THEME GOVERNANCE

Session 9.b.1: Managing water across sectors and borders:
Institutional frameworks and approaches for efficient transboundary basin organizations

Tuesday 20th March, 14h30-16h00

Moderator

Mr. Jean - François DONZIER
General Secretary

INTERNATIONAL NETWORK OF BASIN ORGANIZATIONS
keynote speaker:

Dr. Alejandro Iza, Director, IUCN Environmental Law Centre

Panel:

• Ms. Judith Enaw, Secretary General, International Commission of the Congo-Oubangui-Sangha (CICOS)
• Ms. Anne Schulte-Wülwer-Leidig, Executive Secretary, International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine
• Ms. Susanne Schmeier, Head of Programme Component Water, Energy, Food Security Nexus Sustainable Water Policy, GIZ,
• Mr. Juan Jose Ocola Salazar, Chief Executive Officer, Binational Autonomous Authority of Lake Titicaca,
• Ms. Andrea Borges, Technical Manager, PCJ Consortium
• Dr. Tien Truong Hong, Director Environmental Management Division, Mekong River Commission (MRC)
Water has no boundary

RESEAU INTERNATIONAL DES ORGANISMES DE BASSIN
INTERNATIONAL NETWORK OF BASIN ORGANIZATIONS
RED INTERNACIONAL DE ORGANISMOS DE CUENCA
TWO HUNDRED AND SEVENTY SIX RIVERS OR LAKES AND HUNDREDS OF AQUIFERS ARE TRANSBOUNDARY ONES

### Transboundary basins per continent.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Continent</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Afrique</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>62 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asie</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>39 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Europe</strong></td>
<td>69</td>
<td>54 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amerique du Nord</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>35 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amerique du Sud</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>60 %</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>276</td>
<td>45 %</td>
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What do we consider as a *Basin*?

the concept includes all

**SURFACE and**

**Groundwater**
IN NORTHERN AFRICA
THE MAIN AQUIFERS
ARE SHARED

Figure 1. Transboundary aquifers in N Africa
In Europe a majority of basins are transboundary ones!
International River Basins of NORTH AMERICA

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HUNDREDS OF AQUIFERS ARE TRANSBOUNDARY ONES

Transboundary aquifers in America
today, there are still too few agreements, conventions or treaties, dealing with:

- pollution control,
- aquifers management,

and, a fortiori,

- the integrated management of shared river and aquifers basins.
Many riparian Countries in transboundary basins have created joint managing bodies .... sometime for decades.

Such International Organizations allow:
- better dialogue,
- exchanging useful information and warning,
- resolving potential conflicts,
- sharing benefits from better joint management and
- strengthening transboundary cooperation.

However, these institutions may be effective only if they have mandates clearly defining their tasks and responsibilities and if they have the necessary and sufficient human, technical and financial resources and their sustainability guaranteed.
110 RIVER BASIN DISTRICTS HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED
40 ARE INTERNATIONAL RIVER BASIN DISTRICTS
Implementation of the UN Convention for the international water courses management in Europe – HELSINKY 1992

Building the data administration and sharing capacities of the national and local Authorities involved in 2 pilot basins, by using methodologies that can be replicated in other transboundary basins of the region.

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Questions to the panel:

• What steps are needed to pave the way for creating and strengthening transboundary rivers, lakes and aquifers basin organizations? What are the success stories?

• What are the main challenges to ensure the good management of transboundary basin organizations and the coordination between riparian countries: financing, data sharing, staff capacities, stakeholder participation across scales, cross-sectoral consultations and planning etc.?

• What strategies will help basin organizations to work effectively across scales, to ensure good basin management from basin to national to intergovernmental level?