

Developing the Geneva Water Hub



Region
Global

Partners
University of Geneva, UN actors and global actors from civil society, academia, river basin organisations, and the private sector.

Background information
The Hub will help scale up the Blue Peace approach to the global level, promoting dialogue between political, socio-economic and thematic actors.

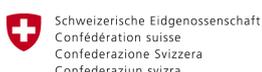
Project target
Develop a hub of competence in hydro-politics to better understand and prevent water-related tensions between competing uses and between political entities.

Beneficiaries
Political, UN, academic, civil society and private sector actors that can influence the water, security and peace theme and implement concrete solutions at all levels.

Costs
CHF 5,615,500, plus contributions from partners

Duration
04.2017 – 03.2020

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Water insecurity is increasingly a cause of social and political instability threatening peace and security at all levels. The Geneva Water Hub aims at better understanding and preventing water-related tensions between competing uses, between public and private actors, and between political entities and countries. The Hub will leverage resources available in international Geneva to develop the hydro-politics agenda. It will also offer a hydrodiplomacy platform providing facilitation, conciliation and mediation services.

Sustainable water resources management is a global challenge of the 21st century, and is more and more linked to insecurity at local, regional and global scale. This is illustrated by growing tensions around large dams, mining operations and various disputes over land and water.

Despite the complexity of the challenges, water can become a theme for collaboration and can be transformed from a source of potential crisis into an instrument of peace. It is with this positive vision that Switzerland is engaged in global water issues in partnership with UN organizations, bilateral partners and NGOs, to help prevent water conflicts at an early stage and to promote water as an instrument of peace and cooperation.

Geneva forms the most active centre of multilateral diplomacy worldwide, and has become a recognized global centre of expertise in several areas that are highly relevant to hydro-politics and global water governance. In response to the wish expressed by many partners to federate the expertise available in Geneva, Switzerland is supporting, together with the University of Geneva, the establishment of a hub of competence in hydro-politics and hydrodiplomacy, to promote water cooperation and good governance.

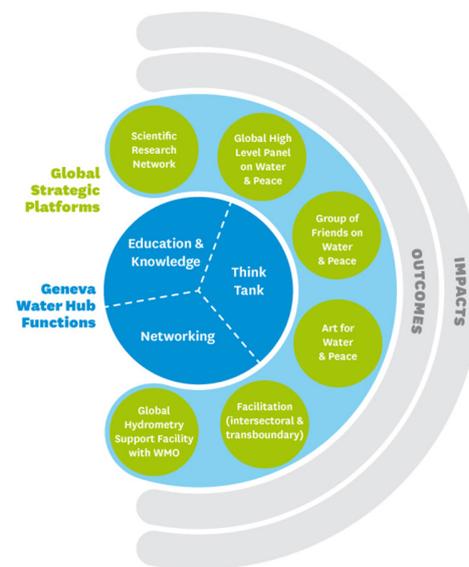
The Geneva Water Hub aims at developing the hydro-politics agenda to help prevent water conflicts at intersectoral and transboundary levels at an early stage and to promote water as an instrument of peace and cooperation. It leverages resources available in international Geneva to develop the hydro-politics agenda. It also offers a hydrodiplomacy platform providing facilitation, conciliation and mediation services. The Geneva Water Hub has three main functions interacting to support different Strategic Platforms:

- The education and knowledge component is at the intersection of research and political action,

for the prevention and management of water-related conflicts, and strategic analysis for evidence-based decision making. This platform is coordinated by the University of Geneva which is establishing a global scientific network focusing on the latest thinking and developments in this field.

- The think tank component acts as a hub of competence and understanding in hydro politics, connecting Geneva-based organisations and global think tanks, civil society, academia, public and private sector, to support the work of the global platforms that the Geneva Water Hub has been working with, such as the Global High Level Panel on Water and Peace, for which the Geneva Water Hub acts as the Secretariat.
- The networking component that aims at connecting and bringing together organizations and actors of international Geneva and beyond, to focus on the global theme of water, security and peace.

The Geneva Water Hub enables partnerships with international think tanks as well as with UN and non-UN institutions and agencies. The Geneva Water Hub is being gradually developed as a flexible, lean structure with the support of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), the University of Geneva and several global actors from civil society, academia, river basin organisations, and the private sector. Starting 2017, the Geneva Water has become an affiliated centre of the University of Geneva.



Additional information
www.genevawaterhub.org