

Draft

6th World Water Forum Template

**Target and Solutions Group "Priority for Action 1.5.9.:
By 2015, establish and support programmes of 'peer-to-peer'
twinning between basin organizations, water centres and other
concerned institutions, to foster knowledge and exchange"**

**Session proposal on the target, its action plan, its identified solutions and
commitments and the related Forum session**



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1. Introduction

There is growing consensus on the assessment of the “water crisis”, which tends to be considered as a governance challenge rather than a physical one. Following this analysis, meeting the requirements of the water MDGs (and other internationally agreed goals) would require to set as an objective further improvements of governance tools in water education, knowledge exchange, and information dissemination.

In addition to States and International Organizations, institutions managing water around the world must contribute to these efforts of improvements: among others, local and regional authorities, research institutes and basin agencies have the knowledge and capacities required.

Basin Organizations must play the leading role in this respect. Indeed, they are rightfully regarded as one of the best solutions for a holistic governance approach, since they implement Integrated Water Resource Management at catchment level. However, Basin Organizations come in a number of forms, some of which have existed for several decades, and many of which are still under development. They comprise a great diversity of legal statutes and economic schemes. None of them can be regarded as “silver bullets”, but some of them can be seen as models that could be followed and adapted to other specific contexts.

The effective implementation of existing agreements, and further improvements in water governance could be achieved through knowledge sharing and exchanges of good practices. Special attention should be given to the definition of the framework in which these exchanges would be made. Otherwise, such initiatives may fall short of expectations and turn into ephemeral meetings that do not provide any kind of improvements for water management.

Hence, it seems relevant to promote exchanges building on the basis of existing institutional structures (international and regional networks). In addition, the adoption of an overall agreement should be a prerequisite for any peer-to-peer learning process between institutions in the field of water: indeed, specifying the roles and objectives of both parties ensures a smooth, effective cooperation, and it increases the chances to get ambitious achievements from the partnership.

Twinnings as they were designed in the past few years precisely meet these specifications, and it should be highly beneficial to urge and support their development.

2. Background and rationale of the target

This section should present the background (reports, international conferences, existing programmes) and rationale (current relevance, urgency, strategic fit) of the target and its associated solutions.

The need for a stronger cooperation has been recognized in the 5th World Water Forum. In Istanbul, Ministers have stated that « they will take, as appropriate, tangible and concrete measures to improve and promote cooperation on sustainable use and protection of transboundary water resources through coordinated actions of riparian States, in conformity with existing agreements and/or other relevant arrangements, taking into account the interests of all riparian countries concerned. They will work to strengthen existing institutions and develop new ones, as appropriate and if needed, and implement instruments necessary for improved management of transboundary waters ».

Activities such as twinings provide this opportunity. A simple, cost-effective way to make progress is indeed to develop twinning processes between basin organizations in order to favor mobility of staff, who can learn on the ground about the know-how, practices, knowledge used in other organizations. Such a method allow to take full advantage of past and present experiences in administrative, technical and institutional matters.

However, benefits remain very modest when twinings are just seen as a “political” events organised for the signature of agreements and related communication campaigns. In order to get these agreements really implemented, efforts have to be made towards a greater framing of twinning initiatives.

In the past few years, some interesting projects have provided good framework examples that should be followed an replicated.

The TwinBasin project, for instance, has been a resounding success which is mainly due to its strict institutional and “regulatory” framework. The initiative’s goal is to promote twinings of basins organizations in order to develop IWRM practices.

It was steered by an operational team (the TwinBasin Support Service) composed of the Office International de l’Eau - OIEau (or “*International Office for Water*”) the Global Water Partnership (GWP) and Techware. These “third parties” ensured the follow-up and monitoring of twinings between the main partners of the project:

- OIEau (France) : www.oieau.fr
- AESN (France) : www.eau-seine-normandie.fr
- INBO (France) : www.inbo-news.org
- MENBO (Spain) : www.remoc.org
- SHR/MMA (Brasil) : www.mma.gov.br
- GWP (Sweden) : www.gwpforum.org
- TECHWARE (Bélgica/Italia) : www.techwarenet.org
- AWIRU (South Africa) : www.up.ac.za/academic/libarts/polsci/awiru
- OKTVF (Hungary) : www.ovf.hu
- SIC ICWC (Uzbekistan) : www.icwc-aral.uz
- JTIC (Indonesia) : www.jasatirta1.go.id

- ANBO-ABN (Niger) : www.abn.ne
- ABAHS (Algeria) : www.abh-ahs.com.dz
- OMVS (Senegal) : www.omvs-soe.org
- CNA (Mexico) : www.cna.gob.mx
- ANAR (Romania) : www.rowater.ro
- Agence du bassin hydraulique du sebouwww.abhsebou.ma

In addition to this institutional structure, the project was characterized by a demanding « regulatory » framework. Partners to a peer-to-peer twinning had to adopt and comply with the TwinBasin *Memorandum of Understanding*, a document defined the roles of both parties and the objectives followed in their exchanges.

As interesting is the project of European Union twinings, aimed to help beneficiary countries in the development of modern and efficient administrations, with the structures, human resources and management skills needed to implement the *acquis communautaire* in various matters, including water management.

Twinning provides the framework for administrations and semi-public organisations in the beneficiary countries to work with their counterparts within the EU. Together they develop and implement a targeted project aimed at supporting the transposition, enforcement and implementation of a specific part of EU *acquis*.

The concept is quite simple, but as for the TwinBasin project, it provides a clear framework for actions. Indeed, an EU member State gives the support of one of its experts (practitioner in the implementation of the *acquis*) to a new Member State, acceding, candidate or potential candidate country and this expert becomes a “*Resident Twinning Adviser*” in the beneficiary country (institutional framework). On the basis of an agreement adopted by both parties (“regulatory” framework), the expert works for a two year-period on targeted goals and objectives related to the implementation of the EU legislation.

Twinning programmes among basins have to be promoted for improving the efficiency of existing organisations, and these projects are models that should be scaled-up and replicated. However, the development of such initiatives is an ambitious task. Its effective implementation requires a plan, concrete solutions, as well as means and commitments to implement them.

3. Target action plan and commitments

The Target Action Plan should outline the key steps and milestones to be taken to achieve the target within its SMART deadline.

It should also present the key commitments already gathered by the TSG in support of the Target and/or of the identified solutions. Commitments can be taken by politicians (governments, parliamentarians, local authorities), funders (cooperation agencies, foundations, international funding organisations) or institutions and other organisations (International Organisations, NGOs, etc)

Demonstration has been made that twinning can help improve existing organizations managing water and, as a consequence, water governance itself.

Hence, it seems relevant to set the following target:

By 2015, establish and support programmes of 'peer-to-peer' twinning between basin organizations, water centres and other concerned institutions, to foster knowledge and exchange

In order to achieve this goal, the following key steps should be taken:

- 2011

Building on the TwinBasin and European twinnings projects and:

- Make the inventory of transboundary basins involved in exchanges of experiences and good practices
- Make the inventory of past and existing twinnings
- Develop and present case studies on these twinnings (strength and weaknesses, success and failures) during the events organized in the framework of the preparatory process
- Draw out lessons learnt from these twinnings case studies
- Collect solutions
- Draft a list of potential partners
- First call for commitments, and "market study" on the interest aroused by a second phase of the TwinBasin project, which could run from 2013 to 2018 (8th WWF)

- 2012

Before the forum:

- Finalize the list of potential partners
- Collect of commitments (second phase of TwinBasin projects? Announcement of new European twinnings?)

During the Forum:

- Through the target session, create momentum around the target and demonstrate the relevance to invest in twinning initiatives
- Announce commitments of organizations willing to engage in twinnings, of international donors willing to finance them, etc.
- Seek financial for other twinnings

After the Forum:

- Kick-off conference at the end of the year (concerning both TwinBasin and European twinnings?)

- 2013->2015

- Launch of twinning projects

- 2015: WWF7

Mid-term assessment:

- Identify and analyze strength and weaknesses, success and failures, ways of improvements for each organizations involved
- Suggest reforms of the twinning institutional/regulatory/monitoring framework
- Present mid-term report during the WWF7

- 2015->2018: WWF8

- Complete twinning projects on aspects that have been assessed, in the previous phase (2015), insufficiently developed
- Present the final report during the WWF8

4. Solutions

Synthesis note on promising solutions gathered

This section should read an executive synthesis of the different types of promising solutions that were either identified by the TSG or contributed directly by stakeholders, and that may contribute to achieving the target. It should mention and develop links with the online Platform of Solutions for in-depth and future reference.

The collect of solutions went well. We receive directly about 10 relevant solutions. For the moment, it is unclear, however, if other solutions have been posted (if so, they have yet to be validated by the Secretariat, hence, they do not appear on the website).

In brief, we could divide the solutions received in three categories:

1. Case studies on twinings between basin organizations and/or other organizations managing water

Most of them concern the TwinBasin Project. This project was launched and managed by an operational team composed of IOWater GWP Techware operational team (Twin Basin Support Service). A broader group of partners included: AESN (France), INBO (France), MENBO (Spain), SHR/MMA (Brazil), GWP (Sweden), TECHWARE (Belgium/Italy), AWIRU (South Africa), OKTVF (Hungary), SIC ICWC (Uzbekistan), JTIC (Indonesia), ANBO-ABN (Niger), ABAHS (Algeria), OMVS (Senegal), CNA (Mexico), ANAR (Romania), Sebou basin agency (Morocco).

It consists in promoting, establishing, supporting or strengthening twinning initiatives in order to boost exchange of experiences and good practices in water management. It was done following a coordinated, formalized framework (coordination through animation of projects, newsletters, promotion of the twinings, etc. ; formalism through a call for proposals, action plans, reporting obligations, assessment of the outcome of the twinning, etc.). Twinings of this project mainly focus on three issues:

- Water Resources Governance through IWRM
- Public Participation
- Economic Analysis

From 2005 to 2008, 70 basin organizations from 42 countries realized 41 twinings between basin organizations and 100 missions of experience sharing.

We can give the example of the *“Technical cooperation between the Loire-Bretagne water agency (FRANCE), the Piracicaba-Capivari-Jundiaí basin organization (BRAZIL) and the International Office for Water (FRANCE)”* through a brief description:

Brazilian legislation on IWRM (9.433 law, January 1997) is largely derived from the French legislation (1964 and 1992 laws). As a federal state, the institutional framework of Brazil is close to the one encountered in the European Union.

Hence, it seemed logical to launch a project in which Brazilians and French water actors would exchange experiences and best practices on their respective laws, and for the French part, on European legislation.

In the French legal framework of decentralized cooperation (Oudin-Santini law), the Loire-Bretagne basin agency will finance and implement the project along with its Brazilian partner (the Piracicaba Capivari e Jundiá basin organization) and with the support of the International Office for Water (IOWater).

The cooperation project will focus on three main topics:

- exchange on Brazilian and EU legislations, since they share the same challenge of articulating different levels of governance in the implementation of water legislation.
- exchange on water management planification and public participation (2006 Brazilian national plan on water, Brazilian basin management plan, French basin management plan –SDAGE and its local version –SAGE at a smaller scale)
- exchange on funding mechanisms (implementation of the polluter/consumer-pays principles Recommendations for improvements will be made by the experts involved in the project.
- exchange on information systems

2. Case study on European twinnings

One of the suggested solutions presented the framework that the EU provides to twinnings between an EU member State and a new Member State, acceding, candidate or potential candidate country.

It can be briefly describe:

European twinnings are aimed to help beneficiary countries in the development of modern and efficient administrations, with the structures, human resources and management skills needed to implement the *acquis communautaire*. Twinning provides the framework for administrations and semi-public organisations in the beneficiary countries to work with their counterparts within the EU. Together they develop and implement a targeted project aimed at supporting the transposition, enforcement and implementation of a specific part of EU *acquis*.

The concept is quite simple. An EU member State gives the support of one of its experts (practitioner in the implementation of the *acquis*) to a new Member State, acceding, candidate or potential candidate country. This expert becomes a “Resident Twinning Adviser” in the beneficiary country, where he works up to two years to help implement an agreed project with targeted goals and objectives related to the implementation of the EU legislation.

Twinning projects can be conducted on a wide range of EU legislations: justice, freedom and security issues, public finance and internal market matters, agriculture, fisheries, environment or social policies.

3. Presentation of projects aimed at assessing progress made in water governance, and hence allowing to evaluate the added-value of twinnings

In this category, an interesting project on *Key Performance Indicators* was suggested as a solution.

The description demonstrates its relevance for the assessment of progress made through twinnings:

In Africa as everywhere else, the water crisis is first and foremost a “crisis of governance”. Hence, it is crucial to improve water management tools, and performance indicators can play a

significant role in this respect. This project was precisely aimed at developing and adapting performance indicators for the management of African transboundary waters.

Identification of indicators that are relevant and applicable (meaning pragmatic, not being time-consuming, and in line with local realities) was indeed one of the main objective of the project. Following an highly policy-oriented approach, the indicators were developed in order to:

- help Basin Committees define appropriate objectives, thanks to the check-list dimension of the KPI
- help Basin Organisations design (River, Lake or Groundwater) Basin Management Plans, and the associated Programmes of Measures (Programme of Measures), by providing guidelines and benchmarking;
- foster public participation, since involvement of stakeholders is an element of performance indicators;
- allow Basin Organisation stakeholders to monitor the basin management plans and programmes of measures process;
- allow donors to assess the quality of work and the use of their funds.

The project also include the publication of an handbook which aim is to assist technical experts and representatives of basin organisations in their use of the *Governance and Technical Indicators* developed and applied in the context of the project. It provides information on the role of the indicators, a glossary of the governance and technical indicators. The Handbook also proposes instructions on how to gather and analyse indicator data and how to provide reports on the indicators, as well as how to use them for communication with stakeholders. In a few words, it translates IWRM and indicator concepts into lay language, allowing readers to understand how the performance indicators developed in this project are used, the implications of their use for transboundary IWRM, and the process of developing the indicators within this project.

The detailed list of solution is as follow:

1. PfA 1.5.9. Case study: *Technical cooperation between the Loire-Bretagne water agency (FRANCE), the Piracicaba-Capivari-Jundiaí basin organization (BRAZIL) and the International Office for Water (FRANCE)*
2. PfA 1.5.9. Case study: *Twining between the Basin Agency Seine-Normandie (FRANCE) & Basin Agency Algerois-Hodna-Soumman (ALGERIA)*
3. PfA 1.5.9. Case study: *Twining between the Landcare Research NZ Ltd (manager of the Motueka Integrated Catchment Management Programme – NEW ZEALAND) and the Centre for Research on Water (University of Dundee – SCOTLAND)*
4. PfA 1.5.9. Case study: *Twining between the Murrumbidgee HELP basin committee (Australia) & PCEEM (Philippines)*
5. PfA 1.5.9. Case study: *Twining between the School of Geography (UNITED KINGDOM) & the Centre of Excellence in Water Resources Engineering (PAKISTAN)*
6. PfA 1.5.9. Case study: *Twining between France-Romania*
7. PfA 1.5.9. *European twinnings*
8. PfA 1.5.9. *Project on Key Performance Indicators (KPI) – 1st KPI project of IOWater*
9. PfA 1.5.9. *Twin Basin project*
10. PfA 1.5.9. *REMCO – Vecht / Incomati*

5. Session outline

Part 1:

Reference number	Priority for Action 1.5.9.: <i>By 2015, establish and support programmes of 'peer-to-peer' twinning between basin organizations, water centres and other concerned institutions, to foster knowledge and exchange)</i>
Session title	<i>"Keeping capacity building of water management smart and simple: the twinning approach"</i>
Session teaser/description	<p>The "water crisis" is first and foremost a governance crisis and thus, addressing it requires to set as an objective further improvements of governance tools.</p> <p>It has been argued that these governance improvements could be achieved through knowledge sharing and exchanges of good practices. However, if the definition of the framework in which these exchanges would be made was to be neglected, such initiatives may fall short of expectations and turn into ephemeral meetings that do not provide any kind of improvements for water management.</p> <p>Hence, the adoption of an overall agreement specifying the roles and objectives of both parties ensures should be a prerequisite for any peer-to-peer learning process between institutions in the field of water. As they were designed in the past few years, Twinings precisely meet these specifications, and it should be highly beneficial to urge and support their development.</p>
Duration	2-hour long
Contact details of the Coordinator(s) convening the session	<p>Alain Bernard Twin Basin project coordinator WWF6@twinbasin.org</p>

<p>Objectives and outputs</p>	<p><u>General objectives of the session</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Demonstrate the relevance of twinning for peace, cooperation and development - Present good examples of twinings that could be replicated - Promote twinings 	<p><u>Expected outputs</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Finalise the Target Action Plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Share promising solutions <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Work on commitments <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Enrich the report and its conclusions <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify: 	
<p>Format/Logistics request</p> <p><i>(please note that room settings that are not standard cinema seating reduce the overall number of seats available in the room)</i></p>	<p><u>Estimated number of seats needed</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than 200 <input type="checkbox"/> 200-400 	<p><u>Preferred room set-up</u> <i>(not guaranteed by the IFC)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Oval/Square seating <input type="checkbox"/> Roundtable seating <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Standard cinema seating 	<p><u>All rooms will be equipped with:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a computer - a video projector - a screen - 2 microphones - simultaneous translation in French and English
<p>Extra requirements for innovative sessions (professional facilitation, additional technical requirements, etc)</p>			

Part 2

<u>Time</u>	<u>Descriptions of items/presentations :</u> Solutions about setting up and funding twinning between water institutions	<u>Chairman : Jacques Oudin</u> <u>Reporter : Francis Bougairé</u> <u>Tentative speakers</u>
<u>7'</u>	Welcoming and opening speech <i>African Network of Basin Organisations</i> experience of twinning on governance and technical issues for strengthening Transboundary River Basin Organisations	- Mr Mohamed OULD MERZOUG, OMVS High Commissioner
7'	<i>Agence Française de Développement (France)</i> : role of the donors for capitalisation and production of "guidelines on good practises"	- Mr Maurice BERNARD, Sustainable Development Director
7'	<i>Bulgarian Ministry of Environment and Water</i> : Twinning as an instrument for transfer of know-how on the Water Framework Directive	- Mrs Ivelina VASILEVA, Vice-Minister in charge of Water.
7'	<i>Vecht Regional Water Authority (Netherlands)</i> : Experience on "River and Environment Management Cooperation" Incomati / Vecht partnership	- Mrs Hannah IETSWAART, Programme Manager
20'	Political, financial and technical involvement from <i>Loire-Bretagne Water Agency (France)</i> in twinings, on Mekong river tributaries: - <i>Tonle Sap Authority – Cambodia</i> - <i>Dong Nai River Basin - Vietnam</i> - <i>Nam Ngum River Basin – Lao PDR</i>	- Mr Puy LIM, Vice-President - Dr LAI, Vice-Minister - Mr Chanthanet BOUALAPHA, Director
7'	<i>The Nature Conservancy</i> : Nature as nexus infrastructure - Benefits from sharing experience through twinning, looking on successes and failures	- Mrs Karin M. KRCHNAK, Senior Advisor
55'	<i>Interactive debate with participants</i>	
10'	<i>Conclusion</i> <i>Closing</i>	Reporter Chairman