



SDG INDICATOR 6.5.2

TRANSBOUNDARY WATER COOPERATION

summit co-coordinated by



Transboundary groundwaters and the SDG indicator 6.5.2

Ms Sonja Koepfel - Secretary, Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes, UNECE

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

High level of engagement

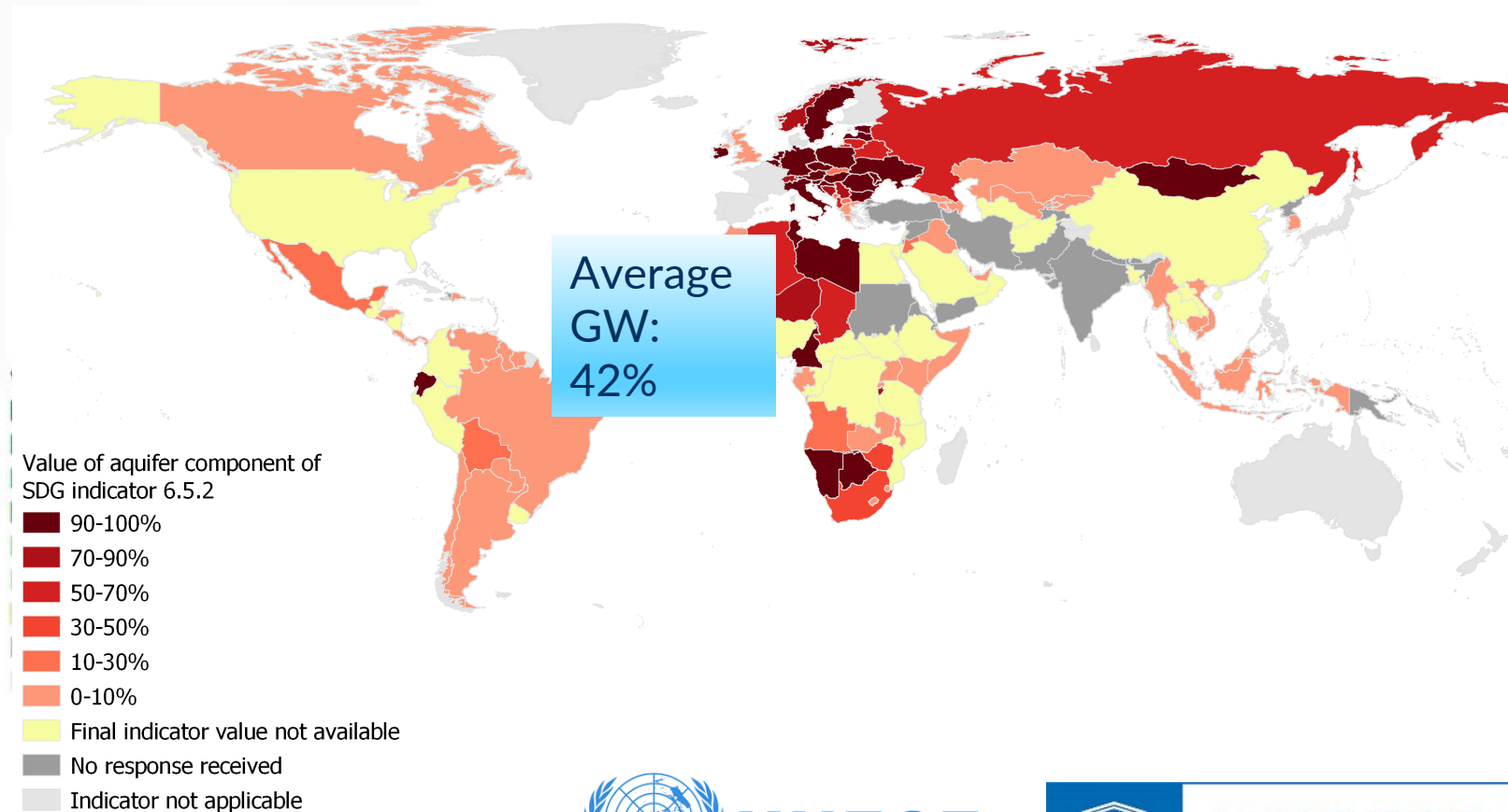
⇒ In 2020: **129** out of 153 countries submitted reports to UNECE and UNESCO (co-custodian agencies)

Not on track

⇒ Only **24 countries** report all transboundary surface waters and groundwaters covered by operational arrangements

⇒ Progress must be **accelerated** to ensure that all transboundary basins are covered by operational arrangements by 2030

SDG Indicator 6.5.2 values and responses received during the 2nd exercise for the aquifer component



Note: The boundaries and names shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations



UNECE



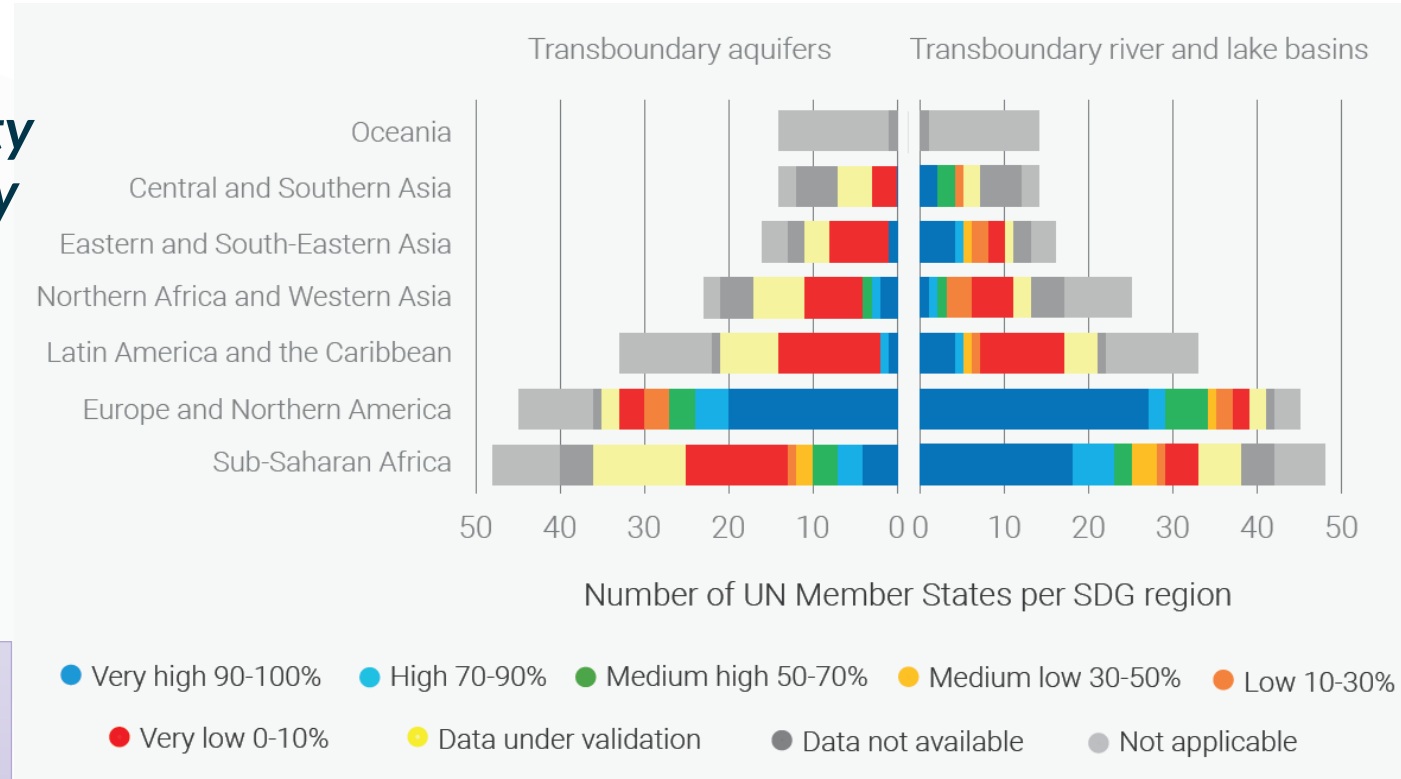
unesco

Aquifer component: from indicator calculation to fostering dialogue

Insufficient knowledge on groundwater systems, BUT *an unprecedented opportunity for countries to consider their transboundary aquifers:*

- contacts between institutions and new data gathered at national level;
 - gaps identified, allowing prioritization;
 - Additional research carried out
- broader arrangements covering also groundwater/aquifers are identified and comply with operationality criteria

— possibility to promote cooperation on aquifers in concerned basins.



Positive impact

⇒ Reporting triggered **follow-up actions** in countries to **improve cooperation**

Conclusions and recommendations

Key areas to accelerate progress

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**

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

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Leveraging and mobilizing expertise

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



Building political will

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



Upscale capacity development

Capacity building is important for negotiating and implementing operational arrangements



SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework

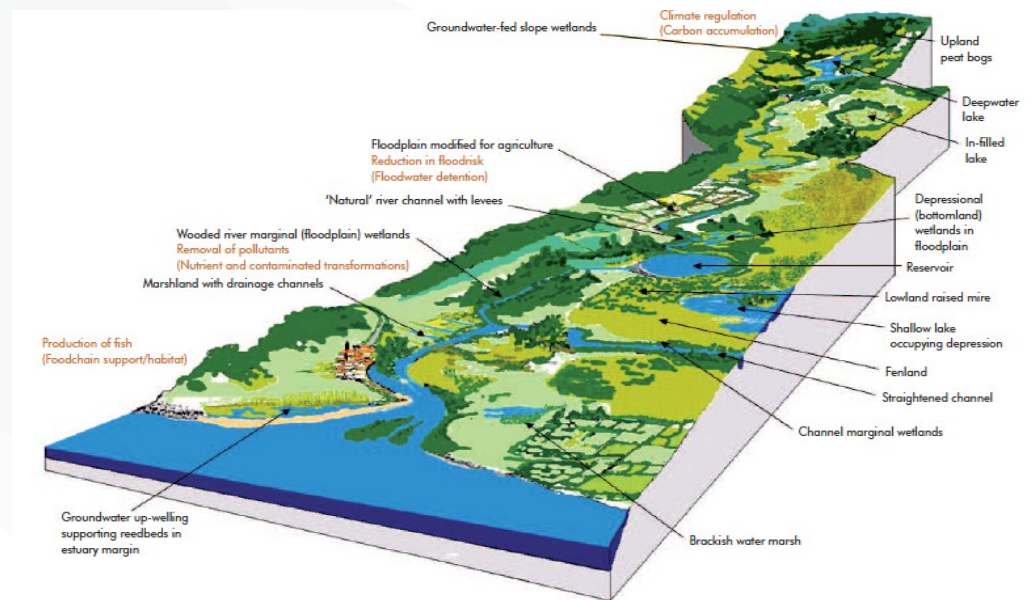


Global legal frameworks

- 1992 Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention)
 - Model Provisions on Transboundary Groundwaters
 - Practical guide for the development of agreements for transboundary water cooperation
- 1997 Convention on the Law of the Non-navigational Uses of International Watercourses (Watercourses Convention)
- 2008 Draft Articles on the Law of Transboundary Aquifers

⇒ Practical support and an important basis to negotiate new arrangements or revise existing ones

⇒ Need to make the best use of these instruments and interpret them in a harmonized manner so to foster transboundary water governance

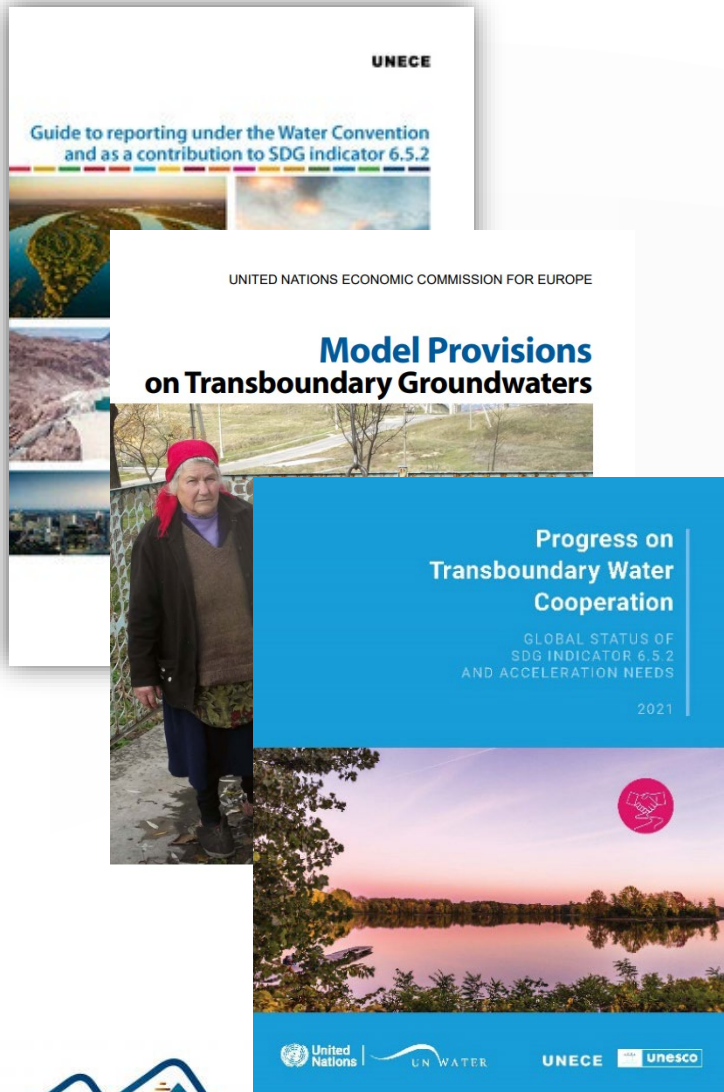


Next steps for SDG indicator 6.5.2

- **2023:** 3rd reporting exercise : All countries sharing transboundary waters invited to report to UNECE & UNESCO by **30 June 2023 (updated template)**.
- Data collection and validation in 2023, and analysis in late 2023-early 2024
- Results inform the review of SDG 6 at HLPF 2023 and UN SDG summit 2023
- Priorities for 3rd reporting exercise:
 - Further improve response rate and quality of reports received
 - Improve coordination/harmonization at river, lake or aquifer levels
 - Reduce data gaps, especially for aquifers
 - Share experience on how to use reporting data
 - Use the reports as a basis for dialogue to improve cooperation and share experience
- Message for countries: please report and coordinate with neighbours, if possible
- Message for partners: please support countries and integrate the reporting into regional events, processes, prepare regional reports etc.
- During the 3rd reporting exercise UNECE and UNESCO will support through helpdesk, webinars, regional workshops etc.



Thanks for listening!



6.5.2 Help Desk

transboundary_water_cooperation_reporting@un.org

transboundary_water_cooperation_reporting@unesco.org

2nd Global Progress report on SDG 6.5.2

www.unwater.org/publications/progress-on-transboundary-water-cooperation-652-2021-update

Further information

UNECE: www.unece.org/water/transboundary_water_cooperation_reporting.html

UNESCO: https://en.unesco.org/themes/water-security/transboundary_water_cooperation_reporting

UN-WATER SDG6 monitoring: www.sdg6monitoring.org/indicator-652

UN-WATER SDG6 data portal: www.sdg6data.org/indicator/6.5.2



Next steps for SDG indicator 6.5.2

- **2023:** 3rd reporting exercise : All countries sharing transboundary waters invited to report to UNECE & UNESCO by **30 June 2023**.
- Results will feed into review of SDG 6 at HLPF 2023 and UN SDG summit 2024
- Strengthen SDG 6.5.2 monitoring and transboundary water cooperation
 - Further improve response rate and quality of reports received
 - Improve coordination/harmonization at river, lake or aquifer levels
 - Reduce data gaps, especially for aquifers
 - Share experience on how to use reporting data
 - Use the reports as a basis for dialogue to improve cooperation
 - Incentivize the use of the information for future planning.
- During the 3rd reporting exercise
 - Helpdesk maintained by UNECE & UNESCO
 - Webinars/workshops to support countries' reporting efforts
 - Data collection and validation in 2023, and analysis in late 2023-early 2024

