

# Assessment of the water-food- energy-ecosystem nexus and the Syr Darya Basin: background, objectives

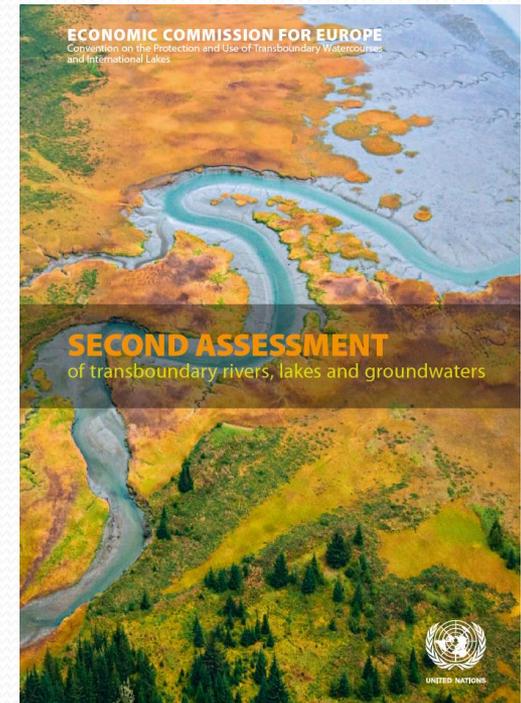


Mr. Bo Libert, UNECE



# Background

- Regular assessments of transboundary waters; decisions of WC Parties in 2003 about regional assessments (2007, 2011)
- Findings from the latest pan-European assessment:
  - Frictions between sectors about water use in many basins
  - Policy integration and coherence remains weak across the region; difficult to put into practice, painful trade offs.
- Little done about the nexus at transboundary level



# Assessment of the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus under the Water Convention in selected basins

- Work overseen and guided by the **Task Force on the Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems Nexus**
- Up to 6 basins to be assessed – pan-Europe, Africa, Asia; **different nexus settings**, climate, resource scarcity etc.
- **Key partners:** Finland (lead)/Finnish Environment Institute SYKE, FAO, Royal Institute of Technology (Stockholm)
- **Generic methodology developed** & piloted on the Alazani/Ganykh (Azerbaijan-Georgia); adapts to different basins; assessment of the Sava Basin on-going

## Aims at the basin level

- Support transboundary cooperation by
  - Identifying intersectoral synergies that could be further explored and utilized in the different basins;
  - Determining policy measures and actions that could alleviate negative consequences and help to optimize the use of available resources

## Some lessons learned

- Even though already the intersectoral-transboundary dialogue has value, **adequate data is necessary** for a meaningful analysis.
- NO one-size-fits-all: **all the basins are unique** the application of the general approach and the process shapes differently.
- **Active participation needed from the countries** to shape the approach into a valuable, relevant exercise that supports policy and decisions at different levels
- Arranging, when possible, **follow-up opportunities** for getting the stakeholders to discuss the findings
- Identification of **synergies with other initiatives** important — promising partnerships have emerged (e.g. with FAO, GWP)



# Benefits of the assessment under the Convention

- **Improved knowledge base** about linkages between sectors to **support decision-making** at national, basin & transboundary levels, analysis/quantification of selected aspects; gaps
- **Joint identification of opportunities** for benefits and of solutions for capitalizing on the synergies, addressing trade-offs and reconciling different resource uses;
- **Promotion of dialogue between the different sectors** and the riparian countries at the basin level; bring together authorities, private sector, civil society
- **Exchange of good practices**
- **Capacity building:** workshops, exchanges, self-assessment, knowledge mobilization in the process



# Links between national and transboundary levels, with NPDs

- Discussed at the EUWI-EECCA meetings in Helsinki (October 2013) and in Geneva (June 2014)
- The transboundary assessment under the UNECE Water Convention has parallels with the NPD process through which a cross-sectoral and stakeholder approach is also being implemented
- Discussion of preliminary results at NPD Steering Committee meetings to reflect on the (water) policy implications



# Previous steps in the process

- Call for proposals for basins in November 2012; subregional organisations proposed the Aral Sea basin, was subsequently scaled down to the Syr Darya
- Basins confirmed in a series of meetings: nexus Task Force in April 2013 and September 2014, IWRM Working Group in September 2013 and June 2014
- Discussion on the Syr Darya at the Task Force in September 2014
- National focal points nominated by the Syr Darya countries
- Desk study on-going to review the existing studies. National key policy document and analytical studies needed .
- National coordinators to support the process being engaged



## Follow up to the workshop

- The international experts with the UNECE secretariat carry out the analysis and draft the assessment, focusing on the jointly identified issues
- Draft assessment of the Syr Darya to be circulated for comments to the national administrations of the riparian countries (March 2015)
- Revised draft assessment to be presented to the nexus Task Force in its 3rd meeting (Geneva, 28-29 April 2015)
- The stock-taking and short basin assessments are to be submitted to the Working Group on IWRM (Geneva, 24-25 June 2015)
- **Findings to be presented to the 7<sup>th</sup> Session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention (17-20 November 2015)**
- Possible follow up/responses could be discussed nationally at NPDs

