



How BRIDGE Implements Water Governance

Water governance sets the 'rules of the game' for the way water is managed. It determines whether and how water resources management is implemented. Poor water governance results in over-allocation and pollution of water resources, and in the degradation of the ecosystem services that people rely upon for water storage and management of drought and flood risks. Without water governance that is effective, planning for water management remains unimplemented and water-related vulnerabilities of poor people go unaddressed, leading to less resilient livelihoods and economic growth.

Through water diplomacy, countries are able to reach negotiated agreements on water management. Because of the importance of water for development and poverty reduction at local levels, agreements among national governments often do not lead, by themselves, to implementation. For transboundary agreements on water management to be effective on the ground, they need buy-in and agreement of water users. Water diplomacy is a process that operates under the authority of States, but which unlocks cooperation among multiple stakeholders, including at the level of municipalities and provinces.

BRIDGE strengthens Water Governance Capacity

Water management is also a technical issue that is strengthened by in-depth scientific knowledge and extensive legal information. Effective water governance capacity is therefore the art of building and facilitating convergence of

BRIDGE is applied in five regions with support for learning, communications, dissemination and advisory services at the global level. BRIDGE projects are active since 2011 in the Andes, the Mekong, and Mesoamerica, and since 2014 in West and Central Africa, and East and Southern Africa. BRIDGE supports demonstration actions for improvements in water governance in transboundary river and lake basins in each region.

»» BRIDGE ACTIVITIES IN MESOAMERICA

Goascorán basin – a Binational Management Group for the basin was strengthened with the participation of State institutions, municipal and local economic associations, and NGOs. The Binational Management Group developed a strategic plan for territorial development in the basin.

Sixaola basin – Bylaws were approved for the Sixaola Binational Watershed Commission. This was crucial in moving the process forward making the basin Commission operational.

Coatan basin – Formation of the Buena Vista microwatershed committee and exchanges between microwatershed councils from México and Guatemala, enabled action plans on both sides of the border.

»» BRIDGE ACTIVITIES IN SOUTH AMERICA

Zarumilla basin – BRIDGE facilitated the progress of an IWRM Plan and kickstarted a water information system which led to new agreements on river basin maps. In the development of the Zarumilla Commission, these steps now serve as a model for water cooperation between Peru and Ecuador.

Catamayo-Chira basin – Dialogue over water cooperation in the basin was renewed, leading to a process of building a Water Information System for the basin and setting the foundation for a binational institution mandated by the Presidents of both countries.

Titicaca basin – Collaboration was put in place between the hydro-meteorological institutes of Bolivia and Peru, as well as among water supply companies in the basin. A Water Information System was initiated to promote improved governance arrangements for IWRM.

»» BRIDGE ACTIVITIES IN ASIA

Sekong river

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