

Checklist for contingency planning for accidents affecting transboundary waters

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



The Joint Expert Group (JEG)

- * Established in 1998 under the Water and Industrial Accidents Conventions to work on issues related to the prevention of accidental water pollution



- * 2 Co-Chairs from the Water and Industrial Accidents Conventions

- * Current members:



1. Mr. Peter Kovacs (HU), co-Chair
2. Mr. Gerhard Winkelmann-Oei (DE) co-Chair (former co-chair: Mr. Francisc Senzaconi (RO))
3. Mr. Pavel Dobeš (CZ)
4. Mr. Pavel Danhielka (CZ)
5. Mr. Serik Akhmetov (Kazakhstan)
6. Ms. Natalia Racovet (MD)
7. Mr. Claes-Hakan Carlsson (SE)
8. Ms. Helena Nasslander (SE)
9. Ádám Kovács (ICPDR PS)

⇒ Supported by a consultant (Mr. Sándor Kisgyörgy, HU)

1. Progress and achievements in this area of work in the triennium, esp. since 2014

- * **2010** - mandate was given to JEG to draft the checklist/ methodology
- * **2010- 12** – several meeting were held to draft the checklist but that it could not be finalized for Cop-7 in Nov 2012.
- * **2013** – Industrial Accident Convention’s Bureau meeting – Recommendations to JEG
- * **2014** – Conventions’ Bureaux decide to support JEG’s work through hiring a consultant to finalize the draft checklist/ methodology
- * Water Convention provided financial support (from Germany) for this
- * Sept – Consultant prepared draft checklist/methodology
- * 6-7 Oct – JEG Meeting in Budapest – draft was discussed and revised after the meeting => checklist
- * 29 Oct – Consolidated draft checklist was circulated by e-mail to focal points of the 2 Conventions for comments
- * 17 Nov – Finalization of the checklist and posting on the homepage
- * 3–5 Dec - The Conference of the Parties to the Industrial Accidents Convention at its eighth meeting (Geneva,) took note of the checklist
- * the CoP-8 requested the secretariat to publish the checklist, following the testing of its application in the Danube Delta Project and the review by the Water MOP in Nov 2015



2. Main results and lessons learned

- * Checklist is practically finalised
- * COP-8 took note of the checklist and recommend its application as a tool for harmonized contingency planning between neighbouring states
- * Checklist will be applied/tested in the Danube Delta Project in 2015 and published thereafter
- * Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management is invited to review the checklist and entrust the secretariat to edit and submit it for adoption by the Meeting of the Parties at its seventh session (Budapest, 17–19 November 2015).



Content of the Checklist

Introduction

- * Need for harmonization of contingency plans, scope of the document and definitions

Transboundary contingency planning

- * 3 aspects: Emergency Preparedness, Response Planning and Mutual Assistance

Guiding principles for countries to allow for effective contingency planning for transboundary waters

- * Provisions from both Conventions regarding identification, prevention, exchange of information, monitoring, early warning, response, mutual assistance and enforcement

Checklist for competent authorities to allow for effective contingency planning for transboundary waters

- * Competent authorities provided with the necessary information to apply and assess the results of the checklist in practice

References

Annex (with checklist)



Sample (from the checklist)

NO	GUIDING PRINCIPLES	POINTS TO BE CHECKED	YES	PARTLY	NO
1.	Countries should ensure that the definitions in the legislation are in line with those from the Water and Industrial Accidents Conventions.	Are the definitions in accordance with the definitions of the Industrial Accidents and Water Conventions (see chapter 1.4)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Description of the watershed					
Competent Authorities should check whether the following issues are included and described in the Contingency Plan (CP):					
2.	Geographic location	Is there a map about the area potentially affected by accidental pollution?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Is there an agreement about what the base of the delineation of the affected area is?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.	Main characteristic of the watershed	Is there a reference on its availability?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.	Topography	Is there a description about topography (relief, flora, hydrography, urban areas, <u>transportation</u>)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5.	Geology and soil structure	Is there a description about geology and soil structure (geology, soil structure)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6.	Meteorology and precipitation	Is there a description about meteorology and precipitation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7.	Groundwater and aquifers	Is there a description on groundwater status and aquifers on the affected area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8.	Surface waters	Is there a description about surface water (rivers, drainage system, abandoned river beds, oxbows, lakes, reservoirs)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9.	Natural protected values and areas	Is there a description about Natural protected values and areas on the affected area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



3. Plans in this area in the draft programme of work for 2016-2018

- * MoP 7 invited to take note of the checklist and recommend its application as a tool for harmonized contingency planning between neighbouring states
- * Checklist will be published in 2016 (with the support by Sweden as the lead country),
- * In future, use of the checklist as a basis for drawing-up harmonized contingency plans
- * Based on necessary international agreements and respective national implementation by countries, authorities are invited to use the checklist, which is intended to contribute to mitigate the severity of the consequences of industrial accidents affecting transboundary watercourses, for human health and the environment.

