



**5th World Water Forum: Session 3.1.3 -
*Institutional tools for Transboundary Cooperation***

**Steal for it, Shoot for it, Sign for it:
The stark choices ahead for the world's
shared waters**

Alistair Rieu-Clarke & Flavia Rocha Loures

John Reid warns climate change may spark conflict between nations
 – and says British armed forces must be ready to tackle the violence

WATER WARS

The potential flashpoints

The Independent, 28 Feb 2006

Israel, Jordan and Palestine



Five per cent of the world's population survives on 1 per cent of its water in the Middle East and this contributed to the 1967 Arab-Israeli war. It could fuel further military crises as global warming continues. Israel, the Palestinian Territories and Jordan rely on the river Jordan but Israel controls it and has cut supplies during times of scarcity. Palestinian consumption is severely restricted by Israel



Turkey and Syria



Turkish plans to build dams on the Euphrates river brought the country to the brink of war with Syria in 1998. Damascus accused Ankara of deliberately meddling with their water supply as the country lies downstream of Turkey, who accused Syria of sheltering key Kurdish separatist leaders. Water shortages driven by global warming will pile on the pressure in this volatile region



China and India



The Brahmaputra river has caused tension between India and China and could be a flashpoint for two of the world's biggest armies. In 2000, India accused China of not sharing information on the river's status in the run up to landslides in Tibet which caused floods in north-eastern India and Bangladesh. Chinese proposals to divert the river have concerned Delhi



Angola and Namibia



Tensions have flared between Botswana, Namibia and Angola around the vast Okavango Basin. And droughts have seen Namibia revive plans for a 250-mile water pipeline to supply the capital. Draining the delta would be lethal for locals and tourism. Without the annual flood from the north, the swamps will shrink and water will bleed away into the Kalahari Desert



Ethiopia and Egypt



Population growth in Egypt, Sudan and Ethiopia is threatening conflict along the world's longest river, the Nile. Ethiopia is pressing for a greater share of the Blue Nile's water but that would leave downstream Egypt as a loser. Egypt is worried the White Nile, running through Uganda and Sudan, could be depleted as well before it reaches the parched Sinai desert



Bangladesh and India



Floods in the Ganges caused by melting glaciers in the Himalayas are wreaking havoc in Bangladesh leading to a rise in illegal migration to India. This has prompted India to build an immense border fence in an attempt to block newcomers. Some 6,000 people illegally cross the border to India every day



Graphics: Kristina Ferris, John Bradley

REPORTS,
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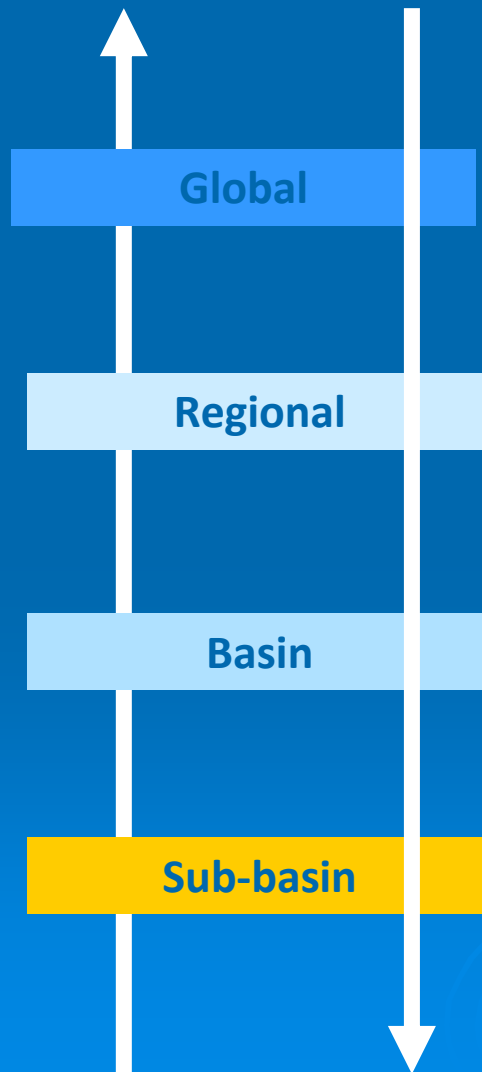


**1997 United Nations
Convention on the Law of the
Non-Navigational Uses of
International Watercourses**



Improving the governance of transboundary water resources, at all levels

Examples



UN Watercourses Convention; CBD;
Ramsar Convention

SADC Protocol, Water Framework
Directive, UNECE Water Convention

Amazon Treaty

Agreements on the Mekong, Congo,
Ganges basins

Conclusions

What can we do here?

Thematic technical reports

SIGN FOR IT!!!





**Thank
you!**

Merci!

**[http://www.panda.org/what_we
_do/policy/
international_water_law/](http://www.panda.org/what_we_do/policy/international_water_law/)**