



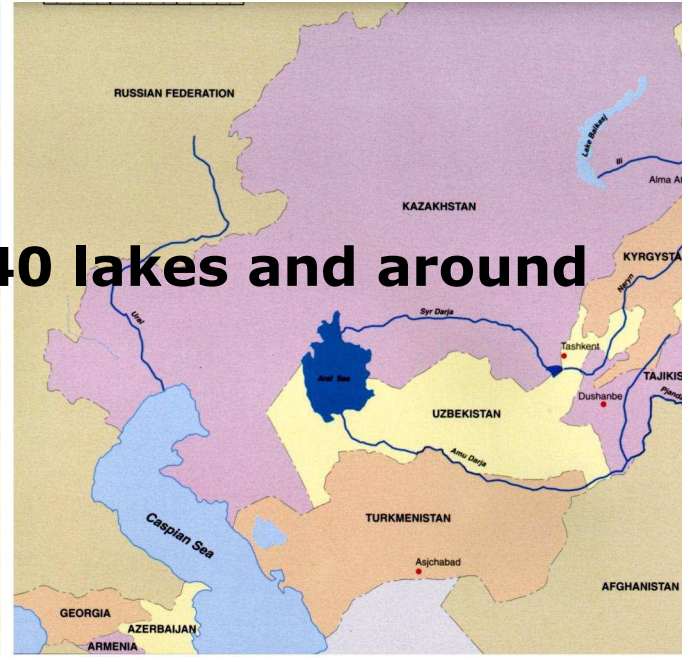
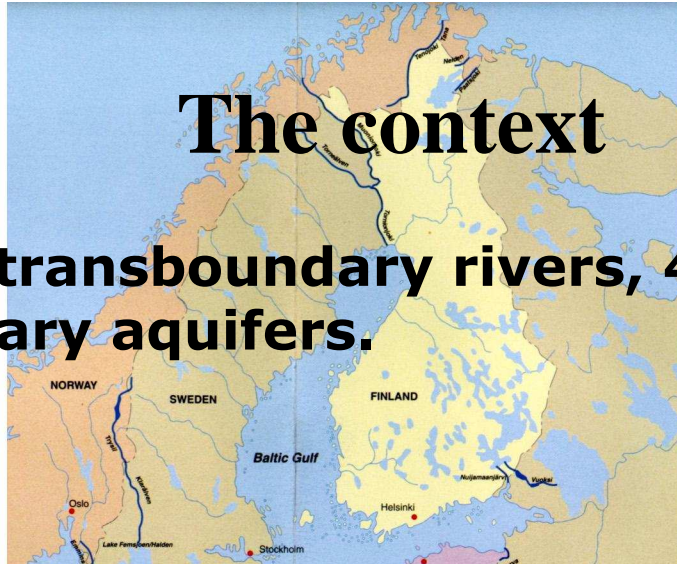
# **Transboundary flood risk management and the UNECE Water Convention**

Sonja Koeppel

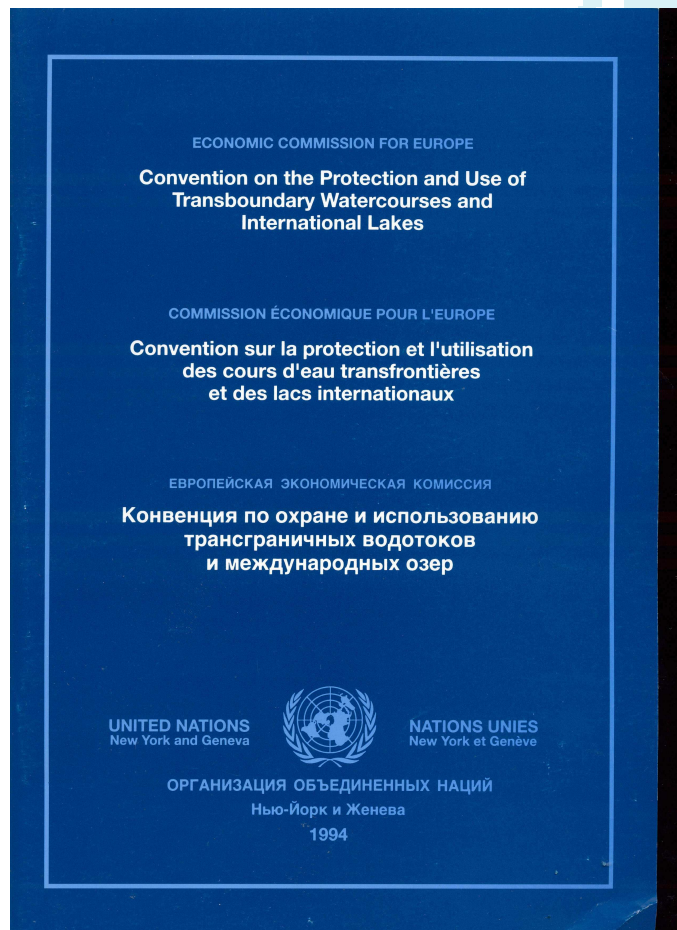
UNECE Water Convention Secretariat

# The context

**UNECE has 200 transboundary rivers, 40 lakes and around 120 transboundary aquifers.**



# UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes

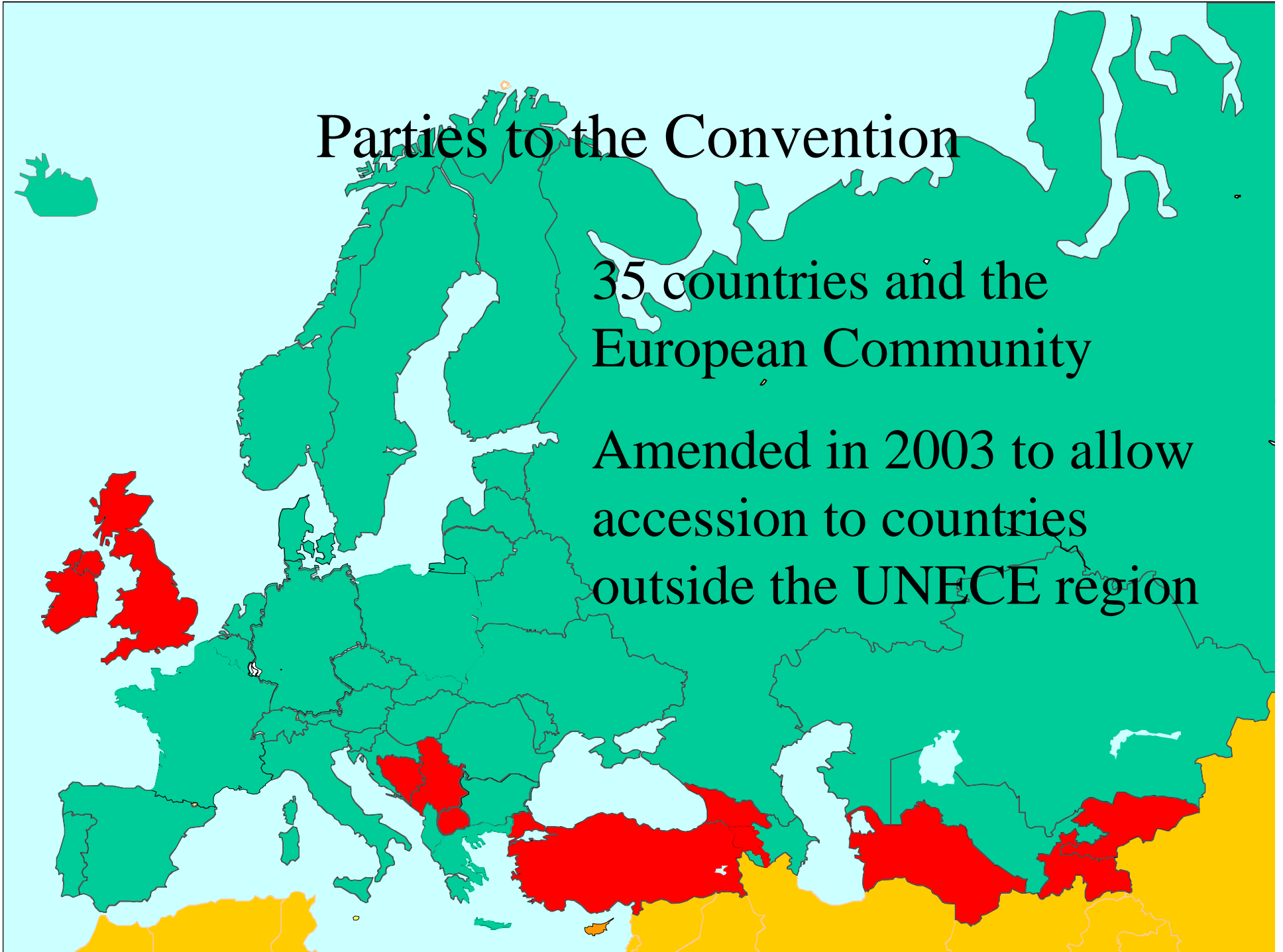


- Signed on 17 March 1992
- Entered into force on 6 October 1996

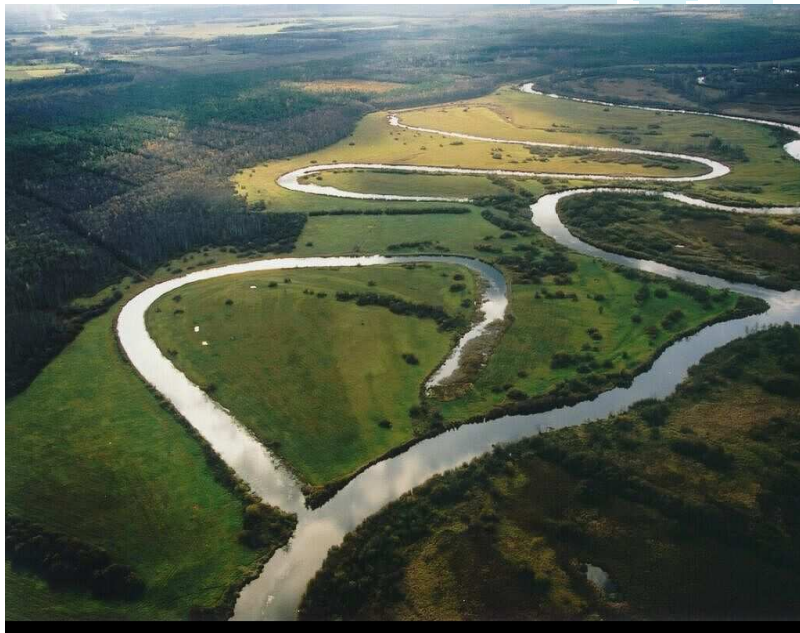
# Parties to the Convention

35 countries and the  
European Community

Amended in 2003 to allow  
accession to countries  
outside the UNECE region



# Aims of the Convention



- Protection of transboundary waters by preventing, controlling and reducing transboundary impacts
- Ecologically sound and rational management of transboundary waters
- Reasonable and equitable use of transboundary waters ⇒ Conflict prevention
- Conservation and restoration of ecosystems

# Provisions in the Convention relevant for flood management

- Parties should prevent, control and reduce any transboundary impact, also those due to floods or flood measures
- Cooperate in research and exchange information
- Establish early-warning and alarm systems
- Create joint monitoring systems for water quantity and quality
- Conclude bilateral and multilateral agreements
- Establish joint bodies where flood risk management can be discussed
- Address also health impacts of floods (Protocol on Water and Health)

# Guidelines on Sustainable Flood Prevention (2000)

- Elaborated by Task Force on Floods and adopted at the MOP 2 in the Hague
- Influenced the EU Best Practices Document on Flood Prevention, Protection and Mitigation (2003) and the EU floods directive
- Cover basic principles, policies and strategies, joint bodies, provision of information, mutual assistance and public awareness/ education and training.
- Include also several good practices

# Provisions related to joint bodies in the guidelines

- joint bodies should develop a long-term flood prevention and protection strategy and an action plan
- draw up an inventory of measures
- help countries cooperate in establishing the water balance for the entire catchment area.



# Model Provisions on Transboundary flood risk management, 2006


- Elaborated by Legal Board and Flood Task Force, adopted at MOP 4 in Bonn in 2006
- Aim to strengthen the legal framework on transboundary flood management
- Parties shall prevent, mitigate and protect against flood risks in transboundary river basins and refrain from taking measures which may result in a transfer of flood risks

# Model Provisions on Transboundary flood risk management, 2006

- Riparian Parties shall exchange information and set up coordinated or joint communication and warning systems
- Parties shall consult each other if they want to undertake a project likely to significantly alter the water flow
- Parties shall incorporate environmental requirements into their flood protection strategy and restore the natural function of the watercourse

Riparian Parties shall develop a long-term flood management strategy and measures covering the entire basin, including:

- Exchange of data, collection, and development of a forecasting model covering the whole basin or of a linkage between the Parties' forecasting models.
- Preparation of surveys, studies, flood plain maps, flood risk assessments and flood risk maps.
- Development of a comprehensive flood action plan addressing prevention, protection, preparedness and response
- Raising awareness and providing access to information, public participation and access to justice.



## Capacity-building to support implementation of the recommendations regarding flood management under the Convention

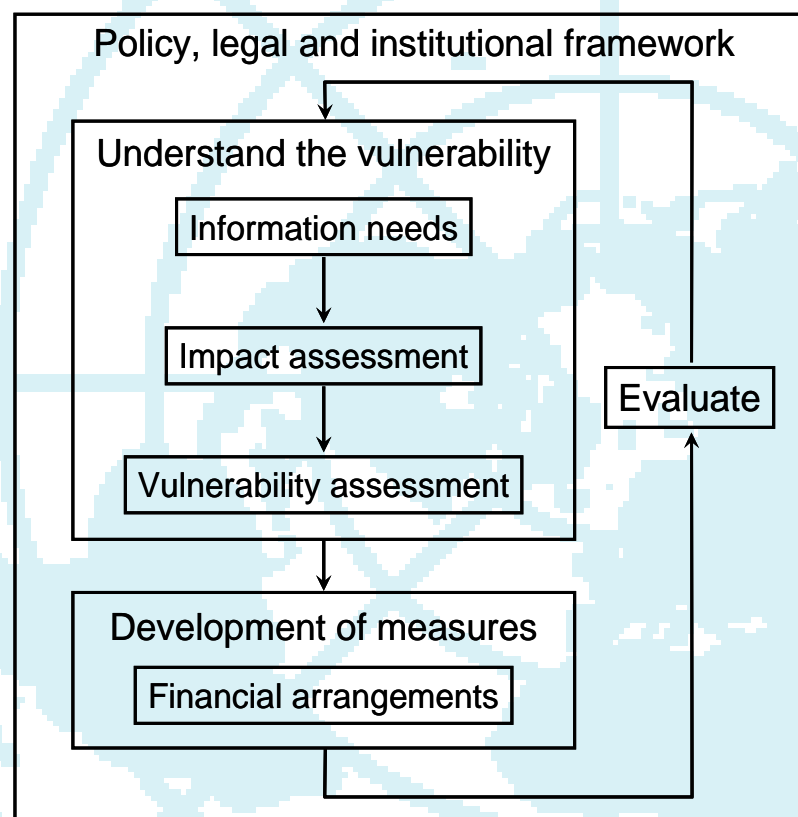
- Workshops such as Seminar on flood prevention, protection and mitigation in Berlin 2004
- National Policy Dialogues include flood management in Ukraine
- Pilot projects to be developed

# Development of a Guidance on Water and Climate Adaptation

- Developed by Task Force on Water and Climate, mandated by MOP-4 in Bonn 2006
- It provides a general roadmap or step-wise approach on how impacts of climate change can be assessed and how policy, strategic and operational responses can be developed
- It addresses water scarcity and floods as well as health impacts with a special focus on transboundary context
- To be adopted at MOP 5 in Geneva in November

# Key steps in the Guidance to develop and adaptation strategy

- Establishing the policy, legal and institutional framework
- Understanding vulnerability
- Developing and implementing an adaptation strategy
- Evaluating



# Thank you!

**More information** including the guidelines, publications and information on activities under the Convention can be found at

<http://unece.org/env/water>

[water.convention@unece.org](mailto:water.convention@unece.org)