

# Task Force on Water and Climate

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# Progress and activities in 2017-2018

- \* Progress on the pilot projects, including the Global Network of Basins Working on Climate Change
  - \* *Neman – elements of a joint river basin management plan elaborated (joint delineation of water bodies, classification of status)*
  - \* *Chu Talas – preparation of the Strategic Action Plan with an adaptation component and implementation of pilot adaptation measures with UNDP-GEF project*
  - \* *Dniester – finalization of the Implementation Plan for the Strategic Framework for Basin Adaptation with OSCE*
  - \* *Sava – Development of the Baseline work and extended outline of the transboundary climate change adaptation strategy with INBO*

# Progress and activities in 2017-2018

- \* International Workshop on Water Scarcity: Taking action in transboundary basins and reducing health impacts, 11 - 12 December 2017, Geneva
  - \* Organized jointly with the Protocol on Water and Health and numerous partners; more than 140 participants
  - \* Topics: How to design transboundary agreements flexibly to address water scarcity? How to make reuse of water efficient and safe? Etc.



# Remaining activities to be carried out before the MOP 8

- \* Finalisation of words into action guide for Addressing Water-Related Disasters and Transboundary Cooperation in cooperation with UNISDR
- \* Finalisation of the Publication on preparing bankable project proposals for climate change adaptation in transboundary basins together with the World Bank, AFDB, EIB, INBO

# Main achievements since 2016

- \* Raised importance on transboundary cooperation in global processes by providing input to water days at COP22 and COP23
- \* Supported basins in raising funding for climate change adaptation at transboundary level and achieved convergent views on this topic with global financial institutions through:
  - \* Global workshop on financing climate change adaptation in 2016
  - \* Training on how to prepare bankable project proposals for financing climate change adaptation in transboundary basins (Dakar, 21-23 June 2017) with the World Bank, AFDB, EIB, INBO
  - \* Publication on preparing bankable project proposals for climate change adaptation in transboundary basins prepared with these partners
- \* Words into action guide for Addressing Water-Related Disasters and Transboundary Cooperation developed with ISDR
- \* Started work on emerging topic of water scarcity in transboundary basins
- \* In the Dniester and Chu Talas basins, adaptive capacity was increased by implementing adaptation measures beneficial from a transboundary perspective.

# Lessons learned and challenges in the work since 2016

- \* *Water scarcity and droughts are occurring more and more frequently and with increased magnitude, even in previously water-rich countries*
- \* *Water scarcity can negatively affect water supply and sanitation services*
- \* *Water scarcity may also limit economic growth:*
  - \* *decline in agricultural production*
  - \* *affect the environment and biodiversity by reducing environmental flow*
  - \* *lead to conflicts within and across countries*
  - \* *act as a migration push factor*

# Lessons learned and challenges in the work since 2016

- \* Need to include water scarcity into transboundary cooperation agreements - Most attention for adaptation at global level is at national and local level (NDCs, NAPs etc.) - much more work needed to demonstrate benefits of basin perspective*
- \* Need to address health implication of water scarcity*
- \* Groundwater is important in water stressed region but currently often over-exploited*
- \* Financing climate change adaptation in transboundary basins is very complicated; basin organizations need support in developing bankable project proposals. Even banks define different what constitutes a bankable project in this context*
- \* Need to continue the exchange of experience between basins and to enlarge the network of basins to Latin America*

# Suggested future work for the next workplan 2019-2021

- \* Continue exchange of experience on climate change adaptation in transboundary basins: 2 global workshops and continuation of global network of basins working on climate change adaptation
- \* Continue the program of pilot projects
- \* Continue capacity-building on financing climate change adaptation in transboundary basins
- \* Contribute to global policy processes on water, climate and disasters