

KeMog

Water diplomacy enables countries to negotiate agreements on water management. For transboundary agreements over water to work more effectively on the ground, they need the involvement of water users at multiple levels of governance.

Water diplomacy should therefore be a process which operates under the authority of sovereign States, requiring their ultimate involvement, but which also unlocks cooperation among multiple stakeholders, including municipalities and provinces and civil society. Working broadly as a multi-level governance process, water diplomacy can better integrate government priorities for natural resource security and economic growth, while providing a means to integrate biodiversity conservation into water management.

Recommendations

- A critical practice in water diplomacy should be the promotion of dialogues between a broad spectrum of water users in order to gain agreements.
- Cooperation in water management demands that stakeholders share a common understanding of stakeholder priorities and governance principles and options that take concrete steps towards solutions. It is essential that opportunities are created for the various actors to come together, understand each other and find common ground on water management issues.
- It is a fundamental feature of transboundary water management that decisions are made at multiple scales, ranging for example from planning a dam at the scale of a whole basin to allocating water along an irrigation channel within a community. Water management works best when decisions are taken at the appropriate level, but in doing so, collaboration across scales needs to be implemented through joint actions.
- Solving problems step-by-step is a crucial process in water diplomacy. An intergovernmental treaty does not often provide a solution for all problems, and nor is it necessary to wait for one to materialise. Stepwise process in water diplomacy can deliver practical and concrete results.
- Water diplomacy often requires a variety of support functions to be effective. This involves providing legal and technical assistance. It means connecting water users across scales. It involves raising awareness and advocacy on water issues. And it means providing data and information at the right time to ensure agreements are kept.





AbdUCN

IUCN, International Union for Conservation of Nature, helps the world find pragmatic solutions to our most pressing environment and development challenges. IUCN's work focuses on valuing and conserving nature, ensuring effective and equitable governance of its use, and deploying nature-based solutions to global challenges in climate, food and development. IUCN supports scientific research, manages field projects all over the world, and brings governments, NGOs, the UN and companies together to develop policy, laws and best practice.

IUCN is the world's oldest and largest global environmental organization, with more than 1,200 government and NGO Members and almost 11,000 volunteer experts in some 160 countries. IUCN's work is supported by over 1,000 staff in 45 offices and hundreds of partners in public, NGO and private sectors around the world.

Schweizerische Eidgenos

AbdBRIDGE - Btigré Dajard Gene

BRIDGE (Building River Dialogue and Governance) supports the capacities of countries sharing a river basin to implement effective water management arrangements through a shared vision, benefit-sharing principles and transparent, coherent and cost-effective institutional frameworks. Its goal is to enhance cooperation among riparian countries through applying water diplomacy at multiple levels.