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Training on how to prepare bankable projects for financing climate change adaptation in transboundary basins

Dakar, Senegal, 21-23 June 2017

Background

Most climate change impacts are felt through the water cycle. As 60 per cent of global freshwater flows across national boundaries, transboundary cooperation in adaptation can help to maximize the effectiveness of limited resources; coordinate actions coherently to improve effectiveness and reduced redundancy; protect the greatest number of people; and to prevent possible negative impacts of unilateral adaptation measures on other riparian countries and to support the coordination of adaptation measures at the river/lake-basin or aquifer level. To address and anticipate climate impacts, countries world-wide have prepared national adaptation strategies and plans and Intended Nationally Determined Contributions under the UNFCCC. Some transboundary basins, especially those with basin organizations, have started addressing climate change adaptation from the transboundary perspective.

Basin organisations and national authorities now need to move toward implementing concrete measures contained in adaptation strategies (both structural and non-structural measures), such as flood protection infrastructure, storage reservoirs, green infrastructure or soft measures. Numerous funding mechanisms are now available from climate funds, multilateral development banks and development cooperation partners. However, basin organisations and national authorities often lack the capacity, knowledge and resources to prepare bankable project proposals for transboundary cooperation on climate change adaptation.

This challenge was highlighted during the *Sixth Workshop on Adaptation to Climate Change in Transboundary Basins* (Geneva, 13-14 September 2016), which was organized in the framework of the Helsinki Water Convention under the leadership of the Governments of the Netherlands and Switzerland and with support from partner organizations, such as the GEF, INBO or the World Bank.

Among the main conclusions and recommendations of the workshop were:

- The need to address the lack of capacity in river basin organisations (RBOs) and national authorities to prepare bankable project proposals;
- The need to generate replicable business models for financing climate change adaptation at the basin level;
- The need to put more emphasis on the transboundary dimension, which should be integrated into national adaptation projects, where relevant.

In response to this identified needs, the training on *Project preparation for financing climate change adaptation in transboundary basins* will be jointly organised as a hands on training by the African Water Facility (AWF/AfDB), the European Investment Bank (EIB), the International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO), the 1992°UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Helsinki Water Convention), the World Bank, the Netherlands and Switzerland in the framework of the activities of the Global Network of Basins Working on Climate Change created by INBO and UNECE in 2013¹.

During this training, participants will learn where to look for climate change adaptation funding, better understand the project cycle as well as requirements of banks and donors, and thus acquire skills for preparing successful project proposals.

Objectives

The main objective of the training will be to enhance the capacity of representatives of transboundary basins and equip them with knowledge and skills required to develop bankable transboundary water and climate change adaptation projects. It will raise awareness on mechanisms and conditions of various relevant donors providing funds for climate change adaptation and transboundary cooperation, improve knowledge on preparation and submission of project proposals, support implementation of concrete measures contained in adaptation strategies and promote exchange of experience between basins from two regions of the world.

At the end of the training, participants should be able to:

- Understand the requirements of the different sources and mechanisms of climate finance relevant for financing climate change adaptation in transboundary basins;
- Understand the project cycle;
- Understand differences between a normal water project and a water-climate project;
- Understand how to develop bankable project proposals in their transboundary basins;
- Begin to identify and understand the obstacles and challenges in their own context to preparing bankable project proposals.

In advance of the event, a study will be prepared categorizing which climate financing mechanisms (i) allow direct funding to RBOs; (ii) have funding emphasis on regional projects and programs; and

¹ More information at: <https://www2.unece.org/ehlm/platform/display/ClimateChange/Welcome>

those which (iii) only allow national funding. This overview will also explain the application modalities and the accreditation process to climate adaptation financing mechanisms.

Target group

This training will focus on basins from Africa as well as some basins from the Pan-European region (especially UNECE pilot basins in Eastern Europe and Central Asia).

In order to enable an interactive and impactful training, participation will be limited to max. 25-30 key representatives of RBOs and other related organizations responsible for addressing climate change impacts and/ or raising funds in transboundary basins.

Organization of work

The training will cover financial and technical aspects, as both matter for developing effective project proposals. It will be organized in an interactive way with practical exercises. It will combine bottom-up and top-down approaches, i.e. presentations, exercises, and participant inputs.

During the workshop, International Financial Institutions (IFIs) and other experts will present a selection of funding mechanisms, the key elements for a project to be bankable, and what project submission entails. The different stages of the project cycle will be explained. Main eligibility criteria will be highlighted and possible solutions for the particular challenges of transboundary basins. Selected case studies and good practices will be shared by river basin organisations. Throughout the training, interactive sessions, exercises and group discussions will help participants apply and practice the acquired knowledge

In order to prepare for the training, participants are invited to take the online course offered by the World Bank on *Climate Finance: Innovative Approaches in Supporting Climate Action*

<https://olc.worldbank.org/content/climate-finance-innovative-approaches-supporting-climate-action>

Participants are invited to bring project proposals from their transboundary basins to the training.

Possible structure and content of the training

The training will cover the following topics, which will be illustrated by case studies, good practices experiences and lessons learned:

- Envisioning the full project, from adaptation needs assessment through implementation
- Landscape of climate finance
 - International, multilateral, national
 - Grants or loans?
 - How to leverage more funding possibilities, e.g. co-funding;
 - The role of the private sector
- Project cycle in preparing for proposals and in implementing projects
 - Explanations and rationale
 - What are the common elements for the various IFIs
- Key elements for a project to be bankable from a financial and technical perspective

- Does the project fit into IFIs work plans?
- Is climate change adaptation integrated into river basin/aquifer strategy?
- Has a cost-benefit analysis of possible adaptation measures been done?
- What are the environmental or social impacts of the project?
- Institutional complexity, especially for transboundary projects
 - Which entity can implement and execute the project?
 - Clustering projects, coordinating project proposals
- Examples of good practices

Throughout the training, participants will have interactive discussions on how to apply these concepts to project proposals in the different transboundary basins in order to foster cooperation with donors and to support the identification of successful project proposals. Discussions could include:

- Identifying donors and funding mechanisms
- Identifying potential recipients (basin organisations, national administrations) and key partners
- Different steps in the development of a project proposal
- How to prove adaptation additionality?

The programme of the event will be shared in May/ June.

Practical information

The Training will be held on 21-23 June 2017 in Dakar, Senegal. It will start at 9.00 a.m. on Wednesday, 21 June 2017 and end at 1.00 p.m. on Friday, 23 June 2017. It will be held at the Senegal River Basin Development Authority (OMVS), Dakar, Senegal. The working languages will be English and French. Documents and other information for the meeting will be made available at: <https://www.unece.org/index.php?id=45570#/>

Eligible participants from countries with economies in transition and developing countries may apply for financial support to facilitate their participation in the meeting. Requests for financial support should be submitted to the Water Convention secretariat (water.convention@unece.org) as soon as possible, but not later than 1 May 2017.

Participants requiring entry visas to Senegal should inform the secretariat as soon as possible. The minimum amount of time needed for obtaining a visa is 15 working days. Participants needing a visa are therefore requested to submit their application as soon as possible and initiate visa procedures at least four weeks before the meeting.

In accordance with United Nations accreditation procedures, participants are requested to register by 1 May 2017 using the following link: <https://www2.unece.org/uncdb/app/ext/meeting-registration?id=ZCNRrv> with the registration code **11189**. For assistance with registration, please see the instructions on the meeting's web page or contact the secretariat by e-mail (water.convention@unece.org).