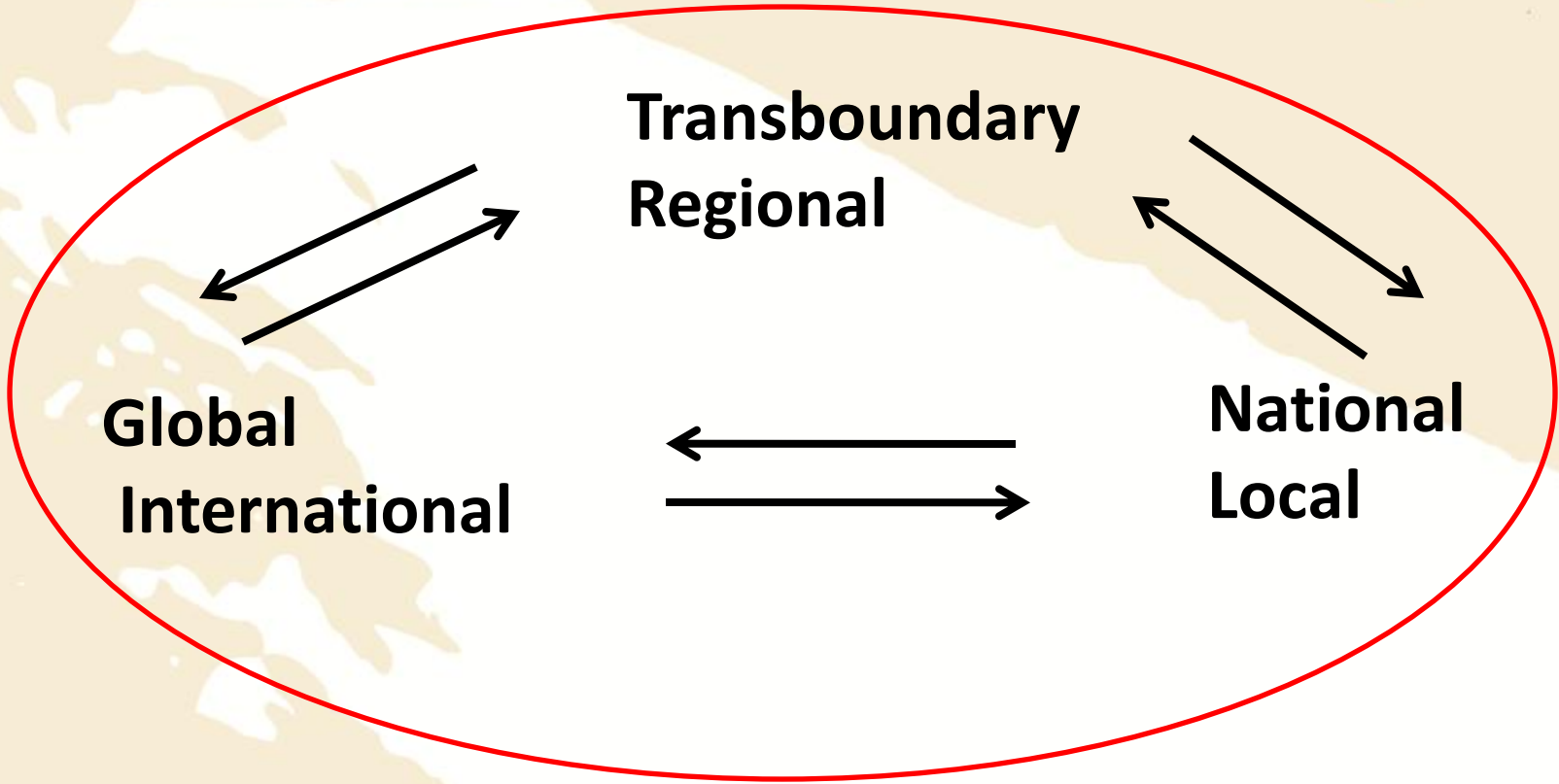


**INTERNATIONAL ROUNDTABLE
ON TRANSBOUNDARY WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT
IN THE SOUTHERN MEDITERRANEAN**

26-27 November 2012, Rome

**An overview: Transboundary Water Resources
Management in the Mediterranean**

What type of water cooperation?



Internationally Shared Surface Water Bodies in the Balkan Region



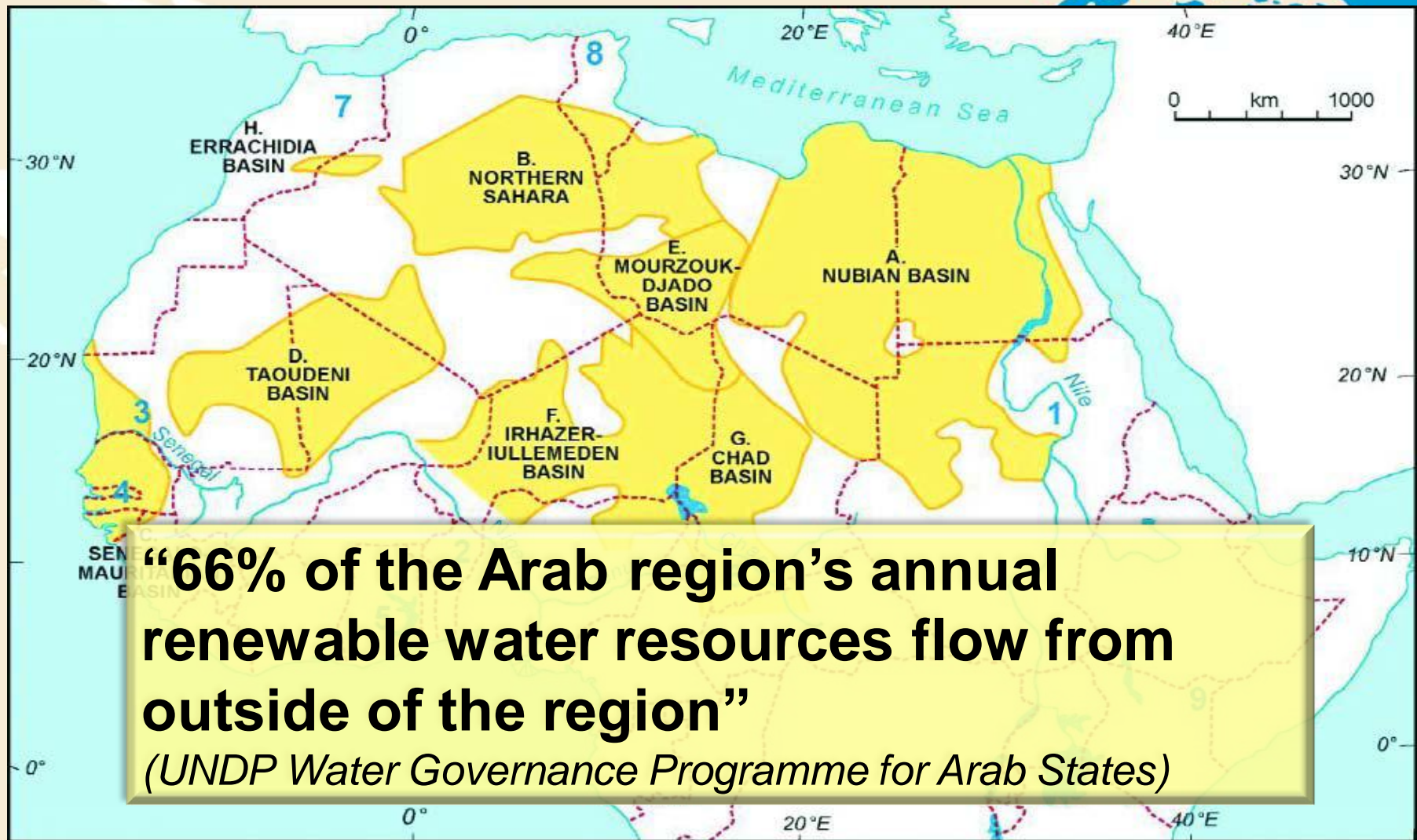
**“...in Southeastern Europe (SEE),
90% of the area falls within shared basins”**
(UNECE and Petersberg Phase II/Athens Declaration Process in SEE)

**-13 major transboundary rivers and 4 major transboundary lakes
as well as more than 50 transboundary aquifers in SEE**

**-More than half of the respective basins are shared by three or
more riparians**



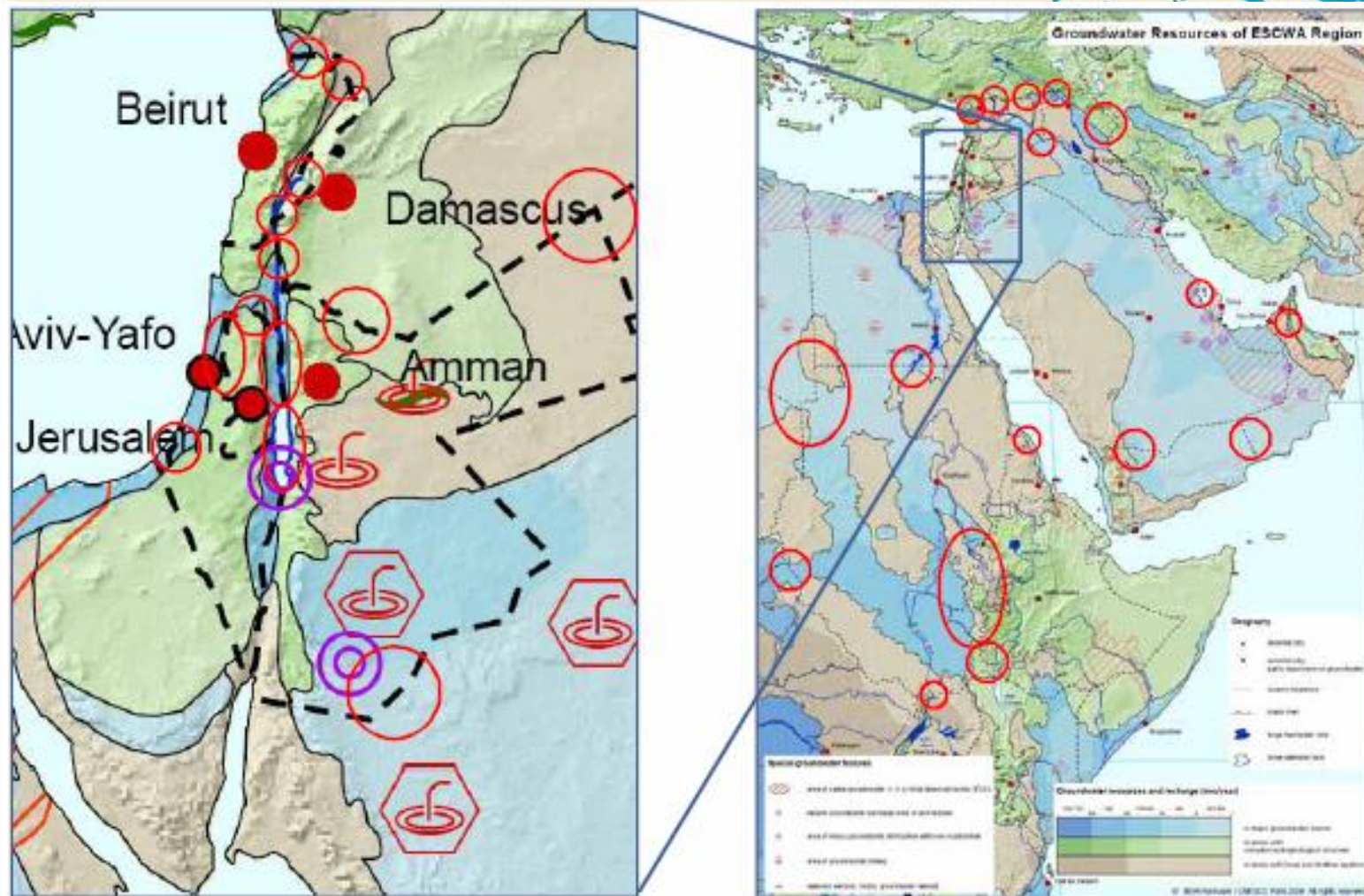
Internationally Shared Aquifers in North Africa



Border crossing river basins: 1. The Nile 2. Niger 3. Senegal 4. The Gambia
5. Volta 6. Chari 7. Guir-Saoura 8. Mejerdah
9. Juba-Shebelle

A. Border crossing aquifers

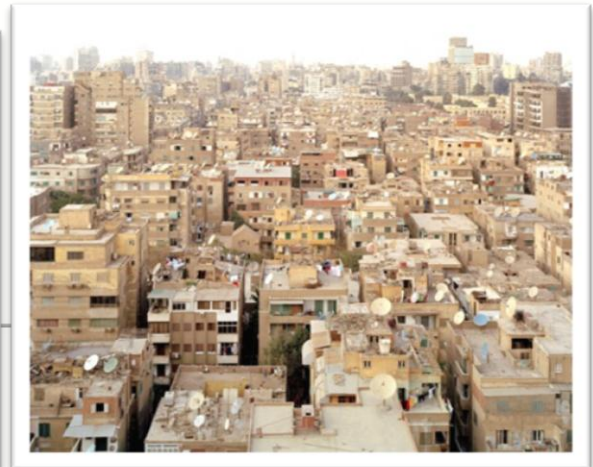
Transboundary Water and Aquifers in the Middle East



Source: UN ESCWA, 2009

Situation in the Mediterranean: some facts

- The population has doubled in 40 years (450 mil today)
- 90% of the total region's GNP is in 5 countries in the North
- Economic crisis has hit hard many of the EU Med countries
- Unemployment is rising
- Cities are growing fast; Coasts are under pressure

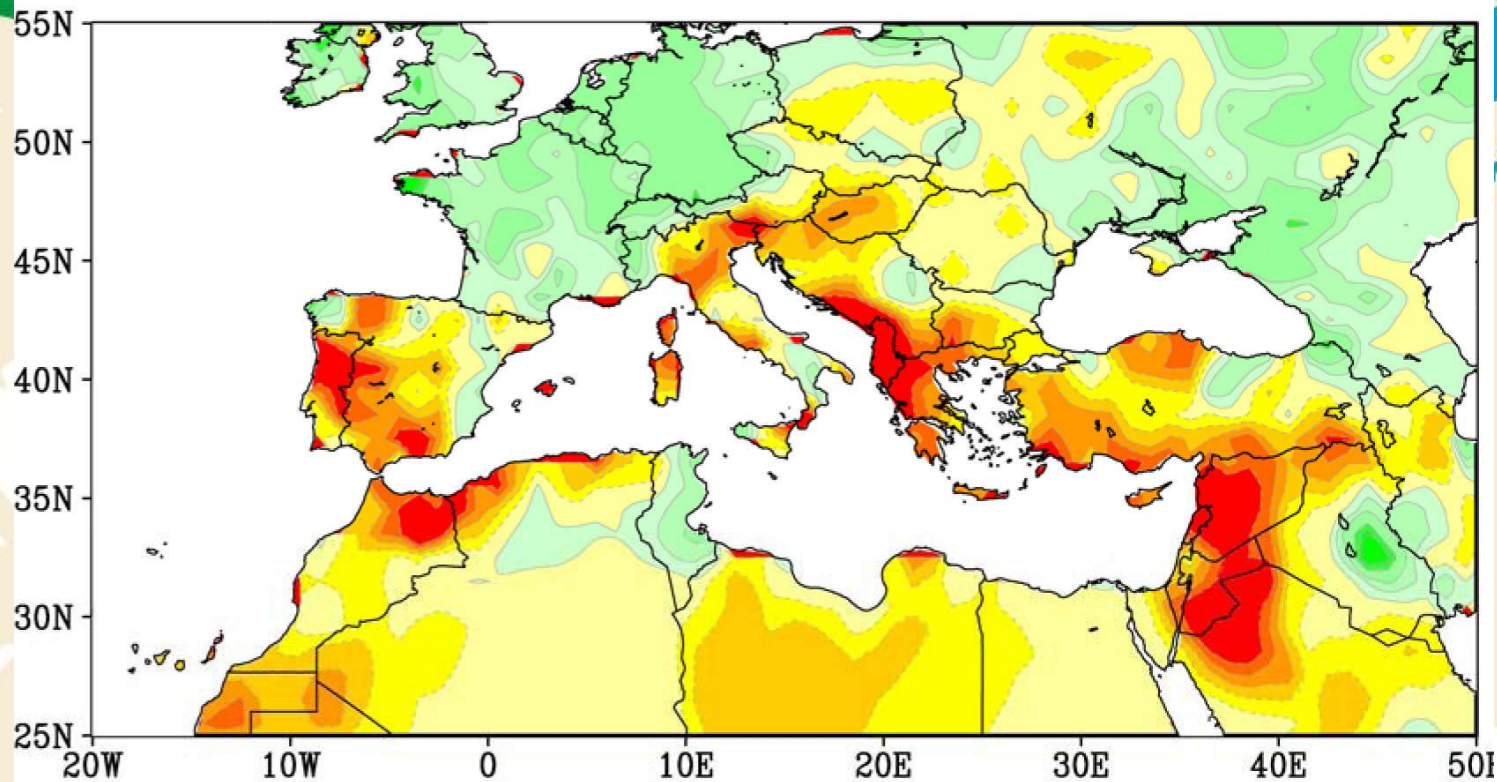


Some water challenges in the Mediterranean

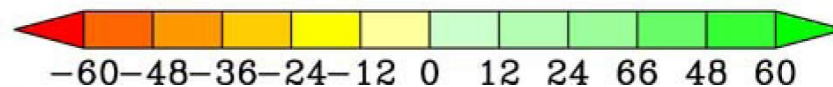
Water Supply is Unequally Distributed in Space and Time



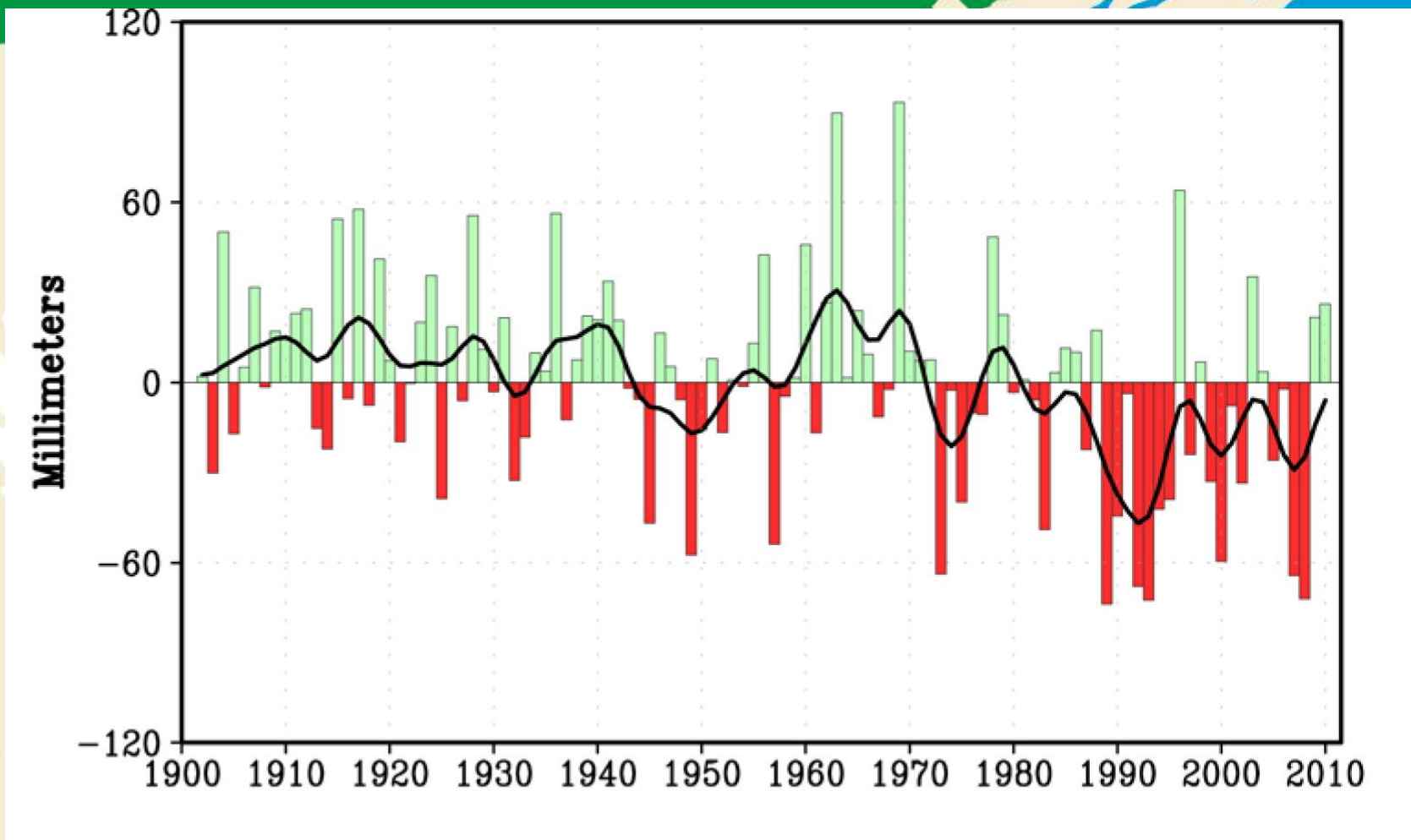
Aggravated by Climate Variability & Change



Millimeters



Reds and oranges highlight lands around the Mediterranean that experienced **significantly drier winters** during 1971-2010 than the comparison period of 1902-2010 (Source: NOAA, 2011)



Wintertime droughts are increasingly common in the Mediterranean region, and *human-caused* climate change is partly responsible. **In the last 20 years, 10 of the driest 12 winters have taken place in the lands surrounding the Mediterranean Sea** (Source: NOAA, 2011)

Water in the Mediterranean: some additional facts

- Renewable water resources withdrawals: among highest in the world
- Per cap. consumption in some countries: among lowest in the world
 - 7% (28 mil persons) are below 500 m³/year/capita
 - 29% (115 mil persons) are below 1000 m³/year/capita
- Agriculture consumes 70-85 %
- Serious water pollution of surface and groundwater
- Cost of degradation due to water pollution is high (0.6-1.2% of GDP). Along the coastline is even higher (from 7-8% of GDP in Algeria and Egypt to 2-4% in Morocco and Tunisia)

Some background for Southeastern Europe

- The region has a background of **political instability and conflict**
- Most of the countries are still in the process **towards establishing a market economy**
- Some countries are EU members. In the Non EU countries, **major reforms** guided primarily by the **EU accession prospect** have been initiated
- **Economic growth is dictating choices** for water resources management in many cases. However, environmental considerations (= **secure minimum environmental flows**) are a clear part of the agenda

Some background for MENA

- Water scarcity and chronic droughts, and climate change impacts
- Rapid **population growth** and **urbanisation** trend
- The region has a background of **political instability and conflict**
- **Economic growth and food security are dictating choices** for water management, some times placing environmental concerns in second order
- **Arab Spring** is on-going, hopefully towards democratisation and reforms

Key challenges for water resources management & shared water resources management in a changing and uncertain environment

Create the enabling conditions for good and effective water governance

Enhance & strengthen information & data flow and sharing

IWRM in shared basins depends largely on national water management frameworks

Institutional and legal frameworks in the SEE countries

Basis for this reform process: *the EU accession Process*
EU Water Framework Directive (WFD)

Revised or under an on-going revision process

Transposition of the EU WFD in the legal framework of the countries

- Voluntarily by some countries
- Expected to have a positive effect on the cooperation for the management of transboundary water resources
- (Eventually / In principle) Harmonized legal framework

in the non-EU countries, has progressed at a different pace depending on the evolving cooperation framework with the EU, prevailing socio-economic situation and administrative capacities

Overall, progress in lawmaking: considerable. Nevertheless, deficiencies in the area of implementation and enforcement. The reasons are manifold.

IWRM in shared basins depends largely on national water management frameworks

Institutional and legal frameworks in the MENA countries

There is no uniform or prevailing framework in place

- UfM framework & draft Strategy for Water in the Mediterranean
- Work under Arab League (& the Arab Strategy for Water Security
- Work under AMCOW and African Union
- Bilateral or Multilateral Agreements
- External financial assistance

Overall, progress in lawmaking: not considerable. Moreover, several deficiencies and bottlenecks in the area of implementation and enforcement need to be addressed

Revised or under an on-going revision process.

Process significantly affected by recent socio-political developments and economic situation

Management of the shared water bodies in SEE & MENA: rather unilateral - level of cooperation varies & tends to remain limited

In most of the shared Basins and aquifers cooperation is limited

among
the
reasons:

- low political prioritisation of the issue,
- financial constraints and in some cases
- insufficient institutional capacity
- conflicting interests among countries also be a reason

Transboundary aquifers: low knowledge level adds to the difficulties of transboundary cooperation.

Transboundary cooperation for the management of the shared water bodies

Influenced by the developments at political and socio-economic scene at national and regional level and the bilateral relations of the riparian countries

Agreements and protocols and other types of treaties :
for TWRM

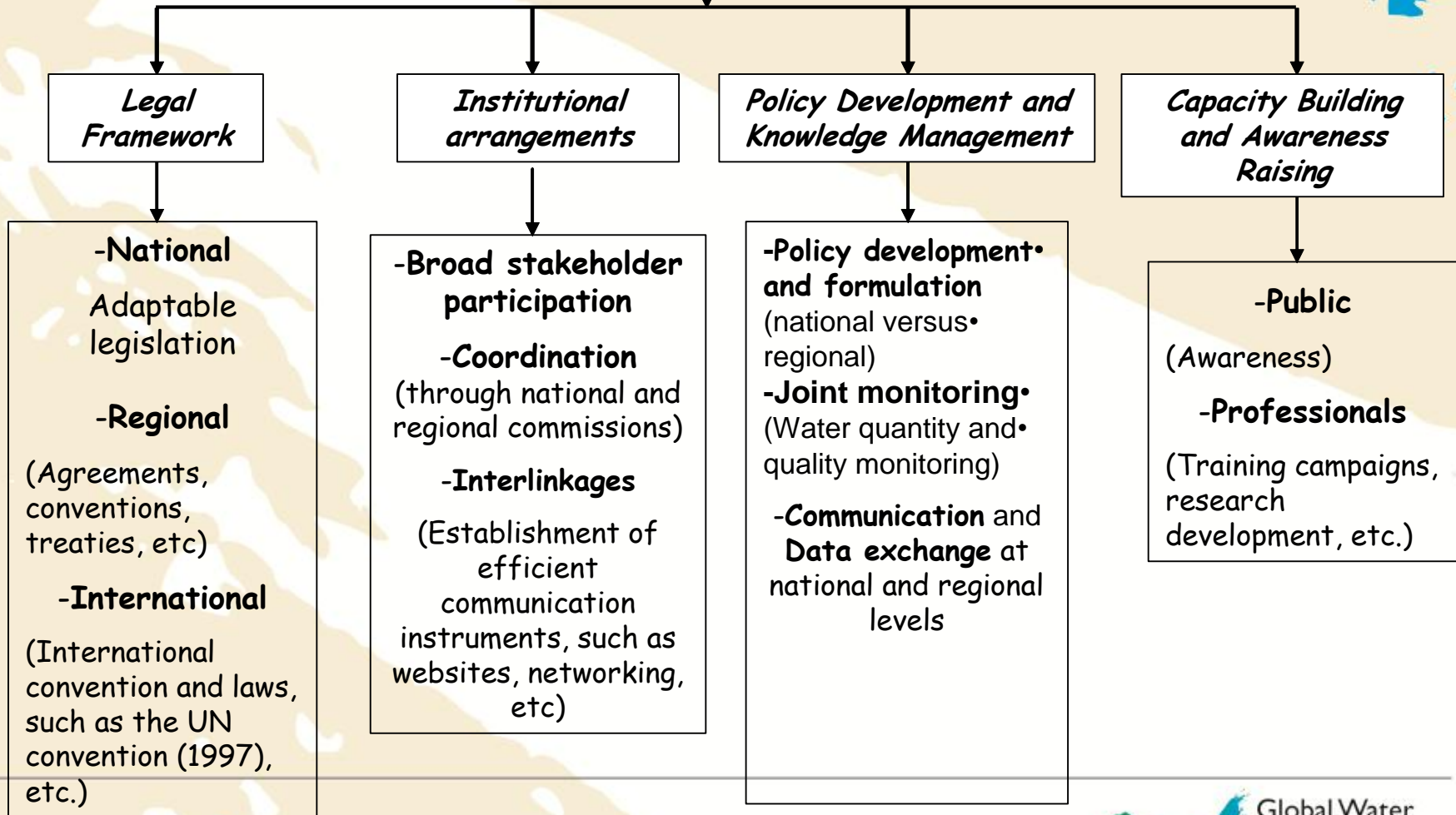
- There are many – in the majority of cases political obstacles and lack of resources have not allowed yet for proper implementation and significant results
- Nevertheless progress in several cases, indicating also political will, has been achieved

Some elements & principles on IWRM and Transboundary cooperation

- Sustainability
 - social, economic, environmental
 - Cooperation & Participation
 - local, regional, national, basin-wide
 - water using sectors
 - information exchange
 - Basin approach
 - which basin?
 - Water resources
 - knowledge, assessments
 - Enabling environment
 - Water allocation
 - Informed decision making
- Limited Sovereignty
 - Equitable and Reasonable Utilisation
 - Obligation not to Cause Significant Harm
 - General Obligation to Cooperate
 - Regular exchange of data and information
 - Bilateral and regional agreements & arrangements
 - Environmental Protection
 - Protection and preservation of ecosystems
 - Prevention, reduction and control of pollution
 - Monitoring & Management

Potential Methodological Framework

Tools for Shared Water Resources Management following IWRM Principles



Some insights on TWRM

- Process for the establishment of cooperation: **not linear**
 - It can be: - **Top down - Bottom up**
 - **Opportunistic**
 - It can start addressing: **Developmental or Environmental objectives**
- Scientific data: - **they are never too much**
 - **should not be too little to back planning**
- International financing: **an important catalyst, but cannot work / sustain without functional institutions**
- Asymmetry of subsidiarity: **needs to be addressed at an early stage**

Some insights on TWRM (continued)

- **Broad scale dialogue is crucial to set up a climate of understanding and trust among stakeholders**
- Search for and make best use of driving forces, including international “convening powers” e.g. regional initiatives of neutral character
- Explore all possibilities to create a Common Vision as a first step towards enhancement of cooperation
- **Don't wait for a crisis; take a proactive approach**

Cooperation between riparians in monitoring and assessment: may provide an initiating point for cooperation

create the basis for establishing a common understanding of water issues and their root causes

-building of trust
-design of solutions on the basis of commonly agreed objectives

Possible entry points for enhanced cooperation:

Joint fact-finding exercises and analysis of the character of the basins (natural values, uses, pressures etc.)

Prioritisation of issues at the national and transboundary levels; an agreed timeline for further progress may follow

Issues of common concern, such as drought/flood mitigation, use of NCWR, also provide such opportunities

Coordination of international actors, to create synergies and avoid duplication or unnecessary effort, should be a goal

Actions to secure country ownership

Upgrading the role of the joint bodies

Translating scientific data into information – assisting with decision-making and increasing public awareness

Minimization or elimination of upstream - downstream pressures

Development plans at the national level should balance the need for development with the need for sustainable natural resources use and environmental protection

Collaboration, compromise and consensus-building process necessary for coordinative / cooperative depends on open dialogue, good will and trust among the key stakeholders

Concluding

- Water has the potential to fuel wider conflicts, but also to act as a bridge for cooperation. **Sharing benefits in a sustainable way shall become the major driving force for solving conflict. Hydrodiplomacy is a key tool.**
- In the Mediterranean, though some good cases of collaboration [established or advanced] can be documented, **we have not reached too far, nor too fast. Stakeholder platforms can assist substantially, if allowed, facilitated and capacitated.**
- Two key challenges:
 - to **politically put human development, including environmental considerations**, at the centre of transboundary cooperation ;
 - to replace unilateral action with **multilateral cooperation**, supported by **capacitated human resources**

Thank you
for your kind attention

مع خالص شكري
وامتناني

Merci pour
votre attention

www.ypeka.gr/medeuwi

www.watersee.net