

SHARING BENEFITS FROM TRANSBOUNDARY WATER MANAGEMENT

Results from Workshop on experiences from
the Mekong River, Zambezi and the Nile

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BACKGROUND TO BENEFIT SHARING IN A TRANSBOUNDARY CONTEXT

- There are over 260 shared river and lake basins in the world and over 60 of these are in Africa and 15 of these are shared between the member states of the Southern African Development Community (SADC)
- A number of ICPs including Danish Government are supporting Transboundary Water Management including Benefit Sharing;
- Danish Water Forum has supported a number of international workshops and Conferences dealing with Transboundary Water Management Including the recent one in Lao PDR on Sharing Benefits from Transboundary Water Management;
- Three selected river basins shared their experience on this topic, namely the Mekong, the Nile, and the Zambezi basins

Background

- There is a lot of work that has been done in the recent past to define the concepts of benefit sharing in the context of Transboundary waters; (e.g. Sadoff and Grey (2002), and Phillips and Woodhouse (in press))
- Benefit sharing is defined as "*the process where riparian's cooperate in optimising and equitably dividing the goods, products and services connected directly or indirectly to the watercourse, or arising from the use of its waters.*"

Basin Perspectives on Benefit Sharing

SADC – Zambezi Basin:

- The SADC protocol for Shared Watercourses (2003) provides a legal framework for cooperation on water and development of guidelines for benefit sharing
- Benefit sharing can take place between riparian states, different sectors, society and environment, and social groups;
- Within the context of the broader River Basin Capacity building and strengthening SADC is in the process of developing guidelines for benefit sharing in Transboundary Management,
- The categorization of benefits: to, for, because of and beyond the river is included in the guidelines.

Basin Perspectives on Benefit Sharing

SADC – Zambezi Basin (cont.):

Conclusions from SADC's development of guidelines so far:

- A holistic analysis of the resource is necessary
- Benefit sharing is area and issue specific
- Stakeholder participation is key to success

Examples of benefit sharing mechanisms for the Zambezi:

- Basin-Wide Knowledge sharing through an IWRM strategy
- A real-time water resources information system (ZAMWIS)
- The Southern African Power Pool
- Kariba dam operations - power generation and environmental flow and flood protection.
- A basin wide synchronization of dams operations and flood releases study in ongoing and will come up with recommendations for optimizing the water use from the existing and future structures.

Basin Perspectives on Benefit Sharing

Mekong:

- No programme for transboundary benefit sharing in the basin
- MRC is actively promoting sharing of benefits through its activities such as: The Basin Development Plan, information and experience sharing e.g. through guidelines, provision of assessment tools and capacity building and basin wide Strategic Environmental Assessments
- The present benefit sharing in the MRC is based on mechanisms such as payment for environmental services and tariff mechanisms (e.g. for hydropower)

Basin Perspectives on Benefit Sharing

Nile Basin:

- A Benefit Sharing Framework is based on the Transboundary Waters Opportunities Analysis (TWO) with the purpose to identify benefit sharing opportunities and determine costs/benefits and development potentials
- Benefits are seen as promotion of economic and environmental, cooperation in the region, as well as human resource capacity development.
- The framework will enable riparians to identify and agree upon development based; identified mutual benefits/related costs

Stakeholder engagement

Conclusions from the workshop:

- Stakeholder engagement is critical to ensure local benefits are fully identified and incorporated into overall equation
- Methodologies and mechanisms for stakeholder participation and for addressing conflicts between stakeholder groups are necessary
- Partnerships among stakeholders is needed to ensure positive outcomes
- Common challenges are: limited access to information, lack of transparency, weak governance and inadequate institutional capacity
- Additional resources to support programmes of stakeholder engagement are important

Key Messages

- No full water or benefit sharing mechanisms are in place in any of the basins at transboundary level
- All have taken steps towards benefit sharing: development of guidelines in SADC, a basin development plan in MRC and the Transboundary Water Opportunities for the Nile
- Benefit and cost sharing is a new concept in transboundary water cooperation. The purpose is to increase benefits by going from sharing of water into looking at a broader basket of benefits
- Benefits are already shared among riparians in terms of avoided conflicts and unwanted developments.
- Cooperation exist, but equitable distribution and minimum flows remain major challenges
- Challenges are also related to design of benefit sharing mechanisms, stakeholder involvement and transparency

Recommendations

- Introducing sharing of costs and benefits can promote better use of water resources – also for social and economic development in the basins
- It is important to look out of the water box to promote integrated solutions
- We need to develop policy and legal frameworks for benefit sharing, to look into costs and benefits at all administrative levels, to acknowledge national differences, and always to establish who the beneficiaries are and who are adversely affected
- Maintaining economic, social and environmental goals is important, but political benefits also have to be included

Topics for discussion:



- How does transboundary water management and benefit sharing contribute to social and economic development in the riparian countries?
- How can benefit sharing contribute to promotion of integrated solutions and help us look out of the water box?
- How can a regional approach on policy, strategy and action plans as well as regional organizations facilitate joint decision making and water management?

Thank you for your attention!!!!

