

Session 1

Work on benefits of transboundary water cooperation under the Water Convention



Why assessing the benefits of transboundary water cooperation?

- Countries' willingness to cooperate determined by perception of potential benefits of cooperation
- Cooperation often focusing on limited issues
- Holistic approach of Water Convention to cooperation: environmental, social and economic implications of water use
- Scope for increased cooperation by broadening benefits considered: identification and assessment of the full range of potential benefits + insert inputs into policy process

Sharing water --→ sharing the benefits of water --→ realizing the broader benefits of water cooperation

Development of the Policy Guidance Note

The objectives



Support governments and other actors in realizing the potential benefits of transboundary water cooperation by:

1. Providing overview of full set of potential benefits
2. How they can be assessed
3. How benefits assessment can be integrated into policy process

Primary target groups: Decision-makers in Ministries (Env, Wat & Foreign Affairs), joint bodies, development partners

Development of the Policy Guidance Note

The process



- Expert group meeting: June 2013
- Draft annotated outline of the guidance note presented in several events
- Call for case studies: January 2014 & development of a background report on economic and environmental benefits
- Workshop «Counting our gains»: 22-23 May 2014
- Outcomes to be presented at WG-IWRM: end June 2014
- Expert group meeting early 2015
- Guidance to be adopted by Parties to the Convention in 2015

First draft of the policy guidance note "Counting our gains"

"COUNTING OUR GAINS"
Policy Guidance Note on identifying, assessing and
communicating the benefits of transboundary water
cooperation
First draft

This document presents the first draft of the Policy Guidance Note. This first draft is based on the draft outline of the policy guidance note circulated in January 2014, the background document on economic and environmental benefits of transboundary water cooperation commissioned by the UNECE secretariat, and the case studies prepared by experts (representatives of countries, basin organizations, academics and non-governmental organizations) sent to the UNECE secretariat in advance of the Workshop "Counting our gains: Sharing experiences on identifying, assessing and communicating the benefits of transboundary water cooperation" that will take place in Geneva on 22-23 May 2014.

This first draft is work in progress and it will experience substantial additions and revisions after the Workshop to reflect the main messages and recommendations of the Workshop. Readers are invited to provide comments on this first draft by 6 June 2014.

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Ch1 – Setting the stage

Ch2 – A policy-focused benefits assessment framework

Tying benefit assessment to policy process; Benefits-assessment framework; Benefit assessment to benefit sharing

Ch3 – Identifying the benefits of TWC

Need to identify benefits; Types of benefits; Challenges & opportunities for identification of benefits

Ch4 – Assessing benefits of TWC

How to approach TWC benefits assessment; Assessing the different types of TWC benefits

Ch5- Communicating the TWC benefits assessment results

Communication to support policy processes: How to approach communication efforts; Communication for specific purposes

[www.unece.org/
env/water/workshop_benefits_cooperation_2014.html](http://www.unece.org/env/water/workshop_benefits_cooperation_2014.html)

CH1 – Transboundary water cooperation



- Shared surface and groundwaters
- Water resources management at the basin level
- Protection of transboundary waters by preventing, controlling and reducing transboundary impacts
- Reasonable and equitable use of transboundary waters
- Obligation to cooperate through agreements and joint institutions

The benefits assessment framework

Assessment of benefits needs to be tied to existing policy process on transboundary water cooperation

Identifica-
tion of full
range of
benefits
and
beneficia-
ries

Prioritiza-
tion of
benefits to
be
assessed

Assessment
of magnitude
of benefits:
qualification,
quantifica-
tion and
economic
valuation

Integration
of
assessment
results into
TWC policy
process

Objectives of the workshop

- Discuss the benefits of TWC and how benefits assessment can support the TWC processes
- Share experiences, good practices, challenges faced and lessons learned on the identification, assessment and communication of the wide range of benefits that can be generated by transboundary water cooperation
- Support the further development of the draft Policy Guidance Note

Your possible contributions

- During the workshop: Presentations of case studies, Interactive discussion, Interventions from the floor
→ Outcomes and main messages of the workshop will be reflected in the draft policy guidance note
- Comments to be received by 6 June 2014
 - comments
 - case study
- Discussion at the meeting of the Working Group in IWRM (25-26 June 2014)