

Conclusions and Challenges for Session 6.4.1

Data Needs and Data Acquisition

What data should we put in the treasure chest?


| | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| Convener | : Arthur Askew |
| Chair | : Gordon Young |
| Rapporteur | : Hafzullah Aksoy |

21 March 2009

Contributors

- ◆ Mr Wilhelm Struckmeier (International Association of Hydrogeologists, Germany)
- ◆ Mr Stéphane Simonet (World Water Council, France)
- ◆ Mr Paul West (The Nature Conservancy & University of Wisconsin, USA)
- ◆ Mr LeHuu Ti (UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, Thailand)
- Mr Ünal Sorman (Middle East Technical University, Turkey)
- Mr Basanta Shrestha (International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development, Nepal)
- Mr Martin Schinnerl (Ott Messtechnik GmbH & Co, Germany)
- Mr Ian Cluckie (Swansea University, UK)
- Mr Pradeep Aggarwal (International Atomic Energy Agency, Austria)
- Ms Sara Ahmed (Gender and Water Alliance, India)

(1) Aim

- Our aim is to improve the lives and livelihoods of people.
 - For this aim, we must manage our resources well.
 - To manage the resources well, we must understand the systems concerned.
 - To understand the systems, we need information based on data.
- 

(2) Recognition of essential nature of the need for data

- Collection of data – gathering information together
- Data collection is an essential component of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM)
- Essential because all the rest depends on it.

Therefore; programmes for the collection of data should be

- Clearly specified
 - Well designed
 - Adequately funded
-
- Give recognition to the data suppliers and feed-back to them

(3) Inclusion of a wide range of types of data

- Many interacting systems involved on which we need information.

Geophysical, socio-economic, administrative, legal, etc.

- As wide a range of data as possible
 - no – as required
- The wider the range, the more complicated the data collection process

(4) Development of new data collection methods

- Encourage the further development of means to collect data and information
- Redesign data application procedures to make most effective use of new data sources.
- Be selective in extracting the data needed from large data output e.g. from some satellites.

(5) Detailed aspects

- Demand-driven data NOT supply-driven data
- Usually need long-term data records
- More data is not always better
- The scale issue
- Disaggregation of data
 - Spatial disaggregation by province, river basin, etc.
 - Temporal disaggregation
 - Disaggregation by age, gender, etc.
- Need representative data and information
- Be aware of inaccuracies in data
- Standardization
 - by regulation
 - voluntary

(6) Challenges

- to collect data relevant to local problems
- data loss
- duplicate systems and lack of data – metadata issue
- the inverted pyramid supported by ever weakening national efforts

Thank you

