



Groundwater

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1. What has been done in this work area? The main achievements since 2009?

- Preliminary study of the application of the principles of the Convention to transboundary groundwater; groundwater in transboundary water agreements
- Model provisions for transboundary groundwaters (under preparation, draft circulated for comments)
- Inventory, preparation of supporting maps and assessment of transboundary groundwaters in 2nd Assessment
- Concept developed & preparations initiated for a CWC workshop in Central Asia in 2012



2. What are the main challenges and lessons learnt?

- Limited reference to groundwaters in transboundary water agreements; gets little attention
- Different concepts across the region: groundwater bodies (EU) vs aquifer
- Different geological settings and national approaches to the definition of GWBs have slowed down the process of identifying transboundary ones
- In many EECCA countries, groundwaters under different authority than surface waters; low integration
- Low availability of information, poor groundwater monitoring in e.g. the Caucasus and parts of Central Asia



3. What are the ideas for the future work in this area?

- Dissemination of Model provisions & support to development of protocols etc
- Identification of transboundary groundwater related needs at CWC workshop
- Transfer of good legal/institutional/management experience to EECCA & review of the situation in EECCA (possibly through a publication)
- Cooperation with river basin commissions
- Partners: UNESCO, IAH, IGRAC, OSCE

