

Assessing the benefits of transboundary water cooperation

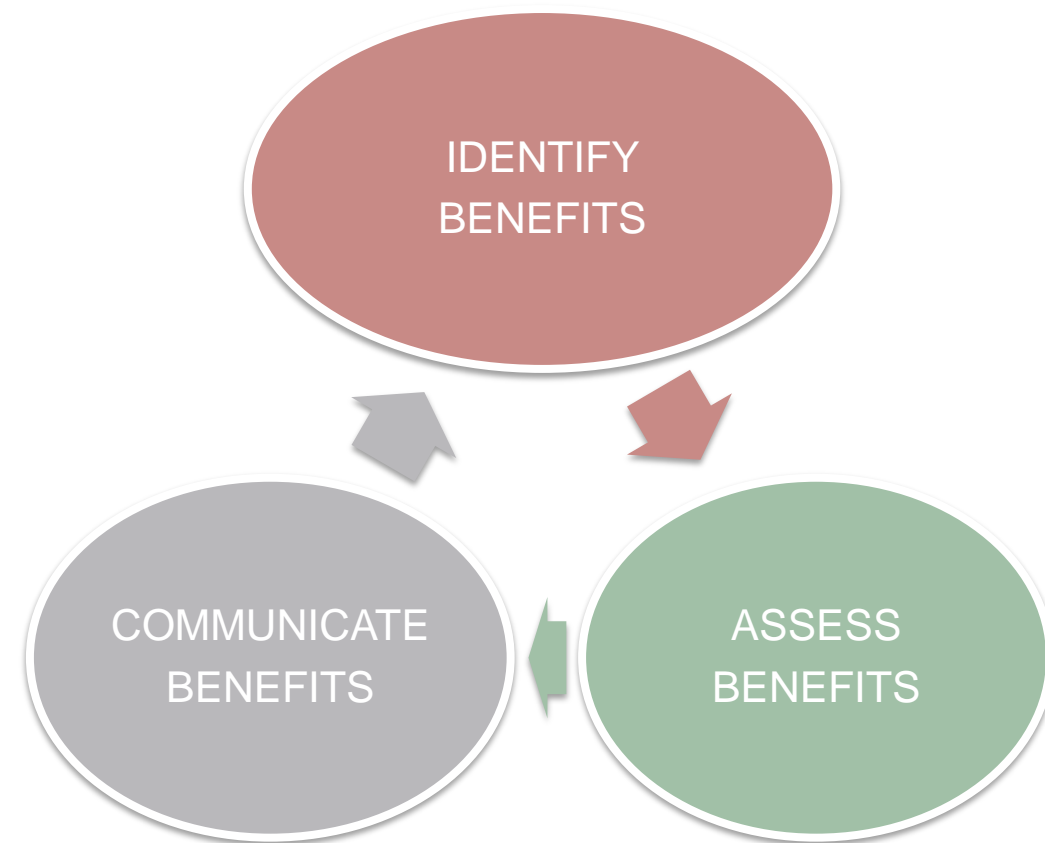
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UNECE

Why to carry a benefit assessment exercise in a transboundary basin?

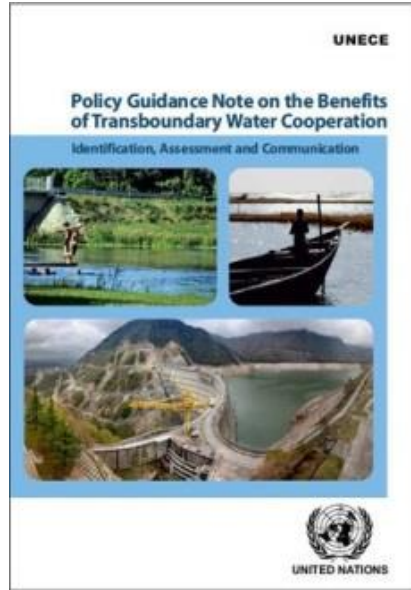
- Provide fact-based argument for starting up cooperation or developing stronger cooperation
- Broaden the scope of cooperation by defining a “benefit cluster”
- Attract financial resources to implement water cooperation solutions



A benefit assessment exercise:

- to be tailored to the characteristics of the basin as well as to the needs and level of maturity of the TWC process
- combines qualitative, quantitative and monetary assessments
- to involve stakeholders throughout

Identifying, assessing and communicating the benefits of transboundary cooperation



Policy Guidance Note on the benefits of transboundary water cooperation: Identification, Assessment and Communication

... to support governments and other actors in realizing the potential benefits of transboundary water cooperation

A benefit assessment exercise can:

- Foster improvement of cooperation by highlighting potential to generate broad range of benefits
- Support the TDA/SAP process through the integration of the benefits of transboundary cooperation into policy processes

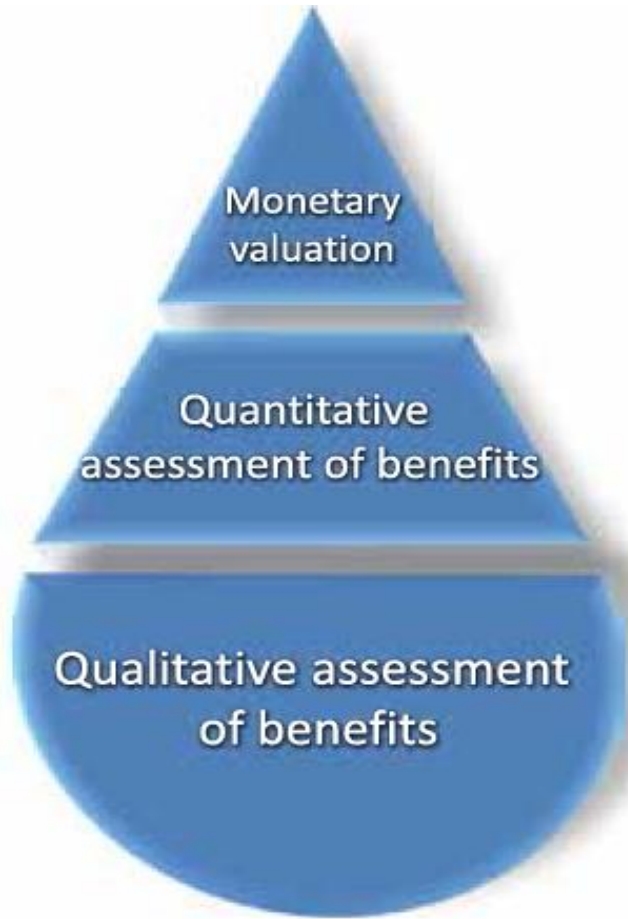


The benefits of transboundary water cooperation



<i>Origin of benefits</i>	<i>Benefits for economic activities</i>	<i>Benefits beyond economic activities</i>
Improved water management	<p>Economic benefits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expanded activity and productivity in economic sectors (aquaculture, irrigated agriculture, mining, energy generation, industrial production, nature-based tourism) Reduced cost of carrying out productive activities Reduced economic impacts of water-related hazards (floods, droughts) Increased value of property 	<p>Social and environmental benefits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health impacts from improved water quality and reduced risk of water-related disasters. Employment and reduced poverty impacts of the economic benefits Improved access to services (such as electricity and water supply) Improved satisfaction due to preservation of cultural resources or access to recreational opportunities. Increased ecological integrity and reduced habitat degradation and biodiversity loss Strengthened scientific knowledge on water status
Enhanced trust	<p>Regional economic cooperation benefits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of regional markets for goods, services and labour Increase in cross-border investments Development of transnational infrastructure networks 	<p>Peace and security benefits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthening of international law Increased geopolitical stability and strengthened diplomatic relations New opportunities from increased trust (joint initiatives and investments) Reduced risk and avoided cost of conflict and savings from reduced military spending Creation of a shared basin identity

Assessing the benefits of transboundary water cooperation



1. Match level of ambition of BAE to needs of TWC process
2. Focus on the final outcomes of TWC
3. Select the right geographical and time scales
4. Adopt an adaptive approach
5. Conduct it jointly
5. Involve different stakeholders, incl. local communities
6. Favour integrated assessments
7. Consider different scenarios & possible related trade-offs
8. Do not expect to generate monetary values for all the benefits
9. Accept that benefit assessment will be imperfect

Communicating the benefits of transboundary water cooperation

Audiences

Purpose

Tactics

Messages

Mechanisms

Define how the BAE results can support TWC process

Include communication of benefits results in the overall TWC communications plan

Assessing the benefits of TWC: past & planned activities



Ecosystem services approach used as a tool to enable discussions on difficult issues in transboundary water management

Ex: Vecht Basin (DE, NL)

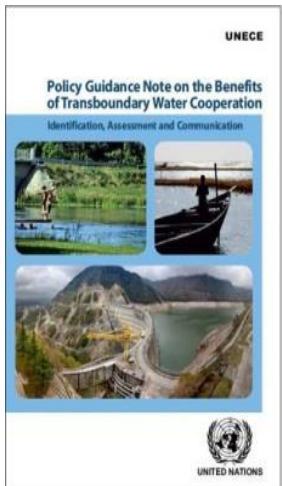
Policy Guidance Note applied in interested pilot basins:

- Okavongo - Cubango Basin (AO, NA, BW) with OKACOM, in collaboration with WB
- Drina Basin (BA, RS, ME, AL) with Sava River Commission
- Juba Basin (ET, SO, KE) with IGAD, in collaboration with IUCN

Contribution to:

→ repository of economic valuation of natural services

→ methodology and training for communicating and integrating benefits of TWC into TDA/SAP



For more information



- <http://www.unece.org/env/water.html>
- http://www.unece.org/env/water/benefits_cooperation.html

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