



BRIDGE: Building River Dialogue and Governance



BRIDGE is an IUCN project aimed at building water governance capacities, through learning, demonstration, leadership, and consensus-building, in particular in transboundary river basins.

What is water governance?

Water governance sets the 'rules of the game' for the way water is managed. It determines how, or even whether, sustainable water resource management is implemented. Poor water governance results in degradation and over-allocation of water resources, is a cause of vulnerability for poor people, and leads to weaker and less resilient livelihoods and economic growth.

Policies, laws, and institutions are the three pillars of water governance within a country, as well as in a transboundary basin, where they are complemented by the agreements negotiated between basin countries. In order for this governance to be effective, countries need to develop their own water governance capacity (WGC) through transparent, coherent, and cost-efficient policies, laws, and institutions.

BRIDGE is implemented in 9 transboundary river basins worldwide:



Demonstrations Catalyse Solutions

Experience from the IUCN Water and Nature Initiative (WANI) has shown that 'Water Governance Capacity' (WGC) is built most effectively where all stakeholders participate and it is coordinated from local to national and transboundary levels.

In practical terms, teb221@iucn.org (703) 321-2341 (participa@iucn.org)

Mobilising Change

Demonstrating change is a powerful tool to mobilise wider reform practices on the ground. Some examples of project change processes already set in place:

Mesoamerica

Transboundary committees empowered, inclusion of new strategic stakeholders;
Binational commissions in Sixaola strengthened, trained on WGC and Climate Change adaptation;
Analysis of possible regulations and Code of Conduct for Goascaran and Sixaola;
Network of 14 Champions established

South America

Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) road maps and plans;
Development of Transboundary Water Information Systems;
Drafting of policy recommendations, Institutional and legal frameworks

Asia

Preparation of situation analysis reports on existing projects, institutional arrangements, and key facts on the 3S basin;
Development of information sharing platforms for stakeholders: www.3Sbasin.org

BRIDGE Project Learning

Training packages, water governance toolkits, and hydrodiplomacy scenario kits developed:
www.waterlawandgovernance.org

