

Twin2Go – Press Releases

Twin2Go kicks off

Sunday, 30 August 2009

Delegates of all Twin2Go consortium members gathered for a two-day kick-off meeting at the University of Osnabrück on 16-17 June, 2009.

The meeting was also joined by the EC Project Officer, Cristos Fragakis as well as the Twin2Go Advisory Board that consists of representatives of international water organizations, such as the UN-Water Decade Programme on Capacity Development, Global Water Partnership, UNECE Water Convention, UNESCO International Hydrological Programme, and the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development.

Together with the Twin2Go consortium, they discussed major challenges for water governance in the context of climate change and best ways to ensure that Twin2Go outcomes are taken up by policy. On the second day, the Twin2Go consortium discussed methodological approaches and the sharing of work for the first 6 months of the project.



Twin2Go website launches and leaflet is published

Monday, 12 October 2009

A new leaflet provides quick insight into the project Twin2Go and the concept of adaptive water governance. It is available from the downloads section of the recently launched project website, www.twin2go.uos.de/

Twin2Go analytical framework developed

Saturday, 09 January 2010

One of Twin2Go's first steps was to elaborate a diagnostic approach that allows comparative analysis and synthesis of past and on-going research projects. Twin2Go project partners discussed the methodological approach during an interactive three-day workshop that took place in Osnabrück on 2-4 December, 2009.

An analytical framework was developed that allows for the evaluation of all important attributes of adaptive water management and governance in the context of climate change. The Twin2Go analytical framework will be applied to the analysis of about 20 case study basins in 2010. Considering the high variety of projects as well as differences in data availability, the methodological approach strikes a balance between comprehensiveness and simplicity and centres around:

- characteristics of the water governance regime (e.g. formal and informal institutions, decision making procedures, levels and procedures of participation, cooperation, and information sharing, etc.);
- the societal and environmental context in which water governance takes place; and
- performance of water resources management with regards to its stated goals, good governance and climate change.



First newsletter published

Saturday, 06 February 2010

Twin2Go published the first issue of its newsletter "Synthesising research for adaptive water governance" in February 2010. Periodic newsletters every 6 months will keep readers updated about Twin2Go's progress and related news.

The first issue informs about the project approach, upcoming events and news from related initiatives. The newsletter can be downloaded from the project website, and those who would like to regularly receive this newsletter can send a short note entitled "subscribe" to newsletter@twin2go.eu

Case study review workshops begin

Tuesday, 09 March 2010

Twin2Go developed a methodological framework for analysing the advances and problems related to adaptive water governance in river basins. During the first half of 2010 this methodological framework will be applied to case study basins of past and ongoing projects involved in Twin2Go. This will occur during six participatory workshops, which will start in March 2010 and be organised in the different Twin2Go target regions in close collaboration with key regional stakeholders

Synthesis workshop will follow case study review workshops

Thursday, 08 July 2010

Between March and June 2010, Twin2Go hosted six case study review workshops that collected water governance data in the context of climate change. Experts provided data for 25 case studies from Europe, Latin America, Africa and Asia. The six workshops brought together an international mix of more than 120 scientists, representatives from government, river basin organizations, business, civil society, and non-governmental organizations, as well as Twin2Go team members.

The results of the case study review workshops will be analysed over the summer, and form the basis of a synthesis workshop, held 1-3 September in Stockholm. This synthesis forms a crucial step in the project, as it aims to test hypotheses about adaptive water governance, to detect patterns, and to identify key factors for good water governance performance in a given context. The synthesis workshop will be attended by Twin2Go project staff, members of the advisory board, and external experts in adaptive governance research.

Twin2Go: beyond the Synthesis Workshop

Monday, 13 September 2010

External experts and project partners came together during the Synthesis Workshop - held on 1-2 September at the Stockholm Resilience Centre - to review preliminary results and discuss the upcoming series of best-practice and policy workshops. Experts from the UNESCO International Hydrological Programme (IHP), from the Ministry of Science and Technology in Vietnam, and from the Global Water System Project, among others, appreciated Twin2Go's combination of statistical and qualitative analysis. Water experts, policy-makers as well as practitioners play an important role in Twin2Go, and will provide feedback and advice on project outcomes.

Following the Synthesis Workshop on 1-2 September, the 3rd Twin2Go consortium meeting took place in Stockholm on September 3. The goal of this meeting was to plan and coordinate activities of the Twin2Go project, focusing on finalising the analysis of the 29 case studies and the preparation of WP3 activities, which address best-practices and tools. These recommendations will build on the case study data collected so far as well as on a series of four Regional Best-Practice Workshops that will take place in January 2011. The inventory of best-practices and tools will have three foci:

- application of existing national frameworks in river basins
- coordination and forms of engagement with stakeholders, and
- enabling learning and building adaptive capacity in water management.

Upcoming: Regional Best Practice Workshops

Wednesday, 10 November 2010

Twin2Go has already aggregated water governance data from 29 river basins worldwide. The synthesis of results and the assessment of major trends in adaptive water governance and participatory integrated water resources management is now in its final stages. Meanwhile, an inventory of best practices and tools in adaptive water governance (based on the 29 river basins studies) is being prepared.

A series of four regional workshops took place from December 2010 until February 2011, to discuss and further develop these best practices and tools.

Latin America

9-10 December 2010 in Lima, Peru

South-East Asia

17-19 January 2011 in Guwahati, India

Africa

31 January-02 February 2011 in Johannesburg, South Africa

Europe/Russia/NIS

15-17 January 2011 in Berlin, Germany

Successful side-event at UNECE Workshop

Thursday, 05 May 2011

On 13 April 2011 more than 30 participants and five panelists met in Geneva to discuss adaptive water resources management in Russia and the New Independent States. The discussion took place in the context of the *2nd Workshop on Water and Adaptation to Climate Change in Transboundary Basins*, hosted by the UNECE (United Nations Economic Commission for Europe) Water Convention in Geneva.

Decision makers and practitioners shared views on the different opportunities and barriers in introducing more adaptive water governance practices. In speaking of the obstacles the panellists stressed the importance of institutional resistance to change, as well as other cultural issues such as perceived value of water. New governance approaches therefore need to be carefully introduced and given enough time to become rooted in existing institutions and cultures. In terms of opportunities Elena Ostrovskaya, of the UNESCO-IHE, stressed the importance of education and scientific input for adaptive governance. These can increase the understanding of water managers and decision makers about the complex and changing requirements that water system have in adapting to climate change. Furthermore, science and education should be a substantial part in in the various phases of adaptive management, in order to adjust approaches to changing circumstances and uncertainties.

The side event was the first of four policy workshops in Twin2Go.



Adapting to Climate Change - Twin2Go Workshop at the Singapore International Water Week

Friday, 17 June 2011

The second in the series of Twin2Go policy workshops will take place on 4 July, at the Singapore International Water Week. The interactive workshop is titled “Adapting to climate change - policy insights and best practices for adaptive water governance”, and will focus on those elements of water governance systems that help cope with complexity and uncertainty in the context of climate change.

In this second of four policy workshops, Dr Louis Lebel from Chiang Mai University, Thailand, will present Twin2Go’s main outcomes and results. In a panel discussion, policy and decision makers from South and South East Asia will share experiences and discuss the extent to which different approaches are transferable across countries and basins.

Speakers from the Department of Water Resources in Thailand, and Assam, India; the Water and Energy Commission Secretariat in Nepal; and the Centre of Sustainable Water Resources Development and Adaptation to Climate Change in Vietnam will engage with the audience in discussing policies and programmes that can support the transition towards a more adaptive water governance.



Governing Water Wisely: Twin2Go seminar at the World Water Week

Friday, 05 August 2011

On 25 August the third in a series of Twin2Go policy workshops will take place at the Stockholm World Water Week. Twin2Go is working with the Global Water System Project (GWSP), the Global Water Partnership (GWP), and UNESCO's International Hydrological Programme (IHP) to organise this event. Complementing the knowledge and experience of these initiatives, the seminar will share and discuss insights gained from Twin2Go with policy and decisions makers as well as practitioners and researchers.

Failures of governance systems are one of the most important reasons for poor performance of water management under changing conditions - such as climatic change and rapid urbanisation. Where uncertainty cannot be reduced, or where policy decisions cannot be postponed until better knowledge is available, adaptive approaches to water resources management are required that are able to respond flexibly and accommodate conflicting interests. The 25 August seminar "Governing Water Wisely: Adaptive Approaches to Water Resources Management" will thus discuss ways in which water governance systems could be designed in order to cope with complexity and uncertainty; what characteristics make approaches transferable across different basins and governance levels; and how a transition towards adaptive water governance could be included in existing policy processes.

Prof Claudia Pahl-Wostl from the University of Osnabrueck in Germany will start the workshop with a discussion on context sensitive analyses of adaptive governance in river basins. Speakers from UNESCO-IHP, GWP, the UNECE Water Convention Secretariat, the Okavango River Basin Commission, the Indian Water, Climate and Hazard Programme, and many more will then continue the conversation on policies and programmes for adaptive water governance and on facilitating transferability of best practices.



Twin2Go at the 9th Global Water Partnership Southern Africa Consulting Partners Meeting

Thursday, 08 September 2011

The fourth in the series of Twin2Go policy workshops will take place on 14 September at the 9th Global Water Partnership (GWP) Southern Africa Consulting Partners Meeting, which will be held in Gauteng, South Africa. The meeting will bring together delegates of Country Water Partnerships from Southern Africa as well as representatives from river basin organisations and regional GWP programmes.

The Twin2Go sessions will focus on the attributes of governance systems that increase performance of river basin management, especially within the context of climate change. More specifically, Twin2Go recommendations on transfer and implementation of good practices and innovative tools in river basin management will be shared and discussed.

Annika Kramer from adelphi research in Germany will start the session with a presentation on methods and results of the Twin2Go analysis of governance systems in 29 basins around the world. In a subsequent panel discussion, representatives from river basin organisations, GWP, national governments and academia will provide feedback on the results presented and engage in an open discussion with the audience. After lunch, a presentation on the Twin2Go Best Practice Guidelines will be held by Palle Lindgaard-Jorgensen from DHI Denmark, followed by an interactive working group session. Workshop participants will reflect on how good practices can be adapted to local contexts, how coordination in implementing new practices can be improved, and what capacities need to be developed to support implementation of adaptive water government good practices. The working groups' rapporteurs will share the results with the plenary and initiate a facilitated discussion with the audience.