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