Work on benefits of transboundary water cooperation under the Water Convention, objectives and programme of the workshop

6-7 February 2018

Moving forward transboundary water cooperation: Building on its benefits

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Progress of the work on benefits of transboundary water cooperation

2012
Request by MOP to develop guidance on quantification of benefits of cooperation

2015
MOP adoption of the Policy Guidance Note on Benefits of Cooperation

2013-2015
3 workshops to collect experiences from countries / organizations

2016-2018
UNECE support to 3 pilot benefit assessment exercises + partners using Policy Guidance Note

2018
Global workshop – Moving forward
The Policy Guidance Note on the benefits of transboundary water cooperation

- **Aim**: To support governments and other actors in realizing the potential benefits of transboundary water cooperation
- **Scope**: global, both surface and ground waters
- **Carrying out a benefit assessment exercise** can:
  - Provide fact-based argument for starting up cooperation or developing stronger cooperation
  - Broaden the scope of cooperation by defining a broad range of benefits
  - Attract financial resources to implement water cooperation solutions
The Policy Guidance Note on the benefits of transboundary water cooperation

Structure of the Policy Guidance Note

• Launching a benefit assessment exercise
• Identifying the benefits of TWC
• Assessing the benefits of TWC
• Communicating the benefits of TWC

Steps of a benefit assessment

IDENTIFY BENEFITS

COMMUNICATE BENEFITS

ASSESS BENEFITS
3 projects applying the Policy Guidance Note on benefits of cooperation

**Policy Guidance Note on Benefits of cooperation**

- A conceptual framework and guidance (starting point), no technical guidance
- Benefit assessment exercise to be tailored to context/needs of basin
Lessons learned

• Main outcome: “basin perception” of the benefits of cooperation, building on consultation with multiple stakeholders / sectors / beneficiaries

• On the process:
  • Importance of identifying target audience (local/national) and focus on benefits and beneficiaries
  • Importance of communicating results
  • Focus on investment and development opportunities

• Selected challenges:
  • Moving beyond the water sector in the identification of benefits
  • Focus on final outcome and not on process results
  • Past (accrued), future (potential) benefits and costs of inaction
Objectives of the workshop:

1) Provide a platform to share experiences, good practices, challenges faced and lessons learnt from various transboundary basins

2) Showcase examples on how a benefits focused approach can contribute to initiating or accelerating cooperation in transboundary basins

3) Prompt additional basins to engage in such cooperation dialogues using the “benefits lens”
Programme of the workshop

Tuesday morning
Session 1 - How a dialogue focusing on benefits can facilitate transboundary water cooperation?

Tuesday afternoon
Session 2 - How to identify, assess and if possible quantify benefits of transboundary water cooperation?
Cocktail reception

Wednesday morning
Session 3 - How to realize and maximize benefits for the conservation and development of transboundary basins?
Pre-session 5: Buzz discussion on future work on benefits of transboundary water cooperation
Lunch break: open opportunity to ask questions about the Water Convention to the secretariat

Wednesday afternoon
Session 4: How to make greater cooperation through successful communication efforts?
Session 5: How to move the agenda forward?