

Water Diplomacy and Governance in Key Trans-boundary Hot Spots

Building River Dialogue and Governance (BRIDGE) – Phase 4



Region
Global

Partners
IUCN

Background information
Transboundary water bodies create hydrological, social and economic interdependencies between societies. While incorporating a potential for competition and conflict, they also provide opportunities for cooperation.

Project objective
Poverty alleviation, nature conservation and economic growth are enhanced in target basins through sustainable management and governance of transboundary water resources

Beneficiaries
National government institutions and agencies, municipal and provincial level governments, basin organizations, local communities, businesses and civil society

Costs
CHF 5,370,000

Duration
01.2019 – 12.2021

Contact
Global Programme Water
water@eda.admin.ch

 Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC

The support to the BRIDGE initiative is part of a broader programme on Transboundary Waters Governance for Sustainable Development and Blue Peace bringing together partnerships with IUCN, UNESCO (transboundary aquifers) and the UNECE Transboundary Water Convention.

BRIDGE supports the capacities of stakeholders from local to transboundary levels in countries sharing river or lake basins to design and implement effective water management arrangements. It works on a shared vision, benefit-sharing principles and transparent and coherent institutional frameworks. BRIDGE is implemented in five regions through demonstration at basin-level, learning support, dialogue facilitation, leadership development, and the provision of advice and technical support.

With over 40% of the world's population living in 275 transboundary basins, cooperation over water management is essential for people's well-being, political stability and the sustainability of ecosystems. Today, the complexities of sharing water among States require innovation relative to traditional approaches to water governance, calling for improved water diplomacy across multiple levels.

The goal of BRIDGE is to improve secure and safe access to water, to reduce water-related conflicts, and to protect or restore water-related ecosystems target transboundary basins, through sustainable management and governance of water resources. It uses water diplomacy in order to increase the socio-economic, environmental and political benefits

derived from water. Cooperation among countries in the management of transboundary waters is a building block of international security and regional stability. Likewise, water management is also a local activity because clean, safe and dependable water is intrinsic to health, food security and economic opportunities. The costs of failing to manage water are often reflected in poverty, disease, loss of biodiversity, conflict and instability. The strategy of BRIDGE aims at catalysing sustainable water resources development, including progress on safe water supply and sanitation, sustainable watershed management and biodiversity conservation. The principle is to have demonstrations on the ground, combined with capacity and leadership development that are necessary to make cooperation a reality that catalyses change. It is necessary to use capacity development and learning as a vehicle and leaders as agents of change. Support facilities: provide advice on demand to governments and stakeholders on water governance.

Based on these needs, phase 4 of BRIDGE operates in hot spots of five regions (Andes, Mesoamerica, East Asia, West and Central Africa, Southern Africa and Horn of Africa).

Additional information:
www.iucn.org/bridge
<http://waterlawandgovernance.org>
<http://3sbasin.org>

