

Using Basin Report Cards to support the TDA/SAP process

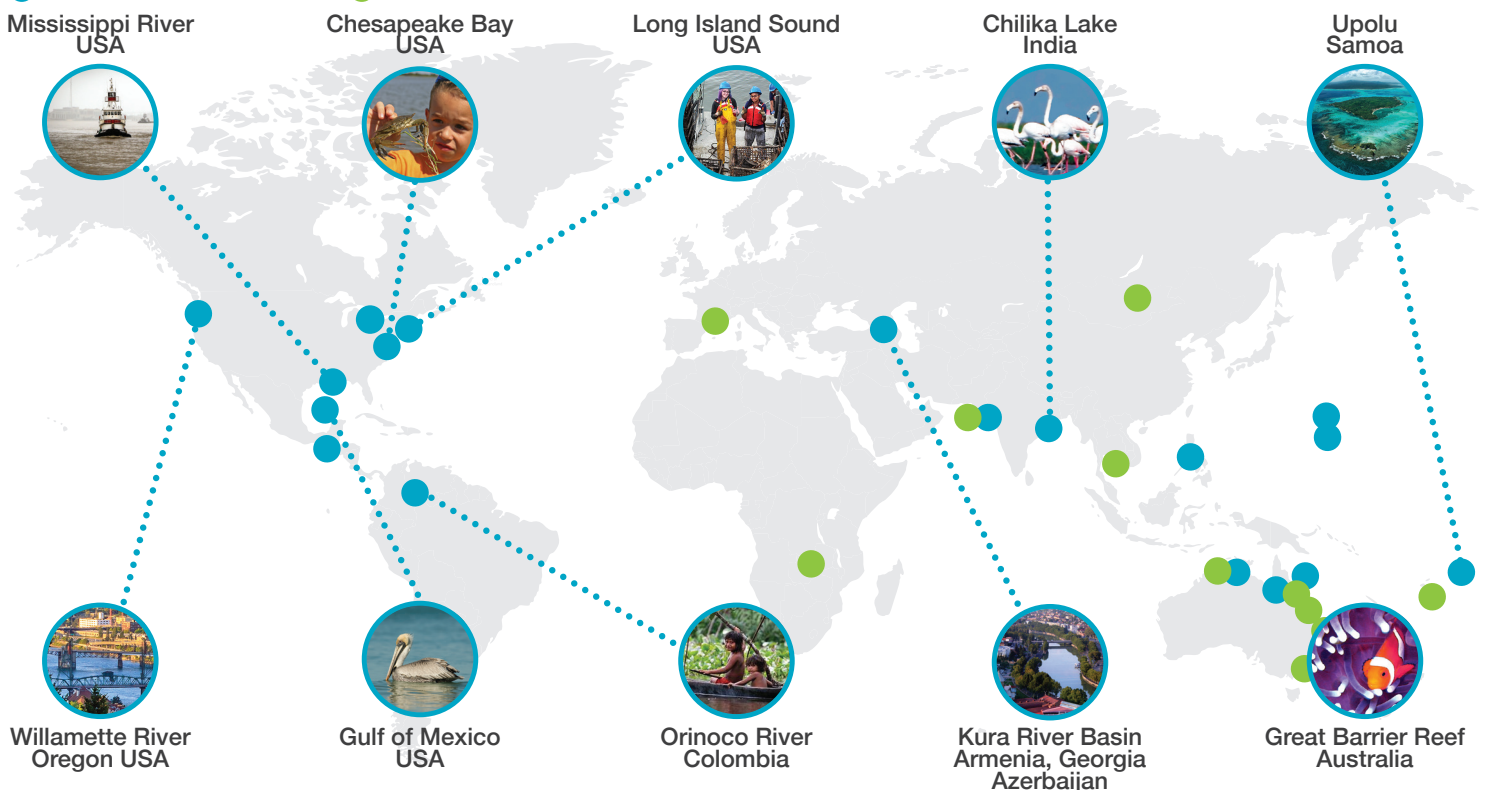
The Healthy Rivers for All partnership has created a process to develop new collaborations and partnerships in river basins to improve holistic management of water. The approach uses an inclusive process that helps communities create a common understanding of basin health, foster a shared vision for the future, and track progress in achieving goals. Results are communicated in an easy to understand way in the form of a concise report card that distills overall messages and links to additional information. Armed with clear information, communities can then advocate for decisions that maintain or improve their freshwater resources. The report card process has been successfully applied in many global contexts at varying scales, making it an easily transferrable approach to holistic assessment in both freshwater and marine transboundary systems.

The report card process can support and add value to both the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) and Strategic Action Programme (SAP) processes. The added value of the report card process includes a higher level of engagement with stakeholders and co-development of the TDA. In addition, it would result in a shared vision for future basin health, new collaborations that could act as leverage points for future actions, a set of indicators that are contextually relevant, establishment of baselines, and prioritization of actions under the SAP.

Empowering stakeholders around the world

The Healthy Rivers for All Partnership seeks to empower stakeholders around the world to develop and effectively use credible, locally owned report cards in their basins, fostering sustainable water management across basins around the world. The map below highlights basins where report cards have been completed, or are underway.

● Existing Report Cards ● Report Cards under-development

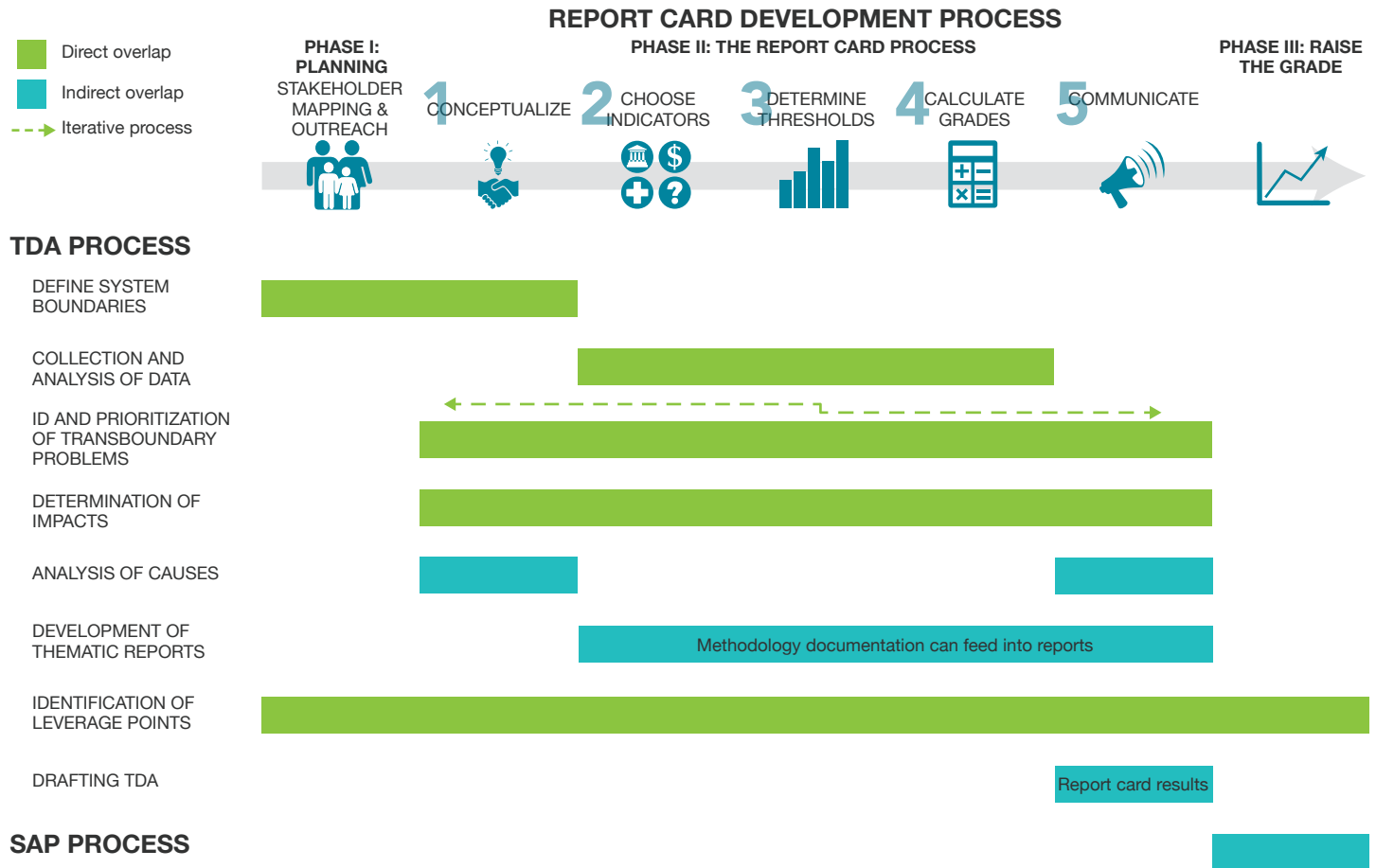


The Healthy Rivers for All initiative is a partnership of the World Wildlife Fund and the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science.



Synergies exist between the TDA/SAP and the Basin Report Card process

There are many elements of the TDA/SAP process that align with the report card development process. There is an opportunity for basin report cards to support the development of strong TDA/SAPs. An important element of the report card process is stakeholder assessment and engagement throughout the project. This is a key element to creating shared understanding and new collaborations that can be leveraged to create societal change.



Co-development adds value to the TDA and SAP processes

Co-development of the TDA with stakeholders will create added value to the TDA and SAP processes. The stakeholder-led process will create local ownership, foster new collaborations, and create awareness and shared understanding of immediate, underlying and root causes of problems. New collaborations formed during the interactive workshops can create the foundation for SAP implementation and can be used to identify leverage points for future action. The report card format provides a baseline for monitoring basin health into the future, and synthesizes complex and detailed scientific information, such as those contained within the TDA reports, into an easy to understand format for decision makers.

CONTACT

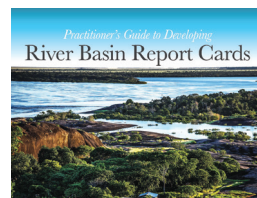
Heath Kelsey
University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science
hkelsey@umces.edu
+1 443 496 0188

Michele Thieme
World Wildlife Fund
michele.thieme@wwfus.org
+1 202 495 4760



FOR MORE INFORMATION

Practitioner's Guide to Developing River Basin Report Cards



A reference and resource for the user, provides an overview of basin report cards and how to leverage the process and results to drive change.

Available for download at www.worldwildlife.org/initiatives/healthy-rivers-for-all