

The Value Addition of Stakeholder Engagement in Monitoring Water Resources – at Basin, Country and Regional Level

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Introduction

- As fugitive resource as it is, water management, especially IWRM require all stakeholders to be involved.
- Monitoring of water resources which is even more challenging, require more stakeholder involvement
- But water management itself is very tribal- tribal language, terms, metrics, relations and even boundaries.
- Water monitoring by design, is very exclusive. Only a domain of experts and the selected few



A case for Stakeholder Engagement

- Stakeholder engagement is sine qua non for IWRM
- In order to have a sound IWRM, 3 things are key
 - technical expertise and assistance in the development and enhancement of data sharing,
 - water resources decision support tools;
 - funding
- Stakeholder engagement is a rubric that provides the full impetus

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But how ? Evidence is key

- Stakeholders are everywhere, and are many,
- At **the basin level** – and below , in catchments, micro catchments and at the hydro-streets. IWRM is for them
- At **the country level** – where they hold much of the decision and the political economy and local hydro politics eg finance, investment, tariffs, rights, etc
- At the **regional level** – where for transboundary resources – dialogue for development require lots of evidence
- And beyond – internationally for hydrobargains

Do stakeholders appreciate data?

- Who generates data, and for who?
- How is data packaged and where is stored? Issues of retrieval
- Data share – how and with who?
 - Experts – crosscutters – setting agenda
 - Politicians, = powerful & influencers
 - Users – payers/ polluters, etc
- If they don't know, they will not act, and if they do, they will act in ignorance

How then do we engage stakeholders with evidence

- **Passive pathways** – let them fend for themselves, if it matters to them, they will know about it/// Knowledge Management & information seeking behaviours in the basin, country and region
- **Active pathways** – pro active information eg policy briefs, fact sheets, etc. dashboards, DA/ DSS? And many panels available out there
- **Dialogue of the willing, the affected or the deaf?**

What matters most here

- Data sharing protocol to support transparency in data sharing and gathering new data to ensure the DSS provides evidence based support to decision makers.
- Results that inform decision making,
- Participation in data sharing - collection of 'live' water monitoring data.
- Keep it simple - KISS

Take aways

- Establish a data coordination platform/steering structure at all levels
- Agree on regular forums (quarterly)
- Prepare a roadmap with clear roles and responsibilities
- Undertake Joint planning and implementation (all levels)
- Promote experience sharing among basins, countries and regions

Thank you



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