

Water governance: Cooperation and participation perspectives

Lesha Witmer,
Steering Committee Women for
Water Partnership



MARSEILLE, FRANCE '12

TIME FOR SOLUTIONS



THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT

On the way to the 6th World Water Forum – Marseille 2012

SHARING OUR SOLUTIONS

WHY?

- Equitable use and access
- No harm
- ✓ Demand driven
- ✓ Informed choices
- ✓ Willingness to protect, upkeep and pay
- ✓ Political will



competition

unsustainable water usage due to

- 💧 higher household usage
- 💧 Urbanization
- 💧 Economic development / water & energy demand
- 💧 Irrigation
- 💧 changing diet patterns



**Number of people living in countries
chronically short of water:**

- 2000: half a billion (out of six billion)
- 2050: four billion (out of nine billion)



Main issues

“In getting our waters clean, the role of citizens and citizens' groups will be crucial” (EC, 2010).

- appropriate measures - involve balancing the interests of various groups <> open to the scrutiny of those who will be affected
- Enforceability requires transparency

Main problems:

- 💧 core competence of policy-making bodies
- 💧 limited consultation with / participation of primary stakeholders and major groups

additional problems:

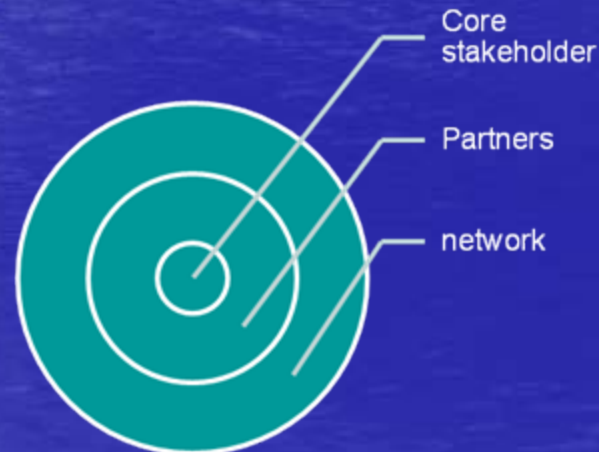
- 💧 seen as target group / beneficiary - not as actors
- 💧 access to information <> informed choices (Aarhus / Rio)
- 💧 language

HOW?

- Awareness
- information
- Involvement in decision-making
- Participation (not just consultation)
- legislation / regulation
- Benefit sharing and rights based
approache(s)

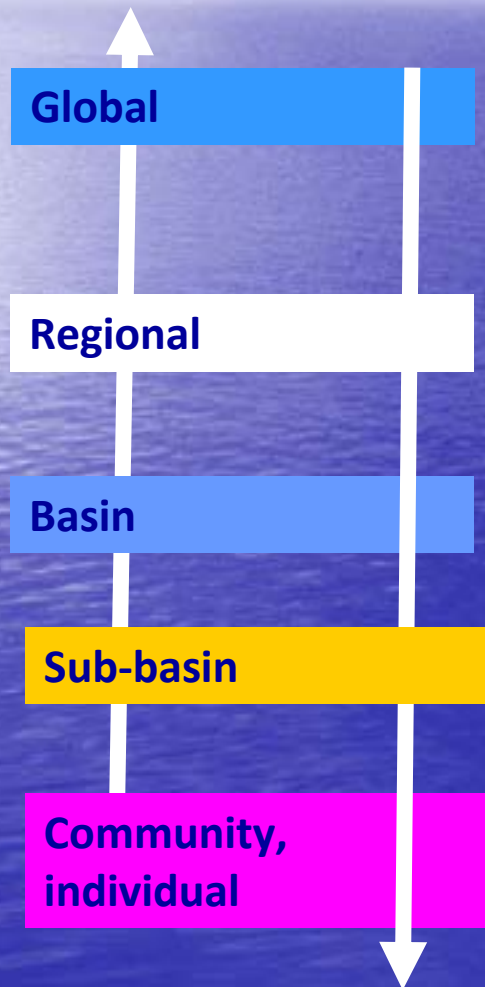
Stakeholders

- Water users
 - Environmental NGO
 - Advocacy
 - Grassroots CSO
 - poor
- Business:
 - water services
 - supply
 - equipment





Improving the governance of transboundary water resources, at all levels with (existing) mechanisms



UN Watercourses convention, convention on biodiversity, RamSAR convention, Un desertification Convention

SADC Protocol, EU WFD & directives, UNECE Water Convention, Aarhus convention

Agreements on Rhine, Danube, Senegal, Niger, etc.

Congo, Sava

Right to water & sanitation

Principle and practice

- Art. 16 UNECE and art. UN Water Courses 32
- Rio principles and agenda 21
- Art. 14 EU WFD: maybe consultation (web-based), not enough participation
- ❑ Water boards elections NL
- ❑ national dialogues EECAA EUWI