

The institutional framework supporting the 1992 Water Convention, its Programme of Work and implementation on the ground

Sonja Koeppel, Secretary of the Water Convention



6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



Goal 6 Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

6.5 INTEGRATED WATER MANAGEMENT



Target 6.5 By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate

Indicator 6.5.1 Degree of integrated water resources management implementation



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

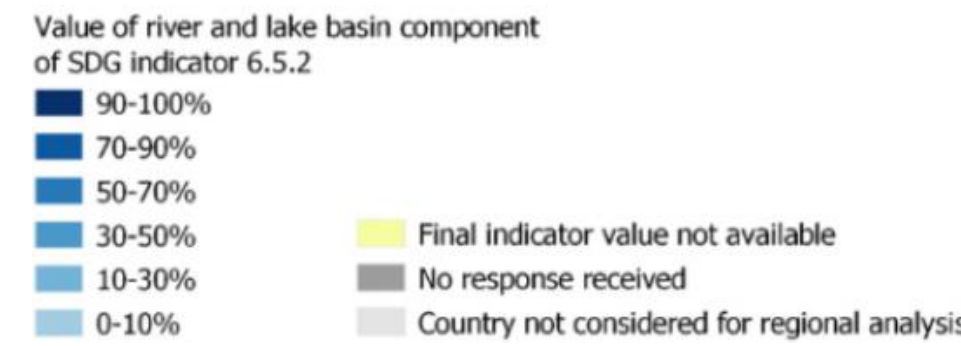
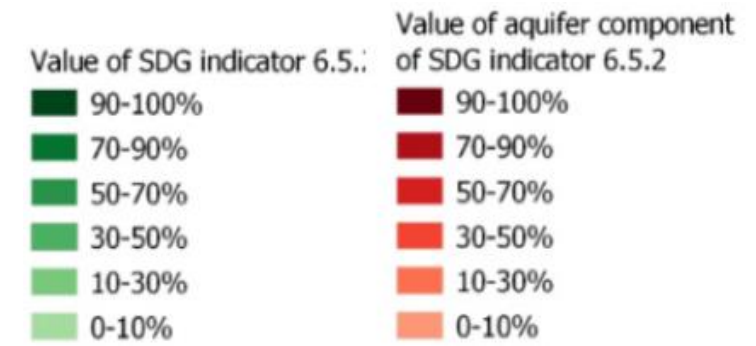
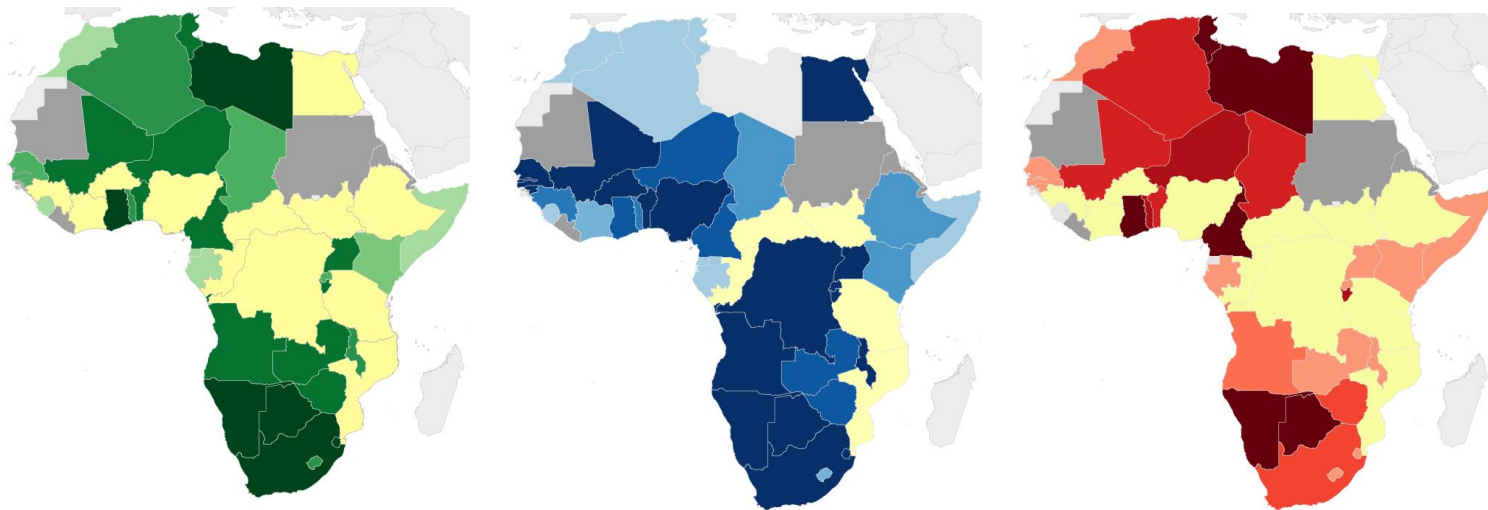


Results of the 2nd monitoring in 2020 on SDG 6.5.2

Africa region



- **43** out of **48** countries sharing water resources responded, vs 37 in 2017
- Indicator 6.5.2 overall value available for 31 countries in 2020, vs 23 countries in 2017
- Increased responses rate & increased quality of the responses
 - more information provided on aquifers, but still a challenge

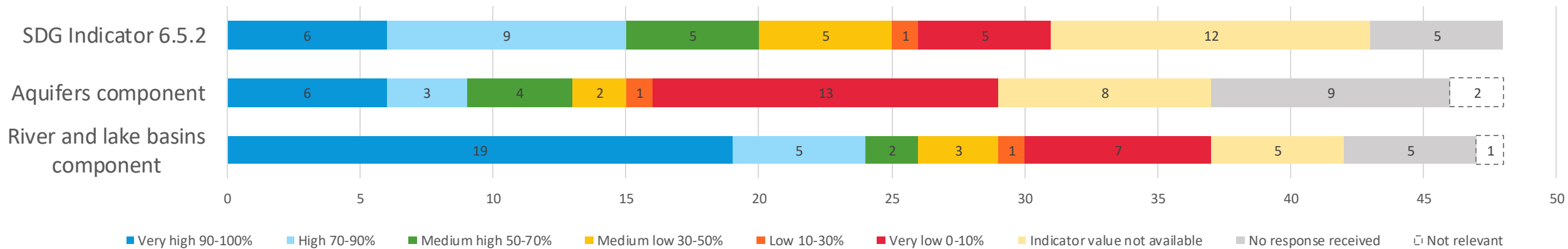


Results of the 2nd monitoring in 2020 on SDG 6.5.2 Africa region



- Only **2** countries with **all** transboundary waters covered by operational arrangements
 - 11 countries with all surface waters covered
 - 3 countries with all aquifers covered
- Lack of information on **aquifers**
 - Further information needed to calculate the value

Breakdown of the 48 African countries sharing waters SDG indicator 6.5.2 values



Key areas to accelerate progress on transboundary water cooperation

Address Data Gaps



There has been **strong country engagement** in the monitoring exercise, but data remains a challenge, particularly for transboundary aquifers and countries with no **SDG indicator value**



Upscale capacity development

Capacity building is important for negotiating and implementing operational arrangements

Strengthen legal frameworks



The water conventions and the draft articles on transboundary aquifers offer a solid basis upon which to **revise or negotiate** new arrangements

Leveraging and mobilizing expertise

There is a need to **upscale and coordinate** the activities of international organizations to **provide targeted support** to countries



Main **challenges** in cooperating on transboundary waters – Sect. IV, Q°1 Report – **submitted 2017**

| | ZAMBIA |
|--|--------|
| Differences between national administrative and legal frameworks | |
| Lack of relevant data and information | |
| Difficulties in data and information exchange | |
| Sectoral fragmentation at the national level | yes |
| Language barrier | |
| Resource constraints | yes |
| Environmental pressures | |
| Sovereignty concerns | |

Building political will

addressing **structural barriers** and finding **innovative financing mechanisms** is needed to address current financing shortfalls



SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework

The Water Convention



A legal and institutional framework for **transboundary water cooperation** contributing to **sustainable development**, international **peace and security**.



A **unique platform** to discuss progress of **transboundary water cooperation** worldwide under the umbrella of the **United Nations**



Opened to all interested countries, with **more than 130 countries** exchanging experiences and knowledge to prompt progress in cooperation



The Water Convention:



Water Convention Key Principles

Principle of prevention

Principle of equitable and
reasonable utilization

Principle of cooperation

Main objective



Foster cooperation
over transboundary
waters in order to
**ensure that they are
sustainably and
equitably managed**



WHAT DOES MY COUNTRY ACHIEVE BY BECOMING A PARTY TO THE WATER CONVENTION?

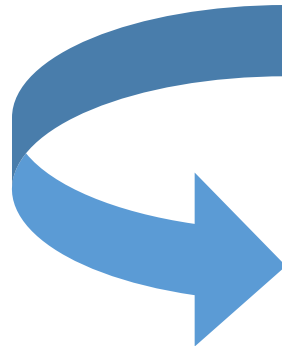


The Water Convention institutional mechanism



Meeting of the Parties

Implementation
Committee



Bureau

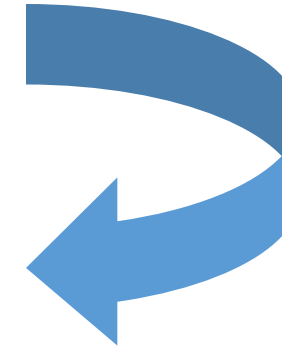


Working Group on IWRM
Working Group on M&A



Water Convention Secretariat

UNECE



- Task Force on Water and Climate
- Task Force on Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems Nexus
- Expert Groups
- JEG on Water and Industrial Accidents



WATER
CONVENTION

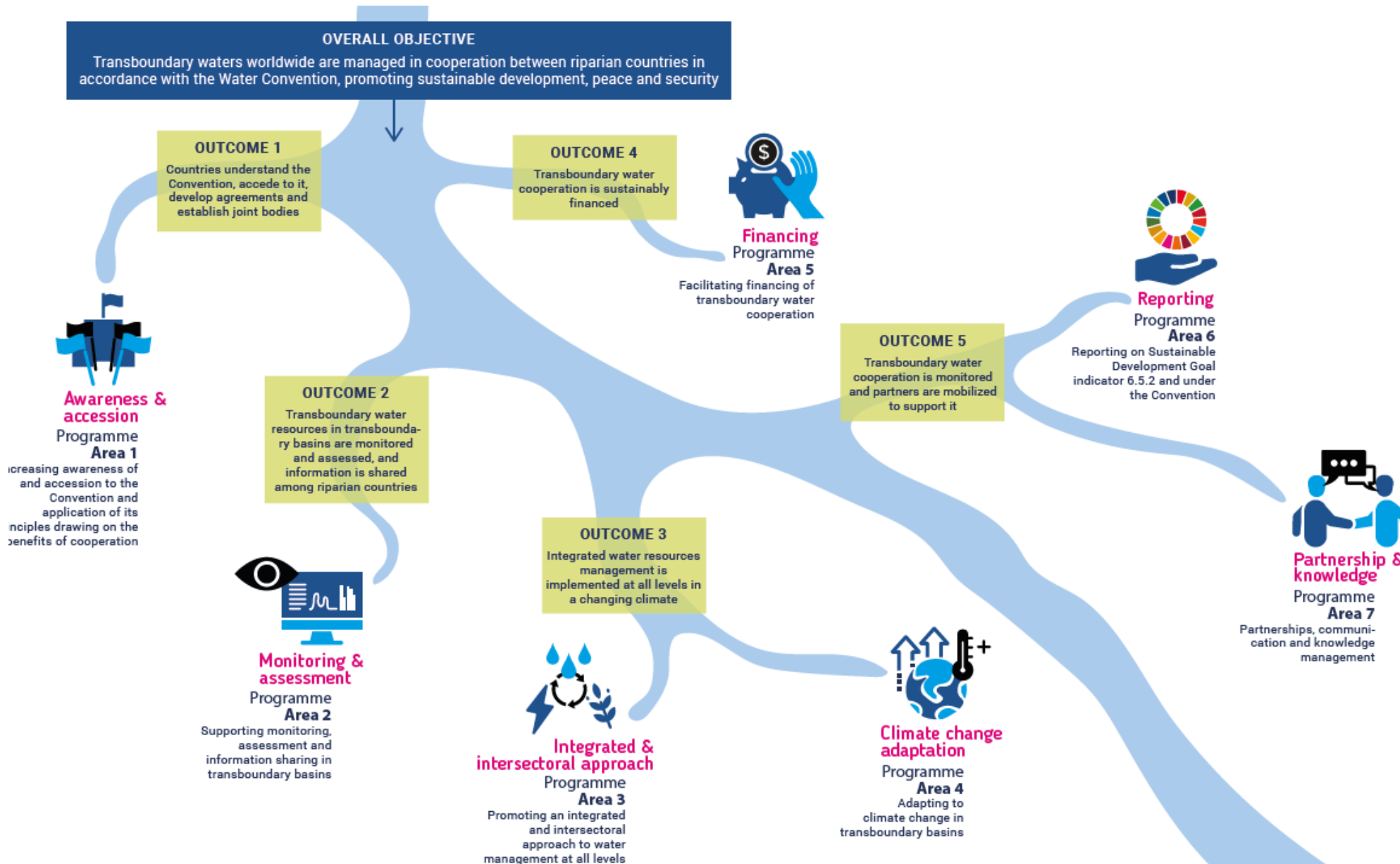
MOP9 outcomes

29 Sept-1 Oct. 21

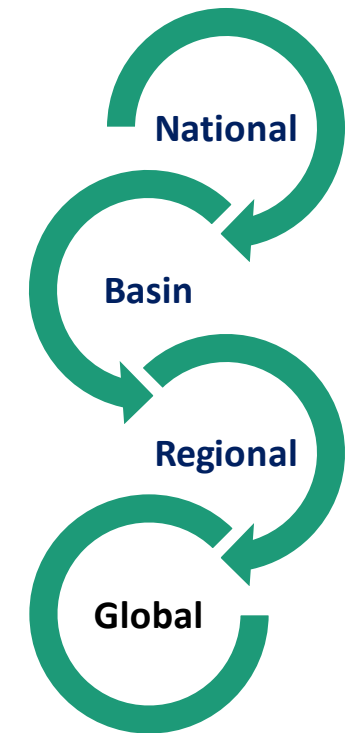
- More than **800** participants, over 110 countries
- Strong interest to **join** the Convention:
 - **Ghana, Guinea-Bissau and Togo** were welcomed as new Parties.
 - Several countries demonstrated significant progress in accession.
- **Water and Peace**: 30+ Ministers participated in the high-level segment
- Historical moment: A ministerial declaration between Senegal, Mauritania, The Gambia and Guinea Bissau on the shared **Senegalo-Mauritanian Aquifer Basin** signed.
- The Water Convention's Programme of Work for 2022-2024 adopted, along with decisions on reporting, financial targets, implementation etc.

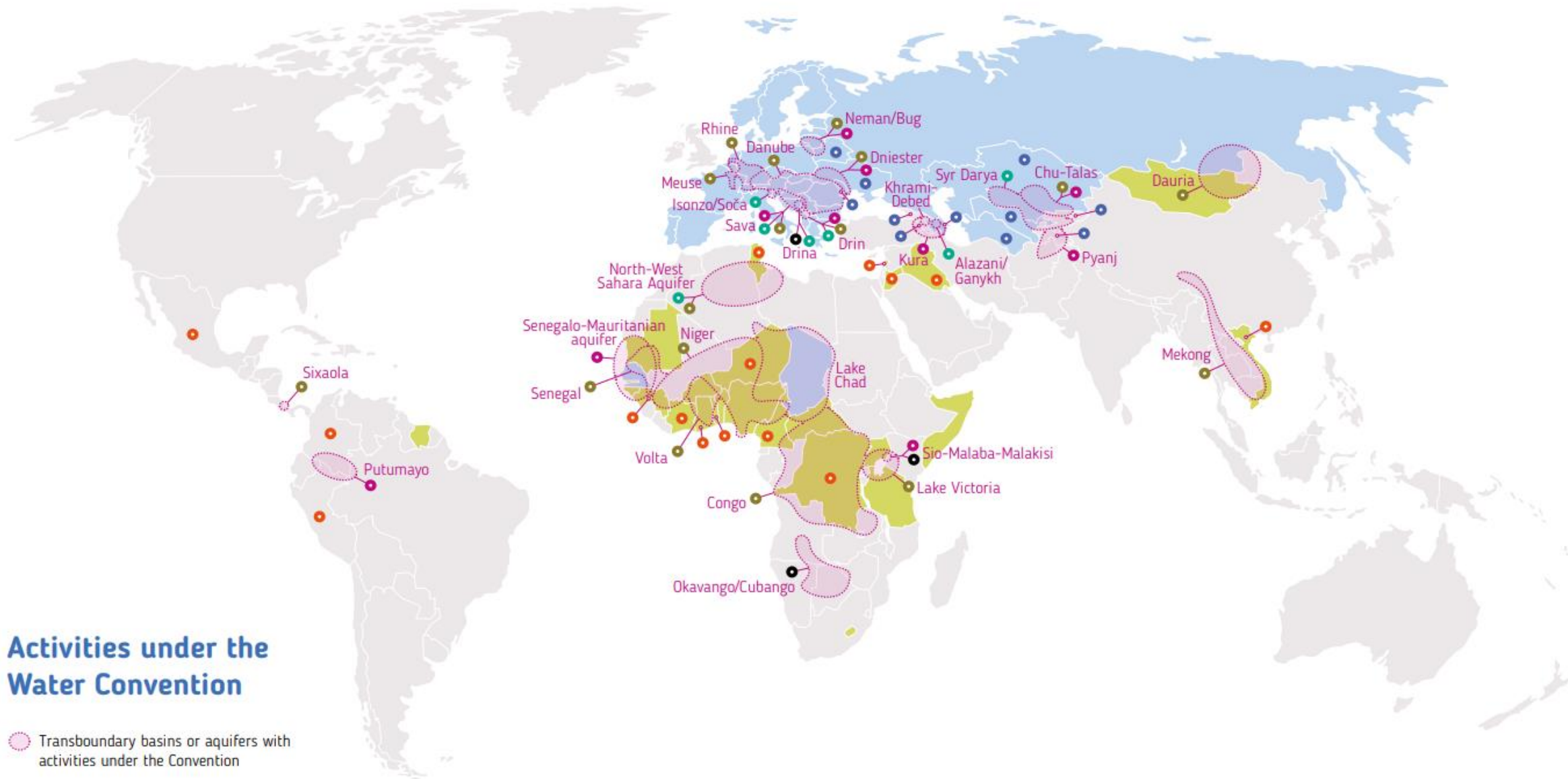


Programme of work for 2022-2024



Delivering at different levels:





Activities under the Water Convention

○ Transboundary basins or aquifers with activities under the Convention

Areas of work

- Support to the development of agreements and the establishment of joint bodies
- Identification, assessment and communication of the benefits of transboundary water cooperation
- Assessment and promotion of the Water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus in transboundary basins

Country Status

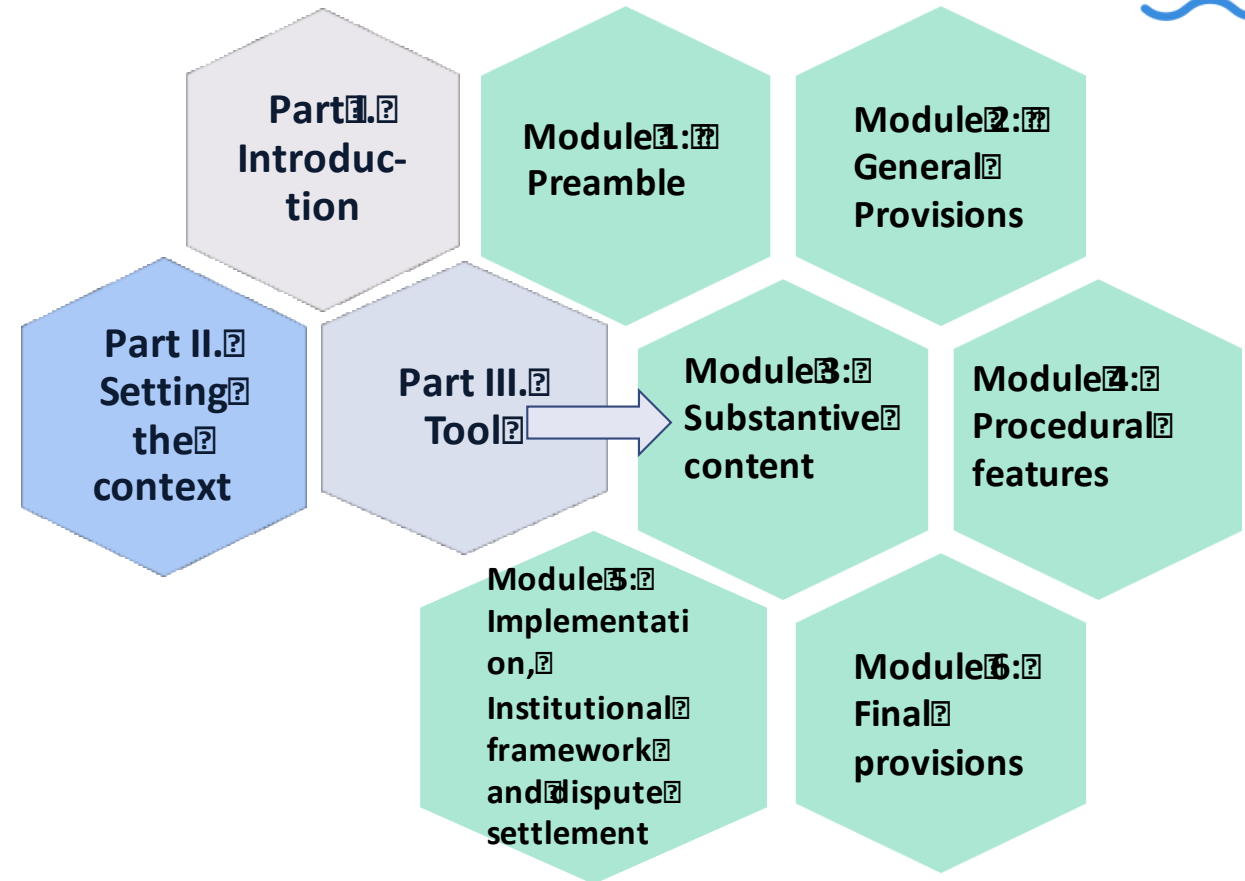
- Adaptation to climate change in transboundary basins
- Opening of the Convention, promotion and partnerships
- National Policy Dialogues on IWRM under the European Union Water Initiative
- Parties
- Countries which have started a discussion on accession

Practical Guide on the development of legal frameworks for transboundary water cooperation



Practical Guide to serve as an agreement/arrangement builder

- ❖ 3 Parts
- ❖ 6 thematic modules
- ❖ **Building blocks:** provisions/issues that countries may consider including within each module
- ❖ **Key aspects,** help define content of building blocks
- ❖ **Introductory text** to each building block, setting out its context and rationale;
- ❖ **Key considerations,** which explain different approaches that might be taken within the arrangements, and the implications thereof;
- ❖ **Examples from treaty practice** that illustrate how to frame a particular provision; and
- ❖ **Supporting resources,** assist in further developing the content





Support to implementation

- Assistance provided on request and depending on the availability of resources to support cooperation processes in basins and regions (Dniester, Chu-Talas, Drin, Dam Safety, Water Quality in Central Asia, Sio-Malaba-Malakisi, ECCAS Regional Convention, ECOWAS Directive)



Practical cooperation example - West Africa: Senegalo-Mauritanian Aquifer Basin (SMAB)

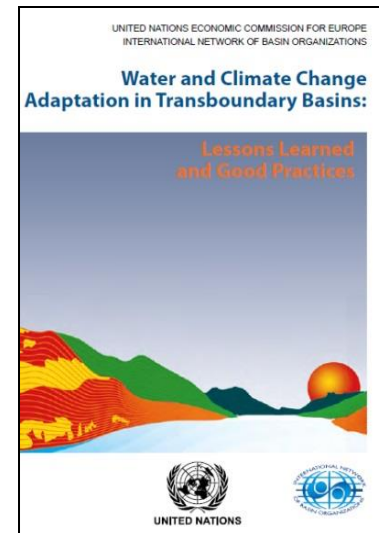
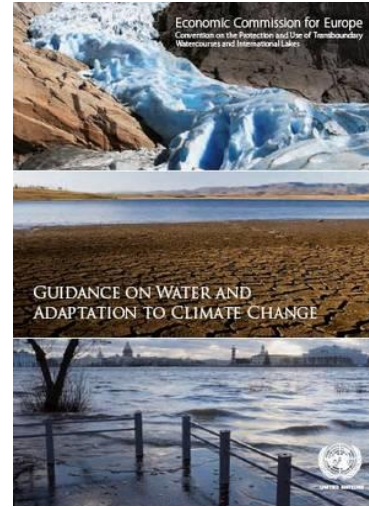
- Request by Senegal as new Party to Water Convention and following 2017 SDG indicator 6.5.2 exercise
- Regional Working Group established from countries (Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Mauritania, Senegal) & RBOs - OMVS, OMVG. Country consultation meetings and regional meetings.
- Partners: Water Convention, Geneva Water Hub, IGRAC; EU and SDC (financing)
- Aim: Produce the project document and an action plan for establishing a sustainable mechanism for concerted management of SMAB
- 2021, at MOP9: Ministerial Declaration on the SMAB: commitment to establishing a legal and institutional framework

Achievements on climate change adaptation/ flood management

- Important legal framework for cooperation on transboundary aspects of climate change
- Global platform for exchanging experience: Task Force on Water and Climate since 2006, annual workshops since 2010
- Knowledge management hub: Guidance and collection of good practices and lessons learned on Water and Adaptation to Climate Change, Model provisions on transb. Flood management
- Programme of pilot projects and global network of transboundary basins working on climate change (Dniester, Neman, Niger, Congo, Mekong, etc.)

➤ Selected Achievements:

- Transboundary vulnerability assessments for the Dniester and Chu Talas
- Development of transboundary climate change adaptation strategies in Dniester and Neman which prioritize adaptation measures from basin perspective
- Revival of transboundary cooperation at political level in the Neman basin through cooperation on climate change, contribution to RBMP
- Implementation of adaptation measures in 3 areas in the Dniester: monitoring and information exchange, ecosystem restoration, awareness-raising. Reservoir modelling by AGWA



Handbook on water allocation in a transboundary context

water allocation' which is the process and/or outcome of determining how different stakeholders use water.

With growing water scarcity around the globe, determining such water use presents a major challenge and more flexibility is needed

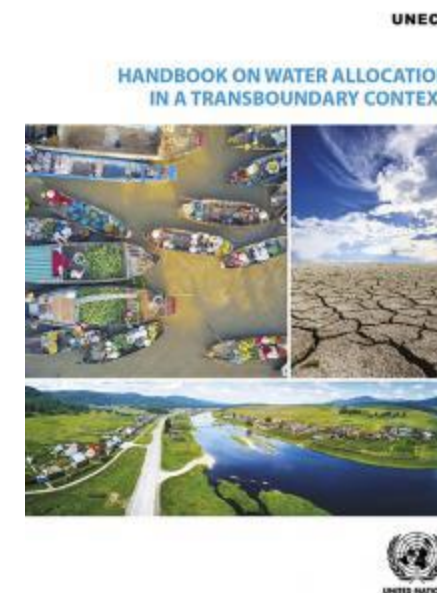
Adopted at MOP9 in September

PURPOSE

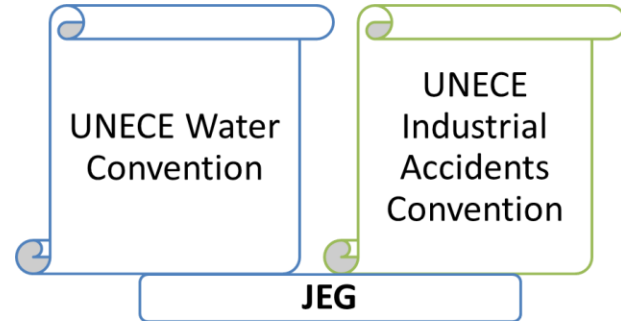
It aims to be a **practical guide** providing an **overview of the key elements**, frameworks and modalities to consider in the application of water allocation in transboundary contexts. The Handbook is **not binding**.

FORMAT

Takes the form of a **compendium style** Handbook, covering the **major topics and exemplar case studies** to illustrate key elements of transboundary water allocation in different contexts, with a **bibliography** for further research as the Handbook user may need.

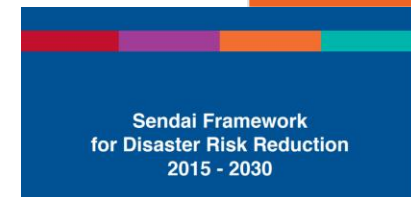
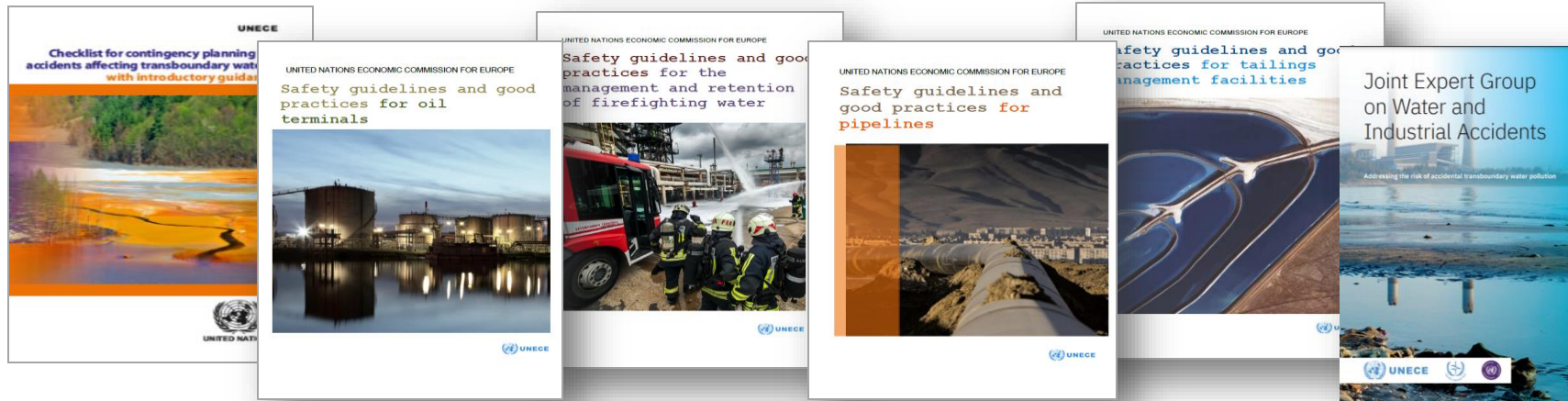


Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents

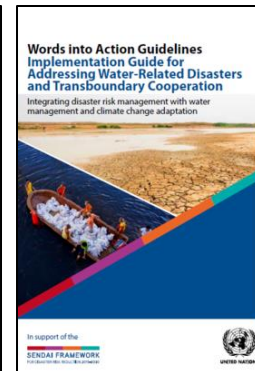
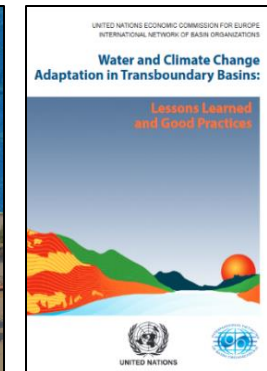
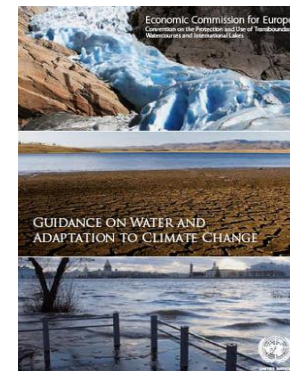
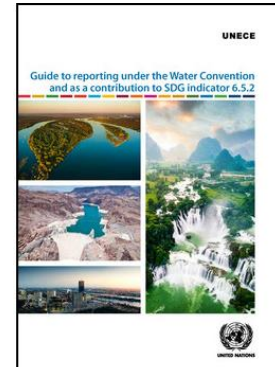
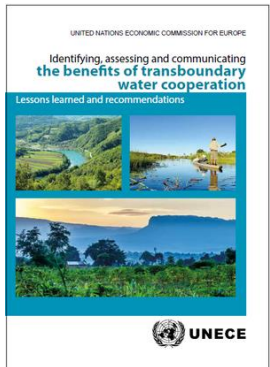
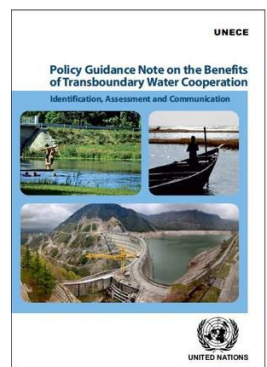
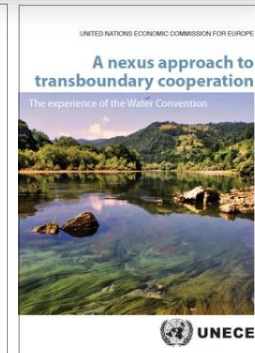
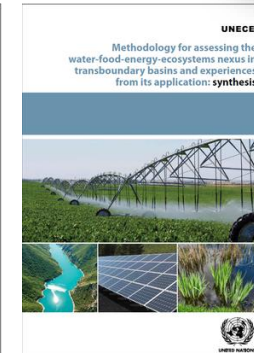
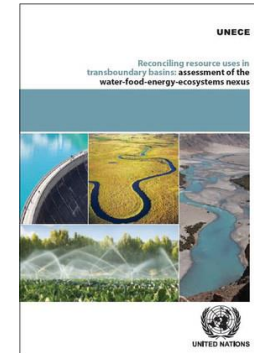
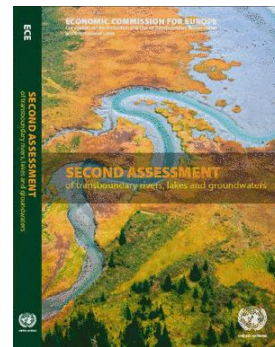
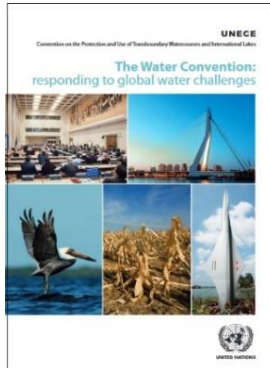
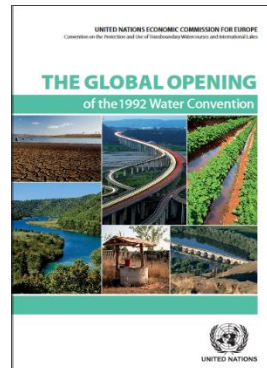
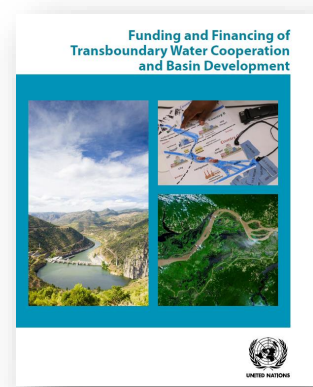
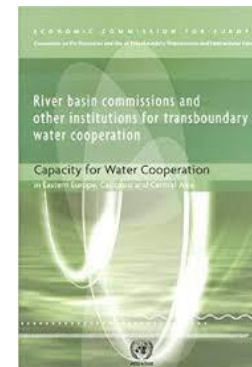
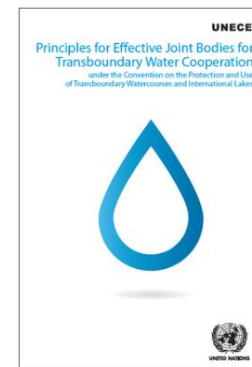
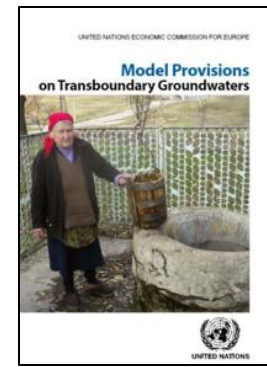
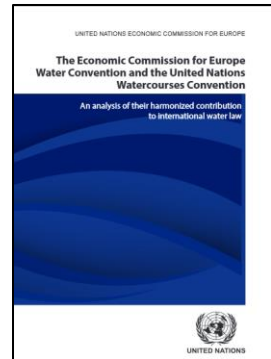
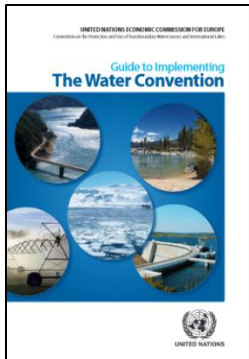


Joint Expert Group (JEG)

- Established in 1998
- Focus on prevention of accidental water pollution and its consequences
- Linking integrated water resources management to industrial safety



Numerous tools and guidance have been developed under the Water Convention



Why Water Convention is relevant for Africa & Zambia

- Sound legal framework coupled with action to support implementation
- Catalyst for cooperation, balanced approach for upstream and downstream countries
- Continuously evolves and address emerging issues with conflict potential
- Supports countries in achieving the SDGs
- More and more African countries accede to the Convention
- Cooperation with partners such as ECA, IGAD, NBI etc.
- You are invited to use the various guidance documents, participate in pilots project and take part in upcoming meetings:
 - Working Group on IWRM and 30th anniversary: 28-30 June 2022, Tallinn
 - Global workshop on the source-to sea approach: 4-6 December 2022, Geneva

MORE INFORMATION



WEB unece.org/env/water



EMAIL water.convention@un.org



RESOURCES www.unece.org/env/water/publications/pub.html

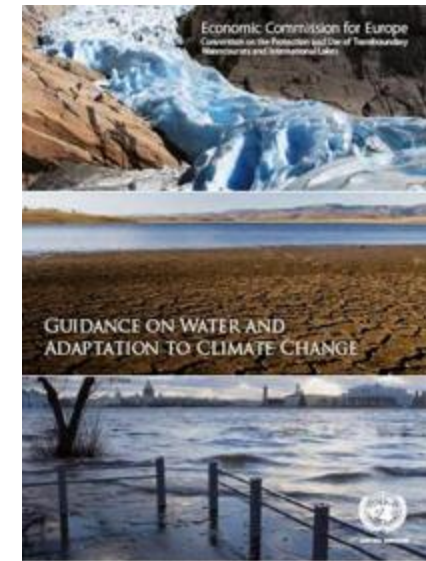
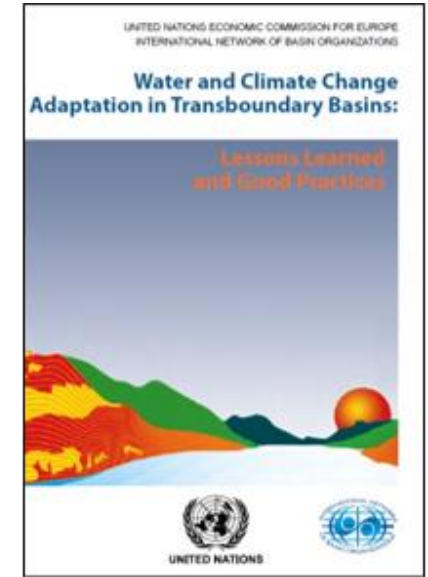


www.unwatercoursesconvention.org/



WATER
CONVENTION

Supporting Adapting to climate change in transboundary basins



4.1 Supporting development of transboundary adaptation strategies and implementation of priority measures

- *Global network of basins* working on climate change adaptation (with INBO)
- Task Force on Water and Climate, thematic global workshops
- Mainstreaming of water and transboundary cooperation into national climate-related documents
- Cooperation with global policy processes on climate and disasters (UNFCCC, UNDRR and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development)
- Online compendium of *good practices* on climate change adaptation in transboundary basins

4.2 Supporting transboundary basins in financing climate change adaptation

Through its intergovernmental platform and programme of work, the Water Convention ...

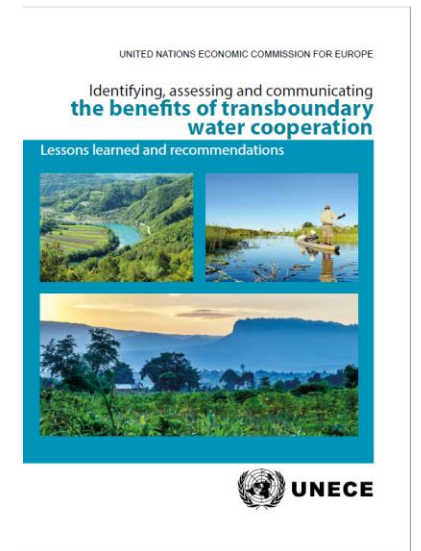
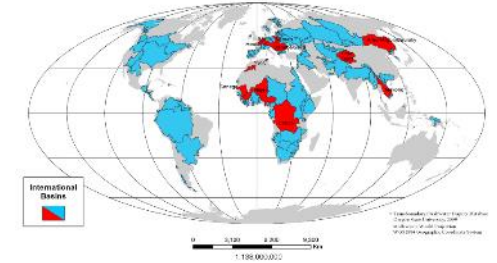
Contributes to cooperation and peace (inspire cooperation even in fragile areas where there is competition/war history)

Supports the creation of basin organizations to strengthen regional stability and integration (more than 90 agreements entered into force since the entry into force of the Water Convention)

Helps countries in adapting to climate change through a basin wide approach (more efficient, joint measures)

Supports the reduction of trade-offs and cross-sectoral conflicts (optimize the use of resources through cross-border cooperation)

International River Basins



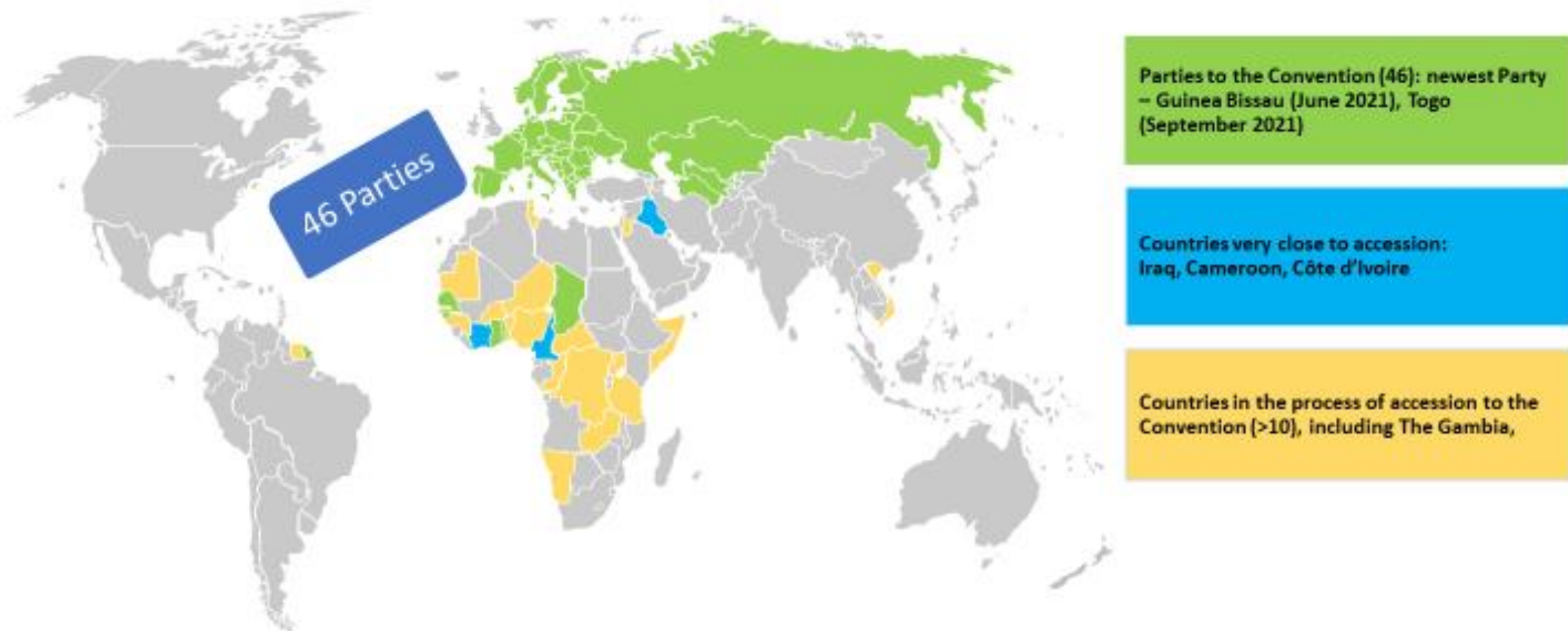
EXAMPLE OF PRACTICAL COOPERATION WITH UGANDA

Strengthening transboundary water governance and cooperation in IGAD, including in the Sio-Malaba-Malakisi River Basin, 2016-2018

- ✓ During the period 2016-2018, the Water Convention Secretariat worked closely with Kenya and Uganda in the framework of the project “Strengthening transboundary water governance and cooperation in the IGAD region”
- ✓ Jointly implemented with IGAD, IUCN and funded by the Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs (OES) of the United States Department of State.
- ✓ **The project facilitated a stakeholder participative process focusing on the benefits of cooperation in the Sio-Malaba-Malakisi (SMM) River Basin between Kenya and Uganda.**
- ✓ **It resulted in, among other beneficial outcomes, the joint development of a basin investment framework which could boost development.**

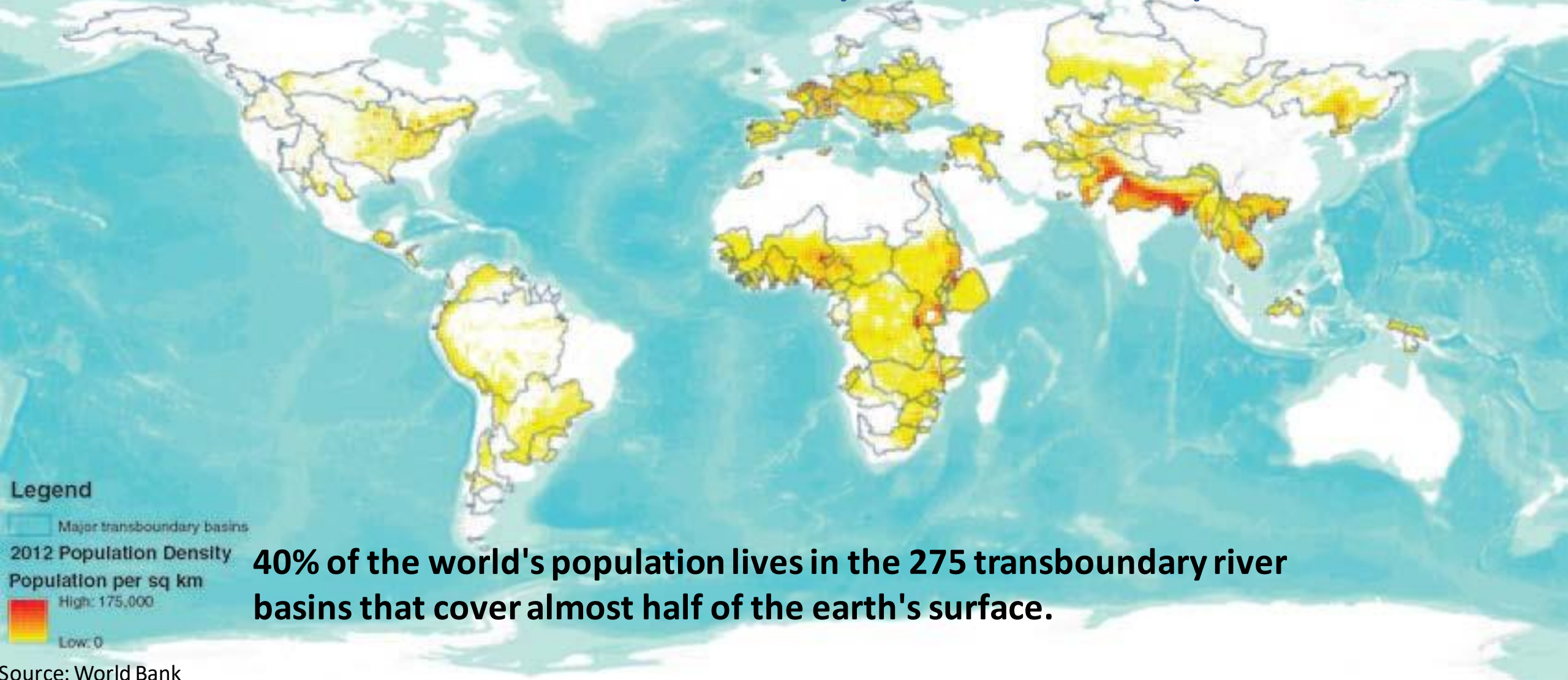


GLOBAL MOMENTUM: Parties to & interest in the Convention



Globalization guided by the **Strategy for the implementation of the Water Convention at global level**

Freshwater resources are essentially transboundary in nature



Source: World Bank

40% of the world's population lives in the 275 transboundary river basins that cover almost half of the earth's surface.

Transboundary rivers represent 60% of the world's freshwater flows.

98% of Uganda's water resources are in transboundary basins.



**WATER
CONVENTION**

Transboundary cooperation in the field of water supports development and stability:

1. Reduces sectoral trade-offs and conflicts of use
2. Generates economic and social benefits that stabilize societies
3. Makes adaptation measures more effective and prevents the negative effects of unilateral measures
4. Creates regional organizations that strengthen regional stability and integration
5. Prevents conflict and supports peacebuilding in post-conflict situations

Publication: Funding and financing of transboundary water cooperation and basin development

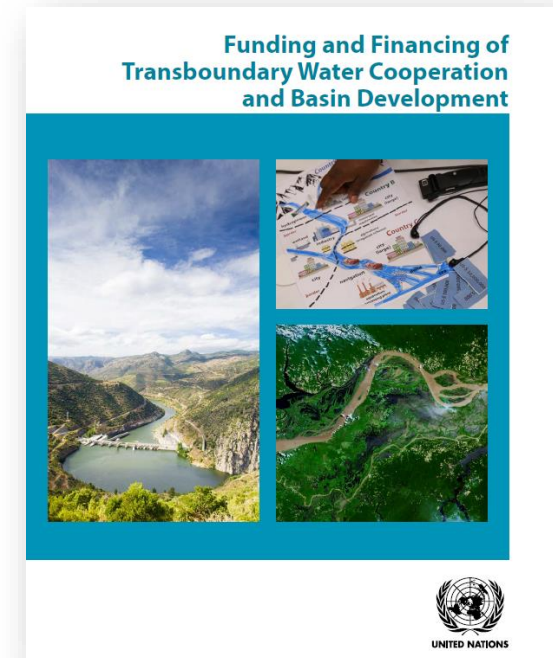
- Informed by the virtual workshop on this topic on 16 -17 December 2020
- Developed with IFIs, Switzerland, Senegal, Netherlands, basin organizations, other international organizations, NGOs etc.
- Describes Financial needs and financing sources for transboundary water management, cooperation and basin development

Main messages:

- Creating an **enabling environment** to mobilize resources is crucial and requires **legal and institutional frameworks** and **strong governance**
- **Member state contributions** are and should be **primary funding source**
- **Private funding and financing** can be **leveraged** to explore additional opportunities especially for infrastructure development costs
- **Innovative financial instruments** are currently being developed and can potentially offer **new opportunities**

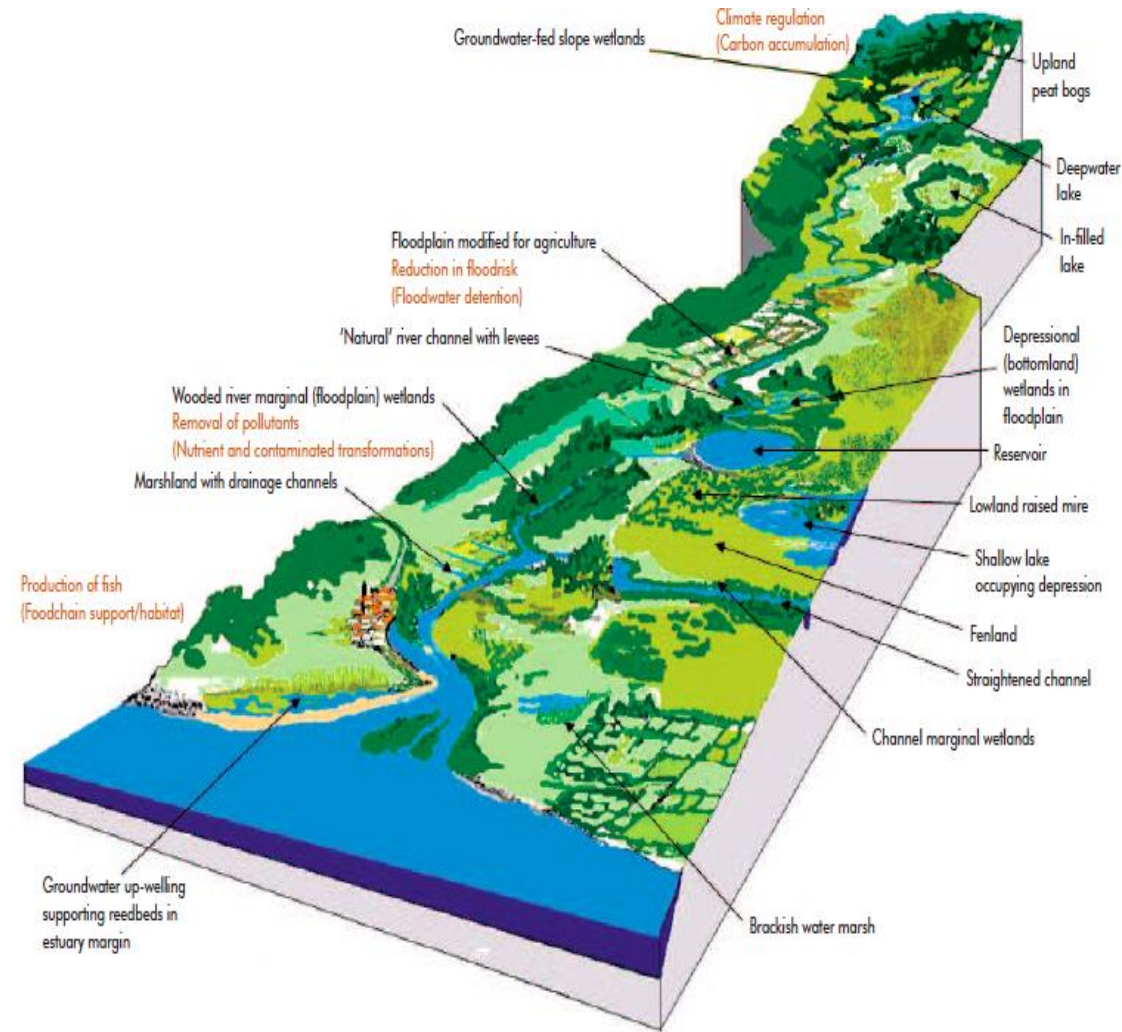
Future work:

- Support national authorities and joint bodies in shaping strategies for mobilizing financing
- 1 Global Workshop and up to 2 Regional knowledge facilitation workshops



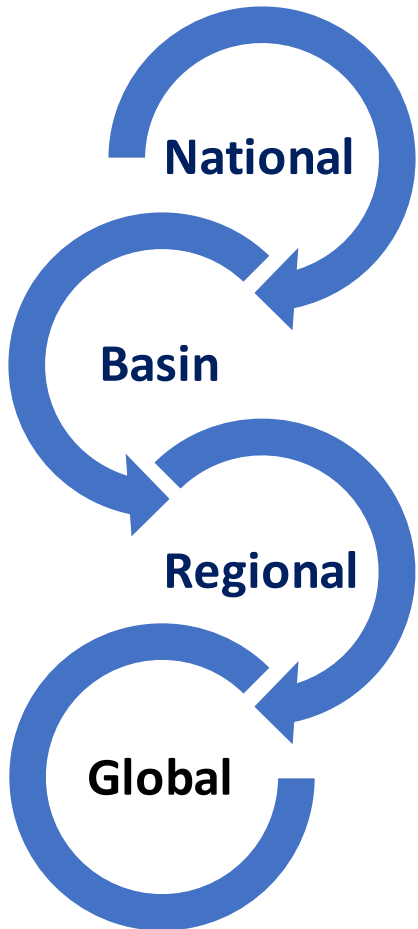
Scope of Application of the Convention

- "Transboundary waters": all surface and underground waters which mark the borders between two or more States, cross them or are located on these borders (Art1 (1))
- Transboundary impacts included: harm to human health and safety, flora, fauna, soil, air, water, climate, landscape and historical or other monuments constructions, or interaction of several of these factors; it may also be an attack on cultural heritage or socio-economic conditions resulting from changes in these factors
- The Riparian Parties shall cooperate [...] with a view to developing harmonized policies, programs and strategies applicable to all or part of the hydrographic basins concerned (Art 2 (6))



Water Convention Programme of Work 2022-2024

Delivering at different levels:



Programme area 1: Increasing awareness of and accession to the Convention and application of its principles drawing on the benefits of cooperation



Programme area 2: Supporting monitoring, assessment and information sharing in transboundary basins



Programme area 3: Promoting an integrated and intersectoral approach to water management at all levels



Programme area 4: Adapting to climate change in transboundary basins



Programme area 5: Facilitating financing of transboundary water cooperation



Programme area 6: Reporting on SDG indicator 6.5.2 and under the Convention



Programme area 7: Partnerships, communication and knowledge management

Handbook on water allocation in a transboundary context

- **BACKGROUND**

- History shows transboundary allocation arrangements can work for the benefit of States involved, but only if **well designed, jointly agreed, adaptable and effectively implemented**.
- Growing water scarcity, accelerated social, economic and technological developments, and climate change **call for new, flexible approaches in allocation**.

- **PURPOSE OF THE HANDBOOK**

- **practical guide** providing an **overview of the key elements**, frameworks and modalities to consider in the application of water allocation in transboundary contexts.
- a **compendium style** Handbook, covering the **major topics and exemplar case studies** to illustrate key elements
- **FUTURE PLANNED WORK:** several capacity-building events

How can the Water Convention help to prevent conflicts and resolve disputes over transboundary waters?

- Daily cooperation (agreements and joint bodies) increases trust => instrumental for preventing conflicts and wars
- Institutional framework assists to set up agreements and joint bodies (projects in Drin, Kura, Dniester and Chu-Talas basins, Senegal-Mauritania aquifer cooperation)
- Advice and assistance from the Implementation Committee –
 - First Advisory Procedure: Albania & Montenegro

