

10 September 2007

09:00 Registration

Session 1: Introduction - The INECO Approach

09:30 Welcoming addresses, *Dr. Jamil Fallouh, Representative of the Ministry of Irrigation, Water Resources Manager in the Greater Damascus Area*

10:00 The INECO Project – Principles and Approach, *Prof. Dionysis Assimacopoulos, INECO Coordinator, National Technical University of Athens, Greece*

10:30 Coffee Break

Session 2: Water pollution in the Barada River Basin

10:45 Water pollution issues in the Barada River Basin: A tentative identification of causes and effects, *M. Haddad, Studies and Integration Consulting*

11:15 Discussion on the focal problem of water pollution, its causes and implications

Session 3: Identifying objectives and alternative solutions

12:15 Alternatives and Best Practice Examples from international experience, *E. Manoli, School of Chemical Engineering, National Technical University of Athens, Greece*

12:45 Introduction on "Building Objectives", *Prof. D. Assimacopoulos*

13:00 Discussion on objectives, alternative options and implications

14:00 Completion of assessment questionnaires

14:15 Lunch - End of Workshop

The INECO Consortium



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INECO

Institutional and Economic Instruments
for Sustainable Water Management in the Mediterranean Region
web site: <http://environ.chemeng.ntua.gr/ineco>

STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP

**"Building a common vision for mitigating
water pollution in the Barada River
Basin"**

Monday, 10 September 2007

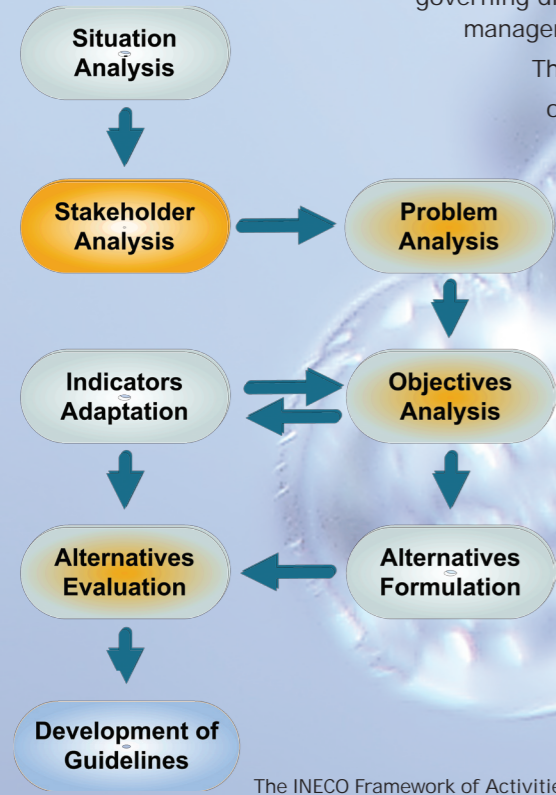


INECO is a Coordination Action supported by the European Commission through the 6th Framework Programme, and addressing the "Specific Measures in Support of International Cooperation (INCO Programme) - Mediterranean Partner Countries (MPC)" Priority (Contract no: INCO-CT-2006-517673).

THE INECO PROJECT

INECO is a Coordination Action Project supported by the European Commission through the 6th Framework Programme, addressing the "Specific Measures in Support of International Cooperation (INCO Programme) - Mediterranean Partner Countries (MPC)" Priority. The INECO Consortium brings together 14 institutions from 10 Mediterranean Countries (Greece, France, Italy, Cyprus, Tunisia, Egypt, Lebanon, Syria, Algeria and Morocco), including public (6), private (7) and international organisations (1).

The goal of INECO is to introduce an interdisciplinary approach to water management building upon the integration of three major aspects: environment, economics and society. INECO will discuss shared problems in the decision-making process and the deficiencies of the present governance structures around the Mediterranean Basin. Research focuses on alternative institutional and economic instruments which can promote equity, economic efficiency and environmental sustainability in the sharing and governing dimensions of water resources management.



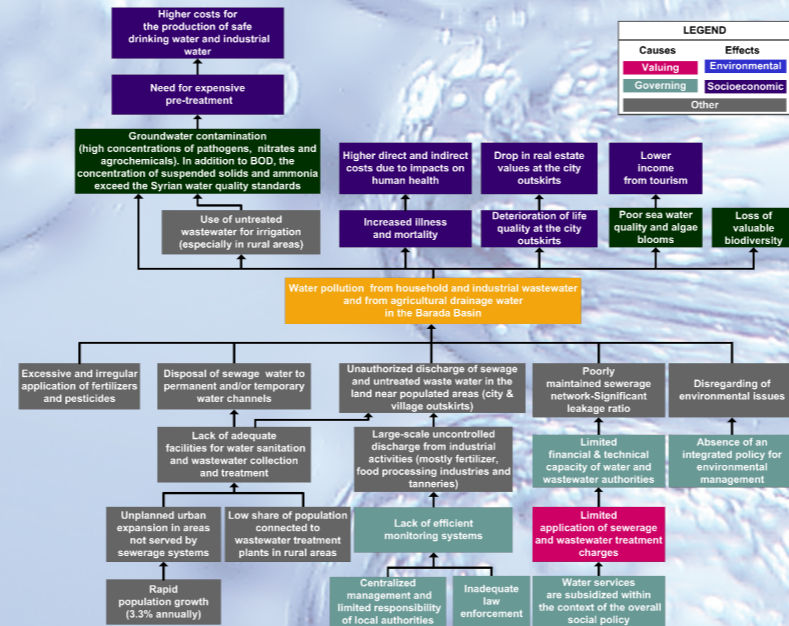
The INECO Framework of Activities

The Syria workshop is the second of the stakeholder workshops organised by INECO in Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Cyprus, Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco. The workshops aim to develop a constructively engaged Integrated Water Resources Management process, and lay the foundations for reaching a common understanding on what the real problems are and how these could be addressed in a commonly agreed water resources management situation.

INECO IN SYRIA WATER POLLUTION IN THE BARADA RIVER BASIN

The area selected for the implementation of INECO in Syria is the Barada river basin, where Damascus is located. Historically, the Barada River was a vital environmental and socio-economic resource, sustaining the oasis of Ghouta, which contributed to the local economy and constituted a rich ecosystem, which was also considered a cultural heritage. However, in recent years, the Barada River ecosystems have collapsed, due to the high loads of industrial and domestic waste and wastewater discharge, which exceed the river's self purification capacity, and decrease of river flow, resulting from rainfall decrease and use of the Feige Spring for drinking water supply.

At present, the efforts undertaken in order to address the problem are incomplete, as environmental law applying is not strict enough, and due to legislative limitations, and lack of environmental awareness. Most industries discharge contaminants to the sewerage system or simply to land and rivers without treatment, free of charge and without penalties being enforced. In addition, the spatial dispersion of micro- and small-scale industries hinders the effective control over discharges. The current agricultural practices, which include excessive application of fertilizers and pesticides, overexploitation of water resources and application of inefficient irrigation methods have also



Tentative analysis of causes and effects of water pollution in the Barada River Basin



contributed to the exacerbation of water pollution in the area. In order to address the problem, a feasible and integrated solution should be developed to mitigate environmental damage and prevent further deterioration in water quality. Considering current economic growth patterns and the emerging need for environmental protection, attempts should be made to develop an optimal policy, reflecting trade-offs between economic development and environmental protection in general, and water resources in particular.

THE SYRIA WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES

The workshop aims to strengthen the alliance between the INECO Research Team and Local Stakeholders in Syria by:

- Discussing on the focal water management problem experienced in the region;
- Promoting the development of a process where each contributor gains both a better understanding of the problem and insight on how other participants see the problem;
- Initiating the participatory involvement of stakeholders in determining, defining and evaluating alternative institutional and economic instruments towards problem mitigation.

The workshop will serve as a discussion forum on the problems and challenges faced by stakeholders. It will offer the opportunity for participants to share their experiences, knowledge, ideas, preferences, hopes, fears, opinions, and values.