



**Lecture by WWF
World Wide Fund for Nature**



Abstract from the Lecture

1. Introduction.

- **the context: The network "Cultural Villages of Europe"**
"Paxi: Cultural Village 2004"
- **The context is ideal for Water Resourch Management.**
Local authorities as keyplayers under the new WFD.
- **The problem of Water Resources worldwide,**
in Europe and in the Mediterranean
Quantity / Quality / "The next World War will be on Water"

2. The Water Framework Directive E.U. /2000/60

- **Overall target:** to achieve improved levels of water quantity and quality in Europe by 2015.
- **Main innovative elements**
 - ⌘ The use of river basins as the basic unit for all management decisions
 - ⌘ Public Participation

For both of these the L.A.s' have a crucial role to play

3. WWF Water & Wetland Index

An initiative for the improvement of the quality & quantity of water resources in Europe through proper management.

2000-2003 Water & Wetland Index (I & II)

A WWF European program in many different countries evaluating:

- ⌘ (1) The implementation of the principles of IRBM
- ⌘ (2) Measures and action to address the most important problems related to freshwater resources (issues of quantity and quality)
- ⌘ (3) The preparedness for the application of the WFD in the EU countries

4. Water Index / Greece

- **Uneven distribution of water resources**
- **Unsatisfactory public participation policies**
- **Lack of inter-section approach**
- **Unsatisfactory implementation of international treaties except: Prespa**
- **Quantity problems, uneven distribution of w.r.,**
agricultural responsibility for the 87% of consumption.
Quantity problems: less of an issue / pesticides.

At the local level the picture can change.

P e.g. the islands, like Paxi: **tourism** becomes the major sector responsible for the consumption of the scarce w.r. rather than agriculture.

P (-) uneven economic development (abandonment of primary sector for tourism)

P (-) unsustainable tourism, mass tourism

P (+) the River Basin District coincides with the island = opportunities for the integrated approach.

5. The solutions (general)

- **Use the powerful and bold WFD**
- **Work at the local level** (the network at the right track)
- **Apply the principles of the IRMB**
- **Apply the public participation concept**
- **Address the root cause:**
manage the demand rather than increase the availability of w.r.
- **Spot and address the main consumers: agriculture / households / tourism?**
- **Inter-sectoral approach**

6. The solutions (local level, islands)

- **Sustainable development:**
P across the various sectors of economy
P within each sector
(e.g. agriculture: low intensity / organic,
tourism: sustainable tourism vs. mass tourism)
- **Exploit the coincidence of the River Basin District with the island for the integrated approach and p.p.**
(e.g. the WWF initiative and the Naxos project)

7. Sustainable tourism

Part of an overall sustainable development program Conservation & Promotion of man-made and natural heritage

Not exceed the carrying capacity, including water resources c.c. / the example of the WWF leaflet / VIM methods

Appropriate infrastructure, special attention to accommodation - tour operators practices

8. Sustainable tourism: Paxi

Water tanks made by the British / Venetian authorities: low key water collection practice and a tourist attraction

More to be on this: promotion of the "green tourism" aspect of the island, as long as the c.c. is respected.

Try to reverse abandonment of primary sector

Create incentives Link with tourism

Exploit the Natura 2000 sites as tourism attraction sites without putting at stake their protection.

Summary

- 1. the framework is ideal = local level
- 2. The principles of the WFD: IRBM & Public Participation
- 3. The WWF Water and Wetland Index in Europe and in Greece: lack of the integrated approach, poor management of quality / quantity problems
- 4. Solutions: apply the WFD principles-sustainable development cross and intra-sector.
- 5. Islands: threat: tourism, opportunity: coincidence of river basin district with the island
- 6. Sustainable tourism principles