



WHO NEEDS WATER? Managing drought in Alps. Climate change and Alpine water resource to be preserved

**Conciliare i diversi usi dell'acqua attraverso la cooperazione: il lavoro della
Convenzione sull'Acqua dell'ONU sul
nesso acqua-agricoltura-energia-ecosistemi nei bacini transfrontalieri**

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Secretariat (UNECE)**

TORINO, 24 aprile 2024 Palazzo della Regione Piemonte Piazza Piemonte 1



Transboundary water cooperation for sustainable development - importance of SDG indicator 6.5.2

Most of the world's water resources (over 60%) are internationally shared.

=> transboundary cooperation is required for sustainable development, climate action and the prevention of conflicts



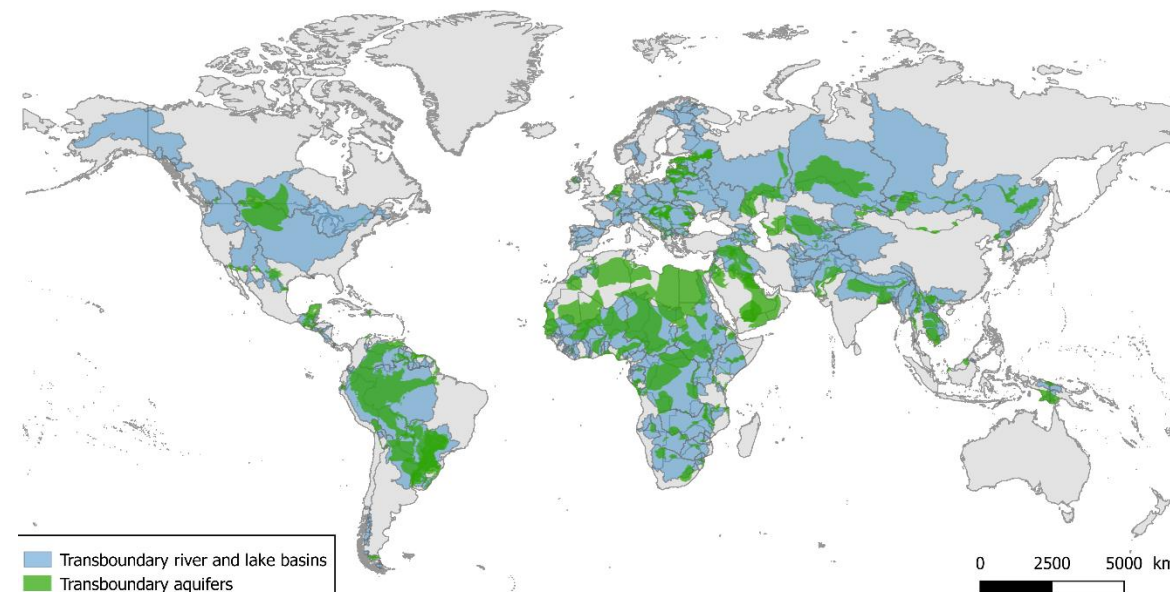
Target 6.5: By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate.



Indicator 6.5.1 Degree of IWRM



Indicator 6.5.2 Proportion of transboundary basin area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation → report to UNECE and UNESCO



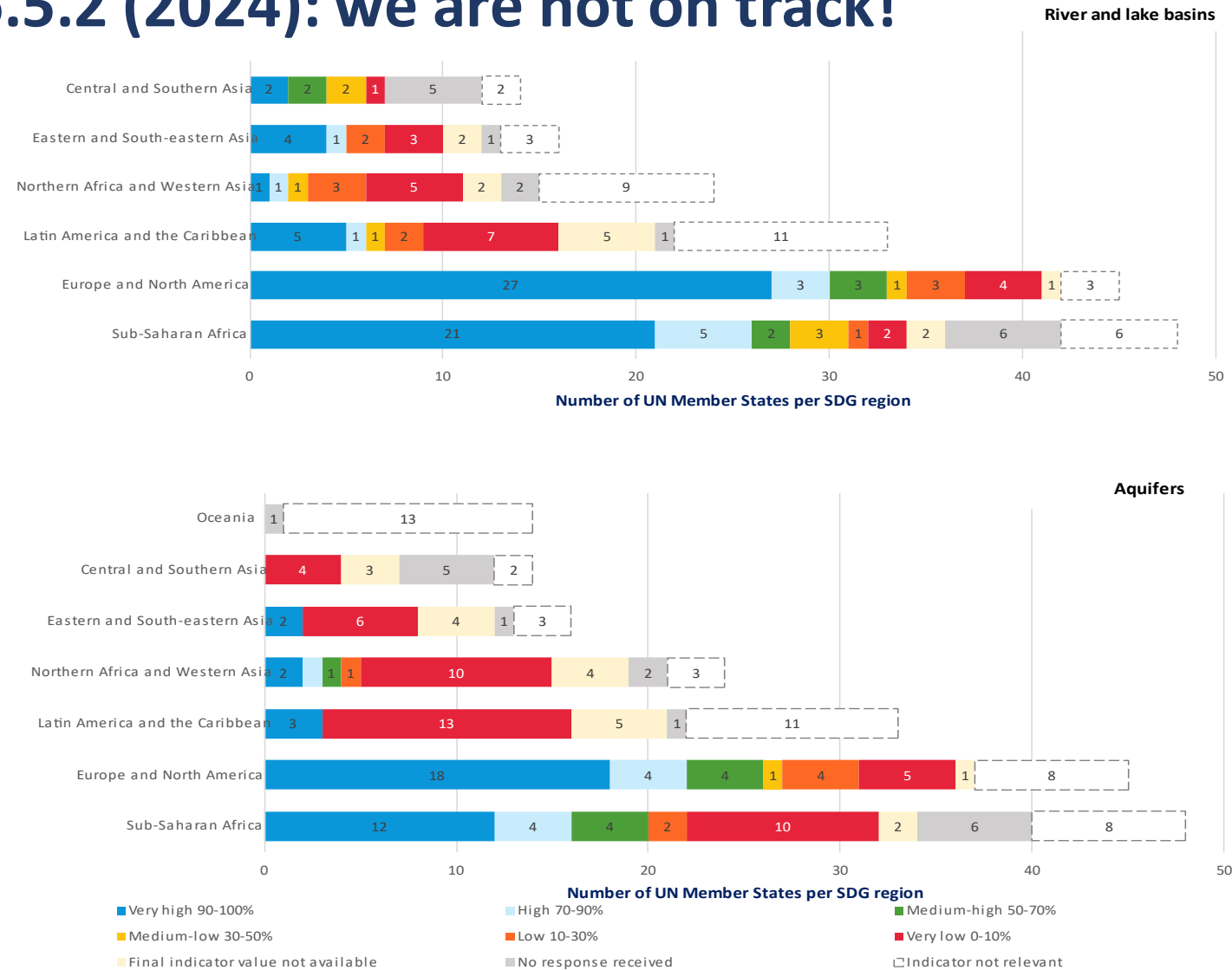
3rd reporting exercise for SDG 6.5.2 (2024): we are not on track!


- Europe, North America and Sub-Saharan Africa show greatest levels of cooperation; in Latin America and Asia, much more progress is needed.
- Insufficient knowledge on groundwater systems

Positive impact of SDG 6.5.2 monitoring since 2017

⇒ Reporting triggers **follow-up actions** in countries to **improve cooperation**

⇒ Cooperation can be strengthened through the **UN Water Convention**





“I urge all countries to join and
implement the United Nations
Water Convention – which
promotes managing shared water
resources sustainably”

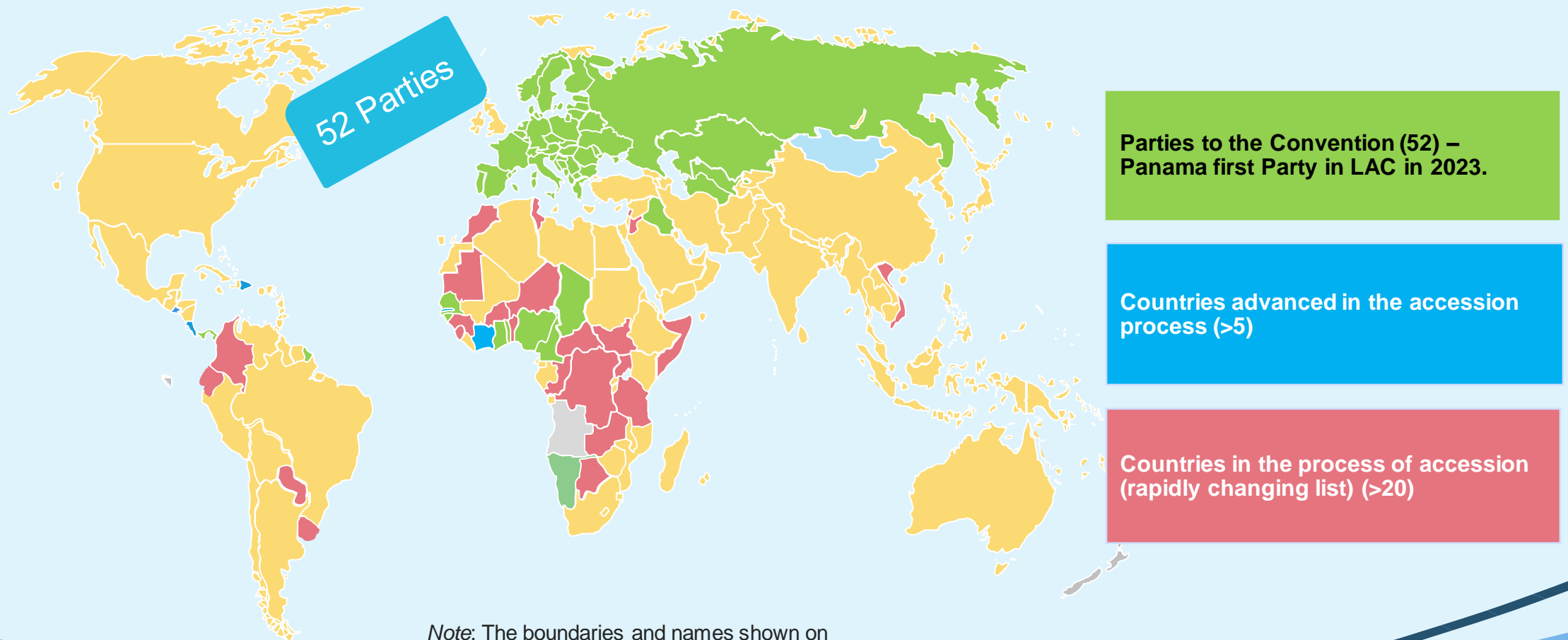
UN Secretary General

World Water Day, 22 March 2024

SECRETARY-GENERAL

PRESIDENT

The Globalization of the Water Convention



What is the Water Convention?

An institutional framework

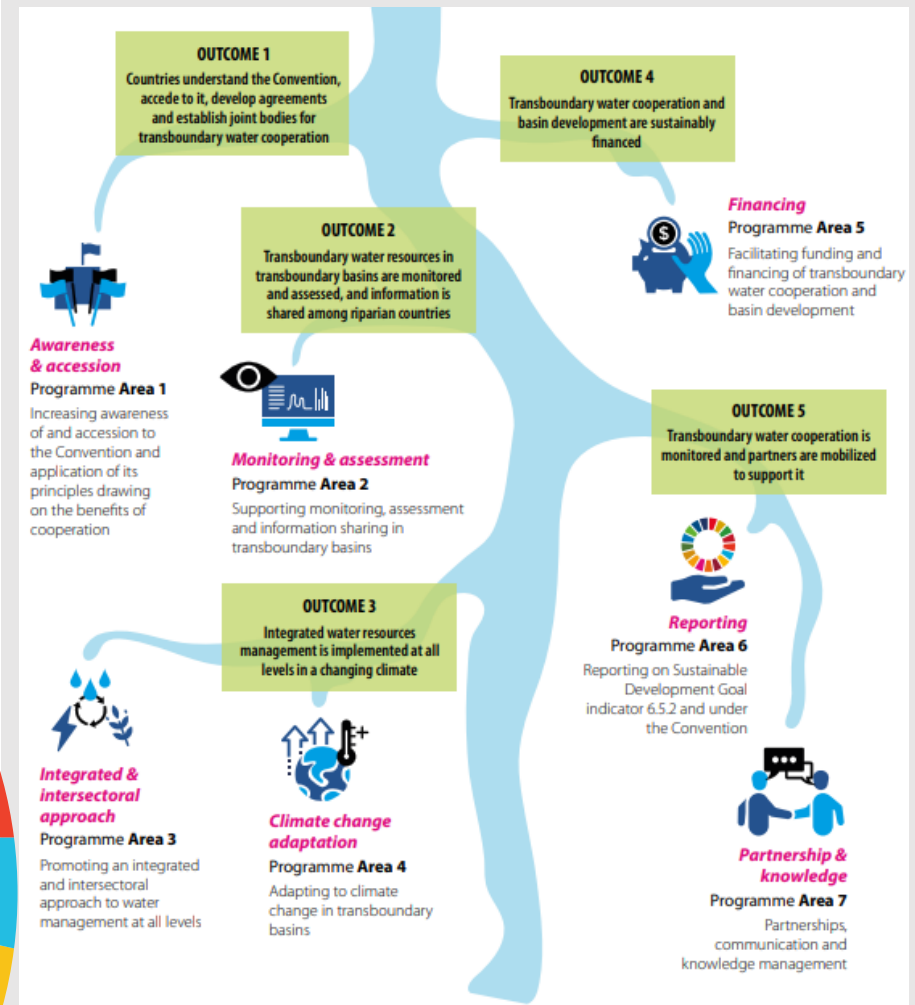
An intergovernmental platform under the umbrella of the United Nations to discuss technical and policy issues related to transboundary water cooperation. The framework monitors progress and ensures accountability. Beyond member States, the platform brings together all stakeholders involved in transboundary cooperation: international organizations, river basins organizations, NGOs, IFIs and development partners, research centers and academia.

A UN legal framework

The common rules of the Water Convention ensure predictability, sustainability and equity of cooperation. They thereby prevent conflicts, foster development and protect human health and the environment

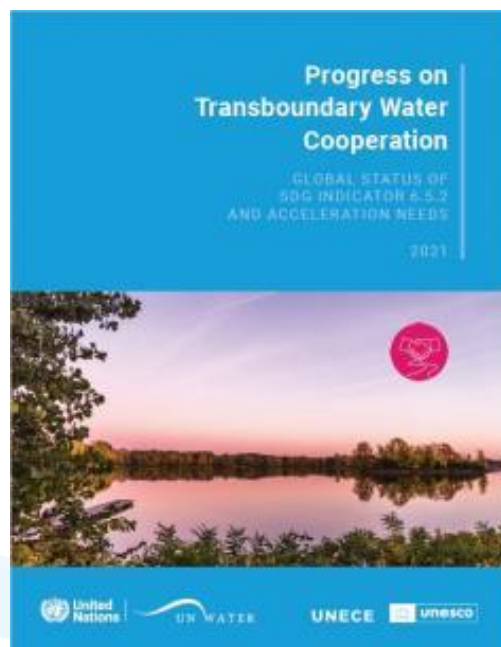


A program of activities

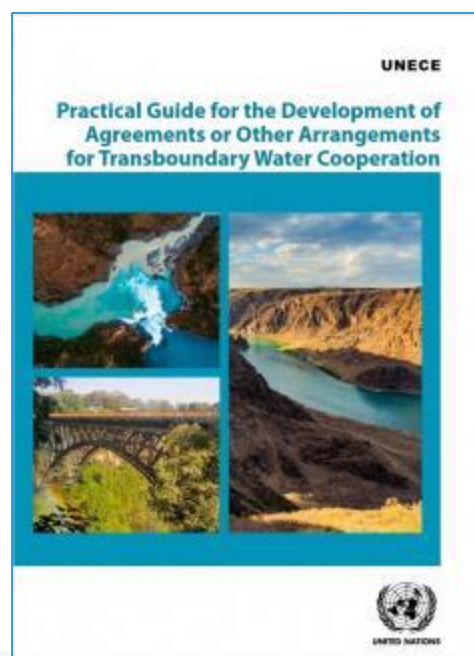


How can countries use the Convention?

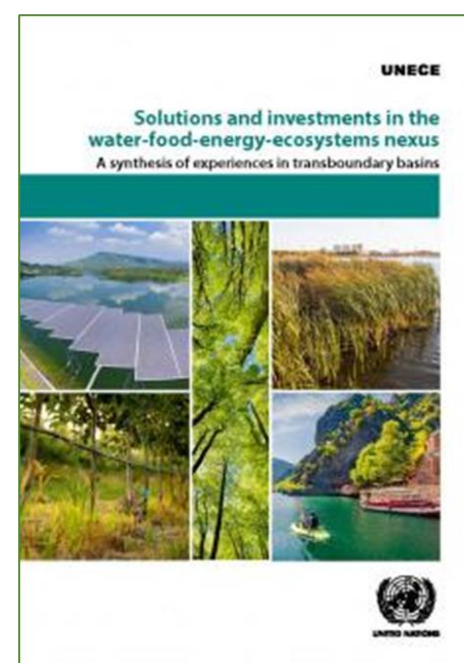
→ Countries identify gaps and needs in achieving sustainable development in shared basins



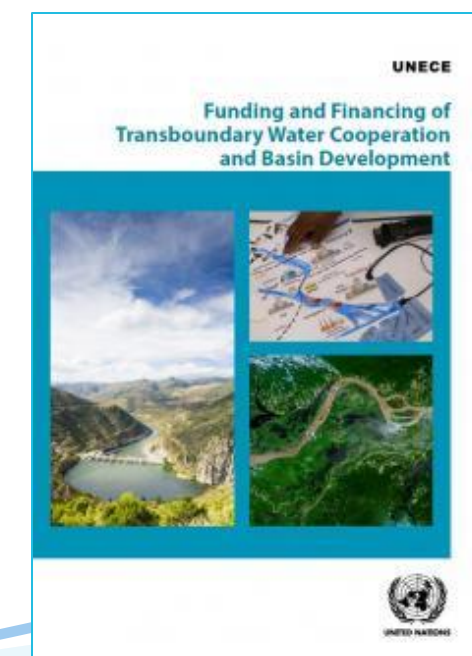
→ Countries improve water governance, unlocking cooperation opportunities and de-risking investments.



→ Countries can identify and prioritize policy actions, integrated across countries & sectors, develop bankable projects.



→ Countries and basin organizations learn to identify and accessing funding and financing opportunities.



WFEE nexus in the Water Convention

The 3 principles of the Convention (1. Prevention of transboundary impacts 2. Equitable and reasonable use 3. Cooperation) clearly apply to all sectors dependent on shared water resources.

Cross-sectoral trade-offs, impacts – and possible synergies are common in transboundary contexts.

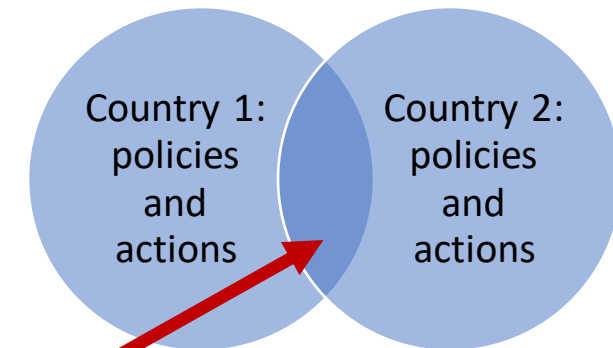
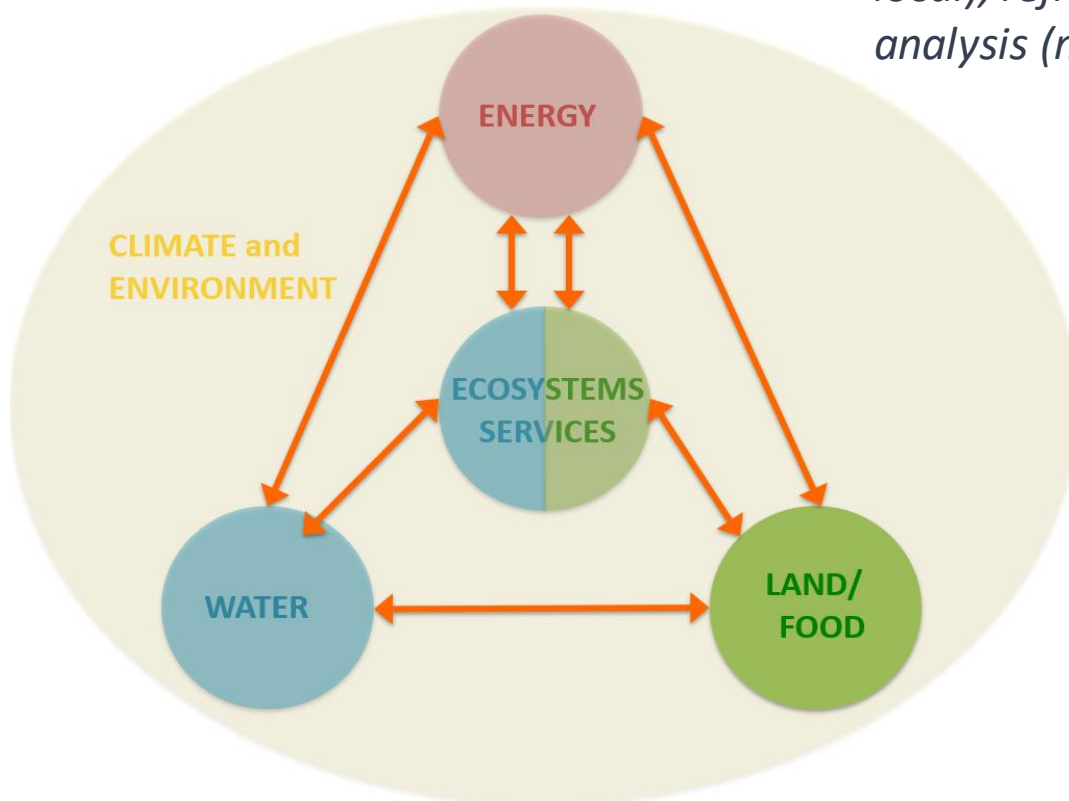
- Promoting a water-food-energy-ecosystem nexus approach to transboundary cooperation.
- Facilitating the sharing of knowledge: 130 countries exchanging experience and ideas ([WFEE Nexus Task Force](#)).



Various themes of interest: reconciling water uses, water allocation, strategic planning of renewable energy (in synergy with water management and agriculture), integrated water & forest management, coordinated reservoir operations (HPP cascades), etc.

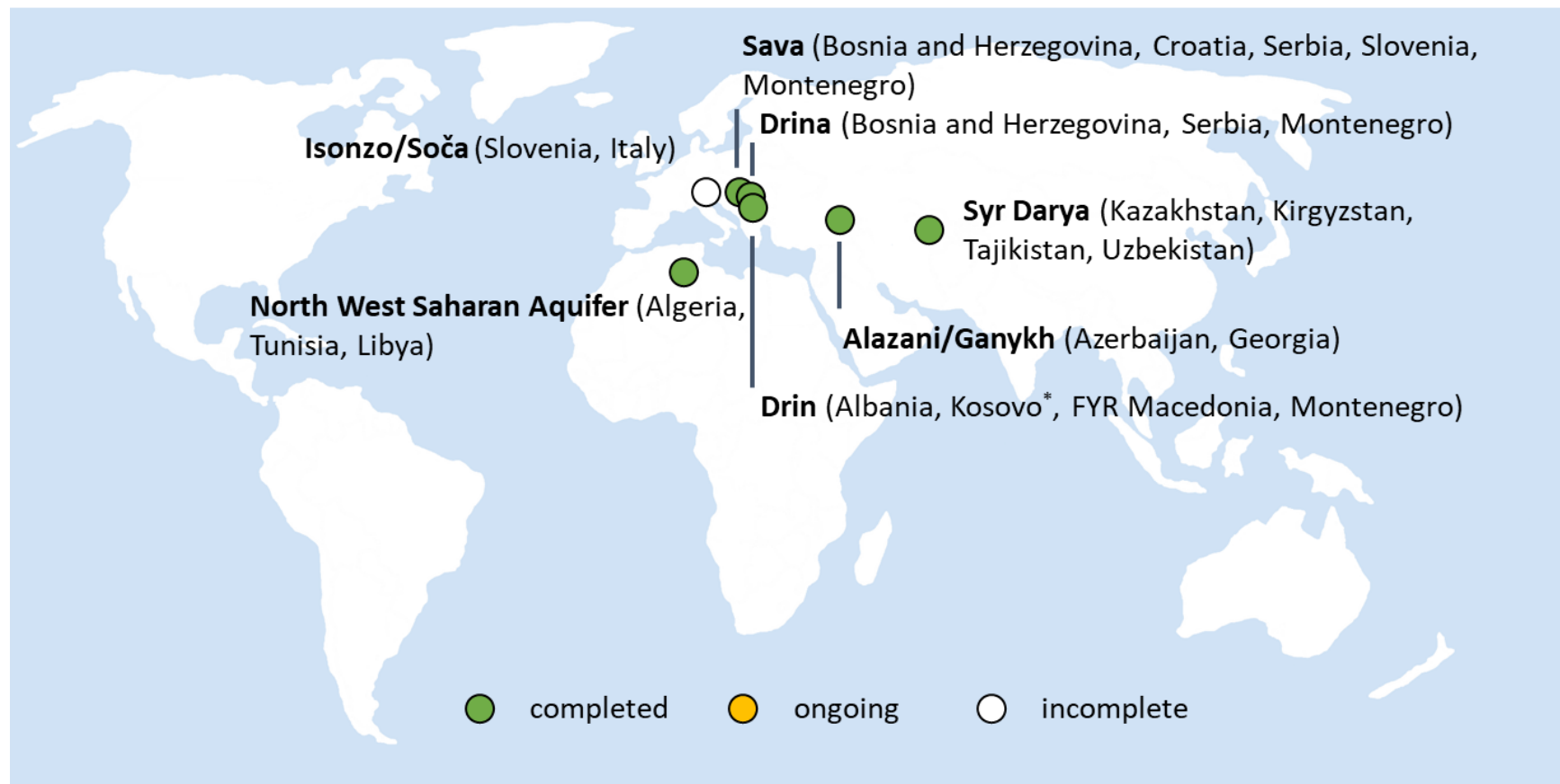
The nexus dialogue in a transboundary context

1. Understanding of resource systems across scales (country, basin, region, local), reflecting on the "bigger picture" – Quantitative & Qualitative analysis (multi-sectoral modelling, mapping, scenario building)



2. Defining priority issues; elaborating solutions based on common objectives and complementarities, synergies and (acceptable) trade-offs

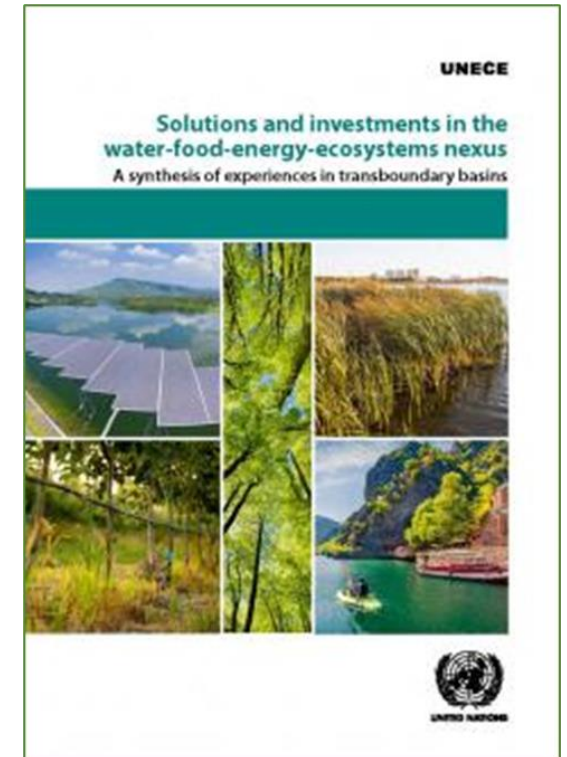
Nexus Assessments under the Convention



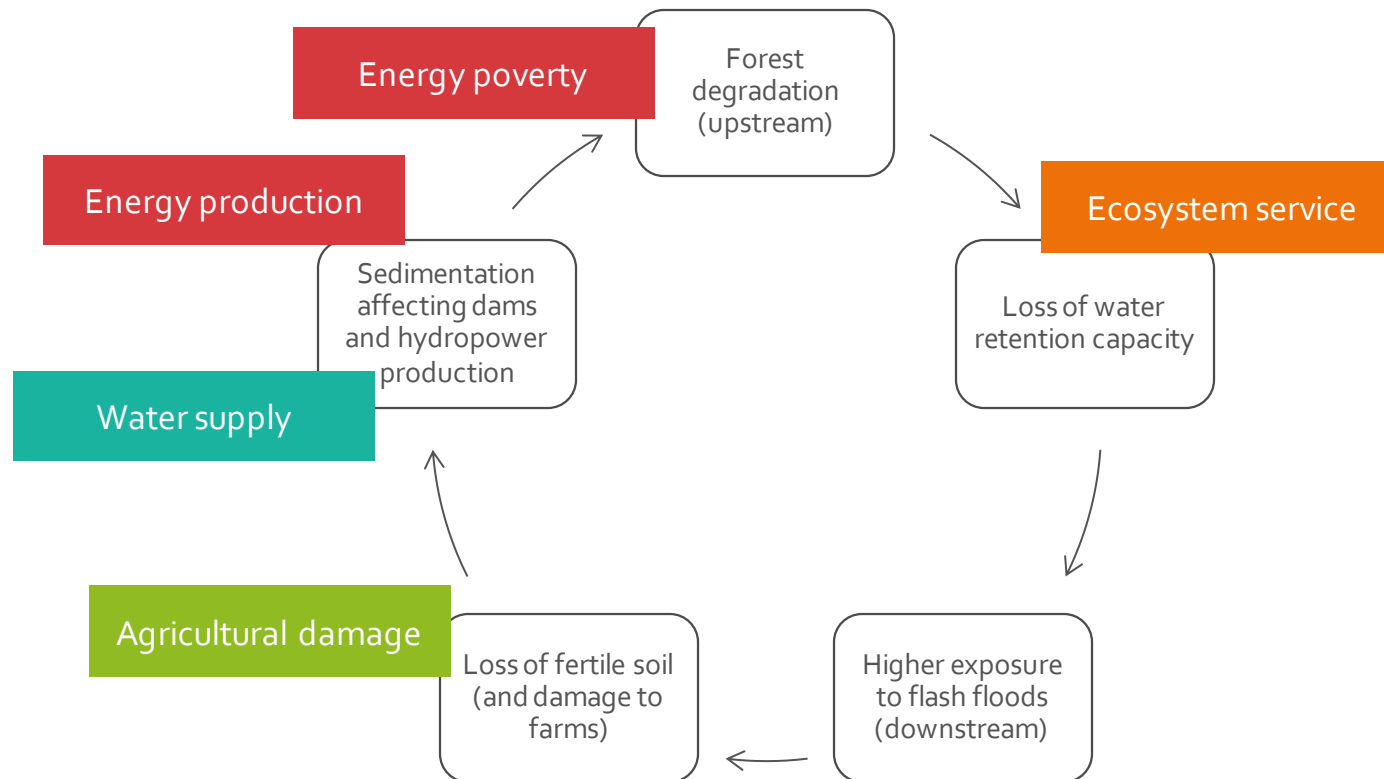
* United Nations administered territory under the UN Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999)

Nexus Solutions and Investments in TB Basins

- A stocktaking of experience from around the world (2020): a survey, a literature review, inputs from expert consultations and a review of regional nexus dialogues.
- Nexus solutions and investments to tackle issues of: **water quantity, water quality and environment.**
- The survey involved **stakeholders from different countries and river basins.**
- **36 case studies** analysed to find: common features and trends related to problems and solutions, financing sources and schemes, obstacles to implementation and enabling factors, perceived added value and benefits.



Nexus “solution”? An example:



Example: Alazani/Ganykh River Basin (Georgia, Azerbaijan) (2013)

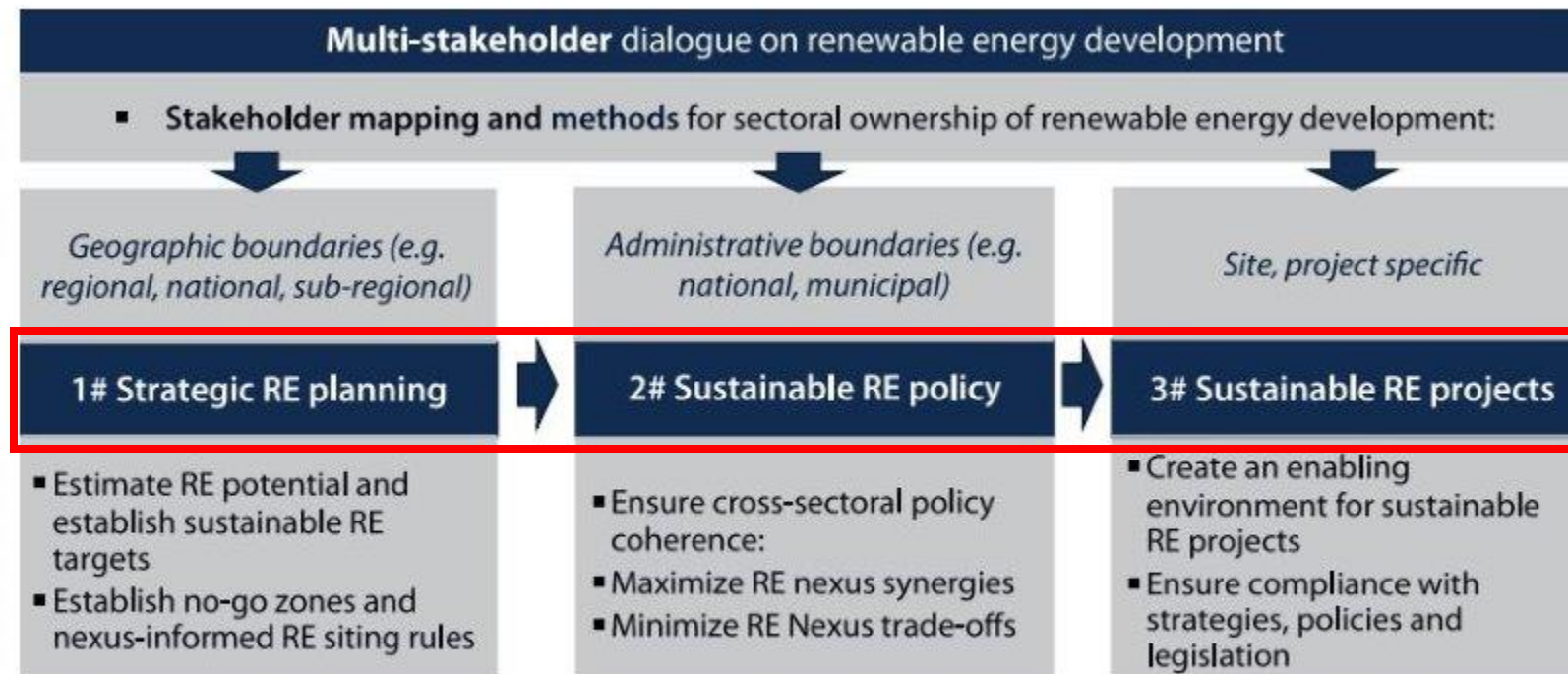
Policy action:
-Facilitate access to modern energy sources and energy trade

Expected 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 (Georgia) have been connected to the gas network (UNECE, 2021)

Water-energy coop. focused on Renewable Energy

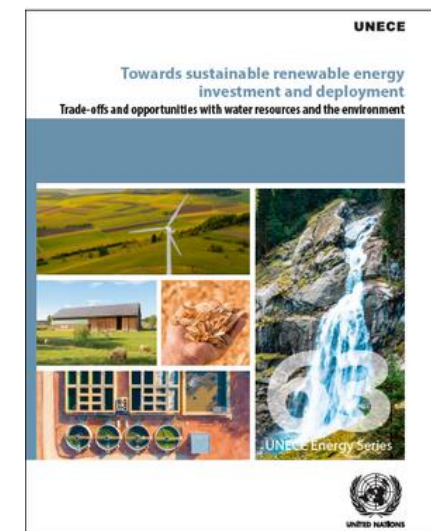
- Cooperation between **Environment** and **Sustainable Energy** Divisions at **UNECE**
- **Drina Nexus Assessment 2016** and “**Renewable Energy Hard Talks**” considering water and environment (Bosnia and Herzegovina 2018, Serbia 2019)
- Joint publication on RES planning with a «basin approach»: [Towards sustainable renewable energy investment and deployment: Trade-offs and opportunities with water resources and the environment | UNECE](#)



Multi-stakeholder dialogue and the three tracks of sustainable renewable energy development: planning, policy and project



MINISTERO DELL'AMBIENTE
E DELLA TUTELA DEL TERRITORIO E DEL MARE



Methodology and tools are available!

Transboundary Nexus Assessment (TBNA) Methodology | UNECE
The Water, Energy & Food Security Resource Platform (water-energy-food.org)



Knowledge Hub News Events Mission About Us Projects EN

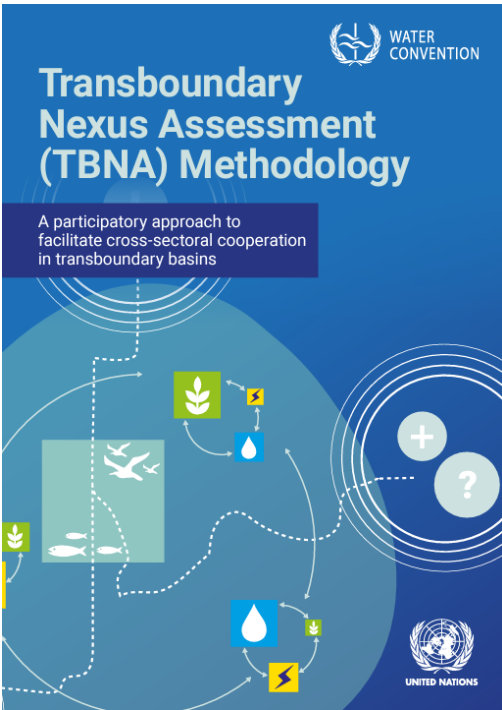
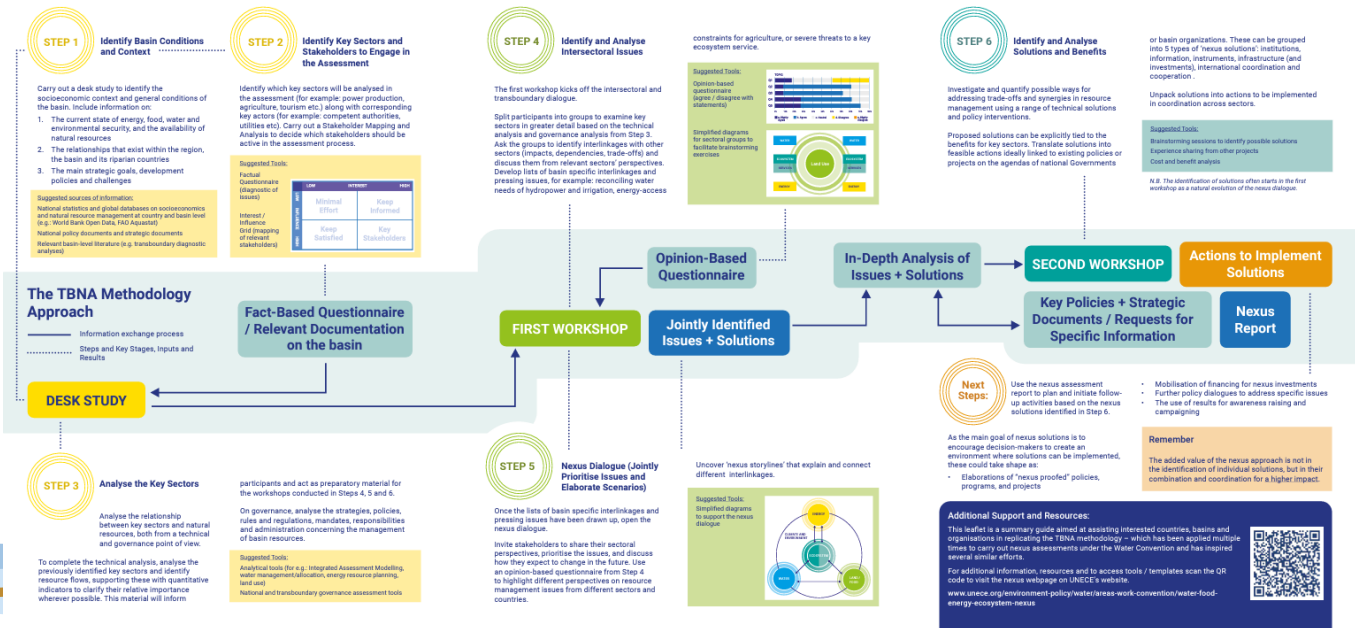
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WEF Nexus Tool // Transboundary Nexus Assessment (TBNA) Methodology Interactive Infographic

In transboundary settings, Nexus related issues can result in painful trade-offs and friction between countries. The TBNA Methodology is a participatory approach to facilitate cross-sectoral cooperation in transboundary basins. The interactive infographic simplifies the six-step methodology.

INFOGRAPHICS TOOLS AND DATABASES NEXUS METHODOLOGY MODELLING AND ASSESSMENT

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Concluding remarks

- Over 60% global freshwater is internationally shared but transboundary cooperation is too often lacking, insufficient, or outdated.
- Water Convention helps to accelerate and upscale water action around the world, promoting policy coherence of Climate, Energy, and Environment actions.
- « Nexus » approach can be key to, e.g.:
 - Expanding IWRM « deeper » into national sectoral strategies
 - Sustainable renewable energy planning
 - Climate change adaptation and mitigation
- Implementing SDG 6.5 globally requires knowledge transfer and capacity building, within and across regions.
- **Join the discussion! Tenth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention | UNECE Slovenia, 23 - 25 October 2024**