



UNECE



Session 3B2: Promoting peace by developing and implementing legal frameworks for transboundary water resources

Progress, gaps, and challenges in Africa

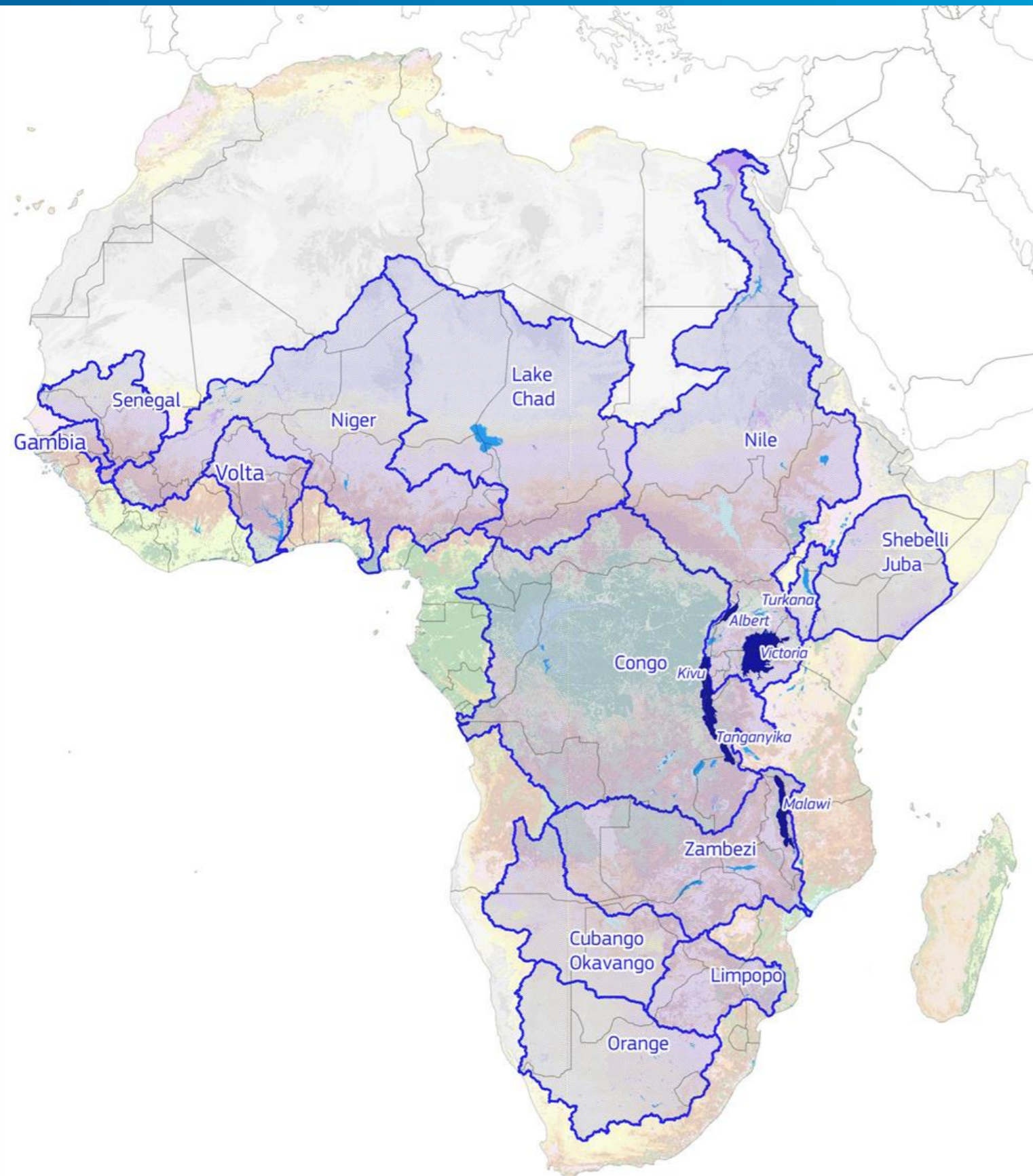
Christophe Brachet

INBO Deputy Secretary General

Dakar 22 March 2022



Transboundary waters: A key asset in Africa



- Africa's transboundary rivers, lakes and aquifers is a vital resource for many sectors: drinking water, biodiversity, energy, agriculture, industry, fishing, waterway transport...
- They cover 60% of the continent and 80% of the population's water needs
- Large infrastructure projects may provide shared benefits but may also significantly affect water availability downstream
- Upstream water conservation is important to protect the entire system

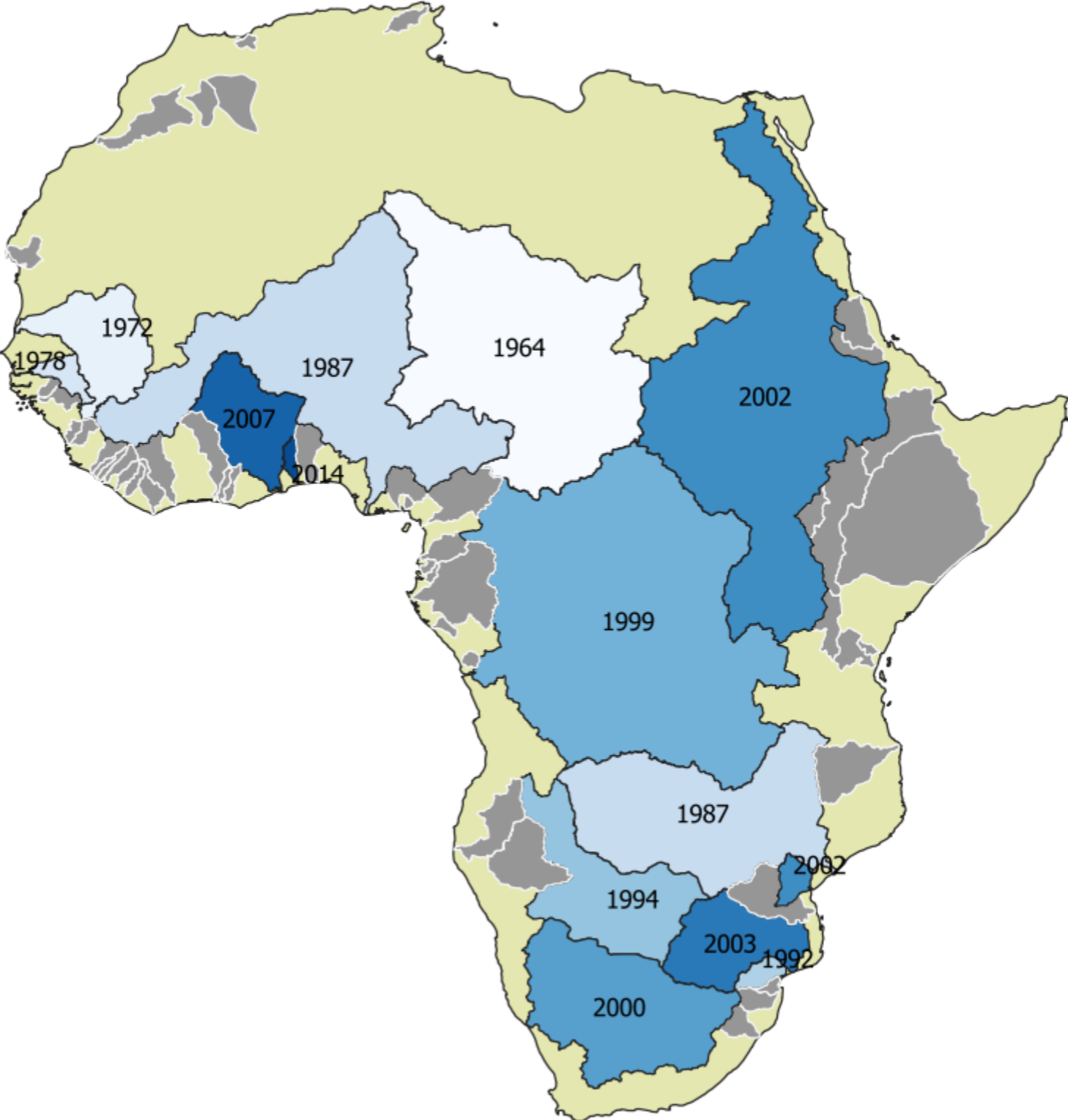
Transboundary waters: A key asset in Africa

- **Coordination between countries:** basin planning, enabling IWRM and water diplomacy
- Transboundary monitoring and **information exchange:** a prerequisite to alert population of riparian countries towards water-related disasters
- **Increased pressure:** climate change, increased water demand, greater insecurity
- Support long-term sustainable development and benefits for all, including economic integration and **fostering peace and security**

Transboundary waters: A key asset in Africa

- Transboundary agreements and arrangements: a framework that prevents unilateral use
- 1992 UNECE Water Convention and 1997 UN Convention can support riparian states in improving transboundary water management and use
- Efficient transboundary organisations (TBOs), institutions and networks: facilitate cooperation, the basis to ensure water security
- TBOs are the product of a long consultation process between riparian states

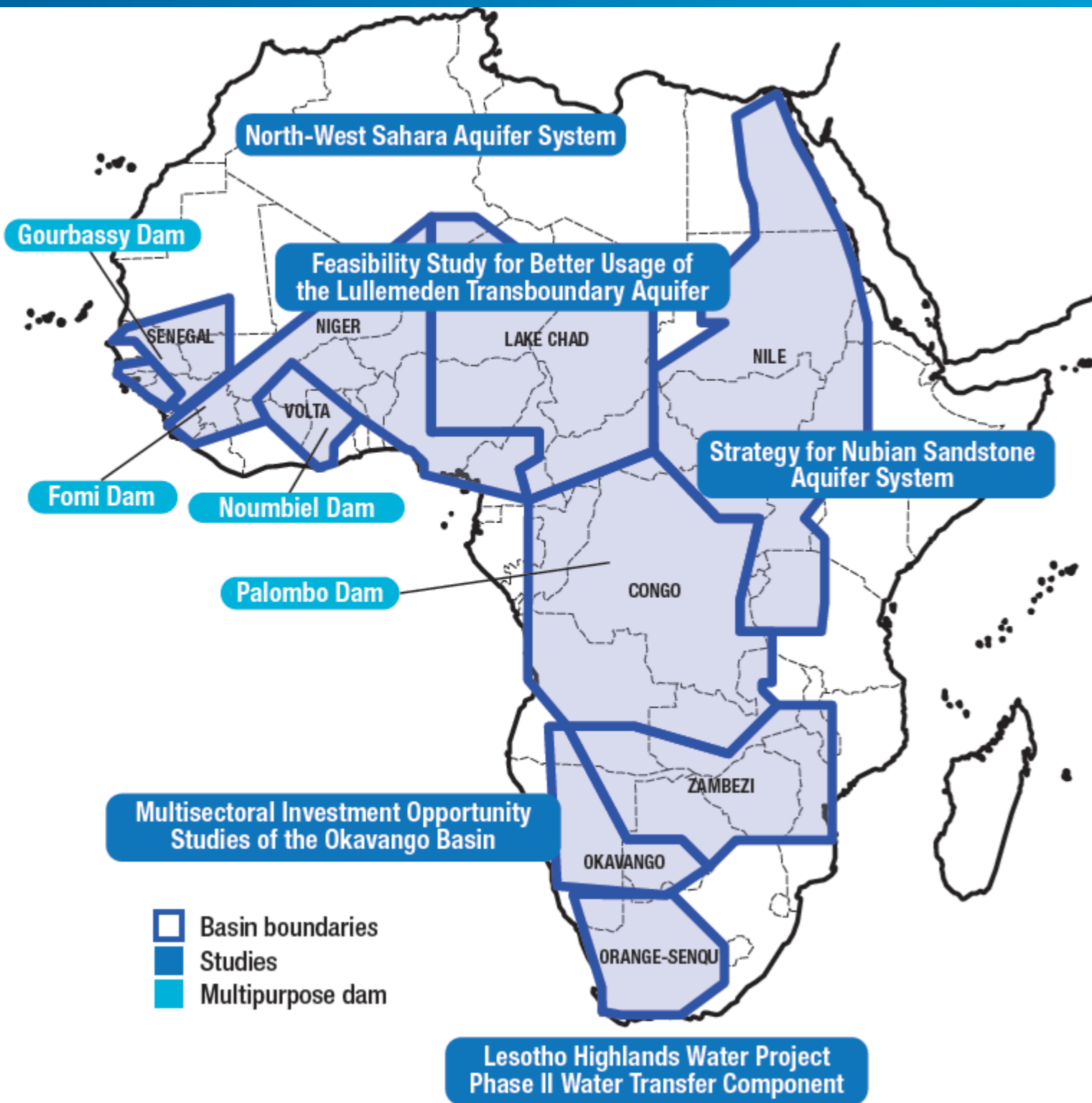
Cooperation Agreement Year



Transboundary waters: A key asset in Africa

- Depending on the context, TBOs can also be mandated to plan, prepare or implement joint design of **investments and large infrastructures**
- Also irrigation areas, flood management infrastructures, protection ecosystems, biodiversity and **nature-based solutions**
- Regional economic communities (RECs) take an important role
- Continental umbrella: African Union Commission, AMCOW, ANBO, PIDA, NEPAD
- International: UNECE, INBO...

PIDA Transboundary waters



The transboundary water programme targets the development of **multipurpose large dams** (hydropower, irrigation, others)

and builds the capacity of Africa's lake and river basin organizations so that they can plan and develop hydraulic infrastructure.