

Equipment of the
United Nations

SUSTAINING INTERNATIONAL WATERS COOPERATION

SUMMARY

Building Traction of the TDA-SAP Process Toward 2030 and Beyond: From Formulation Through Implementation (Kickoff) - 4 November

The session discussed the value and examples in which the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis/Strategic Action Programme (SAP) has supported the cooperation process in transboundary water bodies.

Participants expressed their interest for TDA/SAP processes that are found to be valuable in creating trust, leveling the playing field and common understanding of countries of their assets, resources, pressures and opportunities where cooperation could bring gains.

Among specific examples, was the Benguela Current – leading to the world’s first Large Marine Ecosystem Commission, Lake Tanganyika – leading to the creation of the LTA by a treaty among countries, the Caspian Sea, and the Orange-Senqu basin where the TDA process greatly increased trust and cooperation among countries and where GEF support enabled countries to meet regularly. This led to consideration of potential source to sea linkages – spurred by a twinning arrangement and visit to the ICPDR, as well as the creation of a Ramsar site at the mouth of the river.

The involvement of pivotal related sectors – agriculture, energy and environment –given the more and more prominent coordination role RBO/IGO is taking, was seen as key, yet may not be possible early in the cooperation process in situations where historic tensions have to be first overcome and a ground for technical cooperation has to be established first.

Examples, were given from the Caribbean where the process led to regular engagement across ministries, such as fisheries and environment, which did not exist before.

Engaging other sectors can also relief basin pressures but ‘widening’ the scope of solutions beyond the basin/waterbody, through regional power trade and power pools can allow access to energy beyond the basin.

Discussions stressed the importance to present concrete opportunities to the private sector – and underlined that and cooperation among public and private sectors in investments can be a viable option that could be more often explored. Furthermore, the private sector has a role in advancing technologies and innovation and may also provide cost effective alternatives for certain research areas of common interest.