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YELLOW RIVER CONSERVANCY COMMISSION,
Ministry of Water Resources, China
INTERNATIONAL NETWORK OF BASIN ORGANIZATIONS
EU – CHINA RIVER BASIN MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME

Climate Change Adaptation Strategies & IRBM Benchmarking

# BENCHMARKING of INTEGRATED RIVER BASIN MANAGEMENT: Case of BELGIUM

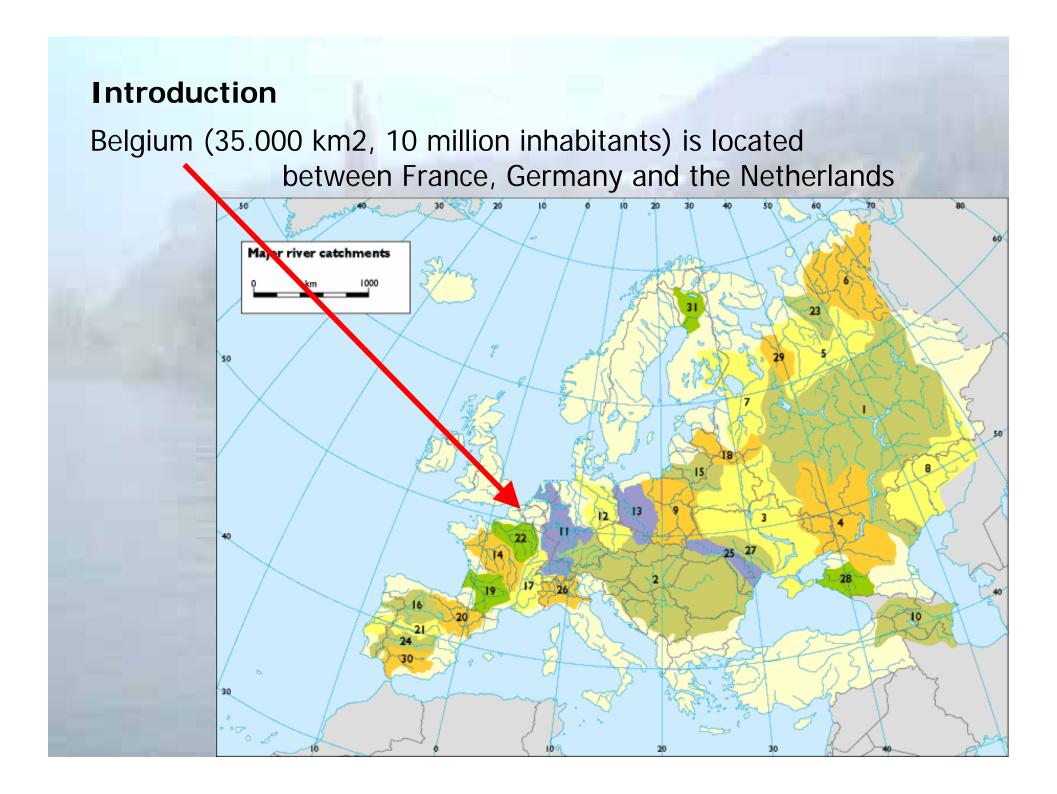
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### **Preamble**

This presentation engages only the responsability of the author and does NOT engage the responsability of the Water Administration of WALLONIA nor the responsability of the INTERNATIONAL MEUSE COMMISSION or INTERNATIONAL SCHELDT COMMISSION



#### Introduction

Despite the small size of the country, Water management in Belgium is not so easy:

- From an institutional point of view :
   Belgium is a federal state, composed of
  - . the federal state,
  - . 3 Regions (Flanders, Brussels-Capital, Wallonia)
  - . 3 Communities

The competences for water management are distributed:

- . Coastal waters: managed by the federal state
- . Ground- and surface water: managed by the 3 Regions
- From the hydrographical point of view:
   Belgium is located in the central part of 2 international districts:
   the Meuse and the Scheldt international districts
   (located between the Seine and the Rhine districts)

# The MEUSE international hydrographic district

35.348 km2

8.8 M inhabitants

5 Member States

8 official partners for the international coordination of water management :

- France
- Luxemburg
- Walloon Region
- Flemish Region
- Brussels Region
- Belgian feder. State
- Germany
- The Netherlands





# **Integrated Water Resources Management in Belgium**

Integrated Water Resources management in Belgium is organized at :

- . local + regional levels (+ coordination between the 3 Regions)
- . international level (transboundary)

The situation of IWRM is presented hereafter at 2 levels:

- 1) in WALLONIA
- 2) in the Meuse and Scheldt international districts

### 3 topics are examined:

- Institutional / legal framework
- Instruments / tools
- Governance / participation process

Wallonia (Southern part of Belgium):

area: 18.000 km²

population (year 2006): 3.4 Million inhabitants

### **TOPIC 1: LEGAL FRAMEWORK**

- < 1999 : IWRM was developed in Wallonia through a voluntary and unofficial cooperation between water actors
- Since the Decree on the management of the water cycle (1999) and particularly since the rewriting of the water legislation into a single code (Code de l'eau – Water Act) (implementation of the WFD):
  - . water is designated as a common good
  - water MUST be managed in <u>an integrated and global</u> <u>approach</u>

### **TOPIC 2: INSTRUMENTS / TOOLS**

- A Platform for Integrated Water management has been created Mission: to gather all the public actors and operators of the water cycle
- 2008: the 2 Ministries involved in water managemement (Ministry of Public Works / Ministry of Natural Resources) became one single Ministry
- Preventive actions PLANS for floods have been elaborated
   The maps of flood risks are already elaborated for the
   whole territory of Wallonia (*Plan PLUIES*)
   The maps were submitted to a public inquiry
   The maps are downlable

# Maps of flood risks



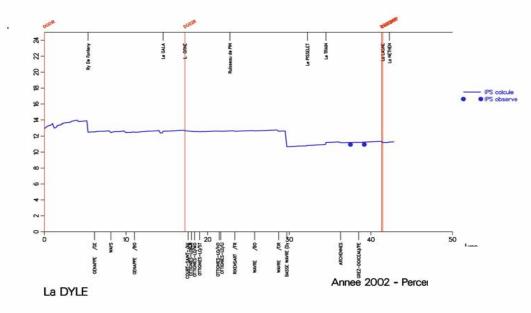
Instruments / Tools (cont.)

- River management takes into account the ecological functions of the rivers
- State of the environment : a set of synthetic indicators has been developed (DPSIR approach)
- Modelling and data bases :
  - ! Modelling is a powerful tool for IRBM
  - . Water quantity: sub-basins and most of the rivers are modelled
  - . Water quality: all the basins and all the rivers are modelled (PEGASE model)
  - Developments have been made for the modelling of biolocial indexes and for the coupling with economic analysis. Various Data bases / GIS applications are progressively gathered

#### **REGION WALLONNE - PEGASE**

INDICES DE QUALITE BIOLOGIQUE : IPS

RW2 Situation actuelle - Annee 2002



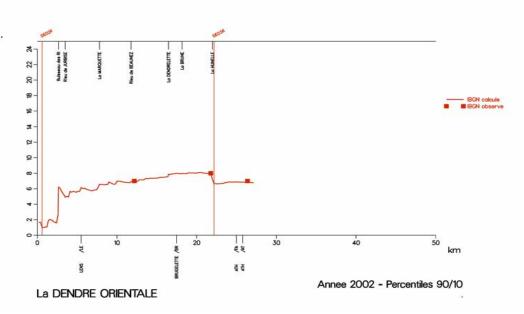
Integrated Water Resources Management in WALLONIA (cont.)

#### **REGION WALLONNE - PEGASE**

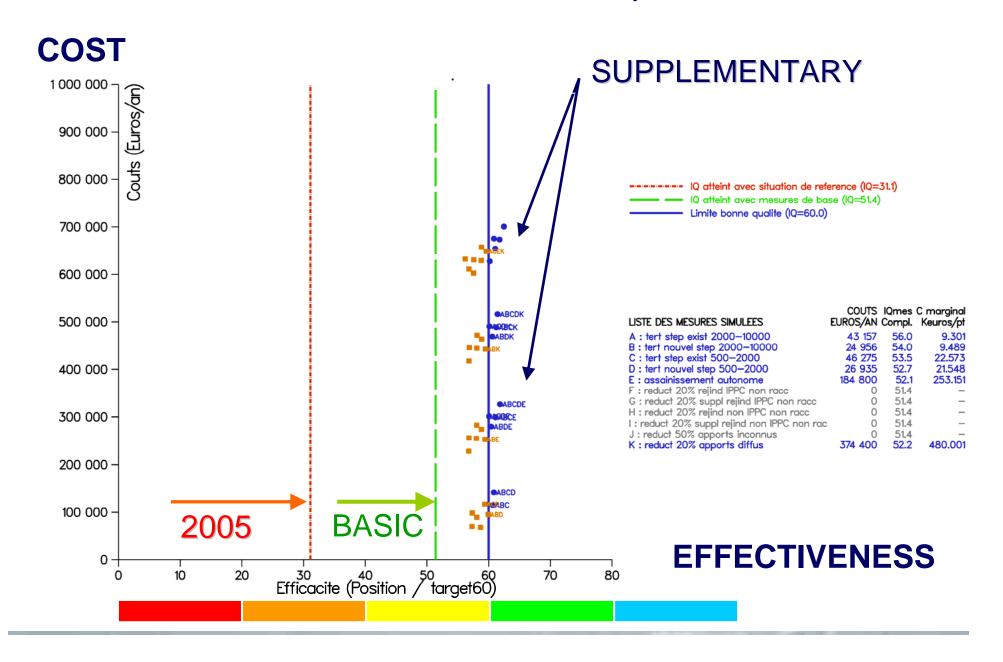
INDICES DE QUALITE BIOLOGIQUE : IBGN

RW2 Situation actuelle - Annee 2002





### SAMBRE sub-basin - Water Body SA17R



### **TOPIC 3: GOVERNANCE / PARTICIPATION PROCESS**

- A 'Consultative Water Commission' elaborates recommandations to the Government All types of stakeholders are members (incl. NGOs)
- In each sub-basin, a participatory body ('Contrat de rivière') has been established: the mission is the communication between stakeholders and the hierarchisation of priorities
- Each Programme of Measures (POM) is submitted to a public inquiry before final approval

#### Meuse international district:

- area: 35.000 km2
- population (year 2006): 8.4 Million inhabitants
- Competent Authorities: France, Luxemburg, Wallonia, Flanders, Germany, the Netherlands

#### Scheldt international district:

- area: 36.416 km2
- population (year 2006): 12.8 Million inhabitants
- Competent Authorities: France, Wallonia, Flanders, Brussels-capital, Belgian federal State, the Netherlands

### **TOPIC 1: LEGAL FRAMEWORK**

- Since 1994: the International Agreement on the Meuse and the International Agreement on the Scheldt organise the international / multilateral cooperation in the 2 basins
- In 2002: new Meuse and Scheldt Agreements in order to improve the cooperation as regards the coordination imposed by the WFD in the international districts

# **TOPIC 2: INSTRUMENTS / TOOLS**

The International Meuse Commission (IMC)
 The International Scheldt Commission (ISC)

These commissions are **concertation** bodies (NOT supranational management agencies)
Consensus is the rule for decision making, each partner has one vote

Each Commission is helped by a secretariat (3 persons full time)

Instruments / Tools (cont.)

Monitoring networks:
 Homogeneous monitoring network have been established for the Meuse river / the Scheldt river
 Objective: to assess in a highly coordinated and comparable way the water quality of the main river (from source to mouth)
 A common data base is elaborated and maintained (French water Agencies)

A report on the water quality is published every year

Discussion began recently on the possible evolution of this network

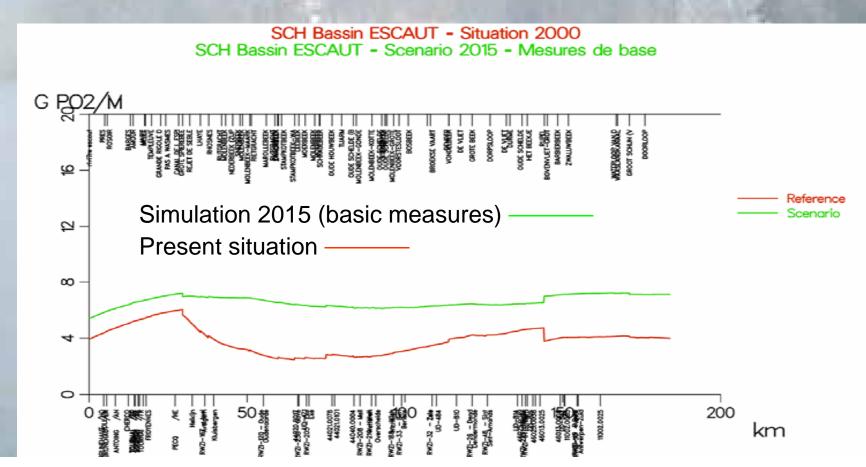
- in order to give a representative picture of the water quality in the whole district (incl. tributaries and small rivers)
- in order to use the data obtained by the WFD Monitoring networks of the partners and used for the WISE reporting

# Instruments / Tools (cont.)

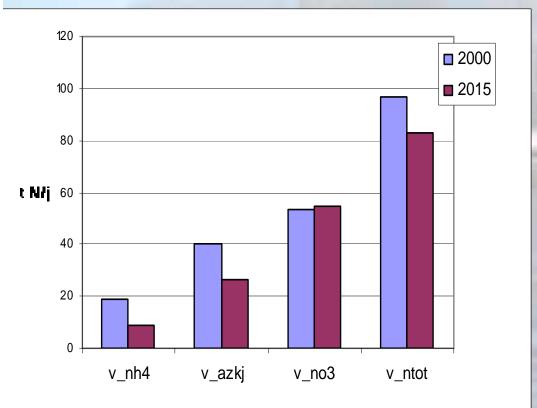
- Transnational Web-GIS applications
   a web-Gis application has been set up (Wallonia DGARNE)
   in order to draw up all the maps at the level of the district and
   thus to facilitate the international coordination
- Transnational modelling a transnational modelling application (PEGASE model) has been developed and used in order to assess the cumulative effect of the POMs of the partners on the water quality in the district. Application was made for the Schelt and the Mosel basins Application for the Meuse basin is running presently

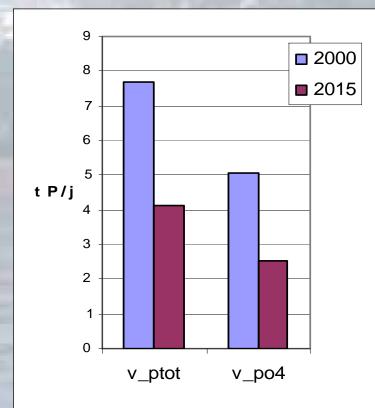
Instruments / Tools (cont.)

Transnational modelling Scheldt basin (PEGASE model)
Longitudinal profile of Dissolved Oxygen concentration (mg/l)



Transnational modelling Scheldt basin (PEGASE model): fluxes N, P





Situation 2000

Simulation 2015 (basic measures)

# Instruments / Tools (cont.)

- WFD District management plan
   Decision of the partners: the only one Management Plan of the Meuse / Scheldt districts will be composed of:
  - an UMBRELLA report (elaborated in collaboration by all partners):
     this report describes the multilateral coordination efforts and results (incl. the coordination of the management plans)
  - . the different management plans / reports of all the partners in the district
- International EWAS systems are operational for the Meuse and for the Scheldt basins
   Tests are made on a regular basis

# **TOPIC 3: GOVERNANCE / PARTICIPATON PROCESS**

International Meuse Commission (IMC)
 International Scheldt Commission (ISC)

These commissions are <u>concertation</u> bodies where the coordination takes place

Since the beginning: NGO's are observers

Since 2002: NGO's participate in the working groups

and receive all documents

# Integrated Water Resources Management Benchmarking in Wallonia / in the Meuse & Scheldt international Districts

### **CONCLUSIONS**

Until now, NO formal Integrated Water Resources management Benchmarking process does exist in Wallonia nor in the Meuse / Scheldt international districts

#### But:

Many elements including Performance Indicators are present today and can feed a benchmarking process

The benchmarking process would be facilitated <a href="IF">IF</a> a consensus can appear at the international level on a general <a href="Iist of indicators">Iist of indicators</a>

