



Empowerment of
Resilient nations



Secretary of State in charge
of Sustainable Development



SUSTAINING INTERNATIONAL WATERS COOPERATION

SUMMARY

Building Traction of the TDA-SAP Process Toward 2030 and Beyond: From Formulation Through Implementation (Freshwater World Café) – 5 November

Threats to freshwater ecosystems, stemming from urbanization and increasing food demand, further exacerbated by climate change, are increasing. Water is fundamental to achieving most of the SDGs. Provision of water for human settlements, agriculture, energy, etc. is a risk also by water scarcity events, such as floods and droughts. Cooperation on shared freshwater systems, including groundwater is essential in most international basins to support the need for water, food, energy, and ecosystems security. The need for transboundary cooperation is an essential element for effective integrated water resources management, stipulated in SDG 6.5.

GEF IW focal area support has been for more than 25 years focused on interventions on preventative actions in transboundary basins and shared aquifers facing multiple stressors and hence potential for conflict on national and regional levels, implementing the TDA-SAP approach, allowing countries to create common interest and to invest in regional cooperation improvement of the status of transboundary water systems. The TDA-SAP process offers common, participatory fact-finding and agreement on cooperative opportunities and shared constraints and a vision for a shared future. 90 countries currently have agreed SAPs or are currently engaged in their formulation.

Participants were offered the opportunity to work and exchange in small groups. **Table A addressed the issue of mainstreaming climate change and resilience into the TDA-SAP Process.** Reflecting on how to better integrate climate change into the TDA/SAP process, discussions have raised the hydro-climatic vulnerability atlas and flood/drought policies which are cross-cutting; as well as the huge potential of screening of scenario-building. Data availability and accessibility also appeared to be a key element combined to good communication strategy.

Table B focused on the mobilization of public/private finance and political support to SAP implementation. Discussions have stressed that in order to receive public-private support a project needs a high-level SAP endorsement, which in turn relies on involving the different stakeholders throughout the development of the SAP (including other Conventions and the

IFIS's/private sector), as well as having a strong country ownership. Pilot projects allow to shed light on the benefits of better management practices to the private sector.

Participants have also underlined the importance of being *proactive* by drawing a market-strategy when developing their SAP; this includes integrating the economics into the TDA/SAP from the start, developing a long-term vision and identifying agents of change, including the private sector.

Tables C and D addressed the questions of policies coherence and cross-sectoral coordination towards implementation of SAPs. Participants to the discussions brought forward the essential need to involving local government in order to integrate SAP priorities in land use planning and management. Such approach also requires the involvement of agriculture/farmers to address pollution and influence policy/challenge of coordination as well as pursuing cross-sectoral coordination through consultations at an early stages of TDA/SAP projects by establishing multi-sectoral committees.

In particular, ensuring high-level representation from other sectors and galvanizing support from all relevant Ministries to support priority actions from the SAPs will be key to unlock budget provision at national level.

Table D underlined the importance to use the right language in communications and public outreach. The discussion raised an interesting point with regard to the Sustainable Development Goals messaging that be reframed as a human health and development issue as SDGs are ultimately aimed at improving the life quality of all.