



Republic of Zimbabwe



The institutional framework supporting the 1992 Water Convention, its Programme of Work and implementation on the ground

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National workshop related to 1992 United Nations Water Convention
& 1997 United Nations Watercourses Convention:

Zimbabwe's accession process to the UN global water conventions

17-18 June 2024, Harare, Zimbabwe

Rainbow Towers Hotel & Conference Centre

Globally, transboundary water cooperation is lagging behind (Results of the 3rd reporting in 2023 on SDG 6.5.2)

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

UNESCO and UNECE custodian agencies

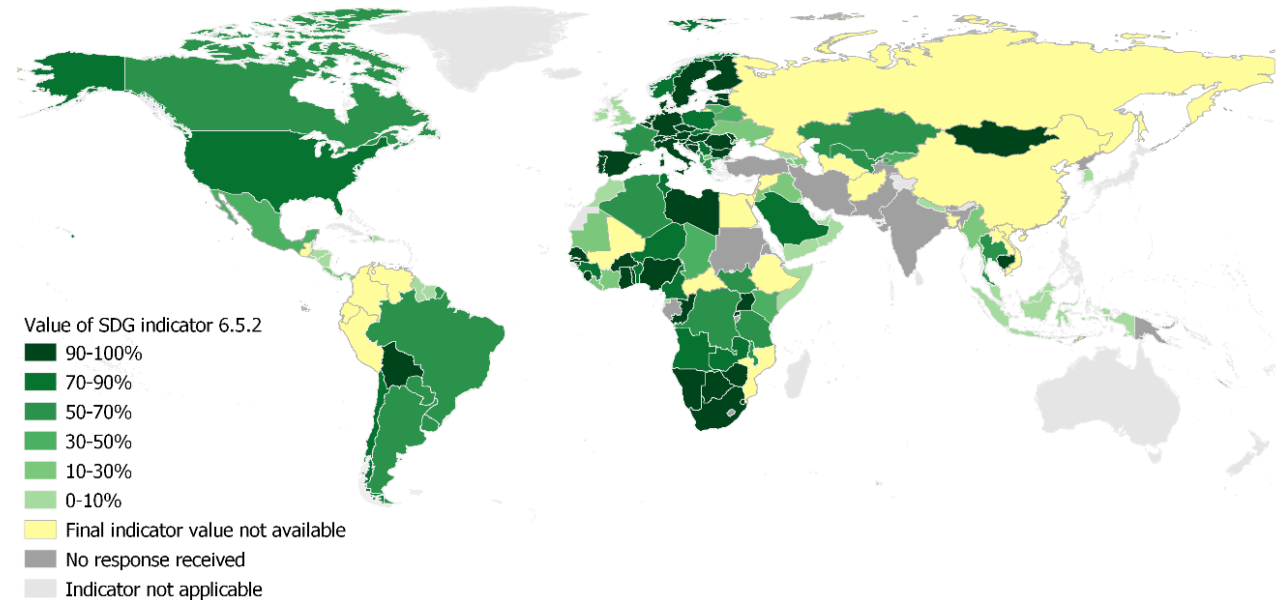
High level of engagement

- In 2023: **129** out of 153 countries sharing tb waters submitted reports

Not on track

- **<20 %** of these countries report **all** transboundary surface waters and groundwaters covered by **operational arrangements**
- Insufficient knowledge on **groundwater** systems

SDG Indicator 6.5.2 values and responses received in 2023/2024*



* Includes 2020 data from 15 countries, where 2023/2024 data are not available

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

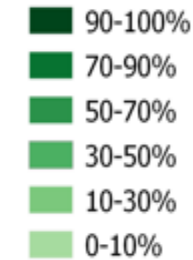


Results of the 3rd monitoring in 2023 on SDG 6.5.2

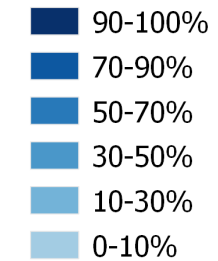
Sub-Saharan Africa region

- 42 out of 48 countries share transboundary waters
- 37 countries responded (vs. 38 in 2020)
- Indicator 6.5.2 overall value available for 33 countries in 2023 (vs. 27 countries in 2020)
- 6 out of 42 countries sharing transboundary waters have all transboundary waters covered by operational arrangements
- Increased responses rate & increased quality of the responses
- Recent developments which increase the overall level of cooperation

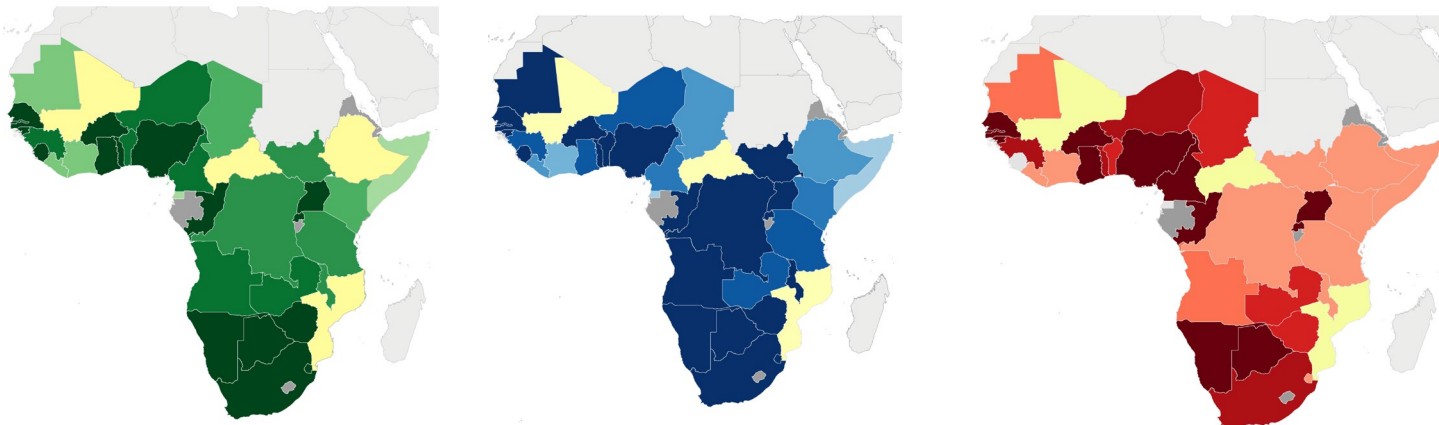
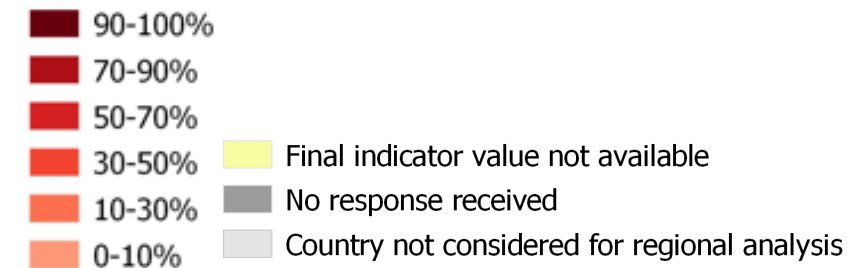
Value of SDG indicator 6.5.2



Value of river and lake basin component of SDG indicator 6.5.2

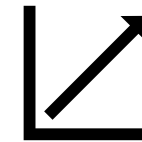


Value of aquifer component of SDG indicator 6.5.2



Overview results- Sub-Saharan Africa region between 2020 and 2023

ALL COVERED (100%)	2020	2023
	<i>Out of 42 countries</i>	
Number of countries <u>with all transboundary waters</u> covered by operational arrangements (Indicator 6.5.2 = 100%)	2	6
Number of countries <u>with all surface waters</u> covered	10	12
Number of countries <u>with all aquifers</u> covered	2	8



Main reasons for these progress:

→ Long tradition of transboundary cooperation through basin organizations

→ Establishment of new agreements

→ Adoption of new operational arrangements on groundwaters

→ Updated data (aquifers being considered within the scope of river basin agreements)

90% OR MORE	2020	2023
Number of countries which have <u>90% or more</u> of their transboundary basin area covered by operational arrangements (Indicator 6.5.2 = 90-100%)	5	16
Number of countries which have <u>90% or more</u> of their transboundary lake and river area covered	18	21
Number of countries which have <u>90% or more</u> of their transboundary aquifers (groundwaters) covered	4	12

Zimbabwe's indicator values and main achievements in cooperating on transboundary waters:



Achievements listed in 2023 SDG 6.5.2 national report	Zimbabwe
Improved water management	Yes
Enhanced regional integration, i.e. beyond water	Yes
Adoption of cooperative arrangements	Yes
Adoption of joint plans and programmes	Yes
Long-lasting and sustained cooperation	Yes
Financial support for joint activities	Yes
Stronger political will for transboundary water cooperation	Yes
Better knowledge and understanding	Yes
Dispute avoidance	Yes
Stakeholder engagement	Yes

	2020	2023
Overall Indicator 6.5.2	69.90%	90.36%
Rivers & lakes component	72.76%	94.38%
Aquifers component	43.73%	53.57%

→ Main progress in Zimbabwe: the establishment of the BuPuSa Watercourse Commission and agreement in 2023 with Mozambique.



Zimbabwe already has made significant achievements but like all countries sharing water, there are needs / areas for improvement

Zimbabwe's main challenges in cooperating on transboundary waters (indicated in its 6.5.2 national report)

Sect. IV, Q°1 Report
(submitted 1 Feb. 2024)

Zimbabwe

Differences between national administrative and legal frameworks

Lack of relevant data and information



Difficulties in data and information exchange



Sectoral fragmentation at the national level

Language barrier

Resource constraints, e.g. extreme events



Environmental pressures



Sovereignty concerns

Key ways/areas to accelerate progress in general:

→ Take **follow-up actions** in countries based on the reporting results;

→ Address **data gaps** especially in relation to transboundary aquifers;

→ **Enhancing capacity building** as a key precursor to the negotiation and implementation of operational agreements;

→ **Strengthen legal frameworks.**

UN Water Convention



A global legal and institutional framework for **transboundary water cooperation** contributing to **sustainable development**, international **peace and security**.



A **unique platform** to discuss progress of **transboundary water cooperation** worldwide under the umbrella of the **United Nations**



Opened to all interested countries, currently **52 Parties** with **more than 130 countries** exchanging experiences and knowledge to prompt progress in cooperation





WATER CONVENTION

Water Convention Key Principles

Principle of prevention

Principle of equitable and
reasonable utilization

Principle of cooperation

Main objective



Foster cooperation
over transboundary
waters in order to
ensure that they are
**sustainably and
equitably managed**

UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE
COMMISSION ECONOMIQUE DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'EUROPE
ЕВРОПЕЙСКАЯ ЭКОНОМИЧЕСКАЯ КОМИССИЯ
ОРГАНИЗАЦИИ ОБЪЕДИНЕННЫХ НАЦИЙ

**Convention
on the Protection and Use of
Transboundary Watercourses
and International Lakes**

as amended,
along with decision VI/3 clarifying the accession procedure

**Convention
sur la protection et l'utilisation
des cours d'eau transfrontières
et des lacs internationaux**

telle qu'amendée,
ainsi que la décision VI/3 clarifiant la procédure d'adhésion

**Конвенция
по охране и использованию
трансграничных водотоков и
международных озер**

с поправками
и решением VI/3, разъясняющим процедуру присоединения



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ОРГАНИЗАЦИЯ ОБЪЕДИНЕННЫХ НАЦИЙ

What makes the Water Convention a living instrument?

→ Its Institutional Framework!

- Meeting of the Parties (Art. 17)
- Secretariat (Art. 19)



→ Participation and exchange of experiences open to all interested countries

→ Decision-making (MOP) & participation in the Bureau: Parties only



Implementation Committee of the Water Convention

Mechanism to facilitate, promote and safeguard the implementation, application and compliance with the Convention (established in 2012 for **dispute prevention and practical case-oriented assistance**)

→ 9 members in personal capacity (lawyers, diplomats and water professionals)

→ It provided a forum for the Parties to the Convention to **get competent advice** for any request relating to specific issues concerning difficulties in implementing the Convention.



Recent work of the Impl. Committee with:

- Montenegro/Albania
- Spain/Portugal

Growing momentum for accession to the UN Water Convention

52 Parties

Parties to the Convention (52)

Newest Parties :
Nigeria, Iraq, Namibia,
Panama, the Gambia - 2023

Countries close to accession:
Botswana, Côte d'Ivoire,
Niger, Sierra Leone, South
Sudan, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Countries in the process of
accession to the Convention
(>20)



Increasing interest in Southern Africa on engagement & accession



Botswana : in accession (National workshop on 28-29 September 2023)



Malawi : formally expressed its interest in accession (April 2024)



Namibia : became first Party from Southern Africa in June 2023!



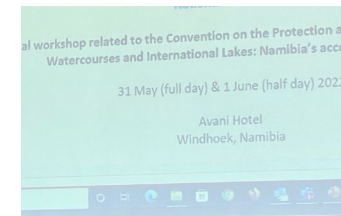
Tanzania : in accession (national workshop held Dec 2022)



Zambia : in accession (WC approved by cabinet in February 2024)



Zimbabwe : close to accession (WC approved by cabinet in April 2024)




Water Convention's Programme of work for 2022-2024

OVERALL OBJECTIVE
 Transboundary waters worldwide are managed in cooperation between riparian countries in accordance with the Water Convention, promoting sustainable development, peace and security

OUTCOME 1
 Countries understand the Convention, accede to it, develop agreements and establish joint bodies

Awareness & accession
 Programme Area 1
 Increasing awareness of and accession to the Convention and application of its principles drawing on the benefits of cooperation



OUTCOME 2
 Transboundary water resources in transboundary basins are monitored and assessed, and information is shared among riparian countries

Monitoring & assessment
 Programme Area 2
 Supporting monitoring, assessment and information sharing in transboundary basins



OUTCOME 4
 Transboundary water cooperation is sustainably financed

Financing
 Programme Area 5
 Facilitating financing of transboundary water cooperation



Integrated & intersectoral approach
 Programme Area 3
 Promoting an integrated and intersectoral approach to water management at all levels



OUTCOME 3
 Integrated water resources management is implemented at all levels in a changing climate

Climate change adaptation
 Programme Area 4
 Adapting to climate change in transboundary basins



OUTCOME 5
 Transboundary water cooperation is monitored and partners are mobilized to support it

Reporting
 Programme Area 6
 Reporting on Sustainable Development Goal indicator 6.5.2 and under the Convention



Partnership & knowledge
 Programme Area 7
 Partnerships, communication and knowledge management



Delivering at different levels:

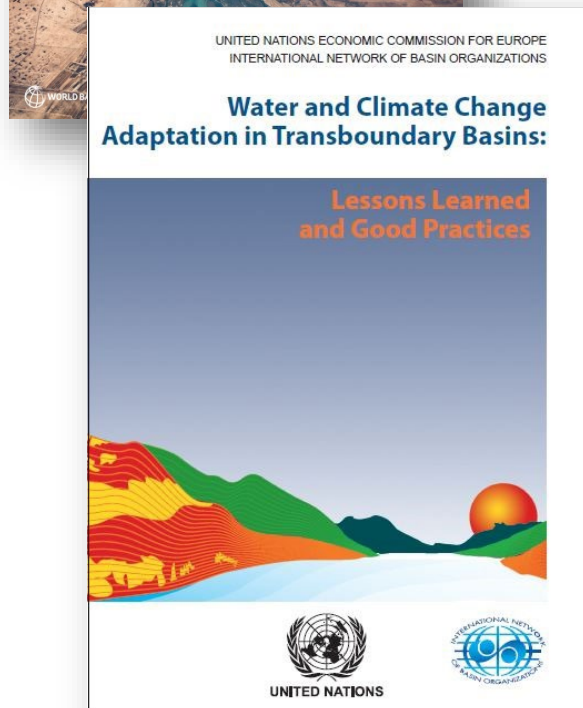
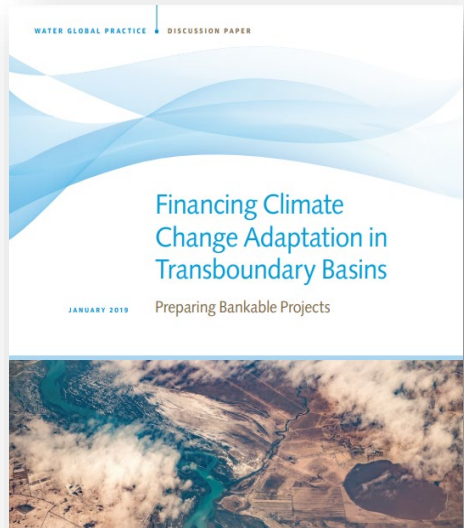


What types of support does the Water Convention provide through its programme of work?

- Support to **policy processes** at national and basin level, by:
 - Improving national **water governance** and **IWRM** (e.g. NPDs)
 - Supporting **accession to/implementation of the Convention** in interested countries
 - Supporting the **development of agreements** and the establishment of joint bodies (e.g. Luapula agreement between Zambia and DRC)
- **Capacity-building on technical and policy issues** through **workshops** enabling **knowledge and experience sharing** on different topics ;
- **Technical assistance projects** in basins ;
- **Tools, guidance documents and policy recommendations** on different thematic issues and topics based on Parties and other countries interests.



How does the Convention support countries in adapting to climate change and addressing disaster risks in transboundary basins?



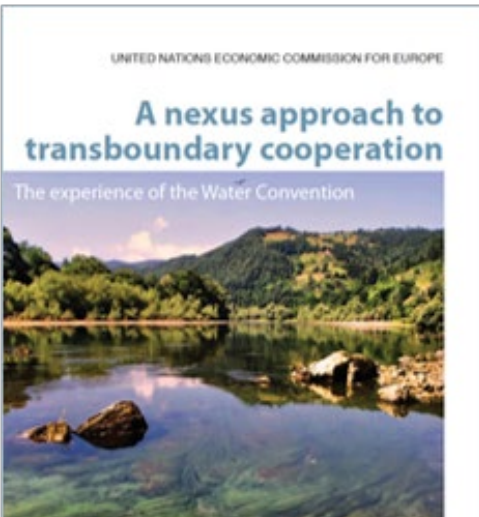
→ Through its Programme of Work Area on climate change adaptation

- **Task Force on Water & Climate** since 2006 = consistent exchange
- **Global Network of basins** working on climate change adaptation since 2013
- **Guidance and publications** on water and climate
- Promoting **linkages between water and climate** in **global processes** (COP 28)
- Regular **global workshops** (e.g. 26-27 February 2024 Global Workshop on transboundary flood and drought risk management)
- **Pilot projects** in basins (*support to develop adaptation strategy in Danube, Neman Basin*)

POTENTIAL OPPORTUNITIES UNDER THE WATER CONVENTION :

- Support to climate change adaptation planning for transboundary basins
- Sharing climate change experiences, challenges, good practices at the Task Force meetings including project proposals for funding agencies

How can the Convention support countries in identifying WFEF intersectoral synergies, mutually beneficial solutions & reducing trade-offs?

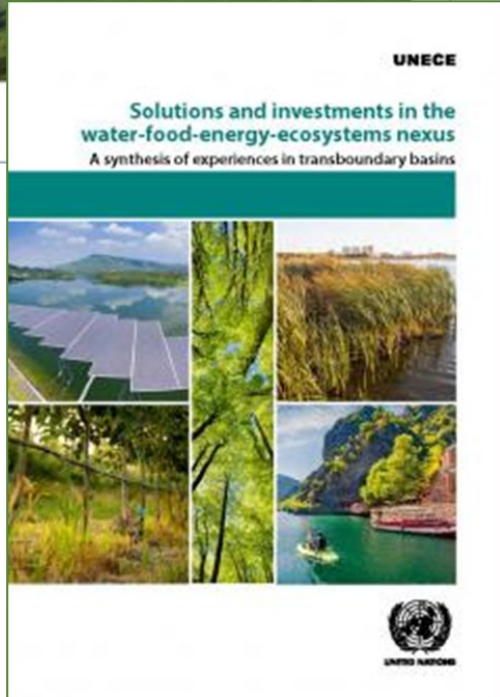


→ Through its sub-Programme of Work Area on Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems (WFEE) Nexus

- **Task Force** on WFEE Nexus since 2013 = regular exchanges on Nexus
- **Guidance tools, methods and publications** on nexus (methodology for assessments, nexus solutions and investments, renewable energy)
- **Engagement of energy sector** in transboundary dialogues/processes
- **Global workshops** on the WFEE nexus
- **Nexus assessments** conducted in **transboundary surface/aquifer basins** (e.g. in *North-Western Sahara Aquifer System, Drina Basin*)

POTENTIAL OPPORTUNITIES UNDER THE WATER CONVENTION:

→ Countries seeking to better assess trade offs of **Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems sectors** and **related strategies** balancing these at transboundary scale



How can the Convention support countries in the development of transboundary agreements & institutions for shared water management?

Practical Guide for the Development of Agreements or Other Arrangements for Transboundary Water Cooperation



→ Through its sub-programme of Work Area on Developing of Agreements

- Aimed at supporting countries in the **design and drafting** of agreements or other arrangements for transboundary waters focus on **content and drafting options**)
- **Target audience:** State representatives, legal/technical experts, decision-makers involved in negotiation of transboundary water agreements, the staff of river basin organizations, regional organizations
- **Practical guide on development of agreements and other arrangement for TWC** developed through intergovernmental process in 2020-21 with a drafting group and reviewed by Parties / non-Parties
- Recent support provided to Zambia and DRC for the development of an **Agreement on the Establishment of the Luapula River and Lake Mweru Authority** and to the riparian countries of the **Senegalo-Mauritanian Aquifer Basin** to establish a cooperation mechanism

POTENTIAL OPPORTUNITIES UNDER THE WATER CONVENTION:

- Countries wanting to engage neighbouring riparians in joint arrangements (initiate one or strengthen existing ones)

Example (1): Concrete benefits for Senegal after joining the Water Convention

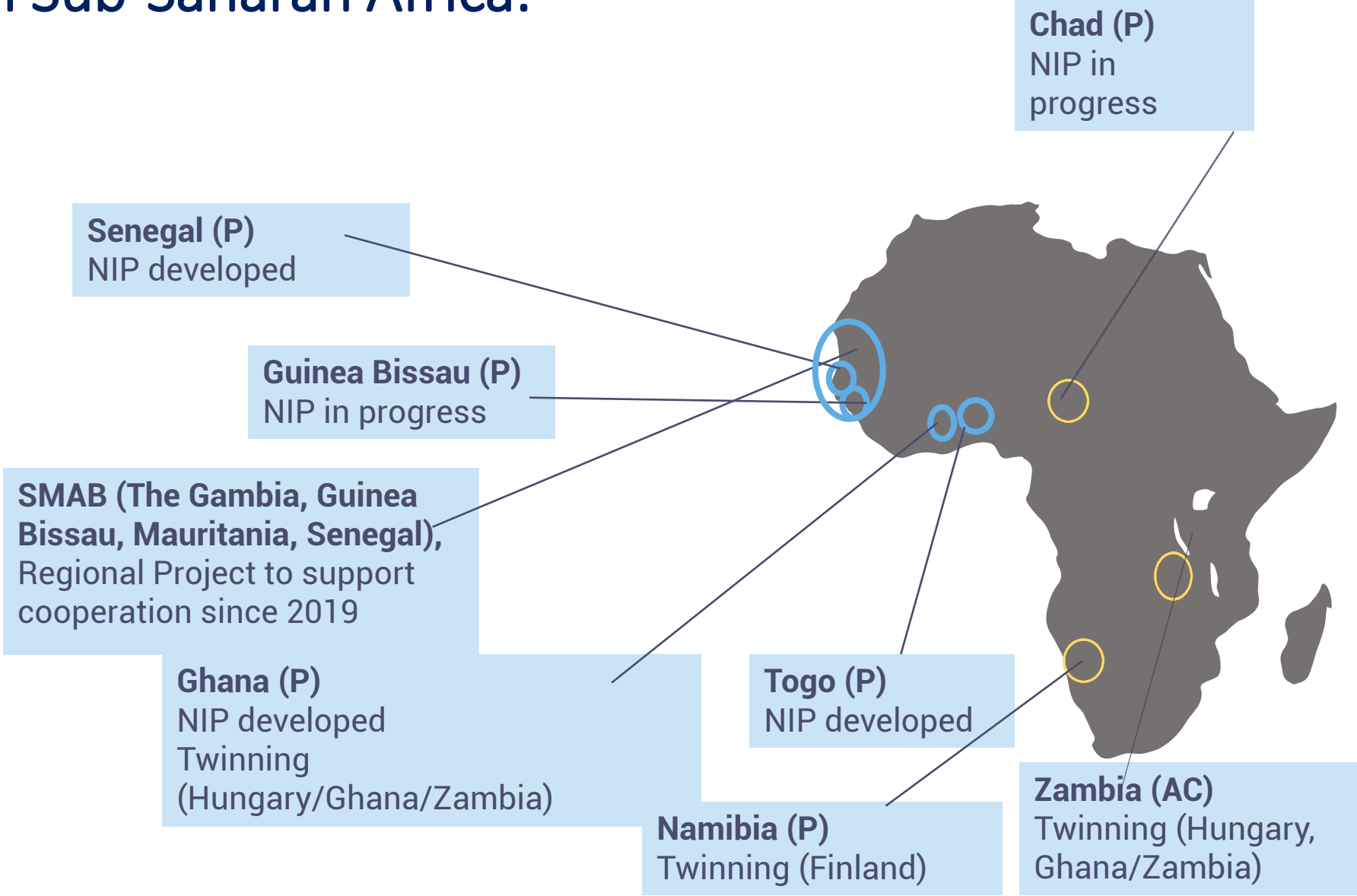
- ✓ **National governance improved:** Ministry of Water- Foreign Affairs
- ✓ **Project support/Financing:** Regional working group, ministerial declaration and project developed for the Senegalo-Mauritanian aquifer and securing of funding to support the cooperation processes over the SMAB
- ✓ **International visibility increased:** Senegal co-chair of the Convention working group on monitoring and assessment and Bureau member
- ✓ **Financial and technical support** for 9th World Water Forum (2021)
- ✓ **National Implementation Plan** developed and validated with support from the Convention secretariat

Exemple (2): Practical cooperation in West Africa in the Senegalo-Mauritanian Aquifer Basin (SMAB)

- **Request by Senegal** as new Party to Water Convention and following 2017 SDG indicator 6.5.2 reporting exercise
- **Regional Working Group** established by riparian countries (Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritania, Senegal) & RBOs - OMVS, OMVG to produce the project document and an action plan for establishing a sustainable mechanism for concerted management of SMAB
- **Partners:** Water Convention, Geneva Water Hub, IGRAC; EU and SDC (financing)
- **Latest developments:**
 - **2021** (at MOP9): Ministerial Declaration on the SMAB: commitment to establishing a legal and institutional framework
 - **2023:** Signature of a memorandum of understanding between OMVS and OMVG for the governance of the SMAB Project
 - **2024/2025:** Negotiation on the legal framework on the SMAB with support of the Water Convention and other partners (Geneva Water Hub, World Bank, GEF/UNEP/OSS)



Support provided to help countries implementing the Water Convention in Sub-Saharan Africa:



NIP= National Implementation Plan

Why the UN Water Convention is relevant for Africa ?

- Sound **legal framework** coupled with action to support implementation;
- Continuously **evolves and addresses emerging issues** with conflict potential;
- **Supports countries in implementation** upon request and, in effect, **achieving the SDGs** (Develop implementation plan with assistance from secretariat, liaise with donors)
- More and **more African countries acceding to Convention, including from this region** (common reference and framework)
- **Established cooperation with regional partners** such as ECA, GIZ, World Bank, IUCN, GWP and **Basin organisations** such as OKACOM, ORASECOM, ZAMCOM etc.
- Supports linkages **with EU projects transboundary water initiatives** at different scales (Team Europe Initiative on Transboundary Waters in Africa launched at Dakar World Water Forum)
- Supports linkages **with UN Agencies** in country to explore **synergies and collaboration**
- Supports collaboration between **Convention's Parties** for support and cooperation i.e. through **twinning Initiatives** (e.g. Namibia and Finland)

Upcoming Water Convention Events in 2024-2025



2024:

- **22 October** : Back-to back event on accelerating transboundary cooperation and the implementation of the Water Convention in new Parties through increased support and partnership (match-making event)
- **23-25 October**: 10th Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention (Slovenia)

2025:

- **19-20 March 2025** : Workshop on **Climate Change** under the Water Convention and Protocol on Water and Health
- **7-8 April 2025** : Global Workshop on **data and information Exchange in Transboundary Basins** Using New Approaches (tbc, normally to be held back-to-back with the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment)
- **8-9 December 2025** : Global workshop on **ecosystems conservation in transboundary basins**
- **10-12 December 2025** : 9th meeting of the task force on WFEE nexus

(+ possible **regional thematic workshops** based on needs/leadership from Parties/countries)



THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

MORE INFORMATION:



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RESOURCES www.unece.org/env/water/publications/pub.html



www.unwatercoursesconvention.org/



WATER
CONVENTION



10th session

Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention

23-25 OCTOBER 2024 | LJUBLJANA | SLOVENIA

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