Participatory Approach in Integrated Water Resources Management


Where to start?

Where to stop?
Integrated Water Resources Management

"a process which promotes the coordinated development and management of water, land and related resources, in order to maximize the resultant economic and social welfare in an equitable manner without compromising the sustainability of vital ecosystems” (Global Water Partnership)
Why sector integration?

- There is a hydrological cycle, encompassing water and land resources
- Upstream influences downstream (and sometimes vice versa)

.integration over these dimensions should allow overall optimization
Why stakeholder integration?

- Water is life
- Water is both a private and a public good

⇒ Stakeholder integration should guarantee equal access to sustain human well being and bring the greatest economic benefit from water use
Five lessons learnt
Don’t believe in technocrats

- Indicator systems are a great approach to visualize issues, but don’t try to make them comprehensive
- Guidelines on prioritizing water uses is a recurring wish of authorities, but hard to fulfil
Stakeholders are different, indeed

- Appraise roles of stakeholders in different stages of policy cycle
- Carefully choose the policy instrument category when addressing different categories of stakeholders


(Canton Zurich, 2000)

(National Research Program 61, 2013)
Think twice before founding new institutions

- High-level water management decisions go far beyond water
- Water is essential for, but seldom a driver of economic development

(Institutional Models for Switzerland, 2013)
Tour for audience

- Go to the people and the institutions
- Make it a series of events
- Clarify roles from the start

(Bregalnica River Basin Management, 2015)
Model for decision-makers

- Strive for simple model results

(Bregalnica River Basin Management, 2015)

(Yangtze River Commission, 2013)

(Cosmetics Industry, Brazil, 2014)
Where to start?

- Make a stakeholder involvement plan per stage of policy cycle, start from issue identification
- Appraise interests and interdependences of stakeholders in each specific case, choose appropriate policy instruments
- Clarify roles of stakeholders with them at the start of the process
Where to stop?

- Question issue identification in case of low or no interest
- Switch to established political processes for political decisions
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