



Second Assessment: Lessons learned and the way ahead

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The basis for future assessment work

- First (2007) and Second Assessment (2011) established a regular process — continuity
- Preparatory process as such promoted exchange, cooperation and capacity building
- Common assessment is a tool to harmonize approaches
- Provides a strong basis for all the work under the Convention, supports other initiatives — need to link to the work programme
- A lot of information compiled — serves as reference and baseline for future work



Lessons learned: substance

- Diverse expertise from countries needed — national coordination!
- Especially in the institutional situation and status of waters progress slow
- Comparison of quality data a challenge: different approaches & criteria
- More specific guidance needed to ensure consistency (definitions explained, description of ranking scale etc)
- Complement country data with other reliable information
- Bring in the knowledge of partners
- Allows bringing up issues that can be followed up – good entry point!



Lessons learned: process

- No extensive datasheets
- To reap the benefits of the process (capacity building, networking), an interactive, participatory process!
- Spatial information should be prepared more in parallel to support the analysis
- Stronger links to other activities under the Convention
- Opportunity?: Increase involvement of the civil society (NGOs, academia)



The way ahead as outlined by the Working Groups

- Next extensive Assessment in 8-10 years
- A special edition by 2015 with a different scope and approach:
 - 1) focus on a specific theme
 - A pressure/use (e.g. agriculture, hydropower)
 - A cross-cutting theme (e.g. climate change and extreme events, ecosystems and biodiversity)
 - A response measure (e.g. river basin management plans, monitoring and assessment systems)
 - 2) assessment limited to a representative number of basins



How to further develop the concept of the Special Edition?

- A short list (3) of perspective themes and their elaboration for further development by the Bureau and to be discussed in the Working Groups (July 2012)
- Preliminary identification of potential partners, information sources & funding sources
- Views on the geographical scope (representative basins, implications of the Convention opening etc.)
- Elements of a process that is a) appropriate for the theme & scope, b) feasible in terms of resource requirements, c) effective in involving and activating the countries

