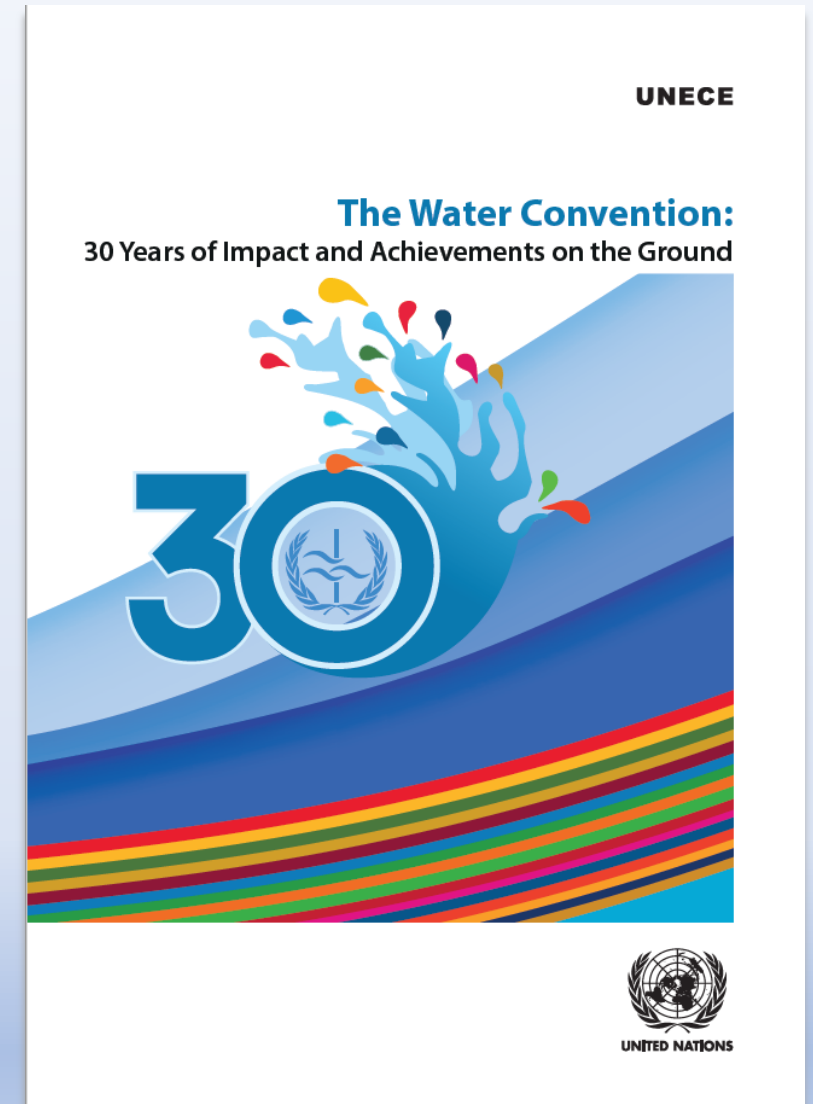


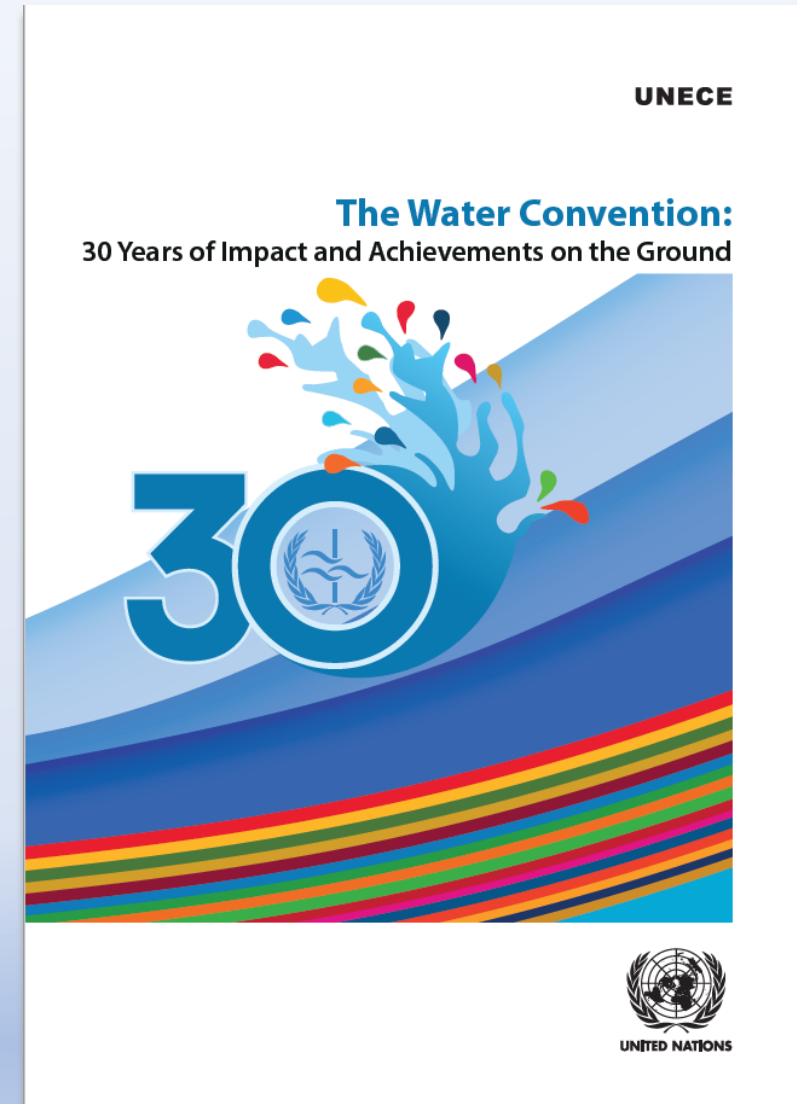
The Water Convention: 30 Years of Impact and Achievements on the Ground

Sonja Koeppel and Iulia Trombitcaia
Water Convention secretariat

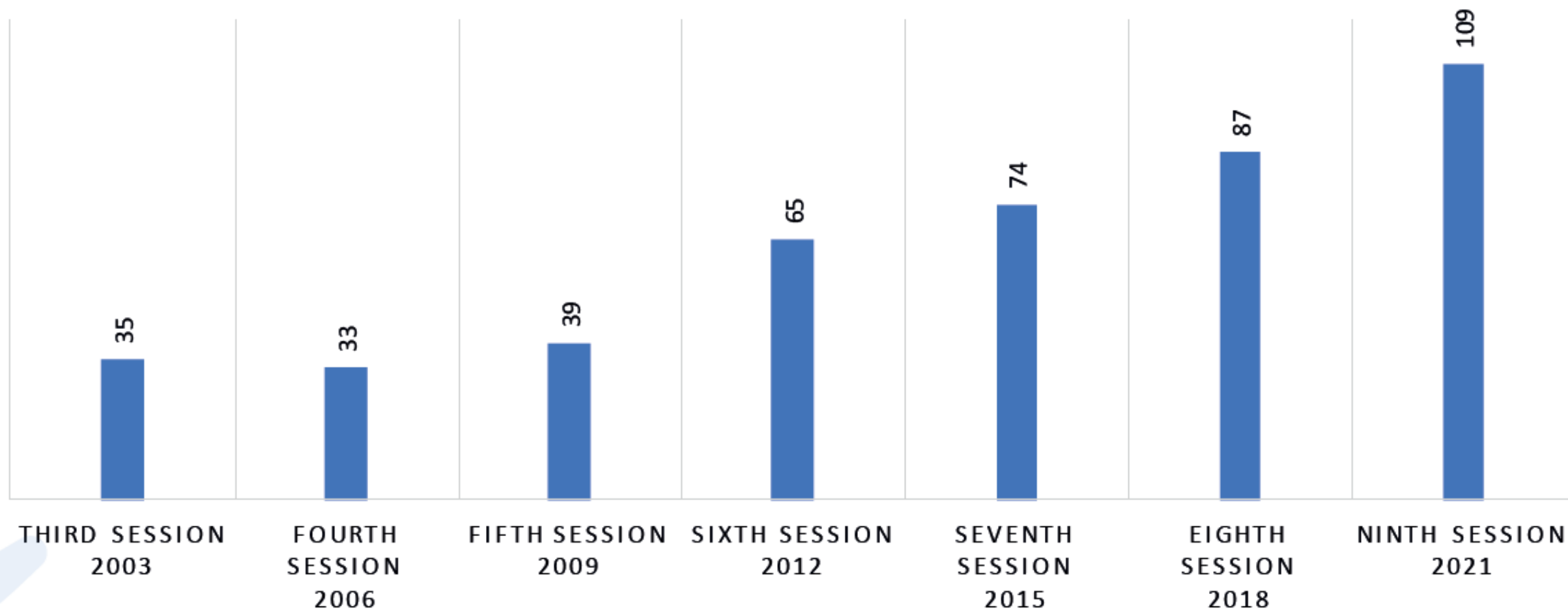


Process

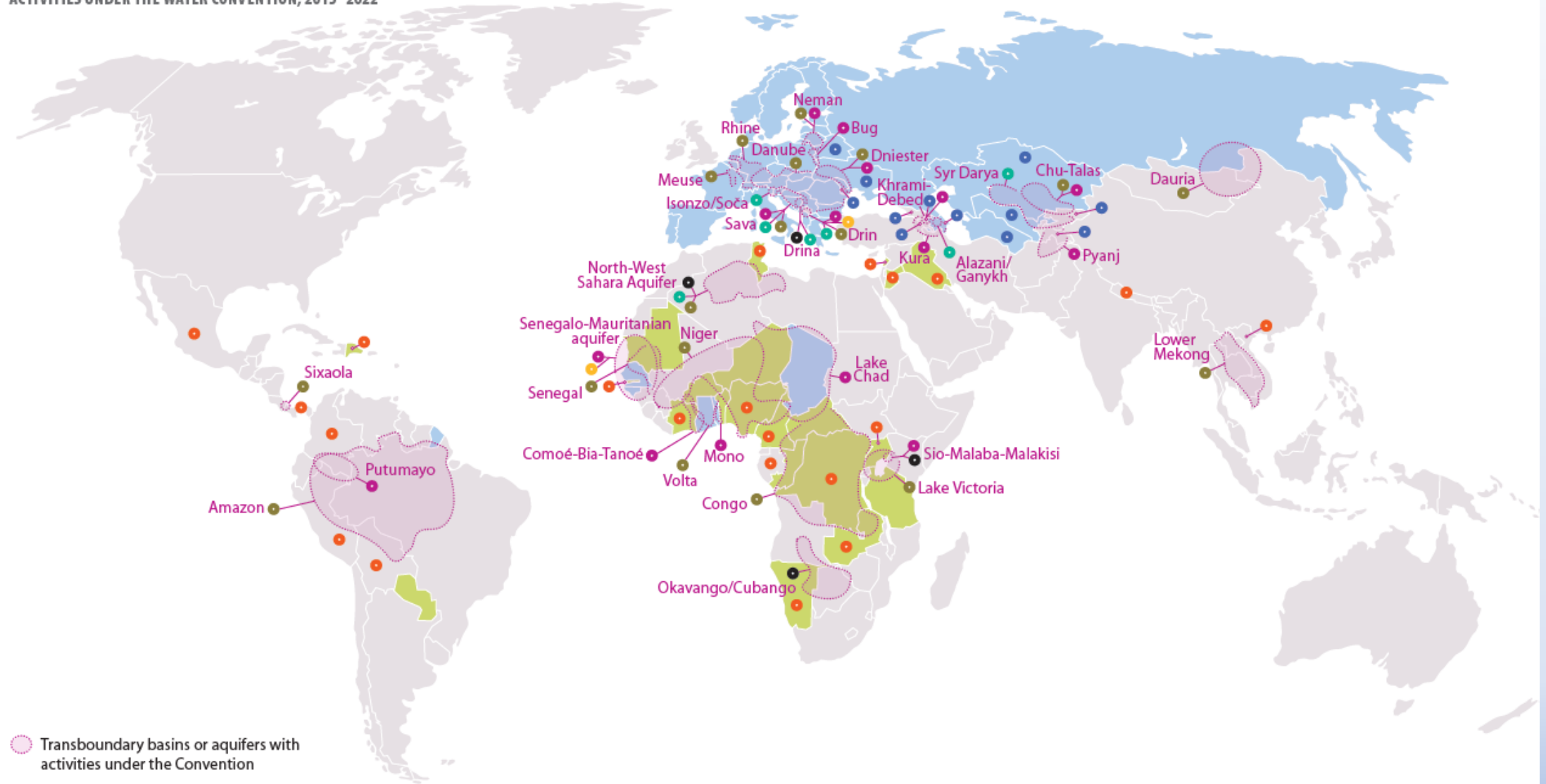
- Open call for success stories
 - Prepared based on 28 stories, additional interviews and materials available at the secretariat
- THANK YOU!!!**
- Reviewed by the Convention Bureau
 - Based on the benefits of transboundary cooperation methodology
 - Reflects the glowing global impact of the Convention and the role of partnerships



SESSIONS OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES, 2003–2021, NUMBER OF COUNTRIES REPRESENTED



ACTIVITIES UNDER THE WATER CONVENTION, 2015–2022



Areas of work

- Support the development of agreements and the establishment of joint bodies
- Identify, assess and communicate the benefits of transboundary water cooperation
- Assess and promote the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus in transboundary basins

- Adapt to climate change in transboundary basins
- Increase knowledge of and accession to the Water Convention
- Monitor, assess and share information in transboundary basins
- National Policy Dialogues on IWRM under the European Union Water Initiative

Country Status

- Parties to the Water Convention
- Countries in the process of accession

85 countries participated in activities on the ground under the programmes of work under the Water Convention in the period 2015–2022.

Note: based on activities indicated on Map 1.

98 international organizations and NGOs are partners to the Water Convention.

Note: Based on programmes of work for 2019–2021 and 2022–2024.

In 2011–2021, about **6,000 experts** were trained on international water law, water management, climate change adaptation, the nexus approach, dam safety and other areas through the capacity-building activities led by the Water Convention.

Note: Meetings of Convention bodies not included.



Average value of the SDG indicator 6.5.2
for Parties: **80 per cent in 2020**
(global average: 58 per cent in 2020).

Note: SDG indicator 6.5.2 tracks the proportion of transboundary basin area within a country that has an operational arrangement for water cooperation.

Of the 24 countries, globally,
that report that all their transboundary basins are covered by
operational cooperation arrangements, in accordance with SDG
indicator 6.5.2, **19 are Parties to the Water Convention (in 2020).**





50 stories from the past 30 years

- 1: The Water Convention cares about the protection of our **environment and ecosystems**
- 2: The Water Convention helps countries adapt to **climate change** and decrease the risk of **disasters**
- 3: The Water Convention contributes to the **welfare of societies** in transboundary basins and beyond
- 4: The Water Convention supports **economic development**
- 5: The Water Convention promotes **regional economic integration**
- 6: The Water Convention supports addressing **intersectoral trade-offs** and tensions
- 7: The Water Convention improves **water governance** at national and transboundary levels
- 8: The Water Convention contributes to **peace and stability**

SUPPORT TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- **Reducing economic damage of floods and droughts, e.g.:**
 - Romania: during 2014 floods on the Sava, Morava and Danube, the Romanian water management authorities implemented effective interventions thanks to the warnings received from the common flood risk management system.
- **Promoting cost savings through cooperative management of infrastructure, e.g.:**
 - Chu-Talas: Joint and transparent decision-making on water allocation and maintenance costs.
 - 2004-2021, Kazakhstan contributed over US\$ 5.5 million to finance the operation and maintenance of the joint infrastructure.

WELFARE OF SOCIETIES

- **Improved water supply, water quality and better health, e.g.:**
 - Ghana-Hungary cooperation (2021-2022): 3 new WWTPs by Hungarian companies (Kumasi, Takoradi and Tamale) and water purifying unit in Akim Wenchi
 - Vistula basin: Polish National Environmental Fund – Programme “Investments in wastewater management outside the country” (PLN 100 mln for 2016-2023) – financial support for projects to modernize municipal WWTPs, sewage sludge treatment plants and sanitation systems in Belarus and Ukraine.

ATTRACTING FINANCING

- **Attract financing to implement development projects, e.g.:**
 - Facilitated formulation of 8 GEF projects (Bug&Neman, Chu-Talas, Dniester, Drin, SMAB) which have attracted a combined US\$ 27.4 million of GEF funding (and expected co-financing of US\$ 363 million)
 - Contributed to attract GEF funding in the Dnieper, Kura, Western Dvina, Panj and Lake Skadar for a combined US\$ 31.5 million (and expected co-financing of US\$ 310 million)
 - Romania: assessments under DRPC and Black Sea Convention in 1995-2019 enabled Romania attract investments in the amount of US\$ 559 million from the World Bank, €760 million from EBRD, and €866 million from the EIB for national-level implementation

PEACE AND TRUST

- **Fostering dialogue and joint initiatives which lead to greater trust, e.g.:**
 - Contribution to development of Convention for the Prevention of Conflicts Related to the Management of Shared Water Resources in Central Africa under the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS)
- **Promoting a shared basin identity, e.g.:**
 - Cooperation in the Dniester River Basin

IMPROVED GOVERNANCE

- **Advancing water sector reforms and river basin management, e.g.:**
 - Role of EU directives in EU, the candidate countries and beyond
- **Setting up efficient monitoring systems in transboundary basins, e.g.:**
 - Early years: pilot projects established/improved monitoring practices, promoted harmonization of practice and standard, tested guidelines
 - Morava, Bug, Maros/Mures, Ipel/Ipoly, Latorica/Uzh, Kura, Seversky Donets, Tobol, Pripyat rivers
 - Aggtelek/Slovak Karst aquifer
 - Lake Peipsi/Chudskoe

ENVIRONMENT AND ECOSYSTEMS

- Reduction of pollution and better water quality, e.g.:
 - Elbe:
 - The concentration of mercury in the sediments has decreased from more than 8 mg/kg in 1996 to less than 0.5 mg/kg in 2013
 - Increased oxygen concentrations
 - Increased number of fish species due to better water quality and passability

Challenges for the future

- Increasing impact on the global level
- Strengthening contribution to peace and stability
- Promoting basin-wide approaches to climate change adaptation
- Protecting biodiversity through transboundary water cooperation
- Strengthening conjunctive management of groundwaters and surface waters
- Integrating circular economy approaches in water management
- Facilitating financing of transboundary water cooperation
- Strengthening source-to-sea management





Thank you



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For more information:

<https://www.unece.org/env/water/>



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