



**Sustainable Water Integrated Management (SWIM) - Support Mechanism**

**Project funded by the European Union**

**REPORT FROM THE  
REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON PLANNING OF WATER RESOURCES IN THE  
SWIM-SM COUNTRIES**

**Radisson Blu Park Hotel, Athens, Greece**

**13-14 June 2012**

**(SWIM-SM Work Package 1/Activity 1.1.1)**



## **Contents**

List of Abbreviations & Acronyms .....	3
1. Workshop Background, Objectives .....	4
1.1 Introduction.....	4
1.2 Objectives and expected results .....	4
2. Workshop Methodology .....	5
3. Overview of the Workshop Agenda .....	5
5. Main Outcomes of the Discussions .....	6
5. Conclusions and Recommendations .....	8
6. Priority SWIM-SM Interventions .....	9
7. Detailed Workshop Agenda .....	12
8. List of Participants .....	14



**List of Abbreviations & Acronyms**

<b>CC</b>	<b>Climate Change</b>
<b>IWRM</b>	<b>Integrated Water Resources Management</b>
<b>MedPol</b>	<b>Programme for the assessment and control of pollution of the Mediterranean (part of the UNEP MAP)</b>
<b>PCs</b>	<b>Partner Countries</b>
<b>PAGER</b>	<b>Programme d'Approvisionnement Groupé en Eau potable des populations Rurales</b>
<b>SIDA</b>	<b>Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency</b>
<b>SWIM-SM</b>	<b>Sustainable Water Integrated Management-Support Mechanism (Project funded by the EC)</b>
<b>UNDP</b>	<b>United Nations Development Programme</b>
<b>UNESCO</b>	<b>United National Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation</b>
<b>UN ESCWA</b>	<b>United Nations Economic and Social Development Commission for Western Asia</b>
<b>USAID</b>	<b>United States Agency for International Development</b>
<b>WB</b>	<b>World Bank</b>



## **1. Workshop Background, Objectives**

### **1.1 Introduction**

The Sustainable Water Integrated Management – Support Mechanism (SWIM-SM) is an EC-funded Regional Technical Support Project that includes the following Partners Countries (PCs): Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, the occupied Palestinian territory, Syria and Tunisia. The project aims to promote actively the extensive dissemination of sustainable water management policies and practices in the region given the context of increasing water scarcity, combined pressure on water resources from a wide range of users and desertification processes, in connection with climate change.

Within its scope of work, SWIM-SM is implementing a set of activities to support more effective water governance, mainstreaming and resource management, which includes the development and implementation of water strategies/plans within an integrated water resources management (IWRM) framework. Within this context, a 2-day regional workshop took place in Radisson Blue Park Hotel in Athens between 13 and 14 June 2012 and brought together twenty seven (27) international, regional and national experts. The participants primarily comprised national water and environment policy makers and officials from seven SWIM PCs (Algeria, Jordan, Israel, Lebanon, Morocco, occupied Palestinian territory (oPt) and Tunisia were represented in the event). Furthermore, representatives from regional and international water programmes, as well as eminent experts with relevant experiences in the region participated in the workshop. The detailed list of participants is included in Section 8.

### **1.2 Objectives and expected results**

As part of its current workplan, SWIM-SM conducted a Regional Review of the status of the development and implementation of National Water Plans and/or Strategies in the PCs with special emphasis on the progress made towards IWRM. The Review was complemented by a more thorough analysis of the national situation in 3 PCs, namely Jordan, Lebanon and Tunisia. The Review aimed to a) assess achievements, constraints, challenges and shortcomings in the development and implementation of the water plans and/or strategies, b) identify opportunities and formulate recommendations for socially sensitive policy options towards advancing the preparation, implementation and monitoring of plans and/or strategies with replicability potential in the PCs and in the rest of the Mediterranean at large. More importantly, the Review is intended to be used as a background document to establish/facilitate a structured dialogue among officials from water and water-related sectors so as to underline the necessity of mainstreaming and integration in water resources management.

The workshop was held on the occasion of presenting the draft Review Report and aimed at achieving the following objectives:

1. Review, discuss, complement and validate the findings of the Regional Review of national water plans and/or strategies with the view of suggesting a series of policy options for further actions towards advancing with the implementation of IWRM approaches and mainstreaming water resources management in non-water sectors;
2. Discuss the degree of success and achievements of PCs with respect to planning and implementing IWRM principles, such as institutional and legislative reforms, governance frameworks including the level of stakeholder participation, cross-



sectoral coordination and a series of management instruments including financing and infrastructure development, among others;

3. Deliberate the main constraints, shortcomings, and key gaps facing proper implementation of IWRM principles and the most applicable measures to bridge these gaps and identify measures to overcome the challenges;
4. Examine existing and upcoming opportunities, discuss and agree on a series of measures, policy options and propose further measures to expedite implementation of IWRM principles with a main focus on advancing with the implementation of IWRM approaches and mainstreaming sustainable water resources management considerations in other sectors.

## 2. Workshop Methodology

In order to achieve the workshop's objectives, a highly dynamic, interactive, facilitated and participatory approach was adopted, including the following:

- Power point presentations on the outcomes of the SWIM-SM Review to stimulate discussions and identify priority areas for discussion;
- Review selected elements from the analysis of the situation in the three PCs;
- Brief presentations from the PCs on national experience in the development and implementation of water plans and/or strategies within the IWRM framework;
- Facilitated roundtable discussions and brainstorming exercises to identify technoeconomically and socially sensitive policy options to ensure mainstreaming of water management in other sectors;
- Presentations and interventions from invited eminent international experts to bring regional and international experience into perspective.

## 3. Overview of the Workshop Agenda

The workshop was held over two days (13 & 14 June, 2012) as per the detailed Agenda in **Section 7** of this report.

During **Day 1** the Agenda consisted of:

- 1) Opening Remarks, and introduction to the workshop's background and objectives;
- 2) Presentations of the (a) main findings of the regional review of the status of water plans/strategies in the project countries; and the more detailed analysis of the situation in the selected three PCs (Jordan, Lebanon and Tunisia), (b) Constraints, challenges and gaps confronting proper implementation of IWRM principles: and (c) opportunities in addition to the proposed policy options to advance the development and implementation of water plans within the context of IWRM. Each presentation was followed by round table discussion.
- 3) Part I of country presentations (Algeria, Israel and Jordan) on national experience in achievements, challenges, constraints, opportunities and suggested policies for effective planning and implementation of IWRM.

During **Day 2** the Agenda consisted of:

- 1) Part II of country presentations, (Lebanon, Morocco, occupied Palestinian territory (oPt) and Tunisia)
- 2) Presentation by International expert Tony Allan (King's College, London) on suggested policies for better implementation of IWRM.



- 1) Presentation by International expert and Consultant Paul Taylor on creation of enabling environment and policies formulation for mainstreaming water in non-water sectors
- 2) Workgroups formed around countries to propose SWIM-SM interventions per country along four main priority areas: (a) cross-sector coordination (b) decentralisation (c) stakeholder participation and (d) capacity building.

All participants were provided with electronic copies of all presentations.

#### **4. Main Outcomes of the Discussions**

- Some countries expressed the need to include in the IWRM review 1) the status of trans-boundary water resources management 2) the actions made by the countries towards the integration of ecosystems into IWRM and 3) review of land and food policies in the PCs. In this regard, it was pointed out that both 2 and 3 were indirectly captured in the report through the countries' response on the availability of mechanisms for cross-sectoral management of water resources. Despite the importance of the transboundary issues in IWRM planning and implementation, it was made clear to the experts that SWIM-SM didn't include this aspect in its scope of work to avoid duplication of efforts already undertaken by other donors such as SIDA, USAID, WB, etc. and regional organizations and programs, such as UNESCO, ESCWA, UNDP, etc.
- There should be more evidenced-based indicators to monitor the implementation of IWRM strategies and plans in order to ensure that they achieve the intended objectives of fostering positive change in the three IWRM pillars (enabling environment, institutional arrangements and management instruments), enable adjustment according to emerging needs and provide conformity in reporting.
- Monitoring of water quality should be accompanied by the development of quantitative indicators to capture the water resources management situation including ground water management and pollution status, etc. Further input is needed on how to conform with international standards, especially concerning treated wastewater, when the natural conditions of resources might make this compliance difficult (if not impossible).
- Integration and coordination are among the most challenging aspects in IWRM planning and implementation in the region. Main reasons include: conflicting interests, power struggles between relevant water actors, resistance to change and lack of championship. In addition the lack of trans-boundary coordination in water resources management poses several obstacles to the implementation of IWRM plans.
- There is a strong need to ensure compliance and enforcement of the enacted legislations in the water sector. This however requires identification and development of mechanisms for enforcement of legislations in support of IWRM implementation, including provisions for incentives and disincentives, supported with adequate legislations for penalties, and establishment of inspection and judicial systems (water courts) capacity, including training to address violations and enabling stakeholders in monitoring and reporting non-compliance. The participants from Lebanon expressed interest in a mechanism and/or a regulation to make exchange of information among national water relevant sectors compulsory.



- Some PCs provide good models in the decentralization of water sector responsibilities, with clearly delineated roles between the National government and the River basins agencies (example Morocco, ongoing efforts also in Algeria) and involving participatory and bottom-up approach in resource planning, co-funding and implementation projects, enforcing policies and management strategies, etc. However, although it is recommended to devolve the responsibility of water resources planning, management, and development to the river basin/catchment area level, this is not always possible/useful due to severe water scarcity problems in some of the PCs involving heavy interregional transfers.
- Certain countries in the region have shown significant success in different aspects of IWRM planning and implementation, which offers good learning points for other countries and potential for replication. Most participants expressed the need for further efforts in the implementation of IWRM at national and local levels.
- Understanding the economics of water resources management is imperative in order to make efficient, equitable and effective management decisions. Utilise examples of good use of economic tools, like in the case of PAGER<sup>1</sup> programme in Morocco where local associations contribute with 5% to the infrastructure budget.
- Climate change is adversely affecting the implementation of IWRM plans in the PCs. This necessitates the availability of information, exchange of good practices during time of crisis and the development of related mitigation measures and emergency policies. There is also a need to think about green water, which will be most affected by Climate Change. In this respect, it was mentioned that doubling Middle East dry land farming not only contributes to furthering water security, but is also a feasible option. The Australian Experience is worth examining in this regard.
- A significant challenge that needs to be further addressed concerns the issue of industrial wastewater.
- Water security can be achieved through (a) sustainable intensification of yield per drop of green and blue water, (b) technical interventions with innovative irrigation techniques, (c) economic diversification and (d) politically feasible and socially sensible regulations. Diversification of economy is not only considered as one way for the countries to meet their water needs (for example through the use of virtual water); it also makes initiatives to reform water allocation and management possible (examples include the changing role of the agriculture sector in the Israeli economy).
- Data reliability and availability are of high importance to support policy development and IWRM Planning. Available new technologies to collect and transfer data offer good opportunities for improved water resources management. In the case of Morocco the use of information Systems allowed adequate decisions on flood events, which provides opportunity for replication. However technology needs investment, good governance, and sufficient capacity to analyze and interpret the data and make conclusions about the relevance of the results to other sectors (such as health and environment). Other related challenges are: (a) how to use data to develop policies and inform decision making, (b)

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<sup>1</sup> Programme d'Approvisionnement Groupé en Eau potable des populations Rurales



how to fill-in the gap between information and decision making, (c) how to cover the cost of access to data (it needs some flexibility, for example when the request comes from researchers/universities), and (d) how to define the authorized source for data provision. An additional issue of concern is the storage of data.

- It was proposed that SWIM-SM could finance large-scale awareness raising campaigns towards rational use of water. Awareness has to be supported and paralleled with incentives, disincentives and legal framework in one package. Since that would require significant funding, guidelines for large-scale awareness campaigns might be helpful.

## **5. Conclusions and Recommendations**

- All the countries have introduced - though to different levels - IWRM concepts and approaches through the adoption and/or implementation of policies and plans within an IWRM context. Institutional and legislative reforms are either well underway or have been implemented. Progress has also been made in the adoption of management tools, which include monitoring of water resources in terms of quantity and quality, development of information systems, improvement of water use efficiency through the adoption of water demand management, and modern irrigation, treatment and reuse of wastewater. Despite these advancements, progress on IWRM may appear unstructured/unsystematic, while it requires significant time to be materialised.
- Establishment of an indicator system to monitor the development and implementation of strategies and/or water plans is needed at the national and regional level. Adoption of regional indicators and benchmarks will however provide consistent reporting and require the harmonization of indicators whenever used. In this regards SWIM will examine the possibility of engaging in the development of IWRM indicators, focusing on the Mediterranean, based on the outcome of the Rio+20 Summit (20-22 June 2012).
- Effective management of water resources requires the development of an integrated pollution management system within the IWRM context; not just water quality monitoring program.
- Involvement of stakeholders and cross-sectoral coordination at the national and local levels permits better understanding of the stakeholders' interests and roles in supporting IWRM and minimizing possible obstacles to its advancement. Integration seems to work better at local level due to common interest in the basin or aquifer. It requires however enhancement of participation and commitment around the basin plan. Stakeholder involvement needs to be carefully planned to avoid excessive costs and stakeholder fatigue, and it can extend beyond engagement in planning and implementation to include also monitoring. However, when stakeholders/end users are active in the resource monitoring process, this reduces the top-down approach. Furthermore, in the case of the MENA region with the levels of agricultural water demand, heavily engaging the farmers, strengthening their role (through technology and awareness) and making them the defenders of water could have a most significant impact.
- Despite all the reform efforts to improve governance and water resources management, enforcement of enacted legislations remains a challenge that needs to be addressed



through adequate compliance and enforcement mechanisms, establishment of inspection and judiciary systems for compliance, capacity building including training and enabling stakeholders in monitoring and reporting non-compliance.

- SWIM-SM could identify cases of successful implementation of the various IWRM principles in the PCs, with potential for replication and exchange of information between the countries.
- In order to ensure that climate change is dealt with formally, there is a need to incorporate climate change adaptation within IWRM plans and train managers in the sector on dealing with water resources under conditions of uncertainty. In this context, and within the Climate Change Pillar Component of the project, SWIM-SM will develop guidelines to integrate climate change adaptation in IWRM plans, and will implement capacity building activities on no regret adaptation measures to climate change.
- The uncertainty in water resources availability as a result of climate change necessitates expediting the implementation of IWRM and the adoption of the necessary management tools such as water demand management, (further) use of non-conventional water resources including treatment of wastewater and reuse as means to adapt to climate change - in addition to desalination of brackish and sea-water (as a last resort).
- There is a need to provide a legal framework for the generation and provision of data, and to develop a regional data policy, involving rules and procedures for data and information collection, sharing and use. In this effort, utilise and synergise with existing processes/mechanism, including the one lead by MedPol where there is a legal obligation for the countries to share data.
- Possible actions to address priority areas to move IWRM forward includes:
  - **Targeted** capacity development for enforcement of compliance and no regret adaptation to climate change is also needed.
  - Establishment/ further support of basin planning
  - Documentation of good practices and success stories in IWRM planning and implementation
  - Strengthening regular reporting process and improve the quality and consistency of indicators used at national up to regional levels
  - Peer to peer learning, country to country exchange

### 6. Priority SWIM-SM Interventions

Below is a summary of priority actions for SWIM-SM future interventions, as identified by the Workshop’s participants and along the following four priority areas: (a) cross-sector coordination, (b) decentralisation, (c) stakeholder participation and (d) capacity building:

**Table 1: List of Proposed SWIM-SM interventions**

Cross-sector Coordination	Decentralisation	Stakeholder Participation	Capacity Building
	Accelerate the decentralized management to	Involve all stakeholders in the water basin	Institutional capacity at the local level



Cross-sector Coordination	Decentralisation	Stakeholder Participation	Capacity Building
	allow the River Basin Agencies (ABH) to operate in accordance with their status	level	
Data base consolidation (Inter-ministerial network)(Data exchange)Beyond compliance	Grey and storm water management		Support for developing consolidated data base including the development of (Inter-ministerial network)(Data exchange)
Establish sustainable mechanism for cross sector coordination; Legal , institutional, etc. to align water needs with other sectors (ex: Linkage between land use and water resources management)		Expansion of the experience of highland forum to other threatened ground water basins	Green water intensification and Economic diversification for water security.
Development of legislation to share information among relevant sectors. Develop Mechanism for information sharing	Capacity building for effective decentralisation. Development of technical and managerial capacities	Information for public participation	Capacity Building for Legislators (parliamentarians) on their role in supporting IWRM principles
Establish National Food Security Programme coordinating water and efficiency on farms' programme and research programme from agronomy and international trade			Establish National Food Security Programme coordinating water and efficiency on farms' programme and research programme from agronomy and international trade
Implementation of an information system (common)	Further involvement of the role of	Improve the involvement of water users	Technical capacity building. Communications



<b>Cross-sector Coordination</b>	<b>Decentralisation</b>	<b>Stakeholder Participation</b>	<b>Capacity Building</b>
stakeholders Need for Information Department of Housing and Urban Development	"Water" provincial services	(associations, elected officials, urbanism...); Involvement of the community through education. Also farmers, industrialists	staff of Basin Agencies (database, simulation models quantity-quality, etc) reuse wastewater, negotiation, etc
Enhance the external communications Plans for relevant water sector institutions; Legal framework for Data exchange	Enable different Service Providers to achieve commercial basis and cost recovery. Improve the absorption capacity and financial planning. Training. Account's separation.	Setting up an efficient and institutionalized mechanism to enhance Participatory Planning. Integrity and multi-stakeholder process.	Enhance capacity in terms of WW Reuse/Artificial recharge Enhance the capacity in Regulatory Aspects- by laws-guidelines-benchmarking, etc
Identification of areas affected by a water allocation plan and drafting of contract agreements signed by the different sectors concerned Prepare models of type of agreement (possible for 5 years)	Models of decentralization are not clear in the case of Tunisia. SWIM: an alternative model may be applicable	Revitalize National Water Council (CNE) and ensure representation of all stakeholders including users and managers Twinning operations / training with countries with similar operational structures	Mass awareness program (participatory approach) Development of a communication strategy
Could be an aspect of SH involvement (somehow facing lack of dialogues) Support: identification of common objectives and interests	Identify a common ground between central and local governments Support: Capacity building actions	Identification prior to involvement Support: set up a methodology for stakeholders identification	Capacity building at all levels (local, central, all SH) Support: promotion of diversified CB actions



## 7. Detailed Workshop Agenda

### DAY 1 - 13 June 2012

9:00-9:20

**Session 1: Workshop Opening**

- Opening remarks (Project Director – SWIM-SM)
- Orientation remarks (Technical Director – SWIM-SM)
- Introduction and orientation (Team Leader – SWIM-SM)

9:20-11:00

**Session II: Reflections and Comments on the Regional Review of National Water Plans and/or Strategies study:**

- Presentation on current status and achievements in PCs (20 minutes)  
Anthi Brouma, Non Key Expert SWIM-SM
- Round table discussion of the findings (80 minutes)

11:00-11:30

**Coffee Break (30 minutes)**

11:30-13:00

**Session III: Constraints, challenges and gaps confronting proper implementation of IWRM principles:**

- Presentation on identified constraints, challenges and gaps (20 minutes)  
Hosny Khordagui, Team Leader SWIM-SM
- Facilitated round table discussions on root causes of constraints and gaps with emphasis on feasible measures to bridge the gaps.

13:00 – 14:00

**Lunch Break (60 minutes)**

14:00-15:30

**Session III: Opportunities and policy options for mainstreaming water into non-water sectors:**

- Presentation on opportunities and suggested policy options (20 minutes)  
Anthi Brouma, Non Key Expert SWIM-SM
- Facilitated round table discussions on factors to be considered by decision makers in assessing and selecting the best desalination option (70 minutes)

15:30-16:00

**Coffee Break**

16:00-17:00

**Session IV: Country briefs by National experts:**

- Algeria, (15 minutes)
- Israel, (15 minutes)
- Jordan, (15 minutes)

### DAY 2 - 14 June 2012



**09:00-11:00 Session V: Country briefs by National experts (continued)**

- Lebanon, (15 Minutes)
- Morocco, (15 Minutes)
- occupied Palestinian territory, (15 Minutes)
- Tunisia (15 Minutes)
- Discussions (45 Minutes)

**11:00-11:30 Coffee Break (30 minutes)**

**11:30-13:00 Session VI: Identification of feasible measures and policy options:**

- Presentation on suggested policies for better implementation of IWRM (20 minutes)  
Prof. Tony Allan, international expert
- Facilitated round table discussions on socially acceptable measures and policy options to enhance and expedite sustainable water resources management (35 minutes)
- Facilitated round table discussions on suggested institutional and legislative reforms to ensure implementation of IWRM (35 minutes)

**13:00-14:00 Lunch Break**

**14:00-15:30 Session VII: Suggested policy options to realize mainstreaming.**

- Presentation on creating the enabling environment and policies formulation for mainstreaming water in non-water sectors (20 minutes)  
Dr. Paul Taylor, international expert
- Facilitated round table discussions on mainstreaming (70 Minutes)

**15:30-16:00 Session VIII: The way forward, wrap up and closing remarks**



## 8. List of Participants

	Title	First Name	SURNAME	Position	Organisation	Email	Country
1	Mr.	Almotazbellah	ABADI	Adviser	Palestinian Water Authority (PWA)	<a href="mailto:mutaz.abadi@gmail.com">mutaz.abadi@gmail.com</a>	oPt
2	Mr	Fouad	ABOUSAMRA	Regional Coordinator	Ecosystem Management United Nations Environment Programme - Regional Office for West Asia (UNEP-ROWA), Manama, Bahrain	-	BAHRAIN
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4	Mr.	Rateb	AL ADWAN	Director of water desalination department	MINISTRY OF WATER AND IRRIGATION OF JORDAN - WATER AUTHORITY	<a href="mailto:jwtdu@yahoo.com">jwtdu@yahoo.com</a>	JORDAN
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