



INTERNATIONAL ROUNDTABLE
**TRANSBOUNDARY WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT
IN THE SOUTHERN MEDITERRANEAN**

26 - 27 November 2012, Chamber of Deputies, Rome, Italy

State of Transboundary Water Resources and
their Management in South-Eastern Europe

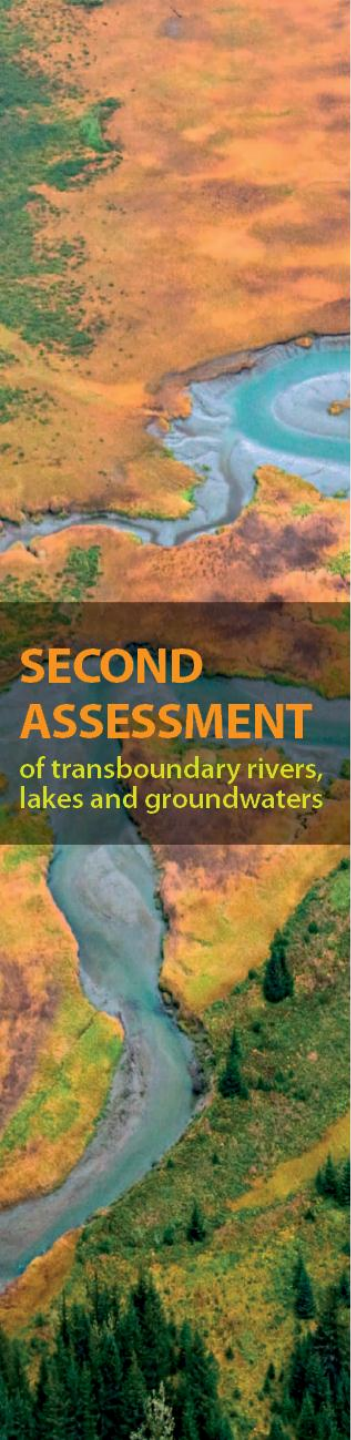
Francesca Bernardini
Secretary
UNECE Water Convention

Within the framework of
UNECE Water Convention
Union for the Mediterranean
GEF IW:LEARN, Activity D2



Regular assessments under the Water Convention

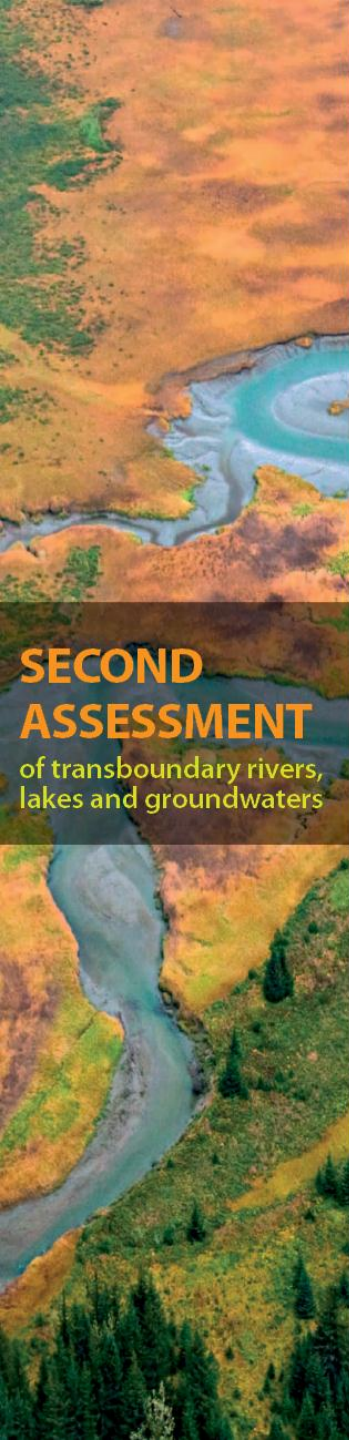
- Obligation to establish and implement joint monitoring programmes and to carry out regular joint or coordinated assessments
- In 2003 the Parties to the Water Convention decided to regularly carry out regional assessments
- First Assessment completed in 2007
- Second Assessment completed in 2011 and launched at the 7th Ministerial Conference Environment for Europe



**SECOND
ASSESSMENT**
of transboundary rivers,
lakes and groundwaters

Second Assessment: process

- Based on information submitted by the countries, river basin commissions and Ramsar focal points => more than 250 experts from 50 countries participated
- Subregional workshops a key step
- Strong partnerships with regional organizations
- Country representatives reviewed and endorsed the material

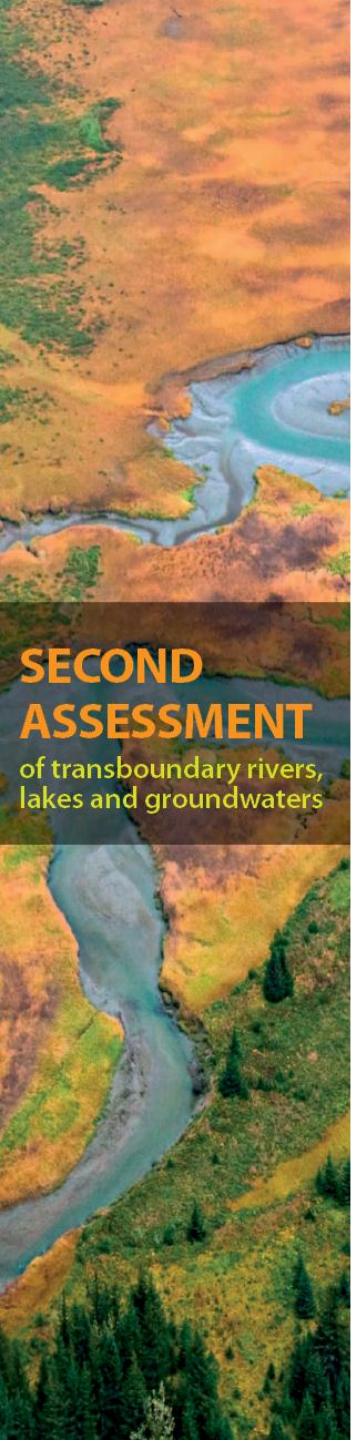


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of transboundary rivers,
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Second Assessment: scope

- Surface and groundwaters: more than 140 rivers, 25 lakes, about 200 groundwaters
- Ecosystem focus: 25 Ramsar Sites and other wetlands of transboundary importance in the pan-European region
- Covers pressure factors, quantity and quality status of waters, transboundary impacts, responses and future trends

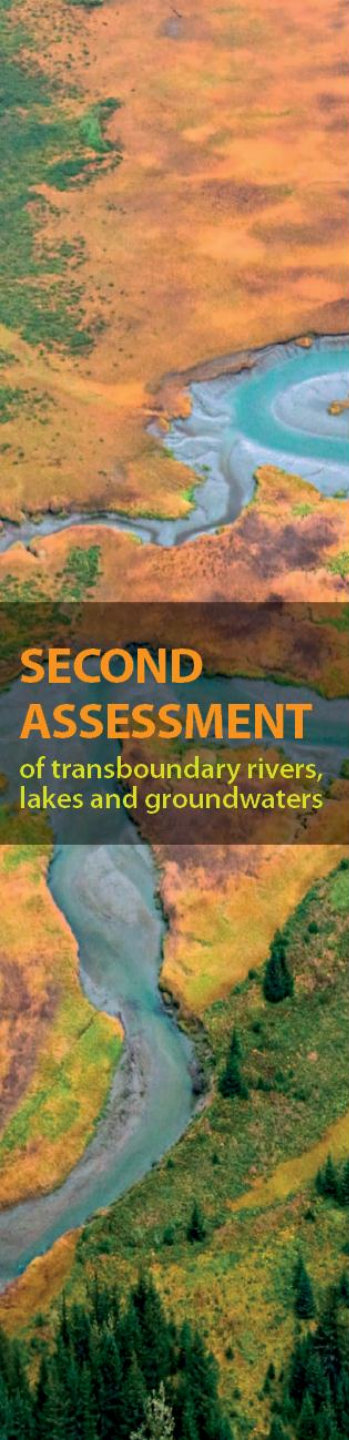


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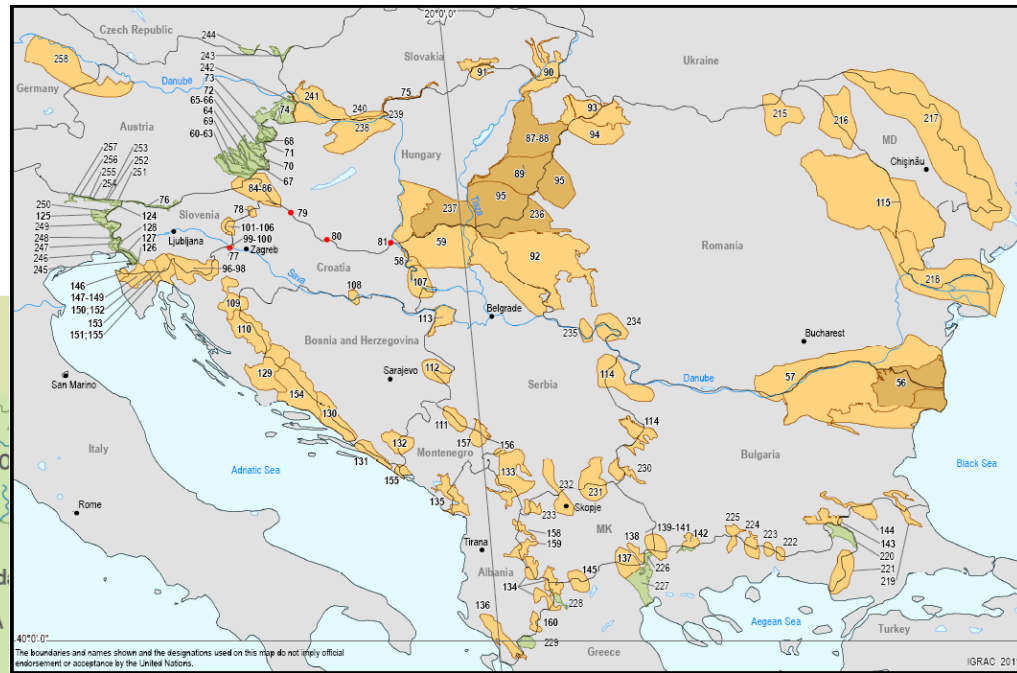
Advantages of regional assessments

- ensures a region wide-debate on water management issues
- exchange of experience and good practices
- capacity-building
- progressive harmonization
- promoting cooperation, through both political and technical dialogue

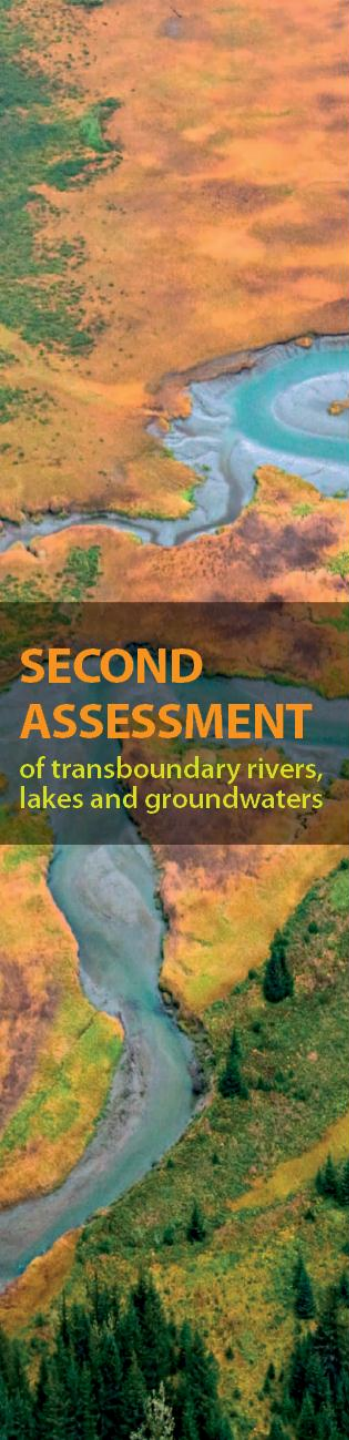


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SE Europe Transboundary waters

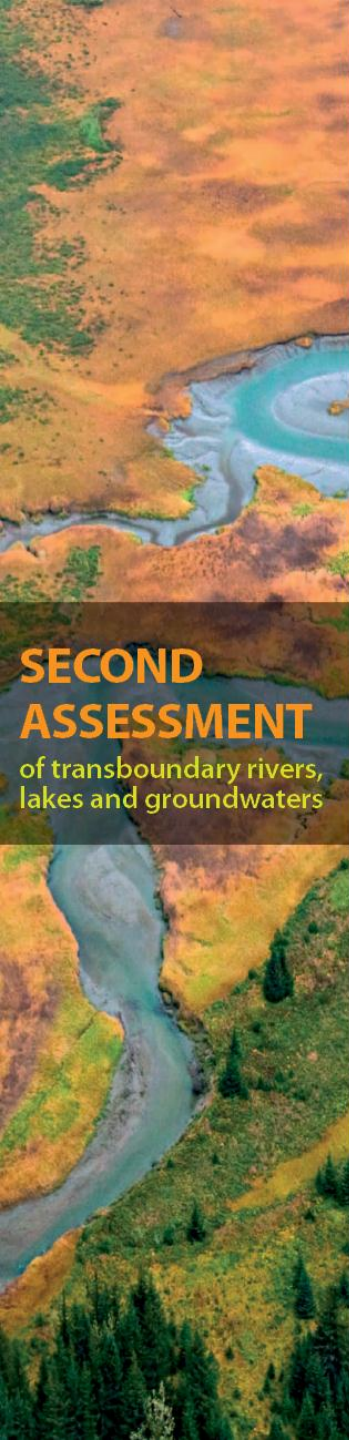


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South-Eastern Europe Setting

- Transboundary basins cover about 90 per cent of the region
- EU Accession process is main driver in the region
- Considerable progress in lawmaking but deficiencies in implementation and enforcement
- Development in the legal framework, but uneven level of advancement
- Uneven level of transboundary cooperation due to diverse difficulties (e.g. low political priority, finances, institutional capacity, conflicting interests)



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South-Eastern Europe many basins lack agreements

Watercourse related agreements



Bilateral



Multilateral

Lake or specific water use agreements



Bilateral



Multilateral



Bilateral agreement covering all shared waters

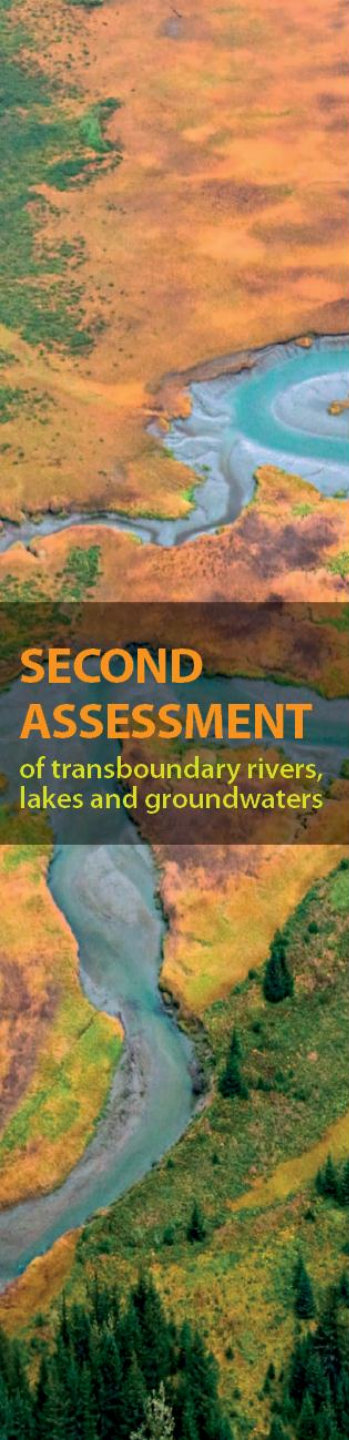


Uneven level of cooperation: some very good examples (Sava, promising Drin) while many basins in which there are no agreements, or very old or non-implemented one

South-Eastern Europe

Main problems and pressures

- Agricultural pressures
- Impacts of economic development (hydropower and tourism)
- insufficiently treated and/or untreated wastewater: despite investments still areas/cities with very low treatment and collection
- Mining: risk of potential accidents, including those caused by extreme weather events
- Climate change impacts: one of the most affected regions with growing scarcity

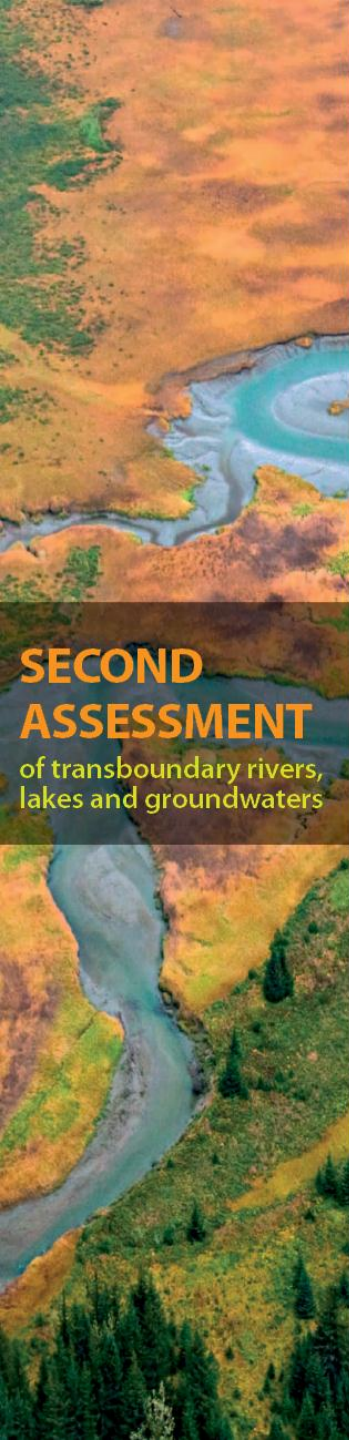


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South-Eastern Europe Responses

- All countries, at a different pace, are making steps towards basin management plans: 1) EU countries: preparation of RBMPs (EU WFD); 2) Non EU MS: Croatia, FYR of Macedonia; and 3) the Sava Commission
- Good agricultural practices to address overuse of water, nutrient & pesticide pollution etc. needed or such measures have been implemented
- Wastewater collection and treatment systems and solid waste management: in EU MS in accordance to the respective Directives; efforts also made in non-EU countries. Significant amount of financial resources needed - a major challenge



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South-Eastern Europe

The way forward

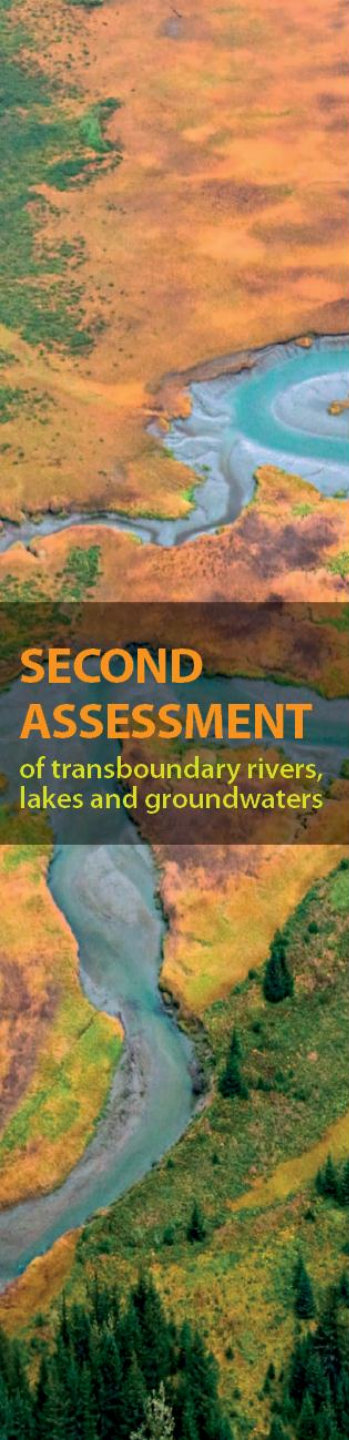
- Transboundary water cooperation needs strengthening - not only rely on external assistance + strengthen joint bodies + improve information exchange, joint monitoring & assessment
- Strengthen intersectoral cooperation & RBM plans, and application of IWRM
- Approximation to the EU: need to take advantage of it and accelerate it, including application of EU laws (esp. waste water treatment), strengthen enforcement
- Dams: Planning of new infrastructure and operation of the existing ones should take into account the upstream-downstream needs and considerations, including possible negative impacts on the ecosystem services and economic activities & evolving climatic conditions
- Agriculture and climate change: improve water efficiency

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SEE challenges common to the rest of the Mediterranean

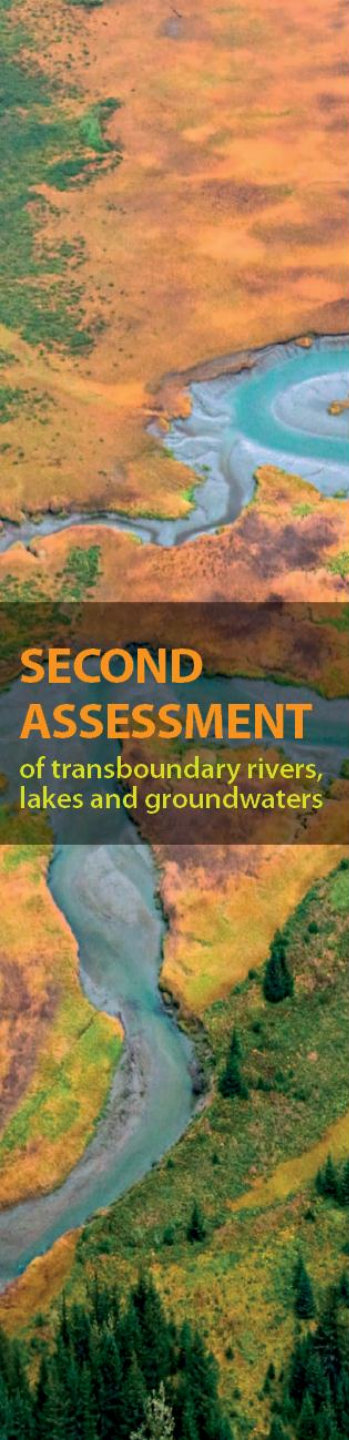
- Uneven level of transboundary cooperation and related deficiencies; less developed on groundwaters
- Inter-sectoral policy integration & coherence still weak
- Integrations to be improved: quantity-quality, surface waters-groundwaters
- Agriculture (diffuse pollution, water use)
- Hydromorphological changes
- Climate change



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Future work on assessment

- 3rd assessment in 8-10 years time and a “special edition” assessment in 2015
- Special edition focus: water-food-energy-ecosystem nexus
- Why?
 - responds to a key finding from 2nd Assessment
 - Climate change dimension
 - Hardly anything done at transboundary level; national & local studies can be built on (& 2nd Assessment)
- Water, energy and food sectors strongly interlinked > impacts & trade-offs, also potential synergies. How are they being addressed or how could they be addressed?
- Scope beyond the UNECE region => call for interested basins



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