

# World Water Forum 5<sup>th</sup>

## Topic Sessions Proposal

### Theme 3

## “Managing and Protecting Water Resources and their Supply Systems to Meet Human and Environmental Needs”

## WORKING PAPER

### Topic 3.1:

## “Basin Management and Trans-boundary Cooperation”

### Introduction

**This paper serves to initiate the development of the sessions under the topic 3.1 and to invite reactions from a wide audience of stakeholders.**

This paper is built from the outcomes of the second Thematic and Regional Coordinators Meeting (Istanbul, February 2008) and is proposed to be the basis for a living document that will evolve into the Session Document requested by the organisers.

This document is in continuation of the process started in Istanbul in February 2008 and presents the key questions which are resulting from this meeting.

This document will serve as framework for the Sessions preparation and for a good understanding during the development of the multi-stakeholder meetings or events which will be used as a platform of exchanges about the topic.

As it is expected to have a living document, that implies that the document will be regularly revised and updated with the feedback of the “Open call for contributions” and the meetings, the feedback from the Programme Committee and the Thematic and Topic coordinators, and the outputs of the thematic, and regional processes.

### **Stakeholders & Representatives to be consulted:**

**UNESCO** (through ISARM and PCCP) **and INBO** (the International Network of Basin Organizations) **have been designated to coordinate jointly the work for topic 3.1.**

A lot of potential stakeholders and representatives have already been identified, in particular during the second coordinator meeting. The list will be enlarged as the process will go on.

Some are long term partners of UNESCO or INBO or Regional-NBO Networks.

As the process is open, the approach will be as inclusive as possible.

For example, the following bodies are already identified for contributing in the process:

- State Hydraulic Works DSI and MFA, from Turkey,
- Union of municipalities of Marmara Region,
- South Eastern Anatolia project,
- Istanbul University Faculty of Forestry, Marmara University, Cukurova University, ETIC,
- University of Castilla-la-Mancha, from Spain,
- DHI water and environment, from Denmark,
- Green Cross International,
- WWF International,
- Centre of Russian Waterworks Inventory and State Water Cadastre,
- SIC-ICWC,
- Walloon region from Belgium,
- French Water Academy,
- International Office for Water,
- ANRH from Algeria,
- Observatoire du Sahara et du Sahel,
- IGRAC from the Netherlands,
- Gebze Institute of Technology from Germany,
- Latin American Network of Basin Organizations,
- Central and Eastern Europe Network of Basin Organizations,
- Mediterranean Network of Basin Organizations
- African Network of Basin Organizations
- Network of Asian River Basin Organizations,
- EECCA Network of Basin Organizations,
- North American Network of Basin Organizations,
- Network of International Commissions and transboundary Basins Organizations,
- “EUROPE INBO Group for the implementation of the EWFD”,
- European Center for River Restoration,
- National Water Agency of Brasil,
- International Conference on Nature - oriented Flood Damage Prevention,
- UNESCO- through the HELP initiative,
- UNESCO IHE – Delft,
- Compass Foundation, from Switzerland,
- Middle East Technical University,
- BALWOIS,
- Mekong River Commission,
- Oregon State University,
- Aristotle University of Thessaloniki,
- SICA-CRRH,
- Véolia –Water,
- UNILC,
- FAO,
- UNECE,
- UNESCWA,
- OAS,
- IGRAC,
- IAEA Nubian,
- UNESCWA/UNECA,
- Regional Centre for Shared Aquifers in Africa (Tripoli, Libya),
- BGR,
- SIWI,
- GEF,
- INWEB....

## **Engagement of stakeholders & representatives and key Events used for the Session Development**

The involvement of stakeholders & representatives will be developed through their participation in meetings and events scheduled ahead of the World Water Forum and through e-platform debates.

The following list of events/meetings already forecasted will be the basis through which a dialogue among a large number of various groups of stakeholders will start on the issues of topic 3.1.

These events will also offer opportunities to collect the views and concerns of those stakeholders in order to bring them to the attention of the political leaders that will take part in the Forum:

- UNILC Session May-July 2008
- EUROPE-INBO session, during the International Symposium Management of water-related extreme phenomena, ECWATECH in Moscow, Russia from 04 to 06 June 2008;
- 4<sup>th</sup> International Conference on River Restoration, in Venice, Italy, from 16 to 21 June 2008;
- International Water Exhibition Water Tribune, in Saragossa, Spain, from 07 to 10 July 2008 - Thematic Week 4 – INBO-MENBO-EWP Session: "basin management and transboundary cooperation in Europe and the Mediterranean", on July the 8<sup>th</sup>,
- UNESCO-PCCP Consultation Process on the Mono River, Lomé, Togo, from 16 to 18 July 2008;
- UN Water seminar on transboundary water resources at the Stockholm Water Week, in August 2008;
- UNESCO-PCCP Consultation Process on the Ostua Metapan Aquifer, Guatemala, from 26 to 28 August 2008;
- IWRA General Assembly, session on Transboundary Water Management, in Montpellier, France, from 01 to 03 September 2008;
- IWA Symposium on River Basins, in Budapest, Hungary, from 04 to 06 September 2008;
- General Assembly UN October-November 2008
- Europe-INBO 2008, session on the implementation of WFD, in Sibiu, Romania, from 02 to 04 October 2008, "Floods management, groundwater management and draught management in basin context";
- IV<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Transboundary Waters Management, in Thessaloniki, Greece from 15<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> October 2008,
- 6<sup>th</sup> Workshop on ISARM Americas, Dominican Republic, November 2008
- Latin America Network of Basin Organisations General Assembly, in Rio Janeiro, Brazil, from 19 to 21 November 2008, with a session with the Organisation of America States.

A number of training events will also serve as a vehicle to collect the views and concerns of the technical community and transfer it to the process of the Forum.

These events include:

- UNESCO-PCCP Course on Water and cooperation for Graduates (Fac.of Philosophy and Letters), Buenos Aires, Argentina, from 18 March to 24 June
- 3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference on Managing Shared aquifer Resources in Africa in Tripoli, Libya, 25-27 May 2008,
- UNESCO-PCCP & partners Regional training on Transboundary waters dispute prevention and management, Bangkok, Thailand, 28-29 May 2008;
- UNESCO IHE, PCCP & partners Training on anticipating and resolving flood issues, differences and disputes in the Lower Mekong Basin, from June 2008 to February 2009
- UNESCO-PCCP and UCBA Short Postgraduate Course, Caracas, Venezuela, from 14 to 18 July 2008;
- UNESCO-PCCP High level Training Course for International Civil Servants on Dispute Resolution of National and International Water Resources, Geneva, Switzerland, 21-23 October 2008;
- UNESCO-PCCP training for Trainers on Dispute resolution of national and international water resources in Middle East, 28-31 October 2008;

In addition, a first thinking process was initiated during the CSD-16 in New York (12 May 2008), as side event on Basin Organisations Financing.

An event in Asia will be organised in autumn with Japan Water Agency or NARBO or Partners of China. Date and location still have to be defined.

INBO and GWP have already started a thinking process for the preparation of the Brief on "IWRM at basin Level" issued in English and French.

UNESCO-IHP, NARBO and Turkey have also initiated actions toward the production of updated Integrated River Basin Management (IRBM) principles and guidelines.

In the same way, GWP, GWP TEC, INBO, and its Regional Networks are involved in the elaboration of a Handbook for practitioners on "How to apply IWRM at river, lake and aquifer basin levels", with the financial support of the French MFA .

Connections are established between the Regional Process and the Topic 3.1 Process, as INBO or Regional NBO take part in many Regional Report Preparations, like in EU with EWP, in Latin America with LANBO and OAS for instance...

The communication tools of INBO and UNESCO (Web site and News) will be used as much as possible to further develop the dialogue and to communicate necessary information.

The Sessions Proposal will be put on the interactive website of the 5<sup>th</sup> WWF allowing stakeholders to respond to the "Call for contributions", give feedback and make suggestions on the content of the Proposals. The Sessions Proposal will furthermore be distributed when and wherever possible among sector professionals during regional scheduled meetings, conferences, hearings, dialogues.

The emphasis in engaging stakeholders will be done through the consultation of existing networks and professional institutions. As mentioned above though, the list of events already scheduled will also be unique opportunities to develop the dialogue with and among the stakeholders and to engage them in the four sessions.

### **Main questions at Topic level:**

With the growing pressures on water resources and the expected impacts of climate change, better basin management and cooperation in trans-boundary water resources management becomes an essential element to meet human and environmental needs.

In order to develop efficient basin management and trans-boundary water cooperation, we have to provide answers to several key questions such as:

- How to practically apply IWRM and hydro-solidarity at basin level? What are the best tools available?
- What are the success stories and failures of hydro-solidarity and IWRM at basin level and what are the associated key actions for a basin approach, trans-boundary cooperation and benefit sharing?
- Legal instruments have been developed on local, regional and global scale, how effective and relevant are they for surface and groundwater resources management, stakeholder participation planning, financing and monitoring?
- How can trans-boundary surface and groundwater resources be managed more sustainably by all the riparian countries concerned?
- Are the key principles and tools developed by the European Union within the WFD implementation transferable to other regions to better the IWRM approach at basin level? And how?
- Are there other principles developed in other regions that can be useful to different regions of the world?

- How efficient are the indigenous customary ways of managing surface and groundwater resources? And how to incorporate them in the contemporary behaviour of water managers and decision makers?

**Considering the key questions emerging from the coordinators meeting in February 2008, four sessions have been proposed for the Forum around the following areas:**

1. **The examples of practical application of IWRM at basin level, in groundwater management and for trans-boundary cooperation,**
2. **The trans-boundary surface and groundwater resources management,**
3. **The participation of stakeholders in both trans-boundary cooperation and basin and groundwater management,**
4. **The existing operational tools for basin and aquifer management as well as trans-boundary cooperation.**

**1. Proposal for Session 3.1.1:**

**Main Question:**

- **What are the success stories and failures (and their reasons) of IWRM and hydro-solidarity at basin level ?**

**Suggested Session Title:**

***“Success stories and failures of IWRM and hydro-solidarity at basin and aquifer levels”.***

**Main issues:**

IWRM is widely recognised as a critical concept for solving water problems. However, there are still problems in many countries in the world with its concrete implementation and with practical mechanisms development of its application at all levels, including at trans-boundary level. Basin management and trans-boundary water cooperation are a way for reaching IWRM and hydro-solidarity applied in the field. Experiences of water management at basin level and at trans-boundary level exist all around the world. In order to accelerate water management improvement and solve water problems, it is crucial to identify and share those experiences, success stories and failures among the international water community, as a mean for learning lessons.

**Description and possible outcomes:**

The session will be the opportunity to assess the three elements of IWRM which are Enabling environment, Institutional framework, Management tools, through the presentation of significant success stories and failures of water management at basin level.

Concretely, presentations of success and failures stories at three basin levels (local, national, trans-boundary) will be selected to offer a basis for a debate with the audience. The session will allow an analysis of the adaptation of IWRM in different types of situations and contexts such as small basins, large river basin, large aquifers.

A proposal of guidelines for better IWRM at basin level will be presented and discussed during the meeting. The key questions of hydro-solidarity v/s hydro sovereignty will be addressed.

Limited speech time for guest speakers would allow participants to comment or ask questions, thus promoting interactive dialogue and enhancing a wealthy share of experiences among the assistance.

## **2. Proposal for Session 3.1.2:**

**Main Question:**

➤ **How can trans-boundary surface and groundwater resources be managed in a more sustainable manner by concerned riparian?**

**Suggested Session Title:**

**“Achieving sustainable trans-boundary surface and groundwater management”**

**Main issues:**

There are more than 263 trans-boundary river basins around the world and more than one hundred trans-boundary aquifers on which resources 2/5 of the world population's lives depend... Many countries' development depends on the water resources flowing from an upstream country. On the other hand, there are very few international agreements for integrated water management. Although various tools and mechanisms are known and used to enhance trans-boundary water cooperation (i.e. international commissions, basin authorities, arbitration commissions, basin organisations for investments, water and water-related profit sharing mechanisms), actual joint water management between neighbouring countries is still rare or not really well developed, particularly in developing regions.

**Description and possible outcomes:**

During the session, participants will examine various aspects of the sustainable management of trans-boundary water resources (surface and groundwater). The following points will be analysed in practical way:

- Sustainable management of trans-boundary (surface and groundwater) resources by concerned riparian.
- Sustainable management of trans-boundary groundwater resources.
- Sustainable management of trans-boundary surface waters
- Integration of both, surface and groundwaters
- Institutional aspects.
- Conflict resolution and cooperation building mechanisms
- International legal instruments and implementation (1997 convention, draft articles on the law of transboundary aquifers, ECE Water convention, WFD...).
- Prerequisites and basis for cooperation.
- Ethical principles for allocating trans-boundary water resources (Dublin principles and their review to adapt to global changes).
- Training and capacity building needs.
- Others...

Limited speech time for guest speakers would allow participants to comment or ask questions, thus promoting interactive dialogue and enhancing a wealthy share of experiences among the assistance.

### **3. Proposal for Session 3.1.3:**

**Main Question:**

➤ **How to organize and enable stakeholder's participation in basin, groundwater management, and trans-boundary cooperation?**

**Suggested Session Title;**

***“Organizing and enabling stakeholders’ participation”***

**Main issues:**

Stakeholder's participation is one of IWRM principles of Dublin. However, organising, institutionalising and finding the right mechanisms for the actual development of stakeholders' participation are still an important issue around the globe. Water management at basin level (whether it is national or shared by two or more countries) is a key arrangement for developing a wide participation of stakeholder representatives and allows a genuine public participation.

Nevertheless, it is important to get correct answers to several critical questions such as the followings:

- Which kind of participation?
- Who are the stakeholders, their representatives?
- How do we determine the legitimacy of the representatives and what types of representative systems?
- Which mode or mechanism for the participation?
- How to Fund the participation costs,
- Others...

**Description and possible outcomes:**

The various questions above will be analysed through the presentation of three basin examples. In particular, the case studies will emphasise the different kinds of cooperative participation (institutional frameworks, basin committees, education and empowerment, consultation, information, involvement... ), the definition of stakeholders (Local authorities, Municipalities, Elected people, NGOs, researchers, economic sector, citizens' organizations, water consumers, media, international organization... ). The understanding of the roles of stakeholders in water resources management according to the context will also be an important topic to be addressed during the session. At the same time, the session will deal with the key issues related to the participation of specific groups like women, NGOs, poor people, young people. The session will also analyse the multi-stakeholder processes in the context of basin management and trans-boundary cooperation.

The relevant information and communication technologies useful in participation process will be presented through relevant examples.

In general, the content of those subjects will be presented through success and failures stories adequately analysed.

The session will offer an opportunity for the identification of key mechanisms and requirements for the development of stakeholders' participation. It will also allow recognizing the tools that can serve specific contexts' analysis and the establishment of the right strategies for the organization of stakeholder's involvement accordingly.

Limited speech time for guest speakers would allow participants to comment or ask questions, thus promoting interactive dialogue and enhancing a wealthy share of experiences among the assistance.

## **4. Proposal for Session 3.1.4:**

### **Main Questions:**

- **What are the operational tools to achieve better Basin management and Trans-boundary cooperation over surface and groundwater resources?**

### **Suggested Session Title:**

***“Operational tools for the Management and Transboundary Cooperation over surface and groundwater resources”***

### **Description:**

The session will focus on operational tools which are crucial for the improvement of water management (surface and groundwater) at basin level , as well as for the reinforcement of transboundary cooperation.

The areas covered by the session will be:

- Management plans/Master plans including risk and disaster management plans,
- Programme of measures,
- Financing mechanisms,
- Information, monitoring, assessment,
- Research,
- Joint planning and operation,
- Modelling,
- Training,
- Decision support systems,
- Dispute/conflict resolution mechanisms and cooperation building tools,
- Others...

### **Description and possible outcomes :**

- ◆ Identification of efficient tools adapted to basin management and transboundary cooperation,
- ◆ The session is expected to offer / present examples of tools on the subject, particularly from real experiences related to:
  - Risk management,
  - Modeling ,
  - Training (tools, methods, kit),
  - Conflict resolution,
  - Funding mechanisms,
  - Integrated Information Systems,
  - Planning methods,
  - Others.

Limited speech time for guest speakers would allow participants to comment or ask questions, thus promoting interactive dialogue and enhancing a wealthy share of experiences among the assistance.

\*

- On the other hand we could also propose a session that addresses the transfer of IWRM management tools, principles, mechanisms... from one region to another, whether these tools, principles and mechanisms are reflected in a legal text or are customary and indigenous?

\*

**This paper is a draft, please do not hesitate to give us your comments and proposals, if possible by return E-mail:**

- INBO = [inbo@wanadoo.fr](mailto:inbo@wanadoo.fr) and [d.valensuela@oieau.fr](mailto:d.valensuela@oieau.fr) ,
- UNESCO = [l.salame@unesco.org](mailto:l.salame@unesco.org) and [m.solecki@unesco.org](mailto:m.solecki@unesco.org)