

Mediterranean Vision on water, population and the environment for the 21st Century

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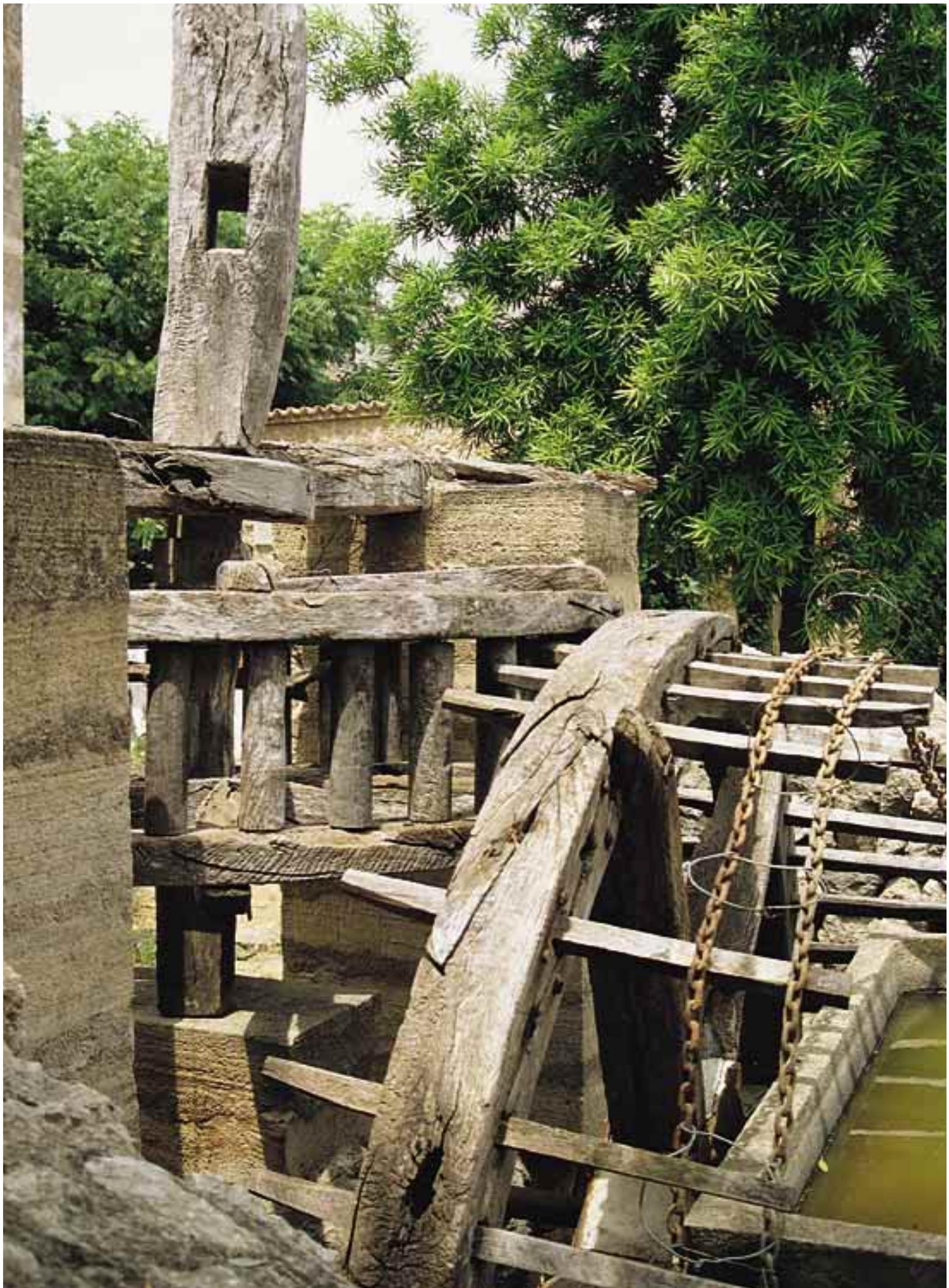


List of countries and territories

The North or greater Europe:	East :	South:
Albania (AL),	Cyprus (CY)	Algeria (DZ)
Bosnia-Herzegovina (BA)	Israel (IL)	Egypt (EG)
Croatia (HR)	Jordan (JO)	Libya (LY)
Spain (ES)	Lebanon (LB),	Morocco (MA)
France (FR)	Syria (SY),	Tunisia (TN)
Greece (GR)	Territories under the Palestinian Authority: Gaza (GZ) West Bank (WE)	
Italy (IT)		
Malta (MT)		
Monaco (MC)	Turkey (TR)	
Portugal (PO)		
Slovenia (SL)		
F.R. of Yugoslavia (YU)		

Table of codes and acronyms

AEP	Alimentation en eau potable / Drinking water supply
CEDARE	Centre for Environment & Development for Arab region and Europe
CEMAGREF	Centre National de Machinerie Agricole, de Genie Rural, des Eaux et des Forêts (France)
CIHEAM	Centre International de Hautes études agronomiques Méditerranéennes
EU	European Union
ESMC	East and South Mediterranean Countries
IME	Institut méditerranéen de l'eau
IPTRID	International Program for Technology and Research in Irrigation and Drainage
GWP	Global Water Partnership
MCSDD	Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development
METAP	Mediterranean Environmental Technical Assistance Program
MEDWET	Mediterranean Wetlands
MEDTAC	Mediterranean Technical Advisory Committee
MIO/ ECSDE	Mediterranean Information Office
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
RME	Réseau Méditerranéen de l'eau
PAC	Politique agricole commune de l'Union Européenne / EU common agricultural policy
MAP-UNEP	Mediterranean Action Plan – United Nations Environment Programme
SEMIDE	Système euro-méditerranéen d'information dans le domaine de l'eau.
UNESCO	United Nations Education, Sciences and Culture Organisation



World Water Vision: its origin and purpose

Over the past decades it has become gradually evident for those directly involved that there is a chronic, pernicious crisis in the water world. The participants in the 1st World Water Forum in Marrakech in 1997 called for a World Water Vision to increase awareness of the water crisis throughout the population and develop a widely shared vision of how to bring about sustainable use and management of water resources.

THE WORLD WATER VISION draws on the accumulated experience of the water sector, particularly through sector visions and consultations for Water for People (or Vision 21), Water for Food and Rural Development, Water and Nature, and Water in Rivers. It draws on the contribution of regional groups of professionals and stakeholders from different sub-sectors that have developed integrated regional Visions through regional and national consultations in more than 15 geographic regions. As the Vision developed and evolved, more and more networks of civil society groups, NGOs, women, and environmental groups joined in and contributed to the consultations.

The participatory process that led to the WORLD WATER VISION makes it special. Since 1998, about 15,000 women and men at local, district, national, regional and international levels have shared their aspirations, as well as developed strategies for practical action towards the sustainable use and management of water resources. The recent availability of Internet communications made such a consultation possible in the short timeframe. This is not an academic exercise. It is the start of a movement. Over the coming months and years stakeholders will develop action plans to implement the recommendations of the World Water Commission and the strategies presented herein.

THE WORLD WATER VISION aspires to be an inspiration to women and men to overcome obstacles and achieve fundamental changes. Its message is for everybody, particularly for the leaders and professionals who have the power and knowledge to help people to turn visions into reality. It challenges those directly affected by the water crisis to initiate action and to call on their leaders to bring about sustainable water resources use and management.

The vision recognizes that sustainable water resources use and management is to be achieved, people's roles must change. The main actors will be individuals and groups in households and communities who, with new responsibilities for their use of water and water-related services, form/are part of a collective strategy. Public authorities will need to empower and support them, and carry out the work that households and communities cannot manage for themselves. Water sector professionals and environmentalists will provide these stakeholders with the information they need to participate in decision-making and help implement their decisions. All these groups working together can achieve this Vision.

World Water Vision Unit.

Foreword

In 1975, when the Mediterranean countries, increasingly concerned by the damage being done to the sea, their natural link and common heritage, signed the Barcelona Convention and launched their "Mediterranean Action Plan" (MAP), they intended it to include an examination of the possibilities open to the Mediterranean Basin that would prompt a decision in favour of the sort of socio-economic development that would leave the environment unharmed.

This was the origin of the Blue Plan, a MAP regional activity centre which analyses and forecasts the relationships between the environment and development throughout the region and draws up proposals to be submitted to the different Mediterranean countries and to the European Commission. Its initial results, published in 1989, aroused keen interest in the Mediterranean area as well as at the 1992 Rio Conference. They revealed the extent to which trend-based scenarios could later give rise to problems and deadlocks and how vital it was to seek alternative scenarios more in line with the demands of sustainable development.

Prospective is an especially worthwhile and relevant discipline when applied to water, a basic element of most ecosystems and an essential asset for man and his various endeavours; but this resource is far from unlimited and must be effectively managed and preserved for future generations. This is an issue that takes on particular significance in the Mediterranean. In the majority of Mediterranean countries, water withdrawal is approaching the level of available resources, whilst demographic growth and economic changes are exerting increasing pressure on an area whose overall resources are already stretched to the limit. Consequently, we have reached a point at which traditional solutions - increasing supply - have lost any relevance they might once have had. New water policies, giving priority to better management and regulated demand need to be spelled out and brought into effect immediately.

This forward-looking initiative, conceived and implemented by the Mediterranean countries for more than 20 years, today forms the basis of work being carried out worldwide under the aegis of the World Water Council and the Global Water Partnership (GWP). The "Global Vision on Water, Population and the Environment in the 21st Century" is based on a series of regional exercises presented at the World Water Forum at the Hague in March 2000 together with two other global studies: "Mapping" (an analysis of strategic co-operation) and the "Framework for Action" (a strategic action plan).

The GWP has set up a number of technical committees to oversee the work in each of the regions. The Mediterranean Committee – MEDTAC – consists of 7 institutions or networks¹, including the Mediterranean Water Institute, which provides the secretaryship, and the Blue Plan, which has been asked to prepare the "regional vision" presented below.

I would like to thank Jean MARGAT (advisor to the Bureau de Recherches Géologiques et Minières and Vice-Chairman of the Blue Plan) and Domitille VALLEE (Head of Studies for the Blue Plan) for their work in preparing this document, as well as all the Blue Plan members who contributed to it.

In order to obtain the opinions of the Mediterranean representatives, a number of regional meetings took place in 1999:

- Discussion of scenarios making up the regional vision of the Conference on “Water Security in the Mediterranean”, Como, Italy, 15 April 1999, organised by the UNESCO with the support of the Blue Plan.
- Workshop on the theme “Water for Food and Rural Development in the MENA Region (Middle East and North Africa)”, Bari, 28-29 May 1999, organised by HR Wallingford, CEMAGREF, CIHEAM IPTRID and the Blue Plan.
- Discussion: “Water for the People of the Mediterranean” at the General Assembly of the Mediterranean Water Institute, Montpellier, France, 18 June 1999.
- Discussion on the trends and future risks in the Mediterranean organised by the Blue Plan and held at the General Assembly of the Mediterranean Water Network and the Water Managers’ Meeting, Malta, 4 July 1999.
- Discussion on the Mediterranean scenarios during “The 9th Stockholm Water Symposium, 9-12 August 1999.
- Presentation of the draft regional vision to the 2nd Euro-Mediterranean Conference on Local Water Management (Turin, 18-19 October 1999) and the 11th Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (Malta, 27-29 October 1999).
- Mediterranean experts written consultation.

Despite the short preparation period and limited means available for this exercise, we were nevertheless able to gather precious opinions and comments which allowed us to progressively enhance and develop this document, which was initially based on the work, experience and documentary resources of the Blue Plan. I would like to thank all the experts who made a great contribution to the final result.

During the different consultations, a large number of Mediterranean representatives emphasised the need to take full account of local and national visions. The regional vision is simply insufficient and one can only urge the Mediterranean countries to carry out national and local exercises enabling them to draw up action plans. These plans should be designed to provide a more operational follow-up to the decisions made in November 1997 in Tunis, when they adopted the recommendations on water demand control made by the MAP’s Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development (MCSD). In this respect, it is very reassuring that demand control and the drawing up of both local and national scenarios are among the priorities upheld by the Euro-Mediterranean partnership (after the Turin Conference), and that these priorities may again be highlighted at the Forum in The Hague.

Michel BATISSE

Chairman of the Blue Plan
for the Environment
and Development
in the Mediterranean

BASSIN MÉDITERRANÉEN

L'agriculture face au défi de l'eau

De Gibraltar aux rives de l'Égypte

LA GRANDE BATAILLE DE L'EAU

MAGHREB

Relever le défi de l'eau

La Banque mondiale craint une grave pénurie d'eau au Proche-Orient

Le volume disponible par habitant est tombé, depuis 1960, de 3 300 à 1 250 mètres cubes par an

Jordanie : l'eau vitale pour la paix

Amman veut régler avec Jérusalem le problème des ressources hydrauliques avant la mise au point de tout projet de coopération régionale

Alger, la ville qui court sans cesse derrière ses gouttes

Le partage des eaux

Israéliens et Palestiniens puisent aux mêmes nappes phréatiques et se disputent le contrôle et la répartition de ces ressources vitales.

EGYPTE

La pollution des eaux du Nil en question

Chypre veut s'affranchir de la sécheresse

Conférence de paix L'eau est un enjeu stratégique vital pour tous les pays du Moyen-Orient qui risquent de se retrouver déficitaires à l'horizon 2020

LE SPECTRE DE LA GUERRE DE L'EAU

ALGERIE

EAU : LA BANQUE MONDIALE ACCORDE 110 MIL- LIONS DE DOLLARS.

Mediterranean water catastrophe warning

ENVIRONNEMENT

La pénurie d'eau s'aggrave à Athènes

Le sud de l'Espagne au régime sec

Les réserves d'eau sont au plus bas en Andalousie, et un plan d'investissements hydrauliques est prévu

L'Espagne touchée par une grave sécheresse

Maroc : un programme d'études pour la construction de 32 nouveaux barrages

Egypte Quand le Nil ne suffit plus

BASSIN MÉDITERRANÉEN / MEDITERRANEAN BASIN

Cogérer les ressources en eau
Co-managing water resources

CENT BARRAGES A CONSTRUIRE EN ITALIE

MAROC : L'EAU, PUISSANT FACTEUR DE DEVELOPPEMENT

CHYPRE
Première usine de dessalement dans l'île

Tunisie
MOBILISATION DES RESSOURCES EN EAU
La grande hydraulique, pilier de la stratégie nationale

De l'eau du Rhône pour la Catalogne ?

ISRAËL
Récupération des eaux usées pour l'agriculture: un projet d'ampleur nationale

L'Égypte perce un nouveau canal pharaonique

L'eau, pétrole vert de la Turquie

ESPAGNE-PORTUGAL

Le difficile partage de l'eau

Entre les Israéliens et les Arabes

LA PAIX CONTRE L'EAU