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Regional Centre for
Integrated River Basin Management
under the auspices of UNESCO



INTER-REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION FOR UPSCALING INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT (IWRM) AND ECOHYDROLOGY AS TOOLS FOR ACHIEVING WATER SECURITY IN AFRICA

Rockview Hotel, Plot 194/196 Adetokunbo Ademola Street, Wuse II Maitama, Abuja on 24th to 26th January, 2017

Concept Note

1) BACKGROUND AND JUSTIFICATION

Sustainable water solutions, whether at the local, regional and global levels, require creativity, new in scientific knowledge, discoveries and innovations through strong scientific cooperation. Innovation geared towards sustainable development has the potential to lift economic growth, create green jobs, and boost inclusive social development while at the same time contributing advances to water protection and conservation.

The Science, on which solutions to the present and future global water management problems fall, is truly multidisciplinary and inherently interdisciplinary. It also embodies the fundamental physical and biological sciences as well as applications of those sciences and substantial contributions from the engineering sciences, management sciences (including economics), law, hydrology, climatology, and hydrogeology. However, there is the need to address a host of institutional, policy and management issues which have been largely neglected in recent decades. Significant scientific information is already available, but much more is required in the near future in terms of technological advances, improvement in climate modeling and forecasting, and developments in ecosystem and sustainability science.

New and innovative contributions will be needed from all of the social sciences. These contributions are critical for understanding water-use behaviour and for devising effective institutions to manage water in times of intense scarcity. On the other hand, providing solutions to the current global water challenges require upscaling of existing local approaches and knowledge of the inter-relations amongst: environmental conditions; the state of waters; and water management instruments and techniques at the local, national and regional levels. However and very importantly, there is the need to reinforce and enhance scientific collaborations in the existing water management networks in the region.

From the foregoing, and to further strengthen the South-South cooperation on water security between Asia and the Pacific and Africa, a workshop titled “*Inter-Regional Workshop on South-South Cooperation for Upscaling Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) and Ecohydrology as Tools for Achieving Water security in Africa*” is proposed to be held in Abuja-Nigeria from 24th – 26th January, 2017.

The workshop is supported by the Malaysian Funds-in-Trust and a collaborative effort of the Regional Sciences Bureau for Asia and the Pacific, the UNESCO Category 2 Regional Centre for Integrated River Basin Management (RC-IRBM), UNESCO Multisectoral Regional Office, Abuja and the National Water Resources Institute (NWRI). The workshop will use Hydrology for the Environment, Life and Policy (HELP) and Ecohydrology as tools for delivering Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), and up-scale the existing approaches in water management with scientific collaborations and tools to support, design and implement IWRM and Ecohydrology strategies and policies for sustainable water resources management in Africa.

This Inter-Regional Workshop will bring together Experts, Water Resources Practitioners, Managers, Policy Makers, Scientists, Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs), Indigenous and Community Organizations from Asia and the Pacific and Africa to share knowledge and collaborate on innovative ideas that can improve the sustainable management of water resources in Africa.

2) OBJECTIVE

The main objective of this workshop is to strengthen south-south cooperation in providing solutions to current global challenges by upscaling existing local approaches in IWRM for water security in Africa

The specific objectives of the workshop are to:

- i) Provide enhanced insight on modern approaches to implementing IWRM and how HELP and Ecohydrology can be used as practical tools for delivering IWRM in Africa;
- ii) Create awareness on upscaling existing local approaches and knowledge of the interrelationships between water and environment to reinforce and enhance understanding of IWRM and Ecohydrology;
- iii) Create platform for participants to freely interact with one another, exchange scientific knowledge and experiences on practical innovations for implementing IWRM; and
- iv) Strengthen south-south cooperation on water management and water security between the two regions.

3) IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

The workshop will entail a combination of paper presentations on modern approaches and tools for enhancing the implementation of IWRM and Ecohydrology; practical examples and case studies (to highlight applications of the fundamental concepts); discussions among all participants; and sharing practical field experiences.

A platform will be created for sharing knowledge and experience, working from what the people know and complementing these with what they ought to know about IWRM and Ecohydrology, individually and collectively.

The workshop will feature interactive presentations and group activities. Participants will have the opportunity for field visits to site intended to showcase IWRM concepts and practices in Africa.

The workshop will further utilize hands-on activity much as practicable. It is expected that action plans will be developed for adoption and implementation by the participants in their work places as outputs of the workshop.

4) TARGET PARTICIPANTS

The workshop is designed for policy makers, practitioners, professionals, academics and the Civil Society. Participants will be drawn from Desk Officers in-charge of IWRM and Ecohydrology in selected West African countries, Regional River Basin Organizations (RRBOs) in West Africa, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), Community Based Organizations (CBOs) etc. They will consist of:

- The Honourable Minister of Water Resources of the Federal Republic of Nigeria who is the Special Guest of Honour and to declare the workshop open.
- Four (4) Resource Experts from Institutions across Asia and the Pacific.
- Three (3) Keynote Speakers are: Director/Representative of the Regional Science Bureau for Asia and the Pacific; Executive Director, National Water Resources Institute, Kaduna; and Director/Representative of UNESCO Multi-sectoral Regional Office in Abuja, Nigeria.
- Five (5) Participants from the Regional River Basin Organizations (RRBOs) in West Africa, namely: Organization pour la Mise en Valeur du Fleuve Gambie (OMVG); Organization pour la Mise en Valeur du Fleuve Senegal (OMVS); Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC); Niger Basin Authority (NBA); and Volta Basin Authority (VBA).

- Four (4) Participants from UNESCO Water-related Centres/Chair in Africa namely: Regional Centre for Training and Water Studies of Arid and Semi-Arid Zones (RCTWS), 6th of October City, Egypt; African Regional Centre for Ecohydrology, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; Regional Centre on Groundwater Resources Education, Training and Research in East Africa, Nairobi, Kenya; UNESCO Chair in Water Resources, Khartoum, Sudan.
- Eleven (11) West African Countries, which are not hosts to the RRBOs: Benin; Cape Verde; Cote d'Ivoire; Gambia; Ghana; Guinea; Guinea Bissau; Liberia; Mali; Nigeria; Sierra Leone; and Togo. These Country Participants will be Desk Officers in-charge of IWRM in their various Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) in-charge of water resources management in their countries;
- Three (3) participants from the field offices of the Nigeria Hydrological Services Agency (NIHSA), Nigeria Integrated Water Resources Management Commission (NIWRMC) and Gurara Water Management Agency (GWMA);
- One (1) Official of the Nigeria National Committee for UNESCO-IHP (NNC-UNESCO);
- One (1) Official of the Nigerian National Commission for UNESCO (NATCOM);
- Two (2) Officials of the Regional Science Bureau for Asia and the Pacific;
- Three (3) Officials of the UNESCO Multi-sectoral Regional Office, Abuja;
- Two (2) participants from the RC-IRBM-partner NGOs, Foundation for the Conservation of Nigerian Rivers (FCNR); and the Federal University, Gashua, Yobe State.
- Six (6) Officials from the RC-IRBM, including Secretarial Staff;
- Three (3) Management Staff from the National Water Resources Institute (NWRI), Kaduna;
- Two (2) Member of a Community Based Organizations (CBOs);
- West African Coordinator of Global Water Partnership (GWP); and
- One (1) Official of the Africa Network of Basin Organizations (ANBO).

5) EXPECTED DELIVERABLES

- Scientific background of professionals and practitioners in the management of water resources in the context of IWRM is improved as well as insight gained on how HELP and Ecohydrology can be used as practical tools to deliver IWRM in Africa;
- Awareness on upscaling existing local approaches and knowledge of the interrelationships between water and environment to reinforce and enhance understanding of IWRM and Ecohydrology is created;
- Action plans for upscaling IWRM and Ecohydrology are developed for implementation at country and basin levels; and
- South-South Cooperation for conjunctive management of water resources is strengthened.

6) TIME AND VENUE

The meeting will be held from on 24th to 26th January, 2017 at the Rockview Hotel, located at Plot 194/196 Justice Adetokumbo Ademola Street, Wuse II, Maitama, Abuja. Reservation for accommodation and lodging according to the prevailing rates and extant rules of UNESCO will be made for all participants from outside Abuja at the venue.