

# The Blue Peace Index



**Region**  
Global

**Partners**  
The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU)

**Background information**  
The EIU Public Policy teams will develop the Blue Peace Index research programme to help understand and highlight the complexity of sustainable management of shared water resources and use this information to promote successful trans-boundary cooperation

**Project objectives**  
The Blue Peace Index research programme will highlight the importance of a basin-level approach to cooperation among states and stakeholders for sustainable management of shared water resources.

**Beneficiaries**  
The programme aims to provide a focal point for stakeholders active in Blue Peace initiatives and to engage with broader audience including: policy-makers, young people, NGOs and the private sector.

**Costs&Duration**  
CHF 765'000  
01.2019-31.12.2023

**Contact**  
Global Programme Water  
water@eda.admin.ch  
hlpwp@eda.admin.ch

Water has a central role in achieving the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), but according to the World Bank, more than a billion people live in water-scarce regions, and as many as 3.5 billion people could face water scarcity by 2025. As a growing number of people and states experience rising or even permanent water stress - due to environmental, economic and social developments - increased competition over water can heighten tensions and even lead to open conflict within and among nations. The SDC has partnered with The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) to develop a Blue Peace Index to examine how countries around the world are managing their transboundary water resources to highlight challenges and available policy solutions, as well as to spur a public debate on the desirable goals and best practices for sustainable water management.

The heightened risks and political tensions over water resources, resulting from broad environmental, economic and societal changes, present not only challenges, but also opportunities to re-consider the approach to management of shared water resources. Water resources can in fact serve as a conduit for political stability and peace, if they are managed in a cooperative, sustainable and equitable manner. Nevertheless, understanding, designing and promoting mechanisms for collaborative and sustainable management of shared water resources is a complex task, as it requires consideration of numerous economic, environmental, social and political realities. It also relies on commitment and involvement of numerous stakeholders on sub-national, national and international levels. The SDC has engaged with the EIU to develop a Blue Peace Index as a part of a broader development of the Blue Peace movement. This movement will increase global awareness about the importance of transboundary water governance to broader international peace and prosperity.

The Blue Peace Index will explore the extent to which countries manage their shared water resources in a sustainable, equitable and collaborative manner at both national and basin level. In the first edition, it will cover 24 countries in 5 basins in five different regions, with a planned expansion of coverage in future editions.



The index framework is based on inputs from world-leading experts and is built around five pillars: (i) Policy and legal framework, (ii) Institutional arrangement and participation, (iii) Water management instruments, (iv) Infrastructure and financing and (v) Cooperation context. The index will be accompanied by a white paper including an analysis of the results and insights from experts, and is scheduled to be launched at the World Water Week 2019, in Stockholm in August. In this long-term engagement with the EIU, the launch of the index will be followed up by a promotion campaign and a series of tailored case studies and thematic reports.

## Key outputs of the planned phase

- An interactive consolidated Blue Peace Index benchmarking model with supporting evidence and indicator scores.
- A Blue Peace Index white paper including an analysis of the results and insights from experts.
- A centralized Blue Peace digital hub to serve as a one-stop-shop to host outputs and information about various stakeholders active in the Blue Peace initiative.
- Launch of the index and the white paper at a discussion panel at the Stockholm World Water Week 2019.

Additional information:  
<http://www.eiu.com/publicpolicy>