

African Development Bank Pavilion at COP24

Side event concept note template

Experts Workshop

Supporting transboundary actions to address Climate Change

[Venue: Pavilion of the African Development Bank]
Katowice, [7 December 2018] [(11:00-12:30)]

Organisers

UNECE – Water Convention Secretariat, African Water Facility, Climate Resilience Infrastructure Development Facility, GWP –Mediterranean

Background and Context

States are the most important actors for addressing climate change at a global level, but there are risks that their actions, designed to address local challenges, may result in additional challenges in neighbouring states, especially in transboundary basins where resources such as water may be shared. This is especially important in Africa, where close to 80% of freshwater resources (whether groundwater aquifers or surface waters) are transboundary in nature.

The initiation, and use, of transboundary organisations to foster knowledge generation and provide a platform for discussion for basin states about shared resources is not a recent phenomenon, with organisations such as the Niger Basin Authority been set up in 1964. But across Africa, transboundary organisations have had varying levels of success in meeting their differing mandates, and face ongoing challenges such as resourcing.

As climate change exacerbates challenges already inherent in Africa’s hydrological cycle, and affects different parts of a watershed differently, it is clear that there is a need to highlight the importance of transboundary perspectives in adaptation and decision-making, and to support efforts to include these within states planning and actions, including finance activities.

Objectives of the event

The objective of this event is to highlight the importance of considering transboundary perspectives when developing strategies and actions, such as through National Adaptation Plans, designed to address climate change, highlight the importance of transboundary organisations, and .

Draft Programme

Moderator: GWP’s Executive Secretary, Monika Weber-Fahr

Opening remarks – Oswald Chanda, AfDB 5 mins

“Mobilising Private Sector Finance for infrastructure in a transboundary river basin” Mr Jonathan Barnes (CRIDF) (20 mins)

“Enhance transboundary cooperation mechanisms and governance to boost funds mobilization : lessons from North Africa”, and includes

- Feedback from the dialogue GWP-Med, OSS and UNECE are facilitating in the NWSAS to enhance the institutional and legal framework for cooperation informed by technical assessments on NEXUS and climate change impacts
- Advancing climate resilience through transboundary cooperation– future directions of AIP-NEPAD PIDA Water
- Present the GWP Water supplement to the NAP Technical Guidelines
Dr Sarra Touzi, GWP- Mediterranean (15 Mins)

Lessons from Basin States and Transboundary Organisations UNECE & NBA (20 mins)

Message from INBO (5 mins)

Further Discussion – (15 mins)

Launch of the “Financing Climate Change Adaptation in Transboundary Basin: Preparing Bankable Projects” booklet – including representatives from Greg Browder (World Bank) & Oswald Chanda (AfDB) etc. (10 mins)

Key messages

Globally, but especially in Africa, climate change holds severe implications for transboundary planning and actions, whether for surface water or groundwater.

There is a need to ensure that resources are available for transboundary activities designed to support State actions under the Paris Agreement, including adaptation planning at a basin level.

Links to background documentation:

Contact event organisers:

Sonja Koeppel, UNECE,
David Hebart-Coleman, AWF,

Please send completed concept note to f.benfadhl@afdb.org and l.brown@afdb.org no later than 12 September 2018 COB (Abidjan time) with the subject: Side event at AfDB COP24 Pavilion.