

Extrait du OIEau - IOWater - OIAgua

<http://www.oieau.org>

Algeria: Consolidation of river basin agencies 1999 - 2006

- International Office for Water - Cooperation - International actions - Integrated water resources management (IWRM) -

Date de mise en ligne : Tuesday 4 November 2008

OIEau - IOWater - OIAgua

Within the framework of its new water policy, the Algerian Government created five River Basin Agencies in August 1996:

Oran & Chott & Chergui,

Algiers & Hodna & Soumman,

Constantinois & Melléque & Seybousse,

Cheliff & Zahrez,

Sahara.

From 1999 to 2006, a programme of activities was implemented according to the requirements of the Ministry of Water Resources and ABHs within the French-Algerian cooperation programme.

A first programme for assistance to these young Algerian basin agencies, financed by the French Ministry for Foreign Affairs and by the Algerian Government, was carried out in France, in Sophia Antipolis, Limoges and Paris and at the head offices of the French Water Agencies concerned, from 1999 to 2001.

This programme dealt with two types of action:

• training seminars, organised by IOWater with the collaboration of the French Water Agencies, dealt with:

data bases / GIS

documentation

communication

water quality control and monitoring

management/strategy for an agency's action/project evaluation

• an "immersion" in the French Water Agencies on the following topics:

water resource management

action programmes/planning

aid.

The training courses were implemented with a view to transferring know-how, exchanging viewpoints and adapting it to the Algerian institutional context.

In 2002, a specific training programme aimed at enabling the preparation of a work plan model for implementing the Algerian Basin Schemes and the formalisation of preliminary proposals for the main orientations and for some parts

of the strategy.

Each ABH, which has qualified staff to implement its Basin Scheme, was to adapt this work plan to define the orientations and, above all, the strategy according to the inventory of the situation in its own basin.

Their inventory must be completed regarding drinking water, the management of flood hazards and the management of aquatic environments and wetlands.

From 2003, the ABH managers requested reinforced on-site assistance to the ABHs for the preparation of these schemes.

In addition to the training activities of the previous programmes, two 1-week assignments in Algeria of a French specialist in water-related cartography allowed to assist the ABH with the drawing up of these maps, essential tool for the Basin Schemes.

Technical assistance on water information systems was provided by IOWater: structuring analysis of water data, proposal for data bank modelling and operation

Activities conducted in 2004 dealt with the role and functioning of the Algerian Basin Committees. These bodies are important for dialogue between all the water stakeholders (State, local elected representatives, users), but they are currently under-used and must be reactivated so that they fully play their role of evaluating, discussing and approving the schemes.

Related communication aspects and techniques were developed.

A French expert's mission took place according to the meetings of these bodies, in agreement with the ABH management, to help with the preparation of the presentation of the Basin Schemes and, in a broader sense, with the preparation of the meetings of these Basin Committees.

In addition, two members of French Basin Committees participated in the meetings of the Algerian Basin Committees for directly exchanging their experience.

Finally, on the occasion of "Pollutec" 2003, a seminar addressing the managers of the Algerian ABHs was organised as a phase of training on communication, through meetings and interviews with French specialised journalists and with people in charge of communication in the Seine-Normandy Water Agency and IOWater.

In 2005 and 2006, the scope of activities resulted from the Algerian Financial Law of July 2005 which entrusted the River Basin Agencies (ABHs) with the levy of taxes for the direct use of water resources from the "Public Water Domain". It aims at inciting the water users to better manage the water abstracted from the natural environments, by making them pay a use cost by way of this tax on abstractions.

IOWater, in collaboration with the Seine-Normandy Water Agency, provided technical assistance as the development of this new financially incentive tool requires an adaptation of the organisation and a quick capacity building of the ABHs.

The support missions carried out in 2006 focused on:

- * the definition of a strategy and precise timetable for starting the system;
- * assistance with the development of an Access application software for the issue and follow-up of the "tax invoices";
- * the development of communication with the users;
- * the control and follow-up of meters;
- * the evolution of the system to make it an economic tool for better quantitative water management.

This action is essential for the River Basin Agencies, because part of the levied tax, excluding the cost of its recovery, could be used to finance actions, such as planning, the development of integrated water resources management, users' awareness on water saving, but also the financing of measures to promote recycling, the fight against wastage, etc.