

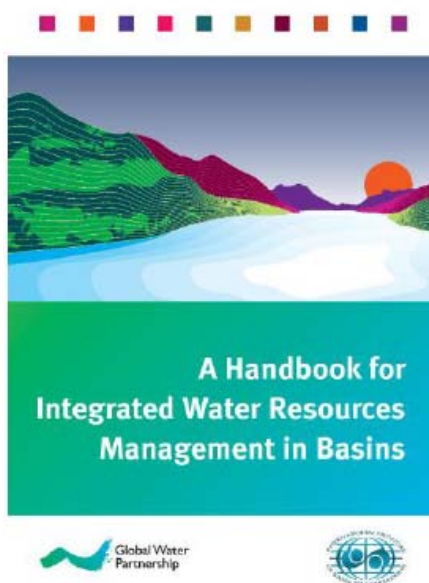
Side Event on GWP/INBO Handbook for Integrated Water Resources Management in Basins



Preparation of the Handbook was supported by the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of France as part of their general support to the GWP and INBO



SUMMARY OF THE SIDE-EVENT
“Recommendations of the Handbook of Integrated Water resources Management in Basins: Responsibilities of basin district authorities and financing”
Wednesday 19th August 2009 – 17.45 – 18.45
 Stockholm International Fairs Centre (Stockholmsmässan) in Älvsjö, Room T6



17.45-17.50	<p>WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION, OBJECTIVES OF THE GWP/INBO HANDBOOK Mr Martin WALSHÉ – Deputy Executive Secretary of GWP</p>
17.55-18.20	<p>PANEL DISCUSSION</p> <p>Challenges for financing IWRM, implementation in France Mrs Véronique VERDEIL - Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs (FRANCE)</p> <p>Organization of the Swedish river basin district authorities Mr. Björn SJÖBERG - Director of Skarrak and Kattegat District Authority (SWEDEN)</p> <p>Organization in Hungary, roles and responsibilities in a transboundary basin shared by EU / non EU countries: the Danube case Mr Kalman PAPP – Head of Hungarian Water Authorities (HUNGARY)</p> <p>Implementation of basin management on the Senegal River Mr Tamsir NDIAYE - International Organization for the Development of the Senegal River (SENEGAL)</p> <p>IWRM Guidelines at River Basin Level produced by UNESCO and NARBO Mr. Eugene Z. STAKHIV – International Center for Integrated Water Resources Management (ICIWaRM), USACE</p>
18.20-18.40	<p>QUESTIONS / ANSWERS WITH THE AUDIENCE</p>
18.40-18.45	<p>MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE HANDBOOK FOR BASIN AUTHORITIES Mr Jean-François DONZIER – Permanent Secretary of INBO</p>



Mr Martin WALSH, Deputy Executive Secretary of GWP

To address the multi-faceted nature of water management, many countries are introducing an integrated approach to water resources management at the national and basin level. This includes improving institutional arrangements and working practices. To support this process, the Global Water Partnership (GWP) and the International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO) have jointly produced this handbook to provide guidance for improving the governance of freshwater resources. In particular, the focus is on effective implementation of the integrated water resources management (IWRM) approach. This handbook was realised with the support of the French Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs. The side-event is co-organized by the International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO), the Swedish River Basin District Authorities, the Global Water Partnership (GWP). The objective is to highlight some case studies concerning the roles and responsibilities of basin authorities and the financing challenges.

Mrs Véronique VERDEIL, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs (FRANCE)

In France, water policy is decentralized at river basin level since 45 years: the Law of 16 December 1964 created both an advisory body (the Basin Committee) and an executive and financial organism (the Water Agency) in each large river basin. The system of Basin Committees aims at ensuring stakeholders' coordination and representativeness. All the users are represented. Each Basin Committee is in charge of water planning since the 90' and is currently preparing the river basin management plan and the programme of measures for WFD implementation. The Water Agency collects water taxes on water users through the water bill according to the polluter-pays and user-pays principle. This amount (12 billion euros for 2007-2012) is redistributed through the Action Plan of each Water Agency, which supports (grants, loans) the investments made by the municipalities, industrialists, farmers or other water users to preserve the water resource and improve the performances of the treatment plants. It also supports scientific and economic studies, as well as actions for awareness in the river basins. In France, this is a real added-value to have a financial instrument at river basin level, which allows financing water policy at the right level, to redistribute the funds between the users (solidarity) and to concentrate them on local priorities.





Mr. Björn SJÖBERG, Director of Skagerrak and Kattegat District Authority (SWEDEN)

Sweden is divided into five river basin districts. In each district, one County Administrative Board is appointed as River Basin District Authority. The Authority is responsible for the WFD implementation and coordinates the elaboration of the management plan and the programme of measures. A Water Council gathering municipalities, landowners, industries, nature organisations, fishing organisations and agricultural organisations, works with each County Administrative Board. Mr Sjöberg underlined three stakes: working process must take into account uncertainty, public and stakeholders involvement is of high importance but requires resources and long-term commitment, transparency is fundamental but difficult to attain.

Mr Kalman PAPP, Head of Hungarian Water Authorities

Mr Papp described the situation of Hungary regarding water and the organization of water management in Hungary. Hungary is situated within the drainage basin of the River Danube and is surrounded by 7 neighbouring countries with which it has bilateral agreements. Flood plains cover close to one-quarter of the country's territory, affecting 2,5 million inhabitants (frequent inundations). The first priority was the prevention and management of floods. Hungary then passed from flood management to river basin management. Water management is based on the catchment principle since the 50's. Mr PAPP explained how the 12 Regional Directorates for Environment and Water (depending on the Ministry of Environment and Water) organize themselves to manage water according to river basins.



Mr Tamsir NDIAYE, International Organization for the Development of the Senegal River (SENEGAL)

Mr Tamsir NDIAYE presented the key features of the Senegal river: 1800 km flowing across through Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, Senegal, high variability and irregular flows from 1 to 10 depending on years with frequent droughts. The optimal development of this potential is a strategic stake for the 4 riparian countries. An innovative governance structure was established in 1972: the Senegal River Basin Organization (OMVS), to promote socio-economic development of the Basin through rational, coordinated and integrated water resources management. The international legal status of the Senegal river implies both ruling of national and shared sovereignty; the notion of «Jointly Owned Infrastructure» eclipses national sovereignty with an emphasis on regional benefits and bundling. The Water Charter of the Senegal River (2002) defines the strategic options for water use and allocation among sectors. The activities of the OMVS: building water infrastructures, environmental preservation, water resources development at local level, improvement of social conditions, institutional modernization and capacity building.



4 types of financing sources: annual contribution of Member States in equal shares; revenue from the sale of energy; revenue from fees paid by water users; loans and grants from donors; grants from technical and financial partners. Difficulties in mobilizing financing: Revenue from sales of Kwh and m3 of water are too low due to low pricing; Poor collection of fees from water users; Late payment of electricity bills by Water Companies; Delays in the mobilization of the States' contribution. Lessons learnt: Ensure good communication with users to raise their awareness to pay for access to water, electricity; Capacity building for provision of billing and collection services; Meet all commitments vis-à-vis financial partners to maintain trust; Ensure a transparent management of provided funds; Set an institutional framework to develop good water governance; Use up in time the funding received to remain credible vis-à-vis partners.

Mr. Eugene Z. STAKHIV, International Center for Integrated Water Resources Management (USA) and Co-Chair of Steering Committee of “IWRM Guidelines”

Mr. Eugene Z. STAKHIV presented the objective of the “IWRM Guidelines”: to help to introducing IWRM at the river basin level in the context of existing institutions and resources, and evolving towards a fully integrated approach. The “IWRM Guidelines” are divided into two parts: part 1 on principles already launched at the 5th World Water Forum on 16th March 2009 in Istanbul, and part 2 on implementation which will be published later in the frame of the UN World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP). The Guidelines are based on a spiral model of IWRM: new solutions are added at each stage, responding to evolving needs and social, economic and environmental circumstances. We have now to enter in a long-term planning and take account of the climate change and long-term consequences with a cost-benefit assessment integrating these costs.



Mr Jean-François DONZIER, Permanent Secretary of INBO

The International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO) was created in 1994 to facilitate operational exchanges between basin organizations and promote IWRM. It is currently present all around the world, with 188 members in 68 countries, with several regional networks. The Handbook for IWRM in basins gives practical advice and examples on several key issues for basin authorities: institutions, participation, fundings, planning, programming, monitoring, information. In particular, significant increase in training and educational programs is necessary to answer to the adaptation needs in cooperation building and basin management. Mobilization of financial resources is also necessary according to the polluter/user-pays principle. Investing in IWRM it pays back! If we are not able to mobilize enough money, we shall not have the fresh water we need!