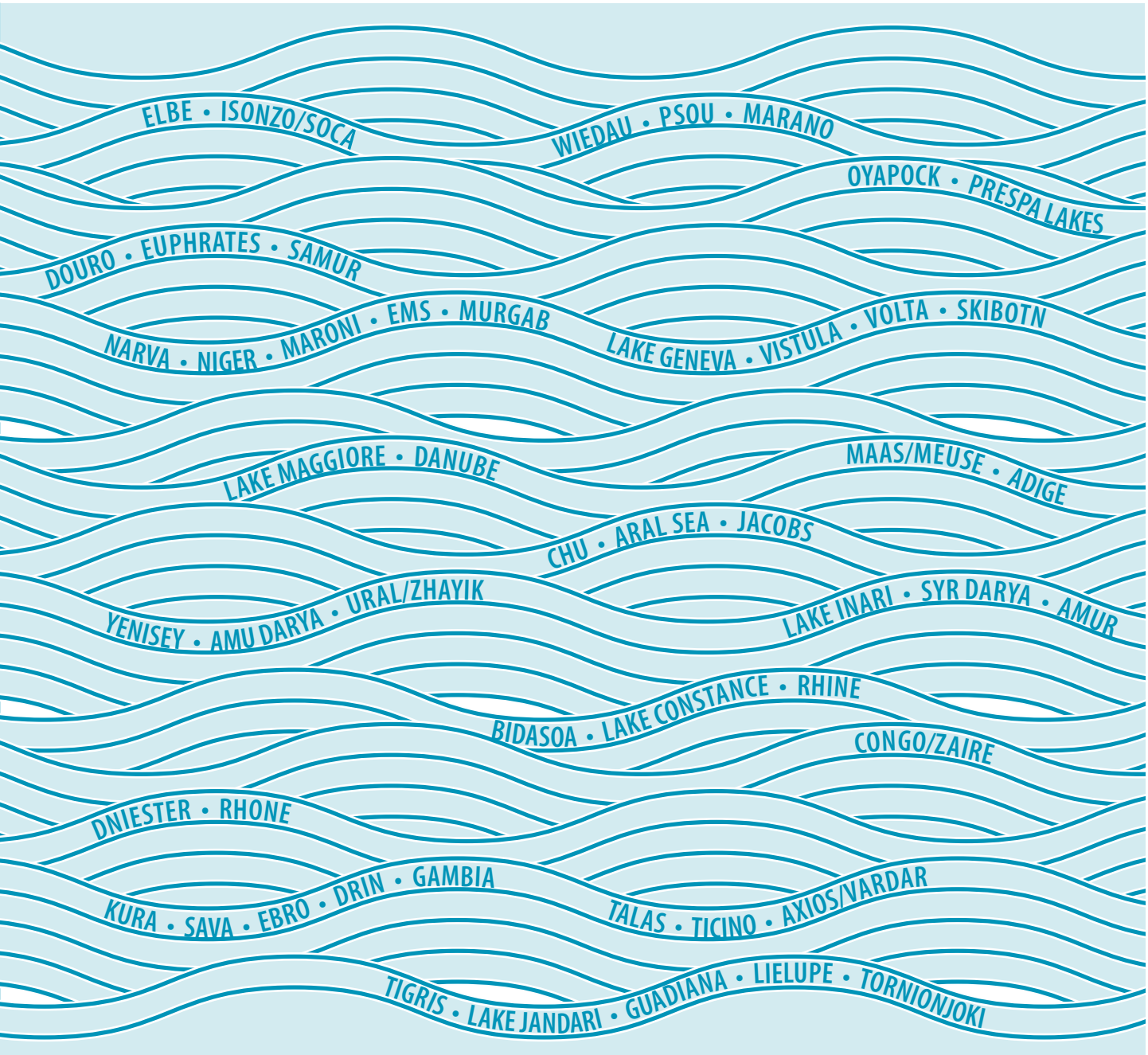
UNECE

PROGRESS ON TRANSBOUNDARY WATER COOPERATION UNDER THE WATER CONVENTION

Third report on implementation of the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes

2020–2023



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PROGRESS ON TRANSBOUNDARY WATER COOPERATION UNDER THE WATER CONVENTION

THIRD REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION ON THE PROTECTION AND USE OF TRANSBOUNDARY WATERCOURSES AND INTERNATIONAL LAKES

2020–2023

United Nations

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FOREWORD

I am pleased to share with you the third report on the implementation of the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention), hosted by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). The report focuses on progress in implementing the Convention over the period 2020–2023. It builds on national reports submitted by all Parties to the Convention within the framework of the third reporting exercise on Sustainable Development Goal indicator 6.5.2 and under the Convention. The full participation of Parties in the reporting exercise demonstrates their strong commitment and underscores the growing importance and success of the Convention as a global legal instrument and intergovernmental platform for water cooperation and sustainable development.

The period 2020–2023 has witnessed steady progress in global outreach of the Water Convention, with a growing number of accessions by countries outside of the UNECE region. The report describes many achievements by Parties from different regions of the world, including through the establishment of new agreements, action plans and strategies, and the work of basin commissions and other joint bodies. These examples illustrate the numerous benefits achieved through cooperation on the basis of the Convention – ranging from improved water quality and healthy ecosystems, to enhanced resilience, disaster risk reduction, strengthened water governance and peace. The report also draws attention to certain difficulties encountered with cooperation in some transboundary river and lake basins and transboundary aquifers. It discusses these and other challenges for effective implementation of the Convention, including resource constraints, governance issues and lack of data and information.

As we stand at the midpoint of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the report underscores the role of the Water Convention in helping Member States achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and advance climate action. By providing information and data on gender aspects of water management in shared basins, it offers food for thought to inspire practical steps towards achieving gender equality in this area.

Last but not least, the report shows how the institutional platform of the Convention supports the growing community of Parties by responding to their diverse needs, including those identified during the reporting process. By providing a global platform for policy development, exchange of experience and best practices, innovative solutions and action on transboundary water cooperation, the Convention is addressing multiple key issues at the forefront of the global water agenda – from the role of water in climate change adaptation to funding and financing of transboundary cooperation and basin development.

While the report is addressed primarily to Parties, it also represents an important tool for countries considering accession to the Water Convention and for partners and other stakeholders. I am convinced that the report will inspire further action to improve transboundary water cooperation on the basis of the Convention and progress towards sustainable management of shared waters and their ecosystems. The Convention secretariat stands ready to assist countries and basins in this work.

Tatiana Molcean

Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations
Executive Secretary of the
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

View of the Euphrates River, Iraq.

PREFACE

The third progress report under the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention) was prepared by the Convention secretariat in line with decision VIII/1 of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention. In that decision, the Parties requested the secretariat to prepare regular reports on the implementation of the Convention, based on the national reports received.

The present report was developed as part of activities dedicated to reporting on Sustainable Development Goal indicator 6.5.2 and under the Convention, as part of programme area 6 of the programme of work for 2022–2024 under the Convention. However, the report touches on almost all areas of the programme of work, highlighting successes and shedding light on problematic issues with a view to strengthening implementation of the Convention and advancing transboundary water cooperation.

This third progress report provides an analysis of the national reports submitted by Parties to the Convention based on a common reporting template, and therefore closely mirrors the template structure. Following an introduction, which provides the context for the third reporting exercise, the report reviews the responses of Parties to the main parts of the reporting template. These are analysed in the chapters on transboundary water management at the national level, agreements and arrangements for transboundary waters, joint bodies for transboundary water cooperation and activities related to the implementation of transboundary water cooperation. A chapter on selected basins takes an in-depth look at the development of cooperation at the basin level in four basins from different geographic regions. Lastly, the concluding chapter highlights achievements and specific challenges in the period 2020–2023, and outlines strategic approaches to future action.

Ms. Janaina Tewaney Mencomo, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Panama, hands Panama's instrument of accession to the Water Convention to Mr. Miguel de Serpa Soares, the United Nations Legal Counsel, in presence of Mr. David Nanopoulos, Chief of the Treaty Section (New York, 6 July 2023), photo credit: UNTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Water Convention secretariat is grateful to all the Parties to the Convention for their considerable efforts in the completion of their national reports for the third reporting exercise.

At the secretariat, Iulia Trombitcaia (lead author), Sarah Tiefenauer-Linardon and David Agoungbome developed the third progress report, with guidance from Sonja Koeppel and Francesca Bernardini. Cammile Marcelo provided administrative support to the process.

The Implementation Committee under the Water Convention reviewed the findings of the report on 19 July 2024.

The secretariat would like to thank the following experts and organizations who reviewed the text of the report in August–September 2024:

Zarabingui Paul Babidou, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, Central African Republic

Aleš Bizjak, Ministry of Natural Resources and Spatial Planning, Slovenia

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Danka Thalmeinerová, Water Policy Directorate, Slovakia

Dinara Ziganshina, Implementation Committee of the Water Convention

Agenda 2030 team at the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management, Sweden.

The Convention secretariat is also grateful to UNESCO, as co-custodian agency for Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicator 6.5.2, for its cooperation in developing the database of national reports that was used, inter alia, in the preparation of the third progress report.

Finally, the secretariat expresses its utmost gratitude to the European Union, the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection, and the UN-Water Integrated Monitoring Initiative for SDG 6 for the financial support provided for the third reporting exercise on SDG indicator 6.5.2 and/or under the Convention.

The secretariat would also like to acknowledge the support provided by all Parties and partners in providing financial and in-kind contributions to the work of the Water Convention.

Welcoming Cameroon, Iraq, Namibia and Nigeria to the family of Parties to the Water Convention at the 18th meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management (Geneva, 19–21 June 2023), photo credit: UNECE

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EXPLANATORY NOTE

The reporting mechanism under the Water Convention envisages the completion by countries of national reports on the status of transboundary cooperation in relation to shared rivers, lakes and aquifers. While providing a national perspective is critical to the effectiveness of the reporting mechanism, it poses certain challenges in the presentation of data.

A major challenge with the presentation of data in this third progress report arises when two or more Parties provide different answers regarding the same basin under sections I and II of the reporting template. This concern arises particularly in chapters 3 to 5, which focus on transboundary basins. To avoid privileging the answer of one Party over another, this third progress report presents all responses relating to a particular transboundary river, lake or aquifer. This unconsolidated analysis is provided in the sections entitled "What have countries reported?".

However, one drawback to such an unconsolidated approach is the existence of multiple answers concerning the same transboundary waters. As a consequence, the data presented in this progress report reflect to a greater extent the situation in transboundary waters shared by a higher number of countries. In addition, the presentation of data in this manner does not address any discrepancies in answers to the same questions.

To tackle the challenge of duplication and differing responses, chapters 3 to 5 provide an additional consolidated analysis that takes the transboundary basin as the primary unit of evaluation. This analysis encompasses 157 transboundary river and lake basins and 85 river and lake sub-basins that were explicitly reported by at least one Party. However, the analysis is limited to transboundary rivers and lakes, as it was not possible to incorporate transboundary aquifers.

An additional challenge encountered in data analysis for this third report concerned the question of how best to capture information for transboundary basins not described by Parties in section II of their reports, usually due to an absence of cooperation in those basins. An analysis of section I of the reports enabled the secretariat of the Convention to partially fill in this gap, therefore increasing the accuracy of the overall picture presented in the report.

Another point to consider concerns the fact that transboundary basins reported by countries are treated on an equal footing in the data analysis, irrespective of their size. For example, the replies for 49 transboundary river basins reported by Norway are each given the same weight as the single reply provided by Kazakhstan for the Aral Sea basin.

Since a number of additional transboundary waters were reported by Parties in the third reporting exercise under the Convention, as compared with the second reporting exercise, and since the number of Parties increased between the reporting rounds, the quantitative results of the two reporting rounds are not directly comparable. Nevertheless, some comparisons are provided in percentage points. In addition, chapter 7 focuses specifically on achievements and challenges with regard to implementation of the Convention in the period 2020–2023.

Finally, with regard to the nomenclature of water bodies, owing to the difficulties presented in using special characters in databases containing the names of rivers, lakes and aquifers, and to make the names more easily searchable, special characters have been omitted in the names of all water bodies in the present report. These characters have been replaced by the letter which they most closely resemble in the Latin alphabet (e.g. the Näätämö becomes the Naatamo), and do not follow any other rules of transliteration.

References in the publication to Parties with a capital "P", indicate that countries are Parties to the Water Convention.

The analysis in the present report is based primarily on the answers provided by the Parties in their national reports as part of the third reporting exercise on SDG indicator 6.5.2 and under the Convention. The use of other sources is both limited and secondary to those responses. For consolidated basin analysis based on Section I of national reports, national reports of non-Parties on SDG indicator 6.5.2 have been used to identify information pertaining to basins shared by Parties with non-Parties.

Main cascade of Ekom waterfall at the Nkam River, Cameroon.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Water Convention provides a global legal framework and intergovernmental platform for transboundary water cooperation. It requires Parties to prevent, control and reduce transboundary impact, to use transboundary waters in a reasonable and equitable way, and to ensure the sustainable management of transboundary waters through cooperation. Parties bordering the same transboundary waters have to cooperate by entering into specific agreements, establishing joint bodies, holding consultations, carrying out joint monitoring and assessment, exchanging information, establishing warning and alarm systems, developing harmonized policies, programmes and strategies, and pursuing other cooperation activities.

The third progress report provides a review of progress made in the implementation of the Water Convention by synthesizing the outcomes of the third reporting round (2023). As in the second round, all States Parties to the Convention submitted national reports during the third round. Such comprehensive participation by Parties in the reporting exercise, rarely seen in other multilateral environmental agreements, demonstrates an exceptional level of commitment to the Convention and recognition of its growing importance as a global platform for water cooperation.

The third progress report covers the period 2020–2023 – a crucial phase in the evolution of the Convention, in which its membership continued to grow through the accession of countries from outside the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) region. Among 48 Parties included in the third reporting exercise under the Convention are eight countries for whom the Convention entered into force by 30 June 2023, including seven Parties from sub-Saharan Africa (Cameroon, Chad, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Nigeria, Senegal and Togo) and a Party from the Middle East (Iraq).

More than half of the Parties cited in their national reports the following main achievements in implementing the Water Convention and cooperating on transboundary waters: better knowledge and understanding of issues related to transboundary waters, improved water management, adoption of joint plans and programmes, long-lasting and sustained cooperation, adoption of cooperative arrangements, stakeholder engagement, and stronger political will for transboundary water cooperation and dispute avoidance. With the globalization of the Convention, these benefits are accessible to all countries interested in improving the management of their transboundary waters.

The third progress report illustrates the continuous efforts made by Parties to improve their cooperation by concluding new or additional agreements or arrangements for the management and protection of transboundary waters. The average value of indicator 6.5.2 for Parties to the Water Convention is 80.97%, which is significantly higher than the global average of 58.54%. This shows that significant results have been achieved in implementing the key obligation of the Water Convention – to cooperate by entering into specific agreements – with 226 agreements and arrangements reported by Parties in the third reporting exercise. Altogether, 140 transboundary water agreements and arrangements have been inspired by the Water Convention since its adoption in 1992.

Most of the 157 transboundary river and lake basins reported on by the Parties in the third reporting exercise are covered by agreements or arrangements in force, either wholly or in part. However, at least 12 river and lake basins and 17 river and lake sub-basins are not covered by any agreement or arrangement. The negotiation and adoption of agreements and arrangements and the establishment of joint bodies has been identified as a particular challenge in basins where other riparian countries are not Party to the Convention.

Where agreements and arrangements for transboundary waters are in place, in most cases participating countries take part in a joint body established to facilitate implementation of the agreement or arrangement. There are 101 joint bodies for transboundary water cooperation with the participation of at least one Party to the Convention. Joint bodies serve as platforms for continuous dialogue and day-to-day transboundary water cooperation, enabling implementation of other obligations under the Convention. Although positive trends have been observed, there is scope for higher integration of climate change adaptation, preparedness for extreme events, and management and prevention of flood and drought risks, in the tasks and activities of joint bodies.

Another improvement in this reporting round is the progress made in clarifying data on transboundary aquifers. However, cooperation on shared groundwater remains a common challenge. Out of 406 transboundary aquifers and groundwater bodies reported by Parties, 85 are not covered by any agreement or arrangement, either wholly or in part. In the vast majority of cases, transboundary aquifers and groundwater bodies are covered by agreements or arrangements related to both surface waters and groundwaters (i.e. not by aquifer-specific arrangements). While in most cases this implies the existence of often well-established joint bodies and other cooperation procedures and mechanisms, it does not enable conclusions to be reached on the actual status of cooperation on groundwater within existing mechanisms. The limited information available on transboundary aquifers highlights the need for further efforts on their common identification, delineation and characterization, along with the conclusion of new agreements or the operationalization of existing ones in cases when transboundary groundwater is not given sufficient attention through existing cooperation mechanisms.

This progress report highlights the fact that gender-related aspects of water management are included in the tasks and activities of joint bodies in only 11% of river and lake basins. Accordingly, it offers ideas for stronger integration of a gender perspective into existing and new cooperation agreements and joint bodies, for example through the introduction of formal requirements with regard to gender-balanced representation in the joint body, or the adoption of dedicated gender equality strategies in joint bodies for transboundary water cooperation, as needed.

Despite overall positive trends, the third reporting exercise identified challenges with the implementation and application of many provisions of the Convention (table 1). Some of these challenges relate to the development of cooperation in specific transboundary basins and require targeted action (e.g. by establishing joint monitoring and data-sharing). Other challenges – for example, insufficient attention to the management and protection of transboundary groundwater, the need for joint planning on climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction, or inadequate measures to enhance water use efficiency – are often linked to lack of knowledge, methodological approaches or capacity.

The Water Convention, through its institutional platform and programme of work, provides support to Parties and countries interested in accession to the Convention, both in terms of establishing cooperation in specific basins and in addressing challenges of a more general nature. The programme of work for 2025–2027 includes old and new thematic areas, envisaging activities on methodological support and exchange of knowledge and experience, and foreseeing support for a number of transboundary basins where tailored assistance is needed to implement obligations under the Convention (table 1).

The good news is that Parties to the Convention can learn much from each other through the exchange of experience and good practices. By providing detailed descriptions of approaches to developing and solidifying transboundary cooperation in the Rhine, Dniester and Syr Darya River basins and the Senegal-Mauritanian Aquifer Basin, the third progress report aims to inspire such exchanges.

The report concludes by highlighting strategic approaches to support enhanced implementation and application of the Convention. While the ultimate responsibility for implementation remains with the Parties, the report advocates for Parties and non-Parties to make wider use of the Convention's institutional platform to support their efforts on implementation and application of the Convention. It urges widening partnerships to foster awareness on and implementation of the Convention, especially in the light of its globalization, and highlights the importance of mobilizing financing, capacity and expertise. Finally, the report calls for meaningful participation of stakeholders in transboundary water cooperation in support of efforts to implement the Convention.

First Steering Committee Meeting of the National Policy Dialogue on Integrated Water Resources Management in Uzbekistan (Tashkent, 27 September 2022), photo credit: UNECE

Table 1 Implementation of the Water Convention: outcomes of the third reporting exercise (2023), actions required by Parties and possible support within the framework of the Convention

Convention provision	Outcomes of the third reporting exercise (2023)	Action required by Parties	Possible support under the Convention's programme of work for 2025–2027
Licensing or permitting systems for wastewater discharges and other point sources of pollution (art. 3 (1) (b))	Almost all Parties have licensing or permitting systems in place for wastewater discharges and other point sources of pollution (see section 2.2). Some Parties face challenges in applying the best available technology while setting emission limits (see section 2.2). A lower number of Parties monitor ecological impacts on water, as compared to physical and chemical impacts (see section 2.2). In many Parties, economic and financial measures and agricultural extension services are not commonly used to reduce diffuse pollution (see section 2.2).	Establish/improve regulatory and compliance assurance mechanisms for wastewater discharges and other point sources of pollution. Introduce/broaden the application of best available technology. Establish/improve monitoring of ecological impacts on water. Introduce additional pollution prevention and reduction approaches and tools.	Regional workshops on prevention/reduction of point and diffuse pollution within the framework of activities on improving water quality (PA2.2). Targeted support to new Parties through the development of national implementation plans (PA1.2) and to countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia as part of National Policy Dialogues on IWRM (PA3.7).
Emission limits based on the best available technology (art. 3 (1) (c) and 3 (2))			
Monitoring and control of authorized discharges (art. 3 (1) (b))			
Measures to reduce diffuse pollution (art. 3 (1) (g))			
Specific measures to prevent the pollution of groundwaters (art. 3 (1) (k))			
Measures to enhance water use efficiency (art. 3 (1) (a) and annex II)	There is a need for increased use of measures to enhance water use efficiency among the Parties, especially in terms of demand management activities. Some Parties lack regulatory systems on water abstraction and monitoring and control of water abstraction (see section 2.4).	Introduce/improve regulatory systems and monitoring and control of water abstraction. Introduce demand management measures and explore other approaches and techniques to enhance water use efficiency.	Support the uptake of measures on water use efficiency as part of activities on integrated water resources management (PAs 3.2, 3.3 and 3.4). Support to improve the legal, regulatory, administrative and economic frameworks for water management in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia as part of National Policy Dialogues on IWRM (PA3.7).
Environmental impact assessment (art. 3 (1) (h))	Almost all Parties have incorporated transboundary environmental impact assessment requirements into their national legislation (see section 2.3).	Introduce transboundary environmental impact assessment, where not available.	

Convention provision	Outcomes of the third reporting exercise (2023)	Action required by Parties	Possible support under the Convention's programme of work for 2025–2027
Conservation and, where necessary, restoration of ecosystems (art. 2 (2) (d)) and application of the ecosystem approach (art. 3 (1) (i))	Almost all Parties apply the ecosystem approach. Water quality protection and protection of species and habitats remain key measures for the protection of ecosystems. The reporting template covers a limited number of measures on the protection of ecosystems (see section 5.2).	Broaden measures and explore new approaches for the conservation and restoration of ecosystems.	Global workshop on transboundary freshwater and water-related ecosystems (PA3.6).
Bilateral or multilateral agreements or other arrangements (art. 9 (1))	At least 12 river and lake basins and 17 river and lake sub-basins are not covered by any agreement or arrangement, either wholly or in part. In another 18 river and lake basins and 7 river and lake sub-basins it was not possible to conclude whether an agreement or arrangement exists (see sections 3.1 and 7.2 for lists of basins). Out of 406 transboundary aquifers and groundwater bodies reported by Parties, 85 are not covered by any agreement or arrangement (see section 3.1).	Negotiate and conclude agreements or arrangements in basins not covered by arrangements. Negotiate and conclude agreements or arrangements on transboundary aquifers, as relevant. Strengthen attention to cooperation on groundwater within existing agreements, as relevant.	Tailored assistance and support for the negotiation and conclusion of agreements and the establishment of joint bodies in several basins (PA1.3). Promotion of guidance material on the development of agreements and effective joint bodies prepared under the Convention (PA1.3).
Establishment of joint bodies (art. 9 (2))	In 27 instances of cooperation in river and lake basins, Parties reported that there was no joint body for a particular agreement or arrangement (see sections 4.1 and 7.2 for lists of basins).	Establish joint bodies in basins where these do not exist. Initiate cooperation on transboundary groundwater under existing agreements and joint bodies, e.g. through dedicated working groups, as relevant.	
Tasks of joint bodies (art. 9 (2))	Tasks related to "setting emission limits" and "maintenance of joint pollution inventories" are less well represented in activities of joint bodies (see section 4.2).	Strengthen attention to pollution prevention and control in the mandates and activities of joint bodies, as relevant	Regional workshops on prevention/reduction of point and diffuse pollution within the framework of activities on improving water quality (PA2.2).

Convention provision	Outcomes of the third reporting exercise (2023)	Action required by Parties	Possible support under the Convention's programme of work for 2025–2027
Developing harmonized policies, programmes and strategies covering the relevant catchment areas (art. 2(6))	Where transboundary basins are covered by agreements, most responses (96%) for agreements in force indicate that joint objectives, strategies or plans are in place (see section 5.1).	Develop, adopt and implement basin management plans and ensure joint/coordinated planning on climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction, pollution prevention and control, and other topics, as relevant.	Capacity building and targeted support related to some aspects of basin management plans and strategic action programmes (PAs 3.1 (Promoting IWRM), 3.2 (Nexus), 3.7 (National Policy Dialogues on IWRM)).
Joint monitoring of conditions of transboundary waters (art. 11)	As many as 68 (or 45% of) river and lake basins lack joint monitoring, and for another 21 (or 14% of) basins it was not possible to conclude whether or not joint monitoring is in place (see section 5.4 for a list of basins). Joint hydrological and chemical monitoring of transboundary waters is more widespread than joint ecological monitoring.	Establish joint/coordinated monitoring in basins where it does not exist. Initiate identification, delineation, characterization and monitoring of transboundary aquifers, as relevant. Regularly undertake joint/coordinated assessment. Introduce/improve data sharing and exchange of information. Establish joint databases/platforms.	Promotion of guidance materials and the exchange of experience on joint monitoring, joint assessment and data sharing, tailored assistance for the establishment of monitoring and data exchange in some basins (PA2.1).
Joint or coordinated assessments of the conditions of transboundary waters (art 11 (3))	In at least 41 (or 27% of) river and lake basins, joint assessment does not take place; in a further 18% of river and lake basins it was not possible to ascertain whether joint assessment is in place (see section 5.4 for a list of basins).		
Exchange of information between riparian Parties (art. 13 and art. 9(2) (a), (c), (h), (i))	In at least 34 river and lake basins, riparian countries appear not to exchange data and information at the basin level (see section 5.3 for a list of basins).		
Joint water quality objectives and criteria (art. 3 (3) and art. 9 (2) (e)	Joint standards are reported not to be in place in at least 68 (or 45% of) river and lake basins (see the list of basins in section 5.5). For an additional 22 (or 14% of) river and lake basins, it was not possible to ascertain whether joint standards were in place.	Introduce joint standards. Regularly review joint objectives and criteria.	Dissemination of guidance materials and exchange of experience on water quality in transboundary basins (PA2.2).

Convention provision	Outcomes of the third reporting exercise (2023)	Action required by Parties	Possible support under the Convention's programme of work for 2025–2027
Protection of the marine environment (art. 2(6)); cooperation with non-riparian coastal States (art. 9 (3)); cooperation between joint bodies established under the Convention and joint bodies established by coastal States (art. 9 (4)).	Joint bodies for transboundary water cooperation rarely invite non-riparian coastal States to cooperate. In only a few cases, multilateral joint bodies for transboundary water cooperation established formal cooperation with joint bodies set up by coastal States for the protection of the marine environment (see section 4.2).	Integrate the source-to-sea approach into the activities of joint bodies for transboundary water cooperation.	Developing a practical guide on the source-to-sea approach and organizing regional workshops (PA3.5).
Warning and alarm systems (art. 14)	Coordinated early warning or alarm systems for accidental water pollution are available in only 38 (or 25% of) river and lake basins (see section 5.6). Coordinated or joint alarm systems for floods are available in 83 (or 54% of) river and lake basins (see section 5.7). Coordinated or joint alarm systems for droughts are available in only 26 (or 17% of) river and lake basins (see section 5.7).	Establish warning and alarm systems for accidental water pollution, floods and droughts. Initiate/strengthen planning and measures on adaptation to climate change and disaster risk reduction in transboundary basins. Integrate climate change adaptation into national and transboundary water management policies.	Dissemination of guidance materials and the exchange of experience within the framework of the Joint Ad Hoc Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents, and a global workshop on these issues (PA2.2). Methodological work, development of guidance materials, exchange of experience between basins and basin-level projects within the framework of the Task Force on Water and Climate and the Global Network of Basins Working on Climate Change Adaptation (PA4).
Mutual assistance upon request (art. 15)	Procedures for mutual assistance are not in place in at least 103 (or 67% of) river and lake basins. In an additional 21 (or 14% of) river and lake basins, it was not possible to conclude whether procedures for mutual assistance existed (see section 5.8 for a list of basins).	Initiate the establishment of procedures for mutual assistance, where these do not exist.	

Note: PA=programme area.

Fountain of the Four Rivers, Rome, Italy.

INTRODUCTION

The regular reporting mechanism under the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention), introduced by the Meeting of the Parties in 2015,[1] has become an important asset in supporting the implementation of the Convention. Three reporting exercises under the Convention, held in 2017/18, 2020/21 and 2023/24, demonstrate the numerous benefits of reporting. They contributed to improved transboundary water cooperation, enhanced political focus on cooperation, and exchange of experiences and identification of gaps in implementation. They also increased awareness of and attention to the Convention worldwide.

For Parties to the Convention, reporting under the Convention is combined with reporting on Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicator 6.5.2,[2] in order to increase synergies between the two processes and to avoid duplication of efforts.[3] Parties use the same template to submit information for the purposes of reporting under the Convention and under indicator 6.5.2.[4]

The third progress report offers a synthesis of all national reports submitted by Parties to the Convention during the third reporting exercise. It aims to provide an overall picture of progress in implementation of the Convention, assist Parties in strengthening their implementation activities, support acceding countries in their accession processes, encourage stronger support for transboundary water cooperation and implementation of the Convention from technical and financial partners, and raise awareness about the challenges and benefits of transboundary water cooperation among various stakeholders.

The third progress report follows closely the structure of the first and second progress reports issued in 2018 and 2021, respectively.[5] Chapter 1 presents the process of the third reporting exercise, its major features and limitations. The report then considers transboundary water management at the national level (chapter 2), transboundary agreements and arrangements (chapter 3), joint bodies for transboundary water cooperation (chapter 4) and activities related to the implementation of agreements and arrangements (chapter 5). Additionally, it highlights the experience of selected basins in establishing and gradually advancing transboundary water cooperation (chapter 6). Main achievements and challenges faced by countries in implementing the Water Convention and transboundary water cooperation in the period 2020–2023 are also presented, together with strategic approaches for the enhanced implementation of the Convention and transboundary water cooperation (chapter 7). A gender perspective is integrated throughout the report (see sections 4.1, 4.2, 5.3, 5.9 and 7.3).

Chapters 2 to 5 adopt a similar structure. First, a section outlines the relevant provisions of the Water Convention. Second, a section highlights the relevant questions of the template and the responses provided by the Parties. This section includes the total number of responses for the particular questions, resulting in some instances in an overlap in responses where two or more Parties have reported on the same agreement or arrangement. The final section seeks to address this overlap by analysing reported responses at the basin level and identifying any gaps in implementation.

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1 ECE/MP.WAT/49/Add.2, decision VII/2.

2 Indicator 6.5.2 tracks the proportion of a transboundary basin area within a country covered by an operational arrangement for water cooperation.

3 ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2016/2, paras. 22, 24 and 26 (a).

4 In the third reporting exercise, 129 United Nations Member States, including all Parties to the Convention, submitted their reports on indicator 6.5.2 out of the 153 United Nations Member States invited to report. More information about the third reporting exercise on indicator 6.5.2 and under the Convention is available at *https://unece.org/environmental-policy/water/transboundary_water_cooperation_reporting*.

5 UNECE (2018). *Progress on Transboundary Water Cooperation under the Water Convention: Report on Implementation of the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes*, ECE/MP.WAT/51, and UNECE (2021). *Progress on Transboundary Water Cooperation under the Water Convention: Second Report on Implementation of the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes*, 2017–2020, ECE/MP.WAT/67.

For ease of reference, the figures in chapters 3 to 5 are colour coded as follows: data based on all responses to a particular question (grey background); data based on responses for all agreements or arrangements in force (green background); data based on responses for all joint bodies in place (blue background); and data based on a consolidated analysis at the basin level (purple background).[6] Figures with a consolidated analysis at the basin level (figures 13, 17, 19, 23, 29–31, 33, 35, 36 and 39) present consolidated analyses for 153 units, where most units are river and lake basins, and few are river and lake sub-basins. A sub-basin was counted as a unit only when not reported at the basin level. For example, the Selenge River sub-basin (shared by Mongolia and the Russian Federation) was counted as a unit since the Yenisey River basin was not reported.

As in the first and second progress reports, each chapter of the third report includes text boxes, the majority of which are entitled "Insights from practice". These boxes highlight some of the examples of practices mentioned by the Parties when completing their national reports. More detailed information is provided in the national reports themselves. The intention of the boxes is therefore simply to highlight some of these examples rather than to comprehensively describe all the relevant practice.

[6] For further information, see the explanatory note on the presentation of data from the national reports.

Bridge over the Oiapoque/Oyapock/Oyupock River, shared by Brazil and France.

CHAPTER 1

Faro River, shared by Cameroon and Nigeria.

OVERVIEW OF THE THIRD REPORTING EXERCISE

Key messages

- **All States Parties have submitted reports in the third reporting round on SDG indicator 6.5.2 and under the Convention.[7]**
- **As in 2020/21, the third reporting process included new Parties to the Convention from outside the pan-European region. In this round, these included seven Parties from sub-Saharan Africa (Cameroon, Chad, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Nigeria, Senegal and Togo) and a Party from the Middle East, namely Iraq.[8]**
- **There has been no improvement in the timeliness of the submission of reports in the third exercise as compared with the second round. Only slightly more than half of reports were submitted on time.**
- **More Parties have engaged in consultations on the content of their reports within joint bodies in the third reporting round, which is a good step forward, but more effort on coordination in the future reporting exercises would be useful.**
- **With transboundary groundwater being fully covered by the Convention, along with transboundary surface waters, Parties need to apply stronger efforts to coordinate their responses and to present more detailed and improved data on transboundary aquifers in the next reporting rounds. This would, in turn, necessitate greater involvement of national geological surveys in the preparation of reports.**
- **Very few Parties have consulted non-State actors in the preparation of reports, with only three Parties consulting women's organizations and only one Party consulting youth organizations.**
- **In the third reporting round, a larger number of reports were signed by a female governmental representative than in the second round (40% in 2023 vs. 29% in 2020).**

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[7] The following 48 countries were Parties to the Water Convention on 30 June 2023 and have therefore reported under both SDG indicator 6.5.2 and the Convention in the third reporting exercise: Albania, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Chad, Croatia, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guinea-Bissau, Hungary, Iraq, Italy, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, the Russian Federation, Senegal, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Togo, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan. The European Union (EU) is a Party to the Convention but was not invited to report.

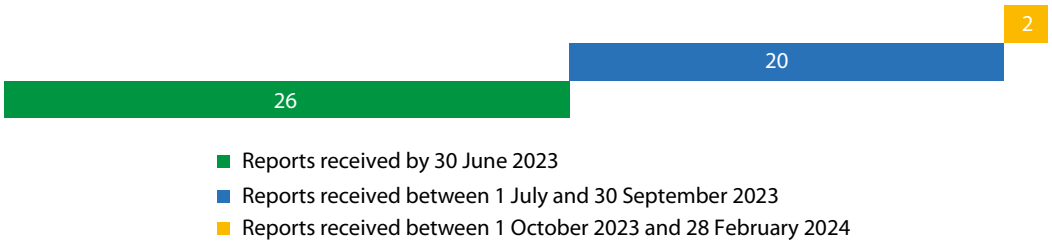
[8] Namibia, Panama, the Gambia, Côte d'Ivoire, Zimbabwe and Zambia deposited their instruments of accession to the Water Convention on 8 June 2023, 6 July 2023, 17 July 2023, 10 July 2024, 19 July 2024 and 4 September 2024, respectively. The Convention entered into force for Namibia on 6 September 2023, for Panama on 4 October 2023, for the Gambia on 15 October 2023, for Côte d'Ivoire on 8 October 2024, for Zimbabwe on 17 October 2024 and for Zambia on 3 December 2024. In these six cases, the entry into force occurred after the deadline for the submission of reports by Parties (30 June 2023). The reports of these six countries are therefore not covered by this third progress report. The reports submitted by Côte d'Ivoire, the Gambia, Namibia, Panama, Zambia and Zimbabwe as part of the third reporting round on indicator 6.5.2 are analysed in the publication, *Progress on Transboundary Water Cooperation: Mid-term status of SDG Indicator 6.5.2, with a special focus on Climate Change, 2024* (ECE/MP.WAT/76).

1.1 Rate and timeliness of reporting

In accordance with decisions VIII/1 and IX/2, adopted in 2018 and 2021 at the eighth and ninth sessions of the Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention, respectively, the third reporting exercise took place in 2023/24. Since the reporting under the Convention and the reporting on SDG indicator 6.5.2 are aligned to increase synergies between the processes and avoid duplication of efforts, Parties to the Convention were invited to report on the implementation of the Convention using the same reporting template as for reporting on SDG indicator 6.5.2.

Invitations to report under the Water Convention and on SDG indicator 6.5.2 were disseminated in March 2023. Parties were given a deadline of 30 June 2023 by which to submit their reports. By 30 June 2023, 26 reports (including unsigned reports (drafts)) had been submitted by Parties, and by 28 February 2024, a further 22 reports had been submitted (figure 1 and annex I).

Figure 1 Timeliness of the reception of the initial reports (unsigned reports (drafts) included) in the third reporting exercise



By 28 February 2024, all 48 States Parties[9] to the Convention had submitted their reports. This time, eight Parties to the Convention from outside the pan-European region (Cameroon, Chad, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Nigeria, Senegal and Togo) participated in the reporting process under the Convention, including six Parties (Cameroon, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Nigeria and Togo) reporting under the Convention for the first time.

The response rate of 100% in the third and second reporting exercises demonstrates the unanimous support for the reporting mechanism among Parties.

There has been no improvement in the timeliness of the submission of reports in the third reporting exercise as compared with the second reporting exercise: in 2020, only 55% of reports were submitted by the deadline, whereas in 2023, 54% of reports were submitted on time. The fact that a significant number of reports were submitted after the prescribed deadline posed a challenge, as many reports required clarifications and a complete analysis of the reports could not commence until all finalized and signed reports had been submitted. This delayed data analysis and made it difficult to use the results of reporting in the development of the programme of work under the Water Convention for the following triennium period.

[9] As of 30 September 2024, there are 55 Parties to the Water Convention (54 countries and the European Union). While Côte d'Ivoire, the Gambia, Namibia, Panama, Zambia and Zimbabwe submitted their reports for the SDG 6.5.2 reporting exercise, they are not covered by this third progress report.

1.2 Coverage of transboundary waters

Annex II to the report provides a comparison of basins reported by Parties in the third reporting exercise with basins listed in the *Second Assessment of Transboundary Rivers, Lakes and Groundwaters* (2011) and basins identified by the Transboundary Waters Assessment Programme (TWAP).

The national reports submitted by Parties in the third reporting exercise list a total of 157 river and lake basins (compared to 144 river and lake basins in the second reporting exercise and 73 in the pilot reporting exercise) and 85 river and lake sub-basins (compared to 77 river and lake sub-basins in the second reporting exercise and 79 in the pilot reporting exercise).[10] Of these, 146 basins and 78 sub-basins belong to the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) region,[11] whereas 11 basins and 7 sub-basins are located in sub-Saharan Africa and Western Asia.

Several Parties have significantly increased or decreased the total reported surface areas of their transboundary river, lake or aquifer basins in the third reporting exercise as compared with the second, mostly as a result of improved data availability or methodological clarifications. Appreciable (more than 10%) increases for river and lake basins were found in the reports of Cameroon, Guinea-Bissau and Senegal and for aquifers in the reports of Belarus, Bulgaria, Iraq and Poland. An appreciable (more than 10%) decrease for river and lake basins was observed in the report of Iraq, and for aquifers in the report of Latvia.

Progress in efforts to clarify the data on transboundary aquifers has improved, with more transboundary aquifers reported by the Parties in the third reporting exercise. For example, while Belarus provided information on one transboundary aquifer in the second reporting exercise, this number increased to ten in the third reporting exercise. Similarly, Poland reported on 49 groundwater bodies in the second reporting exercise and on 67 groundwater bodies in the third exercise. Iraq reported on four aquifers in the second exercise and six aquifers in the third exercise. Likewise, Cameroon was able to estimate the surface area for one additional aquifer in the third exercise. Additionally, Nigeria was able to improve the presentation of data on transboundary aquifers in the third exercise, enabling validation of the groundwater component and of the SDG indicator 6.5.2 for the country.[12] This trend reflects a measure of progress in obtaining better knowledge of transboundary aquifers. However, more work is needed to coordinate the efforts of Parties in reporting their transboundary aquifers. Out of the 406 aquifers and groundwater bodies reported by Parties, 359 were reported only by one riparian country, and in many of these cases Parties used a different name when reporting on the same transboundary aquifer.

1.3 Coordination of responses

A major challenge for the pilot reporting exercise in 2017/18 concerned situations in which two or more riparian Parties reported on the same agreement or arrangement for the same transboundary river, lake or aquifer, but provided different answers. In the second reporting exercise, in 2020/21, the situation improved, as many Parties had engaged in consultations on the content of their reports with other riparian countries and within joint bodies.

In the third reporting exercise, riparian countries sharing the same transboundary waters were specifically encouraged to coordinate their replies. To facilitate this objective, UNECE and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) jointly prepared a guidance document, "Opportunities to Coordinate with Neighbouring Countries when Completing the National Report".

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10 A basin or sub-basin is counted as "listed" if it is listed in at least one national report. There are some overlaps in reported areas (i.e. some reported sub-basins belong to reported basins).

11 While UNECE has "Europe" in its title, its 56 member States span the continents of North America, Europe and Asia (including the countries of Central Asia).

12 For Cameroon, Iraq and Nigeria, references to the outcomes of the second reporting exercise in this paragraph relate to the second reporting exercise under SDG indicator 6.5.2, as these countries were not Parties to the Convention at the time of the second reporting exercise.

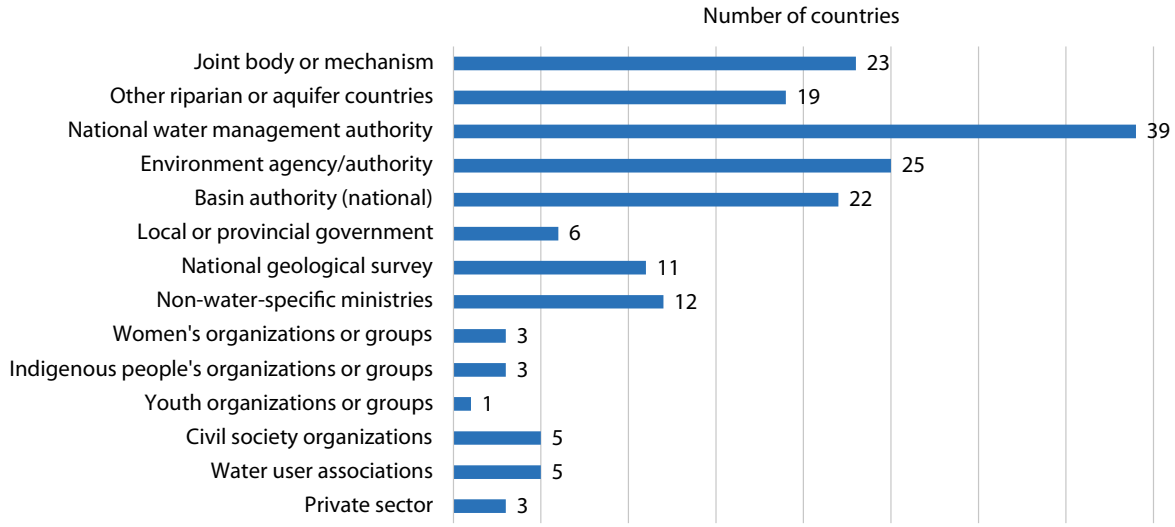
According to their third reports, 19 (40%)[13] Parties[14] (as compared with 16 (38%)[15] in the second reporting round) consulted other riparian countries during the completion of their reports, 23 (48%) Parties[16] (as compared with 17 (40%) in the second reporting round) consulted a relevant joint body or mechanism, and 14 (29%) Parties[17] consulted both other riparian countries and a relevant joint body (as compared with 13 (31%) Parties in the second reporting round). These outcomes demonstrate the increased use of joint body platforms for coordination in the third reporting exercise. However, this trend aside, the coordination of replies showed no real improvement.

The need for higher coordination of responses remains, in particular for transboundary aquifers. As also observed in the previous reporting rounds, Parties sharing transboundary aquifers use different names for the same aquifers, which significantly complicates the analysis process. Stronger efforts to streamline the use of identical names and coordinate replies for transboundary aquifers are needed in future reporting cycles. This would allow for better analysis of data at the basin, subregional, regional and global levels, and enable more informed and persuasive policy recommendations.

1.4 Stakeholder consultations

An overview of responses related to the types of institutions consulted during the third reporting exercise is provided in figure 2.

Figure 2 Type of institutions consulted during the preparation of the report – based on responses to section IV, question 3 (2023)



The efforts of Parties to consult other institutions beyond national water management authorities during the preparation of their reports did not vary significantly between the second and third reporting rounds. Considering the persistent challenges with data gaps on transboundary aquifers, the participation of national geological surveys in the preparation of reports for the third reporting exercise among less than a quarter of Parties appears insufficient and constitutes an area for improvement for future reporting rounds.

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13 Percentages for the third reporting exercise are based on 48 Parties to the Convention who reported as Parties in the third round (i.e. excluding Côte d'Ivoire, the Gambia, Namibia, Panama, Zambia and Zimbabwe).

14 Austria, Azerbaijan, Croatia, Czechia, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Luxembourg, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, the Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden and Ukraine.

15 Percentages for the second reporting round are based on 42 Parties to the Convention who reported as Parties in the second round (i.e. excluding Ghana and Guinea-Bissau, for whom the Water Convention entered into force on 20 September 2020 and 12 September 2021, respectively).

16 Austria, Cameroon, Chad, Croatia, Czechia, Estonia, Finland, Guinea-Bissau, Hungary, Kazakhstan, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, the Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and Togo.

17 Austria, Croatia, Czechia, Estonia, Finland, Hungary, Norway, Poland, Portugal, the Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia and Sweden.

Some Parties mentioned the organization of dedicated meetings or the establishment of working groups to prepare or advise on the national report. For example, in Sweden, a dedicated working group was formed, while in Chad, a technical committee was appointed for the purpose of preparing the report. In Iraq, the report was prepared by a national Ministerial Committee for Sustainable Development.

Overall, very few Parties indicated that they consulted non-State actors in preparing their reports for the third reporting round. In total, seven Parties consulted at least one category of non-State actors (as compared to three Parties in the second round). Women's organizations and groups were consulted by Cameroon, Chad and Nigeria; Indigenous people's organizations were consulted by Chad, Croatia and Nigeria; but only Nigeria consulted youth organizations or groups. Cameroon, Chad, Nigeria, the Republic of Moldova and the Russian Federation all consulted civil society organizations. Water user organizations were consulted by Chad, Croatia, Nigeria, the Russian Federation and Slovakia. Representatives of the private sector were consulted by Cameroon, Chad and Nigeria. Such low-level of involvement of non-State actors represents an area for improvement for subsequent reporting rounds, since multi-stakeholder processes could advance the discussion on and support implementation of the Convention. Lesson might be learned from Parties to the Convention from sub-Saharan Africa, as they have been more open to consult non-State actors than other Parties.

In the third reporting round, women participated in the completion of a national report template in 27 cases (56%) (as compared to 52% in the second reporting exercise). A modest improvement is that 19 reports[18] (40%) in the third reporting round were signed by a female governmental representative (as compared to 29% in the second round).

Box 1: Insights from practice: preparation of the report by Togo

In Togo, preparation of the third national report under the Water Convention and SDG indicator 6.5.2 was coordinated by the Ministry of Water and Village Hydraulics. The process included the following four main steps:

1. The draft report was prepared by the Director of Water Resources at the Ministry of Water and Village Hydraulics, based on an analysis of reports from two previous cycles, existing documents and progress made since the date of the last report (2020) at the national level and in the two basin organizations – the Volta Basin Authority (VBA) and the Mono Basin Authority (ABM).
2. The first draft was shared with focal points from the sectoral ministries and relevant institutions, in particular ministries in charge of agriculture, the environment, energy and mines, the marine economy and fisheries, local authorities and foreign affairs, the National Environmental Agency and the Geology Department of the University of Lomé.
3. The improved draft report was transmitted to the executive directorates of the VBA and ABM, to the technical directorates of the ministries in charge of water in the Republic of Benin and Burkina Faso, and to the focal points of the national coordination structures of VBA and ABM in all riparian countries.
4. All relevant comments were integrated, and the report was finalized and approved internally by the Ministry of Water and Village Hydraulics.

Aerial view of Lomé, Togo.

Source: Third national report of Togo (2023).

[18] Three reports out of 19 were co-signed by women and men.

1.5 Use of the reporting template and guidance material

The third reporting exercise took place on the basis of a reporting template revised in 2018, where minor revisions were introduced by the secretariat in collaboration with UNESCO in 2022. No substantial changes were introduced, so as to allow for comparison of results across exercises. Minor revisions enabled the integration of a gender perspective, in line with paragraph 17 of decision IX/2 on reporting,[19] and to clarify certain questions based on experiences from the second reporting exercise. These efforts allowed for the collection of information on gender aspects of transboundary water cooperation and the integration of a gender perspective into this synthesis report (see sections 4.1, 4.2, 5.3, 5.9 and 7.3).

In the third reporting exercise, the Parties could take advantage of the step-by-step monitoring methodology for SDG indicator 6.5.2 (version 2020), the *Guide to Reporting under the Water Convention and as a Contribution to SDG Indicator 6.5.2*, and a new document "Opportunities to coordinate with neighbouring countries when completing the national report".[20]

Most of the Parties to the Convention (31) participated in at least one of two global webinars on SDG indicator 6.5.2, organized by UNECE and UNESCO on 17–18 April 2023 and specifically dedicated to supporting countries preparing national reports for the third reporting exercise. Some Parties benefited from participation in regional workshops or webinars on SDG indicator 6.5.2[21] and individual consultations with UNECE and UNESCO on the preparation of their national reports in the third and fourth quarters of 2023. Parties from the Senegal-Mauritanian Aquifer Basin (SMAB) took part in a meeting between four countries sharing the SMAB aimed at coordinating replies (Geneva, 19 October 2023) and facilitated by UNECE and UNESCO.

No major difficulties were reported by the Parties in the use of the revised reporting template or the guidance materials. Many Parties indicated in their third national reports that they relied on their previous reports when filling in the template for the third reporting exercise.

However, several Parties noted that the reporting exercise was time-consuming and that an online reporting system could save both time and resources. Some countries experienced difficulties with determining the surface area of a part of the basin covered by a specific cooperation agreement. In addition, some countries indicated difficulties with reporting on transboundary aquifers or groundwater bodies in the absence of bilaterally agreed transboundary aquifers or groundwater bodies.

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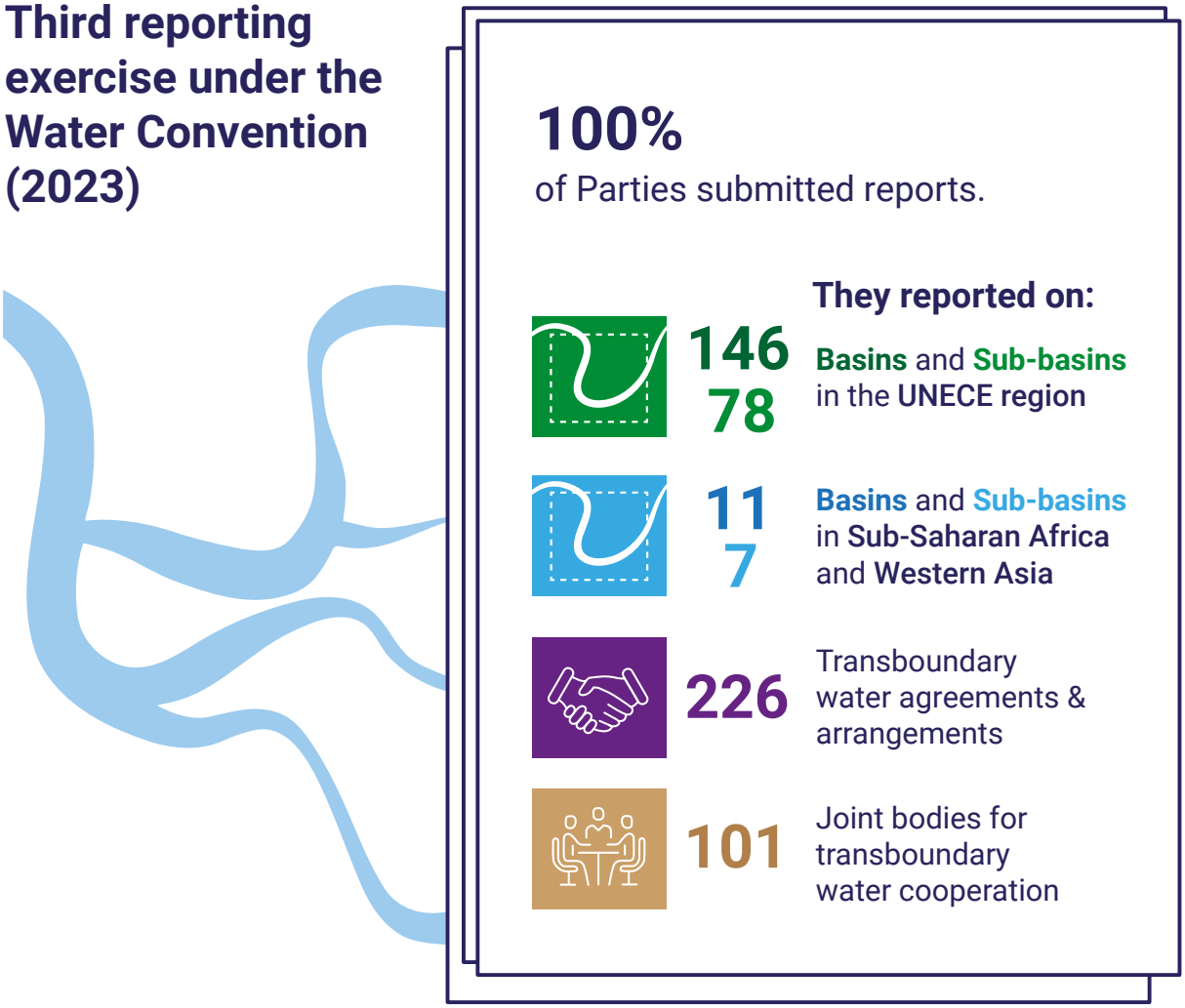
19 Decision IX/2, ECE/MP.WAT/63/Add.2, paragraph 17.

20 The guidance materials are available at: https://unece.org/guidance-materials-and-information-countries.

21 These include: webinars in Spanish dedicated to the third monitoring exercise on SDG indicator 6.5.2 – "How to prepare and use the national reports on transboundary water cooperation?" (27 April and 4 May 2023); a workshop on the legal and institutional arrangements for transboundary water cooperation and data exchange (in cooperation with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for West Asia (ESCWA) (Beirut, 30–31 May 2023); an Asia Region Online Workshop: Supporting Countries in preparing National Reports for the 3rd reporting exercise of SDG Indicator 6.5.2 on Transboundary Water Cooperation in Asia Pacific (8–9 June 2023); and a regional workshop on Transboundary Water Cooperation in the EaP Countries: Achievements and a Way Forward (Geneva, 19 October 2023).

Infographic 1: Third reporting exercise under the Water Convention (2023)



CHAPTER 2

Lake Prespa in Greece.

TRANSBOUNDARY WATER MANAGEMENT AT THE **NATIONAL LEVEL**

Key messages

- **Laws and policies related to the prevention, control and reduction of transboundary impact can be found in the domestic systems of nearly all Parties.**
- **There is a widespread practice of adopting systems at national level for the licensing, control and monitoring of both point and diffuse pollution. Some recent Parties to the Convention still need to establish licensing or permitting systems for wastewater discharges and other point sources of pollution, and develop systems to monitor and control authorized discharges. While measures to reduce diffuse pollution are present in all Parties, there is scope for employing a larger spectrum of measures in some recent Parties.**
- **Setting up emission limits based on best available technology represents a challenge for some Parties.**
- **While various measures are applied to reduce pollution on transboundary waters from diffuse sources, the use of economic and financial measures and agricultural extension services is not sufficiently widespread.**
- **All but three Parties confirm that their national laws require transboundary environmental impact assessment. Use of strategic environmental assessment procedures by the Parties is widespread.**
- **There is a need for increased use of measures to enhance water use efficiency among the Parties, especially in relation to demand management activities. This is of particular importance in the context of increasing climate change impacts on water resources. There is also scope for wider use of stakeholder consultations to enhance water resources allocation and use efficiency.**

2.1 Key laws and policies related to transboundary water management

What does the Convention say?

Article 3 (1) of the Water Convention provides that measures of a legal nature should be in place to prevent, control and reduce transboundary impact. Additionally, article 2 (5) states that, in taking measures, the Parties are to be guided by the precautionary principle, the polluter pays principle and the principle of sustainable development.

What have countries reported?

In terms of laws and policies, nearly all Parties stated that their country's national legislation mentions measures to prevent, control and reduce transboundary impact (sect. III, question 1 (a), of the template). Most countries reported that their national water law or environmental law is the primary legislation to refer to the prevention, control and reduction of transboundary impact. While Guinea-Bissau and Iraq note a lack of legislation and policies specifically mentioning measures to prevent, control and reduce any transboundary impact, Guinea-Bissau has clarified that a national plan for the implementation of the Water Convention in Guinea-Bissau, currently under development, will provide an opportunity to foresee the development of measures to control and reduce transboundary impact.

For some Parties, provisions on transboundary impact are included in the national legislation through national laws on the ratification of the Convention or the ratification of transboundary water agreements with neighbouring countries. Many Parties state that their national strategies on water or the environment constitute the framework for prevention, control and reduction of transboundary impact. Additionally, numerous countries, especially EU member States and candidate countries, have identified river basin management plans as key policy documents addressing transboundary water cooperation issues.

All Parties confirmed that their country's legislation provided for the polluter pays principle and user pays principle, and nearly all Parties confirmed that their country's legislation provided for the sustainable development principle and the precautionary principle (sect. III, question 1 (b)). Parties reported that they have incorporated these principles into their national legislation and implement them through permitting and licensing procedures, the use of environmental impact assessment and strategic environmental impact assessment mechanisms, tariffs, taxes, fees and compliance assurance mechanisms.

What can we learn from the responses?

The responses to section III, questions 1 (a) and (b) suggest an overall alignment with the requirements of the Convention relating to the prevention, control and reduction of transboundary impact through the adoption of national laws and policies.

However, the responses simply provide a broad overview of the relevant legislation. The quality and extent to which the prevention, control and reduction of any transboundary impact is covered by national law and policy, and the effectiveness of their implementation, is not captured in the responses. Some Parties mentioned that the enforcement of measures to implement these principles, in practice, represents a challenge, sometimes due to weak legal and institutional frameworks.

Box 2: Insights from practice: new Environmental Code in Kazakhstan provides for monitoring of transboundary pollution

Copper plant on Lake Balkhash.

The new Environmental Code of the Republic of Kazakhstan (2021) provides for the monitoring of transboundary pollution. The system of observations carried out within the framework of international cooperation with neighbouring states aims to track the pollution of transboundary surface waters and coastal soils of transboundary rivers (art. 166).

Among the main principles of the new Environmental Code are:

- the "polluter pays and remediates" principle;
- the implementation of best available technologies and economic incentives;
- emission fees directed to environmental measures;
- the creation of an automated emissions monitoring system;
- the strengthening of environmental controls;
- the improvement of waste management.

Source: Third national report of Kazakhstan (2023).

Box 3: Insights from practice: new Water Strategy of Ukraine addresses water supply and sanitation and river basin management planning

In December 2022, the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine approved the Water Strategy of Ukraine for the period until 2050, together with an operational plan for its implementation covering the period 2022–2024. The strategy aims to ensure equitable access to high-quality drinking water and the good ecological state of water resources; the prevention of droughts, floods and other harmful effects of water; and the sustainable management of water resources in accordance with the basin principle.

The document supports the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by Ukraine and plays an important role in meeting the country's commitments according to the Association Agreement between Ukraine and the European Union. The expected results of the Strategy include:

- by 2032 – up to 20% reduction in the annual amount of damage caused by floods and floods, compared to 2020;
- by 2030 – 100% of the urban population has access to adequate water and sanitation services;
- by 2050 – 95% of the rural population has access to adequate water and sanitation services;
- 2043–2050 – 100% implementation of indicators included in the river basin management plans and flood risk management plans.

Tisza River in Ukraine.

The Strategy was developed with an overall support of OECD and inputs from UNECE. A part of the main text of the Strategy devoted to the equitable access to water and sanitation and its Annex with the targets on the equitable access, have been supported by UNECE in the framework of the National Policy Dialogue on Integrated Water Resources Management in Ukraine. Targets on equitable access aim to facilitate implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health and other international commitments by Ukraine.

Source: Third national report of Ukraine (2024).

2.2 National systems for licensing, controlling and monitoring pollution

What does the Convention say?

Article 3 (1) of the Water Convention sets out a series of measures that Parties must put in place to prevent, control and reduce transboundary impact, including:

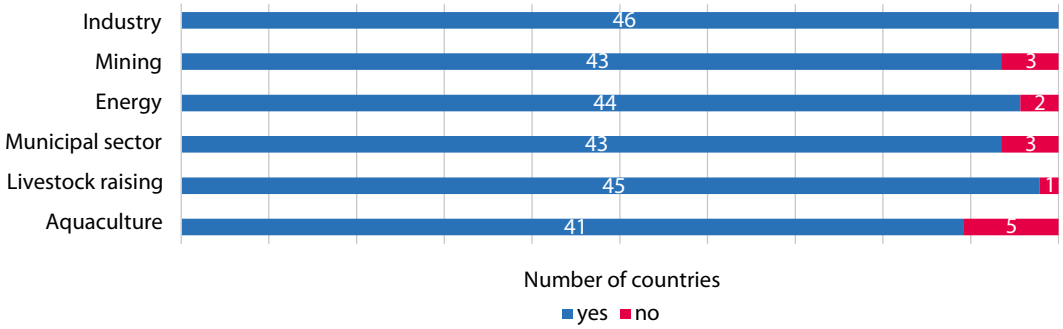
- The licensing, monitoring and control of wastewater discharges by competent national authorities.
- The inclusion of wastewater discharge limits in permits based on the best available technology for discharges of hazardous substances.
- The reduction of nutrient inputs from industrial and municipal sources, through measures such as the application of the best available technology.
- The reduction of nutrients and hazardous substances from diffuse sources, especially from agricultural practices, through the use of best environmental practices and other appropriate measures.
- The adoption of a system of environmental impact assessment.
- The promotion of sustainable water resources management, including an ecosystem approach.
- The adoption of additional specific measures to prevent the pollution of groundwaters.

What have countries reported?

Nearly all Parties (46 out of 48) confirmed that they have licensing or permitting systems in place for wastewater discharges and other point sources of pollution (sect. III, question 1 (c)). Ghana and Guinea-Bissau do not have such systems, with Ghana indicating that relevant legislation is being developed and Guinea-Bissau clarifying that no permitting system is yet planned.

There is evidence of a trend to ensure that all major sectors are regulated by such systems (figure 3). In addition, some Parties mentioned that their licensing or permitting systems cover point sources of pollution in agriculture (e.g. slaughterhouses), biomedical waste facilities, gravel extraction and the tourism sector.

Figure 3 Overview of sectors covered by national licensing or permitting systems for point sources of pollution – based on responses to section III, question 1 (c) (2023)

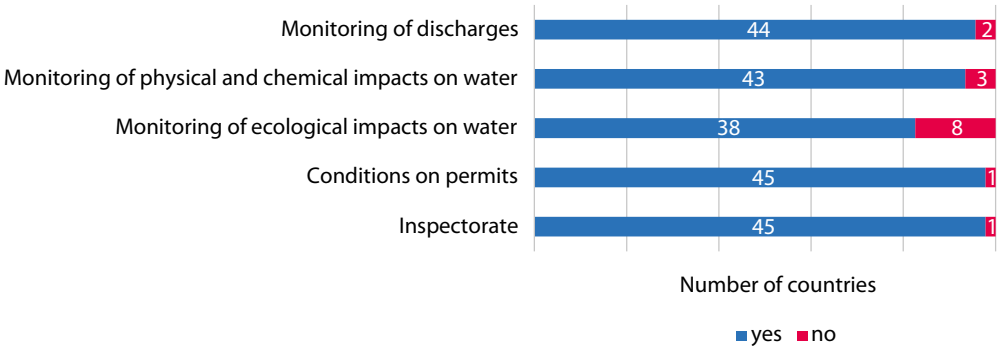


The majority of Parties reported that their licensing or permitting systems provide for setting emission limits based on the best available technology. However, four Parties (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Iraq, Italy and Senegal) indicated that this is not the case, and another two Parties (Cameroon and France) have not indicated whether their licensing or permitting systems allow for this possibility (sect. III, question 1 (c)). These replies suggest potential difficulties in setting emission limits based on the best available technology.

In their responses to sect. III, question 1 (d), all Parties confirmed that authorized discharges are monitored and controlled (figure 4), except for Ghana and Guinea-Bissau who do not have licensing or permitting systems in place for wastewater discharges and other point sources of pollution.[22] Nearly all Parties reported that they are using permits, perform monitoring of discharges and have inspection mechanisms in place. A significant number of Parties reported that they monitor physical and chemical impacts on water, but a lower number monitor ecological impacts.

Another means of monitoring and control highlighted in some responses was the self-monitoring of wastewater discharges by companies and other operators.

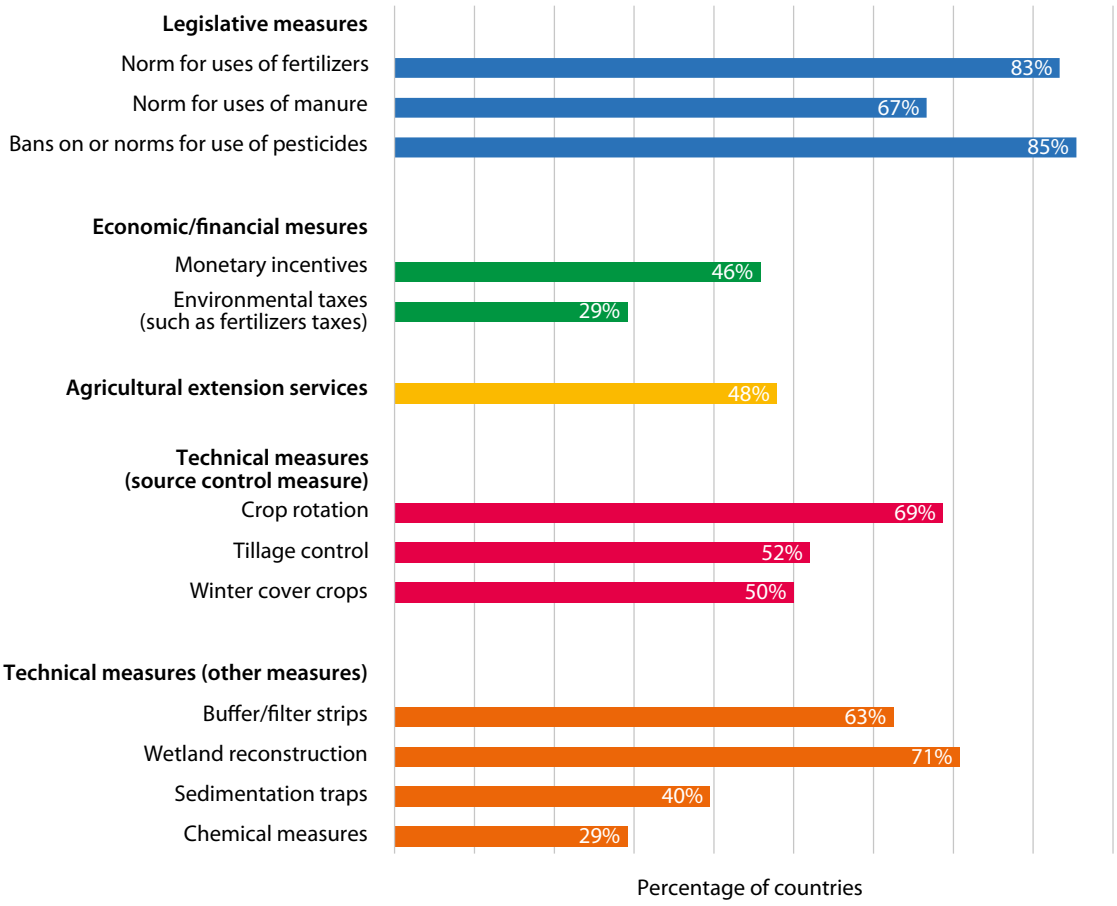
Figure 4 Overview of how authorized discharges are monitored and controlled (art. 3) – based on responses to section III, question 1 (d) (2023)



All Parties reported having some measures in place to reduce diffuse pollution of transboundary waters (sect. III, question 1 (e)). However, as illustrated in figure 5, the types of measures in place differ. Legislative measures appear to be the most common option, while economic and financial measures and agricultural extension services are not as widely used. In general, recent Parties appear to employ a lower spectrum of measures to reduce diffuse pollution. Measures which are less common among recent Parties include norms for uses of manure, monetary incentives, environmental taxes, tillage control and buffer/filter strips.

[22] Figure 4 does not reflect the replies of Ghana and Guinea-Bissau. According to Ghana, a discharge monitoring system is planned and will be implemented following the adoption of legislation on effluent discharge and pollution control. According to Guinea-Bissau, there are no plans in place yet to set up a discharge monitoring system.

Figure 5 Main measures to reduce water pollution from diffuse sources (art. 3) – based on responses to section III, question 1 (e) (2023)



In relation to groundwaters, nearly all Parties (except Albania and Guinea-Bissau) confirmed that they have put in place specific measures to prevent the pollution of groundwaters (sect. III, question 1 (h)). The most common measures to prevent pollution of groundwaters listed by the Parties include:

- prohibiting or restricting discharges of wastewater and dangerous substances to groundwater;
- setting agricultural requirements to protect groundwater (e.g. control of manure usage, nitrate action programmes, and prohibition or restriction on the use of fertilizers or pesticides in protected areas);
- establishing sanitary protection zones around groundwater abstraction points;
- assigning other types of protection status to groundwater reserves;
- requiring permits for groundwater abstraction;
- setting environmental objectives for groundwater.

Additional measures mentioned include the regulation of waste and extraction (France), measures to prevent penetration of water between freshwater and saline aquifers (Iraq), and afforestation.

What can we learn from the responses?

Responses to section III, questions 1 (c), (d), (e), (f), (g) and (h), indicate a strong level of coherence between the relevant requirements of the Water Convention on the licensing, control and monitoring of pollution (point and diffuse sources) and measures reported by the Parties. Most Parties have adopted licensing and permitting systems to prevent, control and reduce pollution at the source (art. 3 (1) (a)), and there is a tendency to ensure that all sectors are covered by such systems.

The monitoring and control of wastewater discharges and their impacts on water appear to be present in some form for all Parties who have adopted licensing and permitting systems to prevent, control and reduce pollution at the source. However, the setting of emission limits based on best available technology (art. 3 (1) (c) and (f) and art. 3 (2)) represents a challenge for some Parties.

While there appears to be a relatively concerted practice of adopting systems at national level for the licensing, control and reduction of pollution, it should be noted that the quality and extent of any national systems for regulating and monitoring pollution, as well as their effectiveness, was not captured through the reporting exercise.

2.3 Laws and procedures for environmental impact assessment

What does the Convention say?

In accordance with article 3 (1) (h) of the Water Convention, Parties are required to put in place measures of assessment, and most notably environmental impact assessment (EIA) procedures. This requirement is also supplemented by article 9 (2) (j), which provides that joint bodies established by Parties under the Convention are to be tasked with participation in the implementation of environmental impact assessments relating to transboundary waters, in accordance with international regulations.

Three quarters of Parties to the Water Convention are also Parties to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention).[23] Pursuant to the Espoo Convention, Parties must assess the environmental impact of certain activities at an early stage of planning and adopt transboundary environmental impact assessment procedures. However, 11 Parties to the Water Convention are not party to the Espoo Convention (Cameroon, Chad, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Nigeria, the Russian Federation, Senegal, Togo, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan).

What have countries reported?

Of the 48 Parties, 45 confirm that transboundary environmental impact assessment is a requirement under their national laws. Three countries do not have such requirement (Guinea-Bissau, Iraq and Uzbekistan). According to Guinea-Bissau, while the country does not yet have any laws on EIA specific to transboundary waters, the elaboration of the implementation plan for the implementation of the Water Convention in Guinea-Bissau provides an opportunity to foresee the development of such measures. Uzbekistan notes that, while transboundary environmental impact assessment is not required under national legislation, a joint assessment of transboundary impact is required under its bilateral agreement with Kazakhstan.

What can we learn from the responses?

The influence of the Espoo Convention is evident in the responses from most Parties of the Water Convention. The responses suggest that transboundary EIA is required under national legislation and that the relevant implementing procedures are by and large in place. It can be assumed that EIA procedures

[23] European Union member States are also obliged to follow relevant directives, such as directive 2011/92/EU of 13 December 2011 on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment, as amended by directive 2014/52/EU of 16 April 2014.

at the national level also form part of national legislation, since a transboundary assessment typically constitutes a higher-level requirement as compared with a national one. The reporting template, however, does not allow for conclusions to be drawn on the actual application of EIA procedures at either the national or transboundary level.

None of the recent Parties to the Water Convention is a Party to the Espoo Convention.[24]

While not specifically mentioned in the reporting template, six Parties also reported the use of strategic environmental assessment mechanisms. The use of strategic environmental assessment is likely to be higher than reported, however, as 30 States Parties to the Water Convention are also Parties to the 2003 Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment to the Espoo Convention.[25]

Box 4: Insights from practice: Ukraine and Romania sign agreement on the implementation of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context

In November 2022, Ukraine and Romania signed a bilateral agreement on the implementation of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention). The signing ceremony took place in Bucharest and concluded multi-year negotiations between Ukraine and Romania which are both Parties to the Espoo Convention.

In entering into this agreement, the two countries put into action the recommendations made by the Meeting of the Parties to the Espoo Convention in 2008–2020 on the preparation of the agreement (in the context of decisions concerning compliance by Ukraine in respect of the Danube-Black Sea Deep Water Navigation Canal in the Ukrainian sector of the Danube Delta (Bystroe Canal Project)).

The agreement introduces clear consultation mechanisms for both countries. It also establishes a joint commission for implementing its provisions as a forum for information exchange and advice, consultations and dispute settlement. The agreement places a special emphasis on the transboundary EIA of projects in the Carpathian region and the transboundary river basins, including the Danube Delta.

Danube Delta in Romania.

[24] The first amendment to the Espoo Convention was adopted in 2001 to open up the Espoo Convention to accession by UN Member States that are not members of UNECE. It entered into force on 26 August 2014 and will have effect once all States Parties to the Convention that were Parties at the time of adoption of the amendment ratify it.

[25] In addition, European Union member States are also obliged to follow directive 2001/42/EC of 27 June 2001 on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment.

Bilateral agreements, which are provided for in article 8 of the Espoo Convention, help reconcile national legislative procedures, address differences in implementation practices and enable environmental ministries to coordinate transboundary EIA procedures more effectively. Their use is a practical and recommended way for contracting Parties to the Espoo Convention that expect to conduct transboundary EIAs on a regular basis to agree on key implementation issues in advance.

The bilateral agreement of Romania and Ukraine was drafted and negotiated with the assistance of UNECE under the EU4Environment project in 2021–2022.

Source: UNECE press release "Ukraine and Romania sign agreement on the implementation of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention)", 23 November 2022.

Box 5: Insights from practice: strategic environmental assessment in the Republic of Moldova

The Republic of Moldova signed the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment to the Espoo Convention in 2003 and ratified it in 2019. To implement the Protocol, Law No. 11/2017 on Strategic Environmental Assessment was adopted.

The Law establishes a legal framework for carrying out strategic environmental assessment (SEA) of strategies, programmes and plans in order to ensure a high level of environmental protection and to prevent or mitigate the negative effects of strategies, plans and programmes on the environment and the health of the population. The scope of SEA includes draft strategies, plans and programmes elaborated at national and local level. Strategic environmental assessment is carried out to assess impacts on the environment in the Republic of Moldova or in neighbouring countries, if appropriate.

The competent authorities for SEA procedures (the Ministry of Environment or the Environmental Agency) depend on the hierarchical level of the policy and planning document. For national policy and planning documents, including sector and transboundary ones, approved by the Government or Parliament, the responsible authority is the Ministry of the Environment; for local policy and planning documents approved by the local public administration, the authority is the Environmental Agency.

Recent experiences with transboundary SEA conducted under the Protocol on SEA have included the Republic of Moldova being notified by Ukraine about its Dniester River Basin Management Plan (2025–2030); by Romania about its Danube River Basin Management Plan (2025–2030); and on another occasion by Romania about its National Mid- and Long-Term Strategy for Safe Management of Spent Fuel and Radioactive Waste.

Source: Third national report of the Republic of Moldova (2024).

2.4 Measures to enhance water use efficiency

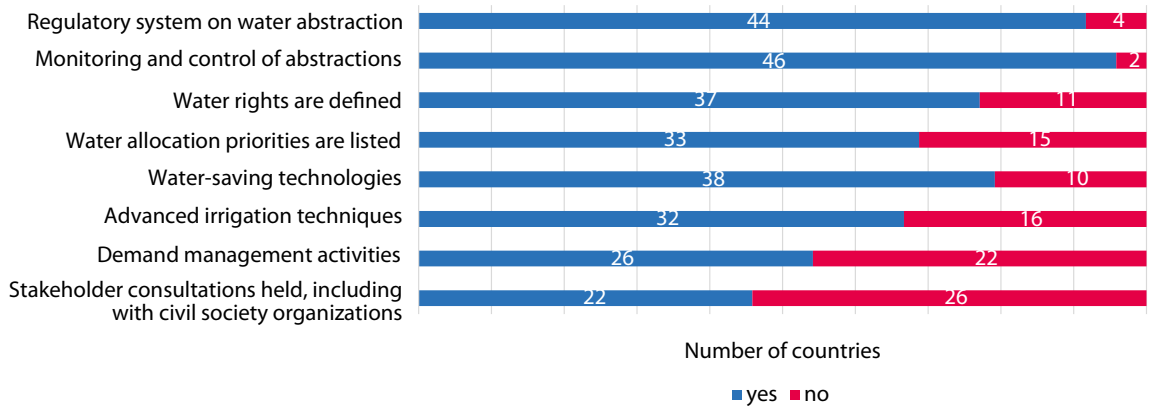
What does the Convention say?

The Convention promotes water use efficiency through its focus on recycling, recovery and reuse, as part of the concept of "best environmental practices" (Water Convention, annex II). The Convention requires the application of low and non-waste technology (art. 3 (1) (a)) as part of measures that Parties must put in place to prevent, control and reduce transboundary impact.

What have countries reported?

All Parties have put in place specific measures to enhance water resources allocation and use efficiency (sect. III, question 1 (f)). As illustrated in figure 6, most common measures to enhance water use efficiency include monitoring and control of water abstractions and a regulatory system for water abstraction.

Figure 6 Main measures to enhance water resources allocation and use efficiency (art. 3 (1)) – based on responses to section III, question 1 (f) (2023)



Among additional measures applied to support water use efficiency, Parties mention awareness-raising campaigns to reduce water consumption, the use of subsidies and other financial instruments, the development of planning documents and the integration of water use efficiency aspects in river basin management plans, and compliance monitoring and enforcement.

What can we learn from the responses?

There is clear room for improvement in the use of measures to enhance water use efficiency. Basic measures such as regulatory systems on water abstraction and monitoring and control of water abstraction have not been put in place by some Parties. Alarmingly, demand management activities, which appear to be critical in view of climate change and increasing water scarcity, are used by only 26 Parties (54%). Demand management activities aim to make better use of existing water supplies through a series of incentives, such as pricing or subsidies, as well as awareness-raising and education. While the introduction of advanced irrigation techniques is reported by only 32 Parties, it may not be relevant for all countries since several Parties do not have irrigated agriculture. Low usage of stakeholder consultations as a measure to enhance water resources allocation and use efficiency (by only 22 Parties (46%)) is alarming but corresponds to other outcomes of this reporting round, which have highlighted insufficient stakeholder engagement in water management among Parties to the Convention.

River port in Ziguinchor, Senegal.

CHAPTER 3

Cijevna/Cem River in Albania.

TRANSBOUNDARY **AGREEMENTS** AND **ARRANGEMENTS**

Key messages

- **Most of the 157 reported transboundary river and lake basins are covered by agreements or arrangements in force, either wholly or in part. However, there are at least 12 river and lake basins and 17 river and lake sub-basins which are not covered by any agreement or arrangement, either wholly or in part.**
- **Where transboundary river and lake basins are covered by agreements or arrangements, only 105 out of 127 river and lake basins and 46 out of 60 river and lake sub-basins are wholly covered by agreements or arrangements.**
- **Out of 406 transboundary aquifers and groundwater bodies reported by the Parties, 85 are not covered by any agreement or arrangement, either wholly or in part.**
- **Where transboundary aquifers and groundwater bodies are wholly or partly covered by agreements or arrangements, in the vast majority of cases these arrangements relate to both surface waters and groundwaters, and are not aquifer-specific arrangements. Altogether, six aquifer- or groundwater-specific agreements were reported by the Parties in the third reporting round.**
- **Topics of cooperation included within agreements or arrangements are aligned with the key topic areas in the Water Convention, but some areas, such as maintenance of joint pollution inventories (art. 2 (c)), provision of mutual assistance (art. 15), elaboration of joint water quality objectives and criteria (art. 9 (2) (e)), development of common early warning and alarm systems (art. 14) and human health, are represented to a lesser degree.**
- **In the past three years, there has been a noticeable increase in attention to climate change adaptation as a topic of cooperation under transboundary water agreements.**

3.1 Obligation to enter into agreements or arrangements

What does the Convention say?

In accordance with article 9 (1) of the Water Convention, riparian Parties must enter into bilateral or multilateral agreements or other arrangements with each other in order to support the implementation of the Convention.

This obligation is directed only at riparian Parties. While entering into agreements or arrangements with non-Parties sharing a particular river, lake or aquifer might support the implementation of the Water Convention, and is therefore encouraged, there is no explicit obligation under the Convention to enter into such agreements or arrangements.[26]

What have countries reported?

As many as 127 river and lake basins out of 157 river and lake basins reported by the Parties are covered by agreements or arrangements,[27] either wholly or in part, according to the replies provided to section I, table 1 of the reporting template. In addition, 60 river and lake sub-basins out of the 85 river and lake sub-basins reported by the Parties are also wholly or partly covered by agreements or arrangements.

As regards transboundary aquifers, 312 out of 406 transboundary aquifers and groundwater bodies reported by the Parties are covered by agreements or arrangements, either wholly or in part, according to replies to section I, table 2, of the reporting template. However, data on transboundary aquifers include multiple entries for the same aquifer or groundwater body due to the use of different names by riparian countries. These data therefore need to be treated with caution.

A list of all agreements and arrangements, as well as the transboundary river and lake basins to which they apply, is provided in annex III. The list includes 226 agreements and arrangements reported by at least one Party in the third reporting exercise.[28] The list shows that agreements and arrangements take diverse forms such as treaties, conventions, agreements, memoranda, protocols and so on. It also shows that the same transboundary waters might be subject to multiple agreements and arrangements depending on the particular context and the interests of the Parties concerned. One example is Lake Ohrid, shared by Albania and North Macedonia, which is the subject of two bilateral agreements, one focusing on the protection and sustainable development of the lake and the other on international water way transport.[29] Lake Ohrid is also included within the scope of a multilateral agreement on the extended Drin River basin.[30]

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26 UNECE (2013). *Guide to Implementing the Water Convention* (ECE/MP.WAT/39), para. 239.

27 This includes all agreements and arrangements irrespective of whether they are "operational" in accordance with the criteria in SDG indicator 6.5.2.

28 Annex III includes agreements and arrangements reported by Parties in at least one of three reporting exercises and those listed in the *Second Assessment of Transboundary Rivers, Lakes and Groundwaters.* Number 226 includes agreements and arrangements with the participation of at least one Party that were reported by at least one Party.

29 Agreement between the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Albania and the Government of the Republic of Macedonia for the protection and sustainable development of Lake Ohrid and its watershed (Skopje, 17 June 2004); Agreement between the Government of the Republic of North Macedonia and the Council of Ministers of Republic of Albania on international water way transport in Ohrid Lake (Skopje, 14 November 2022).

30 The Drin: A Strategic Shared Vision – Memorandum of Understanding for the Management of the Extended Transboundary Drin Basin (Tirana, 25 November 2011).

What can we learn from the responses?

An important insight from the responses to section I, table 1 of the reporting template is that at least 12 river and lake basins and 17 river and lake sub-basins are not covered by any agreement or arrangement, either wholly or in part. In addition, there are 5 river and lake basins and 5 river and lake sub-basins where it was not possible to conclude which part of the basin or sub-basin was covered, and another 18 river and lake basins and 7 river and lake sub-basin where it was not possible to conclude whether an agreement or arrangement exists, due to the different responses of riparian countries.

The 12 river and lake basins without an existing agreement in force are the Adige,[31] Alta,[32] Astara Chay/Astarachay,[33] Banowka,[34] Coastal Rivers Basin,[35] Elv fra Svartakslvatnet,[36] Karpelva,[37] Prohladnaja/Swieza,[38] Reisa,[39] Sandneselva,[40] Skibotn[41] and Tigris[42] River basins. It should be noted, however, that the Astara Chay/Astarachay and Tigris River basins are shared with non-Parties. Furthermore, in the case of the Alta, Reisa, Sandneselva and Skibotn River basins, shared by Finland and Norway, the share of the basin area in Finland is very small and it was considered unnecessary to conclude agreements governing their use due to the absence of human pressures in these areas.

It was not possible to conclude whether an agreement exists and is in force at the basin level in the cases of the Jandari Lake basin[43] and the Aoos/Vijose/Vjosa,[44] Axios/Vardar,[45] Azov Sea River basins (Mius, Krinka and Sukhoi Elanchyk),[46] Bia,[47] Don,[48] Drin,[49] Hari/Harirud,[50] Kemi/Kemijoki,[51] Lava/Pregel/Pregolas,[52] Maroni/Marowijne,[53] Murgab,[54] Oiapoque/Oyapock/Oyupock,[55] Roia/Roja,[56] Struma/Strymonas,[57] Sulak,[58] Tano[59] and Terek/Tergi[60] River basins, due to contradictory responses received from the riparian countries. It should be noted, however, that the Jandari Lake basin, and the Bia, Hari/Harirud, Maroni/Marowijne, Murgab, Oiapoque/Oyapock/Oyupock, Sulak, Tano and Terek/Tergi River basins are shared with non-Parties.

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31 Shared by Italy and Switzerland.
32 Shared by Finland and Norway.
33 Shared by Azerbaijan and the Islamic Republic of Iran (non-Party).
34 Shared by Poland and the Russian Federation.
35 Includes the Akpa and Cross River basins (shared by Cameroon and Nigeria) and the Benito/Ntem River basin (shared by Cameroon, Gabon (non-Party) and Equatorial Guinea (non-Party)).
36 Shared by Norway and the Russian Federation.
37 Shared by Norway and the Russian Federation.
38 Shared by Poland and the Russian Federation.
39 Shared by Finland and Norway.
40 Shared by Finland and Norway.
41 Shared by Finland and Norway.
42 Shared by the Islamic Republic of Iran (non-Party), Iraq, Türkiye (non-Party) and the Syrian Arab Republic (non-Party).
43 Shared by Azerbaijan and Georgia (non-Party).
44 Shared by Albania and Greece.
45 Shared by Greece, North Macedonia and Serbia.
46 Shared by the Russian Federation and Ukraine.
47 Shared by Côte d'Ivoire (considered as a non-Party for the third round of reporting) and Ghana.
48 Shared by the Russian Federation and Ukraine.
49 Shared by Albania, Greece, Kosovo (United Nations administered territory under Security Council resolution 1244 (1999)), North Macedonia and Montenegro.
50 Shared by Afghanistan (non-Party), the Islamic Republic of Iran (non-Party) and Turkmenistan. This designation is based on the responses of Turkmenistan in 2023 and Afghanistan in 2020, as Afghanistan has not provided a response in 2023. The Islamic Republic of Iran has not provided a report in either 2017, 2020 or 2023.
51 Shared by Finland, Norway and the Russian Federation.
52 Shared by Lithuania, Poland and the Russian Federation.
53 Shared by France and Suriname (non-Party).
54 Shared by Afghanistan (non-Party) and Turkmenistan.
55 Shared by Brazil (non-Party) and France.
56 Shared by France and Italy.
57 Shared by Bulgaria, Greece, North Macedonia and Serbia.
58 Shared by Georgia (non-Party) and the Russian Federation.
59 Shared by Côte d'Ivoire (considered as a non-Party for the third round of reporting) and Ghana.
60 Shared by Georgia (non-Party) and the Russian Federation.

The 17 river and lake sub-basins for which no agreement or arrangement existed at the time of submission of national reports are the Adda,[61] Aghstev/Akstafa,[62] Arpa,[63] Bargushad/Vorotan,[64] Diyala,[65] Dragovistica,[66] Greater Zab,[67] Inn,[68] Lepenac,[69] Lesser Zab,[70] Ohchu/Voghji,[71] Pcinja,[72] Plavska Reka,[73] French-Italian sub-basins of the Po,[74] Strumica,[75] Tigris Eastern Tributaries[76] and White Drin (Beli Drim)[77] River sub-basins. It should be noted, however, that the Aghstev/Akstafa, Arpa, Bargushad/Vorotan, Diyala, Greater Zab, Lesser Zab, Ohchu/Voghji and Tigris Eastern Tributaries river sub-basins are shared with non-Parties.

In the case of the Dojran/Doirani Lake sub-basin[78] and the Alazani/Ganyh,[79] Iori/Gabirri,[80] Khrami/Ktsia,[81] Rio Marano,[82] Torrente Ausa[83] and Torrente San Marino[84] river sub-basins, it was not possible to conclude whether an agreement exists and is in force at the sub-basin level, due to contradictory responses received from the riparian countries. All these sub-basins are shared with non-Parties.

With regard to the Torne/Tornionjoki/Tornealven River basin,[85] an agreement exists and is in force between Finland and Sweden, but it does not cover the Norwegian part of the basin, which accounts for less than 2% of the total area with a reported lack of human pressures on water resources.

Another important insight from responses to section I, table 2 of the reporting template is that, in comparison with rivers and lakes, many more transboundary aquifers are not covered by any agreement, either wholly or in part. The number of such aquifers – 85 aquifers and groundwater bodies out of reported total of 406 – should be treated with caution, as it most likely includes multiple entries for some aquifers and groundwater bodies due to the use of different names by the riparian countries concerned.

Where Parties reported that no agreements or arrangements were in place for a particular transboundary basin, sub-basin or part(s) thereof, they gave several reasons, including:

- Negotiations to develop an agreement or arrangement are ongoing.
- The countries concerned have embarked on a preliminary process, but cannot begin formal negotiations until differing approaches to the scope and content of the agreement or arrangement are resolved.
- An agreement has been signed but ratification is pending.
- An agreement or arrangement is formally in force but cooperation has been discontinued.

61 Shared by Italy and Switzerland.
62 Shared by Armenia (non-Party) and Azerbaijan.
63 Shared by Armenia (non-Party) and Azerbaijan.
64 Shared by Armenia (non-Party) and Azerbaijan.
65 Shared by the Islamic Republic of Iran (non-Party) and Iraq.
66 Shared by Bulgaria, North Macedonia and Serbia.
67 Shared by Iraq and Türkiye (non-Party).
68 Shared by Italy and Switzerland.
69 Shared by Kosovo (United Nations administered territory under Security Council resolution 1244 (1999)) and North Macedonia.
70 Shared by the Islamic Republic of Iran (non-Party) and Iraq.
71 Shared by Armenia (non-Party) and Azerbaijan.
72 Shared by North Macedonia and Serbia.
73 Shared by Albania and Kosovo (United Nations administered territory under Security Council resolution 1244 (1999)).
74 Shared by France and Italy.
75 Shared by Bulgaria and North Macedonia. North Macedonia explained that the agreement covering Strumica River basin was concluded in 2019 but is not yet functional.
76 Shared by the Islamic Republic of Iran (non-Party) and Iraq.
77 Shared by Albania and Kosovo (United Nations administered territory under Security Council resolution 1244 (1999)).
78 Shared by Greece and North Macedonia.
79 Shared by Azerbaijan and Georgia (non-Party).
80 Shared by Azerbaijan and Georgia (non-Party).
81 Shared by Armenia (non-Party), Azerbaijan and Georgia (non-Party).
82 Shared by Italy and San Marino (non-Party).
83 Shared by Italy and San Marino (non-Party).
84 Shared by Italy and San Marino (non-Party).
85 Shared by Finland, Norway and Sweden.

- An agreement has become ineffective and cooperation has been discontinued.
- It has proven difficult to initiate an agreement or arrangement due to lack of understanding between the countries concerned or a difficult political situation.

For example, as reported by Iraq, in the Lesser Zab, Diyala and Tigris Eastern Tributaries sub-basins, shared by the Islamic Republic of Iran (non-Party) and Iraq, political relations between the two countries have affected the implementation of the 1975 Agreement on the use of the frontier watercourses between Iraq and Iran and the protocols thereto after its entry into force. According to Iraq, in 1980, shortly before the outbreak of the Iran-Iraq war, the Iraqi government formally abolished the agreement and the protocols thereto. Iraq recognizes that the 1975 agreement needs to be activated.

Examples of ongoing processes to conclude new agreements, reported by the Parties, include:

- efforts to establish a transboundary basin organization for the Benito/Ntem, Ogouué, Komo, Nyanga, Woleu and Mouni River basins, currently underway at the level of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) (reported by Cameroon);
- efforts to negotiate new agreements on the Rhône River and Lake Geneva, currently underway between France and Switzerland (reported by France).

Belarus has also reported on efforts, which took place until 2020, to develop an interministerial agreement on cooperation with Latvia over the Daugava/Western Dvina River basin.

In some instances, countries have chosen not to enter into formal agreements or arrangements because only a small proportion of the transboundary basin is shared. For instance, Poland is not a party to the Convention on the International Commission for the Protection of the Elbe due to the small size of its share of the Elbe River basin (0.8%),[86] but it enjoys an observer status in the International Commission for the Protection of the Elbe and also cooperates with Czechia through a 2015 bilateral agreement.[87] Poland is also not party to the 2012 Dniester Treaty,[88] concluded by the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, again due to the size of its share (0.32%),[89] but cooperates with Ukraine on the Strviazh River (left tributary of the Dniester) through a 1996 bilateral agreement.[90]

Box 6: Insights from practice: new agreement on the Amu Darya River between Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan aims to address the growing impacts of climate change

In 2022, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan signed a new intergovernmental Agreement on the Management, Protection and Rational Use of Water Resources of the Amu Darya River. The Agreement includes several provisions on cooperation to facilitate adaptation to climate change.

Through this Agreement, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan recognize that in the context of climate change and growing water scarcity

Bridge over the Amu Darya River near Beruni, Uzbekistan.

[86] The Polish share of the Elbe River basin is 0.8% according to the national report of Poland and 0.16% according to the International Elbe River Basin Management Plan 2022–2027 (2021 Update).

[87] Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Poland and the Government of the Czech Republic on Cooperation on Transboundary Rivers in the field of Water Management (Prague, 20 April 2015).

[88] Treaty between the Government of the Republic of Moldova and the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine on Cooperation in the Field of Protection and Sustainable Development of the Dniester River Basin (Rome, 29 November 2012).

[89] According to the Third national report of Poland (2024).

[90] Agreement between the Government of Ukraine and the Government of Poland on Cooperation in the Field of Water Management on Boundary Waters (Kyiv, 10 October 1996).

in Central Asia, any actions affecting the natural flow of the transboundary Amu Darya River basin, including projects for the construction of new hydrotechnical infrastructure, should be subject to an independent international assessment and be agreed upon by all interested riparian states.

The Agreement also includes an obligation on either Party planning to construct or repair hydrotechnical infrastructure or water management facilities in its territory to coordinate its actions with the other Party.

Lastly, the Agreement includes provisions on the enhanced exchange of data and information and calls for cooperation in the introduction of automatic monitoring stations on the Amu Darya River.

Source: Agreement between the Government of Turkmenistan and the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan on the Management, Protection and Rational Use of Water Resources of the Amy Darya River, signed 14 July 2022.

Box 7: Insights from practice: trilateral Croatian-Hungarian-Serbian cooperation on ice control

No bilateral transboundary water agreement exists between Croatia and Serbia, although the countries share the Danube River basin. However, both countries cooperate within the multilateral frameworks of the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR), the Danube Commission and the International Sava River Basin Commission (ISRBC).

Hungary has signed bilateral water management agreements with both Croatia and Serbia, covering, among other issues, ice protection and control. This has enabled the three countries to establish trilateral Hungarian-Serbian-Croatian cooperation on ice control covering a section of the Danube River of common interest between Dunaföldvar (1,560 river kilometres (rkm) and Vukovar (1,333 rkm). The trilateral minutes regarding ice protection and control were signed by the Permanent Hungarian-Croatian Water Management Commission and the Hungarian-Serbian Water Management Commission at a joint meeting held on 29–30 January 2019 in Komlo-Sikonda, Hungary. Based on this agreement, the Hungarian side activates its icebreakers, when needed, at the request of the interested parties, Croatia and Serbia.

In addition, the Regulation on joint procedure during an ice defence event was revised at a meeting of the Chairs of the Permanent Hungarian-Croatian Water Management Commission and of the Hungarian-Serbian Water Management Commission (the Komlo-Sikonda Minutes).

Source: Third national report of Croatia (2024).

3.2 Geographic scope of agreements and arrangements

What does the Convention say?

In terms of geographic scope, the Water Convention stipulates that riparian Parties must specify the catchment area, or part(s) thereof, subject to cooperation (art. 9 (1)). This requirement is one of the "three musts" in relation to the contents of agreements or arrangements. This requirement also emphasizes the freedom of riparian Parties to determine the scope of the agreements or arrangements into which they enter.[91]

This requirement is supplemented by article 2 (6), which obliges Parties to 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 relevant catchment areas, or parts thereof.

Other important provisions of the Water Convention relating to geographic scope are contained in article 1 (1) and (2), which define "transboundary waters" and "transboundary impact":

[91] See *Guide to Implementing the Water Convention*, paras. 243–244.

> "Transboundary waters" means any surface or ground waters which mark, cross or are located on boundaries between two or more States; wherever transboundary waters flow directly into the sea, these transboundary waters end at a straight line across their respective mouths between points on the low-water line of their banks.
>
> "Transboundary impact" means any significant adverse effect on the environment resulting from a change in the conditions of transboundary waters caused by a human activity, the physical origin of which is situated wholly or in part within an area under the jurisdiction of a Party, within an area under the jurisdiction of another Party. Such effects on the environment include effects on human health and safety, flora, fauna, soil, air, water, climate, landscape and historical monuments or other physical structures or the interaction among these factors; they also include effects on the cultural heritage or socio-economic conditions resulting from alterations to those factors.

Both definitions are holistic in terms of covering all transboundary waters, including rivers, lakes and aquifers. The holistic nature of the term "transboundary waters" is further explained in the *Guide to Implementing the Water Convention*, which states that:

> Transboundary waters should not be limited to a water body (e.g. a river, a lake, an aquifer), but should cover the catchment area of the said water body (or in case of an aquifer, whether confined or unconfined, its entire recharge area). The entire catchment area of a surface water body or a recharge area of the aquifer should be understood as the area receiving the waters from rain or snow melt, which drain downhill (on the surface or below the surface of the ground in the unsaturated or saturated zones) into a surface water body or which infiltrate through the subsoil (i.e. the unsaturated zone) into the aquifer.[92]

What have countries reported?

In terms of geographic scope, countries were requested to state in the reporting template whether an agreement or arrangement specifies the area that is subject to cooperation (sect. II, question 2 (a)). Out of a total of 1,126 responses to this question, 1,010 (or 90%) confirmed that the agreement or arrangement in question specified the area of cooperation. This share (90%) is the same as reported in 2020.

In order to better understand the geographic scope of agreements and arrangements, countries were also asked whether an agreement or arrangement covered an entire basin or group of basins and all riparian States concerned (sect. II, question 2 (a)). Out of a total of 999 responses to this question, only 618 (or 62%) indicated that the agreement or arrangement in question covered the entire basin or group of basins and all riparian States. This share is very similar to the one reported in 2020 (63%).

Where an agreement or arrangement related to a sub-basin, the agreement or arrangement in question covered the entire sub-basin in only 23% of cases (106 out of 466 responses), as compared to 16% in 2020.

Another question in the template relating to geographic scope asked whether an agreement or arrangement related to a river or lake basin or sub-basin also cover aquifers (sect. II, question 2 (b)). Out of a total of 1,102 responses to this question, 907 responses (or 82%) indicated that aquifers were covered by the agreement or arrangement in question, as compared to 74% in the second round in 2020.

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92 Para. 74.

What can we learn from the responses?

While article 9 (1) of the Water Convention requires riparian Parties to stipulate in their agreements or arrangements "the catchment area, or part(s) thereof, subject to cooperation", the responses show that this is not always done. An analysis of the cases where an agreement or arrangement does not specify the catchment area or part(s) thereof suggests that where bilateral agreements and arrangements are concerned more general terms such as "transboundary waters" or "border waters" are used. Ambiguity in the reporting template might also have led to the different approaches taken by countries in their responses, as it was unclear whether question 2 (a) was asking whether the agreement or arrangement should explicitly or implicitly specify the area subject to cooperation. The *Guide to Reporting under the Water Convention and as a Contribution to SDG Indicator 6.5.2* provides some advice to assist countries in formulating their responses to this question.[93]

In terms of the geographic scope of agreements and arrangements, out of 127 reported river and lake basins with agreements, only 105 basins are wholly covered by agreements and 17 are partly covered. Out of 60 reported river and lake sub-basins with agreements, 46 sub-basins are wholly covered and 9 sub-basins are partly covered. In an additional five basins and five sub-basins, different responses from riparian countries, or the absence of a response to the relevant question, meant that it was not possible to ascertain whether or not agreements or arrangements covered an entire basin or sub-basin.

Parties have provided several reasons why agreements or arrangements do not cover entire basins or sub-basins, including a lack of specificity or ambiguity concerning the geographic scope within the agreement or arrangement itself, and a narrow geographic or sectoral focus of the agreement or arrangement. For example, some riparian Parties noted that an agreement or arrangement only covered waters that cross, are located on, or demarcate sovereign borders between them, and that this was the intended scope of cooperation.

However, it is encouraging to note that some Parties are reporting gradual extensions of the geographic scope of their cooperation over time.

The conclusion of agreements dedicated to transboundary aquifers appears to be extremely rare. According to analysis of responses in Section I of the national reports, the vast majority of transboundary aquifers and groundwater bodies that are reported to be entirely or partly covered by agreements or arrangements (at least 301 out of 312) are covered by agreements or arrangements not specific to the aquifer, meaning that such agreements or arrangements relate to both surface waters and groundwaters, in line with the integrated water resources management approach. Four aquifers are covered by both aquifer- or groundwater-specific agreements as well as by agreements not specific to the aquifer.

Parties report six aquifer- or groundwater-specific agreements:

- the legal framework for the establishment of the Joint Authority for the Study and Development of the Nubian Sandstone Aquifer System (shared by Chad, Egypt, Libya and Sudan), initially established in 1989 and further developed during the 1990s (reported by Chad);

- 2016 Agreement between the Lithuanian Geological Survey under the Ministry of Environment of Lithuania and the Latvian Environment, Geology and Meteorology Centre on Cooperation on Cross-border Groundwater Monitoring, partly covering the Permian-Upper Devonian Aquifer of the Venta and Lielupe River basin districts (shared by Latvia and Lithuania), the Upper Devonian and Upper-Middle Devonian Aquifer of the Lielupe River basin district (shared by Latvia and Lithuania) and the Quaternary Aquifer of the Dauguva River basin district (shared by Belarus, Latvia and Lithuania) (reported by Latvia and Lithuania);

[93] pp. 20–21.

- 2012 Agreement between the Lithuanian Geological Survey under the Ministry of Environment of Lithuania and the Belarusian Scientific and Research Institute for Geological Prospecting on Cooperation in the Field of Geology and Hydrogeology, partly covering the Quaternary aquifer of the Dauguva River basin district (shared by Belarus, Latvia and Lithuania) and the Quaternary aquifer of the Nemunas River basin district (shared by Belarus, Lithuania and Poland) (reported by Lithuania);

- 2007 Convention on the Protection, Utilization, Recharge and Monitoring of the French-Swiss Genevese Aquifer, covering the French-Swiss Genevese aquifer (shared by Switzerland and France) (reported by France and Switzerland);

- 2017 Agreement for the provision and exchange of data relating to the management of groundwater in the Carboniferous limestone (shared by Belgium and France) (reported by Belgium);

- 2021 Ministerial Declaration on the Senegalo-Mauritanian Aquifer Basin (shared by the Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritania and Senegal) (reported by Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritania and Senegal).

Even though the number of aquifers not covered by any agreement or arrangement (85 aquifers and groundwater bodies out of a total of 406 reported) should be treated with caution, these findings call for stronger legal and institutional frameworks for cooperation related to groundwaters.

Box 8: Insights from practice: cooperation between Austria and Slovenia on the Karavanke transboundary groundwater body

Cooperation on water management issues between Austria and Slovenia takes place within the framework of two agreements on water economy concluded by Austria and Yugoslavia in 1954: the first relates to the Drava and the second to the frontier sector of the Mura.

Karavanke mountains in Slovenia.

The Karavanke narrow mountainous range stretches along the border between Austria and Slovenia. It consists predominately of calcareous rocks that form large karstic aquifers. The natural conditions in the Karavanke/Karawanken mountain range incentivize the conjunctive management of surface water and groundwater.

In accordance with EU legislation on assessing and protecting the quality and quantity of groundwater using specific management units called "groundwater bodies", Austria and Slovenia identified a groundwater body in the Karavanke mountain range that was officially designated as transboundary. Located in the Drava River basin on the Austrian side of the state border and in the Sava River basin on the Slovenian side, the Karavanke transboundary groundwater body has a surface area of 217 km^2 within the territory of Austria and 141 km^2 within the territory of Slovenia.

Following a 2004 joint decision of both countries, the aquifer is managed by a bilateral working group, the "Reserves of Drinking Water Karavanke", under the Permanent Slovenian-Austrian Commission for the Drava River, within the framework established by the 1954 agreement for the Drava.

Source: Third national report of Slovenia (2024).

Box 9: Insights from practice: cooperation between Poland and Slovakia on the designation of a transboundary groundwater body for the selected pilot part of the Polish-Slovakian border

Cooperation on the designation of a common Polish-Slovakian groundwater body started with exchange of data on existing national groundwater bodies for the selected pilot part of the Polish-Slovakian border. Both countries have identified several national groundwater bodies which will form a joint groundwater body with cross-border scope.

The next step is to integrate the collected data to allow for cross-border interpretation of groundwater recharge and circulation conditions. The associated analyses will include both Polish and Slovak cartography.

Dunajec River in Pieniny National Park in Poland.

An essential element of data integration is the identification of aquifers with transboundary reach, in such a way that the extent of individual aquifers can be graphically designated regardless of the State border. Further research is necessary including the creation of transboundary numerical models of groundwater flows.

Implementation of this process is challenging due to certain formal and legal problems:

- First, the selected area has both ordinary non-mineralized groundwater, intended for supplying the population with water, and thermal waters. Thermal waters are treated as groundwater in Slovakia, and are subject to the EU Water Framework Directive. However, in Poland thermal waters are recognized as a mineral and are subject to the Geological and Mining Law. Therefore, in Poland, for thermal waters it is not necessary to follow the requirements of the Water Framework Directive. For this reason, Poland does not include thermal waters in groundwater bodies.
- Second, there is no uniform methodology for the designation of groundwater bodies in EU Member States. This has consequences for the implementation of cross-border projects, and results in lack of compatibility of groundwater bodies between Member States. Different methods result in problems of interpretation and exclude the use of previously designated national groundwater bodies.

The effort to designate a common Polish-Slovakian transboundary groundwater body is being led by the Water Framework Directive Working Group within the Polish-Slovakian Commission for transboundary waters. This working group has an important role in developing cooperation and overcoming legal barriers. The relevant bodies involved are the Carpathian Branch of the National Geological Institute–National Research Institute in Krakow, Poland, and the State Geological Institute of Dionýz Štúr in Bratislava, Slovakia.

Source: Designation of the transboundary groundwater body for the selected pilot part of the Polish-Slovakian border, statement provided by Poland (2023).[94]

3.3 Functional scope of agreements and arrangements

What does the Convention say?

Article 9 (1) provides that agreements or arrangements should be consistent with the basic principles of the Convention, and must include relevant issues covered by the Convention, as well as any other matters on which the riparian Parties may deem it necessary to cooperate. Article 10 stipulates that riparian Parties must hold consultations at the request of any such Party regarding issues covered by the provisions of the Convention.

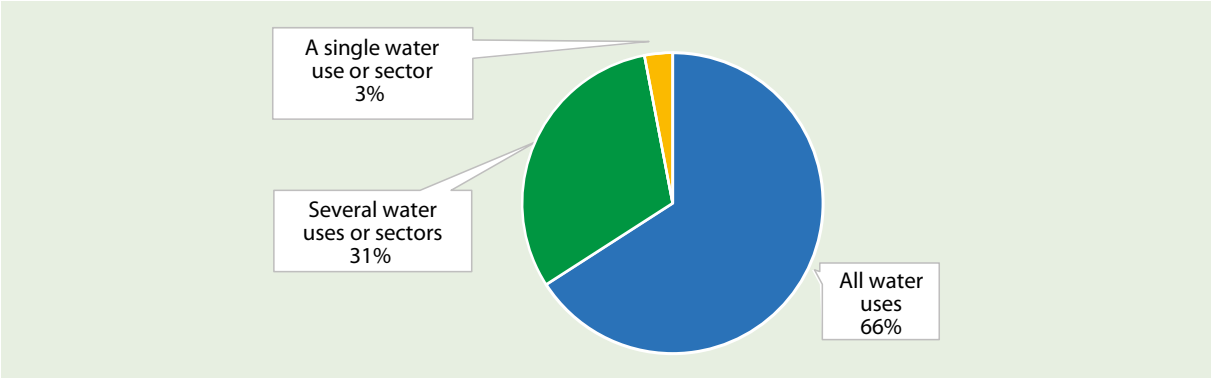
What have countries reported?

The functional scope of agreements and arrangements was addressed through two questions in the template. The first relates to the sectoral scope of agreements and arrangements (sect. II, question 2 (c)); the second concerns the topics or subjects of cooperation included within agreements and arrangements (sect. II, question 2 (d)).

The large majority of responses concerning the sectoral scope of agreements and arrangements indicate that reported agreements and arrangements cover all water uses (figure 7). While the replies also indicate that devoting agreements and arrangements to a single water use or sector is not typical, single water use agreements may in fact be more widespread but under-reported by countries, especially when multisectoral agreements are simultaneously in place.

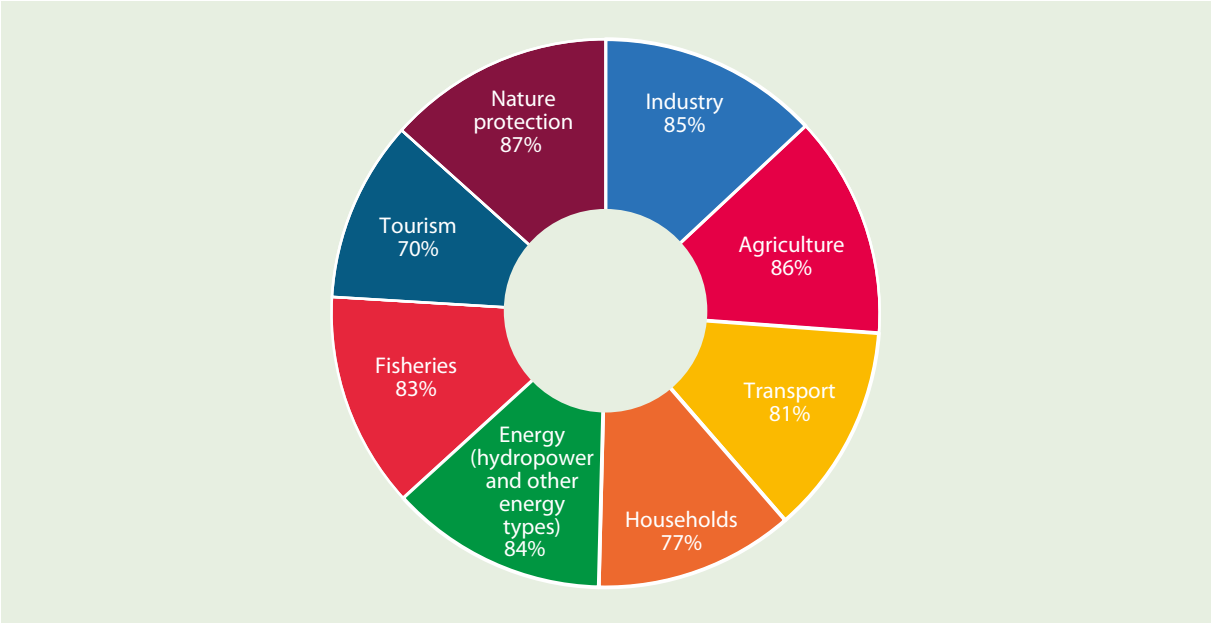
[94] Available at https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2023-11/Item5_Statement%20by%20Poland.pdf

Figure 7 ***Sectoral scope of the agreement or arrangement – based on all (non-consolidated) responses to section II, question 2 (c) for all arrangements in force (2023)***



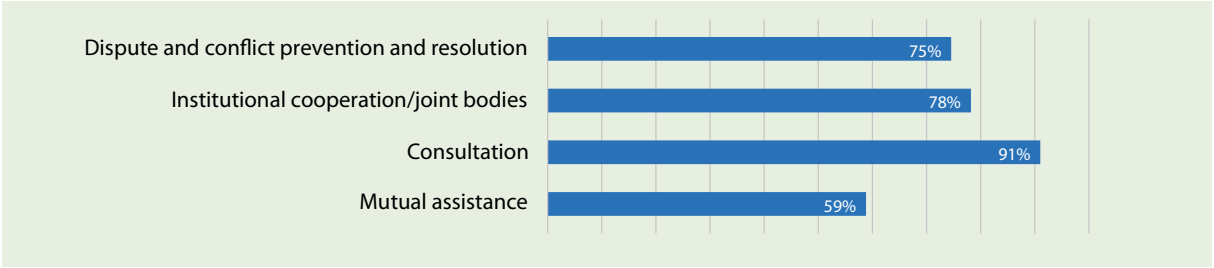
Among agreements and arrangements that cover one or several water uses or sectors, Parties indicated rather broad coverage of sectors, with tourism being generally less represented than other sectors (figure 8). Several Parties explicitly highlighted water management, and one indicated manufacturing as additional sectors not specified in the reporting template. Several Parties specifically highlighted the implementation of EU directives as an area of cooperation.

Figure 8 ***Water uses or sectors covered by the agreement or arrangement – based on all (non-consolidated) responses to section II, question 2 (c) for all arrangements in force (2023)***



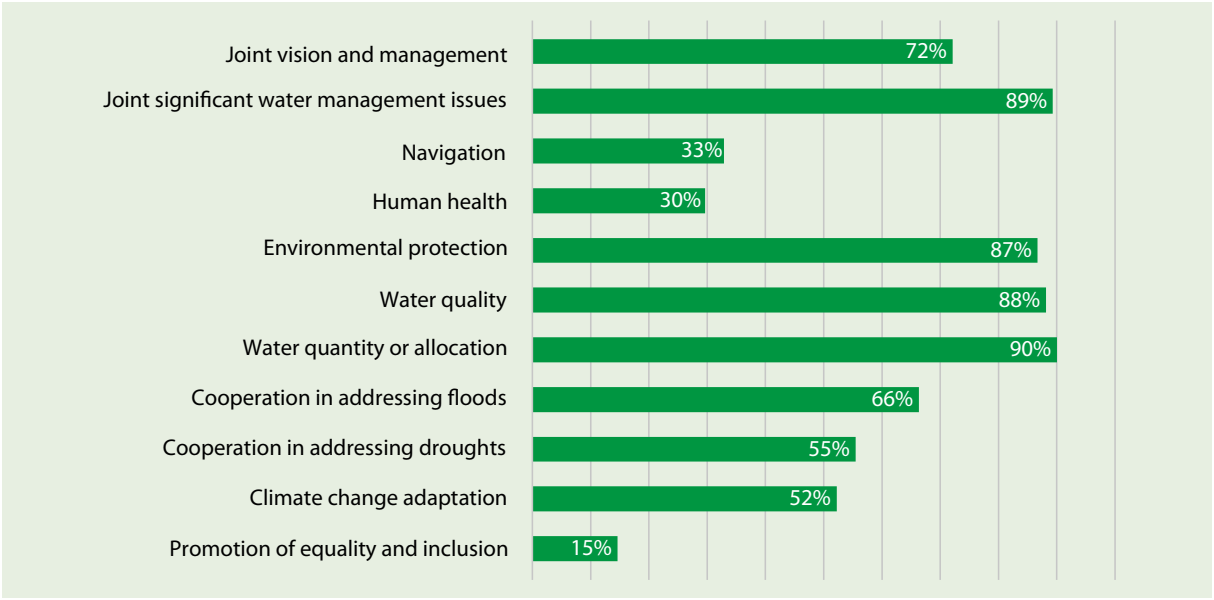
The responses also indicate that a diverse range of topics or subjects of cooperation are reflected in agreements and arrangements. In relation to procedural and institutional mechanisms, nearly all agreements and arrangements include provisions about consultations, three-quarters include provisions related to dispute prevention, and over three-quarters include provisions related to institutional cooperation (joint bodies) (figure 9). Provisions on mutual assistance are less common.

Figure 9 ***Topics or subjects of cooperation included in the agreement or arrangement: procedural and institutional issues – based on all (non-consolidated) responses to section II, question 2 (d) for all arrangements in force (2023)***



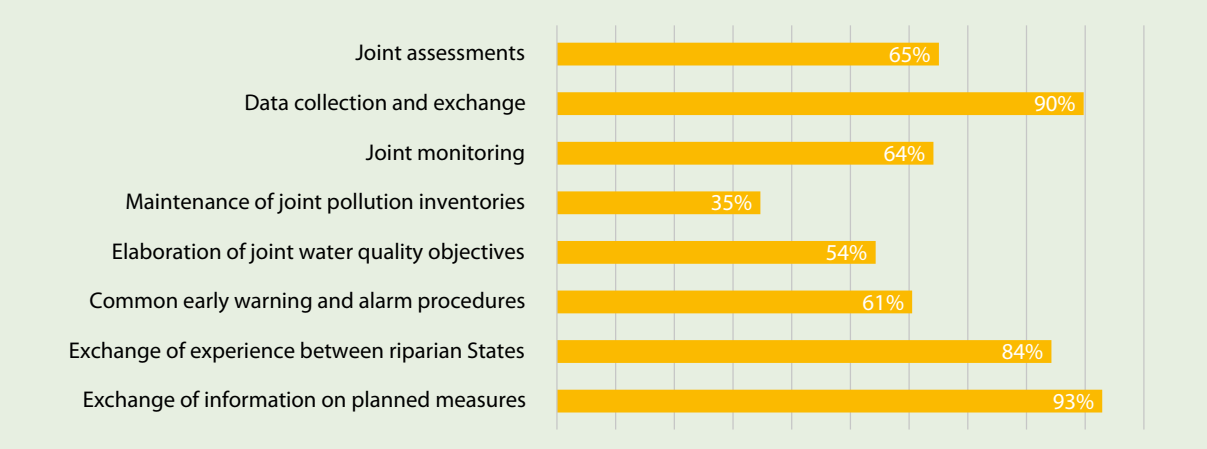
In terms of specific areas of cooperation, "joint significant water management issues", "water quantity or allocation", "water quality" and "environmental protection" are the most commonly cited topics covered in agreements or arrangements, with "human health", "navigation" and "promotion of equality and inclusion" being the least cited topics of cooperation (figure 10). Over half of responses mentioned the inclusion of "climate change adaptation" in agreements.

Figure 10 ***Topics or subjects of cooperation included in the agreement or arrangement: topics of cooperation – based on all (non-consolidated) responses to section II, question 2 (d) for all arrangements in force (2023)***



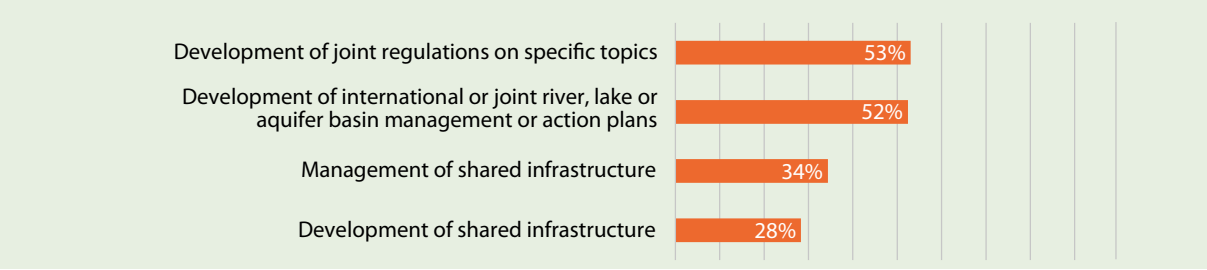
Common features of agreements or arrangements related to the monitoring and exchange of data and information include the exchange of information on planned measures, data collection and exchange, exchange of experience between riparian States, joint assessments, joint monitoring, and common early warning and alarm procedures (figure 11). Less cited features include the maintenance of joint pollution inventories and the elaboration of joint water quality objectives.

Figure 11 Topics or subjects of cooperation included in the agreement or arrangement: monitoring and exchange – based on all (non-consolidated) responses to section II, question 2 (d) for all arrangements in force (2023)



A further area of cooperation represented in the template, but less evident in agreements and arrangements, concerned joint planning and management (figure 12). Slightly over half of responses stated that agreements and arrangements prescribe the development of joint regulations on specific topics and the development of international or joint basin management or action plans.

Figure 12 Topics or subjects of cooperation included in the agreement or arrangement: joint planning and management – based on all (non-consolidated) responses to section II, question 2 (d) for all arrangements in force (2023)



"Other" topics mentioned by countries under question 2 (d) included accidental water pollution (Serbia), protected areas (the Russian Federation) and cooperation on emerging issues, such as reducing the risk from pink salmon (Norway). Several countries also cited coordination in implementing EU directives (Austria, Bulgaria, Hungary, Italy, Norway, Portugal, Romania and Sweden).

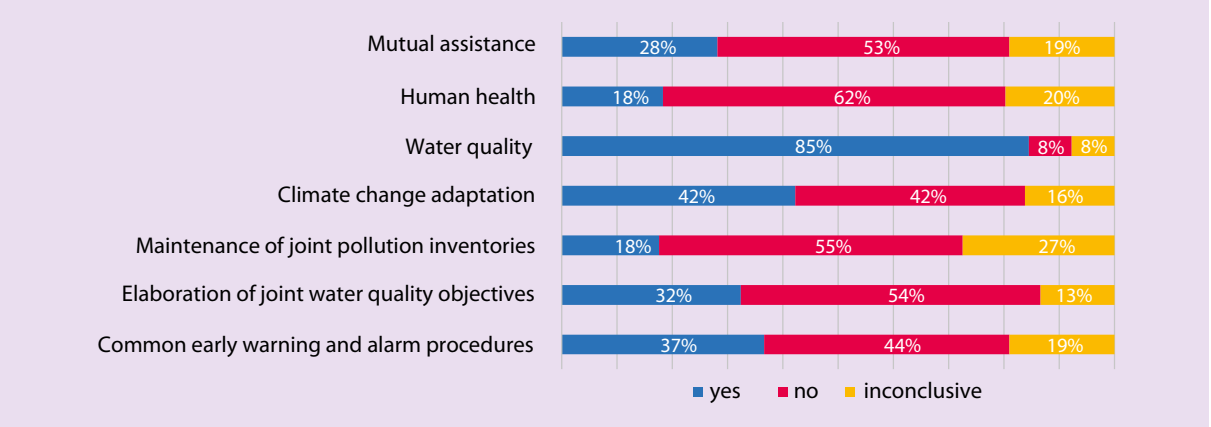
What can we learn from the responses?

The results for section II, question 2 (d), based on all (non-consolidated) responses in the third reporting round (2023), in percentage points, are largely consistent with those received in the second round (2020). The only noticeable increase concerns the topic of "Climate change adaptation" (52% in 2023 vs. 44% in 2020). The responses show that key procedural and institutional issues and matters related to (i) water quality and quantity and monitoring and (ii) exchange of data and information are well reflected in existing agreements and arrangements. They also reflect efforts to implement some core requirements of the Water Convention, such as the establishment of joint bodies (art. 9 (2)), joint monitoring and assessment (art. 11), exchange of information (art. 13), dispute settlement procedures (art. 22) and consultations (art. 10)).

However, the responses suggest that certain provisions of the Water Convention, such as the maintenance of joint pollution inventories (art. 2 (c)), the provision of mutual assistance (art. 15), the elaboration of joint water quality objectives and criteria (art. 9 (2) (e)) and the development of common early warning and alarm systems (art. 14) are not widely provided for in the text of agreements or arrangements. Provisions on human health are poorly represented, which may become more crucial in the future, especially taking into account experiences related to the COVID-19 pandemic. When considered at the basin level (figure 13), a significant percentage of river and lake basins lack provisions related to these topics of cooperation in their agreements or arrangements.

The consolidated analysis of responses at the basin level demonstrates that provisions on climate change adaptation are included among topics of cooperation in 42% of basins in 2023, as compared to 31% in 2020. This result points to increased attention to climate change adaptation within new and existing transboundary water agreements in a growing number of basins, with this topic also being a subject of agreements in basins shared by recent Parties in sub-Saharan Africa. However, further work is still needed to ensure that all basins are able to work on climate change adaptation issues.

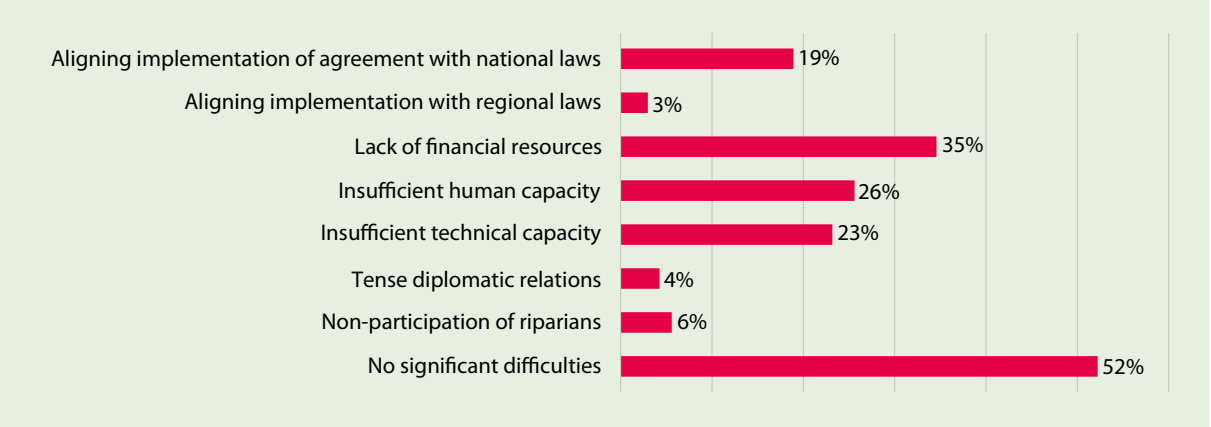
Figure 13 Percentage of river and lake basins where certain topics or subjects of cooperation are included in the arrangement – based on consolidated basin-level responses for section II, question 2 (d) (2023)



3.4 What are the main challenges in implementing agreements and arrangements?

In the reporting template (sect. II, question 2 (e)), Parties were asked to indicate the main difficulties and challenges encountered with agreements and arrangements and their implementation. It is encouraging to see that in over half of responses for all reported agreements and arrangements in force, Parties experienced no significant difficulties in pursuing cooperation. Nevertheless, a lack of financial resources (35%) and insufficient human capacity (26%) were both reported as challenges, followed closely by insufficient technical capacity (23%) (figure 14).

Figure 14 Main difficulties and challenges faced with the arrangement and its implementation – based on all (non-consolidated) responses to section II, question 2 (e) for all arrangements in force (2023)



Additionally, several Parties cited difficulty with reconciling upstream and downstream perspectives, but stated that they had been able to overcome this issue. Siloed sectoral approaches were also reported as challenges.

Certain thematic or substantive issues related to the implementation of agreements and arrangements proved harder to address. In particular, some Parties faced difficulties with:

- delineation of water bodies and classification of the ecological status of transboundary waters when countries have different standards or methodologies in place;
- identification, mapping, description and monitoring of transboundary aquifers and groundwater bodies;
- coordination of monitoring, status assessment and development of measures and plans;
- reaching an agreement on water allocation;
- alignment of plans and activities of joint bodies with changing national policies and programmes.

EU Member States also mentioned specific issues related to:

- difficulties in harmonizing water management regulations between EU Member States and non-member countries;
- the various stages of implementing requirements set out in the Water Framework Directive and the Floods Directive, and differences in water management institutional set-ups at the national level, complicating implementation among countries sharing transboundary waters.

Four Parties to the Convention (Cameroon, Chad, Iraq and Nigeria) indicated challenges in implementing transboundary water cooperation related to security issues. Two Parties (Azerbaijan and Iraq) point out the difficulties related to non-participation of riparian countries in the Water Convention and related difficulties with reaching and implementing transboundary water agreements. Two Parties (Hungary and Slovakia) indicate the absence of final agreement on the final technical solution and operational conditions of the Gabčíkovo-Nagymaros project. Several countries indicate difficulties related to changes in the geopolitical situation as a result of Russia's invasion of Ukraine (see also section 7.2).

Box 10: Insights from practice: Regional Strategy for the Stabilization, Recovery and Resilience of the Boko Haram-affected Areas of the Lake Chad Basin Region

The four riparian countries around Lake Chad – Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Nigeria – are experiencing unprecedented crises exacerbated by violent incidents perpetrated by extremist groups. These crises have deepened instability and slowed economic growth in a sub-region that has historically been characterized by environmental and developmental challenges, even prior to the activities of the Boko Haram terrorist group and the resultant humanitarian crisis.

The Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC) has been tasked by its Member States with organizing and facilitating the mechanisms and processes required for enhanced cross-border cooperation on security and stabilization, early recovery and development. In March 2015, the Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union (AU) authorized the deployment of the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) as an expression of its support to the efforts of the Member States of the LCBC and Benin to "create a safe and secure environment and contribute to stabilizing the situation in the areas affected" by Boko Haram activities.

With the support of the AU, the LCBC has prepared the Regional Strategy for the Stabilization, Recovery and Resilience of the Boko Haram-affected Areas of the Lake Chad Basin Region. The strategy seeks to establish a common approach and an inclusive framework for all stakeholders to support a timely, coordinated and effective transition from stabilization to early recovery and the resumption of stalled development processes.

The Regional Strategy was endorsed and adopted by the LCBC Council of Ministers at an inter-ministerial conference of representatives of the four Boko Haram-affected Lake Chad countries in August 2018. The overall objective of the Strategy is to generate applicable policies and programmes geared towards the short, medium and long-term stabilization and development of the Lake Chad Basin Region.

Lake Chad.

Source: Regional Strategy for the Stabilization, Recovery and Resilience of the Boko Haram-affected Areas of the Lake Chad Basin Region (2018).

3.5 What are the main achievements of implementing agreements and arrangements?

In the reporting template (sect. II, question 2 (f)), riparian Parties were asked to report on the main achievements in implementing agreements and arrangements, and the keys to achieving success. While this was an open question, figures 15 and 16 provide an overview of the replies, which have been clustered in order to illustrate the frequency of responses across Parties. Figure 15 clearly shows that activities to implement agreements and arrangements have resulted in many benefits, including: the exchange of data and information; improved cooperation between countries; adoption of common plans, methodologies and regulations; joint monitoring, studies and assessment; improved planning, management and operations; and better water quality.

Figure 15 Main achievements in implementing the arrangement – based on responses to section II, question 2 (f) (open question) for all arrangements in force (2023)

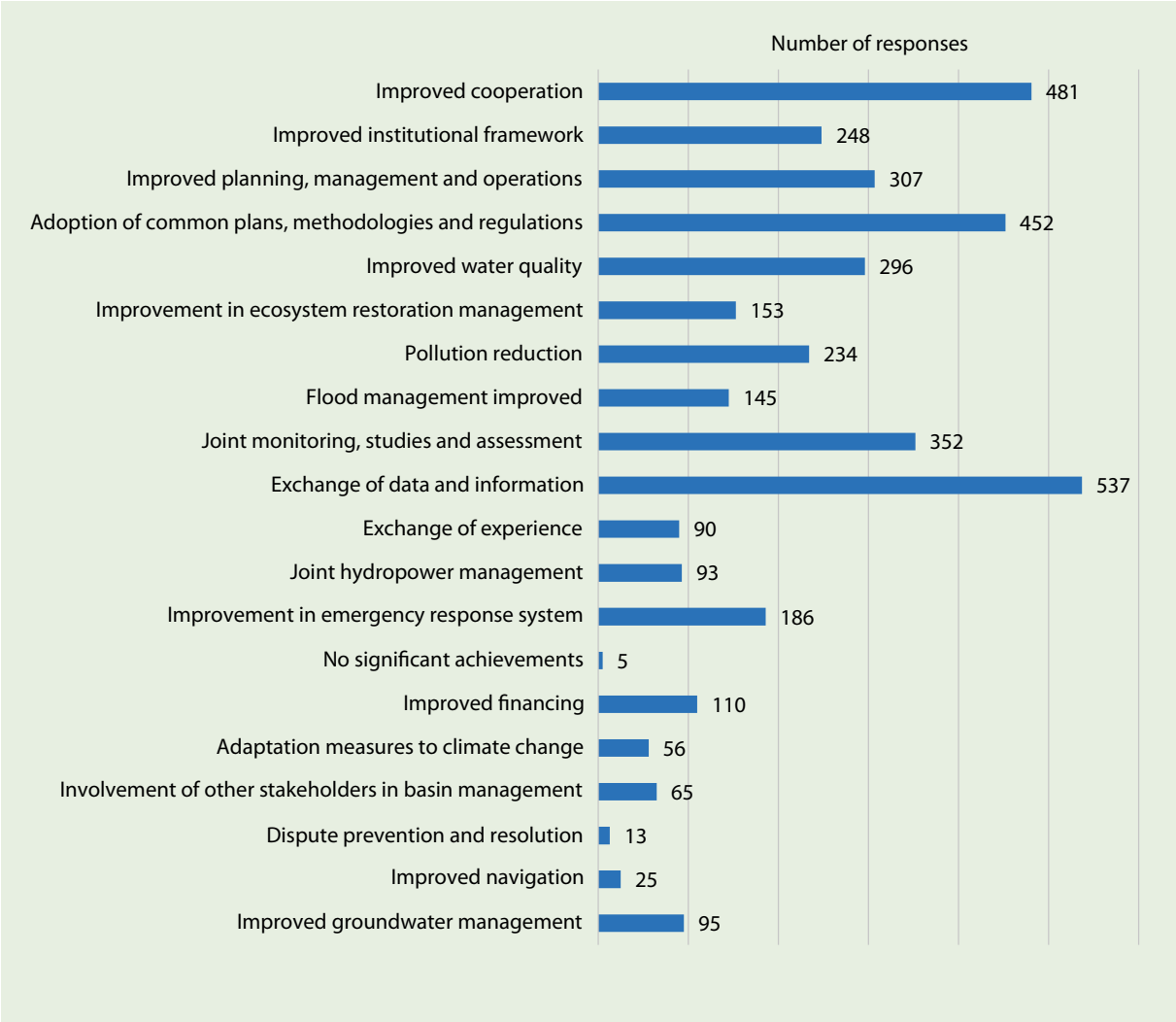
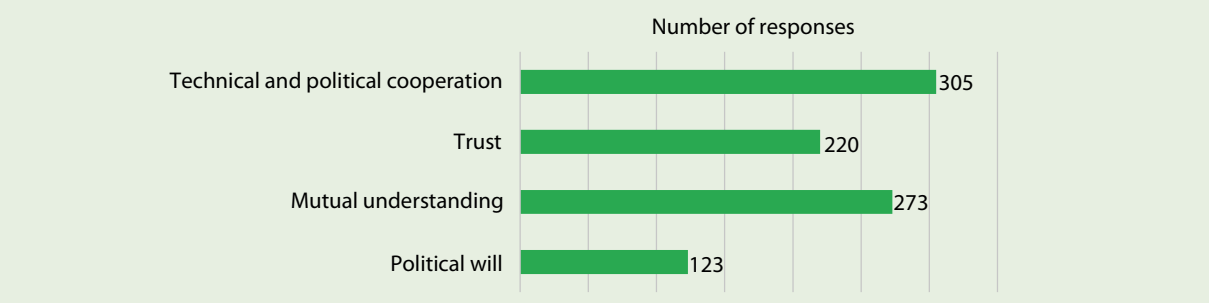


Figure 16 highlights the importance of both technical and political cooperation and mutual understanding, among others, in the successful implementation of agreements and arrangements.

Figure 16 Keys to achieving success – based on responses to section II, question 2 (f) (open question) for all arrangements in force (2023)



Box 11: Insights from practices: achievements of cooperation – the perspective of Croatia

According to Croatia, the main achievements of its bilateral cooperation with Hungary, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Slovenia consist of the discussion and implementation of projects of transboundary relevance (e.g. on flood protection, revitalization of small water bodies and river channels, hydrological measurements), the successful implementation of scientific and investment projects in the water sector, and joint regulation of sanitary zones protection. The main achievement under the bilateral agreement between Croatia and Montenegro is the continuation of water supply for the inhabitants of Herceg Novi through a water supply system which transports water from Bosnia and Herzegovina over Croatian territory to Montenegro.

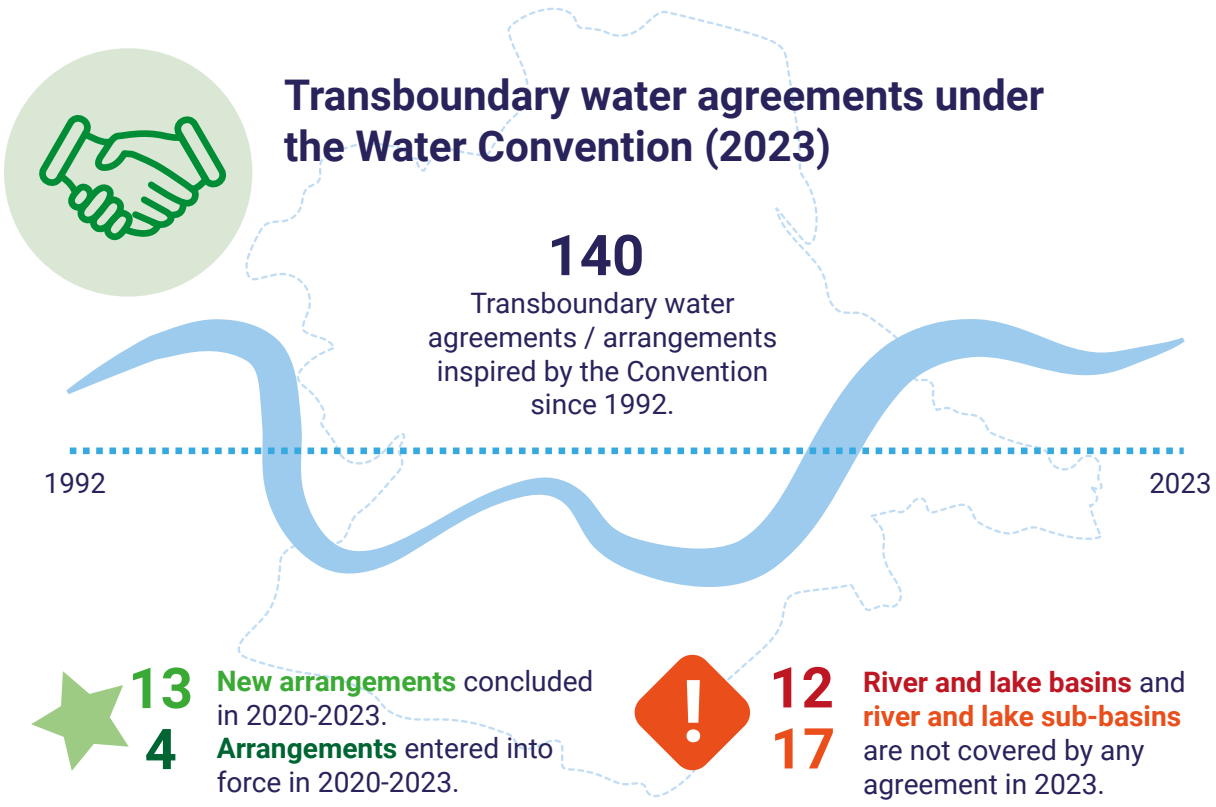
From the perspective of Croatia, the main concrete achievements under the 1994 Danube River Protection Convention are the establishment of the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR), the adoption of the Danube River Basin Management Plan and Flood Risk Management Plan, the operation of the Trans National Monitoring Network, the organization of the regular Joint Danube Survey, and the establishment of an accident prevention control and warning system. These measures led to improvement in the ecological and chemical quality of the Danube River and basin.

Old wooden boat on a flooded Sava River, Zagreb.

The main achievements under the Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin (FASRB) consisted of the establishment of the International Sava River Basin Commission, the adoption of several Protocols to the FASRB; the development and operationalization of the SavaGIS, SavaHIS and Sava ENC platforms for data exchange; the adoption of the Sava River Basin Management Plan and Flood Risk Management Plan; the operationalization of a joint flood forecasting and warning system; improved navigation; and the elaboration of additional financing mechanisms.

Source: Third national report of Croatia (2024).

Infographic 2: Transboundary water agreements under the Water Convention (2023)



Note: Agreements / arrangements refer to those where at least one participating country is a Party to the Water Convention.

Maroni/Marowijne River, shared by France and Suriname.

CHAPTER 4

Agricultural field in Almaty region in Kazakhstan.

JOINT BODIES FOR TRANSBOUNDARY WATER COOPERATION

Key messages

- **Where agreements and arrangements for transboundary waters are in place, in most cases the countries concerned cooperate through a joint body to facilitate their implementation. There are 101 joint bodies for transboundary water cooperation with the participation of at least one Party to the Convention.**
- **In 27 cases of cooperation over river and lake basins, the Parties reported that no joint body existed for a particular agreement or arrangement.**
- **Many of the tasks and activities set out in article 9 (2) of the Water Convention are reflected in the tasks and activities of joint bodies reported by the Parties. However, some tasks and activities, such as the setting of emission limits, maintenance of pollution inventories and participation in transboundary environmental impact assessment, are represented to a lesser degree. Furthermore, few joint bodies undertake tasks related to surveillance and early warning of water-related diseases.**
- **Although positive trends have been observed, there is scope to better integrate climate change adaptation, preparedness for extreme events, and management and prevention of flood or drought risks into the tasks and activities of joint bodies, especially given the challenges posed by climate change.**
- **Gender-related aspects of water management are included in the tasks and activities of joint bodies in only 11% of river and lake basins. Formal requirements to ensure gender-balanced representation in the joint body exist in only one basin (the Volta River basin).**
- **Despite some prominent examples, joint bodies for transboundary water cooperation rarely invite non-riparian coastal States to participate in cooperation.**
- **Although joint bodies offer an effective means to foster long-term cooperation and implement agreements and arrangements, lack of resources represents a key challenge to their operations.**
- **Since the COVID-19 pandemic, many joint bodies have made increasing use of online meeting facilities.**

4.1 The establishment of joint bodies

What does the Convention say?

Article 9 (2) of the Water Convention stipulates that transboundary water agreements and arrangements must provide for the establishment of joint bodies by the riparian Parties.[95] However, the Convention is quite flexible as to the types of joint bodies permissible. Pursuant to the Convention, a "joint body" means any bilateral or multilateral commission or other appropriate arrangements for cooperation between the riparian Parties (art. 1 (5)).

What have countries reported?

Section II, question 3 of the reporting template asks countries to confirm whether or not they are a member of a joint body or bodies for the relevant agreement or arrangement. In 984 (89%) out of a total of 1,114 responses, Parties confirmed that they were a member of a joint body. The reasons given by Parties for not participating in a joint body included:

- the existence of a joint body between the same countries under a different agreement;
- ongoing or planned efforts to establish a joint body;
- the fact that the reporting Party was not part of the joint body concerned due to its small share in the respective basin;
- the reporting Party was not part of, but enjoyed an observer status, in the joint body concerned;
- the discontinuation/suspension of activities of the joint body.

Altogether, 101 joint bodies for transboundary water cooperation with the participation of at least one Party to the Convention were reported in this round.[96] Reported joint bodies are listed in annex IV to the report. Of 101 joint bodies, 77 are bilateral and 24 are multilateral.

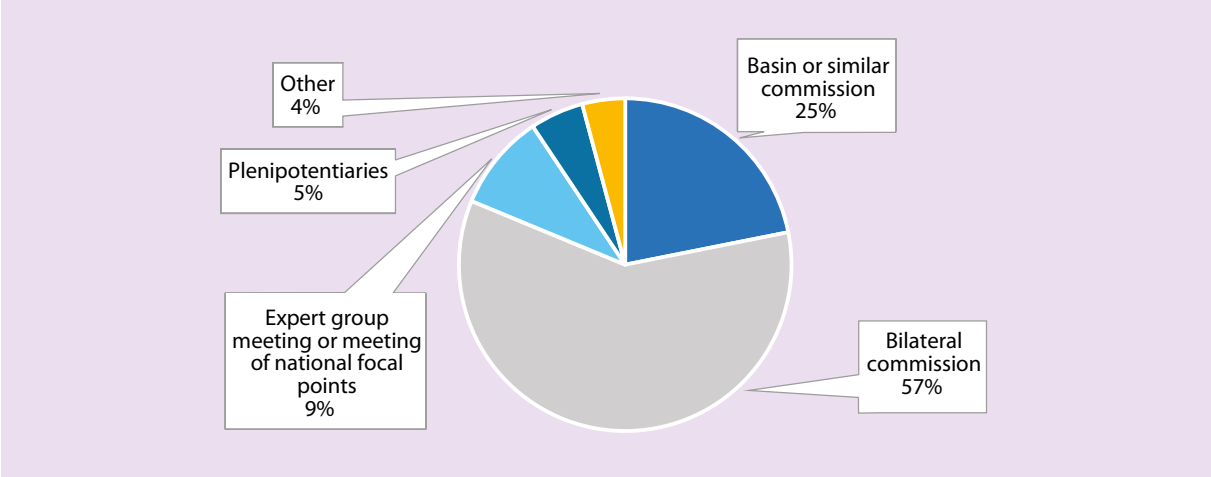
Where countries were members of a joint body, they were asked to specify the type (sect. II, question 3 (a)).

Types of joint bodies include plenipotentiaries, bilateral commissions, basin or similar commissions, expert group meetings or meetings of national focal points, and other institutional arrangements. The replies received from the Parties, consolidated at basin level, indicate that bilateral commissions (58 commissions, or 57%) are the most common type of joint body (figure 17).

[95] See also ECE (2018). *Principles for Effective Joint Bodies for Transboundary Water Cooperation under the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes* (ECE/MP.WAT/50).

[96] Not all of these joint bodies meet regularly.

Figure 17 Types of joint bodies – based on consolidated basin-level responses for section II, question 3 (a) for all countries member of a joint body (2023)



Basin commissions are less widespread, with a total of 25 basin commissions (25%) reported by the Parties.

Examples of 'other' types of joint bodies reported by Parties include:

- national water and environmental authorities (e.g. Norway and Sweden report that the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management and the Norwegian Environment Agency constitute the joint body for the Norwegian-Swedish strategy for transboundary river basins);
- a regional sea commission (Latvia reports that the Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission, also known as the Helsinki Commission (HELCOM), acts as a joint body covering river basin catchments for rivers flowing into the Baltic Sea).

In some cases, Parties reported the existence of joint bodies not specifically focused on water issues (e.g. the joint transboundary cooperation commission, not specialized in the issue of water, reported by France for the Oiapoque/Oyapock/Oyupock River basin shared by Brazil and France, and the River Council, not specialized in the topic of water, reported by France for the Maroni/Marowijne River basin shared by France and Suriname).

The reporting template also included a question asking Parties to indicate whether the established joint body had a secretariat and subsidiary bodies. Out of a total 984 responses to this question, the existence of a secretariat was confirmed in 438 (or 45% of) cases, and the existence of subsidiary bodies in 645 (or 66% of) cases.

The dynamic nature of joint bodies is evidenced in the variety of types of subsidiary bodies established, including task forces and working groups. Parties listed a wide range of topics addressed by these subsidiary bodies, such as floods, water quality, biodiversity, ecosystems, water quantity management, hydraulic engineering, thermal water, hydrogeology or groundwater, hydrometry, strategic planning, accidental water pollution, monitoring, legal administrative/financial issues, information and data management, the Water Framework Directive, economic issues, water infrastructure, tourism, navigation, energy, public participation, river basin management and emergencies. Some countries highlighted the existence of a group/forum of development partners or a scientific committee within their joint bodies. Some countries emphasized the importance of an adaptive institutional structure, including the ability to establish subsidiary bodies, such as expert groups or project groups, as needed. In some cases where a joint body covers several transboundary basins, subsidiary bodies are established for each shared basin or group of shared basins.

Section II, question 3(f) of the template for the third reporting exercise asks countries whether sex-disaggregated data are collected on the membership and/or staff of the joint body or mechanism and invites them to provide additional information on the type of data collected, the percentage split of men and women within the joint body or mechanism, and requirements related to gender-balance within the regulations of the joint body or mechanism.

Two-thirds of Parties (32 out of 48) did not respond to this open-ended question. One-third (16 out of 48) stated that they had undertaken a search for sex-disaggregated data and/or requirements related to gender-balance within the regulations of the joint body or mechanism, but found no such data and/or requirements in the regulations of the joint body or mechanism. Some of these 16 Parties cited requirements on gender equality present in their national laws, regulations and strategic documents. On a positive note, 8 out of the 16 Parties, namely Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Finland, Ghana, Italy, Poland, the Republic of Moldova and Togo, provided sex-disaggregated information on membership of at least one joint body or subsidiary bodies and/or staff of the secretariat, having attempted to locate such information in response to the question in the reporting template. Only one Party, Ghana, indicated the existence of formal requirements related to gender-balanced representation in the joint body. These are set out in the 2018 Water Charter for the Volta River Basin.

Some Parties noted that non-discrimination provisions were included in the statutes or staff rules of joint bodies in which they participate. For example, the Staff Regulations of the ICPDR provide that recruitment shall be subject to open competition among nationals of Contracting Parties without regard to race, colour, gender, mother tongue, religion and beliefs, or to national, ethnic or social origin.[97]

No Parties reported the existence of dedicated gender equality strategies in joint bodies for transboundary water cooperation in which they participate.[98]

What can we learn from the responses?

The responses demonstrate the central role that joint bodies play in the implementation of agreements and arrangements, in accordance with article 9 of the Water Convention.

In 27 instances of cooperation in river and lake basins and 6 instances of cooperation in sub-basins, the Parties reported that there was no joint body **for a particular agreement or arrangement**. In five of these cases (the Daugava/Western Dvina,[99] Dnieper,[100] Neman/Nemunas,[101] Vistula[102] and Struma/Strymonas[103] River basins), at least one other joint body has been established within the basin pursuant to another agreement or arrangement. However, different responses received from riparian countries meant that it was not possible to determine whether a joint body exists in 11 other river and lake basins (the Aoos/Vijose/Vjosa,[104] Axios/Vardar,[105] Azov Sea River basins (Mius, Krinka and Sukhoi Elanchyk),[106] Bia,[107]

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97 ICPDR (2014). Staff Regulations of the ICPDR, para 3.1.

98 Examples of such strategies featuring the participation of non-Parties include: the Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) Strategy (2021–2025) of the Limpopo Watercourse Commission (LIMCOM), 2021; the Gender Mainstreaming Strategy and Implementation Plan of the Permanent Okavango River Basin Water Commission (OKACOM), 2020; the Gender Mainstreaming Strategy of the Orange-Senqu River Basin Commission (ORASECOM), 2014; and the Gender Mainstreaming Strategy and Implementation Plan of the Zambezi Watercourse Commission (ZAMCOM), 2018.

99 Shared by Belarus, Latvia, Lithuania and the Russian Federation.

100 Shared by Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine.

101 Shared by Belarus, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and the Russian Federation.

102 Shared by Belarus, Poland, Slovakia and Ukraine.

103 Shared by Bulgaria, Greece, North Macedonia and Serbia.

104 Shared by Albania and Greece.

105 Shared by Greece, North Macedonia and Serbia.

106 Shared by the Russian Federation and Ukraine.

107 Shared by Côte d'Ivoire (considered as a non-Party for the third round of reporting) and Ghana.

Don,[108] Hari/Harirud,[109] Lava/Pregel/Pregolas,[110] Sulak[111] and Terek/Tergi[112] River basins, Lake Dojran/Doirani[113] and Lake Jandari[114] basins), and in 3 river sub-basins (Alazani/Ganyh,[115] Iori/Gabirri,[116] Khrami/Ktsia).[117] The 11 river basins with no existing joint body are Jacobs/Grense Jakobselv/Voriema,[118] Tano[119] and a group of 9 river basins shared by Turkmenistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran (the Archabil, Archinyan/Archangan, Atrek/Atrak, Chaacha, Kazgan Chai/Zenginanlou, Kelte-Chinar, Lainsu, Meana/Kara-Tikan and Nafte (Kelat Chai) River basins). The three river sub-basins with no existing joint body are Rio Marano,[120] Torrente Ausa[121] and Torrente San Marino.[122] It should be noted, however, that the Jandari Lake basin and the Bia, Hari/Harirud, Sulak, Tano and Terek/Tergi River basins, and a group of nine river basins shared by Turkmenistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran, as well as all sub-basins mentioned here, are shared with non-Parties to the Water Convention.

For a group of nine river basins shared by Turkmenistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran (a non-Party to the Water Convention), Turkmenistan reports that no joint body exists, but that meetings are held and the creation of a coordination commission on water management is under consideration.

In the Torne/Tornionjoki/Tornealven[123] River basin, the joint body is a bilateral commission of Finland and Sweden. In the Kemi/Kemijoki[124] River basin, the joint body is a bilateral commission of Finland and the Russian Federation. Although a riparian of both of these basins, Norway does not participate in the associated joint bodies due to its very small share of the basins concerned and the absence of pressures on water resources in the Norwegian parts of these basins.

In several instances, Parties reported that a joint body exists in spite of the lack of a current agreement in force. Togo also explained that the joint body for the Mono[125] River basin – the Mono Basin Authority – was already in operation prior to the entry into force of the Convention on the Status of the Mono River and Establishment of the Mono Basin Authority.[126] In some parts of the Danube River basin,[127] cooperation occurs between some neighbouring countries within the framework of the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River, which functions as a joint body in the absence of a bilateral agreement and a bilateral joint body of those neighbouring countries. For example, Serbia states that it cooperates with other riparian States on the Dragovistica,[128] Timok[129] and Nisava[130] sub-basins within the framework of the ICPDR.

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108 Shared by the Russian Federation and Ukraine.
109 Shared by Afghanistan (non-Party), the Islamic Republic of Iran (non-Party) and Turkmenistan.
110 Shared by Lithuania, Poland and the Russian Federation.
111 Shared by Georgia (non-Party) and the Russian Federation.
112 Shared by Georgia (non-Party) and the Russian Federation.
113 Shared by Greece and North Macedonia.
114 Shared by Georgia (non-Party) and Azerbaijan.
115 Shared by Azerbaijan and Georgia (non-Party).
116 Shared by Azerbaijan and Georgia (non-Party).
117 Shared by Armenia (non-Party), Azerbaijan and Georgia (non-Party).
118 Shared by Norway and the Russian Federation.
119 Shared by Côte d'Ivoire (considered as a non-Party for the third round of reporting) and Ghana.
120 Shared by Italy and San Marino (non-Party).
121 Shared by Italy and San Marino (non-Party).
122 Shared by Italy and San Marino (non-Party).
123 Shared by Finland, Norway and Sweden.
124 Shared by Finland, Norway and the Russian Federation.
125 Shared by Benin (non-Party) and Togo.
126 The Convention on the Status of the Mono River and Establishment of the Mono Basin Authority of 30 December 2014 has been ratified by Togo in 2023 and by Benin in 2024. The Mono Basin Authority commenced operations in 2019.
127 Shared by Albania, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Poland, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, the Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia, Switzerland and Ukraine.
128 Shared by Bulgaria, North Macedonia and Serbia.
129 Shared by Bulgaria and Serbia.
130 Shared by Bulgaria and Serbia.

In the case of river basins shared by Poland and the Russian Federation, such as the Banowka, Lava/Pregel/Pregolas and Prohladnaja/Swieza, Poland states that the 1964 Agreement between the Government of the Polish People's Republic and the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics Concerning the Use of Water Resources in Frontier Waters is still formally in force, but is no longer implemented. As a consequence, there is no joint body in place at present and there is a need for a new agreement. Responses received from the Russian Federation make no mention of the 1964 Agreement but do mention the existence of two other bilateral agreements on environmental protection[131] and cooperation between regions,[132] although joint bodies have not been established for either agreement.

In basins shared by the Russian Federation and Ukraine, such as the Azov Sea River basins (Mius, Krinka, Sukhoi Elanchyk) and the Dnieper and Don River basins, Ukraine reports that the 1992 Agreement between the Government of Ukraine and the Government of the Russian Federation on Joint Management and Protection of Transboundary Water Bodies was terminated due to a fundamental change of circumstances. Furthermore, as reported by Ukraine, cooperation with Belarus over the Dnieper River basin[133] has ceased since 24 February 2022, with no further meetings of the joint body.

In only a few cases did Parties report that a joint body has been established but does not meet regularly (sect. II, question 3 (i)). These include:

- the joint transboundary cooperation commission, which while not specifically focused on water issues provides the framework for cooperation in the Oiapoque/Oyapock/Oyupock River basin shared by Brazil and France (as reported by France);

- the river council, which while not specifically focused on water issues serves as a framework for cooperation in the Maroni/Marowijne River basin shared by France and Suriname (as reported by France);

- the bilateral commission established under the 1959 agreement between Greece and Yugoslavia, of relevance for the Axios/Vardar River and the Dojran/Doirani Lake, shared by Greece and North Macedonia (as reported by Greece);

- the joint Iraq-Türkiye committee for economic and technical cooperation – in which the Syrian Arab Republic also participates at certain moments – established under the minutes of a meeting in 1980, with subsequent meetings suspended in 1992 and resumed in 2014, albeit not regularly, and relevant for cooperation in: the Tigris River basin shared by the Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Türkiye and the Syrian Arab Republic; the Lesser Zab, Diyala and Tigris Eastern Tributaries sub-basins, shared by Iran and Iraq; and the Greater Zab River sub-basin shared by Iraq and Türkiye (as reported by Iraq);

- Plenipotentiaries of the Governments established under the 2001 bilateral agreement between Belarus and Ukraine and relevant for the Dnieper River basin, the Pripyat/Prypyats River sub-basin and the Bug River sub-basin (as reported by Belarus);

- Plenipotentiaries of the Governments established under the 1992 bilateral agreement between the Russian Federation and Ukraine and relevant for the Azov Sea River basins (Mius, Krinka, Sukhoi Elanchyk), and the Don and Dnieper River basins (as reported by the Russian Federation).

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131 Agreement between the Government of the Russian Federation and the Government of Poland on Cooperation in the Field of Environmental Protection (25 August 1993), reported by the Russian Federation as not having entered into force.

132 Agreement between the Government of the Russian Federation and the Government of the Republic of Poland on cooperation between Kaliningrad Oblast of the Russian Federation and the north-eastern voivodeships of the Republic of Poland (22 May 1992).

133 Shared by Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine.

Regarding the Jacobs/Grense Jakobselv/Voriema River basin, shared by Norway and the Russian Federation, the latter Party states that although a joint body as such is absent under the bilateral 1971 Agreement Regulating the Fishing and Conserving the Fish Stocks in the Grense Jakob River (Voriema) and Pasvik River (Paatsjoki), the Parties meet when necessary to amend fishing regulations.

The COVID-19 pandemic had a limited impact on the regularity of meetings of joint bodies in the period under review. Many countries reported increased use of online meetings by their joint bodies as well as increased use of online tools for data and information exchange.

Box 12: Insights from practice: operationalizing joint bodies for the Prespa Park Area

The 2010 Agreement on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Prespa Park Area entered into force on 29 May 2019. The agreement brings together Albania, Greece, North Macedonia and the European Union and provides for cooperation to ensure the integrated protection of the ecosystem and sustainable development of the Prespa Park Area, including the development of integrated river basin management plans.

The appointment of representatives of the four parties to joint bodies established by the agreement – the Prespa Park Management Committee (a successor to the Prespa Park Coordination Committee), the Secretariat of the Committee and the Working Group on Water Management – was completed in February 2021.

The first Inaugural kick-off Meeting of the High-Level Segment of the Agreement, organized under the initiative of Greece on 29 June 2021, provided political guidance for the Committee and the Working Group to initiate their practical work.

In June 2022, the process was reinvigorated through the first in-person meetings of the Prespa Park Management Committee and the Working Group on Water Management in Pyli, Prespa, hosted by Greece, which set out the priorities and work programme for technical cooperation between the riparians. In January 2023, the second meetings of the Prespa Park Management Committee and the Working Group on Water Management took place virtually, leading to an agreement on the road map for implementing joint priorities for water management,

Small Prespa Lake, Greece.

namely the development of a shared River Basin Management Plan, the overarching principles for updating the 2002 "Strategic Action Plan for the Sustainable Development of the Prespa Park Area", as well as the setting up a new Working Group on Sustainable Tourism (under the Prespa Park Management Committee).

Source: Third national report of Greece (2024).

Box 13: Insights from practice: requirements related to gender balance in the Water Charter for the Volta River basin

The Volta River basin is shared by the Republic of Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mali and Togo, who cooperate within the framework of the Volta Basin Authority. The 2007 Convention on the Status of the Volta River and the Establishment of the Volta Basin Authority was complemented by the adoption of the Water Charter for the Volta River Basin in 2018, which aimed to improve the level of cooperation among riparian states.

The Water Charter makes explicit mention of gender equality among its fundamental principles, affirming that "the interests and contributions of women, men and the vulnerable portions of society are taken into account in policy formulation, capacity-building, planning, development and investment on the water sector" (Article 4).

The Water Charter also specifies several important areas for consideration of gender issues:

Article 131. Consideration of gender issues
The [Volta Basin] Authority and the State Parties undertake to pay special attention to the interests and contributions of women, men and vulnerable people in terms of:

a) Decision-making about water and the environment, in particular when developing and adopting policy and legislation on water and the environment, and when formulating, performing and assessing development policies, programmes and projects;

b) The right to water and sanitation;

c) Capacity building;

d) Investment operations in the water sector.

Volta river in southern Ghana.

In addition, the Water Charter stipulates a requirement for gender-balanced representation:

Article 139. Equitable representation of gender
Through its cooperation with the State Parties, the [Volta Basin] Authority shall make sure of the equitable representation of gender in the organs created in the frame of the present Water Charter.

As mentioned by Ghana in its national report, in 2023, the Secretariat of the Volta Basin Authority had 16 staff members of which 7 (43.75%) were women. Since the Secretariat existed prior to the Water Charter, it cannot be stated emphatically that article 139 influenced the above gender disaggregation. However, the gender-related requirements of the Water Charter constitute important tools to promote gender-balanced representation and consideration of gender issues in the basin.

Source: Third national report of Ghana (2023).

Box 14: Insights from practice: examples of replies regarding sex-disaggregated data on the membership and/or staff of the joint body in the reports of Finland and Poland

Finland

- ✓ There is no specific data collection process for membership of joint bodies with the participation of Finland, such as the Finnish-Swedish Transboundary River Commission, the Finnish-Norwegian Transboundary Water Commission and the Finnish-Russian Transboundary Water Commission.
- ✓ In 2023, one in three Finnish members of the Finnish-Russian Transboundary Water Commission was a woman (the chair), and one in three deputy members was also a woman.
- ✓ There are no formal requirements related to gender balance in transboundary water agreements. However, for Finnish members, based on the Act on Equality between Women and Men (609/1986), authorities must promote equality between women and men purposefully and systematically, and must create and consolidate administrative and operating practices to ensure the advancement of equality between women and men in preparatory work undertaken on different matters and in decision-making. This requirement is also reflected in the nomination of members to the bilateral commissions.

Poland

- ✓ According to the Constitution of the Republic of Poland, women and men have equal rights to education, employment and promotion, to equal pay for work of equal value, and to hold positions, perform functions and obtain public dignities and decorations.
- ✓ There is no specific data collection process for membership of joint bodies. In 2023, four out of five Polish chairs of the bilateral commissions were women. One bilateral commission (Polish-Ukrainian) is co-led by a Plenipotentiary of the Polish Government, who is a man, but his deputy is a woman. The head of the Polish Delegation to the International Commission for the Protection of the Oder against Pollution (ICPO) is also a woman. Regarding Polish-Belarussian cooperation, a woman has been nominated as a chair. The above numbers result in a 6:1 ratio for women and men.
- ✓ There are no formal requirements related to gender-balance in transboundary water agreements. While this depends on the joint body, the percentage of women in units of joint bodies varies from 40% (some working groups) to 75% (ICPO Secretariat).

Source: Third national reports of Finland (2023) and Poland (2024).

4.2 Tasks and activities of joint bodies

What does the Convention say?

In addition to stipulating that joint bodies must be in place, article 9 (2) of the Water Convention includes a non-exhaustive list of tasks that joint bodies must carry out, including to:

- collect, compile and evaluate data in order to identify pollution sources likely to cause transboundary impact;
- elaborate joint monitoring programmes concerning water quality and quantity;
- establish inventories and exchange information on pollution sources;
- elaborate emission limits for wastewater and evaluate the effectiveness of control programmes;
- elaborate joint water quality objectives and criteria, and proposals for measures for maintaining and, where necessary, improving the existing water quality;
- develop concerted action programmes for the reduction of pollution loads from both point and diffuse sources;
- establish warning and alarm procedures;
- serve as a forum for the exchange of information on existing and planned uses of water and related installations likely to cause transboundary impact;
- promote cooperation and the exchange of information on the best available technology, as well as encourage cooperation in scientific research programmes;
- participate in the implementation of environmental impact assessments relating to transboundary waters.

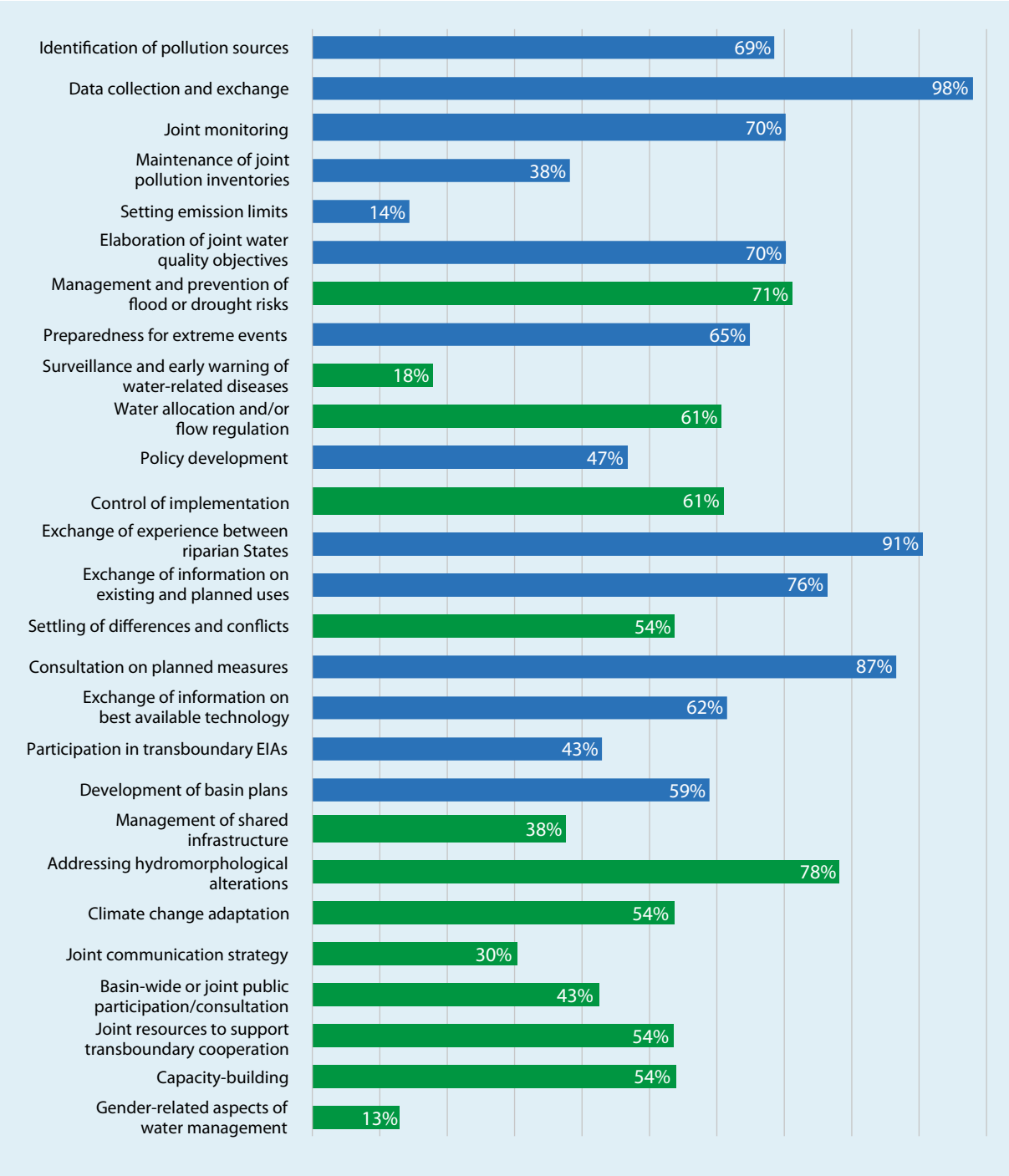
In addition to the tasks set out in article 9, the Water Convention stipulates that joint bodies may serve as the framework for consultations (art. 10), joint monitoring and assessment (art. 11), common research and development (art. 12) and exchange of information (art. 13). They may also be instrumental for the implementation of other requirements under the Convention, for example, on public information (art. 16).

Furthermore, the Convention encourages cooperation between multilateral joint bodies established by riparian Parties with non-riparian coastal States that are Parties to the Convention (art. 9 (3)) and requires cooperation between joint bodies established under the Convention and relevant joint bodies established by coastal States for the protection of the marine environment (art. 9 (4)).

What have countries reported?

Section II, question 3 (g) of the reporting template asks countries to report on the tasks and activities of any established joint bodies. Figure 18 provides an overview of the responses, highlighting the tasks and activities explicitly provided for under article 9 (2) of the Water Convention (blue) and those that are not (green).

Figure 18 Tasks and activities of joint bodies (art. 9 (2)) – based on all (non-consolidated) responses to section II, question 3 (g) for all countries member of a joint body (2023)



When asked whether a joint body had ever invited a non-riparian coastal State to cooperate (sect. II, question 3 (k)), an overwhelming majority of responses (837 out of 971, or 86%) indicated that this was not the case.

What can we learn from the responses?

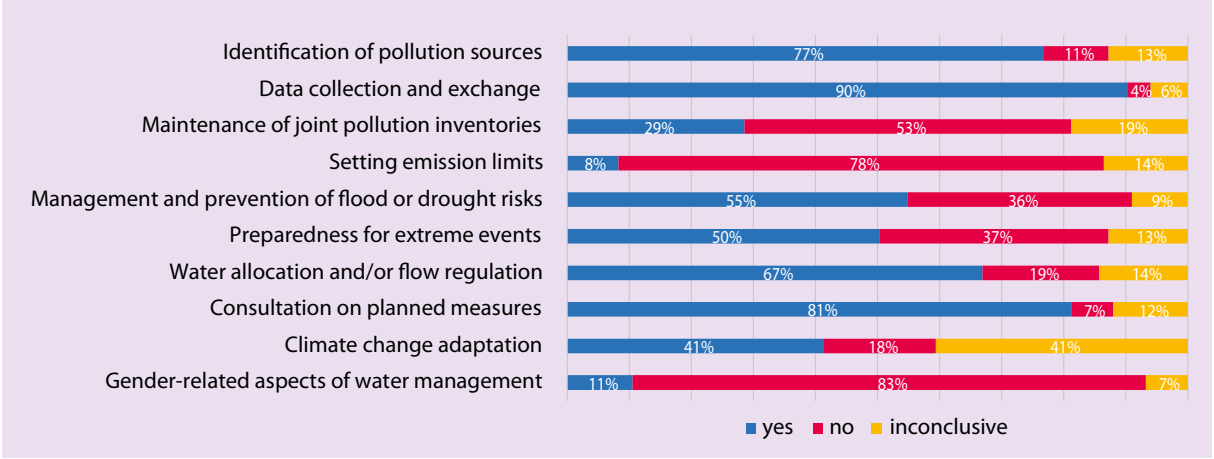
Some of the tasks stipulated in article 9 (2) of the Water Convention are more frequently included in the tasks of joint bodies than others. For instance, tasks and activities related to setting emission limits, maintenance of joint pollution inventories and participation in transboundary EIAs are less well represented. Some other activities, not stipulated in article 9 (2), such as gender-related aspects of water management, surveillance and early warning of water-related diseases, joint communication strategies, management of

shared infrastructure, basin-wide or joint public participation and consultation, also do not appear to be widespread.

The consolidated analysis of responses for river and lake basins (figure 19) supports the above conclusions, demonstrating that tasks related to setting emission limits, gender-related aspects of water management and maintenance of joint pollution inventories are stipulated for joint bodies in only a limited number of basins (8%, 11% and 29%, respectively).

The consolidated analysis of responses for river and lake basins also shows that while climate change adaptation figures among the tasks of joint bodies in at least 41% of river and lake basins, with preparedness for extreme events and management and prevention of flood or drought risks being among the tasks in over half of basins, there is scope to better integrate these issues into the agenda of joint bodies, especially given the challenges posed by climate change. The slight increase in the share of river and lake basins where climate change adaptation is present among the tasks of joint bodies (from 37% in 2020 to 41% in 2023) is related mostly to the results for river and lake basins shared by new Parties in sub-Saharan Africa.

Figure 19 Percentage of river and lake basins where certain tasks and activities of joint bodies are included (art. 9 (2)) – based on consolidated basin-level responses for section II, question 3 (g) (2023)



It should be noted that in their responses to section II, question 3 (g), some Parties replied based on the tasks of a joint body listed in the text of an agreement and others on the actual day-to-day activities carried out.[134]

Although the responses indicate that joint bodies for transboundary water cooperation established by Parties to the Convention rarely invite non-riparian coastal States to cooperate, it needs to be noted that, here, the Convention refers only to multilateral, rather than bilateral, joint bodies, whereas the reporting template in section II, question 3 (k), does not make such a distinction. Nevertheless, even where multilateral joint bodies for transboundary water cooperation established by Parties to the Convention exist, the practice of inviting non-riparian coastal States to cooperate is not widespread.

Among the few examples is one reported by Chad and Nigeria where cooperation has extended beyond water and environmental issues. The Lake Chad Basin Commission reportedly cooperates closely with Benin, a coastal State not riparian to Lake Chad. Benin takes part in the multinational joint task force established to deal with cross-border security issues in the Lake Chad region. Furthermore, according to Chad, the Democratic Republic of Congo has also been invited to cooperate with the Lake Chad Basin Commission on discussions regarding a possible project to transfer water from the Oubangui to Lake Chad.

[134] This is in line with the *Guide to Reporting under the Water Convention and as a Contribution to SDG Indicator 6.5.2*, p. 31.

In the vast majority of cases, Parties that provided a negative reply to question 3 (k) indicated that the relevant coastal States were also riparian States and already members of the joint body or mechanism. It was evident from these replies that the Parties interpreted article 9 (3) in a restrictive sense, referring to the inclusion of coastal States that were also riparian States for their transboundary waters, whereas article 9 (3) and question 3 (k) of the template refer to cooperation with non-riparian coastal States.

Parties highlighted two cases[135] where multilateral joint bodies for transboundary water cooperation established formal cooperation with joint bodies set up by coastal States for the protection of the marine environment, as required by article 9 (4) of the Convention:

- The International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine cooperates with the Commission in charge of implementing the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic (OSPAR Convention), namely the OSPAR Commission. It also cooperates with the Helsinki Commission (HELCOM) established under the Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area.
- The International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River cooperates with other coastal States that are Parties to the Convention on the Protection of the Black Sea against Pollution and are involved in activities of the Black Sea Commission.[136]

Overall, the responses to question 3 (k) demonstrate the continued need to enhance understanding and implementation of the requirements of the Water Convention with regard to protection of the marine environment influenced by transboundary waters, in particular articles 2 (6) and 9 (3) and (4).

Box 15: Insights from practice: Lithuania's National Water Development Plan 2022–2027 addresses pollution of the Baltic Sea

Lithuania's new strategic document – the National Water Development Plan 2022–2027 – aims to reduce the entry of eutrophication-promoting nutrients into the Baltic Sea, diminish the input and impact of hazardous substances, minimize the disturbance of species as well as their habitats and migration, and lessen the risk of the appearance of new non-native animal species.

The Plan consists of four parts: surface and underground inland waters, flood prevention, water management and the marine environment. Measures to improve the state of the Baltic Sea included in the Plan concern the following areas: biodiversity, non-native species, commercial fish stocks, eutrophication, seabed disturbance, pollutants, marine litter and underwater noise. The National Water Development Plan 2022–2027 is supported by a dedicated Implementation Plan.

Source: Third national report of Lithuania (2023); Dūdaitė, E. (2022), "National Water Development Plan 2022–2027", presentation. Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania.

Baltic Sea near Klaipeda city, Lithuania.

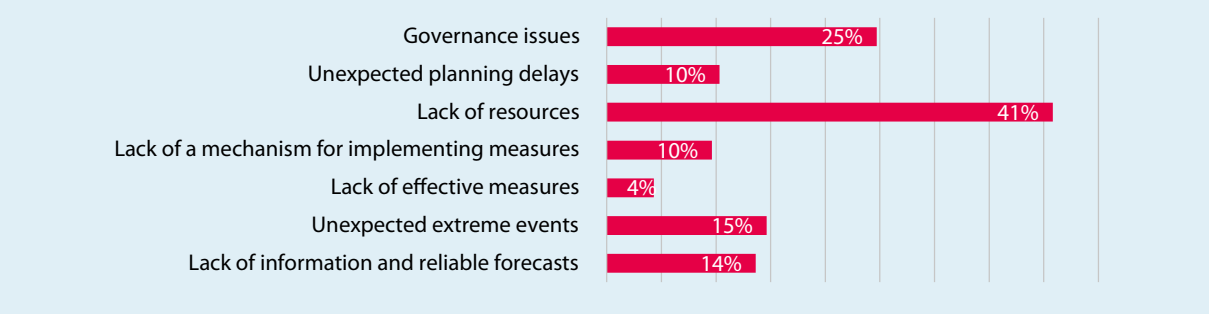
[135] Another prominent example here is cooperation between ORASECOM and the Benguela Current Convention (BCC). This example is not covered here as Namibia, although a Party to the Water Convention, is not considered to have reported under the Water Convention in the third reporting exercise in 2023, and is not covered by the present publication.

[136] Besides Bulgaria, Romania and Ukraine, which are members of the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River, membership of the Black Sea Commission also includes Georgia, the Russian Federation and Türkiye. Cooperation is based on the 2001 Memorandum of Understanding between the International Commission for the Protection of the Black Sea (ICPBS) and the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR) on common strategic goals, and is guided by the 2007 Declaration of the Ministers in Charge of Water Management of the Contracting Parties to the Danube River Protection Convention and the Convention for Protection of the Black Sea against Pollution on the Enhancement of Cooperation.

4.3 What main challenges are faced in the operation of joint bodies?

In the reporting template (sect. II, question 3 (h)), countries were asked to report on the main difficulties and challenges faced in the operation of a joint body. Figure 20 provides a summary of all responses provided by each country concerning all of its joint bodies.

Figure 20 Main challenges and difficulties faced by joint bodies – based on all (non-consolidated) responses to section II, question 3 (h) by countries that are members of a joint body (2023)



A lack of resources stands out as the main challenge. In total, 28 Parties cited this issue among constraints experienced by joint bodies of which they are a part. The following specific challenges that joint bodies faced in relation to resources were highlighted in the reports:

- lack of financial resources;
- lack of sufficient human resources and challenges to ensure continuity;
- absence of a joint financial mechanism to support the implementation of measures;
- insufficient financial resources at the national level to support implementation;
- difficulties in applying for international cooperation projects;
- limited human resources to support activities;
- untimely payment or non-payment of annual financial contributions by countries, jeopardizing sustainable funding and the operation of key institutions of a joint body;
- lack of technical capacity;
- lack of financial resources for equipment needed for joint or coordinated monitoring and the functioning of early warning and alarm systems;
- lack of financial resources for the organization of travel and accommodation to participate in meetings;
- reliance on donor support;
- dependence of bilateral commissions on the institutional budget of water management authorities of participating countries.

The second most notable challenge faced by joint bodies is governance issues. Examples of specific issues in this area include:

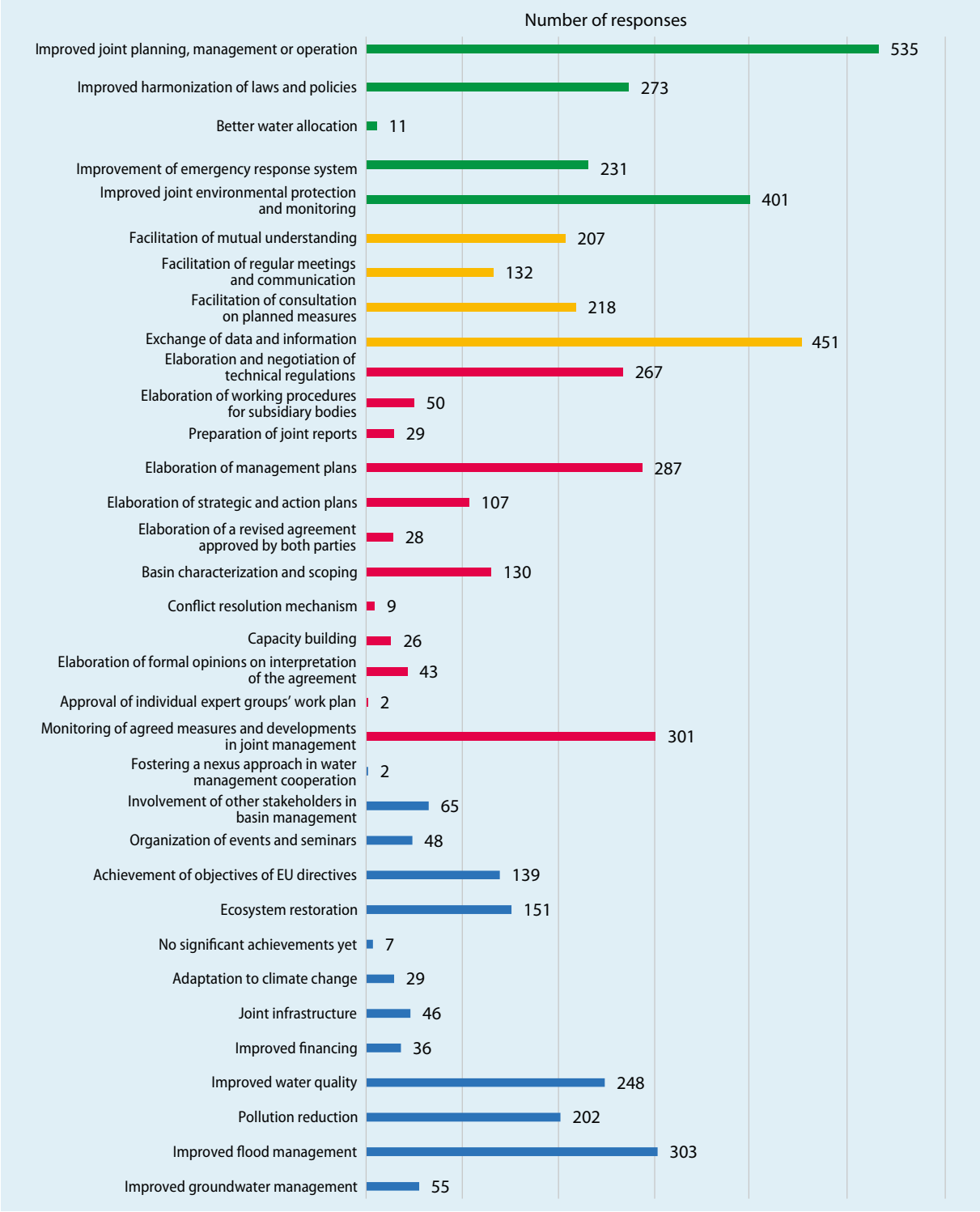
- the coordination of upstream/downstream perspectives;
- the involvement of other (non-water) sectors and local governments in the work of joint bodies for transboundary water cooperation;

- difficulties in aligning a joint body's plans and activities with changing national and EU policies and programmes.

4.4 What are the main achievements with regard to joint bodies?

In the reporting template (sect. II, question 3 (j)), countries were asked to report on the main achievements related to their joint bodies. While this was an open question, figure 21 provides an overview of responses, clustered to illustrate the frequency of responses across Parties.

Figure 21 Main achievements with regard to joint bodies – based on responses to section II, question 3 (j) (open question) for all countries member of a joint body (2023)

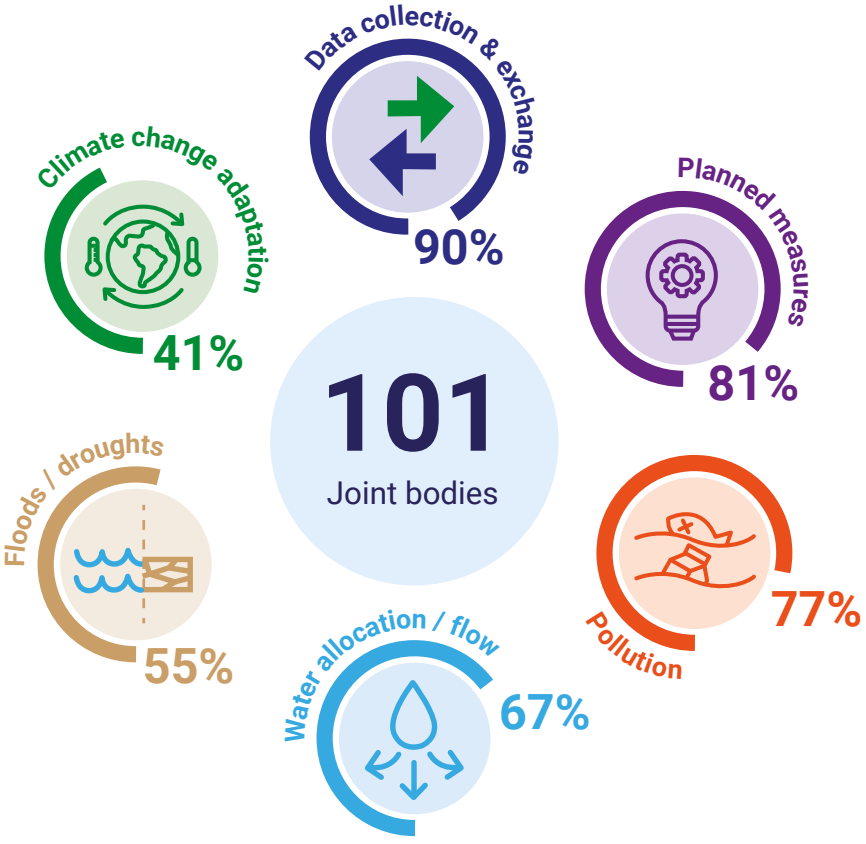


The most frequently mentioned achievements related to joint body activities include:

- improved joint planning, management or operation;
- exchange of data and information;
- improved joint environmental protection and monitoring;
- improved flood management;
- monitoring of agreed measures and developments in joint management;
- elaboration of management plans;
- improved harmonization of laws and policies;
- elaboration and negotiation of technical regulations.

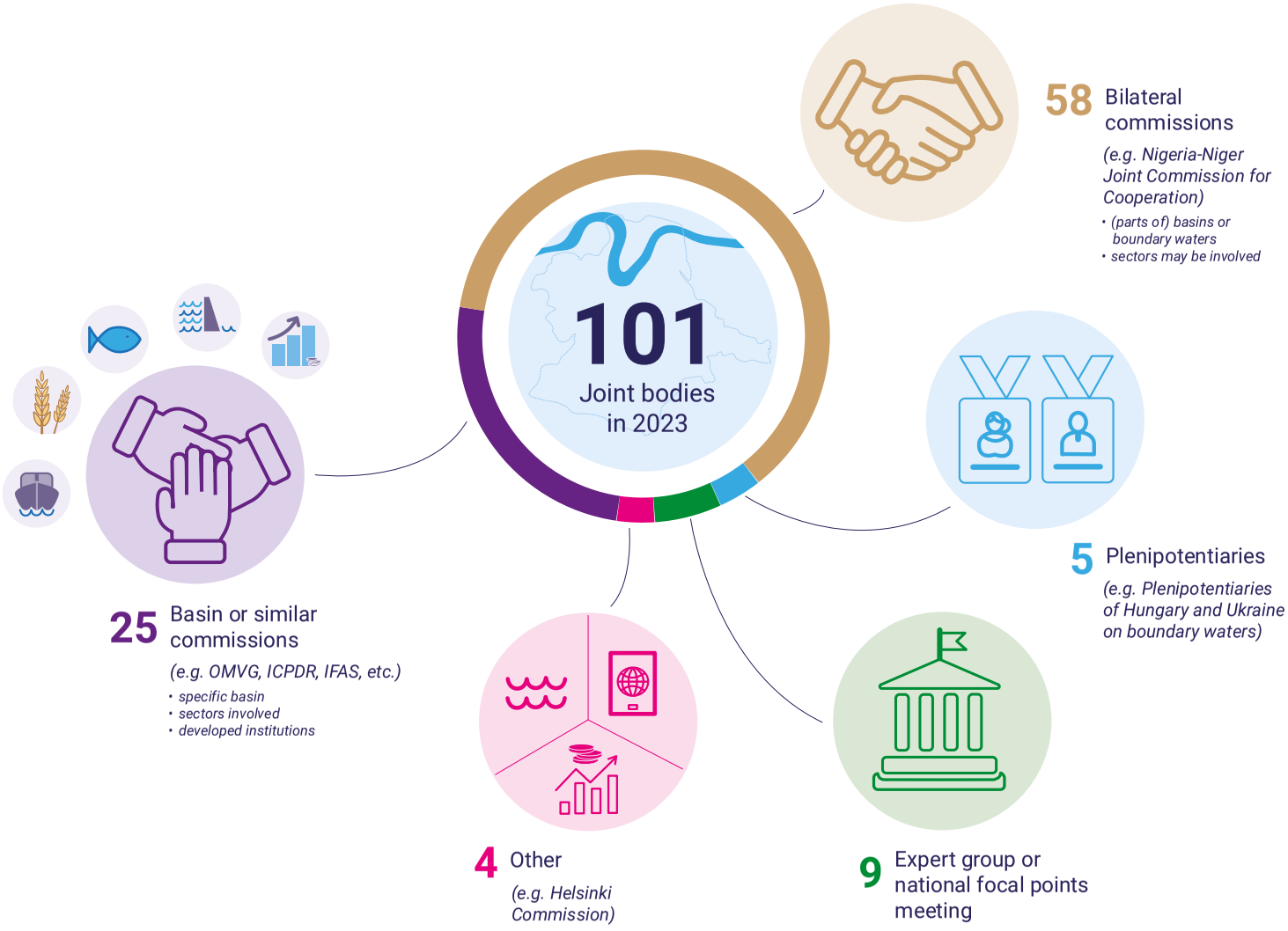
These achievements could not have been realized without the platforms for continuous dialogue and day-to-day transboundary water cooperation provided by joint bodies. This underscores the soundness of the approach taken in the Convention, which makes cooperation through joint bodies an obligation of riparian Parties. At the same time, the diversity of responses on benefits achieved highlights the value of the flexible approach taken by article 9(2) of the Convention which provides for a non-exhaustive list of tasks of joint bodies. The results achieved also constitute an argument in favour of the provision of assistance for the establishment and strengthening of joint bodies through the institutional structure of the Convention and by partners and organizations.

Infographic 3: Tasks and activities of joint bodies for transboundary water cooperation under the Water Convention (2023)



Note: Percentages are based on consolidated basin-level responses and indicate the share of river and lake basins where joint bodies are vested with certain tasks/activities. Number 101 includes joint bodies with the participation of at least one Party.

Infographic 4: Joint bodies with participation of Parties to the Water Convention (2023)



Note: Percentages are based on consolidated basin-level responses. Joint bodies with participation of at least one Party are included.

CHAPTER 5

Ardeche River (tributary to the Rhone River), in France

ACTIVITIES RELATED TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TRANSBOUNDARY WATER COOPERATION

Key messages

- There is a widespread practice amongst riparian Parties of adopting joint objectives, strategies and plans to support the implementation of agreements and arrangements. The adoption/update of river basin management plans and flood risk management plans has progressed in countries that are bound by or have committed to implementing the EU Water Framework Directive.
- Most common measures to conserve the ecosystems of transboundary waters include the protection of water quality and water species and their habitats, followed closely by the use of environmental flow norms.
- Data and information exchange takes place in the great majority of transboundary river and lake basins, but there are at least 34 river and lake basins where riparian countries appear not to exchange data and information at the basin level. The main difficulties for data and information exchange are related to the comparability of data and information and inadequate resources.
- The period 2020–2023 saw the establishment of joint monitoring in several basins shared by Parties with non-Parties. Examples include the Chu/Shu, Gambia, Maroni/Marowijne, Oiapoque/Oyapock/Oyupock and Talas River basins as well as a group of river basins shared by the Islamic Republic of Iran and Turkmenistan. Nevertheless, 68 (or 45%) river and lake basins reported by the Parties still lack joint monitoring.
- Joint hydrological and chemical monitoring of transboundary waters is generally more widespread than joint ecological monitoring.
- Coordinated or joint warning or alarm systems for floods are quite common, but the implementation of warning or alarm systems for droughts and accidental water pollution is much less widespread. Joint climate change adaptation and joint disaster risk reduction strategies are also still rare in transboundary basins.
- Procedures for mutual assistance in critical situations are not in place in at least 103 (or 67%) river and lake basins reported by the Parties. This is a matter of concern since capacity for effective prevention of transboundary impact in critical situations may be insufficient in many Parties to the Convention.
- Categories of stakeholders such as women's organizations, youth organizations and Indigenous peoples' organizations are rarely involved in the activities of joint bodies for transboundary water cooperation.

5.1 Joint objectives, strategies and plans

What does the Convention say?

In accordance with article 2 (6) of the Water Convention, riparian Parties are required to develop harmonized policies, programmes and strategies covering the relevant catchment areas, or parts thereof, which should aim to prevent, control and reduce transboundary impact and protect the ecosystems of transboundary waters, as well as the marine environment. More specifically, the Convention stipulates that Parties must set water quality objectives and criteria for the purposes of preventing, controlling and reducing transboundary impact, which as noted above, is also a specific task of any established joint body (arts. 3 (3) and 9 (2) (e)). In addition, under the Convention, joint bodies are tasked with developing concerted action programmes for the reduction of pollution (art. 9 (2) (f)).

What have countries reported?

In section II, question 4 of the reporting template, countries were asked to report on the existence of joint objectives, a common strategy, a joint or coordinated management plan, or an action plan for a given basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins. As explained in the *Guide to Reporting under the Water Convention and as a Contribution to SDG Indicator 6.5.2*, Parties were invited to provide details of joint objectives, strategies or plans not contained within the agreement but adopted after the agreement's entry into force.[137] Out of a total of 1,109 responses to this question for all agreements in force, 1,067 (or 96%) confirmed that such joint objectives, strategies or plans were in place. This percentage is the same as in 2020.

Riparian Parties have reported a wide variety of action plans, declarations, guidance documents, principles and strategies on topics such as climate change adaptation, socio-economic development, environmental protection, joint/coordinated monitoring, flood risk management, hydropower, navigation, river basin management, sedimentation management, sustainable development, and warning and alarm systems.

What can we learn from the responses?

The responses to section II, question 4 suggest that the Parties have made systemic efforts to implement their agreements and arrangements through plans, strategies, objectives and similar instruments. However, some Parties did not provide details of the agreed joint objectives, strategies and plans, and others referred to old documents without clarifying their validity. In addition, the responses provided did not allow for any conclusions to be drawn on the actual implementation of joint objectives, strategies and plans.

The replies provided by European Union Member States and candidate countries show extensive efforts to develop or update river basin management plans pursuant to the Water Framework Directive and flood risk management plans pursuant to the Floods Directive.

[137] p. 33.

Box 16: Insights from practice: action plan of the International Commission for the Protection of the Waters of Lake Geneva (CIPEL) 2021–2030

The CIPEL action plan 2021–2030 is the fourth action plan in the history of the Commission. It is structured around three main strategic objectives:

- Guarantee water resources while controlling the impacts of lake uses.
- Continue improving the quality of water resources and aquatic environments.
- Provide climate change adaptation strategies.

Actions are envisaged in governance, communication, technical and scientific areas, with each action including several actionable steps or measures.

Governance actions:

- Explore the option to give the lake a legal personality.
- Encourage and develop exchanges with bodies involved in lake protection and management in Europe.
- Lead a network of players on Lake Geneva.
- Revise the dashboard indicator system and improve its accessibility.
- Set up an observatory for Lake Geneva bringing together players who produce environmental data.

Communication actions:

- Organize "Etats généraux" (of the waters) of Lake Geneva with civil society.
- Share the story of Lake Geneva, especially with young people.
- Increase public awareness of the health of Lake Geneva's waters.

Scientific actions:

- Monitor and predict algal blooms.
- Conduct prospective study of hydrology in the watershed.
- Improve understanding of the overall functioning of the lake ecosystem in a context of climate change.
- Assess the presence and impact of microplastics and define a coordinated monitoring strategy.
- Develop and implement a monitoring strategy for micropollutants in water and sediments.
- Organize an annual meeting for amateur and professional anglers.
- Assess the impacts and limits of thermal uses of surface water bodies in the context of climate change.
- Develop and implement a strategy to control phosphorus inputs.

Lake Geneva near Geneva, Switzerland.

Technical actions:

- Document the impact of nautical activities on the coastline.
- Create an exchange platform for monitoring drinking water quality and treatment.
- Continue and strengthen communication with users on the consequences of climate change.
- Promote urban water management and the fight against sealing and chronic pollution.
- Promote harmonized monitoring of wastewater discharges in wet weather and set targets for limiting such discharges.
- Develop coordinated cross-border action to reduce the discharge of micropollutants from urban and industrial wastewater.
- Establish an overall management strategy for exogenous and undesirable species of flora and fauna.
- Enhance knowledge and encourage the exchange of best practices between agricultural players to promote agriculture that respects water quality.
- Share actions to reduce the presence of drug residues in aquatic environments.
- Publicize the results of micropollutant monitoring and risk reduction measures.
- Set up a monitoring system for thermal installations.
- Establish an overview of the progress of riverbank renaturation work and draw up recommendations.
- Continue communication on the state and importance of natural environments.

Source: www.cipel.org

5.2 Protection of transboundary waters and their ecosystems

What does the Convention say?

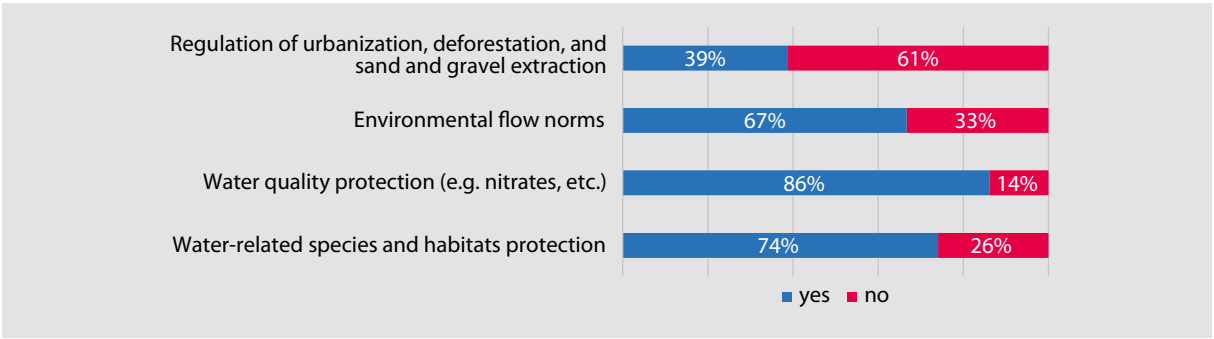
Pursuant to article 2 (2) (b) of the Water Convention, Parties must take all appropriate measures to ensure that transboundary waters are used with the aim of ecologically sound and rational water management, conservation of water resources and environmental protection. Parties are also obliged to take all appropriate measures to ensure conservation and, where necessary, restoration of ecosystems (art. 2 (2) (d)). Additionally, pursuant to article 3 (1) (i), Parties must develop, adopt, implement and, as far as possible, render compatible relevant legal, administrative, economic, financial and technical measures, in order to ensure, *inter alia*, that sustainable water resources management, including the application of the ecosystems approach, is promoted.

What have countries reported?

In their responses to section III, question 1 (g) of the reporting template, almost all (46 of 48) Parties, with the exception of Albania and Guinea-Bissau, confirmed that they apply the ecosystem approach (art. 3 (1) (i)).

In section II of the template, Parties were asked to specify how transboundary basins are protected in the context of sustainable and rational water use (question 5). Figure 22 provides an overview of the responses to this question. Protection of water quality and water species and their habitats appear to be most common measures in this respect, followed closely by the application of environmental flow norms.

Figure 22 Protection of ecosystems (art. 2 (2) (b)) and (d)) – based on all (non-consolidated) responses to section II, question 5 (2023)

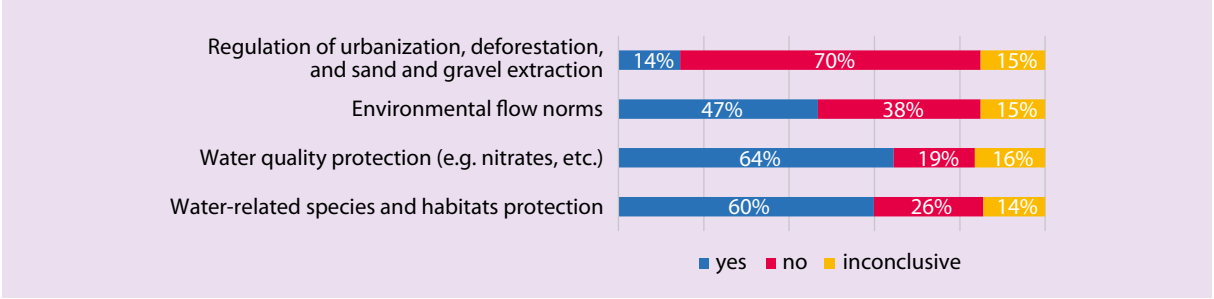


Countries were also asked to indicate whether they had taken any other measures to protect ecosystems. In response to this question, the Parties identified the following additional measures: pollution prevention; liming to counter the effects of acidification; activities related to implementation of the Water Framework Directive; the protection of coastal zones; protection of wetlands; the restoration of shores; improving river connectivity; protection of water quantity; removing obstacles to fish migration; reintroduction and protection of fish populations; monitoring of the status of ecosystems; measures to address alien species populations; regulations on sand and gravel extraction, hydropower or forestry; protected areas legislation; special measures for the protection of Ramsar sites and sites under the Natura 2000 network; and measures to reduce the input of micropollutants from point and diffuse sources.

What can we learn from the responses?

The responses in section I of the template imply a widespread practice of incorporating the ecosystem approach into national laws and policies. The responses in section II further support the finding that an ecosystem approach is incorporated into the implementation of agreements and arrangements at the basin and sub-basin level. A consolidated analysis of replies at the basin level (figure 23) confirms that water quality protection and protection of species and habitats remain key measures for the protection of ecosystems, followed by the application of environmental flow norms.

Figure 23 Percentage of river and lake basins where protection of ecosystems is carried out (art. 2 (2) (b)) and (d)) – based on consolidated basin-level responses for section II, question 5 (2023)



While the application of other measures to protect ecosystems appears widespread, the reporting template does not allow the regularity of these measures to be quantified.

Box 17: Insights from practice: national salmon rivers and national salmon fjords in Norway

In 2003 and 2007, the Norwegian Parliament established a network of 52 National Salmon Rivers (NSR) and 29 National Salmon Fjords (NSF), respectively, to protect important wild salmon stocks in Norway against the possible negative impacts of certain activities in rivers and from salmon farming in surrounding fjords and coastal areas.

In many of the 29 NSFs, the farming of anadromous fish was prohibited, forcing existing farms in these fjords to relocate. In the reminder, no new farm sites can be established and farming at existing sites is subject to restrictions.

For example, the Tana/Teno River basin, shared by Norway and Finland, and the Tana fjord are protected in Norway under the NSR and NSF protection programme. The programme restricts any activity or project in the basin that can pose a risk to its stocks of wild salmon. The basin has also been protected from large hydropower development since 1980.

Trondheim Fjord in Norway.

Source: Norwegian Directorate of Fisheries (www.fiskeridir.no); Third national report of Norway (2024).

Box 18: Insights from practice: application of the ecosystems approach in the Dniester River basin in the Republic of Moldova

The ecosystems approach is implemented in the Republic of Moldova through measures detailed in river basin and flood risk management plans for the Dniester, Danube-Prut and Black Sea districts. Recently implemented measures covered in the Dniester River Basin Management Plan include:

- the creation of the "Lower Dniester" National Park in March 2022 on the territory of the "Lower Dniester" Ramsar site, which covers more than 600 km^2 on both banks of the Dniester River;
- the delimitation and inventory of protected areas carried out in tandem with the development of digital maps of these areas;
- the afforestation and restoration of river buffer strips for water bodies carried out as part of national campaigns to clean up rivers and plant trees;
- the cleaning up and rehabilitation of the old riverbed of the Dniester.

Dniester River estuary.

Source: Third national report of the Republic of Moldova (2024).

5.3 Data and information exchange

What does the Convention say?

Article 6 of the Water Convention contains an overarching obligation upon Parties to provide for the widest exchange of information, as early as possible, on issues covered by the provisions of the Convention. Article 6 is supplemented by a specific obligation in article 13 (1) for riparian Parties to exchange "reasonably available" data, inter alia, on:

(a) Environmental conditions of transboundary waters;

(b) Experience gained in the application and operation of best available technology and results of research and development;

(c) Emission and monitoring data;

(d) Measures taken and planned to be taken to prevent, control and reduce transboundary impact;

(e) Permits or regulations for wastewater discharges issued by the competent authority or appropriate body.

Riparian Parties are also required to exchange information on their national regulations in order to harmonize emission limits (art. 13 (2)).

In addition, pursuant to article 9 (2), joint bodies play an important role in the exchange of data and information between riparian Parties.

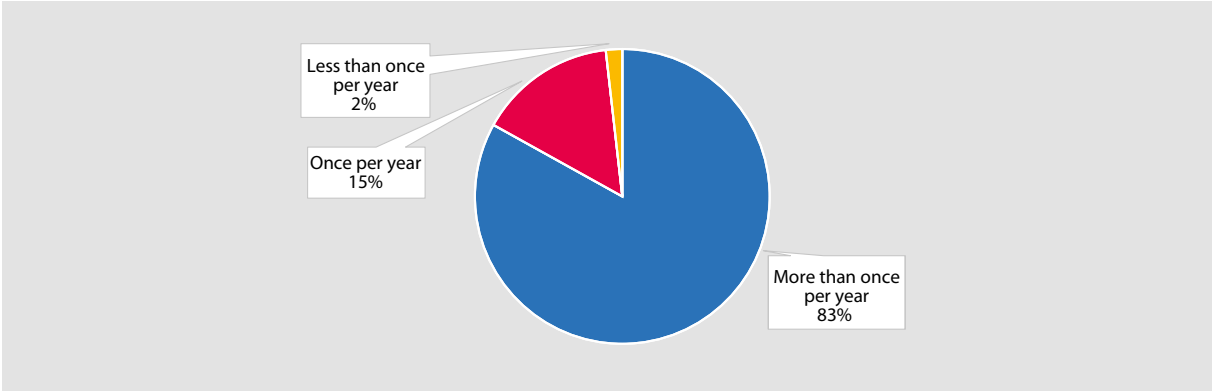
What have countries reported?

In order to assess the level of data and information exchanged, countries were asked to specify in the reporting template whether they regularly exchanged data and information with other riparian States within a basin, sub-basin, or part of a basin or group of basins (sect. II, question 6 (a)). Out of a total of 1,150 responses received, 1,079 responses (or 94%) confirmed that data and information was regularly

exchanged with other riparian States. This percentage is comparable to 98% in the second reporting exercise (2020). These numbers, however, refer to responses to section II, which in some cases exclude information on basins not covered by agreements or arrangements in force.

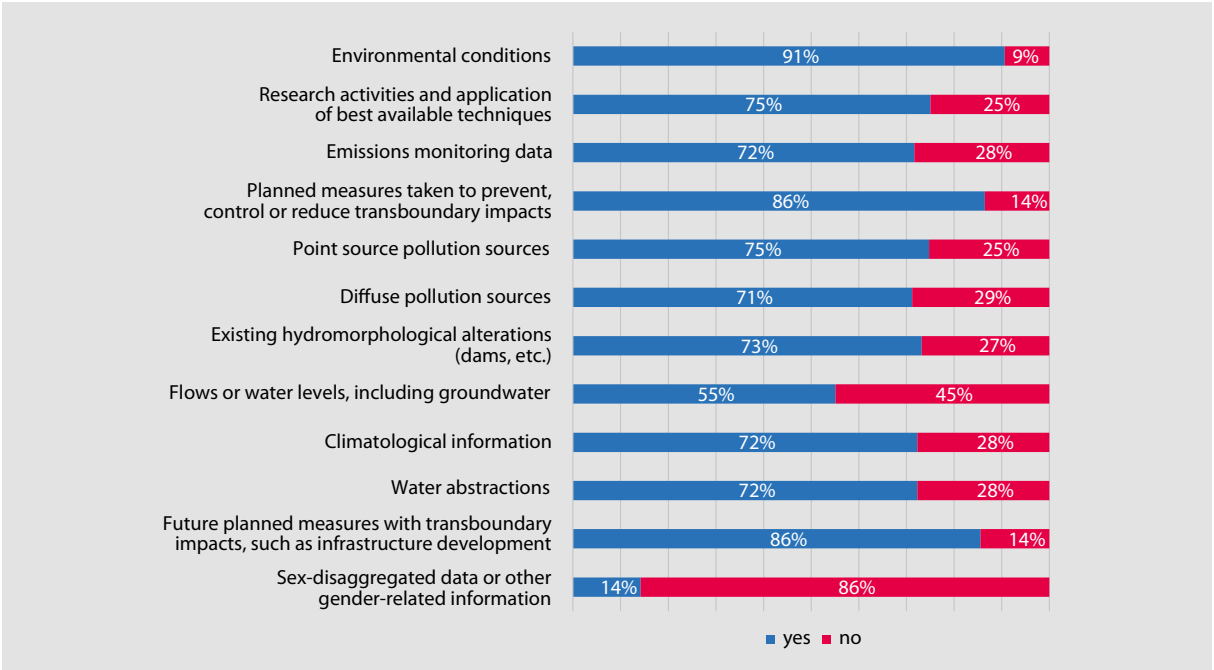
In the vast majority of cases where data and information were regularly exchanged, such exchanges took place more than once per year (figure 24). Most Parties specified whether information was exchanged during the meetings of joint bodies and their subsidiary bodies or also in the interim between meetings. In some cases (e.g. notification of planned measures), exchanges took place through diplomatic channels. Some Parties specified that exchanges of information were effected through the secretariats of joint bodies, as well as at sub-national and local levels. Many Parties indicated that exchanges occurred via electronic means (i.e. by entering information into a database or sending data by email or by videoconference) (question 6 (c)). Some Parties also mentioned that information was exchanged on a project basis, noting that this was not a sustainable practice.

Figure 24 Frequency of exchange of information and data with other riparian States (art. 13) – based on all (non-consolidated) responses to section II, question 6 (a) (2023)



Countries were also asked to report on the subjects on which data and information were exchanged (sect. II, question 6 (d)). Figure 25 provides an overview of the responses to this question.

Figure 25 Subjects upon which information and data are exchanged (art. 13) – based on all (non-consolidated) responses to section II, question 6 (d) (2023)

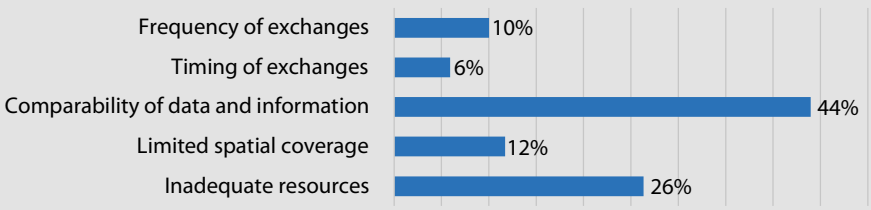


Many Parties also reported exchanging data and information related to flood protection measures, droughts and low water events, accidents with possible transboundary impacts and the status of water bodies under the Water Framework Directive. Other subjects on which information was shared included water supply conditions for the population and sectors of economy, sanitary conditions and measures, security concerns in shared basins, funding opportunities for joint projects and updates on fishing regulations.

Countries were also asked whether a shared database or information platform was in place for exchanging data and information. Out of a total of 1,135 responses, only 397 (or 35%) indicated the existence of such a database or platform, as compared to 37% in 2020. When a database was in place, only 76% of responses (vs. 84% in 2020) affirmed that it was publicly accessible.

Finally, Parties were asked to describe the main difficulties and challenges faced in relation to exchanging data on transboundary waters (question 6 (g)), as well as the main benefits (question 6 (h)). The main difficulties identified relate to the comparability of data and information and inadequate resources (figure 26).

Figure 26 Main difficulties and challenges to data exchange (art. 13) – based on all (non-consolidated) responses to section II, question 6 (g) (2023)



Among the most common benefits of data exchange on transboundary waters cited by Parties (responses to section II, question 6 (h)) were a mutual and better understanding of the basin; transparent and collaborative planning in support of decision-making, including in the face of climate change; improved possibilities for early warning of extreme weather events (e.g. floods, ice drifts, droughts), industrial pollution and other emergency situations (including security incidents) and reduction of their adverse effects; better forecasting and modelling of the basin; more efficient water management and protection at the national and transboundary levels; and the establishment of a foundation for regional economic integration, joint development projects and capacity building.

What can we learn from the responses?

The responses suggest that the exchange of data and information between Parties is a widespread practice – with confirmation of this practice in 111 river and lake basins. However, in spite of the requirement under article 13 to exchange data and information, the responses of countries to section I of the template reveal at least 34 river and lake basins where such exchanges between riparian countries do not take place at the basin level. The basins in question are: the Jandari Lake basin;[138] the Adige,[139] Aoos/Vijose/Vjosa,[140] Astara Chay/Astarachay,[141] Axios/Vardar,[142] Azov Sea River basins (Mius, Krinka and Sukhoi Elanchyk),[143] Banowka,[144]

[138] Shared by Azerbaijan and Georgia (non-Party).
[139] Shared by Italy and Switzerland.
[140] Shared by Albania and Greece.
[141] Shared by Azerbaijan and the Islamic Republic of Iran (non-Party).
[142] Shared by Greece, North Macedonia and Serbia.
[143] Shared by the Russian Federation and Ukraine.
[144] Shared by Poland and the Russian Federation.

Bia,[145] Coastal Rivers Basin,[146] Don,[147] Elv fra Svartakslvatnet,[148] Karpelva,[149] Lava/Pregel/Pregolas,[150] Maroni/Marowijne,[151] Murgab,[152] Oiapoque/Oyapock/Oyupock,[153] Prohladnaja/Swieza,[154] Roia/Roja,[155] Sulak,[156] Tano[157] and Terek/Tergi[158] River basins; a group of four basins shared by Finland and Norway;[159] and a group of nine basins shared by the Islamic Republic of Iran and Turkmenistan.[160] However, it should be noted that the Jandari Lake basin, the Astara Chay/Astarachay, Bia, Maroni/Marowijne, Murgab, Oiapoque/Oyapock/Oyupock, Sulak, Tano and Terek/Tergi River basins and the basins shared by the Islamic Republic of Iran and Turkmenistan are shared with non-Parties to the Convention. In 11 additional river and lake basins,[161] differing responses from countries meant that it was not possible to ascertain whether data and information exchange took place.

The responses suggest that exchanges took place across a wide range of subjects (figure 25). Environmental conditions (91% of responses), future planned measures with transboundary impacts (86%) and planned measures to prevent, control or reduce transboundary impact (86%) feature among the most common subjects of information and data exchange. Only slightly half of responses confirmed the exchange of information on flows or water levels. Sex-disaggregated data or other gender-related information is rarely exchanged.

As shown by the responses, in 86% of cases Parties reported exchanging information on future planned measures with transboundary impacts (figure 25). While no question in the reporting template explicitly asks about the conduct of consultations between riparian Parties under article 14 of the Convention, this figure provides indirect evidence that the prerequisites for consultations on planned measures, in the form of exchange of information on planned measures with transboundary impacts, exist in the majority of cases.

When analysed by subregion,[162] exchange of data and information among riparians on future planned measures with transboundary impacts appears to be rather widespread for Parties in Eastern Europe,

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145 Shared by Côte d'Ivoire (considered as a non-Party for the third round of reporting) and Ghana.

146 Includes the Akpa and Cross River basins (shared by Cameroon and Nigeria) and the Benito/Ntem River basin (shared by Cameroon, Gabon (non-Party) and Equatorial Guinea (non-Party)).

147 Shared by the Russian Federation and Ukraine.

148 Shared by Norway and the Russian Federation.

149 Shared by Norway and the Russian Federation.

150 Shared by Lithuania, Poland and the Russian Federation.

151 Shared by France and Suriname (non-Party).

152 Shared by Afghanistan (non-Party) and Turkmenistan.

153 Shared by Brazil (non-Party) and France.

154 Shared by Poland and the Russian Federation.

155 Shared by France and Italy.

156 Shared by Georgia (non-Party) and the Russian Federation.

157 Shared by Côte d'Ivoire (considered as a non-Party for the third round of reporting) and Ghana.

158 Shared by Georgia (non-Party) and the Russian Federation.

159 The Alta, Reisa, Skibotn and Sandneselva River basins. The riparian countries report that the Finnish part of these river basins is very small and does not feature any human pressures on water resources.

160 The Archabil, Archinyan/Archangan, Atrek/Atrak, Chaacha, Kazgan Chai/Zenginanlou, Kelte-Chinar, Lainsu, Meana/Kara-Tikan and Nafte (Kelat Chai) River basins.

161 These basins include: the Aral Sea (shared by Afghanistan (non-Party), Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan (non-Party), Tajikistan (non-Party), Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan); Daugava/Western Dvina (shared by Belarus, Latvia, Lithuania and the Russian Federation); Dnieper (shared by Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine); Drin (shared by Albania, Greece, Kosovo (United Nations administered territory under Security Council resolution 1244 (1999)), North Macedonia and Montenegro); Hari/Harirud (shared by Afghanistan (non-Party), the Islamic Republic of Iran (non-Party) and Turkmenistan); Jacobs/Grense Jakobselv/Voriema (shared by Norway and the Russian Federation); Kemi/Kemijoki (shared by Finland, Norway and the Russian Federation); Kura/Araks/Mtkvari (shared by Armenia (non-Party), Azerbaijan, Georgia (non-Party), the Islamic Republic of Iran (non-Party) and Türkiye (non-Party)); Neman/Nemunas (shared by Belarus, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and the Russian Federation); Pasvik/Paatsjoki/Paz (shared by Finland, Norway and the Russian Federation); and Struma/Strymonas (shared by Bulgaria, Greece, North Macedonia and Serbia).

162 For the purposes of this report, subregions include the following Parties:
Central Asia – Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan;
Eastern Europe – Belarus, Bulgaria, Czechia, Hungary, Poland, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, the Russian Federation, Slovakia and Ukraine;
Northern Europe – Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway and Sweden;
Southern Europe – Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Greece, Italy, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Portugal, Serbia, Slovenia and Spain;
Western Europe – Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and Switzerland;
Western Asia – Azerbaijan and Iraq;
Sub-Saharan Africa – Cameroon, Chad, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Nigeria, Senegal and Togo.

Northern Europe, Southern Europe, Western Europe and sub-Saharan Africa, but less common for Parties in Western Asia and rare for Parties in Central Asia.

A further important finding identified by many Parties pertained to challenges relating to comparability of data and information, despite the requirement in article 11 (4) of the Water Convention for riparian Parties to harmonize rules for the setting up and operation of monitoring programmes, measurement systems, devices, analytical techniques, data processing and evaluation procedures, and methods for the regulation of pollutants discharged.

A shared database or information platform, which might assist in harmonizing data, appeared to be lacking in many cases.

Box 19: Insights from practice: exchange of information on the Dostluk Dam between Turkmenistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran

The Joint Coordination Commission for the Dostluk Dam on the Hari/Harirud River between the State Committee for Water Resources of Turkmenistan and the Ministry of Energy of the Islamic Republic of Iran deals with the operation of the Dostluk dam, completed in 2004, and associated water allocation.

The Joint Coordination Commission for the Dostluk Dam discusses common issues related to the management, operation and distribution of water from the Dostluk Dam. The work of the Joint Coordination Commission is led by the co-chairs, who are deputy ministers. Meetings of the Joint Coordination Commission are held regularly with additional meetings convened as necessary.

Exchange of information on the Dostluk Dam takes place on a constant basis. Joint controls are carried out and formalized daily at the dam's control centre by designated officials of Iran and Turkmenistan. At the end of each month the Parties jointly sign an official document recording the inflow of water into the reservoirs, the associated volumes of water (receipt or release) and discharge from the reservoir, water intakes on both sides, environmental flows and water discharge.

Source: Third national report of Turkmenistan (2023).

5.4 Joint monitoring and assessment

What does the Convention say?

In accordance with article 11 (1) of the Water Convention, riparian Parties must establish and implement joint programmes for monitoring the conditions of transboundary waters.[163] This requirement is supplemented by the task placed on joint bodies to elaborate joint monitoring programmes concerning water quality and quantity (art. 9 (2) (b)).

Additionally, pursuant to article 11 (3) of the Convention, riparian Parties must, at regular intervals, carry out joint or coordinated assessments of the conditions of transboundary waters and the effectiveness of measures taken for the prevention, control and reduction of transboundary impact.

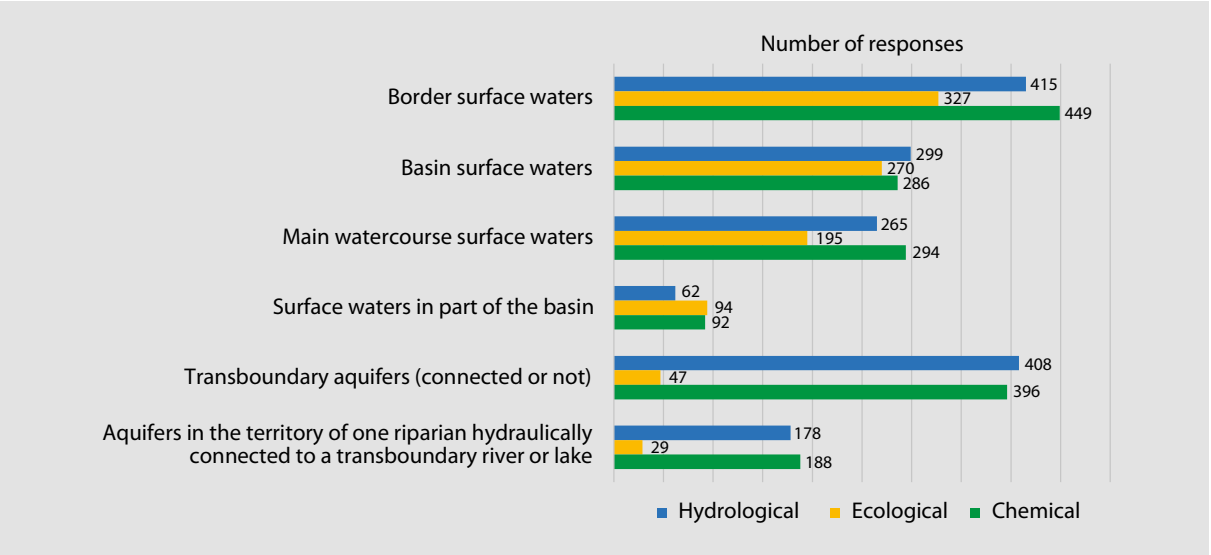
What have countries reported?

Countries were asked to report on whether riparian States carry out joint monitoring in the transboundary basin, sub-basin or part of a basin or group of basins in question (sect. II, question 7 (a)). In 2023, 64% of all responses (693 out of 1,079 replies) stated that joint monitoring does take place (as compared to 62% in 2020). However, it should be noted that some Parties did not include information on basins not covered by agreements or arrangements in force when responding to questions in section II of the reporting template.

[163] See also article 4 which provides that Parties must establish programmes for monitoring the conditions of transboundary waters.

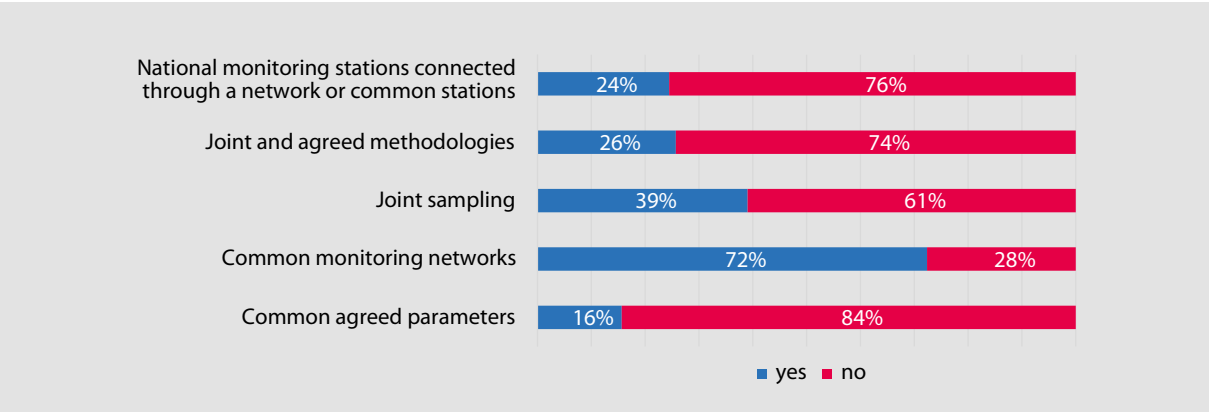
Countries that confirmed the existence of joint monitoring were then asked whether this process covered border surface waters, surface waters in the entire basin, surface waters on the main watercourse, surface waters in part of the basin, transboundary aquifers (connected or unconnected), or aquifers in the territory of one riparian hydraulically connected to a transboundary river or lake. Countries were also asked to specify which parameters were monitored (hydrological, ecological or chemical). Figure 27 provides an overview of the responses to this question.

Figure 27 Joint monitoring coverage (art. 11) – based on all (non-consolidated) responses to section II, question 7 (a) (2023)



In addition to determining the extent of joint monitoring, countries were asked to report on how joint monitoring was carried out (sect. II, question 7 (b)). Figure 28 provides an overview of the responses to this question.

Figure 28 If joint monitoring is carried out, how is this done? (art. 11 (1)) – based on all (non-consolidated) responses to section II, question 7 (b) (2023)



Finally, countries were asked to report on the main achievements and any difficulties they experienced in relation to joint monitoring (sect. II, questions 7 (c) and (d)). Among the main achievements of joint monitoring, the Parties noted benefits with regard to the development of long-term trend analysis at the basin or sub-basin level; a shared sound understanding of trends, pressures and conditions of transboundary waters; early detection of potentially harmful pollutants; the availability of real-time online data; the harmonization of monitoring methods and parameters; the creation of a common view on the status of transboundary waters as a basis for joint planning; the availability of data for platforms and databases maintained by joint bodies; and the accessibility of information and data series on water status

in the context of climate change. Parties also mentioned that joint monitoring allowed for the optimization of monitoring activities, including in terms of the associated costs.

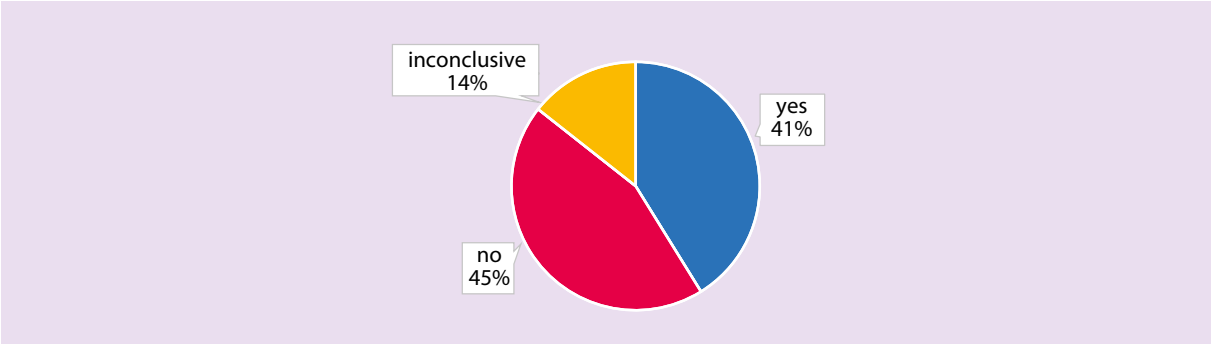
Difficulties identified by the Parties included those related to harmonizing parameters and methodologies, ensuring the comparability of data, the provision of real-time data, a lack of resources including equipment, and organizational and coordination difficulties at the national level.

In the reporting template (sect. II, question 8), riparian countries were asked whether they carried out joint assessments of the transboundary basin, river, lake or aquifer in question. Out of a total of 1,108 responses received from Parties in 2023, 877 (or 79%) indicated that joint assessments do take place (as compared to 85% in 2020).

What can we learn from the responses?

The responses on joint monitoring and assessment are indicative of a concerted effort among Parties to implement article 11 of the Water Convention. However, a consolidated analysis of replies about the existence of joint monitoring of transboundary surface waters at the basin level reveals that in a significant number of river and lake basins such monitoring is not taking place. In fact, almost half of river and lake basins (45%) do not have joint monitoring (figure 29), and for another 14% of basins different responses from riparian countries make it impossible to conclude whether joint monitoring is in place.

Figure 29 Percentage of river and lake basins where joint monitoring is carried out (art. 11 (1)) – based on consolidated basin-level responses to section II, question 7 (2023)



According to information provided, joint monitoring does not take place in the following 68 (or 45%) river and lake basins: the Aoos/Vijose/Vjosa,[164] Axios/Vardar,[165] Azov Sea River basins (Mius, Krinka, Sukhoi Elanchyk),[166] Banowka,[167] Congo/Zaire,[168] Coastal Rivers Basin,[169] Corubal/Koliba,[170] Don,[171] Euphrates,[172] Evros/Maritsa/Meric,[173] Hari/Harirud,[174] Isonzo/Soca,[175] Jacobs/Grense Jakobselv/Voriema,[176]

[164] Shared by Albania and Greece.
[165] Shared by Greece, North Macedonia and Serbia.
[166] Shared by the Russian Federation and Ukraine.
[167] Shared by Poland and the Russian Federation.
[168] Shared by Angola (non-Party), Burundi (non-Party), Cameroon, Central African Republic (non-Party), Chad, Congo Republic (non-Party), Democratic Republic of the Congo (non-Party), Gabon (non-Party), Malawi (non-Party), Rwanda (non-Party), United Republic of Tanzania (non-Party) and Zambia (considered as a non-Party for the third round of reporting).
[169] Includes the Akpa and Cross River basins (shared by Cameroon and Nigeria) and the Benito/Ntem River basin (shared by Cameroon, Gabon (non-Party) and Equatorial Guinea (non-Party)).
[170] Shared by Ghana and Guinea-Bissau.
[171] Shared by the Russian Federation and Ukraine.
[172] Shared by Iraq, the Syrian Arab Republic (non-Party) and Türkiye (non-Party).
[173] Shared by Bulgaria, Greece and Türkiye (non-Party).
[174] Shared by Afghanistan (non-Party), the Islamic Republic of Iran (non-Party) and Turkmenistan.
[175] Shared by Italy and Slovenia.
[176] Shared by Norway and the Russian Federation.

Lava/Pregel/Pregolas,[177] Levante,[178] Mesta/Nestos,[179] Murgab,[180] Mutludere/Rezovska,[181] Prohladnaja/Swieza,[182] Razdolnaya/Sujfun,[183] Tigris[184] and Vidaa/Wiedau[185] River basins, Jandari Lake basin,[186] Lake Prespa basin,[187] a group of five basins shared by Portugal and Spain,[188] a group of two basins shared by Finland and the Russian Federation,[189] a group of three basins shared by Finland and Norway[190] and a group of 34 basins shared by Norway and Sweden.[191] Some of these basins are shared with non-Parties to the Convention.

It should be noted that for the Alta, Reisa and Skibotn Rivers, shared by Finland and Norway, and the Vienan Kemi River basin, shared by Finland and the Russian Federation, the share of basin area in Finland is very small and due to the absence of human pressures in these areas the riparian countries consider joint monitoring unnecessary.

In a further 22 (or 14%) river and lake basins,[192] it was not possible to ascertain whether or not joint monitoring takes place due to differing responses by reporting countries.

On a positive note, in a number of river basins where joint monitoring was not reported in the previous reporting exercise (2020), it was confirmed to be in place in 2023. The basins in question are the Chu/Shu,[193] Gambia,[194] Maroni/Marowijne,[195] Oiapoque/Oyapock/Oyupock,[196] Talas[197] and a group of nine basins shared by the Islamic Republic of Iran and Turkmenistan.[198] All these basins are shared by Parties with non-Parties. This achievement demonstrates the continued effort by Parties to apply the standards of the Convention on a voluntary basis in relations with non-Parties.

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177 Shared by Lithuania, Poland and the Russian Federation.

178 Shared by Italy and Slovenia.

179 Shared by Bulgaria and Greece.

180 Shared by Afghanistan (non-Party) and Turkmenistan.

181 Shared by Bulgaria and Türkiye (non-Party).

182 Shared by Poland and the Russian Federation.

183 Shared by China (non-Party) and the Russian Federation.

184 Shared by the Islamic Republic of Iran (non-Party), Iraq, Türkiye (non-Party) and the Syrian Arab Republic (non-Party).

185 Shared by Denmark and Germany.

186 Shared by Azerbaijan and Georgia (non-Party).

187 Shared by Albania, Greece and North Macedonia.

188 The Douro/Duero, Guadiana, Lima/Limia, Minho/Mino and Tagus/Tejo/Tajo River basins.

189 The Kilpeenjoki/Rokkajoki and Vienan Kemi basins.

190 The Alta, Reisa and Skibotn River basins.

191 The Angerman, Berbyelva/Enningdalselva/Enningdalsalven, Bjerka, Byalven, Dalalven, Fagerbakkvassdraget, Glama/Glommavassdraget, Haldenvassdraget, Hellemovassdraget, Indalsalven, Klaralven/Trysilelva, Laksaga, Ljusnan, Lulealven, Malselvvassdraget, Nidelva/Nidelvvassdraget, Norsalven, Pitealven, Ranavassdraget, Rossaga, Salangselva, Saltdalsvassdraget, Signaldalelva, Skellefteälven, Skjomavassdraget, Sorfjordelva, Stjordalsvassdraget, Storelva, Stromsan, Sulitjelmavassdraget, Umealven, Upperudsalven, Vefsna and Verdalsvassdraget basins.

192 The Aral Sea basin (shared by Afghanistan (non-Party), Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan (non-Party), Tajikistan (non-Party), Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan); the Daugava/Western Dvina (shared by Belarus, Latvia, Lithuania and the Russian Federation); the Dnieper (shared by Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine); the Drin (shared by Albania, Greece, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Kosovo (United Nations administered territory under Security Council resolution 1244 (1999))); the Geba/Kayanga (shared by the Gambia (considered as a non-Party for the third reporting round), Guinea (non-Party), Guinea-Bissau and Senegal); the Kemi/Kemijoki (shared by Finland, Norway and the Russian Federation); the Neman/Nemunas (shared by Belarus, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and the Russian Federation); the Pasvik/Paatsjoki/Paz (shared by Finland, Norway and the Russian Federation); the Torne/Tornealven/Tornionjoki (shared by Finland, Norway and Sweden); the Volta (shared by Benin, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali and Togo); the Struma/Strymonas (shared by Bulgaria, Greece, North Macedonia and Serbia); river basins shared by Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro and belonging to the Adriatic Sea basin; nine river basins shared by Finland and the Russian Federation (the Juustilanjoki-Saimaan Kanava/Saimen Canal-Mustajoki/Malinovka; the Kaltonjoki/Peschanaya/Santajoki, the Koskelanjoki/Vaalimaanjoki, the Olanga/Oulanka, the Oulu/Oulujoki, the Polevaya/Tervajoki, the Tohmajoki, the Tuloma/Tuulomajoki and the Vilajoki/Velikaya) and the Lake Chad basin (shared by Algeria, Central African Republic, Cameroon, Chad, Libya, Niger, Nigeria and Sudan).

193 Shared by Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan (non-Party).

194 Shared by the Gambia (non-Party), Guinea (non-Party), Guinea-Bissau and Senegal.

195 Shared by France and Suriname (non-Party).

196 Shared by Brazil (non-Party) and France.

197 Shared by Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan (non-Party).

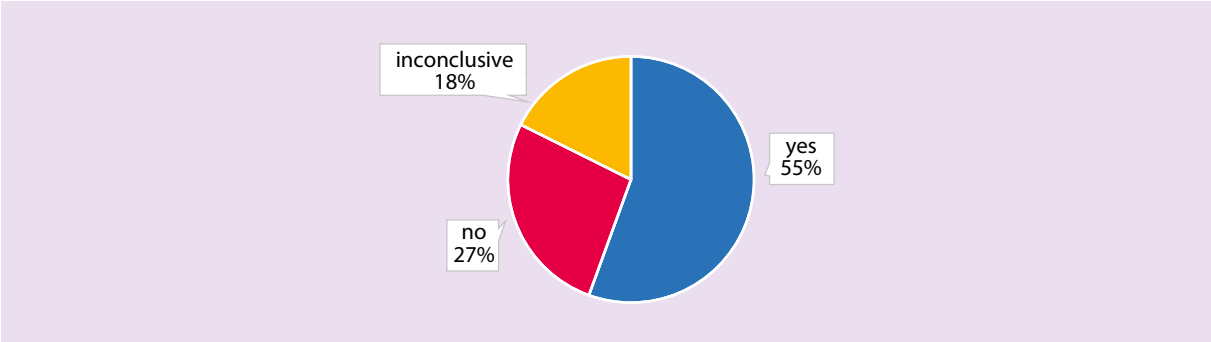
198 The Archabil, Archinyan/Archangan, Atrek/Atrak, Chaacha, Kazgan Chai/Zenginanlou, Kelte-Chinar, Lainsu, Meana/Kara-Tikan and Nafte (Kelat Chai) basins.

The responses on the modalities of joint monitoring indicate that border surface waters are the subject of joint monitoring more often than surface waters in the entire basin (figure 27). They also indicate that joint hydrological and chemical monitoring of transboundary waters is generally more widespread than joint ecological monitoring (figure 27).

Joint monitoring of the hydrological and chemical parameters of transboundary aquifers appears quite widespread (figure 27). However, these data need to be treated with caution, since some Parties did not include information on aquifers not covered by agreements or arrangements in force, in their responses to section II of the template.

Joint assessment was reported by Parties to take place in 55% of river and lake basins in 2023 (as compared to 59% in 2020). In 2023, joint assessment did not take place in at least 27% of river and lake basins (25% in 2020), while in a further 18% of river and lake basins (16% in 2020) different responses to the same question by riparian countries meant that it was not possible to ascertain the existence, or not, of joint assessment (figure 30).

Figure 30 Percentage of river and lake basins where joint assessment is carried out (art. 11 (3)) – based on consolidated basin-level responses to section II, question 8 (2023)



The 41 (or 27%) river and lake basins where joint assessment is not in place are: the Aoos/Vijose/Vjosa,[199] Axios/Vardar,[200] Azov Sea River basins (Mius, Krinka, Sukhoi Elanchyk),[201] Banowka,[202] Black Sea River basins (Cogilnic/Kogilnik, Sarata, Hagiger/Hajider, Alcalia/Alkaliya, Chaga, Kaplan),[203] Chu/Shu,[204] Coastal River basins,[205] Corubal/Koliba,[206] Don,[207] Euphrates,[208] Evros/Maritsa/Meric,[209] Hari/Harirud,[210] Jacobs/Grense Jakobselv/Voriema,[211] Jandari Lake basin,[212] Lake Prespa basin,[213] Lava/Pregel/Pregolas,[214] Maroni/

199 Shared by Albania and Greece.
200 Shared by Greece, North Macedonia and Serbia.
201 Shared by the Russian Federation and Ukraine.
202 Shared by Poland and the Russian Federation.
203 Shared by the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine.
204 Shared by Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan (non-Party).
205 Includes the Akpa and Cross River basins (shared by Cameroon and Nigeria) and the Benito/Ntem River basin (shared by Cameroon, Gabon (non-Party) and Equatorial Guinea (non-Party)).
206 Shared by Ghana and Guinea-Bissau.
207 Shared by the Russian Federation and Ukraine.
208 Shared by Iraq, the Syrian Arab Republic (non-Party) and Türkiye (non-Party).
209 Shared by Bulgaria, Greece and Türkiye (non-Party).
210 Shared by Afghanistan (non-Party), the Islamic Republic of Iran (non-Party) and Turkmenistan.
211 Shared by Norway and the Russian Federation.
212 Shared by Azerbaijan and Georgia (non-Party).
213 Shared by Albania, Greece and North Macedonia.
214 Shared by Lithuania, Poland and the Russian Federation.

Marowijne,[215] Mesta/Nestos,[216] Mono,[217] Murgab,[218] Mutludere/Rezovska,[219] Narva,[220] Oiapoque/Oyapock/Oyupock,[221] Prohladnaja/Swieza,[222] Psou,[223] Razdolnaya/Sujfun,[224] Selenge,[225] Talas[226] and Tigris[227] River basins, a group of three river basins shared by Finland and Norway[228] and a group of nine river basins shared by the Islamic Republic of Iran and Turkmenistan.[229] Some of these basins are shared with non-Parties.

These outcomes demonstrate the need for focused efforts to establish joint monitoring and assessment in specific basins and for continuous support to monitoring and assessment activities within the framework of the Convention.

5.5 Joint water quality standards

What does the Convention say?

Pursuant to article 3 (3) of the Water Convention, each Party must define, where appropriate, water-quality objectives and adopt water-quality criteria for the purpose of preventing, controlling and reducing transboundary impact. Guidance for establishing water quality objectives and criteria is provided in annex III to the Convention. Article 9 (2) (e) goes further by asking joint bodies to elaborate joint water-quality objectives and criteria and, where necessary, to propose relevant measures for maintaining and, where necessary, improving the existing water quality. Moreover, article 12 requires riparian Parties to undertake research and development activities in support of achieving the water-quality objectives and criteria.

What have countries reported?

In the reporting template (sect. II, question 9), riparian Parties were asked whether they agreed to use joint water quality standards. Out of a total of 1,149 responses to this question in 2023, 839 responses (or 73%) indicated that joint water quality standards had been agreed (as compared to 78% in 2020). However, it should be noted that some Parties did not include information on basins not covered by agreements or arrangements in force when responding to questions in section II of the reporting template.

Where joint water quality standards have been adopted, countries were asked to specify whether these were international, regional or national in scope. Responses to this question varied and indicated that countries have adopted international, regional, basin and national standards. Where EU Member States and candidate countries, for example, are concerned, international standards are derived from EU legislation. Regarding the Organization for the Development of the Senegal River (OMVS), regional standards have been adopted (as reported by Senegal). In the case of the Volta River basin, the Volta Basin Water Charter requires riparian States to commit to setting common water quality objectives and pollution effluent standards, but these have yet to be defined (as reported by Togo).

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215 Shared by France and Suriname (non-Party).
216 Shared by Bulgaria and Greece.
217 Shared by Benin (non-Party) and Togo.
218 Shared by Afghanistan (non-Party) and Turkmenistan.
219 Shared by Bulgaria and Türkiye (non-Party).
220 Shared by Estonia, Latvia and the Russian Federation.
221 Shared by Brazil (non-Party) and France.
222 Shared by Poland and the Russian Federation.
223 Shared by Georgia (non-Party) and the Russian Federation.
224 Shared by China (non-Party) and the Russian Federation.
225 Shared by Mongolia (non-Party) and the Russian Federation.
226 Shared by Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan (non-Party).
227 Shared by the Islamic Republic of Iran (non-Party), Iraq, Türkiye (non-Party) and the Syrian Arab Republic (non-Party).
228 The Alta, Reisa and Skitborn.
229 The Archabil, Archinyan/Archangan, Atrek/Atrak, Chaacha, Kazgan Chai/Zenginanlou, Kelte-Chinar, Lainsu, Meana/Kara-Tikan and Nafte (Kelat Chai) basins.

What can we learn from the responses?

The responses to question 9 suggest that water quality objectives and criteria have not been developed in all basins. This finding aligns with the observations that only 32% of responses indicated that the elaboration of joint water quality objectives was a topic of cooperation covered by the relevant agreement or arrangement (figure 13).

Joint standards were reported to be absent in at least 68 (45%) river and lake basins in 2023 (compared to 43% in 2020) (figure 31). These include: the Amur,[230] Aoos/Vijose/Vjosa,[231] Axios/Vardar,[232] Aral Sea,[233] the Azov Sea River basins (Mius, Krinka, Sukhoi Elanchyk),[234] Banowka,[235] Black Sea River basins (Cogilnic/Kogilnik, Sarata, Hagiger/Hajider, Alcalia/Alkaliya, Chaga, Kaplan),[236] Chu/Shu,[237] Coastal River basins,[238] Don,[239] Emil/Emin He,[240] Euphrates,[241] Hari/Harirud,[242] Ili/Kunes He,[243] Jacobs/Grense Jakobselv/Voriema,[244] Jandari Lake basin,[245] Kemi/Kemijoki,[246] Lake Prespa basin,[247] Lava/Pregel/Pregolas,[248] Maroni/Marowijne,[249] Mono,[250] Murgab,[251] Mutludere/Rezovska,[252] Narva,[253] Ticino,[254] Prohladnaja/Swieza,[255] Psou,[256] Razdolnaya/Sujfun,[257] Selenge,[258] Talas,[259] Tigris[260] and Samur[261] River basins, a group of 19 river basins shared by Finland and the Russian Federation,[262] a group of 5 river basins shared by Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation,[263] a group of 3 river basins shared by Finland and Norway[264] and a group of 9 river basins shared by the Islamic Republic of Iran and Turkmenistan.[265] Some of these basins are shared with non-Parties.

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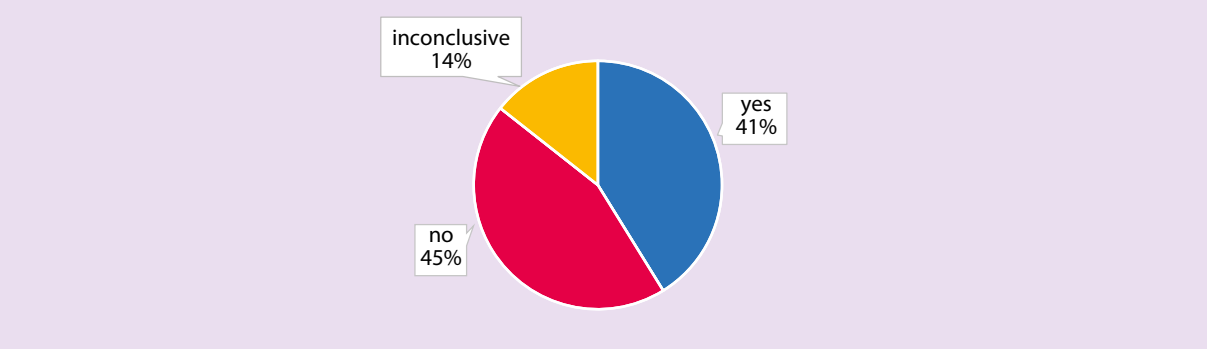
230 Shared by China (non-Party), Mongolia (non-Party) and the Russian Federation.
231 Shared by Albania and Greece.
232 shared by Greece, North Macedonia and Serbia.
233 Shared by Afghanistan (non-Party), Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan (non-Party), Tajikistan (non-Party), Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.
234 Shared by the Russian Federation and Ukraine.
235 Shared by Poland and the Russian Federation.
236 Shared by the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine.
237 Shared by Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan (non-Party).
238 Includes the Akpa and Cross River basins (shared by Cameroon and Nigeria) and the Benito/Ntem River basin (shared by Cameroon, Gabon (non-Party) and Equatorial Guinea (non-Party)).
239 Shared by the Russian Federation and Ukraine.
240 Shared by China (non-Party) and Kazakhstan.
241 Shared by Iraq, the Syrian Arab Republic (non-Party) and Türkiye (non-Party).
242 Shared by Afghanistan (non-Party), the Islamic Republic of Iran (non-Party) and Turkmenistan.
243 Shared by China (non-Party) and Kazakhstan.
244 Shared by Norway and the Russian Federation.
245 Shared by Azerbaijan and Georgia (non-Party).
246 Shared by Finland, Norway and the Russian Federation.
247 Shared by Albania, Greece and North Macedonia.
248 Shared by Lithuania, Poland and the Russian Federation.
249 Shared by France and Suriname (non-Party).
250 Shared by Benin (non-Party) and Togo.
251 Shared by Afghanistan (non-Party) and Turkmenistan.
252 Shared by Bulgaria and Türkiye (non-Party).
253 Shared by Estonia, Latvia and the Russian Federation.
254 Shared by Italy and Switzerland.
255 Shared by Poland and the Russian Federation.
256 Shared by Georgia (non-Party) and the Russian Federation.
257 Shared by China (non-Party) and the Russian Federation.
258 Shared by Mongolia (non-Party) and the Russian Federation.
259 Shared by Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan (non-Party).
260 Shared by the Islamic Republic of Iran (non-Party), Iraq, Türkiye (non-Party) and the Syrian Arab Republic (non-Party).
261 Shared by Azerbaijan and the Russian Federation.
262 Alajoki/Rakkolanjoki/Seleznevka, Hiitolanjoki, Janisjoki, Juustilanjoki-Saimaan Kanava/Saimen Canal-Mustajoki/Malinovka, Kaltonjoki/Peschanaya/Santajoki, Kem, Kilpeenjoki/Rokkajoki, Koskelanyoki/Vaalimaanjoki, Koutajoki/Kovda, Olanga/Oulanka, Oulu/Oulujoki, Petrovka/Petajoki, Serga/Urpalanjoki, Polevaya/Tervajoki, Tohmajoki, Tuloma/Tuulomajoki, Vienan Kemi, Vilajoki/Velikaya and Vuoksa/Vuoksi.
263 Ob River sub-basins (Ertis/Ertix He/Irtysh, Esil/Ishim and Tobol), Bolshoy Uzen/Karaozen, Kigach/Kigash, Malyi Uzen/Saryozen, and Ural/Zhayik River basins.
264 The Alta, Reisa and Skitborn.
265 The Archabil, Archinyan/Archangan, Atrek/Atrak, Chaacha, Kazgan Chai/Zenginanlou, Kelte-Chinar, Lainsu, Meana/Kara-Tikan and Nafte (Kelat Chai) River basins.

Figure 31 Percentage of river and lake basins where the riparian States agreed to use joint water quality standards (art. 3(3) and art. 9(2)) – based on consolidated basin-level responses to section II, question 9 (2023)



In addition, it was not possible to ascertain whether or not joint water quality standards were in place for 22 (or 14%) river and lake basins due to different responses from riparian countries to the same question, or because no response was provided.

In 17 river and lake basins, relevant agreements or arrangements provided for the elaboration of joint water quality standards, but according to reports these were not implemented in practice.

5.6 Prevention of accidental pollution

What does the Convention say?

In accordance with the Water Convention, Parties are obliged to take all appropriate measures to minimize the risk of accidental pollution (art. 3 (1) (l)) and must also take steps to develop contingency planning (art. 3 (1) (j)).

More specifically, riparian Parties must inform each other without delay about any critical situation that may have transboundary impact and set up, where appropriate, and operate coordinated or joint communication, warning and alarm systems (art. 14).[266] The obligation to inform other riparian Parties covers critical situations irrespective of whether these are natural phenomena or caused by human action.[267] Industrial accidents are therefore included within the scope of article 14, as are Natech (natural hazards triggering technological disasters) events.[268] Establishing warning and alarm procedures is listed among the tasks of joint bodies to be set up by riparian Parties (art. 9 (2) (g)) in pursuit of their obligations under the Convention.

What have countries reported?

In the reporting template (sect. II, question 10), countries were asked whether measures had been implemented to prevent or limit the transboundary impact of accidental pollution and, if so, what measures were in place. Figure 32 provides an overview of the replies, and highlights notification and communication as the most common response. Coordinated early warning or alarm systems for accidental water pollution appear to be much less widespread, despite their importance for preventing accidental pollution – and also despite the fact that 37 countries and the European Union are Parties to both the Water Convention and to the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents. Other measures mentioned by some Parties include: joint field exercises; the preparation of national, bilateral and/or basin (sub-basin)

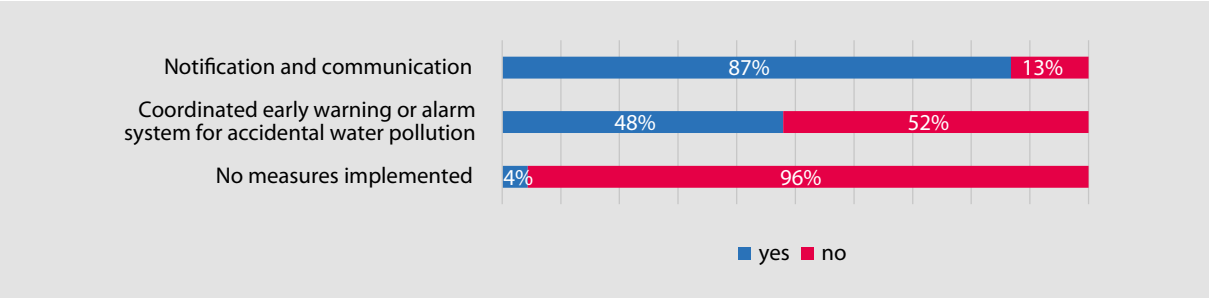
[266] See also the Protocol on Civil Liability and Compensation for Damage Caused by the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents on Transboundary Waters of 21 May 2003, signed by 24 countries.

[267] See the *Guide to Implementing the Water Convention*, para. 300.

[268] Natech accidents are technological side effects of natural disasters: a natural disaster leads to a cascading technological disaster, accumulating its consequences.

response plans; and measures to implement EU directives related to the control of major-accident hazards involving dangerous substances.

Figure 32 Measures implemented to prevent or limit the transboundary impact of accidental pollution (art. 14) – based on all (non-consolidated) responses for section II, question 10 (2023)

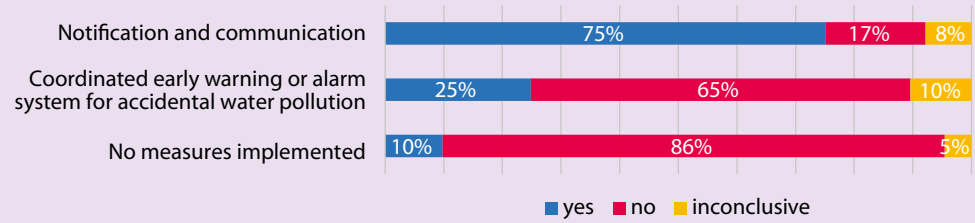


What can we learn from the responses?

The analysis of responses to question 10 at the basin level reveals that no measures have been implemented to prevent or limit the transboundary impact of accidental pollution in at least 15 (or 10%) river and lake basins in 2023 (as compared to 8% in 2020), meaning that even notification and communication is not present in those basins (figure 33). The river and lake basins in question are the Jandari Lake basin,[269] the Banowka,[270] Euphrates,[271] Jacobs/Grense Jakobselv/Voriema,[272] Lava/Pregel/Pregolas,[273] Maroni/Marowijne,[274] Mono,[275] Oiapoque/Oyapock/Oyupock,[276] Prohladnaja/Swieza,[277] Razdolnaya/Sujfun,[278] Tigris,[279] and Vidaa/Wiedau[280] River basins, and a group of three basins shared by Finland and Norway.[281] It should be noted that seven of these basins (Jandari Lake basin and the Euphrates, Maroni/Marowijne, Mono, Oiapoque/Oyapock/Oyupock, Razdolnaya/Sujfun and Tigris River basins) are shared with non-Parties to the Convention. For the three river basins shared by Finland and Norway, the share of basin area in Finland is very small and, due also to the absence of human pressures in these areas, the riparian countries do not consider it necessary to implement measures to prevent transboundary impact of accidental pollution. In an additional seven river and lake basins, it was not possible to conclude whether measures to prevent or limit the transboundary impact of accidental pollution existed because of different responses from the riparian countries to the same question.

269 Shared by Azerbaijan and Georgia (non-Party).
270 Shared by Poland and the Russian Federation.
271 Shared by Iraq, the Syrian Arab Republic (non-Party) and Türkiye (non-Party).
272 Shared by Norway and the Russian Federation.
273 Shared by Lithuania, Poland and the Russian Federation.
274 Shared by France and Suriname (non-Party).
275 Shared by Benin (non-Party) and Togo.
276 Shared by Brazil (non-Party) and France.
277 Shared by Poland and the Russian Federation.
278 Shared by China (non-Party) and the Russian Federation.
279 Shared by the Islamic Republic of Iran (non-Party), Iraq, Türkiye (non-Party) and the Syrian Arab Republic (non-Party).
280 Shared by Denmark and Germany.
281 The Alta, Reisa and Skibotn River basins.

Figure 33 Percentage of river and lake basins where measures are implemented to prevent or limit the transboundary impact of accidental pollution (art. 14) – based on consolidated basin-level responses to section II, question 10 (2023)



When analysed by subregion,[282] Parties' responses regarding the existence of a coordinated early warning or alarm system for accidental water pollution show that such systems are absent in Western Asia, less common in Northern Europe, Central Asia and sub-Saharan Africa subregions, better represented in the Southern Europe subregion and relatively widespread in the Eastern Europe and Western Europe subregions.

This analysis suggests a need to strengthen implementation of the Water Convention in the area of accidental water pollution, in order to ensure that early warning or alarm systems for accidental water pollution are set up in all transboundary basins, where appropriate.

5.7 Extreme events and climate change

What does the Convention say?

In accordance with the Water Convention, riparian Parties must inform each other without delay about any critical situation that may have transboundary impact and set up, where appropriate, and operate coordinated or joint communication, warning and alarm systems (art. 14). The obligation to inform riparian countries covers critical situations irrespective of their origins, whether natural or human-induced.[283] Floods, droughts, ice drifts, storms, earthquakes and other extreme events therefore fall within the scope of Article 14. The setting up of warning and alarm procedures is listed among the tasks of joint bodies (art. 9 (2) (g)). In addition, a key aspect of the programme of work under the Water Convention is dedicated to the effects of climate change and advancing climate change adaptation in transboundary basins.

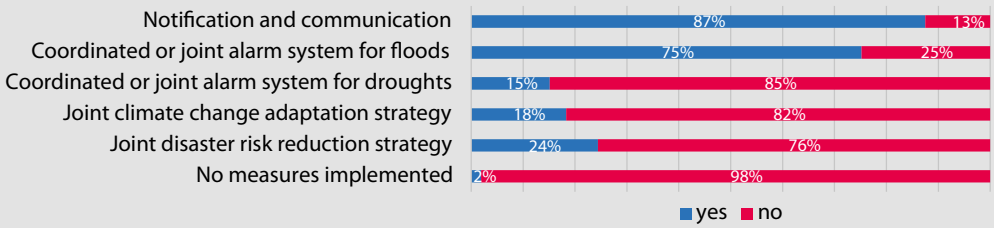
What have countries reported?

Section II, question 11 of the template asked countries to report on measures implemented to prevent or limit the transboundary impact of extreme weather events and climate change. Figure 34 provides a summary of their responses.

[282] For the division of Parties into subregions see footnote 162 above.

[283] See the *Guide to Implementing the Water Convention*, para. 300.

Figure 34 Measures implemented to prevent or limit the transboundary impact of extreme weather events and climate change (art. 14) – based on all (non-consolidated) responses for section II, question 11 (2023)



The responses suggest that notification and communication measures and coordinated or joint alarm systems for floods are the most common measures adopted by the Parties to prevent or limit the impact of extreme weather events. This is likely due to the historical focus on floods rather than droughts under the Convention.

Joint climate change adaptation strategies and disaster risk reduction strategies are rare. This outcome is corroborated by the finding that only 42% of agreements in 2023 (44% in 2020) mention climate change adaptation as a topic (sect. II, question 2 (d)) (figure 13), and only 41% of joint bodies in 2023 (43% in 2020) feature climate change adaptation among their tasks (sect. II, question 3 (g)) (figure 19).

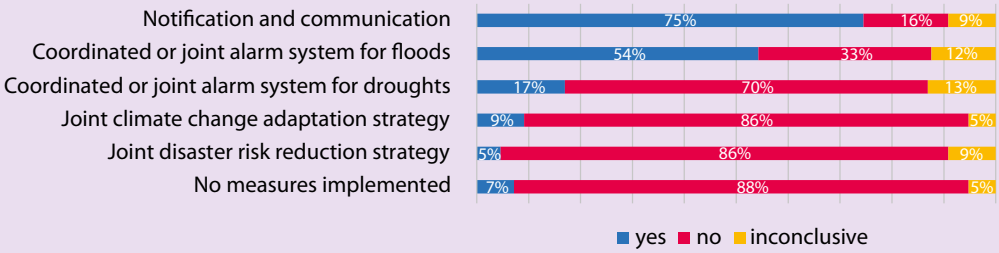
Some Parties also mentioned other measures employed to prevent or limit the impact of extreme weather events, such as coordinated operation of hydrotechnical facilities, joint studies on the impact of climate change, and the development of protocols or annexes to transboundary water agreements to focus on cooperation in emergency situations. For example, Chad stated that an annex on emergency situations is being drawn up within the framework of the Lake Chad Basin Water Charter.

What can we learn from the responses?

Figure 35 provides an overview of basins where measures are implemented to prevent or limit the transboundary impact of extreme weather events and climate change. It appears that at least 11 (or 7%) river and lake basins in 2023 lacked such measures (as compared to 8% in 2020), indicating that even notification and communication were not present in those basins. The basins in question are the Banowka,[284] Euphrates,[285] Lava/Pregel/Pregolas,[286] Prohladnaja/Swieza,[287] Maroni/Marowijne,[288] Mono,[289] Oiapoque/Oyapock/Oyupock,[290] Razdolnaya/Sujfun[291] River basins and a group of three basins shared by Finland and Norway.[292] It should be noted that five of these basins (the Euphrates, Maroni/Marowijne, Mono, Oiapoque/Oyapock/Oyupock and Razdolnaya/Sujfun) are shared with non-Parties to the Convention. Regarding the three basins shared by Finland and Norway, the share of the basin in Finland accounts for a very small proportion of the total area. In an additional eight river and lake basins it was not possible to conclude whether measures to prevent or limit the transboundary impact of extreme weather events and climate change existed due to the different responses received from riparian countries to the same question.

284 Shared by Poland and the Russian Federation.
285 Shared by Iraq, the Syrian Arab Republic (non-Party) and Türkiye (non-Party).
286 Shared by Lithuania, Poland and the Russian Federation.
287 Shared by Poland and the Russian Federation.
288 Shared by France and Suriname (non-Party).
289 Shared by Benin (non-Party) and Togo.
290 Shared by Brazil (non-Party) and France.
291 Shared by China (non-Party) and the Russian Federation.
292 The Alta, Reisa and Skibotn River basins.

Figure 35 Percentage of river and lake basins where measures are implemented to prevent or limit the transboundary impact of extreme weather events and climate change (art. 14) – based on consolidated basin-level responses for section II, question 11 (2023)



When analysed by subregion,[293] Parties' responses on the existence of a coordinated or joint system for floods show that such systems are much less common in Western Asia and Central Asia, less common in sub-Saharan Africa, better represented in Western Europe and relatively widespread in Eastern Europe, Southeastern Europe and Northern Europe.

The lack of measures for addressing climate change adaptation in transboundary river and lake basins raises concerns in light of the increasing impact of climate change on water resources across Parties, and the fact that transboundary basins are often particularly vulnerable to these impacts.

This analysis suggests a need to strengthen implementation of the Water Convention in the areas of joint adaptation to climate change and joint disaster risk reduction, as basin-wide adaptation can increase effectiveness through the sharing of data and by enlarging the overall planning space.

Box 20: Insights from practice: adaptation to climate change in the Dniester River basin

The Dniester basin is one of the most sizeable basins in Ukraine and the largest in the Republic of Moldova, supplying water to about 10 million people and supporting a wide range of sectors, including food, forestry and hydropower production. Climate change is already affecting the Dniester basin producing impacts such as:

- increased water flow and intensity of flooding;
- a gradual decline in the volume of available water resources, especially during periods of low water in tributaries of the Dniester;
- a corresponding decline in water quality;
- further deterioration in the state of aquatic and wetland ecosystems, particularly in the lower reaches of the Dniester.

In 2015, high-level government representatives from the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine jointly signed the *Strategic Framework for Adaptation to Climate Change* developed by expert representatives in consultation with environment, water, climate and sectoral authorities from both countries and with the support of international organizations. The Strategic Framework and its associated implementation plan identified joint adaptation options at the basin level that require transboundary cooperation in the areas of flood management, reducing water scarcity, improving water quality, ecosystem-based adaptation actions, and monitoring and forecasting. Activities including reforestation, low-scale restoration of floodplains, fish conservation, installation of monitoring stations, analysis of the water balance and dedicated awareness raising had already been implemented to improve adaptation to climate change. These activities have not only increased basin resilience, but also improved and promoted transboundary water cooperation more broadly.

[293] For the division of Parties into subregions see footnote 162 above.

In 2021, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine agreed on a Strategic Action Programme for the Dniester River Basin for the period 2021–2035. Among its strategic objectives for the basin, the Strategic Action Programme focuses on mitigating the impacts of climate change and natural disasters. It provides for joint measures on adaptation to climate change and flood and drought management, including the development and implementation of flood and drought risk management plans and improvements in irrigation and rainwater systems management. Specific adaptation measures included in the national river basin management plans are implemented within the framework of the Dniester Commission's Working Groups on river basin management planning and emergency situations.

Transboundary climate change activities in the Dniester basin have supported the development of national adaptation planning processes in both countries. They further helped countries to implement their international commitments under the Water Convention and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The entire process received the support of the Environment and Security (ENVSEC) Initiative, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), the United Nations Development Programme/Global Environment Facility (UNDP/GEF), the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).


Dniester River in the Republic of Moldova.

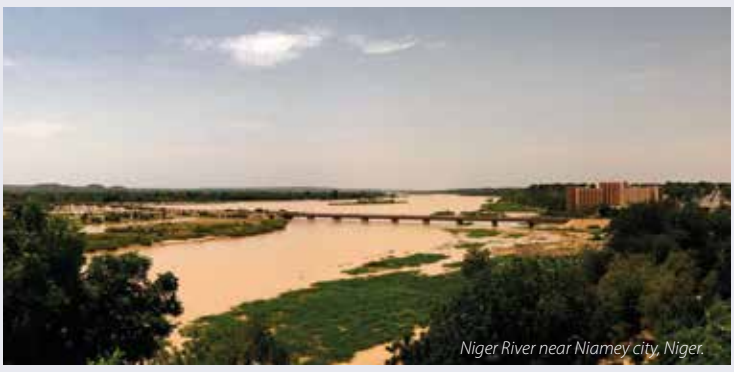
Source: Dniester Commission https://dniester-commission.org/en/publications/climate-change

Box 21: Insights from practice: activities on transboundary water management and climate change adaptation in the Niger River basin

The Niger River basin is shared by Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Mali, Niger and Nigeria. Over 70% of the population lives in areas where food security depends on unreliable rainfall and highly variable inter-annual and intra-annual river flows.

In 2015, the Niger Basin Authority and its members countries and partners developed the Investment Plan for the Strengthening of Resilience of Climate Change in the Niger Basin 2016–2024 (Climate Resilience Investment Plan). In 2016, a Regional Fund for Adaptation to Climate Change and a payment mechanism for environmental services (FRACC/PES) was initiated. Some activities under the Investment Plan are financed by the African Development Bank (AfDB), Cooperation in International Waters in Africa (CIWA)/ World Bank, the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and GEF.

One of the climate change adaptation measures implemented in certain parts of the basin is sand dune fixation. Sand dune formation and transportation is a major impact of climate change at the basin level, and fixing sand dunes entails the cultivation and nurturing of plants, the construction of river channels, and the control of gully erosion in the upper, inner, middle and lower parts of the basin. Fixing dunes reduces river siltation, assists agricultural activities, improves water quality, increases navigability and reduces flooding.


Niger River near Niamey city, Niger.

Other climate change adaptation activities included the adoption in 2022 of formal guidelines on the integration of the Water, Energy, Food and Environmental sustainability (WEFE) Nexus approach, with a view to assisting in the development and management of sustainable development programmes in the Niger Basin. The guidelines specify rules to assess WEFE Nexus criteria in development programmes and projects.

The experience of the Niger basin shows that the development of transboundary strategies and plans, such as the Climate Resilience Investment Plan, helps to facilitate funding for transboundary water cooperation from various sources, including climate funds, and, as a result, supports a coordinated approach to climate adaptation and mitigation actions in the riparian countries.

Source: Presentation by Walter Bamidele Olatunji "Niger Basin Authority: Drought Management Initiatives" at the Seventh Meeting of the Global Network of Basins Working on Climate Change Adaptation, May 2023; and *Progress report of the Global network of basins working on climate change adaptation as of April 2023* (UNECE, 2023).

Box 22: Insights from practice: cooperation on flood forecasting in the Sava River basin

The Sava River basin countries have a long tradition of cooperation in flood management. As Parties to the Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin (FASRB), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia and Slovenia, implement jointly agreed activities for sustainable flood management in the basin. In 2010, the Parties also signed the Protocol on Flood Protection to the FASRB, which included an obligation for the riparian countries to establish a coordinated or joint flood forecasting system to be coordinated by the International Sava River Basin Commission (ISRBC). An inter-ministerial Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation concerning regular functioning and maintenance of the flood forecasting and warning system in the Sava River basin was signed by Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia, Slovenia and also Montenegro in 2020.

The Flood Forecasting and Warning System of the Sava River basin (Sava FFWS) has been operational since 2018, and is jointly operated and maintained by the five Sava riparian countries with the close cooperation, coordination and support of the Secretariat of the ISRBC. The Sava FFWS provides the national hydrometeorological services in the Sava countries with an expert forecasting tool, enabling them to generate hydrological forecasts based on observed telemetry data from hydrological and meteorological gauges and Numerical Weather Predictions (NWP). The Sava FFWS uses hydrological and hydraulic models to compute the catchment runoff and river flows and water levels.

Collapsed rope bridge over Sava River close to Medno in Ljubljana, Slovenia, after heavy floods hit Slovenia in the summer 2023.

The Sava FFWS contributes to the strengthening of organizations responsible for hydrometeorological services and flood defence in the Sava countries. As a common forecasting platform, it also adds value to existing national forecasting and warning systems, providing a better level of preparedness and optimizing mitigation measures, thereby helping to reduce the consequences of flooding.

Source: www.savacommission.org

Workshop to validate the Strategy and Implementation Plan of the Water Convention in Chad (N'Djamena, 4-5 April 2024), photo credit: Water Convention secretariat

5.8 Mutual assistance

What does the Convention say?

In accordance with the Water Convention, riparian Parties must provide mutual assistance in critical situations upon request (art. 15). Accordingly, procedures for the provision of mutual assistance should be developed and agreed upon in advance (art. 15 (2)) to better enable riparian Parties to coordinate their activities and assist each other in mitigating and eliminating harmful effects, thereby improving the effectiveness of response measures aimed at the prevention, control or reduction of possible transboundary impact, the protection of human health and the environment in critical situations.[294]

What have countries reported?

In section II, question 12 of the reporting template, countries were asked to report on whether procedures were in place for mutual assistance in critical situations. Out of a total of 1,128 responses, Parties affirmed that such procedures were in place in only 615 cases (or 55%) in 2023, as compared to 50% in 2020. The replies to section II, question 2 (d) further indicate that mutual assistance is mentioned as a subject in only 28% of agreements in 2023 (figure 13) (30% in 2020).

In their description of procedures for mutual assistance, where these are available, many Parties indicated that such procedures are only rarely included in transboundary water agreements.[295] Instead, they are frequently regulated through dedicated bilateral agreements related to cooperation on disasters and emergencies and are implemented by the ministry of the interior, fire and rescue authorities, and local authorities. They may also be regulated at the level of regional organizations. For example, as reported by Cameroon, joint measures for assistance in the event of disasters are provided for under the framework of the Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa (CEMAC) and the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS).

What can we learn from the responses?

Parties reported that procedures for mutual assistance in critical situations are not in place in at least 103 (or 67%) river and lake basins in 2023 (figure 36), the same share as in 2020. The basins in question are: the Jandari Lake basin,[296] the Amur,[297] Aoos/Vijose/Vjosa,[298] Chu/Shu[299] Congo/Zaire,[300] Corubal/Koliba,[301] Escaut/Schelde/Scheldt,[302] Euphrates,[303] Gambia,[304] Geba/Kayanga,[305] Hari/Harirud,[306] Jacobs/

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294 See the *Guide to Implementing the Water Convention*, para. 315.

295 The examples provided by the Parties are quite limited here and include the 1994 Convention on the Protection of the Danube River, the 2010 Protocol on Flood Protection to the Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin, the 1976 Agreement between the Government of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic and the Government of the People's Republic of Hungary on the Regulation of Water Management Issues on Transboundary Waters, the 2003 Agreement between the Government of Romania and the Government of the Republic of Hungary on the Protection and Sustainable Use of Transboundary Waters, the 2010 Agreement between the Government of Romania and the Government of the Republic of Moldova regarding Cooperation on the Protection and Sustainable Use of the Prut and the Danube rivers, and the 1997 Agreement between the Government of Romania and the Government of Ukraine on Cooperation in the Field of Transboundary Water Management.

296 Shared by Azerbaijan and Georgia (non-Party).

297 Shared by China (non-Party), Mongolia (non-Party) and the Russian Federation.

298 Shared by Albania and Greece.

299 Shared by Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan (non-Party).

300 Shared by Angola (non-Party), Burundi (non-Party), Cameroon, Central African Republic (non-Party), Chad, Congo Republic (non-Party), Democratic Republic of the Congo (non-Party), Gabon (non-Party), Malawi (non-Party), Rwanda (non-Party), United Republic of Tanzania (non-Party) and Zambia (considered as a non-Party for the third round of reporting).

301 Shared by Ghana and Guinea-Bissau.

302 Shared by Belgium, France and the Netherlands.

303 Shared by Iraq, the Syrian Arab Republic (non-Party) and Türkiye (non-Party).

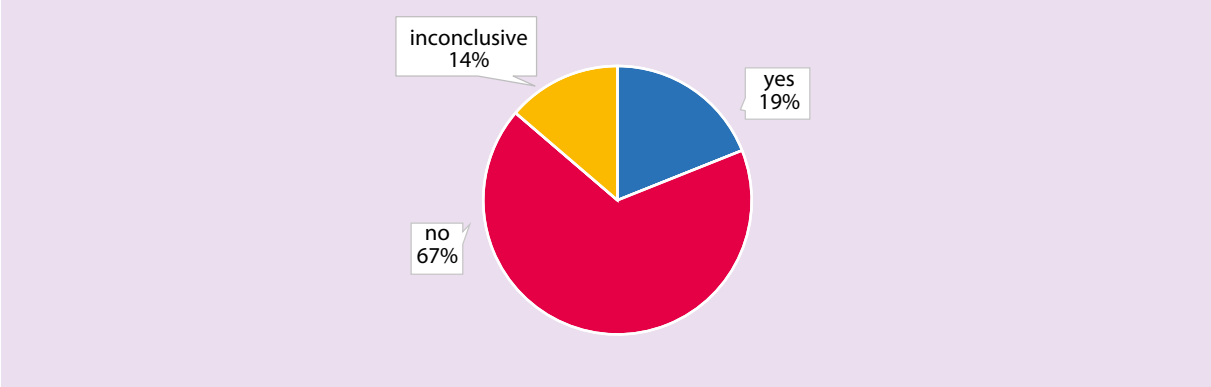
304 Shared by the Gambia (non-Party), Guinea (non-Party), Guinea-Bissau and Senegal.

305 Shared by the Gambia (non-Party), Guinea (non-Party), Guinea-Bissau and Senegal.

306 Shared by Afghanistan (non-Party), the Islamic Republic of Iran (non-Party) and Turkmenistan.

Grense Jakobselv/Voriema,[307] Levante,[308] Mono,[309] Murgab,[310] Psou,[311] Razdolnaya/Sujfun,[312] Senegal,[313] Selenge,[314] Talas,[315] Ticino[316] and the Tigris[317] River basins, river basins shared by Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro and belonging to the Adriatic Sea basin, a group of 5 river basins shared by Portugal and Spain;[318] a group of 4 river basins shared by Finland and Norway;[319] a group of 34 river basins shared by Norway and Sweden;[320] a group of 19 river basins shared by Finland and the Russian Federation;[321] a group of two river basins shared by Finland, Norway and the Russian Federation;[322] a group of two river basins shared by the Russian Federation and Ukraine,[323] a group of five river basins shared by Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation,[324] and a group of nine river basins shared by Turkmenistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran.[325] In an additional 21 river and lake basins (14%), it was not possible to conclude whether procedures for mutual assistance existed because of different responses from the riparian countries to the same question.

Figure 36 Percentage of river and lake basins where procedures for mutual assistance in case of a critical situation are available (art. 15) – based on consolidated basin-level responses to section II, question 12 (2023)



307 Shared by Norway and the Russian Federation.

308 Shared by Italy and Slovenia.

309 Shared by Benin (non-Party) and Togo.

310 Shared by Afghanistan (non-Party) and Turkmenistan.

311 Shared by Georgia (non-Party) and the Russian Federation.

312 Shared by China (non-Party) and the Russian Federation.

313 Shared by Guinea, Mali, Mauritania and Senegal.

314 Shared by Mongolia (non-Party) and the Russian Federation.

315 Shared by Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan (non-Party).

316 Shared by Italy and Switzerland.

317 Shared by the Islamic Republic of Iran (non-Party), Iraq, Türkiye (non-Party) and the Syrian Arab Republic (non-Party).

318 The Douro/Duero, Guadiana, Lima/Limia, Minho/Mino and Tagus/Tejo/Tajo River basins.

319 The Alta, Munkelva/Uutanjoki, Reisa and Skibotn River basins. For the Alta, Reisa and Skibotn Rivers, the Finnish share of the basins is very small and there are no reported human pressures on the water resources.

320 The Angerman, Berbyelva/Enningdalselva/Enningdalsalven, Bjerka, Byalven, Dalalven, Fagerbakkvassdraget, Glama/Glommavassdraget, Haldenvassdraget, Hellemovassdraget, Indalsalven, Klaralven/Trysilelva, Laksaga, Ljusnan, Lulealven, Malselvvassdraget, Nidelva/Nidelvvassdraget, Norsalven, Pitealven, Ranavassdraget, Rossaga, Salangselva, Saltdalsvassdraget, Signaldalelva, Skelleftealven, Skjomavassdraget, Sorfjordelva, Stjordalsvassdraget, Storelva, Stromsan, Sulitjelmavassdraget, Umealven, Upperudsalven, Vefsna and Verdalsvassdraget River basins.

321 The Alajoki/Rakkolanjoki/Seleznevka, Hiitolanjoki, Janisjoki, Juustilanjoki-Saimaan Kanava/Saimen Canal-Mustajoki/Malinovka, Kaltonjoki/Peschanaya/Santajoki, Kem, Kilpeenjoki/Rokkajoki, Koskelanjoki/Vaalimaanjoki, Koutajoki/Kovda, Olanga/Oulanka, Oulu/Oulujoki, Petrovka/Petajoki, Polevaya/Tervajoki, Serga/Urpalanjoki, Tohmajoki, Tuloma/Tuulomajoki, Vienan Kemi, Vilajoki/Velikaya and Vuoksa/Vuoksi River basins.

322 The Kemi/Kemijoki and Pasvik/Paatsjoki/Paz River basins.

323 The Azov Sea River Basins (Mius, Krinka, Sukhoi Elanchyk) and the Don River basin.

324 Ob River sub-basins (Ertis/Ertix He/Irtysh, Esil/Ishim and Tobol), Bolshoy Uzen/Karaozen, Kigach/Kigash, Malyi Uzen/Saryozen and Ural/Zhayik River basins.

325 The Archabil, Archinyan/Archangan, Atrek/Atrak, Chaacha, Kazgan Chai/Zenginanlou, Kelte-Chinar, Lainsu, Meana/Kara-Tikan and Nafte (Kelat Chai) River basins.

These findings – the percentages for which are the same as in 2020 – are a major area of concern, as they indicate that the capacity for timely response and effective prevention of transboundary impact in the event of critical situations may be insufficient in many countries.

This analysis suggests a need to strengthen implementation of the Water Convention in the area of mutual assistance in the event of critical situations.

Box 23: Insights from practice: cooperation to address emergency pollution of the Oder/Odra River in 2022

For various transboundary waters shared by Poland, mutual assistance in the event of emergency situations takes place at the level of the local authorities and firefighter brigades, upon request. In the Oder/Odra River basin, bilateral treaties, independent from the 1996 Convention on the International Commission for the Protection of the River Oder against pollution, deal with transboundary cooperation in the event of disasters.

The International Commission for the Protection of the Oder against Pollution (ICPO) plays a coordinating role in the field of cooperation between its Member States (Czechia, Germany and Poland) and for many years has been developing numerous strategic documents aimed at, among other things, the prevention and continuous reduction of pollution of the Oder/Odra River, the Szczecin Lagoon and the Baltic Sea by harmful substances.

In connection with the emergency situation on the Oder/Odra River in summer 2022, when a massive fish kill (around 360 tons) was caused by a substantial toxic algal bloom identified as *Prymnesium parvum*, intensive cooperation took place both at the level of the ICPO Delegation Chairs and the ICPO President, as well as within the framework of the ICPO G3 Working Group on "Emergency Pollution". In addition, the Chairs of the Polish and German Delegations and the ICPO Secretariat remained in constant contact with the competent authorities and national institutions dealing with the incident.

Oder River in Wroclaw, Poland.

Source: Third national report of Poland (2024).

5.9 Stakeholder participation in transboundary water management

What does the Convention say?

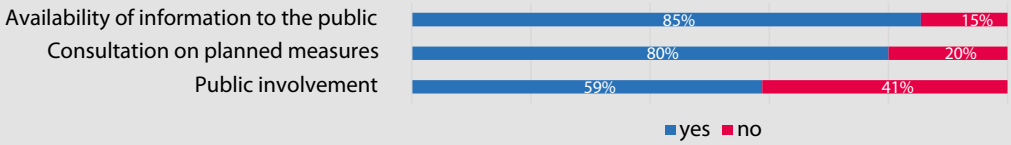
The Water Convention does not directly provide for stakeholder participation, although there is a requirement for riparian Parties to ensure that information is made available to the public on the conditions of transboundary waters and measures taken or planned to be taken to prevent, control and reduce transboundary impact, and the effectiveness of those measures (art. 16). Additionally, 38 States and the European Union are Parties to both the Water Convention and the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention), which provides more detailed procedural obligations in relation to stakeholder participation. Among recent Parties to the Water Convention, Guinea-Bissau is also a Party to the Aarhus Convention.

What have countries reported?

Countries were asked to report on whether the public or relevant stakeholders were involved in transboundary water management (sect. II, question 13). Out of a total of 1,138 responses, 1,049 (or 92%) replies indicated that public or relevant stakeholders were involved in transboundary water management in 2023 (as compared to 89% in 2020). These figures, however, relate to responses to section II of the template, which in some cases exclude information on basins not covered by agreements or arrangements in force.

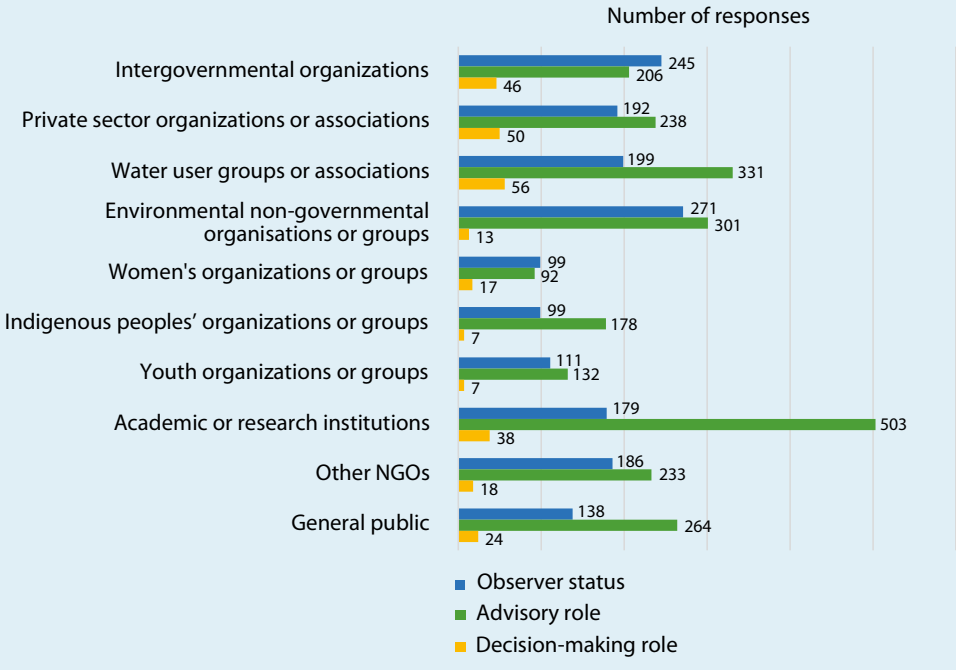
Where countries responded that the public or relevant stakeholders were involved in transboundary water management, they were also asked about the form this participation had taken. Figure 37 provides an overview of responses to this question.

Figure 37 Type of participation taking place (art. 16) – based on all (non-consolidated) responses to section II, question 13 (2023)



Where stakeholders played any role in a joint body, such as holding observer status or having an advisory or a decision-making role, Parties were additionally asked to specify the type of stakeholders. Figure 38 provides an overview of replies categorized by type of stakeholders.

Figure 38 Type of stakeholders having a role in a joint body (art. 16) – based on all (non-consolidated) responses to section II, question 13 for all countries member of a joint body (2023)

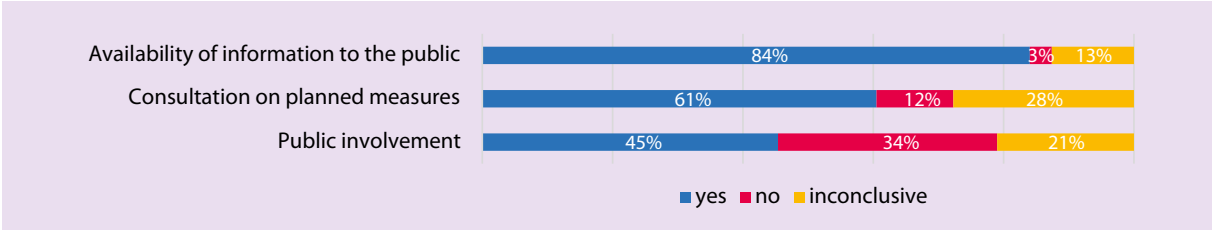


Additionally, Parties were asked whether any existing shared database or information platform was publicly available (sect. II, question 6 (f)). Out of a total of 395 responses stating that a shared database was in place in 2023, 299 (76%) confirmed that the database was publicly available (as compared to 84% in 2020).

What can we learn from the responses?

The responses of the Parties suggest that availability of information and public participation in consultations on planned measures are widespread practices (figure 37). Figure 39 provides an overview of the type of participation based on consolidated basin-level responses, confirming these findings.

Figure 39 Percentage of river and lake basins by type of participation taking place (art. 16) – based on consolidated basin-level responses for section II, question 13 (2023)



At the basin level, public or stakeholder involvement in transboundary water management was reported to be absent in at least 24 (or 16%) river and lake basins: the Jandari Lake basin,[326] the Azov Sea River basins (Mius, Krinka and Sukhoi Elanchyk),[327] the Coastal Rivers basin,[328] the Don,[329] Emil/Emin He,[330] Euphrates,[331] Hari/Harirud,[332] Ili/Kunes He,[333] Maroni/Marowijne,[334] Murgab,[335] Oiapoque/Oyapock/Oyupock,[336] Psou,[337] Razdolnaya/Sujfun,[338] Selenge[339] and Tigris[340] River basins, and a group of 9 river basins shared by the Islamic Republic of Iran and Turkmenistan.[341] However, out of these 24 river and lake basins, 22 are shared with non-Parties to the Water Convention. In 20 (or 13%) additional river and lake basins, it was not possible to ascertain whether or not public or stakeholder involvement took place due to the different responses received from riparian countries to the same question.

In regard to the involvement of stakeholders in the activities of joint bodies for transboundary water cooperation (figure 38), academic or research institutions (720 responses for all types of involvement) appear to be more involved than the other categories of stakeholders, followed by water user groups (586 responses) and environmental non-governmental organizations (NGOs) or groups (585 responses). The participation of women's organizations or groups (208 responses), youth organizations (250 responses) and Indigenous peoples' organizations (284 responses) was much less common. Among all types of stakeholders, women's organizations appeared to be least involved in the work of joint bodies. For all

326 Shared by Azerbaijan and Georgia (non-Party).
327 Shared by the Russian Federation and Ukraine.
328 Includes the Akpa and Cross River basins (shared by Cameroon and Nigeria) and the Benito/Ntem River basin (shared by Cameroon, Gabon (non-Party) and Equatorial Guinea (non-Party)).
329 Shared by the Russian Federation and Ukraine.
330 Shared by China (non-Party) and Kazakhstan.
331 Shared by Iraq, the Syrian Arab Republic (non-Party) and Türkiye (non-Party).
332 Shared by Afghanistan (non-Party), the Islamic Republic of Iran (non-Party) and Turkmenistan.
333 Shared by China (non-Party) and Kazakhstan.
334 Shared by France and Suriname (non-Party).
335 Shared by Afghanistan (non-Party) and Turkmenistan.
336 Shared by Brazil (non-Party) and France.
337 Shared by Georgia (non-Party) and the Russian Federation.
338 Shared by China (non-Party) and the Russian Federation.
339 Shared by Mongolia (non-Party) and the Russian Federation.
340 Shared by the Islamic Republic of Iran (non-Party), Iraq, Türkiye (non-Party) and the Syrian Arab Republic (non-Party).
341 The Archabil, Archinyan/Archangan, Atrek/Atrak, Chaacha, Kazgan Chai/Zenginanlou, Kelte-Chinar, Lainsu, Meana/Kara-Tikan and Nafte (Kelat Chai) River basins.

types of stakeholders, playing an advisory role in a joint body was the most frequent form of participation. Involvement in decision-making within a joint body occurred only in very rare cases.

These findings are corroborated by the responses to section II, question 3 (g), in which joint communication strategies and basin-wide or joint public participation and consultation was reported to be among the tasks of joint bodies in only 30% and 43% of responses, respectively (figure 18).

These findings underscore the need for stronger engagement of stakeholders in the activities of joint bodies for transboundary water cooperation, as such participation enhances the quality and acceptance of decisions and contributes to the transparency of decision-making processes.

When analysed by subregion,[342] the responses on stakeholder participation raise concerns for Parties in Western Asia, where the absence of any form of public participation and stakeholder involvement in transboundary water cooperation is notable, as well as in Central Asia, where no public participation and stakeholder involvement is reported in relation to most transboundary basins.

Box 24: Insights from practice: inclusion of local knowledge in Finnish-Norwegian and Finnish-Swedish bilateral commissions

While, in most cases, transboundary water agreements are agreements between States, their greatest impact is felt by local populations. It is therefore important to ensure the involvement of local representatives in the preparation and implementation of agreements. Without the commitment of the local population, it is difficult to implement transboundary water agreements in practice.

The Finnish-Norwegian Transboundary Water Commission (currently operating under the bilateral agreement of 1981) and the Finnish-Swedish Transboundary River Commission (currently operating under the bilateral agreement of 2010) each have three full members and a varying number of deputy members per contracting party. One full member represents the national environmental authority. The other two members are representatives of the local population. This ensures that local knowledge is utilized in the Commission's activities.

As the Finnish-Norwegian Transboundary Water Commission operates inside the Sámi homeland, one of the Commission's local representatives has always been Sámi. This enables the Commission to respect and utilize indigenous knowledge. The Sámi can use their own language at meetings if they wish and most important documents of the Commission are translated into the Sámi language.

Since municipalities have broad administrative powers within their territories, the Finnish-Norwegian Transboundary Water Commission has made efforts to involve the municipalities in the Lapland region in implementing the Commission's activities. Some of the full or deputy members of the Commission were appointed from municipal authorities. This made it possible to synchronize municipal planning and the activities of the Commission. Already at an early stage of the Commission's activities and even before the implementation of the Water Framework Directive, this enabled the implementation of joint Finnish-Norwegian transboundary water protection plans. Numerous water restoration projects funded by the European Union were also carried out in cooperation with municipalities and environmental authorities in the area. Involving municipalities proved to be an effective approach.

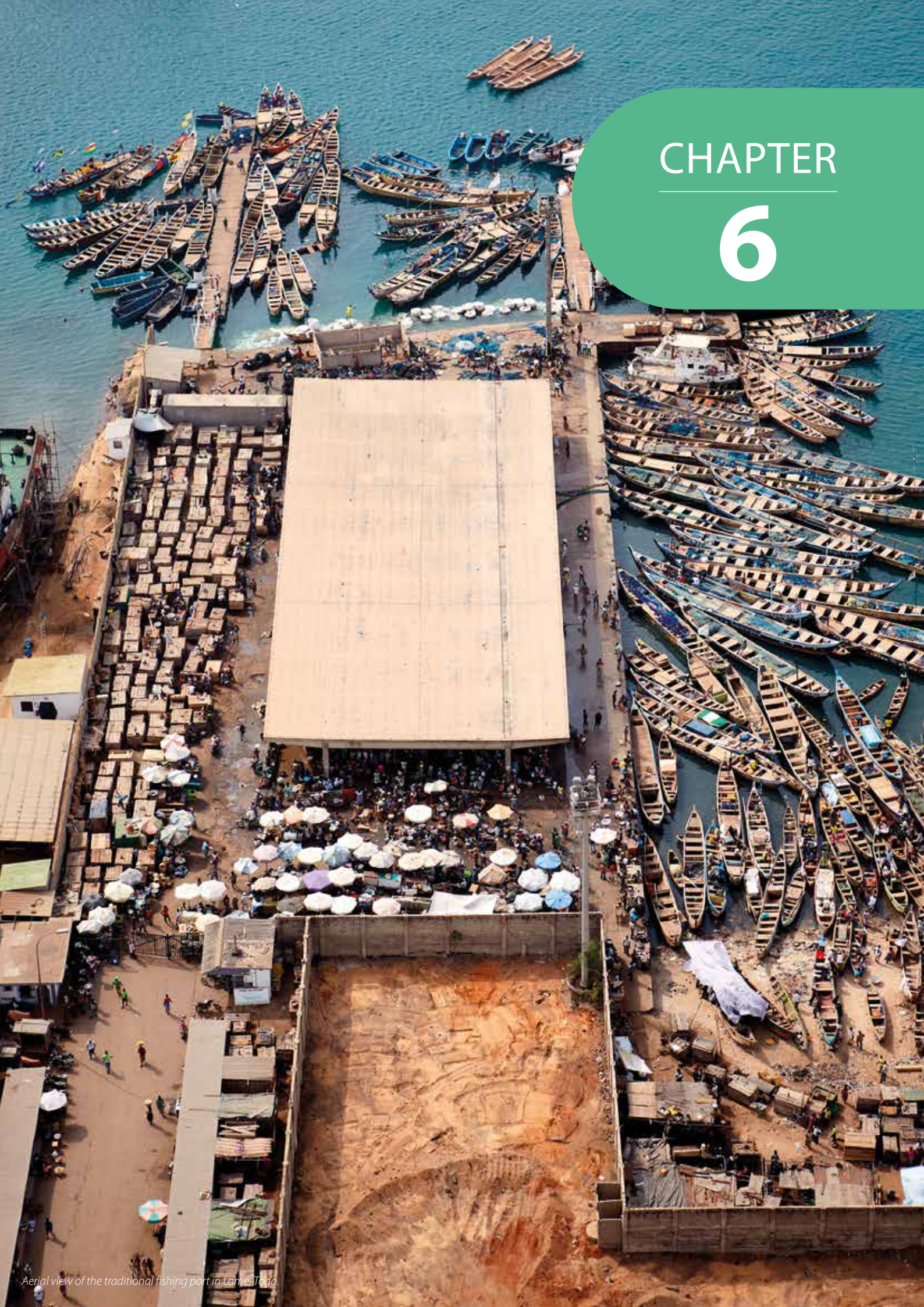
The structure of the Finnish-Swedish Transboundary River Commission is similar to that of the Finnish-Norwegian Commission with municipalities proposing their own candidates as full and deputy members.

The activities of both Commissions are highly transparent and their websites are kept up to date, with the minutes of Commission meetings published online together with other important documents.

Source: Kari Kinnunen, member of the Implementation Committee under the Water Convention.

[342] For the division of Parties into subregions see footnote 162 above.

CHAPTER 6



Aerial view of the traditional fishing port in Lomé, Togo.

SELECTED **BASIN ANALYSIS**

Key messages

- **Transboundary water cooperation among Parties encompasses a diversity of approaches and numerous positive experiences.**
- **The Rhine basin provides an example of multi-level cooperation at the basin, sub-basin and bilateral levels. Cooperation within the framework of the ICPR and the Rhine Coordination Committee offers a wealth of experience in areas such as the exchange of information and data, water quality and reduction of pollution, restoration of ecosystems and flood management. Potential tasks for the future include cooperation on drought management and the identification of ways to integrate a gender perspective into transboundary water cooperation.**
- **The experience of the Dniester River basin highlights the importance of proper legal and institutional frameworks for transboundary water cooperation. Such frameworks increase the resilience of cooperation to external challenges and enhance opportunities for attracting financial resources. Tasks for the future include the implementation of the Strategic Action Programme for the Dniester River Basin for 2021–2035.**
- **Recent developments in bilateral cooperation between the riparian countries of the Syr Darya River basin offer instructive examples of ways to extend the scope of cooperation from water allocation issues to other important water management issues. Potential ways forward include developing new solutions for basin-wide cooperation on water and energy, strengthening coordinated monitoring, joint assessment and data exchange, and taking joint steps in climate change adaptation.**
- **The Senegal-Mauritanian Aquifer Basin (SMAB) provides an example of rapidly developing coordination and cooperation on transboundary groundwaters among countries with functioning cooperation and joint institutions for transboundary surface waters already in place. Important tasks for the future include establishing a legal and institutional framework for cooperation and ensuring sustained support for practical actions towards integrated and sustainable management of the aquifer.**

6.1 Rhine River basin

More than 60 million people live in the Rhine catchment area (188,715 km^2), which is shared by nine states: Germany (105,751 km^2), Switzerland (27,835 km^2), the Netherlands (25,452 km^2), France (23,831 km^2), Luxembourg (2,527 km^2), Austria (2,386 km^2), Belgium (771 km^2), Liechtenstein (160 km^2) and Italy (2 km^2).[343] The main challenges presented by the basin – termed "essential management issues" in the River Basin Management Plan 2022–2027 of the International River Basin District Rhine – include the "restoration" of ecological river continuity, increased habitat diversity, reduction of diffuse pollution of surface waters and groundwater, further reduction in pollution from industrial and municipal point sources, and the harmonization of water uses (navigation, energy production, flood protection, regional land use planning, etc.) with environmental objectives.[344]

All states of the basin are Parties to the Water Convention and have submitted reports for the third reporting exercise on SDG indicator 6.5.2 and under the Water Convention.[345] Overall, the national reports of the Rhine riparian countries exhibit a high level of convergence, reflecting their efforts to coordinate responses.

How does basin-wide cooperation function?

Cooperation on the Rhine dates back to 1950, when Germany, France, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and Switzerland founded the International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine (ICPR) in order to analyse pollution levels, recommend water protection measures, harmonize monitoring and analysis methods, and exchange monitoring data. This cooperation was further strengthened by the 1963 Agreement concerning the International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine against Pollution, the 1976 Additional Agreement to the Agreement of 29 April 1963 concerning the International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine against Pollution, and the 1976 Convention for the protection of the Rhine against chemical pollution.

At present, the main agreement governing cooperation on the Rhine is the 1999 Convention on the Protection of the Rhine to which Germany, France, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Switzerland and the European Union are parties. The ICPR continues its activities as the joint body under the 1999 Convention.

The Convention for the Protection of the Rhine covers both the river and groundwaters that interact with the river. Its application to the entire catchment area is restricted to certain issues affecting the whole basin.[346] For this reason, the Rhine Coordination Committee was set up in 2001, via a decision of a ministerial conference, to bring together all Rhine basin countries to coordinate basin-related implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive and the EU Flood Risk Management Directive in the entire Rhine River basin district. In addition to countries participating in the ICPR, the Rhine Coordination Committee includes Austria, Belgium (Wallonia) and Liechtenstein.[347] Italy is also part of the Rhine River basin district, but in practice, and due to the small geographical share of the catchment, the country does not participate in the work of the Rhine Coordination Committee, although it provides information as needed. The plenary session of the ICPR and the Rhine Coordination Committee meet once a year in a joint session.

Cooperation on the Rhine also takes place within the framework of the Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine, whose establishment dates to the Congress of Vienna in 1815. This Commission deals with the regulation of navigation on the Rhine, including issues relating to safety and the environment.

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343 IKSR (2022). *Internationally Coordinated Management Plan 2022–2027 for the International River Basin District of the Rhine (Part A = Overriding Part)*. Numbers without Wadden Sea and coastal waters.

344 Ibid.

345 Belgium and Italy have not provided information on the Rhine in their national reports on SDG indicator 6.5.2 and under the Water Convention. This is in line with the reporting methodology which permits the exclusion of basins where the national share is less than 1%.

346 For more details, see Article 2 "Scope" of the Convention for the Protection of the Rhine.

347 Conference of Rhine Ministers, Ministerial Declaration, 29 January 2001.

The Rhine River near Bacharach in Germany.

The Commission has five Member States (Belgium, France, Germany, the Netherlands and Switzerland) and numerous other countries participate as observers.

In addition, the International Commission for the Hydrology of the Rhine basin (CHR) is an organization that enables scientific institutes of the Rhine basin states to formulate joint hydrological measures for the sustainable development of the basin. The member states of the CHR are Austria, Germany, France, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and Switzerland.

Basin-wide cooperation on the Rhine within the framework of the ICPR and the Rhine Coordination Committee builds on several strategic documents which define objectives for the basin. Their implementation is reviewed regularly. Most countries of the Rhine basin mentioned the following strategic documents in their national reports:

- Third internationally coordinated management plan 2022–2027 for the International River Basin District "Rhine" (2022);
- Second international flood risk management plan 2022–2027 for the International River Basin District "Rhine" (2021);
- "Rhine 2040" Programme (2020);
- Master Plan Migratory Fish Rhine (2009, updated in 2018);
- Strategy for the International River Basin District "Rhine" for adapting to climate change (2015, currently being updated until 2025);
- Sediment Management Plan Rhine (2009).

The national reports of the countries in the Rhine basin emphasize that joint monitoring is well developed within the framework of the ICPR. Monitoring programmes (e.g. the Rhine Chemistry Monitoring Programme 2021–2026, the Rhine Biology Monitoring Programme 2024/2025, or the monitoring and evaluation system for micropollutants) have been jointly discussed and agreed upon within the ICPR in due time before their start date. The results of the monitoring programmes are discussed in the relevant working and expert groups and also at strategic/political level with regard to follow-up steps. Countries have stressed that long-term cooperation in monitoring yields longer time series of hydrological, chemical and biological parameters that enable joint trend analyses and joint conclusions about trends. However, some countries also note that the selection of parameters and methodologies and assuring comparability of data remain among the challenges for joint monitoring.

The countries highlighted several benefits of data exchange in the Rhine basin. Notable among these were obtaining a better overview of the entire basin, comparability of data, access to information concerning emerging substances, a stronger basis for joint planning, improved early warning and alarm systems, and better understanding of issues and difficulties facing other countries. In terms of challenges posed by the exchange of data, many countries identified comparability of data and information and technical issues (frequency, metadata, number format, etc.).

The countries in the Rhine basin reported that joint assessments constitute a common practice in the Rhine basin. The results of monitoring programmes are discussed and published on the ICPR webpage, and periodic assessments take place as part of the preparation of internationally coordinated river basin management plans. In addition, joint assessments dedicated to specific issues are organized. For example, in 2023, the ICPR commissioned a study to evaluate the development of the salmon population in the Rhine River basin, following a lower than expected increase in the number of salmon returners. The new study is intended to provide information on possible causes – including low water and predators – and to propose measures to optimize salmon return efforts.

Switzerland also highlighted joint research efforts in the Rhine basin taking place within the framework of the ICPR (e.g. a new research programme that involves providing water samples for later analysis with eDNA ("environmental DNA") to identify species in the river, implemented as part of the Rhine Biology Monitoring Programme 2024/2025 on a voluntary basis) and under the CHR (e.g. a 2022 study on the impact of climate change on the rain, snow and glacier melt components of streamflow of the river Rhine and its tributaries, and a 2023 inventory of the impacts of cooling water consumption by power plants within the Rhine River basin).

The countries in the Rhine basin concur that joint water quality standards are applied in the Rhine basin. The standards are based on quality objectives set by the EU Water Framework Directive and its so-called daughter directives for priority substances and priority hazardous substances and groundwater, and on water quality objectives established through the ICPR framework for pollutants specific to the Rhine River.

Most Rhine basin countries agree that the Rhine basin has a coordinated or joint early warning or alarm system for accidental water pollution, a coordinated or joint alarm system for floods, a joint climate change adaptation strategy and a joint disaster risk reduction strategy, but there is no coherent view on the existence of a coordinated or joint alarm system for droughts. Procedures for mutual assistance in the case of emergencies are in place through a system of bilateral agreements between neighbouring countries in the basin.

Most Rhine countries concur that the public or relevant stakeholders are involved in transboundary water management in the Rhine. They note that several categories of organizations (intergovernmental organizations, private sector organizations, water user groups, NGOs and academic institutions) hold an observer status in the ICPR, with some countries also indicating that these organizations play an advisory role.

How does bilateral and sub-basin cooperation work?

Austria, Germany, Liechtenstein and Switzerland all share the sub-basin of **Lake Constance**. The 1960 Agreement on the Protection of Lake Constance against Pollution obliges the federal states and cantons in the catchment area to consider carefully the water protection measures recommended by the International Commission for the Protection of Lake Constance (IGKB) and to implement them to the best of their ability in accordance with their national law. The members of the IGKB are the two federal states of Bavaria and Baden-Wuerttemberg (Germany), the Republic of Austria with the federal state of Vorarlberg, and the Swiss Confederation with the cantons of Thurgau, St. Gallen and Graubünden. In addition, Liechtenstein should send a representative and Germany sends an observer to the IGKB. The tasks and responsibilities related to secretariat support are fulfilled in the IGKB by the Member States in rotation.

The three riparian countries who reported in detail on the 1960 Agreement (Austria, Germany and Switzerland) concur that the main concrete achievement of the IGKB has been improvement in the ecological and chemical quality of water in the lake. A key instrument to this end has been the periodically updated Joint Guidance on Different Water Uses.[348] Switzerland has also highlighted the absence of eutrophication in Lake Constance today and the existence of a dedicated programme for restoration of the lakeshore. All countries have noted improvements in the exchange of data and information between the parties. However, the three countries do not share the same opinion as to whether the 1960 Agreement covers aquifers.

Belgium, France, Germany and Luxembourg share the **Mosel/Moselle and Saar/Sarre River** sub-basins.[349] Two protocols constitute the main agreements in these sub-basins: the 1961 Protocol on the constitution of the International Commission for the Protection of the Saar/Sarre against pollution (with France and

[348] IGKB (2023). Bodensee-Richtlinien 2005 mit Ergänzungen und Änderungen bis 09/2023.

[349] The Saar is a major tributary of the Mosel/Moselle.

Germany as parties) and the 1961 Protocol on the constitution of the International Commission for the Protection of the Mosel/Moselle against pollution (with France, Germany and Luxembourg as parties). Although there are two protocols and two commissions, three countries work together under the umbrella of the International Commissions for the Protection of the Mosel/Moselle and the Saar/Sarre (ICPMS). While the 1961 protocols refer to the Mosel/Moselle and Saar/Sarre rivers, they are interpreted today as covering the entire basins of the Mosel/Moselle and the Saar/Sarre. In 1990, additional protocols were signed to establish a common secretariat for the two commissions. Since the early 2000s, the Walloon region of Belgium has participated in the coordination of work for the implementation of EU directives within the framework of the Moselle-Saar River basin district. Among the main factors contributing to the success of cooperation on the Mosel/Moselle and Saar/Sarre River basins, the countries cite the exchange of data between the parties, notably via a warning and alarm system, and the alignment of measures between riparian States.

The International Intergovernmental Commission of the **Alpine Rhine** ("Internationale Regierungskommission Alpenrhein-IRKA") is a common platform bringing together Switzerland (Confederation and the Cantons Graubünden and St Gallen), Liechtenstein and Austria (Vorarlberg) on the basis of a 1998 Agreement on the Alpine Rhine between the Austrian Land of Vorarlberg, the Principality of Liechtenstein and the Swiss Cantons of Graubünden and St. Gallen. It provides a forum for information exchange, discussion, planning and decision-making on water management measures in the Alpine Rhine. There is no inter-State agreement underpinning this cooperation.

The Rhine countries also report of cooperation in the Rhine basin taking place at the bilateral level, for example between Germany and the Netherlands,[350] Switzerland and Austria,[351] Switzerland and Italy,[352] and Austria and Liechtenstein.[353]

What were the main achievements in the period 2020–2023?

All Rhine basin countries concur that the main concrete achievement of the ICPR was a tremendous improvement in the ecological and chemical quality of the Rhine and its tributaries. They also highlight the substantial improvement in flood management, the enhanced exchange of data and information between the parties, the implementation of a warning and alarm system, and a degree of alignment of measures and plans in the riparian countries. A key to this success has been close cooperation at the technical level and the subsequent building of trust as well as mutual understanding among the countries along the river and in the basin. Several countries additionally noted the flexibility of cooperation on the Rhine in addressing new and emerging issues, making explicit mention of adaptation to climate change and low flow management in national reports, as well as work on micropollutants, which has been led by the ICPR for over a decade.

Among the main achievements of cooperation during the period 2020–2023, the riparian countries named the new forward-looking "Rhine 2040" programme, whose ambitious goals, adopted by ministers in February 2020, build on the outcomes of the previous "Rhine 2020" programme. Among other targets, the "Rhine 2040" programme intends to reduce micropollutant inputs in the Rhine catchment area by at

[350] Both Germany and the Netherlands have reported on cooperation within the framework of the Permanent German-Dutch Boundary Waters Commission on the basis of the 1960 Treaty between the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the Federal Republic of Germany concerning the course of the common frontier, boundary waters, real property situated near the frontier, traffic crossing the frontier on land and via inland waters, and other frontier questions (Frontier Treaty).

[351] Austria and Switzerland both cited the 1954 Agreement between Switzerland and Austria on the regulation of the Rhine from the mouth of the River Ill to Lake Constance. Austria additionally cited the 2008 Agreement between the Republic of Austria and the Swiss Confederation on the utilization of the Inn and its tributaries in the border area.

[352] Italy cited the 1955 Agreement between Switzerland and Italy on utilization of the hydraulic power of Rhine Lei.

[353] Austria reported on bilateral cooperation with Liechtenstein on the basis of the 1931 Agreement between the Republic of Austria and the Principality of Liechtenstein on the establishment of common principles for the regulation of the Rhine from the Swiss-Liechtenstein state border to the mouth of the Ill River.

least 30% by 2040. Recent achievements include the development of a monitoring and evaluation system to regularly review the reduction target.[354]

What are the main areas for improvement?

Among the challenges to cooperation in the Rhine basin, some countries mentioned difficulties in aligning the implementation of ICPR plans and activities with national laws, policies and programmes. In addition, individual countries cited lack of resources and difficulties in coordinating upstream/downstream perspectives and coming to agreement on newly emerging issues. Possible areas for improvement could include cooperation on drought management and exploring ways to integrate a gender perspective and strengthen youth involvement in transboundary water cooperation.

What can other Parties to the Convention learn from cooperation on the Rhine?

Overall, the Rhine River basin presents an example of successful multi-level cooperation (at the basin, sub-basin and bilateral levels). Cooperation within the framework of the ICPR and the Rhine Coordination Committee offers a wealth of experience and good practice for other transboundary basins, in particular in the areas of exchange of information and data, early warning and alarm systems, water quality and reduction of pollution, basin management planning, restoration of ecosystems, flood risk management and climate change adaptation. The ICPR constantly reassesses the effectiveness of programmes and measures and works to improve its responses,[355] while also pioneering work on several new issues in transboundary cooperation such as microplastics.

6.2 Dniester River basin

The drainage area of the Dniester River covers 72,100 km.[2] The basin is shared by Poland (0.6% of the basin area), the Republic of Moldova (26.4%) and Ukraine (73%), and is home to a population of about 7.7 million. All riparian countries of the basin are Parties to the Water Convention. The Dniester originates in the Ukrainian Carpathians, flows through the territory of the Republic of Moldova and then returns to Ukraine, where it enters the Black Sea. The upper part of the basin is mountainous, while lowlands prevail in the lower part. Valuable wetland systems extend along the Dniester Estuary.

The main transboundary issues in the Dniester Basin include:

- organic pollution due to poor wastewater treatment or lack thereof;
- nutrient pollution due to poor or missing wastewater treatment, and runoff from agricultural land;
- hazardous substances pollution, the sources of which are municipal and industrial discharges, rainfall runoff from territories, and pesticides and other hazardous chemicals used in agriculture, as well as accidental pollution and the impact of contaminated territories (landfills, sites, zones, etc.);
- hydromorphological alterations associated with hydropower and flood protection, as well as regulation of river flow;
- pollution caused by plastic and other household waste.[356]

The breakaway Transdniestrian region on the eastern side of the Dniester in the Republic of Moldova adds political complexity to transboundary cooperation in the basin.[357]

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354 See ICPR technical report no. 287.

355 See, for example, ICPR (2020). *Assessment Rhine 2020.*

356 GEF/OSCE/UNDP/UNECE (2019). Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis of the Dniester River Basin.

357 Bo Libert (2015). The UNECE Water Convention and the development of transboundary cooperation in the Chu-Talas, Kura, Drin and Dniester River basins. *Water International*, 40:1, 168–182.

Dniester River near the village of Tipova, the Republic of Moldova.

How does basin-wide cooperation function?

As Poland's share of the basin is very small, basin-wide cooperation is usually understood to refer to cooperation between the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine. However, at its fourth meeting (2023), the Dniester Commission (a joint body of the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine for cooperation in the Dniester basin) decided to invite Poland to attend its next meeting.

The Republic of Moldova and Ukraine reported that cooperation related to the Dniester River basin is based on two bilateral agreements: the 1994 Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Moldova and the Government of Ukraine on the Joint Use and Protection of Transboundary Waters and the 2012 Treaty between the Government of the Republic of Moldova and the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine on Cooperation in the Field of Protection and Sustainable Development of the Dniester River Basin (Dniester Treaty). The scope of the 1994 Agreement covers all boundary waters, not only those belonging to the Dniester basin but also those belonging to the Prut, the Danube and several small rivers shared by the two countries and flowing directly into the Black Sea. The scope of the 2012 Dniester Treaty encompasses the entire Dniester basin in the territory of the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, not just the boundary waters of the Dniester River.

The 2012 Dniester Treaty was the result of the Dniester Process initiated on the request of the two countries to the OSCE, UNEP and UNECE. As part of the ENVSEC Initiative, three projects – Dniester I, Dniester II and Dniester III – have supported the development of transboundary cooperation in the Dniester River basin and were implemented as part of the Water Convention's programme of work.[358] Increased cooperation resulted in the signing of the Dniester Treaty on 29 November 2012 in Rome at the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention. The treaty entered into force in 2017.

While the 1994 Agreement deals with a narrow set of objectives, related mainly to water flow and release, and its scope is restricted to boundary waters, the 2012 Dniester Treaty has extended cooperation to the entire basin in line with the basin approach and has a wider substantive scope, taking into account the principles of integrated water resource management (IWRM). In addition to surface waters, both the 1994 Agreement and the 2012 Dniester Treaty cover cooperation on transboundary groundwaters: the 1994 Agreement is applicable only to groundwaters intersected by the state boundary, while the 2012 Dniester Treaty is applicable to groundwaters related to surface waters in the Dniester River basin.

From an institutional point of view, the 1994 Agreement is implemented through Plenipotentiaries, whereas the 2012 Treaty is implemented through the Dniester Commission,[359] established in 2018. The Dniester Commission is led by two Co-Chairs (one from each country) with Plenipotentiaries under the 1994 Agreement serving as first deputy Co-Chairs. The rules of procedure of the Dniester Commission were approved during its first meeting. In addition to representatives of central government authorities, delegations in the Dniester Commission also include regional government authorities, scientific institutions and NGOs. Day-to-day cooperation under both agreements takes place within working groups. The Secretariat consists of two parts – a Moldovan part and a Ukrainian part.

Among the main achievements of the Dniester Commission, both the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine name the regular operation of working groups and the organization of regular meetings of the Commission. The last (fourth) meeting of the Dniester Commission took place on 22–23 November 2023 in Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine. According to the Republic of Moldova, achievements also include the agreement reached on the ecological water release from the Dnestrovsk hydropower station-2, the development of the Regulation on cooperation in the field of protection of fish resources and the regulation of fishing in the Dniester River, and the introduction of annual fishing prohibition periods. Ukraine additionally cites

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358 Bo Libert (2015). The UNECE Water Convention and the development of transboundary cooperation in the Chu-Talas, Kura, Drin and Dniester River basins. *Water International*, 40:1, 168–182.

359 https://dniester-commission.org/en

the development of agreed approaches to the preparation of national Dniester River basin management plans, and the adoption of the Regulation for cooperation on co-management and administration of the Dniester Commission's website and the Regulation on Cooperation in Monitoring and Information Exchange in the Dniester River Basin.

In terms of obstacles to implementing the activities of the Dniester Commission, both countries highlighted the ongoing war against Ukraine. Both countries also mentioned difficulties related to human resources, including frequent changes of personnel. The Republic of Moldova also referenced the COVID-19 pandemic and lack of financial resources among important challenges. Similar reasons were given as factors obstructing the operation of Plenipotentiaries.

Both countries confirmed that regular exchanges of information and data had been carried out via email and during the meetings of working groups, Plenipotentiaries and the Dniester Commission. Joint monitoring is carried out through joint sampling and common agreed parameters.

Both countries affirmed that a comprehensive joint assessment of the status of the Dniester basin was undertaken in 2019, within the framework of the GEF/UNDP/OSCE/UNECE project "Enabling Transboundary Cooperation and Integrated Water Resources Management in the Dniester River Basin" (2018–2021). The project permitted the development of a transboundary diagnostic analysis (TDA), which served as a basis for the elaboration of the Strategic Action Programme (SAP) for the Dniester River Basin for 2021–2035, approved in March 2021. The SAP now serves as the main instrument defining joint objectives for cooperation in the basin. Additionally, joint objectives are established by decisions adopted by Plenipotentiaries and the Dniester Commission at their regular meetings.

The Republic of Moldova and Ukraine both stated that measures implemented to prevent or limit the transboundary impact of extreme weather events and climate change in the Dniester basin include notification and communication, a coordinated or joint alarm system for floods, and a joint climate change adaptation strategy. Among others, these measures refer to the 2017 Strategic Framework for Adaptation to Climate Change in the Dniester River Basin and its Implementation Plan, developed as part of the ENVSEC/UNECE/OSCE project "Climate Change and Security in the Dniester River Basin" (2013–2017) with the support of the European Union and Austria.

How does bilateral cooperation function?

Poland and Ukraine reported cooperating on the Dniester basin within the bilateral commission established by the 1996 Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Poland and the Government of the Ukraine on Cooperation in the Field of Water Management on Boundary Waters. The scope of the agreement is confined to boundary waters.

What were the main achievements in the period 2020–2023?

Transboundary cooperation between the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine on the Dniester basin has continued even after the Russian Federation's invasion of Ukraine. Several meetings of working groups under the Dniester Commission and the fourth meeting of the Dniester Commission have been organized during the war, and the implementation of work plans, including joint monitoring, has continued, although the war has had an impact on joint activities.[360]

[360] In 2022–2023, the following working groups of the Dniester Commission met and advanced in the implementation of their work plans: the Working Group on River Basin Planning and Management (7th meeting, 16 June 2023, online), the Working Group on Monitoring and Information Exchange (3rd meeting, 7–8 December 2022, Chisinau), and the Working Group on Emergency Situations (4th meeting, 5 July 2023, online). The Working Group on Ecosystems and Biodiversity could not implement some of activities mentioned in its work plan due to the war. The Dniester Commission held its fourth meeting on 22–23 November in Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine, the agenda of which included discussion on the safety of tailing management facilities in the Dniester basin located on the territory of Ukraine and the impact

Transboundary cooperation between the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine on the Dniester basin has continued following the end of the large-scale GEF/UNDP/OSCE/UNECE project.[361] The project supported initial activities within the framework of the Dniester Commission during the period 2018–2021 by providing necessary resources for the organization of meetings and studies. The fact that work has continued after completion of the large-scale project is evidence of the sustainable foundations for cooperation laid down by the 2012 Dniester Treaty. The existence of the Dniester treaty has also provided a strong argument for other donors to support cooperation in the Dniester basin.

Substance-wise, the adoption of the Strategic Action Programme for the Dniester River Basin for 2021–2035 constituted a major achievement of cooperation during the period 2020–2023.

What are the main areas for improvement?

Ensuring that implementation of the Strategic Action Programme for the Dniester River Basin for 2021–2035 advances remains an important task, alongside the implementation of river basin management plans for the Dniester developed by both countries. Furthermore, there is a need for the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine to make progress on several issues relating to management and protection of the Dniester River basin where the positions of the two countries are more difficult to reconcile. These include issues such as the Rules for the Operation of Reservoirs of the Dniester Hydropower Complex and cooperation on spring environmental flows. Another potential area of improvement relates to exploring the use of informal arrangements for the involvement of institutions and experts from the Transdniestrian region of the Republic of Moldova in the implementation of activities.

What can other Parties to the Convention learn from cooperation on the Dniester basin?

Cooperation between the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine in the Dniester River basin shows the importance of proper legal and institutional frameworks (in this case, the 2012 Dniester Treaty and the 1994 Agreement), which make cooperation more resilient. It also shows that transboundary water cooperation based on clear political will and commitment increases the chances of attracting financial resources (in this case, through the GEF[362] and several bilateral donors). Furthermore, cooperation in the Dniester basin – in particular the initial stages of development of the legal and institutional frameworks as well as activities to support climate change adaptation – demonstrates the value of the support provided by the intergovernmental platform of the Water Convention within the framework of the Convention's programme of work.

6.3 Syr Darya River basin

The Syr Darya is the longest river in Central Asia (3,019 km from the headwaters of the Naryn) with an annual average runoff of 36.57 km^3.[363] Its hydrological basin forms, together with the Amu Darya, the main water resource system of Central Asia – the Aral Sea Basin. Some literature sources quote a Syr Darya basin area of up to 782,600 km^2; others give 142,200 km^2 as the basin area upstream of the point where the river leaves the Fergana Valley.[364] Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan all share the basin of the Syr

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of military operations. For more information, see the Minutes of the Fourth Meeting of the Dniester Commission, 22–23 November 2023 (https://dniester-commission.org/en/news/minutes-of-the-4-th-meeting-of-the-dniester-commission).

361 GEF/UNDP/OSCE/UNECE project "Enabling Transboundary Cooperation and Integrated Water Resources Management in the Dniester River Basin" (2018–2021).

362 Following the completion of the first GEF-supported project in the Dniester basin in early 2021, funding from GEF for a new project in support of the implementation of the Strategic Action Programme was officially approved on 26 January 2024. Preparations by OSCE to initiate this project are ongoing.

363 UNECE (2017). *Reconciling resource uses in transboundary basins: Assessment of the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus in the Syr Darya River Basin*, p. 2.

364 UNECE (2011). *Second assessment of transboundary rivers, lakes and groundwaters*, p. 113.

Darya. Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan are both Parties to the Water Convention. Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan are non-Parties.[365]

The river is strongly regulated, with major reservoirs including the Toktogul, Kayrakkum (Bahri Tojik) and Chardara. The Syr Darya's water resources are central to hydropower generation in upstream countries (Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan). They are also crucial for agricultural production in densely populated parts of the basin downstream (Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan), with the agricultural sector also playing an important role in the economies of the upstream countries. Water losses in irrigation systems, water pollution by return waters from irrigated agriculture and from industrial wastewaters, and pollution by urban wastewaters constitute additional pressures. Significant stressors also include growing populations and the impacts of climate change.

How does basin-wide cooperation function?

Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan stated in their reports that their parts of the Syr Darya basin are covered by operational basin-wide cooperation within the framework of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (IFAS) and its Interstate Commission for Water Coordination of Central Asia (ICWC). This framework is based on the 1992 Agreement in the field of Joint Management and Protection of Water Resources of Interstate Sources; the 1993 Agreement on Joint Actions to Address the Problem of the Aral Sea and the Aral Sea Region, and for the Environmental Rehabilitation and the Social and Economic Development of the Aral Sea Region; and the 1999 Agreement on the Status of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea and its organizations, all concluded by the five Central Asian states.[366] Both countries also affirm that the Syr Darya basin is covered by the 1998 Agreement on the Use of the Water and Energy Resources of

Bridge over Syr Darya River in Khujand, Tajikistan.

[365] This section is based on the third national reports of Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan on SDG indicator 6.5.2 and under the Water Convention. It is also based on the third national report of Kyrgyzstan on SDG indicator 6.5.2. Tajikistan has not submitted a report on SDG indicator 6.5.2.

[366] Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

the Syr Darya Basin, concluded by Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan, without reflecting on its operationality.[367] Furthermore, both countries highlight the crucial role of the 1992 Agreement in stabilizing the relations of Central Asian states on transboundary water management during the post-Soviet period.

Both Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan identified IFAS as the joint body for cooperation on the Aral Sea, including the Syr Darya basin. Key components of IFAS include the Executive Board, the Audit Commission, the Executive Committee, the ICWC, the Interstate Commission for Sustainable Development (ICSD), the "Amu Darya" and "Syr Darya" basin water organizations and other institutions. Kazakhstan stresses the important role of the ICWC as a basis for conflict-free resolution of challenging water management issues in the Amu Darya and Syr Darya basins. According to Kazakhstan, the Fourth Aral Sea Basin Programme (ASBP-4), approved by a decision of the IFAS Executive Board on 29 June 2021, and the Regional Environmental Protection Plan for Sustainable Development, adopted by the ICSD on 25 October 2019, are the main strategic documents setting joint objectives for cooperation in the basin.

Kyrgyzstan suspended its participation in IFAS in 2016, and does not report on multilateral cooperation in the Syr Darya basin or consider its part of the Syr Darya basin (namely, the sub-basins of Kara Darya, Naryn and Chatkal rivers) to be covered by multilateral operational arrangements.

A specific feature of water cooperation in Central Asia is traditionally good relations among Central Asian Presidents, who meet regularly and often raise the subject of water cooperation.[368]

How does bilateral and sub-basin cooperation work?

Kazakhstan – Uzbekistan

In 2017, the Presidents of Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan signed the Strategy of Economic Cooperation between the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan covering the period 2017–2019. Among other measures, the strategy envisaged the strengthening of cooperation on the Syr Darya River basin. Both Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan confirm that a bilateral Working Group on Environmental Protection and Water Quality in the Syr Darya River Basin was subsequently established in 2018 to implement the Strategy and the bilateral 1997 intergovernmental Agreement on Cooperation in Environmental Protection and the Rational Use of Natural Resources.

The Working Group held six meetings during the period 2018–2023 and achieved the following results:

- Countries agreed on 28 water quality parameters and four sampling locations (two in each country) for joint surface-water monitoring.
- Sampling is carried out several times a year. Data comparability was recognized as acceptable.
- Joint assessment of the state of the basin area was carried out.
- National experts from each country visited the laboratories in the other country.
- Notification mechanisms in the event of extreme pollution were agreed upon.
- In 2023, for the first time, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan participated as observers in the sixth meeting of the Working Group.

[367] The 1998 Agreement on the Use of the Water and Energy Resources of the Syr Darya Basin provided a framework for energy exchanges and the regulation of water discharges until the early 2000s. After this period, the 1998 Agreement was not effectively enforced by the Parties. See UNECE (2017), footnote 363 above, p. 22.

[368] Since 2018, Presidents of Central Asia have met annually with the exception of 2020. The meetings have touched on a number of joint concerns including climate change and water.

Both Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan also reported on progress achieved in establishing cooperation in regard to the Pretashkent Transboundary Aquifer, which is shared by the two countries. Located in the Syr Darya basin, the aquifer is facing depletion of groundwater storage due to increased withdrawals. Potential degradation of groundwater quality is another major concern. Cooperation between the countries on the Pretashkent Transboundary Aquifer was initiated in 2013 with support of the Governance of Groundwater Resources in Transboundary Aquifers (GGRETA) project of UNESCO,[369] whose third phase (2019–2022) resulted in the joint development of a mathematical simulation model of the aquifer to be used for its future management. In late 2022, the Geology Committee of the Ministry of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources of Kazakhstan and the State Committee for Geology and Mineral Resources of Uzbekistan developed the Roadmap on Protection and Sustainable Use of the Pretashkent Transboundary Aquifer. This roadmap is of particular importance given the absence of bilateral and multilateral agreements providing for cooperation on transboundary groundwaters in Central Asia.

Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan also cooperate through a joint working group for the development of proposals on strengthening bilateral cooperation on all aspects of water relations between the two countries. The working group has been active since 2016, and at its eighth meeting in 2023 discussed the draft of a bilateral transboundary water agreement.

Kyrgyzstan – Uzbekistan

Bilateral cooperation between Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan on the Kara-Darya tributaries of Ak Bura, Aravansay and Mailisu/Mailuu Suu and the Syr Darya tributaries of Kasansay, Isfaraimsay, Shakhimardan, Sokh, Isfara and Padshaata, was for a substantial period of time covered by protocols agreed in the Soviet era, whose scope was limited to water allocation. While the protocols retain their validity, Kyrgyzstan reported that at the end of 2022, an Agreement between the Water Resources Service under the Ministry of Agriculture of the Kyrgyz Republic and the Ministry of Water Management of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Cooperation on Water Management Issues was concluded to broaden bilateral cooperation. The new agreement covers the use and safety of water management infrastructure, cooperation on flood and mudflow protection, prevention of and response to critical situations, and exchange of experience between the two countries on water saving and advanced irrigation techniques. The agreement also established a joint body in the form of a joint commission.

Another major development, reported by Kyrgyzstan, was the conclusion of the 2022 Agreement between the Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic and the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan on the joint management of water resources of the Kempirabad (Andijan) Reservoir. This agreement was signed in conjunction with the bilateral Treaty on Certain Parts of the State Border between Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan. Among others, the treaty transferred from Kyrgyzstan to Uzbekistan the territory of the Kempirabad (Andijan) Reservoir together with the surrounding area for the purposes of protecting the dam and transferred from Uzbekistan to Kyrgyzstan some pasture lands as compensation. The agreement on the Kempirabad (Andijan) reservoir obliged Uzbekistan to maintain a certain water level in the reservoir and to ensure unimpeded access to and use of water in the reservoir by Kyrgyzstan citizens. The same agreement also established a joint bilateral commission dedicated to management of the reservoir.

[369] The GGRETA project was implemented by UNESCO-IHP in close partnership with the International Groundwater Resources Assessment Centre (IGRAC) and national partners, and with the support of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), to strengthen regional stability and cooperation through the establishment of a framework for transboundary groundwater management. The Pretashkent aquifer was selected as one of the pilot aquifers.

Furthermore, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan continued to cooperate within the framework of the 2017 Agreement between the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic and the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Inter-State Use of the Orto-Tokoy (Kasansay) Reservoir in the Ala-Buka District of Jalal-Abad Oblast of the Kyrgyz Republic. The Orto-Tokoy (Kasansay) Reservoir is located in Kyrgyzstan but is used primarily for the irrigation needs of Uzbekistan. According to the 2017 Agreement, the reservoir is operated by Kyrgyzstan, which has to ensure its safety and discharge water in accordance with water allocation quotas agreed by the two countries. In turn, Uzbekistan should finance the maintenance and operation costs in proportion to the volume of water received. A dedicated bilateral commission was established to discuss the maintenance and operation of the reservoir, and the related costs.

Tajikistan – Uzbekistan

A bilateral Tajikistan-Uzbekistan working group on the integrated water resources management of Central Asian transboundary rivers has existed since 2018, and has held five meetings during the period 2018–2023.

The 2018 Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan on Cooperation to Ensure the Functioning of the Farkhad Dam enabled necessary maintenance works to be undertaken by Uzbek specialists at the dam, which is controlled by Tajikistan.

Another achievement is the installation of modern hydroposts for measuring water flow in the Northern Fergana Canal and the Big Fergana Canal. The hydroposts, located on the territory of Tajikistan and installed with support from the Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC), were inaugurated in the presence of ministers from Tajikistan and Uzbekistan in February 2024.

Kyrgyzstan – Tajikistan

Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan share the Isfara River (also shared with Uzbekistan) and the Khodja-Bakirgan River which belong to the Syr Darya River basin. Water allocation issues in these rivers are regulated by protocols which date back to the Soviet era.[370] The development of a bilateral transboundary water agreement on these rivers was underway during the period 2007–2015 but the draft agreement was never signed.

Kazakhstan – Kyrgyzstan – Uzbekistan

In January 2023, the energy ministers of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan signed a project roadmap for the construction of the Kambarata-1 HPP dam in Kyrgyzstan on the Naryn River. In June 2024, the ministers signed a cooperation agreement to establish a joint-stock company for managing the project with the participation of all three States. The agreement also includes a guarantee to purchase generated electricity in quantities determined by the participating States.

What were the main achievements in the period 2020–2023?

Major achievements include the conclusion of bilateral transboundary water agreements with regard to several tributaries of the Syr Darya between Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan at the end of 2022 and the solidifying of bilateral cooperation on water quality in the Syr Darya basin between Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan. The development of trilateral cooperation around the Kambarata-1 HPP project is considered a promising step for the Central Asian region. The Pretashkent transboundary aquifer, shared by Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan provides another example of emerging cooperation, the first such instance of combined efforts focused on transboundary groundwaters in Central Asia.

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[370] Kyrgyzstan reports that water allocation from the Isfara River is regulated by the Protocol on Inter-republican Distribution of the Flow of Small Rivers in the Fergana Valley (10 April 1980) and the Minutes of the Meeting on the Operation of the Tortgul Reservoir on the Isfara River and Water Allocation between the Kyrgyz Republic and the Tajik Soviet Socialist Republic (16 May 1991). According to Kyrgyzstan, water allocation in the Khodja-Bakirgan River is regulated by the Minutes of the Meeting of Representatives of the Ministries of Water Resources of the Tajik and Kyrgyz Republics (on water allocation along the Khodja-Bakirgan River system) (17 May 1962).

What are the main areas for improvement?

While bilateral cooperation is on the rise in the Syr Darya basin, basin-wide cooperation in the Syr Darya basin and on the Aral Sea in general requires profound changes. Reconciling water and energy interests through transboundary and regional cooperation is at the core of ensuring integrated water resources management in the basin. Increasing efficiency and introducing new solutions in the basin-wide cooperation on water and energy are often indicated as ways forward.[371] A process to improve the legal and institutional frameworks of IFAS was commissioned by the Presidents of Central Asian states in 2009 and again in 2018, with the aim of overcoming existing deficiencies and ensuring the involvement of the energy sector.

While the aforementioned cooperation between Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan on water quality in the Syr Darya basin represents a promising development, it is important to extend this work to Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan to ensure basin-wide coverage.[372] Other important areas for enhancing cooperation between the riparian countries include: cooperation on freshwater ecosystems and ecological flow; strengthening coordinated monitoring, assessment, and data and information exchange; developing multilateral and, where absent, bilateral mechanisms or systems for early warning on floods, droughts and industrial accidents;[373] and agreeing on joint strategies and plans for adaptation to climate change and disaster risk reduction. Adopting a longer-term perspective, countries should also consider the development of joint river basin management plan(s) for the basin and sub-basins.

What can other Parties to the Convention learn from cooperation on the Syr Darya basin?

Recent developments in bilateral cooperation between riparian countries in the Syr Darya demonstrate how riparian countries can extend the scope of cooperation, which is dominated by water allocation issues, to other issues of importance for water management such as water quality, and infrastructure safety and maintenance.

6.4 Senegal-Mauritanian Aquifer Basin

The Senegal-Mauritanian Aquifer Basin (SMAB) is shared by the Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritania and Senegal. Three out of the four riparian countries are Parties to the Water Convention: the Gambia[374] since 2023, Guinea-Bissau since 2021 and Senegal since 2018. The basin stretches over a territory of 331,450 $km^{2,}$ encompassing 100% of the territory of the Gambia, 84% of Senegal, 27% of Guinea-Bissau and 14% of Mauritania.[375] An estimated 20 million inhabitants live in the territory of the basin. SMAB countries are highly dependent (80%) on groundwater resources to satisfy the needs of their populations.[376]

Surface waters in the region are concentrated in large rivers (the Gambia, Geba/Kayanga, Corubal/Koliba and Senegal). The Organization for the Development of the Gambia River (OMVG) and the Organization for the Development of the Senegal River (OMVS) straddle the SMAB, and the basins they manage share 18% and 32% of their surface, respectively, with the SMAB.[377]

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371 For more information, see UNECE (2017), footnote 363 above, pp. 32–33.

372 Similar work is also needed in the Amu Darya basin.

373 A study on pollution sources and the identification of accident risks in the Syr Darya basin was carried out over the period 2021–2023 by UNECE and the International Water Assessment Centre (IWAC) with the support of the European Union. The outcomes include recommendations for riparian countries on next steps to improve transboundary contingency planning and reduce water pollution.

374 The Gambia deposited its instrument of accession to the Water Convention on 17 July 2023. The Convention entered into force for the Gambia on 15 October 2023. As this date fell after the deadline for the submission of reports by Parties, the national report of the Gambia submitted for the third reporting round was not considered as a report on the implementation of the Convention.

375 Regional programme elaborated by the Regional Working Group and welcomed by the 2021 Ministerial Declaration on the Senegalo-Mauritanian Aquifer Basin (see paragraph 4 of the declaration).

376 Ibid.

377 Ibid.

The aquifer basin is under increasing pressure from population growth and agriculture, heightening the risks of overuse and declining water quality. Ensuring its sustainable management is crucial for the stability of the region and water security, as major cities, rural communities and economic sectors rely on this strategic resource. Furthermore, the SMAB plays a critical role in strengthening climate resilience in the region.

How does basin-wide cooperation function?

Countries sharing the SMAB have a long tradition of cooperation on surface water management through the OMVS (founded in 1972) and the OMVG (founded in 1978). While the SMAB is not subject to a fully fledged intergovernmental agreement or any bilateral agreement, in the past few years riparian States have taken steps to develop transboundary collaboration on this aquifer. The aim is to expand existing cooperation within the framework of the OMVS and OMVG to encompass groundwater, as a necessary step to ensure integrated, sustainable and equitable management of all water resources in the region.

In 2018, as part of its accession process to the Water Convention and mindful of the outcomes of the first reporting exercise on SDG indicator 6.5.2, Senegal requested the support of international partners for a cooperation initiative on the SMAB. In 2019–2021, a regional dialogue on the SMAB was supported by the Water Convention secretariat, the Geneva Water Hub and the International Groundwater Resources Assessment Centre, with financial assistance from the European Union and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation.

The regional dialogue began with a roundtable in February 2019 and progressed with the definition and approval in October 2019 of a Roadmap for the development of a joint vision and programme for establishing long-term cooperation on the SMAB. The first milestone was the establishment in April 2020 of the Regional Working Group for Transboundary Cooperation on the Senegal-Mauritanian Aquifer Basin (RWG). The RWG comprises the four riparian States as well as the OMVG, OMVS and, starting from late 2021, the Sahara and Sahel Observatory (OSS). The RWG provides support and advice to States and transboundary basin organizations on the establishment of transboundary cooperation for the concerted sustainable management of the basin.

In 2019–2021, five technical studies were carried out to increase the knowledge base for strengthening strategic planning in the basin. The studies focused on the scope and recharge of the SMAB, the evaluation of available groundwater data, diagnosing capacity needs, legal and institutional frameworks for water management, and a review of existing transboundary groundwater cooperation models.

In December 2020, the countries agreed upon a Vision for transboundary cooperation in the Senegal-Mauritanian Aquifer basin, identifying the main operational axes for transboundary cooperation, based on the integrated development of groundwater and surface water resources, and capitalizing on more than fifty years' experience in concerted management of the subregion's major rivers. To support the Vision, a regional programme was developed to outline objectives and steps for cooperation on the SMAB. At a Ministerial meeting organized in Geneva on 28 and 29 September 2021, ministers responsible for water in the four SMAB countries approved the Vision developed by the RWG and committed to its implementation.

On 29 September 2021, in Geneva, during the ninth session of the Meeting of Parties to the Water Convention, the ministers of the four SMAB countries signed the Ministerial Declaration on the Senegalo-Mauritanian Aquifer Basin, where they committed to launch negotiations to establish a legal and institutional framework for transboundary cooperation on the SMAB. The Ministerial Declaration extended the mandate of the RWG, endorsed the regional programme, and established a secretariat to be provided by the OMVS and OMVG.

The Ministerial Declaration marked the beginning of the second phase in regional dialogue, the main objectives of which were to mobilize financial resources to implement the regional programme, operationalize the secretariat hosted by OMVS and OMVG, and negotiate and adopt an agreement on the SMAB. This new phase is implemented by the Water Convention secretariat, the World Bank, and the Sahara and Sahel Observatory, with support from the European Union, the World Bank and GEF/UNEP. Recent milestones include: (i) the signing, on 30 October 2023 in Dakar, of a Memorandum of Understanding between the High Commissioners of OMVS and OMVG related to the secretariat of the RWG on the SMAB; and (ii) the approval by the RWG of the Roadmap for negotiation of the legal agreement in November 2023 and the commencement of negotiations at the RWG meeting in March 2024.

Box 25: Ministerial Declaration on the Senegalo-Mauritanian Aquifer Basin

In 2021, the ministers in charge of water of the Republic of the Gambia, the Republic of Guinea-Bissau, the Islamic Republic of Mauritania and the Republic of Senegal, sharing the Senegalo-Mauritanian Aquifer Basin, signed a Ministerial Declaration on the Senegalo-Mauritanian Aquifer Basin, where they:

- committed to strengthen national legislation and institutions for the management of groundwater resources;
- committed to strengthen transboundary cooperation on the SMAB;
- welcomed the Vision and the regional programme elaborated by the RWG;
- committed to establishing a legal and institutional framework for transboundary cooperation for the sustainable management of the waters of the Senegalo-Mauritanian Aquifer Basin, in conjunction with the surface waters of the region;
- decided to launch, in line with the Vision and the regional programme, a negotiation process to define this legal and institutional framework, taking into account the existing frameworks of the OMVS and OMVG;
- requested the OMVS and the OMVG to technically support the cooperation process around the groundwater of the SMAB;
- encouraged countries that have not yet done so to accede to the 1992 Water Convention and the 1997 Watercourses Convention.

Signature of the Ministerial Declaration by the ministers of the Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritania and Senegal, photo credit: IISD.

Source: Ministerial Declaration, signed in Geneva on 29 September 2021.

What were the main achievements in the period 2020–2023?

In their national reports, all four SMAB countries highlight as achievements:

- the establishment of a body for cooperation in the basin (namely, the RWG), which meets regularly, more than once per year, and serves as a forum to exchange information;
- the adoption of the 2021 Ministerial Declaration on the Senegalo-Mauritanian Aquifer Basin, an aquifer-specific arrangement to govern cooperation in the SMAB;
- the development by the RWG of the programme on cooperation for the sustainable and resilient management of the Senegalo-Mauritanian aquifer basin (SMAB), and expressions of interest by several donors and financial partners to fund specific components of the programme.

Additionally, Guinea-Bissau, in its national report, stresses that permanent consultations between countries through the RWG represent a significant achievement. The Gambia also highlights the importance of the renewal and strengthening of the RWG's mandate. The reports of both Guinea-Bissau and the Gambia view the conclusion of the Memorandum of Understanding between the High Commissioners of the OMVS and OMVG related to the secretariat of the RWG as an encouraging step.

Box 26: Mandate of the Regional Working Group for Transboundary Cooperation on the SMAB

The Regional Working Group for Transboundary Cooperation on the Senegalo-Mauritanian Aquifer Basin (SMAB) was established by the Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritania and Senegal in April 2020, with a mandate to establish a mechanism for transboundary cooperation on the SMAB. Building on the successes achieved by the RWG, its mandate was strengthened and renewed by the ministers in charge of water at the first ministerial meeting on the Regional Initiative for Transboundary Cooperation on the Senegalo-Mauritanian Aquifer Basin, held in Geneva on 28 and 29 September 2021.

The Regional Working Group (RWG) is an intergovernmental mechanism with a mandate to provide a framework for consultation, coordination and decision-making among the riparian States for concerted transboundary management of the Senegalo-Mauritanian Aquifer Basin (SMAB).

The RWG functions as an interface between the competent national authorities in charge of the resource, the basin organizations (OMVS and OMVG), and the technical and financial partners, in relation to the concerted management of the aquifer system. It performs the following tasks:

- ensuring cooperation on groundwater through the exchange and sharing of data on the aquifer and its resources;
- leading the implementation of initiatives in the SMAB, including the negotiation of a legal and institutional framework;
- assisting with the financing of activities related to SMAB, including by promoting the coordination of different technical and financial partners;
- performing any other function decided by the country representatives.

The Regional Working Group consists of high-level representatives of the four Basin States, the OMVS, the OMVG, and the Sahara and Sahel Observatory (OSS). Mali and Guinea have been invited to participate in the meetings and activities as observers.

The RWG reports regularly to Ministers of the SMAB States on its work and actions taken within the framework of its mandate.

The chairmanship of the RWG meetings rotates among the Member States. The RWG meets regularly and determines the frequency of its meetings according to its workload. The meetings are convened by the State that chairs the RWG at the meeting in question.

Decisions are made by consensus. Information exchanged in the context of RWG activities is treated with the confidentiality appropriate to multilateral exchanges.

The RWG may also invite technical and financial partners to participate as observers in its meetings.

Source: Ministerial Declaration, signed in Geneva on 29 September 2021.

What are the main areas for improvement?

In their national reports, countries of the SMAB recognize that cooperation on the aquifer system is still in the initial stages of development. Key impediments to cooperation mentioned by some of the countries include inadequate access to financial resources needed to maintain data collection systems and provide fit-for-purpose hydrological and water resources management services, and insufficient human resources, institutional capacity and equipment. Some countries also highlighted challenges with regard to the introduction of measures to prevent transboundary impacts on groundwater and water quality. On the governance side, some national reports also mention issues relating to institutional instability.

Key areas of focus for enhancing the integrated and sustainable management of the aquifer include developing a knowledge base to better understand the aquifer, improving monitoring and assessment systems and data management and exchange, and strengthening joint strategic planning. Another objective is to strengthen governance at both national and transboundary level. The latter would imply the creation of an institutional mechanism for cooperation on the SMAB (building on existing regional cooperation frameworks on surface waters (namely, the OMVG and OMVS)) and the negotiation and conclusion of a legal arrangement on the rules and principles of cooperation and management of the aquifer system. Such an arrangement would provide a comprehensive legal framework for long-term cooperation in the SMAB and ensure the mobilization of the necessary resources.

What can other Parties to the Convention learn from cooperation on the Senegal-Mauritanian Aquifer Basin?

The SMAB represents a dynamic example of gradually increasing cooperation and coordination on transboundary groundwaters among countries who already have established mechanisms for cooperation on shared surface water resources. This cooperation has the potential to advance conjunctive management of transboundary groundwater and surface water resources – an approach crucial for improving the availability and reliability of water and mitigating water stress in the face of climate change.

The SMAB also provides an example of how the reporting process on SDG indicator 6.5.2 can help to identify gaps in cooperation and lead to concrete steps to develop operational arrangements.

Finally, cooperation between riparian States in the SMAB demonstrates the support available under the intergovernmental platform of the Water Convention for the development of agreements, arrangements and joint bodies for transboundary water cooperation (through a dedicated area in the Convention's programme of work) and the effective use of such support mechanisms by recent Parties to the Water Convention. In turn, the availability of such support within the framework of the Water Convention was among the factors that motivated Guinea-Bissau and the Gambia to become Parties to the Convention in 2021 and 2023, respectively, following accession by Senegal in 2018.

Ebro River in Spain.

CHAPTER 7

Flooded valley of the Desna River in Ukraine.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WATER CONVENTION IN 2020–2023

Key messages

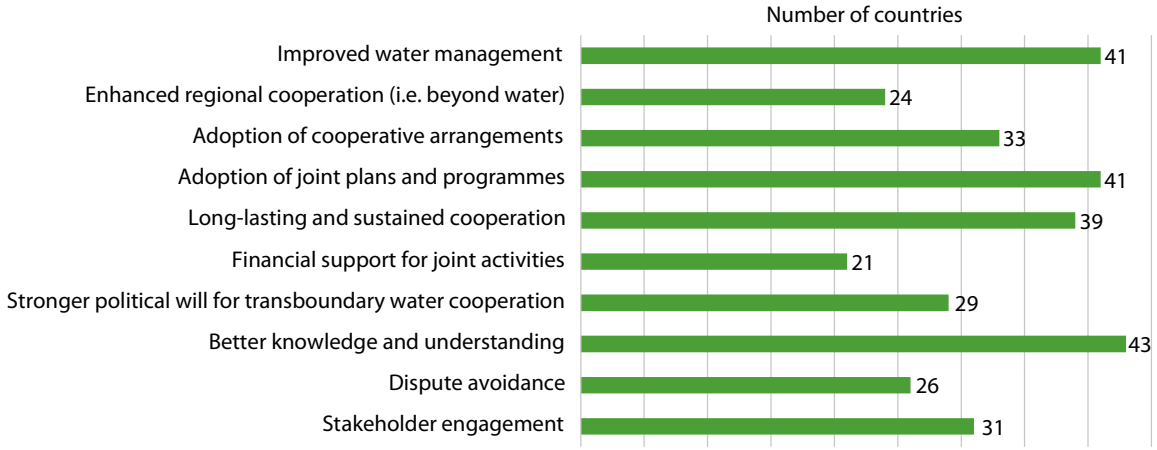
- **Altogether 140 transboundary water agreements and arrangements have been inspired by the Water Convention since its adoption in 1992. The conclusion of at least 13 new transboundary water agreements or arrangements with the participation of Parties to the Convention during the period 2020–2023 demonstrates the dynamism of cooperation under the Convention.**
- **Of the 26 countries, globally, that report that all their transboundary basins are covered by operational cooperation arrangements in accordance with SDG indicator 6.5.2 in 2023, 22 are Parties to the Water Convention.**
- **The average value of SDG indicator 6.5.2 for Parties to the Water Convention in 2023 is 80.97%, significantly above the global average of 58.54%.**
- **The main challenges facing cooperation on transboundary waters include differences between national administrative and legal frameworks, resource constraints, and lack of relevant data and information, followed closely by difficulties in data and information exchange.**
- **Resource constraints are highlighted as a challenge for transboundary water cooperation by more than half of the Parties, including both recent Parties to the Convention and Parties who are EU Member States or candidate countries.**
- **In some transboundary basins, especially those shared with non-Parties, Parties to the Convention face difficulties in the negotiation and adoption of agreements and arrangements and the establishment of joint bodies for transboundary water cooperation.**
- **In many transboundary basins, Parties encounter difficulties in extending cooperation to cover the entire basin.**
- **Establishing or operationalizing cooperation on transboundary aquifers remains an area for improvement for many Parties.**
- **Several Parties highlight specific challenges for transboundary water cooperation in 2020–2023 arising from the security situation in their regions or related to the war against Ukraine.**

7.1 Key achievements in implementing the Convention and transboundary water cooperation in 2020–2023

What have countries reported?

More than half of the Parties cite the following main achievements in implementing the Convention and cooperating on transboundary waters, in their national reports in the third reporting round: better knowledge and understanding of issues related to transboundary waters, improved water management, adoption of joint plans and programmes, long-lasting and sustained cooperation, adoption of cooperative arrangements, stakeholder engagement, stronger political will for transboundary water cooperation and dispute avoidance (figure 40).

Figure 40 Main achievements in cooperating on transboundary waters – based on responses to section IV, question 2 (2023)



Many Parties emphasize additional benefits in their reports. For example, Latvia points out that cooperation has provided an opportunity for the country to carry out research work in the territory of Lithuania, resulting in the collection of additional information to support joint work on water quality assessment in the Lielupe River basin, where agricultural impacts are significant for both sides. Bosnia and Herzegovina mentions that cooperation established under the Water Convention helped the country and its riparian neighbours to start working together and establish a network of cooperating institutions, based on a mutual understanding of the Convention as the key framework for agreements in the region.

The conclusion of at least 13 new agreements or arrangements with the participation of Parties during the period 2020–2023, and the entry into force of another 4 agreements in this period, demonstrate the rapidly developing and dynamic nature of cooperation on the basis of the Convention (tables 2 and 3). The conclusion of 4 (out of the 13) new agreements and arrangements with non-Parties is evidence of the efforts of Parties to develop transboundary water cooperation with non-Parties. Although some of these arrangements are follow-up agreements which further specify or develop cooperation among riparian countries on the basis of existing/preceding transboundary water agreements, they show that Parties continuously make efforts to improve cooperation.

Table 2 New agreements and arrangements concluded during the period 2020–2023

Agreement or arrangement	Participating states	Date of signature and entry into force (if applicable)
Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Poland and the Government of the Republic of Belarus on Cooperation in the Field of the Protection and Rational Use of Transboundary Waters	Belarus, Poland	7 February 2020; entry into force 26 November 2020
Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation concerning the regular functioning and maintenance of the Flood Forecasting and Warning System in the Sava River Basin	Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia, Slovenia	1 July 2020
Agreement between the Government of the Republic of North Macedonia and the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Albania on international water way transport in Ohrid Lake	Albania, North Macedonia	14 November 2022
Agreement between the Water Resources Service under the Ministry of Agriculture of the Kyrgyz Republic and the Ministry of Water Management of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Cooperation on Water Management Issues	Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan	3 November 2022
Agreement between the Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic and the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan on joint management of water resources of the Kempirabad (Andijan) Reservoir	Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan	3 November 2022
Declaration regarding cooperation on the management of international water issues in the Prut River basin	Republic of Moldova, Romania, Ukraine	20 October 2023
Agreement on cooperation in the period 2021–2027 between the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management and the Norwegian Environment Agency on water management in accordance with the European Union Water Framework Directive	Norway, Sweden	17 December 2020
Agreement between the Government of Turkmenistan and the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan on the management, protection and rational use of water resources of the Amy Darya River	Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan	14 July 2022
Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Government of Turkmenistan on the joint Uzbek-Turkmen intergovernmental commission on water management	Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan	26 May 2021
Memorandum of Understanding in the field of geology and mineral resources between the Polish Geological Institute-National Research Institute and the State Geology and Subsoil Service of Ukraine	Poland, Ukraine	23 June 2022
Memorandum on Cooperation in the field of European integration and water management between the State Agency of Water Resources of Ukraine and the State Water Holding "Polish Waters"	Poland, Ukraine	25 October 2022
Protocol of Intention between the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia and the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Azerbaijan on cooperation in the fields of geology, hydrometeorology and climate change	Azerbaijan, Georgia	15 December 2022
Ministerial Declaration on the Senegalo-Mauritanian aquifer basin	The Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritania and Senegal	29 September 2021

Table 3 Earlier agreements and arrangements that entered into force during the period 2020–2023

Agreement or arrangement	Participating states	Date of signature and entry into force
Agreement between the Government of Romania and the Government of the Republic of Serbia on Cooperation in the Field of Sustainable Management of Transboundary Waters	Romania, Serbia	5 June 2019; entry into force 11 September 2020
Agreement between the Government of Hungary and the Government of the Republic of Serbia on Cooperation in the Field of Sustainable Management of Transboundary Waters and Basins of Common Interest	Hungary, Serbia	15 April 2019; entry into force 24 April 2020
Agreement between the Government of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and the Walloon Region on wastewater treatment, the protection of drinking water catchments and the monitoring of the Nitrates Directive	Luxembourg, the Walloon Region (Belgium)	9 April 2019; entry into force 22 September 2021
Memorandum of Understanding in the Field of Water between the Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs of the Republic of Turkey and the Ministry of Water Resources of the Republic of Iraq	Iraq, Türkiye	Renewed 25 December 2014; entry into force in 2021

Many new strategies, programmes and action plans were adopted by Parties to the Convention during the period 2020–2023 at the basin, sub-basin and bilateral levels. This demonstrates the dynamic character of cooperation and the commitment to strengthen or expand it to new areas. Examples of multilateral strategies, programmes or action plans approved in the period 2020–2023 include the following:

- Internationally coordinated Escaut/Schelde/Scheldt River basin management plan (2022–2027);
- Internationally coordinated Mosel/Moselle-Saar/Sarre River flood risk management plan (2021);
- Plan of approach for exceptional low water events in the Maas/Meuse basin (2020);
- Strategy for the reduction of nutrients in waters in the International Oder River Basin Area (2022);
- Strategic Action Plan for the Sustainable Development of the Prespa Park (2023);
- Multi-use plan for Pasvik and Grense Jacobselv catchments for the period 2021–2030 (Finland, Norway and the Russian Federation) (2021).[378]

Examples of bilateral strategies, programmes or action plans approved in the period 2020–2023 include the following:

- International Elbe Monitoring Programme (adopted in 2023) (Czechia and Germany);
- Strategic Action Programme for the Dniester River Basin for the period 2021–2035 (adopted in 2021) (Republic of Moldova and Ukraine);
- Joint operation procedure regarding the Lake Saimaa and River Vuoksa/Vuoksi Discharge Rule (adopted in 2021) (Finland and the Russian Federation);
- Consolidated joint programme for monitoring transboundary water bodies in the Dnieper and Western Dvina River basins (adopted in 2022) (Belarus and the Russian Federation);
- Strategic Plan 2023–2027 of the Mono Basin Authority (adopted in 2023) (Benin and Togo).

[378] Norway clarified in its report that following the Russian Federation's invasion of Ukraine, cooperation with the Russian Federation has been frozen. Bilateral cooperation with Finland continues with regard to the relevant topics in the plan.

Box 27: Insights from practice: key achievements in transboundary water cooperation from the perspective of Ghana

Ghana shares the Volta River Basin with Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte D'Ivoire, Mali and Togo, and the Tano and Bia River basins with Côte D'Ivoire.

Key achievements of cooperation within the framework of the 2007 Convention on the Status of the Volta River and the Establishment of the Volta Basin Authority include:

- an improved level of cooperation among member States, manifested, among others, in the development and ratification of the 2018 Volta Basin Water Charter;
- development of a Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis;
- development of the Strategic Action Programme to improve scientific and technical comprehension and institutional arrangements in the Volta Basin;
- strengthening of the institutional framework;
- development of joint projects (e.g. VFDM, ReWARD);
- development of the Flood and Drought Forecasting and Early Warning System for the Volta Basin (VOLTALARM);
- development of the Regional Strategy for Flood and Drought Risk Reduction and Management in the Volta Basin.

Key achievements in transboundary water cooperation also include the following efforts to enhance cooperation on data/information sharing and water governance at the bilateral level:

- institutionalized exchange of information, which has improved flood management after the spillage of the Bagre Dam (Burkina Faso and Ghana);
- sharing of experiences at the national and river basin levels through visits and media engagements (Burkina Faso and Ghana);
- bilateral meetings and field tours between Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire on interventions to restore the degraded shared Black Volta Basin;
- development of a Flood Early Warning System for Ghana and Togo on the Oti sub-basin.

Kintampo waterfalls, Ghana.

Source: Third national report of Ghana (2023).

Box 28: Insights from practice: key achievements in transboundary water cooperation from the perspective of Luxembourg

Luxembourg shares the Rhine basin, the Moselle-Saar sub-basin and the Maas/Meuse basin, and cites the following main achievements and benefits in implementing the Water Convention and cooperating on transboundary waters:

- Cooperation has led to fruitful and constructive exchanges with other countries, allowing Luxembourg to learn from their experiences. As a small country, the number of available experts in Luxembourg is limited. Discussion of water-related issues with experts from other countries therefore functions as a valuable means to learn how common issues are tackled in other places.
- Exchanges with other countries have also helped to strengthen mutual relations and understanding, enhancing the capacity to work together in a climate of confidence.
- The ability to draw on experiences gained in other countries facilitates the implementation of measures and policies at the national level.
- Cooperation also facilitates understanding of emerging issues and helps find solutions to tackle them.

An important factor in these achievements was the early involvement of Luxembourg in international river basin commissions such as the International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine (ICPR) and the International Commissions for the Protection of the Moselle and the Saar, which have existed for more than 70 years and 60 years, respectively.

Moselle River in Wormeldange, Luxembourg.

Source: Third national report of Luxembourg (2023).

What can we learn from the responses?

The results communicated by the Parties in the third round of reporting on SDG indicator 6.5.2 and under the Convention prove there are many benefits from cooperation on transboundary waters and within the framework of the Convention. Accession by new countries to the Convention (Cameroon, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Namibia, Nigeria, Panama, Senegal, Togo, Zambia and Zimbabwe)[379] since 2018 is clear evidence of recognition of these benefits and of the usefulness of the Convention and its cooperative framework.

[379] The reports of Côte d'Ivoire, the Gambia, Namibia, Panama, Zambia and Zimbabwe are not analysed in this progress report. See footnote 8 above.

Altogether 140 transboundary water agreements and arrangements were inspired by the Water Convention since its adoption in 1992,[380] including the agreements for the Danube and Dniester River basins in Europe, the Amu Darya and Ural River basins in Asia, and the Water Charters for the Niger and Volta River basins and the Lake Chad basin in Africa.

The average value of SDG indicator 6.5.2 for Parties to the Water Convention is 80.97% (85.53% for the river and lake basin component, 73.63% for the aquifer component), which is higher than the global average of 58.54% (65.20% for the river and lake basin component, 45.88% for the aquifer component) (figure 41). These numbers for Parties have increased slightly compared to 2020.[381]

Of the 26 countries, globally, that report that all their transboundary river, lake and aquifer basins are covered by operational cooperation arrangements, 22[382] are Parties to the Water Convention.

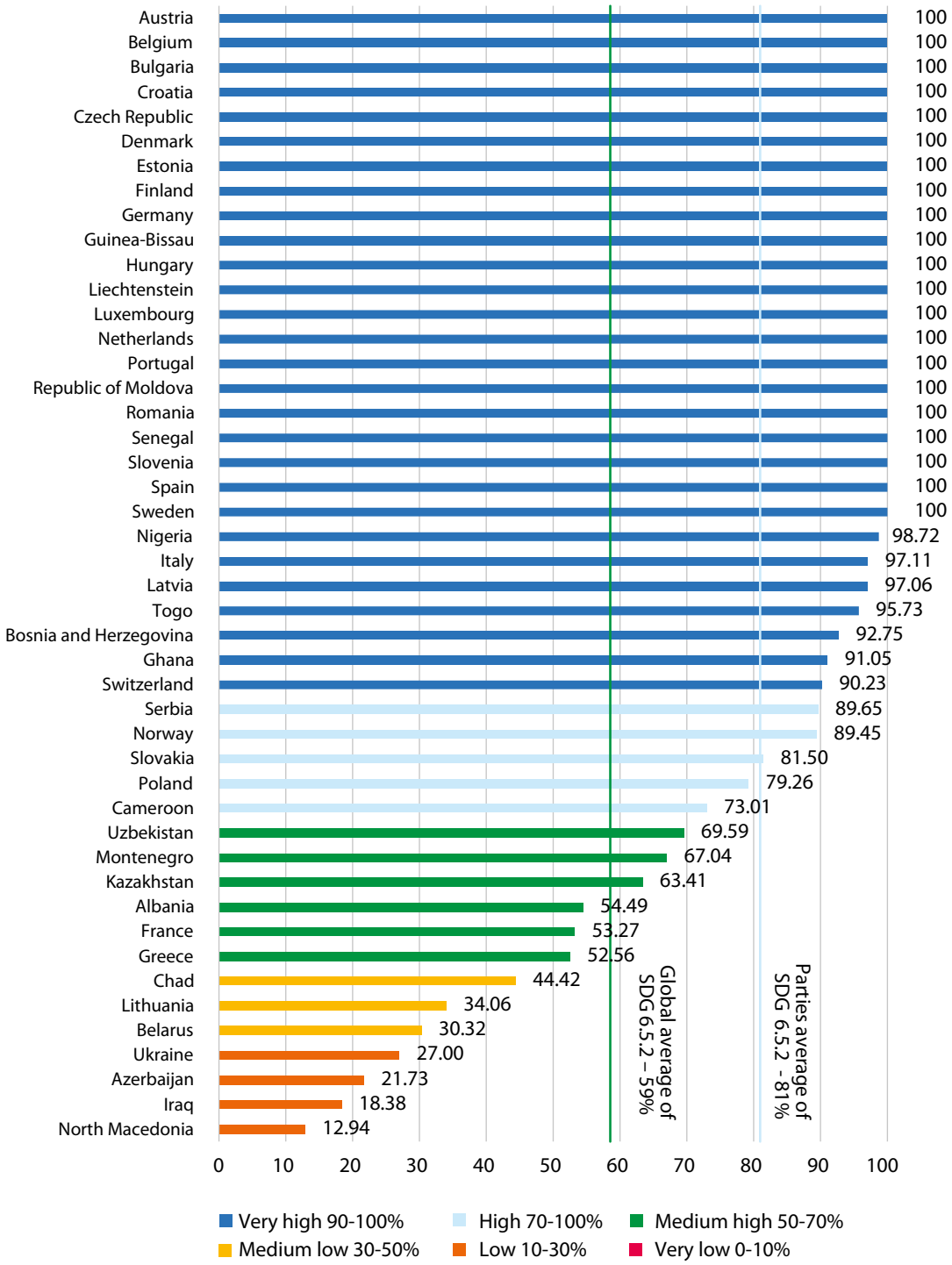
Finland–Namibia Twinning Initiative Study Tour (Helsinki, 2–6 September 2024), photo credit: SYKE.

[380] Agreements reported in at least one of the three reporting exercises or listed in the *Second Assessment of Transboundary Rivers, Lakes and Groundwaters* have been analysed. The number of 140 transboundary water agreements and arrangements includes 137 agreements and arrangements with the participation of at least one Party to the Water Convention, concluded after at least one country participating in an agreement or arrangement became a Signatory or a Party to the Water Convention. It also includes three water charters (for the Niger and Volta River basins and the Lake Chad basin) which explicitly mention the Water Convention in the preambular paragraphs. Agreements and arrangements are included irrespective of their operationality under the SDG indicator 6.5.2 criteria.

[381] In 2020, the average value of SDG indicator 6.5.2 for Parties to the Water Convention was 80.38% (84.60% for the river and lake basin component, 70.95% for the aquifer component). In 2020, the global average of SDG indicator 6.5.2 was 58.01% (64.86% for river and lake basin component, 41.80% for aquifer).

[382] Parties with 100% value of the SDG indicator 6.5.2 are Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Guinea-Bissau, Hungary, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Namibia, the Netherlands, Portugal, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Senegal, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden.

Figure 41 Sustainable Development Goal indicator 6.5.2 values for Parties to the Water Convention (2023), per cent



In the third reporting exercise, the value of SDG indicator 6.5.2 is available for 46 out of 48 Parties covered by this progress report, with the river and lake component available for 47 Parties and the aquifer component available for 46 Parties (table 4).

Table 4 Sustainable Development Goal indicator 6.5.2 values for Parties to the Water Convention (2017, 2020 and 2023)

Country name	SDG indicator 6.5.2 (%) 1st exercise, 2017	SDG indicator 6.5.2 (%) 2nd exercise, 2020	River and lake component (%) 3rd exercise, 2023	Aquifer component (%) 3rd exercise, 2023	SDG indicator 6.5.2 (%) 3rd exercise, 2023	SDG indicator 6.5.2 difference 2020–2023	Reasons for change 2020–2023*
Albania	75.58	54.49	56.01	51.67	54.49	⇔	
Austria	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	⇔	
Azerbaijan	NaN	21.73	27.75	3.86	21.73	⇔	
Belarus	NaN	67.43	38.62	28.22	30.32	⇩	2.1; 4
Belgium	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	⇔	
Bosnia and Herzegovina	92.60	92.60	96.32	73.32	92.75	⇧	1
Bulgaria	99.55	99.55	100.00	100.00	100.00	⇧	2.1
Cameroon	88.57	88.25	69.23	92.03	73.01	⇩	1; 2.2
Chad	50.41	44.42	35.85	53.18	44.42	⇔	
Croatia	NaN	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	⇔	
Czechia	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	⇔	
Denmark	NaN	100.00	100.00	N	100.00	⇔	
Estonia	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	⇔	
Finland	100.00	100.00	100.00	N	100.00	⇔	
France	NaN	56.54	51.83	100.00	53.27	⇩	1; 2.1
Germany	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	⇔	
Ghana	91.05	91.05	88.36	95.68	91.05	⇔	
Greece	32.76	32.76	58.79	45.40	52.56	⇧	1; 2.1; 2.2
Guinea-Bissau	NaN	42.86	100.00	100.00	100.00	⇧	1; 3
Hungary	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	⇔	
Iraq	13.55	10.61	34.40	0.00	18.38	⇧	1; 2.1
Italy	100.00	100.00	96.02	100.00	97.11	⇩	1
Kazakhstan	72.36	63.22	100.00	0.00	63.41	⇧	2.1
Latvia	97.31	97.29	100.00	93.49	97.06	⇩	2.1
Liechtenstein	NaN	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	⇔	
Lithuania	34.96	34.06	25.69	50.17	34.06	⇔	
Luxembourg	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	⇔	
Montenegro	79.51	66.68	84.80	21.47	67.04	⇧	2.1
Netherlands	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	⇔	
Nigeria	NaN	NaN	100.00	96.71	98.72		
North Macedonia	NaN	12.94	13.24	12.22	12.94	⇔	
Norway	59.47	89.45	89.46	88.31	89.45	⇔	
Poland	NaN	55.68	83.34	66.51	79.26	⇧	1; 2.1

Country name	SDG indicator 6.5.2 (%) 1st exercise, 2017	SDG indicator 6.5.2 (%) 2nd exercise, 2020	River and lake component (%) 3rd exercise, 2023	Aquifer component (%) 3rd exercise, 2023	SDG indicator 6.5.2 (%) 3rd exercise, 2023	SDG indicator 6.5.2 difference 2020–2023	Reasons for change 2020–2023*
Portugal	NaN	100.00	100.00	N	100.00	⇔	
Republic of Moldova	95.81	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	⇔	
Romania	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	⇔	
Russian Federation	NaN	NaN	NaN	NaN	NaN		
Senegal	34.06	35.21	100.00	100.00	100.00	⇧	1; 3
Serbia	90.01	89.65	92.51	73.73	89.65	⇔	
Slovakia	100.00	80.92	100.00	27.93	81.50	⇧	2.1; 3
Slovenia	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	⇔	
Spain	NaN	100.00	100.00	N	100.00	⇔	
Sweden	78.08	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	⇔	
Switzerland	NaN	90.23	93.50	74.11	90.23	⇔	
Togo	60.17	60.17	100.00	80.81	95.73	⇧	3
Turkmenistan	NaN	NaN	66.02	NaN	NaN		
Ukraine	NaN	60.59	24.04	63.76	27.00	⇩	4
Uzbekistan	NaN	69.59	100.00	0.00	69.59	⇔	

Notes: N = Not relevant. N indicates that the figure is not available because the indicator – as defined for global monitoring – does not apply to the specific circumstances of the country, and therefore is not reported.

NaN = Not available. NaN indicates that the figure is not available because the country response needs clarification or additional information.

*Reasons for change: changes in data: 1. updated data (surface area) for surface waters, 2.1 updated data (surface area) for ground waters, and 2.2 updated data (consideration within existing surface waters agreement) for ground waters; changes in cooperation: 3. improved cooperation (new operational arrangement or operationalization of existing arrangement), and 4. decreased cooperation

There were a small number of cases in which the reported values for SDG indicator 6.5.2 increased or decreased among the Parties to the Convention between the second and third reporting rounds. In a few instances, the increase in the reported indicator value is explained by the conclusion of new agreements and arrangements or the operationalization of cooperation under previously existing agreements and arrangements. In two instances (Belarus and Ukraine), the values for SDG indicator 6.5.2 decreased due to the termination of cooperation. In other cases, the value changed as a result of improved data and knowledge of the surface area of the basin within the territory of the country, or due to reporting on additional transboundary basins.

The increased inclusion of transboundary aquifers and groundwater bodies in reports has also influenced the value of the indicator, as has the consideration of aquifers and groundwater bodies within some existing surface water agreements. Additionally, in certain cases, Parties were able to estimate, for the first time, the surface area covered or not covered by arrangements for basins shared with more than one riparian country.

While the Water Convention facilitates the achievement of Goal 6 (clean water and sanitation) and target 6.5 through an integrated and intersectoral approach and attention to the prevention and reduction of water pollution, the conservation and restoration of ecosystems, and water use efficiency, implementation of the Water Convention and cooperation through its institutional platform also support the achievement of other SDGs (table 5).

Table 5 How does the Water Convention support achievement of the SDGs?

Global challenge	Goal	Obligations under the Convention	Activities included in the programme of work for 2025–2027	Example
Food security		• The equitable and reasonable utilization principle (art. 2 (2) (c) and art. 2 (5) (c)) • Reduction of inputs of nutrients and hazardous substances from diffuse sources (art.3 (1) (g)))	• Water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus (PA3.2) • Water allocation (PA3.3)	In the Drin River basin, Albania, Greece, Kosovo (United Nations administered territory under Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999)), Montenegro and North Macedonia agreed on a Strategic Action Programme to support balanced economic development, taking into account the projected impacts of climate change in sub-basins with high irrigation needs.
Health and wellbeing		• Definition of "transboundary impact" (art. 1 (2))) • Exchange of information (art. 13)	• Improving water quality (PA2.2)	Following the accession of Ghana to the Water Convention in 2020, cooperation between Ghana and Hungary facilitated the construction by Hungarian companies of faecal sludge treatment plants in Kumasi, Takoradi and Tamale, and a drinking water purification facility in Akim Wenchi in Ghana, contributing to improved living standards and the health of local populations.
Gender equality			• Reporting on SDG indicator 6.5.2 and under the Convention (PA6) • Adapting to climate change (PA4)	The 2011 Water Charter for Lake Chad Basin commits the participating countries (Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Libya, Niger and Nigeria) to pay special attention to the needs of women, youth and vulnerable social groups in relation to the management of water resources in the basin. A gender sensitive approach is also taken by the 2018 Regional Strategy for Stabilization, Recovery and Resilience of the Boko Haram-affected Areas of the Lake Chad Basin Region.

Global challenge	Goal	Obligations under the Convention	Activities included in the programme of work for 2025–2027	Example
Clean water and sanitation		• Obligation to prevent and control transboundary impact (art. 2 (1)) • Water-quality criteria and objectives (art. 3 (3)) • Biological treatment or equivalent processes in relation to municipal wastewater (art. 3 (1) (e)) • Joint monitoring and assessment (art. 11) • Basin (catchment area) approach (art. 2 (6))	• Monitoring, assessment and information sharing (PA2.1) • Improving water quality (PA2.2) • Integrated water resources management (PA3)	Panama and Costa Rica share the Sixaola River basin, which is home to important biodiversity and agricultural activities. The basin is also of cultural significance, hosting both Indigenous peoples and Afro-Caribbean populations. Panama and Costa Rica are working together to coordinate the development of the Sixaola River basin through a Binational Commission. Panama's accession to the Water Convention in 2023 is expected to help operationalize monitoring and data-sharing systems for water quality, quantity and use in the Sixaola basin.
Clean energy		• The equitable and reasonable utilization principle (art. 2 (2) (c) and art. 2 (5) (c)) • Conducting EIA (art. 3 (1) (h)) • Holding of consultations (art. 11)	• Water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus (PA3.2) • Water allocation (PA3.3)	Following the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus assessment under the Water Convention in the Alazani/Ganykh River basin (Georgia and Azerbaijan), measures were introduced to improve living conditions and ensure sustainable access to food, water and energy. In particular, new consumers in Kakheti (Georgia) were connected to the gas network, thus decreasing the use of fuelwood and deforestation.
Water-related disasters		• Exchange of information (art. 13) • Warning and alarm systems (art. 14) • Contingency planning (art. 3 (1) (j))	• Adapting to climate change (PA4) • Monitoring, assessment and information sharing (PA2.1)	In the Tisa/Tisza River basin, Hungary, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia and Ukraine are working together to decrease flood risks. The joint work has resulted in new approaches to flood management, including improved maintenance of floodplains. The system is supported by state-of-the-art flood computer modelling technology.
Water use efficiency		• Application of low and non-waste technology (art. 3 (1) (a)) • Recycling, recovery and reuse (annex II)	• Monitoring, assessment and information sharing (PA2.1)	Kazakhstan implements subsidies to reimburse part of the costs for the purchase of drip and sprinkler irrigation systems and equipment. At the end of 2022, the area where water-saving technologies were introduced amounted to 279,000 hectares.

Global challenge	Goal	Obligations under the Convention	Activities included in the programme of work for 2025–2027	Example
Climate change		• Definition of "transboundary impact" (art. 1 (2)) • Exchange of information (art. 13) • Warning and alarm systems (art. 14) • Mutual assistance (art. 15) • Contingency planning (art. 3 (1) (j))	• Adapting to climate change (PA4) • Conjunctive management (PA3.4) • Monitoring, assessment and information sharing (PA2.1) • Facilitating funding and financing (PA5)	Climate change adaptation was incorporated into river basin management through the adoption of a joint statement on the Chu Talas Strategic Action Programme by Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan in December 2023, which facilitated funding for its implementation, including from the GEF.
Protection of oceans		• Protection of marine environment (art. 2 (6)) • Involvement of coastal states in joint bodies (art. 9 (3)) • Cooperation with joint bodies for marine environment (art. 9 (4)) • Warning and alarm systems (art. 14)	• Source-to-sea (PA3.5) • Freshwater and water-related ecosystems (PA3.6)	A sub-regional contingency plan agreed between Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands (DENGERNETH) provides for preparedness, response and mutual assistance in the event of emergencies in the Ems-Dollard estuary and the North Sea.
Protection of ecosystems		• Conservation and, where necessary, restoration of ecosystems (art. 2 (2) (d)); • Emission limits for discharges from point sources based on the best available technology (art. 3 (2)) • Stricter requirements in relation to the quality of the receiving water or ecosystem (art. 3 (1) (d))	• Freshwater and water-related ecosystems (PA3.6)	The Mura-Drava-Danube Transboundary Biosphere Reserve (Austria, Croatia, Hungary, Serbia and Slovenia), declared in 2021, combines 13 protected areas of the shared river ecosystem. The reserve represents a remarkable effort to conserve ecosystems in line with obligations under the Water Convention.

Global challenge	Goal	Obligations under the Convention	Activities included in the programme of work for 2025–2027	Example
Peace and institutions		• Joint bodies (art. 9 (2)) • Settlement of disputes (art. 22) • Public information (art. 16)	• Development of agreements and the establishment of joint bodies (PA1.3) • Implementation Committee (PA1.4) • Reporting on SDG indicator 6.5.2 and under the Convention (PA6)	Following a request from Montenegro, in 2021 the Water Convention Implementation Committee provided advice to Albania and Montenegro on how to improve cooperation in the shared Cijevna/Cem River basin as part of an advisory procedure, a unique tool which enables this body to engage with countries seeking to resolve water tensions in a non-confrontational manner.
Partnerships		• Meeting of the Parties, secretariat and other bodies (arts. 17, 19) • Common research and development (art. 12)	• Facilitating funding and financing (PA5) • Partnerships and global processes (PA7) • National implementation plans (PA1.2) • Twinning Initiative (PA1.2) • National Policy Dialogues on IWRM (PA3.7)	In 2023–2024, two twinning initiatives were developed under the Water Convention between Finland and Namibia; and between Ghana, Hungary and Zambia. These initiatives aim to enable the transfer of practical experience and lessons learned between experienced and incoming/new Parties on thematic topics related to implementation of the Convention. For example, the twinning initiative between Finland and Namibia focuses on monitoring and assessment, water allocation and capacity-building of institutional mechanisms for transboundary water cooperation.

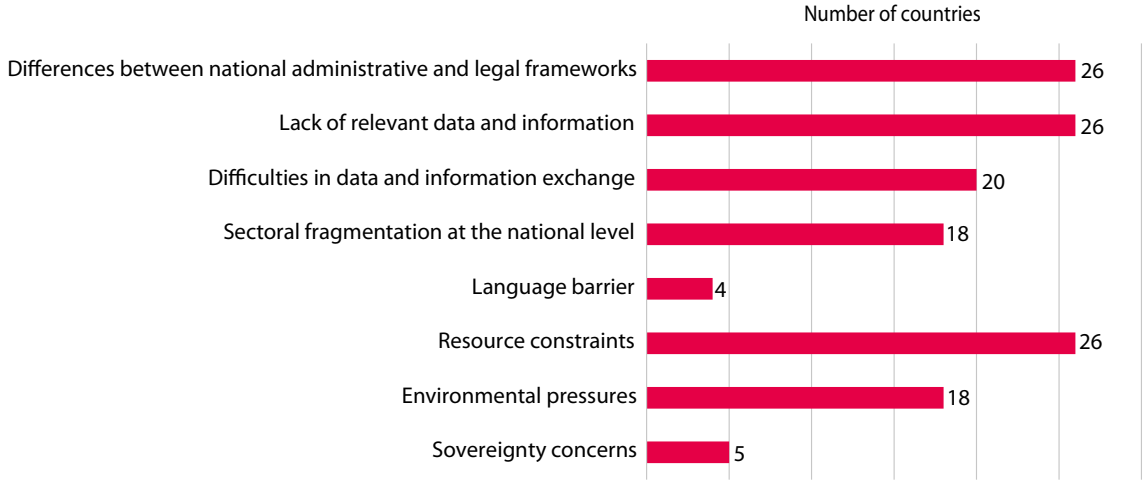
Note: PA=programme area.

7.2 Key challenges in implementing the Convention and transboundary water cooperation in 2020–2023

Challenges for transboundary water cooperation

Parties report that the main challenges to cooperation on transboundary waters include differences between national administrative and legal frameworks, lack of relevant data and information, and resource constraints, followed closely by difficulties in data and information exchange (figure 42).

Figure 42 Main challenges faced by countries in cooperating on transboundary waters – based on responses to section IV, question 1 (2023)



Of the 26 Parties that reported resource constraints as a major obstacle to transboundary water cooperation, 6 countries are recent Parties to the Water Convention, 12 are European Union Member States and 6 are candidate countries, underlining the widespread nature of problems related to financing for transboundary water cooperation. Moreover, some Parties made explicit mention of compound challenges related to financial, technical and human capacities for transboundary water cooperation.

Sectoral fragmentation at the national level was cited as a challenge by more than a third of the Parties, with some Parties highlighting additional challenges linked to the interplay between transboundary water cooperation and sectoral developments in transboundary basins (notably, hydropower, fisheries, agriculture, land-use planning and nature protection) and in involving the relevant sectors in developing and implementing cooperation. In addition, some Parties reported difficulties in establishing stronger linkages between transboundary cooperation and different planning processes at the regional and local levels.

More than a third of Parties indicated that environmental pressures posed a challenge to transboundary cooperation. Some provided additional explanations outlining the difficulties they faced in addressing issues such as water pollution, climate change impacts, flood and drought management, and improvement in river continuity. Some Parties also highlighted the challenges posed by emerging issues such as invasive species.

Sovereignty concerns are reported to represent a challenge for only five Parties, which may be evidence of successful outcomes achieved through cooperation in the respective basins and the consequent growth in trust and mutual understanding.

Another challenge pinpointed by some Parties related to difficulties in ensuring basin-wide application of the principles of the Convention in transboundary basins shared with non-Parties.

Several Parties highlighted the negative impact of security challenges or diplomatic tensions on possibilities for cooperation in transboundary basins. For example, security challenges related to Boko Haram were mentioned by Cameroon, Chad and Nigeria, while Iraq highlighted overall security and political tensions in its region as a challenge for transboundary water cooperation.

Several Parties also mentioned in their 2023 national reports the impacts of the war against Ukraine on transboundary water cooperation:

- According to Ukraine, cooperation with the Russian Federation was already non-functional during the previous reporting period (2017–2020). In 2023, the country further reported that on 30 December 2022 the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine terminated the 1992 Agreement between the Government of Ukraine and the Government of the Russian Federation on the Joint Management and Protection of Transboundary Water Bodies.

- The reports of Belarus and Ukraine demonstrate the discontinuation of their transboundary water cooperation. According to Ukraine, transboundary water cooperation with Belarus has not been functional since 2022. According to Belarus, the provision of information by Ukraine as part of an agreed information exchange on transboundary waters ceased in 2020.

- Lithuania identified the Russian Federation's war in Ukraine, and the involvement of Belarus in the war, as the biggest challenge to cooperation between Lithuania and its non-EU neighbours. As a result, Lithuania has ceased to engage in cooperation with the Russian Federation and Belarus.

- Latvia reported that all official meetings under the 1992 Convention on the protection of the marine environment of the Baltic Sea area (Helsinki Convention) have been suspended; as a result, cooperation between Latvia and the Russian Federation and Belarus on the Daugava/Western Dvina River basin is no longer operational.

- In its report, Finland states that changes in the geopolitical situation have led to the discontinuation of projects and various joint activities with the Russian Federation. Finland explains that only the minimum operational coordination necessary for fulfilling transboundary water agreements is ensured by the Finnish-Russian transboundary water commission, with meetings since February 2022 held in virtual format only to address a limited number of statutory issues.

- According to Estonia, changes in the geopolitical situation have led to the discontinuation of projects and various joint activities with the Russian Federation. Estonia notes that only the exchange of information on monitoring and water management and some operational coordination necessary for fulfilling transboundary water agreements is ensured by the Estonian-Russian transboundary water commission, with meetings since February 2022 held in virtual format only.

- Norway reports that, since 2022, the Russian Federation has not taken part in meetings of the bilateral Finnish-Norwegian transboundary water commission, in which it used to participate as an observer on the basis that the drainage basin of the Pasvik/Paatsjoki/Paz River is shared by the three countries.

- The Republic of Moldova and Slovakia, which share transboundary basins with Ukraine, cited the impact of the war in Ukraine as among the challenges for the operation of the respective joint bodies (Republic of Moldova–Ukraine, Slovakia–Ukraine).

- According to Poland, the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Poland and the Government of the Republic of Belarus on Cooperation in the Field of Protection and Rational Use of Transboundary Waters, entered into force in November 2020, but due to the present geopolitical situation, the joint commission has not yet been formed.

Although several Parties mentioned the COVID-19 pandemic as a challenge to transboundary cooperation efforts, the pandemic has also resulted in the increased use of electronic communication tools by their joint bodies and in transboundary water cooperation more generally.

Challenges in implementation and application of the Convention: agreements and joint bodies

As evidenced by the national implementation reports, some Parties to the Convention have encountered difficulties in the negotiation and adoption of agreements and arrangements for transboundary waters and the associated establishment of joint bodies (art. 9). This issue was found to be particularly challenging in basins where other riparian countries were not Party to the Convention, underlining the importance of motivating these neighbouring countries to join.

River and lake basins and sub-basins where the negotiation and conclusion of agreements and arrangements for transboundary waters and/or the establishment of joint bodies for transboundary water cooperation are needed include the following:

- the Astara Chay/Astarachay River basin (shared by Azerbaijan and the Islamic Republic of Iran (non-Party));

- the Archabil, Archinyan/Archangan, Atrek/Atrak, Chaacha, Kazgan Chai/Zenginanlou, Kelte-Chinar, Lainsu, Meana/Kara-Tikan and Nafte (Kelat Chai) River basins (shared by the Islamic Republic of Iran (non-Party) and Turkmenistan);

- the Banowka and Prohladnaja/Swieza River basins (shared by Poland and the Russian Federation);[383]

- the Coastal Rivers basin, including the Akpa and Cross River basins (shared by Cameroon and Nigeria) and the Benito/Ntem River basin (shared by Cameroon, Gabon (non-Party) and Equatorial Guinea (non-Party));

- the Diyala River sub-basin (shared by the Islamic Republic of Iran (non-Party) and Iraq);

- the Dragovistica River sub-basin (shared by Bulgaria and Serbia);[384]

- parts of the Kura-Araks River basin (shared by Armenia (non-Party), Azerbaijan, Georgia (non-Party), the Islamic Republic of Iran (non-Party) and Türkiye (non-Party)), in particular:

[383] According to Poland, the 1964 Agreement between the Government of the Polish People's Republic and the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics Concerning the Use of Water Resources in Frontier Waters is formally in force, but is no longer implemented, and meetings of the joint body do not take place.

[384] The Dragovistica River sub-basin is part of the Struma/Strymonas River basin shared by Bulgaria, Greece, North Macedonia and Serbia.

  - the Aghstev/Akstafa, Arpa, Bargushad/Vorotan and Ohchu/Voghji River sub-basins (shared by Azerbaijan and Armenia (non-Party))
- the Strumica River sub-basin (shared by Bulgaria and North Macedonia);[385]
- the Rio Marano, Torrente Ausa and Torrente San Marino (shared by Italy and San Marino (non-Party)).
- the Tano River basin (shared by Côte d'Ivoire (considered as non-Party for the third round of reporting) and Ghana);
- the Tigris River basin (shared by the Islamic Republic of Iran (non-Party), Iraq, Türkiye (non-Party) and the Syrian Arab Republic (non-Party)), including the sub-basins of the Greater Zab, Lesser Zab and Tigris Eastern Tributaries.

Some riparian Parties that have already concluded bilateral agreements among them should also examine why the following basins and sub-basins are not reported to be covered by those agreements, and consider addressing the issue within their cooperation frameworks:

- the Adige River basin and the Inn and Adda River sub-basins (shared by Italy and Switzerland);
- the Elv fra Svartakslvatnet and Karpelva River basins (shared by Norway and the Russian Federation);
- French-Italian sub-basins of the Po and the Roia/Roja River sub-basin (shared by France and Italy).

In the cases of several transboundary basins, it was not possible to conclude whether an agreement exists and is in force or whether a joint body is present, due to contradictory responses from the riparian countries. In the following cases, the riparian countries should examine closely existing cooperation frameworks to jointly ascertain if there is a need for a new agreement and whether a joint body should be established:

- the Aoos/Vijose/Vjosa River basin (shared by Albania and Greece);
- the Axios/Vardar River basin (shared by Greece, North Macedonia and Serbia);
- the Bia (shared by Côte d'Ivoire (considered as non-Party for the third round of reporting) and Ghana);
- the Dojran/Doirani Lake sub-basin (shared by Greece and North Macedonia);
- the Don River basin and the Azov Sea River basins (Mius, Krinka, Sukhoi Elanchyk) (shared by the Russian Federation and Ukraine);
- the Hari/Harirud River basin (shared by Afghanistan (non-Party), the Islamic Republic of Iran (non-Party) and Turkmenistan);
- parts of the Kura-Araks River basin (shared by Armenia (non-Party), Azerbaijan, Georgia (non-Party), the Islamic Republic of Iran (non-Party) and Türkiye (non-Party)), in particular:
  - the Jandari Lake basin and the Alazani/Ganyh and Iori/Gabirri River sub-basins (shared by Azerbaijan and Georgia (non-Party))
  - the Khrami/Ktsia River sub-basin (shared by Armenia (non-Party), Azerbaijan and Georgia (non-Party));

[385] North Macedonia stated that the agreement covering the Strumica River basin was concluded in 2019 but is not yet functional.

- the Lava/Pregel/Pregolas[386] River basin (shared by Poland and the Russian Federation);[387]
- the Maroni/Marowijne River basin (shared by France and Suriname (non-Party));
- the Murgab River basin (shared by Afghanistan (non-Party) and Turkmenistan);
- the Oiapoque/Oyapock/Oyupock River basin (shared by Brazil (non-Party) and France);
- the Sulak and Terek/Tergi (shared by Georgia (non-Party) and the Russian Federation).

While the following transboundary river basins have at least one agreement and at least one joint body in place for part of a basin, these agreements and joint bodies do not cover some key parts of the basins. For these river basins, it is important to work towards the conclusion of agreements and the establishment of joint bodies to cover these key areas, where possible or when this becomes possible:

- the Daugava/Western Dvina River basin (shared by Belarus, Latvia, Lithuania and the Russian Federation);
- the Dnieper River basin (shared by Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine);
- the Neman/Nemunas River basin (shared by Belarus, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and the Russian Federation);
- the Struma/Strymonas River basin (shared by Bulgaria, Greece, North Macedonia and Serbia);
- the Vistula River basin (shared by Belarus, Poland, Slovakia and Ukraine).

On a positive note, several additional transboundary river basins were reported upon by Parties in the third reporting exercise in response to recommendations in the second progress report. For example, Bulgaria reported on the Mutludere/Rezovska River basin (shared by Bulgaria and Türkiye (non-Party)), and the Russian Federation reported on the Razdolnaya/Sujfun River basin (shared by China (non-Party) and the Russian Federation).

Regardless, there are still several transboundary river basins that were not reported upon by the respective Parties to the Convention in the first, second or third reporting rounds. While the existence of agreements and joint bodies for transboundary water cooperation could not be established for those basins, a closer look at existing cooperation arrangements may be necessary in order to establish whether any action is necessary. This situation concerns the following transboundary basins:

- the Bidasoa (shared by France and Spain);
- the Ebro (shared by Andorra (non-Party), France and Spain);
- the Sanaga (shared by Cameroon, Central African Republic (non-Party) and Nigeria);
- the Zeravshan River basin (shared by Tajikistan (non-Party) and Uzbekistan).

Cooperation at the basin scale represents a particular challenge in many transboundary basins. While cooperation at the bilateral level compensates for this to a certain extent, cooperation on the basis of a catchment area or basin is fundamental for the implementation of an integrated approach to water management, as stipulated by the Convention (art. 2 (6)). However, agreements and joint bodies that

[386] The Lava/Pregel/Pregolas River Basin is also shared by Lithuania, whose share in the basin amounts to 0.4% (see UNECE (2011). *Second Assessment of Transboundary Rivers, Lakes and Groundwaters*, p. 388).

[387] See footnote 383 above.

include all riparian countries of the transboundary water bodies concerned are still to be established in many basins in most subregions.

Although progress has been observed in terms of countries entering into agreements or arrangements related to transboundary aquifers, and operationalizing cooperation on transboundary aquifers, when these are included in the scope of broader transboundary water agreements, additional effort in this area is required, especially in light of climate change.

There is also a need to enhance understanding and implementation of the requirements of the Convention with regard to protection of the marine environment influenced by transboundary waters, in particular articles 2 (6), 9 (3) and 9 (4) of the Convention.

Furthermore, existing cooperation agreements often lack provisions on cooperation in the areas of human health, adaptation to climate change and disaster risk reduction in transboundary basins.

Finally, Parties have encountered challenges in implementing certain other requirements of the Convention, in particular the provisions on joint water quality objectives (art. 9 (2) (e)), setting emission limits based on best available technology (art. 3 (1) (c) and (f) and (2)), agreeing on procedures for mutual assistance (art. 15), and setting up early warning and alarm systems (art. 14), especially for droughts and accidental water pollution.

While the practices of making information available to the public and holding consultations with stakeholders on planned measures in transboundary basins are relatively widespread, the involvement of some categories of stakeholders, such as women's organizations, youth organizations and Indigenous peoples' organizations, in the activities of joint bodies for transboundary water cooperation appears limited.

National measures for the management and protection of transboundary waters

There is a need for increased use of measures to enhance water use efficiency among the Parties (annex II and art. 3(1)), especially with regard to demand management activities. There is also scope for the wider involvement of stakeholders in enhancing water resources allocation and use efficiency.

In addition, it is important to enhance the application of economic and financial measures and agricultural extension services as measures to reduce pollution of transboundary waters from diffuse sources (art. 3 (1)).

Some recent Parties to the Convention face specific challenges in terms of adopting systems at national level for the licensing, control and monitoring of point and diffuse pollution. Some of these Parties still need to establish licensing or permitting systems for wastewater discharges and other point sources of pollution and to develop systems to monitor and control authorized discharges. While measures to reduce diffuse pollution are present in all Parties, there is scope to employ a larger spectrum of measures among some recent Parties.

Action required by Parties to address the challenges and possible support within the framework of the Convention

Specific challenges encountered by the Parties in implementing the Convention, as identified by the third reporting exercise, are mapped in table 1 against the relevant provisions of the Convention. Table 1 further identifies actions needed from Parties to the Convention to address the challenges and specifies how the Convention's programme of work for 2025–2027, to be adopted by the Meeting of the Parties at its tenth session (Ljubljana, 23–25 October 2024), can support Parties in these efforts.

The Convention's programme of work, adopted by the Meeting of the Parties for a triennial period, aims to support implementation of the Water Convention and its principles. The Convention's institutional structure, led by the Meeting of the Parties, supports the implementation of activities included in the programme of work through a set of bodies, including the Bureau, the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management, the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment, the Implementation Committee, the Joint Ad Hoc Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents, the International Water Assessment Centre, the Task Force on Water and Climate and the Task Force on the Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems Nexus. Each body receives a clear mandate from the Meeting of the Parties and implements the activities in one or several areas of the programme of work. The secretariat is responsible for servicing all meetings under the Convention, assisting the Convention bodies in implementing the programme of work and implementing technical assistance and capacity building activities.

At the same time, the Convention's programme of work cannot provide responses to cover all needs. It remains the responsibility of the Parties to take action towards full implementation of the Convention at national and transboundary levels, and to proactively establish partnerships and work to identify resources in support of such efforts.

7.3 Strategic approaches for enhanced implementation of the Convention and transboundary water cooperation

Leveraging support from the Convention's institutional platform

Parties and non-Parties can make wider use of the Convention's institutional platform to receive support in their efforts to ensure implementation of the Convention. Such support can involve methodological assistance (use of guidance materials, development of new soft-law instruments, etc.), exchange of good practices and experience through the organization of global and regional events, or the initiation of pilot projects. Parties could also propose new areas for future programmes of work, when stronger support is needed for certain areas of implementation. Parties may also consider approaching the Implementation Committee under the Water Convention for assistance with implementation and application of the Convention through an advisory procedure or other mechanisms.[388] The Committee is there to assist Parties in addressing the challenges they face in implementing the Convention, including those identified in the present report.

Activating and widening partnerships

Partners, including international and regional intergovernmental organizations and NGOs, play an increasingly important role in fostering stronger awareness about and implementation of the Convention, especially in the light of its globalization. Partners working in specific regions can provide support to establish or strengthen transboundary cooperation in certain basins and can also offer assistance to countries in strengthening national laws and policies and enhancing capacities for transboundary water cooperation and integrated water resources management.

Strengthening cooperation through targeted support in selected basins

Implementation of the Water Convention can be strengthened through targeted action and assistance to Parties and, where applicable, non-Parties, in the negotiation and conclusion of agreements in basins and sub-basins not covered by agreements or other arrangements, and in the conclusion of bilateral agreements on transboundary water cooperation, combined with the establishment of dedicated joint bodies. While such assistance is already provided in some basins under the programme of work as part of programme area 1.3 (supporting the development of agreements and the establishment of joint bodies), it

[388] More information on the Implementation Committee and the advisory procedure is available at https://unece.org/environment-policy/water/about-the-convention/convention-bodies/implementation-committee.

is important that it also cover basins and sub-basins that lack such agreements and joint bodies identified in chapters 3.1 and 4.1 of the present report. As initial steps, benefits assessments or technical projects can be initiated in such basins and sub-basins to promote identification and communication of the benefits of transboundary cooperation and build up political will towards cooperation.

Mobilizing financing, capacity and expertise

With more than half of the Parties highlighting resource constraints as among the challenges for transboundary water cooperation, it is crucial to help countries and basins in addressing the lack of resources. Such assistance could build on activities already implemented under the programme of work as part of programme area 5 (facilitating funding and financing of transboundary water cooperation and basin development). Where relevant, such assistance should also be accompanied by capacity development and the exchange of experience, especially on technical aspects of transboundary cooperation and national water management, when lack of capacity is an impediment to implementation. Finally, addressing this challenge requires demonstrating the benefits of transboundary cooperation and gaining high-level political support. The Water Convention and in particular its institutional platform centred around the Meeting of the Parties can play an important role in this area.

Advancing cooperation on groundwaters

With cooperation on transboundary groundwaters lagging in many aquifers shared by Parties, it is important to assist Parties and, where relevant, non-Parties, in the operationalization of cooperation on transboundary groundwaters, where these are covered by existing agreements and arrangements. In particular, this can be achieved through common identification, delineation and characterization of transboundary aquifers and the integrated management of transboundary groundwaters and surface waters. It is also important to initiate and support the conclusion of agreements or arrangements to cover transboundary groundwaters where they are not covered by existing agreements. Activities on conjunctive water management in the programme of work of the Convention may prove a useful support in efforts to introduce conjunctive management of transboundary surface waters and groundwaters.

Strengthening climate action in transboundary basins

Increasing the resilience of transboundary basins to climate change and ensuring stronger political support to transboundary water cooperation can be achieved by focusing on several key areas. These include, among others, integrating climate change into the activities of a greater number of joint bodies for transboundary water cooperation, facilitating the development and implementation of joint climate change adaptation and joint disaster risk reduction strategies, and/or integrating aspects of climate change and disaster risk reduction into other basin planning documents. These efforts could build on activities already implemented under the programme of work as part of programme area 4 (adapting to climate change in transboundary basins). It is furthermore important to support the implementation of provisions of the Convention on setting up early warning and alarm systems, especially for accidental water pollution and droughts, and to develop procedures for mutual assistance in critical situations, where these are not available.

Fostering integrated planning

While Parties report a wide variety of action plans, declarations, guidance documents and strategies, and confirm that joint objectives are in place in most shared basins with agreements in force, they highlight challenges with the actual implementation of integrated water resources management, including coordination among uses and users of water from different sectors. The outcomes of the third reporting exercise also show challenges with joint planning in the areas of climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction in transboundary basins. Supporting the application of integrated water

resources management, in line with the Convention, through activities on the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus, equitable and sustainable water allocation and adaptation to climate change in transboundary basins, within the framework of the Convention's programme of work, could facilitate joint planning at transboundary level and the integration of transboundary cooperation in national strategic frameworks.

Investing in data and information

Information and data exchange is fundamental for developing cooperation. As more than half of the Parties identify lack of relevant data and information among the challenges for transboundary water cooperation, efforts to establish and improve data and information exchange and joint monitoring and assessment are of paramount importance for many transboundary basins. These efforts require partnerships and investment to support countries in initiating or further developing monitoring and the exchange of data and information based on the guidance documents in this area developed in the framework of the Convention.

Communicating the benefits of cooperation under the Convention

Better knowledge of transboundary waters, stronger political will for transboundary water cooperation, improved water management, adoption of joint plans and programmes, long-lasting and sustained cooperation and dispute avoidance are highlighted by the Parties as the main achievements of cooperating on transboundary waters and implementing the Convention. Concrete results on the ground, achieved through cooperation within the framework of the Convention, include improved water quality, mitigation of the impacts of floods and droughts, improved joint planning in a number of areas (e.g. adaptation to climate change, management of dams and reservoirs, etc.), and better human and ecosystem health. It is important that these achievements are communicated to other countries sharing transboundary basins in order to build up political will for cooperation and to enable them to take advantage of the legal and institutional framework of the Convention.

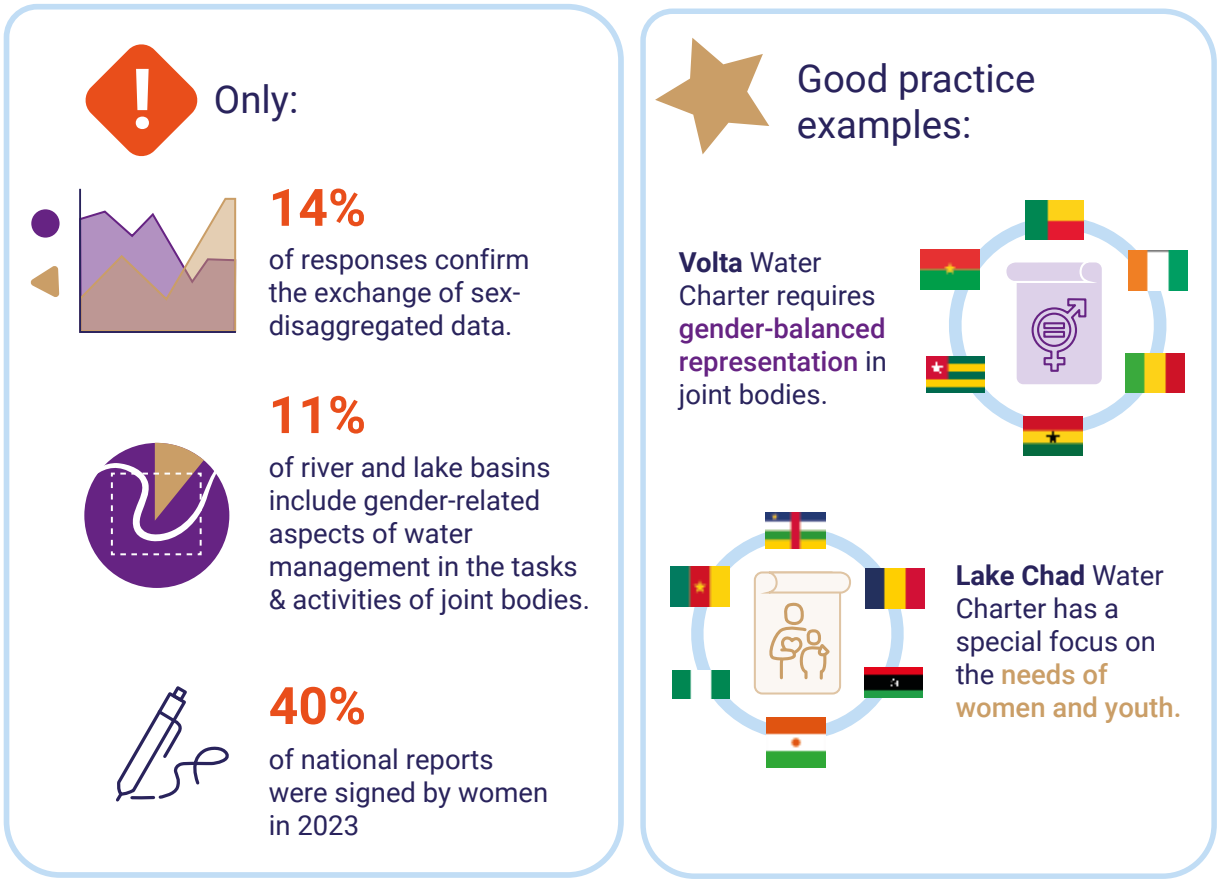
Meaningfully involving stakeholders

Clear and transparent mechanisms for stakeholder participation in transboundary water cooperation can contribute to accountability, help stakeholders better understand the challenges involved, and allow them to participate in transboundary cooperation in a meaningful manner. Sharing good practices with regard to the involvement of stakeholders – including women's organizations, youth groups and Indigenous peoples' organizations – in the activities of joint bodies for transboundary water cooperation could also contribute to the introduction of mechanisms for meaningful stakeholder involvement in a larger number of basins.

Stronger attention to gender aspects in transboundary water cooperation

Integrating gender-related aspects of water management into the tasks and activities of joint bodies in a larger number of transboundary basins, and paying closer attention to gender-balanced representation in the joint bodies for transboundary water cooperation, where relevant, should be considered by individual Parties and joint bodies in their efforts to progress towards gender equality and sustainable development.

Infographic 5: Gender in transboundary cooperation of Parties to the Water Convention (2023)



Ghana-Hungary-Zambia Twinning Initiative Kick-off meeting (Accra, 19–20 December 2023), photo credit: Zoard Marosi.

7.4 Recommendations on reporting under the Convention

Timely submission of reports: While the timeliness of the submission of national reports by Parties remained the same in the third reporting round as compared to the second round, more timely submission of reports by all Parties in subsequent reporting rounds would facilitate data analysis and make the results of reporting available at an early stage for the development of the programme of work under the Water Convention for the following triennium.

Coordination of responses: While an increased use of joint bodies as platforms for coordination was observed in the third round of reporting, as compared to the second round, it still remains limited. In the next reporting rounds, it would be beneficial for all Parties to enter into a dialogue with their riparian neighbours and/or within the framework of joint bodies with a view to developing or improving a shared understanding concerning their transboundary basins and the status of implementation of existing cooperative arrangements. Coordination of responses on transboundary aquifers is particularly important, as this would facilitate data analysis with regard to the state of such cooperation. It could also prompt stronger cooperation on transboundary groundwater, including through existing joint mechanisms for cooperation on surface waters, and promote application of the conjunctive water management approach.

Involvement of national geological surveys: National geological surveys participated in the preparation of reports in less than one-quarter of Parties in the third reporting round. To facilitate more detailed and improved data on transboundary aquifers in the next reporting rounds, it is imperative to strengthen the involvement of national geological surveys and other authorities responsible for groundwater in the preparation of reports. Such involvement could also lead to stronger contributions on their part to cooperation on transboundary aquifers.

Involvement of non-State actors: Since the involvement of non-State actors in reporting has not increased in the third reporting round, dedicated efforts could be applied by the Parties to involve such actors (youth, civil society organizations, women's organizations, water user associations, etc.) in the preparation of their national reports in the following reporting rounds. Such efforts would contribute to the accountability and transparency of governmental activities and could also facilitate the involvement of the public and other stakeholders in water management and transboundary water cooperation.

Use of guidance materials: Parties could also make stronger use of the documents *Guide to Reporting under the Water Convention and as a Contribution to SDG indicator 6.5.2* and *Opportunities to Coordinate with Neighbouring Countries when Completing the SDG indicator 6.5.2 National Report* as methodological tools to facilitate the preparation of reports and the coordination of replies in the next reporting rounds, especially where changes in national administrations and the focal points responsible for the preparation of national reports have taken place.

Online reporting system: The introduction of an online reporting system in the next reporting rounds could facilitate the preparation of reports by the Parties and their subsequent analysis.

ANNEXES

Annex I – Parties that submitted national reports and their date of submission

Party	Unsigned report (draft)	Initial submission	Final submission
Albania		03.07.2023	25.09.2023
Austria		30.06.2023	29.09.2023
Azerbaijan		01.08.2023	14.12.2023
Belarus		01.08.2023	14.11.2023
Belgium		25.10.2023	05.02.2024
Bosnia and Herzegovina		01.08.2023	24.01.2024
Bulgaria	30.06.2023		08.03.2024
Cameroon	14.12.2023		28.02.2024
Chad		15.09.2023	14.02.2024
Croatia		24.07.2023	31.01.2024
Czechia	29.06.2023		04.12.2024
Denmark	26.06.2023		25.08.2023
Estonia		30.06.2023	01.12.2023
Finland		07.07.2023	08.12.2023
France		07.07.2023	11.03.2024
Germany		12.06.2023	18.01.2024
Ghana	30.06.2023		12.12.2023
Greece		03.08.2023	19.01.2024
Guinea-Bissau	16.06.2023		14.12.2023
Hungary		30.06.2023	02.01.2024
Iraq	15.06.2023		06.12.2023
Italy		30.06.2023	10.03.2024
Kazakhstan		05.07.2023	26.10.2023
Latvia		21.09.2023	06.02.2024
Liechtenstein		22.06.2023	12.02.2024
Lithuania		16.06.2023	21.12.2023
Luxembourg		19.06.2023	19.06.2023
Montenegro		28.06.2023	25.10.2023
Netherlands		30.06.2023	30.06.2023
Nigeria		30.06.2023	22.01.2024
North Macedonia		07.07.2023	20.11.2023
Norway		28.06.2023	12.01.2024

Party	Unsigned report (draft)	Initial submission	Final submission
Poland	30.06.2023		07.03.2024
Portugal	01.06.2023		30.06.2023
Republic of Moldova		28.06.2023	15.01.2024
Romania		28.06.2023	05.12.2023
Russian Federation		01.06.2023	
Senegal		16.06.2023	22.12.2023
Serbia		21.06.2023	16.01.2024
Slovakia		20.06.2023	23.01.2024
Slovenia		04.07.2023	15.01.2024
Spain		02.10.2023	13.02.2024
Sweden		30.06.2023	02.02.2024
Switzerland		27.07.2023	27.07.2023
Togo		30.06.2023	20.12.2023
Turkmenistan	27.07.2023		18.12.2023
Ukraine	28.08.2023		16.02.2024
Uzbekistan		08.07.2023	30.01.2024

Annex II – Reported transboundary river and lake basins and sub-basins

Annex II was compiled by comparing basins listed in the national reports with those basins listed in the *Second Assessment of Transboundary Rivers, Lakes and Groundwaters* and identified by the Transboundary Waters Assessment Programme (TWAP). In addition, the Convention secretariat included basins not described in the *Second Assessment* or by TWAP, but which were reported by Parties to the Convention during the three reporting exercises, including in sub-Saharan Africa, South America and Western Asia.

Basin/sub-basin[1]	Recipient	Lakes in the basin	Riparians[2, 3]	Countries that reported on the basin/sub-basin[2, 4]
DRAINAGE BASINS OF THE WHITE SEA, BARENTS SEA AND KARA SEA				
Olanga/Oulanka	White Sea		**FI**, **RU**	**FI**, **RU**
Tuloma/Tuulomajoki	Kola Fjord > Barents Sea		**FI**, **RU**	**FI**, **RU**
Elv fra Svartakslvatnet	Barents Sea		**NO**, **RU**	**NO**
Jacobs/Grense Jakobselv/ Voriema	Barents Sea		**NO**, **RU**	**NO**, **RU**
Pasvik/Paatsjoki/Paz	Barents Sea	Lake Inari (**FI**)	**FI**, **NO**, **RU**	**FI**, **NO**, **RU**
Naatamo/Neiden	Barents Sea		**FI**, **NO**	**FI**, **NO**
Tana/Teno	Barents Sea		**FI**, **NO**	**FI**, **NO**
Munkelva/Uutanjoki	Barents Sea		**FI**, **NO**	**NO**
Sandneselva	Barents Sea		**FI**, **NO**	**NO**
Skibotn	Barents Sea		**FI**, **NO**	**NO**
Reisa	Barents Sea		**FI**, **NO**	**NO**

[1] A dash before the river name indicates a sub-basin.

[2] The country codes in bold indicate Parties to the Water Convention. For the purposes of Annex II, Côte d'Ivoire, the Gambia, Namibia, Panama, Zambia and Zimbabwe are not considered as Parties, as the entry into force of the Convention for these countries fell after the deadline for the submission of reports by Parties (30 June 2023).

[3] List of country codes: Afghanistan (AF), Albania (AL), Algeria (DZ), Andorra (AD), Angola (AO), Armenia (AM), Austria (AT), Azerbaijan (AZ), Belarus (BY), Belgium (BE), Benin (BJ), Bosnia and Herzegovina (BA), Brazil (BR), Bulgaria (BG), Burkina Faso (BF), Burundi (BI), Cameroon (CM), Chad (TD), China (CN), Central African Republic (CF), Congo (CG), Côte d'Ivoire (CI), Croatia (HR), Czechia (CZ), Democratic People's Republic of Korea (KP), Democratic Republic of the Congo (CD), Denmark (DK), Egypt (EG), Estonia (EE), Equatorial Guinea (GQ), Finland (FI), France (FR), Gabon (GA), Gambia (GM), Georgia (GE), Germany (DE), Ghana (GH), Guinea (GN), Guinea-Bissau (GW), Greece (GR), Hungary (HU), Iran (Islamic Republic of) (IR), Iraq (IQ), Italy (IT), Kazakhstan (KZ), Kyrgyzstan (KG), Latvia (LV), Liberia (LR), Libya (LY), Liechtenstein (LI), Lithuania (LT), Luxembourg (LU), Malawi (MW), Mali (ML), Mauritania (MR), Mongolia (MN), Montenegro (ME), Netherlands (NL), Niger (NE), Nigeria (NG), North Macedonia (MK), Norway (NO), Poland (PL), Portugal (PT), Republic of Moldova (MD), Romania (RO), Russian Federation (RU), Rwanda (RW), Senegal (SN), Serbia (RS), Sierra Leone (SL), Slovakia (SK), Slovenia (SI), Spain (ES), Sudan (SD), Suriname (SR), Sweden (SE), Switzerland (CH), Syrian Arab Republic (SY), Tajikistan (TJ), United Republic of Tanzania (TZ), Togo (TG), Türkiye (TR), Turkmenistan (TM), Ukraine (UA), Uzbekistan (UZ) and Zambia (ZM).

[4] The basins listed as "not reported" were listed in the *Second Assessment* or were reported by Parties in the previous reporting exercises, but not reported in the third reporting exercise. The references to non-Parties refer to national reports on SDG indicator 6.5.2 submitted in the third reporting exercise.

Basin/sub-basin[1]	Recipient	Lakes in the basin	Riparians[2, 3]	Countries that reported on the basin/sub-basin[2, 4]
Alta	Barents Sea		**FI**, **NO**	**NO**
Karpelva	Barents Sea		**NO**, **RU**	**NO**
Yenisey	Kara Sea		MN, **RU**	*Not reported*
- Selenge	Yenisey		MN, **RU**	MN, **RU**
Ob	Kara Sea		CN, **KZ**, MN, **RU**	*Not reported*
- Ertis/Ertix He/Irtysh	Ob		CN, **KZ**, MN, **RU**	**KZ**, **RU**
-- Tobol	Ertis/Ertix He/ Irtysh		**KZ**, **RU**	**KZ**, **RU**
-- Esil/Ishim	Ertis/Ertix He/ Irtysh		**KZ**, **RU**	**KZ**, **RU**
Kem	White Sea		**FI**, **RU**	**RU**
Vienan Kemi	White Sea		**FI**, **RU**	**FI**
DRAINAGE BASINS OF THE SEA OF OKHOTSK AND THE SEA OF JAPAN				
Amur	Sea of Okhotsk		CN, MN, **RU**	**RU**
- Argun/Hailaer	Amur		CN, **RU**	*Not reported*
- Ussuri/Wusuli	Amur	Lake Khanka/ Xingkai	CN, **RU**	*Not reported*
Razdolnaya/Sujfun	Sea of Japan		CN, **RU**	**RU**
Tumannaya/Tumen	Sea of Japan		CN, KP, **RU**	*Not reported*
DRAINAGE BASINS OF THE ARAL SEA AND OTHER TRANSBOUNDARY WATERS IN CENTRAL ASIA				
Aral Sea			AF, KG, **KZ**, TJ, **TM**, **UZ**	**KZ**
- Amu Darya	Aral Sea	Aral Sea (**KZ**, **UZ**)	AF, KG, TJ, **TM**, **UZ**	**TM**, **UZ**
-- Surkhan Darya	Amu Darya		TJ, **UZ**	*Not reported*
-- Kafirnigan	Amu Darya		TJ, **UZ**	*Not reported*

Basin/sub-basin[1]	Recipient	Lakes in the basin	Riparians[2, 3]	Countries that reported on the basin/sub-basin[2, 4]
-- Pyanj	Amu Darya		AF, TJ	AF
-- Vakhsh	Amu Darya		KG, TJ	*Not reported*
-- Kyzyl Suu	Amu Darya		KG, TJ	KG
- Syr Darya	Aral Sea	Aral Sea (**KZ**, **UZ**)	KG, **KZ**, TJ, **UZ**	**UZ**
-- Naryn	Syr Darya		KG, **UZ**	KG
-- Kara Darya	Syr Darya		KG, **UZ**	KG
--- Ak Bura	Kara Darya		KG, **UZ**	KG
--- Aravansay	Kara Darya		KG, **UZ**	KG
--- Mailisu/Mailuu Suu	Kara Darya		KG, **UZ**	KG
-- Chirchik	Syr Darya		KG, **KZ**, **UZ**	*Not reported*
--- Chatkal	Chirchik		KG, **UZ**	KG
-- Kasansay	Syr Darya		KG, **UZ**	KG
-- Isfaraimsay	Syr Darya		KG, **UZ**	KG
-- Shakhimardan	Syr Darya		KG, **UZ**	KG
-- Sokh	Syr Darya		KG, **UZ**	KG
-- Isfara	Syr Darya		KG, TJ, **UZ**	KG
-- Padshaata	Syr Darya		KG, **UZ**	KG
-- Khodja-Bakirgan	Syr Darya		KG, TJ	KG
- Emil/Emin He	Lake Alakol	Lake Alakol (**KZ**)	CN, **KZ**	**KZ**

Basin/sub-basin[1]	Recipient	Lakes in the basin	Riparians[2, 3]	Countries that reported on the basin/sub-basin[2, 4]
Chu/Shu	Desert sink		KG, **KZ**,	KG, **KZ**,
- Aspara	Chu/Shu		KG, **KZ**,	KG
Talas	Desert sink		KG, **KZ**,	KG, **KZ**,
- Kurkureusu/Kurkureu Suu	Talas		KG, **KZ**,	KG
Assa	Desert sink		KG, **KZ**,	*Not reported*
Ili/Kunes He	Lake Balkhash	Lake Balkhash (**KZ**)	CN, **KZ**	**KZ**
Murgab	Desert sink		AF, **TM**	AF, **TM**
Hari/Harirud	Desert sink		AF, IR, **TM**	AF, **TM**
Kopet Dag Group of Rivers (Archabil, Archinian/ Archangan, Chaacha, Kazgan Chai/Zenginanlu, Kelat Chai/ Nafte, Kelte-Chinar, Lainsu, Meana/Kara-Tikan)	Desert sink or Karakum Canal		IR, **TM**	**TM**
Zeravshan	Desert sink		TJ, **UZ**	*Not reported*
DRAINAGE BASINS OF THE CASPIAN SEA				
Ural/Zhayik	Caspian Sea		**KZ**, **RU**	**KZ**, **RU**
Atrak/Atrek	Caspian Sea		IR, **TM**	**TM**
- Sumbar/Sumber	Atrak/Atrek		IR, **TM**	**TM**
-- Chandor/Chendir	Sumbar/ Sumber		IR, **TM**	**TM**
Kura	Caspian Sea	Lake Jandari (**AZ**, GE), Lake Kartsakhi/ Aktas Golu (GE, TR)	AM, **AZ**, GE, IR, TR	**AZ**, GE
- Iori/Gabirri	Kura		**AZ**, GE	**AZ**, GE
- Alazani/Ganyh	Kura		**AZ**, GE	**AZ**, GE

Basin/sub-basin[1]	Recipient	Lakes in the basin	Riparians[2, 3]	Countries that reported on the basin/sub-basin[2, 4]
- Aghstev/Akstafa	Kura	Akhuryan/ Arpacay Reservoir (AM, TR)	AM, **AZ**	AM, **AZ**
- Potskhovi/Posof	Kura		GE, TR	GE
- Khrami/Ktsia	Kura		AM, **AZ**, GE	**AZ**, GE
-- Debed/Debeda	Khrami/Ktsia > Kura		AM, GE	AM, GE
- Araks/Aras	Kura	Araks Govsaghynyn Reservoir	AM, **AZ**, IR, TR	AM, **AZ**
-- Akhuryan/Arpacay	Araks/Aras	Akhuryan/ Arpacay Reservoir	AM, TR	AM
-- Arpa	Araks/Aras		AM, **AZ**	AM, **AZ**
-- Bargushad/Vorotan	Araks/Aras		AM, **AZ**	AM, **AZ**
-- Ohchu/Voghji	Araks/Aras		AM, **AZ**	AM, **AZ**
-- Sari Su/Sarisu	Araks/Aras		TR, IR	*Not reported*
Astara Chay/Astarachay	Caspian Sea		**AZ**, IR	**AZ**
Samur	Caspian Sea		**AZ**, **RU**	**AZ**, **RU**
Sulak	Caspian Sea		GE, **RU**	**RU**
- Andis-Koisu	Sulak		GE, **RU**	GE
Terek/Tergi	Caspian Sea		GE, **RU**	GE, **RU**
Malyi Uzen/Saryozen	Kamysh-Samarsk Lakes	Kamysh-Samarsk Lakes (**KZ)**	**KZ**, **RU**	**KZ**, **RU**
Bolshoy Uzen/Karaozen	Kamysh-Samarsk Lakes		**KZ**, **RU**	**KZ**, **RU**
- Kigach/Kigash channel	Volga		**KZ**, **RU**	**KZ**, **RU**

Basin/sub-basin[1]	Recipient	Lakes in the basin	Riparians[2, 3]	Countries that reported on the basin/sub-basin[2, 4]
DRAINAGE BASINS OF THE BLACK SEA				
Mutludere/Rezovska	Black Sea		**BG**, TR	**BG**
Danube	Black Sea	Reservoirs Iron Gate I and Iron Gate II (**RO**, **RS**), Ferto/Neusiedler Lake (**AT**, **HU**)	**AL**, **AT**, **BA**, **BG**, **CH**, **CZ**, **DE**, **HR**, **HU**, **IT**, **MD**, **ME**, **MK**, **PL**, **RO**, **RS**, **SI**, **SK, UA**	**AT**, **BG**, **CZ**, **DE**, **HR**, **HU**, **MD**, **ME**, **PL**, **RO**, **RS**, **SK**, **UA**
- Lech	Danube		**AT**, **DE**	*Not reported*
- Inn	Danube		**AT**, **CH**, **DE**, **IT**,	**CH**
- Morava and Dyje	Danube		**AT**, **CZ**, **SK**	**AT**, **CZ**, **SK**
- Raab/Raba	Danube		**AT**, **HU**	**AT**, **HU**
- Vah	Danube		**CZ**, **PL**, **SK**	**SK**
- Ipel/Ipoly	Danube		**HU**, **SK**	**HU**, **SK**
- Drava	Danube		**AT**, **HR**, **HU**, **IT**, **SI**	**AT**, **HR**, **HU**, **SI**
- Tisa/Tisza	Danube		**HU**, **RO**, **RS**, **SK**, **UA**	**HU**, **RS**, **SK**
-- Bega Veche	Tisza		**RO**, **RS**	*Not reported*
-- Bodva	Tisza		**HU**, **SK**	**HU**, **SK**
-- Bodrog	Tisza		**HU**, **SK**, **UA**	**HU**, **SK**
-- Er/Ier channel	Tisza		**HU**, **RO**	**HU**
-- Crisul Alb/Feher-Kooroos	Tisza		**HU**, **RO**	**HU**

Basin/sub-basin[1]	Recipient	Lakes in the basin	Riparians[2, 3]	Countries that reported on the basin/sub-basin[2, 4]
-- Crisul Repede/Sebes-Koros	Tisza		**HU**, **RO**	**HU**
-- Crisul Negru/Fekete-Koros	Tisza		**HU**, **RO**	**HU**
-- Cris/Kettos-Koros	Tisza		**HU**, **RO**	*Not reported*
-- Crasna/Kraszna	Tisza		**HU**, **RO**	**HU**
-- Maros/Mures	Tisza		**HU**, **RO**, **RS**	**HU**, **RS**
-- Navigable Bega Canal	Tisza		**RO**, **RS**	*Not reported*
-- Somes/Szamos	Tisza		**HU**, **RO**	**HU**
-- Tur	Tisza		**HU**, **RO**	**HU**
-- Beretty/Barcau	Tisza		**HU**, **RO**	**HU**
-- Krivaja	Tisza		**HU**, **RS**	**RS**
-- Kigyos/Plazovic	Tisza		**HU**, **RS**	**RS**
-- Cik/Ciker	Tisza		**HU**, **RS**	**RS**
-- Keres/Koros-er	Tisza		**HU**, **RS**	**RS**
-- Sajo/Slana	Tisza		**HU**, **SK**	**HU**, **SK**
--- Hernad/Hornad	Sajo/Slana		**HU**, **SK**	**HU**, **SK**
- Tamis/Timis	Danube		**RO**, **RS**	*Not reported*

Basin/sub-basin[1]	Recipient	Lakes in the basin	Riparians[2, 3]	Countries that reported on the basin/sub-basin[2, 4]
-- Barzava/Brzava	Tamis/Timis		**RO**, **RS**	*Not reported*
-- Moravita	Barzava/Brzava		**RO**, **RS**	*Not reported*
- Caras/Karas	Danube		**RO**, **RS**	*Not reported*
-- Nera	Caras/Karas		**RO**, **RS**	*Not reported*
-- Vicinic	Caras/Karas		**RO**, **RS**	*Not reported*
- Sava	Danube		**AL**, **BA**, **HR**, **ME**, **RS**, **SI**	**BA**, **HR**, **RS**, **SI**
-- Bosut	Sava		**HR**, **RS**	**RS**
-- Studva	Sava		**HR**, **RS**	**RS**
-- Drina	Sava		**BA**, **ME**, **RS**	*Not reported*
--- Cehotina	Drina > Sava		**BA**, **ME**	**ME**
--- Tara	Drina > Sava		**BA**, **ME**	**ME**
--- Piva	Drina > Sava		**BA**, **ME**	**ME**
--- Lim	Drina > Sava		**BA**, **ME**, **RS**	**ME**
- Velika Morava	Danube		**BG**, **ME**, **MK**, **RS**	*Not reported*
-- Nisava	Juzna Morava (Velika Morava)		**BG**, **RS**	**RS**
-- Ibar	Juzna Morava (Velika Morava)		**ME**, Kosovo,[5] **RS**	**ME**

[5] United Nations administered territory under Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

Basin/sub-basin[1]	Recipient	Lakes in the basin	Riparians[2, 3]	Countries that reported on the basin/sub-basin[2, 4]
- Timok	Danube		**BG**, **RS**	**RS**
- Siret	Danube		**RO**, **UA**	*Not reported*
- Prut	Danube		**MD**, **RO**, **UA**	**MD**
- Leitha	Danube		**AT**, **HU**	**AT**, **HU**
- Moson-Donau/Mosoni-Duna	Danube		**AT**, **HU**, **SK**	**HU**, **SK**
- Mura	Danube		**AT**, **HR**, **HU**, **IT**, **SI**	**AT**, **HU**, **SI**
- Uh/Ung/Uz/Uzh	Danube		**SK**, **UA**	*Not reported*
Cahul/Kagul	Lake Cahul/ Kagul		**MD**, **UA**	*Not reported*
Yalpuh	Lake Yalpuh		**MD**, **UA**	*Not reported*
Cogilnik/Kogilnik	Lake Sasyk > Black Sea		**MD**, **UA**	**MD**, **UA**
Dniester	Black Sea		**MD**, **PL**, **UA**	**MD**, **PL**, **UA**
- Kuchurhan	Dniester		**UA**, **MD**	*Not reported*
Dnieper	Black Sea		**BY**, **RU**, **UA**	**BY**, **RU**, **UA**
- Pripyat/Prypyats	Dnieper		**BY**, **UA**	**BY**
- Desna	Dnieper		**RU**, **UA**	*Not reported*
Mius	Azov Sea > Black Sea		**RU**, **UA**	**RU**, **UA**

Basin/sub-basin[1]	Recipient	Lakes in the basin	Riparians[2, 3]	Countries that reported on the basin/sub-basin[2, 4]
- Krinka	Mius > Black Sea		**RU**, **UA**	**RU**, **UA**
Mokryi Elanchik	Azov Sea > Black Sea		**RU**, **UA**	**UA**
- Sukhoi Elanchik	Mokryi Elanchik > Black Sea		**RU**, **UA**	**RU**, **UA**
Don	Black Sea		**RU**, **UA**	**RU**, **UA**
- Seversky Donets	Don		**RU**, **UA**	**UA**
Psou	Black Sea		GE, **RU**	GE, **RU**
Chorokhi/Coruh/Tchorokhi	Black Sea		GE, TR	GE
- Machakhelisckali/Macahel	Chorokhi/ Coruh		GE, TR	*Not reported*
DRAINAGE BASINS OF THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA				
Adige	Adriatic Sea		**CH**, **IT**	**CH**
Ebro	Mediterranean Sea		AD, **ES**, **FR**	AD
- Segre	Ebro		AD, **ES**, **FR**	AD, **FR**
- Valira	Ebro		AD, **ES**	AD
Roia/Roja	Mediterranean Sea		**FR**, **IT**	**FR**, **IT**
Rhone	Mediterranean Sea	Lake Geneva (**CH**, **FR)**, Lake Emosson (**CH**)	**CH**, **FR**, **IT**,	**CH**, **FR**,
- Doubs	Rhone		**CH**, **FR**	**CH**, **FR**
Po	Mediterranean Sea	Lake Lugano (**CH**, **IT**), Lake Maggiore (**CH**, **IT**)	**AT**, **CH**, **FR**, **IT**	**FR**
- Ticino	Po		**CH**, **IT**	**CH**, **IT**

Basin/sub-basin[1]	Recipient	Lakes in the basin	Riparians[2, 3]	Countries that reported on the basin/sub-basin[2, 4]
- Adda	Po		**CH**, **IT**	**CH**
Isonzo/Soca	Mediterranean Sea		**IT**, **SI**	**IT**, **SI**
Levante	Mediterranean Sea		**IT**, **SI**	**IT**
Krka	Mediterranean Sea		**BA**, **HR**	**HR**
Neretva	Mediterranean Sea	Bileca Reservoir/ Bilecko Lake (**BA**, **ME**)	**BA**, **HR**, **ME**	**HR**
- Trebisnjica	Mediterranean Sea		**BA**, **HR**, **ME**	**HR**, **ME**
Drin	Mediterranean Sea	Lake Ohrid (**AL**, **MK**), Prespa Lakes (**AL**, **GR**, **MK**), Lake Skadar/Shkoder (**AL**, **ME**)	**AL**, **GR**, Kosovo,[6] **ME**, **MK**	**AL**, **MK**, **RS**
- Bojana/Buna	Mediterranean Sea		**AL**, **ME**	**AL**, **ME**
-- Cem/Cijevna	Moraca < Mediterranean Sea		**AL**, **ME**	**ME**
- Plava/Plavska			**AL**, Kosovo[7]	**RS**
Aoos/Vijose/Vjosa	Mediterranean Sea		**AL**, **GR**	**AL**, **GR**
Axios/Vardar	Mediterranean Sea	Lake Doirani/ Dojran (**GR**, **MK**)	**BG**, **GR**, Kosovo,[8] **MK**, **RS**	**GR**, **MK**, **RS**
- Lepenac	Axios/Vardar		**BG**, Kosovo,[9] **MK**	**MK**, **RS**
- Pcinja	Axios/Vardar		**BG**, **MK**, **RS**	**MK**, **RS**
Struma/Strymonas	Mediterranean Sea		**BG**, **GR**, **MK**, **RS**	**BG**, **GR**, **RS**
- Strumica	Struma/ Strymonas		**BG**, **MK**	**MK**

6 United Nations administered territory under Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).
7 United Nations administered territory under Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).
8 United Nations administered territory under Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).
9 United Nations administered territory under Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

Basin/sub-basin[1]	Recipient	Lakes in the basin	Riparians[2, 3]	Countries that reported on the basin/sub-basin[2, 4]
- Dragovistica	Struma/ Strymonas		**BG**, **MK**, **RS**	**RS**
Mesta/Nestos	Mediterranean Sea		**BG**, **GR**	**BG**, **GR**
- Despatis/Dospat	Mesta/Nestos		**BG**, **GR**	**BG**
Evros/Maritsa/Meric	Mediterranean Sea		**BG**, **GR**, TR	**BG**, **GR**
- Arda/Ardas	Evros/Maritsa/ Meric		**BG**, **GR**, TR	**BG**
- Byala	Evros/Maritsa/ Meric		**BG**, **GR**	**BG**
- Tunca/Tundja/Tundzha	Evros/Maritsa/ Meric		**BG**, TR	**BG**
Dragonja	Adriatic Sea		**HR**, **SI**	**HR**, **SI**
Marano	Adriatic Sea		**IT**, SM	**IT**, SM
Marecchia	Adriatic Sea		**IT**, SM	SM
- Ausa	Marecchia		**IT**, SM	**IT**, SM
- San Marino	Marecchia		**IT**, SM	**IT**, SM
DRAINAGE BASINS OF THE NORTH SEA AND EASTERN ATLANTIC IN EUROPE				
Glama/Glommavassdraget	North Sea		**NO**, **SE**	**NO**, **SE**
Haldenvassdraget	Idd Fjord < North Sea		**NO**, **SE**	**NO**, **SE**
Berbyelva/Enningdalselva/ Enningdalsalvena	Idd Fjord < North Sea		**NO**, **SE**	**NO**, **SE**
Klaraalven/Trysilelva	North Sea		**NO**, **SE**	**NO**, **SE**
Norsaalven	North Sea		**NO**, **SE**	**NO**, **SE**
Byaalven	North Sea		**NO**, **SE**	**NO**, **SE**

Basin/sub-basin[1]	Recipient	Lakes in the basin	Riparians[2, 3]	Countries that reported on the basin/sub-basin[2, 4]
Upperudsaalven	North Sea		**NO**, **SE**	**NO**, **SE**
Stromsan	North Sea		**NO**, **SE**	**NO**, **SE**
Vidaa/Wiedau	North Sea		**DE**, **DK**	**DK**
- Eider	Vidaa/Wiedau		**DE**, **DK**	**DE**
Elbe	North Sea		**AT**, **CZ**, **DE**, **PL**	**AT**, **CZ**, **DE**, **PL**
- Ohre	Elbe		**CZ**, **DE**	*Not reported*
Ems	North Sea		**DE**, **NL**	**DE**, **NL**
Rhine	North Sea	Lake Constance (**AT**, **CH**, **DE**)	**AT**, **BE**, **CH**, **DE**, **FR**, **IT**, **LI**, **LU**, **NL**	**AT**, **CH**, **DE**, **FR**, **LI**, **LU**, **NL**
- Mosel/Moselle	Rhine		**BE**, **DE**, **FR**, **LU**	**DE**, **FR**, **LU**
-- Saar/Sarre	Mosel/Moselle		**DE**, **FR**	**DE**, **FR**, **LU**
Maas/Meuse	North Sea		**BE**, **DE**, **FR**, **LU**, **NL**	**BE**, **DE**, **FR**, **LU**, **NL**
Escaut/Schelde/Scheldt	North Sea		**BE**, **FR**, **NL**	**BE**, **FR**, **NL**
Yser/Ijzer	North Sea		**BE**, **FR**	**BE**
Bidasoa	Eastern Atlantic		**ES**, **FR**	*Not reported*
Minho/Mino	Eastern Atlantic	Frieira Reservoir	**ES**, **PT**	**ES**, **PT**
Lima/Limia	Eastern Atlantic		**ES**, **PT**	**ES**, **PT**
Douro/Duero	Eastern Atlantic		**ES**, **PT**	**ES**, **PT**
Tagus/Tejo/Tajo	Eastern Atlantic		**ES**, **PT**	**ES**, **PT**

Basin/sub-basin[1]	Recipient	Lakes in the basin	Riparians[2, 3]	Countries that reported on the basin/sub-basin[2, 4]
Guadiana	Eastern Atlantic		**ES**, **PT**	**ES**, **PT**
Nidelva/Nidelvvassdraget	Trondheim Fjord		**NO**, **SE**	**NO**, **SE**
Stjordalsvassdraget	Trondheim Fjord		**NO**, **SE**	**NO**, **SE**
Verdalsvassdraget	Trondheim Fjord		**NO**, **SE**	**NO**, **SE**
Vefsna	Vefsnfjord		**NO**, **SE**	**NO**, **SE**
Rossaga	Sorfjord < Ranfjord		**NO**, **SE**	**NO**, **SE**
Bjerka	Sorfjord < Ranfjord		**NO**, **SE**	**NO**, **SE**
Ranavassdraget/Ranelva	Ranfjord		**NO**, **SE**	**NO**, **SE**
Sulitjelmavassdraget	Skjerstadfjord		**NO**, **SE**	**NO**, **SE**
Saltdalsvassdraget	Saltdalsfjord		**NO**, **SE**	**NO**, **SE**
Fagerbakkvassdraget	Torrfjord		**NO**, **SE**	**NO**, **SE**
Laksaga	Overvatnet		**NO**, **SE**	**NO**, **SE**
Sorfjordelva	Sorfjord		**NO**, **SE**	**NO**, **SE**
Hellemovassdraget	Porsangerfjord		**NO**, **SE**	**NO**, **SE**
Storelva	Tyrifjord		**NO**, **SE**	**NO**, **SE**
Skjomavassdraget	Skjomenfjord		**NO**, **SE**	**NO**, **SE**
Salangselva	Tyrifjord		**NO**, **SE**	**NO**, **SE**
Malselvvassdraget	Malselvfjorden		**NO**, **SE**	**NO**, **SE**
Signaldalelva	Storfjord < Lyngenfjord		**NO**, **SE**	**NO**, **SE**

Basin/sub-basin[1]	Recipient	Lakes in the basin	Riparians[2, 3]	Countries that reported on the basin/sub-basin[2, 4]
DRAINAGE BASINS OF THE BALTIC SEA				
Banowka	Baltic Sea		**PL**, **RU**	**PL**
Luleaalven	Bothnian Bay < Baltic Sea		**NO**, **SE**	**NO**, **SE**
Piteaalven	Bothnian Bay < Baltic Sea		**NO**, **SE**	**NO**, **SE**
Skellefteaalven	Bothnian Bay < Baltic Sea		**NO**, **SE**	**NO**, **SE**
Umeaalven	Bothnian Bay < Baltic Sea		**NO**, **SE**	**NO**, **SE**
Angerman	Bothnian Sea < Baltic Sea		**NO**, **SE**	**NO**, **SE**
Indalsaalven	Bothnian Sea < Baltic Sea		**NO**, **SE**	**NO**, **SE**
Ljusnan	Bothnian Sea < Baltic Sea		**NO**, **SE**	**NO**, **SE**
Dalaalven	Bothnian Sea < Baltic Sea		**NO**, **SE**	**NO**, **SE**
Torne/Tornionjoki/Tornealven	Baltic Sea		**FI**, **NO**, **SE**	**FI**, **NO**, **SE**
Kemi/Kemijoki	Baltic Sea		**FI**, **NO**, **RU**	**FI**, **NO**, **RU**
Oulo/Oulujoki	Baltic Sea		**FI**, **RU**	**FI**, **RU**
Janisjoki	Lake Ladoga		**FI**, **RU**	**FI**, **RU**
Tohmajoki	Lake Ladoga		**FI**, **RU**	**RU**
- Kiteenjoki	Tohmajoki		**FI**, **RU**	**FI**
Hiitolanjoki	Lake Ladoga		**FI**, **RU**	**FI**, **RU**
Vuoksa/Vuoksi	Lake Ladoga	Lake Pyhajarvi and Lake Saimaa (**FI**)	**FI**, **RU**	**FI**, **RU**
Juustilanjoki/Soskuanjoki	Baltic Sea	Lake Nuijamaa/ Nuijamaanjaarvi	**FI**, **RU**	*Not reported*

Basin/sub-basin[1]	Recipient	Lakes in the basin	Riparians[2, 3]	Countries that reported on the basin/sub-basin[2, 4]
- Saimaan Kanava/Saimen Canal	Juustilanjoki/ Soskuanjoki		**FI**, **RU**	**FI**, **RU**
-- Malinovka/Mustajoki	Saimaan Kanava/ Saimen Canal> Juustilanjoki/ Soskuanjoki		**FI**, **RU**	**FI**, **RU**
- Rakkolanjoki/Seleznevka	Hounijoki > Baltic Sea		**FI**, **RU**	**FI**, **RU**
-Alajoki	Hounijoki > Baltic Sea		**FI**, **RU**	**FI**
Serga/Urpalanjoki	Baltic Sea		**FI**, **RU**	**FI**, **RU**
Polevaya/Tervajoki	Baltic Sea		**FI**, **RU**	**FI**, **RU**
Velikaya/Vilajoki	Baltic Sea		**FI**, **RU**	**FI**, **RU**
Kaltonjoki/Peschanaya/ Santajoki	Baltic Sea		**FI**, **RU**	**FI**, **RU**
Koskelanjoki/Vaalimaanjoki	Baltic Sea		**FI**, **RU**	**FI**, **RU**
Koutajoki/Kovda	Baltic Sea		**FI**, **RU**	**RU**
Kilpeenjoki/Rokkajoki	Baltic Sea		**FI**, **RU**	**FI**
- Schlei/Trave	Krusau/Krusa		**DE**, **DK**	**DE**
Narva	Baltic Sea	Narva Reservoir and Lake Chudskoe/ Peipsi/ (**EE**, **RU**)	**BY**, **EE**, **LV**, **RU**	**EE**, **RU**
Salaca	Baltic Sea		**EE**, **LV**	*Not reported*
Gauja/Koiva	Baltic Sea		**EE**, **LV**	**EE**, **LV**
Daugava/Western Dvina	Baltic Sea	Lake Drisvyata/ Druksiai (**BY**, **LT**)	**BY**, **EE**, **LT**, **LV**, **RU**	**BY**, **LT**, **LV**, **RU**
Lielupe	Baltic Sea		**LT**, **LV**	**LT**, **LV**
Venta, Barta, Sventoji Rivers	Baltic Sea		**LT**, **LV**	**LT**, **LV**

Basin/sub-basin[1]	Recipient	Lakes in the basin	Riparians[2, 3]	Countries that reported on the basin/sub-basin[2, 4]
Neman/Nemunas	Baltic Sea	Lake Galadus/ Galandusys	**BY**, **LT**, **LV**, **PL**, **RU**	**BY**, **LT**, **PL**, **RU**
Lava/Pregel/Pregolas	Baltic Sea		**LT**, **PL**, **RU**	**PL**, **RU**
Prohladnaja/Swieza	Baltic Sea		**PL**, **RU**	**PL**
Vistula	Baltic Sea		**BY**, **PL**, **SK**, **UA**	**PL**, **UA**
- Bug	Narew (Vistula)		**BY**, **PL**, **UA**	**BY**, **PL**
- San/Syan	Vistula		**PL**, **UA**	**PL**
- Dunajec	Vistula		**PL**, **SK**	**PL**, **SK**
-- Poprad	Dunajec		**PL**, **SK**	**PL**
Oder/Odra	Baltic Sea		**CZ**, **DE**, **PL**	**CZ**, **DE**, **PL**
DRAINAGE BASINS OF THE PERSIAN GULF				
Euphrates	Persian Gulf		**IQ**, SY, TR	**IQ**
Tigris	Persian Gulf		IR, **IQ**, SY, TR	**IQ**
- Diyala	Tigris		IR, **IQ**	**IQ**
- Eastern Tributaries	Tigris		IR, **IQ**	**IQ**
- Lesser Zab	Tigris		IR, **IQ**	**IQ**
- Greater Zab	Tigris		**IQ**, TR	**IQ**
DRAINAGE BASINS OF LAKE CHAD, THE EASTERN ATLANTIC IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA AND THE GULF OF GUINEA				
Lake Chad	Endorheic lake		CF, **CM**, DZ, LY, NE, **NG**, SD, **TD**	**CM**, NE, **NG**, **TD**
- Chari	Lake Chad		CF, **CM**, **TD**	*Not reported*

Basin/sub-basin[1]	Recipient	Lakes in the basin	Riparians[2, 3]	Countries that reported on the basin/sub-basin[2, 4]
-- Logone	Lake Chad		CF, **CM**, **TD**	*Not reported*
- Komadougou/Yobe	Lake Chad		NE, **NG**	**NG**
- El-Beid/Ebeji	Lake Chad		**CM**, **NG**	*Not reported*
Niger	Eastern Atlantic		BF, BJ, CI, **CM**, DZ, GN, ML, MR, NE, **NG**, SL, **TD**	BF, BJ, CI, **CM**, GN, NE, **NG**, **TD**
- Benoue/Benue	Niger		**CM**, **NG**, **TD**	**CM**, **NG**
- Mayo Kebbi	Benoue/Benue	Lake Fianga	**CM**, **TD**	**CM**
- Mayo Rey	Benoue/Benue		**CM**, **TD**	**CM**
Senegal	Eastern Atlantic		GN, ML, MR, **SN**	GN, MR, **SN**
Gambia	Eastern Atlantic		GM, GN, **GW**, **SN**	GM, GN, **SN**
Geba/Kayanga	Eastern Atlantic		GN, **GW**, **SN**	GN, **GW**, **SN**
- Corubal/Koliba	Geba/Kayanga		GN, **GW**	GN, **GW**
Congo/Zaire	Eastern Atlantic		AO, BI, **CM**, CF, CD, GA, CG, RW, **TD**, TZ, ZM, MW	AO, **CM**, CG, CD, RW, **TD**, ZM
Comoe/Komoe	Gulf of Guinea		BF, CI, **GH**, ML	BF, CI
Volta	Gulf of Guinea		BJ, BF, CI, **GH**, ML, **TG**	BJ, BF, CI, **GH**
- Nakanbe/White Volta	Volta		BF, **GH**	BF
- Oti	Volta		BJ, BF, CI, **GH**, ML, **TG**	**TG**
Tano	Gulf of Guinea		BF, CI, **GH**, ML	CI, **GH**
Bia	Gulf of Guinea		BF, CI, **GH**, ML	CI, GH
Mono	Gulf of Guinea		BJ, **TG**	BJ, **TG**

Basin/sub-basin[1]	Recipient	Lakes in the basin	Riparians[2, 3]	Countries that reported on the basin/sub-basin[2, 4]
Oueme/Yewa	Gulf of Guinea		BJ, **TG**, **NG**	BJ
Cross	Gulf of Guinea		**CM**, **NG**	**CM**
Akpa	Gulf of Guinea		**CM**, **NG**	**CM**
Sanaga	Gulf of Guinea		CF, **CM**, **NG**	*Not reported*
Ogooue	Gulf of Guinea		CG, **CM**, GQ, GA	**CM**
Benito/Ntem	Gulf of Guinea		**CM**, GQ, GA	**CM**
DRAINAGE BASINS OF THE NORTHERN ATLANTIC IN SOUTH AMERICA				
Maroni/Marowijne	Northern Atlantic		**FR**, SR	**FR**, SR
Oiapoque/Oyapock/Oyupock	Northern Atlantic		BR, **FR**	BR, **FR**

Annex III – Reported agreements and arrangements

This Annex was compiled by comparing agreements and arrangements listed in the national reports with those identified in the *Second Assessment of Transboundary Rivers, Lakes and Groundwaters*. In addition, the Secretariat included other agreements and arrangements, which were not described in the *Second Assessment*, but were reported by Parties to the Water Convention during the three reporting exercises.

Relevant agreements and place and date of signing[10]	Waters concerned[11]	Riparians who are parties to the agreement[12]	Countries that reported on the agreement[13]
DRAINAGE BASINS OF THE WHITE SEA, BARENTS SEA AND KARA SEA			
Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Government of the People's Republic of China in the field of Use and Protection of Transboundary Rivers (Astana, 12 September 2001)	Ertis/Ertix He/Irtysh River sub-basin; Ili/Kunes He River basin; Emil/Emin He River sub-basin (drainage basins of Central Asia)	CN, **KZ**	**KZ**
Agreement Regulating the Fishing and Conserving of the Fish Stocks in the Grense Jakob River (Voriema) and Pasvik River (Paatsjoki) (1971)	Jacobs/Grense Jakobselv/Voriema and Pasvik/Paatsjoki/Paz River basins	**NO**, **RU**	**NO**, **RU**
Protocol between the Government of Finland and the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the Participation of Soviet Organizations in Pisciculture Measures in Order to Preserve Fish Stocks in Lake Inari (1983)	Lake Inari	**FI**, **RU**	*Not reported*
Agreement between the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the Government of Norway and the Government of Finland concerning the regulation of Lake Inari by means of the Kaitakoski hydro-electric power station and dam (Moscow, 29 April 1959)	Lake Inari	**FI**, **NO**, **RU**	**FI**, **RU**
Agreement between the Government of Finland and the Government of Norway on the diversion of the flow of the water from lakes Garsjoen, Kjerringvatn and Forstevannene to the waterway of Gandvik instead of that of the River Naatamo (Neiden) (Oslo, 25 April 1951)	Naatamo/Neiden and Gandvik River basins; Garsjoen, Kjerringvatn and Forstevannene Lakes	**FI**, **NO**	**NO**
Agreement between the Republic of Finland and the Kingdom of Norway concerning fishing in the Naatamo (Neiden) fishing area (Helsinki, 14 December 1977)	Naatamo/Neiden River basin	**FI**, **NO**	**FI**, **NO**

[10] Agreements listed in italics were reported in the *Second Assessment* but not in the third reporting exercise; in some instances, basins are covered by agreements developed more recently.

[11] When not specified, in most cases, the agreement covers all transboundary waters shared by the Parties.

[12] For a list of country codes, see annex II, footnote 3 above. Codes in bold indicate Parties to the Water Convention. The code for the European Union, also a Party to the Water Convention, is EU. For the purposes of Annex III, Côte d'Ivoire, the Gambia, Namibia, Panama, Zambia and Zimbabwe are not considered as Parties, as the entry into force of the Water Convention for those countries fell after the deadline for the submission of reports by Parties (30 June 2023).

[13] Agreements and arrangements listed as not reported were either indicated in the *Second Assessment* or reported by the Parties in the pilot or second reporting exercises, but not in the third reporting exercise. The references to non-Parties refer to national reports on SDG indicator 6.5.2 submitted in the third reporting exercise.

Relevant agreements and place and date of signing[10]	Waters concerned[11]	Riparians who are parties to the agreement[12]	Countries that reported on the agreement[13]
Agreement between the Government of the Kingdom of Norway and the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics concerning water abstraction by Norway from the upper reservoir of the Borisoglebsk hydropower plant at the transboundary Pasvik River (1976)	Pasvik/Paatsjoki/ Paz River basin (Borisoglebsk Reservoir)	**NO**, **RU**	**NO**
Agreement between Norway and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the utilization of water-power on the Pasvik (Paatso) River (Oslo, 18 December 1957)	Pasvik/Paatsjoki/Paz River basin	**NO**, **RU**	**NO**
Memorandum of Understanding on the development and monitoring of fisheries and related research cooperation in Finnish-Russian transboundary waters signed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Finland and the Federal Agency for Fisheries of the Russian Federation (24 April 2018)		**FI**, **RU**	**FI**
Agreement between the Republic of Finland and the Kingdom of Norway on joint fishing regulations concerning the fishing area of the Tana River (Helsinki, 1 March 1989)	Teno/Tana River basin	**FI**, **NO**	*Not reported*[14]
Agreement between Finland and Norway relative to fishing in the Tana River fishing area (2016)	Teno/Tana River basin	**FI**, **NO**	**FI**, **NO**
Agreement concerning the Finnish-Norwegian River Basin District (22 May 2014)		**FI**, **NO**	**FI**, **NO**
Memorandum of Understanding pursuant to the Agreement on the Finnish-Norwegian River Basin District (30 October 2013)		**FI**, **NO**	**FI**, **NO**
Agreement concerning the Finnish-Norwegian Transboundary Water Commission (Helsinki, 5 November 1980)		**FI**, **NO**	**FI**, **NO**
Agreement between the Government of the Russian Federation and the Government of Mongolia on the Use and Protection of Transboundary Waters (Ulaanbaatar, 11 February 1995)		MN, **RU**	MN, **RU**
DRAINAGE BASINS OF THE SEA OF OKHOTSK AND THE SEA OF JAPAN			
Agreement between the Government of the Russian Federation and the Government of the People's Republic of China on Cooperation concerning the Protection, Regulation and Reproduction of Living Water Resources in Frontier Waters of the Amur and Ussuri Rivers (1994)	Amur River basin and Ussuri River sub-basin	CN, **RU**	*Not reported*

[14] According to Norway, this agreement was replaced by 2016 agreement.

Relevant agreements and place and date of signing[10]	Waters concerned[11]	Riparians who are parties to the agreement[12]	Countries that reported on the agreement[13]
Agreement between the Government of the Russian Federation and the Government of the People's Republic of China on Cooperation related to the Protection of the Water Quality and Ecological Status of the Argun River (2006)	Argun River sub-basin	CN, **RU**	*Not reported*
Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Natural Resources of the Russian Federation and the State General Administration of Environmental Protection of the People's Republic of China on joint monitoring of water quality of transboundary water bodies (Beijing, 21 February 2006)		CN, **RU**	**RU**
Agreement between the Government of the Russian Federation and the Government of the People's Republic of China on the Rational Use and Protection of Transboundary Waters (29 January 2008)		CN, **RU**	**RU**
Agreement between the Government of the Russian Federation and the Government of the People's Republic of China on Guiding Principles of the Joint Economic Activity on Some Islands and Adjacent Areas of Water of the Frontier Rivers (10 December 1997)		CN, **RU**	*Not reported*
DRAINAGE BASINS OF THE ARAL SEA AND OTHER TRANSBOUNDARY WATERS IN CENTRAL ASIA			
Agreement on Joint Use of Water Resources by Turkmenistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan in the Lower Reaches of the Amu Darya River (26 May 2007)	Amu Darya River sub-basin	**TM**, **UZ**	**TM**
Framework Convention on Environmental Protection for Sustainable Development in Central Asia (Ashgabat, 22 November 2006)	Aral Sea basin	**KZ**, KG, TJ, **TM**, **UZ**	*Not reported*
Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Government of the Kyrgyz Republic, Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, Government of Turkmenistan and Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan on the Status of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea and its organizations (Ashgabat, 9 April 1999)	Aral Sea basin	**KZ**, KG, TJ, **TM**, **UZ**	**KZ**
Agreement on Joint Actions to Address the Problem of the Aral Sea and the Aral Sea Region, and for the Environmental Rehabilitation and the Social and Economic Development of the Aral Sea Region (Kyzyl-Orda, 26 March 1993)	Aral Sea basin	**KZ**, KG, TJ, **TM**, **UZ**	**KZ**

Relevant agreements and place and date of signing[10]	Waters concerned[11]	Riparians who are parties to the agreement[12]	Countries that reported on the agreement[13]
Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic on the Use of Water Management Facilities of Intergovernmental Status on the Rivers Chu and Talas (Astana, 21 January 2000)	Chu/Shu and Talas River basins	KG, **KZ**	KG, **KZ**
Temporary Regulation regarding Water Apportionment of the Talas, Kurkureu-Suu, and Aspara Rivers between the Kazakh Soviet Socialist Republic and the Kyrgyz Soviet Socialist Republic (5 February 1948)	Talas River basin, Kurkureu-Suu and Aspara River sub-basins	KG, **KZ**	KG
Agreement between the Governments of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic and the Republic of Uzbekistan on the Use of the Water and Energy Resources of the Syr Darya Basin (Bishkek, 17 March 1998)	Syr Darya River sub-basin	**KZ**, KG, **UZ**	**KZ**, **UZ**
Cooperation Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic, and the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Cooperation in Environmental Protection and Environmental Management (Bishkek, 17 March 1998)		**KZ**, KG, **UZ**	**KZ**
Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Government of Turkmenistan on the management, protection and rational use of water resources of the Amu Darya River (Tashkent, 14 July 2022)	Amu Darya River	**TM**, **UZ**	**UZ**
Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic on joint water resources management of the Andijan (Kempirabad) reservoir (Bishkek, 3 November 2022)	Andijan (Kempirabad) reservoir	KG, **UZ**	KG, **UZ**
Agreement between the Ministry of Water Resources of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Water Resources Service under the Ministry of Agriculture of the Kyrgyz Republic on cooperation on water management issues (Bishkek, 3 November 2022)		KG, **UZ**	KG, **UZ**
Minutes of the Meeting of Representatives of the Ministry of Water Management of the Uzbek Soviet Socialist Republic, the Ministry of Water Management of the Kyrgyz Soviet Socialist Republic, the State Committee on Construction of the Kyrgyz Soviet Socialist Republic and the "Sredazgiprovodkhlopok" and "Kirgizgiprovodkhoz" technical institutes on the Use of the Water Resources of the Kara Darya River, Taking into Account Andijan (Kampyr-Ravat) Reservoir (1965)	Kara Darya River sub-basin	KG, **UZ**	KG

Relevant agreements and place and date of signing[10]	Waters concerned[11]	Riparians who are parties to the agreement[12]	Countries that reported on the agreement[13]
Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Cooperation in the Sphere of Environmental Protection and Environmental Management (Almaty, 2 June 1997)	Syr Darya River sub-basin	**KZ**, **UZ**	**UZ**
Strategy for Economic Cooperation between the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan for 2017–2019 (2017)		**KZ**, **UZ**	**UZ**
Agreement between Representatives for Border Areas of the Republic of Kazakhstan (Panfilov Area) and the People's Republic of China (Ili District of Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region) on the Distribution and Use of the Waters of the Korgas River (Qulja, 28 August 2002)	Korgas River sub-basin	CN, **KZ**	**KZ**
Agreement between Representatives of Raiymbek District, Almaty Oblast, of the Republic of Kazakhstan and Zhaosu District, Ili Kazakh Autonomous Prefecture, of the People's Republic of China on the Sumbe and Kayshybulak Rivers (Mongol-Kure, 12 July 2004)	Sumbe and Kayshybulak River sub-basins	CN, **KZ**	**KZ**
Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Government of the People's Republic of China on the reconstruction of Kazakh-Chinese joint water intake facility on the Sumbe River (Beijing, 15 November 2017)	Sumbe River	CN, **KZ**	**KZ**
Agreement between the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Ministry of Water Management of the People's Republic of China on Emergency Warning of Natural Disasters on Transboundary Rivers (Astana, 4 July 2005)		CN, **KZ**	**KZ**
Agreement between the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Ministry of Water Management of the People's Republic of China on the Development of Research Cooperation at Transboundary Rivers (Beijing, 20 December 2006)		CN, **KZ**	**KZ**
Agreement between the Ministry of Environmental Protection of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Ministry of Water Management of the People's Republic of China on the Mutual Exchange of Hydrological and Hydrochemical Information (Data) Obtained from Border Gauging Stations on Major Transboundary Rivers (Beijing, 20 December 2006)		CN, **KZ**	**KZ**

Relevant agreements and place and date of signing[10]	Waters concerned[11]	Riparians who are parties to the agreement[12]	Countries that reported on the agreement[13]
Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Government of the People's Republic of China related to Cooperation in the Construction of the Dostyk Joint Integrated Waterworks Facility on the Korgas River (Karaganda, 13 November 2010)		CN, **KZ**	**KZ**
Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Government of the People's Republic of China on the Protection of the Water Quality of Transboundary Rivers (Beijing, 22 February 2011)		CN, **KZ**	**KZ**
Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Government of the People's Republic of China on Cooperation on Environmental Protection (Astana, 13 June 2011)		CN, **KZ**	**KZ**
Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Government of the People's Republic of China on the Management and Operation of the Dostyk Joint Integrated Waterworks Facility on the Korgas River (Astana, 7 September 2013)		CN, **KZ**	**KZ**
Protocol on Inter-Republican Water Allocation in the Small Rivers of the Fergana Valley (1980)		KG, **UZ**	KG
Agreement between the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic and the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Inter-State Use of the Orto-Tokoy (Kasansay) Reservoir in Ala-Buka District of Jalal-Abad Oblast of the Kyrgyz Republic (2018)	Orto-Tokoy/Kasansay Reservoir	KG, **UZ**	KG, **UZ**
Minutes of the Technical Meeting on Water Management Issues between the State Committee of Water Management of the Uzbek Soviet Socialist Republic and the Ministry of Water Management of the Kyrgyz Soviet Socialist Republic (22 August 1989)		KG, **UZ**	KG
Agreement between the Republic of Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan on Cooperation on Water Management Issues (Turkmenabat, 16 January 1996)		**TM**, **UZ**	**TM**
Agreement between the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources of Turkmenistan and the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources of Uzbekistan on Cooperation on Water Management Issues (Ashgabat, 6 March 2017)		**TM**, **UZ**	**TM**, **UZ**

Relevant agreements and place and date of signing[10]	Waters concerned[11]	Riparians who are parties to the agreement[12]	Countries that reported on the agreement[13]
Treaty between the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Royal Government of Afghanistan concerning the Regime of the Soviet-Afghan State Frontier (Moscow, 18 January 1958)		AF, **TM**	**TM**
Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan on Cooperation to ensure the functioning of the Farkhad Dam (Dushanbe, 9 March 2018)	Farkhad Dam	TJ, **UZ**	**UZ**
Agreement between the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Republic of Tajikistan and Turkmenistan on Cooperation in the field of Joint Management and Protection of Water Resources of Interstate Sources (Almaty, 18 February 1992)		**KZ**, KG, TJ, **TM**, **UZ**	**KZ**, **TM**, **UZ**
Agreement between the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Republic of Uzbekistan on the Use of Energy and Water Resources and the Construction and Operation of Gas Pipelines in the Central Asian region (Tashkent, 5 April 1996)		KG, **KZ**, **UZ**	*Not reported*
Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic and the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Cooperation in the Area of Environment and Rational Nature Use (1998)		KG, **KZ**, **UZ**	*Not reported*
Agreement between the Government of Turkmenistan and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the Planning, Construction and Exploitation of the Common Water Diversion Facility on the River Hari/ Harirud in the area of the Shirdere Settlement (2007)	Hari/Harirud River basin	IR, **TM**	*Not reported*
Agreement between the Government of Turkmenistan and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran for the Construction of Doosti Dam (1999)	Hari/Harirud River basin, Dosti Reservoir	IR, **TM**	**TM**
Agreement on the Joint Use of Transboundary Rivers and Water along the Borderline from the River Geri-Rud (Tejen) to the Caspian Sea (1926)	Hari/Harirud River basin, Atrak/Atrek River basin	IR, **TM**	**TM**
Treaty of Friendship between Persia and the Russian Socialist Federal Soviet Republic (Moscow, 26 February 1921)	Hari/Harirud River basin	IR, **TM**	*Not reported*

Relevant agreements and place and date of signing[10]	Waters concerned[11]	Riparians who are parties to the agreement[12]	Countries that reported on the agreement[13]
DRAINAGE BASINS OF THE CASPIAN SEA			
Agreement between the Imperial Government of Iran and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics concerning the preparation of preliminary plans for the joint and equal utilization of the frontier parts of the rivers Aras and Atrak for irrigation and power generation (Tehran, 11 August 1957)	Araks/Aras River sub-basin, Atrak/Atrek River basin	AM, IR and **AZ**, IR and IR, **TM**	AM
Agreement between the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Imperial Government of Iran Concerning Economic and Technical Cooperation (Tehran, 22 June 1968)	Araks/Aras River sub-basin	**AZ**, IR	**AZ**
Agreement between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Islamic Republic of Iran on the Construction of Hydroelectric Facilities (Ordubad-Marazad and Khudaferin-Gyz Galasy) for the Joint Use of Water Resources of the Araz River (20 June 2014 and 23 February 2016)	Araks/Aras River sub-basin	**AZ**, IR	**AZ**
Agreement between the Council of Ministers of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Council of Ministers of the Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic on Transfer of Arpa River into Lake Sevan (1962)	Arpa River sub-basin, Lake Sevan	AM, **AZ**	AM
Agreement between the Soviet Socialist Republic of Armenia and the Soviet Socialist Republic of Azerbaijan on the Joint Utilization of the Waters of the River Vorotan (1974)	Vorotan/Bargushad River sub-basin	AM, **AZ**	AM
Agreement between the State Committee of Irrigation and Water Economy of the Azerbaijan Republic and the Department of Management of Melioration Systems of Georgia (1993)	Jandari Reservoir (in the Kura River basin)	**AZ**, GE	**AZ**
Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Environment of Georgia and the State Committee of Ecology and Nature Management of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Cooperation in the Development and Implementation of Pilot Projects for Monitoring and Assessment of the Status of the Kura River Basin (16 September 1997)	Kura River basin	**AZ**, GE	**AZ**
Agreement between the Government of the Russian Federation and the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan on the Rational Use and Protection of the Water Resources of the Transboundary Samur River (Baku, 3 September 2010)	Samur River basin	**AZ**, **RU**	**AZ**, **RU**

Relevant agreements and place and date of signing[10]	Waters concerned[11]	Riparians who are parties to the agreement[12]	Countries that reported on the agreement[13]
Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan and the Ministry of Environment Protection and Natural Resources of Georgia (2007)		**AZ**, GE	*Not reported*
Agreement between the Government of Georgia and the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Cooperation in the Field of Environmental Protection (Baku, 18 February 1997)		**AZ**, GE	**AZ**
Treaty between the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Imperial Government of Iran concerning the régime of the Soviet-Iranian frontier and the procedure for the settlement of frontier disputes and incidents (Moscow, 14 May 1957)		AM, IR and **AZ**, IR and IR, **TM**	AM
Protocol of Intention between the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia and the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan Republic on cooperation in the field of geology, hydrometeorology and climate change (Tbilisi, 15 December 2022)		**AZ**, GE	GE
Agreement between the Government of the Russian Federation and the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan on the Conservation of the Ecosystem of the Ural Transboundary River Basin (Astana, 4 October 2016)	Ural/Zhayik River basin	**KZ**, **RU**	**KZ**, **RU**
Agreement between the Government of the Russian Federation and the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan on the Joint Use and Protection of Transboundary Water Bodies (Ust-Kamenogorsk, 7 September 2010)		**KZ**, **RU**	**KZ**, **RU**
Agreement between the Government of the Russian Federation and the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan concerning the Joint Use and Protection of Transboundary Waters (1992)		**KZ**, **RU**	*Not reported*
DRAINAGE BASINS OF THE BLACK SEA			
Convention on Cooperation for the Protection and Sustainable Use of the Danube River (Sofia, 29 June 1994)	Danube River basin	**AT**, **BA**, **BG**, **HR**, **CZ**, **DE**, **HU**, **MD**, **ME**, **RO**, **RS**, **SK**, **SI**, **UA**, **EU**	**AT**, **BA**, **BG**, **HR**, **CZ**, **DE**, **HU**, **MD**, **ME**, **RO**, **RS**, **SK**, **SI**, **UA**
Agreement between the Federal Republic of Germany and the European Economic Community, on the one hand, and the Republic of Austria, on the other, on cooperation on management of water resources in the Danube Basin (Regensburg, 1 December 1987)	Danube River basin	**AT**, **DE**	**AT**, **DE**

Relevant agreements and place and date of signing[10]	Waters concerned[11]	Riparians who are parties to the agreement[12]	Countries that reported on the agreement[13]
Agreement between the Ministry of Water, Forests and Environmental Protection of Romania, the Ministry of Environment and Territory Development of the Republic of Moldova and the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of Ukraine on Cooperation in the Area of Protected Natural Areas of the Danube Delta and Lower Prut (Bucharest, 5 June 2000)	Danube River Delta, Prut River sub-basin	**RO**, **MD**, **UA**	**RO**
Convention between the Government of the Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia and the Federal Government of the Austrian Republic concerning Water Economy Issues relating to the Drava (Geneva, 25 May 1954)	Drava River sub-basin	**AT**, **SI**	**AT**, **SI**
Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Slovenia and the Federal Government of the Republic of Austria on the further validity of the appointed Yugoslav-Austrian contracts in the relations between the Republic of Slovenia and the Republic of Austria (1993)	Drava River sub-basin	**AT**, **SI**	**AT**, **SI**
Agreement between the Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia and the Republic of Austria concerning Water Economy Issues in respect of the Frontier Sector of the Mura and the Frontier Waters of the Mura (Vienna, 16 December 1954)	Mura River sub-basin	**AT**, **SI**	**AT**, **SI**
Declaration regarding cooperation on the management of international water issues in the Prut River basin (Kyiv, 20 October 2023)	Prut River sub-basin	**MD**, **RO**, **UA**	**MD**
Agreement between the Government of Romania and the Government of the Republic of Moldova on cooperation for the Protection and Sustainable Use of the Prut and Danube Rivers (Chisinau, 28 June 2010)	Prut River sub-basin, Danube River basin	**RO**, **MD**	**RO**, **MD**
Memorandum of Understanding for Cooperation on the Prut River between National Administrations "Apele Romane" (Romanian Waters) and "Apele Moldovei" (Waters of Moldova) (1995)	Prut River sub-basin	**RO**, **MD**	*Not reported*
Agreement between the Government of Romania and the Government of the Republic of Moldova on Cooperation in the Area of Protection of Fish Resources and the Regulation of Fishing in the Prut River and Stanca-Costesti Reservoir (2003)	Prut River sub-basin (Stanca-Costesti Reservoir)	**RO**, **MD**	*Not reported*
Regulation on Maintenance and Operation of the Stanca-Costesti Hydrotechnical Knot on the Prut River (1985)	Prut River sub-basin (Stanca-Costesti Reservoir)	**RO**, **MD**	*Not reported*

Relevant agreements and place and date of signing[10]	Waters concerned[11]	Riparians who are parties to the agreement[12]	Countries that reported on the agreement[13]
Memorandum of Understanding for strengthening Tisza River basin cooperation towards the implementation of the updated Integrated Management Plan for the Tisza River basin supporting the sustainable development of the region (Uzhgorod, 11 April 2011, updated in Budapest, 26 September 2019)	Tisza River sub-basin	**HU**, **RO**, **RS**, **SK**, **UA**,	**SK**
Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation concerning the regular functioning and maintenance of the Flood Forecasting and Warning System in the Sava River Basin (2020)	Sava River sub-basin	**BA**, **HR**, **RS**, **SI**	**BA**, **HR**, **RS**
Protocol on Navigation Regime (Kranjska Gora, 3 December 2002)	Sava River sub-basin	**BA**, **HR**, **RS**, **SI**	**BA**
Policy on the exchange and use of Sava GIS data and information (Zagreb, September 2019)	Sava River sub-basin	**BA**, **HR**, **RS**, **SI**	**BA**
Protocol on Sediment Management to the Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin (Brcko, 6 July 2015)	Sava River sub-basin	**BA**, **HR**, **RS**, **SI**	**BA**, **HR**, **RS**
Policy on the Exchange of Hydrological and Meteorological Data and Information in the Sava River Basin (2014)	Sava River sub-basin	**BA**, **HR**, **RS**, **SI**	**BA**, **HR**, **RS**
Memorandum of Understanding between the International Sava River Basin Commission and Montenegro (2013)	Sava River sub-basin	**BA**, **HR**, **ME**, **RS**, **SI**	**BA**, **HR**, **ME**, **RS**
Protocol on Flood Protection to the Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin (Gradiska, 1 June 2010)	Sava River sub-basin	**BA**, **HR**, **RS**, **SI**	**BA**, **HR**, **RS**
Protocol on the Prevention of Water Pollution caused by Navigation to the Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin (1 June 2009)	Sava River sub-basin	**BA**, **HR**, **RS**, **SI**	**BA**, **HR**, **RS**
Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin (Kranjska Gora, 3 December 2002)	Sava River sub-basin	**BA**, **HR**, **SI**, **RS**	**BA**, **HR**, **SI**, **RS**
Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Government of the Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia on Partial Correction of the Border Line of the Timok River (14 December 1961)	Timok River sub-basin	**BG**, **RS**	*Not reported*
Agreement regarding the shared border (1954)	Timok River sub-basin	**BG**, **RS**	*Not reported*
Agreement between the Government of Ukraine and the Government of the Republic of Belarus on Cooperation on Environmental Protection (Minsk, 16 December 1994)	Dnieper River basin, Bug River sub-basin	**BY**, **UA**	*Not reported*
Agreement between Luhansk Oblast (Ukraine) and Rostov Oblast (Russian Federation) on the Joint Use, Restoration and Protection of Water Resources of the Transboundary River Basin (1999)	Kundryuchya River sub-basin	**RU**, **UA**	*Not reported*

Relevant agreements and place and date of signing[10]	Waters concerned[11]	Riparians who are parties to the agreement[12]	Countries that reported on the agreement[13]
Memorandum on Joint Actions for the Protection and Use of the Seversky Donets River Basin between Kharkiv, Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts of Ukraine and Rostov and Belgorod Oblasts of the Russian Federation (2001)	Seversky Donets River sub-basin	**RU**, **UA**	*Not reported*
Agreement on cooperation between the State Administration of Environmental Protection in Zhytomyr Oblast of Ukraine and the Committee of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of Gomel Oblast in the Republic of Belarus (2005)		**BY**, **UA**	*Not reported*
Agreement on cooperation between State Inspections in Volyn Oblast of Ukraine and the Committee of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of Brest Oblast in the Republic of Belarus (2004)		**BY**, **UA**	*Not reported*
Agreement between the Ukrainian State Committee for Hydrometeorology and the Committee for Hydrometeorology of the Ministry of Emergencies and Protection of Population from Consequences of the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Station Disaster of the Republic of Belarus on operational-industrial and scientific-technical cooperation (1995)		**BY**, **UA**	*Not reported*
Convention between the Government of Romania and the Federal Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia regarding the operation and maintenance of the Hydropower and Navigation Systems "Iron Gates I" and "Iron Gates II" (Drobeta-Turnu Severin, 16 May 1998)		**RO**, **RS**	*Not reported*
Agreement between the Government of Romania and the Government of the Republic of Serbia on Cooperation in the Field of Sustainable Management of Transboundary Waters (Bucharest, 5 June 2019)		**RO**, **RS**	**RO**, **RS**
Agreement between the Government of the Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia and the Government of the People's Republic of Romania concerning the Hydrotechnical Issues on Hydrotechnical Systems and Watercourses at the Border or Crossing the State Border (Bucharest, 7 April 1955)		**RO**, **RS**	*Not reported*
Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Hungary and the Government of Romania on the Protection and Sustainable Use of Transboundary Waters (Budapest, 15 September 2003)		**HU**, **RO**	**HU**, **RO**
Agreement between the Government of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic and the Government of the Hungarian People's Republic relating to the Regulation of the Management of Frontier Waters (1976)		**HU**, **SK**	**HU**, **SK**

Relevant agreements and place and date of signing[10]	Waters concerned[11]	Riparians who are parties to the agreement[12]	Countries that reported on the agreement[13]
Agreement between the Government of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic and the Government of the Hungarian People's Republic concerning mutual assistance in the construction of the Gabcikovo-Nagymaros system of locks (1977)	Gabcikovo-Nagymaros Barrage System	**HU**, **SK**	**SK**
Agreement between the Government of the Slovak Republic and Government of the Republic of Hungary Concerning Certain Temporary Technical Measures and Discharges in the Danube and Mosoni Branch of the Danube (Budapest, 19 April 1995)	Danube River basin, Mosoni-Duna/ Moson-Donau River sub-basin	**HU**, **SK**	**SK**
Agreement between the Government of Belarus and the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine on Joint Use and Protection of Transboundary Waters (Kyiv, 16 October 2001)		**BY**, **UA**	**BY**, **UA**
Technical Protocol between the State Agency for Water Resources of Ukraine and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus on Exchange of Information on the Quality of Transboundary Surface Waters and Groundwaters (6 September 2019)		**BY**, **UA**	**BY**
Treaty between the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic and the Republic of Austria on Water Management Issues on Transboundary Waters (Vienna, 7 December 1967)		**AT** and **CZ**, **AT** and **SK**	**CZ**, **SK**
Treaty between the Slovak Republic and the Republic of Austria on Cooperation on Transboundary Waters (2001)		**AT**, **SK**	**SK**
Agreement between the Government of Ukraine and the Government of the Republic of Hungary on Questions of Water Management in Frontier Waters (Budapest, 11 November 1997)		**HU**, **UA**	**HU**, **UA**
Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Environment and Forests of Romania and the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Moldova on Cooperation in the Field of Environmental Protection (2010)		**RO**, **MD**	**RO**
Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Environment and Forests of Romania and the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Moldova on Cooperation in the Field of Environmental Protection (2003)		**RO**, **MD**	**RO**
Protocol on Cooperation in the Field of Hydrology between the National Institute of Hydrology and Water Management, Ministry of Environment and Forests of Romania, and the State Hydrometeorological Service, Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Moldova (2003)		**RO**, **MD**	**RO**

Relevant agreements and place and date of signing[10]	Waters concerned[11]	Riparians who are parties to the agreement[12]	Countries that reported on the agreement[13]
Protocol on Cooperation in the Field of Meteorology and Hydrology between the National Administration of Meteorology, Ministry of Environment of Romania, and the State Hydrometeorological Service, Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Moldova (2002)		**RO**, **MD**	**RO**
Agreement between the Government of Romania and the Government of Ukraine on Cooperation in the Field of Transboundary Water Management (Galati, 30 September 1997)		**RO**, **UA**	**RO**, **UA**
Agreement between the Government of Ukraine and the Government of the Slovak Republic on Water Management in Frontier Waters (Bratislava, 14 June 1994)		**SK**, **UA**	**SK**, **UA**
Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Croatia and the Government of the Republic of Hungary on Water Management (10 June 1994)		**HR**, **HU**	**HR**, **HU**
Agreement between the Government of the People's Republic of Hungary and the Government of the Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia on Water Management Questions (Belgrade, 8 August 1955)		**HU**, **RS**	*Not reported*[15]
Agreement between the Government of Hungary and the Government of the Republic of Serbia on Cooperation in the Field of Sustainable Management of Transboundary Waters and Basins of Common Interest (15 April 2019)		**HU**, **RS**	**HU**, **RS**
Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Slovenia and the Government of the Republic of Hungary on Regulation of Water Management Issues (1994)		**HU**, **SI**	**HU**, **SI**
Treaty between the Government of the Republic of Moldova and the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine on Cooperation in the Field of Protection and Sustainable Development of the Dniester River Basin (Rome, 29 November 2012)		**MD**, **UA**	**MD**, **PL**, **UA**
Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Moldova and the Government of Ukraine on the Joint Use and Protection of Transboundary Waters (Chisinau, 23 November 1994)		**MD**, **UA**	**MD**, **UA**
Agreement on scientific-technical cooperation between the head office of the State Department of Hydrometeorology of the Republic of Moldova and the State Committee for Hydrometeorology of Ukraine (1994)		**MD**, **UA**	*Not reported*

[15] According to Hungary, this agreement was replaced by 2019 agreement.

Relevant agreements and place and date of signing[10]	Waters concerned[11]	Riparians who are parties to the agreement[12]	Countries that reported on the agreement[13]
Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Slovenia and the Government of the Republic of Croatia on Protection against Natural and Civil Disasters (1997)		**HR**, **SI**	*Not reported*
Treaty between the Government of the Republic of Croatia and the Government of the Republic of Slovenia on the Settlement of Water Management Relations (25 October 1996)		**HR**, **SI**	**HR**, **SI**
Agreement between the People's Republic of Hungary and the Republic of Austria about Regulation of the Water Management Issues in the Border Region (Vienna, 9 April 1956)		**AT**, **HU**	**AT**, **HU**
Agreement between the Government of the Czech Republic and the Government of the Slovak Republic on Cooperation on Transboundary Waters (1999)		**CZ**, **SK**	**CZ**, **SK**
Agreement between the Committee of Ukraine for Hydrometeorology and the Russian Federal Service for Hydrometeorology and Environmental Monitoring for Cooperation in the Field of Hydrometeorology and Environmental Monitoring (1996)		**RU**, **UA**	*Not reported*
Agreement between the Government of Ukraine and the Government of the Russian Federation Concerning the Joint Use and Protection of Transboundary Waters (Kyiv, 19 October 1992)		**RU**, **UA**	**RU**, **UA**
Agreement between the Republic of Bulgaria and the Republic of Turkey on Determination of the Boundary in the Mouth Area of the Mutludere/Rezovska River and Delimitation of the Maritime Areas between the Two States in the Black Sea (Sofia, 4 December 1997)	Mutludere/Rezovska	**BG**, TR	*Not reported*
DRAINAGE BASINS OF THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA			
Convention between the Swiss Confederation and the French Republic on the hydroelectric development of Emosson (Sion, 23 August 1963)	Rhone River basin	**FR**, **CH**	**CH**
Agreement between the Government of the French Republic and the Swiss Federal Council concerning the practice of fishing and the protection of aquatic habitats in the part of Doubs constituting a frontier between the two States (Paris, 29 July 1991)	Doubs River sub-basin	**FR**, **CH**	**FR**
General water regulation common to the three hydroelectric developments of the French-Swiss Doubs (1969), revised on 13 October 2017 and in force until 16 October 2024	Doubs River sub-basin	**FR**, **CH**	**FR**

Relevant agreements and place and date of signing[10]	Waters concerned[11]	Riparians who are parties to the agreement[12]	Countries that reported on the agreement[13]
Agreement for the consultation of Switzerland in the framework of the application of the Water Framework Directive of the European Union by France in the Doubs basin, including neighbouring smaller basins (2008)	Doubs River sub-basin	**FR**, **CH**	**FR**, **CH**
The Drin: A Strategic Shared Vision – Memorandum of Understanding for the Management of the Extended Transboundary Drin Basin (Tirana, 25 November 2011)	Drin River basin	**AL**, **GR**, Kosovo,[16] **MK**, **ME**	**AL**, **GR**, **MK**, **ME**
Agreement on the permanent Italian-Slovenian commission for hydro-economy established for the implementation of the Treaty of Osimo between Italy and Yugoslavia (10 November 1975)	Isonzo/Soca River basin	**IT**, **SI**	**IT**, **SI**
Convention between the Government of the French Republic and the Swiss Federal Council concerning the protection of the waters of Lake Geneva against pollution (Paris, 16 November 1962)	Lake Geneva	**CH**, **FR**	**CH**, **FR**
Agreement between France and Switzerland concerning the intervention of bodies in charge of fighting against accidental water pollution by hydrocarbons or other substances capable of altering the water (Bern, 5 May 1977)	Lake Geneva	**CH**, **FR**	**CH**, **FR**
Convention on the Protection, Utilization, Recharge and Monitoring of the French-Swiss Genevese Aquifer (Geneva, 18 December 2007)	Genevese Aquifer	**CH –** Canton of Geneva, **FR** – Préfecture de Haute Savoie	**CH**
Protocol signed between the General Directorate of State Hydraulic Works of Turkey and the National Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology of Bulgaria for the installation, operation and maintenance of a flow observation telemetry station on the Maritsa River in Svilengrad, Bulgaria (2002)	Evros/Maritsa/Meric River basin	**BG**, TR	*Not reported*
Agreement between the Government of Yugoslavia and the Government of the People's Republic of Bulgaria Concerning Water Management Issues (Sofia, 4 April 1958)		**BG**, **RS**	**RS**
Memorandum of Understanding Concerning Cooperation on Environmental Protection (2001)	Evros/Maritsa/Meric River basin and Arda/Ardas River sub-basin	**GR**, TR	*Not reported*
Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Turkey and the Government of the People's Republic of Bulgaria on Long-term Economic, Technical, Industrial and Scientific Cooperation (1975)	Evros/Maritsa/Meric River basin, Arda/Ardas and Tunca/Tundja/Tundzha River sub-basins	**BG**, TR	*Not reported*

[16] United Nations administered territory under Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

Relevant agreements and place and date of signing[10]	Waters concerned[11]	Riparians who are parties to the agreement[12]	Countries that reported on the agreement[13]
Agreement between the Republic of Turkey and the People's Republic of Bulgaria concerning cooperation in the use of the waters of rivers flowing through the territory of both countries (Istanbul, 23 October 1968)	Evros/Maritsa/Meric River basin, Arda/Ardas and Tunca/Tundja/Tundzha River sub-basins	**GR**, TR	*Not reported*
Protocol on the rehabilitation of the Meric River basin forming the significant part of the Turkish-Greek Border in Thrace (1963)	Evros/Maritsa/Meric River basin	**GR**, TR	*Not reported*
Agreement related to the construction of flood control measures (1955)	Evros/Maritsa/Meric River basin	**GR**, TR	*Not reported*
Greco-Turkish agreement concerning the regulation of hydraulic works on both banks of the Maritza Evros River (Ankara, 20 June 1934)	Evros/Maritsa/Meric River basin	**GR**, TR	**GR**
Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Government of the Republic of Greece on water use of the River Mesta (22 December 1995)	Mesta/Nestos River basin	**BG**, **GR**	**BG**, **GR**
Agreement between the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Albania and the Government of the Republic of Macedonia for the protection and sustainable development of Lake Ohrid and its watershed (Skopje, 17 June 2004)	Ohrid Lake	**AL**, **MK**	**AL**, **MK**
Agreement between the Government of the Republic of North Macedonia and the Council of Ministers of Republic of Albania on international water way transport in Ohrid Lake (Skopje, 14 November 2022)	Ohrid Lake	**AL**, **MK**	**MK**
Joint Statement regarding the Prespa Park by the Prime Ministers of the Hellenic Republic, the Republic of Albania and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (Pyli, 27 November 2009)	Prespa Lakes	**AL**, **GR**, **MK**	**GR**
Joint Declaration by the Prime Ministers of the Hellenic Republic, the Republic of Albania and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia on the Creation of the Prespa Park and the Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development of the Prespa Lakes and their Surroundings (Aghios Germanos, 2 February 2000)	Prespa Lakes	**AL**, **GR**, **MK**	**AL**, **GR**, **MK**
Agreement on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Prespa Park Area (Pyli, 2 February 2010)	Prespa Lakes	**AL**, **GR**, **MK**, **EU**	**AL**, **GR**, **MK**
Convention between France and Italy relating to the utilization of the water of the river Roya and its tributaries (1914)	Roya/Roja River basin	**FR**, **IT**	**IT**

Relevant agreements and place and date of signing[10]	Waters concerned[11]	Riparians who are parties to the agreement[12]	Countries that reported on the agreement[13]
Treaty of Peace with Italy (Paris, 10 February 1947)	Dora Riparia, Lake of Mont Cenis	**FR**, **IT**	**IT**
Agreement between the Ministry of Tourism and Environment of the Republic of Montenegro and the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Water Administration of the Republic of Albania for the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Skadar/ Shkoder Lake (2008)	Skadar/Shkoder Lake	**AL**, **ME**	*Not reported*
Framework Agreement between the Government of Montenegro and the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Albania on Mutual Relations in the Field of Management of Transboundary Waters (Skadar/Shkoder, 3 July 2018)		**AL**, **ME**	**AL**, **ME**
Convention concerning the protection of Italian-Swiss waters from pollution (Rome, 20 April 1972)	Ticino sub-basin	**CH**, **IT**	**CH**, **IT**
Convention between Switzerland and Italy on the regulation of the Lake of Lugano (Lugano, 17 September 1955)	Lake Lugano	**CH**, **IT**	**CH**
Convention between the Swiss Confederation and the Italian Republic on utilization of the hydraulic power of Rhine Lei (Bern, 25 November 1952)		**CH**, **IT**	**IT**
Memorandum of Understanding concerning navigation on Lake Maggiore and Lake Lugano (2016)	Lake Maggiore, Lake Lugano	**CH**, **IT**	**CH**, **IT**
Convention between Italy and Switzerland concerning fishing in the frontier waters (1882)		**CH**, **IT**	**IT**
Convention between Italy and Switzerland on the use of hydraulic power of the Spöl River, with Additional Protocol (Bern, 27 May 1957)		**CH**, **IT**	**IT**
Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Croatia and the Government of the Republic of Montenegro on Mutual Relations in the Field of Water Management (4 September 2007)		**HR**, **ME**	**HR**, **ME**
Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Croatia and the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina on rules and regulations on water use from public water supply systems cut by the State border (6 July 2015)		**BA**, **HR**	**BA**, **HR**

Relevant agreements and place and date of signing[10]	Waters concerned[11]	Riparians who are parties to the agreement[12]	Countries that reported on the agreement[13]
Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Croatia and the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina on common financing of the maintenance and operation of Komarna-Neum-Mljetski Kanal regional sewerage system (2007)		**BA**, **HR**	**BA**, **HR**
Agreement between the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Government of the Republic of Croatia on Cooperation in the Protection against Natural and Civil Disasters (2001)		**BA**, **HR**	*Not reported*
Treaty between the Government of the Republic of Croatia and the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina on the Regulation of Water Management Relations (Dubrovnik, 11 July 1996)		**BA**, **HR**	**BA**, **HR**
Agreement between the Government of the Hellenic Republic and the Government of the Republic of Albania on the establishment of the permanent Greek-Albanian commission on transboundary freshwater issues (Athens, 3 April 2003)		**AL**, **GR**	**GR**
Agreement between the Government of the Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia and the Government of the People's Republic of Albania Concerning Water Economy Questions (Belgrade, 5 December 1956)		**AL**, **MK**	*Not reported*
Joint Declaration of the Minister of Environment and Water of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Minister of Forestry and Water Affairs of the Republic of Turkey on Cooperation in the Field of Water Resources (Ankara, 20 March 2012)		**BG**, TR	**BG**
Joint Declaration of the Minister of Environment and Water of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Minister of Environment, Energy and Climate Change of the Hellenic Republic on Understanding and Cooperation in the Field of Use of Water Resources on the Respective Territories of the River Basins Shared between the Republic of Bulgaria and the Hellenic Republic (Sofia, 27 July 2010)		**BG**, **GR**	**BG**, **GR**
Agreement between the Ministry of Environment and Water of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Ministry for the Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works of the Hellenic Republic on Cooperation in the Field of Environmental Protection (2002)		**BG**, **GR**	*Not reported*
Agreement for the Establishment of the Greek-Bulgarian Committee for Cooperation in the Fields of Electric Energy and the Utilization of the Waters of the Rivers Crossing the Two Countries (Sofia, 12 July 1971)		**BG**, **GR**	**GR**

Relevant agreements and place and date of signing[10]	Waters concerned[11]	Riparians who are parties to the agreement[12]	Countries that reported on the agreement[13]
Agreement on Cooperation between the People's Republic of Bulgaria and the Kingdom of Greece Concerning the Utilization of the Waters of the Rivers Crossing the Two Countries (Athens, 9 July 1964)		**BG**, **GR**	**GR**
Agreement between the Ministry of Environment and Water of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning of the Republic of North Macedonia on Cooperation in the field of Environment and Water Protection (11 April 2019)		**BG**, **MK**	**MK**
Joint Declaration between the Minister for Environment, Energy and Climate Change of the Hellenic Republic and the Minister for Environment and Forestry of the Republic of Turkey (Athens, 14 May 2010)	Evros/Maritsa/Meric River basin	**GR**, TR	**GR**
Agreement between the Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia and the Kingdom of Greece Concerning Hydro-economic Questions (Athens, 18 September 1959)	Axios/Vardar River basin, Lake Doirani/ Dojran, Prespa Lakes	**GR**, **MK**	**GR**, **MK**
DRAINAGE BASINS OF THE NORTH SEA AND EASTERN ATLANTIC			
Administrative Agreement between Spain and France on Water Management (2006)	Bidasoa River basin	**ES**, **FR**	*Not reported*
Agreement between the Government of the Principality of Andorra and the Government of the Republic of France on the Co-management of Water Resources of the Ariege River Basin (2012)	Ariege River basin	AD, **FR**	AD
Convention between the Governments of the Federal Republic of Germany and of the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic and the European Economic Community on the International Commission for the Protection of the Elbe (Magdeburg, 8 October 1990)	Elbe River basin	**AT** (observer), **CZ**, **DE**, **PL** (observer)	**AT**, **CZ**, **DE**, **PL**
Agreement between the Government of the Czechoslovak Republic and the Government of the Polish People's Republic concerning the use of water resources in frontier waters (Prague, 21 March 1958)		**CZ**, **PL**	**CZ**
Agreement between the Government of the Czech Republic and the Government of the Republic of Poland on Cooperation on Cooperation on Transboundary Rivers in the field of Water Management (Prague, 20 April 2015)		**CZ**, **PL**	**CZ**, **PL**

Relevant agreements and place and date of signing[10]	Waters concerned[11]	Riparians who are parties to the agreement[12]	Countries that reported on the agreement[13]
Exchange of letters between the Ministers of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Kingdom of the Netherlands, in which they agree to implement the EU Water Framework Directive (8 October 2002 and 26 February 2003) and the EU Floods Directive (17 March 2009 and 5 May 2009) in the river basin of the Ems Additional protocol on cooperation in water and nature management (Ems-Dollard Environmental Protocol) to the Agreement of 8 April 1960 between the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the Federal Republic of Germany on cooperation in the Ems Estuary (On board "MS Warsteiner Admiral" in the Ems estuary near Delfzijl, 22 August 1996) Treaty between the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the Federal Republic of Germany concerning arrangements for cooperation in the Ems estuary (The Hague, 8 April 1960) Treaty between the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the Federal Republic of Germany concerning the course of the common frontier, the boundary waters, real property situated near the frontier, traffic crossing the frontier on land and via inland waters, and other frontier questions (Frontier Treaty) (The Hague, 8 April 1960)	Ems River basin	**DE**, **NL**	**DE**, **NL**
Agreement on the Protection of Lake Constance against Pollution (Steckborn, 27 October 1960)	Lake Constance	**AT**, **CH**, **DE**, **LI** (observer)	**AT**, **CH**, **DE**, **LI**, **LU**
Agreement between Spain and Portugal on cooperation for the protection and sustainable use of the waters of the Spanish-Portuguese hydrographic basins (Albufeira, 30 November 1998) Protocol of revision of the agreement on cooperation for the protection and sustainable use of the waters of the Spanish-Portuguese hydrographic basins and the additional protocol, signed at Albufeira on 30 November 1998 (Madrid, 4 April 2008, and Lisbon, 4 April 2008)	Limia/Lima, Mino/Minho, Duero/Douro, Tagus/Tajo/Tejo and Guadiana River basins	**ES**, **PT**	**ES**, **PT**
Agreement between the Republic of France, the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the Walloon, Flemish and Brussels-Capital Regions of Belgium on the protection of the Meuse (Charleville-Mézières, 26 April 1994)	Maas/Meuse River basin	**BE** (Walloon, Flemish and Brussels-Capital Regions), **FR**, **NL**	**FR**, **NL**

Relevant agreements and place and date of signing[10]	Waters concerned[11]	Riparians who are parties to the agreement[12]	Countries that reported on the agreement[13]
Meuse Discharge Treaty between the Netherlands and the Flemish Region of Belgium (17 January 1995)	Maas/Meuse River basin	**BE** (Flemish Region), **NL**	**NL**
International Agreement on the River Maas (Ghent, 3 December 2002)	Maas/Meuse River basin	**BE** (Walloon, Flemish and Brussels-Capital Regions), **DE**, **FR**, **LU**, **NL**	**BE**, **DE**, **FR**, **LU**, **NL**
Convention for the Exchange of Data and Flood Forecasting in the Meuse International River Basin District (9 December 2016)	Maas/Meuse River basin	**BE** (Flemish and Walloon Regions), **DE**, **FR**, **LU**, **NL**	*Not reported*
Complementary protocol No. 2 to the Protocol concerning the constitution of an international commission for the protection of the Mosel against pollution, signed at Paris on 20 December 1961, and to the Protocol concerning the constitution of an international commission for the protection of the Saar against pollution, signed at Paris on 20 December 1961, as well as to the complementary protocol to those two protocols, signed at Brussels on 22 March 1990 (Maria Laach, 13 November 1992)	Mosel/Moselle and Saar/Sarre River sub-basins	Mosel/Moselle: **DE**, **FR**, **LU** Saar/Sarre: **DE**, **FR**	**DE**, **FR**, **LU**
Complementary protocol to the Protocol concerning the constitution of an international commission for the protection of the Mosel against pollution and the Protocol concerning the constitution of an international commission for the protection of the Saar against pollution relating to the establishment of a joint secretariat (Brussels, 22 March 1990)	Mosel/Moselle and Saar/Sarre River sub-basins	Mosel/Moselle: **DE**, **FR**, **LU** Saar/Sarre: **DE**, **FR**	**DE**, **FR**, **LU**
Protocol concerning the constitution of an international commission for the protection of the Mosel against pollution (Paris, 20 December 1961)	Mosel/Moselle River sub-basin	**DE**, **FR**, **LU**	**DE**, **FR**, **LU**
Convention between the French Republic, the Federal Republic of Germany and the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg on the canalization of the Moselle (Luxembourg, 27 October 1956)	Mosel/Moselle River sub-basin	**DE**, **FR**, **LU**	*Not reported*
Treaty between the French Republic and the Federal Republic of Germany for the settlement of the question of the Sarre (Luxembourg, 27 October 1956)	Saar/Sarre River sub-basin	**DE**, **FR**	**DE**
Convention on the Navigation of the Mosel (1947)	Mosel/Moselle River sub-basin	**DE**, **FR**, **LU**	*Not reported*

Relevant agreements and place and date of signing[10]	Waters concerned[11]	Riparians who are parties to the agreement[12]	Countries that reported on the agreement[13]
Convention on the International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine against Pollution (Bern, 29 April 1963)[17]	Rhine River basin	**CH**, **DE**, **FR**, **LU**, **NL**	**FR**, **NL**
Additional Agreement concerning the Convention on the International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine against Pollution signed in Bern on 29 April 1963 (Bonn, 3 December 1976)[18]	Rhine River basin	**CH**, **DE**, **FR**, **LU**, **NL**	**FR**
Convention on the Protection of the Rhine against Pollution with Chlorides (Bonn, 3 December 1976)	Rhine River basin	**CH**, **DE**, **FR**, **LU**, **NL**,	**FR**, **NL**
Convention on the Protection of the Rhine against Chemical Pollution (Bonn, 3 December 1976)[19]	Rhine River basin	**CH**, **DE**, **FR**, **LU**, **NL**	**FR**, **NL**
Convention on the building and management of a monitoring and control station under Basel for the surveillance of the Rhine water quality (1990)	Rhine River basin	**CH**, **DE** (Baden-Wuerttemberg)	**CH**
Additional protocol to the Convention on the Protection of the Rhine against Pollution with Chlorides (Brussels, 25 September 1991)	Rhine River basin	**CH**, **DE**, **FR**, **LU**, **NL**	**FR**, **NL**
Convention on the collection, deposit and reception of waste generated during navigation on the Rhine and other inland waterways (CDNI), (Strasbourg, 9 September 1996)	Rhine River basin	**BE**, **CH**, **DE**, **FR**, **LU**, **NL**	**NL**
Convention on the Protection of the Rhine (Bern, 12 April 1999)	Rhine River basin	**AT** (observer), **BE** (observer), **CH**, **DE**, **FR**, **LI** (observer), **LU**, **NL**, **EU**	**AT**, **CH**, **DE**, **FR**, **LI**, **LU**, **NL**
Ministerial decision on the Coordinating Committee for the Water Framework Directive (Strasbourg, 2001)	Rhine River basin	**AT**, **BE** (Walloon Region), **CH**, **DE**, **FR**, **IT**, **LI**, **LU**, **NL**	**CH**, **DE**, **FR**, **LU**
Rules of procedure and financial regulations for the cooperation of the International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine (ICPR) with the Coordinating Committee (CC) Rhine (1 July 2010)	Rhine River basin	**AT**, **BE** (Walloon Region), **CH**, **DE**, **FR**, **IT**, **LI**, **LU**, **NL**	**LI**, **NL**
Agreement between Switzerland and Austria on the regulation of the Rhine from the mouth of the River Ill to Lake Constance (Bern, 10 April 1954)	Rhine River basin	**AT**, **CH**	**AT**, **CH**

17 Repealed by the Convention on the Protection of the Rhine (1999).
18 Repealed by the Convention on the Protection of the Rhine (1999).
19 Repealed by the Convention on the Protection of the Rhine (1999).

Relevant agreements and place and date of signing[10]	Waters concerned[11]	Riparians who are parties to the agreement[12]	Countries that reported on the agreement[13]
Agreement between the Republic of Austria and the Swiss Confederation on the utilisation of the Ill and its tributaries in the border area (2008)	Rhine River basin	**AT**, **CH**	**AT**
Agreement between the Republic of Austria and the Principality of Liechtenstein on the establishment of common principles for the regulation of the Rhine from the Swiss-Liechtenstein state border to the mouth of the Ill River (23 June 1931)	Rhine River basin	**AT**, **LI**	**AT**
Agreement on the Alpine Rhine between the Austrian Land of Vorarlberg, the Principality of Liechtenstein and the Swiss Cantons of Graubünden and of St. Gallen (December 1998)	Rhine River basin	**AT**, **CH**, **LI**	**CH**, **LI**
Protocol concerning the constitution of an international commission for the protection of the Saar against pollution (Paris, 20 December 1961)	Saar River sub-basin	**DE**, **FR**, **LU**	**DE**, **FR**, **LU**
Agreement on the Protection of the (River) Scheldt (Charleville-Mézières, 26 April 1994)	Escaut/Schelde/ Scheldt River basin	**BE** (Walloon, Flemish and Brussels-Capital Regions), **FR**, **NL**	**FR**, **NL**
International Agreement on the Scheldt (Ghent, 3 December 2002)	Escaut/Schelde/ Scheldt River basin	**BE** (Walloon, Flemish and Brussels-Capital Regions), **FR**, **NL**	**BE**, **NL**
Agreement between the Kingdom of the Netherlands, on the one hand, and the Flemish Community and the Flemish Region, on the other hand, concerning cooperation on policy and management in the Scheldt estuary (Middelburg, 21 December 2005)	Escaut/Schelde/ Scheldt River basin	**BE** (Flemish Region), **NL**	**NL**
Agreement for the provision and exchange of data relating to the management of groundwater in the Carboniferous Limestone (Mons, 14 December 2017)	Carboniferous Limestone	**BE** (Walloon and Flemish Regions), **FR**	**BE**
Agreement between the Government of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and the Walloon Region relating to wastewater treatment, protection of drinking water sources and monitoring under the Nitrates Directive (Martelange, 9 April 2019)		**BE** (Walloon Region), **LU**	**BE**, **LU**
Joint declaration of the environment ministries of Denmark and Germany on the coordination of the management of the transboundary catchments of the Wiedau, Krusau, Meynau and Jadelunder Graben, done in 2005 for the implementation of the Water Framework Directive	Wiedau/Vidaa, Krusau, Meynau and Jadelunder Graben River sub-basins	**DE**, **DK**	**DE**, **DK**

Relevant agreements and place and date of signing[10]	Waters concerned[11]	Riparians who are parties to the agreement[12]	Countries that reported on the agreement[13]
Exchange of ministerial letters amending the joint declaration of the environment ministries of Denmark and Germany on the coordination of the management of the transboundary catchments of the Wiedau, Krusau, Meynau and Jadelunder Graben to also cover the European Union Floods Directive (2010)	Wiedau/Vidaa, Krusau, Meynau and Jadelunder Graben River sub-basins	**DE**, **DK**	**DE**
Treaty between the Czech Republic and the Federal Republic of Germany on Cooperation on Transboundary Waters (Dresden, 12 December 1995)		**CZ**, **DE**	**CZ**, **DE**
Agreement between the Ministry of Environment of Romania and the Ministry of Environment and Water of the Republic of Bulgaria for Cooperation in the Field of Water Resources Management (Bucharest, 12 November 2004)		**BG**, **RO**	**BG**, **RO**
Memorandum of Understanding between Sweden and Norway describing the implementation of the Water Framework Directive by the countries (2008)		**NO**, **SE**	**NO**
Convention between Norway and Sweden on certain questions relating to the law on watercourses (11 May 1929)		**NO**, **SE**	**NO**, **SE**
Agreement between Norway and Sweden concerning management of salmon and trout in Svinesund, Iddefjorden and Enningdalselva (2010)		**NO**, **SE**	**NO**, **SE**
Memorandum of Understanding/ Strategy for international cooperation on transboundary waters between Norway and Sweden (2011–2012)		**NO**, **SE**	**NO**, **SE**
Agreement on cooperation in the period 2018–2020 between the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management and the Norwegian Environment Agency on water management in accordance with the European Union Water Framework Directive (19 March 2018)		**NO**, **SE**	**NO**, **SE**
Agreement on cooperation in the period 2021–2027 between the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management and the Norwegian Environment Agency on water management in accordance with the European Union Water Framework Directive (updated agreement signed on 17 December 2020)		**NO**, **SE**	**NO**, **SE**

Relevant agreements and place and date of signing[10]	Waters concerned[11]	Riparians who are parties to the agreement[12]	Countries that reported on the agreement[13]
DRAINAGE BASINS OF THE BALTIC SEA			
Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Latvia and the Government of the Republic of Lithuania on Cooperation in the Field of environmental protection (1 October 1999)		**LT**, **LV**	**LV**
Technical Protocol between the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Latvia and the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania on Cooperation in Managing the International River Basin Districts (2003)	Daugava/Western Dvina, Lielupe and Venta River basins	**LT**, **LV**	**LT**, **LV**
Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Estonia and the Government of the Russian Federation Concerning Cooperation on the Conservation and Use of Fish Stocks in Lake Peipsi/Chudskoe, Lake Lammijarv/Teoploye and Lake Pihkva/ Pskovskoye (Moscow, 4 May 1994)	Lake Chudskoe/ Peipsi, Lake Lammijarv/Teoploye and Lake Pihkva/ Pskovskoye	**EE**, **RU**	*Not reported*
Agreement between the Republic of Finland and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics concerning frontier watercourses (Helsinki, 24 April 1964)		**FI**, **RU**	**FI**, **RU**
Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Finland and the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics concerning the Production of Electric Power in the Part of the Vuoksi River bounded by the Imatra and Svetogorsk Hydroelectric Stations (Helsinki, 12 July 1972)	Vuoksa River	**FI**, **RU**	**FI**
Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Finland and the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the Rules regulating Lake Saimaa and the Vuoksi River (Helsinki, 26 October 1989)	Lake Saimaa, Vuoksa/ Vuoksi River basin	**FI**, **RU**	**FI**
Agreement between the Government of the Polish People's Republic and the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics Concerning the Use of Water Resources in Frontier Waters (Warsaw, 17 July 1964)	Neman/Nemunas, Lava/Pregel/Pregolas, Vistula River basins	**BY**, **LT**, **PL**, **RU**, **UA**	**PL**
Convention on the International Commission for the Protection of the River Oder against Pollution (Wroclaw, 11 April 1996)	Oder/Odra River basin	**CZ**, **DE**, **PL**	**CZ**, **DE**, **PL**
Agreement between Finland and Sweden Concerning Transboundary Rivers (Stockholm, 11 November 2009)		**FI**, **SE**	**FI**, **SE**

Relevant agreements and place and date of signing[10]	Waters concerned[11]	Riparians who are parties to the agreement[12]	Countries that reported on the agreement[13]
Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Estonia and the Government of the Russian Federation on Cooperation for the Protection and Sustainable Use of Transboundary Waters (Moscow, 20 August 1997)	Lake Peipsi, Lake Lammijarv, Lake Pihkva, Narva River basin, Narva Reservoir	**EE**, **RU**	**EE**, **RU**
Agreement between the Government of Slovakia and the Government of Poland on the management of Transboundary Waters (1997)		**PL**, **SK**	**PL**, **SK**
Agreement on Cooperation between the State Department of Ecology and Natural Resources in Lviv Region, Ukraine, and the Podkarpatskiy Provincial Water Inspectorate for Environmental Protection in Rzeszów, Poland (2004)		**PL**, **UA**	*Not reported*
Agreement on Cooperation between the Bug Basin Water Resources Management Authority of Ukraine and the Regional Water Management Authority of Warsaw in Poland (2006)		**PL**, **UA**	*Not reported*
Agreement between the Government of Ukraine and the Government of Poland on Cooperation in the Field of Water Management on Boundary Waters (Kyiv, 10 October 1996)		**PL**, **UA**	**PL**, **UA**
Agreement between the Government of the Russian Federation and the Government of the Republic of Poland on cooperation between Kaliningrad Oblast of the Russian Federation and the north-eastern voivodeships of the Republic of Poland (22 May 1992)		**PL**, **RU**	**RU**
Agreement between the Government of the Russian Federation and the Government of Poland on Cooperation in the Field of Environmental Protection (25 August 1993)		**PL**, **RU**	**RU**
Agreement between the Republic of Poland and the Federal Republic of Germany on Cooperation in the Field of Water Management at Border Waters (19 May 1992)		**DE**, **PL**	**DE**, **PL**
Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Lithuania and the Government of the Republic of Poland on Cooperation in the Use and Protection of Transboundary Waters (2005)		**LT**, **PL**	**LT**, **PL**

Relevant agreements and place and date of signing[10]	Waters concerned[11]	Riparians who are parties to the agreement[12]	Countries that reported on the agreement[13]
Agreement between the Latvian Environment, Geology and Meteorology Agency under the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Latvia and the Environmental Protection Agency of the Republic of Lithuania on Cooperation in the Field of Monitoring and the Exchange of Information on the Status of Surface Water Bodies in Transboundary River Basin Districts (2006)		**LT**, **LV**	**LT**, **LV**
Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Belarus and the Government of the Republic of Latvia on cooperation in the sphere of environmental protection (Minsk, 21 February 1994)	Daugava/Western Dvina River basin	**BY**, **LV**	**BY**
Agreement between the Lithuanian Geological Survey under the Ministry of Environment of Lithuania and the Latvian Environment, Geology and Meteorology Centre on Cooperation on Cross-border Groundwater Monitoring (20 June 2016)	Quaternary Aquifer of the Daugava, Permian-Upper Devonian Aquifer of the Venta and Lielupe, Upper Devonian and Upper-Middle Devonian Aquifer of the Lielupe	**LT**, **LV**	**LT**, **LV**
Agreement between the Government of the Russian Federation and the Government of the Republic of Belarus Concerning Cooperation in Protection and Rational Use of Transboundary Waters (Minsk, 24 May 2002)		**BY**, **RU**	**BY**, **RU**
Agreement on cooperation between the Hydrometeorology Department of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus and the Institute of Hydrometeorology and Water Resources of Poland (2003)		**BY**, **PL**	*Not reported*
Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Poland and the Government of the Republic of Belarus on Cooperation in the Field of the Protection and Rational Use of Transboundary Waters (Bialowieza, 7 February 2020)		**BY**, **PL**	**BY**, **PL**
Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Latvia, the Government of the Republic of Estonia and the Government of the Republic of Lithuania on Cooperation in the field of Environment (Dagda, 4 June 2010)		**EE**, **LT**, **LV**	**LV**
Agreement between the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Latvia and the Ministry of the Environment of the Republic of Estonia on Cooperation in the Protection and Sustainable Use of Transboundary Watercourses (Palanga, 24 October 2003)		**EE**, **LV**	**EE**, **LV**

Relevant agreements and place and date of signing[10]	Waters concerned[11]	Riparians who are parties to the agreement[12]	Countries that reported on the agreement[13]
Agreement between Estonia and Latvia water directors on cooperation in managing the Koiva/Gauja River Basin district (8 July 2016)	Gauja/Koiva River basin	**EE**, **LV**	**EE**
Agreement between the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus and the Ministry of Environmental Protection of the Republic of Lithuania on Cooperation in the Field of Environmental Protection (14 April 1995)		**BY**, **LT**	**BY**
Technical Protocol between the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus and the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania on Cooperation in Monitoring and Exchange of Information on the Status of Transboundary Surface Waters (10 April 2008)		**BY**, **LT**	**BY**, **LT**
Agreement between the Lithuanian Geological Survey under the Ministry of Environment of Lithuania and the Belarusian Scientific and Research Institute for Geological Prospecting on Cooperation in the Field of Geology and Hydrogeology (2012)		**BY**, **LT**	**LT**
Agreement between the Russian Federation and Lithuania on Cooperation in Environmental Protection (Moscow, 28 June 1999)		**LT**, **RU**	**LT**, **RU**
Agreement between the Government of the Russian Federation and the Government of the Republic of Lithuania on Long-term Cooperation between Kaliningrad Oblast of the Russian Federation and Regions of the Republic of Lithuania (Moscow, 29 June 1999)		**LT**, **RU**	**RU**
Agreement between the Joint Research Centre of the Ministry of Environment of Lithuania and the Hydrometeorology Agency of Lithuania, on the one side, and the Kaliningrad Centre on Hydrometeorology and Environmental Monitoring, on the other, concerning Cooperation in Monitoring and Exchange of Data on Transboundary Waters (2003)		**LT**, **RU**	**LT**

Relevant agreements and place and date of signing[10]	Waters concerned[11]	Riparians who are parties to the agreement[12]	Countries that reported on the agreement[13]
DRAINAGE BASINS OF THE PERSIAN GULF			
Agreement between Iran and Iraq concerning the use of Frontier Watercourses (26 December 1975)		IR, **IQ**	**IQ**
Agreed Minutes of the First Session of the Turkish-Iraqi Joint Committee for Economic and Technical Cooperation from 22 to 25 December 1980 (25 December 1980)		**IQ**, TR	**IQ**
Minutes of the meeting between Iraq and Syrian Arab Republic (17 April 1989)		**IQ**, SY	**IQ**
Memorandum of Understanding in the Field of Water between the Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs of the Republic of Turkey and the Ministry of Water Resources of the Republic of Iraq (Ankara, 25 December 2014)	Euphrates, Tigris	**IQ**, TR	**IQ**
DRAINAGE BASINS OF LAKE CHAD, THE EASTERN ATLANTIC IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA AND THE GULF OF GUINEA			
Convention relating to the status of the River Gambia (Kaolack, 30 June 1978)	Gambia and Geba/ Kayanga River basins, Corubal/Koliba River sub-basin	GM, GN, **GW**, **SN**	GM, GN, **GW**, **SN**
Convention relating to the creation of the Organization for the Development of the Gambia River (Kaolack, 30 June 1978)	Gambia and Geba/ Kayanga River basins, Corubal/Koliba River sub-basin	GM, GN, **GW**, **SN**	GM, GN, **GW**, **SN**
Resolution 14 to the Conference of Heads of State on the Southern Extension of the Territory Covered by the Organization for the Development of the Gambia River to the Kayanga/Geba and Koliba/Corubal drainage basins (1987)	Gambia and Geba/ Kayanga River basins, Corubal/Koliba River sub-basin	GM, GN, **GW**, **SN**	**GW**
Convention on the legal status of the Geba/ Kayanga River (2 August 2008)	Geba/Kayanga River basin	GM, GN, **GW**, **SN**	GM, GN, **GW**, **SN**
Convention on the legal status of the Koliba/ Corubal River (2 August 2008)	Corubal/Koliba River sub-basin	GM, GN, **GW**, **SN**	GM, GN, **GW**, **SN**
Convention and statutes relating to the development of the Chad Basin (Fort Lamy, 22 May 1964)	Lake Chad basin	**CM**, NE, **NG**, **TD**	CF, **CM**, LY, **NG**, **TD**
Protocol of agreement on data exchange between member States of the Lake Chad Basin Commission (26 March 2008)	Lake Chad basin	**CM**, NE, **NG**, **TD**	**TD**
Lake Chad Basin Water Charter (N'Djamena, 30 April 2012)	Lake Chad basin	**CM**, NE, **NG**, **TD**	**CM**, NE, **TD**
Protocol of agreement concerning the hydraulic regime of the Logone River (Moundou, 20 August 1970)	Logone River sub-basin	**CM**, **TD**	**CM**, **TD**

Relevant agreements and place and date of signing[10]	Waters concerned[11]	Riparians who are parties to the agreement[12]	Countries that reported on the agreement[13]
Convention creating the Niger Basin Authority (Faranah, 21 November 1980).	Niger River basin	BJ, BF, CI, **CM**, GN, ML, NE, **NG**, **TD**	GN, ML, **NG**, **TD**
Revised Convention on establishment of the Niger Basin Authority (N'Djamena, 29 October 1987)	Niger River basin	BJ, BF, CI, **CM**, GN, ML, NE, **NG**, **TD**	BJ, BF, CI, **CM**, GN, ML, **NG**, **TD**
Niger Basin Water Charter (Niamey, 30 April 2008)	Niger River basin	BJ, BF, CI, **CM**, GN, ML, NE, **NG**, **TD**	BJ, BF, CI, **CM**, GN, ML, NE, **NG**, **TD**
Agreement between the Federal Republic of Nigeria and the Republic of Niger concerning the equitable sharing in the development, conservation, and use of their common water resources (Maiduguri, 18 July 1990)		NE, **NG**	NE, **NG**
Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Integrated Water Resources Management of Benue Basin between Nigeria and the Republic of Cameroon (2013)	Benoue/Benue River sub-basin	**CM**, **NG**	**NG**
Memorandum of Understanding for the establishment of a Consultation Mechanism for the Integrated Management of the Water Resources of the Iullemeden, Taoudeni/ Tanezrouft Aquifer Systems (Abuja, 28 March 2014)	Iullemeden, Taoudeni/Tanezrouft Aquifer Systems	BJ, BF, DZ, ML, MR, NE, **NG**	BJ, MR, **NG**
Bilateral Cooperation Agreement Minutes between Egypt and Libya on the establishment of the Joint Authority for the Study and Development of Groundwater of the Nubian Sandstone Aquifer System (8 July 1991)	Nubian Sandstone Aquifer System	EG, LY, SD, **TD**	LY, **TD**
Convention concerning the status of the Senegal River (Nouakchott, 11 March 1972)	Senegal River basin	GN (observer), ML, MR, **SN**	GN, ML, **SN**
Convention establishing the Organization for the Development of the Senegal River (Nouakchott, 11 March 1972)	Senegal River basin	GN (observer), ML, MR, **SN**	GN, ML, **SN**
Convention concluded between Mali, Mauritania and Senegal concerning the legal status of common works (Bamako, 21 December 1978)	Senegal River basin	GN (observer), ML, MR, **SN**	GN, ML
Senegal River Water Charter (28 May 2002)	Senegal River basin	GN (observer), ML, MR, **SN**	GN, ML, MR, **SN**
Ministerial Declaration on the Senegalo-Mauritanian Aquifer Basin (Geneva, 29 September 2021)	Senegal-Mauritanian Aquifer basin	GM, **GW**, MR, **SN**	GM, **GW**, MR, **SN**

Relevant agreements and place and date of signing[10]	Waters concerned[11]	Riparians who are parties to the agreement[12]	Countries that reported on the agreement[13]
OMVS-OMVG Joint Protocol on the Secretariat for SMAB (30 October 2023)	Senegal-Mauritanian Aquifer basin	GM, **GW**, MR, **SN**	GM
Agreement establishing a uniform river regime and creating the International Commission of the Congo-Oubangui-Sangha Basin (CICOS) (Brazzaville, 6 November 1999)	Congo/Zaire River basin	AO, CD, CF, CG, **CM**	CD, CF, CG, **CM**
Addendum to the Agreement establishing a uniform river regime and creating the International Commission of the Congo-Oubangui-Sangha Basin (CICOS) (Kinshasa, 22 February 2007)	Congo/Zaire River basin	AO, CD, CF, CG, **CM**	CD, CG, **CM**
Convention on the Status of the Volta River and the Establishment of Volta Basin Authority (Ouagadougou, 19 January 2007)	Volta River basin	BJ, BF, CI, **GH**, ML, **TG**	BJ, BF, CI, **GH**, ML, **TG**
Volta Basin Water Charter (Accra, 10 May 2019)	Volta River basin	BJ, BF, CI, **GH**, ML, **TG**	BJ, BF, CI, **GH**
Convention on the status of the Comoe, Bia, and Tanoe rivers and the creation of the Comoe–Bia–Tanoe Basin Authority (Abidjan, 27 April 2018)	Comoe, Bia, Tanoe River basins	BF, CI, **GH**, ML	CI
Memorandum of Understanding – Tripartite Agreement for the Establishment of the Cavally Basin Transboundary Committee (2021), signed by the local platform members of countries and the head of the Mano River Union Programme		CI, GN, LR	CI
Convention on the Status of the Mono River and the Establishment of Mono Basin Authority (30 December 2014)	Mono basin	BJ, **TG**	BJ, **TG**
Agreement between the Ministry of Water Resources, Works and Housing of Ghana and the Ministry of Agriculture, Hydraulics and Fisheries Resources of Burkina Faso on the establishment of a Joint Technical Committee on Integrated Water Resources Management (Ouagadougou, 6 December 2005)		BF, **GH**	BF

Annex IV – Reported joint bodies

Annex IV was compiled based on the outcomes of the third reporting exercise (2023). All listed joint bodies for transboundary water cooperation include the participation of at least one Party to the Water Convention.

Joint body	Waters concerned[20]	Members[21]	Countries that reported on the joint body[21, 22]	Laterality of the joint body	Type of joint body
DRAINAGE BASINS OF THE WHITE SEA, BARENTS SEA AND KARA SEA					
China-Kazakhstan Joint Commission on the Use and Protection of Transboundary Rivers	Ertis/Ertix He/Irtysh, Ili/Kunes He; Emil/Emin He (drainage basins of Central Asia)	CN; **KZ**	**KZ**	Bilateral	Bilateral commission
Finland-Norway Transboundary Water Commission	Jacobs/Grense Jakobselv/Voriema, Munkelva/Uutanjoki, Naatamo/Neiden, Pasvik/Paatsjoki/Paz, Tana/Teno	**NO**; **FI**	**NO**	Bilateral	Bilateral commission
Representatives appointed in accordance with the 1959 Agreement concerning the regulation of Lake Inari	Pasvik/Paatsjoki/Paz	**FI**; **NO**; **RU**	**FI**	Multilateral	Expert group meeting or meeting of national focal points
Mongolia-Russian Federation Joint Commission on Joint Use and Protection of Transboundary Water Bodies	Selenge	MN; **RU**	MN; **RU**	Bilateral	Bilateral commission
DRAINAGE BASINS OF THE SEA OF OKHOTSK AND THE SEA OF JAPAN					
Joint China-Russian Federation Commission on the Rational Use and Protection of Transboundary Waters	Amur, Razdolnaya/Sujfun	CN; **RU**	**RU**	Bilateral	Bilateral commission

[20] Basin or sub-basin names are included as indicated by countries in their national reports. Additional basins may be covered by the respective joint bodies.

[21] For a list of country codes, see annex II, footnote 3 above. Codes in bold indicate Parties to the Water Convention. For the purposes of annex IV, Côte d'Ivoire, the Gambia, Namibia, Panama, Zambia and Zimbabwe are not considered as Parties, as the entry into force of the Water Convention for those countries fell after the deadline for the submission of reports by Parties (30 June 2023).

[22] The references to non-Parties refer to national reports on SDG indicator 6.5.2 submitted in the third reporting exercise.

Joint body	Waters concerned[20]	Members[21]	Countries that reported on the joint body[21, 22]	Laterality of the joint body	Type of joint body
DRAINAGE BASINS OF THE ARAL SEA AND OTHER TRANSBOUNDARY WATERS IN CENTRAL ASIA					
International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (IFAS)	Aral Sea, Amu Darya, Syr Darya	**KZ**; KG; TJ; **TM**; **UZ**	**KZ**; **TM**	Multilateral	Basin or similar commission
Interstate Commission for Water Coordination in Central Asia (ICWC)	Aral Sea, Amu Darya, Syr Darya	**KZ**; KG; TJ; **TM**; **UZ**	**KZ**; **TM**; **UZ**	Multilateral	Basin or similar commission
Kazakhstan-Uzbekistan Joint Working Group on Environmental Protection and Water Quality in the Syr Darya River Basin	Syr Darya	**KZ**; **UZ**	**UZ**	Bilateral	Bilateral commission
Working Group of Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and Basin Water Organization "Amu Darya"	Amu Darya	**TM**; **UZ**	**UZ**	Bilateral	Bilateral commission
Tajikistan-Uzbekistan Joint Working Group on Integrated Use of Water Resources of Transboundary Rivers of Central Asia	Amu Darya, Syr Darya	TJ; **UZ**	**UZ**	Bilateral	Bilateral commission
Chu-Talas Water Management Commission	Chu/Shu, Talas	KG; **KZ**	KG; **KZ**	Bilateral	Bilateral commission
Aspara and Kurkureu-Suu Small Basin Councils	Aspara, Kurkureusu/ Kurkureu Suu	KG; **KZ**	KG	Bilateral	Other
Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan Joint Water Commission	Ak Bura, Aravansay, Isfaraimsay, Isfara, Mailisu/Mailuu Suu, Padshaata, Shakhimardan, Sokh	KG; **UZ**	KG	Bilateral	Bilateral commission
Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan Commission on interstate use of the Orto Tokoy (Kasansay) reservoir in Ala-Buka district of Jalal-Abad province	Kasansay	KG; **UZ**	KG	Bilateral	Bilateral commission

Joint body	Waters concerned[20]	Members[21]	Countries that reported on the joint body[21, 22]	Laterality of the joint body	Type of joint body
Afghanistan-Turkmenistan Joint Coordination Commission for Water Management between the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources of Afghanistan and the State Committee for Water Management of Turkmenistan	Hari/Harirud, Murgab	AF; **TM**	**TM**	Bilateral	Bilateral commission
Iran-Turkmenistan Joint Coordination Commission for the Dostluk (Doosti) Dam on the Tejen (Harirud) River	Hari/Harirud, Murgab	IR; **TM**	**TM**	Bilateral	Bilateral commission
DRAINAGE BASINS OF THE CASPIAN SEA					
Permanent Joint Commission of Azerbaijan and Iran on the use of water and energy resources of the Aras River	Araks/Aras	**AZ**; IR	**AZ**	Bilateral	Bilateral commission
Azerbaijan-Russian Federation Joint Commission under the 2010 Agreement on sustainable use and protection of water resources of the transboundary Samur River	Samur	**AZ**; **RU**	**AZ**; **RU**	Bilateral	Bilateral commission
Kazakhstan-Russian Federation Commission on Joint Use and Protection of Transboundary Water Bodies	Bolshoy Uzen/ Karaozen, Malyi Uzen/Saryozen, Ural/Zhayik, Kigach/ Kigash channel; Ertis/Ertix He/Irtysh, Esil/Ishim, Tobol (drainage basins of the White Sea, Barents Sea and Kara Sea)	**KZ**; **RU**	**KZ**; **RU**	Bilateral	Bilateral commission

Joint body	Waters concerned[20]	Members[21]	Countries that reported on the joint body[21, 22]	Laterality of the joint body	Type of joint body
DRAINAGE BASINS OF THE BLACK SEA					
International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR)	Danube	**AT**; **BA**; **BG**; **CZ**; **DE**; **EU**; **HR**; **HU**; **MD**; **ME**; **RO**; **RS**; **SI**; **SK**; **UA**	**AT**; **BA**; **BG**; **CZ**; **DE**; **HR**; **HU**; **MD**; **ME**; **RO**; **RS**; **SI**; **SK**; **UA**	Multilateral	Basin or similar commission
Danube Commission	Danube, Drava	**AT**; **BG**; **DE**; **HR**; **HU**; **MD**; **RO**; **RS**; **SK**; **UA**	**HR**	Multilateral	Basin or similar commission
International Sava River Basin Commission (ISRBC)	Sava	**BA**; **HR**; **RS**; **SI**	**BA**; **HR**; **RS**	Multilateral	Basin or similar commission
Austria-Slovakia Commission for Boundary Waters	Danube, Morava	**AT**; **SK**	**AT**; **SK**	Bilateral	Bilateral commission
Austria-Czechia Commission for Boundary Waters	Morava, Vltava	**AT**; **CZ**	**AT**; **CZ**	Bilateral	Bilateral commission
Standing Water Commission under the Regensburg Treaty	Danube	**AT**; **DE**	**AT**; **DE**	Bilateral	Bilateral commission
Austria-Hungary Water Commission	Leitha, Raab/Raba, Rabnitz, Moson-Donau/Mosoni-Duna	**AT**; **HU**	**AT**; **HU**	Bilateral	Bilateral commission
Austria-Slovenia Commission for the Drava River	Drava	**AT**; **SI**	**AT**; **SI**	Bilateral	Bilateral commission
Austria-Slovenia Commission for the Mura River	Mura	**AT**; **SI**	**AT**; **SI**	Bilateral	Bilateral commission
Bulgaria-Romania Joint Commission on Water Management	Danube	**BG**; **RO**	**BG**	Bilateral	Bilateral commission
Croatia-Slovenia Commission for Water Management	Drava, Sava; Dragonja, Rjecina (drainage basins of the Mediterranean Sea)	**HR**; **SI**	**HR**; **SI**	Bilateral	Bilateral commission
Croatia-Hungary Commission for Water Management Cooperation	Danube, Drava, Mura	**HR**; **HU**	**HR**; **HU**	Bilateral	Bilateral commission
Czechia-Slovakia Commission for Boundary Waters	Danube, Morava	**CZ**; **SI**	**CZ**; **SI**	Bilateral	Bilateral commission

Joint body	Waters concerned[20]	Members[21]	Countries that reported on the joint body[21, 22]	Laterality of the joint body	Type of joint body
Hungary-Romania Water Commission	Beretty/Barcau, Crasna/Kraszna, Crisul Alb/Feher-Kooroos, Crisul Negru/Fekete-Koros, Er/Ier channel, Maros/Mures, Crisul Repede/Sebes-Koros	**HU**; **RO**	**HU**	Bilateral	Bilateral commission
Hungary-Serbia Commission on Water Management	Danube, Tisa/Tisza, Cik/Ciker, Keres/ Koros-er, Kigyos/ Plazovic, Krivaja, Maros/Mures	**HU**; **RS**	**HU**; **RS**	Bilateral	Bilateral commission
Hungary-Slovenia Commission for Water Management	Mura	**HU**; **SI**	**HU**; **SI**	Bilateral	Bilateral commission
Hungary-Slovakia Water Commission	Danube, Ipel/Ipoly, Tisa/Tisza, Bodrog, Bodva, Sajo/Slana, Hernad/Hornad	**HU**; **SK**	**HU**; **SK**	Bilateral	Bilateral commission
Plenipotentiaries of Hungary and Ukraine	Danube, Tisa/Tisza	**HU**; **UA**	**HU**; **UA**	Bilateral	Plenipotentiaries
Romania-Republic of Moldova Hydrotechnical Commission	Prut	**MD**; **RO**	**MD**	Bilateral	Bilateral commission
Serbia-Romania Commission for Sustainable Management of Transboundary Waters	Danube, Tisa/Tisza	**RO**; **RS**	**RS**	Bilateral	Bilateral commission
Slovakia-Ukraine Commission for Transboundary Waters	Danube, Tisa/Tisza, Bodrog	**SK**; **UA**	**SK**; **UA**	Bilateral	Bilateral commission
Plenipotentiaries of Romania and Ukraine	Danube	**RO**; **UA**	**UA**	Bilateral	Plenipotentiaries
Plenipotentiaries of Belarus and Ukraine	Dnieper, Pripyat/ Prypyats; Bug (drainage basins of the Baltic Sea)	**BY**; **UA**	**BY**	Bilateral	Plenipotentiaries

Joint body	Waters concerned[20]	Members[21]	Countries that reported on the joint body[21, 22]	Laterality of the joint body	Type of joint body
Plenipotentiaries of the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine under the 1994 agreement on the joint use and protection of transboundary waters	Black Sea River Basins (Alcalia/ Alkaliya, Cogilnik/ Kogilnik, Hagiger/ Hajider, Chaga, Kaplan, Sarata), Danube, Dniester, Prut	**MD**; **UA**	**MD**; **UA**	Bilateral	Plenipotentiaries
Commission on Sustainable Use and Protection of the Dniester River Basin (Dniester Commission)	Dniester	**MD**; **UA**	**MD**; **UA**	Bilateral	Basin or similar commission
DRAINAGE BASINS OF THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA					
International Commission on the Protection of the Waters of the Lake Geneva (CIPEL)	Rhone, Lake Geneva	**CH** (Confederation, Cantons Valais, Vaud and Geneva); **FR**	**CH**; **FR**	Bilateral	Basin or similar commission
Environmental Monitoring Committee (CSE)	Doubs	**CH** (Confederation, Cantons Valais, Vaud and Geneva); **FR**	**CH**; **FR**	Bilateral	Basin or similar commission
International Commission for the Protection of Italian-Swiss Waters (CIPAIS)	Ticino	**CH**; **IT**	**CH**; **IT**	Bilateral	Bilateral commission
Permanent Italian-Slovenian Commission for Water Management	Isonzo/Soca, Levante	**IT**; **SI**	**IT**; **SI**	Bilateral	Bilateral commission
Drin Core Group	Drin, Lake Ohrid, Lake Skadar/ Shkoder, Prespa Lakes, Bojana/Buna, Moraca, Zeta, Cem/ Cijevna	**AL**; **GR**; Kosovo[23]; **ME**; **MK**	**AL**; **ME**; **MK**	Multilateral	Basin or similar commission
Lake Ohrid Watershed Committee	Lake Ohrid	**AL**; **MK**	**MK**	Bilateral	Bilateral commission
Prespa Park Management Committee (PPMC)	Prespa Lakes	**AL**; **GR**; **MK**	**GR**; **MK**	Multilateral	Basin or similar commission

[23] United Nations administered territory under Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

Joint body	Waters concerned[20]	Members[21]	Countries that reported on the joint body[21, 22]	Laterality of the joint body	Type of joint body
Joint Commission on Water Management Cooperation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia	Krka, Neretva, Trebizat; Danube, Sava (drainage basins of the Black Sea)	**BA**; **HR**	**BA**; **HR**	Bilateral	Bilateral commission
Albania-Montenegro Joint Commission on Water Resources Management	Drin, Lake Skadar/ Shkoder, Bojana/ Buna, Moraca, Cem/ Cijevna	**AL**; **ME**	**AL**; **ME**	Bilateral	Bilateral commission
Croatia-Montenegro Commission for Water Management		**HR**; **ME**	**ME**	Bilateral	Bilateral commission
Albania-Greece Permanent Commission on transboundary freshwater issues under the 2005 Agreement	Aoos/Vijose/Vjosa	**AL**; **GR**	**GR**	Bilateral	Bilateral commission
Albania-Greece Joint Working Group (established in February 2023)	Aoos/Vijose/Vjosa	**AL**; **GR**	**GR**	Bilateral	Expert group meeting or meeting of national focal points
Greece-North Macedonia Permanent Commission on hydroeconomy under the 1959 Agreement on hydroeconomy issues	Axios/Vardar	**GR**; **MK**	**GR**	Bilateral	Bilateral commission
Bulgaria-Greece Joint Expert Working Group on cooperation on Water and Environment under the 2010 Joint Declaration	Evros/Maritsa/ Meric, Arda/Ardas, Byala, Mesta/Nestos, Despatis/Dospat, Struma/Strymonas	**BG**; **GR**	**BG**; **GR**	Bilateral	Expert group meeting or meeting of national focal points
Bulgaria-Greece Permanent Commission on Water Management under the 1995 Nestos Agreement	Mesta/Nestos	**BG**; **GR**	**BG**	Bilateral	Expert group meeting or meeting of national focal points

Joint body	Waters concerned[20]	Members[21]	Countries that reported on the joint body[21, 22]	Laterality of the joint body	Type of joint body
No official name: Bulgaria-Türkiye expert meetings	Evros/Maritsa/Meric, Tunca/Tundja/ Tundzha; Mutludere/Rezovska (drainage basins of the Black Sea)	**BG**; TR	**BG**	Bilateral	Expert group meeting or meeting of national focal points
Greece-Türkiye Joint Committee under the 2010 Joint Declaration	Evros/Maritsa/Meric,	**GR**; TR	**GR**	Bilateral	Expert group meeting or meeting of national focal points
DRAINAGE BASINS OF THE NORTH SEA AND EASTERN ATLANTIC IN EUROPE					
Commission for the Implementation and Development of the Albufeira Convention (CADC)	Douro/Duero, Guadiana, Lima/ Limia, Minho/Mino, Tagus/Tejo/Tajo	**PT**; **SP**	**PT**; **SP**	Bilateral	Bilateral commission
International Commission for the Protection of the Elbe River	Elbe	**AT**; **DE**	**AT**; **CZ**; **DE**	Bilateral	Basin or similar commission
Czechia-Germany Commission for Boundary Waters	Elbe, Ohre, Vltava; Oder/Odra (drainage basins of the Baltic Sea)	**CZ**; **DE**	**CZ**; **DE**	Bilateral	Bilateral commission
Czechia-Poland Commission for Boundary Waters	Elbe; Oder/Odra (drainage basins of the Baltic Sea)	**CZ**; **PL**	**CZ**; **PL**	Bilateral	Bilateral commission
Denmark-Germany Border River Commission	Vidaa/Wiedau, Eider, Schlei/Trave	**DE**; **DK**	**DE**; **DK**	Bilateral	Basin or similar commission
Permanent German-Dutch Border Waters Commission	Ems	**DE**; **NL**	**DE**; **NL**	Bilateral	Bilateral commission
Ems Secretariat (International steering group and International coordination group)	Ems	**DE**; **NL**	**NL**	Bilateral	Bilateral commission
International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine (ICPR)	Rhine	**CH**; **DE**; **FR**; **EU**; **LU**; **NL**; (observers: **AT**; **BE** (Region Wallonia); **LI**)	**AT**; **CH**; **DE**; **FR**; **LI**; **LU**; **NL**	Multilateral	Basin or similar commission
International Commission for the Hydrology of the Rhine Basin (CHR)	Rhine	**AT**; **CH**; **DE**; **FR**; **LU**; **NL**	**CH**	Multilateral	Basin or similar commission

Joint body	Waters concerned[20]	Members[21]	Countries that reported on the joint body[21, 22]	Laterality of the joint body	Type of joint body
International Commission for the Protection of the Lake Constance (IGKB)	Lake Constance	**AT**; **CH**; **DE**	**AT**; **CH**; **DE**	Multilateral	Basin or similar commission
International Commissions for the Protection of the Moselle and Saar Rivers (CIPMS)	Mosel/Moselle, Saar/ Sarre	**DE**; **FR**; **LU**	**DE**; **FR**; **LU**	Multilateral	Basin or similar commission
International Meuse Commission (IMC)	Maas/Meuse	**BE**; **DE**; **FR**; **LU**; **NL**	**BE**; **DE**; **FR**; **LU**; **NL**	Multilateral	Basin or similar commission
International Scheldt Commission (ISC)	Escaut/Schelde/ Scheldt	**BE**; **FR**; **NL**	**BE**; **FR**; **NL**	Multilateral	Basin or similar commission
No official name: Norwegian Environment Agency and Swedish Agency for the Marine and Water Management	Bjerka, Berbyelva/ Enningdalselva/ Enningdalsalvena, Byaalven, Fagerbakkvassdraget, Glama/ Glommavassdraget, Haldenvassdraget, Hellemovassdraget, Klaraalven/ Trysilelva, Laksaga, Malselvvassdraget, Nidelva/ Nidelvvassdraget, Norsaalven, Ranavassdraget/ Ranelva, Rossaga, Signaldalelva, Skjomavassdraget, Salangselva, Saltdalsvassdraget, Sulitjelmavassdraget, Sorfjordelva, Stjordalsvassdraget, Storelva, Stromsan, Upperudsaalven, Vefsna, Verdalsvassdraget; Angerman, Dalaalven, Indalsaalven, Ljusnan, Luleaalven, Piteaalven, Skellefteaalven, Torne/Tornionjoki/ Tornealven, Umeaalven (drainage basins of the Baltic Sea)	**NO**; **SE**	**NO**; **SE**	Bilateral	Other

Joint body	Waters concerned[20]	Members[21]	Countries that reported on the joint body[21, 22]	Laterality of the joint body	Type of joint body
DRAINAGE BASINS OF THE BALTIC SEA					
Finland-Russian Federation Transboundary Water Commission	Alajoki, Hiitolanjoki, Janisjoki, Kaltonjoki/ Peschanaya/ Santajoki, Kemi/Kemijoki, Kilpeenjoki/ Rokkajoki, Koskelanjoki/ Vaalimaanjoki, Koutajoki/Kovda, Oulo/Oulujoki, Petajoki/Petrovka, Polevaya/Tervajoki, Rakkolanjoki/ Seleznevka, Saimaan Kanava/ Saimen Canal, Malinovka/ Mustajoki, Serga/ Urpalanjoki, Tohmajoki, Kiteenjoki, Velikaya/ Vilajoki, Vuoksa/ Vuoksi; Kem, Olanga/ Oulanka, Pasvik/ Paatsjoki/Paz, Vienan Kemi (drainage basins of the White Sea, Barents Sea and Kara Sea)	**FI**; **RU**	**FI**; **RU**	Bilateral	Bilateral commission
Finland-Sweden Transboundary River Commission	Torne/Tornionjoki/ Tornealven	**FI**; **SE**	**FI**; **SE**	Bilateral	Bilateral commission
Estonia-Russian Federation Joint Commission on the Protection and Sustainable Use of Transboundary Waters	Narva	**EE**; **RU**	**EE**; **RU**	Bilateral	Bilateral commission
Helsinki Commission (HELCOM)	Daugava/Western Dvina, Gauja/Koiva, Lielupe, Venta	**DE**; **DK**; **EE**; **EU**; **FI**; **LT**; **LV**; **PL**; **RU**; **SE**	**LV**	Multilateral	Other

Joint body	Waters concerned[20]	Members[21]	Countries that reported on the joint body[21, 22]	Laterality of the joint body	Type of joint body
No official name: Experts Working Groups	Daugava/Western Dvina, Gauja/Koiva, Lielupe, Venta	**LT**; **LV**	**LT**; **LV**	Bilateral	Expert group meeting or meeting of national focal points
Lithuania-Russian Federation Mixed Commission for Co-operation in the Field of Environmental Protection	Lava/Pregel/ Pregolas, Neman/ Nemunas	**LT**; **RU**	**RU**	Bilateral	Bilateral commission
Lithuania-Poland Commission for Cooperation on Transboundary Water	Neman/Nemunas	**LT**; **PL**	**LT**; **PL**	Bilateral	Bilateral commission
Poland-Slovakia Commission for Border Waters	Vistula, Bug, Dunajec, Narew, Poprad; Danube (drainage basins of the Black Sea)	**PL**; **SK**	**PL**; **SK**	Bilateral	Bilateral commission
Joint Belarus-Russian Federation Commission for the Protection and Rational Use of Transboundary Water Bodies	Daugava/Western Dvina; Dnieper (drainage basins of the Black Sea)	**BY**; **RU**	**BY**; **RU**	Bilateral	Bilateral commission
Poland-Ukraine Commission for Border Waters	Vistula, Bug, San; Dniester (drainage basins of the Black Sea)	**PL**; **UA**	**PL**; **UA**	Bilateral	Bilateral commission
International Commission on the Protection of the Oder against Pollution (ICPO)	Oder/Odra	**CZ**; **DE**; **PL**	**CZ**; **DE**; **PL**	Multilateral	Basin or similar commission
Germany-Poland Commission for Border Waters	Oder/Odra	**DE**; **PL**	**DE**; **PL**	Bilateral	Bilateral commission

Joint body	Waters concerned[20]	Members[21]	Countries that reported on the joint body[21, 22]	Laterality of the joint body	Type of joint body
DRAINAGE BASINS OF THE PERSIAN GULF					
Joint Technical Committee on Regional Waters	Euphrates, Tigris	**IQ**; SY; TR	**IQ**	Multilateral	Other: trilateral commission
Iran-Iraq Permanent Joint Technical Commission	Tigris	**IQ**; IR	**IQ**	Bilateral	Bilateral commission
DRAINAGE BASINS OF LAKE CHAD, THE EASTERN ATLANTIC IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA AND THE GULF OF GUINEA					
Organization for the Development of the Senegal River (OMVS)	Senegal	GN; ML; MR; **SN**	GN; MR; **SN**	Multilateral	Basin or similar commission
Organization for the Development of the Gambia River (OMVG)	Gambia, Geba/ Kayanga, Corubal/ Koliba	GM; GN; **GW**; **SN**	GM; GN; **GW**; **SN**	Multilateral	Basin or similar commission
Niger Basin Authority (NBA-ABN)	Niger, Mekrou	BJ; BF; CI; **CM**; GN; ML; NE; **NG**; **TD**	BJ; BF; CI; **CM**; GN; NE; **NG**; **TD**	Multilateral	Basin or similar commission
Volta Basin Authority (VBA-ABV)	Volta, Mekrou, Oti	BJ; BF; CI; **GH**; ML; **TG**	BJ; BF; CI; **GH**; **TG**	Multilateral	Basin or similar commission
Transboundary Committee for Water Resources Management of the Nakanbe sub-basin (CTGEN)	Nakanbe/White Volta	**GH**; BF	BF	Bilateral	Bilateral commission
Comoe-Bia-Tanoe Basin Authority (ABCBT)	Comoe/Komoe	BF; CI; **GH**; ML	CI	Multilateral	Plenipotentiaries
Mono Basin Authority (ABM)	Mono	BJ; **TG**	BJ; **TG**	Bilateral	Bilateral commission
Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC)	Lake Chad	CF; **CM**; LY; NE; **NG**; **TD**	**CM**; NE; **NG**; **TD**	Multilateral	Basin or similar commission
Nigeria-Niger Joint Commission for Cooperation (NNJC)	Komadougou/Yobe	NE; **NG**	**NG**	Bilateral	Bilateral commission
International Commission of the Congo-Oubangui-Sangha Basin (CICOS)	Congo/Zaire	AO; CD; CF; CG; **CM**; GA	AO; CD; CG; **CM**	Multilateral	Basin or similar commission

Joint body	Waters concerned[20]	Members[21]	Countries that reported on the joint body[21, 22]	Laterality of the joint body	Type of joint body
DRAINAGE BASINS OF THE NORTHERN ATLANTIC IN SOUTH AMERICA					
River Council, not specialized in the issue of water	Maroni/Marowijne	**FR**; SR	**FR**	Bilateral	Expert group meeting or meeting of national focal points
Joint Transboundary Cooperation Commission, not specialized in the issue of water	Oiapoque/Oyapock/ Oyupock	BR; **FR**	BR; **FR**	Bilateral	Expert group meeting or meeting of national focal points

Annex V – Reporting template

Reporting on global SDG indicator 6.5.2

TEMPLATE of the third reporting exercise

Content of the template

The template is divided into four parts:

- Section I – Calculation of SDG indicator 6.5.2
- Section II – Information on each transboundary basin or group of basins
- Section III – General information on transboundary water management at the national level
- Section IV – Final questions

Country name: [fill in]

I. Calculation of Sustainable Development Goal indicator 6.5.2

Methodology

1. Using the information gathered in section II, the information gathered in this section allows for the calculation of Sustainable Development Goal global indicator 6.5.2, which is defined as the proportion of transboundary basin area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation.

2. The step-by-step monitoring methodology for indicator 6.5.2, developed by UNECE and UNESCO in the framework of UN-Water, should be referred to for details on the necessary data, the definitions and the calculation.[a]

3. The value of the indicator at the national level is derived by adding up the surface area in a country of those transboundary basins (river and lake basins and aquifers) that are covered by an operational arrangement and dividing the area obtained by the aggregate total area in a country of all transboundary basins (both river and lake basins, and aquifers).

4. Transboundary basins are basins of transboundary waters, that is, of any surface waters (notably rivers, lakes) or groundwaters which mark, cross or are located on boundaries between by two or more States. For the purpose of the calculation of this indicator, for a transboundary river or lake, the basin area is determined by the extent of its catchment. For groundwater, the area to be considered is the extent of the aquifer.

5. An "arrangement for water cooperation" is a bilateral or multilateral treaty, convention, agreement or other formal arrangement among riparian countries that provides a framework for cooperation on transboundary water management.

6. For an arrangement to be considered "operational" all the following criteria need to be in place in practice:

   (a) There is a joint body, joint mechanism or commission (e.g., a river basin organization) for transboundary cooperation (criterion 1);

   (b) There are regular (at least once per year) formal communications between riparian countries in form of meetings (either at the political or technical level) (criterion 2);

   (c) Joint objectives, a common strategy, a joint or coordinated management plan, or an action plan have been agreed upon by the riparian countries (criterion 3);

   (d) There is a regular (at least once per year) exchange of data and information (criterion 4).

Calculation of indicator 6.5.2

7. Please list in the tables below the transboundary basins (rivers and lakes and aquifers) in your country's territory and provide the following information for each of them:

   (a) The country/ies with which the basin is shared;

   (b) The surface area of the basin (the catchment of rivers or lakes and the aquifer in the case of groundwater) within the territory of your country (in square kilometres (km^2));

   (c) Whether a map and/or a geographical information system (GIS) shapefile of the basin has been provided;

   (d) Whether there is an arrangement in force for the basin;

   (e) The verification of each of the four criteria to assess operationality;

   (f) The surface area of the basin within the territory of your country which is covered by a cooperation arrangement that is operational according to the above criteria.

8. In case an operational arrangement is in place only for a sub-basin or a portion of a basin, please list this sub-basin just after the transboundary basin it is part of. In case there is an operational arrangement for the whole basin, do not list sub-basins in the table below.

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[a] Available from the UN-Water website: www.unwater.org/our-work/integrated-monitoring-initiative-sdg-6/indicator-652-proportion-transboundary-basin-area (updated version "2020").

Table 1 Transboundary river or lake basin (please add rows as needed)

Name of transboundary river or lake basin/sub-basin	*It is a basin or a sub-basin?*[b]	*Countries shared with*	*Surface area of the basin/ sub-basin (in km²) within the territory of the country*	*Map and/or GIS shapefile provided (yes/no)*	*Covered by an arrangement (entirely, partly, no) (See sect. II question 1)*	*Criterion 1 applied (yes/no) (See sect. II question 3)*	*Criterion 2 applied (yes/no) (See sect. II question 3(i))*	*Criterion 3 applied (yes/no) (See sect. II question 4)*	*Criterion 4 applied (yes/no) (See sect. II questions 6 (a) and (b))*	*Surface area of the basin/ sub-basin (in km²) covered by an operational arrangement within the territory of the country*
(A) Total surface area of transboundary basins/ sub-basins of rivers and lakes covered by operational arrangements within the territory of the country (in km²) (do not double count sub-basins)										
(B) Total surface area of transboundary basins of rivers and lakes within the territory of the country (in km²) (do not double count sub-basins)										

[b] List sub-basins after the basin they belong to.

Table 2 Transboundary aquifers (please add rows as needed)

Name of the transboundary aquifer	*Type of aquifer* [c]	*Countries shared with*	*Surface area of the aquifer* [d] *(in km²) within the territory of the country*	*Map and/ or GIS shapefile provided (yes/no)*	*Covered by an aquifer specific arrangement (entirely, partly, no) (See sect. II question 1)*	*Covered within an arrangement not specific to the aquifer* [e] *(entirely, partly, no) (See sect. II question 2(b))*	*Criterion 1 applied (yes/no) (See sect. II question 3)*	*Criterion 2 applied (yes/no) (See sect. II question 3(i))*	*Criterion 3 applied (yes/no) (See sect. II question 4)*	*Criterion 4 applied (yes/no) (See sect. II questions 6 (a) and (b))*	*Surface area of the aquifer (in km²) covered by an opera-tional arrange-ment within the territory of the country*
(C) Sub-total: surface area of transboundary aquifers covered by operational arrangements (in km²)											
(D) Total surface area of transboundary aquifers (in km²)											

[c] Please choose from the following list: a) unconfined aquifer connected to a river or lake; b) unconfined aquifer with no or limited relation with surface water; c) confined aquifer connected to surface water; d) confined aquifer with no or limited relation with surface water; e) other; or, f) unknown.

[d] For a transboundary aquifer, the extent is derived from the aquifer system delineation which is commonly done relying on information of the subsurface (notably the extent of geological formations). As a general rule, the delineation of aquifer systems is based on the delineation of the extent of the hydraulically connected water-bearing geological formations. Aquifer systems are three-dimensional objects and the aquifer area taken into account is the projection on the land surface of the system. Ideally, when different aquifer systems not hydraulically connected are vertically superposed, the different relevant projected areas are to be considered separately, unless the different aquifer systems are managed conjunctively.

[e] In the text of the agreement or arrangement or in the practice.

Indicator value for the country

Surface waters:

Percentage of surface area of transboundary basins of rivers and lakes covered by an operational arrangement:

A/B x 100 =

Aquifers:

Percentage of surface area of transboundary aquifers covered by an operational arrangement:

C/D x 100 =

Sustainable Development Goal indicator 6.5.2:

Percentage of surface area of transboundary basins covered by an operational arrangement:

((A + C)/(B + D)) x 100 =

Spatial information

If a map (or maps) of the transboundary surface water catchments and transboundary aquifers (i.e., "transboundary basins") is available, please consider attaching them. Ideally, shapefiles of the basin and aquifer delineations that can be viewed in GIS should be sent.

Additional information

If the respondent has comments that clarify assumptions or interpretations made for the calculation, or the level of certainty of the spatial information, please write them here:

Does your country have transboundary agreements or arrangements for the protection and/or management of transboundary waters (i.e., rivers, lakes or groundwater), whether bilateral or multilateral?

Yes ❑/No ❑

If yes, list the bilateral and multilateral agreements or arrangements (listing for each of the countries concerned): [fill in]

II. Questions for each transboundary basin, sub-basin, part of a basin, or group of basins (river, lake or aquifer)

Please complete this second section for each transboundary basin (river or lake basin, or aquifer), sub-basin, part of a basin or a group of basins covered by the same agreement or arrangement where conditions are similar.[1] In some instances, you may provide information on both a basin and one or more of its sub-basins or parts thereof, for example, where you have agreements[2] or arrangements on both the basin and its sub-basin. You may coordinate your responses with other States with which your country shares transboundary waters, or even prepare a joint report. General information on transboundary water management at the national level should be provided in section III and not repeated here.

Please reproduce this whole section with its questions for each transboundary basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins for which you will provide a reply.

Name of the transboundary basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins: [fill in]

List countries shared with: [fill in]

Percentage of the basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins within your country's territory: [fill in]

1. Is there one or more transboundary (bilateral or multilateral) agreement(s) or arrangement(s) on this basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins?

One or more agreements or arrangements exist and are in force	❑
Agreement or arrangement developed but not in force	❑
Agreement or arrangement developed, but not in force for all riparians	❑
Please insert the name of the agreement(s) or arrangement(s) [fill in]	
Agreement or arrangement is under development	❑
No agreement or arrangement	❑

If there is no agreement or arrangement or it is not in force, please explain briefly why not and provide information on any plans to address the situation: [fill in]

If there is no agreement or arrangement and no joint body or mechanism for the transboundary basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins then jump to question 4; if there is no agreement or arrangement, but a joint body or mechanism then go to question 3.

---

[1] In principle, section II should be submitted for every transboundary basin, river, lake or aquifer, in the country, but States may decide to group basins in which their share is small or leave out basins in which their share is very minor, e.g., below 1 per cent.

[2] In section II, "agreement" covers all kinds of treaties, conventions and agreements ensuring cooperation in the field of transboundary waters. Section II can also be completed for other types of arrangements, such as memorandums of understanding.

Questions 2 and 3 to be completed for each bilateral or multilateral agreement or arrangement in force in the transboundary basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins.

2. (a) Does this agreement or arrangement specify the area subject to cooperation?

Yes ❑/No ❑

If yes, does it cover the entire basin or group of basins and all riparian States?

Yes ❑/No ❑

Additional explanations? [fill in]

Or, if the agreement or arrangement relates to a sub-basin, does it cover the entire sub-basin?

Yes ❑/No ❑

Additional explanations? [fill in]

Which States (including your own) are bound by the agreement or arrangement? *(Please list)*: [fill in]

(b) If the agreement or arrangement relates to a river or lake basin or sub-basin, does it also cover aquifers?

Yes ❑/No ❑

If yes, please list the aquifers covered by the agreement or arrangement: [fill in]

(c) What is the sectoral scope of the agreement or arrangement?

All water uses ❑

A single water use or sector ❑

Several water uses or sectors ❑

If one or several water uses or sectors, please list (check as appropriate):

Water uses or sectors

Industry ❑

Agriculture ❑

Transport (e.g., navigation) ❑

Households ❑

Energy: hydropower and other energy types ❑

Fisheries ❑

Tourism ❑

Nature protection ❑

Other *(please list)*: [fill in]

(d) What topics or subjects of cooperation are included in the agreement or arrangement?

Procedural and institutional issues

Dispute and conflict prevention and resolution ❑

Institutional cooperation (joint bodies) ❑

Consultation on planned measures ❑

Mutual assistance ❑

Topics of cooperation

Joint vision and management objectives ❑

Joint significant water management issues ❑

Navigation ❑

Human health ❑

Environmental protection (ecosystem) ❑

Water quality ❑

Water quantity or allocation ❑

Cooperation in addressing floods ❑

Cooperation in addressing droughts ❑

Climate change adaptation ❑

Promotion of equality and inclusion, e.g. gender equality, inclusion of indigenous people, youth or other minority groups ❑

Monitoring and exchange

Joint assessments ❑

Data collection and exchange ❑

Joint monitoring ❑

Maintenance of joint pollution inventories ❑

Elaboration of joint water quality objectives ❑

Common early warning and alarm procedures ❑

Exchange of experience between riparian States ❑

Exchange of information on planned measures ❑

Joint planning and management

Development of joint regulations on specific topics ❑

Development of international or joint river, lake or aquifer basin management or action plans ❑

Management of shared infrastructure ❑

Development of shared infrastructure ❑

Other *(please list)*: [fill in]

(e) What are the main difficulties and challenges that your country faces with the agreement or arrangement and its implementation, if any?

Aligning implementation of agreement or arrangement with national laws, policies and programmes ❑

Aligning implementation of agreement or arrangement with regional laws, policies and programmes ❑

Lack of financial resources ❑

Insufficient human capacity ❑

Insufficient technical capacity ❑

Tense diplomatic relations ❑

Non-participation of certain riparian countries in the agreement ❑

No significant difficulties ❑

Other *(please describe)*: [fill in]

(f) What are the main achievements in implementing the agreement or arrangement and what were the keys to achieving such success? [fill in]

(g) Please attach a copy of the agreement or arrangement or provide the web address of the document *(please attach document or insert web address, if applicable)*: [fill in]

3. Is your country a member of any joint body or mechanism for this agreement or arrangement?

Yes ❑/No ❑

If yes, please provide its official name: [fill in]

If no, why not? (please explain): [fill in]

Where there is a joint body or mechanism

(a) Which kind of joint body or mechanism *(please tick one)*?

Plenipotentiaries ❑

Bilateral commission ❑

Basin or similar commission ❑

Expert group meeting or meeting of national focal points ❑

Other *(please describe)*: [fill in]

(b) Does the joint body or mechanism cover the entire transboundary basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins?

Yes ❑/No ❑

(c) Which States (including your own) are members of the joint body or mechanism? (Please list): [fill in]

(d) Are there any riparian States that are not members of the joint body or mechanism? (please list): [fill in]

(e) If not all riparian States are members of the joint body or mechanism how does the joint body or mechanism cooperate with them?

No cooperation ❑

They have observer status ❑

Other *(please describe)*: [fill in]

(f) Does the joint body or mechanism have any of the following features *(please tick the ones applicable)*?

A secretariat ❑

If the secretariat is a permanent one, is it a joint secretariat or does each country host its own secretariat? (Please describe): [fill in]

A subsidiary body or bodies ❑

Please list (e.g., working groups on specific topics): [fill in]

Other features *(please list)*: [fill in]

If sex-disaggregated data is collected on the membership and/or staff of the joint body or mechanism, please provide additional information here, e.g. the type of data collected, the percentage split of men and women within the joint body or mechanism, requirements related to gender-balance within the regulations of the joint body or mechanism, and/or links to relevant documents: [fill in]

(g) What are the tasks and activities of this joint body or mechanism?[3]

Identification of pollution sources ❑

Data collection and exchange ❑

Joint monitoring ❑

Maintenance of joint pollution inventories ❑

Setting emission limits ❑

Elaboration of joint water quality objectives ❑

Management and prevention of flood or drought risks ❑

Preparedness for extreme events, e.g., common early warning and alarm procedures ❑

Surveillance and early warning of water-related disease ❑

Water allocation and/or flow regulation ❑

Policy development ❑

Control of implementation ❑

Exchange of experience between riparian States ❑

Exchange of information on existing and planned uses of water and related installations ❑

Settling of differences and conflicts ❑

Consultations on planned measures ❑

Exchange of information on best available technology ❑

Participation in transboundary EIA ❑

Development of river, lake or aquifer basin management or action plans ❑

Management of shared infrastructure ❑

Addressing hydromorphological alterations ❑

Climate change adaptation ❑

Joint communication strategy ❑

Basin-wide or joint public participation and consultation of, for example, basin management plans ❑

[3] This may include tasks according to the agreement or tasks added by the joint body, or its subsidiaries. Both tasks which joint bodies coordinate and tasks which they implement should be included.

Joint resources to support transboundary cooperation ❑

Capacity-building ❑

Gender-related aspects of water management ❑

Any other tasks *(please list)*: [fill in]

(h) What are the main difficulties and challenges that your country faces with the operation of the joint body or mechanism, if any?

Governance issues ❑

Please describe, if any: [fill in]

Unexpected planning delays ❑

Please describe, if any: [fill in]

Lack of resources ❑

Please describe, if true: [fill in]

Lack of mechanism for implementing measures ❑

Please describe, if true: [fill in]

Lack of effective measures ❑

Please describe, if true: [fill in]

Unexpected extreme events ❑

Please describe, if any: [fill in]

Lack of information and reliable forecasts ❑

Please describe, if any: [fill in]

Others *(please list and describe, as appropriate)*: [fill in]

(i) Does the joint body or mechanism, or its subsidiary bodies meet regularly?

Yes ❑/No ❑

If yes, how frequently does it meet?

More than once per year ❑

Once per year ❑

Less than once per year ❑

(j) What are the main achievements with regard to the joint body or mechanism? [fill in]

(k) Did the joint body or mechanism ever invite a non-riparian coastal State to cooperate?

Yes ❑/No ❑

If yes, please give details. If no, why not, e.g. are the relevant coastal States also riparian States and therefore already members of the joint body or mechanism? [fill in]

4. Have joint objectives, a common strategy, a joint or coordinated management plan or action plan been agreed for the basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins?

   Yes ❑/No ❑

   If yes, please provide further details: [fill in]

5. How is the transboundary basin, sub-basin, part of a basins or group of basins protected, including the protection of ecosystems, in the context of sustainable and rational water use?

   Regulation of urbanization, deforestation, and sand and gravel extraction ❑

   Environmental flow norms, including consideration of levels and seasonality ❑

   Water quality protection, e.g. nitrates, pesticides, faecal coliforms, heavy metals ❑

   Water-related species and habitats protection ❑

   Other measures *(please describe)*: [fill in]

6. (a) Does your country regularly exchange information and data with other riparian States in the basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins?

   Yes ❑/No ❑

   (b) If yes, how often:

   More than once per year ❑

   Once per year ❑

   Less than once per year ❑

   (c) Please describe how information is exchanged (e.g. in connection with meetings of joint bodies): [fill in]

   (d) If yes, on what subjects are information and data exchanged?

   Environmental conditions ❑

   Research activities and application of best available techniques ❑

   Emission monitoring data ❑

   Planned measures taken to prevent, control or reduce transboundary impacts ❑

   Point source pollution sources ❑

   Diffuse pollution sources ❑

   Existing hydromorphological alterations (dams, etc.) ❑

   Flows or water levels (including groundwater levels) ❑

   Water abstractions ❑

   Climatological information ❑

   Future planned measures with transboundary impacts, such as infrastructure development ❑

   Sex-disaggregated data or other gender-related information ❑

   Other subjects *(please list)*: [fill in]

   Other comments, e.g. spatial coverage of data and information exchange: [fill in]

(e) Is there a shared database or information platform?

Yes ❑/No ❑

(f) Is the database publicly available?

Yes ❑/No ❑

If yes, please provide the web address: [fill in]

(g) What are the main difficulties and challenges to data exchange, if applicable?

Frequency of exchanges ❑

Timing of exchanges ❑

Comparability of data and information ❑

Limited spatial coverage ❑

Inadequate resources (technical and/or financial) ❑

Other *(please describe)*: [fill in]

Additional comments: [fill in]

(h) What are the main benefits of data exchange on the basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins? *(please describe)*: [fill in]

7. Do the riparian States carry out joint monitoring in the transboundary basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins?

Yes ❑/No ❑

(a) If yes, what does the joint monitoring cover?

	Hydrological	Ecological	Chemical
Border surface waters	❑	❑	❑
Surface waters in the entire basin	❑	❑	❑
Surface waters on the main watercourse	❑	❑	❑
Surface waters in part of the basin *please describe* [fill in]	❑	❑	❑
Transboundary aquifer(s) (connected or unconnected)	❑	❑	❑
Aquifer(s) in the territory of one riparian hydraulically connected to a transboundary river or lake	❑	❑	❑

(b) If joint monitoring is carried out, how is this done?

National monitoring stations connected through a network or common stations ❑

Joint and agreed methodologies ❑

Joint sampling ❑

Common monitoring network ❑

Common agreed parameters ❑

Please briefly describe how joint monitoring is carried out: [fill in]

(c) Please describe the main achievements regarding joint monitoring, if any: [fill in]

(d) Please describe any difficulties experienced with joint monitoring: [fill in]

8. Do the riparian States carry out joint assessment of the transboundary basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins?

Yes ❑/No ❑

If yes, please provide the date of the last or only assessment, the frequency and scope (e.g., surface waters or groundwaters only, pollution sources, etc.) of the assessment, and assessment methodology applied: [fill in]

9. Have the riparian States agreed to use joint water quality standards?

Yes ❑/No ❑

If yes, what standards have been applied, e.g. international or regional standards (please specify which), or have national standards of the riparian States been applied? [fill in]

10. What are the measures implemented to prevent or limit the transboundary impact of accidental pollution?

Notification and communication ❑

Coordinated or joint early warning or alarm system for accidental water pollution ❑

Other *(please list)*: [fill in]

No measures ❑

*If not, why not? What difficulties does your country face in putting in place such measures?***:** [fill in]

11. What are the measures implemented to prevent or limit the transboundary impact of extreme weather events and climate change?

Notification and communication ❑

Coordinated or joint alarm system for floods ❑

Coordinated or joint alarm system for droughts ❑

Joint climate change adaptation strategy ❑

Joint disaster risk reduction strategy ❑

Other *(please list)*: [fill in]

No measures ❑

If not, why not? What difficulties does your country face in putting in place such measures?: [fill in]

12. Are procedures in place for mutual assistance in case of a critical situation?

Yes ❑/No ❑

If yes, please provide a brief summary: [fill in]

13. Are the public or relevant stakeholders involved in transboundary water management in the basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins?

Yes ❑/No ❑

If yes, how (please tick all applicable)?

Availability of information to the public ❑

Consultation on planned measures or river basin management plans[4] ❑

Public involvement ❑

Involvement in the joint body or mechanism *(please tick all applicable)*:

	Observer status	Advisory role	Decision-making role
Intergovernmental organizations	❑	❑	❑
Private sector organisations or associations	❑	❑	❑
Water user groups or associations	❑	❑	❑
Environmental non-governmental organisations or groups	❑	❑	❑
Women organisations or groups	❑	❑	❑
Indigenous peoples' organisations or groups	❑	❑	❑
Youth organisations or groups	❑	❑	❑
Academic or research institutions	❑	❑	❑
Other non-governmental organisations	❑	❑	❑
General public	❑	❑	❑
Other *please describe*: [fill in]	❑	❑	❑

Other *(please specify in case there are other types of participation)*: [fill in]

Please remember to complete section II for each of the transboundary basins, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins. Please also remember to attach copies of agreements or arrangements, if any.

III. Water management at the national level

In this section, you are requested to provide general information on water management at the national level as it relates to transboundary waters. Information on specific transboundary basins, sub-basins, part of basins and groups of basins, should be presented in section II and not repeated here.

1. (a) Does your country's national legislation, policies, action plans and strategies refer to measures to prevent, control and reduce any transboundary impact?

Yes ❑/No ❑

If yes, please briefly describe the main national laws, policies, action plans and strategies [fill in]

(b) Does your country's legislation provide for the following principles?

Precautionary principle Yes ❑/No ❑

Polluter pays principle Yes ❑/No ❑

Sustainable development Yes ❑/No ❑

User pays principle Yes ❑/No ❑

If yes, please briefly describe how these principles are implemented at the national level: [fill in]

[4] Or, where applicable, aquifer management plans.

(c) Does your country have a national licensing or permitting system for wastewater discharges and other point source pollution? (e.g., in industry, mining, energy, municipal, wastewater management or other sectors)?

Yes ❑/No ❑

If yes, for which sectors?

Industry ❑

Mining ❑

Energy ❑

Municipal ❑

Livestock raising ❑

Aquaculture ❑

Other (please list): [fill in]

Please briefly describe the licensing or permitting system: [fill in]

Does the system provide for setting emission limits based on best available technology?

Yes ❑/No ❑

If yes, for which sectors? (please list): [fill in]

If not, please explain why not (giving the most important reasons) or provide information if there are plans to introduce a licensing or permitting system: [fill in]

(d) Are the authorized discharges monitored and controlled?

Yes ❑/No ❑

If yes, how? (Please tick the ones applicable):

Monitoring of discharges ❑

Monitoring of physical and chemical impacts on water ❑

Monitoring of ecological impacts on water ❑

Conditions on permits ❑

Inspectorate ❑

Other means (please list): [fill in]

If your country does not have a discharge monitoring system, please explain why not or provide information if there are plans to introduce a discharge monitoring system: [fill in]

(e) What are the main measures which your country takes to reduce water pollution on transboundary waters from diffuse sources (e.g., from agriculture, transport, forestry or aquaculture)? The measures listed below relate to agriculture, but other sectors may be more significant. Please be sure to include these under "others":

Legislative measures

Norm for uses of fertilizers ❑

Norms for uses of manure ❑

Permitting system ❑

Bans on or norms for use of pesticides ❑

Others (please list): [fill in]

Economic and financial measures

Monetary incentives ❑

Environmental taxes (such as fertilizer taxes) ❑

Others *(please list)*: [fill in]

Agricultural extension services ❑

Technical measures

Source control measures

Crop rotation ❑

Tillage control ❑

Winter cover crops ❑

Others *(please list)*: [fill in]

Other measures

Buffer/filter strips ❑

Wetland reconstruction ❑

Sedimentation traps ❑

Chemical measures ❑

Others *(please list)*: [fill in]

Other types of measures ❑

If yes, please list: [fill in]

(f) What are the main measures which your country takes to enhance water resources allocation and use efficiency?

Please tick as appropriate (not all might be relevant)

A regulatory system regarding water abstraction ❑

Monitoring and control of abstractions ❑

Water rights are defined ❑

Water allocation priorities are listed ❑

Water-saving technologies ❑

Advanced irrigation techniques ❑

Demand management activities ❑

Stakeholder consultations are held, including with civil society representatives ❑

Other means (please list) ❑

(g) Does your country apply the ecosystems approach?

Yes ❑/No ❑

If yes, please describe how: [fill in]

(h) Does your country take specific measures to prevent the pollution of groundwaters?

Yes ❑/No ❑

If yes, please briefly describe the most important measures: [fill in]

2. Do your national laws require transboundary environmental impact assessment (EIA)?

Yes ❑/No ❑

If yes, please briefly describe the legislative basis, and any related implementing procedures. [fill in]

*If not, do other measures provide for transboundary EIA? [*fill in]

IV. Final questions

1. What are the main challenges your country faces in cooperating on transboundary waters?

Differences between national administrative and legal frameworks ❑

Lack of relevant data and information ❑

Difficulties in data and information exchange ❑

Sectoral fragmentation at the national level ❑

Language barrier ❑

Resource constraints ❑

Environmental pressures, e.g. extreme events ❑

Sovereignty concerns ❑

Please list other challenges and/or provide further details: [fill in]

2. What have been the main achievements in cooperating on transboundary waters?

Improved water management ❑

Enhanced regional integration, i.e. beyond water ❑

Adoption of cooperative arrangements ❑

Adoption of joint plans and programmes ❑

Long-lasting and sustained cooperation ❑

Financial support for joint activities ❑

Stronger political will for transboundary water cooperation ❑

Better knowledge and understanding ❑

Dispute avoidance ❑

Stakeholder engagement ❑

Please list other achievements, keys to achieving success, and/or provide concrete examples: [fill in]

3. Please indicate which institutions were consulted during the completion of the questionnaire

Joint body or mechanism ❑

Other riparian or aquifer countries ❑

National water management authority ❑

Environment agency/ authority ❑

Basin authority (national) ❑

Local or provincial government ❑

Geological survey (national) ❑

Non-water specific ministries, e.g. foreign affairs, finance, forestry and energy ❑

Women organisations or groups ❑

Indigenous peoples' organisations or groups ❑

Youth organisations or groups ❑

Civil society organizations ❑

Water user associations ❑

Private sector ❑

Other (please list): [fill in]

Please briefly describe the process by which the questionnaire was completed: [fill in]

4. If you have any other comments please add them here *(insert comments)*: [fill in]

5. Details of the person(s) who filled out the questionnaire *(please insert)*:

Name: [fill in]

Gender: Female ❑ / Male ❑ / Other ❑ / Prefer not to answer ❑

Contact details: [fill in]

If different to the above, details of the person(s) who signed the questionnaire:

Name: [fill in]

Gender: Female ❑ / Male ❑ / Other ❑ / Prefer not to answer ❑

Contact details: [fill in]

Date: [fill in] Signature: [fill in]

Thank you very much for taking the time to complete this report.

PROGRESS ON TRANSBOUNDARY WATER COOPERATION UNDER THE WATER CONVENTION

Third report on implementation of the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes **2020–2023**

The Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention), hosted by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), requires Parties to prevent, control and reduce transboundary impact, use transboundary waters in a reasonable and equitable way, and cooperate to ensure their sustainable management. Parties bordering the same transboundary waters have to cooperate by entering into specific agreements and establishing joint bodies. As a global framework agreement, the Convention does not replace bilateral and multilateral agreements for specific basins or aquifers; instead, it fosters their establishment and implementation, as well as their further development.

In 2015, Parties introduced a reporting mechanism to monitor and assess progress in the implementation of the Convention. The outcomes of the third reporting exercise, which took place in 2023–2024, are presented in this synthesis report. The report details the significant results achieved by the Parties to the Convention in implementing transboundary water cooperation, but also identifies challenges in implementation and provides strategic recommendations on possible actions to strengthen implementation of the Convention and transboundary water cooperation. The report aims to contribute to effective implementation of the Convention and to improved transboundary water cooperation worldwide.

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