
Activities to promote the opening of the Water Convention

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

- Participation of 24 non UNECE countries in the activities under the Convention since 2009
 - Workshops on water and adaptation to climate change in 2011 and 2012
 - Workshop on Forests & Water in drylands
 - Contribution to the Second Assessment
 - Conference on Europe Asia transboundary cooperation
- Promotion of the Convention in international meetings



1. International conference on Europe- Asia transboundary cooperation (15-16 Dec 2011)

- Aimed to promote dialogue and cooperation on the management and protection of transboundary waters along the border of the two continents
- Very high interest: More than 100, partly high-level participants,
- Importance and value of UNECE Water Convention highlighted by ECE- and non-ECE countries;
- Call for a rapid entry into force of the amendments,
- Recognition of the importance of an intergovernmental framework for discussing transboundary water issues
- Expression of interest by non-ECE countries to accede
- Expression of interest in pilot activities at the border of the region and support from Convention



2. What are the main challenges and lessons learnt?

- Added value of experience by non-ECE countries, very active participation
- Promote ratification of the amendments by all Parties
- Raise awareness and build capacity on the Convention in other regions + deal with misconceptions
- Need to coordinate with the UN Watercourses Convention
- Importance of partnerships
- Need for resources



3. What are the ideas for the future work in this area?

- Capacity-building on Convention and global exchange of experience
 - Participation of non-ECE countries in our activities
 - Promotion of the Convention at the global level
 - Regional workshops to promote the Convention and the exchange of experience together with GEF iw:learn
 - for African countries in October 2012
 - for Mediterranean countries on 26-27 Nov. 2012
 - for Latin America in 2013-2014
- Synergies with New York Convention
- Cooperation with international partners such as GEF

