

4. Have joint objectives, a common strategy, a joint or coordinated management plan or action plan been agreed for the basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins?

Yes / No

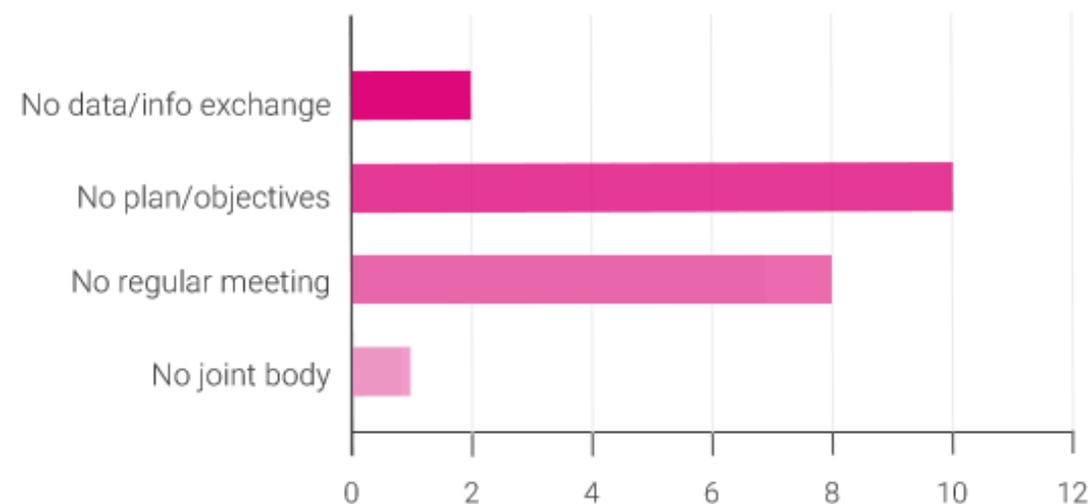
If yes, please provide further details: [fill in]

1. Definition/scope

- Clearly and succinctly define each term, namely joint objectives, a common strategy, a joint or coordinated management plan, and an action plan.
- Explain and provide examples for each.

The presence of a joint or coordinated management plan, or evidence that joint objectives have been set, is a **key criterion** in measuring operationality under SDG indicator 6.5.2.

Figure 20: Operationality criteria not fulfilled



In the 14 instances where non-operational arrangements applied to basins not covered by any operational arrangement, the lack of joint or coordinated management plans or joint objectives proved to be the most common factor precluding arrangements from becoming operational.

Further details Scope

JOINT OBJECTIVES

- **Joint water quality objectives and criteria** can be found in both the Watercourses Convention (article 21(3) (a)) and the Water Convention (article 3(2)), which also provide **planning for emergencies** (Watercourses Convention (article 28(4)) and Water Convention (articles 3(1)(j), 14 and 15)).

EXAMPLES:

- Details provided by Finland on joint objectives of the Agreement between the Republic of Finland and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics concerning Frontier Watercourses, Signed at Helsinki on 24 April 1964

“To keep these rivers in reference conditions and improve the conditions for migratory fish”

Scope

JOINT OR COORDINATED MANAGEMENT PLAN OR ACTION PLAN

- **UN Watercourses Convention**, Article 24(1) sets the obligation for countries, upon a request from another watercourse State, to enter into consultations concerning the management of an international watercourse. “Management” is defined in the Convention as including “planning the sustainable development of an international watercourse and **providing for the implementation of any plans adopted**” (article 24(2)(a)).
- **Draft Articles on the Law of Transboundary Aquifers**, Article 14 establishes that aquifer countries are, where appropriate, obliged to “establish and implement plans for the proper management of their transboundary aquifers or aquifer systems” (article 14).

Scope

IWRM PLANS

- As reflected in **SDG target 6.5**, plans are also an important element in implementing IWRM at the national level. However, to date, only an estimated **37 per cent of countries** report that **basin or aquifer plans based on integrated approaches are being implemented**, and 47 per cent of countries report that the preparation or development of such plans has not yet started or has been delayed in the majority of basins or aquifers.

EXAMPLES

- The **EU Water Framework Directive** required Member countries to have in place River Basin Management Plans for all their river basins by 2009 (article 13) and to have updated those plans by 2015. Pursuant to the EU Water Framework Directive, **Member countries are encouraged to produce a single River Basin Management Plan for transboundary river basins.** These plans set out the **main pressures impacting these waters, and the measures required in order for the basins to reach or maintain “good ecological status”** – as required by the EU Water Framework Directive. **Plans must be reviewed and updated every six years.**

Scope

- **COMMON STRATEGY**

Broader terminology to encompass other typology of common visions.

Issues to be included in the Guide

- Definition of terms
- Explanation of what is covered under this question: broad set of agreed way forward
- Guidance on elements to be addressed in the open question:
 - Scope and objectives of the plan/strategy, etc
 - how and when it was agreed
 - Timeframe for implementation
 - Revision mechanism and how is the plan being implemented (assessment of progress)