

Synthesising research for adaptive water governance

Twin2Go reviews, consolidates, and synthesises research on adaptive and integrated water resources management in basins around the world. The aim is to draw insights relevant to policy and research on issues around adaptive water governance in the context of climate change, and to make them transferable to other basins. Twin2Go further promotes sharing of research results with practitioners and high level decision makers through effective dialogue. Twin2Go is a Coordinating Activity funded under the European Commission's 7th Framework Programme from June 2009 until May 2011. Periodic newsletters every 6 months will keep you updated about Twin2Go's progress and related news.

Introduction

Adaptive and integrated management of water resources is necessary when uncertainty cannot be reduced in the short-term, or where policy decisions cannot be postponed until better knowledge is available. Failures of governance systems have been identified as one of the most important reasons for increased vulnerability to water related disasters. Over the past years, the EU has funded several projects that undertook research on issues of integrated water resources management. These projects carried out case studies on twinned river basins from Europe, Africa, Asia, and Latin America. The aim of Twin2Go is to review the current status of adaptive water governance in the case study basins. For this, Twin2Go will draw on the results of the projects:

ASEM WaterNet	Brahmatwinn	CABRI Volga
NeWater	TwinBas	TwinLatin
WETwin		

By clustering past and ongoing projects, Twin2Go will be able to comparatively analyse a considerable number of basins. This will allow synthesising context-specific, but transferable approaches for more adaptive water governance. As an outcome of the synthesis activities, Twin2Go will elaborate best practices, tools, and policy briefings for different target groups.

The Twin2Go consortium includes lead partners of all of these projects, which will provide access to most recent results and will help synthesise research efforts into a single focused output. The consortium consists of: the Institute of Environmental Systems Research at the University of Osnabrueck (Germany, Coordinator), Adelphi Research (Germany), the Unit for Social and Environmental Research at Chiang Mai University (Thailand), the Department of Geoinformatics at the Friedrich-Schiller-University Jena (Germany), EcoPolicy (Russia), DHI (Denmark), Soresma (Belgium), and VITUKI (Hungary).

Twin2Go further involves stakeholders from the projects and basins in all steps of analysis, synthesis and dissemination through a range of participatory workshops. This approach will ensure that the process reveals results that are meaningful for the development of water management strategies and water policies. To ensure up-take of research results into political decision making, effective dissemination activities will target high level decision makers. An advisory board consisting of international water organizations further supports this process.

For more information on Twin2Go's approach and activities, the projects involved, and basins studied, please refer to our website www.twin2go.eu.

Twin2Go kicked off in June 2009

Twin2Go consortium members gathered for a two-day kick-off meeting at the University of Osnabrück on June 16 and 17, 2009. The meeting was also joined by the EC Project Officer, Christos 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 share of work for the following 6 months.



Developing the Twin2Go analytical framework

The first step of Twin2Go was to elaborate a diagnostic approach that allows comparative analysis of the case study basins and synthesis of results with regards to adaptive governance. In an interactive three-day workshop that took place in Osnabrück on 2 – 4 December 2009, Twin2Go project partners discussed the methodological approach. 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. Considering the high variety of projects as well as differences in data availability, the methodological approach strikes a balance between comprehensiveness and simplicity and centers around:

a) Regime:

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.)

b) Context:

the societal and environmental context in which water governance takes place

c) Performance:

the performance of water resources management with regards to its stated goals, good governance and climate change.

Twin2Go partners will apply the analytical framework to the analysis of about 20 case study basins in 2010. This framework will also be available on the Twin2Go website www.twin2go.uos.de/approach/work-package-1

Analysis workshops March – June, 2010

Twin2Go partners will organise a series of workshops from March – June 2010 to analyse selected case study basins of past and on-going research projects with regards to improved water governance and adaptation to climate change. A representative of each of the participating projects will coordinate the analysis, using the Twin2Go diagnostic approach. The workshops will also involve other project participants and stakeholders in the analysis. Workshops will be organised in the case study basin regions, i.e. Latin America, Southern Africa, South Asia, South East Asia and Europe. Exact dates and locations will be announced on the Twin2Go website as soon as they are available.

Synthesis workshop August | September, 2010

The results of the analysis workshops will be synthesised at an event organised in late August or early September 2010 in Europe. The participatory synthesis workshop will involve representatives of the research projects as well as main stakeholders from the basins. A synthesis report on adaptive water governance in the context of climate change will be produced from the consolidated results. Further information will be made available on the Twin2Go website in due course.

What is adaptive water governance?

In order to regulate and balance the different and often competing interests of the various sectors, a governance structure for water resources management is required. Water governance refers to the range of political, social, economic and administrative systems that are in place to regulate development and management of water resources and provision of water services at different levels of society (UNDP, 2000). In the context of climate change, a major challenge is to create governance structures that are flexible and robust in the face of uncertainties and inevitable surprises. According to the UNDP, successful governance in river basin management is characterised by being participatory, consensus oriented, accountable, transparent, responsive, effective and efficient, equitable and inclusive and following the rule of law.

ASEM WaterNet final meeting in Changsha

More than 100 participants gathered for the final meeting of ASEM WaterNet that was held in Changsha, Hunan, P.R. China on 17–19 November 2009. Highlights and achievements of the initiative were summarised in dedicated sessions on agriculture, floods, pollution, governance and basin management. The governance session for example, included a one hour roundtable exploring lessons learnt and issues needing further work. Inputs from the floor were valuable and challenging. The session's key message was the need for research to link more closely with policy and practice. ASEM WaterNet provided insights that were helpful for thinking about how to improve interactions between science and policy more broadly in water resources management. A proposal for an ASEM Water Governance Platform to continue work in this area was well received. Information about ASEM WaterNet including links to the final conference news and program are available at:

www.asemwater.net.org

Brahmatwinn final project workshop and stakeholder symposium

The Brahmatwinn project ended in December 2009. The final project workshop and a stakeholder symposium took place in Kathmandu, Nepal, on 6–9 November 2009. The event was hosted by the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), a regional knowledge development and learning centre serving the eight regional member countries of the Hindu Kush-Himalaya. During the symposium main project results were presented to stakeholders from the three Brahmatwinn test sites (Lhasa River basin, Wang Chu basin, and Assam). Two storylines that represent the worst and best future development in the Upper Brahmaputra River Basin were introduced. The first one shows the development following the IPCC scenario A1B, which illustrates the most probable scenario, whereas the second one, the B1 scenario, depicts a development based on sustainability and environmental orientation as the optimistic scenario. Both storylines take into account the environmental development like precipitation, temperature, snow melt and discharge as well as socio-economic issues, e.g. the population pressure and the GDP. More information on the Stakeholder Symposium as well as the final BRAHMATWINN Deliverables will soon be made available on the project's website.

www.brahmatwinn.uni-jena.de

WETwin twinning workshop on vulnerability and stakeholder meeting

About 30 national water professionals and international participants gathered for the 3rd WETwin twinning workshop titled »Vulnerability and local scenarios for future development«, in Bamako, Mali, on 23 November 2009. Key note speakers presented research results on the potential of wetlands to improve surface water quality in river catchments with intensive human use; on the links between water, food and poverty studied in 10 river basins in the CGIAR Challenge Program for Water and Food; as well as results from the Niger Basin Focal project. A presentation on climate change scenarios was followed by a group discussion on the downscaling of scenarios for the Inner Niger Delta in Mali. The workshop was followed by a meeting between WETwin staff and stakeholders of the Inner Niger Delta (IND) in the city of Konna, Mali. Stakeholders represented the various communities benefitting from the ecosystem services of the IND: fishermen, herders, farmers, women organisations and municipalities. During the meeting they informed the WETwin staff about current challenges in the IND, such as decreasing income to herders, fishermen and farmers due to the changed hydrological regime, and problems regarding water-borne diseases. As a result of this meeting the staff of the WETwin project achieved a better understanding of the actual state of the IND and the issues to be dealt with within the project.

www.wetwin.net

If you would like to regularly receive this newsletter, please send an E-mail to newsletter@twin2go.eu.

The newsletters are also available on our website www.twin2go.eu

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