

## **NARBO 2<sup>nd</sup> Training Workshop – River Basin Management and Organizations – April 2005**

### **ASSIGNMENT :**

Submitted by:

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### **Lessons learnt:**

Realizing that we are on the brink of water crisis, WWF Nepal Program initiated a new program to deal with freshwater issues from October 2004. Conservation of freshwater is not an entirely new area of work for WWF as it has been addressing these issues globally and working on River Basin Management. However, for the Nepal Program, it was a new approach to deal with the environmental issues directly related to freshwater. After taking the responsibility of freshwater unit in WWF Nepal Program, this is the first training program that I have attended on RBM. The following are some of the lessons that I have learnt during the training period :

- **Module 1:** It helped me understand that River Basin Management does not have a standard approach for every basin. It varies according to sites and issues. However, management of a particular RB can be planned reviewing experiences from other basins in almost similar condition. It is a long term process as it involves various dimensions of water use management and rights.
- **Module 2:** The presentation made by Dr. Madar Samad was very useful to understand the different steps and procedures in the development of river basin management. It also clearly identified management problems at various stages of RB management and the institutions that can play a major role to take the process forward.  
Though WWF Nepal Program is not planning to develop a RBM project for the entire basin at present, we are planning to work on one part of Karnali river for RBM. In this regard, this session gave me an idea to set targets and milestones while developing the project and management constraints that we might have to prepare ourselves for.
- **Module 3:** The field visit to observe the on-the-ground realities helped understand the importance of meeting the stakeholders to develop RBM and organization for project development. It will also provide the feeling of ownership among the stakeholders if they are involved from the very beginning of project development. It made me realize that preparation of checklist is necessary to direct our survey on the right direction to get the needed data, which will be different according to the stakeholders.  
Though while developing a project, we visit the project sites, this experience was an eye opener for me to understand that RBM is an

integrated approach and should address many other issues and stakeholders besides environment.

General observations:

- Reading materials distributed are helpful
- Working in a group helped develop teamwork and in a way showed that we worked in equal participation and coordination
- Working hours were a bit lengthy and sometimes tiring
- Some of the presentations made by experts were not up to the expectation
- Logistics and facilities were good