

## Outline for RA VI Hydrology Forum 2012 task

### Positioning of the RA VI hydrological community in respect to decision makers and other expert and science communities

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#### Introduction

The RA VI Hydrology Forum 2012 identified activities that are expected to promote regional hydrological services – especially the strategic and operational networking of National Hydrological Services (NHS) within the frames of WMO. Ten activities were selected for further development, and these included both operational (technical) and strategic (institutional, policy) components. This task represents the second category.

#### Objectives

The main reason for giving priority to this activity is the fact that the hydrological community of the region is facing new and diverse pressures (e.g. new EU legislation, budget reductions, and demands for improved services). Keeping also in mind the fact that the water sector is very fragmented, it is important to improve the liaison between hydrological services, clarify their role and increase the visibility and influence of the hydrological community. This is the main objective of the task.

#### Contents and output

The activity will be composed of three components.

- The first part is a general mapping of the institutional and operational environment. This assessment is expected to produce a compact presentation of the main actors and processes that are important for hydrological services at regional or sub-regional level. Estimated timetable is December 2012.
- The second part is an overall assessment on the current and potential strengths and weaknesses of NHSs in relation to the above mentioned pressures, actors and processes. This will be reported based on the outcomes of the discussions and group works of the Hydrology Forum. Concrete examples will be used whenever possible. Estimated timetable is June 2013.
- The third part is composed of proposals for improved role, visibility and influence. As the community has limited resources for engaging in strategy and policy lobbying and action in addition to its basic services, and as many of the challenges are expected to be common for many of the NHSs, the report will aim at generic solutions, networking and joint action. Priority will be given to concrete approaches e.g. in the form of case studies and good practices. Estimated timetable is December 2013.

The coordinator is planning to use RA VI Hydrology Forum 2012 material and other RA VI and WMO documentation as basic sources. Experts of the WMO Secretariat will also be consulted. In addition, input of NHSs will be highly appreciated and actively sought during all three phases.