

Intervention from Global Water Partnership to the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes

Rome, November 28-30, 2012

(a) How has the Water Convention helped your organization to improve transboundary cooperation on the ground?

The UNECE Convention has been an important foundation for:

- the agreements on the basin management plan for the Danube basin, where GWP has been providing technical input as well as support for wide stakeholder involvement;
- the ongoing regional discussions and modelling work being done on the Aral Sea basin;
- assisting in advancing the level of management in basins where cooperation is well established, like in the Sava River under the lead of the International Commission of the Sava River Basin, where assistance was provided by UNECE in the field climate change. In addition, GWP-Mediterranean is complementing the overall efforts by providing technical assistance in enhancing stakeholder involvement;
- initiating and gradually establishing cooperation at the Drin River Basin in concert with GWP-Mediterranean (GWP-Med);
- Assisting in launching IWRM dialogues in Caucasus region – a transboundary basin of Kura – Araks where GWP Georgia and GWP Armenia were able to influence and advocate for IWRM principles;
- contributing to the promotion and success of a regional dialogue on policy and technical issues on TWRM in Southeastern Europe under the Petersberg Phase II / Athens Declaration Process coordinated by Germany, Greece and the World Bank and facilitated by GWP-Med;
- promoting common understanding regarding transboundary water related issues through the Assessments it prepares; its latest TWRM Assessment was released during the Seventh "Environment for Europe" Ministerial Conference in Astana, 21 - 23 September 2011; GWP-Med prepared the part focusing on Southeastern Europe.
- In addition to the Convention, the Protocol on Water and Health stimulated the cross sectoral cooperation between water services and the health sector (for example in Romania, Bulgaria, Georgia).

(b) What direction should the Convention head in for the next 20 years? I.e., what should be done to address the remaining challenges for transboundary water management at the basin, regional and global levels?

- The UNECE Convention offers a good way forward for countries in other regions to address transboundary issues.
- GWP believes that expanding the scope of the UNECE Convention to cover other regions will be a positive benefit to those countries in providing a sound legal instrument for transboundary agreements. The results of the International Roundtable on Transboundary Waters in Southern Mediterranean, 26-27 November 2012, in Rome, organized by UNECE, UfM and GWP-Med, back-to-back with the UNECE MoP, has validated that approach through sharing experiences and identifying opportunities for further cooperation.