



Progress on Transboundary Water Cooperation

Insights from MOP8 Water Convention
Results of first reporting exercise under the Convention and SDG indicator 6.5.2



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Insights from MOP8 of the Water Convention



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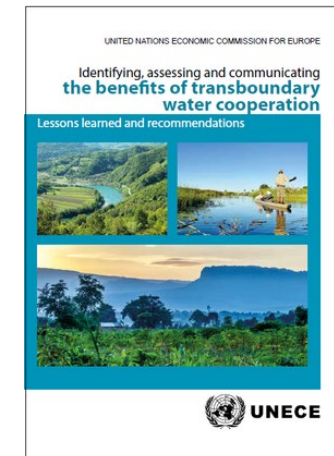
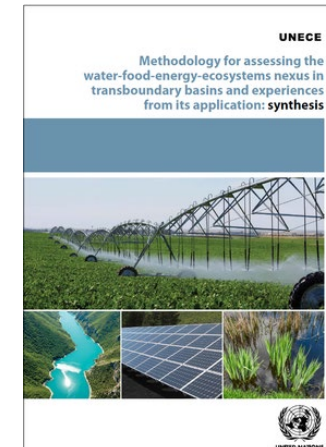
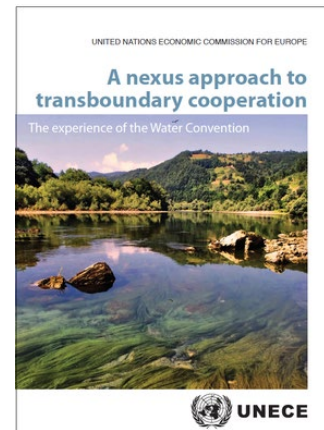
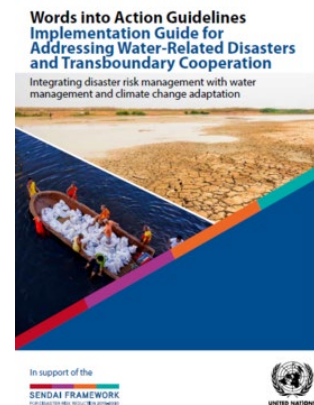


- Unprecedented interests from countries to accede to the Water Convention

90 countries represented, 15 countries announced interest to ratify the Convention



- Adoption of a strategy for the implementation of the Convention at the global level
- New publications



An ambitious Programme of work for 2019-2021

Overall objective

Transboundary Waters worldwide are managed in cooperation between riparian countries in accordance with the Water Convention, promoting sustainable development, peace and security



Increasing awareness of and accession to the Convention and application of its principles drawing on the benefits of cooperation



Supporting monitoring, assessment and information sharing in transboundary basins



Promoting an integrated and intersectoral approach to water management at all levels



Adapting to climate change in transboundary basins



Facilitating financing of transboundary water cooperation



Reporting on Sustainable Development Goal indicator 6.5.2 and under the Convention



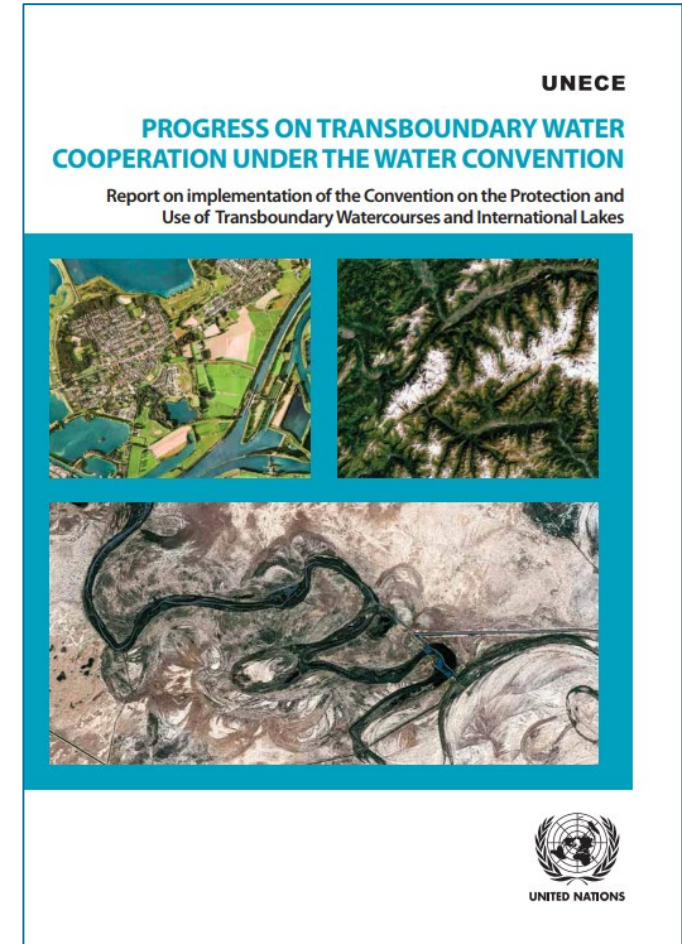
Partnerships, communication and knowledge management

Results of the first reporting exercise under the Water Convention



Background and context

- Decision to introduce reporting under the Water Convention at MOP7 in November 2015
- Support future implementation by helping to focus efforts on key challenges and measure progress
- Invitation to report under Water Convention (and SDG6.5.2) in January 2017
- 38 out of 40 Parties reported (95%)



Key findings - Transboundary water management at the national level

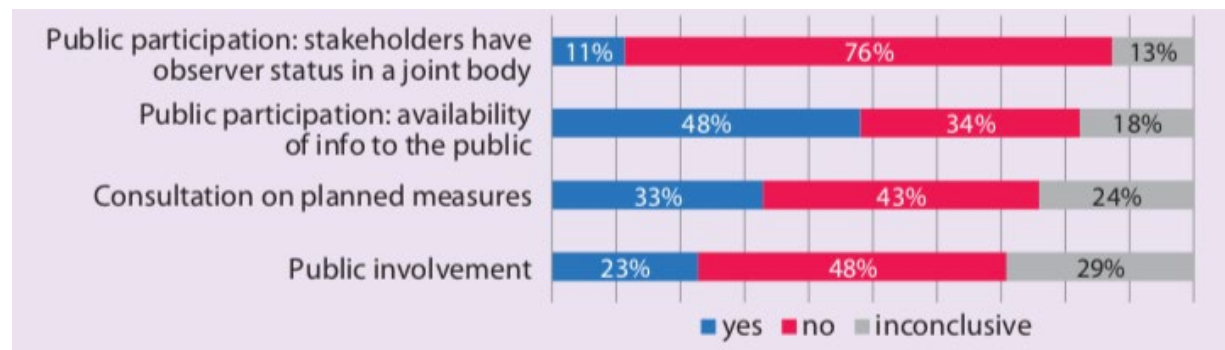
- Ensuring legal, administrative, economic, financial and technical measures are in place to prevent, control and reduce transboundary impact is well reflected in Water Convention (Arts. 2 & 3)
- Most countries have adopted:
 - Laws and policies related to transboundary impact
 - Systems for licensing, control and monitoring pollution (point and non-point source)
 - EIA laws and policies at the national level

Key findings – Agreements and arrangements, and joint bodies (Art. 9)

- Almost all reported basins have arrangements in force and joint bodies in place
- Although at least 15 basins lack arrangements that cover the entire basin
 - Reasons given include lack of specificity or ambiguity within the agreement, and a narrow sectoral or geographic focus
- At least 29 basins do not have arrangements covering transboundary aquifers
- Arrangements reflect many of the key topics of cooperation within the Water Convention
 - Elaboration of water quality objectives, mutual assistance, maintenance of joint pollution inventories and climate adaptation less well covered
- Many tasks and activities set out in Art. 9(2) of Water Convention well reflected in Joint Bodies
 - Maintenance of pollution inventories, setting of emission limits, climate change adaptation, and basin-wide or joint public participation and consultation less well reflected

Key findings – Implementation

- Widespread practice of adopting joint or co-ordinated water management plans (Arts 2&3)
- Measures to protect ecosystems of transboundary waters commonly incorporated (national and basin level) (Arts 2&3)
- Data and information is exchanged in almost all transboundary waters reported, although at least 7 basins where it does not take place, and shared databases or platforms are not widely used (Arts 6&13)
- Concerted effort to adopt joint monitoring and assessment programme, although in at least 32 reported basins such programmes are not in place at the basin level (Art 11)
- Joint water quality standards in place in the majority of basins although they are lacking in at least 15 reported basins (Art 3)
- Provisions related to accidental pollution (Art. 3(1)(l), mutual assistance for extreme events (Art 15) and public participation (Art 16) appear not to be widely implemented



Lessons learned and next steps

- Reporting is an effective means by which to measure implementation, although lessons can be learned:
 - ✓ Enhance harmonisation of reporting for same basins and arrangements
 - ✓ Reporting template can be improved through clearer questions and guidance
 - ✓ Consider gaps/challenges in
 - Reporting
 - Geographic scope of arrangements and joint bodies
 - Functional scope and implementation
- While gaps and challenges remain, pilot reporting exercise shows a high level of implementation of the Water Convention
 - It reflects concerted effort by Parties to protect and jointly manage transboundary waters over the course of more than 20 years, leading to concrete outcomes.

Main outcomes of SDG indicator 6.5.2 reporting





Goal 6 Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all



6.5 By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate

6.5.1 Degree of integrated water resources management implementation

UNEP-DHI PARTNERSHIP
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6.5.2 Proportion of transboundary basin area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation



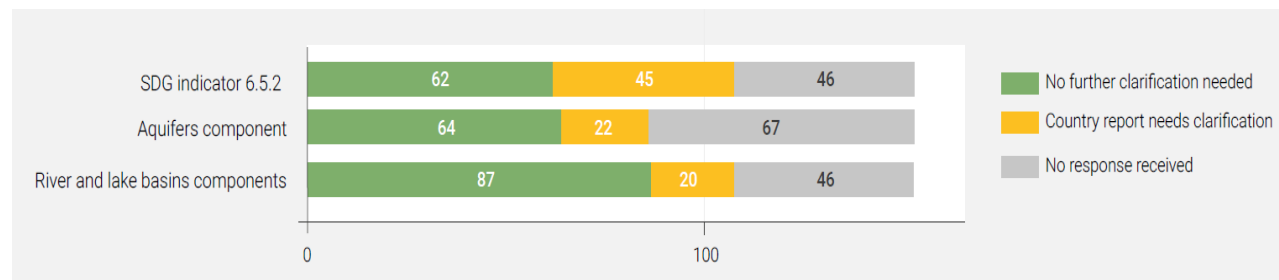
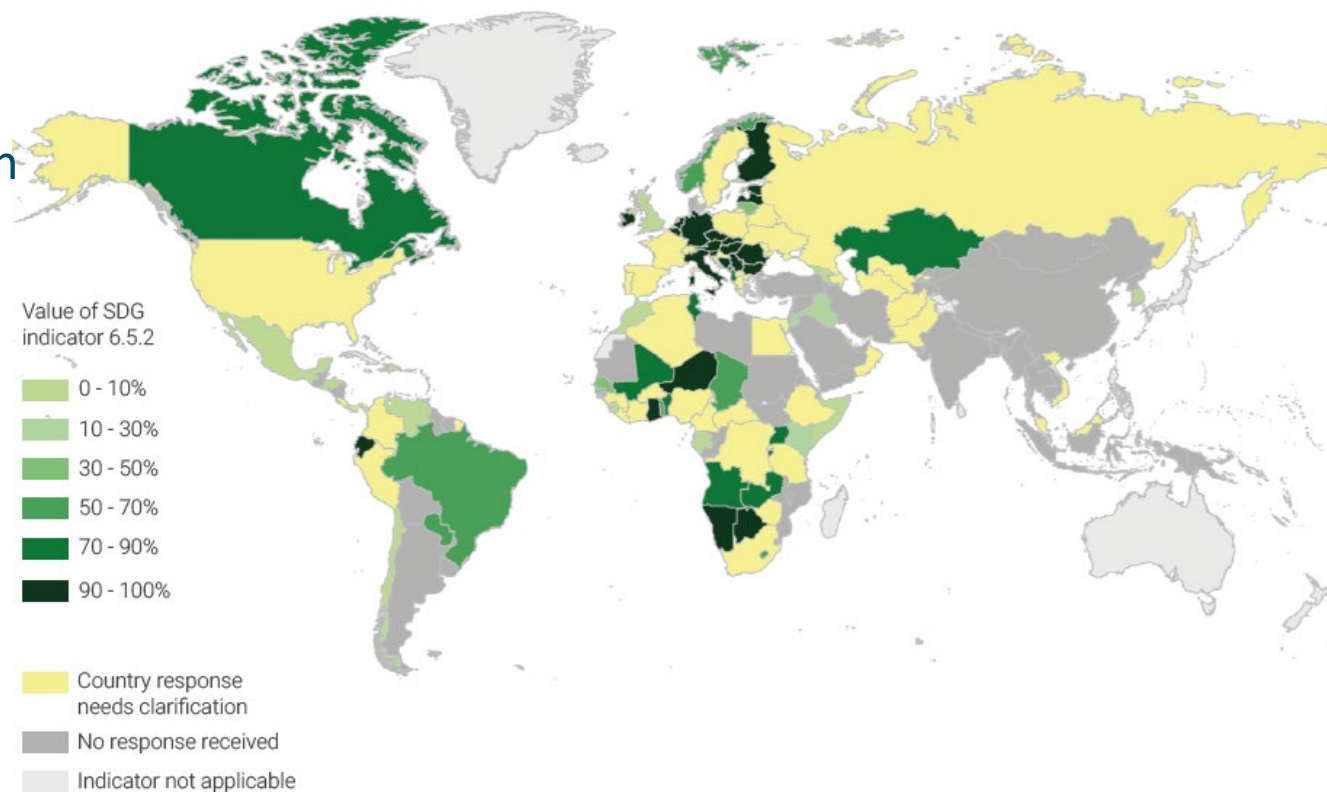
Initial results of the first reporting on SDG6.5.2

107 country responses by March 2018 (out of 153 countries sharing transboundary waters)

- 1st time countries submitted such information
- 70% of countries sharing transboundary waters responded
- Indicator 6.5.2 calculation available for 60% of the responses
- 95% of the Parties to Water Convention submitted a report

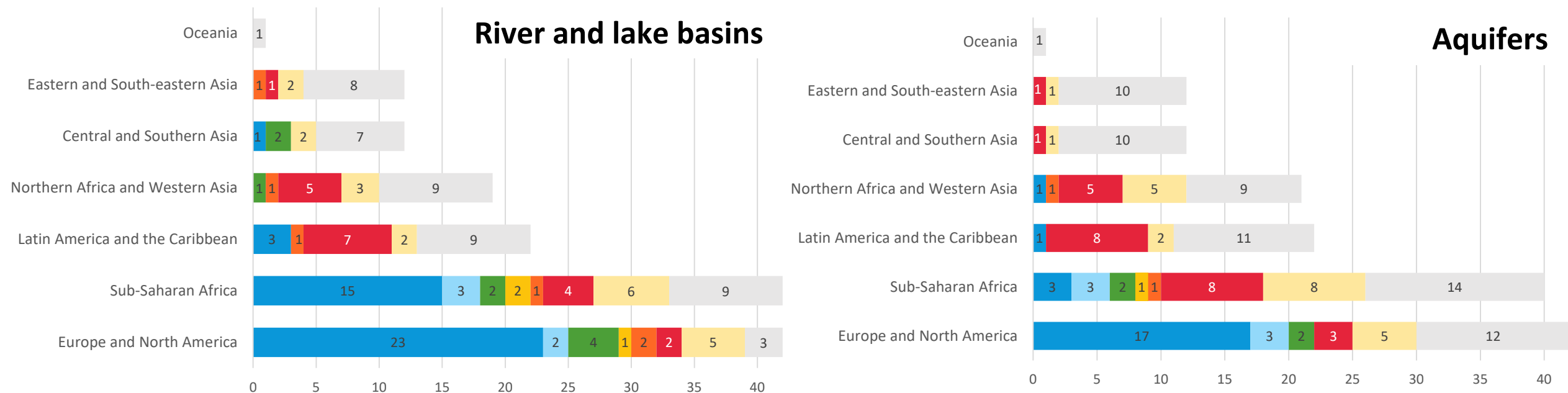
59% = average national percentage of transboundary basins covered by operational arrangement in 2017/2018 (62 out of 153 countries)

Only **17 countries** with **all** transboundary waters covered by operational arrangements

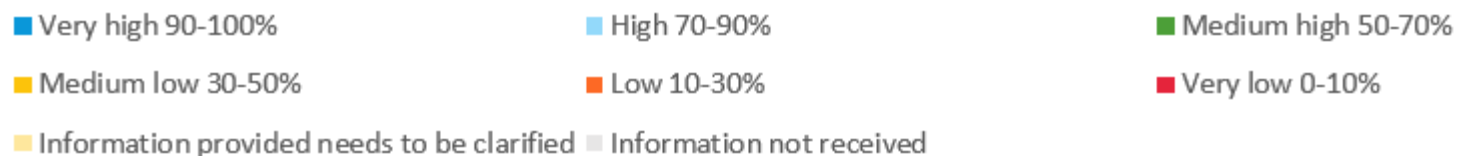


Initial results of the first reporting on SDG 6.5.2

Regional breakdown of the number of countries sharing basins and level of transboundary water cooperation (based on SDG 6.5.2 indicator)



The average of the national percentage covered by an operational arrangement is 64% for transboundary rivers and lake basins and 48% for aquifers.



Further information

Webpage of the 8th session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention (documents including programme of work 2019-2021 , main outcomes, news):

<http://www.unece.org/env/water/mop8.html>

Contact: water.convention@un.org and chantal.demilecamps@un.org

Report on Implementation of the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes, UN Doc. ECE/MP.WAT/51,

<http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=49805&L=0>

Water Convention Website: <https://www.unece.org/env/water.html>, Areas of work of the Convention > Reporting under the Water Convention and Sustainable Development Goal 6.5.2

Progress on transboundary water cooperation: global baseline for SDG indicator 6.5.2 :

www.unece.org/index.php?id=47948

Websites: www.unece.org/env/water and <https://en.unesco.org/themes/water-security/hydrology>

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