

5th joint meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) and the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment under the Water Convention, 6-8 May 2024

9. Adapting to climate change in transboundary basins

Fleur Verhoef and Jos Timmerman (Netherlands)

**Co-chairs: Niels Vlaanderen (Netherlands)
and Sibylle Vermont (Switzerland)**

1. Main achievements in this area of work



- **Water and transboundary cooperation are mainstreamed into the decisions** on the global goal on adaptation and on the outcome of the first global stocktake **at UNFCCC CoP-28**
- Review of **best practices and sharing knowledge in drought management** under climate change in transboundary basins
- **Progress within the Global network of basins** working on climate change adaptation in transboundary basins
- Steps to **facilitate further funding** for transboundary cooperation in adaptation **in the pilot basins** (the Dniester and the Chu-Talas)

2. How was it achieved?

- [Global Workshop on Droughts in Transboundary Basins](#), Geneva, 26 - 27 February 2024 (UNCCD, UNDRR, WMO, World Bank and INBO)
- [Fourteenth meeting of the Task Force on Water and Climate](#), Geneva, 28 February 2024
- [CoP-28 events](#):
 - “Watering the clean energy transition” (5 December 2023)
 - “Thematic Day on Peace, Security and Health” at the Water for Climate Pavilion (6 December 2023)
 - “Water for peace and security: From risk to resilience” (10 December 2023)
 - “Restoring and conserving wetlands as a tool to reduce water scarcity in transboundary basins” (10 December 2023)
 - “Improving climate resilience through transboundary cooperation” (10 December 2023)





2. How was it achieved?

- **UNFCCC:**

- Adaptation Committee meetings
- Adaptation Forum (18-19 March 2024)
- Workshops and submissions within the process on the global goal on adaptation and UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience.
 - [Submission focused on transboundary aspects for the Glasgow–Sharm el-Sheikh work programme on the global goal on adaptation](#) (September 2023)
 - [Water submission focused on indicators for measuring progress achieved towards the targets of the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience](#) (March 2024, in the framework of UN-Water)

- **Pilot projects:**

- **Dniester basin:** project document developed and approved by GEF in December 2023 (led by OSCE and UNDP in cooperation with UNECE)
- **Chu-Talas basin:** Joint Statement on the Strategic Action Program is signed by the Chu-Talas Commission Co-chairs as one of the requirements for the next GEF project (22 December 2023)

3. Challenges and lessons learned

(based on the outcomes of the Global workshop on droughts)

- I. Droughts are generally a common concern in transboundary basins
- II. Joint bodies are well placed to advise member states in their decisions to maximize the benefits of their collective action in drought management
- III. Drought management begins with sustainable land management and is also about managing water demand
- IV. Monitoring, data management, data analysis, modelling, decision support systems and early warning systems are essential for effective drought risk reduction

3. Challenges and lessons learned

(based on the outcomes of the Global workshop on droughts)

V. Line ministries on, for example, ecosystems, wetlands, forests, water, agriculture, desertification and climate, should work better together

VI. There are many successful examples of transboundary drought monitoring and management around the world that can provide useful lessons for other transboundary basins

3. Challenges and lessons learned

- Although water became more prominent in **climate change agenda**; it still should be **mainstreamed better, especially transboundary aspects**.
- It is very timely to **liaise with your climate negotiators to mainstream transboundary aspects of water management into Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) as well as into UNFCCC COP 29 decisions**.

4. Proposed future activities for 2025-2027

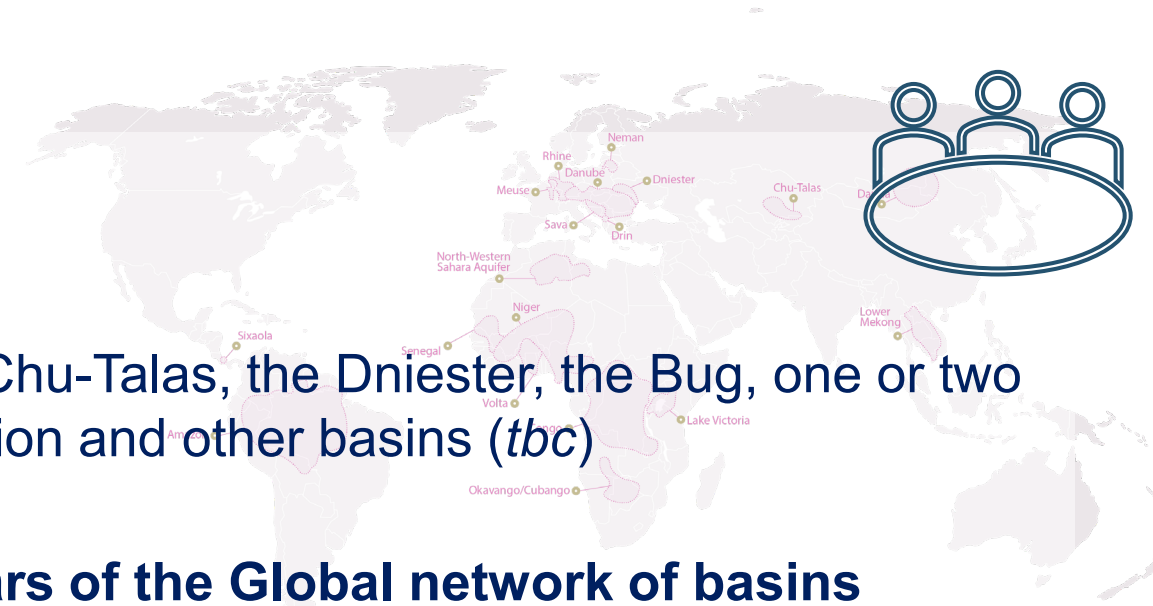
Programme area 4

Supporting development of transboundary adaptation strategies and implementation of priority measures

Possible lead Parties: The Netherlands

Proposed activities:

- Up to 3 **projects in such pilot** basins as the Chu-Talas, the Dniester, the Bug, one or two basins in the Middle East and North Africa region and other basins (*tbc*)
- Organization of up to 2 **meetings and webinars of the Global network of basins working on climate change adaptation**, in cooperation INBO
- **2 meetings of the Task Force on Water and Climate and 1 global workshop on transboundary climate change adaptation and mitigation**



4. Proposed future activities for 2025-2027

Programme area 4

Supporting development of transboundary adaptation strategies and implementation of priority measures

Possible lead Parties: The Netherlands

Proposed activities:

- **Cooperation with global policy processes on climate and disasters**, such as under the UNFCCC, UNDRR and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- **Mainstreaming of water and transboundary cooperation** into national climate-related documents (NDCs, NAPs)
- Creating a **knowledge product on facilitating funding** for climate change adaptation in transboundary basins



5. Partners and Donors



Thank you!



WEB: www.unece.org/env/water



EMAIL: water.convention@un.org
hanna.plotnykova@un.org



RESOURCES:

www.unece.org/env/water/publications/pub.html

<https://unece.org/environment-policy/water/areas-work-convention/water-and-adaptation-climate-change>

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