



The INBO/GWP Handbook on Integrated Water Resources Management in Basins

dear friends,

today, many countries in the world have made a basin-based approach the basis of their national legislation on water or are trying it out in pilot projects.

for exemple, our international network of basin organizations (INBO) now regroupes 188 FULL MEMBERS or PERMANENT OBSERVERS in 68 COUNTRIES.

To facilitate this process, the Global Water Partnership (GWP) and the International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO) combined their efforts to write The "Handbook on Integrated Water Resources Management in Basins".

All along the handbook, the analysis is based on 84 practical examples or case studies, coming from all the regions of the world.

Based on these experiences, in the handbook we recommend that water resources management be organized:

- 1) on the relevant scale of the local, national or transboundary basins of rivers, lakes and aquifers;
- 2) with the participation in decision-making of the concerned Governmental Administrations and local Authorities, the representatives of different categories of users and associations for environmental protection or of public interest;
- 3) based on integrated information systems, allowing knowledge on resources and their uses, polluting pressures, ecosystems and their functioning, the follow-up of their evolutions and risk

assessment AND enabling dialogue and negotiation AND evaluating the efficiency of the taken measures;

4) on the basis of Management Plans, or master plans, DEFINing the medium and long-term objectives to be achieved through successive multiyear Programs of Measures and priority investments;

5) and with the mobilization of specific financial resources, based on the "polluter pays" principle and "user-pays" systems, to implement these operational multiyear ProgramS of Measures and INVESTMENTS.

Appropriate legal frameworks should be established to take into account these five global principles and to specify and clarify the RESPONSIBILITIES and tasks of basin organizations or river district authorities ALREADY existing or to be created.

depending oN history or political will, these basin authorities may be:

- Administrative Commissions, international commissions in particular, with or without A permanent secretariat,**
- Arbitration « Authorities »,**
- Regional or basin “branches” or Directorates of ministries or National Water public bodies,**
- Organizations taking charge of contracting large structuring or combined installations;**

and more and more:

- « water Agencies », carrying out tasks for medium-term planning and for collecting new water charges.**

alongside these basin authorities, Users’ participation should be organized within bodies for dialogue and a real mobilization of partners.

It may be recommended that this participation be organized in river basin committees or councils.

significant means should be devoted to raise awareness among the public, and especially women and youth, and enable their

participation, and to the training of their representatives regarding decision-making.

The investments necessary for the sustainable management, conservation and control of water resources and ecosystems will require high and permanent financial resources.

All analyses converge to show that, in general, traditional centralized public budgets (taxes) have reached their limit to meet alone all the financial needs of the water sector.

Of course, It would be advisable that Official bi- and multilateral Development Aid be especially mobilized to support projects for creating or reinforcing local, national or transboundary basin organizations.

Therefore, it is necessary to set up everywhere complementary funding systems, that are based on the users' participation and common cause.

Specific complementary financial resources should be planned FOR, WHICH combine administrative taxes, the pricing of community services and basin water charges.

This arrangement can also create an incentive to limit wastage and reduce or decontaminate discharges.

The setting up of such water taxes has to be gradual in order to adapt these modern systems to the proper situation of each country and to the solvency of local populations.

TO FINISH, LET ME REMind you THAT There are 276 transboundary rivers over the world and 274 transboundary aquifers, AS Water has no national or administrative boundary.

in any case, It may be recommended, within international conventions or directives when they exist, that cooperation agreements be signed by all the riparian Countries concerned and that management plans be designed at the level of all their river basins, to implement a share vision of the common future.

The creation of international commissions or transboundary basin authorities should enable better dialogue, the exchange of useful information, the solving of possible conflicts and the sharing of benefits from better joint management and the strengthening of transboundary cooperation.

to conclude, let us say that Strong political will and long-term commitment are prerequisites for sustainable basin management and transboundary cooperation FOR FACING global changes!

Significant progress has already been made since the 1990s with reforms undertaken in many regions and countries around the world.

The gained experience now allows sayING that integrated water resources management at the level of river and aquifers basins is a real advantage: YES, it works!

These experiences allowED proposing IN OUR HANDBOOK guidance to countries which want to implement efficient basin management and reinforce their transboundary cooperation.

Now we may go ahead for better basin management around the world: yes we can!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND ATTENTION!