

5th joint meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) and the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment under the Water Convention, 6-8 May 2024

Agenda Item 8 a

Promoting integrated water resources management in transboundary basins

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1. Main achievements in this area of work

Global workshop (Geneva, 16-17 October 2023) with more than 200 participants. The conclusions (ECE.MP.WAT/WG.1/2024/INF.4-ECE/MP.WAT/WG.2/2024/INF.4) are available [here](#).

Key take-aways:

- Exchange on the **importance, needs and benefits** of conjunctive water management
- **Practical learning on the application** of conjunctive water management in national and transboundary contexts.
- **Frameworks** for conjunctive management in transboundary contexts
- Conjunctive water management as an important ally in **climate change adaptation**



2. Current situation

Surface water management and groundwater management have historically been approached from **separate perspectives**.

Conjunctive water use is often **spontaneous or unplanned**, with limited integrated management of the two resources.

Conjunctive water management actions, activities and techniques are **often poorly known and rarely applied** at their full potential.

Data policies are rarely supportive so that surface water, groundwater, meteorological and other data are available to users.

Different international tools are available to enhance knowledge, build capacity of institutions and officials and support the exchange of experiences.

Legal and regulatory frameworks are not always adequate for using available best practices.



3. Next steps

Policy recommendations and guidance

Best practices collection and dissemination

Projects on conjunctive water management

Capacity building and experience sharing at global and regional levels

Support to negotiation of agreements / arrangements and resource allocation





4. Proposed future activities for 2025-2027

Proposed new sub-programme area 3.4 Promoting conjunctive management of transboundary surface waters and groundwaters

Objective: Promoting conjunctive water management of surface waters and groundwaters by increasing understanding of its benefits and supporting transition from spontaneous to planned conjunctive use and management in transboundary basins.

Activities

- **Policy guidance** will be developed to provide advice on conjunctive management of surface waters and groundwaters, with a focus on transboundary basins.
- Input on the topic of conjunctive water management will be provided at **regional workshops** organized under the Convention and **training sessions** organized by partner organizations

Thank you!



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