

APFM Flood Management News

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CAPACITY BUILDING

Training Workshop on Flood Loss Assessment, 12-14 May, Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina

A "Training Workshop on Flood Loss Assessment in the Framework of Integrated Flood Management" was organised by WMO through its Regional Office for Europe and APFM. The three-day workshop was held from 12 to 14 May 2014 in Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina. It was organised as part of the broader initiative of "Building Resilience to Disasters in Western Balkans and Turkey", specifically tailored to the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) Project Task 3, which aims to enhance regional risk assessment and mapping capacities through training in hazard analysis and mapping. The workshop was complementary to the regional training workshop on "Integrated Flood Management, Flood Forecasting and Early Warnings" held in April 2013, in Antalya, Turkey (see Newsletter 30 for further details).

Hosted by the Federal Hydrometeorological Institute in Sarajevo, 22 participants from 6 European countries represented various sectors, including hydrology and civil defence.

The general objective of the workshop was to strengthen the know-how and capacities of the participating countries. It also provided an opportunity to establish a network for exchanging information related to flood loss assessment. Furthermore, participants presented the methodologies for flood loss assessment widely used in their respective countries.

The training-workshop focused on the overall assessment of flood losses, in the framework of an integrated flood management. An expert from the APFM presented a step-by-step methodology from Australia, as well as the methodology implemented by the Organisation for Economic Cooper-



ation and Development (OECD) for a review of risk management policies in the Seine Basin, France.

Moreover, the workshop provided the opportunity to promote and make use of the *IFM Tool on Flood Loss Assessment* and to introduce practical tools for assessing losses from floods that were developed by three Support Base Partners of the IFM HelpDesk. A direct hands-on session demonstrating the use of the UNISDR DesInventar platform was given by Dr Marco Massabò from CIMA Research Foundation, Savona, Italy. This was followed by a presentation on the Multi-scale Damage Assessment Methodology and lessons learned using the KALYPSO-FLORETO platform (from the European Commission's Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) projects SMARTeST, CORFU and PEARL), a tool to perform multi-scale flood loss assessment developed by the Hamburg University of Technology (TUHH), Hamburg, Germany and introduced by Dr Natasa Manojlovic. Finally, Dr Jelena Batića presented the experience of the CORFU (Collaborative Research on Flood Resilience in Urban areas) project, and the method to assess flood impacts in urban areas developed by Euroaque Consortium/University of Sophie Antipolis, Nice, France.



Shortly after the end of the workshop, Bosnia and Herzegovina together with Serbia experienced extremely heavy rainfall: three months' worth of rain fell on the region within three days, creating the worst floods since rainfall measurements began 120 years ago. The APFM wishes to express its condolences to the families of the victims. Our thoughts are with all those that have suffered from this disaster.

PILOT PROJECTS

The Coastal Inundation Forecasting Demonstration Project (CIFDP) Steering Group Meeting, 14-15 May, Geneva, Switzerland

In recent years, APFM has paid increased attention to coastal flooding, identifying synergies with related initiatives and projects. More specifically, APFM seeks to coordinate mutual activities with JCOMM and CHY's Coastal Inundation Forecasting Demonstration Project (CIFDP) and, therefore participated in the steering committee meeting on 14-16 May 2014, held in WMO, Geneva, Switzerland. JCOMM is the Joint Technical Commission for Oceanography and Marine Meteorology between the World Meteorological Organization and UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, and CHY is the WMO's Commission for Hydrology.



An expert from the APFM presented the concept of Integrated Flood Management (IFM), the IFM HelpDesk, as well as APFM's expertise for capacity building and development of national strategies. During the meeting, a CIFDP sub-project conducted in Bangladesh was presented and discussed. Although it is just entering its implementation phase (pre-operational forecasting), the need for increased integration of riverine flooding with coastal flood and storm surge forecasting was highlighted. Through a separate initiative being undertaken in parallel with the activities of the CIFDP, the Bangladesh Water Partnership – one of the Global Water Partnership's country offices – has expressed the need to implement a field demonstration project on integrated flood management with a focus on coastal floods. Participating in the CIFDP meeting improved the coordination of the two activities and made evident opportunities for synergy between the two.



PEARL - Preparing for Extreme and Rare events in coastal regions

Launch of the website and social networks

After some months spent on planning and designing PEARL's website, it was officially launched on the 1st April. Intended as a platform through which the general public can know and keep up-to-date with the project's features, activities and outcomes, it presents a very linear and intuitive architecture to facilitate user browsing. For this reason, the homepage contains a news section and a calendar with past and upcoming events, as well as shortcuts to the main tools and resources provided through the project. Given the PEARL initiative is relatively new, further sections and content will be included as research and field work progress.



In parallel to the website, PEARL seeks to improve interactions with the public and visibility through different social media profiles: **Facebook**, **Twitter** and **LinkedIn**. Posts and tweets on the first two channels promote the latest project developments, as well as relevant news from the coastal flood management world at large. On the other hand, the LinkedIn group has a more focused mission, aspiring to encourage discussions and knowledge exchange among professionals on various topics related to extreme weather events in coastal regions. Although targeting different kinds of public, PEARL's presence on these social networks generally aims to foster conversation with the audience, but also to create a buzz within it about the project.

Article on NewsFlash Europe

Thanks to the support of the International Association for Hydro-Environment Engineering and Research (IAHR), PEARL has been publicised on the April edition of NewsFlash Europe, IAHR's newsletter for Europe. Briefly describing the project, the article raises interest in the initiative and directs the readers to the website, where more detailed information is available. We use the occasion here to thank IAHR for the opportunity to reach its audience.

Joint PEARL - RISC-KIT Coordination Meeting, 6 May, Delft, the Netherlands

A joint clustering meeting between the two FP7 projects PEARL and Resilience-Increasing Strategies for Coasts – toolKIT (RISC-KIT) was held in Delft, the Netherlands, at the premises of UNESCO-Institute for Water Education (UNESCO-IHE), on 6 May 2014. Purpose of this gathering was to share and further explore the methods, tools and approaches of each project, and to define the mechanism to allow sharing between the two projects teams, both projects receiving funding under the European Commission Seventh Framework Programme.

PEARL aims at developing adaptive, socio-technical risk management measures and strategies for coastal communities against extreme hydro-meteorological events, to increase the resilience of Coastal Regions in Europe. In this framework, APFM is responsible for the dissemination of the project's results and outcomes. On the other hand, RISC-KIT develops methods and tools to enhance forecasting, prediction and early warning capabilities, improve the assessment of long-term coastal risk and optimise the mix of prevention, mitigation and preparedness measures.

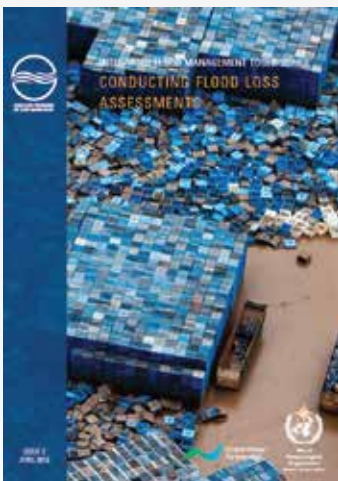
Whereas PEARL tends to focus on the impacts on urban settlements in coastal areas, RISC-KIT deals with coastal morphological aspects. Hence, a synergistic approach in their development will help to achieve better results in riverine coastal environments.



New Publications

Flood management evolves continuously and literature has to keep pace with its progress. For this reason, the APFM considers the IFM Tool Series as a collection of living documents, requiring periodical updates. Several Tools have recently been revised to reflect the current state-of-knowledge and know-how. We are glad to announce that the second editions of the following publications have been issued on our website.

Conducting Flood Loss Assessments - version 2.0

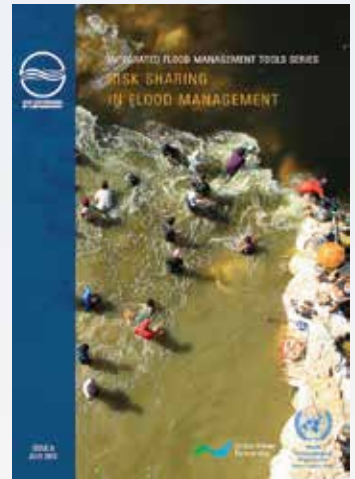


Flood loss assessments are undertaken with a variety of objectives, with different purposes determining their processes and outcomes. This Tool examines the different objectives of flood loss assessments: a first section deals with the rapid assessment for emergency relief coordination during the flood. The second covers assessment of damages in the first few weeks after floodwaters have receded, with a view to

inform and guide the recovery process - for example, in an insurance context, for allocation of recovery funds from national budget or for guidance to external aid agencies. The third section is a comprehensive assessment of flood losses 3 to 6 months after the flood, used to inform policy reform processes as well as the reconstruction efforts within national or sub-national planning. The fourth section finally deals with the use of flood loss data for flood risk assessment and for the appraisal of flood defence and mitigation options. First published in 2007, the Tool has been revised and updated to incorporate recent developments in flood loss assessment and techniques around the world.

Risk Sharing in Flood Management - version 2.0

The Risk Sharing in Flood Management Tool, first published in 2009, provides an overview on flood insurance and other forms of transferring risks of flooding. The Tool deals with the inter-relationship between flood insurance, building resilience in the affected communities and reducing risks. At the same time, it takes a brief look at the alternative forms of sharing financial risks derived from flooding, such as calamity



and reconstructions bonds by government, or solidarity funds. Revised and updated in a second edition, the tool has been enhanced with incorporation of examples for risk sharing methods including crop insurance, catastrophe risk insurance facility, and index based insurance.

Applying Environmental Assessment for Flood Management - version 2.0

The first version of this Tool was developed in 2007 to provide generic approaches for conducting Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEA) on the flood management planning stage at the basin level and Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) at the project design stage. The updated Tool includes new content on capacity building and climate change aspects in the environmental assessment, as well as two new case studies from the Netherlands and India.



Outreach & Networking

New Support Base Partner in the IFM HelpDesk: CERFE



CERFE - Centro di Ricerca e Documentazione Febbraio '74 is a non-profit research and training organisation in the field of sociology. Its mission is to make effective tools that reflect human realities based on sociological and social research. Enjoying the General Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, CERFE has carried out about two hundred projects dealing with research, training, technical assistance, and scientific and public communication in over twenty-five years of its history.

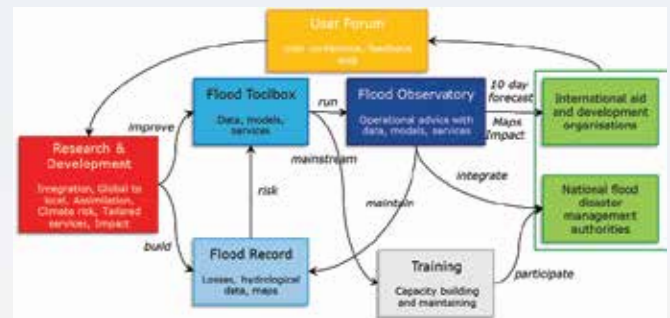
The APFM and CERFE cooperate on different subjects of common interest in the sociological field, such as: social and environmental assessments/risk analysis; community participation and social actors involvement in flood management; and, social/popular and technical knowledge integration in flood management.

Global Flood Partnership

The 4th workshop of the Global Flood Working Group, held in Reading, UK on 3-6 March was not only a forum bringing together scientists and practitioners from public, private and international organisations, but it also represented the occasion for the official launch of the Global Flood Partnership (GFP). This new partnership is a network of interested organisations joining forces with the overall goal of developing an operational flood observational and modelling infrastructure, through leveraging of existing initiatives. The goal is to allow better prediction and management of flood disaster impacts and flood risk globally. The initiative is under the leadership of the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission in collaboration of the Dartmouth Flood Observatory, and many more.

The GFP focuses on five essential pillars: 1) Flood Service and Tool Box, 2) Flood Observatory, 3) Flood Record, 4) User Guidance and Training, and 5) User Forum. WMO's involvement in the meeting was targeted at contributing to the pillars on training, capacity building and user

guidance. The Partnership furthermore recognised the efforts made in the IFM HelpDesk. Its functions and practices could act as a model for the GFP pillar on training by creating a link with the tools, products and services derived through the Partnership.



Broadening our outreach through new channels

The APFM seeks to increase its visibility with the help of GeoSpatialWorld and AidForum, which have published two articles presenting the programme on their websites. They can be viewed clicking on the titles below:

The Associated Programme on Flood Management (APFM) issues a Flood Mapping Tool

INTEGRATED FLOOD MANAGEMENT (IFM): a new approach to flood management

www.geospatialworld.net is a portal disseminating a wide variety of information in GIS, Remote Sensing, GPS, Photogrammetry and related sciences, targeting an audience ranging from industry to policy makers, academia and end users. The website is among the largest geospatial technical resource portals and represents a benchmark in terms of popularity and consideration in the field of geospatial sciences.

www.aidforum.org Aid and International Development Forum (AIDF) is a global forum uniting NGOs, UN and international agencies, policymakers and private organisations in the sectors of disaster relief, food security and water security. AIDF aims to build long-lasting partnerships and improve coordination between key actors in the humanitarian and development field through the provision of a platform to further collaboration among stakeholders.



Staff Movement

Appointment of Dr. Paul Pilon

Dr. Paul Pilon has recently joined the WMO Secretariat in Geneva, taking over the position formerly held by Dr. Wolfgang Grabs, who has recently retired. As such, Dr. Pilon is Chief, Hydrological Forecasting and Water Resources Division and is the Head of the Technical Support Unit of the APFM. Dr. Pilon was previously an Engineering Adviser with the International Joint Commission (IJC) between Canada and the United States of America, an organisation created by treaty to assist both governments in the transboundary management of water resources, air, and the environment. Prior to joining the IJC, Dr. Pilon worked over twenty years with Environment Canada and held various positions in hydrology, hydrological prediction, hydrological monitoring, and transboundary water issues.

