



**Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary  
Watercourses and International Lakes**

**Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management**

Nineteenth meeting

**Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment**

Nineteenth meeting

Geneva, 6-8 May 2024

Item 5 of the provisional agenda

**Global processes and recent developments  
related to transboundary water cooperation**

## **Main outcomes of the online survey for the development of the programme of work for 2025–2027**

### **Note by the secretariat**

#### **Background**

At its eighteenth meeting (Geneva, 19–21 June 2023), the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management decided to develop the draft programme of work for 2025–2027 in a consultative manner that would include an online survey on priorities of work under the Water Convention for 2025-2027.

The Water Convention secretariat launched an online survey on 13 November 2023 to collect suggestions and expectations. The survey (available in four languages – French, English, Spanish and Russian) was disseminated on 13 November 2023 to Parties, non-Parties, organizations and partners, with an extended submission deadline of 22 December 2023. The structure of the survey was based on the current programme of work 2022-2024 and its seven programme areas. The proposed activities mentioned in the survey were identified from (1) the discussions at the meetings of intergovernmental bodies, (2) proposals made by lead Parties and partners and (3) needs identified through reporting under the Water Convention and on SDG indicator 6.5.2.

In total, 63 complete responses were received and considered in the analysis. The survey results are not fully representative, as several countries and partners did not complete the survey, but provide useful indications on priorities and suggestions for the development of the draft programme of work for 2025-2027.

This document provides an overview of the responses received and aims to inform the Working Groups for their discussion on the draft programme of work of the Water Convention for 2025-2027. It includes an analysis of the prioritization of proposed activities for each programme area. It also lists additional suggestions about activities and possible contributions received through the survey.

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## Introduction

The respondents were invited:

- to indicate the level of priority for each activity proposed for the selected programme areas;
- to describe any activities that was not included among the proposed activities and that would be important for their country/organization;
- to answer several open-ended questions.

Respondents were invited to consider the following criteria when answering and proposing possible additional activities: activity of common interest and/or addressing a common challenge; coherence of the activities with the specific nature of the work carried out under the Convention; added value of the Convention’s platform to implement the activities; expected tangible impact of the activities.

Rating for questions 5 to 82 is as follows:

<b>1</b> (not relevant)	<b>2</b> (not so important)	<b>3</b> (useful but not necessary)	<b>4</b> (important)	<b>5</b> (highly important)
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## List of respondents to the survey

Country / Entity	Information of Respondents	Type	Region
<b>1. Austria</b>	Christian Schilling, Senior Water Policy Officer, Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Regions and Water Management	Party	ECE
<b>2. Botswana</b>	Ireen Madilola, Principal Water Resources Engineer, Department of Water and Sanitation	Non-Party	Africa
<b>3. Costa Rica</b>	Esteban Alonso Arias Carvajal, Adviser to the Department of Treaties, Boundaries and Frontiers, Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Non-Party	Latin America
<b>4. Côte d'Ivoire</b>	Eugène Wonnan Yeo, Directorate General of Water Resources, Ministry of Water and Forests	Non-Party	Africa
<b>5. Czech Republic</b>	Marta Havlickova, Focal Point, Ministry of the Environment	Party	ECE

<b>6. DR Congo</b>	Ritha Boota Bollankake and Faustin Ngediko Ekumu, Experts in Water Resources, Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development	Non-Party	Africa
<b>7. Dominican Republic</b>	Elpidio Tineo Manon, water Director, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources	Non-Party	Latin America
<b>8. El Salvador</b>	Roberto Adolfo Cerón Pineda, Manager of Hydrology and National Focal points of the Water Convention, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources	Non-Party	Latin America
<b>9. Estonia</b>	Harry Liiv, Special Envoy for Transboundary Waters, Ministry of Climate	Party	ECE
<b>10. European Commission, DG Environment</b>	Dagmar Behrendt Kaljarikova, International Policy Officer	Party	ECE
<b>11. Finland</b>	Turo Hjerppe, Senior Specialist, Ministry of the Environment	Party	ECE
<b>12. France</b>	Fanny-Tsilla Koninckx, Policy Officer – Water, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs	Party	ECE
<b>13. Germany</b>	Heide Jekel, Head of Division, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection	Party	ECE
<b>14. Ghana</b>	Bernadette Araba Adjei, Director, Legal and Monitoring Department, Water Resources Commission	Party	Africa
<b>15. Guinea-Bissau</b>	Hilario Sanha, Director of Water Supply and Sanitation	Party	Africa
<b>16. Hungary</b>	Peter Kovacs, Water Director, Head of Department, Ministry of Interior	Party	ECE
<b>17. Iraq</b>	Hussein Abdula Ammer Bug, Technical Deputy to the Ministry of Water Resources	Party	Middle East
<b>18. Jordan</b>	Mohammad al Dwairi, Secretary General Assistant for Strategic Planning, Ministry of Water & Irrigation	Non-Party	Middle East
<b>19. Latvia</b>	Ilona Vilne, Senior Consultant, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development	Party	ECE
<b>20. Lebanon</b>	Mona Fakih, Director of Water, Ministry of Energy and Water	Non-Party	Middle East
<b>21. Luxembourg</b>	Bruno Alves, Attaché, Ministry of the Environment, Climate and Biodiversity	Party	ECE
<b>22. Montenegro</b>	Zorica Đuranović, Head of Department for Water Management, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management	Party	ECE
<b>23. Morocco</b>	Souliman Kaichouh, Chief, Division for Potable Water Supply, Ministry of Equipment and Water	Non-Party	Africa
<b>24. Myanmar</b>	Htay Htay Than, Director, Department of Meteorology and Hydrology	Non-Party	Asia
<b>25. Namibia</b>	Maria Amakali, Director, Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform	Party	Africa
<b>26. Netherlands</b>	Fleur Verhoef, Policy Advisor Climate Adaptation and Water International, Ministry of Infrastructure and Water management of the Netherlands	Party	ECE
<b>27. Republic of North Macedonia</b>	Ylber Mirta, Head of Department for Waters, Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning	Party	ECE
<b>28. Russian Federation</b>	Anna Kuznetsova, Water Management Institution "Centreregionvodkhoz"	Party	ECE
<b>29. Senegal</b>	Niokhor Ndour, Director, Department of Water Resource Management and Planning, Ministry of Water and Sanitation of Senegal	Party	Africa
<b>30. Slovakia</b>	Danka Thalmeinerova, Strategic Water Planning Officer, Ministry of Environment	Party	ECE

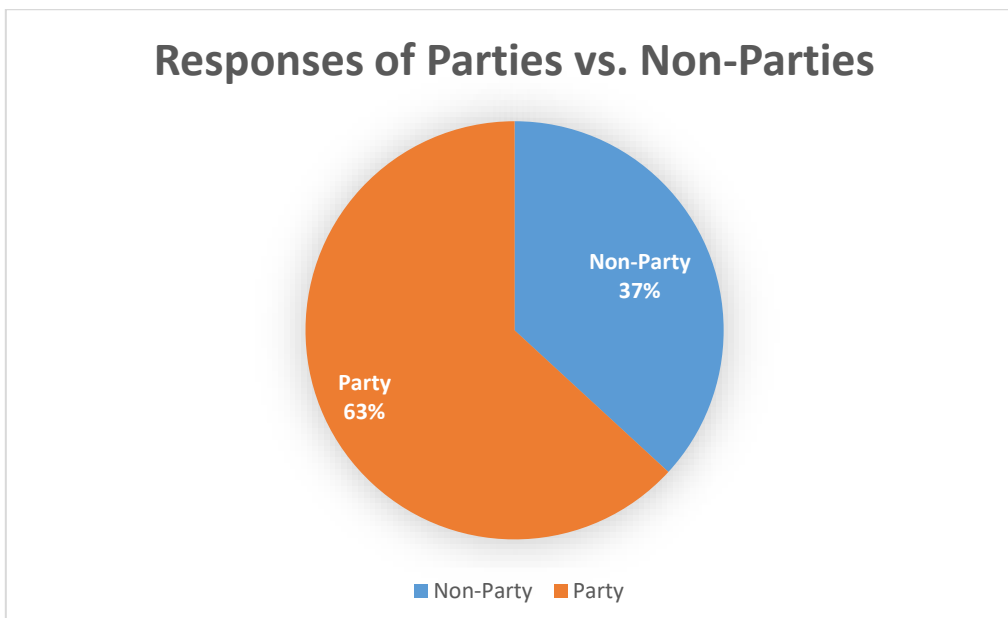
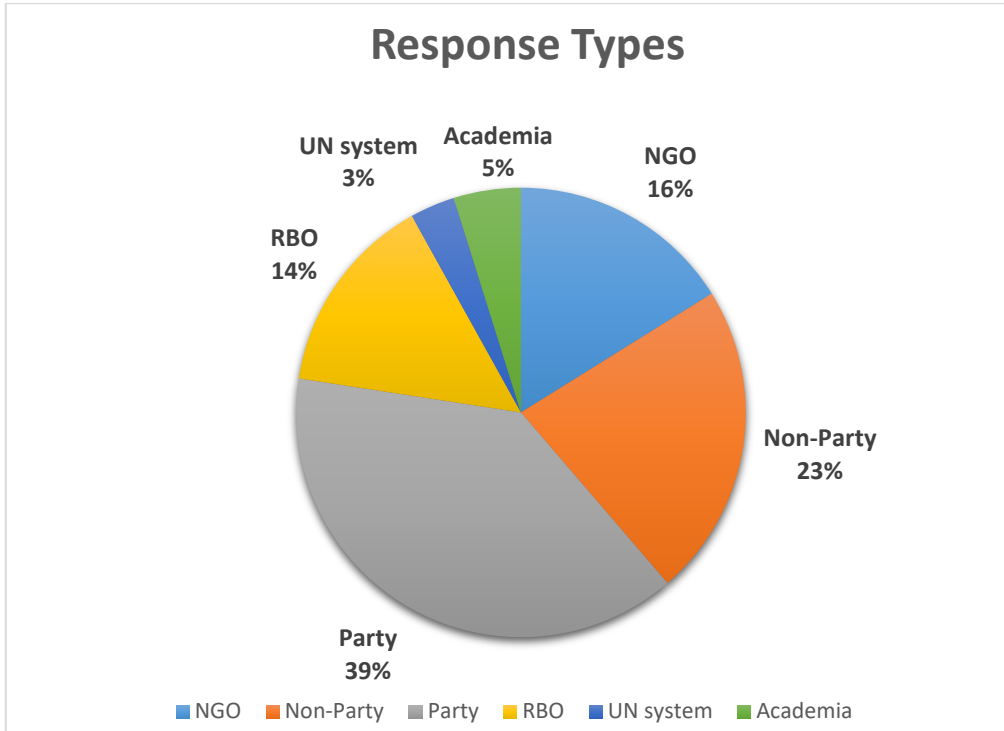
<b>31. Slovenia</b>	Aleš Bizjak, Transboundary Water Cooperation Expert, Ministry of Natural Resources and Spatial Planning of the Republic of Slovenia	Party	ECE
<b>32. South Sudan</b>	Francis Wajo, Director of Policy, Sector Coordination and Regulation, Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation	Non-Party	Africa
<b>33. Suriname</b>	Chermaine Dennen, Policy Officer, Ministry of Natural Resources	Non-Party	Latin America
<b>34. Switzerland</b>	Sibylle Vermont, Deputy Head of Section Global Affairs, International Affairs Division	Party	ECE
<b>35. Ukraine</b>	Vitalii Zhuk, Head of the Division of Protection and Reproduction of Water Resources and Marine Ecosystems, Ministry of Environment Protection and Natural Resources	Party	ECE
<b>36. Uzbekistan</b>	Pulatov Nurbek Bakhromovich, Head of Department of Hydrogeology and Geology, Ministry of Mining and Geology	Party	ECE
<b>37. Viet Nam</b>	Ngo Manh Ha, Deputy Director General, Department of Water Resources Management	Non-Party	Asia
<b>38. Zambia</b>	Ngosa Howard Mpamba, Assistant Director - International Waters Section, Ministry of Water Resources Development and Sanitation	Non-Party	Africa
<b>39. Zimbabwe</b>	Norest Ndawana, Deputy Legal Advisor, Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Development	Non-Party	Africa
<b>40. Office for Sustainable Development, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA)</b>	Simon Gilby, Sustainable Development Officer	UN system	World
<b>41. United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN ESCWA)</b>	Ziad Khayat, Economic Affairs Officer	UN system	Middle East
<b>42. International Commission for the Congo-Oubangui-Sangha Basin (CICOS)</b>	Georges Gulemvuga Guzanga, Water Resources Director	RBO	Africa
<b>43. Lake Chad Basin Commission</b>	Hycinth sunjo tah banseka, Technical Director	RBO	Africa
<b>44. Lake Victoria Basin Commission</b>	Coletha U. Ruhanya, Deputy Executive Secretary	RBO	Africa
<b>45. International Sava River Basin Commission</b>	Dragan Zeljko, Executive Secretary	RBO	ECE
<b>46. Niger Basin Authority</b>	Walter Bamidele Olatunji, Hydrologist Expert	RBO	Africa
<b>47. Organization for the Development of the Senegal River (OMVS)</b>	Aminata Sokhna Diop, Head of Investments and External Funding Division	RBO	Africa
<b>48. Joint Rivers Commission (Bangladesh)</b>	Mohammad Abul Hossen, Member	RBO	Asia

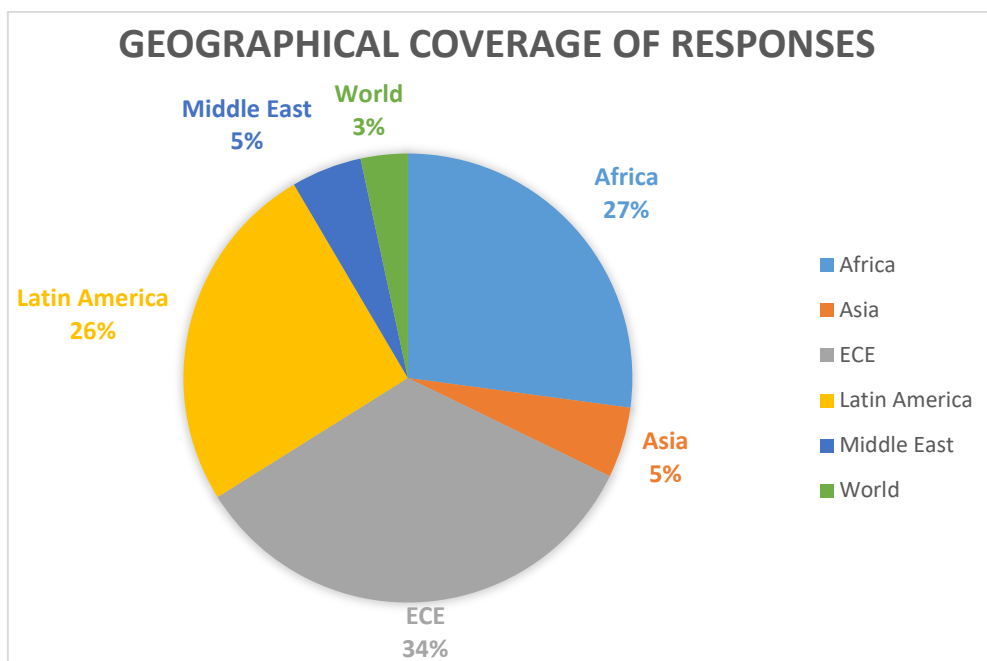
<b>49. Trilateral Commission for the Trifinio Plan (CTPT)</b>	Liseth Oliveth Hernández, Executive Secretary	RBO	Latin America
<b>50. Intergovernmental Coordinating Committee of the Countries of the La Plata Basin</b>	Juan Carlos Alurralde, Secretary General	RBO	Latin America
<b>51. International Network of Basin Organizations</b>	Edouard Boinet, Head of Project	NGO	World
<b>52. Geneva Water Hub</b>	Mara Tignino, Lead Legal Specialist	NGO	ECE
<b>53. Support Centre for Water and Environmental Management "Agua Sustentable"</b>	Paula Pacheco, Researcher	NGO	Latin America
<b>54. International Association for Water Law (AIDA)</b>	Stefano Burchi, Chair Emeritus	NGO	World
<b>55. International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)</b>	Maria Lindelien, Water Governance Officer	NGO	World
<b>56. International Groundwater Resources Assessment Centre (IGRAC)</b>	Arnaud Sterckx, Senior Groundwater Specialist	NGO	World
<b>57. International-Lawyers.org</b>	Curtis Doebbler, Interim President	NGO	World
<b>58. National Table of River Contracts (Italy)</b>	Massimo Bastiani, Coordinator	NGO	ECE
<b>59. National Water Partnership of Georgia</b>	George Dzamuka, Chair	NGO	ECE
<b>60. Northumbria University</b>	Alistair Rieu-Clarke, Law Professor	Academia	ECE
<b>61. The Arab Center for the Studies of Arid Zones and Dry Lands (ACSAD)</b>	Kassem Natouf, Groundwater Expert	Academia	Middle East
<b>62. Universidad Católica del Norte, Chile</b>	Dámara Araya Valenzuela, Researcher	Academia	Latin America
<b>63. Zoë Environment Network</b>	Otto Simonett, Director	NGO	World

## Overview of responses

Most of the respondents were from countries (60%) – among which 62% were Parties. 24 out of 52 Parties to the Water Convention responded to the survey (46% of the Parties).

In terms of geographical range of responses, 34% were from the UNECE region, followed by Africa (27%) as well as Latin America (26%).





## QUESTION 1 - Emerging issues / strategic foresight

### Emerging issues in the next 5-10 years:

#### 1. Impacts of Climate Change on Water Resources and Adaptation to Climate Change:

- Groundwater depletion and contamination issues (in particular PFAS and other emerging contaminants) and the inability of existing governance frameworks to address these issues.
- In the next 5 to 10 years, one of the most pressing issues in transboundary water cooperation will undoubtedly revolve around the dwindling water supply. The escalating demand for water resources, coupled with the impacts of climate change, population growth, and unsustainable water management practices, poses a significant threat to the availability of freshwater across borders. Striking a balance between the increasing water demand for agriculture, industry, and urban areas, and the need to preserve ecosystems and ensure equitable access, will require innovative and collaborative solutions.
- Climate change and extreme events (floods and droughts) affecting surface water → Adaptation
- Adaptation to climate change in a transboundary context
- Resilience of transboundary basins/aquifers under climate change
- Climate change adaptation, transfer of waste and plastic pollution from hydrographic basins to the ocean, emerging pollutants. Maybe the integration in the PoW of the Convention of the dissemination of knowledge and experiences on the reduction of the transfer of waste and plastic from transboundary basins to the ocean.
- Establish Climate Change Early Warning systems to improve planning and effectively address challenges while mitigating conflicts arising from resource competition.
- Impacts of climate change on traditional water resources. Ensuring resilience of transboundary cooperation and international arrangements in the face of climate change and increased climate variability.

#### 2. Funding and Financing:

- Private sector financing
- Financing + Climate Impact
- Lack / insufficient funding
- Growing interest in new parties to accede to the convention, increasing geopolitical tensions, impacts of the clean energy transition, food system transformation, finding interlinked solutions for climate change, biodiversity, and pollution, emerging need to pay attention to shared groundwater resources, challenges, and possibilities related to the digitalization of societies.

- Financing, Climate change, biodiversity, Secretariat resources (funding and responding to new Parties for implementation)
  - Digitalization for supporting policy making, the use of digital twins for monitoring, prevention, and planning.
  - Better cooperation between institutions in the field of water management (more meetings to exchange experiences in this field)
  - Financial crisis, Climate change
- 3. Pollution Issues:**
- Pollution on the transboundary river system
  - Emerging pollutants, antimicrobial resistance, residues of medicines (human and veterinary) in ecosystems
  - Inadequate cooperation arrangements, outdated transboundary water agreements, weak transboundary river basin organizations, lack of funding for transboundary water initiatives
  - Water pollution, lack of data, financial constraints, institutional and structural challenges
  - Water pollution, conflicts on transboundary projects and water allocation
  - Significant water management issues in river basin management and planning defined as organic, nutrient and hazardous substances pollution, hydromorphological alterations, and as well sediment management issues, groundwater quality and quantity, climate change adaptation
  - Implement strategies to reduce and prevent pollution from wastewater and other environmental hazards.
- 4. Legal Frameworks and Governance:**
- Legal frameworks and governance: Provide guidelines to solve existing conflicts in transboundary water bodies, mainly related with the seas. How to relate both Conventions, Transboundary Water Convention and the Law of the Sea
  - Inadequate cooperation arrangements, outdated transboundary water agreements, weak transboundary river basin organizations, lack of funding for transboundary water initiatives
  - Better cooperation between institutions in the field of water management (more meetings to exchange experiences in this field)
  - Bringing the DRC's accession to the Convention to a successful conclusion Strengthening the legal, regulatory and political frameworks. Putting in place measures to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change. Setting up joint projects to manage shared water resources.
  - Harmonization of riparian laws governing transboundary water
  - Establishing joint bodies to manage riparian water basins
- 5. Data and Knowledge Management:**
- Data is likely to be a key issue both in terms of ongoing monitoring and the development of scenarios for differing levels of global warming and climate change. Promoting understanding of the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus and the systems thinking this involves is also critical to the management of this complex issue.
  - Proper data exchange between countries covering the whole attachment areas, including aquifers
  - Data gathering and sharing
  - Implement monitoring of transboundary water resources, including both surface and groundwater. Develop and implement shared information systems to enhance knowledge sharing and collaboration on transboundary water resources.
- 6. Regional Cooperation and Peace:**
- Given the current political context, consider water as an entry point for peace and stability.
  - Transboundary water cooperation should add value to transboundary water basin management, should help to solve problems between countries. Convention should play a guiding role in that process. More than 30 new countries should join with Convention.
  - Transboundary management and prevention of invasive species, concerted corrective action, preservation of ecological continuity, prevention of algal blooms; Thermal exploitation of transboundary waters;
  - Renewal of Ganges Water Sharing Treaty, 1996



- Problems regarding the transboundary basin may arise in the Zarafshan River valley, which crosses the borders of Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, and mainly supplies about 14 million people with drinking water
- Peace and regional stabilization
- Implementing regional policies in the riparian states
- Water and peace, Resilience of water-dependent natural and anthropogenic systems to climate variability, Food security, Energy security
- Transboundary groundwater management, common glaciers.
- Desertification, Disaster Risks
- Public Participation in the Implementation of the Water-related Directives. Special attention should be also devoted to the study of the so-called “river contracts” negotiated between institutions and the general public – a practice that has now a solid history in Italy.
- Climate variability, Pressure over resources because of over the market
- Self-determination, climate change, human and peoples' rights
- Climate change in transboundary basins, water, food, and energy nexus, conflict management, integrated water resources management at basin level
- Establishing joint bodies to manage riparian water basins

### Emerging issues in the next 10-20 years:

#### 1. Climate Change and Water Scarcity:

- Soaring water demand, climate change
- Climate change and water scarcity impacting groundwater → Adaptation Pollution (e.g. PFAS)
- Climate change impacts will intensify, creating water scarcity and potential for conflict.
- Exacerbated climate change effects, risks from deteriorating large water infrastructure
- Water conflicts emerging from intensive uses and putting under jeopardy current agreements.
- Consequences of climate change and discourses of climate change over the basins
- Fighting water scarcity, water quality, use of data in transboundary water negotiations, and water diplomacy in transboundary basins
- Balancing water security for ecosystems and climate refugees Ensuring resilience of transboundary cooperation and international arrangements in the face of climate change and increased climate variability.
- Climate change, risk of pandemics, Financial crisis

#### 2. Lack of Binding Agreements in Transboundary Water Cooperation:

- To have solid dispute prevention and settlement clauses
- According to my experience in LAC, the most pressing issue in transboundary water cooperation over the next 10 to 20 years is the pervasive lack of binding agreements or treaties that facilitate effective international water management. The absence of robust frameworks often hampers collaborative efforts among neighboring countries to address shared water resources. This deficiency exacerbates challenges related to water scarcity, equitable distribution, and environmental sustainability. Without legally binding accords, there is a heightened risk of disputes and conflicts arising from competing interests, leading to suboptimal utilization of transboundary water sources.
- Greater emphasis on regulatory frameworks for shared actions between countries
- Funding and Governance issue (2) Climate change issue (3) Infrastructure issue (4) Environmental degradation issue (5) Cooperation issue
- All transboundary water basins activities should be based on basin management plans, with clear joint institutions. Water Convention should play the role of supervision over transboundary water management in those basins.
- Sustainability of agreements: How can we ensure that agreements between riparian countries are sustainable with dynamic changes in countries' policies?
- Giving joint bodies for managing riparian water basins a legal status that has an impact on the land
- Development of “soft law” instruments at the local scale (e.g. River Contracts) and “Effective public participation” (sharing information and conducting joint assessments) are two points that aim at the

stakeholders' active participation and may contribute in the long run to a bottom-up improvement in water governance.

- political and ethnic conflicts over allocation of water

### 3. **Public Participation:**

- Public Participation in the Implementation of the Water-related Directives. Special attention should be also devoted to the study of the so-called "river contracts" negotiated between institutions and the general public – a practice that has now a solid history in Italy.
- Development of "soft law" instruments at local scale (e.g. River Contracts) and "Effective public participation" (sharing information and conducting joint assessments) are two points which aim at the stakeholders' active participation and may contribute in the long run to a bottom-up improvement in water governance.

### 4. **Research and Smart Technologies:**

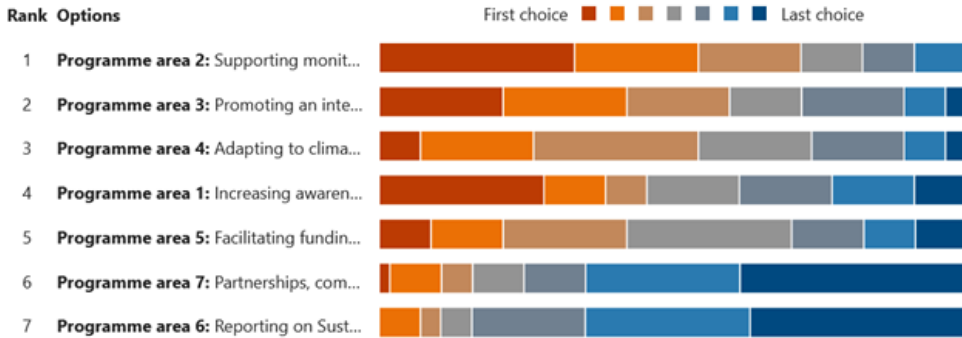
- Water nexus thinking (food, energy, environment but also security etc.), as difficult as it is to break down into manageable components will gain in importance. Here more will need to be done to work 'scaleless' from very local to global and integrate all sectors / actors
- Researching the application of cost-effective (both capital and O&M) smart technologies for monitoring and managing water resources, including irrigation. - Focusing on renewable energies, food security, water security, and ecosystem preservation. Addressing the impact of migration caused by geopolitical and climate-related extreme events, water security challenges, and environmental hazards.
- Climate Change impact on water resources and population increase which will lead to resources being depleted There will be a need to model our Water resources for sustainability in order to have proper mitigations and updated data for well-informed decision making There is a need to develop serious water allocation strategies
- Knowledge sharing

### 5. **Multidimensional Challenges:**

- integrated water resources management and embedding water issues in development plans of other sectors
- Low water level, redistribution of bed and bank sediments, water pollution, degradation of hydro-ecological system
- Potential transboundary effects of closed-circuit hydropower plants (pumping stations)
- Water Scarcity; Water Conflicts; Water Quality; Benefit Sharing; Difficulties & Weaknesses in Enforcement of Rules & Regulations; Institutional Weaknesses in Implementation; Unequal Bargaining Power
- Transboundary water cooperation and peace and security
- Migration, changes in agricultural dynamics, privatization of water, changes in water bodies salinity due to desalination
- Increasing water demands
- Joint management of climate change impacts

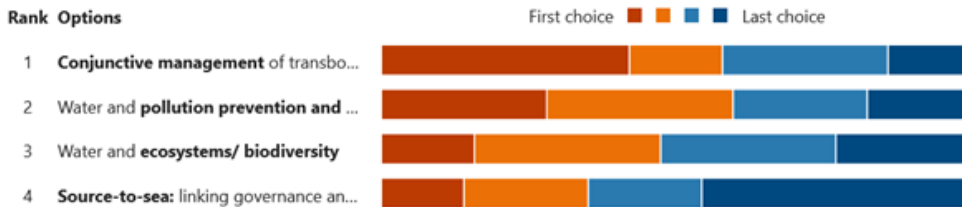
### QUESTION 2 – Current programme areas

8. Please rank the current programme areas according to their relevance to the work for your country/ organization. (1= most relevant, 7 = least relevant)



### QUESTION 3 – New programme areas

9. How would you rank the below topics, in order of priority as new stand-alone programme areas or sub-programme areas? (1= most relevant, 4 = least relevant)

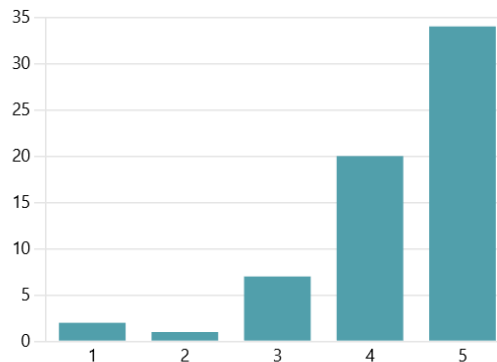


### QUESTION 4 – Programme area 1 – Increasing awareness of and accession to the Convention and application of its principles drawing on the benefits of cooperation

#### Sub-area 1.1 Increasing awareness and supporting national processes towards accession

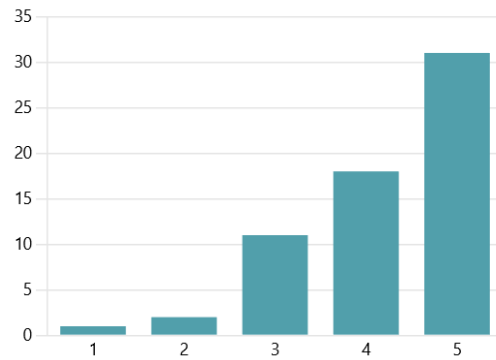
10. Promotion of the Water Convention and its activities through the organization of presentations, sessions/webinars and/or side events at global and regional meetings such as the World Water Forum, the World Water Week, the Africa Water Week and the Asia-Pacific Water Forum, etc.

4.30  
Average Rating



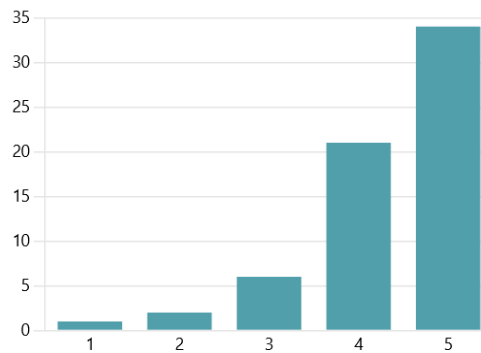
11. Organization of international water law/water diplomacy trainings, webinars or contribution to such trainings organized by partners

**4.21**  
Average Rating



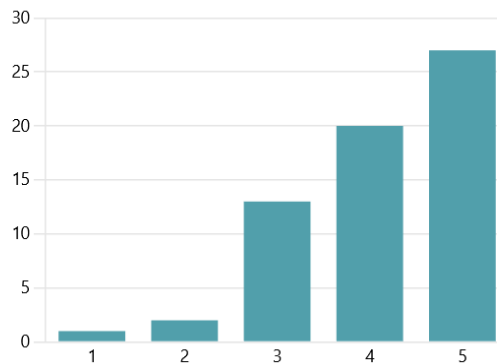
12. Support to countries preparing for accession (provision of legal and technical advice, organization of national workshops, etc.)

**4.33**  
Average Rating



13. Organisation of trainings in countries working on accession and new Parties to the Convention on regulatory systems (permits) for wastewater discharges and other point source pollution and related monitoring and control

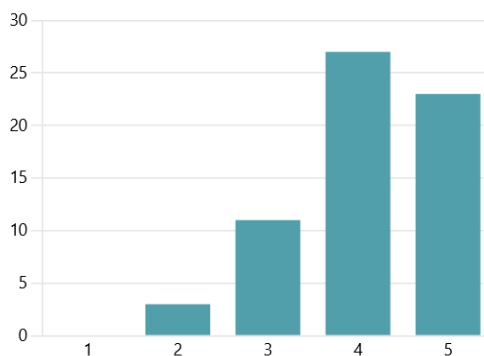
**4.11**  
Average Rating



*Sub-area 1.2 Increasing capacity for implementation of the Convention at the national and regional level, including in new Parties*

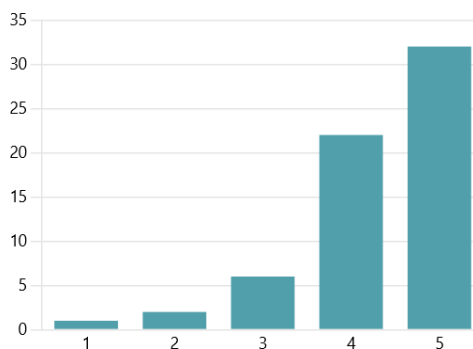
14. Support to twinning between countries working on accession and/or new Parties to the Convention and interested Parties

**4.09**  
Average Rating



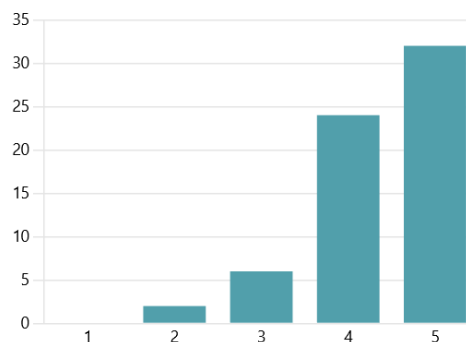
15. Organization of training workshops “from practitioner to practitioner” to strengthen the capacity of key actors and experts involved in transboundary water cooperation and equip them with the knowledge about the Water Convention

**4.30**  
Average Rating



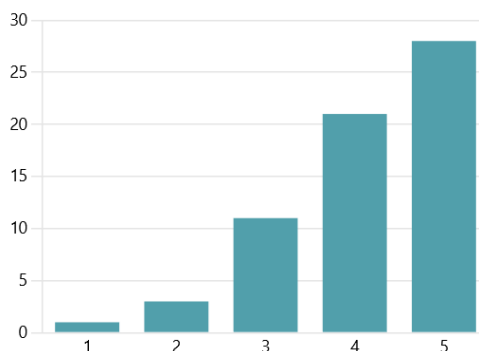
16. Strengthening cooperation with partners (intergovernmental and other organizations, basin organizations, transboundary commissions, UN regional commissions and other UN agencies, UN country teams, regional economic communities, academia) to encourage and support them to promote and apply the Water Convention

**4.34**  
Average Rating



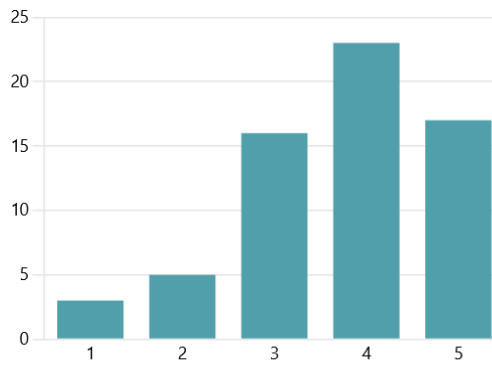
17. Organization of regional, sub-regional and basin events on the Convention in Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America

**4.13**  
Average Rating



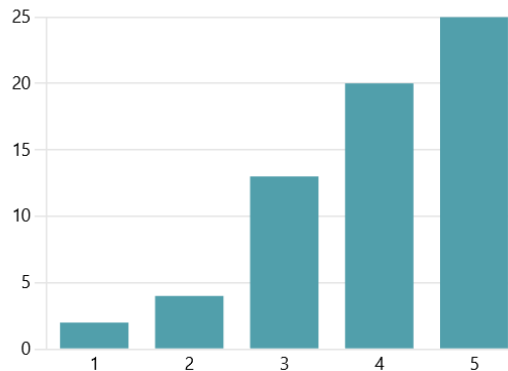
18. Updating the *Guide to Implementing the Convention* considering the global experience and to demonstrate ways for synergetic implementation of the two UN Water Conventions

**3.72**  
Average Rating



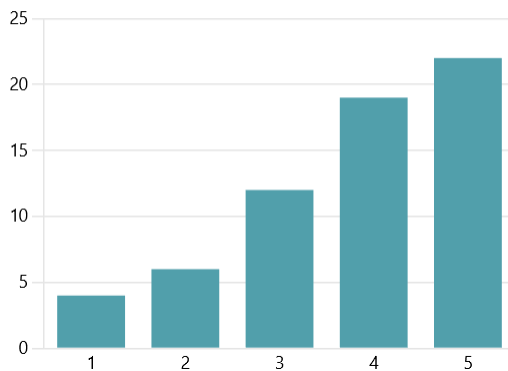
19. Develop a mechanism (matchmaking facility) to bring together project-holders and donors

**3.97**  
Average Rating



20. Promote the regionalization by establishing regional platforms under the Water Convention

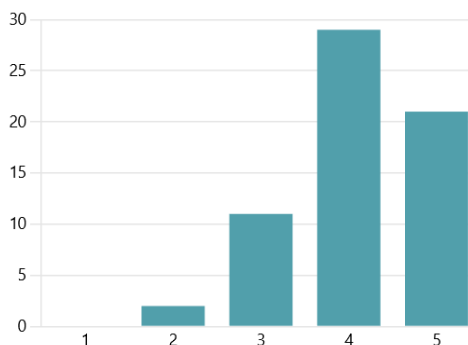
**3.78**  
Average Rating



*Sub-area 1.3 Supporting the development of agreements and the establishment of joint bodies*

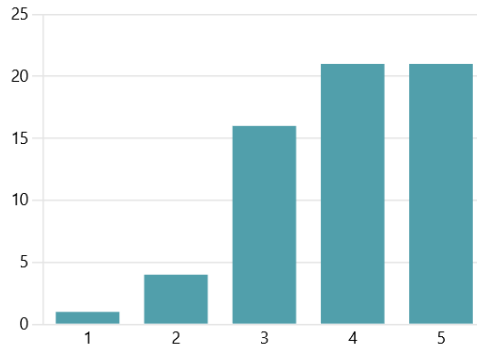
21. Further development of the Practical Guide for developing agreements and other arrangement for transboundary water cooperation into an online toolkit, with good practices collected, links to agreements, etc.

**4.10**  
Average Rating



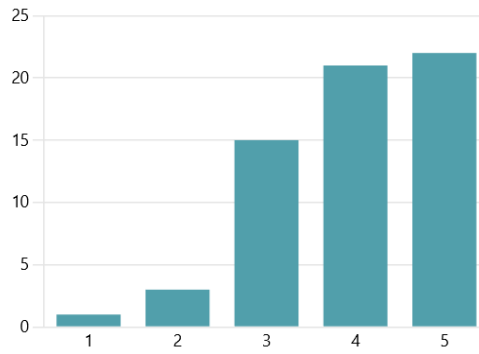
22. Organization of a global workshop on implementing legal frameworks agreements

**3.90**  
Average Rating



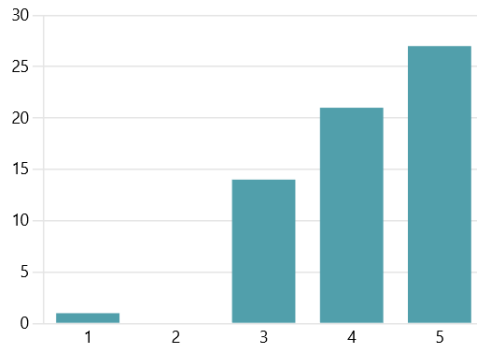
23. Set up an advisory service for the development of transboundary water cooperation agreements, upon request, based on the Practical Guide

**3.97**  
Average Rating



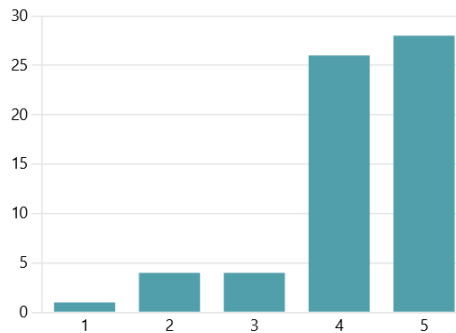
24. Organization of training workshops at regional level on developing agreements and to strengthen negotiation skills

**4.16**  
Average Rating



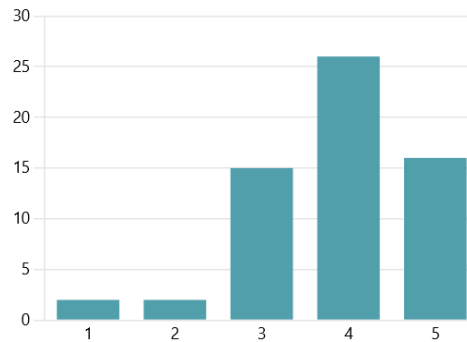
25. Basin-level projects supporting the development of agreements and strengthening of joint institutions

**4.21**  
Average Rating



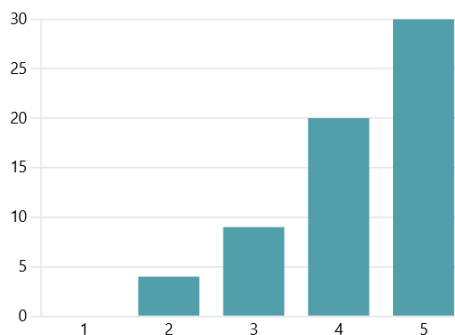
26. Providing tailored assistance and support for piloting the Practical Guide for developing agreements

**3.85**  
Average Rating



27. Support countries in negotiating agreements that incorporate conjunctive water management

**4.21**  
Average Rating



### *Sub-area 1.4 Implementation Committee*

**Do you have any concrete suggestions on how to increase the effectiveness and responsiveness of the Implementation Committee?**

#### **1. Awareness and Communication:**

- The structure and functions of the Implementation Committee should be regularly presented in the meetings of the Water Convention to raise awareness about this mechanism.
- The Committee should enhance communication and engagement of Parties through the establishment of clear communication channels, proactive engagement of stakeholders, and building trust and transparency.
- Raise awareness on the existence of this committee. The Committee should have diversity of personnel and be representative globally.

#### **2. Flexibility and Adaptability:**

- Must foster a flexible and adaptive approach to account for changing circumstances, technological advancements, and emerging water-related issues. This ensures that the committee remains relevant and responsive to evolving challenges.

#### **3. Financial Support and Fundraising:**

- Permanent support to the implementing committee with a monitoring plan and country assumptions for its implementation.
- They should give more focus and support to developing countries.
- To secure some fund for their activities.
- Provide budget and access to concrete resources in the countries.
- Supporting countries in fundraising to secure funds for support activities.
- Financial support to developing countries in the implementation of the Convention.
- More tailored assistance for countries in financial crisis.

#### **4. Capacity Building and Support:**

- Implementation Committee should support countries starting or already negotiating agreements.
- With more countries acceding, consider increasing the staff/members of the implementation committee, even on secondment.
- Enhance cooperation with Basin Organizations, when existing.



- Strengthen the legal advisory services of the Committee.
- Rely on decentralized advisers, countries that have already acceded to the convention, and willing to present their experience.
- Technology transfer and finance for better information generation.
- Facilitate negotiation process for the development of transboundary water agreements.
- It is important to enhance capacity and provide assistance on how to effectively establish a Basin Organization.

**5. Collaboration and Partnerships:**

- Initiate pioneering projects between two countries, including joint water basins, to introduce water diplomacy and its benefits.
- INBO is routinely providing support to transboundary water cooperation in basins not yet equipped with appropriate legal and institutional frameworks. UNECE and INBO could work together on the emergence of new transboundary basin organizations.
- Arrange regional-level workshops regularly, at least once in a year. Formulate special sub-group/working group based on a common river basin.
- Work to create a unified platform of databases carried out in previous years. Create an expert group in each ongoing program on international water issues law, water resources management in transboundary territories.
- Linkage with RECs and regional bodies.
- Make synergies with the community of practice and advanced Science-based solutions that fit most of the vulnerable countries.
- Work together with the countries to come up with an agreement time frame.

**Please include comments and additional proposals for activities, if any, related to programme area 1, if you wish:**

**1. Agreements Development:**

- The development of agreements underpins much of what the Water Convention aims to achieve.
- Strengthen advocacy and attract the most advanced countries to implement programs effectively and quickly.
- Emphasize the economic benefits of agreements and return on investment, the capacity to attract private investors they have.
- Invite the committee to present at national workshops for accession and organize workshops on implementation and compliance at the regional level to increase the level of participation by countries.

**2. Tailored Assistance and Budget Allocation:**

- A general comment regarding tailored assistance: Propose reserving budget generally for tailored assistance/basin projects without earmarking it between different areas of work.
- Involve politicians in joint water activities such as workshops, projects, etc.
- Promote and lobby for political support.
- The committee should form an ad hoc body to prepare for the meeting to plan for the meetings of the committee.

**3. Additional Activities in Sub-Areas 1.2 and 1.3:**

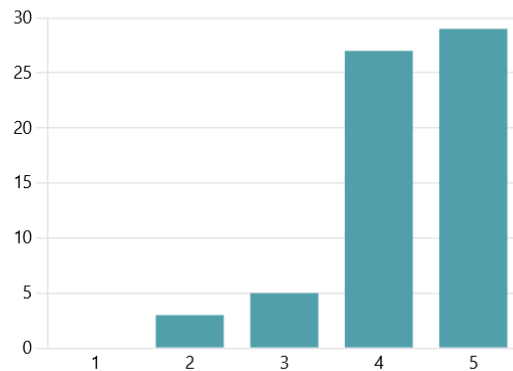
- Additional activities in sub-areas 1.2 and 1.3 geared towards implementation and the alignment of national legislations with the Water Convention.
- Monitor the consistency of the implementation of existing instruments, the effectiveness of measures applied, and the development of new instruments at all levels in the multilayer legal system.
- Collaborate with the bodies responsible for the implementation of other legal instruments within the multilayer legal system, with the aim of strengthening mutual consistency and coherency of those instruments and the harmonization of measures applied at different levels.
- Support the application of EIAs in a transboundary context.
- Promoting and supporting the full respect of HR in an environmental context, in relation to IWRM at the RB levels and specifically in the development of new hydraulic, or other, projects impacting transboundary water resources.

- Establish a support unit for the development of action plans after joining the Water Convention by stakeholders.
- Particular attention to sub-area 1.2, in the context of the new accessions.
- Set up a support unit for the development of action plans after joining the Water Convention by stakeholders.

**QUESTION 5 – Programme area 2 – Supporting monitoring, assessment and information-sharing in transboundary basins**

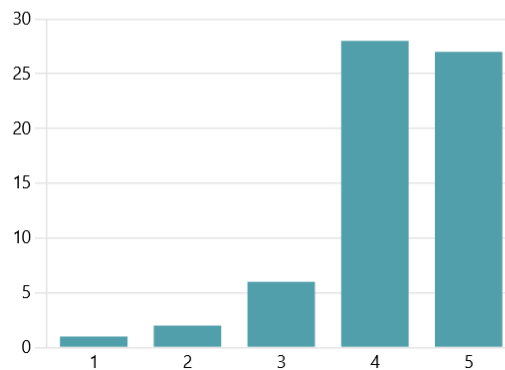
Organizing global/regional workshops/sessions on monitoring, information and data to promote the use of guidance materials developed in this area

**4.28**  
Average Rating



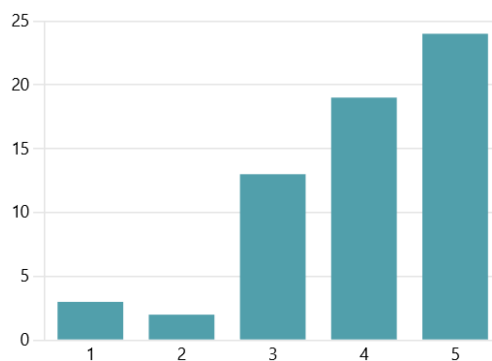
Providing tailored assistance and support for developing joint or coordinated monitoring or information and data exchange, including through the application of strategic and technical guidelines on monitoring and assessment in transboundary basins

**4.22**  
Average Rating



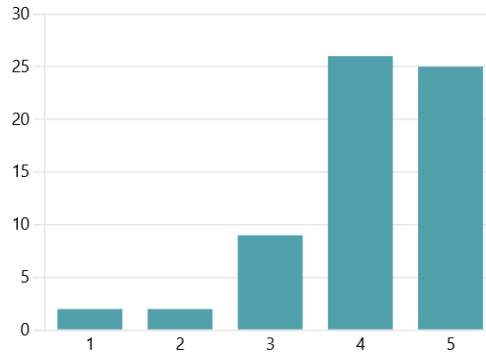
Preparing a policy guidance or recommendations on conjunctive water management

**3.97**  
Average Rating



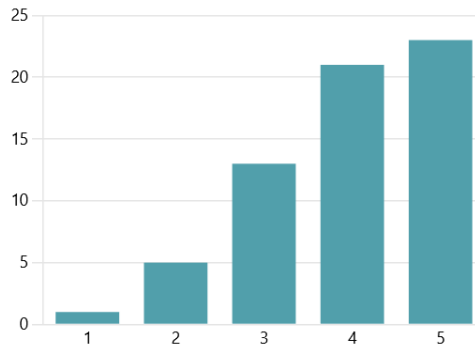
Preparing a collection of best practices on conjunctive water management

**4.09**  
Average Rating



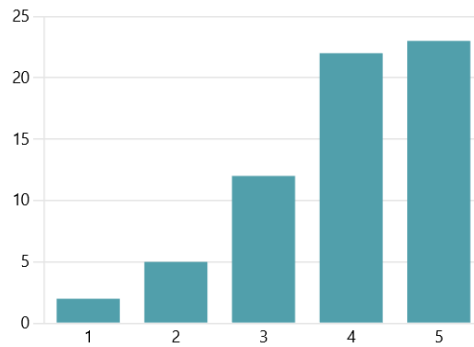
Update the Model Provisions on Transboundary Groundwaters, in particular their commentaries, to reflect the global experience in light of the global scope of the Convention and to address conjunctive water management in a more comprehensive way

**3.95**  
Average Rating



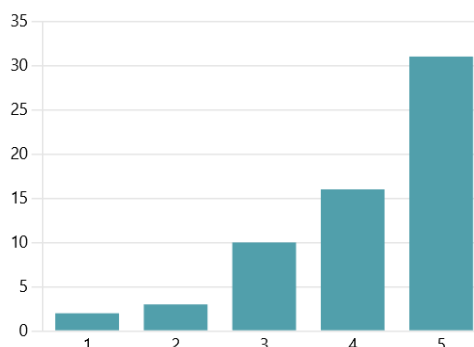
Providing tailored assistance and support for piloting conjunctive water management in transboundary basins

**3.92**  
Average Rating



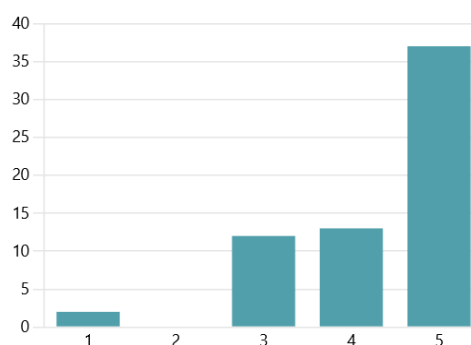
Support countries in learning new methods in water quality monitoring and pollution prevention :

4.15  
Average Rating



Explore the use of new technologies (artificial intelligence, remote sensing etc.) and innovation for monitoring and assessment :

4.30  
Average Rating



**Please include comments and additional proposals for activities, if any, related to programme area 2, if you wish:**

**1. Data Collection:**

- Define process indicators.
- Integrate remote sensing technologies to enhance the monitoring network, providing a broader perspective on changes in land use, vegetation, and water availability.
- Open data, Open data management.
- Establish robust data collection and storage systems. Develop joint monitoring protocols and standards. Create transparent platforms for sharing data and information.
- Spatial hydrology and the use of satellite data and imagery for the monitoring of water resources, both in quality and quantity, is a new tool of interest for the management of transboundary basins.
- Good practices on data sharing and strategies on monitoring assessment to be developed into a web toolkit, extracting also from technical guidance developed earlier?

**2. Financial Support and Assistance:**

- Support access to funding for transboundary water resources monitoring through assistance in preparing joint monitoring projects and funding proposals.
- There is a need for assistance, technology, and capacity building.

**3. Preventing Transboundary Water Crises:**

- On 35, any assistance in water management in a transboundary level should ensure that conjunctive management is automatically integrated.
- Make an effort to identify potential "transboundary water crisis countries" that are not part of the convention and reach out, aiming to prevent future conflicts.

**4. Collaboration and Networks:**

- Support activities for the exchange of information by States and existing basin organizations.

- Organization of meetings and webinars Global network with cooperation the International Network GWP.
- The role of the convention through its likeminded network is to mobilise entities capable of supporting information acquisition/sharing, for riparian countries to use the same tools and be capable of making common decisions.
- Extend work in monitoring the source to sea continuum.
- Consider joint monitoring and assessment in transboundary water cooperation.
- Establishing monitoring centers for international and local transit water basins.

**5. Multilingual Communication:**

- It is necessary to focus on joint monitoring of transboundary watercourses, the development of unified monitoring methods, and data comparability.
- It is important to plan an activity on the translation of works into different languages spoken in the shared basin.

**6. Climate Change Monitoring and Community of Practice:**

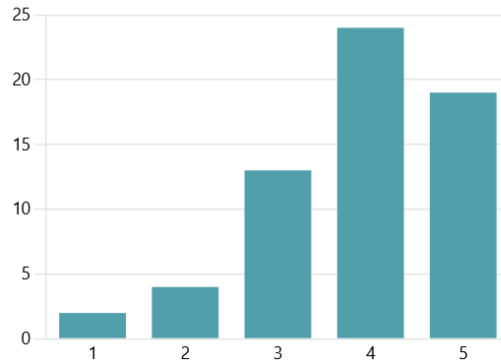
- Early warning systems for monitoring the evolution of climate change over time.
- Validating data obtained through remote sensing technologies using cost-effective methods.
- Enabling a Community of Practice (CoP) to facilitate the sharing of experiences.
- Offering information on low-cost technologies that yield reliable monitoring outputs, such as open source technologies, along with providing training in their utilization.

**QUESTION 6 – Programme area 3 – Promoting an integrated and intersectoral approach to water resources management at all levels**

*Sub-area 3.1 Promoting integrated water resources management in transboundary basins*

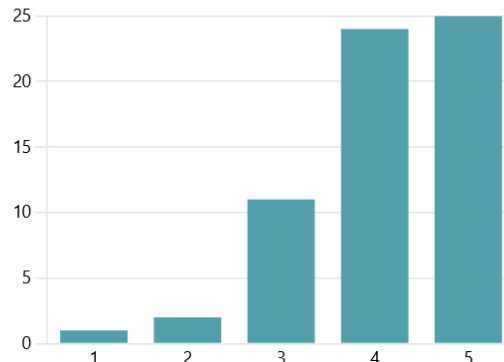
39. Organise practical workshops to roll-out the Guidance Note on source-to-sea management to provide practical orientation to link governance and management of transboundary rivers and the coastal and marine environment. (The development of the Guidance Note was decided by 18th meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), in June 2023.)

**3.87**  
Average Rating



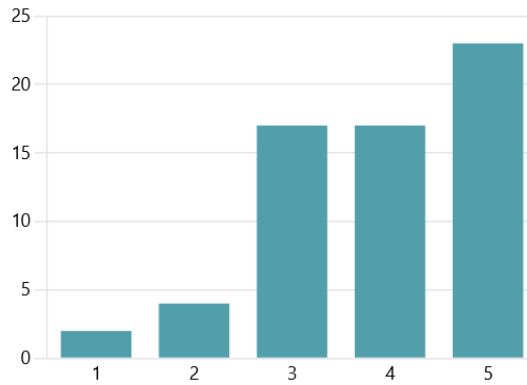
40. Organization of a thematic session on transboundary basin management plan development at an intergovernmental meeting under the Convention

**4.11**  
Average Rating



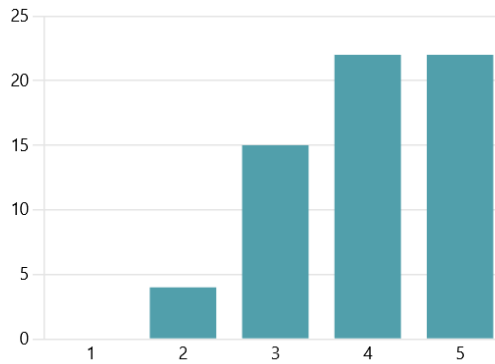
41. Organization of a thematic session on public participation in transboundary basins at an intergovernmental meeting under the Convention

3.87  
Average Rating



42. Organization of a session on forests, biodiversity and water at an intergovernmental meeting under the Convention

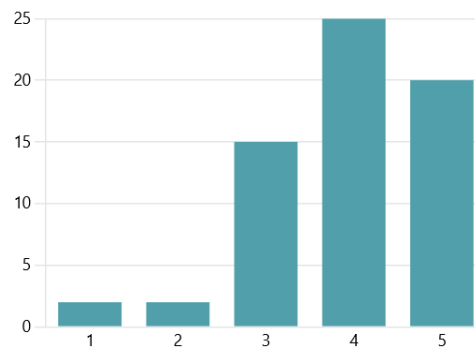
3.98  
Average Rating



*Sub-area 3.2 Supporting intersectoral dialogues and assessments through the application of the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus approach*

43. Dissemination of the *Methodology for assessing the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus in transboundary basins* and match-making of countries and basins organizations who need support in assessing nexus issues (i.e. trade-offs, synergies, and benefits in relation to economic sectors, e.g. energy or agriculture Support to development and operationalization of cross-sectoral regional strategies with a transboundary character (or integration of cross-sectoral solutions into such strategies)

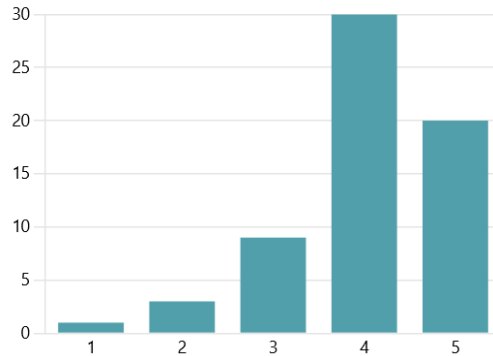
3.92  
Average Rating



44. Support the operationalization of nexus (intersectoral) solutions, (especially facilitating identification of projects, identification of financing options) in some regions/basins.

### 4.03

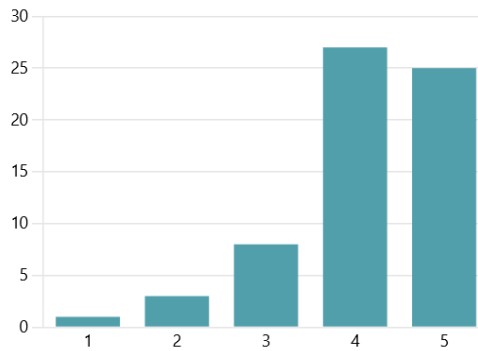
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45. Sharing experience of nexus assessments and strengthening partnership with different sectors using the global platform provided by the Task Force on water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus

### 4.13

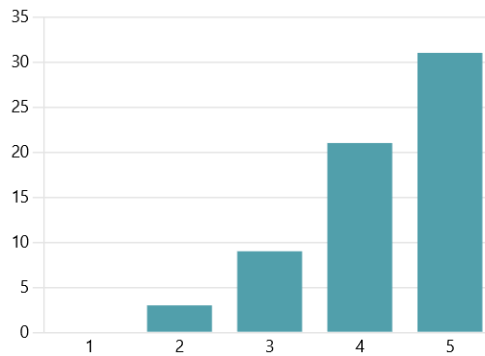
Average Rating



46. Building capacity on the nexus between water and energy in transboundary basins. Investigating, through studies and/or webinars, the climate resilience of energy systems and specific technologies (such as hydropower, hydrogen, etc.) and exploring the role of transboundary cooperation as an enabler of clean energy transition at regional level, building on *Towards sustainable renewable energy investment and deployment: Trade-offs and opportunities with water resources and the environment*,

### 4.25

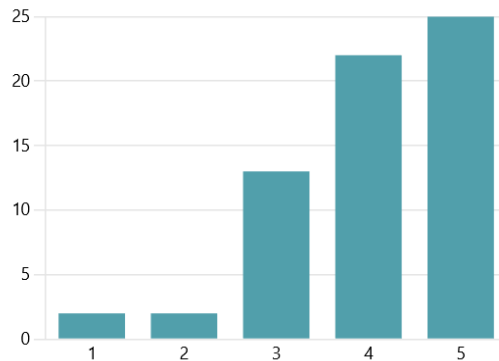
Average Rating



*Sub-area 3.3 Supporting equitable and sustainable water allocation in a transboundary context*

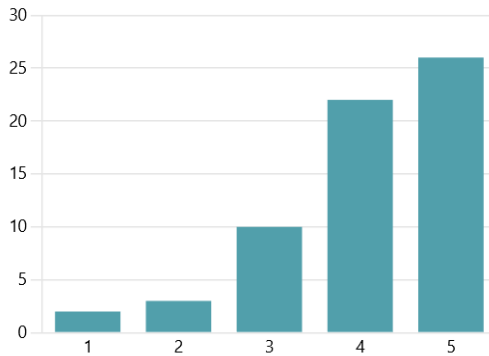
47. Organization of regional workshops or sessions on transboundary water allocation to build capacity and promote the use of the *handbook on water allocation in a transboundary context*

**4.03**  
Average Rating



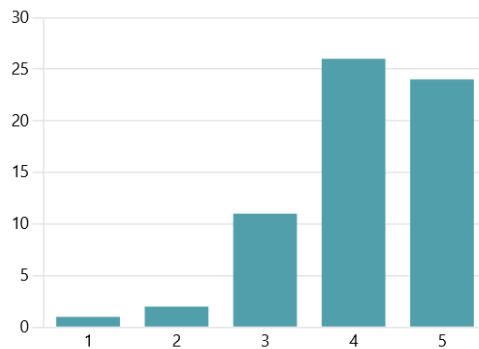
48. Tailored capacity building or assistance to address and reconcile sectoral water demands through an integrated approach to transboundary water allocation, the Nexus and the benefits of cooperation

**4.06**  
Average Rating



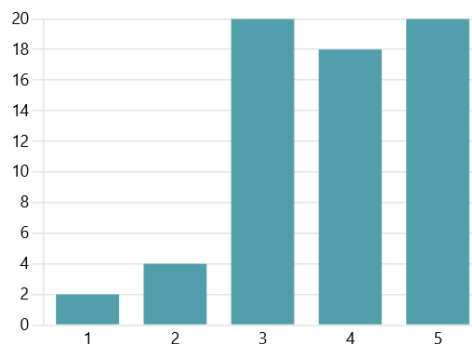
49. Collaborative workshops or sessions with organisations involved in national water allocation activities to demonstrate practical synergies between national and transboundary allocation approaches

**4.09**  
Average Rating



50. Developing the handbook on water allocation in the transboundary context into a web-based "living" tool

**3.78**  
Average Rating

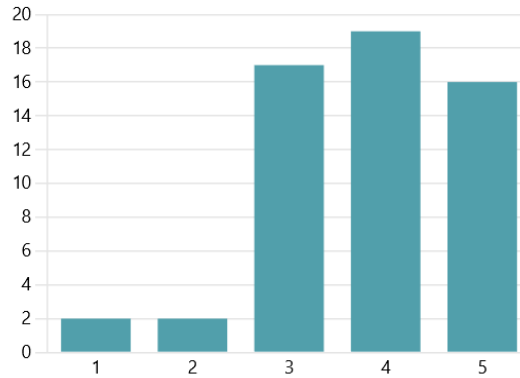




*Sub-area 3.4 Supporting National Policy Dialogues on Integrated Water Resources Management under the European Union Water Initiative (this area of work is limited to countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia)*

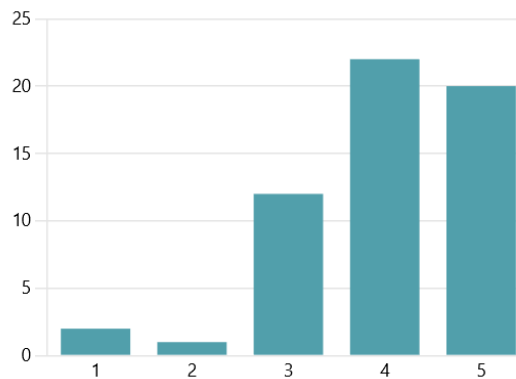
51. Facilitating intersectoral and multi-stakeholder processes of the National Policy Dialogues on IWRM, including the organization of Steering Committee and relevant policy packages (actions)

**3.80**  
Average Rating



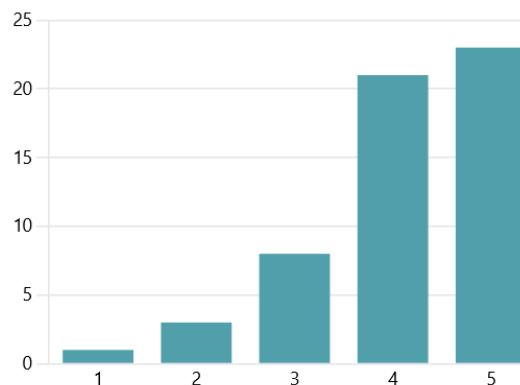
52. Supporting legal, regulatory and institutional changes to drive water sector reforms and adopt modern techniques in managing water resources

**4.00**  
Average Rating



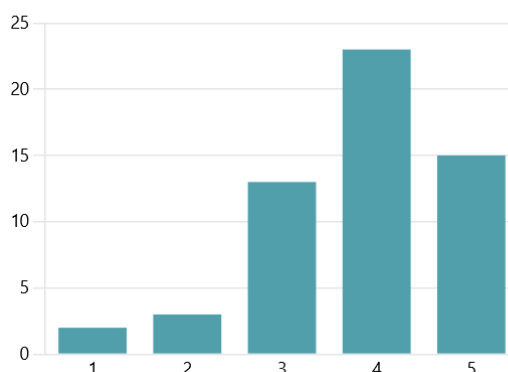
53. Supporting drafting and implementing transboundary water cooperation agreements, including the establishment of joint bodies

**4.11**  
Average Rating



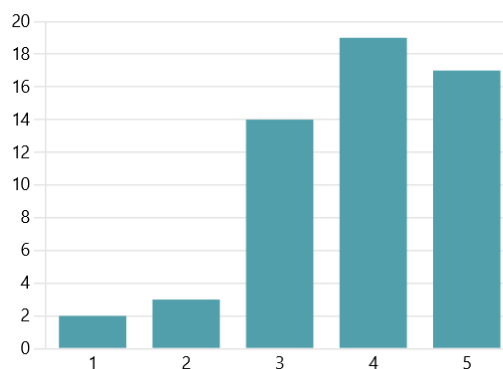
54. Supporting policy change in the water and sanitation sector, in the light of IWRM and links with health issues

3.82  
Average Rating



55. Supporting application of Strategic Environmental Assessments and other modern tools in the water sector

3.84  
Average Rating



56. Please include comments and additional proposals for activities, if any, related to programme area 3, if you wish:

**1. Synergies and International Agreements:**

- Encourage the adoption of innovative technologies, such as remote sensing, data analytics, and smart water management systems.
- Within the framework of sub-areas 3.1 and 3.2, synergies to support States in implementing the objectives set out in international agreements on cross-sectoral water-related issues (notably those linked to the Kunming-Montreal Agreement, etc.).
- Organization of meetings and webinars Global network with cooperation the International Network GWP.

**2. Water Resource Management and Allocation:**

- Develop mechanisms for sharing water resources fairly and sustainably. Develop conflict resolution mechanisms.
- Exchange of knowledge/experience on water allocation at transboundary level between countries and also between sectors.
- Supporting joint study on ecological system of a transboundary river basin.
- (1) Increase the coverage of Central Asian countries in the field of general water use and protection of water resources (2) Attract the top leaders of these countries to speed up the dialogue process.

**3. Ecosystem-Based Approach and Transboundary River Basin Management:**

- Sub-area 3.4: activities in this sub-area are implemented under 'EUWI+ East' as well as under the 'EU4Environment Water and Data' Initiative. This should be added in the title of this sub-area.
- Application of the ecosystem-based approach in integrated transboundary river basin management.
- Monitor the consistency of the implementation of existing instruments, the effectiveness of measures applied, and the development of new instruments at all levels in the multilayer legal system. Collaborate with the bodies responsible for the implementation of other legal instruments

within the multilayer legal system, with the aim of strengthening mutual consistency and coherency of those instruments, and the harmonization of measures applied at different levels. Supporting the application of EIAs in a transboundary context. Promoting and supporting the full respect of HR in an environmental context, in relation to IWRM at the RB levels and specifically in the development of new hydraulic, or other, projects impacting transboundary water resources.

**4. Innovative Technologies and Smart Management:**

- Encourage the adoption of innovative technologies, such as remote sensing, data analytics, and smart water management systems.
- Supporting joint study on ecological system of a transboundary river basin.

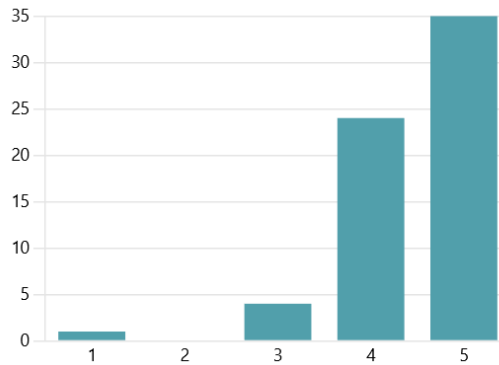
**5. Communication and Collaboration:**

- Strategies are needed for improving the communication between science and policy, particularly to effectively convey scientific findings to policy-makers.

**QUESTION 7 – Programme area 4 – Adapting to climate change in transboundary basins**

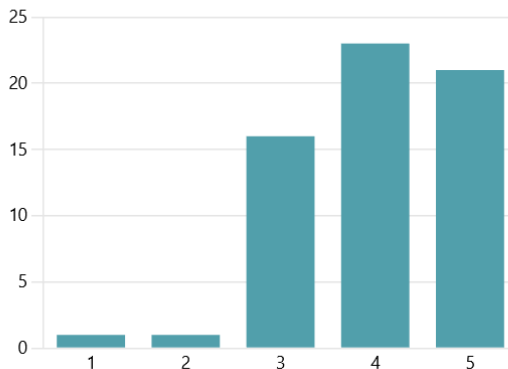
57. Basin-level projects promoting transboundary cooperation in adaptation to climate change, including development of vulnerability assessments, adaptation and disaster risk reduction strategies, prioritization of mutually beneficial adaptation measures and integrating climate change adaptation into river basin management planning

**4.44**  
Average Rating



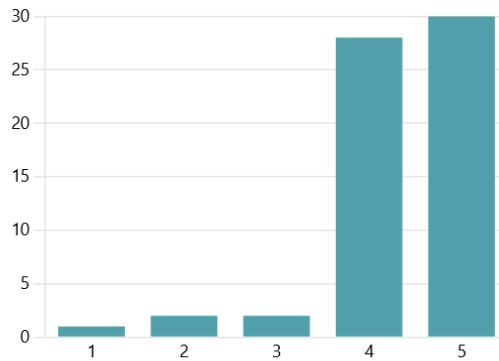
58. Organization of meetings and webinars of the Global network of basins working on climate change adaptation, in cooperation with the International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO)

**4.00**  
Average Rating



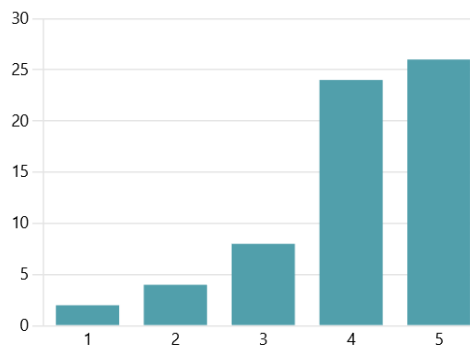
59. Exchange of experience, good practices and lessons learned through the organization of meetings of the Task Force on Water and Climate as well as global workshops on transboundary climate change adaptation and mitigation

**4.33**  
Average Rating



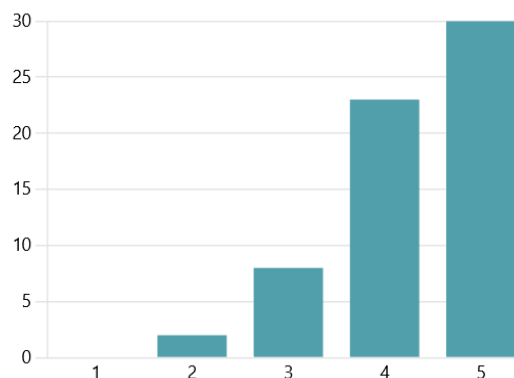
60. Support to the mainstreaming of water and transboundary cooperation into national climate-related documents through analysing how transboundary water cooperation is integrated into new and revised NDCs and NAPs, discussing and developing joint approaches to addressing transboundary issues of water management in climate-related documents (such as NDCs, NAPs, national climate strategies and plans, etc.) in some basins and/or regions

**4.06**  
Average Rating



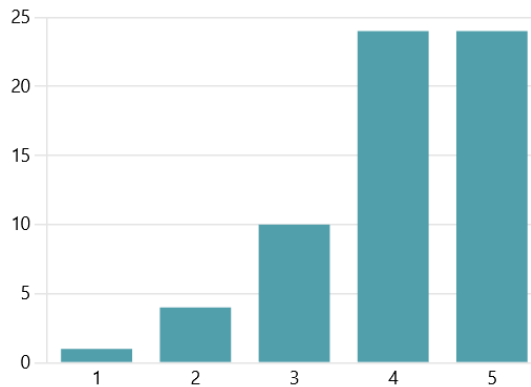
61. Cooperation with global policy processes on climate and disasters, such as under the UNFCCC, UNDRR and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, through regular communication with climate change and disaster communities and organising joint sessions and/or events with partners to improve coherence between water, transboundary cooperation, climate change and disaster risk reduction at global occasions (for example, at UNFCCC COPs, Global and Regional Platforms on Disaster Risk Reduction, etc.)

**4.29**  
Average Rating



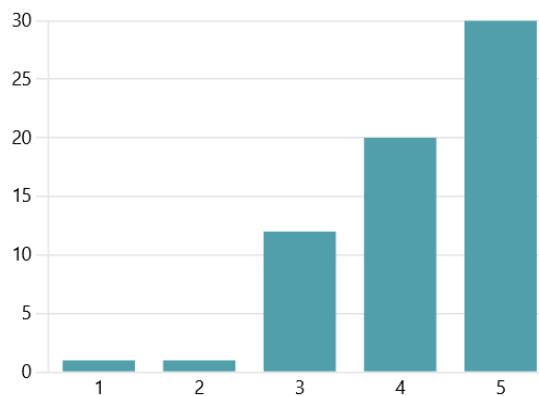
62. Support to development and operationalization of cross-sectoral regional climate change strategies with a transboundary character (or integration of cross-sectoral solutions into such climate-related strategies)

**4.05**  
Average Rating



63. Creating a knowledge product containing good practices on climate change adaptation in transboundary basins

**4.20**  
Average Rating



**Please include comments and additional proposals for activities, if any, related to programme area 4, if you wish:**

**1. Regional Coordination Mechanisms:**

- Strengthen regional coordination mechanisms to streamline the financing process for transboundary water projects.

**2. Information Systems and Basin Management:**

- Establishment of Water Information Systems for the 12 watersheds of Côte d'Ivoire.

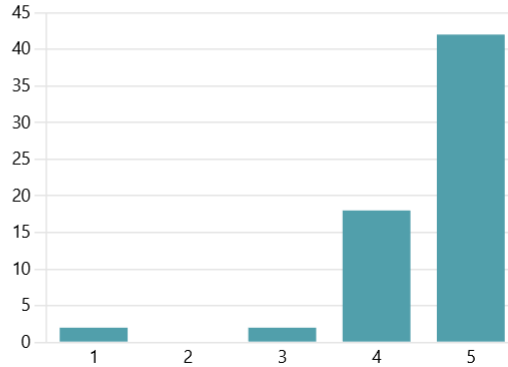
**3. Climate Change Studies and Guidelines:**

- Conduct periodic activities on climate change and the effects of drought on all sectors and society.
- New edition for the 2015 publication: "Water and climate change adaptation in transboundary basins: Lessons learned and good practices."
- Conduct periodic activities on climate change and the effects of drought on all sectors and society.
- Facilitating joint studies of climate change and environmental aspects in a common river basin.
- Providing guidelines for the submission of projects with the cooperation with climate funds.
- This should rather be organized by banks, climate funds, and development partners.

*QUESTION 8 – Programme area 5 – Facilitating funding and financing of transboundary water cooperation and basin development*

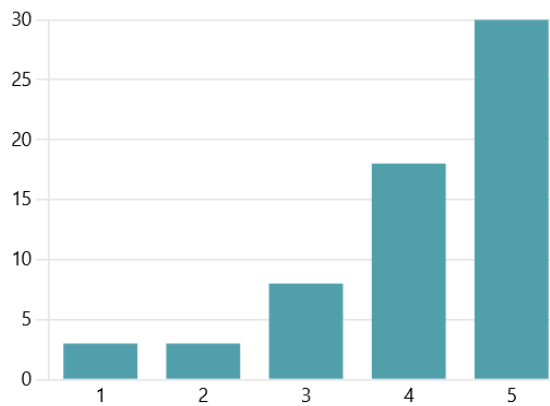
64. Further increasing cooperation with financial institutions such as ADB, AFDB, AF, EIB, GCF, GEF, IDB, UNCDF and the World Bank to raise awareness on the importance of funding and financing transboundary water cooperation and basin development Question

**4.53**  
Average Rating



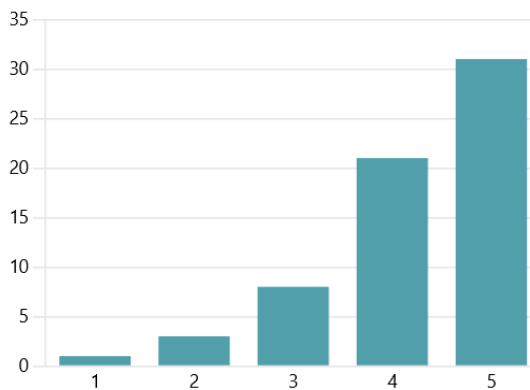
65. Organization of a global workshop on financing transboundary water cooperation and basin development

**4.11**  
Average Rating



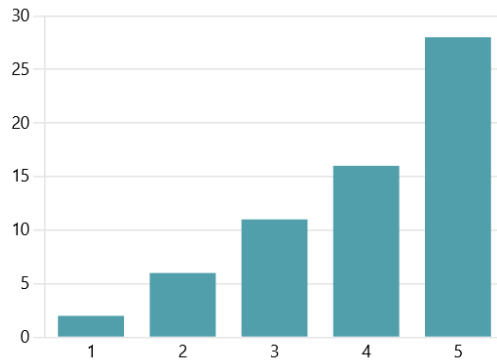
66. Contribution to/co-organization of regional or basin trainings/workshops on developing bankable projects for transboundary basin development

**4.22**  
Average Rating



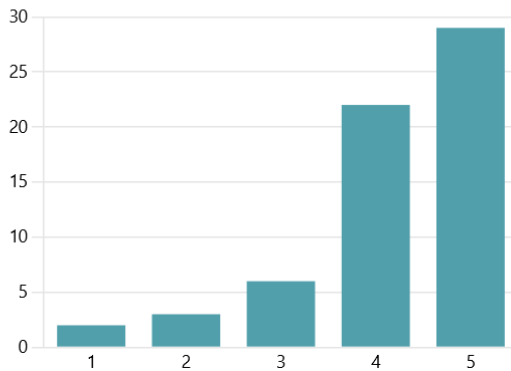
67. Organization of a training on specific subtopics related to financing transboundary water cooperation and basin development

**3.98**  
Average Rating



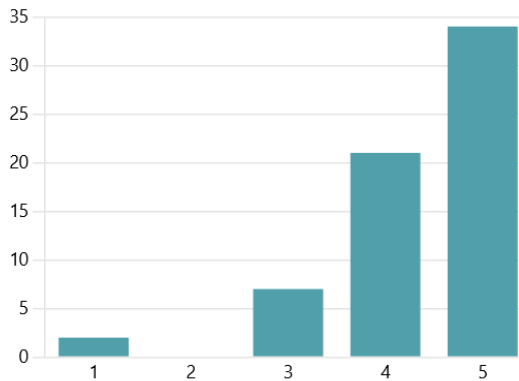
69. Organization of sessions/webinars/trainings on preparing bankable project proposals for climate change adaptation in transboundary basins in partnership with multilateral development banks and climate funds

**4.18**  
Average Rating



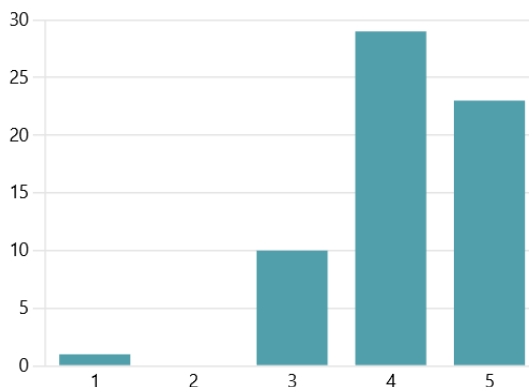
70. Intensification of cooperation with global climate funds, such as the Adaptation Fund and the Green Climate Fund, to raise the importance of water and transboundary cooperation for climate funding mechanisms

**4.33**  
Average Rating



71. Preparation of a collection of lessons learned on financing for transboundary water cooperation, incl. climate change adaptation in transboundary basins

**4.16**  
Average Rating



**68. If you find this activity important or highly important, please indicate what would be the topic of interest for your country or your basin:**

**1. Transboundary Water Fund:**

- Water management and diplomacy should not rely on external funding, ideally. I recognize that external aid can be instrumental, but it might not be the role of the Convention to promote it.
- Develop a dedicated transboundary water fund that consolidates financial resources from participating countries, international donors, and private sector entities. This fund can support joint projects, infrastructure development, and capacity-building initiatives.
- Facilitation of financing activities in the eight transboundary basins of Côte d'Ivoire.
- Developing bankable projects for transboundary basin development.

**2. Capacity Building and Workshops:**

- Rather than global workshops, put emphasis on resources to address regional demands.
- Arranging training on specific river basins as well as formulation of guidelines for financing common river basin management and related organizations.
- Education in the field of equitable water distribution.
- How to write a proposal for financial assistance for transboundary water cooperation.
- How we as a country can work efficiently together even when we are not financially stable.
- Organization of meetings and webinars Global network with cooperation the International Network GWP.

**3. Regional and National Focus:**

- As much as regional projects are important, because countries are at different levels of development and institutional capacity, focusing on national level transboundary projects can be a way of facilitating these projects and driving other countries to catch up with their co-riparians. These national projects can be scaled up and aggregated into regional projects.
- Strengthening cooperation with financial institutions to raise awareness of the importance of financing cooperation in the field of transboundary waters and the development of new basins between the DRC-Angola and the DRC-Zambia.
- (1) expand the number and area of projects in Central Asia on this issue (2) hold an international forum on water cooperation and climate resilience in Samarkand (Uzbekistan) in 2025.

**4. Collaboration with Financial Institutions and Funding Sources:**

- The Water Convention team cannot substitute itself to MDB. The convention can offer stakeholders to meet, facilitate work on common subjects but not do at their place.
- Understanding the Context: - Hydro-politics and International Water Law - Economic Impacts and Valuation Building a Financing Strategy - Needs Assessment and Project Identification - Cost Benefit Analysis and Economic Valuation - Developing Strong Proposals and Financing Models Financing Mechanisms and Tools/Financing Landscape - Private Public Partnerships - Grant Funding and Multilateral Support - Innovative Funding - Cost Recovery, User Fees and Profit Generation Project Management and Risk Management - Financial Feasibility and Investment Appraisal - Transparency and Accountability.
- How to identify relevant funding sources for these trainings.
- Hosting of the Zambia Water Investment and Public-Private-Partnerships (PPP) Water Summit- July 2024/2025 within the framework of funding and financing transboundary water cooperation and basin development.



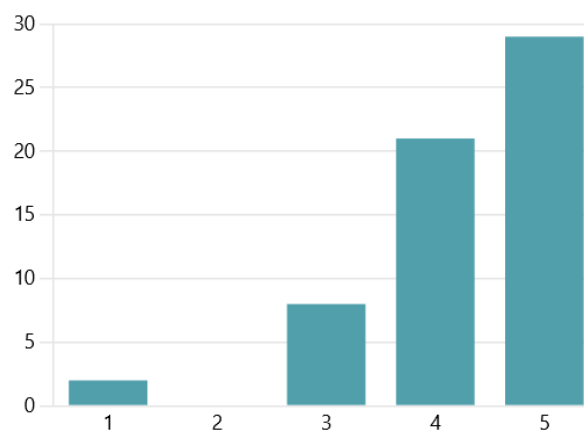
**73. Please include comments and additional proposals for activities, if any, related to programme area 5, if you wish:**

- Explore and develop a "change debt for transboundary water projects" mechanism
- Opportunities for mobilising endogenous resources for cross-border cooperation
- Important aspects have been well covered
- Continue the dialogue with the private sector
- 1) Arranging training on specific river basins as well as formulation of guidelines for financing of common river basin management and related organizations would be helpful. 2) Capacity-building training program for river basin organization would be added
- Search for funding on how to monitor the impact of climate change in transboundary aquifers
- There is a great need for capacity building and training in GCF, as this fund has yet to be fully utilized by countries.

**QUESTION 9 – Programme area 6 – Reporting on Sustainable Development Goal indicator 6.5.2 and under the Convention**

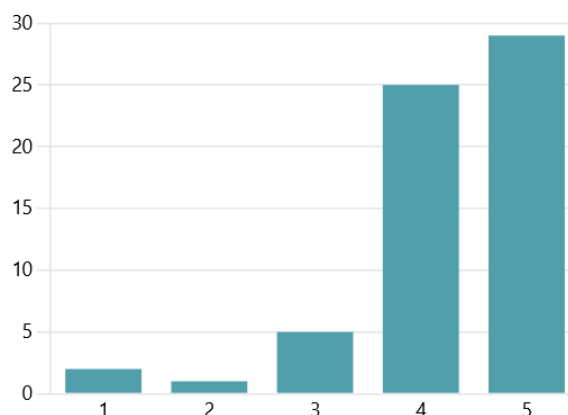
**74. Sub-area 6.1 Supporting reporting on Sustainable Development Goal indicator 6.5.2 and under the Convention**

**4.25**  
Average Rating



**75. Supporting countries to move from reporting on SDG indicator 6.5.2 to addressing the gaps identified and accelerating the achievement of Target 6.5 by establishing operational arrangements**

**4.26**  
Average Rating



**76. Please include comments and additional proposals for activities, if any, related to programme area 6, if you wish:**

- Putting in place respective cooperative arrangements for shared aquifers and surface water.
- Regional workshop in the Arab region on addressing gaps.

- The reporting process allows states to systematically analyze both their national and transboundary water management mechanisms. If two states that share transboundary waters submitted previous reports separately, in the future, an attempt can be made to compile a joint report for the basin.
- It would be useful for Czechia to focus the reporting on progress achieved, as the institutional arrangements with our neighbors/basins are longstanding and stable. We would appreciate if the online reporting tool included an option to review and retain or change data from the previous exercise.
- Establishment of an online reporting system would be a priority to reduce efforts associated with the regular reporting.
- Suggest shifting the emphasis from promoting and encouraging reporting to supporting progress in the coverage of operational arrangements. This should bring in a range of partners, such as those involved in the Budapest Workshop related to Agreements (Nov 2023), and tie in strongly with the work related to the development of agreements. SDG 6.5.2 national reports can be used as a basis to develop national/basin action plans related to operationality. They can also offer a 'checklist' to assess readiness to become a party to the Convention.
- A guideline for calculating SDG 6.5.2 with a more specific indication (i.e. weightage on data sharing, establishment of a joint river basin organization) might be developed. 2) Regular workshops on reporting and assessment would be arranged. 3) A common online platform for sharing reports might be developed.
- It would be very necessary to create an online reporting form in which the information of previous reports would be available so that each report does not have to be written anew, but the information could be corrected or updated according to the situation.
- Create reports on the development of transboundary water cooperation for each continent (Asia, Europe, South America, Africa) based on geographical conditions, political interests, and other factors.
- Detect and reach out to countries with transboundary water bodies (especially groundwater) which are not members of the convention.
- Organization of meetings and webinars Global network with cooperation the International Network GWP.
- Financial support to the development of the national workshop to complete the report on SDG 6.5.2.
- Pay closer attention to groundwater reporting.
- Gaps identified should be made into projects to address the lapses. Also, the information in the Way forward section should be used as the measure for the next reporting round.
- Support data collection initiatives for effective monitoring and reporting of SDG indicator 6.5.2.
- Train countries on how to report on this goal.
- We would like to emphasize that in cases where a country does not acknowledge the existence of another riparian due to political factors, that country should be allowed to report "N/A" for all sections of the SDG 6.5.2 Survey pertaining to the shared basins with that riparian. - Offer technical and financial assistance to countries, particularly those with limited resources, to facilitate cooperation on transboundary water resources.

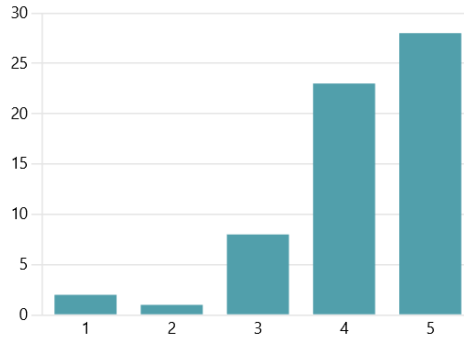
QUESTION 10 – Programme area 7 – Partnerships, communication and knowledge management

*Sub-area 7.1 Cooperation with UN-Water, global and regional partners, other multilateral environmental agreements*

77. Strengthening cooperation with other MEAs, such as the Espoo Convention, Aarhus Convention, Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Ramsar Convention, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

4.19

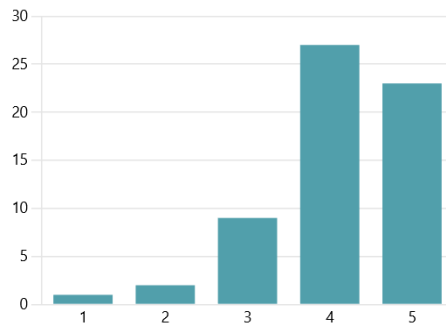
Average Rating



78. Organization of a workshop/ training on good practices and guidance for preventing water pollution (including accidental water pollution, wastewater discharges etc.)

4.11

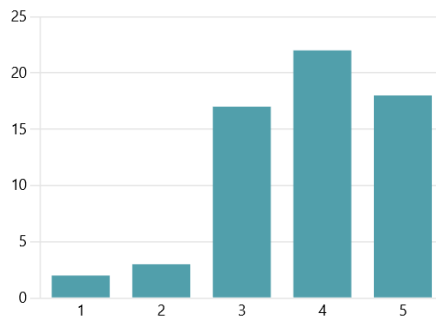
Average Rating



79. Project on enhancing capacity in emergency preparedness and prevention of accidental pollution by tailings storage facilities (TSFs), considering modern international standards and best available techniques

3.82

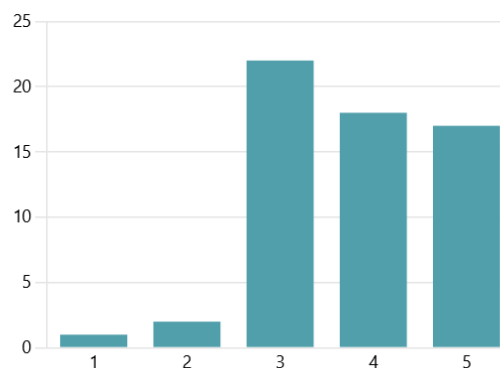
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80. Promotion and translation of guidance developed by the Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents and good industry practices

3.80

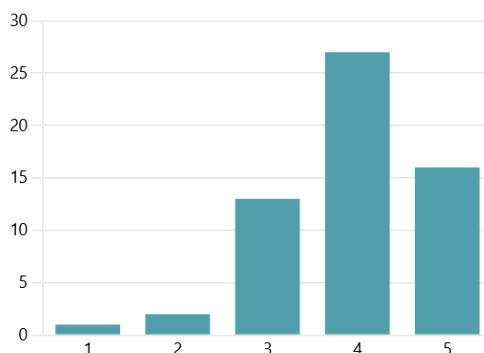
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### Sub-area 7.2 Communication and knowledge management

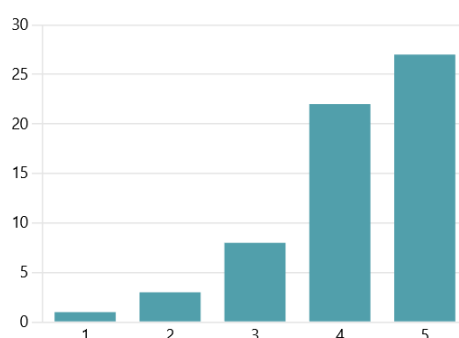
81. Activities to promote the Convention via social media, press releases and other communication activities

**3.93**  
Average Rating



82. Development of tailored communication materials/policy papers on the Water Convention for diplomats and parliamentarians

**4.16**  
Average Rating



**83. Please include comments and additional proposals for activities, if any, related to programme area 7, if you wish:**

- Develop multilingual platforms (websites, brochures, etc.) to ensure information accessibility for diverse stakeholders. This is especially important in regions with multiple languages and cultures.
- Prepare a preliminary report on the state of implementation of the water decade 2018-2028
- Cooperation with UN-Water and its members should also be strengthened on activities linked to the WEFE nexus approach, and to activities relating to Integrated Resource Management. In particular, work with UNEP could be strengthened on water policies that benefit the fight against climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution.
- On 70: we question projects versus workshops.
- Develop stronger partnerships with scientific/ research community through the latter's participation in Convention meetings, and the involvement of Water Convention representatives (secretariat, parties, etc) in academic initiatives, e.g. symposia, publications and research projects
- Expand the number of experts for each (preferably one expert for each country included in the Convention)
- Tailored communication to academia
- Promotional videos and videos sharing experience of different experiences from countries (tell lessons learned)
- The political will to carry transboundary water governance forward at the national level is key. Programmes at the national and regional levels to engage parliamentarians and diplomats will build up political will.
- Improve the design and communication approach of publications to enhance their accessibility and usefulness for readers
- Involve youth and women

## QUESTION 11 – New activities

Are there any activities in the field of transboundary water cooperation that you have not seen among the proposed activities and find important for your country/organization to include in the next programme of work?

1. **Transboundary Aquifer Mapping and Global Expansion:**
  - UNECE played a key role in mapping transboundary aquifers in Europe. Now that the Convention has become a global instrument, this effort could be resumed and extended to other continents, such as Africa.
  - Investigation.
  - Technical cooperation for the modelling of surface and groundwaters and their improved cartography.
2. **Centralized Repository and Information Access:**
  - Establish a centralized repository for all program-related documents, research, and data. This could be an online platform accessible to stakeholders, ensuring easy retrieval of information.
  - Hydrological monitoring programme.
3. **Indigenous and Cultural Heritage Focus:**
  - NO but we need to focus on the indigenous aspects for the different countries.
  - Plusieurs activités intéressantes, pas besoin d'en rajouter.
  - It is obvious that attention should be paid to especially protected natural areas and objects of cultural heritage located in transboundary basins.
4. **UN Coordination and Water Diplomacy:**
  - Better coordination and alignment of UN efforts on transboundary water cooperation with UN engagement on other water-related Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda – including through implementation of a UN system-wide strategy on water and sanitation, enhanced coordination of donor engagement on transboundary water cooperation (including accessibility of climate funding for transboundary water cooperation).
  - Water Diplomacy and Negotiation skills.
5. **Early Warning Systems and Capacity Building:**
  - Early Warning Systems for Transboundary Water Cooperation and Basin Development.
  - Confidence Building in Transboundary Water Cooperation and Basin Development.
  - Investing in Water Saving Technologies.
  - Capacity building program/training for transboundary river organizations' officials.
  - In 2024, it is planned to hold an international forum on the initiative of the Ministry of Industry and Geologists of the Republic of Uzbekistan in Tashkent dedicated to groundwater (rational use, protection, regulations, transboundary situations, etc.).
6. **Floods, Droughts, and Pollution Management:**
  - Aspects that address transboundary management of floods and droughts.
  - In the beginning there was a ranking of the new programme of work areas. A comment: we see that the pollution control and reduction are important as part of the requirements of the convention. However, we would suggest to strengthen the ecosystem approach, including impacts of both pollution and water use. So these two could be integrated.
  - There is a need to raise awareness among countries with transboundary water bodies in arid or semi-arid climates. Being Chile a non-member but having important water reservoirs shared with neighboring countries, it is relevant that not only internal but also international pressure is built to prevent a crisis.
  - Linkage between shared water and sea for cooperation.
  - Perhaps an activity on the issue of sediment pollution (quality) and sediment management (quantity).
  - Groundwater and sediment management.
7. **Partnerships, Youth Involvement, and Gender Issues:**
  - Implement the development of public-private partnerships and community agreements, including cross-border (e.g., River Contracts) for the use of the water resource.
  - Youth involvement and indigenous involvement.
  - youth involvement / gender issues.

**8. Technical and Financial Assistance Prioritization:**

- We recommend prioritizing the provision of technical and financial assistance to countries in need.

**QUESTION 12 – Outdated activities**

**Are there any activities/ areas of work among the current Water Convention activities that are of low importance for your country/organization and should be discontinued in the next programme of work?**

**1. Reassessment and Evaluation of Convention's Value:**

- In the current phase of development, when the convention is in place for more than 30 years, the convention should reassess the value of that legal instrument. First assessment should focus on activities related to accession to the Convention, with a focus on new countries from different regions. The convention should examine what it can offer to them in the short term and in the long-term context, particularly under programme area 1 and programme area 3.

**2. Streamlining and Integration of Activities:**

- All the areas identified are essential, but merging/integrating certain closely related activities/sub-areas (e.g., those linked to elaborating adaptation strategies and financing adaptation to climate change, etc., or to cross-sectoral approaches (nexus approaches) and IWRM) could help streamline efforts, and enable critical approaches (addressing climate change, cross-sectoral approaches, etc.) are integrated into all activities.

**3. Regional Tailoring and Streamlining Reporting:**

- We understand that reporting of indicator 6.5.2 is very relevant globally, however we would welcome streamlining and tailoring it to the needs of different regions.
- I think the time of big conferences has passed, the efforts should be focusing on capacity building, initiatives with a clear and useful result.

**4. Importance of Binding Laws for Equitable Water Utilization:**

- Incorporating binding laws for countries with shared basins for the equitable and reasonable utilization of water resources.
- For the ISRBC, Programme area 1 is not so relevant because with the FASRB, the Parties (SI, HR, BA, and RS) have proved the importance of cooperation in water management and navigation. However, in general, for transboundary river basins around the world, this issue is of the utmost importance.

**QUESTION 13 – Institutional structure**

**Does the institutional structure of the Water Convention (Bodies, such as working groups on Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) and on monitoring and assessment, Task Force on water and climate and on the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus) need to change in order to respond to new challenges?**

- For IWRM group, it is important to exchange information about the implementation of those plans, also different financial possibilities or problems. Therefore, it is recommended to change that group's work program so that the financial aspect of IWRM plans will be included in that group as well.
- Yes, to enhance coordination and address different regional needs. Should be more diverse and representative. Should increase membership and composition for wider perspectives and expertise. Should have Continental Structures as first responders to Continental Transboundary Matters.
- 86: to be looked once we have a clearer idea of the work program - form follows function
- Perhaps, in the working group on KUIVR, highlight groups focused on guaranteed water resources and the preservation, restoration of water bodies to a state that ensures environmentally favorable living conditions
- Generally increase the involvement of non-institutional and representative community actors within the goals of the Convention
- There is the need to include better integration with biodiversity
- The convention must focus greater attention on political attention and legal aspects to mobilize decision-makers rather than technical aspects.
- Treatment of the specific cases of the basins or sub-basins in their particularity and not on a global level. In addition, support for initiatives to create new basins (DRC-Angola), (DRC-Zambia).
- Task Force on water can deal also with sediment management.

- Respond to new challenges? - Consider the establishment of a specialized task force dedicated to conjunctive management. Create a Community of Practice to promote the bridging between science and policy-making. - Establish a task force that focuses on groundwater monitoring.

#### QUESTION 14 – Format of meetings

**Would you like to see changes in the way we run meetings (e.g. more interactivity / small-group discussions / future-oriented and creative thinking / hybrid formats)? Do you have any concrete suggestions on methodologies / formats to explore?**

- Yes, my experience with the meetings is that they are quite formal and conventional. It would be good to experiment with more interactive formats. I had the chance to attend two meetings that were animated by professional facilitators, and you could really see the difference. You might consider hiring such a professional facilitator for one of your next workshops.
- Thematic and regional working groups
- We need to have a good mix of frontal presentations and interactive workshops where we think together in small groups on different subjects. The exchange of experience is very important, so the presentation of inspirational case studies is very useful.
- more interactivity + future-oriented and creative thinking and minimize the virtual
- Participating online for several hours and days is not practical, attending in person is preferred
- Hybrid meetings reach more participants
- As new members, we are still learning how meetings are held and how activities are carried out behind the scenes for report back. Allow for report back from ongoing activities under the Water Convention at each meeting.
- Organizing short online meetings of working groups between annual meetings could help keep the community active and facilitate the visibility of the different groups. Prior to meetings, brief communication on the progress from the last meeting and the goals of the next could facilitate communication within organizations/ministries to mobilize the right experts.
- More interactivity; future-oriented and creative thinking; hybrid formats and having themed sessions with side meetings.
- The format of the meetings is good with a lot of commitment from MS, but how does the Secretariat cope with such a load
- It would be interesting to familiarize oneself with the proposed materials and presentations of speakers on the discussed topic in advance, before the meeting
- Overall, we are very satisfied with the way meetings are run. We would suggest more use of live surveys (Slido, Mentimeter...). We would caution against small group discussions, as they are often forced and don't come up with usable results (especially when it comes to overarching strategic issues).
- more interactive, creative thinking, preferably face to face, preferably hosted by a party
- More interactivity/small-group discussions
- The key factors/tools behind establishing agreements (i.e. diplomatic negotiation, benefit sharing, political goodwill, etc.) might be presented in brief.
- Increase the level of involvement from a specialist (expert) to the relevant minister (decision-maker)
- In-person meetings are the best option
- Meetings could be run as an ascending network from bottom-up requests should be followed by top-down responses
- Hybrid formats are a good way but field studies are most useful
- Hybrid format is a norm these days and is appreciated by many who cannot attend physically. Encourage continuing this modality.
- No, the way meetings are run is ok
- Giving priority to face-to-face meetings
- There is a need to focus on the future-oriented and creative thinking meeting regarding the emerging issues.
- Small-group discussions, and time limitation for interventions to shorten the discussion in plenary sessions. Use of interactive tools and platforms to facilitate discussion.

- We recommend foreseeing more interactive groups to facilitate meaningful discussions and leverage the collective knowledge and insights of the participants. Additionally, we find that in-person meetings are more effective than hybrid ones and therefore encourage them.
- Yes, it would be very nice if when you send your invitations to attend a seminar/workshop, we also get a chance to attend. Because if I am not mistaken, every time we apply, we get denied.
- Virtual working groups for areas facing similar water-related challenges

### QUESTION 15 – Basin/bilateral/pilot projects

**If you have prioritized some basin/bilateral/pilot projects and activities on the ground as 5 “highly important”, please answer to the following questions. What is the name of the basin or bilateral process? Why is such project important? What would be the focus of the project (development of agreement, establishment of joint body, data exchange, monitoring and assessment, benefits of cooperation, Nexus, water allocation, climate change adaptation, basin investment plan...)? Has the project idea already been discussed with riparian(s) and if so, what is their position?**

- Cuenca Rio Lempa
- Enhance relationship and cooperation between Jordan and the surrounding countries
- Basin-wide project “Climate-Water-Nexus: Integrated Water Resources Management in the Niger Basin” – together with the Niger Basin Authority, this project aims to improve transboundary IWRM measures for climate change adaptation and mitigation in the Niger basin. Focus: Raise awareness about the Water Convention and potentially support the process of accession as appropriate
- The Bia-Comoé-Tanoé transboundary basin, constantly assaulted by pollution due to gold mining, causing disruption to other uses, notably a halt in the production of drinking water due to the inability to treat this water for supply. Hence, the need to activate the process of creating a common body. The transboundary Cavally basin, whose strategic action program is developed and awaits funding for its activities. The project is eagerly anticipated by the populations along the countries involved.
- Rhône Lémanique Basin - development of an agreement on the regulation of the flow of water from Lake Geneva between France and Switzerland
- Congo Basin: Establishment of the Luapula River Authority starting with the development of the agreement, establishment of the joint body and undertaking the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) as well as the investment plan for areas of cooperation. The process has already started as part of the implementation of the UN Water Convention Programme of Work 2022-2024 with the two riparian countries ready to commence technical negotiations on the development of the agreement. This project is important for the sustainable management of the shared water resources and unlocking of the socio-economic potential through transboundary water cooperation.
- Zambezi Basin: Development of cooperative agreements or arrangements for three shared aquifers. The importance of this aspect was appreciated during the third round of reporting on SDG 6.5.2, which was the first official participation in the assessment and reporting.
- Water knows no borders, so conducting events unilaterally is not effective. Therefore, it is very important that all events held in the transboundary basin should be coordinated on both sides of the border and pursue common goals.
- Tisza river basin, project proposal elaborated but no funding so far, IWRM implementation
- Ganges, Brahmaputra, and Meghna basins (GBM Basin). Bangladesh is the lowermost riparian country of these basins. Around 93% of water in these basins in Bangladesh is generated from outside of the country. So transboundary river basin cooperation is very important for sustainable development. The focus of the project would be 1. Capacity building 2. Using technologies (i.e. artificial intelligence, remote sensing, etc.) in transboundary water cooperation 3. Training/workshop on tools of bilateral agreements 5. Climate change adaptation 6. Establishment of a common platform of data sharing among all riparian countries 7. Promoting nature-based solutions for sustainable development
- One of the game examples we saw is how difficult it is to start a discussion on water relations between countries (from the upper to the lower flow of the river), accept the interests of all parties involved and make final decisions that were useful for everyone. Increase such pilot games more
- Even though it is not a project, I find it necessary to start bilateral conversations between Chile and Perú regarding groundwater on the border.



- Governance of Groundwater Resources in Transboundary Aquifers (GGRETA), Ocotepeque-Citala Transboundary Aquifer System shared by El Salvador and Honduras
- Drin basin, Drina basin
- Botswana Lesotho Water Transfer scheme (Feasibility Studies for the Dam and Conveyance route from Lesotho to Botswana) Chobe Zambezi Water transfer scheme (ITT ongoing on Development of run-off river abstraction operating rules) These projects have been discussed with the riparian states and all member states are in agreement
- CICOS (Commission Internationale du Bassin Congo-Oubangi-Sangha) between the D.R.C., the Republic of Congo, the R.C.A., Angola
- UNESCO 5-Countries Biosphere Reserve Mura Drava Danube. Austria, Slovenia, Hungary, Croatia and Serbia. Freshwater ecosystem and biodiversity preservation. Adaptation to climate change challenges. Contribution to the Black Sea Source to Sea management and governance.
- Dominican Republic: in Pedernales and Masacre rivers basins – existing studies in the Pedernales River basin need to be complemented, especially the hydrological part in both Dominican Republic and Haiti, to be able to measure the size of the transboundary aquifer.

### QUESTION 16 – Support to Implementation of the activities

How can your country/organization contribute to the implementation of one or more areas of the Programme of work 2025-2027 (e.g. by providing financial resources, leading an area of work or an activity, hosting a workshop, etc.)?

#### Offers to host a workshop:

- **Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA):** *"We are ready to host workshops in the region and provide financial support for some activities."*
- **European Commission, DG Environment:** *"Potential support to be considered for various activities, including for co-organizing national/regional workshops."*
- **Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development, D.R. Congo:** *"Organising a 'NATIONAL FORUM ON WATER RESOURCES IN THE DRC' workshop."*
- **Lake Chad Basin Commission:** *"Hosting a workshop or leading in an area of work."*
- **Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning, North Macedonia:** *"Hosting of meetings, workshops, trainings..."*
- **Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Development, Zimbabwe:** *"Zimbabwe can share experiences on the BuPuSa negotiations and is ready to host a workshop on the development of transboundary water cooperation agreements or other arrangements in the future."*
- **Intergovernmental Coordinating Committee of the Countries of the La Plata Basin**
- **Niger Basin Authority**
- **Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform, Namibia:** *"Hosting a workshop, providing information to case studies, leading an activity."*
- **Ministry of Water and Forests, Côte d'Ivoire**
- **Universidad Católica del Norte of Chile:** *"I could facilitate the university to be host of a workshop on the topic of the water convention in Latin America."*
- **Commission Internationale du bassin Congo-Oubangui-Sangha (CICOS)**
- **Ministry of Water Resources, Iraq:** *"As the champion of the convention in the Middle East, Iraq may work through 4th Baghdad Water Conference to promote other countries to access to the convention "*
- **Ministry of environment and natural resources, Dominican Republic:** *"Hosting a workshop, sharing experiences, leading activities"*

#### Providing financial contributions and resources:

- **Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection, Germany:** *"Providing financial resources, leading or co-leading an area of work."*

- **Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, France:** *"France aims to continue to provide a financial support to the Convention (annual un-earmarked contribution + potential additional support to specific activities with other parties)."*
- **Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA):** *"We are ready to host workshops in the region and provide financial support for some activities."*
- **Swiss Federal Office for the Environment:** *"Switzerland will continue to support the convention in-kind and through core and project-based contributions."*
- **Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Regions and Water Management (BML), Austria:** *"Voluntary financial contributions, in-kind contributions with mobilizing of experts for workshops."*
- **Ministry of Interior, Hungary:** *"Financial contribution, in-kind contributions, leadership of program area."*
- **European Commission, DG Environment:** *"Potential support to be considered for various activities, including for co-organizing national/regional workshops."*
- **Ministry of the Environment, Finland:** *"Leading roles and in kind contributions as now (WGMA, TF NEXUS, Water allocation, Increasing awareness); Financial support hopefully as earlier (~250 000€/a); Project type support for events/basin projects/twinning "*
- **Global Water Partnership (GWP):** *joint fund-raising*
- **Comisión Trinacional del Plan Trifinio:** *"Providing financial resources"*

#### Readiness to lead an area of work:

- **Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection, Germany:** *"Providing financial resources, leading or co-leading an area of work."*
- **Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform, Namibia:** *"Hosting a workshop, providing information to case studies, leading an activity."*
- **Ministry of Interior, Hungary:** *"Financial contribution, in-kind contributions, leadership of program area."*
- **Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, El Salvador:** *"Yes, we can contribute to lead an area of work."*
- **Ministry of Water Resources Development and Sanitation of Zambia:** *"Zambia would like to Lead in undertaking the activity of establishment of a joint body."*
- **Ministry of Water and Irrigation, Jordan:** *"Leading an area of work or an activity, hosting a workshop."*
- **Ministry of Water and Sanitation, Senegal:** *"Committed to providing financial resources, running a work area and hosting a workshop, etc."*
- **Ministry of Natural Resources and Spatial Planning of the Republic of Slovenia:** *"All above listed options are possible."*