



# **LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE SECOND ASSESSMENT AND POSSIBLE FUTURE DIRECTIONS**



# Benefits and strenghts

- Continuity with the 1st Assessment
- Process of preparations supported exchange and cooperation and built capacity
- Common assessment as a way to harmonize approaches
- Should be a strong basis for the work under the Convention, supports other initiatives
- Common project of all the countries of the region: networking and capacity building
- Some non-Parties and countries outside the region very active (Turkey, Iran, Mongolia)



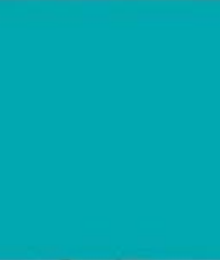
# Benefits and strenghts (cont.)

- The approach developed in the course of the work & modality of work found with partners
- River commissions participated: provided very good input and no duplication of work
- IWAC played an important role by supporting the secretariat
- Ramsar secretariat and expert network brought important ecosystem/ecological expertise
- Structure and schedule to the work of WGMA and strengthened cooperation with WGIWRM
- Flagship product of the Convention



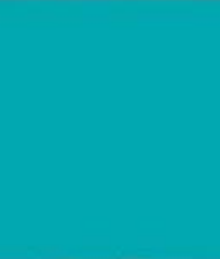
# Weak points/shortcomings

- Extremely labourous process
- Due to the scope, difficult to look into issues in-depth
- Limited time and opportunity for analysis
- Schedule difficult to manage, especially due to delays in getting inputs
- Working in two languages has its limitations; difficult to provide the same level of service, information, time to also the Russian-speaking experts



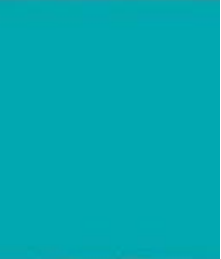
# Weak points/shortcomings

- Datasheet too extensive
- Input from the countries commonly limited to technical issues
- Poor response/participation from some countries → many assessments prepared based on input from 1 riparian country only
- Limited commenting
- In many basins no notable progress since the 1<sup>st</sup> Assessment



# Complicating issues inherent to the countries/frameworks

- Difficulty of inter-sectoral coordination and cooperation in completing the datasheet evident – not diverse enough expertise involved
- Comparison of quality data a challenge: different approaches & criteria complicate
- Different concepts (e.g. aquifers vs. groundwater bodies)



# Feasible to improve

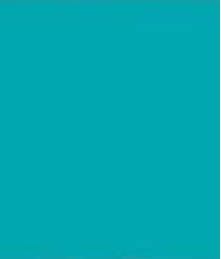
- More specific guidance (explanation of definitions, description of ranking scale, set indicators etc)
- Increase involvement of the civil society (NGOs, academia)
- Spatial information should be prepared more in parallel to support the analysis
- Specific sectors could be involved more effectively by partnering with agencies having a complementary mandate and network





# Two tiered approach


- A third Assessment with the same scope as the second one prepared in 8-10 years
- A special edition within 4 years with a different specific scope and approach







# Some possible options for a special edition of the Assessment

1. Focus on a specific theme:
    - A specific pressure (e.g. agriculture, hydropower)
    - A cross-cutting theme (e.g. climate change and extreme events, ecosystems and biodiversity)
    - A response measure (e.g. river basin management plans, monitoring and assessment systems)
  2. Limit the assessment to a representative number of basins (not all, but enough to involve all countries)
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# A “different” process

- Establish new partnerships with other international organizations to strengthen cross-sectoral work and have a joint product
- Even stronger links to other projects/activities under the Convention
- Combine use of data provided by countries and other reliable information
- Link to the Convention’s MOP/EfE Ministerial Conferences?

