

Assessment of transboundary waters

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Rationale and background

- Purpose is to keep the status of transboundary waters under scrutiny
- Article 11 of the Water Convention: The Riparian Parties shall, at regular intervals, carry out joint or coordinated assessments of the conditions of transboundary waters and the effectiveness of measures taken for the prevention, control and reduction of transboundary impact.
- Various technical guidelines published on monitoring and assessment (rivers, lakes, groundwaters, water quality etc.), strategies for M&A, pilot projects, First and Second Assessments



Some lessons learnt

- The process is as important as the final product for dialogue, capacity building & exchange of experiences
- Strategic partnerships needed
- Environmental changes are slow
- Intersectoral coordination at national level!
- Much information on status and pressures, but what about the impact of responses?
- Different approaches/methodologies complicate regional assessments, e.g. water quality , ecological status
- To keep the effort manageable: Well designed and targeted collection of information, complementary information sources, seek synergy with other reporting processes



The actual assessment landscape, the outlook and the Convention's opportunity

- *3rd assessment for 2018 or 2021 (in line with the MoP-6 decision)? The value added?*
- *Geographical scope? To reflect the Convention's opening?*
- *Opportunities:*
 - *Special edition on water-food-energy nexus provides intersectoral perspectives*
 - *Baseline from earlier regional assessments*
 - *Visible changes compared to 2010/2011!*
 - *A possible vehicle to respond to some needs related to reporting under the Convention?*
- *Global efforts on-going and emerging, partly anticipating SDG related monitoring needs, all with a particular focus (TWAP, WHO-UNEP-Habitat etc.)*

