



Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment

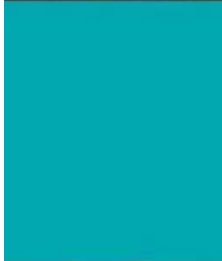
The Second Assessment of Transboundary Rivers, Lakes and Groundwaters in the UNECE Region

Annikka Lipponen

Environmental Affairs Officer, UNECE
Coordinator of the Second Assessment



Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes



Objectives of the assessment

- Serve as point of reference for Governments, IGOs, NGOs to improve management and status of waters
- Highlight achievements in IWRM at transboundary level & strengthen the integrated river basin approach
- Provide an up-to-date overview of pressures, status & trends in managing transboundary waters of the region, highlighting joint priorities → strengthened knowledge base for further action
- Identify situations of water crisis
- process itself allows exchange of experience and increasing understanding of the problems and solutions in the whole ECE region
- Provide guidance for strategic investments



ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE
Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses
and International Lakes



OUR WATERS: JOINING HANDS ACROSS BORDERS

First Assessment of Transboundary Rivers, Lakes and Groundwaters



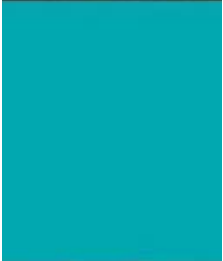
Scope

- UNECE region
- Emphasis on EECCA/Central Asia

140 rivers
30 lakes
200 aquifers

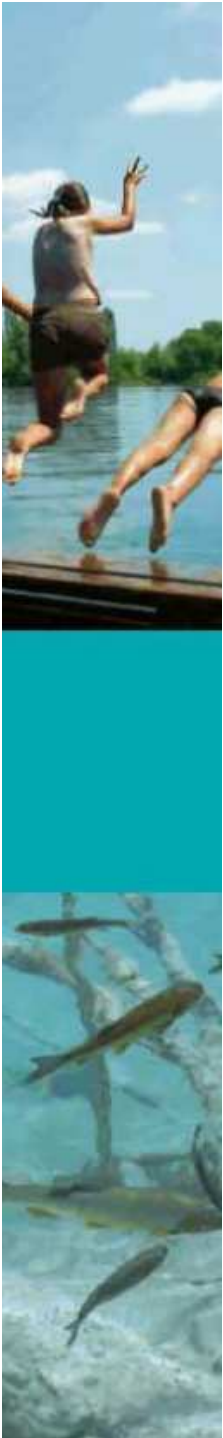
Second assessment: thematics

- Address gaps of 1st assessment, thus more focus on:
 - Water quantity issues
 - Groundwaters
- Transboundary cooperation (agreements, joint bodies, M&A...)
- Impacts of climate change
- Economic and social aspects, health issues, security aspects
- Ecological aspects, biodiversity, Ramsar sites



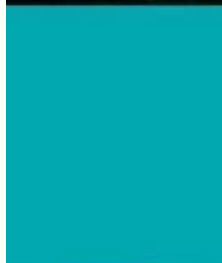
Approach to preparing the second assessment

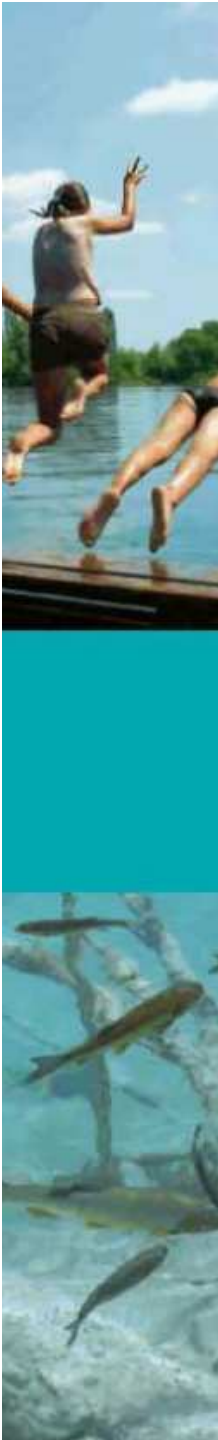
- National experts play a crucial role, the secretariat coordinates the work
- Data collection based on datasheets prefilled by the secretariat, using the first assessment, EPRs, documents made available by the countries; sheets sent to countries for complementing and updates
- Regional workshops are an important part of the preparatory process
- River and lake commissions involved in the preparation of assessments by basin
- Assessment structured based on DPSIR approach



Information collected

- Surface and groundwater resources: distribution among the riparian countries within a basin/aquifer
- Pressures and their importance (water uses, polluting activities, diversion etc)
- Quality and quantity status of transboundary watercourses
- Transboundary impacts
- Cooperation: joint bodies, agreements, joint monitoring etc
- Trends
- Response measures taken

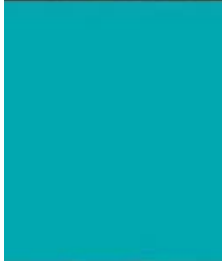




Assessment of transboundary waters in South- Eastern Europe: 1st sub-region tackled

Contents

- Sub-regional summary (according to agreed outline): highlighting specificities of the region
- Fact and figures on transboundary waters based on the datasheets
- A number of Ramsar sites assessed
- Annexes: 1) brief description of the water resources management framework in each SEE country, 2) formal agreements for the management of transboundary water bodies



Next steps in the process

- **10-12 November:** discussion and endorsement of SEE assessment at MOP5
- **December 2009:** sub-regional meeting & assessment for Caucasus
- **April 2010:** subregional meeting & assessment for western EECCA and neighbouring EU countries
- **October 2010:** sub-regional meeting & assessment for Central Asia
- **January 2011:** Western Europe and the Nordic countries
- **2011:** Seventh "Environment for Europe" Ministerial Conference will consider the Assessment



Support welcome from WGEMA

- Linking water and other environmental issues
- Collection of relevant official data from the countries
- Coordination with other reports prepared for Astana

