



*International
Office
for Water*



FEASIBILITY STUDY ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF A REGIONAL WATER OBSERVATION MECHANISM IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION

**First results the diagnostic
analysis phase 1**

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Global organisation of the feasibility study

- **An open steering group**
 - National water authorities, EC, Eurostat, EEA, MAP-Medpol, MAP-Blue Plan, MAP-Info-RAC, IME, MENBO, OECD, Unesco/WWAP, AfDB-AWF, PSEau-Med, ...

- **Phase 1 – Proposal of a first vision**
 - July-December 2006
 - Diagnostic study with 4 volunteer countries: Jordan, Tunisia, France and Spain
 - Diagnostic study at the regional level
 - Synthesis, key orientations and recommendations for the 2nd phase -
> validated by the Euromed water directors (Athens, Nov'06)

- **Phase 2 Broader validation of the vision & recommendations**
 - February-November 2007
 - National diagnostic studies in Cyprus, Libya, Malta and Morocco
 - Further concertation with regional initiatives
 - Recommendations to set up the Partnership



Phase 1 results



Characteristics of the study -phase 1

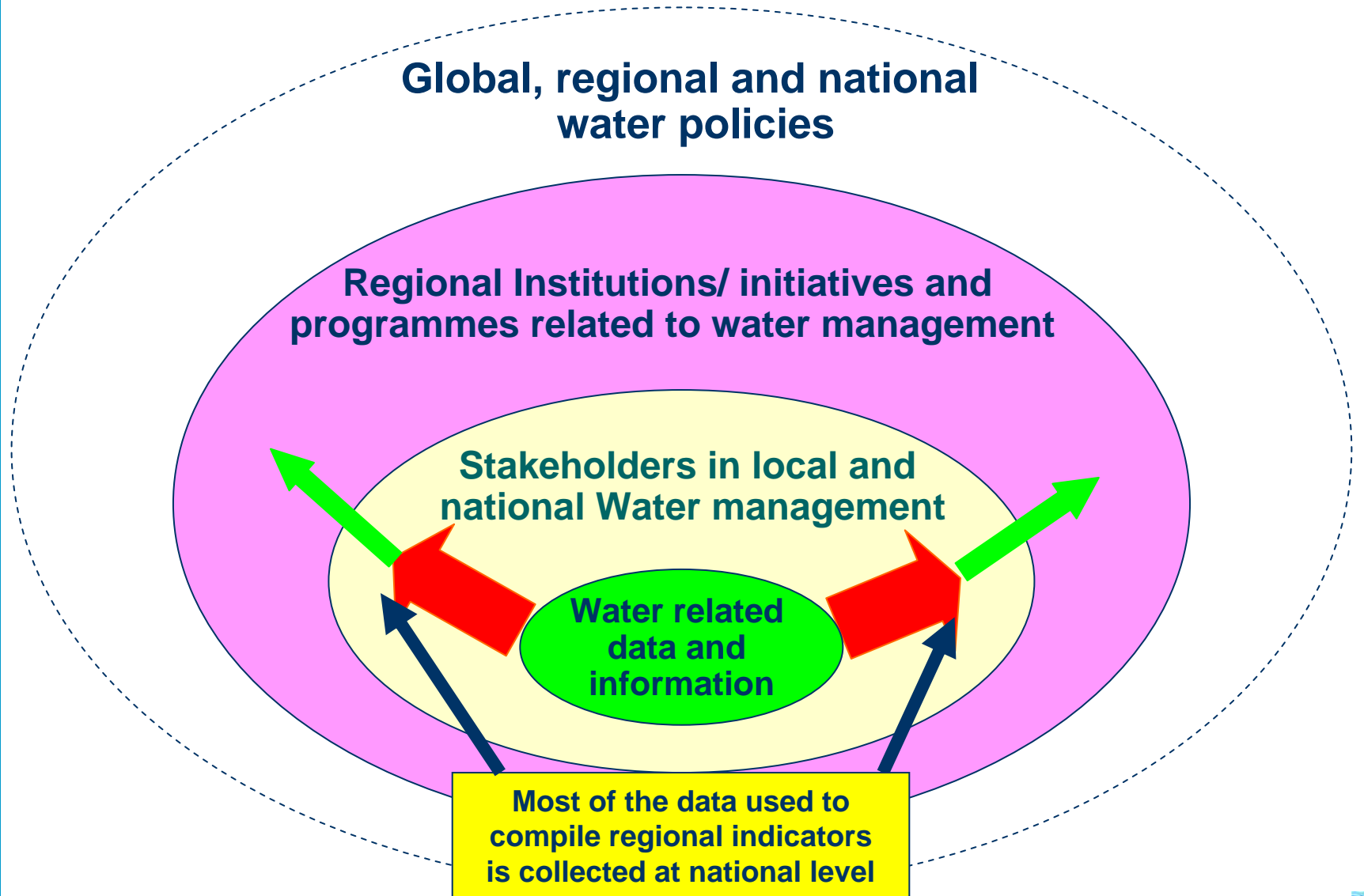
- **Objective of the first phase (3 month duration)**
 - “Formulating a first vision and main orientations which would be given to this observation mechanism”

 - **Analysis of the situation and needs based on:**
 - **A study of the collection and dissemination processes at international level:**
 - EC/ DG Env, EEA, Eurostat/medstat, EUWI-med, FAO, GWP, IME, Info-RAC , JMP, MEDPOL, OSS, Blue Plan, UNEP/MAP, UNESCO/WWAP World bank, World Water Council, ...

 - **The assessment of the situation in 4 pilot countries:**
 - France, Jordan, Spain, Tunisia.
- => « Thanks to all contributors »**

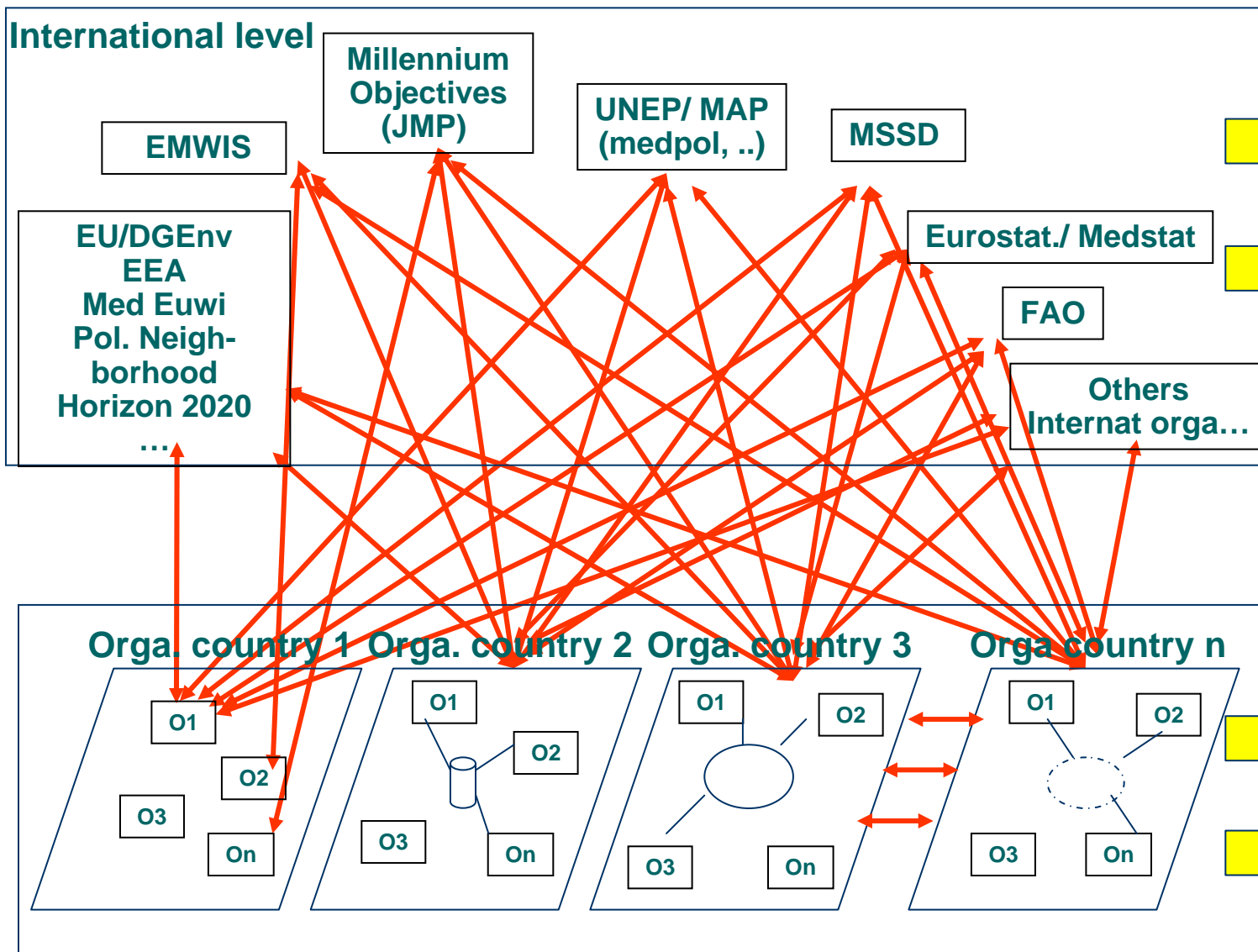


Global context overview





Global context overview: national/regional interface





Summary of the national context

- **Specific water management policy in each country**, with specific organisation of the monitoring and data management ;
- **Multiple information systems** (thematic, sub regional, local ..);
- **Data usually heterogeneous, dispersed and not very accessible** at the national level:
 - Little fluidity of exchanges between national institutions
 - Small data enhancement
- Few countries have a national water data management organisation, but **most of them wish or are in phase to develop their own National Water Information System (NWIS)**



Specificities of the regional context

- **Various water policy framework** using data and information
- **Many regional stakeholders** intervening in action plans of the various regional political frameworks:
 - MDG : UNICEF/OMS/JMP, EUWI/ MED-EUWI, ...
 - MSSD : MAP unit, Blue Plan, ...
 - MAP : UNEP, MAP unit, Medpol, 6 RAC, ...
 - EU Water policy: EU DG Env, Eurostat, EEA, JRC,, ...
 - EU Pol with Med.: ENPI, Horizon 2020, EEA, RMSU, ...
 - EuroMed Partnership : EMWIS, Medstat, ...
 - African Vision : AMCOW, ADB/FAE, ...
 - Others: FAO, WWC, GWP med, MEMBO, WWAP, UNSD, GEF, BM, OECD, IME, CEDARE, OSS, ESCWA, EXACT group, IUCN, WWF....
- **Various information systems:** WISE, Eurowaternet, EIONET, INFO/MAP, EMWIS, JMP database, Monitoring water alliance website, AQUASTAT, IBNET,
- **Various groups** (think tanks) for improving the processes: UN-WATER, DGenv/EEA/JRC on Wise, EEA/UNEP on MAP, ...



Expectations at national level

- **Need for support to the development of the NWISs**
 - Organisation of inter-institutional co-operation
 - Organisation of monitoring
 - Development of a common language
 - Organisation of the access to data
 - Data enhancement

- **Specific expectations related to:**
 - **The support to the production of missing information at national and regional level**
 - **The promotion of common methods for analyses at the regional level** (in particular for assessing the resources and uses, socioeconomic impact , drought indicators, water accounting...)
 - **The strengthening of international co-operation between Mediterranean countries**



Problems at regional level

- **Difficulties in identifying and accessing to the data**
- **Difficulties in collecting data even with established processes**
- **Major problems of heterogeneity, completeness and quality of the received data**
 - Problems linked to the **lack of clear production processes and common technical language**
 - Problems linked to the **lack of metadata**
 - **Discontinuity in monitoring** over time or geographically
 - **Incomplete or not adapted data provided**
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Expectations at regional level

- **Lack of data adapted to the needs** especially on major topics, such as:
 - **Water resource** (Description of aquifers, Groundwater quality, Availability of the resources)
 - **Uses** (Water demand for the various uses, especially agricultural, self supply....)
 - **Socioeconomic aspects** (on on-going investments, on the investments necessary to achieve the MDGs, Impact of water shortages and drought, socio economy of the uses...)
 - **Drinking water supply and sanitation services** (WSS in rural areas, benchmarking, ...)

- **Need for key data allowing regroupings or studies at basin level, function of the kind, by eco-region ...**

- **Problems for sustainable financing of monitoring**

- **Need for a better structuring of IS (national and international) not adapted to the exchanges**



Conclusions and first recommendations



First conclusions

- **The need for a “regional water observation mechanism” (or equivalent) is expressed by the majority of the stakeholders, within the various water policy framework**
- **Different visions but unanimity for saying: “careful, not to duplicate what already exists (institutions and information systems)”**
- **Priority objectives of the mechanism:**
 - **Capacity building of the Mediterranean countries** in order to better meet the needs at the regional level, while each country keep its own autonomy for organising its national water information system (NWIS)
 - **Developing a framework for dialogue between regional and national organisations** in order to better meet the expectations on reliable, comparable and quality information necessary for effective water resources management in the Mediterranean



Recommendation 1: Through a « Mediterranean water information partnership »

- **Organising a « Mediterranean water data and information partnership » - MEDWIP (or equivalent)**
- **Objective :**
 - Streamlining collection process of reliable information following needs
 - Promoting data identification (metadata), availability and enhancement
 - Supporting the countries in the development of their IS
 - Facilitating exchange of comparable and quality data and information, between national and regional organisations, especially through the promotion of common processes and language
 - Promoting the exchange of experiences between Mediterranean countries
 - Strengthening synergies and collaboration between organisations and regional think tanks regarding data management and enhancement
- **Under the Political framework of Water Directors committee**
- **Topics covered:** Priority topic of MDG and MSSD but also any topic on water and sanitation and on uses and associated socioeconomic aspects, following needs



Recommendation 1: Partnership principles

- **A Partnership** based on a **charter/convention** defining basic principles such as:
 - **The principle of voluntary participation** of the members
 - **The principle of opening** to all organisations producing, managing and or using water data and information in the Mediterranean
 - **Advantages offered to the members:**
 - **Privileged access to common** tools, means for self presentation (catalogue, facilitation for on-lining documentary references...)
 - Access to reports of working groups (**shared folders**)
 - Privileges access to training/ information (Info. flash, ..)
 -
 - **The principle of confidentiality**
 - **The principle of searching for quality** (metadata, « Peer review », ...)
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Recommendation 1: MEDWIP priority actions

- **Priority output: a «Concerted plan for Mediterranean water data and information»**
 - **A road map for MEDWIP activities**
 - Assessment of the national/regional needs for data and information
 - An inventory (who produces what ...)
 - Identification of the actions to implement, the means to provide for meeting the common needs at the regional and national levels (project sheet)
 - **A result of collective work**, this regional plan could relies on national and topical plans for water data.

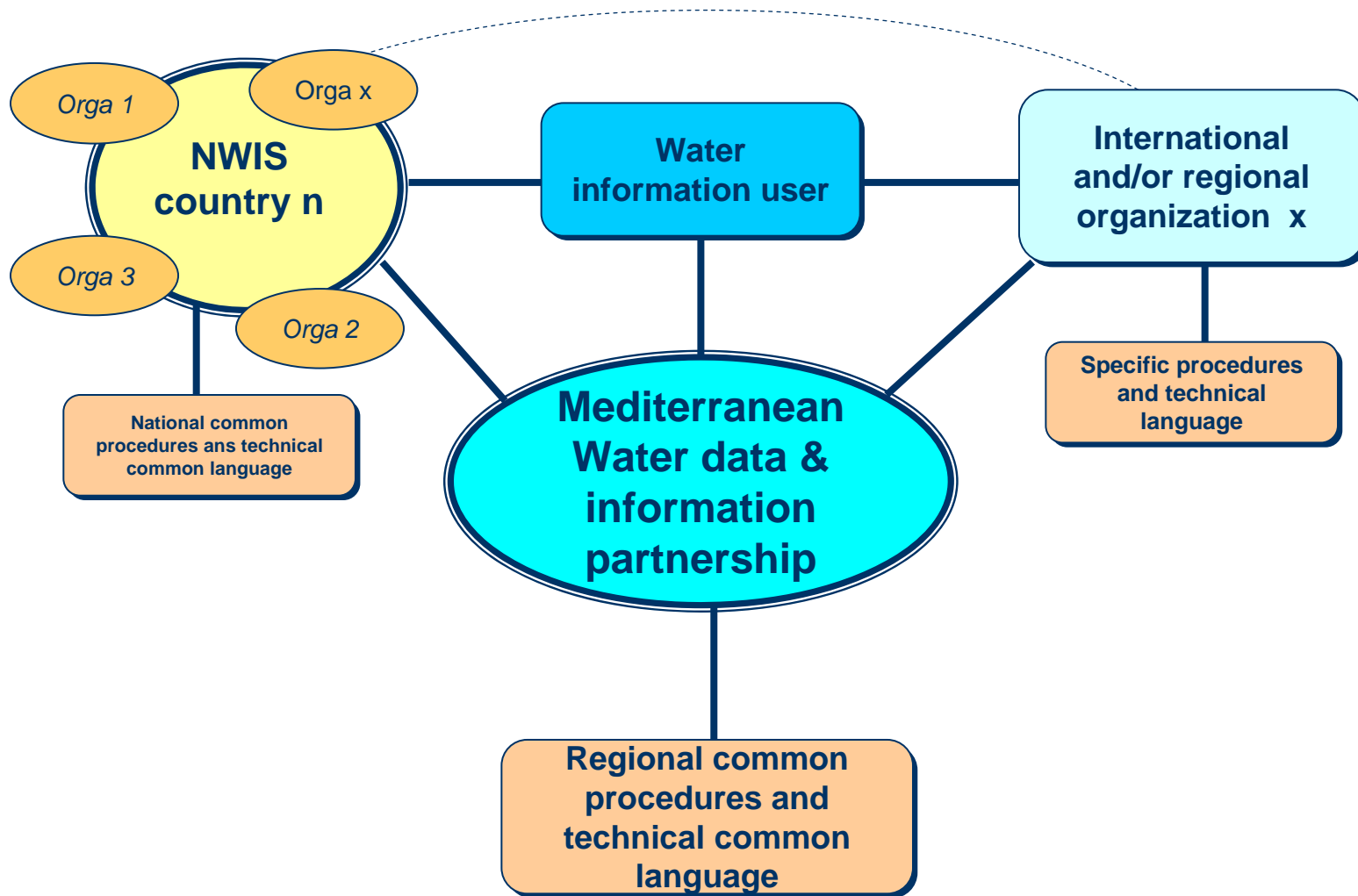


Recommendation 2: Enhance study follow-up

- **To include preliminary actions for MEDWIP in the finalisation of the feasibility study (phase2)**
 - Preparation of a draft partner charter
 - Identification of the first potential working groups related to the action plan (topical and horizontal)
 - Prototype catalogue of information sources with voluntary partners
 - Prototype collaboration tools (common folder, web portal)
 - First exchanges on monitoring experience (ex: through Joint Process on WFD)



Medium term vision of the MEDWIP place





Conclusions of Water directors conference in Athènes on MEDWIP

- *“6.4. The Water Directors welcome the progress achieved so far within the carrying out of the Study related to the observation mechanism and anticipate with great interest the results and outcomes of the 2nd phase of the activity with a more active involvement of interested countries.*
- *They recommend that this 2nd phase allow **further analysis and first tests of the proposed regional water information partnership** with linkages with related regional initiatives.”*



Thank you for your attention

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