



**RESEAU INTERNATIONAL DES ORGANISMES DE BASSIN  
INTERNATIONAL NETWORK OF BASIN ORGANIZATIONS  
RED INTERNACIONAL DE ORGANISMOS DE CUENCA**

## **REPORT OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE PARIS, 29 and 30 APRIL 2002**

### **INBO-GWP ASSOCIATED PROGRAM « ASSISTANCE WITH THE CREATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF BASIN ORGANIZATIONS »**

In accordance with the terms of reference of the Associated Program's inception phase, agreed to by the GWP and INBO Secretariat in September 2001, the meeting of the AP Steering Committee took place in Paris on the INBO Secretariat premises on 29 and 30 April 2002. The participants were:

- Mr. Yvan CHERET, GWP-TEC, President of the Steering Committee
- Mr. Tomasz WALCZYKIEWICZ, INBO President
- Dr. Costica SOFRONIE, General Manager of Apele Romane and his deputy Mrs. Aurora VASIU (CEENBO Technical Secretariat)
- Mr. Pierre ROUSSEL, President of the Board of Directors of the Rhone-Mediterranean-Corsica Water Agency
- Mr. Juan Manuel ARAGONES BELTRAN, President of the Jucar Hydrographic Confederation
- Mr. Mamadou SYLLA, GWP/WATAC (Mali)
- Mr. Eduardo MESTRE, LANBO Permanent Technical Secretary
- Messrs. Daniel VALENSUELA and Jens FUGL, GWP
- Mr. Jean-François DONZIER, INBO Permanent Technical Secretary and his deputy Mr. Denis FOURMEAU.

In addition, a representative of the International Hydrological Program of UNESCO, (HELP initiative), Mrs. Camille TALAYSSAT, attended the committee meeting as invited observer.

The aim of this meeting of the steering committee, which followed INBO Liaison Bureau meeting held in Seville at the end of February 2002 and precedes the General Assembly to be held in Quebec (28 to 30 May 2002), was to study the progress made with the Associated Program and to select the projects which will be validated by Quebec General Assembly for the Associated Program.

For this purpose, a letter calling for projects had been sent in November 2001 by INBO Permanent Technical Secretariat (PTS) to all INBO regional networks and GWP regional TACs, in order to impulse new initiatives related to river basin management. This letter has raised great interest as the file prepared by INBO Secretariat included no less than 46 projects or initiatives, at different stages of implementation (see Annex 1). To these 46 projects or initiatives should be added 11 new projects for Central and South America handed by Mr. Eduardo Mestre on behalf of LANBO, which had held it workshop in Chile the previous week.

Before starting the analysis of these projects, the committee opened with a reminder and a progress report on INBO regional networks and on the various objectives (« outputs ») of the Associated Program.

## **I – A PROGRAM WHICH RELIES ON REGIONAL NETWORKS, MOBILIZING REAL PROJECTS**

As regards the regional networks, INBO has, from the beginning, chosen the creation of regional networks which could give an impulse to projects. This «subsidiarity » principle, included in INBO statutes, is in accordance with the GWP operating mode as the latter also relies on regional technical advisory committees.

The Latin-American Network (LANBO) was the first regional network thus created in 1998. It has now 142 members and already a sub-network, for Brazil only (REBOB). The first General Assembly of the Central and Eastern European Network of Basin Organizations (CEENBO) took place in Sinaia (Romania) in February 2002. CEENBO has now 26 members in 9 countries.

Other initiatives, inspired by the same logic, are emerging: thus, the GWP-WATAC representative could present the project for the creation of WANBO (West African Network of Basin Organizations) which will hold its Constitutive Meeting in Dakar at the beginning of July. It should be noted that the creation of WANBO had been initiated during a preparatory meeting, held in Dakar from 13 to 15 March 2002, in which INBO Secretariat participated in accordance with its tasks planned for in the Associated Program inception phase.

In the same way, a project for the creation of SASNET-RBO (South Asia Network of RBOs) which followed the workshop held in Kandy (Sri Lanka) in January 2002, still with active participation of INBO-PTS, was submitted to the Steering Committee.

Finally, an initiative is being prepared to create a Mediterranean network of basin organizations (although this project is sensitive as there is great difference in the situations of the countries of the European Union (to which the Water Framework Directive imposes management by « river basin districts »), and the Southern and Western countries of the Mediterranean in which few basin organizations really exist (unless rare exceptions – Morocco, Algeria, and possibly Turkey and Jordan, etc.).

Whatever the case, this great interest in integrated river basin management, of which the creation of regional networks of basin organizations is only one aspect, is the proof that logic (either technical, economic or socioeconomic) can finally be reconciled with political constraints. This is rather positive for INBO. In this respect, the associated program, prepared in 1997 with interactive work with GWP, is undoubtedly a great opportunity to promote this idea of river basin management but also, and above all, to give it a tangible content.

Indeed, in opposition to the large international conferences (Johannesburg 2002, Kyoto 2003) which often struggle to translate into real actions the declarations of intent, even widely peppered with the usual « magic words » (stakeholders, gender, integrated water resource management, etc.), the Associated Program can mobilize our stakeholders in the field, through the regional networks, to initiate real projects that will be submitted to donors. The idea is indeed to explain to the donors that before striving to invent new projects it would be better for them to prioritize those presented by professionals. At the same time, INBO and its members should react to the changes in strategy of these donors and even be able to quickly propose projects that suit these changes. The recent document of the European Union (Water Management in developing countries - Policy and Priorities for EU Development Cooperation ») handed to the participants of the Steering Committee is an example, among others, of these new opportunities opened to INBO.

## **II - THE 4 OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSOCIATED PROGRAM: FIRST LESSONS LEARNED AND COMMENTS**

### **II-1 – TWINNING OF BASIN ORGANIZATIONS**

Experience has shown that, although it is very easy to find common grounds between basin organizations, to sign a memorandum of understanding even a cooperation agreement and organize mutual visits, it is rather difficult to make the partners' staff work together on joint projects. This is an excellent idea, very mobilizing, but this should be limited to the cases where the two partners have really things to do together.

As most of these twinning arrangements, initiated within INBO, are recent, it is not yet possible to exactly know why some twinning arrangements are more successful than others.

### **II-2 - MOBILIZATION OF THE EXPERTISE OF BASIN ORGANIZATIONS**

This expertise should allow pilot projects to be implemented. The topics which are the commonest are the following:

- « participatory management » (in which there is the notion of « stakeholders » among others)
- Integrated monitoring systems. This implies preliminary work of data standardization and aggregation
- Planning. It may either concern long-term planning (20 years), with notion of « masterplan », or operational planning (5 years) in which priority investment plans must be defined. There still remain the issues related to
- the means and methods for financing priority plans. Should the basin organizations be financially independent or not? If the answer is positive, this implies that there is an « economic critical mass » in the basin (i.e. enough industries, inhabitants and farmers who can pay taxes or at least participate in the financing of the system, etc.).

Beside these four significant cross-topics found everywhere, there might be other more specific demands such as erosion control or flood control.

### **II-3 – SYNTHESIS OF KNOWLEDGE AND KNOW-HOW**

This objective of the associated program arises from the fact that there are different types or models of basin organization. They are either builders or « developers » (infrastructures for power generation, irrigation, water transfers, navigation, etc.) such as the Tennessee Valley Authority or the Spanish Hydrographic Confederations, or administrative and financial-purpose organizations such as the French Water Agencies, or finally more « spontaneous » organizations, sometimes considered as NGOs (mobilizing the users for the protection of a resource, for instance).

Of course, there may be cross-links between these three types. In any kind of assumption, no one is, as such, a perfect model to copy but it is nevertheless advisable to continue working on these different concepts in a more scientific/methodological manner, for evaluation purposes. The GWP Toolbox will be a precious tool for this purpose. This does not exclude the organization of training courses or at least information sessions on the different kinds of basin management.

## **II-4 – DOCUMENTATION SYSTEMS**

This issue could also be called the « networking of available information » (to avoid its loss). The participants of the Steering Committee saw a demonstration of the access to EMWIS and AQUADOC-INTER. These projects, which aim to gather the written information (documents) and useful information (« who does what and where »), are open projects, i.e. non competitive projects, on what goes on elsewhere on the Internet (Globwinet, with its African branch Sawinet, for instance). The GWP could play an essential part in establishing a link between these different projects while those would keep their specificity.

## **III - STUDY AND CLASSIFICATION OF THE PROJECTS**

In total, the Steering Committee studied 61 documents, including 57 on initiatives or projects which could be « approved » for the Associated Program. All these documents are listed in Annex 1, according to their geographic region of origin. It would be tedious to analyze them in detail, as these projects will be dealt with again during the INBO General Assembly in Quebec. The reader can also refer to the tables given in Annexes 3 and 4 which present these projects according to other classification grids (classification by output, classification by possible source of finance). Finally, be reminded that some of these projects, many twinning arrangements in particular, have already been launched (they are given in Annex 2 which provides a progress report of the associated program at 04/01/2002) and are only mentioned here for information purpose, while others are still in their inception phase.

Hereafter are some general and quick comments following the project order given in Annex 1.

### European projects

Projects 5, 6 and 7 are European projects. Generally speaking, the European projects are today rather demonstration projects (LIFE) or professional training projects (LEONARDO). Although the LIFE projects are mainly intra-community, the LEONARDO projects can include Eastern Europe. These three projects, dealing with output 3 of the Associated Program, cannot be born without financing from the Commission, the final proposals for Leonardo projects will be submitted at the end of May 2002, and those for LIFE in November 2002.

Project 8 corresponds to what could be called an « inverted invitation to tender » : a donor (the Netherlands here) is looking for an intelligent project and a partner to establish a twinning arrangement (here between the Rhine Commission and an African river basin to be determined). It is a very stimulating initiative which proves, if need be, the attractiveness of the associated program and its acknowledgement by the donors. Relations should be now established with WANBO which is being created.

### Eastern Europe

Seventeen documents on Eastern European projects were studied. The Polish projects (9 to 15 and also project 20) will be detailed during a meeting in Poland on 13 May. It would be advisable to start, on this occasion, thinking about extending national projects to the region.

There are also six twinning arrangements in the Eastern European projects (projects 16 to 19, 21 and 25), mentioned here for information purpose, although some of them are very recent. They are all interesting as they are all different and they outline the issues that the partners wish to deal with. It is to be noted that part of the financing of these twinning arrangements is planned in the funds already allocated by the French Government (Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Ministry of the Environment) for projects 10 and 22.

### The Mediterranean Region

Three « Mediterranean » projects are mentioned. Although the creation of the MED-INBO network is already partly financed by GWP, following MEDA invitations to tender a proposal « creation and strengthening of basin organizations in the Mediterranean region » is being finalized to be submitted before 31 May 2002, tender deadline. A representative of INBO-PTS will go to Egypt from 11 to 15 May to identify the potential Egyptian partners who could join INBO in this proposal. Be reminded that the MEDA bids can only be submitted by non-profit organizations, which is the case of INBO. Be also reminded that the MEDA program only finances 80% of the requested budget.

Twinning 27 is financed out of the own budget of the involved Agencies and project 28 has only, up to now, funds from the French Ministry for Foreign Affairs, to which could be added funds from the German GTZ. However GTZ has reservations about the future of the Algerian agencies, while the French opinion is that, to the contrary, these agencies will have a future only if donors support their start phase. Thanks to GWP support, the associated program is by definition the ideal place to settle this debate.

### Africa

The emergence of African projects was unanimously acclaimed by the participants of the Steering Committee.

The projects 29 presented by NBA (Niger Basin Authority) were mentioned at first. Although the networking of documentation centers should obviously be linked to the SADIE-Eau project (project 32), the twinning arrangements proposed (NBA/OMVS and NBA/Mekong Commission) raised great interest as it is the first example of a «South-South » twinning. However, the documents handed by NBA do not mention the reaction of OMVS and of the Mekong Commission to this proposal, even that these organizations have been informed. Whatever the case, they should be helped as, a priori, the concerned organizations have not the resources at their disposal to implement this cooperation and therefore donors should be involved. This implies a true twinning agreement which identifies two or three real issues on which future actions will have to focus. In particular, the next Constitutive meeting of WANBO, to be held in Dakar in July, should be the occasion for the organizations to detail the projects they had presented (see project 33).

Project 30 was disregarded as it came from a consulting firm (the partners looked for by the associated program being a priori non-profit organizations). It may however get associated to a public partner to present the project.

Project 31 presented by IWMI obviously belongs to output n°3. The problem arises from the fact that this initiative of organizing courses on river basin management does not originate from the river basin organizations themselves, while logic would require that the expertise thus mobilized be as tangible as possible to allow a real transfer of practical know-how. In addition, IWMI's acknowledged competence notwithstanding, this project might bear the risk of starting again the old partition between French Speaking Africa and English Speaking Africa. It was unanimously agreed that IWMI be invited to participate in the WANBO constitutive meeting in July 2002.

To the contrary, project 32 (SADIE-Eau) is not the nth tentative of reinventing the wheel as it benefits from the experience and know-how acquired by the AQUADOC-INTER and EMWIS projects. To be clear, as the design and development costs have already been amortized in AQUADOC and EMWIS, it is now possible to implement SADIE-Eau at least cost and make it later the future information network of WANBO.

It is obvious that all these African projects could and should be linked, in one way or another, to the future creation of WANBO, West African Network of Basin Organizations (project 33). Although we should applaud this African initiative, the difficulties of such an enterprise should be kept in mind. Indeed, the experience, acquired by INBO and LANBO for several years now, shows that it is difficult to gather the financial resources needed for operating such a network. It is an illusion to rely on the members' subscription fees to finance a regional network. Be reminded that the INBO Secretariat itself can only operate because 80% of its budget is financed by the French Government! Therefore, it is clear that a network can only operate if the members finance their own activities (out of their own budget or by requesting funds to donors). The support provided by GWP, especially regarding the acknowledgement of INBO through the Associated Program, is undoubtedly a significant asset for the creation of regional networks.

#### Asia

As for West Africa, the creation of a South Asia Network of Basin Organizations (SASNET-RBO, project 34) shows that the concept is valid and attractive. The SASNET-RBO project has followed the same approach as that adopted by WANBO, in particular with the organization, in January 2002, of a preliminary workshop, to which INBO-PTS contributed. But it went further, regarding the conceptual aspect, as it already submitted a financing request to the Dutch Government, with a cost estimate of the network operation for the next 3 and half years. This estimate amounts to USD 680,000 (375,000 of which are requested to the Netherlands). The Steering Committee considered this estimate very realistic as it is well representative of the real operating costs of a secretariat. It could be useful that WANBO follows suit during its constitutive meeting in July 2002.

Projects 35 and 36 need to be detailed and cannot be retained as presented.

#### Latin America (projects 37 to 56)

LANBO had prepared this Steering Committee during the Panama meeting in October 2001 (which corresponds to the launching of the inception phase of the Associated Program, and thus to the launching of projects), then recently during its Santiago workshop in Chile at the end of April 2002. Both meetings enabled LANBO to play its part not only as an impulse but also as a filter for projects. Therefore, the 11 projects presented by Mr. Mestre were those previously validated by LANBO and only represent half of the proposals received by LANBO. After examination, the Steering Committee disregarded projects 40 and 43 (the latter being similar to project 30, presented by a private consulting firm).

#### Multi-country and miscellaneous projects

Project 57 (AQUADOC Inter) has already been mentioned in section II-4.

Project 58 (HELP : Hydrology for Environment, Life and Policy) was presented by Mrs. Talayssat, who works for the International Hydrological Program of UNESCO. With a clear scientific purpose, this program could usefully involve INBO members. It is thus essential that the basins which participate in HELP attend the Quebec General Assembly, and that a presentation of HELP is made during the General Assembly to attract INBO members (it is planned indeed).

The same comments can be made about project 59, a research project presented by the World Bank: should studies on river basin management be undertaken, it is better that they involve INBO members only for the purpose of capitalizing experience. One may remain skeptical about the proposed approach, which is very « academic », although it is difficult for INBO not to be involved.

As for the two above projects, the Water Academy project, which plans to prepare a methodological guide to help create inter-state commissions on shared waters, clearly belongs to output 3.

As concerns the above, INBO-PTS plans to propose to the next General Assembly the creation of a network of organizations involved in projects for the management of transboundary river basins. This idea could then be presented during the 3<sup>rd</sup> World Water Forum of Kyoto in March 2003.

Output 2 of the Associated Program could also include some pilot projects for the creation of commissions on transboundary rivers (possible candidates: Rio Paz (Guatemala-Salvador), Tisza (Hungary-Romania), Irtysh (China-Kazakhstan-Russia)...)

## **IV CONCLUSIONS**

The first conclusions, that can be drawn from this study, are the following:

- First of all, the inception phase has enabled the emergence of two regional networks (West Africa and South Asia) which are being created. A Mediterranean network is also being studied.

Then, the projects, which have been generated till now, can be regrouped in 4 large sections:

- many twinning arrangements, either already on-going or to be started, provided that their feasibility is proven (NBA/ Mekong River Commission for example). One of the tasks of the PTS during INBO General Assembly will be to play a role of « matrimonial agency »
- pilot projects (organization of river basin committees, planning, financing, monitoring, etc)
- some projects which deal with training or transfer of knowledge and skills (LIFE, LEONARDO, IWMI project, etc), including all projects in Eastern Europe relative to the Framework Directive.
- projects which deal with information systems. Be reminded that these projects are not exclusive, one for another, but they should be consistent for mutual enrichment.

For a first start, this progress report is rather stimulating, although one should insist, once more, on the creation of real tools.

At the geographic level, one may be optimistic as projects are emerging in regions outside Latin America and Eastern Europe, even if these «historical » regions of INBO remain unquestionably preponderant ones.

One could have feared that the approach adopted by the Associated Program might bear the risk of generating many expectations that the Associated Program could not meet. However, the number of projects, either already financed or to which commitments are made by donors, has proven that the philosophy of the associated program is now generally understood, acknowledged and adopted. Indeed, the GWP Associated Programs are not « magic » enough to bring automatic funding: they can only make credible actual projects implemented in the field, by providing frameworks. So, it is up to the member-organizations to mobilize themselves, inside INBO itself, or in the Regional Networks either already existing (LANBO and CEENBO) or being created (Asia, Mediterranean region or Africa) to formulate and promote joint projects, to enable their implementation. Any project presented to the Associated Program, after examination by the INBO/GWP Steering Committee, will have a « quality label » which should facilitate its promotion to the donors.

It is true, however, that the associated program is especially efficient in enabling many twinning agreements to take place and that the issue of financing the planned actions included in these twinning arrangements is now to be solved.

These very positive results should be the basis of a new cooperation between GWP and INBO. It could be through a Memorandum of Understanding to be drawn after the Quebec General Assembly. The GWP task of linking the Associated Program to other initiatives under its aegis and allowing them to enhance their complementary character, is essential.

## Steering Committee of 29 and 30 April 2002 List of the documents and projects studied

### **A/ Documents of general information:**

- 1/ Terms of reference for INBO-AP Inception Phase
- 2/ Letter calling for projects sent by INBO secretariat in November 2001
- 3/ Progress report of the Associated Program at 02/15/2002
- 4/ European Commission Paper: "Water Management in Developing Countries Policy and Priorities for EU Development Cooperation" (February 2002), draft resolution (April 2002), and EU Global Water Initiative

### **B/ Project documents, listed by large regions:**

#### European Union

- 5/ INBO-VC: Virtual Community of Basin Organizations (LIFE-Environment project)
- 6/ INBO-VCA: Virtual Community for Collaborative Practical Training of Water Professionals (LEONARDO project)
- 7/ Professional training on integrated water management in European river basins (other LEONARDO project presented by ENGREF)
- 8/ Twinning of the Rhine Commission with an African river basin (UNEP project/ Dutch Ministry of Public Works)

#### Central Europe

- 9/ Implementation of the Water Framework Directive in Central Europe
- 10/ POLAND: Assistance with the decentralized and participatory management of water resources (COCOP project)
- 11/ POLAND: Creation of website for consultation on river basin planning in relation with WFD 2000/60/EU (NB: sub-part of AQUADOC-Inter)
- 12/ POLAND: Definition of good ecological status in coastal and internal waters of Baltic Sea
- 13/ POLAND: Water management plan in the Nysa Klodzka River Basin
- 14/ POLAND: Organization and financing of water management in Wierzyca River Basin
- 15/ POLAND: Monitoring and assessment system for river basins in the area of RZGW-Szczecin
- 16/ POLAND: Twinning Rhine Meuse Water Agency / Szczecin RZGW
- 17/ POLAND: Twinning International Office for Water (Paris)/ Water Management Board (Warsaw)
- 18/ POLAND: Twinning Seine-Normandy Water Agency / Gliwice RZGW
- 19/ POLAND: Twinning Adour-Garonne Water Agency / Middle Vistula RZGW
- 20/ POLAND/BELARUS/UKRAINE: Management of the international waters of the Vistula and its tributary the Western Bug (FFEM project)
- 21/ ROMANIA: Twinning Loire-Brittany Water Agency / APELE ROMANE
- 22/ ROMANIA: Strengthening skills for water management in Romania (COCOP + MRPE project)
- 23/ ROMANIA / HUNGARY: Transboundary river basin management in the Tisza basin
- 24/ HUNGARY: New Vasarhelyi Plan (Tisza region)
- 25/ HUNGARY: Twinning Seine-Normandy Water Agency / National Water Board (VIZUGY)

#### The Mediterranean / North Africa

- 26/ MED-INBO: a) creation of the network with GWP support  
b) MEDA invitations to tender "creation and strengthening of basin organizations in the Mediterranean region"
- 27/ MOROCCO: Twinning Adour-Garonne Water Agency / Oum Er Rbia Agency
- 28/ ALGERIA: Assistance to the River Basin Agencies (FSP project)

## Africa

29/ Niger Basin Authority (NBA): 4 projects

- twinning NBA / OMVS (Senegal)
- twinning NBA / Mekong River Commission
- harmonization of environmental policies and legislation in the Niger river basin
- networking of NBA's documentation centers

30/ Africa Infrastructures Foundation (NIGERIA): Equitable and Effective Transboundary Surface Water Resources Governance in West Africa

31/ IWMI (Africa Regional Office, SOUTH AFRICA): Capacity Building for Basin Organizations

32/ SADIE-Eau: African system for disseminating information on water

33/ WANBO: West African Network of Basin Organizations

## Asia

34/ SASNET-RBO: South Asia Network of Basin Organizations

35/ Regional Water Partnership - Central Asia (Aral Sea Basin)

36/ PHILIPPINES: Davao River Conservation

## Latin America

37/ MEXICO: Water Information and Consultation Centers (CICA)

38/ MEXICO: Cooperation agreement between the Seine-Normandy Water Agency and the National Water Commission (twinning Seine-Normandy – Cuenca del Valle de Mexico)

39/ GUATEMALA/ SALVADOR: Sustainable water management in the Rio Paz transboundary basin (FFEM project)

40/ BRAZIL: Creation of river basin agencies for Rios Macae/ Macabu/ Lagoa Feia

41/ BRAZIL: Participatory management of water resources in the Jiquirica river basin

42/ BRAZIL: Cooperation agreement International Office for Water / National Water Agency

43/ PARAGUAY: Land use planning in micro-basins

44/ BRAZIL/ BOLIVIA/ PARAGUAY/ URUGUAY: Alto Paraguay, Rio Apa and Rio Quarai transboundary river basins

45/ BRAZIL: Twinning Jucar Hydrographic Confederation/ Intermunicipal Consortium of Rios Piracicaba and Capivari.

## Other projects in Latin America, handed by Mr. Eduardo Mestre (LANBO)

### Creation and strengthening of river basin organizations:

46/ Belize (BELIZE)

47/ Usumacinta (MEXICO / GUATEMALA)

48/ Ilopango (SALVADOR)

49/ Reventazon (COSTA RICA)

50/ Tarcoles (COSTA RICA)

51/ Esteli (NICARAGUA)

52/ Lerma-Chapala (Guanajuato State, MEXICO)

53/ Paute (CHILE)

54/ Elqui (CHILE)

55/ Mendoza (ARGENTINA)

56/ Piracicaba and Capivari (BRAZIL)

### Multi-country and miscellaneous:

57/ AQUADOC-INTER

58/ HELP Pilot Phase Drainage Basins

59/ WORLD BANK Research Project: "IRBM and the Principle of Managing Water Resources at the Lowest Appropriate Level"

60/ Water Academy: "Strategic guide to help in the creation of inter-state international commissions for shared waters"

61/ FRANCE: International conference "Integrated Management of Upper River Basins" Megeve, 5 and 6 September 2002

## Steering Committee, 29 and 30 April 2002

### **A/ Regional networks:**

- 26/ MED-INBO: a) creation of the network with GWP support
- b) MEDA invitations to tender "creation and strengthening of basin organizations in the Mediterranean region"
- 33/ WANBO: West African Network of Basin Organizations
- 34/ SASNET-RBO: South Asia Network of Basin Organizations

### **B/ Twinning arrangements:**

- 8/ Twinning of the Rhine Commission with an African river basin (UNEP project/ Dutch Ministry of Public Works)
- 16/ POLAND: Twinning Rhine Meuse Water Agency / Szczecin RZGW
- 17/ POLAND: Twinning International Office for Water (Paris)/ Water Management Board (Warsaw)
- 18/ POLAND: Twinning Seine-Normandy Water Agency / Gliwice RZGW
- 19/ POLAND: Twinning Adour-Garonne Water Agency / Middle Vistula RZGW
- 21/ ROMANIA: Twinning Loire-Brittany Water Agency / APELE ROMANE
- 25/ HUNGARY: Twinning Seine-Normandy Water Agency / VIZUGY
- 27/ MOROCCO: Twinning Adour-Garonne Water Agency / Oum Er Rbia Agency
- 29/ Niger Basin Authority (NBA): 2 projects
  - twinning NBA / OMVS (Senegal)
  - twinning NBA / Mekong River Commission
- 38/ MEXICO: Cooperation agreement between the Seine-Normandy Water Agency and the National Water Commission (twinning Seine-Normandy – Cuenca del Valle de Mexico)
- 42/ BRAZIL: Cooperation agreement International Office for Water / National Water Agency
- 45/ BRAZIL: Twinning Jucar Hydrographic Confederation/ Intermunicipal Consortium of Rios Piracicaba and Capivari.

### **C/ Training, transfer of knowledge and skills:**

- 5/ INBO-VC: Virtual Community of Basin Organizations (LIFE-Environment project)
- 6/ INBO-VCA: Virtual Community for Collaborative Practical Training of Water Professionals (LEONARDO project)
- 7/ Professional training on integrated water management in European river basins (other LEONARDO project presented by ENGREF)
- 9/ Implementation of the Water Framework Directive in Central Europe
- 10/ POLAND: Assistance with the decentralized and participatory management of water resources (COCOP project)
- 11/ POLAND: Creation of website for consultation on river basin planning in relation with WFD 2000/60/EU (NB: sub-part of AQUADOC-Inter)
- 22/ ROMANIA: Strengthening skills for water management in Romania (COCOP + MRPE project)
- 28/ ALGERIA: Assistance to the River Basin Agencies (FSP project)
- 29/ Niger Basin Authority (NBA): 2 projects: harmonization of environmental policies and legislation in the Niger river basin and networking of NBA's documentation centers
- 31/ IWMI (Africa Regional Office, SOUTH AFRICA): Capacity Building for Basin Organizations
- 32/ SADIE-Eau: African system for disseminating information on water
- 37/ MEXICO: Water Information and Consultation Centers (CICA)
- 57/ AQUADOC-INTER
- 58/ HELP Pilot Phase Drainage Basins
- 59/ WORLD BANK Research Project: "IRBM and the Principle of Managing Water Resources at the Lowest Appropriate Level"

60/ Water Academy: "Strategic guide to help in the creation of inter-state international commissions for shared waters"

61/ FRANCE: International conference "Integrated Management of Upper River Basins"  
Megeve, 5 and 6 September 2002

**D/ Pilot projects:**

12/ POLAND: Definition of good ecological status in coastal and internal waters of Baltic Sea

13/ POLAND: Water management plan in the Nysa Klodzka River Basin

14/ POLAND: Organization and financing of water management in Wierzyca River Basin

15/ POLAND: Monitoring and assessment system for river basins in the area of RZGW-Szczecin

20/ POLAND/BELARUS/UKRAINE: Management of the international waters of the Vistula and its tributary the Western Bug (FFEM project)

23/ ROMANIA / HUNGARY: Transboundary river basin management in the Tisza basin

24/ HUNGARY: New Vasarhelyi Plan (Tisza region)

39/ GUATEMALA/ SALVADOR: Sustainable water management in the Rio Paz transboundary basin (FFEM project)

41/ BRAZIL: Participatory management of water resources in the Jiquirica river basin

44/ BRAZIL/ BOLIVIA/ PARAGUAY/ URUGUAY: Alto Paraguay, Rio Apa and Rio Quarai transboundary river basins

Projects selected by LANBO: Creation and strengthening of river basin organizations:

46/ Belize (BELIZE)

47/ Usumacinta (MEXICO / GUATEMALA)

48/ Ilopango (SALVADOR)

49/ Reventazon (COSTA RICA)

50/ Tarcoles (COSTA RICA)

51/ Esteli (NICARAGUA)

52/ Lerma-Chapala (Guanajuato State, MEXICO)

53/ Paute (CHILE)

54/ Elqui (CHILE)

55/ Mendoza (ARGENTINA)

56/ Piracicaba and Capivari (BRAZIL)

## Steering Committee, 29 and 30 April 2002

### A/ FINANCING ALREADY ACQUIRED (Note: in addition to the local partners' own budget):

- 9/ Implementation of the Water Framework Directive in Central Europe (Donor: **France**)
- 10/ POLAND: Assistance with the decentralized and participatory management of water resources (Donor: **France**)
- 22/ ROMANIA: Strengthening skills for water management in Romania (**France**)
- 26/ MED-INBO: a) creation of the network with **GWP** support
- 28/ ALGERIA: Assistance to the River Basin Agencies (**France + GTZ (?)**)
- 32/ SADIE-Eau: African system for disseminating information on water (**France**)
- 37/ MEXICO: Water Information and Consultation Centers (**France**)
- 57/ AQUADOC-INTER (**France, European Union**)
- 58/ HELP Pilot Phase Drainage Basins (**UNESCO**)
- 59/ **WORLD BANK** Research Project: "IRBM and the Principle of Managing Water Resources at the Lowest Appropriate Level"
- 60/ Water Academy: "Strategic guide to help in the creation of inter-state international commissions for shared waters" (**France, European Union**)
- 61/ **FRANCE**: International conference "Integrated Management of Upper River Basins" Megeve, 5 and 6 September 2002

### B/ FINANCING REQUEST SUBMITTED OR TO BE SUBMITTED (POTENTIAL DONOR BEING IDENTIFIED)

- 5/ INBO-VC: Virtual Community of Basin Organizations (**LIFE**-Environment project)
- 6/ INBO-VCA: Virtual Community for Collaborative Practical Training of Water Professionals (**LEONARDO** project)
- 7/ Professional training on integrated water management in European river basins (other **LEONARDO** project presented by ENGREF)
- 8/ Twinning of the Rhine Commission with an African river basin (**UNEP** project/ **Dutch Ministry of Public Works**)
- 20/ POLAND/BELARUS/UKRAINE: Management of the international waters of the Vistula and its tributary the Western Bug (**FFEM** project)
- 26/ MED-INBO: b) **MEDA** invitations to tender "creation and strengthening of basin organizations in the Mediterranean region"
- 34/ SASNET-RBO: South Asia Network of Basin Organizations (Donor: **the Netherlands**)
- 39/ GUATEMALA/ SALVADOR: Sustainable water management in the Rio Paz transboundary basin (**FFEM** project)

### C/ PROJECTS WHICH ARE, IN PRINCIPLE, FINANCED OUT OF THE PARTNERS' OWN BUDGET

- 16/ POLAND: Twinning Rhine Meuse Water Agency / Szczecin RZGW
- 17/ POLAND: Twinning International Office for Water (Paris)/ Water Management Board (Warsaw)
- 18/ POLAND: Twinning Seine-Normandy Water Agency / Gliwice RZGW
- 19/ POLAND: Twinning Adour-Garonne Water Agency / Middle Vistula RZGW
- 21/ ROMANIA: Twinning Loire-Brittany Water Agency / APELE ROMANE
- 25/ HUNGARY: Twinning Seine-Normandy Water Agency / VIZUGY
- 27/ MOROCCO: Twinning Adour-Garonne Water Agency / Oum Er Rbia Agency
- 29/ Niger Basin Authority (NBA): 2 projects
  - twinning NBA / OMVS (Senegal)
  - twinning NBA / Mekong River Commission
- 38/ MEXICO: Cooperation agreement between the Seine-Normandy Water Agency and the National Water Commission (twinning Seine-Normandy – Cuenca del Valle de Mexico)

42/ BRAZIL: Cooperation agreement International Office for Water / National Water Agency  
45/ BRAZIL: Twinning Jucar Hydrographic Confederation/ Intermunicipal Consortium of Rios Piracicaba and Capivari.

#### **D/ PROJECTS NOT YET FINANCED**

- 11/ POLAND: Creation of website for consultation on river basin planning in relation with WFD 2000/60/EU (NB: sub-part of AQUADOC-Inter)  
12/ POLAND: Definition of good ecological status in coastal and internal waters of Baltic Sea  
13/ POLAND: Water management plan in the Nysa Klodzka River Basin  
14/ POLAND: Organization and financing of water management in Wierzyca River Basin  
15/ POLAND: Monitoring and assessment system for river basins in the area of RZGW-Szczecin  
23/ ROMANIA / HUNGARY: Transboundary river basin management in the Tisza basin  
24/ HUNGARY: New Vasarhelyi Plan (Tisza region)  
29/ Niger Basin Authority (NBA): 2 projects  
    - harmonization of environmental policies and legislation in the Niger river basin  
    - networking of NBA's documentation centers  
31/ IWMI (Africa Regional Office, SOUTH AFRICA): Capacity Building for Basin Organizations  
33/ WANBO: West African Network of Basin Organizations  
  
41/ BRAZIL: Participatory management of water resources in the Jiquirica river basin  
44/ BRAZIL/ BOLIVIA/ PARAGUAY/ URUGUAY: Alto Paraguay, Rio Apa and Rio Quarai transboundary river basins

Projects selected by LANBO: Creation and strengthening of river basin organizations:

- 46/ Belize (BELIZE)  
47/ Usumacinta (MEXICO / GUATEMALA)  
48/ Ilopango (SALVADOR)  
49/ Reventazon (COSTA RICA)  
50/ Tarcoles (COSTA RICA)  
51/ Esteli (NICARAGUA)  
52/ Lerma-Chapala (Guanajuato State, MEXICO)  
53/ Paute (CHILE)  
54/ Elqui (CHILE)  
55/ Mendoza (ARGENTINA)  
56/ Piracicaba and Capivari (BRAZIL)

## **II 1 - TWINNING OF BASIN ORGANIZATIONS**

Several "prototype" twinning agreements have been signed since the creation of INBO, especially between:

- the Polish RZGWs and the French Water Agencies (the Warsaw RZGW and the Adour-Garonne Water Agency, in particular),
- the Seine-Normandy Water Agency and the Hungarian OVF and APELE ROMANE (Romania), together with English, Bavarian or Belgian similar organizations,
- the Adour-Garonne Water Agency and the Oum Er Rbia Agency in Morocco,
- the Loire-Brittany Water Agency and the Rio Doce Basin Committee in Brazil.

During the World Water Forum of March 2000 in the Hague, the Dutch Government initiated an ambitious program to promote this kind of initiative: several participating organizations declared being interested.

During the INBO General Assembly in Zakopane, a new agreement was signed by the Spanish Jucar Hydrographic Confederation and the Brazilian "Intermunicipal Consortium" of Rio Piracicaba.

Since then, contacts have been maintained between the Dutch Authorities and the Permanent Technical Secretariat to contemplate on a specific support to the activity ① of the Associated Program. The strengthening of the Permanent Technical Secretariat with the secondment of a Dutch civil servant would give a decisive impulse to the twinning arrangements.

A new twinning agreement was signed in Paris on 9 August 2001, between Gliwice RZGW (Poland) and the Seine-Normandy Water Agency (France).

The Loire-Brittany Water Agency (France) and the Apele Romane's Directorate of the Somes Tisza Basin (Romania) also signed an agreement in November 2001.

The cooperation agreement between the Seine-Normandy Water Agency (France) and the Hungarian Water Management Board was renewed on 9 January 2002.

Other twinning agreements were recently signed:

- between the Seine-Normandy Water Agency and the new Mexican Basin Councils (Hidalgo-Valle de Mexico) –an official mission of the Administration Board of the Seine-Normandy Water Agency, accompanied by a representative of INBO PTS, took place in Mexico from 4 to 8 March 2002?
- between the Polish National Water Board and the International Office for Water (it was signed in Paris on 27 February 2002).

Finally, the Rhine-Meuse Water Agency (France) and the Szczecin RZGW (Poland) signed a new twinning agreement on 26 February 2002.

## **II-2 - MOBILIZATION OF THE EXPERTISE OF BASIN ORGANIZATIONS**

Following prior experiments in Indonesia, Brazil, Venezuela, Mexico, Poland and Turkey, several "prototype" projects have been launched since the Zakopane General Assembly. They involve specialists from INBO member organizations:

- Intermunicipal Consortium of the Rio Jiquiriça in Brazil and administrative reforms in several Brazilian States
- The "Sabarmati River" pilot project in the Gujarat State (India),
- Project for the integrated development of the Irtysh river between Russia and Kazakhstan,
- Initiatives on transboundary rivers in Southern Africa (Orange river, etc.),
- The development of Water Agencies in Algeria,
- TACIS project for the reform of water management in Russia (VOLGA project)
- Pre-accession "twinning arrangements" for the implementation of the European directives (mainly the new Community Framework Directive) in the Central and Eastern European countries, candidates for accession to the European Union.

**Several other projects of this kind are being formulated in 2002 within this Associated Program objective, namely:**

- Initiative on the Central American shared river basins, in particular the Rio PAZ basin (Salvador / Guatemala)
- Creation of integrated systems for monitoring water quality :
  - in the Vistula river basin, between Poland, Slovakia and the Ukraine,
  - in the Tisza river basin between Hungary and Romania
- Feasibility study for regional information centers concerning basins in Mexico (Hidalgo-Torreon)

Initiated by INBO, a proposal could be formulated, involving the 5 Mediterranean countries of the European Union (France, Greece, Italy, Portugal, Spain) and the 12 other countries, signatories of the Barcelona agreements, in order to create the Mediterranean Regional Network of INBO (MED-INBO) and start pilot actions relative to river basin management (this within the invitations to bid launched by the European Commission regarding the MEDA II program - offer deadline: 31 May 2002).

## **II-3 - SYNTHESIS OF KNOWLEDGE AND KNOW-HOW**

INBO and LANBO were involved in the launching of a questionnaire of the World Bank whose aim was to **establish a list of the types of basin organizations and analyze their success factors.**

Relying on the RTACs of GWP or on a Scientific Council to be created inside INBO, it would be very interesting to promote studies of this kind for the large regions of the World, as compared to the studies already carried out by ECLAC in Latin America or the LIFE studies on non-point pollution in different countries of the European Union or on the controls of industrial discharges in the Meuse river basin.

The results could then be included into **training modules**, such as those already suggested by INBO General Assembly in Valencia (Spain – November 1997).

The experience gained in Brazil during such training seminars could allow for fast development.

INBO was already involved in:

- the 1<sup>st</sup> National Assembly of the Mexican Basin Councils (October 2000 – Mexico),
- the seminar on the relations between « upper basins » and « downstream regions » which took place in Limoges (France) on 24 September 2001, within the framework of the European INTER-REG II initiative. It involved Spain, France and Portugal. As a result of which, a trilingual guide of recommendations was disseminated by the European Commission.

Unfortunately, the initiative to propose to the 2001 LIFE Program of the European Union a Master on « River Basin Management » for Central and Eastern Europe was not successful.

Otherwise, INBO has already submitted a preliminary proposal to the European Leonardo da Vinci 2002 Program for training on the implementation of the European Framework Directive in Central and Eastern Europe.

In addition, INBO is also **supporting the Initiative of the International Secretariat for Water** of Montreal in the development of « **social engineering** » tools which aim to facilitate the participation of all users and local elected representatives, especially in the new Basin Committees.

Finally, INBO-PTS, under the auspices of the 23 United Nations Agencies concerned with water, has provided its expertise in drawing up a chapter on water sharing of the «World Water Development Report », which will be discussed in Johannesburg in August 2002.

#### **II-4 - DOCUMENTATION SYSTEMS**

The "**AQUADOC-INTER**" system has entered its operational phase and is now operating on-line in France, Hungary, Poland and Romania and will start operating as a prototype in the Czech Republic in the second quarter of 2002.

In Central Europe, Slovakia and Bulgaria are also interested.

A prototype in Spanish and Portuguese languages is under trial for Latin America.

As regards the Mediterranean, the "EMWIS" project is developing. It is supported by the European Union and the French, Italian and Spanish Governments and concerns the 27 countries, signatories of the Barcelona Agreements. It will be the AQUADOC-INTER correspondent to relay and disseminate the information coming from INBO members. The Algerian Water Agencies play an important role. INBO could develop a feature on river basin management as a support to the creation of MED-INBO.