



**INSTITUTIONAL AND ECONOMIC INSTRUMENTS
FOR SUSTAINABLE WATER MANAGEMENT
IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION**

Stakeholders Workshop Report

**“Building a Common Vision
for Managing Water Resources in the Damour River Basin”**

Attendees

INECO Partners

NTUA	Dr. Dionysis Assimacopoulos Elina Manoli
International Office for Water	Jean-Marc Berland
Conseil et Développement s.a.l.	Nabil Nahas Claude Tabbal Roula Sleiman

Stakeholders (attached complete list of participants with contact details).

held at the
Meshref Country Club
Meshref - Lebanon

Workshop Agenda

TIME	TOPIC/DETAILS	SPEAKER
INTRODUCTION		
09:00	Registration	
09:30	Welcoming addresses	Mr. Claude Tabbal Dr. Fadi Comeir
10:00	The INECO project – Principles & Method	Dr. Dionysis Assimacopoulos
10:30	<i>Coffee Break to reorganize the room</i>	
11:00	Water Management Problems in the Damour River Basin – Causes & Effects	Mr. Claude Tabbal
11:00	Collecting of Stakeholders comments over causes & effects	Stakeholders
12:00	Discussion session with stakeholders on Causes & Effects	Mr. Tabbal & Stakeholders
13:00	Discussion on engaged IWRM concepts & best practice examples	Ms Elina Manoli
11:30	<i>Coffee Break</i>	
13:30	Objectives & alternative solutions	Mr. Claude Tabbal
14:00	Collecting of Stakeholders comments over objectives & solutions	Stakeholders
14:30	Discussion session with stakeholders on Objectives & Solutions	Mr. Tabbal & Stakeholders
15:00	<i>Lunch</i>	

WORKSHOP DETAILS

All workshop materials were translated into Arabic language and were distributed to all stakeholders.

The workshop started with the welcoming speeches of **Mr. Claude Tabbal** and **Dr. Fady Comeir**, and was followed by a presentation on **INECO** project, presented by **Dr. Dionysis Assimacopoulos**.

The stakeholders who attended the workshop came from different institutions :

- President & Members of Damour Municipality, Meshref Municipality as well as delegates from other municipalities of Damour watershed basin.
- Local community from Damour village, particularly farmers and owners of agricultural lands.
- Representatives from concerned ministries : Ministry of Energy & Water, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture
- Representatives from Beirut & Mount Lebanon Water Office, Metn Water Office
- Representatives from NGOs, Experts in Water & Environment
- Representatives from Press & Media

Opening the workshop debate and discussions, **Mr. Tabbal** exposed to the attendees the **Water Management Problems in Damour River Basin** with its detailed causes and effects, according to the research that **Conseil et Développement** had carried out in the region. A discussion was raised between the stakeholders over the problem, their causes and effects; then the participants exposed their opinions about the problems that the region was facing. **Dr. Assimacopoulos** made several interferences to explain and rationalize the debate. The comments of the stakeholders about the causes and effects of the **Damour River basin** were collected on “post-it notes” and exposed on a white board. (Attached copy of the post-it notes as collected by the stakeholders).

In the second part, **Ms Elina Manoli** made a condensed presentation on IWRM concepts and best practice examples.

This presentation was followed by a presentation by **Mr. Tabbal** on the objectives and alternative solutions related to the problem of **Damour River Basin**, as conceived by **Conseil et Développement**. The stakeholders agreed on the objectives in general and raised up additional solutions. Their comments were collected on post-it notes and exposed on a white board. (Attached copy of the post-it notes as collected by the stakeholders).

The stakeholders also filled a questionnaire that was distributed to them (attached copy of questionnaire in arabic and English).

Hereafter some of the pertinent remarks made by participants to the workshop :

The representative of *Beirut & Mount Lebanon Water Agency*, **Mr. Georges Al Kadi**, pointed out that there is a lot of serious problems caused by the wasting from the consumers on drinkable water, that the farmers are consuming big quantity of water; in addition to the uncontrolled important quantity of water consumed by farmers, and the *Ministry of Energy and Water* is currently working on a directive plan for the drinkable water.

Dr. Selim Sarraf, *Former Expert in Irrigation and Water Ressources at the FAO*, insisted on the construction of dams to collect river and rain water as a solution to prevent water shortage and water problems.

Farmers present at the workshop insisted on asking the government to secure enough water for agriculture irrigation, to treat the underground water and avoid environmental disasters, construct a dam in Damour region to secure water for the community and neighborhood.

For Ms Imane Abdel Aal, from the *Association of the Friends of Ibrahim Abdel Aal*, the problem of water is a political one and she commented that the local community of Damour should make a pressure on the government to solve their problems, and insisted with them to put the water issues projects on their political agenda.

Dr. Daoud Raad, from the *Ministry of Agriculture*, in turn insisted on implementing a global water management, and that the quantity of water in the country must be increased through the construction of dams to cope with the consumption of water which is seriously increasing in the country.

He also commented that the problem is the misuse of water, the non existence of an adequate water piping network, no sewage system, no dams. And that Damour water problem must be solved along with the solving of Safa river problems.

Mr. Khalil Zein, from the *Ministry of Environment*, insisted on adopting a global water management scheme that would include a series of parameters covering the technical, environmental and health, financial and institutional levels.

He also commented that the causes of non enforcement of laws are coming from political interferences on the one hand, and from financial issues because qualified people are not well paid in the Ministry. He mentioned that water is very rich in Chlore which can create health problems.

He also insisted on the fact that the recommendations raised from this project should be addressed to the upper decision makers to influence their decisions, and that the follow-up must be secured to reach our objectives.

Mr. Mahmoud Sraj, from the *Ministry of Energy and Water*, proposed that this basin should be exploited touristicly in order to secure funds for water projects such as dams, etc.

Mr. Chkaiban, a cultivator and then farmer attributed the lack of sufficient water and quality of water in Damour to the continuous and excessive discharge done by the Beirut Water Agency from the Damour river and underground aquifers.