INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
IN THE RHONE-MEDITERRANEAN AND CORSICA BASIN

9th Intervention Programme
of the Water Agency
2007 - 2012

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LET’S LOOK AT SOME MAPS
The Rhone-Mediterranean and Corsica Basin stands for:

- The French Mediterranean catchment area
- 135,000 km² (South-east quarter of France)
- 50% of territory in mountain area
- 14 million inhabitants
- 20% of France’s industrial and agricultural activity
- 50% of France’s tourism activity
Establishment, pursuant to a Law (1964), of a river basin management and an economic tool based on charges

Payment of charges
“Polluter Pays” and “Taker Pays”

Allocation of financial resources to the water policy: aid

Definition and implementation of water policy by the stakeholders
ORGANISATION

The River Basin Committee
- A kind of Water Parliament
- Votes on the charges
- Votes on policy orientations

The Management Board of the Agency
- Votes on the intervention programme: 6 years
- Sanctions annual budgets
- Grants financial aid

The Water Agency
- State public corporation
- Implements the budget
- Prepares decisions
THE DESIGN PROCESS

IN GENERAL:
- Delicate exercise in dialogue between the water stakeholders who are “ordered” to agree
- Some thirty meetings arranged around various configurations (BC, Geographic Committees, MB…)
- A state of play and a shared diagnosis on the measures to be taken
- Assess the cost of funding and the desired aid volume
- Balance expenditure with income: the charges

FOR THE 9th PROGRAMME:
- Economic stakeholders eager not to increase the charges
- Local communities keen to control the price of water, but also aware of the investments required
- Will to implement the European directives
- Attention paid by all to fair treatment
THE SOLUTIONS ADOPTED

- Synthesis, complementary approach between thematic and territorial policies
- Promote preventive actions
- Reinforcement of partnerships (agreements, charters…)
- Priority to results-oriented objectives
- Consistent ecological taxes
- Take into account climate developments (global warming, droughts, floods…)
WHAT THE 9th PROGRAMME IMPLIES

Preserve or restore the status of the aquatic ecosystems by contributing to:
- the goals of the Water Development and Management Master Plan (WDMMP) and EFD
- the implementation of national plans
- the solidarity among the stakeholders in the river basin

In the following policy areas:
- drinking water
- urban pollution
- toxic pollution
- agricultural pollution
- resource management
- wetlands
- knowledge, monitoring, and network of measures
- concerted management, solidarity
- communication and education
WHAT THE 9th PROGRAMME IMPLIES

Intervention through charges

*These must have an impact on the behaviour of water stakeholders*

- New charges
  (plant protection products, obstacles in rivers…)

- Amendments to existing charges
  (abstraction, municipalities…)
WHAT THE 9th PROGRAMME IMPLIES

Intervention by means of financial aid and advice

A few examples:
- Compliance of sewage systems
- Restoration and reclamation
- of aquatic ecosystems
- Reduction of toxic and hazardous substances
- Quantitative balance between water resources

By acting first and foremost where
there is evidence of water degradation
THE 9th PROGRAMME IN FIGURES

From 2007 to 2012, programme allocations total

3,153 Million

shared between the following policy areas:

- Fight against pollution € 1,841 M
- Management of water resources and ecosystems € 775 M
- Surveys, information, communication… € 117 M
- Miscellaneous (fixed assets, operation, personnel…) € 277 M
- Contributions to State € 143 M
THE MAIN GOALS OF THE 9th PROGRAMME

These goals will serve as a tool to assess the programme implementation.

- 100% of water treatment plants
- over 2,000 EI in compliance
- 60 isolated sites where toxic waste is treated
- 10,000 ha of restored or preserved wetlands
- 20 priority areas including a plan aimed at reducing direct water abstraction
- 25 new contractual procedures
- implemented over priority areas
  - 5 environment education platforms
  - for sustainable development
THE MAIN GOALS OF THE 9th PROGRAMME (continued)

- 45 initiatives aimed at reducing scattered industrial discharges
- 40 physically restored priority basins
- Resource management plans over 100% of priority areas
- Preserve strategic ground water resources for drinking water supply
- 1/3 of work aid allocated to rural municipalities earmarked for back fitting of run-down waterworks
- 100% of priority basins equipped to monitor water resources
  - 40 local management initiatives
  - 25 new contractual procedures
This is indeed a great programme, geared for sustainable planning and development.

And now, a great deal of energy is necessary to implement it.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION