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SPLASH D6.2: LESSONS LEARNED FROM SPLASH JOINT ACTIONS

Coordinating European water research for poverty reduction

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O = Other	
PU = Public	
PP = Restricted to other programme participants (including the Commission Services).	PP
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Contents

Introduction

1.1 What is SPLASH

SPLASH is the European Union Water Initiative European Research Area Network (EUWI Era-Net). It is a consortium of 16 ministries, funding agencies and national research and technological development authorities from 11 European countries. SPLASH aims to improve water research for poverty reduction and thus contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Its four main objectives are to:

1. Coordinate existing programmes to minimize duplication and identify gaps,
2. Support the transfer of research into policy and practice,
3. Map good research management to maximise use of resources,
4. Design collaborative research programmes which address identified needs.

It aims to improve the effectiveness of European-funded research on water for development and to develop the capacity of local organizations to coordinate and communicate their research activities. The project focus is Africa and the Mekong region.

1.2 What is WP6?

WP6 - “Joint activities between national research programs and other partners” have as main objectives:

1. To develop joint working for improved relevance and delivery of MS support to water research for developing countries;

2. To improve institutional arrangements in delivering appropriate water knowledge to developing countries.

1.3 Why this deliverable?

The present deliverable D6.2’: “Lessons learned of SPLASH joint actions “results from the first activity of the task 6.1. Deliverable D6.2’ is presenting the joint actions selected in July 2009 at Berne meeting and lessons learned of SPLASH all joint actions. This is the opportunity to formulate the recommendations for future and capitalize experience in order to enhance transnational future activities.

1.4 Presentation of the report

Chapter 1 introduces the framework, presents the projects the context of the report and the objective.
Chapter 2 makes a recap of the background information that was used for building the joint activities and presents the joint actions selected in July 2009.
Chapter 3 reports on the lessons learned from the SPLASH jointly developed activities.
Chapter 4: Brussels workshop

2 Joint actions selected in July 2009

2.1 The process followed to achieve the identification of research priorities

The process for selecting priorities was:

- First, a survey of prioritized themes, with contributions from:
  - SPLASH partner,
  - SPLASH Scientific Advisory Council,
  - Representatives of international organizations (i.e., European Union Water Initiative, International Water Management Institute, Mekong River Commission, New Partnership for African Development);
- Second, an analysis and a background document have been prepared to present the analysis to both SAC and SMB;
- Third, based on the data collection analysis, the SAC has formulated recommendations for priorities themes for future joint activities, during a meeting held in Oslo in June 2008;
- Fourth, the themes recommended by SAC were presented to the Strategic Management Board (Oslo in June 2008) for decision;
- Fifth, D6.1 has been elaborated to report on the process and to present the selected priorities themes.

2.2 Process followed for the development of Concept notes

In August 2008, in Stockholm, the TC decided to change the design of WP6, in order to include a process for developing proposals for joint activities that could integrate the findings of all the WPs and involve all the partners in the identification of future joint action.

In October 2008, in Bonn, all the partners had met to share the main results of the work achieved in the work packages. The lessons learned in WP 2, 3, 4 and 5 have been integrated into a single document including a set of recommendations (D5.2, list of lessons learned chapter 3.2).

As a result of this meeting, the second step of the process of task 6.1 has consisted of developing ideas for proposed activities. The partners agreed to develop in small teams ideas for joint activities and to formulate them in concept notes. A standard format was proposed for the concept notes following the Logical Framework Analysis terminology (Form in annex 1). Considering each of the lessons learned, and the priority themes recommended by the SAC, a list of concepts notes have been prepared. Each one was clearly linked to a lesson learned and should address one of the SPLASH overall objectives. The partners have shared responsibilities to prepare and revise the concept notes (Annex 2). Each concept note has been developed by a team of SPLASH partners and a reviewer nominated to provide Quality Assurance and comments for improving the note.

This mechanism ensured that all the SPLASH members had the opportunity to contribute to developing options for joint activities.

2.3 Evaluation and selection of the concept notes:

The last steps of task 6.1 were the evaluation and selection of the concept notes to be jointly implemented in the framework of SPLASH.
WP6 leaders together with the coordination have checked the overall quality of the concept notes and formulated recommendations.
Finally 12 concept notes were selected to be presented to the Scientific Advisory Council in December 2008. The Scientific Advisory Council has evaluated the concept notes and provided comments and advice to strength them.
Afterward, the 10 better ranked concept notes were presented to the Strategic Management Board, in January 2009, to decide which ones should be taken forward.

5 CN out of the 10 were validated to be implemented by SPLASH and the other one will be improved to be presented in June 2009 or not taken forward (SMB meeting minute, London, January 2009).
The 5 selected CN (CN are in annex) were the following:

- **Research coordination workshop in Ethiopia,**
- **Joint call on sanitation,**
- **SPLASH Research Management Course,**
- **Evaluation of research outcomes in water for development,**
- **Support oft the African Groundwater Network (AGW-Net) in capacity development.**

2.4 Concept Notes selected at Bern meeting (July 2009)

During the Bern meeting in July 2009, the SMB approved 3 more CN improved by SPLAH partner(CN are in annex). These Concept Notes are presented here:

Involvement of the private sector in hydro-power generation in the Mekong

This concept note aims to increase the cooperation between research and private sector in hydro energy development in the lower Mekong region.
The mains objectives are:

- to assess the existing research and knowledge transfer/capacity building at the academic level on water availability for hydropower development, effects of climate change on hydrology, multi-criteria decision analysis and water footprints of hydropower development in the lower Mekong Basin;
- to review existing knowledge/experience, tools, methodologies on sustainable private sector involvement in hydropower development in the region;
- to facilitate the application of research findings/ results and translation into policies and practices at national levels and the integration into intergovernmental agreements at the regional level;
- to stimulate capacity building using south-south cooperation besides north-south cooperation and partnership approach and thinking.

Niger River cooperation action between research and development

This concept note aims to start a period of communication between all Research and Development actors within the River Niger basin, with the help of the Niger Basin Authority, to improve and speed-up the transfer of results, goals and priorities between all actors.

The mains objectives are to:

- share synthesized results for a better coordination of future actions between programs coordinators, and avoid duplication of efforts,
- improve the dialogue between researchers, stakeholders and decision-makers, to share a common vision of the environmental questions at stake, together with development needs and strategies,
- strengthen the existing Institution -Niger Basin Authority- for the coordination of research activities at the basin level scale, at first by supporting a consultative process,
- help establishing a mechanism for knowledge sharing and lessons learning, by a collaborative approach including National actors for research and development, and lead to formulate key priorities for future research.

Support to the African Centres of excellence

This joint action aims to enhance the visibility and use of African water research, and encourage research cooperation at regional and international level. And to increase the UE-African partnerships and make each SPLASH partner benefit from it.

The specific objectives are:

- To contribute to successful identification of new CoE,
- To develop and sustainably support new demand-led joint research initiatives by new Coe.

The expected results are:

- new champions identified in Africa to join the regional networks of Centres of Excellence in Water;
- more partnership and increase dialogue achieved between EU and African Water research entities;
- sustainable funding identified for African water research;
- awareness by funders increased on DC priorities for water research;
- potential for joint research proposals created in the context of water for development.

3 Learning from SPLASH jointly developed activities

3.1 SPLASH research coordination workshop, 26th May 2009, Ethiopia

Introduction

We identified that a number of research programmes funded by SPLASH partners are active in Ethiopia. A number of these programmes planned to attend the WEDC conference which was due to take place in May 2009 in Addis Ababa. SPLASH took advantage of this opportunity to invite

representatives from the research programmes to participate in a one day research coordination workshop.

Rational for this action:

A key objective of SPLASH is to improve coordination between ongoing research programmes to avoid duplications and exploit any potential synergies. Whilst a number of tools had been developed within SPLASH to support and help facilitate coordination, little had been practically arranged. The Ethiopia workshop would aim to establish coordination and how to sustain this in practice in the future.

Short description of the joint action:

Participants from eight research programmes attended the workshop, the research programmes were MAWARI (supported by MAEE France), IPGL (supported by ADA Austria), BOMOSA, ROSA and SPLASH (funded through EC FP6), RIPPLE (funded by DFID UK) Jemma (supported by the Czech Ministry of Environment), and a Swiss supported household water treatment project. ASKNet was also presented by the coordinator of ROSA.

In the morning each project made a presentation which outlined main aims, geographical scope, time frame and partners involved in the research. It became apparent that a number of projects/programmes were working in similar areas, for example RIPPLE, MAWARI the Czech and the Swiss programmes are all concerned with developing an understanding of the degree and extent of contamination of water resources by Fluoride and mitigation efforts.

Most programmes included capacity development type activities, several supporting MSc and PhD students.

In the afternoon it was agreed to split into groups to discuss potential joint future actions. The following were agreed:

- Exchange of information about respective degree titles, students and hosting institutions to try to understand synergies and avoid duplication

- RIPPLE would facilitate information to help other programmes to coordinate research within local Ministry coordination mechanisms being supported by their programme;

- Exchange information regarding future dissemination activities and training events.

It was agreed that SPLASH would make a page available on the SPLASH website to host this information for future reference.

Resources needed/used to achieve the activity:

All participants funded their own participation in the course under their respective programmes. SPLASH made available a meeting room with projector for the day.

Lessons learned from this joint action

All participants agreed that the workshop had helped to develop a shared understanding of the scope of work and partners involved in the various research programmes, and that this was not known ahead of the workshop.

Twelve respondents plan to cooperate within the scope of their existing research activities, while fourteen respondents plan to cooperate on future research activities. The areas of cooperation are as

follows: 10 respondents plan to share data, 13 will share findings; 8 will cooperate on dissemination activities, and 6 will cooperate on capacity development activities.

Recommendations for the future:

All thought it was useful as a first step. Suggested that this type of activity would be repeated in the future, but that it is interesting to involve a broader participation, to include policy makers, and practitioners to help understand research needs and priorities, in order to better focus this could be with a thematic focus

Greater focus towards longer term information sharing should have been addressed.

Supported individual coordination and dissemination efforts, beyond local and towards an international audience..

Probably only a fraction of the research projects active who were actually present, greater advance planning and more publicity could help. Advertise and ask people to come?

Confirmed that such coordination does not happen on its own, such initiatives are worthwhile and valid. Longer term sustainability is important. Institutional roles and responsibilities to look at this.

Appropriate level, themes, attendees, etc

3.2 Involvement of the private sector in hydro-power generation in the Mekong

Rational for this action:

The project is related to SPLASH objectives in:

- Support transfer of research into policy and practice
- Identify collaborative research programmes which address identified needs

Short description of the joint action:

The general objective of this joint action is to increase cooperation between research and private sector through promoting research and capacity building in development of suitable methodology/tools and applying research results into practical and policy levels.

The main Activities are:

- To review:
    - existing research and capacity building in assessment of water availability and effect of climate change on water balance.
    - existing finance and investment models for hydro energy development in the region.
- To carry out a workshop: networking and forum for discussion for various stakeholders (researchers, policy-makers, private sector, and NGOs).
- To recommend to mechanisms for inclusion of various stakeholders in research including the private sector
- To produce outlines of North-South-South collaborative projects on:
    - research and capacity building in water availability for hydropower development and effect of climate change on water balance;
    - on national and local legislations/policies for private sector involvement and PPP in hydropower development.

- To produce outlines for funding opportunities for such projects.

The SPLASH partners involved in this activity were: Norwegian water resources and energy directorate (NVE), Development Workshop France (DWF), The Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE), Water Engineering and Development Centre (WEDC)
The non SPLASH-partner involved was Mekong River Commission.

Resources needed/used to achieve the activity:

SPLASH received 150,000 Euros from the Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs as a grant to support the project.

Lessons learned from this joint action and recommendations for the future

3.3 SPLASH Research Management Course

Rationale for this action:

This course directly relates to SPLASH objective 2, which is to ensure that good research management practice is known and used. The course emanated directly from the findings and learning of WP3 on research management. SPLASH undertook a study in 2008 that showed that most research leaders are in their positions based on their scientific qualifications. None of the leaders interviewed had any training in the management aspects of research projects. Meanwhile, the trend today is for research funding agencies to favour large research programmes over individual research projects. This means that funding agencies contract a significant proportion of the water for development research today to large consortia of research organisations. These consortia are often a mix of northern and southern institutions introducing complexities around geographical separation and cultural diversity. The consequence of this is that there is an even greater need for management skills to ensure the smooth running of these consortia.

SPLASH commissioned this course in direct response to this need voiced by several research leaders interviewed. The SPLASH scientific advisory committee (SAC) endorsed the course as an initiative that would make a positive contribution in the sector. Finally, several university lecturers interviewed informally, stated that they would welcome such a course and would find ways to incorporate it into their PhD programmes.

Short description of the joint action:

The action described here is the development of a course on good research management practice to be made available free of cost to research organisations (universities and institutes) in the water for development sector to use as they wish. The course target audience is primarily early career researchers though more experienced researchers who either aspire to become research leaders or are already acting in this role could use it as an *aide mémoire*.

The course objective is to develop core materials for training early career researchers on good research management practice, which research institutions, can adapt to fit their preferred delivery mechanisms.

This has been a joint effort of WP3 participants. WEDC undertook to prepare the core materials and other participants in WP3 (NVE, DBL, IRD) were to act as reviewers. We decided to have a single organisation doing the basic authoring for reasons of consistency in voice and style. We planned to use an iterative review process to refine the core materials to the point that a group of users could pilot the course. At present, the course materials are undergoing review following which we will make amendments. A pilot of the course will take place in the week beginning September 27th , 2010 in southern Africa under the auspices of the Nepad Centres of Excellence (CoE) for water. The CoE are still to confirm the host and venue. Following the pilot, we will make final amendments to the course and release it for general use.

Resources needed/used to achieve the activity:

There are several budget lines associated with this course. The first is 60 days for the preparation of the course materials. There are also additional costs incurred by reviewers. These are costs in the form of fee days. The pilot is a third item of cost. However, the EU Joint Research Centres (JRC) are co-funding this cost meaning the cost to SPLASH will be to sponsor 10 people to attend the pilot. Overall, the development of the course has been efficient.

Lessons learned from this joint action and recommendations for the future

As this action is not yet complete, it is difficult to reach conclusions about the achievement of its objectives. However, demand for the course was solid. We have also continued to receive positive feedback during development of the course materials. Based on this, there are good grounds to feel optimistic about the outcomes of this action in the future.

There have been no significant barriers to date and it is too early to identify lessons as these are most likely to emerge from the pilot and communication phases of the course development.

3.4 Evaluation of research outcomes in water for development

Rational for this action:

This joint activity is related to the SPLASH following objective: to ensure that good research management practice is known and used.

It aims to satisfy the following lessons learned in WPs 2, 3, 4 and 5:

- Strategic and operational objectives of programmes are not clearly enough stated for effective monitoring and evaluation
- Actively involving the relevant stakeholder in the research process is a challenge for the future
- The involvement of southern research organizations in European-funded research programmes is inadequate
- Dissemination of research results is inadequate

Research impact and outcome assessment is still weak

This deliverable relates to all priorities identified by WP 6 (D6.1) as it is a generic concern of all research. The overall objective of the proposed activity is to increase the effectiveness and maximize the outcomes of research programmes on water for development supported by EU Member States.

Short description of the joint action:

This deliverable extends the work carried out in Work Package 3, by looking ahead to what happens after research has been completed, in terms of its outcomes. SPLASH Deliverable 3.1/3.2 outlines the types and methods of evaluation carried out in several EU countries, based on the review of research programmes in Deliverable 2.5. It also considers evaluation issues, questions addressed, and evaluation tasks. In contrast, this deliverable has a focus on research outcomes as a specific type of impact, with the emphasis on work which relates specifically to outcomes and their measurement.

The overall objective of the proposed activity is to increase the effectiveness and maximize the outcomes of research programmes on water for development supported by EU Member States. The specific objectives of this activity are:

- to propose a framework through which the concept of outcome can be better understood and measured; and
- to develop guidance parameters for programme design, including how to frame workable outcome level indicators.

This deliverable seeks to contribute to our understanding and practice in this area by examining more closely the concept of research outcome and the different types of outcomes that are achievable by research projects and programmes.

Resources needed/used to achieve the activity:

A total of 40 partner days were used to achieve this activity.

Lessons learned from this joint action and recommendations for the future

Several key conditions for effective achievement of outcomes are highlighted in the case studies, under the thematic headings of knowledge and skills, behaviour and practice, and values, conditions and status. The importance of achieving these outcomes is underlined to increase the effectiveness of research programmes; their absence is associated with project failure. From these thematic outcomes, a framework has been developed which includes performance indicators, means of verification, collection methods, frequency and responsibility. This should allow those engaged in planning research to devise workable outcome level indicators.
Following review, it is hoped that this deliverable might be a useful tool for wider dissemination and use by research planners. It is not necessarily specific to the water and sanitation sector, therefore other ERA-Nets might find it of use.

3.5 Support oft the African Groundwater Network (AGW-Net) in capacity development

Rational for this action:

This activity contributes to the following SPLASH objectives, lessons learned and to priorities issues, identified by SPLASH. :

- to speed up transfer of knowledge into practice and policy (SPLASH partners providing support to strengthen the dialogue between the different stakeholders (researchers, policy makers, water experts). This helps to speed up knowledge sharing and to support the transfer of research into policy and practice.
- to synthesise 'good practice' and ensure that this is known and used

AGW-Net plays an important role as an intermediary actor (WP 4) in helping to make better use of research results and to bring groundwater on the political agenda.
The delivered training courses are related to IWRM (D6.1) with the focus on a sustainable groundwater management, which includes also topics such as climate change, transboundary aquifers, water supply and sanitation or water for the environment

Short description of the joint action:

Groundwater is a critical resource in Africa, considered to be the only realistic supply option for many dispersed rural communities and a supplement to meet demands of growing urban centres. However, a historical lack of knowledge and skills in sustainable groundwater management has resulted in neglect and mismanagement of this resource. AGW-Net was established in 2008, and aims to counter these problems through: increasing awareness and political commitment to groundwater management, by fostering support to the African Groundwater Commission (AGWC) established under the umbrella of AMCOW; and the development of appropriate groundwater management capacity at all levels throughout Africa.

It was agreed that SPLASH would support AGW-Net capacity development initiatives. Two courses were conducted, in Johannesburg 2009, and Lomé 2010, targeted to post degree level, non hydrogeologist African water managers. SPLASH partners BGR, GEUS and SDC have worked in partnership with AGW-Net, Cap-Net and the corresponding host institutions the University of the Witwatersrand and the Global Water Partnership of West Africa.

The main objective of this joint action is to increase awareness of groundwater problems and to acquire professional skills for developing a sustainable groundwater management in Africa

Resources needed/used to achieve the activity:

The first training course in Johannesburg (6th - 10th July, 2009) cost approximately €37 000. The course was co-funded by Cap-Net, the University of Witwatersrand and SPLASH partners (SDC and BGR on behalf of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, BMZ)

The second training course in Lomé (12th - 16th April, 2010) was co-funded by BGR (on behalf of BMZ) and CAP-Net at a cost of about €36.200.

SPLASH partners from BGR and GEUS actively supported both courses technically through giving lectures and other assistance. They travel- and accommodation costs as well as needed person month were covered by SPLASH funds.

A total of 30 participants from 18 African countries participated in the trainings. The first course was conducted in English, the second attracted a more francophone participation and included simultaneous French/English translation.

Lessons learned from this joint action and recommendations for the future

Achievement of the objective(s)

The activity (Task 8.1) could fulfil the main objective as well as to bring groundwater on the political agenda. This could be realized within the second course (Togo) as also representatives of the River Basin Organisation and AGWC were taking part in the training course.

Barrier

For the first course in Johannesburg it was difficult to invite representatives of the River Basin Organisations and from the African Groundwater Commission. Due to support of Scientific Advisory Council (SAC) member of SPLASH - Dr. Charles Biney - who is the executive director of the Volta Basin Authority (VBA) the deputy executive director of the VBA - Mr. Samuel Yao Atikpo - could take part in the last course in Togo.
In addition in the second course in Togo a representative of the AGWC could attend the course and present the roadmap of the AGWC as BGR and AGW-Net used its contacts to the current representative's members or active persons of the AGWC secretary, which is however not implemented yet.

Lessons learned

Working in a collaborative partnership with existing institutions and initiatives, has contributed to longer term institutional sustainability, leveraged the strengths of each partner, and as a result maximised the impact of the joint activities. For example, conducting the training courses has raised the profile of groundwater on the political agenda, through active participation of policy makers on training courses and at opening ceremonies; the cooperation with representatives of the African Groundwater Commission; and submission of reports and statements to AMCOW. This is due in part to the nature and influence of the partnership involved in these activities.

Feedback from the first course has informed the design of the second course. Participants of the first course were predominantly civil engineers and hydrologists from water ministries and water bureaus, the second course participation reflected a broader section of society, which corresponds more closely to the broad range of stakeholders involved in both the use and management of groundwater resources.

Implementation of a series of activities over a longer term can achieve lasting impacts and economies of scale. The second training course benefited from 'training the trainer' effects which demonstrates greater local ownership and reduces external dependence.

Evaluation by course participants has been very positive, and shown that the involvement of researchers in the design of training materials and delivery of courses, but also in taking part as

participants at the courses is an effective means of disseminating up to date knowledge on groundwater.

The state of existing knowledge on groundwater system characteristics was weak amongst participants prior to undertaking the training. The course content and delivery was extremely relevant to participants. In addition current topis such as the climate change issue related to groundwater could be pointed out to the participants

The courses enabled to identify a lot of problems and to suggest appropriate solutions or further research needs (e.g. how to involve research institutions and laboratories in the management of groundwater? How to process groundwater data so that it is meaningful for decision makers etc.).

Recommendations for the future:

The institutional mandates of key organisations should be amended to recognise the importance of groundwater. For example sustainable groundwater management should, but typically does not currently fall within the mandate of Lake and River Basin Organisations.

A survey to establish how course participants are applying their new knowledge in their daily work is being conducted, and should influence the design of future training courses.

Efforts towards knowledge management and networking could support the longer term sustainability of these courses, for example through inclusion of course materials in appropriate University curricula.

This activity should be re-implemented due to following reasons:

- The feedback of the participants during the groundwater management courses as well as the post evaluation results carried out with the participants of the last training courses to analyse the impact and finally the benefit of the course to their daily work was very good. Their feedback and recommendations will help to improve the course content and contribute to bring forward the ongoing strategies of the AGW-Net targets.
- A third training course in the framework of the SPLASH project will be organized by the end of 2010 or at the beginning of 2011, where the recommendations of the participants could be considered.
- In addition the training course of AGW-Net in cooperation with SPLASH partners and further national or international organisations enables an extraordinary successful and effective partnership, which supports
- to ensure that the latest groundwater knowledge is known and used in Africa.
- to define joint solutions regarding groundwater (management) problems and thus to realize the specific Millennium Development Goals.

- the organisation of further training course and joint workshops will contribute to create an effective and sustainable groundwater network, which foster to bring groundwater on the political agenda

3.6 Niger River cooperation action between research and development

Rational for this action:

The joint action contributes to several SPLASH specific objectives:

- Coordinate existing programmes to minimise duplication and identify gaps
- Speed up knowledge transfer between researchers and practitioners
- Design collaborative research programmes

The implementation of this joint activity is related to one of the priority (theme3) identified in the deliverable 6.1. This concerned priority focus on the "trans-boundary water issues including: Governance, Basin Authorities and links with Research".

Short description of the joint action:

The general objective is to start a period of communication between all Research and Development actors within the River Niger basin, with the help of the Niger Basin Authority, to improve and speed-up the transfer of results, goals and priorities between all actors.

Specific objectives include:

- share synthesized results for a better coordination of future actions between programs coordinators, and avoid duplication of efforts,
- improve the dialogue between researchers, stakeholders and decision-makers, to share a common vision of the environmental questions at stake, together with development needs and strategies,
- strengthen the existing Institution -Niger Basin Authority- for the coordination of research activities at the basin level scale, at first by supporting a consultative process,
- help establishing a mechanism for knowledge sharing and lessons learning, by a collaborative approach including National actors for research and development, and lead to formulate key priorities for future research.

Resources needed/used to achieve the activity:

The resources used to achieve this joint action are:

- 2 full month IRD staff Montpellier (2 persons)
- 3 months local staff in Niamey
- 15 days NBA staff in Niamey (2 persons)

A total of 6 men months were used to implement this joint action.
SPLASH provided approximately 36 000 euros to organize the workshop.
40 000 €

Lessons learned from this joint action and recommendations for the future

All the participants found this meeting was a first and unique occasion to meet people working on different aspects of development, which they never met before. They were for most of them not aware of many of the studies and tasks of other groups.

The NBA proposed to coordinate futures actions to develop the results of this first meeting, as all participants were convinced that increasing communication between the different actors of the

development would be for the benefit of the people living on the basin. The NBA would like to be assisted for organising an agenda of future meetings.
Not all stakeholders could be present at the meeting, and there is a need to enlarge the panel of invited people. Funders were also largely not present. There is still an effort to do to bring them into the strategic discussions.

The actions to engage under the control of the NBA regional institution should be:

- To collect information about all studies already achieved on Niger river and about all projected structures and create a database.
- To gather a lot of development actors representing all sectors, including researchers, and define which topics are key research topics for the future. Research actions must take into account that some topics need only a few years of measurements to get results, and some other need a long field survey over 10 years and more before possibly get answers to questions.
- Systematically meet together researchers, stakeholders, NGO's, national services and development institutions, before launching a research call.
- Development operators must participate in funding research, if they want researchers to get results on specific fields.
- Share results of this meeting largely with other river basin agencies in neighbouring countries (like Volta basin authority, Lake Chad basin commission, etc..)

NBA is also interested in participate in a SPLASH 2 project.

4 Brussels workshop

In description of work, an integral part of the contract for SPLASH envisages that SPLASH will share good practice through a workshop towards the end of the existing contract. The contract also requires that a longer term agenda for future jointly funded activities that could benefit from a trans national approach will be developed. SPLASH agreed that it is important to share good practice on an ongoing basis through its planned dissemination activities which include hard and electronic copy newsletters and publications, and also the organisation of participative involvement at key international sector and development research related events several of which have taken place during 2010, or are envisaged into 2011 and beyond.

SPLASH proposed to work with the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs during its presidency of the EU, to host a workshop in Brussels 27th- 29th October. The workshop served the dual purposes of sharing findings and good practice between SPLASH and research and development partners; and also to engage these relevant stakeholders in the future plans of SPLASH beyond December 2010.

4.1 New concept notes presented during the Brussels workshop

During the meeting, each objective of SPLASH was discussed and the joint actions implemented were presented to the SAC. The lessons learned from these activities were presented to the SAC. Furthermore, 8 new concept notes were presented and some recommendations were formulated in plenary for each one.

The concept notes presented were the following:

- ***Concept Note 1: Put research into development action by improving multilateral partnership in defining future research key issues in the Niger Basin***

Introduction

On the basis of a first concept note agreed by SMB members in July 2009, SPLASH co-organised an international coordination workshop between research and development on water resources in the Niger River Basin. This workshop took place the 31st May and 1st June 2010 in Niamey and was prepared and organised in collaboration with the Niger Basin Authority (NBA). It was the opportunity to gather actors from research and development agencies active in the basin.

During the meeting, several recommendations from participants focused on the lack of collaboration between the two sectors. Indeed, the majority of actors participating to the meeting emphasized that the collaboration between research and development sector has to be improved. Moreover, the discussion stated that the development sector could benefit more from research works if research responds better to key development issues and if access to the results was facilitated. In addition all participants and the NBA during the last meeting in Niamey saw the joint planning of a second workshop as being an important step in the process to take recommendations forwards and into practice.

This concept note therefore builds on this previous activity. NBA was mandated to promote cooperation between the member countries and to ensure an integrated development of the basin in all areas by the development of its resources in particular in the domain of energy, hydraulics, agriculture, breeding, fishing, fish farming, forestry development, transport, communication and industry.

Several international research projects are currently dedicated fully or partially to the study of the Niger River basin, for instance: BFP-Niger, AMMA, Niger-HYCOS, RIPIECSA, WETWIN and RESSAC projects. All of them include teams from 2 to 9 countries. Some leaders of these projects are expected to participate in the second workshop as well as other research leaders interested in research in the region. Among these projects RIPIECSA is, as a research funder (Priority Solidarity Fund from French inter-Institutional Agency for Research for Development -AIRD-), a potential partner for the implementation of this concept note.

General objective

The overall objective is to improve the impact of the research for the benefit of the development goals in the Niger Basin, by improving coordination and sharing of results from existing research, and by creating new research projects which better meet the needs of the development actors for the coming 5/10 years.

Specific objectives

The specific objectives are :

- Transfer the recommendations of the Niamey workshop (May 2010) into practice: “improving knowledge and information sharing between actors, and make a better use of all existing data and information” through the development of a reference database.
- Establishing a mechanism for a sustainable dialogue between development and research actors lead by Niger Basin Authority;

- Reinforcing the NBA institution for coordination of the dialogue mechanism between research actors and development sector;
- Meetings between practitioners, research program coordinators and funders to define needs of development actors in term of research priorities for future projects;
- Helping to create research projects with collaboration of practitioners and stakeholders in the definition of the project and in the funding;

This project would meet several SPLASH specific objectives:

- Speed up knowledge transfer between researchers and practitioners
- Design collaborative research programmes

Expected results

The expected results of this activity would be a better collaboration between research and development sector and a better access to research results and studies for all the stakeholders.

Activities

Activity	Expected output
Create a references database including academic and non academic publications about River Niger, accessible on the web.	A webpage in the NBA website is created to show previous and actual studies about the Niger River and help people to access to them. The data base management will be carried out by NBA.
Organize a meeting between development agencies, stakeholders and research coordinators in Niger basin, to define research priorities for the next 3 to 10 years, in regard of the upcoming management projects.	• A mechanism of periodic consultation and experience sharing between research sector and development actors is elaborated and piloted by the NBA • Edition of guidelines of research key issues for development actors in coming 5/10 years, • Definition of future research project in Niger Basin according to several time scales from 3 to 10 years; • Some research projects based on development actors needs are proposed by NBA and funded (partially) by development agencies

Summary of recommendations from the SAC

It would be good to engage Governments and ask them to contribute in some way as an in kind contribution in order to improve sustainability and ownership. Official endorsement would help validate the demand expressed in workshops – what types of people articulated the demand? This is not quantified currently. There must be capacity building within institutions or else there is a risk to sustainability, also must be clear as to expected outcome and how to achieve this beyond the outputs. Need to be clear about whose priorities will be addressed as research priorities – country or basin level, and have the appropriate stakeholders present.

Overall objectives etc need to be sharpened, and more focussed, if we are so broad it may jeopardise success, perhaps work with the Niger basin and help them to define which areas should be priorities and then bring more targeted stakeholders together.

- ***Concept note 2: Coordination of research on impacts of hydropower development in the Lower Mekong Basin***

Introduction

A key objective for SPLASH is to avoid duplication in research by improving coordination of member states' research within water for development. As a first step towards meeting this objective, SPLASH mapped the existing nationally funded programmes in water research in developing countries. A survey report and searchable database of these programmes is available on the SPLASH website. http://www.splash-era.net/search_dbs.php.

This survey shows that SPLASH partner countries are supporting thirteen research programmes in the Mekong region related to water, including the thematic areas: water for people; water for food; water for nature and water for energy and industry.

This screening from 2007 demonstrates a broad variety of research programs and projects funded by 9 SPLASH countries, which suggests a clear need for improved coordination. However, since the screening dates back to 2007, one of the first activities should be to update this information and make it available for partners.

At the "Regional Workshop for Coordination of Research on Hydropower Development in the Lower Mekong Basin" (SPLASH-Mekong workshop) held in Vientiane, Laos on 14-15 September 2010, workshop participants identified a need for generating more regional knowledge on impacts of hydropower development for livelihoods and other sectors such as agriculture and fisheries. A first step in this process is also to coordinate and share existing research whether funded from external donors or from the Mekong countries. This coordination will enable researchers and practitioners in the region to get full benefits from existing knowledge and have an informed basis for development of new research proposals.

General Objective

The objective for this Concept Note is to develop activities that will provide an answer to the following questions:

What do we know about impacts of Hydropower Development for livelihoods and other sectors?

- How can partners within the Mekong Basin share this knowledge with each other?
- What are knowledge needs and gaps within this field?
- How can new knowledge be developed and shared in the future?

This concept note is proposed as a response to the needs identified in the region during the SPLASH workshop held in Vientiane, Laos on 14-15 September 2010, in order to improve the knowledge base and understanding of impacts of hydropower and other water infrastructure development projects for livelihood, agriculture, fisheries, eco-systems etc. The coordination of ongoing research topics will provide room for knowledge sharing among researchers and between researchers and stakeholders. The coordination of existing research will further facilitate a thorough identification of need and gaps related to research in the region.

The Coordination activity will contribute to the overall SPLASH objectives:

- To improve coordination between existing programmes to minimize duplications and identify any gaps
- Improve knowledge sharing between researchers and practitioners to speed up the transfer of research findings into policy and practice

Activities and expected outputs

Activity	Expected output
Update the overview of SPLASH partner funded research in the Mekong region with special focus on impacts of hydropower	Report presenting SPLASH partner funded research in the region focusing on impacts of hydropower. Desk study done by SPLASH team
Update existing research overview, update where needed and expand with a on impacts of hydropower for other sectors.	A report, done by local consultants, mapping research within this topic funded by other donors and by the 4 LMB countries. The report is
Analyze results	A report analyzing findings from the above overviews
Coordination workshop organized by a local organization in cooperation with the SPLASH team.	Report of the workshop, overview of gaps and needs and development of recommendations for improving cooperation and research activities, incl SPLASH workshop attendance and facilitation
Development of final report and of recommendations for future activities	Final report with recommendations for future activities

Summary of recommendations from the SAC

The comments of the first concept note are also available for this one. This concept note should be linked with Concept note 8; see discussion of the concept note 8.

- ***Concept note 3: Development of a Research Management Course***

Introduction

Previous work done in SPLASH revealed that research managers are often ill prepared to manage research leading to inefficiencies in the research project cycle. These inefficiencies are in non-science related areas such as financial management, human resource planning, managing the research team and so on. This work also indicated strong demand from the research community for a course that would address these issues. In response, SPLASH allocated funds to develop content for a research management course to be made available free of cost to universities and other interested users. Such a course would contribute towards meeting SPLASH objective three: "synthesize 'good practice' and ensure that this is known and used". The course target group would be early career researchers from within the water for development sector, globally.

SPLASH held a consultation round to develop the course, drawing inputs from PhD scholars, academics and principal investigators of EC-funded projects, which reiterated demand for such a course. The consensus was that the main topics to cover should include choosing a call, proposal development, contract negotiation, implementing research, and communications and uptake. The next stage was to prepare the course content in line with the topics outlined above. SPLASH then reviewed the content internally eliciting valuable feedback and comments. These facilitated revision of the content. This process is now complete. The next stage is to pilot the content in a live training forum. Plans are underway to do this in November 2010 at a workshop hosted by the southern Africa chapter of the Centres of Excellence. The two day workshop will target a dual audience: early career researchers (representing those who would attend a course in research management), and senior academics (representing those who would offer a course on research management). The feedback

and comments from this pilot activity will facilitate completion of the course before general release early in 2011.

General objective

The general objective of the activities proposed here is to optimise existing SPLASH investment through developing, disseminating and supporting the delivery of a research management course for water for development targeting all aspects of the research cycle from design to evaluation.

Specific objectives

The specific objectives of the proposed activity are:

1. to finalise the development of the course by January 2011;
2. to ensure the course is widely disseminated by April 2011
3. To within 2 months of receiving a request, provide back-stopping to interested parties to develop the course content into a course that meets their needs;
4. to undertake training of trainers as requested;
5. to deliver the course in a face-to-face format as requested.

Expected results

The expected results of this activity would be a well-disseminated and widely taken up course on research management targeting early career researchers.

Activities and expected outputs

Activity	Expected output
Complete preparation of course units following pilot: • this activity will involve desk-based work to amend and improve existing course units for final release	Revised research management materials ready for conversion to preferred delivery formats
Dissemination of the course: • This activity will involve targeted and extensive dissemination of the course materials using a variety of channels including those of SPLASH, email shots, newsletters, web announcements, etc.	The output will be a log of the dissemination pathways employed to raise awareness and provide understanding of the course objectives
Backstopping and training of trainers: • This activity will initially involve working with the SNOWS (Strengthening research capacity in African Health) project to provide research management training to researchers in six African universities. • Further, the International Foundation for Science (IFS) and the southern African CoE have expressed interest. Other organisations will require backstopping	Research management course ready for delivery in SNOW'S preferred format Research management course ready for delivery in client's preferred format
Course delivery: • This activity will involve tailoring the content to fit the needs of different audiences and delivering the course to those audiences	Participants trained

Summary of recommendations from the SAC

Important to use in regions other than Southern Africa and also with those less well versed in good research management practice.

Translation into French would be an asset. More detail on content and strategies for dissemination is important. A success would be the use of these materials in teaching curricula. Evaluate why proposals fail and learn from some unsuccessful ones. May be useful to involve some skilled proposal writers in the pilot too?

- ***Concept note 4: Examining the Outcomes of the SPLASH Sanitation Call***

Introduction

This concept note develops the findings of an earlier deliverable evaluating research outcomes in water for development (task 3.4, activity 3.4.1). Research outcome is the immediate (short to medium term) effects of an activity. Deliverable 3.4.1 looks ahead to what happens after research has been completed and proposes a framework through which the concept of outcome can be better understood and measured, and which can be incorporated into programme design to frame workable outcome level indicators. The next logical step is to apply this framework to test whether the work of SPLASH has led to good research outcomes. This will be done by focusing on the process of managing the SPLASH call for a new research programme on sustainable sanitation in low income areas of sub-Saharan Africa, launched in March this year. SPLASH identified many principles of good research management practice which influenced the design and criteria of the call. These are:

- to ensure equal contributions by both northern and southern experts, including in decision making;
- to conduct a stakeholder identification and engagement plan for the duration of the research project;
- to dedicate a minimum of 10 percent of the budget to effective and targeted dissemination; and
- an overall programme management structure aims to ensure that projects are coordinated to promote synergies, ensure mutual learning, reduce duplication of effort and support dissemination of the programme at the international level.

General objective

The sanitation research programme responds directly to each of the SPLASH stated objectives: aims to improve coordination between ongoing research programmes; to understand what is ‘good research management practice’ and ensure that this is both known and used; and to develop and launch jointly funded activities in agreed priority areas. An evaluation of the success of the SPLASH call contributes to these same aims and objectives, as it demonstrates their importance in practice and closes a vital loop.

Specific objectives

Main: To measure the effectiveness and outcomes of the SPLASH sanitation research management practice principles and activities related to the sanitation call.

Secondary: To apply the measurable research outcome indicator framework developed in activity 3.4.1 to test its effectiveness.

Expected results

The results will be to know whether the principles of research management practice formulated by SPLASH are accurate, realistic and effective i.e. that they have good outcomes in terms of the following:

- That requiring equal contributions by both northern and southern experts in research projects means that this is achieved in practice, e.g. that they are equally involved in decision making processes;
- That the requirement to conduct a stakeholder identification and plan for stakeholder engagement has resulted in full engagement of appropriate parties throughout this time;
- That the required minimum of 10 percent of budget dedicated to dissemination has resulted in effective communication of results, using appropriate formats and delivery methods to relevant targeted audiences, based on known demand; and
- That the overall programme management structure has successfully ensured that projects are coordinated to promote synergies, that mutual learning has been achieved, duplication of effort reduced and dissemination of the programme at the international level has been supported.

The research outcome indicator framework in D3.4.1 uses three categories of outcomes[1], relating to:

- Knowledge and skills;
- Behaviour and practice; and
- Values, conditions and status.

These categories can be used to develop performance indicators, means of verification and collection methods in order to systematically measure the outcomes of each of the SPLASH principles.

Activities and expected outputs

Activity	Expected output
Initial workshop to plan activities in conjunction with consortia members	Plan of agreed activities and responsibilities
Application of evaluation framework at 6, 12, 24 and 36 month intervals and analysis	Data collection and analysis of results at these intervals
Final workshop with five consortia attending to share results and experiences	Workshop proceedings
Dissemination of results	Journal paper Learning Note

Summary of recommendations from the SAC

This work is important as the sanitation research programme approach is a pilot, can it be synchronised with the management? Outcomes is a good approach there is need for more work in this; we seem to be locked in log frames, which are less suited to the intangible aspects.

- ***Concept Note 5: Needs assessment to support Groundwater Resources Management in the Lake and River Basin Organizations (L/RBOs) of Africa***

Introduction

In July 2009 and April 2010 SPLASH partners (BGR Germany; GEUS Denmark, SDC Switzerland) organized groundwater (GW) training courses in South Africa and Togo together with the African Groundwater Network (AGW-Net), Cap-Net and the host institutions: the University of the Witwatersrand and the Global Water Partnership West Africa. The African Groundwater Network (AGW-Net), was established in 2008 with two main aims. The first is to increase awareness of the potential and value of groundwater across the continent. The second is to contribute to capacity building in the groundwater sector in Africa and thus to support the African Groundwater Commission (AGWC) targets, which is presently formed under the AMCOW (African Ministers' Council on Water) umbrella. Since its foundation AGW-Net delivered six GW management training courses (including the courses in July 2009 and April 2010). During these, it was recognized that L/RBOs were not interested in the GW issue or not aware of the GW resources. For the first time a representative of a RBO as well of AGWC took part in the training course in Togo 2010. Exchange with members of ANBO (African Network of Basin Organizations) during different meetings also revealed that transboundary GW management has not been adequately addressed within the reforms of L/RBOs. Thus after the Togo course it was agreed by AGW-Net, BGR, SPLASH members and representatives of the AGWC and RBO to support the process of bringing GW on the political agenda and therefore to promote the integration of GW management into the core mandate of L/RBOs. This implies also the need of supporting the GW data sharing and of recognizing the importance of a transboundary GW management as a nucleus for cooperation between neighbouring states. The increasing consensus of promoting L/RBOs for considering GW in the framework of transboundary water resources management has finally led to the idea to analyze how far GW is considered by the L/RBOs and what appropriate actions are needed.

Critical questions to be asked for this necessary approach include for example: Which L/RBOs do already consider GW in their water management strategies? What does this imply for the riparian states? Why is GW management not included in the work programme of relevant L/RBOs? How could the UN articles on managing transboundary aquifers be translated into practice or action? What will be the roles of each actor (e.g. ANBO, AGWC, AGW-Net, European donors)? What capacity development activities are needed for the L/RBOs? How far could the policy framework of the EU water framework directive be considered?

The aim of strengthening the African Institutions for Transboundary Water Management in Africa and thus also of considering GW in this context is furthermore in line with the objectives of the African Working Group of the European Union Water Initiative (EUWI). The African Working Group, where AMCOW and ANBO are involved in, recently elaborated concrete activities which are based on the Triennial Work Plan (2010-2012) of AMCOW. In this context it is highlighted that "addressing groundwater in the debate and negotiations on how to manage transboundary groundwater provides additional challenges". For this reason it is aimed to work closely together with the African Working Group of the EUWI.

General objective

The main aim is to improve the cooperation and coordination on transboundary groundwater management between the different L/RBO as well as to speed up the transfer of research findings into policy and practice.

Specific objectives

- Getting an overview on how far GW is considered and institutionalized by internal and transboundary L/RBOs in Africa and how this is integrated into the national water strategies of the riparian countries.
- Indicate strategies and the structure needed how GW could be taken up in the daily work of L/RBO.
- Intensifying the coordination and cooperation between the different L/RBOs regarding a sustainable GW resources management, including the improvement of knowledge and data sharing.
- Capacity building for L/RBO's for integrating GW management into basin management activities.
- Supporting the identified prioritized activities of AMCOW, mentioned in the AMCOW Triennial Work-plan
- Improvement of the efficiency and effectiveness in the sustainable management and development of GW resources in the framework of IWRM in a river basin context.

Expected results

- Increased awareness for L/RBO and its riparian and adjacent countries of the key role GW resources management plays within the IWRM framework
- Promote cooperation among L/RBOs on shared GW resources management
- Capacity building needs assessment for L/RBO, followed by elaboration of specific training materials which incorporate latest research findings and current good groundwater management practice and thinking in cooperation with involved partners (SPLASH partners, AGW-Net, Cap-Net, ANBO, INBO, AGWC, EUWI)
- Support of the South-South and North-South dialogue and assessment of possible joint actions

Activities and expected output

Activities	Expected output
Questionnaire assessment of GW management with internal and transboundary L/RBO's (through AGW-Net members and/or within meetings e.g. ANBO meeting)	Design of questionnaires for internal & transboundary L/RBOs, report of the questionnaire results
Organization a 1-2 day-workshop with officials of L/RBO and members of the riparian and adjacent countries as well as external stakeholders (e.g. EUWI members from other countries) in a selected African country partners to discuss the results of the questionnaire assessment	workshop report, including the workshop results & recommendations for action
Elaboration of adequate training material/modules in cooperation with involved partners focused for L/RBOs based on the workshop results and identified capacity development action needs	Training materials which also consider previous modules from past training courses
Piloting of the training course materials (e.g. through a pre-survey via E-mail)	Evaluation report/ Feedback summary
Application of the training materials through organizing a 5 day training course for L/RBOs (with about 25 participants)	Training course report

Summary of recommendations from the SAC

Good to incorporate GW Mate materials in training. Consider how to integrate the private sector as one of the biggest users of groundwater. Great to have groundwater specialists as a support

mechanism and network. Consider the 3Meruo ANBO support programme of the EC and making links with that. There can be a challenge when considering the mandate of Lake and River basin organisations which relates heavily towards investment planning, need to be aware of this. Better to do the information collection in person not by questionnaires. An issue is how to finance groundwater assessment with good governance? Ensure that decision makers have the right information. There are a lot of activities for one training course – this should be part of a more ambitious plan. Need to think about longer term and sustainability, training of trainers, a mentoring/backstopping programme for those who go on and train in their own country etc etc. Donors also prefer bigger projects. Need to bring these activities to a higher level and scale, and link to AMCOW.
Pay attention to the criteria of participation and selection criteria, get the change agents and find a way to identify this and have the right people.
Consider changing the title.

- ***Concept note 6: A review of dissemination of SPLASH resources and next steps***

Introduction

The purpose of this concept note is to ensure that the outputs and results of SPLASH are available not only for researchers, but also for funders, policy makers and others with an interest in water for development.
SPLASH has existed now for almost four years and has developed a number of outputs to fulfil the overall objectives of SPLASH including "to speed up transfer of results into practice and policy". These include a database of research programmes in the countries within the SPLASH framework, a yellow pages overview of online resources for development-related water research., guidelines for research management, recommendations for inclusion of Southern researchers and a joint call on sanitation supply chains.
SPLASH has highlighted the importance of improving the uptake of research in policy and practice. It has been seen that the development impact of research can be increased if policy makers and practitioners are able to use research results in their daily activities. This can also be the case with coordination activities like SPLASH. Impacts of these activities will be increased when results are available at the right time and in a version targeted directly to policy makers and practitioners, but it is important to be aware that this has implications for the design and communication of our activities.
SPLASH has a large number of deliverables that are relatively long and with a quite technical content. For this reason, we produced the SPLASH Fact Sheets and Learning from our Activities Notes that are intended for non-partner and non-researcher use, to be used by SPLASH stakeholders. In addition, there are two Briefing Notes for research programmers and for researchers. These are clear and easily accessible. SPLASH has also participated and hosted side events in conferences, maintained a website updated with outputs, and published an e-newsletter 4 times per year. The purpose of this Concept Note is to propose:

- A review of SPLASH dissemination activities to investigate whether all major SPLASH stakeholder groups incl. policy makers have been reached.
- A number of key dissemination activities to ensure that SPLASH activities and outputs are communicated to stakeholders in the most appropriate way in the interim period before a new SPLASH phase can start. This information is also valuable for a future SPLASH phase.

General objective

To improve European research within water for development by ensuring that SPLASH lessons and findings are accessible to non-researchers and non-SPLASH partners such as research funders and policy makers.

Specific objectives

Main: Ensure that communication and dissemination activities contribute to speeding up the transfer of our results into practice and policy by reviewing our activities in this field, and where necessary proposing changes and improvements.
Secondary: Carry out communication and dissemination activities in the remaining time of this period of SPLASH based on clear user need.

Expected results

The results of this activity will be a review of communication activities and if necessary, a suggestion to adapt and improve the activities to meet the needs of our key stakeholders and a format for doing so. Continuing the existing dissemination of SPLASH outputs in the interim period of SPLASH is also included in this concept note.

Activities and expected output

Activity	Expected output
Step 1	
To develop an overview of existing dissemination products and a questionnaire to get feedback from stakeholders	List of dissemination products, form and target groups and stakeholder questionnaire
To get feedback from stakeholders during Brussels Workshop in October and analyze results	A report presenting feedback from stakeholders and based upon this suggestions for revised or new products.
Step 2 (optional, depending of feedback at Brussels workshop)	
To develop a format and dissemination strategy for new products (e.g. policy briefs, as informed by demand)	A format and dissemination strategy new SPLASH products if necessary.
To propose topics for dissemination such as research management or improving links to policy and practice, and to get feedback on this from SAC	A list of most appropriate topics for new dissemination activities based on feedback from Brussels workshop and a SAC consultation

To develop new products (e.g. policy briefs as informed by demand)	A number of SPLASH products on selected topics.
Ongoing	
To produce SPLASH newsletter	Quarterly newsletter
To maintain and revise SPLASH website	Ongoing maintenance of website
To present SPLASH outputs to relevant audiences, like Side Events at conferences or workshops	Participation in 1-2 key international sector events, presenting SPLASH findings

Summary of recommendations from the SAC

Good idea to ensure that dissemination is strategic and targeted after a review. Can we say as a result, how many new relationships have been established by research and policy makers, any impacts??

Think more about reaching policy makers and the private sector, and people who don't read things!

We must use and develop more links between websites that are relevant as a means of boosting use of our site and hits etc. AMCOW, EC. Q and A/ discussion forum?

We should recruit a communications person on SAC, and think more about new technologies.

- ***Concept note 7: Using modern decision support systems for evidence based policy making in IWRM in developing countries***

Introduction

Integrated water resources management (IWRM) is a systematic process for the sustainable development, allocation and monitoring of water resource use in the context of social, economic and environmental objectives. The application of IWRM as a comprehensive planning tool in a given region demands the integration of hydrological, technical, environmental, economic, social, institutional and legal aspects of water management. In such a complex framework, multi-objective decision support systems that integrate the above components can be effective tools for IWRM, for evidence based policy making and for the communication of decisions. State-of-the-art modelling techniques (e.g. GIS based models with graphical user interfaces, visualisation techniques, analysis tools and decision logic) at the river basin level allow policy-makers and managers to develop and test "what if" scenarios. Topics of scenario modelling include e.g. integrated water quantity, water quality and environmental regulation, the impacts of land use changes on flow regimes, climate change effects on flood and drought frequency / severity, inter-sectoral water allocation policies, effects of uncertainty and risk on water resources management, the impacts of economic incentives for pollution control, water conservation and more efficient irrigation (GWP Toolbox: Modelling in IWRM). During the last decade, a proliferation of sophisticated modelling and decision support tools could be observed. However, the application of these tools is often limited to an academic remit and their use

as decision support tools by water management practitioners and policy makers in developing countries remains low.
The suboptimal use of models and modelling in supporting water management decisions can be attributed to failures in three main areas: (1) lack of integration across modelling disciplines, (2) inadequate integration between researchers, policy makers and practitioners in all phases of the modelling cycle and (3) insufficient capacity development for the application of the models.
SPLASH has worked intensively on identifying and overcoming barriers for the uptake of research in policy and practice. One of the findings was that research knowledge is communicated and used through a process of negotiation, involving all relevant stakeholder groups, rather than a direct transfer of information. However, researchers have little incentives and are usually not trained to engage personally in such negotiation processes. To bridge this gap, intermediary organisations, so called knowledge brokers, have an important role to play to increase the uptake of research findings and decision support tools in policy and practice. Whereas research itself benefits from well established funding instruments, financing of programmes to getting research into policy and practice is rather scarce.

General objective

The general objective of the activities proposed here is to harness the potential of modern Decision Support Systems (DSS) for policy making in the field of Integrated Water Resources Management in developing countries.

Specific objectives

Specific objectives of the proposed activities include:

- Getting an overview of existing modern multi-objective DSS for IWRM in developing countries
- Elaborating a typology and evaluation of existing modern DSS for IWRM, according to their thematic focus, technical specifications, geographical focus, target group, need for capacity development and training for using the tool, cost of the tools and in particular about their potential and applicability for evidence-based policy making
- Analysing barriers for the application of DSS in IWRM policy making and designing activities to overcome them. Agree on a jointly funded programme to apply DSS in IWRM policy making in different river basins.

In particular, this concept note will meet the SPLASH specific objective to improve knowledge sharing between researchers, policy makers and practitioners to speed up the transfer of research findings into policy and practice. Potentially, it will also result in jointly funded activities that benefit from a transnational approach.

Expected results

The expected results are:

- Increased knowledge and awareness on the potential of existing DSS in IWRM policy making
- Guidance for the selection of appropriate IWRM DSS in a given context
- Roadmap on next steps for the promotion, application and improvement of DSS in IWRM policy making

Activities and expected output

Activity	Expected output
Commissioned desk study on overview, typology and evaluation of modern DSS for evidence based IWRM policy making in developing countries	Study report and policy brief
Dissemination of study report and policy brief through the SPLASH network and in IWRM conferences	Log of disseminat. activities and channels
Convening of a workshop with relevant stakeholders (including GWP, UNESCO, CGIAR Megaprogramme on Water, IWRM-net, developers and users of DSS, Southern policy makers, etc) to discuss study outcomes and to define needs, opportunities and ways for the promotion, application and improvement of DSS in IWRM policy making	Workshop report with recommendations and roadmap for next steps
Presenting workshop results and roadmap in SPLASH Steering Committee /SAC meeting to decide on concrete activities, e.g. a joint call for proposals, addressing consortia of researchers, knowledge brokers, policy makers and practitioners to apply and improve existing DSS for IWRM in different river basins	Decision whether SPLASH should develop and fund a joint programme on DSS in IWRM

Summary of recommendations from the SAC

Useful to assess decision support systems and understand the use of existing ones. Methods and models are integrated and need to be understood together. There are many situations where DSS have not worked. Alongside developing the mapping of possible systems, we should also see why systems have failed, what are the challenges and impediments to success? Map those. And focus the thematic area, it is broad at the moment.

There should be an emphasis on the importance of data, and maybe add in low cost mechanisms to support data collection, which can help with national planning and sharing. The feasibility study should generate a clear statement for the issuing of a future joint call. Demand may be less evident and could be stimulated, demonstrating examples of success stories using these types of technologies. Good to go ahead with this, but be careful with the content.

- ***Concepte note 8: Launching of a joint call for a collaborative research programme on sustainable hydropower development in the Lower Mekong Basin***

Introduction

Hydropower is the most important energy source in the Lower Mekong Basin (LMB). In the region, it is characterized by strong private sector involvement and relatively weak regulatory frameworks. Although hydropower is seen as a clean energy source, it still has negative impacts on the environment, social and health issues. There is a general lack of interaction among different stakeholder groups, namely state, private sector, research and other stakeholders, and more focus should be put on this issue. In order to achieve sound private sector involvement in hydropower development, thorough and effective regulation framework, clear policy on benefit-sharing, opportunities on public-private partnership models among other financial/investment models are needed. Generating new knowledge on the links among hydropower development, environmental sustainability, and social equity promotes sustainable energy solutions.

Previously, under the SPLASH umbrella, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland funded a project entitled: "Water and Energy: Sustainable development of hydropower involving the private sector in research collaboration in the Lower Mekong region". A project activity was the "Regional Workshop for Coordination of Research on Hydropower Development in the Lower Mekong Basin" (short name: SPLASH-Mekong workshop) held in Vientiane, Laos on 14-15 September 2010, which brought together more than 40 participants from academia, government agencies, NGOs and the private sector from the 4 countries in the LMB. They contributed to identify needs and gaps in research and capacity building for sustainable hydropower. One of the workshop recommendations was to improve research on hydropower and impacts on environment, fisheries, agriculture and social and economic development in the LMB.

As a follow-up of the workshop, a joint call for a collaborative research programme on sustainable hydropower in the LMB is proposed in this concept note as a mechanism for piloting coordinated and concerted European research funding in the Mekong region. The joint call will respond to the needs and gaps of the research assessed by the workshop participants. This meets a key objective of SPLASH: "to design collaborative research programmes that address identified needs in water research for development".

The research program should focus on technical, governance, institutional, financial, environmental and social aspects of hydropower. In its presentation at the SPLASH-Mekong workshop, the Mekong River Commission (MRC) pointed out that bridging the "two worlds" (integrated water resources management-IWRM and energy/power sector) is essential to achieve the sustainable hydropower development. MRC has defined some topics of research coordination for sustainable hydropower, which SPLASH could include in its activities in order to response to the actual needs of the region and bring added value to MRC existing programs, such as Initiative for Sustainable Hydropower (ISH) and Basin Development Plan (BDP). As its mandate is not to do research, MRC supports some research projects in the region and we will work closely with them in order not to overlap with their funded research activities.

Since countries in the same region face similar challenges and their experiences are very suitable for each other, the South-South cooperation has proved to be relevant and cost-effective. Therefore, SPLASH encourages both the North-South and South-South research cooperation. The Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), a regional body working with research and capacity building for countries in Asia, has extensive programs related to hydropower. They could be a solid partner with SPLASH in this joint call in providing their existing coordination platform, network and experience to promote the South-South-North research cooperation. Furthermore, such partnership could prevent the overlapping of SPLASH effort with AIT's activities.

The following general principles are proposed for the joint call:

- Funding will be pooled together and centrally administered (real common pot funding).
- The minimal expected call budget is 2 million Euro to reach a critical mass of the programme.
- The call will address a clearly defined research gap and support South-South-North research partnerships.
- SPLASH does not intend to create a new administrative structure for the joint call, but will link to an ongoing programme and/or be administered by an existing global or southern research fund/institute if possible.

An output of the SPLASH-Mekong project is an outline of funding opportunities for research and capacity building related to hydropower in the LMB. This outline will contribute to identifying potential funders for the joint call.

General objective

The general objective is to develop a collaborative research program for achieving sustainable hydropower in the LMB.

Specific objectives

The specific objectives of the proposed joint call are:

- The generation of new knowledge on sustainable hydropower development including sound private sector involvement in hydropower through technical, legal systems, governance, finance, social and environmental considerations.
- Enhancing capacities of southern research institutions to conduct innovative demand-led research that contributes to poverty reduction.
- Enhancing the knowledge transfer in the North-South and the South-South research cooperation
- Maximizing the dissemination of research results among southern institutes

Expected results

Establishment of South-South-North partnership that develops a joint call and creates a call management secretariat with the outcome of enhanced transnational collaboration between national and regional research organizations in the LMB countries and in SPLASH Member States.

Project management with active stakeholder engagement is expected to lead to increased ownership of the research findings by policy makers and practitioners at regional, national, state, provincial and local levels. Working in South-South-North research project consortia will enhance Southern capacity in implementing innovative and societal relevant research, in research management as well as in the dissemination and communication of results.

The funded projects are expected to identify strategies and modalities for creation of favorable technical, institutional and political conditions that enhance sustainable hydropower.

Activities and expected output

Activity	Expected output
Specification of call principles and thematic focus. Scoping study on potential partners (programmes or institutions)	Establishment of a call funders platform Agreement on call principles, on general thematic focus and on the call development process Identification of potential partners for the implementation of the call Provisional decision of funders to contribute with a specified budget to the call
Formulation of call text and call procedures	Establishment of a call secretariat Agreement on call text, call procedures, and call documents
Formal approval by call funders	Firm funding commitment Launching of call
Implementation of the joint South-South-North research	Evaluation of the proposals through a two-stage process Presentation of selected projects to the SMB and TC for

program	information and final funding decision. Kick-off workshop for representatives of selected project consortia Management of the selected and funded projects by Call Secretariat Workshop to present the outcomes of the funded projects, dissemination of synthesized results

Summary of recommendations from the SAC

Important to look at these Concept notes 2 and 8 together and see that there is no overlap. Regarding the joint call specifically this is considered to be valuable and important work. Political decisions are made to proceed with the hydropower development as mentioned in Laos and Cambodia. It is important to work together to minimise social and environmental impacts. SPLASH must be realistic about what it can achieve, and scale objectives accordingly. SPLASH can assist with knowledge management, and regional cooperation. Budget is less clear, and clarity of roles and responsibilities is important.