
Transboundary Water Cooperation Workshop Series

Water Cooperation and Climate Change
The Nile, SADC/Zambezi Basins and the Mekong

Workshop announcement and programme

Danish Water Forum
Technical Advisory Services, Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs

2nd Event
Copenhagen December 1-2, 2008

Venue: Eigtveds Pakhus, Asiatisk Plads, 2G, 1448 Copenhagen K, Denmark

WORKSHOP ANNOUNCEMENT

Background

Transboundary water cooperation is important for improving water management in various transboundary basins in the SADC area, in the Nile Basin and in the Mekong.

The first workshop arranged by Danish Water Forum and the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Technical Advisory Services was held in March 2007 and highlighted stakeholder participation in transboundary water planning, management and decision making; as well as national commitment to transboundary water cooperation. A Workshop Theme Paper with recommendations for future activities was developed at the workshop. Both are available on www.danishwaterforum.dk

This second workshop on transboundary management is arranged at a time with sharp focus on climate change and a possibility to take recommendations from this workshop forward to other international events during the next year. Many advances have been made within transboundary water management, but several challenges within cooperation/governance remain, and climate change is likely to aggravate variability, hydrological extremes and increase risks making transboundary cooperation even more critical.

The timing of this activity is appropriate as the African basins in this workshop (Nile and SADC/Zambezi) are looking towards new periods for Danish and other donor funding. Recommendations on climate change issues may be important for scoping of the way ahead.

Objective and working modality

The workshop will - in the course of 2 days - identify ways in which transboundary water management need to include strategies for climate change adaptation and disaster reduction. Key questions will be:

- Which dimensions - additional to the national - have to be included by transboundary basin organizations? and
- What is the transboundary perspective on water related disaster risk reduction

These questions will be addressed partly by international experts and partly through discussions in working groups.

Results and target groups

Recommendations will be made for water resources management addressing the challenges of climate change adaptation at a transboundary level emphasizing cooperative aspects. They will also focus on aspects additional to the adaptation at national level as well as strategies related to disaster risk reduction. The recommendations will be directed towards organizations and stakeholders at local, national and transboundary level as well as the international community.

WORKSHOP PROGRAM

December 1st

Registration at the workshop venue (08:00 - 08:45)

Morning plenary session (09:00 - 13:00)

Workshop opening

- Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs: Head of Technical Advisory Services
- Danish Water Forum

Experiences from 1st workshop on Transboundary Water cooperation:

Presentation of lessons learned and recommendations for activities, comments to workshop paper.

Opening addresses presenting key features and challenges related to meeting the Climate Change challenges at basin level

- Mekong basin
- Nile Basin
- Zambezi basin

Two key note addresses

Chosen from the following potential workshop themes

- Climate change impacts on water management - global perspectives
- Local implications of climate change, impacts on basin level, when are transboundary basins the best entity for dealing with climate change?
- Transboundary aspects of adaptation to climate change, what must be dealt with at transboundary level?

- Water related Disaster Risk Reduction in transboundary perspective and at basin level
- Sharing knowledge between transboundary basins and between North and South

Lunch (13:00 – 14:00)

Afternoon working group session (14:00 – 16:30)

First working group session: “Sharing of experience and lessons learnt”

Two working groups will draw lessons learned/good practices from the three basins or other international experience on:

- The transboundary water dimensions of climate change adaptation and national adaptation programs
- Water related disaster risk reduction in a transboundary perspective

Short presentations can be made by the participants in the beginning of the working session.

Evening (19:00 – 22:00)

Workshop dinner

December 2nd

Morning plenary session (09:00 – 9:30)

Report from group sessions by the rapporteurs and introduction to second working group session

Morning working group session (09:30 – 12:30)

Second working group session: “Way forward”

The two working groups will prepare a list of recommendations from the three basins or other international experience on:

- The transboundary water dimensions of climate change adaptation and national adaptation programs: what has to be done on transboundary scale related to climate change adaptation – and what is best managed on national scale
- Water related disaster risk reduction in a transboundary perspective – recommendation for action at transboundary scale as well nationally and in communities.

Each working group will continue with the same facilitator, who will again set the scene for the working group and analyse the key issues. The group will have the same rapporteur as during the first working group session. The groups will also address needs, means and ways to share knowledge between transboundary basins in the future. Also in this working group session short presentations/issue papers can be made by the participants in the beginning of the working group session.

Lunch (12:30 – 13:30)

Afternoon plenary session (13:30 – 15:00)

Facilitated discussion of consolidated list of workshop recommendations of the two working groups
Prioritization of the recommendations (across the three basins and within each of the basins).

Panel discussion on recommendations and the way forward (15:00 – 16:00)

Panellists from the Mekong, Nile and Zambezi basins, countries in the basins, international experts and donors will respond to the prioritised recommendations and how they may take the recommendations forward. The participants will further discuss topics for the next event in this series of workshops on transboundary water management.

Closing session (16:00 – 16:15)

Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs: Head of Technical Advisory Services and Danish Water Forum