

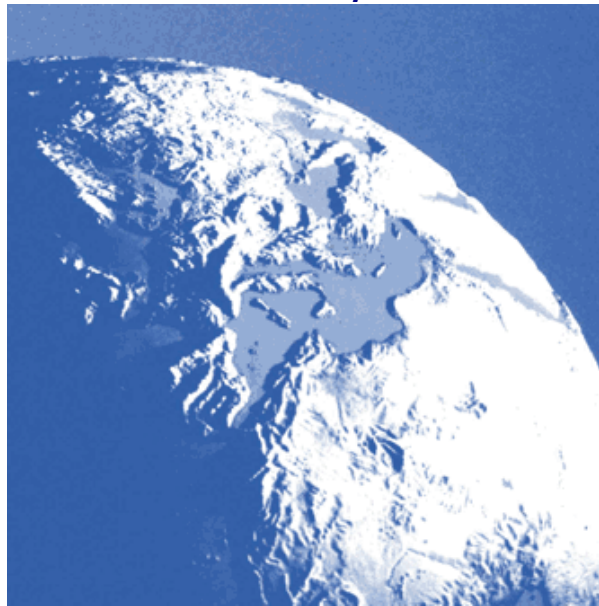


Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development

Monitoring progress and promotion of water demand management policies

Work plan 2006 - 2007

Summary



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Mai 2006

CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES

The Mediterranean is more challenged by sustainable development than other ecoregions. The Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (21 rim countries and the European Community) set up a Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD) in 1996. In November 2005, they adopted the “Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development” (MSSD) proposed by the Commission, in line with the Johannesburg Summit pledges. The Strategy’s first priority field of action is improving integrated water resource and demand management aimed chiefly at:

- supporting demand management policies to stabilise water demand through the reduction of losses and wasteful use and to increase the added value created per cubic metre of water used,
- integrated management of catchment areas, including surface and ground water resources and ecosystems and depollution objectives,
- access to drinking water and sanitation to deliver the Millennium Goals,
- promoting participation, partnerships and co-operation.

The MSSD is a “framework strategy” that can inspire national strategies (NSSD) currently being formulated or contribute to updating them, on the understanding that each country sets its own objectives. The MSSD also calls for a stepping-up of regional co-operation on targeted sustainable development objectives, and strengthened follow-up of progress and regional experience sharing.

As the Mediterranean environment and sustainable development observatory and MCSD support centre, Plan Bleu was asked to help the Contracting Parties to develop an information base to facilitate MSSD and NSDS implementation and follow-up. More specifically, Plan Bleu was tasked for 2006-2007 with putting together and disseminating a set of indicators for MSSD follow-up, documenting the indicators, further developing the analyses, and identifying good practices with the volunteer countries, EU bodies and the regional initiatives and partners concerned in water demand management. It was tasked with co-organising with its partners the 3rd regional MCSD Workshop in early 2007 on the topic “water and sustainable development in the Mediterranean, follow-up on progress and promotion of water demand management policies”.

This 3rd regional MCSD workshop on water management follows on from those staged in Fréjus (France, 1977) and Fiuggi (Italy, 2002), attended by a large number of water directors, experts, NGOs and other water resource and environment actors.

The 1997 Fréjus workshop made initial general findings that supply growth - the traditional response to increased demand - is approaching or set to reach its limits and is encountering growing social, economic or ecological obstacles in almost all rim countries. The prospective efficiency gains mean that water demand management (WDM) must be seen as the best way forward for water policies in the Mediterranean. The 2002 Fiuggi workshop yielded material on a series of case studies in WDM and gave an opportunity to discuss policy implementation tools.

The issue now is to speed up mainstreaming of WDM across water, environmental and development policies (especially agricultural policies), and if need be to help countries frame or improve their NSSD and “efficiency plans”. Better mainstreaming of sustainability goals across co-operation and development aid policies is another focus of concern to which the follow-up, analysis and co-operation to be done in 2006-2007 through the MCSD must contribute.

ACTIVITY AND REGIONAL FORUM

Objectives:

- to take stock of progress measured against indicators, comparative water use performances (transport, distribution and use efficiency), identify actual examples of good practices and analyse policy instruments implemented.
- to enable a regional sharing of experiences.
- possibly, to frame proposals for advancing WDM policies nationally and regionally and for strengthening the follow-up/evaluation of progress on water and sustainable development in the Mediterranean (beyond the issue of WDM proper).

5 proposed priority issues:

- Factoring natural water needs for ecosystems into policies
- Factoring WDM into agricultural policies
- Factoring WDM into urban and industrial water management, (including energy and tourism),
- Factoring WDM into water policies,
- Factoring WDM into co-operation and development aid policies.

Preparation:

- experts committee (Plan Bleu and partners, 4 volunteer countries, organising country);
- call for papers;
- Terms of reference with indicator sheets;
- National expertise in the volunteer countries;
- complementary regional analyses;
- support missions in the volunteer countries and production of national reports and case studies (approximately 15 to 20 case studies) aiming to cover at least 15 rim countries. Plan Bleu in-country support missions will help leverage and involve the key actors concerned.

Timetable:

- September 2005: The first meeting of experts committee ;
- December 2005: production a brochure announcing the regional workshop in 2007 ;
- March 2006: Elaboration a call of papers which was distributed at the Mexico World Water Congress ;
- April 2006: finalisation of indicator sheets and report Terms of reference ;
- February/June 2006: in-country support missions ;
- September 2006-January 2007 2nd support missions ;
- September 2006: The second meeting of experts committee ;
- March 2007: Regional workshop.

Partners:

Support will be provided by GWP Med, which links together the key Mediterranean networks with water resources expertise. The GWP Med Secretariat (provided by MIO-ECSDE), the IME (for urban and industrial water), the CIHEAM (for agricultural water) and MedWet (for ecosystem water) will have a strong involvement as co-organizers. Close synergies with other expert institutions, including SEMIDE, is also hoped for.

Financing:

MAP/Plan Bleu, project partners, France, workshop host country or town (to be fixed).

Participants:

50 to 100 people (national water, agriculture and environmental directors and experts, business leaders, NGOs, regional institutions).

Follow-up on the workshop:

After the workshop, Plan Bleu with the support of its partners will write a regional summary scoping document, possibly of up to forty pages: an introduction to the issues, a 10 to 15 page summary of how the Mediterranean matches up to the priority indicators, 15 pages reporting a score of examples of good practice (at the local, national and regional co-operation levels), a 5 to 7 page summary on WDM policy trends, a 2 to 4 page conclusion. The results will be presented to the MCSD and submitted to scrutiny meetings in the volunteer countries for discussion on action to be taken at national level.