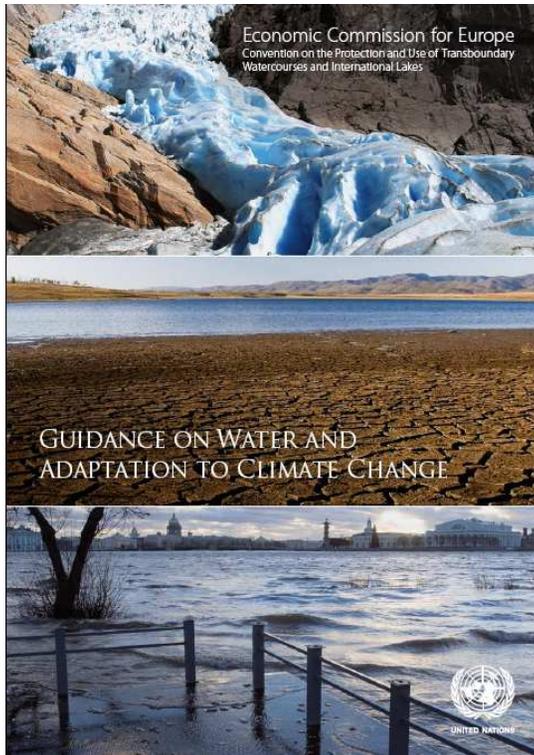




Ministerie van Infrastructuur en Milieu



2nd Workshop and 4th meeting of the Task Force

Niels Vlaanderen

Ministry of Infrastructure
and the Environment of the
Netherlands

Directorate-General for
Water Affairs



2nd Workshop on Water and Adaptation to Climate Change in Transboundary Basins: Challenges, Progress and Lessons Learned – Geneva 12-13 April 2011



United Nations
Economic
Commission for



Ministry of Infrastructure and the
Environment



Federal Ministry for the
Environment, Nature Conservation
and Nuclear Safety



Global Water
Partnership
Mediterranean



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2nd Workshop

- Wide representation of countries and organisations – over 150 participants
- Representation of Mediterranean countries – contribution by GWP-MED
- Many countries outside UNECE region
- High quality presentations
-  side event
- Progress is slow but ongoing
- High media coverage





Media coverage: 51 items

- 50 quoted Kundzewicz (Climate change impacts on water resources in Europe -regional and sectoral perspective)
- 1 quoted Mario López-Pérez (Water Management in the Colorado River Basin, a major challenge for Mexico and the United States, before Drought and Climate Change)
- Media: Romanian (20), Latin American (9), Australia (4), France (5), Switzerland, Spain, Holland, South Africa, Philipines, Iran, Indonesia and Qatar.





Major lessons learned

- In a transboundary situation a common base is needed; countries should be willing to cooperate
- Have experts work together to work out the technical issues, then turn to the politics. Ensure the ownership on the political level.
- Meetings outside the conference room in another setting will help mutual understanding and cooperation (make use of site visits and “have a drink”)
- Much is already known and no-regret measures can be defined. Economic tools and thinking about cost effectiveness may help in deciding on this
- Natural variability provides lessons how adaptation can be done and how resilience can be improved
- Role of river basin authorities is essential to create upstream and downstream understanding. But allow them time to build up cooperation and trust (it took the Rhine Commission 50 years to get where they are now)





4th meeting of the Task Force on Water and Climate

- The Task Force facilitates and supports the pilot projects:
 - Chu Talas Basin (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan)
 - Dniester Basin (Republic of Moldova, Ukraine)
 - Sava river basin (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia, Slovenia)
 - Neman river basin (Belarus, Lithuania, Russian Federation)
 - Rhine basin (Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxemburg, the Netherlands, Switzerland)
 - Project AMICE on the Meuse basin (Belgium, France, Germany, Luxembourg, Netherlands)
 - Project “Dauria going dry” on the Amur/ Argun/ Daursky Biosphere reserve (Russian Federation, Mongolia, China)
 - Danube river basin (Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Montenegro, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Slovakia, Ukraine)
- Additional pilot projects are invited to join



4th meeting of the Task Force on Water and Climate

- Discussions on links with:
 - UNFCCC
 - EU Expert Group on Water and Climate Change – invitation for shared workshop in 2012
 - Protocol on Water and Health
- Other relevant projects:
 - UNESCO-IHP - GRAPHIC project
 - World Bank
 - Carpathian projects
 - French vision 2070
 - Volga basin





4th meeting of the Task Force on Water and Climate

- Establishing a platform for exchanging experiences
- Contribution to the 7th Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe”, Astana, 21-23 September 2011
- Planned workshop on transboundary flood risk management in Central Asia in 2012
- Support by WMO

