

The rationale, background and goals for Declaration on Sustainable Floodplain Management

International Conference on Ecohydrological Processes and Sustainable Floodplain Management:
Opportunities and Concepts for Water Hazard Mitigation, and Ecological and Socioeconomic Sustainability
in the Face of Global Changes.

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Goal:

To make a significant impact on environmental management by including floodplains as crucial areas of ecohydrological regulation for attaining the objectives of the Millennium Development Goals of the UN, by:

- making a significant impact on relevant policies (water, environmental, agricultural, conservation, fishery) and management at national and international levels, including such aspects as: water quality, biodiversity, bioenergy, risk management, global climate change, sanitation and health, economy and poverty alleviation.
- providing a clear statement on current challenges, management requirements and future needs with regard to global change.
- identifying knowledge gaps and needs and stimulate sound research and synthesis of available information.
- influencing people's and governments attitudes toward the sustainable use and conservation of floodplain areas.

Deliverable:

To produce a scientifically sound document contributing to river floodplain protection, management and conservation policy at local, national and international levels.

To provide a framework towards sound management of floodplains based on environmental, social, cultural as well as economic and political considerations at regional, national and local levels.

To recommend priority research areas and issues requiring immediate actions with regard to key socio-ecological drivers determining the state of floodplains and delivery of goods and services in the future.

Target groups:

- key international stakeholders (e.g., EC, UN, EEA)
- local, regional and national decision makers/policy makers
- world wide scientific community and general public

Requirements for successful implementation:

- Political will and engagement by governments and decision makers through policy development and legislation;
- Engagement by international and developing agencies through endorsement, mainstreaming, dissemination and support;
- Support from financial agencies and institutions through appropriate mechanisms towards development and implementation;
- Networking at the international, national and local levels in relevant areas through cooperation;
- Management through sound scientific research and assessment, economic evaluation, and social and cultural considerations;

Publicity:

Issuing an official call for legal recognition of floodplains in the EU Directives and international legislation requires the following participation of the following institutions:

- relevant UN agencies
- European Commission
- EEA and other regional agencies influencing environment and water policies
- relevant Polish Ministries
- research (e.g., ILTER, LTER-Europe) and monitoring (e.g., ICP IM, ICP Water, ICP Forest) networks
- other relevant policies (e.g., CAP).