

International agreements: an oasis or mirage for freshwater protected areas?

**The global policy environment: developments and opportunities
for freshwater protected areas**

**Skukuza Symposium on Conserving Freshwater
Ecosystems/Biodiversity**

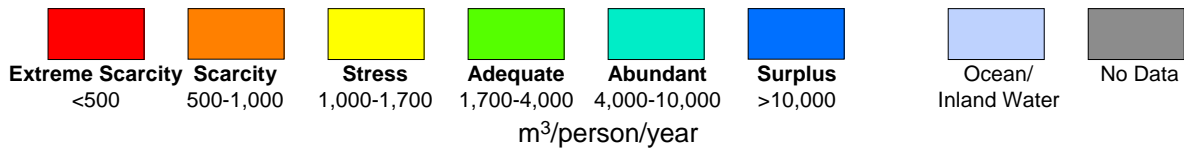
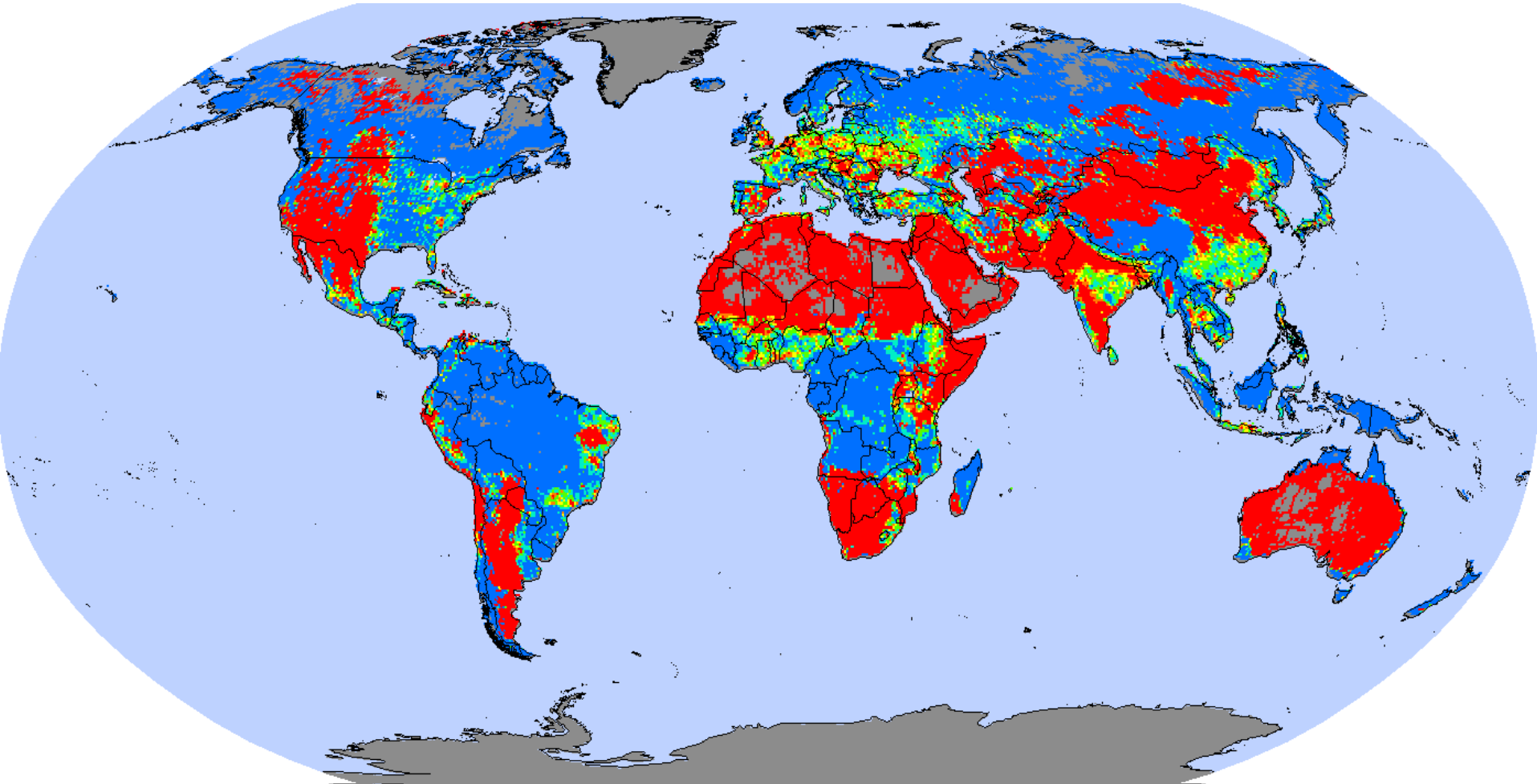
October 2006





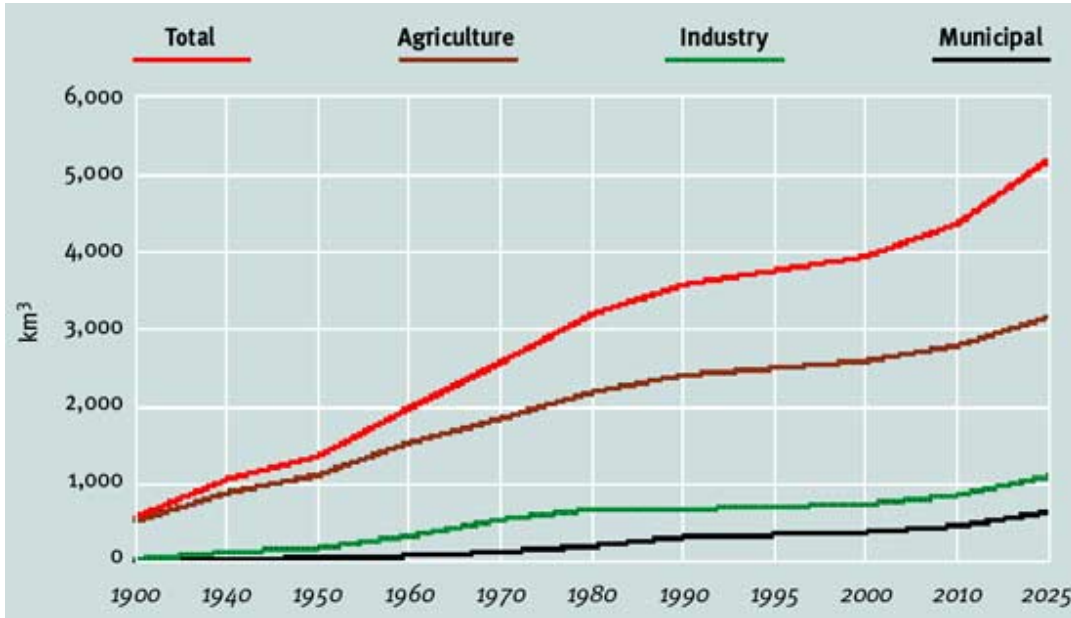
Water Availability 2005

availability: 2003





A water scarcity crisis:



- 54% diverted for human use
- 70% agriculture
- 20% industry
- 10% urban use

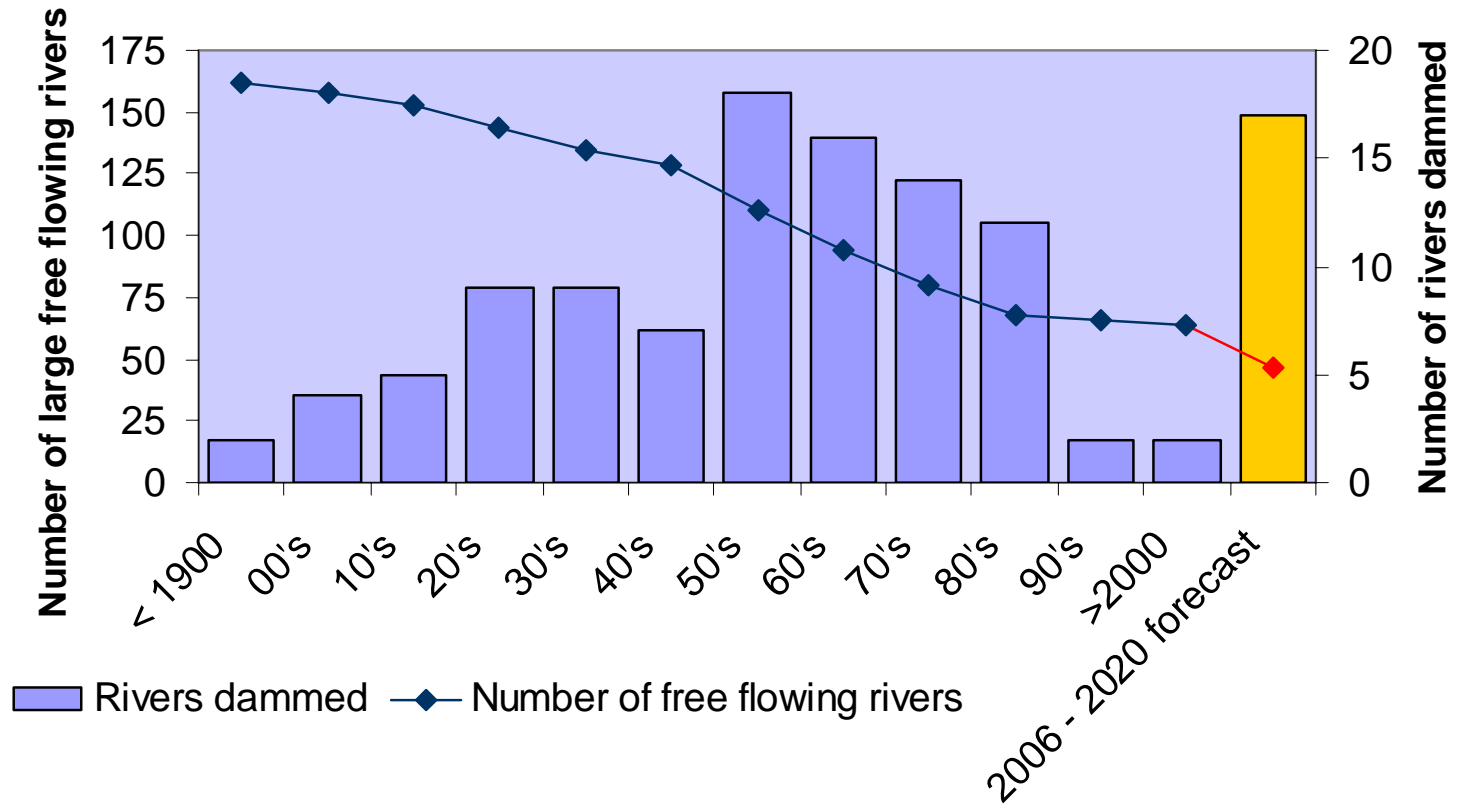
WWF LPR 2002

Eradicating malnutrition by 2025, with current productivity, requires additional diversions “*close to all the water withdrawals at present*” (IMWI & SIWI).





Loss of free flowing rivers





Free flowing from source to sea

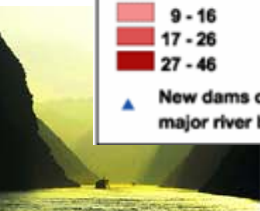
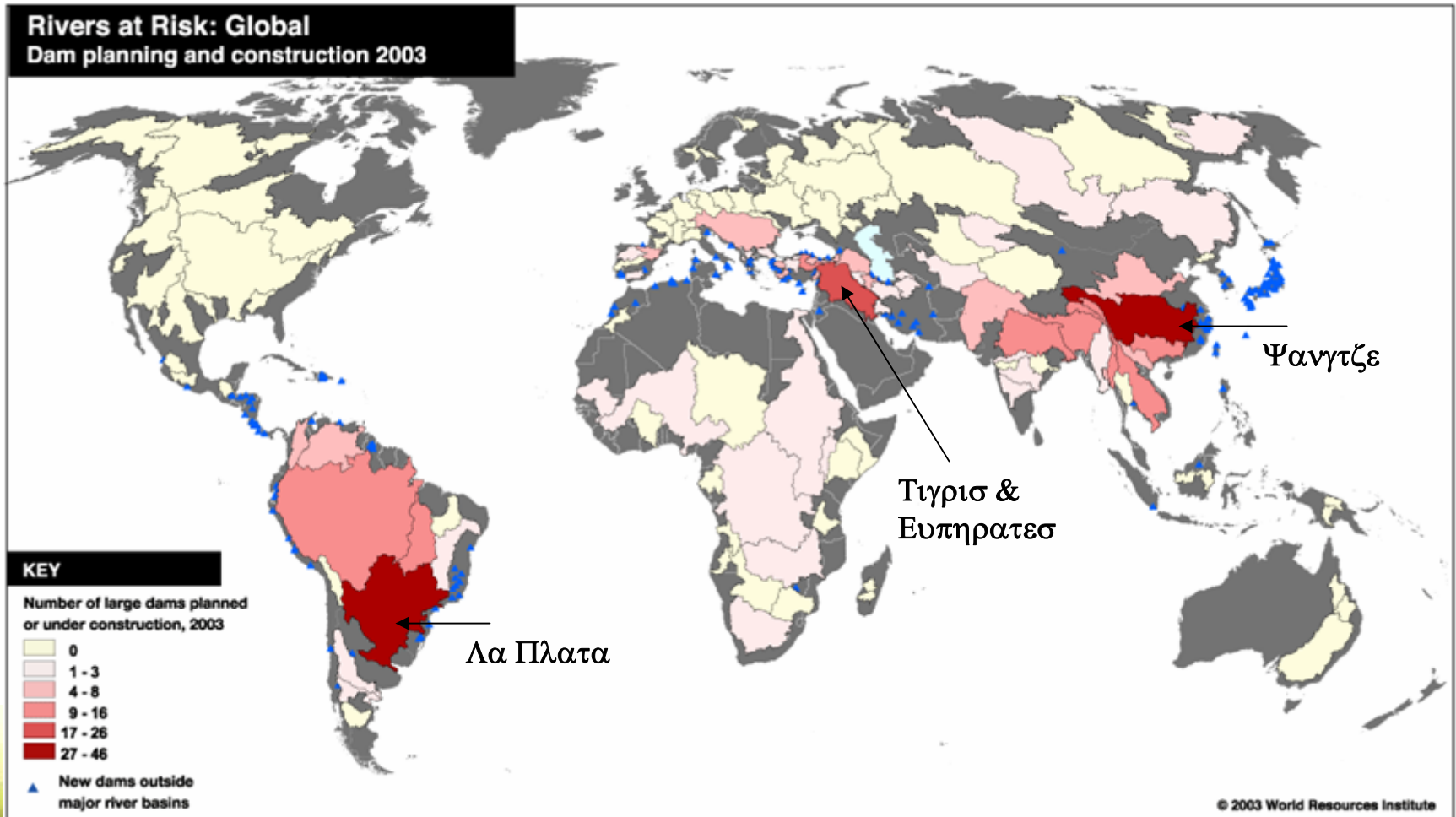
Map 1: Large free-flowing rivers from source to sea



16



Rivers at Risk





Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, March 2005

- “Freshwater ecosystems tend to have the highest proportion of species threatened with extinction.” [pg 19];
- “The use of two ecosystem services - capture fisheries and freshwater - is now well beyond levels that can be sustained even at current demands, much less future ones.” [pg 20];
- “... important gaps in the distribution of protected areas remain, particularly in marine and freshwater systems” [pg 31].





The litmus test for multilateral agreements:

- “Significantly reduce the rate of loss of biodiversity by 2010” (WSSD & CBD)
- Halve the number of people without adequate access to water, sanitation, food and energy by 2015 (UN MDG & WSSD)
- National “Integrated Water Resources Management” Plans (commenced) by 2005 (WSSD).





Kofi Annan's global issues:

- Security: catastrophic terrorism, genocide, disarmament, nuclear, chemical, biological weapons, use of force, peace.
- Rule of law: human rights, responsibility to protect, democracy, debt, trade
- Development: women's and children's issues, **MDGs, environment, sustainable development, poverty**
- Health: HIV/AIDS, **water borne diseases, slums, reproductive rights**





Donor responses

- Developing nations identify their priorities in poverty reduction strategies
- Funding for national budgets
- World Bank “poverty reduction strategy papers” (PRSPs)
- EU – Africa, Caribbean, Pacific Cotonou Agreement “country support papers” (CSPs)

Priorities:

1. Security, trade, infrastructure
2. Poverty programmes, health, energy
3. Water supply & sanitation, climate change
4. Biodiversity conservation





IWRM plans by 2005

- 30 countries,
- 13 had made progress

GWP assessment:

- 95 countries,
- 21% good
- 53% in process
- 26% initial steps





Prioritising water in poverty strategies

- Prioritised in 2 of 16 (13%) PRSPs
- Noted in 8 (50%) PRSPs without priority
- Prioritised in 4 of 26 (15%) CSPs
- 2 of 12 (17%) water short countries included in CSP or PRSP
- 4 of 10 had PRSP progress reports





Priorities?



- Hydropower in 5 of 10 PRSPs
- Agriculture in 7 of 10 PRSPs
- PRSPs are a threat & opportunity for river management!





Aid allocations

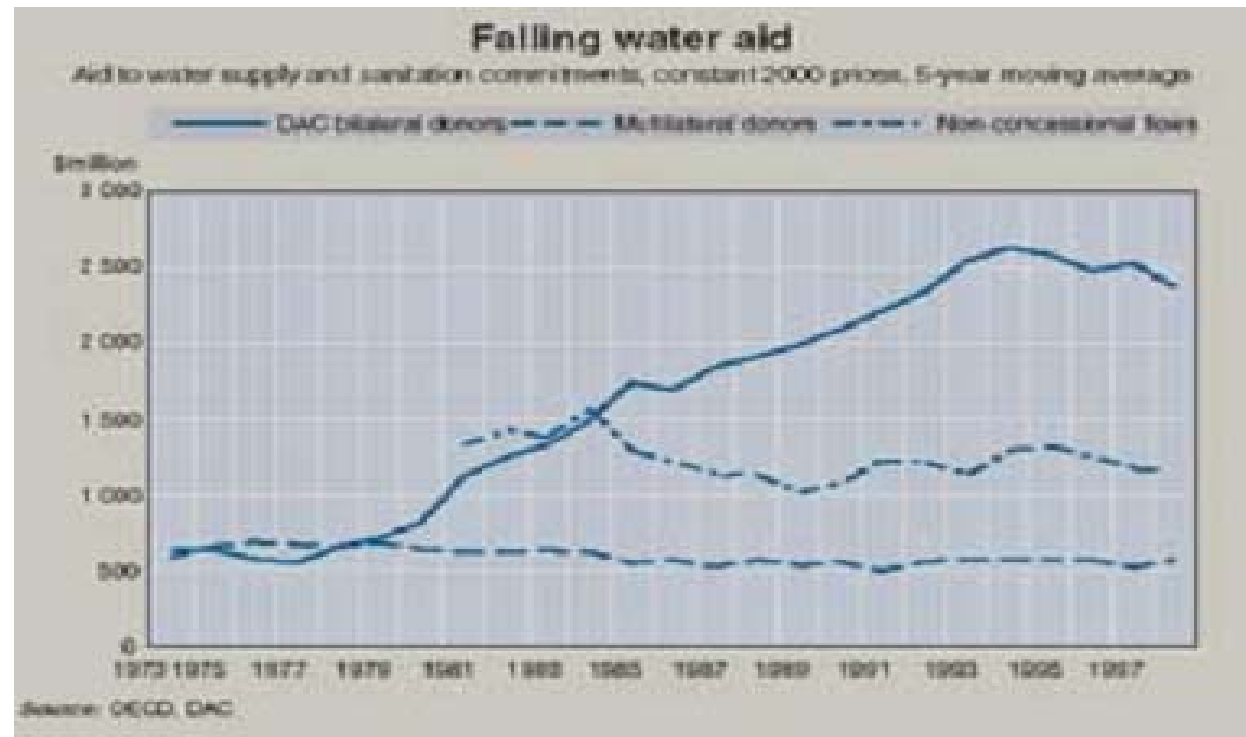
- 7 of 9 PRSPs allocated < 4.2% water
- Others were 11 and 13%
- Focus on poor or economic growth?
- Reasons? Institutional dispersion, weak stakeholders, donor dependence, poor links to economic and other sectors.
- 5 of 21 (21%) donors met UN 0.7%
- Water aid fell in 62% 1998-2002
- Water aid rose in 24%
- 38% of \$2.4 billion went to poorest 30 with 87% who lack access to water





Total water aid

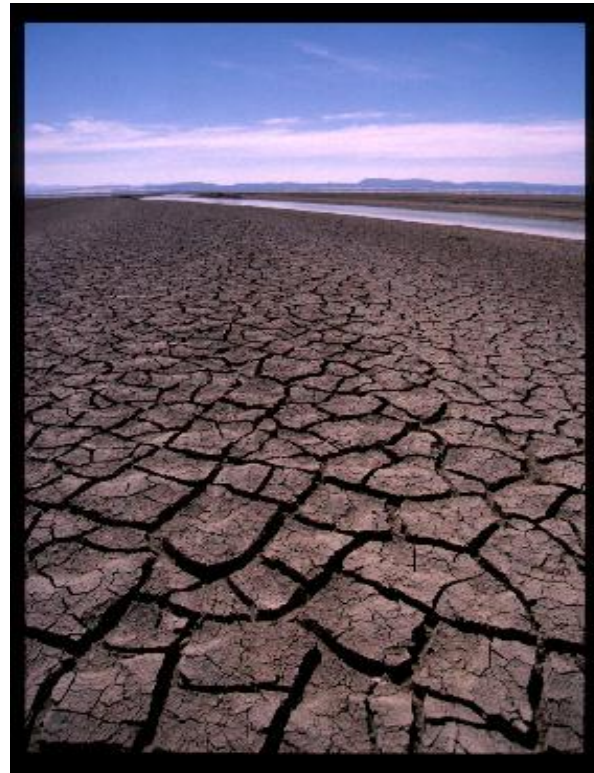
- 25% lower in 01/02 cf 98/99
- US \$2.4 billion in aid
- US \$80 billion spent
- US \$180 billion required





Climate change and water

- Growth in human water consumption exceeds forecast climate-change induced losses
- Renewed incentive for hydropower (eg. CDM!)
- Greater variability in runoff leading to more storage dams
- Greater demand for biofuels from thirsty crops, such as sugar cane





Ramsar Convention on Wetlands

- ‘Three pillars’: a) wise use of all wetlands, b) international cooperation, & c) Ramsar sites
- 153 Contracting Parties to the Convention
- 1616 wetland sites of 145.2 million hectares
- Are these protected areas?
- WWF small grants 1999-2005: CHF 626K = 55 M ha new designations (now 70 M ha)
- Management: 2002 national reports – 40% had plans, 20% had plans in preparation





IUCN protected areas definition

“An area of land and/or sea especially dedicated to the protection and maintenance of biological diversity, and of natural and associated cultural resources, and managed through legal or other effective means.”

IUCN categories of protected areas:

- I. Strict Nature Reserve/Wilderness Area
- II. National Park
- III. Natural Monument
- IV. Habitat/Species Management Area
- V. Protected Landscape/Seascape
- VI. Managed Resource Protected Area





Freshwater protected areas

- Globally 10.3 million Km² of 'inland waters' habitats
- 145 M ha Ramsar sites ~ 14.1% of freshwater habitat
- Ramsar Convention on Wetlands reaffirmed commitment to reach 250 M ha of Ramsar sites by 2010
- Regional & 'BasinWet' initiatives
- Management indicators & measures





Convention on Biological Diversity

- Programme of Work on Protected Areas (2004) : ambitious targets 2010, including 275 M ha inland waters habitats (but no environmental flows)
- Programme of Work on Inland Waters (2005): ambitious commitments to species & basin scale conservation (10%), reduce threats & sustainable use
- CBD track record on implementation limited thus far
- Need to simplify obligations for national governments, eg. 'Mountains to Sea' ~ 100+ pages to 50
- Monitoring implementation & indicators
- Ramsar collaboration





UN Watercourses Conventions

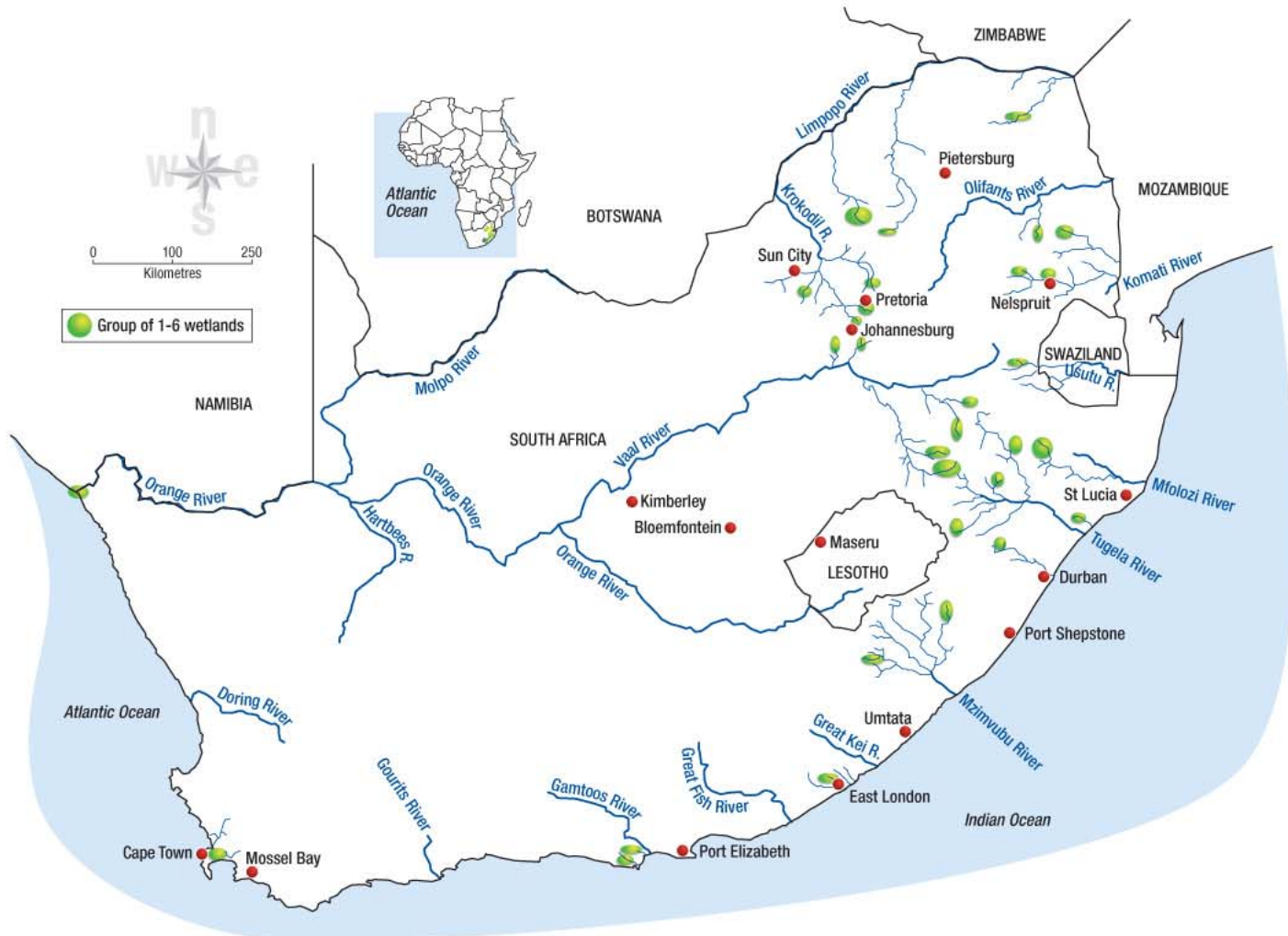
- 1992 UNECE Watercourses Convention, for Europe+
- 1997 UN Watercourses Convention: 263 transboundary river basins = 45% global land area; 40% runoff & 60% of people
- 2006 ILC proposed 'draft articles on the law of transboundary aquifers





WWF *for a living planet*

Working for Wetlands Projects in South Africa



- Rehabilitation of 40 wetlands
- 1417 previously unemployed people of which 54% are women



WWF

for a living planet



Mr. Pilot Malele

Since becoming an employee of the Working for Wetlands Programme, Mr. Pilot Malele of South Africa has built a house and bought a car, and now “feels equipped with the skills to start a business.”



WWF

for a living planet

**Current Beneficiaries in Terms of Employment
in the Three Working for Wetlands Projects**

Project Name	Employment Data Number of workplace opportunities	Number of Youth Employed (18 to 25 yrs)	Number of Women Employed	Number of People with Disabilities Employed
Ntsikeni	68	7 (10%)	37 (54%)	0 (0%)
Save the Sand (Bushbuckridge)	41	10 (24%)	24 (59%)	16 (39%)
Soshanguve/Dinokeng	125	16 (13%)	70 (56%)	2 (2%)
Total for all Working for Wetlands Projects in South Africa	1417	262 (18%)	760 (54%)	53 (4%)



Summary of freshwater protected areas potential:

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- **Water of increasing importance – add to other agendas**
- **Good government promises (CBD, Ramsar)**
- **Small grants work – large new protected areas**
- **Regional / basin initiatives**
- **Improved livelihoods work**

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- **Biodiversity low priority**
- **Water rhetoric not matched by action**
- **Water focus on supply and sanitation**
- **Representativeness & environmental flows lacking**
- **Management lagging**
- **Climate change threats**

