

## Approaching Climate Change for Water Resource Adaptation (ACCWA)

ACCWA evaluates the social, economic and environmental effects of climate change on water resources in developed and developing countries and impacts on global water governance. Through the development of new tools and interdisciplinary techniques, the project will address the major issues that cut across natural, social and political science disciplines.

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### Background to ACCWA

In July 2009, two research centres at the University of Leeds, Politics and International Studies (POLIS) and water@leeds, began to develop a project that would seek to bridge the research gap between natural science, social science and policy in water resource management. The impetus for development of the project that would ultimately be called ACCWA (**A**pproaching **C**limate **C**hange for **W**ater **R**esource **A**daptation) was the announcement of the Worldwide Universities Network (WUN) Global Challenge around *Adapting to Climate Change*. The University of Leeds sought to fund an interdisciplinary project with wide international appeal in this area. Submitted to WUN in September 2009, ACCWA was successful in achieving funding and officially commenced in December 2009. The seed-corn funding provided by WUN will help initiate research collaboration between collaborating institutions.

The project builds on the research strengths of University of Leeds staff and national/international partners, all of whom have proven track records of high quality research. By adopting a holistic approach to water resource management, the project crosses international boundaries to generate a global perspective of the local/regional adaptations required to respond to hydrological perturbations resulting from climate change. The results of the project will focus on the development of tools to find solutions to the major questions in this area, the sharing of research expertise making a whole that is greater than the sum of its parts. The collaboration between ACCWA partners is growing, having already organised a conference (Water Quality 2010) and visits from members, and we are now working towards a co-authored paper, an October 2011 workshop in Twente and Water Quality 2012.

### Aims of the project

ACCWA consists of three interlinked work packages (WPs) which evaluate biophysical factors (WP1), social and economic influences (WP2), and policy and governance implications (WP3) associated with water resource changes resulting from climate change. The box opposite highlights the general aims across each project.

- Establish a baseline by evaluating current water resource management practices/policy;
- Predict future changes (biophysical, social and economic, and political) based on the most up-to-date climate predictions;
- Develop and/or evaluate adaptations required to ensure the maintenance of water resources.

### Meet the ACCWA Leeds team

ACCWA Leeds is a collaboration between different research groups at the University of Leeds. The principal investigator for the project is Professor Joseph Holden, Director of water@leeds - the

water research centre at the University of Leeds. Each work package has a leader to help coordinate activity across the project: Dr Paul Kay (WP1), Dr Nesha Beharry-Borg (WP2) and James Van Alstine (WP3). Further assistance is provided by Dr Rebecca Slack and Samantha Bowman.

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### Recent and upcoming activities

In May 2010, Prof Joseph Holden and Dr Nesha Beharry-Borg attended the WUN convention at Penn State where they spoke with WUN colleagues about the goals of ACCWA.

Water Quality 2010 was held at the University of Leeds on 23-24 June 2010. This was the first conference organised as part of the ACCWA project, with keynote presentations from ACCWA members Dr George Czapar (University of Illinois) and Dr Zhijian Zhang (Zhejiang University). The conference attracted delegates from 14 countries for two days of discussion on a range of water quality issues. Water Quality 2012 will take place in China in Autumn 2012.

In September and October 2010, Prof Peter Davies and Prof Keith Smettem, both ACCWA members from the University of Western Australia, visited the University of Leeds to talk with about collaborative research and present seminars to staff and students. Their visits were very well received and have resulted in stronger links between Leeds and UWA.

The ACCWA Leeds team continue to develop proposals of national importance for submission to UK research councils under the ACCWA banner. We are always keen to hear from collaborators about involvement of ACCWA network members in projects. One current scheme which may be of interest to members is the EU's Marie Curie Individual Fellowship call which encourages the movement of researchers into, out of and within Europe.

The first ACCWA workshop will take place at the IGS Conference, University of Twente, 19-21 October 2011. The theme of the conference is resilient societies; an email will be sent out shortly asking for your suggestions for the workshop session and any parallel meetings that are organised.

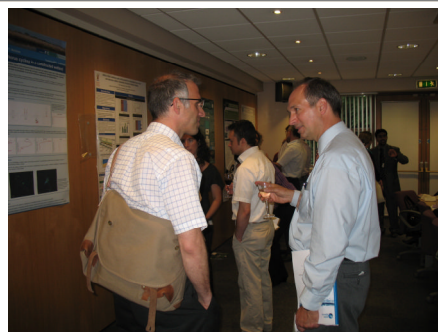
ACCWA Leeds are planning a collaborative paper to examine the current position of water resources in member countries/states. You will have been contacted about this and an outline plan will be sent to all who expressed an interest in contributing. We hope to discuss this paper at the forthcoming workshop at the IGS Conference in Twente.

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### Next steps, future opportunities

For the project to develop, ACCWA needs the help of all members to identify joint research opportunities.

If you have suggestions for ACCWA including workshop locations, or have news to submit to the next newsletter, please do not hesitate to contact the ACCWA Leeds team.



Poster presentation session at WQ2010

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### Contact details

Please contact Rebecca Slack (email: [r.slack@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:r.slack@leeds.ac.uk); tel. +44 (0)113 343 3373) to submit information to the ACCWA website, newsletter or for general enquiries. Thank you!