Water governance: Cooperation and participation perspectives

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WHY?

- Equitable use and access
- No harm
- Demand driven
- Informed choices
- Willingness to protect, upkeep and pay
- Political will
competition unsustainability of water usage due to:
- higher household usage
- Urbanization
- Economic development / water & energy demand
- Irrigation
- changing diet patterns

Number of people living in countries chronically short of water:
- 2000: half a billion (out of six billion)
- 2050: four billion (out of nine billion)
Main issues

“In getting our waters clean, the role of citizens and citizens’ groups will be crucial” (EC, 2010).

- appropriate measures - involve balancing the interests of various groups <> open to the scrutiny of those who will be affected
- Enforceability requires transparency

Main problems:
- core competence of policy-making bodies
- limited consultation with / participation of primary stakeholders and major groups

additional problems:
- seen as target group / beneficiary - not as actors
- access to information <> informed choices (Aarhus / Rio)
- language
HOW?

- Awareness
- Information
- Involvement in decision-making
- Participation (not just consultation)
- Legislation / regulation
- Benefit sharing and rights based approach(es)
Stakeholders

- Water users
- Environmental NGO
- Advocacy
- Grassroots CSO
- poor

- Business:
  - water services
  - supply
  - equipment
Improving the governance of transboundary water resources, at all levels with (existing) mechanisms

**UN Watercourses convention**, convention on biodiversity, RamSAR convention, UN desertification Convention

SADC Protocol, EU WFD & directives, UNECE Water Convention, Aarhus convention

Agreements on Rhine, Danube, Senegal, Niger, etc.

Congo, Sava

Right to water & sanitation
Principle and practice

- Art. 16 UNECE and art. UN Water Courses
- Rio principles and agenda 21
- Art. 14 EU WFD: maybe consultation (web-based), not enough participation
- Water boards elections NL
- National dialogues EECA, EUWI