



# Activities on water and adaptation to climate change

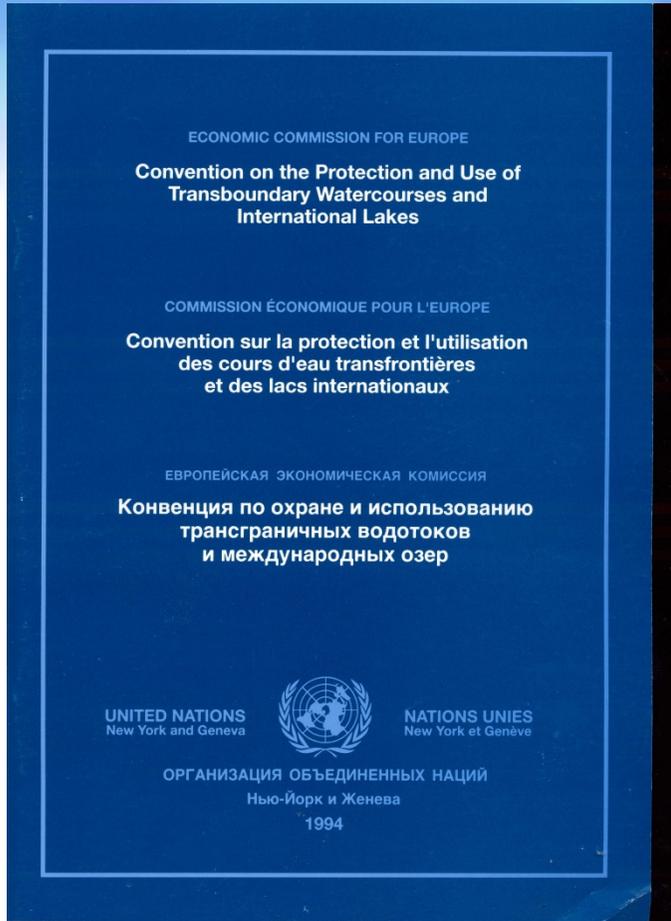
in the framework of the UNECE Water Convention

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**Brescia, 10 October 2013**





# The Water Convention



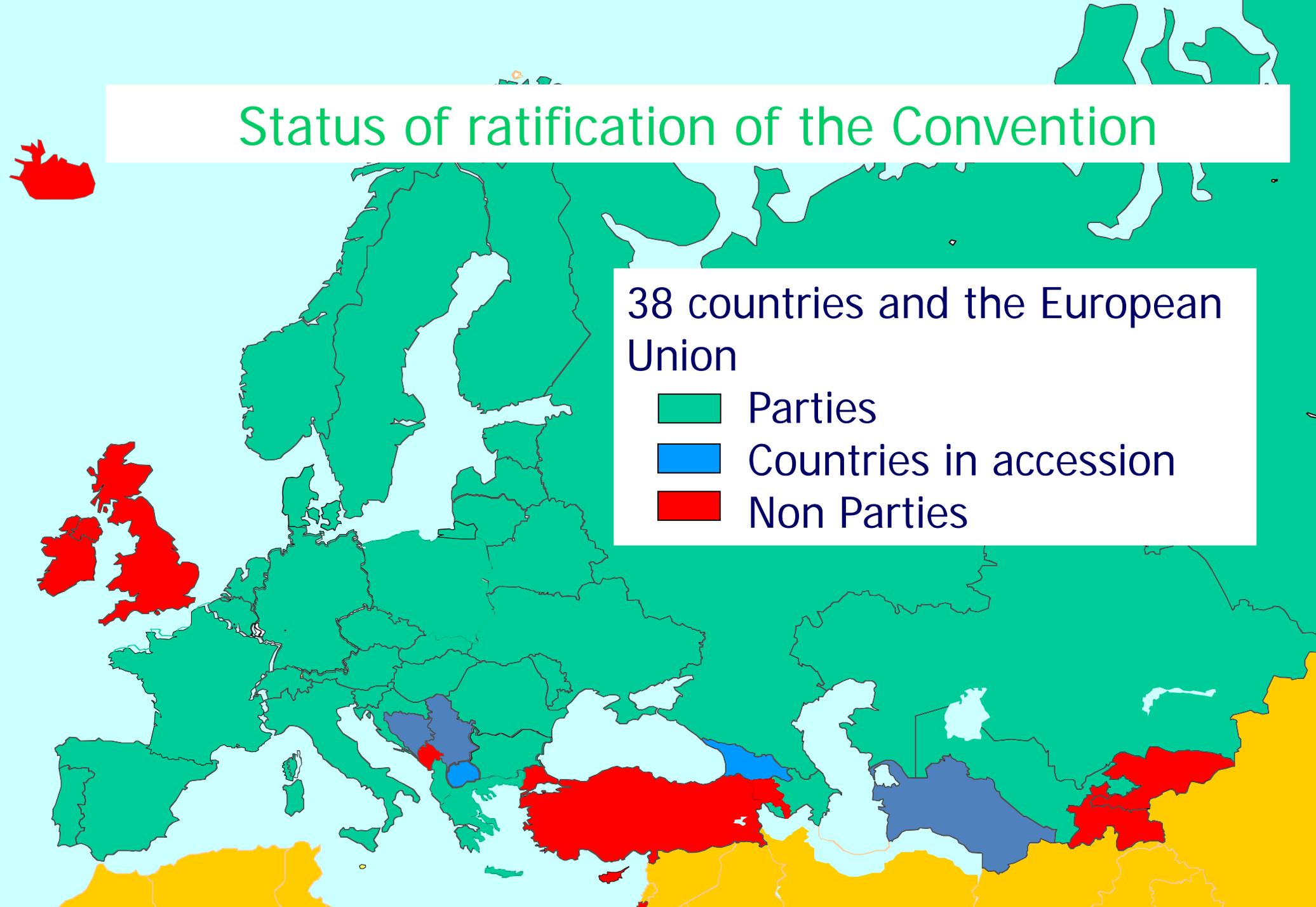
- Signed on 17 March 1992  
Entered into force on 6 October 1996
- Protocol on Water and Health adopted in 1999, entered into force in 2005
- Protocol on Civil Liability adopted in 2003
- 2003 Amendments, entered into force on 6 February 2013



# Status of ratification of the Convention

38 countries and the European Union

- Parties
- Countries in accession
- Non Parties





# Bridging boundaries

## Why transboundary cooperation in adaptation?

- Prevent negative impacts of unilateral adaptation measures in riparian countries, thereby preventing potential conflict
- Enable more effective and efficient adaptation through:
  - Wider knowledge base
  - Larger planning space: take measures in the basin where they have optimum effect
  - Possibility to share costs and benefits

Transboundary cooperation reduces uncertainty and costs!





# The UNECE Water Convention and climate change

The Water Convention aims to protect and ensure the quantity, quality and sustainable use of transboundary water resources by facilitating and promoting cooperation.

Provisions relevant for climate change:

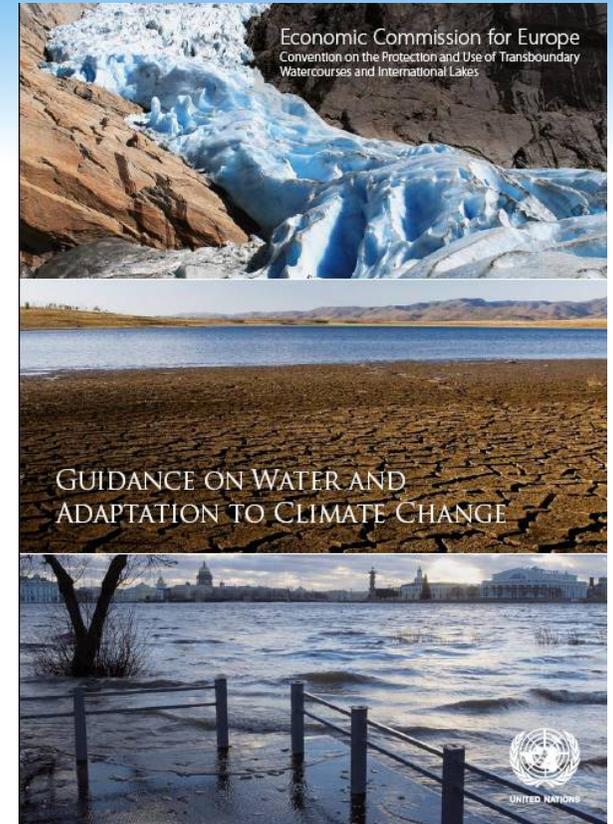
- Prevent, control and reduce transboundary impacts including those related to adaptation to or mitigation measures
- Use waters in a reasonable and equitable way
- Cooperate on the basis of equality and reciprocity
- Set joint water quality objectives, use best available technology, exchange information, follow the precautionary principle, develop joint monitoring and common research, assist each other...



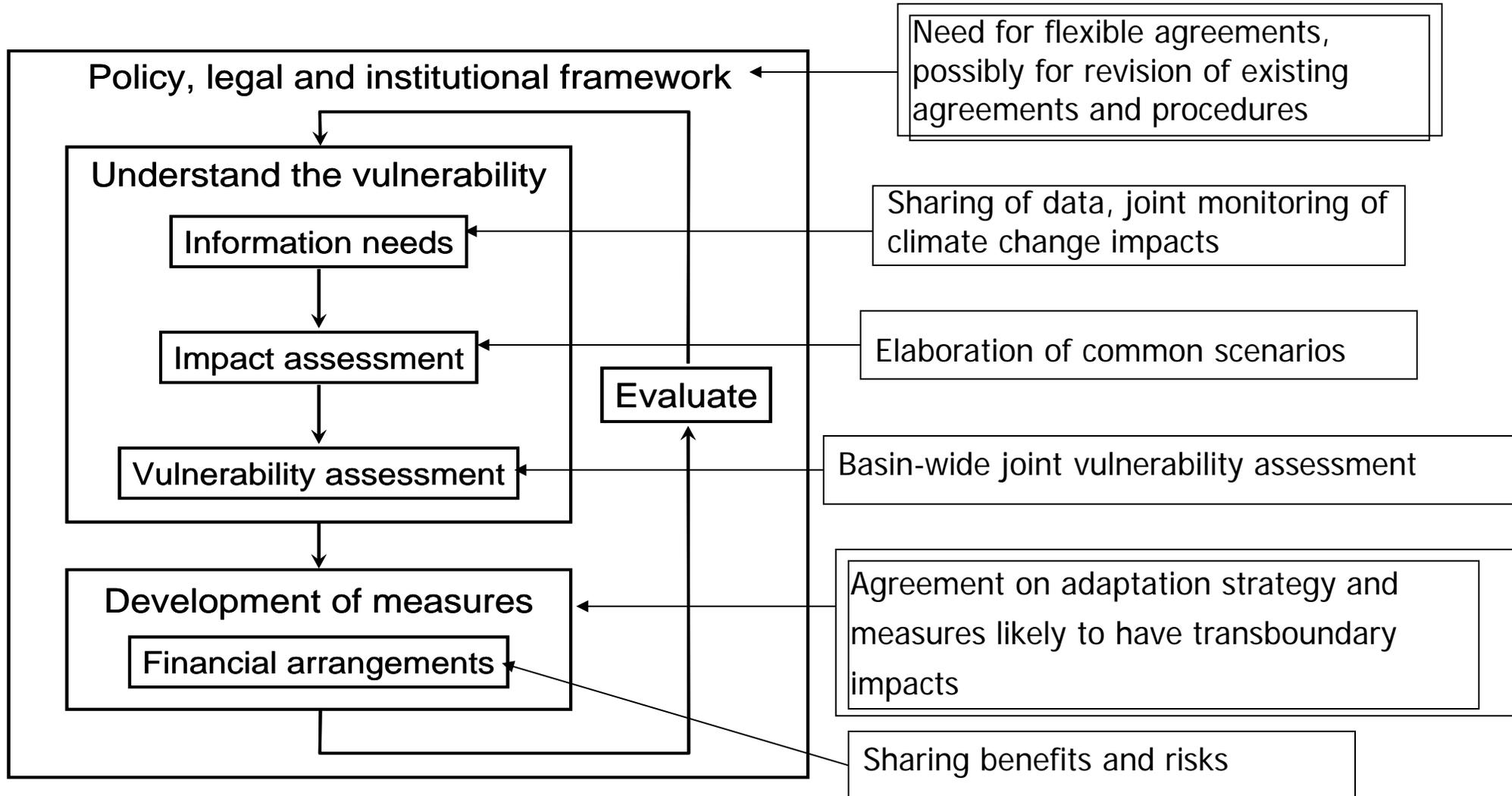


# Guidance on Water and Adaptation to Climate Change

- Developed in 2007-2009 by Task Force led by Netherlands and Germany
- General roadmap towards adaptation of water management to climate change
- Step-wise approach
  - Assess impacts of climate change
  - Develop policy, strategic and operational responses
  - Transboundary and health focus
- Guidance adopted in 2009 at the Meeting of the Parties
- Used worldwide



# Cooperation needs in every step of developing an adaptation strategy





# Promoting cooperation on the ground and exchange of experience



Global network of basins working on water and climate in cooperation with INBO, IUCN, GWP and others

- Focus mainly on developing a joint adaptation strategy
- Specific focus defined by countries; some focus on water scarcity, others on floods

Platform for exchanging experiences

- Regular workshops, meetings of the Task Force and Core Group of pilots. Last workshop took place on 25-26 June 2013 in Geneva



- Internet platform





# Global network of basins

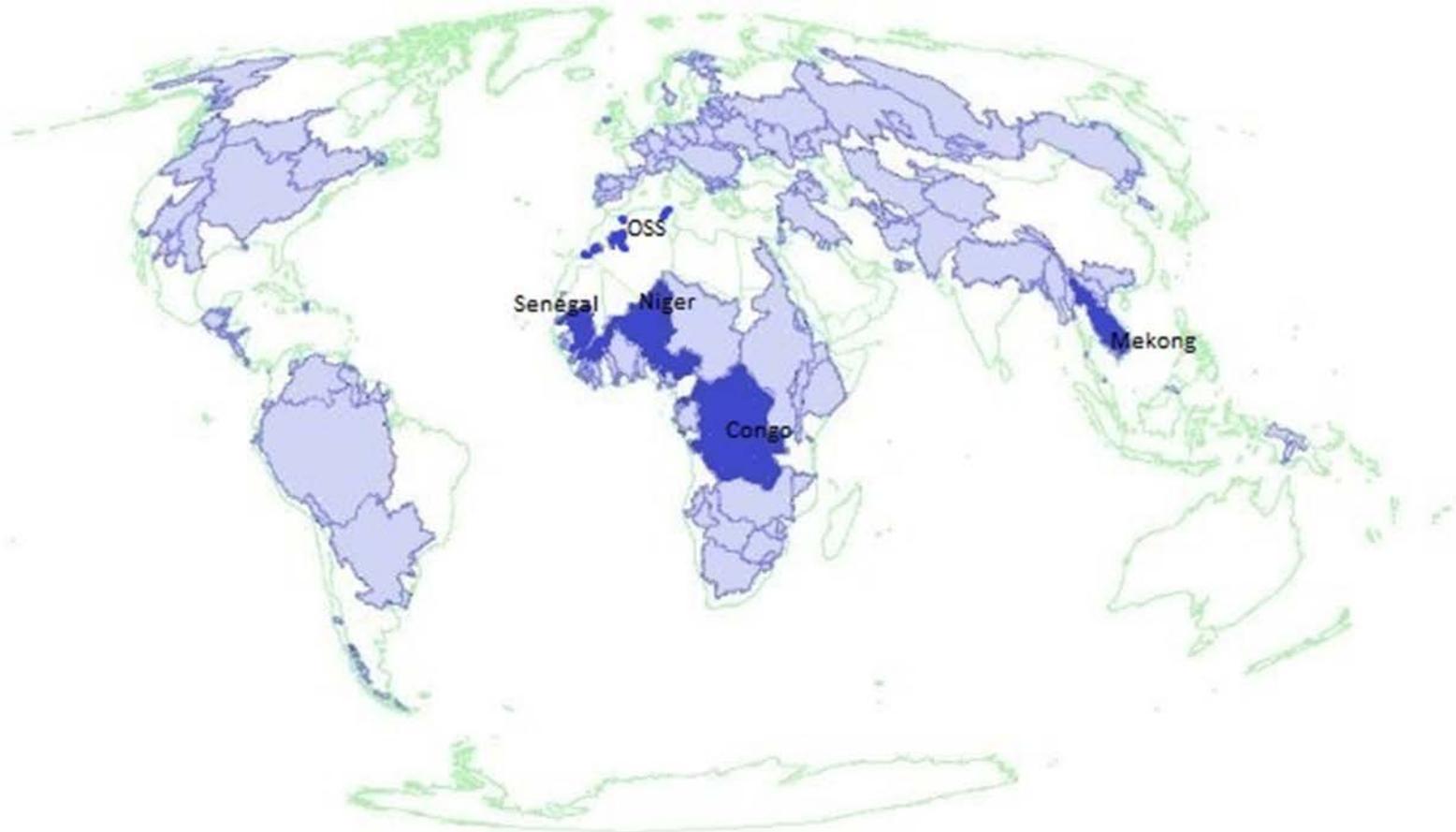
## Pilot projects on adaptation to climate change in transboundary basins

- Projects directly supported by the UNECE Water Convention and ENVSEC
- Projects in the programme, implemented by other organizations



# Global network of basins

Basins outside UNECE region that recently joined the global network are: Mekong, Niger, Congo, Senegal, OSS (Sub-Saharan Aquifer and Western Sahara)





# Objectives of the global network of basins

- Promote cooperation on adaptation in (transboundary) basins,
- Assist countries in implementing the Water Convention;
- Support countries and especially those in transition in developing adaptation strategies and measures;
- Create positive examples showing benefits of and mechanisms for transboundary cooperation in adaptation;
- Support dialogue and cooperation on the design of an adaptation strategy in the transboundary context;
- Implement and test the Guidance
- Compare different methodologies and approaches

•Promote a shared vision between the participating basins.





UNITED NATIONS  
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# Programme of work for 2013-2015



Transformation of pilot projects programme into global network of basins working on water and climate in cooperation with INBO, IUCN, GWP and others

Global platform for exchanging experience on climate change adaptation in transboundary basins: next Water and Climate Change workshop beginning 2014

Collection of good practices and lessons learnt on climate change adaptation in transboundary basins

Cooperation with UNFCCC and others





# Thank you!

Water and Climate Change website:

[http://www.unece.org/env/water/water\\_climate\\_activ.html](http://www.unece.org/env/water/water_climate_activ.html)

<https://www2.unece.org/ehlm/platform/display/ClimateChange/Welcome>

For more information please contact:

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