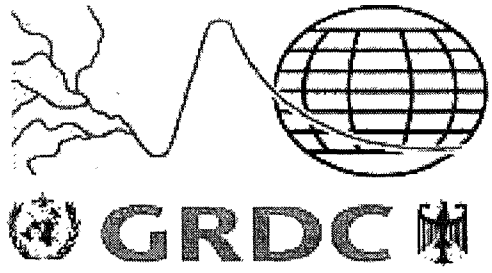
Weltdatenbank Abfluß
Bundesanstalt für Gewässerkunde
Koblenz, Deutschland

Global Runoff Data Centre
Federal Institute of Hydrology
Koblenz, Germany

Report No. 23

Report on the Fourth Meeting of the GRDC Steering Committee, Koblenz, Germany, 23 - 25 June 1999



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4. GRDC at the Federal Institute of Hydrology: Review and perspectives for development

4.1 Mr. Wetzel presented a review of the inputs provided by BfG to GRDC, for which it provides the core funding. Funding includes staff salaries, provision of office space and office infrastructure, as well as data processing facilities and support to travel of GRDC staff. The presentation highlighted the support structure and facilities provided by BfG, which showed a budget increase of 72 % from 1994 to 1998. The financial development in the years 2000 through 2002 foresees (without staff costs) an increase of 18%, especially in terms of data processing capacity, research, publications and external support contracts. In the three-year perspective to staff development until 2002, an additional resource person for GIS-systems is planned as well as an increase of administrative assistance.

4.2 Mr. Wetzel called on members of the Committee to lobby for additional funding of GRDC from other countries and governmental and non-governmental donors. He highlighted the demands of services which cannot be borne from core funding of a single agency or country but should reflect the international character of the research community which is served by GRDC.

4.3 The scientific support of BfG will focus on three aspects: development of water balance models, aspects of regionalization and support in the development of GIS-systems.

4.4 The figures and tables of the presentation are reprinted in Annex 3 of this report.

4.5 The SC welcomed BfG's plans to increase the resources it provides to GRDC. The Committee warmly thanked BfG for the excellent support it provides to GRDC, the strong commitment of Germany to GRDC and, through BfG, recorded its appreciation to the relevant German authorities.

4.6 The Committee also agreed to search for collateral funds to enable GRDC to fulfil its tasks.

4.7 Mr. Diop, the representative of UNEP, confirmed that agencies intend to explore for additional resources in collaboration with GIWA/GEMS/Water/GPA in activities such as mapping of river basins with regard to quantity and quality.

4.8 The Committee further recommended to use EURAQUA contacts to support secondment of staff to GRDC and prepare joint proposals to EU for work in data sparse regions.

4.9 Participants expressed the hope that other sources of support could be found through international organisations, contracts and support from other national agencies.

5. Report of GRDC activities

5.1 An executive summary of key GRDC activities in the interim period between the third and the fourth meeting of the GRDC-SC was presented by Mr. W. Grabs (Annex 4).

combined high resolution runoff field. The publication had been executed as a joint project with the University of New Hampshire, USA.

12.5 With respect to the newly developed Climate and Cryosphere Programme (CLIC), WCRP would like to see a response from GRDC as to whether the Centre would be prepared to assemble the data on glacial and ice-sheet runoff. The Committee discussed the problems involved in accessing such kind of data and requested by CLIC and asked GRDC to consult on the possibilities of obtaining and archiving such data for use in CLIC.

12.6 World Climate Programme Water (WCP-Water)

12.6.1 Under the new formulation of WCP-Water, GRDC would work with the programme, but it will no longer be listed as a WCP-Water project as GRDC has grown to be a permanent body. Mr. Pilon reported on new developments in WCP-Water. For many years, it had focussed its major research efforts on a number of aspects linked to climate change issues. The programme can play an important and even stronger role in the future, as it has recently gone through a refocusing process. This process has resulted in an even sharper concentration of efforts on these pertinent issues. It has been decided that WCP-Water should concentrate on two main activity areas where especially the first one is envisaged to be addressed in the immediate future. The two proposed areas are:

A. Hydrological studies in the context of climate variability and change; and
B. Application of climate and enhanced hydrological information in planning, design and operation of water resources systems.

12.6.2 It is obvious that there is a clear link between the two proposed activity areas in that the first area will provide important, and necessary, input to the second area. Area B is in reality an application of whatever results emerge from A. It was thus natural that the decision was made to initially concentrate on the first activity area mentioned above. The proposal is that efforts should be directed to an assessment of historical data for various geographical regions. It is important to note that the data for the analyses must meet a stringent list of requirements. These requirements would or could be considered as meta-data. In this framework, it is hoped that GRDC will continue to support WCP-Water by maintaining the historical data and the meta-data associated with the refocused WCP-Water initiatives.

13. Status of WHYCOS (WMO) and links with GRDC

13.1 The SC was briefed about the current status of WHYCOS projects and the state of development of already funded WHYCOS projects such as MED-HYCOS in the Mediterranean region and SADC-HYCOS in countries of southern AFRICA. Further development of HYCOS sub-projects and the envisaged mechanism to link these regional HYCOS-projects into WHYCOS were presented. At present, the level of interest for HYCOS-projects in different regions is far beyond the capacity of project preparation and funding opportunities.

13.2 Twelfth WMO Congress (1995) noted the link between WHYCOS and GRDC. The link with MED-HYCOS is rather weak and there is at present no direct link with SADC-HYCOS. In a situation where there is an urgent demand for near real-time data, this situation is not satisfactory. The Committee discussed the data needs and the state of development of WHYCOS and concluded that the WMO Secretariat should be more pro-active in facilitating links between different HYCOS projects and GRDC so as to guarantee a flow of basic

QC	Quality Control
RBA	River Basin Authority
SADC	South African Development Community
SATAC	Southern African Technical Advisory Committee
SC	Steering Committee
STN-30p	Simulated topological network at 30-minute spatial resolution (from UNH)
UN	United Nations
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNH	University of New Hampshire, USA
WCP-Water	World Climate Programme - Water
WCRP	World Climate Research Programme
WHIPD	World Hydrology Initiative for Policy and Development – substituted by HELP
WHYCOS	World Hydrological Cycle Observing System (WMO)

Annex 4

Executive summary (activities since third meeting)

Vision Statement

Personal

Dr. Takeo Kinosita,Japan

1. *Data Quality:*
Quality of data stored in GRDC should be strictly assured.

The data check system must be established in GRDC. In addition, GRDC must ask all data providers to check the data before sending to GRDC.

I already presented this concept at the past SC of GRDC. I want to present it again because of its importance.

2. *Future Development of the Organization:*
How the GRDC grows up in the future in order to satisfy the expanding requirement of data users?

Which is more preferable to develop the central organization or to establish local organizations (branch offices)? This item must be discussed from the users' viewpoint.

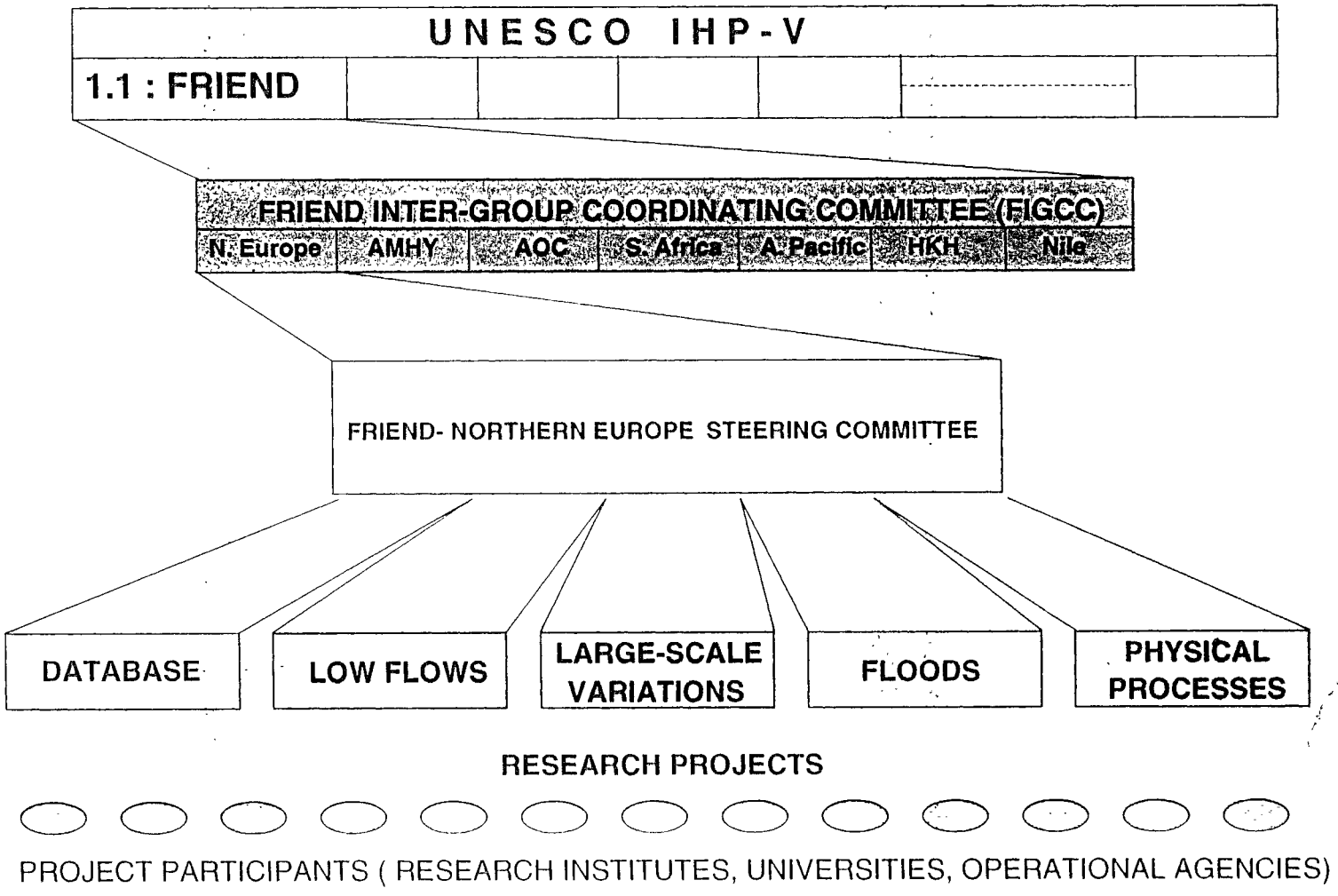
3. *Users' Workshop:*
Users' workshop should be held in the future on the voluntary basis.

GRDC should know users' real opinions and promote the use of data, moreover make the users' community for better management of GRDC.

Report No. 14 (February 1997)	The use of GRDC - information Review of data use 1993/1994. Status: January 1997
Report No. 15 (June 1997)	Third Interim Report on the Arctic River Data Base (ARDB) for the Arctic Climate System Study (ACSYS): Plausibility Control and Data Corrections (Technical Report)
Report No. 16 (August 1997)	The GRDC Database. Concept and Implementation.
Report No. 17 (Sept. 1997)	Report on the Third Meeting of the GRDC Steering Committee, Koblenz, Germany June 25-27, 1997
Report No. 18 (July 1998)	GRDC Status Report 1997
Report No. 19 (August 1998)	Evaluation of Statistical Properties of Discharge Data of Stations Discharging Into the Oceans - Europe and Selected World-Wide Stations - (F. Portmann)
Report No. 20 (July 1998)	Water Resources Development and the Availability of Discharge Data in WMO Region II (Asia) and V (South-West Pacific)
Report No. 21 (Sept. 1998)	Analysis of long runoff series of selected rivers of the Asia-Pacific region in relation with climate change and El Niño effects (Prof. Daniel Cluis)
Report No. 22 (Mai 1999)	Global Composite Runoff Fields on Observed River Discharge and Simulated Water Balances.

Annex 8

Presentation of Dr Gustard, overview of FRIEND



Institute of Hydrology

NORTHERN EUROPEAN FRIEND
PHASE IV: 1997-2001

PROJECT 2 - LOW FLOWS

Six main areas of research

0. The ARIDE project

1. Defining drought at a point of a river

2. Physically based models to understand hydrological processes at the catchment scale

3. Statistical modelling to estimate low flow and drought parameters at the regional scale

4. Applying statistical approaches to analyse spatial and temporal characteristics across Europe

5. Applying physical-based approaches to analyse spatial and temporal characteristics across Europe

6. Future streamflows/droughts and environmental changes for specific regions