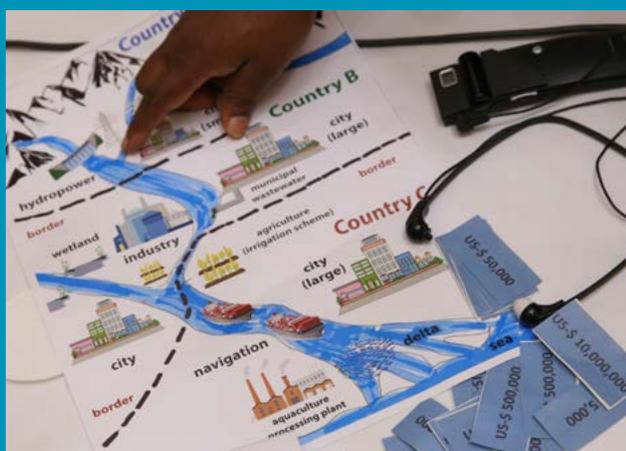


Funding and Financing of Transboundary Water Cooperation and Basin Development



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FOREWORD

More than 60 per cent of the world's freshwater is shared between two or more riparian states. The sustainable and cooperative management of these transboundary water resources is crucial for access to water, sustainable development as well as regional stability and peace, as recognized by Sustainable Development Goal SDG 6 (Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all) target 6.5. However, many countries and basins struggle to identify the necessary funding, putting at risk the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Financial capacity constraints faced by countries as well as limited understanding of the benefits of cooperation often hinder the mobilization of financial resources for transboundary water cooperation and basin development. One of the main challenges lies in the risk perceived in investing in transboundary settings. The Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention), serviced by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), helps countries in establishing or strengthening their legal and institutional framework, thereby creating an enabling environment to attract financing, and also supports countries and basins in accessing funding.

This publication analyses the key opportunities and challenges related to the financing of transboundary water cooperation and basin development as well as the different financial needs for the development and operation of joint bodies and basin development projects. It provides a comprehensive overview of funding and financing, including from public and private sources, and innovative financing opportunities.

This publication has been developed in the framework of the Water Convention under the leadership of Switzerland and the Netherlands, and in cooperation with many partners including the African Development Bank (AfDB), the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the European Investment Bank (EIB), the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), and the World Bank. A global workshop on this topic organized in December 2020 provided crucial input and case studies.

We will only be able to address the challenge of financing through broad partnerships, including governments, international financial institutions, international and non-governmental organizations, and the private and financial sector. We hope that this publication will strengthen the dialogue between transboundary experts or basin managers on the one hand and financial actors – both public and private – on the other, thereby increasing the sustainable management of transboundary waters, and contributing to the SDG 6 global acceleration framework and ultimately the well-being of communities around the world.



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Victoria Falls bridge

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Aerial view of island on Narew River in sunny day, Poland

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