



“Investing in IWRM – it pays back!”

**Proceedings of the side-event organized
on 12 May 2008 for the European Union
and France at the 16th session
of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable
Development in New-York City**





For the 16th session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD16), France coordinated the review of the contribution by the European Union (EU) to the decisions taken in 2005 at the 13th CSD, concerning water, sanitation and integrated water resource management (IWRM). On behalf of the EU, it was thus tasked with organising a high-level side-event concerning the financing of Integrated Water Resource Management - IWRM.

The organisation of this side-event was entrusted to the Executive Secretariat of the French Water Partnership (FWP)¹.

This conference entitled "Investing in IWRM – It pays back!" looked at the issue of national and transboundary financing of IWRM. It took place on 12 May 2008, from 13h30 to 14h45, during the specific CSD 13 review segment.

It was important for the FWP to organise this conference on IWRM financing for two main reasons: on the one hand IWRM is a management option supported and implemented by its members and, on the other, many people misunderstand or are completely ignorant of its financing, even though this is vital to the success of concrete, long-term implementation.

Furthermore, because France was in charge of the review of the European Union's contribution to the decisions taken in 2005 concerning water and sanitation at CSD 13, it was important for it to organise a sharing of experiences on the subject within the informal context of a side-event.

The choice of the IWRM financing topic would seem to have been a judicious one, given the interest it evoked among the members of the 16th CSD session.

The side-event was a real success: it brought together some 100 to 150 participants and a panel of high-level decision-makers from the water sector, from several continents.

The French Water Partnership is very grateful to Mr. Jean-Marie Wauthier, Head of Environmental Department, Foreign Relations of the Walloon Region, Belgium, who played the role of the moderator of the side event.



The key questions of the issue, the poster, the programme and the proceedings of the side-event are appended.

¹ The FWP asked Y. Kovacs from the Sépia Conseils consulting firm and R. Jost from the International Secretariat for Water, to handle logistical organisation and event communications.





**Key questions of the financing of Integrated Water Resource Management - IWRM,
by Ms Nathalie Chartier-Touzé, Executive Secretary of the French Water Partnership**



The concrete implementation of the integrated water resources management needs adapted institutional and financial answers. Have a legislative corpus is essential but is not enough for a decision-making and an effective management on the long term:

- 1. What economic instruments have already demonstrated their efficiency for the financing of IWRM at the river basin level?**
- 2. What are the difficulties and lessons to learn in different institutional contexts, for example in States, decentralized or not?**

While the European Union has a Framework Water Directive which relies on a water resources management at the river basin level, it is useful to observe what the various existing financial operations in member states are:

- 3. What is the implementation cost of the Framework Water Directive: procedures costs, Management Plans and Measures Programs design, economical analysis, water pricing...?**
- 4. What choices have been made by the EU MS and their European neighbors to financing IWRM, included of transboundary resources?**

River basin level water management allows to concretizing the up and downstream solidarity. It could be, for example, the reimbursement of environmental services from upstream ecosystems, located in the « head of river basin » (filtering, nutrients purification...) for downstream uses (harnessing drinking water, water quality, agriculture...):

- 5. What good practices of rpayment are in progress in Europe and outside Europe?**
- 6. How to fix the price of water for the agriculture and to financing projects and efficient water resources management?**

The majority of African river basins have cross borders in different countries. They generally have bodies dedicated to their multi-uses management (irrigation, production of water and energy). For those which are of former creation (OMVS, CICOS, ABN, AB Nile, C Mékong) or of more recent (AB Volta) the question of their financing is essential to base their authority:

- 7. What economical tools are in place: principles users / pollutants – payer, environment services payment, public-private partnerships?**
- 8. What are the consequences of these devices on the efficiency of investments planning and infrastructures management?**

The role of the international donors (bilateral and banks) is crucial to facilitate the implementation of investment funds at the river basin level to finance notably studies and monitoring, actions of protection and valuation of water resources, even infrastructures. Harmonization and coordination of aid policies for the financing of water infrastructures management projects and energy production in the basin is also a driving element of transboundary IWRM:

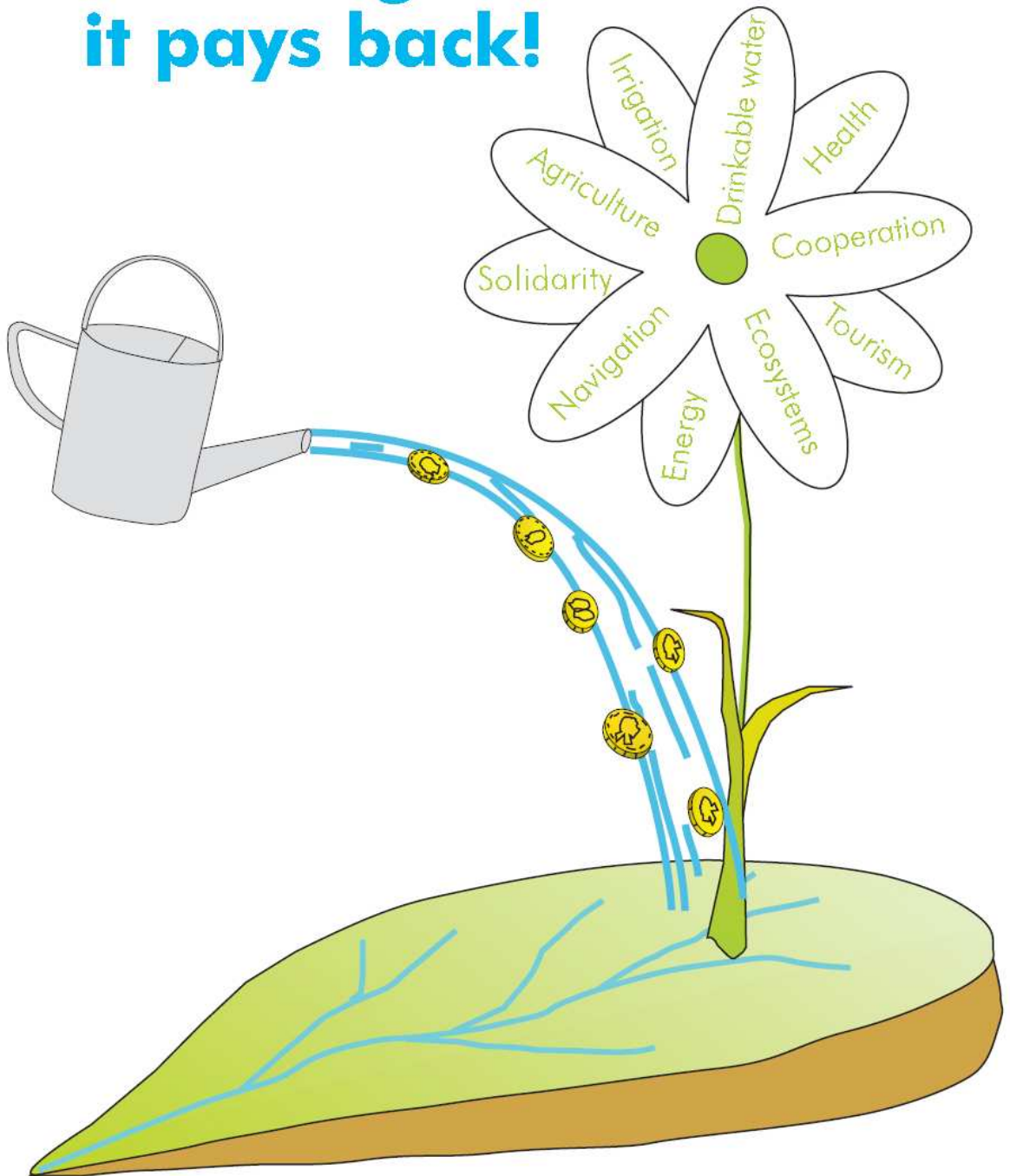
- 9. What are the bilateral EU donors who finance IWRM projects?**
- 10. What are the financing policies of the various donors, and in particular, the emergent donors for transboundary IWRM in developing countries?**
- 11. Are donors' policies coordinated and harmonized to strengthen the implementation of IWRM in the river basins?**





United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development, 16th session
General Assembly Building, New York City

Investing in IWRM, it pays back!



In**tegrated** **W**ater **R**esources **M**anagement





Finance IWRM at the river basin level: by whom and how?

How to optimize the investments and to assign fairly profits?

Which mechanisms can guarantee financial resources on the long term?

Welcome:

Mr. Mitja Brichelj (State Secretary for the Environment and Spatial Planning, Slovenia)

Mr. Laurent Stefanini (Ambassador of France for the Environment)

Key-note speaker:

Mr. Jean-François Donzier (Permanent Technical Secretary of the International Basin Organization in Europe, INBO Europe)

Moderator:

Mr. Jean-Marie Wauthier (Head of Environmental Department, Foreign Relations of the Walloon Region, Belgium)

Panel:

Mr. Bruno Itoua (Chair of the African Ministers' Council on Water, AMCOW)

Mrs. Lubka Katchakova (Deputy Minister, Ministry of Environment and Water, Bulgaria)

Mr. Mohamed Ould Merzoug (Head of the International Network of Transboundary Basins Organizations, INTBO)

Dr. Letitia Obeng (Chair of the Global Water Partnership, GWP)

Mr. Henri Bégorre (President of the Water Commission Association of Mayors of Major French Cities, AMGVF)

Mr. Ger Bergkamp (Head of Water Program, International Union for Conservation of Nature, IUCN)

Mr. Oscar de Cordeiro Netto (Director of the National Water Agency, ANA, Brazil)





M. Laurent Stéfanini
Ambassador of France for the Environment



With the Slovenian Presidency of the European Union, France is pleased to welcome the participants to this side-event on the topic of Water and Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) financing.

We would first of all like to thank our Slovenian friends for their support and their confidence, in particular through the personal involvement of the Slovenian Secretary of State for the Environment and Spatial Planning, Mr Mitja BRICELJ, who was unfortunately detained in Ljubljana.

Water, sanitation and Integrated Water Resource Management, commonly referred to as IWRM, are priorities for the European Union. Through the European Union's review of the implementation of decisions taken at CSD 13 on these subjects, and its corresponding conclusions, we were able to see that the European Union had devoted considerable resources both to its internal policy and to its cooperation policy. The details of this review will be presented during the forthcoming water sessions.

In terms of IWRM, particular mention should be made of the framework water directive which constitutes the context within which the water policies of the member States of the European Union are organised through application of IWRM principles. The issue of financing these policies is central and implementation of the principle of cost recovery which is incorporated into this directive is one that is queried by a number of experts and decision-makers. This is particularly the case in France, as could be covered in detail later on during the forthcoming discussion.

With regard to development and cooperation, the development aid mapping exercise carried out by the Africa group of the EU Water Initiative, jointly with UN Water and the OECD – the results of which will be presented to you in detail in future side-events – shows that the European Union only devotes 14% of its total aid to IWRM.

The European Union, which attaches great importance to reviewing the water-related decisions taken at CSD 13, hopes that the discussions around this issue of financing and IWRM can lead not only to an exchange of experience of use to you all, but can also shed light on the best directions to be followed in order to reach effective implementation of IWRM at basin level.

We hope that the conclusions of this side event will be widely circulated, in particular at the fifth World Water Forum, to be held in Istanbul, Turkey, in March 2009. France was heavily involved in the preparation of this event.

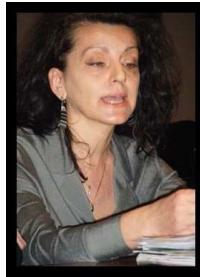
We will now hand over to the specialists and would like to thank the members of the panel who, by virtue of their responsibility as decision-makers, offer us all their experience and their vision of the issue of IWRM management.





Ms. Dragica Iskrenovič

**Secretary in the Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning of the Republic of Slovenia
on behalf of the Slovene Presidency of the EU**



Ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to excuse Mr. Mitja Bricelj, State Secretary for the environment and spatial planning of Slovenia. He planned to attend the CSD also this year but unfortunately due to many obligations he could not come to New York. He was especially looking forward to this side event and he was delighted that he would address you. Since circumstances are different he asked me to say some words on his behalf.

Issues related to water and sanitation are crucial for all nations and together with integrated water resources management key priorities in this field for both the European Union and Slovenia.

Sustainable water management is a top priority for any country in 21st century. Sectoral approach has been proven ineffective and only by tackling water body managements as a whole, sustainable water usage can be achieved. Slovenia is playing a proactive role and together with Serbia, Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina signed a Framework agreement on Sava River Basin in year 2004. Slovenia is the depositor country. This is the first sub-regional agreement of this kind as was recognized by International Commission for Protection of Danube River as well as the EU as a pilot project for sub regional cooperation. The agreement represents an example of international cooperation connecting EU member states, candidate countries as well as non members. This was recognized as especially important in light of European Framework Directive. Sava Commission, established by this agreement is therefore leading actor in joint management of common river basin.

On 1 June this year the Sava day will be celebrated for the second time. At this occasion wider public will be invited to join different activities with a goal to raise public awareness in integrated water resources management which is also a topic of this event.

At the end I would like to extend our gratitude to our French colleagues who took the largest part of organizing this event and they did it on such a high level.

On behalf of the Slovene Presidency of the European Union I wish you a very successful work.





Introduction by M. Jean-François Donzier
Permanent Technical Secretary of the International Network of Basin Organisations, INBO
General Director of the International Office for Water



The water resources picture worldwide is not a good one, and will continue to get worse. We must consider the effects of climate change, which will accelerate and further accentuate extreme phenomena. Technical solutions exist, but the problems are primarily institutional (political will and creation of institutions). The lack of financial resources is equally worrying in terms of future provision of enough fresh water to meet the various needs.

In order to meet water needs, it would be necessary to more than double current investment levels of 75 billion dollars a year, two-thirds of which come from the public sector. Public development aid accounts for 10% of investments in the southern countries, while government central budgets in most of the countries in the south will be unable to keep pace with the necessary investment efforts. So, what is to be done?

A generalised adoption of IWRM policies should help meet all the needs of the economic sector. Some of the financial resources should be allocated to preservation of natural ecosystems, safeguarding water quality, dealing with risks and defining a legislative framework appropriate to the countries, in order to ensure satisfactory management of the water resources.

It is now widely accepted that water resource management has to be organised and debated at the geographical level at which the problems arise, that is:

- 1) at local, national or transboundary river, lake and aquifer basin level,
- 2) using integrated information systems that provide data about resources and how they are used, pollution pressure, ecosystems and how they work, that identify risks and monitor changes. These information systems will constitute an objective basis for discussion, negotiation, decision-making and assessment of the action undertaken, as well as for coordination of financing by the various sources of funding,
- 3) on the basis of management plans, or master plans, setting the medium and long-term objectives to be achieved and giving a common vision of the future,
- 4) through implementation of successive multi-year priority measurement and investment programmes, according to the available financial resources,
- 5) by mobilising specific financing, on the basis of the “polluter-pays” principle and “user-pays” systems,
- 6) with participation in the decision-making process by the territorial authorities concerned, representatives of the various user categories and environmental protection associations or those working in the general interest, alongside the competent Government departments. Through a process of discussion and consensus, it is this participation that will guarantee the social and economic acceptability of the decisions reached, taking account of the real needs, the level of acceptance and the ability to contribute by the social and economic stakeholders. Decentralisation is the key to water policy effectiveness.





A variety of means will be needed in order to cover all costs: general taxes, fines, new environmental taxes, direct water resource taxes and pricing of collective services. There is thus no single tool or miracle solution. Some systems already in place are working, for example the system of French Water Agencies.

If we want to see a significant improvement in water resource management, what is important is to ensure that payment is collected “in the right place”: in other words, on the one hand all those whose actions create a negative impact on the water cycle must have an interest in reducing the problems they cause so that they pay less and in order to contribute to sustainable development. On the other, all users of the resource must pay the cost for the services provided.

A basin level organisation of IWRM according to the six fundamental principles mentioned earlier, offers a relevant framework for coherent planning and mobilisation of financing, whatever the country's level of development. It offers an overview of the problems to be resolved and mobilises all stakeholders at the most appropriate scale, in order to find the best solutions, define priorities and time-frames, achieve economies of scale and a better return on investment and create solidarity and a degree of upstream/downstream balance conducive to a contribution by all in reaching the commonly defined goals.

The panel members at this side-event are thus asked, on the basis of their experience and expertise, to discuss the optimum tools and working methods for concrete implementation of IWRM in the basins, in the light of these elements.





M. Minister Bruno Itoua
Chairman of the African Ministers' Council on Water, AMCOW
Minister for Energy and Hydraulics, Republic of Congo



Question asked by the moderator: what is the function of AMCOW with regard to IWRM financing in the basins?

The African Ministers' Council On Water (AMCOW) is in the process of becoming the instrument, the interface, the leader of water and sanitation coordination in Africa. This observation is based on the measures contained in the African Water Vision, a programme designed to win the battle for water by 2025.

According to this programme, annual investment of 20 billion dollars is necessary in the water sector in Africa. This would help consolidate AMCOW as a specialised technical committee of the African Union, a real water and sanitation management body in Africa, and integrate the process linked to NEPAD.

In this, the United Nations International Year of Sanitation, this process is characterised by the organisation of a number of large-scale events demonstrating Africa's political and financial commitment to water and sanitation, in particular the 2nd African Conference on Sanitation and Hygiene "Africasan 2008", which was held from 18 to 20 February in Durban, South Africa, and the first edition of African Water Week, which took place in Tunis from 26 to 28 March 2008, the topic of which was "Accelerating Water Security for Socio-economic Development of Africa".

Africa must give itself every chance of achieving the MDG and must clearly state its political will. These two events provided an opportunity to conduct a diagnosis and issue recommendations in the field of water and sanitation. To support this highly encouraging outlook, the forthcoming Summit of African heads of state and governments in June 2008 will also be devoted to the issue of water and sanitation and will confirm African commitments, prior to the meeting with the members of the G8 in July and the preparations for the World Water Forum in Istanbul next year.

The report from the UN Secretary General, based on the conclusions of CSD 13, mentions that even if the level of multilateral water and sanitation aid was high, particularly from the European Union, the impact on integrated water resource management has been low, and one has to ask the question why.

In an attempt to raise this impact, AMCOW has made IWRM one of its main priorities and has made a number of very real commitments: the African Water Facility has been set up with the African Development Bank -AfDB and we are calling on the international community to strengthen it. It comprises two parts: 1/Institutional creation of IWRM and 2/Project financing.

AMCOW has also signed a memorandum of understanding with ANBO, which we would like to see integrated into the African approach and become a sub-entity of AMCOW. We have also begun a partnership with the Global Water Partnership, which coordinates IWRM at a national and regional level in Africa...





Finally, we hope to see AMCOW create a structure for intervention at a sub-regional level, with the sub-regions becoming hubs for the oversight and coordination of IWRM, networking with ANBO.

As just demonstrated, AMCOW is highly active in the field of IWRM. However, it is clear that neither the resources of the countries, nor the revenues from the various users will be enough to finance it and this is precisely why we still need more help from the international community to enhance the implementation of IWRM in the various countries of Africa.





Mr. Mohamed Ould Merzoug

High-Commissioner of the Senegal River Basin Development Organisation – OMVS,
Chairman of the International Network of Transboundary Basin Organisations, INTBO



Question asked by the moderator: how do you finance the investment needed to implement IWRM in the Senegal basin?

The Senegal River Basin Development Organisation (OMVS) is a transboundary basin organisation created in 1972 by Mali, Mauritania and Senegal. On 17 March 2006, it was expanded to include Guinea.

Its roles include securing and improving the revenue of the basin's populations and speeding up the economic development of the member states.

In order to ensure satisfactory performance of its duties, the Organisation relies on different types of financing for its operations and its activities, which can be split into two main phases.

The first phase was marked by financing which came to a large extent from the membership fees paid by the three member States, which each contributed exactly one-third. Public development aid topped-up the above-mentioned fees, in the form of projects and programmes. It was during this phase that the OMVS built a hydro-electric dam (Manantali), an anti-salt dam for development of irrigated agriculture and protective dykes around the irrigated areas. The main partners in this first phase were above all France, Germany, the United States of America and the Arab funds. The works built with funds from loans taken out constitute joint infrastructure and are the indivisible assets of the three contracting states.

The second phase, which is currently in progress, is a hybrid financing stage. The Organisation is still working with contributions from the member States and public development aid. It does however have new sources of financing, generated by the operation of its infrastructure. These include the charges for extraction of water from the river and the sale of electricity to companies in Mali, Mauritania and Senegal. The optical fibre in the ground wires on the 1500 kms long interconnected line is used by communication companies, which pay a usage fee.

This hybrid phase is also marked by the mobilisation of significant financing for local development, the construction of other hydro-power dams (Félou, Gouina, Gourbassy, Koukoutamba), the development of multi-modal transport based on the use of a navigable waterway of more than 900 km, the improvement of crop irrigation and the preservation of basin ecosystems.

The OMVS has always applied the principle of upstream/downstream solidarity. There is solidarity between the upstream area of the basin, containing the hydro-power dam sites and the flow control dams, and the downstream regions which primarily grow irrigated crops. The support sometimes provided by the Manantali dam management company for the Diama dam management company reflects true inter-sectorial solidarity.





The main financing difficulties are linked to:

- Pricing and the recovery of surface water extraction fees, particularly for agriculture irrigation,
- The weakness of the public-private partnership that the OMVS is in the process of creating, for operation of the Manantali dam and for setting up the multi-modal transport programme;
- The lack of coordination of the actions of the partners funded by public development aid.

In the future, the OMVS intends to apply the polluter-pays principle, as explicitly stated in the Senegal river water charter. It will also be improving the level of participation by the stakeholders, who are already involved through the Local Coordinating Committees, by setting up Basin Committees.





Mr. Henri Bégorre
Mayor of Maxéville,
Chairman of the Water Commission Association of the Mayors of Major French Cities, AMGVF



Question asked by the moderator: what is the role of the Mayor in financing and implementing IWRM, and what is the relationship between the Mayor and the Water Agencies?

At the 4th World Water Forum in Mexico City, in March 2006, a large number of mayors and local elected officials got together to help draft a solemn declaration, which was also adopted by the Ministers, to define their roles and responsibilities with regard to their populations, in the field of water and sanitation.

Many countries have opted for decentralisation systems, within which the local public authorities are tasked with water distribution and sanitation. In this respect, the supply of water and access to sanitation are mostly paid for by the users, which, in the final breakdown, represents a significant share of revenue from water sales. There can be no distribution of water without access to sanitation. Acknowledgement of the Mayor's role is essential.

Similarly, there can be no billing of water, in a form appropriate to each country, without participation by the citizens and users. The Mayor and the public authority are those best placed to ensure this participation on the part of the citizens.

We believe that sharing of experience between local authorities is a way of better comprehending the problems – in particular in certain regions of France - such as the falling quality and quantity of the resource. It is clear that in many places, investments were not followed by any significant improvement, because the governance and management of this equipment were less than optimal, with human resources being insufficient to ensure equipment management.

It is precisely for this reason that within the framework of the United Cities and Local Governments organisation (UCLG) and together with the public authorities in each of the states, we wish to facilitate exchanges of experience and compare our viewpoints, to enable us to carry out our duties satisfactorily, in the field of integrated water resource management.





Mr. Oscar de Cordeiro Netto
Director of the National Water Agency, Brazil



Question asked by the moderator: what financial arrangements are in place for funding IWRM in Brazil (application of the user/polluter pays principles, public/private partnerships)?

Brazil has set up a system similar to that of France for IWRM financing, built around a basin level approach.

Brazil is a large country in which widely varying situations are encountered: in the Amazon region, 70% of the water is available to about 3% of the population, while in the Nordeste region, 30% of the Brazilian population has to share 3% of the entire available resource. We therefore set up a system of basin committees for those areas where the resource sharing and pollution problems are concentrated. We have 7 national level basin committees and about a hundred federal committees.

A financing system similar to the French system was set up, using the “polluter-pays” and net water consumption principles. The users also pay for the various drinking water and sanitation services, with the federal states and the national government contributing to the general budget.

A number of particular financial arrangements have been adopted, such as the creation of public-private partnerships and equalisation measures (for example, upstream-downstream solidarity at basin level). This equalisation system exists between the users but also between the large and small towns and cities and between the productive and domestic sectors.

In Brazil, the concept of water governance is underpinned by application of the “participation in the formulation of water policies” principle introduced into law and into Federal state legislation. This innovation is part of the reform that places the basin at the heart of a management system that aims to be more democratic and more functional. The law hopes to encourage the users to abandon a sectorial approach in favour of a more integrated management of resources, in particular to promote the creation at basin level of organisations inspired by the French model, as mentioned earlier. Having said this, we must continue our efforts to ensure participation by the public.

In the field of transboundary IWRM, it should also be pointed out that our country shares its water resources with 10 other nations, including France, via French Guyana. We have bilateral agreements with the countries of the La Plata basin and multilateral agreements, in particular concerning the major Guarani aquifer, shared by 4 countries.

To summarise this presentation, we can state that Brazil has the financial means to improve IWRM, but that there are continuing problems with management of services and management of the resource itself.





Mr. Ger Bergkamp

Head of the Water Programme at the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, IUCN



Question asked by the moderator: are you satisfied with the economic weight given to natural ecosystems in IWRM financing?

We have for a long time felt that it was absolutely essential to invest in the IWRM sector, but have seen that little consideration was given to the basic resource. Ecosystems are however essential in providing the water on which we depend. It is therefore just as important to invest in the preservation of natural ecosystems as in infrastructures, if water resource management is to be optimised.

It is true to say that some ecosystems are veritable infrastructures in their own right and must therefore be protected in order to optimise management of water and the associated services. This is a fundamental aspect of our approach to ecosystems and we are looking to develop a methodology to determine how to assess the contribution made by them.

A second key aspect is to adapt financing mechanisms to the actual use made of these natural ecosystems, which could be referred to as "remuneration of ecosystem services". A simple method would be to set up a system of financing by the various users of the resources (consumers, industry, etc.).

Thirdly, we could say that if we consider natural ecosystems to be infrastructures in their own right, they can be incorporated into a "national account", as a component of the gross domestic product, in order to measure their economic value. Similarly, if infrastructures are built, they are also included in the "national account".

At present, in many countries, investing in these "natural" infrastructures implies that they be considered as public resources. We must determine the best mechanisms allowing the most effective investment, by mobilising funds from a variety of users.

In short, it is necessary to estimate the value of natural ecosystems as fundamental elements of the water resource. To support this approach, financing arrangements will need to be set up to allow investment and to enable them to be considered as a part of the "national budget".





Mr. Michael Scoullos

**Chairman of the Global Water Partnership – Mediterranean, GWP-Med,
representing Dr. Letitia Obeng, Chair of the Global Water Partnership**



Question asked by the moderator: how does the GWP intend to promote the transition from the "management plan" stage to the concrete implementation stage?

This question is an important one for the GWP. We not only want to help maintain the interest of the various countries in IWRM, but we also want to find the best solutions for optimised financing. The GWP is working at several levels: internationally for example, we are looking to promote principles relating to good governance and financing.

There can be no reliable financing without good governance, once again at all levels. It must be possible for the bottom-up and top-down approaches to meet. Similarly, efforts must be made to create an operational legal framework and encourage all forms of dialogue.

Within the framework of the Camdessus panel, the Gurria task force and the various workshops organised in Asia, Africa and around the Mediterranean, the GWP is mobilising to ensure that these principles are implemented and that the subject of financing is an integral part of these discussions.

We also initiated a process to encourage infrastructure financing from the private sector, with the World Bank and the European Commission, and a number of initiatives were undertaken, with supervision by the European Union Water Initiative (EUWI). The GWP is also attentive to the importance given to the education and instruction of the populations, without which nothing can change.

We would conclude by underlining the fact that the financial aspect is a key element of trans-boundary IWRM: the GWP is therefore working with the German and Greek Governments in order to build on all those elements that will enable IWRM to become a "sustainable" concept.





Conclusions by M. Jean-François Donzier
Permanent technical secretary of the International Network of Basin Organisations, INBO

The round-table proved to be very fruitful in that it showed that not only is IWRM becoming a crucial component, but also and indeed above all, that we still have a long way to go. IWRM is progressing, but in some countries implementation is only just beginning, in other words with the construction of conventional infrastructures. We must also look at the quality of sanitation and the importance attached to ecosystems as true natural infrastructures.



Things are however moving forwards and solutions are appearing. It is also worth noting that when the desire to reform is really present, then things start to get done. Each country has to find the means and the tools necessary for its own organisation, but that requires time ... and financing.



We know that total recovery of costs is an illusion and is unachievable, as much in the industrialised nations as anywhere else. User participation is a determining factor in helping to move matters along more quickly. The various partners are all the more willing to contribute to IWRM financing when they are informed of the ways and means of this financing. They can thus see for themselves that the efforts demanded of the various stakeholders involved in IWRM financing are being put to good use.

A final key aspect is the financing of essential services with a view to actually achieving “access by all to essential services”. This is an essential step in the fight against poverty and the encouragement of development, which requires long-term resources (via public funds and by mobilising local resources).

The bottom line for IWRM financing is considerable and the financial efforts devoted to water will have to be more than doubled.

To conclude this round table, and as requested by Mr Ambassador Stéfani, we can confirm that **the conclusions of this side-event will be reported at the 5th World Water Forum in Istanbul, next March**, given that the International Network of Basin Organisations is responsible for the “Basin management and transboundary cooperation” session, together with UNESCO, and will act as the spokesperson for these exchanges.

Similarly, the French Water Partnership, which will be actively participating in the Istanbul Forum, aims to continue the debate on IWRM financing within the largest international water event, with the desire of raising the profile of this issue still higher on the political agenda, of debating solutions to current and future IWRM financing issues, of formulating concrete proposals and bringing them to the attention of the world, and contributing to generating strong political commitment to this issue.





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