

# Overview of the results of the first reporting exercise – Water Convention

Professor Alistair Rieu-Clarke

Northumbria University, Newcastle, UK

UNECE Consultant

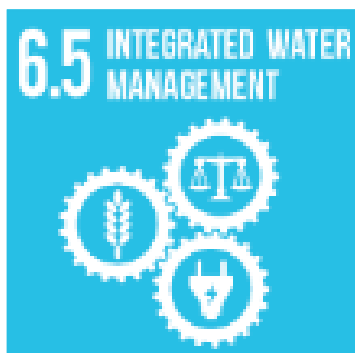


# Overview of reporting process

- Decision to report under the Water Convention taken in 2015
- Coincided with SDGs and SDG indicator 6.5.2 on transboundary water cooperation
  - UNECE and UNESCO designated as custodian agencies for 6.5.2
- Early 2017 questionnaire/ reporting template sent to all 153 UN Member States sharing transboundary waters
  - Deadline May (Water Convention)/ June (6.5.2) 2017
- 3 yearly intervals for 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



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



# Results from the reporting exercise under SDG indicator 6.5.2

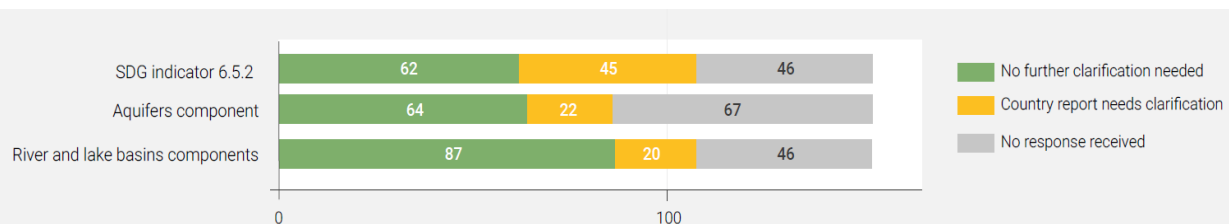
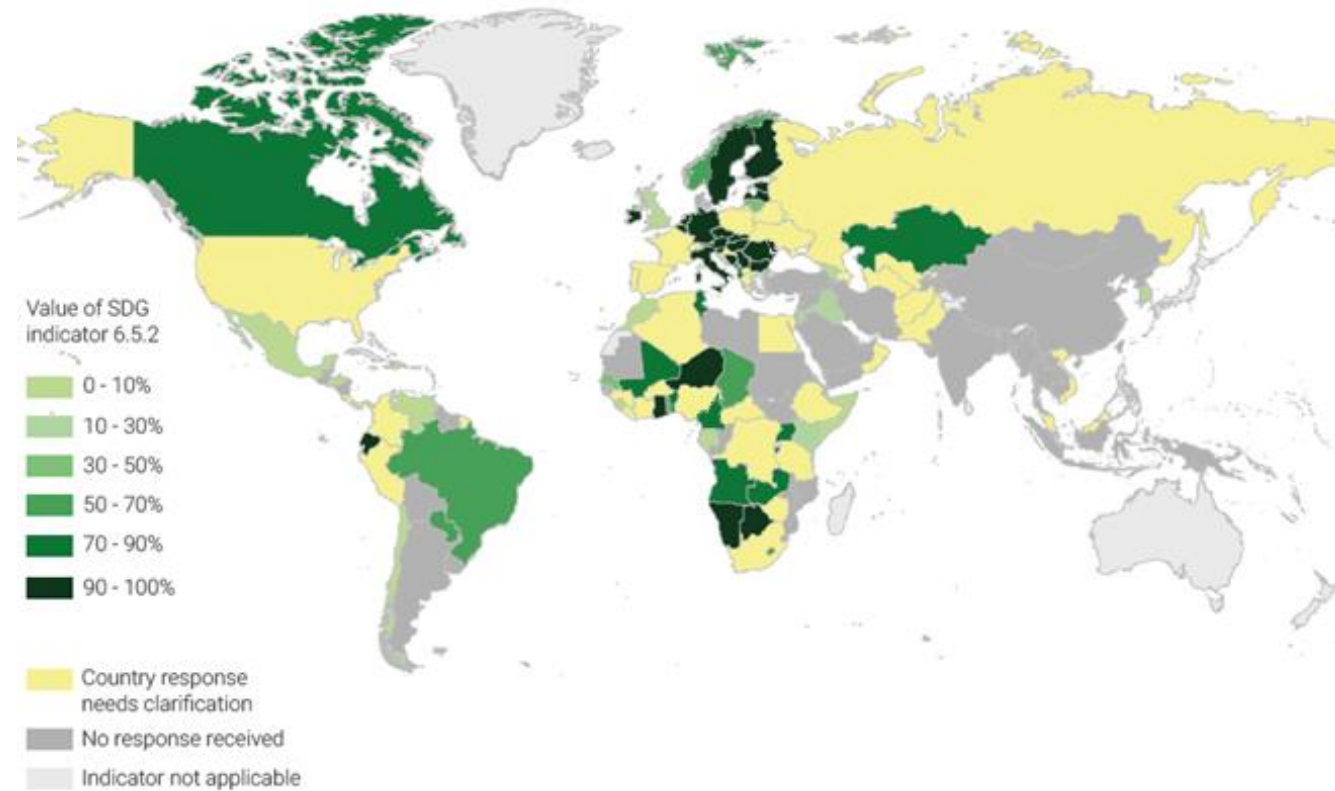


**107 country responses** by March 2018 (out of 153 countries sharing transboundary waters)

- 1<sup>st</sup> 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

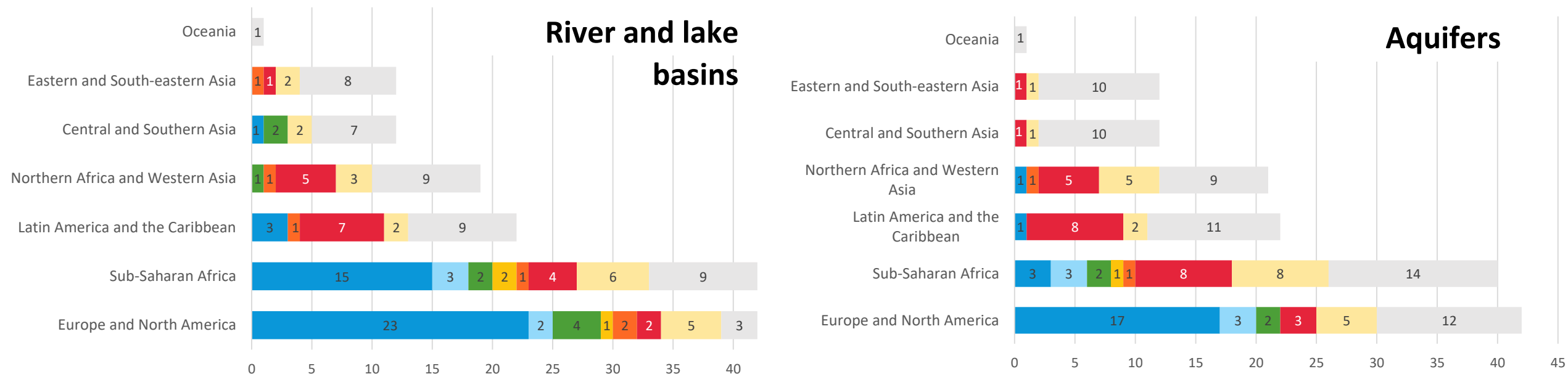
**59%** = average national percentage of transboundary basins covered by operational arrangement in 2017/2018 (67 out of 153 countries)

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

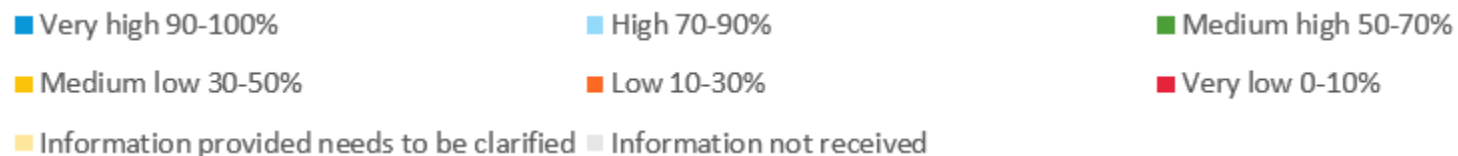


# Initial results of the first reporting on SDG 6.5.2

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

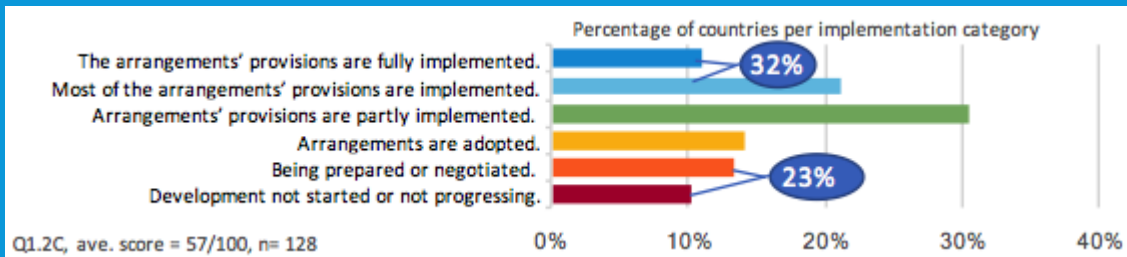


The average of the national percentage covered by an operational arrangement is 64% for transboundary rivers and lake basins and 48% for aquifers.

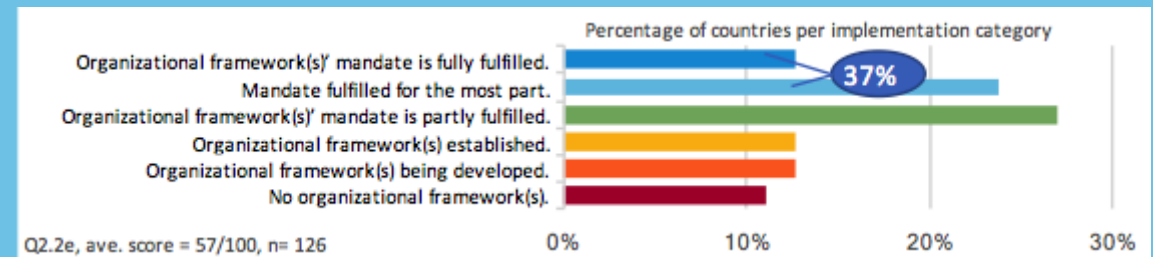


# Results through SDG indicator 6.5.1

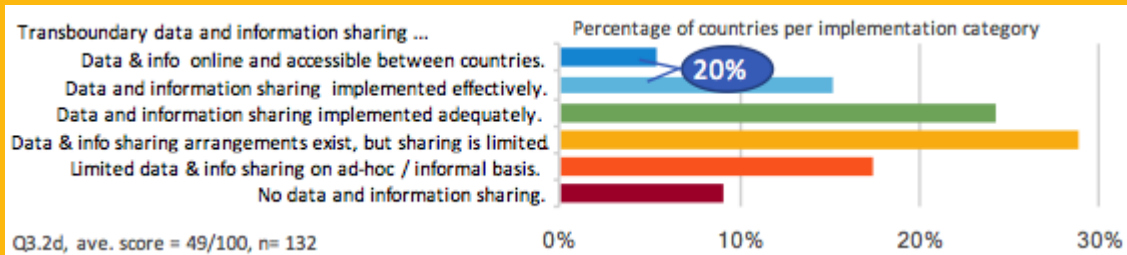
## Transboundary arrangements:



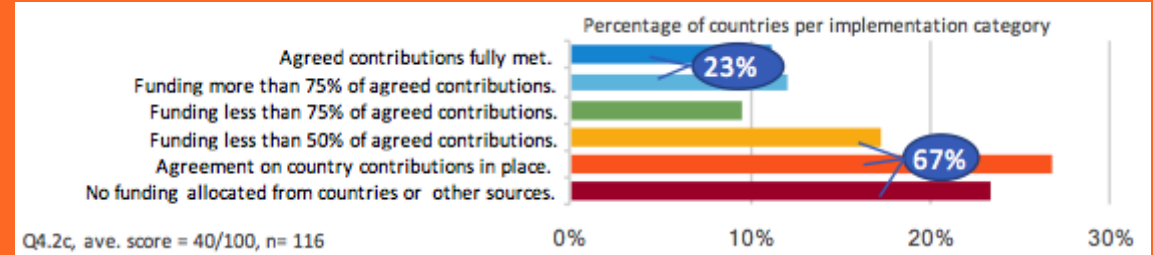
## Transboundary organisational frameworks:



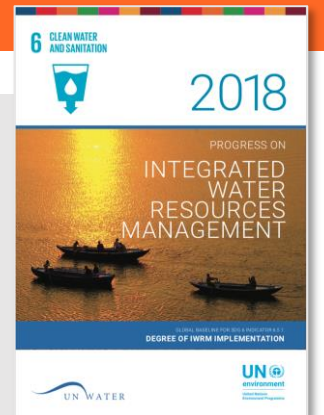
## Data and information sharing:



## Funding transboundary initiatives:

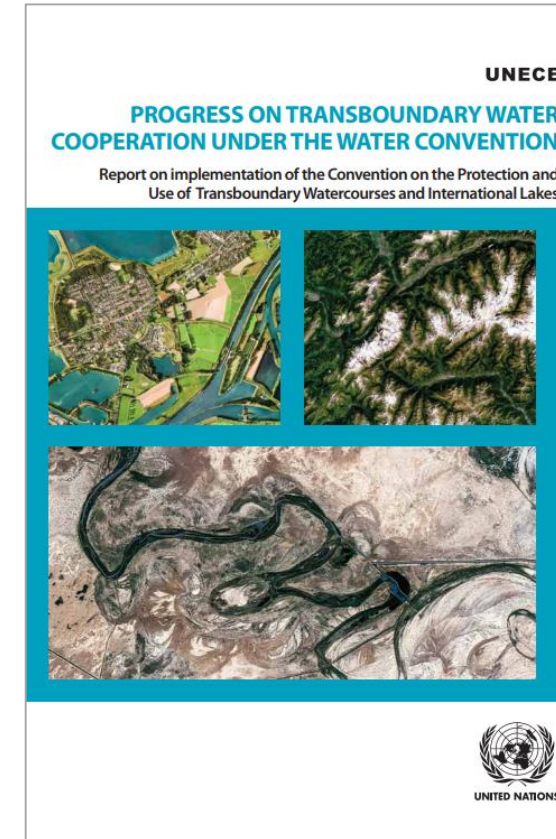


- Approximately one third of the **132 countries** that reported on the transboundary questions for 6.5.1, reported that they had most or all of their arrangements and organisational frameworks in place.
- While about half of responding countries thought that data and information sharing was non-existent to limited, the other half thought that data information sharing was satisfactory.
- Funding for transboundary work was found to be problematic, with about two thirds of countries reporting very limited or no funding.



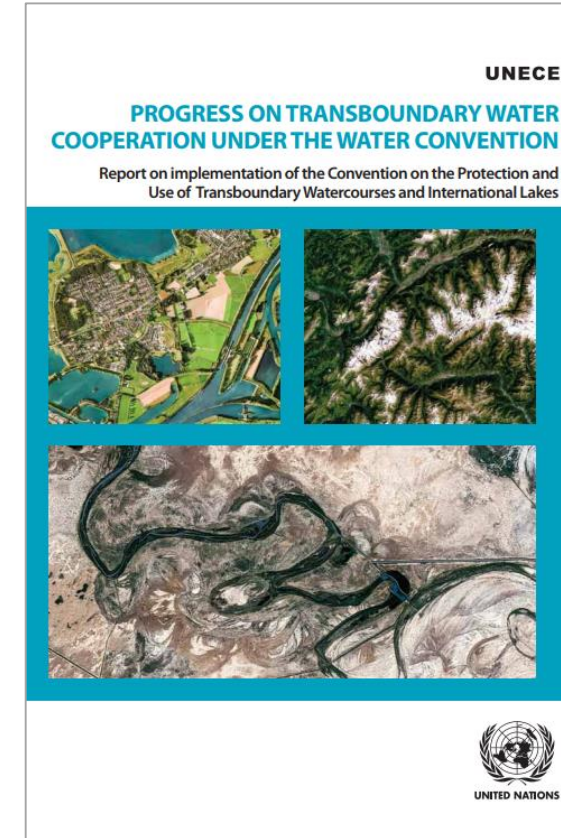
# Results from the first reporting exercise under the Water Convention – national level

- Water Convention requires countries to adopt appropriate legal, administrative, economic, financial and technical measures to prevent, control and reduce transboundary impact (Arts. 2 & 3)
- Most countries have adopted
  - Laws and policies related to transboundary impact (Water Law)
  - Systems for licensing, control and monitoring pollution (point and non-point source)
  - Law and policies related to Environmental Impact Assessment



# Results from the first reporting exercise under the Water Convention – Arrangements (Art. 9(1))

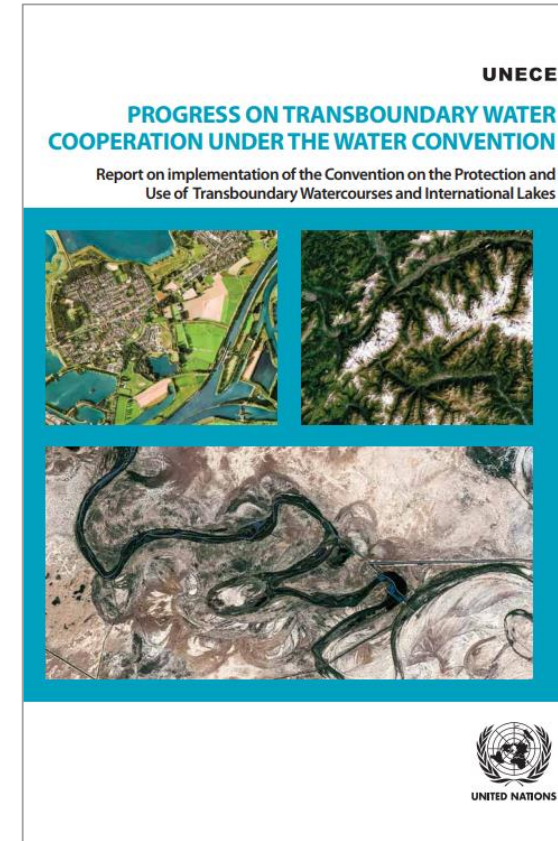
- Almost all reported basins have an agreement or other arrangements in force
- However,
  - At least 15 basins where agreement or other arrangement doesn't cover the entire basin
  - At 29 basins do not have arrangements covering transboundary aquifers
- Main topics of cooperation contained within the Water Convention well covered by agreements and arrangements
  - Topics less well reflected include, elaboration of water quality objectives, mutual assistance, maintenance of joint pollution inventories and climate adaptation





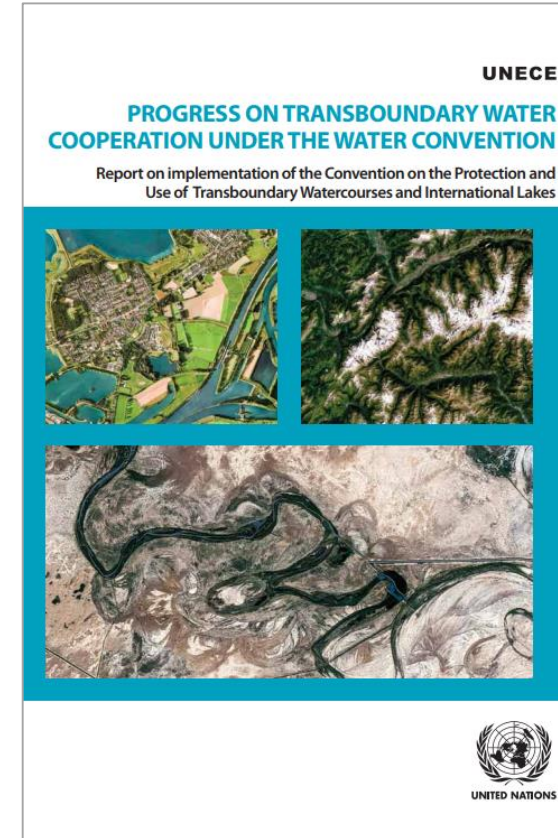
# Results from the first reporting exercise under the Water Convention – Joint bodies (Art 9(2))

- Widespread practice of adopting joint bodies
- Many tasks and activities contained within the Water Convention well covered by joint bodies
- Less well reflected tasks include, maintenance of pollution inventories, setting of emission limits, climate change adaptation, and basin-wide or joint public participation



# Key findings – Implementation

- Widespread practice of adopting joint or co-ordinated water management plans
- Measures to protect ecosystems commonly in place
- Data and information exchange reported in almost all basins
  - Shared databases or platforms not widely used
- Concerted efforted to adopt joint monitoring and assessment programmes
- Joint water quality standards in place for majority of basins
- Measures related to accidental pollution, mutual assistance, and public participation appear to be less well implemented



# Summary and conclusions

- Strong response to first reporting round offers solid foundations for subsequent reporting rounds
  - Opportunities to improve geographic coverage of reports
  - Opportunities to improve quality of the reports with each iteration
- Significant progress both in the implementation of the Water Convention and the adoption of operational arrangements (SDG6.5.2)
  - Notable room for improvement in implementation (Water Convention) and coverage of operational arrangements (SDG6.5.2)

# Thanks for listening

[Alistair.rieu-clarke@Northumbria.ac.uk](mailto:Alistair.rieu-clarke@Northumbria.ac.uk)

