



Support and mutual assistance: at heart of UNECE Water Convention

Francesca Bernardini, Secretary, UNECE

Not only rights and obligations

Becoming a Party = joining an institutional regime

- Assistance to implementation
- Progressive development of the Convention
- Forum for bilateral and multilateral cooperation
- Sharing of experience and good practices
- Address requests on clarifications
- A Party is not left alone in its dealings with the other riparians

Assistance to implementation



- Assistance to Parties and non Parties upon request
- Capacity building
- Projects on the ground

Guidance and recommendations

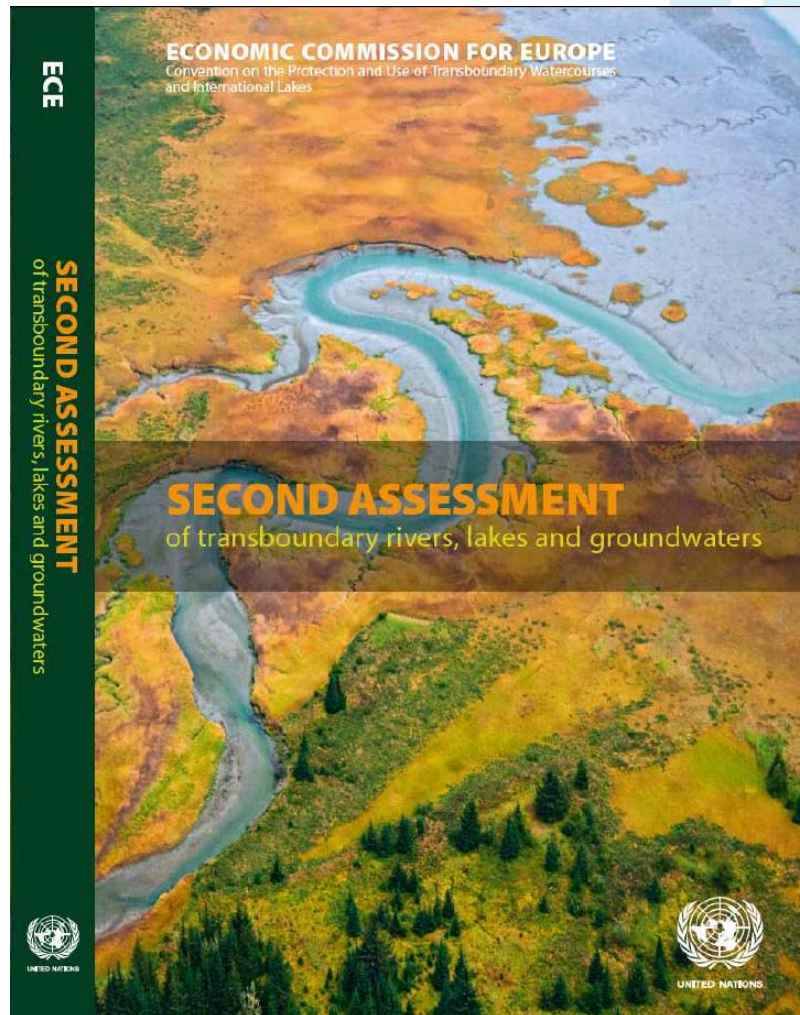
- Guidance on Water and Adaptation to Climate Change
- Guidelines for M&A of transboundary rivers, lakes and GW
- Recommendations on PES
- Model provisions for transboundary flood management
- *Model provisions for groundwater management*



Guide to Implementing the Water Convention

- Comprehensive commentary
- Explains legal and technical aspects
- Indications on minimum requirements
- Practical examples of implementation

Assessing results



- Covers more than 140 rivers, 25 lakes, about 200 groundwaters and 25 Ramsar Sites and other wetlands
- Pressure factors, quantity and quality status of waters, transboundary impacts, responses and future trends
- Focus on national and transboundary legal and institutional frameworks, climate change aspects and subregional specificities
- 250 experts from 50 countries (Parties and non-Parties, also outside UNECE) contributed

International Water Assessment Center

IWAC =

- Convention's collaborative centre
- Hosted by the Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute
- Supports activities under the Convention in particular pilot projects
- Brings in direct practitioners expertise

Convention in Central Asia

- Projects on the ground: regional dialogue and cooperation on water resources in CA, water quality, dam safety, Chu-Talas, new pilot project on climate change, CAREWIB, support to information management and exchange, National Policy Dialogues...
- Future perspective: beyond the UNECE region

Strengths

- Sound legal framework coupled with action to support implementation
- Catalyst for cooperation
- Strong ownership by Parties
- Even non-Parties participate
- Continuously evolving
- Cooperation with numerous UN agencies, NGOs and other partners





Thank you!

More information

including guidelines, publications and information on activities under the Convention can be found at

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

water.convention@unece.org