



# Coordinating European water research for poverty reduction

**Anne Blenkinsopp**  
Department for International  
Development, UK





# What is SPLASH?

- An Era Net - a National Government level collaboration 17 partners from 12 different European countries. Austria, Belgium, Czech Rep, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Norway, Switzerland, Sweden, UK
- Funded EC FP 6 – coordination action, ‘glue’ funds for partners.

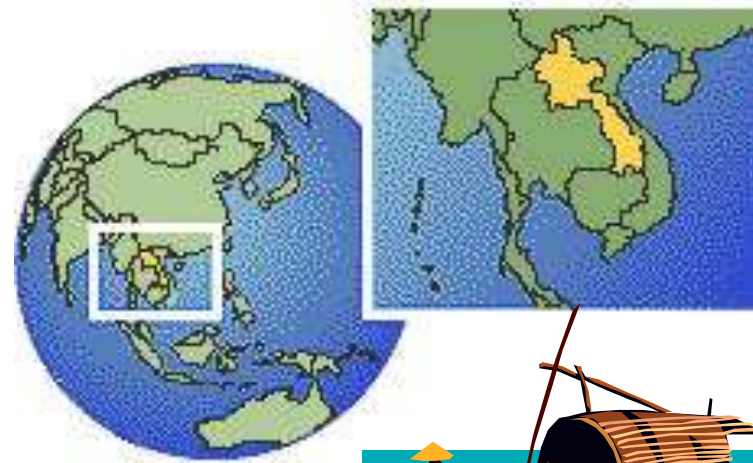
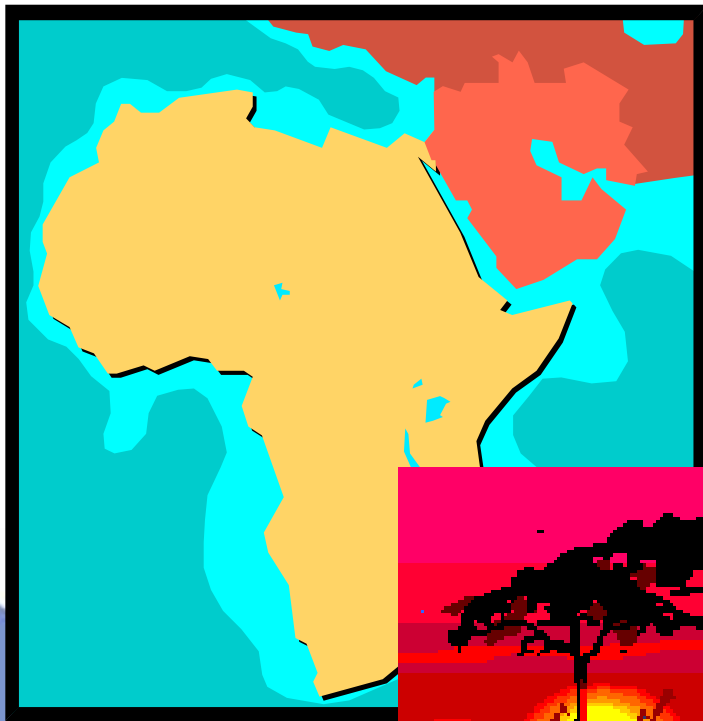


# SPLASH Objectives Jan 07 – Dec 2010

1. Improve coordination of water research for development between European countries, to reduce duplication enhance progress to MDGs
2. Understand and synthesise effective research management & practice, and ensure it is used
3. Speed up transfer of results into practice and policy
4. Agree a research agenda and jointly funded activities which will benefit from a trans-national approach



# Where and why?





# Who and how?





## Lessons:

1. Too much duplication, not using existing knowledge
2. Southern involvement weak and asymmetric
3. High admin burdens (procedures differ)
4. Stakeholder engagement low (prevents ownership)
5. Objectives not clear (poor communication/procedures)
6. Inadequate dissemination, (funds and formats)
7. Capacity development impacts unclear
8. Impacts and outcomes unclear



## **Work programme developed from 2 page concept notes:**

- Fit with overall SPLASH objectives, remain valid, and lessons learned.
- Consult and work with existing structures, more sustainable e.g. EUWI, Capnet, AGWNet
- Value for money, developing country demand/need, partners/initiatives, capacity development impact

# Progress towards objectives 2009/2010

## 1. Improve coordination:

- Tools also improve access to info

[http://www.splash-era.net/search\\_dbs.php](http://www.splash-era.net/search_dbs.php)

- Ethiopia.
- Volta and Niger Basins – ppr trialog





## **2. Good research management practice is known and used:**

1. Design of SPLASH sanitation research programme incorporates good practice recommendations – North/South asymmetry funds and processes, dissemination, simple common procedures, stakeholder mapping and dialogue etc.
2. Research Management training materials – open access, distance learning format, developed with users.
3. Sharing SPLASH findings, events, website, fact sheets.



### 3. Ensure that research results are used:

- Support to the AGWN – Africa Ground water Network (Germany, Switzerland) – Jo'burg July 2009 and Togo April 2010.
- Trialogue platforms
- Mekong synthesise and share state of knowledge with all stakeholders re water availability and predictions, financial models, decision making processes.



## 4. Jointly funded Activities and Research

Real common pot. >2 Million Euro. Austria (ADA), UK (DFID), France (MAEE), Sweden (Sida) Switzerland (SDC), Gates Foundation.

Consultation, workshop, stakeholders Ethiopia, and SAC – key questions, content and process..

2 stage process simple common procedures, launched in March 2010.

Sustainable delivery of sanitation services urban areas.

Overarching long term management to ensure programmatic benefits – sharing and dissemination, aggregation of results will support policy recommendations, best practice.

44 concept notes were received, 11 shortlisted, hope to fund 5. 3 year projects, start Jan 2011.



**2010:**

- Sustainable hydro dev in Mekong synthesis workshop with stakeholders in Laos September
- MSF Stockholm, IWA congress Montreal – dissemination and stakeholder dialogue
- Pilot research management training materials with Centres of Excellence – July or August.
- Develop new work programme for discussion and decisions in Brussels Oct 27-29<sup>th</sup>



# Recommendations:

- **Research projects need to be done?**

Sanitation in informal urban areas. Transboundary water benefits sharing governance, water and food security.

- **Who could finance them?**

SPLASH donors possible follow up research calls, but important to maintain the network for donors – future eranet? BMGF.

- **Who could do them?** From Europe.

See yellow pages: <http://www.splash-era.net/yell/index.php>



**See also:**

<http://www.splash-era.net/>

Email: [a-blenkinsopp@dfid.gov.uk](mailto:a-blenkinsopp@dfid.gov.uk)