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Water and Climate Diplomacy

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WATER AND CLIMATE DIPLOMACY

Integrative Approaches for Adaptive Action
in Transboundary River Basins

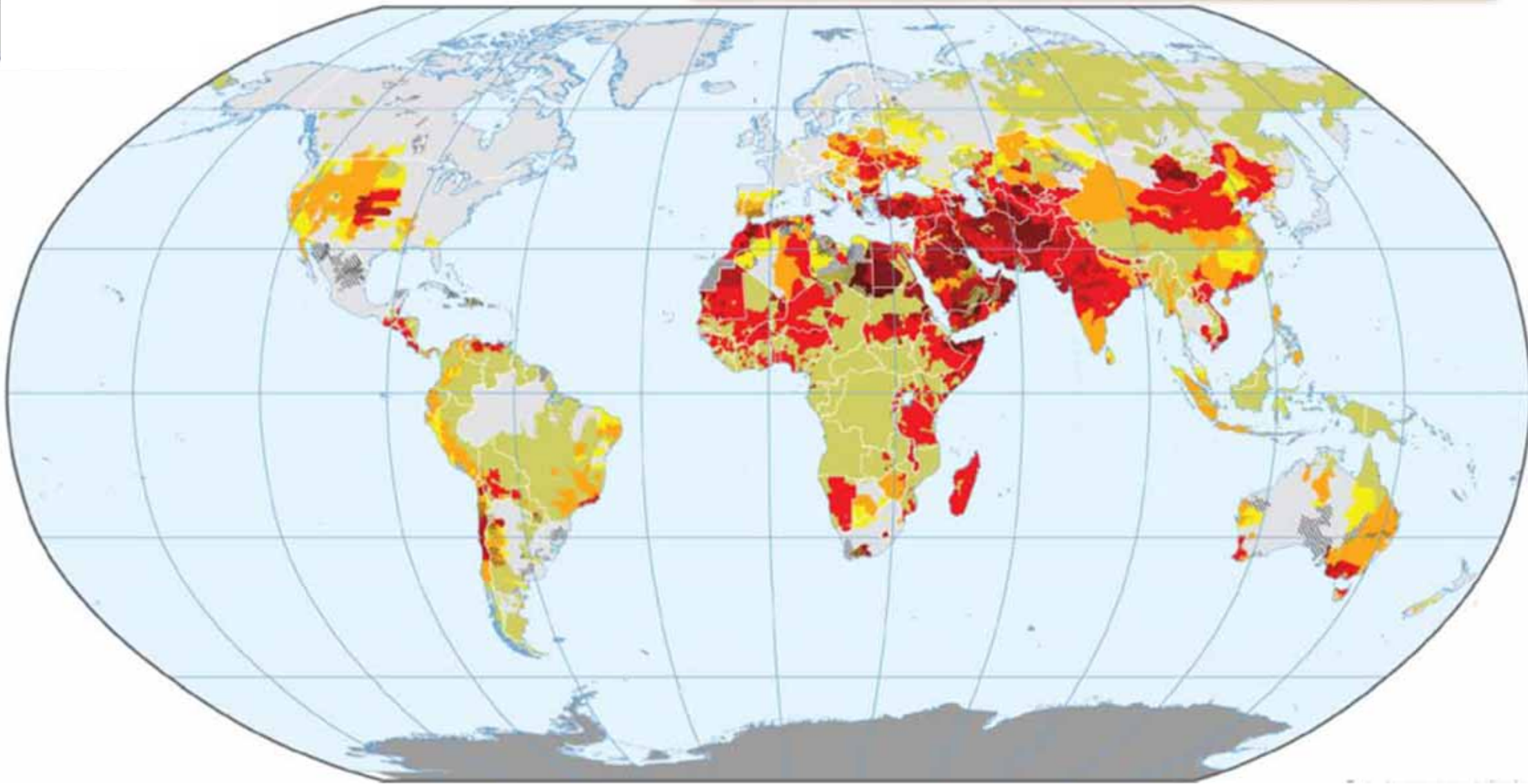
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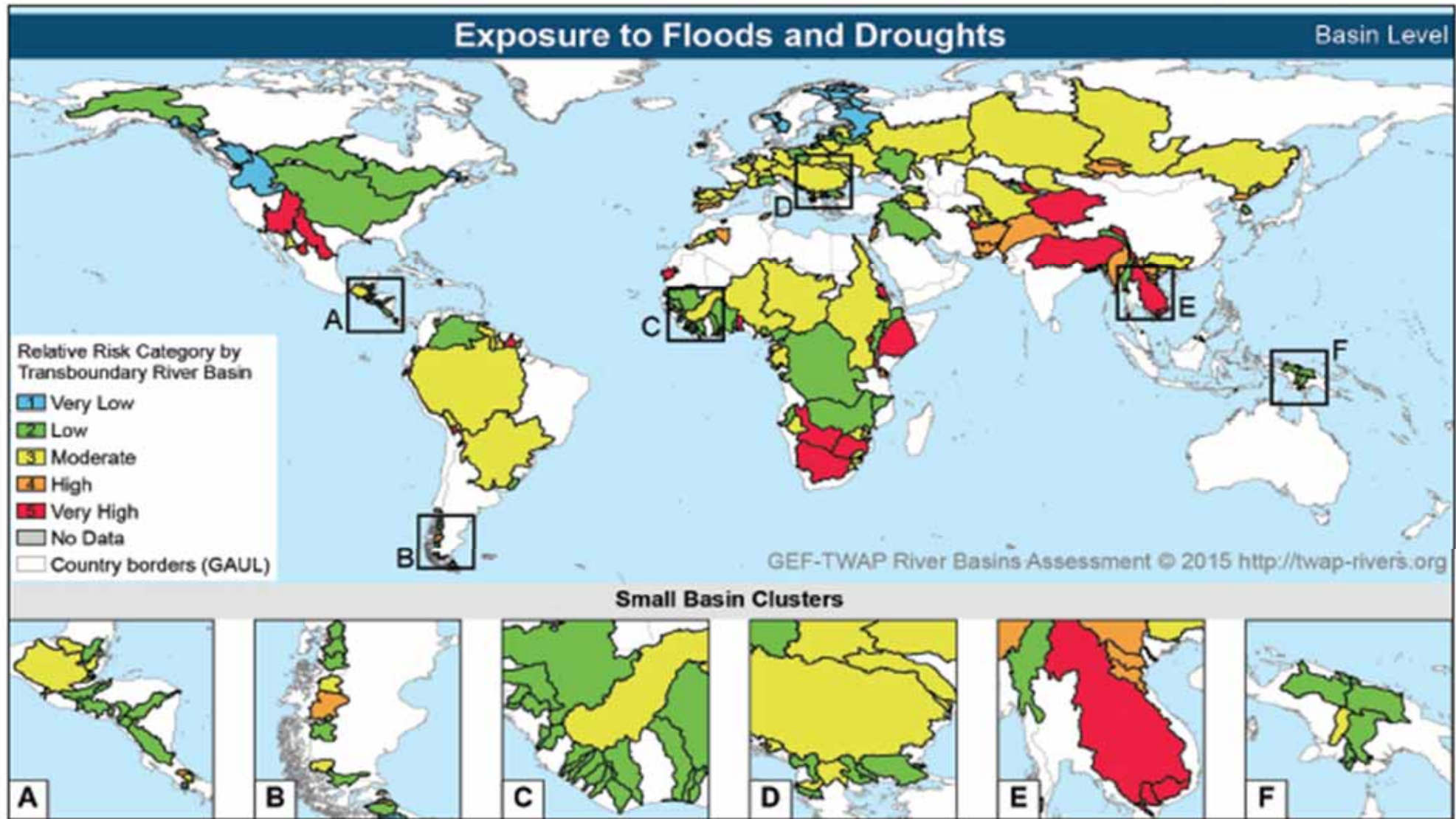


1. Transboundary river basins face climate-related challenges that will intensify in the future
2. Climate change impacts on water resources can have security implications from the sub-national to the inter-state level
3. Adaptation to climate change will therefore be an important precondition for ensuring sustainable development and stability

Projections of water stress in 2025

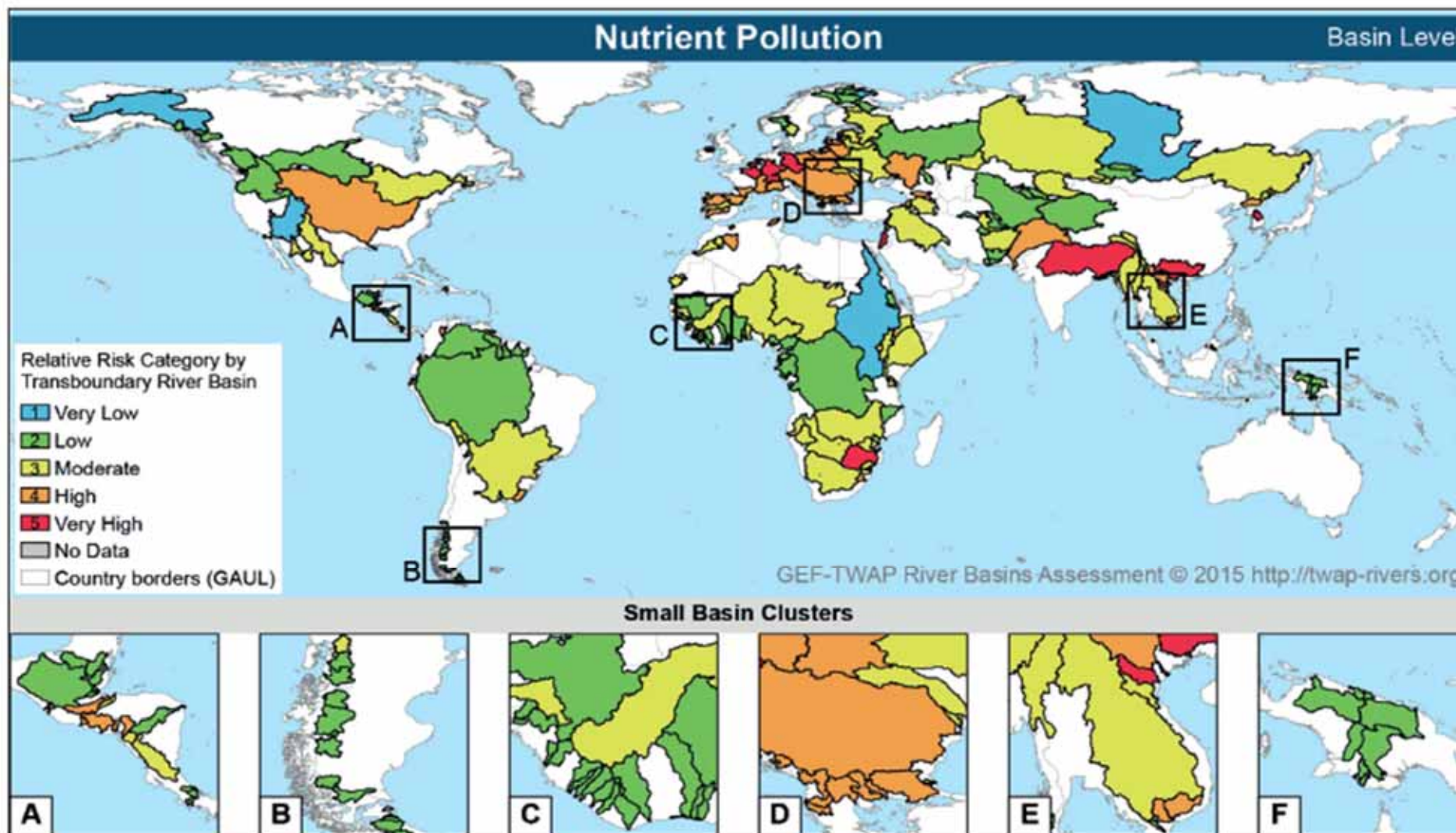


More floods and droughts



GEF (2016) Transboundary River Basins: Status and Trends

Water quality deterioration



GEF (2016) Transboundary River Basins: Status and Trends



Climate change impacts on water resources can (in combinations with other factors) lead to disputes over allocation / use of scarce resources at:

- Sub-national level between different user groups
 - National level between different sectors
 - International level between different countries (e.g. over hydropower)
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Water and climate diplomacy



- Water resources that are shared between countries can be a source of inter-state conflict
- They are therefore a *relevant topic for international diplomacy* – from both a water and a climate perspective





1. Are existing water governance instruments adequate for addressing impacts of climate change?
2. How can climate policy instruments support adaptation?
3. What can regional and international (foreign policy) actors do to further support adaptation?

Water governance instruments



Successful adaptation in transboundary river basins depends on a number of aspects:

- Flexible water treaties
- Data and information sharing
- Dispute-resolution mechanisms
- Linkages between regional and national levels of governance
- Sustainable funding





- Many transboundary river basins are not or only partly covered by water treaties
- Data and information sharing is often obstructed by lack of resources/capacity or because of politicization of water issues
- Insufficient linkages between national and regional levels of water governance
- Lack of financial resources to cover additional costs for adaptation

- Vulnerability assessments
- Adaptation planning (NAPAs/NAPs, Adaptation Strategies)
- Climate Finance

... can strengthen adaptive capacities.





- Create and support basin institutions, including governance mechanisms that help dealing with change
 - Support activities that strengthen linkages between regional and national levels of river basin governance
 - Ensure sufficient (additional) funding for adaptation, e.g. through facilitating access to climate finance
 - Promote transboundary data and information sharing
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