

# **Concept note on the collection of lessons learned and good practices on water and adaptation to climate change in transboundary basins**

## **Outcomes of the first meeting of the drafting group on 9 and 10 December 2013 in Geneva**

### **I. Background, target audience and objectives**

At its sixth session (Rome, 28–30 November 2012), the Meeting of the Parties to the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Convention of the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention) decided to compile, analyse, publish and disseminate lessons learned and good practices from the programme of pilot projects under the Convention and other similar initiatives. This publication will be prepared in cooperation with the International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO) and a number of other partners, for launching at the seventh World Water Forum in 2015 in the Republic of Korea.

The collection of lessons learned and good practices will include a compilation, analysis and synthesis of existing knowledge, experience, lessons learned and good practices on climate change adaptation in transboundary basins of rivers, lakes and aquifers, based on the Convention's pilot projects on climate change adaptation in transboundary basins and other similar activities developed in other basins. The final product will be made available in electronic form, on the Internet or a web platform, and in a printed publication.

The collection aims to demonstrate important steps and lessons learnt to take into account when developing a climate change adaptation strategy in the transboundary context.

The collection will be developed as a complement to the *Guidance on Water and Adaptation to Climate Change*<sup>1</sup>. Compared with the Guidance, it will be more practical, and comprise more detailed examples from all parts of the world. It could lay the basis for an eventual update of the Guidance in the period 2016-2018, if so decided.

The target audience of the collection of good practices and lessons learned includes all those working on adaptation to climate change in transboundary basins: joint bodies, river basin commissions and other institutions for transboundary cooperation, developers of adaptation strategies, especially in transboundary basins (rivers, lakes and aquifers), decision makers, persons working on water and/or climate change in ministries and other authorities. Special focus is put on transboundary cooperation.

### **II. Proposed content of the publication**

The collection of lessons learned and good practices will consist of three main parts:

- (a) An overview of main lessons learned for the different steps of developing a transboundary adaptation strategy in transboundary basins;
- (b) The lessons learned will be illustrated by short stories or case studies;
- (c) Conclusions/summary/way forward.

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<sup>1</sup> United Nations publication, Sales No. 09.II.E.14. Available at: <http://www.unece.org/env/water/publications/pub.html>

The overall collection of lessons learnt can act as a checklist for developing a transboundary adaptation strategy. Some of the case studies will be presented in more detail in the annex of the publication. The main text (without cases etc.) should be short, max. 10 pages, but can include references to other publications and processes.

## **A. Overview of lessons learned**

The publication is envisaged to include the following sections:

1. Introduction:
  - a. Definition of lesson learned;
  - b. Why transboundary cooperation is important in climate change adaptation;
2. General organisation: institutional arrangements and application of IWRM principles;
3. The legal framework;
4. Stakeholder involvement in whole process;
5. Information and data needs, incl. data exchange at the basin level;
6. Vulnerability and impact assessments;
7. Developing and prioritizing adaptation measures;
8. Financial and economic matters;
9. Evaluation of adaptation strategies and measures;
10. Capacity development.
11. Communication, dissemination

## **B. Case studies and good practices connected to the lessons learned**

For each of the lessons learned, at least one or several case studies and good practice examples about the practical implementation of the lesson will be included in the publication in the form of “stories”. The case studies and good practices will be collected from the experiences of the pilot projects, cases presented during the Task Force workshops, basins (rivers, lakes and aquifers) worldwide and other success stories in adaptation to climate change in transboundary basins.

Each case study or good practice will be presented in a short, concise way and should contain information on how it corresponds to the addressed lesson(s) learnt.

A matrix showing which case studies and good practices correspond to which lessons learned will be developed for preparing the publication and possible inclusion in it. For several transboundary basins, their whole process of developing an adaptation strategy will be described as a longer good practice example in the annex to the publication.

If relevant and possible, examples of bad practices will also be included, i.e. what went wrong and why. Sometimes failure is more illustrative than good practices.

## **III. Process of preparing the publication**

The sixth meeting of the Task Force on Water and Climate (27 June 2013) decided to establish the Drafting Group to facilitate the work on the preparation of the collection of good practices and lessons learnt. The Drafting Group which will work in English is composed of experts from pilot projects on climate change adaptation in transboundary basins, representatives of partner organizations and other institutions. The members of the Drafting Group serve in their personal expert capacity.

The first meeting of the Drafting group was held in Geneva, in the Palais des Nations from 9 to 10 December 2013 (see members in annex 1). This meeting discussed the objectives of the collection of good practices and lessons learnt, the draft outline and content for the publication, reviewed the proposed overview of lessons learnt and a template for good practices, as well as proposed timeline and next steps for the work of the Drafting Group.

The tasks of the members of the Drafting Group include developing and further revising the structure of the publication, identifying and selecting lessons learned and good practices and collecting case studies, stories and good examples related to them, providing draft text, reviewing of drafts, contacts with the case study authors, etc.

A small team will be created for editing / writing the publication and making the necessary coherency in it.

The progress in preparation of the publication will be regularly reviewed by the Task Force on Water and Climate and the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management under the Water Convention.

#### **IV. Timeline for preparing the publication**

<i>Indicative time frame</i>	<i>Activity</i>
9-10 December 2013	First meeting of the Drafting Group
17 January 2014	Call for short description for case studies/stories sent out to members of the drafting group and of the global network, together with the updated version of the concept note
25 January 2014	Distribution of the updated concept note among partners and networks by drafting group members. The members should also inform the secretariat about their similar publications (sending one paragraph/ table of contents)
28 February 2014	Deadline for submission of short proposals for case studies/stories
31 January 2014	Revised version of the list of lessons learnt
13–14 February 2014	Second meeting of the global network of basins: discussion on progress made in the plenary and in a small group
End of March 2014	Selection of case studies and good practices
April-May 2014	Notified Authors to prepare their draft full case studies
June-September 2014	Compilation of the first draft of the publication
13–15 October 2014	Fifth workshop on water and adaptation to climate change in transboundary basins and the seventh meeting of the Task Force on Water and Climate: presentation of a draft. Back-to-back Drafting Group meeting
October–December 2014	Finalization of the document

## Annex 1: Members of the drafting group as of January 2014

Organization	Person
Neman pilot project Belarus	Mr. Vladimir KORNEEV
Dniester pilot project Moldova	Mr. Roman CORBOV
Dauria going dry pilot project, Rivers without Boundaries, Daursky Biosphere Reserve, Pacific Environment	Mr. Evgeny SIMONOV
Alterra Wageningen UR	Mr. Jos TIMMERMAN
Armenia Armenian National Policy Dialogue	Mr. Vahagn TONAYAN
University of Minho North River Basin District	Mr. Antonio Guerreiro DE BRITO
ZOI Environment Network (Dniester, Neman, Chu Talas pilot projects)	Mr. Nickolai DENISOV
International Network of Basin Organizations	Mr. Daniel VALENSUELA
AGWA Alliance for Global Water Adaptation (AGWA)	Mr. John MATTHEWS
IUCN	Mr. Juan Carlos SANCHEZ
World Meteorological Organization (WMO)	Mr. Giacomo TERUGGI
GWP	Mr. Frederik PISCHE
SIWI	Mr. Mats ERIKSSON
<b>Members who could not attend the December meeting</b>	
Mekong River Commission CCAI	Ms. Phan NGUYEN
OMVS (Senegal Commission)	Mr. Amadou Lamine NDIAYE
Algeria, National Water Office	Mr Amar CHOUICK
Geneva University	Ms. Mara TIGNINO
ICPDR (Danube Commission)	Mr. Raimund MAIR
CONAGUA Mexico	Mr. Mario LOPEZ-PEREZ
Dundee University	Mr. Alistair RIEU-CLARKE
OECD	Ms. Kathleen DOMINIQUE

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