



Preparing the special ad hoc Euro-Mediterranean ministerial Conference on water

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“Ministers welcome the upcoming 4th Conference of Water Directors of the Euro-Mediterranean and South Eastern European Countries on 10-11 December 2007, which that will build on the conclusions of the third Conference, 6-7 November 2006, in Athens.”

IX Euro Med Ministerial, Lisbon



“Furthermore, Ministers take note of the possible organization of a special ad hoc Euro-Mediterranean ministerial Conference on water to take place in the second semester of 2008. The terms of reference for the Conference shall be agreed upon by all partners in due time.”

IX Euro Med Ministerial, Lisbon



Why a new Ministerial Conference?

- To agree on a new « political agenda » on the basis of:
 - Common needs
 - Common objectives
 - Past experiences
 - Emerging issues



Why a new Ministerial Conference on water?

- Do we need a new political agenda for water in the Mediterranean?
 - Do we identify Common needs?
 - Do we have Common objectives on water?
 - Did we learn from past experiences?
 - Do we need to meet emerging issues?



Common objectives

- Water is a priority issue for all the Mediterranean partners and will gain in importance as water scarcity becomes more pressing.
- The purpose of cooperation in this area will be as follows:
 - to take stock of the situation taking into account current and future needs;
 - to identify ways of reinforcing regional cooperation;
 - to make proposals for rationalising the planning and management of water resources;
 - to contribute towards the creation of new sources of water.

1995 Barcelona Programme of work



Turin 1999

- Reassert and complete the principles and areas for action of the Rome Mediterranean Charter for Water of 1992 and the Marseilles Declaration of November 1996
- Approve the general strategic guidelines of the Action Plan, with six priorities: IWRM for local drinking water, sanitation, Local water resources and water demand management (quantity and quality), drought and water scarcity, irrigation, non-conventional resources, national and local scenarios



Turin (2)

- Consider the following activities,
 - Strengthening institutional capacities and training;
 - Exchange of information and know-how in a coherent manner;
 - Transfer of know-how and technology;
 - Awareness raising, mobilisation and promotion of commitment by all beneficiaries;



Water demand increasing

- Agriculture
- Urbanisation
- Industrial development
- Coastal urbanisation

All that leads to an increase of water demand and pollution.



Climate change

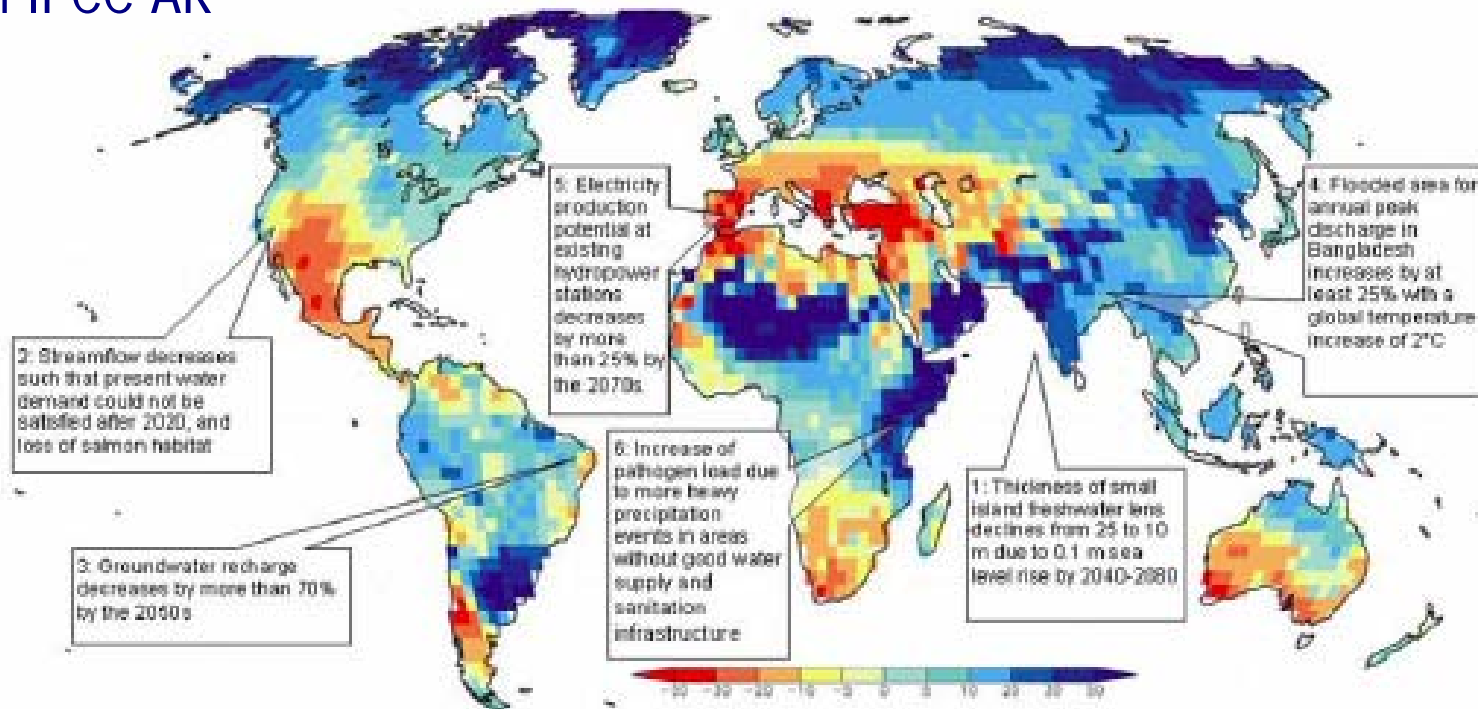
- Semi-arid and arid areas are particularly exposed to the impacts of climate change on freshwater
- Many of these areas (e.g., Mediterranean basin, western USA, southern Africa, and north-eastern Brazil) will suffer a decrease in water resources due to climate change.
- Groundwater recharge will decrease considerably in some already water-stressed regions, where vulnerability is often exacerbated by the rapid increase in population and water demand.

4th IPCC AR



Climate change

4th IPCC AR



Blue: relative increase in runoff; red: relative decrease



A new approach: IWRM

Successful integrated water management strategies include

- capturing society's views,
- reshaping planning processes, coordinating land and water resources management, including adaptation to climate change.
- stressing water quantity and quality linkages,
- conjunctive use of surface water and groundwater,
- protecting and restoring natural systems,
- ensuring public participation flow of information.

» 4th IPCC AR



IWRM

- Broad scope
 - All kind of waters: the whole cycle (including the marine)
 - All uses: health and sanitation, urban development, industrial production, environment
 - All aspects of management:
 - Quantity and quality
 - Economic



Are our policies adequate?



PLAN D'ACTION POUR LA MÉDITERRANÉE
MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN



PNUÉ

POLITIQUES DE L'EAU DES PAYS MÉDITERRANÉENS

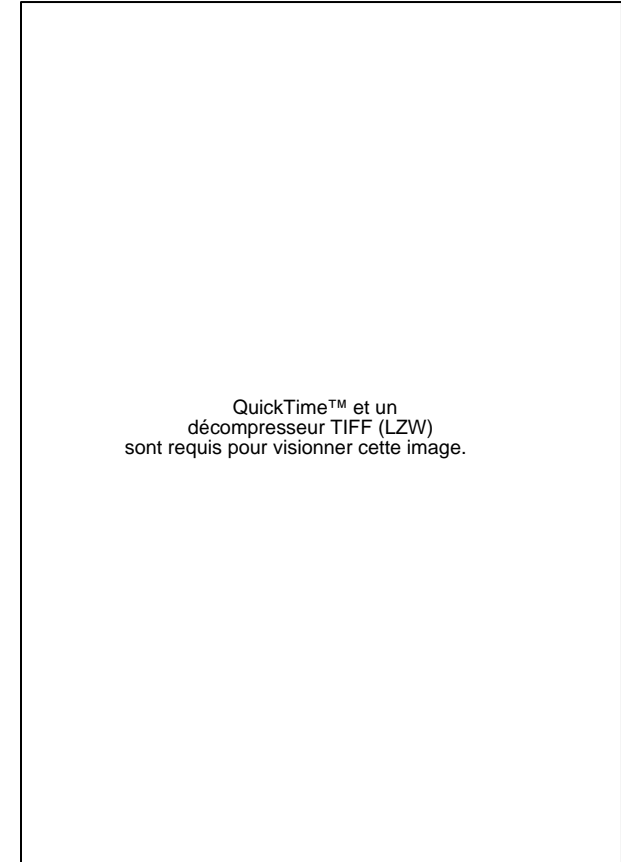
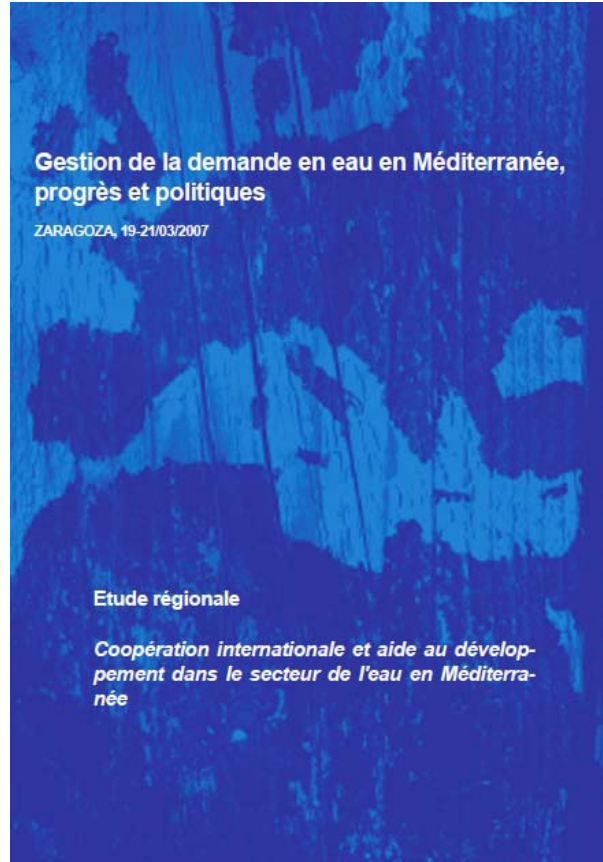
SYNTHÈSE RÉGIONALE DES DOSSIERS PAYS
(Pays du Sud et de l'Est)

Selmin BURAK

2002

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BLUE PLAN – REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE



QuickTime™ et un
décompresseur TIFF (LZW)
sont requis pour visionner cette image.



Past national experiences

- Very complex sector
 - Geopolitical
 - Socioeconomic
- Deficit of implementation (e.g. no advances on IWRM or demand management)
- Deficit of planning (i.e. no link between new activities and water availability)
- Agricultural uses very demanding



Past cooperation experiences

- Complex international systems
- Need to streamline funding criteria, e.g. to incentivate advances on IWRM or demand management)
- No incentives to support strategic approaches linking planning and development
- Agricultural uses too much present



Summarising

- Problems continue to be there
- New issues are emerging
- New approaches are proposed but are more challenging than expected
- Some indications of the need to improve the international cooperation system

Many reasons to have a ministerial Conference



Preparatory work

- Assess the nature and importance of the problems:
 - political,
 - technical,
 - funding
- Identify possibilities for improvement
 - Improving policies
 - Enhancing working or institutional arrangements



Better coordination

- Take into account the different frameworks:
 - political processes
 - funding instruments
 - national policies
- Engage all actors in
 - Looking for simplification
 - Improving coordination
 - Make the best use of current working and institutional arrangements.



EU case

- A global political framework: ENP
- A regional component: EUROMed
- A particular initiative: H2020

- A global environmental commitment: EUWI
- A regional component: EUWI Med



New Strategy

- Elaborate a common long-term strategy
- To
 - Reaffirm the need for action
 - Agree in a Vision and a set of strategic goals
 - Allow the identification of priorities
 - Identify the means to deliver
 - Precise practical measures to ensure coordination



New Strategy

- Improving water governance
 - National level
 - International cooperation
- Shifting towards management of water demand, water use efficiency, etc
- Dealing with climate change
- Quantity and quality
- Links with socioeconomic development
- Mission for Water Directors



Many thanks!

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