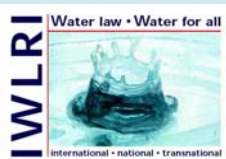




Desirable legal framework to support an integrated approach to flood management



Joachim Saalmüller

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WMO/GWP Associated Programme on Flood Management



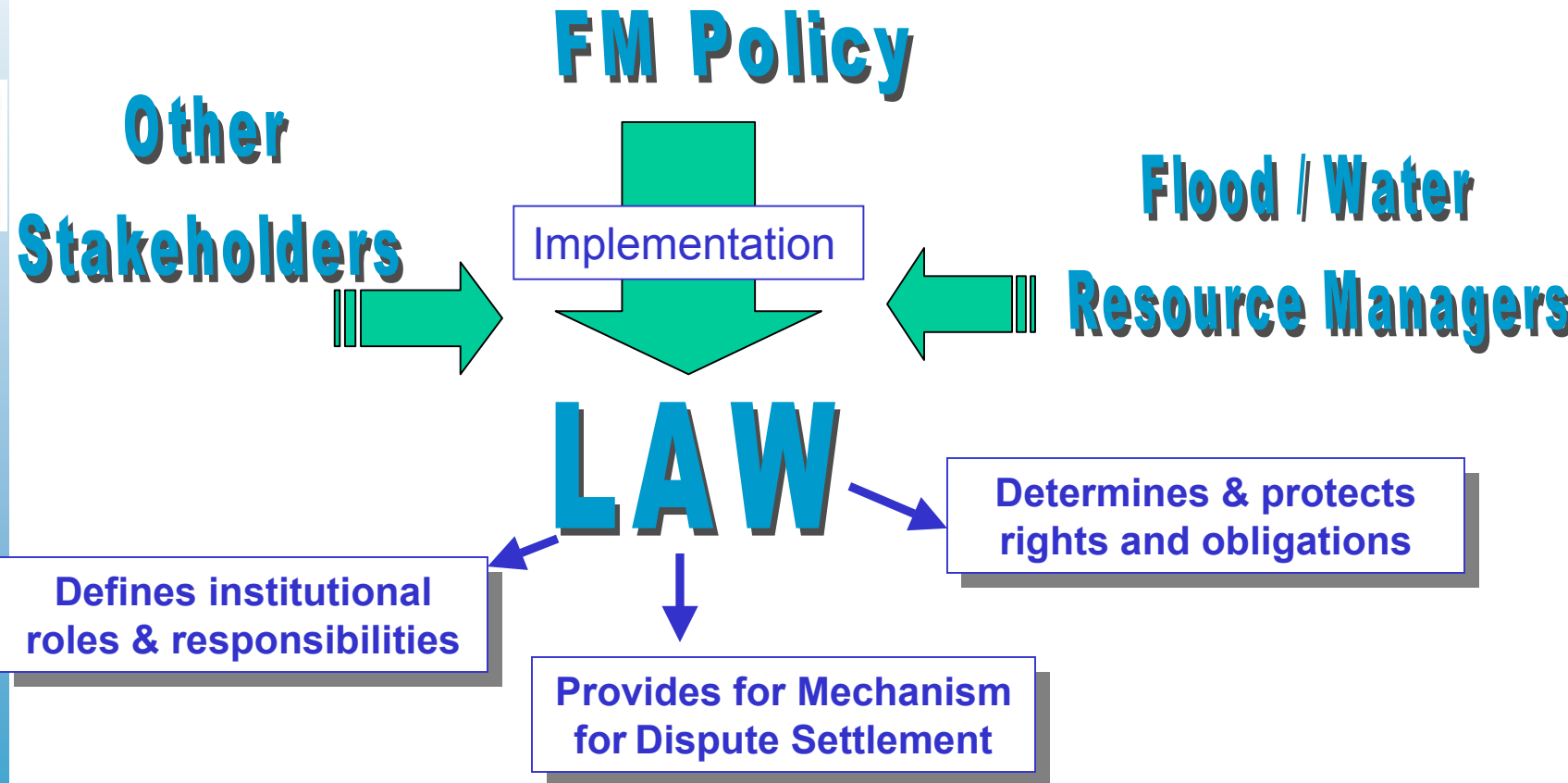
Integrated Flood Management

Integration of land and water management in a river basin within the context of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM)

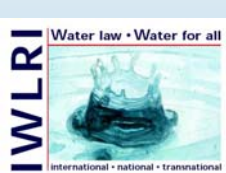
Aim => Minimize loss of life from flooding
=> Maximize the efficient use of flood plains



Role of Law



Requirements on the national level





Selected focus themes

Land Use Planning Controls

Legal aspects of flood forecasting and warning

Legal aspects of public participation



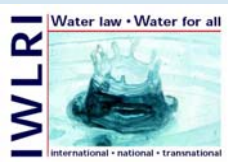


Land use planning controls

- Flood hazard identification (hazard maps)
- Regulated development of flood plains (spatial planning/ land use legislation)
- Flood proofing of structures (building codes)
- Introduction of flood risk assessment to development activities (urban, forestry, agriculture)
- Guidance on best practice for agriculture
- Regulation through incentives and disincentives (insurance)



Flood Forecasting and Warning

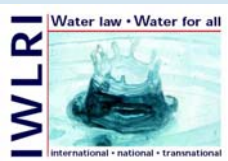


- Define responsibilities for provision of flood forecasting, warning and emergency response
- Rights of access to relevant data and ensuring their availability (basin wide)
- Obligatory broadcasting of flood warnings on the mass media
- Define liability issues in cases of failure (warn too late, inaccurately or where no warning is required)



Public participation

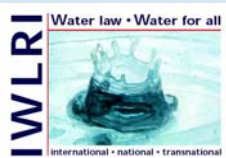
- Granting rights of access to adequate information to the public for informed decision making
- Establishing procedures for environmental impact assessment in planning decisions
- Institutionalizing community participation in flood management activities on the local level
 - Formal constitution of Community Flood Management Cells
- Providing for flood preparedness of the population (e.g. emergency drills)





Key Considerations for International Water Courses

- IFM as part of wider legal frameworks for protection and utilization of int. water courses
- Reconciliation of conflicting interests through “Equitable and reasonable utilization”
- Procedural rules for
 - Exchange of data and information
 - Public participation
 - Dispute settlement
 - Specifying the role of joint institutions

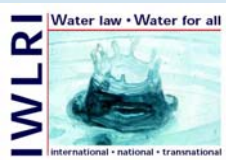




Concluding Remarks

- Provisions to be mainstreamed into a broad range of sectoral legislation on all administrative scales
- Due consideration of enforceability
- Issues of wider sustainability to be mainstreamed into flood policy and legislation
- Policy, legal and institutional arrangements to be harmonized and flexible enough to provide for changing environment
- Legislative arrangements to be complemented by other available mechanisms (economic, social and cultural)





Thank you!

Further Information:

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