

# Presentation

Presentation from the 2009 World Water Week in Stockholm  
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**WORLD**  
in Stockholm,  
August 16–22, 2009 **WATER**  
**WEEK**



**WWF** *for a living planet*

**DFID** Department for  
International  
Development

# The International Architecture for Transboundary Water Management



**Current Status and Future Options**

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# Project Approach



- **Focus**
  - Transboundary (international) water resources management
  - International Architecture
    - ✦ Institutional arrangements & Legal instruments
  - Regional to Global perspective
    - ✦ national, transboundary, regional, global
- **Part 1: Summary Assessment**
  - Regional reviews (agreements, arrangements & issues)
  - Global institutional and legal literature review
  - Institutional perspectives (interviews)
- **Part 2: Opportunities Evaluation**
  - Future perspectives / Existing Challenges
  - Issues identification / Options evaluation
  - Recommendations

# Institutional Perspectives (Interviews)



*Interviewed telephonically about 30 representatives from:*

- *Development banks*
- *Bilateral cooperating partners*
- *International Water Institutions*
- *International NGOs*
- *UK Government*
- *Regional Institutions*
- *Transboundary RBO*
- *Corporate representatives*

*Supported by detailed comments on documents*

# Institutional Perspectives



- **Generally international architecture is sound**
- **Constraints and challenges**
  - Water scarcity & Climate change/variability
  - Political will & awareness
  - National institutional capacity
  - Disparity in economic, political & military power in basins
  - Sustainable financing
  - Institutional/management focus rather than infrastructure
  - Centrality of the political and developmental context
- **UN Convention**
  - Broadly accept value as codification of international customary law
  - Ambivalence about need for it to be in force

# Pathways To Cooperation



- **Water Management (issues / concerns)**
  - Organic – Partial Agreement – Committee
- **Joint Infrastructure (projects)**
  - Need – Treaty – Authority
- **Basin Cooperation (trust / confidence)**
  - Stress – Agreement – Committee/Commission
- **Regional Benefit (trans-basin / development)**
  - Energy/food? – Agreement? – Committee (non-water?)
- **Regional Integration (stability / development)**
  - Economic integration – Agreements – Committee/Commissions
- **Basin Management (regulation)**
  - Regulation – Agreements – Commissions/Authorities

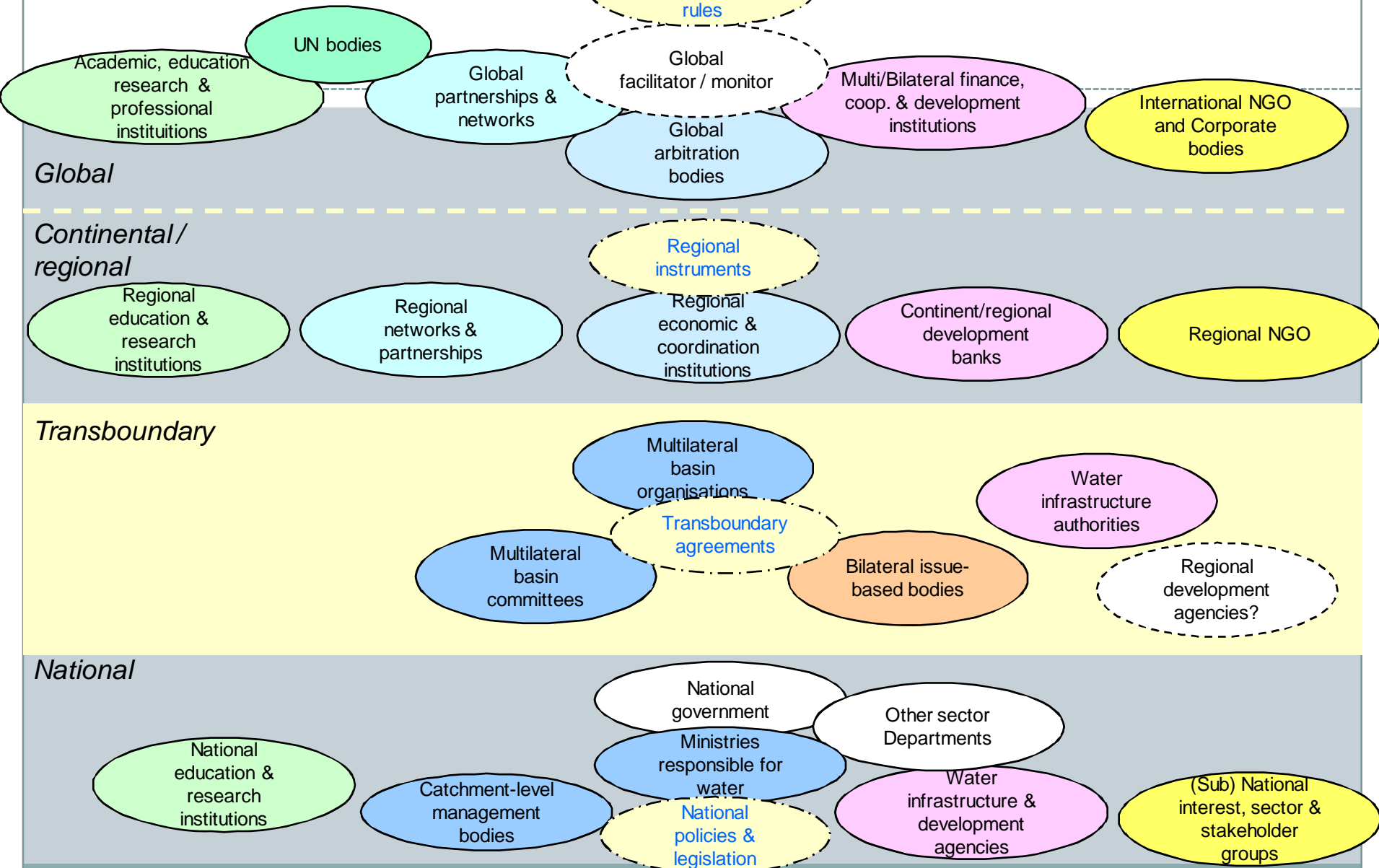
**Facilitator, coordinator & conflict resolution**

**Technical support & awareness**

**Financing & development**

**Training, education & research**

**Interest-based**



**WR management**

**Inter-sectoral cooperation**

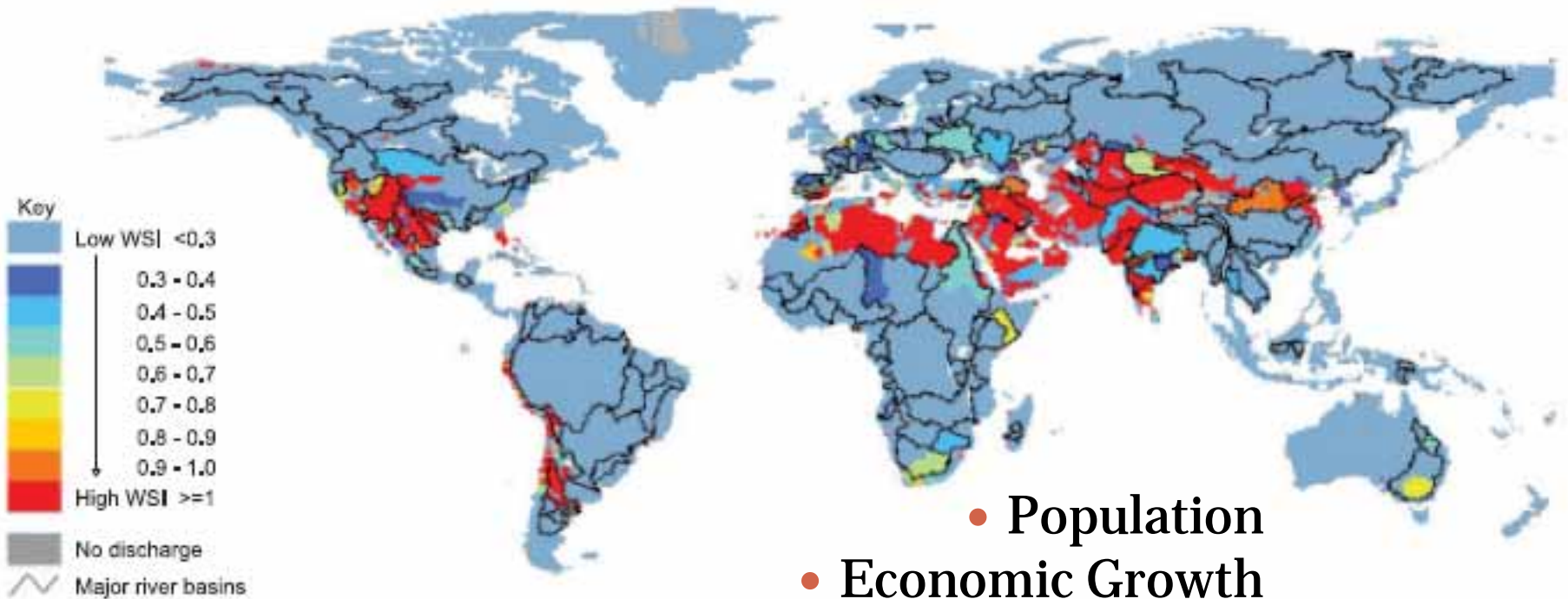
**Infrastructure**

# Key challenges / limitations



- **Nature of the Global Transboundary Discourse**
  - IWRM agenda and the political dimension
  - One-size-fits-all institutions
  - Limited transboundary and national priorities
- **Limitations of the Global Architecture**
  - Uneven regional architecture
  - No clear mandate for facilitation and cooperation
  - Lack of implementation strategy and monitoring mechanisms
- **Engagement by Riparian States**
  - Engagement and participation by hegemons
  - Sovereignty and role of transboundary organisations
  - National capacity to participate/engage

# Global Water Future



- Population
- Economic Growth
- Food security and trade
  - Climate change
- Energy interactions

# Goal / Focus for the International Architecture



- Focus on areas requiring attention
- Perspective 10-15 years from now
- Focus on the stressed and threatened
  - Engage shared risk, as well as benefit
- Recognise political-economic dimension
  - Acknowledge sovereignty
- Don't need the same approach everywhere
  - Encourage flexibility and adaptation
- Want improved:
  - Environmental sustainability (flows, etc)
  - Allocation to serve development
  - Infrastructure development and operation
- Institutional & legal arrangements are the vehicle, not the end
- Only focus on architectural elements that need attention!!

# Framing the Architecture Options



**Architecture characterised by asymmetries:**

- Global - functional
- Regional - geographic
- Transboundary - basin character
- National - capacity

# 1. Reframing the Paradigm



**Given future situation (10 – 20 years)**

- **Basin relevance and priorities**
- **Definition of the basin**
- **Political dimensions**
- **Economic and social linkages**
  
- **Coherence & continuity in support architecture**

## 2. Need for legitimate facilitation



- **Facilitating and coordinating institution**
  - Global mechanism
  - Regional facilitators
  - Multiple champions
- **Global facility**
  - Promotion, coordination and coherence
  - Enables continuity
  - Respond to diversity (coherently)
  - Coherent funding

# 3. Regional opportunities and relevance



- **Regional Institutions**

- Economic / trade integration
- Regional energy and food pools
- Opportunistic strategic regional engagement (convention)
  - ✦ Framed in the context of risk and uncertainty

- **Regional Instruments**

- Have value where they are in place
- Reflect economic and political context

# 4. Appropriate transboundary institutions



- **Tailored agreements**
  - Derive from existing international law
- **Evolutionary institutional pathways**
  - Reflecting local needs and capacities
- **Transboundary management**
  - Integrated planning
  - Monitoring and information
  - Stakeholder engagement
  - Financing arrangements

# 5. Levelling the national playing field



- **Targeted national capacity**
  - being able to manage at home
- **National policy and legal alignment**
  - Harmonisation between riparians
- **Combined forces balancing power**
  - starting somewhere

## 6. Corporate engagement – shared risk



- **Global and regional corporate engagement**
  - WEF, CEO Mandate, etc
- **Global trade and transboundary water**
  - Increasingly about embedded water-climate, energy and food
- **Private sector financing**

# 7. UN Water Convention – instrument or principle?



- **Role of the UN Convention in the Int Architecture**
  - Global functional asymmetry
  - Regional geographic asymmetry
  - Transboundary basin asymmetry
  - National capacity asymmetry
- **Implications of coming into force**
  - provides a clear institutional mandate for a global facilitator
  - strengthens the weaker voices of countries



Thank You