Understanding BRIDGE Tools - A Research Perspective

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Doing BRIDGE

• Facilitates dialogue between multiple stakeholders to manage waters in a cooperative and peaceful manner

• Strengthens governance capacities of countries sharing transboundary waters

• Guides the adoption and reform of water policies, laws and agreements

• Advises the establishment of water institutions
Approach

Understanding the actors and challenges

Facilitating dialogues for joint visioning

Designing joint roadmaps

Policy and legal reforms

Strengthening capacities for implementation

Monitoring in a participatory manner

Evaluating results

Sharing lessons and experiences

Cooperating and peaceful relationships

Establishment of dialogue platforms

Adjusting and replicating approaches and strategies

Integrity of ecosystems

Human wellbeing and sustainable use of water

Strengthening institutional frameworks

Consensus building

Promoting effective water governance

Human wellbeing and sustainable use of water

Policy and legal reforms

Strengthening capacities for implementation

Monitoring in a participatory manner

Evaluating results

Sharing lessons and experiences

Cooperating and peaceful relationships

Establishment of dialogue platforms

Adjusting and replicating approaches and strategies

Integrity of ecosystems

Human wellbeing and sustainable use of water
A variety of needs, interests and priorities

Environmental, Social, Economic, Political, Cultural

Negotiation is essential to ensure benefits for all
Benefit sharing approach

- Transboundary waters are complex
- Fair, effective and sustainable water management requires negotiation
- Cooperation brings benefits that countries could not achieve on their own
- Enables win-win outcomes for multiple stakeholders in a basin
- Focuses on the distribution of benefits rather than only in water allocations
Benefit sharing steps

1. Identifying stakeholders and mapping interests and influence
2. Identifying the range of existing and potential benefits
3. Building benefit enhancing scenarios
4. Estimating costs and benefits from future scenarios
5. Negotiating benefits
6. Institutional agreements and implementation mechanisms
Key Lessons from Project Implementation

• Multi-level and cross-sectoral dialogues facilitate cooperation to identify mutual benefits and address complex challenges jointly.

• Effective water governance is based on policies, laws and agreements.

• Water institutions require adequate technical and financial capacities.

• Sustainable investment is key to mobilise water governance, cooperation and diplomacy.
Key Lessons we Must Learn

• The principles that should accompany benefit sharing
• Understanding when benefit sharing should be introduced
• The standard institutional arrangements required to make benefit sharing effective
• Accounting for groundwater benefits
• Financial sustainability in benefit sharing
Issues for Further Research

• How do you manage benefit sharing in a changing context?
• What technical capacities are needed for benefit sharing to work?
• Why has it worked where it worked, and why has it not worked where it failed?
• Are there any tested theoretical approaches that have successfully facilitated benefit sharing?
• What type of regional frameworks do we need to support benefit sharing in SADC?
• At what level should benefit sharing be negotiated?
• What partnerships do we need to effectively investigate all this?
Resources

Sharing the benefits from the river
From theory to practice

https://digital.iucn.org/water/sharing-the-benefits/
Thank you. Obrigado. Merci. Asante