

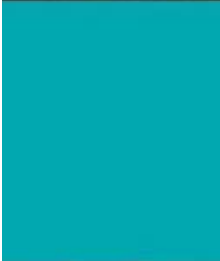
# The Second Assessment of Transboundary Rivers, Lakes and Groundwaters – Central Asia Sub- Region

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# Objectives of the assessment

- Serve as point of reference for Governments, IGOs, NGOs to improve management and status of waters
- Highlight achievements in IWRM at transboundary level & strengthen the integrated river basin approach
- Provide an up-to-date overview of pressures, status & trends in managing transboundary waters of the region, highlighting joint priorities → strengthened knowledge base for further action
- Identify situations of water crisis
- Process itself allows exchange of experience and increasing understanding of the problems and solutions in the whole ECE region





# Second Assessment: mandate

Ministers in Belgrade requested second edition for next Ministerial Conference Environment for Europe (Astana, Kazakhstan, September 2011)

- Water and ecosystems one of the selected themes
- The Second Assessment is one of the key inputs to the Ministerial Conference

The 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Parties of the Water Convention endorsed the first sub-regional assessment (SEE) which serves as a model





## Scope

- Asian and European part of UNECE region
- Groundwater in the whole region
- Non-ECE countries sharing waters with ECE
- More sub-regional focus
- Emphasis on EECCA/Central Asia

140 rivers  
30 lakes  
200 aquifers

# Second assessment: thematics

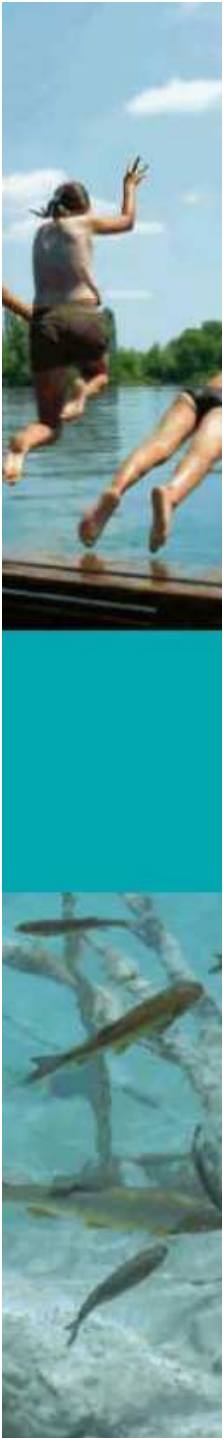
- Address gaps of 1st assessment, thus more focus on:
  - Water quality issues in Central Asia, water quantity issues in the rest of the region
  - Groundwaters (not integrated in the 1st assessment)
- Transboundary cooperation (agreements, joint bodies, M&A...)
- Impacts of climate change
- Economic and social aspects, health issues, security aspects
- Ecological aspects, biodiversity, Ramsar sites





# Approach to preparing the second assessment

- National experts play a crucial role for provision of information and for coordination of joint assessment
- Data collection based on datasheets prefilled by the secretariat, using the first assessment, EPRs, documents made available by the countries; sheets sent to countries for complementing and updates
- Regional workshops are an important part of the preparatory process
- River and lake commissions involved in the preparation of assessments by basin
- Assessment structured based on DPSIR approach (Driving Force-Pressure-State-Impact-Response)



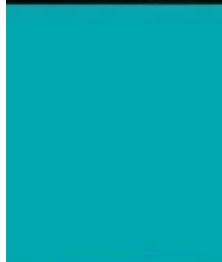
# Outline

- Maps (also thematic maps)
- Overview-summary
- Objectives and scope
- Major findings
  - Legal and institutional framework
  - Monitoring
  - Pressures
  - Status and transboundary impact
  - Responses
  - Future trends/The way forward
- Facts and figures on rivers, lakes and groundwaters
- Annexes (national water management organization, transboundary water agreements)

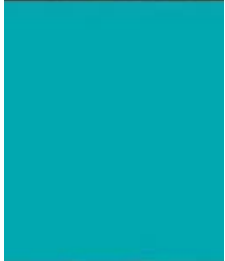


# Information collected

- Description of the basin/aquifer (hydrology & hydrogeology, map)
- Surface and groundwater resources: distribution among the riparian countries within a basin/aquifer
- Pressures and their importance (water uses, polluting activities, diversion etc)
- Quality and quantity status of transboundary watercourses
- Transboundary impacts
- Response measures taken
- Cooperation: joint bodies, agreements, joint monitoring etc
- Trends







# Organization of the group work

- Division in 2 subgroups on surface water by recipient (i – Aral Sea and the Caspian, ii – Far East (Sea of Okhotsk, Sea of Japan) and the Arctic and one on groundwater
- Presentations, following given outlines, on the sub-basins and major river basin; other riparian countries add information and discuss the main message of each basin assessment
- Groundwater group has national presentations and works on the datasheets (e.g. bilaterally, trilaterally, as appropriate) and when done, the participants can join the other groups
- On the last day in the plenary session discuss and agree about main messages of the sub-region



# Schedule for finalizing the assessment

- By 30 October, the countries that have not yet completed the datasheets (all but Mongolia) send filled-in datasheets to the UNECE secretariat and well as a description of how water management is organized in the country (one page)
- By 17 January 2011, the secretariat sends the draft assessments and the sub-regional summary in English and in Russian to the countries for comments
- By 15 February the countries send their comments to the secretariat
- May 4-6, 2011 final discussion and endorsement of the second Assessment by the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment

