

Expert Workshop

Beyond water: Regional economic integration and geo-political benefits of transboundary water cooperation

Draft Agenda

Day 1	28 January 2015
8:30-9:00	Registration of participants
9:00-10:00	<p>Opening of the workshop</p> <p><i>Chairperson: Mr. Harry Liiv, Ministry of the Environment, Estonia</i></p> <p>Welcoming remarks: <i>Mr. Andres Taliäär, Secretary General, Co-Chair of Estonian-Russian Transboundary Commission</i> <i>Mr. Nicholas Bonvoisin, Secretary of the Water Convention, UNECE</i> <i>Ms. Therese Sjömander-Magnusson, Director of transboundary water management, SIWI</i></p> <p>The Water Convention and the work on assessing the benefits of transboundary water cooperation, <i>Ms. Chantal Demilecamps, UNECE</i></p> <p>Overview of the policy guidance and introduction to the objectives and organization of the workshop, <i>Mr. Roberto Martin Hurtado, consultant to UNECE</i></p> <p>Introductory tour de table</p>
SESSION 1	Regional economic integration benefits of transboundary water cooperation
	<p>Strengthening transboundary water cooperation often results in increasing collaboration and enhancing trust between riparians. It can therefore create greater opportunities for more trade, investment and financial integration over borders.</p> <p>The session will discuss how transboundary water cooperation can make it easier for cooperating partners to strengthen regional economic integration, whether such benefits have already been assessed and if so, which methodologies have been used. It will build on lessons learned from regional economic organizations, countries and international organizations. This discussion will contribute to the further elaboration of the draft policy guidance note on benefits of transboundary water cooperation.</p>
10:00-10:10	Introduction to the regional economic integration benefits of transboundary water cooperation, <i>Mr. Roberto Martin Hurtado, consultant to UNECE</i>

10:10-11:15	<p>Panel 1: Identifying the regional economic integration benefits of transboundary water cooperation</p> <p><i>Chairperson: Mr. Nicholas Bonvoisin, UNECE</i></p> <p>Panel presentations: Mr. Fred Mwangi, Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) Mr. John Rao Nyaoro, Nile Basin Initiative</p> <p><i>Guiding questions for panelists:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>What are the different regional economic integration benefits of transboundary water co-operation (in your case study)?</i> • <i>To what extent are the relevant stakeholders aware of those benefits?</i> • <i>To what extent are the regional economic integration benefits of transboundary water cooperation relevant for the overall national and regional economic development agenda?</i> <p>Q&As and interventions from participants</p>
11:15-11:45	<p><i>Coffee break</i></p>
11:45-12:45	<p>Panel 2: Assessing and communicating the regional economic integration benefits of transboundary water cooperation</p> <p><i>Chairperson: Ms. Therese Sjömander-Magnusson, SIWI</i></p> <p>Panel presentations: Ms. Natalia Alexeeva, Global Water Partnership (GWP) Mr. Benedikt Mandl, International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR) Mr. Jonathan Fisher, Environmental economics expert</p> <p><i>Guiding questions for panelists:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Have there been any efforts to assess the regional economic integration benefits of transboundary water co-operation? How has the assessment process been organized?</i> • <i>What methodologies have been used? What have been the results of the assessment?</i> • <i>How have the regional economic integration benefits been presented to the stakeholders and fed into the decision making process?</i> • <i>To what extent has the regional economic integration benefits influenced the development of transboundary water cooperation?</i> <p>Q&As and interventions from participants</p>
12:45-13:45	<p><i>Lunch break</i></p>
SESSION 2	<p>Communicating the benefits of transboundary water cooperation</p>
13:45-14:00	<p>Introduction to the afternoon session</p>
14:00-15:00	<p>Group work on communicating the benefits of transboundary water cooperation</p> <p><i>Objective:</i> The objective of the group work is to develop a set of recommendations on how to communicate the benefits of transboundary water cooperation that reflect the needs of different stakeholder groups.</p> <p><i>Organization:</i> The participants will be allocated to one of three working groups according to their professional profile.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><i>Group A will be formed mostly by economic development experts</i></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><i>Group B will be formed mostly by foreign policy experts</i></p>

	<i>Group C will be formed mostly by water experts</i>
15:00-15:30	<i>Break</i>
15:30-17:00	Plenary discussion on the communication of the benefits of transboundary water cooperation <i>Reporting back</i> by the working groups: recommendations on how to communicate the benefits of transboundary water cooperation <i>Reactions</i> from participants and free-flowing discussion among participants
17:00-17:15	Conclusions of Day 1
17:15-17:30	Closing of Day 1

Day 2	29 January 2015
SESSION 3	Geopolitical benefits of transboundary water cooperation
	Transboundary water cooperation can advance peace and security in a region by contributing to conflict prevention or conflict resolution. The session will discuss how transboundary water cooperation has spill-over benefits in terms of geopolitical benefits, in particular peace, security and other foreign policy goals. It will build on concrete experiences from representatives of the Foreign Affairs community as well as joint bodies, NGOs and international organizations. This discussion will contribute to the further elaboration of the draft policy guidance note on benefits of transboundary water cooperation.
9:00-9:15	Introduction to the geopolitical benefits of transboundary water cooperation <i>Mr. Roberto Martin Hurtado, consultant to UNECE</i>
9:15-10:30	Panel 1: Identifying the geopolitical benefits of transboundary water cooperation <i>Chairperson: Mr. Kerry Schneider, UNDP Shared Waters Partnership</i> Panel presentations: Mr. Hinrich Thölken, Federal Foreign Office, Germany Mr. Alexandros Yannis, European Union European External Action Service Ms. Boryana Argirova, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Bulgaria Mr. Leonid Kalashnyk, Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe <i>Guiding questions for panelists:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>What are the different geopolitical benefits of transboundary water co-operation?</i> • <i>To what extent are the relevant stakeholders aware of those benefits?</i> • <i>To what extent are the geopolitical benefits of transboundary water cooperation relevant for the overall foreign policy agenda?</i> Q&As and interventions from participants
10:30-11:00	<i>Coffee break</i>
11:00-12:15	Panel 2: Assessing and communicating the geopolitical benefits of transboundary water cooperation <i>Chairperson: Mr. Harry Liiv, Ministry of the Environment, Estonia</i>

	<p>Panel presentations:</p> <p>Ms. Anumita Raj, Strategic Foresight Group (SFG) Mr. Volker Frobarth, Programme Transboundary Water Management Programme in Central Asia, GIZ Mr. Anoulak Kittikhoun, Mekong River Commission (MRC) Ms. Elizabeth Yaari, Ecopeace Middle East</p> <p><i>Guiding questions for panelists:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Have there been any efforts to assess the geo-political benefits of transboundary water co-operation? How has the assessment process been organised? What methodologies have been used? What have been the results of the assessment?</i> • <i>How have the geopolitical benefits been presented to the stakeholders and fed into the decision making process?</i> • <i>To what extent the existence of geo-political benefits has influenced the development of transboundary water cooperation?</i> <p>Q&As and interventions from participants</p>
12:15-13:15	<i>Lunch break</i>
SESSION 4	Assessing the regional economic integration and geopolitical benefits of transboundary water cooperation
13:15-13:30	Introduction to afternoon sessions
13:30-14:30	<p><i>Group work on assessing regional economic integration and geopolitical benefits</i></p> <p><i>Objectives:</i> The objective of the group work is to develop a set of recommendations on how to assess the regional economic integration and geopolitical benefits of transboundary water cooperation.</p> <p><i>Organization:</i> The participants will be allocated to one of three working groups according to their professional profile.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><i>Group A and B will discuss regional economic integration benefits</i> <i>Group C and D will discuss geo-political benefits</i></p>
14:30-15:00	<i>Break</i>
15:00-17:00	<p><i>Roundtable discussion on assessing regional economic integration and geopolitical benefits</i></p> <p><i>Reporting back</i> by the working groups: recommendations on how to assess the regional economic integration and geopolitical benefits of transboundary water cooperation</p> <p><i>Reactions</i> from participants and free-flowing discussion among participants, including a discussion on what level of detail of “how to assess benefits” is needed in the policy guidance note.</p>
17:00-17:20	<p>Comments of the Policy Guidance Note</p> <p>Next steps and possible future application of the policy guidance note</p>
17:20-17:30	Closing of the workshop