

Research Question

Under what conditions do transnational partnerships for sustainable development effectively contribute to the provision of governance services in areas of limited statehood?

Implementation

The results of our first two research phases show that many partnerships have difficulties achieving the desired output and outcomes. They have even greater difficulties with regard to impact, i.e., making a broader and long-term contribution to problem-solving in areas of limited statehood. Yet such impact is essential for sustainable governance beyond isolated projects. The third phase will focus on analyzing the impact of partnerships for sustainable development and on investigating what consequences the experiences of the actors involved have for enhanced metagovernance of partnerships.

Therefore, the project has two main goals:

- **First**, to identify the most important conditions for successful impact of partnerships in areas of limited statehood.
- **Second**, to investigate what consequences governance actors are drawing, based on past experiences, to improve the metagovernance of partnerships.

Contribution to the SFB 700

D1 examines the provision of governance services by partnerships as *external actors* in areas of limited statehood. The project studies their impact on the ground and conditions for their success and, as *consequences*, actors' ideas for the optimal metagovernance of these partnerships.

Project Team



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Water supply and disposal in Kibera and Naivasha



Local field research focuses on three partnerships:



Water and Sanitation for the Urban Poor (WSUP) is a service partnership working to improve access to water and sanitation facilities.

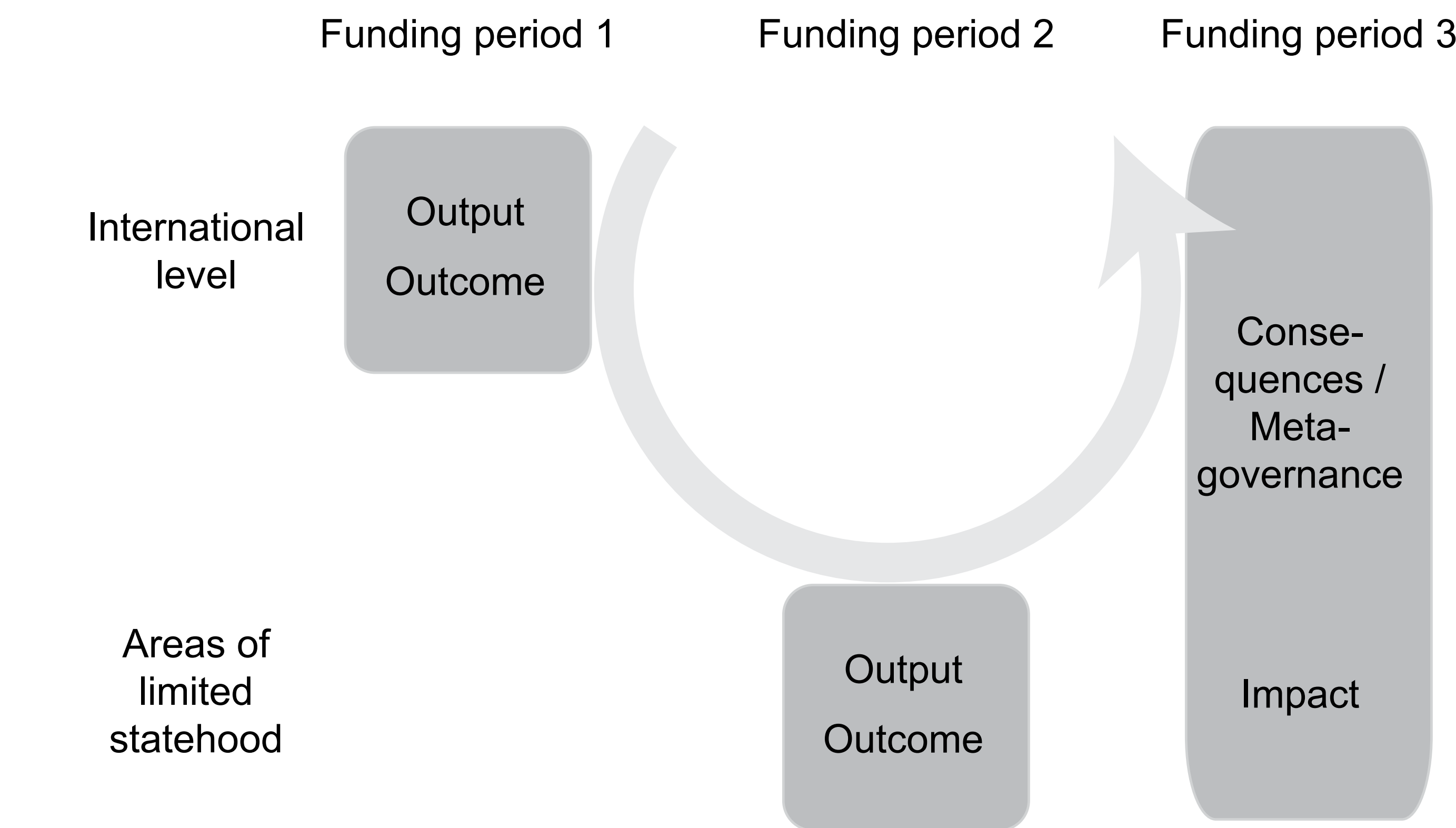


The GWP is a knowledge partnership working to develop and disseminate the policy concept of Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM).



The AWS is a standard-setting partnership working in the framework of a multi-stakeholder roundtable to develop the International Water Stewardship Standard for water users.

Our study includes conversations with members and employees of these partnerships, as well as UN organizations (e.g., UN DESA, UNOP), donors (e.g., DFID, GIZ, USAID, Gates Foundation), participating corporations (e.g., Unilever) and NGOs (e.g., Care, WWF), local service providers, user groups, and other affected or participating actors in two areas of limited statehood in Kenya (Kibera and the Lake Naivasha region).



Assessing the conditions for the success of partnerships

We find effectiveness of partnerships to be influenced most strongly by the degree of institutionalization and process management. Many partnerships struggle to achieve a broad, long-term impact.

Research hypotheses (selection)

To ensure (long-term and broad-scale) effectiveness:

- Partnership projects must have a local presence and an adaptive design.
 - Project partnerships must create win-win situations by providing incentives not only for transnational partners but also for local actors.
 - Deficits in local statehood must be compensated through capacity-building efforts or through the help of capable local partners.
 - Service partnerships, standard-setting partnerships and knowledge partnerships must be designed differently to fit their respective purpose and incorporate according stakeholders.
- (see also Beisheim/Liese 2014 @ Palgrave-Series)

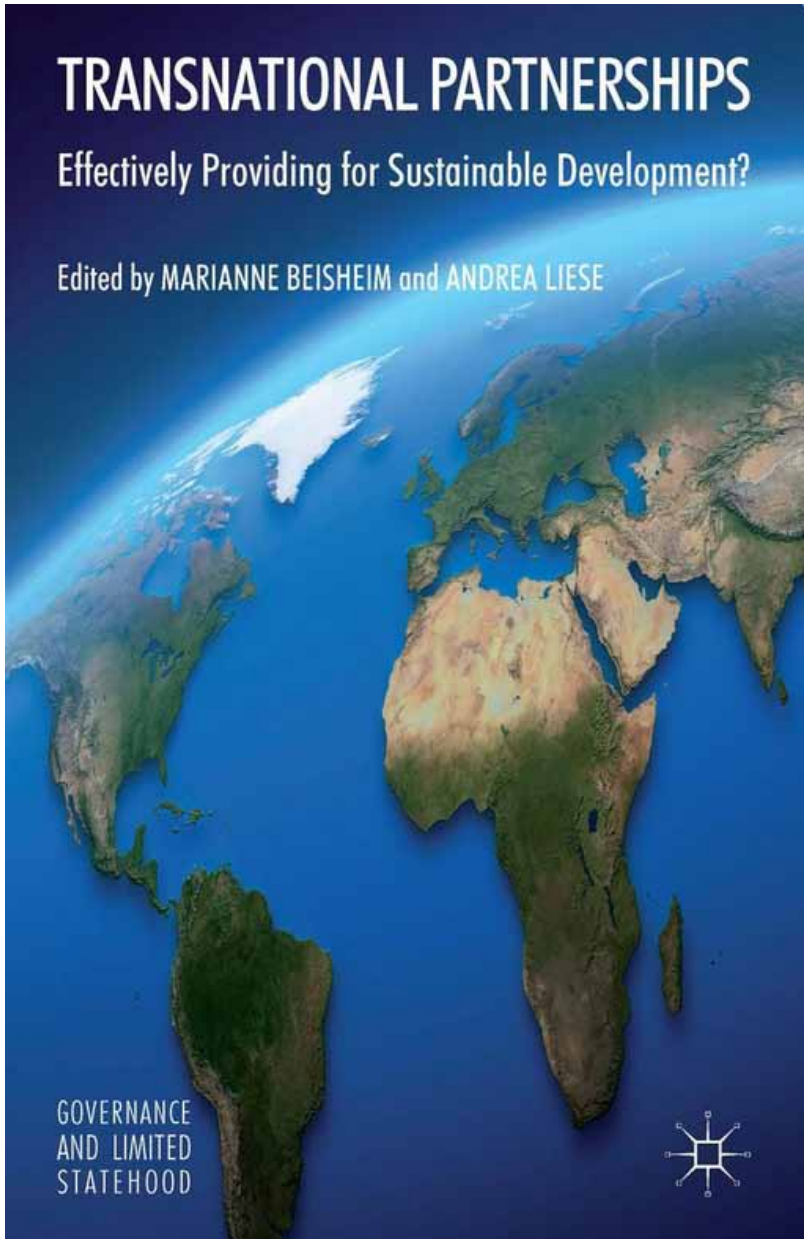
Assessing the consequences of governance actors' experience with partnerships:

We also focus on the consequences of actors' experiences with partnerships and their (missing) impact. We are particularly interested in finding out whether actors are endeavoring to increase the metagovernance of partnerships.

Research hypotheses (selection)

The work of transnational development partnerships in areas of limited statehood has the following consequences for governance actors:

- Donors, state actors in partner countries, and international organizations are increasingly forced into the role of "governance managers".
- NGOs involved in partnerships are criticized by other NGOs when partnerships do not contribute visibly to solutions. Accordingly, many NGOs ask for an improved metagovernance of partnerships, e.g. a monitoring and accountability framework.



Marianne Beisheim and Andrea Liese (eds): Transnational Partnerships. Effectively Providing for Sustainable Development? Palgrave Macmillan, February 2014

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