

“State of the Water Environment”

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Informal meeting of
Ministers of Environment and
Climate Change

Cyprus, July 7th 2012



The green economy

An economy in which policies and innovations enable society to generate more of value each year while preserving the natural systems that sustain us



2012 EEA reports



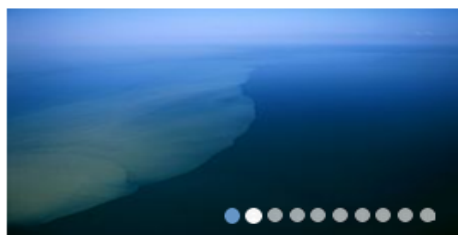
1. Towards efficient use of water resources in Europe
2. Status of Freshwater ecosystems and Biodiversity
3. Vulnerability
4. Synthesis

WFD assessment
Water accounts



Towards the 2012
“Blueprint to safeguard
Europe’s water resources”





The Water Information System for Europe

– or more commonly known as WISE – is your gateway to information on European water issues. It comprises a wide range of data and information collected by EU institutions to serve several stakeholders

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WISE is a partnership between the European Commission (DG Environment, Joint Research Centre and Eurostat) and the European Environment Agency, known as "the Group of Four" (Go4). The main roles and responsibilities of the partners are:

- **DG Environment**, leads the policy and strategic aspect of WISE. It liaises with Member States, especially on official reporting requirements of EU water legislation.

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

- **The European Environment Agency** hosts the Water Data Centre and the thematic WISE webpages.

For more information: <http://www.eea.europa.eu/themes/water/dc>

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

- **The Joint Research Centre** conducts environmental monitoring and water resources modelling including nowcasting and forecasting services.

For more information: <http://ies.jrc.ec.europa.eu/the-institute/units/rural-water-and-ecosystem-resources-unit.html>

<http://floods.jrc.ec.europa.eu>

<http://desert.jrc.ec.europa.eu>

<http://fate.jrc.ec.europa.eu>

- **Eurostat** is collecting and disseminating water statistics, also as a part of WISE data and themes, and provides significant input in the development of the GIS part of WISE and in particular ensuring the link to INSPIRE.

For more information: <http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/>

News

- DG ENV, 21/06/2012: Conservation goals must incorporate different cultural views
- DG ENV, 21/06/2012: Satellite images used to assess coastal and sea water quality
- DG ENV, 07/06/2012: Guidelines needed for cross-border marine planning
- EEA, 23/05/2012: Clean water at majority of EU holiday destinations
- EEA, 10/05/2012: Water: how can we account for our most vital resource?
- EEA, 13/03/2012: Europe needs to use water more efficiently
- EEA, 23/09/2011: Environmental information network extends across Europe, Central Asia and Russian Federation
- EEA, 21/09/2011: Pan-European assessment asks: 'What do we know about water and green economy?'



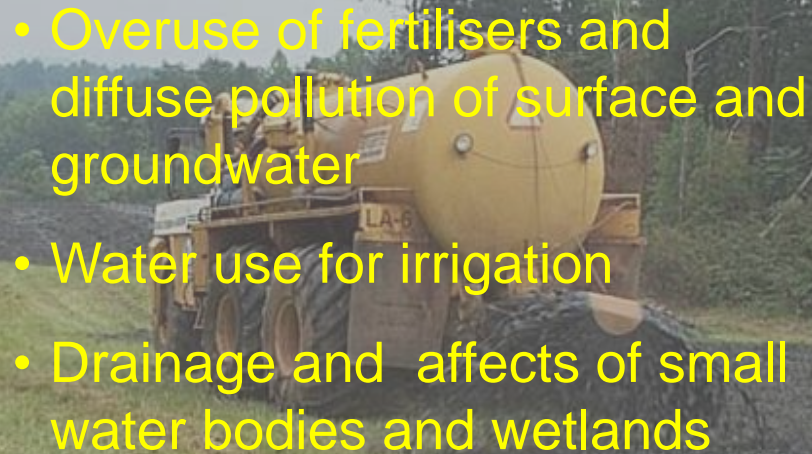
European Commission

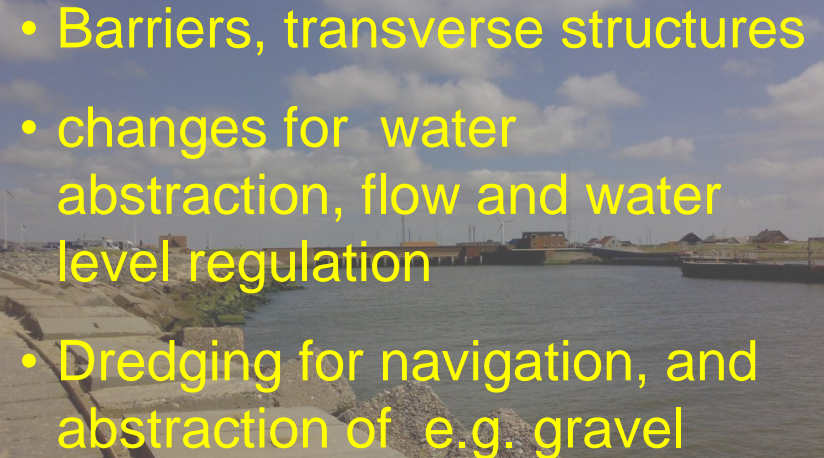


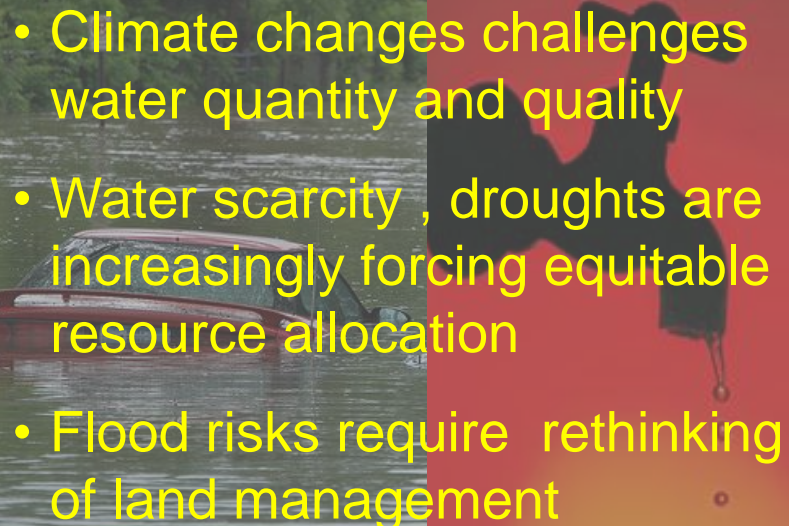
European Environment Agency



Four challenges for Europe's Waters

- 
- Overuse of fertilisers and diffuse pollution of surface and groundwater
 - Water use for irrigation
 - Drainage and affects of small water bodies and wetlands

- 
- Barriers, transverse structures
 - changes for water abstraction, flow and water level regulation
 - Dredging for navigation, and abstraction of e.g. gravel

- 
- Climate changes challenges water quantity and quality
 - Water scarcity , droughts are increasingly forcing equitable resource allocation
 - Flood risks require rethinking of land management

- 
- Systemic challenges require integrated advanced policy solutions
 - Communication and solutions to be found on River basin level

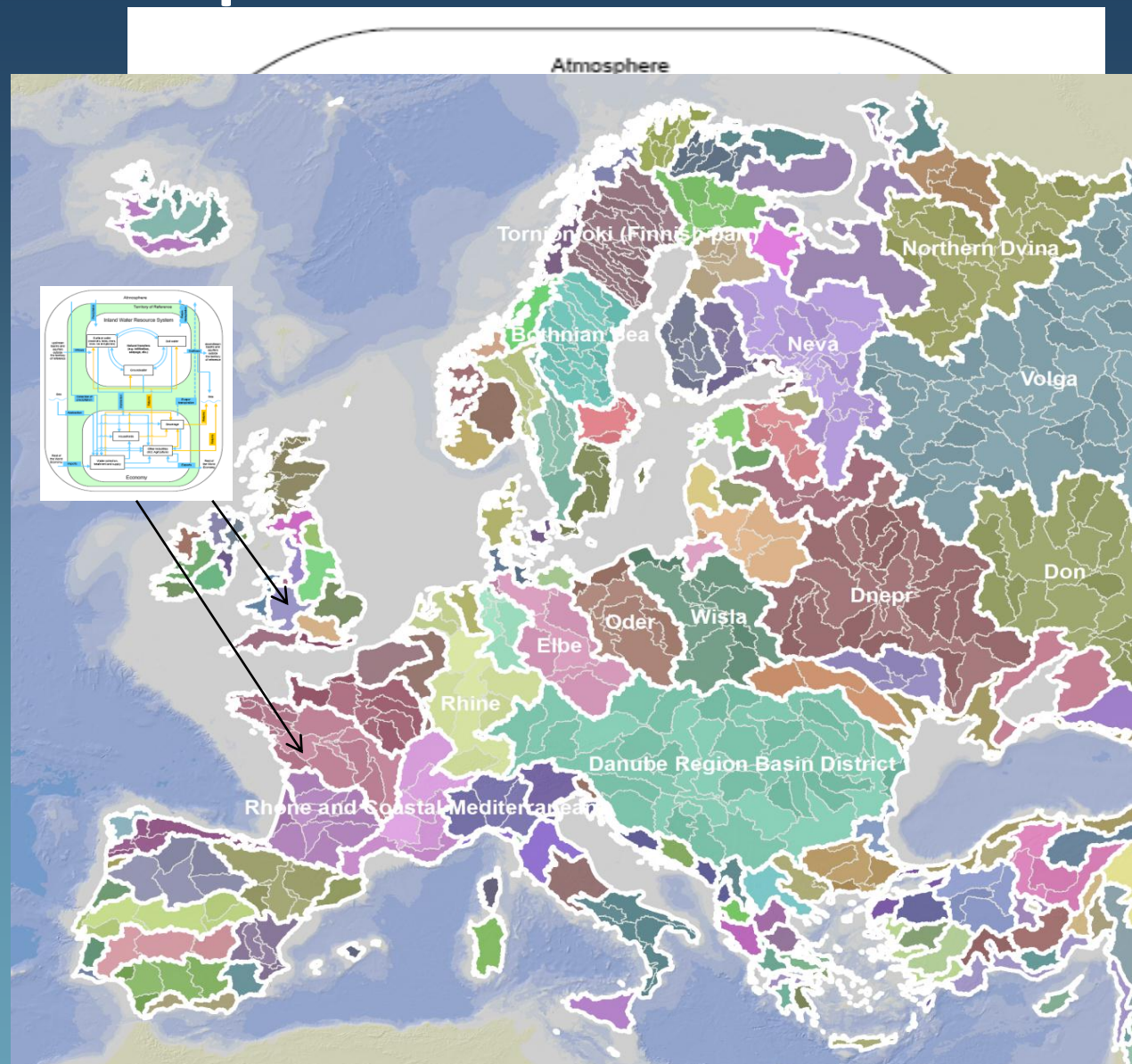


Measuring Water Use in a Green Economy



Water accounts conceptual model

- The **UN SD methodology (SEEA-W)** for accounting measures *natural resources* (physical assets) in relation to *economic activities* (monetary assets):
 - Balances carried out across the inland resource system (natural assets) and the economy
 - Exchanges between the different components: rain on soil that receives irrigation; rivers fill reservoirs used for abstraction and supply; etc
 - The accounting spatial unit: 'territory of reference', in SEEA-W 'statistical units' and annual average.
- **EEA adapted approach to sub-basin and monthly assessments**





New to adaptation?
Use the Adaptation Support Tool



Climate Change Adaptation in Europe

The European Climate Adaptation Platform (CLIMATE-ADAPT) aims to support Europe in adapting to climate change. It is an initiative of the European Commission and helps users to access and share information on:

- Expected climate change in Europe
- Current and future vulnerability of regions and sectors
- National and transnational adaptation strategies
- Adaptation case studies and potential adaptation options
- Tools that support adaptation planning

[» Read more](#)



Share your information



Search the database

News



- ▶ 5 March 2012, Switzerland, The Swiss government published a climate adaptation strategy
- ▶ 14 February 2012, the European Commission's Joint Research Centre, in collaboration with the European Environment Agency and DG Environment, published a report on 'The State of Soil in Europe'
- ▶ 25 January 2012, the United Kingdom published the Climate Change Risk Assessment 2012

[» News archive](#)

Events



- ▶ 26-29 March 2012, Planet Under Pressure: New knowledge towards solutions, London, UK
- ▶ 12-15 May 2012, ICLEI, Resilient Cities 2012, 3rd Global Forum on Urban Resilience and Adaptation, Bonn, Germany
- ▶ 22-25 May 2012, European Commission, Green week, Brussels, Belgium

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Water



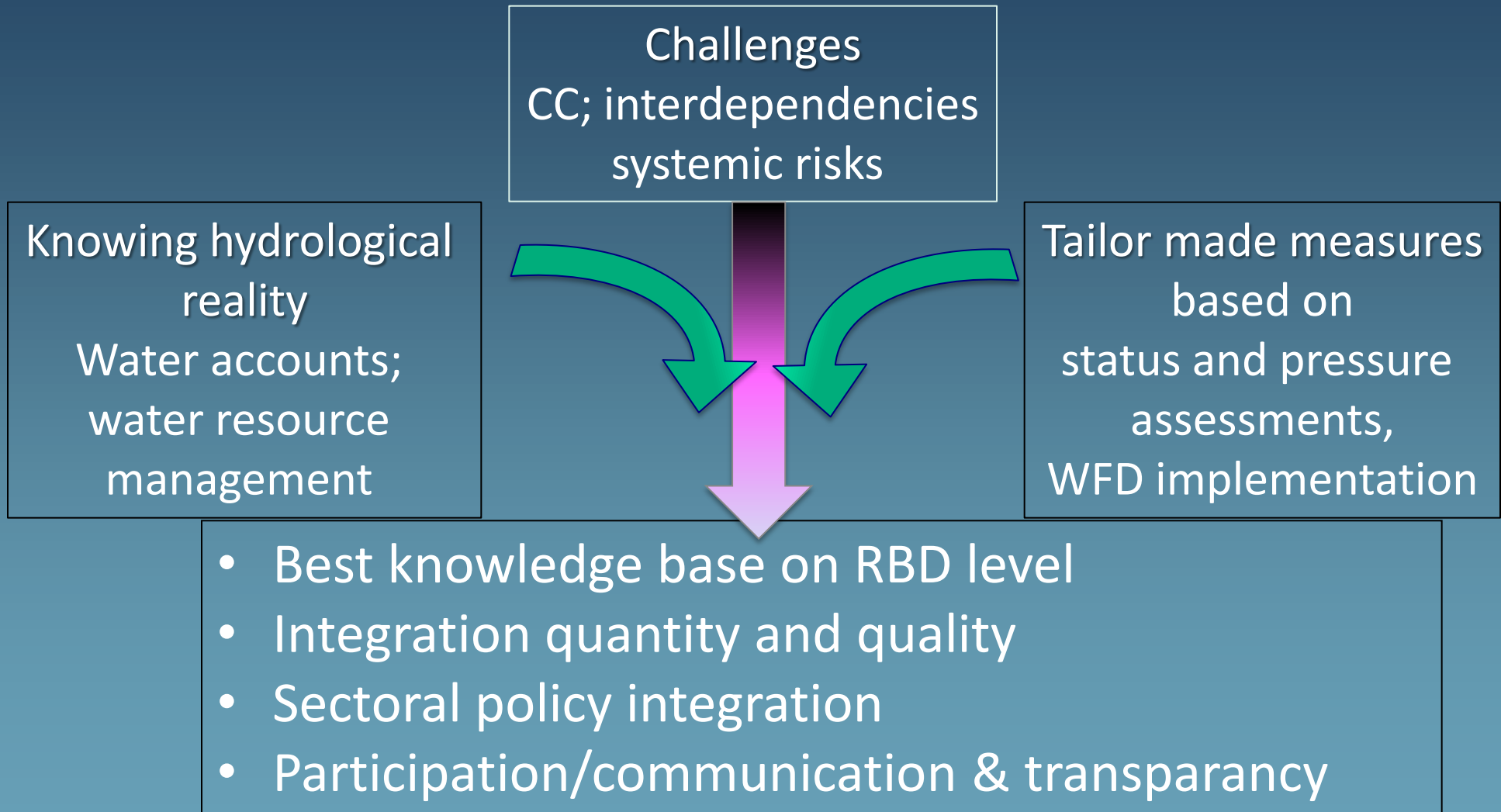
Biodiversity



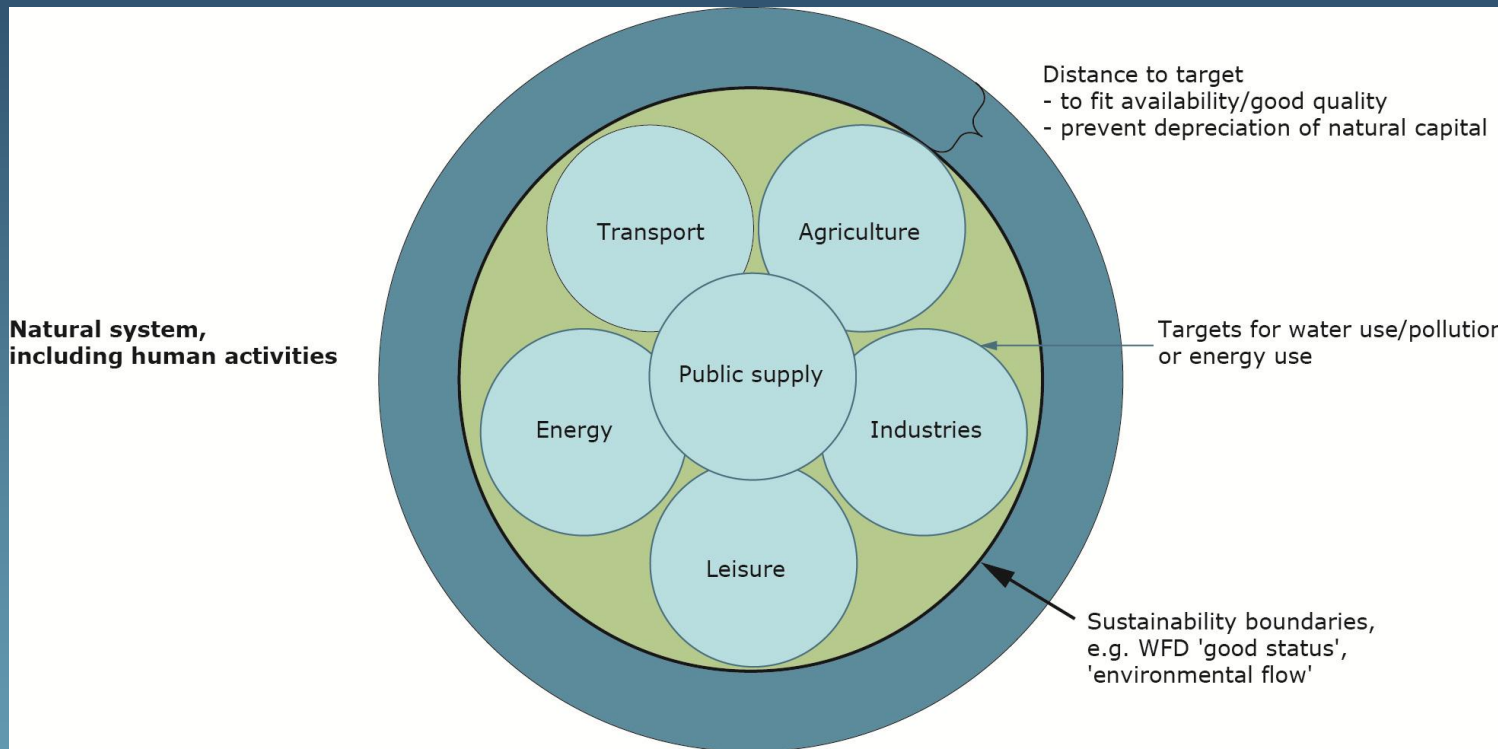
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Water governance towards 2020



Cross sectoral integration



Challenges and solutions

- We have a water governance crisis rather than a water crisis
- Good water management needs the right tools to assess the hydrological and managerial reality which will enable strong water governance to implement equitable and efficient allocation
- Transparency, sustainable and equitable water use is a social priority and necessity



Thank you for your attention

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Executive Director, EEA

