



Newsletter on the Human Dimension in Water Management



November 2006

Supported by the European Commission & Harmoni-CA (www.harmoni-ca.info)

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1 Local Governments & Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) in Southern Africa- The LoGo Water Project

The LoGo Water project, financed by the Directorate-General of the European Commission, aims to support local governments in Southern African countries to take up their role in IWRM in an effective and efficient way and thus contribute to fostering sustainable development. Nine

institutions and organisations from Southern Africa and Europe, coordinated by ICLEI – European Secretariat, are closely collaborating with eight cities and towns of the Limpopo river basin to reach this goal.

Last July, the project gathered 43 representatives mainly from Botswana,

Mozambique, South Africa, and Zimbabwe (the countries sharing the Limpopo basin) at the workshop 'Local Action for IWRM', which took place in Gaborone, Botswana, from 26 to 28 July 2006.

Some of the issues raised by the event's participants were:

- Local governments need to get a better understanding of the impact of their own activities on the water cycle, and of how the water cycle affects them.
- The dialogue with other relevant stakeholders has to be increased.
- A "de-mystification" of IWRM has to be achieved, because local governments are usually interested in providing their contribution to water resources management, but at the same time feel

overwhelmed by the complexity of the concept.

The participants provided the project coordinators with some useful insight for the realisation of guidelines for local government's involvement in IWRM, currently under development.

Currently available on the project website www.iclei-europe.org/logowater: the workshop report, the 'Literature Review: Local Governments and IWRM' and the publication 'Local governance in Integrated Water Resources Management in the Netherlands'. For further information, please contact Francesca Schraffl, ICLEI, at francesca.schraffl@iclei.org.

2 Knowledge and Learning in Participatory Processes

Results of joint Partizipa & 3rd Harmoni-CA/WP5 Methods- Workshop on formalised and non-formalised methods in participatory resource management

Participatory processes are becoming increasingly important in the management of natural resources. Thus, policy makers, 'experts', and 'lay persons' – citizens or representatives of organised interest groups – are collaborating in public decisions on issues such as water management or land use planning. Different forms of involvement have been established, allowing for varying degrees of interaction, e.g. focus groups, citizens' juries, consensus-conferences, or stakeholder platforms, to name but a few. Given the complexity of issues to decide upon and the uncertainties involved, one main reason to involve non-state actors in public decisions is to incorporate different sources of knowledge and to foster social learning, thus allowing for potentially better, i.e. more informed and creative, decision-

making. Expected outcomes are thus learning (on the part of the state authority or of the lay persons), facilitated agreements, and improved communication among participants.

In September, the German project PartizipA (Participative Modeling, Actor and Ecosystem Analysis in Regions of Intensive Agriculture, www.partizipa.uni-osnabrueck.de) and Harmoni-CA/WP5 jointly organized a workshop where 40 participants from all over Europe discussed 16 different approaches in a very constructive and fruitful atmosphere. All presentations and a group picture of all participants are now available at <http://www.partizipa.uni-osnabrueck.de/wissAbschluss.html>.

3 The NetSyMoD Portal –now online

by Carlo Giupponi and Jaroslav Mysiak

As already introduced in earlier newsletter, NetSyMod (Network Analysis – Creative System Modelling - Decision Support) has been developed as a result of research conducted during the last six years in the Natural Resources Management Research Programme of the Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei (NRM-FEEM). It embodies a flexible methodological framework combining public participation, simulation models, formal approaches to decision analysis to inform environmental planning and/or decision making processes. The framework may be useful for a range of management problems, with scientists participating alongside policy makers and other stakeholders in deliberative decision making.

The portal explaining the NetSyMoD framework (<http://www.netsymod.eu>) is now online. It was designed to facilitate practical application of the framework and to disseminate information about projects, events, publications, case studies, and, in particular tools available to potential end users at low cost or freely available.

The new version of mDSS (the generic analytical and multicriteria decision support system originally developed by the MULINO project) is now downloadable

from the NetSyMoD site. The six main NetSyMoD topics - Actor analysis, Problem analysis, Creative System Modelling, DSS Design, Analysis of Options, Actions and Monitoring - are used as primary keywords for categorising the materials included or linked in this site.

The focus is on the role played by Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and, in particular, on decision and information support tools (DISTs) such as integrated assessment models (IAM), geographical information systems (GIS) and decision support systems (DSS). Target users are researchers and policy/decision makers looking for information about the products of recent research projects.

Explanation of the NetSyMoD framework and the link to the portal has been included in the WISE-RTD web-portal, being developed by the EC-funded project Harmoni-CA (www.harmoni-CA.info) in collaboration with European Commission's Directorates General for Research and Environment.

For more information on NetSyMoD please contact us at: netsymod@feem.it.

4 World Water Monitoring Day

IWA- Press- Release

A whole new generation showed their concern about the quality of their water, as countless students joined thousands of adults in monitoring the health of their local watersheds this week. Monitoring sites spanning approximately 50 countries are expected to again demonstrate that the need for clean water brings universal agreement. The International Water Association (IWA) and the Water Environment Federation (WEF), together with a host of global partners and sponsors, coordinated World Water Monitoring Day this year. They expect to continue the events leading up to WWMD each year with a goal of reaching one million volunteers by the year 2012.

World Water Monitoring Day (WWMD) is an international outreach program that builds public awareness and involvement in protecting water resources around the world. Held annually between September 18 and October 18, the program engages communities in monitoring the condition of local rivers, streams, estuaries and other water bodies. Since its inception in 2002, more than 80,000 people have participated in 50 countries. "The fact so many nations are joining in this important annual outreach demonstrates our interdependence on clean, fresh water as a source of life. No matter who you are, or where you live, clean, pure water is essential for drinking, hygiene,

agriculture, commerce and recreation,” stated Paul Reiter, IWA Executive Director. “IWA encourages all who participated this month to adopt a local waterway and report on its quality year after year. By working together, we intend to create a global core of concerned and action oriented people who will become an important part of our efforts to educate the world’s citizens about the critical need for clean water.” WEF will host the main WWMD celebration at Washington DC’s Anacostia River today. Ben Grumbles,

Assistant Administrator for U.S. EPA’s Office of Water, will lead local dignitaries, water quality professionals, environmental groups and local area students in hands-on testing of the river’s water quality. For more information on World Water Monitoring Day 2006, visit the World Water Monitoring Day website www.worldwatermonitoringday.org. You may also check out www.wef.org or www.iwahq.org.uk for related information.

5 Announcement: Time to Adapt – Climate Change and the European Water Dimension. Vulnerability, Impacts, Adaptation.

We cordially invite you to participate in the symposium which will take place 12-14 Februar 2006 in Berlin

As part of Germany’s activities during its EU presidency, the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety will host an international symposium titled “Time to Adapt - Climate Change and the European Water Dimension“ from 12 to 14 February 2007 in Berlin. The initiative is supported by the relevant services of the European Commission.

The Symposium aims to provide a platform for representatives from governments, science and research, stakeholder groups and non-governmental organisations to discuss the impacts of climate change on water

resources. In addition, adaptation strategies for water management and water dependent sectors, focussing on agriculture, energy, inland navigation and tourism, will be evaluated.

The conference is organised by Ecologic, Institute for International and European Environmental Policy (www.ecologic.de), in cooperation with the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (www.pik-potsdam.de).

For further information and to register please visit the conference website at <http://www.climate-water-adaptation-berlin2007.org/index.htm>

6 Call for Papers: CAIWA 2007

International conference on Adaptive and Integrated Water Management; 12-15 November 2007, Basel, Switzerland

The “1st International Conference on Adaptive & Integrated Water Management: Coping with complexity and uncertainty” (CAIWA 2007) will be held November 12 – 15, 2007 in Basel, Switzerland. The conference will provide a multidisciplinary platform and bring together

scientists from academia, industry, and policy making/government to analyse progress, to explore new research directions and highlight policy implications of scientific findings. It will focus on basic research findings across all sectors of adaptive and integrated water

resource management. Furthermore it will share the major scientific insights from the European Integrated Project NeWater (New Approaches to Adaptive Water Management under Uncertainty) with the wider scientific community and embed it into the current scientific debate in all relevant themes. The conference will be divided between scientific contributions (3 days)

and practitioner insights (1 day). Furthermore it will be possible to organise special workshops under the auspices of CAIWA 2007. For further information and calls for workshops, full papers, and extended abstracts please visit the conference website at <http://www.usf.uos.de/projects/caiwa/index.htm>, or send email inquiries to caiwa@usf.uos.de

7 European Conferences on the Human Dimensions of Global Environmental Change

Berlin conference 2006: 17-18th November

The European Conferences on the Human Dimensions of Global Environmental Change began in 2001 with the first Berlin Conference. The European conferences are mid-size annual events (much smaller than Open Meetings of IHDP or IGBP) of about 150 international participants, selected through rigorous international peer review. Each conference has a clear thematic focus that allows for intense exchange and discussion. Conference themes are selected with a view to bringing new and emerging topics to the European and global debate, thus ensuring the continuous innovative thrust of the conference series. Special conference features, including panels on teaching and targeted programmes for doctoral students, add to its innovative character. From 2007 on, the conference venue will alternate annually between Amsterdam and Berlin, bringing about the

Europeanisation of this successful conference cycle (see announcement below).

The 2006 Berlin Conference on the Human Dimensions of Global Environmental Change, will held in Berlin on 17-18 November 2006. This conference will be the sixth event in the series of annual Berlin Conferences. This year's discussions will address the theme 'Resource Policies: Effectiveness, Efficiency, and Equity'.

Plenary speakers will include Professor Paul Ekins, Policy Studies Institute London, UK, Prof. Marina Fischer-Kowalski, IFF Vienna – Department of Social Ecology, Austria, and Prof. Martin Jänicke, Freie Universitaet Berlin – Environmental Policy Research Centre, Germany.

8 2007 Amsterdam Conference on the Human Dimensions of Global Environmental Change

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, 24-26 May 2007

The Institute for Environmental Studies at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam and its partner institutions invite you to the 2007 Amsterdam Conference on the Human Dimensions of Global Environmental Change, to be held in Amsterdam on 24-26 May 2007. This year's conference will address the theme 'Earth System

Governance: Theories and Strategies for Sustainability'.

We define earth system governance as the sum of the formal and informal rule systems and actor--networks at all levels of human society (from local to global) that are set up to influence the co-evolution of human and natural systems in a way that secures the sustainable development of human society--

that is, a development that meets the needs of present generations without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. This notion of earth system governance is phenomenological in as much as it describes an emerging social trend expressed in hundreds of international regimes, international bureaucracies, national agencies, local and transnational activists groups and expert networks. At the same time, earth system governance can be

understood as a political project that engages more and more actors who seek to strengthen the current architecture of institutions and networks at local and global levels. In both meanings, earth system governance is a demanding and vital subject of research in the social sciences, which we hope will be reflected in lively discussions at the 2007 Amsterdam Conference. For information, please consults: <http://www.2007amsterdamconference.org/>

9 Announcements of Publications: NeWater –Newsletter now online

Why should you read another Newsletter on Water in our busy times with information overload? -Since it addresses a topic of major scientific and political interest - the urgently needed paradigm shift in water management towards integrated and adaptive approaches.

You are invited to read the first Newsletter of the European Integrated Project NeWater (New Approaches to Adaptive Water Management Under Uncertainty) and engage in an active dialogue on a challenging topic. Please check <http://www.newater.info/everyone>

10 List of Projects in the HDWM Cluster

HarmoniCA – Harmonizing Modelling Tools at Catchment Scale

<http://www.harmoni-CA.info>

The concerted action HarmoniCA will provide guidance on management concepts and ICT tools for river basin management and the implementation of the WFD. Of specific interest for the HDWM cluster is the work package on “Integrated Assessment and the Science Policy Interface” that deals specifically with the involvement of stakeholders in the development of river basin management plans and the representation of socio-economic aspects in river basin management models.



HarmoniCOP – Harmonizing Collaborative Planning

<http://www.harmoniCOP.info>

The project HarmoniCOP explores stakeholder and public participation and the role of ICT tools in river basin management planning using a social learning perspective. HarmoniCOP aims at improving the conceptual base for stakeholder and public participation and provide practical guidance for the implementation of the European Water Framework Directive.

GOUVERNe

GOUVERNe

<http://www.c3ed.uvsq.fr/c3ed/Gouverne/PresGOa n.html>

The project responded to the requirement for integrated systems of information permitting coherent policy and resource management decisions covering water uses in Europe. The project developed and implemented in pilot studies a user-based and scientifically validated Decision Support System (DSS) for the improved management of underground water resources at the catchment and sub-catchment levels.



SLIM - Social Learning for the Integrated

EUROMARKET

<http://www.epfl.ch/mir/euromarket>

The EUROMARKET project studies the likelihood, nature, and forms water liberalisation may take in

Management and Sustainable Use of Water at Catchment Scale

<http://slim.open.ac.uk>

This project develops strategic planning methodologies and social tools for the integrated management of water at catchment or river-basin scale and other "bundles" of natural resources. It emphasizes the importance of processes of social learning for integrated resource management.

AQUALIBRIUM

www.aqualibrium.de

This project investigates the implications of the increasing deregulation of national water markets, and the fact that more and more private companies are involved in the water market. It aims at giving an overview on the current debates and analyses the various models of involvement and co-operation between the public and the private sector in the EU member states.



FIRMA

<http://firma.cfpm.org/>

This project explored new approaches to improve water resource planning by developing and applying agent-based modelling to integrate physical, hydrological, social and economic aspects of water resource management. Specific emphasis was given to stakeholder participation and participatory model building and scenario development.



INTERMEDIARIES - New intermediary services and the transformation of urban water supply and wastewater disposal systems in Europe

<http://www.irs-net.de/intermediaries>

This project maps the development of intermediary services and organisations in the water and wastewater sectors, examines how they facilitate the application of new resource-saving technologies and social practices and assesses their impact on the environment, economic efficiency and network management.

Europe in the foreseeable future. This is done by analysing different liberalisation scenarios, depending upon the evolving water markets, the different enterprises' strategies, and the existing

legislation/regulation both at the national and at the European levels.



MULINO

<http://www.fcem.it/web/loc/mulino/index.html>

The MULINO project is developing a Decision Support System for the integrated management of water resources. The system includes a decision software based on multi criteria analysis procedures. This software is being developed in collaboration with representatives from water authorities in Italy, Romania, the UK, Belgium and Portugal, and through these relationships is exploring ways to include stakeholders' preferences in the assessment of a decision problem.



EUWARENESS - European Water Regimes and the Notion of a Sustainable Status

<http://www.euwareness.nl/>

focuses on the dynamic relationships between conflicting uses of water resources, the regimes under which these uses are managed, and conditions generating regime transitions towards sustainability. Water basin regimes have been studied in six European countries (Netherlands, Belgium, France, Spain, Italy, Switzerland).

More information:

Project coordinator: Stefan Kuks

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Internet: www.euwareness.nl

ADVISOR

<http://ecomana.dcea.fct.unl.pt/projects/advisor>

ADVISOR aims at the delivery of a set of guidelines to river basin authorities and related EU agencies for the execution of integrated evaluation of projects. The theoretical platform thereby established will support the development of new integrated evaluation methodologies and tools, which will incorporate the state of the art of the latest scientific thinking and assessment tools together with modern participatory, multi-stakeholder decision making processes.



PRINWASS - Barriers and Conditions for the Involvement of Private Capital and Enterprise in Water Supply and Sanitation in Latin America and Africa: Seeking Economic, Social, and Environmental Sustainability

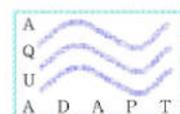
<http://www.geog.ox.ac.uk/~prinwass/>

The project develops an indicative framework of strategy and processes, expressed by relevant guidelines, for sustainable water supply and sanitation services in developing countries, taking into account the roles of the state (national, regional, and local government levels), civil society (users associations, citizen movements, etc.), market forces (privatized water utilities), and their interrelations (e.g. public-private partnerships, other forms of private sector involvement in WSS, etc.)

MERIT - Management of the Environment and Resources using Integrated Techniques

<http://merit-eu.net/>

The aim of MERIT is to develop a water resource management methodology to help engage the stakeholder in the decision making process. Bayesian networks are being used as tool to help the decision maker by using input from stakeholders to design and construct the networks. A range of participatory techniques are being developed to facilitate the engagement process.



AQUADAPT - Strategic Tools to Support Adaptive, Integrated Water Resource Management under Changing Utilisation Conditions at Catchment Level: A Coevolutionary Approach

<http://www.aquadapt.net/>

The overall aim of the Aquadapt project is to generate knowledge which supports the strategic planning and management of water resources in semi-arid environments at catchment level under changing supply/demand patterns.

TiGrESS - Time-Geographical Approaches to Emergence and Sustainable Societies

<http://www.riks.nl/projects/TiGrESS>

The aim of the TiGrESS project is to improve the methodology for understanding human-environmental interactions on the basis of three regional case studies.



MANTRA East - The Integrated Strategies for the Management of Transboundary Waters on the Eastern European Fringe - the pilot study of Lake Peipsi and its drainage basin

<http://www.mantraeast.org>

The aim of the MANTRA East Project is to analyze and develop strategic planning methodologies and scientific tools for integrated water management in transboundary water basins following the requirements of the EU Water Framework Directive. The project's special geographical focus is on transboundary water basins located on the existing and future borders of the European Union.



NeWater - New Approaches to Adaptive Water Management under Uncertainty

www.newwater.info

NeWater identifies key elements of current water management regimes and investigates their interdependence. Research is focused on transformation processes of these elements in the transition to adaptive integrated water resources management.



River Dialogue - Empowerment and Awareness Building in River Basin Management Through Focus Groups and Citizens Juries

<http://www.riverdialogue.org>

River Dialogue is aimed at identifying the best approaches to increase public participation in implementation of the EU Water Framework

Directive, including preparation and implementation of river basin management plans. The project will practically test two specific participatory methods of citizens' involvement – focus groups and citizens' juries.

WASAMED – Water Saving in Mediterranean Agriculture

<http://wasamed.iamb.it/>

WASAMED is to establish a platform for effective Mediterranean communication and debate on water saving in agriculture, contributing to improved management of limited water resources and sustainable development in the Mediterranean Region.



www.aquastress.net

AquaStress is delivering interdisciplinary methodologies enabling actors at different levels of involvement and at different stages of the planning process to mitigate water stress problems. AquaStress adopts a Case Study - stakeholder driven approach and is organised in three phases; (i) characterisation of selected reference sites and relative water stress problems, (ii) collaborative identification of preferred solution options, (iii) testing of solutions according to stakeholder interests and expectations.

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