

## **Questions and Answers**

### **Day 2: River Basin Case 4 – (Brazil River Basin Experience)**

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Concluding points:

- Committees should be created where there is a defined need, and can solve problems. In other areas, government can do its job, but should be involved from the beginning.
- Creating river basin organisations is a long process, and can take 10 or 20 years. It requires a change in mentality.
- There is a need for flexibility in policy and legal systems if and when collective action (civil society solutions) can develop and flourish. Rules form a framework only, and each solution is unique.

Q (van Steenberg) How are IBTs handled - what are the issues and solutions?

A Sao Paulo transfer negotiated with people in the basin. Users of bulk transfer should pay 0.15 R per m<sup>3</sup>. As a result 6% of basin organisation revenue comes from IBT charges

Q 50% of revenue comes from sanitation charge. Is this because pollution is a major problem? 1 cent per m<sup>3</sup> charge for irrigation water seems very low.

A All users of water should pay so charge for irrigation water is quite symbolic. Pollution is seen as the biggest problem so biggest charge

Q As the basin fund is being used for poverty reduction, why not call it a rural development fund? Are there other funds that are being used for poverty reduction?

A Water charge funds are controlled by the committee, and federal agencies add to it on poverty reduction work. All major works have to be funded by government.

Q It seems as though the financial resources are very small for a basin that is approximately the size of Morocco. Why are they so low? Is there financial autonomy? Are there subsidies? Are polluters seen to be water users?

A It is clear that the funds are not enough to tackle large problems. Charges are made both for abstraction and pollution, although in fact water charges are only applied to users of water from the main rivers. Charging criteria are different at federal, state and water agency level. Also non-significant water users (less than 1 l/s) are not charged at all. Although the charging system is low, it has changed attitudes.