

Identifying, assessing and communicating benefits of transboundary water cooperation and the history and lessons learned of transboundary water cooperation in the Sava river basin

Dragana Milovanović,
Republic of Serbia, Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental
Protection, Water Directorate

General Principles of Transboundary Cooperation
Campeche, 3-4. October 2016



UNECE CONAGUA
COMISION NACIONAL DEL AGUA



SEMARNAT
SECRETARÍA DE MEDIOAMBIENTE
Y ENERGÍA



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun Svizra

ECLAC

Rationale for the work on the benefits of cooperation under the Water Convention

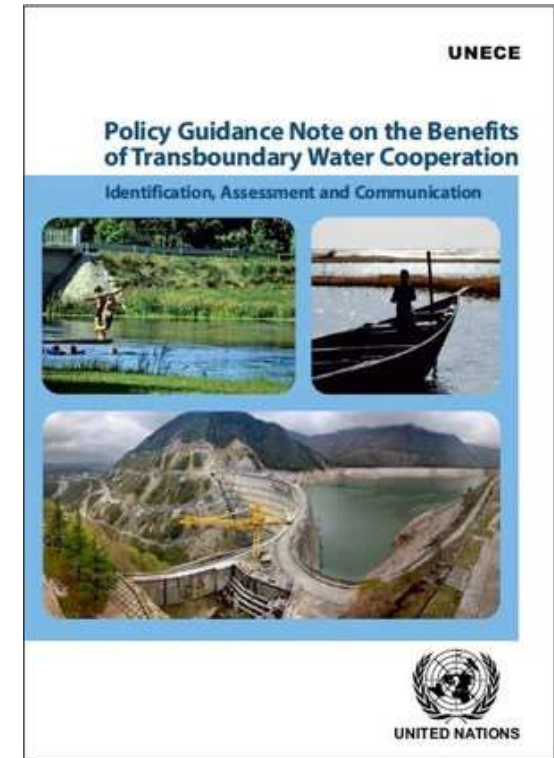


- As cooperation is one of the main obligations of Water Convention, countries preparing for accession to or implementing the Convention naturally reflect on what benefits such cooperation can bring.
- A constructive dialogue and identification of common interest among riparians and with partners is necessary
- Sharing / solidarity / political willingness essential for progress, and identification of windows of opportunity!
- A benefit assessment exercise can help countries to fully realize the potential benefits of cooperation.



The Policy Guidance Note

- ▶ **Aim:** to support governments and other actors in realising the potential benefits of transboundary water cooperation
- ▶ **Scope:** global, both surface and underground waters
- ▶ **Development:** 3 workshops, case studies from 15 basins
- ▶ **Product:** official UNECE publication



The process of preparation

- ▶ Collection of cases and participatory process attracted great interest from around the world
- ▶ Responded to needs and interests of well-established river basin organizations
- ▶ Facilitated dialogue between the community of policymakers and academia on the needs and existing approaches and experiences of such assessments
- ▶ Highlighted need to bridge the gap between the water and foreign policy communities and to mainstream water diplomacy into foreign policy



Republic of Serbia – river network



Serbia on the Danube: most of the territory (more than 90%) falls within the Danube River Basin.
All major rivers (except the Morava) define or cross the state border.

- **The Danube** River Basin is shared by 19 states (14 with significant catchment areas). The middle course of the Danube runs through Serbia or along its state border: 588 km or 20.6% of total length. Two major tributaries join the Danube in Serbia: the Tisa (largest in terms of catchment area) and the Sava (most significant in terms of volume).
- The catchment area of the largest left tributary of the Danube – **the Tisa** – is shared by 5 states (Ukraine, Slovakia, Romania, Hungary and Serbia). The lower course of the Tisa, 160 km of 966 km (16.6% of total length), runs through Serbia.
- The catchment area of **the Sava** is shared by 6 countries (Slovenia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania, (small catchment area)). The lower course of the Sava, 210 km (or 25.6% of total length), runs through Serbia.
- The catchment area of the largest right tributary of the Sava – **the Drina** – is shared by 4 states (Albania, Montenegro, Bosnia & Herzegovina and Serbia).
- **The Tamiš, the Timok, the Nera, the Karaš, the Nišava** and a number of smaller rivers cross or define the state border.



UNECE

CONAGUA
COMISIÓN NACIONAL DEL AGUA



IUCN



SEMARNAT
SECRETARÍA DE MEDIO AMBIENTE Y ENERGÍA



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun Svizra
Confederaziun Svizra

ECLAC

International Cooperation in the Danube and Sava river basins

ICPDR – International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River

- The Convention established the ICPDR, which acts as a forum for cooperation and dialogue on water related issues and environmental issues dealing with water.
- The ICPDR has the mandate to ensure conservation, improvement and efficient use of surface water and groundwater; reduce inputs of nutrients and hazardous substances; control floods and ice hazards; and reduce pollution loads to the Black Sea.
- Since 2000, the ICPDR is the coordinating body for implementing the EU WFD.

International Sava River Basin Commission

- FASRB Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin as the result of the process of cooperation known as “the Sava River Basin Initiative” between four riparian countries of the Sava River Basin (parties: **Bosnia & Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia** (formerly FR Yugoslavia, Serbia & Montenegro) and **Slovenia**) - **the first development-oriented multilateral agreement** in the region signed after geopolitical changes in the 1990s.



UNECE

CONAGUA
COMISION NACIONAL DEL AGUA



SEMARNAT
SECRETARÍA DE MEDIO AMBIENTE Y ENERGÍA



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun Svizra



Sava river basins – background of cooperation

- ▶ Relatively low **degree of human intervention**
 - ▶ Need (and obligation) for **environmental protection**
 - ▶ Need for **economic development**
- ▶ A balanced approach needed to use the potential and preserve the values simultaneously



UNECE CONAGUA
COMISION NACIONAL DEL AGUA



SEMARNAT
SECRETARIA DE MEDIOAMBIENTE
Y ENERGIA



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun Svizra



Sava river basins – background of cooperation

- ▶ **Geopolitical changes** in the region in the 1990–ies – the main challenge for WRM in the basin
 - Sava: the largest **national** river → **international** river
 - **Fragmentation of water management** (unlike the EU WFD approach)
 - **Fragmentation of systems** (data exchange, monitoring and early warning systems, ...)
 - **Sharp decrease of economic activities** (e.g. navigation)
 - **New, international framework** required to manage water resources on the basin level



UNECE CONAGUA
COMISSIÃO NACIONAL DEB. ÁGUA



SEMARNAT
SECRETARÍA DE MEDIOAMBIENTE
Y ENERGÍA



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun Svizra

ECLAC

Sava river basins – background of cooperation

- ▶ **Establishment of the framework**
 - Consequences of the war in 1990's – an **obstacle**
 - Stability Pact for SEE – **facilitation** of the process
 - **From different priorities to IWRM approach**
 - Rehabilitation and development of navigation
 - **Flood protection**
 - Use of potential for **tourism development**
 - Use of potential for **energy production**
 - Maintenance of **water quality and quantity**



UNECE CONAGUA
COMISION NACIONAL DEL AGUA



SEMARNAT
SECRETARIA DE MEDIOAMBIENTE
Y ENERGIA



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun Svizra

ECLAC

Sava river basins – background of cooperation



▶ The Sava River Initiative

- Launch of the Initiative: June 2001
- Signing the Letter of Intent on Coop. in the SRB: Nov. 29, 2001
- Signing the FASRB: Kranjska Gora, Dec. 3, 2002
- Est. of the Interim Sava Commission: Brussels, March 12, 2003
- Entering of the FASRB into force: December 29, 2004
- Est. of the ISRBC: Zagreb, June 27-29, 2005
- Est. of the ISRBC Secretariat: Zagreb, January 9, 2006



UNECE CONAGUA
COMISSÃO NACIONAL DEB. ÁGUA



SEMARNAT
SECRETARÍA DE MEDIO AMBIENTE
Y ENERGÍA



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun Svizra

ECLAC

FASRB

▶ Principles of cooperation

- Cooperation on the basis of **sovereign equality, territorial integrity, mutual benefit and good faith** in order to achieve the goals of the FASRB
- FASRB based on UNECE Water Convention
- Cooperation in accordance with the **EU WFD**
- Regular **exchange of information** within the basin
(on the water regime, navigation regime, legislation, organizational structures, administrative & technical practices)
- Cooperation with **international organizations**
(ICPDR, DC, UNECE, EU)



UNECE CONAGUA
COMISSIÓ NACIONAL DEL AIGUA



SEMARNAT
SECRETARÍA DE MEDIO AMBIENTE
Y ENERGÍA



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun Svizra

ECLAC

FASRB

- ▶ **Principles of cooperation (cont.)**
 - Reasonable and equitable use of water
 - Securing **integrity** of the water regime in the basin
 - Reduction of **transboundary impacts** caused by economic and other activities of the Parties
 - **Prevention of causing significant harm** to other Party (Parties), when using water of the SRB



UNECE CONAGUA
COMISSIÓ NACIONAL DEL AIGUA



SEMARNAT
SECRETARÍA DE MEDIO AMBIENTE
Y ENERGÍA



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun Svizra

ECLAC

ISRBC contribution

- ▶ **Basic role: Coordination of activities on regional level**
 - **Strategic plans**
(river basin management, climate adaptation, flood risk management)
 - **Integrated systems**
(GIS, RIS, data exchange / forecasting / early warning systems)
 - **Water-related economic activities** (navigation, river tourism)
 - **Development and upgrade of policy**



UNECE CONAGUA
COMISI3N NACIONAL DEL AGUA



SEMARNAT
SECRETARÍA DE MEDIOAMBIENTE
Y ENERGÍA



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confederazi3n Svizra
Confederazi3n Svizzera
Confederazi3n Svizra

ECLAC

ISRBC contribution

- ▶ **Additional role: Preparation and implementation of projects**
 - All projects are **regional** and agreed by the 4 Parties
 - All projects are **aligned with EU directives and strategies** (e.g. EU 2020 Strategy, EU Danube Strategy)
 - ISRBC is the **most distinguished project-oriented** international basin organization in Europe



UNECE CONAGUA
COMISION NACIONAL DEL AGUA



SEMARNAT
SECRETARÍA DE MEDIO AMBIENTE Y RECURSOS NATURALES



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun Svizra



ISRBC contribution

- ▶ **Direct benefits**
 - Ensuring funding from external sources
 - Preparation and/or implementation of projects
- ▶ **Indirect benefits** (when the countries finance and/or implement projects originating from the activities coordinated by ISRBC)
 - Facilitation of fund-raising for the countries
 - Lower costs for the countries in case of joint ventures



UNECE CONAGUA
COMISION NACIONAL DEL AGUA



SEMARNAT
SECRETARÍA DE MEDIO AMBIENTE
Y RECURSOS NATURALES



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun Svizra



Benefits

- ▶ Improved cooperation
- ▶ Increased level of trust
 - Whole basin, comparable benefits
 - Part of the basin, unequal benefits
 - Resources provided by one country, benefits shared by more countries



UNECE CONAGUA
COMISION NACIONAL DEL AGUA



SEMARNAT
SECRETARÍA DE MEDIO AMBIENTE
Y RECURSOS NATURALES



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun Svizra

ECLAC

Benefits

- ▶ Implementation of **projects / activities of common interest** (plans, systems, infrastructure)
- ▶ Harmonization of **regulation, methodologies and procedures**
- ▶ Enhancement of **cross–sectoral cooperation on national level**



UNECE CONAGUA
COMISION NACIONAL DEL AGUA



SEMARNAT
SECRETARÍA DEL MEDIO AMBIENTE
Y RECURSOS NATURALES



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun Svizra

ECLAC

UNECE Water Convention – FASRB

➤ River Basin Management

- ✓ Hydromorphology report for the Sava River Basin Analysis Report
- ✓ Water – food – energy – ecosystems nexus assessment for the Sava river basin
- ✓ Assessing the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus and benefits of transboundary water cooperation in the Drina River Basin

➤ Flood Management

- ✓ Building the link between flood risk management planning and climate change assessment in the Sava river basin



UNECE CONAGUA
COMISSIÓ NACIONAL DEL AIGUA



SEMARNAT
SECRETARÍA DE MEDIOAMBIENTE
Y ENERGÍA



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun Svizra

ECLAC

UNECE Water Convention – FASRB

- ▶ Principles of UNECE Water Convention and FASRB
- ▶ Water Convention – promotion of the process of setting up and strengthening of the ISRBC
- ▶ Support:
 - River Basin Management planning
 - Hydromorphology report for the Sava River Basin Analysis Report
 - Water – food – energy – ecosystems nexus assessment for the Sava river basin
 - Assessing the water–food–energy–ecosystems nexus and benefits of transboundary water cooperation in the Drina River Basin
 - Flood Management
 - Building the link between flood risk management planning and climate change assessment in the Sava river basin
 - Intersectoral linkages



UNECE CONAGUA
COMISSIÓ NACIONAL DEL AIGUA



SEMARNAT
SECRETARÍA DE MEDIOAMBIENTE
Y ENERGÍA



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun Svizra

ECLAC

Ongoing work on the benefits of cooperation in 2016–2018 under the Water Convention

- ▶ *Policy Guidance Note on Benefits of Transboundary Water Cooperation is being promoted in pilot basins and countries interested in applying it.*
=> **Are Latin America countries interested in embarking in a benefit assessment exercise?**
- ▶ Experience between pilot exercises and other similar activities worldwide to be shared during one workshop in 2017.



UNECE CONAGUA
COMISION NACIONAL DEL AGUA



SEMARNAT
SECRETARIA DE MEDIOAMBIENTE
Y ENERGIA



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun Svizra

ECLAC