



Working Conference

Enhancing equitable livelihood benefits of dams using decision support systems

23-26 January 2006

Nazareth, Ethiopia

1st Announcement



Jointly organized by:

University of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Southern Waters, South Africa

Ministry of Water Resources, Ethiopia
International Water Management Institute

Sponsored by:

Challenge Program on Water and Food

Background information

In its 2000 report, the World Commission on Dams called for the inclusion of all identified stakeholders in the planning and management of dams and a more equitable distribution of their benefits.

The wise and sustainable use of dams requires consideration of a large number of complex and inter-related issues and poses intricate technical and political problems. Optimizing reservoir releases must take account of water demands upstream and downstream of the dam, including for water supply, agriculture (i.e. irrigation and livestock), fisheries, power generation and maintenance of aquatic habitat, as well as the requirements of communities dependent on the natural resources of downstream ecosystems, and the possible health implications of changing flow regimes.

However, the relationships between flow changes, river response and the resulting impacts on people are not well understood. Decisions are made on water-resource developments without awareness of the full implications for people and ecosystems. There is a need for tools that facilitate both stakeholder participation and informed decision-making by clarifying the likely consequences of different management options.

As part of the Challenge Program on Water and Food¹, a project entitled *Improved planning of large dam operation: using decision support systems to optimize livelihood benefits, safeguard health and protect the environment* is investigating the use of modern decision support systems (dss) for the planning and management of dam operation. The study is investigating which dss are most appropriate for the complexity of large dam operation and how these dss are best used to ensure successful stakeholder participation, and assess the costs and benefits of different operating options.

This four-day conference will bring together water managers, dam operators, scientists and livelihoods specialists to share knowledge and experience of planning and managing dam operation and in particular the use of dss.

Objectives of the conference

1. Review past and current practice in decision-making for dam release operations
2. Review dss and identify those that can be used to address upstream and downstream livelihood issues associated with dams
3. Provide input into the use of dss in the Challenge Program on Water and Food project 36: *Improved planning of large dam operation: using dss to optimize livelihood benefits, safeguard health and protect the environment*

¹ The Challenge Program on Water and Food is a research and capacity building program that seeks to increase the productivity of water for food and livelihoods in a manner that is environmentally sustainable and socially acceptable. It is an initiative of the Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research.

Conference themes

1. Current practices of dam operation – developments and constraints
2. State of the art review of dss applied to reservoir water management
3. Lessons learnt from the application of dss to dam planning and management

Conference content

The conference will be a four-day meeting comprising papers, posters, workshops and a field excursion. For each theme, an eminent speaker will present a keynote paper. This will be followed by five oral presentations relevant to the theme. Afternoon sessions will be given over to workshops and poster sessions. The workshop topics will be announced later and will be linked to each day's theme.

Day 1: 23 rd January 2006	Theme 1	am	Keynote address + Five supporting papers
		pm	Workshop/Posters
Day 2: 24 th January 2006	Theme 2	am	Keynote address + Five supporting papers
		pm	Workshop/Posters
Day 3: 25 th January 2006	Field excursion to Koka dam and Wanji irrigation scheme		
Day 4: 26 th January 2006	Theme 3	am	Keynote address + Five supporting papers
		pm	Workshop/Posters

Submission of papers

The conference will be limited to 50 people. Interested persons are invited to submit abstracts for selection by the organizing committee for the 15 available oral presentations. A further 35 submissions will be selected as poster presentations.

Papers will be selected on the basis of their relevance to the conference themes. Preference will be given to wide ranging review papers or those that present thoughtful, innovative analyses. Contributions from those working in Africa, or other developing regions, will be favoured.

Abstracts are now invited on the themes listed or related topics. The abstract should summarize precisely the scope and content of the paper proposed. Abstracts should be in English and include title, authors' names, postal addresses and email addresses. For papers with multiple authors please make clear the corresponding and the presenting author.

Abstracts should be no longer than 500 words (including titles, names and institutions) in any of the following formats MSWord, WordPerfect or Rich Text Format, Times Roman, with a font size of 12 point and single spacing. Please put the title in bold, but otherwise keep formatting to a minimum. Abstracts should be on plain paper, i.e., no letterheads or logos and should not include any graphics. Please

mail, fax or email abstracts to the address below. If the abstract is sent by email please incorporate the author's name in the file name. Mailed copies should consist of hard copy and a diskette and faxed submissions should be followed with a mailed diskette.

Please note that abstracts should only be submitted if one of the authors is able to attend the conference. ***The deadline for receipt of abstracts is 30th May 2005.***

Authors will be informed on acceptance of abstracts by 30th June 2005. On acceptance of an abstract, a full paper will be required for review by the organizing committee.

Registration

There are no registration fees. All travel and subsistence costs will be covered for all 50 participants from their arrival in Addis Ababa (22nd January 2006) until their departure from Addis Ababa (27th January 2006).

If you wish to participate in the conference please complete and return the attached registration form. Online registration is also possible at the project website: <http://www.waterforfood.org/livelihoods/>

Publication of Papers

All 50 papers will be published, in full, in the conference proceedings following a review and revision process of draft manuscripts. The proceedings will be on a CD and available as part of the conference documentation. We are also seeking to have some of the papers published in a special edition of a journal. Negotiations are presently underway with relevant journals. Participants wishing to publish will be requested to submit their papers for peer review in accordance with the journal's requirements. The organizing committee will initiate this procedure at the conference.

Venue

Adama Makonnen Hotel, Nazareth/Adama, Ethiopia. Nazareth/Adama is located in the Rift Valley, 100 km south-east of Addis Ababa. It is accessible by road, approximately a 2hr drive from Addis Ababa.

There are frequent flights to Addis Ababa, the capital of Ethiopia. Visitors from all nations are welcome in Ethiopia, but must have a valid passport and many also need a visa. If required the organizers will provide letters of invitation to the conference to facilitate visa applications.

Organizers

University of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Ministry of Water Resources, Ethiopia
Southern Waters, South Africa
International Water Management Institute

Challenge Program on Water and Food

Yilma Seleshi
Deksyos Tarekegn
Jackie King
Seleshi Bekele and Matthew
McCartney
Francis Gichuki and Mahmoud

Moustafa

Key dates

Deadline for registration and receipt of abstracts	30 th May 2005
Notification of acceptance for oral presentation or poster*	15 th July 2005
Submission of draft manuscript for review by organising committee	15 th October 2005
Submission of revised manuscript	15 th December 2005

* Guidelines on format will be sent to all authors whose papers are accepted.

For more information contact:

Email: damdss@cgiar.org

Website: <http://www.waterforfood.org/livelihoods/>

Dams-dss conference
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REGISTRATION FORM

I am interested in attending the Conference.

I attach an abstract for consideration. If it is accepted (either for oral presentation or as a poster) I will attend the conference.

Name:

Position/Dept:.....

Organization:.....

Address:.....

Country:.....

Email.....

Tel (+ int. code).....

Fax (+ int. code)

Conference theme addressed:.....:

Title of paper:.....

Return to: Damdss conference, International Water Management Institute,
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