How the two global water conventions support transboundary water cooperation

Sunday, 31 August 2014
14:00-17:30 – Room T6
World Water Week, Stockholm

Two global legal frameworks now foster cooperation between countries, sectors and other stakeholders in transboundary basins: the 1997 UN Watercourses Convention enters into force and the 1992 UNECE Water Convention or Helsinki Convention is opened for worldwide accession. They support countries in creating adequate basin governance structures, preventing conflicts and addressing challenges such as balancing multiple water uses or climate change adaptation. Their implementation can be fostered through tools such as the TWAP, which helps to identify priorities for action.

14:00 Opening remarks and introduction by the moderators
Nicholas Bonvoisin, UNECE and Alice Aureli, UNESCO

14:10 Two global water conventions: the UNECE Water Convention and the UN Watercourses Convention
Alistair Rieu Clarke, Dundee Centre for Water Law, Policy & Science

14:20 Recent progress in strengthening frameworks for transboundary water cooperation
Seppo Rekolainen, Finnish Environment Institute, Finland

14:30 Panel discussion: Why are the water conventions useful for our transboundary water management?
Moderated by Alejandro Iza, IUCN
Djana Bejko, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Environment, Albania
Michael Tozan, Ministry of Water and Forestry, Côte d’Ivoire
Suhair Salman Abdulwahab, Ministry of Water Resources, Iraq
Niels Vlaanderen, Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment, the Netherlands

15:15 First results of the Transboundary Waters Assessment Programme (TWAP), one possible tool to support the implementation of the Conventions in the future - which priorities for action?
Peter Koefoed Bjørnsen, UNEP-DHI

15:45 Coffee break

16:15 Implementing and promoting the UN Watercourses Convention on the ground: Experience of the Senegal basin
Lamine Ndiaye, Observatory of the environment, Senegal River Development Organization

16:25 How the institutional framework of the UNECE Water Convention supports implementation of international water law
Peter Kovacs, Ministry of Interior, Hungary

16:35 Interactive discussion with the audience: How can the two global water conventions support cooperation on transboundary water resources and interact with each other in the future?
Discussion moderated by Lesha Witmer, WWF

17:20 Concluding remarks
Fabien Dupuis, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development, France and Lifeng Li, WWF

17:30 Reception offered by the government of the Netherlands at the WWF booth