



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
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INTERNATIONAL WATER GOVERNANCE: Nothing fishy about it





Some fitness for a Saturday morning

Ramsar is about biodiversity

Ramsar is about water

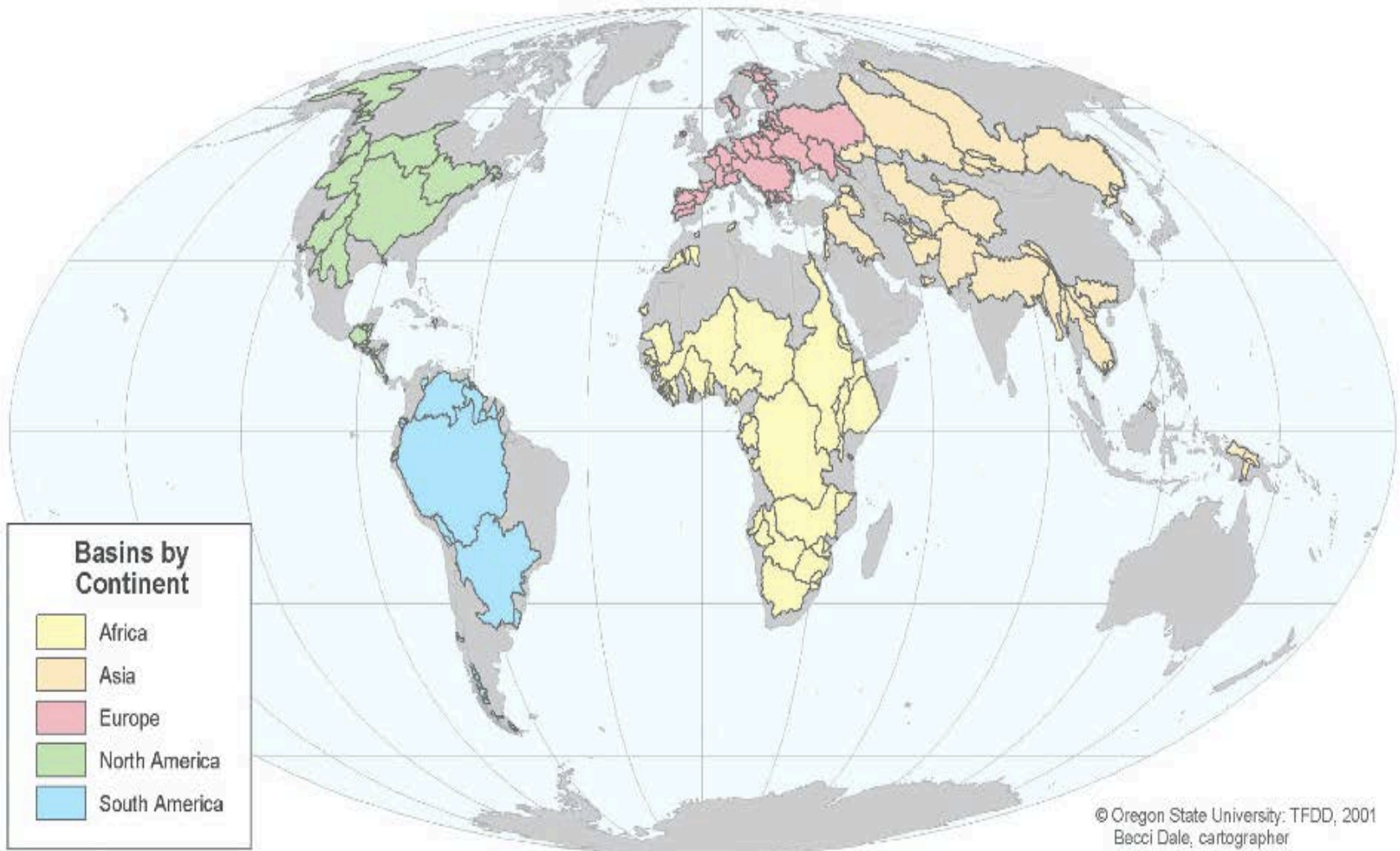
Do you know your water colleagues in your ministry?

Did you consult them before you came here?

Do you know the New York Convention?

Do you know the Helsinki Convention?

Do you know the Ramsar convention?





**What had the fathers of
the Convention on Wetlands of International
Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat
in mind when they drafted it?**







Ramsar



Fauna

Water



Flora





Wetland: Wet + land

- Wetlands: It is the permanent presence of **water**, or at least for some significant period of time that creates the soils, the microorganisms, plant and animal communities so that the land functions differently than in terrestrial habitats
- A wetland is a land area that is saturated with **water**, either permanently or seasonally.
- Wetlands are **water** bodies but also include land.



Ramsar Convention

Preamble

CONSIDERING the fundamental ecological functions of wetlands as **regulators of water regimes** and as habitats supporting a characteristic flora and fauna, especially waterfowl

Article 1

1. For the purpose of this Convention wetlands are areas of marsh, fen, peatland or **water**, whether natural or artificial, permanent or temporary, with **water** that is static or flowing, fresh, brackish or salt, including areas of marine water the depth of which at low tide does not exceed six metres.



Ramsar resolutions and water

| Ramsar COP | Basin catchment | Trans shared | Coop with MEAS | Joint water managt | Other Organisations | Groundwater |
|----------------------------|--|--------------|--|--------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| COP2 Groningen 1984 | | | | | | |
| COP4 Montreux 1990 | | | | | | |
| COP5 Kushiro 1993 | | | CBD | | | |
| COP6 Brisbane 1996 | | | | | WMO World Water Forum | Karst wetlands - subterranean wetlands |
| COP7 San José 1999 | Wetlands and river managt | | CBD Joint work plan UNCCD UNESCO UNFCCC | | | Guidelines on karst wetlands |
| COP8 Valencia 2002 | Water allocation | | CBD-River Basin Initiative | | | Groundwater and wetlands |
| COP9 Kampala 2005 | Water- related | | | | CSD WWF | |
| COP10 Changwon 2008 | Wetland and river managt | | Helsinki Water Convention | | UNESCO FAO WHO | |
| COP11 Bucharest 2012 | | | | | UN-Water | Groundwater |



Water Guidelines in Ramsar Convention

- Guidelines for integrating wetland conservation and wise use into **river** basin management (COP 7)
- Guidelines for the allocation and management of **water** for maintaining the ecological functions of wetlands (COP 8)
- An Integrated framework for the Ramsar Convention's **water**-related guidance (COP 9)



A Family of Water-Related Conventions

- **Ramsar** Convention on Wetlands
- Convention on **Biological Diversity**
- UN Convention on the Law of the Non-navigational Uses of **International Watercourses (New York)**
- UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of **Transboundary Watercourses** and International Lakes (**Helsinki**)



Two Transboundary Water Conventions: Helsinki and New York

- Protection, preservation and management of international watercourses
- Surface and groundwater
- Quality and Quantity
- Two principles:
 - equitable and reasonable utilization
 - due diligence obligation of no-harm
- Principle of cooperation as catalyst: Agreements and Institutions



Water-related Conventions: The New York Convention - NYC

UN Convention on the Law of the Non-navigational Uses of International Watercourses

- Negotiations: International Law Commission of the UN, in collaboration with UN Member States
- Adoption in 1997 in the UN General Assembly
- Into force in 2014: 36 Parties
- Global codification of international water law
- Towards the regulation of competing uses of international watercourses
- No secretariat, no meeting of the Parties



Relevant aspects of NYC for ecosystems

- “States must protect and preserve the ecosystems of international watercourses”
- Measures of protection, preservation and management related to the uses of watercourses and their waters’ next to ‘non-navigational uses’



Water-related Conventions: : The Helsinki Convention – HC

Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes

- Negotiations: Intergovernmental - Economic Commission for Europe of the United Nations - UNECE
- Adoption in 1992, in force in 1996: 40 Parties
- A regional instrument - amended to be global (2013)
- Multilateral environmental agreement (MEA)
- Secretariat in the UN in Geneva

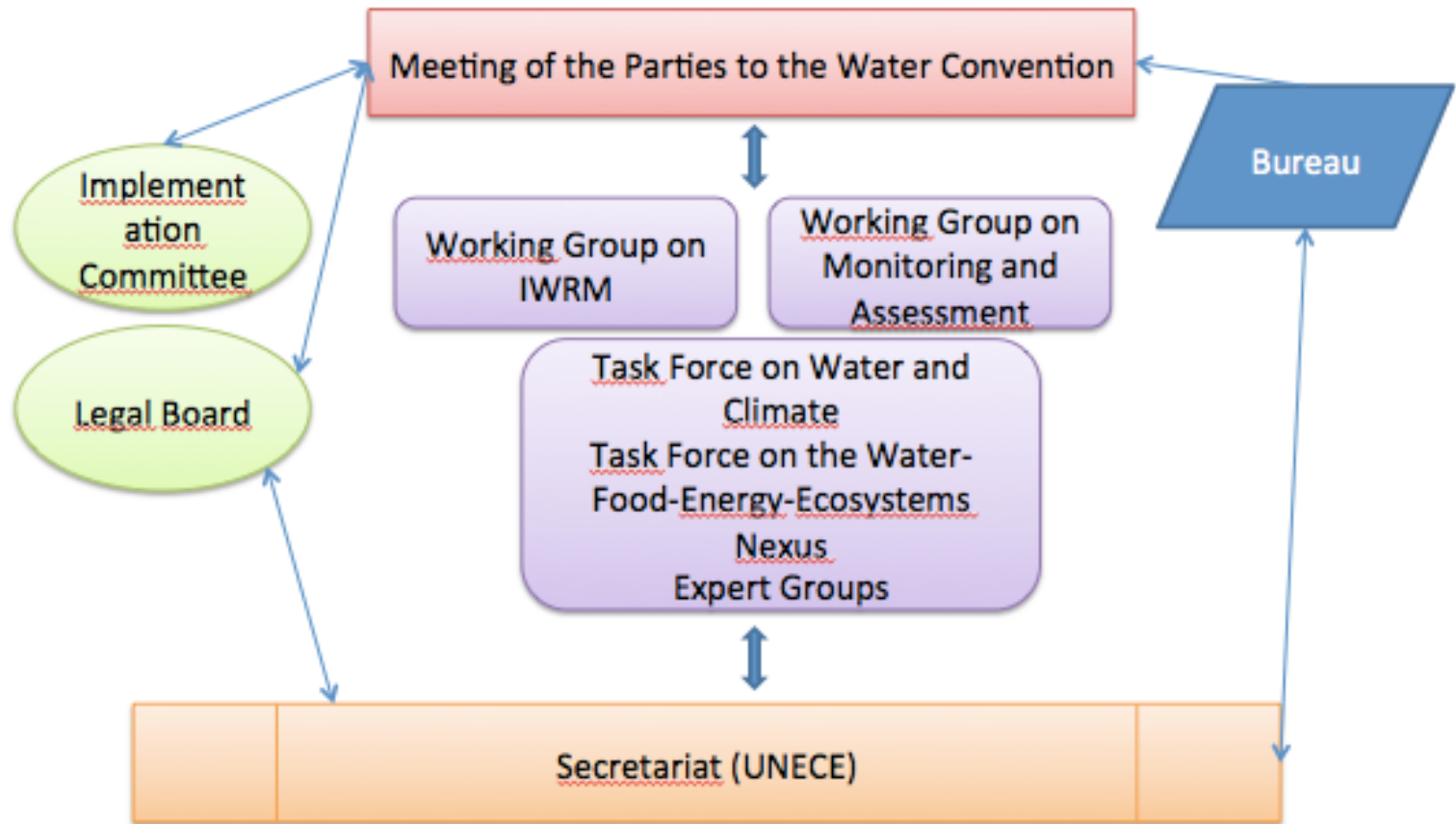


Relevant aspects of HC for ecosystems

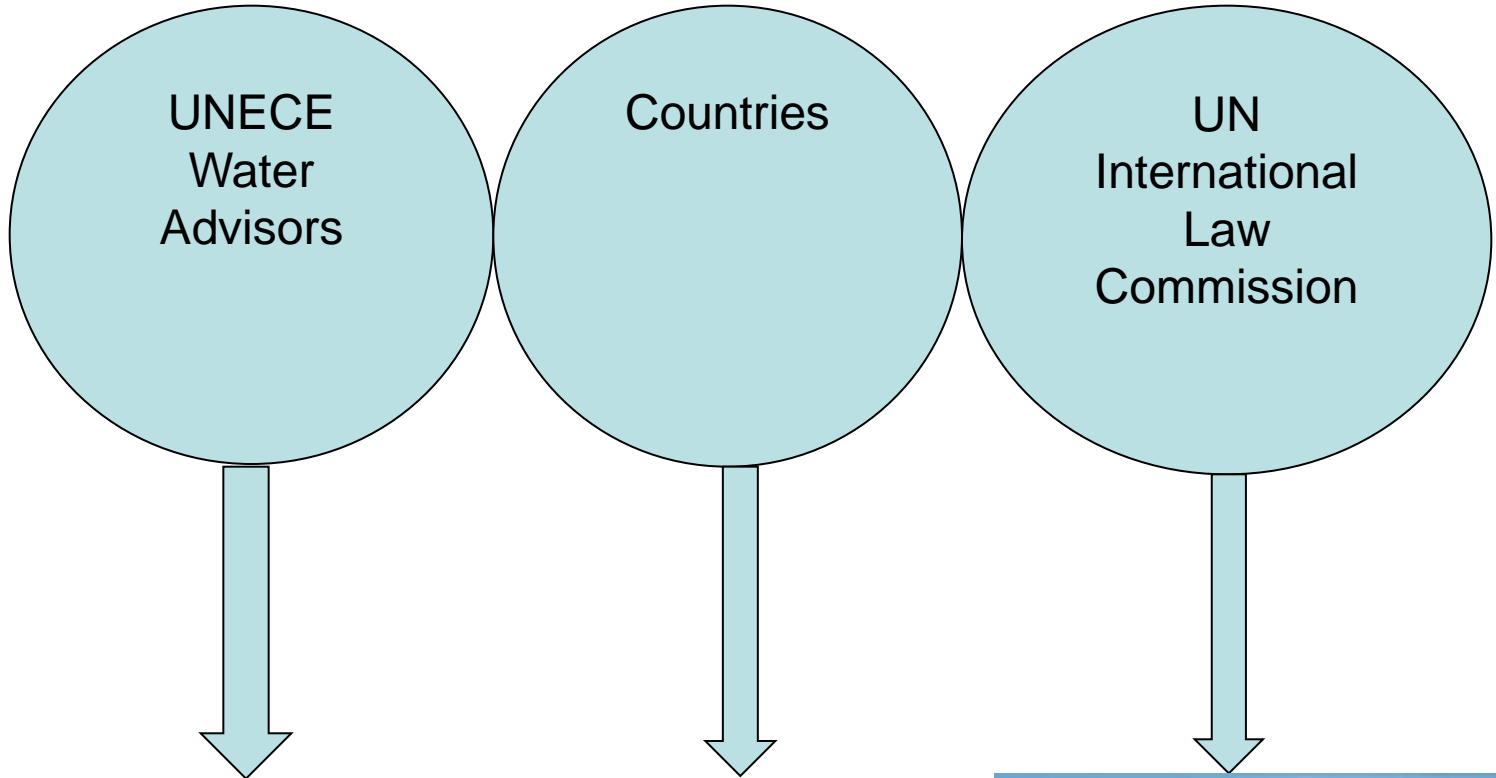
- Protection of transboundary waters by preventing, controlling and reducing transboundary impacts
- Ecologically sound and rational management of transboundary waters
- Reasonable and equitable use of transboundary waters
- To ensure conservation and restoration of ecosystems



Institutional structures of the HC









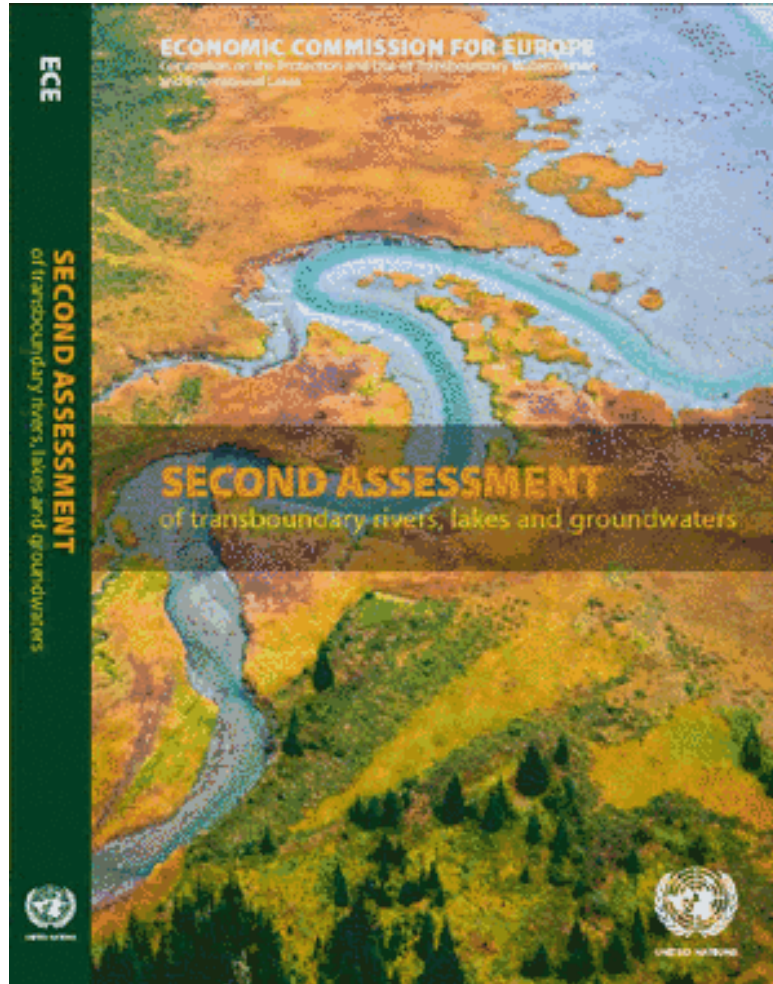
Comparing Ramsar, HC and NYC

| Topics | Ramsar | HC | NYC |
|---|-----------|------------|-----------|
| Basin | | | |
| Water: surface and groundwater | | | |
| Natural water bodies | | | |
| Marine environment | | | |
| Constructed water bodies | | | |
| National Wetlands/Waters | | | |
| International Wetlands/Waters | | | |
| Protection of ecosystems/ Protection against pollution | | | |
| Fauna-Birds and Flora- | | | |
| Designation of wetland/water body | Voluntary | Compulsory | Voluntary |
| Boundaries of water bodies | Free | Basin | Basin |
| International agreements for management. | | | |
| Wise use-equitable and reasonable use | | | |
| Management plans | | | |
| Cooperation, exchange of information | | | |



Jointly implementing the Ramsar Strategic Plan and the HC work programme 2016-2018

- **GOAL 3 (Wisely using all wetlands):** Identifying, assessing and communicating the benefits of transboundary water cooperation
- **GOALS 1 (Addressing the drivers) and 3:** Water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus in transboundary basins
- **GOAL 3:** Adapting to climate change in transboundary basins - Pilot projects on climate change adaptation in transboundary basins
- **GOAL 4 (Enhancing implementation):** Contribution to the post-2015 development agenda and other international processes
- **GOAL 4:** Cooperation with other international multilateral environmental agreements



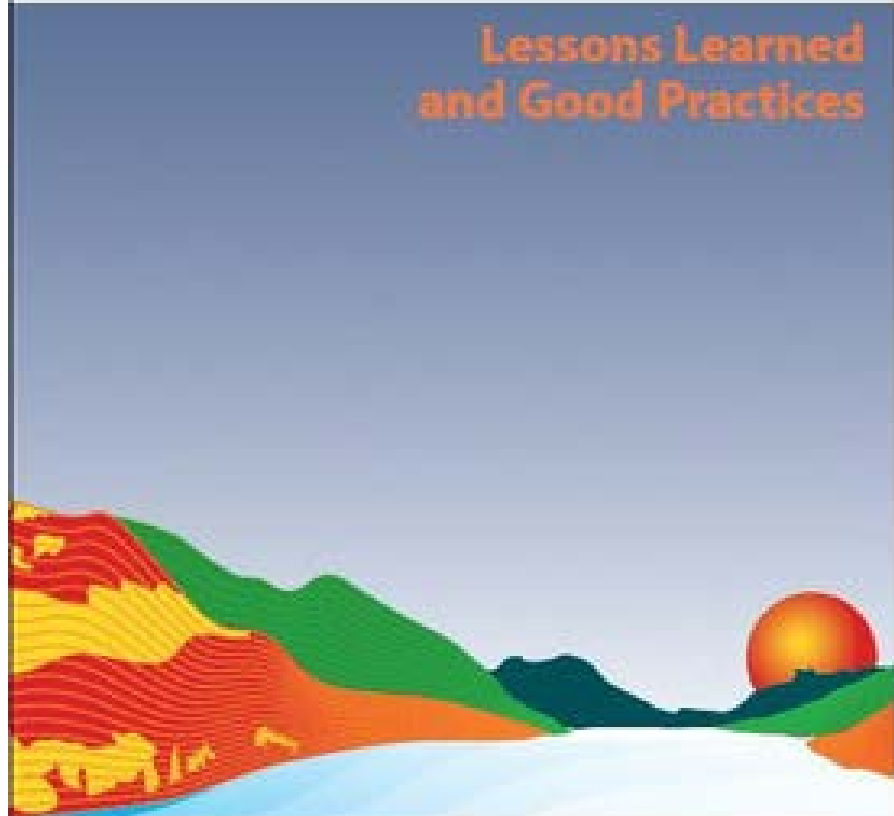


Experiences on different steps in developing a basin-wide adaptation strategy and recommendations

UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE
INTERNATIONAL NETWORK OF BASIN ORGANIZATIONS

Water and Climate Change Adaptation in Transboundary Basins:

Lessons Learned
and Good Practices



UNITED NATIONS





Next Steps – Water-Related Conventions

- **June 2015-Geneva:** 10th meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management of the Helsinki Water Convention
- **September 2015-NY:** 70th UN General Assembly
- **November 2015-Budapest:** 7th COP Helsinki Water Convention



Join the Helsinki Convention Activities



<http://www.unece.org/env/water/>