



International Water Assessment Centre IWAC

Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute, Bratislava, Slovakia

Boris Minarik

Work since the fourth session of the Meeting of Parties

Work Plan 2008 – 2009

Draft Strategy for next period

Draft Work Plan for 2010 - 2012

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IWAC Background

The International Water Assessment Centre (IWAC) was established as a collaborative centre of the Water Convention at the second meeting of the Parties (March, 2000) under the leadership of the Netherlands.

Since then IWAC proved to be an effective operational arm of the Convention and its Protocols, and has helped transform these instruments' obligations into concrete action on the ground.

At the fourth meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention (Bonn November 2006) **The Government of Slovakia** offered to host IWAC at the Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute.

Following this offer, IWAC was formally **inaugurated on 7 April 2009**, and a Memorandum of Understanding on IWAC between the Slovak Government and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) was signed on the same date.



Work Plan 2008-2009

1. Pilot programmes on transboundary rivers

The Ipel/Ipoly SK-HU and Latorica/Uhz UA-SK – finalized

New pilot projects – participation on preparatory works (work plan 2010 – 2012)

2. Pilot programme on groundwaters

The Aggtelek-Slovak Karst between Hungary & Slovakia – finalized

New pilot projects – under consideration

3. IWAC workshops – during pilot projects

4. Monitoring Talor – Made V - postponed

5. Technical guidelines

6. EU Water Framework Directive – dissemination of information

7. Internet site – transferred



Work Plan 2008-2009

8. Newsletter – under consideration

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

Cooperation with GWP CEE

Existing projects

Sarajevo meeting



IWAC Strategy for next period

Objectives

The core objective of this Strategy is to provide a general framework for IWAC's functioning. The Strategy is intended to assist Parties and non-Parties to the Convention and other potential IWAC partners in developing a long-term plan to pursue practical implementation of the Convention and its Protocols, through:

- (a) To define and implement needs-driven activities;
- (b) To seek synergies among different projects; and
- (c) To explore possibility of raising funds for the activities.



IWAC „Broadening“

The growing need to consider monitoring and assessment within the wider context of integrated water resources management (IWRM) calls for **broadening the original focus of IWAC on monitoring and assessment**. IWAC terms of reference need to be revised in light of the above.



IWAC Responsibilities

On the basis of the decisions by the Meeting of the Parties on the areas of work under the Convention and the experience gained since the establishment of IWAC, responsibilities of IWAC will include:

- (a) Initiating and/or assisting in developing and implementing pilot projects on priority issues;
- (b) Assisting in preparation of periodic assessments of transboundary rivers, lakes and groundwaters;
- (c) Organizing training courses and workshops, and/or rendering assistance to UNECE countries and joint bodies in conducting such events;
- (d) Providing advice on integrated water resources management;
- (e) Acting as a clearing house for issues dealt with under the Convention and its Protocols;
- (f) Acting as a coordinator among its Core Group members and other partners in order to promote:
 - (i) joint action, including implementation of projects and related fund raising activities;
 - (ii) the exchange of concepts and findings of scientific research, and
 - (iii) dialogue between scientists and policy makers, to help facilitate the transformation of scientific results and technical know-how into policy;
- (g) Assisting joint bodies within the terms of article 9, paragraph 2, of the Convention in carrying out their obligations under the Convention.



IWAC Responsibilities

IWAC shall ensure that all its tasks and main activities are properly coordinated and harmonized, to the extent feasible, with pertinent legislation and policies of the EU, activities of the EEA and its relevant topic centers, and the activities of joint bodies under the Convention

Activities at the UNECE region-wide level

At the subregional level (Eastern Europe, Caucasus, Central Asia, South-Eastern Europe, and EU and other Western European countries)

Or at the national level

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Organizational Structure

The Meeting of Parties to the Water Convention will consider progress in IWAC activities and decide on strategic directions for its further work.

Subsidiary bodies under the Water Convention will define specific areas of work, including through identification of activities such as pilot projects.

The secretariat of the UNECE Water Convention will ensure communication between the Convention's bodies and IWAC secretariat and will assist in implementing activities, as appropriate.

The Core Group of IWAC, comprised of representatives of leading water management institutions, will: (a) prepare, review and update, in consultation with IWAC and the UNECE secretariat, future strategies and workplans for IWAC activities for consideration by the Meeting of the Parties and other subsidiary bodies, as appropriate; (b) decide on and support implementation of activities, including fund-raising, as relevant. The composition of the Core Group will take into account the expertise required for activities in the respective IWAC workplan.

IWAC secretariat will take the lead in initiating and implementing the activities defined in the IWAC workplan.



IWAC Resources

The implementation of activities should rely as much as possible on the existing capacity of organizations involved in them, but at the same time, it should be recognized that the implementation will require additional resources.

The following sources of financial support to IWAC activities are foreseen:

- (a) the budget of the Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute; and
- (b) the budget of the Slovak Ministry of Foreign Affairs (priority sub-regions are Caucasus, Central Asia and Balkans).
- (c) IWAC will also consider raising funds from the European Commission and other donors, as needed.



IWAC Work Plan for 2010 - 2012

1. Projects

1.1 New pilot projects on transboundary rivers, lakes & groundwaters

New pilot projects in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia, and in South Europe will be defined,

Including through preparatory process of the **second Assessment** of transboundary rivers, lakes and groundwaters

The need to consider monitoring and assessment **in the broader contexts of IWRM**

The scope of pilot projects – become **basin-wide**

Scope and objectives of new pilot projects should build **on different activities under the Convention**



IWAC Work Plan for 2010 – 2012

In particular, the programme will have three focus areas:

- (a) Adaptation to climate change in the transboundary context, incl. Management of floods and droughts;
- (b) Joint monitoring and assessment of transboundary waters, incl. Data management and information exchange;
- (c) Implementation of payments for ecosystem services to support integrated water resources management.

IWAC, in cooperation with the interested partners, will assist in the development of, fund-raising for and implementation of the projects.



1.2 Ongoing projects carried out by other organizations

To develop synergies and cross-fertilization of different projects supporting implementation of the Convention, IWAC will also facilitate interlinkages between the most relevant initiatives on transboundary waters in the UNECE region.

2. Second Assessment of transboundary rivers, lakes and groundwaters

In close cooperation with GWP CEE and other partners, will contribute to the preparation of the Assessment through:

- (a) Supporting completion of the datasheets and coordinating inputs related to the waters shared by EU countries;
- (b) Facilitating communication with experts;
- (c) Helping to prepare the substantive contributions;
- (d) Organizing or supporting the organization of meetings, in particular a subregional meeting for non-EU countries in Eastern Europe and neighboring EU countries and a subregional meeting for EU and other Western European countries



3. Sharing of experience and capacity-building

3.1 Training sessions

3.2 Internet site

More active maintenance

To improve the dissemination of information about the Convention, also using progress in implementation of the EU WFD

Based on the experience gained in the first round of preparation of RBM Plans in EU member states in 2009, IWAC will support:

- (a) The exchange of information between member countries, incl. on several „difficult“ themes such as intercalibration, water assessment, exemptions and priority substances
- (b) The exchange of experience with respect to the implementation of the EU Flood Directive as well as drought management
- (c) Addressing gaps related to climate change in RBM planning
- (d) The dissemination of experience

3.3 Newsletter



IWAC Work Plan for 2010 – 2012

Resources

Personnel

Information technology resources

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Thank you