

Astana Water Action - Template for reporting

1. Country/Organization:

Please indicate your name, organization and country.

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2. Title of the action committed to in 2011 (see the annex)

Please indicate the title of the action on the implementation of which you are reporting. Those countries that committed to more than one action please kindly note that a template for reporting should be filled in for each action.

Activities in support of the Regional Dialogue on transboundary water resources management in Southeastern Europe under the Petersberg Phase II / Athens Declaration Process

3. Overview of progress made

(a) *Has the action been implemented?*

Yes / In progress / No

Please elaborate (up to 250 words):

The 'Petersberg Phase II Process' works in synergy since 2005 with the 'Athens Declaration Process' under the joint Petersberg Phase II / Athens Declaration Process (Process) to facilitate the enhancement of cooperation in transboundary basins in the SEE region.

The Global Water Partnership – Mediterranean (GWP-Med) provides administrative support and is the technical facilitator of related activities under the Process. The Process is strategically linked to the Global Environment Facility International Waters: Learning Exchange and Resources Network (IWLEARN) on capacity building and sharing of experiences.

The International Roundtable on Protection and Sustainable Use of Transboundary Waters in Southeastern Europe (Zagreb, 15-16 December 2011) was organized in the framework of the Process by the German Ministry of Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety in cooperation with the Croatian Ministry of Regional Development Forestry and Water Management, GEF IWLEARN, World Bank and GWP-Med.

Fifty (50) participants, high level staff of competent water authorities of the SEE countries as well as key regional stakeholders and international stakeholders attended the event. These included targeted representatives of GEF projects, joint bodies of shared basins, regional associations and networks of civil society organizations, key actors supporting the political processes and regional initiatives, academia, donor countries and international institutions and organizations etc.

(b) *What challenges were encountered during the implementation of the action?*

What lessons were learned?

(up to 250 words)

Since 2005 a variety of activities including regional roundtables, multi-stakeholders dialogues, targeted capacity building workshops and study visits, preparation of assessments, surveys and policy documents (on issues such as shared lakes basin management; multipurpose water management; shared groundwater management; climate change; stakeholders involvement; etc), have been implemented aiming at enhancing cooperation among SEE countries and stakeholders for the management of transboundary water resources. More than 150 stakeholder organizations, governments and other entities have been engaged in these activities.

Overall, the Process has been catalytic in facilitating coordination among key international and national players in the areas of focus and has attracted the interest of beneficiary countries and donors.

(c) *What future steps, if any, are planned in relation to the action implementation/follow up?*

(up to 250 words)

The international roundtable (Zagreb, 15-16 December 2011, see under 3. (a)) indicated sustainable hydropower production as an issue for a future event under the Process to focus on. In SEE, shared water resources are among the major contributors to the energy sector through hydropower generation while overall, the same water resources are used for agriculture production, industry, to sustain ecosystems etc. An International Roundtable on Water and Energy Nexus in transboundary basins in Southeastern Europe is scheduled for early November 2013 in Sarajevo to discuss these issues.

4. *Usefulness of the Astana Water Action*

Please indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with the following statements and provide an explanation, as appropriate.

(a) *The Astana Water Action was useful to strengthen political support related to sustainable water management issues:*

strongly agree / somewhat agree / somewhat disagree / strongly disagree

Please elaborate (up to 250 words):

If it strengthened political support was depending on the country and region. For Germany the Astana Water Action was not really necessary to strengthen political support, but the Action highlighted the importance of sustainable water management issues and was in this sense also a useful symbolic action for Germany.

(b) *The Astana Water Action has helped my country to comply with its international obligations:*

strongly agree / somewhat agree / somewhat disagree / strongly disagree

If agreeing, please elaborate how (e.g. European Union Directives, UNECE and other environmental agreements, Millennium Development Goals, Commitments made within the "Environment for Europe" process) (up to 250 words)

...

(c) *Would your country be interested in continuing to submit and monitor new actions within the AWA framework in the future?*

Yes / No

Please elaborate (up to 250 words)

See explanation in 4. a).

Nevertheless Germany would participate in a follow-up if other countries were interested.