



International Workshops

organized by
the Puglia Regional Environmental Agency (ARPA Puglia)
DG Environment and DG Joint Research Centre
of the European Commission,

in collaboration with and support of
the Puglia Region, the Italian Ministry of Environment and
the Italian Agency for Environmental Protection and Technical Services (APAT)

Ostuni (Brindisi, Italy) , 22-24 September 2004

Workshop Minutes:

1. The Brindisi Workshop, 22-24 September 2004, was organized in collaboration between DG ENV and DG JRC and with support from the Regional Organization for Environment in Puglia (ARPA Puglia), the National Organization for the Environment (APAT) and Italian Ministry of Environment. The event grouped three workshops that were linked in their expected contribution towards a joint initiative under the MED-EUWI related to water and natural resources management in the Mediterranean area.
2. In line with the political commitment of sustainable development, the main objective of the workshops was to initiate a joint process between the WFD and the EUWI for the Mediterranean area, based on the experiences of the existing network of PRBs and some S. Mediterranean basins. Along with the geographic extension of the PRB experience, the workshop aimed also at a thematic extension of PRB related activities. The workshop discussed the feasibility of contributing to integrated management of natural resources at the level of linking management of environmental concerns addressed in Rural Development programmes with those of the planned River Basin Management Plans.
3. After the official welcome by local authorities, Mr. Bidoglio, DG JRC, introduced the event to the audience of about 150 experts. He highlighted the importance of the PRB process and the WFD that offers a possibility for RBMPs to be bridging elements with CAP/RD on harmonizing environmental requirements and to foster further creation of methods and tools for managers to implement integrated strategies. The WI was stressed to be an interface to create a regional process towards these goals. Ms. Moren-Abat, DG ENV, introduced the WFD and its strength as driver for reaching integrated management. New challenges in EU water management with member states being more free to decide on the implementation specifics, make sharing experiences an important key to success.

The necessary structures have to be organized. The WFD/PRD linkage to the WI, with extension of thematic issues related to the Mediterranean, would be a first initiative. The Brindisi workshop was meant as a kick-off to such process.

During the first day the Mediterranean PRB experiences were highlighted. Most of the PRBs have finished with Article 5 and some of them, like e.g. Tevere, are starting to look into the management measures as related to the findings of the Art 5 report. It became very clear that agriculture, mainly through water use by irrigation¹ and pollution by fertilizers, is the biggest factor influencing water quantity and quality. Although stakeholder processes are on going and active involvement of water users is being organized, no PRB approached the problem from the point of view that also policy instruments could be integrated or harmonized, either at local management or higher level.

Related to the specific Mediterranean situation,

- (i) water scarcity and
- (ii) groundwater management

were identified as issues that needed much more attention.

4. The second day discussed the potential for linking management of environmental concerns as they are addressed in Rural Development Plans or programmes with the management of local water related problems. Mr. Cherlet, DG JRC, introduced the subject by giving an overview of the various policies and identifying mutual benefits from better integration of environmental concerns within the planning tools implemented mainly through the WFD and the CAP/RD².

Further presentations highlighted related experiences from projects in the N. and S. Mediterranean. Examples were:

- Efficient linking of soil protection activities in view of better water management resulting in more water availability for agriculture (Tunisia)
- Farmers participation in management projects aiming at changing agricultural practices to prevent water pollution and erosion, with attention to income compensation through alternative cultivation and more efficient irrigation (Turkey)
- Reaching specific management measures in the framework of European, National and local legislations and identification of conflicts of interest between water management and Rural Development (Puglia, Italia)
- Problem of accumulation of pollution loads in water scarce areas resulting from agricultural practices (TempQsim)
- Identification at ministry level of needs for research on solid indicators, models and more reliable information in support of RD decision making; examples of crop changes to non-irrigated cultures with RD income compensations and the use of models for assessing and monitoring implementation of the Agi-Env RD measure on 'leaching reduction of agrochemical to aquifers' (MinAg. Portugal)
- Difficulties met in implementing policies such as CAP/RD or UNCCD NAP at local level (Agri, Italy)
- Presentation of a practical framework for setting up integrated management projects and the new position that science and research should take as active partners in the decision making process at all levels (ICARDA, Syria)

¹ Greece indicated Agriculture water use up to 96% of total; Spain, Júcar basin, indicated irrigation demand as 80% of total, while Cyprus also reached 69% for agricultural demands.

² Being the River Basin Management Plans (WFD requirement) and the Rural Development Plans (as planned under the Rural Development being 2nd pillar of the CAP).

5. Three main key issues were identified as being of relevance to the Mediterranean areas in order to focus further specific discussions:

- Water scarcity management (chair: Thierry Davy)
- Integrated ground water management (chair: Juan Fullano, Giorgio Pineschi)
- Linking Rural Development (agri-env) to water management (chair: Michael Cherlet, Carlos Pais)

Three Working Groups were formed to discuss potential networking and organization of practical steps for further action. The mandate of the groups was:

- Establishing 'rationale'; why addressing this focal area
- What can be done for addressing this focal area
- How to implement this focal area

6. In general for all three working groups it was decided to

- Create an (joint) electronic forum for networking,
- Draft a position paper and
- Organize further exchange of knowledge and
- To set up test cases for applied research.

Lead countries will foster this process and seek further commitments at political level, but the technical work is seen as a bridge to the political level. Each working group chair will draft a report on the discussions and outcomes to be further compiled with the workshops report.

7. Working Group results:

a. Integrated management of groundwater

Why:

Over extraction of groundwater, is a common problem in Mediterranean countries. Extraction for irrigation for agriculture is increasing and problems of salinisation occur especially in coastal areas.

What:

Sharing of experiences between EU and non EU Mediterranean countries to establish a sustainable approach for renewable and non-renewable aquifers.

How:

- Establishing of an electronic forum, starting with the Mediterranean PRBs to be enlarged to the non EU MEDA countries in order to develop a common vision on the problem.
- To prepare the ground for activities under CIS and the MED-EUWI component and to develop collaboration between project in the longer term.

b. Water Scarcity

Why:

- The specific Mediterranean climate is a common characteristic within the whole area, the agriculture in general and irrigation in particular are the biggest water users.
- Although there is a common understanding of drought, no homogeneous definition of drought is in use in the area

- Drivers (supply/demand) for implementing common measures are not at all the same in all countries and measures are implemented at very different scales.

What:

- Enhance reservoirs operations/strategies to improve quality and quantity
- Increase the supply and reduce the demand
- Planning strategies at basin level, conservation measures
- Use of non conventional resources (desalinisation), recycling
- Demand/use prioritisation
- Enforcement, tarification
- Best scale to address the issues
- Measure for impact mitigation

How:

- Establish a drafting group composed of the 12 people of the working groups in Brindisi, using existing structures and projects with a focal point for information exchange
- Organize a workshop to share information
- Drafting of a paper on common definitions, examples of measures, identification of existing projects, to be presented at the WD meeting

c. Linking Rural Development with water management

Why:

Environmental interactions of both agriculture and water practices are completely interlinked. For the manager on the ground, combined solutions are needed to respond to environmental requirements of various policies and the demands of the public. Understanding is needed on the environmental rules of these interactions, how to manage them and provide proper feedback to the political level.

What:.

- Sharing knowledge and experience.
- Contribute to solving conflicting situations hampering integration by bridging the gaps between the different interest levels (political<>field) and between the different technical interests (farmer<>decision making level)
- Organize proper feedback of technical experience to political level.

How:

- Create a first network for knowledge exchange based on the experts present at The WG on RD-Water Management using an electronic forum
- Compile an inventory of relevant on-going actions/projects, and the eventual extension of the network.
- Organize partners and collaboration with technical offices at political levels to initialize case studies to address specific issues while building further on PRB experience.
- Organization of a workshop, upon advancement of technical work (Portugal support) to provide clear feedback to the political level using the joint WFD/MED-EUWI structures.

Various partners indicated availability of local resources for collaborative case studies.

8. It was felt that the integration of non-EU partners is not so straightforward due to inequalities in level of involvement, appreciation of environmental problems in relation to basic socio-economic situations and different political requirements and structures. However collaboration at technical level should bridge these gaps and prepare the road for later political commitments.

9. On the third day, the Extra Session of the Med-EUWI offered a forum for various NGO stakeholders to present their involvement and position towards the initiative. Synergies with the process were indicated and these partners will be involved in the drafting of an action plan for coordination of the planned activities.

The process for finalising the work plan of joint WFD/EUWI process was agreed, namely:

The secretariat will add comments received and circulate across the participants and all EUWI for comments. It was stressed to highlight and distinguish between the activities already funded and the new proposals

Present the revised work plan to the SG of the EUWI on 19 October

Present a detailed strategy for the joint process at the next WD meeting in Amsterdam in December to receive their agreement.

Following questions from the floor COM stressed that there was no additional fund available from the next 2 years and that there was a need to streamline existing funds. There was a proposal to make a cluster of MED Research projects.

10. It was further proposed that the working groups (WGs) would become activities under a regional (Mediterranean) component of a joint WFD/EUWI process linking EU and non-EU partners and eventually add to the strategy of the CIS for the Mediterranean PRBs.

11. General conclusions:

The workshop succeeded in increasing the understanding of the position of the different processes currently on-going:

- WFD CIS process that includes the PRB
- The apparent linkages between CAP/RD and the WFD
- The EUWI-MED initiative.

It also created an initial forum for knowledge exchange taking into account the specific conditions of the Mediterranean area and interfaces with EU and non-EU countries. Linkages are constructed under the EUWI-MED umbrella.

After this technical discussion on setting up a joint WFD/EUWI process with technical Working Groups to address Mediterranean specific implementation issues, the necessary resources and political commitments are still to be identified but it is felt that technical work at appropriate levels will close this gap. The working groups are crucial to the realization of this goal.

Annex 1: Agenda

Annex 2: List of Participants

WORKSHOP 1: The PRB Mediterranean Dimension

- 9:00 – 9:50** Welcome and Introduction
Italian and Regional Authorities
- Dr. Alfredo RAMPINO*
Direttore Generale A.R.P.A. Puglia
- Ing. Giorgio CESARI*
Direttore Generale A.P.A.T.
- Dr. Nino MARMO*
Assessore Regionale all'Agricoltura
- Dr. Michele SACCOMANNO*
Assessore Regionale all'Ambiente
- On. Dr. Raffaele FITTO*
Governatore Regione Puglia
- Ing. G. PINESCHI*
Ministero dell'Ambiente e della Tutela del Territorio
- Dr. G. BIDOGLIO*
Head Soil and Waste Unit, JRC, European Commission
- 09:50 – 10:10** Presentation on the EU WFD -
The PRB concept and testing
- Marta-Cristina Moren-Abat, DG Environment,
European Commission*
- 10:10 – 10:40** Art. 5 reporting in a Mediterranean river basin: the Tevere
experience
- Alfredo Di Domenicantonio, Alessandro Marazza, Claudio
Fabiani, Tevere project coordinators, Italy*
- 10:40 – 11:00** Coffee break
- 11:00 – 11:30** Experience on the ecological assessment and classification of
surface waters in the Mediterranean region: the Pinios case
- Spyros Tasoglou, Pinios PRB Project coordinator, Greece*
- 11:30 – 12:00** Integrated management of coastal aquifers in the Jucar
- Teodoro Estrela Monreal, Jucar project coordinator, Spain*
- 12:00 – 12:30** PRB Cross-border aspects of river basin management in the

Mediterranean region (Guadiana)

Rui Rodrigues, Simone Pio, Guadiana Project coordinators, Portugal (TBC)

12:30 – 13:00 Survey of water related environmental issues: a participated approach in the Cecina PRB

Giorgio Pineschi, Sergio Sgroi, Cecina project coordinators, MATT, Italy

13:00 – 14:30 Lunch

14:30 - 15:00 Integrated management of water resources in Prespa Lakes: transboundary cooperation in Balkans

Vivi Roumeliotou, Society for the Protection of Prespa, Greece

15:00 – 15:30 An example from a Mediterranean New Member State: Cyprus

Christodoulos Artemis, Pambos, Kridiotis, Water Development Department , Cyprus

15:30 – 16:00 An example from the Southern or Eastern rim of the Mediterranean: Konya river Basin, Turkey

Hatice Dinc, WWF Turkey

16:00 – 16:30 Extreme events: Droughts
Scarcity of Water Resources: Working group activities

Thierry Davy, France

16:30 - 17:00 Coffee break

17:00– 17:30 Integrated water management to increase water availability

Onofrio Lattarulo, ARPA Puglia, Ludovico Spinosa, Emergency Commission for the Environment, Puglia, Michele Vurro, C.N. R.,Bari,Italy

17:30 – 18:30 General Discussion
Conclusions of the First Day

Workshop 2 – “Linking rural development and land degradation mitigation with river basin management plans”.

- 9:00 – 9:20** Introduction and Rationale of Integrated Approach
M. Cherlet, JRC European Commission
- 9:20 – 9:50** Integrating Rural Development in River Basin Management and Participatory Irrigation Management, Seyhan River Basin
S. Donma, State Hydraulic Works, Adana, Turkey
- 9:50 – 10:20** Sustainable Agriculture and Land Development Linked to Water and Soil Conservation Development Policies
M. Boufaroua, Research Water and Soil Management, Ministry of Agriculture, Tunisia
- 10:20 – 10:50** Compatibility Of Water Protection Requirements Related to Diffuse Sources of Pollution With Those Derived From The Rural Development: Experiences in Puglia, Italy
Onofrio Lattarulo, Maria Cristina De Mattia, Francesco Piracci, ARPA Puglia, Bari, Italy
- 10:50 – 11:20** Coffee Break
- 11:20 – 11:50** Rural Development influencing pollution loads in semi-arid catchments
J. Froebrich, University of Hannover
- 11:50 – 12:20** Outlining Rural Development Support Measures Towards the Protection of Water Bodies
C. Pais, Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development,
- 12:20 – 12:50** CAP, NAP, Rural Development and Sensitive Areas: Integrated Management at Catchment Level, the Agri Basin, Italy
G. Quaranta, Technical and Economic Dep. for Agro-forest Land Management, Univ. of Basilicata, Italy
- 12:50 – 13:20** Towards Integrated Natural Resource Management - a case study from Syria
R. Thomas, Natural Resources Management Program, ICARDA Syria
- 13:20 – 14:45** Lunch
- 14:45 – 17:00** **Working Group Discussions**
Group discussion on Mediterranean specific and inter-related topics that can be at the basis for further actions.

Day three will discuss how to further build upon these actions to setup a Mediterranean Strategy linked to on-going initiatives.

Mandate of the Working Groups:

- Establishing 'rationale'; why addressing this focal area
- What can be done for addressing this focal area
- How to implement this focal area

Topics:

- Water Scarcity
- Integrated Management of Ground Water
- Linking Agriculture and Rural Development with Water Management

- 17:00 – 18:00** Reporting of Working Groups on Topic organization
General discussion, recommendations and agreement on follow-up
- 18:00 - 18:30** Poster Sessions

Workshop 32 – “Extra Session of the EUWI-MED”

- 8:30 – 9:30** Activities undertaken and next steps in the context of the MEDEUWI, linking to regional needs and processes
Maria Peppas, Greece
Maria Papaioanou, Greece
Vangelis Constantianos, GWP-MED
- 9:30- 9:45** Presentation of the WFD/EUWI process; Needs for implementing the WFD & IWRM principles in Mediterranean EU & non-EU countries
Sylvie Detoc, European Commission, DG ENV
- 9:45 – 11:00** The role of the civil society in implementing IWRM on the national and transboundary context
 - WWF *Francesca Antolli*
 - MENBO *Elisa Vargas*
 - EMWIS *Eric Mino*
 - MWE *Veronique Balestra*
 - FoEME *Mira Edelstein*
 - GWP-MED *Vangelis Constantianos*
 - PHG *Natasha Carmi*

11:00 – 11:15 Coffee Break

11:15 – 12:00 Opportunities and challenges for a WFD / MED EUWI joint process:
Identification of synergies, gaps, next steps

Michael Skoullou, GWP-MED

Sylvie Detoc, European Commission, DG ENV

Wrap-up and conclusions

ANNEX 2
List of participants

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