

# The Contribution of the UNECE Water Regime to Environmental Protection of Transboundary Waters in International Law



Hydro Nation Scholars Programme

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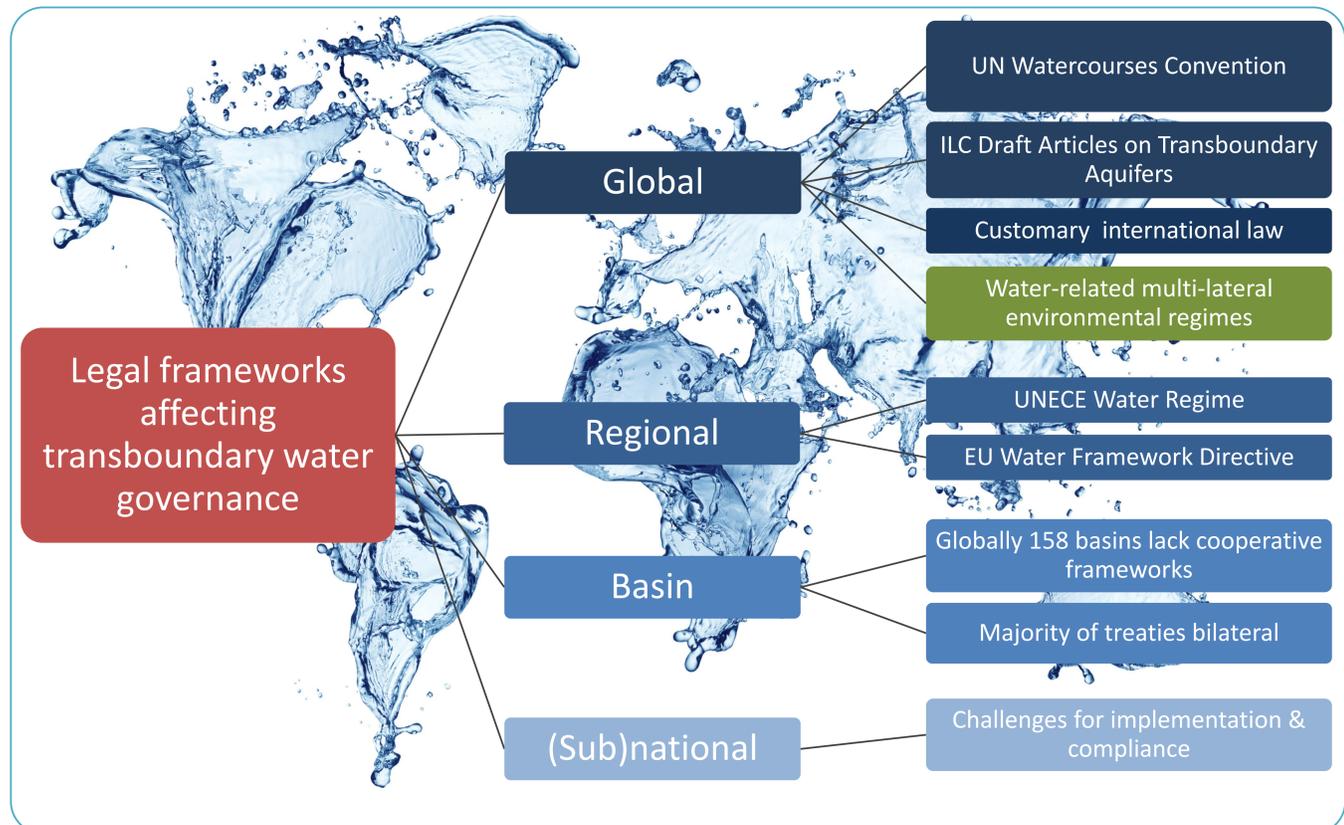
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## BACKGROUND

The current **legal architecture** for peacefully managing **transboundary waters** is **fragmented** causing **gaps**, **incoherence** and missed opportunities for **mutually supportive interaction** between instruments addressing **environmental protection**, contributing to rising tensions over the use of shared and increasingly **scarce waters**.

## RESEARCH QUESTION

How does the **UNECE water regime** contribute to multi-level and cross-sectoral interaction and **environmental protection** in **international law** on **transboundary waters**?



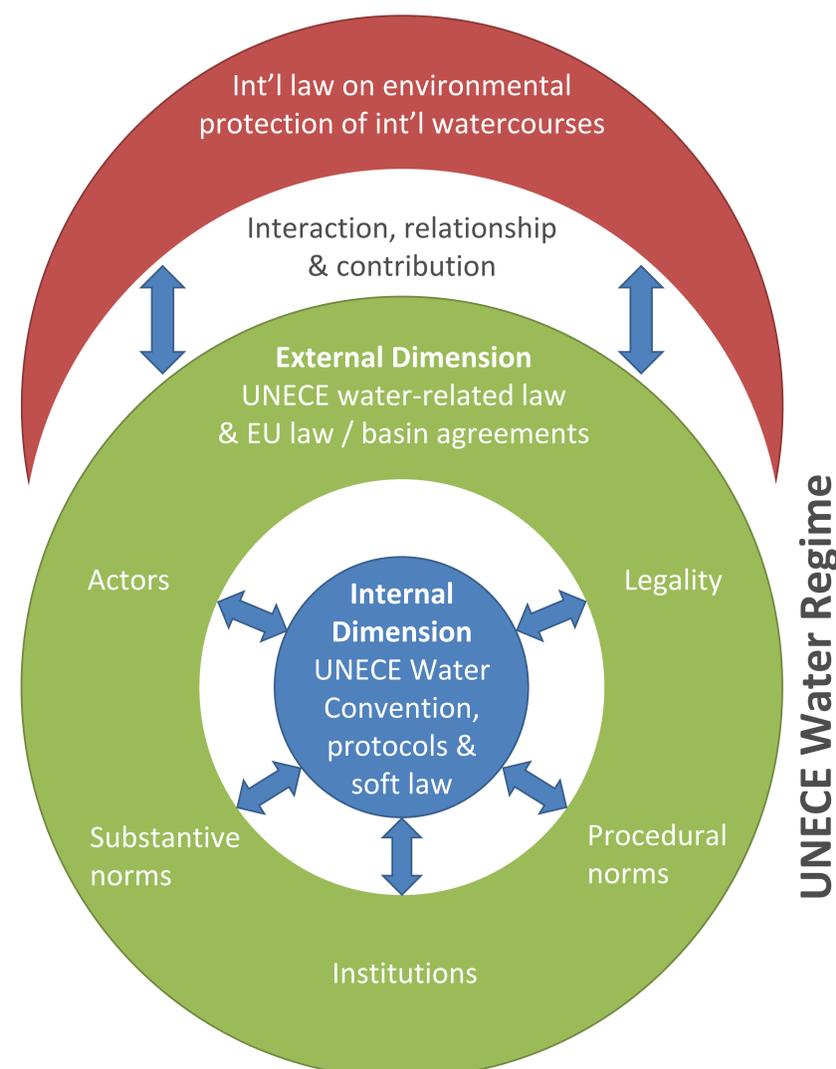
## OBJECTIVES

**Objective 1** | Strengthening environmental protection and multi-level interaction between international, regional and basin water specific legal instruments and across other international environmental regimes indirectly impacting upon transboundary water protection and use (e.g., international biodiversity regime)

**Objective 2** | Understanding the rising role and contribution of regional approaches to environmental protection in international water law (incl. customary int'l law) specifically the UNECE Water Convention and water-related UNECE binding and non-binding legal instruments as a structurally distinctive institutional 'UNECE water regime'

## METHODS

1. Using doctrinal international law method to understand how legal norms and institutions developed under the 'UNECE water regime' have influenced and been influenced by international treaty, customary law, basin and EU law
2. Providing recommendations on measures to strengthen the UNECE water regime
3. Transferring lessons from UNECE water regime to other regions and river basins



## Acknowledgements

Hydro Nation Programme Mentors | Jon Rathjen and Barry Grieg, Scottish Govt. Water Industry Team  
Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research | Prof Wolfgang Köck

