

NOTE ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNATIONAL
RIVER BASINS IN AFRICA

An international river is a river which flows through or between the territories of two or more States.

Attached to this note are a list and a map of international river basins of Africa. The list indicates forty eight international river basins of which nineteen are shared by more than two states or territories. In twenty three international river basins, a river forms, over at least a part of its course, a political border.

It is now widely recognized that individual water development projects cannot be undertaken with optimum benefit for the people before there is at least the broad outlines of a plan for the entire drainage area. This is valid for river basins which are entirely within the territory of a State as well as for international river basins.

Integrated river basin development can be defined as the orderly development of water resources of a river basin for multiple purposes to promote human welfare. The application of this conception is of course less difficult for national river basins than for international basins, because the latter require consultations and agreements between sovereign governments. Although a sincere wish to co-operate may exist between the governments concerned, certain questions such as the sufficiency or accuracy of flow data and those related to water allocation may cause difficulties. Another cause for dispute is that in the past, agreements on water allocation have been negotiated between metropolitan Powers on behalf of the territories they administered. The now independent States contend, in some cases, these agreements.

Regarding the development of African international river basins, a certain number of consultations have taken place in the past. An example is the Nile Waters Agreement of 1929 and the subsequent agreements on the use of the Nile resources.

A N N E X

The International River Basins of Africa (surface water) 1/

<u>Name of main river</u>	<u>Territories</u>	<u>Approximate area</u> (sq. kms.)
Mejerda	Algeria, Tunisia	20,000
Tafna	Algeria, Morocco	4,500
Dra	Algeria, Morocco, Spanish Sahara	-
Atui	Mauritania, Spanish Sahara	-
Senegal*	Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, Senegal	441,000
Gambia	Guinea, Mali, Senegal	182,000
Geba	Port. Guinea, Senegal	7,000
Corubal	Guinea, Port. Guinea	27,000
Kolenta* (Gt. Scarcies*)	Guinea, Sierra Leone	7,000
Moa*	Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone	14,000
Mano-Moro	Liberia, Sierra Leone	10,000
Loffa	Guinea, Liberia	9,000
St. Paul	Guinea, Liberia	18,000
St. John	Guinea, Liberia	18,000
Cestos*	Guinea, Ivory Coast, Liberia	14,000
Cavally*	Ivory Coast, Liberia	26,000
Bia	Ghana, Ivory Coast	10,000
Tano*	Ghana, Ivory Coast	13,000
Volta*	Ghana, Ivory Coast, Togo, Upper Volta	300,000
Mono*	Dahomey, Togo	22,000
Oueme*	Dahomey, Nigeria	50,000
Niger*	Cameroun, Chad, Dahomey, Guinea, Ivory Coast, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Upper Volta	1,100,000

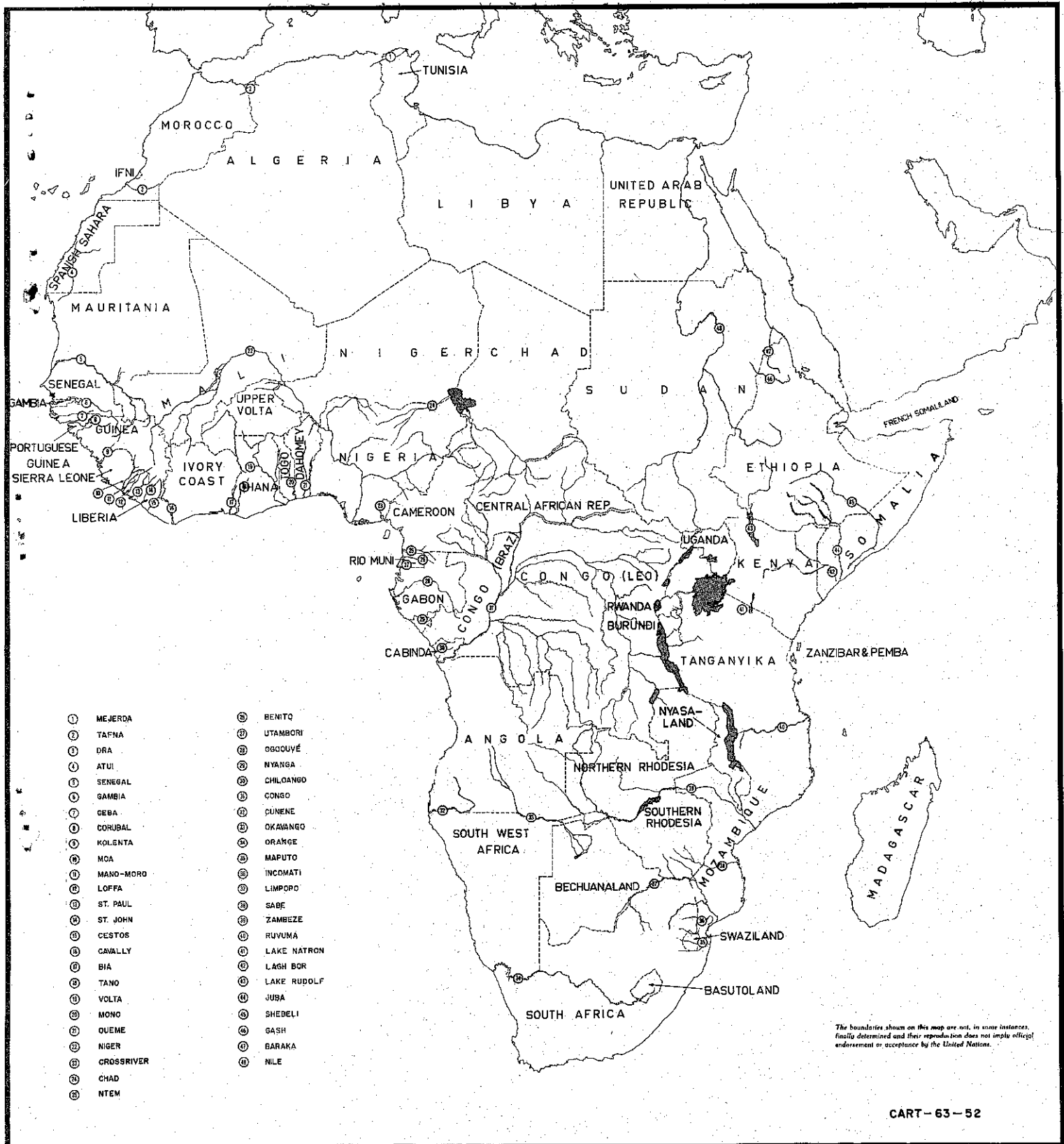
1/ It is not claimed that this list is complete. The composition of this list does not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations of the international boundaries which have been used to determine whether a river is to be considered as international or not.

<u>Name of main river</u>	<u>Territories</u>	<u>Approximate area</u> (sq. kms.)
Crossriver	Cameroun, Nigeria	38,000
Chad*	Cameroun, Chad, Central African Rep., Niger, Nigeria	-
Ntem* (Campo*)	Cameroun, Gabon, Rio Muni	31,000
Benito	Gabon, Rio Muni	14,000
Utambori*	Gabon, Rio Muni	5,000
Ogouvé*	Congo (B), Gabon	220,000
Nyanga	Congo (B), Gabon	22,500
Chiloango	Cabinda (Angola), Congo (L)	14,000
Congo*	Angola, Burundi, Cameroun, Central African Republic, Congo (B), Congo (L), Northern Rhodesia, Tanganyika	3,700,000
Cunene*	Angola, Southwest Africa	115,000
Okavango*	Angola, Bechuanaland, South West Africa	130,000
Orange*	Basutoland, South Africa, South West Africa	1,000,000
Maputo	Mozambique, South Africa, Swaziland	29,000
Incemati	Mozambique, South Africa, Swaziland	30,000
Limpopo*	Bechuanaland, Mozambique, South Africa, Southern Rhodesia	358,000
Sabè	Mozambique, Southern Rhodesia	102,000
Zambezi*	Angola, Bechuanaland, Mozambique, Northern Rhodesia, Nyasaland, Southern Rhodesia	1,200,000
Ruvuma*	Mozambique, Tanganyika	145,000
Lake Natron*	Kenya, Tanganyika	19,000
Lagh Bor (Uaso Nyiro)	Kenya, Somalia	150,000
Lake Rudolf*	Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan	500,000

<u>Name of main river</u>	<u>Territories</u>	<u>Approximate area</u> (sq. kms.)
Juba	Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia	196,000
Shebeli	Ethiopia, Somalia	200,000
Gash	Ethiopia, Sudan	30,000
Baraka	Ethiopia, Sudan	60,000
Nile	Congo (L), Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan, Tanganyika, UAR, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi	2,700,000

* Indicates that the river forms, at least over a part of its course, a political border.

INTERNATIONAL RIVERS IN AFRICA



The boundaries shown on this map are not, in some instances, fully determined and their reproduction does not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.