



# Identifying, assessing and communicating the benefits of transboundary water cooperation

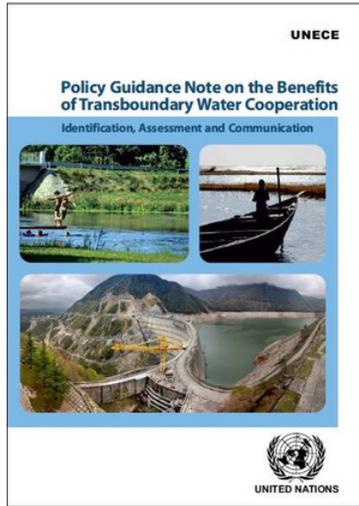
Agenda Item 12

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# Advancing the understanding of the benefits of transboundary cooperation to accelerate progress



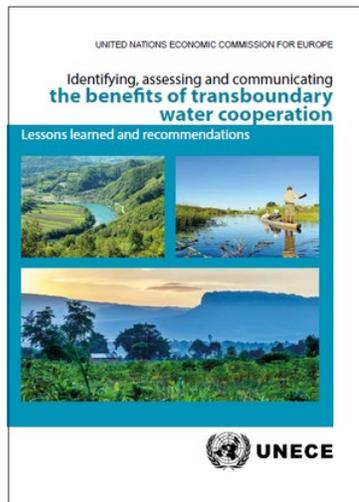
## Objective:

Highlight the broad range of benefits that can be generated by cooperation and cooperative solutions in transboundary basins

## Existing guidance documents:

Policy Guidance Note *The Benefits of Transboundary Water cooperation: Identification, Assessment and Communication* (2015)

Lessons learnt and recommendations from experiences of benefit assessment exercises in 3 transboundary basins (2018)



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# Main achievements in 2019-2021



- Awareness raised and capacity strengthened on broad range of achieved and prospective benefits of cooperation, through basin / sub-regional discussions, applying a “benefit lens”.
- Decision-making on strengthening cooperation frameworks informed in 2 basins, building upon identification of benefits of cooperation :
  - ✓ Cubango-Okavango River basin (Angola, Botswana and Namibia)
  - ✓ North-Western Sahara Aquifer System (Algeria, Libya and Tunisia).
- Key role played by existing joint bodies as platforms to realize benefits of cooperation highlighted.
- Opportunities to deliver more and better distributed benefits emphasized.



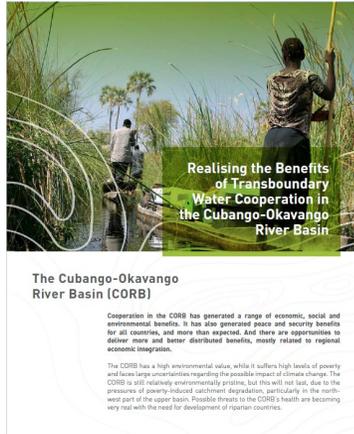
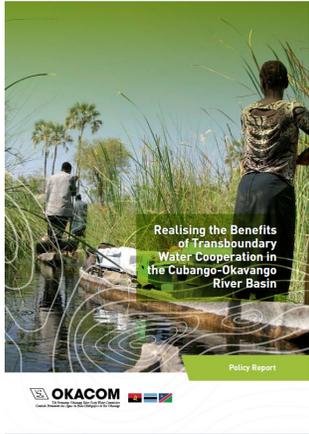
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# Major milestones since 2019



- **Cubango-Okavango River basin**

Policy summary and Policy report launched (June 2020) and promoted (webinar Oct. 2020).

Benefit identification complemented Multi Sector Investment Opportunity Assessment (supported by the World bank).

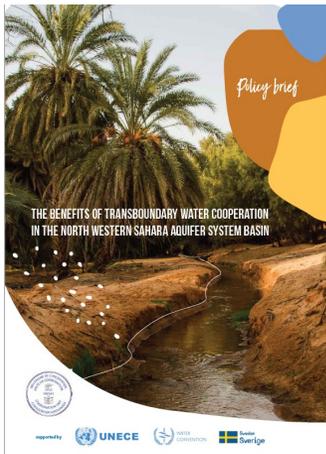
Recommendations can inform revision of OKACOM agreement.

- **North-Western Sahara Aquifer System**

Policy brief finalized (Nov. 2020).

Benefits identification was integrated to Nexus assessment -> made it possible to bolster the value of intersectoral action.

Recommendations can inform strengthening of Coordination Mechanism.



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# Lessons learnt for future work



- Confirmed the importance of identifying and communicating the broad range of achieved and prospective benefits of transboundary water cooperation.
- “Benefits focus” proved a useful approach to start cooperation.
- Showed value as a complementary approach to work on: the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus; the negotiation of agreements; and supporting accession to and implementation of the Convention.



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# Suggested future work in 2022-2024



Programme area 1: Increasing awareness of and accession to the Convention and application of its principles drawing on the benefits of cooperation

## 1.2. Promoting and communicating the benefits of transboundary cooperation

*Lead Party:* Estonia

- Promote benefits of cooperation under various activities, on basis of *Policy Guidance Note on benefits* and experience of its application
- Training modules in/facilitating dialogues with a “benefit lens” to support accession to the Convention (activity 1.1)
- Provide assistance to up to 3 basin-level projects under activities on developing agreements (1.3), Nexus assessment (3.2), transboundary adaptation strategies (4.1) or financing (5).

*Resource requirements for activity 1.2:* \$158,500



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# Partners and donors



**OKACOM**



**WORLD BANK GROUP**



**Global Water Partnership**  
Mediterranean



**Sweden**  
**Sverige**



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# Thank you



BENEFITS  
BENEFITS



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For more information: <https://unece.org/environment-policy/water/areas-work-convention/benefits-transboundary-water-cooperation>



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