

Conclusions from Thematic Session on Multipurpose Water Management and Aquatic and Environmental Ecosystems

- Sustainable Development and IWRM based on:
 - Economic efficiency
 - Environmental effectivity
 - Social equitability
- Water-related ecosystems represent not only an intrinsic value, but also are an essential socioeconomic asset
- This asset is an integral part of any water-related development planning

- In water management, problems occur and are addressed through a mix of instruments:
 - Command and control
 - Infrastructural (i.e. purification, filtration)
 - Making use of ecosystem services
- Choice of instruments should be based on a
 - Valuation of costs and benefits of each option
 - Stakeholder inputs
 - Appropriate scale (local, national, basin)
 - Bio-physical, geographic, political and socioeconomic conditions
 - Lessons-learned from other countries experience
- Key ecosystem services include:
 - Quantity (afforestation, conservation agriculture, flood plain restoration)
 - Quality (extensification of land use, conversion of cropland, integrated pest management, organic farming, pollution quotas)
- All ecosystem services are closely related to land use management and spatial planning
- Advantage of services is to contribute to both economic efficiency and good ecological status

Main Recommendations

- Understand overall status of the water environment in the region and the implications for main economic activities in a transboundary context (water supply (quality/quantity), flood management, navigation, hydropower)
- Adopt a risk management approach
- Make an inventory of potential transboundary conflicts resulting from differing interests and uses of water-related ecosystem services
- Identify practical tools to prevent cross-sectoral and transboundary conflicts (in particular, existing international legal instruments)