Strategies on monitoring and assessment of transboundary waters Overview and possible update

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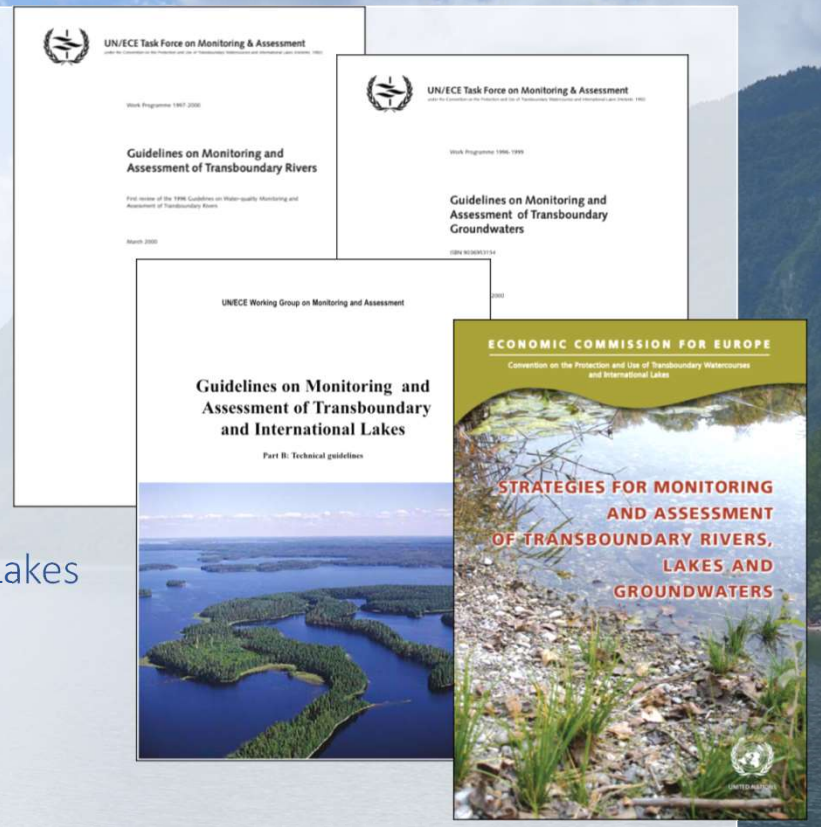
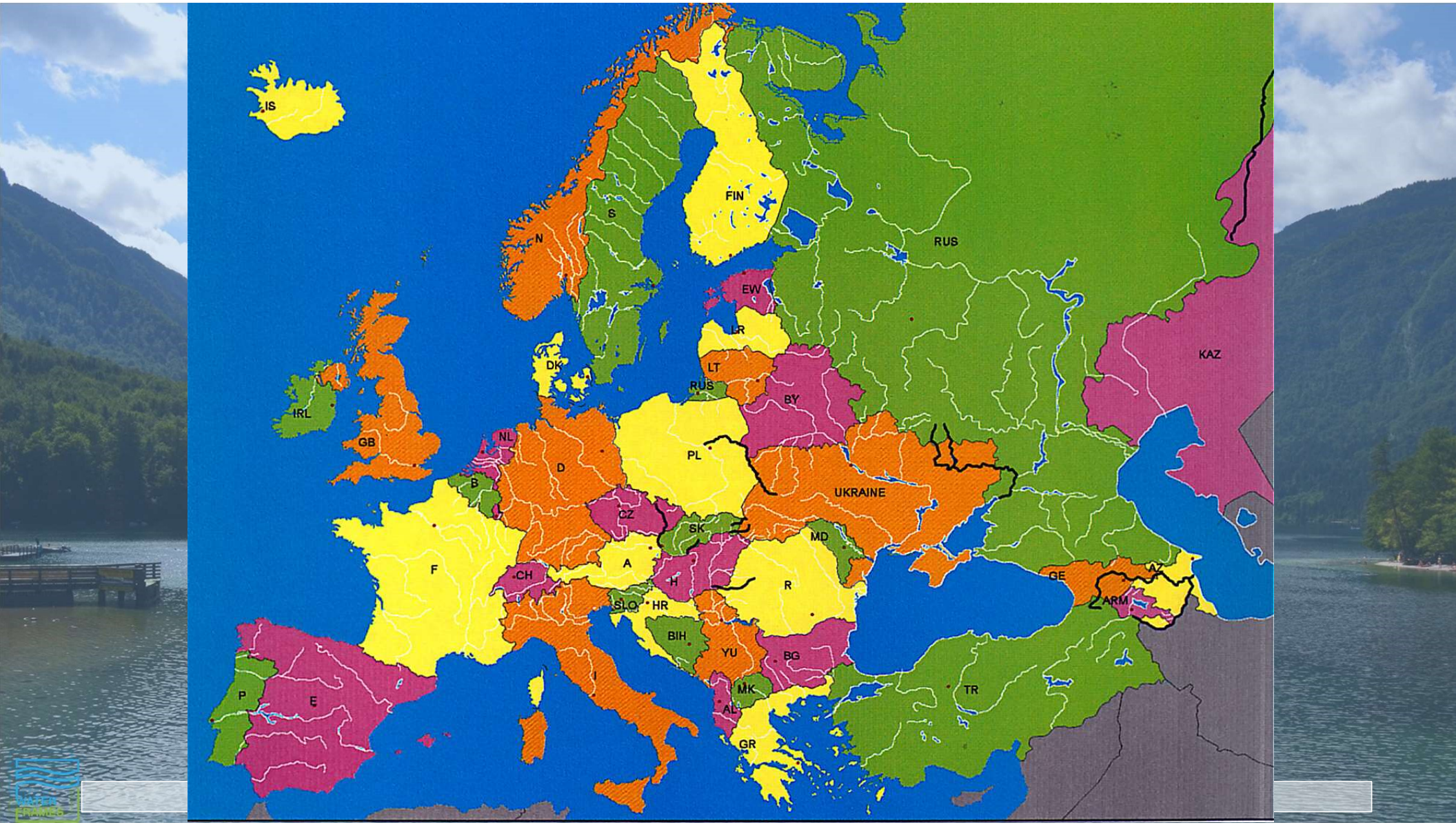
Strategies development

Guidelines and strategies

- 1996
  - Guidelines on M&A of Transboundary Rivers
  - Guidelines on M&A of Transboundary Groundwaters
- 2000
  - Guidelines on M&A of Transboundary Rivers
  - Guidelines on M&A of Transboundary Groundwaters
- 2002/2003
  - Guidelines on M&A of Transboundary and International Lakes
    - Part A: Strategy Document
    - Part B: Technical Guidelines
- 2006
  - Strategies for Monitoring and Assessment of Transboundary Rivers, Lakes and Groundwaters

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Workshops Monitoring Tailor-Made

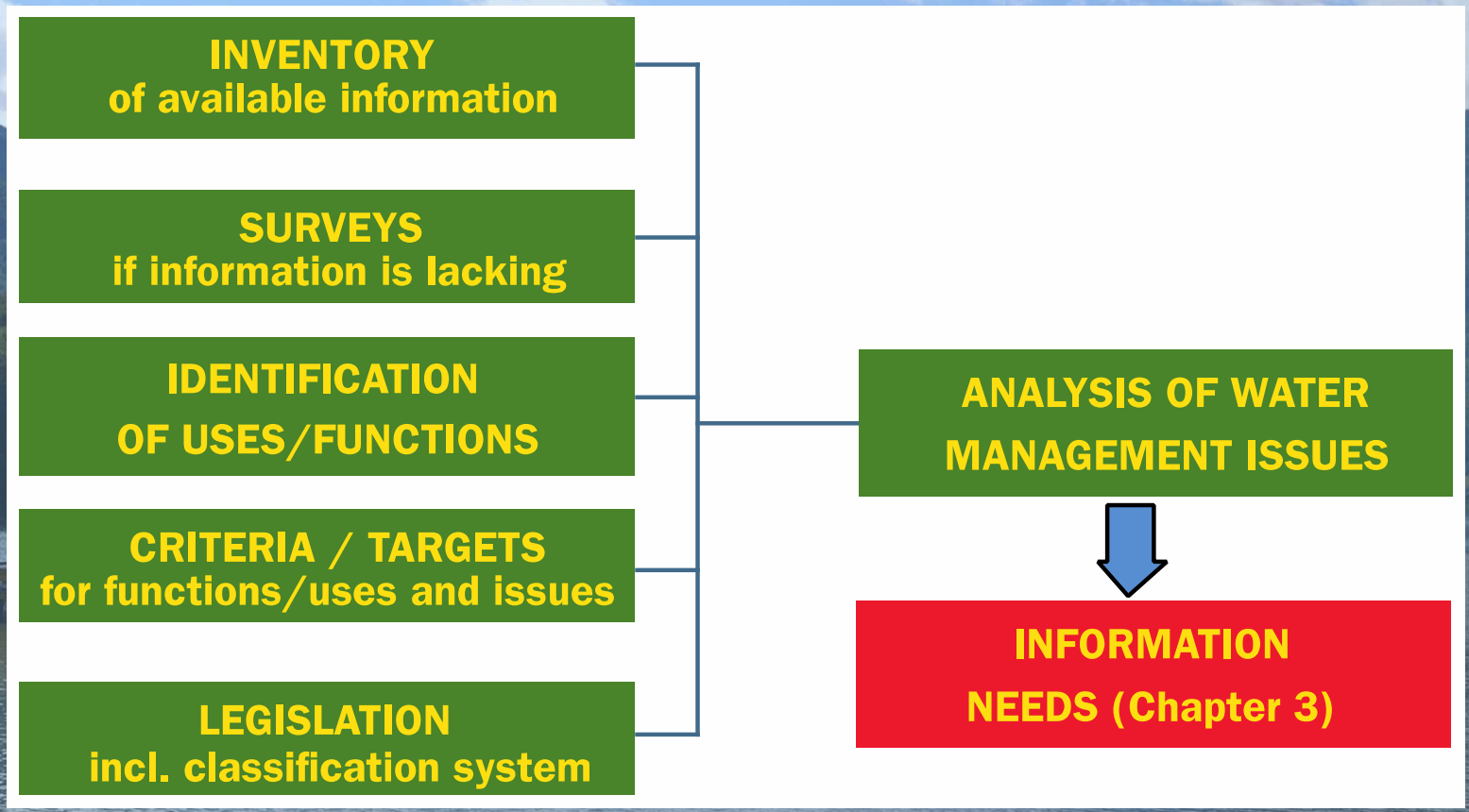
International workshop on information for sustainable water management

- 1994
- 1997
- 2001
- 2004

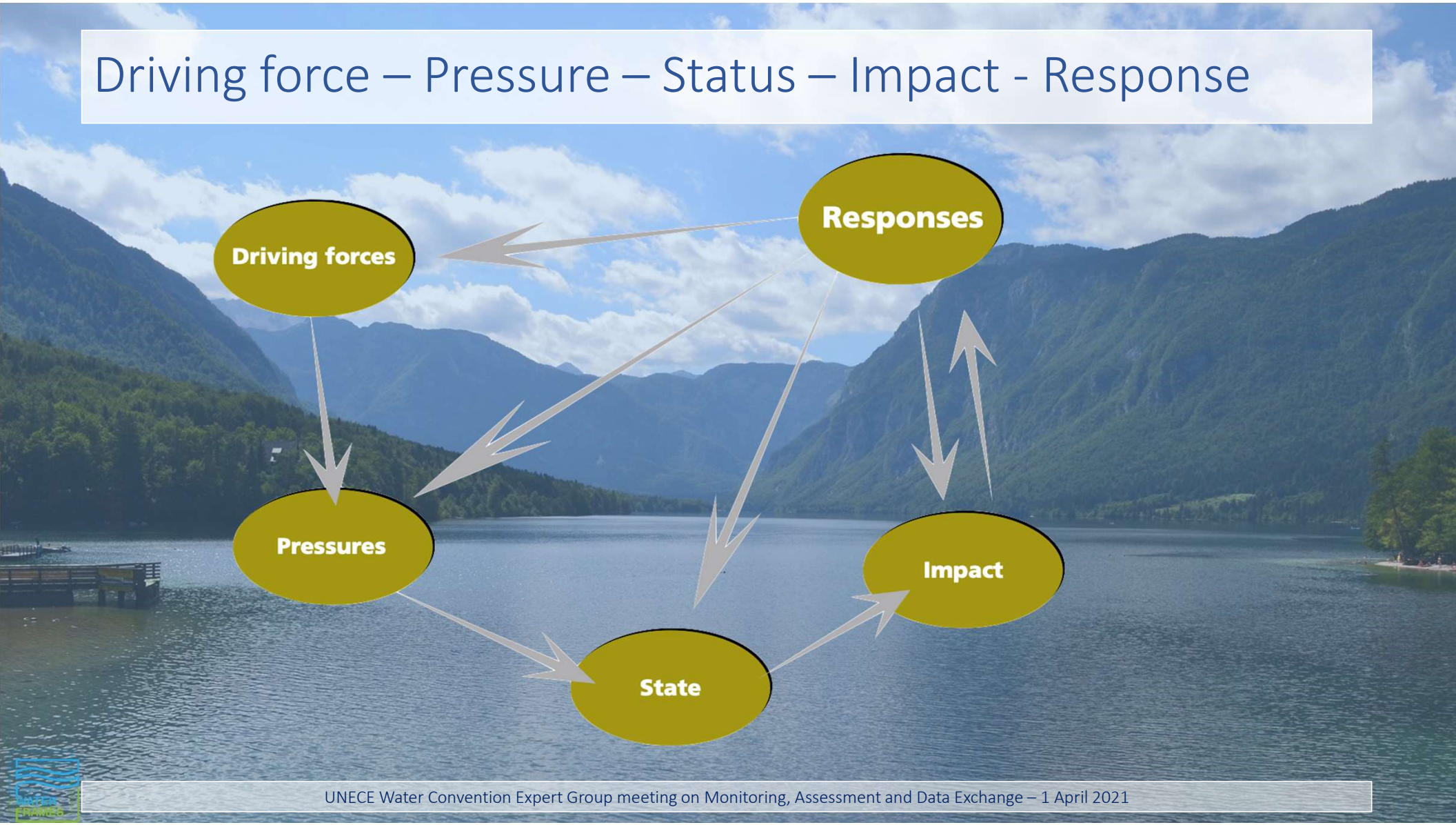
Technical documents

- Biological Assessment Methods for Watercourses
- State of the Art on Monitoring and Assessment of Rivers
- Quality Assurance
- Guidance to operation of water quality laboratories
- An inventory of transboundary estuaries and their current monitoring practices
- Good Practices for Monitoring and Assessment of Transboundary Rivers, Lakes and Groundwaters
- Monitoring of International Lakes: Background Paper for the Guidelines on Monitoring and Assessment of Transboundary and International Lakes

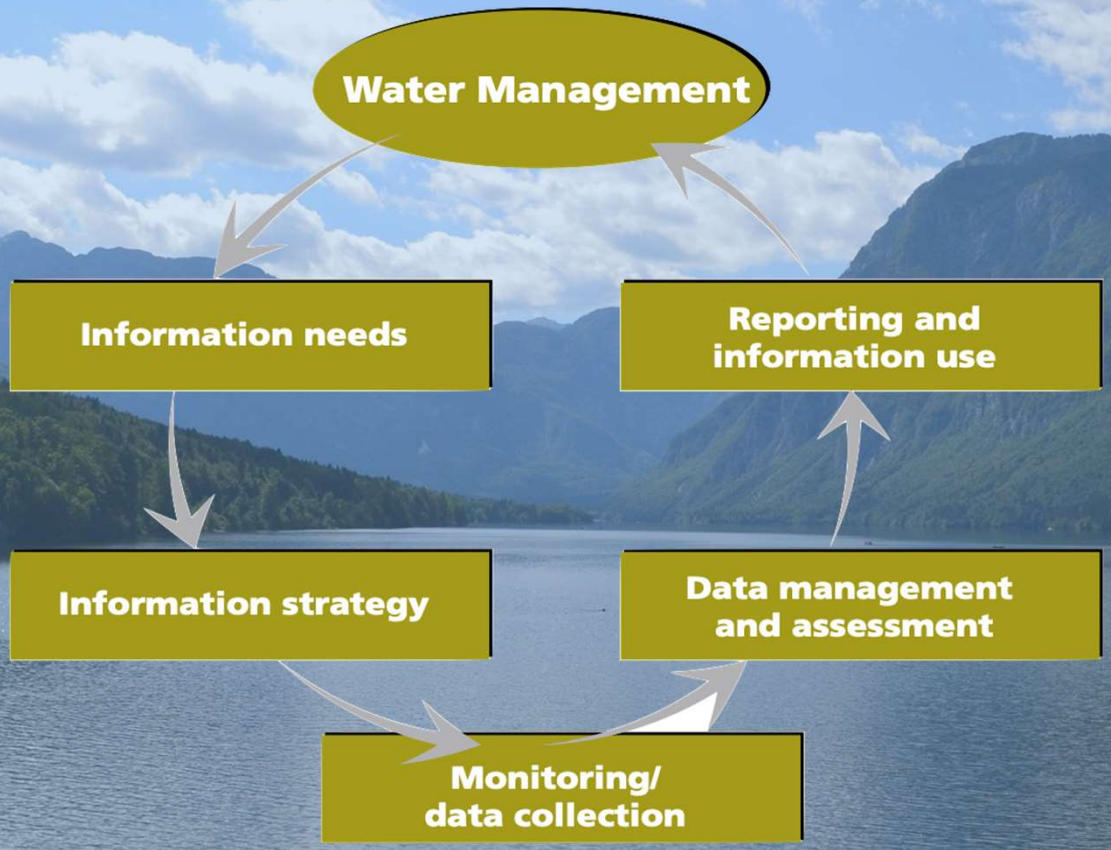
Developing information needs



Driving force – Pressure – Status – Impact - Response



Monitoring and Assessment Cycle



Water data and information particularly needed for:

- Sectorial water management
- Integrated Water Management Planning
- Climate change adaptation and mitigation
- Disaster risk reduction
- Reporting obligations
- Specific decisions (e.g. operational management)
- Other (e.g. regulatory)

Initial assessment

- Strategic approach is largely valid
- ‘Technological’ developments ask for updating, especially technical guidelines
- Possibly strengthen procedures for data management and data exchange
- Improve sustainability aspects / financing / legal basis

Overview of the feedback received

- Guidelines discussed at the 15th WGMA (2019) – request for comments
- Responses from Austria, Finland, Kazakhstan, Romania, International Network of Liberal Women, International Water Management Institute (IWMI), UNEP, WMO
- Contributions are much appreciated

Feedback received

- Strategy and guidelines still relevant but updating needed – detailed comments:
  - New definitions and references
  - More focus on Quality Assurance / Quality Control (e.g. sampling is key)
  - Ecological flow
  - Groundwater dependent / associated ecosystems
- Include funding mechanisms that support continued operation
- Reference to the EU Water Framework Directive – update and consider other relevant regional directives
- Stronger link between water quality and ecology, pressures and status
- Include joint selection of monitoring points and joint sampling campaigns
- Ensure inclusiveness (gender) and participation of all stakeholders

Options for the technical guidelines

1. Only minimally updating the guidelines on specific waters for the technology aspects OR prioritizing from among them e.g. groundwater [more substantive updating, filling gaps and adding missing or weak aspects (e.g. climate change, data management) would be laborious];
2. Producing a more streamlined integrated guidance (in a spirit of "conjunctive management"), covering different types of waters and consolidating from the existing guidance;
3. Produce new guidance on a cross-cutting topic relevant for all waters e.g. data management and exchange, integrating good experience

Considerations for future work

- With the current emphasis on integration across waters, also in monitoring, there is need for considering the different waters together
- Strategies document has been most “resistant” to time
- Data acquisition, management and sharing possibilities have developed the most with technology – need attention & taking stock
- Further engagement with the regions should clarify demand; practical application can inform any future updating
- Work can be developed with a longer time horizon (beyond 2024). Countries’ interest is decisive and partnership possibilities also very important

A possible way forward

- Update of the Strategies, with limited complementing
  - Include latest insights
  - Include specifics on groundwater, lakes and rivers (drawing upon the technical guidelines)
  - Include references to other, more recent guidelines and technical reports, and global data sources
- Organize regional workshops
  - Raise awareness about the approach, learn about regional experiences, collect additional insights for the Strategies
- Collect lessons learned and good practices in transboundary harmonization, management and sharing of data and information


Thank you for your kind attention!