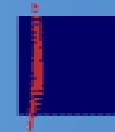


Working Group Report

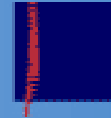
Theme 3: The enabling environment

Spyros Kouvelis
February 2nd 2005



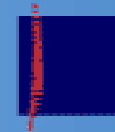
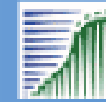
Good Practices in creating an enabling environment:

- Harmonization of policies is crucial (sectoral integration) to create win-win situations through creation of policy synergies.
- stakeholder participation is crucial: in policy formulation; in IWRM plans formulation & implementation
- capacity building needs to be targeted for institutional strengthening and implementation of good practices
- creation of development authorities can be very effective in providing a lead institution for harmonisation, integration and participation in IWRM plans which are problem solving oriented



Good Practices in creating an enabling environment:

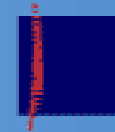
- Water Management should take place on the basis of the basin/catchment unit.
- Private sector involvement can be successful means to advance good practices
- Dialogue is an essential practice for creating awareness, policy formulation, conflict resolution and strategic planning. Dialogues should start from the outset, and should be well informed.
- “Aggressive” awareness campaigns are needed to change the mindset of stakeholders to value water as a scarce good, and increase its efficient use, and share and disseminate new knowledge
- dialogue and change processes need champions from governments



Benefits and drawbacks:

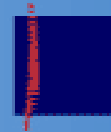
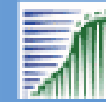
- adequate funding is required to implement good practices, but good practices will attract funding
- effectively combining and reconciling agriculture & ecosystem is difficult, but benefits outweigh costs
- Innovative technologies are key for increase of efficient water use, but how to make them available at local level.
- development and management authorities need financial resources to start, and they should be made financially self-sufficient/sustainable, through the leaving of water fees..
- balances need to be found between the implications of water as a human right and water as an economic good.
- achievement of gender balance in stakeholder representation is difficult.

Working Group Theme 3: The enabling environment



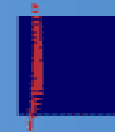
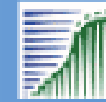
Instruments for implementation:

- encourage development of targeted activities; food production, eco-tourism, etc.
- Principles as water is a human right, water is an economic good, polluter pays, IWRM at basin/catchment scale, etc, are effective instruments for implementation when they are localized/adapted to local conditions.
- economic incentives and disincentives are very important instruments for regulation and promoting efficient and environmental sound use of water
- Rational water management only possible if legal and institutional framework is in place.



Instruments for implementation:

- water demand management plans/strategies need to be developed
- building partnerships between basin authorities and national and international NGOs to strengthen water management institutions and facilitate dialogue
- polluter pay principles can be incorporated in commercial agreements between governments to ensure that any business exported to another country should comply the environmental policies. This can attract clean industries.



The role of different actors:

- The international community has to highlight and support the inclusion of water management in national policies and strategies (PRSP) through Donor coordination.
- There is an important role for international, scientific and NGO community to promote world trade in the context of food security on ecological sound balances.
- Provide a forum for the exchange of ideas on the above issues, especially to countries that lack such information and for exchanging technical knowledge.