

Concept Note.

Workshop on River Basin Management. Colombo, Sri Lanka. Nov 5-7 2007

Cap-Net has undertaken a number of case studies on the implementation of IWRM through River Basin Organisations. These studies have been completed for Mexico, Kenya, Sri Lanka and Malaysia and the results will be summarised in an international report prepared by UNESCO-IHE. A workshop is planned to reflect on the findings and to develop a programme of capacity building actions targeted to river basin organisations.

Background.

Sustainable management of water resources is an important goal being adopted at international level and by many countries around the world. In a bid to address water shortages, inequity, pollution and many other water problems there is a move towards improved management of water resources. One of the key changes being adopted follows from the recognition that upstream/ downstream effects require management using a basin approach. As a result many countries are introducing new institutional arrangements for water resources management, including organizations to manage water at the basin level.

Creating new structures and changing roles and responsibilities to meet the goals of integrated water resources management is not easy and there is evidence that the introduction of new river basin organizations does not run smoothly in many countries.

This study has focused specifically on organisations tasked with the management of water at the level of national or sub-national river basins as part of water sector reform towards the sustainable management of water resources, often described as integrated water resources management (IWRM). A limited number of basins were identified through the Cap-Net Global Network for the development of case studies representing different regions of the world. These were the Sungai Langat river basin in Malaysia, the Lerma-Chapala- Santiago river basin in Mexico, the Tana river basin in Kenya and the Mahaweli river basin authority in Sri Lanka.

The objective of the case studies was to analyse the major strengths, weaknesses, problems and successes of organizations in the implementation of their roles and responsibilities towards sustainable management of water resources in the selected river basin and to identify priority capacity building actions and strategies to improve their efficiency and effectiveness.

The case studies were supported by an analysis of the international experience by UNESCO-IHE and summarised into one report.

Capacity building networks are joined together as partners in the Cap-Net Global Network sharing experience and expertise. On the ground they assemble local skills and knowledge in capacity building institutions and individuals to support progress towards more sustainable management of water resources. They are particularly effective in targeting action to individuals and institutions with responsibilities for decision making on water.

UNESCO-IHE is an educational institution with a renowned reputation as a leader in water education. IHE has delivered courses at MSc level and as distance learning short course on integrated river basin management and is very familiar with the water situation in many regions of the world.

The programme presented below is intended to learn from the case studies and develop a strategy for capacity building to support the emergence of effective organizations for water resources management at the river basin level. The strategy is expected to build upon the

strengths and opportunity of capacity building networks in many developing regions of the world associated in the Cap-Net global network.

Purpose of the workshop

The purpose of the workshop is to

- analyse the major strengths, weaknesses, problems and successes of selected river basin organizations being established as part of water sector reforms in many countries;
- compile experience of capacity development initiatives and
- use the information to develop and implement a programme of capacity building action for Cap-Net and its network partners.

The outcomes of the workshop will be:

- an implementable programme of capacity building support to river basins being adopted, adapted and implemented in various countries through capacity building networks associated to the Cap-Net global network and other international partners.
- Capacity building materials and cases being shared internationally and used to improve performance of institutions and individuals;
- The performance and effectiveness of selected river basin organizations, as measured against the principles of sustainable management of water resources (IWRM), is improved as a result of the programme.

Participants.

Max 15.

The participants should be made up as follows:

Case study authors/ partners consultants, IHE, INBO, Cap-Net (8)

Two or three network members with expertise in this area. (3)

RBO managers from the case studies or elsewhere (2 - 3)

Other interested and experienced partners e.g. ADB, DHI, (2)

Location and date

Colombo, Sri Lanka. Nov 5-7 2007.

Programme structure.

- Presentation of key findings
- Discussions on identified needs and ongoing initiatives.
- What is an IWRM compliant RBO? (indicators of IWRM)
- Discussion and group work.
- Benchmarking IWRM in river basins
- Identifying roles and skills to carry out IWRM functions
- Summarising capacity needs: Capacity of who, to do what
- Development of capacity building strategy and actions e.g.
 - Specific training on management systems such as pollution, catchment planning, allocation, monitoring, economic tools;
 - Guidelines
 - Peer to peer exchanges
 - On Benchmarking/ indicators