Global Workshop on Source-to-sea Management

Cross-sectoral and transboundary cooperation: How to break down silos?

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Source to Sea Initiative in ORASECOM

• Born out of Inspiration from the ICPDR study tour in 2008 – lesson about their relationship with the Black Sea Commission.

• Initiated and enabled by GEF financed projects in both ORASECOM and the BCC.

• ORASECOM endorsed the Action Platform on Source to Sea Management in September 2017.
Addressing impacts on the Orange River Mouth

*In context of source to sea concept*

- Increasing water demand
- Changes in water resource quality
- Changes in hydrological regime
- Land degradation

**Strategic Action Programme**

**Changes in hydrological regime**

- Changes in run-off
- Changes in sediment transport
- Changes in nutrient load and other water quality issues

**Interventions**

- Implementation of basin-wide environmental flows
- Joint Basin Surveys
- Rehabilitation of River Mouth
Implementation of basin-wide Environmental Flows

- Basin is relatively highly developed with major infrastructures – including dams
- Dam operations at national level include E-flows releases
- ORASECOM is working towards harmonisation of E-flows across State Parties; to result in implementation at basin level
  - 12 months dedicated to consultations with the four governments and other stakeholders
  - Process considers ecological needs of the River Mouth and downstream users
Joint Basin Surveys

• Every 5 years, ORASECOM conducts a Joint Water Resource Quality Survey (2010, 2015 and 2021)
  • Establishes the ecological status/trends of the River
  • Recommends management actions

• Centers around monitoring of the Aquatic Ecosystem Health (AEH) (fish, macroinvertebrates, water quality (SW and GW), diatoms of the entire river system (source to sea)

• For JBS 3, new monitoring tools were added: microplastics, eDNA and radiological analyses

• Involves the four State Parties, schools, communities, universities, private and public laboratories

• JBS 3 engaged the BCC with the aim of strengthening the link with the estuary and marine ecosystems
Rehabilitation of the Orange-River Mouth

• The two estuarine States (South Africa & Namibia) with support from ORASECOM Secretariat is implementing measures on rehabilitation of the estuary
  • The target is to restore ecological status and to have it re-listed as a RAMSAR site (South African side)
  • Involves development of estuary management plan
  • Implementation of targeted measures to mimic natural flows to the estuary
  • Monitoring of nutrient loads from irrigation
Breaking silos: Stakeholders

Primary stakeholders

• Estuary Parties (Governments Namibia and South Africa)

Secondary

• ORASECOM
• Water users: communities, mines, irrigation farmers, water utilities

ORASECOM Secretariat and BCC Secretariat collaborating to facilitate breaking of silos: (awareness creation, training, participation of stakeholders in activities)