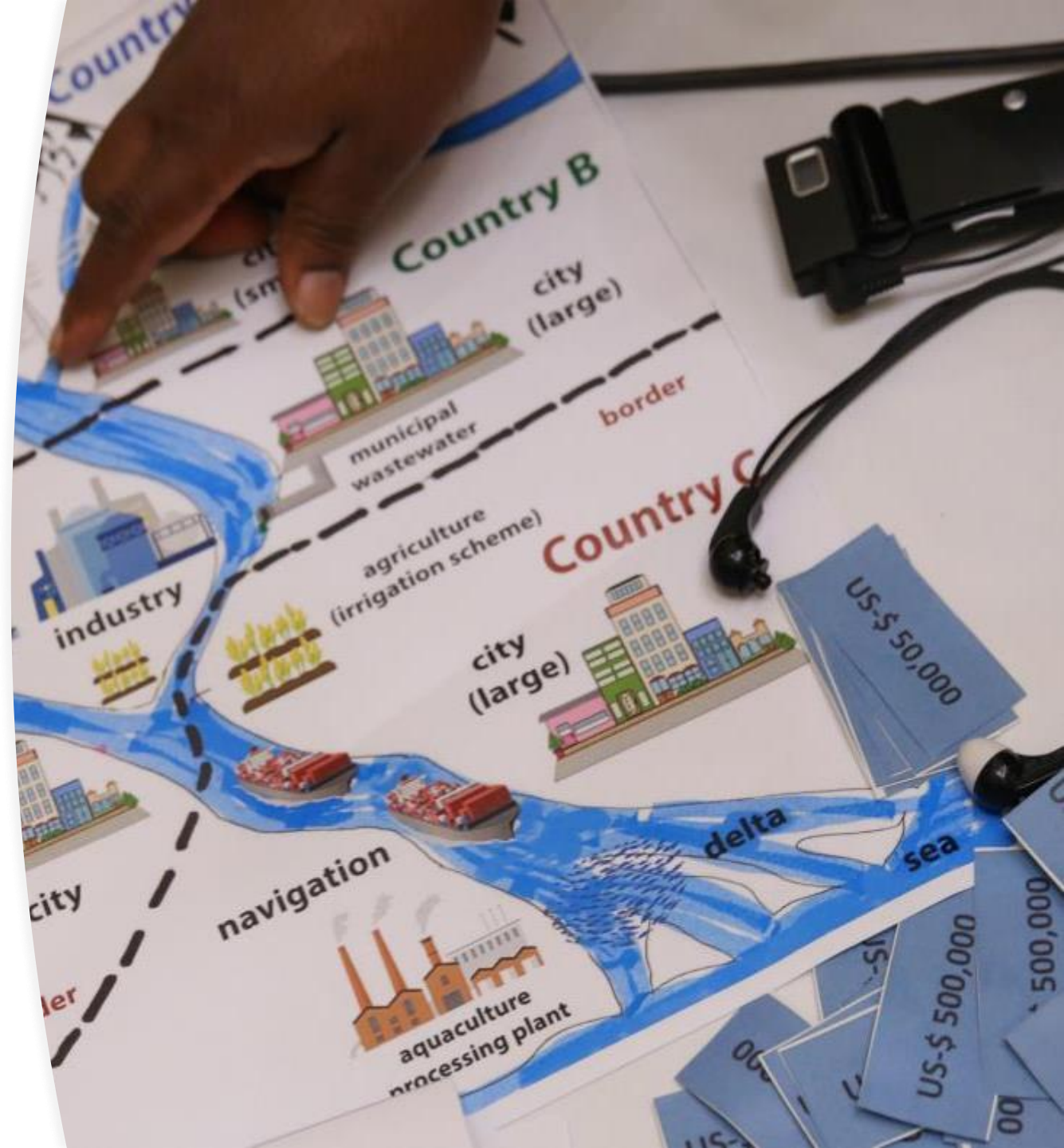


Adapting together: sharing costs and benefits in transboundary basins

Sonja Koeppel and Hanna
Plotnykova, Water Convention
Secretariat, UNECE

INBO webinar

**Cost of climate change adaptation at basin
level vs cost of inaction**
13 October 2020



Why transboundary cooperation in climate change adaptation?

- More efficient adaptation: sharing data, enlarging the planning space and identification of better priorities
- Addressing floods and droughts more efficiently
- Reducing uncertainties
- Can support adaptation planning at the country level

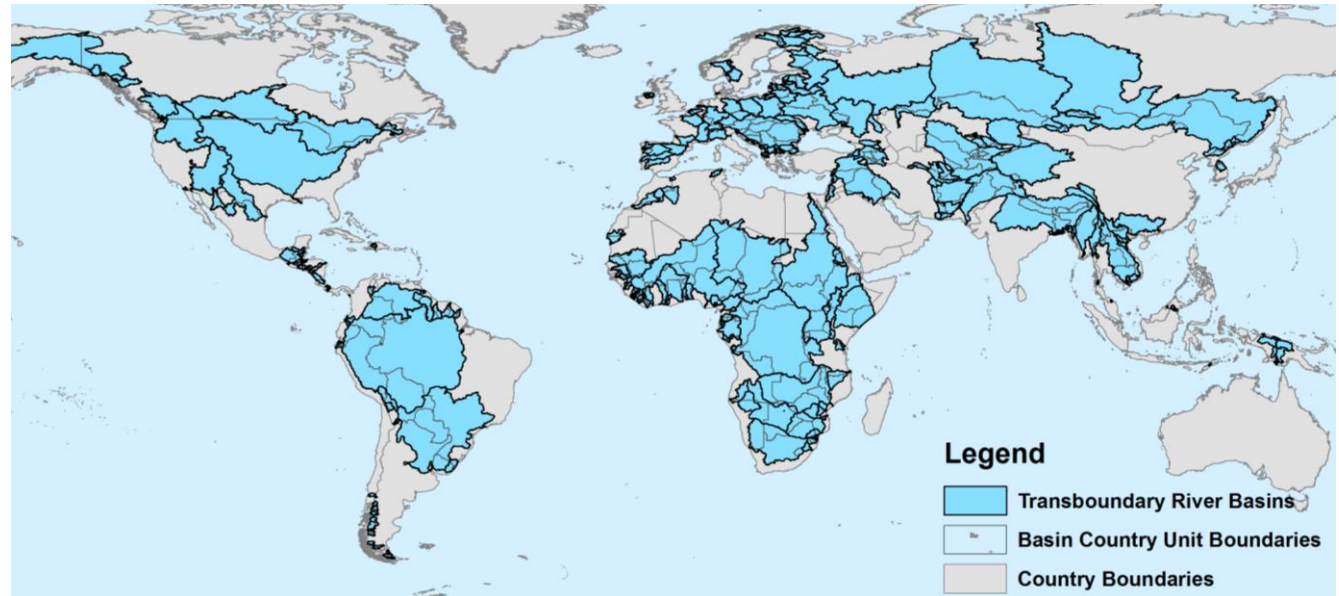


United Nations

International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction
13 October

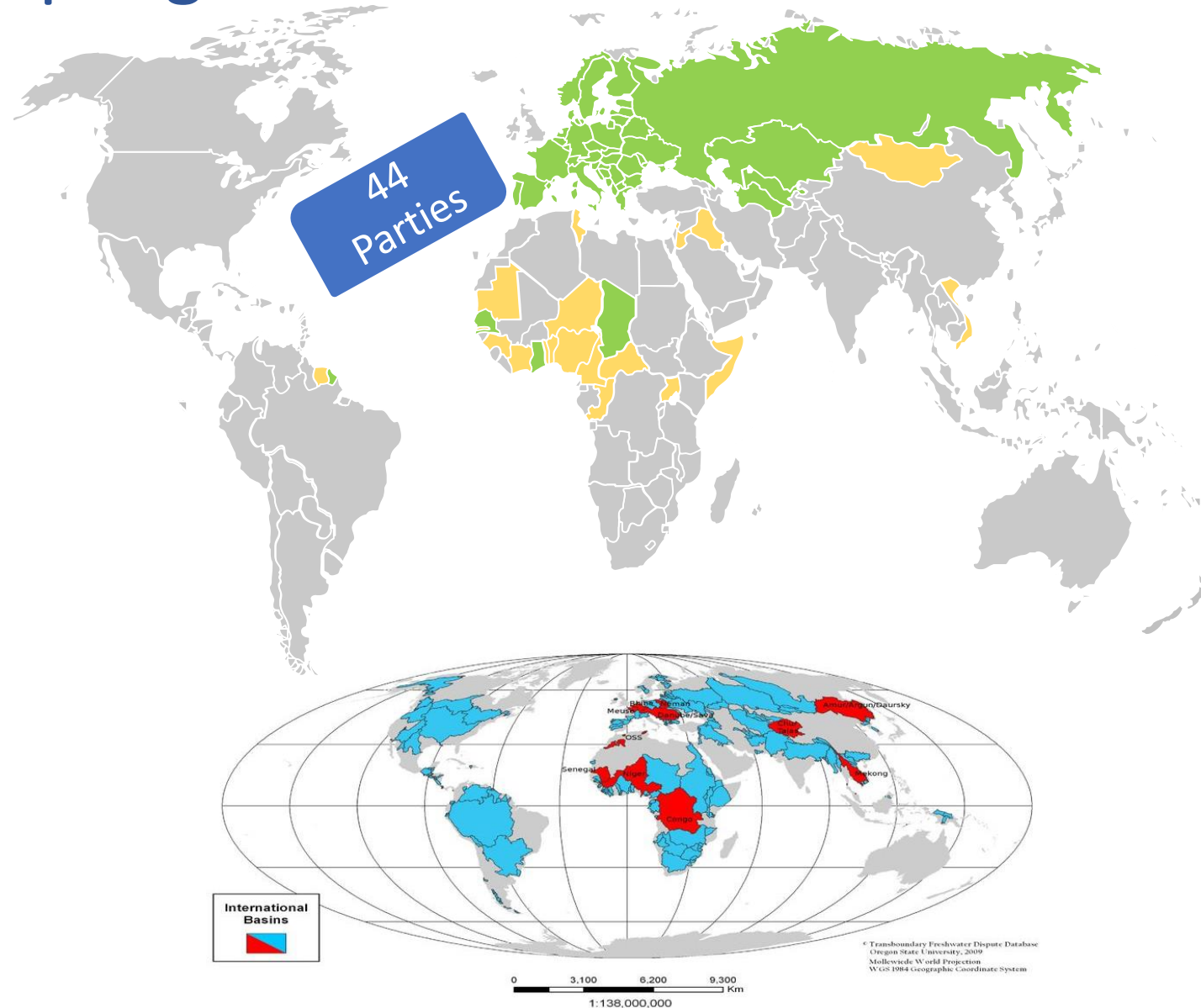
Sharing costs and benefits

Transboundary cooperation can help to share the costs for climate change adaptation more efficiently



The Water Convention: supporting transboundary basins in adapting to climate change

- Unique global legal and intergovernmental United Nations framework on transboundary cooperation
- Offers capacity building, sharing knowledge and experience, guidance and projects on the ground:
 - Task Force on Water and Climate since 2006
 - Global Network of basins working on climate change adaptation
 - Capacity-building for financing transboundary adaptation



Possible steps in transboundary climate change adaptation



- Analysis of climate change impacts
- Basin-wide Vulnerability assessment
- Transboundary Adaptation strategy and plan
- **Joint resource mobilization plan**
- **Integration of transboundary adaptation into the basin and flood risk management plans as well as national climate and sectoral policies**
- Implementation of priority adaptation measures of benefit to all basin countries

Some examples of good practices worldwide:

- Chu-Talas, Danube, Dniester, Neman, Rhine, Meuse, etc.
- Lake Victoria, Volta, OSS, Senegal, Mekong, Niger, etc.

Case study example 1: Dniester basin

- The **Dniester basin** shared by Moldova and Ukraine (support from UNECE, OSCE, UNDP, UNEP)
- Cooperation on climate change adaptation started with flood management activities
- Strategic Framework for Adaptation to Climate Change was endorsed in 2015 and followed by development of its **Implementation and Resource Mobilization Plan**
- These activities increased the adaptive capacity in the basin and facilitated the entry into force of the transboundary Dniester Treaty in 2017 and the establishment of the Dniester Commission in 2018



Strategic Framework
for Adaptation
to Climate Change
in the Dniester River Basin



WEBSITE OF THE DNIESTER COMMISSION
SAVE THE DNIESTER RIVER TOGETHER



Guvernul Republicii Moldova
Ministerul Agriculturii,
Dezvoltării Regionale și
Mediului



Міністерство
енергетики та
захисту довкілля

Lang: EN ▼

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DNIESTER COMMISSION

The Commission on Sustainable Use and Protection of the Dniester River Basin (the Dniester Commission) was established under the Treaty between the Government of the Republic of Moldova and the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine on Cooperation in the Field of Protection and Sustainable Development of the Dniester River Basin (Moldovan, Ukrainian), which was signed in Rome on 29 November 2012. The Treaty covers almost all aspects relating to river basin issues, except for navigation and hydropower, and is aimed at strengthening and expanding cooperation between the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, which started in 1994. Besides, the execution of this document was an important step in fulfilling the obligations undertaken by the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine under the UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (1992) and the EU Water Framework Directive (2000).

RULES AND COMPOSITION

The rules of procedure and proceedings of the Commission were approved at the first meeting of the Commission (Chisinau, 17 September 2018)

[READ MORE >](#)

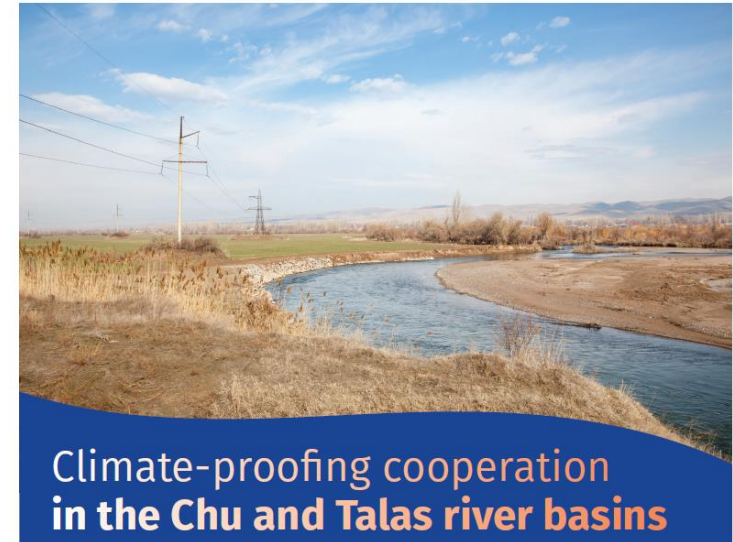
WORKING GROUPS

The composition of the Moldovan and Ukrainian parts of the Commission is represented by the following working groups:

Case study example 2:

Chu - Talas basin

- The **Chu-Talas basin** shared by Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan (support from UNECE and UNDP)
- Basin-wide modelling of climate change impacts and a vulnerability assessment
- Elaboration, **cost-assessment and implementation of climate change adaptation measures**, covering issues from water quality to monitoring and education
- Measures were integrated into a transboundary diagnostic analysis (TDA) and a Strategic Action Programme (SAP)
- The Joint Bilateral Chu-Talas Water Commission played a crucial role and created a climate change sub-group

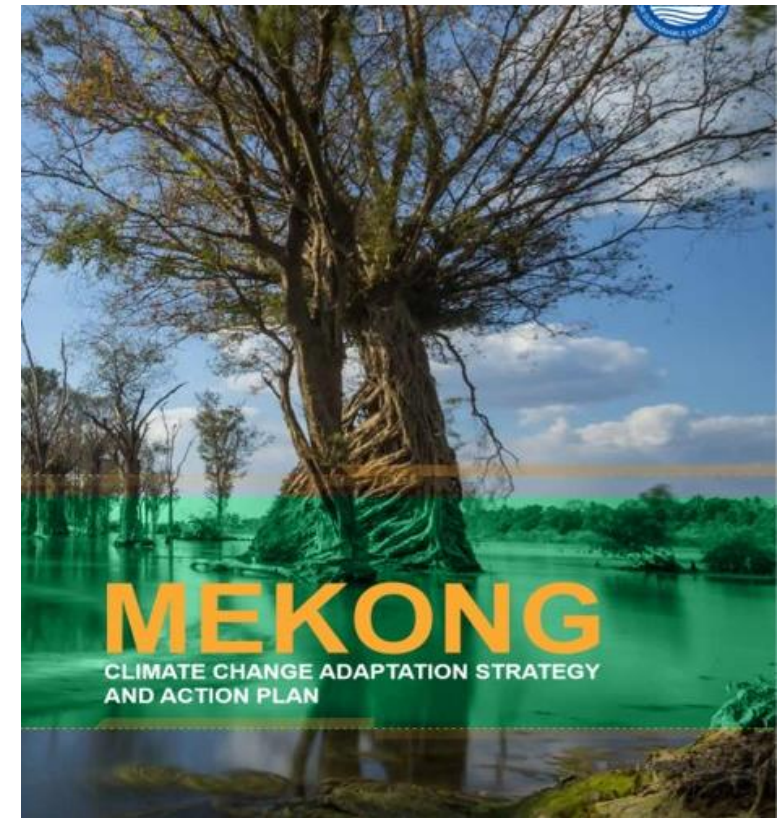


Climate-proofing cooperation
in the Chu and Talas river basins



Case study 3: Mekong Climate Change Adaptation and Action Plan (MASAP)

- Supporting Member Countries to address transboundary risks and impacts (e.g. storage)
- Enabling more efficient use of resources through cooperative action and knowledge and data sharing- incl. vulnerability assessment
- Enhancing the capacity of Member Countries in implementing their own national strategies and plans, incl. mainstreaming
- Regional and international financing to address joint challenges/solutions (e.g. biodiversity corridor)



Insights into cost assessment

- Funding foreseen from **national budgets covering different sectors and international donors**
- Approximate adaptation costs for selected basins (the Chu-Talas, the Dniester and the Neman River basins) – **€200 million each**
 - In these basins, **up to 40% of the costs** may be **partly covered** by the relevant national sectoral programmes and projects
 - Approximately 40% of the costs are related to flood protection measures
 - Approximately 25% is related to the preservation and restoration of ecosystems

Ingredients for success of transboundary adaptation

- Starting with a common technical issues of common concern
- Good communication
- Consultative process (politicians-scientists) and inter-sectoral cooperation
- Data sharing and joint/coordinated monitoring
- Capacity building support
- Funding mechanisms
- Strong basin organisations and partnership between different organisations
- Active engagement from civil society and private sector actors



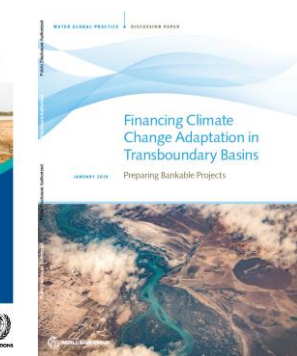
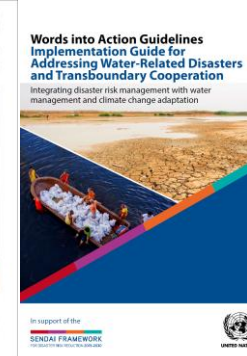
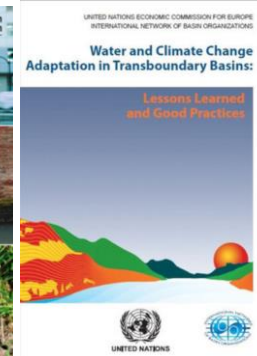
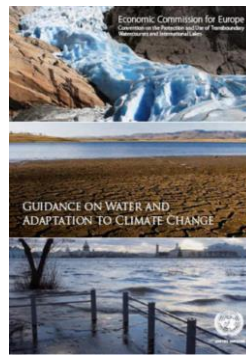
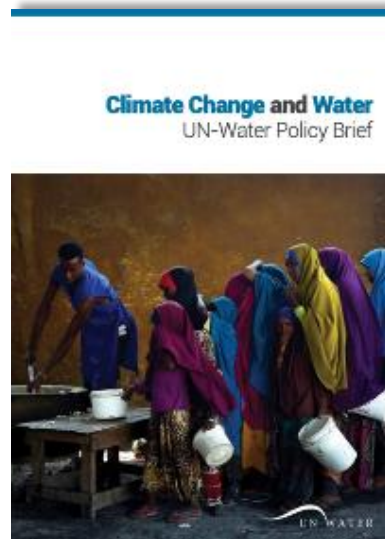
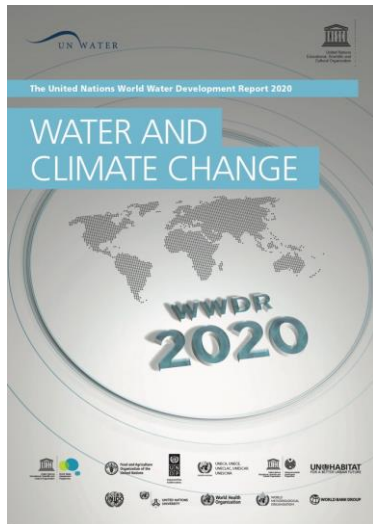
Water in Nationally Determined Contributions



- Water is the most often-cited priority sector in NDCs for adaptation actions
- More attention is needed to illustrate the **central role of water and the benefits of transboundary cooperation** in the new and updated **NDCs in 2020**
- Additional opportunities for **funding transboundary measures**
- **RBOs can play an important role** in facilitating this process
- More information at <https://www.unece.org/index.php?id=53335>

Additional relevant resources

- World Water Development Report “Water and Climate Change”, 2020
- UN-Water Policy Brief on Climate Change and Water, 2019
- Towards sustainable renewable energy investment and deployment, 2020
- Financing Climate Change Adaptation in Transboundary Basins: Preparing Bankable Projects, 2019
- Implementation Guide for Addressing Water-Related Disasters and Transboundary Cooperation, 2018
- Water and Climate Change Adaptation in Transboundary Basins: Lessons Learned and Good Practices, 2015
- Guidance on Water and Adaptation to Climate Change, 2009





Thanks for
your attention!

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For more information:

www.unece.org/env/water/