

EUROPE AND NORTHERN AMERICA

Indicators Covered

6.3.2 WATER QUALITY

Indicator 6.3.2 tracks progress towards achieving Goal 6.3, which aims to improve water quality globally by 2030. It focuses on the proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality, defined as water quality that does not harm ecosystem function or human health. Good ambient water quality is determined by at least 80% compliance with country-specific targets for core physical and chemical parameters. These parameters reflect natural water quality factors such as climate and geology, as well as potential impacts on water quality. An index incorporating data from parameters like oxygen, salinity, nitrogen, phosphorus, and acidification is used to assess overall water quality. Monitoring ambient water quality helps the identification of pollution hotspots and the enforcement of pollution laws and discharge permits.

6.5.2 TRANSBOUNDARY WATER BASIN AGREEMENTS

Indicator 6.5.2, part of Target 6.5 of the SDGs, measures the proportion of transboundary basin areas with operational arrangements for water cooperation. Transboundary basins are river or lake basins or aquifer systems that cross or are on the boundaries of multiple countries. Operational water cooperation agreements between countries are essential for effective water management. An operational arrangement for water cooperation involves bilateral or multilateral treaties, conventions, agreements, or other formal arrangements that establish a framework for cooperation. For an arrangement to be considered operational, it must include elements such as a joint body, regular formal communication between the countries involved, coordinated management plans, and regular exchange of data and information, at least annually. Monitoring the proportion of transboundary basin areas covered by operational cooperation agreements helps facilitate sustainable water management and address challenges related to shared water resources.

