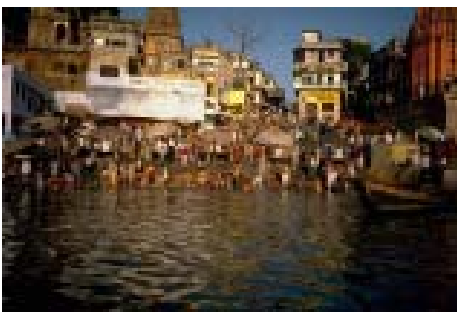


Transboundary Water Resources Management

Activities Focused on Shared Watercourses



Rarely are rivers and watersheds aligned along political boundaries, and countries must work together to share data, resources, and decision-making.



Upstream pollution on the Ganges and Brahmaputra Rivers adversely affects water quality for downstream users, and requires shared decision-making by the riparian countries for pollution control in the Ganges-Brahmaputra basin.



Waters from the Tis-Abbay Falls spill from the uplands of Ethiopia into the Nile River, and travel northward through the Sudan and Egypt before emptying diminished and polluted contents in the Mediterranean Sea. The Nile Basin Initiative enables the three countries to work together on sustainable water resources management.

U.S. Agency for International Development

USAID Water Team

<http://www.usaidwater.org>



Overview

Almost 40 percent of the world's population lives in more than 200 river basins that are shared by more than two countries. Twenty-two countries around the world are heavily dependent upon the flow of water originating in other upstream nations for a large part of their supply.

Cooperative management of shared watercourses can optimize regional benefits, mitigate water-related disasters, and minimize tensions. It can also help maintain shared ecosystems and improve water productivity in agriculture.

United States Government Activities

The United States Government (USG) is actively participating in a wide range of transboundary related activities targeted at improving water resources management that is consistent with the principles of Integrated Water Resources Management. These activities include regional frameworks for cooperation in selected river basins, increased stakeholder awareness of river basin management issues, and strengthening the capacity of relevant regional river basin institutions.

The USG is advancing the adoption of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) practices in a number of transboundary rivers, including major activities in Central Asia and Southern Africa. These efforts emphasize the application of sound science and the active participation of stakeholders, and include the:

- Promotion of water demand management, negotiation and conflict management;
- Stakeholder-based decision-making to manage competing water demands;
- Institutional strengthening and capacity building;
- Training programs for monitoring, analysis and planning of water resources management;
- Harmonization of national laws with the management of the shared water course; and
- Regional information collection, management, analysis, exchange and application to decision-making.



This automated meteorological data collection station was installed in Naryn, Kyrgyzstan with USAID support.



New computers provided by USAID allow instantaneous exchange of meteorological data in Kyrgyzstan for shared analysis and planning throughout the Central Asian Republics.



Rapid population growth along the Nile River intensifies competition for scarce water resources.

Specific activities are on-going in:

- **Central Asia** (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan). USAID has supported the development of transboundary basin planning tools for the Syr Darya River to facilitate decisions on the allocation and distribution of water and energy in the region, and to facilitate transboundary water discussions between Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. USAID also supports an improved data gathering and communication system to improve decision making on sensitive trans-boundary water and energy agreements.
- **Southern Africa** (Angola, Botswana, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia, Zimbabwe) where USAID is supporting activities in the Okavango and other major basins in the region.
- **Eastern Europe** (Republic of Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), Serbia & Montenegro, and Republic of Slovenia). Through the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe, the USG is supporting cooperation among the four riparian states along the Sava River to sustainably manage the water resources of the basin.

In addition, USAID has provided support for transboundary water management activities in:

- **South Asia** to investigate arsenic in the groundwater and promote the sharing of data and information within the Ganges-Brahmaputra basin, and flood forecasting in the transboundary rivers in the region.
- **South East Asia** on the Mekong River to share experiences between the Mekong River Commission and the Mississippi River Commission.
- **The Nile Basin** to conduct an environmental study on opportunities and constraints.
- **Central America** on the Rio Lempa (El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala), where USAID, USGS and NOAA have been providing assistance on coordinating the management of the basin, gauging the river and providing information for dam operations.
- The United States is also supporting the **UNDP Transboundary River Basin Initiative**. Through this fund, the U.S. promotes and strengthens regional institutions, legal structures, and development strategies to ensure the equitable utilization and benefit of basin resources. Activities are under way with a wide range of partners in the Nile, Niger, Senegal, Mekong, and Rio Frio river basins.