

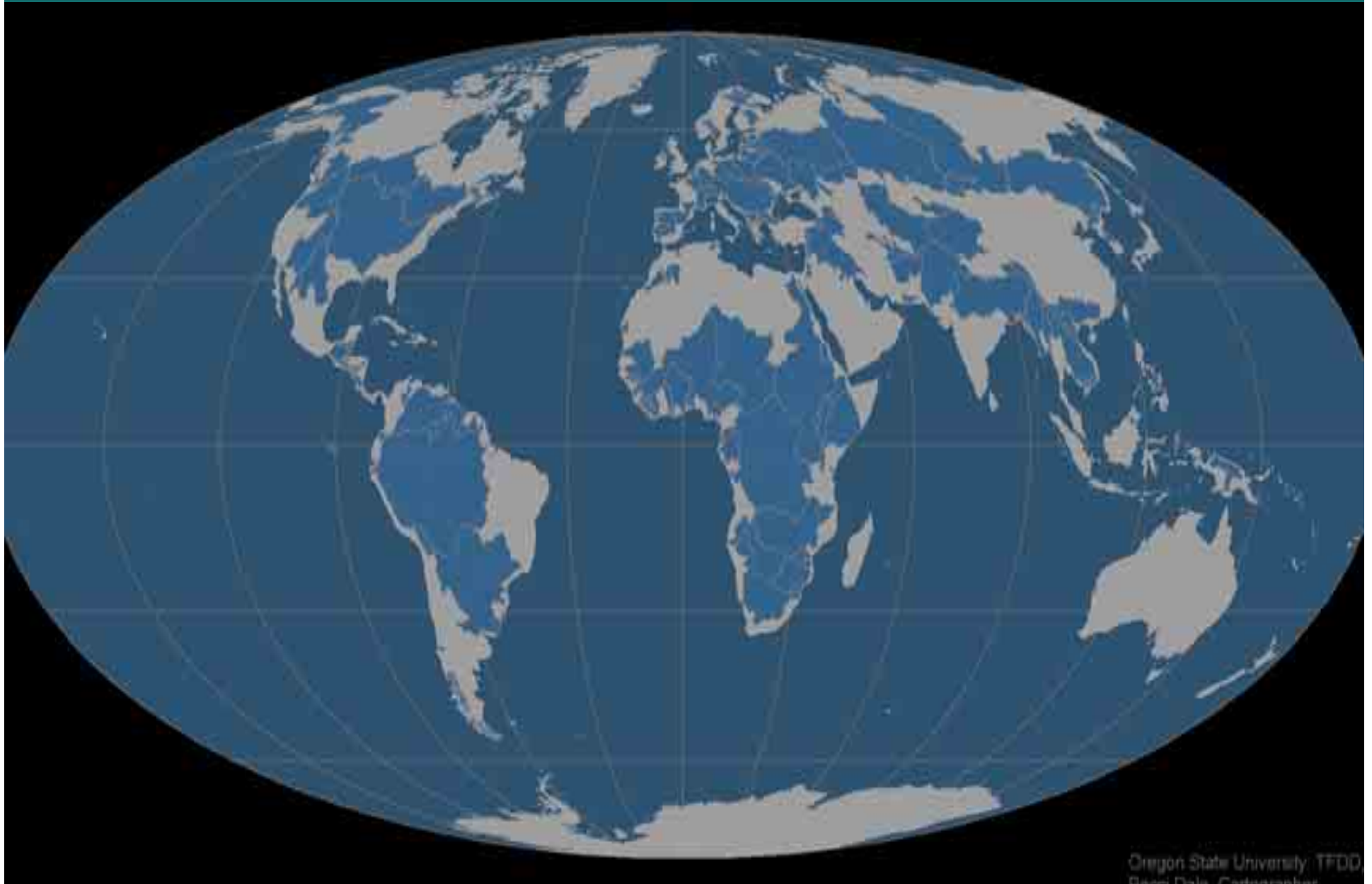
# ***International Collaboration in Shared Riverbasins***

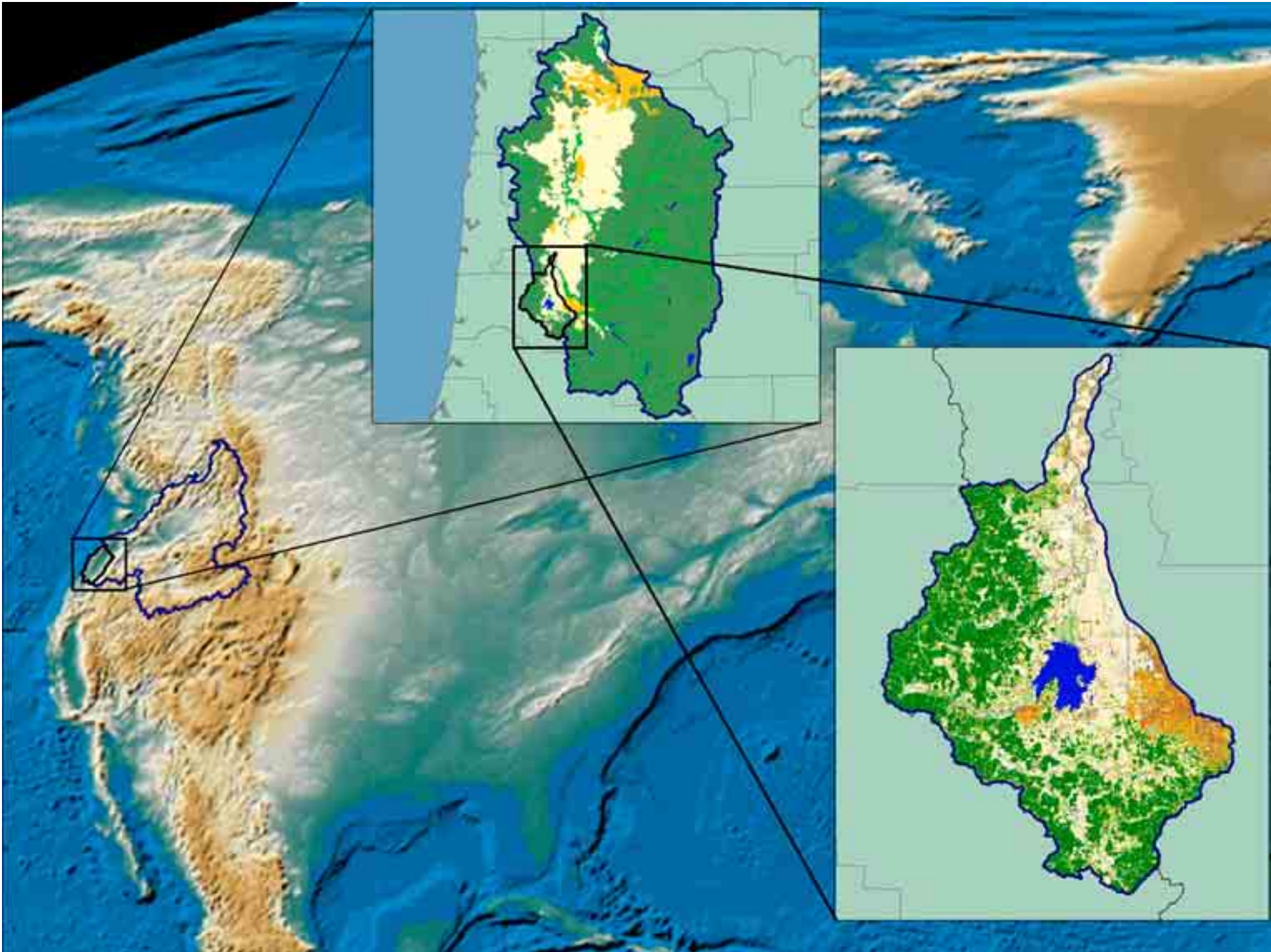
Marloes Bakker

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Transboundary Freshwater Dispute Database  
Oregon State University

3 November 2004, Dakar.

# 263 international basins





A world map with a light blue background, showing the outlines of continents and oceans. The map is centered on the Atlantic Ocean. The title and text are overlaid on the map.

# *Basins at Risk*

## *Conflict and Cooperation Over International Waters*

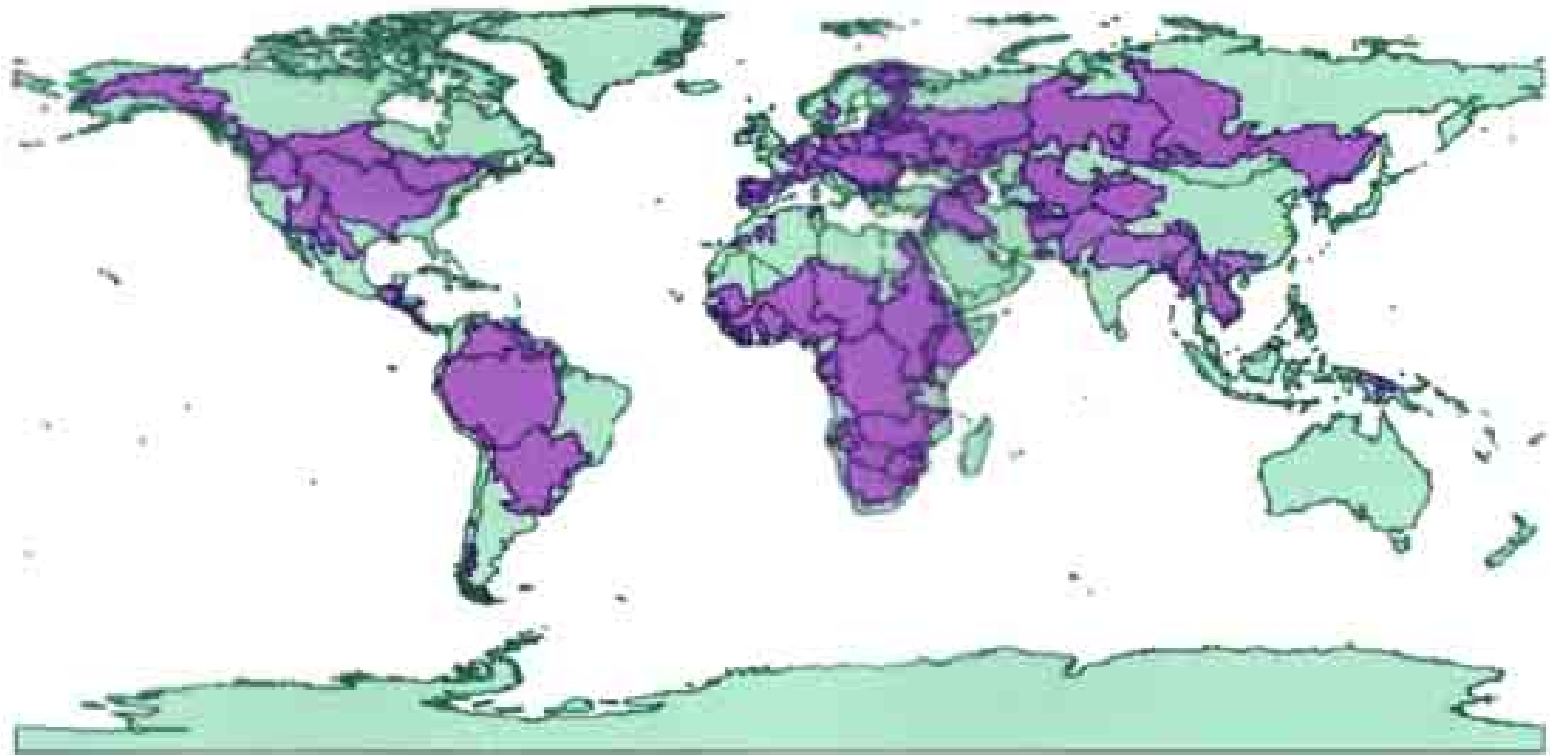
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# Scale of Conflict



# Events Database

DATE	BASIN	COUNTRIES	BAR SCALE	EVENT SUMMARY	ISSUE TYPE
12/5/73	La Plata	Argentina-- Paraguay	4	PRY AND ARG AGREE TO BUILD 1B DAM, HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT	Infrastructure
1/1/76	Ganges	Bangladesh-- India--United Nations	-2	Bangladesh lodges a formal protest against India with the United Nations, which adopts a consensus statement encouraging the parties to meet urgently, at the level of minister, to arrive at a settlement.	Quantity
7/3/78	Amazon	Bolivia--Brazil-- Colombia-- Ecuador-- Guyana--Peru-- Suriname-- Venezuela	6	Treaty for Amazonian Cooperation	Economic Development
4/7/95	Jordan	Israel--Jordan	4	Pipeline from Israel storage at Beit Zera to Abdullah Canal (East Ghor Canal) begins delivering water stipulated in Treaty (20 MCM summer, 10 MCM winter). The 10 mcm replaces the 10 mcm of desalinated water stipulated Annex II, Article 2d until desalinization plant completed	Quantity
6/1/99	Senegal	Mali--Mauritania	-3	13 people died in communal clashes in 6/99 along border between Maur. & Mali; conflict started when herdsmen in Missira-Samoura village in w. Mali, refused to allow Maur. horseman to use watering hole; horseman returned w/ some of his clansmen, attacking village on 6/20/99, causing 2 deaths; in retaliation that followed, 11 more died.	Quantity

# Transboundary Freshwater Dispute Database

[www.transboundarywaters.orst.edu](http://www.transboundarywaters.orst.edu)

- ◆ Reference to 3,600 water-related treaties (805-1997)
- ◆ Over 400 full text treaties and 40 US compacts
- ◆ Detailed negotiating notes (primary or secondary) from case-studies of water conflict resolution
- ◆ Annotated bibliography of “State of the Art” water dispute resolution literature
- ◆ News files on cases of acute water-related disputes
- ◆ Indigenous methods of water dispute resolution

The database links each river basin to its biophysical attributes, socioeconomic conditions, and incidents of cooperation and conflict

## Interactive Search Interface

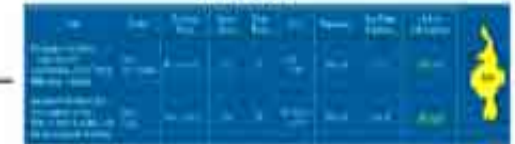


Bibliography

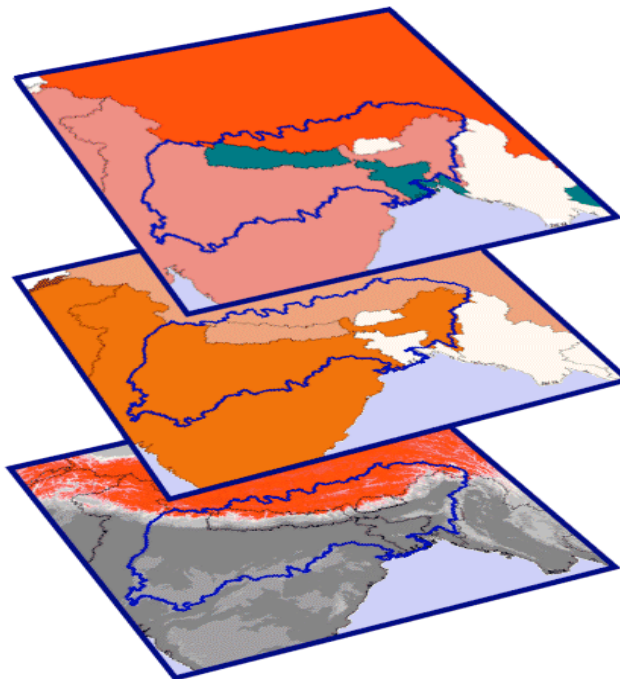
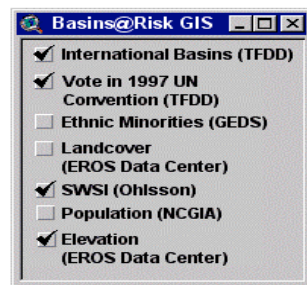


A screenshot of the Bibliography search results window, showing a list of search results with columns for Title, Author, Year, and Location. The results are displayed in a table format.

Treaties

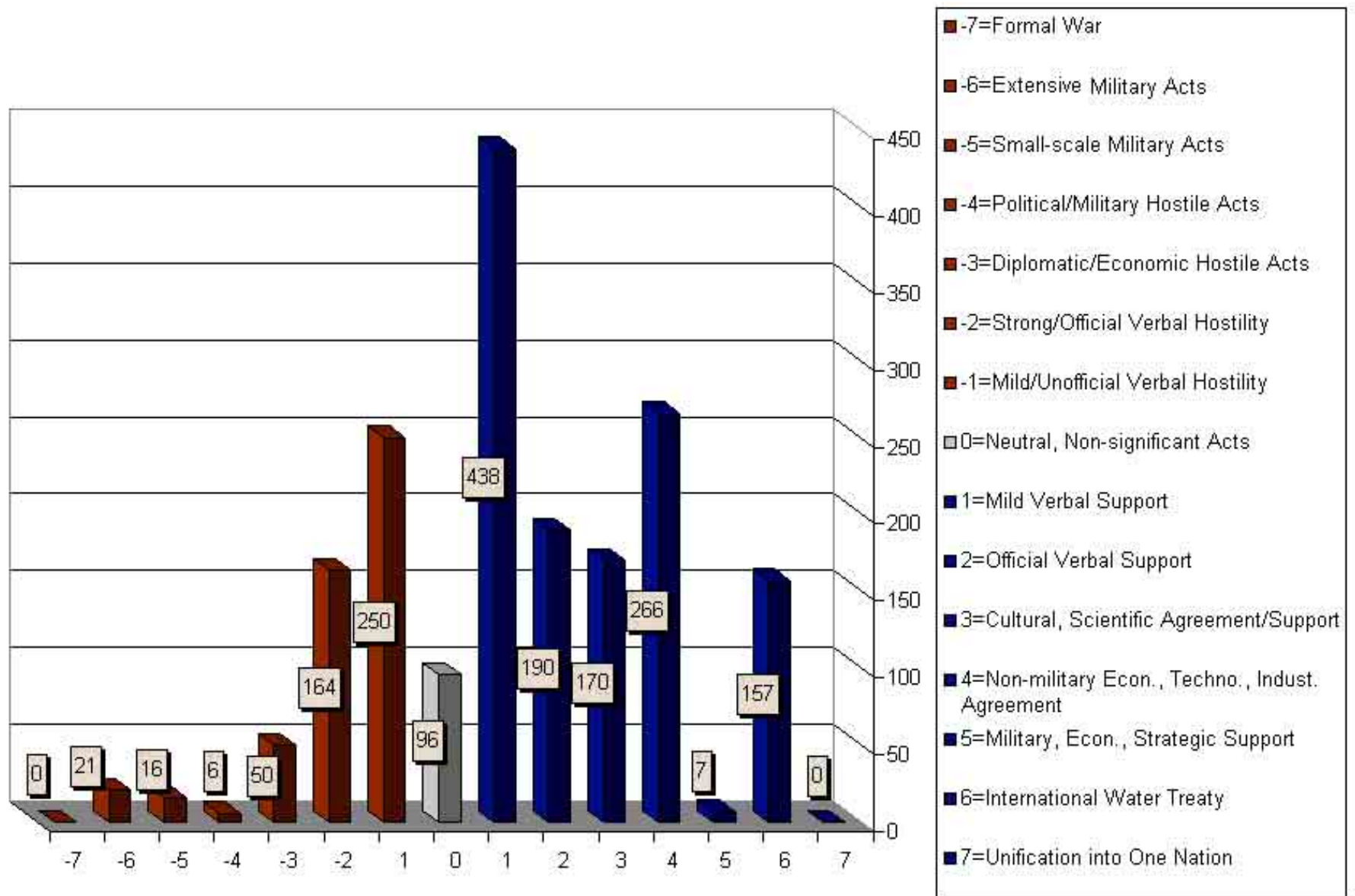


A screenshot of the Treaties search results window, showing a list of search results with columns for Title, Date, and Location. The results are displayed in a table format.





## Number of Events by BAR Scale



# Parameters which seem **not** to be indicators:

- ◆ Climate
- ◆ Water stress
- ◆ Population
- ◆ Level of development
- ◆ Dependence on hydropower
- ◆ Dams or development per se
- ◆ “Creeping” changes:
  - ◆ general degradation of quality
  - ◆ climate change induced hydrologic variability

# What are indicators?

- ◆ Sudden physical changes or lower institutional capacity are more conducive to disputes:
- ◆ Uncoordinated development: a major project in the absence of a treaty or commission
- ◆ “Internationalized basins”
- ◆ General animosity


Transboundary water institutions are resilient over time, even between hostile riparians, even as conflict is waged over other issues.

### *Conclusion*

River basin organizations are key to cooperation!

## UNEP project

### *International Collaboration in Shared Riverbasins*

- ◆ The current study focuses on the number and nature of transboundary waters institutions around the world
  - ◆ Indicators of strong institutions and collaboration: institutional resiliency
  - ◆ Results are starting to come out for Latin America and Africa
- 

# Events of Collaboration South America – visualization?



# Results so far

## South America

- ◆ 59 international basins
- ◆ 42 basins with initiatives (17 without):
  - 107 cooperative events
    - 30 organizations
    - 74 other initiatives

# Summary of Events South America

- ◆ RBO's; differences in
  - phases of existence
    - ◆ Lake Salto Grande; Comision Technica de Mixta de Salto Grande: 1946
    - ◆ Chira; Binational Developmental Plan for the Border Region (*Plan binacional de desarrollo de la región fronteriza*) : 1999
  - goals and level of activity
- ◆ Projects
  - Overall very broad projects
  - Recurring theme: joint management
  - Donors: mostly GEF and OAS



# Events of Collaboration Africa – visualization?



# Results so far

## Africa

- ◆ 61 international basins
- ◆ 15 basins with initiatives (46 without)
  - 83 cooperative events
    - 32 organizations
    - 51 other initiatives

# Summary of Events Africa

- ◆ RBO;s: differences in
  - phases of existence
    - ◆ Niger; Niger Basin Authority (*formerly the Niger River Commission (RNC)*): 1980
    - ◆ Orange; ORASECOM (Orange/Senqu River Commission): 2000
  - goals and level of activity
- ◆ Projects
  - Overall very broad projects
  - Recurring theme: joint management
  - Donors: GEF, Green Cross, IUCN, EU

# Please share your expertise

- ◆ Is everything included?
  - International basins
  - RBO's and other organizations
  - Projects
- ◆ *What makes a good cooperative basin according to you?*

# Contact Information

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