

Feedback on the Draft
***Updated Strategies for Monitoring and Assessment
of Transboundary Rivers, Lakes and Groundwaters***
and the Draft outline of ***Good practices and lessons
learned in transboundary data exchange***

Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on the Protection and Use
of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes
Tallinn, 28-30 June 2022



International Groundwater Resources Assessment Centre

Feedback on the *Draft Updated Strategies for Monitoring and Assessment of Transboundary Rivers, Lakes and Groundwaters*

- Groundwater systems are 3D, often complex and mostly invisible environments. Their assessment is a long-term effort, demanding significant resources in terms of data collection and interpretation.
- Every new data (including monitoring data) is an opportunity to refine the assessment of groundwater systems. The interpretation of new data is demanding, it is not a simple statistical operation.

8.1.5. Data analysis and interpretation

The conversion of data into information involves analysis and interpretation. Data analysis should be embedded in a data analysis protocol (DAP) which clearly describes how the data should be analysed and interpreted and what should be done in case of missing data, outliers, non-normality and serial correlation.

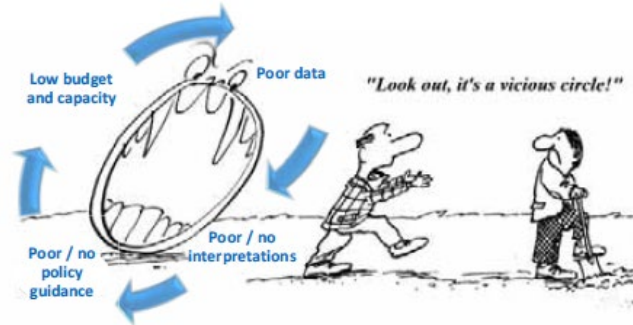
The data analysis may be largely a statistical operation or set of operations using generic software packages. Statistical techniques may be used to detect trends and trend reversals and test for compliance with standards. The use of tailor-made adaptations to the software may be desirable. The DAP should therefore include procedures for processing the monitoring data to meet the specific interpretation needs (for example, calculations based on individual measurements or yearly averages, single sites or averages for the whole water body).

The DAP should be extended to reporting formats for the resulting information. Thus, the DAP should specify the format of the report, the frequency of publication, the intended audience, distribution procedures and the types of conclusions to be drawn and represented.

- The particularity of groundwater assessment could be better reflected in the document, which is mostly about monitoring and data sharing.

Feedback on the Draft outline of *Good practices and lessons learned in transboundary data exchange*

- The focus is usually about groundwater data exchange. More attention should be paid to the actual interpretation of the data.
- Transboundary groundwater data exchange and interpretation requires IT infrastructure, groundwater specialists (hydrogeologists), time, frequent meetings, sometimes with interpreters. This must be adequately planned and budgeted.
- Transboundary groundwater data exchange requires data to be properly collected and managed in the countries, which requires strong institutions.



- Break the vicious circle.
- Provide a detailed budget of all activities, as a basis for fundraising.
- Open data policies can greatly facilitate the sharing of data among countries (time and cost-efficiency).

Thank you for your attention!



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