

NEPAL:
**Review of National Status in the Development of IWRM Institutional
Instruments and Facilitation Role of Country Water Partnership**

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1. Background and Status

National Planning Commission and Water and Energy Commission Secretariat (WECS), His Majesty's Government of Nepal (HMGN) has been coordinating the process of formulating water resources strategy and water plan preparation efforts since 1993. UNDP, the World Bank/IDA and CIDA have financed the process.

In 1993-94, a Water Resources Sector Diagnostic and Program Formulation Exercise were conducted. It was followed by a situation analysis, which helped identify the issues and built consensus on the issues in 1995-97. In 1997-1998, the first stage of water resources strategy formulation (WRSF) study was launched. The study was instrumental in proposing to designate WECS as the national water planning unit and secretariat of National Water Resources Development Council, a political body chaired by the Prime Minister, and revising mandate of WECS. The second stage of the WRSF (1999-2001) focused on development of comprehensive water policy framework, formulation of strategy options, and to draft initial strategy. Multi-stakeholders participation was facilitated both at the central and regional levels in building consensus on the options and refinement of the strategy. In January 2002, the Cabinet approved the national water resources strategy (NWRS) as recommended by Water and Energy Commission (WEC), Chaired by the Minister of Water Resources. Detailed table of contents of the NWRS is given in Annex 1.

The goal of the NWRS is to alleviate poverty by significantly improving the living condition of the Nepali people in a sustainable manner. It has reported water use in Nepal for the year 2000 and made projections for the year 2027 for the most significant water use sectors. The period of projection is divided into short (5-year) term, medium (15-year) term and long (25-year) term timeline.

The short-term (i.e. the first five years of the timeline of the NWRS) coincides with the period of the 10th Plan of HMGN (2003-2007), which has set out the long-term national development goals to be "significant, positive and sustainable change in the living standard of the Nepalese people." The Plan has outlined four strategies to achieve its goal – (i) high, sustainable and broad-based economic growth, (ii) social sector and infrastructure development, (iii) targeted programmes for poverty reduction and indigenous/ethnic minority people and (iv) good governance. The overall objective of the Plan is consistent with those of the NWRS. The NWRS states that "Water is the principal natural resource of the economy of Nepal. At present 33 percent of Nepal's agricultural production is based on irrigation systems. Intensification of agriculture through expansion of irrigation is considered one of the principal means of increasing food supplies to meet with future population growth. Similarly 84 percent of Nepal's electricity is currently produced by hydroelectric generation. The realization of prospects for very large increases in hydropower generation would allow Nepal to meet its domestic energy demands and to export this renewable energy to its neighbours."

NWRS has further defined ten strategic outputs to achieve these three-term goals. These are:

¹ Upendra Gautam has prepared this reference paper with the technical inputs from I.R. Onta, Mandira Shrestha, Pravin Ghimire and Sachin Upadhyay.

- Output 1: Effective measures to manage and mitigate water-induced disasters are functional.
- Output 2: Sustainable management of watersheds and aquatic ecosystems is achieved.
- Output 3: Adequate supply of, and access to, potable water, sanitation and hygiene awareness are provided.
- Output 4: Appropriate and efficient irrigation is available to support optimal, sustainable use of irrigable land.
- Output 5: Cost-effective hydropower is developed in a sustainable manner.
- Output 6: Economic uses of water by industries and water bodies by tourism, fisheries and navigation are optimized.
- Output 7: Regional cooperation for substantial mutual benefits is achieved.
- Output 8: Enhanced water-related information systems are functional.
- Output 9: Appropriate legal frameworks are functional.
- Output 10: Appropriate institutional mechanisms for water sector management are functional.

Many of the above outputs are specific to sectors and these are to become in fact sub-sector goals. Outputs 1, 3, 4, 5 and 8 are the goals for the Department of Water-Induced Disaster Prevention (DWIDP), Department of Water Supply and Sanitation (DWSS), Department of Irrigation (DOI), Department of Electricity Development (DOED) and Department of Hydrology and Meteorology (DHM). The remaining outputs span two or more sectors, which require collaboration among government line agencies at inter-ministerial levels.

As the last stage of completing the process of NWRS formulation (2002-2004), WECS is preparing a National Water Plan (NWP). The main objective of NWP is to provide a road map in terms of action plans to accomplish the targets and objectives set out by NWRS. NWP is currently at the preliminary draft form. A workshop was conducted in August 2003 to refine the preliminary report. The financial support for NWP preparation was made available by CIDA, which ceased, from end June 2003. Therefore, HMGN has to finalize the plan with its own resources. There is still much to be done to realize adequate legislative reform as well. This paper along with Annex-2 presents a review of the Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) process in the country and lists tasks that are to be undertaken to assure the integrity and effectiveness implementation of the process.

2. Assessment

The NWRS has identified principles to guide and resolve IWRM or Integrated River Basin Management IRBM issues. These policy principles have three essential ingredients: (i) IWRM through basin-wide planning approaches; (ii) stakeholder participation through a decentralization process; and (iii) economic efficiency and social equity through governance, coordination and transparency. NWRS provides the following as the features of IWRM:

- The development and management of water resources shall be undertaken in a holistic and systematic manner;
- Water utilization shall be sustainable to ensure conservation of the resource and protection of the environment. Each river basin system shall be managed holistically;
- Delivery of water services shall be decentralized in a manner that involves autonomous and accountable agencies (e.g., public, private, community and user-based agencies);
- Economic efficiency and social equity shall guide water resource development and management;

- Participation of and consultation with all the stakeholders shall constitute the basis of water sector development;
- Sharing of water resource benefits among the riparian countries shall be on an equitable basis for mutual benefit;
- Institutional and legal frameworks for coordination and transparency shall be an essential feature of water sector management; and
- Wider adoption of the best existing technologies and practices, and rapid innovation and adaptation of both institutional arrangements and new technologies shall be ensured.

The policy principles indicate serious concern towards integration of water resource development with economic and social development

2.1 Key Issues

Distributive Justice

According to the government, poverty is defined as a person having average per capita income of less than Rs. 6,100 (equivalent to about 80 US dollar). As per this definition, 38 percent of 23 million people in Nepal are below poverty line. If one takes the World Bank criterion of less than 150 US Dollar per capita incomes to define absolute poverty for international comparison, 71 percent of the total population is poor in Nepal. A recent socio-economic survey conducted in the eastern and central regions of Nepal for an ADB funded Community Managed Irrigation Sector Project has shown that an average of 75 percent of the people were poor in the study area.² Average food sufficiency in the study area was eight months and less in a year. Clearly Nepal is a country of poor. But the financial resources allocation in the country does not appropriately address this basic fact. The 10th Plan has allocated 1075 million US dollar for hydropower, water supply and irrigation. The country has, for example, born huge investment cost of 284, 450, 146 million US dollar for Melamchi Drinking Water Project, Kali Gandaki Hydropower Project and Sunsari-Morang Irrigation Project respectively. The investment cost on the three projects amounts to about 29 percent of the total outlay of the 10th Plan, which is 3080 million US dollar. Who has benefited or is going to be benefited by these projects? In the last 45 years of planned development in the country, the official figures state that 66 and 16 percent of the population has access to drinking water and electricity respectively, and 41 percent land has year-round-irrigation. These figures do not give any indication about the quality of these services, though it is generally recognized that little consideration is given to environmental requirements. To what extent, the development plan targets the poor? The government has for this fiscal year budgeted about 45 million US dollar for so-called poverty programs, which includes 5 million US dollar for the recently instituted Poverty Reduction Fund! This raises the question about the accountability of the state towards the majority of the real poor in the country-the poor who equally share the debt services burden, without having a say and share in the benefit distribution that accrues from the so-called mainstream investments.³ Distributive justice, therefore, needs to be the essential feature of any planned investment. How much, how, when and where the poor and disadvantaged have a share and say in the benefit should be the key criterion to approve any investment plan.

² Consolidated Management Services Nepal Pvt. Ltd., Nepal -Community Managed Irrigation Sector Preparation Project (in central and eastern basins), Draft Final Report, Asian Development Bank/Department of Irrigation, Kathmandu, September 2003.

³ Upendra Gautam and Laya Uprety, Distributive Justice in the Development of Water Resources: Experience and Option from Nepal, Kathmandu, February 2002, <http://www.cbnrm.net/pdf/gautam_u_001.pdf>

Institutional Issues

To ensure the integration and efficiency of water resources development and management, a central water-planning agency is required. Currently water resource development plans are planned on a sectoral basis spread over sectors such as irrigation, hydropower, disaster management, drinking water, etc., which are not even under the same ministry. In order to orient and link the sub-sectoral and fragmented water organizations with the larger mission of IWRM, and to make the outputs of the NWRS substantively relevant with its policy principles, such an agency with appropriate links with the organizations at the basin level is seriously needed. The National Planning Commission (NPC), which is in a better position to carry out the work of integration, is not capable of undertaking this role as it is a general planning body with a wide range of responsibilities with other sectors and it does not possess the necessary human resources.

WECS only has an advisory role at present and unless its advice is sought, WECS is not in a position to influence the decision-making or planning process. Discussions are under way with the aim of strengthening the role of WECS. This would include making it mandatory to seek its advice on any matters related to water resources development, from all the sectoral line agencies, before project implementation, to ensure that water projects are being implemented in accordance with the principles of IRBM.

Establishing such an institution implies some significant restructuring among the current organizations and management systems that are currently involved in water resources management. Under provisions of NWRS, which has already been duly approved by HMG, there is clear government commitment to designate and empower WECS to coordinate national level planning for entire water sector by 2007. On-going national water plan preparation study under WECS, within the framework of HMG NWRS commitment and target, has to propose an action plan to define, establish and operationalize a restructured WECS. So far such an action plan has not taken any definite shape and it seems to be largely in a discussion stage, that too, at the subsectoral levels. .

Administrative vs. River Basin Boundaries

At the implementation and operational level, existing institutions and structures mean there is not the capability to undertake a basin-wide approach to water resources development. Key structures and regulatory bodies such as the District Water Resources Committee (DWRC), the implementing and operation units such as field offices of DOI have all been established along district administrative boundaries at a district level. As the demarcation of these has not been based on basin boundaries it is quite possible that there could be several districts in the same basin. Currently licensing and even project approvals and implementation are dictated by political boundaries of the districts, which is not consistent with the basin-wide planning approach of water resources development.

Water Use Priorities

The Water Resources Act 1992 places drinking water at the top of the priority list for water uses, followed by irrigation. The historical requirement for drinking water was minor compared to irrigation and as a result, irrigation took priority for many years. With population growth and other development changes, the need for drinking water is increasing and irrigation use may now have to be curtailed in favour of drinking water. This is the case in many of the marginal hill areas where the sub-basins are already under water stress. In urban areas or near urban centres the use of water for irrigation may also; in the future have to be reduced in favour of other commercial and industrial uses. In addition water quality and conservation will become an increasingly important issue. As stated earlier, no specific

actions/steps have been defined at this stage by WECS study to address this issue. The issue is under discussion at the subsectoral level. However, the new policy instrument such as Irrigation Policy 2060 has attempted to address the conservation issue by developing and extending adoption of non-conventional technology such as conjunctive use of surface and groundwater, and water harvesting technologies in the marginal agricultural land.

Conflicts in Devolution/Decentralization Legislation

In accordance with the Local Self-Governance Act, the local government bodies, VDCs (Village Development Committee), DDCs (District Development Committees) and municipalities can regulate natural resources (including water) within their territory. While this provision promotes a participatory approach, it contradicts many of the existing policies, acts and regulations, which aim to strengthen autonomous indigenous entities (local water users) for sustainable water resources development. This has further created confusion on the management of water rights and interfered with recognized principles of separation of authorities (rule making, rule application and rule adjudication) and 'checks-and-balances' roles (regulatory, policy and coordination, and implementation and operation). The NWRS stipulates that by 2007 river basin planning concept is agreed and approved. And before this happens, sound knowledge base for IRBM has to be in place accompanied by sound approach and methodology for adopting IRBM by 2006. On-going national water plan preparation study under WECS, within the framework of HMG NWRS commitment and target, has to propose an action plan to develop and institutionalize required capacity of WECS and other related agencies to undertake the new IRBM tasks. So far such an action plan has not taken any definite shape and it seems to be largely in a discussion stage, that too, at the subsectoral levels. However what is clear in NWRS context is that whereas it views national planning of water from a river basin planning and integrated water allocation perspective, it intends to devolve water use and development tasks to the local entities such as local government units and water user association. It is for this reason that NWRS targets local government units to start taking responsibilities for water resources development by 2005 and 25% projects are planned and managed at the local level by 2007.

Planning Process Not Adopting IRBM approaches

At the central level, NPC is responsible for water planning. In close coordination with the sectoral line agencies such as MOWR, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Ministry of Works and Physical Planning and Ministry of Finance etc., it is responsible for approving annual and periodic water sector plans taking into account the overall economic situation of the country. The planning approach of the NPC is to strike a balance between the availability of funds and the demand of individual line agencies. There is hardly any evidence that indicates that the approaches adopted by NWRS and the 10th Plan for IWRM have been fully taken care of during the annual water sector planning by NPC. This provides further justification for the need of a central institution for IWRM. Considering the institutional gap in the water sector, participants in a three day workshop organized by WECS last August to discuss the draft subsectoral reports prepared under the national water plan helped to identify the gaps in the options suggested in the draft subsectoral reports in the light of IWRM and river basin perspective adopted by NWRS. But as the subsectoral reports and the outcome of the workshop are yet to be systematically organized to prepare the first draft synthesis report, it may not be fair at this stage to make comment on adequacy of the WECS national water plan study. Given the NWRS acceptance of IWRM and river basin perspective to be adopted in any national water plan preparation, there is a need to facilitate policy dialogue on the above mentioned issues on the strength and merit of NWRS fundamental approaches of IWRM and river basin planning concept. The further supplementary need is to keep track of the rescheduled activity of the WECS national water

plan preparation activity according to which draft synthesis of national water plan will be ready by February 2004.

Weak District Governance and Funding

At a local level, i.e. DDCs and VDCs, local government bodies make periodic and annual plans based on discussion in the general meetings of the elected representatives. These plans are multi-sectoral in nature. However the plans can be influenced by political orientation and tend to change as political parties roles are changed after the election. In addition there is no mechanism to financially support these plans, either at the central government level through annual budgets or at the local level through local resources mobilization. Sector programmes, especially in case of irrigation and water supply (with support from the donor agencies and the Government and through participation of the user groups), have better planning at the sub-project level as many stakeholders are involved in the planning process. But it falls well short of the all-inclusive participatory ethic and sustainability that IWRM intends to promote.

Environmental Issues

The Environmental Protection Act requires IWRM to conserve resources and protect the environment. New water projects contain environmental conservation programs which, when implemented, imply integrated approach but this approach is limited within the scope of the project, and does not cover the basin.

3. Support required

It is now about 10 years that the country has spent in making efforts to understand and promote the concept of integrated water development, use and management. The NWRS reflect the considerable amount of distilled experience and vision of IWRM and public commitment towards it. However, relative completeness and adequacy of institutional instruments in the form of a policy dealing with water as the key national resource, which guides the sub-sectoral water use and development policies, legislation, institutional structure, and water resources plan characterized by the distinctive feature of authoritative allocation, are yet to be accomplished. This asks for not only a set of institutional instruments described above, but given the track record of poor implementation performance, a strong monitoring of the implementation of the NWRS and the proposed water plan. Therefore in the context of continuously developing and implementing IWRM process, the following assistance will be required in an institutional basis.

- I. Support WECS to evolve it as the central planning agency responsible for harmonizing policy and legal instruments and to the monitoring and regulating water uses and allocation as envisioned by NWRS.
- II. Support WECS to draft a comprehensive water resources policy on the basis of the policy principles described in Section 1 above. The major functional thrusts of the policy should be on the resolution of the identified key issues. It should clearly spell out policy and mechanism to uphold distributive justice in water resources development.
- III. Support adoption of basin wide planning approach and methodology with assistance to a number of activities such as detailed river basin studies in river basis, transforming

⁴The following relevant regulations are currently in place: The Water Resources Act 2047 (1992), Water Resources Regulation Regulations (WRR), 2050, The Irrigation Regulations 2056, The Electricity Tariff Regulations, 2050, and the Drinking Water Regulations, 2055. The government has also enacted the Local Self-governance Act. The provisions of these regulations and acts conflict with each other. In terms of ownership and management, whereas one set of regulation gives priority to central line agencies, the other set gives it to the water using community or the local government units or the private sector. The same story holds good about the policies that have been separately formulated for sub-sectoral uses of water such as drinking water, irrigation, and hydro-power.

- the water use inventory from administrative to basin boundary and expand and enforce hydrological databases.
- IV. Support institutional restructuring to achieve efficiency and effectiveness in planning and management of water resources, and
 - V. Support increasing local capability with assistance to activities such as preparation of participatory water resources development and management plans and training utilizing the network created by efforts such as AWP, federal units of various water use associations, and local government units.

4. NWP Facilitation

Nepal Water Partnership (NWP) and Jalsrot Vikas Sanstha (JVS), since their inception in 1999, have been playing the facilitation role in promoting IWRM process and associated institutional instruments guided by the principle of *partnership-with-all*.

- NWP water vision, framework of program and framework of action were an inclusive exercise. The exercise overlapped with the second stage of national water resources strategy formulation process. Several informal as well as formal exchanges were made between WECS, NWP functionaries and members during the preparation of the NWRS. NWP was effortful to maintain a common approach on IWRM promotion during all these exchanges and exercise.
- NWP conducted a one-day workshop to prioritise the 62 activities identified in NWRS. Participants of the workshop included those associated with NWRS and water plan preparation. The outcome clearly showed that institutional and legal aspects of activities relating to IWRM should be the primary target of implementation activities.
- NWP uses commentary, sharing of information, inclusion of relevant government official in the NWP/JVS representation, designation of partner member-institution as co-coordinator/local host to promote task-focused IWRM networking activity (such as women and water, community and flood management, Area Water Partnership, water and law, Water and Climate, and hydropower development).
- NWP invites member experts from public, private, academic and non-governmental sectors to talk program and research activity in which linkage between water and other non-water sectors such as health, industry, agriculture, media, security and politics is an integral theme.
- NWP inputs to the third stage of NWRS formulation, that is, preparation of national water plan, are being provided in both the formal and informal manner. NWP provides support to the public water agencies by several means-advisory, consulting, and non-partisan non-governmental advocacy.
- Given the NWRS acceptance of IWRM and river basin perspective to be adopted in any national water plan preparation, NWP has the opportunity to facilitate policy dialogue on the identified key issues on the strength and merit of NWRS fundamental approaches of IWRM and river basin planning concept.
- NWP, due to its access to WECS as one of the partner institutions, has the opportunity to keep track of the rescheduled activity of the WECS national water plan preparation activity. According to the new schedule, the draft synthesis of national water plan will be ready by February 2004. The draft will be discussed at a national workshop. NWP can help WECS in organizing the workshop in a participatory and inclusive mode.

5. Lessons Learned

- A coherent set of reforms in all the relevant institutional instruments are essential for fair and goal-oriented implementation of IWRM process.
- A strong institutional support to monitor the application of the IWRM instruments has to be in place to assure quality and effectiveness of IWRM process.
- An institutional approach rather than a project approach sustainably promotes IWRM process.

Annex-1

Water Resource Strategy, Nepal

Table of Contents

Preface		
Acknowledgement		
List of Acronyms and Abbreviation		
Executive Summary		
1	INTRODUCTION	1
1.1	RATIONALE FOR WATER RESOURCES STRATEGY	1
1.2	STRATEGY FORMULATION PROCESS	3
1.3	FORMAT OF THE REPORT	5
2	OVERVIEW OF NEPAL'S WATER SECTOR	7
2.1	HYDROLOGY AND CLIMATE	7
2.2	SECIO-ECONOMIC SETTING	11
2.3	PRESENT ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS	13
2.4	PRESENT STATUS OF WATER SUB-SECTORS AND POTENTIAL FOR DEVELOPMENT	13
2.5	INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT	18
2.6	INSTITUTIONS INVOLVED IN THE WATER SECTOR	21
2.7	CURRENT LEVELS OF INVESTMENT IN THE WATER SECTOR	23
3	REGIONAL AND NATIONAL WATER RESOURCES NEEDS	29
3.1	WATER USE IN NEPAL	29
3.2	WATER NEEDS OF THE TIBET REGION OF CHINA	35
3.3	WATER NEEDS OF THE DOWNSTREAM RIPARIAN STATES	35
4	SITUATION ANALYSIS	37
4.1	INTRODUCTION	37
4.2	KEY STUDY FINDINGS	37
5	POLICY AND LEGAL FRAMEWORK	45
5.1	EXISTING POLICY AND LEGAL FRAMEWORK	45
5.2	POLICY FRAMEWORK ADOPTED FOR THE WATER RESOURCES STRATEGY FORMULATION	47
6	WATERRESOURCES STRATEGY	53
6.1	SUMMAY OF THE STRATEGY	53
6.2	WATER-INDUCED DISASTER MANAGEMENT	64
6.3	MANAGEMENT OF WATERSHEDS AND AQUATIC ECOSYSTEMS.....	69
6.4	DOMESTIC WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION	75
6.5	IRRIGATION FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT	85
6.6	HYDROPOWER DEVELOPMENT	98
6.7	OTHER ECONOMIC USES OF WATER	104
6.8	WATER-RELATED INFORMATION SYSTEMS	108
6.9	POLICY AND LEGAL FRAMEWORK.....	111
6.10	REGIONAL/BILATERAL COOPERATION FRAMEWOK	115
6.11	INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS FOR WATER SECTOR MANAGEMENT	118
7	RESOURCES REQUIRED FOR STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION	127
7.1	HUMAN RESOURCES	127
7.2	FINANCIAL RESOURCES	134
7.3	FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS REQUIRED FOR COST RECOVERY	138

Annexes

- A Sub-sector Policies
- B Strategy Outputs and Activities in a Log-Frame Format
- C Indicators for Strategy Outputs

List of Tables

- Table 2.1 : Estimated Population of Nepal in Year 1999
- Table 2.2 : Projected Population of Nepal in Year 2027
- Table 2.3 : Comparison of Socio-Economic Indicators of South Asia Including China
- Table 2.4 : Coverage of Drinking Water Service in Nepal

Table 2.5	: Irrigation Development Status in Nepal 1999/2000
Table 2.6	: Summary of Economic Hydroelectric Development Opportunities
Table 2.7	: Location of Hydropower Resources in Nepal
Table 3.1	: Estimated National Water Use –Year 2000 and Year 2027
Table 3.2	: Summary of Water Balance Study Conclusion
Table 4.1	: Water Sector Issues
Table 6.1	: Summary of Strategy Outputs
Table 6.2	: Recommended Institutional Changes
Table 7.1	: Summary of Capital Investment Requirements

List of Figures

Figures 2.1	: Central Organizational Chart of His Majesty's Government of Nepal
Figures 2.2	: Coordination/Policy Level Institutions for the Water Sector (Existing Situation)
Figures 2.3	: Organizational Set-up for Water Resources
Figures 2.4	: Organizational Set-up for Drinking Water Supply
Figures 2.5	: National Capital Expenditures in the Water Sector
Figures 5.1	: Relevant Policy, Acts and Regulations for the Water Sector
Figures 6.1	: Recommended Reorganization of the Water Sector
Figures 7.1	: Nepal's Water Sector Investment Requirements
Figures 7.2	: Water Sector Capital Investments -Comparison of 9 th Plan and Projected 14 th Plan

Maps

Map 1	: Regional Context of Nepal's Major River Basins
Map 2	: Physiographic Regions of Nepal
Map 3	: Annual Precipitation in Nepal
Map 4	: District-wide Population Benefited from Water Supply in Nepal
Map 5	: Irrigation Coverage in Nepal
Map 6	: Major Power Stations, Transmission Lines and Substations
Map 7	: Important River Basins of Nepal

List of Supporting Document

WRSF Consortium Reports – 15 Annexes:

Annex-1	: National Water Resources Policy Framework
Annex-2	: Macro Economic Framework
Annex-3	: River Basin Planning Framework
Annex-4	: Irrigation
Annex-5	: Hydropower
Annex-6	: Water Supply and Sanitation
Annex-7	: Water Transportation
Annex-8	: Water Pricing and Cost Recovery
Annex-9	: Hydrology
Annex-10	: Hydrogeology and Geo-Seismology
Annex-11	: Water Resources Database
Annex-12	: Legal and International Cooperation
Annex-13	: Institutional Framework and Mechanism
Annex-14	: Mainstreaming Environment into Water Resource Strategy
Annex-15	: Social Concerns

Annex-2

Promoting IWRM through Implementation of NWRs

Policy Reforms / Issue	Proposed Actions	Indicators
<p>1. National Water Resources Strategy formulated ,approved and in place</p>	<p>Prepare implementation plan and arrange budget</p> <p>Prepare National Water Plan (including integrated water policy)</p>	<p>Implementation plan and budget</p>
<p>2. Distributive justice is recognized as the essential feature of water resources development investment</p>	<p>Establish policy and regulation provision and mechanism to implement principle of distributive justice ensuring all investment in water sector provide a say and share of the poor and disadvantaged in the benefits accruing from the investment</p>	<p>Implementation plan and budget</p> <p>Water policy and regulation with explicit provisions on distributive justice</p>
<p>3. Water Resources Planning</p> <p>There is no one single entity or established institutional framework with the responsibility and authority to determine and enforce Integrated River Basin Management (IRBM).</p> <p>Enforceable responsibilities and authorities for overall water resources ownership and allocation have not been clearly established and remain split between line agencies.</p> <p>There are numerous policies and acts affecting water resources management that may require review to correct overlapping and conflict and inconsistencies.</p> <p>Long term assistance required to support WRS initiative (including institutional reform on above issues)</p>	<p>Provide Assistance to WECS to evolve it to the central planning agency responsible for harmonizing policy and legal instruments and to the central IRBM office for monitoring and regulating water uses and allocation as envisioned by NWRs.</p> <p>Provide Technical assistance for updating water use inventory prepared by WECS on basin wide approach.</p> <p>Introduce IRBM approach for water resources assessment, in project selection for implementation under CMISP.</p> <p>Introduce IRBM offices on pilot scale in selected river basins.</p>	<p>By 2007,</p> <p>WECS designated and empowered to coordinate national level planning for the entire water sector (WRS).</p> <p>Integrated national water policy approved (WRS)</p> <p>Conflicting water-related laws, acts, regulations amended (WRS)</p> <p>River basin planning concept agreed to and approved by HMG (WRS)</p> <hr/> <p>By 2006, provide sound knowledge base for integrated river basin planning and management.</p> <hr/> <p>By 2006, provide sound approach and methodology for adopting IRBM</p>

<p>4. National Planning</p> <p>Approaches in IRBM promoted and adopted by the NWRS and FYP10 but the programs in the FYP10 have not fully taken into account of this approach. Annual water sector planning also lacks this approach.</p> <p>5. Decentralization</p> <p>Interpretation of the Local Self Governance Act (LSGA) leaves roles and responsibilities split between central and district levels unclear, particularly in the case of resources provided from central level but operating the DDC at district level. A directive from the MLD (Feb 2003) establishes the concept of District Infrastructure Development Offices (DIDOs) with DDCs and their establishment as District Technical Offices. This has not clarified the roles and interface with those district or divisional office of line agencies such as the DOI.</p> <p>The roles of LAs and LGs are also not clear with respect to water use and management, financing and funding flows.</p>	<p>Assist and advise NPC on additional considerations that are consistent with IRBM approach.</p> <p>Establishment and strengthening of a national water resources planning, monitoring and regulating institution.</p> <p>Clarify roles and responsibilities of the institutions operating in districts and start functioning smoothly.</p> <p>Sub-sectoral policies are made consistent with the proposed integrated water policy and the sub -sectoral regulations are harmonized in accordance with the policy.</p>	<p>By 2005, Annual programs on water sector are fully consistent with IRBM approach.</p> <p>By 2007, river basin planning concept agreed to and approved by HMG(WRS)</p> <p>By 2007, WECS designated and empowered to coordinate national level planning for the entire water sector (WRS)</p> <p>By 2004, new Regulations are approved and adopted.</p> <p>By 2005, LGs start taking responsibilities for water development entrusted to them.</p> <p>By 2007, rights and duties of all relevant institution at all levels clearly defined and available, and their accountability demonstrated (WRS)</p> <p>By 2007, 25% of local level projects planned, implemented and managed at the local level (WRS)</p>
<p>6. Water Resources Development</p> <p>Holistic water resources, river basin management practices and development programs are not established at implementation level. Line agencies involved in water resource development are not coordinating their activities.</p>	<p>Strengthening of inter- agency co-operation and co- ordination is initiated in the basin involving agencies at the districts on a project by project basis using the current district administrative and co- ordination structures.</p> <p>A multi-stakeholders' water forum should be established for participatory water resources development in the sub-basin/district</p> <p>Water Resources assessment procedures undertaken in river basin study of this project is built in the project implementation cycle.</p> <p>Assistance is provided by CMISP to develop district/ basin participatory irrigation development plan.</p>	<p>By 2007,25% of local level projects planned, implemented and managed at the local level (WRS)</p> <p>Year-round irrigation increased to 50% of irrigated land (WRS)</p> <p>All agency-managed irrigation systems managed jointly with WUAs (WRS)</p> <p>Integrated national water policy approved (WRS)</p> <p>Private Sector Investment in Water Resources Development increases.</p>

<p>7. Water Resources Program implementation</p>		
<p>District Water Resources Committees have neither the resources nor the authority being demarcated along administrative boundaries. Permits and licensing to be managed on a river basin wide basis by the relevant river basin agency, which is co-coordinated by an umbrella organization with sufficient authority to enforce approved plans.</p> <p>Permits and licensing and project approvals involving water resource activities continue to be dictated by political boundaries</p> <p>The Local Self Governance Act's promotion of VDC and DDC regulation of natural resources (including water) conflicts with other acts that promote autonomous indigenous entities' (e.g. WUAs) use of water on a sustainable basis.</p> <p>There is no clear demarcation in roles in authorities at all levels between regulatory functions (formulation and policy development) and that of implementation, use and operation.</p>	<p>Provide Assistance to WECS to evolve it to the central planning agency responsible for harmonizing policy and legal instruments and to the central IRBM office for monitoring and regulating water uses and allocation as envisioned by NWRS.</p> <p>Introduce IRBM approach for water resources assessment, in project selection for implementation under CMISP.</p> <p>Introduce IRBM offices on pilot scale in selected river basins, tying these offices to WECS.</p> <p>Provide assistance to enhance capacity of LGs.</p>	<p>By 2007, WECS designated and empowered to coordinate national level planning for the entire water sector (WRS).</p> <p>By 2007, River basin planning concept agreed to and approved by HMG (WRS)</p> <p>By 2006, provide sound approach and methodology for adopting IRBM</p> <p>By 2007, 25% of local level projects planned, implemented and managed at the local level (WRS).</p>
<p>8. Inter-agency/department coordination</p> <p>Co-ordination and sharing of resources and expertise in the planning, preparation and implementation of development programs is sporadic and ad hoc.</p> <p>DDCs have little authority and control over key line agency programs and are ineffective and under-resourced and not equipped to undertake a project co-ordination function.</p>	<p>New, possibly project-based initiatives (supported by the Bank), establishes suitable project co-ordination and program methodologies that can maximize the benefits of co-coordinated inputs from key agencies (DOI, DOA etc.).</p> <p>DDCs to be supported and resources made available to enable them to undertake district-level project co-ordination in line with the LGSA.</p>	<p>by 2007, rights and duties of all relevant institution at all levels clearly defined and available, and their accountability demonstrated;</p> <p>by 2007, 25% of local level projects planned, implemented and managed at the local level;</p>
<p>9. Project Monitoring and Evaluation</p>		
<p>An IWRM audit committee has yet to be established but is expected to be located in the MPPW and not as an independent body as recommended by the TA technical consultant. This raises issues of conflict of interest for MPPW projects and effectiveness given inter-agency rivalry.</p>	<p>Further dialogue is needed to ensure that independence of the audit committee is maintained and agency co-operation and compliance is obtained.</p>	<p>By 2005, the audit committee starts functioning.</p> <p>There are well equipped laboratories at the regional offices supported by trained technical personnel.</p>