

Support to water cooperation on the basis of the UNECE Water Convention



Region
Global

Partners

UNESCO, UNFCCC, FAO, WMO, other UN Regional Commissions, GEF, the Ramsar Convention, GWP, IUCN, INBO, WWF, OSCE, World Bank, AfDB, and many more

Background information

The intervention aims to promote transboundary water cooperation at both technical and political levels by touching upon different aspects of water management and use.

Project target

Transboundary waters worldwide are managed in cooperation between riparian countries, promoting sustainable development, peace and security.

Beneficiaries

Water authorities, decision-makers from other sectors, experts and decision-makers at various levels, NGOs and international organisations

Costs

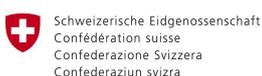
CHF 1,650,000

Duration

2019 - 2021

Contact

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The support to the Convention is part of a broader programme dedicated to Trans-boundary Waters Governance for Sustainable Development and Blue Peace, and brings together partnerships with IUCN, UNESCO (transboundary aquifers) and the Trans-boundary Water Convention.

The Swiss contribution will support sustainable development in transboundary basins by fostering transboundary water cooperation on the basis of the 1992 Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention). This contribution will support the Programme of Work 2019 – 2021 of the Convention, in particular its pillars on capacity-building, development of policy guidance backed by pilot projects on the ground, and exchange of experience. As a result, it will strengthen the sustainable use of shared water resources globally, and promote water security, water diplomacy, respect for the rule of law and political stability.

The UNECE 1992 Water Convention is the only global legal and intergovernmental framework for transboundary water cooperation. Since the 1990s, the Convention has fostered the development of transboundary agreements, the establishment of joint institutions and the strengthening of cooperation in the UNECE region. In March 2016, it turned into a global framework open for accession by all UN Member States. More than 70 non-UNECE countries have already participated in the Convention's activities, and several have started the national accession process. In 2018, Senegal and Chad ratified the Convention and around 20 other countries have expressed their interest and intention to accede to the Convention.

Intervention strategy and components

The contribution aims to promote cooperation on transboundary waters at both technical and political levels. It represents a core contribution to the work under the Convention; thus, most activities will be co-funded by other donors.

While the contribution will support the entire programme of work 2019 – 2021 (as an institutional programmatic contribution), priority will be given to activities in the following areas:

1) Increasing awareness of and accession to the Convention, and supporting the application of its principles drawing on the benefits of cooperation

The Convention, its products and achievements, and transboundary water cooperation in general will be promoted by (a) increasing awareness of and political support for the Convention and transboundary water cooperation; (b) increasing accession to the Convention, and as appropriate to the United Nations Watercourses Convention, thereby promoting synergies between the two conventions; (c) highlighting the broad range of benefits that can be generated by cooperation and cooperative solutions; (d) supporting countries in developing or revising agreements or arrangements in transboundary basins.

2) Promoting an integrated and intersectoral approach to water management at all levels

On the basis of the methodology developed under the Convention in 2013-2015, nexus assessments based on intersectoral dialogues to enhance cooperation will be carried out in a number of basins, for example in the North-Western Sahara Aquifer System and in the Drina basin in South-Eastern Europe. The methodology will also be promoted for application by partners in other basins worldwide. A handbook will be developed, drawing from existing practices supporting equitable and sustainable water allocation for both surface and groundwater.

3) Adapting to climate change in transboundary basins (pilot projects)

Cooperation in the development of vulnerability assessments, adaptation and disaster risk reduction strategies and their implementation in transboundary basins will be promoted within projects implemented together with partners.

4) Facilitating financing of transboundary water cooperation

The facilitation of dialogues and the exchange of lessons learned on sustainable financing models regarding water cooperation (e.g. institutions, data/information management systems, infrastructure) will be supported. This will culminate in a Global Workshop on financing water cooperation from all sources in 2020 and a publication on the challenges, approaches and lessons learned, to be published in 2021. Efforts to further increase cooperation with financial institutions will be made.

Additional information:
www.unece.org/env/water