Promoting dialogues for stakeholder involvement in trans-boundary water resources management

Bushra Nishat
Project Manager-Bangladesh
Ecosystems for Life: A Bangladesh-India Initiative

2 May 2012
Phuket, Thailand
How does stakeholder involvement help?

**Familiar Rationale**

- Understanding issues and values
- Transparency & accountability
- Deliberating options
- Influencing & challenging power
- Consensus & trust building
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Main actors (examples)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Global</td>
<td>Policymakers, donors IGOs &amp; Int. NGOs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trans-boundary Basin</td>
<td>National governments Regional organisations IRBOs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National</td>
<td>Ministry, parliament Advocacy groups, business Electorate, media</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Sub-) Basin</td>
<td>Farmers &amp; irrigation board Cities &amp; industry Dam operators</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Watershed/community</td>
<td>WUAs, women’s groups Local government Households</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Stakeholder involvement: contribution to nexus debate

- Key message in the Bonn declaration

“A true nexus can only be achieved through close collaboration of all actors from all sectors.”

By
- Prioritising the issues
- Provide information
- Setting up mechanisms
- Concrete results on the ground
WE ALSO BELIEVE IN PARTICIPATION.

YOU PARTICIPATE,
HE PARTICIPATES,
SHE PARTICIPATES,
THEY PARTICIPATE

... WE DECIDE.

COMMUNITIES

@ ganesh pangare
Challenges

- Tokenism
- Identifying the right actors within the stakeholder groups
- Perceived threat of being co-opted
- Politics of power
- Willingness to talk
- Top down approach
Improved, integrated management of multi-stakeholder endorsed mechanisms (facilitated through a Track III approach) to address targets/concerns such as enhancing food and livelihoods, conserving diversity and adapting to climate change.
Scale shapes priorities

- Addressing all stakeholders
- Understanding the power structure
- Facilitating the debates, discussions and dialogues
Multi-stakeholder Dialogues

The Ecosystems for Life project,

- Platform for consensus building within the country and region
- Building partnerships to facilitate a common understanding of issues and solutions
- Provide science-based policy recommendations - bridging gaps between policy and civil society
- Create opportunities for stakeholders to discuss, share and exchange their perspectives at national and regional level
Opportunities

Lessons Learned

1. Knowledge & information
2. Local priorities: tangible results
3. Working across scales: brokering and champions
4. Working with political sensitivities
5. Facilitated discussions, debates and dialogues
6. Policy advocacy
7. Media and private sector involvement
Thank you