

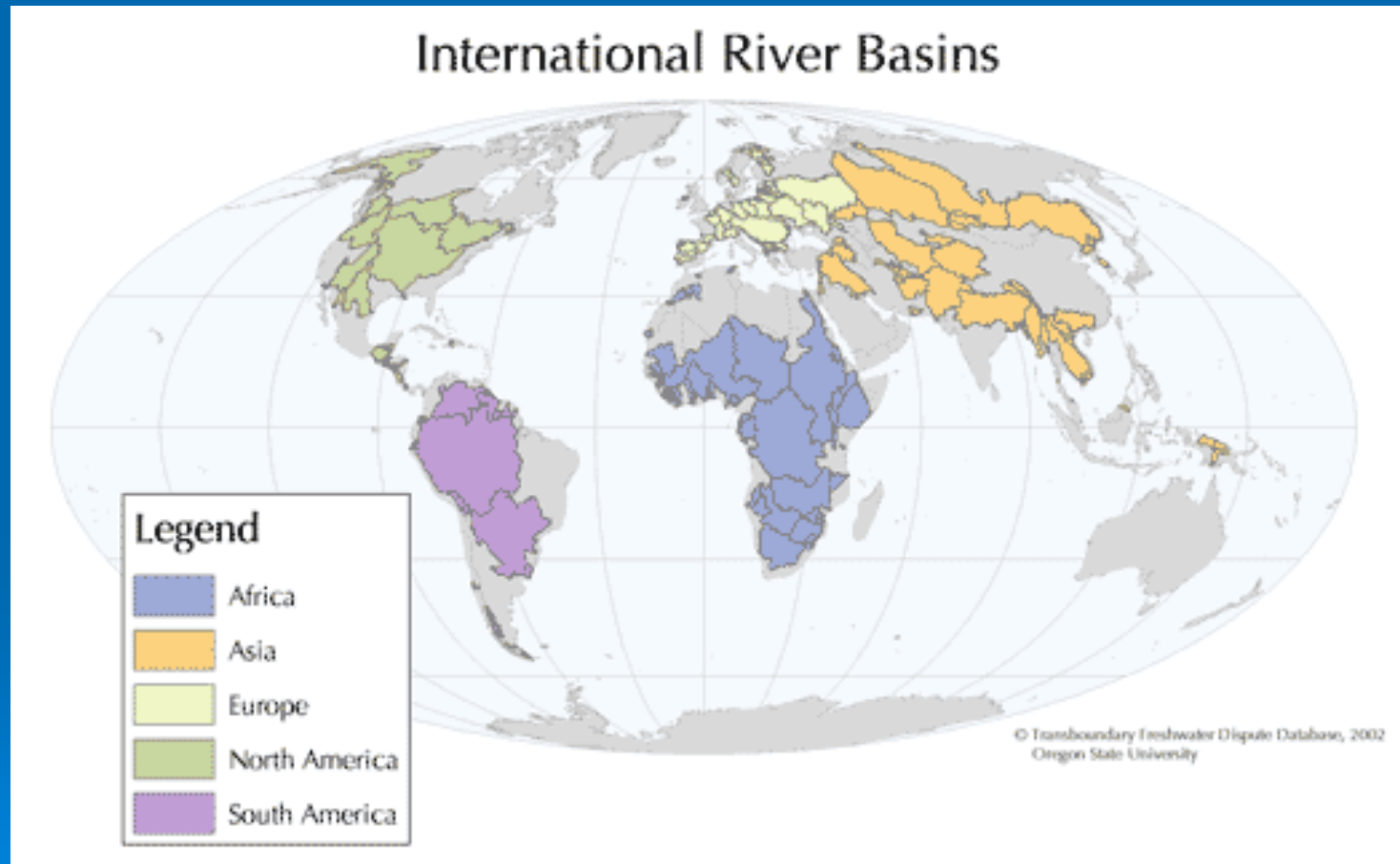


**International Roundtable on
Transboundary Water Resources
Management in the Southern
Mediterranean
Rome, 26-27 November 2012**

**MANAGING SHARED WATERS:
The Role and Status of the UNWC**

Flavia Rocha Loures
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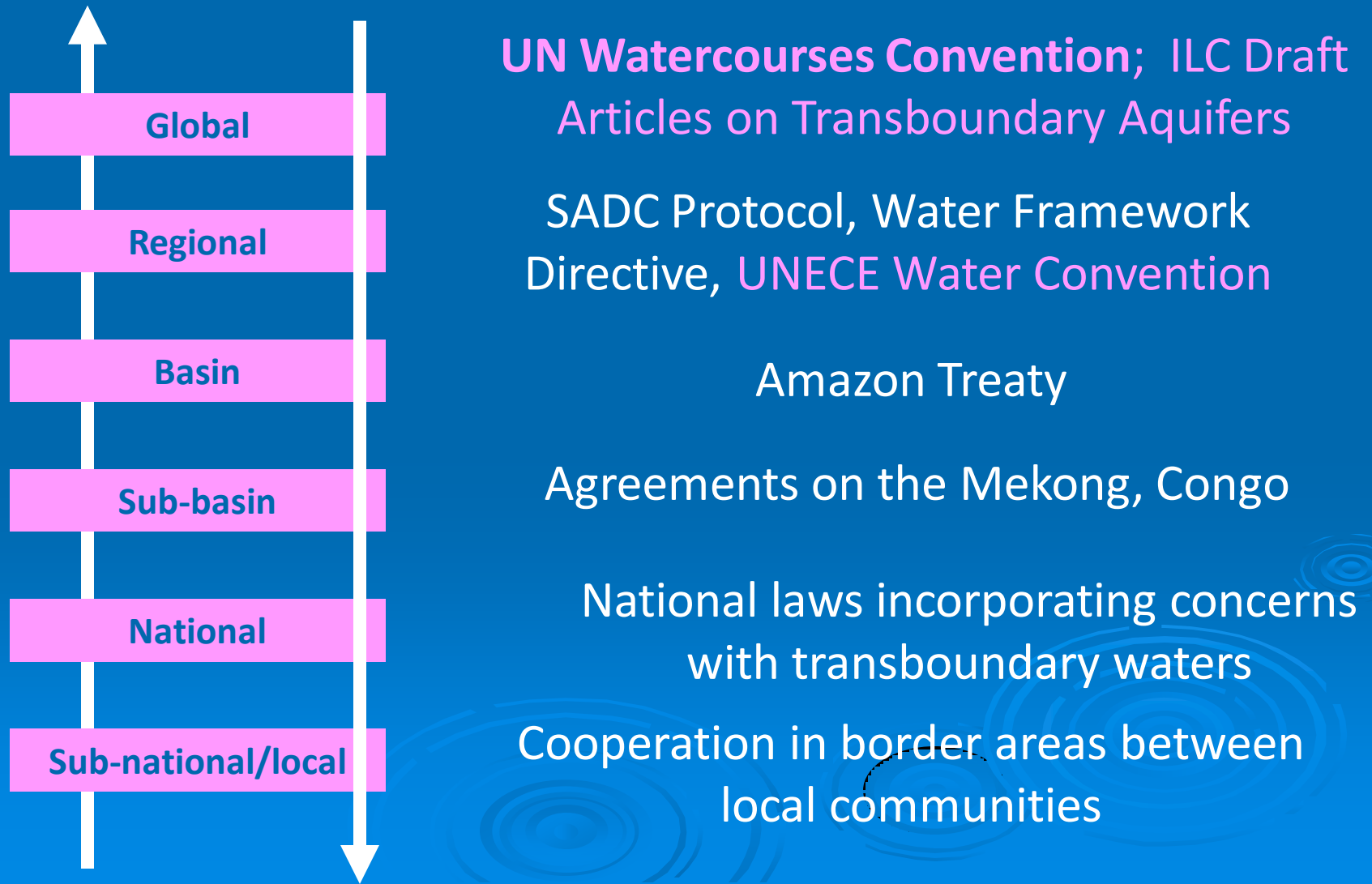
The Role of International Law



Status of the Legal Governance of Transboundary Basins

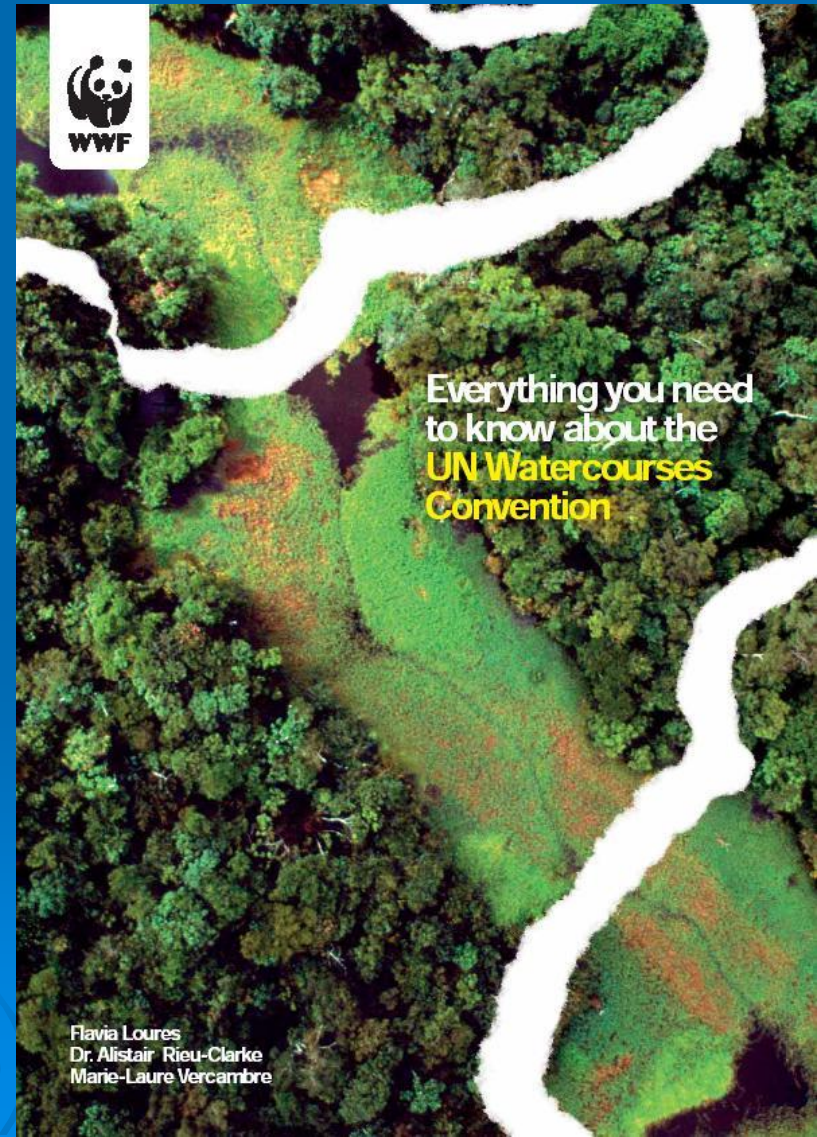
- 60% of transboundary basins **without agreements**
- 80% of existing agreements **are bilateral**
- Many agreements *don't*
 - ❖ Provide for **regular data-sharing**
 - ❖ Establish **water allocation criteria/process**
 - ❖ Contain **dispute prevention/settlement rules**
 - ❖ Apply to **entire river system, etc.**

Transboundary Water Resources: A Case for Multi-level Legal Governance



The UN Watercourses Convention

- Background
- Importance



Flavia Loures
Dr. Alistair Rieu-Clarke
Marie-Laure Vercambre

The UN Watercourses Convention: Goals, objectives and content

“Ensure the **utilisation, development, conservation, management and protection** of international watercourses and the promotion of the **optimal and sustainable** utilisation thereof for **present and future generations;**”
whilst “taking into account the special situation and needs of **developing countries.**” (Preamble)

The UN Watercourses Convention: Legal Objective

- **Codification** of customary law
- **Clarification** of customary law
- **Framework for the development** of customary law

Voting history and ratification status among Med countries

- **Sponsored/voted in favor of the UNWC's adoption:** Albania, Algeria, Croatia, Cyprus, Greece, Italy, Libya, Morocco, Portugal, Syria, Tunisia;
- **Abstained:** Egypt, Israel; **Voted against:** Turkey;
- **Contracting states:** France, Greece, Lebanon, Morocco, Spain, Portugal, Syria, Tunisia;
- **Countries in the process:** Italy;
- **Other UfM Member States:** *Contracting states* (Denmark, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Jordan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Sweden); *in the process* (Ireland, UK)

The Global Initiative



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- Ramsar Convention
- International Water Law
- UN Watercourses Convention
- UNECE Water Convention
- Newsletters
- News & Publications

News and Information:

- WWF UN Freshwater Agreements Project Newsletters
- WWF Regional and Thematic Assessments on the UN Watercourses Convention
- Upcoming events:

1. 5th World Water Forum: Istanbul, Turkey, 16-22

International Water Law

Because rivers know no borders...

WWF calls on governments to collaborate on the protection, equitable use, and sustainable management of the world's river basins that cross international borders. These river systems sustain millions of people and support vast vulnerable ecosystems.

"Civilization has been a permanent dialogue between human beings and water."
- Paolo Lugari

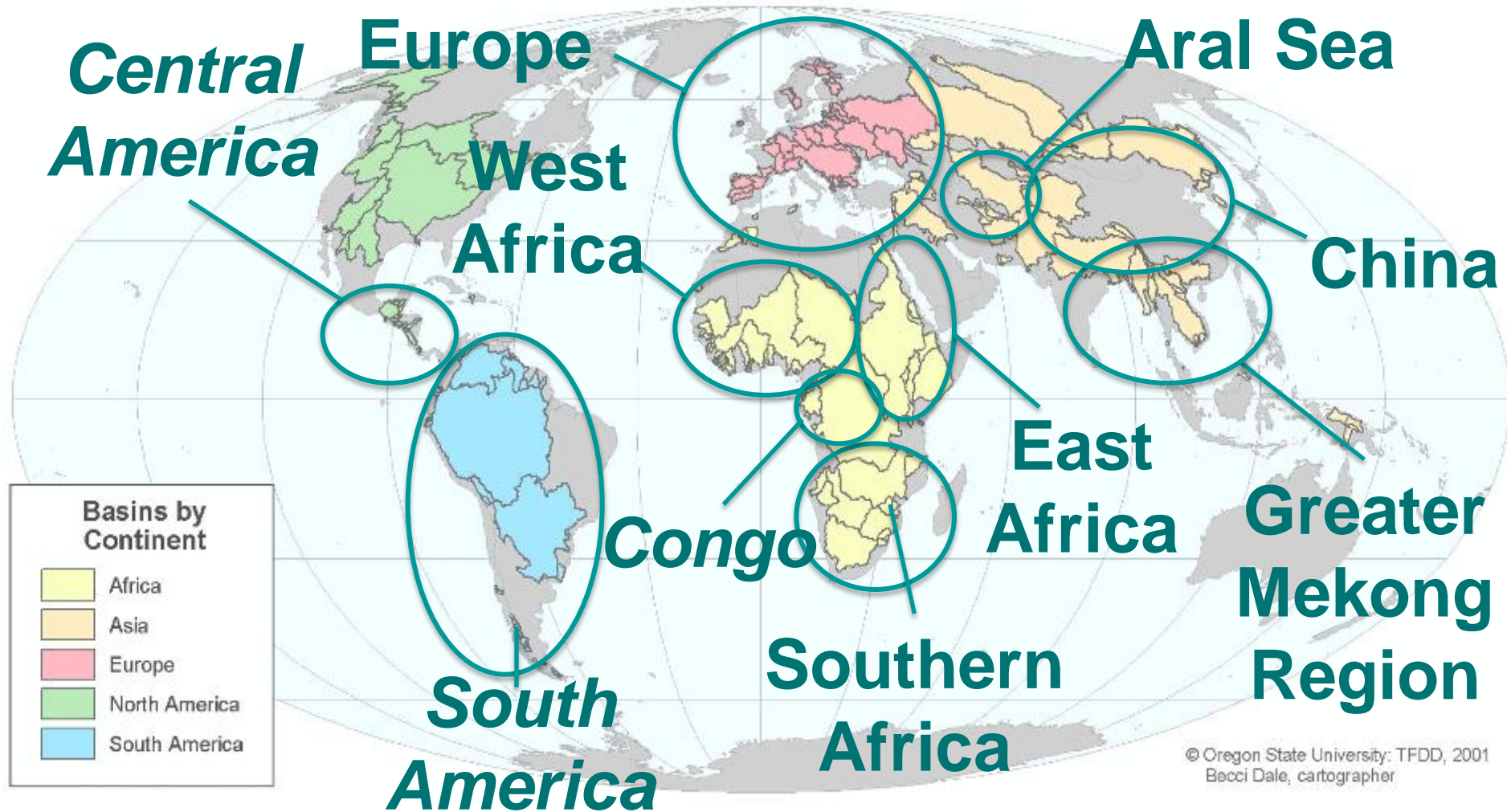
Inland waters.
© WWF-Canon

Current Situation:

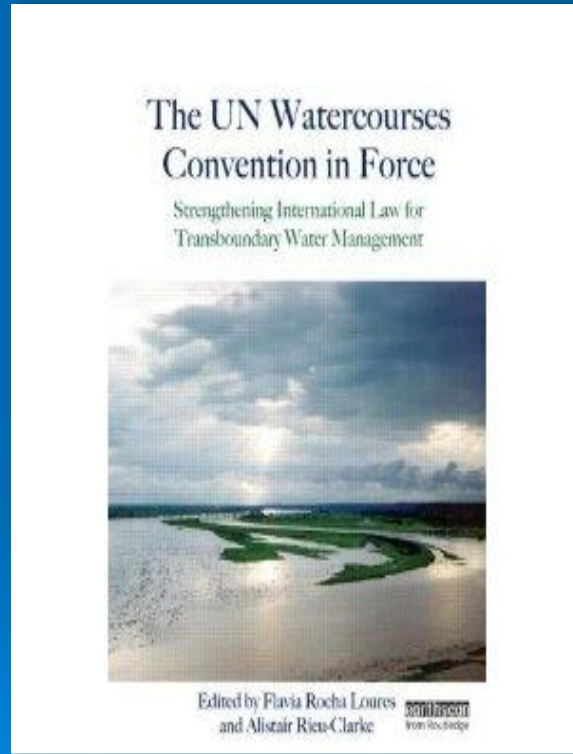
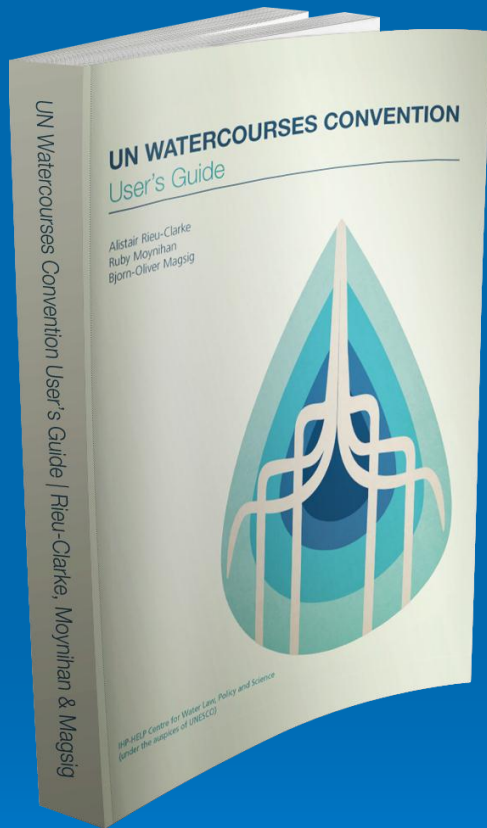
There are 263 transboundary river basins around the globe, covering nearly half of the earth's land surface and crossing the territories of 145 countries. Such basins are home to 40% of the world's population and generate around 60% of global freshwater flow.



Regional and Basin Assessments



Support Tools



**Online
Interactive
Module**

UNWC Q&A

**Technical
UNWC
Helpdesk**

Fostering dialogue

- **Global meetings:** e.g., World Water Forum, Stockholm World Water Week
- **Regional / basin / national awareness raising workshops and in-depth trainings**

Central America, East Africa, West Africa, Southern Africa, Greater Mekong Region

- **Focus of future events:** UNWC implementation =
creation of institutional mechanisms + coordination with other key instruments/processes (e.g., UNECE Water Convention, ILC Draft Articles, other global environmental conventions)

Growing Support for the UNWC

Europe

- European Parliament Resolution, 15th March 2012
- France's commitments at the 6th World Water Forum

Africa

- 6th World Water Forum – Africa Regional Process
- 2011 Bangkok Declaration of African Basin Organizations
- 2011 Bamako Declaration
- 2010 OSU Declaration, IGCC
- 2007 Call for Action on the Ratification of the UN Watercourses Convention by West African States

Thank you!



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