

“ Counting Our Gains”
Workshop on Benefits of Transboundary Water Cooperation
Geneva, 22-23 May 2014

Key messages from the workshop to include in the Policy Guidance Note

Roberto Martín-Hurtado

consultant to UNECE

roberto_martin@hotmail.com

Context

- Processes of globalisation, regional integration
- Broader analytical agenda: Political economy analysis, social assessment, risk assessment (BA a tool among others)
- TWC processes are long
- Existing TDA/SAP exercises in surface waters; opportunity to influence analyses for groundwaters
- Challenge of “sharing benefits” (institutional setting, mechanisms)

General aspects

- Clarify the scope of the Policy Guidance Note
- BA is useful
- BA as part of governance framework
- No one size fits all
 - Basins (relative importance of each potential benefit)
 - Purpose of BA (launching TWC, strategic planning, operational planning)
- The best is the enemy of the good
- Match BA to maturity of TWC process
- Ex ante / Ex post BA
- Role of credible, neutral third party in launching BA
- Transparent process to attract allies

Identification

- BA in relation to other sectors, development
- Common problems (flip-side of benefits) and cost of inaction
- Intangible/process benefits are important
- Reduced vulnerability (increased resilience)
- Costs (and risks) also to be considered
- Beneficiaries (whose benefits?)
- Prioritising benefits
- Better explain typology

Assessment

- Integrated assessment
- Different approaches to assessing different benefits
- Joint effort of parties
- Scale (benefit-shed): project, basin, national
- Communities (bottom-up cooperation, marginalisation from TWC process)
- Importance of knowledge base
- Scenario (what if) analysis
- Attribution
- Opportunistic approach: windows for BA to input TWC process
- Time dimension of benefits (punctual, ongoing,..)

Communication

- Communication as a cycle
- Right time and audience for BA
- Target groups, target individual
- Media/stakeholders/opinion leaders/public influence decision-making (stakeholder analysis)
- Tailoring to purpose and audience
- Honest content
- Who is delivering the message (local actors, other riparians, twinning, study tours...)
- Communication of findings to decision-makers
 - Outcomes that they care about (growth, jobs)
 - Framing common problem, cost of inaction
 - Policy briefs

Next steps – content

- Incorporate messages
- Incorporate examples
- Develop “how to assess” subsections – what level of detail?
- Background work on (geo)political benefits: description, assessment
- Add “how to use this document” subsection

Target audience: Water Directors

- Help you develop your BA processes (whatever its purpose)
- Help you convince top decisionmakers (water, finance and foreign affairs ministers)

How do we need to shape the document to be useful for you to promote TWC?