

Global water cooperation – current status and why we need more of it

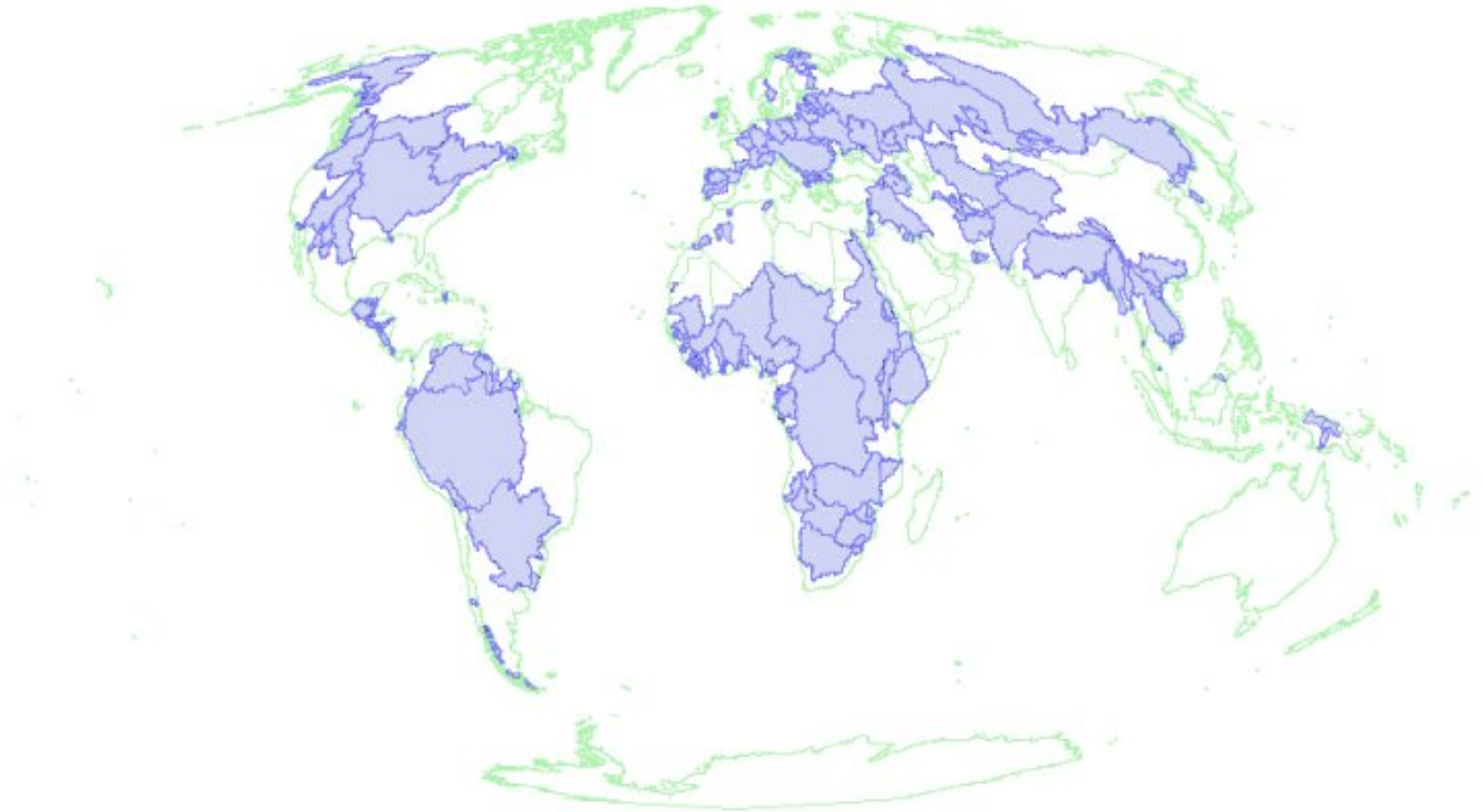
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Disposition

- **Background to Transboundary water management**
- **Cooperation or conflict? Or perhaps both?**
- **Why do states cooperate? Benefits of cooperation**
- **Costs of non-cooperation; Quality of cooperation**
- **Need for more knowledge**
- **Proposed Category II centre for Water Cooperation**

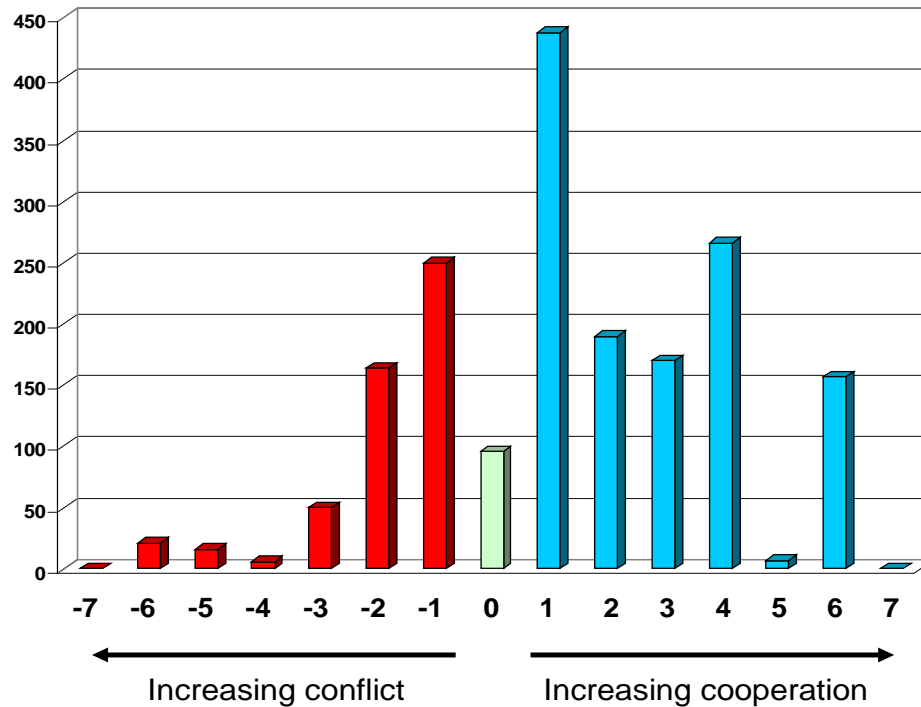
Transboundary Water – the global picture



Global figures and facts

- **Over 50% of available freshwater resources in shared river basins and lakes**
- **145 countries riparians in shared river basins**
- **33 countries have 95% or more of their water in shared river basins**
- **Politics: ‘anarchy’ of international relations**
- **Jurisdiction: no entity unless negotiated**
- **Principles: UN Convention foundation**

Co-operation and conflict (used with permission from Oregon State Univ./ A. Wolf)



Water for cooperation? Or conflict? The debate during the last decades

- **Water as a source of war (80s and 90s)**
- **States cooperate more over water than engage in conflict (Wolf etc)**
- **Benefit sharing (Sadoff and Grey)**
- **Water for Peace (UNESCO - PCCP)**
- **Lack of nuanced picture of type of cooperation**
- **Today – cooperation and conflict co-exist (Mirumachi and Zeitoun) – focus on power asymmetries and what that means**
- **Climate change and TWM 'readiness' emerging issue (Fishländer)**

Why do states co-operate over shared waters?

- **Internal drivers (political interests)**
- **External drivers (third parties, international pressure, regional interests)**
- **Interdependency – mutual interests, sharing benefits**
- **Water not rational to fight over**
- **Institutional arrangements matters**
- **Development of norms, principles and trust important**
- **Third parties support/facilitate co-operation (in some cases)**

The cost of non-cooperation

- **Risk for negative impacts on human security and human development**
- **Unpredictability, less preparedness for floods and drought**
- **Mobilising funds for multi-purpose investments and infrastructure is hard without co-operation**
- **Risk for increased tension and conflict**

Need for more knowledge

- **Linkages between TWM and other issue areas (energy, climate, food)**
- **Mechanisms for the promotion of cooperation at various scales**
- **Transboundary agreements' resilience to change (socio-economic and environmental)**
- **Various actors in transboundary waters (states, civil society, private sector)**

Scope of work of the centre

- The centre will address water cooperation in its broadest sense with a primary focus on *water for peace and regional development*.
- The objectives of the proposed centre are:
 - *Develop knowledge related to, the sustainable management of transboundary waters and, the role of such resources as drivers of cooperation between countries sharing them*
 - *Inform and, enhance capacities of, targeted audiences on the basis of research accomplished, by developing knowledge products such as books, articles, policy proposals and training programmes*

Category II Centre on Water Cooperation

- **Cooperation between Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI), Göteborg University and Uppsala University**
- **Linkages to the IHP and the UNESCO Potential Conflict to Cooperation Potential (PCCP) programme and WWAP**
- **Links to World Water Week in Stockholm**
- **Links to UN-Water thematic group on Transboundary waters and UNDP Shared Waters Partnership**
- **Link to IHP 8 – putting science into action for example in area of Transboundary groundwater and water security**

Thank you!

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