



EU Water Blueprint : implications for sediment management

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What is the blueprint ?

- Adopted November 2012 the Blueprint to Safeguard Europe's Water Resources aims to tackle the obstacles which hamper action to safeguard Europe's water resources
- It's based on an extensive evaluation of the existing policy

Main messages:

- better implementation of current water legislation (WFD and associated directives)
- Better integration of water policy objectives into other policies (agriculture, transport, energy)
- filling the gaps in the policy framework in particular as regards water quantity and efficiency.



The Blueprint package

- Blueprint Communication COM(2012)673+ Impact Assessment SWD(2012) 381 & 382
- Report on River Basin Management Plans COM(2012)670
- Commission Staff Working Document, European Overview on River Basin Management Plans,
- Commission Staff Working Document, River Basin Management Plans, Member State Annexes
- Communication on the Review of the European Water Scarcity and Drought Policy COM(2012)672
- Fitness Check SWD(2012) 393
- Complement: 4 EEA Topical Reports and a Synthesis Report

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/blueprint/index_en.htm

Blueprint environmental baseline I

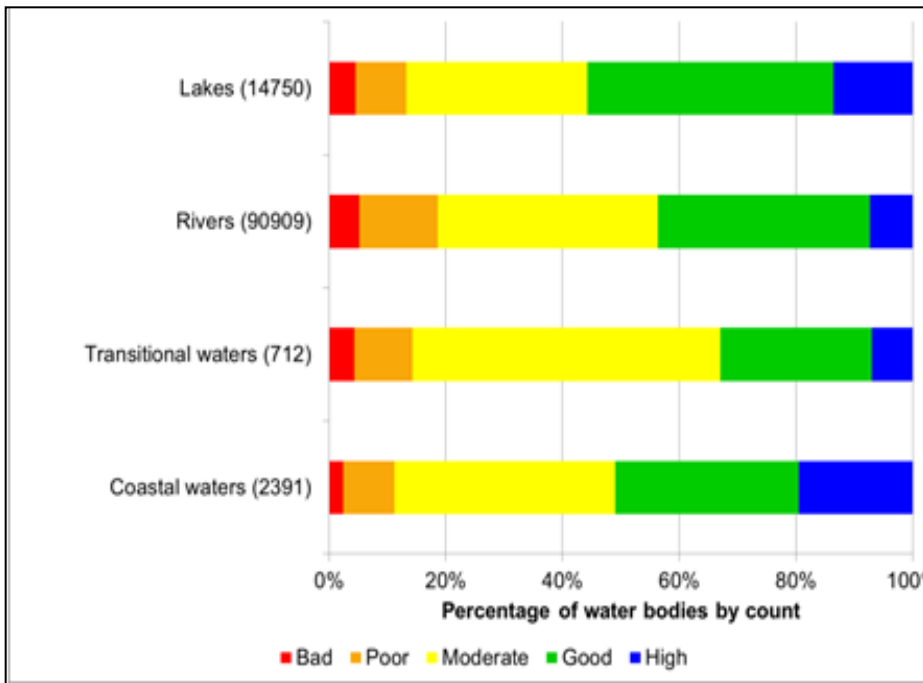
- ***Water status:***

- *Last decades: significant water quality improvement*
- *Progress in implementation of WFD concepts and tools*
- *Progress is too slow – significant efforts required on putting measures in place*
- *Chemical monitoring often incomplete*
- *Climate change, economic and demographic developments likely to exacerbate problems*
- *Diffuse pollution and hydromorphology – the most widespread significant pressures to address*

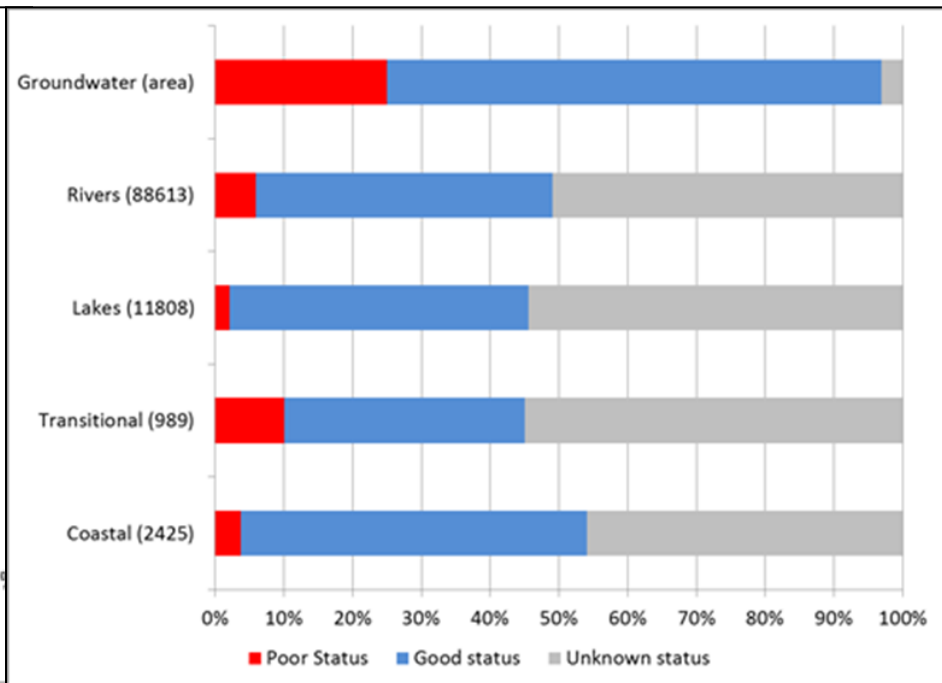
Blueprint environmental baseline II

- ***Extreme Events (floods, storms and droughts)***
 - *Frequency and intensity of extreme events and their cost have increased significantly over the past decades*
 - *This increase is expected to continue in the coming years, driven especially by climate change and land use changes*
 - *If early action is not taken, later action will be more complex and costly*

Status of surface waters 2009



Ecological status and potential



Chemical status

10 % overall improvement in status expected by 2015

Blueprint Objective

Ensure sustainability of all activities that impact on water, thereby securing the availability of good-quality water for sustainable and equitable water use

Questions the Blueprint asked

- What are the obstacles that hamper action to safeguard Europe's water resources?*
- Do we need to change legislation/policy to address these problems?*

Input/Consultation

- *MS and stakeholders*
- *European Parliament Report July 2012*
- *EEA and JRC studies*

4 main problems

- *Insufficient use of economic instruments*
- *Lack of support for specific measures*
- *Poor governance*
- *Knowledge gaps*

Actions: I

Land use and ecological status

- *Guidance on Natural Water Retention Measures (NWRM)*
- *Include NWRM within CAP Pillar 1 (GAEC, and ecological focus areas), Pillar 2 (Rural development)*
- *Use Structural & Cohesion Funds & EIB loans to support NWRM*
- *Guidance on ecological flows and water accounts*

Sediment impacts: better land management to increase infiltration, slow down water and erosion; re-establish flood plains, buffers



Actions II: Chemical status and pollution

- *Water Framework Directive: Enforce in particular monitoring requirements.*
- *Nitrates Directive: Extend nitrate vulnerable zones and reinforce action programmes.*
- *Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive: Improve compliance rates on waste water treatment through long-term investment planning (including EU funds and EIB loans).*

Sediment impacts: chemical monitoring in sediment/biota, reduce urban and rural pollution at source (less contaminated sediments)



Actions III: Chemical status and pollution

- *Industrial Emissions Directive: Ensure that industrial emissions permits provide for Emission Limit Values (ELVs) that are in line with Best Available Techniques (BAT) and take into account relevant water objectives*
- *Environmental Quality Standards Directive: Adopt the Commission's proposal for amendments*
- *Pharmaceuticals: Present a report on pharmaceuticals and the environment*

Sediment impacts: reduce urban and rural point and diffuse pollution at source (less contaminated sediments)



Solutions require innovation

- *European Innovation Partnership on water*
- *Bringing together owners of problems and solutions*
- *Bringing innovation to the market and stimulating demand*
- *Global perspective*
- *Contribution to jobs and growth*

More information: <http://www.eip-water.eu/>

Speeding up delivery of WFD good status

- *Hydromorphological conditions are an important contributor to WFD good ecological status.*
- *Physical modifications have contributed to the failure to achieve good hydromorphological status of up to 70% of some surface water body types across the EU.*
- *Including problems caused when the natural transport of sediment through the system is interrupted or constrained (e.g. the trapping and retention of sediment behind a structure)*



EU REFORM project 2011- 2015

www.reformrivers.eu

Possible restoration, rehabilitation and mitigation measures

- *Prevent sediment accumulation in reservoirs*
- *Improve continuity of sediment transport*
- *Trap sediments*
- *Favour morphogenic flows*
- *Reduce undesired sediment input*
- *Reduce erosion*
- *Manage dams for sediment flow*
- *Remove sediments*
- *Isolation of water bodies*

Next steps

- *MS have started preparing WFD second cycle River Basin Management Plans*
- *These should include measures to reduce rural and urban pollutants, improve land management/reduce erosion, restore more natural hydrology and morphology*

Engage now to ensure sediment issues are addressed. Do so armed with evidence, and ideas on funding multi-beneficial measures.



Thank you for your attention !

All docs available at

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/blueprint/index_en.htm