

MAINSTREAMING ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS IN CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT

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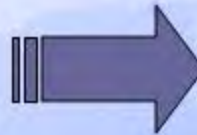


IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation

Office established in 2001.

5 Key Themes have been identified for this office

1. Biodiversity Conservation
2. Islands
3. Desertification
4. Water and Catchment
5. Sustainable Use of Natural Resources



Programmes

- Protected Areas
- Marine
- Desertification, Forests and Islands
- Water & Wetlands

“Mainstreaming of an ecosystem approach into catchment policies, planning and management”



Origins and principles of IUCN's regional programme on water

May 2001 MedWetCOM meeting – Sesimbra MedWet linkage

April 2002 Workshop held in Malaga to define IUCN's role

Nov 2003 Appointment of Water Programme Officer

Principles

- linkage to IUCN global programme**
- working with IUCN members and Commissions**
- avoiding duplication with existing MedWet activities**
- actively engaging the water resources management sector**
- - working to implement globally or regionally agreed policies**
- - IUCN does not generally do advocacy work**



Policy and Concept Framework

Important in General Transition to Water Management at Basin Approach

Mediterranean

- Med-21 (Turin 1994)
- World Commission on Dams
- Agenda 21 Convention (1996)
- Convention Biological Diversity (1992)
- Venice Declaration (1996)
- EU Water Framework Directive (2000)



Policy and Concept Framework

Important in General Transition to Water Management at Basin Approach

Mediterranean

Med-21 (Turin, 1994)

Barcelona Convention (1996)

Venice Declaration (1996)

EU Water Framework Directive (2000)

- Integrated Water Management
- Commitment of Mediterranean Governments
- EU and Mediterranean governments
- Local Water Management (Turin, 1999)
- Priority areas and actions
 - RAMSAR Convention
 - 8 General Objectives
 - Integrated Water Management
 - "Maintenance of minimum ecological flow in surface water bodies vital for catchment hydrological basins" 2006
 - "Good Quality and Quality" 2015
- Increase collaboration



Policy and Management Linkage



**Basin
Planning**

Hydrology

Ecology

Tools

**Wetland
Management**

Water availability

Water Quality



Policy and Management Linkage

Water Adaptation Frameworks

~~Stakeholder Tools~~ **Environmental Flows** *are the water regime provided within a river, wetland or coastal zone to maintain ecosystems and their benefits where there are competing water uses and where flows are regulated.*

Tools

...provide critical contributions to river health, economic development and poverty alleviation.

...ensure the continued availability of the many benefits that healthy river, wetlands and groundwater systems bring to society.



Environmental Flows

Challenges and Conceptions

From headwaters to coastal environment

- “Environmental flows are mostly for ‘**Environmental**’ values”
 - Wetlands
 - Floodplains
 - Economic
- “Environmental flows return rivers to ‘**Social** natural/pristine state”
 - Groundwater Systems
 - Cultural
- “Average flows are sufficient to determine water allocations”

Objectives and Scenarios

- What are the water needs of the systems?
- Set measurable indicators
- Holistic Approach



Environmental Flows

Environmental Flow Assessments

In National-level audits, Water allocation policy and Regulatory Provisions

Basin-scale planning and management for different timeframes

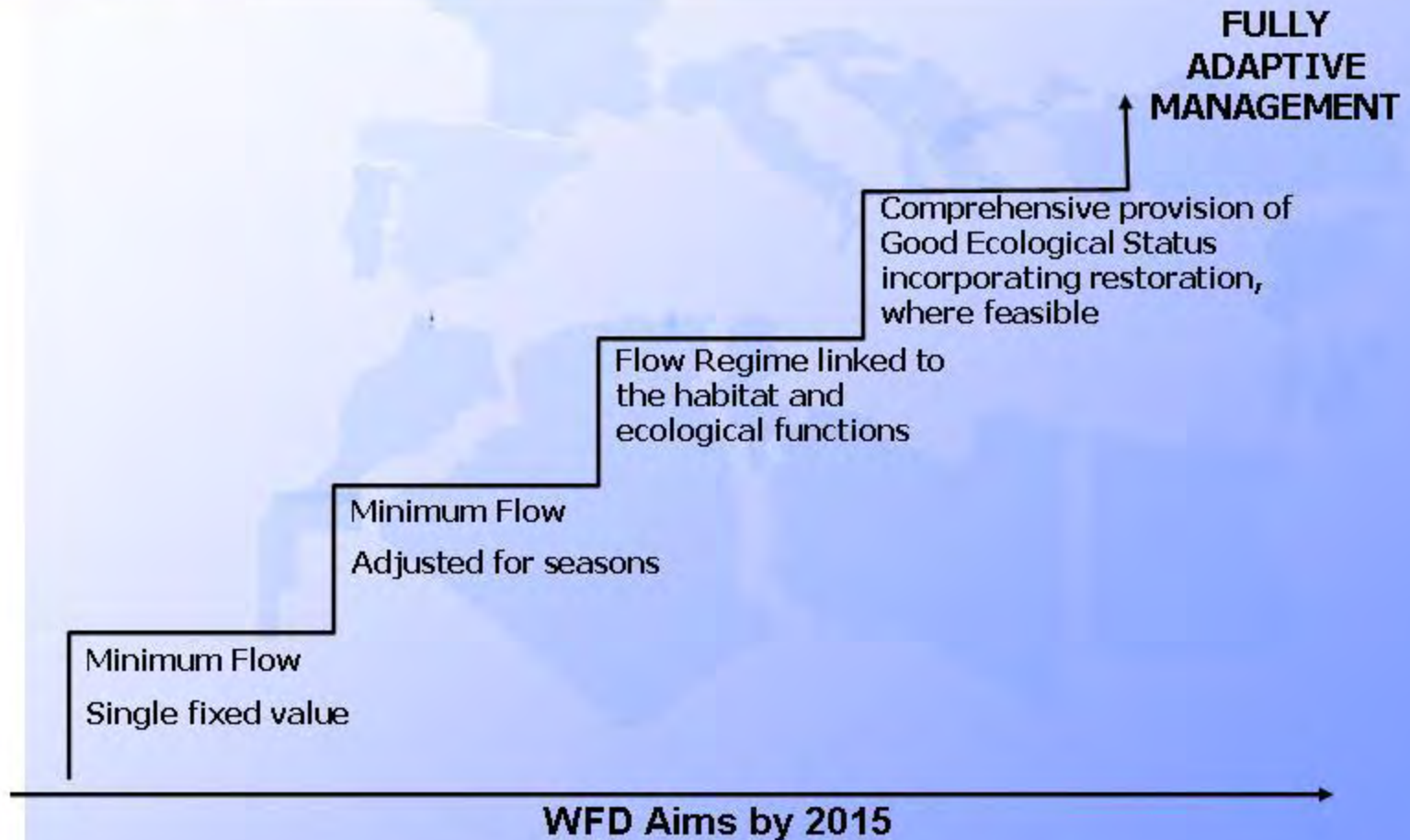
In Project-level infrastructure assessment, design and operation

Wetland and protected area Planning and Site Management

River Restoration Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation

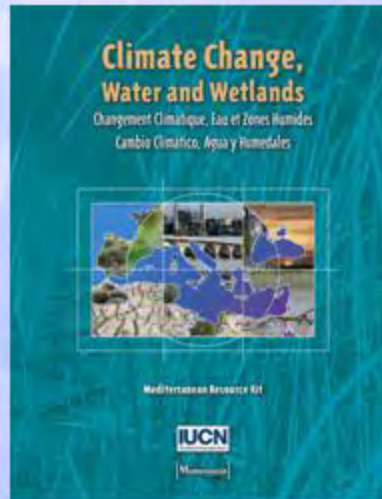


Environmental Flows



What is IUCN-Med doing on Wetlands

- ✗ Launched a regional environmental flow Programme
- ✗ Prepared 8 Case studies on e-flows and wetlands in the Mediterranean
- ✗ Prepared a Resource Kit on Climate Change, Water and Wetlands



What is next?

- ✗ Assessment and provision of Environmental flows in Mediterranean basins
- ✗ Demonstration projects in selected basins containing significant wetlands
- ✗ Building partnerships with utility/user groups, RBAs and Wetland Managers
- ✗ Assessing and promoting ecosystem values

In terms of NATIONAL WETLANDS STRATEGIES AND POLICIES

- Supporting the linkage of these to River Basin Management
- Building partnerships (eg INBO/REMOC, MedWet, GWP, RBAs)



<http://iucn.org/places/medoffice/>

<http://www.waterandnature.org/>

