Engaging Local Government Agencies in Integrated Water Management

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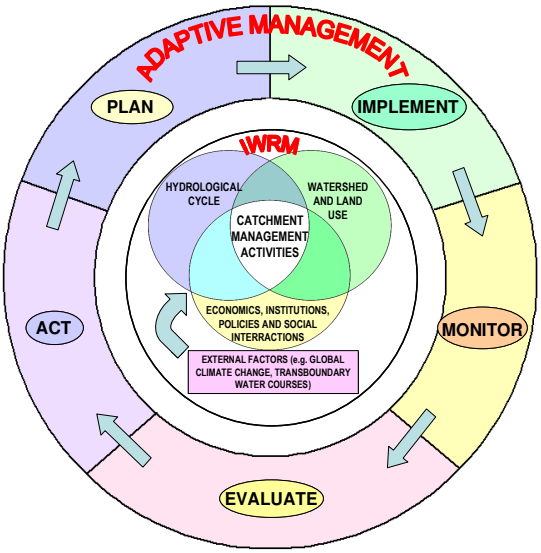
Adaptive Water Management and IWRM

Adaptive Water Management (AWM) and Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM)
AWM - Learning by doing; Increasing public equity through participation, and "learning to manage by managing to learn"
IWRM - A concept that promotes a holistic approach of managing water and its associated resources (e.g. land) while respecting the principles of equity, efficiency and environmental sustainability.



The NeWater project

Adaptive Water Management Under Uncertainty

EU Ongoing project (January 2005 – December 2008)

Background

The NeWater project advocates integrated water resource management (IWRM) concepts and is based on the hypothesis that IWRM cannot be realized unless current water management regimes undergo a transition towards more adaptive water management.
It identifies key elements of current water management regimes and investigates their interdependence.
It is based on 7 case studies: Rhine, Guadiana, Elbe, Tisza, Nile, Amudarya and Orange basins.

Involvement of local governments agencies and other stakeholders – the NeWater case studies

- Consultation of stakeholders at an early stage helped to determine issues of importance in the case study basins
- Work Package teams address multiple issues across the basins
- Generic tools towards Adaptive Management tested in different situations.

Challenges

- Many pressures and potential themes to be addressed
- Uneven water development in transboundary basins
- Frustration of stakeholders
- How to translate IWRM policy into effective action on the ground.

The LoGoWater project and IWRM

EU Ongoing project (January 2005 – December 2007)

Background

LoGoWater aims at supporting local governments (LGs) in the Southern Africa region to actively engage in Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM).

Involvement of local governments agencies

- Eight local government authorities from towns and cities in the Limpopo river basin have been involved in project activities, helping to ensure that the project adequately reflects the realities of LGs in Southern Africa
- LGs are key actors of IWRM at the local level; IWRM touches the LGs in different parts of their mandates. These may be directly linked to water (e.g. water supply, waste water treatment) or indirectly to water, (e.g. health, land-use planning, local economic development)
- The benefits for LGs to adopt IWRM could include reductions of water loss and legal compliance of water quality standards
- The involvement of LGs is an essential component of basin-scale IWRM.

Challenges

- Lack of human and financial resources to apply the principles of IWRM
- Roles of the different levels of governance: centralised vs decentralised
- Political constraints on elected bodies.

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Find out more…

The LoGoWater project can be found at: http://www.iclei-europe.org/?logowater
The NeWater project can be found at: http://www.newater.info/everyone