Programme of pilot projects for climate change adaptation in transboundary basins

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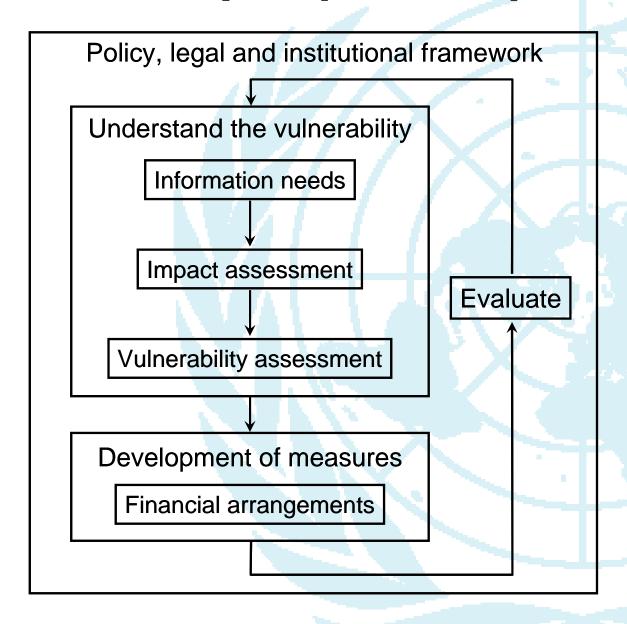
Future work on climate change adaptation

- Promotion of Guidance in and beyond UNECE region: publication, promotion at national/international events, translation, capacity-building
- Move from Guidance to implementation: programme of pilot projects (as part of larger programme)

Why pilot projects?

- Foster adaptation and support implementation of Guidance
- Assist countries in implementing the Convention and the EU WFD under a changing climate
- Demonstrate benefits and mechanisms for transboundary cooperation in climate change adaptation
- Provide forum for exchanging experience on climate change adaptation measures

Rationale: key steps in adaptation



Objectives of the pilot projects



- Improve adaptive capacity
- Assist in the development and implementation of one or more steps of an adaptation strategy
- Support dialogue and cooperation in the design of an adaptation strategy in the transboundary context
- Prevent possible conflicts on the use of water resources
- Promote exchange of experience

Focus of the pilot projects

- Focus on EECCA and SEE, but also link to pilots in EU-countries
- Focus on one or several of the steps in the Guidance:
 - Legal and institutional frameworks
 - Joint impact / vulnerability assessment
 - Joint planning of measures
 - Feasibility study for measures
- Specific focus to be defined by the basin

Possible deliverables (to be defined by countries)

Depending on available information and based on existing studies:

- Common scenarios and models agreed upon by the riparian countries
- Joint vulnerability assessment for the basin, incl. security, environmental, social and economic vulnerability
- Agreement on coordinated measures to be taken in the specific basin enabling climate change adaptation
- Feasibility study on specific adaptation measures recommended

Procedure

- Responsibility mainly with the countries, thus need for commitment by all riparian countries
- Project proposals to be sent to Secretariat by end of 2009
- Projects to start in 2010 and last 2-4 years
- Cooperation with partner organizations (e.g. EC, ENVSEC) and build on ongoing activities

Funding

- Budget will vary from basin to basin
- Funding sources:
 - National budget
 - Funding from existing or new international projects
 - Bilateral / multilateral assistance
- Funding also needed for coordination and support structure

Possible basins which expressed some interest

- Eastern Europe: Dniester basin (Ukraine, Moldova)
- Central Asia: Chu Talas Basin (Kazakhstan, Kyrzgyzstan)
- South-Eastern Europe:
 - Sava River basin (Bosnia- Herzegovina, Croatia, Slovenia, Serbia)
 - Drava and Mura basin (Slovenia and Croatia)
- Caucasus: Kura basin (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia)

For all: build on already ongoing projects and studies

Coordination and support structure

WHY?

Exchange of experience and lessons learnt is crucial **HOW?**

- Link to other activities under UNFCCC, EU, etc.
- Website, newsletter, periodic meetings, further research etc.
- Initial kick-off workshop in 2010
- WGIWRM overviews progress
- Task Force on Water and Climate facilitates pilots and exchange of experience => importance of cooperation with EC and Strategic Coordination Group EU WFD

Next steps

 Discussion of the programme now and decision at MOP 5 on 10-12 November

=>Start of activities planned for early 2010

- Confirmation of interest from countries
- Confirmation of partners
- Fund-raising
- Analysis of already ongoing/ planned activities in the preselected basins

To discuss

- What are your views on the proposed programme, especially the modalities, funding, etc.?
- How should the governance and support structure look like?
- Is your country/ basin interested in the programme of pilot projects?