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30-31 MAY 2023

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

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Shared Prosperity Dignified Life



Workshop on Strengthening Legal and Institutional Arrangements for  
Transboundary Water Cooperation and Data and Information Exchange  
Beirut, Lebanon, 30-31 May 2023





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INTEGRATED MONITORING  
INITIATIVE FOR SDG 6

SDG INDICATOR 6.5.2  
TRANSBOUNDARY WATER COOPERATION

# Overview

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





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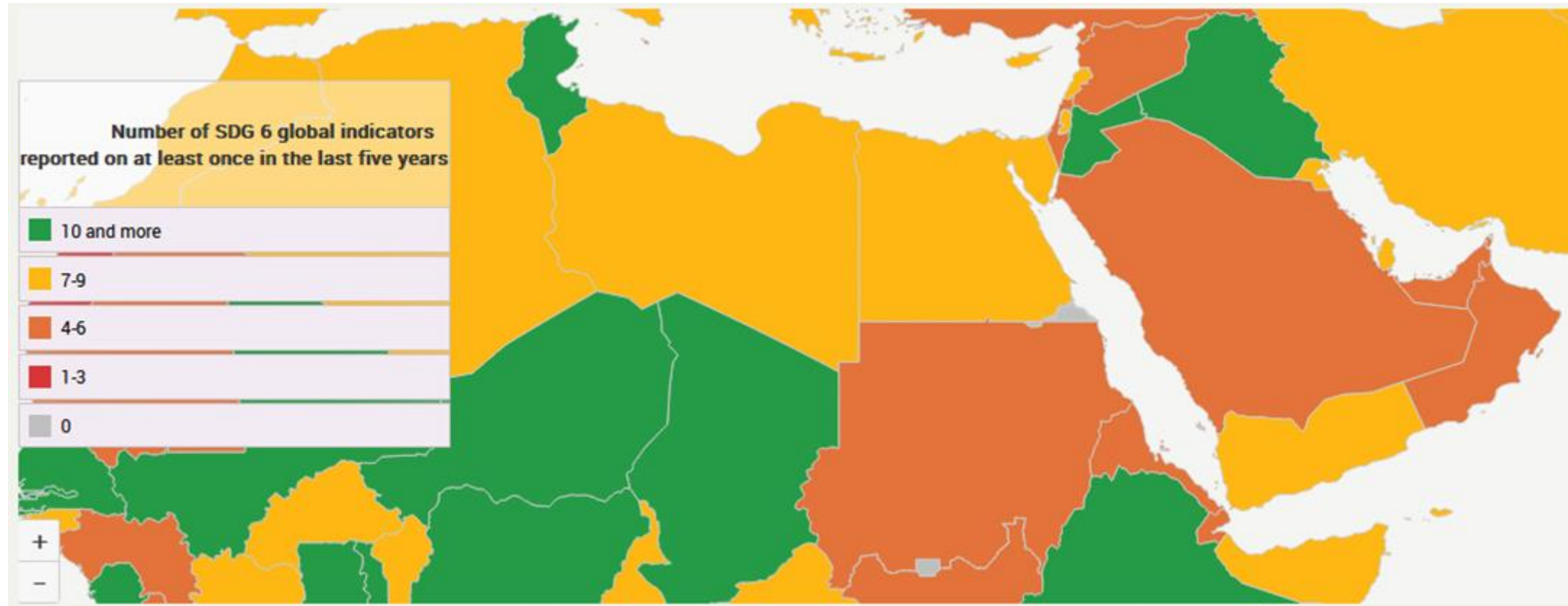


INDICATORS	CUSTODIANS
6.1.1 Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services	WHO, UNICEF
6.2.1 Proportion of population using (a) safely managed sanitation services and (b) a hand-washing facility with soap and water	WHO, UNICEF
6.3.1 Proportion of domestic and industrial wastewater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

# Data Submission on SDG6 by country

Number of SDG 6 global indicators reported on in the last five years

source: SDG6 Data portal <https://sdg6data.org/en/about/data-gaps>



# SDG indicator 6.5.2



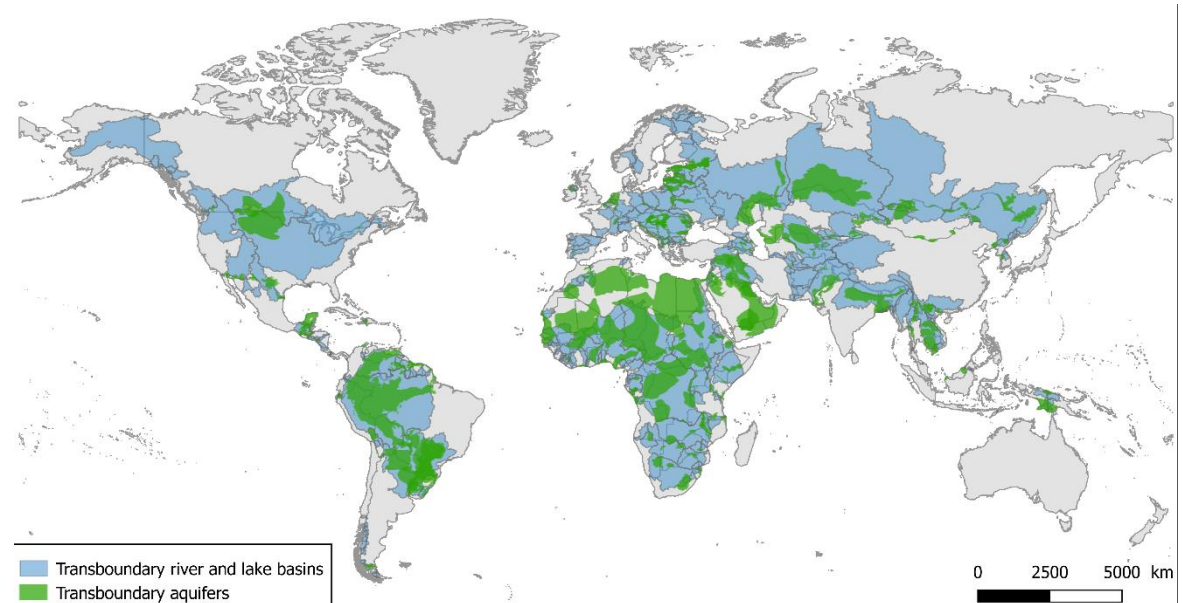
**Target 6.5:** By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate.



**Indicator 6.5.1** Degree of IWRM



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



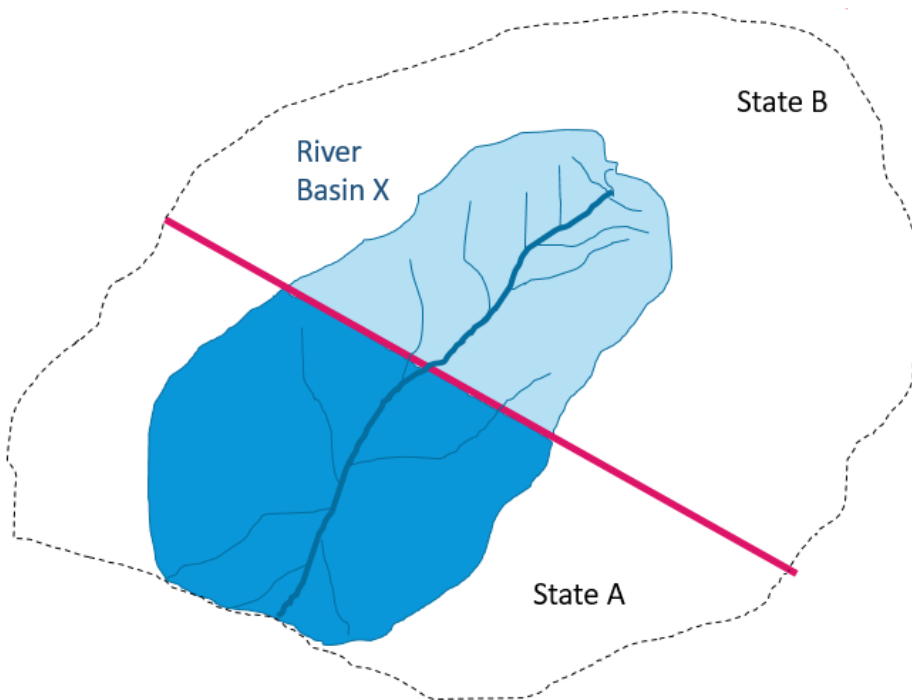
**Most of the world's water resources are shared => cooperation required**

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

# Calculation of the indicator value

## 2 main elements:

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



## What is an 'operational' arrangement?

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

# NOTE!

## Two components necessary for indicator value

- Transboundary River and lake basins
- Transboundary aquifers

## Aquifer component:

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

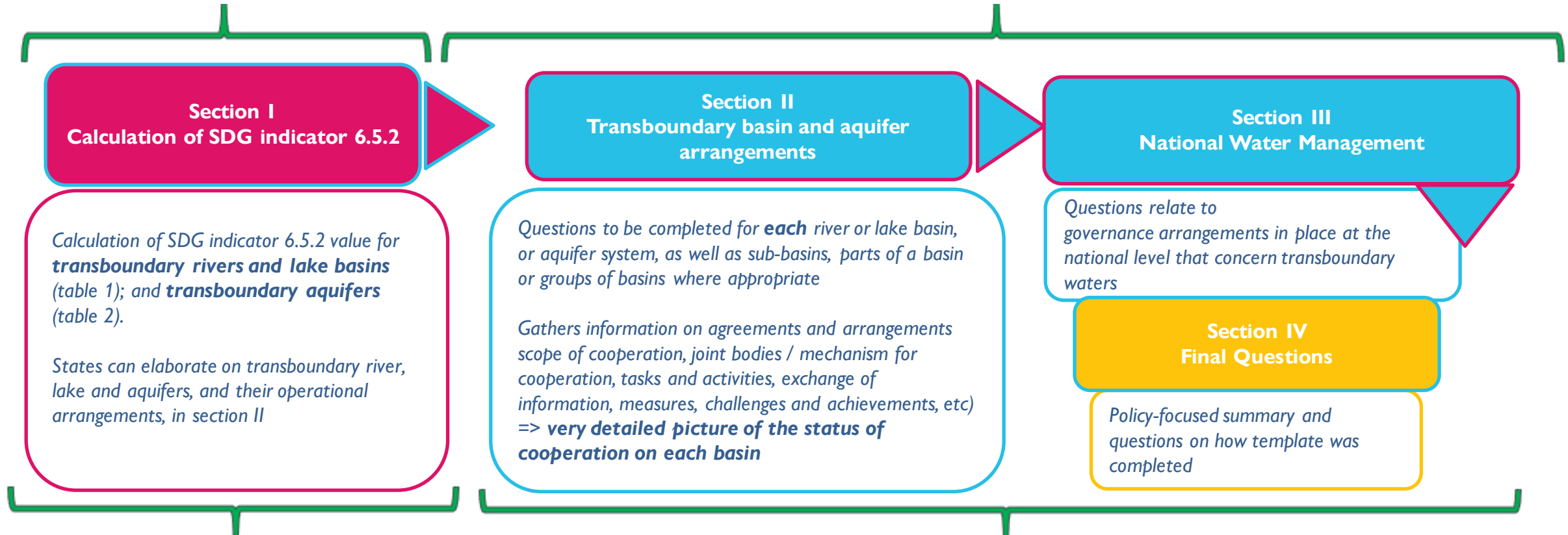
## Aquifer component: data gathering and indicator calculation

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

# Structure and content of national report on SDG indicator 6.5.2

## SDG 6.5.2 calculation

## Additional information to explain, substantiate and complement indicator data

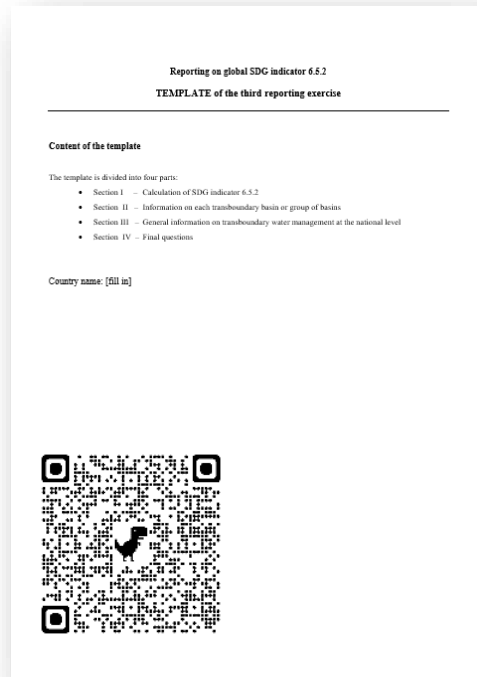


**Step-by-Step methodology** contains guidance to completing this section

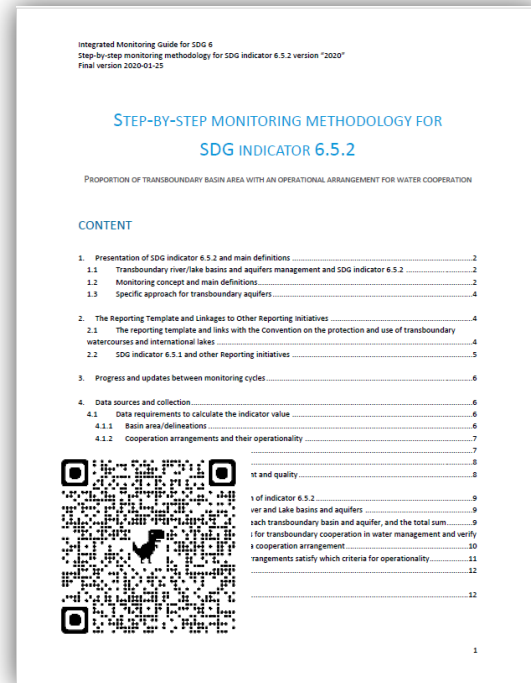
**Guide to reporting** contains guidance to completing these sections



# Guidance documents for national reports on SDG indicator 6.5.2



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



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



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



Opportunities to coordinate with neighboring countries when completing the national report



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

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

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

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



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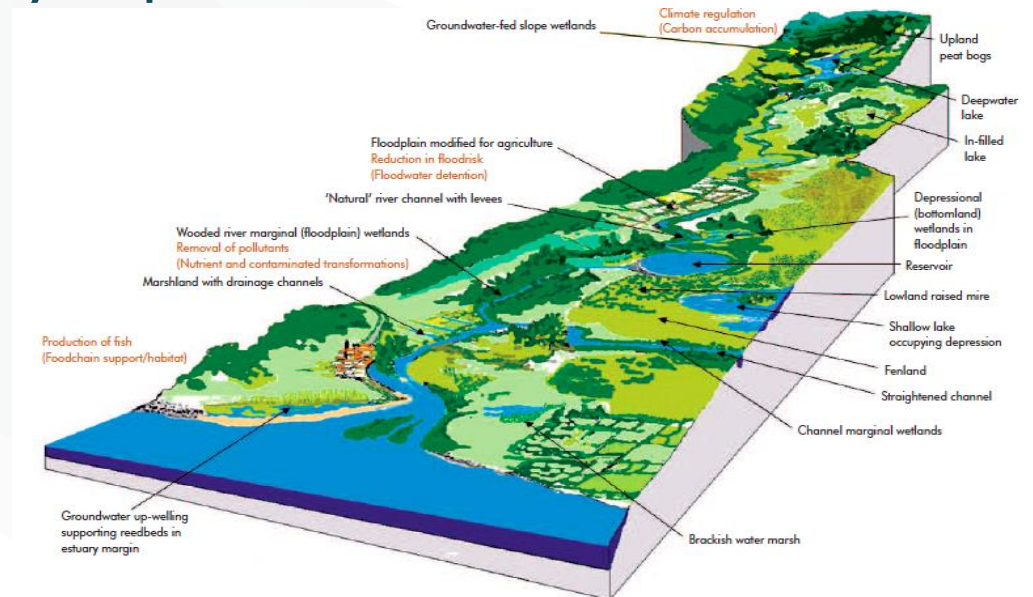
# Global legal frameworks



- 1992 Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention)
  - Model Provisions on Transboundary Groundwaters
  - Practical guide for the development of agreements for transboundary water cooperation
- 1997 Convention on the Law of the Non-navigational Uses of International Watercourses (Watercourses Convention)
- 2008 Draft Articles on the Law of Transboundary Aquifers

⇒ Practical support and an important basis to negotiate new arrangements or revise existing ones

⇒ Need to make the best use of these instruments and interpret them in a harmonized manner so to foster transboundary water governance



# Synergies between reporting and transboundary cooperation



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## Address Data Gaps



There has been **strong country engagement** in the monitoring exercise, but data remains a challenge, particularly for **transboundary aquifers and countries with no SDG indicator value**

## SDG INDICATOR 6.5.2 TRANSBOUNDARY WATER COOPERATION



**Upscale  
capacity  
development**

Capacity building is important for negotiating and implementing operational arrangements

### Strengthen legal frameworks



The water conventions and the draft articles on transboundary aquifers **offer a solid basis** upon which to **revise or negotiate** new arrangements

### Leveraging and mobilizing expertise

There is a need to **upscale and coordinate** the activities of international organizations to **provide targeted support** to countries



### Building political will

addressing **structural barriers** and finding **innovative financing mechanisms** is needed to address current financing shortfalls



**SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework**





# Tips and advice

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



# Thanks for listening!



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## 6.5.2 Helpdesk



UNECE:

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



UNESCO:

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

## Further information on Indicator 6.5.2

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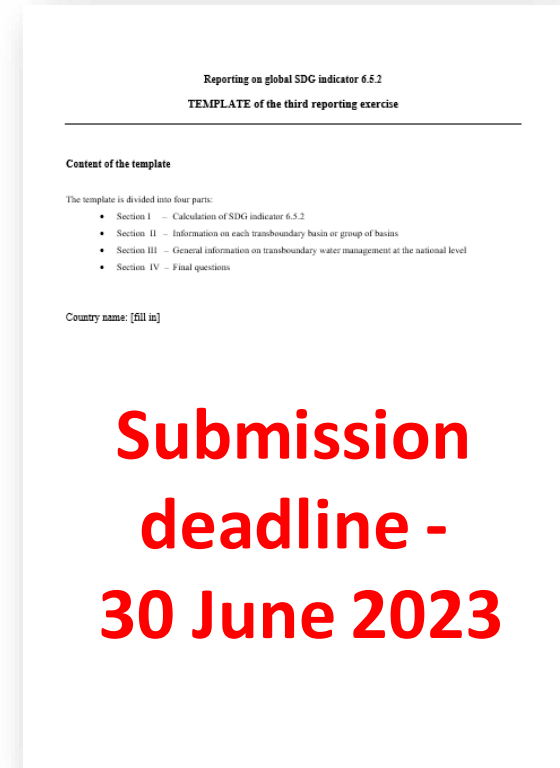
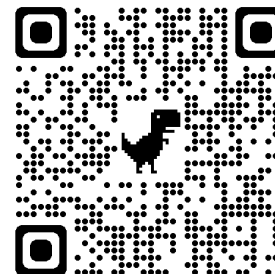
UNESCO



UN-Water SDG 6  
Monitoring



SDG 6 Data Portal



**Submission  
deadline -  
30 June 2023**



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