



CAPNET

International Network for Capacity Building in Integrated Water Resources Management

Many countries are in need of policy reforms and institutional restructuring to improve the governance of water - an increasingly scarce resource under growing demand from a variety of existing and potential users. There is an urgent need to find effective and innovative solutions for managing water in better ways than has been the case in the past. CAPNET, a project managed by UNDP and funded by the Dutch Government and UNDP, has been developed to respond to this need. It aims to enhance integrated water resources management and service delivery both for improvement of livelihoods and protection of the environment. It takes a capacity-building approach, focusing on human resources development through education and training, and by building partnerships with and among training institutions in developing countries.

CAPNET's objectives are achieved through networking, awareness creation, training and education, and development of relevant materials/tools. As an associated programme of the Global Water Partnership (GWP), CAPNET serves as a global network that operates as a support programme for regional and national networks of training and education institutions involved in Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM).

Important target groups, reached through the above networks/institutions, are:

- professionals currently active in various fields of water
- decision makers and professionals active in fields that impact on IWRM or are impacted on by IWRM,
- future managers of water such as students at the post graduate level, whose future work will have a bearing on IWRM.

In education, information exchange, employment and career structures, women in many parts of the world are at a disadvantage compared with men. Since in many societies women are directly responsible for the management of water resources (water supply and sanitation, and agriculture), it is of great importance that women be fully involved in water resources planning and decision making both from the side of the users, and from the side of the professionals responsible for water resources management. This is seldom the case. Policy and legal frameworks do not give adequate consideration to gender equality. Women have less potential to make their needs known and community participation processes need further attention to ensure their equitable participation. There are serious gender imbalances in managerial systems in IWRM. CAPNET applies a gender sensitive approach, which implies that gender is mainstreamed into all project activities.

Regional and national capacity building institutions in the South and North are the most important partners in the CAPNET project and it is intended that their contributions will be considerable. They are expected to make the commitment, carry out the networking and training, manage the information exchange, commit staff and resources, and develop sustainable systems. IHE as the host of the CAPNET Secretariat and initiator of the related WaterNet project in Southern Africa, will play a major role in the project.

CAPNET is based on the understanding that there already exist education and training institutions with real or potential capacity and competence on IWRM in the various regions. A number of basic criteria have been designed to assist the selection process to ensure the most relevant institutions are selected as prime partners of CAPNET.

Criteria for cooperation between CAPNET and partner organizations

CAPNET and partner organizations will subscribe to the following criteria underlying their cooperation:

- Commitment to IWRM principles
- Relevant experience
- a multi-disciplinary approach
- commitment to a participatory and gender-sensitive approach
- making available own resources (facilities, staff, budget)
- mobilization of additional resources, and open to collaboration with other institutions in the country or region which would stimulate regional cooperation and enable participants from other parts of the country or region to have access to IWRM education and training.

A number of institutions in the South and the North have been identified as potential partners in a CAPNET network able to provide competence and/or case studies in IWRM and capacity building. Examples of institutions in developing and developed countries, professional organizations, and existing global and regional networks with which CAPNET might cooperate in capacity building for IWRM are the International Water Management Institute, IWMI, Sri Lanka, The Water and Sanitation Institute of Valle University, Colombia (CINARA), International Network of Basin Organizations, France, UNESCO's International Hydrological Programme, The World Bank Institute and others.

A small secretariat will manage the programme. The CAPNET Secretariat is based at the IHE in Delft, the Netherlands. It responds to regional needs by providing direct technical assistance to partners, using international, regional and local consultants. CAPNET applies innovative and appropriate means of communication/ information, including translation into relevant major languages (initially English, French and Spanish). The Capacity Building methodologies and training materials provided by CAPNET include participatory approaches, distance learning, simulation games and role-plays.

Initially support is given to regional networks and institutions in South East Asia, South Asia and Latin America. In Southern Africa close collaboration will take place with WaterNet, a capacity building network with a secretariat at the University of Zimbabwe. West Africa will be included when additional funding has been secured. Mediterranean and Eastern European countries have expressed strong interest to become members of the CAPNET network.

UNDP and the Netherlands are the initial sponsors of CAPNET. UNDP will, through the financing mechanism of GWP, actively encourage other donor to provide additional financial support to the project to make it possible for additional regions and countries to benefit from the services of CAPNET.

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