



**RESEAU INTERNATIONAL DES ORGANISMES DE BASSIN
INTERNATIONAL NETWORK OF BASIN ORGANIZATIONS
RED INTERNACIONAL DE ORGANISMOS DE CUENCA**

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**GENERAL ASSEMBLY
DEBRECEN – HUNGARY
7 – 9 JUNE 2007**

**INBO PROGRESS REPORT
2004 – 2007**

Under the Presidency of Mrs. Madeleine de GRANDMAISON (France)

**« The basins of rivers, lakes and aquifers
are the relevant territories in which to organize
participative management of water resources
and aquatic environments. »**

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2004 - 2007: TESTIMONY OF A PRESIDENCY



After more than three years spent at INBO Presidency, which you had entrusted to me in January 2004, with some daring from your part, and now that it is time to hand over to our Hungarian friends, I would like to say how much this task strengthened me: as INBO President, I did not hesitate to cross any distance, to overcome any tiredness, because, while recognizing the honor which was given to me, from the first moments, I considered that it was for me a commitment to be useful, to involve the others, and also an opportunity to enrich myself by being in contact with « people » with experience, knowledge and heart.

It also seemed to me that the President should know the reality of the water problems encountered by the countries which have chosen to become INBO members and which apply its principles and turn them into real practice.

In such a situation, a President can only increase her know-how and become an enlightened vector towards INBO ideal: Integrated Water Resources Management at the basin level, the basis of our network.

Each meeting was the occasion of new knowledge in many fields and especially of new human relations: I hope that this conviviality will continue.

I also wish that the regional networks develop themselves. I saw their progress at our General Assemblies; they forged their tools, they got structured, developing their projects and giving more consistency to this solid unit that we are now.

The network humanism developed. The ideal of good water governance is fully justified by our objectives for the development, peace and safeguarding of our planet, for the well-being of the current and future populations.

This ideal must integrate women with all their heritage of culture, traditions, know-how in education, training, management and today in modernity. The transmission of all these elements is necessary for the emergence of a practice of sharing and common cause among the water users.

Finally, during this mandate and as an islander, I invited INBO to look at water management on the islands. With little or much water, each « small island » is indeed a basin, where the IWRM principle is fully usable and there is no better laboratory for its implementation. I wish that the water management problems on the islands draw the attention of our network and this all the more so that climate change on our planet makes the islands, with all their biodiversity, much vulnerable.

But water, a living strength, can also bring death: never let us believe that we control it! If we keep in mind that we are mostly the cause of its variations, perhaps we will gain wisdom as regards nature?

I am grateful to the governments and the organizations which, during my presidency, hosted and supported INBO activities.

My fraternal recognition goes to the INBO members for their support and solicitude and their true commitment in the field.

I wish good luck to Hungary to continue the committed task, with us and within INBO.

In the « Water-for-Life Decade », it is necessary to continue fighting without letting up.

Madeleine de GRANDMAISON

*Vice-President of the Martinique Regional Council
and President of the Basin Committee,
World President of INBO*



YEAR 2004

GENERAL ASSEMBLY – 24 / 28 JANUARY 2004 - THE MARTINIQUE "DECLARATION OF TROIS ILETS"

Better governance of freshwaters, which are limited and vulnerable, is one of the main keys to sustainable development, as it is essential to sustain life on our planet and ensure the health and socioeconomic progress of our societies, while respecting the environment.

From 24 to 28 January 2004, 178 representatives of governmental administrations in charge of water management, of Basin Organizations, already existing or being created, coming from 39 countries, and from interested bi and multilateral cooperation agencies, met in Trois-Ilets in the Martinique, during the sixth General Assembly of the International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO), to define, all together, the most suitable actions needed for achieving the objectives of integrated and participatory management of inland surface and ground water resources and of related coastal zones.

The delegates reaffirmed that the problems linked to water governance are challenges that can no longer be tackled on a sectoral or local basis, or indeed separately.



In fact, the search for solutions must pass through an integrated and holistic approach, organized at the relevant level of basins of rivers, lakes – and aquifers, either local, national or transboundary.

Indeed, river basins are the natural territories in which water runs on the soil or in the sub soil, whatever are the national or administrative boundaries or limits crossed.

In order to achieve these objectives, while taking account of all adaptations required by the different field situations, the delegates recommended that the following procedures regarding good governance of inland freshwater resources and coastal zones should be used all over the World:

- 1) This Integrated Water Resource Management at the river basin level should aim at meeting, in a holistic, consistent, sustainable and inter-sectoral manner, all essential and legitimate needs of the citizens, at combating wastage, protecting against risk, preventing pollution, at preserving and rehabilitating ecosystems,
- 2) In each country, a clear legal framework must specify the rights and obligations, the possible levels of decentralization, the institutional responsibilities of the different stakeholders, the processes and means needed for good water governance,
- 3) The representatives of populations, local authorities, water users or of organizations representing collective interest should participate in this management beside administrations, especially in Basin Councils or Committees.
Information, awareness and education of populations or users and of their representatives are required.
- 4) When translating into the national water policy of each Country the principles of integrated management of water resources, and in consistency with their own IWRM national plans, basin management plans (or master plans) should be prepared, through dialogue and transparency, to set the objectives to be achieved in the medium term,
- 5) Reliable, representative, harmonized and easily accessible integrated information and monitoring systems and specific research should be organized in each basin,
- 6) The establishment of specific financing systems, based on the users' (consumers and polluters) contribution and common cause, is required in each basin to ensure the implementation of successive priority action plans



and a balanced management of the resource and improve or maintain its quality, as well as the smooth operation of community utilities.

These contributions, defined by consensus in Basin Committees, should be managed at the level of the basin, in a decentralized manner, by a specialized, technical and financial basin Organization.

7) As regards transboundary rivers, lakes or aquifers, cooperation agreements should be signed by riparian Countries and Management Plans designed at the level of the whole basin, especially in international or transboundary Basin Commissions, Authorities or Organizations.

Water has no national or administrative boundary: jointly managing the resources shared between several neighboring States of the 263 transboundary rivers and lakes and hundreds of transboundary aquifers over the world is strategic and a priority and should take this reality into account.

The islands are systems which offer a wide range of biodiversity, ecosystems and socioeconomic entities, where management of freshwater and coastal areas is a complex issue which requires special attention, a specific legal framework and adapted means.

Implementation of the European Water Framework Directive is a major milestone for promoting the principles of good governance advocated by INBO. This topic is a priority for mobilizing its members.

It is necessary to support the creation and strengthening of Basin Organizations over the world!

The delegates of the General Assembly of the International Network of Basin Organizations requested that Official bi or multilateral Development Aid and the programs of International Cooperation Organizations should be refocused to support projects aiming at implementing real concerted actions which meet the above principles, and experimentations, evaluations and exchanges of know-how in these areas.

GRAN SASSO NATIONAL PARK - ITALY – 22 MARCH 2004 « WATER IN MOUNTAINS, INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT OF UPPER RIVER BASINS ».

Following the international conference on "Water in mountains and integrated management of upper river basins", which took place in MEGEVE, on 4, 5 and 6 September 2002, the "Savoy County – Mount Blanc - Leman" area and the Natural Reserve and National Park of Gran Sasso in Italy decided to initiate, under the aegis of INBO and UNESCO, a technical cooperation on the occasion of the World Water Day on 22 March 2004.

They approved a work program for 2004 - 2006 including the following actions:

- * Enhancement of the Megève conference proceedings,
- * Launching of a website "Water in Mountains – Integrated management of upper river basins",
- * Creation of a forum "Water in Mountains" with all the elected officials, scientists, academics, environmental technicians wishing to work on this issue,
- * Progressive setting-up of a network of pilot sites to test effective solutions of integrated management.



Original experiments will be undertaken within this program, such as: the use of Geographic Information Systems and water quality indicators, contractualized relations between the agricultural-pastoral, forest and tourist activities and water managers, contracts between downstream consumption areas and mountainous areas, definition of tools for land organization and the launching of hydrogeological parks.

* Finally, a new conference "MEGEVE 2", to be held in September 2006, will draw up a progress report on the most significant experiments since 2002.



PARIS CONFERENCE – 26 APRIL 2004

A COOPERATION FRAMEWORK FOR THE NIGER RIVER BASIN

The "Management and Governance Principles for the Sustainable Development of the Niger River Basin" were adopted in Paris on 26 April 2004 by the Heads of State and Government of the Niger Basin Authority (NBA):

- 1) The aim of the partners is, on the one hand, to facilitate the implementation of rational management of water resources and ecosystems of the Niger River Basin through enhanced distribution of the water resource and its benefits based on the needs of the various users and, on the other hand, to encourage further cooperation among the Members States.
- 2) They attach specific importance to carrying out impact studies and socioeconomic integrating studies, which can better facilitate the assessment of stakes, constraints, impacts and benefits to be shared from the planned investments or management actions.
- 3) The projects which can significantly affect the quality and/or quantity of the water resource will be subject to prior information of all partners by NBA.
- 4) In the absence of such prior information, the projects and works will not be financed by one of the partners.
- 5) Each partner is committed to enhance coordination with the others and to develop synergies among ongoing or future projects and programs.
- 6) The partners commit themselves to support NBA in its capacity building process, in accordance with the resolutions of the Council of Ministers of 8-9 January 2004, held in Yaoundé.
- 7) The NBA Partner Consultation Committee, coordinated by the World Bank, is the implementing structure of these projects.

INBO is one of the signatories of this Cooperation Framework.

"CANWELL 2004"

KELOWNA - BRITISH COLUMBIA - CANADA

With the support of the French Consulate-General in Vancouver, Mr. Jean-François DONZIER, Permanent Technical Secretary, was invited to deliver an inaugural speech on European water policy during "CanWell 2004".

This great event, which was held this year in Kelowna (British Columbia), gathered North-American professionals on groundwater, wells and boreholes.

« TAIWAN WATER 2004 »

TAIPEI - 3 - 6 SEPTEMBER 2004

The Taiwan Authorities invited Mr. Jean-François DONZIER, INBO Permanent Technical Secretary, to deliver the introductory Conference of the first International Trade Show "Taiwan Water" which was held in Taipei Exhibition Center from 3 to 6 September 2004. The topic selected was "the new European water policy".

Mr. DONZIER was also invited by the National Taiwan University (NTU) for a one-day course on the institutions and means of water management in Europe, the Water Framework Directive in particular.



**CEENBO
CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPEAN NETWORK OF BASIN ORGANIZATIONS
KRAKOW – POLAND - 26 SEPTEMBER 2004
2ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

The 2nd General Assembly of the Central and Eastern European Network of Basin Organizations took place in Krakow, Poland, on 26 September 2004, and was chaired by Mr. Ovidiu GABOR. The event was organized by the Polish Authorities, the International Office for Water and the Secretariat of CEENBO.



The President of INBO (International Network of Basin Organizations) - Mrs. Madeleine de Grandmaison, INBO Secretary, Mr. Jean-Francois Donzier and Mr. Pierre Roussel, President of the French Rhone-Mediterranean and Corsica Water Agency participated in the Assembly.

The Assembly welcomed delegates representing Member Organizations or observers from Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Serbia & Montenegro and Slovakia. Belarus attended and showed interest in participating in CEENBO work. GWP was represented by Mr. L. N.

Popescu (GWP CEE Romania).

The Assembly thanked Mr. M. Ostojki, Polish Water Director, for his warm welcome and the perfect organization of the Assembly, as well as the Romanian and French Authorities for their financial support to the Secretariat since the last General Assembly in Sinaia, Romania.

The General Assembly was pleased with the progress report, presented by CEENBO Secretary - Mrs. Daniela Radulescu, and they approved the budget. The delegates congratulated the Apele Romane National Administration's leading staff for their support to CEENBO and INBO activities.

The new Romanian National Training Center for Water Management was inaugurated on 30 May 2004, by Mr. F. Stadiu, State Secretary in charge of Water, on the occasion of the Liaison Bureau of the Network of International Commissions and Transboundary Basin Organizations (Voina / Romania, 27 - 29 May 2004). This Center will also be available to CEENBO members.

The Assembly unanimously nominated Mr. Mieczyslaw. S. Ostojki, as the new CEENBO President from 1st January 2005, thus succeeding to Mr. Ovidiu Gabor (Romania).

It also nominated the following members of the Liaison Bureau: Mr. M.S. Ostojki - President, Poland; Mr. Ovidiu Gabor - Vice-President, Romania; Mrs. Galina Balusheva - Bulgaria; Mr. Petr Kubala – Czech Republic; Mr. Petru Serban - Romania; Mrs. Natasa Smolar-Zvanut - Slovenia. Serbia & Montenegro will send its nomination.

CEENBO is taking the legal form of an association under Romanian legislation and its secretariat will be handled by the National Administration APELE ROMANE. According to the provisions of Clause 4 of CEENBO Statutes, the National Administration "Apele Romane" - Romania - will continue to be the host of the Association's Head Office.

Based upon the proposal of the Bureau, the General Assembly designated Mrs. Daniela Radulescu as the Head of CEENBO Secretariat. Poland will nominate a Deputy Secretary.

On this occasion, specialists were nominated to take part in INBO Experts' Council.

NEXT MEETINGS

The implementation of the European Framework Directive will remain a CEENBO priority topic in 2005 for mobilizing the Network members involved, either in the enlarged European Union or in any other interested Country of Central Europe and the Balkans.

The next meetings of the Liaison Bureau will be coordinated with the main events organized by INBO or its Regional Networks: EUROPE-INBO Group meetings in Poland and Walloon region in particular, HELCOM - St. Petersburg, etc.





There were some proposals for future CEENBO workshops in 2005 and 2006, in the Czech Republic (Topic: Monitoring), in Poland (Wroclaw) on floods, and in Bulgaria (under discussion).

WATER FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE (WFD) *CEENBO workshop in Tulcea*

Since 2002, the WFD has been the main work topic of the Regional Central European Network of Basin Organizations (CEENBO), whose Secretariat is ensured by Apele Romane in Romania.

IOWater and French experts from Water Agencies and Walloon experts from Liege University provided support to the organization of several regional workshops addressing the representatives of Basin Organizations and the national executives in charge of implementing the WFD in the Central European countries. The workshops dealt with specific aspects, such as the delimitation of water bodies, the analysis of pressures and impacts, the economic analysis, "the inventory", etc.

« EUROPE-INBO 2004 » **KRAKOW - POLAND - 27 – 29 SEPTEMBER 2004** **INTERNATIONAL MEETING ON THE IMPLEMENTATION** **OF THE WATER FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE**

FINAL RESOLUTIONS

126 representatives of the governmental administrations responsible for managing water resources and of the Basin Organizations or Water Authorities coming from 32 countries, Belgium, Belarus, Bulgaria, Canada, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxemburg, Macedonia, Morocco, Moldavia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Tunisia, Ukraine and International Commissions (Moselle-Saar, Scheldt, Helsinski, Oder), GWP CEE and the European Commission, met in Krakow, on 27 and 28 September 2004, under the auspices of the International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO), of the Mediterranean Network of Basin Organizations (MENBO) and of the Central and Eastern European Network of Basin Organizations (CEENBO), at the invitation of the Polish Ministry of the Environment and Polish RZGWs and in the presence of Mrs. Madeleine Jouye de Grandmaison (INBO).



PREAMBLE

In the member or candidate countries of the European Union, the implementation of the Water Framework Directive has entered, since 2002, in an active and operational phase, which directly involves the existing Basin Organizations or the "District Authorities" being created, that are facing many practical and effective problems in its field implementation.

Numerous and interesting studies and works were also developed in many districts and in "Pilot Basins", and it is useful for them to exchange the difficulties encountered, obtained results or very operational and concrete experiences accumulated in the field.

During the INBO meeting in Valencia, Spain, on 11 and 12 November 2003, it appeared that there was a need for informal exchanges of practical experiences between the volunteer Basin Organizations, in addition to the official European platform, organized in working groups led by the European Water Directors and the European Commission.

That is the reason why, it was decided to organize, within INBO, an open Group of European Basin Organizations, called "EUROPE-INBO", for the implementation of the WFD.

INBO activities must indeed be complementary to ongoing efforts and must avoid setting up parallel or competing structures.



The "EUROPE-INBO" working group aims at enriching the common strategy for the implementation of the Water Framework Directive (WFD) without duplicating work already done, by presenting different approaches and mentioning the very pragmatic questions, which arise in the European Districts.

The objective is to facilitate process in the field by direct contacts between the public bodies in charge, which would be or are yet interested in our group, created on a voluntary basis and free involvement.

49 papers were presented during the Krakow meeting.

GENERAL ISSUES

Five topics were dealt with in this 1st meeting of "EUROPE-INBO" Group of European Basin Organizations in Krakow:

1) *Status of the districts initial characterization:*

It should be stressed that a common conclusion of all countries in their initial characterization work is that agriculture will, in many cases, be the limiting factor to achieving the environmental objectives.

2) *Economic component of the WFD;*

3) *Environmental objectives and the "good ecological status" in particular;*

4) *The transboundary basins;*

5) *Flood prevention and control.*

CONCLUSIONS

Generally speaking, the participants considered very favorably the progress made allowing a better understanding of the WFD and of its instruments on the one hand, and on the other the significant progress already made in the first stages of its implementation.

* The Organizations participating in the "EUROPE-INBO" group expressed their wish to continue exchanging their experiences:

- Organizing regular meetings which will result in the identification of the main concerns of Basin Organizations involved in the practical implementation of the WFD,
- Developing the "EUROPE-INBO" website which could include case studies and documents produced by Basin Organizations such as the "initial characterizations" for the end of 2004 (abstract in English, links with the sites of the Basin Organizations). This site would also include current information, a forum for discussions and frequently asked questions, links towards new documents and information sources produced at the European level,
- Training programs, "WFD-Community" in particular,
- Twinning arrangements between Basin Organizations of different countries within the "TWINBASIN" project.

* The Organizations represented in Krakow expressed their full support to the Pilot River Basins exercise developed under CIS during the first phase ending in 2004. The "EUROPE-INBO" group recommended proposing additional Pilot Basins for testing in the second phase of CIS starting in 2005.

* As regards transboundary basins, it seems necessary to support the creation of International Commissions and provide better means to those already existing, and to reinforce cooperation with countries bordering EU (Candidate countries, NIS countries and Balkans), through projects supported by the European Commission,

* As regards the specific aspects of the prevention and control of floods, which heavily affect many European countries, the delegates support the proposal to initiate exchanges between operational Centers for flood control and prevention.

In this field, the recent paper of the European Commission should be considered as the basis for future initiatives.

Compatibility between the WFD and flood control in heavily affected areas should especially be looked for.

* Consistency of 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 transboundary basins as a priority.





* A joint thinking on the methods and means for consultation of the general public and for the processing of the received opinions is urgent. It would also be very useful to jointly formalize strong and easily appropriable arguments likely to justify a real interest and an effective participation of the general public, whose approval is essential for the consultations on the actions and projects related to water policy in the basins.

* At this stage of their first exchanges, the delegates already stressed several other main concerns of interest for future exchanges of experiences:

- Specific implementation of the WFD in islands,
- Water management in areas with current or past mining activities,
- Treatment of historic and future pollution and its impact on the resources and environments (polluted sites and soils, mines subsidence, sediments, phytosanitary residues, invading species, etc.),
- Design of an iterative and dynamic approach for formulating programs of measures, taking into account the existing and future situations without delaying the actions to be implemented in the short term,
- Link between the WFD implementation and the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy: Improvement of consistency between different official aid for agriculture and the environment,
- Institutional organization of the District Authorities according to their specific constraints, for supporting a better convergence for the effective implementation of the WFD,
- Need for regular information of the District Authorities on the progress made in European work on the definition of "good ecological status",
- Effects of the classification of Water Bodies and designation of protected areas on future regional planning and development,
- Economic aspects: consolidation of the information already collected, creation of databases and exchanges at the level of the international districts, tools for public consultation, training of specialists,
- Improving knowledge of hydrobiology and hydro-morphology.

The participants thanked the representative of the European Commission for inviting the "EUROPE-INBO" group to present the conclusions of the Krakow meeting to the Committee of the European Water Directors.

It will be a great honor for the group of European Basin Organizations, which confirms its willingness to be fully associated to the CIS process as the other partners already involved.

The "EUROPE-INBO" Group reminds that the European Commission is permanently invited to its meetings and works, as well as the Water Directors of all interested countries.

The delegates thanked the Polish Ministry of the Environment and RZGWs for having initiated this first meeting and for their perfect organization of the meeting and their warm welcome in Krakow.

Mr. Mieczyslaw OSTOJSKI, Polish Water Director, will chair the "EUROPE-INBO" Group up to its next Plenary Assembly.

The delegates retained the proposal from the Walloon Region and Basins Organizations of the Maas international district to organize the next plenary meeting of "EUROPE-INBO" in Namur, Belgium, from 29 September to 1st October 2005.

« MENBO » - MEDITERRANEAN NETWORK OF BASIN ORGANIZATIONS

11 - 13 OCTOBER 2004 - ISTANBUL

2ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Since it was constituted in November 2002, the Mediterranean Network of Basin Organizations has developed its first activities and participated in various international workshops and conferences within INBO. With its new President Juan J. Moragues Terrades, the main objective of the Network is to achieve closer cooperation among the different basin organizations and entities in charge of water management in the Mediterranean region.

MENBO adapted its final statutes during its 1st General Assembly that was held in November 2003 in Valencia (Spain) within the framework of the International Seminar "Water Days".

The 2nd Liaison Bureau meeting and the 2nd General Assembly of MENBO took place on 11-13 October 2004





in Istanbul.

Throughout 2004, MENBO started to collaborate with EMWIS (Euro-Mediterranean Information System on Know-How in the Water Sector) to exchange information on water management in Mediterranean countries.

MENBO actively participates in different projects within the 6th Framework Program on Research and Development of the EC: MELIA, SISMICA, TWINBASIN and IWRM.Net.

CAPACITY BUILDING SYMPOSIUM ON INTEGRATED WATER MANAGEMENT AND IRRIGATION ISTANBUL, 11-13 OCTOBER 2004

MENBO and the Euro-Mediterranean Irrigators Community (EIC) organized an International Technical Symposium within the Strategy Plan of the Global Water Partnership-Mediterranean (GWP-Med) and within the Mediterranean Component of the EU Water Initiative (EUWI). This event was held at the Kadir Has University of Istanbul.

There were 50 participants representing basin organizations, administrations in charge of water management and irrigators associations coming from: Algeria, Egypt, France, Greece, Morocco, Portugal, Spain and Turkey.

The participants made interesting presentations within four working sessions:

- * IWRM evolution in Mediterranean countries at the River Basin level.
- * Water Users Associations and Basin Organizations in the Mediterranean: Role in Water Management.
- * Adjustment of irrigation in Mediterranean countries towards a sustainable agricultural model.
- * Establishment, functioning and modernization of water management institutions in the Mediterranean Region.

After this Symposium, the participants took part in the Mediterranean Dialogue on the advances achieved regarding the Mediterranean Strategy on Sustainable Development.

During this Dialogue, MENBO and EIC had the opportunity to present the Symposium results to the NGOs and other Mediterranean stakeholders who participated in the 3rd Meeting of the Circle of Mediterranean Parliamentarians for Sustainable Development (COMPSUD).

DAKAR - SENEGAL - 03 / 06 NOVEMBER 2004 GENERAL ASSEMBLIES OF THE AFRICAN NETWORK OF BASIN ORGANIZATIONS (ANBO) AND OF THE NETWORK OF INTERNATIONAL COMMISSIONS AND TRANSBOUNDARY BASIN ORGANIZATIONS

"Water has no boundary"

168 delegates of governmental administrations, responsible for managing water resources, of Basin Organizations and International Organizations coming from 34 countries, met in Dakar (Senegal) from 2 to 6 November 2004, under the auspices of the International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO), at the invitation of the Organization for the Development of the Senegal River (OMVS) and with the support of French Cooperation, in the presence of Mrs. Madeleine Jouye de Grandmaison (INBO).

The meeting was honored by the effective presence of several Ministers in charge of water in the sub-region, of the President of the Council of Ministers of OMVS, of the Prime Minister of Senegal.

His Excellency Adboulaye WADE, President of the Republic of Senegal came to officially open the meeting on November 3 and to support the Network's initiatives.

PREAMBLE

The International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO) is especially mobilizing for better management of transboundary rivers, lakes and aquifers.

Indeed, there are 263 transboundary rivers or lakes and hundreds of aquifers over the world, the basins of which are shared by at least two or more (18) riparian countries.

Water has no boundary and appropriate integrated resource management of the basins of rivers, lakes or aquifers, shared by several riparian countries, is now of strategic significance.





Cooperation agreements need to be initiated or signed between the riparian countries for these rivers and aquifers. Such an integrated management obviously requires methods for observation, management, protection and development.

Their specific situation should be better taken into account in the debates and multilateral agreements on a new governance of water resources.

In Evian in 2003, INBO, jointly with several large NGOs concerned, especially drew the attention on these stakes of the G8 Heads of State and Government, who retained this issue among their priorities for future actions in the water sector.

This is the reason why the numerous participants in the INBO International Conference, held in Thonon-les-Bains (France) on 25 and 26 November 2002, decided to constitute "an informal Network of International Commissions and Transboundary Basin Organizations", based on a voluntary and free participation of its members and observers.

OBJECTIVES OF THE NETWORK: PRIORITIES FOR ACTION



In addition to the presentation of the strategies of bi and multilateral cooperation institutions involved and to the study of several real cases of organization on the scale of transboundary basins, the Dakar Assembly widely dealt, in 4 workshops and 69 papers presented during the meeting, with 4 central topics for the implementation of IWRM and for facilitating the creation and strengthening of basin organizations over the world:

- 1) statutes and responsibilities of transboundary Basin Organizations,
- 2) preparation of basin management plans and action programs,
- 3) financing Basin Organizations and their programs,
- 4) monitoring and information systems in the management of transboundary basins.

GENERAL RESOLUTIONS

The participants noted with appreciation the advance achieved for a better management of transboundary basins and the significant progress already made in the implementation of policies and real actions at this level.

* The organizations participating in the Dakar Conference expressed their wish to continue exchanging their experiences through four complementary activities:

- Organizing regular meetings, either plenary sessions on a yearly basis or topical workshops whenever necessary. Apart from an exchange of experiences, these meetings will result in the identification of the main concerns of Basin Organizations involved in the field.

- Developing a website focusing on the transboundary basins in Africa as a priority and based on the methodologies, techniques and contents already elaborated within "AQUADOC-INTER" in Central Europe and "EMWIS" in the Mediterranean region.

This common website should include case studies and documents produced by Basin Organizations (abstract in English and French, links with the sites of the Basin Organizations). This site would also include current information, a forum for discussions and frequently asked questions, links towards new documents and information produced at the international level.

- Promoting training programs for executives and staffs of Transboundary Basins Organizations.

- Establishing twinning arrangements between Basin Organizations of different countries facing common problems, notably within the "TWINBASIN" project or already existing agreements.



* The organizations represented in Dakar expressed their support to Pilot River Basins exercises, such as those developed in the European Union for WFD implementation or within the European Water Initiative for Africa for instance, within that of GEF and in an increasing number of countries. They recommended proposing additional pilot basins for widening the exercise to adapt it to the context of each region of the world.

* The Delegates also wished to enlarge the direct dissemination of Pilot River Basin results to all other Basin Organizations. Generally speaking, in spite of the Web facilities, access to information remains complex.

* As regards Transboundary Basins, it seems necessary to support the creation of International Commissions or similar Organizations and to provide better means to those already existing, and to reinforce cooperation between the neighboring countries of each of these basins. The case of rivers of large federal countries may, for some aspects, be compared to the one of transboundary basins.

* As regards the specific aspects of the prevention and control of floods and droughts, which heavily affect many countries, the Delegates confirmed that there is a need to better exchange information and know-how and that it is essential to harmonize the control plans between the countries of transboundary basins.

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

* 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 transboundary basins.

* A joint thinking on the methods and means for consulting and mobilizing the populations is urgent. Participation of the populations is essential for the successful implementation of the projects related to water policy in the basins.

* The participants also drew the attention of the proper Authorities on taking adequate measures to prevent the introduction and the dissemination of invasive aquatic species which cause considerable ecological and economic damage and of which new specimens are continuously discovered.

* They wished a better participation of the transboundary basins supported by GEF in the Network activities and they asked the INBO Member Organizations to get actively involved in the activities initiated during the operational phase of "IW-LEARN" Project with GEF support.

Mr. OULD MERZOUG, OMVS High Commissioner, will chair the Network of International Commissions and Transboundary Basin Organizations up to its next Plenary Assembly.

REGARDING THE AFRICAN CONTINENT IN PARTICULAR

* 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.

* ANBO proposes 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, in order to allow the managers of these basins to regularly exchange their experience, to evaluate their projects, identify the best practices adapted to the African contexts, to define the encountered problems and to make the syntheses necessary for disseminating the lessons learned on 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 a 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 Delegates retained with thanks the proposal from Morocco and the Niger Basin Authority (NBA) to organize in 2005 the next meetings of the Bureau and General Assembly respectively.

THE WORLD BANK MOROCCO - 8 - 9 DECEMBER – 2004 - RABAT PROGRESS ACHIEVED BY A DECADE OF REFORMS

Ten years will have passed since the promulgation of the Moroccan law of 1995, which reorganized the water sector.

In addition to a significant regulatory work needed to draft the implementation decrees, significant reforms gradually took place during this decade, the creation of the River Basin Agencies in particular.

It is true that Morocco has reached an exceptional control of its abundant water resources for more than half a century.

The World Bank, with the French Development Agency (AFD), assessed the situation, the successes and difficulties which still remain, in a sectoral analysis, whose findings were already discussed by working groups mobilizing all the Moroccan public stakeholders of the water sector.

On the joint initiative of the World Bank and AFD, a synthesis seminar on the thinking caused by this sectoral analysis took place in Rabat in ONEP training center on last 8 and 9 December.

Work began on 8 December with two workshops mobilizing the representatives of all the Ministries and Public Establishments concerned, one devoted to drinking water supply and sanitation utilities, the other to water resource management and, in particular, to the creation of River Basin Agencies.

This last workshop was led by Mr. R. BALAFREEJ, Adviser to the Moroccan Minister for the Environment, and introduced by Mr. J.C. PIRES of the AFD.

Mr. A. ZIYAD of the MATEE presented the situation of the Moroccan River Basin Agencies and Mr. J.F. DONZIER, INBO Permanent Technical Secretary, presented the organization and the functioning of Basin Organizations in Brazil, Spain and Mexico, as well as the building process of the French Water Agencies, from 1964 to 1974, and a typology of the basin institutions over the world.

A lively and constructive debate followed with, in particular, interventions from all the Directors of the new Moroccan Basin Agencies.

A synthesis of the workshops was presented on the following day to the Authorities concerned and will be used as a basis for useful recommendations to continue the significant reform effort already made.





YEAR 2005

"EUROPE-INBO" PARTICIPATED IN THE 6TH "BALTIC SEA DAY" 22 - 23 MARCH 2005 - ST. PETERSBURG

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, Estonia, 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 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.



**« MENBO »
MEDITERRANEAN NETWORK OF BASIN ORGANIZATIONS
3RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY
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, in the presence of Mrs. Madeleine Jouye de Grandmaison (INBO).

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, 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.

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-Normandy 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.



**MARRAKECH - MOROCCO - 25 MAY 2005
WORLD LIAISON BUREAU
OF THE INTERNATIONAL NETWORK OF BASIN
ORGANIZATIONS**

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 wished to involve 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).

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,

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

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

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.

3) 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 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.

The INBO members wish to be better associated in it, as well as in the Canadian initiative, in the Initiative of the African Development Bank, and in projects on IWRM in transboundary river basins, (GEF, FFEM, etc.), in which their expertise in the field can be useful.

The Bureau reminded the importance 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, 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.

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.

5) A very positive evaluation was drawn up of the INBO/GWP Associated Program, and especially of the progress made in the "TWINBASIN" 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 NARBO in Asia.

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



**« 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 and in the presence of Mrs. Madeleine Jouye de Grandmaison (INBO).

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.



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

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".

**NAMUR - BELGIUM - 29 SEPTEMBER– 1ST OCTOBER 2005
"EUROPE-INBO 2005": 2ND INTERNATIONAL MEETING
ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WATER FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE**

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), and in the presence of Mrs. Madeleine Jouye de Grandmaison (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 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

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.

* 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.

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!



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,
- * 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,
- * 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 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.

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.



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.

Le Forum sur le droit à l'eau en Europe



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.

"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.



PARTICIPATIVE MANAGEMENT OF CENTRAL ASIAN RIVERS UZBEKISTAN - 23 TO 30 OCTOBER 2005

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 protection of the Aral Sea with 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 by a group of concerned farmers.

FIRST BINATIONAL RIO GRANDE / RIO BRAVO SUMMIT MCALLEN (TEXAS) - REYNOSA (MEXICO) – 17 – 18 NOVEMBER 2005

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 intervening 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.



« EMWIS » CONFERENCE OF THE 35 WATER DIRECTORS OF THE EURO-MEDITERRANEAN PARTNERSHIP ROME - ITALY - 24 AND 25 NOVEMBER 2005

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.
- * 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.



* 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.

The 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.

Mr. Jean-François Donzier, Permanent Technical Secretary of the International Network of Basin Organization (INBO) was invited to participate in this conference within the cooperation agreement signed in Marrakech in 2005.

"MRC": MEKONG RIVER COMMISSION 29 - 30 NOVEMBER - CHIANG RAI – THAILAND A NEW STRATEGY FOR THE BASIN

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, multisectoral 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 committed 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.

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.





YEAR 2006

4TH WORLD WATER FORUM – MEXICO – 18 MARCH 2006: 4 INBO OFFICIAL SESSIONS FOR INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AT THE BASIN LEVEL

Huge success for the four Official Sessions organized by INBO in the IWRM day on 18 March 2006 in Mexico City:

- * African river basin management,
- * The European Water Framework Directive,
- * Public participation in basin management,
- * The transboundary basins.



These sessions received more than 1,200 participants in the entire day, in the presence of Mrs. Madeleine Jouye de Grandmaison, world president of INBO.

INBO RECOMMENDATIONS

In many countries, the seriousness of the situation requires the implementation of a comprehensive, integrated and consistent management of water resources, aquatic ecosystems and territories.



The International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO) aims at improving the management of water resources and aquatic environments over the world. It regroups 158 member organizations or permanent observers in 52 countries.

INBO called its members and observers to come to Mexico City to present their field 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 sets an objective of good ecological status in the national or international river basin districts of the 27 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 Organizations.

This gained experience allows today to affirm that: "management at the basin level works!" ... when there is a continued political will to establish it and make it work!

Based on this observation:
INBO recommends that water resources management be organized:

- * on the relevant scale of the local, national or transboundary basins of rivers, lakes and aquifers;
- * with the participation in decision-making of the concerned Governmental Administrations and local Authorities, the representatives of different categories of users and associations for environmental protection or of public interest;
- * based on Management Plans or master plans that define the medium and long-term objectives;
- * through the development of Programs of Measures and successive multiyear priority investments;





* with the mobilization of specific financial resources, based on the "polluter-pays" principle and "user-pays" systems.

INBO recommends the establishment of appropriate legal frameworks that take into account these five global principles.

"Users' participation should be organized within official bodies for dialogue and a real mobilization of partners".

INBO recommends that this participation be organized in Basin Committees or Councils.

These Basin Committees should be involved in the decision-making related to water policy in the basin, using procedures that clearly define their role.

In particular, they should be associated to the formulation of long-term objectives and to the preparation of Management Plans, to the selection of development and equipment priorities and to the implementation of Programs of Measures and multiyear priority investment programs, as well as to the setting of financing principles and to the calculation of water taxes that concern them.

"INFORMATION ON WATER RESOURCES AND THE ENVIRONMENTS SHOULD BE IMPROVED".

Their role should be facilitated by the setting-up of integrated water information systems. This information should include objective elements enabling dialogue and negotiation.

Finally, significant means should be devoted to raise awareness among the public, and especially women and youth, and enable their participation, and to the training of their representatives regarding decision-making.

"FUNDING BY THE USERS IS THE BASIS OF THEIR PARTICIPATION".

The investments necessary for the sustainable management, conservation and control of water resources and ecosystems and for the exploitation, maintenance and rehabilitation of public utilities require huge financial resources.

All analyses converge to show that traditional centralized public budgets (subsidies) have reached their limit to meet alone the financial needs of the water sector.

Therefore, it is necessary to set up everywhere complementary funding systems that are based on the participation and common cause of the users.



INBO recommends the establishment of basin water taxes, which have shown their efficiency everywhere they have been applied.

Such water taxes enable the mobilization of significant funds to finance the sector, while ensuring common cause between the upstream and downstream parts of basins and between the categories of users with an interactive effect on consumption reduction and pollution control.

INBO recommends that the use of water taxes be gradual in order to adapt these modern systems to the proper situation of each country and to the solvency of local populations.

It is advisable that these water taxes be defined by consensus in Basin Committees and be managed at this level by a specialized organization with the approval of the

public authorities.

"WATER HAS NO BOUNDARY"

There are 263 transboundary rivers over the world, the basins of which cover an area of about 50% of the emerged lands.

Water has no national or administrative boundary. Managing resources, shared between several neighboring Countries, should take into account all the transboundary basins concerned.

INBO recommends that, for transboundary rivers, lakes or aquifers, cooperation agreements be concluded or signed by the riparian Countries and that Management Plans be designed at the level of all their basins, in



particular within international Commissions, basin Authorities or suitable international or transboundary Organizations.

INBO recommends that these international agreements for transboundary river management plan for the participation of local Authorities and users of water and the environments, while respecting national sovereignty.

The creation of international commissions, that would frequently and regularly meet and would associate, at the level of the entire basin, all the administrations concerned, local authorities and users of the riparian countries, should enable better dialogue, the exchange of useful information, the solving of possible conflicts and the sharing of benefits from better joint management and the strengthening of transboundary cooperation.



INBO also recommends that the concerned multilateral institutions and national Authorities take into account the specificity of water and environmental management in insular environments. Cooperation between the islands in relation to this matter should be strengthened, using the above-mentioned general principles.

INBO recommends that Official bi- and multilateral Development Aid be especially mobilized to support such projects for creating local, national or transboundary basin organizations, in accordance with the above principles.

It is advisable that International Development Aid reserves sufficient resources for creating conditions suitable for dialogue between the people in charge in the countries concerned by the same transboundary basin and for financing studies preliminary to the formulation of essential international agreements and to the establishment of institutional and technical tools for their application.



ANBO – AMCOW SESSION ON "MANAGEMENT OF AFRICAN BASINS"

The session of the Management of African River Basins, jointly organized by AMCOW and ANBO, gathered more than 250 participants who appealed to the African countries, AMCOW, African Basin Organizations and partners in development:

- * To support the IWRM process in shared basins and in each country;
- * To support the setting up of new Transboundary Basin Organizations;
- * To strengthen capacity building at the level of existing Basin Organizations, namely within the framework of NEPAD and AMCOW water components, of the European Union Water Facility and to facilitate their access to financial resources;
- * To organize in each basin, integrated, reliable and harmonized systems for observation and monitoring purposes as well as for the exchange of information based on transparency and user-friendly access;
- * To organize, at continent level, a system for the monitoring of transboundary water resources, based on systems set up at the level of the various basins;
- * To elaborate and implement, in a concerted and transparent way, Master Plans or Basin management plans designed to set the objectives to be achieved in the medium and long terms; these plans shall be accompanied by practical multi-annual action programs and dynamic systems for the follow-up of their implementation;
- * To improve the systems of education, information and awareness for the benefit of populations and to foster the evolution of behaviors vis-à-vis water resources use and management;
- * As the key to a successful approach in Africa, to further involve users, especially women and the poorest populations, in the management of their own water resources;
- * In close cooperation with AMCOW, to backstop the African Network of Basin Organizations in its capacity as a federating agency and framework of permanent consultation, exchange of field experience, monitoring and dissemination of good practices;
- * To think over the opportunity to elaborate an "International African Water Charter".



"CEENBO WORKSHOP 2006" BUCHAREST – ROMANIA - 22 - 23 JUNE 2006

A workshop of the Central and Eastern European Network of Basin Organizations (CEENBO) took place in Bucharest on 22 and 23 June 2006, on the WFD implementation, with the support of the International Office for Water.

It gathered experts from Hungary, Romania, Poland, Serbia, Bulgaria, France, Spain, Czech Republic, Uzbekistan and Belarus to exchange on the definition of the "good ecological status" and potential of "Water Bodies" and on related surface water monitoring.

It gave to the different countries the occasion to present their progress reports on the Directive implementation.

This workshop led to the formulation of common recommendations for the assessment of the "Good Status" and of a methodology for assessing water and environmental quality:

- * Use of a common reference system with reliable typologies;
- * Definition of an evaluation system: common understanding of the status of water resources and the environment, clear separation of technical and socioeconomic issues, monitoring using common parameters and frequencies, inter-calibration, common criteria for selecting reference sites, preparation of the Program of Measures;
- * Importance of the representativeness of the monitoring network;
- * Common data management by the different administrative bodies: adoption of a common language for data codification and for acquiring the same metadata, and identification of responsibilities.

« EUROPE-INBO 2006 » 2ND INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON "WATER IN MOUNTAINS" 20 - 22 SEPTEMBER 2006 – MEGÈVE



The 2nd International Congress of Megève on "water in mountains" gathered, on last 20, 21 and 22 September:

- * a scientific and technical conference on "integrated management of upper basins",
- * "the Meeting of Elected Representatives from Mountainous areas", on their responsibilities in water management,
- * and the 4th European Conference "EUROPE-INBO 2006" of the European Group of the International Network of Basin Organizations, for a better implementation of the Water Framework Directive (WFD).

More than 400 participants, including 250 elected representatives, scientists and technicians of the water sector, as well as 165 representatives of Governmental Administrations responsible for water resource management, of Basin Organizations or District Authorities,

coming from 33 Countries, met on this occasion, in the presence of Mrs. Madeleine Jouye de Grandmaison (INBO) and of Mrs. Nelly Olin, French Minister for Ecology and Sustainable Development.

During the "EUROPE-INBO 2006" Conference, directed by the International Network of Basin Organization (INBO), the participants discussed about four main current topics for the implementation of the Water Framework Directive in the European River Basin Districts:

- * Compatibility between WFD and large infrastructures (hydropower, protection against erosion and floods, inland waterways, etc.), Heavily Modified Water Bodies,
- * The taking into account of quantitative problems (droughts, water sharing, water transfers and reservoirs, specificity of the Mediterranean climate, etc.),
- * Monitoring, monitoring networks and reporting, comparisons between Water Bodies of various countries, inter-calibration,
- * Preparation of future action plans, their cost, the economic studies and financing, etc.

Special attention was paid, of course, to the characteristics of hydrological and ecological regions and Water Bodies in the European mountains, basin heads, and to the specific actions, which are to be considered, for achieving their good ecological status in 2015.



Generally, the representatives of Basin Organizations favorably considered the first stages of implementation of the Framework Directive, which introduced new methods for very positive analysis and work.

Many recommendations were issued and especially deal with:

Floods:

- * It is, above all, necessary to make the "upstream-downstream common cause" a main item of consistent management on the scale of basins and sub-basins,
- * In the transboundary basins, in particular, cooperation between riparian States for jointly looking for coordinated solutions and for sharing responsibilities should be promoted,
- * Protection against floods must pass through a coordinated approach, combining the protection of people and properties, the reduction of vulnerabilities, the restoration of the open flows of rivers, the conservation and the re-building of the natural flood storage areas, the forecasting of events, the identification of zones at risk, the publication of "atlases" of floodplains, the control of urbanization, warning and education.

Hydropower:

- * The hydropower infrastructures change the ecosystems but produce renewable energy. On the one hand, the Water Framework Directive strengthens the protection of aquatic ecosystems, even their restoration, on the other, the "Renewable Energy" Directive aims at increasing the energy produced without greenhouse effect, including hydropower... (dams, micro power stations, etc.), how can we apply these two directives at the same time?
- * The modernization and optimization of the existing hydropower installations are a priority.

Quantitative water management:

- * The availability of fresh water, in sufficient quantity and quality, may become, in a generation from now, one of the main limiting factors of the economic and social development in many European countries and not only in the Mediterranean area.
- * It is necessary to increase the thinking about and prospective on the consequences of the climate change. A common approach is necessary to comply with the obligations of the WFD in critical situations.
- * The prevention of future droughts can no more be done on a case-by-case basis but must be planned in the long term, by solving the structural problems which occur in order to prevent, in the best possible way, their effects and to avoid the total degradation of water resources.
- * Mobilizing new resources should only be planned for when they are ecologically acceptable and economically reasonable.
- * Plans for the management of water scarcity should prioritize drinking water supply as compared to the other uses, making sure that water is equitably and soundly shared between the various uses, ensuring a better optimization of water and avoiding wastages.
- * Water saving, leak detection, recycling, the reuse of treated water, groundwater recharge, the desalination of sea water, research on low-consumption uses must become priorities.



The obligations of establishing monitoring networks and control programs:

- * It is a major concern for the Basin Organizations, due to the close deadline given by the WFD,
- * There is a methodological step to make to pass from the control of physico-chemistry to that of biology, planned for in the WFD,
- * It is still difficult to define the control networks, because of the lack of benchmarks with the definition of what should precisely be the "Good Ecological Status",
- * Significant financial efforts are to be planned to ensure the creation and operation of these control networks.



The preparation of the future "Management Plans" and "Programs of Measures":

- * Efforts should be oriented towards the sewerage systems and wastewater treatment plants of small communities, towards the on-site sanitation sector, the rearing houses, especially in sectors where small rivers have very low self-purification capacities.
- * A better coordination between water policy and the Common Agricultural Policy is essential. It is necessary to better identify the areas in which agricultural pressures have a significant impact on water quality and to prioritize the means necessary for restoring quality.
- * It is necessary to raise the awareness and inform the general public, to explain the stakes, so that the people can give their opinion: original approaches, based on the organization of local



events or on the use of local communication supporting aids, are effective for mobilizing the citizens, the use of specialists in communication and public enquiries will be necessary, many suitable methods are still to be tested.

* These consultations will have a cost and it is necessary to plan for significant budgets to comply with the new obligations of the WFD in this field.

* It is necessary to strengthen cooperation programs with the neighboring countries of the enlarged European Union, for the management of the International Districts of transboundary rivers, in Eastern Europe and in the Balkans, and within the neighborhood policy in the Mediterranean and in the Caucasus,

* The European funds for regional cohesion will have to support the efforts of the new Member States.

* It is important to find a suited scale for work, sometimes local, to develop the measures to be taken. Plans for sub-basins and local programs of measures (river contracts, etc.) should then be considered, in consistency with the District Management Plan, by mobilizing local participative structures either already existing or to be created.

* To meet the information needs, it is necessary to capitalize and promote Trans-European exchanges of experience between the River Basin Districts, by using more and more the new information technologies.

The participants also insisted on the need to increase dialogue between researchers and Basin Organizations to promote demonstration actions in particular.

It is also necessary to promote and develop local initiatives of partnership between the research world and the field experts (workshop areas for example).

Mr. Jacky COTTET, President of the French Rhone-Mediterranean & Corsica Water Agency, will chair the "EUROPE-INBO" group until next plenary assembly in Autumn 2007 in Italy.

The detailed final resolutions of the "EUROPE-INBO 2006" conference, as well as the papers and photographs of the sessions are available on the website: www.inbo-news.org

THE EUROPEAN WATER FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE (WFD)



The implementation of the European Water Framework Directive (WFD) is an essential concern of the European Union Member States and pre-accession countries. It is interesting other countries of Eastern Europe, the Balkans and of the Mediterranean, which orientate themselves towards water management methods close to the Community concepts.

The Common Implementation Strategy (CIS) is defined by working groups led by the European Water Directors and the European Commission, who wrote many very interesting and useful orientation documents for a common understanding of the various aspects of the WFD; these guidance documents were also tested in about fifteen pilot basins, distributed on the entire territory of the European Union and in pre-accession countries.

The International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO) is a member of the Common Strategy Coordination Group for the WFD implementation process and participates in all its meetings.

"CEENBO"

CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPEAN NETWORK OF BASIN ORGANIZATIONS

3RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

CESKY KRUMLOV - CZECH REPUBLIC – 13 OCTOBER 2006

The 3rd General Assembly of the Central and Eastern European Network of Basin Organizations took place in Cesky Krumlov in the Czech Republic, on 13 October 2006, at the invitation of the POVODI VLTAVY, state enterprise, and CEENBO Secretariat.

Mr. Frantisek HLADÍK, General Director of the Povodi Vltavy, welcomed the participants.

The Assembly welcomed the new Member Organizations or Observers from: Belarus, Czech Republic, Hungary, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Russia and Uzbekistan.

Mr. Petr Kubala gave a presentation about water management in the Czech Republic and a report on the conclusions of the Magdeburg seminar on Water Protection – WFD, which was held in Cesky Krumlov just before CEENBO General Assembly.



A progress report of the Central and Eastern European Network of Basin Organizations was presented by its Secretary, Mrs. Daniela Radulescu, since the last General Assembly, held in Krakow, Poland, on 26 September 2004.

The first CEENBO General Assembly had taken place in Sinaia, Romania, in February 2002.

The Assembly proposed to invite the Baltic Sea countries to join the Network activities.

The website will be developed by incorporating the Member Countries' experience in the water sector.

The Transnational River Basin Districts on the Eastern Side of the Baltic Sea Network – TRABANT project was presented as well as the results achieved under the TWINBASIN program in which CEENBO Basin Organizations are strongly involved: Bulgaria, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Russia, Uzbekistan, etc.

The Assembly unanimously nominated Mr. Petr Kubala as the new CEENBO President until the next General Assembly.

The Assembly also nominated the following members of the Liaison Bureau: Mr. M.S. Ostojski (Vice-President) and Mrs. Halina Burakowska – Poland, Mr. Ovidiu Gabor – Romania, Mrs. Galina Balusheva – Bulgaria, Mr. Vaclav Jirasek – Czech Republic, Mr. Dragana Milovanevic – Serbia.

The National Administration Apele Romane – Romania - will continue to host the Association's Head Office and CEENBO Secretariat. The Czech Republic nominated as Secretariat assistant, Mr. Jaroslav Beneš from Povodí Vltavy.

Next meetings

The implementation of the European Water Framework Directive will remain a priority topic for mobilizing the Network Members and the European Flood Directive was proposed to be a future topic for CEENBO activities.

The next meetings of the Liaison Bureau will be coordinated with the main events to be organized by INBO or EUROPE-INBO Group:

- CEENBO Liaison Bureau will take place in Debrecen in Hungary on 6 June 2007, during the 7th INBO General Assembly;
- CEENBO workshop will be combined with the plenary meeting of EUROPE-INBO in Italy, in September 2007;
- CEENBO Liaison Bureau meeting will take place during the Conference on "Water Resources in Europe", in Poland, in the first half of 2008;
- CEENBO workshop 2008 will be coordinated with the Magdeburg Seminar on the WFD, Germany, 7 – 9 October 2008.

The delegates retained with thanks the proposal from the Bulgarian Authorities to organize next CEENBO General Assembly in Autumn 2008 in Bulgaria.





**« EMWIS »
CONFERENCE OF THE 35 WATER DIRECTORS
OF THE EURO-MEDITERRANEAN PARTNERSHIP
6 - 7 NOVEMBER 2006 - ATHENS - GREECE**

The Forum of the Euro-Med Water Directors, initiated by EMWIS, has appeared as the most appropriate body to initiate, validate, coordinate, direct or evaluate the various international water initiatives in the Mediterranean: MED-EUWI, MEDA-Water, the United Nations Mediterranean Action Plan, etc. It met again on 6 and 7 November 2006 in Athens, Greece, country coordinating the Mediterranean Component of the MED-EUWI Initiative. The Directors insisted again on a quick launching of the 2007-2010 program of EMWIS.

It was reminded that, during their Rome conference in November 2005, the 35 Euro-Mediterranean Water Directors, under the impulse of the new President of the Steering Committee, Pascal Berteaud, had noted a positive progress in EMWIS activities and wished to continue its implementation, by formulating a series of recommendations to strengthen the transfers of know-how between the Mediterranean Partner Countries (MPCs).

EMWIS is now recognized as being an effective vector for knowledge transfer between the two shores of the Mediterranean, thanks to its wide dissemination capacity and institutional presence in all the Mediterranean countries.

Four vertical topics, associated with operational objectives, were defined for the 2007-2010 period:

- * Participative approaches in Integrated Water Resources Management;
- * Prevention and management of risks related to extreme phenomena, especially droughts and floods;
- * Non-conventional water resources, with two sub-topics: desalination and wastewater reuse;
- * Local management of sanitation utilities and the prevention of domestic pollution.

For each topic, the objective is to promote methodological comparisons, transfers of know-how and field applications in the partner countries.

The work initiated about the European Water Framework Directive (WFD) by way of an enquiry involving the Water Directorates and working groups of the European Water Initiative Joint Process (MED-EUWI), shows the interest of the Countries and the value of the support provided by EMWIS (technical platform, contacts in the countries, institutional support).

CREATION OF NATIONAL WATER INFORMATION SYSTEMS

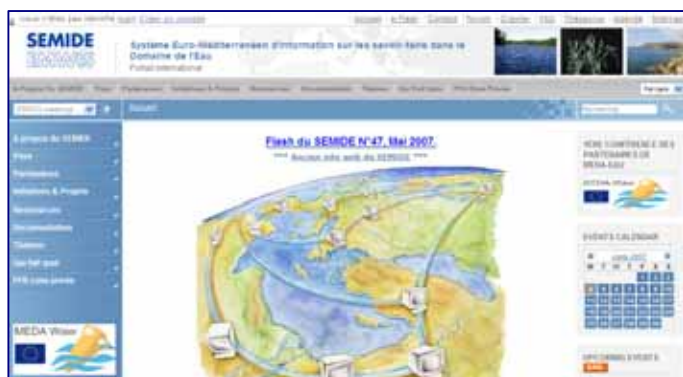
These National Water Information Systems (NWIS) are essential tools for decision-making, for sustainable management of the resource and for the follow-up of national policies.

At the regional level, the NWIS are indispensable tools for convergence, consistency or follow-up of the main water-related initiatives: Millennium Development Goals on Water and Sanitation, the "Water" Component of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development, the European Union Neighborhood Policy Agreements or the Program, up to 2020, for pollution removal in the Mediterranean Sea.

The feasibility studies, carried out by EMWIS in 2005, showed the need for helping the Southern countries in creating or developing their NWIS.



NEW EMWIS WEBSITE



Based on an innovating technical architecture, the new international Website of EMWIS is a unique tool for disseminating information between the Euro-Med countries, especially for better information on the European initiatives and programs and for promoting dialogue and exchanges between all the countries.

It offers a multilingual content in English, Arabic and French, continuously enriched: monthly electronic flash (8,000 subscribers), current events, database on international projects, multilingual specialized thesaurus, topical directory ("who does what"), regional initiatives and programs, documents, international and national legislation, institutional structure of the countries, etc.

international and national legislation, institutional structure of the countries, etc.

This new platform improves information flows with the various National Water Information Systems.

TOWARDS A REGIONAL WATER OBSERVATION MECHANISM

The Water Directors launched preliminary feasibility studies for the implementation of a regional water observation mechanism, following up the progress made towards the Millennium Goals and the objectives of the "water" component of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development, in coordination with the monitoring working group of the European Water Initiative for the Mediterranean (MED-EUWI) and with the European Environment Agency.

Mr. Jean-François Donzier, Permanent Technical Secretary of the International Network of Basin Organization (INBO) was invited to participate in this conference within the cooperation agreement signed in Marrakech in 2005.

*



YEAR 2007

"CITIZENS OF THE EARTH" CONFERENCE FOR A WORLDWIDE ECOLOGICAL GOVERNANCE PARIS - 2 AND 3 FEBRUARY 2007

On proposal from the President of the French Republic, Mr. Jacques Chirac, an international Conference on the environment was held in Paris on last 2 and 3 February.

In Johannesburg, in 2002, the President had already appealed to the nations to get mobilized to face the ecological disaster which threatens our planet and pleads for the creation of a United Nations Environment Organization (UNEO).

Increasing mobilization was the objective of this international Conference, which means, on the one hand, making a joint report on the situation of the environment and its worrying degradation, and, on the other, making some proposals for priority actions at the international level.

The INBO Permanent Technical Secretary, Mr. Jean-François Donzier, was among the invited experts.

The program of these two days included workshops: fighting against climate change, acting together to protect biodiversity, controlling pollution and preserving health, inventing ecological growth (change in mentalities, in production and consumption methods), strengthening international governance of the environment, etc.

The sixth workshop was entitled: "Making water a shared challenge"

Every year, 2 million children die of water-related diseases.

5% of the GDP of sub-Saharan Africa are lost each year because of water-related problems.

1 Euro invested in water has an economic profitability of 8 Euros.

It is necessary to reduce by half the number of people having no access to drinking water.

This means supplying drinking water to additional 260,000 people each day and basic sanitation to additional 370,000 people each day before 2015! Can this be done?

The international debate must also focus on integrated and efficient management of the resource in the "big water cycle" (water in the natural environment), which is a condition for achieving the other objectives.

The workshop was organized around the three following topics:

- * Sanitation: access to and conservation of water resources;
- * Necessary adaptation of water management to climate change;
- * Water governance, of shared water in particular.

The need for the riparian States to sign cooperation agreements for integrated basin management of transboundary rivers, lakes and aquifers was unanimously underlined, as well as the benefit of international commissions, basin authorities or equivalent organizations, and to strengthen those which already exist at the level of these shared basins.

Conference Website: www.citoyensdelaterre.fr



**« ANBO » - AFRICAN NETWORK OF BASIN ORGANIZATIONS
2007 GENERAL ASSEMBLY
4 - 7 MARCH 2007 – JOHANNESBURG - SOUTH AFRICA**

The 3rd General Assembly of the African Network of Basin Organizations (ANBO) was held this year, from 4 to 7 March 2007, in Johannesburg in South Africa, at the invitation of the South-African Ministry of Water and Forestry and the Basin Organizations of Southern Africa, in the presence of Madeleine de Grandmaison, world President of INBO and JF Donzier, Permanent Technical Secretary.

Several workshops were organized around five large strategic topics for the good management of basins of transboundary rivers, lakes and aquifers in Africa:

- * Integrated water resources management in Africa: case studies,
- * International Initiatives and Facilities for water in Africa,
- * Statutes, responsibilities and processes for the creation of Transboundary Basin Organizations,
- * Development of management and action plans for Transboundary Basin Organizations and their financing,
- * Monitoring, monitoring networks and information systems for transboundary basin management.



ANBO is particularly getting mobilized for better management of African transboundary rivers, lakes and aquifers: 59 African rivers have transboundary basins, which cover 62% of the surface area of the continent.

ANBO statutes are being changed to strengthen its relations with the African Union, AMCOW and regional economic cooperation Institutions, the Organization for the Development of the Senegal River (OMVS), and especially Ms. Amayelle Ka NDIAYE, who has been in charge of ANBO Permanent Technical Secretariat since its creation in DAKAR.

According to ANBO statutes, ORASECOM (Orange-Senqu River Commission) will take care of the Network Presidency up to its next Plenary Assembly.

All INBO and ANBO friends particularly thank Mr. Oumar OULD ALY, of the Niger Basin Authority, for his very effective Presidency of ANBO since its creation in 2002 in Dakar and for his continuous efforts to develop the Network in Africa and on the international scene, especially within INBO.

**« FOR SUSTAINABLE WATER MANAGEMENT IN THE MEDITERRANEAN »
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
20 - 12 MARCH 2007 – CONSTANTINE - ALGERIA**

Algeria has committed itself to integrated water resources management. The principles of the economic value of water, wholeness of river basin management, dialogue with the users, public education have been supported by legislative and regulatory texts and bodies have been set up for their application.

This year, on the occasion of the World Water Day of 22 March, the University of Constantine, the French Embassy in Algeria and the Constantinois - Seybousse - Mellegue River Basin Agency organized a conference on sustainable water management in the Mediterranean, involving all the Algerian and Mediterranean partners concerned.

The selected topics were:

- Water policy: legislative and regulatory framework.
- Water resources protection and respect of the environment: quantitative and qualitative water management.
- Fair sharing of water resources: the case of transboundary basins.
- Water and economic contexts: water cost.
- Water and social culture: traditions, awareness and respect of the resources.
- Examples of cooperation in sustainable water management.



INBO Permanent Technical Secretary, Mr. Jean-François Donzier, was invited to present as an introduction the water situation in the Mediterranean basin.

**PREPARATION OF THE 5TH WORLD WATER FORUM OF ISTANBUL:
« BRIDGING DIVIDES FOR WATER »
INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON RIVER BASIN MANAGEMENT
ANTALYA – TURKEY - 22 - 24 MARCH 2007.**

A Kick-Off Meeting took place in Istanbul on last 19 and 20 March for preparing the 5th World Water Forum planned from 15 to 22 March 2009.

It is now time to define the priority topics and to study the various processes which can lead to the practical use of the suggested ideas.

The Kick-Off meeting also proposed regional round tables.

The website of the future World Water Forum is already online at the address: www.worldwaterforum5.org.

Following this kick-off meeting and as a first contribution to the 5th World Forum, the General Directorate of State Hydraulic Works (DSI) organized an International Congress on River Basin Management in Antalya from 22 to 24 March 2007.

This congress was opened by the Turkish Prime Minister, Mr. Erdogan.

700 participants from 60 countries participated, including Messrs. Szöllosi-Nagy of UNESCO, Delli Priscoli of the US Corps of Engineers, Fauchon and Braga of the World Water Council, Altinbilek of IHA, Berga of ICOLD, Gopalakrishnan of ICID and Jean-François Donzier, INBO Secretary, who presented papers on Integrated River Basin Management, which were well received during the plenary sessions

Professor Oktay Tabasan was appointed Secretary General of the 5th Water World Forum.

**REGIONAL WATER PARTNERSHIP IN THE CARIBBEAN – « RWP-C »:
FOR A JOINT AND LASTING APPROACH
TO WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT**

On the 14, 15 and 16 April 2007, the General Assembly of the Regional Water Partnership in the Caribbean – « RWP- C », took place in Saint Vincent under the presidency of Mr. Wayne Joseph, Director of WASA in Trinidad and Tobago.

Madeleine de Grandmaison was invited as President of the Martinique Basin Committee and world President of INBO, as well as Jean-François Donzier, INBO Permanent Technical Secretary and Christiane Runel, publication manager of « INBO Newsletter », and Lise Moutamalle, deputy-manager of the Departmental Water Office of the Martinique.

On this occasion, bases for cooperation between the two networks were established and a study started for joint actions to develop integrated water resources management at the level of river basin in the Caribbean.

A CARIBBEAN COOPERATION NETWORK FOR ISLANDERS

Within the global vision, close to specificities of the land, Regional Networks are organized, especially inside INBO. There is indeed a need for neighborhood cooperation based on common cultures.



In this context, the Caribbean Basin, a Regional Sea, as defined by the United Nations, will require more and more joint management.

LAND-SEA: A SYSTEM

Managing the natural resources of islands means managing Land-Sea systems. The functioning of terrestrial environments cannot be dissociated from that of marine environments and reciprocally: the vulnerability and fragility of such systems are the issue with, in addition, a specificity for each island.

But we cannot reinvent everything alone on our own:

- to preserve water,
- to mitigate its uneven distribution in space and time for each island,
- to face crises,
- to manage waste and pollution of any kind to preserve water and public health.

Here is a first possible field of cooperation.

WATER, A COMPONENT OF CULTURAL LIFE

One should not forget the social field: a major concern shall be the education of the children, the information of the young adults, multidisciplinary education.

The first enemy of water in closed spaces such as ours is waste. Our societies do not escape from the consumption fever; the treatment and elimination of wastes are a major challenge for the islands.

The removal of wastes may create many activities and jobs in our geographical sphere.

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING, A NEED

The management of natural resources and wastes requires professional training for which there is matter to cooperate. By sharing our resources, we will be able to act in synergy and not in opposition.

The economies and activities of our islands condemn us to be complementary.

RISKS TO BE MANAGED

We share a climate which regularly exposes us, and each one in its turn, to angers of nature.

Here too, the experience of some could be made profitable by others in terms of crisis forecast and management.

We can also share our observations in a regional network such as a Caribbean-HYCOS.

LANDS TO PRESERVE

The need for yield in agriculture and excessive flexibility with respect to regulations are going to endanger our assets: Land - Sea - Water

Finally a large part of our economic expectations lies with tourism and, more than for others, on natural resources. Our environment constitutes "our business" and at this level the management of the Caribbean Sea falls with us all, the first vigilance dealing with control of telluric pollution.

AN INTER-ISLAND COOPERATION NETWORK

At the last General Assembly of the International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO), held in January 2004 in the Martinique, we especially underlined water management in islands.

With the support of the Caribbean Insular Community, an Associated Program must be launched for the management of natural resources, as recommended by the Regional Meetings on Sustainable Development which took place in 1996 in the Martinique. We will have to seek together to remove the political barriers that isolate us more than the sea does.



QUEBEC TOWARDS THE CREATION OF A NORTH AMERICAN NETWORK OF BASIN ORGANIZATIONS



Since the adoption of the National Water Policy (NWP) by the National Assembly of Quebec on 26 November 2002, thirty-three rivers were identified as a priority to start raising awareness to integrated basin management.

Each of these new territories thus becomes decisive for water resource protection and development in Quebec. This is why the Government of Quebec committed itself to financially and technically support the creation of thirty-three basin organizations, including that of the Richelieu River, represented by the "Committee for Dialogue and Development of the Richelieu River Basin (COVABAR)".

The financial resources released by the Government of Quebec consist of a symbolic kick-off support of 65,000 CAN \$, granted primarily for allowing the population of each basin to organize itself in forum for dialogue, ideally representing all the driving forces of the civil society.

The innovative and mobilizing aspects of this project are based on a will to have the Quebec society participate in a great debate on water resources and to incite the political and economic decision-makers to change their behavior as concerns their uses of this resource, whose quality is essential for the health of the natural ecosystems and of the human beings who live there.

In such a context, COVABAR is open to the approach to twinning with other basin organizations: knowing the ways of thinking and the manners of doing things of other cultures to have a better glance on our own future as regards water.

COVABAR aims to create a network of water allies, by proposing the twinning of river basins, which is already well started with the ongoing project involving EPTB-Charente in France and COVABAR-Richelieu in Quebec.

From 7 to 11 May 2007, COVABAR, presided by Hubert Chamberlan, received, along the Richelieu River from its mouth in the Saint Lawrence to Lake Champlain, shared with the neighboring US States of New York and Vermont, Jean-François Donzier, INBO Secretary, and Christiane Runel, publication manager of « INBO Newsletter », to present them the obtained results and the Lake Champlain agreement and to study the conditions for launching a North American Network of Basin Organizations.





INBO ACTION PLAN

INBO MULTI-YEAR ACTION PLAN ON THE WAY TO SUCCESS!

ACHIEVEMENTS SINCE 2003 AND PROSPECTS

In September 2001, GWP and the International Network of Basin Organizations agreed to launch an "Associated Program for the creation and strengthening of basin organizations of rivers, lakes and aquifers around the world".

It was decided to formalize this cooperation by the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between GWP and INBO in May 2003.

This MoU lays down the basic principles and the arrangements for future cooperation between both parties, by specifying the areas of activity in which they will collaborate.

IWRM has grown these last ten years. It is now admitted that sustainable water use is of prime importance for the future of the world society. Mr. Jean-François Donzier, INBO Permanent Technical Secretary, has been member of the Global Water Partnership - GWP Steering Committee since October 2006.

Three years after the real coming into force of the MoU, one should now outline the first achievements and the general lessons learned about the 4 objectives of the Associated Program.

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

THE 4 OBJECTIVES OF INBO MULTI-YEAR ACTION PLAN:

Objective 1: Twinning of Basin Organizations

In order to build the capacity of Basin Organizations for managing water resources, INBO is promoting bilateral twinning agreements between these Organizations. Indeed, direct exchanges seem to be the more reliable way of disseminating good practices and strengthening the human resources of Basin Organizations.

The TWINBASIN^{XN} project aims at facilitating these twinning agreements, by defining a framework for action, by enabling the move of staffs between twin agencies.

The tool thus developed will focus on the capitalization of the acquired know-how to share it on the widest scale possible.

The project is funded within the framework of the "Global change and ecosystems" priority of the 6th Framework Program for Research of the European Union.

The project Mobility Committee has approved 34 eligible twinning agreements, involving more than 40 Basin Organizations from 27 different countries and diverse geopolitical areas.

Objective 2: Mobilization of the expertise of Basin Organizations



The topics, which are the commonest, are "participatory management", integrated monitoring systems, long-term planning (20 years), with notion of "Masterplan or Management Plan", operational planning or investment plans (5/6 years), the means and methods for financing these priority plans.

This expertise mobilized within the INBO members should allow pilot projects to be implemented, such as:

- Transboundary management of Irtysh River (Kazakhstan & Russia),
- Drafting of a provisional action plan (2005-2006) for the transboundary management of the Körös/Crisuri Basin (Hungary & Romania), in collaboration with the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR),
- Assistance to the Algerian Basin Agencies,
- Preparation of Masterplans in two Mexican pilot river basins, twinned with French Water Agencies,
- First step towards the creation of the Mexican Water Information Network,
- Audit, entrusted by the World Bank, of the Niger Basin Authority and the Mahawelli Authority in Sri Lanka,
- Support to the creation of the Volta International Commission and also now to the CICOS for the Congo Basin, etc.

Important work has been undertaken under the aegis of the European Water Initiative, and specifically its component focusing on IWRM in transboundary basins of Africa. INBO set the indicators for selection of the five pilot basins.

A new project for the test of performance indicators for African Basin Organizations has just been financed by the European Water Facility for Africa.

Objective 3: Synthesis of knowledge and know-how

This objective of the Associated Program arises from the fact that there are different types or models of Basin Organization.

The synthesis of knowledge and know-how, which aims to identify successes ("best practices") but also gaps, is still a relatively new concept as there were before few lessons learned.

INBO members are involved in the HELP program of UNESCO, the following World Bank survey or many European research projects:

* The World Bank Survey (2003-2004): INBO has carried out a survey of 100 river Basin Organizations among its Members and was invited to participate into the "Workshop on River basin Management at the Lowest Appropriate Level" which the World Bank organized in Poland from 22 to 25 May 2005.

* IWRM.Net project (2006 – 2010): It aims to identify the impact of the European Framework Directive (WFD) on the methods of programming research in the field of IWRM, at a European scale with a further possible opening to other countries within the European Water Initiative (EUWI) and within the 6th Program for Research of the European Commission.

IWRM.Net was accepted by the European Commission: the first actions were launched in 2006.

17 European partners are involved in IWRM.Net in 14 European countries and are managing 20 research programs.

* WFD Community, (Virtual Community for the training of water professionals): The project consists in testing an Internet device for the continuous training of professionals, based on collaboration between counterparts, and on the remote management of a community for the training of professionals (CVA), working together within the European Union on the implementation of the Water Framework Directive (WFD).

The financing of the project is borne at about 75% by the European Leonardo da Vinci Program.

*** Other activities within Objective 3:**

The International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO) was a dynamic partner in the 4th World Water Forum, which took place in Mexico City, from 16 to 22 March 2006. Of course, it is on the topic of Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) on the scale of the basins of rivers, lakes and aquifers, that INBO has shared the practical experience acquired by its Members in the field.

INBO has been selected by the WWF Secretariat to organize four sessions on Basin Management, on 18 March 2006 in Mexico City, within the "IWRM" topic of the Forum.

More than 1,250 participants actively involved themselves in these 4 INBO sessions during the entire day!



From 2004 to 2006, INBO organized or was partner to many other conferences or workshops on IWRM at basin level in Belgium, Canada, Greece, Italy, Morocco, Mexico, Poland, South Africa, Thailand, Tajikistan, etc.

*** Strengthening Regional Networks:**

Within INBO, 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.

INBO Regional networks are working as closely as possible with the RWP of GWP, in particular in West Africa, the Mediterranean and Central and Eastern Europe.

In Europe, the Water Framework Directive (WFD) is obviously the big endeavor that mobilizes, within the "EUROPE-INBO GROUP", our Members of the States of the European Union and of the Candidate or associated Countries, as it includes the main management principles that have been formalized by our Network for a decade.

A Russian-speaking Regional Network is being created.



Objective 4: Networking of documentation systems

This networking has already started within the Associated Program with:

- AQUADOC-INTER in Eastern Europe (Poland, Romania, Czech Republic and Hungary),
- Its Mediterranean counterpart, EMWIS now regrouping 35 Euro-Mediterranean Partner Countries.

It will be extended shortly to Africa with AWIS, The African Water Information System, with the aim of becoming the information exchange system of the African Network of Basin Organizations (ANBO), with a funding of the European Water facility for Africa and of the French Cooperation.

These projects, which aim to gather the written information (documents) and useful information ("who does what and where"), are open projects, i.e. non competitive projects, on what goes on elsewhere on the Internet.

Our ideas are progressing, let's get mobilized to make our results known all around the World!



**TWINBASIN^{XN}
37 TWINNING AGREEMENTS BETWEEN BASIN ORGANIZATIONS
TO IMPROVE INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT**

Since September 2004, the TWINBASIN^{XN} project, financed by the European Commission and directed by the International Office for Water and INBO, has significantly progressed in achieving its objectives. 34 twinning agreements are now active, involving more than 50 Basin Organizations from 37 different countries and very diverse geopolitical areas (France-Brazil, Spain-Romania, Kenya-Uganda, Australia-Philippines, Sweden-Uruguay-Nicaragua-Peru, Poland-Ukraine, etc.).



New rules were formulated in 2006 to facilitate access to the project with new twinned basins. Thus, for the first time, the Steering Committee, which met during the 4th World Water Forum in Mexico, approved a twinning agreement involving three Basin Organizations from Kenya, the United Kingdom and Poland.

The Water Forum offered an important platform for promoting the project and disseminating its results.

In particular, a Press Conference allowed an enhancement of the lessons learned by the twinning agreement between the Seine-Normandy Water Agency (France) and the Regional Water Directorate for Mexico Valley "Gerencia Regional del Agua del Valle de Mexico" (Mexico).

Owing to the good progress of many ongoing twinning agreements, several partners requested an extension of the project support, to continue their exchanges on the development of Integrated Water Resources Management. Several extensions of twinning agreements have already been approved.

The TWINBASIN^{xn} community has now more than 70 assignment reports.

In accordance with the recommendations of the last Steering Committee (Megève - France in September 2006), emphasis is currently given to the capitalization and dissemination of the obtained results: reports, general and topical syntheses, etc.

TWINBASIN^{xn} has also another aim: exchanging information with the "Cluster" projects, especially through webconferences.

This cluster gathers five other projects registered in the 6th Framework Program for Research and Development of the European Union: Wade, Rivertwin, Twinbas, Brahmatwin and Striver. All these research projects have the same objective to improve Integrated Water Resources Management by developing management models. Thus, TWINBASIN^{xn} contributed to the development of these models through three webconferences in 2006: "TWINBASIN^{xn}, a model for basin management"; "Creating a twinning with the Twinbasin project"; and "Economic instruments for IWRM and planning tools".

The project is now in its 4th year and will be completed at the end of 2007.

Here are some examples of twinning agreements supported by the TWINBASIN^{xn} project:

- **Congo – Amazon Twinning Agreement**

TWINBASIN^{xn} brings closer the two largest river basins of the planet, the Amazon Basin (7.5 million km², 20% of the world freshwater reserves) and the Congo Basin (one of the richest ecosystems over the world, 3.8 million km²)!

Several countries share today these two basins and they have established intergovernmental Organizations in charge of promoting integrated management of their water resources.

On one side of the Atlantic, the International Commission of the Congo-Ubangui-Sangha Basin (CICOS) is an institution recently created by four concerned countries to manage a basin which practically has not being studied for the last forty years.

On the other side of the Atlantic, the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (OTCA), is an organization established by the eight Amazonian countries to promote the sustainable development of this area, by institutionalizing and increasing the work started in 1978 with the promulgation of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty.

Today the politicians of these two basins are aware of the importance of reconciling the strategies for the conservation and use of natural resources with the development objectives.

The CICOS and OTCA have endeavored to carry out regional integration.

These two Organizations are aware of the threats that anthropogenic activities may become on the ecosystems conservation and on the adequate allocation of renewable resources and of the serious poverty problems which exist in the two basins.

Through the European TWINBASIN^{xn} project, OTCA and CICOS are initiating joint actions on the institutional, technical, economic, financial and social aspects related to the use, management and protection of water resources: institutional organization, monitoring, sharing water between the various uses, planning,



mechanisms for the users' participation, financing, prevention and mitigation of extreme phenomena, public awareness and finally ecotourism, etc.

- **Júcar-Buzau twinning agreement**

In 2004, during the 6th World General Assembly of INBO in the Martinique, a cooperation agreement was signed between the Júcar River Basin Authority (Spain) and Apele Romane / Buzau-Ialomita Basin Organization (Romania). Both River Basin Organizations present common characteristics and integrated water resources management (IWRM) objectives. They are linked to the Central and Eastern European Network of Basin Organizations (CEENBO), in the case of Romania, and to the Mediterranean Network of Basin Organizations (MENBO), for Spain.

In total, four missions were completed in 2006. They focused on technical topics specific to the economic aspects in water management (economic analysis and environmental costs) and to the adaptation of monitoring networks to the WFD requirements. They allowed an in-depth assessment of the work.

Two engineers of the Júcar CHJ have visited Buzau and Apele Romane (Bucharest). In February, an official delegation, led by Mr. Juan José Moragues, President of the Júcar CHJ, met with the Romanian Water State Secretary, Ms. Lucia Ana Varga, and with the Director General of the Ministry of the Environment, Mr. Jorj Madalin Mihailovici.

Then, two representatives from the Buzau River Basin visited the Júcar head office, in Valencia, in July 2006.

The resulting progress reports of the "Júcar-Buzau" project will help in establishing practical guidelines that will promote IWRM practices by encouraging cooperation and exchange of expertise between River Basins over the world.

The "Júcar-Buzau" twinning agreement has had positive technical results and allowed a good exchange of practical experiences and a comparison of technical methodologies between the two countries within the WFD approach. This led to a stronger bilateral cooperation between the Ministries of the Environment of Romania and Spain.

- **Rhone-Mediterranean / Souss-Massa and Tensift twinning agreements**

Within the framework of the Twinbasin program, a delegation of the Moroccan Basin Agencies of Tensift and Souss Massa came to the Rhone-Mediterranean & Corsica Water Agency (RM&C) in Lyons in April 2006.

The twinning agreements, signed in Marrakech in 2005 between these Agencies, planned mutual technical visits.

This visit mainly dealt with:

- * groundwater contracts, with a trip to Montpellier to meet the specialists of the Agency Delegation and of the Hérault Department,
- * the operation of a SATESE (Service of Technical Assistance with the Maintenance of wastewater treatment plants) with a visit to the SATESE of the Ain,
- * the management of data and taxes,
- * pollution removal in tanneries,
- * communication policy,
- * the functioning of documentation and storage.

The delegation also attended a session of the Commission for the approval of river contracts of the Rhone-Mediterranean Basin Committee.

Regarded as very advantageous by the various parties, and to benefit from the POLLUTEC exhibition, which was held in Lyons, a new Moroccan delegation was received by the RM&C Water Agency in November 2006, until the travel of a RM&C delegation to Morocco in 2007.



**IWRM-net:
FOR BETTER EUROPEAN RESEARCH ON INTEGRATED WATER
RESOURCES MANAGEMENT**

Issues requiring new research are arising for a good implementation of the Water Framework Directive up to 2015 and beyond.

European Research has thus to provide responses allowing good water resources management (qualification of good ecological status, economic tools, pressure/impact models, participative management, control of discharges of priority substances, etc.). This requires thorough exchanges with the stakeholders involved in management and decision-making, and passes through:

- * the identification and validation of research needs;
- * the preparation and follow-up of research programs;
- * the dissemination of research outcomes.

The European network IWRM-NET (2006-2010) is an ERA-NET (European Research Area - NETworking) project, launched and coordinated by the International Office for Water (IOWater). Its aim is to create a European network of national and regional research programs on Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM).

The 17 European partners, involved in 14 European countries, defined an action plan to launch transnational research activities in order to provide the Basin District managers with the means and knowledge suitable for implementing the Framework Directive.

IWRM-Net is also the network, which will enable exchanges on good practices for the management of research programs (definition of needs, selection of projects, transfer of results, performance evaluation of the research programs, etc.), to create new spaces for communication useful for better understanding between decision-makers/managers/researchers, and resulting in activities leading for example to:

- * the development of new responsibilities,
- * the "translation" of needs into scientific terms,
- * the dissemination of research outcomes in terms "appropriate" by field operators,
- * the definition and structure of joint research programs on local scales where research problems arise in the same way (same hydrological, economic, ecosystemic context, etc.),
- * the starting of real interdisciplinary (and not only multidisciplinary) research programs.

IWRM-Net relies on 20 research programs, now represented by the project partners, to which can be added later new European programs or neighbor countries as observers.

The assessment of research needs in the short or long term, close relations with the CIS (Common Implementation Strategy) of the Framework Directive and also good complementarity with the other ERA-NET projects, related to the problems of sustainable development and environmental management (CIRCLE, SKEP, BIODIVERSA, SNOWMAN, etc.) are as many pillars on which IWRM-NET relies.

It aims at increasing synergies between the organizers of public research on water in the Member States and strengthening their effectiveness for better water policy in Europe!

The topics needed for launching future joint activities, the choice of research programs to be jointly implemented, and the IWRM-NET prospects in a supporting and innovative context for the WFD implementation were discussed during a conference, which took place in London on 10 and 11 January 2007, and to which all the interested European managers of public research programs had been invited.



"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

MELIA

"MEDITERRANEAN DIALOGUE ON INTEGRATED WATER MANAGEMENT"

Better dialogue between the Mediterranean water stakeholders.

Within the sixth RDPF, the launching of MELIA in Seville, from 4 to 8 September 2006, gathered 20 Mediterranean countries and more than 40 partners at the home office of the CSIC (Spanish National Research Center), which manages and coordinates this project.

MELIA shows a dynamics, which aims at promoting all means for exchanges between the socioeconomic stakeholders of the concerned countries and the principles for sustainable development of inland and coastal waters resources in the Mediterranean region.



The International Office for Water (IOWater), as INBO Secretariat, is in charge of analyzing the "water policies" of each country of the Mediterranean Basin and, in particular, the economic aspects, the resolution and management of conflicts, good governance.

This step will have to result in identifying how the Water Framework Directive principles can be implemented in the Southern countries of the Basin.

Which are then the implementation constraints and limits?

Thanks to MELIA, spaces for dialogue or platforms for exchanges will be built, so that decision makers, researchers, water users, representatives of the civil society can better understand the stakes and jointly make decisions.

MELIA objective is also that water-related research in the Mediterranean countries influences the institutional world and that the managers and decision makers take into account its results to formulate adapted water policies in their own countries.

"INECO"

DEVELOPING FUTURE INSTITUTIONAL AND ECONOMIC INSTRUMENTS FOR SUSTAINABLE WATER MANAGEMENT IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION

"INECO" (INstitutional and ECONomic Instruments for Sustainable Water Management in the Mediterranean Region) is a consortium, gathering the stakeholders involved in water management and utilities and coming from the entire Basin (Maghreb, Machrek), and aims at analyzing the decision-making practices.

Launched in July 2006, it consists in a series of coordinated actions for:

- * Promoting the exchange of the best practices between the institutions participating in the project;
- * Increasing synergies, by organizing workshops of exchanges on management processes (systems for the authorization of abstractions, management of irrigated areas, etc.) and validating alternative policies for better demand management;
- * Promoting North-South exchanges on institutional and economic know-how (especially on the application of the WFD principles).

INBO PT Secretariat, will more particularly deal with:

- * the analysis of the current practices used by developed countries in arid zones (Australia, South-West of the USA, Israel, Chile, Argentina, Brazil), other than EU Member States,
- * the role of women in integrated water resources management in the Mediterranean countries,
- * the organization of workshops and exchange activities, in coordination with the International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO).



« EMWIS »

AN INBO - MENBO - EMWIS COOPERATION 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 activities will continue, especially the transfer of know-how issued from the implementation of the Water Framework Directive concepts or still the development of an International Water Information System (IWIS) based on the EMWIS approach in the Mediterranean and similar systems in other parts of the world.





THE COMMUNICATION STRATEGY

The communication strategy of the network *relies on 6 coordinated actions:*

1. « INBO Newsletter »,
2. The « www.inbo-news.org » website,
3. The electronic newsletter «E - Riob»,
4. The international press file,
5. The stand in exhibitions,
6. The participation in international events.

« INBO NEWSLETTER »:



15 issues have already been published since 1994, year INBO was created in Aix-les-Bains. All their electronic versions can be downloaded from our website: « www.inbo-news.org ».

It is issued in 3 languages (English, French and Spanish) – 15,000 copies, including 8.000 in English, 4,500 in French, 2,500 in Spanish.

THE NETWORK WEBSITE:

It is a huge success worldwide with its three addresses in French: www.riob.org, in English: www.inbo-news.org, and in Spanish: www.rioc.org.



Since its opening in June 2002, there have been 1,820,000 visitors, including 240,000 in 2003, 330,000 in 2004, 384,000 in 2005, 510,000 in 2006 and 300,000 in 2007 (but only on a 5-month duration!), i.e. a planned 600,000 for the year with a monthly maximum of 65,500 visits, in March 2006, and a current average of 45,200 visits per month!!

There was a total of 7,350,000 « hits » since its opening with a maximum of 248,000 per month, i.e. a number of consulted files of 260,000 in 2002, 960,000 in 2003, 350,000 in 2004, 1,673,000 in 2005, 2,100,000 in 2006 and 1,013,000 in 2007 (only on a 5-month duration).

We enter on a home page on 4 languages, to choose among French, English, Spanish or Portuguese. The menu is clear and detailed. There are agendas and programs, events organized by INBO and international events in which INBO participates. Of course we also find information on our regional networks.

We are also disseminating through the website of the Euro-Mediterranean Water Information System – EMWIS.

INBO ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER:

It is sent every month when significant information is available, on the meetings of General Assemblies, the Liaison Bureau or of the « groups », news on INBO website, news from our regional and international Networks, the diary of events or the organization of the « Virtual Forum ».

32 issues have already been sent since its creation in January 2004 and at the end of April 2007 there were already 21,291 subscribers!!





THE MARTINIQUE: INBO PRESIDENT'S BASIN

Comité de Bassin



De la Martinique

1996-2006 TEN YEARS OF ACTIONS FOR WATER MANAGEMENT

Water is an invaluable resource in our island ecosystem.

Since 1996, the Martinique Basin Committee has aimed, in an active and concerted manner and under the presidency of Madeleine de GRANDMAISON, at integrating water as an essential element of sustainable development, at coordinating its management and balancing its various uses, etc.

After 10 years of action, the time has come to make a first evaluation. The SDAGE development and follow-up, the preparation of a « pesticides », plan, the creation of the Regional Water Office, the implementation of the European Water Framework Directive have been as many essential and basic actions carried out by the Basin Committee, which is still mobilized to meet future challenges.



THE MARTINIQUE, AN ISLAND, A BASIN

The Martinique is a volcanic island with tropical climate located in the West Indies, between the Caribbean Sea to the West and the Atlantic Ocean to the East. It has a surface area of 1,128 km², a very marked relief to the North, where the Pelée Mountain culminates at 1,397m, a tropical climate with a dry and a rainy season, and as a corollary to the relief and trade winds, this climate is also much contrasted from the North to the South all the year round.

The rivers of the Martinique provide the main part of the water resources. The Martinique has no water shortage: the annual average flow of the island rivers should allow meeting the needs for

domestic, agricultural and industrial uses.

CONTEXT OF THE BASIN COMMITTEE CREATION

HUMAN CONTEXT: The Martinique has about 400,000 inhabitants, 80% of whom live on 20% of the territory (topographical constraints).

ECONOMIC CONTEXT: The Martinique has mainly lived from agriculture, which, during the past decades, included very polluting crops such as banana and pineapple. Industry is mainly agro-food industry and the exploitation of quarries, all of them polluting activities.

LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT: A French land for 5 centuries, a French Department since 1946. Water always belonged to the State. The Water Law of 1964, basis of river basin management, was not applied.

The French Water Law of 1992, creating a Basin Committee in each Overseas Department, was the subject of an application decree in 1995; the Basin Committee of the Martinique was created in September 1996 by the Basin Coordinator Prefect, with for main task, *the preparation of the Master Plan for Water Management and Development (SDAGE)*. The Basin Committee recommended the creation of an administrative body for the follow-up and implementation of water management: a local Water Agency. In addition, the Overseas Orientation Law (LOOM) of December 2000, created a Departmental Water Office (DWO) in each Overseas Department.



The Departmental Water Office of the Martinique was created on 10 July 2002.

STEPS OF AN EVALUATION

The Basin Committee was created on 24 September 1996.

The Basin Committee, a body which is really representative of the water stakeholders, is made up of 33 members: 8 representatives of the State, 12 representatives of the Region, Department and Municipalities, 10 representatives of the users and associations for environmental protection, 3 experts or socio-professional representatives.

It is presided over by Madeleine de GRANDMAISON.

The Basin Committee relies on the Regional Directorate for the Environment (DIREN) which takes care of its technical secretariat.



A partnership Agreement was signed on 30 January 1998 by the Martinique Basin Committee and the Loire-Brittany Basin Committee. It planned for technical support from the Loire-Brittany Water Agency and allowed effective collaboration for the development of the SDAGE and its later dissemination.

The Martinique Basin Committee became member of the International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO) in 1997 and has been member of its Liaison Bureau since 1998.

The Martinique hosted INBO World Liaison Bureau in 2003 and organized the 4th World General Assembly of INBO in January 2004.

THE FRENCH WATER LAW OF 1992

« Water is part of the common heritage of the nation. Its protection, its development and the development of the usable resource, while respecting natural equilibriums, are of general interest. Water use is for everybody within the legal and regulatory framework as well as within previously established rights ».

This law relies on 4 basic principles:

- ✗ Overall and sound management which takes the entire water cycle into account and reconciles the economic and ecological aspects.
- ✗ A decentralized management relying on the action of local communities.
- ✗ The control of pollution and wastage: the law regulates all the activities affecting the resource and imposes an invoicing according to the water volume really consumed in order to avoid wastage.
- ✗ Transparency: The law imposes wide information and allows true public involvement.

The SDAGE (Master Plan for Water Management and Development), prepared by the Basin Committee, is the tool for this management.

PREPARATION OF THE SDAGE

✗ *A first phase, from March 1997 to January 1998, allowed the drawing-up of a basin characterization, which showed a degraded environmental situation:*

- ✓ a resource which is sufficient but badly distributed in space and time,
- ✓ domestic, agricultural, industrial uses are competing and exert strong pressures on the environments,
- ✓ an insufficient protection of the resource against pollution,
- ✓ defective and failing community networks,
- ✓ a coverage badly secured against natural hazards,
- ✓ multiple and high pollution,



✓ threatened natural environments.

↳ *The second phase, from April 1998 to August 2002, led to the drafting of the SDAGE in three volumes (I/ Orientations and Objectives, II/ Characterization and Analysis, III/ Measure Sheets) and led to studies, such as that on the water needs/resources adequacy.*

The SDAGE required 5 years of partners' work which involved elected officials and local technicians, State services, users and associations for environmental protection.

The SDAGE of the Martinique includes 5 guidelines:

- To take into account security, regulation and diversification of the resource to meet the needs without threatening the environments with a concern for sustainable development,
- To improve water quality with a concern for public health, quality of life and preservation of aquatic life,
- To safeguard, develop, restore and maintain the island's land-based, coastal and marine environments,
- To improve risk prevention and joint management with an integrated river basin approach,
- To structure and coordinate the management of water policy and water-related data.



Each of these guidelines has objectives and practical measures to implement.

On the whole the SDAGE contains 21 objectives and 120 measures.

A « PESTICIDES » PLAN

In 1998, a report on the use of pesticides in the Martinique evidenced « a situation of potential risk for all the environments and all the users ».

Following this report and on the Basin Coordinator Prefect's request, the Basin Committee prepared a « pesticides » action plan, which retained 30 practical actions to improve knowledge and the use of pesticides in the Martinique.

The implementation of the operational action plan is managed by the GREPHY (Groupe REGIONAL PHYtosanitaire – Regional Phytosanitary Group).

CREATION OF THE DEPARTMENTAL WATER OFFICE

It was created by the decree of 28 December 2001 and set up on 10 July 2002. The DWO « is entrusted with facilitating the various actions of common interest in the management of water and aquatic environments »:

- ✓ « studies and follow-up of water resources, aquatic and coastal environments and of their uses » ;
- ✓ « advice and technical assistance to contracting authorities, training and information on the management of water and aquatic environments ».

For such a purpose, DWO has worked since 2005 on large activity lines, such as water saving, water quality conservation, improvement of water governance.

On proposal from the Basin Committee, DWO drafted a multi-year action plan and work program. This program is financed according to the « user – polluter – pays » principle with the levying of taxes on water abstraction since 2005 and taxes on pollution from 2008 onward.



FOLLOW-UP OF THE SDAGE IMPLEMENTATION

In 2004 a study defined 218 indicators for the SDAGE follow-up divided into 9 topics in consistency with the water management policies.

All these indicators allowed the preparation of the SDAGE management chart, published in the 1st half of 2007 for the 1st time. It is a synthetic document intended for following up the progress made with the measures, the evolution of environmental status (effects of measures) and the meeting of the uses.

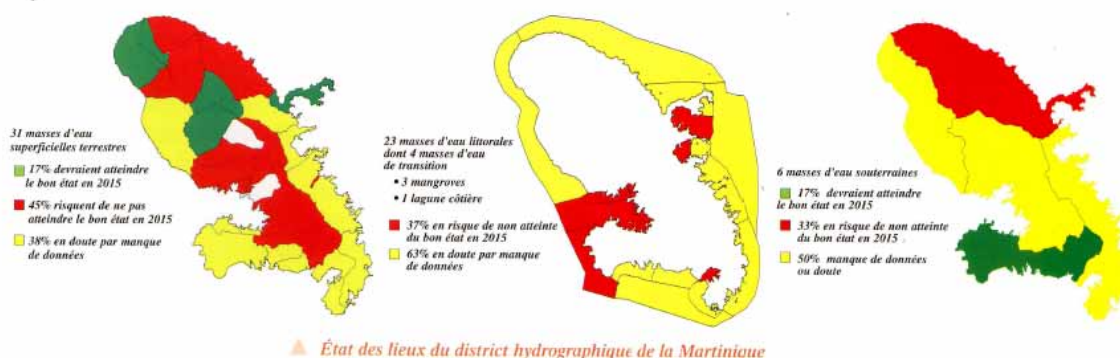


THE EUROPEAN WATER FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE (WFD)

The Water Framework Directive was adopted by the European Parliament on 23 October 2000. It lays down the Community policy in the field of water with the practical objective of good ecological status of aquatic environments in 2015. This Directive is based on the French management model. Indeed, the WFD basis is integrated water resources management at the level of river basins (river basin districts).

2004: characterization

The characterization of the river basin district of the Martinique was carried out in 2004. It concerns the rivers, the coast and groundwater. It allowed to clarify the impact of human activities (agricultural, industrial or domestic) on the aquatic environments and to identify the water bodies which are likely to achieve good ecological status in 2015, as well as the Risk of Not-Achieving Good Status (Risque de Non Atteinte du Bon Etat - RNABE).



2005: definition of significant issues

Significant issues for the river basin district of the Martinique were formulated, using this characterization. They constitute the great challenges of trying to achieve good status of the aquatic environments before 2015. There are 9 and they gather all the aspects of water management on the island.

2006: public consultation

An information campaign and a public enquiry were carried out from 3 November 2005 to 3 May 2006 on these significant issues and on the work program proposed by the WFD. The questionnaire, based on the 9 significant issues for the river basin district of the Martinique, proposed various actions about which the citizens were to give their opinion.

The public consultation was particularly noticed in the Martinique because of the use of « Blue Ambassadors ». Pairs, made up of a man and a woman, were entrusted to meet the population in public places and shopping centers. For 4 months, they have fulfilled the task of encouraging and assisting the public in filling up the questionnaire, of collecting the enquiry questionnaires and making the people aware of the water issues.

For this consultation, a dedicated website allowed answering on line to the questionnaire and consulting documents on water management and on the Martinique river basin. 8 public meetings, organized during this consultation, also enabled to make the population aware of the major stakes of water management in the Martinique.

On the whole, 1,800 questionnaires were filled up.

The cultural aspect of water was broadly incorporated into this enquiry.

The public enquiry enabled the Basin Committee to define 5 priority stakes for trying to achieve good ecological and chemical status of aquatic environments in 2015:





- 1 Controlling pollution to recover and preserve our natural heritage with a concern for public health and quality of life;
- 2 Managing water as a common good and developing common cause among the users;
- 3 Changing our behavior and promoting eco-citizens' practices towards the environments;
- 4 Improving knowledge on aquatic environments;
- 5 Controlling and preventing risks.

2007: Launching of the SDAGE revision

Using the priority stakes and public opinion, the Basin Committee has to direct the revision of the SDAGE to integrate the WFD objectives.



A Program of Measures, to be implemented for achieving good status in 2015, will then be formulated.

This SDAGE and the Program of Measures will be submitted to the public for opinion in 2008. They will be definitively adopted before the end of 2009.

A program of monitoring water bodies must be implemented in 2007 and will allow assessing the effectiveness of the measures of the revised SDAGE.

DIFFICULTÉS DE IMPLEMENTING THE WFD IN AN ISLAND

The European Water Framework Directive for the Martinique is a methodological work program whose references for measures and evaluation have to be adapted to tropical insular environments with multiple constraints (exiguity, major risk, environmental diversity, ecological characteristics, specific and living cultural approach to water).

THE MARTINIQUE, A BASIN ISLAND AND THE NEED FOR REGIONAL COOPERATION

The Caribbean Basin is essentially a transboundary basin and therefore should be jointly managed: in the Caribbean Sea, recognized as a Regional Sea by the United Nations Environment Program, there is a range of Island-Basins which are, each of them, a land-sea system connected to the others by the sea which borders them. Thus, true regional cooperation must be set up as regards data exchange, pollution control and risk management.

Some initiatives already exist, such as the INBO sub-network of island-basins, the « GWP-Caribbean » project for the implementation of integrated water resources management in the Caribbean countries, the CARIB-HYCOS



project to promote knowledge and monitoring of hydrometeorological phenomena and, finally, the CWWA (Caribbean Water and Wastewater Association), an association of water professionals supporting technological exchanges in this field....It is necessary to continue in this way and to increase our efforts.

The French law of 3 January 1992 and the European Water Framework Directive made the inhabitants of the Martinique responsible for water management.

If until now, climate and infrastructures had let us believe that water was plentiful in this country, we are now aware that this good can be fragile and that its good governance can be a condition for sustainable development in the Martinique.

It is to be noted that awareness to water and more broadly to the environment is progressing in the Martinique. More than being in line with the European model, integrated water resources management will have to lead to an INSULAR model in adequacy with the geographical context, territorial dimensions and biodiversity in all their aspects.



Madeleine de GRANDMAISON

*Vice-President of the Martinique Regional Council
and President of the Basin Committee,
World President of INBO*