



# Task Force on Water and Climate

Niels Vlaanderen

Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment  
Directorate General for Spatial Planning and  
Water



Convention of the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes

# 1. What has been done in this work area? The main achievements since 2009?

---

- Three international workshops / meetings of the Task Force
  - Wide representation of countries and organizations, also outside UNECE region
- Two meetings of the core group on pilots
  - 4 pilot projects – working on vulnerability assessment



# 1a. Pilot projects:



## Pilot projects on adaptation to climate change in transboundary basins

- Projects directly supported by the UNECE Water Convention and ENVSEC
- Projects in the programme, implemented by other organizations

**Meuse (AMICE)**  
Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, France, Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Austria, Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Italy, Montenegro

**Rhine**  
Germany

**Neman**  
Russian Federation, Lithuania, Belarus

**Sava**  
Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Serbia, Romania, Bulgaria

**Danube**  
Ukraine, Republic of Moldova

Amur/Argun/Daursky Biosphere reserve  
"Dauria going dry"



**Chu and Talas**  
Chu, Talas  
Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan

Map produced by ZOI Environment Network, February 2012



## 2. What are the main results and lessons learnt?

---

- Climate change can act as a driver for transboundary cooperation
- Joint bodies important in transboundary cooperation; sufficient mandate can also strengthen work of national authorities
- Plans are often in place but implementation requires political support
- Ecosystem-based adaptation is often relatively cheap, cost effective and has positive effects beyond the direct problem
- Benefits of adaptation (including avoided damage) up to 4 times the costs
- Use the direction rather than the magnitude of change for flexible options
- Communicate hope instead of fear; communicate facts, opportunities, alternatives and good examples
- Data availability and exchange still a problem



### 3. What is foreseen in the draft programme of work for 2013-2015?

---

- Continuation of the work of the Task Force
  - Pilots projects -> implementation
  - New pilot projects
- Possibilities of expanding, also outside ECE region
- Establishing a global platform for exchanging experiences together with INBO (request by French Académie de l'Eau and UNESCO)
- Potentially a workshop on flood risk management in 2014
- Connect to the Adaptation Committee of UNFCCC as best practice

