

Better Practices in adaptive Water Governance:

Lessons learned from river basins

Dr. Palle Lindgaard-Jørgensen

DHI

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Better Practices- Twin2Go definition

“ A Better Practice is a technique, management method, process, activity, incentive, or reward that is believed to be more effective at delivering a particular outcome than currently applied techniques, when applied to a particular condition”

Twin2Go Foci:

1. Variety of BP&T → 3 MAJOR FOCI:

Focus 1: application of national water governance frameworks in basins

Focus 2: engagement and partnerships among actors

Focus 3: enabling learning and building adaptive capacity in water governance

What's Done?

- **BP Inventory in basins:** *48 cases from Twinning projects and Experts in 4 regional workshops*
- **Comparative assessment and synthesis**
- **Policy Guidelines**

Twin2Go Inventory of Better Practices in river basins

No	Region	BP&T Cases	Basins Addressed	Countries
1	Europe	18	7	6
2	Africa	7	5	8
3	South-East Asia	14	6	5
4	Latin America	9	8	7
	TOTAL	48	26	26

BP&T INVENTORY (1)



BP&T INVENTORY (2)

No	BP&T	River Basin/Province/Country	Twin2Go Region
Focus 1: Application of national water frameworks in river basins			
4	Compensation for restoring and maintaining ecosystem services especially in times of food insecurities	Niger river basin	Africa
10	Koshi River Basin Management Strategy	Koshi River/ Nepal	SEA
19	Red River Basin Planning Management Board, RBPMB	Red River/Vietnam	SEA
Focus 2: Engagement and coordination among actors, forms of interaction/partnerships			
24	<i>Bottom-up approach for stakeholder participation in transboundary river basins</i>	Orange-Senqu river basin/ Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia and South Africa	Africa
29	<i>A "grassroots" initiative creating a River Basin Committee for the Brazilian part of the Quarai-Cuareim Basin</i>	Quarai/Brazil	LAC
34	<i>Stakeholder involvement beyond level required by law, Wupperverband</i>	Dhuen (Rhine basin)/Germany	Europe
Focus 3: Enabling learning and building adaptive capacity in water governance			
39	<i>Flood monitoring and forecasting in Nizhegorodskaya oblast, Russia</i>	Volga/ Nizhegorodskaya oblast /Russia	Russia
47	<i>Scenario analysis of hydrology and water resources of the Okavango Delta</i>	Okavango/Botswana	Africa
48	<i>Development/implementation of National Environmental Education Strategy</i>	Brahmaputra/Bhutan	SE Asia

Twin2Go Initial Findings (1)

Examples of adaptive approaches



Flood monitoring and forecasting, Nizhegorodskay Oblast, Russia :

Forecast results and compilation of data on regularly flooded areas enables decision makers to assess the situation and adapt measures to reduce the risks from floods.

Sustainable water management in a changing climate, Thames river:

Assessing climate impacts on each of the actions in the river basin plan is a step towards developing a climate adaptation plan for a basin.

Participatory basin planning: Quarai basin, Brazil: *A Committee allows effective participation in planning and decision making of representatives of water users and the population and is the preferential place for conflict resolution and modeling of development scenarios supported widely accepted solutions.*

Basin-wide knowledge system and research network for learning,

Okavango Basin: *A scientific and technical fact finding and a transboundary diagnostic study involved a network of researchers from riparian states. This network has been maintained and now supports knowledge creation and provides feed-back to the policy process.*

TAKING CONTEXT INTO ACCOUNT

- **Context explains success and failures:**

“ success of any water governance reform or change to BP&T depends on taking into account the details of the context in which the governance reform will take place.

- **How?**

Analysis of a set of 8 factors defining opportunities & barriers for BP&T

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| - Political | - Social/cultural |
| - Institutional | - Economic |
| - Financial | - Informational |
| - Organisational | - Environmental |

15 POLICY GUIDELINES:

Application of national water governance frameworks in river basins

1. Support systematic coordination in implementation of modern water governance practices (G1)
2. Promote strategic planning for IWRM application in river basins (G2)
3. Encourage innovative financial solutions (G3)
4. Facilitate transborder cooperation in shared water basins (G4)

Engagement and coordination among actors and forms of interaction/partnerships

5. Ensure broader engagement of multiple actors in implementation of BP&T in river basins (G5)
6. Diversify mechanisms and tools for interactions, coordination and building partnerships among stakeholders (G6)
7. Capacitate and support formation of river basin organisations as mechanisms for stakeholder engagement (G7)
8. Empower local communities towards implementation of BP&T in basin management (G8)

Enabling learning and building adaptive capacity

9. Enhance monitoring and information management in river basins (G9)
10. Provide development of decision-support systems in river basins (G10)
11. Improve learning and dissemination of knowledge about uncertainties, risks and opportunities related to climate change impacts (G11)
12. Invest human, administrative and financial resources into enhancing capacity for adaptive water governance (G12)

Transfer of best practices

13. Support wider dissemination and uptake of BP&T across river basins and countries as a part of water governance reform (G13)
14. Develop detailed strategies and action plans for selection, transfer and uptake of BP&T (G14)
15. Promote adaptation of imported BP&T to local specifics of recipients (G15)

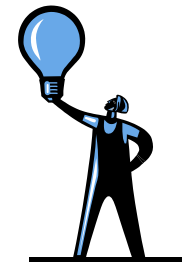
Twin2Go –policy recommendations on transfer of practices and adaptive approaches



What are the challenges to introducing new water governance practices?

- Culture and norms – potential mismatch between new practice and existing context (incl. governance system, social organisation, capacities)
- The implementation stage – crucial point of potential failure

Discussions with regional experts
and stakeholders led to the
following recommendations



Recommendation 1

Develop clear strategies for best practice transfer and implementation

- **Detailed action plans ensure smooth transfer and uptake of best practices in recipients context**
 - Set up the introduction of best practices in phases
 - Allow sufficient time for new institutions to fully mature
 - Develop mechanisms for monitoring and control

- **Institutional and cultural contexts are critical**
 - Check compatibility of best practices with existing governance systems
 - Use interim institutions to support embedding best practices

Recommendation 1 cont.

Develop clear strategies for best practice transfer and implementation

- **On-going water governance reforms provide windows of opportunities**
 - Use new water legislation, institutions, strategic plans, or reforms for introducing best practices
- **Innovative financial solutions ensure long term viability**
 - Seek diverse funding opportunities including microfinance, and others
 - Combine funds from multiple state and private sources
 - Ensure accountability and transparency in allocation of funds



Recommendation 2

Ensure coordination in implementation of best practices

- **Coordinating multiple actors and interests increases efficiency and helps avoid conflicts**
 - Divide duties and competencies between water agencies to avoid administrative competition over best practice implementation
 - Use inter-sectoral and inter-ministerial planning and coordination
 - Build consensus between actors with different interests



UN Photo - Devra Berkowitz

Recommendation 3

Involve stakeholders early in best practice transfer and implementation

➤ **Stakeholder engagement helps adapting governance approaches to existing contexts**

- Use early dialogue and partnerships in decision-making
- Establish mechanisms for communication and consultation
- Complement top-down implementation with bottom-up participatory approaches



Recommendation 4

Complement best practices with capacity development and communication

- **Enable domestic capacities in human, administrative, technical, and organisational resources**
 - Assess human and physical resources
 - Support organisational frameworks with information, expertise, etc.

- **Empower local communities to participate in decision-making and implementation**
 - Raise awareness through dissemination of knowledge and information
 - Support voluntary local initiatives



Thank you!

Palle Lindgaard-Jørgensen
Head of Innovation
Water Policy Dept.
DHI
Denmark