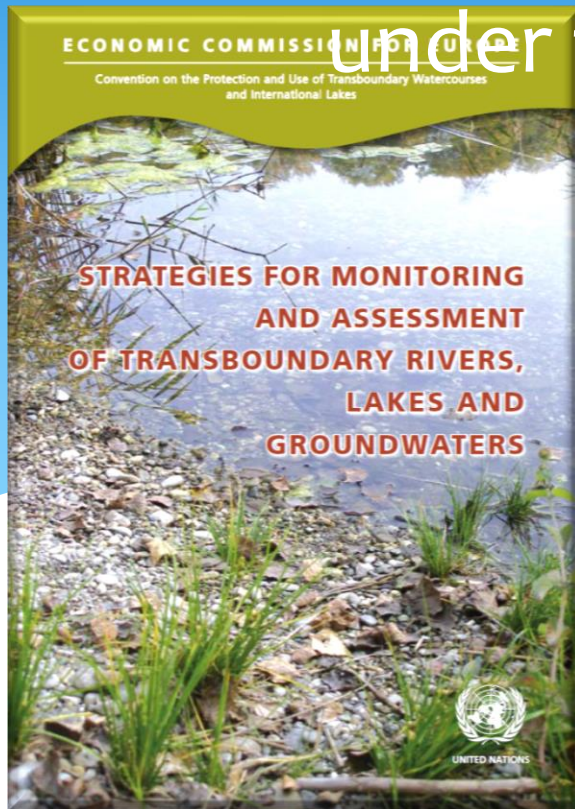


Work on monitoring and assessment under the Water Convention



Seppo Rekolainen
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
Finland



The basis: Monitoring and assessment obligations in the Water Convention

- * **Both general obligations and obligations specific to Riparian parties promote sharing of information**
- * **General obligations:**
 - * Joint monitoring and assessment of transboundary waters for water quantity and quality is a core requirement
 - * Data exchange in transboundary basins
- * **Specific obligations for parties:**
 - * Conclude bilateral and multilateral agreements Cooperate on the basis of IWRM
 - * Establish joint bodies (e.g. river commissions)
 - * Consult and exchange of information
 - * Joint monitoring and assessment
 - * Elaborate joint objectives and action programme

=> the Convention supports and reinforces basin level cooperation and implementation of basin agreements

The basis: Monitoring and assessment activities under the Water Convention

- * **Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment**
- * **Various guidelines on monitoring and assessment** developed in the 1990s and 2000s; tested in pilot projects on both surface waters and groundwaters
- * **Regional assessments:** 1st Assessment of Transboundary Rivers, Lakes and Groundwaters (2007), 2nd Assessment (2011)
- * Lately monitoring and assessment has **been integrated into thematic activities**, or has been a **component in projects on the ground**
- * **Reporting under the Water Convention** on cooperation, including in monitoring and information exchange



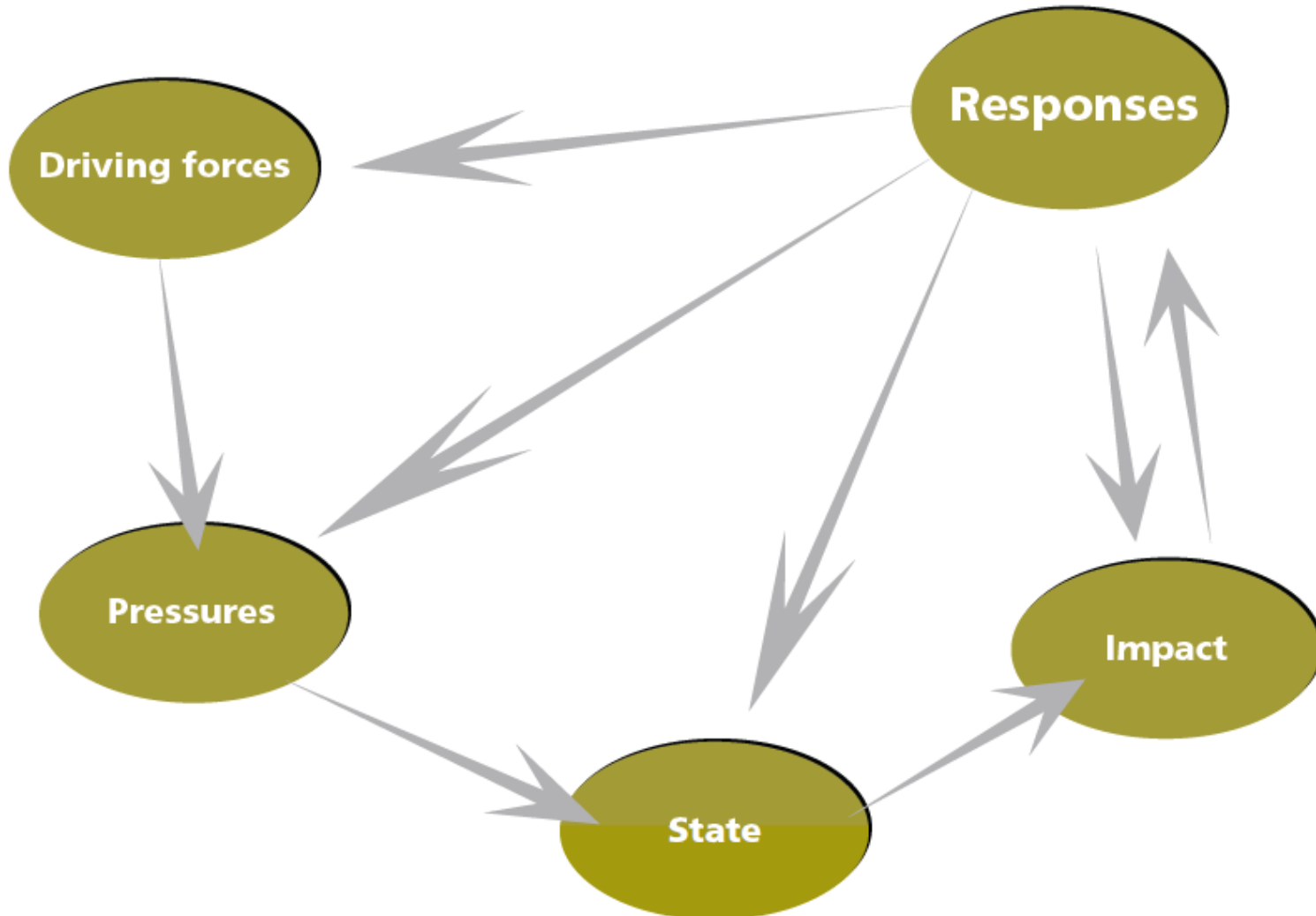
WATER
CONVENTION



Various guidelines

- * [Strategies for Monitoring and Assessment of Transboundary Rivers, Lakes and Groundwaters \(Oct. 2006\)](#) En, Ru
- * [Guidelines on Monitoring and Assessment of Transboundary and International Lakes \(Jan. 2002\)](#) En
 - * Part A: Strategy Document
 - * Part B: Technical Guidelines
 - * Background Paper
- * [Guidelines on Monitoring and Assessment of Transboundary Rivers \(March 2000\)](#) En, Fr, Ru
- * [Guidelines on Monitoring and Assessment of Transboundary Groundwaters \(March 2000\)](#) En, Ru, Sp

Driving Forces–Pressures–State–Impact–Responses (DPSIR) framework



Basic principles of the monitoring and assessment guidelines

- * Basin approach
- * Integrated approach
 - * All water elements: quality - quantity - surface water - groundwater
 - * Connection to policies: water policy - environmental policy - environmental planning
 - * All water uses: nature - agriculture - drinking water - rural area - industry – recreation
- * Tailor-made



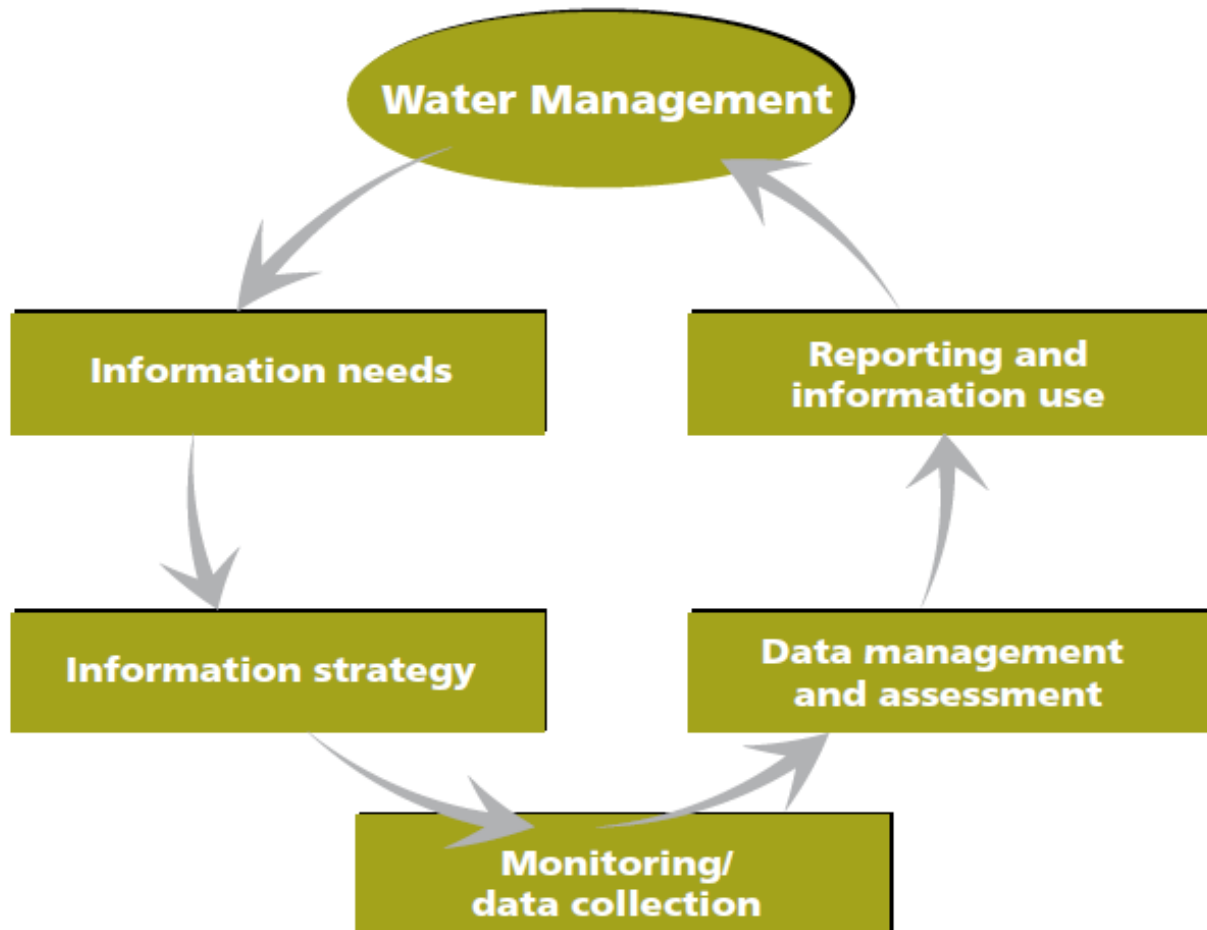
* Strategic, not technical

WATER
CONVENTION

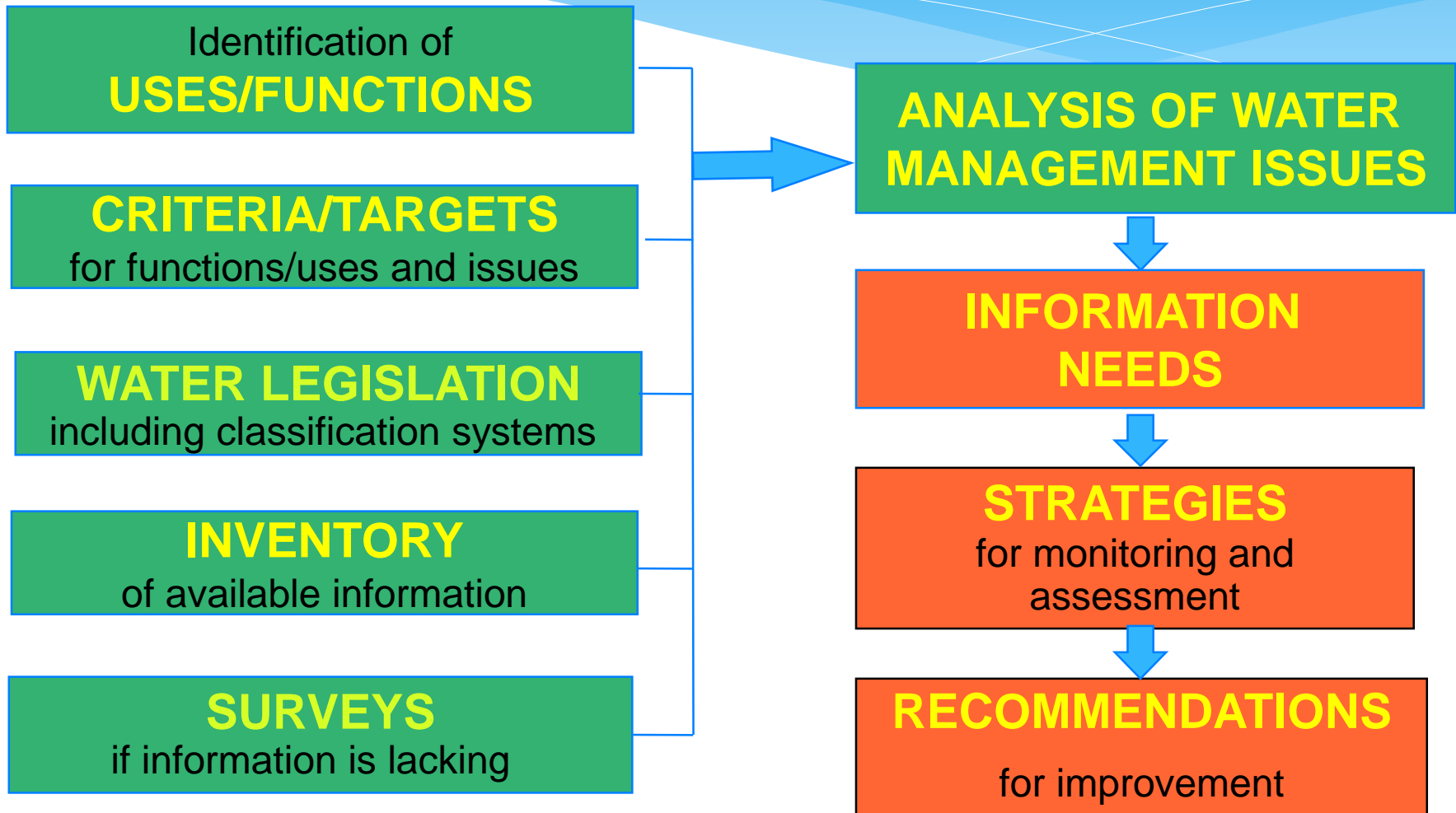


UNECE

Monitoring and Assessment Cycle



Steps in the river pilot projects



SDG indicator 6.5.2 on transboundary water cooperation

- * **Target 6.5:** By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate
- * **Indicator 6.5.2:** Proportion of transboundary basin area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation.
- * SDG indicator framework adopted by the General Assembly in 2017
- * Custodian Agencies for 6.5.2: UNECE and UNESCO
- * Data and information collected together with the 1st reporting of the Water Convention in 2017

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

Key messages 1st reportings on indicator 6.5.2 and under the Water Convention in 2017

- * 107 replies out of 153 countries with transboundary waters
 - * 91 countries provided accurate data for transboundary river & lake basins, and
 - * 68 countries for transboundary aquifers
 - * Results provide information about exchange of data and information in transboundary basins, including challenges

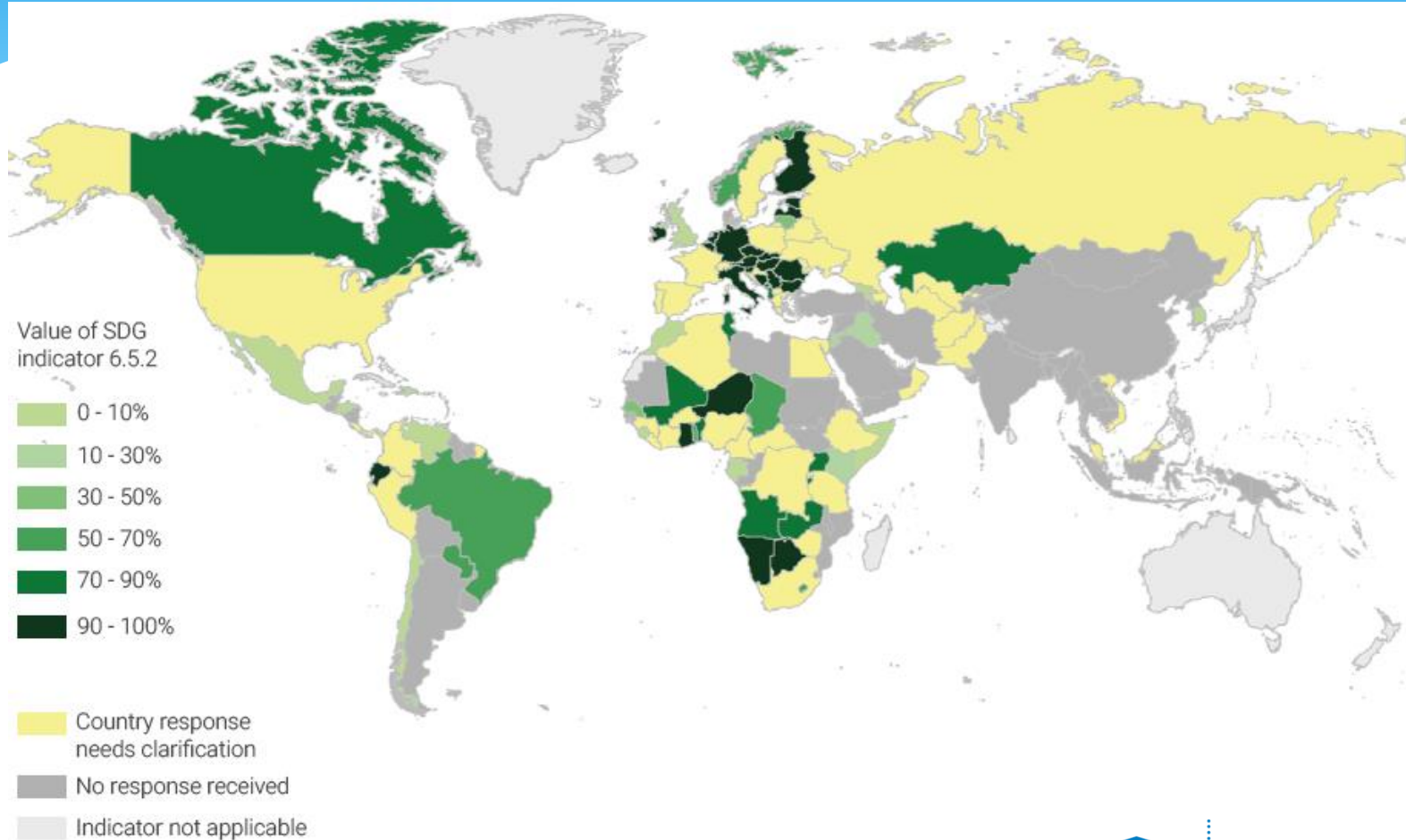


United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Reporting: Status after clarifications

Indicator 6.5.2 available for 67 countries



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Reporting (1st cycle): Main difficulties in data exchange identified

- * **Common to all regions:**
- * Harmonization
- * Lack of resources and capacity as well as lack of agreements.
- * Technical infrastructure adequateness
- * Lack of common databases, monitoring networks
- * Outdated scientific knowledge
- * Compatibility between the national and transboundary institutional frameworks

Reporting (1st cycle): Main difficulties in data exchange identified

* Regional nuances:

Africa: lack of technical infrastructure and capacity & consequently, harmonization and data quality. Monitoring stations lacking or insufficient, personnel and internet connection. Lack of trust among riparians, political instability.

Europe: harmonization and data availability: different standards (methodology, frequency, format); governance issues on a national level, affecting transboundary cooperation. Lack of real-time data exchange (on water quality, discharges)

Americas: lack of public access to information, lack of technical infrastructure

Asia: lack of cooperation and trust among countries

Programme of 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

WATER
CONVENTION



UNEP

Organization of work & the sessions

4 December	5 December	6 December
<p>Morning</p> <p><u>Session 1</u>: Identifying the relevant types of data and information for exchange (systematic approaches) Interaction: Identification of challenges</p> <p><u>Session 2</u>: “Infrastructure” for collection and management of data and information</p>	<p>Morning</p> <p><u>Session 4</u>: Legal Basis and Institutional Framework for transboundary data and information exchange</p> <p><u>Session 5</u>: The architecture of effective data and information exchange (group work)</p>	<p>Morning</p> <p>Information from the reporting under the Convention & SDG 6.5.2 Feedback on the monitoring and assessment guidelines</p>
<p>Afternoon</p> <p><u>Session 2</u>: “Infrastructure” (continuation)</p> <p><u>Session 3</u>: Achieving comparability</p>	<p>Afternoon</p> <p><u>Session 6</u>: How to get data and information exchange started, progressively improved or participation broadened</p> <p><u>Session 7</u>: Sustainability (panel)</p>	<p>Afternoon</p> <p>Projects on the ground & regional events Sustainable water allocation Cooperation with partners Strategic future discussion</p>