



*Convention on Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes
Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment*

WGMA/2003/8

Fourth meeting

St. Michielsgestel, The Netherlands, 12-13 September 2003

WORKING PAPER:

Monitoring strategy until 2006 and beyond

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[**Agenda:** On the basis of a paper prepared by the Chairperson, Mrs. Lea Kauppi, with contributions from the various core groups, the Working Group will establish a priority list of possible activities including lead countries, and consider opportunities for continuing its mandate to guide the implementation of the 2003-2006 work-plan. It will make work-sharing arrangements with a view to finalizing a draft work-plan on monitoring and assessment to be submitted to the Parties at their third Meeting.]

The Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment (WGMA) has prepared the following proposal for the work plan, not only for the years 2003-2006 alone but also up till 2009 to get a better overview of all the important topics, which can be considered to belong to the activities of the WGMA in the future. The Meetings of the Parties have been taken into account carefully so that both the final reports and the plans for all new activities can be discussed and decided in the meetings. The work plan will consist of four main activities as follows (summary table as annex):

1. Strategic guidelines on the Monitoring and Assessment of the Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes

The strategy is the basis for all activities. In the previous monitoring guidelines strategic aspects of the monitoring activity have been discussed and presented as a part of technical guidance. In the lake guidelines, however, the strategy forms a separate volume.

There is an evident need to develop an overall monitoring and assessment strategy for transboundary waters. The strategy part of the lake guidelines provides a good starting point for this. It could be useful to handle and prepare the strategy in a broadly-based core group of WGMA. In the same context the future role and strategic lines of the WGMA itself would be clarified.

2. Technical Guidelines on Monitoring and Assessment

The guidelines on rivers, lakes and ground waters prepared by WGMA have been published earlier, and they have been/are used and tested in different pilot projects. The experiences of the pilot projects but also the implementation of different international obligations, e.g. EU directives, are in fact emphasizing the need to revise the guidelines at certain intervals. The results of the pilot projects and the development of relevant international obligations should be followed very closely by the WGMA.

In addition, there is also an evident need to prepare some new guidelines. "The Guidelines on Monitoring and assessment of Hygienic Water Quality of Trans-boundary Water bodies and International Lakes" has been proposed to be taken as the following task. These guidelines should be prepared in good co-operation with the WGWH.

An evaluation of the effectiveness of the guidelines should be undertaken at certain intervals, preferably well in advance of the upcoming MoPs so that decisions on revision of guidelines could be taken at the MoP.

3. Assessment and Reporting

After a relatively long-term activity of preparing monitoring guidelines with the implementation of a large variety of pilot projects it is well justified for WGMA to start preparing the publication of the assessment reports. One continuous task could be the preparation of the assessment report of the all European trans-boundary water bodies and international lakes with a suitable interval. Finland could be the lead country in this activity, and a core group of interested persons should be nominated.

In this context the possibility to co-operate with the European Environment Agency (EEA) and the preparation process of the 4th assessment report of the state of environment for the ministerial conference in 2006 (or 2007) should be clarified. It would be very useful to combine the preparation of the trans-boundary report by WGMA with this important international reporting activity prepared by EEA.

4. IWAC support to WGMA

IWAC will continue to support WGMA in those activities, where it has most relevant competence as well as practical possibilities. According to the IWAC Workplan 2003-2004 following activities are suggested as joint work:

- Pilot projects (rivers, groundwater)
- World Water Assessment programme
- Revision of the river guidelines
- Organizing conferences and workshops
- Activities to improve information distribution (a regular newsletter, IWAC internet site, special topics as Water Framework Directive)

All these topics should be discussed in the WGMA meeting. The detailed forms and timetables of the co-operation topics as well as the responsibilities should be decided in the meeting.

THE OBJECTIVES OF THE UN/ECE WORKING GROUP ON MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT (WGMA)

	2003 Mo P	2004	2005	2006 Mo P	2007	2008	2009 Mo P
I Strategy							
1.1 Strategy of Monitoring and Assessment of the Transboundary Waterbodies and International Lakes	◆	◆	●	●			
II Assessment and Reporting							
2.1 Report of the State of the Transboundary Waterbodies and International Lakes (to be used in the preparations of the 4 th Assessment report of the SoE for Ministerial Conference, 2006 or 2007; with the interval of three years)	◆	◆	●	◆	◆	◆	● ●
2.2 Special reports of different relevant topics (<i>any proposals</i>)							
III Guidelines on Monitoring							
3.1 Revised version of Guidelines on M&A of Transboundary Rivers	◆	◆	* ●	* ●	●		
3.2 Revised version of Guidelines on M&A of Transboundary and International Lakes	*	*	*	◆	◆	●	●
3.3 Revised version of Guidelines on M&A of Transboundary Groundwaters						◆	●
3.4 Guidelines on M&A of Hygienic Water Quality of Transboundary Waterbodies and International Lakes (<i>together with WGWH</i>)		◆	◆	◆ *	*	●	●
IV IWAC co-operation							
will be finalised after WGMA meeting							

◆ Core group activity; ● Ready document for acceptance; ● Meeting of Parties; ◆ IWAC activity, ◆ EEA activity;

* Pilot project