Water and Environment challenges
(Sessions no. 4.3-5.3)

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Session content

Focus on Poverty Perspective and Stakeholder Involvement from a nexus perspective
Geographical representation

Mekong-Lancang
Bangladesh/India (Ganges)
Amazon (ACTO)
Nile (NBI)

UNESCO
International financing (ANZ)
Transboundary nexus issues and messages
Poverty
- Dam construction on the Mekong puts strong demands on water and land resources in attempts to replace losses from reduction in fish yields. There is a chain of consequences and challenging nexus trade-offs that impacts e.g. poverty.
Transboundary ‘legal’ and governance arrangements are crucial when difficult trade-off decisions have to be made. Efficient transboundary mechanisms with clear mandates are needed to reconcile diverging interests and difficult trade-offs.
Transboundary river basin organizations have limitations and cannot replace country dialogue (sovereignty issue). All possible platforms for dialogue and negotiations need to be mobilized (e.g. ASEAN, GMS as platforms for Mekong issues negotiations).
Increased importance of knowledge provision (scientific studies in particular) for transboundary decision making on trade-offs. It enables wise decision making for policy makers.

For example: Trade-offs between energy and food security require detailed examination before deciding on further development.
Stakeholder Involvement
True nexus objectives of “mobilizing consumer and public influence” can be achieved through close collaboration of all actors from all sectors. In some river basins the transboundary cooperation organization institution will address this objective, in other basins it remains a national affair.
The private sector/private investors play an increasing role in transboundary river basins. The Equator Principles for sustainable investments by the private sector provide some assurances for social and environmental standards. Engagement of civil society can enhance this.