

Identifying, assessing and communicating the benefits of transboundary water cooperation under the Water Convention

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Why assessing the benefits of transboundary water cooperation?

- Countries' willingness to cooperate partly determined by perception of potential benefits of cooperation ->
Need for recognition of benefits / cost of non-action
- Cooperation often focuses on limited issues →
Scope for increased cooperation by broadening benefits considered
- Need convincing arguments to sustain (financially and politically) existing transboundary cooperation processes

Objectives

Support governments and other stakeholders in realizing the potential benefits of transboundary water cooperation by:

1. Providing overview of broad set of potential benefits
 2. How they can be assessed
 3. How benefits assessment can be integrated into policy process
- Development of a policy guidance note

Target audience: High level decision makers from ministries of foreign affairs, finance, environment and water



Implementing the Water Convention and cooperation benefits assessment

The Water Convention

A legal framework	An institutional platform	Project and activities
Obligation to cooperation: - Enter into agreements - Establish joint bodies	Regular meetings to address new challenges, exchange experiences	Support accession / implementation through support to national & transboundary projects
IWL: incentive to cooperate Joint bodies: long term structure	Platform: meetings to build trust, exchange views	NPD: facilitate dialogue Intersectoral coop ^o / Nexus

Developing the Policy Guidance Note

- Scoping workshop (Amsterdam, June 2013)  Draft
- Discussions in several events (Stockholm WWW, GEF International Water Conference, International Water Forum in Quebec..)  First draft
- Call for case studies: January 2014
- Workshop «Counting our gains» (Geneva, May 2014)
- 7th meeting of the Working Group on IWRM (Geneva, July 2014)  Second draft
- Expert workshop «Beyond water» (Tallinn, January 2015)
- ...Submission for adoption by MoP  Final
- (November 2015)

Key messages from the workshop

“Counting our gains”

- Benefits assessment is useful and part of governance framework
- Benefits assessment to be tailored to maturity of cooperation
- Not all benefits can be quantified
- Little work done on geopolitical benefits assessment
- Broader agenda of globalization, regional integration

