

18th meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources
Management (IWRM) under the Water Convention, 19-21 June 2023

Item 11

Third Reporting Exercise

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Overview

- Integrated Monitoring Initiative for SDG 6 – third data drive
- SDG indicator 6.5.2 & results of the 2nd reporting round
- Third reporting exercise 2023/24
- Coordination of the replies
- Capacity-building and support activities

IMI-SDG 6: 2023 Data Drive

Reporting on SDG 6.5.2 is part of UN Water's
Integrated Monitoring Initiative for SDG6 (IMI-SDG6)

Objectives for the third data drive:



- Close data gaps, improve data quality
- Enable analysis of trends and acceleration needs
- Data requests and capacity building support to countries on indicators **6.3.1, 6.3.2, 6.4.1, 6.4.2, 6.5.1, 6.5.2 and 6.6.1.**

Increased focus on:



- **Water basin work** to pilot approaches for data collection, reporting, analysis and planning at basin level; and to develop SDG 6 basin map for use across SDG 6.



- **Gender contextualization work** to pilot and scale up tool for countries to identify what gender information they need to gather, based on policy needs.



Support planned to encourage coordination and collaboration across countries, including:

- Cross-cutting communication, kick-off webinar, country focal point directory etc.

Overview available at:

<https://www.unwater.org/news/2023-data-drive>



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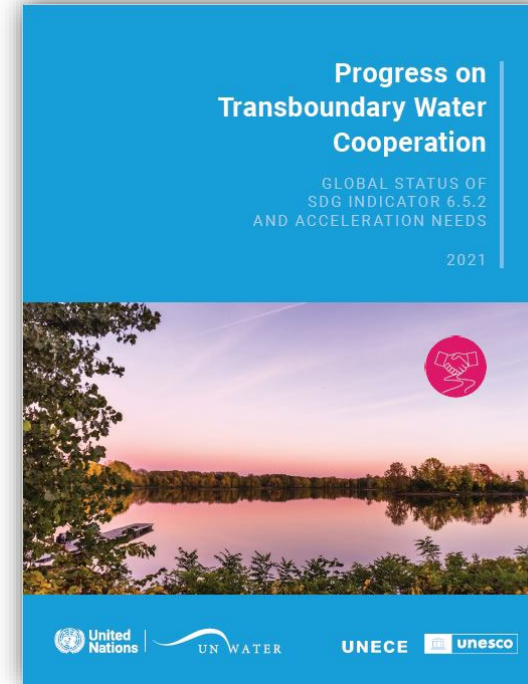


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SDG 6.5.2 indicator monitoring process & reporting under the Convention



- Data on indicator 6.5.2 collected **every 3 years** by UNECE and UNESCO (as for other SDG6 indicators):
2017 => 2020 => 2023 => 2026 => 2029
- Parties report under the Convention and on SDG indicator 6.5.2 through **one template**
- Submitted data is analyzed & used feed into political dialogue at global & regional level
 - HLPF, UN Statistical Division, SDG databases
 - reports on *Progress on transboundary cooperation worldwide*
 - reports on *Progress on cooperation under the Water Convention*
- Reporting results also used to define the future Programme of Work under the Water Convention and feed into the 10th Meeting of the Parties



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SDG INDICATOR 6.5.2
TRANSBOUNDARY WATER COOPERATION

Results of the 2nd reporting 2020/21



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

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

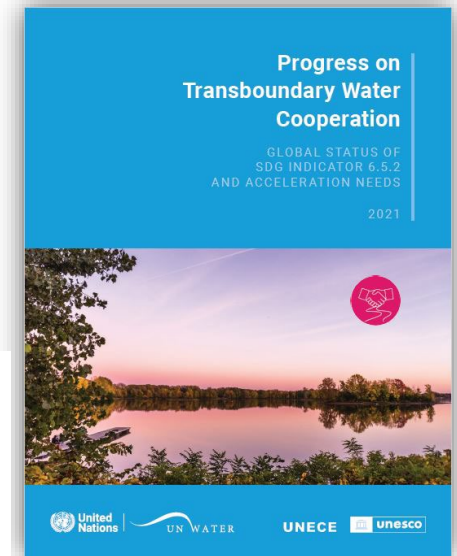
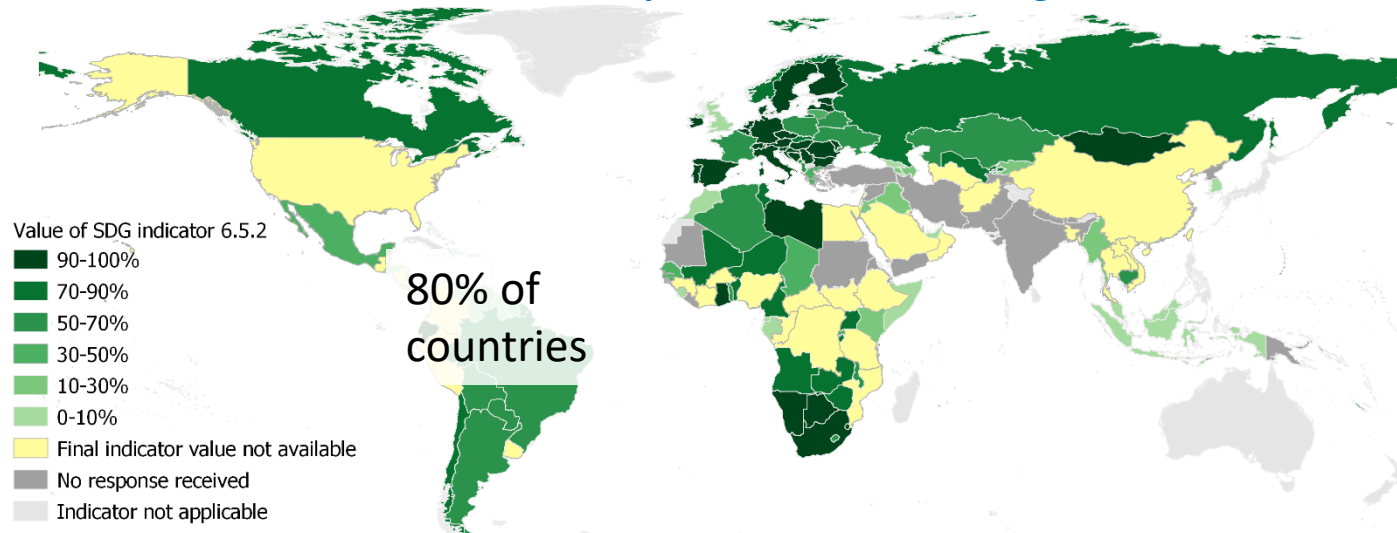
all Parties to the Water Convention responded

- **Not on track**

Only 24 countries report **all** transboundary surface waters and groundwaters covered by **operational arrangements**. And 32 have 90 % or more of their transboundary waters covered.

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



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Third reporting round 2023

Progress to date & use of data



- Request to report for the 3rd exercise sent to countries in March 2023
- As of 20 June 2023:
 - ✓ 21 responses (incl. 10 draft reports)
 - ✓ Communication with 90+ countries
- Data collection and validation in 2023, and analysis in late 2023-early 2024
- Reported data to be used to prepare a new report on the *progress on transboundary cooperation worldwide*, as well as a report on *progress among Convention parties*
- Submitted data to be eventually integrated in an online reporting system and portal



Deadline to submit national reports:

30 June 2023

March 2023

February 2024

Data requests sent to countries

Support to countries

Receive country data

Data validation

Submission of data to the UN Statistical Commission / global reports

Coordination of the replies

Discussing responses with riparian countries



We recommend, where possible, coordinating responses at the level of basins and arrangements:

- Look at opportunities to share draft national report with other riparian countries
- Use existing joint bodies or mechanisms, or regular meetings at bilateral, basin or regional level for co-ordination

Sometimes alignment might not be possible due to differing perspectives, especially in relation to the degree of implementation of an arrangement (e.g. section II, questions 4-13).
(See Guide to Reporting, p.7)

! For more information, see:

[Document on the opportunities to coordinate with neighbouring countries when completing SDG 6.5.2 national report](#)
(available on the reporting webpage)

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:

- Help countries reach a common understanding on basic data or the need to address gaps**
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 nomenclature can help raise the profile of an aquifer, address confusion and in turn help attract external assistance.
- Improve 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 reinvigoration 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 arrangement(s), and countries not agreeing whether or not the four criteria for operationality have been met.¹ 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 (SAMWM). Steps taken to co-ordinate includes the completion of the draft questionnaire by a working group at SAMWM, 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.

¹ 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.

a checklist

as sharing transboundary waters
aring transboundary waters?
the national report

RBO or joint mechanism, including bilateral

include 6.5.2 reporting as an agenda item, or convene
ur basin and liaise with countries

Information

day aquifers in the national reporting, especially when
ize transboundary aquifers took place

n involved in transboundary water cooperation
ngst countries, particularly where RBOs or similar do
on 6.5.2

ould coordination focus on?

SDG 6.5.2 data and information concerning a particular river.
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 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.

Helpdesk

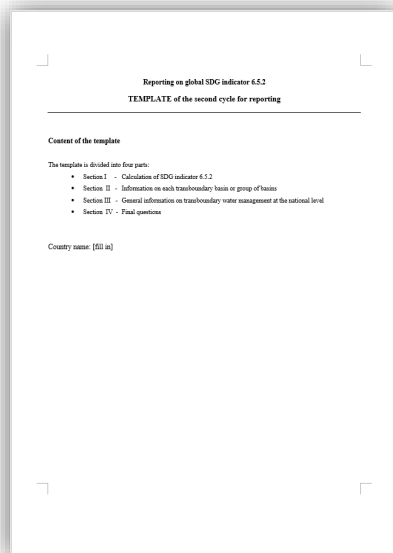
UNECE/UNESCO
transboundary_water_cooperation_reporting@un.org / transboundary_water_cooperation_reporting@unesco.org

Webpages on reporting – Indicator 6.5.2

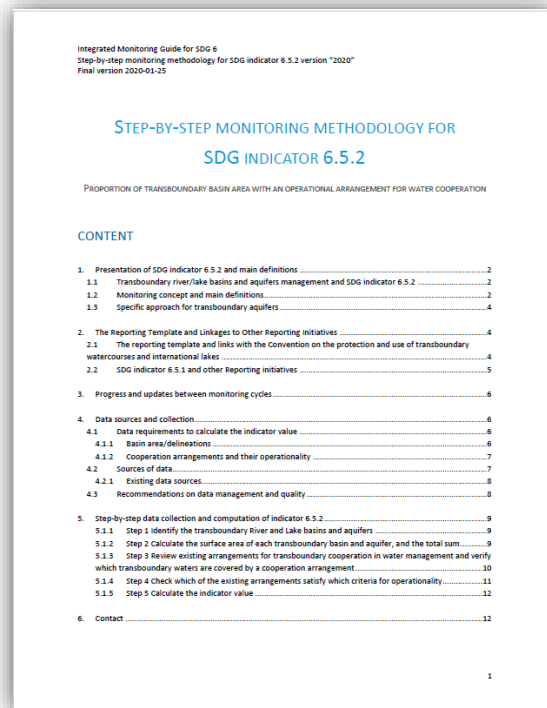
UNEP
UNESCO
UN-Water
Global Water Partnership

Social media:
@UNECE_Water / @UNESCO_Water
@UNECEWater / @UNESCO
@UNECEWater / @UNESCO

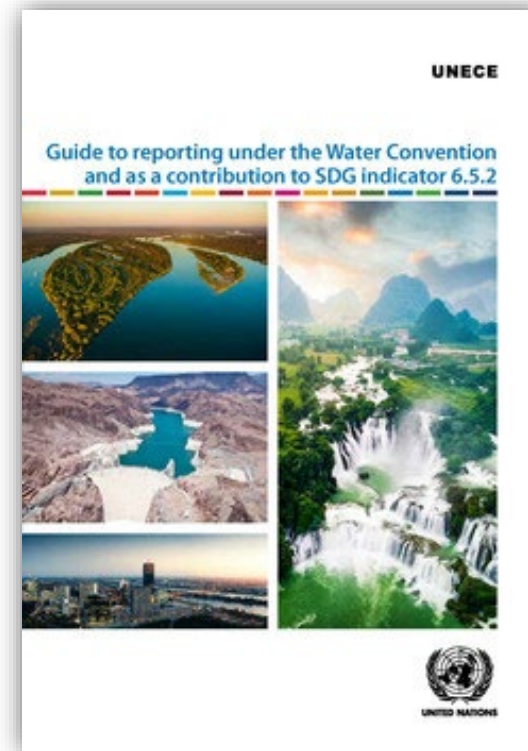
Other guidance documents prepared by the co-custodians



**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**

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

Aquifer component: data gathering and indicator calculation

- Collecting data from relevant (national) source; ministries, geological surveys, etc.
 - First step: identification / existence of a transboundary aquifer;
 - Second step: delineation and calculation of the aquifer area.
- Possibility to use the Transboundary Aquifers World Map (new version 2021)
<https://ggis.un-igrac.org/view/tba>
- Flexibility:
 - General delineation;
 - Strip at each side of the border where transboundary impacts are plausible.



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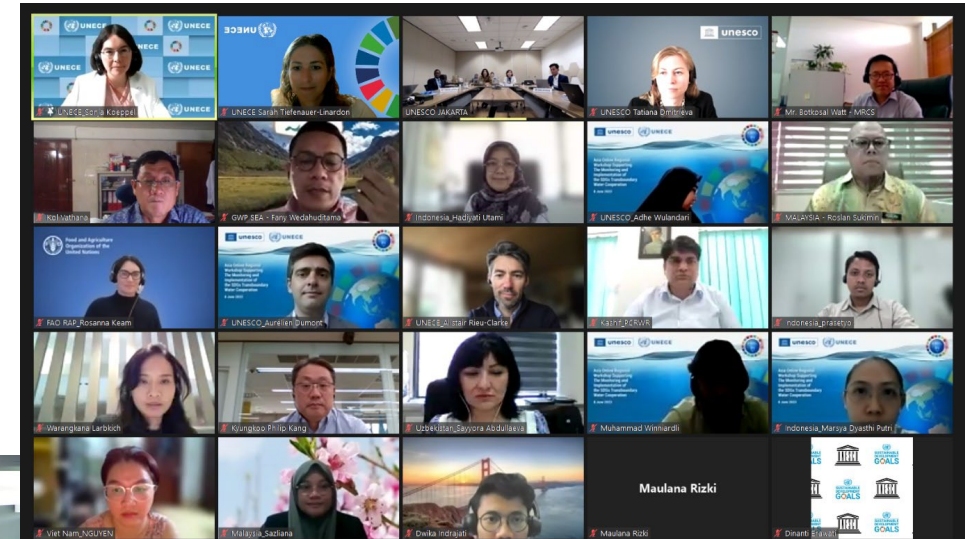


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Activities related to SDG 6.5.2.

- Provided inputs on SDG 6.5.2 to UN regional commissions in preparation for the UN 2023 Water Conference
- Participation and/or organization of **global** and **regional** events, workshops, webinars
- Support for the third data drive in 2023:
 - Overall SDG6 outreach
 - Global webinars
 - Latin American, Arab, Asia-Pacific regional webinars/workshops, in cooperation with partners
 - Countries discussion
 - Review of draft reports
 - Responses to countries' queries



Thank you!

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https://unece.org/environmental-policy/water/transboundary_water_cooperation_reporting

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



EMAILS

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RESOURCES

<https://unece.org/guidance-materials-and-information-countries>
<https://sdg6data.org/en/indicator/6.5.2>



Appendix

Countries that have responded to the invitation to report on SDG indicator 6.5.2:
(as of 20.06.2023)

Andorra
Armenia
Germany
Guinea-Bissau
Iraq
Kenya
Kuwait
Lebanon
Liberia
Lithuania
Luxembourg
Mongolia
Myanmar
Portugal
Qatar
Russian Federation
Senegal
South Africa