International environmental governance & sustainable water resource management

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Water DOES NOT come from the tap (or a bottle)

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Water security

- Past 60 years - only 37 recorded cases of violence between states over water, Ascribed to 300 international agreements governing the use, management and protection of transboundary waters (40%)
- But most do not involve all states within a basin or have major failings and gaps (e.g., lack provisions on emergencies, dispute settlement or transboundary water pollution)

Water security / safety

- 6 types of "water conflicts" (Oregon univ): inter alia
- conflict related to water: Control of Water Resources (state and non-state actors): where water supplies, hydropower or access to water is at the root of tensions
- Development Disputes (state and non-state actors): where water resources or water systems are a major source of contention and dispute in the context of economic and social development

WHY does WWF promote / support the water conventions?

- water sometimes the “missing link”
- Complement other treaties/ conventions:
- Horizontal coordination, harmonization, inclusive
- Instrument for climate change adaptation
- knowledge and information exchange
- Accountability & transparency: clear responsibilities and rights and incorporate other stakeholders

WHY does WWF promote the conventions and the connection between them?

- National laws do not provide for “across the river”
- Water is “ Local” – yes – but guidance and common frameworks needed (systematic; interpretation)
- Harmonization even within countries / between basins with same riparians; States struggle to implement multiple agreements in a coordinated fashion
- Stimulate cooperation among countries and involvement of stakeholders at large

WHY

- Foster a common language and shared understanding >> cooperation
- Facilitate negotiations (agenda & procedure available)
- Contribute to MDGs and now SDGs
- **No good work can be done sustainably on environment and eco systems without good water management**

Sustainable development goals

- Development AND environment
- key role ecosystems play in maintaining water quantity and quality
- Targets AND means of implementation > implementers are sitting in this room
- Goals 6, 14 and 15
- Negotiations start 19 January 2015
- Finance for development Addis, July 2015

Sustainable development goals

- 6.3 by 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater, and increasing recycling and safe reuse by x% globally
- 6.4 by 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity, and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity

Sustainable development goals

- 6.5 by 2030 implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate
- 6.6 by 2020 protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes
- 6.a by 2030, expand international cooperation and capacity-building support to developing countries in water and sanitation related activities and programmes, including water harvesting, desalination, water efficiency, wastewater treatment, recycling and reuse technologies

Sustainable development goals

- 6.b support and strengthen the participation of local communities for improving water and sanitation management
- 15.1 by 2020 ensure conservation , restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements
- 15.2 by 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests, and increase afforestation and reforestation by x% globally

Why did countries accede to the UNWC?

- Water safety high priority
- You cannot do it alone – cooperation needed
- Principles of international law/ cooperation
  - Makes for a complete set of laws at various levels on protection and enhancement of water quality, water quantity and the infrastructure for international watercourses
  - general obligation to protect and maintain the ecosystems of international water courses also in other treaties.
  - solidarity

Why did countries accede?

- fitted with existing multilateral treaties and gives them a global framework
- risk mitigation/ prevention
- development cooperation
- Conflicts resolved > framework for the future
- Foster coordinated management use, prevention, protection, due diligence, protection and clean-up
- Develop synergized approaches and prevent silo approaches
- support interstate consensus-building/dialogue, regardless whether all are party

Water governance initiative principles: basin governance

- 12 draft Principles: three pillars; effectiveness, efficiency, legitimacy and inclusiveness (trust)
- Encourage cross-sector coordination
- Engage with public, private and other stakeholders incl. from outside the water community: timely, meaningful, informed, outcome-oriented
- Manage water at relevance scale; An effective multilevel basin governance system for concrete water challenges: to respond to:

Water governance principles: basin governance

- Long-term environmental, economic, social and policy goals
- Foster coordinated management use, prevention, protection, due diligence, protection and clean-up
- (so e.g. joined environmental impacts assessments, stimulate hydropower assessment protocol use, etc)
- Develop synergized approaches and prevent silo approaches

basin governance and organizations

- Hydrografic frontiers (river, lake, aquifers) cut across / not the same as administrative, political and even ecological boundaries
- Be instrumental for knowledge and expertise transfer and use
- Bring stakeholders together (not just “technical”)
- Stimulate joined data collection and involve CSOs
- Stimulate joined collective action and e.g. work on water stewardship approaches involving all stakeholders

basin governance and organizations

- Implement international and national law and joined planning
- Channel: Shared benefits/ payment for ecosystem services and services for eco systems
- “expended fields”:
- joined environmental impacts assessments
- stimulate hydropower assessment protocol use
- water stewardship standard, etc. with business
- Develop synergized approaches and prevent silo approaches