Session IV: Drawing upon Data and Technology for Decision Support

Interactive Session

Now What?

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

Building Capacity for Accessing Disruptive Technologies for Improved Water Resources Management under Climate Change

14-15 January 2020, Beirut, Lebanon

Group Discussion I

Opportunities for using disruptive technologies for Informing decision making

What are the key CHALLENGES that can be addressed better with disruptive tech?

- Post-conflict context
- Filling Data Gaps (e.g. hydrological indices) esp given loss of monitoring systems (security issues) & for remote places; Enhance Reliability/Integrity of data
- Explore linkages in IWRM (e.g. water and agr, environment)
- Lack of Personnel (eg: retired) – get new skills (e.g. IT) – use of DT/AI
- Management practices; standardized approaches (unifying standards) with DT
- Enhanced communication (e.g. raising public awareness for key issues e.g. CC), Sharing Good Practices, Capacity Building
- Strategic planning (eg benchmarking)
- Transboundary Water Resources management (basins, aquifers) – data/analytics

Group Discussion I

Opportunities for using disruptive technologies for Informing decision making

What are the key types of disruptive technologies that could be helpful for your context?

- Web Portal – for data, knowledge, models
- Use of GIS, Remote Sensing – integrating WRM with Agr – how to access info on this?
- SCADA (e.g. for treatment stations); violations of water network (e.g. Disi pipeline)
- Cloud services; Web 3
- Using modern software (currently old/pirated) – esp online
- New generations trained on IT – don't resist change!
- AI/ML – computerized algorithms for modeling
- Real-time monitoring and analysis systems
- Smart Agriculture (using least water); Microsheds/MicroFarming

Group Discussion II

Capacity development for different stakeholder groups based on identified opportunities

What are the key Stakeholder Groups that we need to consider? E.g.:

- Government – planning & real-time (e.g. sectors - agr, energy, industry)
- Academia – introduce DT in university curricula
- CSOs/NGOs/Private Sector
- Youth – future leaders
- End-users (farmers, etc.)
- Providers of the services (e.g. UN related agencies to facilitate access)

Group Discussion II

Capacity development for different stakeholder groups based on identified opportunities Roadmap

How can capacity be best developed in the coming year or two? E.g.:

- Mashreq Data Platform
- Interactive E-books
- Select appropriate people to train - Follow-up from Trainers
- Virtual Learning Series (topics)
  - E.g. using/validating data from satellites
  - How to access/extract data & who can do this
  - Hydrological and Climate Change Models
  - Good estimates of Loss/Damage/Degradation/Impact Assessment data
  - Flood Risk models
- Intensive Workshops
- Training of Officials (e.g. Engineers)
- Convince policy makers about need for Capacity Development
- Converge viewpoints across countries
- Concentrate on knowhow/capacity building/scholarships in key ministries
- AdHoc advice