

PILOT PROJECT ON WATER BALANCES IN THE TAGUS RIVER BASIN (PROTAGUS)

Preparatory Action on development of prevention activities to halt desertification in Europe



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**CONFEDERACIÓN
HIDROGRÁFICA
DEL TAJO**



Project funded by the European Commission
(DG Environment)



Introduction:

The current pilot action funded by the EC (DG Environment) started with the signing of an agreement on 1 January 2014.

Framework: Open call for proposals Desertification 2012 – 2013 in the framework of the Preparatory Action on development of prevention activities to halt desertification in Europe "Halting Desertification in Europe". DG Environment, European Commission.

The Coordinating entity is the Spanish Consulting firm **Evaluación de Recursos Naturales, S.A. (EVREN)**, and the partners are the **Tagus River Basin Authority (CHJ)** and **Agencia Portuguesa do Ambiente (APA)**. In addition, the observers are the Júcar River Basin Authority (CHJ) and the Sub-Directorate on Planning and Sustainable Use of Water (Directorate General for Water, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment).

The duration of the action is 12 months, and the works will be developed throughout 2014.

The objectives of the action:

This project aims at applying the United Nations methodology to develop water environmental and economic accounts in the river basin districts of the Tagus River international basin.

Specific objectives include:

- ▶ Compile and assess data (flows, precipitation, evapotranspiration, climatic aspects, groundwater levels, demands etc.) and adapt them to the UN System of Environmental-Economic Accounting for Water (SEEA-W).
- ▶ Propose a methodology for the management of data and their integration in the aforementioned systems.
- ▶ Obtain updated water accounts and identify desertification risks in the basin. Assess results and transmit them to managers and stakeholders. Establish a series of recommendations for feasible water savings options and management measures targets.
- ▶ Transfer and disseminate results.



Actions to be developed:

The works of this action are divided in 4 main activities:

1-Context and background

- a. Identification of main water related issues in the Tajo River Basin.
- b. Assessment of desertification/water scarcity aspects.
- c. Summary of climate change scenarios and previsions.
- d. Assessment of specific measures in the Draft River Basin Management Plan and water economic aspects (and preliminary works of 2015 RBMPs).

2-Data gathering process

- a. Assessment of available data for the basin (Spanish and Portuguese side).
- b. Identification of data gaps.
- c. Establishment of approach for determining scales (selection of management scale, criteria for data available at different scales).
- d. Fill-in of gaps through Aquatool and other models/tools.

3-Build-up of water accounts

- a. Improvement of data base.
- b. Share of knowledge on water balances and SEEAW with CHT and Portuguese officials.
- c. Development/completion of tables.
- d. Reinforce and develop previous experience: share results with the CH Júcar, transmit possible improvements for their tables, exchange of ideas to improve exercise.
- e. Assessment of socio-economic aspects
- f. Propose targets and make recommendations (water savings potentials, reuse, "green measures" ...)

4-Training, dissemination and meetings

- a. Participation in coordination meetings and workshops (EC).
- b. Use of existing platforms and tools to disseminate results (e-bulletins, webs, international events).
- c. Organisation of events: 1 technical meeting with CHT and Portuguese officials, 1 scientific dialogue, 1 participative workshop (with interested stakeholders from the basin).



Expected results:

Through this action it is intended to share with the European water community the required methodology to develop detailed water accounts that can contribute to obtain a better knowledge on the European river basins status. In addition, obtaining water accounts in the river basin districts of Spain and Portugal in the Tagus River international basin, will allow the development of an assessment and identification of water saving and management measures to halt desertification in the basin, through a sustainable water use in harmony with the environment. This pilot project will in turn contribute to the political process “A Blueprint to safeguard Europe's Waters”

Useful links

DG Environment

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/index.html>

European Environment Agency

<http://www.eea.europa.eu/themes/water>

Eurostat

<http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/>

WISE

<http://water.europa.eu/>

Tagus River Basin Authority

<http://www.chtajo.es/Paginas/default.aspx>

Agencia Portuguesa do Ambiente

<http://www.apambiente.pt/>

EMWIS

<http://www.emwis.org/>

Halt-Jucar-Des: <http://www.emwis.org/initiatives/desert-jucar>

INE

<http://www.ine.es/>

UNCCD

<http://www.unccd.int/en/Pages/default.aspx>

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Documents:

1st Quarterly Report

2nd Quarterly Report

Brochure