



# Tool of the Conventions (Extreme weather events and climate change adaptation):

*Guidance on Water and Adaptation to Climate Change  
Water and Climate Change Adaptation in  
Transboundary Basins: Lessons Learned and Good  
Practices*

Session 5: How the Conventions promote implementation and cooperation on the ground?

# 1. Relevant obligations under the Conventions. - Overall

- Protection of transboundary waters by preventing, controlling and reducing transboundary impacts.
- Reasonable and equitable use of transboundary waters.
- Obligation to cooperate through agreements and joint institutions.
- Establish joint bodies (e.g. river commissions).
- Consult and exchange of information.
- Joint monitoring and assessment.
- Elaborate joint objectives and concerted action programme for their shared waters.

# 1. Relevant obligations under the Conventions. - Specifics

- Art. 3 – PREVENTION, CONTROL AND REDUCTION
- Art. 4 – MONITORING
- Art. 5 – RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT
- Art. 6 – EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION
- Art. 11 – JOINT MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT
- Art. 12 – COMMON RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT
- Art. 13 – EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION (RIPIRIANS)
- Art. 14 – WARNING AND ALARM SYSTEMS
- Art. 15 – MUTUAL ASSISTANCE

## 2. Guidance on Water and Adaptation to Climate Change.

- **Objectives:**
  - ✓ Guide parties to implement provisions under the convention/protocol within the context of climate change.
  - ✓ Help (advise) decision makers at all levels (local and international) to develop adaptation strategies.
  - ✓ Roadmap to help adapting water management to climate change in transboundary context.

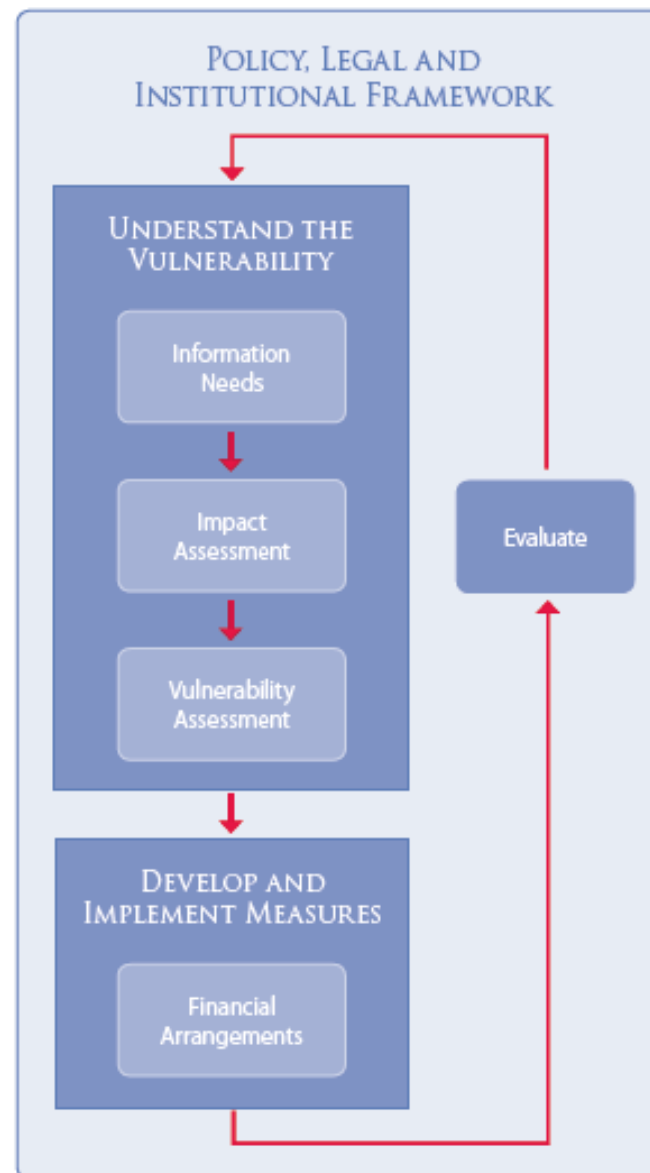
## 2. Guidance on Water and Adaptation to Climate Change.

- **Target audience:**
  - ✓ Decision makers and water managers (particularly at the transboundary level).
  - ✓ Local and national working on health.
  - ✓ Officials and stakeholders working on: agriculture, forestry, food, tourism, electricity among others.
  - ✓ Mainly UNECE countries, can be applied to others as well.
- **Year of development:**
  - ✓ 2006 (4th CoP) → mandated.
  - ✓ 2009 → published.

## 2. Guidance on Water and Adaptation to Climate Change

- **Methodology:**

1. Establish the policy, legal and institutional framework. *[assess]*
2. Understand the vulnerability of society. *[identification]*
3. Develop, finance and implement an adaptation strategy. *[potential measures, participatory process]*
4. Evaluate.



## 2. Guidance on Water and Adaptation to Climate Change

- **Key messages:**
  - ✓ The world needs to adapt to climate change in water management **without delay**.
  - ✓ Uncertainty should never be a reason for inaction. **Action and research** on adaptation should be pursued simultaneously.
  - ✓ Adaptation needs to be **flexible**.
  - ✓ The process of developing and implementing adaptation measures should build on **learning-by-doing**.
  - ✓ Implementing integrated water resources management (**IWRM**) supports adaptation.
  - ✓ Any adaptation policy needs to consider climate change as one of many **pressures** on water resources.
  - ✓ **Stakeholder participation** is crucial for all steps of the development and implementation of adaptation strategies and measures.

## 2. Guidance on Water and Adaptation to Climate Change

- **Key messages:**
  - ✓ Implementing national legislation and international **commitments** supports adaptation.
  - ✓ **Transboundary cooperation** is both necessary and beneficial in adapting to climate change.
  - ✓ When planning adaptation across boundaries, riparian countries should focus on **preventing transboundary impacts**, sharing benefits and risks in an equitable and reasonable manner and cooperating on the basis of equality and reciprocity.
  - ✓ **Knowledge and experience need to be exchanged** to enhance the capacity of countries to adapt.
  - ✓ **Water supply and sanitation**, especially during extreme weather events, require special attention in adaptation policy, as they are essential for good health



## 2. Guidance on Water and Adaptation to Climate Change

- **Key messages:**
  - ✓ Effective adaptation to climate change requires a **cross sectoral approach** including at the transboundary level, in order to prevent possible conflicts between different sectors and to consider trade-offs and synergies between adaptation and mitigation measures.
  - ✓ Adaptation may be costly, but it is much **more cost-effective to start it now**, because costs will be much higher once the effects of climate change are irreversible. Paying for adaptation should be done by a mix of public and private funding
  - ✓ **Education**, capacity-building and communication are imperative for effective adaptation.
  - ✓ Climate change and the need for adaptation is also an opportunity for **innovation and new technologies**.

## 2. Guidance on Water and Adaptation to Climate Change

- Implementation of the tool (**second speaker**)
- Keep in mind that:
  - ✓ Non-binding, but rather a guide.
  - ✓ Local contexts are important (always).
  - ✓ Builds on the concept of IWRM (when dealing with CC adaptation)

## 2. Water and Climate Change Adaptation in Transboundary Basins: Lessons Learned and Good Practices.

- **Objectives:**
  - ✓ Guide The publication seeks to compile, analyze and disseminate experiences, and thereby to demonstrate and illustrate important steps and lessons learned as well as good practices to take into account when developing a climate change adaptation strategy for water management in the basin or transboundary context.
- **Target audience:**
  - ✓ all those working on adaptation to climate change in transboundary, but also national, basins, including joint bodies, such as basin commissions and other institutions for transboundary cooperation, as well as the national representatives in such joint bodies; developers of adaptation strategies, especially in transboundary basins; decision makers; specialists working on water and/or climate change in ministries; and other authorities, scientists and Non-Governmental Organizations. Decision makers and water managers (particularly at the transboundary level).
- **Year of development:**
  - ✓ 2014 - 2015
- **Methodology:**
  - ✓ COLLECT, ASSESS, DEVELOP, IMPLEMENT, EVALUATE (Cycle).

## 3. Usefulness of the tool in my region and relation to my work in this area

- This tool(s) will help the Americas region to:
  - ✓ Create awareness among governments of the importance of Climate Change (Adaptation) and its impacts in transboundary basins.
  - ✓ Help the region to understand the benefits of developing regional and multinational mechanism around basins management.
  - ✓ Better understanding of the multistate interdependency of water (and other related) resources.
  - ✓ Capacity building of governments and other institutions related to basins management.
  - ✓ Encourage OAS member states to assess the importance of these studies for the region as well as the convention (expertise and others).



Thank You