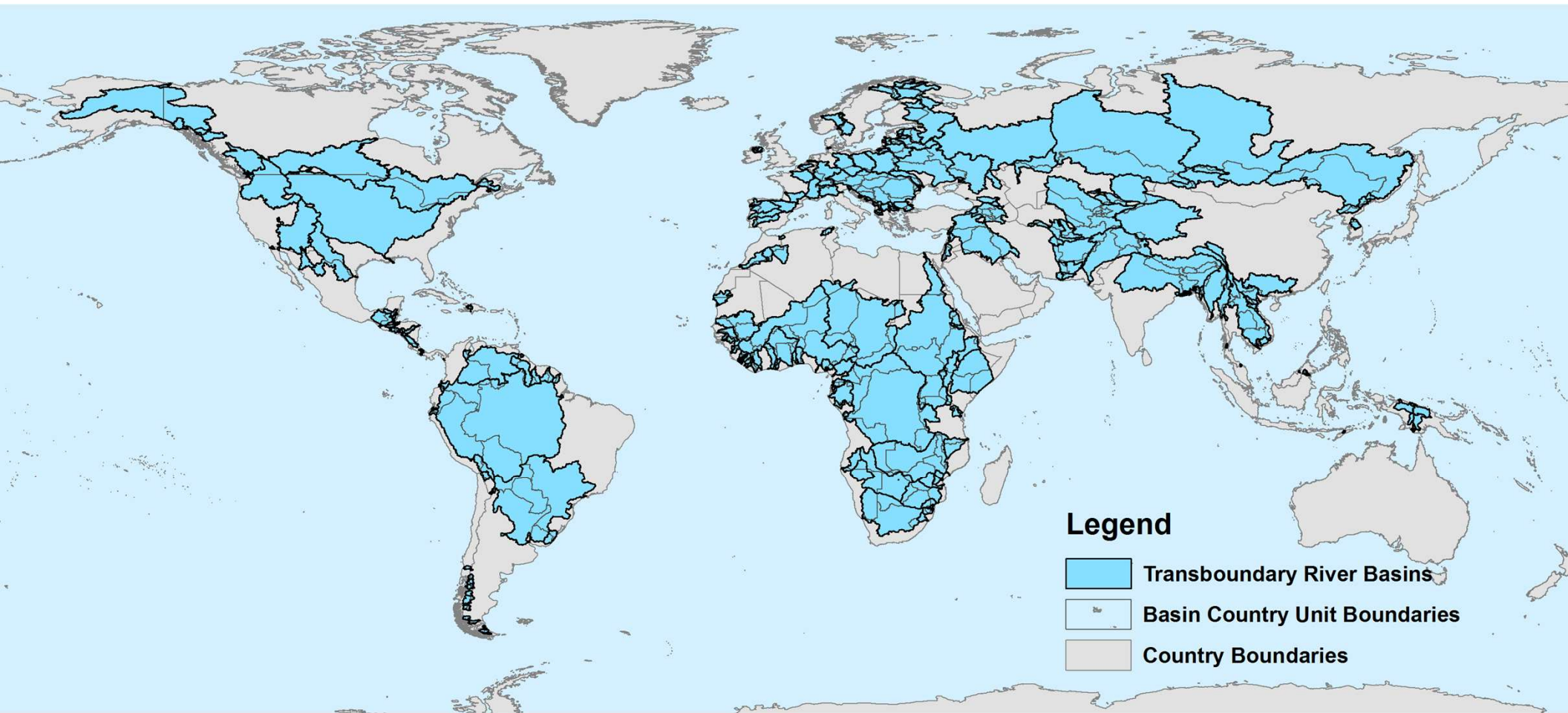




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# Water, Ecosystems and Nature-Based solutions: experiences from the Water Convention

Hanna Plotnykova, Environment Affairs Officer, UNECE



# UN Water Convention



A global legal and institutional framework for **transboundary water cooperation** contributing to **sustainable development**, international **peace** and **regional integration**.



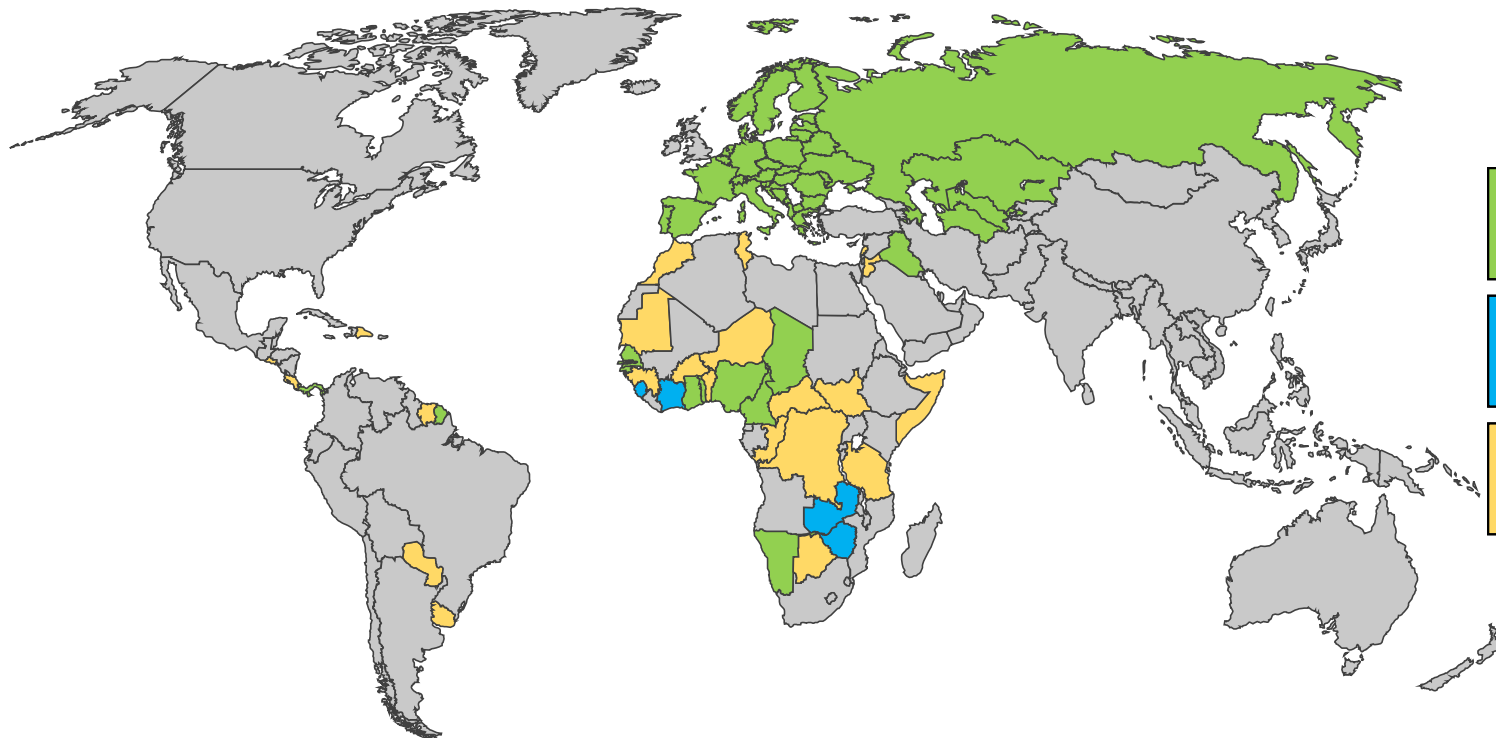
A **unique platform** to discuss progress of **transboundary water cooperation** worldwide under the umbrella of the **United Nations**



Opened to all interested countries, with **more than 140 countries** exchanging experiences and knowledge to prompt progress in cooperation



# Growing momentum for accession to the UN Water Convention



**52 Parties**

**Parties to the Convention (52) – newest: The Gambia, Panama, Namibia, Nigeria and Iraq**

**Countries very close to accession: Côte d'Ivoire, Sierra Leone, Zambia and Zimbabwe**

**Countries in the process of accession to the Convention (>20)**

Globalization guided by the **Strategy for the implementation of the Water Convention at global level**

*Last update: 3 May 2024*

*Note: The boundaries and names shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations*

# Globally, transboundary water cooperation is lagging behind (Results of the 3rd reporting in 2023 on SDG 6.5.2)

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

### UNESCO and UNECE custodian agencies

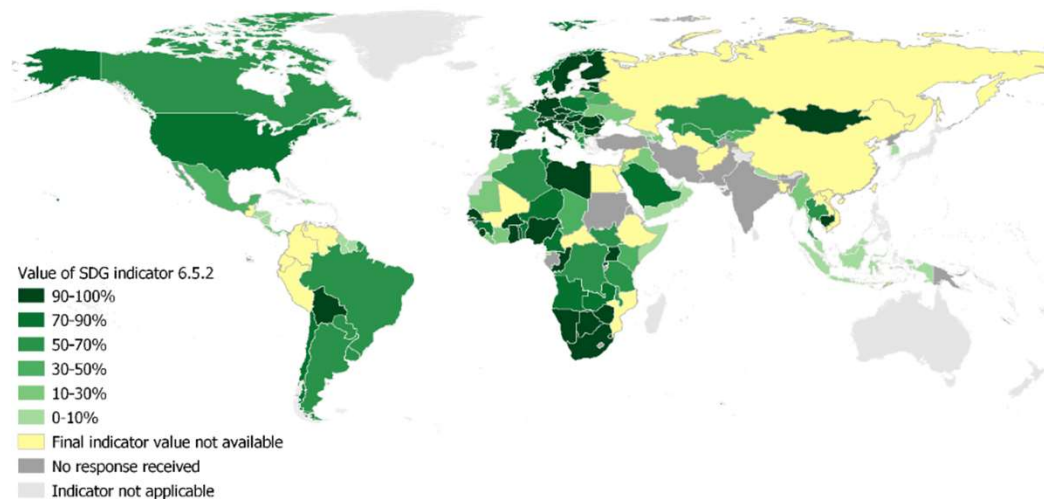
### High level of engagement

- In 2023: **129** out of 153 countries sharing transboundary waters submitted reports

### Not on track

- The global average of the SDG indicator 6.5.2 value is **59%** : no significant change from last cycle
- Only **43** countries sharing transboundary rivers, lakes and aquifers have operational arrangements in place for 90% or more of their transboundary waters

SDG Indicator 6.5.2 values and responses received in 2023/2024\*



\* Includes 2020 data from 15 countries, where 2023/2024 data are not available

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

# What topics or subjects of cooperation are included in the agreement or arrangement?

SDG indicator 6.5.2 reporting template, sect. II, question 2(d) – What topics or subjects of cooperation are included in the agreement or arrangement? (based on at least one country within a basin responding positively to the question) (2023-24)



One of the achievements in implementing the agreements is **improvement in ecosystem restoration management**

# The Water Convention & ecosystem conservation

- Unique **global and legal intergovernmental framework** for transboundary water cooperation (brings benefits to NbS)
- **Conservation, restoration of ecosystems & ecosystem approach** as a part of sustainable water resources management on a transboundary level
- Activities on ecosystems in the **early 2000s**
- **Motion 17 Cooperation on transboundary freshwaters to ensure ecosystem conservation, climate resilience and sustainable development**

<https://www.iucncongress2020.org/motion/017>



# Conservation under the Water Convention

- Water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus
- Task Force on Climate and Water
- Global Network of basins working on climate change adaptation
- Global workshop on EbA in transboundary basins (2019)
- New area on ecosystems in programme of work 2025-2027

<https://unece.org/environment/news/advancing-ecosystem-based-adaptation-climate-change-transboundary-basins>

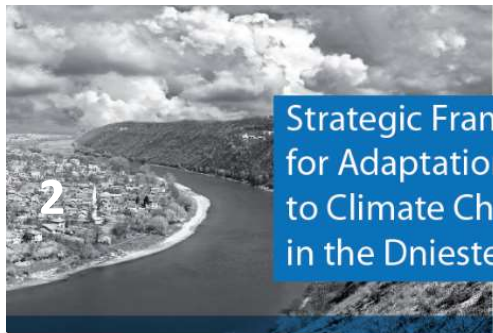
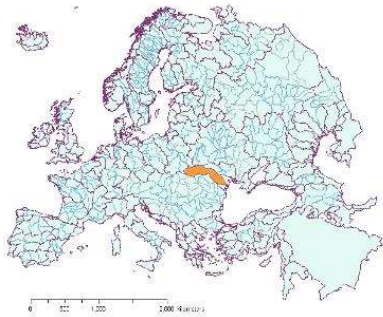


<https://www.unece.org/env/water/publications/pub.html>

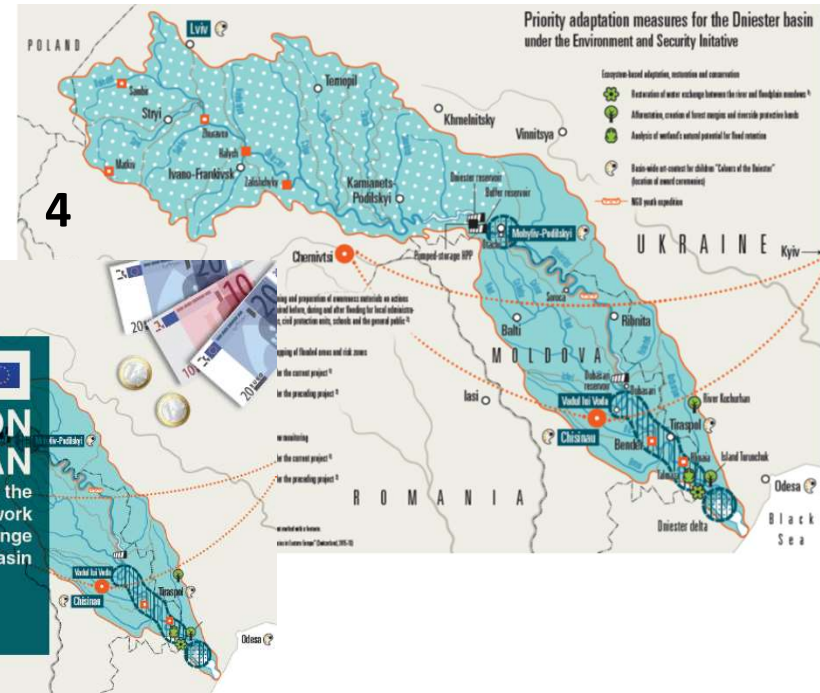




# Dniester case-study



2 Strategic Framework for Adaptation to Climate Change in the Dniester River Basin



# Outcomes



- The Dniester Treaty



- The Dniester Commission



- Working Group on Biodiversity



- Dniester RBMP



- Stakeholder engagement

## I. General Provisions

### Article 1

#### Objective of the Treaty

1. The objective of the present Treaty is to establish legal and institutional foundations for cooperation towards achieving rational and environmentally sound use and protection of water and other natural resources and **ecosystems** of the Dniester River basin in the interests of population and sustainable development of the states of the Contracting Parties.

### Article 12

#### Conservation and use of aquatic biological resources

### Article 13

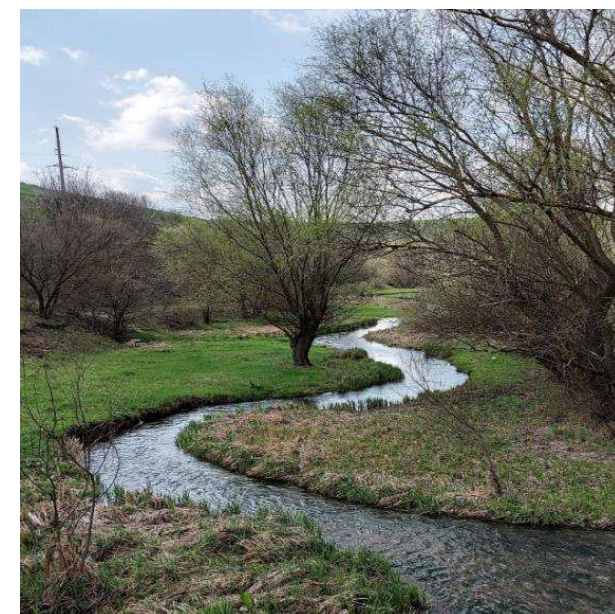
#### Protected areas

### Article 14

#### Protection and conservation of the marine environment of the Black Sea



# Restoration of the Yagorlyk River



1. Restoration of a river section of 8.5 km
2. Reduction of reed areas and restoration of floodplain
3. Promoting sustainable use of natural resources together with local communities

Source: <https://dniester-commission.com/novosti/obse-s-partnerami-uspeshno-zavershili-raboty-po-ekologicheskomu-vozstanovleniyu-chasti-reki-yagorlyk-v-odesskoj-oblasti/>

# Recommendations

**Integrate ecosystems, NbS and biodiversity into river basin management planning and transboundary cooperation mechanisms** such as river basin organisations, transboundary arrangements/ agreements and actively engage the relevant stakeholders.

**Integrate ecosystems, NbS and biodiversity and the benefits of transboundary cooperation into climate agenda:**

- National Determined Contributions (**NDCs**) and National Adaptation Plans (**NAPs**); and
- **UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience** and UAE-Belem work program on indicators as well as **Global Stocktake**.

More info on MOP10 :

[https://unece.org/MOP10\\_Water\\_Convention](https://unece.org/MOP10_Water_Convention)

Join us for THE **largest and only international event** driving the **transboundary water cooperation agenda** at the global level!

**High level segment** "Our waters, our future: transboundary water cooperation to power climate resilience"

More than **500** participants expected, from about **80 countries** responsible for water, environment, foreign affairs and development cooperation, representatives of RBOs, IGOs, NGOs, IFIs and academia!



#WaterConvention



#MOP10



10<sup>th</sup> session

Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention

23-25 OCTOBER 2024 | LJUBLJANA | SLOVENIA



**For more information:**

<https://www.unece.org/env/water/>

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