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8<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2023

# OVERVIEW OF SDG INDICATOR 6.5.2: KEY COMPONENTS OF THE INDICATOR AND THEIR RELEVANCE TO PROGRESS TRANSBOUNDARY COOPERATION

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Pan-Asia SDG indicator 6.5.2 Webinar, 8<sup>th</sup> June 2023





UN WATER

INTEGRATED MONITORING  
INITIATIVE FOR SDG 6

SDG INDICATOR 6.5.2  
TRANSBOUNDARY WATER COOPERATION

# Overview

- Integrated Monitoring Initiative for SDG 6
- Global 6.5.2 experience
- Results for Asia Pacific
- SDG 6.5.2 Value calculation
- Template for the 3<sup>rd</sup> reporting exercise
- Guidance material
- Objectives of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Reporting exercise
- Tips and advice for reporting





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 INITIATIVE FOR SDG 6**



INDICATORS	CUSTODIANS
6.1.1 Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services	WHO, UNICEF
6.2.1 Proportion of population using (a) safely managed sanitation services and (b) a hand-washing facility with soap and water	WHO, UNICEF
6.3.1 Proportion of domestic and industrial wastewater flows safely treated	WHO, UN-Habitat, UNSD
6.3.2 Proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality	UNEP
6.4.1 Change in water-use efficiency over time	FAO
6.4.2 Level of water stress: freshwater withdrawal as a proportion of available freshwater resources	FAO
6.5.1 Degree of integrated water resources management	UNEP
6.5.2 Proportion of transboundary basin area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation	UNECE, UNESCO
6.6.1 Change in the extent of water-related ecosystems over time	UNEP, Ramsar
6.a.1 Amount of water- and sanitation-related official development assistance that is part of a government-coordinated spending plan	WHO, OECD
6.b.1 Proportion of local administrative units with established and operational policies and procedures for participation of local communities in water and sanitation management	WHO, OECD

# SDG indicator 6.5.2



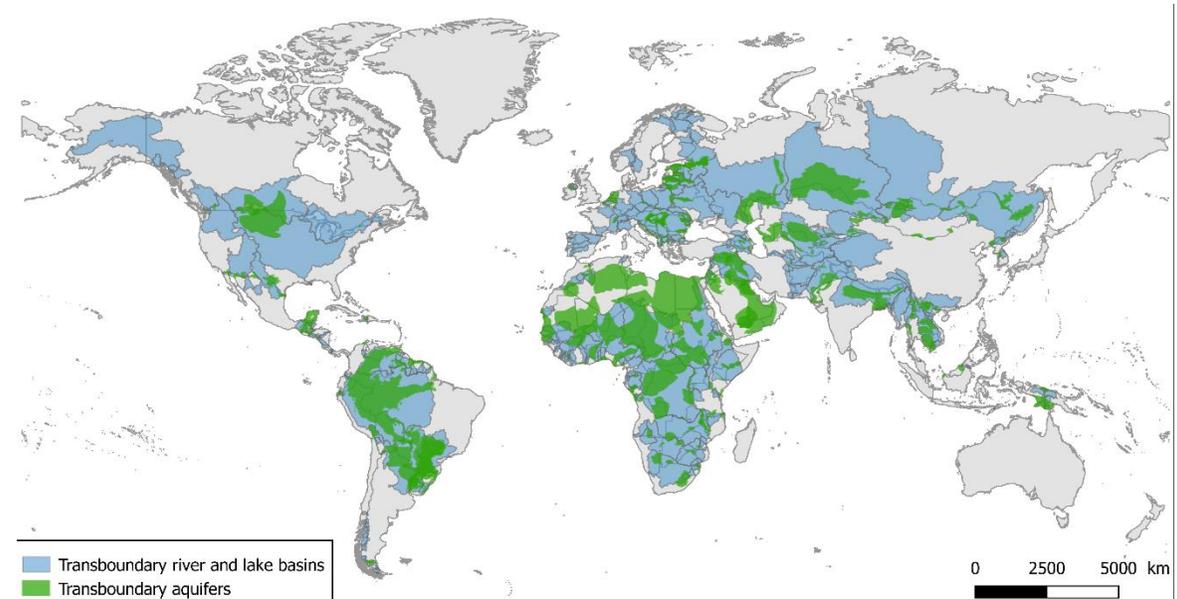
**Target 6.5:** By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate.



**Indicator 6.5.1** Degree of IWRM



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



**Most of the world's water resources are shared => cooperation required**

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

# Global experience: Overall 6.5.2 value



- Increase in response received and high level of engagement

129 out of 153 countries submitted reports in 2020 (108 in 2017)

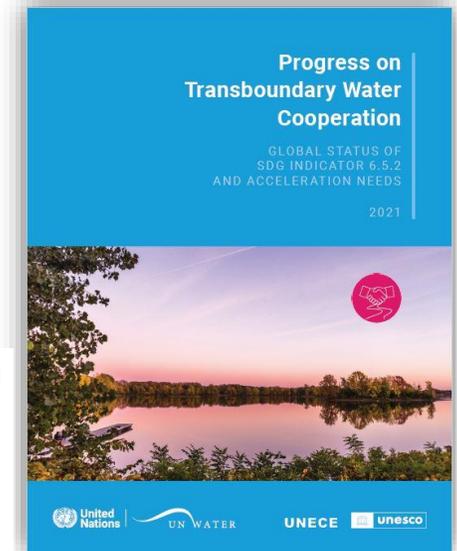
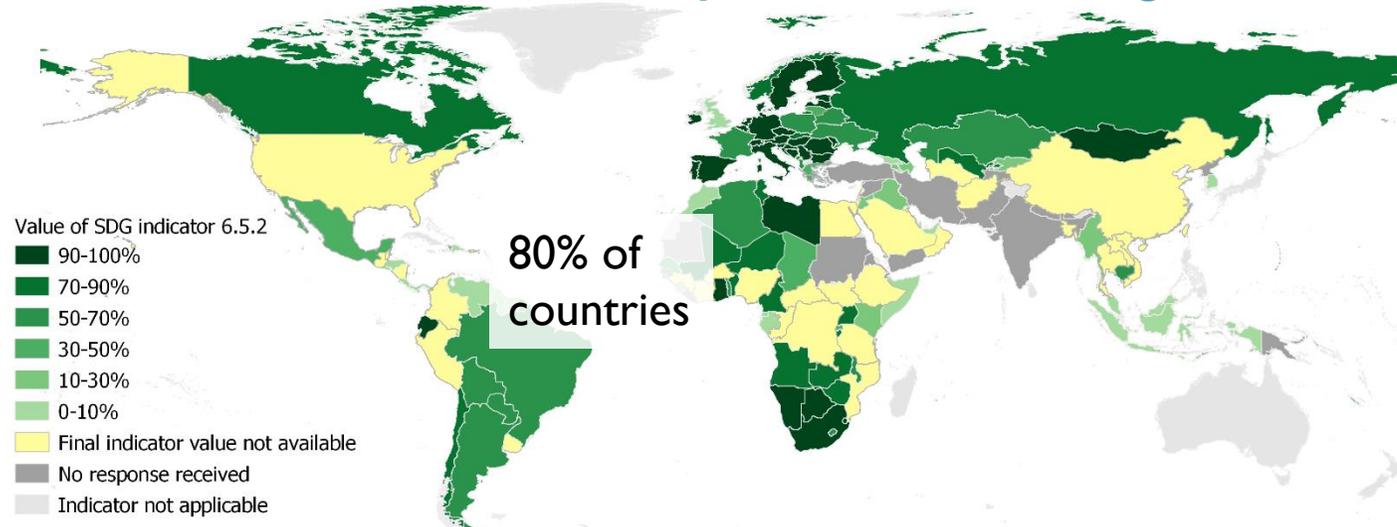
58 % average national percentage of transboundary basins covered by operational arrangements (103 out of 153 countries in 2022)

- Not on track

Only 24 countries report **all** transboundary surface waters and groundwaters covered by **operational arrangements**. And 32 have 90 % or more of their transboundary waters covered.

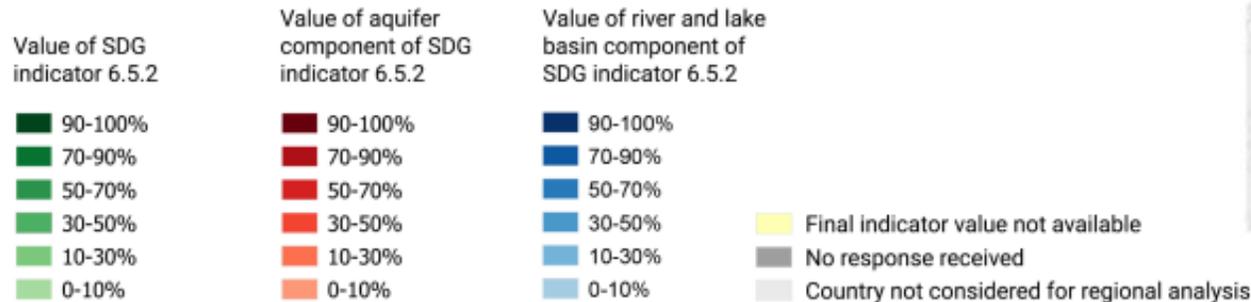
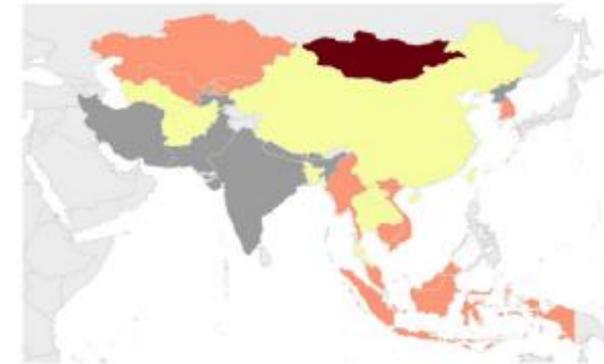
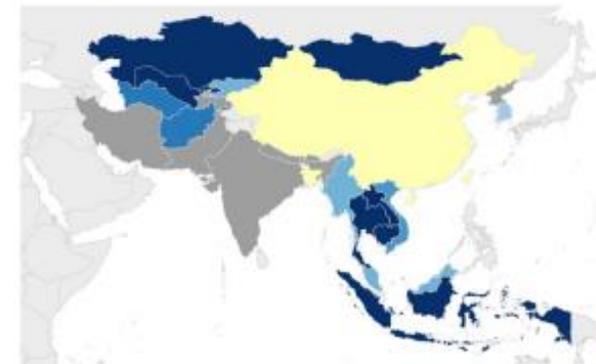
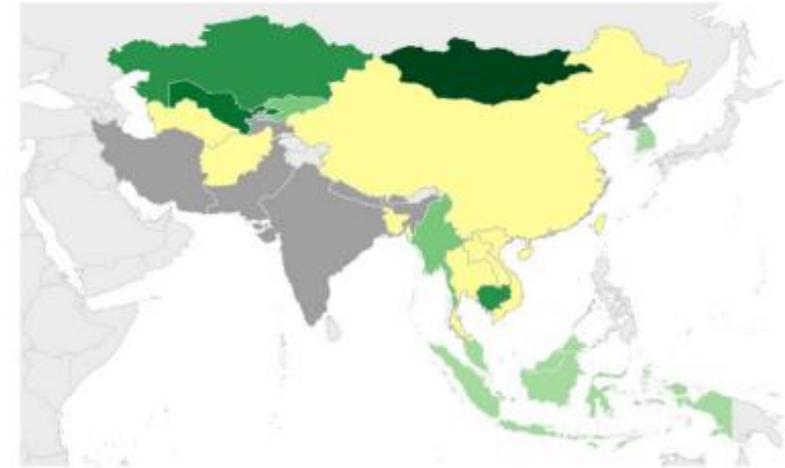
Progress must be **accelerated** to ensure that all transboundary basins are covered by operational arrangements by 2030

## SDG Indicator 6.5.2 values and responses received during the 2<sup>nd</sup> exercise



# Asia Pacific experience

- **18 out of 26 countries** sharing water resources responded, vs 9 in 2017
- Region with **the highest increase in response rate** between 2017 & 2020  
– however, response rate still lower than in other regions
- **Indicator 6.5.2 overall value** available for **10 countries** in 2020, vs 2 countries in 2017
- Only 6 countries report a coverage of over 90% for their surface waters
- Apart from Mongolia, no country reported arrangements on transboundary aquifers



## SDG 6.5.2 in Asia Pacific

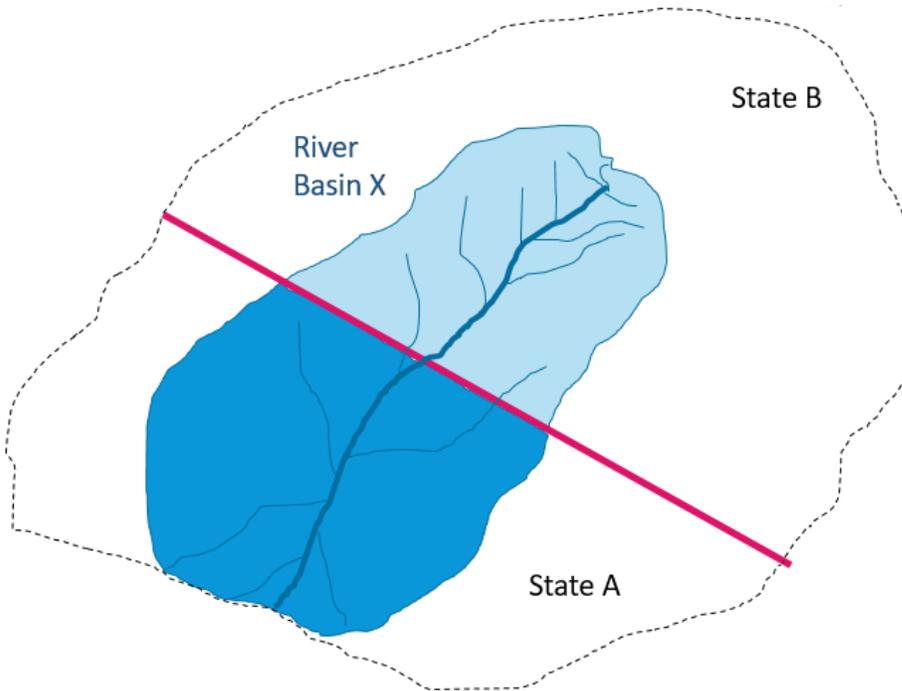
Country Name	Response 2017	Response 2020	rivers and lakes component value (%)	aquifers component value (%)	Overall SDG indicator 6.5.2 value (%)
Afghanistan	Yes	Yes	51.66	No data provided	NaN
Bangladesh	No	Yes	NaN	No data provided	NaN
Bhutan	No	No	NaN	NaN	NaN
Brunei Darussalam	No	Yes	0	0	0
Cambodia	No	Yes	100	0	56
China	No	Yes	NaN	NaN	NaN
DPR of Korea	No	No	NaN	NaN	NaN
India	No	No	NaN	NaN	NaN
Indonesia	No	Yes	89.93	0	1.22
Iran	No	No	NaN	NaN	NaN
Lao PDR	No	Yes	92.92	NaN	NaN
Malaysia	Yes	Yes	13.22	0	1.73
Mongolia	No	Yes	100	100	100
Myanmar	No	Yes	24.78	0	20.02
Nepal	No	No	NaN	NaN	NaN
Pakistan	Yes	No	NaN	NaN	NaN
PNG	No	No	NaN	NaN	NaN
Korea	Yes	Yes	0	0	0
Thailand	No	Yes	100	No data provided	NaN
Timor Leste	No	No	NaN	NaN	NaN
Viet Nam	Yes	Yes	30.46	0	NaN (aquifers area not provided)

■ Very high 90-100%  
 ■ High 70-90%  
 ■ Medium high 50-70%  
 ■ Medium low 30-50%  
 ■ Low 10-30%  
 ■ Very low 0-10%  
 ■ Indicator value not available  
 ■ No response received

# Calculation of the indicator value

## 2 main elements:

- spatial coverage of transboundary basin areas located in a State;
- a determination of the extent to which these areas are covered by **operational arrangements** for water cooperation



## What is an ‘operational’ arrangement?

- Treaty, convention, agreement or other formal arrangement
- **Joint body for transboundary water cooperation**
- **Annual meetings**
- **Annual exchange of data and information**
- **Adoption of joint/coordinated water management plan, or joint objectives**

# NOTE!

## Two components necessary for indicator value

- Transboundary River and lake basins
- Transboundary aquifers

## Aquifer component:

- Directly (= a dedicated arrangement about the aquifer)
- Groundwater / Aquifers included in river basin/ upper level (binational) arrangement

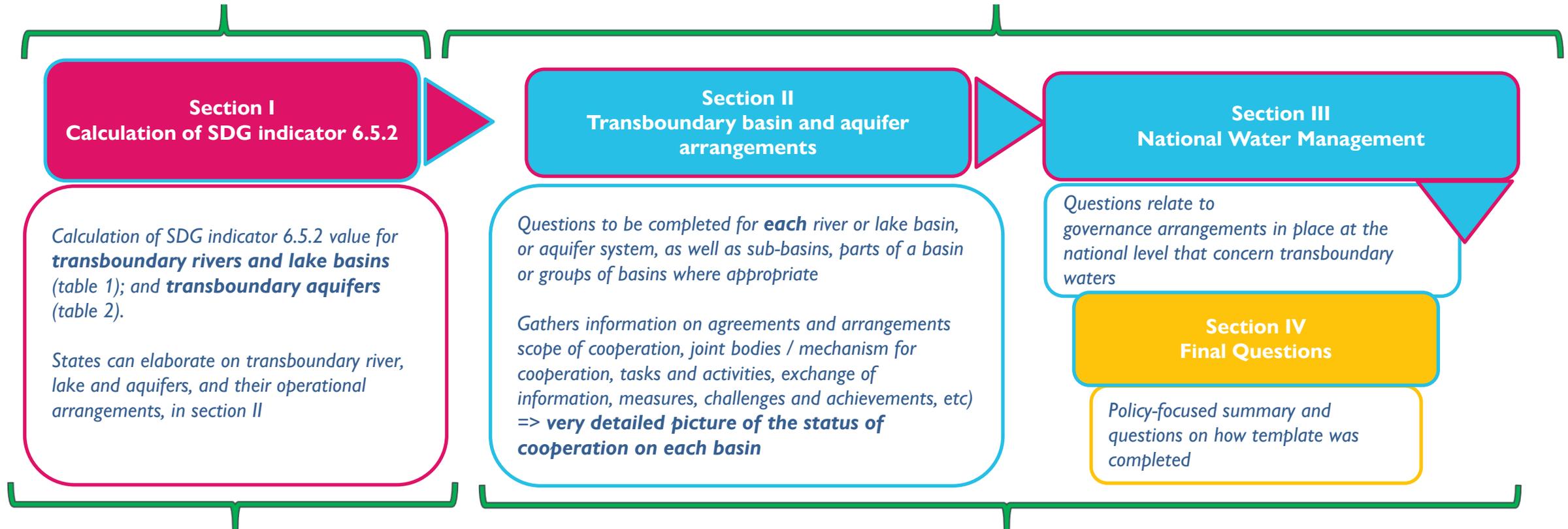
## Aquifer component: data gathering and indicator calculation

- Collecting data from relevant (national) source; ministries, geological surveys, etc.
  - First step: identification / existence of a transboundary aquifer;
  - Second step: delineation and calculation of the aquifer area.
  - Possibility to use the Transboundary Aquifers World Map (new version 2021)  
<https://ggis.un-igrac.org/view/tba>
- Flexibility:
  - General delineation;
  - Strip at each side of the border where transboundary impacts are plausible.

# Structure and content of national report on SDG indicator 6.5.2

SDG 6.5.2 calculation

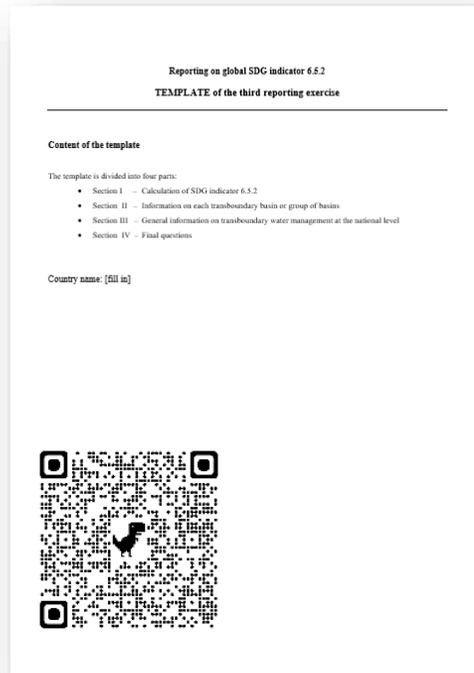
Additional information to explain, substantiate and complement indicator data



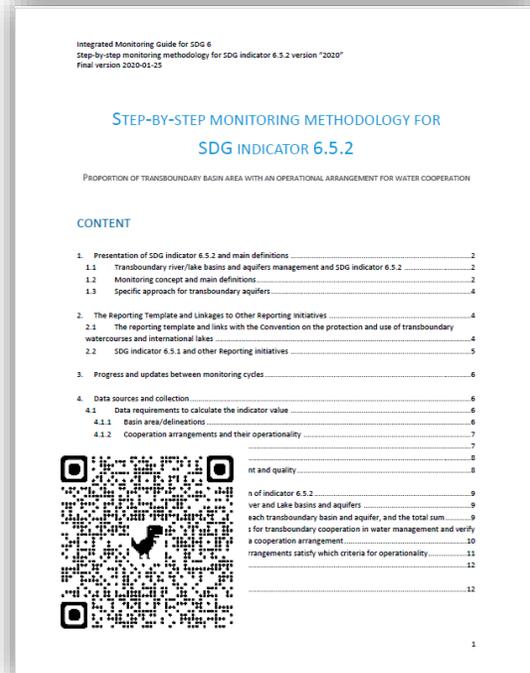
**Step-by-Step methodology** contains guidance to completing this section

**Guide to reporting** contains guidance to completing these sections

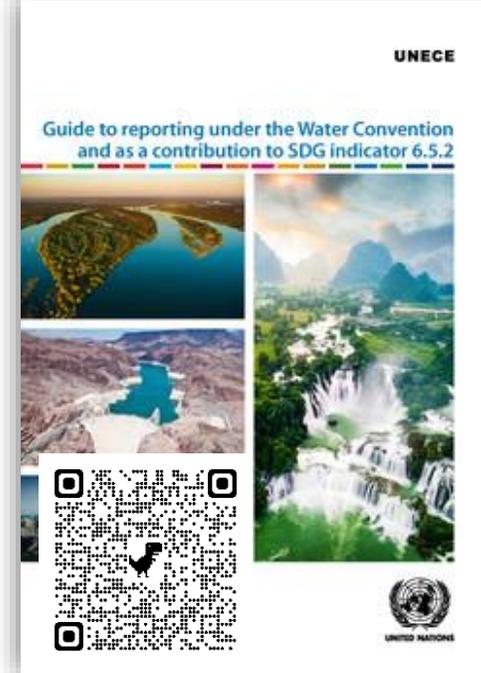
# Guidance documents for national reports on SDG indicator 6.5.2



Template for the 3<sup>rd</sup> reporting exercise



Step-by-step methodology for the calculation of the value of SDG indicator 6.5.2 '2020 version'



Guide to reporting under the Water Convention and as contribution to SDG indicator 6.5.2



Opportunities to coordinate with neighboring countries when completing the national report



# 3<sup>rd</sup> Reporting 2023 - objectives

- Information on indicator 6.5.2 is collected every 3 years by UNECE and UNESCO (as for 6.5.1 and other SDG6 indicators) - **Deadline to submit the 3<sup>rd</sup> report - 30 June 2023**
- Strengthen SDG 6.5.2 monitoring and transboundary water cooperation
  - Further improve response rate and quality of reports received
  - Improve coordination/harmonization at river, lake or aquifer levels
  - Reduce data gaps, especially for aquifers
  - Share experience on how to use reporting data
  - Use the reports as a basis for dialogue to improve cooperation
  - Incentivize the use of the information for future planning.
- During the 3<sup>rd</sup> reporting exercise
  - Helpdesk maintained by UNECE & UNESCO
  - Webinars/workshops to support countries' reporting efforts
  - Data collection and validation in 2023, and analysis in late 2023-early 2024

# Insufficient knowledge on groundwater systems, but an unprecedented opportunity for countries to consider their transboundary aquifers:

- Contacts between institutions and new data gathered at national level
- Gaps identified, allowing prioritization
- Additional research carried out
- Broader arrangements covering also groundwater/aquifers are identified and comply with operability criteria = possibility to promote cooperation on aquifers in concerned basins.



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# Tips and advice

- **Ministers** responsible for transboundary waters officially addressed by UNECE and UNESCO - Reports signed by competent authority
- Nomination of a **key person or organization** responsible for coordinating reporting, identification of **stakeholders, sources of information**, engagement of **NSOs, 6.5.1 reporting focal points**
- Build on **previous reports**, indicate links to more general information, such as web pages of commissions, projects
- Interact with **custodian agencies** (advice, questions, draft report)
  - Consider submitting the **draft of the report** to UNECE or UNESCO for comments before formal submission

# Thanks for listening!



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## 6.5.2 Helpdesk



**UNECE:**

[transboundary\\_water\\_cooperation\\_reporting@un.org](mailto:transboundary_water_cooperation_reporting@un.org)



**UNESCO:**

[transboundary\\_water\\_cooperation\\_reporting@unesco.org](mailto:transboundary_water_cooperation_reporting@unesco.org)

## Further information on Indicator 6.5.2

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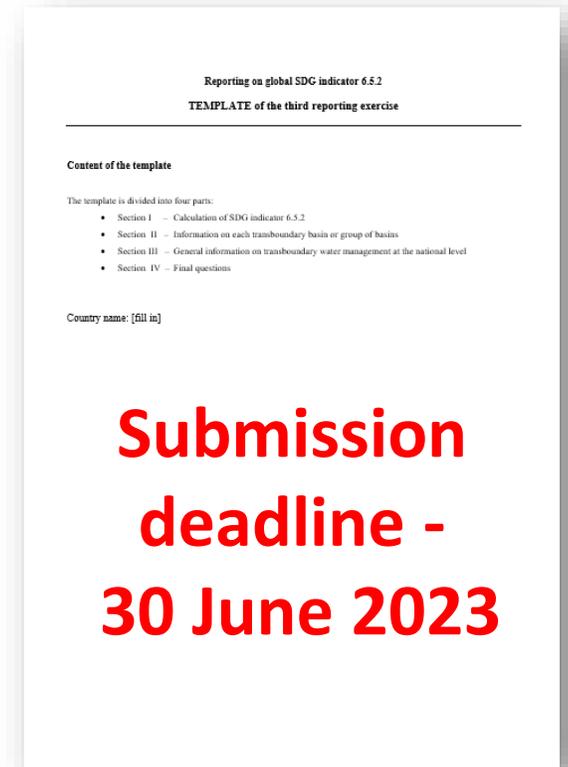
UNESCO



UN-Water SDG 6  
Monitoring



SDG 6 Data Portal



**Submission  
deadline -  
30 June 2023**



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## SDG 6.5.2 in Asia Pacific

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Bhutan	No	No	NaN	NaN	NaN
Brunei Darussalam	No	Yes	0	0	0
Cambodia	No	Yes	100	0	56
China	No	Yes	NaN	NaN	NaN
DPR of Korea	No	No	NaN	NaN	NaN
India	No	No	NaN	NaN	NaN
Indonesia	No	Yes	89.93	0	1.22
Iran	No	No	NaN	NaN	NaN
Kazakhstan	Yes	Yes	100	0	63.22
Kyrgyzstan	No	Yes	29.91	0	27.20
Lao PDR	No	Yes	92.92	NaN	NaN
Malaysia	Yes	Yes	13.22	0	1.73
Mongolia	No	Yes	100	100	100
Myanmar	No	Yes	24.78	0	20.02
Nepal	No	No	NaN	NaN	NaN
Pakistan	Yes	No	NaN	NaN	NaN
PNG	No	No	NaN	NaN	NaN
Korea	Yes	Yes	0	0	0
Thailand	No	Yes	100	No data provided	NaN
Tajikistan	No	No	NaN	NaN	NaN
Timor Leste	No	No	NaN	NaN	NaN
Turkmenistan	Yes	Yes	NaN	NaN	NaN
Uzbekistan	Yes	Yes	100	0	69.59
Viet Nam	Yes	Yes	30.46	0	NaN

■ Very high 90-100%  
■ High 70-90%  
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