

18th meeting of the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment, 17-18 October 2023

# Item 7. Gathering feedback on the upcoming publication: Good Practices and Lessons Learned in Transboundary Data Sharing

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## 2. The monitoring and assessment context

### Rationale:

- Data are needed to take informed decisions – need for monitoring
- Sharing of data helps to find common ground

### Lesson 1. Use basin management planning as a trigger to develop monitoring and data-sharing systems

- Case study 1. Sharing of information between Chile and Argentina
- Case study 2. Governance and management of the Stampriet Transboundary Aquifer System (STAS)

### Lesson 2. Ensure political support for the monitoring and data-sharing system

- Case study 3. Ganga/Ganges Water Sharing Treaty
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## 2. The monitoring and assessment context

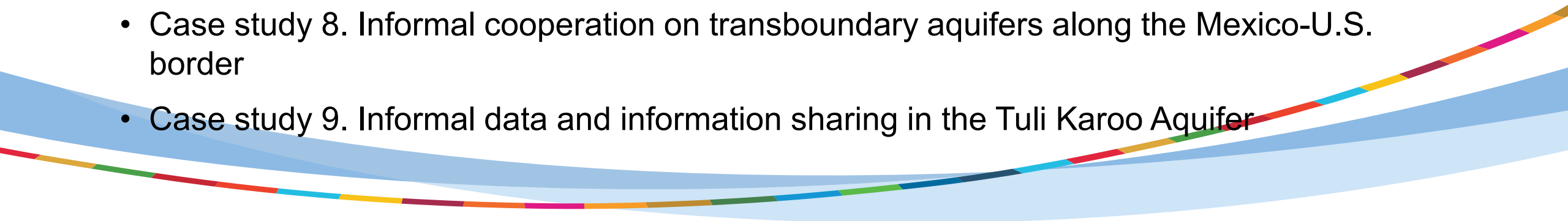
### Lesson 3. Embrace an open data approach to water data access

- Case study 4. The Amazon Regional Observatory
- Case study 5. Open data access in South Africa and The Gambia

### Lesson 4. Ensure clear mandates for data-sharing at bilateral or basin level

- Case study 6. Legal mandates for data and information sharing in the Aral Sea basin
- Case study 7. Buzi, Pungwe and Save Basins: The Bupusa Data Sharing Protocol

### Lesson 5. In the absence of a formal agreement, informal cooperation can still take place

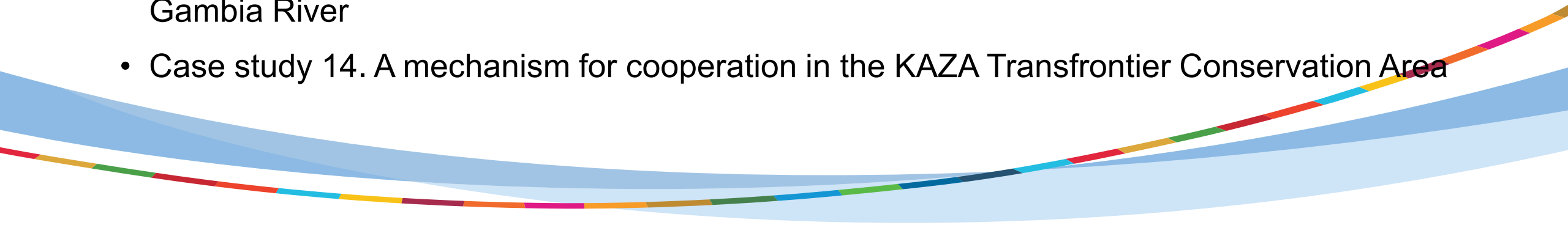
- Case study 8. Informal cooperation on transboundary aquifers along the Mexico-U.S. border
  - Case study 9. Informal data and information sharing in the Tuli Karoo Aquifer
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## 2. The monitoring and assessment context

Lesson 6. Ensure adequate and continuous financing for monitoring and data-sharing

- Case study 10. Financing sharing of data in the Sava River Basin
- Case study 11. Financing of the OKACOM Data Sharing Procedure

Lesson 7. Use existing RBO and non-RBO institutions and mechanisms for transboundary cooperation to the extent possible

- Case study 12. Developing cooperation on the Ocotepeque-Citalá Transboundary Aquifer (OCTA)
  - Case study 13. Extending the mandate of the Organization for the Development of the Gambia River
  - Case study 14. A mechanism for cooperation in the KAZA Transfrontier Conservation Area
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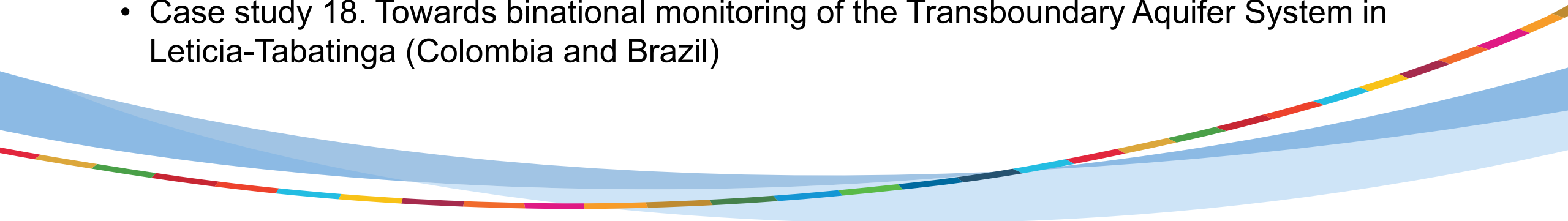
## 2. The monitoring and assessment context

Lesson 8. Create a specific working group responsible for monitoring as part of a joint commission's institutional framework

- Case study 15. Regional Working Group for the Senegalo-Mauritanian Aquifer Basin (SMAB)
- Case study 16. Working Group 'Hydrology' of the International Meuse Commission
- Case study 17. Data harmonization for the International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine (ICPR)

Lesson 9. Engage key parties, including civil society, NGOs, and the private sector

- Case study 18. Towards binational monitoring of the Transboundary Aquifer System in Leticia-Tabatinga (Colombia and Brazil)

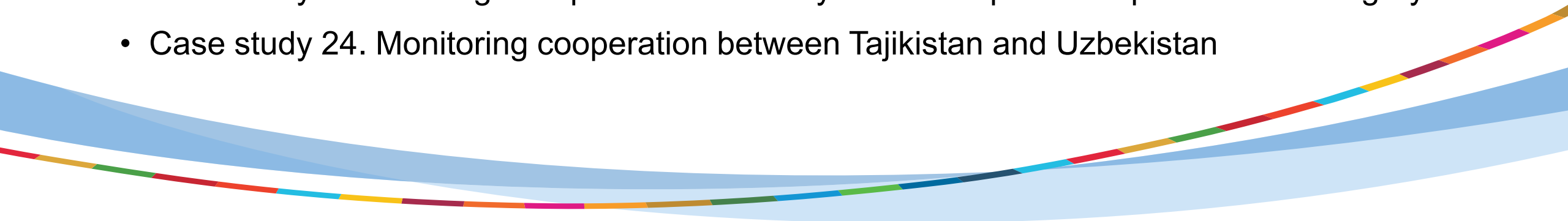


## 2. The monitoring and assessment context

Lesson 10. Ensure an integrated and cross-sectoral approach for the monitoring system

- Case study 19. Environmental priorities in recent transboundary water agreements between Ecuador and Peru
- Case study 20. Zambezi Watercourse Information System
- Case study 21. Sharing of data in the Buzi, Pungwe and Save Basins
- Case study 22. Information sharing for the transboundary groundwater body Karavanke

Lesson 11. Facilitate trust building and collaborative learning

- Case study 23. Building multiple transboundary relationships: the experience of Hungary
  - Case study 24. Monitoring cooperation between Tajikistan and Uzbekistan
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## 2. The monitoring and assessment context

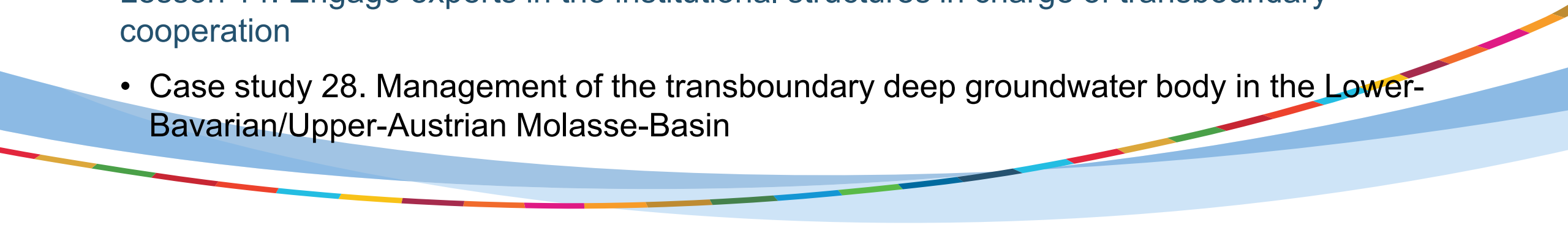
Lesson 12. Support awareness raising and capacity development

- Case study 25. Capacity development by the International Meuse Commission

Lesson 13. Adopt a step-by-step and iterative approach to monitoring in the transboundary basin

- Case study 26. Step-by-step development of the activities of the Kazakhstan-Uzbekistan Working Group on Environmental Protection and Water Quality in the Syr Darya River Basin
- Case study 27. Extension of monitoring in the BIO-PLATEAUX project

Lesson 14. Engage experts in the institutional structures in charge of transboundary cooperation

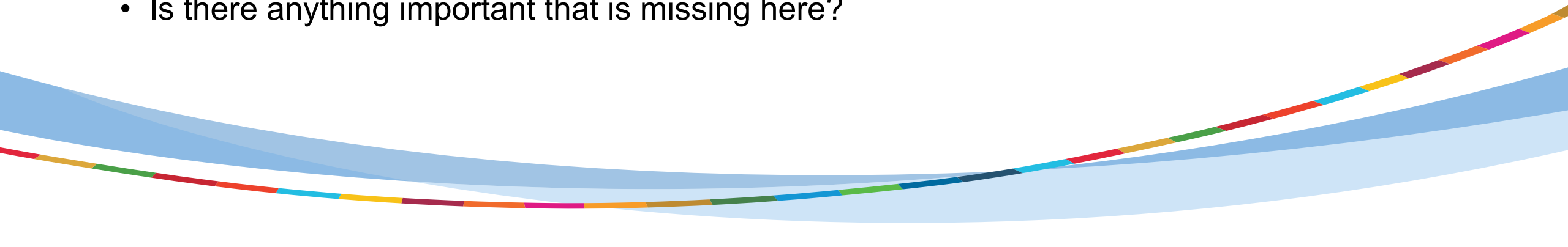
- Case study 28. Management of the transboundary deep groundwater body in the Lower-Bavarian/Upper-Austrian Molasse-Basin
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# 2. The monitoring and assessment context

## Lesson 15. Build on local knowledge

- Case study 29. Promotion of indigenous ancestral knowledge to facilitate transboundary water negotiations in Lake Titicaca

### Questions for discussion

- Text unclear?
  - Lessons / case studies in the right place?
  - Mistakes / new developments?
  - Is there anything important that is missing here?
- 



# 3. Set-up of the data-sharing

## Rationale

- Institutional and procedural agreements are needed
- Capacities are needed to perform monitoring

Lesson 16. Involve decision-makers in identifying the information needs from the beginning to ensure that the process is participatory and integrated with policymaking processes

- Case study 30. Supporting decision-making in the River Plata Basin

Lesson 17. Raise awareness of the importance of acting at a basin-wide scale

- Case study 31. Design and pilot application of a transboundary monitoring scheme for the Prespa lakes basin



# 3. Set-up of the data-sharing

Lesson 18. Ensure collection and sharing of the appropriate and necessary data and information for the entire basin and across the water cycle

- Case study 32. Basin-wide information from the Upper Indus Basin Network (UIBN)
- Case study 33. Pollution prevention in the Meuse and Scheldt River Basins

Lesson 19. Include information on groundwater and other water resources to promote conjunctive water management

- Case study 34. Groundwater information as part of the information sharing in the Gambia River Basin



# 3. Set-up of the data-sharing

Lesson 20. Support cooperation in a more flexible and effective way through inter-agency cooperation programs

- Case study 35. Cooperation through inter-agency programs between hydromets in Central Asia

Lesson 21. Apply citizen science to support collection of information

- Case study 36. Involving citizens in data collection: Drinkable Rivers



# 4. Types of data and information shared

## Rationale

- Data and information on a range of themes is needed for informed decision-making
- Agreement needed on what data is shared

Lesson 22. Agree in the joint bodies to progressively enlarge the types of data and information collected and shared

- Case study 37. Working Group on Environmental Protection on the Chu and Talas River Basins

Lesson 23. Develop procedures how to share data and information on planned measures

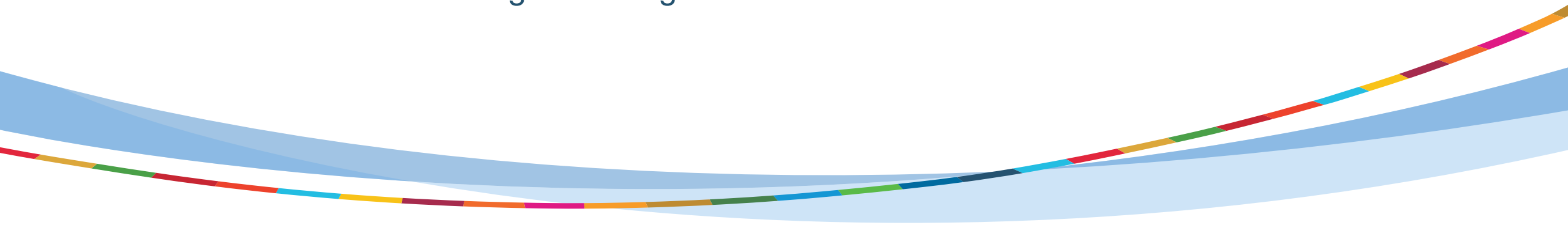
- Case study 38. ZAMCOM procedures for notification of planned measures
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# 4. Types of data and information shared

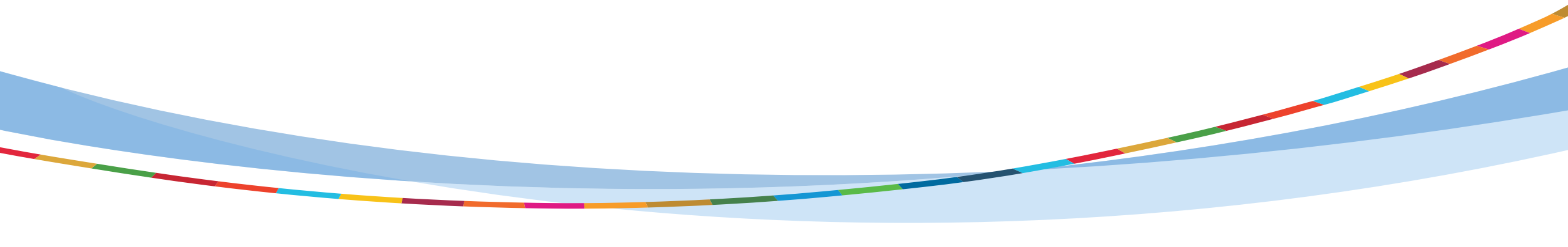
Lesson 24. Develop a transboundary early warning system

- Case study 39. Early warning systems in Georgia
- Case study 40. Development of Early Warning Bulletins in the Syr Darya and Amu Darya River basins
- Case study 41. Emergency pollution notification of transboundary waters shared by Moldova and Ukraine
- Case study 42. Flood forecasting in the Meuse River Basin

Lesson 25. Expand traditional national monitoring to transboundary level and promote the use of innovative monitoring technologies



# Questions for discussion

- Text unclear?
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- 

# 5. Harmonization and quality assurance

## Rationale

- Sharing of data needs comparable data
- Data should be trustworthy
- Agreement needed on the metadata

## Lesson 26. Harmonize data to facilitate comparability between countries

- Case study 43. Development of a hydrological cycle observation system in the Nile River Basin



# 5. Harmonization and quality assurance

## Lesson 27. Ensure regional coordination and technical cooperation

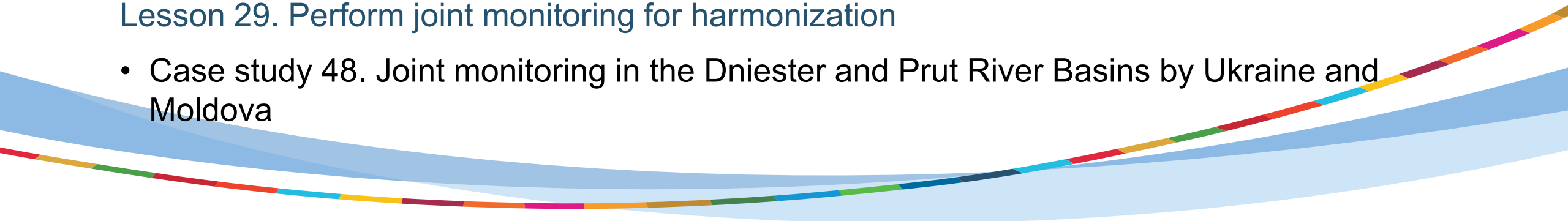
- Case study 44. Cooperation in monitoring of the transboundary basins between Kazakhstan and China
- Case study 45. Coordination and cooperation in the International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine (ICPR)

## Lesson 28. Harmonize and integrate the use of models with measurements

- Case study 46. The OKACOM Decision Support System
- Case study 47. Water balance data reconciliation on Lake Fertő

## Lesson 29. Perform joint monitoring for harmonization

- Case study 48. Joint monitoring in the Dniester and Prut River Basins by Ukraine and Moldova





# 6. Data management, processing, and sharing

## Rationale

- Agreement needed on how data is stored and shared
- Data analysis methods, standards, etc. need agreement

Lesson 30. Technical cooperation can be a springboard for multi-disciplinary cooperation

- Case study 49. Sharing of data and information in the study of the Pretashkent Transboundary Aquifer

Lesson 31. Build a common repository for the data, database, or information system

- Case study 50. The Drin Information Management System

Lesson 32. Use models for assessment, interpretation, and forecasting

- Case study 51. The Rhine Alarm Model
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# 7. Reporting and use of data

## Rationale

- Agreement is needed on how the data is reported and what it is used for

## Lesson 33. Disseminate information to all relevant sectors, ministries, and the public

- Case study 52. Stakeholder participation in the International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine (ICPR)

## Lesson 34. Ensure the sharing of knowledge between technical specialists and decision-makers

- Case study 53. Information system in the Aral Sea Basin and a weekly newsletter
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# 7. Reporting and use of data

Lesson 35. Have the information as collected serve the purpose of better management through cooperation

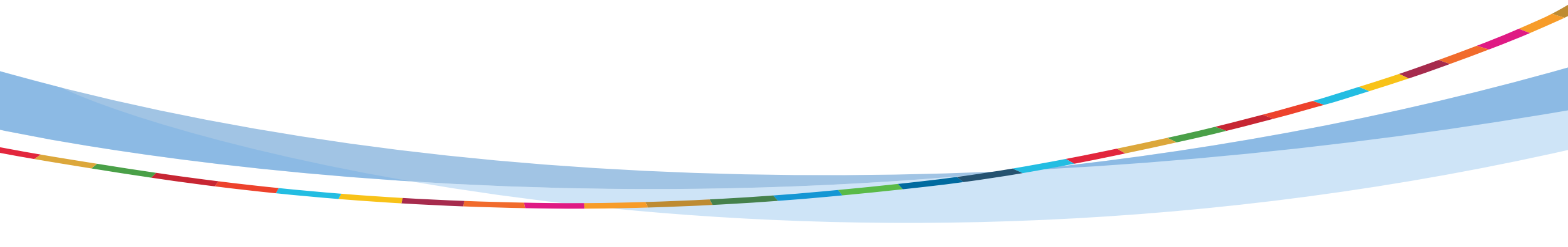
- Case study 54. Data-sharing for improved water management in the Oder/Odra River Basin

Lesson 36. Develop a shared communication plan

Lesson 37. Establish mechanisms for regular review of the monitoring system



# Questions for discussion

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# 8. Impacts and benefits

## Rationale

Several impacts and benefits of monitoring were reported by contributors, a.o. improved decision-making and mutual support

Lesson 38. Have data and information serve as the basis for conflict prevention

- Case study 55. Preventive diplomacy in the Guaraní Aquifer System
- Case study 56. Dialogue to address pressing challenges in the Genevese Aquifer



# 8. Impacts and benefits

Lesson 39. Enable improved water management through data and information sharing

- Case study 57. Improved water management in the Rhine River
- Case study 58. Benefits from cooperation in the Sava River Basin: the perspective of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Lesson 40. Improve awareness and strengthen transboundary cooperation through data and information sharing

- Case study 59. Developing transboundary water quality monitoring of the Teno River



# 9. Main difficulties and challenges

## Rationale

- Difficulties and challenges are reported, a.o., comparability of data and insufficient resources

## Lesson 41. Ensure sufficient resources for data and information sharing

- Case study 60. Limited resources for the Ramotswa Aquifer

## Lesson 42. Build trust to enable data and information sharing

- Case study 61. Trust building through cooperation in the North-Western Sahara Aquifer System (NWSAS)

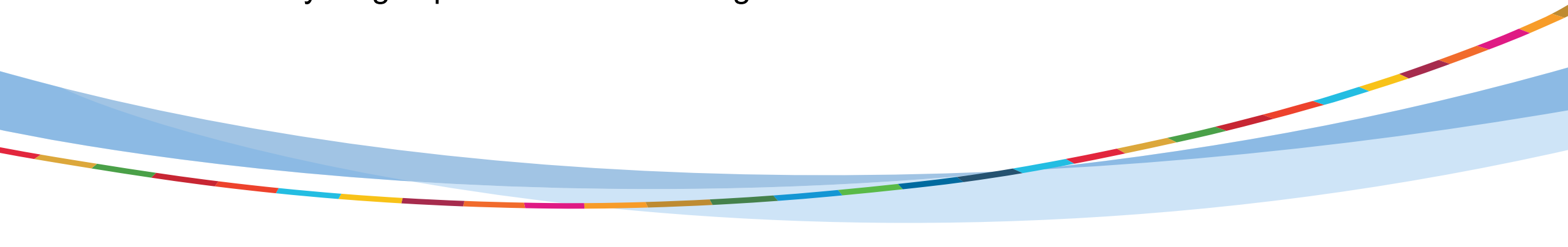


# 9. Main difficulties and challenges

Lesson 43. Reduce differences between countries to enable sharing of data and information

- Case study 62. Main challenges for strengthening data-sharing at regional level in Central Asia

Questions for discussion

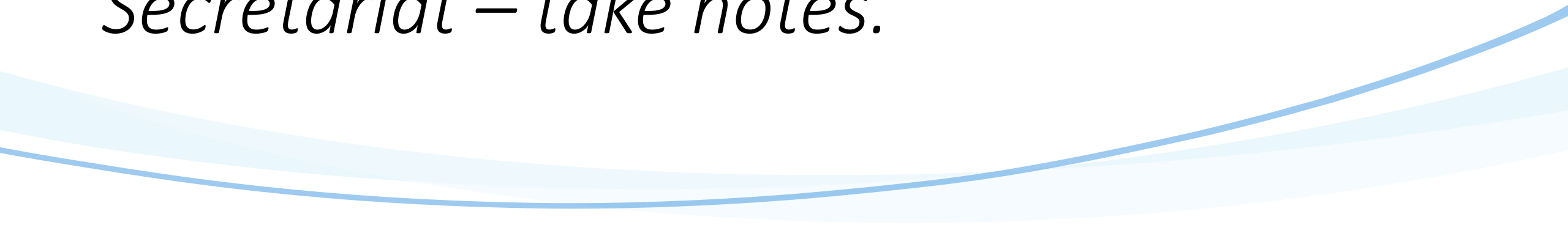
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# QUESTIONS

1. Do you agree/disagree with key messages in the draft?
2. What could be additional key messages?

*Secretariat – take notes.*



# Group Work Summary: General

In general acceptance of the key messages (some suggestions to rephrase).

Focus on making the chapter and messages short, snappy and to the point. The audience needs to understand immediately.

Suggestions related to, e.g.,: Source-to-Sea, Climate Change, Salt Water Intrusion, identifying capacity gaps, triple-planetary crisis, pollution

Highlighting the importance of, a.o., trust building, transparency, meta-data, difference between data and information, harmonization of data, timely sharing of data.

Ensure that all regions and themes are accounted for – support from participants to identify and fill gaps.

More to come!



# Thank you!

(please include your contact information)



WEB

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RESOURCES

[www.unece.org/env/water/publications/pub.html](http://www.unece.org/env/water/publications/pub.html)

