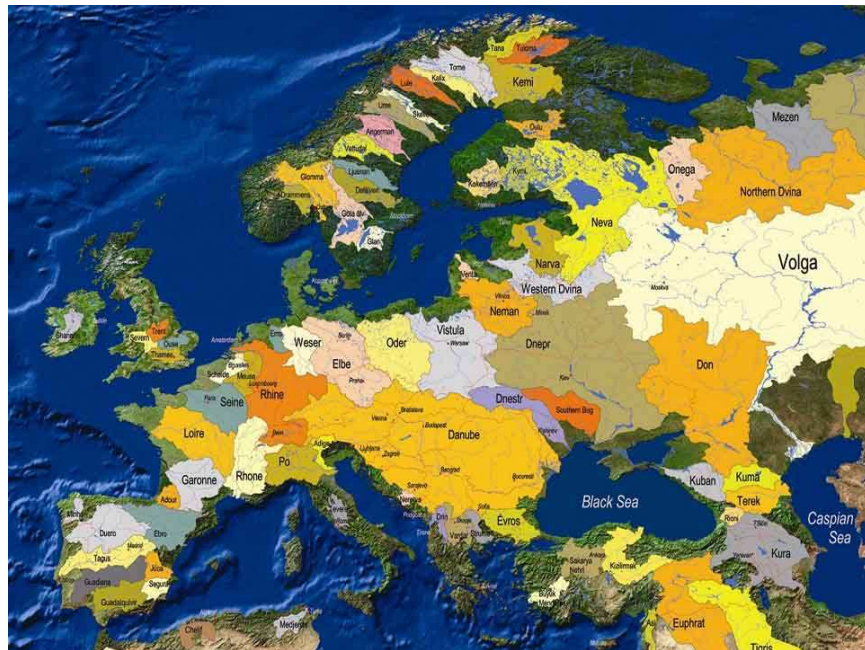




Ministerie van Verkeer en Waterstaat



Task Force on Water and Climate Change

Jos G. Timmerman

Ministry of Transport, Public Works and Water Management of the Netherlands



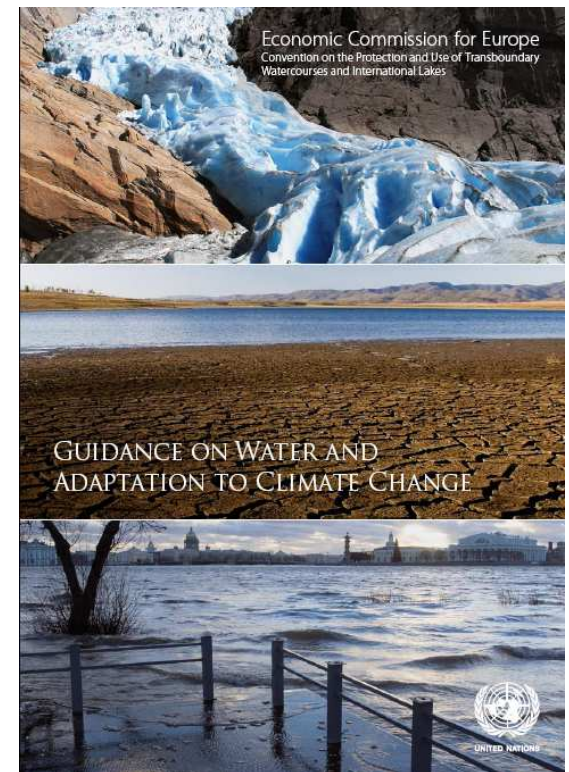
Towards pilot projects – a short history

- Task Force on Water and Climate installed in 2006 at the 4th Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention
- Guidance developed on the basis of:
 - Survey of adaptation measures in SEE and EECCA (February – April 2008)
 - Workshop “Water and Adaptation to Climate Change: Joining Efforts to adapt” (Amsterdam, 1-2 July 2008)
 - Comments from several meetings in 2008 and 2009
 - Review by 20 experts
- 5th Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention, 10 Nov. 2009:
 - Guidance adopted
 - Programme of pilot projects approved



Programme of pilot projects

- Implement and test the Guidance on Water and Climate Adaptation
- Assist UNECE countries in implementing the Water Convention
- Support UNECE countries in developing adaptation strategies and measures
- Create positive examples of transboundary cooperation in adaptation
- Forum for exchange of experience, good practices and lessons learnt





3rd Meeting of the Task Force on Water and Climate

Held on 12 May 2010 in Geneva

- Act as community of practice
- Pilot projects on adaptation to climate change in transboundary basins
- Platform for exchanging experience on water and adaptation to climate change
- Cooperation with the Task Force on Extreme Weather Events established under the Protocol on Water and Health
 - Conference on the future of European Waters, 21-25 March 2011
 - Conference on water scarcity and droughts, 30-31 March 2011
- Implementation of the Guidance on Water and Adaptation to Climate Change
- Preparation of the Seventh Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe” in Astana
- Transboundary cooperation between UNECE and non-UNECE countries



Water and Climate Change: How to develop an Adaptation Strategy in Transboundary Basins

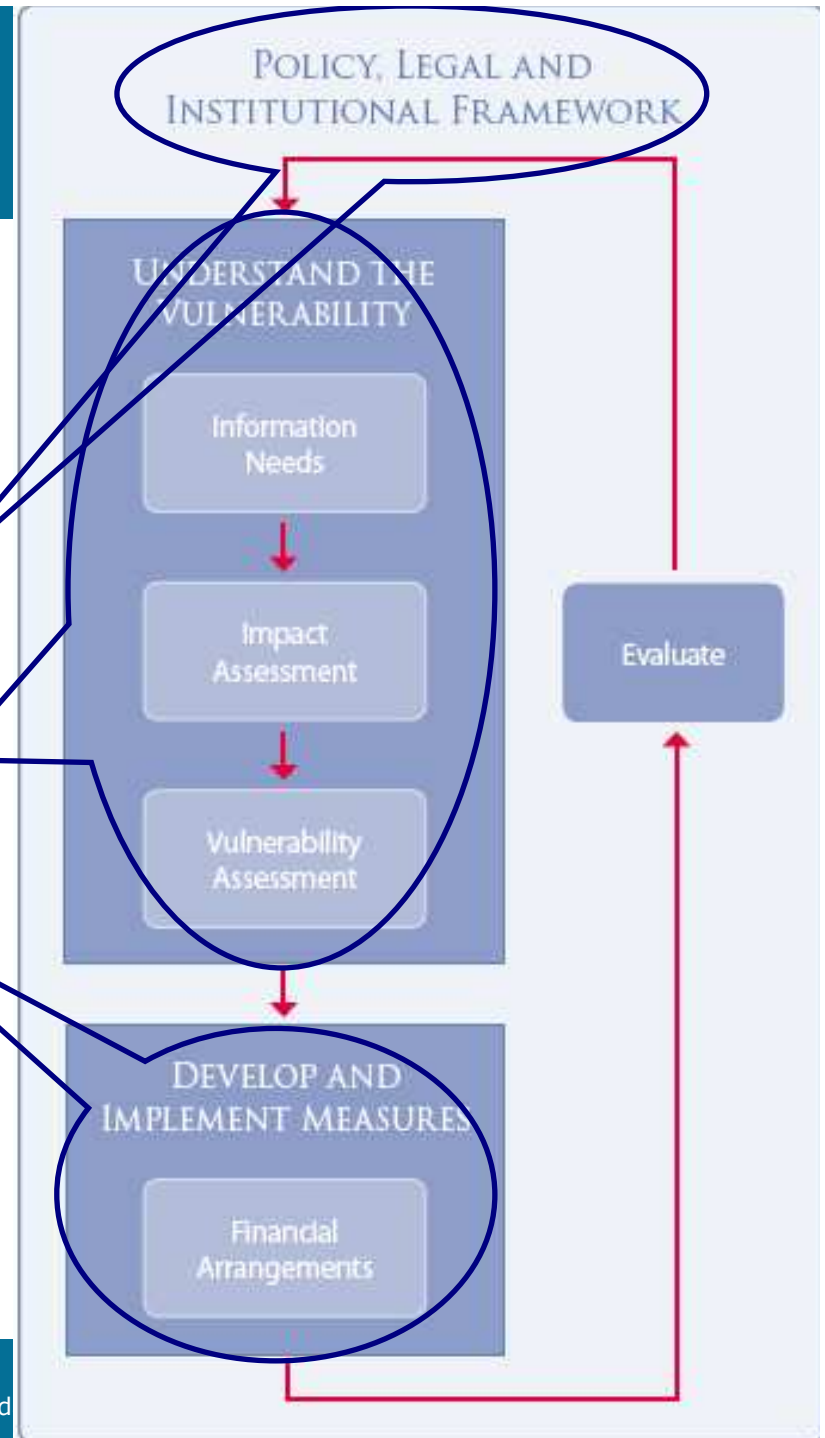
Workshop held in Geneva, 10-11 May 2010

- Exchange experience and share lessons-learned
- Support countries in preparing national or regional adaptation strategies
- Promote implementation of the UNECE Guidance on Water and Adaptation to Climate Change
- Create community of experts and practitioners
- Collect available knowledge and experiences regarding water adaptation



The workshop programme

1. An enabling environment; the international context
2. Governance in a transboundary setting
3. Jointly assessing climate change impacts
4. Developing jointly adaptation measures
5. Starting cooperation; Launch of the pilot projects and conclusions of the workshop





Participants

- Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, The Netherlands, Portugal, the Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States of America and Uzbekistan
- IPCC, OSCE, UNDP, UNFCCC, WMO, EC-IFAS, ICWC, the International Sava River Basin Commission, International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River, International Commission for Protection of the Rhine River, IUCN
- CPWC, Ecoproject, EUCC - The Coastal Union, SIWI, SEI, WWF, Eco-TIRAS, Wuppertal Institute, The Regional Environmental Centre for Central and Eastern Europe and the Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia, Georgia Iv.javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, Southern Cross University, New South Wales and Wageningen University and Research Centre



Conclusions I

- Many transboundary basins in the UNECE region are suffering under both flooding and water scarcity
- More and more countries are developing adaptation strategies but mostly without taking into account transboundary aspects.
- Several transboundary adaptation initiatives have started such as in the Rhine, Danube and Meuse rivers, mostly at the level of river basin commissions
- Most are in the phase of jointly assessing impacts, little is done on jointly developing measures
- The importance of water as well as of transboundary cooperation is crucial in climate change adaptation is increasingly being recognized
- Cooperation with partners across organizations and disciplines is especially important in climate change adaptation



Conclusions II

- Platform for sharing experience
 - Learning and exchanging knowledge on adaptation activities is extremely important to improve effectiveness
 - Regular face-to-face meetings constitute a special added value of the platform under the Water Convention
- Jointly assessing climate change impacts
 - Scenarios, models and hydrological predictions still carry a lot of uncertainty and this will continue
 - Most of the uncertainty stems from the scenarios and uncertainty about human action
 - A range of hydrological models and scenarios should be taken into account
 - Cooperation of neighboring countries can help to use a wider range of models and scenarios and achieve higher credibility due to more data
 - Exchange of data must be combined with agreement on how to use data at a transboundary level



Conclusions III

- Jointly developing adaptation measures
 - Vulnerability assessment should focus on both climatic and non-climatic elements and flow regime and should be conducted iteratively
 - Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) are useful tools which can promote climate change adaptation and especially mainstreaming adaptation into other policy fields
 - Investments should be made flexible and adaptive and include a safety margin
 - Healthy ecosystems often have high natural resilience
 - Environmental, technical, financial, institutional, social, and cognitive / informational aspects of adaptation should be taken into account
 - Clear implementation responsibility, flexible financial instruments, benefit and burden sharing, social learning and (transboundary) cooperation are crucial for effective adaptation action