

INTERNATIONAL NETWORK
OF BASIN ORGANIZATIONS

RESEAU INTERNATIONAL
DES ORGANISMES DE BASSIN

RED INTERNACIONAL
DE ORGANISMOS DE CUENCA

December 2005 - January 2006 - N° 14

4TH WORLD WATER FORUM

ALL OF US IN MEXICO CITY ON 18 MARCH 2006 FOR BETTER BASIN MANAGEMENT!

The network newsletter

The *IVth World Water Forum will take place in Mexico City from 16 to 22 March 2006 at the invitation of the Mexican Government and the World Water Council.*

It is a major meeting not to be missed.

INBO calls its members and observers to get mobilized and come to Mexico City to present their experiences, to exchange and discuss in order to develop and improve basin management over the world.

What progress has been made since the 1990s!

Management at the level of basins of rivers, lakes or aquifers experienced a

quick development in many countries which made it the basis of their national legislation on water or experimented it in pilot basins.

The European Water Framework Directive of 2000 sets an objective of good ecological status in the national or international river basin districts of the 25 current Member States and the Countries applying for accession to the European Union.

Lastly, the management of the transboundary basins of the 263 rivers and hundreds of aquifers is taken more and more into account within Commissions, Authorities or international Basin Organizations.

The Forum of Mexico City will be for us the occasion to give a report on these progresses, but also on the difficulties which remain and the way still to go.

The Forum Secretariat agreed to accept four session proposals submitted by INBO, its Regional Networks for Africa (ANBO) or Europe (EUROPE-INBO) and their partners, for the whole day

of 18 March 2006, from 11:00 to 18:30, devoted to Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM):

- **management of African transboundary basins (AMCOW / ANBO) (FT 2.18),**
- **implementation of the European Water Framework Directive (EUROPE-INBO) (FT 2.14),**
- **users' and public participation and common cause in basin management (INBO) (FT 2.36),**
- **synthesis of the progress made in transboundary basin management over the world (INTBO) (FT 2.29).**

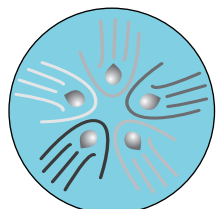
These sessions will be jointly organized with UNESCO, Green Cross International, the International Water Secretariat, the Water Academy, the Japan Water Forum, the Walloon Region, the City of Montreal, the Mekong Commission and Finland Cooperation in particular, and with IW-Learn and several universities or famous research centers, such as those of Wageningen or Osnabrück, etc.

INBO now gathers 153 permanent members or observers from 52 countries, as well as the majority of the International Commissions or Transboundary Basin Organizations.

Our ideas are progressing, let's get mobilized to make our results known in Mexico City!



www.inbo-news.org



MARRAKECH (MOROCCO) - 25 MAY

WORLD BUREAU OF THE INTERNATIONAL NETWORK

FINAL RESOLUTIONS

The last meetings of INBO's World Liaison Bureau was held in Marrakech (Morocco), on Wednesday 25 May 2005, at the invitation of the Moroccan Authorities and Basin Agencies and under the presidency of Mrs. Madeleine Jouye de Grandmaison (INBO).

INBO World Liaison Bureau studied the strategic points of the agenda and made the following decisions:

- 1 INBO will actively contribute to the 4th World Water Forum of Mexico, from 16 to 22 March 2006.

It involved itself in the organization of a partnership and in the preparation process with regard to the topic of integrated water resource management at the level of river basins.

INBO proposed to the Mexican Authorities and to the World Water Council to organize three sessions on public participation, on the European Water Framework Directive and on transboundary basins, in partnership with UNESCO, JWF, Green Cross International, the International Secretariat of Water and other organizations which would be interested.

In order to prepare these sessions and to mobilize its members, INBO planned to organize, in addition to this conference of Marrakech (Morocco) for the Mediterranean basin, two other large regional preparatory meetings in 2005:

- ➔ from 29 September to 1st October 2005 in Namur (Walloon Region - Belgium) with the 3rd Assembly of the "Group of European Basin Organizations for the implementation of the Framework Directive",
- ➔ in December in Windhoek (Namibia) for an Extraordinary Workshop of the African Network of Basin Organizations.

In addition, INBO participated in the International Conference on Water in Central Asia on 30 and 31 May 2005 in Dushanbe (Tajikistan).

Contacts are under way with our Japanese colleagues for the consolidation of the Asian Network of Basin Organizations (NARBO).

- **The transboundary rivers and international Districts**, with a pressing invitation to the international European commissions, and mainly those concerning the Walloon region.

acceleration of its implementation, which becomes advisable to maintain the mobilization of the partners and especially of the basin organizations in the field, in Africa, in Latin America, Eastern Europe, Caucasus, Central Asia and in the Mediterranean.



Opening Ceremony honored by Mr. Mohamed Elyazghi

In liaison with the Council of Europe, the International Secretariat of Water and Solidarity Water Europe, INBO was also partner in the week devoted to the citizens' approach to water management, in Strasbourg (France), from 17 to 21 October 2005.

- 2 **The General Assembly of the "EUROPE-INBO" Group for the implementation of the European Water Framework Directive, in Namur (Walloon region) from 29 September to 1st October 2005.**

The main topics retained for discussions were:

- **The participation of the populations in the definition of water policy, the role of the local elected officials and of the professional and association representatives, "the Basin Committees", consultation of the "general public" for the implementation of the Framework Directive.** This topic widely opens the discussions of our assembly to your partners working in the field,

INBO will be involved in the dissemination of the WFD principles in the interested third countries.

- 3 **The involvement of "EUROPE-INBO" in the "Strategic Coordination Group" of the "Common Implementation Strategy" (CIS) of the European Water Framework Directive is very important.**

The project for the development of the information website on the WFD implementation in basins/districts, (europe-wfd.inbo-news.org) was adopted and the PTS will look for the financing required, especially from the European Commission.

- 4 **The communication strategy of the Network was confirmed for 2005 and 2006:** website, the E-INBO electronic Newsletter, the Network Newsletter n°14, events, stands, etc.

- 4 **INBO supports the European Water Initiative (EUWI)**, which is a significant EU contribution to the achievement of the objectives of the Johannesburg World Summit in the water sector. It recommends the

character for the implementation of the European Initiative in the African transboundary basins was underlined, as well as the wish to see them selected by the European Commission.

The participants thanked the European Commission's representatives for having invited INBO to be a partner of the working groups of the European Water Initiative, and wished that the International Network and its Regional Networks can even be more involved in the follow-up, facilitation and implementation of the components on Integrated Water Resource Management and Transboundary Basins of the initiatives for Africa, Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia, Latin America and the Mediterranean, especially for facilitating the implementation of the EUWI / WFD joint process.

The represented organizations expressed their support to Pilot River Basins exercises, such as those developed, on the one hand, within the CIS during the starting phase of the WFD, and in the European Water Initiative for Africa on the other.

NETWORK OF BASIN ORGANIZATIONS

WWF INBO MEGA SESSION
4 Main Meetings in Mexico
18 March 2006 - 11:00 - 18:30
"For better IWRM at the basin level"

They recommended proposing additional pilot basins within these frameworks, and in other regional components of EUWI. The delegates also wished for the direct dissemination of the Pilot River Basins (PRB) results to all the other basin organizations to be increased. Generally speaking, in spite of the facilities brought by Internet, access to information remains complex.

⑥ A very positive evaluation was drawn up of the INBO/GWP Associated Program, and especially of the progress made in the "TWINBASINS" project, and of ongoing projects: "IWRM-NET", "WFD-LEARN", SADIEau-AWIS, "Europe INBO - WFD".

The INBO progress report and accounts for 2004 were approved, on the basis of the Financial Auditor's report, as well as the budget estimate for the Permanent Technical Secretariat for 2005.

The Bureau was pleased with the progress reports of the Regional Networks for Africa, Latin America, Europe, the Mediterranean, and with the relations beginning with NAR-BO in Asia.

⑥ The participants expressed their wish to continue exchanging their experiences via four complementary activities:

➔ Organizing regular meetings, either yearly plenary sessions or topical workshops whenever necessary. Apart from an exchange of experiences, these meetings will allow the identification of the main concerns of basin organizations involved in the IWRM implementation in the field and the enhancement and sharing of field results.

➔ Developing websites, "EUROPE-INBO" especially and "AWIS", based on the methodologies, techniques and contents already elaborated within the "Aquadoc-Inter" project in the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland

and Romania and "EMWIS" in the Mediterranean region. These common websites gather case studies and documents produced by basin organizations and direct links with their own sites. These sites also include current information, a forum for discussions and frequently asked questions, links towards new documents and information sources.

➔ Promoting training programs for executives and staffs of Basins Organizations.

➔ Establishing twinning arrangements between basin organizations of different countries facing common problems, especially within the "TWIN-BASIN" project or already existing agreements.

The Bureau requests to all the members and permanent observers of the Network to mobilize themselves for the 4th World Water Forum of Mexico City.

The delegates thanked the Ministry for Regional Planning, Water and the Environment and the Moroccan River Basin Agencies, especially the Tensift ABH, for having initiated this meeting and for its perfect organization and their warm welcome in Marrakech.

All the working documents of this meeting, as well as the presented papers, are available on the website:

www.inbo-news.org



INBO World Liaison Bureau Marrakech

THE TWINBASIN PROJECT IS PROGRESSING



During the Marrakech meeting, the Steering Committee of the TWINBASIN project was pleased with the significant progress made by the project during the last 8 months, allowing it to advance significantly in the achievement of its objectives.

After the first two calls for proposals sent in 2005, 14 twinning arrangements were selected to be supported by the project, involving 26 Basin Organizations of 14 countries. The participation of the Countries of the South is paramount (51%).

TWINBASIN plays its part, by incontestably promoting and inspiring these cooperation arrangements. Indeed, more than 70 % of the signed twinning agreements were established within the project and are thus attributable to it.

The wide dissemination of the first "Newsletter" (6,300 subscribers) through INBO in particular, the promotion of the project during international IWRM-related events, and the recent distribution of leaflets (20,000 copies in French, English, Spanish and Russian) are as many events that give the project the adequate and necessary international acknowledgement.

The TWINBASIN website, www.twinbasin.org, main interface of the project with all its community, allows and ensures a capitalization and a dissemination of the acquired knowledge. This tool has become operational recently, although it should be improved. Thus, nearly 6,000 web surfers have already consulted it and about fifty members are already registered.

The website will be soon the support of Web-Forums which will allow starting the thinking of experts and specialists about significant issues specific to IWRM.

Finally, the entire knowledge capitalized by TWINBASIN, regarding IWRM, will be supplemented and enriched by the results and products of "clusters", with the other projects related to the "Twinning" topic (WADE, RIVERTWIN & TWINBAS projects) supported by the European Union.

Ultimately, the TWINBASIN project is at a key stage of its implementation. This second meeting of the Steering Committee allowed the broadening of thoughts and the making of decisions necessary for the project evolution towards the achievement of all the planned TWINBASIN objectives.

www.twinbasin.org

INBO-GWP "ASSOCIATED PROGRAM" ON THE WAY TO SUCCESS



In September 2001, the Global Water Partnership and INBO agreed to launch an "Associated Program" to create and strengthen Basin Organizations over the world.

An agreement (Memorandum of Understanding - MoU) was finally signed in May 2003.

Two years after the entry into force of the MoU, first achievements and general lessons learned concerning the 4 expected outputs of the Associated Program should be emphasized:

1 TWINNING OF BASIN ORGANIZATIONS

The "TWINBASIN^{xn}" project has been selected within the framework of the "Global change and ecosystems" priority of the 6th Framework Program for European Research. It now aims at facilitating direct twinning arrangements between RBOs, by defining a framework for action, by enabling the exchange of staff between twinned agencies and by capitalizing the knowledge thus acquired.

The Mobility Committee has already approved fourteen eligible twinning proposals.

2 MOBILIZATION OF THE EXPERTISE OF BASIN ORGANIZATIONS

This expertise allows pilot projects to be implemented such as: the transboundary management of the Irtysh River (Kazakhstan and Russia), the drafting of an action plan (2005-2006) for the transboundary management of the Körös / Crisuri Basin (Hungary and Romania), in collaboration with the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River, the assistance provided to the Algerian River Basin Agencies, the preparation of master plans for two Mexican pilot river basins, the creation of the Mexican Water Information System (SINA), the audit of the Niger Basin Authority or of the Mahaveli Authority of Sri Lanka, requested by the World Bank, the creation of a Volta Basin Organization.

A significant work has also been undertaken under the aegis of the European Water Initiative (EUWI), and of its IWRM component in African transboundary basins.

3 SYNTHESIS OF KNOWLEDGE AND KNOW-HOW

INBO has organized regional networks in Africa, Latin America, the Mediterranean and in Central and Eastern Europe, and has created a "Group of European Basin Organizations for the implementation of the Water Framework Directive" and a Network of Transboundary Basin Organizations.

INBO is also involved in:

- **The World Bank Survey (2003-2004):** INBO carried out a survey involving 100 Member Basin Organizations and participated in the "Workshop on the decentralization of management to the basin level" organized by the Bank in Poland from 22 to 25 May 2005.
- **"IWRM.Net"**, to identify the impact of the European Framework Directive (WFD) on the methods for planning and research in the IWRM field in Europe.

An "ERA-Net" proposal, made by INBO and its partners to identify and describe the national research programs on IWRM in the concerned countries of the EU, is currently being studied by the European Commission: if approved, the first actions could be launched at the beginning of 2006.

- **"WFD Community"**, financed at about 75 % by the European Leonardo da Vinci Program, consists in testing a device for the continuous training of professionals, based on the remote management of a community of professionals (CVA), working together on the implementation of the Water Framework Directive (WFD) **while favoring multilingualism.**

4 THE "NETWORKING OF AVAILABLE INFORMATION"

The networking of documentation centers on water to facilitate access to the information has already started with AQUADOC-INTER in Eastern Europe and with its Mediterranean counterpart EMWIS. It should be extended to Africa with AWIS, which should become the information exchange system of the African Network of Basin Organizations (ANBO).

FUTURE WORK ORIENTATIONS:

The actions developed within the framework of the Associated Program are based on the real and practical experience of INBO members, which shall help solving development problems of basin organizations.

The INBO-GWP Associated Program "for developing and strengthening basin organizations" is gradually and clearly on the way to be a success.

Our ideas are progressing, let's get mobilized to make our results known in Mexico City and elsewhere!

www.inbo-news.org
All information on INBO is available



on the WEB
www.inbo-news.org



NEXT EUROPE-INBO MEETING

Group of European Basin Organizations for the Implementation of the Framework Directive

Megève (France)
20 - 22 September 2006

4 MAIN INBO MEETINGS IN MEXICO

INBO MEGA SESSION
4TH WWF
Basin Management

The International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO), which now gathers 153 permanent Members or Observers from 52 countries, as well as the majority of the International Commissions or Transboundary Basin Organizations, is involved in the preparation of the 4th World Water Forum which will take place in Mexico City from 16 to 22 March 2006.

INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AT THE LEVEL OF RIVER BASINS

18 March 2006 - Banamex Center - 11:00 - 18:30

"THE BASINS OF RIVERS, LAKES AND AQUIFERS ARE THE RELEVANT TERRITORIES FOR BETTER WATER GOVERNANCE"

The specificity of the Network is indeed to gather the Governmental and Basin Organizations, which are directly in charge of defining and implementing water policy in their respective countries: far from academic speeches, **INBO members are directly responsible for water resources management** and have to face the daily realities that it implies and the preparation of the future.

Of course, it is on the topic of **Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) on the scale of the basins of rivers, lakes and aquifers**, that INBO can share the practical experience acquired by its members in the field.

Better than anybody else, they know the stakes and the problems to be solved locally in each basin and commit themselves to carry out the actions they deem necessary, either for applying the regulations, or for mobilizing financial resources and implementing projects or for dialogue and the involvement of users and of all the citizens concerned.

For more than 10 years, they have carried out exchanges between them within INBO to identify and disseminate **the most useful and effective approaches**, but also to raise the decision-makers' awareness on the encountered difficulties.

Within the Network, the partners have organized themselves at the regional level, either African, American, Asian, European or Mediterranean, in order to strengthen neighborhood relations and to take into account all the diversities of local and regional situations.

MANAGEMENT OF AFRICAN TRANSBOUNDARY BASINS (AMCOW/ANBO)

"63 transboundary rivers in Africa"

FT 2.18

11:00 - 13:00

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EUROPEAN WATER FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE (EUROPE-INBO)

"29 countries agreed to achieve good ecological status in river basins in 2015"

In partnership with the Walloon Region, the Universities of Wageningen and Osnabrück

FT 2.14

11:00 - 13:00

USERS' AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND COMMON CAUSE IN BASIN MANAGEMENT (INBO)

"The Basin Committees: Water Parliaments"

In partnership with IW-LEARN / GEF and the Water Academy

FT 2.36

14:15 - 16:15

SYNTHESIS OF THE PROGRESS MADE IN TRANSBOUNDARY BASIN MANAGEMENT OVER THE WORLD (INTBO)

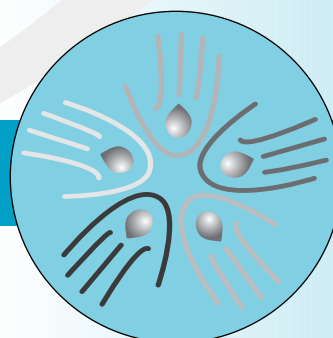
"Water has no boundary!"

In partnership with the City of Montreal and the Mekong Commission

FT 2.29

16:30 - 18:30

www.inbo-news.org



www.inbo-news.org

INTERNATIONAL WATER ASSOCIATION - IWA: NEW PUBLICATION

RIVER BASIN GOVERNANCE: LEARNING FROM INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE

This book is designed to help practitioners implement integrated approaches to river basin management (IRBM). It aims to help the future senior university students learn how to design IRBM and it provides researchers and the broader water community with a resource on river basin management.

It is drawing on both past and present river basin and valley scale catchment management examples from around the world.

The thrust of the book is to assist planning, rather than extend knowledge of hydrology, biophysical modeling or aquatic ecology.

Providing a classification of river basin organizations, the book also covers fundamental issues related to:

- ◆ decision-making,
- ◆ institutions,
- ◆ information management,
- ◆ participation and awareness,
- ◆ legal and economic issues,

- ◆ integration and coordination processes,
- ◆ building human capacity.

Integrated river basin governance focuses on the social, economic, organizational and institutional arrangements.

Methods are outlined for implementing strategic and regional approaches, noting the importance of the local context.

The book includes a range of tools for river basin governance methods derived from real life experiences in both developed

and developing countries. The successes and failures of river basin management are discussed and lessons learned from both are presented.

Ian Borthwick
IWA
iborthwick@iwap.co.uk

www.iwapublishing.com



ASSOCIATED PROGRAM ON FLOOD MANAGEMENT - APFM

MULTI-DISCIPLINARY APPROACH FOR INTEGRATED FLOOD MANAGEMENT

Recalling the spate of recent flood disasters around the world, it is obvious that flood management is an issue that needs closer scrutiny and greater attention than it has attracted in the past.

There is need to realize that philosophy of flood control per se has not yielded desired results at many places in the world and efforts should be made to move forward toward an integrated approach to flood management, integrating land and water resources management in a river basin within the context of IWRM.

Integrated Flood Management calls for a multi-disciplinary approach to flood management involving all the stakeholders. Multi-disciplinary approach to any development issue, however, is easier said than practiced.

A multi-disciplinary approach enjoins a dialogue among various disciplines, sectors and users based on accessible information, common language and a transparent decision making process. It is difficult to achieve the objectives of Integrated Flood Management (IFM) if there are no good

sources of information that could facilitate this dialogue.

The Associated Program on Flood Management (APFM) is currently developing supplementary papers on Legal and Institutional, Environmental, Social and Economic Aspects of IFM. For developing these papers, APFM has been mobilizing the latest knowledge and experiences around the world.

An Expert Group Meeting consisting of experts of Ecology, Eco-hydrology and Hydrology to-

gether from various regions of the world met on 6-7 October to discuss the Environmental Aspects of IFM. The Expert Group addressed issues such as balancing development rights, human security, flood risks and environmental considerations and how flood management practitioners can appreciate the roles of ecosystem services so that environment friendly flood management measures can be implemented.

These papers are available on the APFM website:

www.apfm.info

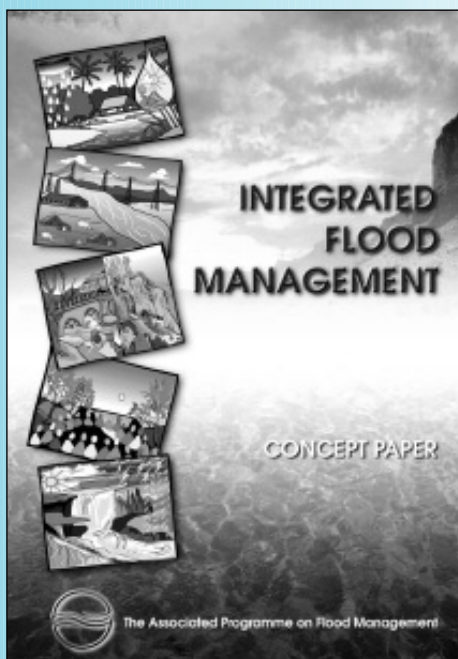
Hon Martha Kharoua, Minister of Water and Irrigation of Kenya presented the "Strategy for Flood Management for Lake Victoria Basin", which is based on IFM approach on 16 February 2005 in Nairobi. She recognized the role of APFM in developing this strategy for one of the most flood affected regions in the country.

She mentioned that it is the first comprehensive document for the basin.

She confirmed her Government commitments to draw up an action plan for implementing the strategy in a phased manner within the available country resources.

Technical Support Unit of APFM
Fax: +41 (0)22 730 8316
apfm@wmo.int

www.apfm.info



AFRICA - ANBO

COORDINATION COMMITTEE OF THE AFRICAN NETWORK OF BASIN ORGANIZATIONS MARRAKECH (MOROCCO) - 25 MAY 2005



The last meeting of the Coordination Committee of the African Network of Basin Organizations (ANBO) was held in Marrakech (Morocco), on Wednesday 25 May 2005, at the invitation of the Moroccan Authorities and Basin Agencies and under the presidency of Mr. Ould Aly.

ANBO proposes to all interested organizations of the water sector, of Southern, Central, North, East or West Africa, to governmental administrations, basin organizations, either existing or being created, bi and multilateral cooperation organizations, to become a member to jointly develop a true common African expertise on the management of the sixty, or about, transboundary basins of Africa. The statutes could be adapted according to the needs, especially to strengthen the links with NEPAD, AMCOW and the regional economic cooperation institutions.

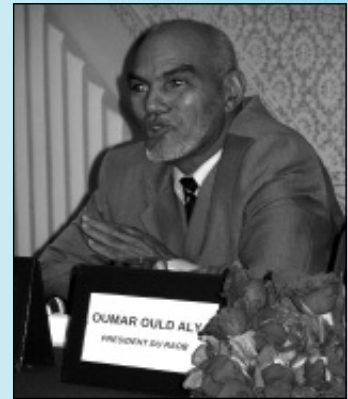
ANBO proposed to the European Union, to the bilateral and multilateral cooperation agencies involved and to the countries concerned, to assist in the **implementation of its multi-year action plan**. It proposes, in particular, to create and facilitate a **Permanent Technical Committee of the African Basin Organizations**, especially the pilot basins selected for the first phases of the **European Water Initiative** and those retained by GEF, in order to allow the managers of these basins to regularly exchange their experience, to evaluate their projects, identify the best practices suited to the African

contexts, to define the encountered problems and to make the syntheses necessary for **disseminating the lessons learned to the whole African continent**.

ANBO also proposes to organize training courses on "**the six pillars of IWRM**" open to the African executives and technicians concerned.

ANBO wishes that the project for an **African Water Information and Documentation System (AWIS)** be very quickly launched to federate the information centers, either existing or to be created in the interested basins or countries, to share their references, useful documents and African studies, to store them and make them easily available to everyone.

The methods successfully tested within the Euro-Mediterranean Water Information System (EMWIS), which relies on an international technical unit and National Focal Points in the 27 countries concerned, including all the North African ones, could usefully be adapted in Africa, especially the linguistic interfaces in English, Arabic, French and Portuguese, within the framework of a permanent cooperation between EMWIS and INBO.



The ANBO Committee reminded the significance for Africa of the projects presented for financing to the **European Water Facility**, whose strategic character for the implementation of the European Initiative in the African transboundary basins was underlined.

Lastly, ANBO wished to involve itself in the African regional **preparation process of the Mexico Forum**: An extraordinary meeting, held in December 2005 in Windhoek (Namibia) with the support of French cooperation, focused on this purpose.

All the working documents of these meetings, as well as the presented papers, are available on the website:

www.omvs-soe.org/raob.htm

MEXICO CITY 2006: 2ND REGIONAL PREPARATORY MEETING OF AMCOW/ADB - TUNIS, 28-29 SEPTEMBER 2005



The aim of the Tunis meeting was to coordinate the African contribution and participation in the 4th World Water Forum at the technical level.

ANBO Secretariat was invited to participate in this second regional preparatory meeting, held in Tunis on 28-29 September 2005 and jointly organized by AMCOW Technical Committee, the African Development Bank and the World Water Council.

It had the following specific objectives:

- prepare the African contribution in the Ministerial Declaration;

- formulate Terms of Reference for the preparation of the African regional Report;
- establish a timetable for benchmarking the preparatory process;
- propose arrangements for an African exhibition at the forum;
- agree on a strategy for finding financial resources to optimize the African participation in the 4th WWF;
- identify local actions likely to be presented in Mexico City;

- identify personalities likely to promote the African contribution in Mexico City.

The main result of the Tunis meeting was to agree on:

- the number and topics of the African sessions;
- a chronogram of the activities to carry out until the Forum;
- a distribution of responsibilities and tasks among the attending regional stakeholders.

ANBO was designated, with AMCOW, as organizer of the "African Transboundary Waters" session with as co-organizers: ADB, SADC, GWP, UN Water, the "Observatory of the Sahara", the Nile Initiative.

This session will take place on 18 March 2006, from 11:00 to 13:00, within the IWRM topic of the World Water Forum.

A. Ndiaye
African Network
of Basin Organizations
Fax (+221) 822 01 63
amaylsn@yahoo.fr

www.inbo-news.org

AFRICA

PARTICIPATION OF LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS

RAMSAR CONVENTION: MANAGEMENT OF WETLANDS

In the whole of Africa, local people concentrate along rivers and floodplains in order to benefit from fertile, moist land for agriculture, fish, reeds and other natural resources for construction, medicinal purposes, fuel and hand-craft, water for domestic use and waterways for transport and communication. Most often there are also cultural and spiritual reasons which connect the people to these areas. Without them, their daily needs could not be met, poverty levels would further increase and their very survival would be put at stake.

Most of the time, cultural and spiritual reasons also bound populations to these sectors.

Despite the degree to which the survival of local communities in Africa depends on water and wetlands, these users have a very limited say in decision-making processes concerning the stake of these resources.

A "bottom-up" approach and devolution of decision-making power to "users" is being increasingly advocated. But in order for local people to participate, a process of capacity-building is required.

Local users need to coordinate and form associations to be better represented and organized, and to have a stronger voice. Generally non-governmental organizations are instrumental in assisting to strengthen the capacity of less empowered stakeholders.

Authorities should also pay more attention to the fact that by increasing participation, not only is legitimacy increased, but also stakeholders' buy-in is ensured and project implementation can proceed more effectively, while unexpected side-effects, such as to the environment are most often minimized. Training of the administration staff is needed on possible methods of participation (workshops, surveys, advisory committees, etc) and on the creation of channels through which local stakeholder concerns can be passed on to higher levels.

Several institutions, like the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), are developing metho-

dologies to assist governments in thinking through how to conduct "effective" participatory processes.

People's participation needs to be continuous, and should not be limited to a once-off consultation process regarding a specific decision: local users and Authorities must become the main actors involved in the project implementation and monitoring phases to ensure the most lasting results.

Abou Bamba
Lucia Scodanibbio
RAMSAR Africa
Fax: +41 22 999 0169
bambaa@hotmail.com
lucia@scodanibbio.com

www.ramsar.org

BENIN

LAKE RESIDENT POPULATIONS

The participation of the users of lakes is particularly significant as achievements will remain limited without their un-

derstanding of the problems and solutions. The lack of infrastructures is an obstacle to the participation of the riparian

populations in an integrated management of their living environment.

In Benin, in the lake dwellings, populations live on piles which are used as support for the family concessions built 1.50 meter higher than water at its lowest level, without any bathroom, latrine and access to drinking water.

The water body is used as dump, toilet but also as a bathing place, sometimes as a supply of drinking water and washing water, etc.

In lake dwellings, it is clear that the lack of sanitation infrastructures limits the participation of the populations, in spite of their determination to improve their living conditions.

Along the water bodies, fishing and the fish trade remain two intensive economic and subsistence activities.

Emma-Christiane Leite, Ph.D
McGill University
emma.leite@mail.mcgill.ca



*Concertation meeting
of a fishing group*

ETHIOPIA

NEW BASIN ORGANIZATIONS

The Ethiopian Water Resources Management Policy, that was issued in 2000, has recognized and adopted the "basins" as fundamental planning and water resources management units.

The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia has mobilized huge financial resources to undertake Integrated Master Plans for the Development of 12 basins of the country.

These Master Plans are planning documents that can guide the development of the concerned regions for the coming 30-50 years.

These Basin Master Plans were given legal status by the Decree of 9 March 2000 to fund and coordinate the activities of the different stakeholders toward the Integrated Implementation of the various projects and programs proposed.

To ensure Integrated Water Resource Management at a Basin Level and speed up the implementation of the Master Plans, the Ministry of Water Resources, with a financial and technical assistance obtained from the French Government, has undertaken an institutional investigation and analysis that

will lead to the creation of River Basin Organizations in the country.

This study proposed the creation of **River Basin Committees** in Ethiopia, as major decision-making bodies, whose members are the highest decision makers from Federal, Regional, and Public Organizations and **River Basin Agencies** that serve as technical arm of the Basin Committee. The Ministry of Water Resources will supervise the Agencies.

The major functions of the Basin Organizations are collaborative planning, knowledge, monitoring and evaluation, water resource administration, financial function, projects implementation and finally the preparation of the different technical, administrative and legal tools that can facilitate their operation.

Fekahmed Negash
Fax: +2511611700
fekahmed@softhome.net

GABON

BASIN AND WATER WELLS COMMITTEES

In Gabon, the main uses of water resources, apart from maritime and waterways navigation, concern the supply of drinking water to the populations and the production of electricity from dams, which account for 75% of the total production of electricity of the Country.

Following the privatization of the public utilities concerned by the production, conveyance and supply of drinking water and electric power, conceded to the VEOLIA Water Group,

whose local branch is the Company of Energy and Water of Gabon (SEEG), Gabon has established an institutional, legal and regulatory framework to manage the Country's water resources in the best way possible.

The State is responsible for the supply of clean water to the rural populations and organizes Rural Water Supply Campaigns. During these Campaigns, awareness raising and training activities are organized

for the village people to involve them from the beginning of the projects. The participation of users is required for the establishment of Water Wells Committees and the payment of a subscription fee.

Concerning the effective implementation of an integrated water resources management policy, the Government lately materialized it with the passing by the Council of Ministers of a decree on Water Resources Protection.

The new Water Code of the Gabonese Republic is being promulgated and gives a significant role to the Basin Committees.

Christian Olivier Lasseny
Deputy Director General
in charge of Water
Directorate General of Energy
and Water Resources
Fax: (241) 763242
lasseny_christ@yahoo.fr

KENYA

EWASO NGI'RO NORTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY: EMPOWERING OF RIVER WATER USER ASSOCIATIONS

Kenya has been undertaking reforms in the water sector for sometime now and one of the milestones in these reforms was the enacting of the new Water Act in 2002. Its focus was on the separation of management from development of water resources.

The model adopted for water resources management is based on the Basin approach and the country has been divided into **six catchment areas**.

Each catchment area will be managed by a **Basin Board and River Water User Associations (RWUA) are expected to play a major role**. These changes are at the formative stage and will require detailed preparation and familiarization with new tasks, functions and responsibilities.

An intensive training program was incorporated for the RWUA within the project area of the ongoing Ewaso Ngi'ro North Natural Resources Con-

servation Project (ENNNRCP) being executed by Ewaso Ngi'ro North Development Authority (ENNDA). The overall aim of this training is to generate a mutual understanding for a new division of responsibilities in natural resource management, to induce an understanding for consequences of own actions on others (downstream water users) and to contribute to modifications in the behavioral pattern when dealing with water resources.

The Water Resources Management Authority (WRMA) will take the lead in the proposed RWUA training. To ensure sustainability there will be a Training of Trainers course for the government staff of the districts.

Eng. A. A. Ali
Managing Director
Ewaso Ngi'ro North
Development Authority
ewasonorth@kenyaweb.com

NIGERIA

THE WATER SECTOR REFORM MONITORING PROJECT

At present in Nigeria, at least 4 States in the country are undergoing private sector participation at different levels. This has followed the initiation of

the post-1999 economic reforms process.

International Financial Institutions such as the World Bank, have played a key role in water

sector reforms and privatization. They also use decentralization to facilitate clearances for water related projects and policies.

Uwem Robert & Eze Simon.
African Youth Movement,
Tel.: +2348065471120.
akwanews@yahoo.com

THE HJKYB STAKEHOLDERS CONSULTATIVE FORUM



The Niger River

In order to maintain the natural resources, water-related goods and services, there is a need to adopt an approach, that treats each river basin as an integral part of an ecosystem, and participatory planning and management, with a continued and

deliberate effort to maintain and restore ecosystem functioning.

In planning and management, it is important to involve stakeholders representing all views: local communities, men, women and including children, provincial governments, technical institutions, non-governmental organizations and donor agencies.

This approach can truly be considered a radical shift from the conventional top-down

approach and promising initial steps are currently taking place.

In Nigeria, the Hadejia-Jama'are, Komadugu-Yobe Basin (HJKYB), which for the last decade has fallen a victim of poor water resources management, is being brought back to life through the Joint Wetlands Livelihood (DFID-JWL) Project, the IUCN-Project for "Improving Land and Water Resources Management", and twinned with the Lake Chad Basin Commission Project "Reversal of Land and Water Trends in the Lake Chad Basin Ecosystem" (LCBC-GEF).

Since 2002, the basin stakeholders have been working together to address the underlying

problems in the basin, with particular emphasis on the Hadejia-Nguru wetlands which are the worst affected areas.

The HJKYB Stakeholders Consultative Forum has been in place, where all partners constantly meet and discuss issues of common interest. Also, the Project is currently conducting a basin wide Water Auditing to provide adequate data for equitable decision making.

Nathan A. Song
Department of Irrigation
and Drainage
Federal Ministry of Water
Resources
songnathan@yahoo.com

MANAGEMENT OF AFRICAN TRANSBOUNDARY RIVERS

THE VOLTA BASIN

ON THE WAY TOWARDS THE CREATION OF A BASIN AUTHORITY!



Will the Volta Basin, shared between six West African countries (Benin-Burkina Faso-Ivory Coast-Ghana-Mali-Togo) have soon a transboundary basin authority? One can sincerely believe it when seeing

the dynamism of the experts in water resources of the basin.

Indeed, gathered in a "Volta Basin Technical Committee" (VBTC), created by the Water Ministers of the six countries, these experts have

facilitated for more than one year a process whose purpose is to contribute to the birth of this Basin Authority.

Their commitment convinced the Council of African Ministers in charge of water (AM-COW) to choose the Volta Basin as one of the five pilot basins of the European Water Initiative. The supporting European Commission will thus mobilize 1.25 MEuros from the first half of 2006.

France, which directs the Integrated Water Resources Management component of the European Water Initiative, also supports the dynamics started in this basin, through four field actions:

- the finalization of a project for capacity building on IWRM, integrating pilot actions at the level of a sub-basin;
- a support, complementing Danish efforts, to the Water Resources Coordination Unit of ECOWAS;
- the mobilization of the International Office for Water on a draft paper, defining the legal framework of the future Basin Authority.

*Francis D. Bougaïré
General Manager
IRH / MAHRH - Burkina Faso
VBTC President
fdbougaire@netcourrier.com*

- the "Volta-Hycos" project for water resource monitoring, jointly managed technically by IRD with financial resources from the French Fund for Global Environment;

NILE BASIN INITIATIVE - NBI

THREE RIVER BASIN MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS



The Nile River

The Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) is an extraordinary, unprecedented attempt by 10 riparian countries (Burundi, DRC, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda) to reverse a historical path of confrontation and conflict, and exploit the Nile as a catalyst for cooperation and integration.

Three management and planning projects have been prepared with the financial and technical support of SIDA and the Nile Team of the World Bank. These projects are focusing on the shared **Kagera River Basin** (Burundi, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda), **Mara River Basin** (Kenya and Tanzania) and **Sio-Malaba-Malakisi river basins** (Kenya and Uganda).

The objectives of the three projects are to establish appropriate frameworks for cooperation and a basis for sustainable investments opportunities through identification of development projects in the broad area of integrated water resources management and development.

A Regional Project Steering Committee (RPSC) consisting of Senior Govern-

ment Officials and other stakeholders has been constituted to guide and oversee the preparation and implementation of each project.

The RPSC works as a de facto transitional River Basin Organization (RBO) in the absence of such institutions.

The budget for each project is about 3 - 4 million US\$. SIDA and NORAD are in partnership with the countries for funding the projects.

*Nile Basin Initiative Secretariat
Fax : 256 41 320971
nbisec@nilebasin.org*

www.nilebasin.org

CICOS

INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF THE CONGO-UBANGUI-SANGHA BASIN

The Agreement establishing a Uniform River Regime and creating the CICOS, whose home office is located in Kinshasa (DRC), was signed on 6 November 1999 by the Heads of the Member States: Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

CICOS aims to promote integrated water resources management and to guarantee the sustainable management of inland waterways with the purpose of supporting development and fighting for poverty reduction.

Its institutional framework is composed of the Ministers' Council, the Management Committee and the Secretariat General.

Its assignments are:

- to assist the States in the inventory of units operating on the inland waterways of the Congo-Ubangui-Sangha Basin;
- to control the implementation of the provisions of the CEMAC/DRC code on inland navigation;
- to define regulatory measures and have them applied to the CICOS inland waterways;
- to assist the concerned States in ensuring, in the most effective manner, the use of access ways, through maintenance and development;
- to intervene on hydrological, hydrographic and sedimentological data, the determining of capacity, the type of floating material, the installation of a geodesic network of reference, the development of studies in a CICOS geographical context;
- to give advice on the development of hydraulic works and on water diversions in the basin;
- to design and carry out concerted programs for safeguarding the network environment, especially through campaigns against aquatic plants;
- to ensure the dissemination of any information and data related to the integrated management and

sustainable exploitation of the Congo-Ubangui-Sangha Basin;

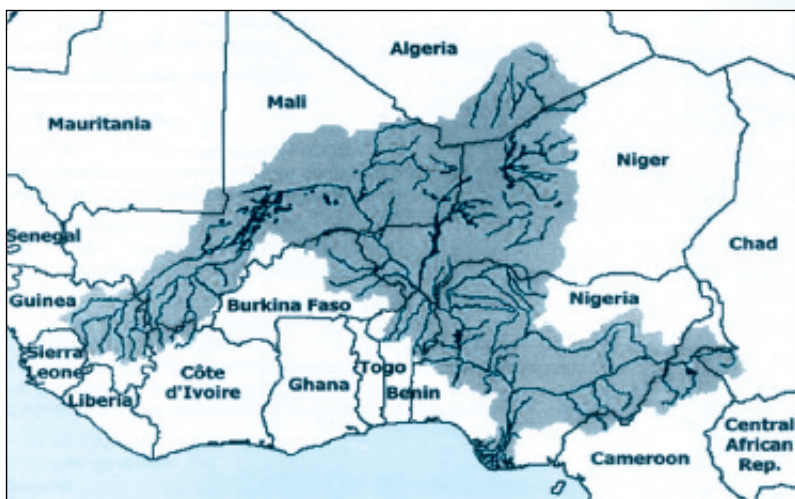
- to formulate and negotiate a policy for adequate and balanced use, and to study the possibilities of diversification, of improved access to the Inter-State network to ensure better viability.

Blaise-Léandre Tondo
Main Expert
CICOS
blaisetondo@yahoo.fr

World Water Forum
Mexico - 18 March 2006
11:00 - 13:00
Session on African Transboundary Waters

NIGER

FORUM ON THE MULTIPLE FUNCTIONS OF THE NIGER RIVER



A forum is organized every year in Ségou within the Festival of the Niger. This second year, the forum will take place on Thursday 2 February 2006 on the topic: **the multiple functions of the Niger River**.

It is said that 40 years ago the Niger river was navigable from July to January on a long section, today only a short navigable period remains, from the end of October to the end of January.

Since 1970, a persistent reduction has been noted in its annual flow: from 30 billion m³ usually reached during the former periods, it has only reached 20 billion m³ on the average for the last ten years, i.e. a 33% loss.

The water flows are increasingly lower, the aquifers sink in. Less water also means less water resources to cultivate the fields and to water the livestock. Less water, combined with high demographic growth, means less spaces for the cohabitation of activities becoming antagonistic, it means less chance for peace and for fighting against poverty.

Not only there is less water, but the water is also polluted. This pollution has consequences such as: more diseases, smothering of aquatic life by the hyacinth and toxic discharges.

Finally, in the future, political tensions between the basin Countries are not excluded because they compete for the control of this increasingly essential resource.

The WWF pleads for a regional strategy aiming at sustainable use and development of the Niger River and related resources, including:

- ◆ basin management practices, which increase the vegetable cover and reduce soil erosion. The restoration of marshes in the flooded plains and of bourgou pastures is a priceless element for optimizing river productivity.
- ◆ adaptation of economic activities to the natural regimes of the river; much can be learned from the traditional models of resources use, which gave flexibility by diversification.
- ◆ the currently operating dams can continue to perfectly fulfill their mission of productivity regulation and improvement, but in strictly respecting biodiversity.
- ◆ a better awareness of the communities and decision-makers on the functioning, stakes and challenges of the Niger River.

These words, heard during a summit of the Niger Basin Authority in 1994, never sounded so true and strong: "If the Niger river were only a project imagined by talented engineers, our States would never have balked at devoting the totality of their budget to it".

Please propose your solutions and ideas to save the river to: info@festivalsegou.org.

A compilation of your ideas will be presented during the forum.

Cheickna Seydi Diawara
UNDP
cheickna.diawara@undp.org

www.inbo-news.org
All information
on INBO
is available



on the WEB
www.inbo-news.org

ASIA

MRC: MEKONG RIVER COMMISSION

A NEW STRATEGY FOR THE BASIN



The Mekong River

The mission of the Mekong River Commission (MRC) is to promote and coordinate sustainable management and development of water resources for the countries' mutual benefit and the people's well-being by implementing strategic programs and activities and providing scientific information and policy advice.

The MRC has just elaborated a Strategy to implement IWRM for the next twenty years. The directions are the following:

- ◆ **Economic development and poverty alleviation:** to promote economic growth through use and development of joint water resources;
- ◆ **Integration through basin planning:** to implement a participatory, multi-sectoral basin planning process which integrates economic, social and environmental concerns;

- ◆ **Social development and equity:** to ensure equity in the allocation of water resources and services between different economic and social groups;
- ◆ **Regional cooperation:** to integrate and coordinate water resource development and management between countries to optimize benefits and to minimize the risk of water-related conflicts;
- ◆ **Governance:** to implement open, transparent and accountable institutions and regulatory frameworks that will promote IWRM at all levels;
- ◆ **Environmental protection:** to guarantee the ecological balance of the basin from harmful effects of development (1995 Agreement);
- ◆ **Climate change:** to prevent or minimize people's suffering and economic loss due to climate variability;

- ◆ **Information:** to ensure that decisions are based on the best available information.

The MRC is also engaged to contribute to the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger and to ensure environmental sustainability.

The MRC Strategic plan for 2006 to 2010 is based on an analysis of the socioeconomic situation, the important development and environmental protection needs, on the consultation of the Member States and all relevant stakeholders. This process enabled the MRC to select goals for the next five years.

The overall goal is a more effective use of the Mekong's water and related resources by supporting and coordinating investments. There is also a need to enhance regional cooperation, to strengthen basin-wide environmental monitoring and impact assessment and to improve the Integrated Water Resources Management capacity and knowledge base of the MRC bodies, Countries, Authorities and concerned stakeholders.

The MRC will play a stronger role in the promotion and implementation of its **Regional Cooperation Program** for Sustainable Development of Water Resources, referred to as Mekong Program, based on strong partnership with investment banks, technical partners and the civil society.

On the occasion of the 10th anniversary of its creation, the Mekong River Commission organized on 29 and 30 November last, an International Conference on the topic of integrated water resources management in the Mekong River Basin.

Aware of the need for regional cooperation for water resources management on the basin scale, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Vietnam signed, on 5 April 1995, a Cooperation agreement for the Sustainable Development of the Mekong River Basin. The Mekong River Commission was created on this occasion.

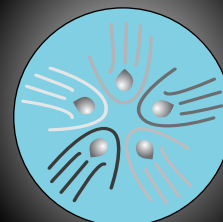
More than a hundred people came from the whole world to participate in this conference and bring their contribution.

INBO Permanent Technical Secretary, Mr. Jean-François Donzier, presented INBO activities.

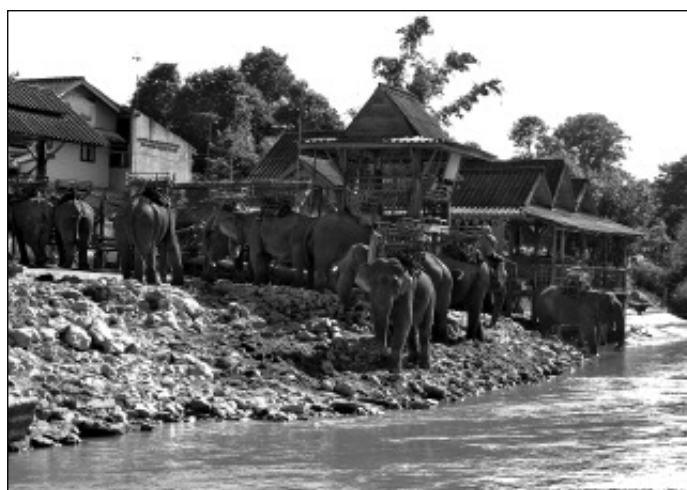
Oliver Cogels
Chief Executive Officer
Mekong River Commission
(MRC)
cogels@mrcmekong.org

www.mrcmekong.org

World Water Forum
Mexico - 18 March 2006



INBO BASIN IWRM



"E.NETWORK"

AN ESCAP-FAO INITIATIVE

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN-ESCAP) launched an initiative to improve integrated land and water resources management in Asia and the Pacific.

The E-Network on Strategic Planning and Management of Water Resources represents an effort to bring the world water vision to the regional and national levels.

The mission of the regional Network is to promote implementation of strategic planning and management (SPM) methodologies for land and water resources management.

The network is thus aimed at providing the background knowledge and a neutral meeting place for the exchange of experiences on the use of SPM methodologies.

In its initial stage, the E-Network was launched at the Second Southeast Asia Water Forum held in Bali, Indonesia at the end of August 2005. It is directly linked to the process of preparation for the Fourth World Water Forum (WWF).

Similarly, this initiative is also in the process of establishing partnerships with other key stakeholders in Asia and the Pacific, including: UNEP Collaborating Center on Water and Environment (UCC-Water), Japan

Water Forum, Mekong River Commission (MRC), Korea Water Forum, Asian Development Bank (ADB), Interstate Coordination Water Commission of Central Asia (ICWC), Malaysia Water Partnership, South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC), International Water Management Institute (IWMI) and the Network of Asian River Basin Organizations (NARBO), among others.

Javier Gonzalez-Soria
Project manager
FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
Javier.GonzalezSoria@fao.org

WWF INBO MEGA SESSION
4 Main Meetings in Mexico
18 March 2006 - 11:00 - 18:30
"For better IWRM at the basin level"



BANGLADESH

AN ANALYTICAL FRAMEWORK FOR IWRM

Located in the world's largest delta, Bangladesh is dominated by the combined flow of the Ganges, Brahmaputra and the Meghna which all flow through the Country. Yet Bangladesh covers only 8% of the total catchment area. This raises difficult challenges for planning and management of the water resources.

The Center for Environmental and Geographic Information

Services (CEGIS), together with the Water Resources Planning Organization (WAR-PO), is developing an analytical framework that will be used to evaluate the programs under the National Water Management Plan (NWMP) in terms of contribution to the national development objectives such as poverty reduction and impacts on social and environmental aspects.

In addition to updating the NWMP, the analytical framework will be able to assess the Inter-Basin projects impacts.

This analytical framework uses a generic approach, called the "steps of analysis", which are:

- 1 the identification of the problems,
- 2 the specification of objectives,
- 3 the delineation of analysis conditions,

- 4 the formulation and analysis of possible measures and promising strategies,
- 5 the implementation assessment for selected strategies,
- 6 the presentation of results.

S.H.M.Fakhruddin
Center for Environmental and Geographic Information Services (CEGIS)
suddin@cegisbd.com

GANGES-BRAHMAPUTRA-MEGHNA: IS A SHARED VISION POSSIBLE?

From the experience of the last few decades, it has become evident that the present approach to water management both in the countries and within the Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna (GBM) basins may not be sustainable.

About 80% of the runoff occurs in the four months of monsoon from June to September. The GBM basins are the most populous area in the world with a population density of around 700 inhab. per sq. km. They are home to nearly 620 million people.

Nearly half of the population lives below the poverty line and the number of poor is on the rise.

The GBM basins cover five countries: China, India, Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh. All the rivers originate from the

Himalayan ranges. Some of the important tributaries of the Ganges however originate from the Vindhya ranges.

The problems can seldom be solved inside administrative boundaries.

The countries in the region could build a framework for cooperation based upon a shared vision, which would encompass the common issues.

This Shared Vision could be: "To achieve equitable socio-economic development for the people in the region without compromising the sustainability of the ecosystem through proper utilization of water resources in the GBM basins."

A Regional Forum of the People could be established with branches in every country.

Mobilization of people at different levels would ensure the integration of activities in the basins.

A. N. H. Akhtar Hossain,
The Institution of Engineers,
S.H.M.Fakhruddin,
CEGIS
suddin@cegisbd.com



CENTRAL ASIA

NEW LAWS FOR WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

Faced with limited water resources and ever-increasing populations, all Central Asian States are looking for ways to manage their water in a more sustainable manner than during the Soviet period.

The Water Codes were updated in Tajikistan in 2000, in Kazakhstan in 2003, in Turkmenistan in 2004, and in the Kyrgyz Republic in 2004. Only in Uzbekistan the Law of 1993 on Water and Water Use is still in force.

In particular, the water legislations in Kazakhstan and the Kyrgyz Republic have made provisions for

basin water management and the establishment of a basin council - advisory body that involves all stakeholders - to facilitate participatory water management and coordination among agencies dealing with water.

In all Central Asian countries, waters are public property and therefore any use is subject to government authorization, permit, license or concession.

The water codes of the countries prioritize drinking water supply.

The Central Asian countries have recognized the need for adherence to international agreements in dealing with transboundary waters in the region.

The Central Asian Governments signed a cooperation Agreement on the joint management, use and protection of water resources from interstate sources in Alma-Ata on 18 February 1992. According to this Agreement, an **Interstate Commission for Water Coordination (ICWC)** was established together with its executive bodies: the Basin Water Organizations (BWO) for the Syrdarya and Amudarya.

The BWOs are financed by the national water organizations on a parity basis.

They supply water to each State, within limits established by ICWC, and carry out operational and control tasks.

Water allocation between the States is nevertheless based on Water Use and Protection Master-Plans (WUPMP) developed in the 1980s for these river basins.

*D. Ziganshina
Fax: (998 71) 166 50 97
dinara@icwc-aral.uz
Yu. Rysbekov
Fax: (998 71) 166 50 97
dukh@icwc-aral.uz*

WATER AND POWER PROBLEMS IN CENTRAL ASIA

Because of high-capacity hydropower systems upstream and huge irrigated areas downstream of the large river basins of Central Asia, it is necessary to search for a compromise between hydropower and irrigation. As a solution to this problem, it was proposed to establish an International Water-Power Consortium (IWPC).

The first idea of establishing IWPC appeared in 1997 during the Interstate Council of Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan.

The idea was fixed in the Agreement of 17.03.1998 on the use of water and power resources in the Syrdarya river basin between the Governments of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan, also signed by Tajikistan in 1999.

However, those decisions were not fulfilled.

At present, the concept of establishing IWPC is still valid. It was approved by the Council of the Heads of Member-States of the Central Asian Cooperation Organization. Of course, the draft agreement will have to take into account the Interstate Commission for Water Coordination (ICWC) in Central

Asia and its executive bodies, the BWO Syrdarya and BWO Amudarya.

*Yu. Rysbekov
Fax (998 71) 166 50 97
dukh@icwc-aral.uz*

THE RIVERTWIN PROJECT

The Scientific-Information Center of the Interstate Commission for Water Coordination (SIC ICWC) of Central Asia, together with partners from a number of European countries (Germany, Greece, the Netherlands, and Sweden) and from Africa, is implementing the RIVERTWIN research project.

Within this framework, SIC ICWC carries out a research in the transboundary Chirchik-Akhangaran river basin (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan).

The project duration is 2004-2007.

The main first year project results are as follows:

- Development of a concept for the involvement of stakeholders;
- Analysis of the water management structure;
- Preparation of models (economic, ecological, hydrological, etc.);

- Identification of problems and tendencies of the sectoral development in the basin;
- Creation of a database (water, soil, agriculture, socioeconomic indicators, etc.).

*Yu. Rysbekov
Fax: (998 71) 166 50 97
dukh@icwc-aral.uz*

INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT OF THE LOWER AMUDARYA AND SYRDARYA RIVERS

A project was implemented in 2004 by the Scientific-Information Center of the Inter-

state Commission for Water Coordination (SIC ICWC) of Central Asia, together with

partners from Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan with the support of the U.S. State Department, in pilot sites in the lower reaches of the Amudarya and Syrdarya for a transition to integrated water resource management (IWRM).

The main outcomes of the completed studies have just been presented in a summary report.

*Yu. Rysbekov
Fax: (998 71) 166 50 97
dukh@icwc-aral.uz*



The Syrdarya River

www.inbo-news.org
All information
on INBO
is available



on the WEB
www.inbo-news.org

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON REGIONAL COOPERATION AND THE MANAGEMENT OF TRANSBOUNDARY BASINS DUSHANBE – 30 MAY – 1ST JUNE 2005



Mrs. Jouye de Grandmaison's introductory address

The Government of the Republic of Tajikistan organized, with the support of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), an international conference on regional cooperation and the management of transboundary basins.

This conference took place in Dushanbe from 30 May to 1st June 2005.

The main objectives of the Conference were:

- establishing dialogue between the Central Asian States and strengthening

regional cooperation on the management of transboundary basins;

- organizing a discussion with the Conference participants originating from other regions having transboundary basins;
- defining the main events which will take place within the International Decade for Action, "water, source of life", and which will be more particularly related with safety and sound use of transboundary rivers

and with sustainable development;

- drawing up recommendations likely to solve current problems.

Our President, Mrs. Madeleine Jouye de Grandmaison, gave an introductory address on INBO during the opening ceremony in the presence of the President of the Tajik Republic.

Mr. Jean-François Donzier, INBO Permanent Secretary, chaired the first topical session on "sustainable management of transboundary waters" and Mrs. Jouye de Grandmaison the 3rd session on "integrated basin management".

www.inbo-news.org

www.transwaterconference2005.org



PARTICIPATIVE MANAGEMENT OF CENTRAL ASIAN RIVERS



Visit to Fergana Valley

Mr. Jean-François Donzier, INBO Permanent Technical Secretary went to Uzbekistan from 23 to 30 October 2005, at the invitation of the Scientific Information Center of the ICWC, to launch, in particular, with Mr. Viktor Dukhovny the creation of the Russian-Speaking Regional Network of INBO and to have a progress report

on the achievements of the Information Center in Tashkent and on its last modeling work completed on this area of Central Asia, especially for a better management of the Syrdarya and Amudarya.

He could visit, accompanied by Mr. Oumarov, the Fergana valley where a very interesting reform is taking place for an integrated participative management of the irrigation canals and irrigated areas.

Viktor Dukhovny
International Commission for the Protection of the Aral Sea
dukh@icwc-aral.uz

www.icwc-aral.uz

KAZAKHSTAN THE ILI-BALKHASH PILOT BASIN

The development of the integrated management plan of the Ili-Balkhash basin (IBB) in Kazakhstan, which was prepared by the Regional Environmental Center of Central Asia (CAREC) within the framework of the TACIS Central Asian Action Program of the European Union, aims to solve the social, economic and environmental problems in the region by introducing new management mechanisms in one of the biggest lake systems of the planet.

The main problems of the basin are caused by the irrational use and sharing of water resources which led to the loss of biological resources and agricultural land degradation, ecosystems declining and desertification, and as a consequence to the decrease of the living standards of local populations and their well-being.

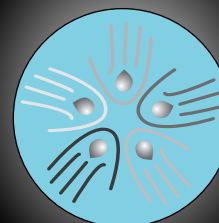
According to the recommendation of the Public Forum "Balkhash - 2000", which considered the situation in the Ili-Balkhash as highly critical, the

development Concept, based on the stabilization of the social, economic and environmental situation in the region, was elaborated.

Dr. Elena Kreuzberg-Mukhina
Manager of Ecosystem Management Program
Regional Environmental Center for Central Asia
Fax: +7 (3272) 705337
EKreuzberg@carec.kz

www.carec.kz

World Water Forum
Mexico - 18 March 2006



INBO BASIN IWRM

THE AMERICAS

MANAGEMENT OF TRANSBOUNDARY AND NATIONAL BASINS

CREATION OF THE OPERATIVE COMMITTEE AND THE CONSULTANCY NETWORK OF THE AMERICAS



Maureen Ballestero, Coordinator of the Operative Committee of the Americas, speaking at the International Water Conference held in Tabasco, Mexico, in July 2005

The American Continent, host of the 4th World Water Forum, is actively preparing for this global event by means of forming groups such as the Operative Committee of the Americas (COA), and the Consultancy Network, in which more than 60 organizations participate for holding prepara-

tory events in every area of the continent.

"COA" included more than 30 events for the period between late 2004 and late 2005 in the official list of preparatory events for the 4th WWF. These activities are of great importance because they provide information for the region's position paper as well as case studies and declarations that will be presented in Mexico in March 2006.

This labor will not end with the closure of the Forum, but to the contrary, it will be strengthened through the experiences acquired.

The work of the GWP-Central America (GWP-CA) and of the Organization of American States (OAS), as coordinating agencies of the "COA", has been essential to invigorate the preparatory process, in collaboration with, in particular, the Fresh Water Action Network (FAN-CA), the CONAGUA, ANEAS and CCA of Mexico, the U.S. Corps of Engineers, the Inter-American Development Bank or the American Water Resources Association (AWRA).

Mariela Argüello Leiva
Communication Officer
GWP-Central America
Fax: 240-9934
marguello@gwpcentroamerica.org

LIMA INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON TRANSBOUNDARY RIVER BASINS



Address of Mr. Carlos LORET DE MOLA, President of the National Council for the Environment (CONAM)

An International Symposium on Integrated Water Management in Transboundary River Basins took place in Lima on 18-20 May 2005. It was organized by the National Institute of Water Resources (INRENA) with support, in particular, from the Organization of American States, the UNEP project to "Disseminate Experiences and Lessons Learned in Transboundary Water Resources Management – DeltAmerica", the bi-National Development Plan for the Peru-Ecuador Border Region, the bi-National Authority of Lake Titicaca (ALT), and with the participation of the Technical Secretariat of the Organization

of the Amazon Permanent Cooperation Treaty (OTCA). It gathered delegates from North America, Central America, the Caribbean Region and South America.

Among the declarations, the following could be mentioned in particular:

- To assess the main problems related to transboundary waters on the whole continent.
- To advance cooperation and integration among the countries of the region for transboundary water resources management.

- To consolidate regional cooperation mechanisms.
- To strengthen and optimize existing legal and institutional tools for transboundary water resources management such as OTCA, CIC, ALT, BCCAD and CEHI among others.
- To overcome sectoral approaches and the institutional fragmentation of transboundary water management.
- To promote the participation of users, indigenous communities and the civil society, all of which are essential factors in water governance.
- To evolve towards a new water culture that highlights the historical and cultural values of the Americas' people and nations.
- To promote local associations for the management of aquifers.
- To utilize information and experience sharing tools such as the Inter-American Water Resources Network (IWRN).
- To explore economic and financial mechanisms allowing transboundary water management institutions to undertake joint actions.

Jorge Benites Agüero
South Pacific and Amazonia
Sub-Regional Unit
DELTAMERICA Project
INRENA
Fax: (51 1) 224 7719
jbenites@inrena.gob.pe



"WATER 2005" IN CALI

The CINARA Institute of the Valle University, works on water, and since 1996 has organized every year one of the most important water-related events of Latin America.

"WATER 2005" is a scientific and academic meeting dedicated to the formulation of water management policies.

"WATER 2005" took place in Cali, from 31 October to 4 November, and allowed discussions on the strategies needed for achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

One of the most influential factors in poverty reduction is access to drinking water and basic sanitation.

It was emphasized that good water services:

- ◆ are the key to sustainable development, they are essential for good health, reduce undernourishment and improve educational conditions;
- ◆ contribute to economic development, mainly in rural areas where families depend on agriculture and animal husbandry;
- ◆ must be a right for all human beings.

Paola Chaves
CINARA Institute
Agua2005@univalle.edu.co

PANAMA

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ENTERS UNIVERSITIES

The Republic of Panama has great biodiversity: the river system is composed of 500 rivers and fifty river basins.

Taking into account the problems encountered in our river basins, we created the River Protection Foundation, member of the International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO).

Thus, the Panamanian Universities, either public or private, are including environmental education in their programs, among which the Independent University of Chiriquí, (UNACHI) can be mentioned. Today new Masters in Natural Resources are planned as well as a Degree on Environmental Sciences.

ECLAC

RIVER BASINS ORGANIZATIONS: EXPERIENCE OF ARGENTINA



It is important to systematize the experiences of Latin-American countries regarding the creation and operation of river basin organizations. The objective of this paper is to review the experience of Argentina.

The document is divided into two parts:

- The first section is dedicated to the description of the physical, legal and institutional aspects of water resources management in Argentina.
- The second part of the study analyzes the main cases of existing river basin organizations in Argentina, either inter-jurisdictional bodies (Inter-jurisdictional Committee of the Colorado River (COIRCO), Inter-jurisdictional Authority of the Limay, Neuquén

and Negro River Basins (AIC), Regional Commission of the Bermejo River (COREBE), Inter-jurisdictional Technical Commission of the Sali-Dulce River basin, Authority of the Azul River basin (ACRA), Inter-jurisdictional Commission of the Picasa Lagoon basin) or provincial ones (provinces of Buenos Aires, Mendoza and Santa Fe).

This publication of Víctor Pochat will be available on the Website:

www.eclac.org/drni

Andrei S. Jouravlev
Economic Commission
for Latin America
and the Caribbean (ECLAC)
Andrei.JOURAVLEV@cepal.org

www.eclac.org

"CARU"

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION PLAN OF THE URUGUAY RIVER

The Uruguay River constitutes an important water resource whose development potential is still beginning. The preservation of the river to meet the present generations' needs without endangering the

future generations' needs is an obligation that the Argentinean and Uruguayan Governments have assumed for the lower part of the River, which they share, and have delegated the "Comisión

Administradora del Río Uruguay (CARU)" with the preservation of the water resource.

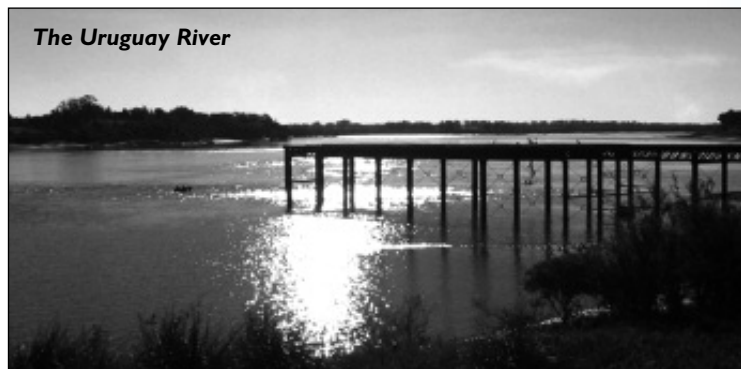
The Environmental Protection Plan of the Uruguay River was signed on 29 October 2002 between the CARU and the Local Governments of Argentina and Uruguay, which share the Uruguay river.

Pollution prevention and mitigation constitute the primary purposes of the Plan: conservation and monitoring of fishing resources, protection and improvement of water quality for recreational use, protection of sensitive

areas and of high tourist value, prevention of erosion and floods in coastal areas, management of Salto Grande dam, institutional capacity building of the municipalities and organizations which actively participate in environmental protection activities, and implementation of an information system for the shared use of environmental data in the area of application of the Plan.

Ing. Alejandro Rojas,
Dr. María Laura Ojeda
Technical Secretariat
CARU

www.caru.org.uy



The Uruguay River



MEXICO

WATER MANAGEMENT IN MEXICO

AQUIFER RECHARGE IN THE SONORA RIVER BASIN

In the Sonora River basin, extraction of groundwater, mainly for irrigation purposes, surpasses the recharge levels of the aquifers, resulting in an accelerated aquifer depletion.

A restoration plan of the middle and upper basin of the Sonora River aims to:

- reduce the degradation of natural resources,

- provide long-term soil stability to secure greater rainwater collection to recharge the aquifers,
- raise users' awareness on the best way to use natural resources.

An important tool in the assessment will be the establishment of remote sensors and Image Processing Systems.

*North-West Regional Directorate
National Water Commission
jquiroz@grno.cna.gob*

WATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS FOR SANITATION

In Mexico, only 34% of municipal waste waters are treated. To solve this problem, several Follow-up and Evaluation Groups (GSE) of the 25 Basin Councils have formulated Water Management Programs for Sanitation, for which the National Water Commission (CONAGUA) has designed the methodology:

- the basin is the management unit;
- its formulation is fast;
- there are short-term results;
- there is high participation;
- it is planned for a 10-year period, with revisions every 5 years and bi-yearly reports.

These Management Programs orient the policies in terms of basin sanitation. They are constantly updated to better meet their objectives and achieve higher impact: these have already been formulated for the Basins of the Tuxpan to Jamapa, Papaloapan and Coatzacoalcos Rivers in the Gulf of Mexico, and, in the Pacific Ocean, of the

Fuerte, Sinaloa and Mocorito to the Quelite Rivers.

The three Basin Councils of the Mayo River, Presidio to San Pedro River, and Pánuco River are in the elaboration process.

*Eugenia O. Haro García
Basin Council Manager
National Water Commission
eugenia.haro@cna.gob.mx*

WATER AND PUBLIC HEALTH

One of the priorities of the National Hydrological Program 2001-2006 is to improve the quality of the drinking water supply service.

The population with access to the service of water carried by pipes to their households, without sanitation, could be reduced to 3.7 million inhabitants in 2003. The number of cases of intestinal infectious diseases showed a reduction from 2000 to 2003 of 10.2 %; the mortality of children under 5 years of age went from

22.9 to 19.6 per 100,000 children.

The World Health Organization (WHO) excluded Mexico from the list of cholera-infected areas on July 2, 2001.

Federal investment was 50 million Mexican pesos per year.

The implemented policy relies on:

- a federal subsidy program for the States and Municipalities to expand and maintain the infrastructures,

- collaboration between the Authorities, at the three different government levels (federal, State, Municipalities) to improve sanitation monitoring, support populations with sanitary risks and use investments in a more efficient way.

The objective is that a 100% chlorination of the supplied water can be ensured through its supply systems.

Higher federal investments will be required for the control of water quality.

A geographic information system was implemented in the Yucatan Peninsula, which records treatment effectiveness in each municipality of Campeche, Quintana Roo and Yucatan.

*Miguel Angel García Córdoba
Agua Limpia Program
CONAGUA
Fax: (55) 51744000 Ext. 1387
miguela.garcia@cna.gob.mx*

COMPREHENSIVE FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT IN TABASCO

The last large flood occurred in 1999, and it affected approximately 60% of the capital city of the State. It caused severe damages in 16 of the 17 municipalities, and the properties of almost

312 thousand people were affected, with damages estimated at more than 2.5 billion pesos.

The CONAGUA developed the Comprehensive Flood Control Project (PICI).

In April 2003, the Federal (72%) and State (28%) Governments signed a coordination agreement to join actions and resources to implement the PICI.

The three systems concerned are the Mezcalapa-Samaria; La Sierra, and Carrizal-Medellín. They offer comprehensive protection against heavy rainfall and its effects on the levels of the Samaria, Carrizal, La Sierra, and Grijalva Rivers by taking the surplus flows away from the urban centers.

The PICI of the Plains of the Grijalva - Usumacinta Rivers is estimated at 2.06 billion pesos in six municipalities. 179 km of dikes, 190 km of drains, and three control structures will be built to protect more than 370 thousand inhabitants and preserve 25,400 hectares for cultivation use.

*José Antonio Jiménez Ferrero
Sub-Directorate General
of Urban Hydraulic
Infrastructures
CONAGUA
Jose.jimenez@cna.gob.mx*



www.inbo-news.org
All information on INBO is available

on the WEB
www.inbo-news.org

USERS' PARTICIPATION

Water policy, redefined by the Federal Law of 2004, has six major objectives:

- ❖ Efficient use of water in agriculture;
- ❖ Improvement of drinking water, sewerage and sanitation services;
- ❖ Integrated and sustainable river basin and aquifer management;
- ❖ Technical, administrative and financial development of the water sector;
- ❖ Participation of users and the civil society;
- ❖ Reduction of flood and drought risks.

Indicators were defined to measure the impact of policy implementation.

The 26 River Basin Councils are coordination, concertation and support bodies, made up of federal, state and municipal agencies, and water user and social organization representatives of the respective river basin or hydrological region. They have auxiliary organizations: 10 River Basin Commissions, 16 Basin Committees and 66 Groundwater Technical Committees (COTAS) were created in September 2004.

The National Water Advisory Council is comprised of the civil society, with the purpose of supporting the necessary strategic change in the water sector, and promoting, coordinating and guiding social efforts to achieve an efficient water management and use culture.

29 States have now created State Citizen's Councils for Water.

5,000 contributions have already been received from the civil society on all issues of water management.

The National Hydrological Plan 2001-2006 (PNH) governs the Mexican water administration.

An assessment was made of the obtained results in 2003.

This assessment dealt with the quality of participation in River Basin Councils, Groundwater Technical Committees (COTAS) and Irrigation Districts.

Three basic conditions enable the qualification of good participation:

- quality of the information among authorities, representatives, and users,
- the stakeholders' honest behavior,
- the group's conflict solving skills.

The conclusions were as follows:

- participation improved in the last four years,
- results are better on small territorial scales,
- the users' problem solving capacity is still weak,
- user's representation should be increased,
- the follow up of adopted agreements should be improved.

The participants themselves proposed some solutions:

- better user organization,
- a stronger presence of mayors in participative bodies.

*Juan Carlos Valencia Vargas
Water Planning Manager,
CONAGUA
juan.valencia@cna.gob.mx*

GROUNDWATER IN THE TEHUACAN VALLEY

The Technical Groundwater Committee (COTAS) acts as an auxiliary organ of the Basin Council of the Tehuacán Valley in the State of Puebla.

Among the most relevant technical actions, there is the preparation of the document called "Participative Planning for comprehensive water management of the Tehuacán Valley aquifer".

The COTAS must be capable of obtaining the economic resources needed for the aquifer preservation and management, to ensure the technical planning of extractions, to develop the necessary studies and to become support bodies for resource management.

*Gulf Center Regional Directorate
Fax: 01 228 8 17 11 88
hmartinez@grgc.cna.gob.mx
smorenof@grgc.cna.gob.mx*

THE RESTORATION PROCESS OF THE ZANATENCO RIVER IN CHIAPAS

In 2000, the Costa de Chiapas Basin Council was established with the direct involvement of the municipal, state and federal authorities and the active participation of users and the civil society.

The strategic program, formulated in 2002, considered several actions:

- Establishing the Basin Committee of the Zanatenco River;
- Formulating a Comprehensive Management Plan of the Zanatenco River Basin;
- Encouraging participation;
- Establishing an operative management of the Basin Committee;
- Incorporating the Plan into municipal regulation to guarantee the continuity of actions and projects.

An investment of 25 million pesos was made during the 2002-2004 period.

Achievements obtained:

- Reforestation of the upper basin;
- Soil preservation;
- Estuary cleaning;
- Water quality study;
- Extension and improvement of drinking water supply and sewerage systems;
- Silt removal in the River;
- Introduction of electric power in remote areas;
- Road rehabilitation.

*Eugenia O. Haro García
Basin Council Manager
National Water Commission
eugenia.haro@cna.gob.mx*

THE RIO CUPATITZIO BASIN

On August 4, 2004, the Cupatitzio River Basin Commission was created in the city of Taretan, Michoacán State.

The problems perceived by the water users in the basin were defined during Objective-Oriented Participative Planning Workshops (ZOPP), held in the city of Uruapan on June 30 and July 1 and on November 23 – 25, 2004. The main problem in the Cupatitzio River basin is the degradation and depletion of natural resources: water, forest, and soil.

Within the Cooperation with GTZ, the Cupatitzio River Basin Commission is responsible for following up the Comprehensive Water Management Plan of the Basin, thanks to the results obtained in the ZOPP workshops. This Basin Plan aims to conduct the studies and make the necessary investments in the short and medium term to reverse over-exploitation of resources and generate participative management that can involve the society in decision-making.

*Vicente Ortega Lara - CONAGUA
Balsas Regional Directorate
www.cna.gob.mx*

THE RIO BRAVO BASIN COUNCIL

On 21 January 1999, the Rio Bravo Basin Council was created, where authorities and users of domestic waters are committed to join their efforts to preserve this resource. It is made up of 31 members, of which 7 are governmental and 24 represent the users.

In May 2001, a Project for the Regulation of the Distribution and Exploitation, Use and Development of National Surface Waters of the Rio Bravo basin was under preparation.

The National Water Commission is involved in its preparation, as well as the Government of the States of Chihuahua, Coahuila, Nuevo León, and Tamaulipas, and the organizations of domestic water users and guests, like the Mexican Institute of Water Technology and the International Commission of Limits and Waters (CILA).

The participation of users has been essential to achieve progress in the regulation project. Their comments and proposals have been heard.

*Ing. Pedro Garza Treviño
Rio Bravo Regional Director
pgarza@rrrb.cna.gob.mx*

MEXICO (Continuation)

MANAGEMENT OF IRRIGATION DISTRICTS



The Irrigation Districts were built in 1936 by the Federal Government. By then, the country had around one million hectares under irrigation. In 1989, the National Water Commission took their rescue under its responsibility and created the Users' Irrigation District Transfer Program. It aims to organize Users' Civil Associations (ACUs) and grant them module concessions for water and infrastructure use.

The CONAGUA supervises the compliance with these concessions and performs the periodic assessment of the work of each "ACU".

So far, modules have been transferred to 468 existing ACUs, which cover 3,471,058 hectares, i.e. 99.2 % of the total area of the Irrigation Districts of the country.

Their main results are:

- Good maintenance of the infrastructures by the users;

- Increase in soil and water productivity;
- Enhancement of the human resources, machinery, and equipment of the ACUs;
- Hydro-agricultural infrastructure modernization.

Indeed, since 1997, the Partnership Program for the Countryside has allowed the rehabilitation and modernization of the hydro-agricultural infrastructures, thanks to World Bank loans, with contributions of the users (25%) and of the State governments (25%).

Its main actions are to:

- rehabilitate and modernize the infrastructures;
- promote modern irrigation techniques;
- carry out the organization of producers and the regulation of units;
- train the users.

*Sub-Directorate General of Agricultural Infrastructures
Directorate of Efficient Use of Water and Electric Power
CONAGUA*

www.cna.gob.mx

FIRST BINATIONAL RIO GRANDE / RIO BRAVO SUMMIT MCALLEN (TEXAS) - REYNOSA (MEXICO)



The First Binational Rio Grande / Rio Bravo Summit was held in Reynosa and McAllen on 17 and

18 November 2005, within the framework of the **International Mexico / USA Commission on Limits and Water (CILA)**.

This meeting, co-chaired by the two Commissioners, Messrs. Arturo Herrera Solís (Mexico) and Carlos Marin (USA), was attended by about 300 participants, representatives of the various Organizations interve-

ning in the water sector on both sides of the border and aimed at enriching the work of the International Commission by highlighting the real questions which arise in the field.

The Summit was organized around 4 topics as varied as:

- the legal and institutional framework,
- the binational management of the Basin,
- the environment and water quality,
- financing.

Mr. Jean-François Donzier, General Manager of the International Office for Water and Permanent Technical Secretary of the International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO), was invited to make the main conference of the opening plenary session on the topic of the implementation of the European Water Framework Directive.

www.rioweb.org

USA

DEVELOPMENT OF INDICATORS TO MEASURE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF RIVER BASIN MANAGEMENT

In the USA, IWRM emerged in the 1980s and 1990s and focused on local actions stimulated by federal and State programs, such as EPA's watershed approach.

But basin level governance was politically charged and difficult to achieve, thus, **there has been limited basin scale application of IWRM in the USA**, except through international treaties and institutional arrangements for water planning and management.

The existing river basin commissions were dissolved in the Reagan administration with concerns over duplication of government services.

In some basins, such as the Delaware, basin commissions continue, although with reduced Federal Government support.

Objectives

The research of the Illinois University aims to:

- 1 Develop universal performance indicators for river basin management organizations' (RBOs') ability to undertake integrated river basin management;
- 2 Apply a selection of the performance indicators to selected US river basins and recommend the application of performance indicators in other river basins.

Work Completed in 2005

> Stage 1:

115 basin organization indicators were identified. These were developed using a review of the literature and documented expert practice in US and international basins. These indicators have been grouped into ten categories: coordinated decision-making [19 indicators], responsive decision-

making [10], goals and goal shift [7], financial sustainability [12], organizational design [20], role of law [5], training and capacity building [6], information and research [18], accountability and monitoring [6], and private and public sector roles [12].

> Stage 2:

The second stage involved applying a subset of the indicators to selected US basins. The Willamette and the Lake Champlain Basins, drawn from UNESCO's HELP program, and the Delaware River Basin Commission were approached to participate in the study. They were asked to evaluate the efficacy of the indicators.

Project Benefits

The project is expected to provide:

- A method to measure the effectiveness of river basin management organizations;

- Improved understanding of the factors affecting the performance of RBOs;
- Possible improved implementation of integrated water resources management by RBOs;
- Involvement and ownership by stakeholders of basin management.

Deliverables

The project will produce:

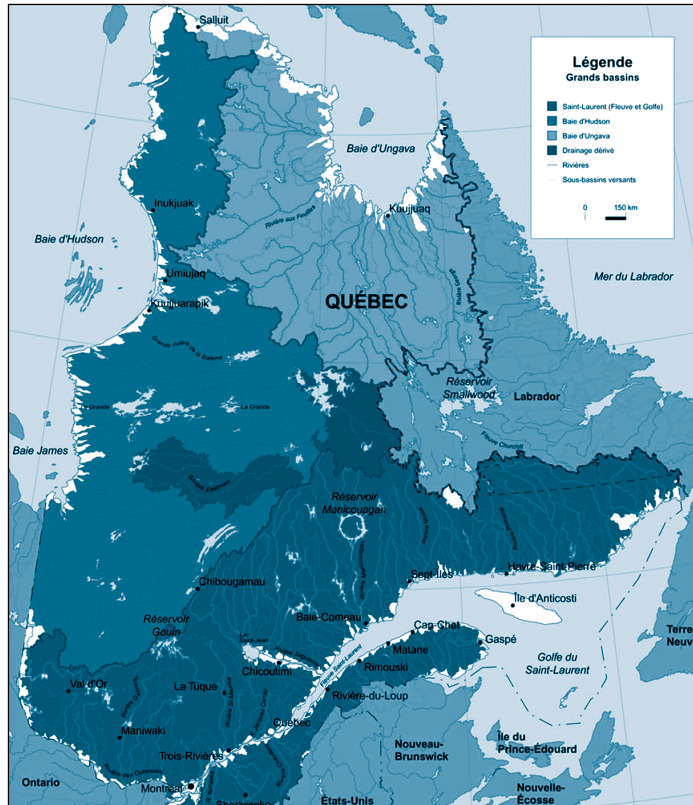
- > A White Paper on river basin organization performance indicators;
- > A practical manual, suited for further development as a web-based evaluation tool;
- > Briefings to promote the use of the manual.

*Dr Bruce P. Hooper
Department of Geography
and Environmental Resources
Southern Illinois University
bhooper@siu.edu*

THE GREAT LAKES - ST. LAWRENCE RIVER BASIN

AN UNPRECEDENTED INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT TO PROHIBIT DIVERSIONS FROM THE BASIN

WWF INBO MEGA SESSION
4 Main Meetings in Mexico
18 March 2006 - 11:00 - 18:30
"For better IWRM at the basin level"



As defined in 1985 in the Great Lakes Charter, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Basin covers an area encompassing the five Great Lakes watersheds (Ontario, Erie, Huron, Michigan and Superior) as well as the St. Lawrence River as far as the City of Trois-Rivières in Quebec (the tidal limit). This huge basin represents about the fifth of the world freshwater reserves, hosts nearly 40 million inhabitants and is the industrial core of the American Midwest, Ontario and Quebec.

The Agreement on the sustainable water resources of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence river basin was signed in Milwaukee (Wisconsin) on 13 December 2005.

This Agreement commits ten Governments - Quebec, Ontario, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin - to jointly act to reinforce water protection in the Basin with a view to sustainable development. After four years of negotiations, the Parties finally agreed on an essential element of this protection: **the prohibition of diversions and transfers of bulk water from the Basin towards other areas of North America and the world.**

This Agreement is unprecedented. On the one hand, the magnitude of the covered activities and involved territory: all types of abstractions (agricultural, urban, industrial, etc.) and all basin waters (surface water of the Great Lakes,

tributaries, groundwater) are concerned by this negotiation. In addition, the negotiation itself was very special since it was carried out by Federation States acting in their own fields of competence in Canada and the United States and was guided by two successive public enquiries held simultaneously on both sides of the Canadian-American border. There was permanent participation of the environmental, industrial, agricultural, municipal circles as well as a continuous dialogue with the various American and Canadian federal agencies concerned. In addition, some approaches, new in America, appeared in this Agreement: sustainable development, precautionary approach, reference to environmental changes such as climate, recognition and systematic measurement of the cumulative impacts on the Basin scale.

This vast negotiation originated from increasing pressures on the Basin, the increasing demand of the big cities and irrigation needs in particular, as well as all kinds of threats on the lake ecosystems. But the most determining consideration was the concern about risks of major water diversions or exportation out of the basin.

Other parts of America "are thirsty". The climatic phenomena increase the trend and economic and political pressures for major diversions and abstractions are likely to develop. In spite of its vastness, the Basin is indeed fragile: **only 1% of the volume of the Great Lakes is renewed each year by rainfall and run-off.**

In addition to diversions, the Agreement also focuses on the large water uses inside the Basin. Special emphasis is given to water conservation and uses. It establishes a common standard for water abstractions and a system for mutual notification on the major withdrawals made inside the Basin. The Parties agreed to feed a database of water abstractions and to strengthen scientific research in this field. This approach will thus contribute to avoid disagreements and prevent water crises, which would be particularly detrimental to the St. Lawrence located downstream of the basin.

The international Agreement is "in good faith": the Parties commit themselves to implement it by adopting the internal laws necessary for making its provisions compulsory. In the United States, this implementation is carried out through an enforceable agreement between the eight States, called the Compact, a "mirror" agreement which contains the same provisions as the international Agreement.

This Agreement enables the eight US States, riparian of the Great Lakes, Ontario and Quebec to strengthen their cooperation bonds.

This partnership is essential for the future of the St. Lawrence River.

Jérôme Faivre
Ministry of Sustainable Development, Environment and Natural Reserves of Quebec
Fax: (418) 644-4598
jerome.faivre@mddep.gouv.qc.ca

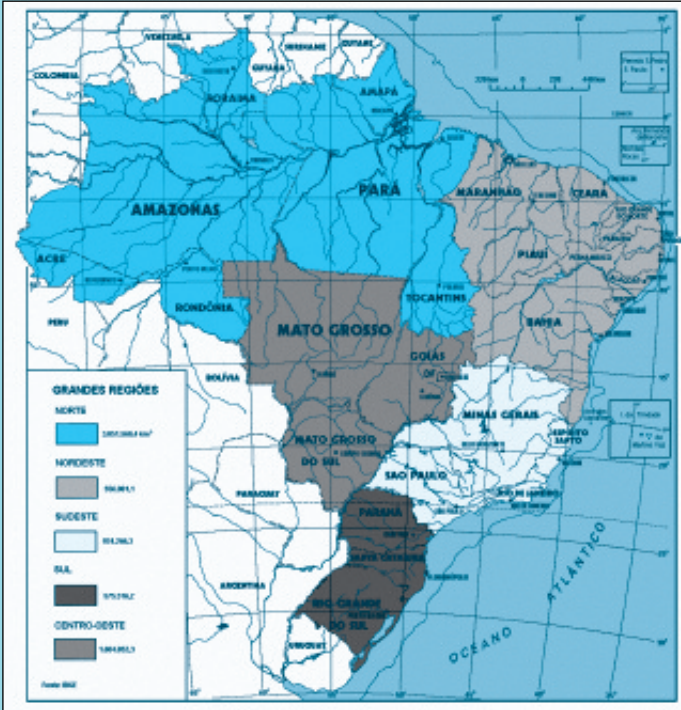
www.mddep.gouv.qc.ca



The St. Lawrence shoreline

BRAZIL

THE NEW WATER POLICY IS BEING IMPLEMENTED



The legislative context

The Constitution of 1988 establishes water as a public good that can only be utilized with a concession of rights to use. Granting concessions is an exclusive prerogative of the Union or the States.

The Brazilian Water Law (1997) created an institutional model, consisting of the National Council for Water Resources and its equivalents in the States, Basin Committees and executive bodies, the River Basin Agencies.

It also created a set of management instruments: national and State Water Resources Management Plans, classification of surface waters, concessions of water use rights, billing for the right to use water resources, and information systems.

The River Basin Agencies

Their composition is variable depending on different institutional alternatives currently used:

- governmental companies with mixed economy (Ceará);
- regional public autarchies (Rio Grande do Sul);

- autonomous organizations - SO (Paraíba do Sul);
- organizations of civil society with public interest - OSCIPs.

Their basic responsibilities are:

- To act as executive secretariat of the river basin committee;
- To maintain a register of users and update water availability;
- To bill for water use;
- To prepare the Water Resources Management Plan for approval by the Basin Committee;
- To promote studies and analyze plans, projects and works to be financed by the billing for water use.

The National Water Agency (ANA- Agência Nacional de Águas)

Created in 2001, it is an institution with special regime, independent for decision-making purposes, its directors are confirmed by the Federal Senate, and it has financial autonomy. Its main duties are the granting of concessions for the use of surface waters in the federal domain and the implementation of the **National Water Resources Management System**.

ANA is characterized by a broad field of action, including the national macrobasins, but has few instruments to deal with local issues (problems of floods and pollution control), for which it must count on the

cooperation of the States and Municipalities, especially for planning land use.

This system is still "under construction":

- **the principle of water as a "public good"** is present in the National Law, but not yet in the "mind" of water users, especially "farmers";
- **the principle of decentralization** is also present in the law, but not yet in the mind of most "public decision-makers";
- **the principle of participation** is "achieved in many regions of the Country, although in some cases one observes high transaction costs in the decision-making process,

The implementation of **the principle of integration** is, in fact, the most difficult task, because of the diversity of situations, the results in terms of IWRM are not equal.

Some "pilot experiences" show good results: the State of Ceará is a model for dry regions and the Paraíba do Sul River Basin is the model for federal basins in industrial regions. It is the first Brazilian Basin where all management instruments were implemented.

We have a legal and institutional framework that allows the implementation of efficient IWRM, but we are still far from achieving this goal...

Oscar Cordeiro Netto
Director of ANA
oscar@ana.gov.br

www.ana.gov.br

VENEZUELA

THE FUTURE OF THE CARONI RIVER BASIN

For several years now, Non Governmental Organizations, such as the Society of Friends for the Defense of the Great Savannah (AMIGRANSA) or the Association of Volunteer Watchmen of the Border of the Great Savannah (AVVA), have denounced a series of activities against the conservation of the Caroní River basin and the Canaima National Park and have initiated the protection of this region located in the Venezuelan Guayana, in the Bolívar State.

This section of the Upper Caroní River basin and the Upper Paragua River basin are

protected by various legal provisions: the Protected Area of the Southern Bolívar State, the National Canaima Park, the natural geological formations of Tepuyanas, etc.

We have noted with concern an increase in mining activities, specifically prohibited by these protection decrees, extractions in rivers, in the savannah and in forests, which are deteriorating and polluting soils, waters and the air. The small mining of the "garimpeiros" is responsible for pollution by mercury and cyanide and deforestation.

In September 2005, Ms. Jacqueline Faría, Minister for the Environment, announced that all the mining contracts and concessions were going to be revised with the purpose of cleaning the Caroní River basin, "to preserve the rivers and forests to bequeath an alive planet to future generations". The President of the Republic announced that he would revoke the mining concessions and contracts in the entire Bolívar State.

In spite of these announcements, the environmental watchmen informed that the mining activity had restarted

and the rivers were polluted again.

It is thus necessary to carry out the reconversion towards sustainable activities and to help the small miners' families, the non-mining creole and indigenous communities of the South border zone of the Bolívar State and the environmental organizations to implement economic and nature friendly projects on a small scale.

Society of Friends for the Defense of the Great Savannah (AMIGRANSA)
amigrans@internet.ve

"EUROPE-INBO" PARTICIPATED IN THE 6TH "BALTIC SEA DAY"



The Baltic Sea is reputed to be the most polluted sea of the planet. Victim of a particularly serious eutrophication, the marine ecosystem is so highly imbalanced that exporting certain fish species which are fished there, like herring or salmon, is prohibited in the European Union.

In the 1970s, the riparian countries of the Baltic Sea (Sweden, Denmark, Germany, Poland, Finland, Russia, Esto-

nia, Latvia and Lithuania) decided to act together to protect the environment.

This interregional mobilization appeared in particular through "Helcom", the **Helsinki Commission for the Protection of the Baltic Sea**.

Since 2000, an International Conference has been organized every year in St. Petersburg to give a progress report on the achievements made.

The 6th "Baltic Sea Day" took place on 22 and 23 March 2005 in St. Petersburg. Today, this yearly forum has become one of the main mechanisms that enable the development of a cooperation between riparian countries of the Baltic Sea.

Among the many topics included this year in the program of the Conference, there were: trilateral cooperation for the Gulf of Finland, strategy for collecting data on dangerous substances in Russia, the European Maritime Strategy and the European Water Framework Directive.

This last point is significant, because of the political changes resulting from the enlargement of the European Union.

The existence of a common environmental legislation, from now on applicable in all the Coastal States of the Baltic Sea, apart from the Russian Federation, has necessarily impacts on regional environmental priorities.

It is in such a context that "HELCOM" wished to involve the International Network of Basin Organizations in the work of its 6th "Baltic Sea Day".

Messrs. Mieczyslaw Ostojki, President of the "EUROPE-INBO" Group, Jean-François Donzier, INBO Permanent Technical Secretary and Jean Claude Vial, French Water Director, came and presented the activities of the Network and particularly the work undertaken for the implementation of the Water Framework Directive.

It was also an opportunity to demonstrate how INBO is involved in the preparation of the next World Water Forum of Mexico City.

*Nikolay Vlasov
Helsinki Commission
nikolay.vlasov@helcom.fi*



"EUROPE-INBO" WORKSHOP: FLOOD PREVENTION IN EUROPE WROCLAW - POLAND - 19 - 21 OCTOBER 2005

The members of EUROPE-INBO (Group of European Basin Organizations for the implementation of the Water Framework Directive) met in Wroclaw in Poland from 19 to 21 October 2005 to participate in a workshop on flood prevention.

Organized with the support of the Polish Ministry of the Environment, this event allowed the participants to draw up a

report on their knowledge of flood prevention.

Several topics were included in the program:

- The legal framework on the protection against floods and its relations with the Water Framework Directive and Natura 2000;
- The systems for flood forecasting, the management of flood-prone areas, regional

planning, collective awareness of the risks and measures for the prevention of damage;

- Technical actions, especially flood storage areas, which can be implemented in the basins to reduce flood volumes.

The work was opened by the Polish Minister for the Environment.

Messrs. Jean Marie Wauthier and Mieczyslaw Ostojki, Presidents of EUROPE-INBO, and Jean-François Donzier, Technical Secretary of the Network, gave the introductory addresses of this workshop.

**"EUROPE-INBO"
MEETING
Megève - France
20 - 22 Sept. 2006**



"EUROPE-INBO 2005": 2ND INTERNATIONAL ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WAT

More than 175 representatives of governmental administrations in charge of water resources management, of Basin Organizations or District Authorities coming from 36 countries met in Namur, Walloon Region in Belgium, from 29 September to 1st October 2005, at the invitation of Mr. Benoit LUTGEN, Walloon Minister for Agriculture, Rural Areas and the Environment, under the auspices of the Group of European Basin Organizations for the WFD implementation (EUROPE-INBO) and of the International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO).

This important meeting especially fitted in with the European cycle of the preparation of the 4th World Water Forum of Mexico City in March 2006.

The "EUROPE-INBO" Group of European Basin Organizations is member of the Common Strategy Coordination Group (CIS) for the WFD implementation process.

The work of the "EUROPE-INBO" Group aims at enriching the common strategy (CIS) by presenting different approaches, very operational results or field experiments.

The implementation of the European Water Framework Directive (WFD) in the 25 countries of the enlarged European Union and in the Countries applying for accession, seems a major fact for the dissemination of the principles of good governance, recommended by INBO, which is indeed a priority topic for mobilizing its members.



PROCEEDINGS

Two main topics were dealt with during the plenary assembly:

➔ **the implementation of the Framework Directive in transboundary river basins and International River Basin Districts (IRBDs)**, with a significant participation of the European international commissions, among them those concerning the Walloon region,

■ The launching of the "EUROPE-INBO" website: this website will allow a wider dissemination of guidelines and documents prepared within the European framework of the CIS.

It will also gather case studies of other pilot river basins and the documents produced by the European Basin Organizations and District Authorities.

■ The development of twinning agreements between Basin Organizations of different countries facing

• It is essential to clarify the environmental objectives and the definition of the good status at the European level.

It is recommended:

- to promote a bottom-up approach, using the work done by various countries to prepare the program of measures and to formulate the management plan of an International District,
- to develop exchanges on the methods used and tools,
- to conceive an iterative and dynamic approach for the formulation of the program of measures, taking the existing and future data into account without delaying the actions to be carried out in the short term.

But also:

- ◆ to make the monitoring/follow-up systems coherent, harmonization of the data and Geographic Information Systems in the transboundary basins as a priority,
- ◆ to analyze the compatibility of the developed GIS tools with the European WISE reporting system,
- ◆ to ensure comparability between the results of the national monitoring programs planned for 2007.

The delegates also proposed:

- To strengthen the action of the existing international bodies (international commissions, bilateral cooperation, etc.),
- To support the creation of new International Commissions and to strengthen cooperation for shared basins with the countries neighboring the EU,

Generally, the significance and dynamism of any very practical cooperation that has existed for a long time and that develops in transboundary basins are still not well-known and should be better enhanced and disseminated.

The Framework Directive is an opportunity for strengthening these kinds of cooperation.



➔ **the participation of the populations in the definition of water policy**, responsibilities of the local elected officials and of the professional and association representatives, the "Basin Committees", consultation of the "general public" for the implementation of the Framework Directive. This topic has widely opened the work of the assembly to our partners working in the field.

51 papers were presented during the Namur meeting.

FINAL RESOLUTIONS

The organizations participating in the "EUROPE-INBO" Group reaffirmed their wish to continue exchanging their experiences through four complementary activities:

■ The organization of regular meetings, yearly plenary sessions or thematic workshops.

common problems, especially within the TWIN-BASIN project.

■ The promotion of training and professional capacity building programs for the executives and staffs of Basins Organizations, especially with the start of the WFD-LEARN program.

AS REGARDS TRANSBOUNDARY BASINS AND INTERNATIONAL RIVER BASIN DISTRICTS:

• Taking into account the results of the characterizations undertaken by each country in 2004 and the sharing leading to the roof report, it appears that homogenization of the methods is not compulsory, but that transparency is essential for a good common understanding of the methods used and a comparability of the obtained results.

AL MEETING ER FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE

AS REGARDS PUBLIC CONSULTATION FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE:

For promoting consultation it is necessary:

- to raise the awareness and inform the general public, to explain the stakes, so that the people can give their opinion,
- to identify precisely the issues of interest for the general public in each local context,
- to prepare strong arguments for raising the awareness and motivating the public, with a simple and adapted vocabulary, evidencing the positive results of achieving good ecological status,
- to make more room for references and cultural practices,
- to develop a real citizen management of water,

It seems that original approaches, based on the local organization of events or on the use of local communication supports, are sometimes more effective for mobilizing the citizens than the use of the media for a wide dissemination to the general public, the cost of which is high for a return which is sometimes disappointing. The passage by the relay of local authorities and of NGOs may be very useful.

- It is also recommended to rely, as much as possible, on participative bodies already existing in the various Member States (river committee, local water commission, river contracts, etc.) which are the ideal support to develop the participation of the public on its territory.

Generally, it appears that the consultation will require the use of specialists in communication and public enquiries in order to tend to maximum effectiveness and better participative interactivity, to define the most suitable methods,

most of which still remaining to be tested.

It is necessary to adopt a language adapted to the targeted publics while avoiding too technical or bureaucratic terms which would be inaccessible to the greatest number of citizens. The language should be clear, simple, understandable by everyone with strong and recognizable visual documents.

Attention was also paid to the cost of these consultations and to the need for planning significant budgets to conform to the new obligations in this field.

THE MAIN MEETING OF 2007 SHOULD NOT BE MISSED!

- taking into account all the aspects of water management and their impacts, and not only the problems of quality of water and the environments, as everything is linked in each water body,
- underlining the importance of having interfaces between the Framework Directive and navigation, power production, the prevention and protection against floods and droughts,
- taking into account the quantitative problems, and obviously the issues related to droughts and floods,
- ensuring the continuity of rivers to restore or guarantee the upcoming and circulation of fish species,

Eastern Europe and in the Balkans, and within the neighborhood policy in the Mediterranean and in the Caucasus.

The Namur assembly was aware of the specificities of islands regarding WFD implementation.

Mr. Jean Marie Wauthier, Director at the Ministry of the Walloon Region, will chair the "EUROPE-INBO" Group until its next plenary assembly in 2006.

The delegates congratulated Mr. Mieczyslaw Ostojki, Water Director of Poland, for the effectiveness with which he held the Presidency of the "EUROPE-INBO" Group in 2004 and 2005.



Messrs. Jean-Marie WAUTHIER and Mieczyslaw OSTOJSKI

The delegates retained the French proposal to organize the next meeting of "EUROPE-INBO" in Megève in Upper Savoy from 20 to 22 September 2006.

www.inbo-news.org

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS:

As regards the WFD and agriculture:

- considering financial compensations for the farmers who changed their behavior,
- ensuring better compatibility between the CAP and the environmental directives.

And also:

- underlining the "upstream-downstream" common cause as the basis for consistent management on the scale of river basins and sub-basins,

- introducing reflexions and prospects on climate change,
- developing international and standardized methods for the early tracking of the invading aquatic species and standardized processes for fighting against these species,
- planning sub-basin plans and programs of measures to be implemented at local level by mobilizing participative bodies either already existing or to be created,
- strengthening cooperation programs with the neighboring countries of the enlarged European Union, in



Mrs Madeleine JOUYE de GRANDMAISON
INBO President

INBO, PARTNER OF THE WEEK OF EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY FOR WATER STRASBOURG - FRANCE - 15-21 OCTOBER 2005



No doubt that water management is a sector that transcends the concept of States and borders. Since millennia, all the inhabitants of the large Europe have shared this resource. Interdependence is a reality. Transboundary management becomes the only way to envisage the future, based on river basins.

In some regions of Europe, challenges linked to water management are still there, either related to the water of streams or rivers, to access to drinking water and sanitation, to groundwater, wetlands, to risk management, to water to be saved and shared, or to water as a factor of economic and social development (navigation, industry, agriculture, dams, etc.).

There are solutions, know-how has been developed and practices have been proven to be reliable, but it is necessary to know about them, to share them, to adapt them to the various contexts and to organize common cause for local, sustainable and equitable development.

For such a purpose, the Week of European Solidarity for Water was organized and held in Strasbourg from 15 to 21 October. This event was managed by the Solidarity-Water Europe program and the International Secretariat of Water, with the support of the Council of Europe, the local Authorities of Strasbourg and the World Water Council.

On their side, the International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO) and the International Office for Water were particularly mobilized to support and promote this event in which they were partners.

The overall objective of the Week of European Solidarity for Water consisted in mobilizing the European citizens before the 4th World Water Forum of Mexico City.

More precisely, it was about offering to the European stakeholders of local water management a place for exchange and dialogue and allowing them:

- to formulate European recommendations, which will be submitted to the 4th World Water Forum, Mexico City, on the topic "local action for global challenges";
- to intensify exchanges and common cause in Europe between the various partners of water management;
- to accentuate and develop field projects in Europe especially focusing on the most underprivileged populations;

- to raise the awareness of the general public and elected officials on "water realities" in Europe and on the (human and financial) investments necessary for their management.

In order to achieve these ambitious objectives, the Week of European Solidarity for Water was structured around four strong sets of activities:

- a forum on the water right topic in Europe,
- field visits,
- workshops and exchanges on the topics of water and the Civil Society,
- conferences at the Council of Europe.

The Forum on water rights in Europe

This forum allowed:

- to introduce a small number of case studies on the implementation of water rights in some European countries (Bulgaria, Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands, Romania and the Ukraine);
- to think about an approach to water rights as an instrument to increase the availability, quality, and physical and economic accessibility of water and sanitation services.

Workshops and exchanges on water and the Civil Society

Four workshops were organized during two days, they dealt with the following topics:

- management of water-related risks;
- the implementation of the European Water Framework Directive in Central and Eastern European countries;
- access to drinking water and sanitation for everyone;
- decentralized financing for water management in small towns and rural areas of Central and Eastern Europe.

The President of the International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO), Mrs. Madeleine Jouye de Grandmaison, chaired the workshop on the topic: "implementation of the European Water Framework

Directive in Central and Eastern European countries: At which speed? Under which social, cultural and structural conditions? With what tools for decision-making support?".

From their part, Mr. Jean-François Donzier, General manager of the International Office for Water and INBO Permanent Secretary and Mrs. Anne-Marie Ciurea, Romanian Ministry of the Environment, jointly presented an analysis of the "lessons learned from 10 years of implementation of basin management in Eastern Europe".

The conference at the Council of Europe: "water management: a shared responsibility"

On 20 and 21 October, the Parliamentary Assembly and the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe jointly organized a conference on the topic: "water management, a shared responsibility".

Recent natural disasters such as floods, forest fires, droughts, underlined the extreme importance of a good water management plan, and the need for coordinating water policies in Europe. Integrated water management is a critical prerequisite to sustainable development and for the future of Europe.

www.s-e-e.org

see@s-e-e.org



www.inbo-news.org
All information on INBO is available

on the WEB
www.inbo-news.org

EUROPEAN RIVERS NETWORK

"BIG JUMP", THE GREAT RETURN OF MAN TO THE RIVERS



FIRST EUROPEAN BATHING DAY IN RIVERS

- 22 participating countries,
- 31 rivers and streams,
- 216 spaces of official actions and approximately 240 spontaneous "Big Jumps",
- 250,000 participants, 150 exhibitions, 120 debates, etc.,
- 22 major associative, institutional and private partners,
- 450 local partners,
- Broadcast on 12 national TV channels and 18 regional TV channels,
- Articles in the New York Times, GEO, National Geographic, etc.



"Big Jump" aims to reconcile man with rivers.

By encouraging citizens to discover and recover the space of rivers and lakes, the objective of the project is to involve them in the restoration of the European aquatic environments. Without citizens' adhesion, the policy of the European Community on water protection (Water Framework Directive) will never be able to achieve its goals!

"Big Jump" is a project organized by the European Rivers Network over 10 years and which will culminate in 2015. In the entire Europe, on its 50 large river basins, hundreds of thousands of Europeans will discuss, get information and express themselves all together.

During these various events they will show their will to see the quality of the rivers improving before 2015, the dead-

line given by the European Union to the Member States to achieve the goals of good ecological status laid down by the Water Framework Directive.

First analysis of events in 2005

For its first event on a big scale, "Big Jump" went further and stronger than expected. The enthusiasm of our organizing partners, the delighted astonishment of the public and the hopes raised by this event may lead us to think that the generated waves announce bigger ones to come... The popular and media plebiscite that this event raised, evidenced the formidable potential of such an action.

Roberto Epple
European Rivers Network
Fax: +33 4 71 02 60 99
info@rivERNet.org

www.ern.org



WFD-COMMUNITY

A VIRTUAL WATER UNIVERSITY

The project consists in creating a Continuous Education and Training scheme for water professionals, based on collaboration between peers, working together on the implementation of the Water Framework Directive (WFD), through a Virtual Learning Community.

The partnership gathers the International Office for Water (France), Apele Romane (Romania), the University of Bucharest (Romania), the Gdansk Water Foundation (Poland), Hydrocontrol (Italy), and the International Network of Basin Organizations.

The project will last 36 months (until mid-2006), and its budget (Euro 380,000) is 75 % supported by the European Leonardo da Vinci program, and 25 % by the consortium members.

The corpus of knowledge needed for WFD implementation has been described by the partnership, leading to the

identification of 6 modules in addition to an introduction to the European WFD:

- **M1: Good status in 2015**, to understand the status of surface and ground waters;
- **M2: Characterization, pressures and impacts**, to assess the impact of human activity on water status;
- **M3: Monitoring**, to undertake a monitoring program to determine water status;
- **M4: River basin management plan and programs of measures**, to formulate the river basin management plan;
- **M5: Public participation**, to implement the WFD requirements for public participation;
- **M6: Economic analysis**, to understand the role of the economic analysis in the WFD and undertake the studies.

The pilot phase:

- The topic M1 module concerning good ecological status is completed and was tested with 20 participants during a demonstration course (4 from France, 12 from Romania, 3 from Poland and 1 from Italy), within 5 working teams, working in their own language and in English for inter-teams exchanges.

This first test was evaluated by an external consultant, and analyzed by the partners during a Steering Committee in early July in Gdansk in Poland.

Improvements were developed during the second test, from September to November 2005.

- The topic M2 module on characterization, pressures and impacts was introduced by the trainer with students and tutors during a web conference on 8 September 2005.

It was presented to water professionals on 10, 17 and 24 November 2005.

The outcomes of this work will then be disseminated among INBO members to get professionals' feed-back.

The last Steering Committee of the "WFD-Community" project took place in Rome, Italy, on 12 and 13 December 2005.

All the process is available on the project website:

www.mayeticvillage.com/wfd-community

Gilles Neveu
International Office for Water
g.neveu@oieau.fr

www.iowater.org

EXCIFF

EUROPEAN EXCHANGE CIRCLE ON FLOOD FORECASTING

EXCIFF, the European Exchange Circle on Flood Forecasting, was established by the European Union's Water Directors in December 2004.

EXCIFF gathers several national centers and organizations operating in the field of flood forecasting to allow them to share their experiences.

The work done so far by EXCIFF members has first allowed to draw up an overview of the current practices of flood forecasting in Europe.

Future actions

Six actions were approved by the EU Water Directors at their last meeting in June 2005 in Luxembourg.

First set of three actions (2005 and 2006)

- ❖ **implementing an Internet site** devoted to flood forecasting,
- ❖ **improving "flood-related information for the general public"**.

The objective is to write a guide of good practices regarding the provision of flood-related information to the general public.

To undertake this action, EXCIFF will cooperate with the sub-group on flood forecasting of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

- ❖ **organizing training workshops** on flood forecasting methods.

Second set of three actions

Three more actions will be undertaken in 2006 or later:

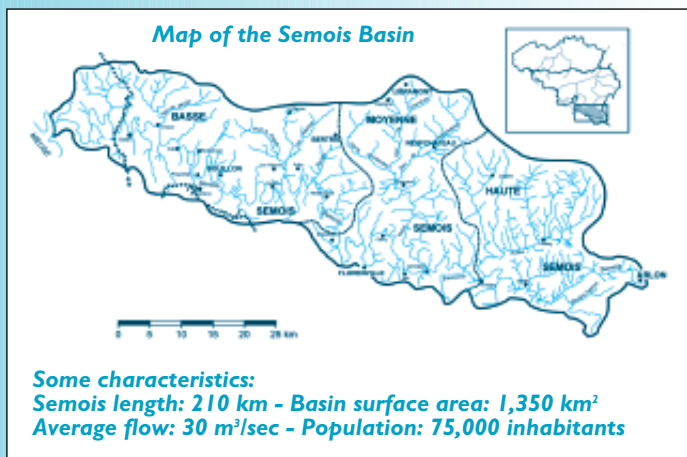
- ❑ **hydrological data quality and exchange standards;**
- ❑ agreement between hydrological and meteorological communities concerning the **use of data;**
- ❑ **training and exercises** about river basin behavior and forecasting organization.

*Frédérique Martini
MEDD - Water Directorate (France)
Fax: +33 1 42 19 13 34
frederique.martini@ecologie.gouv.fr
M. Ad de Roo
European Commission
DG Research Center
Fax: +39 0332 78 5230
ad.de-roo@jrc.it*



BELGIUM

THE RIVER CONTRACT OF THE SEMOIS RIVER



The Walloon model of River Contracts

In the Walloon Region, river contracts started at the beginning of the 1990s, taking as a model the French experiments initiated 10 years before.

The institutional recognition of the Walloon model of river contracts, through the ministerial circular of March 1993 on the conditions of acceptability and on the methods for the development of river contracts in the Walloon Region and their confirmation by the circular of March 2001, led in 2005 to a good cover of the Walloon Region. With 16 projects being prepared and implemented, 60% of the territory has now a river contract.

More than 60% of the Walloon Municipalities are involved.

The river contract aims at restoring water uses and functions to meet the needs of the population of a river basin while preserving potentialities for future generations.

The river contract of the Semois basin

This approach is illustrated concretely with the contract of the Semois basin. Starting with a Walloon initiative supported by the 12 main Belgian municipalities of the basin, a first contract, signed in December 1996, could be prepared and implemented successfully. It concerns the Belgian section of the basin.

Thanks to the Interreg II Walloon Region - Champagne - Ardennes program, the project could be extended to the French side. Since September 2002, a second Walloon action plan has been under way, simultaneously with its French counterpart. From now on, the entire transboundary basin of the Semois is covered by a river contract.

A first river contract from 1994 to 2001 ...

Three years were necessary to lead to the signing of a first river contract in December 1996. These three years correspond to the three main stages of contract preparation:

- ❑ 1994: findings with data collection, basin characterization, identification of the stakes.
- ❑ 1995: charter of the Semois basin, 12 objectives for sustainable management.
- ❑ 1996: the river contract, the action plan.

A second action plan: from 2002 to 2005 ...

Using the lessons learned in the first contract, this second plan allowed to refocus the objectives and actions on water functions and uses in the sub-basin, while better measuring the range and the consequences of the commitments made by each stakeholder.

This contract now benefits from the support of the Interreg III France - Walloon Region - Flanders program.

After more than 10 years of experimentation, the river contract of the Semois practically illustrates the Walloon model implementation. Combined with a transboundary approach, it shows the possibility of building European unity on the local scale of a sub-basin.

*P Vander Borgh
Francis Rosillon
University of Liege
f.rosillon@ulg.ac.be
p.vanderBorgh@ulg.ac.be*

www.ulg.ac.be

FRANCE

WATER IN MOUNTAINS PILOT SITE - "HELP" SAVOY - ANNECY - MOUNT BLANC - LEMAN

Gathered in Megève on 9 September 2005, the enlarged Steering committee of the "Water in Mountains pilot site: Savoy - Annecy - Mount Blanc - Leman" has:



- approved conventions with structures representative of the five "founder" basins, for integrated management of the upper river basins,
- validated the 2005 - 2007 action plan and the proposed organization,
- defined the baselines of the international "Megève II" conference, which will take place at the end of September 2006, under

the aegis of UNES-
CO (HELP)
and which will host a general assembly of EURO-
PE-INBO for the implementation of the Water Framework Directive (WFD) in mountains.

Pierre Lachenal
sea74@echoalp.com
www.echoalp.com/eau

Next Meeting
"EUROPE-INBO 2006"
Megève - France
20 - 22 September 2006

EUROPEAN WATER FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE FORMULATION OF MANAGEMENT PLANS FOR INTERNATIONAL RIVER BASIN DISTRICTS - IRBDs

Article 13 of the European Water Framework Directive (WFD) indicates that **the Member States must coordinate themselves to produce a single Management Plan for International River Basin Districts.**

In line with the huge work completed for characterization, roof characterization in particular, the Management Plan of an International River Basin District should include a roof section and national sections:

The roof section will deal with the significant issues jointly identified by the concerned Partners of the international district.

The national management plans will deal with the sections of the international river basin district located on the territory of each Member State.

France considers useful to prepare baselines for the roof part of the management plan for an International River Basin District.

This project is presented in the International River Basin Commissions of which France is member.

Development of the roof section of a IRBD Management Plan

The roof section of a IRBD Management Plan is prepared according to two complementary and interactive approaches:

- ❖ One "Top down": using international stakes identified in the roof characterizations, measures suited to the solving of the problems encountered are proposed;
- ❖ The other "Bottom up": using the national management plans, measures of prime importance for the entire IRBD are identified.

According to these principles, the roof section of the Management Plan should describe in particular:

- ◆ the coordination of the monitoring means necessary at the level of the IRBD;
- ◆ for each selected water body requiring a common approach, the roof section of the management plan describes the objectives to be achieved.

As regards the programs of measures, the plan will present:

- the measures, that aim at meeting the common challenges between the district partners,
- the criteria for evaluating the measures' effectiveness, their technical feasibility and their cost,
- the complementary measures to be implemented and the cost/benefit and cost/effectiveness analyses for these measures.

The roof section of the Management Plan could include:

- an introduction reminding the context given by the WFD, the formulation process for the Management Plan;
- the presentation of the International River Basin District: a summary of the roof characterizations, the significant IRBD issues and the selection of the water bodies concerned;

- the international coordination of the monitoring networks and a presentation of the data from the existing networks;
- the environmental objectives for the selected water bodies;
- the register of the protected areas designated by a directive for transboundary implementation;
- the program of measures selected for each significant issue in the IRBD;
- the coordinated action plans for flood control in the IRBD;
- the public information and consultation process for the formulation of the Management Plan.

Jean-Claude Vial
Water Directorate
French Ministry of Ecology
and Sustainable Development
jean-claude.vial@ecologie.gouv.fr

www.ecologie.gouv.fr

"GRAIE"

"SEDIMENTS OF THE RHONE" - VALENCE (FRANCE) - 10 JUNE 2005

The second topical conference of the Rhone Basin Workshop Area, organized by the GRAIE on 10 June 2005 in Valence, allowed to make a progress report on research regarding the sediments of the Rhone.

About 140 people participated. The audience was essentially

made up of technicians from local authorities, representatives of the State services, consulting firms, large companies and scientists.

This Topical Day confirmed the acquired knowledge, dealt with various solved problems, or problems that cannot be

solved, and highlighted some gaps.

As always when complex natural processes are dealt with, scale diversities reveal different realities. For example a rather stabilized low water channel, or in an erosion phase, on the scale of the en-

tire Rhone, does not exclude local sections, even reaches, in a silting phase.

Cécile Zedde-Vallat
GRAIE
cecile.zedde-vallat@graie.org

www.graie.org

FRANCE

ARTOIS-PICARDY

WATER PRICES AND HOUSEHOLDS' INCOME



The investigations carried out for the implementation of the Water Framework Directive have undertaken a specific analysis of the weight of the water services bill for the households of the Artois-Picardy River Basin.

In this basin of 5,000,000 inhabitants, the mean price for a cubic meter of water was 3.28 euros in 2004 (drinking water supply, wastewater collection and treatment and environmental taxes), but this price can reach 5 Euros and more in some specific areas of the basin.

Unfortunately in these areas, these high prices can be combined with low mean income per inhabitant (in the Artois-Picardy basin it is 20% lower than the national average).

In 1994, the Artois-Picardy Water Agency undertook a specific survey in order to create an

annual "record" of the prices paid by households to public water utilities in the 2,448 municipalities of the river basin, as compared to the mean available income per household for each municipality.

The data on "fiscal income" from the National Statistics Office (INSEE) were used and the mean income per household is 23,796 euros per year in the basin, to be compared with 25,563 euros, which is the mean value for France.

The data of the Water Agency's Information System enabled the calculation, for each

municipality, of the following ratio: mean water bill for 120 cubic meters per year on the average household income, with results which vary between 1.51 and 1.94 depending on the areas.

The European Commission considers a 2% ratio as suitable.

Beyond 3%, the water invoice is considered as a heavy burden on the income of a household.

Arnaud Courtecuisse
Artois-Picardy Water Agency
a.courtecuisse@eau-artois-picardie.fr

www.eau-artois-picardie.fr

ADOUR-GARONNE

MANAGEMENT PLANS FOR LOW WATER LEVELS (PGE)

Low flow in the Gave d'Oloron in Navarrenx



The Master Plan for Water Development and Management (SDAGE) of the Adour-Garonne Basin, adopted in 1996, introduced these tools for local water management in time of scarcity.

The Management Plans for low water levels (PGEs) result from local initiatives and, therefore, are adapted to a sub-basin territory, on which there is common cause among users (farmers, municipalities and industries in particular), who thus participate, together with the public services, in the definition of water management rules concerning:

- sufficient flows to be maintained in their rivers, 8 years out of 10;

- a reasonable distribution of abstractions not to be exceeded;

- methods for collective management of surface and ground water resources and of man-made reservoirs, either existing or to be built.

The purpose of the PGEs is also to reconcile the meeting of various economic needs with the protection of aquatic environments.

They are thus invaluable tools for joint local management respectful of the future.

Once negotiated by the interested parties, each PGE is submitted to the approval of the Basin Committee, then enforced by the Prefect concerned.

There are seven PGEs being implemented in the Adour-Garonne Basin.

THE STATUS OF WATER RESOURCES

In France, many indicators have favorably evolved since the creation of Basin Organizations and the implementation of a national ... and decentralized water policy, but much remains to be done, within the "framework" of the WFD.

Substantial progress has been made since the 1970s:

- knowledge of the resources and of the problems they raise or are being raised by economic and human activities,
- the practice of dialogue in current Local Commissions,
- the investments have allowed the stopping of pollution progression since 1980 and then a "selective" or targeted regression,

- the building of water reservoirs,
- the evolution of the main categories of water needs, for:
 - populations,
 - agriculture,
 - industry and energy,
- the quantitative and qualitative status of surface water and aquifers.

Much remains to be done, within the framework of the new water policy.

Indeed, the WFD will direct the further recovery of water resources quality and availability, with in particular:

- the objective of "good ecological status" of "water bodies";
- the taking into account of the economic data;
- public participation.

Julien Martinez
Adour-Garonne Water Agency
Tel.: 33 (0)5 36 37 52
Julien.martinez@eau-adour-garonne.fr

www.eau-adour-garonne.fr





This "characterization", made compulsory by the European Water Framework Directive (WFD, was carried out within the framework of the International Commissions for the Protection of the Moselle and the Saar Rivers (CIPMS) and implemented by the Rhine-Meuse Water Agency.

Four countries are involved: Belgium, Germany, France and Luxembourg.

It consisted in delimitating and describing the surface and ground "water bodies", identifying pressures and assessing their impacts, and assessing, for each water body, the probability of achieving or not the WFD objectives by 2015.

The probability of not achieving the "good ecological status" of the WFD objectives by 2015, without further measures, is 42% for the surface water of 600 "water bodies" and 40% for the groundwater of 65 identified "water bodies". The common analysis carried out by the different Countries, concerning the main issues for the Moselle-Saar sector, led to **the identification of six transboundary challenges:**

- usual pollution, especially the nitrogen and phosphorus nutrients, is significant,
- the continuum of the Moselle and Saar is not ensured, which disturbs fish migration,

- the water uses and the land planning policies are not always coherent with the WFD environmental objectives, especially concerning navigation, hydroelectric production and protection against flood,
- diffuse inputs deteriorate groundwater (plant protection substances, nitrates, historical pollution and metals),
- the balance of the aquatic environments is disturbed by the mining activity,
- the pollution caused by hazardous substances is still high in some parts of the basin.

The outcomes are considerable: several thousands of data concerning activities, pressures, impacts and water status, several hundreds indicators, a platform for a Geographic Information System (GIS), a simulation model for the quality of freshwaters (PEGASE).

The WFD implementation on the scale of the international Moselle-Saar river basin allowed for successful technical coordination and a first harmonization between water policies and challenges in the basin Countries.

*Patrick Weingertner
Rhine-Meuse Water Agency
weingertner.p@eau-rhin-meuse.fr*

www.eau-rhin-meuse.fr

CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

"IWAN"

TRANSBOUNDARY WARNING AND ALARM PLAN FOR NEMAN/NEMUNAS

In May 2005, the 3rd meeting of the Project Steering Group of the International Warning and Alarm Plan for the Neman river basin (IWAN) took place in Minsk (Belarus) with repre-

sentatives of Belarus, Lithuania, Russia and Germany and external experts.

Workshops had been arranged in February and March 2005 in Kaliningrad, Vilnius and Minsk.

The current IWAN version was presented, discussed and confirmed by the Group.

Lithuania, the Russian Federation and Belarus conducted a registration of industrial plants with potential of causing hazardous incidents.

A permanent working group on "Warning and Alarm System of accidental pollution of water bodies in the Neman/Nemunas basin" was created.

The first alarm training was carried out in June 2005. The main purpose of this training was to test the IWAN communication means.

A study tour to several European Transboundary River Commissions was organized at the end of September 2005.

*M. Keinhorst
Federal Ministry
for the Environment,
Nature and Nuclear Safety
Fax: +49 30 28550 43
juergen.keinhort@bmu.bund.de*

*M. Winkelmann-Oei
Federal Environmental Office
Gerhard.Winkelmann-Oei@uba.de*

*M. Hingst
IABG mbH
Fax: +49 30 293991-44
hingst@iabg.de*

www.neman.iabg.de



The Neman River

GEORGIA - AZERBAIJAN

THE TRANSBOUNDARY AQUIFER BASIN OF ALAZANI-AGRICHAI

The Alazani-Agrichai aquifer represents the transboundary groundwater resources shared by Georgia and Azerbaijan.

The Alazani-Agrichai basin comprises the north-east part of Georgia and the north-west region of Azerbaijan with a total surface area of 6,300 square kilometers.

The groundwater of the basin comes from the Great Caucasus and the Tsivgombori ridge (south).

The main groundwater discharge points are threatened by high pollution.

The groundwater of the Alazani-Agrichai aquifer is of vital importance for the populations of Azerbaijan and Geor-

gia and the regional use of the basin water resources should take groundwater recharge into account.

The program should include the creation of a database on identified water reserves, as well as the creation of an appropriate monitoring network to avoid the depletion of water reserves and desertification.

A regional legal document should be written, taking into consideration the economical, political and strategic interests of the neighbor Countries.

*Prof. Guram Buachidze
Institute of Hydrogeology,
Georgian Academy of Sciences
bguram@gw.acnet.ge*

CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

RUSSIA - KAZAKHSTAN

TRANSBOUNDARY MANAGEMENT OF THE IRTYSH RIVER BASIN

A first stage of the project "Transboundary management of the Irtysh River Basin water resources" was implemented in 2001-2003 in Russia (Omsk region) and Kazakhstan (Pavlodar and East-Kazakhstan regions) with financial support from the French Global Environment Fund (FFEM).

It enabled us to obtain some important practical outcomes, for example, to create a hydrological model of the Irtysh river in order to forecast the Irtysh physico-climatic conditions and human activities, with various options of flow diversion between China and Kazakhstan.

This experience proved the necessity of collaboration between the Russian and Kazakh regions located in the Irtysh Basin. French experts from IOWater, SAFEGE, ANTEA played a very important role in the project.

In May 2004, an international conference on Irtysh resources management took place in Omsk. It was initiated by the Omsk region Governor and involved representatives from the Russian and Kazakh Authorities, regional Governments and French colleagues.

The conference confirmed the necessity to continue the activities which had been started.



Child Meeting "Help River", Omsk, Russia

Since then, the concept of a "complex Irtysh Basin Management System" has been developed in the region. It was based on the Conference recommendations. It includes three main issues that should be dealt with in the near future:

- 1 development of the hydrochemical model of the Irtysh River Basin,
- 2 monitoring on the Russian-Kazakh border,
- 3 creating a mechanism of development and implementation of the complex Irtysh Basin Management Program with the forming of a Basin Council.

The outcomes of the Irtysh project can be used in other transboundary river basins of the region (Tobol, Ishim).

A Steering Committee

The 13th session of the Russian-Kazakh Commission on joint use and protection of transboundary waters, held in Uralsk on 28.10.2004, made a decision of creating a special project management body, **the Irtysh River Steering Committee**, which will be supervised by the Nizhne-Ob Basin Water Department, with its home office in Tumen and representatives in each region of Russia.

Population involved

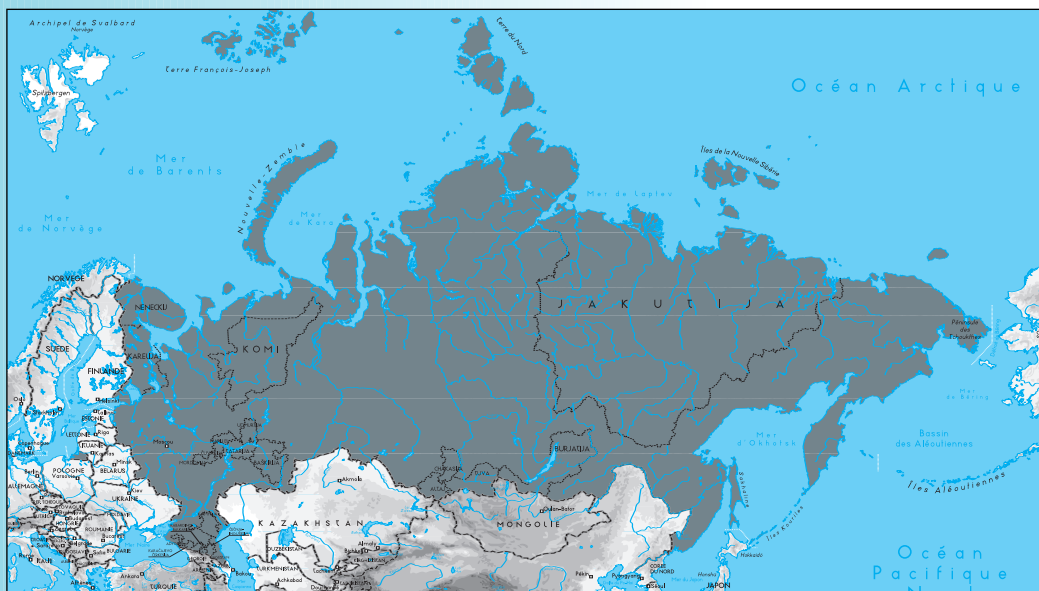
Another action, that has been developing due to activities of NGOs with financial support from regional authorities and international funds, is creating a partnership network and en-

couraging population activity in preserving water resources.

The activities are supported by the population and environmental organizations, the Russian Regional Environmental Center and Siberian Civic Initiative Support Center. The NGOs will be able to suggest coordinated activities on water resources protection to the Steering Committee.

Taking these proposals into account, the Steering Committee, with the support of regional Authorities and water users, will be able to develop an efficient action plan, which will become an example of implementation of basin management principles for neighbor regions and the entire country.

Sergey Kostarev
Secretary of the Irtysh River Basin Steering Committee (Omsk Section)
Fax: +7 3812 295443
omskwater@yandex.ru



www.inbo-news.org
All information on INBO is available

on the WEB
www.inbo-news.org

THE BALKANS

MANAGEMENT OF THE LAKE OHRID AND DRIM RIVER BASIN

The Lake Ohrid Conservation Project (LOCP) has allowed the establishment of joint institutions for project management and the harmonization of the procedures for water monitoring in the Lake Basin and its tributaries (Joint Protocols for sampling, analysis and quality assurance). It also com-

plied with the environmental legislation, regulations, standards of the EU Directives.

The First Joint Report on the Status of the Environment in Lake Ohrid and its watershed has been published with a contribution of 50 scientists and experts from Albania, Greece

and Macedonia. A new Monitoring Laboratory was created on the Albanian side. It also initiated many Joint NGOs projects for public awareness and participation, including the establishment of 21 June as "Lake Ohrid Day" and allowed the twinning of Pogradec, Ohrid and Struga towns.

A Joint Agreement for the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Lake and its watershed, was signed to establish an International Lake Ohrid Management Agency, empowered with legal authority in Albania, Macedonia, and Greece. This agreement ensures integrated protection and sustainable development for the lake and its watershed, according to the European Union standards, and gives the Lake and its watershed the status of World

Cultural and Natural Heritage and the status of "Biosphere Reserve" of UNESCO.

Spreading this experience to the Drim River basin was deemed necessary, especially to foster the development of sub-basin organizations that could share information, identify demonstration projects, and assist in developing the Strategic Action Plan for the Basin.

Dejan Panovsk
Secretariat of Lake Ohrid
Watershed Committee
dejan@locp.org.mk

The Drim River



WORLD WATER FORUM
Mexico - 18 March 2006
11:00 - 13:00
EUROPE-INBO Session
on the Implementation of the European
Water Framework Directive

POLAND

THE COUNCILS FOR WATER MANAGEMENT

Polish implementation of the Water Framework Directive, regarding public participation and the formulation of Management Plans, led to the creation of advisory bodies at national and regional levels: **the State Council for Water Management and 8 Regional Councils for Water Management.**

The State Council consists of 30 members, who have been proposed by the national organizations, by the academic, scientific and research institutions, and by social, economic and ecological organizations, involved in water management.

The activity of the State Council is to give advice to the Government on matters related to water management, protection against floods and droughts.

The Regional Councils are also made up of 30 members: Directors of the Regional Water Management Boards (RZGW) and representatives of local governments, of economic, agriculture, fishing and social organizations and also representatives of users of the concerned regions. They also give advice on matters related to water management in the concerned region.

The State Council was created in May 2002.



Session of the Council
of Lower Oder
and Western
Costal Rivers

The first Regional Council was created for the Lower Oder and Western Costal Rivers, then other Councils came into life in the Polish river basins.

Lukasz Legutko
Water Management Board
lukasz.legutko@bgw.gov.pl

GOOD PRACTICES OF STREAM AND RIVER MAINTENANCE IN THE CARPATHIANS

The status of the environment of most mountain streams and rivers on the Carpathian-side of the Vistula River Basin, even from a hydromorphological viewpoint, is far from balanced. Throughout the 20th century, the Carpathian rivers and streams cut deep into the valley beds due to human activity (river training by channelling, sediment extraction), thus causing a number of adverse

economic and environmental effects.

The lowering of watercourse beds on the Carpathian-side of the Vistula River Basin resulted in an increasing filling of the channels and a considerable reduction in flood retention capability, in the transformation of alluvial channels into bed-rock and in the damming of numerous watercourses making fish movement impossible.

Today, it is necessary to recover flow retention capabilities in flood-prone areas to maintain good environmental status in watercourses while maintaining the current protection against floods and erosion in urbanized areas in the plains.

The Bojarski's guide of good practices, published in 2005, formulates a methodology for the evaluation of watercourses and provides a range of solutions to water managers.

Tadeusz Litewka
Krakow RZGW
Fax: (0-12) 423-21-53
rzgw-kp@krakow.rzgw.gov.pl

THE DANUBE RIVER BASIN

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EUROPEAN WATER FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE



The Danube River Basin, the largest of Central Europe, involves 18 riparian countries, which are mainly members of or candidates to the European Union (EU).

For this reason, the Water Framework Directive (WFD) of 2000 is applicable, including, within the framework of the Neighborhood Policy, in cooperation with the neighbor

countries concerned, not UE members.

A favorable context was generated by the significant work, structured, coordinated and supported by the **International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR)**, already carried out for WFD implementation.

The drawing up of the roof report in 2004 (Characterization), dealing with the problems in the entire Danube Basin, and the finalization of the national reports in March 2005, are the first successful outputs of this approach.

For drawing up the **Danube District Management Plan**, there are three alternatives (options):

- **Option A is to structure the Danube Basin into large sub-basins.** The overall Plan will be a combination of the Plans for the sub-basins. The sub-basins could belong to one, two or many countries;
- **Option B is to develop national plans within the national boundaries** and establish the means needed for bilateral coordination across the national boundaries. The overall Basin Management Plan will be a combination of National Plans;
- **Option C is to divide the Danube Basin into small sub-basins.** The sub-basins could also be transboundary. Existing bilateral agreements could be used for coordination in these smaller sub-basins. The overall plan will be a combination of the small sub-basins plans.

These options are being tested, in the Tisza Basin for instance.

www.icpdr.org

HUNGARY – ROMANIA

THE KÖRÖS/CRISURI TRANSBOUNDARY BASIN: A TEST FOR THE TISZA AND THE WHOLE DANUBE BASIN

The 1st Steering Committee of the Körös/Crisuri project, name of the transboundary river basin shared between Hungary and Romania and tributary to the Tisza, took place in Oradea on 13 September 2005, under the direction of Philip Weller, Secretary-General to the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR).

This ambitious technical assistance project, financed by the French Fund for Global Environment (FFEM), of a total budget of 3.7 Million Euros, is now well launched.

A French technical assistance, coordinated by the International Office for Water, is planned for:

- the setting-up of working groups: structure, follow up and general coordination;
- the prevention and fight against accidental water pollution;
- information analysis, general GIS of the basin;

- assistance for WFD implementation;
- a support for the future preparation of a harmonized Körös/Crisuri River Basin Management Plan with participatory process.

It was agreed to use a pragmatic approach for the Tisza region, based on the existing good bilateral coordination and on the same set of data needed for the basin management plan.

The dynamics of the project is used today not only for implementing the following stages of basin planning but also for testing to look further into the stage of the Tisza characterization.

For this reason, the work started for the management and harmonization of the data on the Körös/Crisuri Basin in order to produce common topical charts, will be closely followed up by the Tisza working group, made up of Hungarian, Rumanian but also Ukrainian, Serbian and Slovak representatives.

A cross test of the participation of the Interested Parties in the two national sectors of the transboundary basin and of public consultation should also take place soon. The main basin stakes, determined during the first joint seminar in July should thus be further studied and presented to the Interested Parties for a later public consultation. As already done for data management, the French, Hungarian, Rumanian and ICPDR experts will work together for this first experiment to be successful in the Danube basin.

The year 2006 will thus be quite loaded with actions in the fields of accidental pollution, monitoring, preparation of the program of measures and economic analysis related to this last stage and to that of characterization.

The final objective of the project is thus to clarify the way for the preparation of a Transboundary Management Plan and to harmonize the plans for response to accidental pollution.

The experiments and outputs of the Körös/Crisuri project could be used for other rivers shared by Hungary and Romania, and by all the countries of the Tisza and Danube Basins.

The forwarding of the project outcomes to the regional levels will be ensured by the ICPDR, which is the ideal channel for information dissemination in this geographical area.

The ICPDR makes sure that the methodological approach, applied for the implementation of the WFD in the Körös/Crisuri Basin, is coherent with and complementary to the project dealing with the Tisza and Danube Basins.

Daniela Radulescu
daniela.radulescu@rowater.ro

www.rowater.ro

HUNGARY

AESN/OKTVF TWINNING

The French Seine-Normandy Water Agency (AESN) and the Hungarian National Directorate for Environment, Nature and Water (OKTVF) signed a new Twinning Agreement on 24 June 2005.

Within the framework of this new agreement, the representatives of the French and Hungarian Basin Organizations held a workshop in Budapest on the implementation of the Water Framework Directive.

The French delegation was headed by Mr. Guy Fradin, General Director of AESN. The workshop was opened by Dr. György Zoltán Kovács, General Director of OKTVF.

The audience was greeted by Dr. Miklós Varga, Deputy State Secretary of Water, who underlined the importance of the continuation of the cooperation between the French and Hungarian Basin Organizations. The workshop was attended by Mr. Sándor Kabay, Director of the Central Danubian Environment and Water Directorate (EWD) and Mr. Gáspár Bodnár, Director of the Upper Tisza Valley EWD. These two directorates are participating in the implementation of the AESN-OKTVF Twinning Agreement. The representatives of 4 additional Hungarian EWDs also took part in the workshop.

The Hungarian presentations were the following:

- ◆ the Hungarian Country Report on WFD implementation (Dr. László Perger),
- ◆ protection of vulnerable well fields in Hungary (Ms. Erzsébet Gulyás),
- ◆ assessment of the status of mining ponds on the Csepel Island (Ms. Noémi Harmathy),
- ◆ flood protection on the Danube river (Mr. András Korompay).

The French contributions dealt with:

- implementation of WFD in the Seine-Normandy Basin (Mr. Luc Pereira-Ramos),
- French experiences with wastewater treatment plants

- in small communities (Mr. Jacques Lesavre),
- case study on the flood protection developments in Caen (Mr. Jacques Sicard).

Kálmán Papp - OKTVF
Fax: 36 (0)1 212 0776
kalman.papp@ovf.hu
Jacques Sicard - AESN
Fax: 33 (0)1 41 20 16 60
sicard.jacques@aesn.fr

www.ovf.ru

www.eau-seine-normandie.fr

WWF INBO MEGA SESSION
4 Main Meetings in Mexico
18 March 2006 - 11:00 - 18:30
"For better IWRM at the basin level!"

BULGARIA

PILOT PROJECTS



As Bulgaria is a Candidate Country for the next European Union enlargement in 2007, it is committed to implement the Water Framework Directive (WFD).

In accordance with the Bulgarian Water Act (adopted in 2000), the Ministry of Environment and Water (MoEW) is the main institution responsible for WFD implementation with the support of the newly established River Basin Directorates, as competent authorities in the four River Basin Districts of the country.

The ISKAR pilot project

The Iskar river is the biggest tributary of the Danube river on the Bulgarian territory.

The pilot project is included in the cooperation agreement between the Italian Ministry of the Environment and its Bulgarian counterpart with the aim of establishing an Action Plan for implementing the Framework Directive in the basin.

The Iskar River Basin, one of the sub-basins, was identified as a priority on a national scale, as it is the source of drinking water for about one-third of the Bulgarian population, including the capital city of Sofia, and marked by important industrial areas and other significant economic activities.

The main objectives to be achieved were:

- to collect and analyze the available data and information,

- to carry out a feasibility study for an integrated and coherent monitoring network for the surface and ground waters in the basin,
- to develop capacity building of the Authorities in charge of WFD implementation, and to promote the exchange of technologies, information and experiences,
- to allow public information and the population's participation in the project development.

The Project, initiated in January 2004 was successfully completed after 16 months, in compliance with the original schedule.

Integrated Water Management of the Mesta/Nestos River Basin

The objective of this project was to establish transboundary and integrated management of the Mesta/Nestos River Basin by applying a common approach to water quality and quantity objectives, a methodology for river basin management in compliance with the Water Framework Directive.

A technical and institutional support to the Western Aegean Basin Directorate and to the Joint Cooperation Committee for transboundary management allowed the iden-

tification and presentation to the public of the main issues for achieving and maintaining good water status in the Mesta/Nestos River Basin.

The specific objectives were in particular:

- ◆ to establish transboundary cooperation for river basin management,
- ◆ to implement the monitoring required by the WFD,
- ◆ to identify and present to the competent authorities and the public the main water and transboundary issues in the basin,
- ◆ to develop a hydrological model for the Mesta / Nestos,
- ◆ to finalize the technical and institutional requirements necessary for the preparation of the Draft River Basin Management Plan by December 2008.

Phase II of the project includes the purchase and delivery of equipment for the laboratory, the monitoring points, of hardware and software and the supply of off-road vehicles.

Galina Balusheva
Ministry of Environment
and Water
galia@moew.government.bg

www.moew.government.bg

THE MEDITERRANEAN - MENBO

3RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE MEDITERRANEAN MARRAKECH (MOROCCO) - 23 - 25 MAY 2005

The 3rd General Assembly of the Mediterranean Network of Basin Organizations (MENBO) was held in Marrakech (Morocco), from 23 to 25 May 2005, at the invitation of the Moroccan Authorities and Basin Agencies and under the presidency of Mr. Juan Jose Moragues.

An international seminar on IWRM in the Mediterranean Region and Africa was organized on this occasion.

His Excellency Mr. Mohamed Elyazghi, Moroccan Minister for Regional Planning, Water and the Environment officially opened the meeting.

158 top-level representatives coming from 31 countries (Albania, Algeria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, Congo, Egypt, France, Greece, Guinea, Italy, Mali, Mexico, Morocco, Niger, Palestinian Authority, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Senegal, South Africa, Spain, Swaziland, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Uzbekistan) as well as representatives of the NBA, International Commission of the Scheldt, WWC, IME, European Commission, FAO, JRC, OMVS, of the Secretariat of the 4th WWF of Mexico and of the WSSCC, participated in the works.

Preamble

The application of the principles of integrated water resources management at the level of river basins, which are the basis of INBO action, has very widely progressed in the past ten years, in particular with the European Framework Directive, and it is thus very significant to disseminate our results to make known all advantages and to propose new bases for cooperation.

This is the reason why the INBO members marked their disappointment not to have seen these principles included in the conclusions of the 13th CSD of the United Nations, which was held last April in New York, in spite of the proposals especially made by the Countries and the Commission of the European Union in this direction, and they considered that it was a step backward as compared to the former progresses.

They hope that the next World Water Forum of Mexico will be the occasion of reaffirming the obvious advantage of integrated management at the level of river basins.

The two days of Technical Workshops allowed exchanges on issues related to floods and droughts and on the management of groundwater in the Mediterranean Basin:

As regards the prevention and control of floods and droughts, which heavily affect many countries of the Mediterranean region, the delegates confirmed that a better exchange of information and know-how was needed.

They were interested in the presentation of the European Water Directors' Initiative for the creation of the **European Circle for Exchanges on Flood Forecasting, EXCIFF**, and its planned future activities.

They support the proposal to initiate other circles of exchanges on other flood control components.

In particular the mapping of flood hazards is a current topic which should be taken into account.

In addition, creating a specific Circle of Exchanges devoted to flood control in the Mediterranean countries should be considered.

Consistency of the water monitoring and information systems, harmonization of data and Geographic Information Systems and the use of common models are essential for sharing information and following up actions.

In particular, the participants recommended to install reliable and effective systems for quick warning against floods and droughts and to establish prevention and action mechanisms to face the natural disasters caused by water and to protect human lives and properties.

It is essential to harmonize the flood control plans between the countries of Transboundary Basins.

With regard to aquifer management, the delegates insisted on the importance of having knowledge on aquifers: capacity, uses, recharge, fragility, measurement networks, models, studies, etc.

They underlined the irreversibility of the degradation that may affect some aquifers (such as pollution, sea water intrusion or overexploitation) and thus the need for concerted and comprehensive long-term management, involving all the stakeholders.

It is essential to inform the partners and organize an in-depth dialogue so that each one knows its responsibilities regarding the actions to be carried out together with the methods for financing them.

Among the other priority topics, one should include the establishment of networks for monitoring the aquifers to ascertain their sustainable use, especially in the Mediterranean region, knowing that the natural recharge regimes are insufficient. This would enable the taking of measures to avoid overexploitation. In coastal areas, which face a high concentration of populations and activities, these networks would also be used for knowing and controlling the status of sea water intrusions in the aquifers, while allowing the establishment of criteria for diversifying the exploitation of the groundwater resources of these areas, with guarantees of continuity and quality of the water supply.



NETWORK OF BASIN ORGANIZATIONS - MENBO

Regarding the European Water Initiative (EUWI) / European Water Framework Directive (WFD) Joint Process:

Some time was devoted to the overall presentation of EUWI and of its regional components, especially in the Mediterranean region.

Reminders of the general principles of the WFD and of its implementation timetable as well as the water-related research programs also contributed to the participants' general information.

The session focused on the Mediterranean working group on groundwater, created within the EUWI/WFD joint process.

This joint process, which, in its technical part, focuses on 3 topics (water scarcity, groundwater management and links between rural development and water management) in 2005/2006, aims at facilitating, through the sharing of experience and know-how, the implementation of water management policies adapted to the Mediterranean context and, in particular, of the WFD for the EU Member States.

Specifically regarding the work of the Group dedicated to groundwater management, the Group's mandate was presented and distributed in order to collect the participants' contributions.

Examples of the WFD implementation for groundwater management were presented as well as the example of a shared aquifer in North Africa.

The main goal of this working group is to prepare a document giving some recommendations for the implementation of the WFD as regards groundwater management in the Mediterranean context. Indeed, many regional features will require the implementation of adapted measures. The illustration with examples of groundwater management in non-European countries will enrich this document.

A first version of the chapter on monitoring and management of data on groundwater is already available. It is now a question of continuing the drafting on such topics as groundwater overexploitation and quality or transboundary aspects. The final version of the report is scheduled for June 2006 and should be used as a basis for discussion on the convergence of legislations which must be implemented in the neighboring countries of the European Union. A European report, integrating the Mediterranean recommendations, will be presented to the European Water Directors in June 2006.

The session ended with the presentation of twinning activities between basins of the Mediterranean region, especially the recent agreement signed by the French Seine-Normandie Water Agency and the Moroccan River Basin Agency of Sebou.

Regarding the Mediterranean basin in particular:

MENBO activities from October 2004 up to this date were reminded.

The Assembly particularly wished for a strong implication of the Network in projects which can bring additional financial resources for its operation (TWINBASIN, MELIA, the Med EUWI Initiative - WFD / EUWI JP, etc.).

The official yearly accounts of the Network for year 2004 were approved.

Within its cooperation in the European Joint Process, MENBO hopes to receive a support from the European Commission in order to promote IWRM at the Mediterranean level.

The Assembly approved the candidatures of new members (Spain, Greece, Morocco, Macedonia).

MENBO already has 24 members coming from 10 countries.

It reminded to all the members, and to those which we invite to join us, that registration to MENBO is free, in accordance with the new internal rules which were approved in Istanbul during the Bureau meeting in November 2004. The contributions thus remain voluntary and we encourage each member to contribute to MENBO activities by facilitating the organization of the Network meetings as the main objective is to obtain an active participation of all the Mediterranean Basin Organizations.

In accordance with MENBO statutes, Mr. Elyazghi, Moroccan Minister for Regional Planning, Water and the Environment will take the Presidency of the Regional Network up to its next General Assembly.

It is thus Morocco which will be the head of MENBO, relaying Spain which allowed the initial and successful launching of the Network.

The Minister announced his will to develop actions for collaboration and cooperation between the Mediterranean countries as a continuation of the Spanish Presidency.

The Assembly particularly thanked the former President: Mr. Juan José Moragues Terrades, President of the Jucar River Basin Authority, Spain, for the very positive action which he has achieved since the creation of the regional Network. Mr. Moragues was elected MENBO Vice-President for the new period.

MENBO Permanent Technical Secretariat remains entrusted to the Jucar River Basin Authority in Valencia, Spain, which was thanked for the efficiency of the work carried out.

Two twinning agreements were signed in Marrakech by the French Rhone-Mediterranean and Corsica Water Agency with the two Moroccan River Basin Agencies of Tensift and Souss Massa during the conference on 23 May 2005, in the Minister's presence.

A cooperation agreement was also signed on this occasion by the respective Presidents of EMWIS, INBO and MENBO.

All the working documents of these meetings, as well as the presented papers, are available on the website:

www.inbo-news.org

www.remoc.org



158 top-level representatives coming from 31 countries

www.inbo-news.org
All information
on INBO
is available



on the WEB
www.inbo-news.org

World Water Forum
Mexico - 18 March 2006



INBO BASIN IWRM

World Water Forum
Mexico - 21 March 2006
Session on Water Information Systems
16:30 - 18:30

THE MEDITERRANEAN

EMWIS

النظام المعلوماتي الأورو متوسطي للمعرفة في مجال

15 COUNTRIES ON LINE ON THE WEB



The Euro-Mediterranean Information System on Know-how in the Water Sector (EMWIS) now proposes direct access to the information managed by 15 countries of the Mediterranean region (Algeria, Cyprus, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Malta, Morocco, Palestine, Portugal, Spain, Tunisia and Turkey).

EMWIS, through its **National Focal Points (NFPs)**, offers unified access to the water-related information in each country (institutional structure, training and research organizations, data administrators, regulatory texts, documentation, news) and international services: trilingual monthly electronic flash, topical directory, follow-up of programs and regional initiatives (MEDA-Water, European Water Initiative, etc).

A significant part of the activities of **EMWIS Technical Unit** is dedicated to the building of the capacities of the National Focal Points especially for the management and development of the National Water Information Systems and for raising the awareness of the stakeholders on the advantages of sharing information.

A marked interest for the European Water Framework Directive

Within the framework of the topical studies initiated in 2004, EMWIS launched an enquiry on the interest of some concepts of the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) for the Mediterranean Partner Countries (MPCs). The first results show that there is a great interest for basin characterization and monitoring activities.

This underlines MPC requirements in terms of acquisition of a better knowledge of the basins. This preliminary stage is crucial before starting any planning work.

The Mediterranean Partners are highly interested in the follow-up of WFD implementation in the EU Member States. Thus, efforts are still needed to extend cooperation between the Member States and the Mediterranean countries, especially through the "Med-Joint Process" and its technical working groups but also, in a more general way, through the EU neighborhood policy (Twinning agreements, etc...).

EMWIS provides significant support to the collaborative work between the two shores of the Mediterranean with a Web section dedicated to the WFD and the working groups, on "groundwater" in particular.

The Conference of the 35 Water Directors of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership

The conference of the 35 Water Directors of the Partnership and the European Commission took place in Rome in Italy on 24 and 25 November 2005.

It especially:

- ◆ Reaffirmed the validity of **EMWIS**, the commitment of the countries to implement, adapt and appropriate it, according to the decisions made during the Ministerial Conferences of Marseilles in 1996 and Turin in 1999.

- ◆ **Defined the strategy for the next 10 years**, in particular the launching of feasibility studies for a regional mechanism for water observation, integrating inside EMWIS the follow-up of the evolutions towards the Millennium Goals related to water and sanitation in the Mediterranean region, as well as the implementation of the "water" component of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development.
- ◆ **Renewed the composition of the Management Committee** with the following countries: Algeria, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Malta, Morocco, Turkey, Spain and the Palestinian Authority.
- ◆ **Approved a new four-year program (2007-2010)**, continuing without any discontinuity the ongoing phase, with financing, currently estimated at approximately 3.400 MEuros.
- ◆ **Decided to increase support to the National Focal Points** and to the implementation or strengthening of their National Water Information Systems, with support from the European Union.
- ◆ **Opened EMWIS to the Mediterranean countries not signatories of the Barcelona declaration:** Libya and Balkans countries.
- ◆ **Proposed that EMWIS constitutes the tool for consistency between the policies of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership and Action plan for the Mediterranean**, and that their Conference becomes an institutional support for the implementation of the European Water Initiative in the area.

French Water Director, Mr. Pascal Berteaud, was elected President of EMWIS and Mr. Walter Mazzitti (Italy) Secretary-General, responsible for the relations with the European Commission and the Partnership Countries.

INBO-MENBO-EMWIS agreement

The partnership agreement, initiated in 2002, between EMWIS, the International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO) and MENBO was renewed during the General Assembly of the Mediterranean Network of Basin Organizations (MENBO) in Marrakech in May 2005. Within this framework, the main cooperation actions will continue, especially the transfer of know-how, which started with the implementation of the concepts of the Water Framework Directive, or the development of a World Water Information System (WWIS) based on EMWIS approach in the Mediterranean and on similar systems in other parts of the world.

For more information:

www.emwis.org

SEMIDE EMWIS



Signing of the INBO-MENBO-EMWIS agreement

ALGERIA

WATER IN THE SAHARA: WATER SAVING AND PROTECTION AGAINST POLLUTION



In the Sahara, apart from the areas located in the Saharan Atlas, Hoggar and the Tassili, the water resources are above all ground waters. All the groundwater resources are located in Northern Sahara in two aquifers, which extend beyond the Algerian borders: those of

the "Continental Intercalaire" (CI) and "Complexe Terminal" (CT).

Sound management of water resources and the control of agricultural hydro-techniques on this vast territory are today needed to ensure harmonious and sustainable development.

For such a purpose, the Sahara Basin Agency (ABHS) organized, during the first half of 2005 and in several cities of the basin, technical days whose main objective was to raise the users' awareness on

water saving and its protection against all kinds of pollution. These days gathered all the local Authorities (elected officials and representatives of the administrations and members of the basin committee), farmers and industrialists and all the water stakeholders of the Sahara basin.

In addition, the Sahara Basin Agency launched an awareness campaign related to water saving in professional environments, in schools and by the general public (Television, Radio, newspapers, water classes, conferences, etc.).

The Agency has also produced a documentary film of 26 minutes on water resources in the Sahara with the collaboration of the Algerian National Television Company.

An International Conference on Groundwater Resources in the Sahara (CIRESS) took place in Ouargla on 12 and 13 December 2005 to end this year of intense awareness campaign.

Abderrazak Khadraoui
Fax: (213) 29 71 98 03
abhs@wissal.dz

www.abhs.dz

NEW ASSIGNMENTS FOR THE RIVER BASIN AGENCIES

In Algeria, the Government has strengthened the role of the River Basin Agencies in the recovery of taxes on the use of the Water Public Domain.

The complementary Law of Finance of 2005 definitively confirmed the River Basin Agencies for the levying of water taxes on the territories under their jurisdiction.

The provisions of Article 99 of the Law of 24 December 2002 are amended, complemented and written as follows:

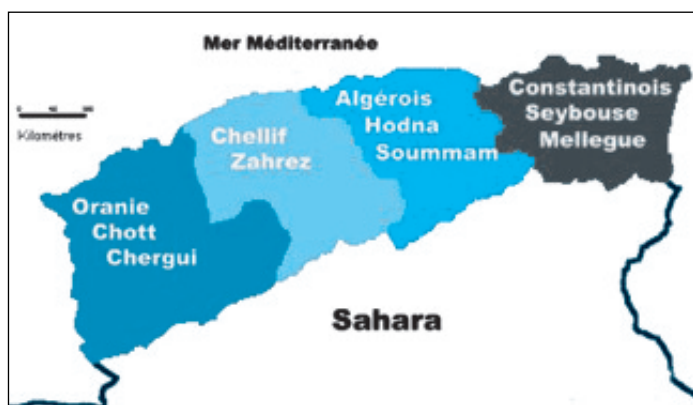
Art. 99 - The amount of the water tax, planned for in article 139 of the law of 16 July 1983, dealing with the water code, to be paid for the industrial, tourist and service use of the Water Public Domain is set at twenty-five (25) dinars per cubic meter of abstracted water.

"Art. 100 - The tax levied for the use of the Water Public Domain for water abstraction for its injection in oil wells or for other uses in the field of hydrocarbons, is set at eighty (80) DA per cubic meter of abstracted water.

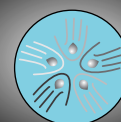
The product of these taxes is distributed as follows:

- 48% to the State budget;
- 48% to the special appropriation account, the "National Fund for Drinking Water";
- 4% to the Agency in charge of the levying.

Algiers-Hodna-Soummam and Constantine River Basin Agency (AHS)
ahs@wanadoo.dz



World Water Forum
Mexico - 18 March 2006



INBO BASIN IWRM

TWINBASIN: TWINNING WITH MOROCCAN ABHs

On 23 May in Marrakech, on the occasion of MENBO General Assembly and after 6 months of dialogue and mutual visits, Mr. Pierre Roussel, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the French Rhone-Mediterranean and Corsica Water Agency signed two twinning agreements with Mr. Madjid Benbiba, Director of the Tensift Agency (Marrakech) and Mr. Bendaoud Bouguenouch, Director of the Souss Massa Agency (Agadir), in the presence of the Moroccan

Minister for the Environment, Mr. Mohamed Elyazghi.

This agreement, signed for three years, gives the cooperation baselines:

- Strategy for internal development of the Moroccan Agencies;
- Users' involvement;
- Design of the "Data and water taxes" information system;
- Communication;

- Assistance with the organization of water-related discussions, more specifically in the Tensift basin.

These twinning arrangements were approved within the European "TwinBasin" project.

Jean Faure-Brac
Rhone-Mediterranean and Corsica Water Agency
Fax : 04 72 71 26 06
jean.faurebrac@eurmc.fr

www.eurmc.fr

Signing of the twinning agreement in Marrakech



**WWF INBO MEGA SESSION
4 Main Meetings in Mexico
18 March 2006 - 11:00 - 18:30
"For better IWRM at the basin level"**

www.inbo-news.org

International Network of Basin Organizations
Europe-INBO
Regional Networks
ANBO - MENBO - CEENBO - LANBO
Transboundary Rivers

Next INBO meetings: Mexico + Megève

Privileged links: AQUADOC-INTER EMWIS GWP IOWater UNESCO WWC



On the Web:
www.inbo-news.org

The network newsletter

Secretariat:
International Office for Water
 21, rue de Madrid
 75008 PARIS - FRANCE
 Tel.: +33 1 44 90 88 60
 Fax: +33 1 40 08 01 45
 E Mail: inbo@wanadoo.fr

The "Network Newsletter" is published with the support of the French Water Agencies, the Ministry of Ecology and Sustainable Development and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs



Publishing Director
Christiane RUNEL

Editor
Gisèle SINE

Production
Frédéric RANSONNETTE

Printing
Murcar Graphique - Paris

N° ISSN: 1265-4027