

Water Convention

Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems Nexus

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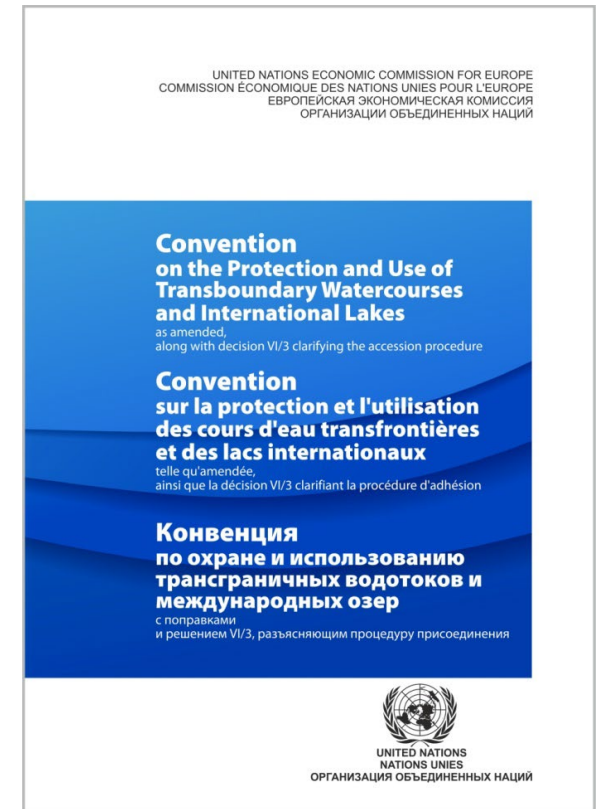
The 1992 Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes

Protects and ensures the quantity, quality and sustainable use of transboundary water resources by facilitating cooperation.

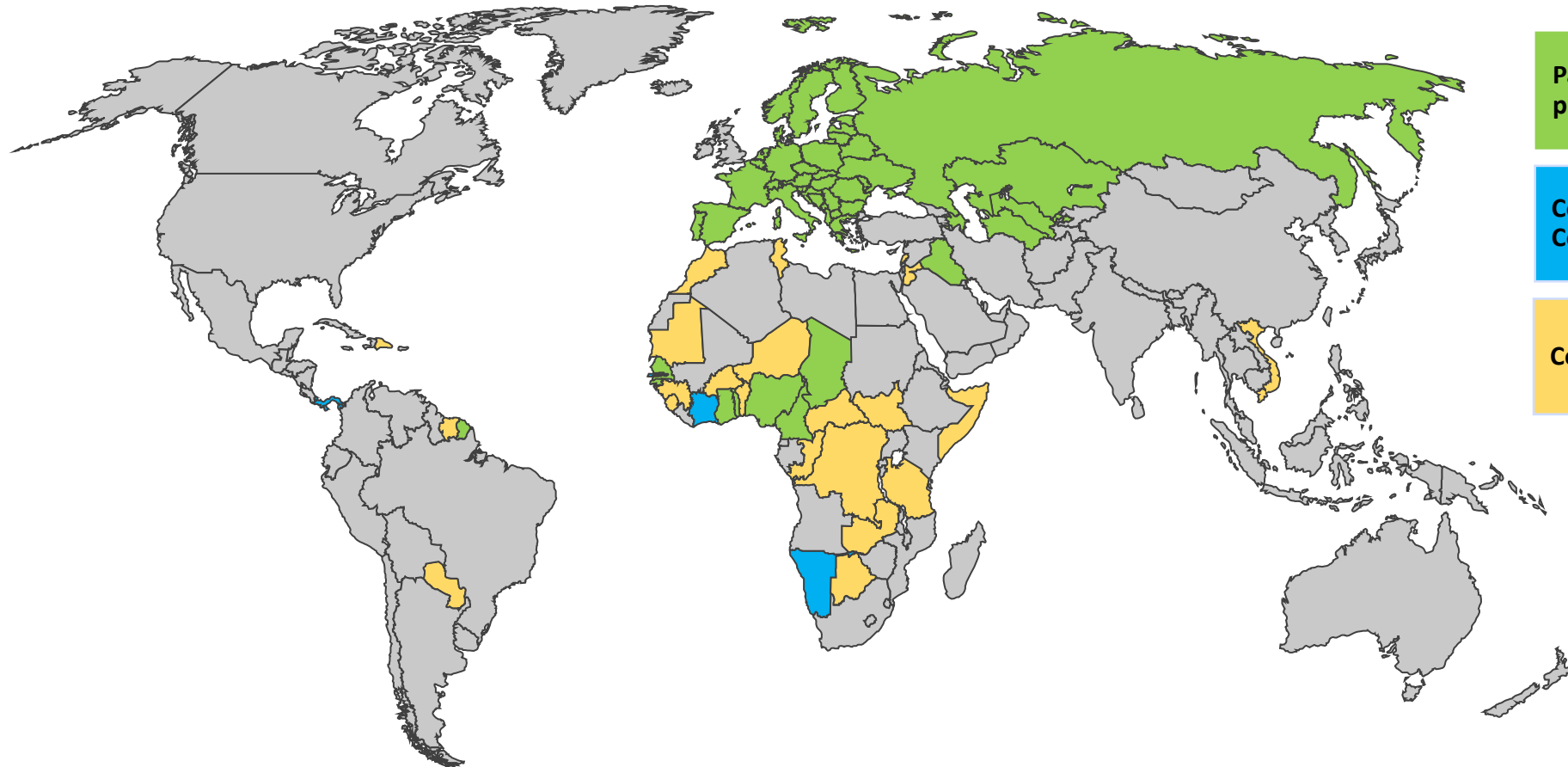
Main pillars: 1) principle of **prevention**, 2) principle of **reasonable and equitable utilization**, and 3) principle of **cooperation**.

Unique role as a **legal and institutional framework** for improving water cooperation in transboundary basins

Open to all UN member states. Currently **49** parties. Recent accessions by Nigeria, Iraq (2023) and Cameroon (2022).



Globalization of the Water Convention



Parties to the Convention (49): newest parties Nigeria and Iraq (March 2023)

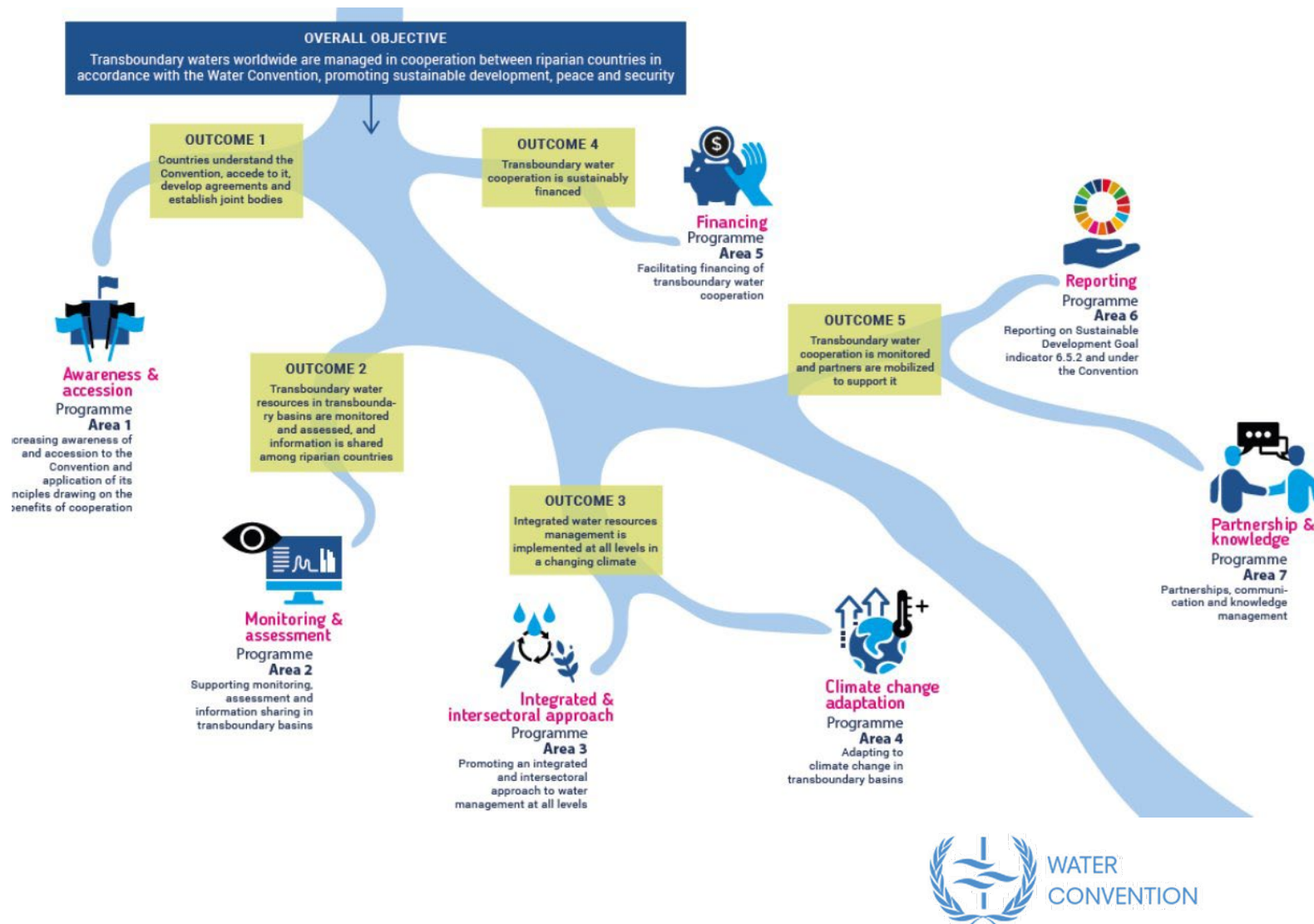
Countries close to accession: The Gambia, Côte d'Ivoire, Namibia, Panama

Countries in the process of accession (>20)

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

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

Water Convention Programme of Work 2022-2024



Adopted by the 9th Meeting of the Parties in Tallinn (2022).

Supports the implementation of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030.

Areas linked to forestry:

- Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems Nexus
- Climate Change Adaptation

Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems Nexus Approach to Transboundary Cooperation

- Engaging different sectors (including forestry) into transboundary dialogue
- Task Force on the Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems Nexus
- Participatory assessment methodology – joint identification of issues and solutions
- Sustainable natural resources management Nexus Cluster of UNECE
- Relevant publications: Methodology (2018), Renewable Energy and Nexus in a transboundary context (2020), Nexus Solutions and Investments (2021)



Examples of Water Convention Nexus Work in the ECE Region

Alazani/Ganykh River Basin (Azerbaijan and Georgia)

Issues in focus: Rural/agricultural development, flash floods, hydropower, energy trade, erosion and sedimentation



Drin River Basin (Albania, Kosovo*, Montenegro and North Macedonia)

*UN administered territory under Security Council resolution 1244, 1999

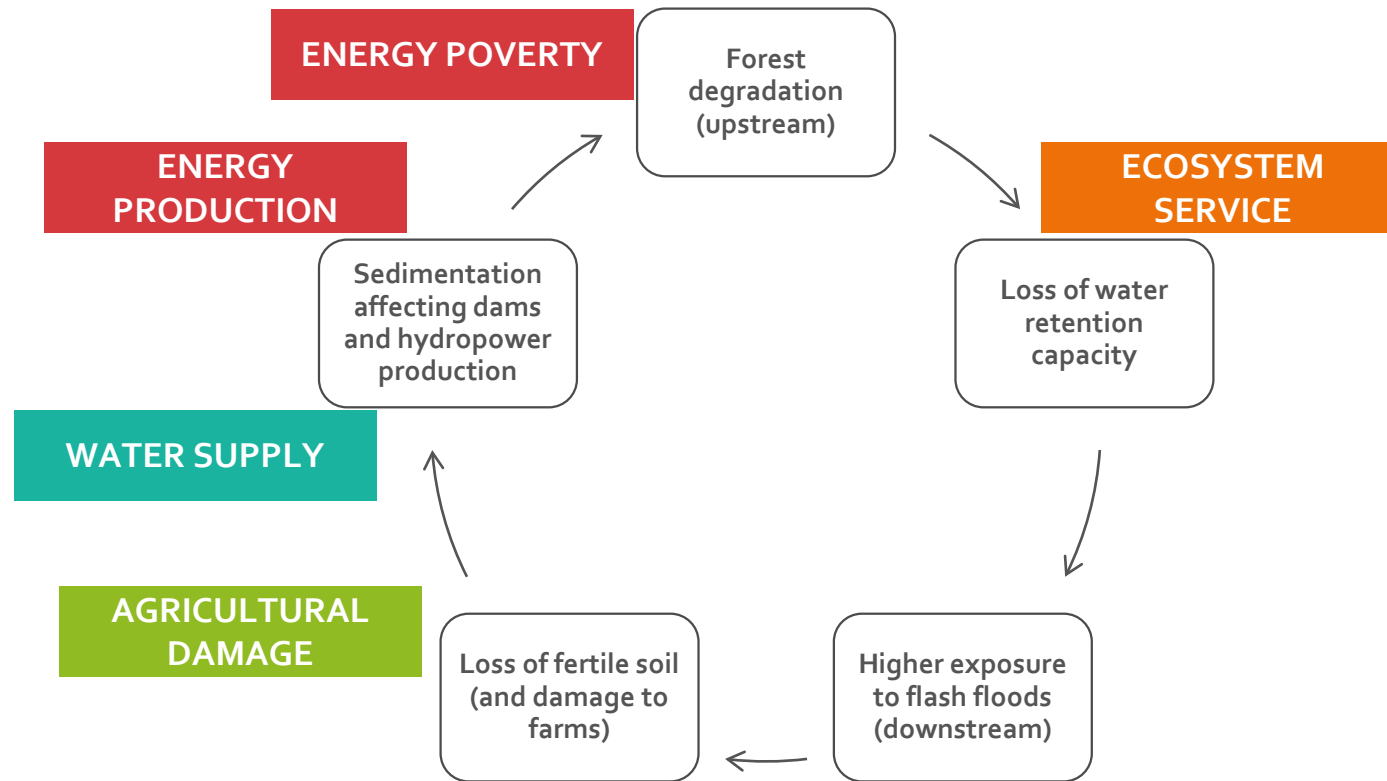
Issues in focus: Hydropower, floods, biomass for energy and sustainable forestry, rural/agricultural development

Drina River Basin (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia)

Issues in focus: Hydropower, renewable energy, rural/agricultural development, water quality, benefits of cooperation



Example from the Alazani/Ganykh Basin



Policy action

- Facilitate access to modern energy sources and energy trade
- Control illegal wood harvesting

Benefits

- reduced erosion, to hydrological regime, to ecosystems
- reduced impacts from flash floods

Impact

50 000 new consumers in 178 villages across 8 municipalities of Kakheti in Georgia connected to the gas network (UNECE, 2021)

Example from the Western Balkans – Drin and Drina

- Threatened **environmental assets**
 - Forest degradation is widespread
 - Forests essential for both climate mitigation and adaptation
- Closer look at **sustainable bioenergy**
 - Air pollution a major social issue deeply linked to energy poverty
 - Biomass often neglected in Renewable Energy plans; efficiency measures needed
- Need to frame it into rural development plans with sustainable agriculture, eco-tourism and distributed REs including bioenergy

Enhancing Adaptive Capacity in the Transboundary Dniester and Chu-Talas Basins

Inclusion of forests

- Part of the strategic basin documents on transboundary water management and adaptation to climate change (Chu-Talas TDA and SAP, Dniester Strategic Framework on Adaptation and Implementation Plan)
- Pilot reforestation measures to adapt to climate change (floods, droughts) in the Chu-Talas and Lower Dniester:
 - Ecologically valuable and local species
 - Economic benefits for the local population
 - Complemented by awareness raising



Opportunities for Cooperation with UNECE/FAO Working Party

- ✓ Statistics, review of recommendations, contacts and experts

Possibilities

- UN level: strengthening partnership on transboundary management / cooperation on shared forest and water resources.
- Promoting integrated water resources management in transboundary basins

Up to four thematic sessions on different aspects of Integrated Water Resources Management will be organized on the margins of intergovernmental meetings of the Convention.

Possibility for interventions during

- *Global workshop on funding and financing transboundary cooperation (Geneva, 5-6 Dec 2023)*
- *Task Force on Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems Nexus (Geneva, 7-8 Dec 2023)*

More information: <https://unece.org/environment-policy/water>



Thank you



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More information: <https://unece.org/environment-policy/water/monitoring-assessment-and-information-sharing-transboundary-basins>



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