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## **GLOBALIZATION AND WATER MANAGEMENT: THE CHANGING VALUE OF WATER**

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### **CONFLICT AND CO-OPERATION OVER FRESH-WATER: INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL DIMENSIONS**

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**ABSTRACT:** The importance of water for socio-economic development cannot be gainsaid. It forms a vital part of social infrastructure, playing a key role in health, industry, agriculture, energy and general consumption for human welfare. Important as it is, water resources are limited the world over. As a consequence two things arise. First, these limitations of water resources cause conflicts between individuals and communities within a given state; and also between states inter se. Secondly, such scarcity creates an urgent need for sustainable use and management of available water resources both nationally and internationally. This paper addresses conflict and co-operation over fresh water within the East African region including law and policy responses to managing trans-boundary waters. It discusses such responses like the Nile Basin Initiative; The Treaty for the East African co-operation, the Memorandum on Environment between the three East African States, the Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization and the Fisheries Research Unit, the Lake Victoria Environment Management Programme and the Treaties on the Nile.

The paper also gives a brief background to environmental management within fresh waters of the East Africa region. It also examines constraints to such management. It is argued that limited authority mechanisms, lack of reciprocal relationships between states; and poor responsiveness to pressing environmental problems determine constraints to co-operation efforts within the East African region. This paper argues that a lack of innovation in legal mechanisms and institutions is a constraint to international co-operation in water management. This paper briefly discusses certain national and international conflicts that have been associated with fresh water use and management within the region. Lastly, the paper notes the successes and failures of the several initiatives/responses with respect to such management, and makes legal and policy recommendations on the East Africa's national and international water management.

**KEY TERMS:** Transboundary waters, international water law, treaties.

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