



by Hydropolitics Association

# Hydro Politics

## Newsletter

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Dysfunction throughout the water cycle is undermining progress on all major global issues, from health to hunger, gender equality to jobs, education to industry, disasters to peace. Back in 2015, the world committed to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6 as part of the 2030 Agenda – the promise that everyone would have safely managed water and sanitation by 2030. Right now, we are seriously off-track. Billions of people and countless schools, businesses, healthcare centres, farms and factories are being held back because their human rights to water and sanitation have not yet been fulfilled.

### **We need to accelerate change – to go beyond ‘business as usual’**

Governments have to work on average four times faster to meet SDG 6 on time, but this is not a situation that governments can

Water affects everyone, so we need everyone to take action. You and your family, school and community can make a difference by changing the way you use, consume and manage water in your lives.

### **The Water Action Agenda**

Your commitments will be added to the larger-scale commitments from governments, companies, organizations, institutions and coalitions.

Together, these promises will form the Water Action Agenda, to be launched at the UN 2023 Water Conference. This World Water Day is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to unite around water and accelerate progress together.

Play your part by doing what you can.

UN WATER

# Global warming reaches central Greenland

January 18, 2023

A temperature reconstruction from ice cores of the past 1,000 years reveals that today's warming in central-north Greenland is surprisingly pronounced. The most recent decade surveyed in a study, the years 2001 to 2011, was the warmest in the past 1,000 years, and the region is now 1.5 °C warmer than during the 20th century, as researchers report. Using a set of ice cores unprecedented in length and quality, they reconstructed past temperatures in central-north Greenland and melting rates of the ice sheet.



**At high elevations of the Greenland Ice Sheet, the years 2001 to 2011 were 1.5 °C warmer than in the 20<sup>th</sup> century and represent the warmest decade in the last thousand years**

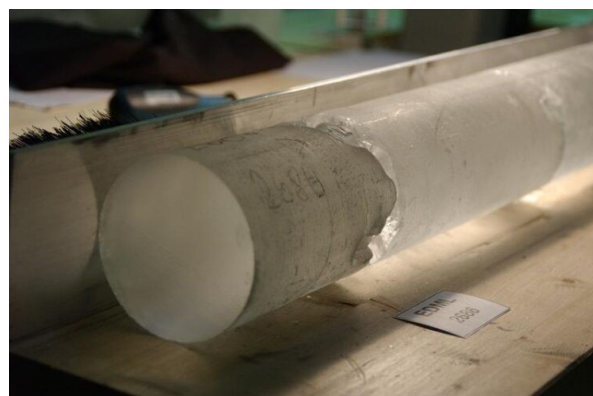
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The Greenland Ice Sheet plays a pivotal part in the global climate system. With enormous amounts of water stored in the ice (about 3 million cubic kilometres), melt and resulting sea-level rise is considered a potential tipping point. For unmitigated global emissions rates ('business as usual'), the ice sheet is projected to contribute up to 50 centimetres to global mean sea-level by 2100. Weather stations along the coast have been recording rising temperatures for many years. Centre for

But the influence of global warming on the up to 3,000 m elevated parts of the ice sheet have remained unclear to due to the lack of long-term observations. In a study now published in *Nature*, experts from the Alfred Wegener Institute, Helmholtz Polar and Marine Research (AWI) present clear evidence that effects of global warming have reached the remote, high-elevation areas of central-north Greenland.



The AWI researchers have now extended the previous datasets up to winter 2011/2012 by a dedicated redrilling effort, recovering time series unprecedented length and quality. The temperatures were reconstructed by using consistently one single method for the entire record in the lab: measuring concentrations of stable oxygen isotopes within the ice, which vary with the temperatures prevailing at times of ice formation. Previous studies had to draw on a range of different climate archives and combine results to reconstruct temperature, introducing much larger uncertainties in the assessment of natural variability.



Source : Alfred Wegener Institute, Helmholtz Centre for Polar and Marine Research. "Global warming reaches central Greenland." *ScienceDaily*. *ScienceDaily*, 18 January 2023. <[www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2023/01/230118111656.htm](http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2023/01/230118111656.htm)>.

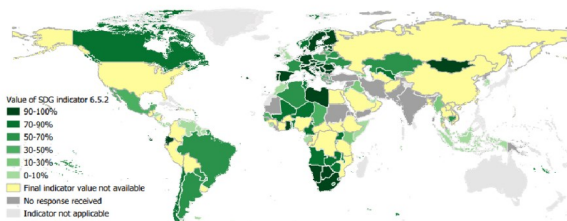


Figure 1: Proportion of transboundary basin area with an operational arrangement for cooperation, 2017-2020 (%) (as of 26 January 2020). One hundred and fifty-three countries share transboundary basins and the proportion of basins covered by operational arrangements in each country varies significantly.

## Progress on SDG 6.5.2 Proportion of transboundary basin area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation

Target 6.5 is: “By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate.” Indicator 6.5.2 looks at the area of a country within transboundary basins and assesses the extent to which that area is covered by operational cooperation arrangements. Transboundary basins are river, lake and aquifer systems shared between two or

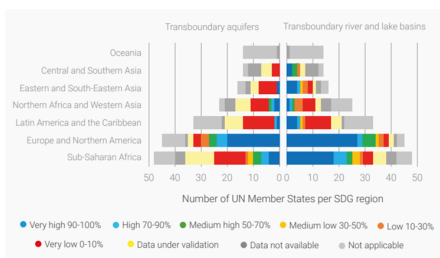


Figure 2: Number of countries sharing transboundary waters in each SDG region, by level of transboundary water cooperation, for river and lake basins and aquifers, 2017-2020. Countries in Europe, North America and sub-Saharan Africa are best placed to have all transboundary basins covered by operational arrangements by 2030.

more countries. Arrangements are “operational” when there is a joint body, meetings between countries take place and information is exchanged at least once per year, and joint or coordinated management plans or objectives for the basin(s) have been set.<sup>8</sup> Transboundary water cooperation plays a crucial role in supporting wider regional integration, peace and sustainable development, as well as in tackling regional security challenges or in supporting climate change adaptation.

High levels of engagement. In 2020, 129 out of 153 countries sharing transboundary basins submitted national reports on the status of their cooperative arrangements. The reporting offered an unprecedented opportunity to raise awareness and start to address data gaps, particular in relation to transboundary aquifers, while also identifying further priorities for national capacity development.

In some instances, this has given countries the impetus to negotiate new cooperative arrangements. The indicator value is now available for 101 countries. Arrangements for water cooperation. An average of 58 per cent of countries’ transboundary basin areas have an operational arrangement for water cooperation. Only 24 countries reported that all their transboundary basins are covered by cooperation arrangements. An additional 22 countries have high levels of cooperation.

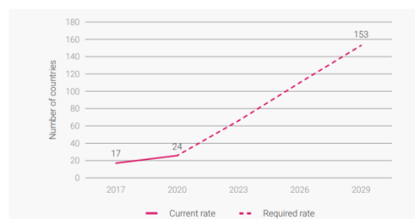
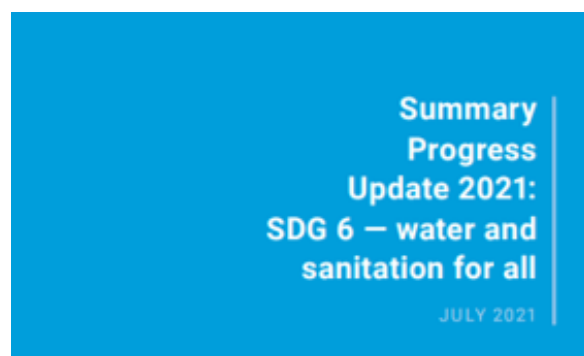


Figure 3: Number of countries that have all transboundary waters covered by operational arrangements – current and required rates. Significant acceleration is needed to have all transboundary waters covered by operational arrangements by 2030.

Data provider: United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

Transboundary cooperation is particularly advanced in Europe, North America and sub-Saharan Africa. In Latin America and Asia, despite notable exceptions, many transboundary basins are still lacking operational arrangements for water cooperation. Next steps: Countries must accelerate progress in adopting cooperative arrangements so as to enable water for all and capitalize on the catalytic role transboundary water cooperation can have across SDGs. Where operational arrangements are lacking, identifying and advancing key factors of operability, such as holding regular meetings and exchanging data between countries, can result in ‘quick wins’ that accelerate target achievement with sometimes minimal efforts.

## SUMMARY PROGRESS UPDATE 2021 – SDG 6 – WATER AND SANITATION FOR ALL



## 43,000 estimated dead in Somalia drought last year, U.N. Report says



March 20, 2023

A new report says an estimated 43,000 people died amid Somalia's longest drought on record last year and half of them likely were children under 5 years old. It is the first official death toll announced in the drought withering large parts of the Horn of Africa.

At least 18,000 people, and as many as 34,000, are forecast to die in the first six months of this year.

"The current crisis is far from over," says the report released Monday by the World Health Organization and the United Nations children's agency and carried out by the London School of Hygiene and Tro-



pical Medicine.

Somalia and neighboring Ethiopia and Kenya are facing a sixth consecutive failed rainy season while rising global food prices and the war in Ukraine complicate the hunger crisis. The U.N. and partners earlier this year said they were no longer forecasting a formal famine declaration for Somalia for now but called the situation "extremely critical," with more than 6 million people hungry in that country alone.

## State of the world's drinking water: an urgent call to action to accelerate progress on ensuring safe drinking water for all

The first target under Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6, Target 6.1, is, "By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all". In the last two decades investment in drinking water services has led to considerable increases in access. Two billion people globally gained access to safely managed drinking water services. In 2020, 74% of the world's population used safely managed drinking water, up from 62% in 2000.

Despite this progress, there are wide geographical disparities, and 2 billion people still do not use safely managed drinking water. The world is not even close to being on track to meet the SDGs by 2030. Continued progress on SDG Target 6.1, and the additional acceleration needed to achieve universal access, is threatened by the ever-increasing impacts and uncertainty of climate change, competing agricultural and ecological water needs, competing financial priorities and the challenges of existing and emerging threats to water quality

As a service that provides immeasurable economic and health benefits, and essential gender equality outcomes, the need to dramatically increase political commitment to drinking water is clear, as is the need to strengthen governance and institutions and significantly increase the financial resources available. Drinking water services must reach everyone, including the poor, vulnerable and marginalized, consistent with the promise to leave no one behind.

Source: WHO, UNICEF, World Bank. State of the world's drinking water: an urgent call to action to accelerate progress on ensuring safe drinking water for all. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2022. SA 3.0 IGO.





## HPA is a member of WATER EUROPE

We would like to warmly thank you for being part of Water Europe for 2023.

It's an exciting time to be a Water Europe member. We are only some weeks away from launching our **new, updated vision, 'The value of water: Towards a Water-Smart Society'** and participating in the **UN Water Conference 2023**, during which we are organising a series of side events and activities to bring our vision for a Water-Smart society into the limelight. In parallel with these, we are preparing the ground for ensuring a prominent role of water in the next European Commission that will kick off in 2024, while working diligently on the recast of the **Industrial Emissions Directive**, the **Urban Wastewater Treatment directive**, and the rolling-out of our **Water-Oriented Living Labs strategy**.

On the internal front, now, we continue implementing the membership experience journey we embarked on last year – the [Water Europe Community](#).

### February -March 2023

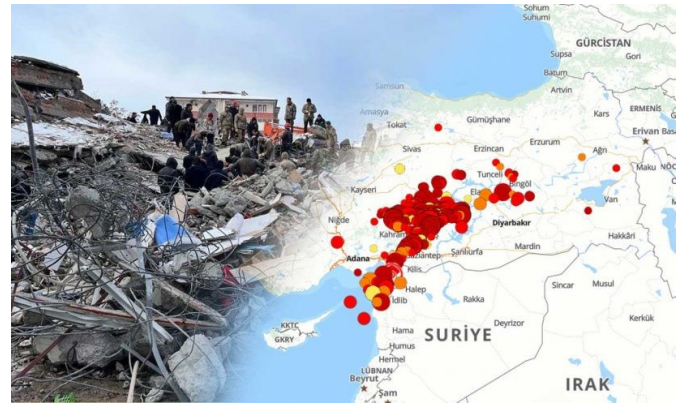
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The foreseen results of this in 2023 will be a new series of **Water Europe Members Dialogues** to engage and interact even more with you, and a brand new, user-friendly website that will improve the digital experience of our network. A number of Water Europe events are already on the horizon, offering strong networking opportunities for all our members and helping you succeed in project proposals, meet new partners, and enlarge your scope and perspectives. It's a new year, and your chance to make the best of it. We look forward to a collaboration of mutual growth and success!



We would like to thank all of our friends who expressed their condolences during the extremely difficult time of the earthquake. We appreciate it very much

We need to build a future,  
Where people live in harmony with nature

# HPA

*Think Forward . Lead Forward*