

TRANSBOUNDARY WATER COOPERATION AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

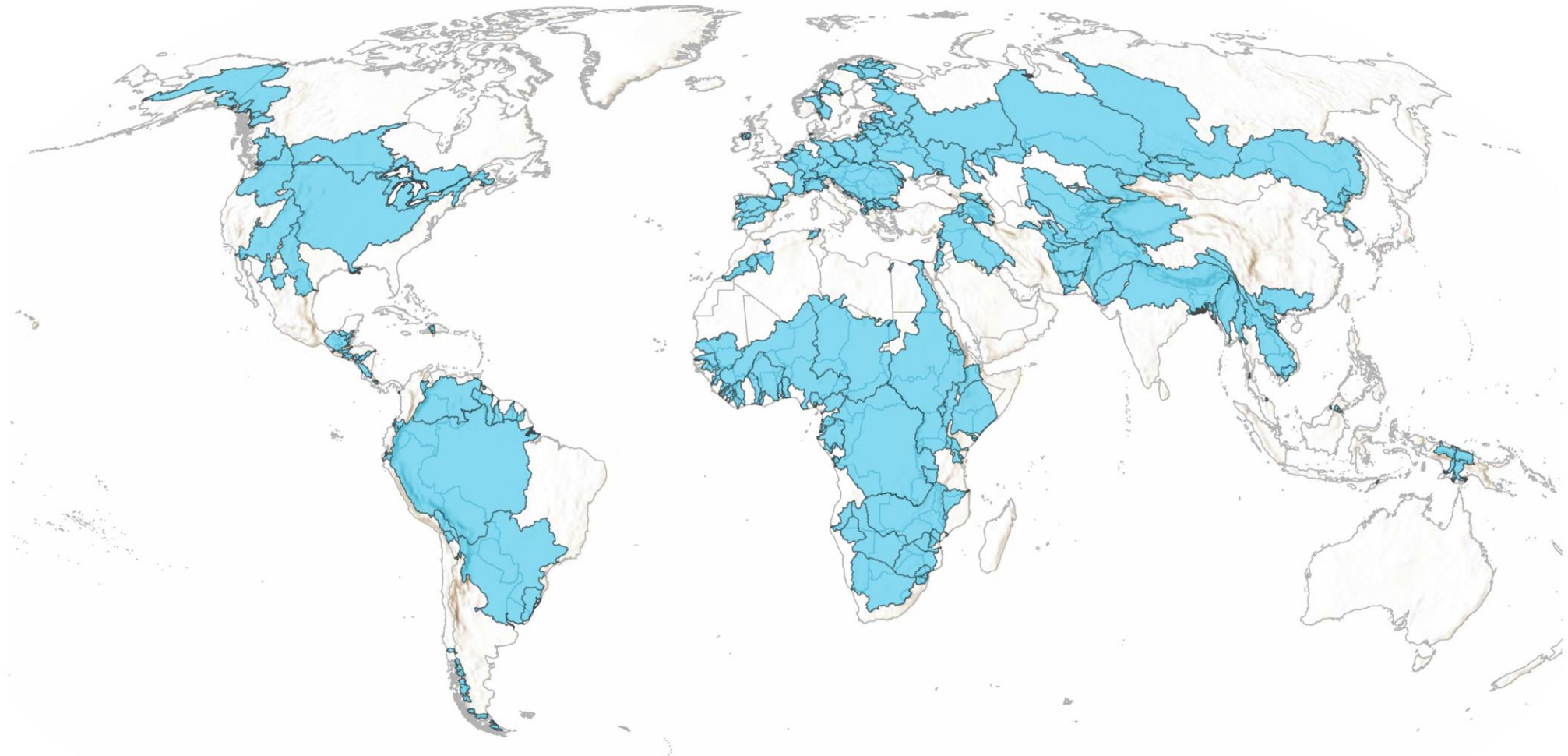
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Pokhara, Nepal
May 2017

Overview

- Transboundary waters
- Cooperation and Institutional Capacity
- SDG 6.5
- SDG 6.5.2
- Options for measuring transboundary cooperation
- Strengths and weaknesses
- Linking SDGs to international water law

Transboundary River Basins of the World

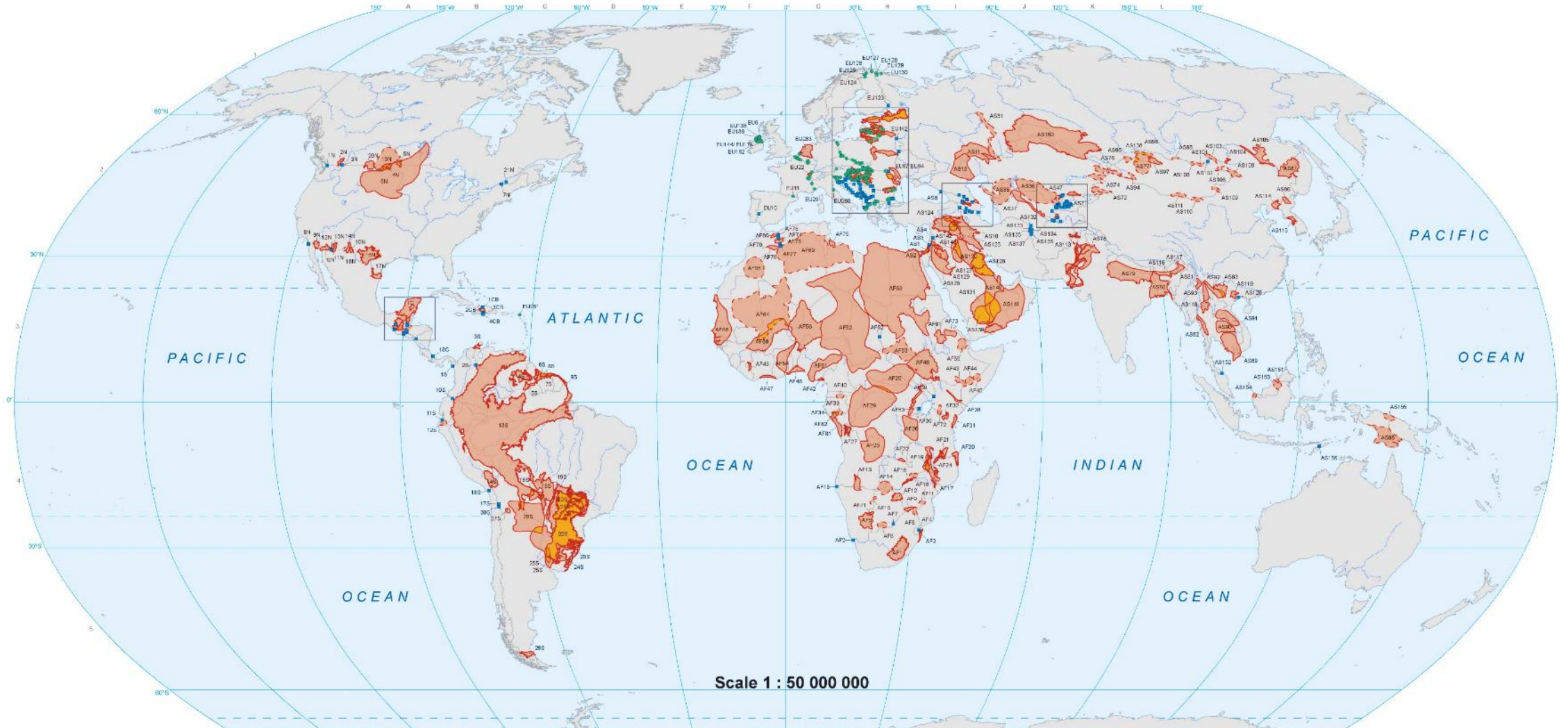


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Cartographer: Melissa McCracken
Robinson Projection



Transboundary Aquifers of the World

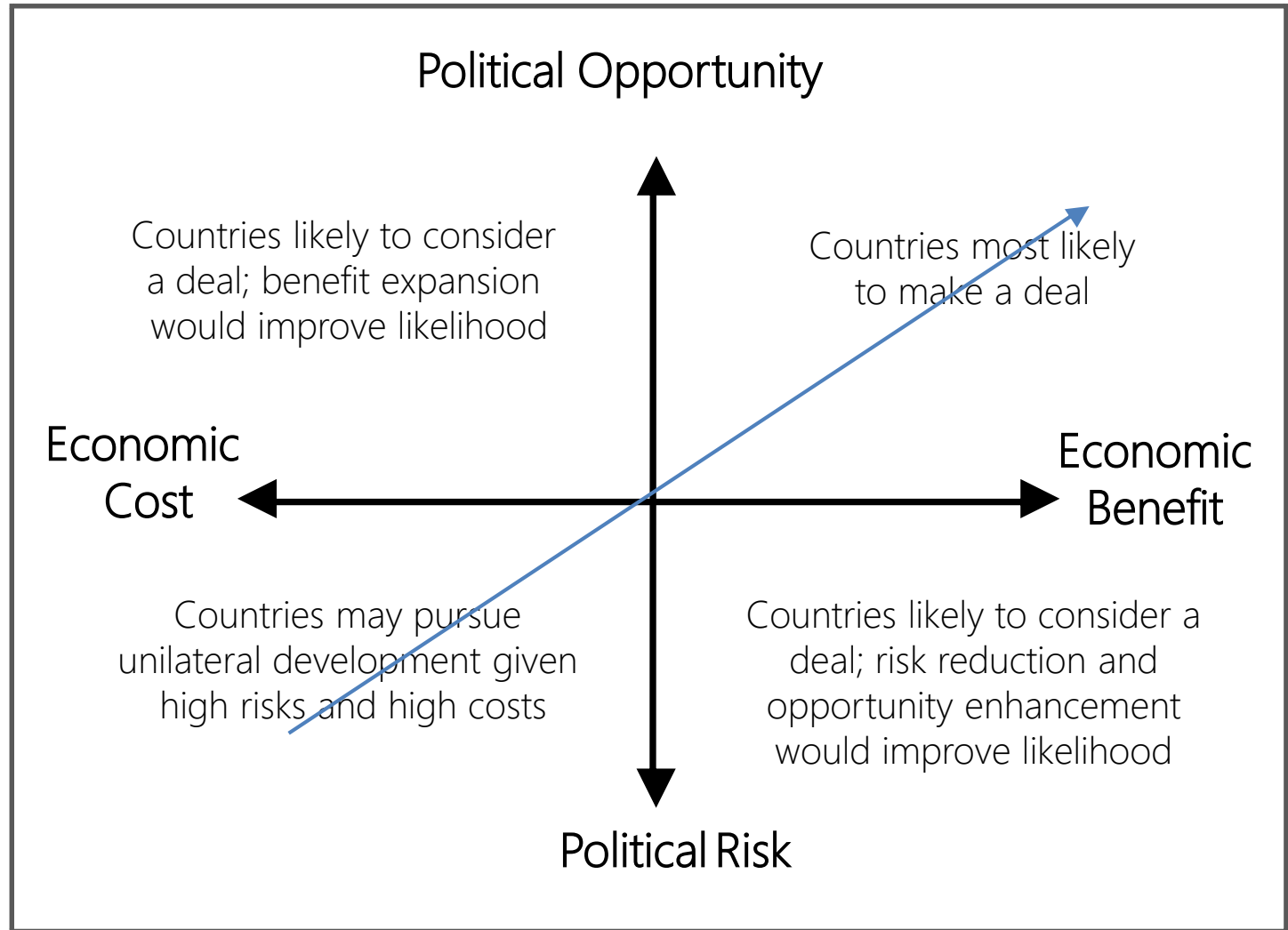
Special Edition for the 7th World Water Forum 2015



(IGRAC & UNESCO IHP, 2015)

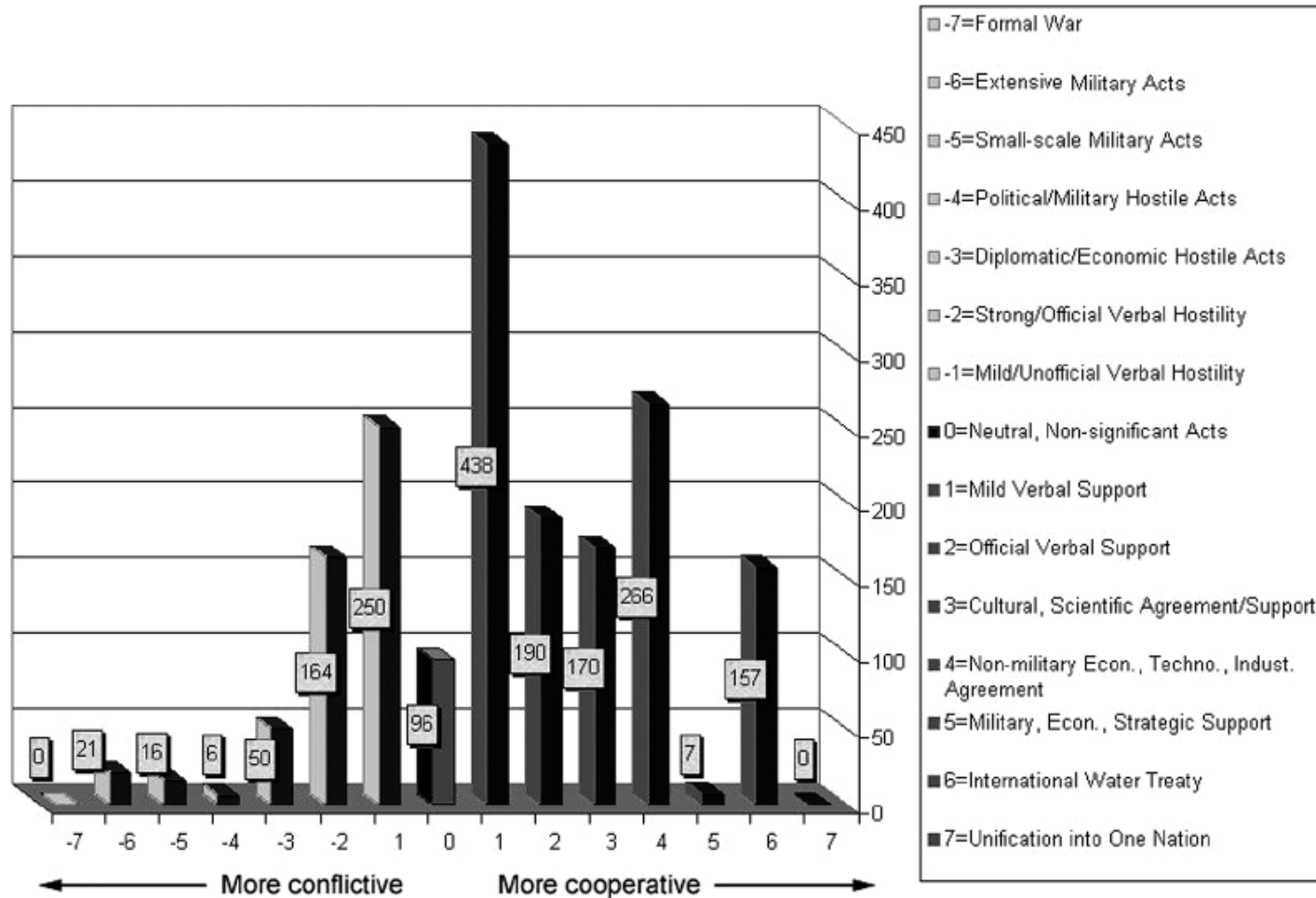
Hydropolitics and Cooperation

- Politics – the activities associated with the governance of a country or area
- Hydropolitics – is about water and politics



Subramanian, Ashok, Bridget Brown, and Aaron T. Wolf. (2014) "Understanding and Overcoming Risks to Cooperation along Transboundary Rivers." *Water Policy* 16(5): 824.

Cooperation over transboundary waters



“The likelihood and intensity of dispute rises as the rate of change within a basin exceeds the institutional capacity to absorb that change.”

Wolf et al. 2003. “International waters: identifying basins at risk.” *Water Policy*. 5 (2003) 29-60.

Agenda 2030: The Sustainable Development Goals

- UN General Assembly signed A/RES/70/1 *Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*
- Establishes 17 Goals with 169 Targets
- **Goal 6:** Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
 - 6.1: Drinking water
 - 6.2: Sanitation and hygiene
 - 6.3: Water quality and wastewater
 - 6.4: Water use and scarcity
 - 6.5: Water resources management
 - 6.6: Ecosystems
 - 6.a-b: Cooperation and participation



(GWP, 2016)

Transboundary cooperation in the SDGs

- Target 6.5: By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate
 - *Indicator 6.5.1: Degree of integrated water resources management implementation*
 - *Indicator 6.5.2: Proportion of transboundary basin area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation*



Transboundary cooperation in the SDGs

- Target 6.5: By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate
 - *Indicator 6.5.1: Degree of integrated water resources management implementation*
 - *Indicator 6.5.2: Proportion of transboundary basin area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation*



Complementing SDG Indicator 6.5.2

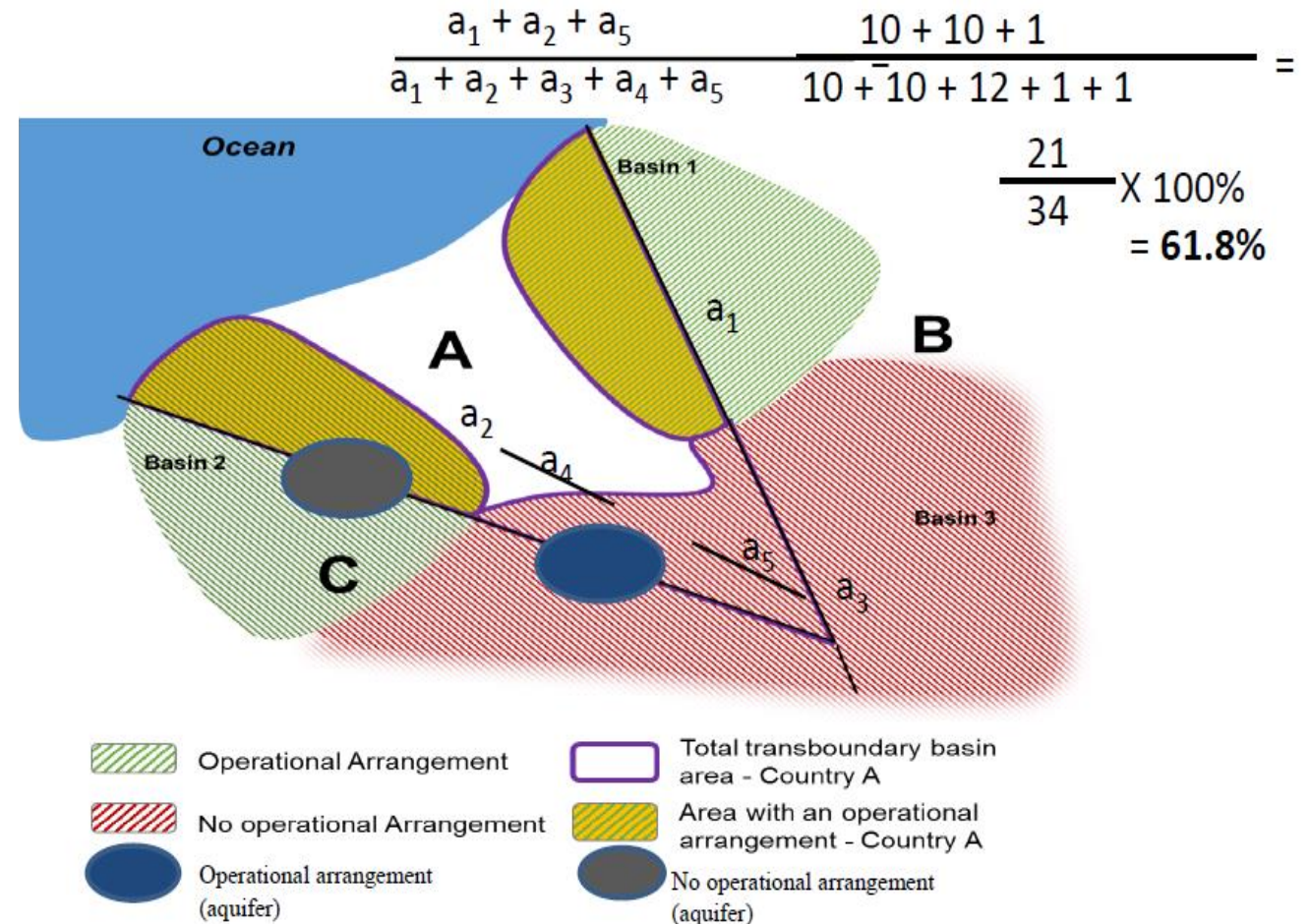
- GWP TEC Paper No 23 “Measuring transboundary water cooperation: options for Sustainable Development Goal Target 6.5”
 - *Provides guidance through evaluation of three method for measuring transboundary water cooperation*
- Method 1: SDG Indicator 6.5.2
- Method 2: Flexibility in operational cooperation
- Method 3: Typology of Cooperation



SDG Indicator 6.5.2

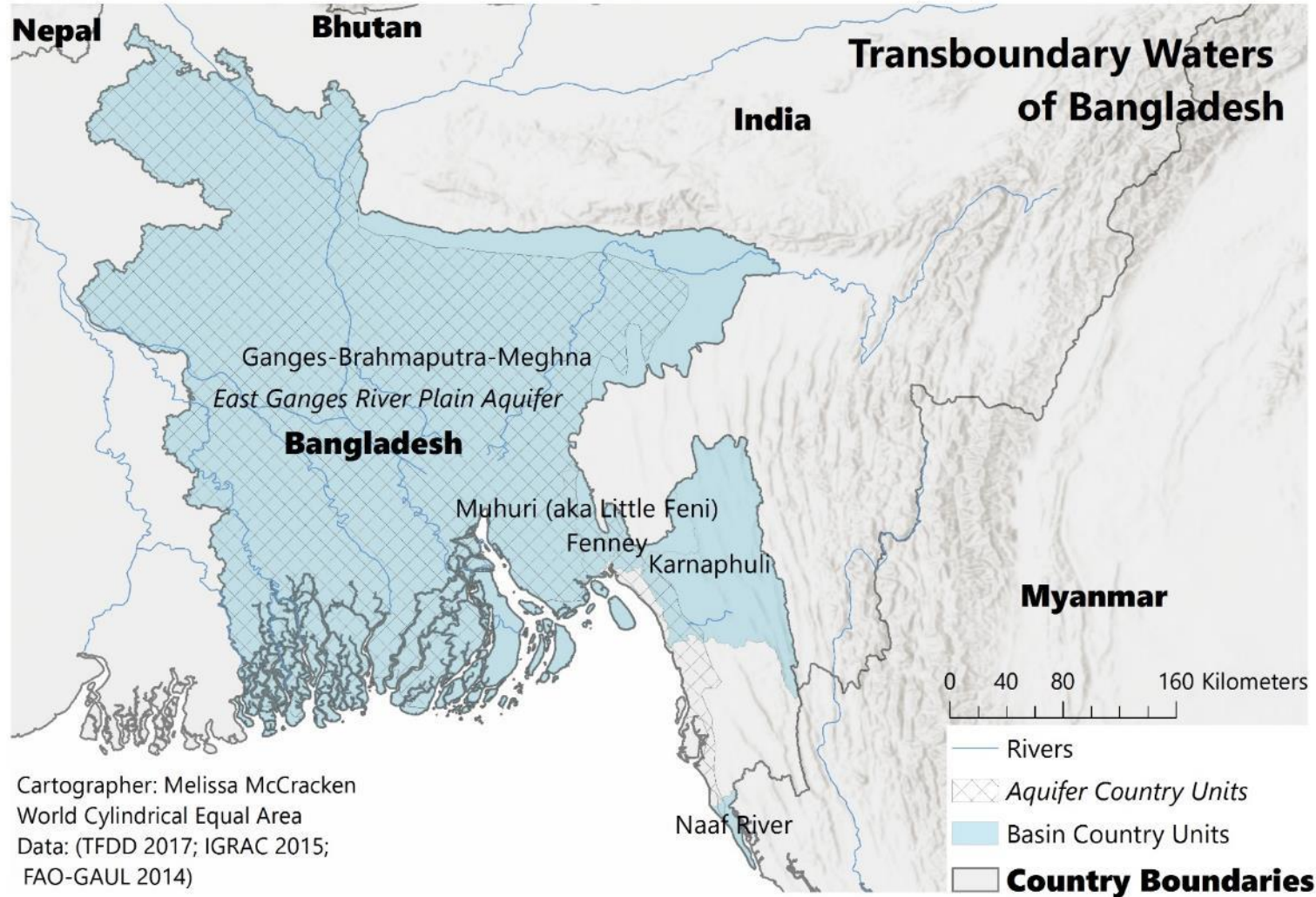
“Proportion of transboundary basin area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation.”

- Key definitions to be operational:
 - Basin Country Unit (BCU)
 - = Joint body, joint mechanism or commission
 - Aquifer Country Unit (ACU)
 - = Regular formal transboundary basin area communication
 - Arrangement
 - Joint or coordinated water management plan or joint objectives
 - Regular exchange of data and information



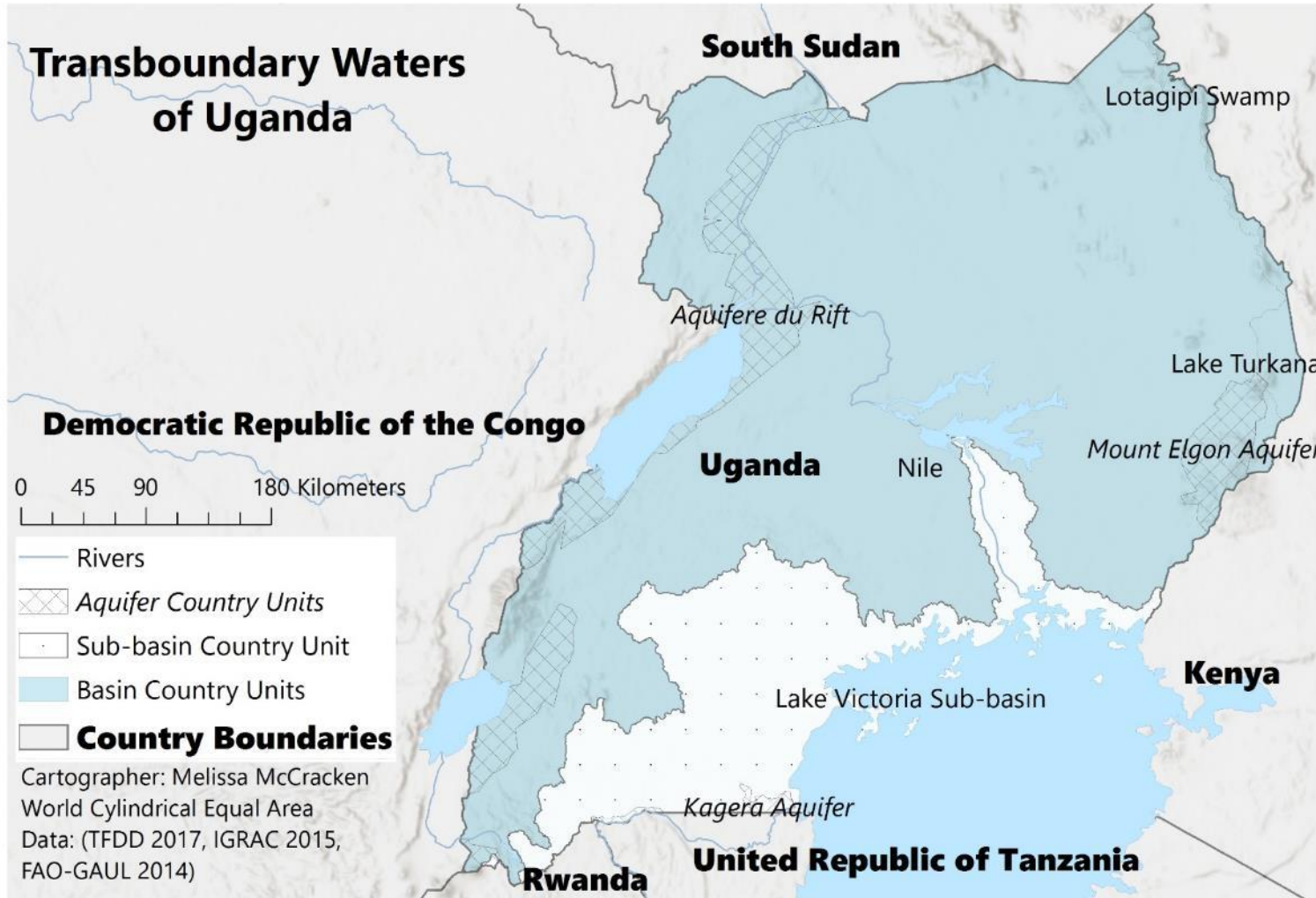
(UN-Water, 2016)

Example: SDG 6.5.2



SDG 6.5.2 Calculation	Bangladesh
Proportion of Transboundary River Basin Area with an operational arrangement	0 %
Proportion of Transboundary Aquifer Area with an operational arrangement	0 %
Proportion of Total Transboundary Area with an operational arrangement	0 %

Example: SDG 6.5.2

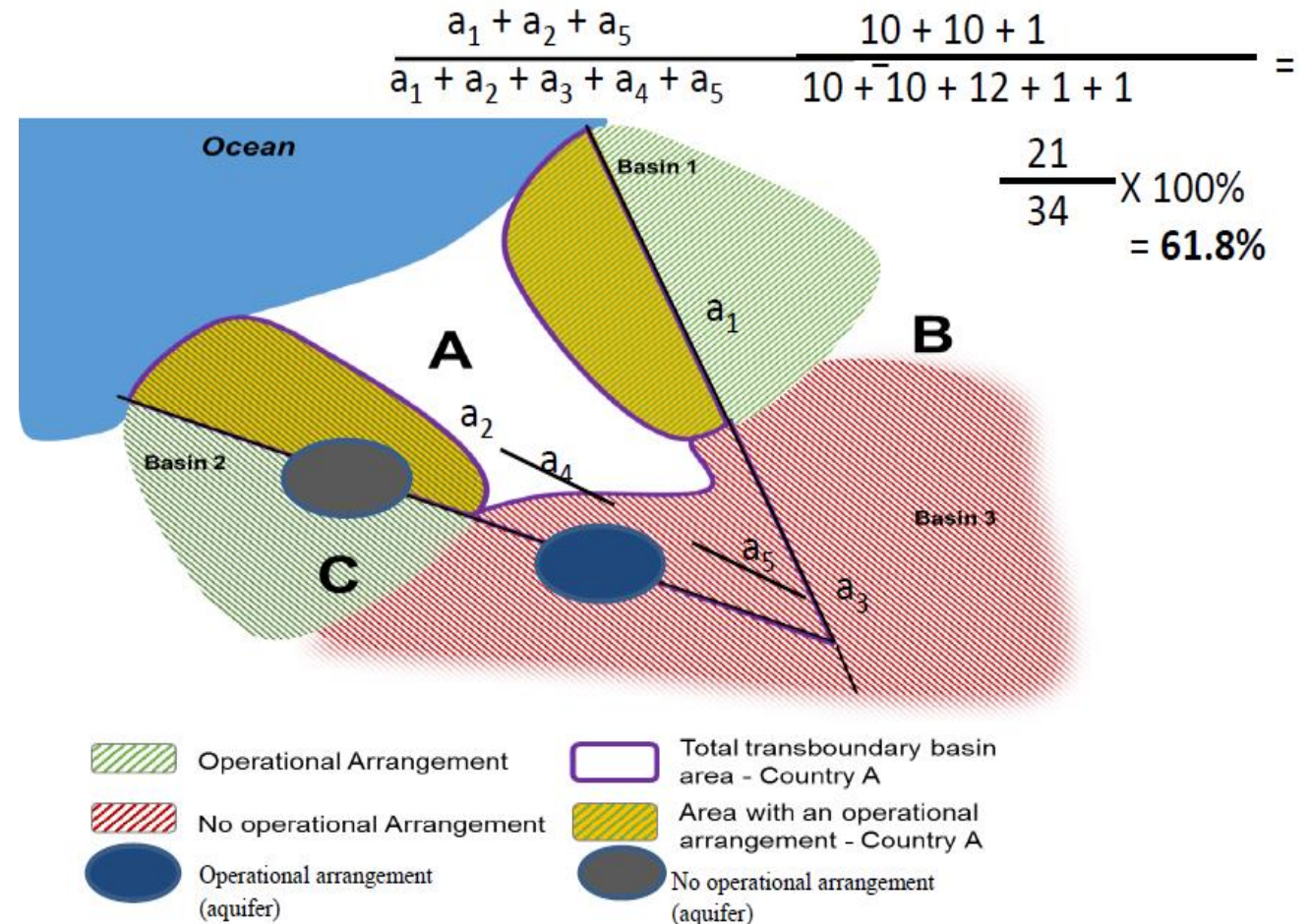


SDG 6.5.2 Calculation	Uganda
Proportion of Transboundary River Basin Area with an operational arrangement	98 %
Proportion of Transboundary Aquifer Area with an operational arrangement	0 %
Proportion of Total Transboundary Area with an operational arrangement	90 %

Flexibility in operational cooperation

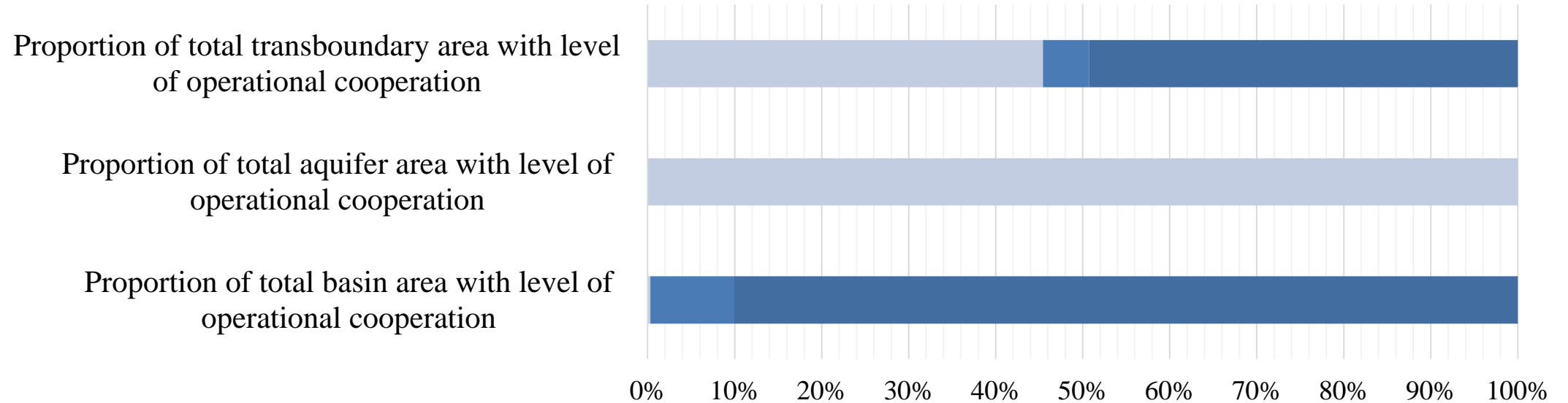
“Proportion of transboundary basin area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation.”

- For an arrangement to be operational:
 - *Joint body, joint mechanism or commission*
 - *Regular formal communication*
 - *Joint or coordinated water management plan or joint objectives*
 - *Regular exchange of data and information*



Example: Flexibility in operational cooperation

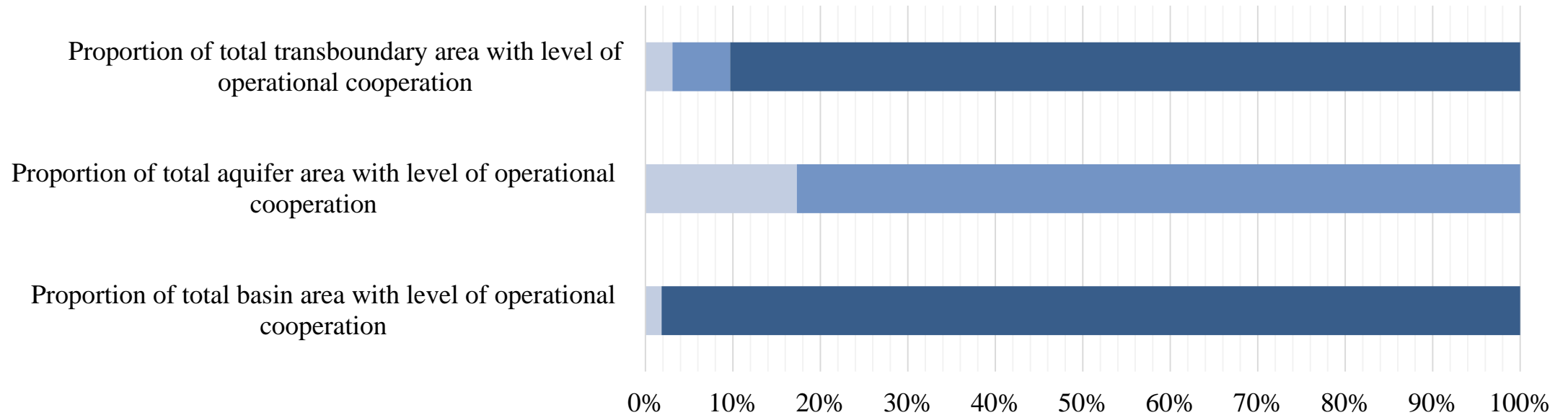
Method 2: Bangladesh



	Proportion of total basin area with level of operational cooperation	Proportion of total aquifer area with level of operational cooperation	Proportion of total transboundary area with level of operational cooperation
■ Operational level 0	0%	100%	45%
■ Operational level 1	0%	0%	0%
■ Operational level 2	0%	0%	0%
■ Operational level 3	10%	0%	5%
■ Operational level 4	90%	0%	49%
■ Operational level 5	0%	0%	0%

Example: Flexibility in operational cooperation

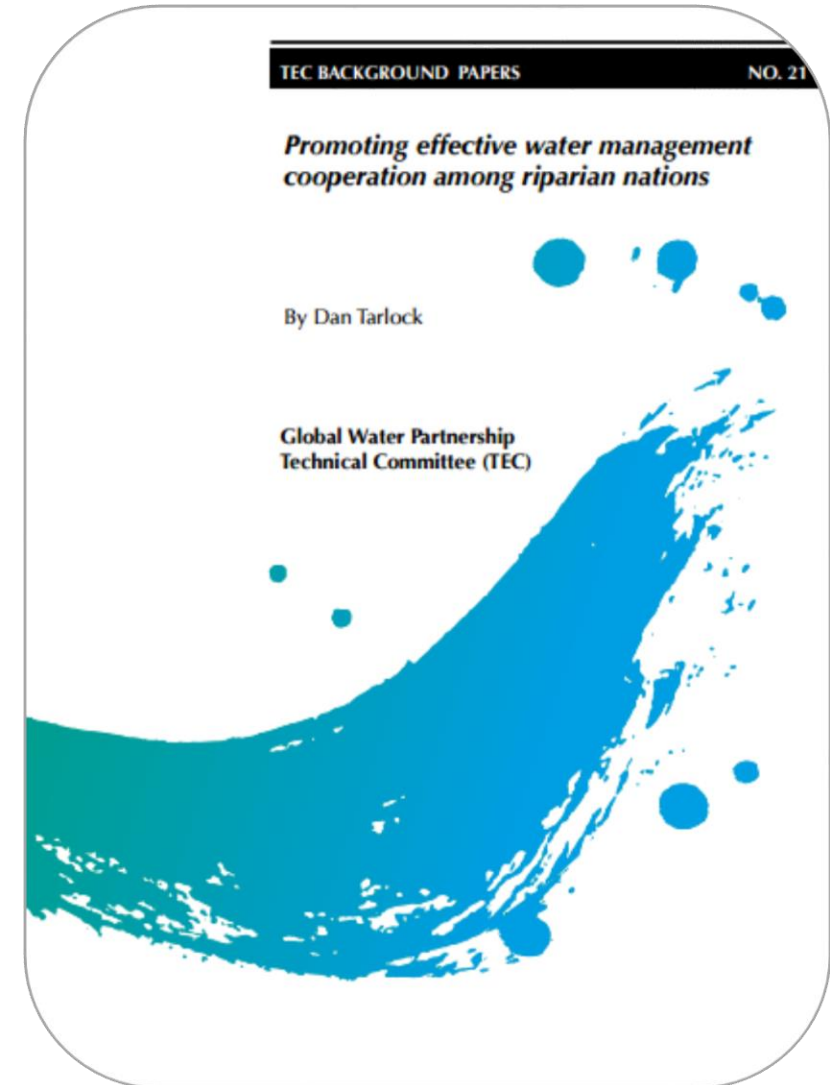
Method 2: Uganda



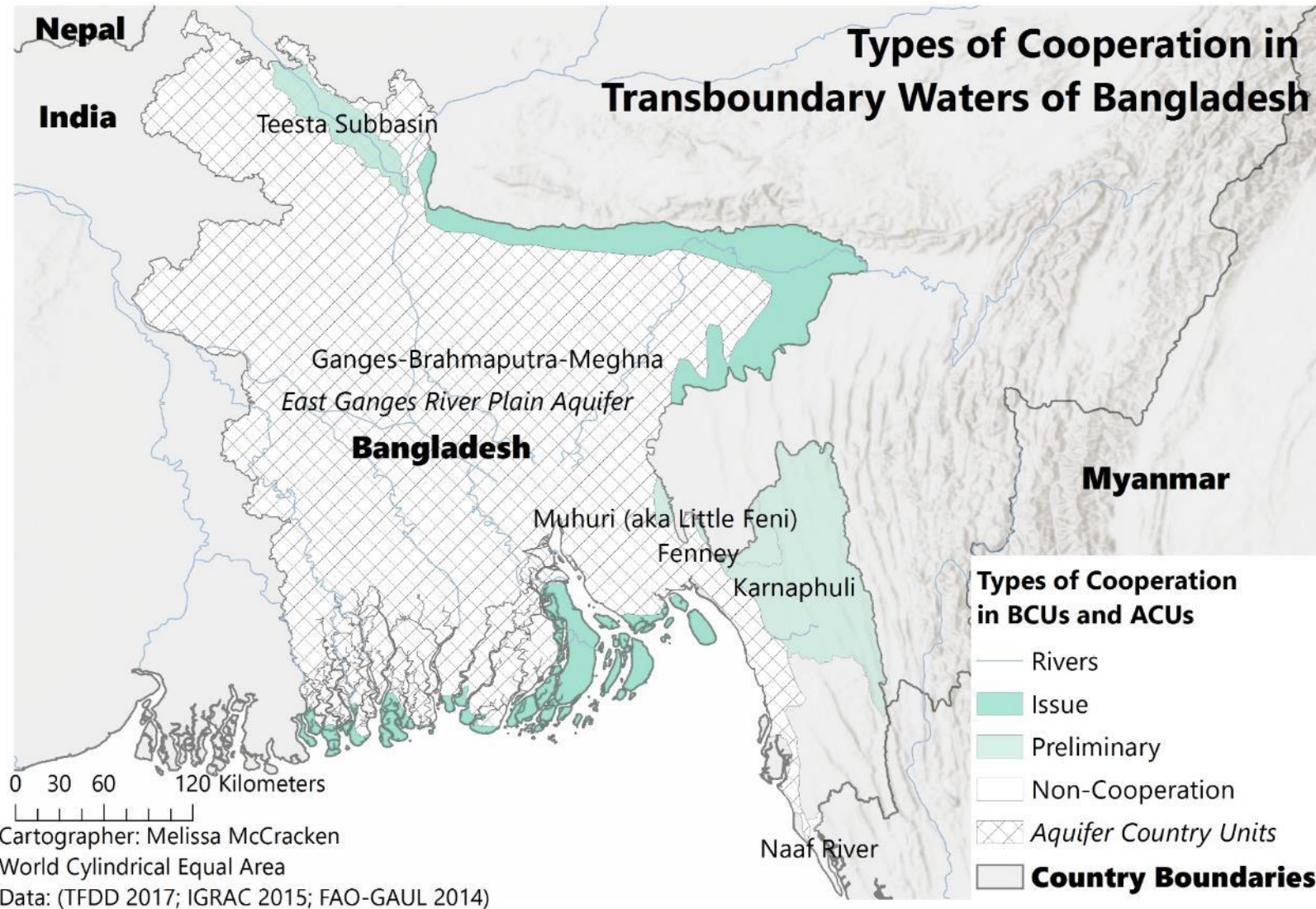
	Proportion of total basin area with level of operational cooperation	Proportion of total aquifer area with level of operational cooperation	Proportion of total transboundary area with level of operational cooperation
■ Operational level 0	2%	17%	3%
■ Operational level 1	0%	0%	0%
■ Operational level 2	0%	83%	7%
■ Operational level 3	0%	0%	0%
■ Operational level 4	0%	0%	0%
■ Operational level 5	98%	0%	90%

Complementing SDG Indicator 6.5.2

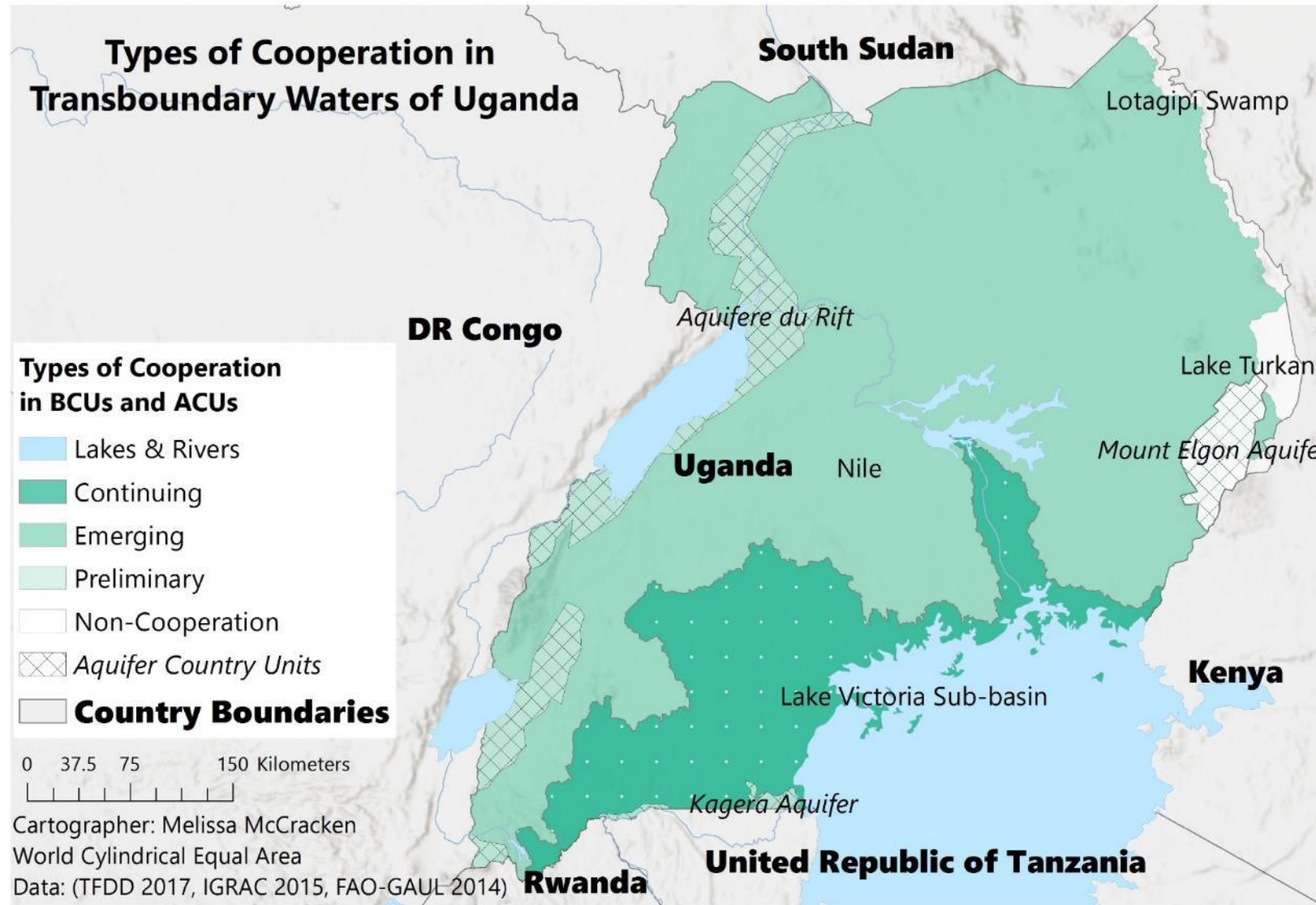
- GWP TEC Paper No 21 “Promoting effective water management cooperation among riparian nations”
 - *Aim for effective cooperation that produces measurable benefits, such as increased water security*
- To create the “Typology of Cooperation”
 - *Places a greater emphasis on substantive elements*
 - *Allows for flexibility in context*



Example: Typology of Cooperation



Example: Typology of Cooperation



Transboundary Cooperation and SDG 6.5.2

	Strengths	Weaknesses
SDG Indicator 6.5.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based in IWL • Supports increasing institutional capacity, i.e. treaty, RBO • Straightforward • Digestible format that meets UN Statistics monitoring needs • Aggregate and disaggregate results 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inconsistent definition of arrangement • Operational is binary • Procedural and normative • Difficult data collection, aquifers
Typology of Cooperation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allows for flexibility • Cooperation based on political will and context • Cumulation of cooperative efforts • Roles of non-state and local actors in cooperative efforts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not applicable for global monitoring • Difficult data collection, aquifers • Subjectivity in assigning type of cooperation • Requires in-depth knowledge of a variety of scales

IWL, SDGs, and Transboundary Cooperation

International Water Law has three main goals:

- Sharing among riparians
- Cooperation between states to plan and jointly manage
- Creation of institutional capacity

The SDG Framework, Goal 6, and specifically Target 6.5, can help encourage and incentivize states to cooperate over shared waters.

The SDGs and methods to measure transboundary cooperation can help states realize the goals of international water law.





Thank you!
Questions?

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