

# GLOBAL WORKSHOP CONJUNCTIVE MANAGEMENT OF SURFACE WATER AND GROUNDWATER: NATIONAL TO TRANSBOUNDARY LEVEL

16 – 17 (a.m.) October 2023

Geneva (Palais des Nations, Room V) and online



The workshop aims to increase understanding of the importance, needs and benefits of conjunctive water management in national and transboundary contexts through the sharing of good practices and lessons learned. It will empower participants through sharing practical tools, solutions and best practices for the promotion of effective and sustainable conjunctive water management. The workshop is organized under the [Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes \(Water Convention\)](#) and also serves as [GEF IW:LEARN global dialogue on conjunctive management of surface water and groundwater](#).

## MONDAY 16 OCTOBER 2023

### OPENING (10:00 – 10:45)

Moderators: Mr. Harry Liiv, Chair of the Bureau of the Water Convention, Ministry of Climate, Estonia and Mr. Aleš Bizjak, Vice-chair of the Bureau of the Water Convention, Ministry of Natural Resources and Spatial Planning, Slovenia

### Welcome remarks

- **H.E. Ms. Anita Pipan**, Permanent Representative of Slovenia to the UN in Geneva
- **Ms. Arnika Kalbus**, Deputy Permanent Representative of Estonia to the UN in Geneva
- **Ms. Dimka Stantchev Skeie**, Policy Advisor, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation

**Welcome and introduction to the objectives of the workshop**, Ms. Sonja Koepfel, Secretary to the Water Convention

**Keynote: Conjunctive Water Management and the Global Agenda**, Ms. Alice Aureli, International Association of Hydrogeologists (IAH)



## **SESSION 1: INTRODUCTION TO CONJUNCTIVE WATER MANAGEMENT (10:45 – 12:00)**

*What is Conjunctive Water Management? How is it applied? Why is it needed? What are the benefits, challenges and pre-requisites?*

Moderator: Mr. Niokhor Ndour, Ministry of Water and Sanitation, Senegal

**Definition and benefits of Conjunctive Water Management**, Ms. Tatiana Dmitrieva, UNESCO-IHP

**Introducing the current state of research and policy development on Conjunctive Water Management**, Mr. Shabby Puri, Centre for Sustainable Solutions with Practical Hydrogeology

**Considerations of Conjunctive Water Management in current international water treaties: A reflective review**, Ms. Karen Villholth, Water Cycle Innovation

**Questions and answers**

**Interactive exercise to collect impressions in implementing Conjunctive Water Management**

## **SESSION 2: TOOLS TO ACHIEVE CONJUNCTIVE WATER MANAGEMENT IN NATIONAL AND TRANSBOUNDARY SETTINGS (12:00 – 13:00, 15:00 – 16:30)**

*What experiences are there related to conjunctive water management? What are possible tools and practices to support it? What are some of the success stories and good practices? Are there differences between national and transboundary implementation?*

### **Technical and scientific tools to support Conjunctive Water Management**

Moderator: Mr. Arnaud Sterckx, International Groundwater Resources Assessment Centre (IGRAC)

**The Strength of Using Isotope Tracers to Indicate why Conjunctive Water Management is necessary**, Ms. Jodie Miller, International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

**Basin water balance modeling with the aim to make transboundary groundwater flow visible**, Mr. Andres Marandi, Geological Survey of Estonia

**Managed Aquifer Recharge as a tool for the management of the Genevese Aquifer**, Mr. Gabriel de los Cobos, Canton of Geneva, Switzerland

**Knowledge as a subsidy for the conjunctive use and management of surface and groundwater**, Mr. Alberto Manganelli, Regional Centre for Groundwater Management in Latin America and the Caribbean (CeReGAS)

**Technical assessment of conjunctive management potential in transboundary basins**, Mr. Kevin Pietersen, Southern African Development Community Groundwater Management Institute (SADC-GMI)

**Questions and Answers**



## **Policy and management tools to support Conjunctive Water Management**

Moderator: Ms. Alice Aureli, International Association of Hydrogeologists

**Tools to improve governance frameworks for Conjunctive Water Management: Draft Articles on the Law of Transboundary Aquifers and Model Provisions on Transboundary Groundwaters**, Mr. Alexandros Kolliopoulos, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Greece

**Integrating groundwater management and transboundary aquifer cooperation in Sub-Saharan lake and river basin organizations**, Mr. Arnaud Sterckx, IGRAC

**Efficiency of groundwater activities within a conjunctive approach**, Mr. Francois Bertone, World Bank

**Good Water Governance – How Conjunctive Water Management may play its role**, Mr. Azeem Shah, International Water Management Institute (IWMI)

**MedProgramme: building capacities on conjunctive management of coastal aquifers in view of National Dialogues in six Mediterranean countries**, Ms. Tatiana Dmitrieva, UNESCO-IHP and Ms. Mona Fakih, Ministry of Energy and Water, Lebanon

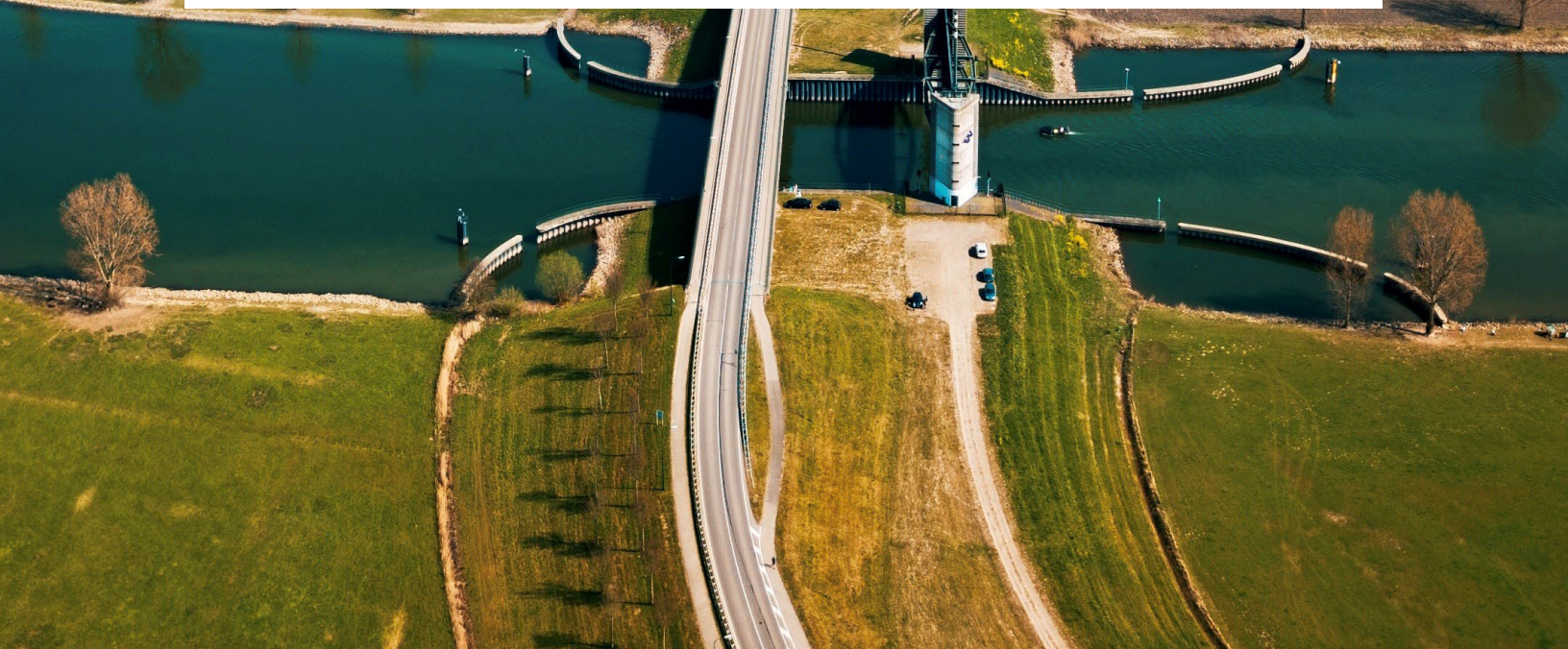
**GEF IW:LEARN Conjunctive Management Hub for sharing resources**, Ms. Claudette Spiteri, GEF IW:LEARN

**Questions and Answers**

## **GROUP WORK: IDENTIFYING OPPORTUNITIES FOR CONJUNCTIVE WATER MANAGEMENT (16:30 – 18:00)**

Introduction by the Water Convention Secretariat

- What can be done on Conjunctive Water Management in your country / transboundary waters?
- What kind of support is needed to apply and advance Conjunctive Water Management?
- What should be the next steps for the Water Convention and globally?





## TUESDAY 17 OCTOBER 2023

### **SESSION 3: CONJUNCTIVE MANAGEMENT OF TRANSBOUNDARY WATERS (10:00 – 11:45)**

*How can conjunctive water management be implemented in a transboundary setting? How can transboundary cooperation foster conjunctive management and vice versa? How do the UN Water Conventions and Draft Articles support conjunctive management?*

Moderators: Ms. Claudette Spiteri, GEF IW:LEARN and Ms. Tatiana Dmitrieva, UNESCO-IHP

#### **Exchange of experiences in conjunctive water management in a transboundary context**

**Modelling groundwater-surface water interactions in the Niger Basin and the Iullemeden-Taoudeni/Tanezrouft Aquifer System (NB-ITTAS)**, Mr. Abdelkader Dodo, Sahara and Sahel Observatory (OSS)

**Enhancing Conjunctive Management of Surface and Groundwater Resources in Selected Transboundary Aquifers: Case Study for Selected Shared Groundwater Bodies in the Nile Basin**, Ms. Maha Abdelraheem Ismail, Nile Basin Initiative

**Transboundary groundwater body Karavanke between Slovenia and Austria - management and governance**, Mr. Mihael Brenčič, University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Natural Sciences and Engineering; Geological Survey of Slovenia (*online*)

**Implementation of the Guarani Aquifer Strategic Action Program: Regional paths for achieving conjunctive water management**, Mr. Ricardo Burg, UNESCO Montevideo

#### **Questions and Answers**

#### **Panel discussion on challenges and opportunities for transboundary conjunctive water management**

##### **Panelists**

- **Ms. Ermela Kraja**, Water Resources Management Agency, Albania
- **Mr. Felix Ogundipe**, Federal Ministry of Water Resources and Sanitation, Nigeria
- **Mr. Sebastian Izquierdo**, United Nations Development Programme (TBC)
- **Mr. Landing Bojan**, Department of Water Resources, the Gambia
- **Mr. Kevin Pietersen**, SADC-GMI
- **Ms. Anna-Stiina Heiskanen**, Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE)



## **SESSION 4: TAKE-HOME MESSAGES AND FUTURE ACTIONS (11:45 – 12:45)**

*Where do we go from here? What are possible future activities on conjunctive management? What are the next steps for the Water Convention and globally?*

Moderator: Mr. Aleš Bizjak, Vice-chair of the Bureau of the Water Convention, Ministry of Natural Resources and Spatial Planning, Slovenia

**Moderated panel discussion of representatives from group work discussions**

**Questions and discussion on strategic directions for future work and next steps**

## **CLOSING REMARKS (12:45 – 13:00)**

- **Mr. Harry Liiv**, Chair of the Bureau of the Water Convention, Ministry of Climate, Estonia
- **Ms. Sonja Koepfel**, Secretary to the Water Convention

## **RECEPTION ON THE INVITATION OF FINLAND (STARTING 18:30)**

## **FURTHER INFORMATION**

All workshop-related documents are available on the meeting web page: <https://unece.org/environmental-policy/events/global-workshop-conjunctive-management-surface-water-and-groundwater>

## **ORGANIZERS**

The global workshop is organized under the auspices of the Water Convention serviced by UNECE, under the leadership of the Ministry of Climate of Estonia, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Spatial Planning of the Republic of Slovenia and UNECE and in partnership with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA), the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE), the International Groundwater Resources Assessment Centre (IGRAC), the Transboundary Aquifers Commission of the International Association of Hydrogeologists (IAH), the Regional Centre for Groundwater Management in Latin America and the Caribbean (CeReGAS), the Sahara and Sahel Observatory (OSS), the Environment Agency Austria (UBA) and GEF IW:LEARN. The Global Workshop is funded by the governments of Finland, Sweden and Switzerland as well as GEF IW:LEARN.