



Measuring and monitoring transboundary water cooperation SDG 6.5.2 indicator

Process and outcomes of the first reporting exercise

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SDG indicator 6.5.2: Presentation and Rationale

- **Target 6.5**

„By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate“

Justification for a **devoted indicator** on transboundary cooperation: Most of the world's water resources are shared. Development and management of water resources has impacts across transboundary basins -> cooperation required.

Rationale: Specific agreements or other arrangements concluded between co-riparian countries are a key precondition to ensure long-term, sustainable cooperation.

SDG indicator 6.5.2: Presentation and Rationale

- **Indicator 6.5.2:**

„Proportion of transboundary basin area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation”

- Was agreed upon by the UN Statistical Commission in March 2016
- SDG indicators framework formally adopted by the Statistical Commission and ECOSOC (way to the General Assembly)

Custodian agencies: UNECE Water Convention and UNESCO

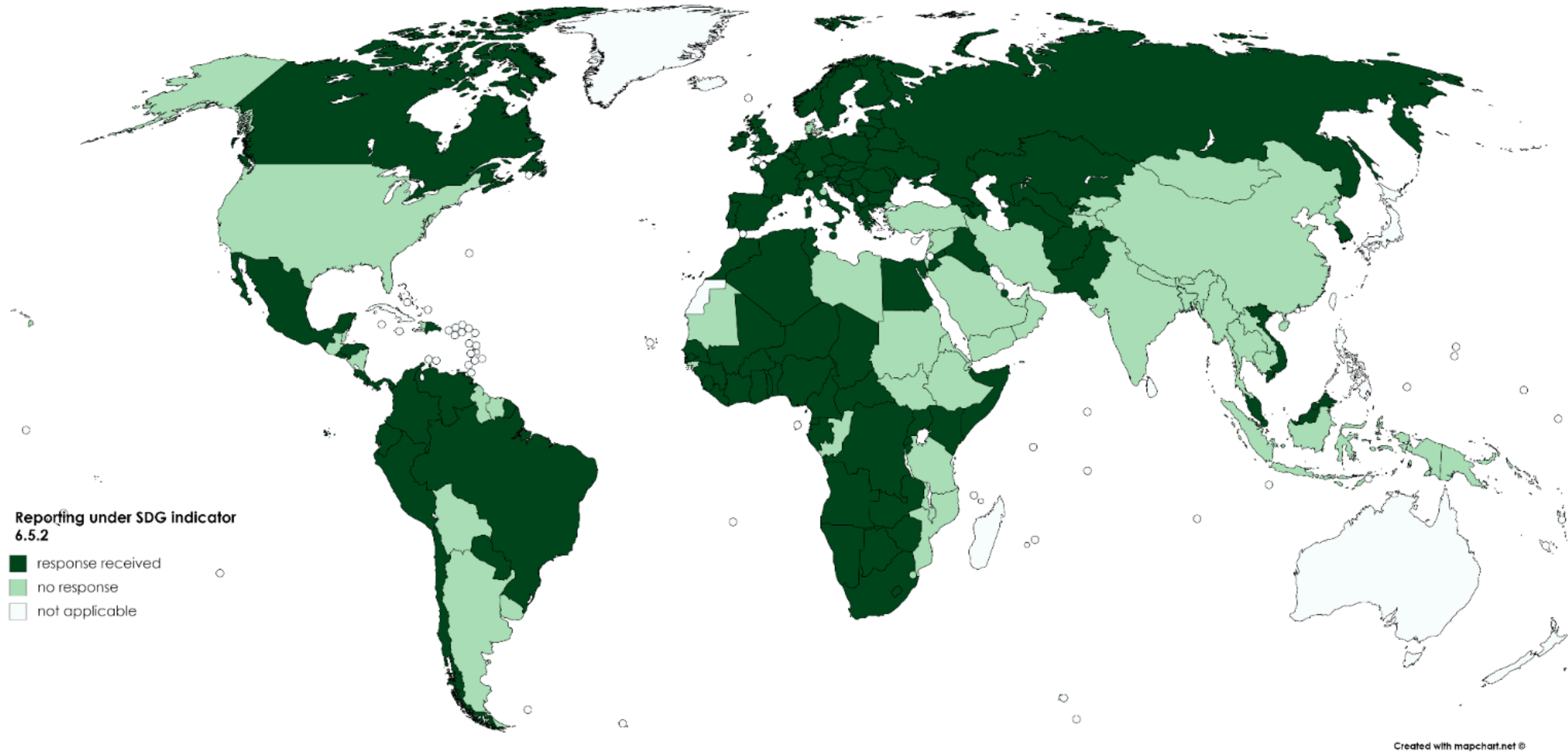
- **Complements indicator 6.5.1** which measures advancement of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM)

Indicator 6.5.2 Transboundary water cooperation

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

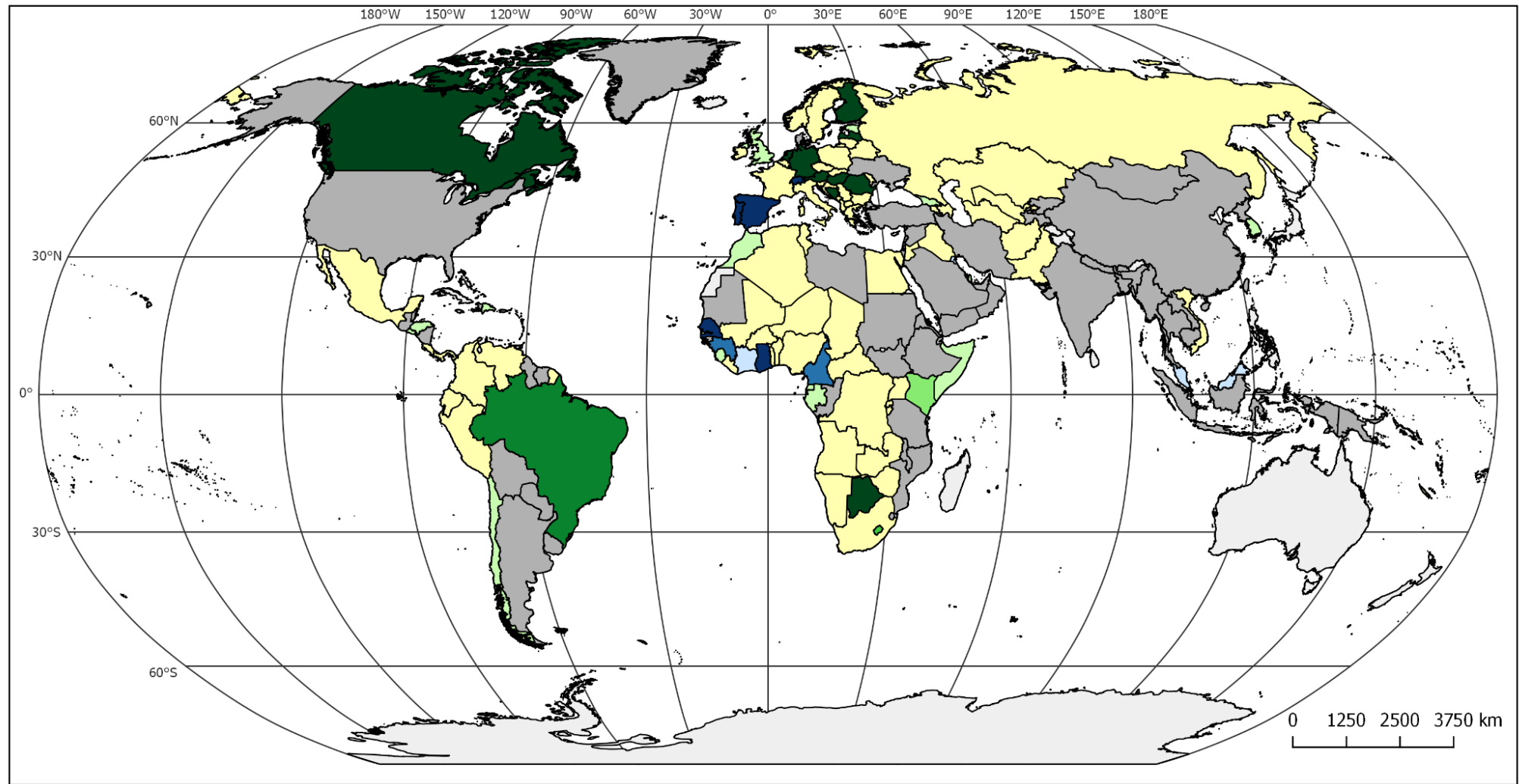
- Indicator methodology tested in 5 countries under GEMI Integrated Monitoring Initiative: confirmed simplicity and data availability.
- UNECE and UNESCO initiated data and information collection through a questionnaire addressed to Ministers responsible for transboundary waters in early 2017
- In addition to the calculation of indicator 6.5.2, countries were invited to provide more detailed information on the basis of the template for reporting under the Water Convention
 - Benefits: more complete picture, track better progress, help validate indicator value, no duplication of reporting
- Countries supported by a set of measures (methodological guidance, helpdesk, capacity building, including webinars and face-to-face sessions in UNECE and UNESCO events, notably the Convention's Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management)

Indicator 6.5.2 Transboundary cooperation



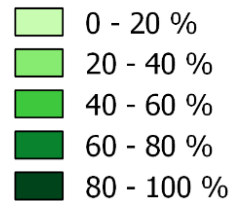
Initial reporting exercise a great success:
102 responses received (145 countries share transboundary waters)

*On going process
of validation of
country reports*

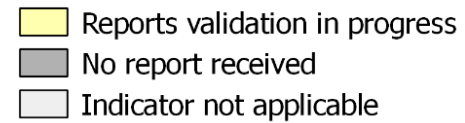
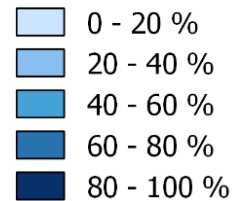


Legend

Reports validated for surface and groundwater



Report validated for surface water and no groundwater data



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Lessons learned from the process

- **Identifying appropriate national focal point for transboundary water issues**
 - Able to build upon existing knowledge and relationships (Water Convention and IHP focal points)
- **Some reports were prepared through extensive coordination**
 - At national or transboundary level (with neighbours or within joint bodies)
 - Reporting already had an impact in terms of increased visibility and awareness of the problems at national and transboundary levels
 - The reporting process also improved synergies between national institutions
- **Difficulties in completing the reporting template**
 - Inconsistencies between questionnaire and SDG calculation
 - Supporting measures assisted, but more extensive work with countries through validation process is needed
 - Reporting template will be clarified and revised for next cycle

Lessons learned from the process



- **Information reported**

- Reports include a wealth of data never reported before, many reports very transparent on the existing challenges
- Groundwater data a particular challenge
- Establishes a baseline for transboundary water cooperation in support of water and other SDGs

- **Feedback from countries**

- Deadline for reporting too tight
- Reporting is demanding but useful, to identify good practices and improve coordination nationally and cooperation with riparians
- Important to discuss outcome of reporting and needed responses in the framework of the Water Convention



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Reporting as a trigger for change

- A process until 2030! This is the first step.
- Reporting requires remarkable work, but helpful to review current status and progress made
- Countries appreciated to provide in depth-information beyond the requirement for the calculation of the indicator value.
- Reporting process as an opportunity for countries to identify good practices, to improve coordination nationally and with riparians and to raise visibility of transboundary cooperation
- Challenge of transboundary aquifers inclusion

Summary of next steps

- July-December 2017: Validation and analysis of the reports received
- Sept-Dec 2017: Input to the UN-Water synthesis report
- October 2017-April 2018: Preparation of the first global report on indicator 6.5.2 and other inputs, if any, for the high-level political forum.
- Oct 2017-September 2018: Preparation of report on the implementation of the Water Convention (UNECE)
- July 2018: **High Level Political Forum**: in depth review of SDG 6, including presentation of SDG 6 synthesis report and, if possible of the global report on indicator 6.5.2
- August 2018: World Water Week: promotion of the findings of reporting
- 10-12 October 2018: **Water Convention MOP8** (UNECE) : First report on implementation of the Convention; discussion on progress of transboundary water cooperation worldwide; adoption of the decision on reporting and the revised reporting template.

