Flood Management Policy and Sustainable Development: recognizing development needs and managing risk

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Settling on floodplains has enormous advantages and at the same time poses great risks
Shortcomings of past FM Practices

- Emphasis has been on ‘Control’ rather than ‘Management’
- FC measures have been Ad-hoc and stand alone
- Reactive rather than proactive
- Emphasis has been largely on structural measures
- Monodisciplinary
- River morphological behaviour is not factored
- Lessons from past failures have rarely been learnt

- Transboundary collaboration is an underutilized tool to improve flood management policies and broaden the available options for flood management and risk sharing
New challenges!

Absolute safety against flooding is a myth

Increasing Flood Risks due to development activities

Climate change uncertainty

Growing environmental concerns
Integrated Flood Management: Aims

- Sustainable development: balancing development needs and flood risks
- Maximising net-benefits: ensure livelihood security and poverty alleviation thereby reducing vulnerability
- Minimising loss of life
- Environmental preservation
Sustainable Development

Development that "meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

- Intragenerational equity: livelihood security
- Intergenerational equity: viability of ecosystems and flood plain functions

In the flood management context mainly on the viability of floodplain use in the long term
Sustainable development in the context of flooding means accepting the inevitability of flood occurrence and uncertainty of flood impacts and developing strategies to cope with this reality.

J.W. Handmer, Flood Hazard and Sustainable Development, Published in: Floods, Parker, D.J. (ed.) 2000
Integrated Flood Management (IFM) refers to the integration of land and water management in a river basin using a combination of measures that focus on coping with floods within a framework of IWRM and adopting risk management principles while recognizing that floods have beneficial impacts and can never be fully controlled.

WMO 2004: Integrated Flood Management Concept Paper
Associated Programme on Flood Management Technical Document No.1
IFM HelpDesk

A facility that will provide guidance on flood management policy, strategy, and institutional development related to flood issues to countries that want to adopt the IFM concept

No Disaster Assistance or Flood Emergency Response Functions !!!
Service Spectrum

**Existing**

- **Flood Management Tools**
  - *Explore* Flood Management Tools with substantive guidance on specific methodologies, technologies and concepts for implementing Integrated Flood Management.

- **Questions and Answers Bank**
  - *Browse* through the Questions and Answers Bank to find answers on frequently asked questions related to IFM and the HelpDesk.

- **Reference Centre Databases**
  - *Use* the Reference Centre to know more about the setup in different countries in terms of flood management policy, legislative documents and literature on issues related to floods.

**Under Development**

- **Virtual Discussion Group**
  - *Engage* in one of our Virtual Discussion Groups to learn through debate, and share experiences, knowledge and good practices.
Engage in state-of-the-art Flood Management Strategy Formulation, Policy Making and Legal Reform with full process coaching through the HelpDesk.

Utilize the HelpDesk in organizing advocacy workshops, awareness building campaigns and training at various levels to further integrated flood management.

Be guided to the right combination of information from various sources available under the HelpDesk.

Get Help

- Assistance for Flood Management Policy, Law and Strategy
- Capacity Building for Integrated Flood Management
- Rapid Guidance on Technical Tools and Advisory Material
Objectives of the HelpDesk

- Provide quick access to relevant flood management information;
- Provide guidance and momentum for reform in favour of IFM in countries or river basins in developing long-term flood management policies, strategies and institutional arrangements;
- Serve as a link between flood management practitioners and decision-makers and multi-disciplinary scientific expertise and best practice in various fields such as hydrology, river engineering, legal and institutional development, ecology, sociology and development economics.
- Provide a continuous and sustainable capacity development mechanism in support of IFM implementation.
HelpDesk target audience

• **Government officials** involved in decision making at various levels of Government, charged with a role in flood management

• **River Basin Organizations**

• **Bi- and Multilateral Organizations involved in Technical and Financial Cooperation**

• **UN System organizations** with a role in flood management

• **Reputed Non-Governmental Organizations** in particular those working with flood affected communities, Voluntary and Community-based Organizations

• **Universities**
"A New Approach to Flood Management"
Integrated Flood Management

For more Information please visit www.apfm.info

At the same time, it is essential to manage the consequences of floods by adopting a holistic approach that links socio-economic development, flood risk protection, natural resource conservation, and appropriate management of the impacts of increased floods. It is recognized that a flood basin is a dynamic system, which is characterized by interactions between land and water bodies. In the light of this, there is a need to develop strategies that improve the functioning of the basin as a whole, rather than simply reducing flood risks.

This has called for Integrated Flood Management (IFM), a new approach which takes into consideration the need to use the benefits of flood water as a valuable resource that is represented by the flood plains that these waters occupy on occasions.

It integrates land and water resources development in a river basin, within the context of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), with a view to maximizing the net benefit from floodplains and minimizing loss to life due to extreme hydrologic events.

For more information