



SDGs and Transboundary Water Cooperation

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1. How is Transboundary Water Cooperation reflected in the SDGs?



Water Resources in the 2030 Agenda



- **2030 Agenda officially adopted by UNGA**, NY, 25/9/2015
- **17 Goals** – incl. **Water**, Energy, Food, Ecosystems, Cities, Peace, Partnerships, etc.
- **Successful campaign** for a “**Dedicated Water Goal**” by a **group of organisations (GWP, UNECE, WWF...)**
- Process now led by the **Inter-Agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDGs)** overall, and **UN-Water** for #6
- **GWP** is providing **support to national stakeholders** in the implementation of SDGs, esp. SDG 6.5. on IWRM.
- **Pilot countries** selected “for proof of concept”: **Uganda, Bangladesh, Netherlands...**



Water Resources in the 2030 Agenda

Goal 6: “Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all”

- 6.1 By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all
- 6.2 By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all
- 6.3 By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, (...), halving proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally



Water Resources in the 2030 Agenda



- 6.4 By 2030, substantially **increase water-use efficiency across all sectors** and **ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply** of freshwater **to address water scarcity...**
- **6.5 By 2030, implement *integrated water resources management* at all levels, incl. through transboundary cooperation as appropriate**
- 6.6 By 2020, **protect and restore water-related ecosystems**
- 6.a By 2030, **expand international cooperation and capacity-building support to developing countries** (incl. WWT, harvesting, desalination, efficiency, recycling & reuse)
- 6.b Support and strengthen the **participation of local communities**

Transboundary Cooperation and SDG 6.5



SDG 6.5: Direct and clear reference to “transboundary cooperation” as a means to implement IWRM in target 6.5

Definition: TB cooperation = established or emerging international rules & institutions aimed at **minimizing/averting likelihood of significant harm occurring in relationships between countries** sharing TB waters (rivers, lakes, aquifers, etc..)

The challenge:

- **Targets** under SDGs need to be **measurable at national level**
- **TB water cooperation** takes place at **inter-national level**

Transboundary Cooperation & SDG 6.5.2



Indicator 6.5.2: “Proportion of transboundary basin area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation”

Definition:

- “**basin area**” = surface waters + extent of the catchment, & groundwater as the extent of the aquifer.
- “**arrangement**” = bilateral or multilateral **agreement/formal arrangement** between riparian countries on TBWM
- “**operational**” = **substantive cooperation** (e.g. existence of institutional mechanisms, regular communication, joint or coordinated management plans, regular exchange of data & info)

SDG Inter-linkages and HR to Water

- SDGs #1 on **Poverty** + #2 on **Hunger**
- SDG #3 on **Health**
- SDG #4 on **Education**, #5 on **Gender**
- **SDG #6 on Water**, #7 on **Energy**
- SDG #8 on Jobs & **Economic Growth**
- SDG #9 on Industry & **Infrastructure**
- SDG #11 on **Cities**
- SDG # 13 on **Climate Change and DR**
- SDGs #14 and #15 on **Ecosystems**
- SDG #16 on **Peace, Justice, Govern.**
- SDG #17 on **Partnerships...**



All SDGs have
implication for
Human Right
to Water –
**the SDGs in
BLUE are the
most relevant**

SDG Inter-linkages – Feedback loops

Types of feedback loops:

- Positive: win-win, mutually enhancing
- Neutral: do not influence each other
- Negative: imply trade-offs

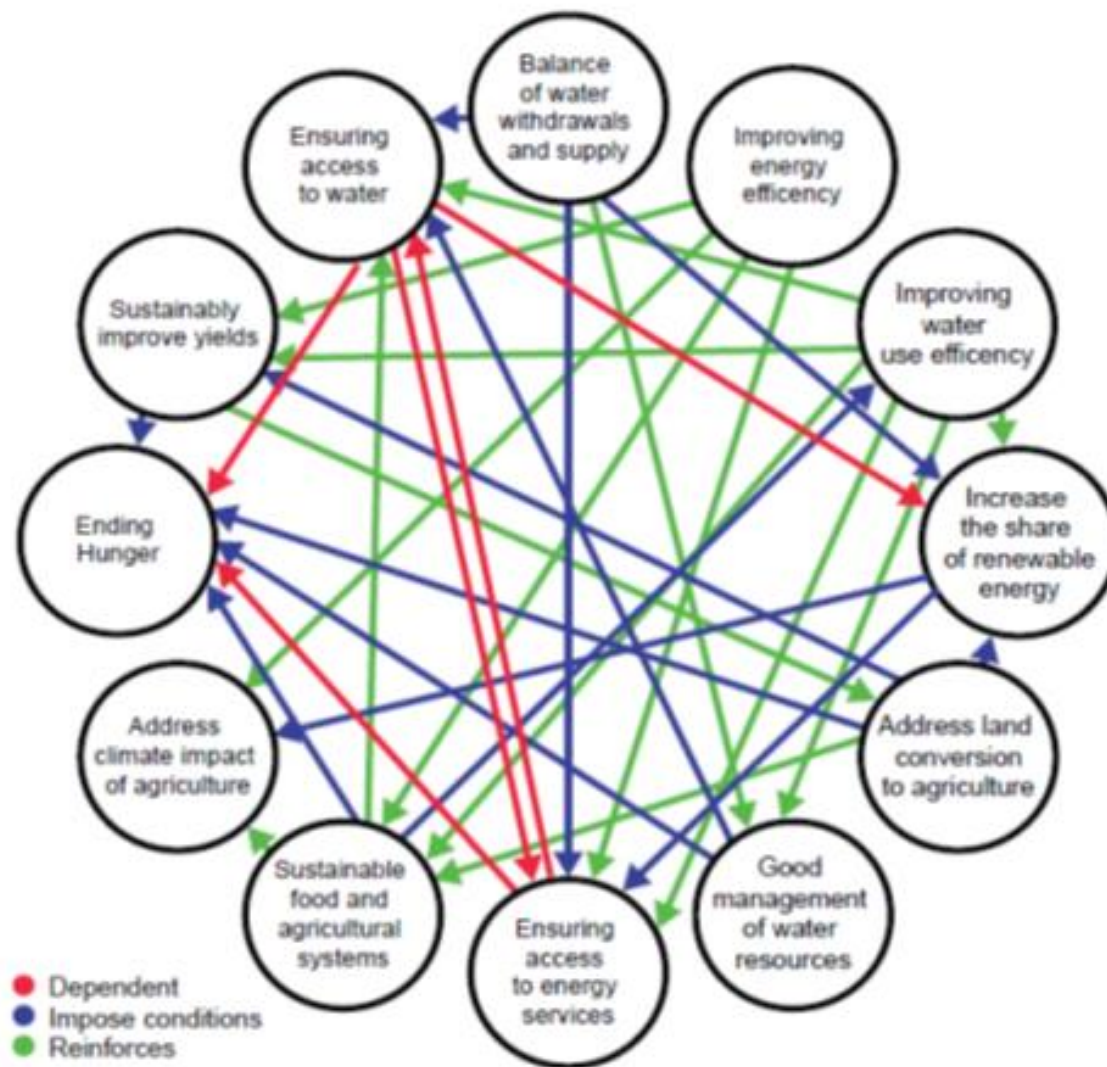


Figure 2: Interactions between proposed water, energy and food targets.

Transboundary Cooperation and SDG 16

- Many elements needed to **promote “*peaceful and inclusive societies for SD*” (SDG #16)** relevant to IWRM
 - In particular, references to:
 - ✓ **rule of law and access to justice** in **target 16.3**
 - ✓ **development of accountable and transparent institutions** in **target 16.6**
 - ✓ **participatory and representative decision-making** in **target 16.7**
- = in line with definition of IWRM



Transboundary Cooperation and SDG 17



- ***SDG #17 to “Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for SD”*** relevant to IWRM, cooperation and GWP.
- In particular, references to:
 - ✓ **enhanced policy coherence for sustainable development** in **target 17.14**
 - ✓ **enhancing the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships** for knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources (**target 17.16**)



2. How to make Transboundary Cooperation more effective and to achieve SDG 6.5?



Making TB Cooperation more effective



Two types of options to achieve Target 6.5:

1. Legal options

- SDG 6.5 reflects a **long tradition of riparian state cooperation**
- Some **3,600 agreements on TBWM** currently in force
- Indicator 6.5.2 = useful first step, should go beyond the formal

Need for:

- workable monitoring provisions
- enforcement mechanisms
- specific water allocation provisions that address variations in water flow and changing needs

Making TB Cooperation more effective



IWL provides a **three-pronged framework for cooperation**:

- **Core principle of equitable and reasonable use**: prohibits any one basin state from monopolising the supply of a river, lake, or aquifer
- Riparian states undertaking an activity are subject to **specific cooperation duties with the affected states**
- Where there is an existing binding basin use and management instrument, there is an **emerging customary duty upon all basin nations to cooperate** to achieve objectives of the instrument.

Making TB Cooperation more effective

2. Non-legal options

- Cooperation **not exclusively a state-2-state function** anymore
 - **Non-state actors (NSAs) play increasing role** in facilitating cooperation (e.g. SH processes State & NSAs)
- **more effective cooperation**



Making TB Cooperation more effective



2. Non-legal options (cont'd)

Possible outcomes of stakeholder involvement:

- Availability of **better scientific info** on river basin
- identification of **points of agreement and non-agreement** on water allocation & management
- **building of trust** among State officials and NSAs
- development of **alternative solutions** to address identified issues

Example: 2012 Mexico and US agreement to provide for flows to restore Colorado River Delta in Mexico



Thank you!
Merci!

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