Subprogramme 1. Environment

Implementing entity: ECE, Environment Division

Relationship to the biennial programme plan for the period 2016-2017: programme 17, subprogramme 1, expected accomplishments (a) and (b)

Objective: To strengthen the national capacities as well as mechanisms for transboundary cooperation of countries of the region for transboundary water and environment management through the effective implementation of the ECE environmental conventions

Budget summary (thousands of United States dollars)

	2012-2013 expenditure	*2014-2015 appropriation*	*2016-2017 estimate*
General temporary assistance	544.7	542.4	692.2
Consultants	1.5	9.8	–
Travel of staff	60.1	57.1	38.6
Participants in seminars	47.5	22.7	24.9
Total	**653.8**	**632.0**	**755.7**

Expected accomplishments	*Indicators of achievement*	*Activities/outputs/projects*[a]
Improved transboundary water and environment management in countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, and South-East Europe	Number of bilateral or multilateral agreements/action programmes negotiated to improve transboundary environmental and water management based on ECE environmental convention principles 2012-2013: 5 Estimate 2014-2015: 6 Target 2016-2017: 6	In addition to meeting the objective, the subprogramme aims to assist countries of the region in the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda and achievement of relevant Sustainable Development Goals. Transboundary cooperation on the environment and shared natural resources, in particular water, is a major challenge to sustainable development in the ECE region. In this regard, the ECE environmental conventions provide a unique framework for development of regional cooperation, to address interconnected water management and environmental problems. The ECE strategy in this area of technical assistance will include advisory missions and field projects to be developed in cooperation with member countries and with the involvement of convention secretariats. It will be implemented in cooperation with such organizations as UNDP, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Global Water Partnership within the framework of the following field projects: (a) Strengthening cooperation on hydrology and environment between Tajikistan and Afghanistan in the upper Amu Darya River basin; (b) Advisory missions to provide advice on strengthening cooperation on water quality management in Central Asia; (c) Enabling transboundary cooperation and integrated water resources management in the Chu and Talas River basins; (d) Enabling transboundary cooperation and integrated water resources management in the Dniester River basin; (e) Enabling transboundary cooperation and integrated water resources management in the extended Drin River basin; (f) European Union Water Initiative National Policy Dialogues on integrated water resources management Project activities will be implemented in collaboration with relevant

		national and regional stakeholders, including United Nations system organizations, global and regional organizations and fi nancial institutions, the private sector, academia and NGOs.

Output summary (participants)				*Impact summary*
	Actual 2012-2013	*Estimate 2014-2015*	*Estimate 2016-2017*	It is expected that the following will be achieved in 2014 -2015: (a) a working group on cooperation on hydrology and environment between Tajikistan and Afghanistan will be established; (b) expert working groups between Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova will develop cooperation on water management in the Dniester River basin; (c) a joint dat abase on water quality in Central Asia will be established; (d) a joint Kazakh-Kyrgyz expert group on water ecosystems of the Chu and Talas basins will begin its work; (e) a shared information system on water management in the Drin River basin will be established; and (f) short-term measures will be implemented in follow-up to the memorandum of understanding on a strategic shared vision for the sustainable management of the Drin River basin. The biennium 2016-2017 will see strengthened capacity and readiness of 13 Riparians involved in the projects to cooperate on transboundary waters in the river basins. This will include: (a) the organization of joint Afghan-Tajik expeditions in the Pjanj basin; (b) initiation of regular water quality monitoring in the Chu-Talas basin; (c) transboundary diagnostic analysis of the Dniester basin; (d) transboundary diagnostic analysis of the Drin basin; and (e) an analysis of transboundary water cooperation in Kazakhstan as a basis for future national policies.
Advisory services	29	20	20	
Seminars/workshops	15 (612)	14 (300)	14 (300)	
Field projects	7	6	6	
Total	**51**	**40**	**40**	

[a] Indicative; subject to beneficiary requests.