THE WFD IMPLEMENTATION IN SPAIN: AN INDEPENDENT EVALUATION

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FUNDATION FOR A NEW WATER CULTURE
The WFD implementation in Spain implies deep changes in the water policy:

GOALS:
From a policy oriented to the supply and distribution of water resources to a policy oriented to achieve a good ecological state of all water bodies

CONCEPTUAL APPROACH:
From water as economic resource to water as multifunctional good
From management of exploitation systems to management of ecosystems

INSTITUTIONAL CHANGE:
Users’ responsibility
Participated decision making processes
Integration of water policy requirement in the rest of policies
La FNCA has done an active following up of the whole process of elaboration and approbation of the WFD, and it has been supporting actively the application of the WFD.

The FNCA’s evaluation of the WFD implementation in Spain starts from a clear perspective:

- Fully exploitation of the WFD potentialities for protecting, conserving and restoring water bodies and related ecosystems.

This means, the application of the most advanced interpretations of the WFD for guiding the WFD implementation process.

Achievements will be closely related to the capacity of social and environmental agents, who defend this perspective, for participating in the decision making process.
Europe INBO Conference
Rome, 8-10 November 2007
General Approach:
How is the WFD being implemented in Spain?
(works developed during 2005-2006)

Qualitative assessment
Quality of information in RBD reports (Art 5, 6 & 7)
Integration of information for decision making
Double approach: thematic and territorial
Identification of (general and specific) gaps and good practices
Opportunities for institutional benchmarking
Ideas and proposals for improving the WFD implementation
Methodological Approach

Double Approach

Thematic contents

- Institutional design
- Participation
- Ecological state of water bodies
- Economic analysis of water uses
- Integration of information

Territorial scope

Intercomunitarian & Internal River Basin Districts
Thematic approach
Expert input and supervision for each thematic area

Territorial approach
Network of FNCA territorial informants

Sources of information:
- WFD Art 5 Reports
- Interviews to RBD Authorities
- Collaboration from NGOs
- Books, journals, Internet, etc.

- Requirements of information for the project
- Conceptual support

Identification of territorial informants

Questionnaire design

Questionnaire

Processing and Reporting

Synthesis Report
INSTITUTIONAL DESIGN
- Common and specific regulative aspects
- Organizational impact of WFD in Water Institutions

PARTICIPATION
- Availability of and accessibility to information
- Communication & Consultation mechanisms
- Design of participatory process for WFD implementation

ECOLOGICAL STATE OF WATER BODIES
- Characterization of water bodies & identification of pressures and impacts
- Information scale & quality

ECONOMIC ANALYSIS
- Meaningfulness of economic scale of analysis
- Water uses economic analysis: information quality & scale
- Cost recovery for water services: information quality & scale
- Environmental & resource costs

INTEGRATION
- Usefulness of information in WFD Art 5. reports for decision making and for participation
- Ecological & economic territorial scale
- Quality of information & opportunities of participation

RBD comparison; examples from RBD experiences
Gaps and opportunities of mutual learning
MAIN CONCLUSIONS

Important delays accumulated regarding institutional aspects and public participation

A REVIEW OF THE WATER LAW IS NEEDED for a correct and complete transposition of the WFD

An important effort in generating information has been done (Art. 5 reports)

Refining information - ecological state and economics - is needed (i.e. scale, reference conditions, costs issues)

Adaptation of information formats for participation processes

The main challenge: INTEGRATION
CHALLENGES AND PENDING TASKS IN THE FIELD OF INTEGRATION

Integration of the management of coastal and transition water bodies into the river basin district

Integration of disciplines, approaches and experiences (hidrology, hidraulics, ecology, chemistry, edafology, agronomy, ingeniería, economics, sociological and juridical aspects) to work jointly in the implementation of the WDF with the best balance cost-effectiveness

Coordination and cooperation between different levels of administration and between different departments of each level of administration
CHALLENGES AND PENDING TASKS IN THE FIELD OF INTEGRATION

Achieving an effective level of integration of users, social agents and civil society in the decision making processes, in order to develop an effective process of social learning

Integration of the water policy strategies and requirements in the connected sectoral and territorial policies

Integration of different type of information at the meaningful scale (river basin, sub-basin, water body) for an effective ecosystemic management
Thank you very much for your attention

www.unizar.es/fnca
www.aquaneteurope.eu
Institutional aspects & Public Participation
ADAPTATION OF THE SPANISH JURIDICAL SYSTEM TO THE WFD

Officially done on 30th December 2003

SHORTCOMINGS:
Lack of enough debate in the procedure for approbation
Lack of completeness in several aspects of its content (delayed to the future development of regulations, omissions)
Lack of correctness in the adaptation of aspects as the prevalence of environmental objectives

A REVIEW OF THE WATER LAW IS NEEDED—but has recently been ruled out by the government to be tackled in this legislature
INSTITUTIONAL ASPECTS

Every procedure for the WFD application shows an important delay:

Definition of River Basin Districts (partially done by Real Decree 125/2007)

Designation of Committee of Competent Authorities (partially done by Real Decree 126/2007)

Procedures for dissemination and participation of interested parties and the general public (partially done by the Real Decree 907/2007)

It is necessary an organizational and functional reform of the Water Administration in order to adapt it to the new goals and principles of the water policy

In general terms, a great effort is needed to make up for the lost time regarding information dissemination and public participation
Environmental state of water bodies as reflected at the Report according to the WFD Article 5
CARACTERIZATION OF SUPERFICIAL WATER AND GROUNDWATER BODIES

Unsatisfactory caracterization of coastal water bodies

Incomplete identification of transition water bodies

The possibility of recovery of heavility modified water bodies has not been assessed

Lack of quantitative diaggregation of estimations regarding renewable resource, environmental volumes and available resource in groundwater bodies
An overestimation of available resources is detected.

Information presented at the district scale - not at river basin or sub-basin scale

There is not reference to specific studies on environmental flows
REFERENCE CONDITIONS

In the most part of the River Basin Districts the process of identification of reference conditions is at its early stage.

Problems in ecotypes without reference water bodies, and in heavily modified water bodies.
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<th>River Basin District</th>
<th>Setting of reference conditions</th>
<th>River</th>
<th>Lake</th>
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<th>Transition</th>
<th>Reservoir (HMWB)</th>
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Lack of field work and lack of information (a main part of water bodies in “risk under study”)

Lack of adequate integration of pressures and impacts for evaluating risks

In the evaluation of impacts, only chemical aspects according to existing legislation has been considered
Economic Aspects

as reflected at the Report according to the WFD Article 5
Great effort for systematizing economic information

Intention to cover all the territory and topics required by the WFD
COSTS

Incomplete definition of cost items
Detection of biased accountability practices
More transparency in water accounting systems is needed
USES

Application of a traditional sectoral economic approach
Lack of connection to IMPRESS analysis
Scale problems
IMPROVEMENT POSSIBILITIES

Conecting economic analysis to bio-physical analysis (IMPRESS)

Increase the orientation of economic analysis to the needs of planification

Developing economic information customised to the needs of stakeholders and general public (Economics for participation)