



UNECE



REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA
MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT



Republic of Serbia
Ministry of Agriculture,
Forestry and Water Management
Republic Water Directorate



Ministry of Infrastructure and the
Environment



Global workshop

Moving forward transboundary water cooperation: Building on its benefits

6-7 February 2018

Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland
Room XI

PROGRAMME

Day 1 - Tuesday 6 February 2018

10:00-10:30 Opening

Welcoming remarks by co-lead Parties

Harry Liiv, Deputy Secretary General, Ministry of Environment, Estonia

Marija Lazarevic, Head of Group for International Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management, Serbia

Introduction to the work on benefits under the Water Convention, objectives and programme of the workshop

Francesca Bernardini, Secretary to the Water Convention, UNECE

10:30 - 13:00 Session 1 - How a dialogue focusing on benefits can facilitate transboundary water cooperation

Chair: Marija Lazarevic, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management, Serbia, co-lead Party for the work on the benefits of transboundary water cooperation under the Water Convention

Can it uncover new opportunities for cooperation or help unlock stagnating cooperation processes? Can it attract new key actors to the table? Can it facilitate understanding by policy-makers of the issues at stake? Are benefits of cooperation considered in negotiations over transboundary waters and how? How to build a negotiation around benefits of cooperation or cost of inaction? How can a dialogue on the benefits of cooperation help understanding and implementing the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention), the

United Nations Convention on the Law of Non-Navigational Uses of International Watercourses (Watercourses Convention) and international water law more broadly?

Introduction to the session

Chantal Demilecamps, Environment Affairs Officer, Secretariat of the Water Convention, UNECE

Prompting and strengthening transboundary water cooperation: can a benefit focus help?

Alejandro Iza, International lawyer, Environmental Law Centre, International Union for Conservation of Nature

The costs of inaction and benefits of water cooperation in Central Asia

Benjamin Pohl, Senior Project Manager, Adelphi and Jusipbek Kazbekov, Water Initiatives Support Program Specialist, Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia

Reactions by representatives of countries from Central Asia:

Ababakir Koilubaev, Deputy Director, Department of Water Management and Melioration, Kyrgyzstan

Abdunabi Boboiev, Head of Department, Ministry of Melioration and Water Resources, Tajikistan
Vokhidjon Akhmadjonov, Deputy Head, Irrigation Systems Operation Department, Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources, Uzbekistan

Benefits of cooperation: an entry point to strengthen regional and bilateral transboundary water cooperation in the IGAD region

Fred Mwangi, Regional Water Resources Expert, Intergovernmental Authority on Development

Reactions by a representative from countries of the Sio Malaba Malakisi River Basin:

Louis Mugisha, Leader Kyoga Water Management Zone, Ministry of Water and Environment, Uganda

Panel discussion: How to build a negotiation on transboundary water management around benefits of cooperation?

Leonid Kalashnyk, Environmental Programme Officer, Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe

Dimitris Faloutsos, Senior Programme Officer, Global Water Partnership – Mediterranean
Phyllia Restiani, Programme Manager, Stockholm International Water Institute

Sonja Koepfel, Environment Affairs Officer, Secretariat of the Water Convention, UNECE

13:00-15:00 Lunch Break

15:00 – 18:00 Session 2 - How to identify, assess and if possible quantify benefits of transboundary water cooperation

Chair: Carmen Marques Ruiz, Policy Coordinator Environment and Water, European External Action Service

Which benefits of cooperation (past and future) are usually identified, and which one are less explored? How to carry out assessments of the benefits of transboundary water cooperation? How are beneficiaries consulted or taken into account in benefits identification and assessments? What are the challenges of quantification? How assessment, and if possible quantification, of benefits help advancing transboundary cooperation processes?

Introduction to the session

Roberto Martin Hurtado, Consultant to the Water Convention Secretariat

Identifying and assessing the benefits of Nexus solutions to improve transboundary water management in the Drina River Basin

Bosko Kenjic, Head of Water Resources Department, Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Benefit sharing opportunities in the Nile Basin

Innocent Ntabana, Executive Secretary, Nile Basin Initiative

Questions and answers

The impact of assessing the benefits of transboundary water cooperation between Georgia and Azerbaijan in the Kura River Basin

Tatiana Efimova, Water Project Manager, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and Matanat Avazova, Deputy Director of the Department on National Monitoring of Environment, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, Azerbaijan

Reaction by *Alexander Mindorashvili, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, Georgia*

Understanding the benefits of cooperation on the joint management of the North-Western Sahara Aquifer System: a focus on water and agriculture

Djamel Latrech, Project Manager, Sahara and Sahel Observatory

Questions and answers

Facilitated group work:

Introduction to group work objectives and to the composition of the group

Roberto Martin Hurtado, Consultant to the Water Convention Secretariat

Work in small groups

Reporting back by rapporteurs of the groups

- Which benefits of cooperation (past and future) are usually identified, and which one are less explored?
- How are beneficiaries consulted or taken into account in benefits identification and assessments?
- How assessment, and if possible quantification, of benefits can help advancing transboundary cooperation processes?

18:00-19:30 Cocktail – Restaurant at the 8th floor

Day 2 – Wednesday 7 February 2018

9:30 – 12:00 Session 3 - How to realize and maximize benefits for the conservation and development of transboundary basins

Chair: François Münger, Director General, Geneva Water Hub

How can benefit approaches best facilitate agreeing on conservation projects and investments in transboundary basins? How can the definition of development priorities in transboundary basins based on identified common benefits help prioritizing and financing development projects in basins? How do regional development priorities and regional economic integration initiatives relate to the generation of transboundary water cooperation benefits?

Transboundary water cooperation: a fundamental pillar for sustainable growth in transboundary basins

Alan Nicol, Principal Researcher, International Water Management Institute

Sharing benefits: jointly managing infrastructures in the Senegal River Basin

Fawzi Bedredine, Regional Project Coordinator, Senegal River Basin Development Organization

Questions and answers

A fruitful management of infrastructure on the Rhone River: cooperation between France and Switzerland

Jérôme Barras, Director, Société des Forces Motrices de Chancy-Pougny, Switzerland

Transboundary water benefits: contributing to regional integration between Sweden and Finland

Virve Sallisalmi, General Secretary, Finnish-Swedish Transboundary River Commission

Questions and answers

Assessing the common benefits of the joint conservation of transboundary ecosystems

Tobias Salathé, Senior Adviser, Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands

Assessment of benefits of transboundary water cooperation in the Cubango-Okavango River Basin

Ebenizario Chongica, Executive Secretary, Permanent Okavango River Basin Water Commission

Reactions by representatives of countries from the Cubango-Okavango River Basin:

Cynthia Ortmann, Okavongo Basin Steering Committee Co-Chairperson, Namibia

Tracy Molefi, Okavongo Basin Steering Committee Co-Chairperson, Botswana

Discussion

12:00-12:30 Pre session 5 – Buzz discussion on future work on benefits of transboundary water cooperation

Buzz discussion: Needs, ideas, proposals and possible contributions for future work on the benefits of transboundary water cooperation

Introduced by Diane Guerrier, Secretariat of the Water Convention

12:30 – 14:30 Lunch Break

13:30-14:30 Open opportunity to ask questions about the Water Convention to the secretariat

14:30 – 16:00 Session 4 – How to make greater cooperation through successful communication efforts

Chair: Harry Liiv, Ministry of Environment, Estonia, co-lead Party of the work on benefits of transboundary water cooperation under the Water Convention

What are the consequences of a lack of proper communication of the benefits of cooperation? Who should be the primary target groups to ensure support to and financing of transboundary water cooperation processes, and how can the benefits be best communicated to them? How to integrate the communication work about the benefits of transboundary water cooperation with other communication efforts in transboundary basins?

Introduction to the session

Diane Guerrier, Associate Environmental Affairs Officer, Secretariat of the Water Convention, UNECE

Communicating the benefits of transboundary cooperation and strengthening cooperation over time in the Rhine River Basin

Martine Rohn-Brossard, President of the International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine, Swiss Federal Office for the Environment

Multi-stakeholders engagement: assessing beneficiaries' priorities to improve transboundary water cooperation in the Putumayo River Basin

Mauricio Molano Cruz, Advisor on International Affairs, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, Colombia; Juan Carlos Pomareda, Third Secretary, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Peru

Questions and answers

Panel discussion: How to communicate the benefits of cooperation to convince and ensure support and financing of transboundary water cooperation processes?

Seifeldin Abdalla Hamad, Chair of the Water Resources Technical Organ, Ministry of Water Resources, Irrigation and Electricity, Sudan

Peter Kovacs, Head of River Basin Management and Water Protection Department, Ministry of Interior, Hungary and Chair of the Water Convention

Alain Ndoumbe Ndoube, Foreign Affairs Officer, Ministry of External Relations, Cameroon

Maximiliano Campos, Principal Senior Water Specialist and Chief Integrated Water Resources Management, Organization of American States

16:00 – 17:15 Session 5 - How to move the agenda forward

Chair: Harry Liiv, Ministry of Environment, Estonia

Are there on-going or planned opportunities to continue learning? Is additional guidance work on identifying, assessing and communicating the benefits of transboundary water cooperation needed? How could the work on benefits be integrated in other work areas of the Water Convention and other international agencies?

Main outcomes of the buzz discussion in pre-session 5

Diane Guerrier, Associate Environmental Affairs Officer, Secretariat of the Water Convention, UNECE and Roberto Martin Hurtado, Consultant to the Water Convention Secretariat

Panel discussion: How to move forward activities on the benefits of transboundary water cooperation

Rachid Taibi, Coordinator of the Consultation Mechanism for the North Western Sahara Aquifer System, Sahara and Sahel Observatory

Thato Raphaka, Commissioner of the Permanent Okavango River Basin Water Commission, Botswana

Claudio Bacigalupi, Head of Water Sector, DG International Cooperation and Development, European Commission

Representative from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation

Francesca Bernardini, Secretary to the Water Convention, UNECE

Isabelle Fauconnier, Water Policy and Sustainability Adviser, Global Water Programme, International Union for Conservation of Nature

17:15 – 17:30 Closing

Harry Liiv, Ministry of Environment, Estonia