Water Governance as connective capacity

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Introduction

• Challenge of fragmentation

• More need for coordination and capacity to govern interrelations

• Beyond technical orientation towards process and relation orientation

• Governance capacity: well-networked relationships among stakeholders from different sectors, domains and jurisdictions
The need for connective capacity

• A systemic approach stresses the capacity to connect

• Finding drivers for connective capacity

• Relational capacity: trust

• Trust as good intentions, living up to prior agreements, reliability

• Research in water governance shows that trust is an important predictor of good outcomes
Next to trust: boundary spanning leadership

- Individual capacity: network managers, connective agents
- Work at boundaries of organizations in informal spheres
- Skilled in linking processes and people, selecting information and translating to other domains
- Research shows that:
  - It is a predictor of integrated performance of water governance
  - Boundary spanning also leads to increase of trust
To conclude

• Water governance goes beyond technical rationality

• Water **governance capacity** is about developing and maintaining well-networked relationships among stakeholders

• Individual and relational capacity: **trust** and **boundary spanning** as important predictors of effective and integrated outcomes from water governance processes

• Trust and boundary spanning as important **mechanisms** to develop water governance capacity