

ESCAP Updates on Activities on SDG 6

Accelerating progress towards SDG 6 in the Asia-Pacific region and
engaging in UN-Water Regional Discussion Groups

11 November 2021



ENVIRONMENT AND
DEVELOPMENT



Presentation Outline

-
1. Policy brief: The SDG 6 in the COVID-19 context
 2. E-learning course on water, the ocean and the SDGs
 3. The UN-Water Expert Group on Regional Level Coordination and opportunities to engage





POLICY BRIEF

Accelerating Progress Towards SDG6 in the Asia-Pacific Region in the Context of COVID-19

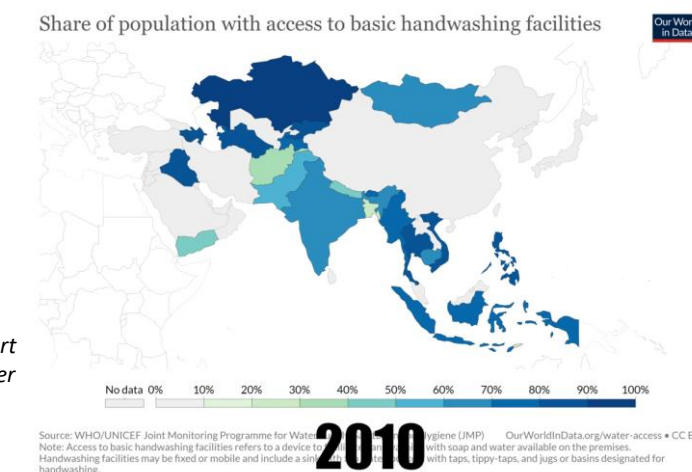
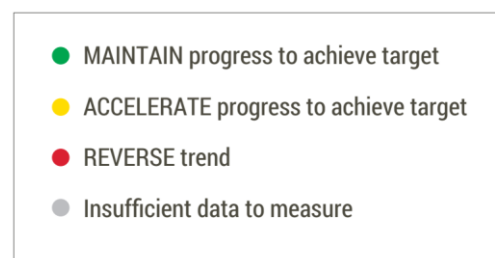
<https://www.unescap.org/our-work/environment-development/urban-development>



DECADE
OF
ACTION

Regional SDG6 Progress 2021

- Effective progress on SDG6 in recent years but remains **too slow to meet 2030 targets**. Regression of 6.4.2 'water stress'.
- COVID-19 has significantly impacted all SDGs. An **additional 636 million vulnerable people** are at risk of poverty.
- In East Asia and the Pacific **369 million** people still without access to **basic sanitation** and **134 million** without access to **improved drinking water**.
- **Water and Sanitation** interventions are essential for public health and to prevent disease. Reliable national and sub-national **water data remains limited**.



Data Sources:
UNESCAP, 2021. *Asia and the Pacific SDG Progress Report*
WHO/UNICEF, 2020. *Joint Monitoring Program for Water Supply and Sanitation*

COVID-19 Impacts and SDG 6

6.1 Safe and Affordable Drinking Water

- 92% of the region now have access to 'basic' drinking water.
- Major impact on water utility finances.

6.2: Adequate and Equitable Sanitation and Hygiene

WASH is a cost-effective investment for development and pandemic preparedness. Sewage treatment and testing for COVID-19 monitoring

6.3: Improve Water Quality and Treat Wastewater

- Short-term reduced industry use of water resources.
- 2x increase in plastic debris entering river basins.

6.4: Increase Efficiency and Ensure Sustainable Withdrawals

- Increased groundwater demand for household agriculture.
- Increasing quantity and diversification of domestic agriculture for national food security.

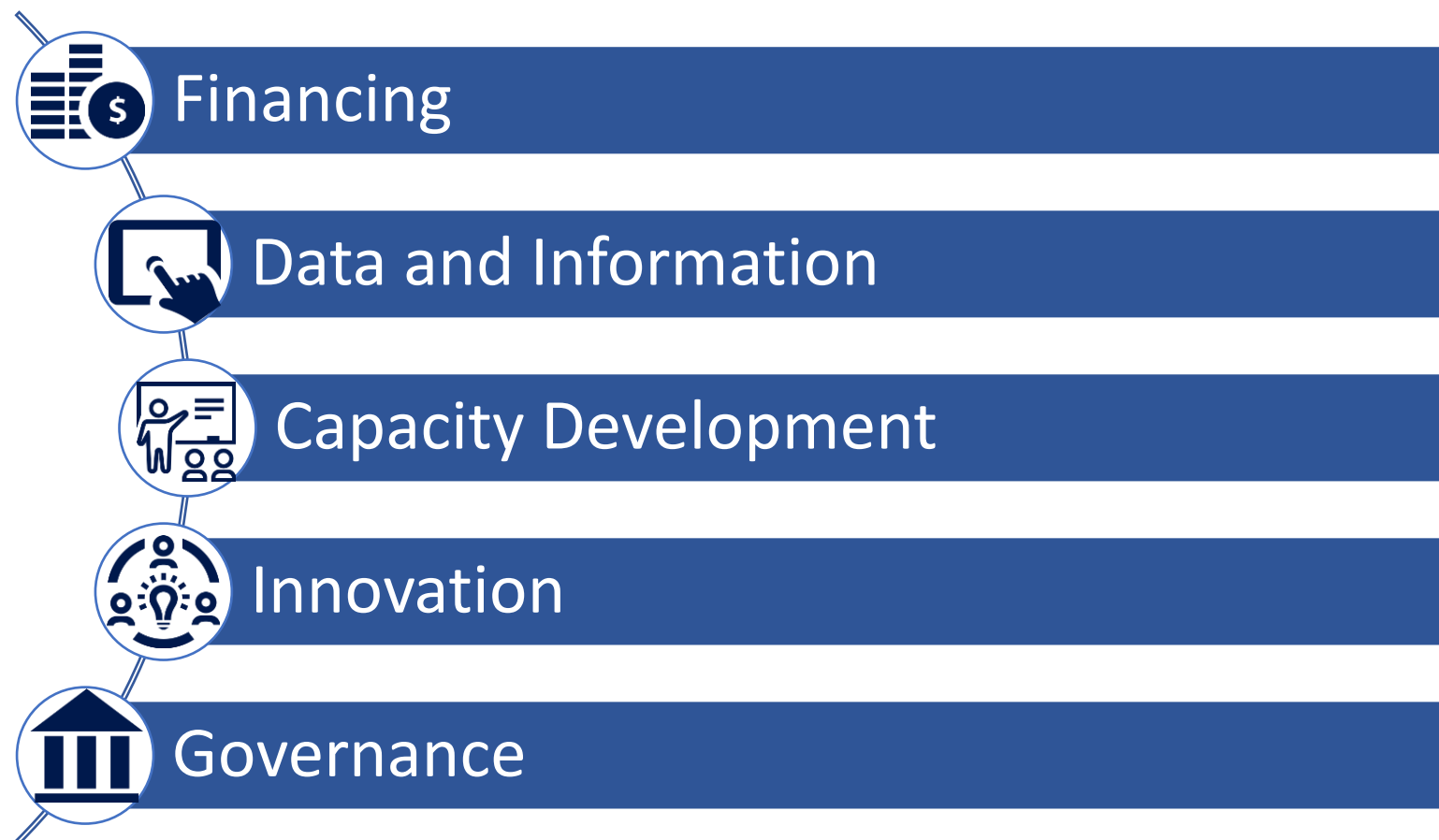
6.5: Support IWRM and Transboundary Cooperation

- Increased COVID-driven ODA and resources.
- Long term pandemic planning and resilience as a new key considerations for water managers.

6.6 Protect and Restore Water-Related Ecosystems

- Environmental degradation and land use trends to increase risk of disease exposure.
- Greater commitments to protect water-related ecosystems needed.

Priority Areas to Reach SDG 6 Targets



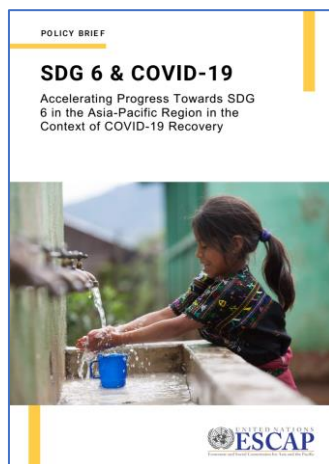
SDG 6 Global Accelerator Framework



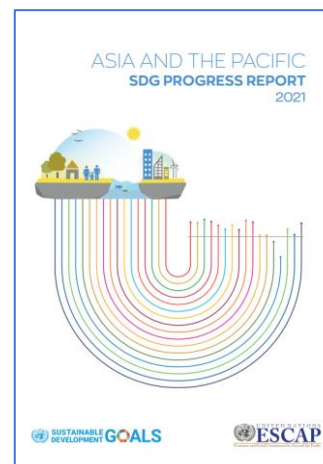
Policy Recommendations

- Policy makers should harness the momentum achieved through the COVID-19 emergency and follow with **long-term commitments** to strengthening WASH and water infrastructure.
- Water resource challenges experienced by **vulnerable groups** to be addressed directly in **national recovery action plans**, including provision of financial support where necessary.
- Improve **access to handwashing facilities**, particularly in schools, markets, health clinics, and detention centres.
- Implement policies to **protect frontline WASH and healthcare workers**. This could include securing mandatory supply of PPE, sanitary working conditions, health insurance, and income security.
- Support **local community organizations** and **civil society groups** in provision of WASH and COVID-19 preventative measures. In particular, ensuring equitable access to vaccinations.
- Implement more efficient waste management systems for plastic **waste recovery**; targeting consumption of single-use and medical plastic products.
- Strengthen collection of **water data** including monitoring of water withdrawals and **gender-disaggregated** WASH data.
- Advocate for the inclusion of **human health markers** and monitoring in IWRM policy design.
- Strengthen IWRM **capacity at local government levels** to facilitate stronger coordination of national water priorities.
- Ensure post-COVID-19 **economic recovery activities** have provisions to protect **water-related ecosystem health**.
- Increase private sector finance and **public-private-partnerships** for investment in water infrastructure.

Further Resources

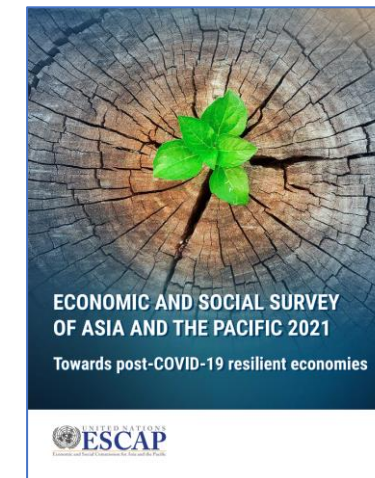


UN-ESCAP, 2021. Accelerating progress towards SDG6 in the Asia-Pacific Region in the Context of COVID-19 Recovery



UN-ESCAP, 2021. Asia and the Pacific SDG Progress Report 2021.

[https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/d8files/knowledge-products/ESCAP Asia and the Pacific SDG Progress Report 2021.pdf](https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/d8files/knowledge-products/ESCAP%20Asia%20and%20the%20Pacific%20SDG%20Progress%20Report%202021.pdf)



UN-ESCAP, 2021. Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2021: Towards post-COVID-19 resilient economies.

<https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/d8files/knowledge-products/Survey%202021%20Towards%20post-COVID-19%20resilient%20economies.pdf>

<https://www.unescap.org/our-work/environment-development>

An aerial photograph of a coastal landscape. On the left, a dense green mangrove forest is interspersed with winding, dark water channels. A narrow strip of land with some buildings and a road separates the mangroves from a sandy beach. The ocean is on the right, with waves breaking near the shore. The overall scene is vibrant and natural.

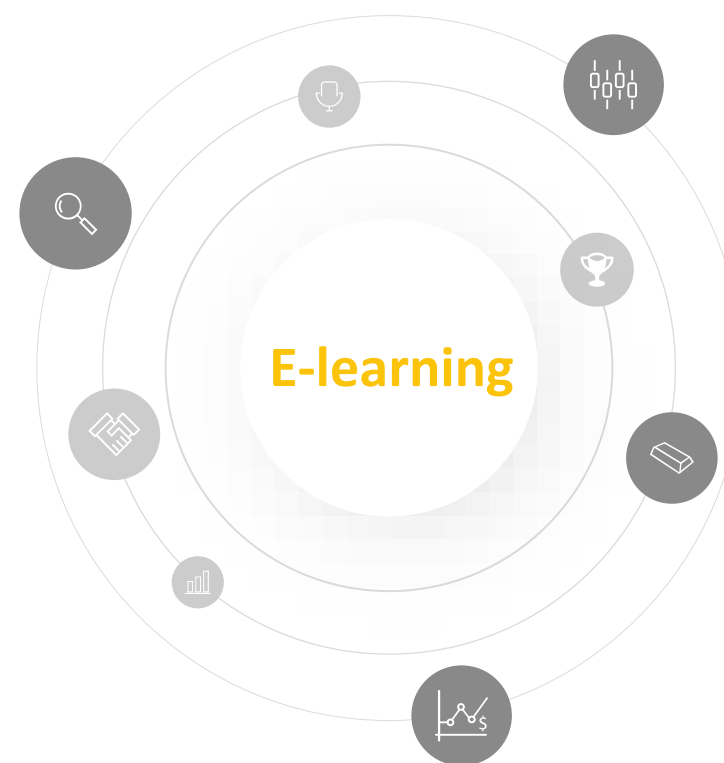
E-Learning Course: Water, the Ocean and the SDGs

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This course aims to **share the latest knowledge** to **raise ambition** in taking action for water and oceans. It is primarily aimed at **policy makers** and **civil servants** involved in policy making.

This training provides an understanding of the following:

- 1 Key concepts in the hydrological cycle
- 2 The source-to-sea framework
- 3 Principles in water governance
- 4 Interlinkages between SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation) SDG 14 (Life Under Water)



E-Learning Course: Objectives

Objective 1	Generate stewardship of water resources and make progress on SDG 6 and 14
Objective 2	Share data and information to understand knowledge gaps and the way forward
Objective 3	Share best practices for management of water and marine resources in the region
Objective 4	Explore innovative solutions to tackle water and the ocean in an integrated fashion
Objective 5	Equip policy makers with knowledge, acceleration tools and frameworks



Sustainable Development Goals
HELPDESK

This course is developed in partnership between **ESCAP** in collaboration with **Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI)**, the **Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)**, and the **Government of Japan**.

E-Learning Course: Modules

Module 1

Land, Water and Ocean

The degradation of freshwater and marine environments has a direct impact on crucial ecosystem services.

Module 2

Water Governance

Principles of best-practice policy-making build on of legal, administrative and organizational systems across countries.

Module 3

Source to Sea Approach

Using Source-to-Sea Approach to better understand Asia Pacific Eco-Systems

Module 4

SDG 6 & SDG 14

Clean Water and Sanitation, and Life Below Water, are the key SDGs when considering freshwater and ocean linkages.

Module 5

Closing the Loop

Urban practitioners can adopt approaches to measure plastic pollution and to assess waste management systems.

Module 6

Best Practices

Delving into a case study of solid waste flow in the Vu Gia-Thu Bon River Basin (Vietnam).

E-Learning Course: Key Messages

The interface between land and oceans captures a key environmental challenge as unsustainable human activities are imposing a heavy burden on water ecosystems. It is crucial to address freshwater and ocean ecosystems in a more **holistic manner** as freshwater outcomes cannot be separated from ocean outcomes.



Source-to-Sea

It presents practical steps for designing, implementing and evaluating policies.



Water Governance

Crucial to consider all the attributes of good governance which make policies effective.



Regional Ecosystems

Key regional ecosystems across Asia-Pacific that require special attention.



SDG 6 & SDG 14

Linkages between the SDGs can help address a wide range of environmental challenges.

Course link: <https://sdghelpdesk-elearning.unescap.org/thematicarea/detail?id=27>

E-Learning Course: modalities

- Open access at :

<https://sdghelpdesk-elearning.unescap.org/thematicarea/detail?id=27>

- About 10 hours to complete at your own pace
- Tests and exercises
- Certificate of attendance delivered



UN-Water Expert Group on Regional Level

The Expert Group on Regional Level Coordination (EG-RLC) was established by UN-Water at the 30th Meeting of UN-Water (Rome, 2019).

A platform for discussion

The EG provides a mechanism for the exchange of information, knowledge and experience and the coordination of regional-level activities on water.

Coordination

The Group is coordinated by UNESCAP and UNESCWA. Coordinators of the regional discussion groups include all 5 Regional Commissions of the United Nations. Membership includes Water Members and Partners as well as other relevant non-governmental and non-profit organisations

Regional Discussion Groups

Regional Discussion Groups (RDGs) were established to facilitate a more focused discussion, exchange and coordination at the regional level on SFG 6. This includes regional preparations for the mid-term review UN Water Decade of Action on Water (2023). These Groups cover Africa, Arab States, Asia and the Pacific, Europe and Central Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean.

Membership Criteria

Membership in a Regional Discussion Group will be determined based on common criteria applied across the five Regional Discussion Groups

Membership request: <https://forms.gle/8RWFzDPxiDiWP2TZ9>

EG-RCL Objectives

Function 1	Provide a platform for the exchange of experiences
Function 2	Compile contact information for regional-level work on water
Function 3	Report on inputs on regional-level meetings and preparation of forums
Function 4	Generate regional knowledge products
Function 5	Foster collaboration on regional-level monitoring activities on SDG 6
Function 6	Support regional assessments and reporting on SDG 6 progress
Function 7	Assist UN-Water undertake regional-level activities related to water

UN WATER

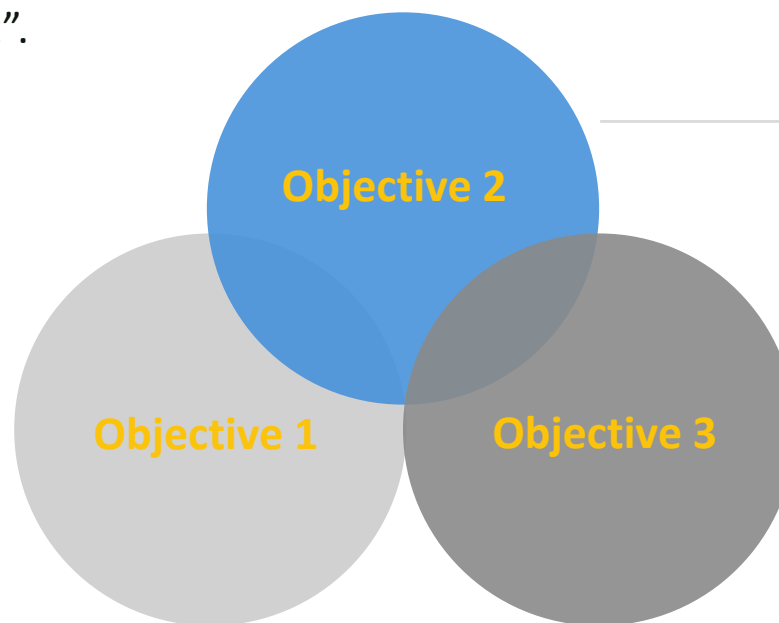


Water Action Decade 2018-2028

In 2016, the UN General Assembly unanimously adopted the resolution “International Decade for Action – Water for Sustainable Development”.

The Decade focuses on the sustainable development of water resources for the achievement of social, economic and environmental objectives.

Sustainable development and integrated management of water resources to achieve of social, economic and environmental objectives



Implementation and promotion of related programmes and projects

Enhance cooperation and partnerships to achieve internationally agreed water-related goals, including those in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development



ROAD MAP TO MID-TERM REVIEW OF THE UN WATER ACTION DECADE— MARCH 2023



Regional consultations:

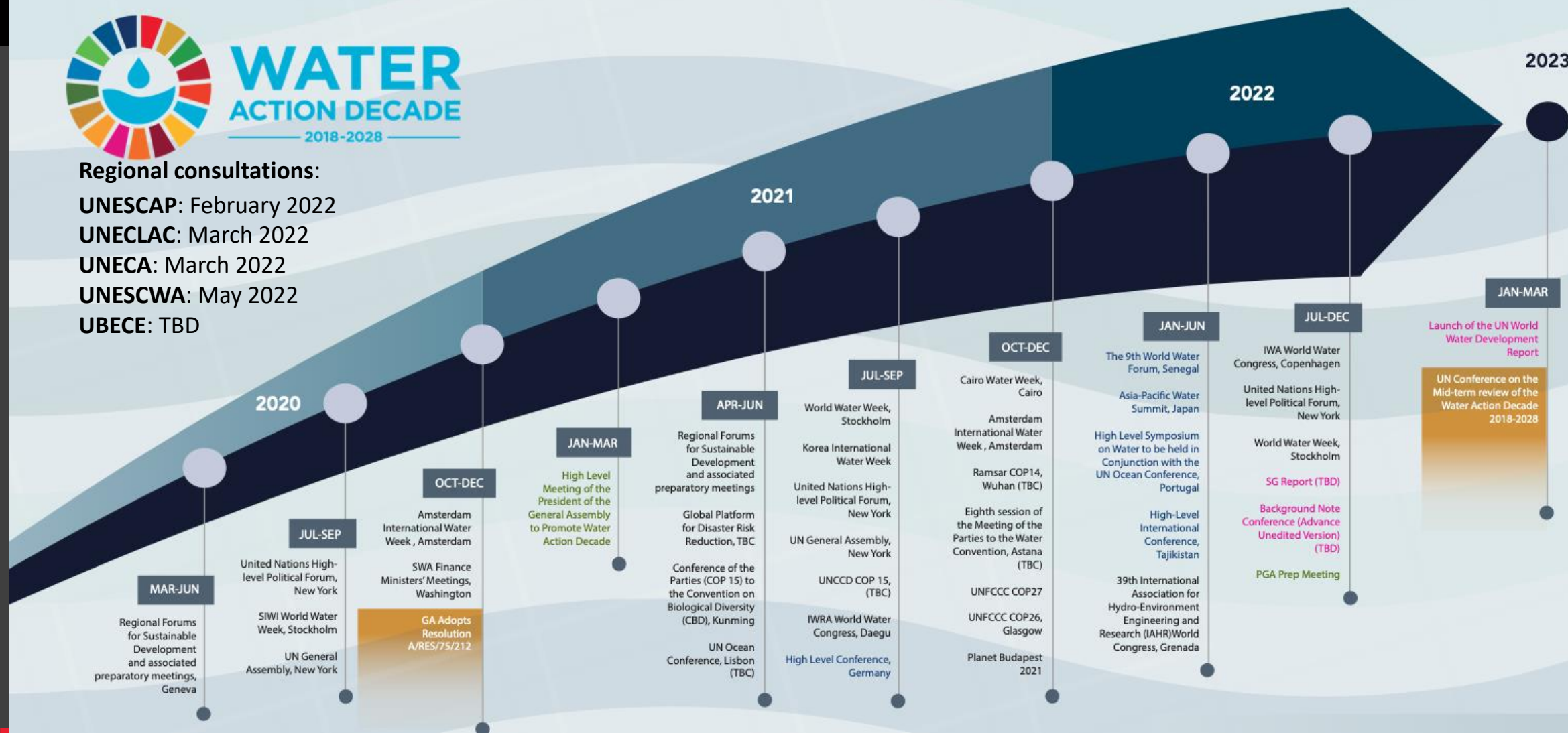
UNESCAP: February 2022

UNECLAC: March 2022

UNECA: March 2022

UNESCWA: May 2022

UBECE: TBD



Update on the EG-RCL Work Plan (2020-2022)

- ToR and Membership criteria developed for the regional groups
- 53 individuals from 22 organizations are registered: Africa (13), Arab States (8), Asia-Pacific (16), Europe and Central Asia (11), Latin America and Caribbean (11)
- Dates being set for regional discussion groups meetings in preparation of the mid-term review. ESCAP (Asia): Feb. 2022 (TBC)

Opportunities to Engage

UN-Water members and partners, as well as other regional organisations meeting the agreed set of criteria are invited to nominate and register representatives in Regional Discussion Groups.

1

Register in the discussion group (up to two institutional representatives can be registered in each RDGs)

Registration link:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfhB5I4sCRqVdM2ZvCkHnFj0OBC36jyiz3PlIj5Cm_7VafmQQ/viewform

2

Participate in the regional meeting in February 2022

3

Provide feedback and support on organizations to include



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