

# Source to sea management: the Water Convention contribution

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*Global workshop on*

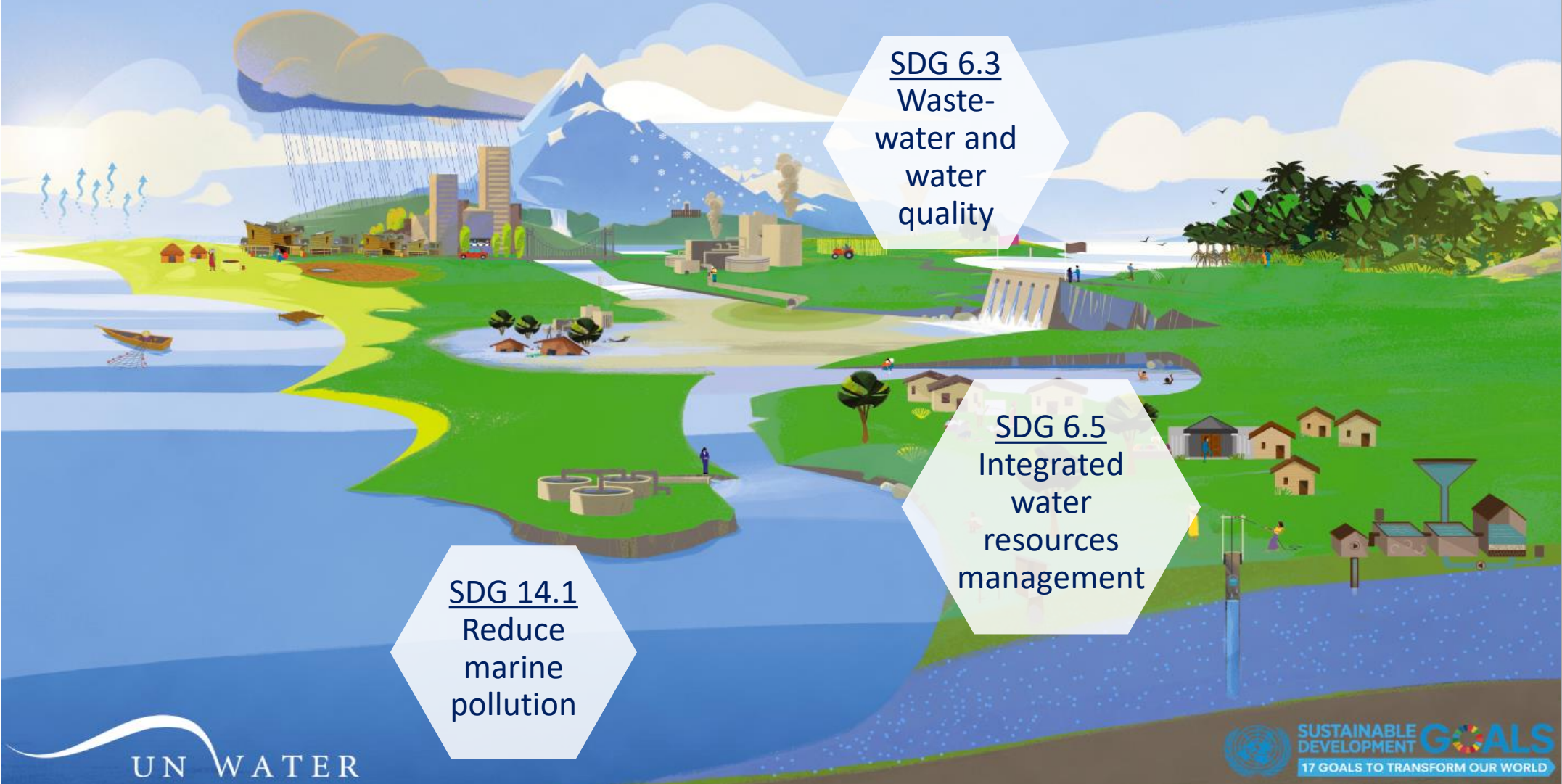
*Source to sea management*

**16 December 2022**



# Starting at the source to protect the sea

## The Water Cycle in the Sustainable Development Goals



SDG 6.3  
Waste-water and  
water  
quality

SDG 6.5  
Integrated  
water  
resources  
management

SDG 14.1  
Reduce  
marine  
pollution



**SDG 6:** Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.



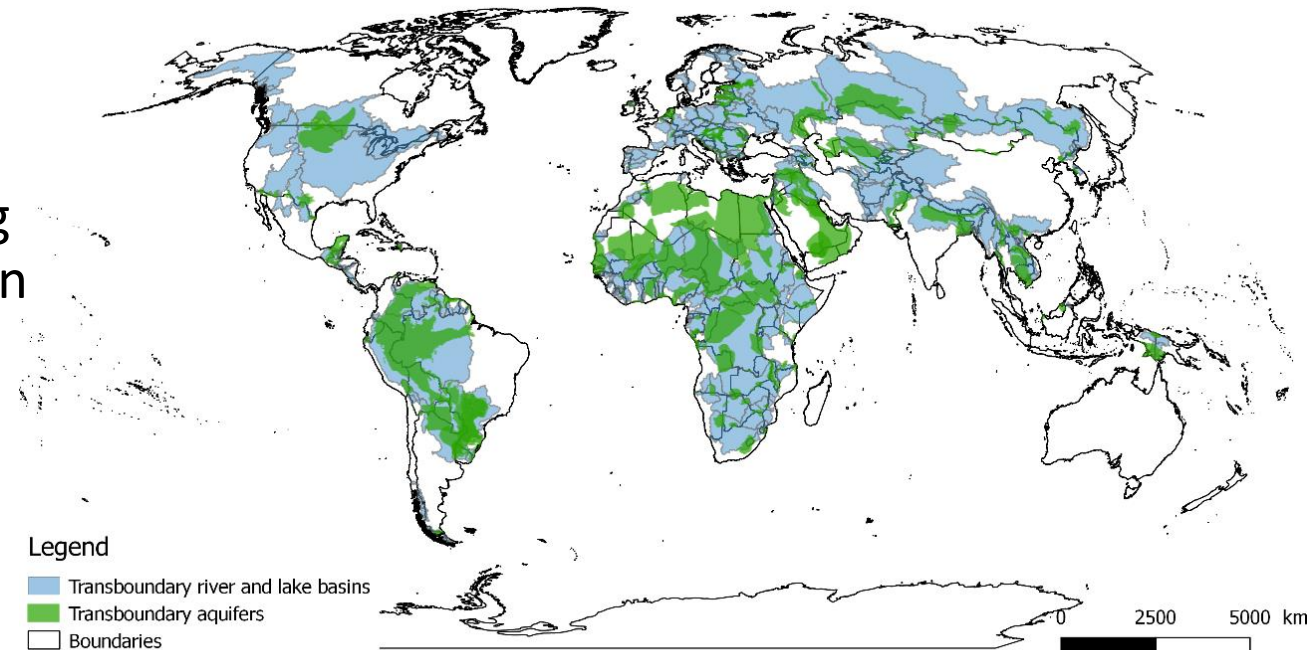
**Target 6.5:** By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate.



**Indicator 6.5.1** Degree of IWRM



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



**UNECE**



**unesco**

**The only SDG indicator on transboundary cooperation => important for other natural resources**

# The 2<sup>nd</sup> reporting in 2020 on SDG 6.5.2 Pollution

**More than 90% of respondents do not cooperate with non-riparian coastal states**

## Exchange of information

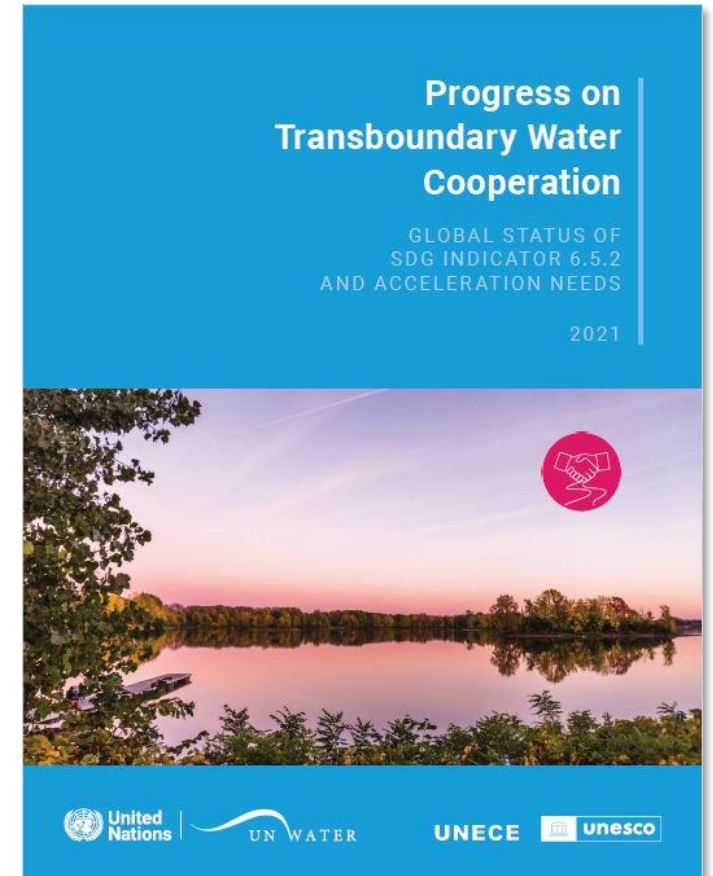
- Benin, Niger basin: evaluating **surface water and groundwater pollution** levels

## Use of joint water quality standards

- Thailand : initiative that ensures the maintaining of acceptable **water quality in the Mekong** (water quality monitoring and emergency responses)

## Measures implemented to prevent or limit the transboundary impact of accidental pollution

- Benin: Art 24 of the Niger Basin Water Charter contains **provisions for managing emergency situation**



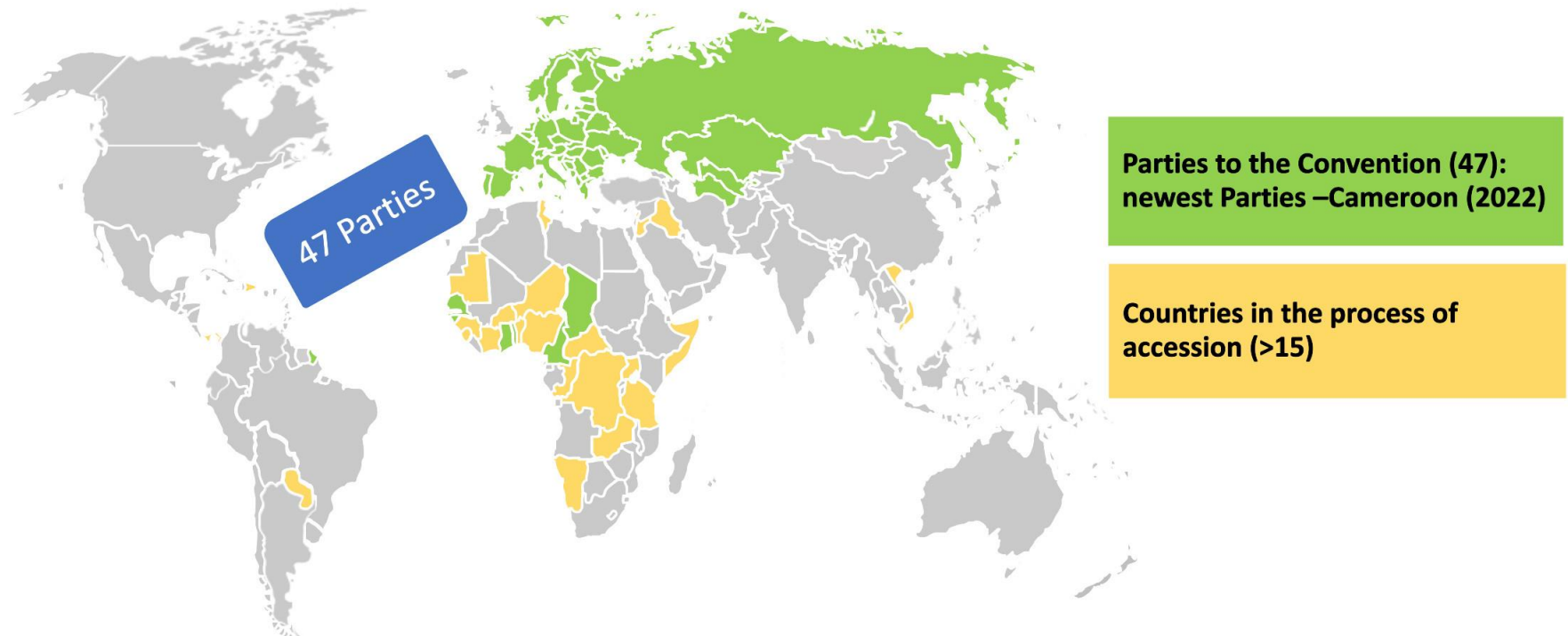
# The Water Convention: supporting transboundary cooperation



Unique global legal and intergovernmental United Nations framework on transboundary cooperation



Global platform for capacity building, sharing knowledge and experience, guidance and projects on the ground under the umbrella of the United Nations



# The Water Convention and the marine environment

## Preamble

*Emphasizing the need for strengthened national and international measures to prevent, **control and reduce** the release of hazardous substances into the aquatic environment and to abate eutrophication and acidification, as well as **pollution of the marine environment, in particular coastal areas, from land-based sources***

The Convention refers to existing **lists of industrial sectors or industries and hazardous substances in regional seas conventions** dealing with land-based marine pollution.

Examples include plans of actions, for the Arctic, Black, Baltic, Caspian, Mediterranean and North Seas and for the North Atlantic.



# The Water Convention and the marine environment

## Art. 2.6

*The Riparian Parties shall cooperate on the basis of equality and reciprocity, in particular through bilateral and multilateral agreements, in order to develop harmonized policies, programmes and strategies covering the relevant catchment areas, or parts thereof, aimed at the prevention, control and reduction of transboundary impact and aimed at the **protection of the environment of transboundary waters or the environment influenced by such waters, including the marine environment.***



**Bilateral and multilateral agreements** on transboundary waters under the Convention include provisions to protect the **recipient sea and coastal areas.**

Examples include the rivers Danube, Dniester, Drin, Elbe and Oder.

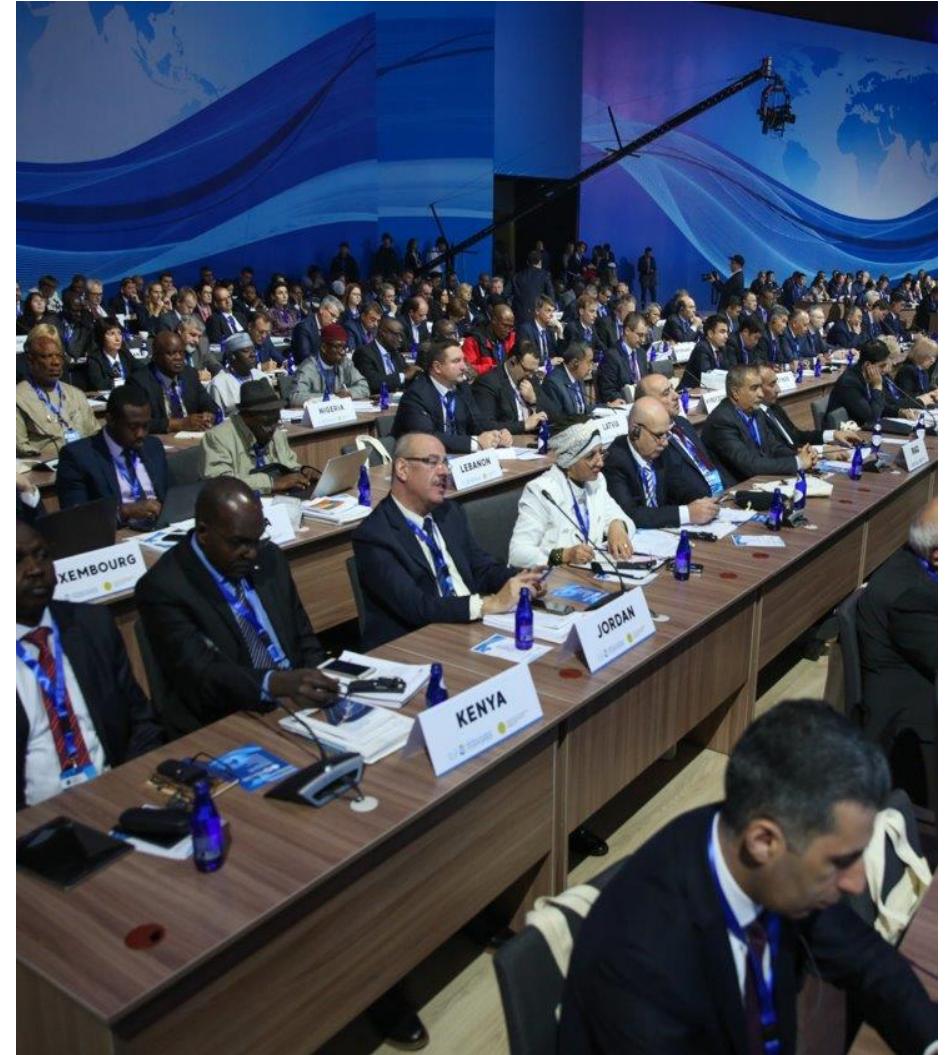
# The Water Convention and the marine environment

## Art. 9.3

*In cases where a coastal State is affected by transboundary impact, the Riparian Parties can, if they all so agree, invite that coastal State to be involved in an appropriate manner in the activities of multilateral joint bodies established by Parties riparian to such transboundary waters.*

## Art. 9.4

*Joint bodies according to this Convention shall invite joint bodies, established by coastal States for the protection of the marine environment directly affected by transboundary impact, to cooperate in order to harmonize their work and to prevent, control and reduce the transboundary impact.*





# Transboundary water cooperation arrangements: Protection of marine environment

Reducing impacts from freshwater to the marine ecosystem requires States to **include provisions on the protection of marine environment within arrangements for transboundary waters**, including referring to specific key flows.

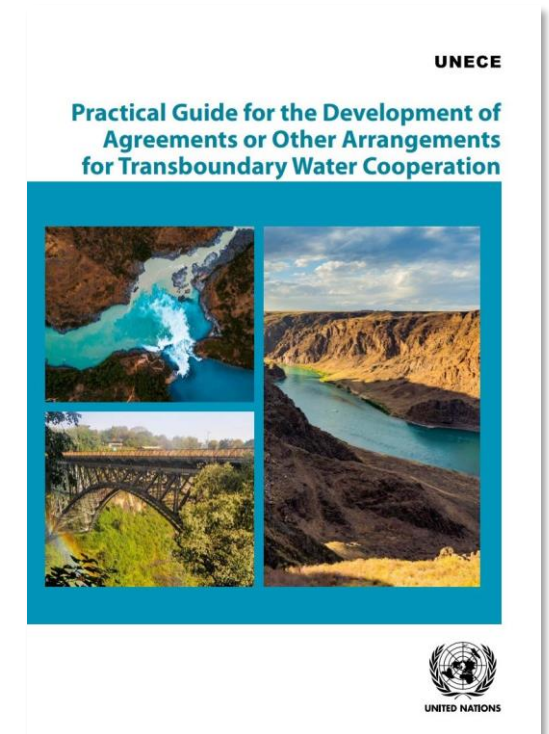
States sharing transboundary waters may consider **two models** on how provisions on marine environment could be framed:

- As a **Protocol signed by States sharing a common sea or ocean**, specifically addressing minimization of pollution and impacts from land-based sources

E.g. Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities

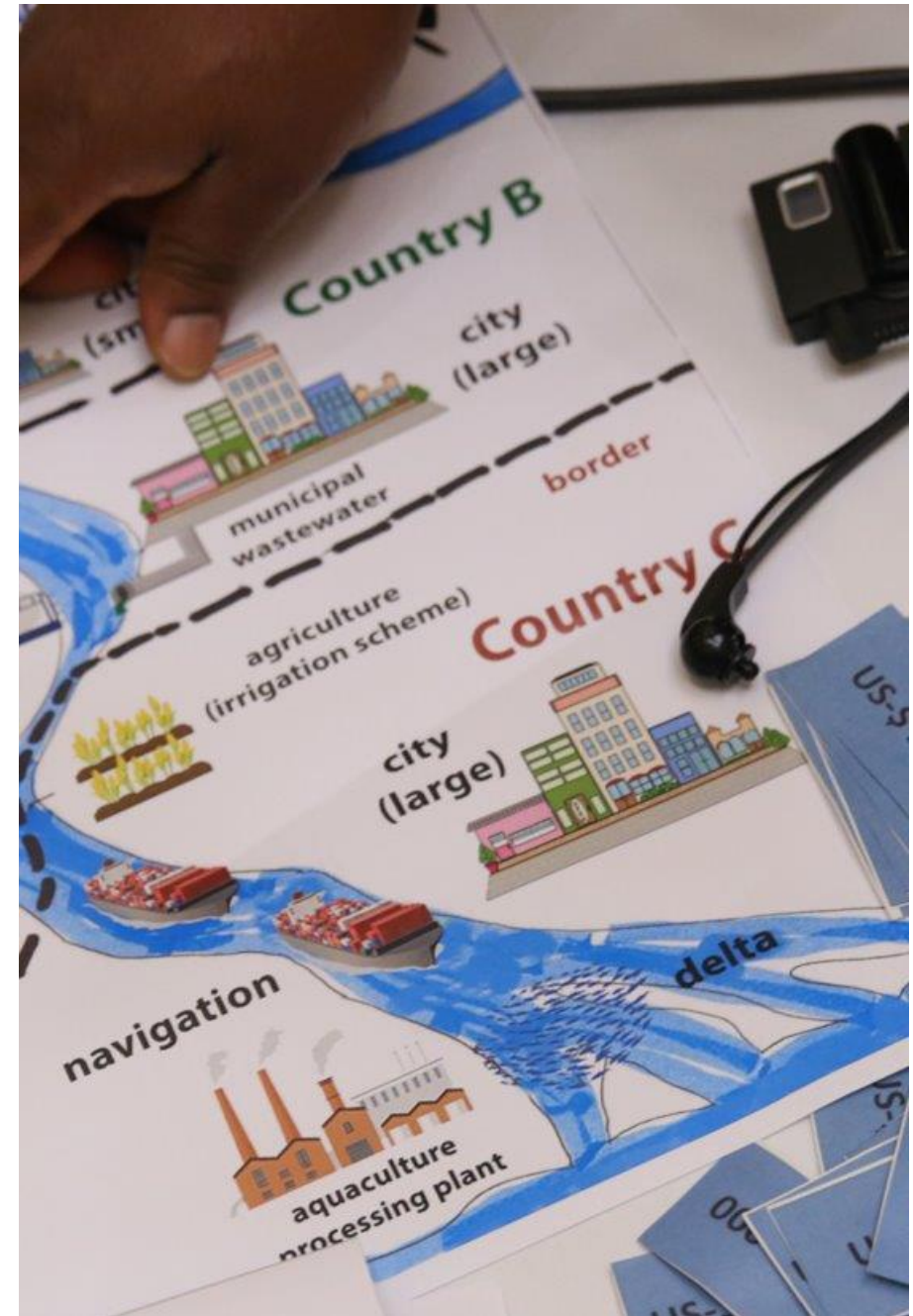
- As an **agreement between joint bodies and marine commissions** setting up joint activities such as monitoring, or have marine actors as observers to meetings of the river basin organizations

E.g. MoU between the International Commission for the Protection of the Black Sea (ICPBS) and the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR)



# Source-to-sea: current activities

- The “source-to-sea” approach is acknowledged in the current programme of work of the Convention for 2022-2024:
  - **Programme area 3 on IWRM**
- The **reporting** includes questions on the source-to-sea linkage
- Within the **GEF projects** implemented together with partners:
  - Dniester
  - Drin



# Protocol on Water and Health covers the entire water cycle

**COASTAL WATERS**  
used for recreation and  
aquaculture



**FRESHWATER**  
Surface and  
ground waters



**ENCLOSED WATERS**  
available for bathing

**DRINKING-WATER  
SUPPLY CHAIN**  
abstraction,  
transport, treatment  
and supply



**WASTEWATER**  
collection, transport,  
treatment, discharge,  
reuse



# Target setting under the Protocol

Art 6 - Obligation to set **inter-sectoral targets** on water, sanitation and health. Targets have **indicators** for achievement, are accompanied by concrete **measures for implementation, monitored** and regularly reviewed.

Target areas under the Protocol include:

- Effectiveness of **systems for management, development, protection and use of water resources** – targets should consider the whole catchment area, including associated coastal waters
- **Quality of waters used for bathing** – inland and **coastal waters**



## Example of national target under the Protocol relevant to coastal waters - Spain

- Urban wastewater entering collecting systems shall be subject to appropriate treatment (treatment that, after discharge, allows the receiving waters to meet the relevant quality objectives and other relevant provisions of the European legislation) in the following cases:
  - for discharges to fresh-water and estuaries from agglomerations of less than 2.000 p.e.,
  - for discharges to coastal waters from agglomerations of less than 10.000 p.e



**Thanks for  
your attention!**

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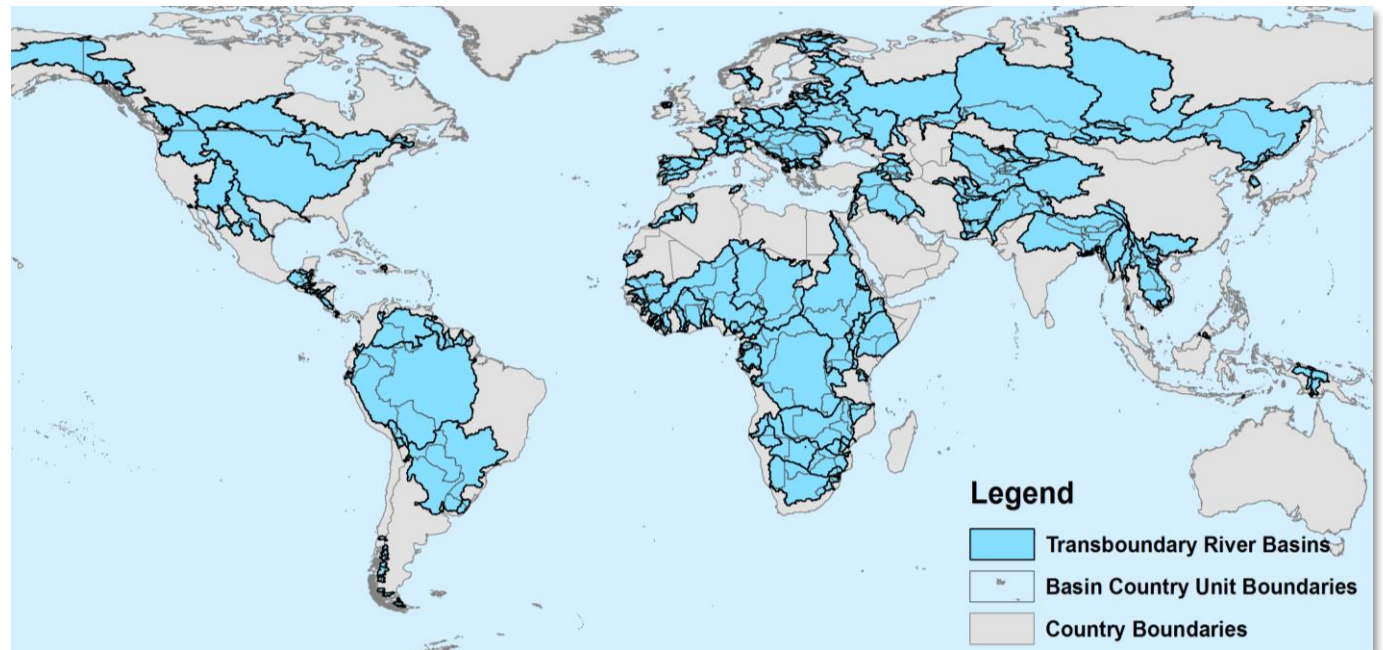
# Why transboundary cooperation is relevant for source-to-sea management?

- Majority of basins in the world are shared by two or more countries
- 6 of the 10 rivers contributing 90% of the plastic waste to oceans are transboundary
- Coordinated action among sectors and countries is key

**Sharing efforts, costs  
and benefits**



*Transboundary cooperation can help to use resources and allocate the costs for ecosystems protection and pollution prevention more efficiently and eventually reduce them*



# The interconnectedness of ecosystems and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

