



“Joining Forces in a Global Flood Partnership”

4th Workshop of the Global Flood Working Group

4-6 March, Reading, UK

<http://portal.gdacs.org/2014-Flood-Workshop>

http://www.ecmwf.int/newsevents/meetings/workshops/2014/Global_Flood_WG/index.html

Each year, floods cause devastating losses and damage across the world. Growing population in ill-planned flood prone coastal and riverine areas are increasingly exposed to more extreme rainfall events. With more population and economic asset at risk, governments, banks, international development and relief agencies, and private firms are investing in flood reduction measures. However, in many countries, the flood risk is not managed optimally because of lack of scientific data and methods or a communication gap between science and risk managers.

The **Global Flood Working Group** is a multi-disciplinary group of scientists, operational agencies and flood risk managers focused on developing efficient and effective global flood tools that can address these challenges. The goals of the group are (1) to develop and improve global flood forecasting and monitoring systems, (2) to deploy these systems in a global flood observatory tracking floods in near real-time, (3) to build a global flood record suitable for flood risk assessment and (4) to make these tools available to organizations and countries that need them.

The **4th Workshop** of the Global Flood Working Group will be hosted by the **European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts, in Reading, United Kingdom, from 4 to 6 March 2014**. The aim of this year’s meeting is to build a Global Flood Partnership and to structure the many ongoing work and initiatives in a coordinated manner to develop prototype products and services useful for national hydro-meteorological services and international emergency response agencies.

Application

The meeting is open to **beneficiaries, scientists, experts and practitioners** in the field of global flood forecasting and monitoring who are **interested in contributing to the Global Flood Partnership** with (prototype) operational systems, data, knowledge and networks. The three day workshop will explore ways to coordinate existing efforts in an effective way with a common objective. Each of the five strands of the Global Flood Partnership (see below) will be coordinated by key organizations, including the UNISDR, WMO, World Bank GFDRR, Dartmouth Flood Observatory and European Commission JRC.

Attendance will be limited to around 70 participants, who will be **selected based on their potential contributions to the Global Flood Partnership** by the following criteria: (1) global or regional scope, (2) existing (sustainable) capacity, (3) interoperable/collaborative approach. **Application deadline (using on-line template) is 15 January 2014. Selection will be confirmed by 20 January 2014.**

Global Flood Partnership

The overall objective of the Global Flood Partnership is the development of flood observational and modelling infrastructure, leveraging on existing initiatives for better predicting and managing flood disaster impacts and flood risk globally.

The Global Flood Partnership is composed of the following five main components (see full concept paper for more details):

- **Global Flood Toolbox:** A toolbox of open data, services and models for supporting flood risk mapping and assessment (now and under changing climate), early warning and impact analysis, complements by training programs
- **Global Flood Observatory:** Provides operational global flood forecasting and monitoring services, including a group of experts providing up to 30 day flood forecasts and impact analysis for major floods
- **Global Historical Flood Record:** Develops and maintains a global flood hazard and loss record according to international standards
- **Global Flood Training and Capacity Building Program:** Provides training modules for flood monitoring capacity building and maintenance in developing countries and international organizations, which can be integrated in existing training programs of major development banks and agencies
- **Global Flood User Forum:** holds regular meetings between all partners in focused workshops to ensure that user needs are driving innovation and development.

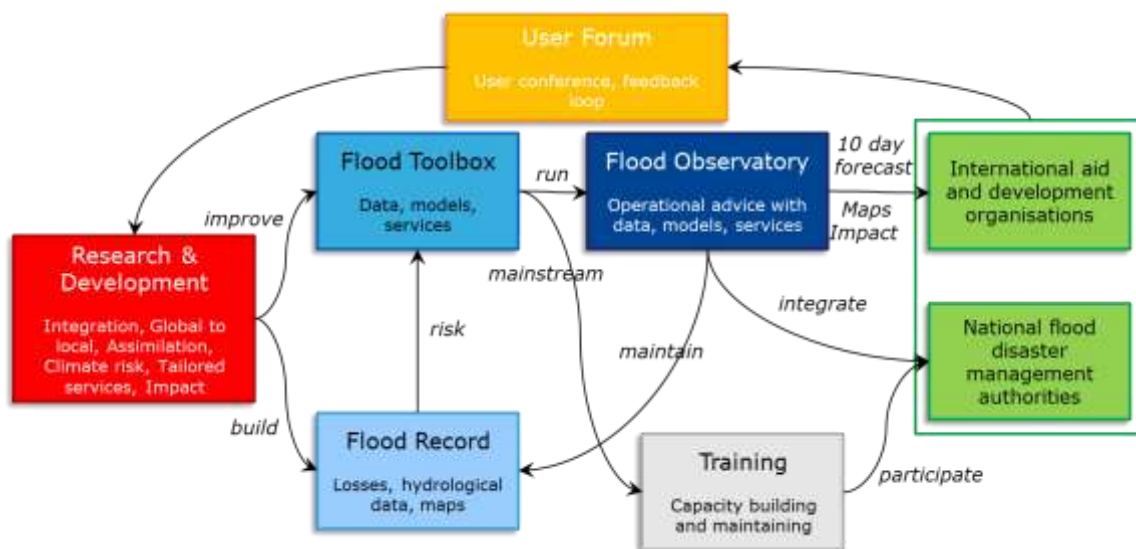


Figure 1. Overview of the core components in the Global Flood Partnership and their links. Blue: core deliverables (Flood Toolbox, Flood Observatory and Flood Record), Red: research program driving innovation; Grey: training programs facilitating adoption and capacity building; Green: beneficiaries: both international and national stakeholders; Orange: User forum driving innovation.

Read more on <http://portal.gdacs.org/Global-Flood-Partnership>

Draft agenda for the 4th Workshop of the Global Flood Working Group

Venue: European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts, Reading, UK

4-6 March 2014

Day 1 – Global Flood Partnership: ambitions and implementation

09:00 Setting the scene

- Presentation of the Global Flood Partnership (GFP)
- Round table of participants: potential role in GFP
- Presentations on initiatives with regional or global scope that are coordinating research, capacity building or operational systems regarding floods

13:00 Building the partnership

Break-out sessions by GFP pillar, moderated by GFP coordinators:

- Who are the partners? What needs coordination? How to coordinate? What are the outcomes? Objectives for 2014, 2015? What can be done with available resources?

Evening activity

Day 2 – Gaps and recent advances in science: looking ahead

09:00-17:00 Review of latest research and developments

Around 20 plenary scientific and technical talks in the following themes

- Global Flood Forecasting: validation and benchmarking results
- Global Flood Detection and Mapping: validation and benchmarking results
- Flood event data recording: operational databases and improved standards
- Training and capacity building: transferring global science-based systems to national governments or international agencies

17:00 Poster session for other work

Workshop dinner

Day 3 – Working together: developing realistic deliverables

09:00 Summary of working groups

- Who are the partners?
- What can partners contribute?
- How can they contribute: standards, data sharing?
- Work needed to integrate data: who will do this?
- Meeting schedule
- Deliverables

11:00 Cross-cutting issues

- Open data policy, funding

12:00 Plenary round table

13:00 Adjourn

Registration

The workshop registration is free, but travel and subsistence is at the participant's cost. Because places are limited, registration is not automatic. In order to best reach the objectives of the workshop, the organizers will select participants based on their contribution and their interest in participating in the Global Flood Partnership.

Attendance will be limited to around 70 participants, who will be selected based on their potential contributions to the Global Flood Partnership by the following criteria:

1. global or regional scope: preference will be given to contributions with global or regional scope.
2. existing (sustainable) capacity: preference will be given to contributions that have demonstrated results and are running in (pre-) operational mode serving well-identified users using sustainable funding.
3. interoperable/collaborative approach: preference will be given to organisations and projects that have integrated multiple systems and stakeholders using interoperable and collaborative approaches.

The following types of contributions are encouraged:

- **Scientific organisations: creating integrated flood monitoring systems with global scope**
 - Global flood forecasting, monitoring and observations systems
 - Global flood damage and impact assessment systems (including mapping, damage assessments, economic losses, human losses)
 - Global flood risk assessment methodologies and systems
 - Global flood related data, including digital elevation, flood protection measures (dams, dykes, levees), real-time gauging data, etc.
- **Users: using science for operations and policy**
 - Capacity building of national hydromet, civil protection and emergency services: using global data and services in national systems
 - Regional networks of flood authorities and scientific organisations: showing best practices for collaboration, running operational systems
 - Global flood response agencies: needs and uses of flood data for operations

Apply on-line at <http://portal.gdacs.org/2014-Flood-Registration> and provide a 500-1000 word description of your contribution.

Application deadline is **Wednesday 15 January 2014**.

Selection will be confirmed by **Monday 20 January 2014**. Please don't make travel arrangements before receiving confirmation.

Contacts

Hosting organisation

European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts
globalflood@lists.ecmwf.int

Chair

Tom De Groeve
Joint Research Centre of the European Commission
tom.de-groeve@jrc.ec.europa.eu