

TRANSBOUNDARY COOPERATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

Eberhard Braune University of the Western Cape

Presentation at International Water Learning
and Resource Network
(IW-Learn) in Nairobi, 30.10-2.11.06

PREMISE

- Because of its conceptual integration requirements and its development focus, IWRM needs integrated implementation approaches;
- The general bottlenecks to such approaches at national level can often be overcome through sub-regional/regional approaches;
- This must also be reflected in capacity-building for IWRM;
- The IW-Learn initiative and this workshop present an opportunity for experience sharing and learning in this regard.

EXAMPLE:SADC FRIEND PROJECT

- Hydrological assessment (end-user focused) for southern Africa;
- High quality science with leading sub-reg. and international institutions;
- Networking with other FRIEND projects worldwide;
- Lasting sub-regional impact – acted as forerunner towards data sharing and network harmonization initiatives.

Example: African Cities Groundwater Project (11 countries)

- This wide cooperation brought
 - rapid understanding of underlying issues
 - Confidence to express these issues nationally and internationally (finally at highest level- World Water Forum and AMCOW)
 - International understanding and support

New Initiatives: Africa Groundwater Protection (20 countries)

- From assessment to **facilitation of best practice** for groundwater management throughout the continent;
- Tremendous national bottlenecks of cooperative governance to overcome;
- Challenges beyond any past project experience;
- **Need for vision, strategy and learning as we go.**

Bottom-line requirements for Africa Groundwater Project

- Integrated project management approaches;
- Integrated national stakeholder approaches;
- Integrated international partner approaches;
- Integrated approaches with parallel initiatives;
- Long-term sustainability through COE

Groundwater as part of transboundary initiatives

- A groundwater flow connection is seldom the issue;
- Individual localized importance gets overlooked easily;
- Addressed in **appropriate planning unit** (political district or catchment, including transboundary), the aggregated role can be shown and analysed;
- This is part of the “think globally-act locally” mindset;

Integrated Drought Management Centre

- Vision for IDRM since 1999 Africa Drought Management Conference;
- UNESCO has stayed with Africa vision since then in a step by step approach;
- IDRM probably wider in scope than IWRM;
- A Regional Centre as hub, but initiate and pilot at sub-regional level;
- Now a bold government champion is required who relies on his network, rather than just his own resources.

Terms of Reference for SA National Committee

- ✓ **Achieve** effective participation in implementation of IHP
- ✓ **Act** as coordinating body nationally, regionally and internationally
- ✓ **Provide** advice to government on implications for development, capacity building and research (regional & global context)
- ✓ **Promote** partnerships with other organizations active in the field

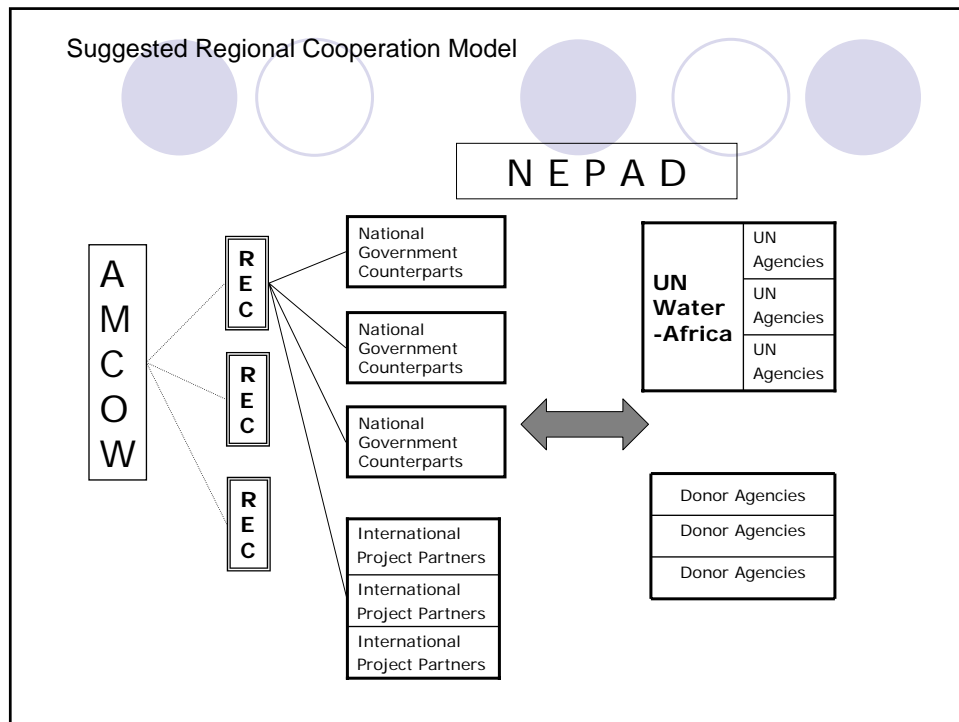
Constitution of Committee

Department of Water Affairs and Forestry (Including one member who has strong region links)	3
National Commission for UNESCO representative	1
Water Research Commission	2
SANCIAHS representative	1
IAH / Groundwater Division of SA representative	1
Science Councils (CSIR, CGS, etc)	1
Universities (academic institutions)	3
WMO / SADC Hycos representative	1
UNESCO FRIEND representative	1
UNESCO HELP representative	1
SA link to International Atomic Energy Agency (use of isotopes)	1
WISA	1



IWRM Capacity-building as part of implementation

- Required as development forerunner
learner +
consolidator
- E&T should address the real world and
WRM implementation through case
studies
- E&T should actively work across discipline
and institutional lines (science, government, civil
society)



Networking at all Levels as Basis

Practical steps:

- Appropriate project governance structure
- Active project website with stakeholder linkages
- This is needed now for Africa GW Project
 - link the initiative to past experience
 - maintain enthusiasm and momentum
 - build the new initiative

Centre of Excellence as ultimate networking vehicle

IWRM Implementation – Lessons Learned

- The development focus of IWRM requires integrated implementation approaches
- The national level very often has tremendous bottlenecks to integration
- These can often be overcome by operating in transboundary or regional ways
- But national integration is still required for a development impact
- National Committees for the UNESCO IHP could play such a national integration role

Lessons (continued)

- Subregional structures of the IHP could even act on behalf of SADC and AMCOW
- Besides appropriate structures, formalized networking should be put in place
- These must link project partners and development counterparts
- IWRM E&T should be practice-related and act as forerunner, learner and consolidator of development projects