



# Water Governance Activities and Global Water Needs Initiative

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Major GWSP Events Global Water Governance



- June 2006: Workshop "Governance and the Global Water System: Institutions, actors, scales of water governance facing the challenges of global change" - Special Issue in Global Governance 2008
- 2009 Book on "The Evolution of Law and Politics of Water"
- October 2010: Workshop on "Global Water Governance and the UN System", in Bonn, Germany.
- December 2010: Sessions at GCI conference on "The Global Dimension of Change in River Basins" in Bonn, Germany.
- June 2011 European Science Foundation Conference on "Water Governance facing the Challenge of Global Change"
- October 2011 Sessions at the Conference "Assessment, Governance and Management of Water in a Changing World: Innovations and Integration of Science and Technology from Local to Global Scales"





## Workshop on Global Water Governance and the UN System: Global Water Governance, Challenges and Design Options

### 13-15th October, 2010, Bonn, Germany Organized by Claudia Pahl-Wostl, Joyeeta Gupta and Theo Toonen





# Master Thesis The Role of UN-Water in Global Water Governance (GWG)

## Thomas Baumgartner



Major Conclusions



- UN-Water is basically a 'toothless' coordination mechanism with an identity crisis in a strongly fragmented and highly disorganized field of global water governance.
- As superstructural node, UN-Water has managed to improve some procedural aspects of GWG and thereby contributed to good governance of water at global level.
- As institutional role model, it did and has further potential to catalyze the establishment and inspire the operations of similar intersectorial coordination mechanisms in global environmental governance and water governance on the national level.
- -> Even with yet limited effectiveness UN-Water as coordination structure seems to be an appropriate design in the current institutional context of GWG with potential for improvement



Major Questions Workshop



- What are major the present and emerging challenges for global water governance?
- Is the current global water governance system capable of dealing with present and emerging challenges?
- Does UN Water as a body that coordinates UN water activities offer a sufficiently suitable forum for engaging in, discussing and taking decisions on water governance to meet the present and emerging governance challenges?
- What could and should be the role of the UN system in an emerging global water governance landscape taking into account experiences regarding UN activities in global water governance and experiences regarding the role of the UN system in other areas of global environmental governance?





# ESF Conference Water Governance Meeting the Challenges of Global Change

### 06th - 10th of June 2011 University Centre Obergurgl, Austria

Conference Chairs: Claudia Pahl-Wostl Joyeeta Gupta Theo Toonen



Themes



- Global governance of water current developments and future prospects
- Water governance addressing (global and) climate change
- Water governance addressing the environmental dimension
- Conceptual foundations to understand properties and dynamics of multi-level water governance regimes
- Methods for comparative analyses of multi-level water governance regimes
- Legitimacy and multi-level governance: lessons for the water column



Twin2Go Project

### Coordinating Twinning partnerships towards more adaptive Governance in river basins



Synthesis activity on developing context-sensitive, but transferable approaches for adaptive water governance

Data base developed on regime characterization, regime performance and context for 29 basins

Currently work on developing policy recommendations and best practices

#### Future activities with GWSP:

Policy workshops in different world regions Implement data base on the web as nucleus for a global data base on water governance systems and networks of scholars and practitioners Include further basins in the current data base Develop set of in depth analyses focusing on key findings of the results from the exploratory analyses





# Global Water Needs Initiative





# Workshop on Advancing a methodology for assessing global environmental water flow needs

### Week 23-27th May, 2011, Bonn, Germany organized by Johan Rockström. Jennie Baron and Claudia Pahl-Wostl







- Scoping study on methodologies to assess environmental flow requirements
- Management tools for implementation of environmental flows (emphasis on stakeholder involvement)



Major Objectives Workshop



- Develop methodology where key eco-hydrological characteristics of rivers basins are identified and matched with EWF assessment methodologies adapted/well suited for river basins with specific characteristics. An "association" matrix between eco-hydrological characteristics of river basins and suitability of EWF methods is thereby developed, which will allow the application of the most "appropriate" EWF method for each "cluster" of river basins.
- Furthermore assess governance challenges associated with different "eco-hydrological" types. Governance issue not a central theme for this workshop – focus of a follow up workshop-



### Development of research field



#### Table 1: Quantitative Scopus analysis (1999-2010)

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
"Environmental Flow"	16	17	24	17	40	22	45	47	43	71	68	31
"Environmental Flow" AND participation OR												
stakeholder OR communities	0	2	1	2	8	4	4	5	4	10	10	8
"Environmental Flow" AND adaptive OR adaptation	1	0	0	3	3	0	1	2	2	2	2	7
"Environmental flow" AND implementation OR												
management	1	3	8	9	20	11	20	22	13	34	40	19
"Environmental flow" AND "ecosystem service"	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
"Environmental flow" AND governance	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	1	0

Number of publications (choice for search space "article or review") with "Search term" in title, abstract or key words.

### Research gap! – Capacity problems







### Societal learning needed to face the water challenge Claudia Pahl-Wostl, Christer Nilsson, Joyeeta Gupta and Klement Tockner

# How to overcome the seeming (?) conflict between societal and ecological requirements?

Focus on multi-level approach on how people – societies learn



