

# **How the UNECE Water Convention promotes transboundary water cooperation on the ground**

10 March 2015, Amman, Jordan  
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# Implementing the UNECE Water Convention in various contexts

Significant diversity within UNECE region:

Water challenges

- ✓ Growing problem of water scarcity
- ✓ Extreme events

Political landscape


Economic and social conditions



# Contribution to water cooperation

20 years of experience supporting transboundary water cooperation

Intergovernmental platform facilitating :

- Exchange of experience and assistance to implementation
  - Building trust and establishing cooperation in difficult cases
  - Continuity of efforts to ensure sustained progress and long-term results
  - Addressing emerging issues
  - Strong drive and ownership by Parties and close involvement of non-Parties
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# How?

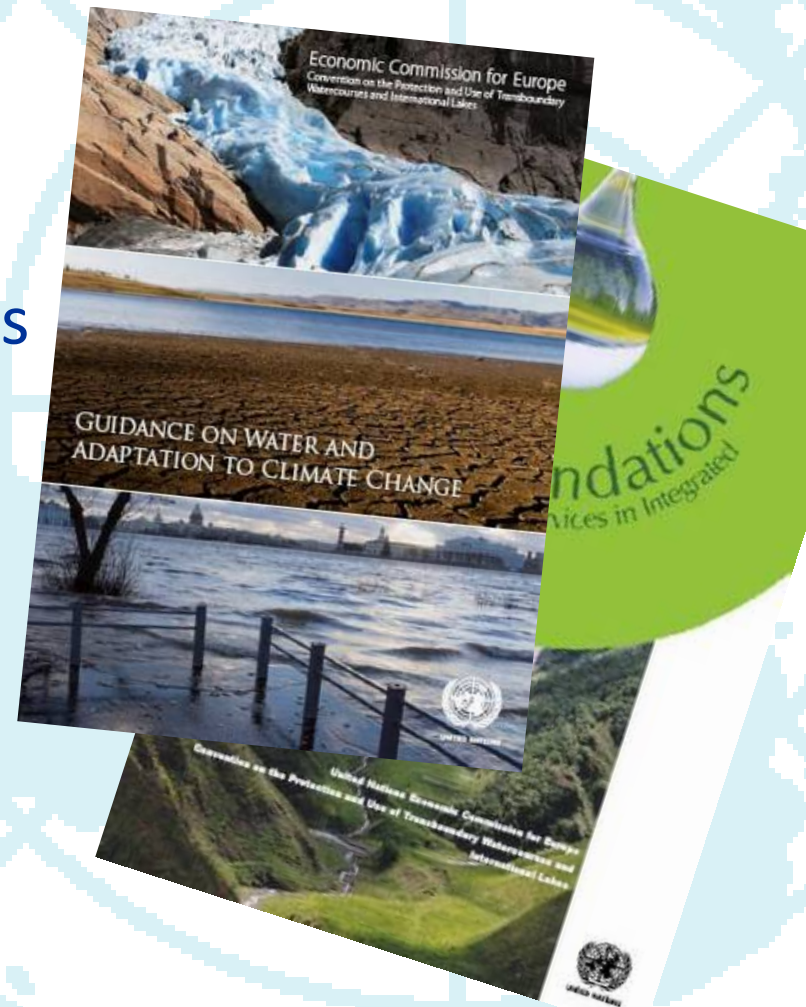
Soft-law tools: Guidelines

Projects on the ground: NPDs,  
capacity building...

Advisory services: new agreements,  
establishing joint bodies

# Guidelines responding to new challenges

- Guidance on Water and Adaptation to Climate Change
- Recommendations on Payments for Ecosystem Services
- Model provisions on transboundary groundwaters



# Practical support to cooperation

## Tajik-Afghan project



Establishing cooperation on hydrology and environment in upper Amudarya

First steps in the cooperation in flood management and emergency situations (agreeing on compatible hydrological monitoring equipment, methods and models)

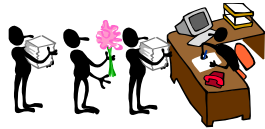
# Support to development of new agreements

Intergovernmental bilateral Dniester Basin Treaty -  
Republic of Moldova and Ukraine  
*(Rome, 29 November 2012)*



# Institutional framework

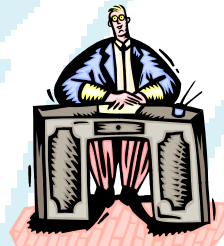
Meeting of the Parties



Implementation  
Committee



*Working Group on  
Monitoring and  
Assessment*  
*Legal Board*



Bureau



Task Force on Water and  
Climate

Task Force on Water-  
Food-Ecosystems-Energy  
Nexus

Working Group on Integrated  
Water Resources Management



Secretariat

A permanent institutional platform  
ensures sustained progress and long-term results



# Upcoming meetings under the UNECE Water Convention

- Workshop on Transboundary Flood Risk Management (19-20 March 2015, Geneva)
- Tenth meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management (24 - 25 June 2015, Geneva)
- Seventh session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention (17 - 20 November 2015, Budapest, Hungary)

More at: [www.unece.org/env/water/meetings.html](http://www.unece.org/env/water/meetings.html)



# UNECE Water Convention

## Work programme 2013-2015

Area 1: Support to **implementation**

Area 2: EU Water Initiative **National** Policy Dialogues

Area 3: Assessing the **benefits** of transboundary cooperation

Area 4: Adapting to **climate change** in transboundary basins

Area 5: Water- food-energy-ecosystems **nexus**

Area 6: **Opening** of the Convention

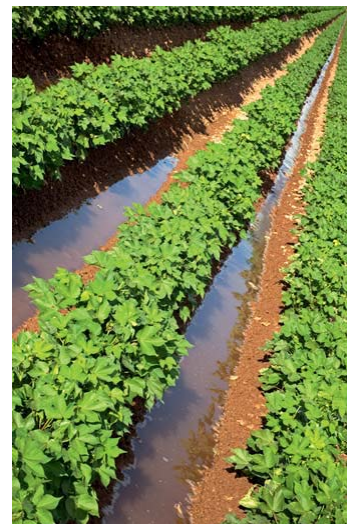
Area 7: **Promotion** of the Convention and establishment of strategic partnerships

# Assessing the benefits of transboundary water cooperation

To support Governments to estimate the broad range of potential benefits of TWC to encourage the broadening of cooperation

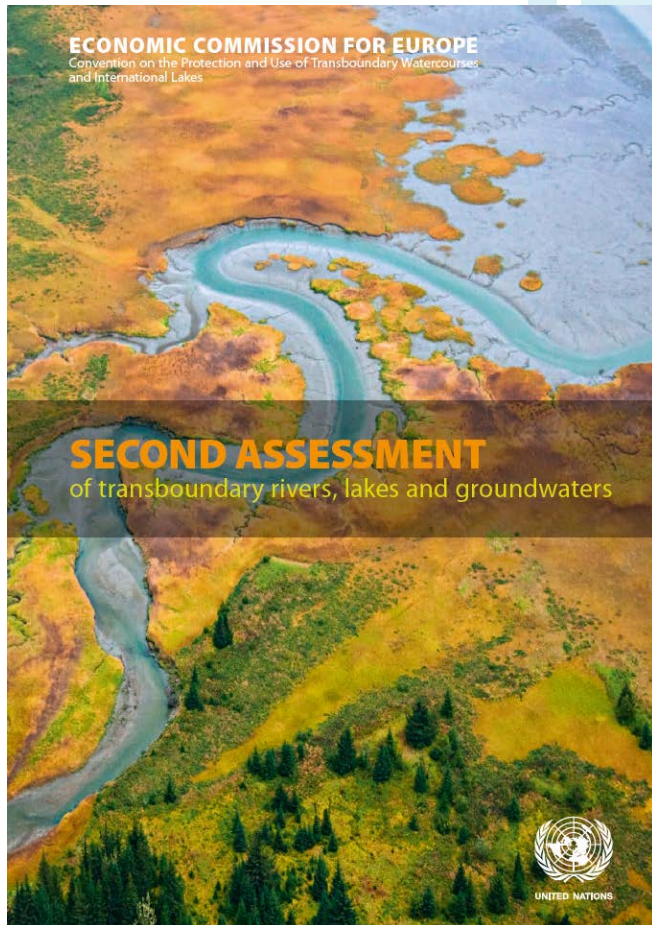
|                                | On economic activities  | Beyond economic activities   |
|--------------------------------|---|--|
| From improved water management | <b>Economic benefits</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Level of activity and productivity in economic sectors</li><li>• Economic impacts of water-related hazards</li></ul> | <b>Social and environmental</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Health</li><li>• Employment and poverty</li><li>• Access to services</li><li>• Cultural value, recreation</li><li>• Biodiversity</li></ul> |
| From enhanced trust            | <b>Regional integration</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Goods, services, labour</li><li>• Cross-border investments</li><li>• Infrastructure networks</li></ul>            | <b>Geopolitical benefits</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Peace and security</li><li>• Avoided cost of military conflict, military spending</li></ul>   |

# Water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus



- Assessment to identify existing trade-offs, mapping of stakeholders
- Identification of synergies and opportunities for benefits from co-management, inter-sectoral coordination & transboundary cooperation through a participatory inter-sectoral process and supporting analysis
- The methodology piloted on the Alazani/Ganyh (GE, AZ); basin assessments Jan 2014-April 2015; report 2015
- To be applied to NWSAS

# Assessing results



## The Second Assessment

- Covers more than 140 rivers, 25 lakes, about 200 groundwaters and 25 Ramsar Sites and other wetlands of transboundary importance
- Involved more than 250 experts from 50 countries
- Illustrates pressure factors, quantity and quality status, transboundary impacts, responses and future trends

# Opening the Water Convention to all UN member states

- Aims:
  - Apply principles and provisions worldwide
  - Share experiences of Water Convention community of Parties
  - Learn from other regions of the world
- More than 50 non-UNECE countries already participated in Convention's activities
- Many countries expressed interest in acceding to the Convention: Jordan, Iraq, Lebanon & Tunisia





**Thank you!**

**More information**

<http://unece.org/env/water>

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