



UNC
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Creating a more water secure world through scientific discovery, technical innovation, and policy leadership.

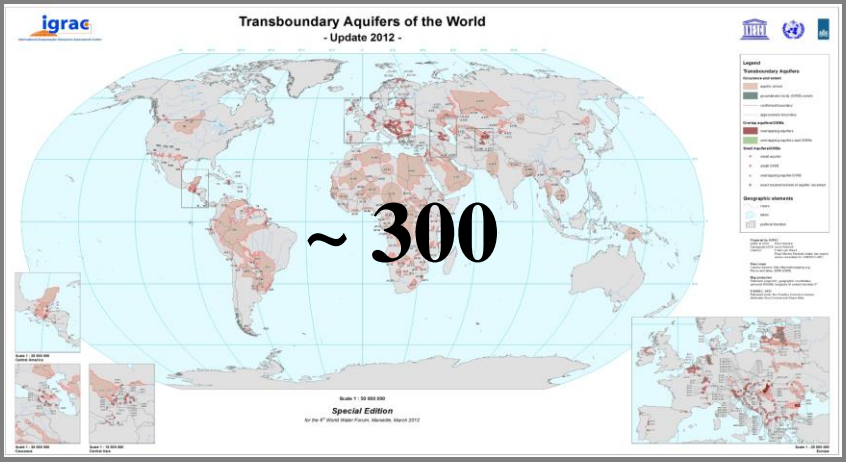
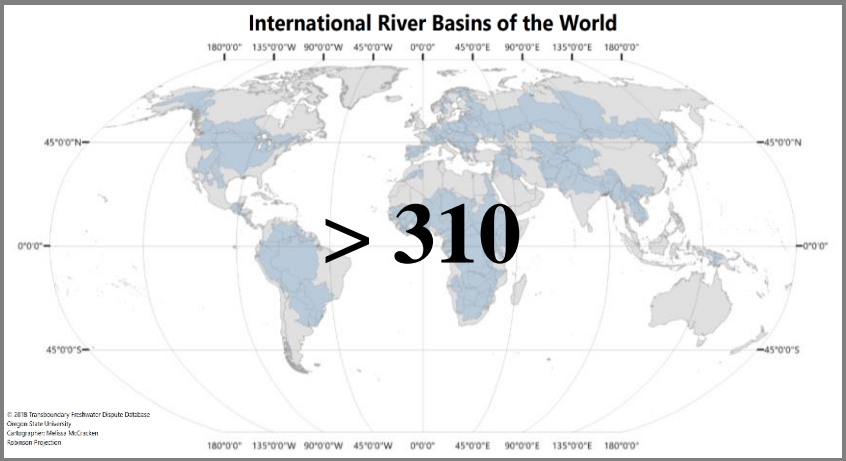
Transboundary Water Diplomacy

- Challenges and Opportunities -

Aaron Salzberg
Director, The Water Institute at UNC



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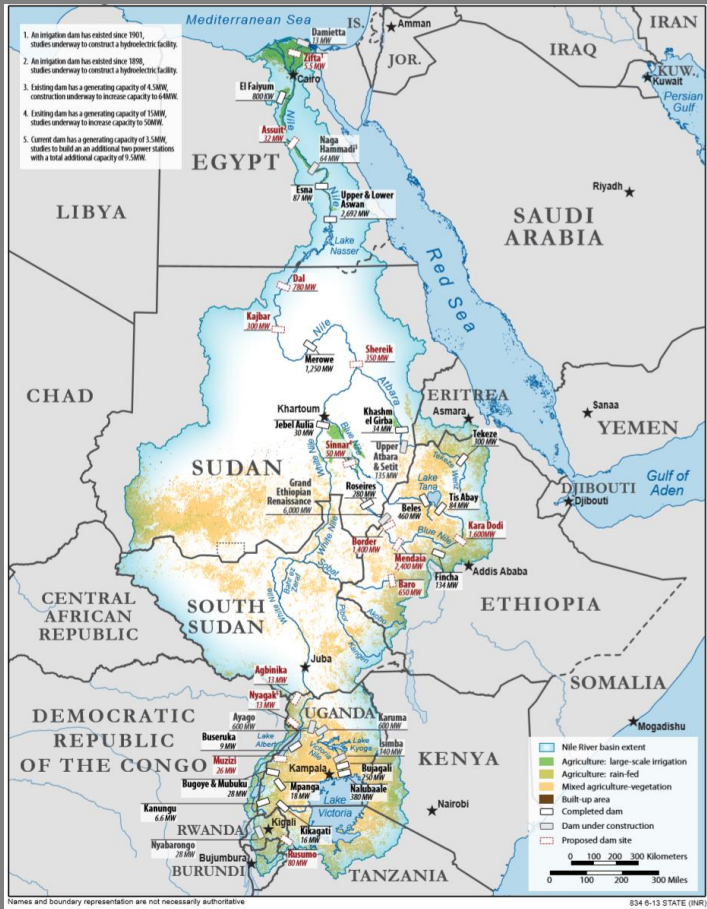


Why Care?

1. Optimize management
2. Tension/conflict
3. Build trust / regional integration



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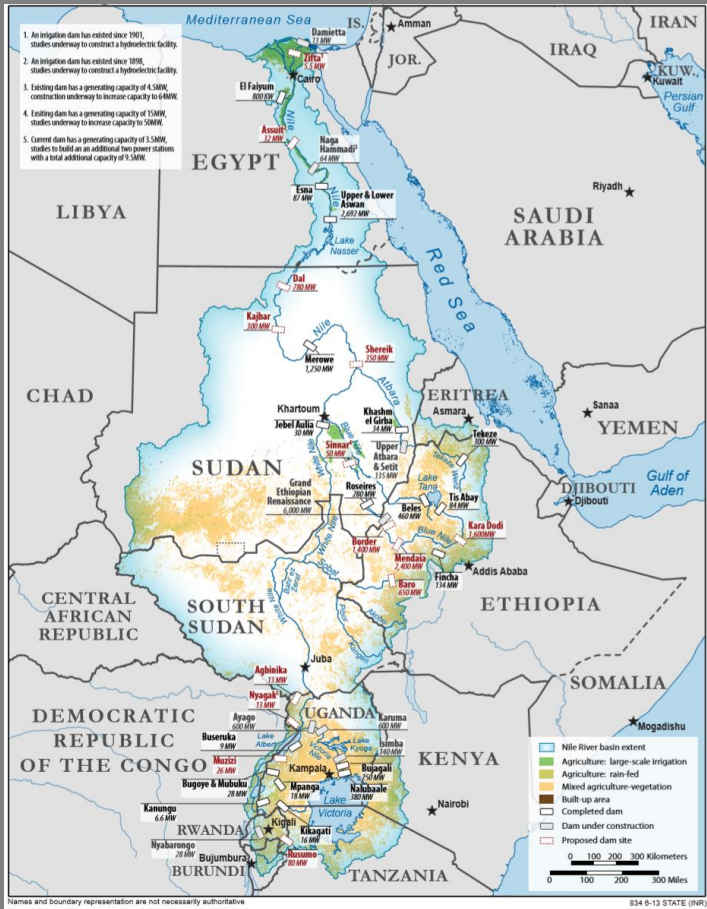


- **Legitimate Competing Interests**
(often tied to “rights,” security, or sovereignty)
- **Significant power/capacity Imbalances**
- **Poor Data → Myths**
- **Lack of Institutions**
- **Changing Dynamics of Finance**
- **Geopolitical Concerns/Animosities**

Characteristics of a TBW Dispute



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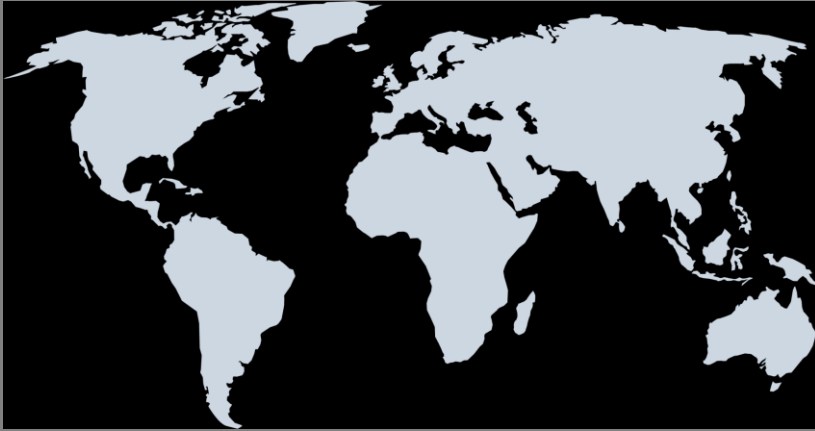


- Diplomatically
- Politically
- Kinetic
- Covert

How Countries Respond



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Amu/Syr Darya
Brahmaputra
Jordan
Indus
Nile
Mekong
Tigris/Euphrates

- **Water stress: high demand – low supply/degrading quality**
- **Unilateral development**
- **Rapid Changes**
- **Weak Institutions**
- **No political will / government commitment**
- **No clear hegemon**
- **Internal Political Instability**
- **Existing animosities**

Harbingers



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CONFLICT

Diplomatic

Development

COOPERATION

The Golden Rules:

1. **The Countries Must Own the Process**
(“no footprints in the sand” – David Grey)
2. **The Process Matters**
3. **Maintain a Cadence of Cooperative Events**

How do You Solve



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CONFLICT

Diplomatic

Development

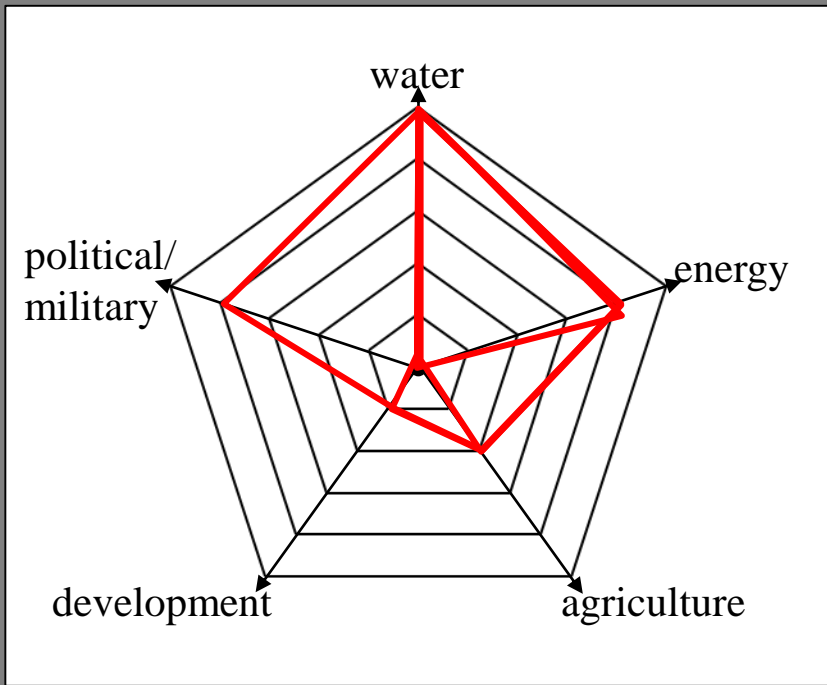
COOPERATION

- **Build Capacity**
- **Build Knowledge (data)**
- **Programs that Demonstrate Collective Benefits**
- **Institutionalize Progress**
- **Build Political Will**
- **Build Institutions**
- **Reach Agreements**

How do You Solve



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**Expand the Solution Space to
Create Incentives**

**\$
Security
Sovereignty
Settling old Grievances**

**A Coalition of Donors
Patience / Resilience**

How do You Solve



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