

DDP Phase 2 Goal and Work Programme

The Dams and Development Project has its roots in the aspiration to secure sustainable solutions to meet the water and energy needs of mankind. Water and energy are essential resources for enhancing growth, poverty reduction and the achievement of all internationally agreed development goals (Millennium Development Goals). Dams are one of a number of options to meet increasing demands and a major feature in water and energy development. In the past, however, as pointed out by the World Commission on Dams report, whilst dams made important contribution to human development, their social and environmental impacts have also been significant



The Dams and Development Project was launched in November 2001 to promote improved planning, development and management of dams and their alternatives focusing on enhanced consideration of social and environmental issues and public participation. The first phase of the Project undertaken between 2001 and 2004 facilitated national and global dialogue on the WCD core values and strategic priorities and disseminated the outputs of the WCD process. The second phase of the Project launched in February 2005 aims at the adoption and application of good practices grounded on sound regulatory frameworks.

Goal

To achieve improved decision-making, planning and management of dams and their alternatives building on WCD core values and strategic priorities and other relevant reference materials.

Objectives

The two main Objectives of DDP are to:

- Support multi-stakeholder dialogues at country-level, regional and global levels on improving decision making on dams and their alternatives with the aim of engaging all stakeholders with emphasis on governments.
- Produce non-prescriptive tools drawing on all relevant existing bodies of criteria and guidelines for planning and management of dams and their alternatives, which can help decision makers.

Main Results

The main results that DDP is working towards to achieve its Goal are:

- Raised awareness on the need of and wide agreement on how to improve national and international regulatory frameworks effectively taking into account social and environmental aspects and incorporating appropriate participatory approaches into decision making.
- Availability of non-prescriptive broadly accepted practical tools providing information and examples of good practice to assist decision makers in the planning and management of dams and their alternatives.

Key Operational Principles

DDP is guided by the following principles in its operations:

- Focusing on strengthening national and international normative frameworks,
- Utilising the WCD Report five Core Values and seven Strategic Priorities as an analytical framework and a basis for discussion,
- Knowledge driven, drawing on WCD process, DDP process as well as other relevant materials and examples,
- Applying flexibility, promoting nationally/locally appropriate approaches and learning thereof – a bottom-up approach,
- Focusing on government decision-makers while addressing other stakeholder groups,

- Advocating inclusiveness of all perspectives and consensus over conflict,
- Promoting wide consultation and a partnership approach,
- Remaining factual and avoiding being judgemental.

Key Elements of the Work Programme

In the Work Programme of DDP, Promoting Dialogues and the Elaboration of Practical Tools are the two main elements. The supporting elements are Networking, Communication and Dissemination.

1. Promoting Dialogue

The Project catalyses and supports multi-stakeholder dialogues aimed at improving decision making on dams and their alternatives using the WCD Report core values and strategic priorities as an analytical framework at national, regional and global levels. Key actions and some of the products thereof that serve as important milestones are:

- Global Dialogues: Dams and Development Forum (DDF), Issues-based Workshops and convening of events at relevant international meetings: *Meeting Reports and Workshop Reports unpacking WCD core values and strategic priorities as well as addressing outstanding controversial issues related to dams and development.*
- National and regional multi-stakeholder dialogues: *Recommendations on policies and procedures to improve normative frameworks and decision making; Improved regional/local guidelines and criteria for dams and their alternatives.*

The Project supports such dialogue initiatives through financial resources, access to expertise, information materials and examples of approaches used successfully elsewhere;

2. Elaboration of practical tools

The Project elaborates non-prescriptive practical tools for use by decision-makers to improve decision-making in the planning and management of dams and their alternatives. The development of the tools draws on the WCD Report core values and strategic priorities and other existing bodies of criteria and guidelines dealing with planning and management of dams and their alternatives. Key actions and some of the products thereof that serve as important milestones are:

- Inventory of policy/normative frameworks from the various stakeholder groups: *Summary information and referencing of existing policies, laws, criteria and guidelines concerning dams planning and management; Updates of summaries.*
- Database of Relevant Examples on integrating the key topics into policy/regulatory frameworks at country and regional levels: *Outlines of examples concerning successes and failures; Updates of Outlines.*
- Compendium on Relevant Practices for improved decision making, planning and management of dams and their alternatives: *Checklist and Matrix Analysis; Compilation of examples of relevant practices addressing Priority Key Issues, their integration into national and international normative frameworks and their implementation.*

The Project supports their dissemination and consultation during the elaboration process within the framework of global, regional and national dialogues to broaden the base of advice and input.

3. Networking and Communication

The Project promotes the flow of information on dialogue processes supported by DDP. It assists interested parties to participate in DDP initiatives and benefit from the practical tools elaborated by the project. The Project implements a Communication Strategy that aims at providing information and collecting feedback as well as other information with the purpose of continually improving the knowledge base of DDP about dams and their alternatives. Key features of the Communication Strategy are:

- The DDP website www.unep-dams.org regularly updated.
- Six-monthly Newsletters on DDP covering the various dialogue processes as well as views of stakeholders and readers.
- A 'Help desk' for stakeholders on issues related to dams and development. It helps stakeholders to gain access to information, technical support and seed funding.

4. Dissemination

The Project is entrusted with ensuring that DDP materials, particularly those relating to dialogue activities and processes are widely disseminated in printed and electronic form. Key features of information dissemination are:

- Distribution of WCD and DDP information materials, reports and publications,
- Translation of WCD and DDP information materials into a limited number of selected languages,
- Dissemination of information and materials at international and country meetings and major regional events. The dissemination of diverse materials will be tailored to a country/regional needs.



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