



## The keys to creating a Basin Organisation

To ensure good Integrated Basin Management, the following recommendations have been defined:

When the Basin Organisations are created, the administrations and institutions in charge of water management and governance must be inventoried in order to identify any gaps.

The Basin Organisation must work in synergy with the existing institutions and thus provide real added value, with a precise definition of its mandate.

If it is to truly represent the exercise of water democracy, the Basin Committee must have real decision-making powers concerning financing, management and planning.

Apart from its role in the distribution of the resource, the Basin Organisation must be able to act in other fields such as preservation of ecosystems and combating flooding and drought.

The Basin Organisation must have a large degree of budgetary and decision-making independence from the central power, while at the same time being subject to oversight.

## Know-how shared internationally...

The following examples illustrate the involvement of the French stakeholders in international cooperation in the field of basin management:

### “Twinning”:

- “TWINBASIN” basin twinning programme concerns 41 operations with 70 basin organisations around the world
- twinning projects financed by the European Commission in Poland, Bulgaria and Romania, for implementation of the Water Framework Directive, with intervention by the International Office for Water and the water agencies
- twinning of the Senegal River Basin Development Authority, the Hungarian Basin Authority, the Piracicaba Basin in Brazil, and basins in Morocco with Water Agencies

### Project aid and technical assistance:

French cooperation (French Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs, French Development Agency and French Global Environment Fund) supports shared basin organisations in Africa (Congo, Niger, Volta, Nile, Senegal, Gambia) and Asia (Mekong).

### Help with setting up observatories and information systems:

In the Irtych basin, or for the African Water Information System (AWIS), or as part of the ANBO (African Network of Basin Organisations).

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# INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT'S TERRITORY: THE RIVER-BASIN

## Three priorities:

- Building a shared vision of the basin's issues and concrete, costed action programmes
- Developing a true water democracy throughout the basin
- Mobilising dedicated, long-term financing reflecting the solidarity of all parties concerned

It will be impossible to meet the Millennium Development Goals for drinking water and sanitation without Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM).

## The advantages of IWRM at basin level

Basin management has grown rapidly in many countries.

The International Network of Basin Organisations (INBO), created in 1994, today has 185 members or observers in 68 countries. It is a global platform for the exchange of practices, experiences and know-how concerning integrated management at basin level.

IWRM at basin level is a concrete solution for meeting the population demand for various uses of water: agriculture, drinking water, energy, tourism, aquaculture, navigation, etc.

At the 16<sup>th</sup> Commission on Sustainable Development in 2008, the UN confirmed their interest in water management at basin level.

In its European Water Framework Directive (WFD) of 2000, the European Union extended the “hydrographic district” organisation arrangement to all member States.



Meeting water challenges requires the implementation of an Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM). Experience shows that IWRM at basin level offers a real governance advantage.

## The preconditions for concrete implementation of IWRM

Water resource management must be organised in accordance with the following six major principles:

- **Manage the water at the level of the river, lake or aquifer catchment basin**, whether local, national or transboundary,
- **Use integrated information systems**, in order to identify the ecosystems, the resources, their various uses and pollutions, evaluate the risks and monitor trends,
- **As the management basis, draw up development and management plans**, or master plans, produced jointly and setting medium and long-term objectives,
- **Define and implement successive multi-year priority action and investment programmes**, and ensure that they are monitored and assessed,
- **Ensure participation in the decision-making process**, alongside the government administrations and local authorities concerned, by the representatives of the various categories of users and environmental or common interest protection associations,
- **Mobilise specific financing** based on application of the “polluter pays” and “user pays” principles, in order to ensure that each user pays according to the impact created.



## Transboundary IWRM

Around the world, the basins of 263 rivers or lakes, including 69 in Europe and 63 in Africa, as well as hundreds of aquifers (69 for example in Africa), are shared by at least two neighbouring countries and sometimes many more (up to 18 in the case of the Danube).

In these shared basins, it is essential for the countries to establish an international agreement regulating basin management, as recommended by the United Nations Agreement of 1997 (Convention on the Law of Non-Navigational Uses of International Watercourses) the ratification of which is being supported by the FWP.

### The Aquifer System of the Northern Sahara

The Aquifer System of the Northern Sahara is setting up a discussion mechanism enabling the three countries concerned (Algeria, Libya and Tunisia) to ensure joint management of the basin on the basis of validated technical information concerning the state of the resource and the pressures on it.

France supports this approach through a FGEF project providing it with the appropriate, costed tools necessary for implementing development alternatives compatible with preservation of the resource.

## French know-how: 45 years of experience of IWRM at basin level

**The Basin Committees and the Water Agencies were created in 1964.**

The Basin Committees, also known as “Water Parliaments” enable the various stakeholders and users to be involved in the decision-making process. They take part in drafting the basin management plans (Water Development and Planning Master Plan - SDAGE).

The Water Agencies are public institutions which prepare and execute the decisions reached by the Basin Committees.

### The Water Agencies financing system

This system is the tool for financing management, protecting and mobilising the resource and stimulating investment. The Water Agencies implement their action programmes thanks to environmental taxation built around the “polluter pays”, “user pays” and “water pays for water” principles. They receive levies from all users whose abstractions and discharges affect water quality and flow conditions. Their 9<sup>th</sup> action programme for 2007 – 2012 amounts to 11.6 billion euros, covered in full by these levies. In addition to the incentive effect of these levies, the money thereby collected contributes (up to 30 %) to the financing of the equipments and constructions projects which could improve the quality of the water resource and of the aquatic environments (it amounts to 30% of the total equipments financed in France).

### The French National Water Information System

This is run by the French National Office for Water and Aquatic Ecosystems (ONEMA).

It allows the harmonisation and exchange of data and facilitates access to any information of use for the management of water resources and aquatic ecosystems. It is connected to the Water Information System for Europe (WISE) enabling France to comply with the requirements of the WFD concerning monitoring of the chemical and ecological state of the water masses.

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