



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

Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management

Sixteenth meeting

Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment

Sixteenth meeting

Geneva, 26-28 April 2021

Item 4 of the provisional agenda

**Recent developments related to transboundary water cooperation at the global level
and under the Convention**

**Main outcomes of the online survey for the development
of the programme of work for 2022–2024**

Note by the secretariat

Background

At its 15th meeting, the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) decided to develop the programme of work for 2022-24 of the Water Convention through a consultative process that would include an online survey on priorities of work for 2022-2024.

The Water Convention secretariat launched in November 2020 an online survey to collect priorities of for proposed activities of countries and partners (Parties, non-Parties, organizations and some partner universities). The proposed activities mentioned in the survey, following the structure of the programme of work for 2019-2021 and its seven programme areas, had been identified from discussions at meetings of the intergovernmental bodies, proposals made by lead Parties and partners and needs identified through reporting under the Water Convention and on the Sustainable Development Goal indicator 6.5.2.

In total, 73 respondents completed the survey, and after clarification (to avoid duplicated answers by some countries), 69 answers were considered in the analysis. The survey results are not fully representative, as several countries and partners did not complete the survey but provide useful indications on priorities and suggestions for the development of the draft programme of work for 2022-2024.

This document provides an overview of the responses received and aims to inform the working groups for their discussion on the draft programme of work of the Water Convention for 2022-2024. It includes an analysis of the prioritization of proposed activities for each programme area. It also lists additional suggestions about activities and possible contributions received through the survey.

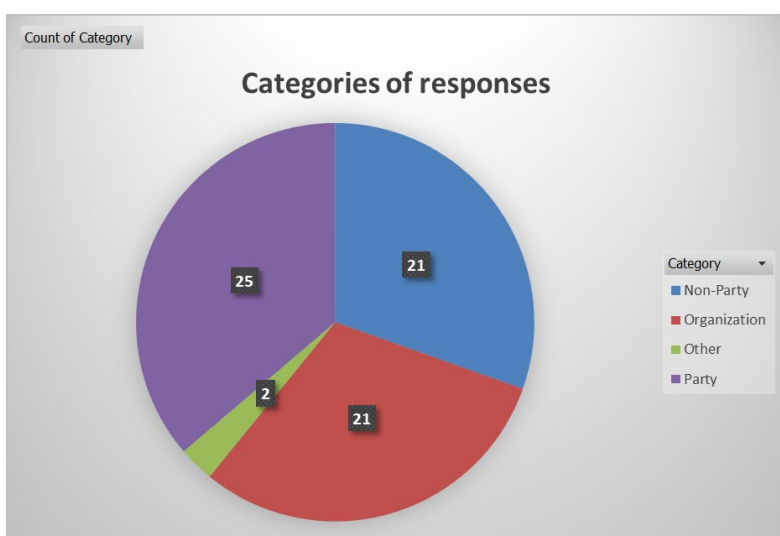
I. Analysis of the 69¹ answers to the survey

Most of the respondents were from countries (67%) – among which 36% were Parties, followed by organizations (30%) – mostly existing partners of the Water Convention, and individual experts (3%). No answer was received from the academia or the private sector (cf. *graph 1*).

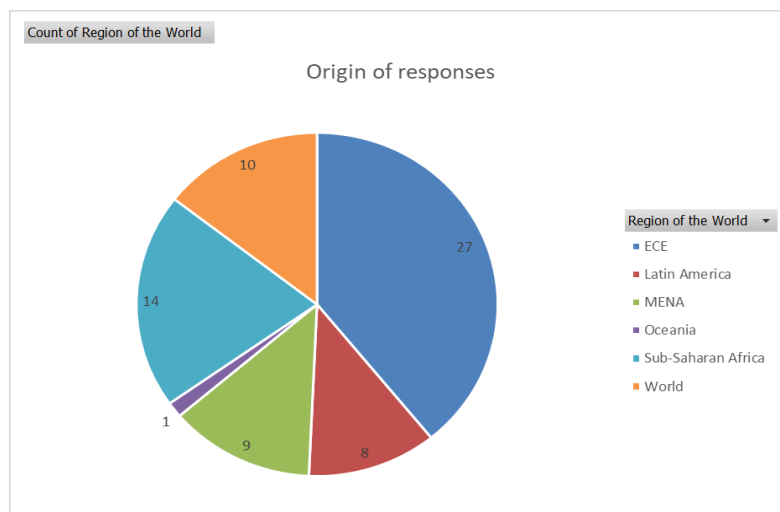
In terms of geographical origin of respondents, 39% were from the pan-European region, followed by sub-Saharan Africa (20%), organizations working at the global level (14%), the Middle East and North Africa region (13%), Latin America (12%) and Oceania (1%). No answer was received from the Asian region nor from North America (cf. *graph 2*).

25 out of the 44 Parties to the Water Convention responded to the survey (57% of the Parties) (cf. *graph 3*).

Respondents were invited to prioritize activities for programme areas of their choice (and could prioritize proposed activities for all programme areas). Proposed activities were prioritized by more than 70% of the respondents for all of the seven programme areas, with a higher answer rate observed for programme area 3 – IWRM at all levels; programme area 2 – Data exchange, monitoring and assessment and programme area 4 – Adaptation to climate change (cf. *graph 4*).

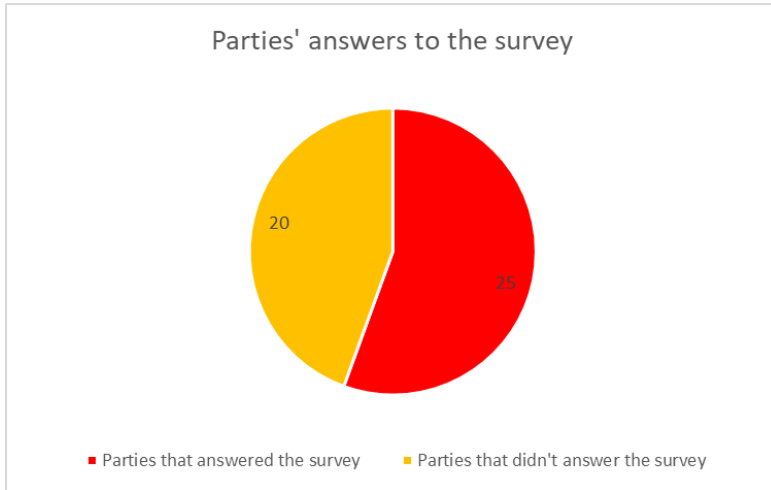


Graph 1: Number of answers received per category of respondents



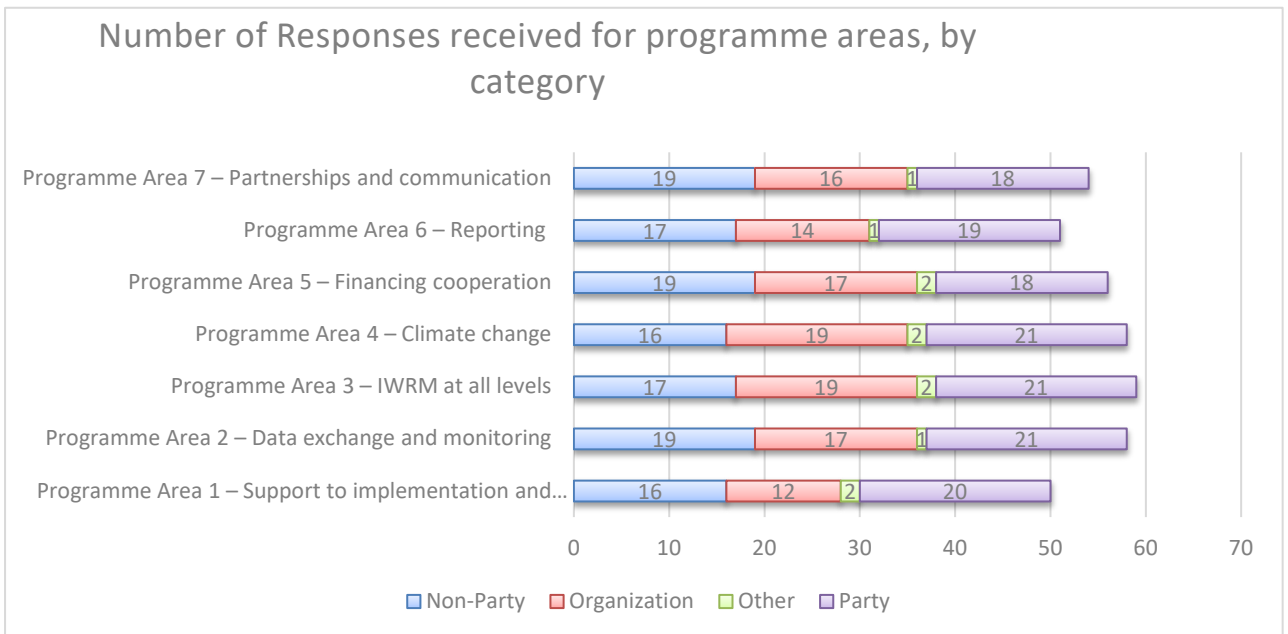
Graph 2: Number of answers received per region

¹In total, 73 complete answers were received. Few countries submitted two answers. The secretariat followed up with such countries to consider only one concerted answer per country. In the below analysis, 69 answers were therefore considered.



Graph 3: Participation of Parties to the Water Convention to the survey

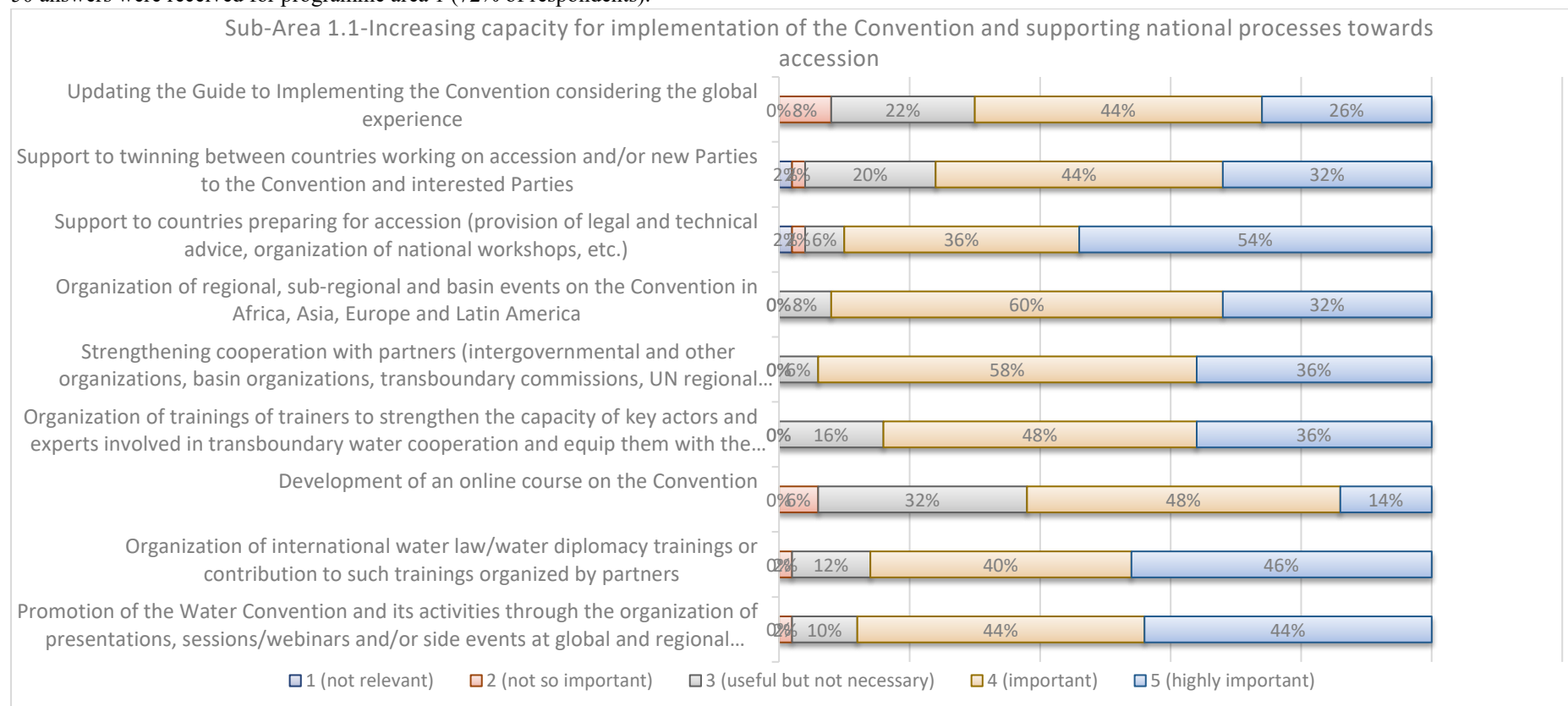
Graph 4: Number of responses received per programme area and by category of respondents



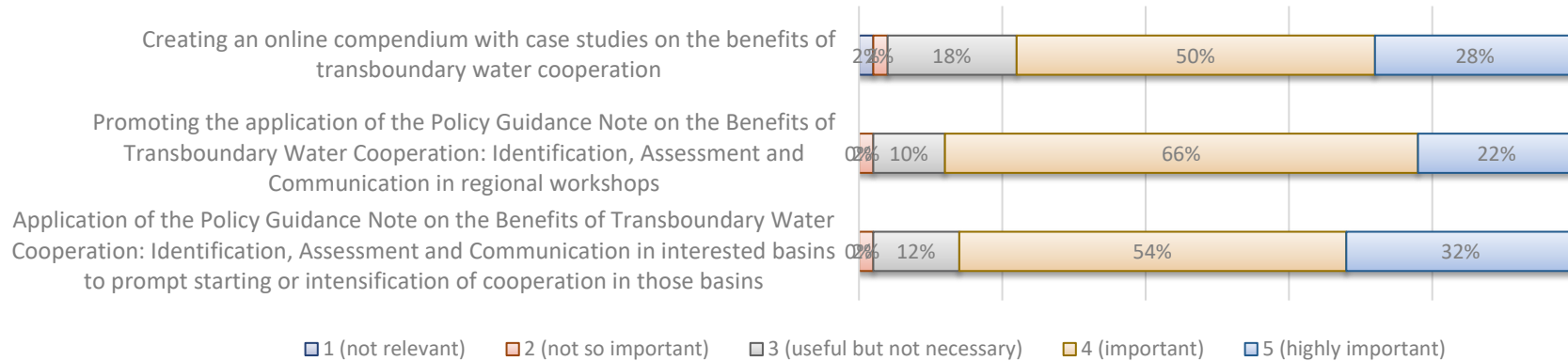
II. Detailed analysis for each programme area

Programme area 1 – Increasing awareness of and accession to the Convention and application of its principles drawing on the benefits of cooperation

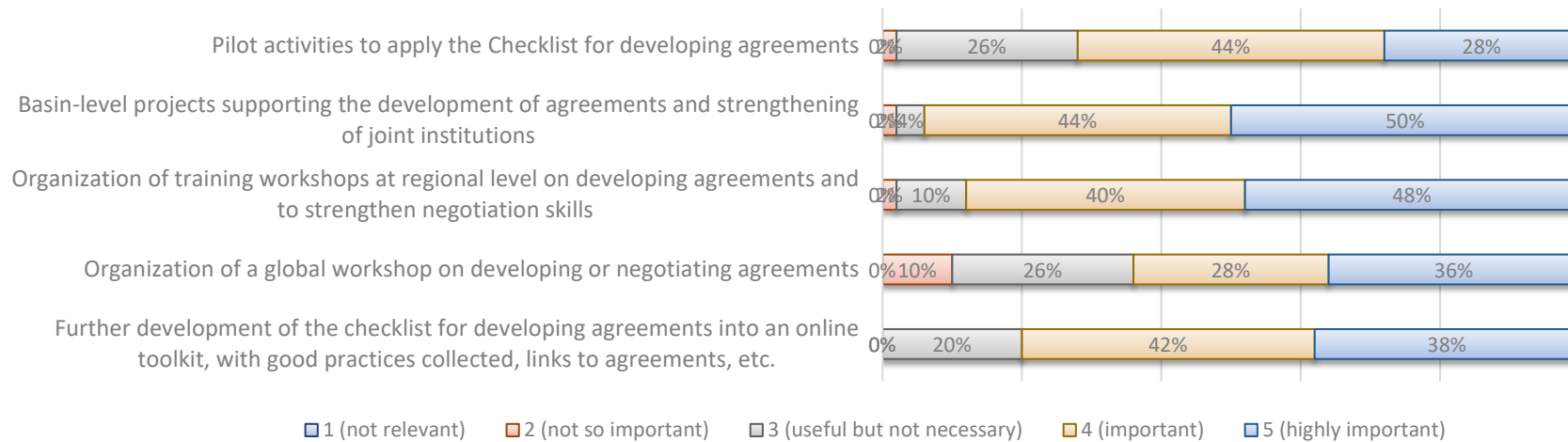
50 answers were received for programme area 1 (72% of respondents).



Sub-Area 1.2 - Promoting and communicating the benefits of transboundary cooperation



Sub-Area 1.3 - Supporting the development of agreements and the establishment of joint bodies



Comments² of respondents for programme area 1

UNEP-DHI	UN colleagues working on the Water Convention should consider input from the survey to make their own judgements regarding how the limited resources at their disposal should be used. Some activities are “must do”, while others will be of varying degrees of importance.
Suriname	Not all Ministries and policy makers within the government of Suriname are familiar with the Water Convention. Therefore, the importance of the convention has to be promoted within the Government of Suriname.
Hungary	Support countries to access financial resources for previously mentioned goals
Switzerland	Online tools: depends on how it is being done and really being based on NEEDS’ of the FUTURE TARGET USERS. Online Trainings on International law and diplomacy: the Convention should partner with other existing research / training institutions and join forces strategically. Also big global UN conventions (MEAs) do this (see CBD: https://www.cbd.int/cb/E-learning/). However, information around transboundary water cooperation and learning could be gathered more strategically on the Convention’s website or included on other global websites.
Gambia	Funds will be mobilized locally to embark on sensitization stakeholder awareness raising. The Gambia needs funds from UNECE Secretariat for a national validation workshop. UNECE needs to mobilize funds and strengthen collaboration with potential donors to enable the Gambia and other developing countries to carry out activities on under programme area 2 as they are all important.
AWEN³	AWEN is taking the lead in an initiative for the development of a Hydro diplomacy platform in the MENA region , this platform will be consider as part of its task; increase awareness of , and accession to international conventions and enhance cooperation on trans-boundary water in the region
GWP⁴	GWP have been working with the Convention in several areas under this workplan activities and hopes to continue/expand this cooperation. In particular: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore potential linkages and joint development of toolkits that can support countries. Concrete suggestion is to use GWP’s new toolbox as an online portal for case studies implementing the Convention, showing benefits of cooperation, and also cases and examples of transboundary agreements linked to the guideline that GWP is collaborating to develop with the Water Convention. • Some of the GWP regions expressed interests and have been in dialogue with the Water Convention Secretariat for concretely supporting country level accession work, as well as regional/sub-regional level promotion of the Convention. We would like to continue cooperation where already initiated and further to concretize some of the key areas of this work with the Convention Secretariate. • GWP has been collaborating with the Convention Secretariate on various trainings and capacity building initiatives, including Pan Africa and Pan Asia IWL training, as well as development of MOOC. GWP hopes to continue these collaborations into the next workplan period. Additional suggestion for the Water Convention Secretariat is to make Implementation Committee to be established at regional level too to ensure well-grounded understanding of the implementing committee members to the strategic context of the region.
Finland	Sub area 1.2 on benefits of transboundary cooperation is important and could be linked and revised to supporting of financing of transboundary co-operation under programme area 5.

² Unedited text, as provided by respondents. Answers in French, Spanish and Russian were translated with DeepL.com

³ Arab Water Expert Network

⁴ Global Water Partnership

Portugal	The Implementation Committee could perhaps be more proactive in disseminating the good practices under the Convention and relevant river basin conventions, thus supporting the Convention Secretariat and Task Forces in their activities for the promotion of accession to the Convention.
PAVE⁵	Support NGOs to carry out awareness and advocacy activities
Ramsar	The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands would wish to continue to highlight together with the Water Convention the functional connections between transboundary wetland ecosystems (incl. aquifers) and transboundary water catchments, as demonstrated during the process of elaborating the 2nd Assessment of 2011.
Tunisia	<p>Organisation of workshops for consultation and knowledge exchange in the field of water resource management. It should always be remembered that there are rivers that can be obstacles to cooperation.</p> <p>The management of groundwater requires a precautionary approach because there are a large number of shared aquifers outside the conventions and which are managed by the principle of sovereignty.</p> <p>Involve civil societies, which must contribute significantly for states to join.</p>
France	<p>Training or participation in training on international water law is very important as well as all the activities that aim to promote, make known, understand and apply the mechanisms of the Water Convention.</p> <p>Diplomacy, on the other hand, is a matter of political relations and negotiation, and therefore does not fall within the mandate of the Convention. France is not in favour of the reference to "water diplomacy": both diplomacy and the Water Convention are instruments that contribute to cooperation in the field of water and good management of resources but fall within different fields of competence and institutions.</p> <p>More broadly, the promotion of the Convention, the organisation of information meetings and, above all, tailor-made support are the strengths of the Convention and one of the main levers for the accession of new States and, in the long term, the sustainable and peaceful management of water resources. Holding events on a global scale is particularly relevant insofar as it helps to raise the awareness of all States that are not parties to cooperation on transboundary waters outside of the often political and sensitive regional issues, and encourages the exchange of experiences.</p>
Chad	I fully agree with these proposals because this support will further strengthen the countries that need support.
INBO⁶	<p>INBO and its members express their interest to get involved with the UNECE Secretariat in this field, in particular for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> --the implementation of " projects at basin level supporting the development of agreements and the strengthening of common institutions " --the " support to twinning between the acceding countries and/or new Parties to the Convention and interested Parties ". <p>INBO can, through its network of basin organizations, make a technical contribution of interest to the UNECE.</p> <p>It could also mobilize OiEau (its Permanent Technical Secretariat) for this purpose, as it has many references of technical and institutional support projects to basin organizations.</p>
Mexico	Continue support to countries once they are Party to the Convention.
ESCWA⁷	Support countries in their efforts to implement and comply with the Convention, through facilitating access to financial mechanisms

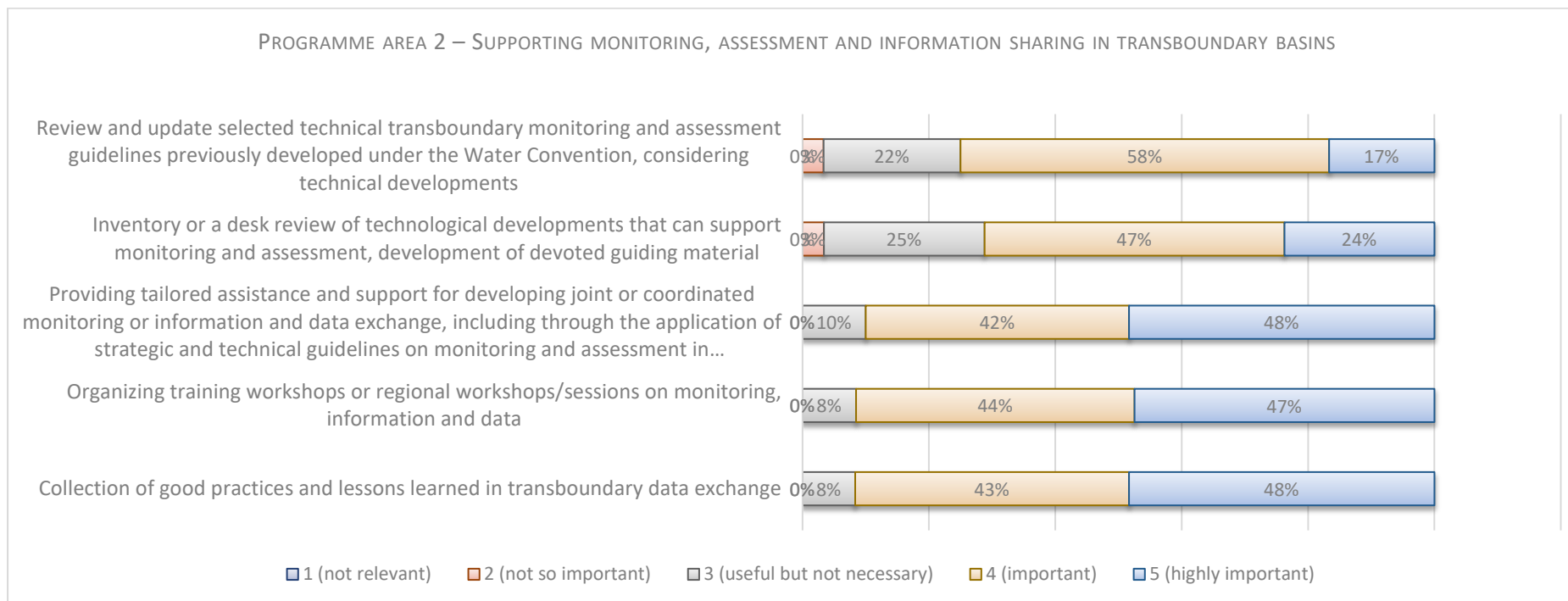
⁵ Pan African Vision for the Environment Nigeria

⁶ International Network of Basin Organizations

⁷ United Nations Economic and Social Commission for West Asia

Programme area 2 – Supporting monitoring, assessment and information sharing in transboundary basins

60 answers were received for programme area 2 (87 % of respondents).



Comments of respondents for programme area 2

UNEP-DHI	UN colleagues working on the Water Convention should consider input from the survey to make their own judgements regarding how the limited resources at their disposal should be used. Some activities are “must do”, while others will be of lesser degrees of importance. They are best placed to decide on final prioritization.
Suriname	Technical staff and key institutions involved in water management lack technical and institutional capacity, therefore training people is of high importance.
Hungary	Prepare data management toolkits for harmonizing of data

Palestine	Development of a comprehensive regional shared monitoring network
Switzerland	Clear analysis is needed what the convention can do on its own and where it needs to partner with others (see also programme area 5 where certain issues it does with partners). There are specialized organizations focusing on data capacity-building (incl. WMO, UN, dev. Banks, bilateral agencies and technical organizations, learning / research institutions offer).
Gambia	The Gambia will need support to implement a study on groundwater/surface water availability, access, pollution, quality and inventory on all water points.
AWEN	One of the main goals of AWENS is to develop a regional monitoring program for all shared water resources in Arab Region and to enhance data exchange by adopting advance technologies.
Australia	Australia has experiences to share for Programme Area 2, principally from the Murray Darling Basin Authority policies and practices over many decades. Of course, Australia also recognises we have much to learn from others in the international community.
GWP	Regional workshops on this topic can be linked to SDG 6.5.2 regional workshops. GWP would be interested to collaborate, based on our existing collaboration on SDG regional workshops.
ACTO⁸	Capitalize on monitoring, assessment and information sharing platforms established and operational in regional Basin Organizations which provide support to SDG 6 and 13 reporting and contribute to their achievement in the respective basin. Provide technological innovations and up-to-date technologies to improve monitoring and assessment of transboundary basins. Establish dialogues at the technical level to improve monitoring or information and data exchange.
Finland	Last two bullet points could be combined; at least the inventory should feed into the update of guidance materials. Finland supports the strengthening of the role of biodiversity in monitoring and assessment activities.
Portugal	We would just underline the need of coordination of national monitoring programs when of transboundary river basins, as a first step towards joint monitoring.
Estonia	Additional proposals: focus and promote new monitoring technologies (e.g passive sampling), digital solutions for joint databases. Possible workshops and guidelines on these.
Libya	Development of common (joint) databases
PAVE	Support NGOs to carry out awareness and advocacy activities
Rwanda	The mechanism of data sharing for transboundary water resources management is very needed.
Ramsar	Focus on joint training sessions or programmes for site (wetland) managers and river basin (water resources) managers to support the integration of nature-based solutions and an ecosystem-based approach into IWRM and Nexus approaches at basin-level.
IGRAC⁹	My comments are about transboundary aquifers. The last assessment was in 2011. The new one should also be used to improve monitoring knowledge data base

⁸ Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization

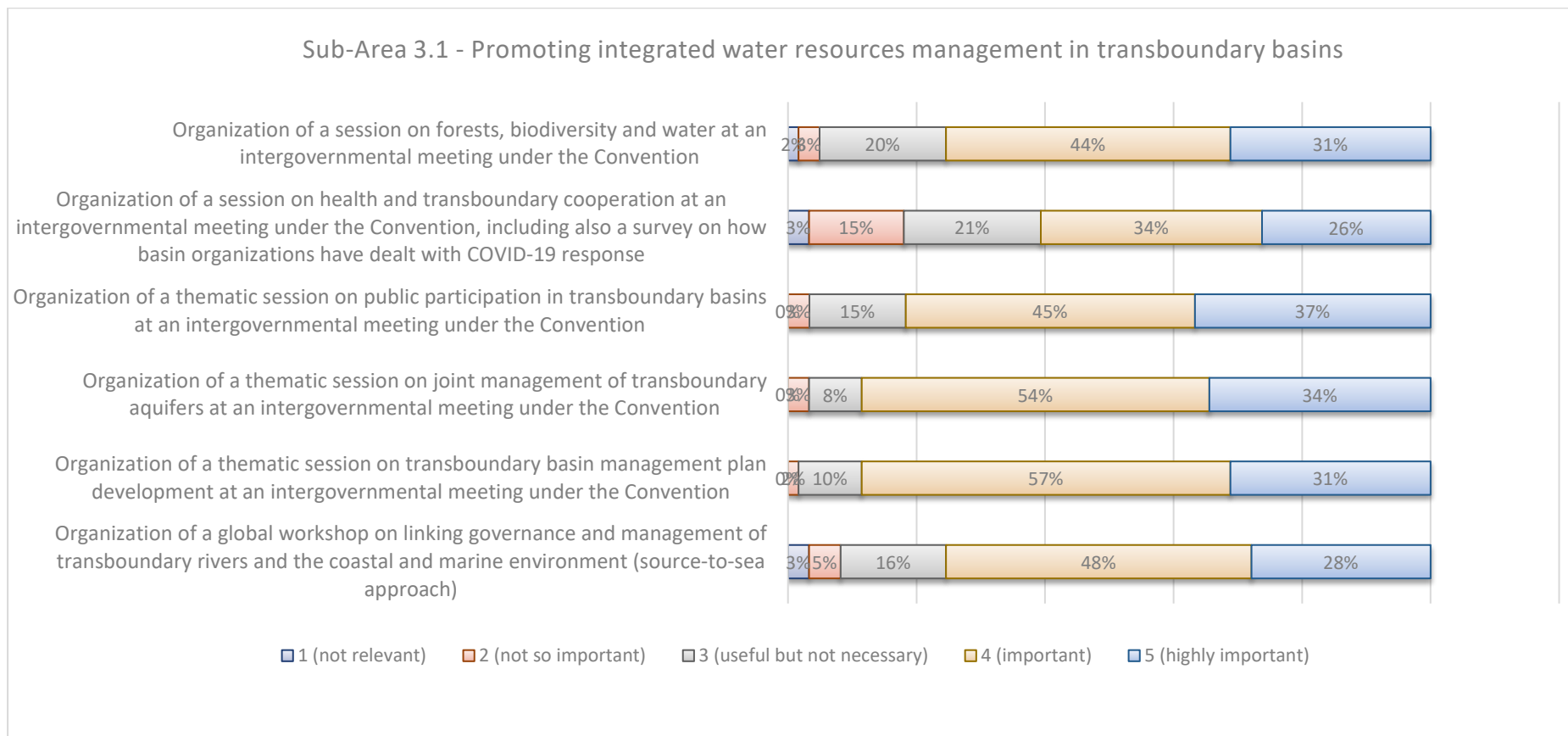
⁹ International Groundwater Resources Assessment Centre

Cote d'Ivoire	Establishment of a regional statistical database at the level of transboundary basins
Tunisia	Implementation of an IT platform to properly monitor water resources. Data exchange via the platform. Impose a protocol for data exchange between countries (frequency, nature of data). Procedures applied in the case of information not being made available. Update the codification of rules and principles applicable to the management, use and protection of watercourses
France	The collection of good practices and lessons learned from data exchange at the cross-border level would be a useful exercise, but there are already many mechanisms for capitalisation on resource management and given the diversity of contexts, the impact on the ground of such an exercise is likely to be weak. The collection and promotion of good practices could be carried out through the evaluation of SDG 6.5.2, or within the framework of regional observatories for example. Training and adequate support, on the other hand, are essential elements with high added value for the operational implementation of good cooperation and effective management.
INBO	The commitment alongside the UNECE Secretariat in this field to implement all the proposals made. INBO will be able to contribute in particular to ensure that these data collection networks and water information systems: 1. facilitate and fluidify the work of decision-makers in a transboundary approach. Data sharing is one of the first steps to build trust between riparian States. 2. are better and sustainably financed within the general framework of the financing of cross-border cooperation promoted by the Convention (in connection with programme area 5). Note: OiEau, INBO Permanent Technical Secretariat, coordinates the French working group on hydrology.
IWMI¹⁰	Leveraging off our work on data exchange in transboundary basins, we would want to collect cases of best practise, and lessons learned. Developed into short information documents that can be used as reference guides in other basins.
ESCWA	Implementing pilot projects in selected basins on use of technologies for monitoring and information sharing

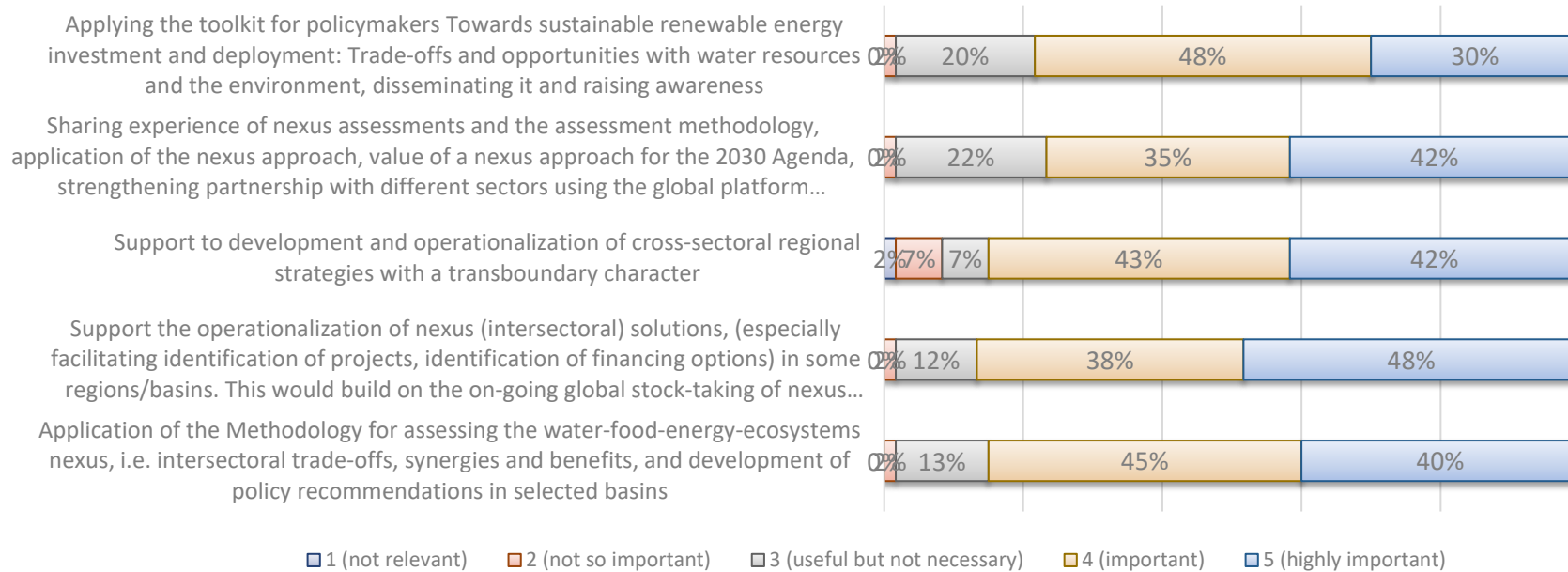
¹⁰ International Water Management Institute

Programme area 3 – Promoting an integrated and intersectoral approach to water management at all levels

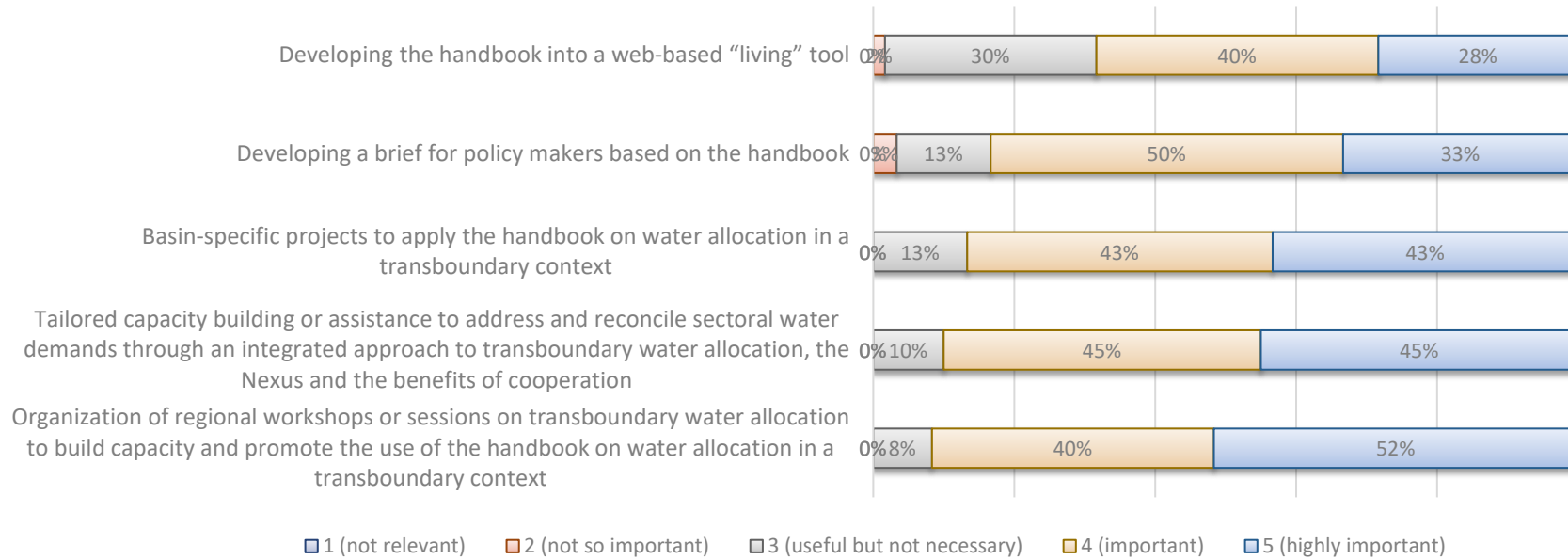
61 answers were received for programme area 3 (88% of respondents).



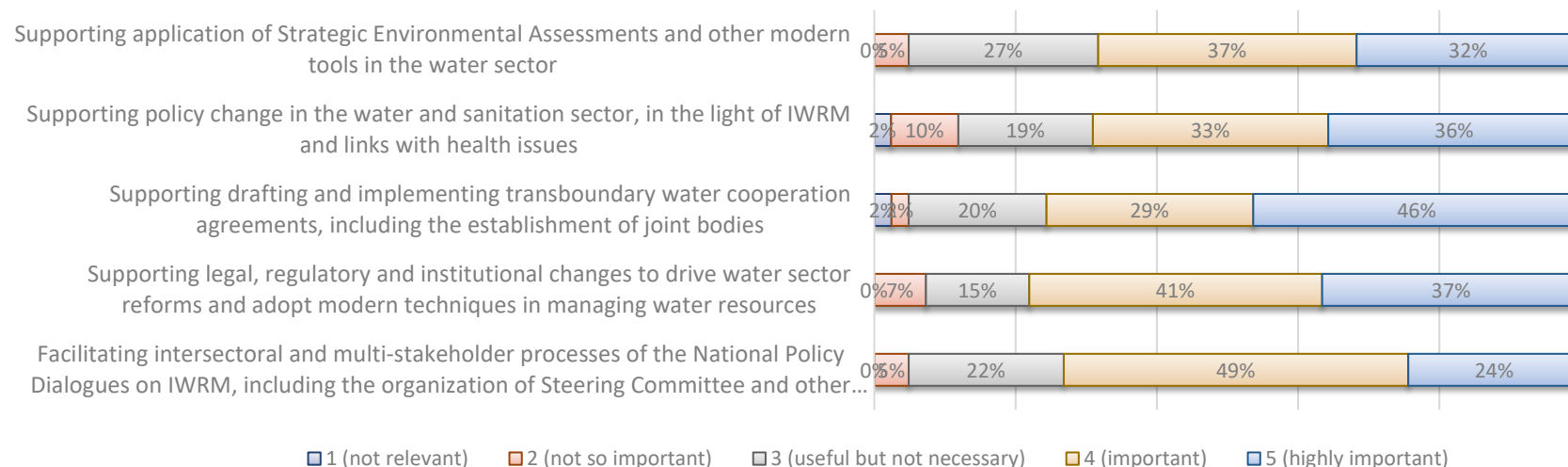
Sub-Area 3.2 - Supporting intersectoral dialogues and assessments through the application of the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus approach



Sub-Area 3.3 - Supporting equitable and sustainable water allocation in the transboundary context



Sub-Area 3.4 - Supporting National Policy Dialogues on integrated water resources management under the European Union Water Initiative *(this area of work is limited to countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia)*



Comments of respondents for programme area 3

Hungary	Situation between the countries are very different in EE, Caucasus and CA, therefore, the priorities can be different by regions
Switzerland	If marine and coastal areas are being dealt as an area of analysis, consider in the future to look also into mountain areas as there are also quite some countries and regions in the world affected by this topic, notably as this also includes glaciers melting which is a key issue in the context of climate change and implies a specific look at it. Also consider look into this question under programme area 4.
Gambia	To review OMVG protocols in line with UN 97/UNECE 92 conventions and to develop a strategic framework on climate change resilience development.
Australia	We continue to note global shortage of well-integrated basin management initiatives in many jurisdictions where water, agriculture, energy and environmental outcomes could be improved if jointly considered.
GWP	There are several areas of potential collaboration: - In relation to workshop on Source to Sea approach: Integrating fresh and marine water issues is a key emphasis of GWP's work on transboundary water,

	<p>and we will be developing a dedicated program to boost this area of work. GWP would be keen to explore collaboration on the global workshop promoting source to sea approach in transboundary basins.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In relation to workshop on public participation, has vast experience -also in TB basins- to contribute. Further to this, GWP is currently considering publishing a knowledge product on multi-stakeholder platform in the context of transboundary water governance. It closely relates to this line of work, and we would be interested to discuss potential collaboration with UNECE if there is interest. - On Nexus in general, GWP could help with broader experience sharing, within and possibly beyond the Task Force using the GWP regional water partnerships. In particular explore possibilities for cooperating in applying Nexus in the Med area in Lebanon, Morocco and Albania. - For the sub-areas 3.2 and 3.3. are considered important or highly important, but this could apply to countries with advanced relationships. In Central America could be Costa Rica and Panamá. (GWP Central America) - For sub area 3.4, suggest continuing working with the EU Water Initiative involving different stakeholders. Engage with the GWP CEE and GWP CACENA in the next stage of the process. (GWP Central and Eastern Europe)
ACTO	Consider the role and experiences of regional Basin Organizations in implementing the NEXUS approach models for water management oriented to institutional strengthening, water security and investment planning, among others. Promote dialogues at the global level to make visible the efforts of regional Basin Organizations regarding integrated water resources management and its needs of financial support and capacity building, promoting the development of an international agenda for strengthening the capabilities of regional Basin Organizations.
Independent	Why the geographic limitations?
Finland	<p>In sub area 3.1 Source to sea workshop would be more cost-efficient to be organized as a side event in some other UN events. Why are different thematic session under the intergovernmental meetings separated in such a focus to different tasks? The COVID-19 session could be more suitable to the PoW under the water and health protocol.</p> <p>Sub area 3.3. Strengthening the assessment and protection of (aquatic) biodiversity (particularly ecological flows) as part of the nexus approach, and water allocation.</p> <p>Sub-area 3.4: Supporting drafting and implementing transboundary water cooperation agreements, including the establishment of joint bodies is very important, but could be better placed somewhere outside NPDs in the PoW.</p>
PAVE	Support NGOs to carry out awareness and advocacy activities
Rwanda	Support in sustainable financing mechanism for River Basin Organizations
Ramsar	Exchange of good-practice cases and projects, notably also those focusing on specific important wetland and water-related ecosystems and how such ecosystems depend and interact with the entire water catchment basin (water regulation, purification, climate adaptation and mitigation, etc.).
GIZ	The Nexus Regional Dialogue programme (with the Global Nexus Secretariat at GIZ HQ) has a particular interest in subpoint 3.2 ‘the application of the methodology to assess the water-energy-food-ecosystems nexus in the context of transboundary water management’ since this will be an area of focus for the project’s phase II. The programme as a whole has an interest in tools/methodologies and pilot projects to demonstrate the added-value of multisectoral policy making more generally. One of the programme’s implementing partners, CAREC, has voiced an interest in learning more specifically from best practices worldwide regarding the Nexus approach in transboundary water resources management.

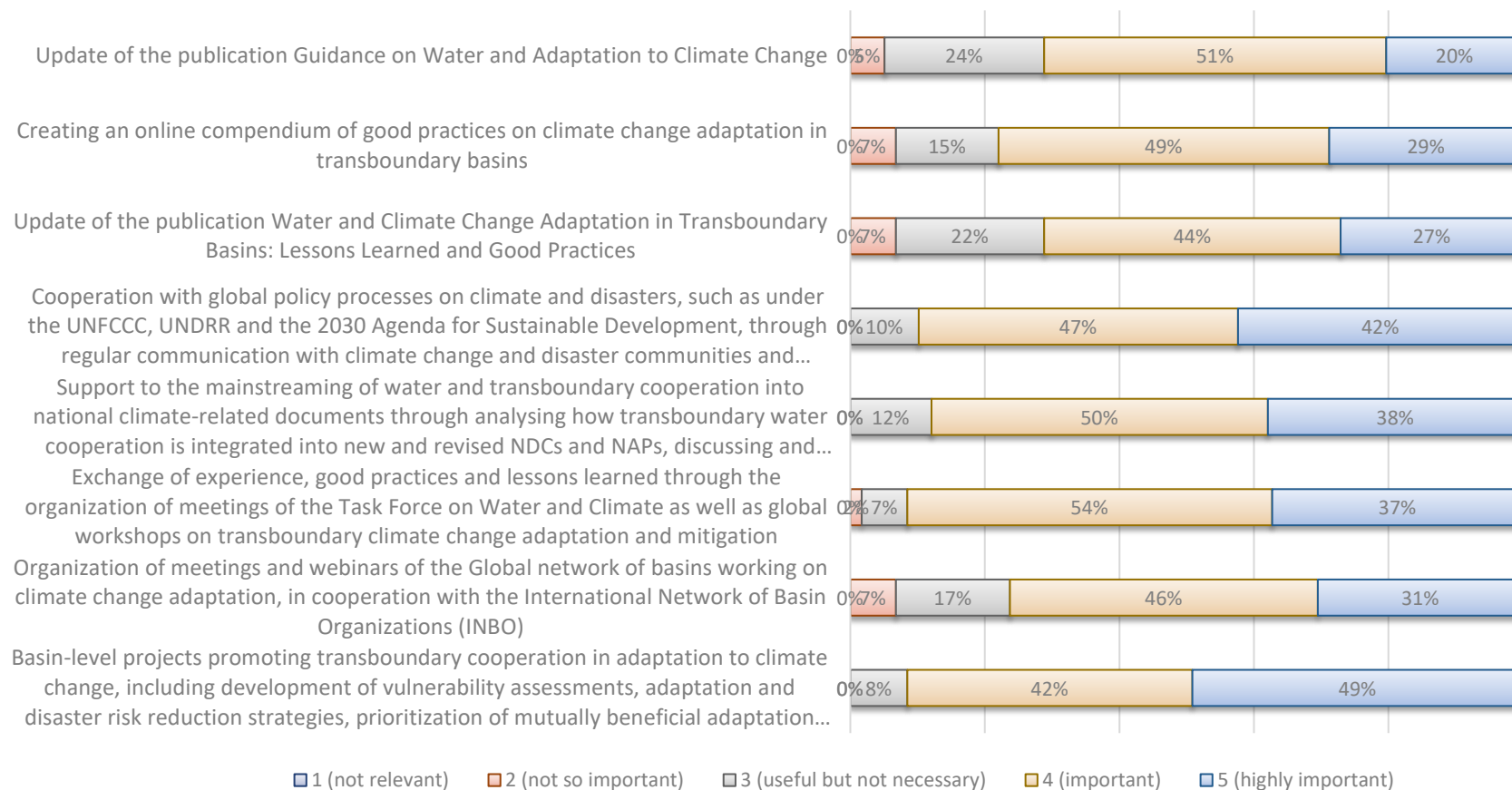
Cote d'Ivoire	The sharing of experience in evaluating interactions needs to be well defined.
Tunisia	Involvement of magistrates from countries sharing a cross-border basin for the improvement of legal texts. Use of modelling in IWRM
France	<p>Sub-area 3.1: Raising awareness on the links between governance and management of land and marine resources is a major challenge. However, the organisation of regional or targeted training sessions or workshops on the implementation of IWRM as a response to the issue of the integrated management of land and coastal environments would provide a more concrete response to this issue and would be part of a more operational perspective. Moreover, the organisation of a thematic session on the development of management plans for transboundary basins within the framework of an intergovernmental meeting would be useful, but given the diversity of contexts, local regulatory frameworks, practices and above all the diversity of the institutions involved, it would seem more appropriate and efficient to provide technical support to the institutions in charge of developing management plans than a session within the framework of an intergovernmental meeting a priori intended for decision-makers.</p> <p>The organisation of a session on health and transboundary cooperation is more in line with the Water and Health Protocol. However, although the links between health and transboundary cooperation are not obvious, taking into account that the Protocol is not open to all non-UNECE countries and that it is a major issue, the organisation of a session dedicated to health in the framework of the Convention would be particularly relevant and useful. On the other hand, carrying out a survey on the way in which basin organisations have dealt with the response to COVID-19 does not seem relevant: an interesting opportunity effect, but water-related health issues go far beyond the covid and although basin organisations have been able to play a role in the fight against the pandemic, this remains secondary compared to other institutions. It would be more relevant to present the impact of cross-border management and TBOs in preventing water-related diseases and reducing the vulnerability of populations to health risks.</p> <p>More broadly, water is a cross-cutting issue but a compartmentalised sector. The issues and actions implemented in the water sector are often not well known to other sectors and are not taken into account by other actors. Raising awareness, informing and involving the other sectors is a major challenge in order to exploit, protect and preserve the resource in a sustainable manner to ensure that social, health, environmental, agricultural, food, energy and industrial needs are met in the long term.</p> <p>The mobilisation of other sectors (public institutions and the economic sector) must be a priority in order to make water one of the pivots of national and international policies. In this respect, the organisation of joint activities or strategies at the level of river basins with UN organisations from other sectors would be relevant and complementary to the activities carried out directly with States Parties and non-States Parties.</p>
INBO	<p>INBO and its Permanent Technical Secretariat, OIEau, have an interest in getting involved alongside the UNECE Secretariat in this field, in particular for:</p> <p>Sub-area 3.1: - " the organization of a thematic session on the development of transboundary basin management plans during an intergovernmental meeting under the Convention " - " the organization of a thematic session on the joint management of transboundary aquifers during an intergovernmental meeting under the Convention " - " the organization of a thematic session on public participation in transboundary basin management during an intergovernmental meeting under the Convention</p> <p>Sub-area 3. 3: - "specific projects in basins to implement the handbook on water allocation in a transboundary context"</p> <p>Sub-area 3.4: - "support for legal, regulatory and institutional changes to stimulate water sector reforms and to adopt modern water resources management techniques" - "support for the development and implementation of cooperation agreements on transboundary waters, including through the establishment of joint bodies"</p>

Sub-area 3. 2: The main challenge of the convention and its implementation remains the strengthening of transboundary basin organisations (in particular the planning of water uses in all sectors). The existing corpus of reports and studies produced by the UNECE appears sufficient. The task now is to provide concrete technical and institutional assistance to these basin organisations for the implementation of the recommendations contained in these reports. It would be preferable in this sub-area to focus on operational projects.

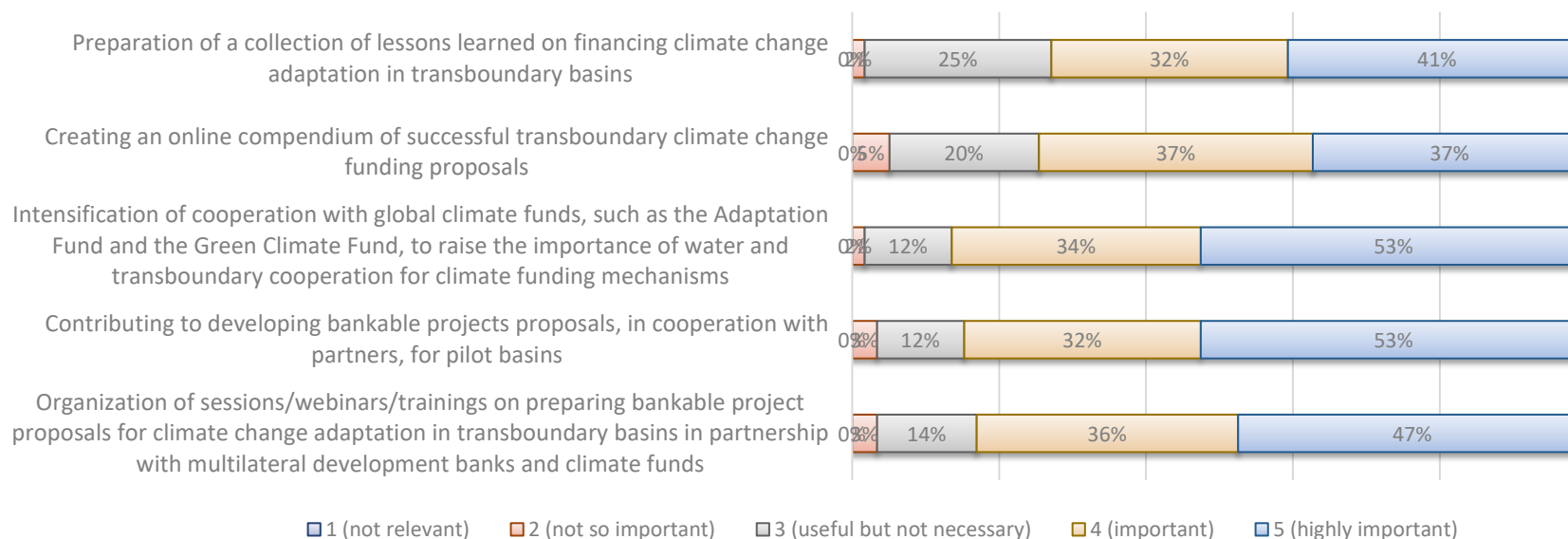
Programme area 4 – Adapting to climate change in transboundary basins

59 answers were received for this programme area 4 (86% of respondents).

Sub-Area 4.1-Supporting development of transboundary adaptation strategies and implementation of priority measures



Sub-Area 4.2-Supporting transboundary basins in financing climate change adaptation



Comments by respondents for programme area 4

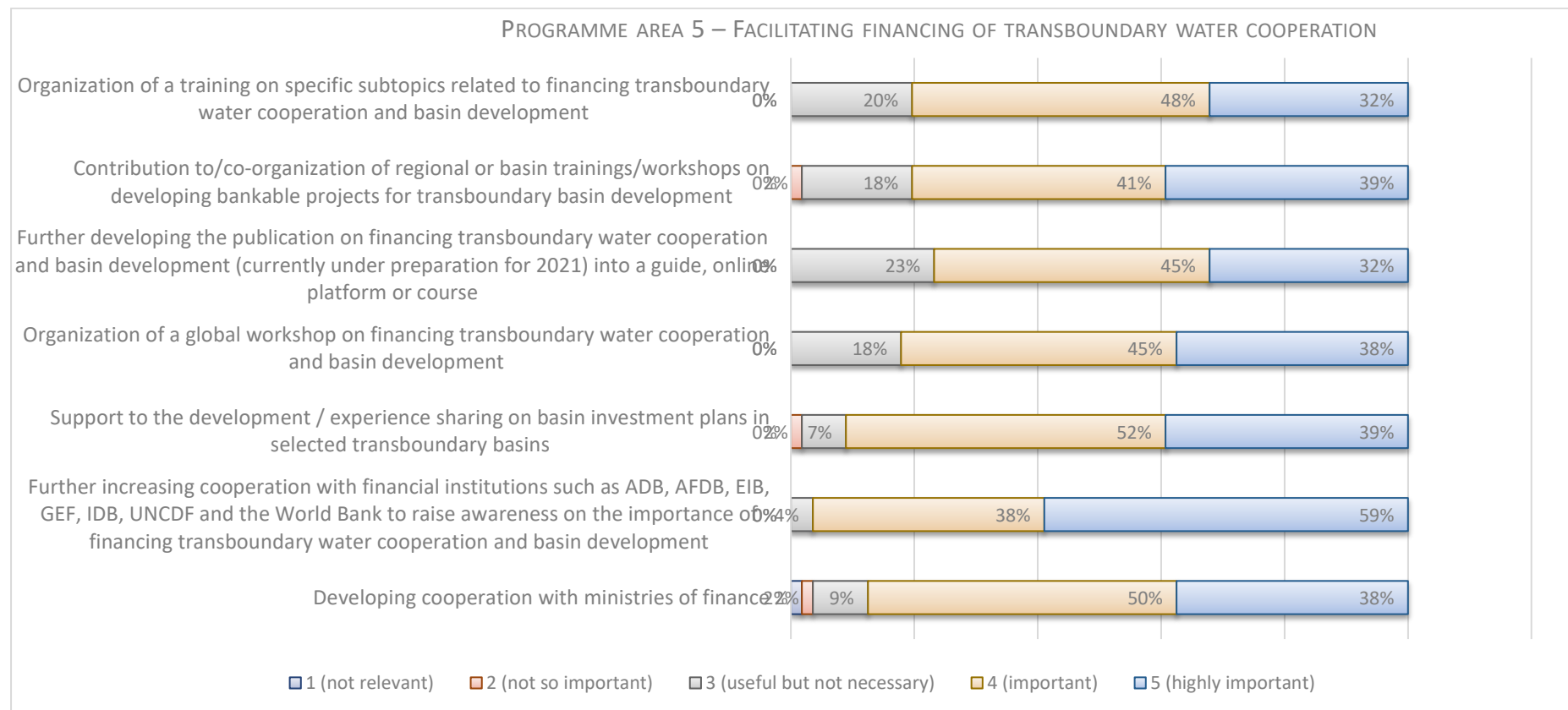
Hungary	Pay special attention to regions of countries with different financing possibilities (e.g. EU and non-EU countries, candidate countries, neighbourhood programme, interaction between different, but neighbouring Interreg areas, etc.)
Switzerland	Important to focus first on the global outreach and awareness with the key global climate funds as they do not seem to take transboundary waters into account sufficiently. If is already sufficient experience what worked and what did not that would be of interest to share. Important that this work feeds into Programme Area 5 which is broader.
Gambia	The Ministry of Fisheries, Water Resources and NAM, Department of Water Resources, and Gambia Country Water Partnership (GCWP) need support to establish catchment management comities, build capacities on climate change resilience development within the framework of IWRM.
AWEN	Of the AWEN future activities is to developing specific mitigation measures for transboundary floods and developing joint early warning systems.
Australia	Significant issue for Australia and all.

GWP	<p>GWP would be interested to work with 4 areas with UNECE.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - One of the areas is the knowledge product that compiles good case studies where we can contribute through GWP's case studies (i.e. water and climate change adaptations). - The second area would be online compendium of good cases. There is a potential for UNECE to use GWP's new toolbox for such online compendium. GWP will also be able to compile good cases. - The third area is the specific bankable projects where UNECE and GWP collaboration brings competitive advantages. We can explore such cases in the Med; this work could be done in parallel with the work on applying and financing Nexus solutions. - Finally, we can explore potentially integrating some of the climate and transboundary water related aspects into the Pan Africa water governance and IWL Training that GWP already collaborates with UNECE. <p>Region specific inputs we received are followings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Training in climate financing applications with a transboundary approach will be very relevant in Central America. (CAM) - Engage with the Integrated Drought Management Programme of GWPO and WMO, especially in Eastern Europe and Eastern Partnership countries, as drought seems to become a repeating issue in the region and needs to be tackled in a transboundary context. (CEE)
ACTO	Consider Climate Change – Health relationship focusing on emerging and neglected diseases, with special attention to vulnerable populations such as indigenous peoples.
Finland	Under sub area 4.1 the three last bullets on guidance's could be combined. Financing is an important aspect but could be combined with programme area 5.
PAVE	Support NGOs to carry out awareness and advocacy activities
Ramsar	Sharing with the water and other sectors also the guidance and methodological tools available on the roles and functions of wetland (water-related) ecosystems with regard to climate change adaptation and mitigation, disaster risk reduction and biodiversity and livelihoods support.
GIZ	We suggest prioritising the first activities under 4.1 in supporting the development on sound project rationales regarding climate adaptation and mitigation. E.g. focussing on the theory of change and supporting basins in identifying how planning has to change if taking climate risks and the reduction of GHG into account compared to previous planning. A good understanding on the theory of change is the precondition for the subsequent sub-areas such as policy alignment and accessing climate funds.
Cote d'Ivoire	Some points are difficult to understand because of their wording
Tunisia	Vulnerability assessment throughout the cross-border basin and development of a comprehensive adaptation strategy Meeting between the decision-makers of the countries involved for a far-sighted vision of policies to reduce the risks of climate change (drought, floods, etc.).
France	The place of water in climate processes and frameworks is insufficient. The themes of risk (floods, droughts), WASH (drinking water/sanitation), the ocean and, more broadly, biodiversity, are disconnected from each other and from the major water cycle. The challenge is to put the natural water cycle and its intrinsic link with climate and biodiversity back at the centre of the agenda on a global and regional scale. Transboundary basins cannot be properly managed without understanding climate change. A strong partnership with climate stakeholders is essential to raise awareness of the stakes of

	<p>the water cycle and its implications in the consequences of climate change (risks, oceans, biodiversity, WASH), and to access climate finance. In this perspective, cooperation with global political processes on climate, disasters but also biodiversity is very important and indispensable to create a favourable context for the integration of water and transboundary cooperation in national documents relating to climate, which is a major issue. The creation of an online compendium of good practices on adaptation to climate change in transboundary basins, useful for water stakeholders, could be particularly relevant if this tool is aimed at stakeholders from other sectors. This project could be carried out in synergy with Climate and Biodiversity stakeholders.</p>
INBO	<p>INBO wishes the continuation of the partnership on the World Network of Basins working on adaptation to climate change and the Water and Climate Task Force.</p> <p>It seems essential to us to support basin organizations in their operational actions for adaptation to climate change (adaptation plans and strategies, monitoring of extreme events and plan for the prevention and control of droughts and floods, implementation of "no-regret" measures, such as nature-based solutions).</p> <p>On this point, INBO wishes to continue the promotion of the initiative "100 water and climate projects for Africa" and in particular to support new projects of the Member States of the Convention</p>
Togo	Proposed additional activity: Support to technical and institutional capacity building on water and climate change issues in a transboundary context
Mexico	Accompanying countries in the process of submitting bankable projects to global climate funds
ESCWA	Special focus on assessing impacts of climate change on aquifers and integrated cross-sectoral adaptation measures

Programme area 5 – Facilitating financing of transboundary water cooperation

57 answers were received for Programme area 5 (83% of respondents).



Comments by respondents for programme area 5

Suriname	Within the Government of Suriname there is no specific budget or other financial means for transboundary cooperation.
Switzerland	<p>Important to keep the focus on transboundary financing as a programme of work area. Experience has shown once you integrate a theme into others it is usually “integrated away”. It is also important because there is a tendency to have holistic basin plans and approaches looking at the green and the grey, looking at environment (incl. biodiversity/forests and climate change), economic (energy , agricultural use, industrial use etc.), social issues (communities, drinking water, public participation), peace-related aspects. This is why programme area 5 should get also inputs from the climate programme area and from the nexus programme under the Convention.</p> <p>Suggestion to keep focusing on a proper publication but also produce online versions and IN ADDITION, special thematic focus areas. The latter are important to get access to finance as often it is on how projects proposals are formulated....A priority should be to have a thematic flyer on transboundary cooperation around water and Covid-19 recovery and future resilience building: this is key to have the topic being eligible of public but also private funds (impact investing, foundations other) in the future .</p> <p>Engage with the financial sector: as ESG (environment, social, governance factors) become widely accepted in the financial community, they should also be extended to transboundary cooperation (page 61 “Many shades of blue” report of the Global High Level Panel on Water and Peace)</p>
Gambia	<p>As a downstream country the Gambia need support to host a regional workshop of OMVG member states in other to review OMVG protocols /other frameworks in line with UN 97/UNECE 92 .conventions so as to promote transboundary water cooperation and good practices.</p> <p>- Support to enhance cooperation between intersectoral organisation, government Ministries/institutions so as to increase cooperation and funding opportunities.</p>
GWP	<p>GWP would be interested to further explore and work in this area with the Convention Secretariate, particularly how best to promote transboundary water investments at specific regional levels.</p> <p>GWP toolbox can be utilized as a portal for pulling cases.</p> <p>Implementation and financing of the actions included in the Drin SAP is something that we would like to cooperate on. Looking forward to UNECE’s concrete proposals on resource mobilisation</p>
ACTO	Best practices and lessons/experiences on financing and fund-raising strategies and opportunities for basin organizations. Development of an annual stocktaking on finance for supporting the work of regional Basin Organizations, at the World Water Forum and others with participation of financial institutions such as ADB, AFDB, EIB, GEF, IDB, UNCDF and the World Bank.
Independent	Poor quality or generic trainings or workshops on bankable projects proliferates. UNECE Water Convention should stay clear from this unless it can really ensure topic quality interventions, instead of simply giving sessions and panel seats to representatives of reputable financial institutions. Quality not titles and brand institutions is what countries and basins need.
Libya	Dedicate sufficient funds in national budget and convince high Authorities to approve it.
PAVE	Support NGOs to carry out awareness and advocacy activities

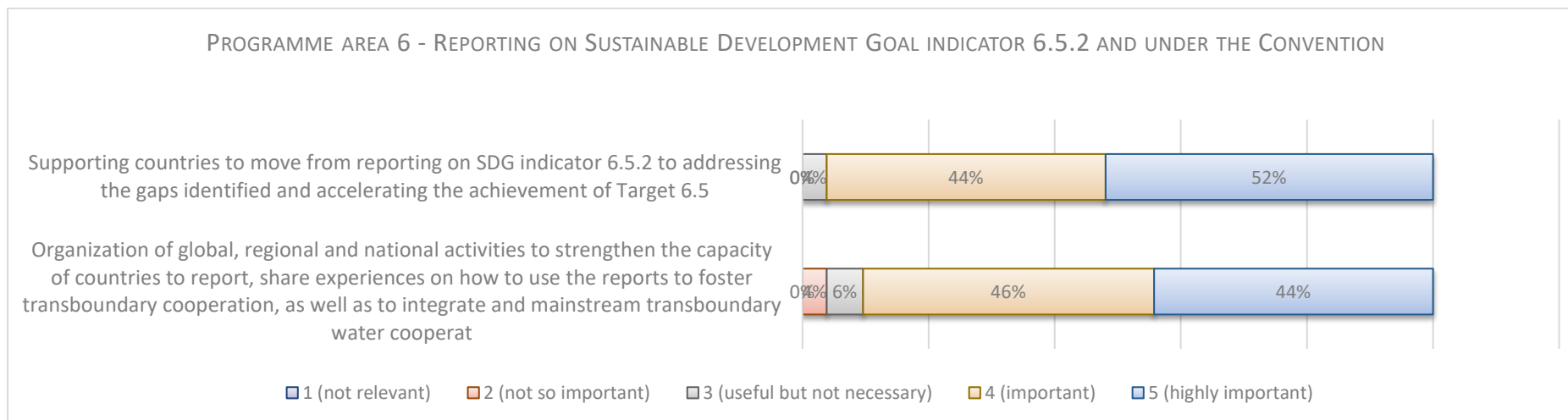
Ramsar	Include into the subtopics related to financing the need to focus and support also key water-related ecosystems by making use of the tools and guidance available through the Convention on Wetlands.
Tunisia	Involvement of NGOs in the financing of climate change projects
France	Funding training is important, but it would be better to focus on different formats and target audiences or geographical areas rather than organising a global event.
INBO	INBO and its Permanent Technical Secretariat, OiEau, have an interest in getting involved alongside the UNECE Secretariat in this field, in particular for: -- the development of cooperation with Ministries of Finance" -- "the further strengthening of cooperation with financial institutions such as the ADB, AfDB, EIB, GEF, IDB, UNCDF and the World Bank to raise awareness of the importance of financing transboundary water cooperation and basin development" -- "the organization of a global workshop on financing transboundary water cooperation and basin development" -- "the further development of the publication on financing transboundary water cooperation and basin development (currently under preparation for 2021) in the form of a guide, an online platform or a course " -- " the contribution to/co-organisation of regional or basin-level training courses or workshops on bankable project development for basin development".
Mexico	Increase cooperation with private financial institutions to achieve resource blending and increased possibilities to finance transboundary water cooperation and basin development.
ESCWA	Implementing pilot projects on selected transboundary basins/aquifers on financing transboundary water cooperation which could incorporate areas of programme area 3 and 4.

Hungary	Hungary is highly devoted to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and believes that the fulfilment of Agenda 2030 requires an integrated and comprehensive approach. In order to share its best practices and contribute to the global dialogue on water, Hungary participated in 2018 in the Voluntary National Review of the High-Level Political Forum.
Switzerland	As the Water Convention is an official DATA CONTRIBUTOR as per the UN SDGs Stat. Commission Indicator Framework on SDG 6 / SDG 6.5 it is important there is continuity on the reporting of this indicators.
Gambia	The Gambia participated in the data collection on SDG 6.5.1 and 6.5.2 in 2017 and 2020 respectively. The Ministry of Fisheries, Water Resources and NAM, Department of Water Resources, and Gambia Country Water Partnership (GCWP) will continue to promote SDG 6.5.1 and 6.5.2 and link internally with other SDG s stakeholders for the attainment of target goals... by 2030.
Australia	Australia is actively engaged in transboundary basin management initiatives in various parts of the world, but particularly in Asia.
GWP	GWP has been collaborating with the UNECE and UNESCO on sub-regional SDG 6.5.2 workshops. In addition, some of GWP's country water partnership have specifically been supporting SDG 6.5.2 reporting at the country level. In coordination with UNEP, GWP also supports SDG 6.5.1 reporting process in more than 60 countries, where we emphasize the importance of SDG 6.5.1 and 6.5.2 collaboration in reporting. GWP would be interested to explore more strengthened collaboration with UNECE and UNESCO in the next reporting cycle, as well as potential strengthening of collaboration between SDG 6.5.1 and 6.5.2 reporting and action planning, at the country or regional level.
GWP-CAF	Prepare Regional SDG 6.5.2 reports with some sort of "Score-card" (this may serve to incite countries to address gaps and make progress).
ACTO	Consider the role of regional Basin Organizations in relation to reporting on SDG indicator 6.5.2 at the basin level and support regional capacities to work with the basin countries on achieving SDG target 6.5. Develop an understanding with responsible water global entities to consider the "additionality" of the work of regional Basin Organizations in supporting national efforts to achieve goals and indicators of SDG 6.
Finland	Online reporting is very warmly welcomed and would improve reliability of the data. The last bullet related to supporting countries to move from reporting to addressing the gaps is difficult to understand. We see that, the convention and the programme of work as a whole addresses the gaps in achieving target of 6.5, what would be the concrete work under this last bullet? What additional benefit is expected here?
PAVE	Support NGOs to carry out awareness and advocacy activities
Rwanda	Support countries in reporting for SDG 6.5.2 is very essential as some time countries don't have all data.
Ramsar	The Convention on Wetlands, together with UNEP, is a co-custodian on the SDG indicator 6.6.1 focusing namely on the change in the extent of water-related ecosystems, i.e. wetlands in the sense of the Convention which include inland wetlands (fresh or brackish water), coastal wetlands (including coastal marine areas) and human-made wetlands (such as agricultural paddies, salt pans, water reservoirs, etc.). Facilitating views and coordination of reporting across different SDG indicators, notably on the complementary nature of the indicators 6.5.2 and 6.6.1 may be helpful for increased implementation to reach the SDGs.
GIZ	The SDG 6.5.2 indicator is rather broad, achieving the indicator is achievable without too much effort. However, the informative value of this indicator is rather low, having an operational governance body in place within the definition of the indicator, does not say much about the actual capacity for basin management that is in place. Further going indicators would be needed to describe the status of formalized and operational transboundary basin management, considering power relations and reflecting the work and reach of an RBO against the requirement for effective basin governance.

Tunisia	Existence of a common or coordinated water resources management plan or common objectives;
INBO	As highlighted in the last proposed action in this sub-area, it is essential that the mapping derived from the assessment of indicator 6.5.2 be used to target concrete actions to improve the implementation of IWRM on the ground in the least developed territories.
Mexico	It is suggested to continue support to reporting countries (communications, manuals and workshops)
ESCWA	Supporting riparian countries in a basin to exchange information and cooperate during reporting

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

52 answers for this Programme area (75% of respondents).



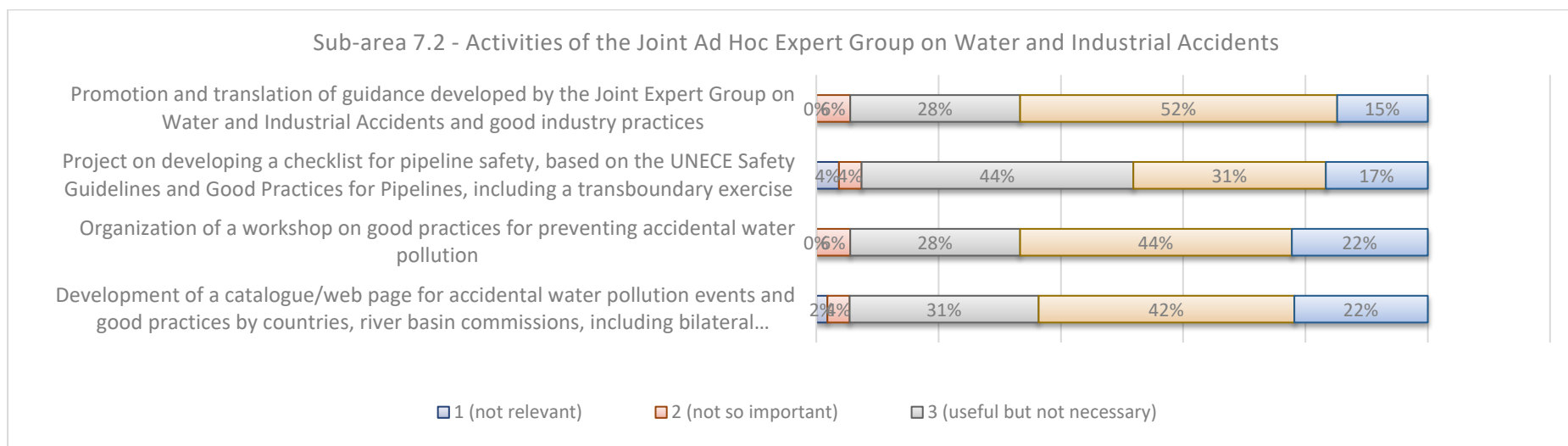
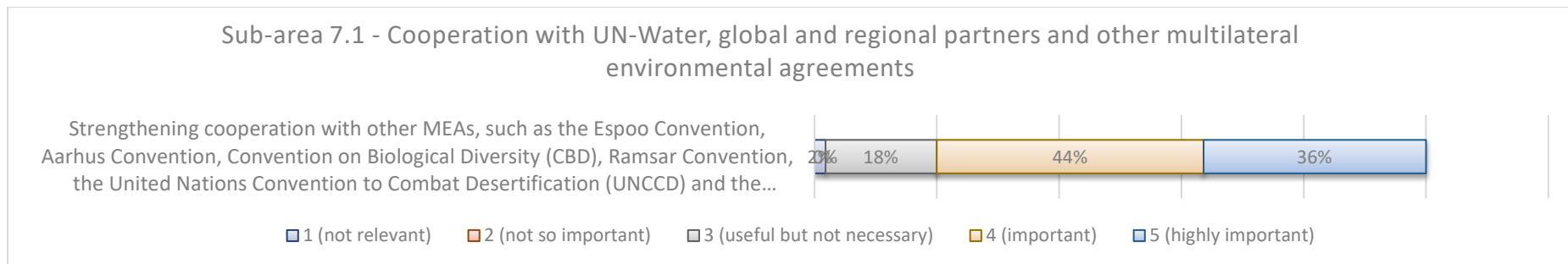
Comments by respondents for programme area 6

Hungary	Hungary is highly devoted to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and believes that the fulfilment of Agenda 2030 requires an integrated and comprehensive approach. In order to share its best practices and contribute to the global dialogue on water, Hungary participated in 2018 in the Voluntary National Review of the High-Level Political Forum.
Switzerland	As the Water Convention is an official DATA CONTRIBUTOR as per the UN SDGs Stat. Commission Indicator Framework on SDG 6 / SDG 6.5 it is important there is continuity on the reporting of this indicators.

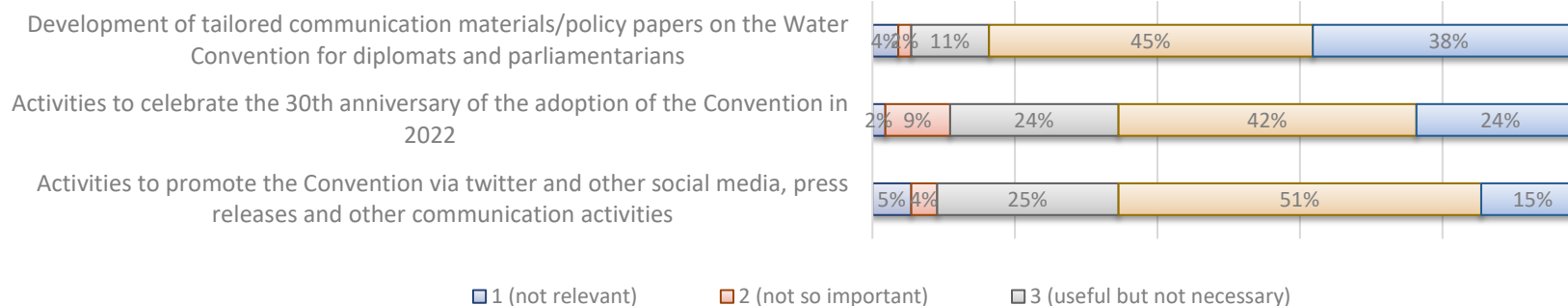
Gambia	The Gambia participated in the data collection on SDG 6.5.1 and 6.5.2 in 2017 and 2020 respectively. The Ministry of Fisheries, Water Resources and NAM, Department of Water Resources, and Gambia Country Water Partnership (GCWP) will continue to promote SDG 6.5.1 and 6.5.2 and link internally with other SDG s stakeholders for the attainment of target goals... by 2030.
Australia	Australia is actively engaged in transboundary basin management initiatives in various parts of the world, but particularly in Asia.
GWP	GWP has been collaborating with the UNECE and UNESCO on sub-regional SDG 6.5.2 workshops. In addition, some of GWP's country water partnership have specifically been supporting SDG 6.5.2 reporting at the country level. In coordination with UNEP, GWP also supports SDG 6.5.1 reporting process in more than 60 countries, where we emphasize the importance of SDG 6.5.1 and 6.5.2 collaboration in reporting. GWP would be interested to explore more strengthened collaboration with UNECE and UNESCO in the next reporting cycle, as well as potential strengthening of collaboration between SDG 6.5.1 and 6.5.2 reporting and action planning, at the country or regional level.
GWP-CAF	Prepare Regional SDG 6.5.2 reports with some sort of "Score-card" (this may serve to incite countries to address gaps and make progress).
ACTO	Consider the role of regional Basin Organizations in relation to reporting on SDG indicator 6.5.2 at the basin level and support regional capacities to work with the basin countries on achieving SDG target 6.5. Develop an understanding with responsible water global entities to consider the "additionality" of the work of regional Basin Organizations in supporting national efforts to achieve goals and indicators of SDG 6.
Finland	Online reporting is very warmly welcomed and would improve reliability of the data. The last bullet related to supporting countries to move from reporting to addressing the gaps is difficult to understand. We see that, the convention and the programme of work as a whole addresses the gaps in achieving target of 6.5, what would be the concrete work under this last bullet? What additional benefit is expected here?
PAVE	Support NGOs to carry out awareness and advocacy activities
Rwanda	Support countries in reporting for SD 6.5.2 is very essential as some time countries don't have all data.
Ramsar	The Convention on Wetlands, together with UNEP, is a co-custodian on the SDG indicator 6.6.1 focusing namely on the change in the extent of water-related ecosystems, i.e. wetlands in the sense of the Convention which include inland wetlands (fresh or brackish water), coastal wetlands (including coastal marine areas) and human-made wetlands (such as agricultural paddies, salt pans, water reservoirs, etc.). Facilitating views and coordination of reporting across different SDG indicators, notably on the complementary nature of the indicators 6.5.2 and 6.6.1 may be helpful for increased implementation to reach the SDGs.
GIZ	The SDG 6.5.2 indicator is rather broad, achieving the indicator is achievable without too much effort. However, the informative value of this indicator is rather low, having an operational governance body in place within the definition of the indicator, does not say much about the actual capacity for basin management that is in place. Further going indicators would be needed to describe the status of formalized and operational transboundary basin management, considering power relations and reflecting the work and reach of an RBO against the requirement for effective basin governance.
Tunisia	Existence of a common or coordinated water resources management plan or common objectives;
INBO	As highlighted in the last proposed action in this sub-area, it is essential that the mapping derived from the assessment of indicator 6.5.2 be used to target concrete actions to improve the implementation of IWRM on the ground in the least developed territories.
Mexico	It is suggested to continue support to reporting countries (communications, manuals and workshops)
ESCWA	Supporting riparian countries in a basin to exchange information and cooperate during reporting

Programme area 7 – Partnerships, communication and knowledge management

55 answers for this Programme area (80 % of respondents).



Sub-area 7.3 - Communication and knowledge management



Comments by respondents for programme area 7

Suriname	Water pollution due to inadequate wastewater treatment, the use of pesticides and pollution from the mining sector, challenge water quality in Suriname. Therefore developing a checklist for pipeline safety and guidelines, will be very useful for Suriname.
ACTO	Strengthening cooperation with the Minamata Convention to address mercury contamination of water resources and aquatic ecosystems. Support regional Basin Organizations in the development and implementation of communication strategies.
Independent	Despite the decision of the 1992 UNECE Water Conventions institutions to promote countries to join both the 1992 and 1997, there is an inherent imbalance to the evolution of the international water law and cooperation in that the UNECE's programme of work shall invariably prioritize and implement strategies, initiatives and activities that will certainly make accession to the 1992 more attractive. If the Secretariat is to continue to play a role in the evolution of the 1997 UNWC, then perhaps it should consider one or two clear activity streams that related to the provision of support for 1997 countries, perhaps tools that 1997 parties might benefit from without compulsion to accede to the 1992 given national processes for acceding to international instruments can take very long periods of time. Having the 1997 stagnate, might not be the best service towards international waters cooperation.
Finland	Finland would like to contribute to the 30th anniversary celebration, we would like to see series of celebration every 10th year, as we did ten years ago in Finland.
PAVE	Support NGOs to carry out awareness and advocacy activities
Ramsar	Highlight in communications tools and public and social media the complementary, but very close, roles of the Water and the Wetland Convention, where the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands provides the tools to deal with the site and ecosystem based aspects of IWRM in (transboundary) water bassins.

IGRAC	join forces with long-term partners (IGRAC works with UNECE since 2005) to develop and promote common products. IGRAC has and excellent social media channels with 30k+ readers
Tunisia	Involve civil society in communication.
France	Communications in relation to other conventions such as Ramsar, Aarhus, CDb, UNFCCC is important to ensure complementarity of reflections and decisions.
INBO	INBO and its Permanent Technical Secretariat, OiEau, would have an interest in getting involved alongside the UNECE Secretariat in this field, in particular for: - Activities to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the adoption of the Convention in 2022 " Important to note here: the next edition of the World General Assembly of the International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO) should be held in Spring or Autumn 2022. It could be advisable to organize this event jointly with the 30 years of the adoption of the Convention, for example in Geneva.

III. Answers to open questions

Should the programme of work 2022-2024 include any activities on transboundary water cooperation and COVID-19? If yes, what activities would be useful for your country/organization? What opportunities do you see for the Water Convention and its activities in the context of COVID-19 recovery?

UNEP-DHI	Not to lead, but to contribute to where considered relevant
Norway	Perhaps it could be useful to somehow link water management to loss of biodiversity and pandemics, in light of the recent IPBES #Pandemics report? I.e. what role can good or bad water management play in increasing or decreasing biodiversity and the risk of new pandemics?
North Macedonia	no
Suriname	How monitoring of water bodies can proceed taking into account COVID – 19 rules.
Hungary	Hopefully pandemic COVID-19 will be overcome in the next year. We think that Water and Health Protocol might deal with this topic at a greater extent.
Switzerland	Include a thematic analysis how transboundary water cooperation activities are to be included in the COVID-19 recovery (build back better and notably improve resiliency, could be included in thematic area 5 also).
Gambia	UNECE need to support ministries responsible for Water and Country Water Partnership to build capacities, strengthening partnership, communication and knowledge management in the developing countries such as the Gambia.
AWEN	Yes. There is a need to adopt specific and oriented public awareness campaigns on the impact of COVID-19 on shared water resources with respect to water quality and sanitation aspects. Considering the COVID-19, it is clear there is a need for increasing attention to the Water Health NEXUS, and establish cooperation for developing policy that will serve strengthening this concept among countries with shared water resource.
Australia	Suggest COVID be addressed in the proposed work on the ‘nexus approach’, given opportunity to address COVID impacts on all pillars.
GWP	COVID pandemic will probably be under control by 2022 (hopefully). However, it would be important to work on lessons learnt from this experience. In particular emphasize importance of transboundary water cooperation to deal with health issues. This can actually be a topic under Nexus, as nexus between water and health. Some of our colleagues in GWP Africa has stated to work on this perspective under our SDG sub-program, where possible linkages could be explored. Some suggestions specifically from regions - To conduct a Webinar: How will the transboundary water cooperation be affected post-COVID-19? (from Central and Eastern Europe) - Support partners in transboundary water proposals for projects with EU Recovery Funding (from Central and Eastern Europe) - Explore opportunity to apply HELP Principle on water related DRR in time of COVID 19 (from Central Asia and Caucasus)
GWP-CAF	Integrating Covid-19 recovery into project development and strengthening collaboration with Health Sector stakeholders.
ACTO	Development of regional political and technical dialogues making visible the importance of integrated water management and transboundary water cooperation in the COVID-19 recovery, with the co-leadership of regional Basin Organizations, including the presentation and discussion of development of water investment plans in the regions with participation of financial multilateral organizations and competent national entities. Webinar on the response of regional Basin Organizations to COVID-19 in border areas and

	exchange of experiences/expectations on post-COVID-19 water & health strategies. Diagnostic study on the impact of COVID-19 on the achievement of SDG 6.5.2.
WWF Switzerland	There is an opportunity to explore transboundary cooperation with respect to adopting a One Health approach. It would be useful to explore how transboundary cooperation could play a role in economic recovery post-covid.
Bosnia and Herzegovina	It is very important to investigate virus COVID-19 in wastewater and sanitation systems as well as drinking water. It is more related to Protocol Water and Health, but in this case transboundary approach could be included. Also, It would be important for our country to get involved in the expert strengthening and training of staff who could apply activities of the water Convention related to COVID-19.
Bulgaria	Exchange of experience on best monitoring practices to identify COVID-19 in waste water and surface water.
Finland	Use the COVID 19 pandemic as an opportunity to prepare for future pandemics, which of some may actually be water-borne. This is more relevant for protocol on water and health.
Luxembourg	COVID-19 should be addressed under the Protocole on Water&Health (WASH).
Slovenia	In global activities to prevent from present and future pandemic crises, activities in transboundary basins are playing a very important role. Attention should be given to the COVID-19 prevention measures related to ensure water for critical use (washing hands, ensuring baseline hygiene etc.), its adoption and implementation as well as coordinated activities among riparian states and different stakeholders in the transboundary basins.
Portugal	Yes. Activities should be organized to disseminate experiences, lessons learned and best practices on how countries and basins tackled and managed water-related aspects during the COVID-19 pandemic in a transboundary context.
Ghana	Yes, the Programme of work should include activities on transboundary water cooperation and COVID-19; Activities could be on the: 1. growing importance of public health due to Covid-19, and 2. designing interventions on vulnerability to different disasters to include COVID-19 prevention protocols. A key opportunity is the emergence and emphasis on the use of online/virtual engagements that reach out to wide audiences
Estonia	Not necessary
Germany	No. Covid-19 is primarily a health issue, not a water management issue. Some interesting accompanying activities like monitoring of sewage water. But not an issue for the Water Convention, which should not diversify its work, but stick to good work with enough resources in essential Areas.
EC/JRC¹¹	COVID-19 knows no border and, in this sense, the riparian countries should promote mutually consistent protection policies with clear messages for the populations. In this context, the programme of work 2022-2024 should be able to reinforce a more joint policy between riparian countries on access to water accompanied by coherent education and awareness programmes between riparian countries.
AGWA¹²	I think a more general discussion on water cooperation and health is absolutely warranted - this can tie into a broader discussion on building basin resilience - resilient water ecosystems, resilient communities, and resilient economies. UNECE could organize a series of meetings or workshops aligned with the UNFCCC regional climate weeks focused on water, health and resilience. The Water Convention could also work with interested member states to draft a policy brief or other short policy document outlining the connections between water management and health.
Libya	Activities on transboundary water cooperation may not have strong link with COVID-19 and can continue normally in presence of the pandemic.

¹¹ European Commission/Joint Research Centre

¹² Alliance for Water Adaptation

Serbia	no
PAVE	Support NGOs to carry out awareness and advocacy activities
Ramsar	The Convention on Wetlands worked with WHO on an overview and guidance on the subject of Healthy Wetlands for Healthy People (cf. the Ramsar-WHO Technical Report). This approach has since developed into a 'One Health' approach focusing on people, wild species (including pathogens such as viruses and bacteria) and the common (natural) ecosystems. This could become an area for collaboration between the Water Convention (and its Protocol on Health) and the Convention on Wetlands.
GIZ	If activities, then on financing under diminishing public funding and economic regression on the one hand, and access to and effective deployment of respond funding with project proposals and e.g. cash for work measures for basin management measures, such as riverbank restoration, while providing livelihoods to workers who would otherwise maybe turn to natural resources depletion for their livelihoods, due to decreasing employment opportunities resulting from the pandemic
Albania	Since COVID-19 has been the keyword of 2020, and we have already seen the enormous impact it has had in all socio-economic fields, we think it would be important to include some activities, such as: impact on water resources on transboundary level, pollution level caused by this phenomenon in all water resources, lessons learned and how to address it in the future, how to be prepared to minimize the impact in water resources in another similar scenario?
IGRAC	Probably.
Cote d'Ivoire	Yes, this programme will have to take into account decision-makers, the school community and the rural environment.
Tunisia	Yes, concerning the sharing of data on the quality of treated and discharged wastewater in cross-border basins, especially since COVID is found in treated wastewater.
Chad	The activities on transboundary water cooperation and on COVID-19 are necessary because in this difficult period of the covid-19 pandemic some developing countries need financial and technical assistance to cope. Activities useful for our country are: capacity building of technical services. The opportunities will be the following: the fruits of cooperation will help to restore confidence between the member countries of the Water Convention.
Central African Republic	COVID.19 has weakened the world to respond vigorously to protect urban and rural populations. We propose that a project support funding to mitigate barrier measures by providing us with a fund to support women through Income Generating Activities (IGAs) as vulnerable women are exposed to engaging in debauchery actions. We insist that the above mentioned project reflects the reality of my country the Central African Republic.
INBO	On the water and health protocol, there is obviously a link to be made, by emphasising that effective hygiene measures against VIDOCs presuppose access to water. On the other hand, linking COVID19 and cooperation for cross-border water resource management is not of obvious relevance.
Togo	Yes, the work programme 2022-2024 should include activities on transboundary water cooperation and on COVID-19.
Azerbaijan	Organisation of the Treaty on Cooperation in the Kura River Basin. The Republic of Azerbaijan is the only state in the Southern Caucasus that has ratified all UNECE environmental conventions, including the Water Convention. UNECE environmental conventions, including the Water Convention. The Kura River, which flows through Turkey, Georgia and Azerbaijan Azerbaijan, and the Araks River, shared by Turkey, Armenia, Azerbaijan and Iran, are the main sources of fresh water for our country. Azerbaijan is interested in ensuring sustainable and equitable use of these rivers by all the countries through which they flow. For this purpose, it is necessary for all the above mentioned countries to conclude an international treaty on transboundary water resources use.

	<p>cross-border consumption of water resources. However, Georgia and Armenia avoid signing such agreements. Armenia deliberately stops the flow of water, deliberately pollutes the Araks River, and thus contributes to exacerbating ecological problems in our region.</p> <p>In order to achieve the goal of equitable, sustainable and efficient management of the Kura River water resources, we consider It is necessary to provide assistance to Azerbaijan to ensure cooperation with Georgia, as well as to include this issue into the Work plan for 2022-2024.</p>
Mexico	<p>It is considered that it could be interesting to address the issue of diseases in general, from the point of view of integrated and efficient water management in transboundary basins. Collaboration, exchange of good practices and lessons learned in relation to monitoring water quality in transboundary sources in order to ensure access to safe drinking water on the one hand, as well as to that of treated and deposited wastewater in shared water bodies on the other, is becoming more relevant at present.</p>
CCAD/SICA ¹³	<p>Joint regional event on the subject with PAHO/WHO and the SICA Secretariats: CCAD, COMISCA</p>
Honduras	<p>Management, monitoring, implementation, control, it is very important to include in the activities on transboundary waters and COVID-19 since there is a direct relationship in these two activities.</p>
Sweden	<p>The Water Convention and the Protocol of Water and Health could cooperate with activities to reach SDG 6, for instance coupling targets 6.2, 6.3 and 6.5. To allocate transboundary water so that there is enough water for citizen's handwashing in both countries is important to fight Covid-19.</p> <p>(All targets of SDG6 could be important in the context, also the gender-related targets, since the Covid-crisis has stopped more girls than boys from going to school.)</p>
IWMI	<p>Perhaps related to pandemics and disaster preparedness in general. Identifying the weak links in transboundary cooperation during such global upheavals and how best they can be navigated. Successful Covid 19 recovery will rest strongly on the countries' capacity to collaborate and leverage on shared resources such as water. Strengthening cooperation on infrastructure development for water supply.</p>

If you have prioritized some basin/bilateral/pilot projects and activities on the ground as 5 “highly important”, please answer to the following questions. What is the name of the basin or bilateral process? Why is such project important? What would be the focus of the project (development of agreement, establishment of joint body, data exchange, monitoring and assessment, benefits of cooperation, Nexus, water allocation, climate change adaptation, basin investment plan...)? Has the project idea already been discussed with riparian(s) and if so, what is their position?

North Macedonia	<p>Drin river basin, it's a transboundary river basin, agreement development needed</p>
Suriname	<p>No basin/bilateral/pilot project has been identified</p>
Hungary	<p>Yes, Tisza River Basin (shared by 5 countries) Climate variables have large spatial and temporal variability, the climate change impact is very uncertain data exchange and monitoring, water allocation</p>
Switzerland	<p>Affected countries or transboundary entities themselves should notify this.</p>
Gambia	<p>The name of the basin pilot project is to “Establishment of basin management within catchment areas of the Gambia river and to build capacities of such committees.</p>

¹³ Central American Commission for Environment and Development of the Central American Integration System

	<p>The project is important as it will enhance transboundary Water cooperation, IWRM and climate change resilience development.</p> <p>The project will focus on areas such as development of agreements, establishment of joint bodies, sharing of data and information, monitoring and assessment, climate change resilience development among others.</p> <p>The first part of the project will be a study to assess the situation in the catchment communities of the River Gambia and its tributaries.</p> <p>Customary/traditional practices are already in the communities. The project seeks to facilitate establishment of organise structures and improve governance to maximise social, economic and environmental resultant benefits of cooperation.</p>
AWEN	<p>Jordan River Basin and Nile River represent the most critical basins that could be focused on, since such a process could be built on transitional period starting from a bilateral process and ending by multilateral process. Because within these projects, there is a lot of political tension and conflicts. So, there is a need to verify the social-economic dimensions and impacts due to lack of cooperation on shared water resources, building a trust is a critical issue and needs to be focused on concerning the win-win solutions based on allocations, Water Energy and food nexus is also important at different levels. There is some preliminary discussion with some riparians of these two proposed basins.</p>
GWP	<p>Aral Sea basin (from Central Asia and Caucasus)</p> <p>There are two main basins where the riparian parties are collaborating: Trifinio Region with Plan Trifinio Agreement (GT-SV-HN) and Sixaola River Basin Binational Commission (CR-PA). On both, a basin investment plan will be extremely useful. On Plan Trifinio, a development of an agreement specially focused on water resources will be important too.</p>
GWP-CAF	<p>Ogoué-Ntem-Nyanga-Komo basins (with ECCAS) - New transboundary cooperation framework: developing the agreement, and establishment of joint body. Process has been discussed by RIPARIANS and is stalled due to disagreements over geographical coverage.</p>
Independent	<p>The Arab region is floundering with slow or no progress on basin cooperation evolving beyond the technical into legal arrangement with modern basin organizations. UNECE engagement on the NWSAS must continue. Support to other aquifers in the region shared among Arab riparians could also be considered.</p>
Bosnia and Herzegovina	<p>Under the activities of the International Sava River Basin new development program is under preparation. Program shall have multiple sector approach and will target water transport, water management, tourism and economic development. Under the International Commission for Danube River Protection new transboundary program is prepared related to hydro morphological alternations. DYNA Project Generally it is important to strengthen transboundary cooperation and promotion especially in the field of climate change adaption, including development of vulnerability assessments, adaption and disaster risk reduction strategies, delineation of ground water bodies, monitoring etc.</p>
EC/JRC	<p>The concept of nexus remains still very little known within the transboundary river basin organisations and riparian countries. It is not yet visible its concrete and practical character and benefits, which leads to more sustainable intervention projects. It is important to build around case studies based on concrete experiences that have led to concrete intervention projects and to be able to share the acquired experiences. The presentation of the methodology is not sufficient in itself and must be based on concrete examples of intervention projects resulting from this methodology. This includes data sharing, NEXUS assessment, NEXUS dialogues, identification of trade-offs and priorities to arrive to the identification of intervention projects. Riparian countries and river basin organisations find it difficult to see the realistic and concrete side of the NEXUS methodology.</p>
Serbia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Defining extreme regimes with low waters (with all the negative cumulative effects of the upstream sides, with all the pronounced problems related to climate change) - Improving the water use regime and water quantity management without harmful results for the economy and welfare of the country...
Angola	<p>Cuvelai Basin. CUVECOM Commission. It is very important for both countries Angola and Namibia. It is very dry region, the focus must be the assessment to explore the ground</p>

water to solve the current water problems of the population. Both countries already agreed about that. The Commission is working, it has already a secretariat.

Proposal for Request for Collaboration and Support in the Establishment of "Basin Stakeholders Platform" in the 12 River Basins in Nigeria: A Key Necessity for Achieving Stakeholder Participation in basin management, vulnerability assessment, planning, implementation of adaptation measures, Environmental, Institutional, Social, Technical and Financial Sustainability.

Background - Water resources management on hydrological boundaries is not a new phenomenon. It has been in existence since ancient times whenever serious water competition arose. Under other physical circumstances also the necessity for communal flood control always delivered a sound breeding ground for institutional "upstream-downstream" arrangement. In recent times the inability to manage water quality or to preserve environmental flows of feed a new dimension. It is at present nearly impossible not to organize water resources management in an integrated manner and on hydrological boundaries. Demographic, economic and ecological impact of climate change is getting very serious and require a global mobilization. Effective adaptation programs need to be put in place shortly, since they are indispensable to cope with climate-related risks and, in particular, with their negative impact on water resources, that are already threatened in most areas of the world. There is a urgent need to promptly react, before it gets too late, by making an appeal for participation and sense of solidarity. In several countries water is insufficient, badly distributed and characterised by inadequate quality. Exacerbated by the lack of political attention, this problem is causing inequalities, forced migrations, widespread diseases, deaths, and therefore it represents a major threat to sustainable development. The future of water is seriously undermined, mainly due to the human action. Climate change, deforestation, inappropriate interventions on river banks, soil exploitation, floods, are increasingly responsible for disasters and human tragedies. In most cases, the worst consequences are paid by vulnerable communities in poor countries. We need more effective and participatory approaches for water governance. According to our common experience, the river basins are the most convenient frameworks for testing and demonstrating that wider participation, involving all relevant actors, stimulate cultural development and lead to better management, able to combine the local interests and the factors that support life, development, harmony between man and nature, in the context of a new perspective of sustainable river management. A crucial issue is the process of stakeholder participation. It has become very clear that water resources planning without participation of stakeholders in decision making is highly ineffective. Application of serious measures without the involvement of stakeholders nearly always seems to be lacking "fine-tuning". Subsequently, an even bigger problem of enforcement crises. In most recent years, within the river basins, a renewed awareness has been raised about the need to bring the river and its basin at the forefront and experimenting good practices of management, in which the "Basin Community", composed by citizens, farmers, fishermen, institutions, local administrators, associations and businessmen, share actions and instruments, aiming, on one hand, to protect water resources and, on the other hand, to guarantee access to good quality water for all, food security, energy and industrial development, preserving aquatic ecosystems and biodiversity at the same time. In essence: stakeholder participation is considered to be a condition to be fulfilled to make water resources management effective. First of all, it is logic that, people want to exert their right to self-determination and decide on what is good for them. Activities designed without prior consultation or participation of the ones interested also tend to lack the relevant information for tailor-tailor made planning and implementation geared to specific circumstances. Measures taken without the involvement of the beneficiaries or chance of fulfillment and may evoke unnecessary or even necessary resistance. An increasing need for any government, but especially for governments of developing countries including Nigeria, is to recover a fair share of the costs of the service of water resources management. The various social and physical interdependencies, the need for transparency is the link of cost recovery and improved service level have provided new strong triggers for the establishment of "Basin Stakeholders platform" to enhance integrated river basin management. On the one hand, cost recovery is not a very popular measure, but it can be conducive to reach acceptable service levels and

PAVE

	<p>very necessary for fostering economic sustainability of organizations. Effective river basin management based upon financial government allocations only is nowadays barely imaginable both for financial reasons and for reasons of effectiveness. The dependence on the national budget does not stimulate any development of functional responsibility at the level of the river basin. Moreover, counter productive political interference remains a likely scenario in this case. Payment for the service of managing and providing raw water and the subsequent ploughing back in to the same service is a necessary tool. This line has to be made establish proven successful mechanisms of combining interest, payment and sary, inflate the mechanism integrated basin management(cf. Mostert 1998). The water price is further an effective tool in reducing over-consumption and pollution of water. This is a very important function and sometimes the major driver for applying system of cost recovery. But, on the other hand investigation learns that given the precarious situation in developing countries including Nigeria and inabilities or the unwillingness to pay for water managing service, advanced cruels of cost recovery are hardly realistic (Mchibwa 2008). Somehow, an effective river basin organization will have to solve this dilemma or at least bring balance. It is in this context, that it is crucial to set up a "Basin Stakeholders Platform" in which all the relevant stakeholders are represented. This platform is meant to discard from sector approaches and the ambition is to create environmental, Institutional, Social, technical and financial sustainability. The function of the platform is to serve as a tool for integrated planning and dealing with conflicting interests in process of water resources planning and implementation of water development. It can also play a pivotal role in awareness creation, communication and effective conflict prevention and resolution.</p>
Rwanda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prevention of the pollution in lake Kivu and Rusizi /Ruzizi River Basin. - Implementation of the convention of the Authority for Basin of the Lake Kivu and the Ruzizi/ Rusizi River (ABAKIR)
Ramsar	<p>The Convention on Wetlands has, as part of its programme on 'Ramsar Regional Initiatives' to support regional cooperation for capacity building and implementation of sustainable management tools, such regional cooperation programmes of cooperation established in the following transboundary basins where cooperation with the instances of the Water Convention could create useful synergies: - Amazon River Basin - La Plata River Basin - High Andean - Caribbean - Mediterranean - Carpathian - Black and Azov Sea Basin - Nordic-Baltic (Baltic Sea Basin) - Senegal River Basin - Niger River Basin - West-African Coastal Area - Central Asia - Central-West Asia - Indo-Burma Region These transboundary river basins (and wider areas) would be our areas of priority focus in order to profit from synergies with already established international cooperation mechanisms.</p>
GIZ	<p>Basin Name: Lake Kivu and Ruzizi River Basin Project Importance: support young (est. 2014), transitory (not ratified) basin organisation ABAKIR in transboundary water resources management. Existing convention signed (but not yet ratified) is modelled off on UNECE and UN Watercourses Convention. Basin supports 2 million people from 3 countries and represents an important conflict resolution pathway (environmental peacebuilding approach) Focus – Capacity building of joint body ABAKIR, Nexus-based management Project Status – Active project in coordination with 3 riparian states. Project funded by EU and BMZ and implemented by GIZ. Project currently in process of extension through June 2022</p>
Albania	<p>Drin-Buna River Basin. It is an important project, considering it covers the transboundary area of the basin in 5 countries. The focus of the project now is on data exchange, monitoring and assessment, benefits of cooperation, Nexus, water allocation, climate change adaptation, basin investment plan, etc, since the agreement and the joint body already exist (Memorandum of understanding – Drin Core Group). All the riparian’s have agreed to the MoU.</p>
IGRAC	<p>Conjunctive use and protection (not only on paper)</p>
Tunisia	<p>Tunisian-Algerian border basins, notably the Mejerda basin. 1. Support for the development and implementation of cooperation agreements on transboundary waters, including through the creation of joint bodies": This activity is of</p>

	<p>paramount importance as it enables the operationalisation and formalisation of bilateral exchange processes between the two countries.</p> <p>2. "Provision of appropriate assistance and support for developing joint or coordinated monitoring or exchange of information and data, including through the application of strategic and technical guidelines on monitoring and assessment in transboundary basins": This action is essential for the homogenization of knowledge and data on transboundary basins. organised by partners": This component will support stakeholders, often technical, to develop their knowledge of</p> <p>3. "Organisation of training of trainers to strengthen the capacities of the main actors and experts involved in transboundary water cooperation and to provide them with knowledge on the Water Convention": This action will allow a capitalisation of know-how and knowledge within the country on the Water Convention .</p> <p>4. "Organisation of or contribution to training courses on international water law and/or water diplomacy</p>
France	Pilot activities in the basins of sub-Saharan Africa, as well as in the large basins (Mekong, Congo, Amazon, Indus, Nile).
Chad	The name of the basin is the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC). This project will benefit several countries sharing the same basin. This project will make it easier for member countries to develop agreements or create common basin organisations. At the LBCT, it is very frequent that member countries come up with the idea of creating projects or programmes associating several member states
Central African Republic	<p>The Central African Republic has two important projects</p> <p>1 - the Lake Chad Basin project where the Central African Republic has not ratified the charter and yet 80/00 of the waters are provided by the Central African Republic unfortunately only the social dimension and as riparian countries do not enjoy the financial dividends.</p> <p>2- the landlocked nature of the Central African Republic deprives it of the benefit of six months' supply by inland sub-.waterway via Congo Brazzaville. It is necessary to finance the dredging of the Oubangui River due to the subsidence of the river. 3- the third integrator project is to serve Congo Brazzaville, Central African Republic and Chad via a trans-international tarred road to facilitate regional integration.</p>
INBO	INBO confirms its capacity to mobilize members for the implementation of the proposals that will be retained. INBO is already aware of basin organizations having expressed needs in each of these fields of activities and is at the disposal of the Secretariat of the Convention to specify them
Togo	<p>The "Project to improve the quantitative and qualitative monitoring of surface and underground water resources through concerted management of the Mono basin" is a very important project in Togo (priority project 5). It concerns the Mono basin that Togo shares with its neighbour Benin. An agreement was signed in 2014 by Benin and Togo with a view to an equitable and concerted management of the resources of this basin. Also, a common management body of the basin called the Mono Basin Authority (ABM) is created and made operational from October 2019. This joint management can only be achieved if the water resources of the basin are well known. This implies the concerted implementation of common hydrological and piezometric monitoring networks for a better sharing of data and information, a common monitoring for a sustainable and equitable management of the basin's water resources for the benefit of both countries.</p> <p>The idea of the project is mainly:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to promote the exchange of data between the two countries sharing the Mono basin; - to ensure joint monitoring and assessment of the basin's water resources; - to have consistent data and information to develop tools for allocating the basin's water resources; - to prepare the setting up of an observatory of the Mono basin's water resources within the Mono Authority. <p>This project idea has not yet been discussed with Benin.</p>

Congo (Republic of)	Name of the basin: (Ogououé-Ntem-Nyanga-Komo) in Central Africa. This project is important for the strengthening of regional cooperation and for the implementation of the Central African PARGIRE. The aim of the project is the creation of RBO.
Azerbaijan	A bilateral agreement is being negotiated with Georgia on cooperation. The position of Azerbaijan is based on the provisions of the Convention on the rational and equitable use of water resources in the Kura River basin. Azerbaijan's position is based on the provisions of the Convention and consists in the rational and equitable use. The position of Azerbaijan is based on the Convention's provisions on the rational and equitable use of the water resources of the rivers and the preservation of their ecosystems, on the basis of relevant international norms that are strictly observed by all the countries involved.
CCAD/SICA	The impact of operational and functional agreements in this area will have positive biological and economic impacts in the four countries that make up the system. The project would complement the current initiative of the GEF MAR2R project and could be based on data exchange, monitoring and evaluation, benefits of cooperation, linkage, water distribution, adaptation to climate change, investment plan of the basin.
Honduras	The Motagua River basin, bilaterally between Honduras and Guatemala, which is important because it is highly contaminated by solid waste and is vulnerable to climate change. Yes, the idea of the project has been examined with the neighbouring countries, they have taken a position of concern that the processes are slow and there is a lack of knowledge and financing management.
IWMI	Our area of focus is global transboundary basins with stronger roots in the Southern African region. The project we are currently implementing assessing the practise of data exchange in about 25 transboundary basins. The next phase is establishing the data needs of basin country units and developing models of data exchange that facilitate better and smoother flow of data.
ESCWA	Pilot projects and activities have been prioritized to be initiated in 2022 around three areas of focus including information exchange, benefits of cooperation including economic benefits, and climate change adaptation. The idea has been discussed at an early stage with some riparian(s) who were open to idea and willing to engage but at this stage no further probing has been done to select actual basins and riparian countries.

If you wish, please indicate any activities that you have not seen among the proposed activities above and that would be important for your country/organization:

Norway	Our transboundary water cooperation is to a large degree connected to specific uses of the resources, such as hydro power or fisheries. We have agreements on salmon fisheries with several of our riparian states. It could also be useful to highlight how such specific uses are dealt with under the provisions of the convention, both when it is a supplementary issue to transboundary water management in general, but also as an independent motive for cooperation. Another central issue for Norway is the role of indigenous peoples right to participate in the management of (transboundary) water resources, and exchanges of good practices and experiences on this theme. The topic is related to public participation, which was mentioned earlier in the survey, but the rights of indigenous peoples are more specific in Norway due to our international legal commitments. This topic could therefor also be interesting for a workshop or seminar.
Hungary	Improvement of existing organisational structure to make them more efficient.
Switzerland	The activities capture what is important for Switzerland. What could be looked at in the next PoW is to capture sufficiently, is transboundary groundwater, also with a view of 2022 UN-Water Year focusing on groundwater

	https://www.unece.org/env/water/groundwaters_activ.html How will the Convention be working with UNESCO in this respect?
Gambia	All the activities mentioned above are important for the Gambia.
AWEN	The concept of fair allocation and equitable allocations as well as the management scenarios of water resources
GWP-CAF	non
ACTO	Exchange of experiences and information about designed and applied models of governance among regional Basin Organizations.
WWF Switzerland	Nature Based Solutions is a topic that is receiving a lot of attention, it might be worth considering how to leverage the momentum around NbS and connect this to transboundary cooperation in the context of climate adaptation.
Independent	Though the 1992 (and also the 1997) may be seen as framework agreement to encourage countries to enter into basin wide agreements, the problem of existing agreements between a limited number of riparians to a basin which favours one party sufficiently enough that that party is deterred from (and potentially actively discourages) the establishment of a basin wide arrangement. Other disciplines have noted this is a number of basins which undermines efforts toward sustainable management of basins. Importantly, the UNECE Water Convention and legal scholars should undertake thoughtful analysis of where international law or international agreement experience could provide guidance to basin parties that are stuck by existing agreements.
WMO¹⁴	In the framework of programme 1, some additional activities can address the promotion/standard adoption/ international best practices on data gathering, quality control, information and data exchange protocols.
Bosnia and Herzegovina	NO
Finland	Strengthening linkages between biodiversity and transboundary water cooperation in the PoW
Slovenia	Cyber security in transboundary basins is a rising theme in perspective. With no or only bad security available on the water infrastructure (drinking water, irrigation systems, flood protection systems, pollution accident warning systems etc.) huge damage can be easily caused not only on national level, but also in transboundary context (floods, droughts, drinking water pollution etc.), consequently tensions among riparian states could arise. Water Convention, in cooperation with the WMO, could organise workshops or other kind of meetings to open the theme in the context of transboundary river basins, e.g. to raise awareness and to develop policy recommendations.
Portugal	Activities related to the transboundary management of droughts and water scarcity in the context of climate change (e.g. development of drought management plans).
Poland	A useful and practical tool to share the knowledge and good practices could be the pre-recorded lectures and online courses, addressed to the transboundary waters experts, and other water management experts, to be learn and accomplished on one's convenient pace.
Libya	Legal framework: adaptation of legal rules to better manage the shared resource and avoid conflict.
PAVE	Transboundary Water Education for Schools and Communities in the Lake Chad and Niger basin
Ramsar	Cf. the different text boxes above. Notably the common (internal and external) communication on a joint water basin cum ecosystem approach, linking water basin planning with local site planning and management of key ecosystems inside any given water basin.
IGRAC	(ground)water monitoring promotion and capacity building campaign
Cote d'Ivoire	We need a Water Resources Observatory and an equipped Water Quality Laboratory.

¹⁴ World Meteorological Organization

France	Getting closer with the Ramsar convention on the treatment and initiation of joint work on wetlands (services in terms of depollution, resilience, carbon storage, flood control, biodiversity development) could be interesting and relevant in view of the need for greater integration and the strengthening of synergies on water issues.
Chad	Support to country Parties to raise awareness in countries that have not yet acceded to the Water Convention
Central African Republic	The project to combat desertification and the problem of cross-border transhumance, which is a recurrent problem for the Central African Republic and to which the government is weak in providing a positive response between transhumant farmers and herders. This problem is all the more important cross-border, putting the Central African Republic in permanent conflict with the border countries
INBO	The work programme is very comprehensive. However, the place of the theme "water and the preservation of biodiversity and ecosystems" remains limited, in an international context that is nevertheless marked by its growing importance (COP15 of the Convention on Biological Diversity, IUCN World Conservation Congress). Without adding an area of activity, it would be interesting to provide for the "environment" to be systematically integrated into the implementation of the proposed actions.
Azerbaijan	Negotiating mutually beneficial multilateral water agreements; Developing common norms and indicators for transboundary water quality.
CCAD/SICA	Strengthening of the sub-regional political-institutional platforms so that they play a leading role in promoting the Convention, providing direct advice to countries
Honduras	consider the importance of implementing these

How can your country/organization contribute to the implementation of one or more areas of the Programme of work 2022-2024 (e.g. by providing financial resources, leading an area of work or an activity, hosting a workshop, etc.)?

North Macedonia	Hosting a workshop
Hungary	Hungary is already leading some of the activities, in-kind and financial support, hosting events (workshops, conferences), sharing experiences
Switzerland	The Federal Office for the Environment will continue to support the work area 4 on climate SDC: The Global Programme of the Swiss Development Cooperation Agency is financially supporting the current programme of work and intends to continue to do so for the future PoW. In addition, it stands ready to promote synergies with its work in different regions and countries worldwide and the Convention. If useful and possible, the Swiss Embassies are ready to provide appropriate support or participation. SDC continues to be ready to co-lead the workstream 5 on financing transboundary water cooperation with partners in the upcoming PoW.
Gambia	The Gambia is among the least develop country, that makes it face with financial constraints. The Gambia can contribute by leading and area of work or an activity, hosting a workshop and promoting low cost activities within its internal opportunities.
AWEN	The AWEN established by the Arab Ministerial Water Council (the Council) is to provide a platform for technical support and legal advice in addition to consultations to the Network members in a manner that promotes the concept of common Water Security in the region. It is mandated to formulate a platform for water diplomacy and regional cooperation in which country region share the benefits of common water resources despite different national interests. It also acts as a regional knowledge hub on water resources management that helps to inform the decision-making process based on scientific evidence. The AWEN will support in developing and implementing capacity building programs aimed at increasing the negotiating capabilities for countries facing water conflicts, building capacities on regional issues such as mitigation and adaptation to climate change impact in the region.

	AWEN can take the lead in developing an advanced system of dialogue for shared or trans-boundary water resources in the Region based on international laws, treaties, and conventions.
Australia	Australia remains available to share and contribute experience and expertise where it will be relevant and valuable.
GWP	<p>Specific suggestions on how GWP can contribute are indicated in each subsection of this questionnaire. Please see our suggestion directly in the relevant section, as there are a number of areas.</p> <p>We would like to emphasize that in a number of program areas, activity to develop online compendium of good cases are proposed. GWP's toolbox already has such compendium of cases in various focus areas, and in 2021, GWP plans to upgrade this Toolbox to be more dynamic online platform. We would like to explore possibility to work with UNECE so this toolbox can serve as an online compendium for this purpose, avoiding creating a new online platform but rather bringing all partner's forces together.</p> <p>Region specific suggestions, in addition to what is already indicated in various parts of this questionnaire, are followings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Co-hosting workshops and awareness campaigns (from Central Asia and Caucasus) - GWP CEE can host a workshop on drought management for government decision makers in transboundary river basin management. - GWP CEE can support the involvement of 30+ young water professionals through its annual 2-week Summer School which has a different topic every year and one of the next could be about transboundary water management. (CEE)
Independent	Provide legal support for accession and implementation among LAC countries in the form of training materials, course programs and facilitation of open debates and negotiations.
GWP-CAF	Hosting workshop, sharing our experiences.
ECLAC	By contributing with country examples, lessons learnt, etc in terms of Nexus approach.
ACTO	Participation in thematic sessions, workshops, trainings and global events, and contribution to exchange of experiences and lessons learned in the areas of transboundary water cooperation. Institutional support to SDG 6.5.2 reporting at the basin level, and other goals and indicators of SDG 6. Potential partnerships in applying nexus and Source-to-Sea methodologies/case studies in the Amazon basin. Exchange of information about water resources through the Amazon Regional Observatory (ORA) (in construction).
WWF Switzerland	WWF's expertise is wide ranging, but our niche is working on the ground with multiple stakeholders. Should the workplan of the Convention align with WWF's priority initiatives there are a number of different pathways to support the work program. Once the work programme has been finalized, we would be happy to explore a deeper brainstorm session on how to support this.
MEMBO¹⁵	Co-organising workshops at the Mediterranean level
Independent	N/A
WMO	WMO can contribute to all aspects concerning data collection and information exchange. The link and coordination with some WMO ongoing hydrological initiatives can lead to a mutual enrichment: WHOS (which offers a tool for data exchange, already tested in numerous international basins) HydroSOS and WWDI (World Water Data Initiative), which particularly affects the institutional political aspects of data exchange.
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Although COVID outbreak seriously affected economy of BiH and state incomes we shall try to allocate non-earmarked financial support for the implementation of PoW 2022-2024 as annual contribution. Also we are on disposal for in kind contribution, exchange of information, date etc.

¹⁵ Mediterranean Network of Basin Organisations

Bulgaria	Providing financial contribution as with previous Programmes of Work is being considered. Other forms of possible involvement could be considered once the Programme of Work 2022-2024 has been approved.
Finland	Finland continues providing financial resources at least as in previous years. Finland has the interest to support the implementation of the convention in all possible ways. However due to retirements and for the sake of rotation Finland could hand over the co-chair in IWRM working group and position in the implementation committee. Finland is willing to continue as leading country for task force NEXUS. In addition, Finland would be willing to take position in the Bureau. If needed, we can also discuss the possibilities to find chairpersons, e.g. for IWRM or Monitoring and assessment WGs.
Luxembourg	Luxembourg plans to financially support the work of the Convention with voluntary contributions.
Slovenia	By financial and by in-kind contributions.
Austria	e.g. in-kind contributions with mobilizing of experts for workshops (e.g. for sub-area 3.1)
Ghana	Leading an activity
Estonia	By providing our experience and expertise under sub-areas 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 2 and 5
Poland	Sharing the knowledge and good practices in water management by taking part in the workshops and webinars, preparing presentations, lectures, articles, etc.
Germany	Financial support Sharing own country's experience in workshops or in projects on the ground Eventually hosting a workshop depending on available resources
EU	European Commission can host workshops on WEF-NEXUS to support operationalisation and sharing experiences but also on transboundary water allocation.
AGWA	It would be AGWA's pleasure to continue to support the Convention on its work on transboundary climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction. We can support the creation of new or updated policy materials, present at workshops, or serve in another capacity as you see fit. We are working more and more on building societal resilience ("deep resilience") as a whole through resilient water management and we are happy to share this work with you all.
Libya	Libya can contribute to most areas of the Programme as did in the past. Hosting workshops and providing financial resources.
Angola	Sharing our cooperation experience between countries that share the same water supply plant/system
PAVE	leading an area of work or an activity, hosting a workshop, creating awareness and advocacy in the Lake Chad and Niger Basin
Rwanda	Hosting some workshop related to this programme.
Ramsar	The most effective procedure would be to bring areas for joint or coordinated implementation to the attention of the national delegations of our respective Conventions, in order that specific requests or projects could become part of the respective programmes of our Conventions. Possibly, some lead countries (Parties to both Conventions) could support formally such joint or coordinated activities.
GIZ	Various levels of support on basin, regional and global advocacy level. Benchmarking/exchange of best practices (as well as coordination in project planning) regarding showcasing the added-value of multisectoral approaches generally and specifically in transboundary water mgt.
Albania	The contribution of our country at this moment could be by hosting a workshop.
IGRAC	leading an area of work - groundwater
Cote d'Ivoire	By leading an area of work or participating in workshops at the global level
Tunisia	1. By hosting a regional/international workshop 2. By leading activities (training, technical support, study visit to present the Tunisian NWSAS experience).

France	As a member of the Bureau, France will continue to provide the necessary support to the Convention secretariat. Direct or indirect support would be privileged for the following areas: - Area 1: Raising awareness and adherence to the Convention, and application of the principles of the Convention based on the benefits of cooperation; - Area 2: Support for monitoring, assessment and information sharing in transboundary basins
Chad	The financial and epidemiological situation makes it difficult for my country to fund such activities.
Central African Republic	Central African Republic is willing to host a workshop on Water Diplomacy and have the legal instruments to manage the Lake Chad Basin
INBO	INBO and its members are willing to get involved in the implementation of field projects for which they have many references. We noted that the UNECE considered the implementation of "field" projects in the following subfields: Sub-area 1.3 Support for the development of agreements and the establishment of joint bodies Sub-area 3.3 Support for equitable and sustainable allocation of water resources in a transboundary context Sub-area 4.1 Support for the development of transboundary adaptation strategies and the implementation of priority actions Sub-area 4.2 Helping transboundary basins to finance climate change adaptation measures They also wish to support UNECE activities in financing transboundary cooperation as well as financing climate change adaptation projects. In addition, INBO intends to maintain its commitment as one of the main partners of the UNECE, especially on the Global Network of Basins working on adaptation to climate change. INBO also wishes to maintain its contribution to the organization of events (physical and online) and to the mobilization of technical expertise (its own and that of its members) for interventions on the program of these events.
Cameroon	Leading a field of work or activity Hosting a workshop
Senegal	By hosting workshops, leading a field of work or activity.
Mexico	The dissemination of information and knowledge; collaboration with UNECE in holding workshops/seminars; presentation of inputs, comments, observations and/or experiences, lessons learned and good practices in meetings, workshops and seminars, as well as in relation to the different documents developed by the UNECE; participation through experts/technicians in the different working groups.
CCAD/SICA	The Central American Commission on Environment and Development is open to setting up a support unit for the eight countries that make up the Commission in the area of international water management. Its institutional framework can enable political and institutional support for policy dialogues and implementation of joint actions among member countries.
Honduras	organizing a workshop
IWMI	Convening workshops and dialogues around data sharing and potentially leading in an area of work as relevant.
ESCWA	ESCWA is committed to continued support to activities that promote transboundary water cooperation in the region through a variety of means such as hosting workshops, supporting regional activities and availing knowledge products

If you wish, please provide your suggestions about the second progress report on the SDG indicator 6.5.2 and progress report on the implementation of the Convention, which are currently under development and are to be finalized by mid-2021:

UNEP-DHI	Link with 6.5.1 reporting, as appropriate
North Macedonia	For transboundary river basins, to prepare joint (all riparian) progress report on sdg 6.5.2
Switzerland	It would be good to have a web-questionnaire which already contains all the data from the last reporting, so as to modify or complement it. It would gain much time.
GWP	It would be really helpful to continue sub-regional workshops to share experiences from the reporting process, and to discuss way forward. We have done this once for many regions with UNECE and UNESCO, however, continuation and follow up would be highly relevant, and also can increase regional cooperation in general on the subject of transboundary water. It is important to take lessons that came out from the first reporting exercise into the next. GWP is working on the ground level to support SDG 6.5.1 monitoring, which is very much linked to SDG 6.5.2. on some of the topics, thus were asked to support 6.5.2 reporting in some of the countries. It would very helpful if GWP, UNECE and UNESCO could collaborate on support to specific countries. In addition, collaboration among these two reporting exercises (6.5.1 and 6.5.2) at country specific level would be highly effective way to support countries reporting.
GWP-CAF	Critical to provide minimal financial support to countries in organising national consultation workshops to approve these reports.
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Results of the current reporting exercised should be analysed and based on that adaptive measures should be designed and applied in order to make next reporting cycle more effective.
Bulgaria	The reporting has been time consuming especially for countries with a large number of transboundary basins, especially so given the fact that the reporting format has been changed compared to 3 years ago. As this was the second reporting exercise, it is worth considering providing the possibility during the third reporting countries to report changes only.
Slovenia	In comparison to the 2017 reporting, the 2nd exercise in 2020 is a huge step forward in all aspects of the reporting process, e.g. clarity, complexity, data quality and robustness. It would be good to mention these and other aspects of indicator valorisation process in the final report. Progress should be reflected in the final report in a correct way, also in regards to 2023 reporting where progress will probably have to be explained again.
Portugal	The second progress report on the SDG indicator 6.5.2. should contain clear and complete information on transboundary water cooperation with focus on the progress made compared to the previous report.
Estonia	Online reporting tool is valuable to facilitate reporting exercise. Perhaps it helps also analysis of the reports and preparing summary report as the management of the received data is much easier using IT tools
Serbia	If possible, adjust or simplify the document, separate by basins
Rwanda	Capacity building for focal person in reporting of SDG 652 is very important,
IGRAC	a conjunctive cooperation map (per basin, aquifer) needs to be prepared
Central African Republic	The Central African Republic endorses and supports the report currently being prepared on indicator 6.5.2 We are waiting for the report to be finalised before taking action.
Mexico	The adjustments in the language of the questionnaire for the second report make it clearer. As we did three years ago, we have had the support of UNECE and UNESCO in reviewing the completed questionnaire, which has been instrumental in clarifying doubts and making the necessary adjustments before its official presentation. In future exercises, it would be useful to consider how to account for, and assign a value to, transboundary basins which, although they do not meet the four criteria for consideration in an operational agreement, can document important exchanges.
Gambia	UNECE to enhance resource mobilisation to support countries with financial constrains to implement SDG 6.5.2 and 6.5.1 principles and practices. To support countries on acceding process and implementation of the convention.

Sweden

For Sweden, the second report on SDG 6.5.2 turned out better than the first. We had better cooperation with our neighbours and knew better what was asked from us. Though the level of detail may be a little too high sometimes, also for the report of the implementation of the Convention.

It would be a great advantage if UNECE and the Secretariat could use some of the data that has already been reported to the Water Framework Directive. All surface and ground water bodies are included, and the data should be detailed enough for the needs of the convention.

Annex - Information about respondents to the survey

Respondents (Country / Organization)
Albania, Water Resources Management Agency
Alliance for Water Adaptation (AGWA)
Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO)
Angola, National Directorate, Cunene Comission, OKACOM, CUVECOM
Arab Center for the Studies of Arid Zones and Dry Lands (ACSAD)
Arab Water Expert Network (AWEN)
Armenia, Ministry of Environment
Australia, Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment
Austria, Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Regions and Tourism
Azerbaijan, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources
Bosnia and Herzegovina, Federal Ministry for Agriculture, Water Management and Forestry
Bulgaria, Ministry of Environment
Cameroon, Ministry of Water and Energy
Caucasus Environmental NGO Network (CENN)
Central African Republic, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development
Central American Commission for Environment and Development (CCAD) of the Central American Integration System (SICA)
Chad, Ministry of Urban and Rural Hydraulics
Congo (Republic of), Ministry of Forestry Economy
Cote d'Ivoire, General Directorate for Water Resources
Estonia, Ministry of Environment
European Commission/Joint Research Centre
Finland, Ministry of the Agriculture and Forestry, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Finnish Environment Institute
France, Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs
Gambia, Department of Water Resources
Georgia, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture
Germany, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety
Ghana, Ministry of Sanitation and Water Resources
GIZ, Global Nexus Secretariat
Global Water Partnership
Global Water Partnership - Central Africa
Honduras, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Hungary, Ministry of Interior
Independent Consultant

International Groundwater Resources Assessment Centre (IGRAC)
International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO)
International Water Management Institute (IWMI)
Iraq, Ministry of Water Resources
Lebanon, Ministry of Energy and Water
Lesotho
Libya, General Water Resources Authority
Luxemburg, Ministry of the Environment, Climate and Sustainable Development
Mediterranean Network of Basin Organisations (MENBO)
Mexico, National Water Commission
Milaré Advogados
North Macedonia, Ministry for Environment and Physical Planning
Norway, Ministry of Climate and Environment
Pan African Vision for the Environment Nigeria (PAVE)
Paraguay, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development
Poland, Ministry of Infrastructure
Portugal, Portuguese Environment Agency (APA)
Ramsar Convention Secretariat
Romania, Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests
Russian Federation, Federal Water Resources Agency
Rwanda, Ministry of Environment
Senegal, Ministry of Water and Sanitation
Serbia, Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management
Slovakia, Ministry of Environment
Slovenia, Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning
State of Palestine, Palestine Water Authority
Suriname, Ministry of Natural Resources
Sweden, Ministry of Environment
Switzerland, Federal Office for the Environment
Togo, Ministry of Water and Village Hydraulics
Tunisia, Ministry of Agriculture, Hydraulic Resources and Maritime Fishing
UNEP-DHI
United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)
United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)
World Meteorological Organization
WWF Freshwater Practice
Zoï Environment Network