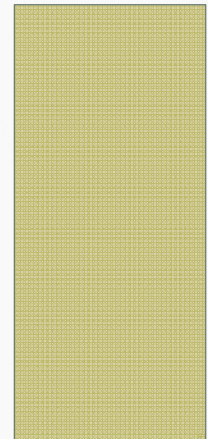


THE BENEFITS OF REGIONALISM: COMPARATIVE EXAMPLES

ANDREA K. GERLAK

UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
INTERNATIONAL STUDIES ASSOCIATION
UDALL CENTER FOR STUDIES IN PUBLIC POLICY



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A RISE IN COOPERATIVE REGIONAL EFFORTS

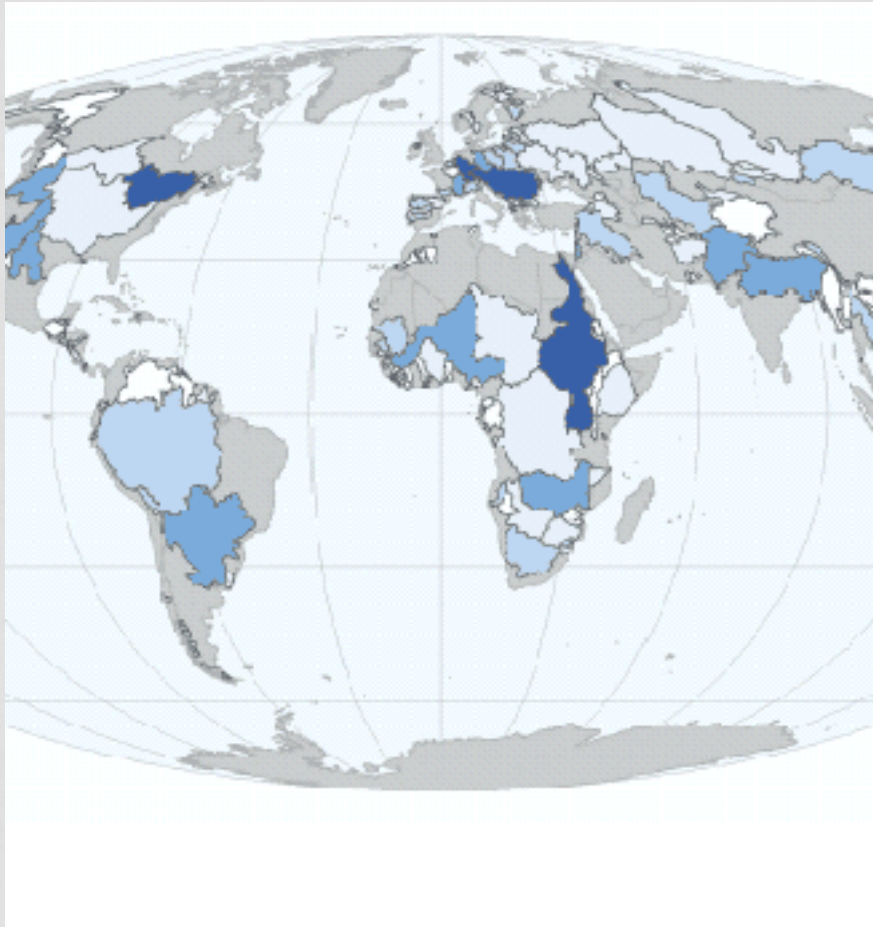


Image: Number of agreements per international river basin

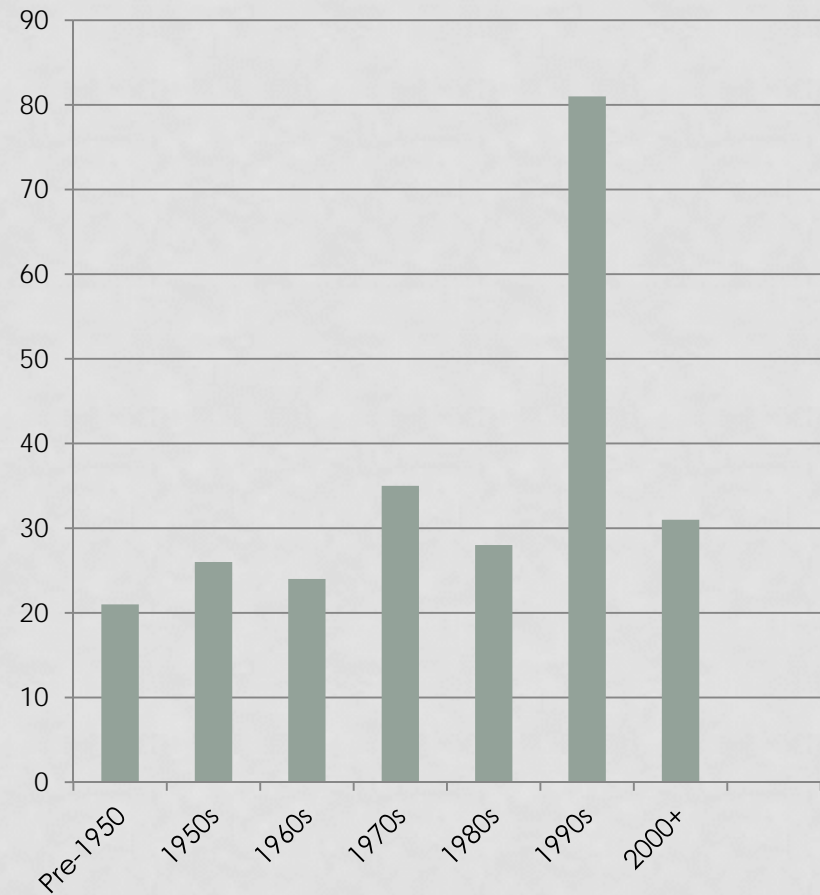


Table: Institutionalized cooperative arrangements over time

OVERVIEW

- ❑ **Goal:** To examine a variety of cooperative transboundary regional efforts around the world to better inform our understanding of the realities of regionalized water management

- ❑ **Outline**
 - Benefits of regionalized cooperation
 - Emerging research around effectiveness
 - Process design element approach
 - Transparency
 - Scientific learning
 - Conflict resolution
 - Public participation
 - Gap in performance
 - Moving forward

BENEFITS OF REGIONALISM

- ✓ Promote cooperation between upstream and downstream states
- ✓ Help standardize water policies across states
- ✓ Serve as a forum to bring together diverse stakeholders
- ✓ Overcome history of fragmentation in water management
- ✓ Enhance information sharing
- ✓ Provide ecological and pollution control benefits

References: Pahl-Wostl 2007; De Lange et al. 2005; Sadoff and Grey 2002.

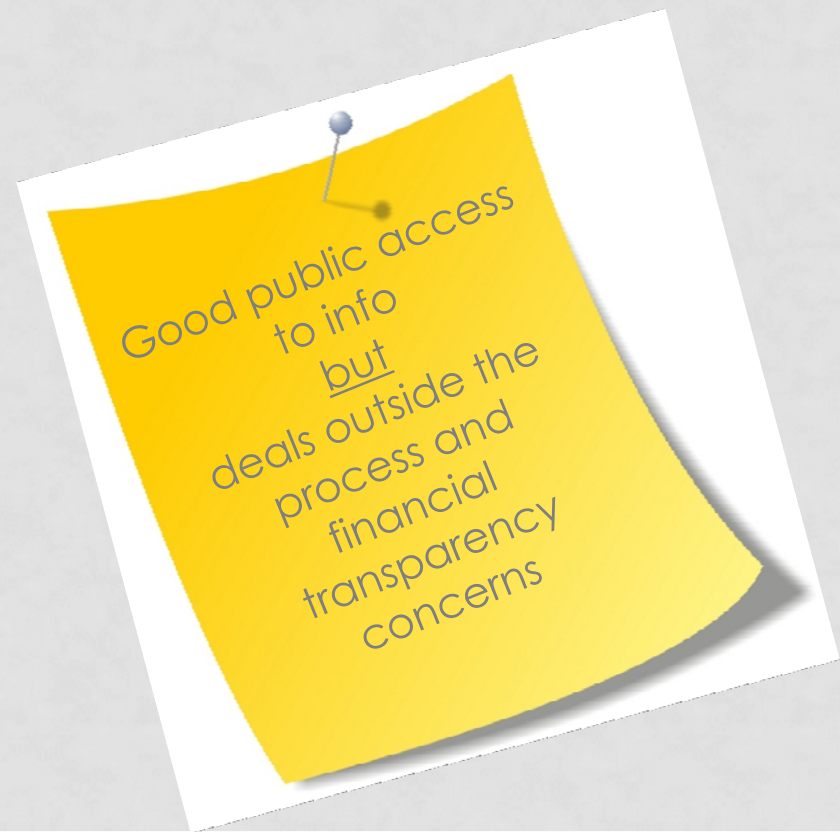
GROWING ATTENTION TO EFFECTIVENESS

- ❑ Reports of limited success
 - Rich body of case study research
 - Do not always operate as expected
 - Failure in meeting goals, worse ecological conditions

- ❑ Studies of performance
 - Focus on causal effects & problem solving (Siegfreid and Bernauer 2007)
 - Depth of integration (Dombrowsky 2008)
 - Attention to institutional design questions (Stinnett and Tir 2009; Schmeier 2012)

(1) TRANSPARENCY

- ✓ public access to information
- ✓ improves compliance
- ✓ potential to examine functioning of the organization



(2) SCIENTIFIC LEARNING

- ✓ production and dissemination of scientific knowledge
- ✓ design features supporting flow and production of information
- ✓ important for monitoring, integrated or adaptive management



(3) CONFLICT RESOLUTION

- ✓ to address differences
- ✓ overcome new conflicts
- ✓ to support robust institutions & foster adaptive governance



(4) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- ✓ participation throughout the collective process
- ✓ deliberation develops trust and social capital
- ✓ lack of public support may challenge implementation

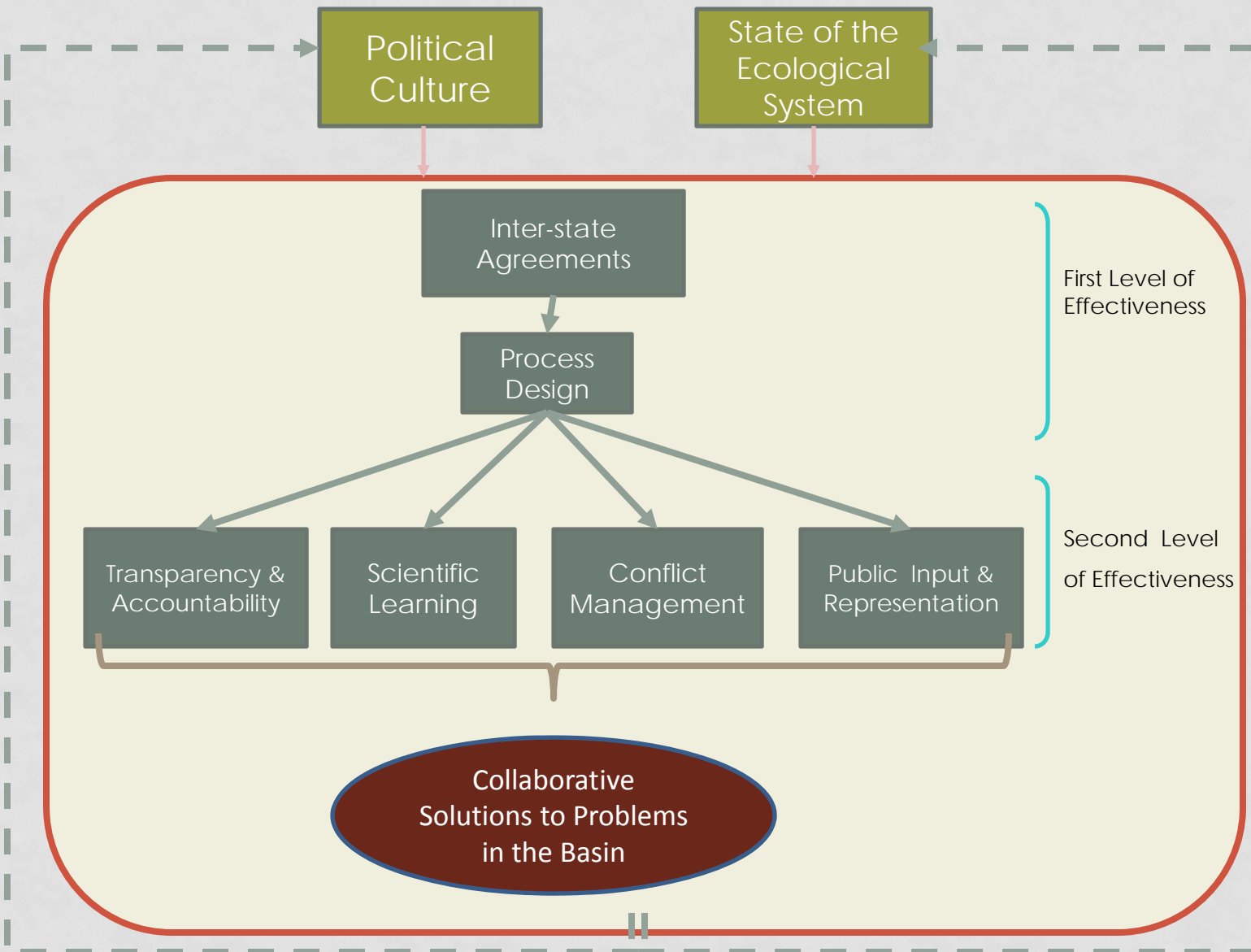


A GAP IN PERFORMANCE

- Uncover a mixed record
- Do not necessarily bear out purported benefits
- Presence and implementation
- Search for best practices and models

MOVING FORWARD

- Abandon the “if we build it, they will come...” approach
- Context, context, context!
- Interrelationships are key
- Need for better data, comparative research



Berardo, Ramiro and Andrea Gerlak. 2012. Conflict and Cooperation along International Rivers: Crafting a Model of Institutional Effectiveness. *Global Environmental Politics* 12(1): 101-120.

