

The work on climate change under the Water Convention and its Protocol on Water and Health

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



Climate change and water

- Impacts on water resources already visible now
- Through water cascading effects on human health and many parts of the economy and society
- Adaptation is needed now, but very few countries have adaptation strategies, none in the transboundary context



Convention's legal basis for adaptation

Parties shall

- 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, exchange information, follow the precautionary principle, develop joint monitoring and common research, early warning, assist each other
- Cooperate through joint bodies



Protocol's legal basis for adaptation

- Parties shall set targets and target dates in the area of access to water, sanitation, health protection, water and environmental management
- => The Protocol is a planning tool for integration of policies and for adapting to climate change





Water Convention: focus on transboundary issues

- Most of water resources are transboundary
 - Security implications
 - Increase uncertainty (regarding climate change impacts and actions of the riparian countries)
- => Adaptation to climate most important challenge of future transboundary water cooperation





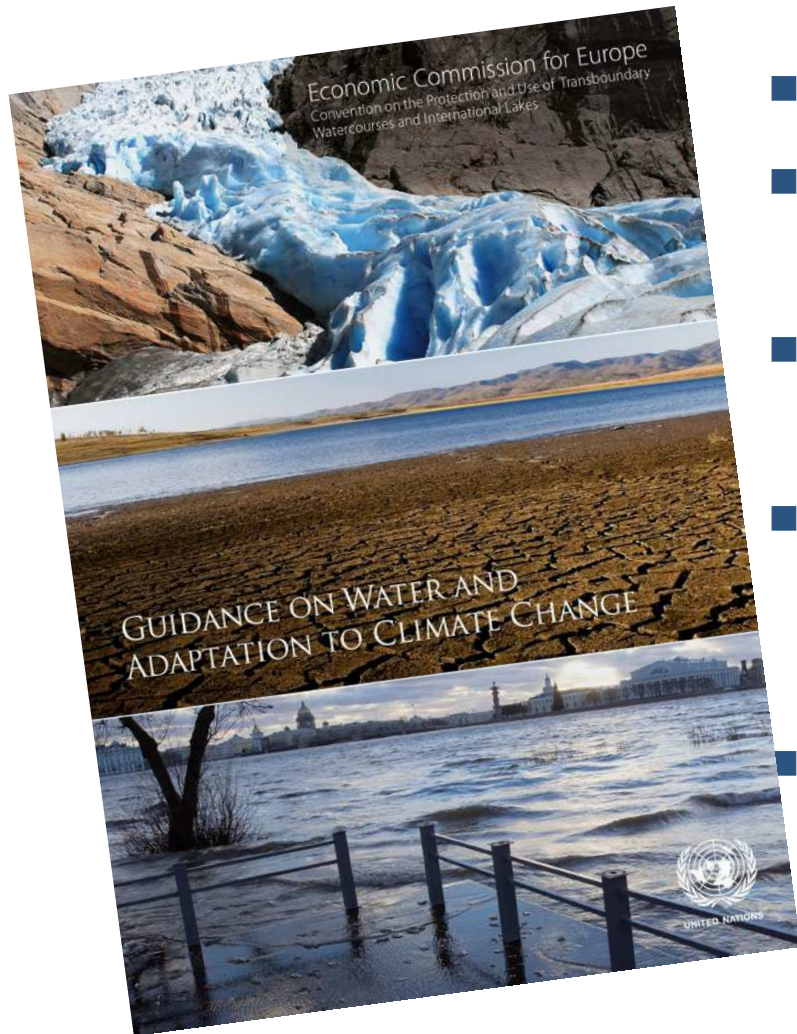
Advantages of cooperation

- Prevent negative impacts of unilateral adaptation measures in riparian countries, thereby preventing potential conflict
- Enable more effective and efficient adaptation through
 - Wider knowledge base
 - Larger planning space: take measures in the basin where they have optimum effect
 - Possibility to share costs and benefits

=> Cooperation reduces uncertainty and costs!

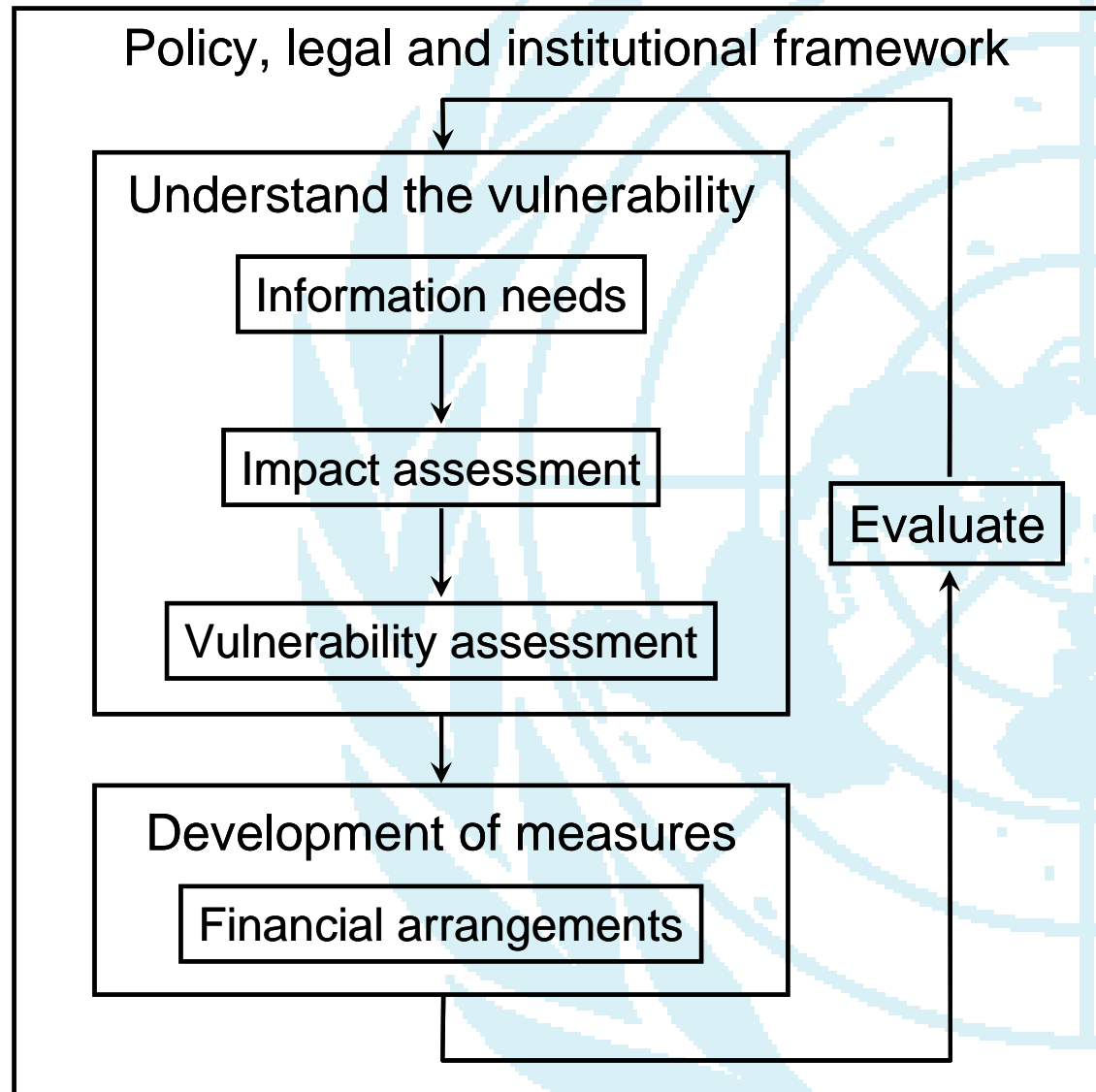


Guidance on water and adaptation to climate change



- Started in 2007
- Builds on existing experience and broad participatory process
- Target group: decision makers and water managers
- General roadmap towards adaptation of water management to climate change
- First joint product with the Protocol on Water and Health


Logical framework: key steps



Next steps

- Adoption at the Meeting of the Parties in November 2009
- Implementation
 - => pilot projects in transboundary basins
 - => platform for sharing information on existing and new experience





Protocol on Water and Health: focus on WSS

- Growing number of extreme and impacts on water supply and sanitation utilities
 - Long term impacts: increase temperature, reduction of water availability, increase demand, decline of water quality..
- => Impacts on health
- => Challenge for WSS operator





Guidance on Water Supply and Sanitation in Extreme Weather Events

- Under development for adoption at the second MOP (October 2010)
- Addresses:
 - Disaster preparedness and early warning
 - Communication in extreme weather events
 - Water safety plans
 - Adaptation measures for water supply
 - Adaptation measures for sewerage and wastewater treatment

