

Programme area 5.c

Promoting and communication the benefits of transboundary water cooperation

Harry Liiv, Ministry of Environment, Estonia

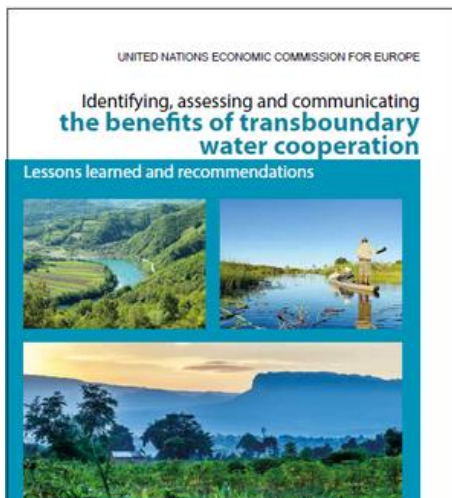
Chantal Demilecamps, Secretariat of the Water Convention



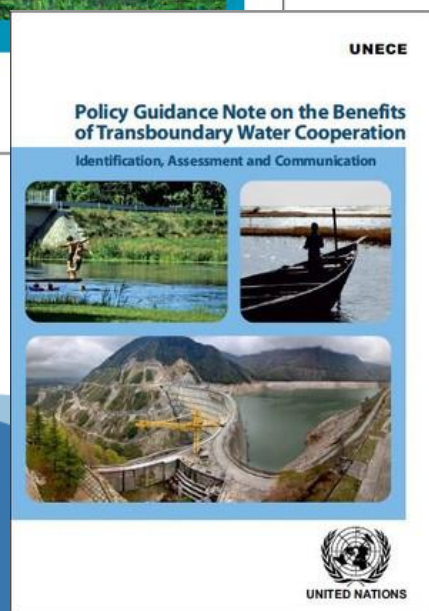
14th meeting of the Working Group on IWRM
(Geneva, 22-24 October 2019)



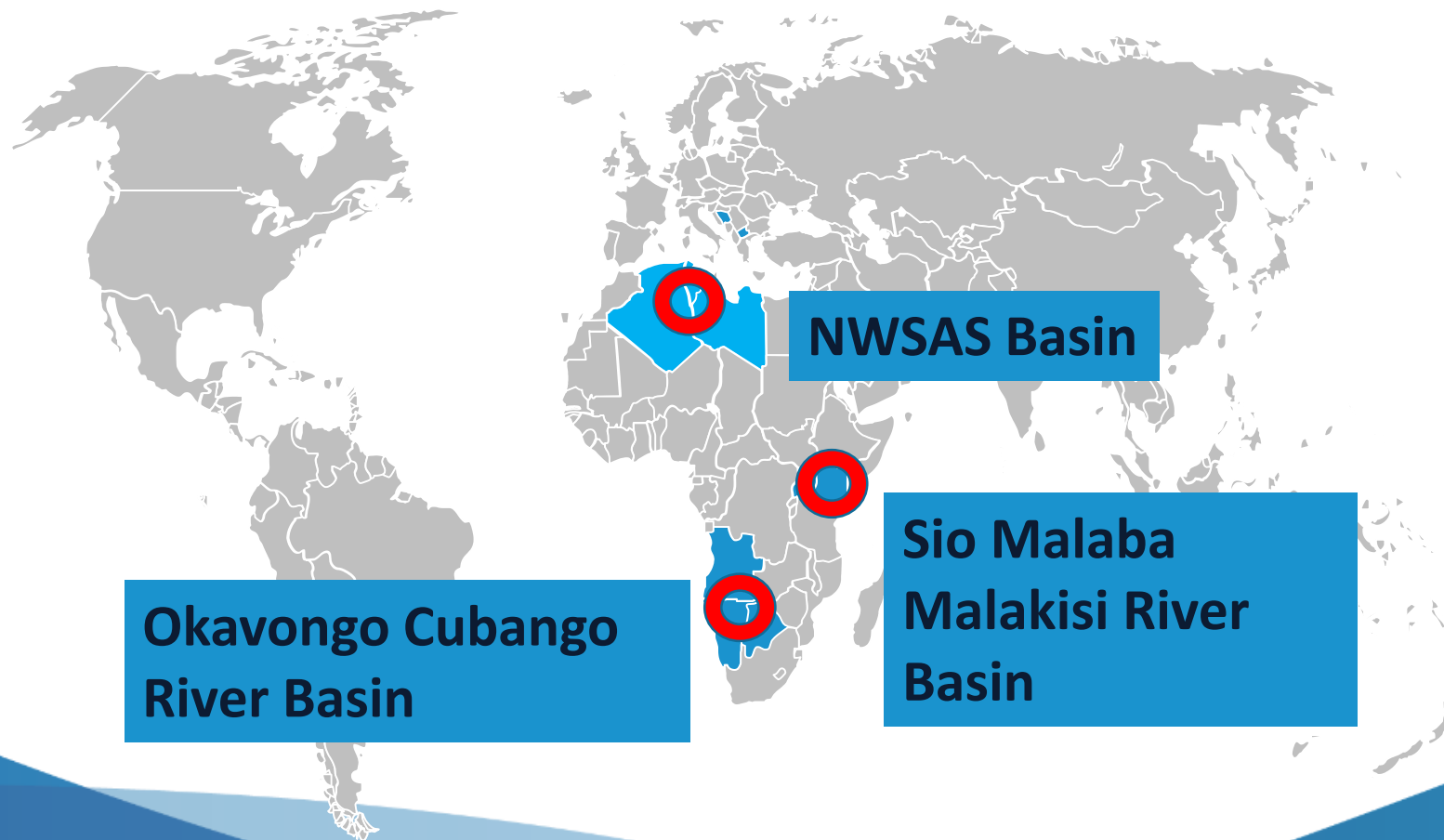
Progress and activities on benefits of cooperation in 2019



- Publication *Identifying, assessing and communicating the benefits of transboundary water cooperation: Lessons learnt and recommendations* adopted at MOP8
- Activities on benefits of cooperation to support the increasing of awareness and accession to the Convention and application of its principles
- Application of the *Policy Guidance Note on the Benefits of Transboundary Cooperation* in basins to prompt cooperation for sustainable management of transboundary waters
- Focus on communication (development of policy briefs) and integration into other thematic activities (Nexus, development of agreements...)



Progress and activities on benefits of cooperation in 2019



3 benefits assessment exercises currently being carried out, with support of partners

Benefits of cooperation highlighted at basin level (ex. Estonia-Russian Federation Commission)

Progress and activities on benefits of cooperation in 2019

SIO MALABA MALAKISI RIVER BASIN

- **SMM Basin Investment Framework** endorsed, Dec. 2018
- 4 clusters of **prioritized investment projects**
- **Joint Working Group** nominated
- Possible **revised MoU and institutional framework** proposed, under discussion



CUBANGO-OKAVONGO RIVER BASIN

On going development of a **policy brief** to highlight basin perception of the **benefits of transboundary water cooperation**. Draft discussed at **OKACOM meeting in July 2019**

Building on outcomes of multi-stakeholder process of assessment of benefits of cooperation (WB, CRDIF, Water Convention) and Multi Sectoral Investment Opportunities Assessment project (WB, OKACOM)

NORTH WESTERN SAHARA AQUIFER SYSTEM BASIN

Identification and communication of benefits of cooperation **complements Nexus assessment**.

Discussed in national workshops (April 2019) and basin workshop (Hammamet, June 2019)



Draft policy brief on benefits of transboundary water cooperation under review

Lessons learned and challenges

- Application of the Policy Guidance Note to be tailored to the specific context and needs of each basin
- Identification of benefits of cooperation more challenging in transboundary aquifer basins
- Interesting complementarity of benefits and nexus assessment → only few benefits of cooperation can be assessed, Nexus work providing some qualitative and quantitative assessment of benefits
- Benefits discussion = a useful preliminary step to identify joint basin investment priorities and development opportunities
- More communication of benefits of cooperation needed, to targeted audience (different sectors and level of decision making)

Partners

- Lead Party: Estonia
- Partners for activities:



UPHOLDING PEACE FOR A PROSPEROUS AND INTEGRATED REGION SINCE 1986
AU SERVICE DE LA PAIX POUR UNE REGION PROSPERE ET INTEGREE DEPUIS 1986



OKACOM



THE WORLD BANK



Global Water
Partnership
Mediterranean



OBSERVATOIRE
DU SAHARA
ET DU SAHEL

Planned future activities on benefits of cooperation in 2019-2021

- Finalize and promote the policy briefs on benefits of transboundary water cooperation in CORB and NWSAS Basins
- *Apply Policy Guidance Note on Benefits of Transboundary Water Cooperation* in interested pilot / demonstration basin(s) – upon request
- Contribute to other activities under the Water Convention by highlight benefits of cooperation, in particular to promote accession to Convention, support developments of agreements, carry out Nexus assessment, support development of transboundary climate change adaptation strategies...
- Develop brief for policymakers on benefits of cooperation, building on analysis of case studies of successful cooperation



Thank you!

