

# Identifying, assessing and communicating the benefits of transboundary water cooperation

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11th Meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management  
Geneva, 18-19 October 2016

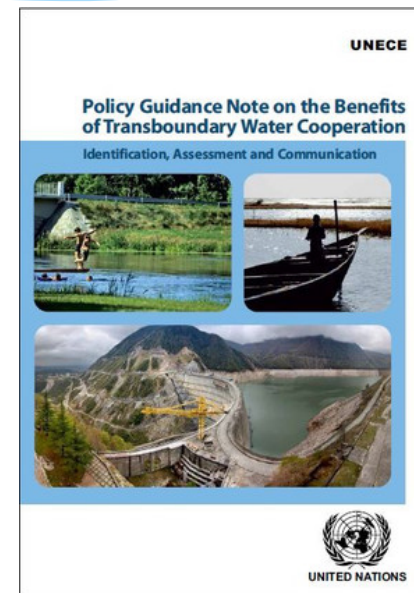
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# The Policy Guidance Note on the benefits of transboundary water cooperation

- \* **Aim:** To support governments and other actors in realizing the potential benefits of transboundary water cooperation
- \* **Scope:** global, both surface and ground waters
- \* **Carrying out a benefit assessment exercise can:**
  - Provide fact-based argument for starting up cooperation or developing stronger cooperation
  - Broaden the scope of cooperation by defining a broad range of benefits
  - Attract financial resources to implement water cooperation solutions



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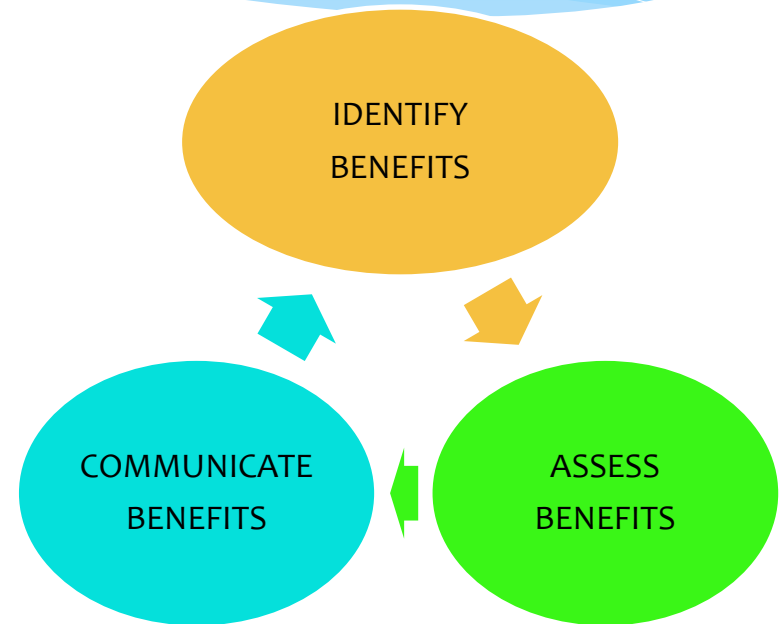
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# The Policy Guidance Note on the benefits of transboundary water cooperation

## Structure of the Policy Guidance Note

- \* Launching a benefit assessment exercise
- \* Identifying the benefits of TWC
- \* Assessing the benefits of TWC
- \* Communicating the benefits of TWC



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# The Policy Guidance Note on the benefits of transboundary water cooperation

TWC generates more benefits than generally thought.

A benefit assessment exercise can help countries to fully realize the broad range of the potential benefits of cooperation.



<i>Origin of benefits</i>	<i>Benefits for economic activities</i>	<i>Benefits beyond economic activities</i>
<i>Improved water management</i>	<p><b>Economic benefits</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expanded activity and productivity in economic sectors (aquaculture, irrigated agriculture, mining, energy generation, industrial production, nature-based tourism)</li> <li>Reduced cost of carrying out productive activities</li> <li>Reduced economic impacts of water-related hazards (floods, droughts)</li> <li>Increased value of property</li> </ul>	<p><b>Social and environmental benefits</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Health impacts from improved water quality and reduced risk of water-related disasters.</li> <li>Employment and reduced poverty impacts of the economic benefits</li> <li>Improved access to services (such as electricity and water supply)</li> <li>Improved satisfaction due to preservation of cultural resources or access to recreational opportunities.</li> <li>Increased ecological integrity and reduced habitat degradation and biodiversity loss</li> <li>Strengthened scientific knowledge on water status</li> </ul>
<i>Enhanced trust</i>	<p><b>Regional economic cooperation benefits</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development of regional markets for goods, services and labour</li> <li>Increase in cross-border investments</li> <li>Development of transnational infrastructure networks</li> </ul>	<p><b>Peace and security benefits</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strengthening of international law</li> <li>Increased geopolitical stability and strengthened diplomatic relations</li> <li>New opportunities from increased trust (joint initiatives and investments)</li> <li>Reduced risk and avoided cost of conflict and savings from reduced military spending</li> <li>Creation of a shared basin identity</li> </ul>

# The Policy Guidance Note on the benefits of transboundary water cooperation

A benefit assessment exercise can be tailored to:

- characteristics of the basin
- needs and level of maturity of the TWC process

<i>Stage of development of the transboundary water cooperation policy process</i>	<i>Needs of the transboundary water cooperation policy process</i>	<i>Focus of the benefit assessment exercise</i>	<i>Main focus of the assessment phase</i>
Pre-initial stage (e.g. basins characterized by political conflict)	Establish the conditions for launching a cooperation process	Identification of mutually beneficial opportunities from shared water resources	Rapid qualitative assessment of key benefits
Initial stage (e.g. basins without international agreement or transboundary coordination body)	Launch of the cooperation process, supported by awareness raising on the need to cooperate	Identification of the full range of the benefits of cooperation	Rapid qualitative assessment of all identified benefits
Medium stage (e.g. negotiations on an agreement ongoing or basins with international agreement, but without coordination body)	Consolidation of the cooperation process through negotiations, strategic planning and the implementation of basic cooperation initiatives (e.g. information sharing)	Broad assessment of the range of benefits of cooperation (including cost of non-cooperation)	In-depth qualitative assessment of all identified benefits Include easily available quantitative and monetary estimates
Advanced stage (e.g. basins with international agreement and coordination body)	Realisation of the potential benefits of cooperation through the implementation of advanced cooperation initiatives (e.g. infrastructure projects, coordinated management instruments)	Assessment of the benefits of independent national projects, joint projects, or a basin programme of measures	Carry out quantitative and monetary valuation, when justified given available resources



# Progress and activities in this area of work in 2016

- \* Application of the Policy Guidance Note on benefits in several basins:
  - \* Okavongo-Cubango basin
  - \* Drina basin
  - \* Basin in the IGAD region
- \* Simulation of benefit assessment exercises in workshops  
National workshop in Tunis (Sept. 2016) & Regional workshop in Campeche (Oct. 2016)
- \* Promotion in international events (Stockholm World Water Week)



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# Lessons learned and recommendations

- \* **A flexible methodology, which:**
  - \* Can be tailored to the specificity of the basin
  - \* Facilitates the involvement of multiple stakeholders, incl. from different sectors
  - \* Generates information for stakeholders and policy makers to help move from perceptions to facts
  - \* Combines qualitative, quantitative and monetary assessments



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# Lessons learned and recommendations

## \* Outcomes in the Okavango-Cubango basin

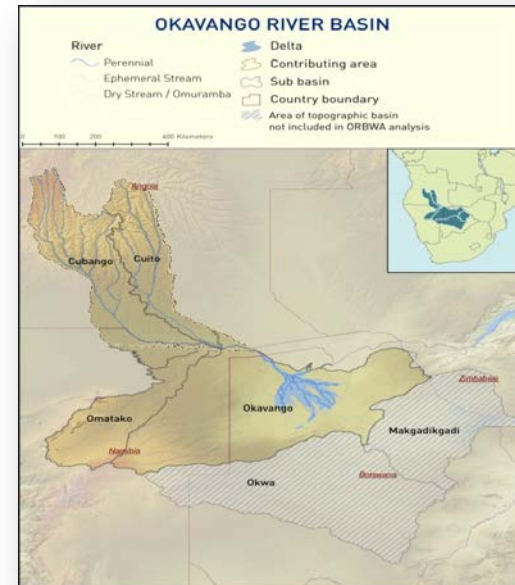
Useful exercise to engage non-water actors, stimulated interest among stakeholders

Willingness to invest in stronger cooperation

Looking at opportunities for generating and sharing benefits through cooperation vs. historical and *status quo*

Outputs of the BAE will feed in another exercise to identify investment opportunities (MSIOA)

Important to demonstrate the net-benefits, their current and future distribution; and the costs of non-cooperation



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# Planned future activities in this area in 2016-2018

- \* Support benefit assessment exercises in interested transboundary basins
- \* Experience between pilot exercises and other similar activities worldwide will be shared during a workshop early 2018



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