



Second Workshop

River Basin Commissions and other Joint Bodies for Transboundary Water Cooperation: Technical Aspects

Provisional programme

9-10 April 2014

Room VII, Palais des Nations, Geneva



Draft Program – v. 8 April 2014

DAY ONE, Wednesday, 9 April, 10.00 – 13.00 & 15.00 – 18.00

9.30 Coffee/tea

10.00 **Opening session**

Chair: Ms. Heide Jekel, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety, Germany

Opening remarks from UNECE

Mr. Marco Keiner, Director, Environment Division, UNECE

Opening remarks on behalf of the lead countries,

Ms. Lea Kauppi/Mr. Seppo Rekolainen, Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE)

10.20 Key note address: Lessons learnt from the support to transboundary cooperation world-wide funded by the Global Environmental Facility (GEF)
Ms. Astrid Hillers, Senior Environmental Specialist, GEF

Introduction to the objectives and program of the workshop

Ms. Annukka Lipponen, Environmental Affairs Officer, UNECE

10.50 **Session 1: Making environmental protection work in transboundary cooperation**

Chair: Mr. Alejandro Iza, Environmental Law Centre, International Union for Conservation of Nature

1. Transboundary cooperation on Lake Ohrid
Mr. Dejan Panovski, Head of Unit for protection of Ohrid Lake, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
2. Environmental considerations in the Treaty on Cooperation on the Conservation and Sustainable Development of the Dniester River Basin (2012) between Ukraine and Republic of Moldova: some perspectives,
Ms. Olga Lysiuk, Head of Water Resources Utilization, State Agency of Water Resources, Ukraine
Comments by Ms. Nadejda Chilaru, Advisory Officer, Water Management Department, Ministry of Environment, Republic of Moldova
3. Transboundary environmental challenges in the Volta River Basin and what can be done to address them
Mr. Charles Biney, Executive Director, Volta Basin Authority
4. Setting up cooperation to reduce pollution of the River Plate
Mr. Marco Vermaasen, Argentine National Coordinator, Freplata GEF project
5. Making space for the nature in a developed river basin – the Master Plan Migratory Fish and Habitat patch connectivity atlas for the Rhine
Mr. Ben van de Wetering, Secretary General, International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine

Q&A – moderated discussion

13.00 Lunch

15.00 **Session 2: Cooperation in the development and management of infrastructure**

*Chair: Mr. André Weidenhaupt, First Counsellor of Government
Ministry of Sustainable Development and Infrastructure, Luxembourg*

1. The regional infrastructure programme in the Senegal River Basin
Mr. Mohamed Fawzi Bedredine, Organisation for the Development of the Senegal River (OMVS)
2. Transboundary cooperation in the operation and maintenance of water management infrastructure in the Chu and Talas River Basins
Mr. Tilek Isabekov, Head of the Kyrgyz section of the Secretariat of the Chu-Talas Commission
Comments by Mr. Mukhtar Zhakenov, Water and Biological Resources Department, Ministry of Environment and Water Resources, Kazakhstan (TBC)
3. Joint development of infrastructure on transboundary rivers, sharing costs and benefits: experience of the Islamic Republic of Iran
Mr. Jabbar Vatanfada, General Director and Mr. Changiz Hajimesgari, Director of Dusti Dam Operation, Boundary Rivers and Shared Water Resources, Ministry of Energy (Water and Electricity), Iran (TBC)
4. Albufeira convention: cooperation in the management of infrastructures and coordination of water demands in transboundary context, *Ms. Tania Gutiérrez, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment, Spain*

Q&A – moderated discussion about negotiating infrastructure projects in transboundary settings, about sharing costs and benefits. What does development require of the legal and institutional basis?

16.20 **Session 3: Funding transboundary cooperation**

Funding mechanisms of river basin organisations: an overview and some examples

Ms. Susanne Schmeier, Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)
Sustainable financing of joint bodies – perspective of a joint bodies' party
Ms. Heide Jekel, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB), Germany

16.50 Discussion in groups: Ways of financing of joint bodies – alternatives for different scope of operation/activities, stabilising financing, joint programmes with specific budgets or not, fund-raising mandates etc.

18.00 Closing of day one (in groups)

18.30 Reception at the joint invitation of the Finnish Permanent Mission in Geneva and the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety, in the Finnish Residence (address: 149A route de Ferney).

DAY TWO, Thursday, 10 April, 9.30 - 12.30 & 14.30 - 17.30

9.30 Looking back at yesterday's results and today's program
Mr. Seppo Rekolainen, SYKE

9.35 Feedback from Session 3 (group work)

10.00 **Session 4: Coordinating different water uses and accommodating them better**

Chair: Mr. Seppo Rekolainen, SYKE

1. Assessment of the Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems Nexus in the Alazani/Ganykh Basin under the Water Convention
Ms. Mariam Makarova, Head Water Resources Management Service, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection, Georgia
2. Costa Rica – Panama bilateral commission for integrated management of the Sixaola River Basin
Mr. José Joaquín Chacón, Deputy Director, Water Directorate, Ministry of Environment and Energy, Costa Rica
3. Guidelines for balancing different water uses: navigation and environment, sustainable hydropower development,
Mr. Raimund Mair, Technical Expert on River Basin Management, International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR)

Q&A – moderated discussion about good practices to improve coordination between different uses, finding synergies and reconcile conflicts between uses

11.15 **Session 5: "Marketplace of tools and approaches"**

Presentation and discussion of specific tools and approaches in roundtable format in small groups (2 rounds), focusing on applicability, benefits and limitations, as well as comparison of experiences (replicability?)

Example 1. Capacity building tools applied in the framework of the Nile Basin Initiative, *Mr. Abdul Karim Seid, Head, Water Resources Management; Nile Basin Initiative Secretariat, Uganda*

Example 2. Experiences of Small Basin Councils for cooperation on small transboundary rivers of Central Asia, *Ms Guljamal Jumamuratova, Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC)*

Example 3. Tisza Group for Sub-basin Cooperation of Five Countries, *Mr. Peter Kovacs, Head of River Basin Management Department at the Ministry of Interior, Hungary*

Example 4. Assessing governance in transboundary river basins – the TWAP approach, *Ms. Anna Forslund, Stockholm International Water Institute, on behalf of the Transboundary Waters Assessment Programme (TWAP)*

Example 5. The Lake Chad water charter as a vehicle for sub-regional integration and security, *Mr. Nguemadjita Djasrabe, Head of Hydrology Division, Directorate of Water Resources and Meteorology, Chad*

Example 6. Integrated Water resources management in the Congo basin, *Mr. Blaise-Léandre Tondo, Expert Principal, International Commission of the Congo-Oubangui-Sangha Basin (CICOS)*

Example 7. Approaches towards a climate change adaptation strategy in the Rhine and the Moselle-Saar Basins, *Mr. André Weidenhaupt, First Counsellor of Government, Ministry of Sustainable Development and Infrastructure, Luxembourg*

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Example 8. Alternatives to determine the scope bilateral agreements between Peru and Ecuador, *Ms Lucia Trindade, Subdirector of Transboundary Waters, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Peru*

12.30 Lunch

13.45 Informal briefing: Adaptation to climate change in transboundary basins – programme of pilot projects under the UNECE Water Convention

14.30 **Session 6: Challenges in the management of joint bodies: Communication and establishing contacts with different stakeholders**

Chair: *Mr. Jean-François Donzier, General Director and Permanent Technical Secretary, International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO)*

Introduction to session:

Towards better communication strategy and stakeholder engagement: experience from the International Sava River Basin Commission (ISRBC), *Mr. Dejan Komatina, Secretary, ISRBC*

Q&A – moderated discussion about the challenges of effective communication to different stakeholder groups and ways to improve the practices. What are the key principles?

15.30 **Session 7: Management of transboundary groundwater resources**

Chair: *Ms. Alice Aureli, Chief of Section on Groundwater Systems, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization*

1. Stampriet aquifer: the setting, need for transboundary cooperation in managing the resource, and the process for developing a joint coordination mechanism
Ms. Aina Iлека, Chief Hydrogeologist, Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry, Namibia
2. Coordination mechanism on the North-West Sahara Aquifer System, development scenarios and the future outlook
Mr. Djamel Latrech, Sahara and Sahel Observatory (OSS), Tunisia
3. Plan/options for supporting inter-sectoral coordination in managing the transboundary Dinaric Karst Aquifer System in the DIKTAS project
Ms. Mirela Hahn, Directorate for Water Management, Ministry of Agriculture, Croatia
4. Assessment of transboundary groundwater bodies in the Scheldt River Basin, transboundary coordination of measures and linking to River Basin Management Plan
Mr. Arnould Lefébure, Secretary General, International Scheldt Commission (ISC)
5. Transboundary aquifer of Pretashkent
Mr. Timur Mavlyanov, Head of Department State Committee on Geology and Mineral Resources, Uzbekistan

Q&A – moderated discussion

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16.45 **Closing session**

Chair: Ms. Heide Jekel, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety, Germany

Looking back and evaluation of the workshop: Ms. Heide Jekel, BMUB and Susanne Schmeier, GIZ

Review of the principles of organisation and activities identified as increasing the efficiency of joint bodies and contributing to reaching a mature level in transboundary cooperation based on the pan-European experience (UNECE 2009¹). The participants are encouraged to comment on the validity of the principles in the light of the experiences globally, and complement the list if appropriate.

Possible needs for further action on joint bodies in the framework of the Water Convention

17.30 End of the workshop

¹ See the conclusions and recommendations in the publication “River basin commissions and other institutions for transboundary water cooperation”. Capacity for Water Cooperation in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia. United Nations, New York and Geneva. 2009, 39-41.