Expert meeting on good practices and lessons learned in transboundary data sharing
Geneva/hybrid, 18-19 April 2023

General Comments

- Use "data sharing" (not data exchange)
- Title in Russian ("good practices")
- Increase introductory parts in chapters, otherwise it is heavily reliant on lessons learned without proper linkages between them
- Expand introductory parts beyond just challenges and good practices
- Groundwater – integrate throughout the report with more case studies
- Number case studies and lessons learned
- Link each case study to the lesson it illustrates. Some illustrate more than one lesson.
- Use descriptive labels and key words in headers of case studies to support readability.
- Redistribution of case studies to strengthen especially chapters 5 and 6 and overall balance.
- Linkages with other relevant documents such as WMO or other Water Convention work

Chapter 2: The monitoring and assessment context

- Add lesson learned: Maintenance of the network requires sustainable funding (La Plata example)
- Additional case study: (under discussion between Finland and Sweden) on migrating fish stocks and required coordination of different authorities at different levels
- Add lesson learned: cooperation and sharing is meaningful if it happens at several levels
- Add lesson learned on the need for synergies to be developed among different levels and actors using the principle of subsidiarity, with a possible case study on reporting at different levels in Africa (African Union/commissions/national/local level)
- Lesson learned: engage with data provides in the country and foster data sharing within the countries
- Lesson learned: Engage with the users of data , enhance interoperability for data to be useful to many people, with a possible case study on La Plata
- Add case study on exchange of hydrological data between Kazakhstan and China

Chapter 3: Set-up of the data sharing

- Add a case study on WMO program on forecasting floods
- Check story/lessons from flood forecasting on a tributary of Sava
- Lesson and case study: Need to analyze specific needs of data sharing in each transboundary basin
- Lesson learned: Possible synergy with satellite data that can complement data gathered through monitoring
- Lesson learned: When we are setting up data sharing it is not only about data to share but also about metadata
- Add to lessons learned the aspect of shared infrastructure (linked with financial sustainability) – where to store the data
- To introduction to these chapter: emphasize that any exchange works over time, specific needs must be addressed and there should be tools available/ there needs to be a common problem that needs to be resolved. Any exchange starts from shared needs.

Chapter 4: Types of data and information shared

- In introductory part highlight that data sharing can start in multiple ways: from a technical project or SDG 6.5.2 reporting and then moving to progressive expansion, intensification, regular exchange

- Provide more guidance and examples on cooperation over data exchange in transboundary aquifers– e.g., case study on Genevese Aquifer

- Add case study on use of innovative technologies, e.g., in Costa Rica

- Add more discussion and examples on benefits from more established case studies

- Add annex referring to relevant international standards

- Take care not to mix types and themes of data – chapter 4 is currently more on themes

Chapter 5: Harmonization and quality assurance

- Add lesson learned / case study emphasizing the importance of a common language, incl. reference frameworks
- Add case study on importance of comparable and homogenic data through a structured process that allows national data to be inputted with a common language used
- Add case study on Water ML 2.0 project on translation of data – example from La Plata
- Add case study on the use of "Regattas" - using same stretch of river with different methods/different teams for comparability – example from Sava

Chapter 6: Data management, processing and exchange

- Update case study on the Amazon basin - updated version to be provided
- Some corrections to be provided to case study on Pretashkent aquifer
- Add notion that common repository is not the only and best solution (especially without strong management practices). Also, when stored in separate places there is risk of duplicating data sets. Simple solutions also needed.
- Add notion that data exchange is based on inter-operability. Data can't be left with the user.
- Add diagrams and maps that illustrate the data being shared if available (chapters 5 and 6)
- Need for more case studies in chapters 5 and 6

Chapter 7: Reporting and use of data

- Add case studies on regular reporting at country / river basin organization / regional organization levels

- Add case study on the importance of timeliness in data delivery/ compromises between quality and timeliness

- Add recommendation to avoid excessive bureaucracy and cumbersome procedure diminishing the usefulness of data

- Add case studies of HYCOS project and Lake Chad

- Add keywords to the case studies to give a quick overview of what the case is about (e.g., 'early stage', 'high level of trust', 'cross-sectoral')

Chapter 8: Impacts and benefits

- Inventory of impacts from case studies to be collected and grouped by UNECE

- Secretariat to check that grouping is correct, e.g., environmental and diplomatic levels are quite far removed.

- Move longer established case studies with illustrations (especially the ones showing benefits already). Original provider of case studies can strengthen the benefits. Examples from e.g., Karavanke or Meuse.

- More focus on importance of benefits of cooperation to increase political will – case study from SDG 6.5.2 reporting

Chapter 9: Main difficulties and challenges

- Inventory of difficulties and challenges to be collected and grouped by UNECE

- Necessary to highlight overall challenges that happen in most cases.

- Increase focus on groundwater and add examples

- Add case studies on benefits of groundwater as part of conjunctive management – examples SMAB and Guarani

Key messages – what not to miss?

- Governance – the importance of data sharing to decision-making
- Importance to organize collaboration between stakeholders at all levels
- Highlight benefits of conjunctive management of surface water and groundwater. Emphasize specific challenges with GW data exchange.
- Emphasize value of sharing data with linkages to early warning for all
- Link the publication to results from the global level, such as SDGs and UN Water Conference, e.g., need to establishing a global information system
- Review UN Water Conference commitments on data sharing that provides information on where we are and how different initiatives link at different scales
- Importance of sustainable funding
- Graphic illustration summarizing key messages

Please contact us throughout the development process regarding more potential key messages.

Next Steps

Activity	Timeframe
Secretariat to send expert meeting summary to participants	April 21, 2023
Experts send inputs and comments to the secretariat. Secretariat and lead expert to follow-up for more case studies and lessons learned. Modifications based on feedback.	May 19, 2023
Lead expert and secretariat to prepare 2nd draft of publication	July 1, 2023
Experts provide feedback on the 2nd draft	July 21, 2023
Additional inputs through regional workshops	Fall 2023
2nd draft reviewed by WGMA	October 17, 2023

Thank you

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

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