

Second Assessment of Transboundary Rivers, Lakes and Groundwaters- the Southeastern Europe Sub-region

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Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE
Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses
and International Lakes



OUR WATERS: JOINING HANDS ACROSS BORDERS

First Assessment of Transboundary Rivers, Lakes and Groundwaters



The first Assessment:

- Mandate by MOP 3
 - covered 140 rivers, 30 lakes and 70 aquifers
 - Involved more than 150 experts from 40 countries
 - Illustrated major problems in the region
 - Was presented at 6th Ministerial Conference
- « Environment for Europe »
in Belgrade in 2007

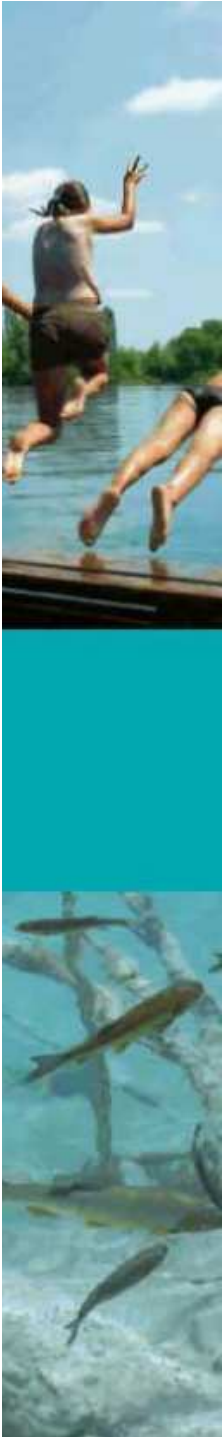
Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes



Objectives of the assessment

- Shed light on effectiveness of measures => implementation of the Convention
- Highlight achievements in IWRM at transboundary level
- Develop knowledge and understanding for further action
- Identify situations of water crisis
- Provide guidance for strategic investments
- Serve as point of reference for Governments, IGOs, NGOs
- Long term effort for evaluating progress





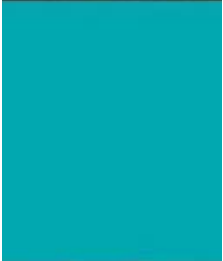
Strengths of the first assessment

- Unique work for the region
- “Reasonably” complete, includes also less well-known cases
- Presentation of new material especially for the EECCA part and for the groundwater part
- Broad participation=> ownership + importance of the process
- Courage to admit difficulties => good message
- “One” Convention product



Weaknesses of the first assessment

- Assessment of groundwaters and surface waters not integrated
- More focus on quality than on quantity and hydromorphological alterations
- Gaps in ecological assessment
- Varying quality, not always assessment

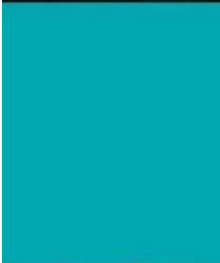


Second Assessment

Ministers in Belgrade requested second edition for next Ministerial Conference (2011)

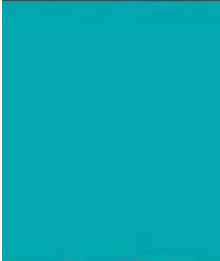
But: Second assessment cannot be just the same as the 1st

- Need to address gaps of first assessment, in particular IWRM approach
- Need to investigate other areas such as climate change impacts



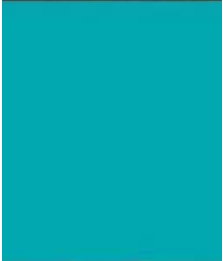
Scope

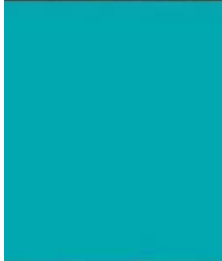
- Asian and European part of ECE
- Groundwater in the whole region
- Non-ECE countries sharing waters with ECE
- More sub-regional focus (not only EU-non EU)
- Special focus on Central Asia



Content

- Progress in implementing IWRM
- Legal and institutional aspects
- GW and surface water together
- Quality and quantity
- Thematic issues: climate change, health aspects, etc
- Ecosystems: assessment of Ramsar sites in some pilot basins

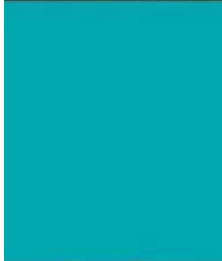




Outline of the Assessment

- Maps (if possible also thematic maps)
- Overview-summary
- Objectives and scope
- Major findings
 - Legal and institutional
 - Monitoring
 - Pressures
 - Status and impact
 - Responses
 - The way forward
- Facts and figures on rivers, lakes and groundwaters
- Annexes





Outline for river basins and aquifer

- DPSIR framework
- Description and map
- Legal and institutional framework
- Hydrology and hydrogeology
- Pressure factors
- Status and transboundary impacts
- Responses
- Future trends



Assessment of the South-East European Region

- First sub-region in the Assessment
- To be submitted to MOP5 in November
- Transboundary basins and aquifers

Adriatic Sea Basin	Aegean Sea	Black Sea
Krka Neretva Drin (incl. Prespa, Ohrid, Skadar Vijose	Vardar, incl. Dojran Struma Mesta-Nestos Meric	Lake Iron Gates I and II Drava and Mura Sava Velika Morava Timok



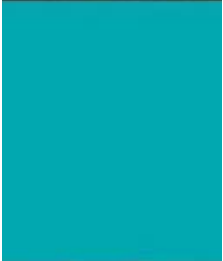
And now?

- Division in 4 subgroups for Black Sea, Adriatic Sea, Aegean Sea, groundwater
- Presentations on the major transboundary basins
- Then division into smaller groups and discussion of datasheets
- Small groups should agree on way forward for finalizing datasheets



What's next?

- Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment on 10-11 June in Bratislava
- Datasheets to be revised and completed by 8 June and to be sent to GWP-MED
- Second round of comments by 26 June
- July-August: preparation of documents
- 10-12 November: endorsement at the fifth Meeting of the Parties in Geneva



Further information

- For this meeting:
http://www.unece.org/env/water/meetings/Sarajevo_workshop.htm
- For the first Assessment:
<http://www.unece.org/env/water/publications/pub76.htm>
- Water.convention@unece.org

