

**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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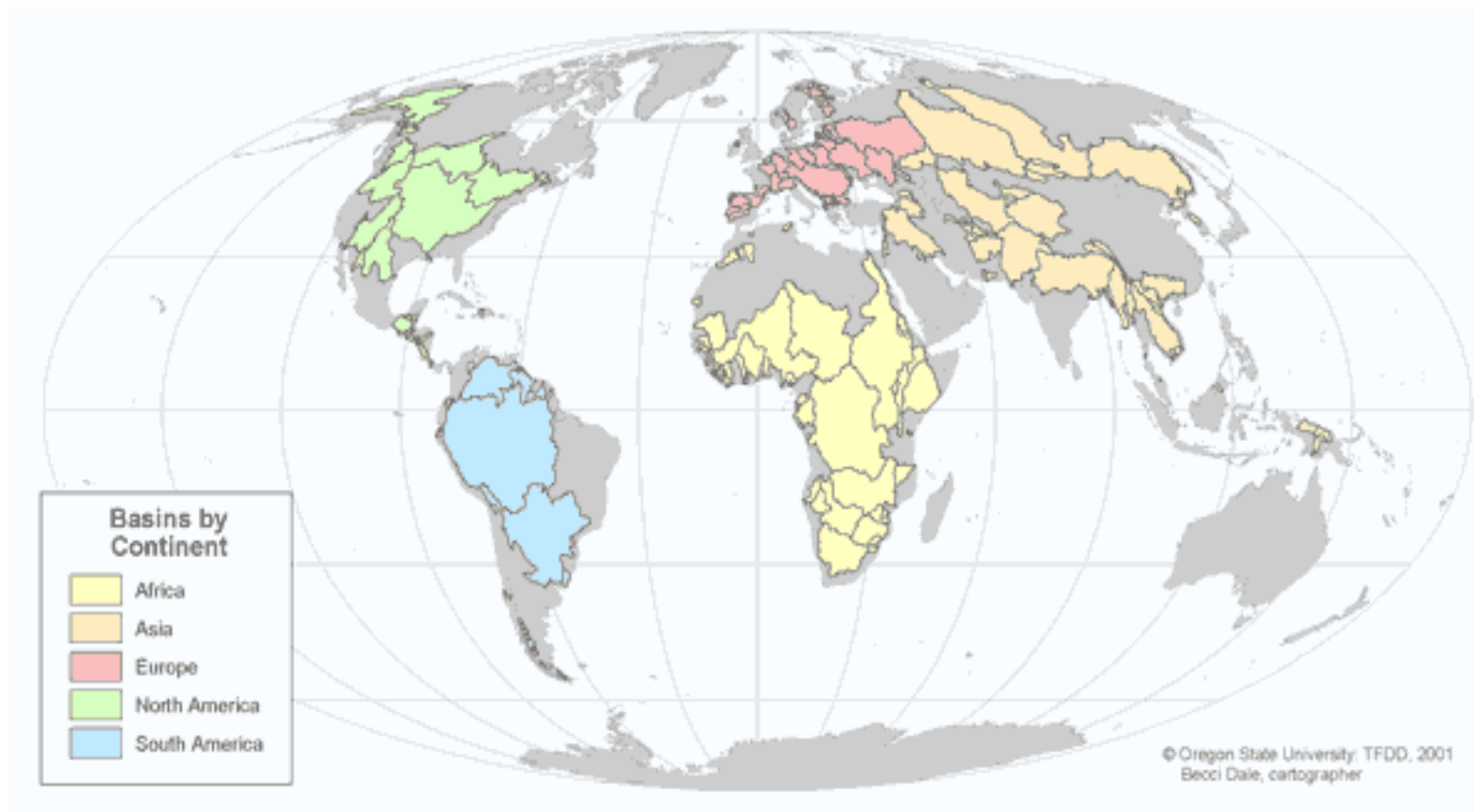
# Purpose:

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

The 1997 Convention on the Law of the Non-navigable Uses of International Watercourses was entered into force on August 17, 2014, resulting from the 35th instrument of ratification

The tenets of this Template are consistent with the 1997 Convention

**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 these international basins (Wolf, A.T., 2002. Atlas of International Freshwater Agreements.).**



# 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