



# 4th WORLD WATER FORUM

---

**SESSION “Challenges and perspectives in transboundary water management in Africa”**

## Status of transboundary water management in Africa

**DRAFT**

Presented by : M. OULD ALY, ANBO President  
March, 18, 2005



**Réseau Africain des Organismes de Bassin - RAOB**  
**African Network of Basin Organizations - ANBO**

# SOMMARY

---

- **Introduction**
- **Main African surface water resources characteristics**
- **Some key problems related to transboundary water resources**
- **Great variability of surface water resources**
- **River basin organizations**
- **Prospects**



**Réseau Africain des Organismes de Bassin - RAOB**  
**African Network of Basin Organizations - ANBO**

# INTRODUCTION

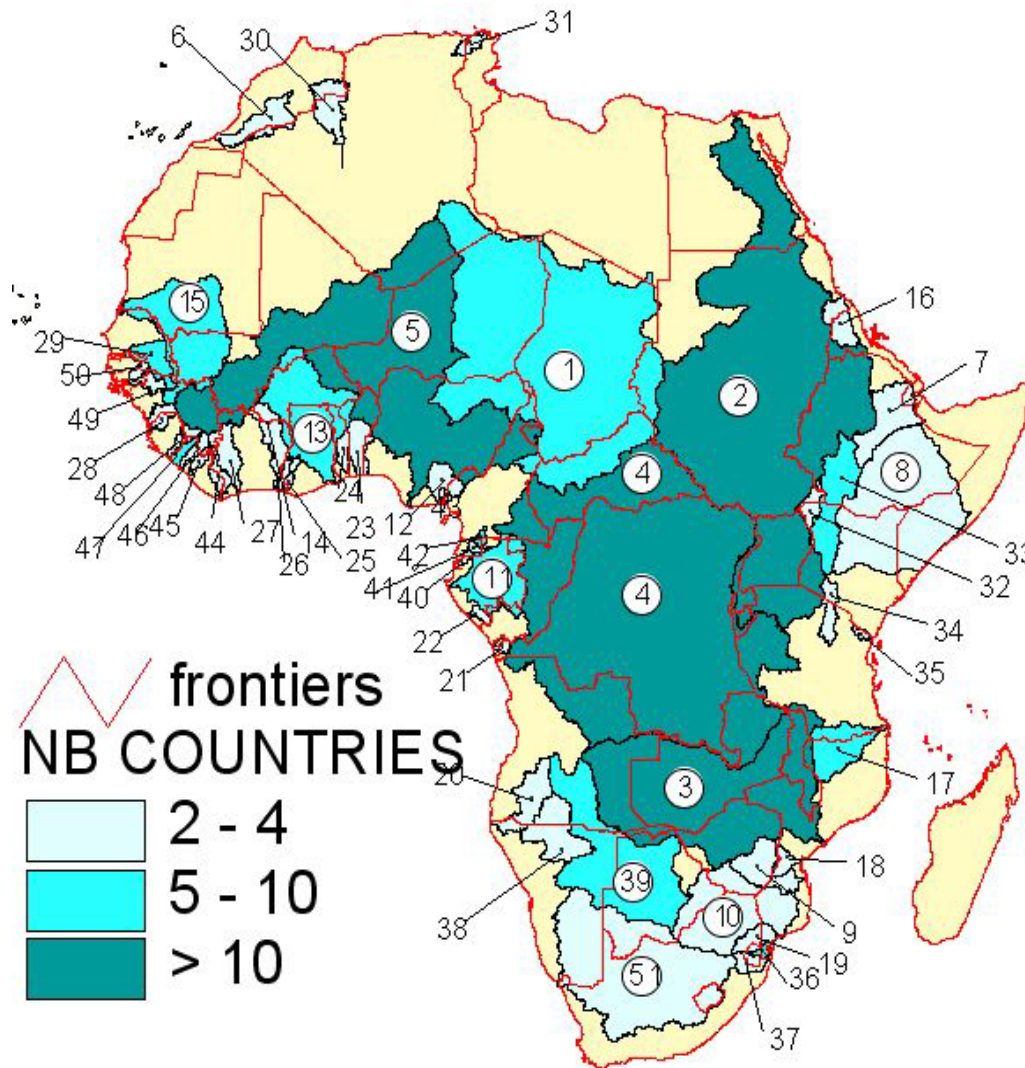
---

- **Transboundary water resources represent around 80% of the available surface water resources.**
- **Their management is a condition for sustainable socio economic development and for environmental systems**
- **These resources are characterized by their spatial and temporal variability and their low mobilization.**
- **In this context, river basin organizations have an important role to play**



**Réseau Africain des Organismes de Bassin - RAOB**  
**African Network of Basin Organizations - ANBO**

# TRANSBOUNDARY RIVER BASINS



ID	nom	area_km2
1	Lake Chad	2443385
2	Nile	3078270
3	Zambezi	1388243
4	Congo	3699151
5	Niger	2117687
6	Dra	96385
7	Awash	155329
8	Juba Shib	805088
9	Sabi	114975
10	Limpopo	415501
11	Ogooue	222610
12	Cross	52777
13	Volta	413993
14	Komoe	78474
15	Senegal	437031
16	Baraka	66550
17	Ruvuma	152170
18	Buzi	27865
19	Incomati	46179
20	Kunene	110276
21	Chiloango	11662
22	Nyanga	12356
23	Oueme	59891
24	Mono	23430
25	Tano	15609

Id	Nom	Area_km2
26	Bia	11917
27	Sassandra	68177
28	Scarcies	31031
29	Gambia	70020
30	Guir	90552
31	Medjerda	23145
32	Latagipi Sw	38944
33	Lake Turkan	201957
34	Lake Natron	47659
35	Umba	8238
36	Umbeluzi	10878
37	Maputo	31272
38	Etosha	152259
39	Okavango	639451
40	Utamboni	8253
41	Benito	8416
42	Ntem	10296
43	Akpa Yan	4905
44	Cavally	30575
45	St John	15562
46	St Paul	21240
47	Loffa	19102
48	Moa	22635
49	Corubal	24099
50	Geba	12782
51	Orange	968594

Sources : NBA, AGRHYMET



Réseau Africain des Organismes de Bassin - RAOB  
African Network of Basin Organizations - ANBO

# Main African surface water resources characteristics

---

- **Most of the water resources are concentrated on major transboundary basins and lakes (75% of water in the eight major basins)**
- **There are some 70 major transboundary river/lakes in Africa shared by 2 or more countries**
- **This leads to great dependency of some countries to others concerning their water resources.**
- **Around 4% of available surface water are exploited**



Réseau Africain des Organismes de Bassin - RAOB  
African Network of Basin Organizations - ANBO

# Great variability of surface water resources

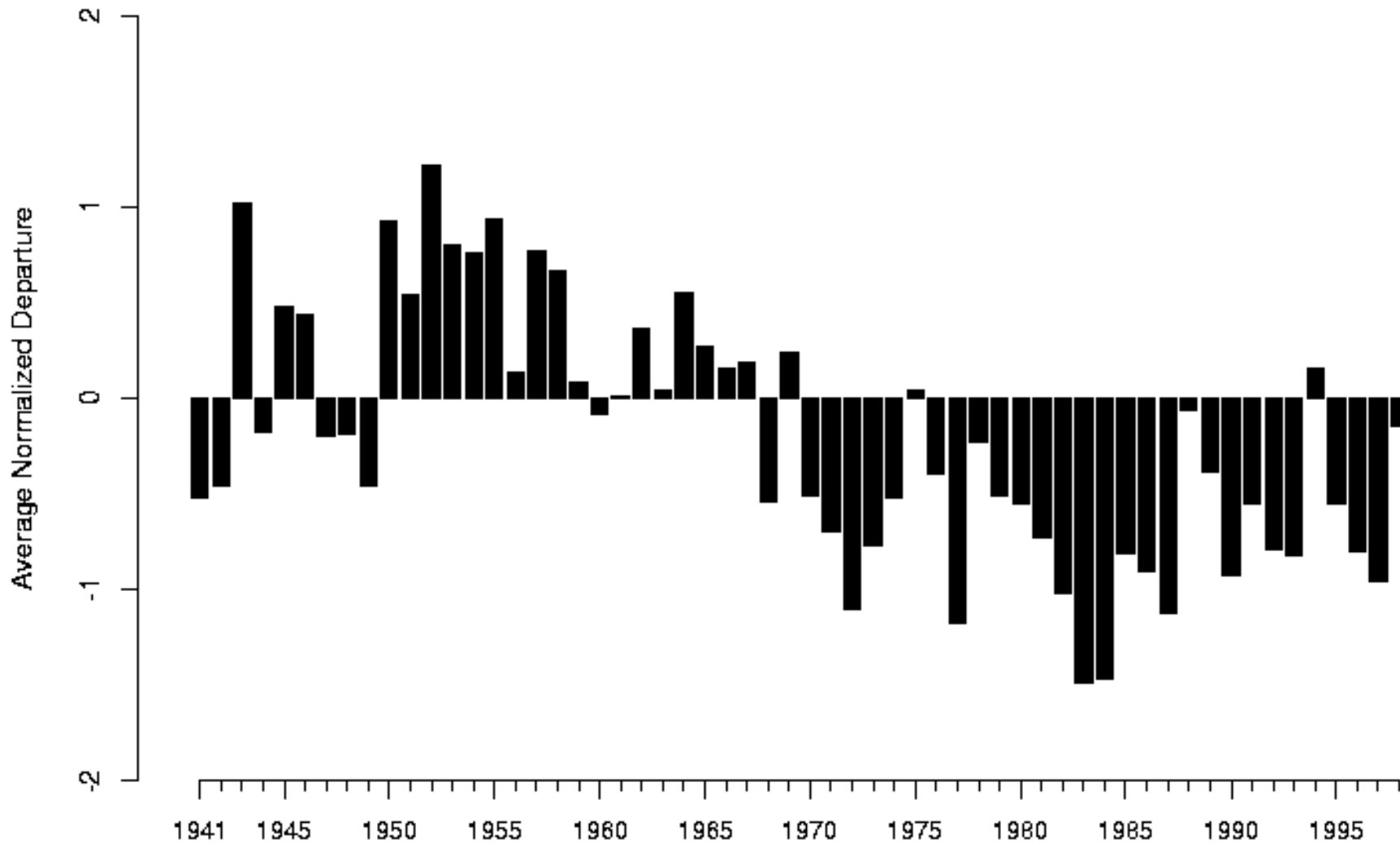
---

- **The variability of the water resources in the different basins is related to rainfall variability (long drought period recorded in Africa)**
- **Great Inter-annual variability of the water resources (important decreasing of water resources for some major basins since 1970 between 40 and 60% for west african basins)**
- **Modification of all the hydrograph characteristics (maximum, minimum, average discharges, etc) after 1970s**



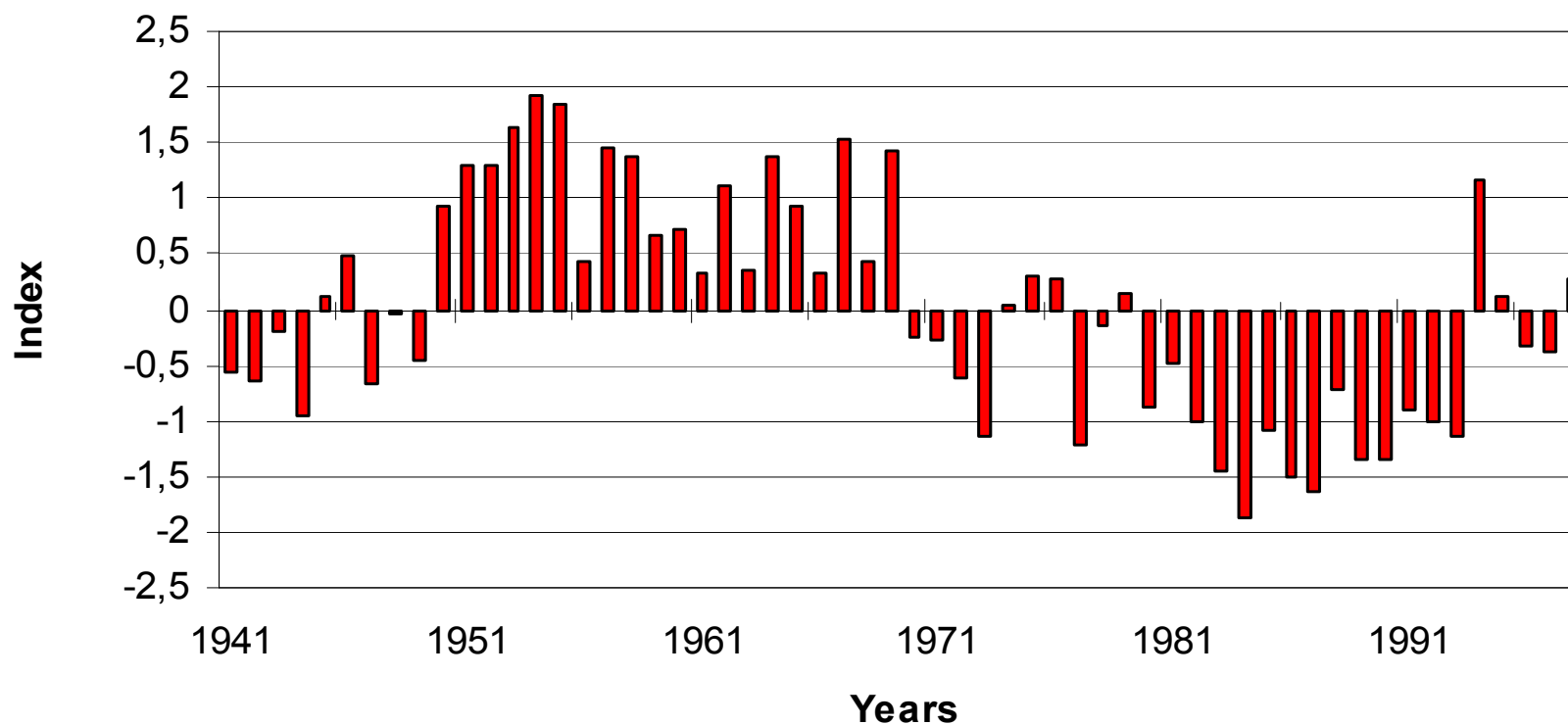
**Réseau Africain des Organismes de Bassin - RAOB**  
**African Network of Basin Organizations - ANBO**

# Rainfall Index for Subsaharan West Africa(1941-98)



Réseau Africain des Organismes de Bassin - RAOB  
African Network of Basin Organizations - ANBO

## Annual discharge index at Niamey on the Niger river



**Réseau Africain des Organismes de Bassin - RAOB**  
**African Network of Basin Organizations - ANBO**



# Some key problems related to transboundary water resources



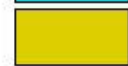

---

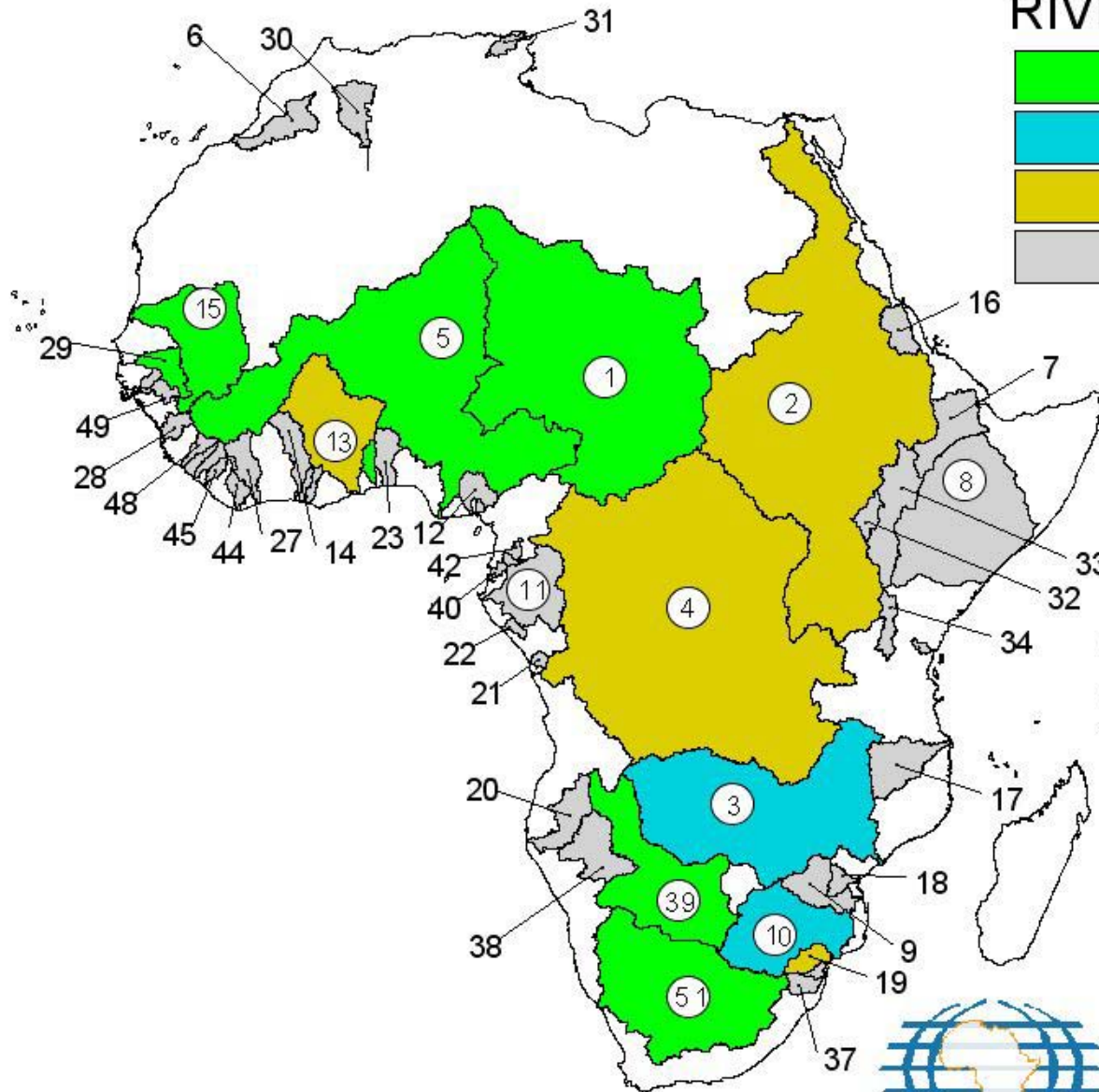
- **Combined with desertification, great land degradation leading to a serious problem of sedimentation**
- **Flooding**
- **Water pollution (human, industrial and agricultural)**
- **Aquatic floating vegetation**



**Réseau Africain des Organismes de Bassin - RAOB**  
**African Network of Basin Organizations - ANBO**

# RIVER BASIN ORGANIZATION

-  operating and consolidated
-  recently created
-  international agreement
-  not known



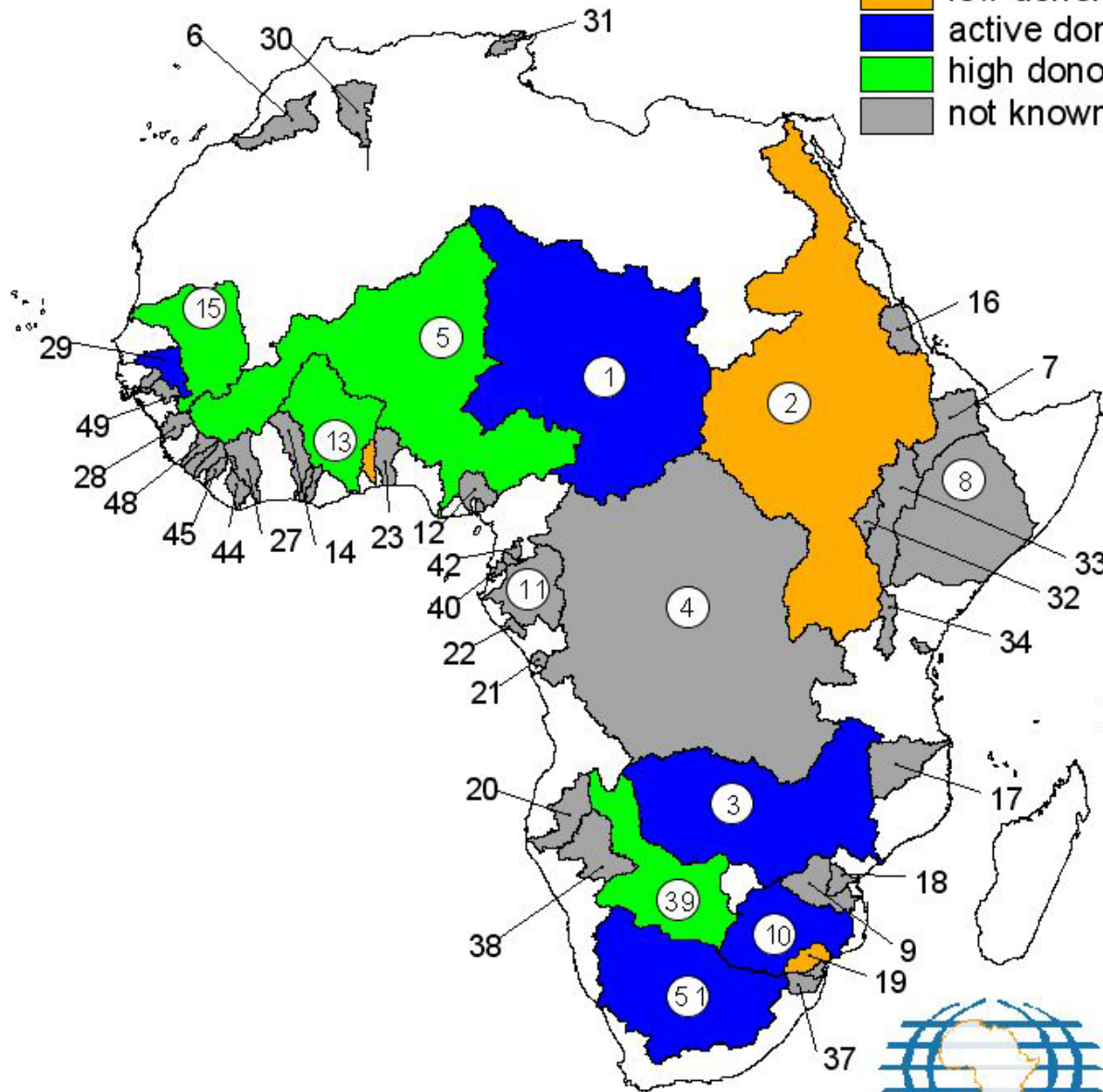
**Sources : European Initiative, CEA, NEPAD**



Réseau Africain des Organismes de Bassin - RAOB  
African Network of Basin Organizations - ANBO

### NEED FOR FUNDING OR COORDINATION

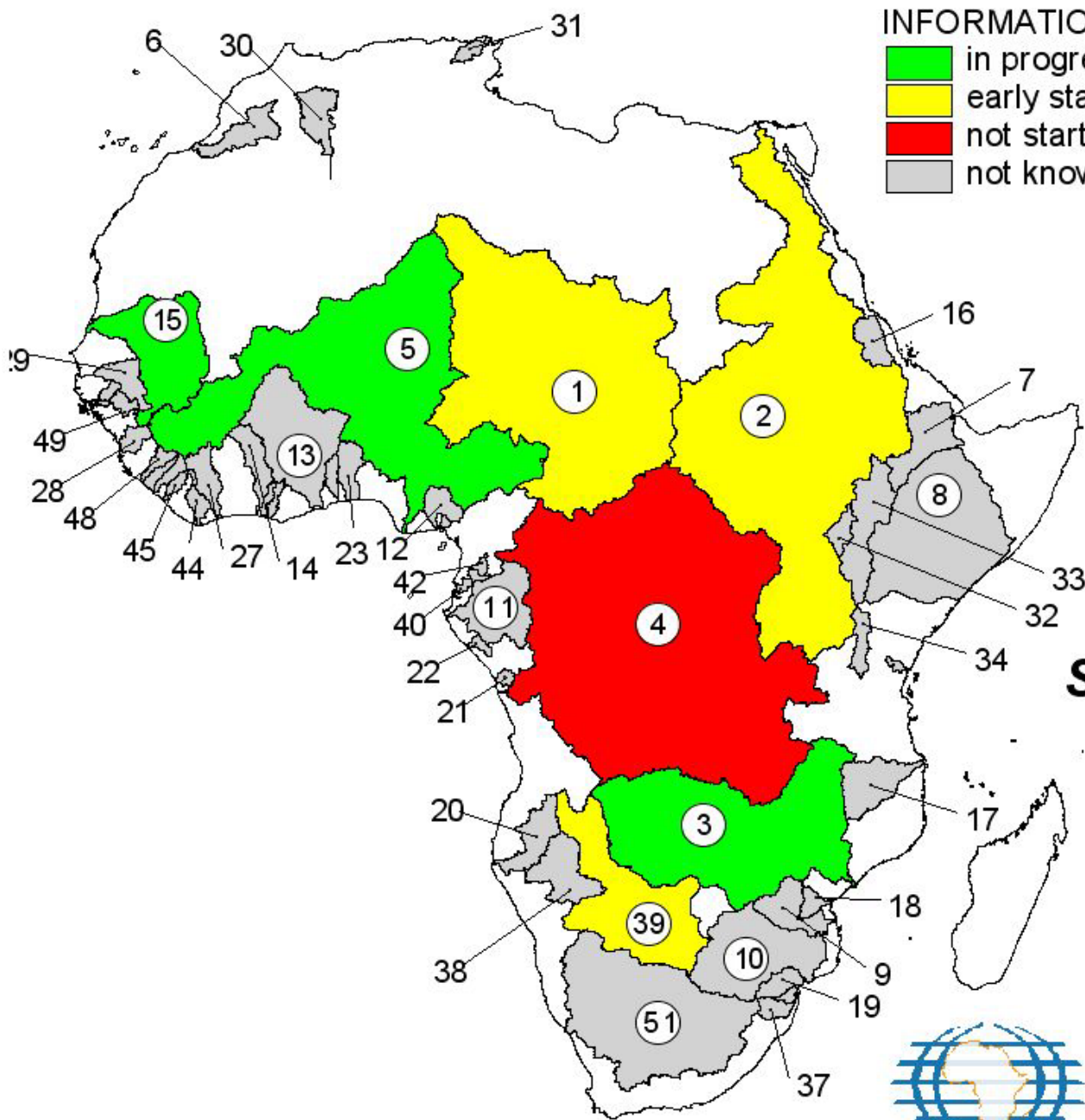
- low donor participation or high coordination needs
- active donor participation and existing coordination
- high donor participation and existing coordination
- not known



**Source : European Initiative**



Réseau Africain des Organismes de Bassin - RAOB  
African Network of Basin Organizations - ANBO



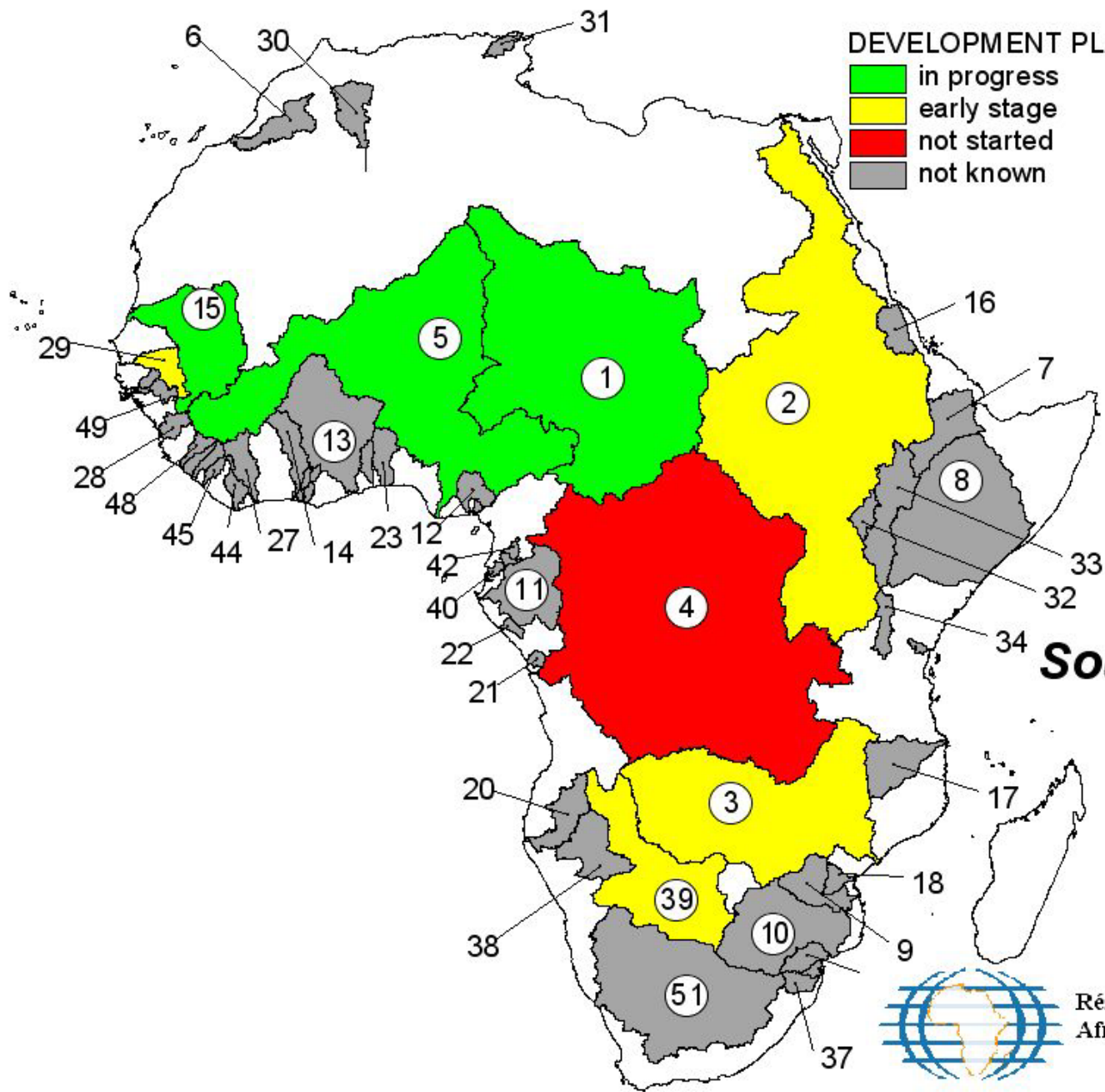
INFORMATION COLLECTION & DISSEMINATION

- in progress
- early stage
- not started
- not known

**Source : NEPAD**



Réseau Africain des Organismes de Bassin - RAOB  
 African Network of Basin Organizations ANBO



**DEVELOPMENT PLANNING / PROJECT PREPARATION**

- in progress
- early stage
- not started
- not known

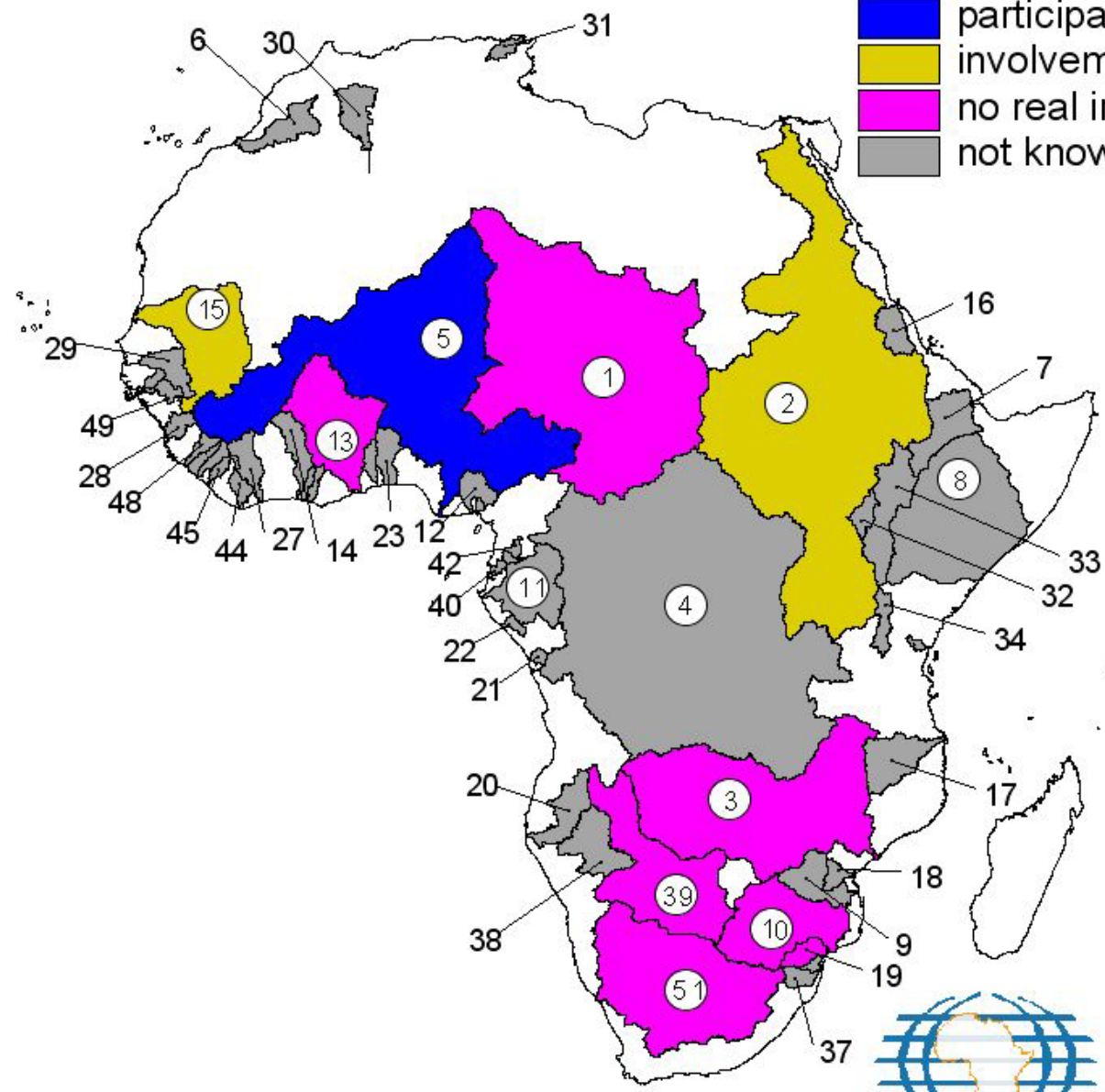
**Source : NEPAD**



Réseau Africain des Organismes de Bassin - RAO  
 African Network of Basin Organizations - ANBO

### INVOLVEMENT OF CIVIL SOCIETY

- participation in decision making
- involvement in task forces and consultation
- no real involvement within official structures
- not known



Source : *European Initiative*



Réseau Africain des Organismes de Bassin - RAOB  
African Network of Basin Organizations - ANBO

# Prospects

---

**Reinforcement of the cooperation between riparian countries in terms of institution, human and financial capacities and respect of IWRM principles**

- **Creation of basin organization where it doesn't exist**
- **Reinforcement of the data monitoring and analysis system and sharing of informations between countries and other partners**
- **Development and implementation of action plan or master plan**



**Réseau Africain des Organismes de Bassin - RAOB**  
**African Network of Basin Organizations - ANBO**