



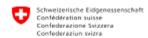
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Challenges and lessons learnt based on the recent meeting of the Global network of basins

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Challenges

- Climate change causes irreversible losses to freshwater ecosystems and changes the availability of water for humanity
 - Ecosystem degradation water pollution, wetland degradation, deforestation and habitat loss
 - Example: sand dunes formation and transportation in some parts of the Niger Basin
 - Water availability decreased precipitation and water pollution
 - Extreme hydrological events (floods and droughts) in the same area over a very short period
- Limited coordination and cooperation between riparian countries, sometimes because of lack of an agreement
- Different regulatory and legal frameworks in riparian countries

Challenges

- Political instability in one country is an obstacle to cooperation and the implementation of joint projects
- Insufficient financial, technical and human resources
- Lack of data and information for forecasting and decision-making
 - Sometimes data available but not shared
 - Data sometimes not reliable
- Flood risk reduction does not adequately integrate climate risk information, ecosystem-based and non-structural approaches to climate resilience
- Increased salinity intrusion through rising sea levels and declining freshwater
 - Risk for domestic, industrial or agricultural use.

Lessons learned

- Global Goal on Adaptation: enhance adaptive capacity, strengthen resilience and reduce vulnerability to climate change.
- Integrated approaches that combine climate change adaptation with ecosystem restoration and sustainable resource management
 - Incorporating climate change adaptation in all institutional strategies
 - Apply a basin/landscape perspective
 - Promote sustainable land use practices, afforestation and reforestation initiatives, protection/ restoration of wetlands, and pollution control measures
 - Long term commitment of public funds
 - A mix of top-down and bottom-up measures
 - Willingness to change behaviors, e.g. water demand management
 - Develop joint strategic action programmes

Lessons learned

- Funding: partner with other organizations and institutions such as GCF, IDB, KfW, EU, GIZ, AF
 - Become an Accredited Entity to the Green Climate Fund and Adaptation Fund
- Institutional strengthening and coordination
 - Capacity building and knowledge sharing, and 'Learning-by-doing'
 - Decrease in asymmetries among basin countries
 - Joint understanding of scenarios, impacts and adaptation measures
 - Pay attention to both vertical and horizontal levels of collaboration
 - Applying ancestral knowledge

Lessons learned

- A joint body can serve as a platform for collaboration, dialogue, joint decision-making, sharing experiences, facilitating regional actions and mobilizing and channeling financial resources for adaptation to climate change
 - Consultation on competing uses and priorities to prevent potential conflicts
 - Public participation
 - Use the enriching contribution of observers
 - Establish water user networks
- Establish a regional hydrological and water quality monitoring network covering the whole basin
 - Develop policy for data-sharing
 - Each river basin needs a water balance
 - Separate automated software programmes can support decision-making