The Scaldit project and the implementation of the WFD in the International Scheldt River Basin District

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• WFD - CIS: Pilot River Basin exercise
• Scheldt IRBD = candidate PRB but need for financing
  
• The SCALDIT project is defined within the framework of the ISC and submitted for financing by Interreg IIIB NWE
  
• Testing of guidance documents is combined with:
  - elaboration transnational characterisation of the Scheldt IRBD according to art. 5 WFD
  and completed with:
  - action regarding water management and spatial planning
  - communication actions
  - preparation river basin management plan Scheldt
Project partners and competent administrations
Characteristics Scheldt international river basin district (IRBD)

- **Scheldt IRBD = river basin Scheldt + added river basins** (Brugse Polders, IJzer, Aa, Boulonnais, Canche, Authie, Somme)
- **International** river basin district: France, Belgium (Flemish Region, Walloon Region, Brussels Capital Region, Belgian federal state) and the Netherlands
- Surface: 36,416 km²; Inhabitants: 12,8 million
- High intensity of use: population, industry, agriculture, transport, tourism/recreation, ...
- Few undisturbed nature areas, high pressure on remaining open space
ISC Heads of delegation
Operational and strategic co-ordination
President: Walloon Region

ISC Plenary meeting
Decision-making

ISC-secretariat

WG C: Co-ordination
Technical co-ordination
President: France

PA1 Cartography – Walloon Region
PA2 Communication – Flemish Region
PA3 Coastal and transitional waters – Belgium
PA4 Fresh surface water – Brussels Cap. Region
PA5 Groundwater – Walloon Region
PA6 Cost effectiveness analysis – The Netherlands
PA7 Floods - Droughts
Water quantity management - France
Safety & floods – Flemish Region

Workshop 1 Accidental pollution
Workshop 2 Image - attractiveness

NGOs, Experts, etc.
1. Characterisations RBD
   - Scaldit report, roof report, experience reports
     CIS guidance documents

2. Data and information management
   - data exchange, maps of Scheldt IRBD

3. Water management and spatial planning
   - report on water management and spatial
     planning, brochure & CD-rom

4. Communication and raising awareness
   - website, newsletters, poster, brochures, events

5. Up to the IRBMP
   - significant water management issues, table of
     contents IRBMP
Significant water management issues:

- Surface water quality, hydromorphological alterations, sediments
- Groundwater vulnerability
- Scheldt-specific pollutants
- Economic analysis
- Flood and drought prevention management
- Governance
- Data, measuring methods and assessment methodologies
Stepwise approach international river basin management plan

31/12/2005: First draft table of contents
31/12/2006: Annotated table of contents
30/06/2007: First draft roof report IRBMP
31/12/2007: Second draft roof report IRBMP
31/12/2008: Final draft IRBMP
31/12/2009: Definitive version roof report IRBMP

⇒ work programme for the elaboration of the IRBMP: *stepwise* approach
1. Introduction – elaboration process
2. Presentation of the international Scheldt RBD
3. International coordination of the national/regional monitoring networks
4. Coordination of environmental objectives
5. Coordination of the programmes of measures
6. Register of protected areas
7. (Coordination of activities for preventing the effects of floods and droughts)
8. Public information and consultation
9. Annexes: national/regional RBMPs, competent authorities, references
Lessons learnt

Difficulties transnational cooperation:

- language barrier (French-Dutch in case of Scheldt IRBD)
- data availability and comparability
- consultation needed on 2 levels: national/regional and between partners
- ISC constitutes political basis for decisions, complicates taking of decisions
- differences in interpretation and level of ambition project partners
  - time-consuming, cost-raising, difficult to harmonise approaches/methods
  - need for additional resources
Advantages transnational cooperation:

- results achieved = solid basis for further work (RBMP)
- exchange of information and experiences
- insight into similarities and differences between partners
- transnational network of WFD experts
- transnational cooperation = key to integrated water management
• Scaldit project = easily transferable to
  – other international river basin districts in Europe in order to enhance international coordination implementation WFD
  – other WFD or not WFD related subjects (e.g. floods - spatial planning)

• Central concept = enhancing integrated aspect of water management in an international river basin district by COOPERATING in an ‘official’ structure for consultation and decision-making
Conclusions

• Importance of Interreg funding:
  – enables intensive transnational cooperation
  – enables increased level of communication on the level of the RBD
  – incites project partners to work towards concrete outputs and within a given timeframe
  – gives clear view on costs of transnational cooperation

• Cooperation between riparian Scheldt regions increased substantially thanks to the project

• The Scaldit project will provide a solid base for future cooperation and measures in the Scheldt RBD
Thank you for your attention!
Scaldit, an international action programme for a cleaner and safer river basin district of the Scheldt. A project within the International Scheldt Commission supported by Interreg IIIb NWE 2003-2005
Water management Issues

Significant water management issues of general interest in the international Scaldit river basin district