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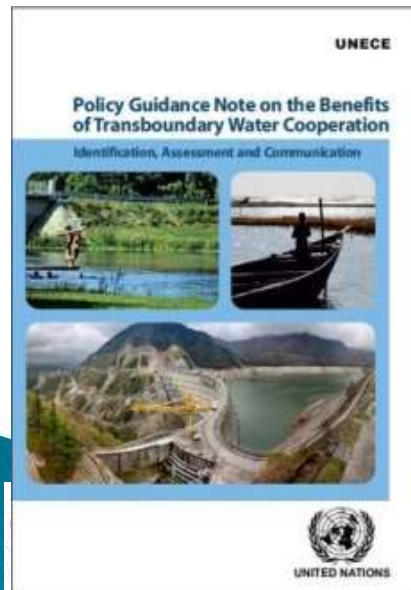
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# Identifying, assessing and communicating benefits of transboundary water cooperation– the approach under the Water Convention

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Convention of the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes



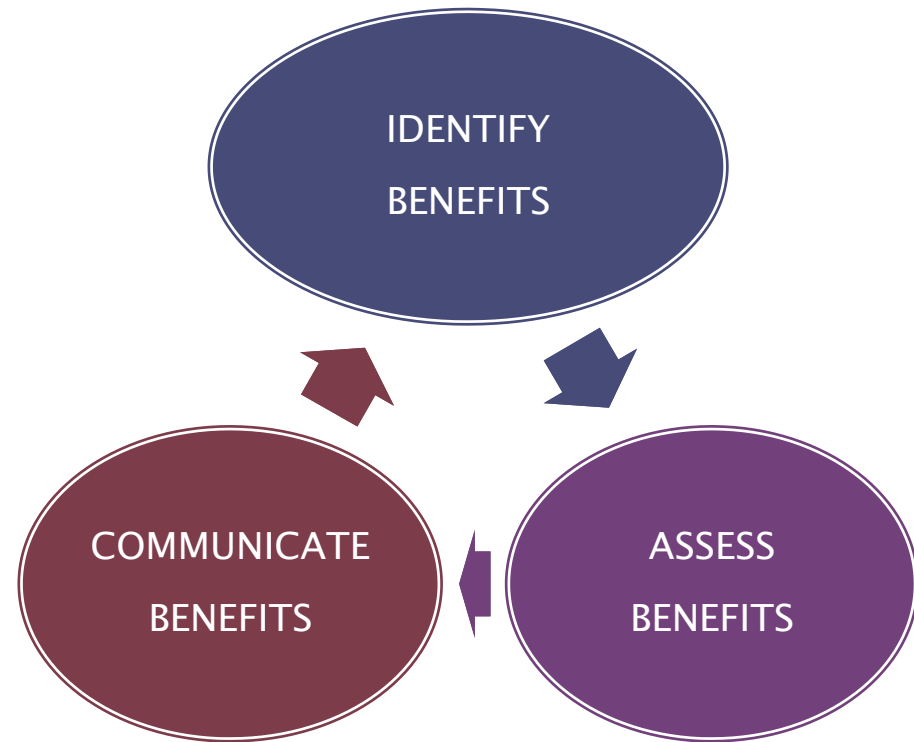
# Main achievements and work accomplished in 2013–2016

- ▶ Collection of cases and participatory processes attracted great interest from around the world
- ▶ Responded to needs and interests of well-established river basin organizations
- ▶ Facilitated dialogue between the community, policymakers and academia on the needs and existing approaches and experiences of such assessments
- ▶ Highlighted need to bridge the gap between water and foreign policy communities and to mainstream water diplomacy into foreign policy



# Benefit assessment exercises

- Provide fact-based argument for starting up cooperation or developing stronger cooperation
- Broaden the scope of cooperation by defining a “benefit cluster”
- Attract financial resources to implement water cooperation solutions



## Key messages

- ▶ TWC generates more benefits than generally thought
- ▶ A benefits assessment exercise (BAE) can help promote and broaden cooperation, and attract funding to implement cooperative solutions
- ▶ A BAE needs to be tailored to the characteristics of the basin as well as to the needs and level of maturity of the TWC process
- ▶ A BAE will combine qualitative, quantitative and monetary assessments
- ▶ A BAE should target decision-making drivers and focus on moving from perceptions to facts
- ▶ A BAE needs to involve stakeholders throughout

# Identifying benefits

Origin of benefits	Benefits for economic activities	Benefits beyond economic activities
Improved water management	Economic benefits	Social & environmental benefits
Enhanced trust	Regional economic cooperation benefits	Peace & security benefits

1. Prepare for an extended process
2. Involve a wide variety of stakeholders and experts
3. Do not expect all types of benefits to be relevant in your basin
4. Identify the beneficiaries also, not just the benefits
5. Complement it with the identification of costs and risks
6. Identify in parallel the possible negative impact of inaction
7. Be ready to accept uncertainty

# Benefits framework

	On economic activities	Beyond economic activities
<b>From improved water management</b>	<b>Economic benefits</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Expanded activity and productivity in economic sectors</li><li>• Reduced cost of carrying out productive activities</li><li>• Reduced economic impacts of water-related hazards (floods, droughts)</li><li>• Increased value of property</li></ul>	<b>Social and environmental benefits</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Health impacts</li><li>• Employment and reduced poverty impacts</li><li>• Improved access to services (such as electricity and water supply)</li><li>• Improved satisfaction due to preservation of cultural resources or access to recreational opportunities.</li><li>• Avoided/reduced habitat degradation and biodiversity loss</li></ul>
<b>From enhanced trust</b>	<b>Regional economic cooperation benefits</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Development of regional markets for goods, services and labour</li><li>• Increase in cross-border investments</li><li>• Development of transnational infrastructure networks</li></ul>	<b>Peace and security benefits</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Strengthening of international law</li><li>• Increased geopolitical stability</li><li>• Reduced risk and avoided cost of conflict</li><li>• Savings from reduced military spending</li></ul>

# Identifying of beneficiaries of an economically and environmentally sustainable Lake Peipsi area

- ▶ Beneficiaries as local populations, summer residents, tourists:
  - ▶ –9 local municipalities, 4 in Estonia, 5 in Russia,
  - ▶ –approx 10 000 watercraft users, sailers, fisherman, residents,
  - ▶ –more than 1000 entrepreneurs and enterprises, companies.
- ▶ Benefits:
  - ▶ Improvements in 3 harbours infrastructures, 104 mooring places,
  - ▶ arranged reception of cargo residues and ship generated waste in 4 harbours, also facilities for ship reparation and maintenance work.
  - ▶ Improved sanitary conditions in 4 smaller towns and villages in Russia, assessed water infrastructures to reconstruct several wastewater treatment plants in Pskov region in Russian part of basin



## Outputs

**3 harbours** constructed in Estonia:

- **Tartu** (10 252 m<sup>2</sup>)
- **Mustvee** (47 000 m<sup>2</sup>)
- **Räpina** (7 744 m<sup>2</sup>)

**Harbour pavilions** furnished, stationary and floating **piers**, roadways and pavements built, carparks and storing areas for boats organized

**1 slip in Kallaste** (Estonia) constructed; entry channel to the slip was cleaned from sediments

**Wastewater treatment plants** in Gdov town with capacity of 530 m<sup>3</sup>/day, in Cheryokha village with capacity of 1 400 m<sup>3</sup>/day reconstructed and in Leschikhino with capacity of 120 m<sup>3</sup> per day constructed (Russia)

In Pskov city (Russia) in **wastewater treatment plant 4 secondary sedimentation tanks** with diameter 30m reconstructed, 2 decanters repaired, sludge dampers and 1 decanter replaced



*Constructed harbour in Tartu, Estonia*



*Slip after the construction, Kallaste, Estonia*

Reconstructed **sewage network** (970 m) from the hospital to the existing wastewater treatment plant and **sewage pumping stations** in Pechory (220 m) (Russia)

**Inspection including inventory of the state of 72 objects** – centralized and local wastewater treatment plants and sewage pumping stations with discharges within the basin carried out

**Database (GIS) on Lake Peipsi basin** with the data on conditions of the wwtp, water and wastewater quality data, etc. and atlas consisting of 28 maps and 12 descriptions prepared

Based on the results of the inspection **Feasibility Studies** aiming at improvement of waste water treatment plants in **17 municipalities** of the Pskov region, Russia in the Lake Peipsi basin elaborated

**5 000 leaflets** were issued about the results of the project. **1 000 brochures** about the results of RUS partners were issued at the end of the project



*Waste water treatment plant reconstructed in Leschikhino village, Palkinsky district, Russia*



*Reconstruction of waste water treatment plant in Cheryokha village, Pskov district, Russia*



*Constructed harbour in R pina, Estonia*



*Sewage pumping station reconstructed in Pechory, Russia*

## **RESULTS**

### **In Estonia:**

- ❖ Established facilities for mooring of watercrafts, **104 mooring places**: 44 in Tartu, 40 in Mustvee, 20 in R pina)
- ❖ **Arranged reception of** cargo residues and ship-generated **waste** in 4 harbours
- ❖ Established **facilities for ship reparation** and maintenance in Kallaste (Estonia)
- ❖ Additional **workplaces** in harbours and slip

### **In Russia:**

- ❖ **Decreased nutrient load** on receiving water bodies
- ❖ **Improved quality of surface water** in water bodies
- ❖ **Improved sanitary conditions** in Gdov, Cheryokha, Leschikhino and Pechory (Pskov region) Russian standards for main pollutants

- ❖ **Recommendations for the long-term regional ecological programme "Pure water of the Pskov region 2012 -2017"** concerning improvement of the wastewater treatment system of the Lake Peipsi basin prepared
- ❖ Total **amount of pollutants** (e.g. P, N, BOD5) discharged with the wastewater into the rivers of Gdovka, Pachkovka, Mnoga and Velikaya **decreased** to the level of Russian standards for main pollutants

Ca **1,3 million people in Estonia** and **670 000 people in Russia** were informed about the project results via TV and radio broadcasts, issued information materials



*Constructed harbour in Mustvee, Estonia*



*Constructed secondary sedimentation tank in Pskov waste water treatment plant, Russia*



*Established mooring places in Tartu harbour, Estonia*



*Waste water treatment plant reconstructed in Gdov, Russia*

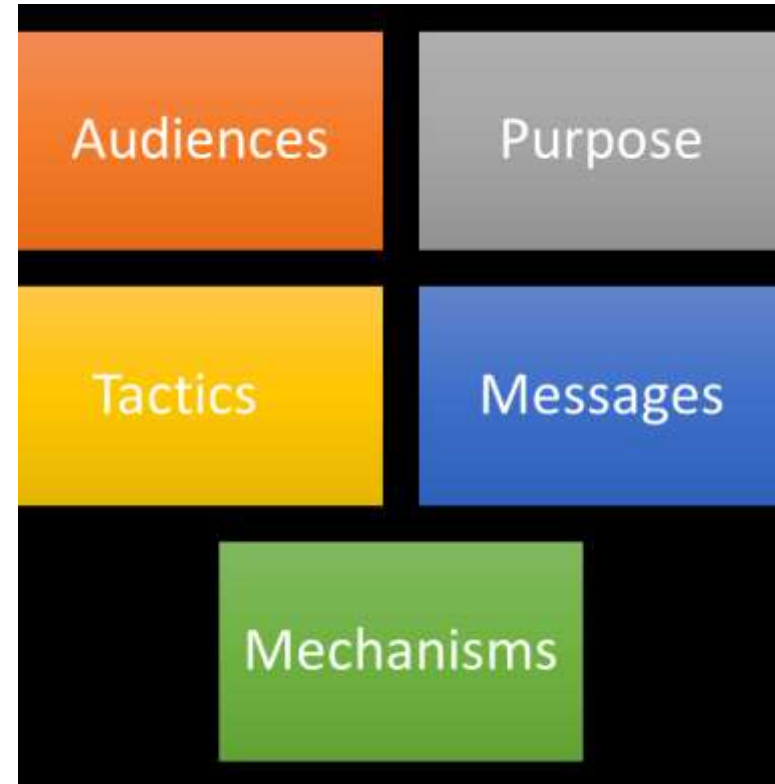
# Assessing benefits



1. Match level of ambition of BAE to needs of TWC process
2. Focus on the final outcomes of TWC
3. Select the right geographical and time scales
4. Adopt an adaptive approach
5. Conduct it jointly
6. Involve different stakeholders
7. Favour integrated assessments
8. Consider different scenarios
9. Do not expect to generate monetary values for all the benefits
10. Accept that benefit assessment will be imperfect

# Communicating benefits

1. Define how the BAE results can support the TWC process
2. Include the communication of benefits results in the overall TWC communications plan
3. Think of communication efforts as part of a communication cycle
4. Communicate the benefits of the overall programme of cooperation
5. Take into account that upstream and downstream audiences have different perspectives



## Current work in this area

- ▶ *Policy Guidance Note* is being translated and printed in French, Russian, Chinese, maybe Spanish
- ▶ *Policy Guidance Note* is promoted and used in pilot basins and countries interested in applying it, in cooperation with/led by partners, such as Okavango, Drina, basin in IGAD region – all are welcome to use it and share their experience
- ▶ Experience between pilot exercises and other similar activities worldwide will be shared during one workshop in July 2017 (dates tbc)– all are welcome to attend
- ▶ For more information see [http://www.unece.org/env/water/benefits\\_cooperation.html](http://www.unece.org/env/water/benefits_cooperation.html)

Or contact [water.convention@unece.org](mailto:water.convention@unece.org)

