

Outcomes of the Expert Meeting on Monitoring, Assessment and Data Exchange and its conclusions (1st April 2021)

Lea Kauppi,
Co-Chair of WGMA
Finnish Environment Institute



Objective of the Expert meeting

Main objective: Discuss in detail the proposed activities on monitoring, assessment and data for 2022-2024, notably the proposed update of the Convention guidelines on Monitoring and Assessment on the basis of the following:

- Earlier work on monitoring and assessment under the Water Convention
- The outcomes of the survey on priorities for the 2022-2024 programme of work of the Water Convention;
- Overview of the existing guidelines on Monitoring and Assessment, analyzing the different options for updating them and/or complementing them with a collection of good practice and new guidance on cross-cutting issues. Advantages and limitations of the different options
- Information from partner organizations about on-going and planned activities and identification of possible synergies.



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Main outcomes – assessment of the existing guidelines

- Strategic approach is still largely valid
- Possibly updating and complementing chapters on procedures for data management and data exchange
- Improve sustainability aspects / financing / legal basis (e.g. attention to funding mechanisms that support continuity of operation)
- ‘Technological’ developments need updating

Relevant to consider for the technical guidelines (for any eventual update)

- Updating with new definitions, references; technical documents are available
- Reference to the EU Water Framework Directive – update and consider other relevant regional directives
- Linking stronger water quality and ecology, as well as pressures on and status of waters
- Include joint design of monitoring networks and joint sampling campaigns. Focus on quality assurance/control, particularly sampling procedures
- Include the interaction between groundwater and associated ecosystems, ecological flow
- Re-enforce chapters that show the need of capacity in national and transboundary levels by utilizing systems at these levels
- New technologies and methodologies (such as remote sensing, automatic sensors)
- Ensure inclusiveness (gender) and participation of all stakeholders

Main outcomes - the way ahead

- The **15th Meeting of the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment & Global Workshop on Data Exchange and Information (4 to 6 December 2019), the Programme of Work Survey and the Expert Meeting on Monitoring, Assessment and Data Exchange provided a solid basis** for the inclusion of activities in the draft Programme of Work under the Water Convention 2022-2024 for Programme Area 2 *Supporting monitoring, assessment and information sharing in transboundary basins*. → Needs of countries and interests of partner organizations and basin organizations, and cooperation opportunities with partners identified & well documented.
- **The way ahead clarified:** Updating of the technical guidelines was assessed as laborious and not prioritized for now. Instead, there are crosscutting issues (relevant to all waters) which are not comprehensively covered in the guidelines or the possibilities have significantly evolved, notably data related aspects with advancing technologies → Experience about data sharing to be gathered and shared. The strategic approach –still valid – can be globalized, complemented by insights from different regions.
- **Programme Area 2 was recently reactivated, and it has been receiving high attention** from Parties, non-parties and partners. The **momentum** can be built by raising awareness and communicating with regions worldwide to apply the strategies and guidelines at the country/regional level. On-going pilots in some basins are anticipated to continue in the new PoW, but it is still open which other countries and basins want to go ahead.
- **Partners have indicated willingness to cooperate:** Technical guidance documents and technical activities, Case studies. Interest in workshops; regional activities.
- **Other Programme Areas under the Water Convention** (such as 1.3 NPD, PA 4 Adapting to Climate Change in TB basins and PA5 Financing TB Water Cooperation) can contribute to work on cross cutting issues on data and information management and sharing, and to any update of the guidance.

Thank you for your attention!

Do you have any questions?



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