFM budget for the 3<sup>rd</sup> World Water Forum in the light of the anticipated involvement of a number of other flood-related initiatives. The meeting was keen to see adequate resources allocated to pilot projects in the regions so that they might commence practical work in the near future.

8.6 A new contract with Japan needed to be established very soon and it was recommended that this cover a set of specific feasible tasks.

## **9. OTHER MATTERS**

9.1 The TSU was requested to prepare a report of the meeting which would be circulated to all participants in draft form for their comments and eventual approval.

9.2 The TSU was also asked to prepare a revised version of the Inception Report, amended in the light of the discussions at the present meeting and without those annexes which did not have lasting value. This version would be circulated for endorsement by the Steering Committee so that it might serve as a basis for future work during the Implementation Phase of the APFM.

9.3 It was agreed that the Steering Committee should next meet in March or April 2003, if possible in conjunction with the 3<sup>rd</sup> World Water Forum.

## **10. CLOSURE**

At the close of the meeting, the participants thanks Mr Fugl for chairing the session. They also expressed their appreciation to the TSU, including both those members present in Washington and those who remained in Geneva, for the work they had put in to ensuring that the APFM had been successfully launched into its Implementation Phase.

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## **AGENDA**

1. Opening
2. Goals and objectives of the APFM
3. Partnerships
4. Regional activities
5. Global activities
6. Dissemination of results
7. Administrative and financial matters
8. Future work programme
9. Other matters
10. Closure