



WaterCAP – the idea of a water cluster

presentation at workshop in Baltic Impulse

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European Union



The European Regional Development Fund

*Investing in the future
by working together for a
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Promilleafgiftsfonden for landbrug

**The Interreg IVB
North Sea Region
Programme**



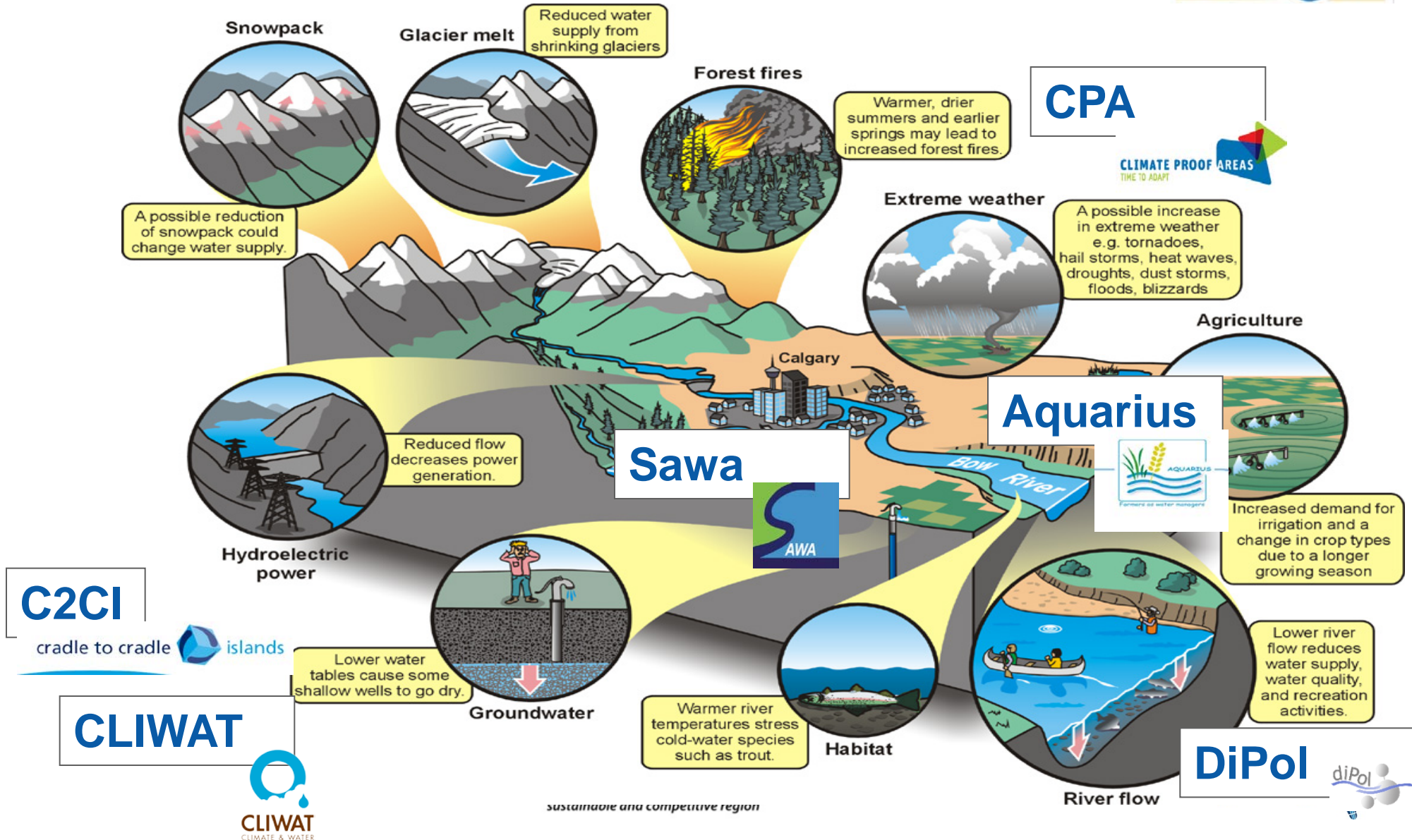
Outline

- 💧 Main aim and background
- 💧 Output needs to focus on...(messages from interviews and workshop)
- 💧 How does the European level use results from projects?
- 💧 Dissemination: How are projects recognized at European level?
- 💧 Lessons Learnt

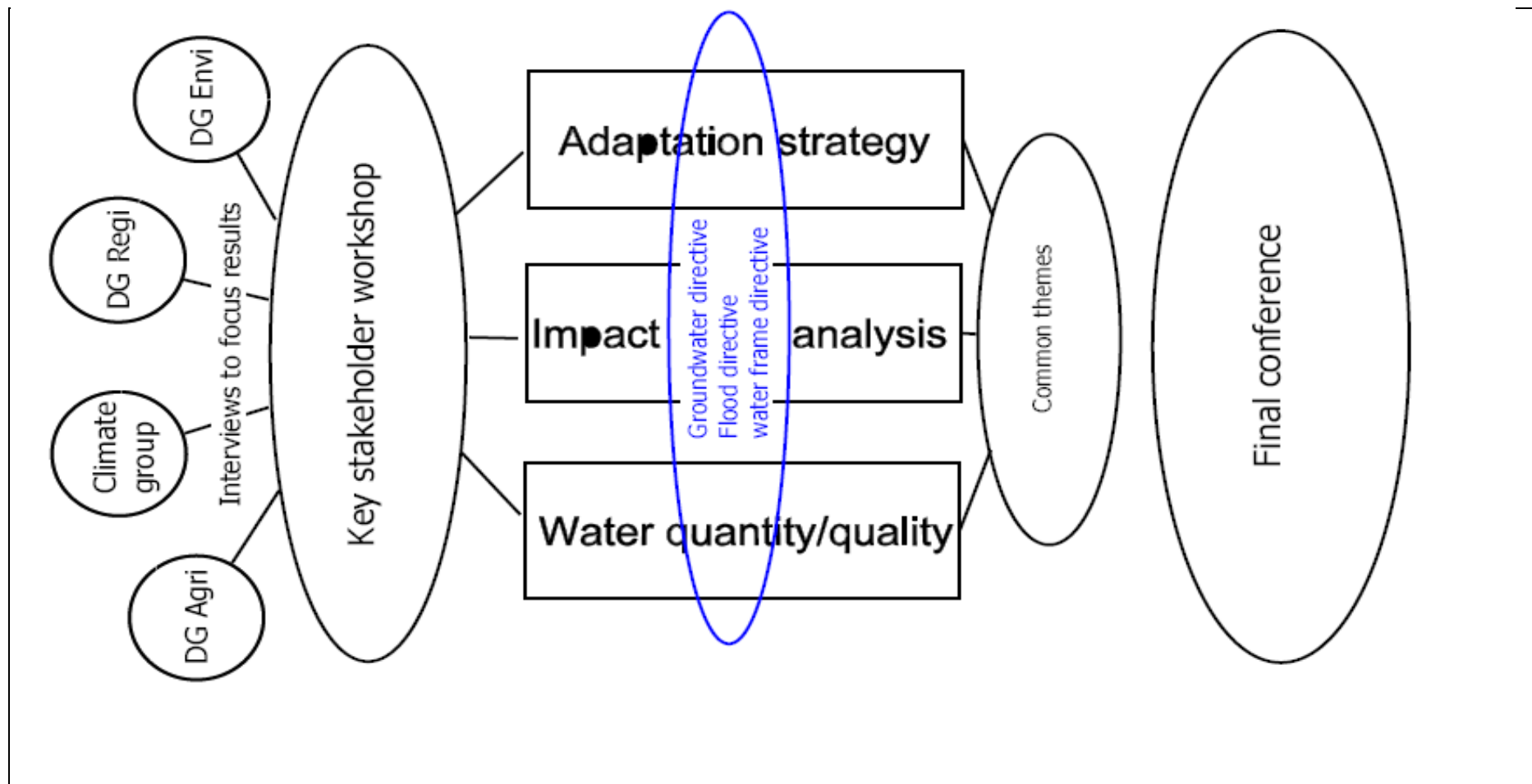
Aim

- 💧 To add value to existing projects through sharing and building knowledge and to communicate these as a substantive block of evidence to inform policy makers

Integrated knowledge



Activities in the WaterCAP project



The involved stakeholders

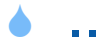
💧 Interviews:

- 💧 DG Env, DG Climate, DG Regio, DG Agri, DG RTD, COPA

💧 Stakeholder workshop:

- 💧 In Bruxelles

💧 Content workshops on adaptation strategy, impact analysis and water quantity/ quality



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Visible at several events

- Green Week, Blue Print Process, Green Week
 - Blueprint process and possibly the Conference
 - Contacts to other CIS Activities (June..)
 - InterReg annual conference (June)
 - InterReg Committee (september)
 - Cyprus (October)
- And all the time visible for the InterReg office

We have learned that output needs to focus on...

💧 Innovation

- 💧 Innovative methods which works in practice and are repeatable

💧 Economical benefits

- 💧 For society and for multiple sectors
- 💧 Job creation

💧 Bridging the gap

- 💧 Improving policy-science interface

Hot issues at European level

- 💧 Green Growth
- 💧 Climate Change
- 💧 What makes integration successful?
- 💧 Cross sectorial solutions

*“The first strength to be mentioned regarding WaterCAP is the **close link it creates between the water sector and other sectors, e.g. agriculture**”*
Tania Runge, COPA

How does the European level use research?

- 💧 If research insights are needed, DG's organize the project themselves.
- 💧 Getting an overview on best data / results available, e.g. EU Adapt, WISE RTD

*“When this project has tangible results that make my work easier, then I’m **prepared** to invest.”*
(Interviewee)

Dissemination : How are projects recognized at European level? (I)

- 💧 "If the regional level likes our results we'll hear from it"
- 💧 It's about right timing & events
- 💧 We can by advantage link up to hot topics

Dissemination : How are projects recognized at European level? (II)

💧 Diverse foci, e.g.

- 💧 Providing a good example for meeting European (legal) requirements
- 💧 Showing our capacity to develop such an example
- 💧 Demonstrating a method transferable to other examples /and what are the barriers?
- 💧 Giving policy recommendations

“Think European wise, act regionally and bring back experience to Europe”
Philippe Quevauviller, DG RTD

Learnings for the projects I:

- 💧 The research method have to be demanded besides being a sound method.
- 💧 Be clear what we want:
 - 💧 Direct uptake of results in practical management?
 - 💧 Research funds for follow ups?
 - 💧 Influence on European policy design?
- 💧 Decision makers have a strong interest to link up with the regional level, - so we have a good chance.

Learnings for the projects II:

- 💧 Our potential is reflected in our regional connection.
 - 💧 Regional / national acknowledgement of our results facilitates European uptake, - a new task which we have to deal with!
 - 💧 Messages have to come from multiple entry points.
- 💧 And remember:

*“Projects need to trim out the hot air in their conclusions
-evaluation of demonstrated benefits is key”
(Interviewee, DG Env)*
- 💧 European policy makers want not recommendations but good arguments:
 - 💧 Specific, fact based, reliable, linked to regions

WATER SENSING DECISION SYSTEM AN ANSWER TO DROUGHT



Summary

European agriculture is dependent on huge reserves of freshwater. However, production is increasingly limited by summer droughts. The solution for water use efficiency is the control of irrigation by water sensing decision systems for farmers.

The incidence of this water shortage problem will increase in the future with climate change (hotter, drier summers) and competition for water use (food, energy, ecology). The answer to this is to increase water use efficiency in the water demanding sector of agriculture.

Main Benefits

More efficient water use

- The introduction of water sensing at farm level can target irrigation in space and time, guided by the crop requirements. Currently, without this knowledge, the presumption is to irrigate excessively to guard against reductions in yield.

Economic/job creation

- Working with SME for sensor creation including possibilities for exporting techniques to wide range of countries worldwide (already export to Israel)
- Farm business able to cope with drought, also in the future climate

Innovative aspects

- Raising awareness among farmers on challenges with climate change
- Current decision support system readily adaptable to additional sensors such as those now being developed to measure Nitrate leaching.

Boosters for Implementation

- This decision support system empowers the farmer to judge efficient water use with limited investment and training.
- It makes agronomic sense and business sense for farmers.
- The problem is real and the solution was provided for them.
- The exchange of knowledge between farmers.

Barriers for Further Implementation

Climate variability makes the future necessity of irrigation to maintain and/or increase yields difficult to prove. The price of the sensors is still relatively high.

Without a legal claim for efficient irrigation there is no need for the farmer to act.

Maximum efficiency is affected by landscape soil heterogeneity (different soil moisture to plant water availability relationships).

How to Get Over Barriers

Screening should take place where the technique achieves maximum cost-effectiveness due to water stress. Trials should take place in these dry areas, where costs of water abstraction are high or competition is high with other water users.

The water sensing systems can be used in a wider perspective (natural area's, water quality questions, prevent flooding).

Policy Recommendations

Sensors (and DSS) are the future tool for developing a model of sustainable farming.

In order to spread this innovative method and bring it to work in the dry regions there is a need for action:

- Money to support the implementation
- Legal or financial measures to motivate farmers to implement the measure



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What way to continue bringing in our learnings?

- 💧 Invitation for end workshop in Bruxelles
- 💧 Conference in Hamburg
- 💧 For more: Facebook and www.watercap.eu