Water in Africa:
Hydro-Pessimism or Hydro-Optimism?

Água em África:
Hidro-pessimismo ou Hidro-optimismo

Centro de Estudos Africanos da Universidade do Porto

Porto, Portugal, 2-3 October 2008

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"From Hydro-Pessimism to Hydro-Optimism in Southern Africa Water Resource Management: challenging the *Hydropolitical Risk* at work".

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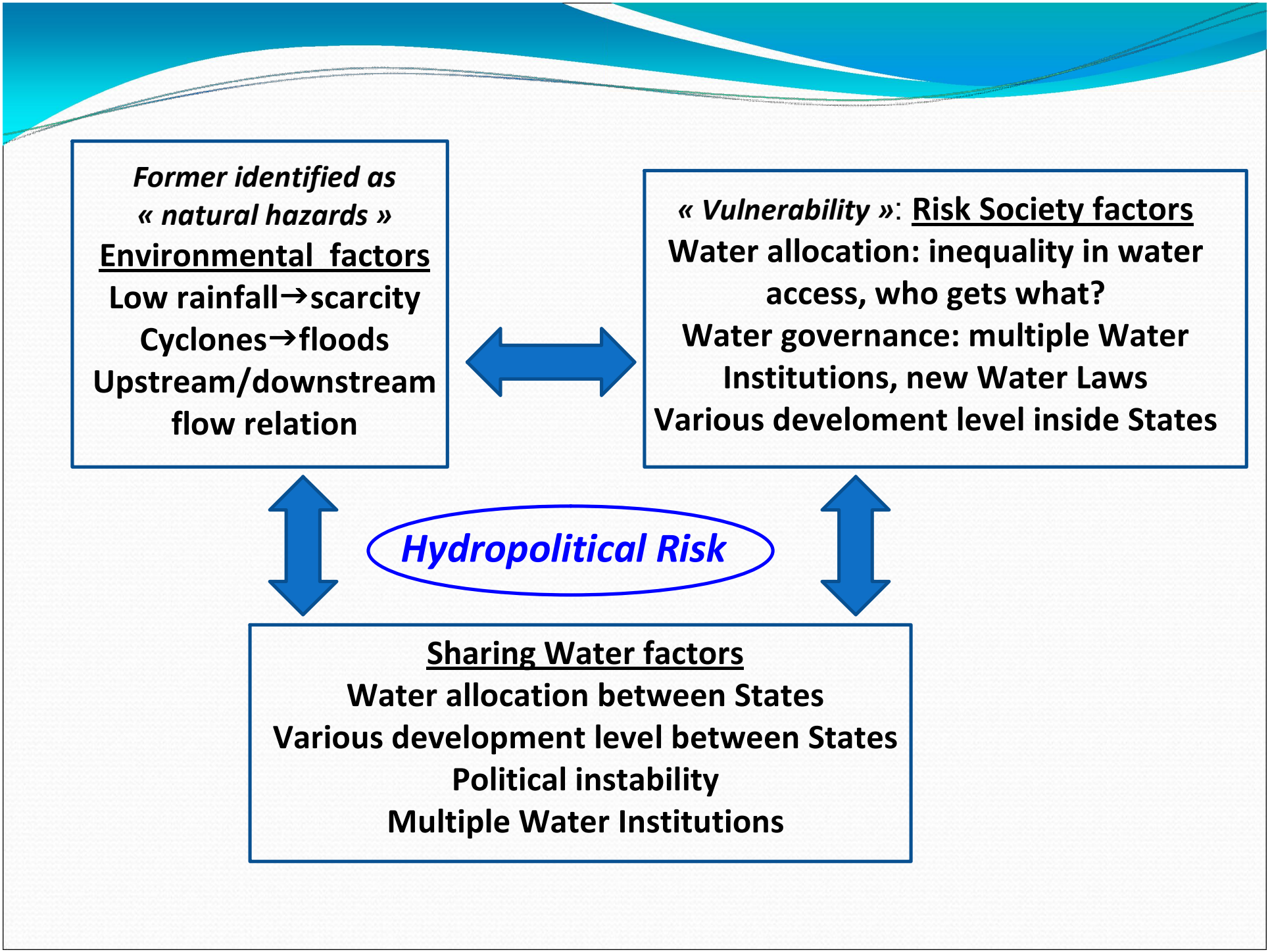
Where does the *Hydropolitical Risk* come from?

- Comparing French and English speaking Research on Water Resource.
- The *Hydropolitical Risk* could be defined as a potential link between both French and English concerns of improving Water Resource Management.
- Is there any possibility of a long lasting Southern Africa Water Resource Management?

I. Once upon a time there was the *Hydropolitical Risk…*

A. **Old sad couples: nature/culture, natural hazard/vulnerability…when will the divorce be pronounced?**

B. **Connecting People and Risks…**


Former identified as « natural hazards »
Environmental factors
Low rainfall→scarcity
Cyclones→floods
Upstream/downstream flow relation
« Vulnerability »: Risk Society factors
Water allocation: inequality in water access, who gets what?
Water governance: multiple Water Institutions, new Water Laws
Various develoment level inside States
Hydropolitical Risk
Sharing Water factors
Water allocation between States
Various development level between States
Political instability
Multiple Water Institutions

II. Identifying for improving, a first alternative?

A. The *Southern Africa Hydropolitical Complex* and the *High Hydropolitical Risk Profile*: which potential interactions?

B. Identifying *Hydropolitical Risks* in the Southern African context.

C. Developing alternatives in Water Resource Management, a long swim to Freedom…

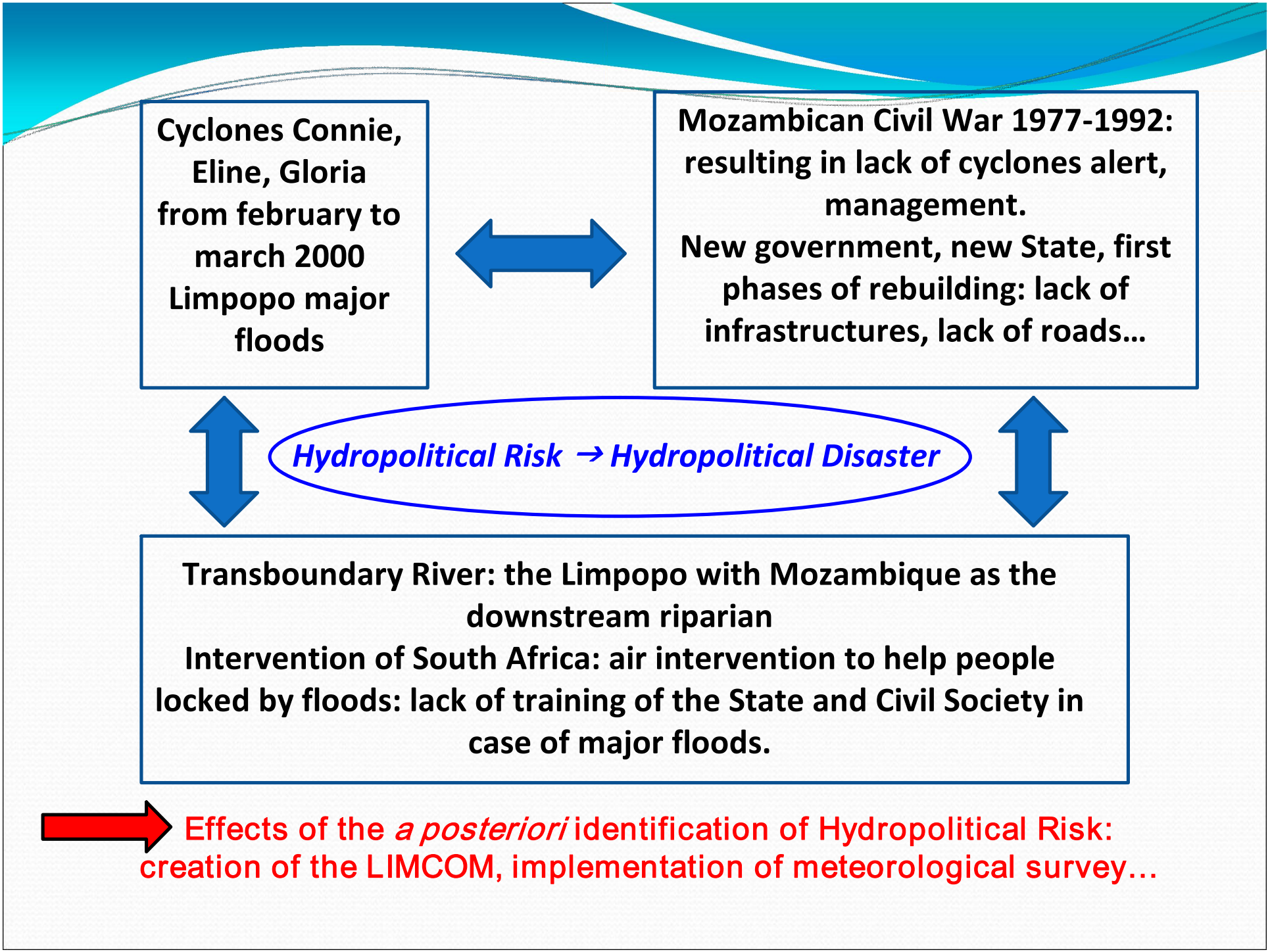
The *Southern African Hydropolitical Complex*

The Southern African hydropolitical complex as encapsulated in the first hypothesis

Riparian state	International river basin								
	Pivotal basins		Impacted basins						
	Orange	Limpopo	Okavango	Cunene	Incomati	Maputo	Pungué	Save	Zambezi
Namibia	PS		PS	PS					PS
Botswana	SC	PS	PS						PS
South Africa	PS	PS			PS	PS			
Zimbabwe		PS					PS	PS	PS
Angola			IS	IS					IS
Mozambique		IS			IS	IS	IS	IS	IS
Swaziland					IS	IS			
Lesotho	IS								
Zambia									IS
Malawi									IS
Tanzania									IS

PS = pivotal state IS = impacted state SC = special case

Source: Turton, 2002b; 2003c


Cyclones Connie, Eline, Gloria from february to march 2000 Limpopo major floods
Mozambican Civil War 1977-1992: resulting in lack of cyclones alert, management.
New government, new State, first phases of rebuilding: lack of infrastructures, lack of roads…
Hydropolitical Risk → Hydropolitical Disaster
Transboundary River: the Limpopo with Mozambique as the downstream riparian
Intervention of South Africa: air intervention to help people locked by floods: lack of training of the State and Civil Society in case of major floods.
Effects of the a posteriori identification of Hydropolitical Risk: creation of the LIMCOM, implementation of meteorological survey…

Identifying *Hydropolitical Risks* = putting the lack of connections in Water Resource Management Institutions in foreground.

- **Improving Water Resource Management = Taking all Water Resource Management levels in Southern Africa into account**

- **It seems necessary to sort out the numerous Water Institutions**

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Thank you!