



Progress on Transboundary Water Cooperation

Global baseline for SDG Indicator 6.5.2
monitoring process – outcomes – lessons learned
– focus pan-European region

Sarah Tiefenauer-Linardon, UNECE



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



6.5.2 Proportion of transboundary basin area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation





Background on SDG indicator 6.5.2

- **Indicator 6.5.2:** Proportion of transboundary basin area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation.
- Considered in the IAEG-SDGs indicator framework since beginning of 2016
- SDG indicator framework adopted by the General Assembly in 2017
- **Tier II indicator:** reviewed at 5th IAEG-SDG meeting in 2017
- **Tier I indicator:** reviewed at 8th IAEG-SDG meeting in Nov. 2018
- **What is an ‘operational’ arrangement?**
 - Treaty, convention, agreement or other formal arrangement
 - Joint body for transboundary water cooperation
 - Annual meetings
 - Annual exchange of data and information
 - Adoption of joint/co-ordinated water management plan, or joint objectives



Reporting process

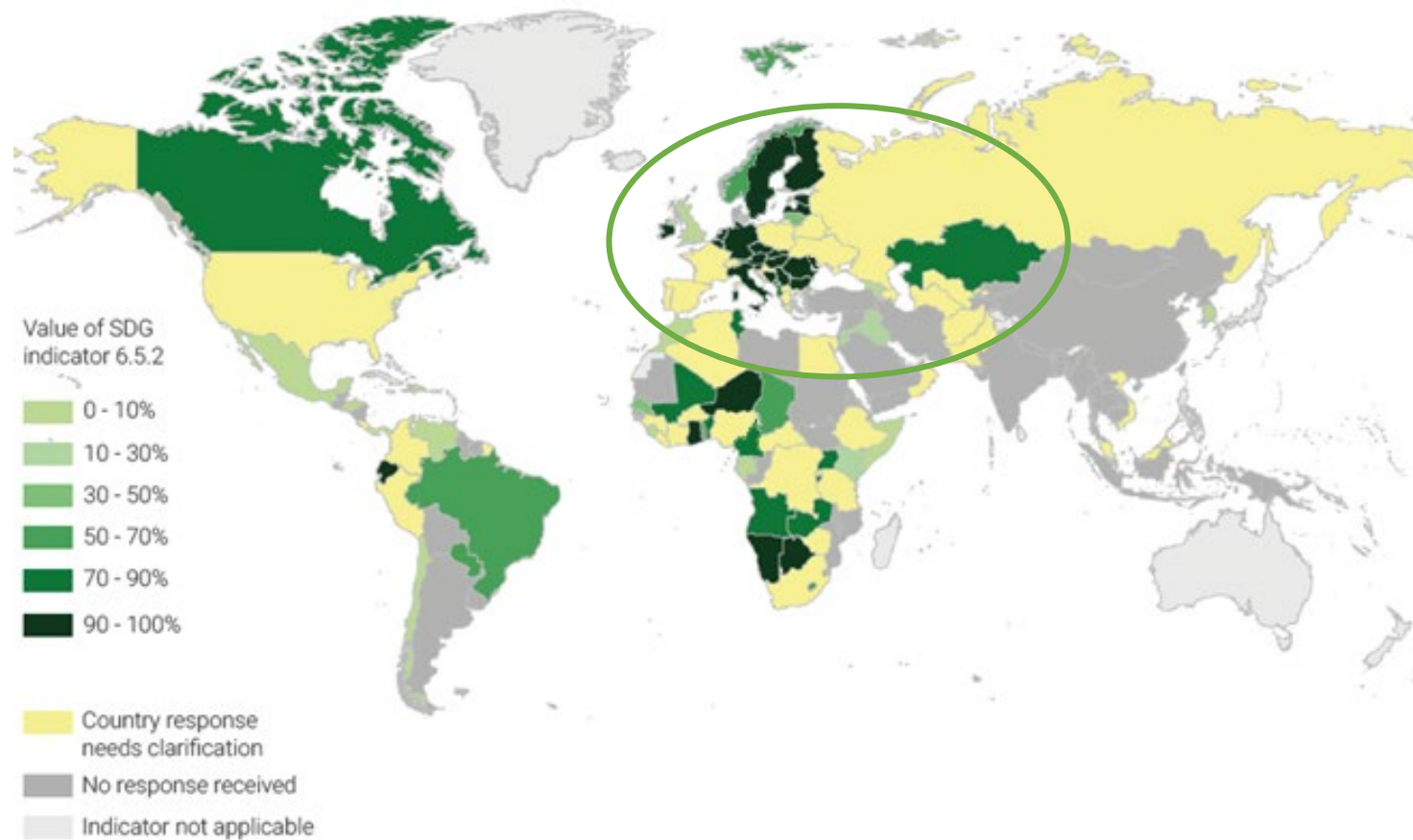
- Early 2017: UNECE and UNESCO initiated data and information collection
 - Questionnaire addressed to Ministers responsible for transboundary waters
 - To all UN Member States sharing transboundary waters
- After the submission of the Reports UNECE and UNESCO **reviewed and analysed** the reports and supported States to improve the quality of the reports so to ensure the accuracy of calculation of the indicator and comparability of data
 - ⇒ Extensive exchanges with Member States for clarification process
- Feb 2018 / Feb 2019: National 6.5.2 data points submitted to United Nations Statistics Division

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
- ⇒ High level of responses: 70% of countries sharing transboundary waters responded
- ⇒ Indicator 6.5.2 calculation available for 60% of the responses
- ⇒ 95% of the Parties submitted a report



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

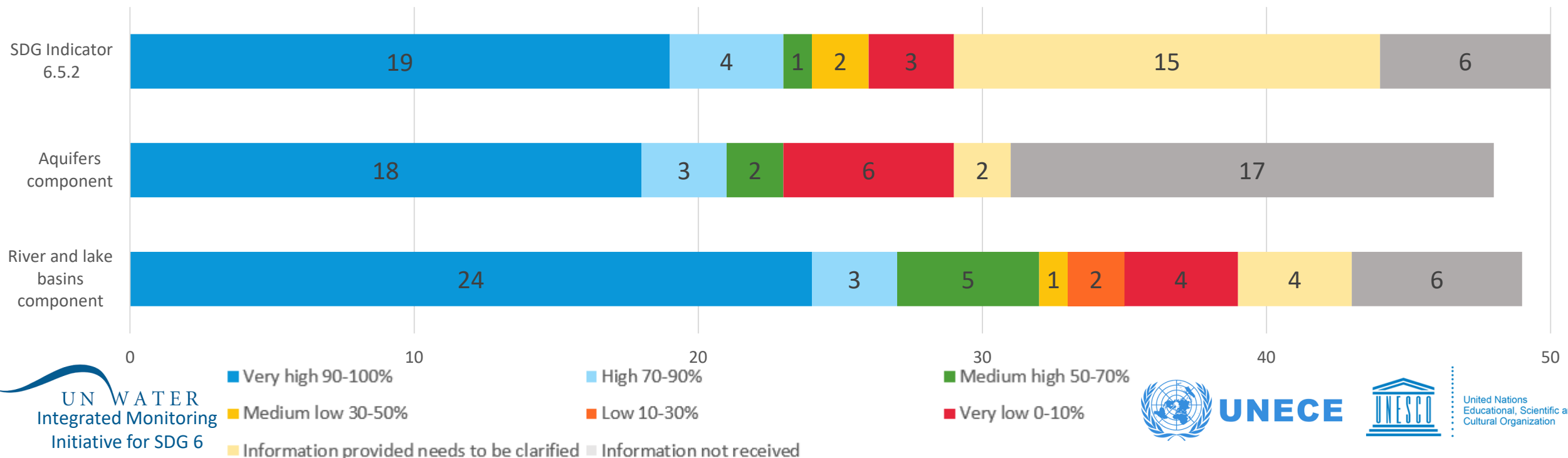
Only **17 countries** with **all** transboundary waters covered by operational arrangements

SDG Indicator 6.5.2 for the European, Caucasus and Central Asia Region



- Region with the **highest responses rate** and **highest average SDG indicator value: 79.59%**
- Overall indicator value available for **29 countries in the Pan-European region**
- **19 countries** (out of 50 countries) with overall SDG Indicator **above 90%**
- Main reason for responses needing clarification was *no data provided on aquifers*

Breakdown of the level of transboundary water cooperation for the 50 countries in the region



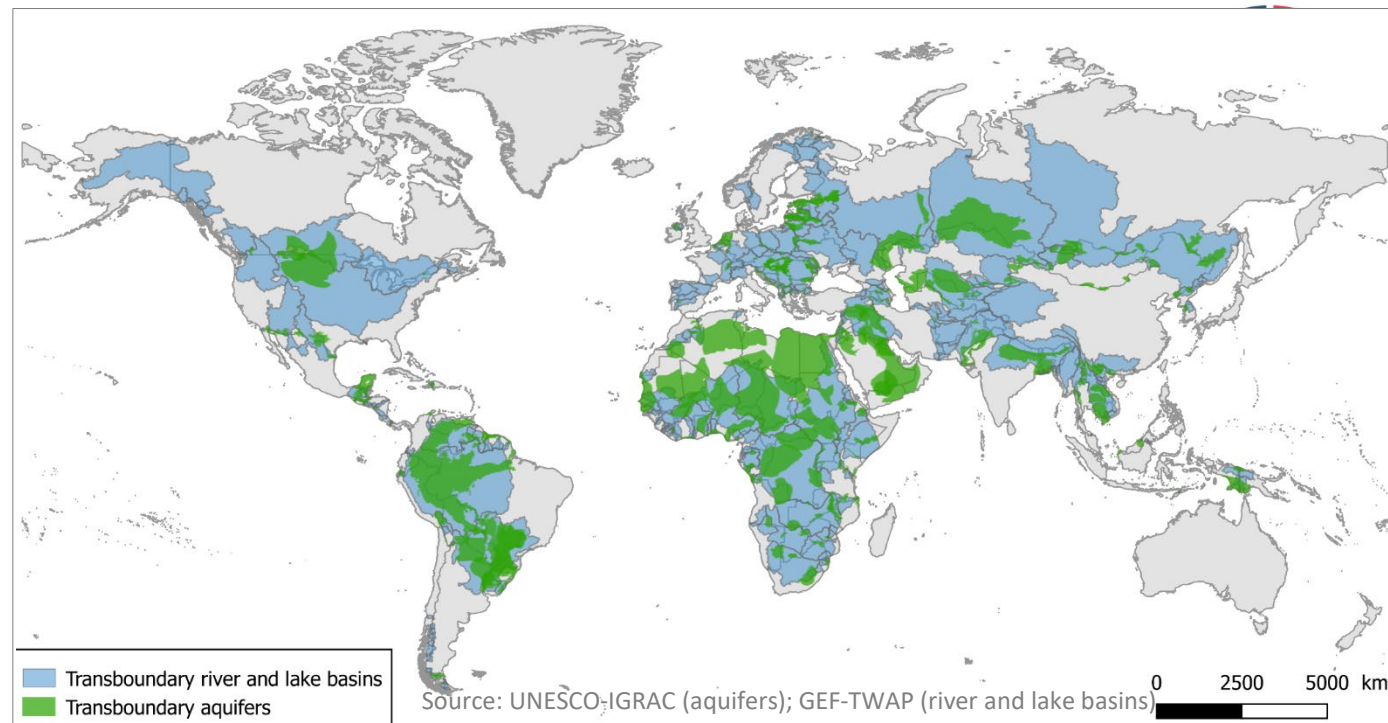


Data availability and challenges for the European, Caucasus and Central Asia Region

- Additional data clarified – 1st reporting exercise
 - 2018: Indicator 6.5.2 available for **26 countries** (transboundary river & lake basins and aquifers)
 - **37 countries** provided accurate data for transboundary river & lake basins, and
 - **26 countries** for transboundary aquifers
 - 2019: Indicator 6.5.2 available for **29 countries** of the region (transboundary river & lake basins and aquifers),
 - **39 countries** provided accurate data for transboundary river & lake basins, and
 - **29 countries** for transboundary aquifers
- Enhance future reporting through
 - Improving the response rate
 - Address data gaps particular in relation to transboundary aquifer data
 - Improve **coordination and compatibility of national reports** among countries sharing transboundary aquifers, rivers and lakes
 - **Encourage the setting of national and basin targets** as a way to monitor progress on 6.5.2

Key messages

- As only target in 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development explicitly referring to transboundary cooperation, target 6.5. can play a catalytic role across multiple SDGs and targets.
- In some regions and basins, significant **progress** has been made to develop transboundary water cooperation through operational arrangements
 - ⇒ “Europe and Northern America” and “Sub-Saharan Africa” show greatest levels of progress



BUT... we are **not on track** to achieve target 6.5 - progress must be accelerated to ensure that all transboundary basins are covered by operational arrangements

Cooperation on transboundary **aquifers** represents a particular challenge

Next steps for the 2nd reporting exercise on SDG indicator 6.5.2

- Enhanced reporting guidance based on experience from 1st reporting exercise
 - Revised of step-by-step methodology guide in process
 - Development of Guide to reporting
 - 2 Drafting Group meetings in May & September 2019, with around 40 countries from all regions of the world sharing transboundary waters
 - Draft Guide shared for comments with all countries sharing transboundary waters
 - Capacity building activities
 - In particular through regional workshops
 - **End 2019** data and information collection initiated for the second reporting exercise
 - Letter with template addressed to Ministers responsible for transboundary waters
 - To all UN Member States sharing transboundary waters
 - **1st semester 2020** Helpdesk for countries provided by UNECE and UNESCO
 - **30 June 2020** deadline to submit the second 6.5.2 report
- ⇒ **Early 2021** Data to be available for UN Statistical Commission





Thanks for listening!

transboundary_water_cooperation_reporting@un.org

transboundary_water_cooperation_reporting@unesco.org

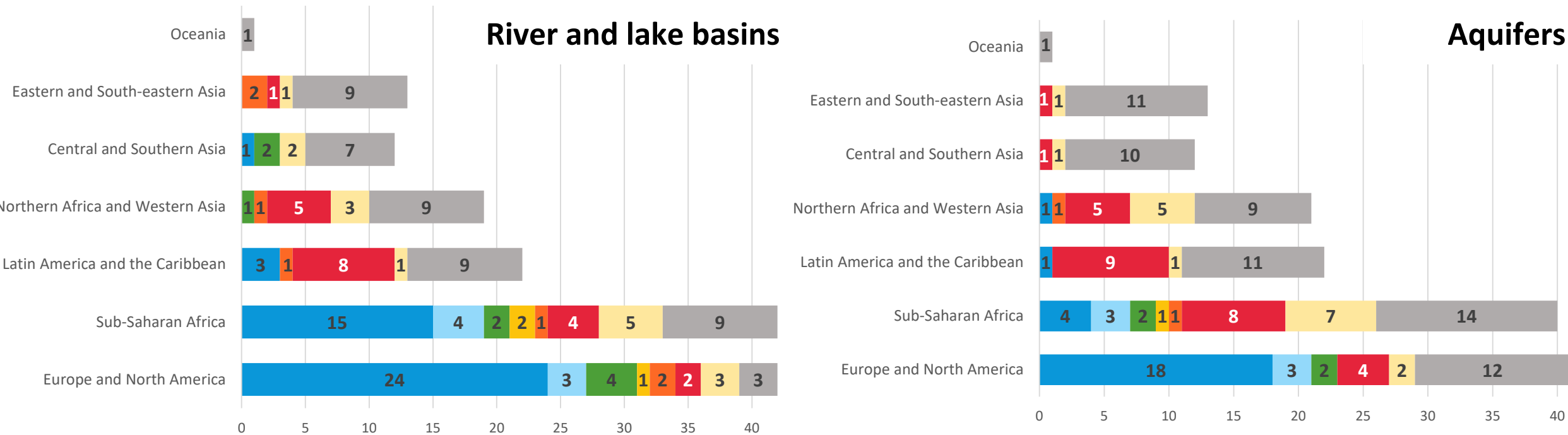
www.unece.org/water/transboundary_water_cooperation_reporting.html

<https://en.unesco.org/themes/water-security/hydrology>

Results of the first reporting on SDG6.5.2



Regional breakdown of the number of countries sharing basins and level of transboundary water cooperation (based on SDG6.5.2 indicator)



Updated 2019

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