

ASSOCIATED PROGRAMME ON FLOOD MANAGEMENT



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Draft REPORT of the Hybrid 6th SUPPORT BASE PARTNERS' FORUM



18 August 2023

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Acronyms

ADPC	Asian Disaster Preparedness Center
APFM	Associated Programme on Flood Management
CBFM	Community Based Flood Management
CIMA	Centro Internazionale in Monitoraggio Ambientale
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
DSS	Decision Support System
E2E-EWS-FF	End-to-End Early Warning System for Flood Forecasting
EWS	Early Warning System
FFGS	Flash Flood Guidance System
FFI	Flood Forecasting Initiative
FM	Flood Management
GHSF	Global Hydrometry Support Facility – (a.k.a. HydroHub)
GWP	Global Water Partnership
GWP-WA	Global Water Partnership West Africa
IDMP	Integrated Drought Management Programme
IFM	Integrated Flood Management
IWRM	Integrated Water Resources Management
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NHSs	National Hydrological Services
NMHSs	National Meteorological and Hydrological Services
PAC	Project Advisory Committee (for VFDM Project)
SBPs	Support Base Partners

SEB	Socio-economic benefits
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
TSU	Technical Support Unit
TUD	Technische Universität Dresden
VBA	Volta Basin Authority
VFDM	Volta Flood and Drought Management project
WMO	World Meteorological Organization
WYN	Water Youth Network

Support Base Partners Forum

1. Context

The APFM Technical Support Unit (TSU) organized the Support Base Partners Forum in 2023 as hybrid meeting at GWP's headquarter in Stockholm adjunct the Stockholm World Water and together with the Annual meetings of the Integrated Drought Management Programme Meetings.

During the meeting, the progress achieved by the APFM in the reporting period 2022-2023, the challenges and the lessons learned through implementing APFM activities and the way forward were presented and discussed together with the participants attending from WMO, GWP and SBPs.

Link to recorded video: <https://vimeo.com/910066375?share=copy>

Link to presentation: [Annual Meeting Presentations](#)

Summary of important suggestions/recommendations to APFM TSU

Recommendations/suggestions	Possible approach by APFM TSUs
Identify new opportunities focusing on E2E-EWS-FF (Integrated Flood and Drought management in general) linking with EW4All to develop new project proposals through WMO initiatives, GWP (RWP and CWP), and the SBPs.	APFM will share SBPs and vice versa for their support in developing new project proposals in different countries or at regional levels
Finalize the APFM implementation strategy for the next 3 years	APFM TSU will draft the implementation strategy for the next 3 years and share it with the SBPs before next APFM partners
APFM to continue supporting EW4All initiative and look for opportunity to implement IFM concepts and strategy at local, national and regional levels	APFM to present the progress on EW4All initiative at the next Annual meeting and share any collaborative opportunity with the SBPs
Continue the youth led project competition for engaging young scientists or practitioner	APFM TSU will follow up with WYN on the competition and present the selected project in the next meeting
APFM to follow-up with SBPs on joining EU Horizon Call for proposal deadline November 2024	Update to be provided during Bi-Annual SBPs forum planned in March 2024

2. Opening

The Annual Support Base Partners Forum of the Associated Programme on Flood Management (APFM) was held on 18 August 2023 as hybrid event that allowed online

participation for partners that could not join physically. 12 Support base Partners (SBP) were attended the meeting in a hybrid format.

The Meeting was chaired by Mr Ralph Philip, Senior Specialist, Programme Management & Network Support of GWP.

The meeting was opened by opening remarks from Mr Per Bertilsson, Interim Executive Secretary and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) GWP, Reggina Cabrera, Expert of WMO Standing Committee on Hydrological Services (SC-HYD) and Hwirin Kim, Head, Hydrological and Water Resources Services Division (HWR). Mr Bertilsson welcomes all participants in the office and online and underlined the urgency and importance of APFM's work given the aggravating situation under Climate Change. Hwirin Kim specifically highlighted the importance of APFM in the context of the UN Early Warning 4 All initiative, which WMO is spearheading, highlighting that progress in regard of integrated flood management has been made with a great contribution of APFM. Despite the progress, the impacts of floods are still increasing in many countries and Climate Change is aggravating the situation, even in the developed host country Sweden. Integrated Flood Management as essential component of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) has proven to be an effective and efficient answer to these challenges but needs to be scaled up more rapidly. All speakers underlined the openness of the programme for other partners to contribute under the umbrella of the APFM with their expertise in flood management and recognized the success of this open model, which makes the programme effective and resilient against upcoming challenges of changing climate.

Adoption of the Agenda:

The tentative agenda was proposed, and no concerns were raised. As such, the participants adopted the provisional agenda (Annex I) with no amendments.

3. Update on the APFM activities

Ramesh Tripathi, (RT), member of the APFM TSU presented the APFM activities after last virtual meeting in August 2022 and virtual APFM Bi-Annual forum in March 2023. He presented updates on the recommendation from the last year's Annual forum, highlighted in regard of activities implemented during the reporting period including projects, new SBPs members, communication and other updates and thanked all partners for the valuable contribution to the program.

Recommendations from the last SBPs forum – August 2022	Follow-up actions or next steps by APFM TSU/SBPs	Status
APFM Business model	TSU to continue exploring new avenues for project proposal submission including the Green Climate Fund, Adaptation Fund and through the CREWS financing pipeline	On-going (new projects are designed and implemented with the SBPs and advisory services

		provided when requested)
Volta Flood and Drought Project	TSU to keep providing updates and connect projects to other activities of partners	On-going
IFM Help Desk	TSU to continue efforts in expanding the APFM and IDMP HelpDesks towards informing IWRM	Yes. More updates during joint APFM and IDMP meeting
Competition	TSU to establish again a youth competition jointly with IDMP and WYN	Successfully completed the previous one. New competition is on-going
Social Inclusion	TSU to continue strengthening the work on gender and social inclusion in regard of floods	Gender mainstreaming, youth activities implemented in different projects
3-year strategy/workplan	TSU to prepare 3-year strategy/workplan based on discussions	On-going. More updates under session 3
APFM LoE	TSU to follow up with remaining SBPs to sign the new LoE	On-going. 2 new SBPs signed the LoE during the reporting period

Updates from 19th World Meteorological Congress (Cg-19) and Hydrological Assembly:

RT explained that CG-19 approved the Strategic Plan 2024-2027 which focuses a lot on countries' resilience against climate shocks like flood. It also approved the WMO top strategic priority, the implementation of the UN Early Warnings 4 All Initiative, to which APFM is contributing through establishment of early warning system in various WMO Member countries. RT further mentioned that the first 30 countries have been identified and APFM is well positioned to support with guidance or training materials on IFM including last mile connectivity along. Also the 30 plus Support Base Partners (SBPs) and their expertise to implement projects or capacity development workshops at local, national and regional levels are an asset that APFM can leverage on. Therefore APFM submitted, jointly with IDMP a commitment to the UN Decade on Water on strengthening integrated and people-centered flood and drought Early Warning services.

Another important progress made during Cg-19 approval of the resolution and work plan on the expansion of the IFM and IDM HelpDesks (see item below).

Business Model

RT provided a short overview on the lessons learned through implementing the APFM Business Model. APFM continues to provide Expert Services to member states of WMO, through financial institutions like Inter-American Development bank and World Bank as well as other WMO initiatives like Horizon Europe, Adaptation Fund and Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems (CREWS). In addition the TSU is continuously exploring new avenues for project proposal submission including the Green Climate Fund, Adaptation Fund and through the CREWS financing pipeline.

Institutional Development

RT informed everyone that during the reporting period two new SBPs have joined APFM, People in Need (PIN) and VORTEX.IO and welcomed them amongst the SBP community.

The work programme of APFM is linked to the Hydrology Action Plan of WMO and within WMO, the TSU is part of the regular budget and activities. It is supporting the WMO long-term ambitions of hydrology, specifically the Activity 7 of the Standing Committee on Hydrological Services (SC-HYD) “No one is surprised by a flood”.

RT reminded members also on the updates of the trilateral Letters of Engagement (LoE) of partners with WMO and GWP which need to be revised to better reflect the WMO CBR and the Secretariat reform.

He also mentioned that it is now possible to have a joint LoE for APFM and its sister programme IDMP.

Integrated Flood Management HelpDesk

In the reporting period August 2022 and -July 2023, the TSU received 75 requests which is a plus of 74% compared to the average. Most requests were rapid guidance and the most institutions that requested support were International Organizations followed by Government and Academia.

Resource Mobilization and Outreach

Raising funding to scale up activities is a goal of APFM. Therefore, the TSU continues to organize and attend appropriate events and conferences where its available resources and expertise can be presented to the wider audience. The goal is to identifying new avenues for partnerships for APFM to acquire more resources for implementation of support in IFM. On of this events was the second Global Flash Flood Guidance System (FFGS) workshop organized in Skopje, North Macedonia during the week of 19th May 2023. More than 200 participants from 60 plus countries attended and several showed interest in collaborating with APFM on their flood challenges during the one-week hybrid workshop. RT also reported on the participation of the APFM TSU in the session on ‘From knowledge to action: Reaching the “Last Mile”’ with the representative from Costa Rica and Malawi and shared the importance and experience of implementing community-based flood management activities to improve last mile connectivity and early response action.

Social inclusion has become an important field of work for APFM especially in regard of last mile awareness, warning, and response capacity.

The contribution of the Water Youth Network was explicitly mentioned and RT thanked them for their engagement in supporting on a voluntary basis the social media communication and outreach and also youth led project competition.

Another important update was on the 2nd edition of the joint APFM and IDMP Youth competition, now the official Youth component of the Water Changemaker. Over 35 proposals have been submitted and the partners have shortlisted 14 candidates and ask to submit the full proposal.

Project preparation and implementation

The following projects (under development or implementation) have been presented and discussed during the forum:

- Implementation of CBFM, Risk Mapping and Hydrological modelling activities under CREWS Cambodia and Lao PDR (May 2022 – April 2024)
- Implementation of CBFM and gender mainstreaming in Caribbean (CREWS), Malawi and Costa Rica under the WMO FFGS project – almost completed
- TSU is leading the development of the WMO HydroSOS project in Bangladesh and Nepal (BaNe) region- Pre-concept note approved and concept note submitted last week for review and approval
- Support to the WMO led Lake Chad and other regional project ideas and concept notes development.

It is to be noted that all the above project activities are aligning and contributing in strengthening the establishment of the early warning system at local, national and regional levels under the overall goal of UN EW4All initiative.

Letters of Engagement

In order to align with the new business model of APFM, RT explained the TSU continues to renew the Letters of Engagement (LoE) with SBP and several have been renewed during this period, specifying the areas for collaboration but there are still outstanding LoEs and new partners are involved for signing LoE with APFM and IDMP programmes.

Other Updates:

In regard of the way forward of APFM, RT pointed important steps as follows:

- Continue VFDM Project Implementation (with Executing partners GWP-WA and VBA, and some of the SBPs) planned between August 2023 to June 2024 and beyond.
- Support to various WMO and GWP projects or initiatives
- Continue with the development of the new project proposals such as HydroSOS BaNe project and support on-going initiatives and project with CREWS.
- Identify new opportunities focusing on E2E-EWS-FF (Integrated Flood and Drought management in general) linking with EW4ALL to develop new project proposals through WMO initiatives, GWP (RWPs and CWP), and the SBPs.
- Sign LoE with the remaining and new SBPs
- Organize hybrid APFM Annual SBPs forum in March 2024

4. Implementation of the Volta Basin Flood and Drought Project activities and roles of SBPs and the way forward

RT, in his role as programme manager of the Volta Basin Flood and Drought Management Project (VFDM), reported on progress of the project during the past year. Project activities were carried out jointly with the APFM Support Base Partners namely CIMA Research Foundation, IUCN, Knowledge and Innovation (K&I) etc. The third-year project progress report (PPR-III) was submitted to the Adaptation Fund in September 2022, including the request for one year no-cost extension of the project implementation. Following technical review from the Adaptation Fund Secretariat, the PPR-III report was approved and the final 4th tranche of funds was transferred for the implementation of the 4th year pending project activities during January 2023.

RT explained that the APFM TSU will continuously work with the SBPs to develop a sustainability plan for the project to ensure that the project outputs are operational and sustained by the countries and regional authority (Volta Basin Authority) even after the completion of the project.

After RT presentation CIMA introduced VoltAlarm and discussed with participants on impact based forecasting, discussion on what detail warnings should include, the balance between accuracy and the likelihood since there is a risk that population require accurate warnings for early response actions.

Other discussions regarding using remote sensed data on the information and warning platform Mydewetra VOLTALARM and the standards to transfer data from national agencies to regional VOLTALARM were shared to the participants.

5. APFM implementation strategy for the next 3 years

GT and VA introduced the plans for a new 3-year strategy of APFM which was then discussed with all participants. GT explained, that following WMO Cg-19 (Res. 62 Cg-19), the development of Weather, Climate, Hydrological, Marine and Related Environmental Services Programme will allow to better determining roles and responsibilities in the implementation of the 2024-2027 Strategy (including the EW4All initiative). Therefore the TSU proposes to ensure that the APFM Strategy (already linked to the WMO Vision and Strategy for Hydrology and its related Plan of Action as well as the GWP's 2020-2025 Strategy and the 2023-2025 Work Programme) will also be finalized in a way to fit in, and complement when needed, the Weather, Climate, Hydrological, Marine and Related Environmental Services Programme.

VA presented the new IDMP strategy as an example in regard of content.

According to the TSU, potential goals for the APFM strategy include:

- Proactively engaging and supporting countries through the UN Early Warnings for All (EW4ALL) initiatives.
- Continue to provide assistance on flood management related topics mainly rapid guidance on IFM, capacity development workshops and pilot projects through IFM-IDM Helpdesk.
- Ensure a Community of Practice is established with specific guidance tools and discussion forums on topics related to Integrated flood management.
- Strengthen community-based flood management and provide overall guidance on inclusive and people-centric flood management approaches.

- Continue designing and implementing projects on Integrated approach to floods and drought management not in silos.

All partners were encouraged to contribute to the establishment of the strategy since it is an open process.

During the discussion specific inputs on the strategy were made. It was suggested that the strategy is an opportunity to showcase how SBP can engage more with APFM, e.g. community of practice. It was mentioned that there is sometimes lack of knowledge on how to benefit from APFM even though there are several opportunities. Another point suggested concerned the compartmentalization of Early Warning activities, which can be approached by the strategy and downscaled for different themes and context. In addition, participants mentioned that APFM should have role to establish a “fifth pillar” of governance/policy of EWS, since this aspect is missing and should be part of the strategy. Participants also strongly advocated for including the contribution to the EW4All initiative in the strategy.

6. APFM support and contribution to the UN EW4All

GT introduced the Early Warning For All initiative (EW4All), spearheaded by WMO. The APFM TSU is supporting the UN Early Warning for All initiative mainly highlighting in its Executive Plan 2023-2027 the availability of guidance or training materials on IFM including last mile connectivity along with presence of 30 plus Support Base Partners (SBPs) and their expertise to implement projects or capacity development workshops at local, national and regional levels. This includes that APFM is part of the commitment of WMO on the EW4All pillar 2 on monitoring and forecasting.

During the discussion SBP expressed their interest in contributing and reiterated that this should be part of the strategy. SBPs were requested to share expertise and tools available on the 4 pillars of the EWS through the below survey link <https://forms.office.com/e/Gbj92M3f6j>.

7. Updates from SBPs on new products, projects, or future opportunities

The Annual APFM forum provided opportunities for SBPs to share some of their work and possible opportunities for collaboration. The Vortex focal point presented their on-going work on Autonomous flying UAV for Hydrology mainly to collect information on Water surface elevation, Map of flooded area, Water surface velocity etc and on the WHYLD Project in France and Croatia where real time hydrological database is provided through Software as a service (SAAS).

Gabriele Quinti from Knowledge&Innovation shared a call for proposals from Horizon Europe deadline November 2024, topic on EWS; and requested interested SBPs to join as a consortium member and the second update was on a possible project development on CBFM in Dakar, Senegal.

Representative from CIMA requested the use of APFM material especially tools and policies for developing the handbook on Risk knowledge for EWS-->early action.

People in Need (PIN) presented the EWS-1294 project currently implemented in Cambodia as a good example of community based early warning system complimenting with the national level warning services.

ADPC focal point Hans Guttman provided some opportunities for collaboration on IFM projects and also highlighted links to ADPC work on SEB analysis with case studies on investment for flood management.

8. Closing of the meeting

The chair wrapped the session up and explained that there was still an opportunity to comment on the annual report until end October. In regard of the next bi-annual SBPs virtual forum, the participants agreed tentatively on March 2024.

ANNEX I - List of Participants

Organization	Name	Title
IHE Delft	Biswa Bhattacharya	Associate Professor of Hydroinformatics

International Consultant	Dasarath Jayasuriya	Disaster Risk Management
HKV	Dorien Lugt	Consultant Water and Climate
Tecnische Universität Dresden	Firas Aljanabi	Senior Scientific Coordinator
K&I	Gabriele Quinti	Director
SMHI	Gbobaniyi Bode	International Development Cooperation
SMHI	Jafet Anderson,	Technical Officer
WMO	Giacomo Teruggi	Technical Support Unit
Vortex.io	Guillaume Valladeau	CEO

UNECE	Hanna Plotnykova	Environmental Affairs Officer
Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC)	Hans Guttman	Executive Director
WMO	Hwirin Kim	Head of the Hydrological and Water Resources division and overseeing the activities of APFM
SMHI	Jafet Anderson	Senior Researcher
Deltares	Judith Kaspersma	Head Of Department - Climate Adaptation and Disaster Risk Management at Deltares
CIMA Research Foundation	Lauro Rossi	Programme Director
People in Need	Lukas Laube	Cambodia Country Programme
WMO Hydrological Coordination Panel and	Marcelo Uriburu Quirno	Chair Activity 7 & 8

Standing Committee on Hydrology		
CIMA Research Foundation	Marco Massabo	Programme Director
GWP	Per Bertilsson	Interim ES and CEO
GWP	Ralph Philip	Senior Specialist, Programme Management & Network Support
WMO	Ramesh Tripathi	Technical Support Unit
WMO Standing Committee on Hydrology	Regina Cabrera	Co-chair
WMO	Robert Stefanski	Head, Applied Climate Services
WMO	Sebastian Grey	Programme Officer

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada	Trevor Hadwen	Agroclimate Specialist at Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
GWP	Valentin Aich	Technical Support Unit

ANNEX II - Agenda

Time	Session Description
09:00-09:30 (0:30h)	Opening words by WMO, GWP and Vice chair of SC-HYD Introduction of participants and adoption of the agenda Group photo
09:30– 10:00 (0:30 h)	Highlights of the APFM activities between August 2022-July 2023 and discussion on the progress of APFM activities including the way forward
10:00– 10:30 (0:30 h)	Implementation of the Volta Basin Flood and Drought Project activities roles of SBPs and the way forward Q&A session
10:30– 10:50 (0:20 h)	APFM implementation strategy for the next 3 years (support to EWS4All, project proposal development and implementation, enhancing linkage between forecasters, disaster managers and last mile connectivity, capacity development)
10:50-11:30 (00:40 h)	APFM support and contribution to the UN EWS4All (mapping the SBPs expertise with the 4 pillars)
11:30-12:15 (0:45 h)	Updates from SBPs on new products, projects, or future opportunities
12:15 – 12:30 (0:15 h)	Summary and concluding remarks from GWP TEC Chair Jaehyang So and discussion on the date for the next SBPs forum
12:30 – 13:30 (01:00 h)	Lunch
13:30-15:00 (01:30 h)	Joint session of APFM and IDMP programmes

Report joint session of APFM & IDMP during the annual meetings on 18 August 2023 to be integrated into the two reports



Meeting presentation: [Annual Meeting Presentations](#)

Recording: <https://vimeo.com/910063328?share=copy>

Joint APFM & IDMP session

The joint session was chaired by Regina Cabrera, WMO SC-HYD expert

Following the introduction of participants and adoption of the provisional agenda for joint APFM-IDMP meeting as shown below in Annex 1.

Session 1: Early Warning 4 All update and discussion

Bob Stefanski (RS) outlined the United Nations Secretary-General's call for Early Warning 4 All (EW4All) and introduced the EW4All framework, emphasizing its pillars and the organizations responsible for leading each pillar. The EW4All initiative was launched at COP27 and later, the executive plan for having EWS worldwide was developed and shared. It represents an ambitious goal of extending early warning systems to all countries within five years, with the target being December 2027.

WMO plays a lead role in pillar 2 and focuses on collaborating with National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) for strengthening observation, monitoring, forecasting and early warning system. The framework aims to extend its impact beyond mere warnings by facilitating concrete actions and support during extreme events. The framework seeks to integrate ongoing efforts such as the Associated Programme on Flood Management (APFM) and Integrated Drought Management Programme (IDMP) activities. The initiative's initial focus is on 30 target countries. It was emphasized that these 30 countries do not constitute the final list, and WMO will work with other countries on early warning systems beyond these initial 30.

It was noted that the EW4All initiative does not start from scratch, as existing initiatives like APFM and IDMP have already contributed to early warning systems in many countries. It was also highlighted that both IDMP and APFM programs contribute to all four components of EW4All. Some countries have received support for flash flood forecasting and guidance system. Participants stressed the

importance of measuring how financial resources are allocated to support actions in response to warnings.

A question arose regarding whether the EW4All initiative seeks to make an impact solely through warnings or if it extends to on-ground actions. The response indicated that, at least for WMO, the focus is on warning and collaborating with NMHSs, which are WMO members.

The Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) and other participants expressed its commitment to support WMO in implementing the EW4All initiative in Nepal, Sri Lanka, and other Asian countries.

Expansion of APFM/IDMP HelpDesk

Giacomo Teruggi (GT) reported that WMO Cg-19 2023 had endorsed the expansion of Help Desks related to Integrated Flood Management (IFM) and Integrated Drought Management (IDM). The goal is to further expand Help Desks' reach and capabilities to inform water resources related topics. Prior to the expansion, a mapping study will be conducted with the APFM partners to assess existing resources and databases available on topics related to IWRM. This study aims to identify what already exists and how the expansion can build upon these foundations. By March, an implementation plan will be prepared and presented. This plan will outline the specific steps and strategies for expanding the Help Desks effectively.

Valentin Aich (VA) presented a slide of how integrating the Integrated Drought Management Programme (IDMP), Associated Programme on Flood Management (APFM), and Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) Action Hub can be the basis to forming an IWRM Help Desk to enhance coordination and efficiency.

It was noted that the plan should be presented to the Hydrological Coordination Panel as it has implications for WMO infrastructure and coordination issues. Ramesh Tripathi (RT) emphasized the importance of mapping partner capacities and resources across the various subtopics of the Help Desks, ensuring a thorough understanding of available resources. It was also stressed, that the basic principle of linking the IFM and IDM Help Desks, along with extending their coverage to topics and tools not currently addressed, but related to water issues, thereby creating an IWRM Help Desk. A participant raised a question regarding the expansion of Help Desks to include a third aspect, considering that IWRM started more than 30 years ago. It was suggested that further thought be given to this concept, despite its endorsement by Congress. It was also acknowledged that there are differences between the management of floods and droughts. While there are overlaps, it was suggested that different programs are necessary to address the unique challenges associated with each.

Concerns were raised about whether integrating IDM and APFM Help Desks into the IWRM Help Desk might result in the loss of visibility for issues related to IDM and APFM, which are programs that have been in operation for 10 and 20 years, respectively. There was a suggestion to reflect on the added value and feasibility of this integration or possibly have a separate HelpDesk page on IWRM related issues and connecting it with APFM and IDMP.

Projects related to integrated flood and drought management

Ramesh Tripathi introduced the session and presented a selection of Associated Programme on Flood Management (APFM) on-going or pipeline projects(Volta flood and drought management, water at the heart of climate action, FFGS, CREWS etc.) related to the four pillars of the EWS, followed by the ensuing discussion regarding project coordination and the broader context of water-related projects and climate adaptation.

During the discussion, a question was raised concerning the potential duplication of efforts, considering the existence of many initiatives in the target countries. The response emphasized that assessments are conducted with partners and target institutions to understand ongoing initiatives. This includes determining the location of work, activities, and products. It was noted that sometimes project information is not shared, resulting in occasional overlaps.

The nature of water projects in general was also discussed. Specifically, whether these projects are focused on water at the heart of climate action or adaptation in the water sector, such as water for agriculture. The discussion highlighted the need to support adaptation alongside improved warnings. Efforts are being made to link and avoid duplication, as demonstrated by the CREWS project in Lao and Cambodia, which collaborates with or builds on the work of KOICA.

A recommendation was made to engage both national and regional partners to gain a comprehensive understanding of the project landscape, ensuring synergies and avoiding duplication. Another comment concerned the complexity of contemporary societies, noting that they are vastly different from those of 20 years ago. Scientific solutions should be tailored to the societal context to remain relevant. The complexity of dealing with multiple and back-to-back hazards was highlighted, citing the example that a flood can happen within a drought and the drought continues afterwards, as happened this year in Italy.

The presentation and discussion underscored the importance of assessing ongoing initiatives to prevent duplication of efforts in water-related projects. The need for collaboration and coordination, both at the national and regional levels, was emphasized. The broader context of climate adaptation and addressing multiple hazards was also acknowledged. It was noted that projects should be aligned with the societal context and the evolving nature of contemporary societies to remain effective and relevant.

Wrap up and closing

When discussing the format of next year's annual meeting, all participants agreed that it would be valuable for all if the APFM and IDMP meetings would be open and visited by both communities. It was suggested to have an individual meeting, not back-to-back with the Stockholm World Water Week anymore to be able to extend the time. It was suggested to leave more space for partners, e.g. there could be half a day for UNCCD, half a day focus on science etc. As venue, it was suggested to explore a cheap option where the venue might be free.

The chair summarized the discussions and thanked all participants for the active discussion.

Annex 1: Provisional Agenda of the joint APFM and IDMP meeting

Time	Activities
13:30- 13:40	Opening and Introduction

13:40-14:10	Early Warning 4 All initiative update and discussion
14:10-14:30	Projects related to integrated flood and drought management
14:30-14:50	Expansion of APFM/IDMP HelpDesk update and discussion
14:50-15:00	Wrap up and closing of the session
15:00-15:20	Coffee break
15:20 onwards	IDMP Advisory committee meeting