



Eurolakes Policy Brief - Trans-Boundary Large Deep Lakes

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Lake monitoring and management should be linked with its catchment**
- **The information regarding the lake status should be made available to catchment managers and other actors from all countries concerned**
- **Data on the lake should be compiled in a compatible manner with the WFD requirements for easy comparison and data transfer throughout Europe**
- **Socio-economic indicators should be introduced in order to produce socio-economic assessments and scenarios for the lake catchment**

Existing co-ordination structures at the Bodensee and

Lac Léman

Lac Léman and the Bodensee were the two transboundary lakes of the EUROLAKES project. In those lakes, international bodies are responsible for managing water quality and fishery activities. CIPEL at Lac Léman and IGKB at the Bodensee are dealing with the international management of the lakes.

The Water Framework Directive and Trans-Boundary Water Bodies

The Water Framework Directive (WFD) requires Member States to co-ordinate with Non-Member States, when a River Basin District extends beyond the territory of the European Community. At both lakes, cross-border alliances are in charge, as follows.

Bodensee

The environmental regulation at the Bodensee is a good example of the social and policy cross-boundary framework in which the WFD will be implemented. It has been shown that the emergence of a symbolisation of water at the Bodensee is one preponderant basis for cross-border action. Another main reason consists in the historical background, which left the interior Upper Lake as such without any border till nowadays. Unlike the IGKB through its task confined fundamentally to the protection of this lake, the competition among different other institutions to capture the framing of issues to establish their own legitimacy and build shared identities provides a better explanation for their immanent trait of cross-border action at the Bodensee¹. Germany and Austria are involved with Switzerland in managing the lake and the lake-related effects of the catchment, through IGKB. It releases detailed recommendations on current conditions and principles to be observed, which are followed by the executive administrations of the border states including also those of Liechtenstein and Italy. By virtue of this binding relation, which reflects the mutual understanding on the general benefit to the lake, the IGKB represents the single intergovernmental expert organisation.

Organisations which co-ordinate the activities of the Alpine Rhine exist, but they are mainly concerned with the physical structure of the river and its rehabilitation² and report to the IGKB. The first two commissions are drafting together an integrated management plan for the Alpine Rhine, which runs

about 100 km from the confluence at Reichenau to the lake. IGKB is scoping the implementation of the WFD using the Alpine Rhine -Bodensee system as a sub-basin unit.

Lac Léman

CIPEL is mandated by the governments of France and Switzerland to deal with water quality and to assure a long-term good status for all waters above the Rhône river outflow at the Swiss-French border (lake, catchment and groundwater). CIPEL studies concern the long-term monitoring, the status and the trends in water quality. Based on the results of the monitoring, CIPEL drafts recommendations aimed at the two governments. France and Switzerland may then draft regulations for water quality measures. Local governments are responsible for the implementation of the recommendations, the regulations and the management of the lake. This poses no great problems because representatives of these governments are members of CIPEL boards and are therefore already actively involved in the formulation of the recommendations. While CIPEL has proven an effective guardian of water quality, it is sometimes desirable that actions taken on CIPEL recommendations are enacted more rapidly and more severely. With the implementation of the WFD, the existing organizational structure concerning water quality matters will be adjusted accordingly and CIPEL will be mandated to coordinate the WFD activities of the two countries. CIPEL already has a working group on the implementation of the WFD.

The Implementation of WFD in the Bodensee and Lac Léman and the Integrated Catchment Plan

Since water protection and to some extent river basin approach are already in place in those lakes through trans-boundary cooperation and established institutions, the implementation of the WFD should not be problematic. A number of improvements could be brought in having a better access to data and information regarding the lake status for all actors. This goal concerns also the respective compilation compatible with the WFD requirements for easy comparison and data transfer throughout Europe. Equally important is the introduction of socio-economic assessments of the lake catchment for instance use of widely accepted catchment run-off lake models linking pressures and resource.

¹ See Eurolakes Report 38 by Kroll, O'Hare and Dickinson (2003)

² Common Commission and International Regulation of the Rhine (GKR/IRR), International Government Commission of Alpine Rhine (IRKA)

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