

Overview of the work of the Subgroup on Water Accounting

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Background information

- Established last year in Rome
- 13 initial members
- General terms of references were decided
- Detailed work programme for the 1st year was prepared

Objectives of the Subgroup

- Finalization of the draft handbook on water accounting
- Further develop methods, concepts, and definitions
- Expand the framework to social aspects (with the subgroup on social-env. accounting)
- Further develop the link with indicators related to water

Detailed Work Programme

- Revise the draft handbook on water accounting
through
 - Addressing the issues that were raised in Rome
 - Providing comments on the draft
 - Participating in the Electronic Discussion Group on terms and definitions

Mode of Operation

- Work was divided among the members according to their interests
- Each member was responsible for a particular topic/issue
- Communication was by email

Work done so far

- Unfortunately, the work did not proceed as expected
- About half the issues raised in the last meeting have been addressed
- Some new issues have been identified

Work done so far

- Chapters 3 and 5 revised and circulated
- Chapter 9 revised (Glenn-Marie Lange)
- Chapter 10 - first draft (UNDSD and Jean Margat)
- Contributions from Netherlands, Canada, UNDSD, Moldova, Germany (not yet inserted), Jean Margat

Resolved issues

- Asset classifications
- Definition of stock of river
- Table presentation
- Rainfed agriculture

Future Work

- How to bring the handbook to completion?
- Areas of future works - list of issues
- Mode of operation

Areas of work

Priority: Finalize the handbook as early possible (end of the year?)

How?

- Meeting of the subgroup?
- Set strict deadlines for contributions?
- Other?

Possible areas of future work

- Assessment of country practices through a section in the general questionnaire
- Compendium of best practices
- Classifications of flows
- Prepare guidelines for institutional arrangements
- Adopt EDG
- Link with indicators
- Expansion into social aspects (health, access, etc.)

Mode of Operation

- More use of the website to circulate contributions, papers, comments etc.
- Possibility to have meeting just of the subgroup to have a detailed, focused discussion (could be in Ny between LG meetings, could be one full day during the LG meeting, on-line meeting, etc...)