



CONVENTION ON PROTECTION AND USE OF
TRANSBOUNDARY WATERCOURSES
AND INTERNATIONAL LAKES
WORKING GROUP ON MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT



Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment
Ninth meeting
Geneva, 17–18 June 2008

PROPOSED IWAC WORKPLAN 2008-2009
Submitted by the Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute

The Government of Slovakia kindly offered at the fourth meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention (20-22 November 2006) to host the International Water Assessment Centre (IWAC) at the Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute. Since, the Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute has been making arrangements to prepare the transfer and to design the future programme of work of IWAC.

Listed below are the activities that are anticipated or planned in which IWAC will lead or play a role. The list includes activities already included in the adopted programme of work for 2007-2009 under the Water Convention as well as additional proposals.

The finalization of the workplan will depend on the resources raised for its implementation and from commitment by partner countries and institutions.

The Working Group is invited to further define IWAC workplan by commenting the proposed activities and expressing interest in participating in them.

I. Proposed activities

1. Pilot programmes on transboundary rivers

The Ipel/Ipoly and Latoriza/Uhz are still in progress but should also be finalized in 2009.

IWAC will facilitate the implementation phase of the pilot projects recommendations into the monitoring programmes of the riparian countries.

New pilot projects in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia and in South Eastern Europe (e.g. Sava) pilots, will be investigated by the end of 2008 and the search for donors will be done (scheduled December 2008).

Interested countries are invited to express their willingness to develop a pilot project.

2. Pilot programme on Groundwaters

Final report of the Aggtelek - Slovak Karst between Hungary and Slovak Republic, should be published along with financial support from other donors.

New pilot projects in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia and in South Eastern Europe pilots, will be investigated by the end of 2008 and the search for donors will be done (scheduled December 2008). Cooperation with UNESCO will be crucial.

3. IWAC workshops

Several meetings and workshops under auspices of IWAC may be organized related to the Pilot programmes. Discussion will be on how to deal with this subject.

4. Monitoring Tailor-Made V

It is expected to organize the fifth conference Monitoring Tailor-Made as continuation of the previous work of the IWAC. Therefore, basic preparatory activities (investigate interest of target groups, definition and selection of conference topics) will be done in this period before starting organization of the conference (conference expected to be organize in 2010-2011).

5. Technical guidelines

As the need for technical guidelines does not seem urgent, it is proposed to postpone the development of new technical guidelines to a second stage of the project. The WGMA will assess the need to include this item in the future workplan of IWAC.

6. EU Water Framework Directive

To improve the dissemination of information about the progress of implementation of the Water Framework Directive, under the IWAC Internet site, references and documents will be included. However, much information is already available on internet.

7. Internet site

A more active maintenance of the site is anticipated. Exchange of knowledge and sharing the information and opinions via discussion forum is suggested. Furthermore, suggestions for improvement of the web-side are welcomed.

8. Newsletter

It is proposed to produce a regular newsletter. This could be either a digital or paper newsletter, or maybe both. Also the contents should be discussed within the IWAC Members and WGMA.

9. Second Assessment of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes Report.

The IWAC secretariat in close cooperation with Global Water Partnership for Central and Eastern Europe (GWPCEE) and experts of the members will contribute to the process of drafting Report.

II. Next steps

The official inauguration of IWAC and the first meeting of the IWAC members is expected to be in October – November 2008.

Institutions interested in becoming IWAC members should contact the Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute.

III. Arrangements in the Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute

Secretariat of IWAC: human resources (2 persons), financial resources will be allocated yearly to cover personal cost and co-financing of the IWAC activities.