



Steering Group on Water and Climate Change

Terms of Reference

Introduction

The impacts of climate change are already felt in countries across the Asia-Pacific region, and they are expected to increase in the years and decades to come. Changes in water resources, from melting glaciers to increased floods, droughts, and sea level rise, amongst others, will impact significantly on socio-economic development and the environment in unprecedented ways.

In response, numerous initiatives, programs and projects have are being established in the region to promote climate change mitigation and adaptation, including for water management, which has been flagged by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) as a priority.

The Asia-Pacific Water Forum (APWF), created in 2006 as the region's independent network dedicated to improving sustainable water management, has already started to support water and climate change adaptation through its *KnowledgeHubs* initiative launched in 2008. APWF will also promote investments and good practices in climate change adaptation through its *Ministers for Water Security* initiative announced at the 5th World Water Forum in Istanbul in 2009.

To advocate good practices and synergize the knowledge sharing and capacity development in the region, APWF is now forming a Steering Group comprising experts, leaders, and funding agencies. The *APWF Steering Group on Water and Climate Change* (the Group) is expected to advise leaders on policies and investments, and to guide the work of the knowledge hubs with their partners and clients on improving climate change projections, impact assessments, and adaptation strategies.

Key Result Areas

The Group is expected to make a significant contribution in the 3 key result areas:

1. **Advising Leaders:** to advise and support leaders in the Asia Pacific region on policies and good practices for mitigation and adaptation of the impacts of climate change on water resources management and water services;

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2. **Guiding Knowledge Networking:** to guide the APWF knowledge hubs in their work on water and climate change with their partners and clients, and thereby increase synergies for advocacy, knowledge sharing, capacity development, and funding of initiatives;
3. **Reporting Progress:** to report annually to the leaders in the Asia-Pacific region and the members of the APWF network on the region's progress in addressing the impacts, with recommendations for action.

Tasks

In these key result areas, the Group is expected to undertake the following tasks:

KRA 1: Advising Leaders

1. The Group will develop a framework document on water and climate change adaptation with guidelines for policy-makers and practitioners in the Asia-Pacific region, drawing on the IPCC Assessment Reports, subsequent updated reports, other authoritative guides, and examples of practice.
2. Members of the Group can be called upon to advise leaders on policies and good practices during water events, including those organized under APWF's *Ministers for Water Security* initiative.
3. Advocacy by the Group and its members will focus on the following areas:
 - Funding and collaborative partnerships for climate change projections, impact assessments, and adaptation initiatives by governments, civil society, the private sector, and international and bilateral funding agencies.
 - Linkages between scientific and technical work, and work on the social and economic implications of climate change and adaptation.
4. In subsequent years, the Group will update the guidelines as needed, and also consider developing further guidelines for leaders on specific mitigation and adaptation topics.

KRA 2: Guiding Knowledge Networking

1. The Group will promote synergy from knowledge networking and collaboration among APWF lead organizations, knowledge hubs, partners and clients.
2. The Group will review, guide and support the APWF knowledge hubs working on climate change issues and to help disseminate and promote their knowledge products and capacity development services, including:

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- Guidelines for practitioners in using climate change projection methodologies, tools for vulnerability and impact assessments and project screening; and for adaptation strategies and activities by different client groups, with an initial focus on managers of river basins and urban water services.
 - Services for climate change projections, impact assessments and adaptation strategies for clients in the region.
 - Capacity development programs for clients in the region (including production and translation of materials, training workshops, staff exchanges and on-the-job learning, twinning opportunities, and reform of organizations and institutional arrangements).
 - Development of an information repository for systematic archiving, streamlining, standardization and sharing of information on water and climate change adaptation in the Asia Pacific region.
 - Dissemination of information and knowledge sharing through networks and partnerships, supported by research and comparative analysis in the region.
 - Leveraging of funding resources for priority programs and activities by the knowledge hubs with their partners and clients.
3. The Group will also stimulate scientific and action research by academia in the Asia-Pacific region, and dissemination of outcomes through peer-reviewed papers and reports, which in turn increase the region's contribution to the work of the IPCC.

KRA 3: Reporting Progress

1. The Group, assisted by the knowledge hubs, will prepare a status report on Water and Climate Change in the Asia-Pacific region on an annual basis, with an overview of progress, highlights of good practices and hot spots, and recommendations for action.
2. Information on status and progress will be disseminated through the websites of APWF, the knowledge hubs, and partner organizations.

Organization

Group Composition

The Group will have approximately 15 members, including:

- Experts in water and climate change projections, impact assessments, technical and socio-economic aspects of adaptation, and capacity development.
- Leaders from government and civil society, from two large and two small countries.

- Representatives from international and bilateral funding agencies.

Meetings

The Group is expected to meet twice a year. Knowledge Hubs expected to join the meetings include those dealing with water and climate change adaptation in Southeast and South Asia, IWRM in Central Asia and the Pacific, water-related disaster management, river basin organizations and management, and others as needed. The Group can also invite additional specialists to join meetings as needed.

Governance

The Terms of Reference and composition of the Group shall be submitted for endorsement to the Governing Council of the Asia-Pacific Water Forum, which is also expected to review the Group's work and outputs from time to time. Members of the Group are expected to serve a maximum of 3 years and shall be eligible for re-appointment. The chair and co-chair assignments will be established by the Group. Information on the Group's work will be disseminated regularly through the APWF website.

Secretariat

The National Hydraulic Research Institute of Malaysia, as APWF's regional knowledge hub for water and climate change adaptation, will serve as the Secretariat of the Group.

Work Plan

The Secretariat will assist the Group in preparing a work plan, which will be made available on the APWF website.

Appreciation

APWF highly appreciates the leadership and commitment of the Government of Malaysia to support the National Hydraulic Research Institute of Malaysia in its functions of regional knowledge hub for water and climate change adaptation and Secretariat of the Group.