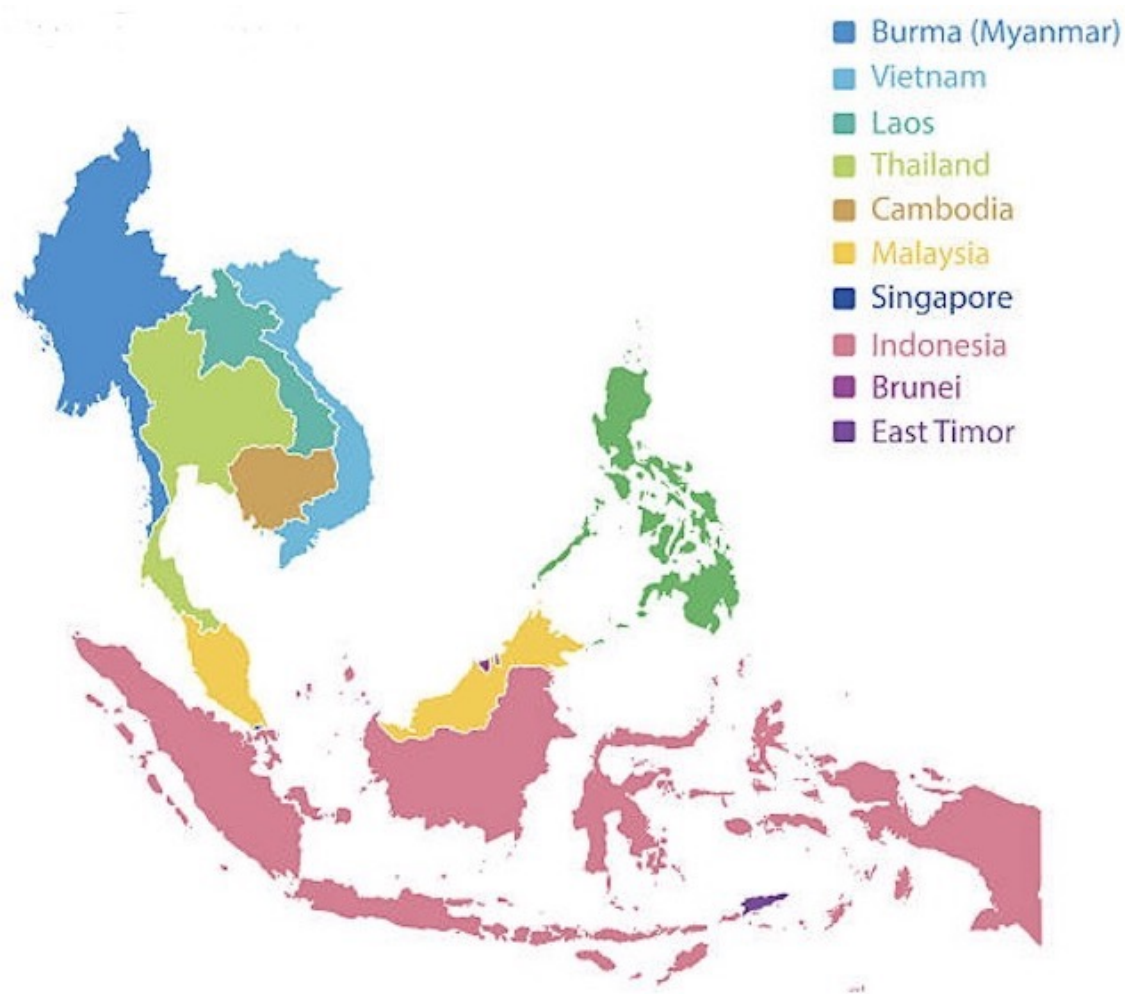


ASEAN OVERARCHING

**INTERNASIONAL WATER LAW TRAINING
UNECE & UN WATER CONVENTION
BANGKOK 8-11 DECEMEBER 2025**



Southeast Asia

- The region is broadly divided into two geographical clusters: continental states and archipelagic states.
- Water is shared not only through physical systems (surface and groundwater) but also via major climatic pathways such as El Niño, La Niña, and the Madden–Julian Oscillation.
- Reporting on SDG 6.5.2 is still evolving, and the AWRMG initiative remains limited in scope.

STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE: THE RATIONALE FOR ENHANCED COOPERATION

- **Critical Shared Resources:**

- The ASEAN region shares significant water bodies, including **21 transboundary surface waters** and **19 transboundary aquifers**.
- The continental and archipelagic SEA.

- **The Cooperation Deficit:**

- Despite the number of shared water bodies, cooperation in Southeast Asia remains **limited**, significant gaps in **expertise, negotiation skills, and data-sharing mechanisms** that hinder sustainable management.

- **Mitigating Instability:**

- Water diplomacy is a vital tool for **mitigating tensions and fostering collaboration** across borders.
- Water conflicts increases between 2000–2024.

OBJECTIVES FOR MOVING GOVERNANCE FORWARD (THE PATH TO COOPERATION)

- **Capacity Building and Knowledge Sharing**
 - Advancing transboundary water governance, SEA must focus on structured initiatives to build capacity and establish robust legal and institutional frameworks.
- **Strengthening Legal and Institutional Frameworks**
 - Future governance requires moving beyond ad-hoc arrangements and strengthening regional bodies.
- **Equitable and Inclusive Management**
 - Effective governance must be fair and people-centered, considering SEA's uniqueness.
 - Albeit the UN Water Convention have not been ratified in SEA.