



## Strengthening Transboundary Water Governance in the IGAD Region

Facing continuous and severe climate variability, floods, and droughts, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) for the Horn of Africa has undertaken a suite of actions with the goal of fostering regional cooperation, promoting peace and stability, and achieving sustainable economic development in the face of persisting water scarcity in the region. In January 2015 IGAD endorsed a Regional Water Resources Policy to promote closer cooperation among member states in the equitable, sustainable, and coordinated use, management, and protection of transboundary water resources. Now, IGAD Member States are negotiating the IGAD Regional Water Protocol and a Policy and Protocol on Water Related Data sharing and Exchange. These protocols and policies are critical for managing the numerous transboundary rivers and aquifers in the Horn of Africa. Therefore, IGAD Secretariat, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), United Nation Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), and the U.S. Department of State have initiated a program to ensure that the policies, processes, procedures, and institutions created promote transboundary waters cooperation in the Horn of Africa.

This program helps IGAD Member States strengthen regional and basin level frameworks and stakeholder-inclusive governance mechanisms and enhance their capacity on topics critical to transboundary waters governance and cooperation, such as hydro-diplomacy, international water law, negotiation, and benefit-sharing. While many of the program activities will focus on the regional level, including assisting with the finalization of the IGAD Regional Water Resources Protocol, one aspect of this program is to demonstrate how dialogue processes among stakeholders from different levels and sectors can enhance opportunities for benefit-sharing in real-life situations for both collaborative management of water resources and to strengthen regional stability. . Therefore, a transboundary demonstration basin in the IGAD region will be selected as a practical example of Benefit opportunities assessment dialogue for the region. Activities for the demonstration basin will focus on basin-level framework and stakeholder-inclusive governance mechanisms and on using dialogue to strengthen conflict mitigation, negotiation, and problem solving related to collaboratively managing shared waters resources for enhanced benefits, investment, and development opportunities. The lessons learnt from the demonstration basin will in turn inform both regional level processes and cooperation efforts in other basins in the IGAD region.

## ***Details on the Program Activities***

### ***Objective 1: Strengthening regional frameworks and mechanisms for cooperation on transboundary water resources in the IGAD region***

#### **Activity 1.1 – Regional meetings to facilitate consultations, finalization, and adoption of IGAD Regional Water Resources Protocol**

This activity will support meetings of the Negotiation Committee on the IGAD Regional Water Protocol to ensure successful agreement and adoption of the protocol. Advisory support from IUCN-BRIDGE, from the UNECE secretariat, and from Parties to the Water Convention will help facilitate the negotiations. This activity links to the capacity building activities under Objective 3.

#### **Activity 1.2 – Regional meetings to facilitate consultations, finalization, and adoption of IGAD Regional Policy and Protocol on Water Related Data Exchange**

This activity will support the consultations, finalization, and adoption of the IGAD Regional Policy and Protocol on Water Related Data Exchange to ensure regular exchange of data and information for the planning, management, and development of shared water resources and related projects. The goal of the regional meetings is to build capacity and facilitate dialogue around data sharing amongst TAC members and key stakeholders.

#### **Activity 1.3 – Identification of the demonstration basin for promoting transboundary water cooperation**

The demonstration basin will be carefully selected in December 2016 through consultations with key decision makers and stakeholders and based on criteria shared with IGAD member states.

#### **Activity 1.4 – Analysis and recommendations on basin & sub-basin level institutional frameworks for water resources management in the selected demonstration basin**

The draft IGAD Protocol on Regional Water Resources requires the establishment of institutional frameworks for managing specific shared river basins. This activity reviews regional studies and analysis and global experiences of successful river commissions and other institutional frameworks to inform compliance with multi-stakeholder representation, i.e. stakeholder-inclusive river basin organizational governance model and sustainable financing modalities for operation in the selected demonstration basin.

#### **Activity 1.5 – Study Tour: Transfer of the experiences from the International Sava River Basin Commission and the Rhine River Commission**

Through a study tour, one IGAD TAC member per country (7 in total) and stakeholder representatives from the demonstration basin will learn about establishing institutions for multi-sectoral cooperation on water, including the latest innovative approaches to multi-stakeholder engagement. Participants can attend a working session of the Sava River Basin Commission and/or a meeting of the Sava Water Council and will visit the Rhine River Commission. The activity will also include participation in a special session of the IUCN-BRIDGE Academy, described in Activity 3.2.

#### **Activity 1.6 – Facilitated dialogue on stakeholder-inclusive river basin governance mechanism and possible financing modalities for its operation in the demonstration basin**

This activity will enable a wide range of stakeholders (including IGAD TAC members and representatives from the demonstration basin) to discuss the learned outcomes from Activities 1.4 and 1.5. Activities under Objective 2 and other documents will also inform the discussion. Follow up activities, to be carried out under separate funding, would facilitate a process of agreement on the appropriate stakeholder inclusive governance mechanism.

***Objective 2: Joint visioning dialogue on opportunities for enhanced benefits, investment, and development from sustainable management of shared water resources***

**Activity 2.1 – Dialogue on benefit opportunities assessments and benefit sharing at the IGAD TAC level**

In connection with benefit sharing capacity building activities under Objective 3 and through an interactive workshop, TAC members will jointly identify existing high-level benefits from water use at national levels and potential enhanced benefits from improved joint management at regional, basin, and country levels. This activity will equip each TAC member with an improved understanding of the potential tangible benefits of cooperation. In turn, TAC will be able to harness both the knowledge and dialogue foundations established to inform and influence joint problem solving and negotiations at national and regional levels.

**Activity 2.2 – Basin visioning and Benefit Opportunities Assessment Dialogue involving multiple stakeholders in the demonstration basin**

**2.2.1 Initiation of a Benefit Opportunities Assessment Dialogue at basin level.** This activity will include the development of a discussion paper on existing and potential benefits in the demonstration basin and the facilitation of an interactive workshop, convening key basin stakeholders from different sectors and levels as well as national representatives from the riparian countries. The workshop will involve a basin visioning exercise to undertake a preliminary identification of existing and potential enhanced benefits from cooperation at the basin level and to agree on the next steps of the benefit opportunities assessment dialogue.

**2.2.2 Detailed qualitative assessment of a subset of collaborative water management solutions from national to local levels in the basin**

This assessment will include a detailed stakeholder mapping from national to local levels and an analysis of the institutional mechanisms most conducive to the ongoing assessment of benefits and benefit-sharing solutions for the demonstration basin.

**2.2.3 Adaptation of Benefit-sharing Opportunities Assessment Tool (BOAT)**

BOAT is an interactive tool developed to illustrate the benefits of cooperation for diverse stakeholders by exploring alternative water management scenarios. This activity will use BOAT for the demonstration basin using the data and inputs from Activities 2.2.1 and 2.2.2.

**2.2.4 Identifying Collaborative Water Management Solutions and Opportunities for Benefits Enhancement**

This activity will facilitate an interactive dialogue workshop with key local through national stakeholders to engage in joint qualitative analysis of specific collaborative water management scenarios from Activity 2.2.3; identify potential trade-offs for the water-energy-food nexus, distributional effects, and possible compensation mechanisms; identify preferred scenarios and additional data needed for a full assessment; and discuss potential, suitable institutional mechanisms for an ongoing assessment of benefits and benefit-sharing solutions in the basin. Outputs include a set of recommendations on the above, the preliminary selection of priority improved water management solutions and of associated investment opportunities, and an agreement on next steps to complete the quantitative assessment and implementation of these opportunities.

**Activity 2.3 – Basin-level workshop with key development partners and local to national representatives from the demonstration basin**

This workshop will bring together TAC members and demonstration basin representatives to discuss the identified improved water management, investment, and development opportunities for the enhancement of shared benefits from Activity 2.2. The workshop will result in a step-by-step roadmap for building cooperation in future infrastructure investments and will contribute to Activity 1.6.

***Objective 3: Capacity building in hydro-diplomacy, international water law, negotiation and benefit sharing to improve transboundary water governance and cooperation***

**Activity 3.1 - Trainings in hydro-diplomacy, international water law, and benefit sharing for the IGAD TAC members and other key stakeholders in IGAD region and in the demonstration basin**

These trainings will cover important concepts and skills relating to principles and institutional frameworks in international water law, transboundary water governance, national water governance, and benefit-sharing in transboundary water management. The UNECE Water Convention's Secretariat will contribute training on the specific policy and technical tools developed under the Convention and with concrete experience of implementing international water law on the ground.

**Activity 3.2 – Capacity building on the transboundary water governance and joint management through global exchanges of experience**

Representatives from the demonstration basin will attend relevant international activities under the UNECE Water Convention, in particular relating to the benefits of cooperation, institutional building and joint water management, and thus benefit from global experiences. In addition, they will attend a special session of the BRIDGE Academy at IUCN's Environmental Law Center in Bonn, Germany, (combined with Activity 1.4) with training on hydro-diplomacy, international water law, and benefit-sharing tailored to the demonstration basin context and enriched with detailed case studies from around the world on transboundary water governance.

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**The criteria for selecting a demonstration basin will include:**

- the expression of commitment by all concerned countries;
- how the benefit assessment exercise could contribute to the strengthening of cooperation in that basin;
- how the benefit assessment exercise in the proposed basin could be useful to support other cooperation processes in the IGAD region;
- the proposed basin has the tangible potential for cooperation to catalyze improved relations between upstream and downstream stakeholders;
- the proposed basin's riparians agree on the need to explore the potential for cooperation in management and development the shared basin water resources;
- the proposed basin has sufficient political stability and security to enable effective work to take place; and
- transboundary cooperation in the proposed basin could enhance regional peace, security, and socio-economic development.