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PROPOSAL FOR EVALUATION OF UNESCO'S INTERNATIONAL HYDROLOGICAL PROGRAMME (IHP) FLAGHIPS

The enclosed proposal discussed the independent evaluation of
UNESCO IHP's Flagship projects.

PROPOSALS FOR EVALUATION OF UNESCO'S INTERNATIONAL HYDROLOGICAL PROGRAMME (IHP) FLAGSHIPS

Background and purpose

1. The International Hydrological Programme (IHP) is the only intergovernmental programme of the UN system devoted to water research, water resources management, education and capacity building. The IHP was implemented in six-year programmatic time intervals and is now entering its eighth phase (2014-2021) and shifting in eight-year cycle following UNESCO's overall quadrennial approach.

2. As a science and education programme at the global level, IHP covers a wide spectrum of initiatives, some of them even called programmes. Within the context of IHP phase VIII, the IHP Secretariat manages and implements a number of key Flagship projects/initiatives, in collaboration with key partners, such as WMO, IAHS UNU, UNISDR and IAEA, including in some cases Category 1 and Category 2 UNESCO Water Institutes and Centers as well as UNESCO Water Chairs and UNITWIN networks. The principal objective of these Flagship projects is to cover in a coordinated manner contributions that assist in a faster and better implementation of IHP themes. These initiatives comprise tasks and activities that are interlinked and that can be jointly implemented by different UNESCO Water family actors or partners. IHP's two cross-cutting programmes, FRIEND and HELP, for instance, go beyond a single IHP theme as they are crosscutting activities to all IHP themes, through their operational concepts. Annex I of this document presents briefly the Flagship projects.

3. At its 53rd session held in April 2016, the IHP Bureau, while discussing the implementation of resolution XXI-8 (established by the 21st IHP Council session), decided to reactivate the Working Group that had been tasked with the development of the evaluation framework and requested that the IHP Secretariat facilitate this process and report at the 22nd IHP Council. The aim is to identify which of these initiatives should be modified, receive additional support from Member states, or even, eventually shut down considering the current needs from Member states and IHP VIII.

4. In view of the decision of the 53rd session of the IHP Bureaus, the purpose of paper is to provide members of the IHP Council with an overview of the overall approach to be taken in the preparation of the evaluation of the IHP Flagships.

Key steps in the preparation of an evaluation of the IHP Flagships

5. During the preparatory phase of the evaluation process, key initial considerations will include involving interested stakeholders, defining the evaluation purpose, securing the necessary financial resources, drafting a Terms of Reference and establishing the arrangements for the evaluation's management.

6. The following steps will be undertaken, under the guidance and support from IOS in preparation of the evaluation:

- *Undertake a comprehensive Desk Study* - The purpose of conducting a desk study will be to set out the basic, but essential, programmatic information related to the IHP Flagships. This information includes, inter alia, the rationale behind the establishment of the flagships, its objectives and expected results, the main areas of programmatic intervention, key beneficiaries and implementation partners, and monitoring and reporting arrangements. The exercise will also help to inform the possible scope of the evaluation, as well as to

determine the key stakeholders who will need to participate in the evaluation i.e. in the development of the terms of reference, in data collection, etc. The desk study will be conducted and prepared by the IHP Secretariat, in consultation with the Bureau and/or Council, as necessary and under the technical guidance of IOS. The information collected during the desk study is essential for drafting meaningful Terms of Reference.

- *Determine resource requirements* – Early in the planning phase, it is good practice to identify the financial and human resources required for the evaluation. The financial resources in particular should be secured in advance as the eventual scope of the evaluation will be determined in large part by the resources available. The IHP Secretariat will also need to allocate the time of a staff member to serve as a focal point during the evaluation e.g. for backstopping and logistical arrangements with the evaluation team.

- *Develop the Terms of Reference* – An evaluation cannot be effectively carried out without a sound Terms of Reference (ToR) that clearly sets out the framework of an evaluation, the expectations of different stakeholders, and what is to be delivered by whom, when and how. The ToR are a “statement of the background, objectives, and purpose of an evaluation, the individual duties and responsibilities of members of an evaluation team, and timelines for deliverables”¹. The process for developing the ToR should be a participatory one involving the key stakeholders and users of the evaluation, including the IHP Bureau and Council, who might find it useful to set up a task force. This process will be overseen by IOS. During this phase, the IHP Secretariat will also establish an evaluation reference group whose main purpose is to provide advice and quality assurance throughout the entire evaluation process.

Overview of roles and responsibilities

7. The evaluation will be commissioned to an external evaluation team, under IOS guidance per UNESCO procurement guidelines. The evaluators will be responsible for carrying out the evaluation per the agreed ToR and in accordance with commonly accepted norms and standards for the conduct of evaluation in the United Nations².

8. The IHP Secretariat will be responsible for commissioning the evaluation and managing the overall process with the assistance of the aforementioned reference group. The IHP Secretariat will liaise as needed with the Internal Oversight Service (IOS) evaluation office for any necessary technical guidance and support.

Proposed schedule of key activities and deliverables

9. The indicative timetable of key activities of the preparatory phase includes:
- Formal decision of the IHP Council on an evaluation June 2016
 - Secretariat undertakes desk study mid June – August 2016
 - Establish evaluation reference group September 2016
 - ToR development September 2016
 - Commission an external evaluation October 2016
 - Possible start date of the evaluation November 2016

¹ Morra Imas, L.G. and R. Rist (2009) The Road to Results – Designing and Developing Effective Development Evaluations, The World Bank, Washington D.C.

² United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG) Norms and Standards for Evaluation.

ANNEX I

FRIEND (Flow Regimes from International Experimental and Network Data)

An international research programme that helps to set up regional networks for analyzing hydrological data through the exchange of data, knowledge and techniques at the regional level.

GRAPHIC (Groundwater Resources Assessment under the Pressures of Humanity and Climate Change)

A UNESCO-led project seeking to improve our understanding of how groundwater interacts within the global water cycle, how it supports human activity and ecosystems, and how it responds to the complex dual pressures of human activity and climate change.

G-WADI (Global Network on Water and Development Information in Arid Lands)

A global network on water resources management in arid and semi-arid zones whose primary aim is to build an effective global community to promote international and regional cooperation in the arid and semiarid areas.

HELP (Hydrology for the Environment, Life and Policy)

A new approach to integrated catchment management by building a framework for water law and policy experts, water resource managers and water scientists to work together on water-related problems.

IDI (International Drought Initiative)

A long-term initiative through which the research activities related to droughts as well as the development of capacities to address such events will be designed, coordinated and implemented.

IFI (International Flood Initiative)

An interagency initiative promoting an integrated approach to flood management which takes advantage of the benefits of floods and the use of flood plains, while reducing social, environmental and economic risks. Partners: the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the United Nations University (UNU), the International Association of Hydrological Sciences (IAHS) and the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR).

ISARM (Internationally Shared Aquifer Resources Management)

An initiative to set up a network of specialists and experts to compile a world inventory of transboundary aquifers and to develop wise practices and guidance tools concerning shared groundwater resources management.

ISI (International Sediment Initiative)

An initiative to assess erosion and sediment transport to marine, lake or reservoir environments aimed at the creation of a holistic approach for the remediation and conservation of surface waters, closely linking science with policy and management needs.

JIIHP (Joint International Isotope Hydrology Programme)

A programme facilitating the integration of isotopes in hydrological practices through the development of tools, inclusion of isotope hydrology in university curricula and support to programmes in water resources using isotope techniques.

PCCP (From Potential Conflict to Cooperation Potential)

A project facilitating multi-level and interdisciplinary dialogues in order to foster peace, cooperation and development related to the management of shared water resources.

UWMP (Urban Water Management Programme)

A programme that generates approaches, tools and guidelines which will allow cities to improve their knowledge, as well as analysis of the urban water situation to draw up more effective urban water management strategies.

WHYMAP (World Hydrogeological Map)

An initiative to collect, collate and visualize hydrogeological information at the global scale to convey groundwater-related information in a way appropriate for global discussion on water issues

IIWQ (International Initiative on Water Quality)

An initiative that implements its activities and projects in an interdisciplinary, integrated and cooperative manner aiming to meet global water quality challenges while building sustainable, long-lasting responses.