

Importance of information and data-sharing for transboundary cooperation: perspectives from the Water Convention and other global processes

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Why is sharing information and data important for sustainable management of water resources?

- Comparable information across the basin is needed to form a comprehensive picture of the situation → basis for decision-making and policy development
 - With information and data about the whole basin, a broader basis for planning and more accurate understanding of risks
 - Helps to guide management efforts — accurate identification of pressure sources, determining suitability of waters for use etc.; verifying effectiveness of measures taken
 - Increased efficiency in allocating funds
 - Provides evidence to inform inter-sectoral and transboundary dialogue (e.g. agricultural and energy policies impact on waters)
- **Benefits in terms of peace, development, environmental protection**

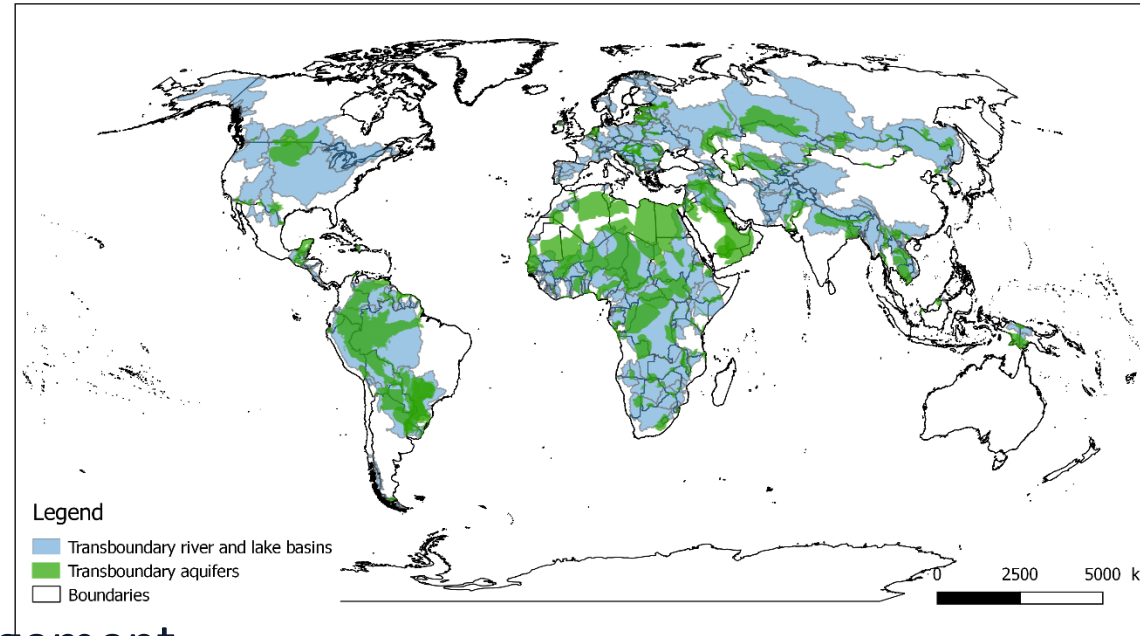


SDG 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.



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

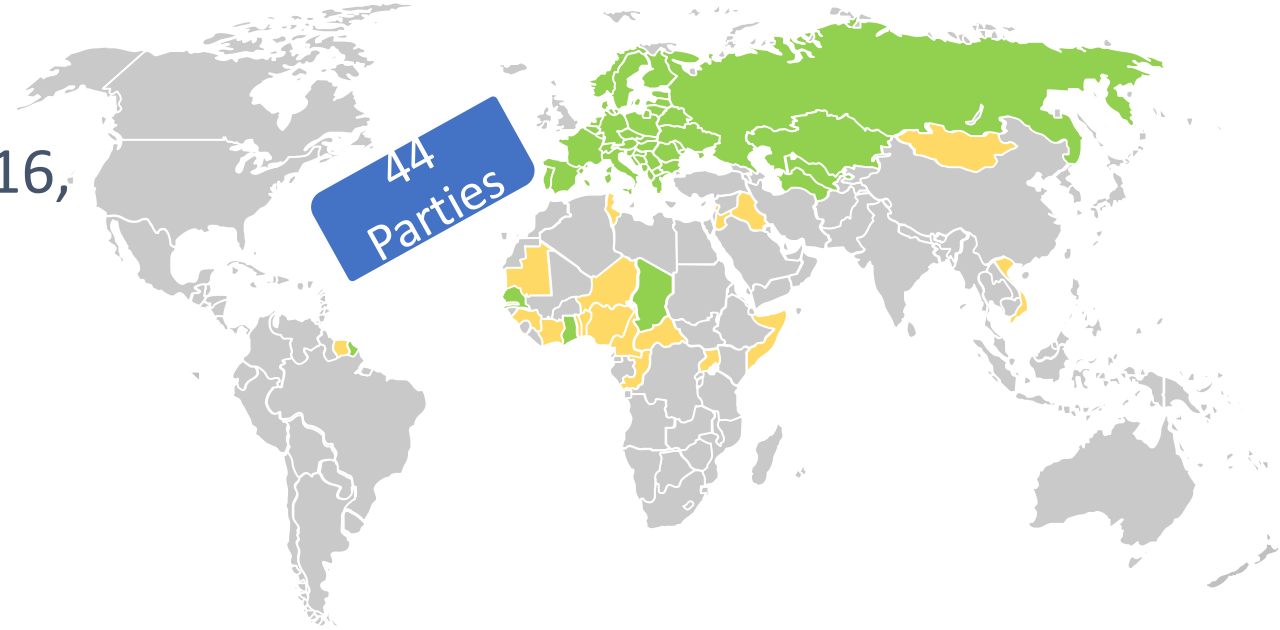


“Operational arrangement” entails that there is

- 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

The Water Convention (Helsinki, 1992)

- Unique global legal and intergovernmental framework for transboundary cooperation
- Opened up to all UN Member states in 2016, so far 44 Parties incl. 3 from Africa
- General obligation to cooperate
- Requirement that Riparian Parties enter into joint arrangements and establish joint bodies
- Joint monitoring and assessment, data exchange, joint warning and alarm systems



About the relevant Water Convention's provisions



- Tasks of joint bodies include
 - Identification and inventorying of pollution sources;
 - The elaboration of joint monitoring programmes on water quality and quantity,
 - Joint water quality objectives and criteria;
 - Warning and alarm procedures;
 - Exchange of information on water uses;
 - Environmental impact assessments relating to transboundary waters;.
- Convention supports countries' efforts in various ways: capacity-building, guidance and projects on the ground; including both Parties and non-Parties, subject to demand

Senegalo-Mauritanian Aquifer Basin (SMAB): towards concerted management with knowledge & monitoring and development

- Regional Working Group (RWG) established of the Countries (Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Mauritania, Senegal) & RBOs - OMVS, OMVG)
- Support by team of consultants
- Country consultation meetings on-line; Regional meetings (latest in Dec 2020)
- Partners: Geneva Water Hub, IGRAC; EU (financing)
- Aim: Produce the **project document and an action plan** for establishing a sustainable mechanism for concerted management of SMAB, as well as **5 other deliverables (assessment reports and baseline studies)** to support strategic and project-related choices by the RWG.
- Monitoring and assessment as key component





Thanks for your attention!

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For more information:

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