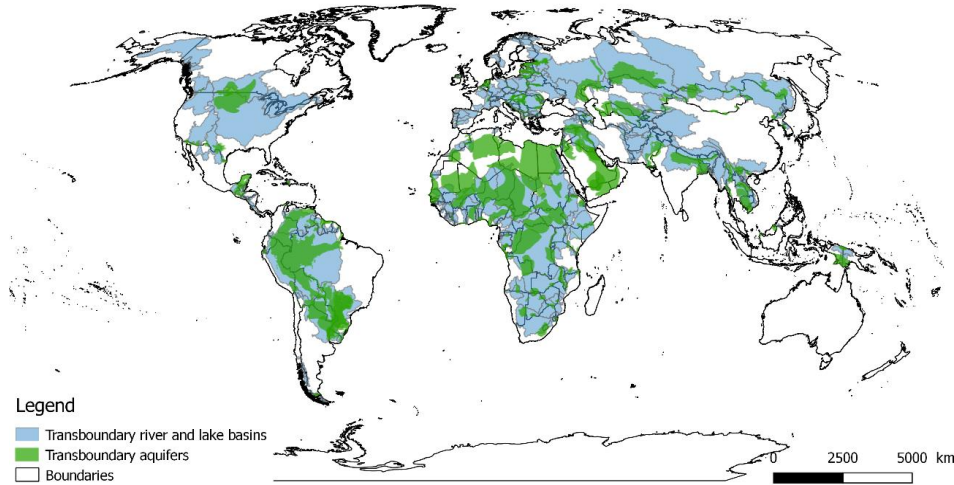


HOW THE UNECE WATER CONVENTION SUPPORTS TRANSBOUNDARY WATER COOPERATION IN THE DANUBE REGION AND WORLDWIDE

Sonja Koeppel, Secretary of the Water Convention

Status of transboundary cooperation according to results of the 2nd reporting in 2020 on SDG 6.5.2



More than 60% of freshwater worldwide is shared

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

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

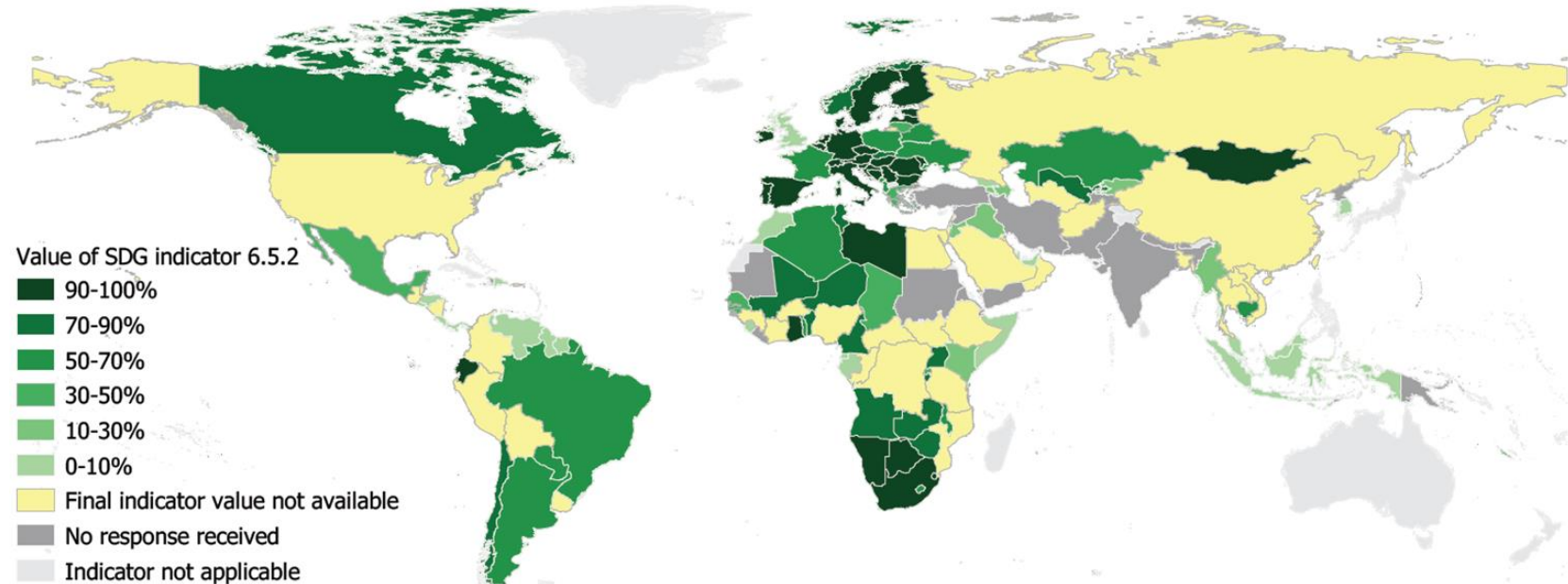
High levels of engagement

⇒ In 2020: **129** out of 153 countries submitted reports

However,

⇒ Only **24 countries** report **all** transboundary waters covered by **operational arrangements**

⇒ Additional **22 countries** with **>70%** and **<100%**

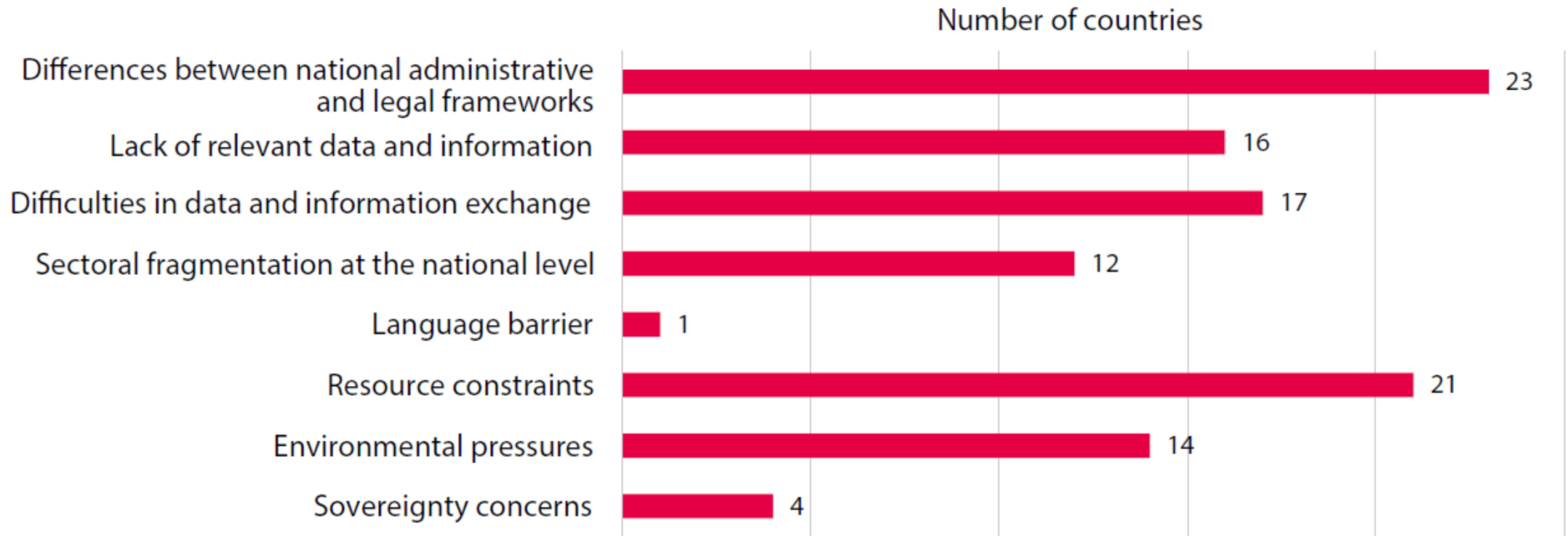


2nd progress report on the Convention – main challenges



50% of the Parties report resource constraints among main challenges for cooperation on transboundary waters

Improve **financing** of transboundary water cooperation



9th Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention (29 Sept-1 Oct. 21): outcomes

More than 500 participants, over 110 countries

- Strong interest to join the Convention:
 - Ghana, Guinea-Bissau and Togo were welcomed as new Parties.
 - Several other countries demonstrated significant progress in accession.
- Water and Peace: The 30+ Ministers participated in the high-level segment
- Historical moment: A [ministerial declaration between Senegal, Mauritania, The Gambia and Guinea Bissau](#) on the shared Senegalo-Mauritanian Aquifer Basin signed.
- The Water Convention's [Programme of Work for 2022-2024](#) adopted
- Decisions on reporting, financial targets, implementation etc.



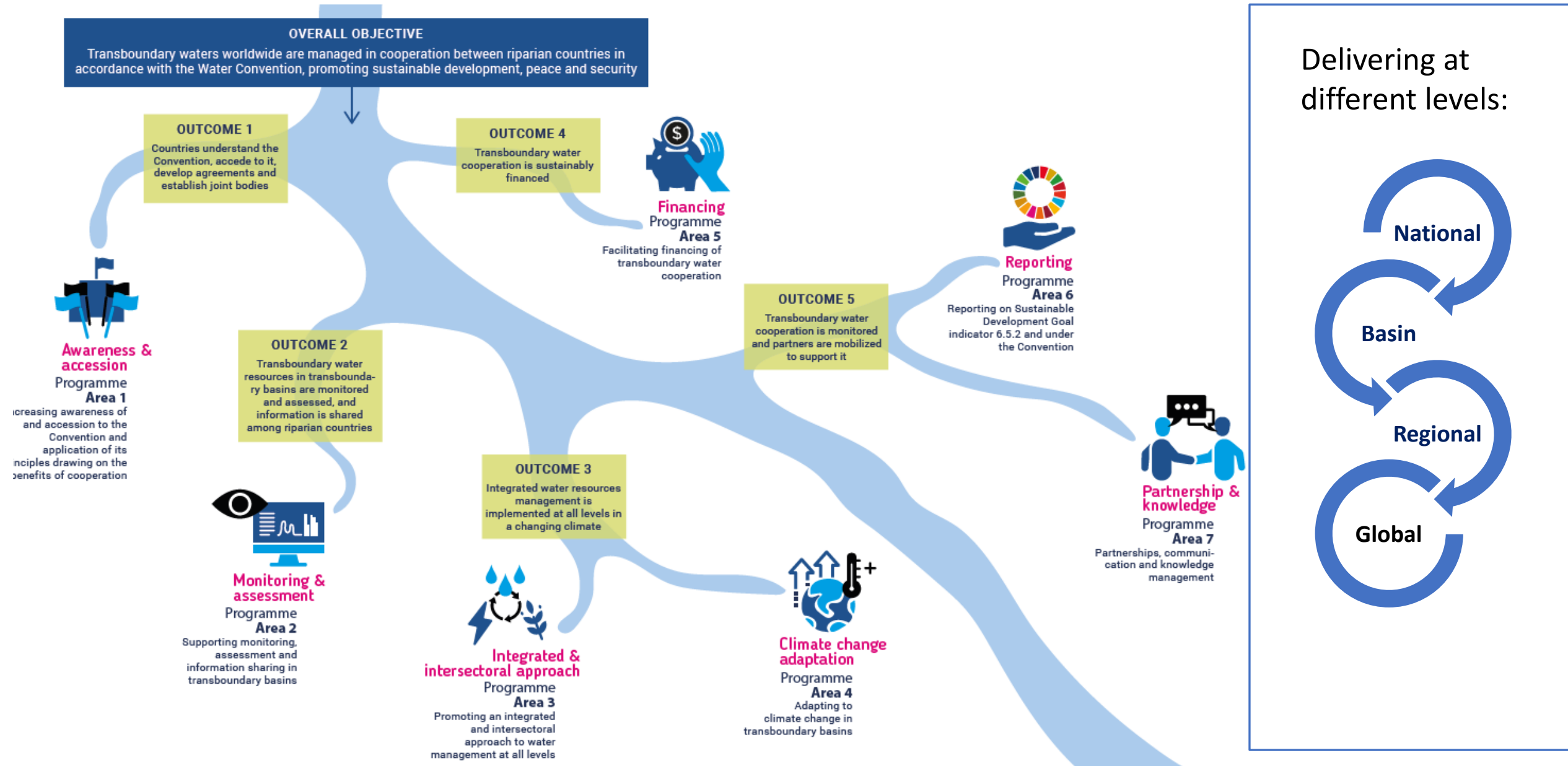
9th Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention (29 Sept-1 Oct. 21): outcomes

5 new publications launched:

- [The Handbook on water allocation in a transboundary context](#)
- [Funding and financing of transboundary water cooperation and basin development](#)
- [Solutions and investments in the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus: a synthesis of experiences in transboundary basins](#)
- Practical guide on developing agreements and other arrangements for transboundary water cooperation
- [Second report on the Water Convention implementation](#)



Programme of work for 2022-2024



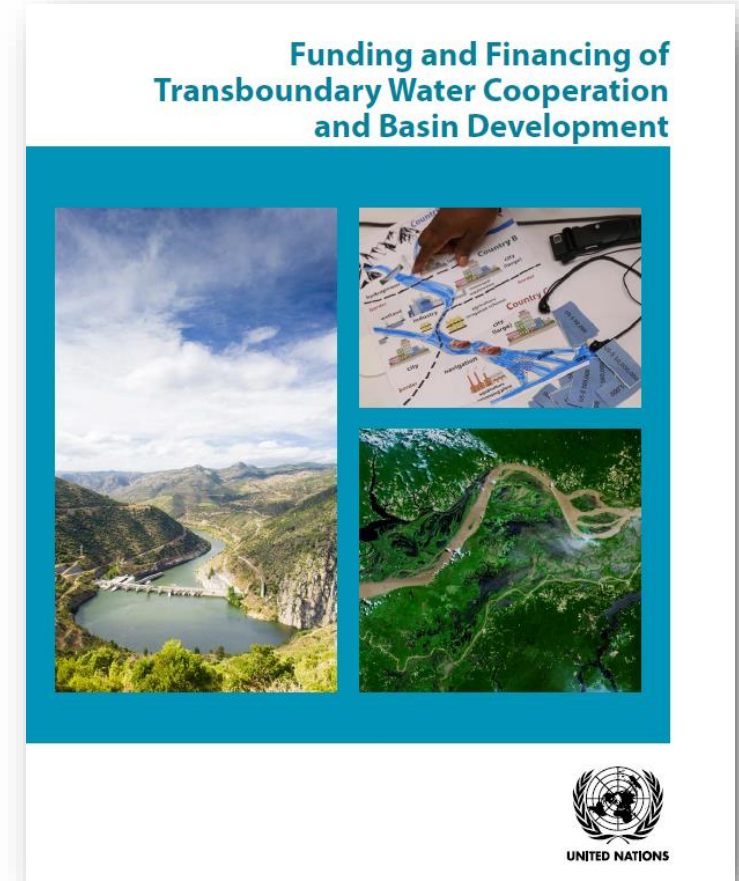
Publication: Funding and financing of transboundary water cooperation and basin development

- Informed by the virtual workshop on this topic on 16 -17 December 2020
- Developed with IFIs, Switzerland, Senegal, Netherlands, basin organizations, other international organizations, NGOs etc.
- Describes Financial needs and financing sources for transboundary water management, cooperation and basin development

Main messages:

- Creating an **enabling environment** to mobilize resources is crucial and requires **legal and institutional frameworks** and **strong governance**
- **Domestic budgetary resources/member state contributions** are and should be **primary funding source**; can be complemented by other public sources
- **Private funding and financing** can be **leveraged** to explore additional opportunities especially for infrastructure development costs
- **Innovative financial instruments** are currently being developed and can potentially offer **new opportunities**

Publication available here: <https://unece.org/info/publications/pub/359843>



Future work in this area for 2022-2024

- Continue to raise awareness and facilitate knowledge-sharing on the importance of enhancing the financial sustainability of transboundary water cooperation and management;
- Support national authorities and joint bodies in shaping their strategies for mobilizing financial resources: Awareness tools specifically addressed to Ministries of Finance; targeted support to up to three basins, upon request
- Continued global awareness raising through increased cooperation with financial institutions (e.g. ADB, AfDB, EIB, GEF, IDB, UNCDF, World Bank) and other relevant organizations (e.g. Disclosure Insight Action with CDP, OECD, SWA, WWF)
- 1 Global Workshop and up to 2 Regional knowledge facilitation workshops, peer learning and capacity-strengthening workshops, based on basins' and countries' needs

Handbook on water allocation in a transboundary context

BACKGROUND

- Transboundary allocation arrangements can work for the benefit of States involved, if **well designed, jointly agreed, adaptable and effectively implemented**.
- Growing water scarcity, accelerated social, economic and technological developments, and climate change **call for new, flexible approaches in allocation**.

PURPOSE OF THE HANDBOOK ADOPTED AT MOP9:

- **Practical guide** providing an **overview of the key elements**, frameworks and modalities to consider in water allocation in transboundary contexts.
- A **compendium style** Handbook, with many **case studies**

FUTURE PLANNED WORK: several capacity-building events

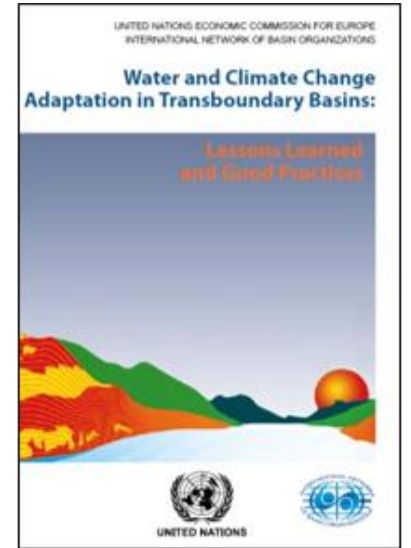
Available here: <https://unece.org/info/events/event/356707>

Adapting to climate change in transboundary basins

4.1 Supporting development of transboundary adaptation strategies and implementation of priority measures

- *Global network of basins* working on climate change adaptation (with INBO)
- Task Force on Water and Climate, thematic global workshops
- Mainstreaming of water and transboundary cooperation into national climate-related documents
- Cooperation with global policy processes on climate and disasters (UNFCCC, UNDRR and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development)
- Online compendium of *good practices* on climate change adaptation in transboundary basins

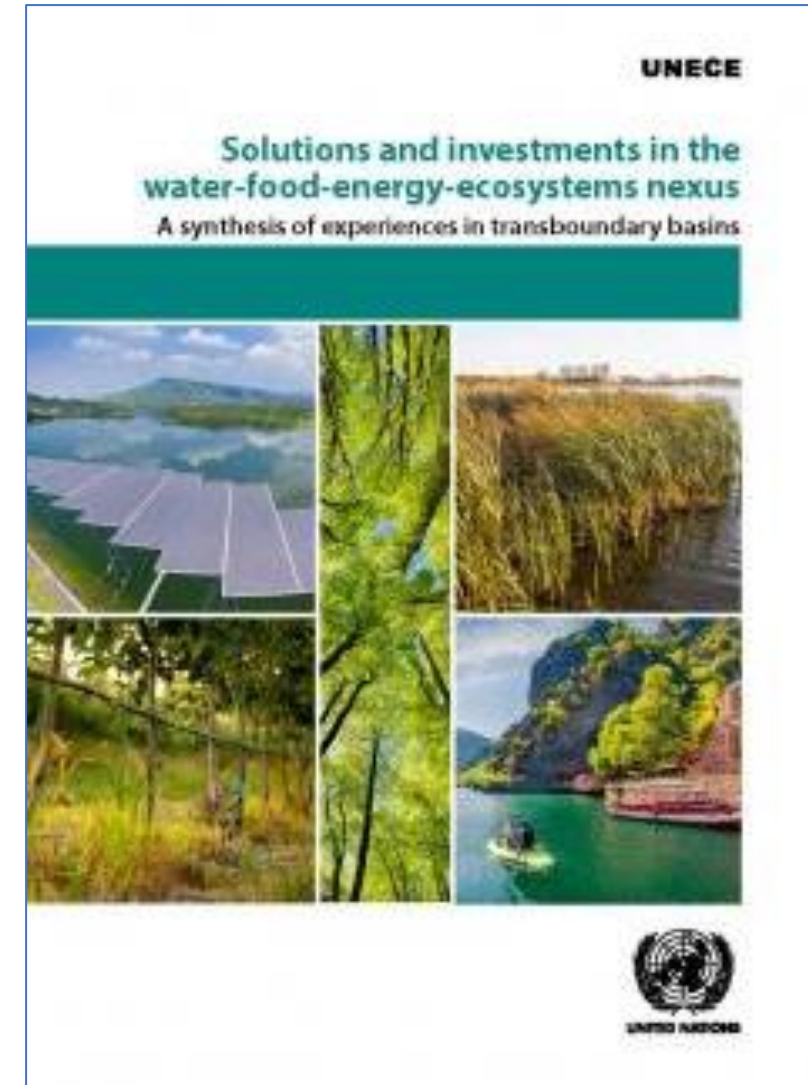
4.2 Supporting transboundary basins in financing climate change adaptation



Solutions and investments in the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus: a synthesis of experiences in transboundary basins

- Report is based on a **stocktaking exercise**, a review of regional nexus dialogues, expert consultations – **transboundary focus** with examples and perspectives from countries, basins, IFIs
- Demonstrating, through concrete examples, how the nexus approach translates into “**nexus solutions**” and “**nexus investments**” with transboundary benefits
- Indicating how to realize nexus solutions and investments through **cooperation, consultation, and exploration of co-financing opportunities**
- Nexus solutions tackle **issues related to water quantity, water quality and environment** -> “anthropogenic changes in hydrology” main root cause of problems reported, “stronger transboundary cooperation” main enabling factor of nexus solutions
- Evidence of **nexus investments** coming from private sources (energy and agriculture) still limited, while innovative financing solutions could play a major role in upscaling nexus solutions by leveraging multiple sources (incl. climate): **high-level political commitment needed**

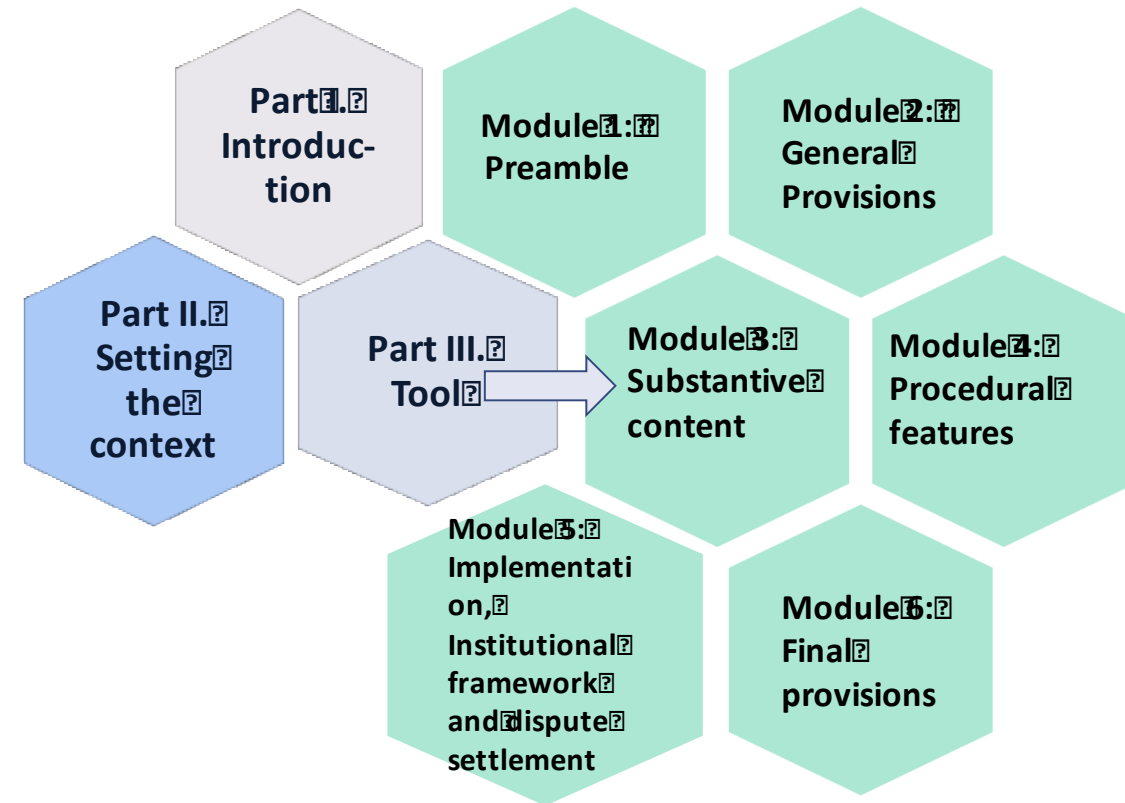
Publication available here: <https://unece.org/info/publications/pub/360230>



Practical Guide on the development of legal frameworks for transboundary water cooperation

Practical Guide to serve as an agreement/arrangement builder

- 3 Parts
- 6 thematic modules
- **Building blocks:** provisions/issues that countries may consider including within each module
- **Key aspects**, help define content of building blocks
- **Introductory text** to each building block, setting out its context and rationale;
- **Key considerations**, which explain different approaches that might be taken within the arrangements, and the implications thereof;
- **Examples from treaty practice** that illustrate how to frame a particular provision; and
- **Supporting resources**, assist in further developing the content



Publication available here:

<https://unece.org/info/events/event/356707>

Other tools and guidance under the Convention

https://unece.org/publications/oes/welcome?f%5B0%5D=program%3A441&f%5B1%5D=work_area%3A1046



National Policy Dialogue in Moldova



- **National policy dialogue:** 5 Meetings of the Steering Committee with representatives from environment, water, energy, agriculture, finance, economy, health, infrastructure, European integration and partners
- **Legislative reform:**
 - Draft Law on the amendments to the Water Law No.272 prepared, and adopted by Parliament Nov. 2018
 - Code of practice making permanent new norms for design and construction of small-scale potable water supply systems (Ordinance # 162 of 1 September 2020 by Minister of Economy and Infrastructure)
 - Study on the use of Economic instruments for WRM in Moldova, including monetary evaluation of damage to water resources and bodies; and identifying and assessing options for establishing a dedicated Water Solidarity Fund)
 - Draft revisions to the National Programme for the Protocol on Water and Health implementation completed and submitted for adoption;
 - Report on proposals for legislative changes to ensure equitable access to water and sanitation finalised.
- **Support in developing a NATIONAL WATER STRATEGY / mid-term plan:** Update of the national Water Supply and Sanitation strategy with a new mid-term action plan for 2020-24, Leading to Government Resolution #442 on an updated national programme of Water Supply and Sanitation and mid-term Action Plan
- **CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT and lessons learned**
 - Capacity development event on applying the new norms for small-scale potable water supply systems and sustainable business models in rural WSS (March 2019)
 - Development of training materials– to be embedded in curricular of Moldova's Academy for Economic Studies
 - Studies leading to publications on improving domestic financial support mechanisms in, and on enhancing the economic regulatory system for, the Moldova's water and sanitation sector.

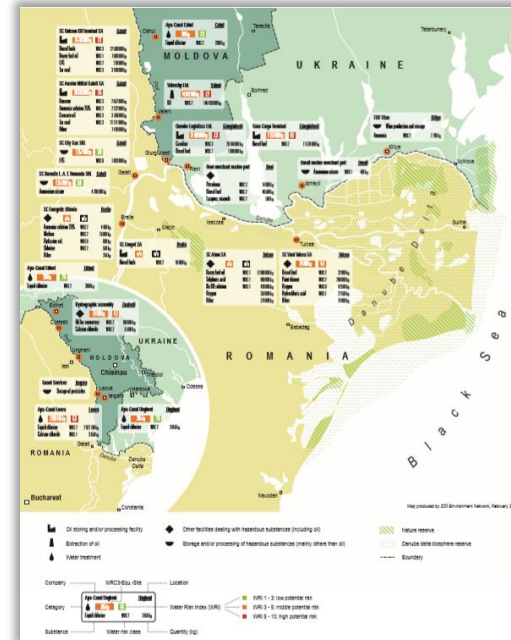
National Policy Dialogue in Ukraine



- National policy dialogue
 - Re-establishment of the National Policy Dialogue and 3 Meetings of the Steering Committee
- Support in developing a NATIONAL WATER STRATEGY
 - Support towards developing a national water strategy including review of state of play in WSS sector
 - A series of roundtable workshops were held with different focus groups (regional WRM authorities, municipalities, water utilities) to discuss setting national water targets and indicators to be included in the water strategy.
 - Revision of the national targets under the Protocol on Water and Health prepared and the SEA procedure initiated
- CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT
 - Support to on-hands capacity developed through participation in ICPDR meetings
 - Consultations meetings on the Protocol on Water and Health



UNECE Project on hazard and crisis management in Danube Delta (2011-2015)



Hazard map of the Danube Delta

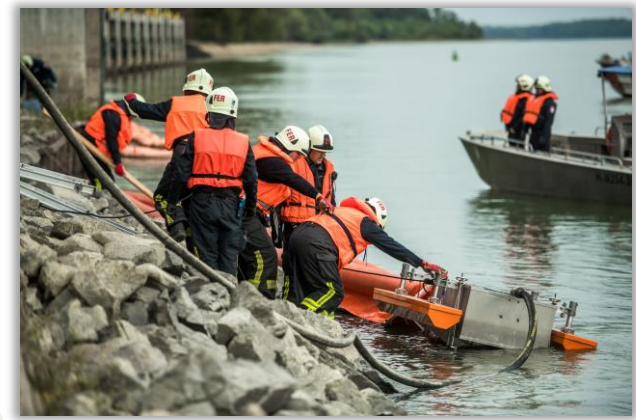
- Beneficiaries: **Romania, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine**
- **Strengthened** (cross-border) **cooperation** between the countries
- **Practical recommendations/actions** for national authorities to strengthen hazard and crisis management
- **First ever trilateral field exercise** in the Danube Delta
- Draft **Joint Contingency plan**
- **Multi-hazard map** of Danube Delta region

Field exercise in the Danube Delta, 2015

Danube Delta II Project proposal

Needs expressed by Romania, Rep. of Moldova, Ukraine

- **Sustainable mechanisms** for cross-border cooperation/improving consistency in preparedness and response
- **Capacity-building** activities such as trainings, workshops and (table-top/field) exercises
- Development of **Standard Operating Procedures** as part of the Joint Contingency Plan for the Danube Delta Region
 - Development of a **trilateral cooperation agreement**
- Development of recommendations to **improve transboundary cooperation**, based on Convention and EU Union Civil Protection Mechanism



Transboundary exercise in Hungary along the Danube, October 2018





THANK YOU

Water Convention:

<https://www.unece.org/env/water/>

Contact:

Sonja.koeppel@un.org

water.convention@un.org