



Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary
Watercourses and International Lakes

Expert Meeting on Good Practices and Lessons Learned in Transboundary Data Exchange

Agenda (Draft)

18 – 19 (am) April 2023, Geneva (Palais des Nations, room XXV) and virtual

Background

Initiating information exchange is fundamental for developing transboundary water cooperation. Comparable information across a transboundary basin or aquifer is necessary to form a common basis for management and related decision-making. In practice, this requires harmonized and comparable methods for monitoring and assessment. Joint monitoring and assessment of transboundary waters and information exchange are therefore among the key obligations of the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention).

The programme of work for 2022-2024 under the Water Convention, *Programme area 2: Supporting monitoring, assessment and information sharing in transboundary basins*, aims to support countries in initiating or further developing joint or coordinated monitoring and assessment of transboundary surface waters and groundwaters, covering both water quantity and quality aspects, and improving exchange of information and data between riparian countries. Among other activities, the programme of work for 2022-2024 envisages the preparation of a new publication *Good practices and lessons learned in transboundary data exchange*.

The Fourth joint meeting of the Working Groups on Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) and on Monitoring and Assessment (Tallinn, 28–30 and 29 June 2022) approved the outline of the new publication *Good practices and lessons learned in transboundary data exchange* (ECE.MP.WAT/WG.1/2022/INF.3-ECE/MP.WAT/WG.2/2022/INF.3), including the template for case studies.

Subsequently, over 45 case studies were received by the secretariat. The purpose of the case studies is to learn from real life examples, including both the difficulties and challenges that countries face and good solutions and ways of organization that countries and joint bodies have found useful. In addition, several case studies were developed following the [Regional workshop on monitoring, assessment and information sharing in transboundary basins in Central Asia](#) (Astana, 1–2 February 2023). Based on the case studies received, the secretariat with support of the lead expert and in consultation with lead Parties, has developed the present first draft.

Objectives

The Expert Meeting will discuss the first draft of publication *Good practices and lessons learned in transboundary data exchange*. Experts are invited to contribute to the development of the publication based on the first draft.

The objectives of the Expert Meeting are to:

- (i) Provide feedback on the structure and text of the first draft of the publication *Good practices and lessons learned in transboundary data exchange*;
- (ii) Comment on the proposed lessons learned and identify additional ones;
- (iii) Comment on the proposed case studies and provide additional ones;
- (iv) Commit to develop additional lessons learned and case studies;
- (v) Discuss next steps to develop the publication.

Languages: English, French, Russian

Three sessions are envisaged: 18 April morning 10:00 – 12:00 CET and afternoon 14:30 – 16:30 CET, 19 April morning 10:00–12:00 CET.

Tuesday, 18 April 2023, 10:00–12:00 CET and 14:30–16:30 CET	
Time	Agenda Item
10:00 – 10:20	Opening of the meeting
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcome on behalf of the lead Parties – Finland and Senegal, <i>Mr. Niokhor Ndour, Senegal</i>• Introduction to activities on monitoring and data exchange in the programme of work for 2022–2024, <i>Ms. Sonja Koepfel, Secretary of the Water Convention</i>• Objectives of and expected input from the Expert meeting, <i>Mr. Erik Salminen, Water Convention Secretariat</i>
10:20 – 12:00	Review of the first draft
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presentation of the first draft of the “Good Practices and Lessons Learned in Transboundary Data Exchange” publication (15 min), <i>Mr. Jos Timmerman, The Netherlands</i><ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Questions and answers, general comments• Chapter 2: Monitoring and assessment context<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Introduction to the lessons learned and case studies (5 min) – <i>Mr. Jos Timmerman</i>○ Discussion• Chapter 3: Set-up of data sharing<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Introduction to the lessons learned and case studies (5 min) – <i>Mr. Erik Salminen</i>○ Discussion <p><i>For each chapter, the following guiding questions are proposed for discussion:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ <i>Are these lessons learned and case studies useful?</i>○ <i>What additional lessons learned can be identified?</i>○ <i>Do you know of other case studies to support lessons learned?</i>○ <i>Who would be ready to prepare additional lessons and case studies?</i>
14:30 – 16:30	Publication Review

- Chapter 4: Types of data and information shared
 - Introduction to the lessons learned and case studies (5 min) – *Ms. Iulia Trombitcaia*
 - Discussion
- Chapter 5: Harmonization and quality assurance
 - Introduction to the lessons learned and case studies (5 min) – *Mr. Jos Timmerman*
 - Discussion
- Chapter 6: Data management, processing and exchange
 - Introduction to the lessons learned and case studies (5 min) – *Mr. Erik Salminen*
 - Discussion

For each chapter, the following guiding questions are proposed for discussion:

- *Are these lessons learned and case studies useful?*
- *What additional lessons learned can be identified?*
- *Do you know of other case studies to support lessons learned?*
- *Who would be ready to prepare additional lessons and case studies?*

Wednesday, 19 April 2023, 10:00–12:00 CET

10:00 – 11:30

Publication Review

- Chapter 7: Reporting and use of data
 - Introduction to the lessons learned and case studies (5 min) – *Mr. Jos Timmerman*
 - Discussion
- Chapter 8: Impacts and benefits
 - Introduction to the lessons learned and case studies (5 min) – *Ms. Iulia Trombitcaia*
 - Discussion
- Chapter 9: Main difficulties and challenges
 - Introduction to the lessons learned and case studies (5 min) – *Mr. Erik Salminen*
 - Discussion

For each chapter, the following guiding questions are proposed for discussion:

- *Are these lessons learned and case studies useful?*
- *What additional lessons learned can be identified?*
- *Do you know of other case studies to support lessons learned?*
- *Who would be ready to prepare additional lessons and case studies?*

11:30 – 12:00

Overview and Next Steps

- Discussion on key messages of the publication (20 min) – *Mr. Jos Timmerman*
- Overview of commitments to provide additional lessons learned and case studies - *Mr. Erik Salminen*
- Conclusion and next steps – *Mr. Niokhor Ndour*