



BENEFITS OF TRANSBOUNDARY WATER COOPERATION IN THE IGAD REGION: Sio- Malaba- Malakisi Sub- Basin.

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BACKGROUND

The IGAD Secretariat, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), United Nation Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), and the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs (OES) are implementing a program entitled “Strengthening transboundary water governance and cooperation in the IGAD region” to ensure that the policies, processes, procedures, and institutions created promote transboundary waters cooperation in the Horn of Africa. The program supports activities that contribute towards catalyzing transboundary water cooperation both at regional level and in a demonstration basin.

THE MAIN OBJECTIVES OF THIS PROGRAM INCLUDE:

- Strengthening regional and basin level frameworks and stakeholder-inclusive governance mechanisms for cooperation and conflict mitigation on trans-boundary water resources in the IGAD region and in a demonstration basin;
- Strengthening conflict mitigation, negotiation and problem solving through joint visioning dialogue with governing bodies and stakeholders in the demonstration basin on opportunities for enhanced benefits, investment and development from collaborative management of shared water resources; and
- Capacity building in hydro-diplomacy, international water law, negotiation and benefit sharing to improve trans-boundary water governance and cooperation.

However, the project is being implemented in synergy with activities funded by the Swiss Agency for Cooperation (SDC): *Building River Dialogue and Governance (BRIDGE) implemented by IUCN*, and *Support to transboundary water cooperation on the basis of the UNECE Water Convention, implemented by UNECE*.

ACTIVITIES BEING CARRIED OUT:

- Activities being carried out are in two levels:
 - Regional Level:
 - ❖ Capacity building on the benefits of transboundary regional cooperation
 - ✓ This involved convening a capacity building training workshop for the members of the IGAD Regional Water Resources Protocol Negotiation Committee on February 27th-28th 2017 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
 - A number of topics were covered, including: hydro-diplomacy and negotiation skills; International water law (i.e. the 1997 UN Watercourses Convention, the 1992 UNECE Helsinki Convention and the draft UN Convention on groundwater); water treaties: how to draft and negotiate international agreements on transboundary waters; and examples of negotiations and cooperation on shared waters from pan-European and Central Asia regions.
 - ✓ A dialogue process among IGAD member countries through the TAC, was carried out during a workshop held on December 14th-16th 2016.
 - The dialogue was focused around the concrete benefits of trans-boundary cooperation at regional, country and basin levels. Workshop materials were developed and delivered drawing on the IUCN BRIDGE and the UNECE Water Convention's Policy Guidance Note on the Benefits of Transboundary Water Cooperation:
 - *Identification, Assessment and Communication* of benefits as well as practical lessons and/or experiences gained by using this tool, particularly those from Estonia-Russian Federation Cooperation, Eastern Europe (Drina River Basin) and Okavango-Cubango River Basin in Southern Africa.

Activities being carried out (Cont...)

➤ Local/ Basin Level:- Sio- Malaba- Malakisi Basin

✓ Benefits Opportunities Assessments Dialogue (BOAD).

To provide background information for the initiation of a Benefit Opportunities Assessment Dialogue in the Sio-Malaba-Malakisi (SMM) demonstration basin, study on “Situational analysis, activities refinement and scoping of benefits of cooperation” were undertaken, its overall objectives were to:

- inform the design and planning of the activities to be implemented in the SMM basin under the OES/IGAD project; and
- carry out a scoping of the benefits of transboundary water cooperation in the SMM basin.

Activities being carried out (Cont...)

- ✓ During the 1st SMM basin stakeholders' consultative workshop held on May 15th-18th 2017, Kisumu, Kenya the study findings were discussed.
 - It is important to note that an adapted typology by UNECE and IUCN with inputs from stakeholders during workshops was used to document the transboundary water cooperation benefits in the SMM basin.
 - The typology differentiates whether the benefits are the result of improved water management (brought about by transboundary water cooperation) or whether they are the result of cooperation in other policy domains and beyond the basin, made possible by the enhanced trust between the cooperating parties generated by the process of transboundary water cooperation. In so doing, the typology helps to bring attention to a broader set of benefits of transboundary water cooperation that has traditionally not been the case.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.