



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
16 July 2013

Original: English

Economic Commission for Europe

Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on
the Protection and Use of Transboundary
Watercourses and International Lakes

Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management

Eighth meeting

Geneva, 25 and 26 September 2013

Item 6 of the provisional agenda

Adapting to climate change in transboundary basins

Concept note on the collection of good practices and lessons learned on water and adaptation to climate change in transboundary basins

Prepared by the lead countries and the secretariat

Summary

At its sixth session (28–30 November 2012), the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes entrusted the Task Force on Water and Climate, in cooperation with the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management, with the preparation of a collection of lessons learned and good practices on climate change adaptation in transboundary basins (see ECE/MP.WAT/37, forthcoming).

The present document, prepared for the sixth meeting of the Task Force on Water and Climate (Geneva, 27 June 2013), and subsequently endorsed by the Task Force, describes the proposed approach, content, methodology and timeline for the publication. It was prepared by the secretariat and the Netherlands and Switzerland, as lead Parties for programme area 4, “Adapting to climate change in transboundary basins”, of the Convention’s programme of work for 2013–2015.

I. Background and proposed action by the Working Group

1. At its sixth session (Rome, 28–30 November 2012), the Meeting of the Parties to the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Convention of the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention) decided to include the following activities in the programme of work for 2013–2015 regarding adaptation to climate change in transboundary basins (see ECE/MP.WAT/37/Add.1, forthcoming):

(a) Compile, analyse, publish and disseminate lessons learned and good practices from the programme of pilot projects under the Convention and other similar initiatives;

(b) Promote cooperation in the development of adaptation strategies and in their implementation in transboundary basins, in particular within the programme of pilot projects and the global network of basins on climate change adaptation in transboundary basins;

(c) Provide a global platform for exchanging experience, lessons learned and good practices regarding adaptation to climate change in transboundary basins.

2. The collection of lessons learned and good practices will be developed as a complement to the *Guidance on Water and Adaptation to Climate Change*.¹ This collection will include a compilation, analysis and synthesis of existing knowledge, experience, lessons learned and good practices on climate change adaptation in transboundary basins, based on the Convention's pilot projects on climate change adaptation in transboundary basins and other similar activities. The final product will be made available in electronic form, on the Internet or a web platform, and in a printed publication.

3. The collection of lessons learned and good practices will be elaborated and published in cooperation with partner organizations, such as the International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO), and possibly the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the Mekong River Commission Climate Change Adaptation Initiative and others. The global network of basins and development of the collection of lessons learned and good practices was also an outcome of the Sixth World Water Forum (target 3.3.2) and it will be presented to the next World Water Forum in 2015 in the Republic of Korea.

4. The present concept note was prepared for and discussed at the sixth meeting of the Task Force on Water and Climate (Geneva, 27 June 2013). The Task Force commented and endorsed the concept note and, the comments were subsequently integrated into the present revised version.

5. The Working Group is invited to:

(a) Review the concept note contained in this document and to provide comments on the approach, content and timeline for the collection;

(b) Suggest possible additional experts for the drafting group, as well as good practices for the preparation of the collection.

¹ United Nations publication, Sales No. 09.II.E.14. Available from <http://www.unece.org/env/water/publications/pub.html>.

II. Proposed content of the publication

6. The collection of lessons learned and good practices will consist of three parts:
 - (a) An overview of lessons learned regarding climate change adaptation in transboundary basins;
 - (b) Case studies or good practices connected to the lessons learned;
 - (c) Conclusions/summary/way forward.

A. Overview of lessons learned

7. Many lessons have been learned from the pilot projects on adaptation to climate change in transboundary basins, which have been implemented since 2010 under the Water Convention. Some of them have already been identified in earlier meetings and progress reports. Additional lessons can be added from the new basins worldwide which have joined the global network of basins working on climate change adaptation since 2012. Furthermore, a series of four workshops has been held under the Task Force on Water and Climate since 2010, targeting transboundary adaptation to climate change. Several lessons have also been learned from these workshops. The lessons learned in this collection will be taken from the workshop reports, the progress reports of the pilot projects and the meetings of the core group of pilot projects, and put in perspective. This will be complemented with a survey of existing literature to identify additional lessons and to give broader context for the lessons already identified.

8. The proposed content for this part of the collection is:
 - (a) Description of the specific challenges faced;
 - (b) Lessons learned in overcoming the problems;
 - (c) Reference to the relevant case studies/good practices.

B. Case studies or good practices connected to the lessons learned

9. For each of the lessons learned, a number of case studies or good practice examples will be included that provide information about the practical implementation of the lesson. In addition to the experiences of the pilot projects, a significant number of cases have been presented during the Task Force workshops, often connected to one or more of the lessons learned. An inventory will be made of additional good practices for each lesson. In addition, a call for proposals for good practices will be made. A maximum of four good practices per lesson will finally be selected according to criteria such as effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability, replicability, etc.

10. For each lesson learned one to four good practices will be selected and described according to the following pattern:
 - (a) Short description of the particular case;
 - (b) Geographic, demographic and hydrological information;
 - (c) Problem faced, including climate change;
 - (d) Some administrative information, including the organizations involved;

- (e) A more detailed description of how the problem was solved or mitigated, i.e., how the lesson learned worked in practice;
- (f) Recommendations for others.

III. Organization of work for the preparation of the publication

11. A drafting group will be established to prepare the collection for publication. The drafting group will be composed of interested members of the Task Force on Water and Climate, experts from Governments and international and non-governmental organizations (such as the World Meteorological Organization, the Alliance for Global Water Adaptation, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, IUCN and INBO. They will serve in their personal expert capacity. The drafting group will consist of a maximum of 10–15 members and will work in English. It will mainly work by e-mail, with one or two face-to-face meetings and phone or video conferences when needed.

12. The tasks of the members of the drafting group will include, among others, developing the detailed structure of the publication, identifying and selecting the lessons learned and the good practices related to them, providing draft text, reviewing of drafts, contacts with the case study authors, etc. On the basis of the lessons learned, a call for proposals for good practices will be issued. The drafting group will prepare the call and the format for proposals.

13. The progress will be regularly reviewed by the Task Force on Water and Climate and the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management under the Water Convention. For example, following the preparation of a first outline and the identification of lessons learned by the drafting group the outline will be shared with all Task Force members for comments.

IV. Proposed timeline

<i>Indicative time frame</i>	<i>Activity</i>
April–June 2013	Preparation of a first concept note
25–27 June	Presentation and discussion at the workshop on water and climate and the sixth meeting of the Task Force on Water and Climate
July–September	Revision of the concept note
August 2013	INBO General Assembly, consultations with basins with potential good practices
25–26 September 2013	Discussion at the eighth meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management
31 October–1 November 2013	First meeting of the drafting group to discuss the outline and selection of good practices
By end of 2013	Call for proposals for cases to be included
End of January 2014	Selection of good practices to be included

<i>Indicative time frame</i>	<i>Activity</i>
13–14 February 2014	Fourth meeting of the core group of pilot projects/Second meeting of the global network of basins: discussion on progress made, selected cases, etc.
March–April	Authors to provide their draft contributions
May–June	Compilation of the first draft and, if needed, drafting group meeting
25–26 June 2014	Presentation of the draft at the ninth meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management
13–15 October 2014	Presentation of the draft at the fifth workshop on water and adaptation to climate change in transboundary basins and the seventh meeting of the Task Force on Water and Climate
October–December 2014	Finalization of the document and, if needed, drafting group meeting
January–February 2015	Translation, layout, printing
March 2015	Launch and presentation at the Seventh World Water Forum
February/March/April 2015	Flood workshop organized by Germany and Task Force on Water and Climate meeting
May 2015	Core Group of pilot projects/ global network of basins meeting
November 2015, Hungary	Seventh session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention
