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The Role of [International] Law in the Management of Transboundary Aquifers

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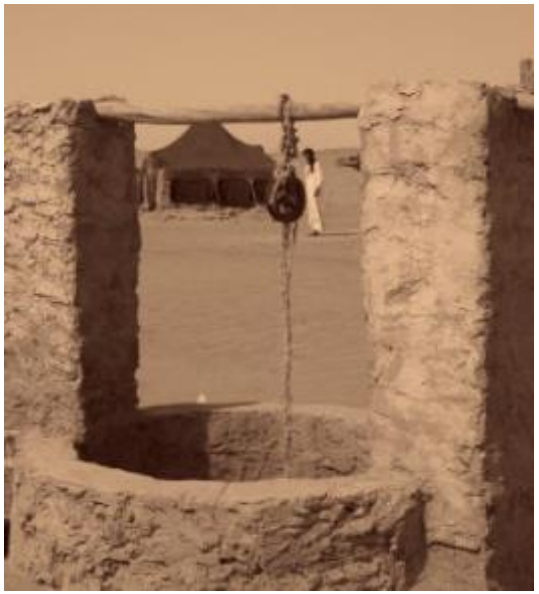
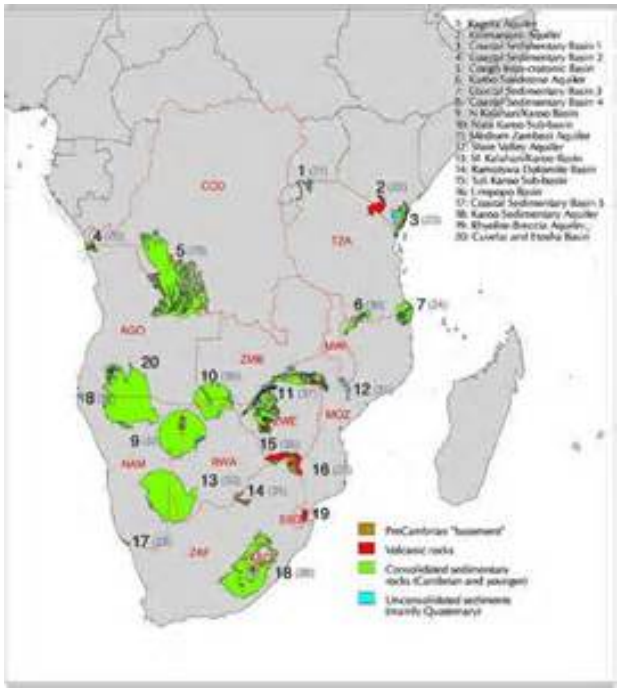
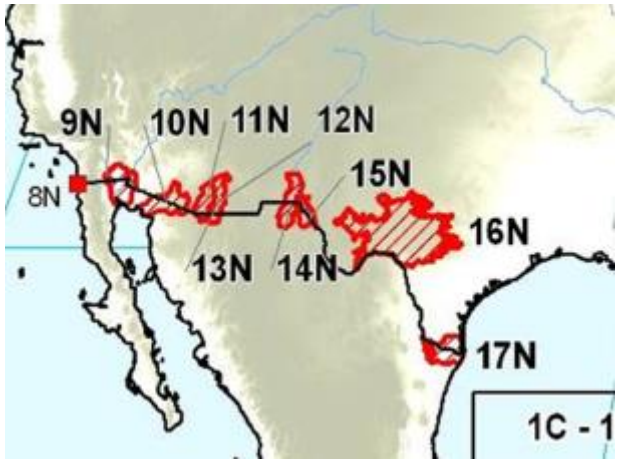
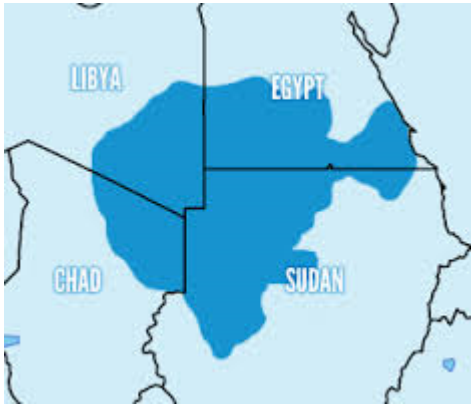


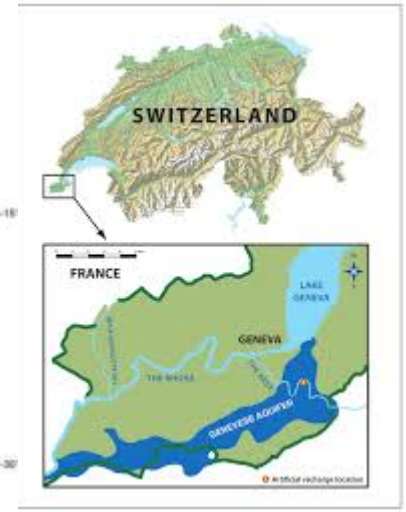
Numbers: more than 400 Transboundary Aquifers





Numbers: only 4 have some sort of ad-hoc legal arrangement





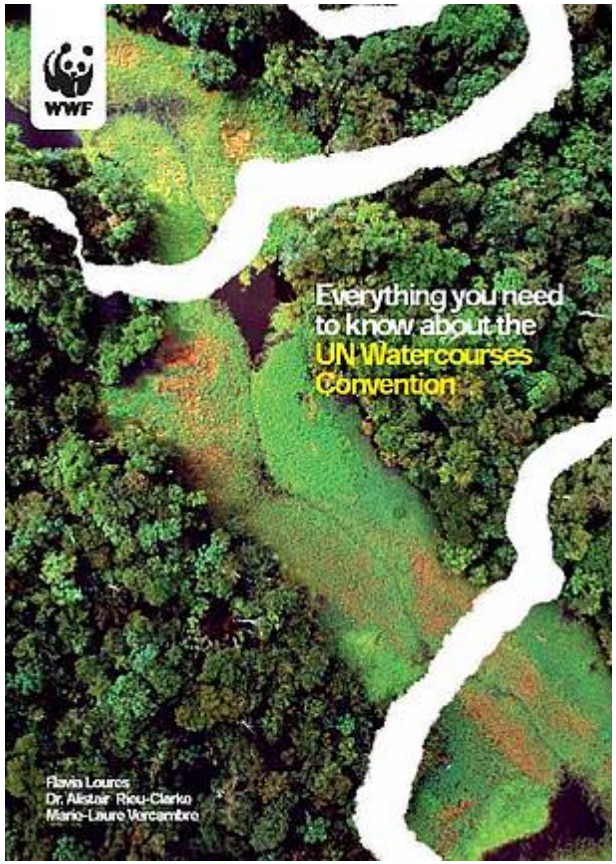
International Law acronyms

- **UN**WC (United Nations Watercourses Convention)
- **UN**ILC (United Nations International Law Commission)
- **UN**ECE (United Nations Economic Commission for Europe)

International Law acronyms

- **UN**WC (United Nations Watercourses Convention / New York Convention)

- Signed in 1997
- Mainly transboundary surface water
- 31/35 ratifications



International Law acronyms

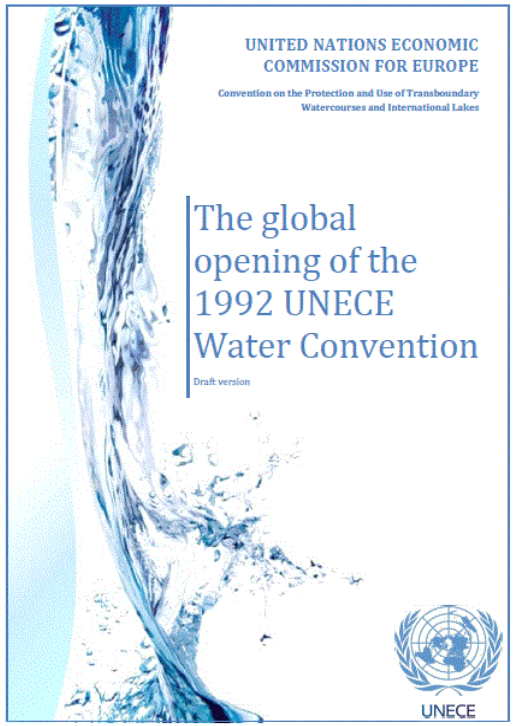
- **UN**ILC (United Nations International Law Commission) Draft Articles on the Law of Transboundary Aquifers

- Cover all transboundary aquifers
- General Assembly Resolutions 63/124 and 66/104
- "to examine, *inter alia*, the question of the final form that might be given to the draft articles"
- Guidelines

International Law acronyms

- **UN**ECE (United Nations Economic Commission for Europe) [Helsinki] Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Helsinki Water Convention)

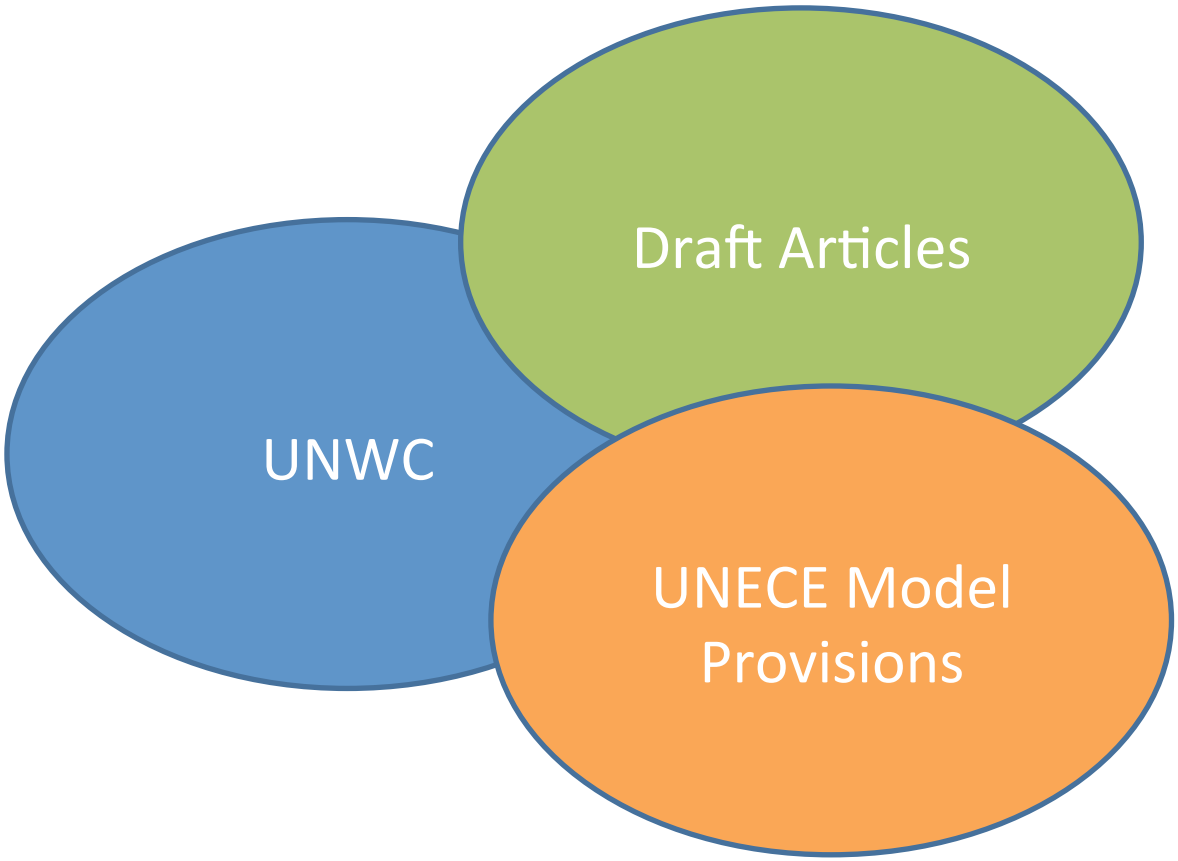
- Model Provisions on Transboundary Groundwaters
- Opening up of the Helsinki Convention to all UN Members



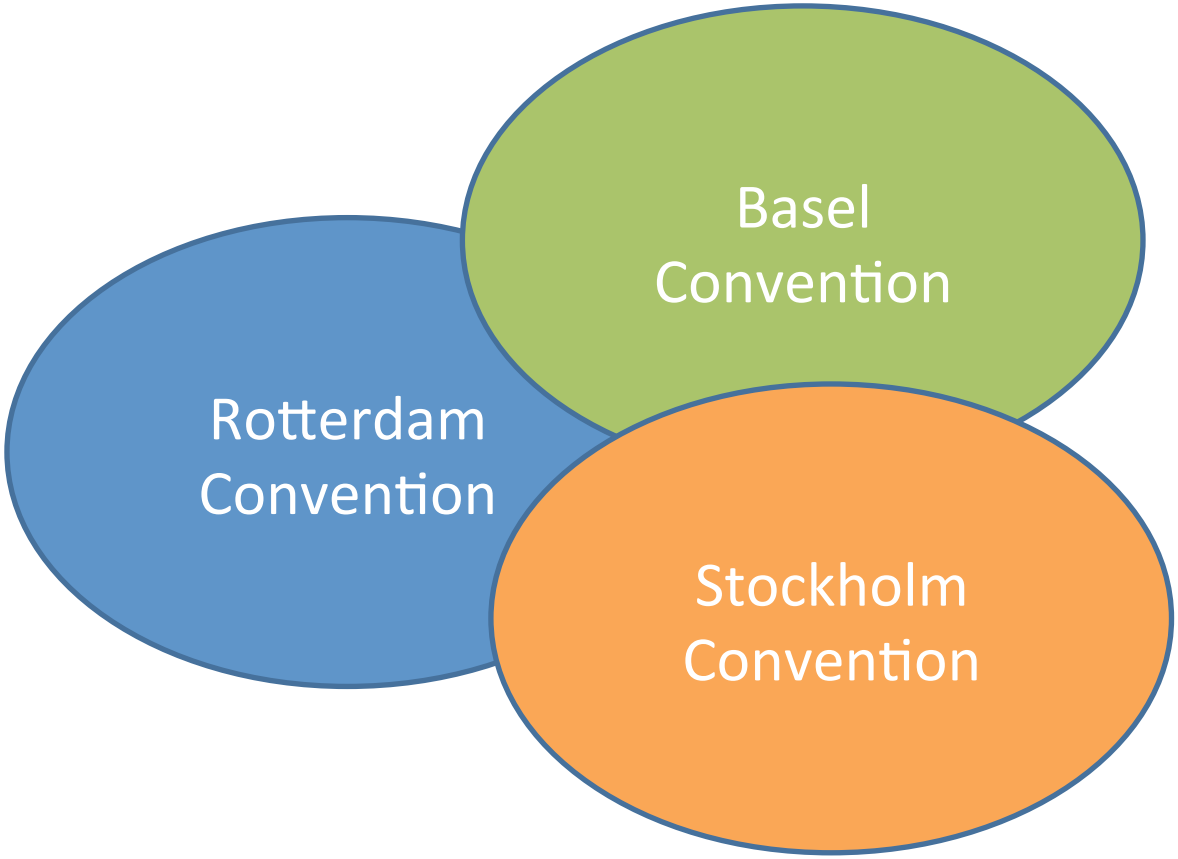
International Law

- Framework, principles and guidelines
- Adapted at the characteristics of specific transboundary aquifers

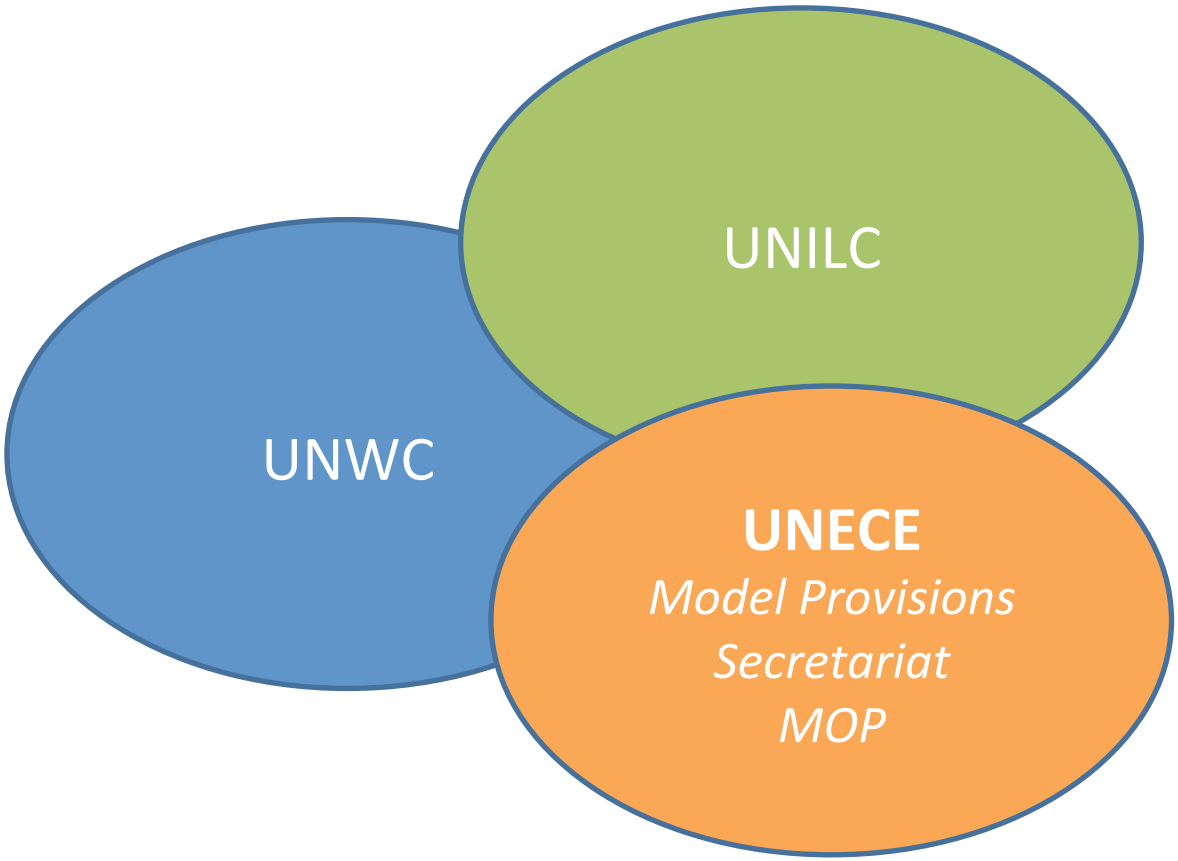
Synergies



Synergies in other fields of international environmental governance



Synergies



Conclusion

Mutually supportive approaches in the 1) **promotion** and 2) **joint implementation** of the United Nations Watercourses Convention, the UNECE Water Convention and the ILC Draft Articles on Law on Transboundary

Thank you!

- Francesco Sindico

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