

Reporting from world café 3 – Water management – Dr. Alain Maasri

Among the main **challenges** expressed by the attendees are:

- Problems and/or lack of governance
- The difficulty to achieve a common vision among water users on how this resource should be managed. Examples were expressed when it concerns navigation, agriculture, drinking water, among others. This lack of vision in addition to being due to the divergence of interests might be the result of a missing space of dialogue between stakeholders in the watershed.
- The lack or limited exchange of good practices
- Another difficulty is the lack of centralized effort to tackle challenges in water management
- Watersheds on the other hand a rarely examined from a holistic approach, a watershed view or a community approach. The deep and extensive knowledge of fauna and flora communities are essential for the proper management of watersheds.
- In countries or regions where a clear and efficient legal framework exist (e.g., WFD), the lack or correct and sufficient implementation of reforms is a major challenge.
- The multijurisdictional responsibilities when it comes to water management is a major challenge to elaborate a common agenda, or a common strategy for water management.
- Transboundary issues are also a difficulty to overcome or to adapt to. This transboundary doesn't have to be between countries, but sometimes inside the same country.
- The lack of sustainable resources is another challenge faces when it comes to correct water management
- The lobbying of important decision makers to advance our cause is missing, more resources should be engaged towards better lobbying
- Our vision of management is very often a hard ware approach with engineering approach and reshaping of the environment. We need to develop more soft management approaches and ecosystem based techniques
- The last two challenges expressed where the lack of political will and the lack of collaboration

Solutions expressed during the world café addressed mainly the challenges listed above

- An approach based on a win-win solution should be the corner stone of each and every water management strategy or plan
- The genuine involvement of people is also very necessary

- The understanding of the rules of nature is very necessary to elaborate adapted monitoring and assessment parameters
- A participatory management of watershed is necessary
- Community education is also very necessary, this should be done by developing appropriate tools of education targeting the different target groups
- The integration and rationalization of directives and water-related legal frameworks should be enhanced.
- Integrated management at the watershed scale is the optimal way to manage aquatic resources and this should be generalized over the different continents
- Open governance and the use of different real time solutions for monitoring the aquatic ecosystem should be developed. This include for example the citizen/scientist approach. This open governance can benefit from the new available technological advancements, including apps and websites
- Developing ownership of the water resources by riparian communities is a step forward to engage citizens
- Individuals are water managers on their scale and we need to increase awareness in households and to push for a behavioral change

The **agenda** for near future projects should include projects dealing with:

- Developing and establishing monetary value on aquatic resources is a promising way to enhance the conservation and management of aquatic resources. The monetary value can be used communication tool towards decision makers and water users.
- Monetary values should be developed also for the ecosystem services provides by aquatic ecosystems
- Building trust between communities and decision makes is also important and should be on the list of programs and projects to develop
- Engage in more transparent and participatory projects