

INTERNATIONAL ROUNDTABLE
TRANSBOUNDARY WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT
IN THE SOUTHERN MEDITERRANEAN²
6 - 27 November 2012, Chamber of Deputies, Rome, Italy

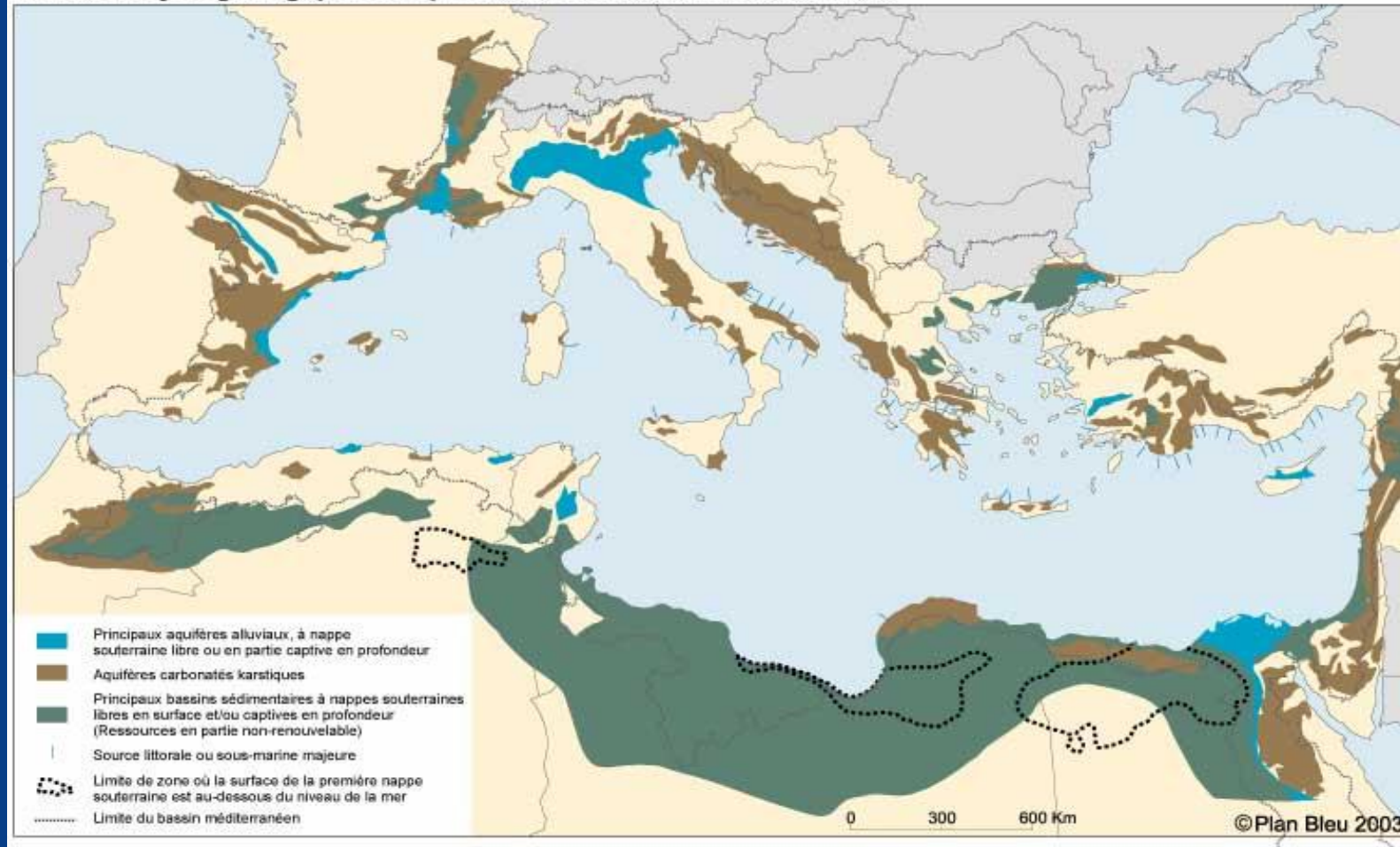
Fostering Cooperation on Transboundary Aquifer Resources

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Within the framework of
UNECE Water Convention
Union for the Mediterranean
GEF IW:LEARN, Activity D2



Structures hydrogéologiques et aquifères dans le bassin méditerranéen



Aquifers in the Mediterranean basin

UNESCO-Intergovernmental Council

Resolution XIV-12, June 2000:

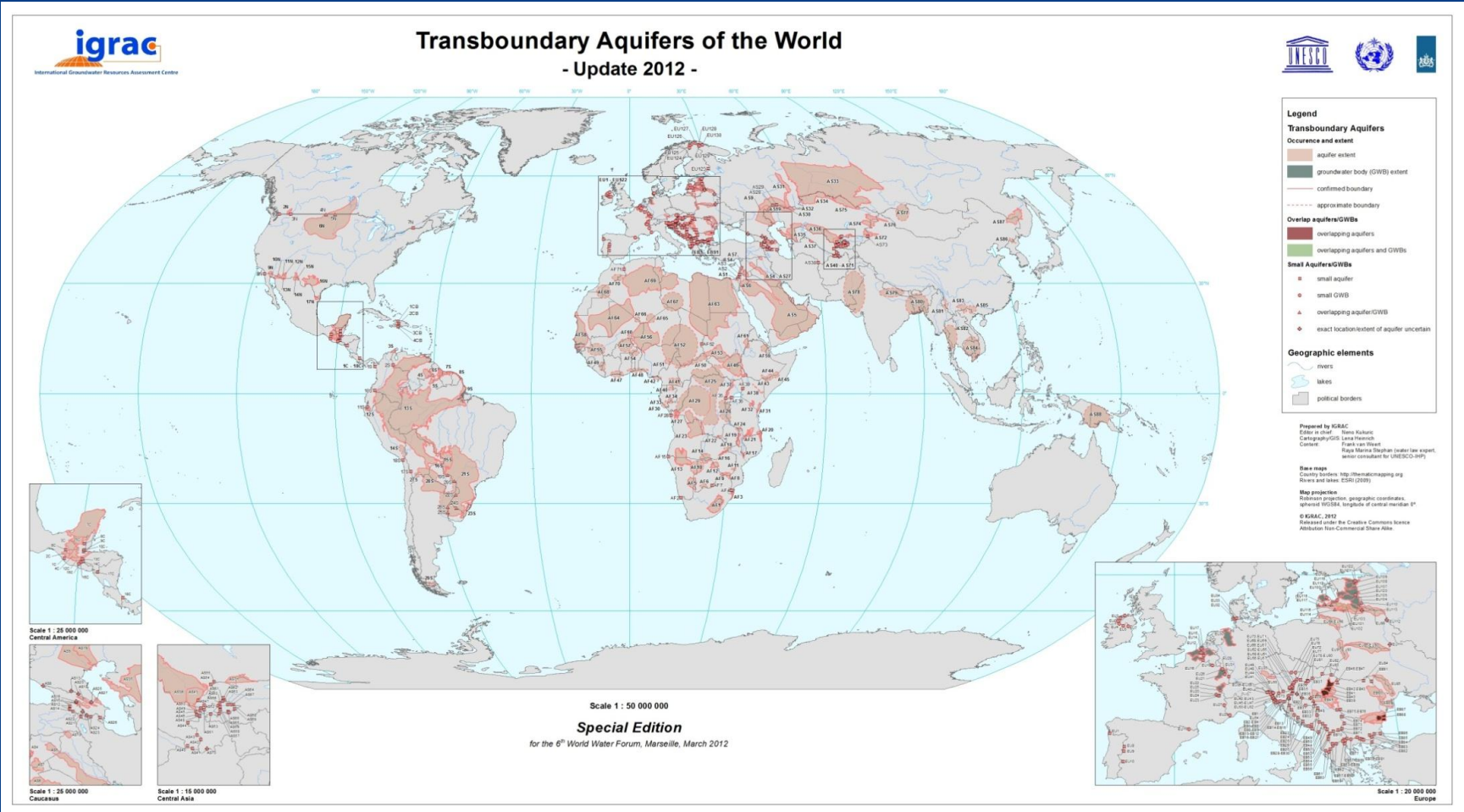
- Recognizes that transboundary aquifer systems are important sources of fresh water in some regions of the world,
- Decides to adopt a resolution to promote studies in regard to shared aquifers

Objective:

- To improve the existing scientific knowledge on Transboundary Aquifers
- To develop a management approach of transboundary aquifers → multidisciplinary



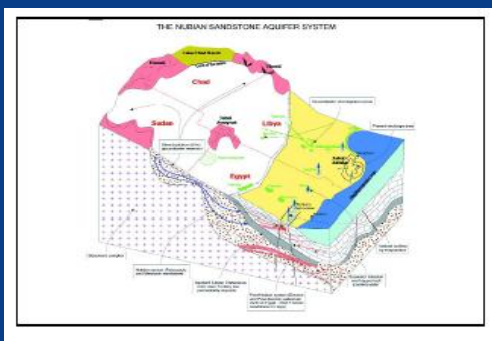
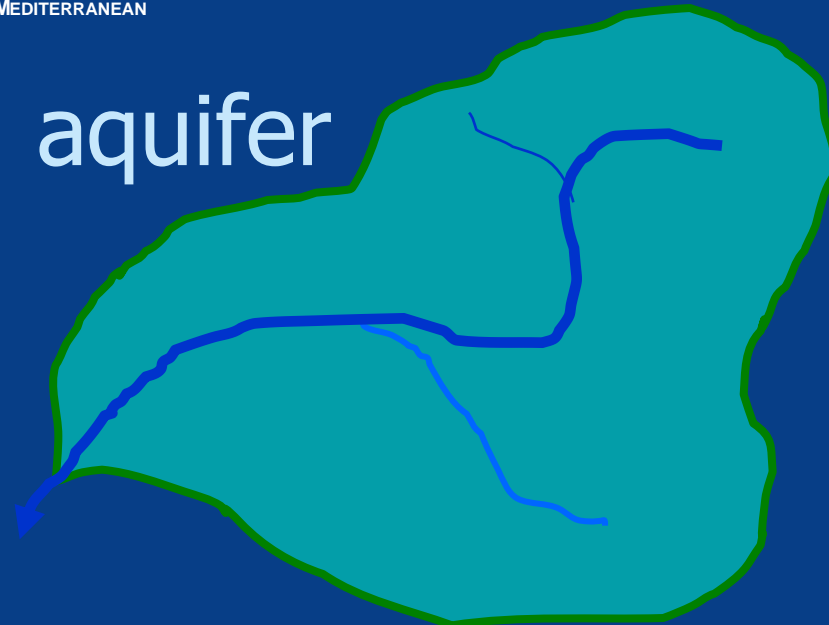
Transboundary Aquifers of the World



The basin and the aquifer

There are many Aquifers not 'related' to surface water bodies.

Groundwater and surface water do not necessarily share a 'common terminus'.



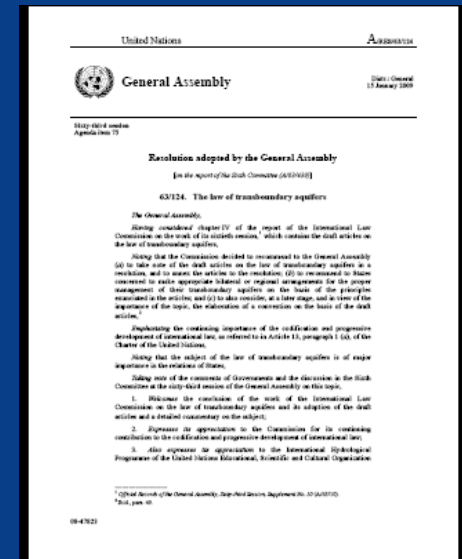
... many aquifers are a transboundary resource not linked to international rivers or international lakes .

Definition of a Watercourse

A system of surface waters and groundwaters constituting by virtue of their physical relationship a unitary whole and normally flowing into a common terminus (97 Convention article 2 a)

UNGA Resolutions on The Law of Transboundary Aquifers

- ❑ *UNESCO* support to *UNILC* – in order to fully capture hydrogeological characteristics of the Aquifers that contain the groundwater (2002-2008)
- ❑ UNILC Articles - specific instrument codifying established and emerging rules on the use and protection of Transboundary
- ❑ 2008 UN GA Resolution (A/RES/63/124) on the Law of Transboundary aquifers
- ❑ The Articles Annexed to the Resolution provide a good complement to the *97 Convention* and have inspired the *1992 UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes* (UNECE Water Convention)



2011 UNGA Resolution A/RES/66/104

- ❑ Further encourages the States concerned to make appropriate bilateral or regional arrangements for the proper management of their transboundary aquifers, taking into account the provisions of the draft Articles Annexed to its resolution 63/124;
- ❑ Calls upon UNESCO IHP to support countries in the sustainable and equitable management of their transboundary aquifers, and to continue its scientific and technical work on the assessment of the transboundary aquifers of the world,

Law of Transboundary Aquifers – 19 Articles

- consider specific characteristics of aquifers.
 - *Utilization of TB aquifers and aquifer systems*
 - *Other activities that have or are likely to have an impact upon those aquifers*
 - *Measures for the protection, preservation and management of those aquifers*
- the scope of the significant harm principle is expanded



Clear indications to Hydrogeologists and Groundwater Managers

- ✓ *Aquifer, Aquifer system, Transboundary aquifer, Utilization, Recharging aquifer, Recharge zone, Discharge zone,*
- ✓ *Equitable allocation of benefits*
- ✓ *Maximize the long-term benefits derived from the use of water*
- ✓ *A comprehensive utilization plan : present and future needs and alternative water sources*
- ✓ *Importance of preserving the geological formation*
- ✓ *Weighing different utilizations -special regard shall be given to vital human needs.*
- ✓ *Joint mechanisms of cooperation*
- ✓ *Protection and preservation of ecosystems dependent on the aquifer*
- ✓ *Continuance of its effective functioning*
- ✓ *Environmental impact assessment*
- ✓ *Joint management mechanism*



Clear Consideration to Technical cooperation to support countries

- ✓ **Ref. Competent International Organizations** (for the monitoring and Article 16 to promote scientific, educational, legal and other cooperation with developing States -)



Clear advocacy to Bilateral and Regional Agreements

IGRAC - ISARM TBA Information System



UNESCO ISARM has translated into Spanish the Guidelines on Monitoring and Assessment of transboundary groundwater (UN ECE Convention-2000)

CONCLUSIONS

- ❑ Ratification, Enforcement and Implementation of the existing instruments
- ❑ Close cooperation between existing instruments
- ❑ Call to Technical cooperation to support countries –study and management of Transboundary Aquifers

Thank you

