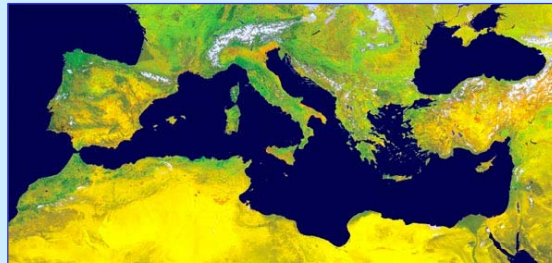

“COOPERATION STRATEGY BETWEEN SPAIN AND MOROCCO”

Integrated Water Resources Management



***Water Cooperation Session in Mediterranean River Basins
Athens, Sunday 5, November 2006***

***Dr Teodoro Estrela
Deputy Water Director
Spanish Ministry of Environment***

Origins

- Important and historical links among both countries (proximity, similarity of climate, geographical location...)
- Different international cooperation projects, initiatives and meetings have taken place at different stages
- In the past years stronger links established for water resources initiatives
- Since 1998 the Water Institute (Andalusian Regional Government) intensified cooperation on water resources practices with the Northern area of Morocco
- During 2005, specific meetings facilitated through the Mediterranean Network of Basin Organisations (MENBO) and its current President, the Minister M. Elyazghi, increased the bi-lateral cooperation

2006 Specific IWRM strategy

- During 2006 the Spanish Ministry of Environment, Directorate General for Water, and the Moroccan Ministry of Land Management, Water and Environment (MATEE) formalized a cooperation strategy for the exchange of expertise on IWRM.
- On July 12, 2006 during the meeting held in Rabat an agreement was signed specifying the areas of interest for both sides and covering all the activities to be developed in the near future.
 - MATEE General Secretary Mr. M. Ameur, and Spanish Water Director, Mr. J. Palop

Participating entities in the Strategy

- Morocco
 - Ministry of Land Management, Water and Environment (MATEE)
 - National Potable Water Office (ONEP)
 - Loukkos Water Agency
 - Other Water Agencies
- Spain
 - Spanish Ministry of Environment, Directorate General for Water (MMA)
 - New Water Technologies Centre (CENTA)
 - Andalusian Water Agency, Water Institute (AAA)
 - Other RBOs

2006 Specific IWRM strategy

- The Specific areas of work included in the strategy:
 1. Seawater desalination
 2. Urban and industrial wastewater treatment and sewage facilities
 3. Efficient use of water resources
 4. Twinning among the Moroccan Water Agencies, and the Spanish River Basin Organisations (RBOs)
 5. Water supply and water treatment in rural areas
 6. Drought management
 7. Support of territorial workshops for the Northern Moroccan Water Agencies
- Other: exchange of views and invitations for different national IWRM events of importance

1. Seawater desalination

- Technical visits to desalination plants
 - Management and exploitation strategies
- Support from Spanish technicians for the Moroccan desalination workshop (September 2006)
- Participation from the National Potable Water Office (ONEP) and Moroccan Ministry of Interior
- Long-term objectives: bi-lateral Spanish-Moroccan workshop on desalination, promote the desalination market, exchange of experiences and possible associations of enterprises.

2. Urban and industrial wastewater treatment and sewage facilities

- Advanced Working Group on sewage and water treatment (November 2006)
- Technical visits to wastewater treatment plants
- Possibility of pilot project on wastewater reuse for agricultural and secondary touristic uses
- Entrepreneurs bi-lateral meetings expected
- Exchange of expertise among ONEP and Spanish Ministry of Environment technicians

3. Efficient use of water resources

- Seminar on rational water use for agriculture, industry and urban supply

4. Twinning among the Moroccan Water Agencies, and the Spanish RBOs

- Visit of Moroccan technicians to the Spanish Directorate General for Water to learn about the organisation and objectives of Spanish RBOs
- Creation of a Network for the exchange of good practices between Moroccan and Spanish RBOs

5. Water supply and water treatment in rural areas

- Spanish economic support to rural supply integrating sewage treatment

6. Drought management

- Proposal of a Euro-Mediterranean drought observatory for Mediterranean countries
- Invitation to participate in different drought forums

7. Support of territorial works for the Northern Moroccan Water Agencies

- Spanish technical support for the Loukkos RBO and its participation in the Moroccan National Water Debate

Thank you for your attention!

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www.centa-ue.com