

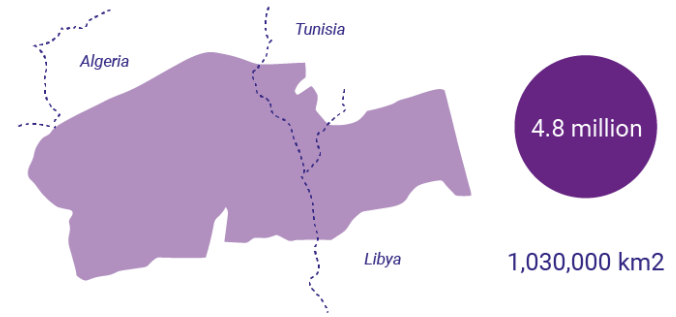
13th meeting of the Task Force on Water and Climate
19 October 2022, Geneva and online

Adapting to climate change in transboundary basins

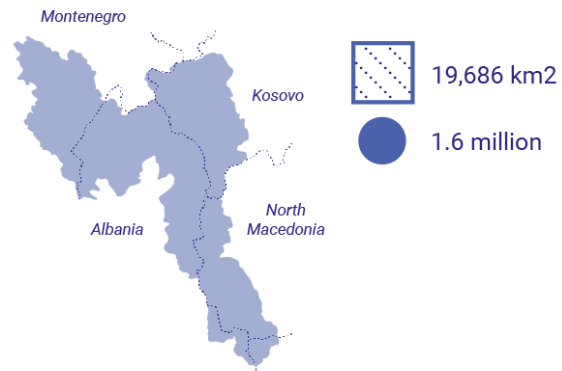
Sibylle Vermont (Switzerland),
Niels Vlaanderen (Netherlands) and
Hanna Plotnykova (UNECE)

Since the early 2000s, the Water Convention has supported building resilience for **33 million people** across 6 basins:

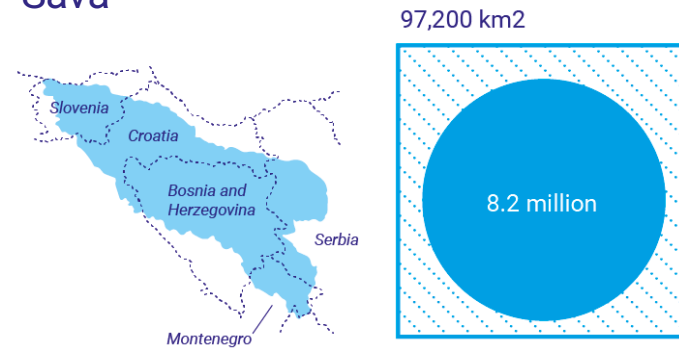
North Western Sahara Aquifer



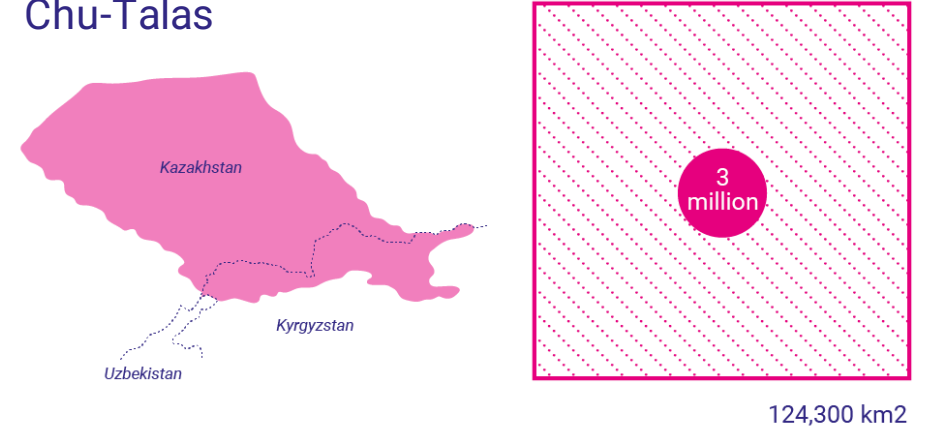
Drin



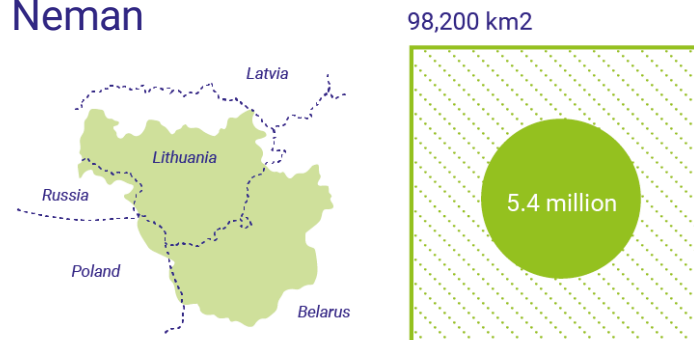
Sava



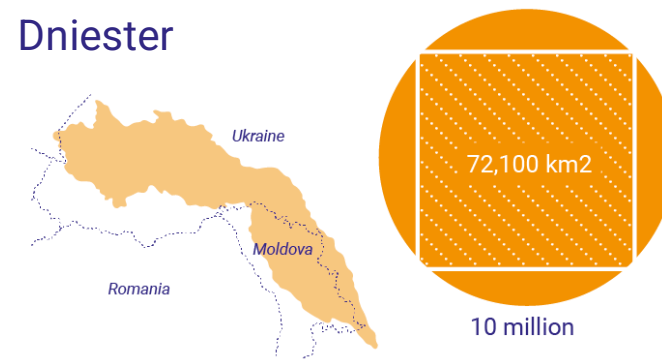
Chu-Talas





Neman

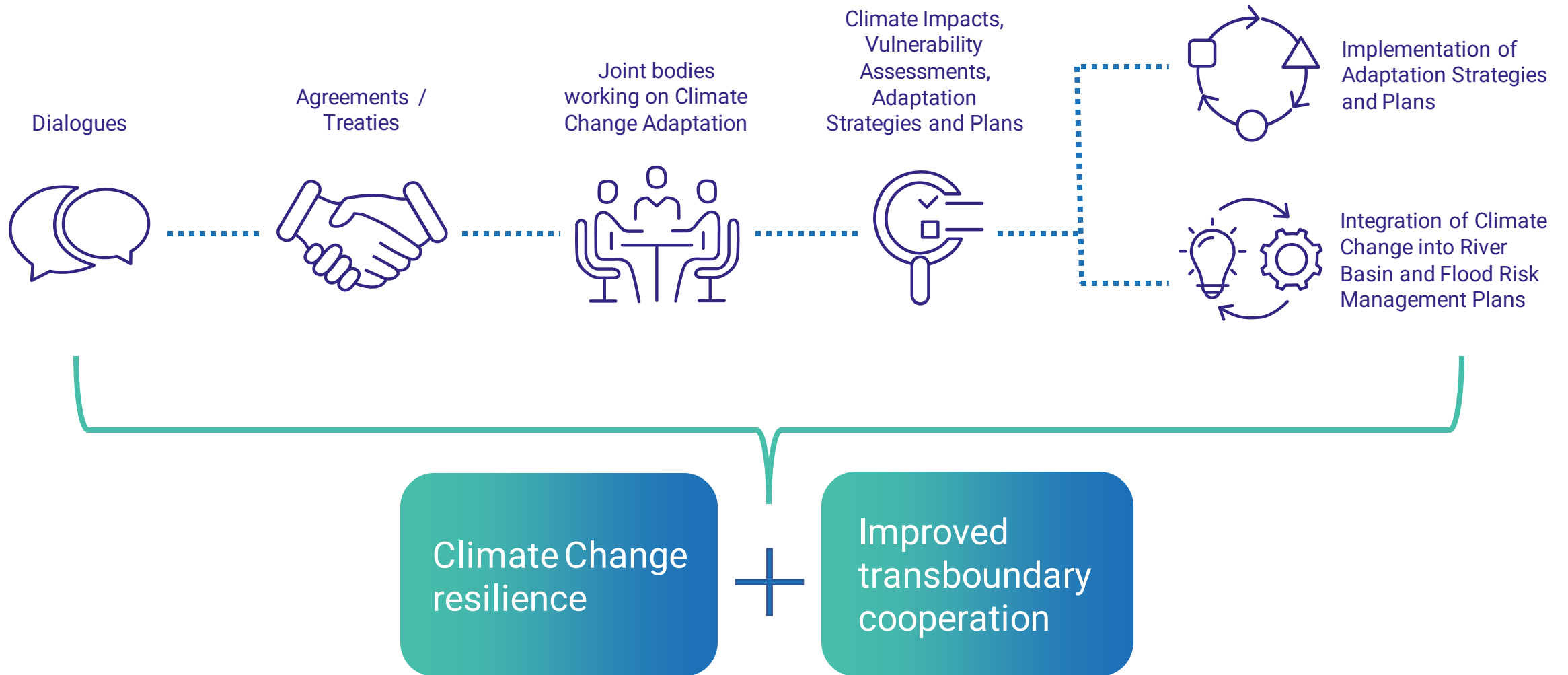


Dniester



 Basin Area
 Basin Population

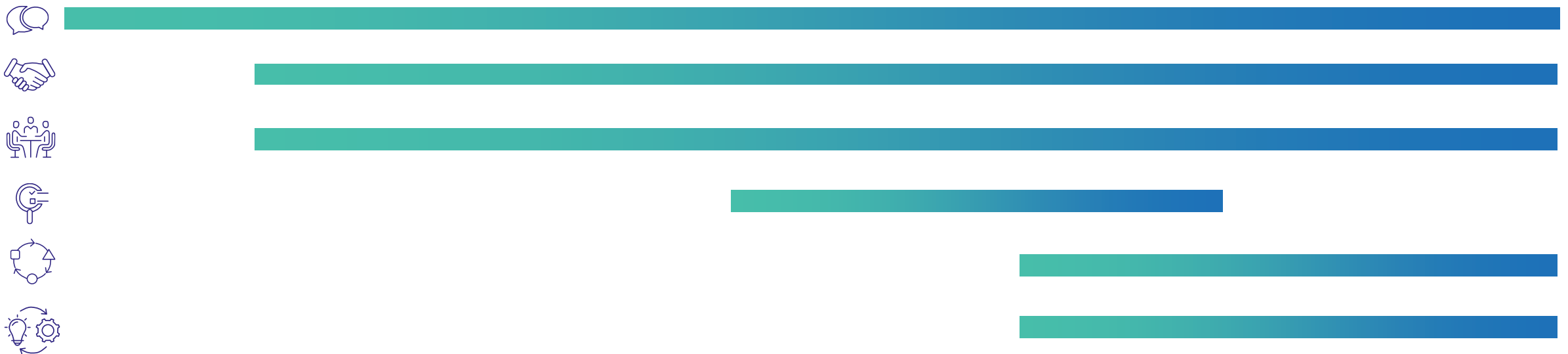
The Water Convention supports countries through the 5 stages of the Climate Change Adaption process:



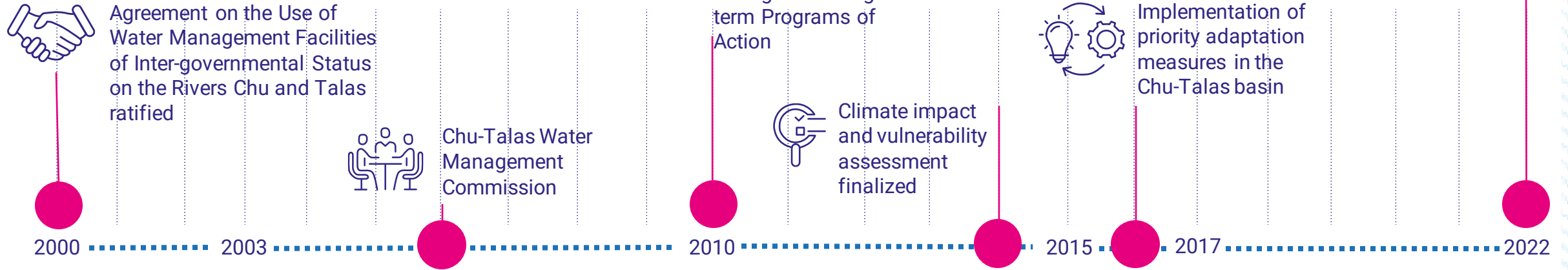
Milestones from the Water Convention's support to the Sava River Basin include:



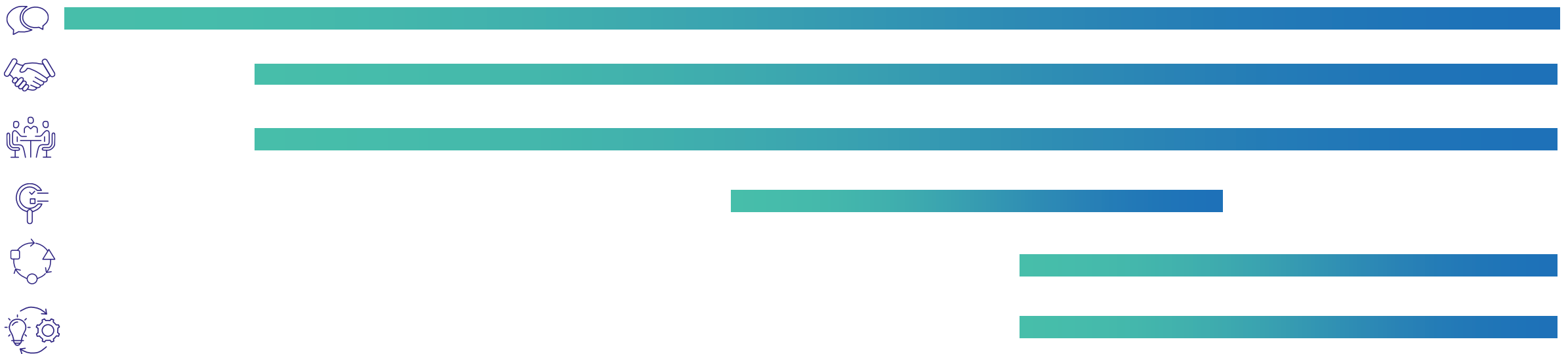
Water Convention Support:



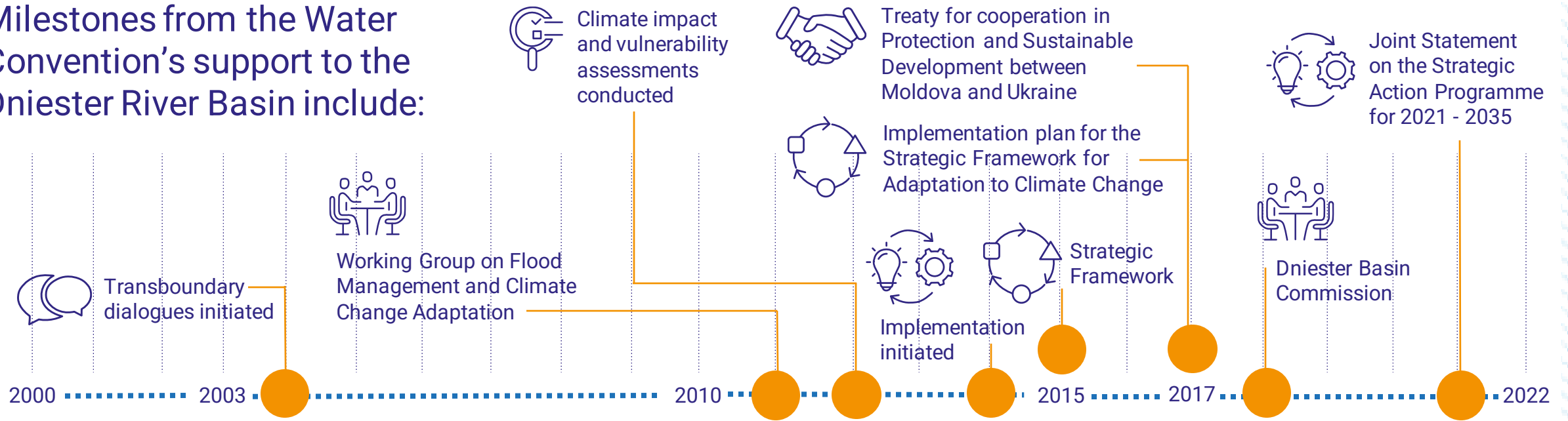
Milestones from the Water Convention's support to the Chu-Talas River Basin include:



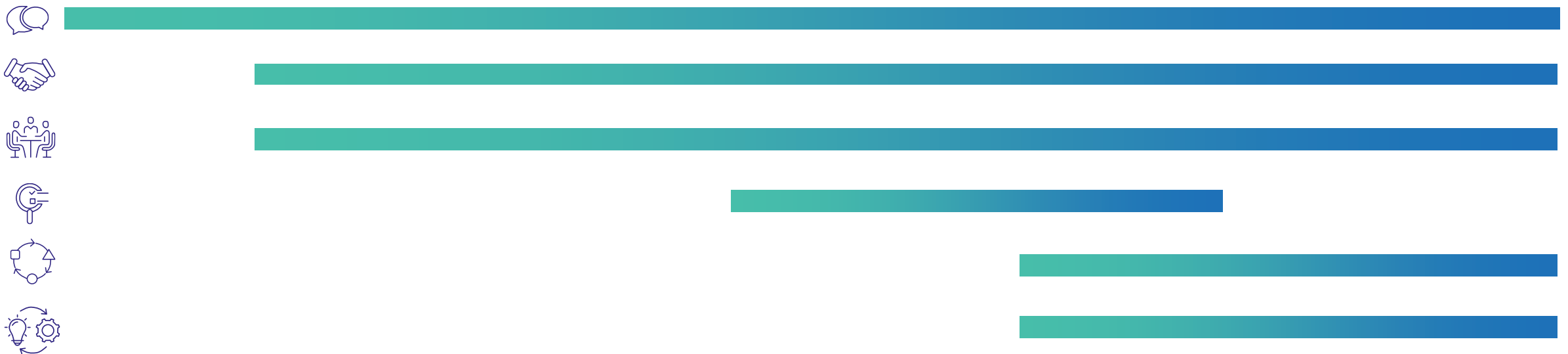
Water Convention Support:



Milestones from the Water Convention's support to the Dniester River Basin include:



Water Convention Support:



The Water Convention's support to countries progressing through the 5 stages of Climate Change Adaption began in the early 2000s, and continues still to this day.



Dialogues



Climate Impacts / Vulnerability Assessments



Integration of Climate Change into River Basin and Flood Risk Management Plans



Agreements / Treaties



Implementation of Adaptation Strategies and Plans



Joint bodies working on Climate Change Adaptation

Basin Milestone Achievements:



Dniester



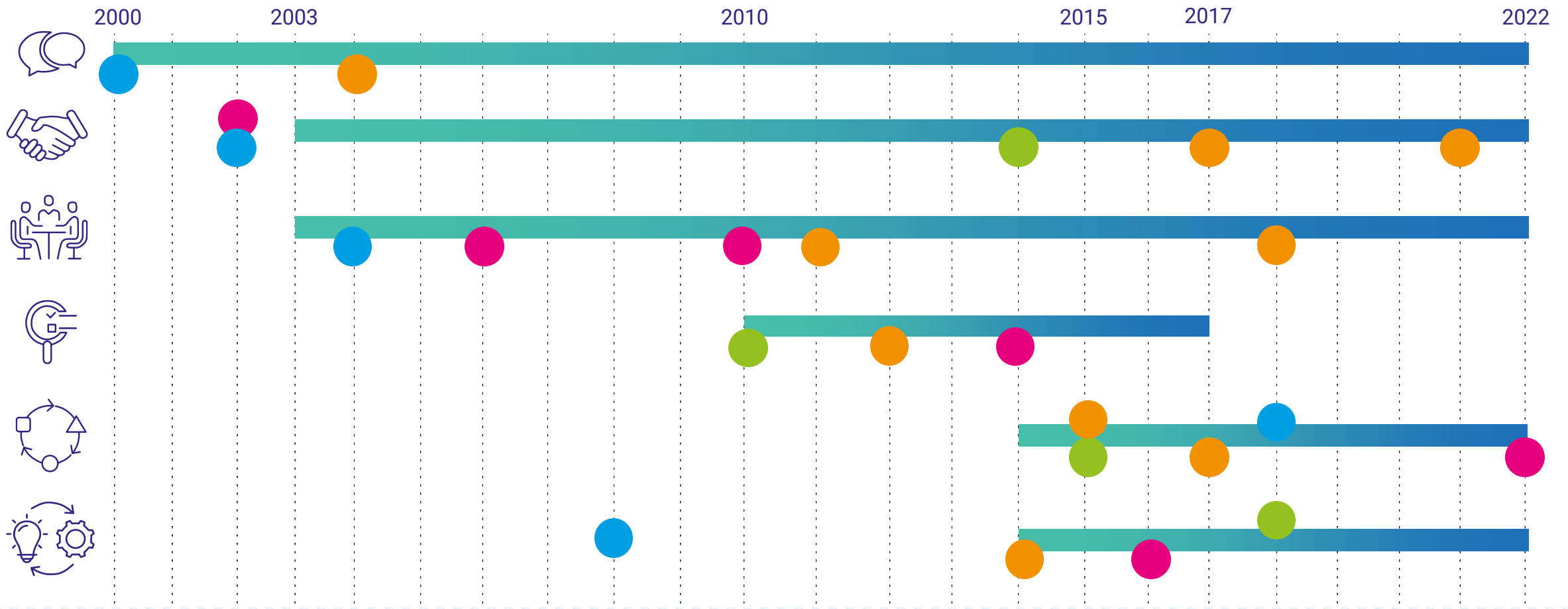
Chu-Talas



Sava



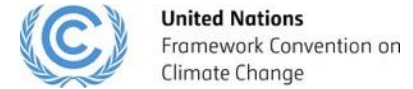
Neman



Main achievements in this area of work since April 2021

- Global Workshop on Water, Agriculture and Climate Change (17-18 October 2022)
- Continuation of activities in the **pilot basins** (the Dniester and the Chu-Talas)
- Inputs to **global processes** on water, climate change and disasters
- Progress within the **Global network of basins working on climate change adaptation in transboundary basins**

Inputs to global processes on water, climate change and disasters



- 26th session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (**UNFCCC COP 26**, Glasgow, United Kingdom, 31 October–12 November 2021)
 - Water Pavilion (transboundary day)



- Side-event **“Governance of climate change and technological risks in transboundary water bodies”** at the seventh session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (27 May 2022)



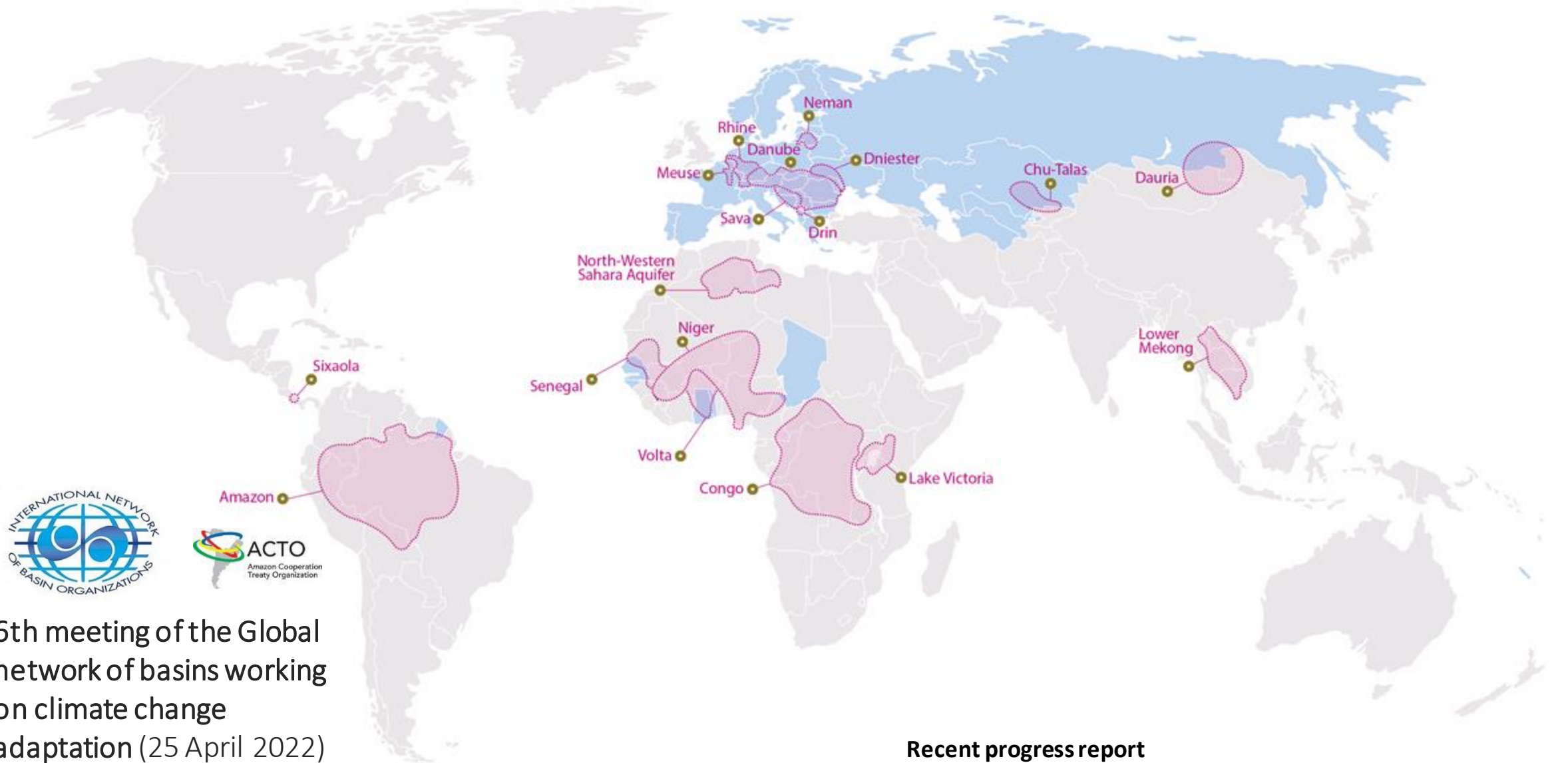
- Contribution to the **World Water Development Report 2023 “Accelerating Change: Partnerships and Cooperation”** (Chapter 7 on Climate Change)

Global network of basins working on climate change adaptation

● Global network of basins working on climate change adaptation

○ Transboundary basins or aquifers

● Parties to the Water Convention



6th meeting of the Global network of basins working on climate change adaptation (25 April 2022)

Recent progress report

https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2022-04/Global_network_overview_pilot_projects_progress_Apr2022_final_ENGL_update_0_1.pdf

Challenges and lessons learned/1

based on the April meeting of the Global network

- **Financing and implementation and concrete results** on the ground
 - Insufficient financial resources for regional initiatives
 - Sustainability of investments
 - Coordinated action in an integrative way addressing all sectors
- Need to **share experiences** regularly as well as demonstrations at the basin and regional levels
 - Regional Organization (joint body)
 - Technical Working Group at the regional level
 - Cooperation between states and including the enriching contribution of observers (NGOs, other river commissions, etc.)
 - Networking between stakeholders
 - Common projects

Challenges and lessons learned/2

based on the April meeting of the Global network

- **Governance from local to transboundary level**
 - Agreements and organizations to bring people together and coordinate across countries and sectoral
 - Reaching consensus with a range of stakeholders
 - Balancing regional interests vis a vis national and subnational (adaptation) priorities and needs
 - Harmonization of national texts and policy frameworks
 - Strengthen and operationalize the technical, legal and regulatory tools

Challenges and lessons learned/3

based on the April meeting of the Global network

- Involve **sub-basins and communities** (stakeholder involvement)
 - Small grants for community projects
 - Awareness raising and advocacy of stakeholders
 - Community implementation of measures
 - Consultation processes
 - Mix of top-down and bottom-up measures
- **Strategies** needs to be put into a plan and need **regular revision**
 - Mainstreaming climate change adaptation in all institutional strategies
 - Based on joint understanding of scenarios, impacts and adaptation measures
 - Communication, coordination and stakeholder involvement
 - Clear vision and instruments to implement the vision
 - Sometimes quicker than originally anticipated

Challenges and lessons learned/4

based on the April meeting of the Global network

- Integrate **groundwater** in basin water management
- **Ecosystems** (wetlands, forests and soils)
 - Restoration for food security
 - Nature-based Solutions
 - Sustainable management of transboundary ecosystems
- **Data and information**
 - Get data on time (early warning)
 - Hydrological forecasting and Decision Support System
 - Regional data and information - regional information platform
 - Uncertainty about the impacts of climate change
 - Communicate and disseminate for awareness raising and ownership

Challenges and lessons learned/5

based on the April meeting of the Global network

- **Socio-economic issues**
 - User-pays principle
 - Management of dams (hydropower)
 - Availability of clean water
 - Allocation/sharing of water resources
- **Water quality** and especially rising temperature
- **Capacity development**
 - Good knowledge facilitates decision making
 - Decrease in asymmetries among basin countries
- **Benefit sharing**
- **Transboundary agreement and governance mechanism**
 - Leadership