

DIRECTION GÉNÉRALE DE LA COOPÉRATION INTERNATIONALE ET DU DÉVELOPPEMENT

DECENTRALIZED COOPERATION BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES FOR WATER AND SANITATION

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Introduction

French decentralized cooperation

History and Aims

International action by local and regional authorities in France began after World War II with twinning with German towns as a way to build mutual knowledge and respect, the mortar of lasting peace. That foundation phase, implemented by municipalities (communes), lasted until the 1970s and European integration, when France's counties (départements) and regions (régions) became actors in European cooperation. Solidarity with the South enhanced that dynamic, driven by locally elected officials' interest in participating in development assistance and international solidarity. Today, the international action of France's decentralized authorities is part of their general policy to develop their local areas and promote the international visibility of local economic, social and cultural actors.

Decentralized cooperation, the fruit of 50 years' history, continues to pursue the same aims:

- Knowledge of others, learning respect and participating in development and the peace process,
- European cooperation to promote balanced development and forge European citizenship at grassroots level,
- Development assistance through exchange and cooperation between local and regional authorities in the South and the North,
- Expanding the economic, cultural and social influence of a local area or region and its actors.

Specific features of decentralized cooperation

Decentralized cooperation differs from the action of NGOs, central governments and multilateral donors:

- The action of local and regional authorities is long-term: in most cases, a strong relationship between two communities gives rise to a framework cooperation agreement intended to establish a lasting partnership between the two decentralized authorities and their communities.
- Action focuses primarily on exchange and know-how, institutional support and training. While French local and regional authorities may finance facilities and equipment, decentralized cooperation specifically supports local institutions. The aim is not to decentralize conventional cooperation, but for two local authorities to develop a specific type of cooperation aimed at sharing experience of local management and local development.
- Decentralized cooperation programmes are the result of discussion between the two local authorities. In that sense, decentralized cooperation is cooperation "on request", since the starting point is the expression of needs by a local authority in the South. On the basis of that request, which is then negotiated, the French local authority examines what it can offer in response to the request, according to its know-how and financial capacity.

- Decentralized cooperation is also specific in its capacity to mobilise and support local actors. Through the relationship between two communities and two local areas, ties or twinnings can be developed between various local partners, including those that do not come under the direct authority of the French local or regional government, such as hospitals, universities, chambers of commerce, businesses and associations.

The specific case of water and sanitation

Decentralized cooperation in the area of water and the environment shares the above features. The examples presented in this book illustrate the diversity and uniqueness of decentralized cooperation outlined above. In this sector, local and regional authorities can mobilise their water and sanitation services, or the businesses to which they subcontract those services. They can call on the support of all the partners from the water industry to assist their cooperation action: basin authorities, river authorities, associations, businesses, research institutes, universities, training centres, etc. But cooperation in the water and sanitation sector also has another specific feature, in the form of two types of financing available to French local and regional authorities:

- The local or regional authority's general budget, pursuant to the 1992 Act authorising French local and regional authorities to sign cooperation agreements with their counterparts in other countries, which is the legislation underpinning all decentralized cooperation action.
- Specific water and sanitation budgets, pursuant to a French law passed in 2005 introducing an innovative mechanism that local and regional authorities can use to finance their solidarity actions in the water and sanitation sector. These budgets are financed by water rates rather than taxation. In other words, French local and regional authorities that are competent in the area of water and sanitation supply can now use these new budgets, thus creating a direct solidarity link between water users in France and access to water for users in the South. France is campaigning for this innovative mechanism to be extended to other countries in the North to provide innovative financing for international solidarity in the area of water and an instrument in direct contact with citizens for funding concrete local actions to promote universal access to water.

Support from the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Well aware of the benefits and specific nature of “decentralized cooperation à la française”, the French government has been supporting decentralized international action for many years.

In 1983 the post of Local Authorities' External Action Delegate was created. The representative is appointed by the Council of Ministers and reports to the Minister of Foreign Affairs. In 1992 the law gave substance to that action, by establishing the National Commission on Decentralized Cooperation (Commission Nationale de Coopération Décentralisée - CNCD), a forum for dialogue between the central government and local and regional authorities, chaired by the prime minister.

In 2005 the government approved a parliamentary initiative to allow local water and sanitation budgets to be used to finance international solidarity.

In 2006 the Ministry of Foreign Affairs made water and sanitation one of its three priorities for co-financing decentralized cooperation. The ministry intends to subsidise actions undertaken by French local and regional authorities in the sector.

The ministry provides financial support for French local and regional authorities so they can express their message and their commitment to dialogue and cooperation on the international scene. For example, the ministry is assisting French local and regional authorities to attend the World Water Forum in Mexico and funding the publication of this book on cooperation practices on that occasion.

*Local governments,
water and sanitation:
examples*

Local governments, water and sanitation: examples

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Rehabilitation of the Thilogne Water Distribution System

Municipal Council of Les Mureaux (Yvelines): population 32,000

Beneficiary: **Thilogne (Matham), Republic of Senegal**

Other Partners:

Ile de France Regional Council, Centre Regional Council, Thilogne Development Association (TAD)

Project history

Thilogne is a young community that sprung up spontaneously about 15 years ago. The town has kept its original traditional structure rather than conforming to the strict urban planning conventions that apply to many modern developments. The town's proximity to the new regional capital Matham, 60 km away, has attracted an influx of new residents. The community is now rapidly expanding to the east, west and south and with the spread of new dwellings and their makeshift water connections, the water supply system can no longer cope with the demand. Only the lowest parts of the network have an uninterrupted supply of water. The rest of the village, i.e. most of the community, must resort to the small number of wells still functioning, or the standpipes located in high pressure areas.

The TAD association, created in 1978, brings together local people and Thilogne emigrants, with the aim of promoting the development of the community. Each member of the diaspora has a moral obligation to make an annual contribution of 30, and the funds collected are managed by TAD. Given that nearly half of the municipality's population today live in Europe or the USA, this system of redistribution represents a substantial source of revenue for the town. In addition to its main office in Thilogne, TAD maintains six other offices located in Dakar, France, the USA, Italy, Gabon and Congo.

Objectives

TAD has developed a project to upgrade and improve the supply of water to Thilogne. The scheme involves:

- The rehabilitation of the existing water pipes and wells, and the construction of new wells and standpipes as well as a modern sewer system.
- Improving well management, with the collection of comprehensive technical, organisational and financial data to ensure that well management and network operation costs are affordable for the local community.

The programme provides for the extension of the water distribution system so that each household has access to water either within the home or from a nearby standpipe. For those families with water in their home, meters will be installed. A flat rate price will apply for water from standpipes, and to farmers and other members of the community who hitherto escaped payment for their water consumption.

To ensure the sustainability of the project, a training programme is planned for the members of the well management committee. The project's originality lies in the funding mechanism created by TAD. The capital costs are borne partly by the civil society and public funds, with TAD, the municipality and the local population bearing respectively 17%, 5% and 1% of the total capital cost. The remaining 77% is financed by various international aid organisations. An analysis of the cost of water puts the monthly household fee (after the investment has paid itself off) at FCFA 930 - much lower than the rate charged prior to the implementation of the project.

Implementation and achievements

The project has led to an increase in the number of people with access to drinking water and improvements in well management. Today, for a population of 14,000, the amount of water available per day, per person is 23 litres. Another 12 litres still needs to be provided to meet WHO recommendations which set minimum service coverage level at 35 litres per day per person. The project has resulted in the rehabilitation of the water mains, replacement of pumping equipment, the repair of traditional wells and the construction of new, modern pumping facilities.

Year 2000 population estimates put the population at 7,744 but the local council plumps for a figure of 12,000, given that heads of families tend to undercount the number of people in their household in order to pay a lower fee. The total estimated number of households is 1,690. As in other inland parts of Senegal, the local economy consists mainly of crop and livestock farming. Trade is another source of income with the existence of many large shops and stalls. The progressive expansion of housing has created jobs for builders, plumbers, electricians and decorators. With a major road running through it and a bus terminal, the town is a popular stop-off point for skilled tradesmen and mechanics. The large expatriate community in Europe and the USA is a major source of revenue thanks to the money contributed by emigrants.

The initiative may be replicated in other small municipalities where a large proportion of the community live abroad but maintain close ties with their families. At the core of the scheme is the obligation to contribute to the development of one's community of origin. The annual contribution is relatively modest for people living Europe or the USA. The collection of funds and coordination of operations by members of the local community – who risk their good name – promotes the success of the scheme. Thanks to close ties with other associations, the ideas implemented by TAD have been disseminated to other communities.

Contacts:

UJMT : **Mr Kane Thierno**
3, Allée Claude Debussy
78130 Les Mureaux
Tel. +33 6 64 31 14 76
City of les Mureaux

Mr Stéphane Pavot
78130 Les Mureaux
Tel. +33 1 30 91 39 70
www.mairie-lesmureaux.fr

Opening up of the City-edge Areas of Ouagadougou and Provision of Access to Essential Services

Project involving the Vienne département, the French Development Agency, the City of Ouagadougou and the Office National de l'Eau et de l'Assainissement (ONEA)

Introduction

Since 1993, the Vienne Regional Council has been engaged in a dynamic development aid process in Burkina Faso, working in close cooperation with 15 of its local municipalities (or associations of municipalities), each twinned with a Burkinabé municipality. A three-year programme, co-financed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been implemented in various urban and rural parts of the country and notably in the capital of Ouagadougou.

The decentralized cooperation mechanism enables French local authorities to provide assistance in a wide range of areas connected with local development, utility service planning, municipal management and training of decision makers and staff. Their input on urban development projects is of a highly specific nature and complementary to the aid furnished by the institutional funding agencies.

A new type of partnership

Basic principal

Though aid agencies of donor countries make a significant contribution to urban development projects in financial terms they do not provide the support required to implement and maintain the different projects undertaken. More specifically, they do not provide the financial and technical training required to ensure that projects are properly managed and sustainable in the long-term. Conversely, the twinned French local authorities do not have the financial resources to tackle the real issues faced by African communities today. They can however provide know how and experience in all subjects pertaining to development and local management, and can assist African communities in building management capacities in their particular fields. Their actions focus on the long term and they are present at every stage of the project, including development and implementation, but above all during the subsequent project management and maintenance stages.

The partnership initiative proposed by the Vienne département, in cooperation with the French Development Agency (AFD), consists in helping the Burkinabé municipality to become self-sufficient in the running of AFD-funded urban development projects. Throughout this process, the département will provide support and project management advisory services to their African counterpart, as well as training of decision-makers and staff.

The project

The French Development Agency is currently spearheading a project to open up city-edge areas of Ouagadougou and to provide the inhabitants of those areas with access to essential services. The project, valued at 12 million euros, has four main components. Component #2 - "Water supply for city-edge areas" - involves the extension of the water distribution system, with ONEA, the national water and sanitation authority acting as the owner's designated representative. More specifically, this component involves the development of new strategies for the supply of water to five hitherto un-serviced areas. These extensions will involve adjusting prevailing technical standards as well as specific management arrangements downstream of the primary network built by ONEA. The different options envisaged include direct management by ONEA, recruitment of a local standpipe operator, outsourcing of customer management operations and management of the system under an affermage-type arrangement.

Part of the budget will be dedicated to installing social water connections which will be provided together with a wastewater disposal system at the level of the parcel. The contribution of the Vienne département falls within the province of **decentralized cooperation**, insofar as it involves the provision of expertise and assistance to the owner in managing and implementing the project. In this area, the Vienne département is in a position to provide a wealth of expertise - its resources include not only 'in-house' officials and staff, but also officials and staff from the départements' 15 twinned municipalities as well as employees and engineers from the departmental water and sanitation authorities, the departmental engineering agency and the advisory body "Vienne Services".

The département boasts examples of all the different forms of management mentioned and has developed competencies in all areas of water management through SIVEER, a major departmental association. It will thus be possible to draw on professionals to provide assistance and expertise in areas such as:

- The elaboration of concession or affermage contracts.
- Monitoring of the performance of the concessionaire or standpipe operator.
- Assistance in the administration of outsourcing or concession contracts.

These actions are to be accompanied by information, training and communication initiatives coordinated with the social services of the local council.

In this area the Vienne département can contribute advice and experience to facilitate exchanges between Burkinabé managers and French engineers and raise awareness among local decision makers about ways of ensuring sound management practices.

Vienne's contribution will have a dual purpose:

- To ensure that the technical options selected for building urban infrastructure are compatible with future management options.
- To provide support over the long-term, as opposed to consulting firms, whose input on projects covers only the first few years.

Contacts:

Denis Brunet,

Vice-Chairman, Général Council of the Vienne
8 rue Thiers 86110 Mirebeau
dbrunet@cg86.f

Jacques Aumasson,

coordonator, International Cooperation Head Office
Général Council of the Vienne
BP 319 - 86008 Poitiers
Tel. +33 5 49 00 55 70 - Fax +33 5 00 55 79
jaumasson@cg86.fr



Decentralized cooperation program with two Municipalities in Lebanon: Elaboration of a wastewater management plan and construction of a sewer system and wastewater treatment facility for a 80-house settlement

Lille Métropole Communauté Urbaine (Nord)

1 rue du Ballon, BP 749 - 59 034 Lille cedex - France

Mr Pierre Mauroy, Executive

Me Danièle Defontaine, Deputy Executive in charge of Decentralized Cooperation

Beneficiary local authorities:

Municipalities of Chouf es Souayjani Federation, Lebanon

Mrs Nouha Gosseinhy, President (Mayor of Baaqline)

Municipality of Bkassine, Liban

Mr Abdallah Saad, Mayor

History of the project

Lille Métropole Communauté urbaine has developed decentralized cooperation programs with Lebanese municipalities since 1999. These actions were initiated after the organization of free municipal elections in Lebanon in 1998. Despite this critical step in the local democratic process after years of war, the situation of local governments and municipalities remains very fragile in terms of financial and institutional capacity. They also suffer a deficit of technical staff to manage their development projects and provide the population with public services.

The first decentralized cooperation agreement was signed by the Municipalities of Chouf Es Souayjani Federation and Lille Métropole Communauté Urbaine in 1999. This Federation encompasses nine municipalities and 40 000 inhabitants.

Development

Lille Métropole Communauté urbaine assisted the Federation in assessing the needs of its territory in wastewater management. The terms of reference for a wastewater management plan have been established by the two partners, who monitored the work of a private consultant through a steering committee. Construction works are now being implemented with the financial support of the national government in compliance with this master plan.

Another experience is being conducted with the Municipality of Bkassine (10 000 inhabitants) through a cooperation agreement signed in 2004.

This program concerns a 80-house settlement built in the fifties after an earthquake destroyed part of the village. This settlement was initially built as a temporary response to the disaster and lacks wastewater treatment infrastructures. Its location on top of a hill is a threat to the drinkable water resource.

A wastewater management plan was therefore established by a consultant as the first stage of the cooperation program in 2004. A new decentralized cooperation agreement between Lille Métropole Communauté urbaine and the municipality of Blkassine was signed for the 2005-2006-2007 period, in order to launch the construction of a sewer system and a wastewater treatment facility for the settlement.

Results

These two decentralized cooperation programs have obtained an important financial support from the French Foreign Affairs Ministry through the Priority Solidarity Fund. The local authorities involved in the partnership contribute to the projects through financial and human resources mobilisation.

The programs activities have a positive impact at different levels:

- social impact : access to sanitation facilities;
- environmental impact : water resource protection;
- political and institutional impact: according to laws and regulation, the national government is in charge of water and sanitation management in Lebanon. But the reform of the national water policy which was initiated in 2001 is not implemented yet. These decentralized cooperation actions are a demonstration of the role that municipalities could or should play in water and wastewater management.
- Local capacity building: the monitoring of both programs lead to the creation of a Municipal Development Agency supported by “Tadamoun Wa Tanmia”, a Non Governmental Organization in charge of the local implementation of the cooperation actions for the municipalities.

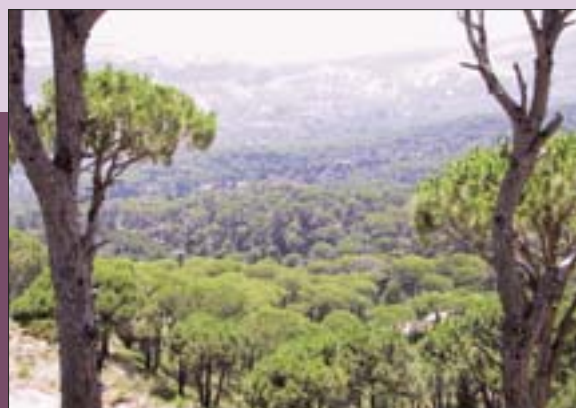
Beyond the construction of infrastructures, the challenge for Lille Métropole and the Lebanese partner municipalities is now to ensure the sustainability of equipments and human resources.

The long term relationship engaged through the decentralized cooperation agreements signed since 1999 will certainly contribute to achieve this goal.

Contacts:

Mr Imad Ibrahim,
technical coordinator,
Development Municipal Agency, Saïda, Lebanon
ibrahimimad@yahoo.fr

Mme Christine Zilinski,
Decentralized
Cooperation Department, in charge of the decentralized
cooperation programs with Lebanon
czilinski@cucl-lille.fr



Integrated Water Management in the Limari River Basin

Hérault Département

André Vezinhet, Chairman

Beneficiary

Regional Government of Coquimbo, Chile

Partners:

Water user organisations: 5 irrigators' associations and supervisory councils; 8 public services of provincial, regional or central government, private companies; private enterprise: 2 consortiums and a mining company; civil society sector represented by 5 Members of Parliament and several NGOs; municipalities, including 5 in the province of Coquimbo; 4 research centres; French partners: Hérault département, IRD (French development research institute) and Agropolis (agronomic research and higher education centre)

Project history

Since 1998, the Hérault département has maintained a special relationship with Chile in the area of scientific, technical and cultural cooperation - and with the region of Coquimbo in particular.

The province of Limari is Coquimbo's biggest agricultural producer and comprises three agricultural watersheds in which drip irrigation is practised. A broad range of individual actions has been implemented to promote the development of the region, including measures to protect water quality and foster water conservation.

The region's public and private institutions can collectively lay claim to a wide spectrum of analysis systems and economic initiatives. These tools and actions are widely dispersed however and could be coordinated and organised effectively, while giving consumers easier access to water-related information. At the same time the basin's export-oriented companies are increasingly calling for monitoring and analysis tools related to quality and the notion of integrated agri-food production – two aspects consistent with the principles of sustainable development. To this end a public-private database was created allowing the exchange of information in all areas pertaining to the management of the river basin.

Objectives

The aim of the project is to develop an “Integrated Territorial Programme” (PTI) in the Limari River Basin, which has been designated a pilot area of Chile. The main components of the programme are:

- Institutional and political development.
- Consideration of the natural environment and associated ecosystems.
- Capacity development, social learning, and good governance.
- Implementation of the strategy at basin-wide level and actions to inform the public.

The main long-term objectives are to:

- Design a system that promotes the rational use of the basin's natural resources.
- Develop a coordinated set of tools to obtain more information about the status and quality of water resources and compliance with applicable standards.
- Promote and expand the use of treated wastewater in agriculture (supporting the notion of integrated agri-food production).
- Set up Water Quality Plans to promote a strategic management process at basin-wide level.
- Energize and develop the agricultural production sector by increasing export capacities.

- Accelerate the modernisation of production methods through technological innovation, diversification and reconversion of production.
- Facilitate the reconversion process and wider trading by enhancing their appeal.
- Put in place agreements to intensify exchanges between public and private sectors and promote the sustainable development of the river basin.

The main innovations will be implemented through a regional Water Management Master Plan.

Implementation and achievements

The involvement of the various project players has been part of a phased process:

- Appointment of a Council composed of representatives of 35 institutions to inform and determine orientations.
- Setting up of an Operations Committee to supervise actions.
- Formation of technical groups, and technology innovation and advanced research centres with expertise in integrated agri-food production and catchment management, and with the role of determining the concrete actions to be implemented.

Today, after the first year of implementation, and thanks to the process of coordination described above, the results are tangible and will allow short and medium-term strategic objectives and action plans to be formulated. The initiative has seen the creation of a genuine organisational structure for integrated water management, assisted by input from international experts - the Hérault département included. The social impact in the province has been significant and is reflected by events such as the “Fiesta del Agua” which provided the opportunity to deploy a major public awareness campaign about water issues. The various initiatives to promote agribusiness development and improve the productivity and quality of labour in Limari, also have the support of the region’s employers. At the same time, an assessment of the river basin was conducted highlighting economic, social and environmental issues and the solutions to be implemented in the medium-term.

Underpinned by strong local governance, this comprehensive water management experiment in the Limari River Basin has been disseminated with tremendous success among public and private sector institutions alike. The aim is now to promote and extend it to other Chilean river basins as part of a coordinated effort with the governmental services responsible for water, the environment and development planning.

Contacts:

Francisco J. Corral M.

Manager PTI Limari - Chile

Tel. +56 53 63 17 56 - fcorral@cuenalimari.cl

Serge Miquel,

Chairman for Water environment, Life Framework and rural fittings

General Council of Hérault 1000, rue d’Alco

34 087 Montpellier - Cedex 4 - France

Tel. +33 4 67 67 67 63 - sergemiquel@cg34.fr



Cooperation Between the Municipalities of Maxéville and Poienile Izei in the Field of Water and the Environment

City of Maxéville (Meurthe-et-Moselle)

Henri Begorre, Mayor

Beneficiary: Municipality of Poienile Izei (Judet Maramures - Rumania)

Other partners:

International Water Centre Nancy (NanC.I.E)

History of the project

The first contacts between Maxéville and Poienile Izei started in 1991. Poienile Izei is a 1100 inhabitants municipality situated at a height of 1000m and extends over 11km. Poienile Izei is 50 km far from Ukraine (to the North) and 70 km from Hungary (to the West). After 12 years of purely humanitarian exchanges, the City of Maxéville wished to give a new dimension to this relation by positioning itself as a support for the development of the projects of the Municipality of Poienile Izei, giving them the responsibility of the follow-up and completion of the project and helping for the development of the necessary tools to ensure the continuity of the programmes.

Drinking water supply was one of the most important identified problems. The first project entitled “municipal cooperation in the field of water and environment” supported by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs was led in partnership with the International Water Centre of Nancy, NANCIE, a well known non profit-making association with technical skills and experience in managing international cooperation projects led in Morocco, Hungary, Poland, Mongolia, Costa Rica, Brazil, etc specially in the field of water, sanitation and environment.

Objectives of the project

- Technical support: To carry out a survey study in order to identify needs and propose programmes in the field of drinking water supply for the village.
- To involve and engage the different Rumanian actors, as a result of the study and the actions to be made.
- To carry out a concrete project: construction of sanitary facilities inside the school building.
- To attempt to raise population awareness of hygiene and cleanliness specially children.

Development of the project and results

1st phase:

Diagnosis made by a NanC.I.E expert during a mission to Poienile Izei together with Maxéville municipal representatives (local councillor and a local government officer) responsible for the development of the project. The main points of this visit:

- To study a water supply project for the village made in 1998 by a Rumanian company.
- To make inquiries and study the spring areas.
- To determine and analyse the feasibility of the water supply project for the village.

In the meantime, the City of Maxéville authorities started to prepare a global project for Poienile Izei and its surrounding area to be proposed to all Rumanian actors, and specially the Judet of Maramures Council. Maxéville staff has also began to identify the existent sources of funds and the available financial programmes such as funds allowed to Rumania within the framework of its UE pre-membership

procedures. The elaboration of a regional strategy together with Ukraine and Hungary on drinking water supply for households located in this area has also been mentioned.

2nd phase:

Welcome in Maxéville of a Rumanian delegation composed of 2 local councillors and 2 manager officers in view to visit not only hydraulic installations in relation with the project, but also to meet the French model of municipal management. A visit of Grand Couronné, an association of several little municipalities, representative of the French experience showed how this kind of “municipal regrouping” could be the better way to face common problems of little municipalities; one of these of course, drinking water supply and sanitation; a model that could be an answer to Poienile Izei and its surroundings. The delegation also visited schools in Maxéville city and had meetings with NANCIE team to debrief the results of the study.

3rd phase:

Construction of bathroom installations inside the school of Poienile Izei, including 2 reservoirs, one of which was installed inside the school to face frost during winter period. These tanks are equipped with autonomous sanitation systems.

The Poienile Izei councillor responsible for the project supervised the work. Maxéville staff was regularly informed about the development of the programme and work. Some awareness campaigns were led for every class of the school

This programme was launched in October 2003 and ended in September 2004. The implication of Maxéville City authorities continues and a great part of our programmes is intended to perform Poienile Izei local councillors and staff skills an important part is dedicated to the development of the skills as well as intensify exchanges of know-how and experiences in order to help the Rumanian municipality to become the major of its own development.

Contacts:

Vasile Dunka, Mayor
Poienile Izei n°23
Mamramures - Roumanie
Tel./Fax + 40 262 33 42 02

Céline Roussel

City Hall
14, rue du 15 septembre 1944
54 320 Maxéville - France
Tel. + 33 3 83 32 30 00
Fax + 33 3 83 37 89 85
croussel@mairie-maxeville.fr

Wetlands Protection Programme for Luang Prabang (Laos)

Municipal Council of Chinon (Indre-et-Loire): population 9,000
Agence de Développement et d'Urbanisme du Chinonais (project coordinator)

Beneficiary: **Luang Prabang, Laos**

Stakeholders:

UNESCO, European Union, Centre Regional Council, Agence de Développement et d'Urbanisme du Chinonais, RIVE (rivers and wetlands management company)

Project history

In December 1995, the city of Luang Prabang, the former capital of Laos, was declared a World Heritage Site. Having received the UNESCO designation, the government of Laos turned to the international community for help in implementing a conservation and restoration policy for Luang Prabang. The response was a proposal for a decentralized cooperation programme mooted jointly by the city of Luang Prabang, the Town of Chinon and UNESCO. This cooperation initiative was sealed by an agreement signed in 1997 and extended in 2000 and 2003.

The mission identified by the project partners was to implement a wide-ranging sustainable development process centred on the protection, restoration and development of the city. This goal would be achieved through urban development projects, building restoration programmes and support for communities to enhance their living environment through housing improvements and repairs.

A main component of the development effort was the preservation and remediation of natural sites coupled with initiatives to raise public awareness about ecology issues. The Wetlands conservation programme, supported by the European Union, was part of a holistic approach to heritage conservation covering both the natural and cultural heritage of the city. The wetlands and ponds of Luang Prabang are part of the city's social and economic fabric and an important facet of its identity.

Implementation

• The project comprised three main stages:

Understanding the existing situation:

This stage consisted of observing and assessing drainage basin processes as well as wetland development mechanisms. Studies implemented included an inventory of the Luang Prabang catchment system and ponds, regular monitoring of water quality, and a study of wetland vegetation. Luang Prabang engineers were equipped with tools such as rainfall gauging instruments and flow and quality monitoring systems in order to secure a better understanding of study area habitats.

Safeguarding natural habitats:

The unstable and fragile wetland habitats of Luang Prabang need safeguarding if they are to survive. To this end the cooperation programme involved presenting pollution control techniques to the community, as well as suitable regulatory instruments. The wetlands were accordingly classified as a "Natural and Landscape Heritage Preservation Area". The aim is to preserve and safeguard these habitats by regulating new construction in their vicinity (use of bamboo and wood imposed in new housing, low land use coefficient, etc.).

Raising awareness:

Lastly, the assessment and protection measures implemented will only make sense if efforts to safeguard and restore local heritage have the support of the local population and decision makers. Methods of involving the local community took a wide range of forms, including the creation of an “ecomuseum”, an international symposium on wetlands and a broadcast on French radio.

The physical embodiment of the cooperation process: the Maison du Patrimoine

At the centre of the cooperation process was the creation of the Maison du Patrimoine (“Heritage House”) - a multi-disciplinary team of resident French and Laotian engineers, operating under the auspices of the local authorities. The objectives of the Maison du Patrimoine are three-fold:

- To create an emblematic information and visitor centre designed to familiarise the local population with their cultural and natural heritage.
- To train a Laotian action team.
- To ensure tight coordination of the various conservation, restoration and sustainable development policies implemented.

Further actions envisaged:

A second UNESCO-led project concerning other sites and in particular the Laos capital, Vientiane, is under review by the European Union.

Contacts:

Mme Cathy Savourey,
Project Coordinator, Manager of the Cooperation Arm, ADUC
aduc.coope@wanadoo.fr

Mrs Aude Sivigny,
Executive Officer for Cooperation, ADUC

Mr Pierre Guédant,
Project Manager, Maison du Patrimoine, Luang Prabang
pierre.guedant@la-maison-du-patrimoine



Construction of Public Latrines and a Water Transmission System in Adéta, Togo

Municipal Council of Herbiers (Vendée): population 14,600

Beneficiary: **Adéta, Republic of Togo**

Other Partners:

AJCAH: Adéta-Les Herbiers Twinning Association, based in France

AVIJAH: Association of the Adéta Herbiers Twin Towns, based in Togo

Project history

- Kpélé Adéta comprises 11 municipalities scattered around the main village, Adéta.
- The French twinning association AJCAH was founded in December 1989 further to a process of correspondence between the school in Adéta and the Jean Rostand school in Herbiers, France.

Objectives and implementation

In 1990, during a visit to Adéta to officially seal the twinning arrangement, the issue of water emerged as a priority area for cooperation further to several deaths in Adéta owing to contaminated water sources (“marigots”).

The first measure implemented was the construction of public latrines. Seven latrines each with 12 squat holes were built in different parts of Adéta and are now managed by AVIJAH, the twinning association on the Togolese side.

The next step was to build a water transmission project as part of an agreement with the Togo Ministry of Planning. The proposed system involved harnessing a waterfall situated about 5 km to the north of Adéta to supply both Adéta and several neighbouring villages (Goiré, Dougba, Hamé Afegamé, Konda, Tsefi, Kadomé, Tsiko, Atimé, Bemé and Toubou). A French engineer (and member of AJCAH) travelled to Adéta to clinch the project, which was to provide safe water to 30,000 Togolese people.

Construction:

The works commenced in August 1995. 25 pupils from the Jean Monet school went to Togo to take part in the construction process.

Financing:

AJCAH contributed FCFA 30 million (46,000 euros) to the project, sourced by its own budget and a grant from the Pays de Loire Regional Council. The funds pledged by the Togo government were not forthcoming however (event though the scheme concerned was a pilot project) and the works were suspended for a period of two years.

The project was finally resumed with the intervention of the Togolese Prime Minister who was an ally of the two associations. The French mission thus accepted to finance the remaining FCFA 90 million (138,000 euros), with AJCAH contributing an additional FCFA 15 million (23,200 euros).

Operation:

The works have now been completed and include a dam, chlorination tank, pipes to the different villages and standpipes. The CVD (village committee) is responsible for managing the distribution of water aided by members of AVIJAH. In 2005, a fund was created to pay the salaries of the standpipe operators and finance minor repairs.

Extension:

The project under study for 2006-2007 involves the construction of the “Maison de l’eau et des Herbiens” (Herbiens Water Centre) valued at FCFA 35 million (53,000 euros). The centre, which will include workshops and meeting rooms, will also be a kind of motel for visitors to the town, with guest rooms and a restaurant.



Contact:
Jackie Riffaud,
Deputy Mayor responsible
for culture and cooperation
Mairie des Herbiens
6 rue du Tourniquet
85502 Les Herbiens
jackie.riffaud@wanadoo.fr



The different actions of decentralized cooperation carried out by the General Council of Seine-Saint-Denis

Hervé Bramy, Council President

Because the future of the Seine-Saint-Denis cannot be conceived of independently of the future of the world, and because the Seine-Saint-Denis is resolutely committed to a vision of a world that is more human, more humane, more just, and with greater solidarity, guaranteeing peaceful, fair, and sustainable development for everyone. The General Council has become involved in decentralized cooperation programs aimed at greater appropriation of global issues by the populations.

The question of water is an area that is transverse to all these cooperation efforts. Each project includes a section devoted to water and sewerage and waste treatment, an indispensable priority for all actions involving public health.

The problems we face are diverse. In Palestine or in Morocco the question of use of resources is central; in Gabon we face the problems of control of rainwater and floods related to lagooning; in Portugal the problem is preserving environmental balances, in particular of streams, in a context of rapid urban growth.

■ General Council of the Department of Seine-Saint-Denis and Gabon (1998-2005)

City Halls:

Mairie de Gamba BP 30 Gamba, Republic of Gabon

Mairie de Port Gentil BP 568 Port Gentil, Republic of Gabon

Mairie d'Omboué BP 29 Omboué, Republic of Gabon

Partners: Department of the Seine Saint Denis: DEA: Directorate of Water and Sewerage and Waste Treatment, DEV: Directorate of Green Spaces, DAD: Directorate of Land Use and Development, DPAS: Directorate of Prevention and Health Action, SIAAP: Interdepartmental Syndicate of Sewerage and Waste Treatment for the Greater Paris Region, UNITAR: United Nations Institute for Training and Research.

History

The General Council of the Seine-Saint-Denis, on February 4, 1998, entered into a protocol of decentralized cooperation with the cities of Port Gentil, Gamba, and Omboué in Gabon. Its desire, through this cooperation, is to contribute to and support local development in these municipalities, now engaged in a process leading to local democracy.

A certain number of priorities have been defined with our partners, among which are actions related to water and to sewerage and waste treatment. Gamba and Port Gentil wish to move toward the construction and ongoing maintenance of an effective network of rainwater and wastewater evacuation. Numerous public-health problems, including malaria, result from the inadequacy, and even the total absence, of sewerage and waste treatment networks.

Realizations

Rehabilitation and cleaning of the water and sewerage network

In collaboration with the SIAAP and the Architecture and Development Prime Contractor, the Department co-financed, in an initial phase, the cleaning of the network, and in a second phase the second stage of rehabilitation of the city's water and sewerage and waste treatment networks.

Global Public Health Project

Development of a global public-health project mobilizing the Water and Sewerage, Prevention and Social Action, and Green Spaces Directorates. Improving the network was an indispensable step before taking any action involving public health (working on malaria). In 2005, exploratory missions set up a program for collecting indispensable data needed to seek solutions to the problem of handling rainwater and the problem of sanitation in the networks.



■ General Council of the Department of Seine-Saint-Denis and Portugal (1998-2005)

Associação de Municípios do Distrito de Setúbal
Av Dr Manuel Arriaga N°. 6 2nd esq - 2900-473, Setúbal, Portugal

Partners: Department of the Seine Saint Denis: DEA: Directorate of Water and Sewerage and Waste Treatment, DEV: Directorate for Green Spaces, DAD: Directorate of Land Use and Development, The Composante Urbaine engineering bureau.

History

In June 1998 the General Council of the Seine-Saint-Denis signed a cooperation agreement with the Association of Municipalities of the District of Setúbal (AMDS). The AMDS comprises thirteen cities in the region of Lisbon. The District of Setúbal has experienced a period of strong industrial development, and as a consequence major but poorly controlled urban development. Today the issue of sustainable development is a central concern, especially for urban development projects.

Realizations

Reconquering of a stream, the Coina

Accompanying urban development (easing traffic, green itineraries, hydraulic control). Alleviating hazards related to urbanization (pollution, flooding, loss of natural drainage due to pavement, etc.) Preserving ecological assets inherent in the stream (biodiversity, water quality, shoreline, etc.)



Development of a rainwater master plan for the city of Sesimbra

Study of dealing with constraints related to rainwater runoff in an urban development operation.

After filing of the study, the goal is to integrate proposals regarding sewerage and waste treatment alternatives into the city's urban-development constraints plan.

■ General Council of the Department of Seine-Saint-Denis, General Council of the Department of the Val-de-Marne and the Palestinian (1992-2005)

Recipient City Hall:

Municipality of Qalqilia P.O. Box 2 Qalqilia via Israel
Municipality of Tulkarem P.O. Box 9 Tulkarem via Israel
Municipality of Jenin P.O. Box 13 Jenin via Israel

Partners: Department of the Seine Saint Denis: DEA: Directorate of Water and Sewerage and Waste Treatment, The Department of the Val-de-Marne, The municipalities of Jenin, Qalqilia, and Tulkarem.

History

The General Councils of the Seine-Saint-Denis and the Val-de-Marne in France, on April 12 1999, entered into a decentralized cooperation protocol with the autonomous Palestinian cities of Jenin, Qalqilia, and Tulkarem, located in the northern West Bank. The choice of these three cities was related to the lack of presence of French municipalities in that region.

Among the priorities defined among the partners in the context of support to strengthening of the local autonomy of the Palestinian partner cities is a project on increasing water resources and production capacities, as well as renovation of the drinking-water distribution networks and wastewater collection networks.

Realizations

Response to emergencies, control of water quality, and combating loss and leakage in the network

Definition of topics for actions for 2003-2004 on control of water quality and the fight against leakage and water losses, accompanied by support in the form of training for city personnel.

Creation of a Center for Water Research and Development

The political situation in the region (the second Intifada) prevented the program's leading to implementation of concrete projects in the cities in 2000.

2005-2006: A visit to the Val-de-Marne by water engineers from the three partner cities in order to re-launch the project for a Palestinian Center for Water Development and Research.

Definition of the content of the Palestinian Center, whose mission would be:

- drawing up a master plan for water management for each city,
- hydrogeological, geological, hydraulic modeling, epidemiological, and demographic studies
- diagnosis of drinking-water resources and water, sewerage, and waste treatment networks,
- design and water-management studies,
- collection of data on the quality of groundwater supplies, drinking water, and wastewater,
- detection of leaks in all networks,
- studies for agricultural re-use of wastewater.



■ General Council of the Department of Seine-Saint-Denis and Morocco (2000-2005)

Recipient City Hall:

Municipality of Figuig, Cité Administrative B.P. 121 6100, Figuig, Morocco

Partners: Department of the Seine Saint Denis: DEA: Directorate of Water and Sewerage and Waste Treatment, SIAAP: Interdepartmental Syndicate of Sewerage and Waste Treatment for the Greater Paris Region, Hydrasol engineering bureau, Sol Paysage, INRA, Federation of Figuig Associations in France.

History

The General Council of the Seine-Saint-Denis, on June 8, 2000, entered into a decentralized cooperation protocol with the Moroccan city of Figuig, an oasis located in the eastern part of the country, at the border between Morocco and Algeria, 400 km from Oujda. The choice of this municipality was related to the presence of large community of Seine-Saint-Denis residents who are originally from Figuig.

Among the priorities defined in the protocol and in the context of the environment, urbanism, and local development aspects was management of water and the struggle against desertification in the Province. The first part of the project concerns water and sewerage and waste treatment. Another part involving development of agriculture in the Province is also planned.

Realizations

- Studies and actions have been undertaken with the Hydrasol engineering bureau concerning saving water and new plantings.

Assessment of this action: 40% savings of water in 3 years (50% last year).

An extension of the experiment is planned with the local agricultural cooperative.

Struggle against desertification

In partnership with Sol Paysage and the INRA: Study of the soil in the different areas of the oasis. Study of alaboratory project by Hydrasol.

Development of a sewerage and waste treatment project for the city of Figuig:

- **1st phase:** Undertaking of work for construction of the sewerage and waste treatment network in three areas of the city. Partnership with the SIAAP for financing a project over several years.
- Project under way: Sewerage and waste treatment work with the Federation of Figuig Associations in France and the city of Figuig. Continuation of the partnership with all the partners toward the 2nd phase of work in the other areas of the city.

Contacts:

General Council of the Department
of Seine-Saint-Denis
Hôtel du Département - Boîte postale 193
93003 Bobigny cedex

Pascal Buhry,
Head Office for International Relations
and Decentralized Cooperation
pbuhry@cg93.fr
Tel. +33 1 43 93 93 93

Keur Macene Drinking Water Treatment Plant and Distribution System, Mauritania

Vert-Saint-Denis (Seine-et-Marne): population 7,900 - **Gérard Bermheim**, Mayor

Keur Macene (province of Trarza): population around 8,000, village located in south west Mauritania in the delta of the Senegal River

Project initiated by the Vert-Saint-Denis-Keur Macene Twinning Committee and financed by the municipality of Vert-Saint-Denis, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the European Community, UNICEF and the Caisse des dépôts et consignations (French public financial institution dedicated to local authority development). Partner during the first three stages of the project: GRET (French solidarity and international cooperation association)

Project history

When officials from Vert-Saint-Denis first visited Keur Macene they were told by village elders “We have no drinking water. It’s very bad for our health. We need a water tower”. The burning question was how to grant that wish. The subsoil in the Senegal River delta has a high salt content so it was not feasible to tap the aquifer. The only freshwater source was the marigot, and this was polluted.

1st stage: 1992 – 1993 Creation of the treatment facility and a small distribution system with five standpipes. Installation of a wind turbine.

The installations were commissioned in July 1993 but were shunned by the community who preferred to fetch their water from the marigot rather than paying for more distant water sources. At the time, there was still a great deal of ignorance about the importance of drinking water in health issues.

2nd stage: 1995 Development of a water distribution system for the village of Keur Macene (population 2,000) with a meter for each household. This system was welcomed by families, as the women and children would no longer have to fetch water regularly and the girls would be able to go to school. There was also a general realisation that safe water was important for good health - particularly for small children.

The increase in demand was sufficient to pay the salary of a water system manager and the bulk of the operating cost. It also meant the need for more electricity, so two mechanical water pumping systems were installed and a second wind turbine.

3rd stage: 1996 -1997 Supply of the village of B’Neïnadji (about 1,000 people) from the water tower in the village of Keur Macene, 3 km away. The B’Neïnadji water tower was supplied by a submerged electric pump installed in the Keur Macene water tower. Water was then distributed by gravity to each house (each equipped with a meter as in Keur Macene).

4th stage: 2001 Installation of two solar pumps. The two wind turbines and two water pumping systems were insufficient, owing to the rise in demand and unfavourable wind conditions. The use of a generating set proved costly as well as unreliable. The solution was to install two solar pumps.

5th stage: 2002 – 2003 Supply of a third village, Bounaya (300 people), 6 km from the village of Keur Macene. The Keur Macene network was extended and part of the treatment facility refurbished.

6th stage: 2005 – 2006 Improvement of the water treatment facility and expansion of its capacity. Creation of a new electricity network in the village of Keur Macene. These improvements will cater for the drinking water requirements of five other villages (2,700 people), in addition to the communities already served.

The project

Treatment Process

Flocculation-Settling

Water is withdrawn from the marigot by an electric pump and a wind pump. A Gahrin mechanical dosing system is used to inject a dose of aluminium sulphate, which will vary according to turbidity. Two fibreglass settling tanks are alternately filled with water. The lower conical part of the tanks is kept full with a mixture of water and sludge. The water contained in the upper cylindrical part is emptied once it clarifies. Part of the sludge that has settled at the bottom of the tank is discharged via a blow off. The system operates automatically.

The clarified water is then stored in four concrete tanks. A solar pump and submerged electric pump deliver the water to the water tower via two Silex filters and a Gahrin chlorinator identical to that used to inject aluminium sulphate.

The Network

The total length of the network is about 25 km. The population dug the trenches for the system and installed the flexible HDPE pipes. The beneficiaries thus contributed to building the project, thereby by generating significant savings. The Vert-Saint-Denis Twinning Committee has furnished financial and technical support since the start of the project and assisted in management and maintenance operations.

Management of the facilities

The facilities are managed directly by the municipality. Water is billed per cubic meter. The price per cubic meter, as established by the municipal management committee is MRO 150 (0.47 euros). Revenues cover operating expenses but not major refurbishment works. We have long been recommending that the municipality raise the water tariff to at least compensate for inflation but this is a difficult political decision for the authorities.

The management of the service by the municipality enhances the legitimacy of that institution, since the community come to realise that it has a useful purpose to play.

Contact:

Raymond Pinard,

Chairman of the Twinning Committee
(a retired engineer)

6 Allée des Fauvettes

77240 Vert-Saint-Denis

Tel./Fax +33 1 60 63 35 33

raymond.pinard@wanadoo.fr

Alumin sulfate
measure



Glass fiber
decantation
tank



Townplanning and water supply in Sofara, Mali

City of Mulhouse (Haut-Rhin)

Jean-Marie Bockel, Mayor, Senator of Haut-Rhin

Beneficiary of the project: **City of Sofara/Fakala** (Mali)

Mr Alassane Guindo, Mayor

Cercle de Djenné Région de Mopti - République du Mali

Tél. +223 24 20 09 22 - Fax +223 24 42 00 20

Other partners of the project: Agence d'Urbanisme de la Région Mulhousienne, Institut Régional de Coopération Développement (IRCOD) Alsace, Regional direction for hydraulic and energy of Mopti (Mali), Regional direction for water treatment of Mopti (Mali).

History of the project

In 1989, associations of Malian migrants from Mulhouse got in touch with the Malian village of Sofara which became in 1999 the central village of the rural district of Fakala (30 000 inhabitants).

In 1991, the mayor of Mulhouse decided to develop a partnership with a municipality of the south. Thanks to the already existing contacts, he proposed to choose the municipality of Sofara.

During a first meeting in Sofara, both municipal authorities decided to work together on several projects in order to improve the conditions of life of the population of Sofara and also to develop the local economical activity. Several projects were carried out and in particular: the equipment of a workshop-school for the local craftsmen; the boring of wells for the market gardening; a financial supply to buy rice seeds; the digging of a channel to improve the irrigation of the ricefields.

A charter of twinning was signed by the two mayors the 18th January 2003.

Subject of the project

The local authorities of Sofara/Fakala need a town planning scheme including a study about water supply and treatment of waste water to be able to control the development of the village.

Implementation of the project

A team of french experts from the Urban Planning Agency and the Water Office of Mulhouse went to Sofara/Fakala in february 2005 to make an inventory of the installations and to identify the problems.

What concerns the water supply, the service and the administration are working correctly. The main problem is the insufficiency of water ressources. Otherwise, the village doesn't get any system for the treatment of wasted water and for the evacuation of rain water.

In order to realize a town planning scheme including these aspects, the experts came to the conclusion that they need a global study of the ground water. This study will make it possible to determine priority work and to schedule it.



Water supply and water treatment in El Khroub, Algeria

City of Mulhouse (Haut-Rhin)

Jean-Marie Bockel, Mayor, Senator of Haut-Rhin

Beneficiary of the project: **City of El Khroub** (Algeria)

Mr Hadj Belaribi, président de l'Assemblée Populaire Communale

Daïra d'El Khroub Wilaya de Constantine, Algérie

Tél. + 213 31 96 52 77 - Fax + 213 31 96 41 77

Other partners of the project: Institut Régional de Coopération Développement (IRCOD) Alsace

In 1999, the City of Mulhouse signed a convention of co-operation with the Algerian city of El Khroub. El Khroub is a city of 150 000 inhabitants near by Constantine. The hygiene of the urban environment, in relation with water supply and water treatment, is one of the priority topic of co-operation. Experience sharing between the two cities began in 2000 on the basis of a first report written by the Headmanager of the Water Office of Mulhouse and the local Headmanager of the "Lyonnaise des Eaux". In 2004, a new expertise helped the partners to define the actions which should make it possible to improve the conditions of water supply and treatment of wasted water. Through regular contacts between the agents of the two cities and the organization of training courses, Mulhouse is bringing a methodological support to the city of El Khroub.

Contact:

Estelle Mangold,

Head of Department for international relations
and cross-border cooperation

Ville de Mulhouse

2 rue Pierre et Marie Curie, BP 10020

F - 68948 Mulhouse cedex 9

Tel. +33 3 89 66 11 14

Fax +33 3 89 45 70 61

estelle.mangold@ville-mulhouse.fr

Introduction of Water Quality Monitoring in N'Djamena

City of Toulouse (Haute-Garonne)

Mr Jean-Luc Moudenc, Mayor of Toulouse

Mrs Mayeux-Bouchard, Delegate for International Relations

Beneficiary: City Council of N'Djamena

Mr Dago Yacoub, Mayor of N'Djamena

Other Partners:

Cooperation and Cultural Action Service of the French Embassy, French Development Agency, General Hospital of N'Djamena, various groups representing the civil society sector (local development groups, sanitation committees, women's groups). In Toulouse: various engineering universities (Institut Catholique des Arts et Métiers, Institut National Polytechnique de Toulouse, Institut National des Sciences Appliquées), Médecins du Monde, Urban Development Agency for Greater Toulouse, regional hospital.

Project history

For the last ten years, the City of Toulouse has been involved in a process of decentralized cooperation with the city of N'Djamena. Cooperation programmes are developed with local authorities and involve projects implemented through formal agreements and partnerships involving a wide range of actors. Cooperation with N'Djamena is implemented in liaison with the French Cooperation Mission and in coordination with the actions undertaken by the French Development Agency. Since 1996, Toulouse's municipal hygiene and health service plays an active part in this process. Their involvement takes the form of assistance in reorganising N'Djamena's own hygiene and health service, including the provision of staff training, and support in developing an action plan to improve solid waste management in the African city. The training component has led to the development of procedures for conducting food hygiene surveys, and for the progressive implementation of sanitary inspections, vermin control and water quality analyses.

At the same time, since 1998 the efforts of the City of Toulouse focus on two priorities: the solid waste and sanitation management plan and the provision of assistance to its African counterpart in the management of municipal operations.

Based on a feasibility study conducted in collaboration with the French Cooperation Mission and the Caisse des Dépôts et Consignations (French public financial institution dedicated to local authority development), an action plan was developed addressing social and sanitary aspects as well as technical and financial considerations. The plan, finalised in 2000, is to be implemented in several phases, leveraging the available input at the local level and the support of national or international institutions. In accordance with the recommendations of the action plan, the City of Toulouse contributes to various pilot actions (assistance for N'Djamena's municipal waste recycling facility), while maintaining close ties with the various other funding agencies involved so as to ensure the smooth coordination of the different programmes and their consistency with objectives.

Objectives

The main objective is to improve public services with a view to enhancing the quality of life of the population. Project development is underpinned by a process of dialogue and consultation with the community, and emphasis on their participation. In the area of sanitation, the aim is to improve health and living conditions in urban areas by fostering a cleaner and more healthy environment.

Implementation and achievements

Water hygiene monitoring is the role of the hygiene and health service. This aspect is addressed through several new water supply projects. With the financial banking of the French Development Agency, the City of N'Djamena has extended the water supply to hitherto unserved areas. Since early 2003, 100,000 people have access to distribution points served by five new boreholes tapping the city's deep aquifer. Eight standpipes and 23 water distribution kiosks are supplied by five water towers.

The arrangements for managing these facilities are particularly innovative involving a participatory approach, where the community itself plays a central role in improving its own living conditions. The city council has entrusted the operation of the facilities to fermiers (private operators), who sell the water at a set price and are responsible for the maintenance of the installations. The water towers are situated in the places de vie (public spaces) among the streetstalls, shops, latrines, trees and gathering places. They are managed by the associations responsible for managing the places de vie.

The City Council oversees the operation of the facilities, which it does through the structure CAPAQ (Support Unit for District Development Projects), which also has a coordinating role. The unit, managed by an environmental engineer, is staffed by representatives of other municipal services including Hygiene and Health, Roads, Social Welfare and Education, etc.

It is thus within the framework of CAPAQ, that the health and hygiene engineer monitors hygiene in public places where water distribution points are located, as well as water quality. A hypochlorite treatment is administered by the fermier in a purpose built, secure building. The City of Toulouse has supported the project through targeted training and the provision of reagents and chlorine meters to measure chlorine concentrations and ensure that the treatment process has been properly administered.

The outcome has been better control of the monitoring of the water distributed by standpipes and water towers.

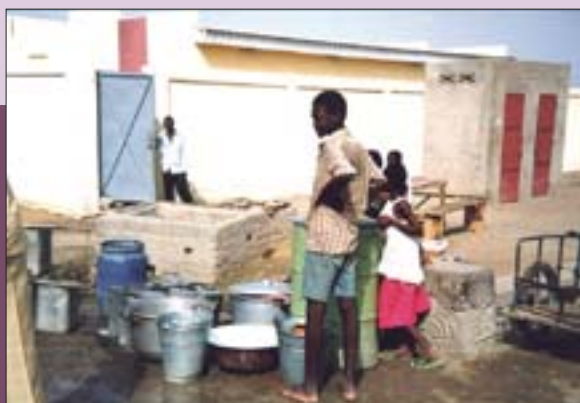
The action, which requires long-term follow-up and the provision of appropriate equipment, is to be pursued.

Contacts:

Mme Gisèle Teulières,
Director of International and European Relations

Mrs Marie-Claude Rémésy,
Director of the Hygiene and Health Service

N'Djamena City Council:
Mr Ahmat, Secretary General
Mr Sarmadji, Director of Technical Services



Rehabilitation and Operation of the Zibako Reservoir in Burkina Faso

City of Limoges (Haute-Vienne)

Beneficiary: Rural Municipality of Pabré, Burkina Faso

Other Partners:

French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union (ACP-EU Water Facility – Call for Proposals)

Project history

One of the distinctive features of Limoges' international relations development strategy is the city's desire to assert itself as a driving force in the Francophone world. That role, initially limited to the hosting of the world's biggest Francophone theatre festival (Festival International des Francophonies en Limousin - FIFL), has progressively expanded to include other cultural areas (creation of the B.F.M., a multi-media Francophone library specialising in Francophone theatre and literature), then to what is known as the francophonie solidaire (literally "solidarity of the French-speaking world").

This idea of solidarity with the Francophone world is very much alive in Limoges, where many people are members of Francophone associations. Two of those associations have worked for several years now with the rural municipality of Pabré, namely Le Pont association created in 1987 and Un enfant, un cartable ("One Child, One Schoolbag") with its 500 members who sponsor 845 primary school pupils. These examples are testimony to the commitment of the City of Limoges to the development of the municipality of Pabré - a genuine commitment nourished by the expectations of the people of Pabré, and consistent with the City's efforts to strengthen its international relations. The natural outcome was that on 13 February 1999, the City of Limoges entered into an agreement to promote the sustainable development of the Pabré département (in the province of Kadiogo), which since 21 December 2004 has the status of "rural commune of Pabré". Initially, the scope of cooperation was limited to three main areas: Water (and Sanitation), Health and Education. A fourth area of cooperation was added subsequently: the Economy. A virtue of the Zibako Reservoir project (named after a village in the Pabré area) is precisely its multi-sectoral character. With water as the starting point, it involves a wide range of players (in both France and Africa) in training and educational initiatives, and will have highly beneficial effects both for public health and – the ultimate goal - the local economy, with the development of new revenue-generating activities.

Objectives

The villages of Zibako, Wavougué and Nedogo are essentially rural communities. Rainfall, though sufficient in quantity (805 mm/year), is concentrated on only a short period of the year, with the result that much of the water needed for the economic development of the area (and livestock farming in particular as the area's main revenue source) is lost. This situation is particularly unfortunate in that the community has demonstrated a clear desire to develop its economy, with the emergence of associations of livestock farmers specialising in quality meat production (an initiative supported by the City of Limoges). The farmers have long been calling for the rehabilitation of the reservoir, which was built in 1987 by the ONBI and damaged in 1989 due to flooding. The proximity of the city provides a plausible sales outlet for them, and an operational reservoir would be a (non-potable) water source both for the population and for livestock, as well as fruit and vegetable growing and fish farming activities.

The priority communities in terms of reaping the benefits of the project are the villages of Wavougué, Zibako, Bidougou and Nedogoa, and in particular farmers and young people in those communities. The project is thus highly popular with the village land management committees (CVGTs).

The raison-d'être of the project is thus three-fold:

- It is consistent with aspirations of the community, allowing them to diversify their sources of income and protein.
- It is consistent with the ambitions of the MRA (Ministry of Animal Resources) which is anxious to promote the development of Burkina (particularly in the area of Ouagadougou's refrigerated slaughterhouse) as a quality meat producer, with part of its production destined for export and the remaining part for the capital's upmarket hotels and restaurants.
- It is consistent with the spirit of the aid-for-sustainable-development agreement binding Pabré with the City of Limoges, given that it is mindful both of the participation of the community and the respect for the environment.

Implementation

Between July 2004 and March 2005 a series of studies was conducted addressing the technical, economic, environmental, social and land-use aspects of the project. The findings confirmed the technical feasibility and validity of the scheme. Study components included the development of a profile of socio-economic and agro-sylvo-pastoral characteristics of the reservoir area, and a detailed analysis of the local population and of ways in which they could contribute to the project. The studies also tackled the socio-economic and environmental measures needed to accompany the project.

In December 2005, a Burkinabé contractor was selected following an open procurement procedure supervised by the Pabré authorities and based on a cost estimate produced by the engineering consultants Gramhy (also a Burkinabé firm).

The first tranche of works (which was accompanied by an intensive information campaign directed at the local population) began in February 2006. The commissioning of the structure is scheduled for the month of May, prior to the start of the rainy season.

At the same time, the village land management committees of Zibako and Wavougué, who have a special interest in the project, have become directly involved in its implementation. The two committees are highly aware of the part they have to play in the implementation and sustainability of the project, and in the sustainable management of the facilities. In this context they have come together under the "Committee for the Management of the Zibako/Wavougué Embankment", which, further to training, will be responsible for policing and maintaining the reservoir.

Contacts:

Constantin Christides,

Deputy Mayor responsible for decentralized cooperation
87031 Limoges cedex
Tel. +33 5 55 45 63 74 - Fax +33 5 55 32 12 55

Jacques Robert-Engman,

Director of International Relations,
City of Limoges
87031 Limoges cedex
Tel. 05 55 45 64 08
jacques-robert-engman@ville-limoges.fr

Cooperation with the Urban Municipality of Doula 1^{er}, Cameroon

IRCOD Alsace – Regional Institute for Development Cooperation

Espace Nord/Sud, 17, rue de Boston, 67000 Strasbourg

Partner: **Alsace Region, Adrien Zeller**, Chairman

1 Place du Wacken, BP 91006, 67000 Strasbourg

Beneficiary: **Urban Municipality of the Arrondissement of Douala 1^{er}**

B.P. 3135, Doula 1er, Cameroon

Other Partners:

In France: Bas-Rhin Département

Local Partners: Urban Community of Douala, Neighbourhood Development Committee of Bessengue Akwa, Doul'Art

Project history

At the initiative of the municipality of Doula 1er, the district of Bessengué-Akwa was named the recipient of a local development plan based on a participatory management scheme involving the population and the municipality. A local association, Doul'Art, was responsible for running the project, for which purpose it organised a consultation process bringing together various institutions and community representatives under the umbrella of the Neighbourhood Development Committee of Bessengue Akwa (CDBA).

During the first stage of the project, the CDBA and the municipality worked in close collaboration to determine the needs of the people of Bessengue Akwa. Based on those needs, a list of projects was established with a triple focus - improving access to and from the district, hygiene and sanitation, and social integration through cultural programmes. The role of the City of Lingolsheim and its services is to provide support in identifying appropriate actions and assisting in their implementation.

Objectives

The project aims to improve the living conditions and quality of life of the local community through public health and hygiene measures (vermin control programmes, cleaning of drains, rehabilitation of standpipes and culverts, effective management of household waste, etc.) and by improving access to and from the district (repair of a footbridge, creation of pavements). A second aim is to organize the community. The goal will be to create a neighbourhood association to act as an effective and representative interlocutor about the development of the neighbourhood and management of services – and drinking water in particular. The overarching goal is to harness the competencies of local government and the dynamism of the civil society, and to use that synergy in designing, building and managing essential infrastructure, particularly in the field of water.

Implementation and achievements

The first measure implemented through the partnership was to restructure the local drain. The aim was to improve the discharge of rainwater so as to reducing flooding, which had hitherto been a common occurrence. The next step was targeted at improving access to drinking water through the construction of a standpipe, now managed by the CDBA. A second standpipe is planned as well as the construction of a culvert in the northern part of the district.

Continuing the process set in motion, the World Bank plans to fund a programme for improving access to services in Bessengué-Akwa (as the location of two spontaneous settlements). The project - which will involve concrete measures such as improving access to the district, and the provision of drainage, waste disposal and public lighting - will roll forth the development process already initiated.

Achievements:

The development plan was finalised and approved by the various stakeholders in mid-2005. The priority will be on the building of pavements and improving the public lighting and drinking water systems. The procurement process for engineering services commenced in September 2005.

Contacts:

Denis Schultz,
Director

Claude Régall,
Executive Officer
Tel. +33 3 88 45 59 89
ircod1@ircod.org

Philippe Naegel,
Representative of the IRCOD in the Cameroon
B.P. 4280 - Yaoundé
Tel. +237 220 85 77
philippe.naegel@ircod.org



Assistance in Water Management for the Association of Municipalities of Mbam and Inoubou, Cameroon

IRCOD Alsace – Regional Institute for Development Cooperation

Espace Nord/Sud, 17, rue de Boston, 67000 Strasbourg

Partners: **Alsace Region, Adrien Zeller**, Chairman

1 Place du Wacken, BP 91006, 67000 Strasbourg

Association of Municipalities of Sélestat

Marcel Bauer, Chairman, 1, rue Louis Lang, 67600 Sélestat

Town of Thann, Jean-Pierre Baeumier, Mayor, Hôtel de Ville, 1, place Joffre, 68800 Thann

Beneficiary: **The eight municipalities of the département of Mbam and Inoubou, Pascal Anong Adibimé**, Chairman of the Association of Municipalities of Mbam and Inoubou

Other Partners:

In France: Syndicat départemental de l'eau et de l'assainissement du Bas-Rhin, PS-Eau (water and sewage authorities)

Local Partners: Association of Municipalities of the département of Mbam and Inoubou

Project history

Water supply facilities in the Cameroon are of varying degrees of sophistication (developed or natural sources, wells with or without pumps, Scan-water-type installations, etc.). In rural areas and beyond the outskirts of urban centres, there are often problems related to the maintenance and sustainability of the installations and the quality of the water provided, while some of the remotest villages have no facilities at all. In the département of Mbam and Inoubou, about 315 supply points were identified. These had been built by a diverse range of stakeholders, including the state, bilateral and multilateral cooperation bodies, NGOs, local associations and the private sector. The absence of any coordination between these players has meant that there is no consistency between the types of structures created, nor in the procedures established to manage them. Against the backdrop of the privatisation of the SNEC (national water corporation), the Water Law of 1998, and then the Decentralization Law of July 2004 placed responsibility with the communes (the smallest administrative sub-division) in water management matters. In 2003, aware of the difficulty of managing water issues individually, the eight communes of Mbam and Inoubou decided to join forces as the “Association of Communes of Mbam and Inoubou” (ASCOMI), with the aim of implementing water projects and controlling water operations, pooling resources, and establishing a policy with particular emphasis on civil society initiatives.

Objectives

The project aims to foster the development of project implementation capacities at cross-municipality level, empowering ASCOMI to exercise control over water projects and services, within a participatory approach involving all local stakeholders. In doing so it contributes to Millennium Development Objectives by promoting good governance in the areas of water and poverty reduction. The approach intends to be integrated and innovative, incorporating sanitation issues from the outset through a pilot action planned for the town of Bafia.

The partnership proposed by IRCOD will mobilise resources from both the Cameroon and France (Alsace in particular), as part of a mentoring process to assist in the development of structures capable of contracting, implementing, managing and supervising water projects and services.

Implementation and achievements

The project is based on an exchange of practices and experience between the communities of Alsace and Mbam and Inoubou. It also leverages the expertise of organisations which specialise in the supervision of water development and governance projects. And it contains a sanitation “research and action” component implemented in collaboration with French universities.

Through a collaborative process (involving all stake holders, including the decentralized state services), the project will determine the role and legal form of a newly formed water and sanitation service, provide assistance in recruiting staff to run the service and identify the respective roles of the actors on the ground. A second stage will involve the training of staff through an exchange of practices (assistance at the local level and training in Alsace). A resident team will then ensure supervision on the ground, in partnership with a local NGO and a representative of the consortium.

Expected Achievements

- The improved governance and management of water through the development of management procedures for municipalities coming together (as ASCOMI) to exercise control over the provision of services and infrastructure, within a participatory process involving all stakeholders (state services, public structures, local associations, NGOs, etc.).
- The development of a sustainable community-based service capable of managing water supply and sanitation projects for the eight municipalities of Mbam and Inoubou.
- The rehabilitation of the existing water infrastructure and improvement of the quality of the available resources.
- The establishment of a capital investment programme for the progressive expansion of facilities to cover the entire Mbam and Inoubou area.

Contacts:
Denis Schultz,
Director

Claude Régall,
Executive Officer
Tel. +33 3 88 45 59 89
ircod1@ircod.org

Philippe Naegel,
Representative of the IRCOD in the Cameroon
B.P. 4280 - Yaoundé
Tel. +237 220 85 77
philippe.naegel@ircod.org



Partnership between Angers Loire Métropole and Bamako

Areas of action: drinking water, solid waste and liquid waste.

Project history

Since 1974, the town of Angers has been twinned with Bamako. The exchanges that have been carried out are numerous, with investments in Bamako in the areas of education and social development (creation of 6 Reading and Activity centres), of Health (creation of 6 Community Health Centres), of Sport (creation of sports grounds), of cultural events organised each year in both Angers and in Bamako (Nuits Toucouleurs Festival, Cinéma d'Afrique). Furthermore, relations between clubs and associations from Angers and from Bamako have also been strongly developed: the Centre Hospitalier d'Angers is twinned with that of Bamako, as well as several other organisations such as the Charlotte Blouin and Montclair centres (for people of impaired vision and hearing), the Mutualité d'Anjou (supplying glasses frames and optical material) and the blood transfusion centre (procedure for safe transfusions).

Continuing these thirty years of twinning with the wish to develop actions in the sphere of sustainable development, the borough of Angers Loire Métropole has, since 1999, as such engaged in partnership actions with Bamako which fall within its capabilities.

Each year, a contribution of 0.3% of its investment budget is foreseen: 10 000 euros of investment to directly to Bamako with a further contribution in place to allow for delegation visits of councillors and technicians.

Demographically speaking, the development of Bamako has been extremely rapid, with a population of 800 000 in 1996 rising to one of around 1 600 000 inhabitants in 2006. Therefore, their needs in terms of water and waste management (solid and liquid) constitute a priority for the councillors of Bamako.

With the support of their network of partners, the relational and the Maison du Partenariat of Angers, Angers Loire Métropole has been able to develop complementary projects in the domains of water and of solid waste.

Implementations

Domain of water: Implementing two water towers and their network of ground fountains

In 1999, two districts of Bamako did not have access to drinking water. Relying on existing holes with hand pumps, Angers Loire Métropole has equipped them with underground pumps linked to the water towers. A network allowing the distribution to ground fountains, after chlorinisation, has been put into place.

These facilities have been implemented in collaboration with the governmental body in charge of water resources (Direction régionale de l'hydraulique) and with a management committee that was set up to assure the upkeep of the material and to and to perceive royalties on the water supplies in the different water pumps.

A water tower and a network of water pumps represents a budget of 70 000 euros.

Twinning the communes of Angers Loire Métropole with communes neighbouring Bamako

Drawing on the dynamic of the exchanges of Angers and Angers Loire Métropole, several twinings have been developed between the communes of Angers Loire Métropole and communes in the surrounding areas of Bamako. As such, the communes of Saint-Barthélémy d'Anjou - N Gabakoro droit, Les Ponts de Cé - Moribabougou, Saint Léger des bois and Saint Jean de Linières - Safo have led exchanges, carrying out multiple activities such as the rehabilitation of the hand pump in Safo (see above).

Evaluation and projects

Each year, different activities are evaluated during the visits of delegations, which are composed of councillors and technicians, in collaboration with the councillors of Bamako.

Drinking water

After setting up two initial water towers, research has been undertaken regarding new implantation sites. It appears that, after consultation with the concessionary, its network should reasonably cover the whole of the Bamako territory. Therefore, it wasn't an option to carry on down this road. Nevertheless, it has been noted cuts in the concessionary's water supply could be inconvenient for residents and the Centres de Santé Communautaires (Local Health Centres). Furthermore, one of the water towers created by Angers Loire Métropole appeared to have some dysfunctions. However, it was possible to fix them, and it has also been possible to extend the networks of drinking fountains. Each year, the management committees issue a technical and economic report that assures good management, water quality and good upkeep of the material.

Liquid Waste

Being a particular competence of Angers Loire Métropole, projects in the domain of waste water management have been researched, with possibilities of laying down pavements, the implementation of mini-sewers and an understanding of the organisation of individual purification of a concession. However, they haven't been able to develop this further because the technical appropriation was not satisfactory and the projects which are also underway have used up all of the financial intervention capacity of Angers Loire Métropole in Bamako.

Conclusion

Each exchange of Angers Loire Métropole with Bamako is developed with managers of the Bamako District, the Mayors of the two concerned communes as well as the local population, in order to adapt in the best possible way to the needs that they express. It is also in accordance with all of the dimensions of the Angers partnership.

Contacts:

Maison du Partenariat Angers Bamako

Avenue du 22 Octobre 1946- BPE 1721 - Bamako - Mali

Tel. +223 84 16

maison.angersbko@afribone.net.ml

Jean-Marc Verchère ou Cyrille Bader

Angers Loire Métropole - 83 rue du Mail - 49100 Angers

Tel. +33 2 41 05 50 00

jean-marc.verchere@angersloiremetropole.fr

cyrille.bader@angersloiremetropole.fr

Rehabilitation of a hand pump

Having begun a partnership, two communes of Angers Loire Métropole (Saint Léger des Bois and Saint Jean de Linières) and the commune of Safo (neighbouring town of Bamako) have arranged to lead an initial action to rehabilitate a derelict hand pump. An order has therefore been made with a specialist company (Somaher) located in Bamako totalling 3000 euros (before tax) to replace the hand pump and to create a permanent construction in order to protect the equipment and to facilitate the cleanliness of the area.



Reinforcement of the Capacities of Public Water Services and Implementation of the Water Code in the Region of Haute-Matsiatra, Madagascar

Greater Lyon Council (Rhône)

Beneficiary: **Haute-Matsiatra Region**

Partners: BURGEAP, 27 rue de Vanves, 92772 Boulogne-Billancourt
Tel +33 1.46.10.25.40 - Fax : +33 1.46.10.25.49

Objectives

The project concerns the enforcement of the Water Code and of government water sector policies in the pilot region of Haute Matsiatra. The objectives are three-fold:

- To improve water management in the Haute-Matsiatra Region, through a policy of integrated water resource management.
- To reinforce the capacities of local public water services.
- To create a regional centre of expertise on water issues.

Aided by the Water Code, the project will endeavour to implement national government policy at the local level - in this case the Region of Haute-Matsiatra.

The project is part of a decentralization policy for Madagascar supported by the European Union. Implementing that policy will involve building local capacities and the development of a partnership between a local authority of the North (Greater Lyon) and a local authority of the South (Region of Haute-Matsiatra).

The project also reflects the Region's ambition to become a centre of excellence and key player in the water and sanitation sector, which is a focal point of the national strategy to reduce poverty.

The action also contributes to the attainment of the following general goals set out by the government of Madagascar in its Strategic Poverty Reduction Document (DSRP):

- To bring government closer to the community by a process of decentralization.
- To incentivize the population to take part in that process.
- To plan and leverage the country's human resources.

Programme

0. Preliminary measure: inventory of stakeholders and water and sanitation projects in the Haute-Matsiatra Region

OS1: Integrated water resources management

1.0 Regional inventory of water resources with a view to an integrated management strategy at catchment-wide level in the Haute-Matsiatra region.

1.1 Implementation of a water resources monitoring system in a pilot catchment area.

1.2 Processing of data and incorporation of findings in a monitoring and/or development plan for the pilot catchment.

1.3 Studies and recommendations for water supply and sanitation in the pilot urban municipalities.

1.4 Studies and recommendations for water supply and sanitation in pilot rural municipalities.

The outcomes of these different actions will be factored into a Regional Water Resources Development Master Plan.

OS2: Water authority capacity building

2.1 Assistance to Madagascan local authorities in their role as contracting authorities:

- Conferences and presentations open to all of the Region's municipalities.
- Workshops for the pilot municipalities based on an exchange of experience (visits of French experts to Madagascar and of Madagascan local officials to Lyon).
- Assistance to the contracting authority in programming, commissioning and managing water infrastructure.

2.2 Technical and procedural assistance to the Region in setting up a Catchment Committee and preparing the Water Resources Development Master Plan.

2.3. Encouragement of local authorities to adopt participatory methods and mechanisms, and assistance in strengthening the local authority-user dialogue about water, sanitation and health issues (information, education and communication campaigns)

OS3: Development of a regional centre of expertise on water issues

The aim will be to promote networking between the different regional water players and the development of research activities in the area of water. To that end, Greater Lyon and the Haute-Matsiatra Region will support the development of a cooperation process between the Universities of Fianarantsoa and Lyon.

Partners

The decentralized cooperation programme is implemented in partnership with the Region of Haute-Matsiatra and the French consulting engineers BURGEAP. Other partners involved in the programme are:

- In Madagascar: APMM Association, JIRAMA; Urban Commune of Fianarantsoa, University of Fianarantsoa, Ministry of Energy and Mines
- In Lyon: Université Lyon I, IG2E, Agence de l'Eau Rhône-Méditerranée-Corse

Budget

The overall project budget is € 1,170,894 over 3 years, of which € 873,894 (75%) is contributed by the European Commission (FED) and € 12,000 (1%) by the Madagascan partner.

Contacts:

Hanta Rabetaliana

Chef de Région Haute-Matsiatra
Palais de la Région, Tsianolondroa
301 Fianarantsoa, Madagascar
Tel. +261 20 75 51031 - Mob: +261 320439392

Vincent Dussaux,

executive Officer for Water Decentralized Cooperation
Communauté Urbaine de Lyon
20 rue du Lac - BP 3103 - 69399 Lyon cedex 03
Tel. +33 4 78 95 89 31 - Fax +33 4 78 95 89 74
vdussaux@grandlyon.org



Decentralized Cooperation Between the City of Poitiers (France) and the City of Moundou, Chad

City of Poitiers (Vienne)
Jacques Santrot, Mayor

Beneficiary: **City of Moundou, Chad**

Partner: Poitiers-Moundou Association (APM)

Project history

Contacts were first established between Poitiers and Moundou in 1987 through the intermediary of Banjara Yoyana, a Chad minister and former student at Poitiers University. In 1989, a twinning agreement was initiated and the Poitiers-Moundou Association (APM) created to coordinate the twinning process as part of the decentralized cooperation effort.

Implementation and achievements

In 1996, the City of Poitiers, working in close collaboration with the Poitiers-Moundou Association (APM), initiated a project to extend the Moundou water network, which had been built in 1959. The aim was to build two new 1.5 km sections of water mains and 10 km of standpipes (plus an extension to equip a local school with a standpipe and tap). The works, which were financed by the City of Poitiers, Cités-Unies France, the Cooperation and Cultural Action Service of the French Embassy in N'Djaména, the French Development Agency, the Vienne Regional Council, the Prefecture of the Poitou-Charentes Region, the Regional Council of Poitou-Charentes and the City of Moundou, were directed by a Standpipe Construction and Management Committee (CEGBF), comprising the City of Moundou, the Chad water and electricity authority (STEE), the chiefs of the neighbourhoods concerned and various representatives of the civil society, and the Moundou-Poitiers Friendly Association (AAMP, Chad counterpart of the APM, which chairs the committee).

Each standpipe is managed by a standpipe committee which hires a standpipe manager. The money collected from water sold to the public or to street vendors is divided into three parts: half for the standpipe manager, a quarter for minor maintenance work and a quarter to pay for future investment and the continued extension of the network.

This policy is not always strictly followed however. In 2005, the CEGBF launched a call for tenders in connection with a new training programme for standpipe managers and members of standpipe committees, which in addition to addressing financial management practices would also cover the wise use of water in terms of conservation and health issues.

The “performances” of standpipe managers are moreover very variable and are influenced by prices charged by street vendors and cultural practices in the area concerned. In outlying areas for example, people are not used to having access to clean water and using water from un-monitored wells is still common, particularly in the wet season, when half of the city suffers flooding from the nearby Logone River.

These cultural and financial practices have been integrated over the long term however as the Moundou community have become more experienced in managing the installations (the head of the city's Roads service has demonstrated great competence in this area). The result is that in 2004 a new extension was built, bringing the network to the gates of a school. The scheme has provided water to the local community (which they buy from a standpipe) and to pupils, who have free access to water (paid for by standpipe revenues) from a tap installed inside the school.

Since 2005, the project has targeted well construction in the remoter city-edge areas, since it is unlikely that the network will be extended to those areas in the near future. These wells will also be managed by the local community. The idea of making these wells the focal points for places de vie or "public spaces" where the community comes together to meet or sell their wares and produce, is continuing to gain ground. These places de vie may be supplied by alternative energy sources (solar energy for example) as provided for by an agreement already concluded with the City of Poitiers and the French electricity company EDF (and associates).

The priority given to water by the Mondou partners in 1990 has been actively pursued since that time, despite persistent difficulties (and in particular the unreliability of the service provided by the water and electricity authority STEE, which is all the more frustrating given the abundant groundwater resources at the disposal of the city's 150,000 people).

Contacts:

Mr Michel Touchard,

Deputy Mayor for International Relations

Mrs Catherine Gourmaud,

director,

Inter- national Relations

Tel. +33 5 49 52 37 87 - Fax +33 5 49 52 37 69

rel.inter@mairie-poitiers.fr

Mr Dominique Royoux,

Chairman of the APM

Tel. +33 5 49 57 26 83 (D) - +33 5 49 52 36 39 (B)

Fax +33 5 49 52 38 83

d.royoux@agglo-poitiers.fr

Mr Gérard Chaigneau,

Tel. +33 5 49 57 26 70

g.chaigneau@agglo-poitiers.fr



Public-Private Partnership for the Construction of a Small Water Distribution Network as Part of the Decentralized Cooperation Process in Cambodia

Syndicat des Eaux d’Ile de France – SEDIF (Paris region water authority)

André Santini, Chairman

Christian Cambon, Vice-Chairman in charge of Cooperation Actions

Beneficiary: **Province of Takeo**

Other Partners: GRET (French solidarity and international cooperation association)

Project history

The SEDIF is an association of municipalities bringing together 144 municipalities of the Paris region. It provides drinking water for 4 million customers and produces about 300 million cubic metres of high-quality water per year.

In 1986, the SEDIF decided to contribute to the development aid effort to promote access to drinking water for communities of the poor countries of the South. To fund its aid programme, the SEDIF determined to devote 0.3 eurocents of the revenues gained from each cubic metre of water sold. This has generated an annual budget of about 1 million euros, given the huge volumes of water involved. The scheme has the advantage of being painless for the consumer, since the sum collected represents an average 0.6 euros per household per year. It has been implemented without any rise in the price of water, as the cost of the scheme should be offset by future gains in productivity.

This initiative was the inspirational force behind the French Law of February 2005, which allowed authorities responsible for providing water and sanitation services (as well as the Agences de l’eau) to dedicate up to 1% of their water budget to cooperation actions in the field of water and sanitation.

As well as financial aid, the SEDIF contributes its know-how and expertise in the field of water and water technologies.

To ensure that the financial aid provided reaches the intended recipients and is used efficiently, the SEDIF enlists the services of an “operator”, who acts as an interface between SEDIF and the recipient community which is closely involved in the project implementation process. SEDIF can be confident about the efficiency of this mechanism, given that the operator – an NGO - is involved on the ground on a permanent basis (a condition imposed by SEDIF), ensuring close supervision of the projects and long-term support for the management and maintenance structures put in place by the beneficiary communities.

In 20 years, the SEDIF has financed more than 160 operations proposed by 25 NGOs in 16 countries and valued at more than 12 million euros. Counting contributions from other funding agencies, the operations that SEDIF has supported represent a total value of about 25 million euros. The upshot is that 1.8 million people have benefited directly from improved access to water through the construction of water facilities. These figures show that with limited but targeted means, and through critical input of the part of the NGOs and the participation of the local population, it is possible to contribute to sustainable improvements in access to water for hundreds of thousands of people – and to achieve that result through a minimal act of solidarity on the part of the western consumer.

Objectives

Cambodia is a country with an essentially rural population of 11.5 million people. It has been severely scarred by the civil war which erupted in the late seventies and which decimated the population and led to a virtual absence of governance for nearly 20 years. Although a process of reconstruction is underway, government ministers still have great difficulty in managing and coordinating priority sectoral policies.

Against this background, a major challenge is posed by the development of rural areas which still have minimal infrastructure. In the field of water for example, only 25% of the population has access to a “proper” public water point.

The liberalisation of the economy after years of iron-fisted state control has facilitated the development of private sector initiatives. At the same time there is a process of urbanisation of rural areas, whose populations aspire to the living conditions of their urban counterparts. A home water supply service has thus flourished provided by a nascent informal sector. Families can thus have a connection in their home instead of having to fetch water from distant and rudimentary supply sources such as ponds, wells, and hand pumps.

The key issues to be addressed in rural water supply in Cambodia are thus:

- To move away from a market niche towards a universal service by improving quality and reducing the number of people deprived of access to services.
- To create a favourable environment for private investors, through mechanisms such as easier access to credit, investment safeguards, training, etc.
- To build local project implementation and supervisory capacities for both direct and delegated management of services.

Implementation and achievements

Over a four-year period, the SEDIF has financed a project that has enabled the construction of two drinking water treatment and distribution facilities (treatment plant and network with private connections) each year, in villages of 1,000 to 2,000 inhabitants in the province of Takeo. The approach adopted consisted in providing additional financial support for private financing initiatives. The disbursement of these public funds is contingent on compliance with terms of reference (set by public service outsourcing agreements) and a contracting process involving the two key players - the state and the local authorities. The main stages of the project were as follows: preparation, communication, processing of requests, analysis and selection, negotiation and contracting, execution of the works and supervision of operations. Assistance was provided for the design and management of the facilities in the form of basic tools and training.

The public-private partnership principle implemented in the course of the operation has empowered local authorities to exercise their role as contracting authorities, while at the same time bringing small investors into the equation, capable of providing a high-quality public service consistent with the aspirations of the beneficiary populations.

The operation, which relies on the input of private local investors can, with the support of the international funding institutions, be replicated on a wider scale.



Contacts:

Jacques Cavard,
Director General,
Technical Services, SEDIF

Jacques Monvois,
GRET - 211-213 rue La Fayette - 75010 Paris
Tel. +33 1 40 05 61 61 - monvois@gret.org

International solidarity activities carried out by the City of Paris in the field of water and sanitation

City of Paris

Bertrand Delanoë, Mayor

Other partners :

NGOs: Eau Vive, East, AIMF, UCLG

Other cities: Phnom Penh, Kaolack, Kornaka

The City of Paris pays particular attention to the development of activities of international solidarity aimed at improving the access to water and sanitation and this reflects our determination to comply with a sustainable development approach (social, economic, human and environmental). Paris thus contributes, with United Cities and Local Governments, to reach the United Nations Millennium Development goals.

Since 2001, for instance, the City of Paris has been actively participating in decentralized cooperations aimed at supporting cities and populations in a situation of precariousness with respect to the access to water and purification of waste water. Paris has been involved, with the French Development Agency, the International Association of French speaking Mayors and the European Commission, in activities aimed at making a diagnosis of networks, elaborating a sanitation master plan and a program of protection against floods in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. The presence of French engineers there has permitted to improve the management of the Phnom Penh municipal service responsible for water. In 2006, Paris plans to expand this cooperation in favour of suburban neighbourhoods.

Paris makes sure that its contribution strengthens the capacity of action and control of local authorities and improves the well being of the populations. Its technical interventions are focused on the genuine needs of the population and come with educational and sanitary exchanges.

The City of Paris is also participating in the development of solidarity actions financed by contributions derived from users' water bills, in accordance with the provisions of the new law of 9th of February 2005 that allows French local authorities to devote up to 1% of the income they receive from water to international solidarity activities in favour of water and sanitation.

As early as 2005, Paris has been able to finance two experimental projects in the City of Kaolack (Senegal) and in the county of Kornaka (Niger). In 2006, this system will be backed up by a solidarity fund, 10% of which will be reserved to emergency interventions, allocated to international solidarity projects related to the access to water and sanitation.

In 2006, in order to ensure a transparent and efficient use of funds made available through this system, the City of Paris has decided to implement an innovative system based on a charter of ethics, a call for projects with public rules and a commitment committee open to the civil society and all the political trends represented at the Paris Council.

Developing agriculture and fostering local economy in the County of Kornaka (Niger) thanks to the construction of wells

Background of the project

In Niger, 177th and last country according to the United Nations human development ranking, about 50% of the population in the countryside doesn't have access to water public services and sanitation is practically non existing. The Eau Vive NGO, created in 1978, particularly works in the Sahel region in the field of water and sanitation, health, education, economic development, citizenship and the fight against desertification. Its projects are conducted in close collaboration with local authorities and a particular attention is paid to the fact that the definition of the needs must be done by the local populations themselves. These must also provide part of the self-financing of the projects carried out.

Object

The rural County of Kornaka, that includes 400 villages, has a population of 250 000 inhabitants, 90% of whom are sedentary and 10% nomads living on agriculture and stock breeding. About 46% of water needs are currently covered. Eau Vive aims at carrying out two projects of hydraulic installations in the villages. The first one consists in digging two wells for two villages of 500 and 600 people ; another well will be created and a water supply system installed for a village of a 1600 inhabitants. None of these villages has any hydraulic equipment and these installations will be accompanied by a campaign aimed at making the populations aware of such issues as hygiene, sanitary prevention and the management of the watering places. The second project is more specifically targeted to food safety and the development of agriculture in order to foster the economic development of the sector. It consists in the construction of 5 wells exclusively reserved to breeding. One of the objectives is to pacify the relationships between nomad and sedentary breeders. To this end, a very precise pricing system and a support to the local government are planned.

Development of the project

A management committee will be created and a pricing system will be implemented. An Eau Vive team, in the place, will follow up on these achievements over a 12 months period. The City of Paris subsidy, granted within the framework of the law of February the 9th 2005, amounts to 105 000 euros, that is to say 36,5% of the total financing of the project.

Contacts:

Myriam Constantin,

Deputy Mayor,

Responsible for Water and Sanitation

Tel. +33 1 42 76 44 53

myriam.constantin@paris.fr

Pierre Schapira,

Deputy Mayor,

Responsible for International Relations and Francophonie

Tel. +33 1 42 76 50 64

pierre.schapira@paris.fr



Capacity Strengthening for the Public Water Sector in Lebanon

Greater Lyon Council (Rhône)

Beneficiaries: Bekaa Water Authority, Beirut and Mount Lebanon Water Authority, North Lebanon Water Authority

Partners: French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Rhône-Alpes Region, City of Aix-en-Provence, CORAIL (Rhône-Alpes international cooperation development association)

Project history

In 1997 - building on a historical relationship dating back to the days of the silk trade – a charter of friendship was signed by the City of Lyon and the City of Beirut. Leveraging that partnership, the Beirut authorities requested Lyon for assistance in its project to modernise its water service, which was unstructured after 20 years of armed conflict. In 1999, a first decentralized cooperation agreement between the water department of the Greater Lyon Council and the Office des Eaux de Beyrouth (OEB) marked the start of a “Capacity Strengthening Programme for the Lebanese Public Water Sector”.

In 2003, further to the merger of the different groups of water agencies into regional water establishments, the Greater Lyon Council extended its cooperation to three of the establishments created, namely the Beirut and Mount Lebanon Water Authority, the North Lebanon Water Authority and the Bekaa Water Authority.

Objectives

The main objectives of the programme are as follows:

- To modernise and strengthen the capacities of the public water sector in Lebanon in the area of project implementation and service provision.
- To promote the integrated management of the water cycle.
- To foster a collaborative and participatory approach involving customers, local players and other public-sector bodies.

The measures implemented in each authority were tailored to their respective needs and requirements. Objectives were set for each beneficiary, the attainment of which involved specific expertise and partnership inputs.

Beirut and Mount Lebanon Water Authority

Agreement for the provision of technical and methodological assistance signed in 1999 (Office des Eaux de Beyrouth - OEB)

Cooperation themes:

- Rehabilitation and modernisation of the OEB water distribution network (through French and Lebanese contracts cofinanced by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs “FASEP” fund).
- Transfer of new technologies, including a GIS and remote network monitoring system (in partnership with the Rhône-Alpes Region).
- Strengthening of the capacities of the OEB laboratory and implementation of water quality monitoring procedures (South-South-North triangular cooperation with ONEP of Morocco, financed by the EU MEDA programme).
- Assistance in the reorganisation of the OEB (in partnership with the Rhône-Alpes Region).
- Implementation of a water resources protection policy involving the mapping of resource vulnerability and inventory of pollution hot spots as well as the development of a water resources GIS and training of an interministerial committee responsible for protecting the famous Jeita spring source.

North Lebanon Water Authority

Agreement for the provision of technical and methodological assistance signed in 2003 and extended in 2006.

Cooperation themes:

- Implementation of information systems.
- Development of customer relations (in partnership with the Rhône-Alpes Region).
- Consultation with North Lebanon water sector players and creation of a “Local Consultation Committee” (in partnership with the Rhône-Alpes Region).
- Assistance to the authority in its role as contracting authority - and in particular assistance to the Office des Eaux de Tripoli in the contracting process for private-sector provision of services.

Bekaa Water Authority

Agreement for the provision of technical and methodological assistance signed in 2003 and extended in 2006.

Cooperation themes:

- Strengthening of management team skills, including training of management staff in France.

Implementation

The water department of the Greater Lyon Council provided technical and methodological assistance through an exchange of know-how and experience. This process was implemented through:

- The presence in Lebanon of a permanent representative of the Greater Lyon Council, providing day-to-day technical and methodological assistance and monitoring project progress and general background developments.
- Regular field missions by Greater Lyon project managers and experts in accordance with project requirements.
- Training and awareness raising programmes in Lyon for Lebanese staff.

This programme of cooperation and exchange has been running for seven years now and has thus far cost around 2 million euros (given the many players involved), which have been contributed by the following sources:

- Greater Lyon Council: 500,000 euros
- Rhône-Alps Region: 900,000 euros
- Subventions (French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, EU): 350,000 euros
- Lebanese partners: 250,000 euros

The main funding institutions meet regularly to coordinate the two complementary forms of aid involved, namely decentralized cooperation and bilateral cooperation.



Contacts:

M. Jamal Krayem,
Chairman of the North Lebanon Water Authority
jakrayem@inco.com.lb

M. Vincent Dussaux,
chargé de la coopération décentralisée eau Communauté Urbaine de Lyon
Tel. +33 4 78 95 89 31 - Fax +33 4 78 95 89 74
vdussaux@grandlyon.org

Appendix

DÉCLARATION DES MAIRES ET ÉLUS LOCAUX SUR L'EAU À l'occasion du *Quatrième Forum Mondial de l'Eau Mexico*, 21 mars 2006 Proposée par la Commission sur l'Eau et l'Assainissement de CGLU

1. Nous, Maires et élus locaux du monde, réunis à l'occasion du quatrième Forum Mondial de l'Eau à Mexico du 16 au 22 mars 2006, conscients de la responsabilité et de la compétence des autorités publiques locales en matière d'eau potable et d'assainissement, rappelons les principes suivants ¹ :

- 1.1** L'eau douce est une ressource limitée et vulnérable, indispensable à la vie, au développement et à l'environnement, elle est un bien commun et un patrimoine de l'humanité;
- 1.2** Tous les êtres humains ont droit à l'accès à l'eau, en quantité et qualité suffisantes pour satisfaire leurs besoins essentiels, ainsi qu'à l'assainissement élément décisif pour la santé et la prévention des écosystèmes;
- 1.3** Le droit à l'eau de chaque individu et son utilisation doivent être exercés dans le respect des besoins des générations présentes et futures;
- 1.4** Les femmes jouent un rôle déterminant pour le développement, et en particulier dans l'approvisionnement, la gestion et la préservation de l'eau.

et constatons que :

- 1.5** L'état de la ressource s'est profondément dégradé tant en qualité qu'en quantité du fait de comportements individuels et collectifs, contraires à une gestion durable des ressources naturelles;
- 1.6** Une personne sur quatre n'accède pas à une eau en quantité et de qualité suffisante et une sur deux ne dispose pas d'un système adéquat d'assainissement. Les maladies d'origine hydrique sont à l'origine du plus grand taux de mortalité infantile sur la planète;
- 1.7** La croissance urbaine et le développement de l'habitat insalubre, la désertification et l'augmentation de la sécheresse, mais aussi les inondations et les cyclones, dus aux phénomènes de changements climatiques, ont un impact sur le niveau et la qualité de la ressource en eau.

¹ Déjà inscrits dans : le Pacte International sur les Droits Économiques, Sociaux et Culturels (1966) (art. 11-12) et l'Observation Générale (15) 2002 sur le droit à l'eau ; la Convention pour l'élimination de toutes les formes de discrimination à l'égard des femmes 1979 (art 14-2,); la Convention relative aux droits de l'enfant, 1989 (art. 24-2) ; ; la Charte Européenne du Conseil de l'Europe (1968) et sa forme révisée, la Charte européenne des ressources en eau du Conseil de l'Europe (2001), la Conférence des Nations Unies sur l'Environnement (Stockholm 1972), le préambule de la Déclaration de Mar Del Plata de la Conférence des Nations Unies sur l'eau (1977) ; Global Consultation on Safe Water and Sanitation for the 1990s (New Delhi 10 - 14 September 1990) ; la Conférence Internationale sur l'Eau et l'Environnement (Dublin 1992) ; la Déclaration finale du Sommet de Rio de Janeiro sur « Environnement et Développement et l'Agenda 21 » (1992) ; la Déclaration du Millénaire des Nations Unies (2000) ; la Déclaration ministérielle du deuxième Forum Mondial de l'Eau, La Haye (2000) ; « The Local Government Water Code » (principes de Lisbonne, 2000) ; la Déclaration ministérielle de Bonn et les recommandations d'actions (Conférence Internationale sur l'eau douce, Bonn 2001); la Résolution de l'Assemblée Générale des Nations Unies pour une année 2003 « Année Internationale de l'Eau Douce » (2002) ; la Déclaration de Johannesburg sur le Développement Durable (2002) , la Charte des services essentiels, et la Déclaration des Pouvoirs Locaux au Sommet Mondial du Développement Durable (2002) ; la Déclaration des autorités publiques locales au 3eme forum mondial de l'eau (Kyoto, 2003) ; la Déclaration de l'Eau d'Istanbul de Metropolis (septembre 2003) ; la Déclaration finale du Congrès de Cités et Gouvernements Locaux Unis (Paris, mai 2004) ; « Actions prioritaires des autorités locales » présentées à la 13^{ème} session de la Commission des Nations Unies sur le Développement Durable (New York, avril 2005) ; la Déclaration des autorités locales latino-américaines de Ciudad Valles sur la gestion de l'eau (Mexique, juin 2005), ; la Déclaration des autorités locales et régionales européennes sur l'eau adoptée par le Conseil des Communes et Régions d'Europe (Vienne, décembre 2005)"

2. Nous, Maires et élus locaux, reconnaissons que :

- 2.1** Les Objectifs du Millénaire pour le Développement (OMD) de l'ONU qui proposent de réduire de moitié d'ici 2015 le pourcentage de la population qui n'a pas accès de façon durable à un approvisionnement en eau potable, interpellent directement tous les gouvernements locaux ;
- 2.2** Les gouvernements locaux jouent un rôle fondamental dans la gestion de la ressource eau et dans l'organisation de services publics de l'eau et de l'assainissement. Leur rôle doit être reconnu et renforcé. Les autorités locales doivent pouvoir choisir librement entre différents modes de gestion;
- 2.3** La gestion équitable de la ressource eau doit bénéficier d'une approche intégrée et de responsabilités partagées entre les différents niveaux de gouvernance. Elle doit se fonder sur le principe de gestion territoriale intégrée par bassins hydrographiques;
- 2.4** La mise en valeur et la gestion de l'eau doivent avoir un caractère participatif et associer les utilisateurs, les planificateurs et les décideurs à tous les niveaux, les élus locaux représentant des relais privilégiés vers les citoyens et acteurs à chaque niveau.

3. Nous, Maires et élus locaux, nous engageons à nous efforcer de :

- 3.1** Mettre en oeuvre des politiques pour atteindre les Objectifs du Millénaire visant à réduire de 50 % d'ici 2015 le pourcentage de la population qui n'a pas accès de façon durable à un approvisionnement en eau potable;
- 3.2** Assurer sur le territoire propre à chaque collectivité, dans le cadre de nos compétences, une gestion des services d'eau et d'assainissement permettant à tous d'accéder à l'eau et à l'assainissement en quantité, qualité et continuité suffisantes, à un coût supportable et équitable;
- 3.3** Assurer une gestion raisonnée, durable et intégrée de la ressource en eau en luttant contre les pollutions des eaux;
- 3.4** Développer des campagnes de sensibilisation auprès des citoyens et l'ensemble des utilisateurs sur les enjeux locaux et mondiaux qui pèsent sur la question de l'eau et promouvoir la participation proactive des citoyens à la définition des politiques de l'eau au niveau local, de façon démocratique et inclusive;
- 3.5** Promouvoir la coopération entre gouvernements locaux, les réseaux de villes, en s'appuyant sur l'organisation mondiale **Cités et Gouvernements Locaux Unis**, ainsi qu'avec les gouvernements nationaux, les organisations internationales, les ONGs, les syndicats, les associations professionnelles et le secteur privé et apporter nos compétences techniques et nos financements pour permettre l'accès à l'eau potable et à l'assainissement pour chacun et le respect de l'eau par tous;
- 3.6** Mobiliser, là où cela est possible, des fonds y compris sur la facture d'eau, pour des actions de coopération solidaire décentralisée, équitables, transparentes, inscrites dans la durée, afin de réduire la pauvreté urbaine et l'exclusion des zones rurales;
- 3.7** Améliorer et faire progresser les échanges en matière d'organisation de collecte de données, d'acquisition de compétences, de technologies, de méthodes, d'outils, en relation avec la saine gestion de l'eau et soutenir, notamment, l'effort des organisations internationales en vue d'établir un système de mesures sur les progrès accomplis dans la réalisation des OMD.

4. Nous, Maires et élus locaux, demandons aux gouvernements nationaux, aux organisations régionales et internationales et aux Nations Unies de :

- 4.1** Reconnaître le rôle fondamental des gouvernements locaux dans la protection et la gestion durable de l'eau, l'organisation de services publics équitables et transparents de l'eau potable et de l'assainissement;
- 4.2** Favoriser la décentralisation et la déconcentration, en mettant en place une subsidiarité active pour assurer un service de proximité, fondé sur une collaboration étroite entre tous les niveaux de gouvernement;
- 4.3** Accroître les financements des infrastructures locales de l'eau et de l'assainissement, pour couvrir notamment les besoins des populations pauvres qui n'ont pas accès à l'eau et l'assainissement;
- 4.4** Assurer l'implication systématique et réelle des gouvernements locaux dans la prise de décisions stratégiques en matière de gestion de l'eau et leur rôle dans la réalisation des Objectifs du Millénaire pour le Développement;
- 4.5** Contribuer au développement des capacités des gouvernements locaux pour améliorer l'approvisionnement effectif en eau et les services d'assainissement;
- 4.6** Soutenir la coopération internationale entre gouvernements locaux, pour accroître leurs capacités technique, humaine et financière, notamment dans les pays en développement, et favoriser la diffusion des bonnes pratiques et les échanges d'expériences;
- 4.7** Assurer, en partenariat avec les gouvernements locaux, une gestion intégrée, durable et équitable des ressources hydriques transfrontalières;
- 4.8** Permettre aux pouvoirs locaux et régionaux qui le souhaitent de consacrer une part des redevances perçues sur les usagers pour la fourniture des services d'eau et d'assainissement en faveur des actions de coopération avec leurs partenaires des pays en développement;
- 4.9** Accélérer la mise en œuvre des engagements qu'ils ont pris en matière d'accès à l'eau et à l'assainissement et de lutte contre la pauvreté, et augmenter le niveau de l'aide publique nationale et internationale au développement pour la réalisation des objectifs énoncés dans le plan d'action de Johannesburg et des OMD;
- 4.10** Préserver les équilibres écologiques majeurs, notamment par des engagements concrets de l'ensemble des États pour la mise en œuvre de la Convention sur les Changements Climatiques.

4^{ème} FORUM MONDIAL DE L'EAU DÉCLARATION MINISTÉRIELLE

Nous, les Ministres réunis à Mexico les 21 et 22 mars 2006 à l'occasion du 4^{ème} Forum Mondial de l'eau « des actions locales pour un défi mondial »,

1. Réaffirmons le rôle crucial de l'eau et en particulier de l'eau douce dans tous les domaines liés au développement durable, soit, entre autres, l'éradication de la pauvreté et de la faim, la diminution des catastrophes naturelles liées à l'eau, la santé, le développement de l'agriculture et le développement rural, l'énergie hydroélectrique, la sécurité alimentaire, l'égalité entre les hommes et les femmes, ainsi que dans l'atteinte des objectifs de durabilité et de protection de l'environnement. Nous insistons sur le fait qu'il est nécessaire d'inclure l'eau et l'assainissement dans les priorités nationales, en particulier dans les stratégies nationales de développement durable et de réduction de la pauvreté.
2. Réaffirmons notre engagement vis-à-vis des objectifs convenus sur le plan international en matière de gestion intégrée des ressources en eau (GIRE), d'accès à l'eau potable et de moyens élémentaires d'assainissement convenus dans le Plan d'action 21 de la Déclaration du Millénaire et le Plan de Mise en œuvre du Sommet mondial de Johannesburg. Nous rappelons qu'il est toujours urgent et nécessaire d'atteindre ces objectifs et d'assurer le suivi des progrès effectués en vue de leur mise en œuvre, y compris en ce qui concerne l'objectif de réduire de moitié d'ici 2015, la proportion des personnes n'ayant pas accès à l'eau potable.
3. Réaffirmons en particulier, notre engagement vis-à-vis des décisions adoptées lors de la 13^{ème} session de la Commission du développement durable (CDD-13) des Nations Unies en avril 2005, concernant les orientations et les mesures concrètes visant à accélérer la mise en œuvre dans les domaines de l'eau, de l'assainissement et des établissements humains. Nous constatons avec intérêt l'importance accordée au renforcement de la durabilité des écosystèmes et saluons la mise en œuvre et l'importance donnée dans certaines régions aux pratiques innovantes telles que la gestion de l'eau de pluie et le développement de projets d'énergie hydraulique. Nous insistons encore sur l'importance de la participation des parties prenantes concernées, en particulier les femmes et les jeunes, dans la planification et la gestion des services liés à l'eau et, s'il y a lieu, dans les processus de prise de décision.
4. Prenons note de la Déclaration Ministérielle du Troisième Forum mondial de l'eau et reconnaissons le travail effectué au sein de l'ONU en appui des États membres en vue d'atteindre lesdits objectifs. À cet égard, nous appuyons le rôle de coordinateur du programme de coordination inter-agences sur l'eau (UN Water) et soulignons qu'il est nécessaire de renforcer le travail effectué dans le cadre de son mandat auprès des organismes, des fonds et des programmes de l'ONU concernés. Nous apprécions la participation du Conseil consultatif sur l'eau et l'assainissement créé par le Secrétaire général de l'ONU en vue de

Avant-projet, état au 7 mars 2006.

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renforcer les efforts en cours afin d'atteindre les cibles établies en matière d'eau et d'assainissement. Nous exprimons notre appui vis-à-vis d'initiatives telles que la Décennie de l'eau et notre intérêt pour l'initiative WEHAB du Secrétaire général des Nations Unies.

5. Reconnaissons les contributions du 4^{ème} Forum mondial de l'eau et de ses processus préparatoires réalisés au niveau régional afin de construire des capacités aux niveaux international, régional et national et de promouvoir l'échange des pratiques optimales et le partage des leçons tirées des expériences internationales en matière d'eau et d'assainissement.
6. Saluons la contribution du Forum en ce qui concerne le suivi assuré en matière d'eau et d'assainissement par la 16^{ème} Session de la CDD prévue en 2008, qui jouera un rôle important dans le suivi et l'évaluation des décisions prises en matière d'eau et d'assainissement et les interpénétrations existantes entre ces décisions et les décisions prises dans le cadre de la CDD-13, ainsi que, en tant qu'exemple de la participation coordonnée et de l'implication des gouvernements à tous les niveaux, la contribution de la société civile, des organisations intergouvernementales, des organisations non gouvernementales, du secteur privé, des institutions scientifiques, des partenariats et des institutions financières et d'autres parties prenantes concernées en ce qui concerne les problèmes liés à l'eau.
7. Réaffirmons également les décisions de la 13^{ème} session de la Commission du développement durable, selon lesquelles :
 - a) Il faudra augmenter sensiblement les ressources, quelles qu'en soient les sources, de financement, notamment les ressources nationales et l'aide publique au développement, si l'on veut que les pays en développement puissent atteindre les objectifs et les buts de développement convenus sur le plan international y compris ceux annoncés dans la Déclaration du Millénaire et dans le Plan de mise en œuvre du Sommet mondial pour le développement durable (plan de mise en œuvre de Johannesburg) ;
 - b) Les gouvernements sont chargés au premier chef de promouvoir un meilleur accès à l'eau potable, à des moyens d'assainissement de base, à des modes d'occupation du logement sûrs et durables et à des logements décents, en améliorant la gouvernance à tous les niveaux, en créant des conditions et des cadres réglementaires propices aux progrès en ce sens, en adoptant une approche favorable aux pauvres et en associant activement toutes les parties prenantes à leurs initiatives ;
8. Reconnaissons l'importance des politiques nationales et internationales qui encouragent et soutiennent la construction de capacités et la coopération à tous les niveaux afin de construire des capacités et de développer la coopération à tous les niveaux dans le but d'atténuer les risques en matière de catastrophes naturelles liées à l'eau, ce qui comprend les systèmes de prévention et de précaution, l'évaluation des risques, la sensibilisation des communautés, la capacité de résilience et réaction.

9. Reconnaissons le rôle important que jouent les parlementaires et les autorités locales dans de nombreux pays afin de développer l'accès à l'eau et aux services d'assainissement et d'appuyer la gestion intégrée des ressources en eau. La collaboration efficace avec et entre ces acteurs constitue un facteur clé si l'on souhaite relever les défis et atteindre les objectifs en matière d'eau.
10. Constatons avec plaisir le travail effectué par les parties prenantes concernées tout au long des processus préparatoires régionaux du 4^{ème} Forum mondial de l'eau et pendant la durée du Forum et recevons les documents produits à l'issue de ces processus préparatoires par les parties prenantes, qui figurent en annexe de la présente déclaration. S'il y a lieu, ces documents pourront être utilisés en tant que source d'information dans le cadre de notre travail. Nous remercions également les parlementaires et les autorités locales pour leur participation et les points de vue et opinions précieux qu'ils ont exprimés au cours de la session de travail conjointe du 4^{ème} Forum mondial de l'eau et prenons note de leurs déclarations qui figurent en annexe de la présente déclaration.
11. Saluons la création, lors du 4^{ème} Forum mondial de l'eau, de la banque de données CDD Water Action and Networking Database (CSD WAND), qui constitue un moyen de mettre en oeuvre la décision CDD-13 qui demandait le développement de « moyens pour diffuser en ligne des informations sur la mise en oeuvre et les pratiques optimales » en matière d'eau et d'assainissement. La CDD-WAND servira de plate-forme permettant les échanges d'informations et de pratiques optimales, le partage des leçons apprises des expériences et la promotion des recommandations et accords internationaux pertinents. Nous notons que la CDD-WAND a été élaborée grâce aux informations collectées au cours du cycle CDD 2003-2005 ainsi qu'au Portefeuille des actions pour l'eau – résultant de la Conférence Ministérielle du 3^{ème} Forum de l'eau –, auquel s'ajoutent les données concernant les actions locales communiquées lors du 4^{ème} Forum mondial de l'eau.
12. Encourageons toutes les parties prenantes, y compris les agences et organismes nationaux et internationaux, ainsi que les autres forums internationaux et régionaux comme la Semaine de l'eau de Stockholm et les semaines de l'eau des banques régionales de développement, à participer à la collecte et à l'échange d'informations par l'intermédiaire de WAND.
13. Remercions le Gouvernement du Mexique et le Conseil mondial de l'eau en tant qu'organismes du 4^{ème} Forum mondial de l'eau et saluons leur volonté de promouvoir une meilleure gestion de l'eau par des actions dynamiques au niveau local en faveur d'un changement au niveau mondial.

Fait à Mexico, le 22 mars 2006.

**World Water Forum, Mexico on the 22nd March 2006.
EU Statement.**

Thank you Mr Minister, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union.

First of all, I would like to congratulate the World Water Council, our hosts and particularly you Mr. Minister for organizing this conference. We appreciate the efforts made so that we are able to adopt this declaration today.

However, the EU would like to stress **three** issues which we consider need more attention. We hope that these points will be taken into account in the final report.

We want to address the discussions concerning the right to access to water and sanitation. The EU considers that water is a primary human need and that water supply and sanitation are basic social services as mentioned in the resolution of the EU Development Council adopted on 30 May 2002, 8958/02. The EU emphasizes that public authorities must take adequate measures to make this effective and affordable.

The second issue we want to address is ecosystems. The EU reaffirms its commitment to the decisions made in CSD 13 on maintaining sustainability of ecosystems. At CSD 13 we agreed to enhance the sustainability of ecosystems that provide essential resources and services for human wellbeing and economic activity in water-related decision-making.

The third issue is related to sustainable hydropower. The EU emphasizes that all aspects of sustainable development should be considered in the planning and management of hydropower projects in compliance with international standards. Criteria and guidelines that are relevant to evaluate environmental and social impacts have been identified by the World Commission of Dams, by the OECD and by the World Bank.

Thank you Mr.Minister.