

UNECE

Water Convention Programme of Work for 2022-2024

Supporting transboundary water cooperation
and the sustainable management of shared water resources



UNITED NATIONS

Geneva, 2022

The Water Convention: a brief introduction

More than 40 per cent of the world's population live in shared basins and more than 600 aquifers are shared. These shared waters create interdependencies between people, economies, and ecosystems. But these transboundary waters are at risk due to pressures from rising populations, heightened agricultural and energy needs, and the effects of climate change. Transboundary cooperation over shared waters is therefore crucial for ensuring environmental sustainability, economic growth and conflict prevention. However, the majority of the 276 transboundary watercourses worldwide lack an adequate legal and institutional cooperation framework, which hinders economic and social development, investments, and regional integration.

The Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention) is a **unique global legal and intergovernmental framework of the United Nations for promoting the sustainable management of transboundary waters through cooperation**. The Convention currently counts 47 countries. The countries that became Parties more recently are Chad and Senegal (2018), Ghana (2020), Guinea-Bissau and Togo (2021) and Cameroon (2022). A growing number of countries are in the process of accession and numerous activities under the Convention are implemented worldwide.

The Water Convention requires Parties to:

- Prevent, control and reduce transboundary impacts.
- Use transboundary waters in a reasonable and equitable way.
- Ensure the sustainable management of transboundary waters through cooperation.

Parties bordering the same transboundary waters are obliged to cooperate by concluding specific agreements and establishing joint bodies. These are crucial for efficient and cooperative management, for the development of transboundary basins and the sustainability of investments.

The **Water Convention has strengthened water governance and transboundary and regional cooperation among its Parties and their neighboring countries throughout its 30 years of existence**. In 2020, 186 transboundary water agreements were reported by Parties. Moreover, the Convention has offered a neutral platform for dialogue between countries facing diverse challenges in water resources management.



Relevance of the Water Convention to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other global and regional commitments

The Water Convention is a **powerful tool to operationalize the achievement of** the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its **Sustainable Development Goals**. The Convention and its programme of work for 2022-2024 also support implementation of numerous multilateral environmental agreements and international and regional commitments, including:

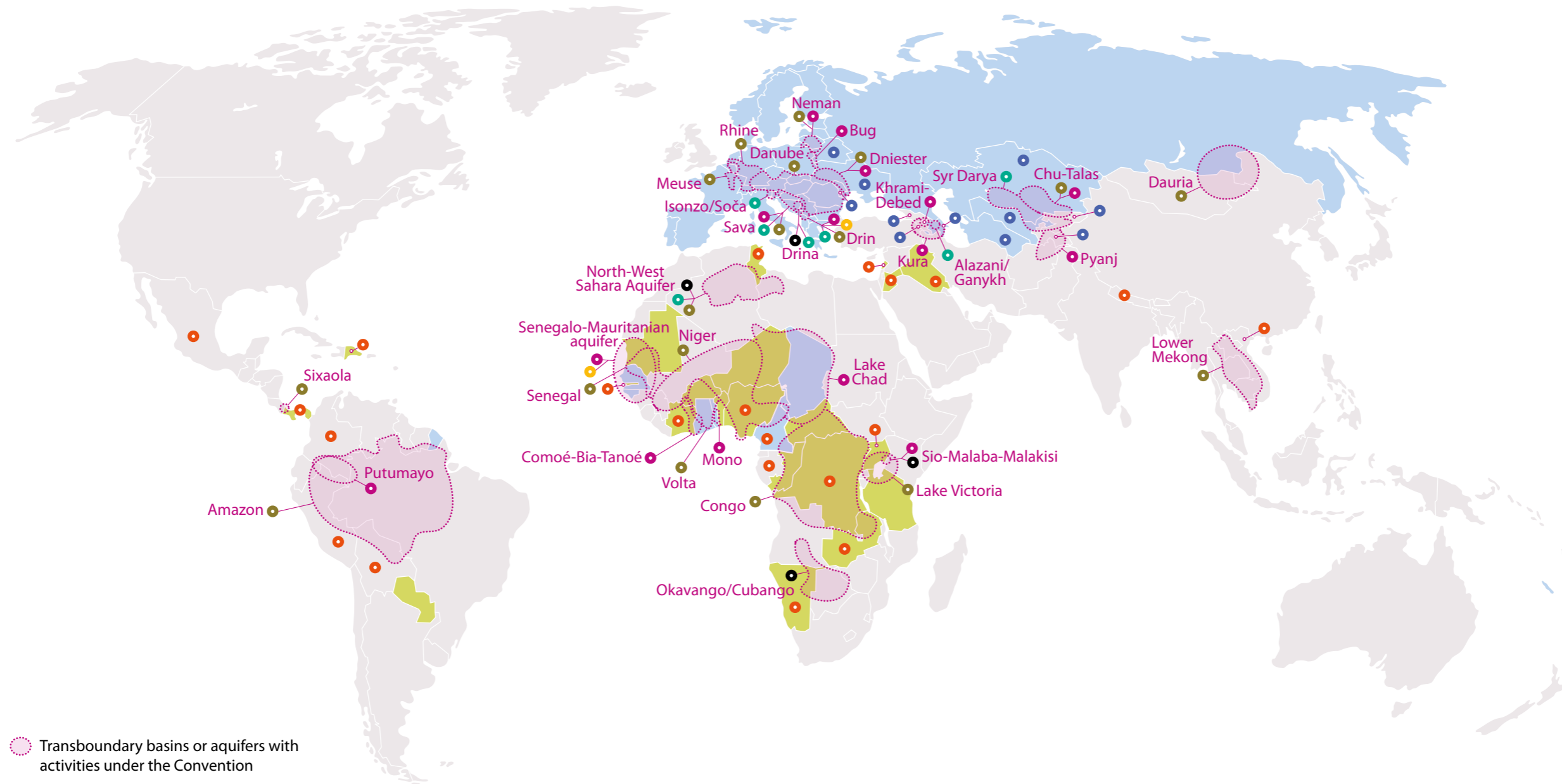
- The outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development "The future we want".
- The International Decade for Action, "Water for Sustainable Development", 2018–2028.
- The Sustainable Development Goal 6 Global Acceleration Framework as part of the Secretary-General's Decade of Action to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.
- The Paris Agreement, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.

The Convention **fosters progress at both the policy and technical levels**, from the national and basin levels to the global level.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Activities under the Water Convention, 2015–2022



Areas of work

- Support the development of agreements and the establishment of joint bodies
- Identify, assess and communicate the benefits of transboundary water cooperation
- Assess and promote the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus in transboundary basins

Note: The boundaries and names shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations

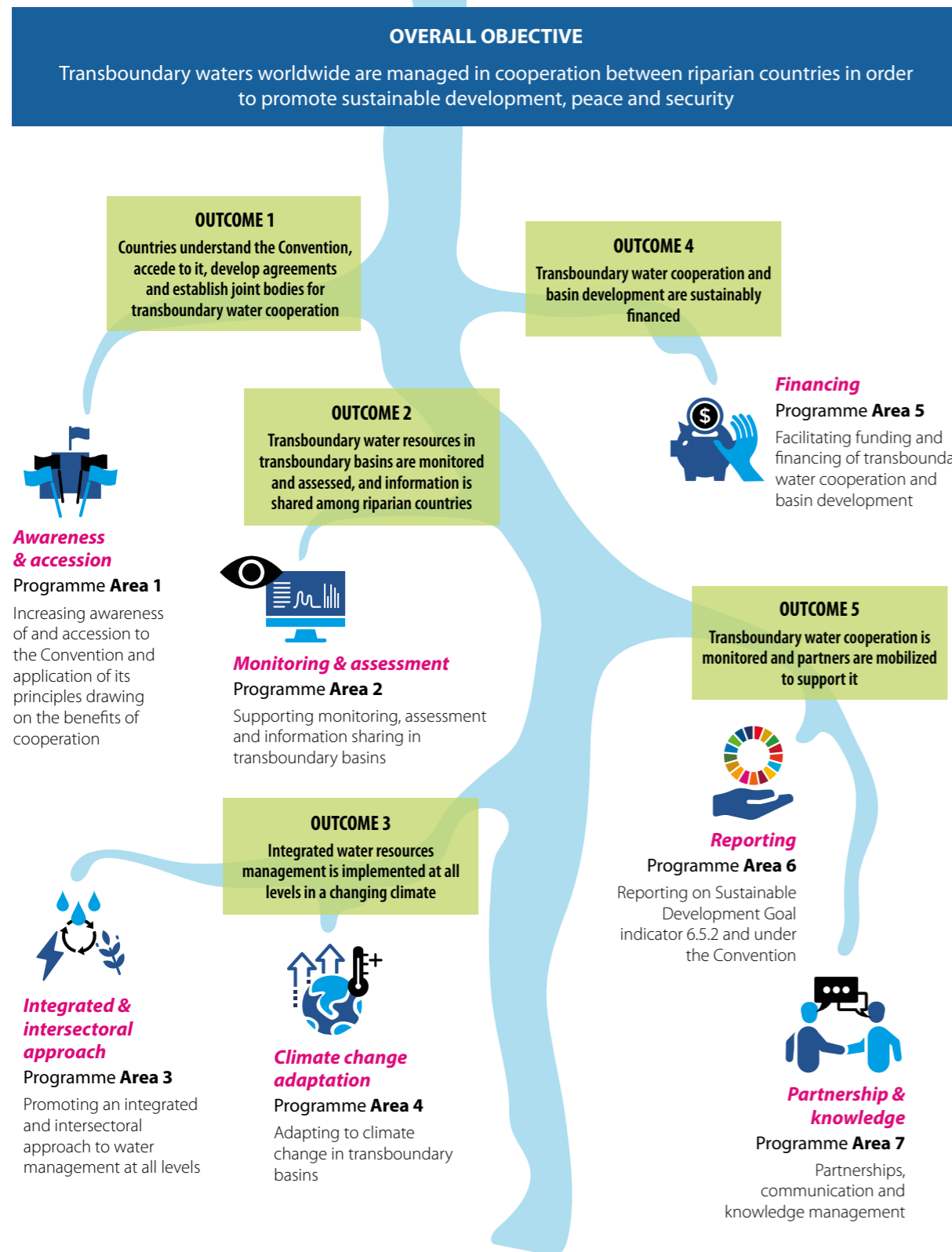
Last update: December 2022

Country Status

- Adapt to climate change in transboundary basins
- Increase knowledge of and accession to the Water Convention
- Monitor, assess and share information in transboundary basins
- National Policy Dialogues on IWRM under the European Union Water Initiative
- Parties to the Water Convention
- Countries in the process of accession

Programme of Work

The **programme of work supports the implementation of the Water Convention and its principles**. Activities in the programme of work include a combination of guidance development; exchange of experience and capacity-building; political advocacy, communication and input to regional and global processes; monitoring, assessments and preparation of reports/ publications; and projects on the ground.



Programme Area 1

Increasing awareness of and accession to the Convention and application of its principles drawing on the benefits of cooperation

Overall Cost
\$2,448,000

A large number of countries have started national processes of accession and requested support for it. In addition, several new Parties seek support in their efforts to implement the Convention's principles. There is also a high demand for support to the development of agreements and the establishment of joint bodies.

Programme Area 1 aims to: increase capacity for implementation of the Convention and support national processes towards accession; promote and communicate the benefits of transboundary water cooperation, and; support the development of agreements and the establishment of joint bodies.

In 2022-2024, the following activities are being carried out under the Water Convention:

- **Raise awareness and knowledge of the Water Convention.**

Promotion of the Convention at global and regional meetings and through cooperation with partners.

Training sessions for practitioners (2) to strengthen the capacity of key experts to promote and apply the Convention. One event for parliamentarians. One workshop on the global water conventions and international water law.

- **Support accession to and implementation of the Water Convention for new Parties.**

Upon request, legal and technical advice and tailor-made national workshops (up to 7) to accede to the Convention and to implement it through the development of national implementation plans.

Regional, sub-regional, and basin events (up to 4) to prompt regional/basin dynamics towards application of the Convention's principles.

Exchange of experiences through twinnings of countries working on accession with Parties, or new Parties with experienced Parties.

- **Promote and communicate the benefits of transboundary water cooperation.**

Dialogues with a "benefit lens" (up to 3), on the basis of the *Policy Guidance Note on the Benefits of Transboundary Water Cooperation*.

- **Support the development of agreements and the establishment of joint bodies.**

Development of an online toolkit on the basis of the *Practical Guide for the Development of Agreements and Other Arrangements for Transboundary Water Cooperation*.

Two regional/basin workshops to support cooperation processes.

Upon request, implementation of basin¹-level projects to support transboundary water cooperation through the development of agreements, the establishment/strengthening of institutions and/or the development/implementation of Strategic Action Programmes.

Support to regional cooperation, e.g. through work on dam safety and water quality in Central Asia, and work with regional economic communities on the development of regional frameworks for water cooperation in Africa and Latin America.

- **Support to countries by the Implementation Committee** in their efforts to implement and comply with the Convention. Provision of advice through the advisory procedure.

Success story: Strengthening cooperation in Central Africa

Upon invitation by the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), the secretariat provided support in 2016–2017 for the negotiation of the draft Convention for the prevention and peaceful resolution of conflicts related to the management of shared water resources in Central Africa. In July 2020, the above-mentioned Convention was adopted by the Heads of State of the region. In the face of increasing pressures on the region's transboundary waters (16 major rivers, 5 lakes and 17 aquifer systems), this is a major step towards creating a solid framework for cooperation. It is crucial for ensuring the region's sustainable development and future prosperity. The negotiations have benefited from the accession of Chad to the Water Convention in 2018. Other countries are encouraged to follow Chad in acceding to the Convention. Cameroon acceded in 2022, and several ECCAS countries – Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, and Republic of Congo – are now at different stages of the accession process.

¹ Possible basins include : Lake Kivu/Ruzizi River basin, the Bug-Neman, Chu-Talas, Comoé-Bia-Tanoé, Dniester, Drin, Euphrates and Tigris, Gambia, Kura, Mejerda, Mono, Motagua, Ogooué-Ntem-Nyanga-Komo, Okavango-Cubango, Prut, Rio Jurado, Tisza and Volta River basins, as well as the Ocotepeque and Senegalo-Mauritanian Aquifer basins and the Trifinio region.



Programme Area 2

Supporting monitoring, assessment and information sharing in transboundary basins



Overall Cost
\$561,000

Information exchange is fundamental for developing cooperation. Comparable information and harmonized methods for monitoring and assessment across a transboundary basin or aquifer are necessary to form a common basis for management and decision-making.

Programme Area 2 aims to support countries in initiating or further developing joint or coordinated monitoring and assessment of transboundary surface waters and groundwaters, covering both water quantity and quality aspects, and improving exchange of information and data between riparian countries.

In 2022-2024, the following activities are being carried out under the Water Convention:

- **Elaborate guidance documents to support transboundary data exchange, monitoring and assessment.**

Update of the *Strategies for Monitoring and Assessment of Transboundary Rivers, Lakes and Groundwaters* as a global edition.

Development of a new publication on transboundary data exchange based on a collection of good practices and lessons learned.

- **Strengthen capacities on transboundary monitoring, information and data exchange.**

Trainings or regional workshops (up to 3) to raise awareness about the approach to monitoring and assessment under the Convention and share regional experiences.

- **Support joint or coordinated monitoring or information and data exchange in transboundary basins.**

Upon request, tailored assistance to transboundary basins² through the application of the strategic and technical guidelines on monitoring and assessment in transboundary basins.

Success story: Improving data exchange and groundwater management in the Senegalo-Mauritanian Aquifer Basin (SMAB)

In Senegal, reporting under the Convention highlighted the lack of data and cooperation for the management of transboundary groundwater resources. To address this challenge, Senegal, with support of Convention and other partners, prompted the initiation of a dialogue among riparian countries of the SMAB. A Regional Working Group for Transboundary Cooperation on the SMAB was created in April 2020. Available data was collected from the 4 riparian countries (The Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritania and Senegal), which paved the way for the development of an agreed joint vision for transboundary cooperation in the SMAB in December 2020. In September 2021, efforts were successful with the signature of a Ministerial Declaration on the SMAB committing the establishment of a legal and institutional framework for transboundary water cooperation.

² Possible basins include the Drin River and the Senegalo-Mauritanian Aquifer Basin.



Programme Area 3

Promoting an integrated and intersectoral approach to water resources management at all levels



Overall Cost
\$4,623,500

Integrated water resources management (IWRM) ensures that economic and social benefits can be maximized without damaging the sustainability of ecosystems. It involves coordination among different uses and users of water from different sectors.

Programme Area 3 aims to support: the development of transboundary basin management strategies, joint objectives or plans; the conjunctive management of surface waters and groundwaters, as well as the source-to-sea approach; the conservation of ecosystems and biodiversity in transboundary basins; the application of the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus approach; the development of equitable and sustainable transboundary arrangements on water allocation, and; the strengthening of water governance and the application of IWRM at the national and transboundary levels.

In 2022-2024, the following activities are being carried out under the Water Convention:

- **Promote IWRM in transboundary basins.**

Thematic sessions in the margins of convention's intergovernmental meetings (up to 4) to tackle different aspects of IWRM in transboundary basins, such as public participation; basin management plan development; forests, ecosystems, biodiversity, and water.

Global workshops (up to 2) to share global practice related to source-to-sea approach to water management, and the conjunctive management of surface waters and groundwaters.

- **Support intersectoral dialogues and assessments through the application of the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus approach in transboundary basins.**

Promotion of the methodology for assessing the nexus in transboundary basins, including through the development of a leaflet to support partners in applying it. Upon request, application of the Nexus assessment methodology at the transboundary basin/aquifer basin.

Support to the operationalization of nexus (intersectoral) solutions in regions/basins (up to 4), building on the publication *Solutions and investments in the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus: A synthesis of experiences in transboundary basins*, informed by regional consultations, past assessments and opportunities for partnership.

Two meetings of the Task Force on the Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems Nexus to serve as a global platform for the exchange of experience on addressing intersectoral issues at the transboundary level.

Dissemination of the toolkit publication for policymakers *Towards sustainable renewable energy investment and deployment: Trade-offs and opportunities with water resources and the environment* will be disseminated.

- **Support equitable and sustainable water allocation in transboundary basins.**

Global webinar to build capacity through the use of the *Handbook on Water Allocation in a Transboundary Context*. Elaboration of a brief for policymakers.

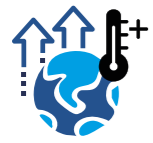
Two regional workshops and a basin workshop to share experiences about options to address and reconcile sectoral water demands through an integrated approach to transboundary water allocation.

- **Support National Policy Dialogues on IWRM under the European Union Water Initiative.**

National Policy Dialogues in Central Asia, Caucasus and Eastern Europe to advance the implementation of the water and health agenda and strengthen national and international water governance and cooperation. Assist countries to improve the legal, regulatory, administrative, technical and economic frameworks of water management and transboundary water cooperation.

Success story: Nexus assessment promoting cost-effective hydropower generation in the Drina River basin

The Drina River basin, shared by Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia, is one of the 6 basins that benefitted from support by the Convention to carry out an assessment of the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus and identify joint actions. One of the strategies analyzed was the coordinated operation of hydropower dams to maximize power generation at the basin level, rather than at the individual country level. It strengthened capacity on integrated water-energy basin planning in the 3 countries. A high-level dialogue is leading to the development of a "Nexus Roadmap" for the basin and contributed to political processes and cooperation initiatives, such as South East Europe 2020 Strategy, the Drina River Basin management Project and the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans.



Programme Area 4

Adapting to climate change in transboundary basins



Overall Cost
\$1,610,000

Transboundary cooperation on adaptation to climate change in shared basins and transboundary adaptation measures are essential to help prevent negative impacts from climate change and ensure the effectiveness of adaptation.

Programme Area 4 aims to: improve adaptive capacity and cooperation on climate change adaptation and mitigation in transboundary basins; increase funding for basin-wide or coordinated climate change adaptation measures in transboundary basins, and; increase awareness of the importance of water and transboundary cooperation in climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction.

In 2022-2024, the following activities are being carried out under the Water Convention:

- **Support the development of transboundary adaptation strategies and implementation of priority measures.**

Basin-level projects³ (up to 3) to promote transboundary cooperation in adaptation to climate change through, e.g., the development of vulnerability assessments, adaptation and disaster risk reduction strategies, prioritization and implementation of mutually beneficial adaptation measures, and integrating climate change adaptation into river basin management planning.

Two meetings of the Global network of basins working on climate change adaptation, two meetings of the Task Force on Water and Climate, and two global workshops on transboundary climate change adaptation and mitigation to facilitate the exchange of experiences, good practices and lessons learned.

Support to the mainstreaming of water and the benefits of transboundary cooperation into national climate-related documents (nationally determined contributions and national adaptation plans).

Support to the development of joint approaches for addressing transboundary water management issues in climate-related documents in some basins and/or regions.

Promotion of the importance of transboundary water cooperation within global policy processes on climate and disasters, such as the UNFCCC, UNDRR, and the 2030 Agenda, including through joint sessions and/or events on the improvement of coherence between water, transboundary cooperation, climate change, and disaster risk reduction at global events.

Online compendium of good practices on climate change adaptation in transboundary basins based among others on the publication *Water and Climate Change Adaptation in Transboundary Basins: Lessons Learned and Good Practices*.

- **Support transboundary basins in financing climate change adaptation.**

Two regional or basin webinars/training sessions on preparing bankable project proposals for climate change adaptation in transboundary basins.

Contribution to the development of bankable project proposals for one or two basins.

Cooperation with global climate funds to increase the importance of transboundary water cooperation in climate funding mechanisms.

Success story: Adapting together across borders and regions within the Global Network of Basins

The Water Convention and INBO succeeded in engaging various basins – from the Amazon to the Mekong - to exchange new knowledge and experience and report on recent transboundary adaptation activities within the Global Network of Basins working on climate change adaptation. Vulnerability to climate change and associated flood and drought risks have been reduced in at least 5 major basins worldwide of the Global network through the development of transboundary adaptation strategies, training for preparing bankable project proposals, capacity building and other activities.

³ Possible basins include the Chu-Talas, Dniester, Bug-Neman, Tisza and Sava.



Programme Area 5

Facilitating funding and financing of transboundary water cooperation and basin development



Overall Cost
\$472,000

The lack of sustainable financing models often prevents countries and basin organizations from deepening their cooperation and implementing projects, affecting the long-term sustainability of their work. Raising awareness of sustainable financing models and exchanging good practices can help to identify and unlock funding sources.

Programme Area 5 aims to: draw global attention to the importance of financing transboundary water cooperation and of enhancing the financial sustainability of transboundary water management institutions and their implementation programmes and activities in the basin; facilitate knowledge-sharing on funding options, and; support national authorities and joint bodies in shaping their strategies for mobilizing financial resources.

In 2022-2024, the following activities are being carried out under the Water Convention:

- **Raise awareness of the importance of financing transboundary water cooperation and basin development.**

Increased cooperation with and contribution to events organized by financial institutions such as ADB, AfDB, EIB, GEF, IDB, the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), the World Bank and other relevant organizations, and other global events.

Development of a joint policy brief and other communication materials highlighting the key challenges and opportunities for improving the financing of transboundary water cooperation, including some addressed to ministries of finance.

One global workshop/event and regional workshops (up to 2) to reinforce capacities of countries on how to enhance resources mobilization for transboundary water cooperation and management activities.

- **Support transboundary basins in financing of transboundary water cooperation.**

Upon request, support to transboundary basins (up to 3) in facilitating financing of cooperation through tailored advice, dissemination of good practices, assistance to river basin organizations and organization of round tables with financial partners, based on the findings of the publication *Funding and Financing of Transboundary Water Cooperation and Basin Development*.

A new tool: publication “Funding and Financing of Transboundary Water Cooperation and Basin Development”

The publication, developed in cooperation with the AfDB, ADB, EIB, GEF, IDB, OECD and the World Bank, under the leadership of Switzerland and the Netherlands, provides a comprehensive overview of how to best meet the financial needs of transboundary water cooperation and basin development for the benefit of the world’s shared basins and their communities. It outlines the sources of funding and financing available to support activities in shared basins and explores the different financial needs of basins at different stages of development and analyses the key opportunities and challenges in meeting those needs.



Programme Area 6

Reporting on Sustainable Development Goal indicator 6.5.2 and under the Convention



In 2015, a regular reporting mechanism was introduced under the Convention to review and enhance the implementation of the Convention, which coincided with the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals and their targets. Target 6.5 calls on countries to implement integrated water resources management at all levels; and SDG indicator 6.5.2, for which UNECE is a co-custodian agency, measures progress on transboundary water cooperation. In 2023–2024, the Secretariat of the Convention will coordinate the third reporting exercise under the Convention and on indicator 6.5.2, in cooperation with UNESCO.

Programme Area 6 aims to: raise awareness on the importance of reporting; strengthen the capacity to report; keep under review progress on transboundary water cooperation worldwide; maximize the impact of reporting, and; accelerate SDG target 6.5 achievement.

In 2022-2024, the following activities are being carried out under the Water Convention:

- **Support reporting on Sustainable Development Goal indicator 6.5.2 and under the Convention**

Coordination of the third reporting exercise and presentation of the reporting results at the 10th session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention, along with other global events, such as the 2023 United Nations Conference on Water.

Development of an online reporting system and an online database under the Convention to facilitate the analysis of data reported by countries. Development and update of existing guidance materials.

Capacity-building activities to support countries in reporting and to improve coordination of reporting at basin level.

- **Promote the use of the reports for enhancing transboundary water cooperation**

Global, regional, and national activities to assist countries in using the reports to address the gaps in transboundary cooperation and to mainstream the reporting process into national and regional policymaking.

Cooperation with partners, including United Nations regional commissions and GWP, to assist countries in the development of road maps and committing to concrete actions for accelerating progress on SDG indicator 6.5.2.

Success story: Reporting on SDG 6.5.2 under the Convention prompting progress on cooperation

SDG indicator 6.5.2 is unique among SDG indicators, as the process of reporting itself allows countries to improve transboundary cooperation. Reporting makes it possible to review and better understand ongoing transboundary water cooperation. Based on the reports, gaps in national laws and policies related to transboundary water management can be identified and addressed. For example, Sweden and Norway used this information to further improve their transboundary water cooperation following the first reporting exercise in 2017. The SDG indicator 6.5.2 process can also be an incentive for neighbouring countries to initiate dialogue. This was the case between Panama and Colombia, where further exchanges of information at the technical level concerning the Rio Jurado River Basin was initiated after reporting in 2021. The first SDG indicator 6.5.2 monitoring exercise also had a clear role in stimulating cooperation on the Senegalo-Mauritanian Aquifer Basin (SMAB).



Programme Area 7

Partnerships, communication and knowledge management



Partners are key to the Convention's implementation. They play an increasingly important role with the globalization of the Convention. For all programme areas, communication and knowledge management are important to enhance the impact of the Convention's products and activities.

Programme Area 7 aims to: strengthen cooperation and synergies with different partners and disseminate information on the Convention's activities and results.

In 2022-2024, the following activities are being carried out under the Water Convention:

- **Cooperate with UN-Water, global and regional partners and other multilateral environmental agreements**

Cooperation under UN-Water, including through co-chairing its Expert Group on Transboundary Waters and its Expert Group on Water and Climate.

Support to the preparatory process for the United Nations 2023 Water Conference, to contribute to the inclusion of transboundary water cooperation issues.

- **Co-service the Joint Ad Hoc Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents**

Promotion and translation of guidance materials developed by the Expert Group, co-serviced with the secretariat of the industrial Accidents Convention.

Catalogue for accidental water pollution events and good practices of countries and river basin commissions.

Workshop on good practices for preventing accidental water pollution.

- **Communicate and manage knowledge**

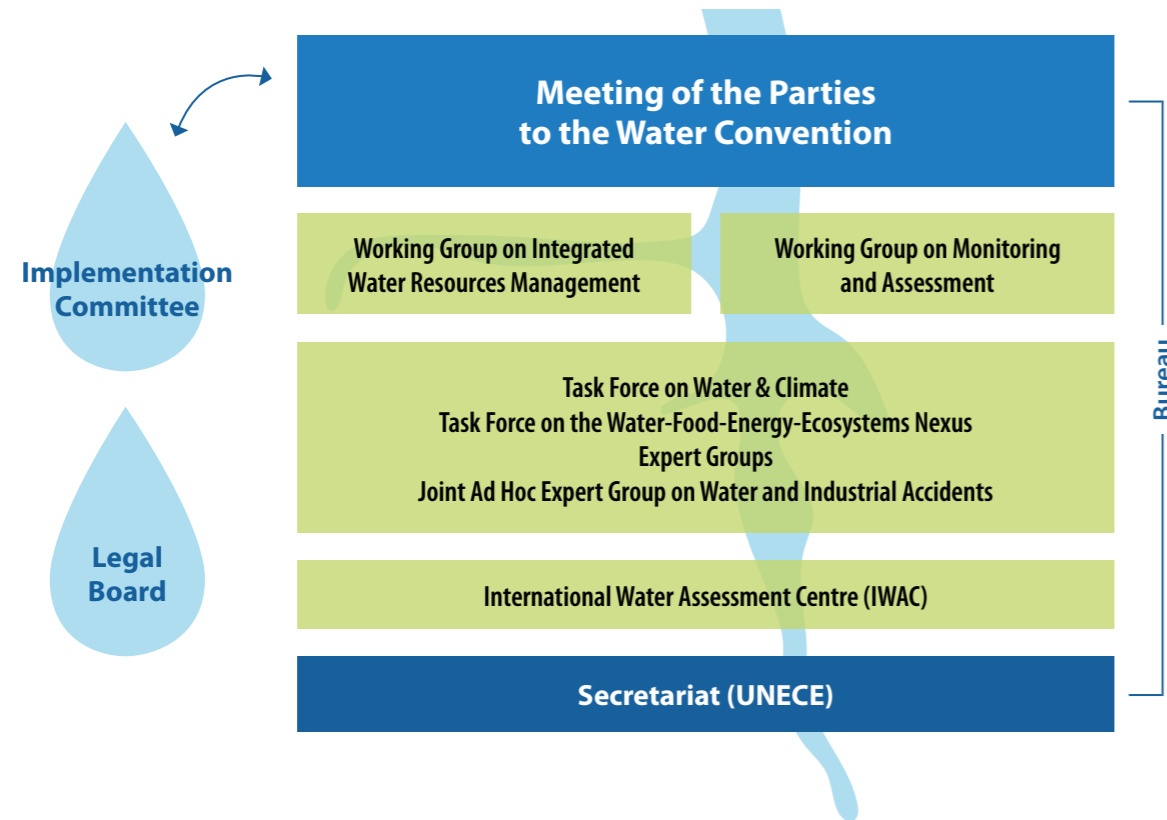
Production, publication and printing of communication materials on the Convention.

Interviews, press releases, communication of social media channels, newsletters, regular updates of the Convention website.

Tailored materials for diplomats and parliamentarians on the benefits of accession to the Convention.

Institutional framework of the Water Convention: a valuable asset

The Water Convention establishes an **institutional framework that supports implementation, regularly reviews progress, and provides guidance** on the implementation of the programme of work and the Convention.



Partners

The Convention is working with the following partners in implementing the programme of work:

- Adaptation Fund
- African Development Bank (AfDB)
- African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW)
- African Network of Basin Organizations (ANBO)
- Alliance for Global Water Adaptation (AGWA)
- Asian Development Bank (ADB)
- Austrian Development Agency
- Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP)
- Central American Commission on Environment and Development (CCAD/SICA)
- Conference of Ibero-American Water Directors (CODIA)
- Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention)
- Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar Convention)
- Development Bank of Latin America (CAF)
- Dniester Basin Commission
- Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS)
- Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)
- Environment Agency Austria (UBA)
- Espoo Convention and its Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment
- European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)
- European Commission
- European Investment Bank (EIB)
- European Union – Central Asia Water, Environment and Climate Change Cooperation programme project implementing consortium
- Finnish Environment Institute
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
- Gambia River Basin Development Organization
- Geneva Water Hub
- German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ)
- Global Commission on Adaptation
- Global Environment Facility (GEF) and its International Waters Learning Exchange and Resource Network (IW:LEARN) project
- Global Water Partnership (GWP)
- Green Climate Fund (GCF)
- Green Cross International (GCI)
- IHE Delft Institute for Water Education
- Industrial Accidents Convention
- Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)
- Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)
- International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)
- International Groundwater Resources Assessment Centre (IGRAC)
- International Institute for Sustainable Development
- International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO)
- International Office for Water of France
- International Sava River Basin Commission (ISRBC)
- International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
- International Water Assessment Center (IWAC)
- International Water Management Institute (IWMI)
- League of Arab States (LAS)
- Mekong River Commission (MRC)
- Mono Basin Authority (MBA)
- Niger Basin Authority (NBA)
- Oregon State University (OSU)
- Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
- Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)
- Organization for the Development of the Senegal River (OMVS)
- Organization of American States (OAS)
- Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel and the Southern African Development Community (CILSS)
- Permanent Okavango River Basin Water Commission (OKACOM)
- Protocol on Water and Health Sanitation and Water for All (SWA)
- Scientific-Information Center of the Interstate Commission for Water Coordination (SIC ICWC)
- Stockholm Environment Institute
- Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI)
- Union for the Mediterranean (UfM)
- United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)
- United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific (ESCAP)
- United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)
- United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)
- United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)
 United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSD)
 University of Eastern Finland
 University of Northumbria
 University of Oxford
 UN-Water
 Volta Basin Authority (VBA)

Water Diplomacy Centre of Jordan University of Science and Technology
 World Bank (WB)
 World Meteorological Organization (WMO)
 World Water Council
 World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)
 Zoï Environment Network

Acknowledgement of donors

The Water Convention would like to thank its current donors:

Asian Development Bank, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Estonia, European Investment Bank, European Union, Finland, France, Germany, Global Environment Facility, Hungary, Italy, IW:LEARN, Kazakhstan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, OSCE, Poland, Portugal, Serbia, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, United States of America and UN-Water.

Invitation to donors

The **Water Convention's work is mostly funded by voluntary contributions**; there is no mandatory assessed contribution scheme.

As of October 2022, around one third (about 4.5 million USD) of the programme of work for 2022-2024 is still unfunded. **Donors are invited to contribute.**

In line with the "Targets for a more sustainable and predictable funding of the work under the Convention" adopted by the Meeting of the Parties through Decision IX/3, such contributions should ideally not be earmarked towards particular programme areas or events, so that the funds can be used where most needed.

In-kind contributions to the implementation of the programme of work (hosting meetings, expert time, ...) are also welcome.

From a donor perspective, **contributing to the implementation of the Water Convention's work has many benefits.** It means joining forces with other actors to support a needs-driven programme that is regularly evaluated. Contributing to the Convention's programme of work also means addressing, in a comprehensive manner, a variety of transboundary water cooperation challenges and acting at both technical and political levels. Given the long-term nature of the Convention's work, being the Convention's donor also guarantees that undertaken efforts are sustained and thus durable.

For more information or for any questions, please refer to:

www.unece.org/env/water

water.convention@un.org

The full programme of work is available at <https://bit.ly/3fNuVAI>