

Global situation & needs related to transboundary water data & information exchanges:

What are needs for transboundary data & information sharing in relation to UNECE Water Convention?

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Obligations among riparian States (1)



- To enter into agreements between riparian Parties
- To establish joint bodies, with tasks
 - To collect, compile and evaluate data
 - To elaborate joint monitoring programmes
 - agree pollution parameters & pollutants to be monitored, harmonize rules
 - carry out joint or coordinated assessments – results available to public
 - To exchange information on pollution sources
 - To serve as a forum for exchange of information
 - To exchange information on best available technology

Obligations among riparian States (2)

- To exchange reasonably available data on
 - Environmental conditions of transboundary waters
 - Experience gained in application & operation of best available technology, research & development results
 - Emission & monitoring data
 - Measures taken and planned to be taken to prevent, control & reduce transboundary impact
 - Permits or regulations for waste-water discharges
- To exchange information on national regulations
- Information availability
 - Protection of information related to industrial and commercial secrecy, including intellectual property, or national security
 - Availability of information to the public



Obligations among riparian States (3)

- To set up, where appropriate, and operate coordinated or joint communication, warning & alarm systems with the aim of obtaining and transmitting information
- To operate these systems on the basis of agreed compatible data transmission & treatment procedures & facilities



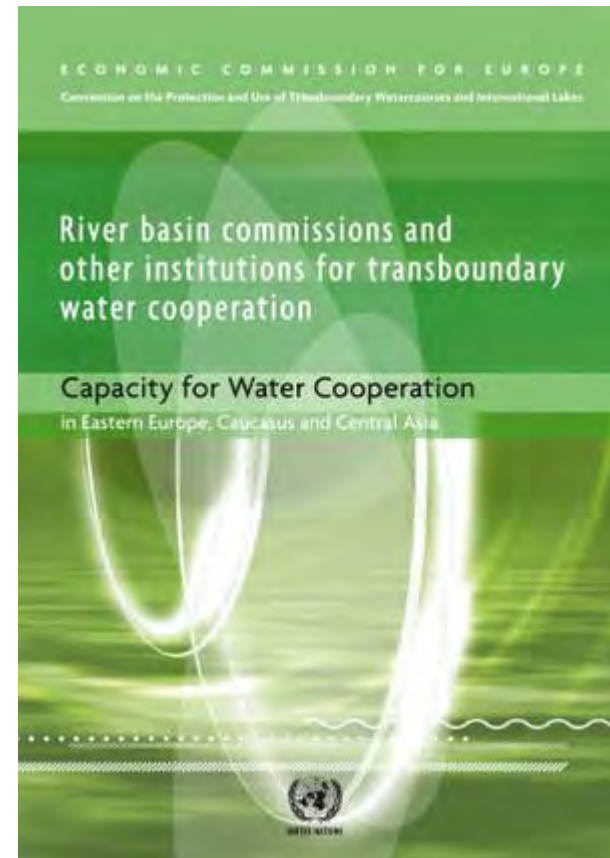
Disputes and difficulties

- Information needed in context of arbitration
- Information gathering by Implementation Committee established by Meeting of Parties to Water Convention



Good practice

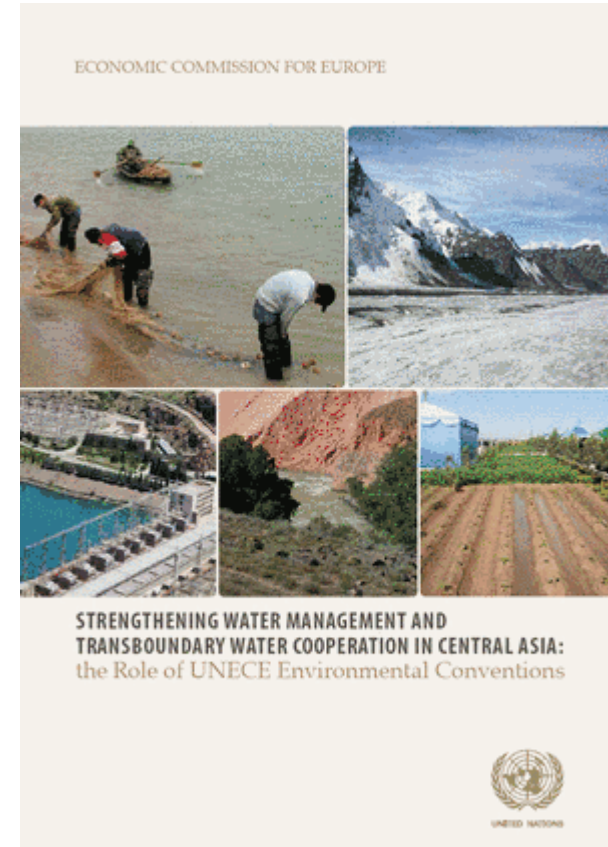
- Draft principles for effective joint bodies on transboundary water cooperation, include
 - A good information basis to support activities of joint body, including joint study of the basin
 - Functioning as forum for exchange of information & data, including on planned measures & activities, and for harmonization of monitoring approaches



Reality on the ground

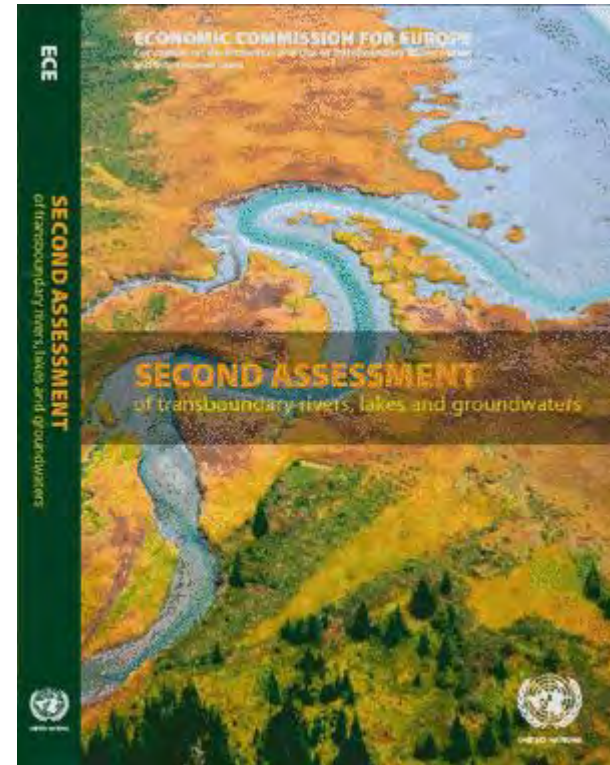
– example of Central Asia

- Lack of reliable information, absence of effective information exchange between countries
- National monitoring systems, previously integrated in regional monitoring system, now poorly linked
- Existing regional bilateral & multilateral agreements provide for exchange of information, most importantly bilateral agreements between national hydrometeorological services
- Efforts to develop information exchange taking place in framework of several projects and institutions, e.g. CAREWIB
- Agreement on national, basin-wide and regional databases was drafted in 2006, but has not been adopted



– and across UNECE region

- Information exchange often irregular, intermittent, opaque and unstructured
- Harmonization of information and approaches is a challenge –apparent also in our work on adaptation to climate change in transboundary basins, where countries use different methodologies, models and scenarios
- Joint monitoring & assessment hardly exist in many transboundary basins
- Weak exchange of data between different national sector authorities
- Information too often scattered and isolated and does not support sound management and decision-making





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