

18th meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) under the Water Convention, 19-21 June 2023

Agenda item 8(a)

Source to Sea management as promoting integrated water resources management in transboundary basins

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Global Workshop on Source-to-sea Management (14-16 December 2022, Geneva & online)



Format: 3-day workshop on effective source-to-sea management with practical peer-learning elements

Participants: 316 registered participants (120 in-person, 196 virtual)

Organizers: Water Convention Secretariat, under the leadership of Estonia and Slovenia, in cooperation with UNEP MAP, IOC-UNESCO, SIWI, S2S Platform, GWP, GEF, IW:Learn (funding partners: Sweden and Germany)

Outcomes:

- Transboundary and intersectoral cooperation must be strengthened,
- More awareness and capacity-building are needed,
- Financing of source-to-sea action must be incentivized,
- There is momentum and urgency to accelerate source-to-sea action.



Transboundary and intersectoral cooperation should be strengthened

- **Source to sea** concept- are connections between what we do on land and along rivers, and the impact this has further downstream, along coasts and in the ocean.
- **Transboundary cooperation on planning and management** for shared river basins, as well as coastal zones, should be strengthened
- **Cooperation between freshwater and marine joint bodies**
- **Regional seas conventions**, are important frameworks to work with S2S context
- **Mapping of pollution pathways from source-to-sea** can improve the understanding of common goals and support the prioritization of actions to fight pollution at the local, regional and global scale.
- **Synergies between integrated water resources management, integrated coastal zone management and marine spatial planning**, in order to ensure the **more sustainable development of coastal areas**

More awareness and capacity-building needed



- **To improve understanding** of the different flows of large-scale transboundary river systems to large marine ecosystems
- There is a need to increase awareness and **involve the communities**
- It is important to demonstrate **economic, environmental and social benefits**
- It is necessary to **accelerate actions on the ground** and to **scale up successful solutions**



Urgency to accelerate source-to-sea action

- **Freshwater and ocean pollution** in different regions put at risk the achievement of other Sustainable Development Goals.
- **Source-to-sea challenges** can only be solved **through collective action**. It is essential to bring **together all stakeholders**.
- It is necessary to **reinforce the co-work of decision makers and researchers** in the performance of public policies and coordinating mechanisms among these political areas
- **Pressures from different sources increase** like: diffuse/nutrient pollution, industrial and mining pollution, microplastics and proliferation of toxic chemicals, need to be considered and addressed

Planned future activities

1. The Water Convention can serve as a platform for building capacity, exchanging experience and providing guidance on source-to-sea management.
2. Possible the **preparation of a guidance note** on the implementation of the source-to-sea approach.
3. The guidance note would be developed in cooperation with partners and tailored to the needs of professionals working in the respective areas.

Thank you!



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https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2022-06/ECE_MP.WAT_63_ADD.1_ENG.pdf

