



Ministry of Infrastructure
and Water Management



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Bundesamt für Umwelt BAFU
Office fédéral de l'environnement OFEV
Ufficio federale dell'ambiente UFAM
Uffizi federal d'ambient UFAM



UNECE



United Nations
Convention to Combat
Desertification



UNDRR

UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction



WORLD BANK GROUP
Water



WORLD
METEOROLOGICAL
ORGANIZATION



GLOBAL WORKSHOP ON DROUGHTS IN TRANSBOUNDARY BASINS

26-27 February 2024

Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 10.00 a.m. on Monday, 26 February 2024 and ending at 6.00 p.m. on Tuesday, 27 February 2024

Programme

Day 1: Monday, 26 February 2024

10:00 – 11:00 Opening session

Moderators: **Ms. Sibylle Vermont**, Federal Office for the Environment, Switzerland and **Mr. Niels Vlaanderen**, Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management, the Netherlands

Welcoming remarks:

- **H.E. Mr. Lars Tummers**, Ambassador, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations in Geneva
- **Mr. Dmitry Mariyasin**, Deputy Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)
- **Ms. Paola Albrito**, Acting Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)
- **Ms. Andrea Meza Murillo**, Deputy Executive Secretary, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), *video message*
- **Ms. Barbara Pompili**, Special Envoy of the French President for the One Water Summit



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

Keynote speech – **Mr. Valentin Aich**, Global Water Partnership
Why is drought such an urgent issue? Situation with droughts worldwide.

Introduction to the aims and the programme of the workshop – **Ms. Sonja Koeppel**, Secretary of the Water Convention, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)

11:00 – 13:00 Session 1: Introduction to drought management: global and local context

Moderator: **Mr. Niels Vlaanderen**, Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management, the Netherlands

Recent challenges and global and regional initiatives and policies on drought management under changing climate: *panel discussion*

- **Mr. Daniel Tsegai**, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)
- **Ms. Jenty Kirsch-Wood**, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)
- **Mr. Robert Stefanski**, World Meteorological Organisation (WMO)
- **Mr. Dominique Burgeon**, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

Questions and answers

Challenges related to droughts and aquifers and way forward (incl. fossil aquifers and the issues of salinity) – **Mr. James Sauramba**, Southern African Development Community Groundwater Management Institute

Flood-drought interaction in the same shared basins and countries

- An EPIC Response: Innovative Governance for Flood and Drought Risk Management – **Ms. Kathia Massaro Havens**, World Bank
- Short interventions from basins on flood-drought interaction
 - o **Ms. Ljupka Dimoska-Zajkov**, Ministry of Environmental and Physical Planning, Republic of North Macedonia

Discussion with the audience: *how can we deal with drought challenges and mainstream transboundary water cooperation into current global and regional initiatives.*

15:00 – 17:00 Session 2: Early warning, data exchange and monitoring of droughts in transboundary basins

Moderator: **Mr. Robert Stefanski**, World Meteorological Organisation

- Overall introduction to early warning, data exchange and monitoring of droughts in transboundary basins by the moderator
- Case-studies from countries, basins and regions
 - o **Mr. Lionel Launois**, Ministry of Ecology, France
 - o **Ms. Rita Filipe De Almeida**, National Institute for Disaster Risk Management and Reduction, Mozambique
 - o **Mr. Blessings Angoni Mlowoka**, International Federation of Red Cross Water Unit, Malawi Red Cross
 - o **Mr. Kassem Natouf**, The Arab Center for the Studies of Arid Zones and Dry Lands
 - o **Mr. Raul Artiga**, Central American Commission on Environment and Development



- **Ms. Rafatou Fofana**, Volta Basin Authority
- **Mr. Jan Kruijshoop**, International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine (ICPR)

Questions and answers

17:00 – 18:00 Interactive discussions in breakout groups

- Introduction by **Ms. Hanna Plotnykova**, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)

18:15 Reception by the Federal Office for the Environment on behalf of the Government of Switzerland (*Restaurant Vieux Bois at Avenue de la Paix 12, Genève*)

Day 2: Tuesday, 27 February 2024

10:00 – 12:15 Session 3: Drought management planning in transboundary basins

Moderator: Mr. Edouard Boinet, International Network of Basin Organisations

- Integration of drought management into river basin management planning, policies and actions on the national level
 - **Mr. Batbayar Zeneemyadar**, Water Agency, Mongolia
 - **Mr. Jonatan Rodriguez**, Ministry of Environment, Panama
- How are droughts integrated into transboundary water cooperation agreements and transboundary cooperation overall?
 - **Ms. Victoria Gratii**, Ministry of Environment, Republic of Moldova
 - **Ms. Conchita Marcuello**, Ministry for the Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge, Spain
 - **Mr. José Gutiérrez**, National Water Commission, Mexico
- How do transboundary basin organisations integrate droughts into river basin management planning?
 - **Mr. Mohamed Fawzi Bedredine**, Senegal River Basin Development Organization (OMVS)
 - **Ms. Sengphasouk Xayavong**, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Lao People's Democratic Republic

Questions and answers

12:15 – 13:00 Session 4: Solutions for drought management in transboundary basins

Moderator: Ms. Sibylle Vermont, Federal Office for the Environment, Switzerland

- Launch of the *Summary version of the Handbook on Water Allocation in a Transboundary Context*
 - **Mr. Remy Kinna**, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)
 - **Mr. Mweshi Katongo**, Ministry of Water Development and Sanitation, Zambia
 - **Mr. Shephard Shereni**, Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Development, Zimbabwe

Questions and answers



15:00 – 17:45 Session 4: Solutions for drought management in transboundary basins

Moderator: **Mr. Daniel Tsegai**, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)

- Southern African Drought Resilience Initiative and its tools for addressing droughts at various levels – **Mr. Anders Jagerskog**, World Bank
- Land-use management and nature-based solutions to improve capture and storage of water in the soil and wastewater treatment and irrigation techniques
 - o **Ms. Birgit Vogel**, International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR)
 - o **Mr. Botir Ismoilov**, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Uzbekistan
 - o **Mr. Mohammad AL Dwairi**, Ministry of Water and Irrigation, Jordan

Questions and answers

Panel discussion

- o **Mr. Nassour Saleh Terda**, Ministry of Water and Sanitation, Chad
- o **Mr. Juan Carlos Alurralde**, Vice Presidency of the Plurinational State of Bolivia
- o **Mr. Chris Magero**, International Union for Conservation of Nature
- o **Ms. Lucia De Strasser**, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)

Discussion with the audience

17:45 – 18:00 Closure

Conclusions and take away messages to be brought into upcoming international processes and events

- **Ms. Sibylle Vermont**, Federal Office for the Environment, Switzerland
- **Mr. Niels Vlaanderen**, Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management, the Netherlands

