



SOUTH ASIA TRANSBOUNDARY RIVERS: REGIONAL WEBINAR

Strengthening preparedness and resilience of South Asia's transboundary rivers

South Asia's transboundary rivers face complex, multi-dimensional challenges. COVID19 has exacerbated existing pressures in South Asia and progress towards Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG6) "Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all" was already substantially delayed. Climate change and water stress are now compounding prevailing challenges.

In a transboundary context, achieving SDG Target 6.5 on integrated water resources management requires effective transboundary cooperation since 60 per cent of the world's freshwater flows in shared basins. A coherent and coordinated approach to shared water management is important for all SDGs including health, food, energy, environment, peace and more. Furthermore, mainstreaming civil society engagement processes into decision-making has often proved challenging for various reasons.

Webinar 1 (9 November 2020) - 3 HOURS starting @ 1400h Dhaka / 1330h New Delhi / 0900h Geneva

- Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystem Nexus approach (upstream and downstream benefits)
- Disaster Risk Reduction & Climate Change Adaptation (Floods & Droughts)

Consisting of 2-parts, this webinar aims to:

- **Provide an opportunity for transboundary dialogue** with and between states, regional actors and international partners on key current or emerging issues facing the region's transboundary rivers;
- **Facilitate transboundary connections for improved coherence and coordination** among the existing or emerging approaches and initiatives to address these current or emerging issues;
- **Identify transboundary frameworks and networks that can strengthen long-term capacity-building and avenues for engagement in decision-making processes** on these issues/approaches;
- The webinars are also intended to **support the SDG6 Global Acceleration Framework** to facilitate implementation of SDG6.

Webinar registration link: https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0of-qprT8uG9YSfYB9Y_QMsKu7f3-OSfCg

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Webinar 1: WEEF Nexus (Ecosystems) & DRR & CCA (Floods/Droughts)

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| Introduction & Housekeeping (5mins) |
| MODERATORS: Mr. Remy Kinna (Water Convention Secretariat) & Mr. Arun Shrestha (ICIMOD) |
| KEYNOTE 1 (10 mins) |
| Ms. Mia Seppo – UN Resident Coordinator in Bangladesh |
| KEYNOTE 2 (10 mins) |
| Ms. Solène le Doze – Environmental Affairs Officer, United Nations Environment and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) |
| Balancing Water-Food-Energy Ecosystem Nexus benefits in transboundary rivers (focus on ecosystems) (80mins) |
| MODERATOR: Mr. Remy Kinna (Water Convention Secretariat) |
| SOUTH ASIA SPEAKER 1: ICIMOD (10mins) Mr. Arun Shrestha Regional Programme Manager River Basins & Cryosphere, River Basins and Cryosphere |
| SOUTH ASIA SPEAKER 2: Oxfam TROSA (10mins) Mr. Jyotiraj Patra Project Manager Transboundary Rivers of South Asia (TROSA) |
| SOUTH ASIA SPEAKER 3: BANGLADESH (10mins) Mr. Md Mahmudur Rahman Bangladesh Representative Indo-Bangladesh Joint Rivers Commission (IBJRC) |
| INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION 1: AUSTRALIA (5mins) Mr. John Dore Lead Water Specialist Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade (DFAT) |
| INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION 2: INTERNATIONAL FINANCE CORPORATION (5mins) Ms. Kate Lazarus, Asia Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Advisory Lead |
| Targeted Questions & Answers (40mins) |
| Guiding questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Any other additional initiatives, approaches necessary to consider relevant for South Asia after what has been mentioned already?</i>• <i>How can we improve coordination and enhance with these initiatives using existing or new platforms?</i> |

- *What frameworks and networks can improve transboundary governance & implementation long-term, especially at country level?*

COMFORT PAUSE (15 mins)

Enhancing Disaster Preparedness along South Asia's transboundary rivers: Floods & Droughts (70mins)

MODERATOR: Mr. Arun Shrestha (ICIMOD)

SOUTH ASIA SPEAKER 1: AN INDIAN PERSPECTIVE (10mins)

Mr. Rajiv Sinha
Professor, Department of Earth Sciences
Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IIT Kanpur)

SOUTH ASIA SPEAKER 2: A PAKISTANI PERSPECTIVE (10mins)

Mr. Muhammad Zia ur Rahman Hashmi
Section Head
Global Climate Change Impact Studies Centre (CGCISC)

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION 1: HUNGARY (5mins)

Mr. Peter Kovacs
Head of River Basin Management and Water Protection Department
Ministry of Interior

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION 2 – UNDRR (5 mins)

Ms. Iria Touzon Calle
Head of Risk Knowledge
UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) in Asia-Pacific

Targeted Questions & Answers with panelists (40mins)

Guiding questions:

- *Any other additional initiatives, approaches necessary to consider relevant for South Asia after what has been mentioned already?*
- *How can we improve coordination and enhance with these initiatives using existing or new platforms?*
- *What frameworks and networks can improve transboundary governance & implementation long-term, especially at country level?*

Closing (5mins)

MODERATORS: Mr. Remy Kinna (Water Convention Secretariat) & Mr. Arun Shrestha (ICIMOD)