



World Meteorological Organization

Working together in weather, climate and water

Flood Management Policy and Sustainable Development: recognizing development needs and managing risk

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Settling on floodplains has enormous advantages



and at the same time poses great risks



Shortcomings of past FM Practices

- **Emphasis has been on ‘Control’ rather than ‘Management’**
 - **FC measures have been Ad-hoc and stand alone**
 - **Reactive rather than proactive**
 - **Emphasis has been largely on structural measures**
 - **Monodisciplinary**
 - **River morphological behaviour is not factored**
 - **Lessons from past failures have rarely been learnt**
 - **Transboundary collaboration is an underutilized tool to improve flood management policies and broaden the available options for flood management and risk sharing**
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New challenges!

Absolute safety against flooding is a myth

Increasing Flood Risks due to development activities

Climate change uncertainty

Growing environmental concerns





Integrated Flood Management: Aims

- Sustainable development: balancing development needs and flood risks**
 - Maximising net-benefits: ensure livelihood security and poverty alleviation thereby reducing vulnerability**
 - Minimising loss of life**
 - Environmental preservation**
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Sustainable Development

Development that "meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

- Intragenerational equity: livelihood security
- Intergenerational equity: viability of ecosystems and flood plain functions

In the flood management context mainly on the viability of floodplain use in the long term



« Sustainable development in the context of flooding means accepting the inevitability of flood occurrence and uncertainty of flood impacts and developing strategies to cope with this reality. »

J.W. Handmer, Flood Hazard and Sustainable Development,
Published in: Floods, Parker, D.J. (ed.) 2000



Integrated Flood Management (IFM)

Integrated Flood Management (IFM) refers to the integration of land and water management in a river basin using a combination of measures that focus on coping with floods within a framework of IWRM and adopting risk management principles while recognizing that floods have beneficial impacts and can never be fully controlled.

WMO 2004: Integrated Flood Management Concept Paper

Associated Programme on Flood Management Technical Document No.1



IFM HelpDesk

*A facility that will provide **guidance on flood management policy, strategy, and institutional development** related to flood issues to countries that want to adopt the IFM concept*



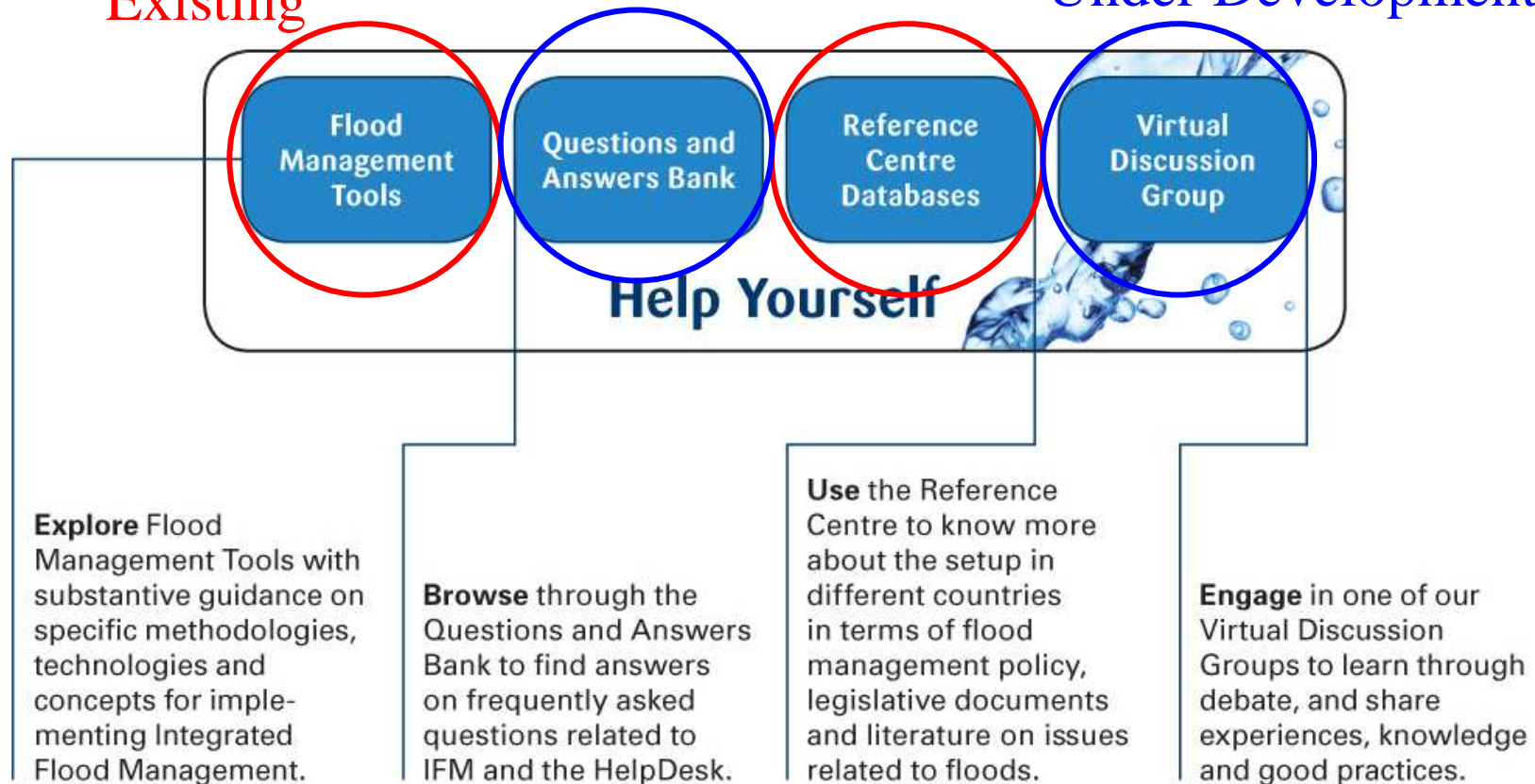
*No Disaster Assistance or
Flood Emergency Response Functions !!!*



Service Spectrum

Existing

Under Development





Service Spectrum (cont.)

Engage in state-of-the art Flood Management Strategy Formulation, Policy Making and Legal Reform with full process coaching through the HelpDesk.

Utilize the HelpDesk in organizing advocacy workshops, awareness building campaigns and training at various levels to further integrated flood management.

Be guided to the right combination of information from various sources available under the HelpDesk.

Get Help

Assistance for Flood Management Policy, Law and Strategy

Capacity Building for Integrated Flood Management

Rapid Guidance on Technical Tools and Advisory Material





Objectives of the HelpDesk

- Provide **quick access** to relevant flood management information;
 - Provide **guidance and momentum for reform** in favour of IFM in countries or river basins in developing long-term flood management policies, strategies and institutional arrangements;
 - Serve as a **link between flood management practitioners and decision-makers and multi-disciplinary scientific expertise and best practice** in various fields such as hydrology, river engineering, legal and institutional development, ecology, sociology and development economics.
 - Provide a continuous and **sustainable capacity development mechanism** in support of IFM implementation.
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HelpDesk target audience

- **Government officials** involved in decision making at various levels of Government, charged with a role in flood management
 - **River Basin Organizations**
 - **Bi- and Multilateral Organizations involved in Technical and Financial Cooperation**
 - **UN System organizations** with a role in flood management
 - Reputed **Non-Governmental Organizations** in particular those working with flood affected communities, Voluntary and Community-based Organizations
 - **Universities**
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At the same time, the stable and effective management of water resources is essential for a holistic approach linking socio-economic development with the protection of future ecosystems and appropriate management links between land and water uses. It is recognized that a river basin is a dynamic system which requires a balance between land and water utilization. In the light of this, attention is given to the need to improve the functioning of the river basin as a whole rather than simply focusing on local projects.

This has called for [Integrated Flood Management \(IFM\)](#), a new approach which gives consideration to the basin as a whole and the multiple aspects of flood water as a valuable resource that is represented by the flood plains that these waters occupy on occasions.

It integrates land and water resources development in a river basin, within the context of [Integrated Water Resources Management \(IWRM\)](#), with a view to maximizing the net benefit from floodplains and minimizing loss to life due to extreme hydrologic events.

[For more information](#)



What's new

- ▶ Flood Management Events ([Up coming Events](#))
- ▶ [IFM HelpDesk Concept Note](#) and flyers ([En](#), [Fr](#), [Sp](#)) have been uploaded.
- ▶ [Legal and Institutional Aspects of IFM](#) and [Environmental Aspects of IFM](#) have been translated into Japanese by [JICE](#) and uploaded.
- ▶ [Newsletter No.18](#) has been published
- ▶ [IFM HelpDesk- Partners Workshop](#) has been updated
- ▶ [IFM HelpDesk webpage](#) has been updated
- ▶ [IFM Regional Training of Trainers \(Lima, Peru\) Course Proceedings](#) online
- ▶ Flood Management Events ([Up coming Events](#))
- ▶ [Article on summer floods in Moldova](#)
- ▶ New publication "[Urban Flood Management](#)" has been updated
- ▶ [Newsletter No.17](#) has been published

(Last update: 6 February 2009)

