

Progress in transboundary climate change adaptation under the Water Convention and within the Global network of basins working on climate change adaptation

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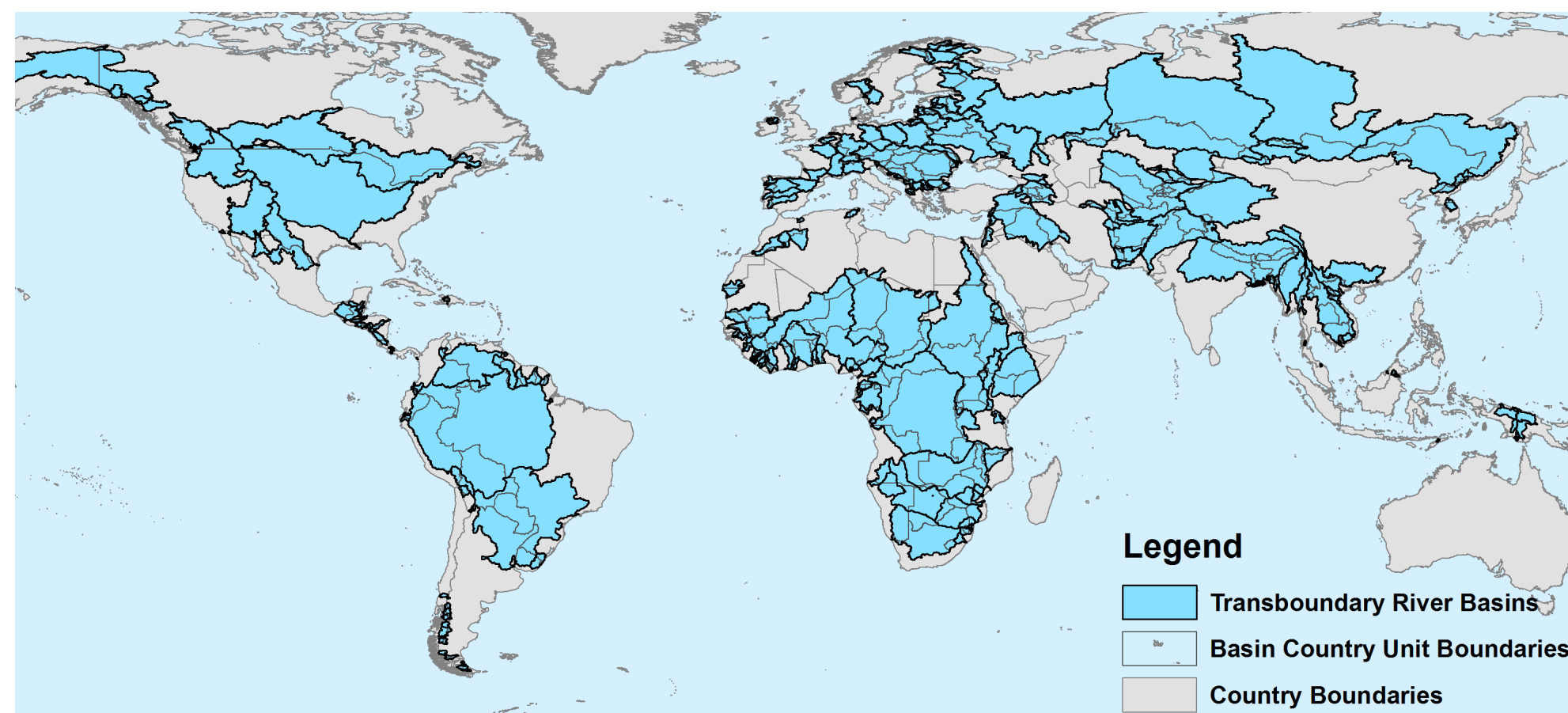
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Why transboundary cooperation in climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction?

- ✓ Addressing floods and droughts more efficiently
- ✓ Sharing data, enlarging the planning space and identification of better priorities and avoiding mal-adaptation
- ✓ Reducing uncertainties
- ✓ Supporting sustainable development and regional integration
- ✓ Can support adaptation planning at the country level

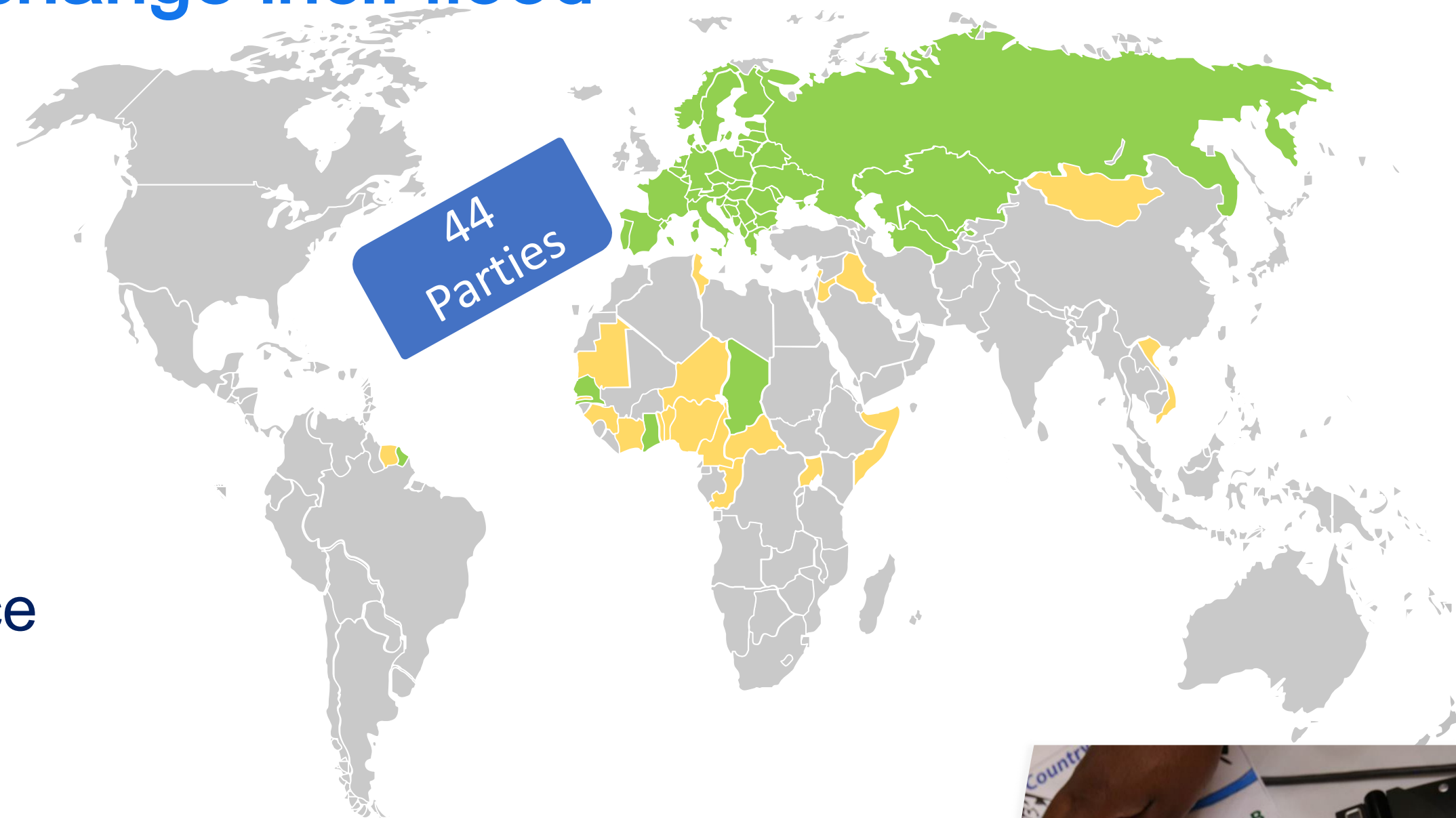
<http://twap-rivers.org/>

 **Sharing costs and benefits**

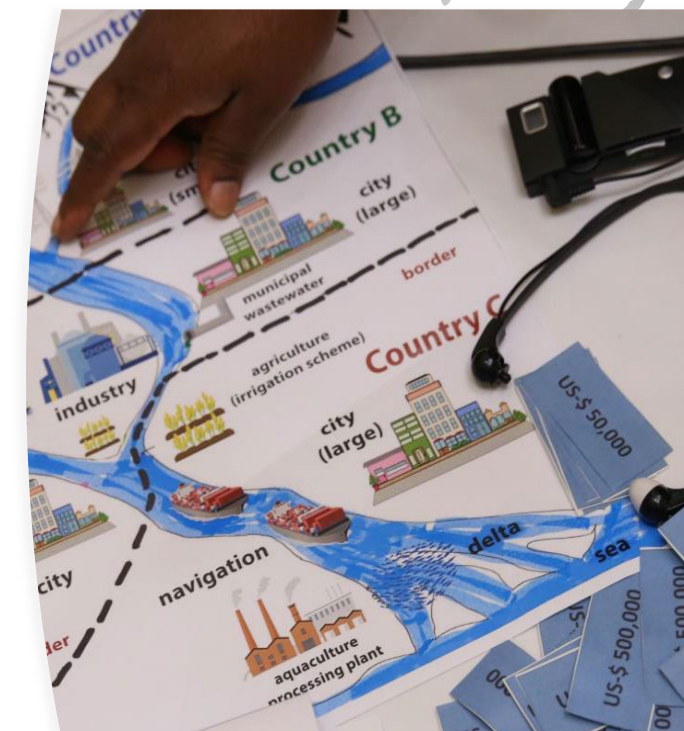


The Water Convention: supporting transboundary basins in adapting to climate change incl. flood and drought management

- Unique global legal and intergovernmental United Nations framework on transboundary cooperation
- Offers capacity building, sharing knowledge and experience, guidance and projects on the ground:
 - Task Force on Water and Climate since 2006
 - Global Network of basins working on climate change adaptation



- Financing climate change adaptation in transboundary basins



Contribution to global policy processes on water, climate and disasters

- Cooperation with UNFCCC and UNDRR
- Water Action Track of the Global Commission on Adaptation
- Climate Adaptation Summit online, January 25, 2021
- World Water Days, 22 March
- World Water Week, Stockholm, August 2021
- COP26, Glasgow, November 2021

<https://www.unwater.org/publications/un-water-policy-brief-on-climate-change-and-water/>
Available in English, French, Spanish and Russian

<https://cas21-side-events.com/unece/>



Ministry of Infrastructure
and Water Management



Climate Change and Water
UN-Water Policy Brief



Adapting across borders:
sharing experiences from
transboundary basins

Climate Adaptation Summit 2021
25 January 2020



UN WATER

Projects on the ground

Dniester basin



Strategic Framework for Adaptation to Climate Change in the Dniester River Basin

WEBSITE OF THE DNIESTER COMMISSION
SAVE THE DNIESTER RIVER TOGETHER

HOME - JOINT MANAGEMENT - DNIESTER COMMISSION

DNIESTER COMMISSION

The Commission on Sustainable Use and Protection of the Dniester River Basin (the Dniester Commission) was established under the Treaty between the Government of the Republic of Moldova and the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine on Cooperation in the Field of Protection and Sustainable Development of the Dniester River Basin (Moldovan, Ukrainian), which was signed in Rome on 29 November 2012. The Treaty covers almost all aspects relating to river basin issues, except for navigation and hydropower, and is aimed at strengthening and expanding cooperation between the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, which started in 1994. Besides, the execution of this document was an important step in fulfilling the obligations undertaken by the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine under the UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (1992) and the EU Water Framework Directive (2000).

RULES AND COMPOSITION


The rules of procedure and proceedings of the Commission were approved at the first meeting of the Commission (Chisinau, 17 September 2018)

[READ MORE >](#)

WORKING GROUPS

The composition of the Moldovan and Ukrainian parts of the Commission is represented by the following working groups:


Neman basin





Strategic Framework for Adaptation to Climate Change in the Neman River Basin

2015

Chu - Talas basin



Climate-proofing cooperation in the Chu and Talas river basins

Global network of basins (26 February 2021)

- Together with INBO
- Some 120 participants from 44 countries
- Contributions from Amazon Basin, Meuse River, Lake Victoria Basin, Mekong River, Niger River and Danube River
- Progress report from the 17 basins of the network

<https://unece.org/environmental-policy/events/fifth-meeting-global-network-basins-working-climate-change-adaptation>

Chu Talas river basin, Congo river basin, Danube river basin, Rivers and Wetlands of Dauria Steppes, Dniester river basin, Drin river basin, Lower Mekong river basin, Meuse river basin, Neman river basin, Niger river basin, North Western Sahara Aquifer System (NWSAS), Rhine basin, Sava river basin, Senegal river basin, Sixaola river basin, Lake Victoria basin, Volta river basin



Convention of the Protection and Use of
Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes
Fifth meeting of the Global network of basins working on climate change adaptation
Friday 26th February 2021

Progress report of the Global network of basins working on climate change adaptation as of February 2021

The global network of basins working on climate change adaptation was created by the secretariat of the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention), serviced by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), in cooperation with the International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO) in 2013. It aims to promote cooperation on adaptation in transboundary basins, to compare different methodologies and approaches for adapting to climate change and to promote a shared vision between the participating basins.

The network includes on the one hand several pilot basins where UNECE, INBO and their partners implement activities and, on the other hand, additional basins which primarily work on their adaptation activities themselves in accordance with the agreed decisions of their governing bodies or with the terms of reference of international projects. The network allows for the exchange of experience, learning from each other, establishing contacts between basins and their experts, discussing challenges and lessons learnt etc. The network activities include regular meetings of all basins, larger workshops, trainings and development of guidance, for example, the co-publication by the World Bank, in partnership with UNECE, INBO and the African Development Bank of a handbook on "Financing Climate Change Adaptation in Transboundary Basins: Preparing Bankable Projects" in January 2019.

The following basins are included into the global network:

1. The Chu Talas river basin, shared by Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan¹, activities implemented by the Chu Talas Water Management Commission, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and UNECE.
2. The Congo river basin, shared by Angola, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Gabon, Democratic Republic of the Congo and Republic of the Congo, activities implemented by the International Commission of the Congo-Oubangui-Sangha Basin (CICOS).
3. The Danube river basin, shared by Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Slovak Republic and Ukraine, activities implemented by the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR).
4. The Rivers and Wetlands of Dauria Steppes (Upper Amur, Ulz-Torey, Selenge-Baikal basins), shared by China, Mongolia and the Russian Federation, with the activities implemented by WWF Russian Federation, Daurian Biosphere Reserve and Rivers without Boundaries International Coalition.

Some lessons learned

- Countries in a watershed:
 - ‘get together’ agreement -> mechanisms / institution for regional coordination
 - joint understanding of scientific data, joint monitoring for forecasting and scenarios
- Cooperation
 - can reduce conflict
 - create joint understanding, e.g. strategic basin studies
 - consult stakeholders and capitalize on the expertise and experiences of countries
 - requires dedication, open mind, willingness to compromise, and it takes time and funding

Some lessons learned

- Water management is about sustainable development -> integrated approach -> nexus: drinking water-agriculture-energy-ecosystems-industry-navigation
- Mix of top-down and bottom-up awareness and measures
- Beware of maladaptation in the long run – look for ecosystem-based adaptation options
- Finance: seed-money from GEF, AF, GCF and, then funding from domestic sources. Ensure sustainability of the finance
- Challenges: different concerns, different climatic zones in a basin, lack of (sharing) data, different legislation, lack of finance
- Groundwater is missing

Basins in the network and disaster risk reduction

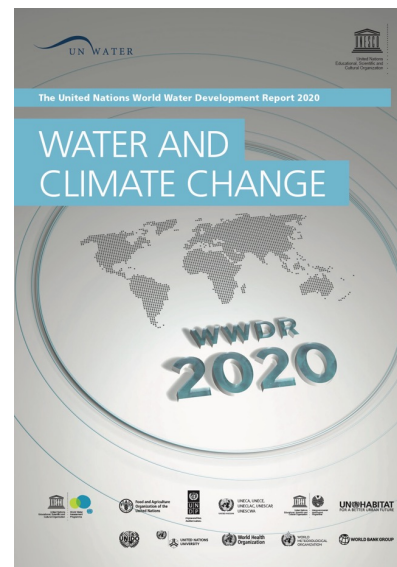
- ✓ Mostly both floods and droughts, sometimes in other parts of the basin
- ✓ Differences in level of cooperation
- ✓ Differences in nature of activity of cooperation
- ✓ Sometimes focus on strategies and plans
- ✓ Sometimes concrete projects
- ✓ Combination of measures:
 - Structural and non-structural
 - Ecosystem based approaches

Cooperation on water, sanitation and health in the basins of the network

- ✓ **Water and sanitation included in the basin plans and strategies**
(Lake Victoria Basin, Niger Basin, Northern Western Sahara Aquifer, Sixaola Basin, Senegal Basin, Volta Basin)
- ✓ **Water and sanitation is part of CCA framework (Neman Basin)**
- ✓ **Interdepartmental working group covers the issues of water and sanitation (Chu Talas Basin)**

Additional relevant resources

- UN-Water World Water Development Report “Water and Climate Change”, 2020
- UN-Water Policy Brief on Climate Change and Water, 2019

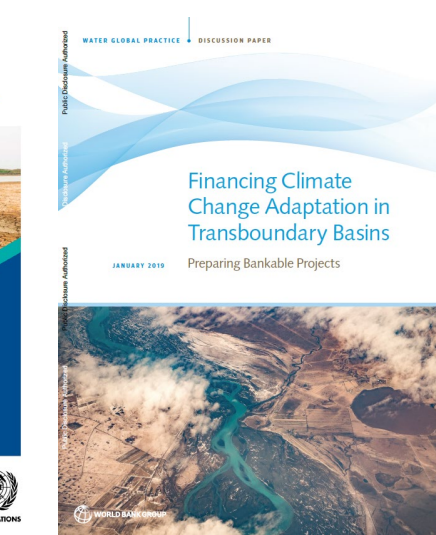
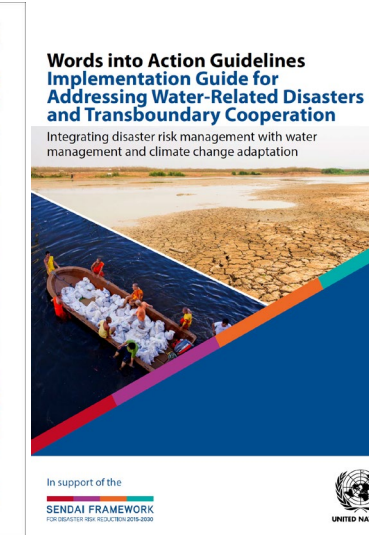
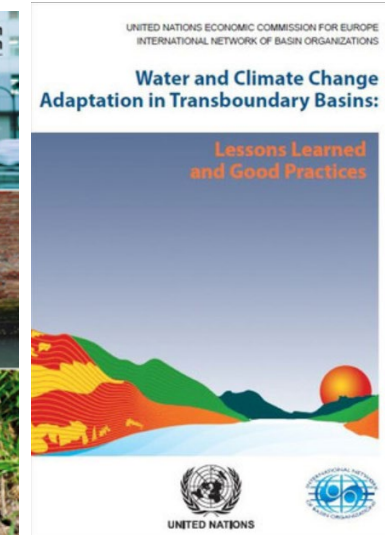
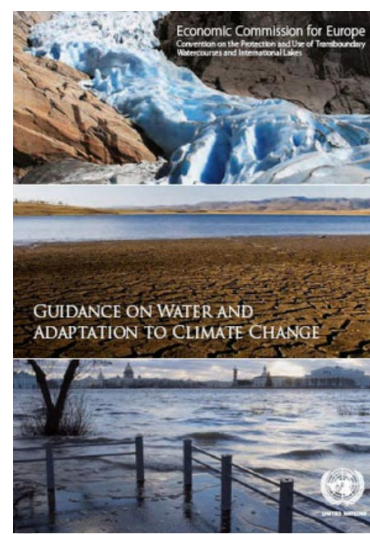


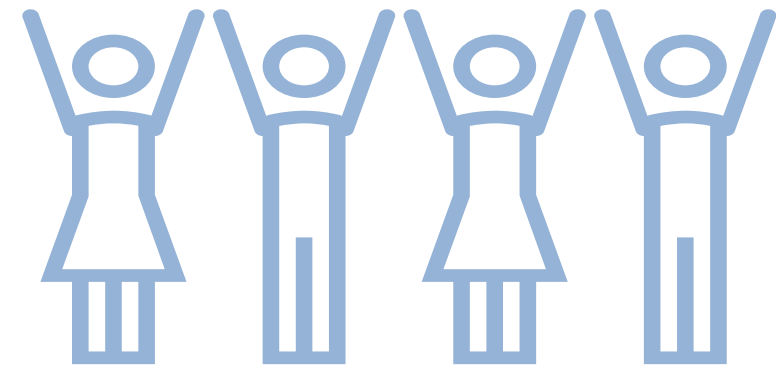
- Towards sustainable renewable energy investment and deployment, 2020
- Financing Climate Change Adaptation in Transboundary Basins: Preparing Bankable Projects, 2019
- Implementation Guide for Addressing Water-Related Disasters and Transboundary Cooperation, 2018
- Water and Climate Change Adaptation in Transboundary Basins: Lessons Learned and Good Practices, 2015
- Guidance on Water and Adaptation to Climate Change, 2009 <https://unece.org/publications/environment-policy/water>

- MOOC on Governance for Transboundary Freshwater Security

<https://www.edx.org/course/governance-for-transboundary-freshwater-security>

<https://gwp.org/en/About/more/Events-and-Calls/2021/interactive-online-session-international-water-law-and-climate-change/>





THANK YOU!