

11<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Task Force on Water and Climate  
Session on mainstreaming transboundary aspects of water  
management into climate-related documents  
(Geneva & virtual, 2 October 2020)

# Mainstreaming water and transboundary cooperation into climate related documents

Jos Timmerman, Netherlands/Waterframes



# Climate change is water change



- Climate change is much about floods, droughts, water quality
- Water management deals with floods, droughts, water quality
  - and ensuring water availability for sectors
- Water management = management of a common good
- Water management  $\neq$  water supply and sanitation (water sector)
  
- Climate change is about water management

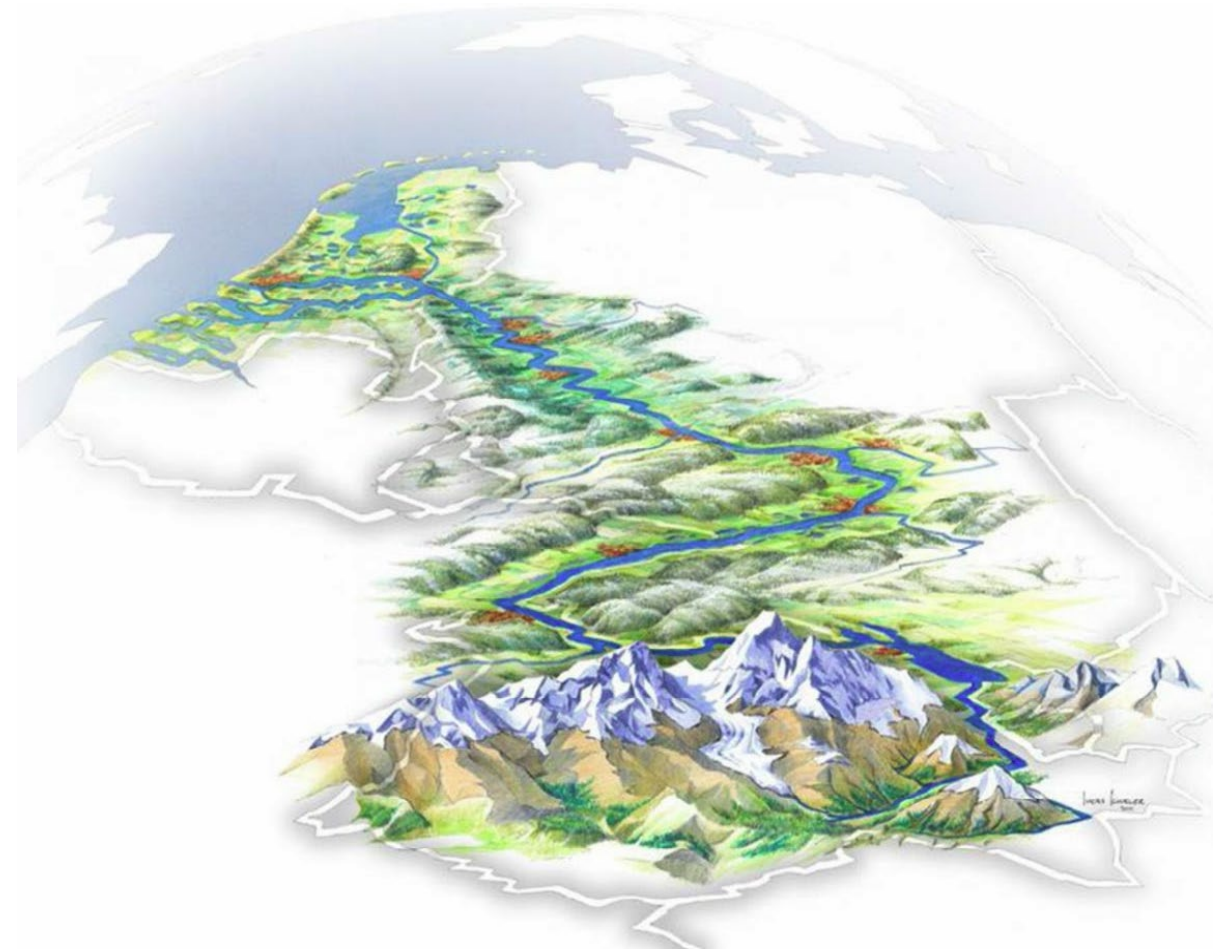
# Decision making in CC should include water



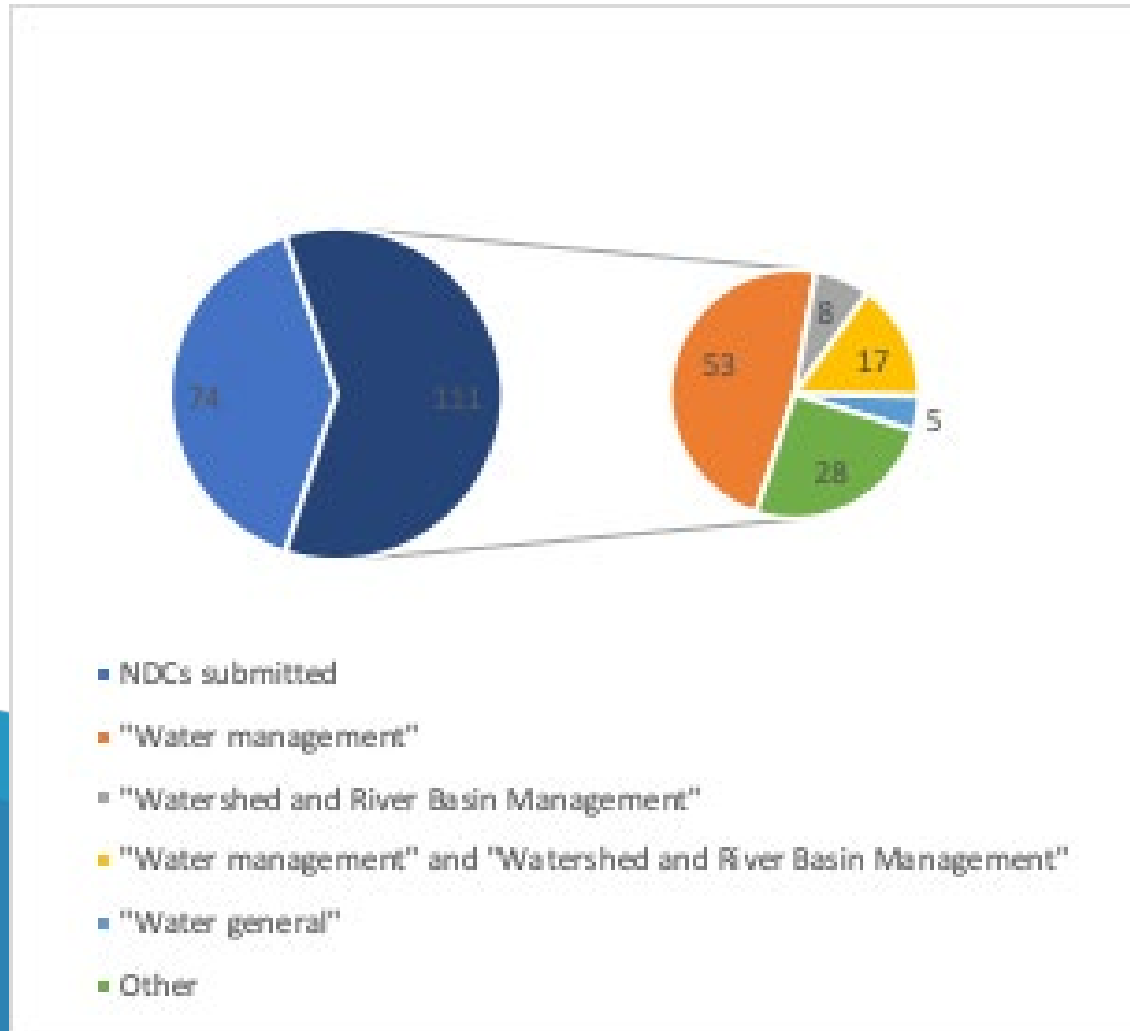
- Many decisions are taken without considering water management consequences
- Climate change mitigation (and adaptation) strategies seldom look at water management consequences
  - e.g. biofuels, Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS)
- Water management options for climate change mitigation are seldom considered
  - Peatlands can store more CO<sub>2</sub> than forests / damaged wetlands can be large CO<sub>2</sub> emitters

# Water management = cooperation

- The river is one system – coordination and cooperation are imperative
- River Basin Organisations (RBOs) exist to coordinate and support riparian countries

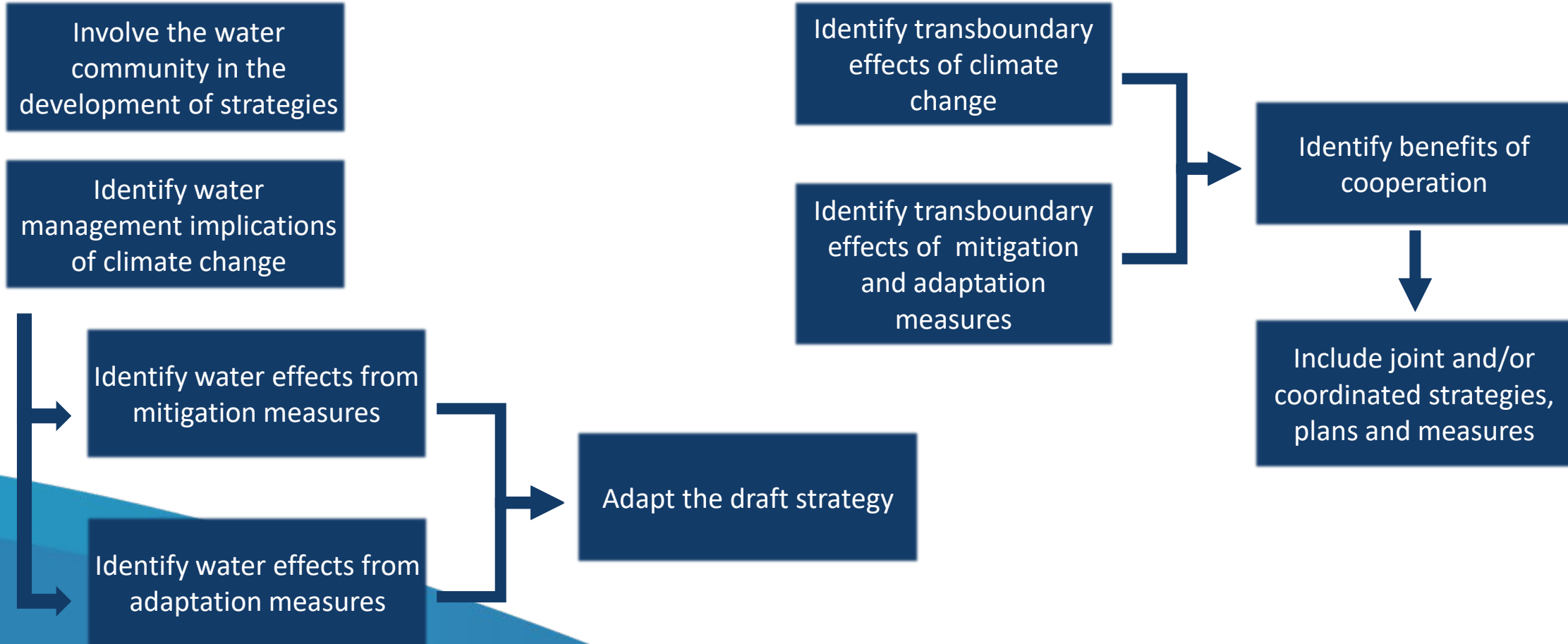


# Water in the NDCs



- All adaptation except Wastewater
- Virtually no considerations about water availability for mitigation plans
- Hardly any considerations about transboundary cooperation

# Include water in strategies



# Main messages

- Water plays a central role in dealing with climate change
- The water community must be involved in climate strategy development
- Apply an integrated approach to water management as management of a common public good
- Mitigation and adaptation measures can have substantial effects on water management and vice versa
- Water management is transboundary cooperation - RBOs, international institutions and international agreements can support and enhance this



Thanks!

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