THE SWEDISH NATIONAL REPORT ON IHP RELATED ACTIVITIES

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1. ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN IN THE PERIOD JUNE 2012 – MAY 2014

1.1 Meetings of the IHP National Committee

1.1.1 Decisions regarding the composition of the IHP National Committee

The composition of the Swedish National Committee changed 2012. The chairperson was changed from Karin Lexén to Katarina Veem from SIWI. During 2012 the other members where Lotta Andersson (secretary), Berit Arheimer (Swedish representing IHP Council), and David Gustafsson (from the Swedish Hydrological Council).

In 2013 the members of the Swedish IHP committee were changed with Jafet Andersson, SMHI and Anna Johnell, SMHI joined as secretary and Jafet Andersson from SMHI replaced Berit Arheimer. This year, 2014, a member from the Swedish Hydrological Council, Andrew Frampton, also joined the Swedish IHP.

1.1.2 Status of IHP-VII activities (including IHP-VIII activities if applicable)

The IHP Committee is involved in a cross-border project in Vietnam and China. This project will involve several IHP-VII activities. Theme 1 (Adapting to the impacts of global changes on river basins and aquifer systems) will be covered by including climate change impact in the region. This project will support cooperation between China and Vietnam linked to sustainable development and effective governance of land and water resources in the Red River basin. Thus theme 2 activities (Strengthening water governance for sustainability) will be performed. Theme 4 activities (Water and life support systems) will be covered in the project by mapping land use, sanitation, logging, use of pesticides and nutrients etc. Activities related to theme 5 (Water education for sustainable development) will be taken care of by organization of workshops.

So far a stakeholder analysis has been done identifying important stakeholders in the Red River basin. These stakeholders will have important roles in fact finding as well as dissemination and discussions. Main governmental partners have been identified to act as focal points within respective country.

1.2 Activities at national level in the framework of the IHP

1.2.1 National/local scientific and technical meetings

The Swedish IHP committee supports activities during World Water Day. The theme for the world water day 2013 was “Water Cooperation” and 2014 “Water and Energy”. IHP commissioned the national coordination of Swedish activities in connection with the World Water Day. The output has been a webpage www.vattendag.org where organizers can register their activities and find campaign material and news before World Water Day takes place. The Swedish Hydrological Council have also initiated new activities and engaged new organizations before the World Water Day. Swedish Hydrological Council has updated information material “water packages” according to the annual theme.

The Swedish IHP attends the Swedish Research Council’s UNESCO meetings in Stockholm. The purpose of these meetings is to strengthen the cooperation between the UNESCO committees and Swedish research.
1.2.2 Participation in IHP Steering Committees/Working Groups

The Swedish IHP participated in the Intergovernmental IHP Council Meeting in Paris. Another meeting was the “UNESCO Strategic and High-Level Meeting on Water Security and Cooperation” which was held in Nairobi in Kenya 11-13 September 2013. This purpose of the meeting was to find cooperation possibilities between UNESCO’s IHP committees in different countries. Swedish IHP especially hoped to find cooperation partners in Africa. Unfortunately, the limited funds which the Swedish IHP committee has compared to other projects in Africa, rendered such cooperation as less suitable.

Swedish IHP participated in a Region I (Europe and North America) meeting, which was held in Oslo 21-22 October 2013. The purpose of this meeting was also networking and to find common projects. Participants at the meeting agreed to work together in the following concrete fields:

1. Design criteria
2. Water watch project for the region
3. Management practice handbook update – this item is to be initially prepared by Canady and the UK.

As funding possibilities are limited for the Swedish IHP, useful collaboration has to make use of related national activities and attempt to pool resources creatively.

1.2.3 Research/applied projects supported or sponsored

After consultations, the IHP Committee has identified a cross-border project in Vietnam and China as the focus for the committee’s activities. IHP can play a continuous and constructive role in this project as it is a new collaboration that will culminate in a joint major application. In collaboration with other partners (SIWI and ICRAF) IHP will work to create a platform for dialogue regarding common water management between China and Vietnam. The dialogue is based on the common statement as President Truong (Vietnam) and President Xi Jinping (China) presented at a joint high-level meeting in June 2013.

The overall objective of the project is to contribute to increased knowledge of the land and water resource management in the basin to the Red River and thus contribute to a sound basis for decision-making aimed at sustainable development focused on "water and food security and resilient urban growth". Through a historical survey of the development of the river delta, forecasts for the future can be made and challenges estimated. Moreover, three scenarios will be developed - the climate, urban planning / development and socio-economic growth - to ensure robust planning and decision making in the river delta.

1.2.4 Collaboration with other national and international organizations and/or programmes

IHP will give support to a cross-border project in Vietnam and China in the Red river. The Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) generates knowledge and informs decision-making towards water wise policy. SIWI performs research, builds institutional capacity and provides advisory services. SIWI is one of the partners in the Red River Project.
Support for this project has led to synergies between Swedish institutions working for sustainable climate adaptation and water quality work. In addition to SMHI, the international department at the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management will also join the project.

Another partner in this project is the World Agroforestry Organisation, ICRAF. This organisation works with transboundary dimensions in the Red River basin. They work with farmers in a local context. ICRAF has two offices in the region one in Kunming and one in Hanoi and is well placed to facilitate upstream-downstream dialogues.

1.2.5 Other initiatives

IHP sponsors a hydrological terminology group, which was initiated by Swedish Hydrological Council during 2010. The long term purpose of this group is to create an electronic glossary with Swedish and English words relevant for hydrological discourse, which will be continuously updated. This work has been ongoing during 2011-2014. A first version of this glossary was created by digitalization of the existing “Nordic Glossary of Hydrology” from 1973-1984.

1.3 Educational and training courses

1.3.1 Organization of specific courses.

During 20-21 November 2012 the Swedish IHP committee met for a workshop in scientific writing. This took place to finish the work with publications from the two workshops around uncertainties, possibilities and hinders related to use of hydrological models in water management. The purpose was to create two scientific papers and a paper for the people working with water management.

1.4 Cooperation with the UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education and/or international/regional water centres under the auspices of UNESCO

UNESCO has opened a research centre at SIWI in Stockholm to increase the knowledge about how we can cooperate with our common water resources to avoid future conflicts. SIWI is one partner in the Red River project which the Swedish IHP committee supports.

1.5 Publications

After two workshops on the use of numerical models in water management in 2011, the publication “Potentials for Numerical Models in Water Management” was published in the Journal of Water Management and Research in 2013. Researchers and modellers from various parts of Europe were invited. The results were recommendations of good practices in the use of models with a focus on local water management and stakeholder involvement.

1.6 Participation in international scientific meetings

1.6.1 Meetings hosted by the country

The Swedish IHP participated in a seminar arranged by Swedish Research Council science network in Stockholm 2012. Focus for this seminar was how scientists and
different stakeholders together form their view of reality. This was given with examples from transnational to local scale, with a gender perspective.

1.6.2 Participation in meetings abroad

Swedish IHP participated in an Artic HYCOS meeting in Canada in 2012. Other conferences were the Rio+20 in June 2012 where a presentation was given at an event arranged by UNESCO-IHP “Water Security – growing multiple need and scarcity”. Another presentation 2012 was given at the workshop Catchment Change Network International Conference: Stakeholders, next generation models, and risk in managing catchment change” in Lancaster, England. During 2013 Swedish IHP did not participate in meetings abroad, but two posters are planned at meetings in France and Malawi later 2014 (see below).

1.7 Other activities at regional level

1.7.1 Institutional relations/cooperation
1.7.2 Completed and ongoing scientific projects

2. FUTURE ACTIVITIES

2.1 Activities planned until December 2014

Between the 7th and 10th October IHP will visit the 7 IHP FRIEND conference in Montpellier in France. The FRIEND-Water2014 Conference aims at sharing knowledge about change in hydrological processes, and how this knowledge can be streamlined to let water management and policy to adapt to it. This will be an excellent opportunity for networking.

Swedish IHP wants to network with organizations in Africa, and between 29th and 31th October Swedish IHP will have a poster at the WaterNet/WARFSA/GWP-SA Symposia in Malawi. The theme is: ‘IWRM: An effective response to water-energy-food security challenges under changing climate’. This Symposium promotes interaction among policymakers, academics and practitioners. Great emphasis will be placed on integration of knowledge, by involving scholars from the natural, medical and social sciences.

The first step towards development of a proposal will be to organize a scoping workshop in the Red River basin, inviting stakeholders in China and Vietnam as well as international experts and financial partners. The purpose of the workshop will be to improve the participants’ understanding of existing land and water resources in the basin; the current use of the same; and the challenges and opportunities today and in the future. A mobile workshop is planned for the Red River project, travelling overland from Kunming to Hanoi. A series of presentations will start the workshop with inputs from various experts during the first day in Kunming. Next the workshop will travel during three days and visit relevant places. The workshop will finish in Hanoi with a day of discussions to outline the main activities in the project.

2.2 Activities foreseen for 2015-2016

The Swedish IHP will continue to give support to the World Water Day in Sweden. Next year, 2015 the theme will be “Water and Sustainable Development”, and provides an important opportunity to consolidate and build upon the previous World Water Day.
The Red River project will hopefully continue. This project proposes to undertake a comprehensive analysis of the land use development over time in the entire river basin and its affect for water resources. The project intends to assess the land use and water linkages in the past, present and future. The outcome objectives are:

a) Document historic development of the land and water use in the basin.
b) Assess the current land and water challenges in the basin and the local, national and regional preparedness.
c) Outline three development scenarios based on climate change, urban development and socio-economic growth for planning and decision-making.
d) To support cooperation between China and Vietnam linked to sustainable development and effective governance of land and water resources.

The Swedish IHP committee will continue to attend IHP meetings and relevant conferences.

2.3 **Activities envisaged in the long term**

The Red River project will hopefully continue and support will be given from the Swedish IHP. After the Red River project finishes Swedish IHP will fund other projects in developing countries.

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The Swedish IHP committee will continue to attend IHP meetings and relevant conferences.