

CONTENTS

Preface and acknowledgments page xiii
Table of cases xvi

1 Introduction 1

1.1 Introduction 1

1.2 The normative status of the human right to water 5

1.3 The imperatives of extraterritorial application of the human right to water in Africa 8

1.4 Extraterritoriality as a new legal problem 12

1.5 State of the art and the claim 14

1.6 Analytical framework and methodology 16

1.7 Significance of the study 18

1.8 Scope of the research 20

1.9 Structure of the study 22

2 The human right to water at the global level 25

2.1 Introduction 25

2.2 The human right to water in the texts of human rights treaties 30

2.3 Evolution through interpretation: the CESCR General Comment No. 15 and beyond 34

2.3.1 The teleological interpretation approach 35

2.3.2 General Comment No. 15 and its discontents 37

2.4 The derivation approach 42

2.5 Recognition through the state reporting procedure: the CESCR Concluding Observations and states' acquiescence 44

2.6 The human right to water outside the human rights regime 46

2.6.1 Acceptance and recognition in international environmental (soft) law 47

2.6.2 The human right to water in international water law 52

2.7 The normative content of the human right to water 55

2.7.1 The concept of minimum core in human rights discourse 56

viii	CONTENTS	
	2.7.2 The core minimum of the human right to water	58
	2.7.2.1 The types of uses	59
	2.7.2.2 Adequacy of water for the selected uses	62
	2.8 Conclusion	64
3	The human right to water in the African human rights system	66
	3.1 Introduction	66
	3.2 The normative basis of the human right to water in the Charter	68
	3.2.1 The right in the mainstream African human rights instruments	69
	3.2.2 The approach of the African Commission	70
	3.2.3 Other regional treaties: the African Nature Convention	77
	3.3 The use of extraneous rules and the relevance of developments at the universal level	79
	3.4 Conclusion	82
4	The human right to water and states' domestic obligations	84
	4.1 Introduction	84
	4.2 The typologies of state obligations	86
	4.2.1 The duty to respect	90
	4.2.2 The duty to protect	92
	4.2.3 The duty to promote	95
	4.2.4 The duty to fulfil	96
	4.3 Interdependence of states' obligations	97
	4.4 Implementation of states' obligations: temporal dimensions	99
	4.4.1 Introduction	99
	4.4.2 Obligations of conduct and obligations of result	101
	4.4.3 The notion and implications of core obligations	104
	4.5 States' immediate obligation: obligations of result	107
	4.5.1 The duty to take steps	107
	4.5.2 '[B]y all appropriate means'	109
	4.5.3 '[I]ncluding legislative measures'	110
	4.5.4 '[W]ithout discrimination of any kind'	111
	4.6 Progressive duties: obligations of conduct	114
	4.6.1 '[A]chieving progressively'	114
	4.6.2 '[T]o the maximum of its available resources'	115
	4.7 Between willingness and inability: availability of water resources	116
	4.7.1 Inventory of resources and impossibility of performance	116

4.7.2	The right-duty of international assistance and cooperation	122
4.7.3	Normative content of the duty to seek international assistance and cooperation	123
4.8	Conclusion	125
5	The human right to water and states' extraterritorial obligations	127
5.1	Introduction	127
5.2	Setting the scene: the spatial reach of states' human rights obligations	130
5.3	Extraterritorial reach of the African Charter	136
5.3.1	Absence of jurisdiction clause	136
5.3.2	Substantive provisions with extraterritorial dimensions	138
5.3.3	The jurisprudence of the African Commission	139
5.4	The utility of cross-reference: 'inspirational sources'	144
5.4.1	The relevance of the ICESCR	145
5.4.1.1	The duty of international assistance: its implications for extraterritorial obligations	146
5.4.1.2	Article 2(1) of the ICESCR as an 'extraterritoriality clause'	150
5.4.1.3	Extraterritorial state obligations under General Comment No. 15 of the CESCR	152
5.4.2	Extraterritoriality in other regional human rights systems	154
5.4.2.1	Extraterritoriality in the European human rights system	154
5.4.2.2	Extraterritoriality in the Inter-American human rights system	162
5.5	Towards concretising extraterritorial states' human rights duties	167
5.5.1	Extraterritoriality through the layers of state obligations	167
5.5.2	Problems specific to the extraterritorial duty to fulfil	171
5.6	Extraterritoriality: its implications for the human right to water	173
5.7	Conclusion	175
6	Extraterritoriality of the human right to water in international water law	178
6.1	Introduction	178

6.2	International water law: from states' rights to human rights	180
6.2.1	International water law: its relevance to the human right to water	180
6.2.2	The Convention as an embodiment of customary rules of international water law	187
6.3	The principle of equitable and reasonable utilisation as an extraterritorial duty to fulfil	191
6.3.1	Introducing the concept	192
6.3.2	The normative status of the principle of equitable and reasonable utilisation	195
6.3.3	The relevance of the equitable and reasonable utilisation principle for the human right to water	198
6.3.3.1	Equitable and reasonable utilisation as a human rights duty of co-riparian states	199
6.3.3.2	The 'vital human needs' exception as a source of states' extraterritorial obligations to human beings	202
6.4	The 'no-significant-harm' rule as extraterritorial duties to respect and protect	208
6.4.1	Introducing the principle	208
6.4.2	The 'no-significant-harm' rule as states' extraterritorial human rights duty	215
6.5	The prohibition of extraterritorial discrimination and the right to extraterritorial remedy	219
6.6	Conclusion	222
7	The human right to water and extraterritorial remedies	225
7.1	Introduction	225
7.2	The right to a remedy	227
7.2.1	The right to a remedy in international law	227
7.2.2	Right to a remedy: whose right is it?	230
7.2.3	The role of individual remedies in redressing transboundary violations of the human right to water	232
7.3	The right to a remedy under the African Charter	235
7.4	Primacy of national remedies over international remedies	240
7.5	Beyond national jurisdictions: accessing regional tribunals and remedies	242
7.5.1	Problems of remedial deterrence	243
7.5.2	Exceptions to the local remedies rule and the human right to water	246
7.5.2.1	Lack of protection for the human right to water in domestic law	246

CONTENTS xi

7.5.2.2	Problems of domestic non-justiciability of socio-economic rights	247
7.5.2.3	‘Serious’ or ‘massive’ violations and the human right to water	251
7.6	Conclusion	253
8	Conclusion	255
8.1	Introduction	255
8.2	Extraterritoriality: a human rights response to water scarcity and state incapacity	258
8.3	The right to water and the tripartite dimensions of extraterritoriality	260
8.3.1	Extraterritoriality from the right’s perspective	260
8.3.2	Extraterritoriality from the states’ duties perspective	261
8.3.2.1	The duty of international assistance and cooperation	261
8.3.2.2	The Watercourses Convention and states’ extraterritorial duties	262
8.3.3	Remedial extraterritoriality	264
8.4	Extraterritoriality and questions of attribution	265
8.5	Conclusion	268
	<i>Bibliography</i>	270
	<i>Index</i>	295