Adapting to climate change in transboundary basins

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1. Main achievements in this area of work

Countries and basins are better equipped with knowledge and skills to **mainstream climate change adaptation into river basin management planning** as well as **water and transboundary cooperation into climate-related documents and projects**

- Exchange of experience and knowledge-sharing
- Contributing to global policy processes on climate and disasters and projects on the ground

Countries and basins are more aware of the options for **financing climate change adaptation in transboundary basins**
2. How was it achieved? Major milestones since 2019

- 3 Meetings of the Task Force on Water and Climate (May 2019, October 2020 and March 2021)
- 2 Meetings of the Global network of basins working on climate change adaptation (February 2019 and February 2021)
  - Together with International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO)
  - 18 basins: Amazon river basin, Chu Talas river basin, Congo river basin, Danube river basin, Rivers and Wetlands of Dauria Steppes, Dniester river basin, Drin river basin, Lower Mekong river basin, Meuse river basin, Neman river basin, Niger river basin, North Western Sahara Aquifer System (NWSAS), Rhine basin, Sava river basin, Senegal river basin, Sixaola river basin, Lake Victoria basin, Volta river basin
2. How was it achieved? Major milestones since 2019

• 2 Global workshops (Ecosystem-based adaptation, April 2019 and Improving water management and sanitation, March 2021)

• Projects on the ground:
  • Dniester Basin
  • Chu-Talas basin
  • Neman Basin
2. How was it achieved? Major milestones since 2019

- Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC (December 2019 and end October-November 2021)
- Contributions to the meetings and technical papers of the Adaptation Committee under the UNFCCC (March and November 2020)
- Contributed to UNFCCC NAP Technical Guidelines on EbA
- Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (May 2019 and preparations for May 2022)
- Co-organized activities for the World Water Day “Water and Climate Change” (22 March 2020)
- World Water Weeks in 2020 and 2021
- Activities under the Water and Climate Coalition and the Global Commission on Adaptation, including the Climate Adaptation Summit 2021 (January 2021)
- Co-coordinator of the UN-Water Expert Group on Water and Climate Change
- Coordinated preparation of the UN-Water Policy Brief on Climate Change and Water
- Contributed to the UN-Water publication World Water Development Report 2020: Water and Climate Change
3. Lessons learnt for future work

- Cooperation on climate change issues provides many benefits but requires dedication, open mind, willingness to compromise, and it takes time and funding.
- Challenges for cooperation: different concerns, different climatic zones in a basin, lack of (sharing) data, different legislation, lack of finance.
- Cooperation with partners is a key factor for success but reaching out to other sectors is very difficult.
- Groundwater is often still underrepresented.
- Beware of maladaptation in the long run – ecosystem-based adaptation options provide flexibility.
- Climate change adaptation has close interrelations with climate change mitigation, better coherence is needed.
- Therefore, there is a need for better coherence and coordination between water, disasters and climate policies (both mitigation and adaptation) on the national, transboundary and international levels.
4. Suggested future work in this area

- Supporting development of transboundary adaptation strategies and implementation of priority measures (Resource requirements: $1,162,000)
  - Up to three basin-level projects promoting transboundary cooperation in adaptation to climate change (e.g. Chu-Talas, Dniester, Bug-Neman, Tisza and Sava)
  - Exchange of experience, good practices and lessons learned:
    - Two meetings of the Global network of basins working on climate change adaptation in cooperation with INBO
    - Two meetings of the Task Force on Water and Climate
    - Two global workshops on transboundary climate change adaptation and mitigation in 2022 and 2023
  - Development of approaches to address transboundary aspects in NDCs and NAPs for some pilot basins
  - Promotion of water and transboundary cooperation in adaptation within global policy processes (a.o. UNFCCC, UNDRR and the 2030 Agenda)
  - Development of online compendium of good practices on climate change adaptation in transboundary basins
4. Suggested future work in this area

- Supporting transboundary basins in financing climate change adaptation (Resource requirements: $448,000)
  - Organize up to two regional/basin sessions/webinars/training sessions on preparing bankable project proposals for climate change adaptation in transboundary basins (in coordination with programme area 5)
  - Contribute to the development of bankable projects proposals for one or two basins if resources are available
  - Intensify cooperation with global climate funds to increase the importance of water and transboundary cooperation for climate funding mechanisms
- Lead countries: Netherlands and Switzerland
Thank you

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