



Pre-Forum BFP Workshop Report Addis Ababa, 7-8 November 2008



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Meeting Feedback & Summary:

Background:

This is the second meeting for Basin Focal Projects (BFPs). It may be the last before BFPs are required to complete analysis. It was therefore an important meeting for BFP Project Leaders, who must develop an overall sense of project logic, in order to manage contributions from Workpackage leaders.

Completing the project is not the same as completing individual workpackages. Projects are greater than the sum of workpackages and BFP Project leaders need to be strongly aware of the overall function of their project in order to make judgements about the competence or otherwise of WPs and of the project as a whole.

At another level, it is necessary for BFP Leaders to communicate to BFP Central, who must ensure that individual BFP Projects *together* form a coherent program. BFPs must present a clear local-to-global analysis. BFP Leaders are therefore asked to include, as the main part of their annual report, a draft synthesis report.

Comments on individual components of sections necessary to complete BFP synthesis.

What follows is a summary of reflections on BFPs, in the logical order shown in figure 1.

Development Context:

A brief description of the development trajectory is necessary to understand subsequent analysis, and the relative importance of particular issues in the basin. In the draft report, this can be brief (<1 page) and would describe overall levels of rural poverty, population trajectories, importance of agriculture, major factors seen to influence development at national and basin scale.

The result needs to be sufficient to enable "BFP Central" to present a coherent spectrum of conditions within basins.

Suggestions: BFP Central to provide early feedback to BFP Leaders to help them understand the relative position of 'their' BFPs in relation to the program of BFPs.

WP2 Water availability:

Nearly all BFPs seem to have this analysis well in hand, using a range of methods (WEAP, SWAT, SWAT-BNU, MIKE-Basin). This is to be expected, since hydrologic modelling is a mature art.

Some areas seem to require more attention:

- Information describing variations in access to water, since in subsequent analysis, it is likely to be the access to water that has more impact on Livelihoods than overall availability.
- Information on hazards such as drought or flood that will impact livelihoods.
- Recommendations for methods to be developed across basins (e.g. MODIS 16).

Suggestion: BFPs to advise BFP Central of recommendations for development of joint analytical methods.

WP3 Water productivity:

Water productivity is a basin measure of performance of agriculture with respect to water resources. It might be considered a dependent variable, the 'co-Y variable' hence a diagnostic, more than a determinant of livelihoods. With careful interpretation, it is very useful and a basic requirement of BFPs. Some comments:

- BFP1s demonstrate several methods of analysis, if necessary, BFP2s should consult.
- WPr of **systems** remains difficult. Important gains have been made in the understanding of wproductivity in livestock and fisheries systems. Papers are being posted to assist BFP2s.
- Consider how Wpr will be interpreted. Time series analysis is a simple but powerful indicator of change.

Suggestion: BFP Central to revise the working paper on Water Productivity to include recent insights from on methods.

WP4 Institutional analysis:

Interesting to observe that institutional analysis is inferred in descriptions of intervention analysis (WP5), however, few BFPs seem to have a clear understanding of the effect of institutions on the access and productive use of water.

A gentle warning to BFP2s: If you haven't already understood the importance of institutions to the way water is managed, you will need to. Experience from BFP1s suggests that institutions control the use of physical resources.

Suggestion: BFP Central to ask Douglas White to provide an expanded version of his presentation to help all BFPs understand the principal aspects of institutional analysis.

WP1: Poverty analysis:

Only 2 BFPs [Niger and IGB] seem to have substantially initiated analysis of poverty.

All have a good idea of data availability and methods, but most seem fearful of 'jumping in'. Our strong advice to BFP2s is to start analysis NOW. We say this for 3 reasons:

1. Experience suggests that analysis is not a 'one-off' process, but iterative, with additional data being added to analysis later as interpretation demands.
2. A range of methods exists, from simple correlation analysis through Bayesian Network analysis, to Geographically Weighted Regression. However, unlike hydrologic analysis, the implementation and interpretation of poverty analysis with respect to water is not mature. Expect a period of 'discovery'.
3. The data you need is rarely available in practice. Therefore interpretation is ambiguous until compared with analyses from other basins. Therefore early 'trial' analysis is very helpful to discuss with other BFPs. This will vastly improve the robustness of analysis.

Suggestion: Start analysis now. Do not delay, and share results (however preliminary) with other BFPs. BFP Central to help mediate WP leaders to facilitate sharing. If possible, a workshop [maybe virtual] will be organized early in 2009.

WP5: Intervention Analysis:

This seems in good shape, which is quite surprising given the difficulty of this analysis. BFP Leaders should be conscious of the range of methods available, to enable them to confirm the choices they have made.

For example there is a trade-off between the depth and breadth of analysis. Each may be appropriate under particular circumstances. A few observations:

- Broad analysis may be appropriate to ensure whole-basin coverage.
- Deep numerical hydro-economic analysis may be necessary where water and food systems are linked so tightly that it is impossible to make statements about the impacts of land use change on basin hydrology.
- Quantitative, bottom-up analysis of intervention [Limpopo, Andes] matrices appear to be a powerful way to engage stakeholders throughout analysis. This would be improved by adding analysis of impacts of prospective change on hydrology

Suggestion: Continue, with awareness!

WP6: Knowledge exchange:

Much has been learned to improve this process. BFP2s were the first to start the project with an Impact Pathway and should use these to help focus activities where they will be effective.

Reporting has been good and rapid response of monthly reports is much appreciated.

Data management is an issue. We see little data from BFPs, yet this is a contractual requirement.

Networking seems an effective way of getting in contact with new stakeholders and keep in touch with existing ones. Data/insight is the 'fuel' that maintain network activity.

Suggestion: Revisit Impact pathway regularly to ensure you are engaging the right people and are aware of what is required to change. Remember that as a prime user, the CPWF itself must be engaged. BFP Central to help.

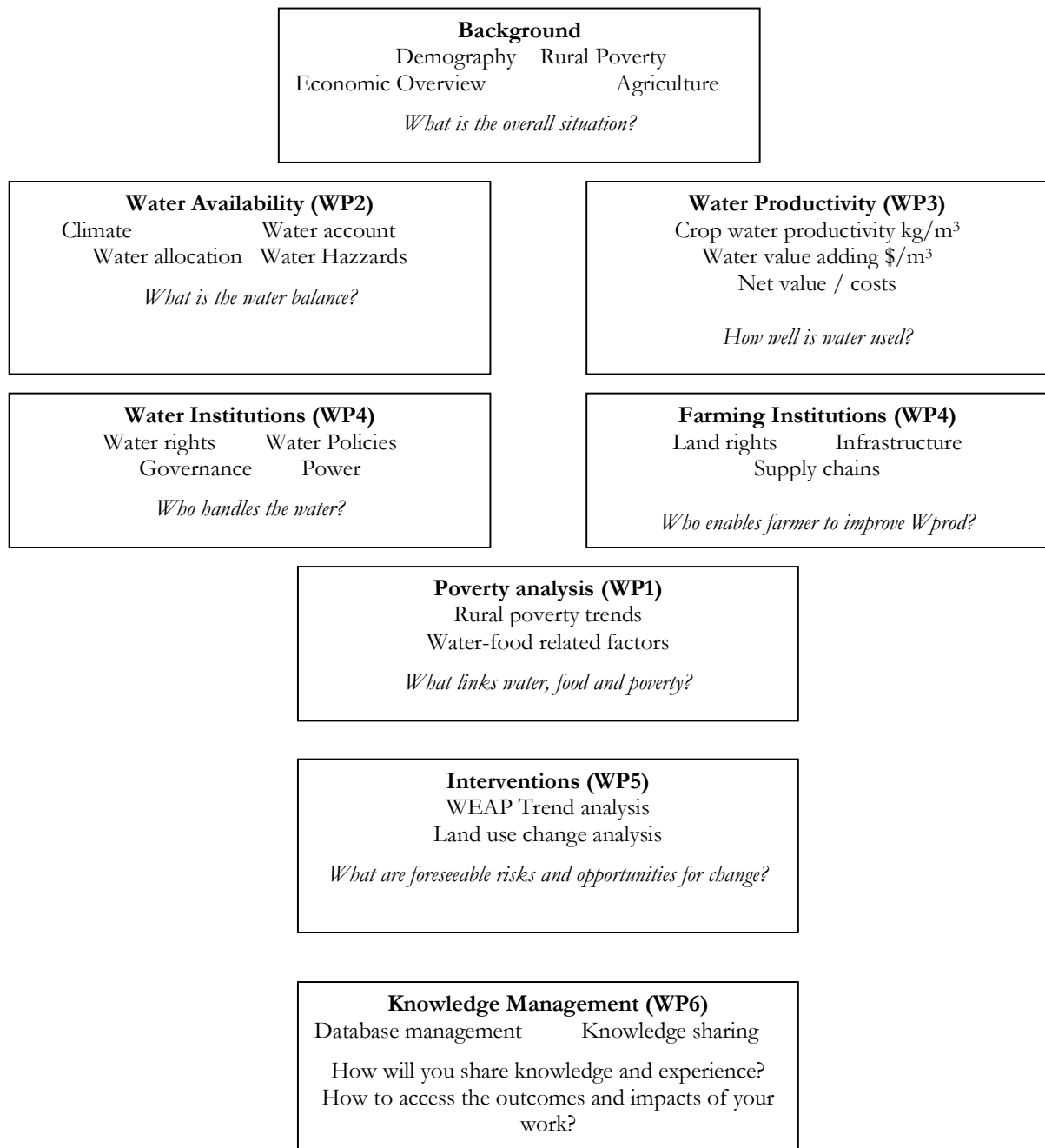
Networking processes to be strengthened with the help of Impact Director.

Recommendations:

- BFP2 Leaders to submit annual report **in the form of a draft synthesis report**. This should be <20 pages and structured according to figure 1. While we do not expect all areas to be developed equally, it is vital that BFP project leaders know what is being delivered from Work-packages. More importantly, preparation of the draft synthesis report will ensure that project leaders start thinking now about the overall 'sense' of the BFP, and how these fit together towards a coherent program of results. (BFP Leaders, pls note, this is a requirement, due December 2009).
- BFP Central to organize a forum for BFP2s to present final results at the end of 2009. Where possible, this should be part of an international conference.
- Science Director to initiate joint **CPWF "Science Days"** to use BFPs with Topic leaders and others to develop the research questions and processes underpinning the CP. BFPs should provide evidence and analysis to assist development of science-for-development.

- Program Manager to use BFPs to help develop specifics for the MTP. Examples would be using results from the BFPs to identify concrete targets, milestones and deliverables within Basins.
- Impact Director to help supervise knowledge-sharing and networking processes. These are being spear-headed by BFPs from the Andes and Niger. Other BFPs will be encouraged to adopt networking processes to accelerate dialogue amongst stakeholders.
- CPWF Coordinator to consider the use of BFP results to provide concrete examples of how the Challenge Program links local innovation from individual projects to the basin-scale and global food and water problem.

Figure 1. Outline of the BFP synthesis document



Participants

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