



Trans-boundary river basins in Spain and Portugal: The Albufeira Agreement

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Red MEditerránea de Organismos de Cuenca (REMOC) MEditerranean Network of Basin Organisations (MENBO) RÉseau Méditerranéen des Organismes de Bassin (REMOB)

- Created in 2002
- Regional network within the International Network of Basin Organisations (INBO)
- The principal objective of MENBO is to promote the Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) at river basin level, as essential tool for sustainable development.



REMOC – MENBO – REMOB



	Mediterranean Countries		Foundational member
	Collaborating international organization		Member
	Contacted/ waiting reply		External observer

REMOC / MENBO / REMOB
Current state of recruitment members
OCTOBER 2008



The Albufeira Agreement



Trans-boundary basins in Spain and Portugal represent 46% of the Iberian mainland surface.

The Albufeira Agreement was signed in 1998 to improve the cooperation between Portugal and Spain, in order to encourage the sustainable use of shared water courses and, maintain and improve the ecological status of shared water bodies.



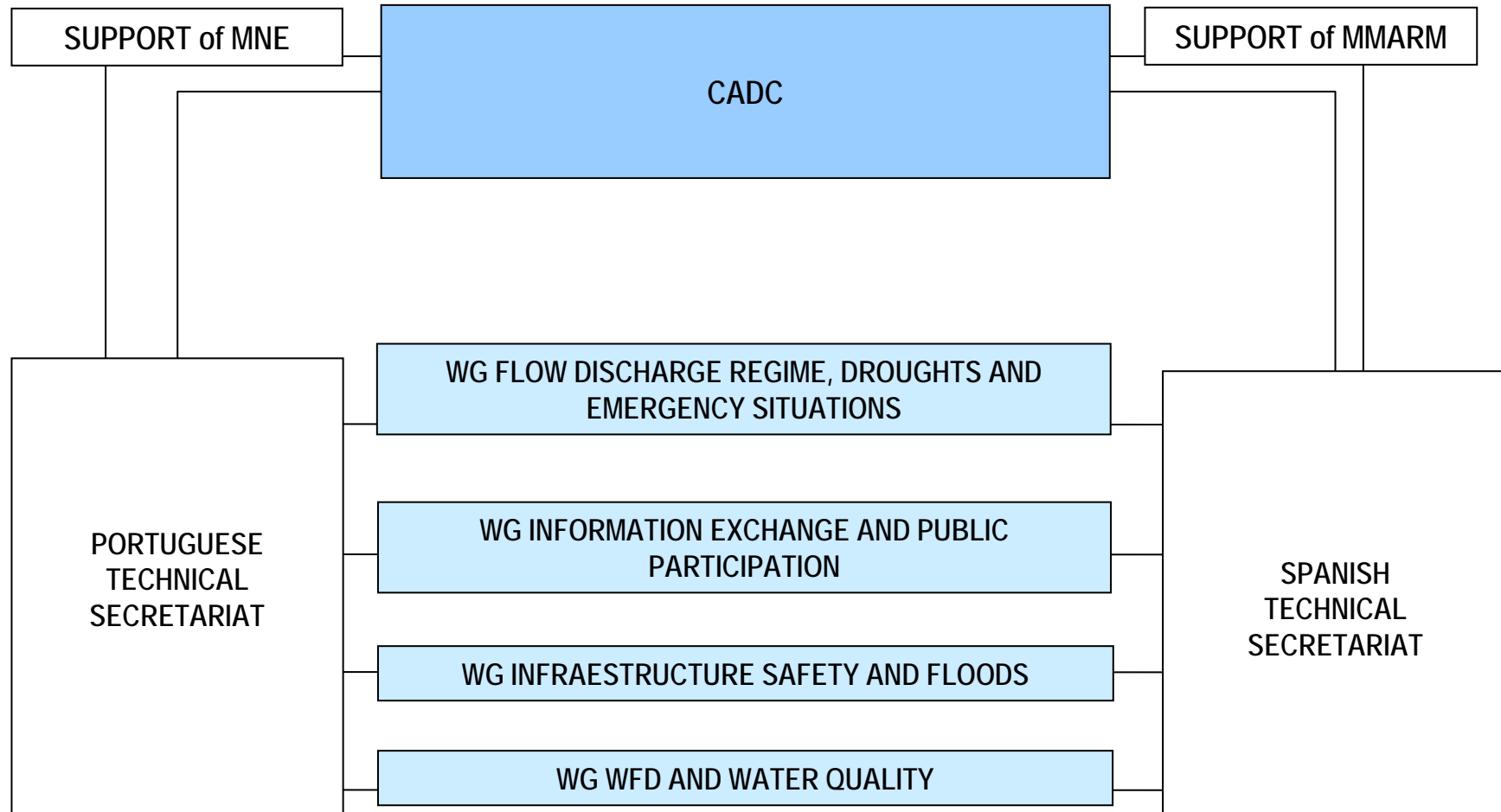
- **Institutional Regime** (Articles 20 and 23)
- **Exchange of Information** (Articles 5, 6 and 7 and Annex I)
- **Transboundary Impacts** (Articles 8 and 9 and Annex II)
- **Quality and Pollution** (Articles 13 y 14)
- **Water Uses** (Article 15)
- **Exceptional Situations** (Articles 17, 18 y 19)
- **Flow Regime** (Article 16, Additional Protocol and Annex)



- Two bilateral bodies were created for the application and development of the Albufeira Agreement:
 - The **Conference of the Parties**, with a high political level (formed by Ministers from both countries)
 - The **Commission for the Development and Application of the Agreement (CADAC)**, with a more technical content
- The main technical elements of the CADAC are the Working Groups.



Commission for the Development and Application of the Agreement (CADAC)



The 2nd Conference of the Parties took place on February 19th, 2008 in Madrid.

The main agreed issues are:

- ✓ **Endorsement of a new protocol concerning an innovative flow regimen in the international Albufeira Agreement.**
- ✓ **Creation of a Common Permanent Technical Secretariat.**
- ✓ **Endorsement of a Protocol for Action to apply the Strategic Environmental Assessment with cross border effects.**



New flow discharge regime of the Albufeira Agreement

Before

Annual control of river flows



Spain guaranteed a minimum annual flow with a regime of exceptions.

This system sometimes presented large discharges fluctuations

Now

Annual, three-monthly and weekly control of river flows



River flows will be guaranteed on a 3 monthly base.

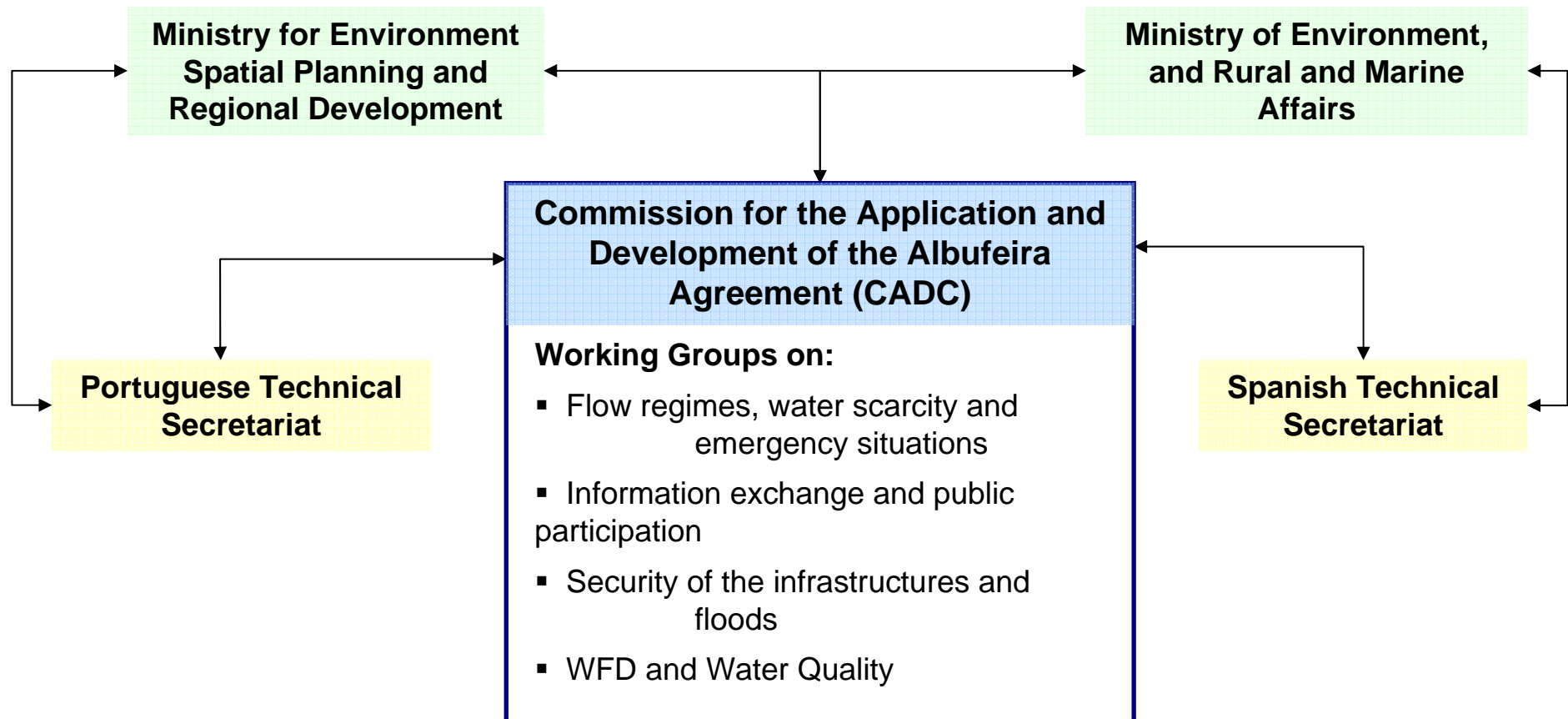
In some cases minimum weekly river flows are established in order to preserve ecological flows.

When the precipitation in the previous 6 months is around 60-70% lower that in the reference period, there will be an exception situation.



Permanent Technical Secretariat of the Commission (1/2)

Before



Permanent Technical Secretariat of the Commission (2/2)

Now is being implementing

Ministry for Environment
Spatial Planning and
Regional Development

Ministry of Environment,
and Rural and Marine
Affairs

Commission for the Application and
Development of the Albufeira
Agreement (CADC)

Permanent Technical Secretariat
(PTS)

General concepts:

- Every two years the **headquarters** of the PTS will switch **between Madrid and Lisbon**.
- It will be composed by **civil servants from Portugal and Spain**.

Objectives:

- Providing technical, administrative and promotional **support** to the CADC.
- Define methodologies for developing international RBMP for 2015
- Consolidate bases for bi-national public participation processes





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