



**3RD REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON WATER AND SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT IN THE MEDITERRANEAN
MARCH 2007**

***Monitoring progress and promotion of
water demand management policies***

CALL FOR PAPERS



**WATER DEMAND MANAGEMENT: A MEDITERRANEAN PRIORITY
TO AVOID THE LOOMING CRISES**

Water management is an overarching sustainable development issue in the Mediterranean. The rim countries and regions together hold 60% of the world's "water poor" population. Water is a scarce resource which is unequally distributed in time and space. Irrigation accounts for 80% of demand in the South and East. Most Mediterranean rim countries and regions are struggling with resource pressures or structural deficits.

The population of the Southern and Eastern countries (from Morocco to Turkey) has doubled in 30 years and would add a further 92 million people by 2025. The tourist population of the two shores (364 million international and national tourists in 2000) could increase by 273 million in 2025. A further 6 million hectares could come under irrigation.

Resource overexploitation and degradation hampers economic development, affects the poorest, and puts aquatic ecosystems of world importance and future generations at risk.

Supply growth (the traditional response to increased demand) is approaching its limits, and is encountering growing social, economic or ecological obstacles in almost all rim countries.

"*Water demand management*" is "the best way forward for water policies in the Mediterranean" (MCSD 1997). Current losses and wasteful use, and so areas of savings and potential efficiency gains, are high. Improved management could deliver theoretical overall gains of 70 km³ on a current total all-countries demand of 289 km³, including 65% in irrigation water, 22% in industrial water and 13% in community drinking water, adding up to total gains approximately matching the predicted demand growth by 2025.

If the looming crises are to be avoided, there is an urgent need to speed up mainstreaming of WDM across development, environment and co-operation policies and to put in place strategies, efficiency plans and concrete actions. A strengthened commitment from all national, regional and international stakeholders is essential.

The experts and stakeholders concerned are asked to help inform the common discussion.

WATER AND THE MEDITERRANEAN STRATEGY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The first priority field of action of the "Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development" (MSSD) adopted in November 2005 by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and the Barcelona Euro-Mediterranean Summit, is integrated water resources and demand management, the key aims of which are :



- to stabilise water demand by reducing losses and wasteful use, and increasing the added value per m³ of water used;
- to promote the integrated management of catchment areas including underground and surface water, ecosystems and depollution objectives;
- to deliver the Millennium Development Goals on access to drinking water and sanitation;
- to promote participation, partnership, active co-operation and solidarity for the sustainable management of water at local and national level.

The MSSD pledged itself to ongoing progress monitoring (indicators, good practices, policy instrument analysis) and a regional sharing of experiences, as key conditions of its implementation.

OBJECTIVES OF THE MCSD 3RD REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON WATER MANAGEMENT

The Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development is a forum for debate, discussion and proposal. Water management has been a priority since its inception in 1996.

The Fréjus (1997) and Fiuggi (2002) workshops, organised under its aegis, attracted participation from a large number of water directors, experts, NGOs, businesses and local authorities. They showed the need to redirect policies towards water demand management, yielded materials on a series of case studies, and gave an opportunity to discuss policy implementation tools.

Following the unanimous call made at Fiuggi and the adoption of the MSSD, Plan Bleu and its partners were tasked by the rim countries and the EU with organising a 3rd regional workshop under the aegis of the MCSD to take place in early 2007.

The workshop has been scheduled for March 2007. The groundwork for it is provided by national reports being written by experts in the volunteer countries, regional analyses and papers which will be addressed to the Plan Bleu and will be selected. Between 50 and 100 participants are likely to attend: water directors, the expert authors of the national reports, members of the MCSD, experts representing regional institutions, donors and lenders, local authorities, agricultural organisations, businesses, NGOs who have put forward papers accepted by the scientific committee. It is the subject of this call for papers.

The workshop aims:

- to take stock of progress with implementing the MSSD water component measured against indicators;
- to take more detailed stock of progress on WDM: indicators and comparative water use performances (transport, distribution and use efficiency), identifying actual examples of good practices, analysis of policy instruments implemented and obstacles encountered;
- to enable a regional sharing of experiences;
- to propose ways to speed up the mainstreaming of WDM across water, environmental and development policies (especially agricultural policies) and regional and bilateral co-operation, develop and implement efficiency plans, and improve the system for monitoring/evaluating progress on water and sustainable development in the Mediterranean.

The workshop outcomes will be presented to and discussed by the MCSD, which may formulate proposals. The countries and other stakeholders will be invited to discuss the action to be taken in light of the outcomes. A policy overview report will be produced in 2007.

PRIORITY ISSUES, REGIONAL WORKSHOP PARTNERS

The 5 priority issues that the workshop will address are:

- ① Factoring natural water needs for ecosystems into policies;
- ② Factoring WDM into agricultural policies;
- ③ Factoring WDM into urban (including tourism) and industrial (including energy) water management;
- ④ Factoring WDM into water policies: importance to supply policies, importance to integrated water resource management policies;
- ⑤ Factoring WDM into co-operation and development aid policies.

The partners tasked with the groundwork are:

- Plan Bleu, a prospective observatory on sustainable development and an MCSD support centre. It is a regional activity centre of Mediterranean Action Plan of United Nations Environment Programme. It is tasked with coordinating the workshop;
- GWP Med (Mediterranean platform of the Global Water Partnership) links together the key Mediterranean networks of water expertise (including Plan Bleu and all the associated partners);
- The Mediterranean Water Institute links together institutional and technical operators. Its core aim is develop Mediterranean-wide co-operation between local authorities and water, sanitation and irrigation professionals;
- The International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies is tasked with developing research, training and co-operation to deliver rapid, orchestrated development of the Mediterranean region;
- Medwet (Mediterranean Wetlands Initiative) links together 25 Mediterranean countries, international environmental organisations and centres to identify key issues and measures for protecting wetlands and their biodiversity;
- MIO-ECSDE (Mediterranean Information Office, Environment, Culture, Sustainable Development & Environment) is a federation of Mediterranean NGOs working on issues around environmental protection and the promotion of sustainable development in the Mediterranean region and countries.

Other expert institutions like the European Commission, World Bank METAP, FAO, World Water Council and GWP, French Development Agency, EMWIS (Euro-Mediterranean Information System on know-how in the Water sector), CEDARE, PS Eau, Verseau, and other MAP regional activity centres (CAR PAP, PP and MAP/INFO) will be invited to take part.

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE AND FINANCING

The scientific committee comprises:

- H.E. Mr. Mohammed ENNABLI, President of the MWI, former Minister for the Environment and Regional Planning of Tunisia,
- Mr. Jean MARGAT, Vice President of Plan Bleu,
- Mr. Michael SCULLOS, President of GWP Med and MIO -ECSDE,
- M. Vangelis CONSTANTIANOS, Executive Secretary of GWP Med,
- Mr. Bertrand HERVIEU, Secretary-General of CIHEAM, or his representative,
- Mr. Spyros KOUVELIS, Medwet coordinator,
- Experts nominated by the 4 countries that supported the groundwork in 2005 (Turkey, France, Morocco, Tunisia) and by the workshop host country or city.

Plan Bleu is providing the Secretariat. Ms Gaëlle THIVET and Mr. Mohammed BLINDA are the Plan Bleu staff responsible.

Funding is provided by MAP/ Plan Bleu, with specific support from France, Morocco, GWP Med, the Mediterranean component of the European water initiative (European Commission), and from the workshop host country or city.

CALL FOR PAPERS FOR THE REGIONAL WORKSHOP

Contents and format of papers

The papers must inform about *practical examples of progress* (good practices) on water demand management in the Mediterranean: examples of savings and/or efficient use of agricultural, urban or industrial water (efficiency plans, projects, policies, etc.), examples of good traditional practices, examples of allocation trade-offs, examples of implementation tools for better use of water, examples of integrated management of groundwater or catchment areas including water demand management objectives and/or resource and ecosystem preservation (quantities and quality), examples of bilateral, sub-regional or regional co-operation projects.

The documented case studies may therefore be local, national or co-operative.

Papers must elaborate on:

- the sustainable development aspects,
- the history of the project, the reasons why certain measures were taken to improve the situation in sustainable development terms, the partners involved,
- the policy instruments deployed that delivered improvements in the situation,
- the problems encountered, any causes of failure, obstacles yet to be overcome,
- the outcomes achieved in terms of sustainable development (environmental and/or social and economic outcomes),
- the conclusions to be drawn from this example for the Mediterranean.

Cost-benefit analyses will be particularly valued: examples of analyses behind WDM decisions, examples of ex post evaluations demonstrating the merits of WDM compared to traditional supply-side approaches. Papers should preferably be accompanied by *charts* illustrating the issues and progress reported on.

The papers are intended to inform the sharing of Mediterranean experiences with water demand management and ultimately to promote the mainstreaming of WDM across the different regional, national and local policies, whether overall water policies (integrated resource management), sectoral development policies (agriculture, industry, tourism, etc.) or co-operation and development aid policies.

The format suggested for the summary of a paper is as follows (a half page with the possible ones annex, French or English drafting):

Title of the paper:
Who: (who proposed the paper and who is going to prepare it)
Surface and geographical/administrative level (location, catchment area, groundwater, coastal zone, city, rural area, perimeter of irrigation, national/international /regional)
Description of the paper: (initial problems, history and project partners, achievements, results obtained)
Types of tools for water demand management and for integrated water resources used management (They can include institutional, legislative, economic, awareness-raising and technical tools).
Lessons:
Justification of the importance of the paper (in relation to the water demand management and integrated water resources management).
Contact (Name of person, email, address, phone, fax)

Who may submit papers

Papers are invited from:

- professional and local experts: companies, local authorities, farmers, protected area managers, NGOs,
- technical institute and university experts, experts from specialized Mediterranean networks in the fields of water, agriculture, urban settlements, industry, the environment,
- experts from financing and co-operation agencies.

Selection of papers

Abstracts of proposed papers must reach Plan Bleu **before 15 July 2006**. They will be reviewed by the regional workshop scientific committee.

- The papers selected will then have to be finalised and sent to the address shown below **before 15 November 2006**.
- To allow the necessary time for general discussions, only a selected number of the most outstanding papers may be presented at the workshop. However, all the papers selected will be published in the workshop proceedings and posted on the Plan Bleu website, and authors of papers in attendance will be invited to take part in the general discussion.
- The most exemplary and significant papers may be included for illustrative purposes in the regional overview report to be produced for the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, a technical and policy report which will be written after the regional workshop (and will also incorporate material from the national reports and regional analyses).

Contact for sending the proposals for papers

The proposals for papers will be transmitted to Mr. Mohammed BLINDA, programme Officer of water, Plan Bleu before July 15, 2006, by fax, email or express mail.

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