



Case study: Development in the drought

The incompatibility of the Ebro water transfer with sustainable development in Spain

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Content:

- The Spanish National Hydrological Plan and Ebro water transfer
- Why and how WWF was opposing it
- Current alternatives and WWF's recommendation for desalination plants
- General lessons learnt from the case study





What was the Spanish National Hydrological Plan (SNHP)

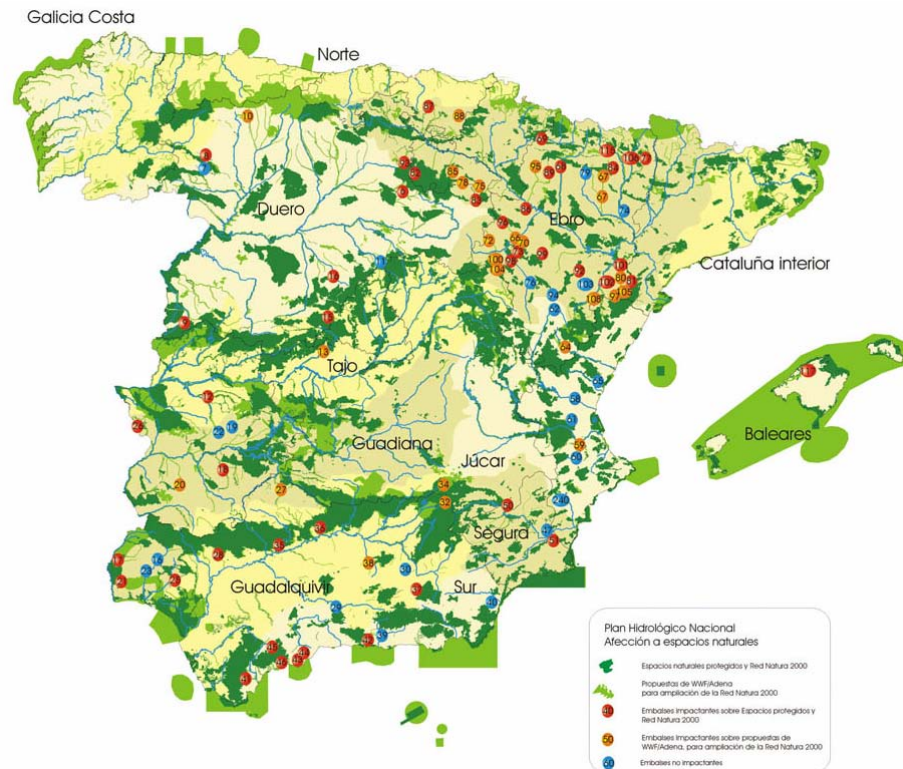
- Adopted by Spanish Parliament in July 2001 (Partido Popular)
- Ebro water transfer (1050 cub hectometeres per year to southern Spain)
- Annex 2: Package of 889 public works
- In total: 119 **new dams** and 22 new transfers (Annex I and Annex II)
- Very outdated solution to the differences in water balance across Spain





Seven Reasons why WWF opposed SNHP

- It was a yesterday plan
- It would not work
- It was not economically justified
- It had significant impact on the environment
- It went against EU legislation
- It was to misuse EU taxpayers's money
- There are alternatives





WWF SNHP Initiative objectives

To **stop the SNHP** and to contribute to the **development of new and sustainable solutions**.

To achieve this objective, there are four specific objectives:

1. Stop EU funding for the SNHP
2. Prove that the SNHP is against EU legislation
3. Promote international pressure on Spain
4. Promote awareness in Spain (especially re the WFD in the Spanish Levante coast)





Anti-Ebro transfer campaign: who?

Scientists (New Water Culture Found.):
scientific data and opinions



Civil society platforms (Ebro Delta Platform): 'subversive' actions + human component + source of inspiration and material

WWF: institutional role (EU lobbying, international pressure, 'coordination' of the campaign)





Performances





Targeted demonstrations





More...targeted demonstrations





'Social' events





Press and international fora

HERALDO DE ARAGON

Más del 40 % de los zaragozanos reclama un acuerdo PSOE-CHA

La mitad de los votantes socialista apoya esta opción que defiende la política de la UCA

Opción	Porcentaje
PSOE-CHA	40%
PSOE-PP	30%
PP-CHA	20%
PSOE-PP-CHA	10%
No sabe	10%

Ferrero gana Richard Ganes

El zaragozano...

El Zaragoza tendrá que esperar

GASOL



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What was the end of the story?

- March 2004: political elections and change of Governments (Socialist Party + other left-wing parties)
- July 2004: **Royal Decree to derogate the Ebro Transfer**
- **2005: Definitive derogation of the Ebro Transfer (by law)**
- Approval to build 12 desalination plants as part of the alternative





WWF's recommendations for new desalinisation plants

- Desalinisation is not the sole alternative to the project and may serve as part of possible mid-term solution
- “Making water” to be economically, environmentally and socially justified
- Resource planning should come BEFORE infrastructure planning
- Environmental evaluation
- Temporary planning
- Location
- “Bottled electricity” needs to be climate neutral
- Zero spill
- Desalinisation should not be subsidised





WWF's recommendations for water management in the Mediterranean

- Water policy needs to turn from its classic management centered on extending supply and increasing consumption towards the management of demand for water in the first place
- Revised water demand estimation// climate change impacts
- Efficiency of water use, modernisation of irrigation techniques
- Water re-use
- Do not reward illegal water use
- Control land use developments
- Apply real cost of water/cost recovery including environmental and resource costs





Lessons learnt

- The WWF SHNP Initiative/Anti-Ebro Transfer Campaign did manage to postpone decisions and to make the Ebro transfer derogation an appealing political 'flag'.
- Clear objectives based on an in-depth analysis of the situation
- 'Living' and clear strategy (monthly updates, periodic evaluation)
- Constantly 'hammer' your targets using all means and angles
- Very focussed and targeted outputs
- Look for allies and partners
- Sufficient capacity and very motivated staff
- 'Human' component against the project





Why?



+ alternatives do exist





WWF SNHP Initiative

Ebro transfer as an European anti-WFD flag project

- Corruption scandals, decreasing environmental protection, undercapacity of water management bodies, illegal water use, tourism development expectations, social conflicts, manipulation of media, increasing illegal immigration and a black labour market

