Agenda item 8(a)

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

Harry Liiv
Special Envoy for Transboundary Waters,
Ministry of the Environment, Estonia
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!

unece.org/env/water

harry.liiv@envir.ee;
elise.zerrath@un.org

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