

Presentation

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WEEK

Getting Transboundary Water Right: Theory and Practice for Effective Cooperation

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Starting points

- Getting transboundary water management 'right' a key for development and poverty reduction
- Response of international community to the challenges TB waters pose so far inadequate and inconsistent.
- Climate change likely (at least in some cases) to make the pressure on TB waters stronger.
- TB waters are inherently political and needs to be addressed from that perspective.

Key questions in need of attention

- What is the *quality* of the cooperation?
- What does cooperation actually mean?
Interplay between cooperation and conflict?
- Why and under what conditions do countries cooperate?

Key conclusions (1)

- Need for establishing an agreed definition of cooperation. Cooperation should not be a goal in itself. Cooperation can be coercive.
- Cooperation at community level can lead to cooperation at the municipal level and possibly also to the international level.
- Cooperation most effective when equal participation and decision making power among parties

Key conclusions (2)

- Barrier analysis to effective cooperation important. Economic inequity and power asymmetry are the most important barriers to cooperation.
- Capacity building of weaker states and creation of objective and fair water sharing standards can be effective to challenge power asymmetry.
- Long-term and flexible support needed from 3rd parties to encourage cooperation. More of focus on "process" and less on project/programmes.