

Assessing the benefits of transboundary water cooperation



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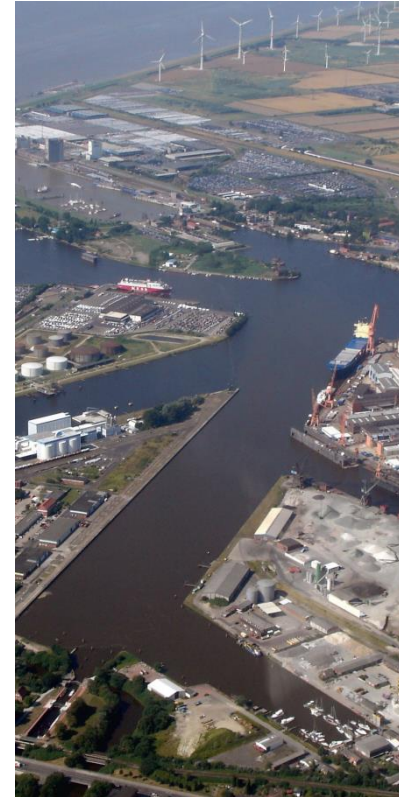


Background

- Objectives

Support governments and other actors in realizing the potential benefits of transboundary water cooperation by:

1. Providing overview of full set of potential benefits
 2. How they can be assessed
 3. How benefits assessment can be integrated into policy process
- Development of a policy guidance note on assessing the benefits of transboundary water cooperation



Progress achieved

- Draft annotated outline of the policy guidance note presented in several events (Stockholm WWW, GEF International Water Conference, International Water Forum in Quebec..)
- Call for case studies: January 2014 (42 case studies received)
- Development of a background report on economic and environmental benefits of transboundary water cooperation
- First draft of the Policy Guidance Note developed
- Workshop «Counting our gains»: 22-23 May 2014
 - Interactive exchange of experiences about the identification, assessment and communication of benefits
 - Concrete examples identified to further develop the Guidance Note

Progress achieved

First draft of the Policy Guidance Note

- **Ch1** – Setting the stage
- **Ch2** – A policy-focused benefits assessment framework
 - *Tying benefit assessment to policy process; Benefits-assessment framework; Benefit assessment to benefit sharing*
- **Ch3** – Identifying the benefits of TWC
 - *Need to identify benefits; Types of benefits; Challenges & opportunities for identification of benefits*
- **Ch4** – Assessing benefits of TWC
 - *How to approach TWC benefits assessment; Assessing the different types of TWC benefits*
- **Ch5** – Communicating the TWC benefits assessment results
 - *Communication to support policy processes; How to approach communication efforts; Communication for specific purposes*



Challenges and lessons learnt

- Strong interest from countries, but also donors (GEF...) and international organizations (RAMSAR, UNESCO...)
- Benefits assessment is useful and part of governance framework
- No one size fits all:
 - Basins (relative importance of each potential benefit)
 - Purpose of benefits assessment (launching transboundary water cooperation, strategic planning, operational planning) → match to maturity of process
- Not all benefits can be quantified, little work done on geopolitical benefits

Planned activities until 2015 and possibly beyond

- Revision of the draft Policy Guidance Note to incorporate messages and examples, develop “how to assess” subsections and “how to use this document” subsection
- Need for additional background work on (geo)political benefits: description, assessment
- Expert group meeting to be held in January 2015 in Estonia to finalize the Policy Guidance Note
- Future promotion of the Policy Guidance Note in transboundary basin?