

# Areas of work under the UNECE Water Convention and the draft programme of work 2019-2021

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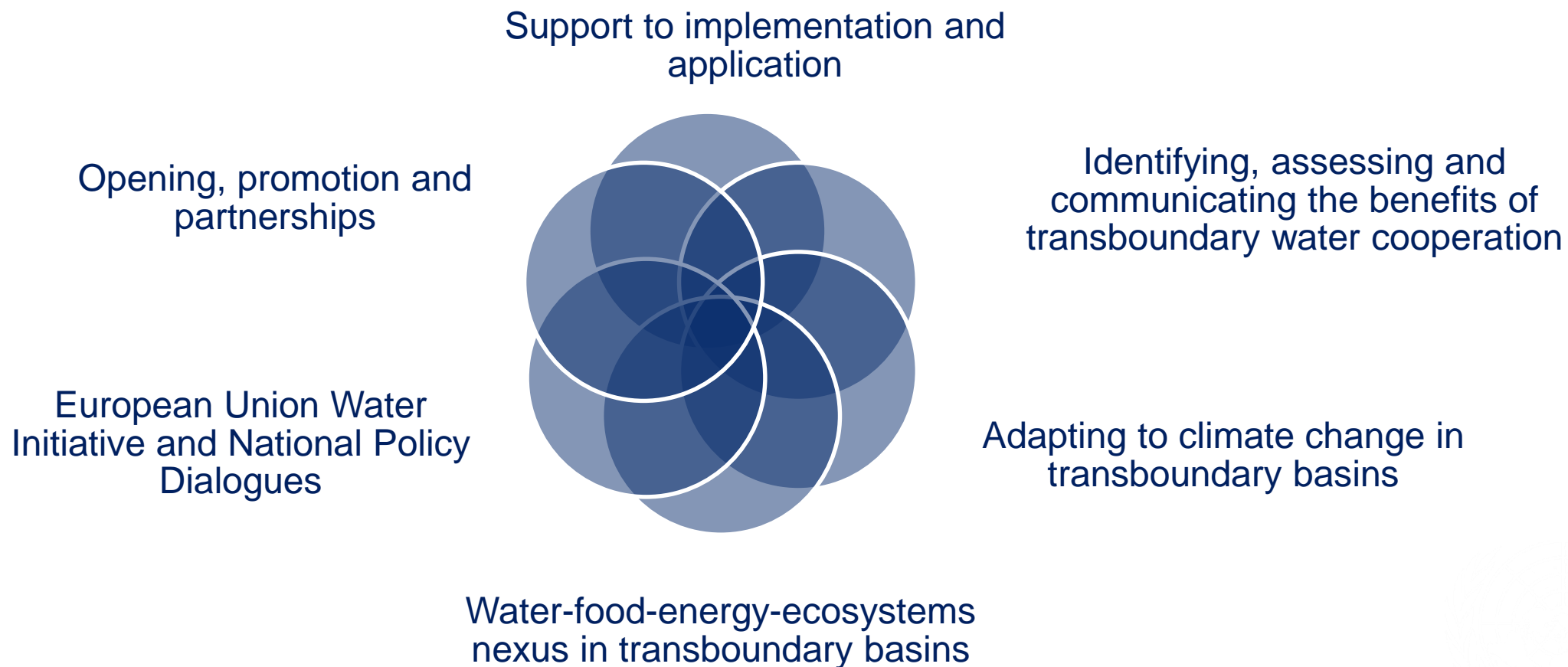


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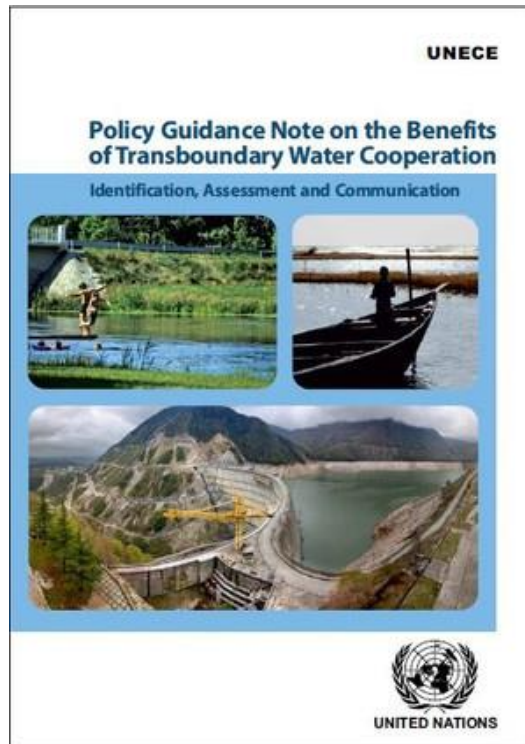
# Structure of the presentation

- The areas of work 2016-2018 under the Water Convention: an overview
- Background and current activities in selected areas of work (thematic):
  1. Identifying, assessing and communicating the benefits of transboundary water cooperation
  2. Water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus in transboundary basins
  3. Adapting to climate change in transboundary basins
- Context and background the future programme of work for 2019-2021
- Description of the 7 draft Programme Areas

# Programme of work for 2016-2018



# 1. The Policy Guidance Note on the benefits of transboundary water cooperation



- **Developed** in a 3-year collaborative process, more than 120 experts involved, 27 countries represented
- **Aim:** To support governments and other actors in realizing the potential benefits of transboundary water cooperation
- **Scope:** global, both surface and ground waters
- **Carrying out a benefit assessment exercise** can:
  - Provide fact-based argument for starting up cooperation or developing stronger cooperation
  - Broaden the scope of cooperation by defining a broad range of benefits
  - Attract financial resources to implement water cooperation solutions

# Supporting benefit assessments to realize the potential value of transboundary water cooperation

- Transboundary water cooperation generates more benefits than usually perceived
- In Okavango basin a benefits assessment carried out, in IGAD worked on with IUCN, several other basins are considering applying the Guidance
- Global workshop on benefits assessment held in 2017

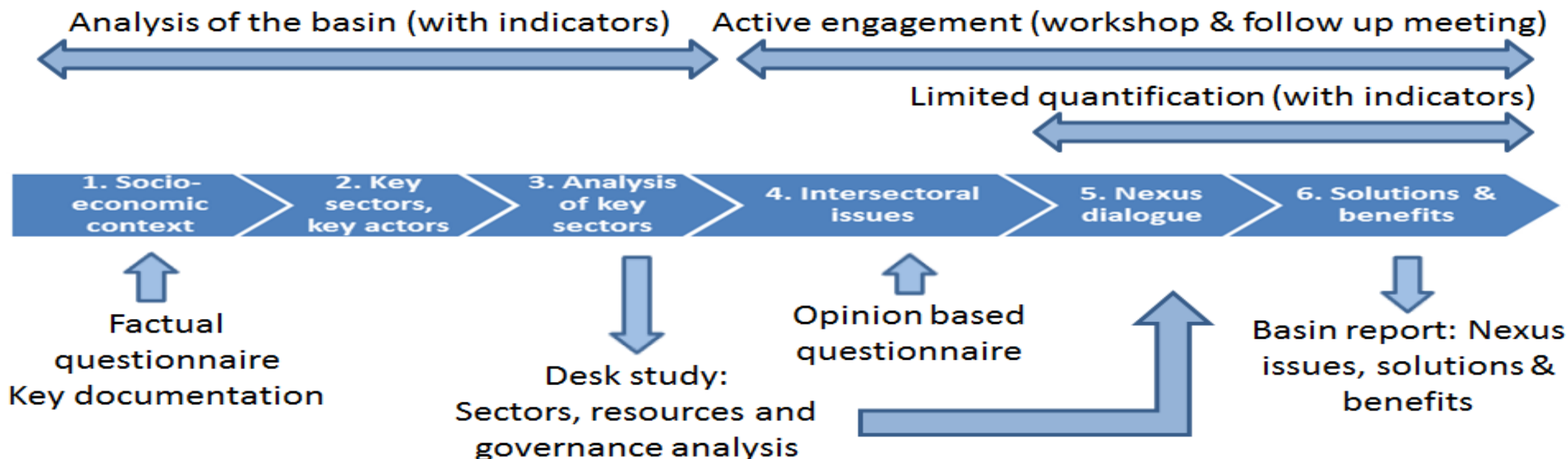
	On economic activities	Beyond economic activities
<b>From improved water management</b>	<b>Economic benefits</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expanded activity and productivity in economic sectors</li> <li>• Reduced cost of carrying out productive activities</li> <li>• Reduced economic impacts of water-related hazards (floods, droughts) ...</li> </ul>	<b>Social and environmental benefits</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health impacts</li> <li>• Employment and reduced poverty impacts</li> <li>• Improved access to services (electricity, water supply..)</li> <li>• Preservation of cultural resources or recreational opportunities.</li> <li>• Avoided/reduced habitat degradation and biodiversity loss</li> </ul>
<b>From enhanced trust</b>	<b>Regional economic cooperation benefits</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of regional markets (for goods, services &amp; labour)</li> <li>• Increase in cross-border investments</li> <li>• Development transnational infrastructure networks</li> </ul>	<b>Peace and security benefits</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthening of international law</li> <li>• Increased geopolitical stability</li> <li>• Reduced risk and avoided cost of conflict</li> <li>• Savings from reduced military spending</li> </ul>



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- Nexus Syr Darya basin**
- Power plant facilities**
- Thermal power plant (coal/oil/gas)
  - Hydro power plant with reservoir
  - Run-of-river hydro power plant
  - Proposed hydro power plant
- Installed capacity (MW)**
- |              |              |
|--------------|--------------|
| > 600 MW     | 100 - 250 MW |
| 250 - 500 MW | 50 - 100 MW  |
|              | < 50 MW      |
- Water withdrawal**
- 2013
- |             |               |
|-------------|---------------|
| Agriculture | Public supply |
|-------------|---------------|
- 1964
- |             |               |
|-------------|---------------|
| Agriculture | Public supply |
|-------------|---------------|
- Landcover**
- 20 000 km<sup>2</sup>
- 10 000
- 5 000
- 2 500
- Legend: Irrigated areas
- Map produced by ZOI Environment Network, June 2013

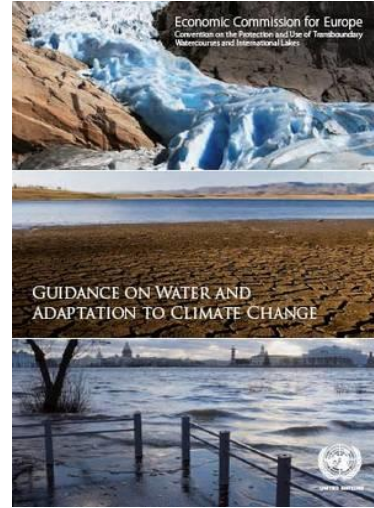
# Nexus assessment methodology

- Developed with the Task Force on the Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems Nexus guiding providing oversight, within the programme of work under the Water Convention
- Adapts to the context and the issues specific to the basin
- Application to 7 transboundary basins demonstrates value for engaging different sectors into a dialogue (e.g. the Alazani/Ganykh, Drina, Sava, Syr Darya)



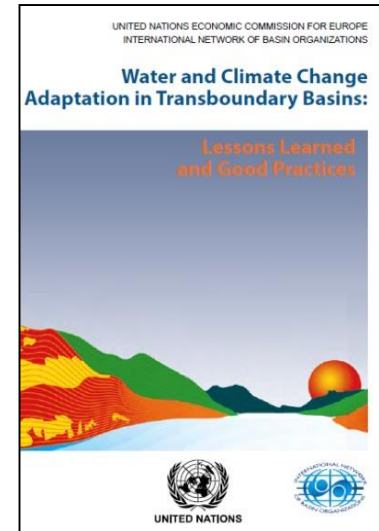
# 3. Climate change adaptation/ flood management: Achievements

- Important legal framework for cooperation on transboundary aspects of climate change
- Global platform for exchanging experience: Task Force on Water and Climate since 2006, annual workshops since 2010
- Knowledge management hub: Guidance and collection of good practices and lessons learned on Water and Adaptation to Climate Change, Model provisions on transb. Flood management
- Programme of pilot projects and global network of transboundary basins working on climate change (Dniester, Neman, Niger, Congo, Mekong, etc.)



## ➤ Selected Achievements:

- Transboundary vulnerability assessments for the Dniester and Chu Talas
- Development of transboundary climate change adaptation strategies in Dniester and Neman which prioritize adaptation measures from basin perspective
- Revival of transboundary cooperation at political level in the Neman basin through cooperation on climate change, contribution to RBMP
- Implementation of adaptation measures in 3 areas in the Dniester: monitoring and information exchange, ecosystem restoration, awareness-raising. Reservoir modelling by AGWA





# Activities on climate change in 2016-2018

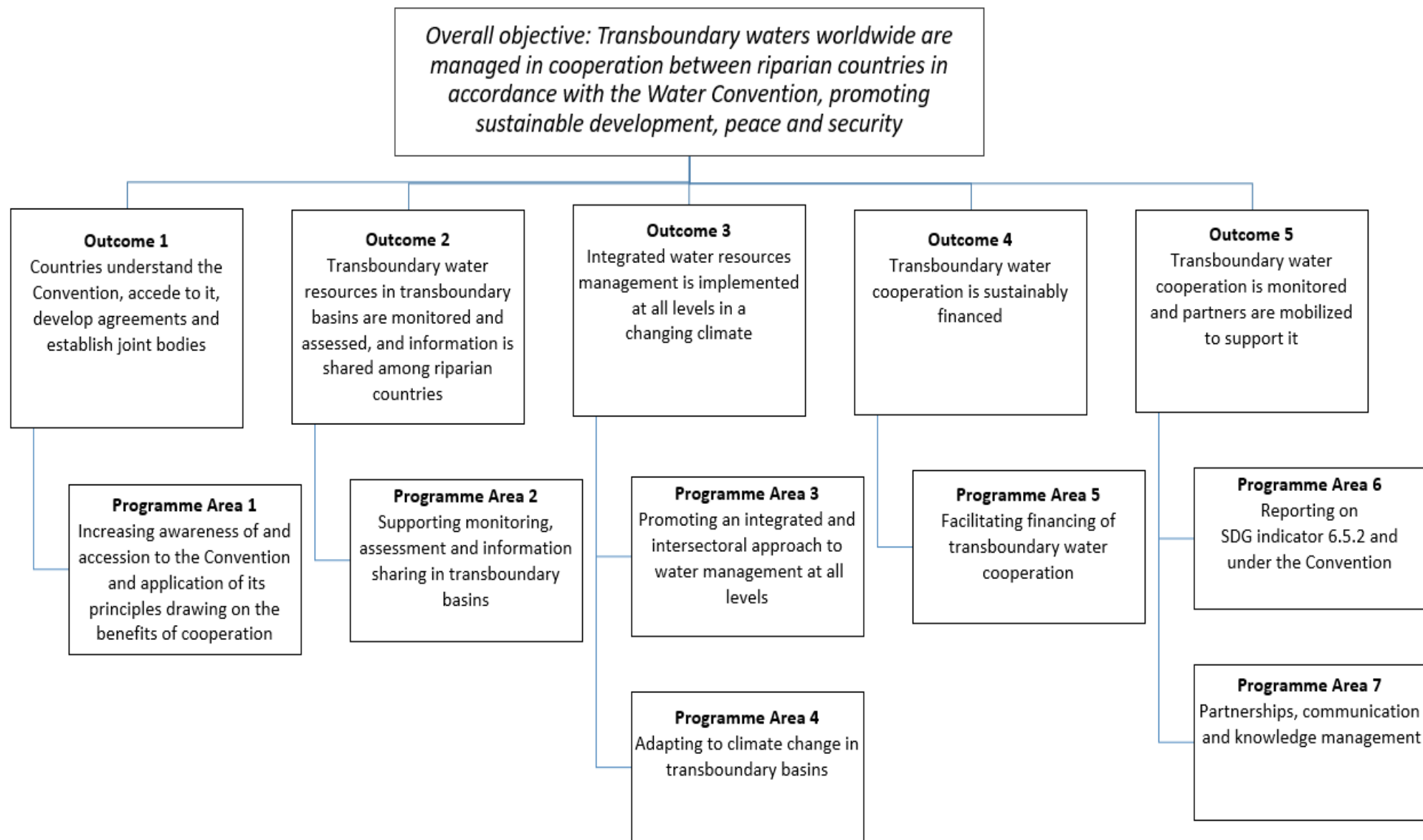
- Increase recognition of the need for transboundary cooperation in climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction
- Further mainstream climate change into the water community
- Exchange and collection of experience: e.g. focused on adaptation-mitigation linkages, scenarios, water scarcity, financing
- Replicate and upscale experience of the pilot projects and ensure their sustainability:
  - Implement developed transboundary adaptation strategies, e.g. implement some measures: Neman, Dniester, Chu-Talas
  - New basins in UNECE region having expressed interest: Alazani/Ganikh, Daugava, Mesozoic Transboundary Aquifer System (Belarus, Poland and Ukraine), Pripyat, Zapadny Bug, Panj, etc.
  - New basins outside the UNECE-region: Congo, Mekong, etc.



# Context and background the future programme of work for 2019-2021

- ❖ Transboundary water cooperation is vital for peace and development and now included in the SDG targets (6.5)
- ❖ Water Convention is a powerful tool to promote achievements of SDGs, (Goals 1, 2, 3, 7, 11, 13, 16, 17) as well as Paris agreement and Sendai framework
- ❖ Convention provides a key legal and intergovernmental framework for promoting transboundary water cooperation
- ❖ Chad acceded to the Convention in February 2018 as first non-UNECE country. 2019-2021 programme of work is the first one serving a global Convention
- ❖ Programme of work to be read together with strategy for the implementation at global level
- ❖ The extensive consultative process gives confidence that PoW reflects real needs in the countries and captured valuable ideas: discussions at the intergovernmental bodies, an on-line survey and interviews

# Logic of the work programme and programme areas





# Programme Area 1: Increasing awareness of and accession to the Convention and application of its principles drawing on the benefits of cooperation



**Lead Parties:** Hungary, France Finland, Germany and the Netherlands

**1.1 Increasing capacity for implementation of the Convention and supporting national processes towards accession**  
(Budget: \$1,650,000)

- ❖ Presentations/ sessions/ side events at international conferences, capacity-building trainings\* \* \*
- ❖ Support accession processes in interested countries \* \* ; organize regional/basin events in Africa, Asia and Latin America\*
- ❖ 2 Train the practitioner events \* \*
- ❖ Exchange of experience through twinning between countries in the accession process and Parties \*
- ❖ Develop an FAQ document on the Convention accession process\*

Key: \*International level, \*Regional/basin-level, \*National level





# Programme Area 1 (continued)



## 1.2 Promote and communicate the benefits of transboundary cooperation (Budget: \$372,000)

- ❖ Lead Party: Estonia
- ❖ 1 pilot project on assessment and communication of benefits of cooperation \*
- ❖ Publish a brief for policymakers \*

## 1.3 Support the development of agreements and the establishment of joint bodies (Budget: \$248,000)

- ❖ Lead Party: Azerbaijan? Hungary?
- ❖ Global workshop on water cooperation agreements and arrangements\*
- ❖ Regional workshops on negotiation skills\*
- ❖ Projects on the ground pending availability of resources

## 1.4 Implementation Committee\* (Budget: \$207,000)

Key: \*Global level, \*Regional/basin-level, \*National level

# Programme Area 2: Supporting monitoring, assessment and information sharing in transboundary basins

**Lead Party: Finland, Senegal?**

**2.1 Organize a global workshop on data and information exchange, publish substantive background paper\*** (Budget: \$224,000)

**2.2 Tailored assistance and experience-gathering** (Budget: \$198,000)

- ❖ Targeted assistance to cooperation processes on monitoring and assessment (eg studies and expert support) \*
- ❖ Promote exchanges/ twinning \* \*
- ❖ Use the different activities, especially basin activities, to collect information on common challenges and needs to guide future review of guidance under the Convention \*\*



Key: \*Global level, \*Regional/basin-level, \*National level

# Programme Area 3: Promoting an integrated and intersectoral approach to water management at all levels

**3.1 Promote IWRM in transboundary basins** (Budget: \$60,000): Organize thematic sessions during the WGIWRM\*

**3.2 Support intersectoral dialogue and assessments through water-food-energy-ecosystems approach** (Budget: \$579,000)

- ❖ Lead Party: Finland
- ❖ Disseminate results of nexus assessments through synthesis document\*
- ❖ Provide support to intersectoral dialogues, especially in the NWSAS, SEE, including Drina, and Niger basins\*
- ❖ Develop a checklist/resource document in cooperation with ECE Group of Experts on Renewable Energy\*

**3.3 Support equitable and sustainable water allocation** (Budget: \$579,000)

- ❖ Lead Party: Hungary
- ❖ Develop a manual on water allocation\*
- ❖ Organize 2 regional workshops on water allocation\*

**3.4 Support National Policy Dialogues on IWRM under the EUWI+ \*** (Budget: \$2,676,000)

**Lead Party: Secretariat, OECD, Romania, EC**



# Programme Area 4: Adapting to climate change in transboundary basins

**Lead Parties: Netherlands, Switzerland**

## **4.1 Support development of transboundary adaptation strategies and implementation of priority measures (Budget: \$1,070,000)**

- ❖ Projects on climate change adaptation in selected basins\*
- ❖ Experience exchange through global network of basins \* \*
- ❖ 2 global workshops on transboundary climate change adaptation\*
- ❖ Finalize, print and disseminate the “Words into Action” guide on water, transboundary cooperation and disasters\*
- ❖ Contribute to global policy processes on water, climate and disasters \*

## **4.2 Support transboundary basins in financing climate change adaptation (Budget: \$737,000)**

- ❖ Finalize and disseminate publication on "Preparing bankable projects for financing climate change adaptation in transboundary basins"\*
- ❖ Regional/basin-level trainings on preparing bankable project proposals\*





# Programme Area 5: Facilitating financing of transboundary water cooperation

**Lead Parties:** Switzerland, Netherlands?

## **Objectives:**

- ❖ Draw global attention to the importance of financing transboundary water cooperation
- ❖ Raise awareness of the need to enhance the financial sustainability of transboundary water management institutions and implementation programmes
- ❖ Facilitate knowledge sharing and peer learning on funding options
- ❖ Support national authorities and joint bodies in securing financing from different sources, including national budgets
- ❖ Promote the development of joint investment plans and financing strategies in transboundary basins

## **Activities:**

Global workshop on financing transboundary water cooperation in 2020, including background document \*

**Budget:** \$228,000

Key: \*Global level, \*Regional/basin-level, \*National level

# Programme Area 6: Reporting on Sustainable Development Goal indicator 6.5.2 and under the Convention

## 6.1 Support reporting on SDG Indicator 6.5.2 and under the Convention (Budget: \$650,000)

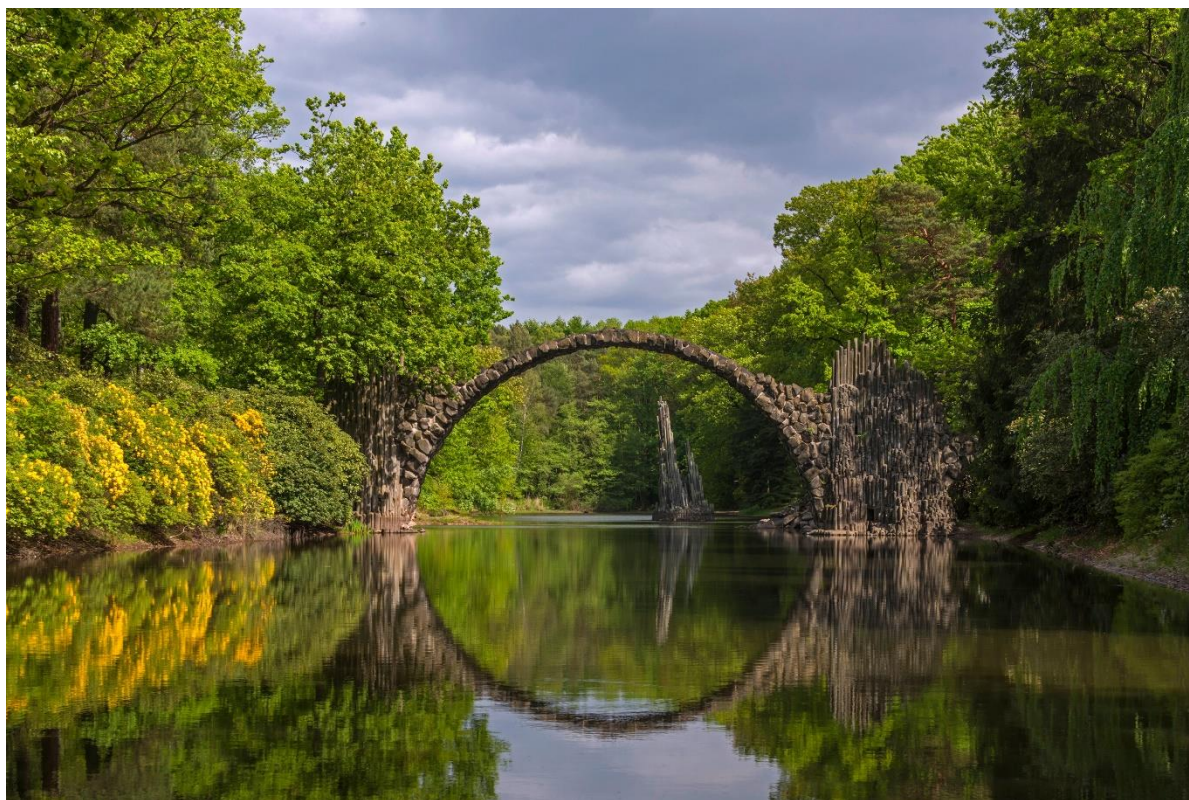
- ❖ Prepare a guide on reporting under the Convention in 2019\*
- ❖ Carry out second reporting exercise in cooperation with UNESCO (2020-2021)\*
- ❖ Capacity-building and exchange of experience on reporting, especially at WGIWRM in 2020 \* \* \*
- ❖ Develop a proposal for an online reporting system and database\*

## 6.2 Promote the use of reports for identifying and addressing gaps in cooperation \* \* \* (Budget: \$45,000)



Key: \*Global level, \*Regional/basin-level, \*National level

# Programme Area 7: Partnerships, communication and knowledge management



**7.1 Cooperation with UN-Water, global and regional partners and other MEAs** \* \* (Budget: \$55,000)

**7.2 Activities by the Joint Ad Hoc Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents:** disseminate and apply guidelines on firefighting water and other JEG documents, conduct transboundary exercises \* \* \* (Budget: \$15,000)

**7.3 Communication and knowledge management** \* (Budget: \$138,000)

Key: \*Global level, \*Regional/basin-level, \*National level



# Thank you for your attention!

## More information

including guidelines, publications and  
information on activities under the  
Convention can be found at:

<http://unece.org/env/water>  
[annukka.lipponen@un.org](mailto:annukka.lipponen@un.org)

