



The Protocol as a climate change adaptation tool

Introduction

- Adopted 1999, five years after the entry into force of the UNFCCC.
- Is the Protocol still valid ?
 - New challenges in water and health compared to provisions of the Protocol
 - Relevance of the TFEWE
 - Proposal for revision of the TOR



WHA 61.19 Climate Change and Health

- Health systems and water related diseases
- Integrated water resource management
- Water supply, drainage and sanitation
- Vulnerable groups
- Public information and participation



Emerging challenges WRD

- Increase in emerging WRD
- Cyanobacteria and their toxins
- Vector borne disease
- Many health systems are inefficient, underfunded, difficult to access esp rural areas
- How to improve detection, contingency planning, staff capacity



Tallinn Charter

- Ensure that health systems are prepared and able to respond to extreme weather events:
- Integrate target specific disease programs into existing structures and services
- Water management and sanitation in health establishments assured at all times.



Role of Protocol

- Strengthening surveillance Art 8
- International collaboration and cooperation in development and monitoring of preventive systems, assessment and strengthening of national surveillance systems and overall response capacity Art 12 5c d, g)



Conclusion 1

- The Protocol can be an important tool for empowering the health systems in the prevention and control of emerging WRD, thereby contributing to the implementation of the Tallinn Charter



IWRM

- Europe 140 transboundary rivers and 70 transboundary aquifers in SE Europe, Caucasus and central Asia
- Health impacts of adaptation measures (dams, reservoirs)
- Managing under conditions of uncertainty



Role of the Protocol

- Importance of the protection of the resource Art 3
- Environment and health impact studies before implementation of adaptation measures Art 4
- Management of water in a transboundary context (Art 5 a, c d)
- Targets in IWRM (Art 6)
- Training of IWRM staff (Art 9)



Conclusion 2

- Protocol offers
 - Principles that guide the development of national IWRM adaptation strategy
 - Obligations to perform EHIA prior to the implementation of adaptation strategies
 - Guidance and obligations for the sharing of transboundary resources



Drinking-water supply, drainage and sanitation

- 140 million people w/out household connection, 85 million w/out improved sanitation and 41 million w/out access to safe water supply.
- Need to reassess systems
- New techniques: reuse, desalination



Role of the Protocol

- Universal access (Art 4, 5, 6)
- Enforce quality (Art 5)
- Quality of service (Art 6 a, c, d, e, f, g, h, j)
- Training staff water services (Art 9)



Conclusion 3

- The Protocol is in advance in some areas, specifically in providing for universal access.
- The Protocol leads in the importance it gives to service quality.
- Recognizes importance of continued education.



Vulnerable groups

- Climate change will affect everybody, but not everybody will be equally vulnerable or will be at equal capacity of adaptation.
- Personal differences
- Socio-economic differences



Role of the Protocol

- Special consideration to people who are particularly vulnerable to WRD (Art 5 k)
- Equal access should be provided to all members of the population, especially those who suffer a disadvantage or social exclusion (Art 5 l)



Conclusion 4

- Protocol promotes addressing the needs of people suffering from personal or socio-economic vulnerability



Public awareness and info

- Importance of personal understanding / responsibility
- Uncertainty needs to be acknowledged and communicated



Role of the Protocol

- Public information Art 10
- Exchange of information on WRD Art 12
- IWRM Art 9 1a
- Public awareness Art 9 1b



Conclusion 5

- Protocol recognizes importance of public information
- Recognizes professional skills needed to reach target in constructive manner



Future of the TFEWE

- Assessing and increasing resilience of water, drainage and sewerage systems
- Expansion of water service coverage to meet unmet needs
- Mitigation measures – carbon footprint
- Small scale systems
- Knowledge gaps

