



National and Trans-boundary Water Resources Management in Africa

Summary & Recommendations



Update on IWRM implementation:

Key message

- Address the diffused functions and authority of water management institutions
- Give priority to capacity building across local, national, transboundary and regional scales;
- Harness the power of networking to share experiences across Africa and other regions (Asia for example);
- Political will of African governments should go hand in hand with adequate funding of IWRM

Water resources information sharing

- There is the need for water resources assessments involving water quality and quantity, variation and water sources in relation to time.
- Measurements networks and stations need to be created to fill existing data gaps. Data need to be merged (for example integrating water quality and quantity data for taking key decisions).
- Establishing a data base can start with a rapid assessment involving for example water demand, social impact, risk and vulnerability assessments.

Water resources information sharing (cont'd)

- Awareness need to be raised about the importance of information systems as tools for decision making.
- There is the need to standardize definitions, methods and formats of data collection and research is central to achieving this.
- Regional capacity building in house should be strengthened and emphasis should be placed on training and retraining of technical staff.
- Research initiatives to improve knowledge on the relation between groundwater and surface water essential

Water resources information sharing (cont'd)

- Information must be managed at the appropriate level and information provided once should be used for many purposes
- There is the need to have national documentation centre, standardization of data collection among nations and data assigned to particular peoples/institution for responsibility.
- Continuous dialogue between all stakeholders is essential for the coordination between research and policy.
- In establishing a young river basin organization like NBA, a lot of education and commitment is needed and understanding of the tools by all countries and stakeholders involved is key.

Water resources information sharing (cont'd)

- - The creation and sustainable funding of environmental observatories is very important as they play a pivotal role in promoting transparency and accuracy in decision making.
 - Ground water data collection had not received the necessary attention to date and future activities should lead to enhanced data collection and knowledge acquisition in this area.
 - Basin authorities need to have an intimate relationship with policy makers of member states to help facilitate their funding mechanisms and options

Platform for coordination, cooperation and participation

- Stake holder participation has to be defined at various levels be it scientist, communities etc but definition is evolving
- As stakeholders are involved in participation strategies the involvement should first agree on values, principles, strategies and then actions
- Defining equitable allocation and benefit sharing with limited available water resource and basin wide data is an evolving process.
- Water scarcity would be compounded by climate change. Enhanced joint Basin river health surveys and annual basin scale water resources modelling for operation of infrastructure is key.

Platform for coordination, cooperation and participation (cont'd)

- Using NGOs to create bridges in communities is essential while building capacities and creating a basin wide platform
- Effectively involving all stakeholders at basin level e.g given asymmetry of stakeholder groups in basin States.
- Ensuring consistency in delegations and maintaining institutional memory.
- Need for active participation in feasibility studies towards infrastructure development such as facilitation of notification process for infrastructure projects.

Platform for coordination, cooperation and participation (cont'd)

- Continuous mobilisation of strategic international partners such as GTZ, UKAid, Australia Aid, French GEF, EU, UNDP GEF for delivery of components of the programme and continuous experience sharing would enhance the cooperation.
- Development of Rules and procedures such as equal representation, equal cash contributions towards secretariat operations, equal powers and decision making by consensus has contributed to the success of the cooperation, including benchmarking and seeking international best practices.

Political & legal instruments

- In other regions, there is the need to move from bilateral agreements towards a river basin or regional agreements
 - There is the need to develop guidelines that would ensure that the necessary impact of the protocol is felt at the grassroots levels.
- Emerging issues involving Ground water resource management, climate change and green economy should be incorporated into the SADC and other protocols
- In the Lake Chad Basin, an approach that can be adopted is sharing benefits rather than sharing water

Political & legal instruments (cont'd)

- The UN Watercourses Convention is essential for conflict prevention, advancing the Millennium Development Goals and the 2010 target under the Convention on Biodiversity. The Convention will supplement multilateral environmental agreements on climate change, desertification and wetlands, better enabling the achievement of the goals those instruments pursue.
- The convention can advance national water policies by serving as a framework on which negotiations on future water course agreements could be based.
- Signatories to the convention could benefit from stronger legal framework governing its own trans-boundary river basins.

Political & legal instruments (cont'd)

- For the next five years (2012-2016), the priority of Africa Water Facility (AWF) would be devote 15% of its budget for enhancing water governance, another 15% for knowledge promotion and 70% for bankable and sustainable investments in water infrastructure
- Potential applicants for this funding need to prepare adequately by way of the necessary documentation showing economic viability, social and environmental impact assessments of the proposed project

Financial mechanisms

- Default in payment could be overcome by use of accessing capitalization fund as this guarantees income only for contributors
- The creation of private companies by basin organizations is a pragmatic way of circumventing legal constraints.
- Governments in the region should lead the way in developing products from banks that encourages water resources management

Financial mechanisms (National)

- Funds generated from the water sector should not be taken to the consolidated fund, but to a pool of the water sector funds so that it could be easily accessed when required.
- The other sectors that use water to generate money like hydropower, should provide some to the water sector responsible for water resources management. Some of this could be used for Water Resources Projects
- Training of the key implementers of the project is required before implementation. Training is normally in project management about donor procedures.
- Before actual funding of any project, it is recommended that procurements and other acquisition of tools and consultants are made before signing for the actual project implementation. This should be outside the effectiveness of the project time.

Financial mechanisms (National)-cont'd

- A project management team may be set up by the donor to handle the implementation. It is the output eventually required.
- Countries need to take care about the capacity they have in fulfilling donor guidelines and procedures before taking up the grant; otherwise time wastage will be observed.
- Gov'ts should be advised on new ways of funding water resources projects. It should be noted that Water Resources projects do not attract a lot of funding from investors. So Gov't to find innovative ways for supporting Water Resources projects.

Financial mechanisms (Regional)

- Expand the opportunity of funding taking into account various sources taking into consideration the specific context and/or features of the L/RBOs (combining submission by UNU and NBA presentation)

- E.g User payer, polluter payer and Tax
- Community levy
- Contracting Authority
- Capitalization
- Design, build and operate
- Sinking fund
- Revolving fund
- Investment fund
- Endowment fund
- Reserve fund

Financial mechanisms (Regional)-cont'd

- Public Private Partnerships (PPP): eg. The water conservation / demand management project in Orange-senqu basin. The element of mentoring to retain capacity for sustainability.
- Continue to sensitize policy makers and politicians to assure political commitment to the organizations

Use of new & innovative technologies

- A major portion of water abstraction from basins is used for agricultural purposes. Re-use-ing wastewater would make available nutrient-rich water for agricultural purposes. In doing so, use should be made of eco-technologies that has great potential in Africa
- Use of real-time monitoring technologies should be adapted to local conditions and used as a complement to field technologies
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Use of new & innovative technologies

- Strong linkages should be established between research and training and IWRM institution and the need to strengthen capacity in this institutions.
- The importance of political support cannot be over emphasized.
- Research agenda should be made relevant as new financing schemes and options are explored.
- There should be increased awareness on the importance of research
- Replacement of staff on IWRM due for retirement are impeded by donor agency conditions that places a ban on employment of new staff. Mentoring of young staff in institutions is virtually non-existent