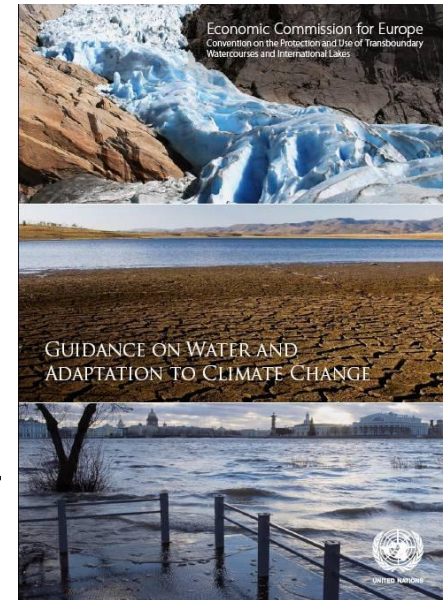




# Climate change adaptation in transboundary basins

Joost Buntsma

Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment  
Directorate General for Spatial Planning and Water



Convention of the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes

## 2. Rationale and background

---

- Climate Change adaptation will become important issue
- Countries need to cooperate when adapting to climate change at the basin-level
- UNECE Water Convention provides an important framework for this through the following provisions:
  - Prevent, control and reduce transboundary impacts including those related to adaptation to or mitigation measures
  - Use waters in a reasonable and equitable way
  - Cooperate on the basis of equality and reciprocity
  - Set joint water quality objectives, use best available technology, exchange information, follow the precautionary principle, develop joint monitoring and common research, assist each other...
- Task Force on Water and Climate set up in 2006



### 3. The main activities since 2009

---

- Guidance on Water and adaptation to climate change (2009)
- Three international workshops / meetings of the Task Force
  - Wide representation of countries and organizations, also outside UNECE region
- Two meetings of the core group on pilots
  - 8 pilot projects – working on vulnerability assessment



# 3<sup>a</sup>. Pilot projects:



## Pilot projects on adaptation to climate change in transboundary basins

Projects directly supported by the  
UNECE Water Convention and ENVSEC

Projects in the programme,  
implemented by other organizations



Amur/Argun/Daursky Biosphere reserve  
"Dauria going dry"



Map produced by ZÖ Environment Network, February 2012



Convention of the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes

## 4a. Major achievements and challenges

---

- Need for transboundary cooperation in climate change adaptation is increasingly recognized, also at UNFCCC and EU.
- More and more countries sharing transboundary basins are starting to cooperate in climate change adaptation
- More and more organizations are working on water and climate change, thus cooperation and partnerships are crucial. This also applies to UNFCCC.





## 4b. Major achievements and challenges

---

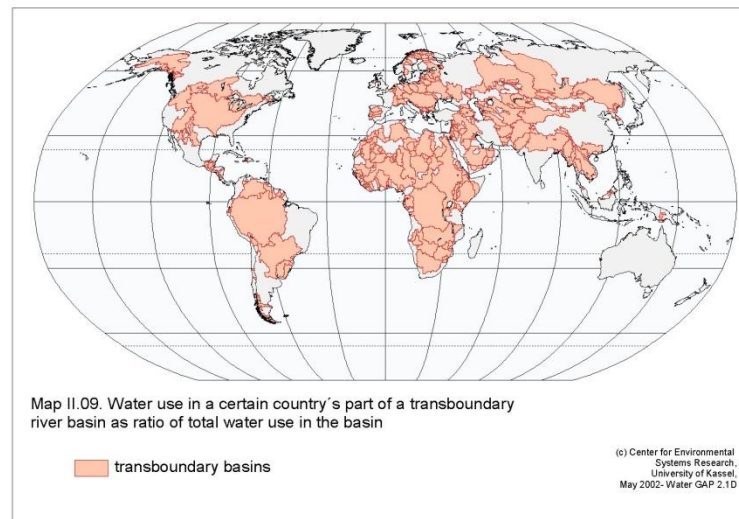
- First basin-wide vulnerability assessment in the Dniester basin elaborated
- Neman pilot project brought together again all riparian countries of the Neman basin discussing joint monitoring and management of the basin
- Danube developed first basin-wide adaptation strategy



## 5. Lessons learnt for future work

---

- High interest by non-ECE countries
- Need and willingness to exchange experiences
- Growing curiosity and necessity to plan real adaptation



## 6. Suggested future work in this area

---

- Transformation of pilot projects programme into global network of basins working on water and climate
- Continuation of platform for exchanging experience, next Water and Climate Change workshop in June 2013
- Continuation of the pilot projects, collection of good practices and lessons learnt

