



# SOUTH AFRICA'S EXPERIENCES FROM THE PAST TWO REPORTING EXERCISES AND OUTLOOK FOR THE FUTURE – NEED FOR ACCELERATION

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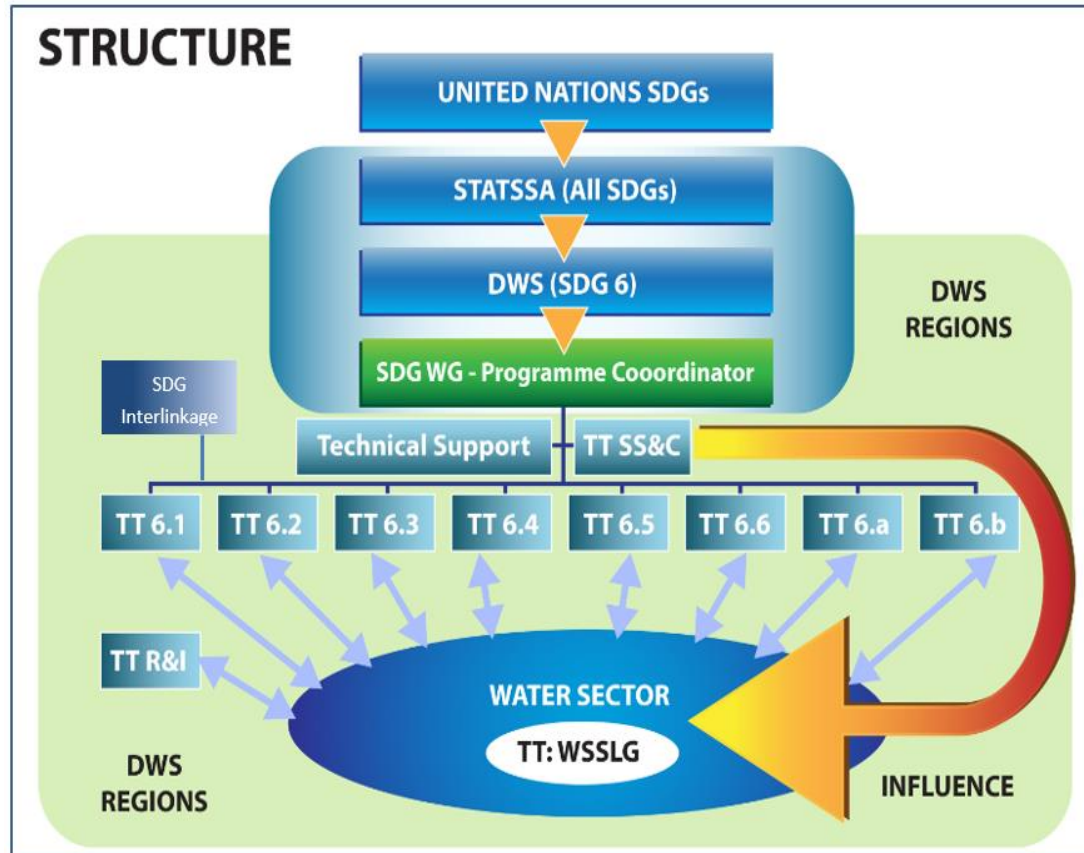
Department of Water and Sanitation, South Africa

Global Webinars on SDG indicator 6.5.2  
Transboundary Water Cooperation

Supporting countries in preparing national reports for the  
3rd reporting exercise - With a focus on Coordination



# South Africa's enabling environment for SDG reporting



- Statistics South Africa (STATSSA) coordinates the reporting for all SDGs in South Africa
- For ease of coordination at a national level, STATSSA aligned the 17 SDGs to the country's 4 high level reporting clusters (Economic, Social, Environment, Justice)
- National Departments are responsible for data collection and reporting for their sectors. They also decide on how to coordinate their data collection arrangements
- The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) established an SDG Working Group with a Task Team for each Target
- Mark Bannister is the DWS SDG Coordinator
- **Target 6.5** – By 2030, Implement Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) at all levels, including through trans-boundary cooperation as appropriate
  - **Indicator 6.5.1** – Degree of integrated water resources management implementation
  - **Indicator 6.5.2** – Proportion of trans-boundary basin area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation



# Synergy of indicators under SDG Target 6.5

## Indicator 6.5.1



### Enabling Environment

- Policies
- Legislation
- Plans



### Institutions and Participation

- Institutions (National, Province, Local)
- Coordination
- Stakeholders
- Gender
- Capacity



### Management Instruments

- Hydrological Information System
- Water Ecosystems
- Planning Models
- Water quality monitoring instruments
- Climate Change



### Financing

- Budgeting
- Financing
- Revenues

## Indicator 6.5.2



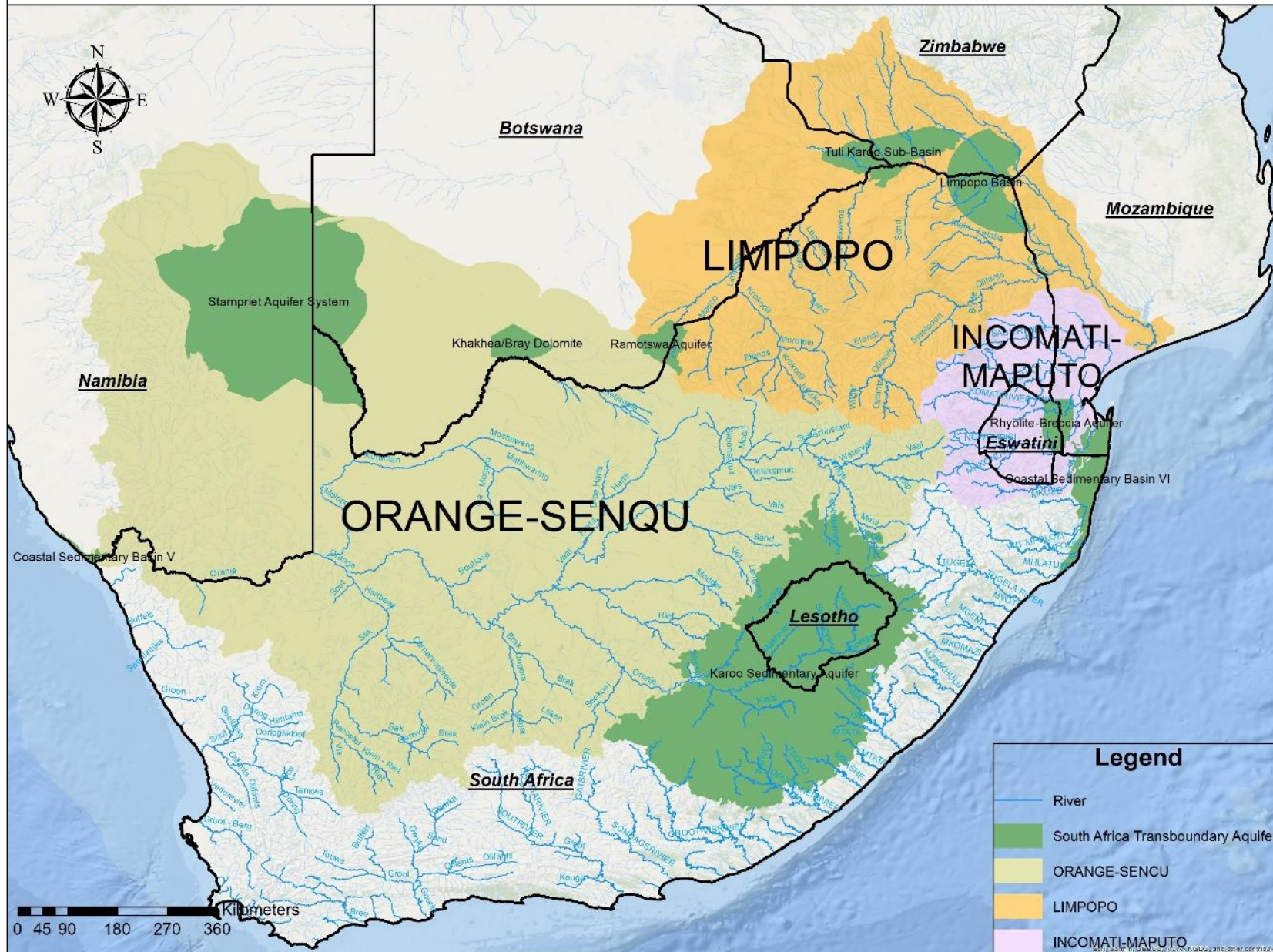
### Transboundary water

- Existence of a joint body
- Regular, formal communication between riparian countries (at least once a year)
- Joint or coordinated management plans or objectives
- Regular exchange of data and information (at least once a year)

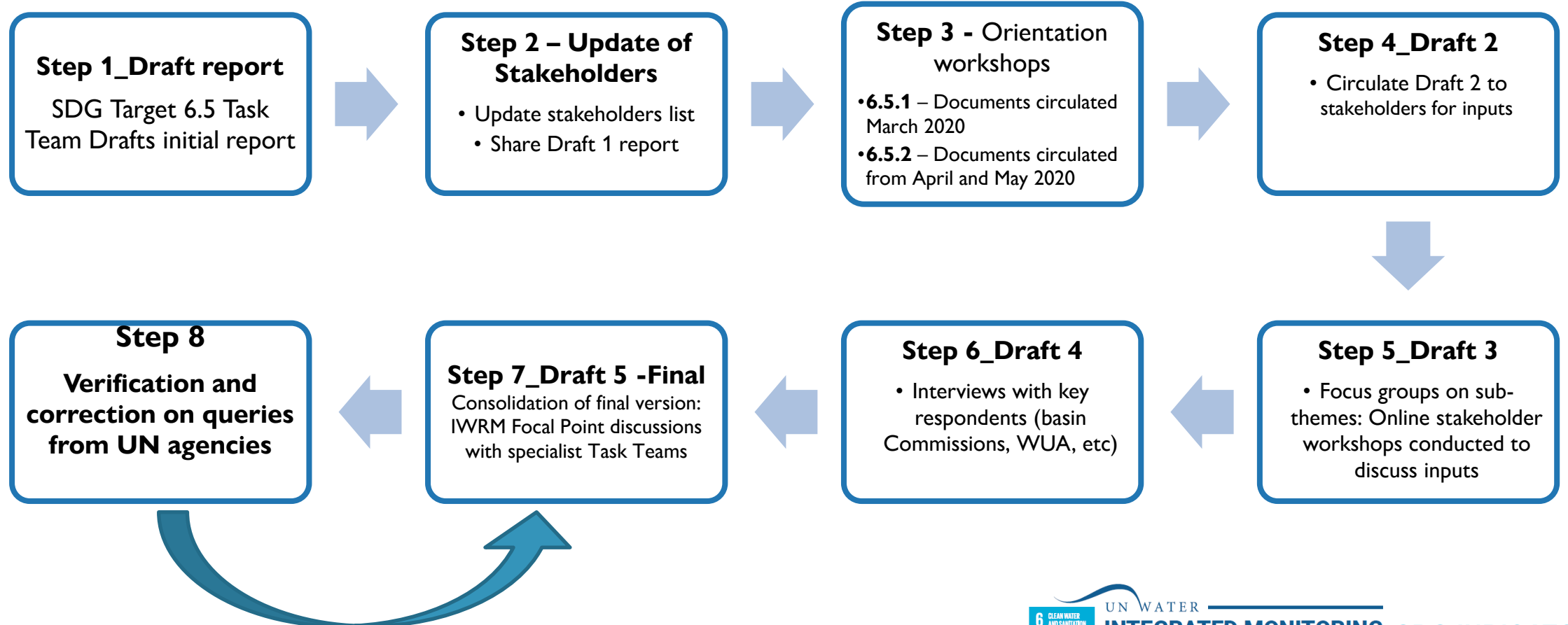
- INMACOM
- ORASECOM
- LIMCOM

Groundwater information

# South Africa Transboundary Basins and Aquifer



# 2020 Reporting process



# Challenges and how they were overcome

2017 Reporting cycle		2020 reporting cycle	
Challenge	resolution	Challenge	resolution
Lack of full awareness of SDGs, IWRM and data collection tool	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Familiarisation and orientation workshop held</li> <li>Partnership support (GWP, SADC)</li> </ul>	Lack of full awareness of SDGs, IWRM and data collection tool	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strengthening of the enabling environment for reporting (UN, country level)</li> </ul>
Limited time set for data gathering process due to the lack of awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Workshop of stakeholders</li> <li>Use of external experts</li> </ul>	Covid 19 pandemic restrictions during reporting period	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Populated questionnaire</li> <li>Online data gathering</li> </ul>
Transition from MDGs to SDGs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continuous awareness raising</li> </ul>	Lack of resources for and lack of awareness of online platforms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Capacity building process</li> <li>Adapt to the various online platforms to suit stakeholders</li> </ul>
Integrity of data		Time processes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Better communication from UN custodian agencies</li> </ul>
		The reporting templates require high level of detail	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Task Team before sharing with stakeholders to verify</li> </ul>
		Lack of awareness of IWRM and lack of data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Capacity building must be an ongoing process</li> </ul>
		Integrity of data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Comparative tool developed</li> <li>Gap analysis conducted</li> </ul>



# Reflections on the 2020 reporting

## Reflections on processes

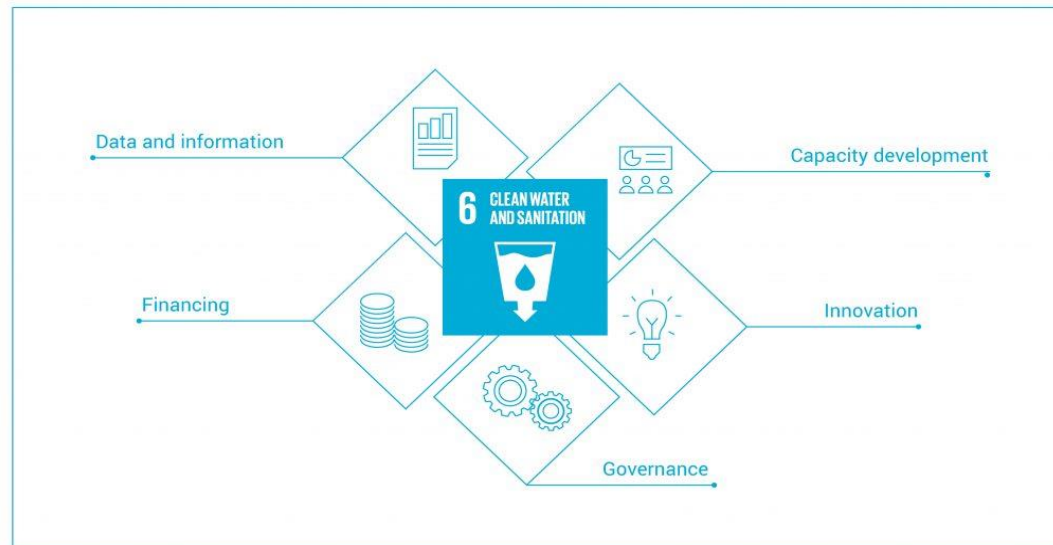
- There has been increased support from UN support organizations on the reporting process
- A very high commitment of the partners at all levels
- The information required on the questionnaire is broad and deep, hence a high level of effort is required to fill the questionnaire
- The understanding of IWRM can affect the quality of inputs by stakeholders
  - IWRM remains complex – more work to strengthen capacity is required
  - Biases can occur amongst stakeholders on the importance of the various IWRM criteria
- There may be scope to weight the IWRM criteria to balance the contribution of each criterion

## Reflections on outcomes

- Through the SDG process, South Africa is monitoring implementation of IWRM
- The initial analysis conducted for reporting suggested that there may be a gap between the calculated indicators, and the actual cooperation between member states
  - High SDG6.5 indicator scores do not mean increased access to water and sanitation
  - The indicators can mask differences in the stages of water resources development in a river basin across co-countries; and within the same river basin, differences in state of development of different water resources
- Financing of key projects and institutions remains a challenge
- There is need to improve on the understanding of groundwater resources, *i.e.*, boundaries and potential yields
- The existing arrangements on shared water courses need to be more explicit on groundwater

# Opportunities for accelerating delivery of SDGs – South Africa’s National Water and Sanitation Master Plan (NW&SMP)

## UN – Five Accelerators



- Mainstream climate change adaptation measures into water planning and management
- Regional Basin Organisations (RBO)s empowered to facilitate and operationalize interventions

## NW&SMP – Enabling Environment

