Ensuring dams are a platform for growth and sustainable development

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Dams, reservoirs and development

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Development of water and energy resources

- Environmental impacts
- Social impacts
- WCD
- IWRM
- MDGs
- WEHAB

Construction of dams per decade (WCD)

- Dams
- Security
- Growth
- Climate change

- 1930
- 50s
- 60s
- 70s
- 80s
- 90s

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To promote improved decision-making, planning and management of dams and their alternatives building on WCD core values and strategic priorities and other relevant reference materials.

Objectives

• Support multi-stakeholder dialogues at country-level, regional and global levels on improving decision making on dams and their alternatives with the aim of engaging all stakeholders with emphasis on governments.

• Produce non prescriptive tools drawing on all relevant existing bodies of criteria and guidelines for planning and management of dams and their alternatives, which can help decision makers
Widespread concurrence with WCD
5 core values and
7 strategic priorities...

- Gaining Public Acceptance
- Comprehensive Options Assessment
- Addressing Existing Dams
- Sustaining Rivers and Livelihoods
- Recognising Entitlements and Sharing Benefits
- Ensuring Compliance
- Sharing Rivers of Peace, Development and Security
Some emerging issues

**Improved consideration of environmental aspects**

River basin approach; ecosystem functioning; avoid impacts then mitigate; environmental flows; environmental management plans and their compliance.

**Improved consideration of social aspects**

Affected people first among beneficiaries; compensation policies include development strategies for affected, indigenous and vulnerable groups; sound social communication, public participation, resettlement and community development plans and their compliance.

**Improved decision making processes**

Participatory decision making mechanisms; meaningful stakeholder involvement; comprehensive options assessment at policy, strategic and river basin, and project levels; trade offs and risks.
Objective 1
Support multi-stakeholder dialogues at national, regional and global level on improving decision-making on dams and their alternatives with involvement of all stakeholders.

Raised awareness on the need of and wide agreement on how to improve national and international regulatory frameworks effectively taking into account social and environmental aspects and incorporating appropriate participatory approaches into decision-making.
Dialogue Initiatives

- South Africa, Sweden – national dialogues processes resulting in recommendations
- Vietnam, Nepal, Thailand, Uganda – partial and ongoing national dialogue processes
- Argentina, Indonesia, Kenya, Malawi, Myanmar, Namibia, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Zambia - national consultations
- Pakistan – consultative process
- UK, Germany, Switzerland, The Netherlands, Norway - consultation in developed countries
- SADC, La Plata River Basin - regional activities
Objective 2

Produce non-prescriptive tools drawing on all relevant existing bodies of criteria and guidelines for planning and management of dams and their alternatives.

Availability of non-prescriptive broadly accepted practical tools providing information and examples of implementation of normative frameworks and of good practice to assist decision makers in the planning and management of dams and their alternatives.

Focus on process
An information tool that provides practical examples from all over the world of how key issues concerning the planning and management of dams and their alternatives are integrated and implemented into national policy/legal/regulatory frameworks and international guidelines.
Challenges of Non-Prescriptive Tools

- Establishing an efficient and transparent bottom up process,
- Obtaining relevant information on normative/regulatory frameworks and relevant examples from stakeholders,
- Keeping all stakeholders motivated in & contributing to the processes,
- Reaching consensus on controversial issues,
- Remaining factual, avoid being judgmental,
- Language and other institutional barriers.
Build political will

- To raise awareness and responsible responses from decisions makers and managers, including corporate social responsibility of the private sector and financiers.
- To mobilise the necessary resources and time needed to deal with appropriate decision making processes.

Strengthen policy, legal and regulatory frameworks

- To fill current generalised gaps concerning environmental, social, public participation and decision making aspects;
- To provide institutional and organisational backstop to decision makers and managers in incorporating said issues into the full dam project cycle;
- To allow for harmonising of regional policies and frameworks dealing with shared water resources)

Build managerial capacities (Good practice)

- To allow decision makers and managers putting in place sound informed and participatory processes through allocating the necessary financial resources, time frames and expertise to deal with environmental, social and public involvement issues
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