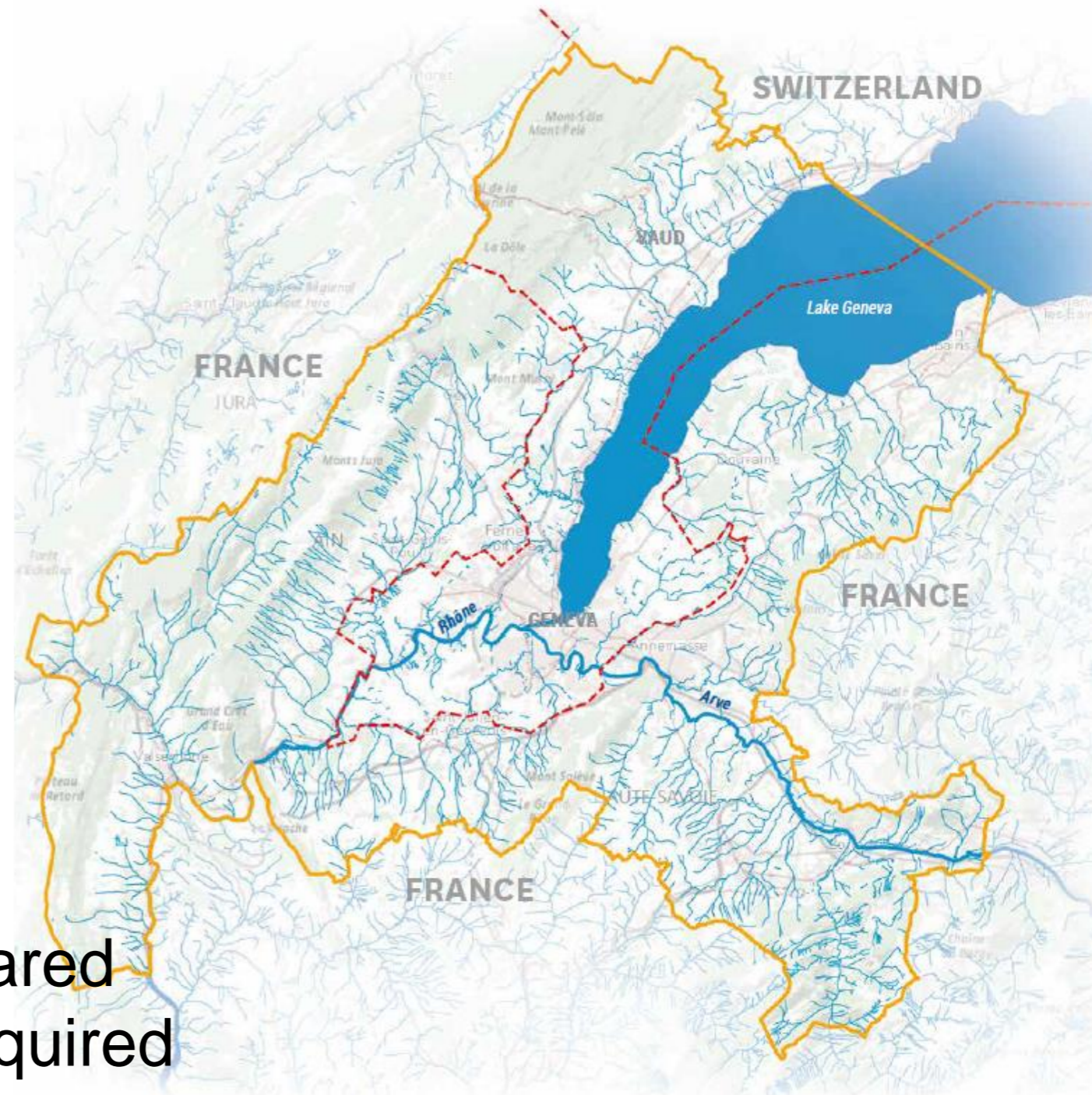


Tools for transboundary management of water and water uses in the greater Geneva

Etienne Monbaron
Geneva State Water Protection Agency – Switzerland

Greater Geneva – Geopolitical context



- Diversity of water resources
 - Lake
 - Major river
 - Dense web of small rivers
 - Strategic aquifers
- Management of all these shared resources has, over time, required the development of various transboundary tools.

Legal frameworks and political systems

- Coordination between 2 systems different in nature

Switzerland	France
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Decentralized system- Cantons & municipalities have executive and legislative powers- Legislative framework for water management is substantial	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Centralized system- Gradual transfer of water management powers to regional and intermunicipal authorities
Greater Geneva	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Transboundary area (CH – F)<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Territorial planning beyond political borders- Shared goals : Area Plan (2007, 2012, 2016, 2021)<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Urban development, mobility & environment	

Issues for sustainable water resources



QUALITY

- Pollution
- Sewage network
- WWTPs
- Micropollutants



QUANTITY

- Hydrological regime
- Flood risk mitigation
- Low water flow
- Climate change



MORPHOLOGICAL CONDITION

- Canalized / Channelled rivers
- Renaturation projects over 20 years
- Major improvement in the situation
- Restore width
- Re-establish ecosystems

Issues for sustainable water resources



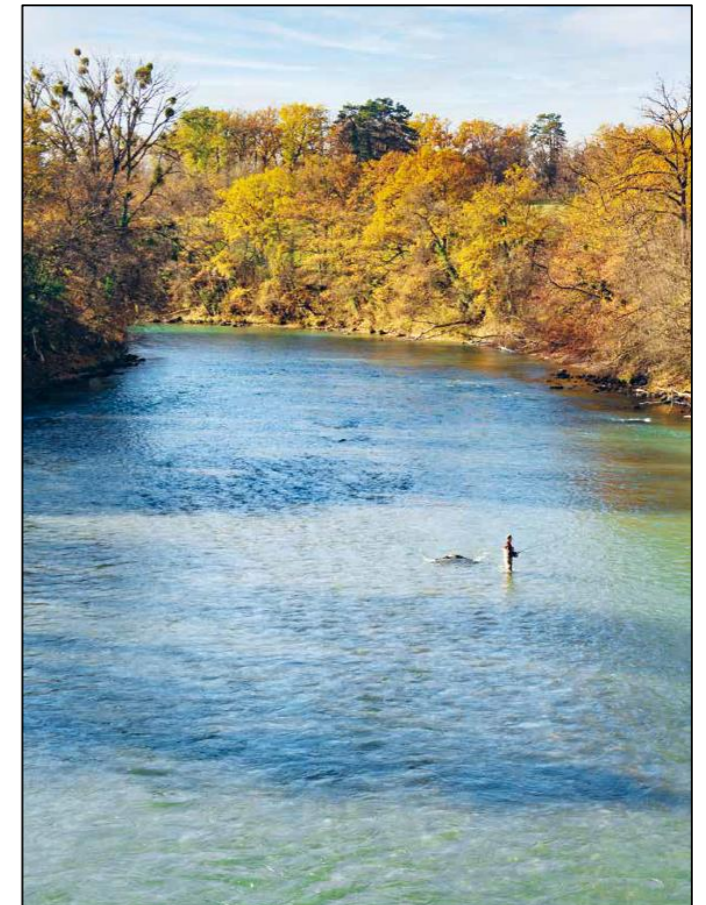
BIODIVERSITY

- Renaturation
- Promote return of species



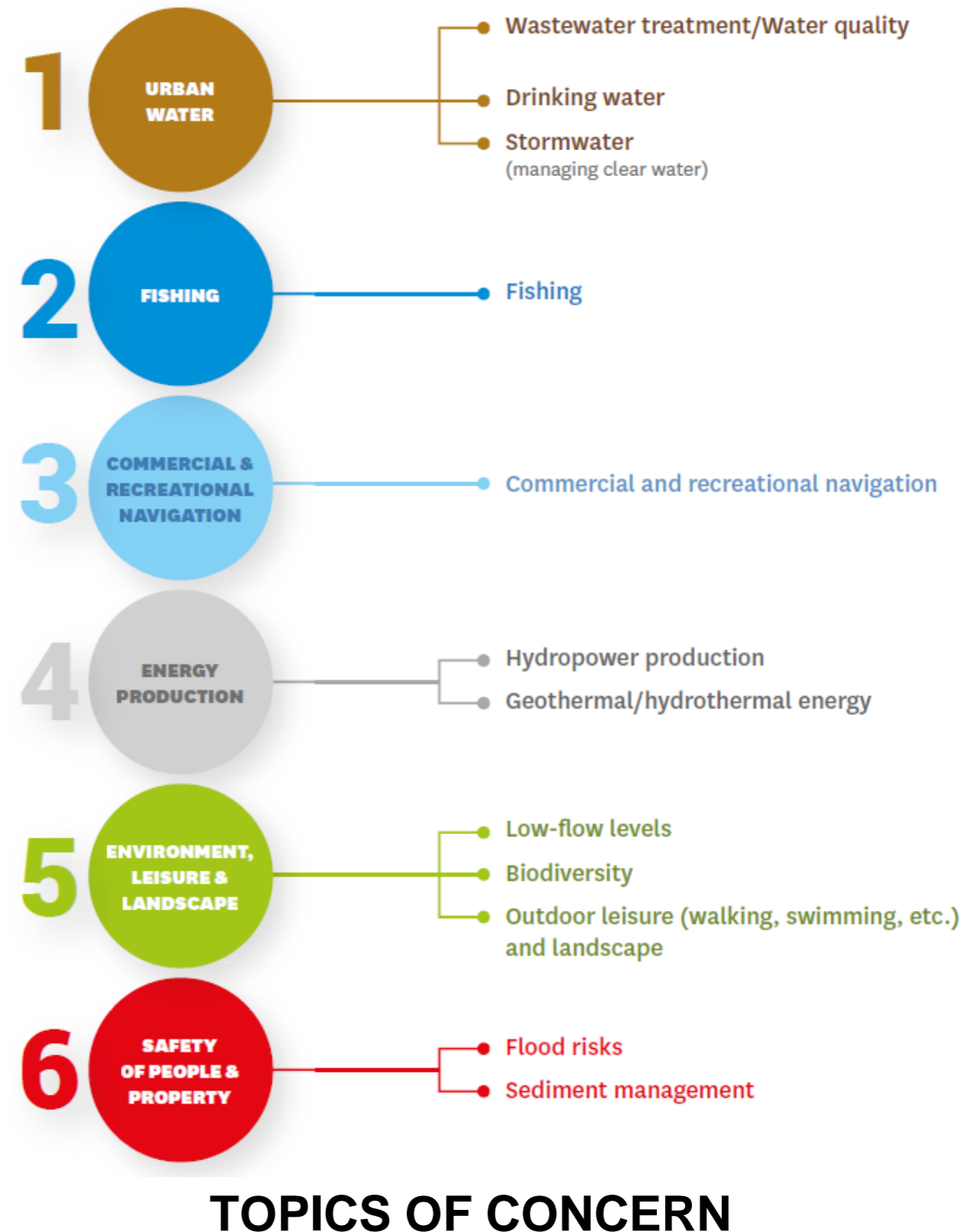
USES of WATER / benefits

- Drinking water
- Ecosystem benefits
- Leisure activities
- Geothermal energy



Transboundary tools for water management

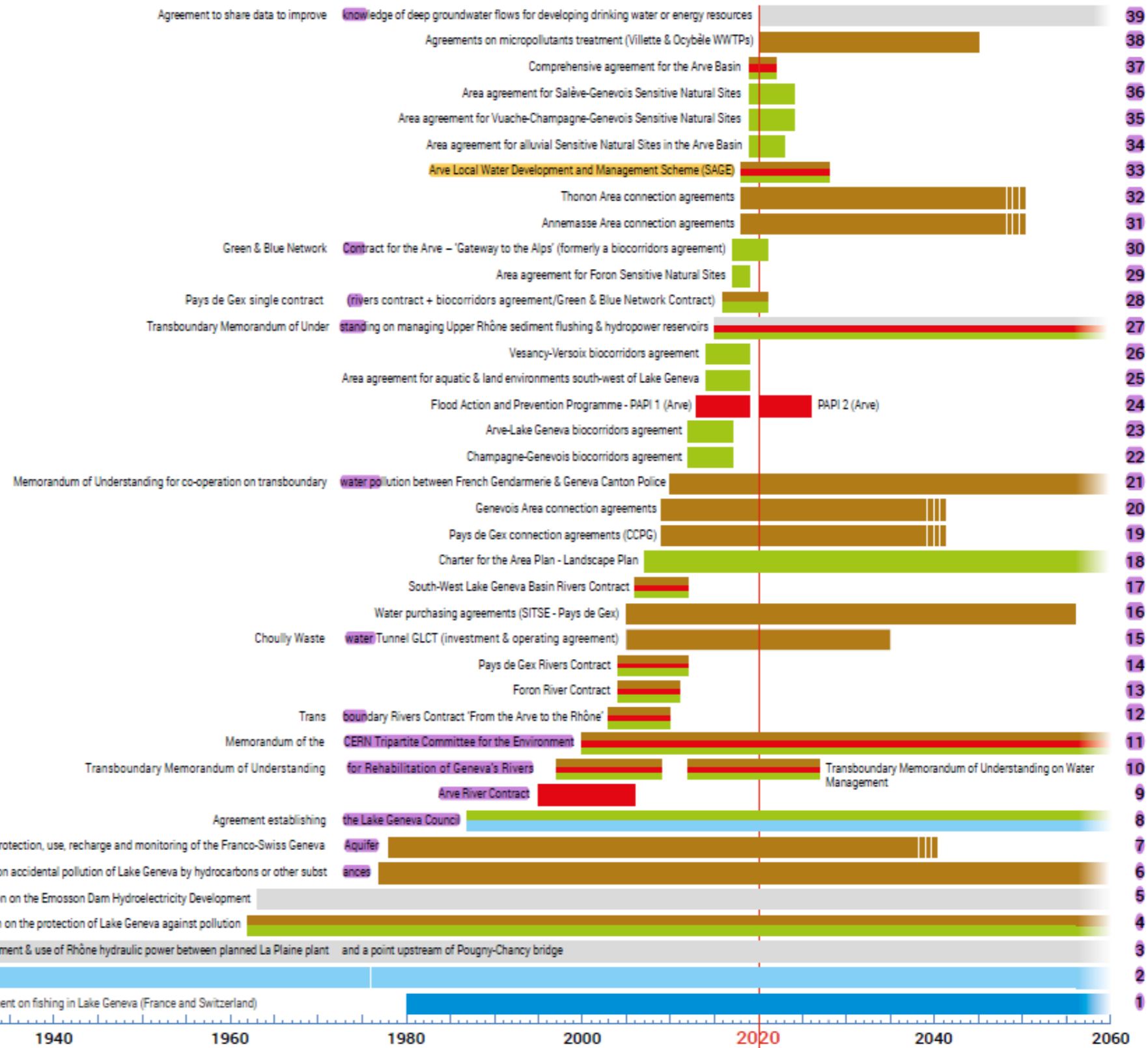
Any legal instrument (treaty, convention, agreement) that makes it possible for two countries to cooperate across borders on different topics of concern in water management and water use"



DEVELOPMENT OVER TIME

- Urban uses
- Fishing
- Commercial & recreational navigation
- Energy production
- Environment, leisure & landscape
- Safety of people & property

- Permanent agreement
(can be revoked at any time with 3-6 months/1 year's notice, or subject to automatic annual renewal)
- Renewable once for 3 years



1880

1962

1986

2006

Shared use

Protection

Restoration

Transboundary WM

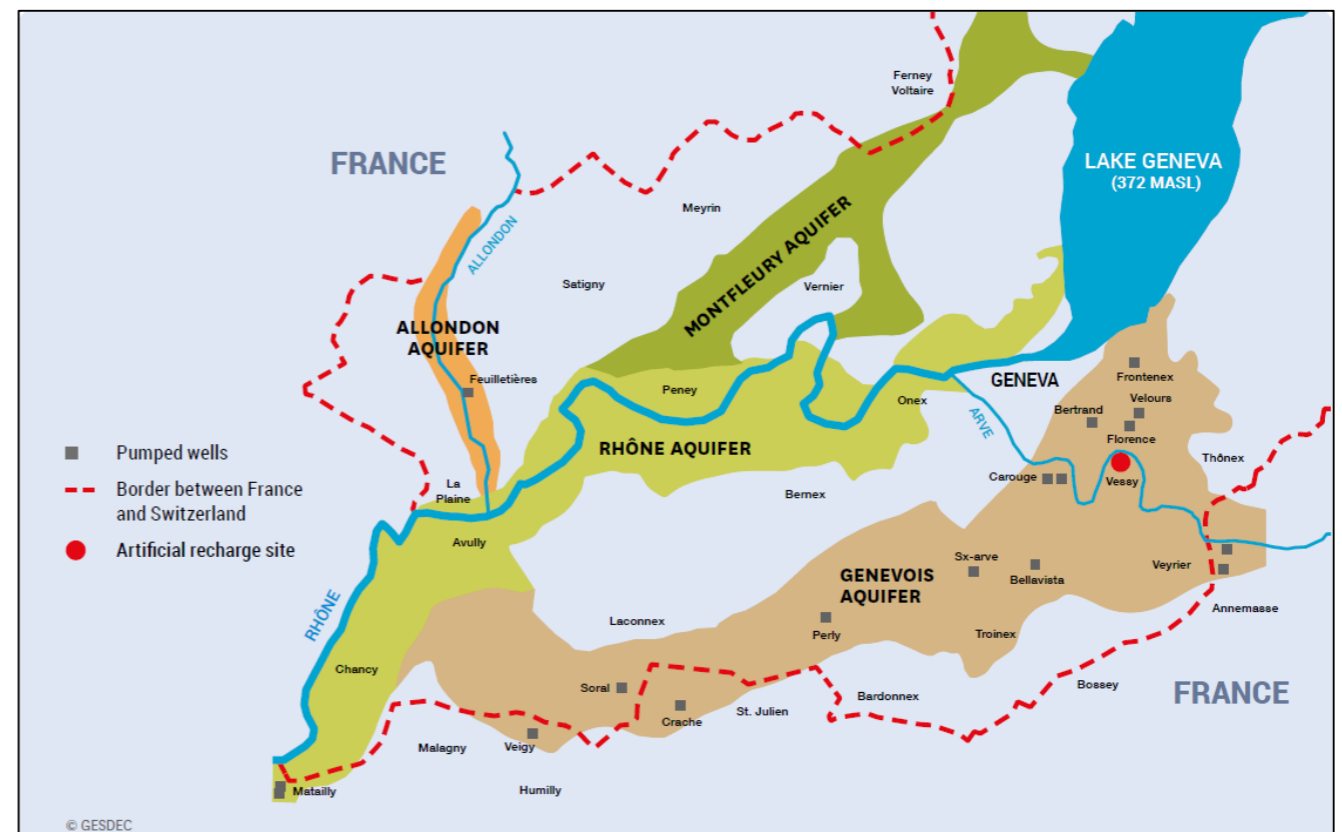
Example 1 – Transboundary rivers contracts

- Investment tool covering a whole catchment area, funding a varied programme of activities
- Aim: restore and enhance aquatic environments (studies, works, awareness).
- Truly comprehensive, area-wide operational tool, which is able to deal with a large number of water-related issues.



Example 2 – Convention for Geneva Aquifer

- Convention on the protection, use, recharge and monitoring of the Franco-Swiss Geneva Aquifer
- Aim: facilitate joint use and management of groundwater for drinking water
- 1960's: excessive pumping led to drop of groundwater level
- 1978: agreement CH-F – Artificial groundwater recharge
- 2008: new convention, based on fruitful transboundary collaboration



Factors shaping the system & development

- The existence of a **community of practices**, functioning in the transboundary dimension and cutting across different sectors
- The existence of a **shared political will and vision**, carried forward by regional policymakers with more room for manoeuvre than central governments
- The evolution from an essentially sector-based, trouble-shooting outlook to an **integrated, pre-emptive perspective**
- The role of **civil society**

Directions for improvement

- Legislative policies and co-ordinated legal approaches
- Data and information sharing
- Joint funding
- Shared planning and implementation
- Consolidating political will and strengthening ties with civil society
- Raising public awareness

Join us! Call of Dakar



- 9th World Water Forum – March 2022 in Dakar / Senegal
- **StoryMap**
<https://app2.ge.ch/tergeoportal/apps/storymaps/stories/c46b45ad8f5144af883ebc3468c471e0>
- In view of the increasing pressure on resources and the urgency to act together, we invite you to a dialogue in order to collect, compare and develop instruments applied in other transboundary contexts
- We hope to contribute to the development of a useful and creative toolbox for water management in any transboundary territory.
- Contact : CallofDakar@etat.ge.ch