

Fifth meeting of the
Global network of basins working on climate change adaptation

“Climate change adaptation strategies and plans:
elaboration, financing and implementation”

Friday 26th February 2021, 2 pm – 4 pm (CET)

Webinar on the Interprefy platform

With simultaneous interpretation into English, French, Russian & Spanish



Ministry of Infrastructure
and Water Management



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Bundesamt für Umwelt BAFU
Office fédéral de l'environnement OFEV
Ufficio federale dell'ambiente UFAM
Uffizi federal d'ambient UFAM



UNECE

Concept note

Climate change primarily affects our societies through the water cycle, with unpredictable rainfall patterns, aquatic ecosystems degradation, altered river flows, sea level rise-induced salinization of coastal groundwater and more frequent and intense floods and droughts.

Global temperatures have continued to rise in the recent years, for example, global mean temperature in 2020 is one of the three warmest on record and the past six years, including 2020, are likely to be the six hottest years on record. In 2020 water-related disasters affected different transboundary basins and regions across the world, for instance, extensive floods occurred over large parts of Africa and Asia and severe droughts affected many parts of South America (WMO, 2020).

Transboundary water cooperation helps to improve adaptation to these water-related climate risks (for example, by reducing uncertainty through the exchange of data, enlarging the range and location of available measures, and sharing the costs and benefits). It prevents maladaptation that might unfold through unilateral measures and their potential negative impacts. More broadly, it also brings an essential contribution to climate resilience, sustainable development, peace and regional integration.

More than 60% of freshwater resources worldwide are in shared basins, which are home to more than 40% of the world's population. Therefore, planning for climate change adaptation at the level of transboundary basins can deliver benefits to and boost the resilience capacities of billions of people at the global scale. But how can this objective be achieved?

The fifth meeting of the Global network of basins working on climate change adaptation intends to provide a reply to that question. It is organized by the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes serviced by the United National Economic Commission for Europe (Water Convention) and the International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO) under the leadership of the Netherlands and Switzerland.

The Global network was created in 2013 and is now jointly coordinated by INBO and the Water Convention. It aims to offer a platform for comparing methodologies and approaches, fostering exchange of experience and promoting a shared vision between the participating basins. The network currently includes 17 basins. In 2019-2020, activities of the network focused on increasing the capacity of basins in addressing water-related disasters and raising funds for climate change adaptation.

This online event aims to share experiences, recent developments, progress, lessons learned and best practices in developing, financing and implementing climate change adaptation strategies and plans by the basins of the Global network since its last meeting in February 2019. In particular, the webinar will discuss how transboundary climate change adaptation can:

- be integrated into river basin management plans;
- facilitate cooperation in other areas of basin development;
- support national adaptation planning; and
- be financed through climate funds such as Adaptation Fund and Green Climate Fund as well as other funding sources.

Webinar program

Introduction: (10 min)

- **Ms. Sibylle Vermont**, Federal Office for the Environment, Switzerland
- **Mr. Niels Vlaanderen**, Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management, the Netherlands
- **Ms. Sonja Koeppel**, Secretary, Water Convention
- **Mr. Eric Tardieu**, Secretary General, International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO)

First session: (50 min)

Developing and integrating transboundary climate change adaptation into basin strategies and plans

Panel 1 (30 min), moderated by:

- **Mr. Eric Tardieu**, Secretary General, International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO)

Presenters:

- Integrating climate vulnerability to the regional action framework for the management of water resources in the Amazon basin, for adaptation to climate change
Ms. María Alexandra Moreira López, Secretary General, Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO)
- Integrating the impacts of climate change on low-water flows into river basin management planning in the Meuse river basin,
Mr. Jean-Noël Pansera, Secretary General, International Commission of the Meuse (ICM)
- Integrating climate change adaptation into plans for the Lake Victoria Basin - case for adaptation to climate change in Lake Victoria Basin project,
Mr. Ally Said Matano, Executive Secretary, Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC)

First exchanges and questions & answers with participants (20 min)

Second session: (50 min)

Implementing and financing climate change adaptation plans and strategies

Panel 2 (30 min), moderated by:

- **Mr. Niels Vlaanderen**, Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management, the Netherlands

Presenters:

- Implementation of transboundary climate change adaptation in the Mekong basin through basin and national actions,
Mr. Cong Nguyen Dinh, Climate Change Adaptation Specialist,
Mekong River Commission Secretariat
- Implementation and financing of transboundary climate change adaptation in the Niger river basin
Mr. Abderahim Birémé Hamid, Executive Secretary, Niger Basin Authority (NBA),
- The ICPDR Approach for Integrating Climate Change Adaptation and Progress in the Danube River Basin Management Plan (DRBMP) Update 2021
Mr. Ivan Zavadsky, Executive Secretary, International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR)

Second exchanges and questions & answers with participants (20 min)

Conclusion (10 min):

- **Ms. Sibylle Vermont**, Federal Office for the Environment, Switzerland