



WATER ETHICS

The UNESCO World Commission on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology (COMEST)

The Working Group on the Use of Freshwater Resources was established in 1998 under the theme of:

Water, Civilisation and Ethics

(UNESCO IHP-V1 Theme 4, focal area 4.1)

Working Group Coordinator: Professor M.R. Llamas

Inputs to the Third World Water Forum 2003

- Chapter 1. Overview (J. Dooge, J. Delli Priscoli, M.R. Llamas)**
- Chapter 2. A Historical Perspective**
- Chapter 3. Water in Civil Society**
- Chapter 4. Women and Water**
- Chapter 5. Agricultural Use of Water**
- Chapter 6. Human Health and Sanitation**
- Chapter 7. Industrial Use of Water**
- Chapter 8. Use of Groundwater**
- Chapter 9. Water and Ecology**
- Chapter 10. Water-related Disasters**
- Chapter 11. Economics and Water**
- Chapter 12. Financing Water Programmes**
- Chapter 13. Institutional Aspects of Water Resources Development**
- Chapter 14. Water and Conflicts**

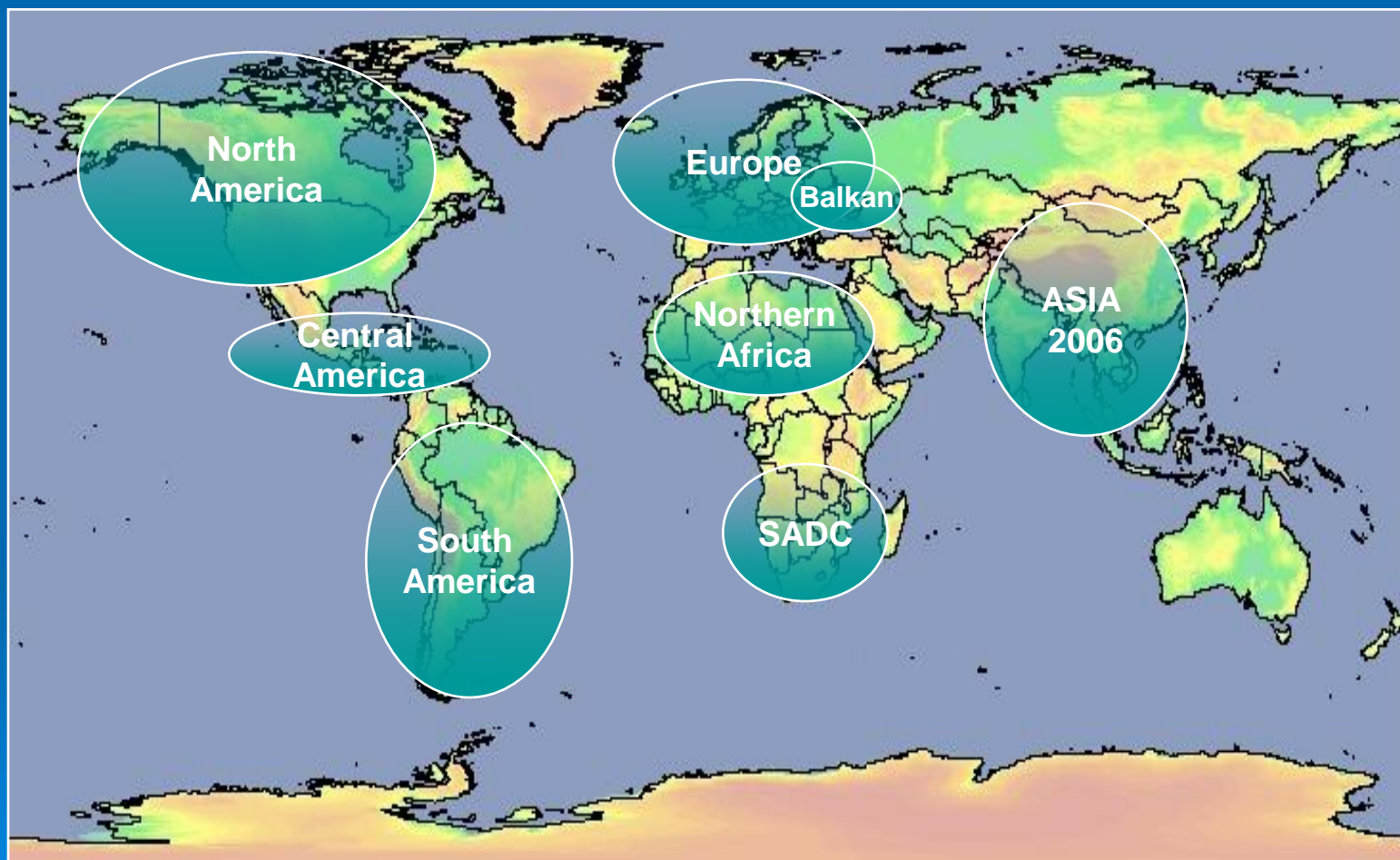


Why the Need for Ethical Principles on Aquifers Management and Use of Groundwater ?



UNESCO ISARM inventory :

273 transboundary aquifers found to date and number set to increase



- **Ethics of Transboundary Aquifers is more complex**
- **The diminishing of water quality or quantity destabilizes regions depending on Transboundary Aquifers**



Global Changes

- Increased interdependence calls for greater coordination
- Inequalities call for social concerns presence in the international agenda



Issues of cultural diversity, democracy and justice need to be placed centre stage



GLOBAL CHANGES

The focus is now on the interaction between the state, the global market and society.

Globalisation has not diminished the importance of an intergovernmental regulatory mechanism; on the contrary, it reinforces the need for a stronger role that could be played by the UN System.

UN GA Resolution on Transboundary Aquifers, December 2008

Article 1 -Scope

The present article applies to:

- (a) Utilization of transboundary aquifers or aquifer systems;**
- (b) Other activities that have or are likely to have an impact upon such aquifers or aquifer systems; and**
- (c) Measures for the protection, preservation and management of such aquifers or aquifer systems.**

It not only considers groundwater as a resource but also considers aquifers as ecosystem

The UNGA Resolution

Encourages the States concerned to make appropriate bilateral or regional arrangements for the proper management of their transboundary aquifers, taking into account the provisions of these draft articles



An ethics of climate change

First meeting

Conceptual issues



A values
approach to
climate change

Water is a super ordinate value

Access to water and human rights

Build this in the mind of the new generation through education and training since the earliest age at school and at home.

it is in the

”minds of the people that peace must be constructed’



From the Hammurabi code (1792 BC) to the medieval Valencia water tribunal (1200-1300) principles were set up for water sharing and use

Those principles provide a basic historical ethical code for freshwater use in antiquity

Religions and the literature of wisdom by prophets and sages in all regions of the world have for ages advocated ethics of sharing compassion and empathy.





In conclusion ...

“Opening the water box”

THANK YOU

