



HEPEX status report

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The basic goal of HEPEX is to develop and test procedures to produce reliable hydrological ensemble forecasts, and to demonstrate their utility in decision making related to the water, environmental and emergency management sectors. HEPEX activities are discussed and planned at occasional workshops. The first HEPEX workshop at ECMWF in March, 2004 initiated the project and defined goals and science objectives. The second workshop at NCAR in July, 2005 outlined an implementation strategy and established 8 test-bed projects.

Annual reports from these 8 test-bed projects are on the HEPEX web site. A HEPEX Test Bed is a setting for HEPEX-community experiments. A test bed could be a single basin (and its sub-basins), a region containing multiple basins, or possibly a global collection of basins that facilitate experiments addressing questions over a range of scales and climates. Regardless of geographical domain, test beds focus on one or more clearly defined HEPEX scientific topic, have the potential to develop data resources needed for community experiments to address the questions, and are expected to include active user participation. Six of them represent a variety of basins or sub-basins with different terrain, climatology, hydrological issues, data densities, and amount of regulation of upstream flows in the basin. The remaining two test beds are focused on development and inter-comparison of scientific approaches that cross-cut the other six test beds.

This presentation will include a survey of the test-bed projects and the development of supporting shared data sets that are beginning to emerge from the projects. It will include a brief review of affiliations with other organizations such as GEWEX, WMO Hydrology and Water Resources Program, THORPEX/TIGGE, IAHS/PUB, GEO/GEOSS, UNESCO and regional and national weather, climate and hydrologic services. Finally it will highlight some future directions for HEPEX beginning with

the next HEPEX workshop at Stresa, Italy, June, 2007, to be hosted by the EU JRC