



9th session of the
**MEETING OF THE PARTIES
TO THE WATER CONVENTION**
29 September – 1 October 2021 Geneva & Hybrid



Programme area 2: Supporting monitoring, assessment and information sharing in transboundary basins in 2019-21

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Rationale



- Joint monitoring and assessment of transboundary waters and information exchange are among the key obligations under the Convention.
- Initiating information exchange is fundamental for developing cooperation.
- Comparable information across a transboundary basin or aquifer is necessary to form a common basis for management and related decision-making.



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1. Main achievements/1



- The capacity of countries to initiate or further develop joint or coordinated monitoring and assessment of transboundary waters was increased through a global workshop and tailored assistance to projects
- A background paper “Outlook for developing monitoring cooperation and exchange of data and information across borders” (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.2/2019/INF.1) describing the approach to monitoring and assessment was prepared.
- Main financial, technical, political and administrative challenges preventing effective data and information exchange as well as joint actions to tackle them were identified in a global workshop. Strengthening the legal basis and frameworks for data exchange was recognized as a crucial measure.
- Conclusions of the evaluation of the existing guidance documents:
 - strategic guidelines still valid, may be complemented by insights from different regions
 - updating of technical guidelines not prioritized for now



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1. Main achievements/2



Projects on the ground

Projects on the ground are supported by the obligations under the Convention as well as the various guidelines and the strategic approach that links developing assessment, monitoring and data collection to the management issues at hand support

- In the UNDP/GEF supported Drin project the riparian countries (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia) developed monitoring cooperation. In the follow-up project joint recommendations were issued regarding data and information exchange as well as improvement of monitoring cooperation
- A set of preliminary study reports were developed on the Senegalo-Mauritanian Aquifer Basin (shared by Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritania, Senegal) , its hydrogeology, pressures, as well as monitoring and data. The monitoring as well as data production and exchange also featured prominently in the Action Plan developed.



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2. Major milestones since 2019



- In 2019: Global workshop on exchange of data and information exchange in transboundary basins and the 15th meeting of the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment
- In 2020: Strategic discussions by region to refine proposals for possible future activities
- In 2021: Online Expert meeting on Monitoring, Assessment and Data Exchange and 16th meeting of the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment



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3. Lessons learnt for future work



- **Strengthen sustainability** of collecting and exchanging data and information in transboundary settings
 - by *enhancing the knowledge on cost-efficient ways* of data collection and integration in monitoring systems (including opportunities from remote sensing data); and
 - By having an appropriate *institutional framework* such as RBOs to ensure the sustainability of data and information exchange;
- Importance of sustainable **financing** of monitoring and assessment should be highlighted



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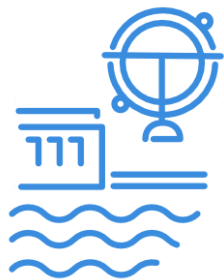
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Thank you



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For more information: <http://unece.org/environment-policy/water/monitoring-assessment-and-information-sharing-transboundary-basins>



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