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SDG INDICATOR 6.5.2 ON TRANSBOUNDARY WATER COOPERATION: THIRD CYCLE OF REPORTING (2023)

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Overview

- SDG indicator 6.5.2 and Integrated Monitoring Initiative for SDG 6
- Results of two monitoring exercises in 2017 and 2020
- SDG 6.5.2 Value calculation
- Guidance material
- Template for the 3rd reporting exercise (structure)
- 3rd Reporting exercise 2023-24
- Tips and advice for reporting



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**INTEGRATED MONITORING
 INITIATIVE FOR SDG 6**



INDICATORS	CUSTODIANS
6.1.1 Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services	WHO, UNICEF
6.2.1 Proportion of population using (a) safely managed sanitation services and (b) a hand-washing facility with soap and water	WHO, UNICEF
6.3.1 Proportion of domestic and industrial wastewater flows safely treated	WHO, UN-Habitat, UNSD
6.3.2 Proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality	UNEP
6.4.1 Change in water-use efficiency over time	FAO
6.4.2 Level of water stress: freshwater withdrawal as a proportion of available freshwater resources	FAO
6.5.1 Degree of integrated water resources management	UNEP
6.5.2 Proportion of transboundary basin area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation	UNECE, UNESCO
6.6.1 Change in the extent of water-related ecosystems over time	UNEP, Ramsar
6.a.1 Amount of water- and sanitation-related official development assistance that is part of a government-coordinated spending plan	WHO, OECD
6.b.1 Proportion of local administrative units with established and operational policies and procedures for participation of local communities in water and sanitation management	WHO, OECD

SDG indicator 6.5.2



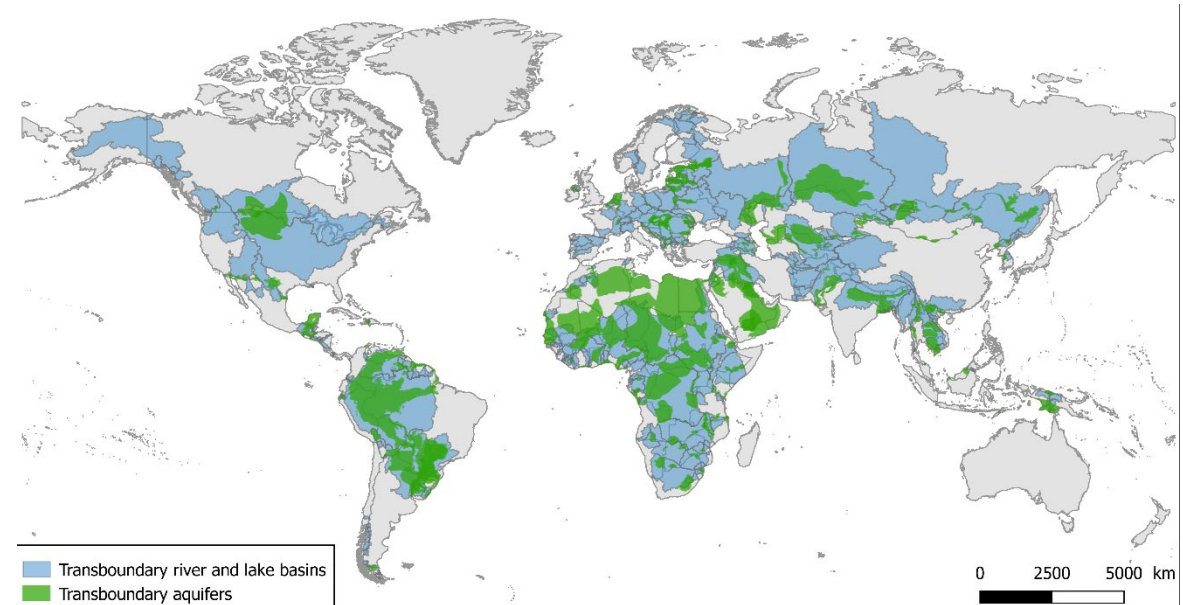
Target 6.5: By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate.



Indicator 6.5.1 Degree of IWRM



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



Most of the world's water resources are shared => cooperation required

The only SDG indicator on transboundary cooperation => important for other natural resources

Results from 2017 and 2020 reporting rounds



- **Increase in response received and high level of engagement**

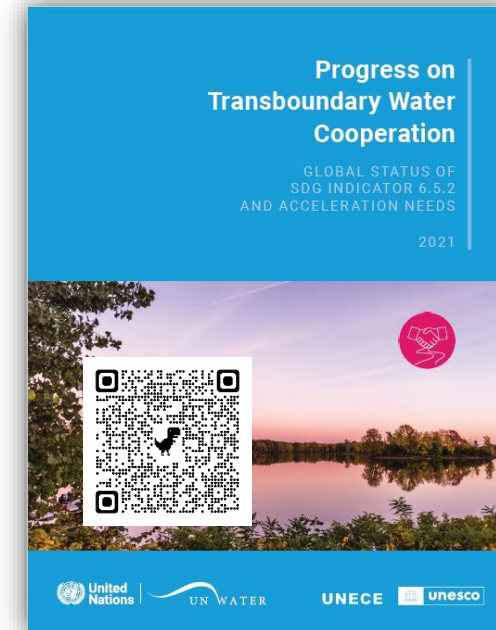
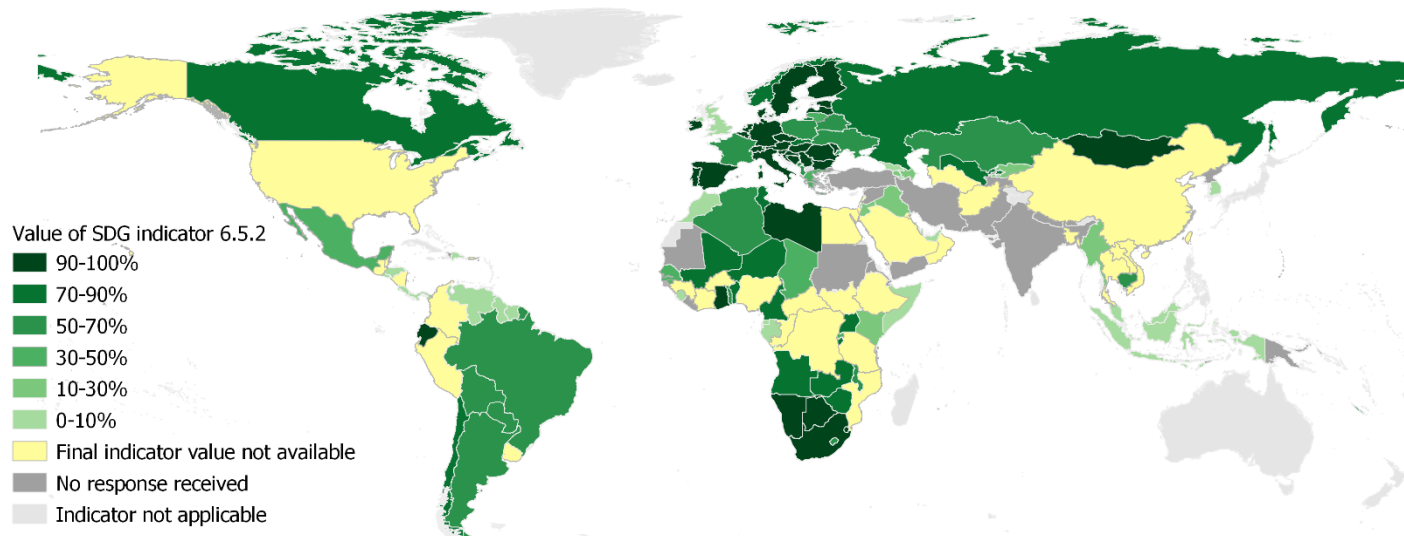
129 out of 153 countries submitted reports in 2020 (108 in 2017)

58 % average national percentage of transboundary basins covered by operational arrangements (103 out of 153 countries in 2022)

- **Not on track**

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

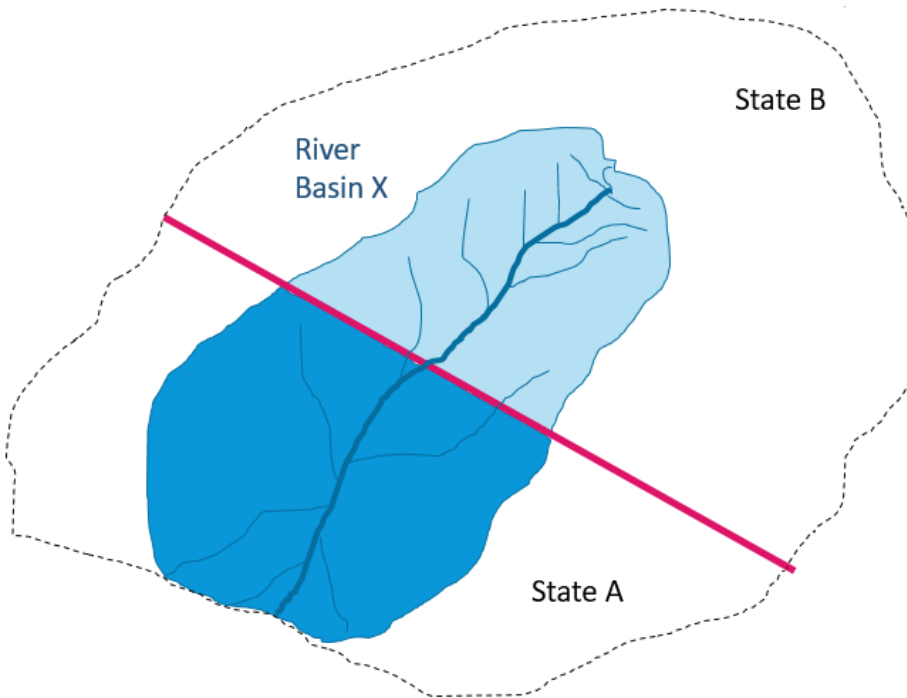
Progress must be accelerated to ensure that all transboundary basins are covered by operational arrangements by 2030



Calculation of the indicator value

2 main elements:

- spatial coverage of transboundary basin areas located in a State;
- a determination of the extent to which these areas are covered by **operational arrangements** for water cooperation



What is an 'operational' arrangement?

- Treaty, convention, agreement or other formal arrangement
- **Joint body for transboundary water cooperation**
- **Annual meetings**
- **Annual exchange of data and information**
- **Adoption of joint/coordinated water management plan, or joint objectives**

NOTE!

Two components necessary for indicator value

- Transboundary River and lake basins
- Transboundary aquifers

Aquifer component:

- Directly (= a dedicated arrangement about the aquifer)
- Groundwater / Aquifers included in river basin/ upper level (binational) arrangement



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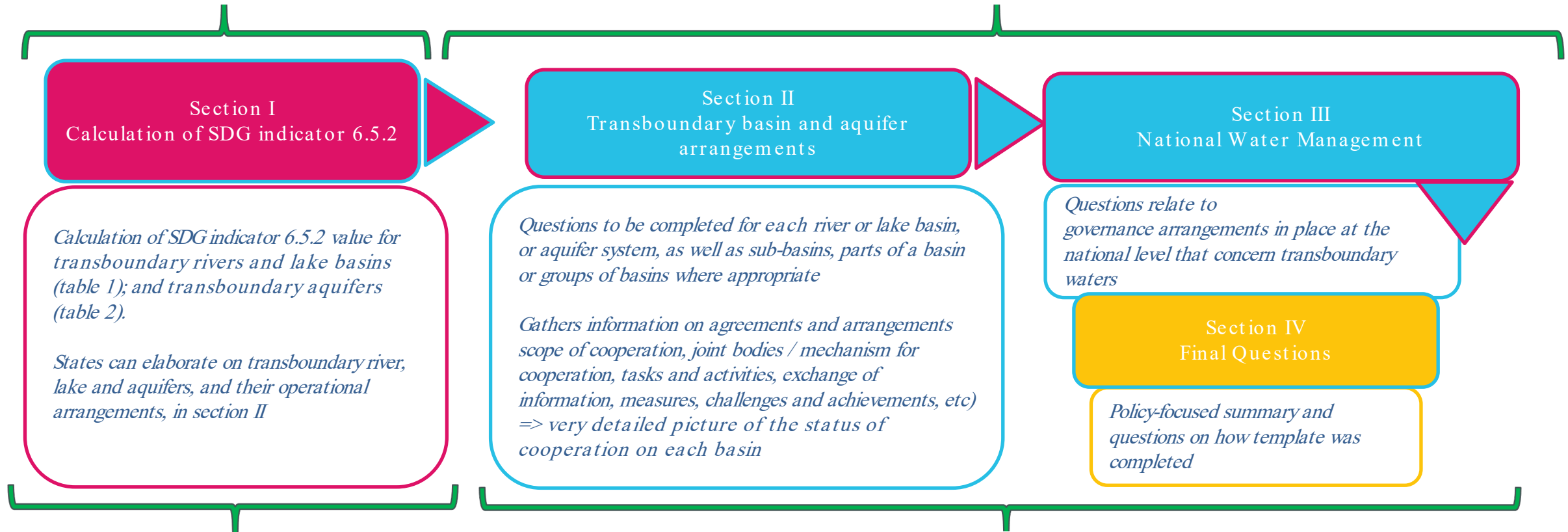
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Structure and content of national report on SDG indicator 6.5.2

SDG 6.5.2 calculation

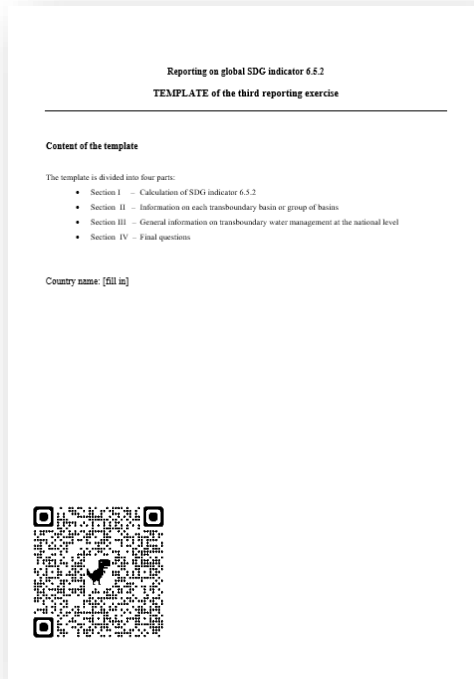
Additional information to explain, substantiate and complement indicator data



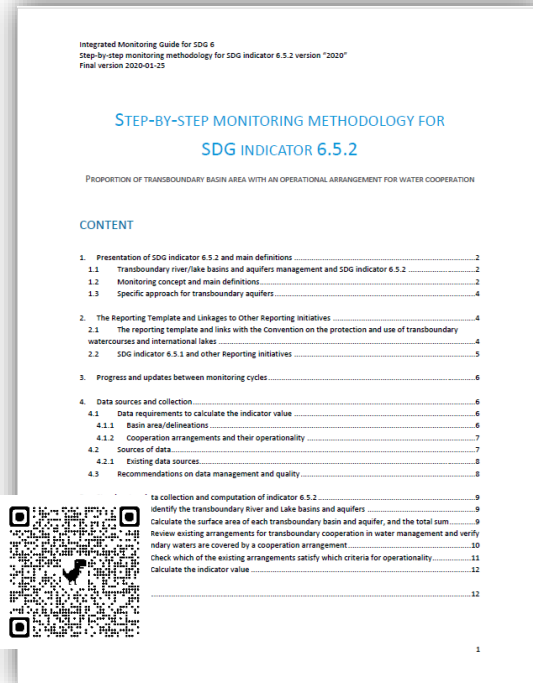
Step-by-Step methodology contains guidance to completing this section

Guide to reporting contains guidance to completing these sections

Guidance documents for national reports on SDG indicator 6.5.2



Template for the 3rd reporting exercise



Step-by-step methodology for the calculation of the value of SDG indicator 6.5.2 '2020 version'



Guide to reporting under the Water Convention and as contribution to SDG indicator 6.5.2



Opportunities to coordinate with neighboring countries when completing the national report





3rd Reporting 2023 - objectives

- Information on indicator 6.5.2 is collected every 3 years by UNECE and UNESCO (as for 6.5.1 and other SDG6 indicators) - **Deadline to submit the 3rd report - 30 June 2023**
- 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



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 operability criteria = possibility to promote cooperation on aquifers in concerned basins.



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Tips and advice

- **Ministers** responsible for transboundary waters officially addressed by UNECE and UNESCO - Reports signed by competent authority
- Nomination of a **key person or organization** responsible for coordinating reporting, identification of **stakeholders, sources of information, engagement of NSOs, coordination with 6.5.1 reporting focal points**
- Build on **previous reports**, indicate links to more general information, such as web pages of commissions, projects
- Interact with **custodian agencies** (advice, questions, draft report)
 - Consider submitting the **draft of the report** to UNECE or UNESCO for comments before formal submission
- **Coordination of replies**



Why coordinating the replies?

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



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



Improve the overall quality of 6.5.2 data



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

- allow countries to reach a common understanding of the challenges, opportunities and priorities
- provide an opportunity for countries to set common targets

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.



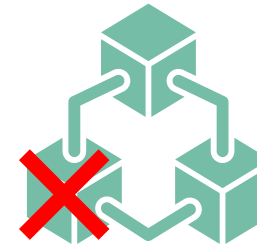
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Why the focus on coordination now?

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



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 operationality have been met.

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



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

- enquire 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

Thanks for listening!



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INTEGRATED MONITORING
INITIATIVE FOR SDG 6

SDG INDICATOR 6.5.2
TRANSBOUNDARY WATER COOPERATION

6.5.2 Helpdesk



UNECE:

transboundary_water_cooperation_reporting@un.org



UNESCO:

transboundary_water_cooperation_reporting@unesco.org

Further information on Indicator 6.5.2

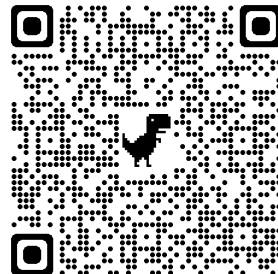
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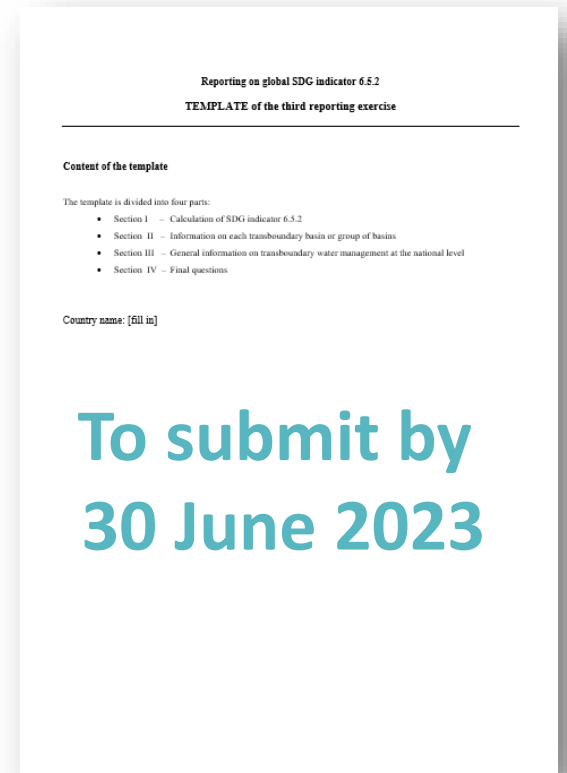
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UN-Water SDG 6
Monitoring



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