



**Outcome of the strategic discussions by
region at the 15th Meeting of the Working
Group on Monitoring and
Assessment (6 December 2019)**

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Objectives and outcome of the 15th Meeting of the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment

The main objectives of the fifteenth meeting were to discuss:

- The implementation of activities on monitoring and assessment under the Convention in 2019–2021, (regional events; feedback on the guidelines on monitoring & assessment)
- Strategic directions for future work on monitoring, assessment and data exchange under the Water Convention by:
 - Discuss the background paper entitled “Outlook for developing monitoring cooperation and exchange of data and information across borders”
 - Analyzing the reporting under the Convention and on SDG indicator 6.5.2
 - results of the Global workshop on exchange of data and information in transboundary basins (4 & 5 December 2019).

Main outcome:

Decision to propose specific activities for the programme of work (PoW) 2022–2024 which provided the basis for Programme Area 2 in the PoW survey (and the current draft PoW)
Better understanding of the regional needs and strategic directions

Regional group Discussions-1

The working group:

- The **French-speaking Africa group**: need for more regional workshops, harmonization of data, strengthening of structures and financing of institutions, inventory equipment and the facilitation of access to meteorological information.
- The **English-Speaking Africa** group suggested organizing workshops by region, focused on both technical and financial capacity-building, to respond to the growing concern at observed declining capacity in data collection.

The **Middle East and North Africa** group stated:

- that financing of monitoring, data and information should be a priority issue, called for a desk review of adaptive technology development, and noted that more attention needed to be paid to creating emergency response mechanisms.
- need for organization of regional workshops, highlighting the possibility of using existing institutions, such as the Arab Water Council, Aqua and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia.
- including in the review of guidance publications good practices from countries and regions.

The **Asia group** expressed the importance of:

- disseminating the information that had come up at the Global workshop on exchange of data and information in transboundary basins, encouraging the use of the information and experiences in publications.
- suggested developing, based on the existing guidance publications, guidelines tailored to basins, by country and by region, and underlined the importance of lessons learned tailored to needs and technology transfer.

The **Americas group**:

- proposed increasing the number of training sessions and capacity-building activities on data collection and analysis on the use and maintenance of modern technologies.
- It was pointed out that the idea of a centralized statistical unit was interesting and useful.
- an integrated approach to ecosystem issues should be used in sharing data, considering environmental and other data

Regional group Discussions-3

The **European Union and the Balkans group** underlined:

- the importance of organizing a regional workshop, for example, on the Balkans. The group also raised the question of how to ensure the sustainability of monitoring and assessment networks, including resources and financing, operation and maintenance).
- Streamlining of different sets of reporting that the countries have international obligations to complete, each with their own requirements, was also noted as meriting attention.
- need for case studies, lessons learned and experiences on how countries dealt with certain issues, adding that there was a wealth of experience on the European Union Water Framework Directive.
- Put more work on how to include monitoring and assessment in transboundary water management plans or agreements on data sharing, mentioning model provisions for monitoring and assessment as a possible tool to be developed.
- adding to the existing guidelines information on how to optimize monitoring and assessment programmes, that was to say, how to get the best quality information for the lowest cost.



Do you have any questions?

Thank you for your attention!



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