Opportunities of river floods

Recommendations Norway

DO:
• Find out how people perceive and respond to flood information
• Incorporate social elements like perception, communication and participation in your risk management organisation and strategy.
• Tailor-made information for various groups within the community and communicate it at the lowest level appropriate.
• The authorities should invest in a long term trust relation with the wider public with a well designed communication plan.

DON’T:
• Allow different perceptions of each other responsibilities.
• Use “experts’ language” when communicating to the locals.
• Let flood control be the business of only experts and administrators. Or in the case of transboundary river systems be the business of only one country.
Opportunities of river floods

Recommendations France

DO:
• Work on integrated river basin management (combine upstream and downstream regions in one plan, support solidarity within the basin).
• Use the bottom-up approach.
• Identify the work owners/contracting authorities.
• Combine flood management and development of positive aspects of living along the river (environment, leisure,…) to realise a more active relationship between the local people and the river.

DON`T:
• Focus only on hydraulics defence.
• Start too late with public participation.
Opportunities of river floods

Recommendations Mexico

**DO:**
- Get to know your drainage basin, their inhabitants, resources and limitations.
- Guarantee the continuity of knowledge and consultancy input.
- Evaluate effects and environmental impact of the actions applied in short, medium and long term.
- Outline the integral project and transfer it efficiently to users; in this way they feel that it is their own solution.

**DON’T:**
- Try to solve the problem of your basin with standardized projects without taking into account the opinion of their inhabitants.
- Start projects without having an integral vision in the mid-term of the research and without the access of the required funds
- Stick to traditional solutions if you already know that they don’t work.
Opportunities of river floods

Recommendations The Netherlands

DO:
- Arrange more flexibility of policies to explore new ways to live with river dynamics.
- Use new financial (market) mechanisms.
- Start communication and public involvement with all interested people in the very first stage of the project.
- Check during every meeting the derived conclusions of the previous meeting.

DON'T:
- Separate river safety measures and spatial planning policies.
- Present “ready to go” alternatives. Let the people really be involved in the design: It is not your project, it’s their project.
Opportunities of river floods

Recommendations China

DO:
• Recognize well-tailored livelihoods as the top priority and entering point.
• Arrange strong partnership with local agencies.
• Realize institutional arrangement in the local community.
• Use adaptive management.

DON`T:
• Separate wetlands conservation and poverty reduction, it can be combined very well!
Opportunities of river floods

DO:

1. Link flood risk management with “positive” aspects of a living river (leisure, landscape quality, biodiversity) to restore the natural relationship between communities and the river.
2. Start communication and public involvement in the very first stage of the project.
3. Use the bottom-up approach (joint planning approach = citizens bring in their ideas, experts elaborate them).
4. Implement integrated river basin management (combine upstream and downstream interests, identify synergies between economic and ecological interests via alternative land use. This is the basis for solidarity between stakeholders in a river basin.
5. Take care of a suitable institutional/policy climate to experiment with new livelihoods and alternative land use to prevent far reaching interventions in natural river systems.
Opportunities of river floods

DON´T:

1. Start too late with public participation.

2. Try to solve the problem of your basin with standardized projects without taking into account the opinion of their inhabitants.

3. Persist in carrying out flood protection measures which have been proven to be sub-optimal.

4. Separate river safety measures and spatial planning policies.

5. Present “ready to go” solutions for flood risks without previous intensive consultation of the wider public.