



Changes in the territorial planning systems at river basin scale and local translation: the case of Guadiana River Basin (Portugal)

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Abstract

Water governance includes search for good institucional-societal solutions and practical local response to water problems, in terms of availabilty and ecological sustainability. Therefore, local level intervention must address not only small scale effects but also local translation of river-basin scale (or larger) effects, including natural systems change and adaptation.

Territorial planning faces difficult issues, if transversality derived from water-soil is a prime concern, when studying different scales of impact from land and water (directly or indirectly) use changes. It demands an inter-sectorial discussion and institutional cooperation that is many times absent from the scene.

This paper aims to present a brief overview of some aspects where territorial planning instruments may be oriented towards a strategy that supports water governance objectives, jointly at river-basin scale and municipal scale. The case of Guadiana, in Portugal (international basin shared with Spain) is reviewed and presented for some positive and negative references.

Key-words: Water governance; Territorial planning; Inter-sectorial approach; Water-soil transversality.