

# Transboundary Water Cooperation Reader

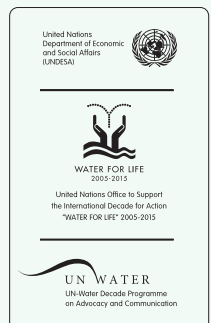
UN-Water Decade Programme on Advocacy and  
Communication (UNW-DPAC)

Produced by the UN-Water Decade Programme on Advocacy and Communication (UNW-DPAC), this reader is intended for all those interested in getting familiar with transboundary water issues. The reader provides basic references for easy reading and some of the latest and most relevant United Nations publications on transboundary water and cooperation issues. It also contains experiences from different regions of the world. Link is provided when the publication is available online.

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United Nations Office to Support  
the International Decade for Action  
'Water for Life' 2005-2015

[www.un.org/waterforlifedecade](http://www.un.org/waterforlifedecade)



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## An overview

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### ■ **Transboundary waters: Sharing Benefits, Sharing Responsibilities**

UN-Water. 2008

[www.unwater.org/downloads/UNW\\_TRANS\\_BOUNDARY.pdf](http://www.unwater.org/downloads/UNW_TRANS_BOUNDARY.pdf)

This UN-Water thematic paper presents the main benefits of transboundary water cooperation and the basic pillars considered as necessary for long-term, sustainable and reliable transboundary cooperation. The paper also introduces the role of UN-Water in this field as well as the work of the different UN agencies on transboundary water cooperation.

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### ■ **2nd United Nations World Water Development Report: Water, a Shared Responsibility.** Chapter 11

World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP). 2006

[www.unesco.org/water/wwap/wwdr/wwdr2/pdf/wwdr2\\_ch\\_11.pdf](http://www.unesco.org/water/wwap/wwdr/wwdr2/pdf/wwdr2_ch_11.pdf)

Chapter 11 of the 2nd edition of the UN World Water Development Report focuses on the dynamics of cooperation and highlights mechanisms and indicators for cooperation and shared governance of transboundary waters.

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### ■ **Human Development Report 2006. Beyond scarcity: Power, poverty and the global water crisis.** Chapter 6

United Nation Development Programme (UNDP). 2006

[hdr.undp.org/en/media/HDR\\_2006\\_Chapter\\_6.pdf](http://hdr.undp.org/en/media/HDR_2006_Chapter_6.pdf)

Chapter 6 of the Human Development Report 2006 focuses on transboundary waters management related issues.

### ■ **Managing Trans-boundary Waters for Human Development**

United Nation Development Programme (UNDP). 2006

[hdr.undp.org/en/reports/global/hdr2006/papers/jagerskog%20anders.pdf](http://hdr.undp.org/en/reports/global/hdr2006/papers/jagerskog%20anders.pdf)

This publication discusses the importance of transboundary waters in general terms; systems of allocating flows and/or the sharing of benefits arising from such waters (including two case studies); the management of transboundary waters; and issues relating to international finance in this area.

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### ■ **History and Future of Shared Water Resources**

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), International Hydrological Programme (IHP), PCCP series. 2003

[unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0013/001332/133286e.pdf](http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0013/001332/133286e.pdf)

This publication contains a number of "think pieces" which analyze historical experiences from the distant past of prehistory to the present, and identify the means for dealing with the relative scarcity of water created by increasing demands relative to water available when and where it is needed. They also investigate the causes of the prevailing perceptions of water scarcity and the propagation of the idea that future wars will be fought about water. These studies helped in assessing the future of shared water resources and can serve as a basis for future planning.

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### ■ **International Waters: Indicators for Identifying Basins at Risk**

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), International Hydrological Programme (IHP), PCCP series. 2003

[unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0013/001333/133306e.pdf](http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0013/001333/133306e.pdf)

This publication assess all reported events of either conflict or cooperation between

nations over water resources over the last fifty years and use these events to inform the identification of basins at greatest risk of dispute in the near future (five to ten years). The study is divided into two components: (a) compilation and assessment of relevant biophysical, socioeconomic, and geopolitical data in a global Geographic Information System (GIS), and use of these factors to determine history-based indicators for future tensions along international waterways, (b) using these indicators, identification of basins at risk for the coming decade.

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## International agreements and law

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### ■ **Convention on the Law of the Non-Navigational Uses of International Watercourses**

United Nations. 1997

[untreaty.un.org/ilc/texts/instruments/english/conventions/8\\_3\\_1997.pdf](http://untreaty.un.org/ilc/texts/instruments/english/conventions/8_3_1997.pdf)

This convention is the first global water law. It applies to uses of international watercourses and of their waters for purposes other than navigation and to measures of protection, preservation and management related to the uses of those watercourses and their waters.

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### ■ **Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes**

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). 1992

English:

[www.unece.org/env/water/pdf/watercon.pdf](http://www.unece.org/env/water/pdf/watercon.pdf)

Russian:

[www.unece.org/env/water/pdf/waterconr.pdf](http://www.unece.org/env/water/pdf/waterconr.pdf)

The UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention)

is intended to strengthen national measures for the protection and ecologically sound management of transboundary surface waters and groundwaters. The Convention obliges Parties to prevent, control and reduce water pollution from point and non-point sources. It also includes provisions for monitoring, research and development, consultations, warning and alarm systems, mutual assistance, institutional arrangements, and the exchange and protection of information, as well as public access to information.

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### ■ **The Relationship between the 1992 UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes and the 1997 UN Convention on the Law of the Non Navigational Uses of International Watercourses**

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). 2000

[www.unece.org/env/water/publications/documents/conventiontotal.pdf](http://www.unece.org/env/water/publications/documents/conventiontotal.pdf)

This report has been drafted with a view to meeting actual and prospective queries, especially those coming from Countries in transition, on the following issues: a) the appropriateness, from a legal viewpoint, of becoming a party to both Conventions having regard to: primarily, i) the compatibility between the two instruments, ii) the relation of those instruments to pre-existing watercourse agreements, iii) their relation to future watercourse agreements; b) interpretative problems in the implementation of provisions of the two instruments under review bearing on the same issues.

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### ■ **Guide to Implementing the Water Convention**

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). 2010 (forthcoming)

English:

[www.unece.org/env/documents/2009/Wat/mp\\_wat/ECE\\_mp\\_wat\\_2009\\_L2\\_%20E.pdf](http://www.unece.org/env/documents/2009/Wat/mp_wat/ECE_mp_wat_2009_L2_%20E.pdf)

Russian:

[www.unece.org/env/documents/2009/Wat/m\\_p\\_wat/ECE\\_MP.WAT\\_2009\\_L2\\_R.pdf](http://www.unece.org/env/documents/2009/Wat/m_p_wat/ECE_MP.WAT_2009_L2_R.pdf)

This guide is a comprehensive commentary to the Water Convention's provisions, providing explanations of the procedural, legal, administrative, technical and practical aspects of the Convention's requirements for appropriate implementation. These explanations are coupled with illustrative examples of good practices in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region. The link provides access to a draft version of the guide.

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■ **Freshwater and International Law: The Interplay between Universal, Regional and Basin Perspectives**

World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP). 2009

[unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0018/001850/185080E.pdf](http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0018/001850/185080E.pdf)

This paper focuses on some of the characteristics of the latest developments concerning international freshwater resources law by looking at the interplay of norms adopted at three levels where important new instruments have been adopted: the universal, regional and basin levels. The first part of the paper focuses on instruments adopted at the universal level, such as the United Nations Convention on the Law of Non-Navigational Uses of International Watercourses and the International Law Commission Draft Articles on the Law of Transboundary Aquifers. The second part deals with the development of laws at the regional and basin levels.

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■ **Transboundary aquifers: managing a vital resource. The UNILC draft articles on the law of transboundary aquifers**

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). 2009

[unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0018/001824/182431E.pdf](http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0018/001824/182431E.pdf)

The UN International Law Commission

(UNILC) embarked on the codification of the law of transboundary aquifers in 2002 in order to provide a legal regime for the proper management of aquifers. This brochure aims at improving the understanding of transboundary aquifers and the importance of their role in water governance and thus the drafting and implementation of the Convention on Transboundary Aquifers.

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■ **Groundwater in international law. Compilation of treaties and other legal instruments**

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). 2005

[ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/008/y5739e/y5739e00.pdf](http://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/008/y5739e/y5739e00.pdf)

This publication brings together a variety of binding and non-binding international law instruments that, in varying degrees and from different angles, deal with groundwater. Its aim is to report developments in international law and to contribute to detecting law in the making in this field.

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■ **Transforming Potential Conflict into Cooperation Potential: The Role of International Water Law**

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), International Hydrological Programme (IHP), PCCP series. 2003

[unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0013/001332/133258e.pdf](http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0013/001332/133258e.pdf)

This study discusses the relevance and role of international water law in the promotion of cooperation over shared transboundary watercourses. With its focus on actual case studies and through examination of contemporary state practice and detailed analysis of the UN Watercourses Convention, this work aims to provide water resource experts from all disciplines with an overview of the rules of international law that govern interstate relations over water.

## ■ **Conflict and Cooperation in the Management of International Freshwater Resources: A Global Review**

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), International Hydrological Programme (IHP), PCCP series. 2003

[unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0013/001333/133305e.pdf](http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0013/001333/133305e.pdf)

This report aims to identify the state of the art concerning conflict and cooperation in managing international freshwaters. Its more specific objects are the following: (a) to complement the in-depth case studies prepared by the UNESCO “From Potential Conflict to Cooperation Potential” (PCCP) project by a more in-breadth coverage of international freshwater management, (b) to show the wide variety of issues, contexts, and solutions chosen, (c) to identify general “lessons” on conflict prevention/resolution and cooperation.

## ■ **Atlas of International Freshwater Agreements**

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Oregon State University. 2002

[www.transboundarywaters.orst.edu/publications/atlas/](http://www.transboundarywaters.orst.edu/publications/atlas/)

This atlas contains an historical overview of international river basin management; a detailed listing of more than 300 international freshwater agreements; and a collection of thematic maps related to the agreements, their content, and the river basins they represent.

## Institutions and tools for cooperation

## ■ **River Basin Commissions and other Institutions for Transboundary Water Cooperation**

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). 2009

English:

[www.unece.org/env/water/documents/CWC\\_publication\\_joint\\_bodies.pdf](http://www.unece.org/env/water/documents/CWC_publication_joint_bodies.pdf)

Russian:

[www.unece.org/env/water/documents/CWC\\_publication\\_joint\\_bodies\\_rus.pdf](http://www.unece.org/env/water/documents/CWC_publication_joint_bodies_rus.pdf)

Countries are engaging in a growing number of multilateral and bilateral agreements to regulate the use and protection of transboundary waters. To ensure their effective implementation, governments establish joint bodies for transboundary water cooperation. This publication analyses the organization and activities of joint bodies in the UNECE region and globally, and presents recommendations and best practices for establishing new and improving existing joint bodies with a focus on countries from Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia.

## ■ **Institutional Capacity Development in Transboundary Water Management**

World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP), UN-Water Decade Programme on Capacity Development (UNW-DPC). 2009

[www.unwater.org/downloads/05\\_Institutional\\_Capacity\\_Development\\_in\\_Transboundary\\_Water\\_Management.pdf](http://www.unwater.org/downloads/05_Institutional_Capacity_Development_in_Transboundary_Water_Management.pdf)

This publication provides some recommendations for required institutional arrangements and an assessment of needs for capacity development in the transboundary water management field.

## ■ **Institutions for international freshwater management**

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), International Hydrological Programme (IHP), PCCP series. 2003

[unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0013/001324/132478e.pdf](http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0013/001324/132478e.pdf)

This report describes selected bi- and multilateral institutions for the management of international river basins, lakes, and aquifers. It provides comparative

information on various institutional aspects such as scope of authority, internal structure, decision-making procedures, and dispute settlement mechanisms.

### ■ **Negotiations in the Context of International Water-Related Agreements**

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), International Hydrological Programme (IHP), PCCP series. 2003

[unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0013/001332/133288e.pdf](http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0013/001332/133288e.pdf)

This publication describes the results of a study to identify, analyze, and discuss negotiation processes taking place in the context of international water-related agreements and conventions. An introduction is given to the role of legal arrangements in fostering cooperation in transboundary water basins, with special emphasis on the economic, environmental, and security dimensions of integrated water management. The study concentrates on the analysis of lessons learnt from a limited number of test cases. The paper introduces a life-cycle model of negotiating agreements, and in this context reviews selected water-related agreements at the global, regional, and water basin level.

### ■ **Alternative Dispute Resolution Approaches and their Application**

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), International Hydrological Programme (IHP), PCCP series. 2003

[unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0013/001332/133287e.pdf](http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0013/001332/133287e.pdf)

Alternative Dispute Resolution comprises various approaches for resolving disputes in a non-confrontational way, ranging from negotiation between the two parties, a multiparty negotiation, through mediation, consensus building, to arbitration and Adjudication. The article introduces the key skills required, with particular attention to their important role in the process of

negotiation and mediation, with examples of their application in national and international water conflicts.

## Monitoring and assessment of transboundary waters

### ■ **Strategies for monitoring and assessment of transboundary rivers, lakes and groundwaters**

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). 2006

[www.unece.org/env/water/publications/documents/StrategiesM&A.pdf](http://www.unece.org/env/water/publications/documents/StrategiesM&A.pdf)

This publication explains the key principles of and approaches to monitoring and assessment of transboundary watercourses and describes strategies for monitoring and assessing these watercourses. It highlights areas of interest to policy and decision makers and provides ground rules for water managers involved in or responsible for establishing and carrying out cooperation between riparian countries, as well as for representatives of joint bodies. The publication stresses the underlying legal, administrative and financial aspects of monitoring and assessment and discusses the constraints on and opportunities for cooperation. It draws on the experience gained with the implementation of pilot projects for transboundary rivers under the 1992 UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention) and proposes step-by-step approaches that take into account the available human and financial resources, particularly in countries with economies in transition.

### ■ **Guidelines on monitoring and assessment of transboundary groundwaters**

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). 2000

[www.unece.org/env/water/publications/documents/guidelinesgroundwater.pdf](http://www.unece.org/env/water/publications/documents/guidelinesgroundwater.pdf)

These guidelines are intended to assist ECE governments and joint bodies in developing harmonised rules for the setting up and operation of systems for transboundary groundwater monitoring and assessment. The target group comprises decision makers and planners in ministries, organisations and institutions responsible for environmental, water or hydrogeological issues and all those who are also responsible for managing transboundary groundwaters.

#### ■ **Guidelines on monitoring and assessment of transboundary rivers**

Institute for Inland Water Management and Waste Water Treatment (RIZA), UNECE Task Force on Monitoring and Assessment. 2000

[www.unece.org/env/water/publications/documents/guidelinestransrivers2000.pdf](http://www.unece.org/env/water/publications/documents/guidelinestransrivers2000.pdf)

These guidelines are intended to assist Governments and joint bodies (e.g. bilateral or multilateral river commissions) in developing and implementing procedures for monitoring and assessing transboundary waters in their region.

## A focus on...

### Groundwater

#### ■ **Atlas of Transboundary Aquifers. Global maps, regional cooperation and local inventories**

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). 2009

[www.isarm.net/publications/324](http://www.isarm.net/publications/324)

This atlas presents a compilation of data from more than 200 transboundary aquifers that have been identified in the Americas, Asia, Africa, South-Eastern Europe, Central Asia and Caucasus, and

Middle East. The Atlas also provides a factual backdrop to the recent Resolution of the UN General Assembly on the Law of Transboundary Aquifers. While the atlas serves to provide reference information, it also demonstrates the outcome of successful cooperation among countries in together compiling joint interpretations of their hydrogeological information.

### Biodiversity

#### ■ **Transboundary water resources management: The Role of International Watercourse Agreements in Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity**

United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD). 2008

[www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-40-en.pdf](http://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-40-en.pdf)

This document explains why biodiversity conservation and sustainable use present a powerful argument to manage transboundary waters better, how regulatory frameworks to achieve this can be improved and why doing so fulfils commitments made under the Convention on Biological Diversity.

### Adaptation to climate change

#### ■ **Guidance on Water and Adaptation to Climate Change**

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). 2009

English:

[www.unece.org/env/water/publications/documents/Guidance\\_water\\_climate.pdf](http://www.unece.org/env/water/publications/documents/Guidance_water_climate.pdf)

Russian:

[www.unece.org/env/water/publications/documents/Guidance\\_water\\_climate\\_r.pdf](http://www.unece.org/env/water/publications/documents/Guidance_water_climate_r.pdf)

This guide explains step-by-step how to develop jointly an adaptation strategy, with a special focus on the transboundary context. Based on the concept of integrated water resources management, it provides advice to decision makers and

water managers on how to assess impacts of climate change on water quantity and quality, how to perform risk assessment, including health risk assessment, how to gauge vulnerability, and how to design and implement appropriate adaptation strategies.

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## Experiences from around the world

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### ■ From Ridge to Reef. Water, Environment, and Community Security. GEF Action on Transboundary Water Resources

Global Environment Facility (GEF). 2009

[www.thegef.org/gef/sites/thegef.org/files/publication/GEF\\_RidgetoReef\\_CRA\\_lores.pdf](http://www.thegef.org/gef/sites/thegef.org/files/publication/GEF_RidgetoReef_CRA_lores.pdf)

This brochure presents a summary of the GEF International Waters programme results of almost two decades of assistance to countries on all continents in improving regional collaboration and sharing benefits from their particular transboundary water systems.

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### Americas

### ■ International Management in the Columbia River System

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), International Hydrological Programme (IHP), PCCP series. 2003

[unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0013/001332/133292e.pdf](http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0013/001332/133292e.pdf)

This document presents an overview of selected physical, human phenomena and international water management issues in the Columbia River system.

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### The Case of the Trifinio Plan in the Upper Lempa: Opportunities and Challenges for the Shared Management of Central American Transnational Basins

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), International Hydrological Programme (IHP), PCCP series. 2003

[unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0013/001333/133304e.pdf](http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0013/001333/133304e.pdf)

The upper watershed of the Lempa River is shared by Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras, as outlined in the Trifinio Plan. Its management represents a novel experience for Central America. It reveals the advances made in the management of the natural resources of a trans-national watershed, through the political will of the countries at the highest level, institutionalized through an international treaty, making way for a new form of organizational management.

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### ■ Co-operation on the lake Titicaca

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), International Hydrological Programme (IHP), PCCP series. 2006

[unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0015/001532/153200E.pdf](http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0015/001532/153200E.pdf)

This case study begins with a characterization of the region in terms of socioeconomic, hydrological, geographical and meteorological data. This is followed by a historical overview of the actions undertaken to achieve a common governmental approach to the problem of the shared use of hydrological and hydrobiological resources. Finally, topics related to the elaboration of the Peru-Bolivia TDPS System Master Plan, and to the creation and functioning of the Lake Titicaca Binational Autonomous Authority (ALT) are presented, stating in detail the main actions carried out. The study is, above all, an appraisal of the experience acquired as a result of the achievements made in the joint management of the Lake Titicaca Basin, and analyses the ALTs relationship with other local institutions. It also discusses the perception of the ALT that authorities from both countries points of view. The study closes with conclusions and recommendations on the subject.



## ■ Regional Water Intelligence Report Central Asia. Baseline Report

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI). 2010

[www.watgovernance.org/documents/WGF/Reports/Paper-15\\_RWIR\\_Aral\\_Sea.pdf](http://www.watgovernance.org/documents/WGF/Reports/Paper-15_RWIR_Aral_Sea.pdf)

The purpose of Regional Water Intelligence Reports (RWIR) is to provide regular updates on the political economy of transboundary water resources issues, management and development in support of sustainable investments. The RWIR focus on the socio-economic aspects of water management and highlight the links between water, energy, food and human security from a regional perspective.

## ■ Shared Waters - Shared Opportunities. World Water Day March 22. Transboundary Waters in the ESCWA Region

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA). 2009

[www.escwa.un.org/information/publication/s/edit/upload/sdpcd-09-tm1-e.pdf](http://www.escwa.un.org/information/publication/s/edit/upload/sdpcd-09-tm1-e.pdf)

This fact sheet outlines the general principles of international water law and the major international conventions on shared water; it also delineates the major transboundary river basins and shared water aquifers in the ESCWA region.

## ■ Regional cooperation between countries in the management of shared water resources: Case studies of some countries in the ESCWA region

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA). 2005

English:

[www.escwa.un.org/information/publications/edit/upload/sdpcd-05-15.pdf](http://www.escwa.un.org/information/publications/edit/upload/sdpcd-05-15.pdf)

Arabic:

[www.escwa.un.org/information/publications/edit/upload/sdpcd-05-15-a.pdf](http://www.escwa.un.org/information/publications/edit/upload/sdpcd-05-15-a.pdf)

This report presents two case studies on shared water resources in the ESCWA region. Part one presents a study of the Al-Kabeer Al-Janoubi river shared by Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic. Part two presents a study of the basalt aquifer shared by Jordan and the Syrian Arab Republic.

## ■ Past Experience and Future Challenges: Cooperation in Shared Water Resources in Central Asia

Asian Development Bank (ADB). 2004

[www.adb.org/Documents/Books/Water\\_for\\_all\\_Series/Past\\_And\\_Future/default.asp](http://www.adb.org/Documents/Books/Water_for_all_Series/Past_And_Future/default.asp)

This publication compiles the proceedings of the Regional Consultation Workshop on Cooperation in Shared Water Resources in Central Asia: Past Experience and Future Challenges, which was held in Almaty, Kazakhstan, from 26 to 28 September 2002. The proceedings present different cooperation experiences between Central Asian countries and provide some recommendations to enhance transboundary water management.

## ■ Jordan Case Study

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), International Hydrological Programme (IHP), PCCP series. 2003

[unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0013/001333/133300e.pdf](http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0013/001333/133300e.pdf)

This case study is divided into two parts. Part 1 analyzes water conflict and negotiated resolution issues and Part 2 presents the negotiations and the water agreement between the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the State of Israel.

## ■ Mekong Case Study

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), International Hydrological Programme (IHP), PCCP series. 2003

[unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0013/001332/133290e.pdf](https://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0013/001332/133290e.pdf)

This Mekong case study focuses mainly on the Lower Mekong Basin and its upper part in the Yunnan Province of China.

#### ■ **Lessons on Cooperation Building to Manage Water Conflicts in the Aral Sea Basin**

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), International Hydrological Programme (IHP), PCCP series. 2003

[unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0013/001332/133291e.pdf](https://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0013/001332/133291e.pdf)

This case study presents the current situation of the Aral Sea Basin and lessons to be learned from the difficult and complex conditions that followed the break-up of the Soviet Union. That collapse led to an intricate environmental problem, and the countries of the basin are working through cooperation to find an effective way to manage water resources.

#### ■ **Transboundary water cooperation in the newly independent States**

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). 2003

[www.unece.org/env/water/documents/transwatcoopnis\\_fin\\_e.pdf](http://www.unece.org/env/water/documents/transwatcoopnis_fin_e.pdf)

This document aims to define the status, trends and further needs with regard to the transboundary water cooperation in the newly independent States (NIS), and between NIS and other neighbouring countries.

#### Africa

#### ■ **Sharing the Incomati Waters: Cooperation and Competition in the Balance**

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), International Hydrological Programme (IHP), PCCP series. 2003

[unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0013/001332/133297e.pdf](https://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0013/001332/133297e.pdf)

This case study deals with the Incomati river basin, which is relatively small but has some interesting features, both in terms of socio-political developments and water use. The case study presents information about the natural characteristics of the basin, its political history, water developments, the legal framework, and the negotiations that took place during the period 1964–2002.

#### ■ **The Nile: Moving Beyond Cooperation**

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), International Hydrological Programme (IHP), PCCP series. 2003

[unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0013/001333/133301e.pdf](https://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0013/001333/133301e.pdf)

This paper examines the development of cooperation on the River Nile. The paper outlines key aspects of the Nile Basin's history, geography and politics before looking at some of the legal, socioeconomic and development challenges that lie ahead.

#### Europe

#### ■ **Transboundary Flood Risk Management. Experiences from the UNECE region**

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). 2009

English:

[www.unece.org/publications/oes/Transboundary\\_Flood\\_Risk\\_Management\\_Final.pdf](http://www.unece.org/publications/oes/Transboundary_Flood_Risk_Management_Final.pdf)

Russian:

[www.unece.org/env/water/publications/documents/low\\_res\\_Flood\\_Management\\_ru.pdf](http://www.unece.org/env/water/publications/documents/low_res_Flood_Management_ru.pdf)

Floods do not respect borders, neither national nor regional or institutional. This means flood risk management must be transboundary. The publication describes problems and progress made regarding transboundary flood management in 10 transboundary river basins in the UNECE region. It also presents a number of useful tools for managing transboundary flood risk, for joint flood forecasting, flood warning and exchange of data, joint flood

risk management planning and implementation and useful legal and institutional arrangements for cooperation.

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■ **Our waters: joining hands across borders. First Assessment of Transboundary Rivers, Lakes and Groundwaters**

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). 2007

*English:*

[www.unece.org/env/water/blanks/assessment/assessmentweb\\_full.pdf](http://www.unece.org/env/water/blanks/assessment/assessmentweb_full.pdf)

*Russian:*

<http://www.unece.org/env/water/blanks/assessment/1st-Assessment-Rus.pdf>

This publication covers 140 transboundary rivers and 30 transboundary lakes in the European and Asian parts of the region, as well as 70 transboundary aquifers located in South-Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia. It describes the hydrological regime of these water bodies as well as pressure factors in their basins, their status and transboundary impact, trends, future developments and envisaged management measures. Water sharing among riparian countries, increasing groundwater abstraction for agricultural purposes and drinking water supply, pollution from diffuse sources (e.g. agriculture, urban areas) as well as point sources (e.g. municipal sewage treatment and aging industrial installations), and the effects of climate change on water resources are among the many issues documented.

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■ **Transboundary River Basin Management in Europe. Thematic paper for Human Development Report 2006**

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). 2006

[hdr.undp.org/en/reports/global/hdr2006/papers/Barraque\\_Bernard%20et%20al.pdf](http://hdr.undp.org/en/reports/global/hdr2006/papers/Barraque_Bernard%20et%20al.pdf)

This paper makes a review of the transboundary water resources management situation in Europe.

■ **Rhine Case Study**

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), International Hydrological Programme (IHP), PPP series. 2003

[unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0013/001333/133303e.pdf](http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0013/001333/133303e.pdf)

Experience with conflicts and cooperation in the Rhine basin proves the usefulness of river basin organizations. In this publication, the most important organizations are described, with their legal background, their tasks and duties, and their development. The theoretical aspects of conflict prevention and resolution are illustrated with water-related conflicts along the river Rhine. These cases deal with flooding, navigation, fisheries, water pollution, salt discharge, and accidental spills.

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■ **Protocol on Water and Health to the 1992 Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes**

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), World Health Organization (WHO). 1996

*English:*

[www.unece.org/env/documents/2000/wat/mp.wat.2000.1.e.pdf](http://www.unece.org/env/documents/2000/wat/mp.wat.2000.1.e.pdf)

*Russian:*

[www.unece.org/env/documents/2000/wat/mp.wat.2000.1.r.pdf](http://www.unece.org/env/documents/2000/wat/mp.wat.2000.1.r.pdf)

The objective of this Protocol is to promote at all appropriate levels, nationally as well as in transboundary and international contexts, the protection of human health and well-being, both individual and collective, within a framework of sustainable development, through improving water management, including the protection of water ecosystems, and through preventing, controlling and reducing water-related disease.

# International Decade for Action 'Water for Life' 2005-2015

## A Decade for Water, a Decade for Life

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Towards the primary goal of the Water for Life Decade, Spain has agreed to provide resources to the United Nations to establish an Office to support the International Decade for Action. Located in Zaragoza, Spain, and led by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), the Office implements the UN-Water Decade Programme on Advocacy and Communication (UNW-DPAC) aiming at sustaining the global attention and political momentum in favour of the water and sanitation agenda at all levels during the Decade.

The views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations Secretariat or the United Nations Office to Support the International Decade for Action (UNO-IDfA) 'Water for Life' 2005-2015.

The designations employed in this publication and the presentation of the material do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations or the UNO-IDfA 'Water for Life' 2005-2015 concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area, or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

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### **UN-Water Decade Programme on Advocacy and Communication (UNW-DPAC)**

Casa Solans  
Avenida Cataluña, 60  
50014 Zaragoza, Spain

Tel. + 34 976 478 346  
Tel. + 34 976 478 347  
Fax + 34 976 478 349

[water-decade@un.org](mailto:water-decade@un.org)  
[www.un.org/waterforlifedecade](http://www.un.org/waterforlifedecade)

