

Water diplomacy Promotes Transboundary Water Cooperation

— Practice in a Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Project



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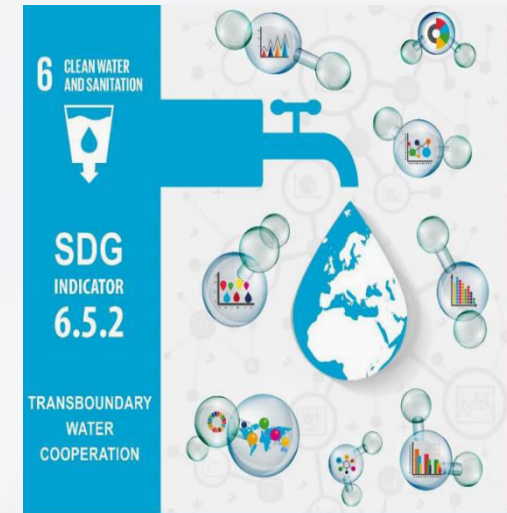
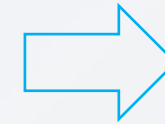
南京水利科学研究所

Content

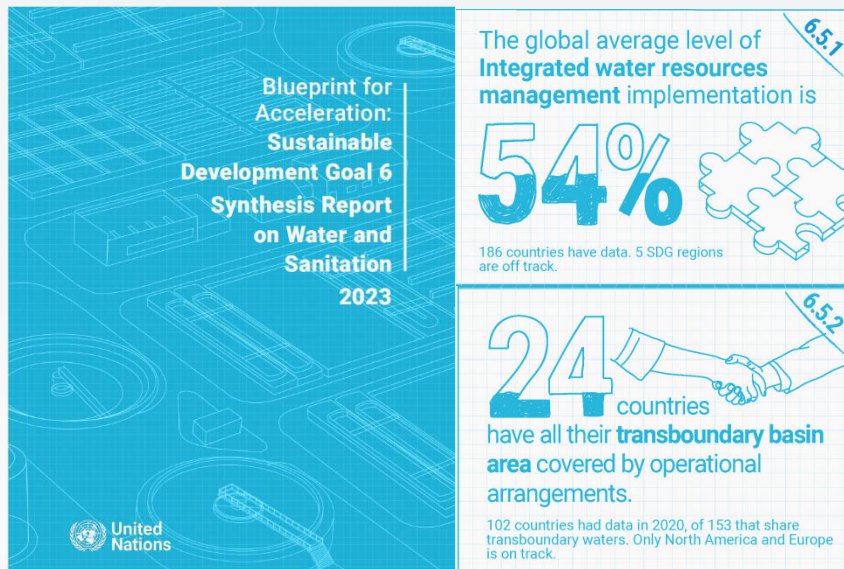
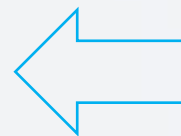
- Why this paper
- Theoretical framework
- Case study

Why this paper

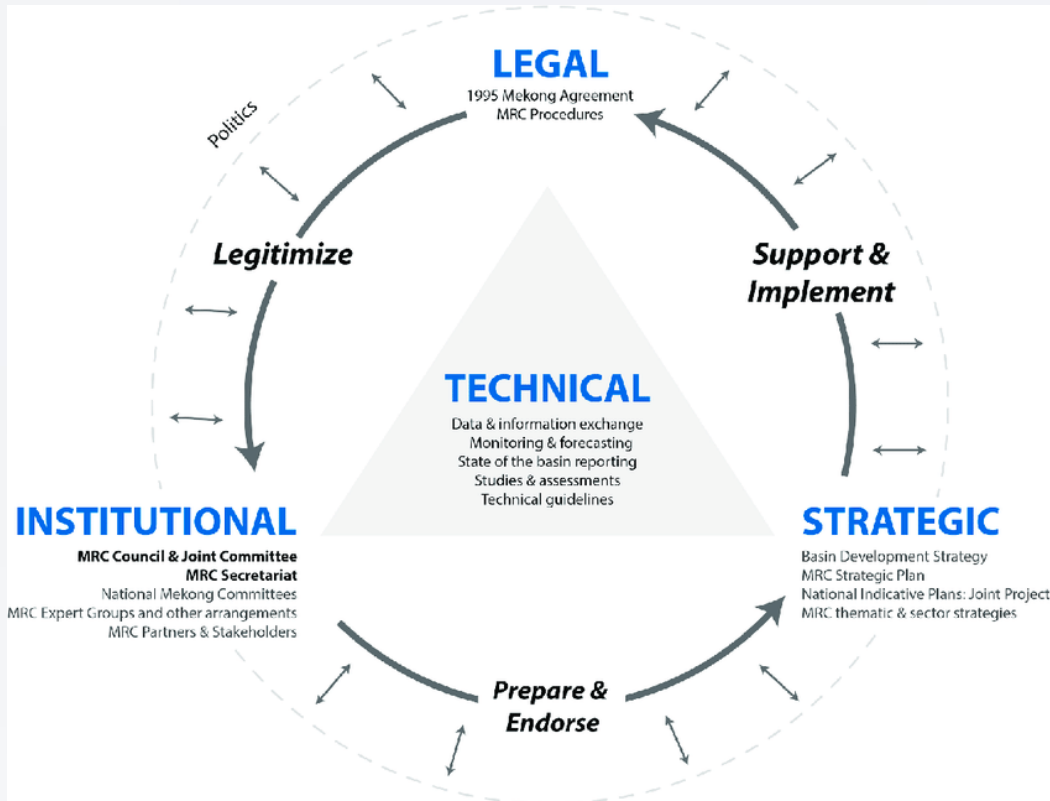
- **60** percent of freshwater
- **310** transboundary rivers and lakes & **468** transboundary aquifers
- **153** countries share transboundary waters
- **2 billion** people rely on them for drinking and domestic water



Background



Population growth
expanding economies
environmental pressures
consumption practices
political tensions
armed violence
internal water mismanagement
Climate change



Project-dimension water diplomacy & How it works

The diagram originates from Anoulak Kittikhoun, CEO of MRC in papers:
Small state, big revolution: Geography and the revolution in Laos
Water diplomacy and conflict management in the Mekong: from rivalries to cooperation

Why water diplomacy?

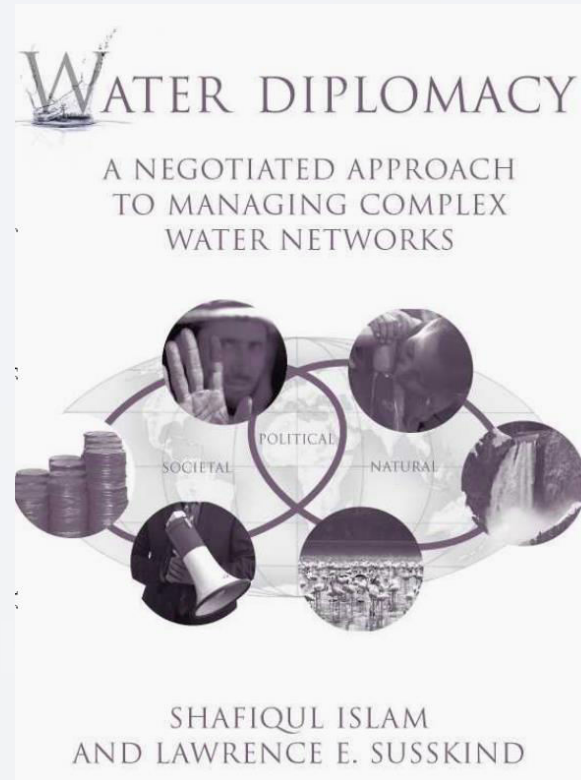
IWRM is an idea that actors in any society can and will seek to reach common understandings and coordinate their actions through reasoned argument, consensus, and cooperation (by GWP)



Integration is a political process that requires realistic analyses of existing situations, as well as the pooling of explicit and tacit information to create actionable knowledge.



Water diplomacy is complementary to IWRM



Water diplomacy framework (WDF)

- ❑ Transboundary river is an **open network continuously changing** in an unpredictable way
- ❑ Water is a **flexible** resource
- ❑ All **stakeholders** should be involved in every step of decision making
- ❑ Transboundary water problems are **complex**
- ❑ Coalitional behavior should point to **non-zero-sum** results
- ❑

Understandings

Theoretical Structure

Foreign policy arrangement # Zhang Li
A diplomatic way to shape a country' s soft power.

Mechanism

Multi-track framework # THIGJ, SIWI, UNESCO-IHE...
Track 1: formal – water diplomats
Track 2&1.5: informal – water professionals

Negotiation

stakeholders

Endogenous
growth

Negotiation approach # Shafiqul Islam
Adaptive approach rooted in Complexity theory and Non-zero-sum Negotiation theory.

China' s Approaches to Development Cooperation

Teaching one to fish is better than giving him fish

Helping other developing countries to pursue the SDGs. # 

Joint work

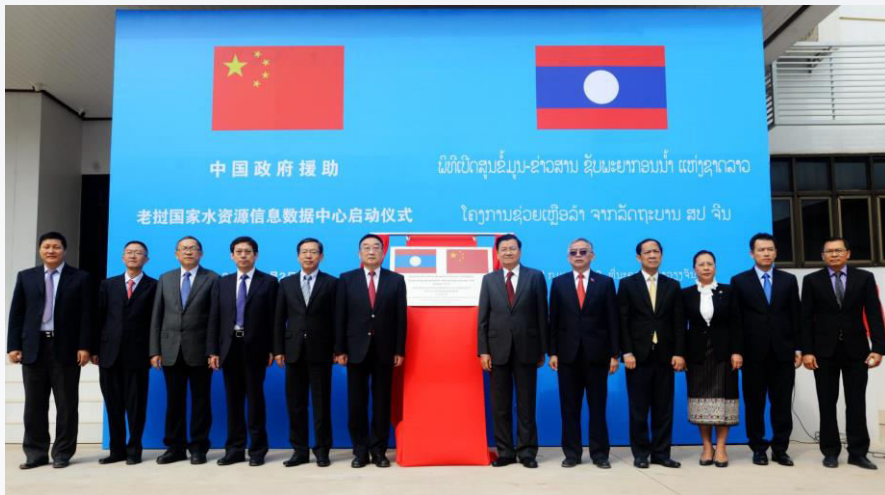
Context of the project





On March 23, 2016, the 1st LMC Leaders' Meeting, Sanya,

1. connectivity
2. production capacity
3. trans-border economy
4. water resources
5. agriculture and poverty reduction



In February 2018, H.E. Tonglun Sisoulith, Prime Minister of Lao PDR, and H.E. CHEN Lei, then Minister of MWR, PRC, jointly unveiled the Lao National Water Information Data Center

Pilot Project of Hydrological Data Observation and Transmission Technology



Dec. 2021
kickoff meeting with TSA



Apr. 2022
kickoff meeting with DMH

Namkornoy station at Muangxai,
Oudomxai Province, Laos



On-line training for installation

The screenshot shows a PDF document titled "u...arameters.pdf" with a wiring diagram for an automatic weather station. The diagram includes a "Storage Battery" at the bottom, a terminal block with 16 terminals, and a cabinet with 16 numbered slots. The cabinet slots are labeled as follows:

No: 07	Pressure
No: 08	Rain ga
No: 09	Communic
No: 10	Communic
No: 11	Communic
No: 12	Communic
No: 13	Storage I
No: 14	Storage I
No: 15	Solar Pa
No: 16	Solar Pa

Below the diagram is a table with the following text:

Installation diagram of automatic weather station with m parameters

Approval	
Review	Cabinet circuit diagram of automatic weather station with multiple parameters
Proofread	NIHWA

On the right side of the screenshot, there is a video conference window showing several participants, including a woman at the top and a man at the bottom. The man at the bottom is speaking and has a microphone icon next to him. The video conference window is titled "TSA Team".

Tnaot Chum Commune, Baray
District, Kampong Thom
Province, Cambodia



Case study — LMC project



Apr. 2022, Project acceptance inspection
&
Hands-on training
&
Project handover



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