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Please note that institutional affiliations are added for identification purposes only. Participants are not necessarily representing the agreed views of their host institutions.



Resolutions and Way forward by Participants at the East Africa Integrated River Basin Management Conference 7th-9th March 2005 SUA-Morogoro Tanzania

The 48 research papers upon which the workshop was based are available at:
<http://www.iwmi.co.za/Africa/files/RIPARWIN/05/EARBM.htm>



The East Africa Integrated River Basin Management conference was held on 7th - 9th March 2005 at the Institute of Continuing Education hall, (ICE) Sokoine University of Agriculture, Morogoro, Tanzania. The conference was attended by 156 participants from 15 different countries which included the following: Egypt, Ethiopia, South Africa, Kenya, Tanzania, UK, USA, France, Eritrea, India, Nigeria, Netherlands, Denmark, Sweden, Zimbabwe (names are listed on page three and four). The conference was officially opened by Hon. Anthony Diallo, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Water and Livestock Development, and was closed by the Regional Commissioner for Morogoro, Hon. Stephen Mashishanga. The aim of the conference was to bring together river basin professionals and researchers to critically discuss the tools of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) applied at the basin level. The conference organisers felt that recent research demonstrates that certain fashions in River Basin Management (RBM) may be outmoded or require new thinking. Emphasis were on innovative solutions; "thinking outside of the box", and in rigorous analysis of existing approaches. Participants were also interested in ideas that strongly challenge or defend the very notion or building blocks of integrated river basin management



The workshop was co-organized by the Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA), Soil Water Management network (SWMnet), International Water Management Institute (IWMI), Overseas Development Group (ODG), Comprehensive Assessment (CA), Challenge Program for Water and Food (CPWF), Main funding organizations were; Department for International Development (DFID) and Comprehensive Assessment (CA).

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Background

In Sub-Saharan Africa, institutional reforms are being developed to implement Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) at the basin level. However, these reforms have paid little attention to the nature of Africa's hydrological environment, in particular its economic water scarcity. Water resources are available, but the economic and technical means to improve water productivity, distribution and predictability are often lacking. Various conditions warrant specific responses to render reforms in water management effective. These include: physical conditions (variable and unpredictable climate, geo-physiography), socio-economic characteristics (the predominance of agriculture for economic growth and poverty eradication), and the legal-institutional context (local communal water tenure arrangements, under-resourced governmental line

In his opening speech, the Deputy Minister for Water and Livestock Development –Tanzania Hon. Anthony Diallo informed the delegates that “Tanzania has sufficient surface and groundwater resources to meet most of its present needs. However, despite the abundant water resources available, Tanzania still faces a water stress situation in some parts of the country. In these areas, water demands exceed available resources, thereby raising concerns on issues related to its use, quantity and quality. The use of water is increasing due to hydropower and agricultural expansion that have led to increasing competition for water. Past uncoordinated planning for water use, inadequate water resources inventory, and inefficient water use have resulted into water use conflicts between energy and irrigation sectors, between irrigation and the water ecosystems, hydropower and the ecosystem and between upstream and downstream users. Tanzania is therefore faced with a water Resources Management Challenge. It is this challenge which the Deputy Minister requested the participants to deliberate upon during the conference.

and administrative agencies, strong donor presence, and many trans-boundary basins).

A critical evaluation of ongoing water reforms in Sub-Saharan Africa in the light of conditions and goals is vital to render future policy, law formulation and institutional design and implementation more effective.

Conference Themes

The conference had six themes, which included the following;

Theme 1: Water productivity – methodologies and management, **Theme 2:** Environmental flow assessment, **Theme 3:** Rainwater harvesting and micro irrigation, **Theme 4:** Water governance and institutions (conflicts, legal framework, tradeoffs, dialogue, community level management), **Theme 5:** Water economics and livelihoods and **Theme 6:** Modelling and Decision Aid Tools. A total of 48 papers were presented covering all themes.

Conference Resolutions

The conference resolutions are summarized below:

- (i) Participants underscored the fact that legal and formal framework for stakeholders' participation is needed at all levels in Integrated River Basin Management. Under the current and prevailing arrangements stakeholders' participation is problematic and insufficient.
- (ii) The conference further observed that decisions by planners and policy makers in IWRM reflect different values knowledge and knowledge struggles, and not necessarily reflect the quality of knowledge. It is therefore important for planners and deci-

sion makers to learn from this conference and make a good quality decisions that may manage and promote shifts in knowledge at different levels.

- (iii) The conference emphasised that research findings that are already available should be made known to policy makers and practitioners, putting theory into practice and uptake by various stakeholders. Furthermore the loop of existing missing links should also be addressed.
- (iv) IWRM involves multiple uses of water and has many different facets, which includes among others, social and environmental values. These have to be captured and therefore the conference recommended that there is a need of integrating local insights and values and engage decision makers into the understanding and relevance of productivity of water.
- (v) The Draft Tanzania Water Resources Assistance Strategy prepared by the World Bank in conjunction with the Government of Tanzania was presented. Participants agreed that the strategy was significant and well designed. The conference recommended that any water resources development plan should be preceded by a detailed water resources assessment. Further more Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) indicators, and entry and exit strategy should be in place with a time frame as a means of implementation.

List of Participants

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