



The Numerical Modelling-Policy Interface (NMPI) Network: a global platform to improve the uptake of numerical models in water resources management and policy

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Although the application of environmental models is ubiquitous, there remain serious problems and issues with respect to their efficacy and the context within which they are developed and then applied. Models are often conceptualized, developed, applied and evaluated without proper reference to the policy and management context they are intended for. Applied to investigate sustainability at any geographic scale, this low level of care and interaction between model developers (e.g., scientists and engineers), model users (e.g., engineers, planners, and managers) and model stakeholders (e.g., affected living populations) is not only likely wasteful, but potentially harmful. The need for a thorough reassessment of the rationale behind the development and use of environmental models is now more than ever an imperative. The latter is especially true in the implementation of integrated water resources management.

This submission will present the outcome of two workshops of the Numerical Modelling-Policy Interface (NMPI) initiative organised under the auspice of the University of Stuttgart and the British Geological Survey. The first workshop sought to

analyse, define and document the gap between research results (especially but not restricted to numerical modelling) and policy / strategy implementation. Under the theme of "Operationalizing Adaptive Capacity", it aimed to develop an international network of multi-disciplinary scientists and practitioners to set an agenda for research to close the gap between the development of models and the uptake of their results by policy makers. A follow-up meeting in Nottingham, England implemented findings from the meeting in Stuttgart. In summary, both workshops contributed to:

a. To the development a network of multidisciplinary scientists to systematically assess, define & document the gap between numerical modelling and policy development; b. To develop a research agenda driven by the findings from objective a; c. To the development international research consortia to actualize the research agenda set out in objective b.

The NMPI Network has a global reach with nodes in Europe, North America, Africa, Latin America and Asia. The workshops are a product of ongoing dialogue with the research directorate of the European Commission and similar organisations in North America.