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OPPORTUNITIES TO COORDINATE WITH NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES WHEN COMPLETING THE SDG INDICATOR 6.5.2 NATIONAL REPORT

OPPORTUNITÉS DE COORDINATION AVEC LES PAYS VOISINS LORS DE L'ÉTABLISSEMENT DU RAPPORT NATIONAL SUR L'INDICATEUR 6.5.2 DES ODD

Global Webinars on SDG indicator 6.5.2
Transboundary Water Cooperation
Supporting countries in preparing national reports for the
3rd reporting exercise - With a focus on Coordination

*Webinaires mondiaux sur l'indicateur 6.5.2 des ODD
Coopération dans le domaine des eaux transfrontières
Soutenir les pays dans la préparation des rapports nationaux pour le troisième
exercice d'établissement des rapports - en mettant l'accent sur la coordination*



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Why coordinating the replies?

Quel est l'intérêt de coordonner les réponses?

6.5.2 coordination between countries sharing the same transboundary river(s), lake(s) or aquifer(s) has several **benefits**:

La coordination sur l'ODD 6.5.2 entre les pays partageant le(s) même(s) cours d'eau, lac(s) ou aquifère(s) transfrontière(s) présente plusieurs avantages :



Help countries reach a common understanding on basic data or the need to address gaps

Elle aide les pays à parvenir à une compréhension commune des données de base ou de la nécessité de combler les lacunes



Improve the overall quality of 6.5.2 data

Elle permet d'améliorer la qualité générale des données sur l'indicateur 6.5.2



Evaluate cooperation and its outcomes within a river basin or aquifer, jointly reviewing Section II of the report and using it as a checklist

Elle permet d'évaluer la coopération et ses aboutissements au sein d'un bassin versant ou d'un aquifère, en examinant conjointement la partie II du rapport et en l'utilisant comme liste de contrôle

- **allow countries to reach a common understanding of the challenges, opportunities and priorities**
permettre aux pays de parvenir à une compréhension commune des défis, des opportunités et des priorités pour le cours d'eau, le lac ou l'aquifère
- **provide an opportunity for countries to set common targets**
offrir l'occasion aux pays de définir des objectifs communs

NOTE!

The SDG indicator 6.5.2 asks countries to report at national level. While coordination is useful and should be encouraged, countries may ultimately have different views on their transboundary waters and may therefore submit different data and information.

À NOTER !

En vertu de l'indicateur 6.5.2 des ODD, les pays sont invités à établir des rapports au niveau national. Bien que la coordination soit utile et mérite d'être encouragée, les pays peuvent en définitive avoir des points de vue divergents concernant leurs eaux transfrontières et peuvent donc soumettre des données.



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Why the focus on coordination now?

Pourquoi mettre l'accent sur la coordination ?

- **Good examples** of co-ordination between countries exist from the **2017 and 2020 data drives**

De bons exemples de coordination entre pays se dégagent des collectes de données de 2017 et 2020

- **However**, in other cases it has been difficult to provide basin level analysis on 6.5.2 due to **gaps and discrepancies in the national reports**

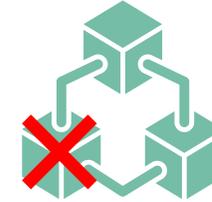
Cependant, dans d'autres cas, fournir une analyse au niveau du bassin sur l'indicateur 6.5.2 s'est révélé difficile en raison de lacunes et divergences dans les rapports nationaux.

- These discrepancies arise due to the use of **different data sources or calculation methods**

Ces divergences découlent de l'utilisation de sources de données ou méthodes de calcul différentes.

- The hidden nature of aquifers **adds complexity** and the **identification, delineation and/or recognition** of their transboundary nature can **vary greatly**

La nature dissimulée des aquifères est un facteur de complexité supplémentaire et l'identification, la délimitation et/ou la reconnaissance de leur nature transfrontière peut varier considérablement.



Common discrepancies include:

- countries not listing the same rivers, lakes or aquifers as shared
- countries not listing the same arrangement(s), and
- countries not agreeing whether or not the four criteria for operability have been met.

Parmi les divergences les plus courantes :

- les pays ne recensant pas les mêmes cours d'eau, lacs ou aquifères comme étant partagés
- les pays ne recensant pas le(s) même(s) arrangement(s), et
- les pays ne sont pas d'accord quant à savoir si les quatre critères d'opérationnalité ont été remplis ou non

THE SWEDISH EXPERIENCE

L'EXPÉRIENCE SUÉDOISE

Preparation of the Sweden's 2nd national report was coordinated by the **Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management (SAMWM)**

La préparation du deuxième rapport national de la Suède a été coordonnée par l'Agence suédoise pour la gestion des zones marines et des ressources en eau (SAMWM)

Coordination steps:

- completion of the draft questionnaire by a working group at SAMWM
- consultative meetings held online with neighboring countries (Norway and Finland)
- consultations with administrative boards of counties with transboundary waters on section II
- consultations with the Finnish- Swedish transboundary river commission on section II

Étapes de la coordination :

- réponse au projet de questionnaire par un groupe de travail de la SAMWM
- des réunions consultatives en ligne avec les pays voisins (la Norvège et la Finlande)
- des consultations avec les conseils administratifs des comtés ayant des eaux transfrontières concernant la partie II
- des consultations avec la Commission finno-suédoise des cours d'eau transfrontières concernant la partie II



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Torne river, Sweden and Finland

How can countries coordinate: a checklist



National 6.5.2 focal point / coordinator

- exchange draft reports with neighboring countries sharing transboundary waters
- consult past reports of neighboring countries sharing transboundary waters²
- report on the coordinated actions undertaken in the national report



Coordinateur / correspondant national chargé de l'indicateur 6.5.2

- échanger des projets de rapports avec les pays voisins partageant des eaux transfrontières
- consulter les rapports antérieurs des pays voisins partageant des eaux transfrontières²
- rapport sur les actions coordonnées menées dans le cadre du rapport national



Secretariat or Country representative of an RBO or joint mechanism, including bilateral commissions

- identify next meeting of RBO or similar where to include 6.5.2 reporting as an agenda item, or convene a dedicated meeting
- review section II of the reporting template for your basin and liaise with countries



Secrétariat ou représentant du pays d'un organisme de bassin ou d'un mécanisme conjoint, y compris les commissions bilatérales

- prévoir la prochaine réunion de l'organisme de bassin ou une réunion similaire pour inclure le rapport 6.5.2 comme point de l'ordre du jour, ou convoquer une réunion spécifique
- passer en revue la partie II du modèle de rapport pour votre bassin et se concerter avec les pays



Member of a National Geological Survey with information

- enquire about the proper integration of transboundary aquifers in the national reporting, especially when technical projects between countries to characterize transboundary aquifers took place



Membre d'un service géologique national disposant d'informations

- s'enquérir de la bonne intégration des aquifères transfrontières dans les rapports nationaux, en particulier lorsque des projets techniques ont eu lieu entre les pays en vue de caractériser les aquifères transfrontières



Member of organization, NGO or other institution involved in transboundary water cooperation

- based on mandate, promote co-ordination amongst countries, particularly where RBOs or similar do not exist, by running workshops or other events on 6.5.2



Membre d'une organisation, d'une ONG ou d'une autre institution impliquée dans la coopération dans le domaine des eaux transfrontières

- conformément à son mandat, promouvoir la coordination entre les pays, en particulier lorsque les organismes de bassin ou structures similaires font défaut, en organisant des ateliers ou d'autres événements sur l'indicateur 6.5.2



De quelle manière les pays peuvent-ils se coordonner – une liste de contrôle



TRANSBOUNDARY AQUIFERS: A SPECIAL CASE

LES AQUIFÈRES TRANSFRONTIÈRES : UN CAS PARTICULIER

- **Require special attention** – often more complex than river and lake basins to evaluate
Ils requièrent une attention particulière - ils sont souvent plus complexes à évaluer que les bassins de cours d'eau et de lacs
- **Lack of recognition** of their transboundary nature by countries adds further complexity
Le manque de reconnaissance de leur nature transfrontière par les pays vient ajouter une complexité supplémentaire
- **Necessary to involve specific knowledge** - through geological surveys or encourage RBOs to better integrate groundwater and aquifers into their work
Faire appel à des connaissances spécifiques - par le biais d'études géologiques, ou d'encourager les organismes de bassin à mieux intégrer les eaux souterraines et les aquifères dans leur travail

Global databases can be a useful source of data – see IGRAC and UNESCO-IHP's Transboundary Aquifers of the World map (<https://ggis.un-igrac.org>).

Les bases de données mondiales peuvent constituer une source de données utile – voir la carte des aquifères transfrontières du monde préparée l'IGRAC et le PHI de l'UNESCO (<https://ggis.un-igrac.org>).



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What data and information should coordination focus on?

Sur quelles données et informations la coordination doit-elle se focaliser ?

Basic questions to consider are the following:

- Are the **same transboundary river and lakes basins and aquifers** listed by all countries sharing them?
- Are the **same arrangements for transboundary water cooperation** listed?
- Are national reports consistently reporting on whether a river, lake or aquifer is covered by an **operational arrangement**? Do all relevant national reports agree on whether
 - a joint body has been established?
 - data and information is exchanged annually?
 - meetings take place annually?
 - joint or coordinated management plans or a similar instrument is in place?



Les questions fondamentales à prendre en compte sont les suivantes :

- Les **mêmes bassins de cours d'eau et de lacs et aquifères transfrontières** sont-ils recensés par tous les pays qui les partagent ?
- Les **mêmes arrangements de coopération dans le domaine des eaux transfrontières** sont-ils mentionnés ?
- Les rapports nationaux indiquent-ils de manière uniforme si un cours d'eau, un lac ou un aquifère est couvert par un **arrangement opérationnel** ? Tous les rapports nationaux correspondants s'accordent-ils sur le fait :
 - qu'un organe commun a été ou non créé ?
 - que des données et des informations sont échangées chaque année ?
 - que des réunions ont lieu chaque année ?
 - que des plans de gestion conjoints ou coordonnés ou un instrument similaire ont été établis ?

NOTE!

National reports also provide an opportunity for countries to include joint statements on the status of cooperation, express their common views on achievements and challenges, or highlight any differences in opinion. These statements can be added in the free text boxes of specific questions, in the Additional information of Section I, or in Section IV.

À NOTER !

Les rapports nationaux offrent également aux pays l'occasion d'inclure des déclarations conjointes sur l'état de la coopération, d'exprimer leurs points de vue communs concernant les réalisations et les défis, ou de souligner toute divergence d'opinion. Ces déclarations peuvent être ajoutées dans les zones de texte libres des questions spécifiques, dans les Informations complémentaires de la partie I, ou dans la partie IV.



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UN WATER

INTEGRATED MONITORING INITIATIVE FOR SDG 6

SDG INDICATOR 6.5.2 TRANSBOUNDARY WATER COOPERATION

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Opportunities to coordinate with neighboring countries when completing the SDG indicator 6.5.2 national report

Why coordinate?

While SDG indicator 6.5.2 invites countries to submit national reports, 6.5.2 coordination between countries sharing the same transboundary river(s), lake(s) or aquifer(s) has several benefits, including the following:

- Identifying different views on cooperation in a basin, e.g. the operationality criteria, can provide a basis for discussing and agreeing on joint action. This has proven especially beneficial in relation to transboundary aquifers, where commonly agreed data may be absent. Even agreeing 'informal' criteria can help raise the profile of an aquifer, address confusion and in turn help attract external assistance.
- Help countries reach a common understanding on basic data or the need to address gaps
- Improving the overall quality of 6.5.2 data
- Providing consistent data for the entire basin leads to better analysis of 6.5.2 data at basin, regional and global levels and offers more informed and persuasive policy recommendations.
- Particularly in the absence of a joint body, evaluate cooperation and its outcomes within a river basin or aquifer, jointly reviewing Section II of the report and using it as a checklist. This in turn may:
 - allow countries to reach a common understanding of the challenges, opportunities and priorities for the river, lake or aquifer; and
 - provide an opportunity for countries to set common targets, such as the development of a new or revised agreement, the establishment or renovation of a joint institutional body, or the adoption of a basin management plan.

NOTE! The SDG indicator 6.5.2 asks countries to report at the national level. While coordination is useful and should be encouraged, countries may ultimately have different views on their transboundary waters and may therefore submit different data and information.

Why the focus on coordination now?

Good examples of co-ordination between countries exist from the 2017 and 2020 data drives such as the experience of Sweden (see text box). Other examples include the countries of the Danube and Rhine where the respective basin commissions played a key role in coordinating inputs of riparian countries. However, in other cases it has been difficult to provide basin level analysis on 6.5.2 due to gaps and discrepancies in the national reports. Common discrepancies include countries not listing the same rivers, lakes or aquifers as shared, countries not listing the same arrangements, and countries not agreeing whether or not the four criteria for operationality have been met. These discrepancies arise due to the use of different data sources or calculation methods. The hidden nature of aquifers adds complexity and the identification, delineation and/or recognition of their transboundary nature can vary greatly.

6.5.2 Coordination – the Swedish Experience

Preparation of the Sweden's 2nd national report was coordinated by the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management (SAMM). Steps taken to coordinate includes the completion of the draft questionnaire by a working group at SAMM; consultative meetings held online with neighbouring countries (Norway and Finland); consultations with administrative boards of countries with transboundary waters on section II; consultations with the Finnish-Swedish transboundary river commission on section II.

For an arrangement for transboundary water cooperation to be operational a joint body must be established, data and information must be exchanged, and meetings must take place at least once a year, and a joint or coordinated management plan or similar instrument must be in place.

How can countries coordinate: a checklist

National 6.5.2 focal point / coordinator

- exchange draft reports with neighboring countries sharing transboundary waters
- consult past reports of neighboring countries sharing transboundary waters?
- report on the coordinated actions undertaken in the national report

Secretariat or Country representative of an RBO or joint mechanism, including bilateral commissions

- identify next meeting of RBO or similar where to include 6.5.2 reporting as an agenda item, or convene a dedicated meeting
- review section II of the reporting template for your basin and liaise with countries

Member of a National Geological Survey with information

- ensure about the proper integration of transboundary aquifers in the national reporting, especially when technical projects between countries to characterize transboundary aquifers took place

Member of organization, NGO or other institution involved in transboundary water cooperation

- based on mandate, promote co-ordination amongst countries, particularly where RBOs or similar do not exist, by running workshops or other events on 6.5.2

* All 6.5.2 national reports are available at <https://unstats.un.org/indicators/indicator-652>

Transboundary aquifers: a special case

Transboundary aquifers require special attention as they are often more complex than river and lake basins to evaluate. The lack of recognition of their transboundary nature by countries adds further complexity. To effectively assess the indicator in relation to transboundary aquifers, it is necessary to involve specific knowledge, such as through geological surveys or encourage RBOs to better integrate groundwater and aquifers into their work. Global databases can be a useful source of data – see IGRAC and UNESCO-IHP's Transboundary Aquifers of the World map (<https://www.unesco.org/en/igrac>)

What data and information should coordination focus on?

There are benefits in countries coordinating on all SDG 6.5.2 data and information concerning a particular river, lake and aquifer, i.e. sections I and II of the report. However, even coordinating and consistently presenting core data and information will significantly improve opportunities for analysis of SDG indicator 6.5.2 at the basin level. Basic questions to consider are the following:

- Are the same transboundary river and lakes basins and aquifers listed by all countries sharing them?
- Are the same arrangements for transboundary water cooperation listed?
- Are national reports consistently reporting on whether a river, lake or aquifer is covered by an operational arrangement? Do all relevant national reports agree on whether:
 - a joint body has been established?
 - data and information is exchanged annually?
 - meetings take place annually?
 - joint or coordinated management plans or a similar instrument is in place?

NOTE! National reports often provide an opportunity for countries to include joint statements on the status of negotiations, progress, common views on achievements and challenges, or highlight any differences in opinion. These statements can be added in the free text boxes of specific questions, in the Additional information of Section I, or in Section II.

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