

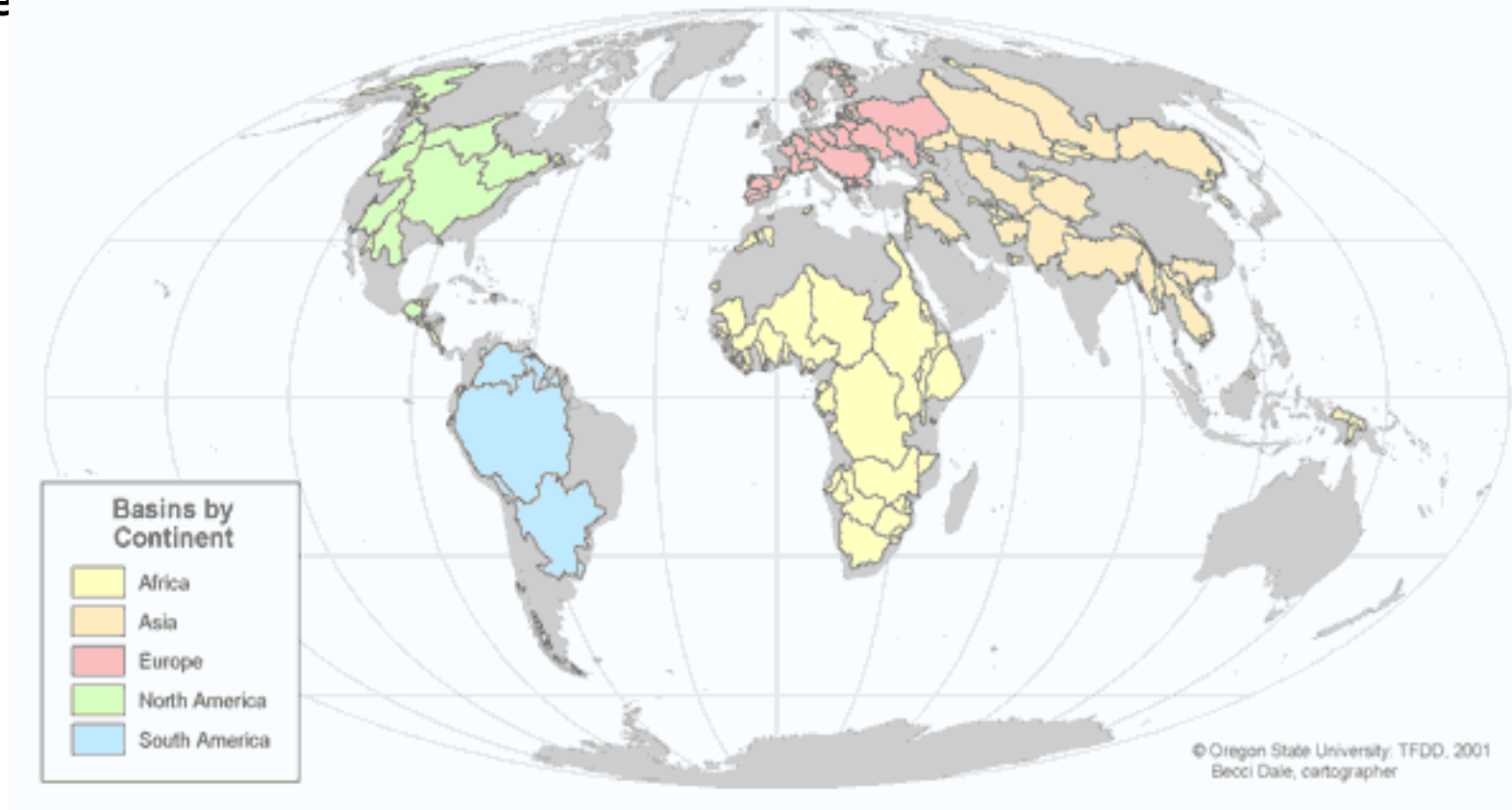
**International Water Law and Supporting Water  
Management Principles in the Development of a Model  
Transboundary Agreement Between Riparians in  
International River Basins**

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## Purpose:

Develop a template treaty for international river basins, and raise awareness of the need to manage, conserve and protect surface water & groundwater resources

The colored areas represent 263 international basins worldwide, covering 45 percent of the world's land surface. About 60 percent of the world's groundwater lies within the



# Basis of Template Construction

- International Water Law & Water Management Principles
- 1997 Convention on the Law of the Non-navigable Uses of International Watercourses
- Template Construction Using 2010 Nile River Agreement as a Basis & Borrowing Water Allocation Text from the 2007 Model Intrastate Compact (Muys et al. 2007)

# Guiding Water Management Principle

The concept of *Equitable and reasonable utilization of shared water resources*

Generally regarded as subordinate to this principle but very important:

*The obligation to not cause significant harm*

*Nile example*

# Other Critical Water Management Principles

- the acknowledgement of **groundwater beneath basins;**
- the **establishment of baseline resource conditions** through water well mapping plus collection of surface water and groundwater level measurements and water quality information;
- the need to **establish water allocation agreements & maintain reasonable flow levels.**

# Full List of Water Management Principles

Establish a Joint Water Board with Representatives from each State to Oversee Technical Aspects of Planned and Ongoing Projects

Establish a H2O Allocation Methodology, Addressing Natural & Man-made Fluctuations

- Acknowledge Groundwater & Conjunctive Surface H2O/Groundwater Management
- Mapping of existing wells (water supply, irrigation, & environmental monitoring)
- Ongoing surface water and groundwater level measurement
- Collect baseline and ongoing water quality data, including lab analysis for contaminants

Establish Flood Control Operating Plan & Emergency Contingency Plans

Practice Prior Notification to Riparians Prior to Initiation of Projects

Share Technical Data, & Social & Cultural Information with the Public

Allow Free Navigation Along the Full Extent of the Watercourse

Establish a Third Party Resolution Panel for Issues Riparians Cannot Settle

Establish a Procedure for Enforcement of Treaty Provisions

Establish a Procedure to Provide Compensation to a Damaged Riparian Party

Conduct Environmental Impact Assessments Before Projects & Audits After Completion

Establish Grounds for Treaty Termination & Rules for Withdrawal from Treaty