

A large cable-stayed bridge with a prominent central pylon and multiple stay cables, spanning across a body of water. The scene is captured at dusk or dawn, with a deep blue sky and water reflecting the ambient light. The bridge's structure is silhouetted against the sky.

# Obligations on information-sharing and monitoring - work under the Water Convention and monitoring of the implementation of transboundary cooperation under SDG6

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# Information exchange under Water Convention

- **General obligation** to all Parties to «provide for the widest exchange of information, as early as possible on issues covered by the provisions of the Convention»
- Protection of information related to «industrial and commercial secrecy, including intellectual property, or national security»
- **Obligations for riparian Parties**, in the framework of agreements and joint institutions to:
  - Carry out joint monitoring and assessment of transboundary waters (quantity and quality)
  - Exchange information
  - Make assessment information available to the public
- Water Convention encourages continuously expand the range of information to be exchanged



# Scope of the data and information to be exchanged between Riparian Parties (art. 13)

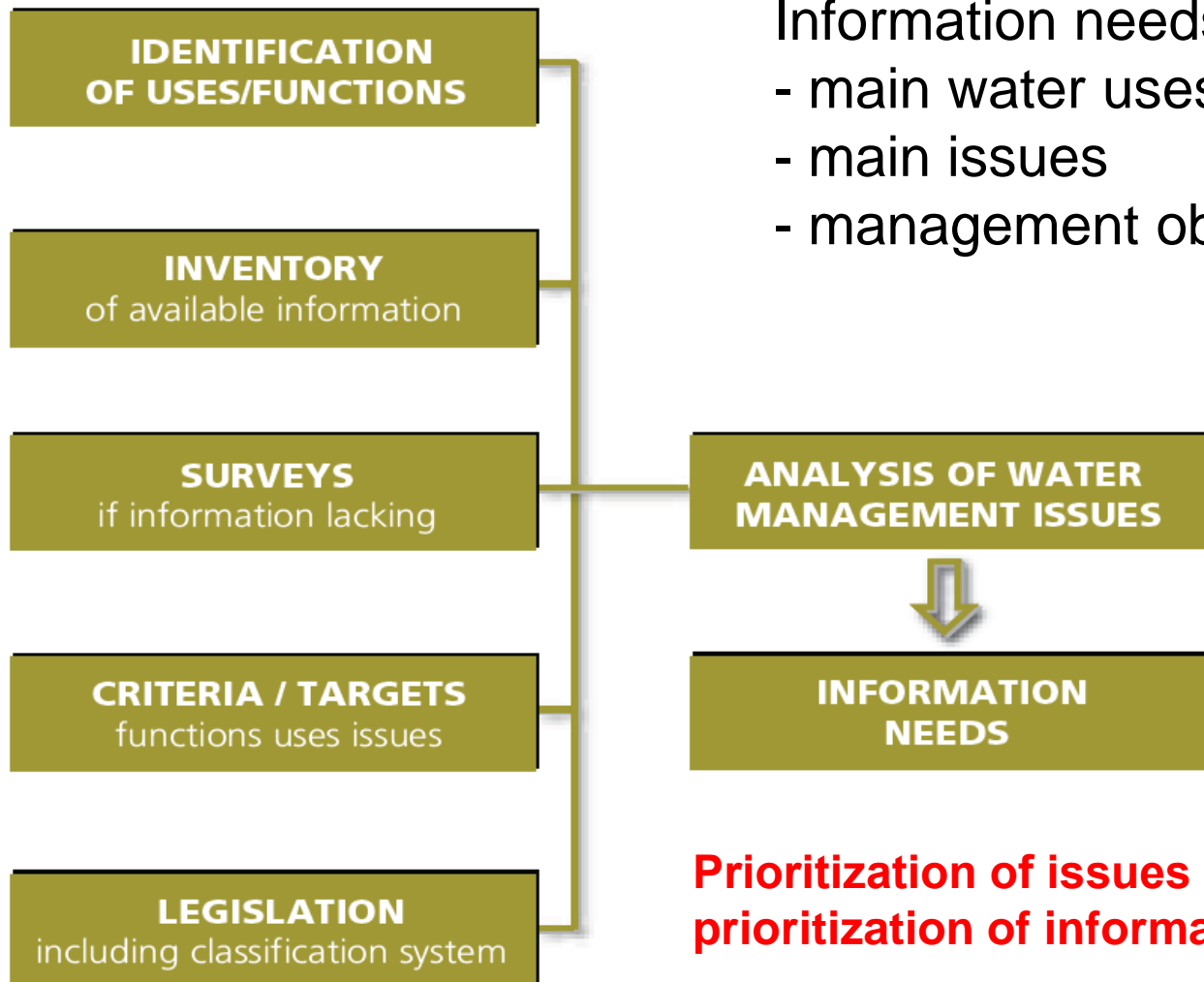
- Conditions of transboundary waters
  - Experience on BAT and research results
  - Emission and monitoring data
  - Measures taken or planned to prevent, control and reduce transboundary impacts
  - Permits or regulations for wastewater discharges
  - National regulations
- ⇒ Exchange of readily available information should be free of charge
- ⇒ If not readily available, there could be a reasonable charge for the processing of the information

# Why information on the status of water resources is necessary?

Information is the basis for decision-making and policy development

- To guide management efforts — accurate identification of pressure sources, determining suitability of waters for use etc.
- To verify effectiveness of measures taken
- To increase efficiency in allocating funds
- In shared waters, comparable information across the basin is needed to form a comprehensive picture of the situation
- To provide evidence to inform inter-sectoral and transboundary dialogue (e.g. agricultural and energy policies impact on waters)

# Analysis of water management issues



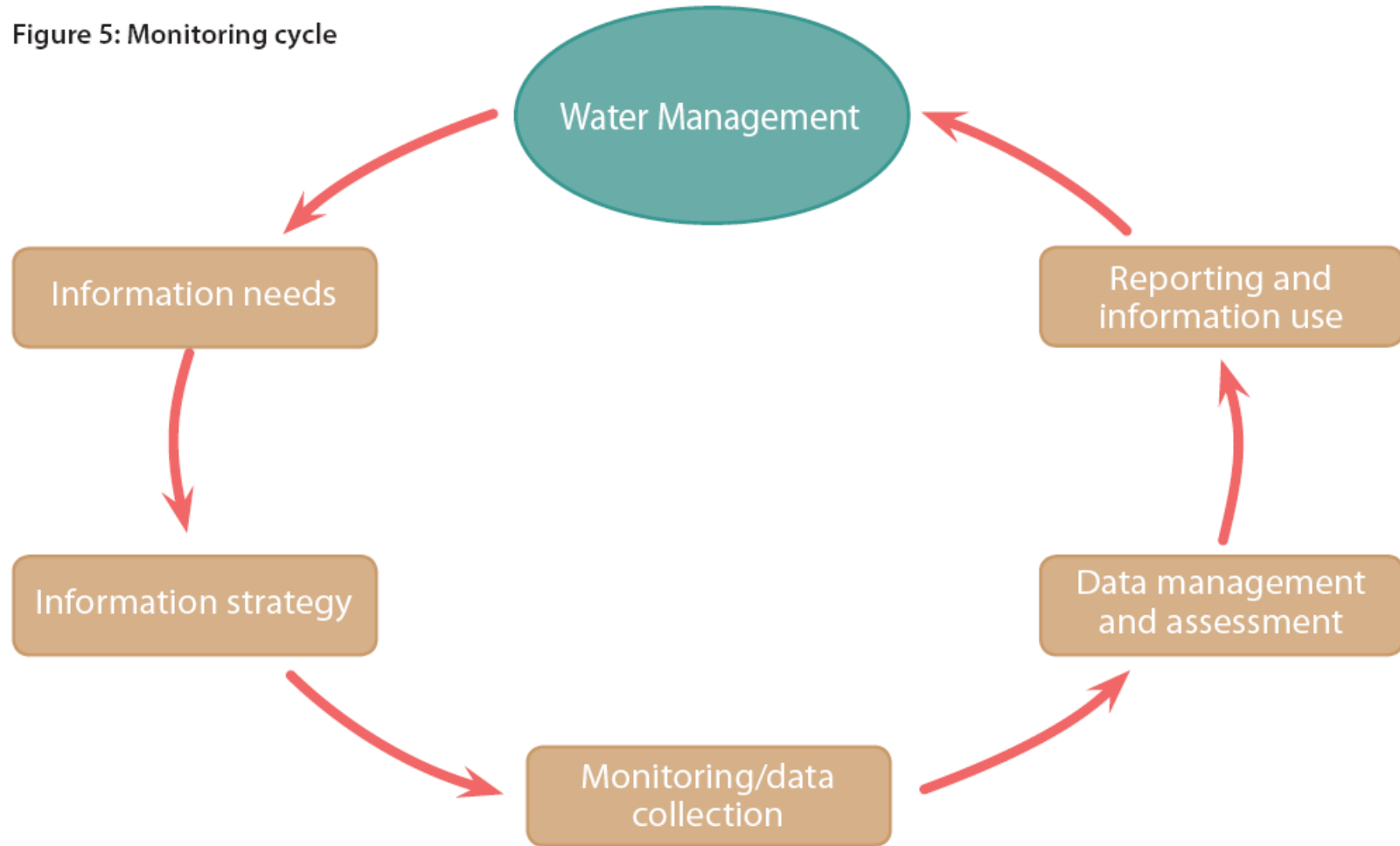
Information needs derive from:

- main water uses and functions
- main issues
- management objectives

**Prioritization of issues →  
prioritization of information needs**

# Monitoring Cycle

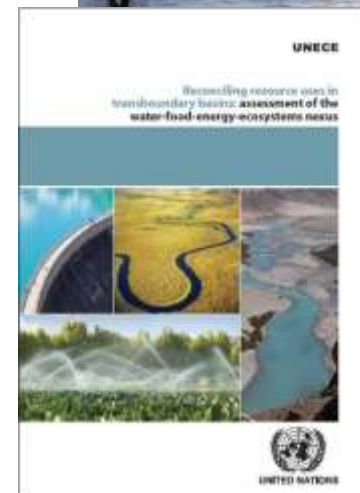
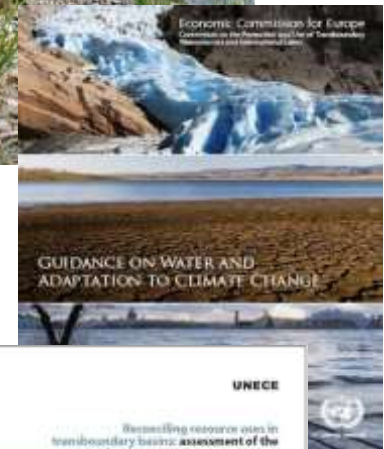
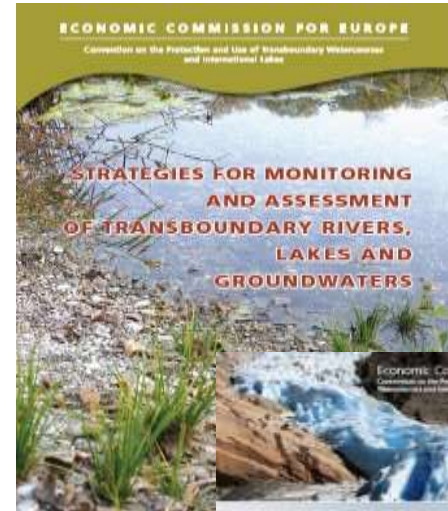
Figure 5: Monitoring cycle



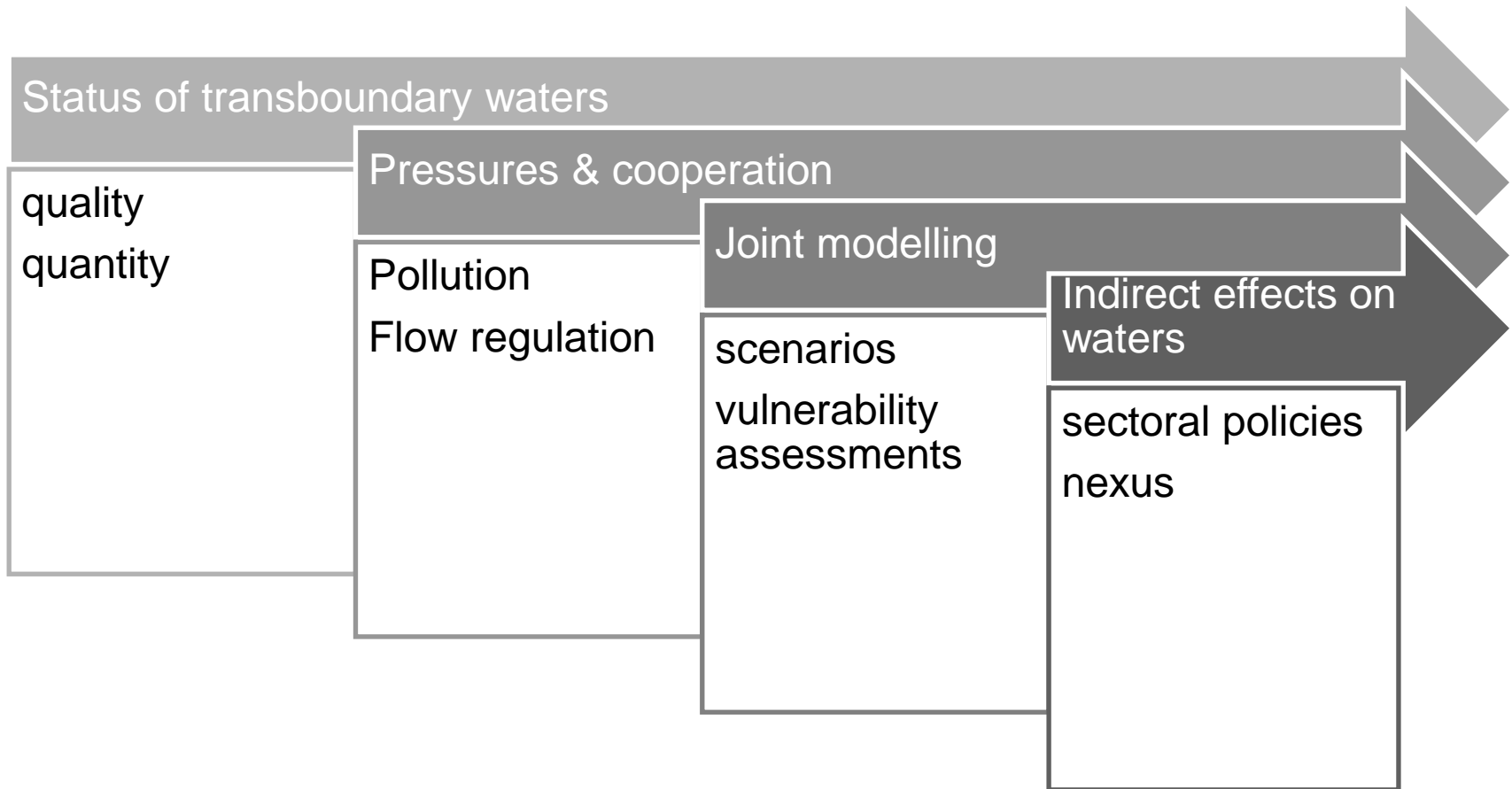
**Information needs evolve as water management develops, targets are met or policies change**

# Guidelines and guidance documents

- Guidelines on water-quality monitoring and assessment of transboundary rivers (1996)
- Guidelines on Monitoring and Assessment of Transboundary Groundwater (2000)
- Monitoring and Assessment: Transboundary river guidelines (2001)
- Guidelines on Monitoring and Assessment of Transboundary and International Lakes: (2002)
- Strategies for monitoring and assessment of transboundary rivers, lakes and groundwaters (2006)
- Guidance on Water and Climate (2009)
- Policy guidance on benefits of transboundary cooperation (2015)
- Methodology for assessing the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus in transboundary basins (2015)



# Gradual evolution of data and information in transboundary cooperation





# Data to monitor progress of transboundary cooperation under the SDGs

- **Target 6.5:** By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, **including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate.**
- **Indicator 6.5.2:** Proportion of transboundary basin area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation.
- **Complements indicator 6.5.1** which measures the advancement of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM)
- **Custodian agencies:** UNECE and UNESCO
- **Justification:** Most of the world's water resources are shared. Development and management of water resources has impacts across transboundary basins -> cooperation required.
- **Rationale:** Specific agreements or other arrangements concluded between co-riparian countries are a key precondition to ensure long-term, sustainable cooperation.

## Methodology for 6.5.2:

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

- Main steps for calculation: .
  - 1- calculate the surface area of each transboundary basin and the total sum within a country.
  - 2- verify which transboundary basins are covered by a cooperation arrangement.
  - 3- check which of the existing arrangements are **operational**
  - 4- calculate the share of transboundary basins covered by operational arrangements of the total sum of transboundary basin area.
- *Aggregation/disaggregation can be done also at levels different from national (basin, regional and global)*

## Criteria for operationality of cooperation arrangements

1. Existence of a joint body, joint mechanism, commission (e.g. a river basin organization) for transboundary cooperation
2. Regular formal communications between riparian countries (e.g. regular meetings)
3. Existence of joint or coordinated water management plan(s), or of joint objectives
4. Regular exchange of data and information between riparians.

Basis: the main principles of customary international law (reflected in global freshwater conventions, UN ILC Draft Articles on n The Law of Transboundary Aquifers)

# Reporting under the Water Convention to monitor indicator 6.5.2

- Adopted by the Parties in November 2015
- Every 3 years as of 2017
- Information to be gathered through a questionnaire covers transboundary rivers, lakes and groundwaters sent to national authorities responsible for transboundary water cooperation
- Involves both Parties and non-Parties
- Monitoring of indicator 6.5.2 and gathering of additional information enriching the analysis



# Information gathered in the reporting under the Water Convention

- Management of transboundary waters at the national level (measures, policies, principles in legislation etc.)
  - Transboundary rivers, lakes and groundwaters
  - Information on agreements and joint bodies
  - Scope of cooperation, including information exchange, activities etc.
  - Challenges, achievements
  - Indicator 6.5.2 data and information
- ⇒ All Latin America countries will receive the template in October/November for reply by March 2017
- ⇒ Report on the advancement of transboundary cooperation submitted to the High Level Political Forum in 2018