Programme Area 5: Facilitate the financing of transboundary water cooperation

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Progress and activities in this area of work:

High-level workshop on financing transboundary basins development on 9 Oct. 2018 organized with GEF-IW LEARN, World Bank, EIB, ADB, Kazakhstan, the Netherlands and Switzerland:

→ 100 participants with about 10 Ministers, 30 countries, 7 River Basin Organizations

→ Case studies/experiences sharing from countries/RBO (from 12 shared basins) to discuss **fundings sources** and **modalities** for:
  - Cooperation processes and institutions
  - Information production and sharing
  - Infrastructure investments

→ Main Outcome: **conclusions/recommendations** shared at the high-level segment of the Water Convention MOP 8
• Contribution to global discussions on financing transboundary water cooperation in international meetings such as the Joint IW:LEARN & LME:LEARN Project 2019 Steering Committee Meeting (May 2019)

• Increased partnerships with organizations/IFIs on financing issue:
  - African Development Bank (AfDB)
  - United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)
  - Geneva Water Hub
  - Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and Development (OECD)
  - WWF

• Special mission in Washington DC in March 2019 to strengthen partnerships with the World Bank and the Global Environment Facility (GEF)
• Mission to Abidjan (Ivory Coast) to strengthen partnership with the African Development Bank
Some key messages of the discussions:

* Access to financing for transboundary activities requires a strong institutional framework at basin level, a common strategic vision of the basin development, political leadership from riparian countries and capacity to set up bankable projects.

* Multilateral and regional development banks contribute to build trust among riparian countries and can provide capacity building to countries and basins on how to access funding to improve transboundary water management and cooperation.
Lessons learned and challenges

- Partnering and working closely with different International Financial Institutions (IFIs) is key;
- The private sector offers a new potential to leverage additional funding for cooperation and basin development (including blended finance);
- Countries, basins institutions and financial actors need to better understand each other (speak the same language);
- RBOs models (legal and financial status) may play a key role in their capacity to access financing for transboundary water cooperation and management;
- There is a need to further engage Ministries of finance into the discussion.
- Leverage the potential of water as an entry point for multi-sectoral collaboration (e.g. Blue Peace approach)
Planned future activities in this area in 2019-2021:

16-18 December 2020:
Global workshop on financing transboundary water cooperation and basin development in partnership with Switzerland, The Netherlands, AfDB, ADB, EIB, The World Bank, GEF, GEF IW-LEARN, OECD, WWF.

Objective?
→ Discuss opportunities and challenges with regards to financing of transboundary water cooperation and enable countries and RBOs to learn about financial mechanisms available for transboundary water cooperation.

Preparation of the workshop:
→ Background study on financing opportunities and challenges for transboundary water cooperation and basin development will be developed.
→ Collection of good practices and lessons learnt on financing transboundary water cooperation received from countries and basins.
Thank You!
* INTERACTIVE GROUP DISCUSSION*