

Progress in the preparations of the second Assessment of transboundary waters

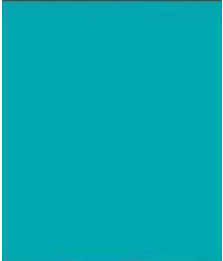
Fourth Meeting of the Working Group on Integrated
Water Resources Management,
Geneva 8-9 July 2009



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

Decisions of WGMA: Scope

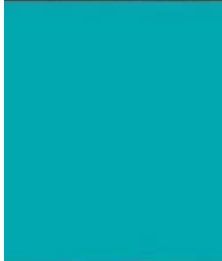
- Asian and European part of ECE
- GW in the whole region
- Non-ECE countries sharing waters with ECE
- More sub-regional focus (not only EU-non EU)
- Special focus on Central Asia





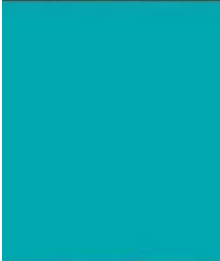
Decisions of WGMA: Content

- Progress in implementing IWRM
- Legal and institutional aspects
- GW and surface water together
- Quality and quantity
- Thematic issues: climate change, health aspects, etc
- Ecosystems: assessment of Ramsar sites in some pilot basins



Outline

- Maps (if possible also thematic maps)
- Overview-summary
- Objectives and scope
- Major findings
 - Legal and institutional
 - Monitoring
 - Pressures
 - Status and impact
 - Responses
 - The way forward
- Facts and figures on rivers, lakes and groundwaters
- Annexes



Working arrangements

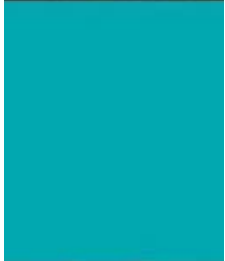
- Lead countries and partners organizations => steering group
- Sub-regional workshops
- One devoted person, possibly in the secretariat, working on the assessment





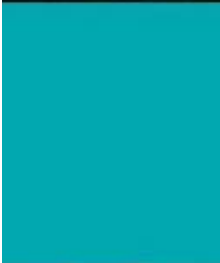
Outline for river basin - aquifer

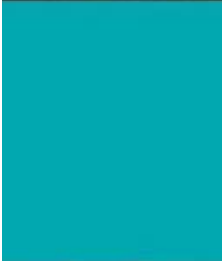
- Description and map
- Legal and institutional framework
- Hydrology and hydrogeology
- Pressure factors
- Status and transboundary impacts
- Responses
- Future trends



Time frame

- 18–20 May 2009, Sarajevo, Subregional meeting for SEE. Preparation of the assessment for SEE
- 10–12 November 2009, Geneva, MOP will consider SEE assessment
- December 2009, Tbilisi, Subregional meeting for Caucasus
- March 2010, Bratislava, Subregional meeting for western EECCA and neighbouring EU countries.
- July 2010, WGMA will review progress
- September 2010, Subregional meeting for Central Asia
- December 2010, Subregional meeting for Western Europe and the Nordic countries.
- December 2010–February 2011, Further drafting
- February–June 2011, Finalization of the text, proofreading, reproduction of maps, editing and publishing.
- ...2011, Astana, Seventh “Environment for Europe” Ministerial Conference





SEE assessment

- International Workshop on Transboundary Water Resources Management in South-Eastern Europe (Sarajevo, 18-20 May)
- Jointly organized with RCC, Sava Commission and GWP-Med
- General part on cross-cutting issues
- Specific part on the second assessment: work in groups of riparian countries



SEE assessment of transboundary waters

- Sub-regional summary (according to agreed outline): highlighting specificities of the region
- Fact and figures on transboundary waters based on the datasheets
- A number of Ramsar sites included/assessed





1. Legal, policy and institutional frameworks - challenges

- Obstacle: conflicting water uses
- Differing institutional and legal frameworks and interests
- Water cooperation not always high in the political agenda
- Difficult political relationships in certain areas





1. Legal, policy and institutional frameworks - advantages

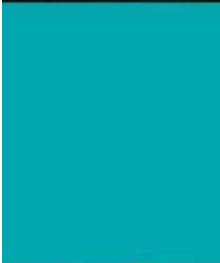
- Progress in several basins – but slow
- Many supportive actors
- EU Stabilisation and Association as well as the EU Accession
- Ratification of Water Convention
- Complementarity Water Convention/EU WFD

... but different levels of advancement



2. Monitoring

- Weakness of national monitoring systems
- Transboundary level: lack of information exchange, information non-harmonized, joint M&A almost non-existing
- Few positive examples



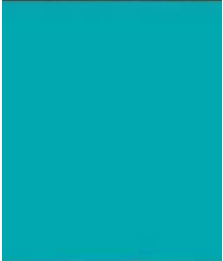
3. Main problems, impact and status

- Water pollution from industrial facilities, mines, urban wastewater and agriculture, groundwater pollution, water scarcity and destructive floods (not detailed enough)
- Climate change impacts
- Development plans, competing uses/demands
- Vulnerability of karst aquifer systems



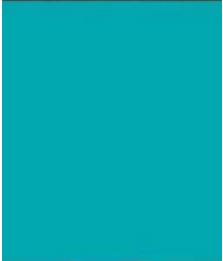
4. Responses

- Reform of the water sector
- Efforts towards IWRM and EU WFD implementation (but not enough at the transboundary level)
- International projects



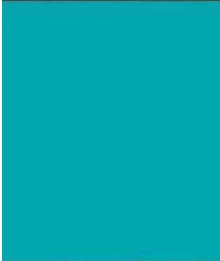
5. Way forward

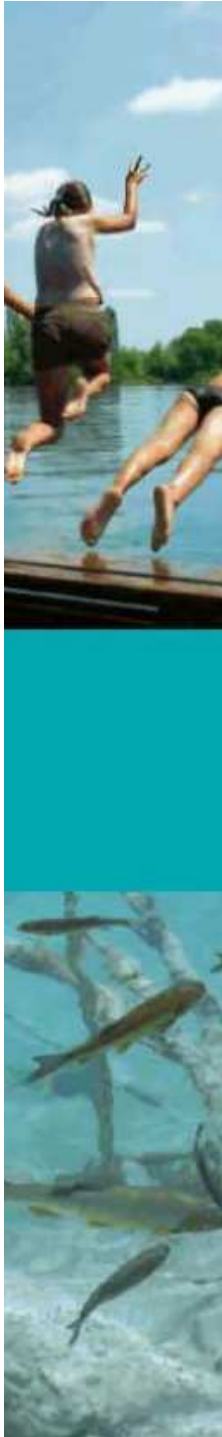
- Potential to share benefits but not underpinned by appropriate cooperation
- Strengthen cooperation (at the legal and institutional levels)
- Improve understanding of climate change impacts and prepare adaptation
- Reduce and prevent pollution
- Protect aquifers (in particular karstic)
- Strengthen political will and clear roadmap to improve cooperation
- Not only rely on international projects



Where are we?

- Deadline for sending filled datasheet was 30 June but many are still missing
- For some countries we still do not have a contact
- However several positive indications that work is proceeding





Finalization SEE assessment by MOP 5

- **30 June:** submission of datasheets and comments to the sub-regional summary
- **31 July:** finalization of the assessment (summary, facts and figures)
- **August:** work in the secretariat to finalize, edit and format documents for submission to the MOP
- **End of August-beginning of September:** two weeks for comments by SEE countries.
- **21 September:** Finalization of documents for MOP
- **10-12 November:** discussion and endorsement at MOP5



Next stop Caucasus

- Regional workshop in Tbilisi in December
- Letters requesting nominations already sent (also to Iran and Russian Federation): deadline 15 July
- Need to identify thematic issues for the region
- Start gathering information and pre-filling datasheets: deadline 1 August

