

Monitoring and Assessment of Transboundary Waters

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The basis: Monitoring and assessment activities under the Water Convention

- * **Firm basis in the provisions**

- * Both general obligations and obligations specific to Riparian parties promote sharing of information
- * Joint monitoring and assessment of transboundary waters for water quantity and quality is a core requirement
- * Data exchange in transboundary basins among the obligations

- * **Various guidelines on monitoring and assessment** developed in the 1990s and 2000s; tested in pilot projects on both surface waters and groundwaters

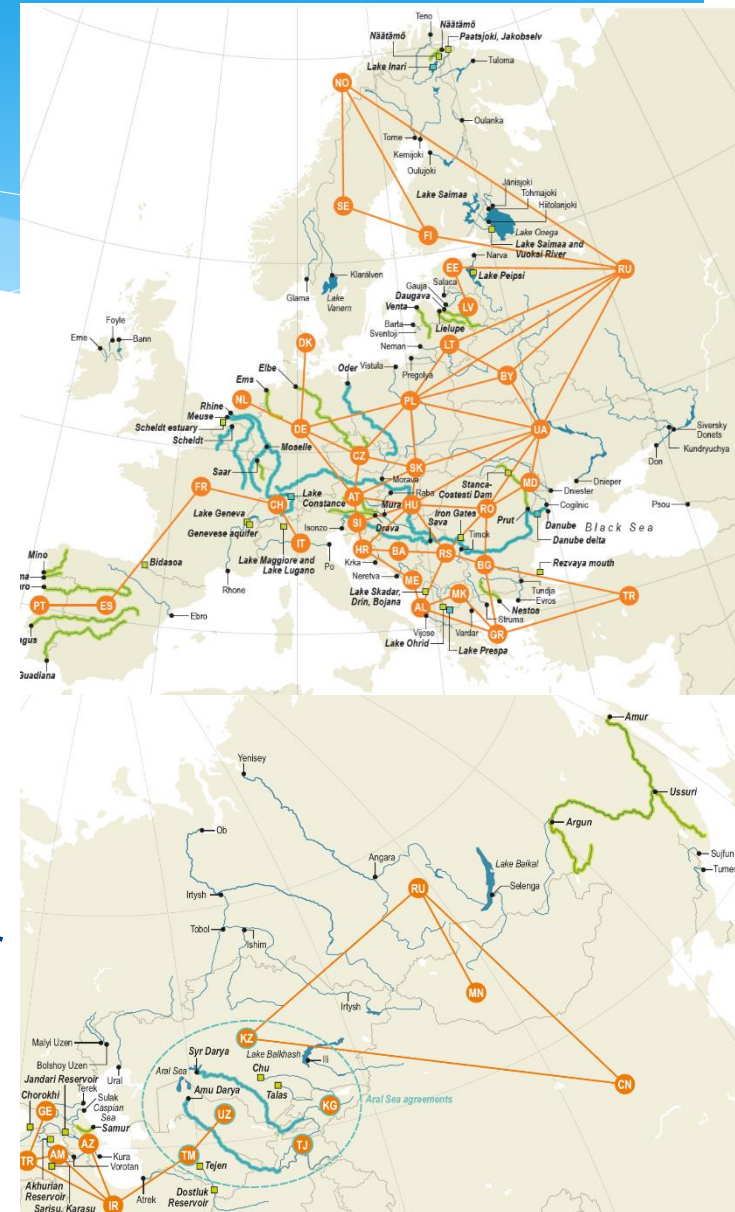
- * **Regional assessments:** First Assessment of Transboundary Rivers, Lakes and Groundwaters (2007), Second Assessment (2011)

- * **Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment**

- * Lately monitoring and assessment has **been integrated into thematic activities** (e.g. adaptation to climate change, water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus), or has been a **component in projects on the ground** (e.g. Afghan-Tajik cooperation)

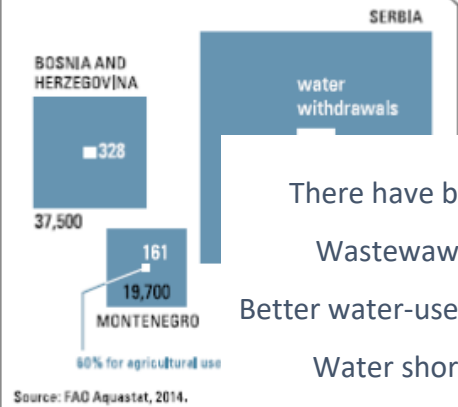
Second Assessment of transboundary waters (2011)

- * Covered: >140 rivers, 25 lakes, some 200 groundwaters and 25 Ramsar Sites & other wetlands of transboundary importance from W. Europe to Central Asia; also countries from outside UNECE (Afghanistan, IR Iran, Mongolia) participated & non-Parties
- * **Covers** pressure factors, quantity and quality status of waters, transboundary impacts, responses and future trends (**DPSIR**)
- * **Process: subregional focus**, extensive data collection using a questionnaire: 50 countries, 5 subregional workshops over >2 years, reviews by national administrations, e.g. basin commissions provided input



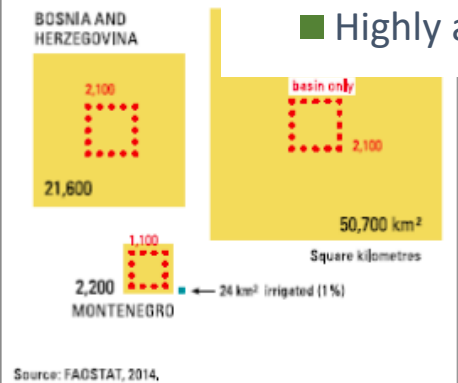
Nexus Assessment: use of information and indicators across sectors to understand impacts on a basin and its waters

Water resources



There have been serious water c
 Wastewater treatm needs
 Better water-use management is ne
 Water shortages are expected
 There have been municipal

Agricultural land

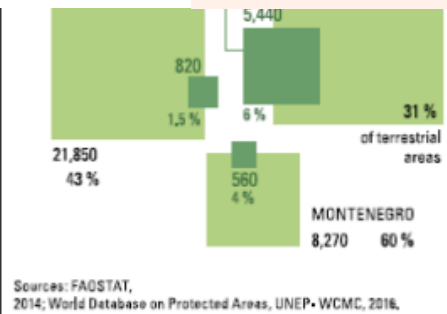
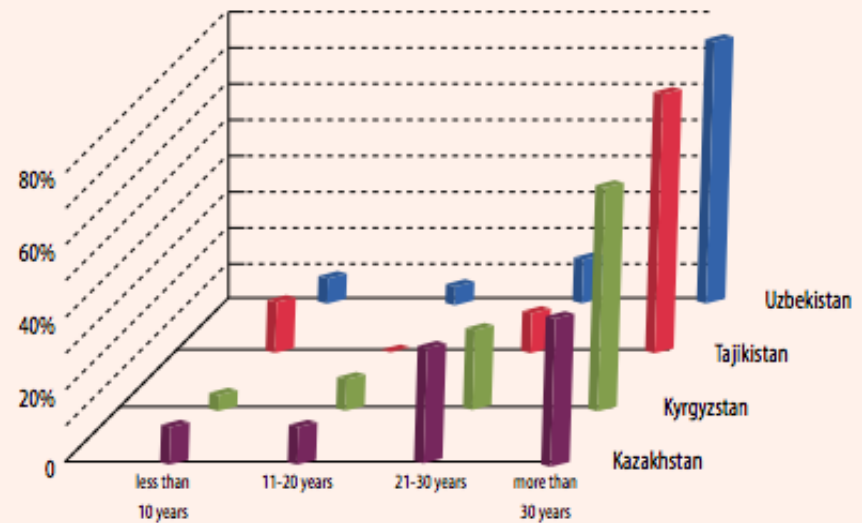


■ Highly agree ■ Agree

Electricity prod



▶ **FIGURE 10**
Operating age of power facilities



Step 6

Ramping up monitoring and assessment: search for the most appropriate scope 2016-2018

- * Concept for a **3rd comprehensive Assessment of Transboundary Waters** (mandated by 7th MoP) was developed:
 - * Initial discussion about the needs & a possible approach in 2016
 - * Expert Group met from 9 to 10 May 2017 to hear expectations from countries, reviewed related initiatives and to develop the scope and main features
 - * Draft concept prepared to inform the discussion at the Working Group on IWRM, but *not included in the Programme of Work (PoW) 2019-2021*
- * Bureau and Finland (lead country) explored with the secretariat **alternative ways to strengthen monitoring in PoW**
- * In the PoW 2019-2021 consultation, a strong call for monitoring and assessment activities

Lessons learned and challenges

Projects on the ground

- * *Main challenge: resource-intensive, funding*
- * *Lessons: Practical testing is key to delivering solid guidance, technical cooperation can pave the way to the political level advancement in cooperation*

Regional assessments

- * *Challenges: basin level information, intersector access, cost, different approaches (e.g. to water quality classification). What shape should assessment take under the global Convention?*
- * *Served to exchange views & experience, harmonize approaches, keep the status of transboundary waters under scrutiny*

Monitoring and information components in thematic activities

- * *Monitoring, assessment and information has synergies with other thematic activities: highly complementary to e.g. reporting under the Water Convention*
- * *Projects contribute experience of wider applicability which needs to be consolidated into policy products like principles, guidelines, good practice etc. under the Convention*

Exchange of data and information is presently a major challenge!



UNEP

Suggested future work 2019-2021:

PA 2 - Supporting monitoring, assessment and information sharing in transboundary basins

2.1 Organize of a global workshop on information exchange and regional events on monitoring and assessment

- a. A global workshop on data and information exchange with partners, develop a substantive background paper.
- b. Two regional capacity building events on monitoring and assessment, responding to specific regional needs.

2.2 Tailored assistance and gathering experience for updating guidance material under the Convention

- a. **Targeted assistance** to cooperation processes through monitoring and assessment work on the basis of demands.
- b. Promoting **exchanges** between countries or basin organizations
- c. Thematic and basin level activities will be used to **collect information on the gaps, updating needs and shortcomings of the existing monitoring guidance** to guide future review (for the next triennium).

Resource requirements: 422,000 USD