

A Blueprint to safeguard Europe's waters II

**Presentation at CIWEM meeting
SOAS, London, 11 January 2012**



Challenges for water management and the development of the Blueprint

- Governance issues and policy coherence
- Uncertainties – scientific and socioeconomic
- Getting the economics right
- Knowledge gaps
- No “one size fits all” solutions - subsidiarity

Need for joined-up management

- **Common drivers for different water impacts (part I)**
- **Environmental risks are becoming systemic in nature and can no longer be tackled in isolation (EEA, SOER2010)**
- **Strong links between water issues and other environmental issues (nature, air, waste, climate,..)**
- **Strong links between policy choices in other policy areas (agriculture, energy, transport,....) and water policy**
- **Lack of joined-up management leads to inefficiencies and waste of natural resources**

Policy scenarios to understand complexity

Water resource balances (quantity, quality) for relevant European river basins - SEEAW framework - monthly resolution - ECRINS reference system

Disaggregated information on the **use of water** for the base year by the different economic activities, including estimates on its environmental impact.

Information on technical, non technical or structural **measures** affecting water availability and water use by the different economic activities, including estimates on their environmental impact.

Scenarios for land-use changes, hydrological parameters and use of water by the different economic activities

optimisation model, maximization of net social benefits from the use of water by economic sectors

baseline scenario / sensitivity analysis

Selection of measures

Environmental, Social, Economic constraints

Blueprint Specific Objectives

indicative targets at EU level for reducing the vulnerability of water resources

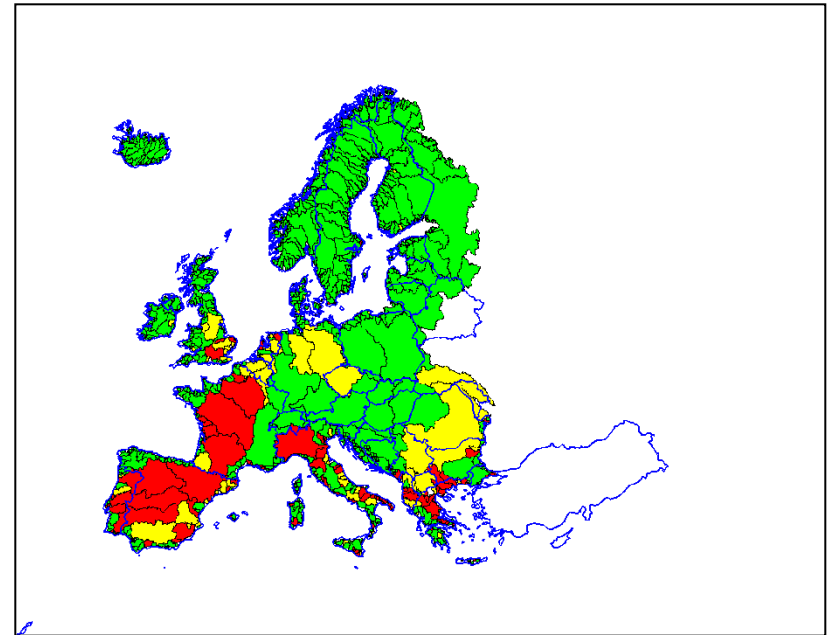
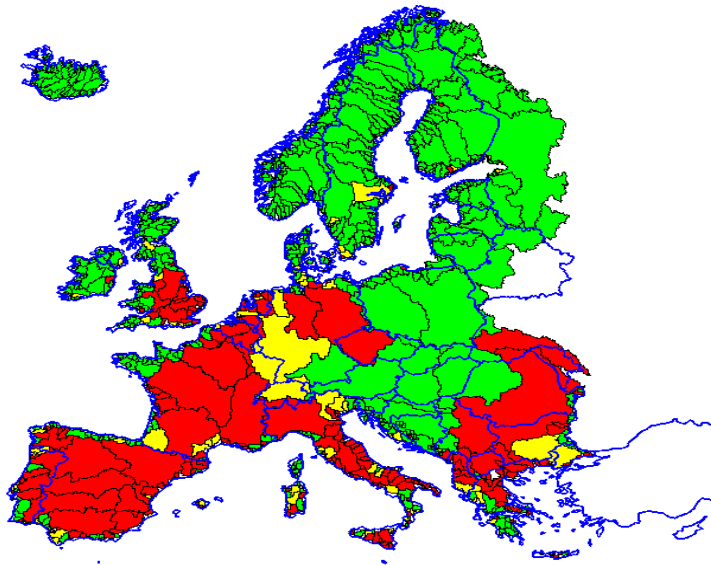
- *natural water retention,*
- *water savings,*
- *reuse/recycling*
- *water quality*

Example of need for integration and joined up management (water stress from ClimWatAdapt)




Summer Water Exploitation Index (excl cooling water)

FP6 SCENES Scenario
«Economy First» 2050

FP6 SCENES Scenario
«Sustainability Eventually» 2050

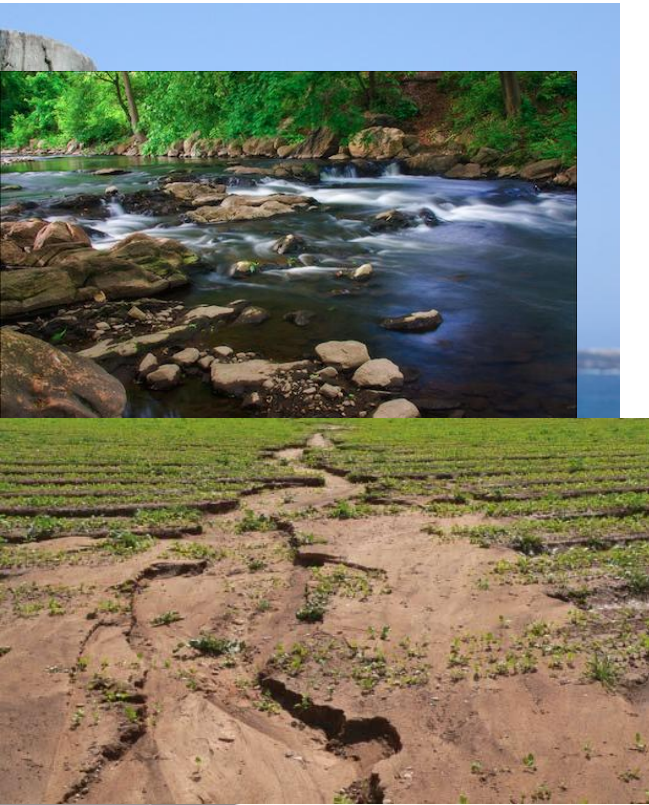


Source: DG Environment,
ClimWatAdapt database, 2011

-  Low stress (WEI < 20%)
-  Medium stress (20% < WEI < 40%)
-  High stress (WEI > 40%)

“Unlocking” the most promising measures

Managing water demand



Protecting the
water ecosystems



Improving
availability of
clean water

Overview of measures

Managing water demand

efficiency measures
at the buildings level

Improvement of
irrigation systems
and management

water efficient
products

Distribution networks

Crop management

Reducing water
pollution at source

Water reuse & recycling

Soil management

Restoring
longitudinal
continuity

Water storage

Restoring the
riparian area of
water courses

Restoring lateral
connectivity

*Treatment of brackish
or sea water*

Transfers

Protecting the
water ecosystems

Improving availability
of clean water

Policy Options 1

■ Better integration quantitative water management needs in the River Basin Management plans

- assessment of the baseline scenarios and effectiveness and impacts of the programmes of measures and development of tools at EU and basin/national level
- Covering management of demand for and availability of clean water
- need for a wider integration perspective (water – energy – food nexus, virtual water flows)
- more concrete and operational definition of environmental flows

■ Sectoral level:

- Voluntary certification standards for business
- coherence with SCP related schemes

Policy Options 2

■ Demand Management

- Agricultural water efficiency
- Efficiency of public water supply (leakage)
- Water efficiency in buildings
- Link to metering, pricing and/or targets

■ Water Availability, Clean Water and Natural Water Retention Measures

- Enhancing natural features to increase soil water retention and groundwater recharge (provides also flood control and other ecosystem services)
- Buffer strips
- Water re-use

Policy Options 3

■ Ecosystem Protection

- Restoration of riparian areas
- Longitudinal river continuity
- Restoring lateral ecosystem continuity

Economic tools

- **Abstraction Fees**
- **Metering**
- **Pricing structure, including**
 - Inclusion of all social costs
 - Cost recovery for infrastructure
- **Cost of pollution**
- **Payment for ecosystem services**
- **Sustainable financing schemes**

Knowledge Base

- **Ensuring the knowledge base for current and emerging challenges**
 - Improved set of shared indicators
 - More focused reporting and statistic requirements
 - Better exploit the potential of WISE
- **Better understanding of costs, including environmental costs**
- **Improve the relevance of research for practical water policy**

Governance

- **Effective coordination at the river basin scale between the various administrations responsible for water.**
- **Better targeting of international river basins agreements towards WFD implementation**
 - monitoring networks
 - programmes of measures, funding
- **Integration with other policies**
- **Need for frameworks for inter-sectoral or transboundary financing (i.e. payment for ecosystem services)**
- **Enforcement**

Innovation

■ European Innovation Partnership (EIP) on Water

- Identify the key barriers to water related innovations
- Foster the development of multi disciplinary innovations in the areas of water efficiency and water management
- Foster the development of a resource efficient water industry
- Competitive European solutions to water management and water efficiency

Thank you for your attention

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/blueprint/index_en.htm

