



# WWF's contribution to the Mediterranean component of the EU Water Initiative (Med EUWI)

A Presentation for the Med EUWI extra session, Ostuni (Br) *24 September 2004*

**Francesca Antonelli**, Freshwater Officer  
WWF Mediterranean Programme Office





# Content of this presentation

- Rationale for WWF involvement in Med EUWI
- Briefing on WWF building blocks
- WWF expectation from Med EUWI

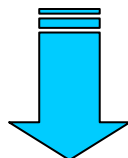




# Why? 1/2

Overlap between the EUWI and WWF's goals for the Mediterranean region/basin:

- Sustainable management of water resources (e.g. sanitation and supply, poverty alleviation, ... )
- Conservation of freshwater ecosystems in the Mediterranean



**October 2003** – WWF submits five building blocks to Med EUWI





# Why? 2/2

Promoting water savings and seeking alternative sources of water is **NOT** enough to protect freshwater ecosystems in the Mediterranean region/basin - our water sources!!

Driving forces of water overexploitation must be addressed:

- Agriculture
- Mass tourism
- Inappropriate policy (including pricing) and funding instruments
- Urbanization
- Forest loss





# How?

Through 5 'building blocks':

- **Policy:** to ensure that driving forces of water overexploitation are tackled and that policy and funding instruments affecting water management are integrated (in line with preamble 16, WFD, the EU's Integrated River Basin Management law)
- **Capacity-building:** to ensure that the civil society is aware of its role and prepared to contribute to IRBM through Public Participation (in line with Article 14 WFD)
- **IRBM projects:** to ensure that IRBM principles are applied on the field (in line with WFD management principles)



# Where ?



WWF Living Waters Programme - LWP



WWF National/Programme Offices



Pilot river basin projects



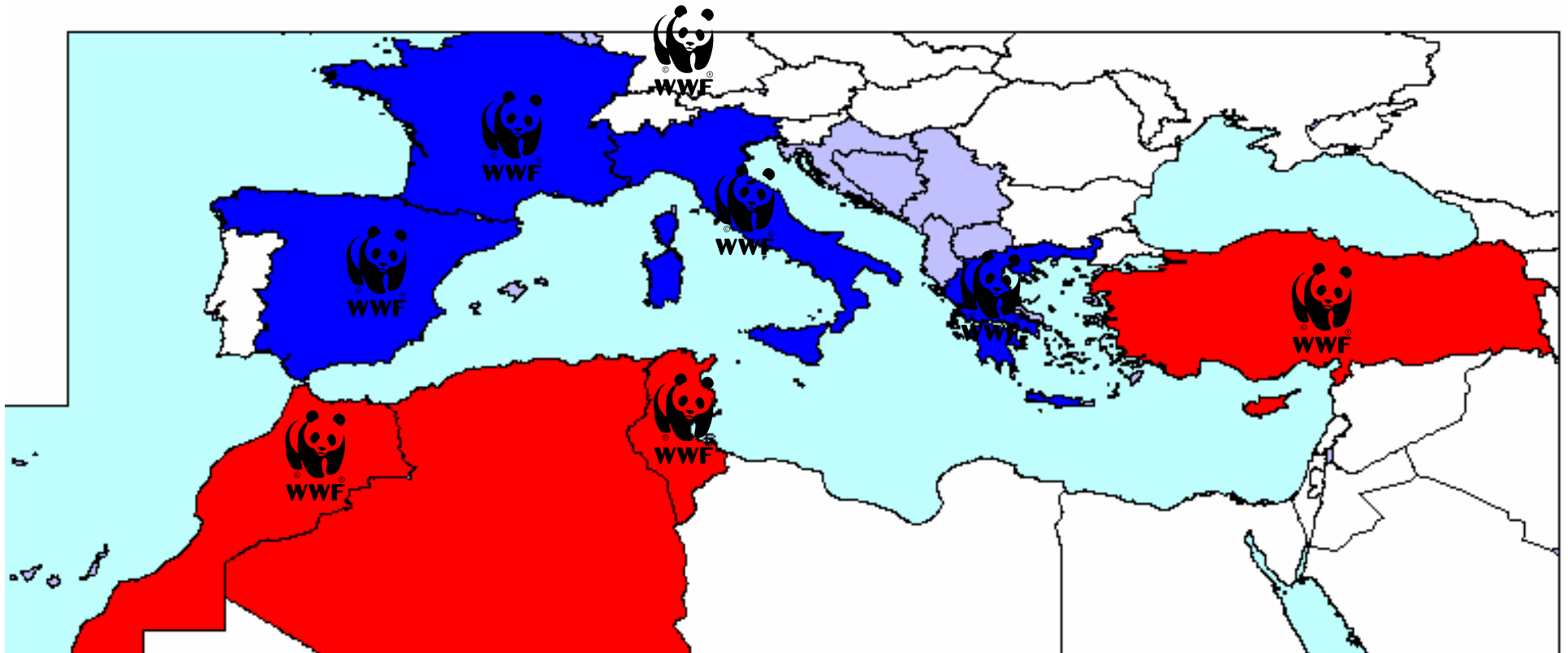


# WWF building block 1: Policy 1/2



- **Goal:** Promote environmental policies and funding instruments supporting the establishment of IRBM
- **Duration:** January 2004 – December 2006 ( ? )
- **How ?**
  - **Active participation** and lobbying in decision-making/legislation-making processes (EU, national and local legislation and funding programmes)
  - **Active role in implementation processes** (e.g. WFD Common Implementation Strategy-WFD CIS and WFD CIS Pilot River Basin testing exercise)
  - Independent **assessment of water policy** (e.g. Water and Wetland Index)
- **Estimated cost:** 950.000 €

# WWF building block 1: Policy 2/2



## Implementing agencies:

WWF Spain – Greece – Turkey – Italy – Tunisia – Morocco - France  
WWF Mediterranean Programme  
WWF European Policy Office  
WWF Living Waters Programme





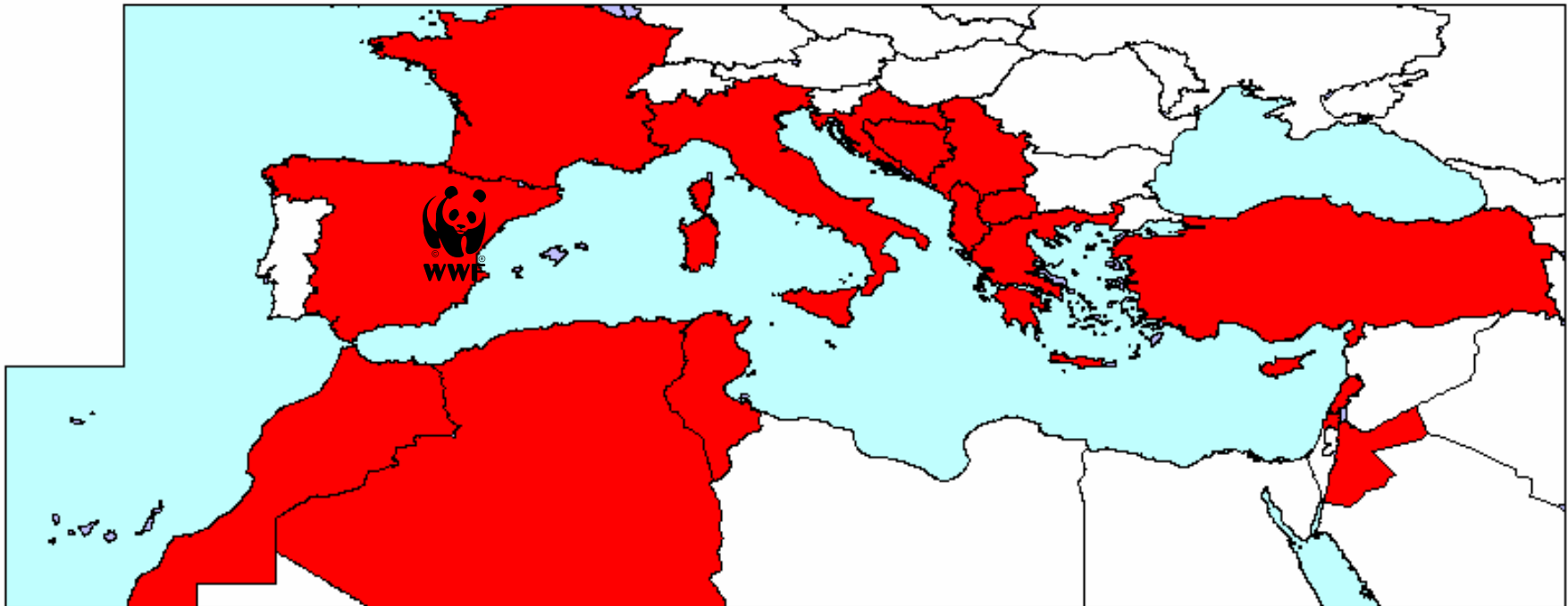
## WWF building block 2: Capacity building

1/2

- **Goal:** Enhance civil society's capacity to protect and sustainable manage freshwater ecosystems
- **Duration:** 2003 - 2006
- **How ?**
  - **Training** (e.g. Wetschool 2004 in Tunisia for 15 NGOs from 6 Med countries, Policy-Advocacy and IRBM schools in the pipeline, etc.)
  - **Knowledge-transfer** (e.g. 1 exchange organized for Balkan NGOs at SEO/Birdlife and more in the pipeline, publications supporting the trainings)
  - **Networking** (33 members representing 15 countries, monthly newsletter, experience and knowledge sharing via web, WWF's global network)
- **Estimated cost:** 300,000 €



## WWF building block 2: Capacity building 2/2



### Implementing agencies:

WWF Mediterranean Programme (Across The Waters Programme) in partnership with MedWet



## WWF building block 3: IRBM Pilots

- **Goal:** Identify, analyze and share solutions for sustainable development and rational water use in an IRBM context
- **How?** Through work on the local scale in selected countries and through 2 pilot model projects used as ‘lab’ to improve on IRBM practices:
  - **Doñana** (Southwestern Spain) by WWF Spain (1999-2006)
  - **Prespa Park** (Albania, Greece, FYP of Macedonia) by governments, NGOs (e.g. WWF Greece and Society for the Protection of Prespa), local authorities (open date)
  - Further projects in **North Africa**, **Balkans** and **Turkey**





## WWF Doñana and Prespa pilot projects 1/2

WWF works for IRBM implementation in the pilot basins by:

1. Promoting **long-term** water management planning that involves all the interested parties ('visioning')
2. Dealing with the **driving forces** behind the impacts on the freshwater environment (e.g. Agriculture: Definition of sustainability criteria for the use of CAP funds, promotion of good agricultural practices)







## WWF Doñana and Prespa pilot projects 2/2

3. Sharing and enhancing of environmental **information** (e.g. development and sharing of independent studies and analysis)
4. **Building capacity** of Administration and local civil society to participate in decision-making processes (e.g. promotion of a Civil Platform against the dredging of the Guadalquivir river)





## WWF expectations towards Med EUWI 1/4

### Policy

- In depth screening of policies and funding instruments of the EU and EU member states to identify potential integration with integrated water management in the Med
- Integration of WFD principles in EU policies and funding mechanisms (e.g. CAP, new neighbourhood policy, MEDA) to promote integrated water management in the Med
- EU policy/funding mechanisms revision-preparation processes as an opportunity







## WWF expectations towards Med EUWI 2/4

### Capacity building

- Promote the capacity building of the civil society to take part in water management **decision making** processes
- **Empower** the civil society and local administrations to actively participate to the water management process
- Creation of a platform for a **new water culture** promoting alternative economic activities in water stressed countries





## WWF expectations towards Med EUWI 3/4

### IRBM

- Establishment of pilot river basin projects focused on integrated water management
- Establishment of Med EUWI as a launching platform for IRBM promotion in the Med





## WWF expectations towards Med EUWI 4/4

Last but not least .....

.... Promote/facilitate funding of the activities under Med EUWI Building Blocks!

