Inception workshop report for DFID-FRP project R8171 LOWFLOWS

Forestry and low flows, spatial modelling and open GIS dissemination of the science perception.

Indian Institute of Technology Delhi, New Delhi, INDIA
January 2003

Objectives

• To agree on the objectives and the projects logical framework.
• Finalise the role, responsibility and deliverables of each participating institution.
• Equitable resource allocation among the partners
• Develop mechanism for accounting, co-ordination and establishing communication channels between partners.
• Finalise the mechanism to measure the project’s success and ways and means for dissemination and promotion of its findings.

Summary of discussion points in the workshop

Day 1

• There was a short Inaugural Session which was chaired by the Director, Prof. Prem Vrat. At the outset, a round of self introduction was made by all the participants of the workshop. In the Inaugural Session, Prof. S. N. Sinha, Head of the Civil Engineering Department, welcomed all the participants who had come to attend the Inception Workshop from far off places. Prof Ian Calder made brief remarks about the Cluster Projects that are going on in South Africa and Costa Rica which he is spearheading and how the present project is going to serve as another project under the same umbrella. Prof. L. S. Bhat, Chairman of the workshop also made introductory remarks about the usefulness of such a project for India. The session was closed with a vote of thanks by Prof. Gosain to the dignitaries on the dias.

• The first session started with Prof. L. S. Bhat in the chair. To start with, Prof. Gosain gave an overview of the issues and objectives of the project covering the basic philosophy of the proposed project. He explained how the hydrological modelling is going to be used to represent bio-physical processes and thus generate scenarios that are sustainable and beneficial for the livelihoods. He also briefly mentioned how collation and dissemination of such information can be very effectively done through cost-effective GIS Tools which his group has successfully developed.

• Prof. Ian Calder made a detailed presentation about the requirement of such a project to be taken up to enhance the science perception of the policy makers and ensuring that the myths are not used for making watershed policies and allocation of huge investments. He also shared with the participants his experiences in other cluster projects under operation in different biophysical set ups. Mr. Jaime M. Amezaga followed this with a detailed presentation of the logframe of the project elaborating the various activities, their scope and deliverables expected. In particular, he introduced the new emphasis on policy aspects which was not included in the first drafts of the document.

• The other collaborators in the project namely Winrock International India, RRL Bhopal and NIT Hamirpur gave presentations about their present activities related to the proposed project. Dr. R. N. Yadava, RRL Bhopal made a presentation on the work in the watersheds in MP, where they have instrumented watersheds using funding from the Department of Science & Technology, Govt. of India. Similarly, Mr Thapa, Council of Science, Technology and Environment of HP made a presentation about the watershed management programme of the state and some of the initial work that has been undertaken to collect some of the basic data. Mr Sandeep from Winrock International India presented a brief of the preliminary village survey done by WII in HP, in which he talked about current socio economic patterns in the villages.
Day 2

- The first session of the second day was devoted to the general discussions on the modalities related to the finalisation of watersheds in each state (HP and MP). It was decided that it would be an ideal situation to adopt the existing experimental watersheds of Dudhi and Bewas in Madhya Pradesh, where reasonable amount of hydro-meteorological data (about two years duration) is already available with RRL and the remaining data required for the project can be collected. As far as the Himachal State is concerned, the situation was not as good. There was no existing watershed where hydro-meteorological data were available. Therefore it was a question of identifying a site which is a forested watershed and is having watershed interventions being carried out or planned. It was also preferable if it was close to NIT Hamirpur. One such watershed namely Chabutra Nalah was identified with the help of Council of Science, Technology and Environment, Simla.

- After finalising the watershed selection, the next session was devoted to finalise the responsibilities of each collaborators as identified in the activities chart of the logframes. The work plan of each group was also discussed. In order to connect the modelling work with the policy aspects of the project it was decided to introduce watershed case studies. They would also provide a platform for the GIS-based socio-economic work. WII exact involvement would be negotiated after the workshop taking into account the proposed logframe and the limitations of the budget.

- There was a presentation made by Dr. Sandhya Rao to break the monotony of the long session on PMF finalisation. She demonstrated the work done by IIT Delhi on the low cost GIS tools which are to be utilised in the project for dissemination of the information collected and generated in the pilot watersheds.

- The last session continued with the finalisation of PMF. Some time was also devoted to discuss the milestones identified. There were many other relevant issues raised and deliberated by the participants of the workshop. Mr. John Palmer made detailed remarks on the expectations of the DFID from the project and many other related issues for smooth functioning of the project. The workshop ended with his closing remarks.

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Timeframe and activities for the Initiation workshop

**21st January, 2003:** Tuesday

**Time**

Inauguration – Director, IIT Delhi  
10:00

Introductory remarks by the Chairman – Prof. L. S. Bhatt  
10:30 - 10:35

Overview of the issues & objectives of the project – Prof. I. Calder  
10:35 - 11:15

TEA BREAK  
11:15 - 11:30

Overview of the issues & objectives of the project – Prof. A. K. Gosain  
11:30 - 12:00

Presentation of the Log frames - Prof. A. K. Gosain, Prof. I. Calder and Mr. Jaime M. Amezaga  
12:00 – 13:00

LUNCH BREAK  
13:00 - 14:00

Log frame Continues  
14:00 - 15:30

TEA BREAK  
15:30 - 15:45

Presentation by Participating Teams  
15:45 - 17:30

**22nd January, 2003:** Wednesday

Identification of pilot project areas/watersheds and discussion on the purpose  
9:30 - 11:00

TEA BREAK  
11:00 - 11:15

Finalization of PMF  
11:15 - 13:00

LUNCH BREAK  
13:00 - 14:00

Demo on Geotools – Sandhya Rao  
14:00 - 14:30

Finalization of PMF – Continues  
14:30 - 15:30

TEA BREAK  
15:30 - 15:45

Finalization of workplan and milestones  
15:45 - 17:30

Closing Session  
15:30 - 16:00