Unpacking Water Governance: At transboundary scale

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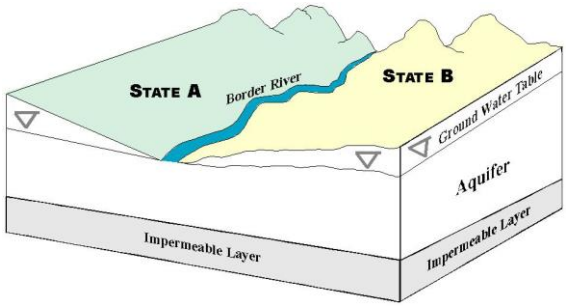
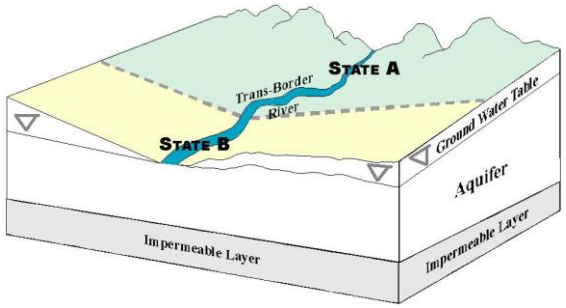
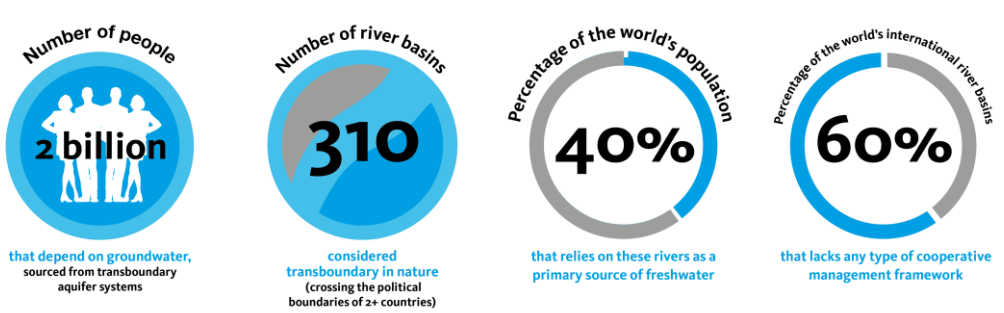
Transboundary Water Management: A Snapshot

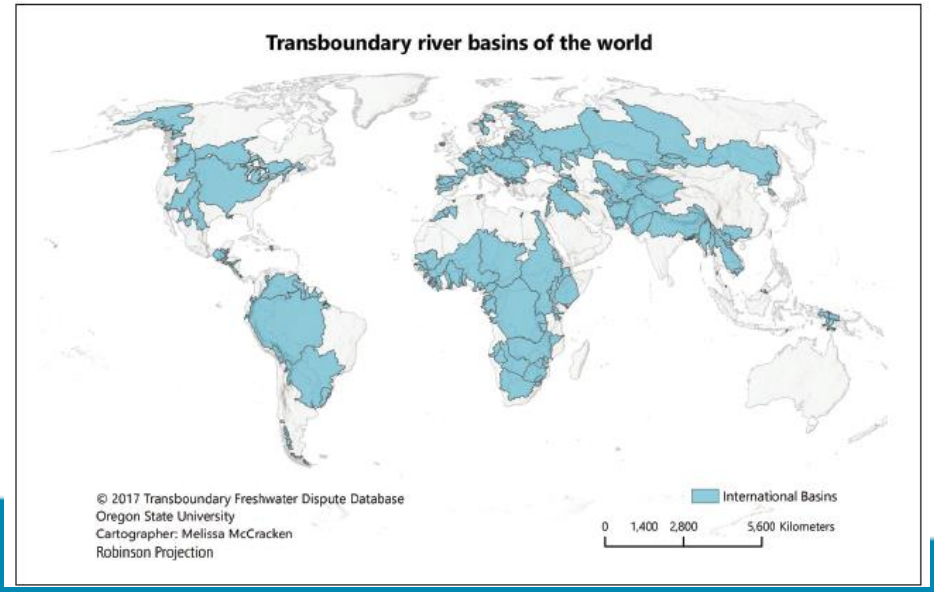
Rivers as Borders...



Upstream vs Downstream ...







Water: a complex resource...
A Nexus Approach

Natural

Social & Economic

Cultural

Political

Water Diplomacy

Water diplomacy recognizes that there are many different actors that have the ability to create solution spaces for conflicts over water and that can create windows of opportunity for cooperation over water. These actors are inclusive of government officials (state and local level), non-state/government actors, private sector, civil society, media, and others.

Water diplomacy can help to assess and generate opportunities for cooperation in shared basins and improve water security.

Klimes, Martina and Yaari, Elizabeth. Water Security in the Middle East – Opportunities and Challenges for Water Diplomacy. Routledge Handbook on Middle East Security, Routledge, London.

Multi-track Water Diplomacy benefits

- Strengthen linkages - political and technical
- Problem-solving activities aimed at building relationships between parties
- Changes in attitudes, new thinking and joint ideas that can inform the official process
- Broaden the diplomatic space to engage stakeholders
- Create vision and shared understanding of technical and water related challenges and mutually beneficial solutions
- Maintain different channels of communication, options should formal relations deteriorate

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Benefits of Participatory Governance

- Reflect user priorities
- Local buy in and support in implemeting policies
- Inform decision making
- Early warning/ Risk identification and mitigations (quantity and quality)
- More effective implementation and improved outcomes
- Improved access to water for marginalized groups
- Improved data collection
- Strengthens the enabling environment for water infrastructure investments

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UNDP-SIWI Water Governance Facility. *Issue sheet: Water governance*. Stockholm: SIWI.

Coordination over shared waters

Function	Water and Sanitation	Water Resources	Transboundary Waters
Coordination	Effective coordination among all actors involved in service delivery—national and local government, donors, service providers, users and other stakeholders.	Coordination among sectors and actors at different levels (local, landscape, river basin, national) relying on water resources for different uses (agriculture, energy, industry, domestic etc..) and interests (economy, environment, social, etc.), across the whole basin.	Technical coordination: sharing hydro/meteorology data; operation of infrastructure that impacts downstream flow; joint conservation efforts. High-Level political coordination. Coordination of technical and political tracks. Joint management bodies such as RBOs.

Coordination is crucial amongst a diverse stakeholder group:

- Interministerial coordination (MFAs/Water Line/Chambers of Commerce)
- Formal Track I Diplomacy (Geopolitical)
- Across Sectors (Energy/Agriculture/Tourism)

Photo Credit: Martina Klimes