

Terms of Reference
***for the preparation of a Methodological
Approach for the establishment and
sustaining of a Regional Dialogue and
Community of Practice on Transboundary
Water Resources Management***

In the framework of the Global Environment Facility Project “International Waters: Learning Exchange and Resource Network (GEF IW:LEARN)”, Activity 2.3: Supporting Regional Cooperation on Shared Water Resources through Dialogue”

25 July 2018

For more information, please contact



Web: www.gwpmed.org

Headquarters:

12, Kyrristou str., 10556

Athens, Greece

T: +30210-3247490, -3247267, F: +30210-3317127

E-mail: secretariat@gwpmed.org

A. Introduction

GEF IW:LEARN Project

The Global Environment Facility International Waters: Learning Exchange and Resource Network (GEF IW:LEARN) (2005 - ongoing) represents a cooperative effort of the UN Development Programme (UNDP) and UN Environment Programme (UNEP), with the involvement of all GEF Agencies. Currently in its fourth phase, the implementation period started in 2016 and ends in 2020 having a global geographic scope.

The goal of IW:LEARN is to move from a demonstration phase where successful knowledge management services to GEF IW projects were piloted, tested and replicated, towards a scaled-up project which becomes a hub for global learning on transboundary waters, working both inside and outside the GEF-financed portfolio. This enhanced role as a global knowledge hub will support the scale-up of GEF IW investments globally, as the project will harness experience from more than 22 years of GEF portfolio and partner activities to improve the current and future portfolios and impacts of investments. GEF IW:LEARN will also help GEF IW projects in improving their project outcome sustainability by linking them up to global processes and frameworks, as well as partners at the regional and basin-levels.

GEF IW:LEARN Project Activity 2.3.2

Promoting Communities of Practice (CoP) and enhancing cooperation for sustainable management of shared basins has been a focus of GEF IW:LEARN project.

Establishing Regional CoPs and dialogue approaches to promote transboundary cooperation have been tested and delivered tangible outcomes in South Eastern Europe (SEE) through the 2nd and 3rd phase of the IW:LEARN project (operating between 2004-2014). Activities have been implemented in the framework of the Petersberg Phase II / Athens Declaration Process. The Governments of Germany and Greece initiated these two processes with the World Bank and support from GEF IW:LEARN. The combined process has been successfully facilitated by GWP-Med. A number of partners later joined this or supported related efforts, including, UNECE and the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC). These activities have constituted a Regional Dialogue on transboundary water resources management (TWRM) in South East Europe (SEE) that was expanded to Middle East and North Africa (MENA) at the end of the 3rd phase of IW:LEARN with the participation of the UNECE and the Union for the Mediterranean.

The dialogue has facilitated the sustainable management of transboundary basins at all levels by enabling improvement of capacities of institutions and other stakeholders on TWRM. The Drin Basin cooperation demonstrates the success of the approach: the GEF IW:LEARN facilitated the establishment of a process that led to the initiation of a multi-stakeholders dialogue setting a shared vision for the management of the basin and resulting in a signing of a MoU by Ministers from the Drin Countries. Dialogue efforts also created the enabling conditions leading to the UNDP-GEF Dinaric Karst Transboundary Aquifer System (DIKTAS) project.

The Dialogue has created also the conditions for the North Western Sahara Aquifer System (NWSAS) countries to request support for the identification of options for the establishment of a cooperation mechanism that will deal with issues additional to the exchange or information touching upon the management of the NWSAS.

This fourth phase of the IWLEARN will see both a continuation and scaling-up of the effort, with a further geographic expansion and the number of transboundary basins targeted. Dialogue approaches in the field of knowledge management aiming at the enhancement of TWRM are being tested with success in SEE and the MENA.

Efforts include, as part of Activity 2.3.2, capturing the related experiences into a Methodological Approach (MA) for the establishment and sustaining of a Regional Dialogue and Communities of Practice on TWRM. The MA will guide the design and implementation of regional and basin Dialogues as well as the establishment and sustaining of CoPs by describing specific means and tools.

The MA can be used as a guidance document by GEF IW projects for the creation of CoPs and the establishment of dialogue processes in basins and/or regions. The creation of a CoP at the basin level will contribute to the increased sustainability of the outcomes of the GEF IW projects.

The methodological approach document will directly impact GEF IW:LEARN and partner's ability to replicate the regional dialogue process approach in other regions by serving as a methodological approach that can be adopted in other regions. Indirectly, the methodology will contribute to increased cooperation over shared water resources.

B. Purpose of the assignment

The development of a methodological approach (MA) for the establishment and sustaining of a Regional Dialogue on TWRM and a CoP at regional level forms Activity 2.3.2 of the GEF IW:LEARN Project.

The scope of the assignment is to develop a methodological approach for the establishment and sustaining of a Regional Dialogue on TWRM and a CoP at regional level. It will harness the essential lessons from ten years of conducting a successful process in South Eastern Europe under IW:LEARN.

In addition to the description given under "introduction" the methodological approach will:

- Examine design considerations for regional Dialogues and capacity building workshops on policy tools and "technical" instruments to address TWRM issues, bringing up the benefits that stem from cooperation.
- Consider how basin dialogues facilitate a trust building process and how systematic multi-stakeholder consultation processes at the basin level lead to strengthened cooperation.

C. Description of tasks

Description of tasks

The Expert will undertake the development of the methodological approach for the establishment and sustaining of a Regional Dialogue on TWRM and a CoP at regional level. The development will be based on the Background Literature Research to be provided by GWP-Med.

The Annotated Outline and Table of Contents of the MA is given in [Annex I](#) to this ToR.

Table C.1: Deliverables and deadlines per stage of work/task

Stages of work / Tasks	Deliverables	Deadlines
Task 1. Organization of work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comments on the Annotated Outline and Table of Contents of the MA 	Two days after the initiation of work
Task 2: Preparation of the Draft MA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft MA 	Three weeks after finalization of the Annotated Outline and Table of Contents of the MA
Task 3: Preparation of the final MA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final MA 	One week receiving comments from the Project Manager
Task 4: Participation in the Regional Roundtable on “The path towards Water, Energy, Food and Ecosystems Nexus in Southeastern Europe (SEE)”, 25 - 27 September 2018, Skopje, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participation in the Regional Roundtable 	25 - 27 September 2018

C. Contract price

1. The maximum available budget for this contract is 17.000 \$, including VAT.
2. This amount includes all other costs, income taxes and any other amount payable or cost that may be required for the completion of the work/service.

D. Duration of the contract

The overall duration of the contract will be maximum 1,5 months.

E. Location and language of the assignment

The location of the assignment will be a place of the Experts' choice.

The language for all documents and reports as well as for all communication with the International Consultant and GWP-Med is English.

F. Schedule of payments

1. An advance payment of 30% of the offered price is planned upon contract signature with the selected bidder.
2. All other payments shall be upon reception and acceptance/verification of the deliverables, as laid out in the table below.

Table F.1: Schedule of payments

Deliverable	Verification	Payment	Scheduled
Contract signing		Tranche 1 - Advance payment (30%)	August 2018
Preparation of the final MA	Accepted by Project Manager	Tranche 2 (70%)	September 2018

Annex I. Annotated Outline and Table of Contents of the MA

Preface

- This IWLEARN project activity will feature the production of a Methodological Approach (MA) for the establishment and sustaining of a Regional Dialogue on TWRM and a Community of Practice at the Regional Level. The product will be tested to provide guidance for the organization of Regional Dialogue in Central America and after that adjusted, incorporating lessons learned. The MA will examine theoretical and design considerations for regional Dialogues and capacity building workshops that focus on policy tools and “technical” instruments to address TWRM issues, bringing up the benefits that stem from cooperation. The MA will consider how a Regional Basin dialogue may facilitate a trust building process and how systematic multi-stakeholders consultation processes at the basin level can lead to strengthened cooperation. The MA document is intended to directly impact GEF IW:LEARN and partners’ ability to replicate the regional dialogue process approach in other regions by serving as a MA that can be adopted in other regions. Indirectly, the methodology will contribute to increased cooperation on shared water resources. This activity will work with all the sub-component partners to harness the essential lessons from ten years of conducting a successful process in South Eastern Europe.
- GEF and its International Waters Focal Area
 - o Short Description including aims and objectives
- IWLEARN
 - o Short Description including background, aims, objectives, period of implementation, partners
- GWP
 - o Short Description including aims and objectives, role in the IWLEARN implementation , role as partner of GEF

Part A - Introduction

Purpose of Document - Why?

1. Initiation and establishment of TWRM is a complex endeavor as it, among others touches upon:
 - a) *sovereignty issues;*
 - b) *complicated and multi-sourced water related and environmental issues, the addressing of which needs to take into consideration the nexuses of the natural and anthropogenic environment, the latter including the governance systems of economic and social sectors, and the environment.*
 - c) *Political relations between Riparians*
2. The Regional Dialogue process (implemented in the South East Europe by GWP-Med as part of the IWLEARN project) has proven to result in:
 - a) *Raising awareness and capacities*
 - (1) about transboundary water management issues
 - (a) their causes
 - (b) potential solutions
 - (i) *of technical nature*

- (ii) through cooperation/coordinated action and management*
- (2) among practitioners active within or outside institutions (regional, national and basin level):
 - (a) Joint Transboundary Commissions
 - (b) Ministries
 - (c) Basin organizations
 - (d) Scientific community
 - (e) Private sector/main users
 - (f) NGOs, environmental organizations
 - (g) Representatives of donors

b) Including TWRM as part of strategic documents of regional political processes for cooperation/water/environmental management, creating the conditions for TWRM enhancement at sub-regional level and in basins

c) Facilitating the initiation of basin-wide (transboundary level) discussions/dialogues for enhanced cooperation

3. The methodological approach document (MA) is prepared to guide GEF IW:LEARN and partners' ability to replicate the regional dialogue process approach in other regions. Application of the proposed methodology aim to increase transboundary cooperation on shared water resources.

Scope of Document - What?

1. This activity will feature production of a Methodological Approach document (MA) for the establishment and sustaining of a Regional Dialogue on TWRM and a Community of Practise (CoP) at the Regional Level, including preparation, testing and adjustment.
2. The document will examine design considerations for regional Dialogues and capacity building workshops on policy tools and "technical" instruments to address TWRM issues, bringing up the benefits that stem from cooperation. The document will consider how basin dialogues may facilitate a trust building process and how systematic multi-stakeholders consultation processes at the basin level may lead to strengthened cooperation. Related information will be structured in a way to enable replication by organizations and practitioners within and outside GWP, the partners of GEF IWLEARN (A very short description of the following should be put here; the same information will be elaborated upon in deal in Part B)

a) Experience including Processes and Tools used in SEE (and possibly elsewhere e.g. South Asia)

- (1) Elements crucial in the initiation of or advancement of cooperation
 - (a) Building of trust among people and institutions
 - (i) This could be achieved through means other than those indicated below e.g. joint technical work in the framework of transboundary projects etc.*
 - (b) Establishment of Communities of Practice (brief - more elaborated below)
 - (i) Why/What they lead to:*
 - (a) Catalyse cooperation at the level of institutions, persons with key positions in the institutions, and stakeholders.
 - (b) Raise awareness of the benefits of cooperation
 - (c) Increase knowledge about solutions and instruments to be used
 - (ii) How to bring actors and stakeholders together and facilitate the Establishment of CoP*
 - (a) Exchange of Knowledge and experience among actors
 - (i) from the same basin and from different basins from the same geographical and/or "political" area*
 - (b) Capacity development with the participation of actors

(i) from the same basin and from different basins from the same geographical and/or "political" area

(c) Identification of "windows of opportunity" to initiate cooperation

(i) Roundtables with well structured and facilitated, focused break-out and plenary sessions

(a) To stimulate

(i) Discussions and interaction among

(ii) Joint Transboundary Commissions

(iii) Ministries

(iv) Basin organizations

(v) Scientific community

(vi) Private sector/main users

(vii) Representatives of donors

(viii) Indication of interest for further discussion for the initiation of a form of cooperation at basin level

Intended Audience - for Whom?

1. GFF IW projects portfolio
2. GEF IW partners
3. GWP Network
4. Practitioners

Part B

Section 1: Setting the basis

1. Transboundary Water Resources Management (TWRM)

a) Intro part

(1) Water resources management at basin level - Integrated Water Resources Management

(2) International water law

(3) Transboundary water bodies around the world

(a) Facts and statistics per continent aiming to prove the significance of TWRM.

(4) Importance of TWRM in terms of social welfare, including economic development, regional stability and peace, environmental quality

(a) Examples

Section 2: Theory and Methodology behind action

1. Factors and paradigms influence/facilitate initiation and advancement of Transboundary Cooperation (TC) for TWRM

a) List of factors and amd related paradigms

2. Tools for the (i) initiation of cooperation (ii) sustaining of cooperation

(1) Communities of Practice - can it be found among the paradigms and tools?

(a) Description - examples

(i) There is increasing recognition that the challenge of developing nations is as much a knowledge as a financial challenge. A number of people believe that a communities-of-practice approach can provide a new paradigm for development work. It emphasizes knowledge building among practitioners. Some development agencies now see their role as conveners of such communities, rather than as providers of knowledge. "Communities of practice a brief introduction, Etienne Wenger"

(b) How their establishment is achieved?

(c) Why/What they lead to:

(i) Raising awareness of benefits of cooperation

(ii) Increase knowledge about solutions and instruments to be used

(iii) Catalyse cooperation at the level of institutions, persons with key positions in the institutions and stakeholders.

(iv) Other?

(d) How to bring actors and stakeholders together and facilitate the Establishment of CoP

(i) Exchange of Knowledge and experience among actors

(a) from the same basin and from different basins from the same geographical and/or "political" area

(ii) Capacity development with the participation of actors

(a) from the same basin and from different basins from the same geographical and/or "political" area

(iii) How to use regional champions

(2) Regional dialogues -can it be found among the paradigms and tools(?) - as means for the establishment of (i) CoP at any level i.e. regional, sub-regional, national, basin (ii) Shared Vision at basin level as this is the core around which cooperation is established?

(a) Description - examples

Section 3: Experience in the SEE

1. How/Tools

a) A continuum of interaction among practitioners at different management levels towards coordination and cooperation

(1) Regional Dialogues - focusing on policy and "technical" instruments to address TWRM issues, bringing up the benefits stemming from cooperation - the knowledge and experience of participating stakeholders are "mined" using appropriate participation and dialogue/meeting techniques to result to sharing of experiences, cross-fertilisation and dialogue - leading to overall improved capacities/knowledge about water resources and basin management among practitioners and stakeholders. The RDs comprise:

- (a) Roundtables
- (b) Study visits
- (c) Capacity Building Workshops

(2) Basin/Aquifer Dialogues - same as in Regional Dialogues but at a basin/aquifer level - Facilitating a trust building process, organized as a response to interest expressed by key basin actors as a result of Regional Dialogue

(3) Multistakeholders consultation process at the basin level - initiation of dialogue on transboundary issues and potential for enhancement of cooperation among riparian countries to address these. Tools include:

- (a) Involvement of an actor with Convening power
- (b) The role of "champions"
- (c) Analytical tools
 - (i) TDA
 - (ii) Nexus Assessment

(d) Leading to the Establishment of a Shared Vision for the management of a transboundary Basin

2. How the work in South East Europe fits in the existing paradigms etc.

a) At what level it confirms existing paradigms and at what level it adds to existing paradigms

Conclusion

1. Review of Content
2. "Proof of Thesis"

Part C. Means and tools

Regional Dialogues design and implementation

- Regional Roundtables
- Study Visits
- Capacity Building Workshops

Basin Dialogues design and implementation

- Regional Roundtables
- Study Visits
- Capacity Building Workshops

Annexes

Checklist

- How to organize a Roundtable
 - o *Logistics*
 - o *Substance*
- How to organize a Capacity Building Workshop
 - o *Logistics*
 - o *Substance*
- How to organize a Study Visit
 - o *Logistics*
 - o *Substance*