

Report from the SedNet Round Table Discussion

6-7 October 2009

Sediment in River Basin Management Plans: Yes we can!

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Background of the Round Table

- SedNet and RT conference held in Venice (2006)
- Draft WFD River Basin Management Plans (RBMP) have been published early 2009 and will be finalized soon.
- Problems with sediment are discussed in RBMP's or seem to be there at the background.
- In the RBMP's sediment management (quantity and quality aspects) received limited or no attention.



Objectives of the Hamburg Round Table

- To understand the present RBMP's:
 - How are sediment issues addressed?
 - Which opportunities were identified?
 - How is sediment management organized ?
 - What are the dominant processes and interests behind it ?
- Recommendations for sediment management, e.g.:
 - Outside/inside WFD
 - Relation to WFD objectives
 - How to include in 2nd cycle of RBMP's



Round Table Participants

- 30 participants from river commissions, governmental bodies, water agencies, port authorities, research institutes, consultancies, NGO's, SedNet etc
- Rivers represented: Douro, Ebro, Danube, Sava, Drava/Mura, Elbe, Rhine, Scheldt, Thames



SedNet Round Table Participants



Round Table Participants concerns

Historical contamination

Recent contamination

Eutrophication due to sediment resuspension

Erosion of sediments

Accumulation of sediments

Lack of sediments

Loss of habitat

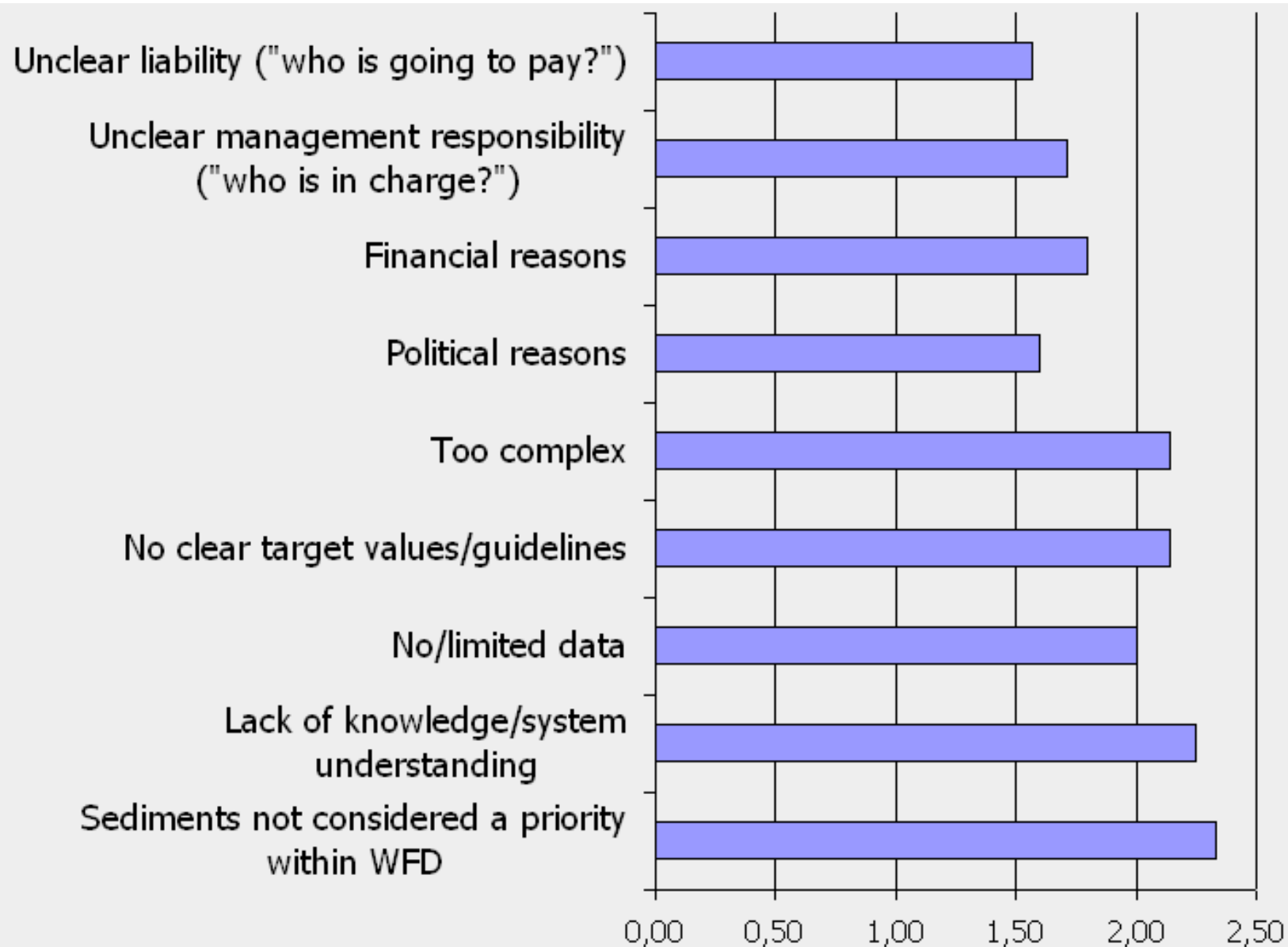
Dredging

Sediment continuity

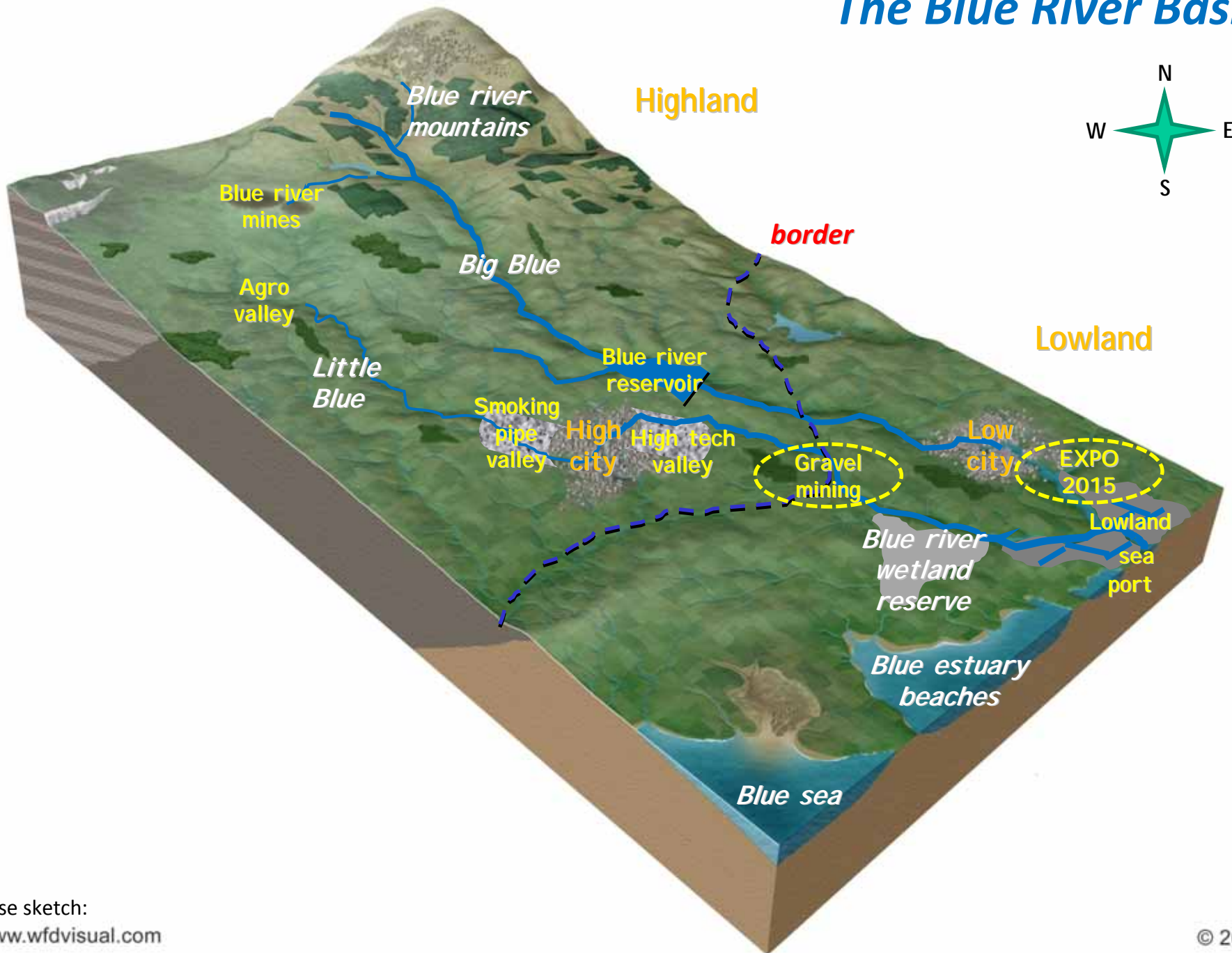
Ecological impact of sediments



Why no sediment in RBMP's and programmes of measures ?



The Blue River Basin



Results of the round table:

- **Linking sediment management to the WFD**
- **System understanding / holistic approach**
- **Dealing with uncertainties**
- **Guidance document**
- **Time line**



Linking sediment to WFD frameworks)

- **Sediments are an integral part of the ecosystem and affect ecological and chemical status: this should be clearly communicated through good examples.**
- **Providing a better understanding of the linkage between sediment quality / quantity and WFD objectives will enable better RB planning, e.g.:**
 - **developing conceptual model of sediment fluxes and contaminant transport**
 - **sediment balance and dynamics of the system**
 - **link sediment features to ecological and chemical status**
 - **climate change issues – potential consequences**

Holistic approach:

- **The key to managing sediments is to take a holistic approach:**
 - **System understanding**
 - **Transboundary cooperation**
 - **Look at linkages between problems and issues across the whole RB and its components**
- **Communication and stakeholder involvement are keywords: social / consensus issues can be predominant on technical issues**
- **RBMP's should include all linkages to ecosystem services (flood protection, habitats, sediment retention, sediment re-use, navigation, recreation, food production, etc.)**



Uncertainties:

- **Priority for cost-effective measures with high certainty of positive effects for achieving management objectives**
- **Do not use uncertainty as an excuse to do nothing, e.g. define „no regret measures“ (reversible/linkage with other management objectives)**
- **Stakeholder involvement will help making choices**

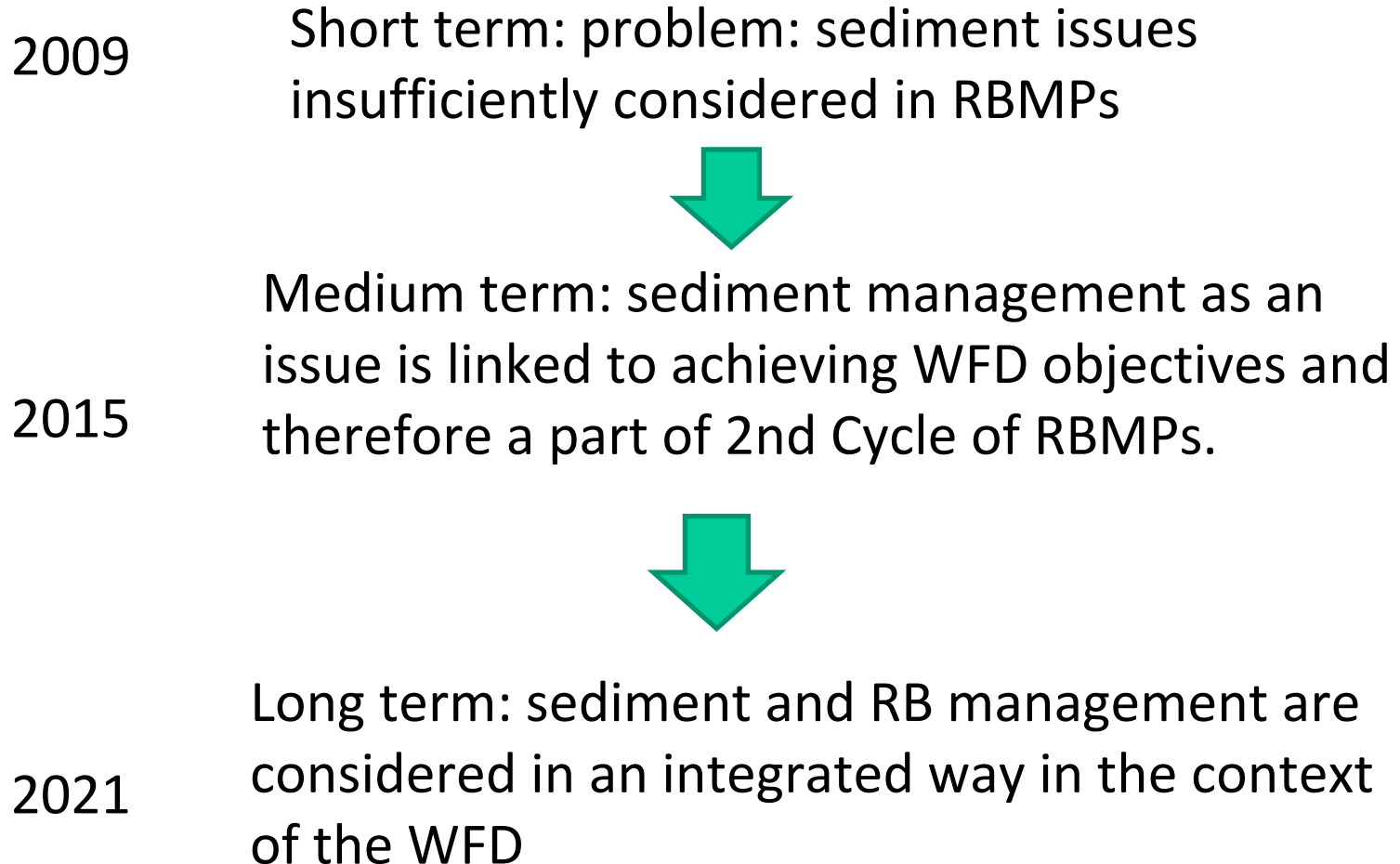


Guidance document:

- **Guidance how to include sediment management in RBMP's: show examples that demonstrate how sediment management makes RBM more effective.**
- **Guidance how to organize the process**
- **To be used by national competent authorities & the river basin managers**
- **Initially a SedNet product?**



Timeline



THANK YOU
FOR
YOUR
ATTENTION

