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## Annual Report

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January-December 2014

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SaciWATERs-CapNet Network  
(SCaN)

<http://www.saciwaters.org/scan>

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## About SaciWATERS-CapNet Network (SCaN)

SaciWATERS, the South Asia Consortium for Interdisciplinary Water Resources Studies, is a policy research institute based in Hyderabad, India. From its inception in 2001, it has focused on critical issues related to water resources management in South Asia. A key endeavour at SaciWATERS has been to enhance the dominant water resources management paradigm in the region with a consideration of all issues using a pro-poor human development approach. The emphasis is on the accumulation of new knowledge through a combination of research, capacity building, and advocacy. Accordingly, it partners with academic and research institutions, government as well as non-governmental organisations from across South to fundamentally reshape water resources knowledge systems in South Asia. Its solutions-oriented strategy is based on a platform of improved exchange, interaction and collaboration at a regional level.

SaciWATERS joined the Cap-Net Global Network in 2009 to provide a platform for working in partnership towards strengthening the human and institutional capacity in Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) across the South Asia region. The SaciWATERS-CapNet Network (SCaN) aims to integrate the available skills and knowledge, which are otherwise scattered throughout various institutions and disciplines.

Established during 2010, SCaN has successfully initiated activities in collaboration with various national, regional and international organisations. Through its capacity building activities it has been able to reach a diverse group of stakeholders such as academics, researchers, policymakers, donors and implementers. Realising the enormous demand for capacity building in the water sector across the region, SCaN plans to expand its activities manifold to further reach many more institutions and individuals.

## Progress of the Network

### Summary of Outputs (January – December 2014)

<b>Capacity Building Activities</b>	
Launching Workshop to develop a training manual on the 'Impact of Climate Variability in South Asia'	A task group of ten members representing different regions of South Asia and areas of expertise convened during the workshop to contribute to the development of a training manual.
Training on Inclusive, Gender & Justice Approaches in Water-Based Livelihoods	20 activists, NGO workers and academicians from India, Nepal and Bangladesh came together to discuss the challenges of practicing inclusive approaches in water based livelihoods.
<b>Networking and Knowledge development</b>	
Network managers' Meeting and MELP Training	The managers from Cap-Net affiliated networks met to revise and agree on practices for monitoring impact, assessing performance, and elaborating learning plans for increased efficiency in capacity development.
Training Programme on Hydro-diplomacy	In preparation for the development of a training material on water diplomacy, SCaN coordinator along with Cap-Net director, attended a hydro-diplomacy training programme at MIT, Boston
Compendium on the 'Impact of Climate Variability in South Asia'	Through the proceedings of the launching workshop on Climate variability, a compendium of case studies and information on Climate variability was generated.

## I. Capacity Building Activities:

### 1) Launching Workshop to develop a Training Manual on the Impact of Climate Variability in South Asia, Hyderabad, February 18th and 19th 2014.



SCaN in association with the Institute for Resource Analysis and Policy (IRAP), India and Cap-Net UNDP organised the launching workshop for the preparation of a training manual on 'Climate Variability and Impacts on Water, Energy and Food Security in South Asia' which was held in Hyderabad, India on the 18th and 19th of February 2014.

The objectives of the workshop were to create a South Asia level platform for informed debate on the ways to reduce the vulnerability of the region's water, energy and food systems to the impacts of climate variability and synthesising multi level information into a training manual.

The workshop comprised a task group of 10 participants, 6 of whom were experts from different disciplines of the field of water and who were high level professionals. There were 5 representatives from IRAP, 3 from SaciWATERS and 2 international participants representing South Asia region of Nepal and Sri Lanka.

The content of the workshop explored the existing literature, principles, concepts, philosophies and issues relating to Climate Variability globally, but focussed its debate and discussions on Climate Variability in the South Asian region especially the gaps in information available in the literature. The three main areas of debate were

1. How climate variability impacts on water resources and the manner in which they affect the water, energy and food systems in the region;
2. Their impact on the socio-economic systems, particularly the poor and the vulnerable sections (vis-à-vis water security, food and nutritional security, livelihood security and health); and
3. The adaptive water management approaches in the larger framework of integrated water resources management that would mitigate these impacts.

The gaps identified and discussion generated in the workshop was condensed into an informal task list. The experts who attended the workshop would carry out location studies in their respective countries to fill these gaps, and write papers. These papers will feed into the development of modules. The training manual is expected to be used in one of the forthcoming training programmes, to be organized by IRAP-SaciWATERS in collaboration with WALAMTARI, Hyderabad.

*A compendium of already synthesised material has been generated since the proceedings of the launching workshop.*

## **2) Training Programme on Inclusive, Gender and Justice Approaches in Water-Based Livelihoods, Bhavnagar, April 23-27, 2014.**



Utthan, an independent NGO with more than 30 years of experience working with marginalized populations in four districts of Gujarat, with the support of SCaN held a

training programme on 'Inclusive, Gender & Justice Approaches in Water-Based Livelihoods' in Bhavnagar, Gujarat from April 23-27 2014. The training brought together development sector professionals and activists from Bangladesh, Nepal and across India to raise their awareness and hone their practical skills on challenges to inclusive development in the water-based livelihoods sector.

It imparted an analytical framework as well as strategies for integrating broad-based gender, religious and socio-economic equity through democratic mechanisms to ensure the sustainability of water-based livelihoods among vulnerable populations. The trainees completed modules on gender equality, sustainability and democratization, institution building, common property resources, project management, and appropriate technology for inclusive development. Field visits to three villages, role-play games, and case study analysis were used to reinforce the messages of the training. Training facilitators included Mr. Shalabh Mittal of the Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India, Ms. Seema Kulkarni of SOPPECOM, and Ms. Nafisa Barot of Utthan.

## **II. Networking and Knowledge Development**

### **1) Network managers' Meeting and MELP Training - Delft, the Netherlands, April 23 to 25, 2014**

From the 23-25 of April 2014, managers from Cap-Net affiliated networks met at Delft, The Netherlands, to revise and agree on practices for monitoring impact, assessing performance, and elaborating learning plans for increased efficiency in capacity development.

The sessions were guided by Cap-Net's "MELP -Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning Plan"; a document prepared to ensure adequate monitoring of the project and assist partner networks monitor their own activities. Discussions and presentations centered on how to plan for monitoring and evaluation, 5 tools that would help networks with their MELP, planning short courses and the associated financial considerations, measurement of impacts and finally a detailing of how to implement the MELP.

The training course allowed for a sharing of experiences, an analysis of methods and strategies to apply the tools discussed, and the relevance of the information both for the success of the networks as well as for the Cap-Net Programme. Various committees were formed to relook at the existing monitoring tools of Cap-Net and improve them further based on the learnings of the training programme.

The Network managers were expected to collate feedback from participants as to how relevant the training programmes conducted through the local Cap-Net network was in terms of practical application. A goal was set for the end of 2014 that each partner network will have an available MELP report.

## **2) Participant at Training Programme on Hydro-diplomacy, MIT Boston, 23-28 June 2014**

As per Cap-Net's strategy for 2014-17 Water Diplomacy is one of the important thematic areas Cap-Net would like to focus on in the coming three years. Dr Neena Rao, SCaN, South Asia, Network Manager was invited to lead the team at the global level for the development of the training material manual.

As a first step towards this preparation Cap-Net funded Dr. Neena Rao and Director Cap-Net Themba Gumbo to attend a training programme on Hydro-Diplomacy at MIT, Boston from the 23<sup>rd</sup> to the 28<sup>th</sup> of June 2014.

The programme was conducted by Dr. Shafiq ul-Islam and Lawrence Susskind, experts in the field of water diplomacy. The five day learning experience combined the science of water with the negotiation instruction methodologies developed by the Program on Negotiation at Harvard Law School. Interactive lectures, problem-solving method instruction, and role-play simulations helped participants learn the techniques and strategies presented in the Water Diplomacy Framework, equipping them to teach others in their agencies, organizations, universities, or communities.

### **Topics discussed at the training programme**

- Water Diplomacy Framework: Assumptions, Propositions, Systems and Networks
- Using Stakeholder Assessment to Manage Networks
- Managing "Wicked" water problems: Complexity and Uncertainty
- Characterizing and Managing Water as a flexible Resource
- Designing and implementing Joint fact Finding
- Challenging the Conventional Water Management Paradigm

Apart from the training programme the Cap-Net representatives also had meetings with the Tufts and MIT faculty regarding training material development on Hydro-Diplomacy for Cap-Net.

## **III. Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Plan (MELP)**

In order to improve the learnings from the capacity building programmes and ensure appropriate and adequate monitoring, Cap-Net UNDP, which is a Network of Networks spread across 23 countries for training and capacity in building in ' Sustainable Water Resource Management' has initiated Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning'( MELP) activity in the year 2014.

As a response to this initiative SCaN, the South Asia Regional Network of Cap-Net hosted at SaciWATERS, Hyderabad undertook evaluation of its training programmes organized during the year 2013( Jan- Dec).

**The objectives of this evaluation are to:**

- Summarise the results in terms of; the number of people trained, country, subject etc.
- Evaluate, analyse and describe the main outcomes of the network's select activities in the period and the prospect for further impact.
- Describe the opportunities and challenges that were faced while conducting the activities so that lessons can be learnt for the future.

Out of the six training programmes conducted by SCaN during the year (Jan- Dec) 2013, three training activities were selected for evaluation after a time lag of six to eight months. Of these three selected training programmes, feedback was collected via email from the participants of two training programmes. A web link to the documentary film that was developed based on the third training programme is presented as a Case Study in the MELP report as well.

Overall it was a very productive and fruitful exercise for SCaN as it helped the Network understand its strengths and weaknesses and learn lessons to move forward for better performance. The details of the MELP exercise can be found in the MELP report.

## **IV. Network Management**

### **1. New Partnerships:**

SCaN has started enhancing its outreach to many more individuals and institutions active in the water sector. SCaN is reaching out to the Government Institutions and Country UNDP offices in South Asia as well as the South Asian Countries counterparts of Global Water Partnerships GWP.

2. SCaN has also submitted a proposal for a training programme at South Asia level that linking IWRM Centres in South Asian Countries to different International funding agencies such as IDRC Canada

3. SCaN is entering into partnership with the TATA Management Training Centre (TMTC) that is run by the leading TATA Group of Industries, one of the largest private sector players from South Asia well known across the Globe. As a result of that a beginning was made by TMTC by sending their lead trainer to conduct a session on leadership skills during the South Asia level CapNet training programme in Kathmandu.

4. New members from higher educational institution of AP STATE have applied for membership as an outcome of the round table conference, as well as the three other training programmes.

5. New members have been acquired post the ToT in SSWM from participants across India and Asia.

As per the workplan for 2014, the following were the activities that we wanted to focus on:

The SCaN proposes following network management activities to be taken up during 2014: (i) Establishment of the Core Group and further strengthening of Operational guidelines; (ii) Promotion and strengthening of network; (iii) Website Update and maintenance; and (iv) Membership database management

Due to financial constraints this annual year, networking activities were stalled. Technical issues affected the website and its maintenance. This was proactively taken up as a priority issue and a viable version of the website will be published by the beginning of the new year.

## V. Other Activities

### **Cap-Net Board Meeting, Stockholm, August 27<sup>th</sup> 2014**

Dr. Neena Rao along with other elected Network Managers; Damian Indij and Wangai, participated in the board meeting at Stockholm, Sweden along with Cap-Net Director Mr. Themba Gumbo, Cap-Net Official Kees, Chair of Cap-Net Board Joakim Harlin, external reviewer of Cap-Net, Mr Chris Rao from the UK, other representatives from donors and staff from UNESCO-IHE, GWP, and UNOPS.

The agenda for the meeting was to discuss; 1) the progress made by Capnet during the year 2013-2014, 2) changes in the work plan and reasons for the same in 2014. The main focus however of this meeting was to discuss the first draft presented by the external reviewers on how Cap-Net could become more sustainable.

The main objectives stated for the review was to assess the following:

- The outcomes of the Cap-Net Phase III Programme and the implementation of recommendations from earlier reviews
- The programme's relevance, appropriateness, efficiency, effectiveness and sustainability
- The programme's impact on water resource management (WRM)
- To provide recommendations for the future.

Cap-Net has decided to focus on the effectiveness and capacity of its networks and programmes to generate concrete impact in the context of improved water resources management and service delivery on the ground. In order to support this effort Cap-Net

has made MELP( Monitoring, Evaluation and learning) its priority this year. In this context, earlier this year Cap-Net organized a training programme on MELP for all the Network Managers.

Financial sustainability and fundraising options and were also discussed in the context of the financial crunch that manifested this year wherein most of the training activities across networks were suspended.