



TRANSBOUNDARY WATER COOPERATION IN THE GAMBIA

Context of Transboundary Water Resources in The Gambia & Current Status of Involvement with the Water Convention: Setting the Scene for Potential Accession

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Presentation Outline

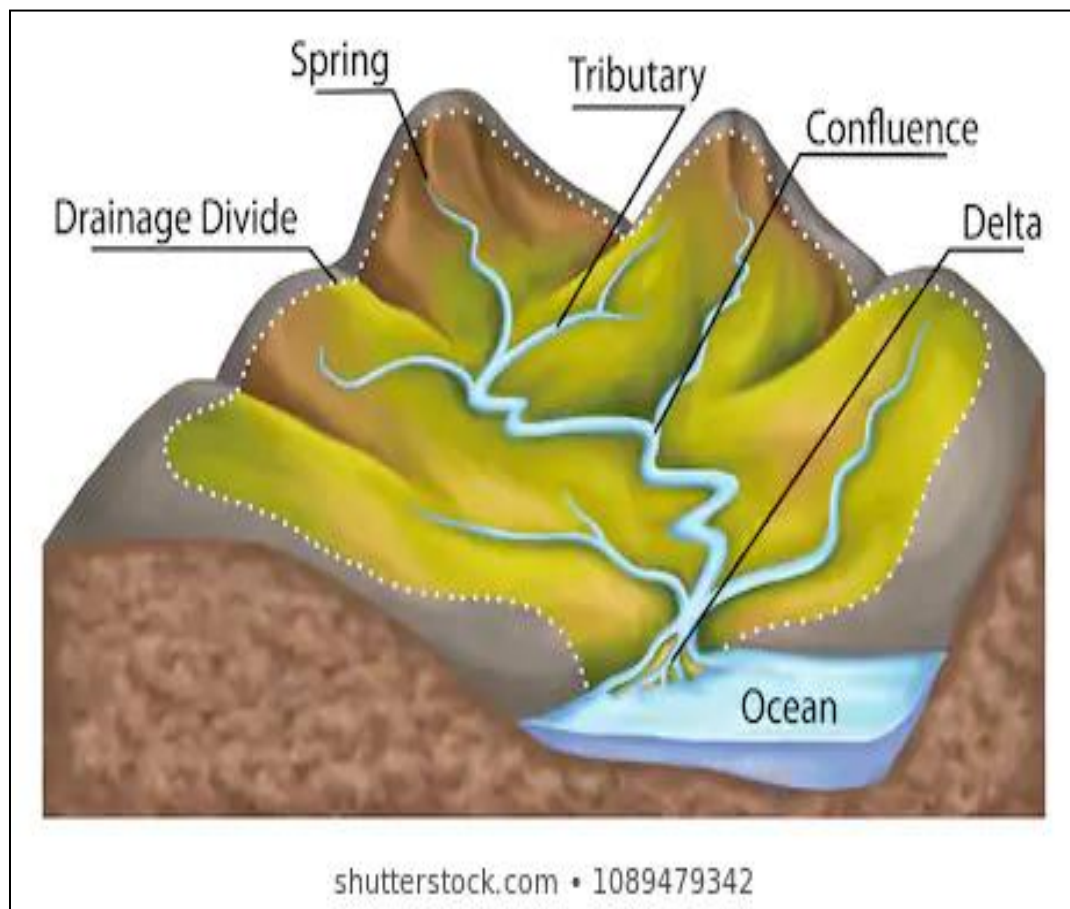
- Brief Overview of Transboundary Basin Concepts
- Legal and Institutional Framework in The Gambia
- The Level of Involvement with the Water Convention
- Challenges in Transboundary Water Resources Mgt





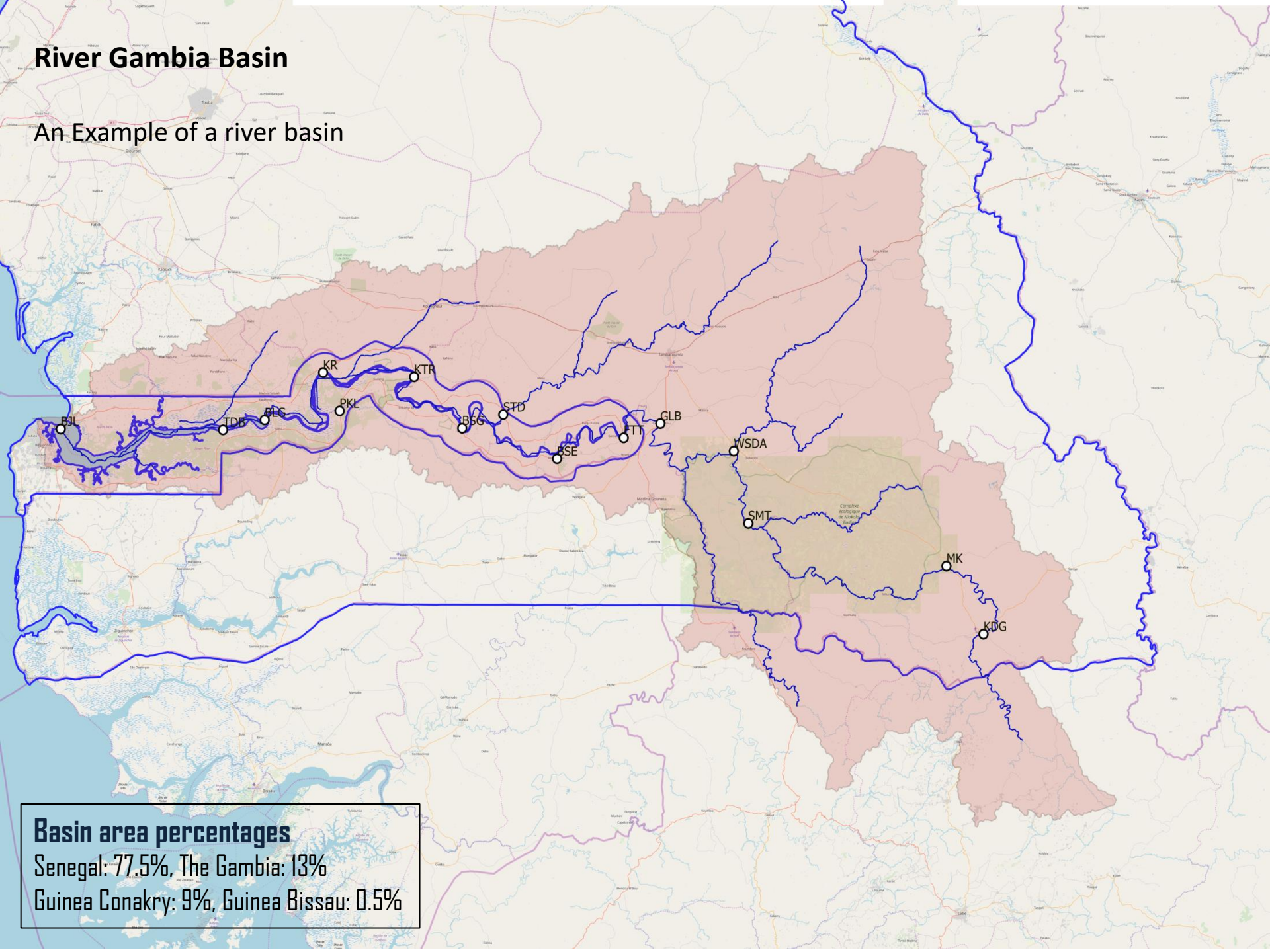
River Basin:

a geographical area that discharges its precipitation into a common outlet



River Gambia Basin

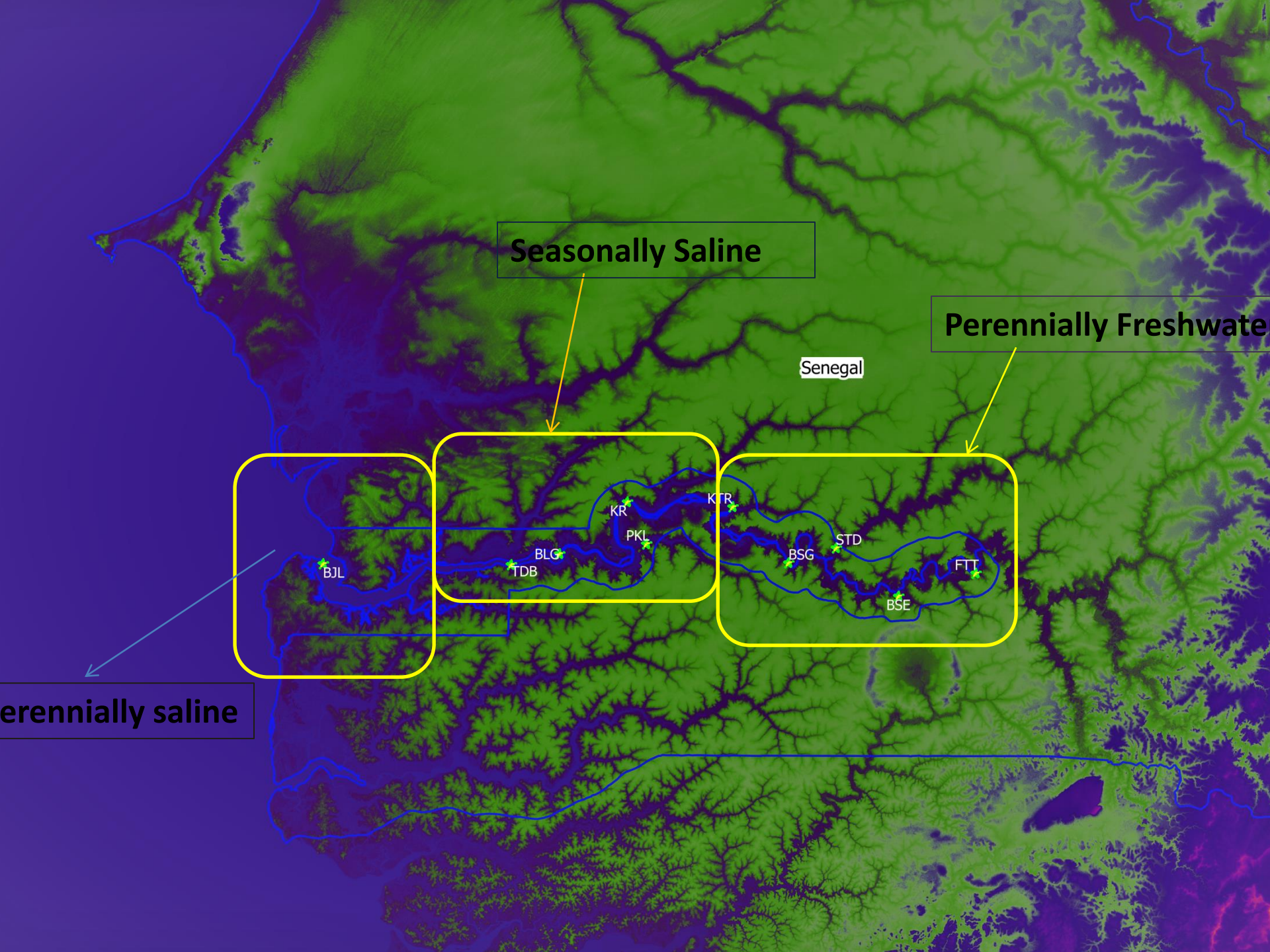
An Example of a river basin



Basin area percentages

Senegal: 77.5%, The Gambia: 13%

Guinea Conakry: 9%, Guinea Bissau: 0.5%



Seasonally Saline

Perennially Freshwater

Senegal

Perennially saline

BJI

TDB

BLG

KR

PKL

KTR

BSG

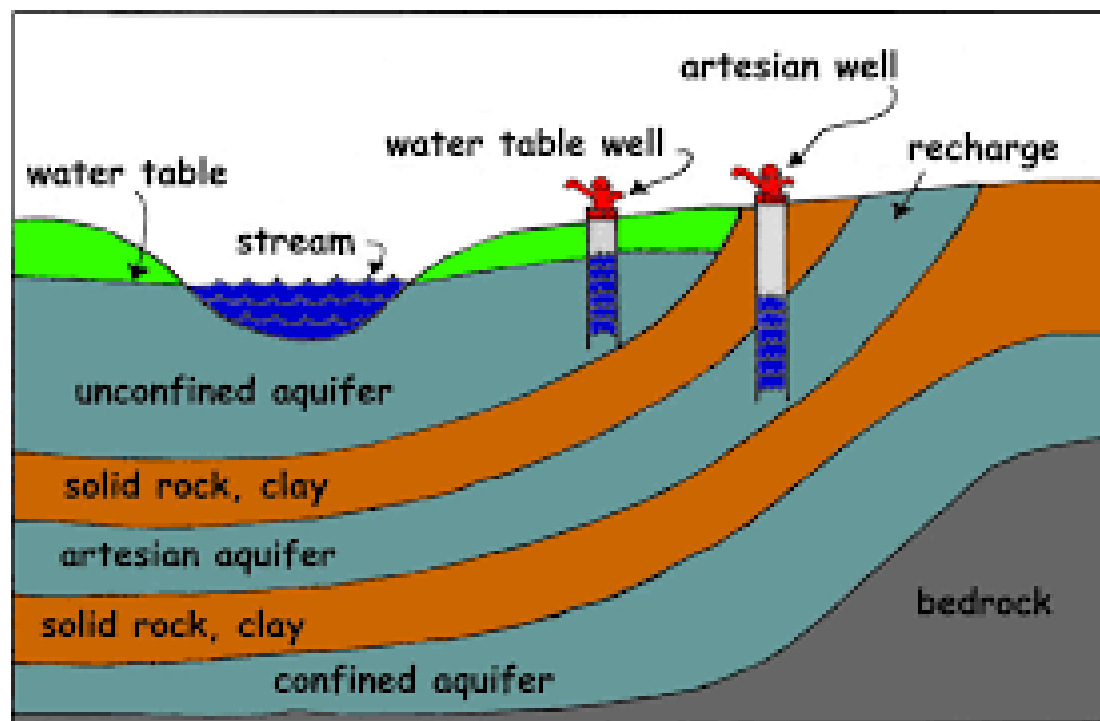
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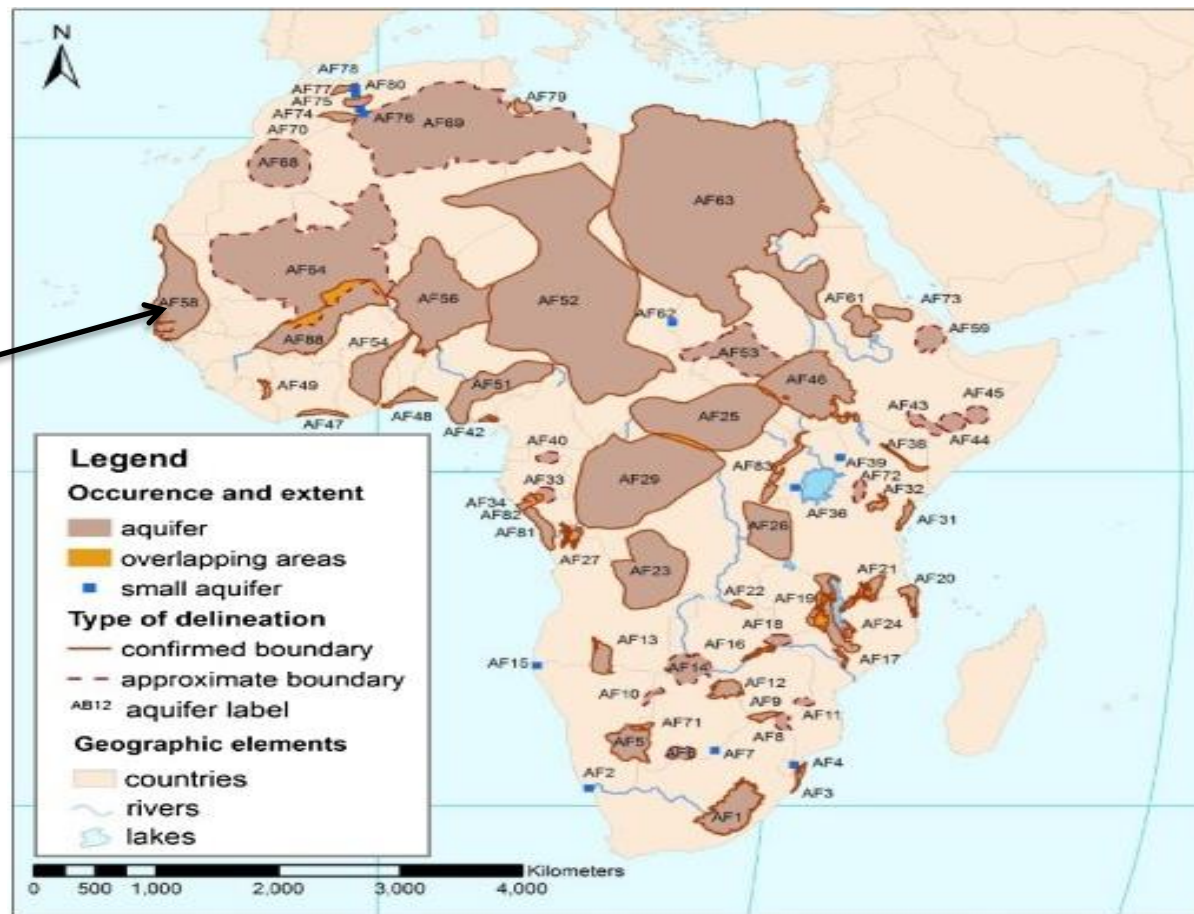
BSE

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Aquifer: Is an underground geological formation that is able to yield appreciable amount of water into a well





Senegalo-Mauritanian Aquifer System /
Bassin Aquifère Sénégal-Mauritanien

gef UN DP OMVS igrac





| Aquifer Type | Sub-divided | Depths | Mode of tapping the source |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|------------|--|
| SHALLOW SAND AQUIFER (SSA) | Phreatic Aquifer | 10 - 30m | hand-dug wells & manually drilled boreholes |
| | Semi Confined Aquifer | 30 - 120m | mechanically drilled boreholes for higher water production |
| DEEP SANDSTONE AQUIFER (DSA) | Mainly Maastrichtian | 250 - 300m | Not currently exploited in The Gambia but Senegal does |

Source: NIRAS 2013, Groundwater monitoring network design studies





Senegalo-Mauritanian Aquifer Basin (SMAB)

Member States

- Gambia
- Guinea Bissau
- Senegal
- Mauritania

Senegal River Basin Organisation (OMVS)

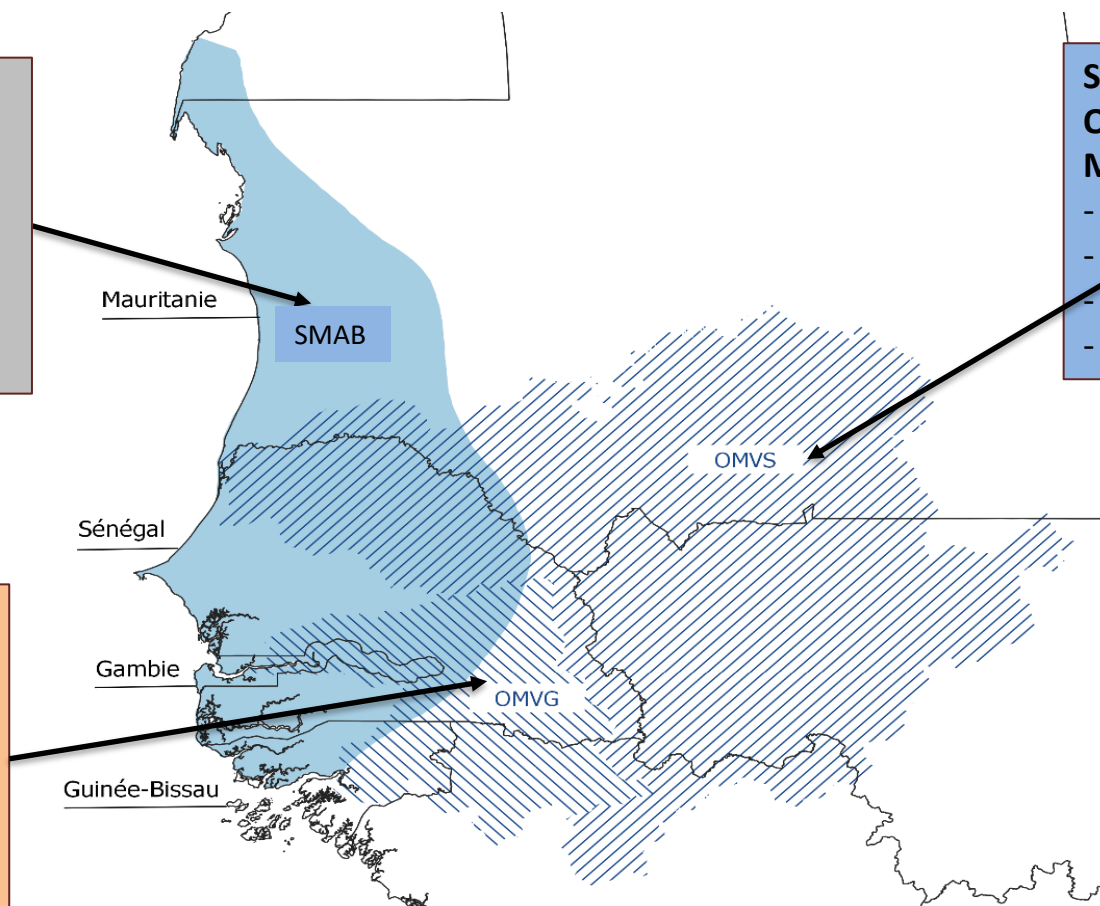
Member States

- Senegal
- Mauritania
- Guinea Conakry
- Mali

River Gambia Basin Organisation (OMVG)

Member States

- Gambia
- Guinea Bissau
- Guinea Conakry
- Senegal





Legal Framework and Involvement with UNECE WATER CONVENTION

1978

- Gambia River Basin Organisation (OMVG) Convention
- **2002** Charter of the Water of the Gambia River

1979

- National Water Resources Council Act (NWRC Act)
- Art 13 Establishes the department of Water Resources

1993

- Draft Water Act (proposed by HSI)

2001

- Draft Water Bill

2004

- Draft Water Bill





Cont.

2006

- National Water Policy

2008

- West Africa Water Resources Policy

2009

- Integrated Water Resources Management Roadmap

2011

- Water Sector Reform Programme
- Implemented in the form of a project [2011 -2015]

2012

- Gambia Country Water Partnership
- Intention to accede to the UN Watercourses Convention





Cont.

2015

- Invitation to the 7th session of the MoP, Budapest, Hungary
- 10th Session of Technical Experts Committee (TEC) of the Permanent Framework for Coordination and Monitoring (PFCM) of IWRM in West Africa

2016

- The Gambia attended the 11th Meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management held in Geneva, Switzerland.

July, 2017

- The Gambia attended the Workshop on recent Progress on Transboundary Water Cooperation and 12th Meeting of the Working Group on IWRM, Geneva, Switzerland

October 2017

- The Gambia was invited to the Global Workshop on the Status and Good Practices on “Water Allocation in a Transboundary Basin”, Geneva, Switzerland.

October 2018

- Invitation to the 8th Session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention, Astana, Kazakhstan





Cont.

May, 2019

- The IWRM Focal Point convened a consultative meeting to facilitate and monitor the accession process
- The meeting proposed an implementation plan

October, 2019

- An official letter of interest was submitted to the Convention Secretariat

Sept - Oct, 2021

- Invitation to the 9th Session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention, Geneva, Switzerland
- Lead by the Hon Minister of Fisheries, Water Resources and NAM

28 Sept 2021

- High level Ministerial session on the Senegalou-Mauritanian Aquifer Basin member states
- **29 Sept, 2021**
- Signing Ceremony of the Ministerial Declaration on the Common Vision and Concerted Management of the Senegalou-Mauritanian Aquifer Basin

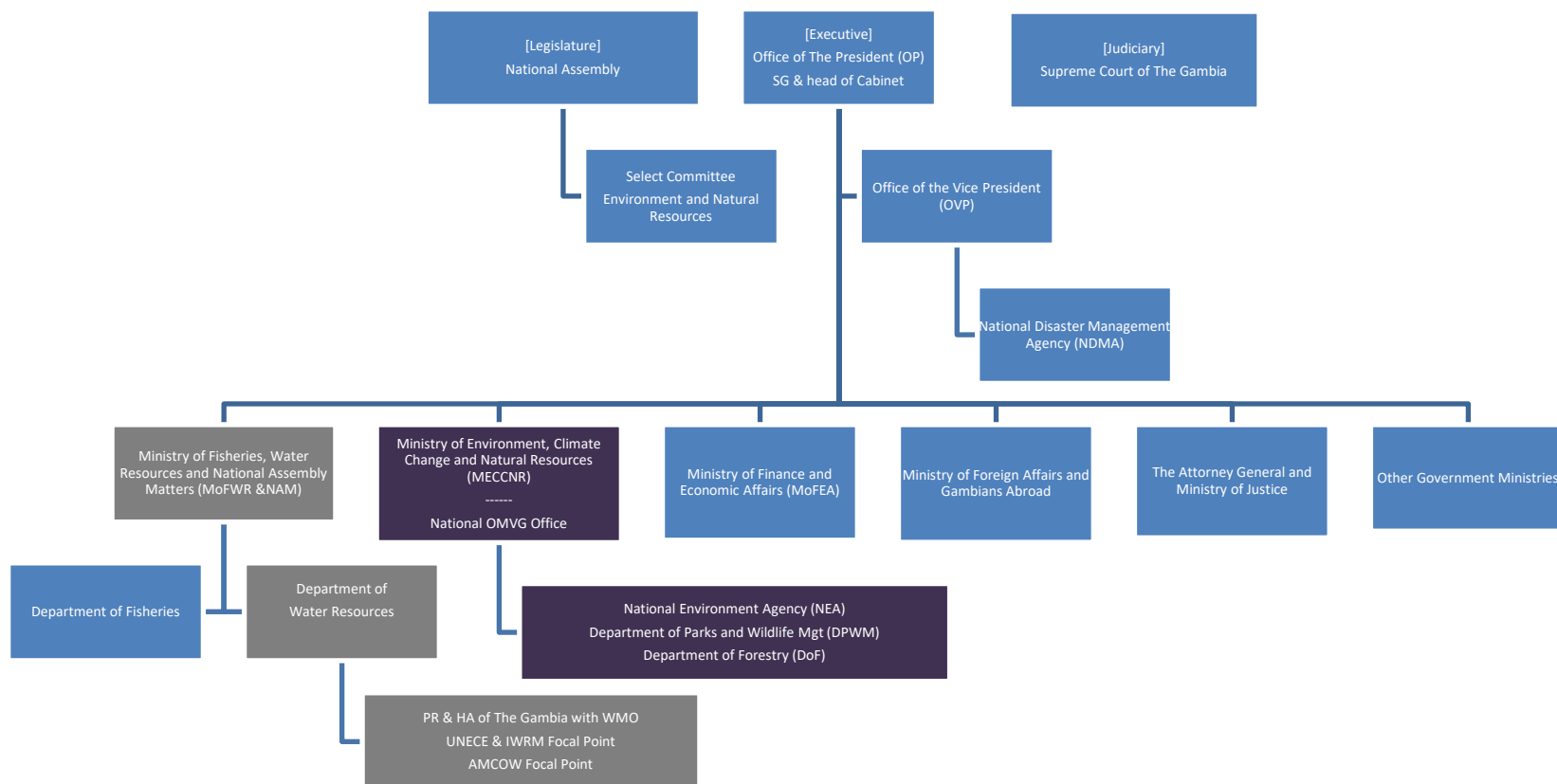
13 Dec, 2021

- National discussion and briefing on the path to the accession to the two UN Water Conventions





Institutional Framework of the Water Resources Management in The Gambia





Challenges in Transboundary Water Resources in The Gambia

- **Corona virus pandemic**
- **Inadequate Legal and Institutional Framework**
- **Low collaboration and partnership among the national stakeholders**
- **Limited financial allocation**
- **Inadequate data and information exchange at Regional and National level**





THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND ATTENTION

