

# Opening the Convention to countries outside the UNECE region

## Recent developments



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



# 1. Progress and achievements in this area of work in late 2016/2017

- \* National capacity building workshop on the Water Convention in Chad (29-30 March 2017)
- \* Training on negotiation skills for IGAD countries with IUCN (Addis Abbeba, 27-28 February)
- \* Promotion of the Convention during regional events:
  - Negotiation meeting on the ECOWAS regional directive on shared water resources management (Senegal, 2-3 May 2017)
  - Kick-off workshop of the project on strengthening transboundary water governance in the IGAD region with IUCN and IGAD (Nairobi, Kenya, December 2016)
  - International water law training by GWP and others (June, Uganda)
- \* FAQ and new brochures are under preparation



# 1. (ctd) Progress: Train the practitioner event

- \* Organized on 20-21 October 2016 with WWF, IUCN, Green Cross, GWP
- \* Around 30 trainees from regional organizations, RBOs, NGOs, development cooperation agencies, academia, others
- \* Aimed to strengthen the capacities of the trainees and equip them with knowledge and skills required to promote and apply the Conventions and to enable the use of the technical and policy guidance developed under the Water Convention
- \* Had concrete results: some of the trainees promoted the two Conventions afterwards in their frameworks



## 2. Lessons learned and challenges

- \* Much interest from countries in the Convention but more promotion efforts needed still
- \* Importance of providing detailed information on complementarity between 2 Conventions
- \* Accession processes take time: Necessity to involve large range of stakeholders, including Ministry of Foreign Affairs, civil society, parliamentarians...
- \* Importance of cooperation with regional partners – partnerships to be strengthened



# 3. Planned future activities in this area in 2017-2018

- \* Cooperation with regional partners:
  - \* CEEAC on capacity-building and support to CEEAC's regional framework development
  - \* Possibly joint events with AMCOW, ECOWAS, OAS
  - \* Continue cooperation with IGAD
  - \* Continue and strengthen cooperation with RBOs
- \* National workshops upon request (e.g. DRC etc.)
- \* Secretariat / Bureau... contribution to relevant relevant and global events
- \* Support to Colombia and Peru in strengthening their bilateral cooperation

