

GOOD PRACTICES in Transboundary Water Cooperation

The UN-Water Transboundary Waters Thematic Priority Area, under the leadership of its co-coordinators UNESCO and UNECE, has organized a compilation of good practices in transboundary water cooperation and created an online database that enables the continuous collection of good practices.

There are approximately 276 transboundary river basins on the planet with a geographical area corresponding to almost half of the earth's surface and 60% of freshwater supplies. Almost three billion people in 145 countries live in this area. There are also approximately 600 hundreds aquifers shared by 2 or more countries.

These physical realities, together with the need for sustainable development and the equitable and reasonable use of these transboundary resources, demand cooperation between people, groups, and states. However, the challenges of climate change, population growth, economic development and urbanization are straining the world's water resources and are exacerbating existing political tensions around transboundary water management.

In light of these facts, this activity aims to identify, collate and disseminate good practices related to cooperation on transboundary waters, and thereby help anticipate, prevent and resolve water conflicts, as well as contribute towards sustainable development and the equitable and reasonable use of transboundary waters.

The sharing of such good practices will indeed provide UN Member States with information and ideas for the sound management of their transboundary waters and will assist them in identifying and using factors that enable cooperative interactions around water.

The final output of the project is an online database of good practices that can be found at the following link: www.ais.unwater.org/ais/TPA_Transboundary/map

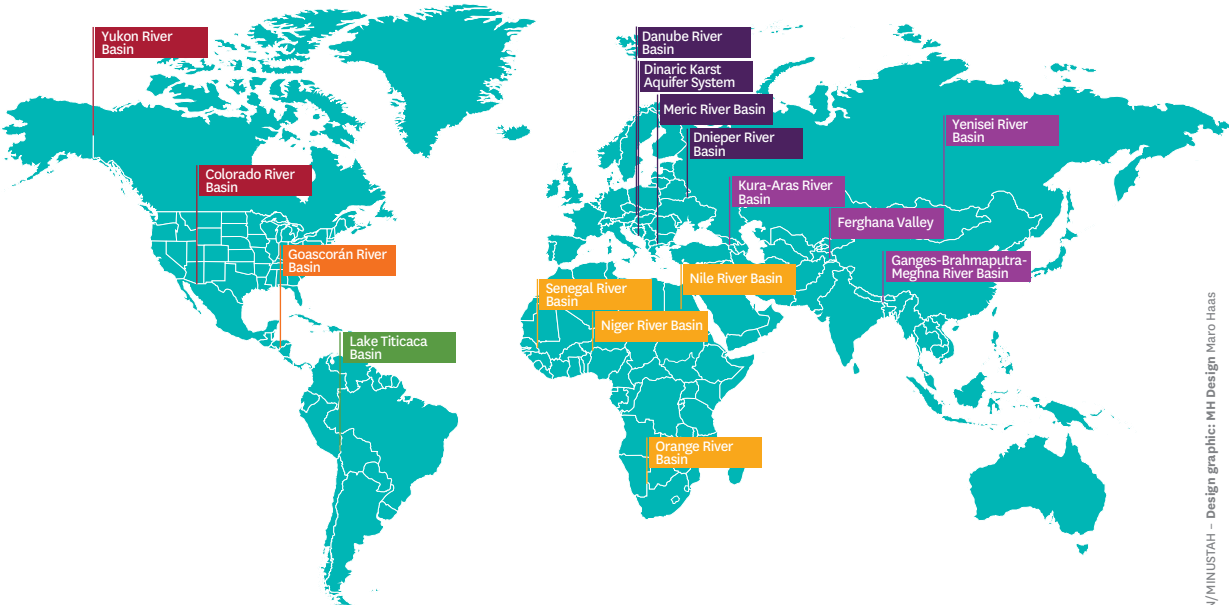
CONTRIBUTE TO THIS EFFORT WITH YOUR OWN EXPERIENCE

by adding an example of a good practice in transboundary water cooperation directly online at: www.ais.unwater.org/ais/TPA_Transboundary



GLOBAL DISTRIBUTION OF COLLECTED GOOD PRACTICE EXAMPLES

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Good practices implies that there is not a single practice or method for managing transboundary water issues, but rather a suite of practices or methods that can help foster cooperation and better relationships between users of transboundary water resources. This is due to the heterogeneity of the physical, political and socio-economic contexts of specific rivers, lake basins and aquifer systems.

Good practice is often achieved through the presence of enabling factors which, upon identification, can be used to create opportunities for cooperation.

An analysis of those enabling factors of good practice revealed 8 emerging commonalities:

1. **Multi-level involvement of stakeholders;**
2. **Data and information sharing and dialogue** is imperative and forms a basis for co-operation;
3. **A basin level organisation** is needed in order to implement IWRM;
4. **Human right to water** is key in addressing access to drinking water;
5. **Trust** between countries and organisations is an important factor in co-operation;
6. **Common problems** create windows of opportunity for co-operation;
7. **Full stakeholder inclusion** is a necessary factor; and
8. **Capacity building** of stakeholders is vital.

MORE INFORMATION ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE TPA CAN BE FOUND AT:
www.unwater.org/activities/thematic-priority-areas/transboundary-waters/en/