



Conditions for Success: Transnational Water Partnerships in Fragile Areas

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Session 2: Policies for Water Resource Management

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Research Question

Under what *conditions*
are *transnational partnerships*
for sustainable development
successful
(in terms of output, outcome and impact)
esp. in *fragile areas*?

Partnership Types

Knowledge partnerships

Task:

Generate new expertise, engage in agenda setting, provide a forum for the exchange and dissemination of best practices

Service partnerships

Task:

Mobilize and allocate resources and provide services, for example, through the implementation of projects

Standard-setting partnerships

Task:

Establish voluntary standards, for example, drafting a voluntary code of conduct (and a verification or certification scheme)

Water Partnership Cases

Knowledge partnership:



wants to enhance and spread the concept of integrated water resources management

Service partnership:



aims at improving access to water and sanitary services in poor urban areas

Standard-setting partnership:



develops the International Water Stewardship Standard

Methods

We assessed:

- **institutional characteristics** of the partnership and its projects, e.g. partnership and project management, degree of institutionalization, inclusiveness;
- **characteristics of the fragile areas** where partnership projects are implemented, e.g. security issues or low capacities of the local state and non-state actors or service providers;
- ▷ the **interplay** between the institutional characteristics of the partnership projects and the characteristics of the area in which projects are carried out: does the project design reflect the specific challenges in the area?
- ▷ **Success factors**: We analyzed which *design characteristics* matter most in a typical project cycle to achieve output, desired outcomes, and a long-term impact.

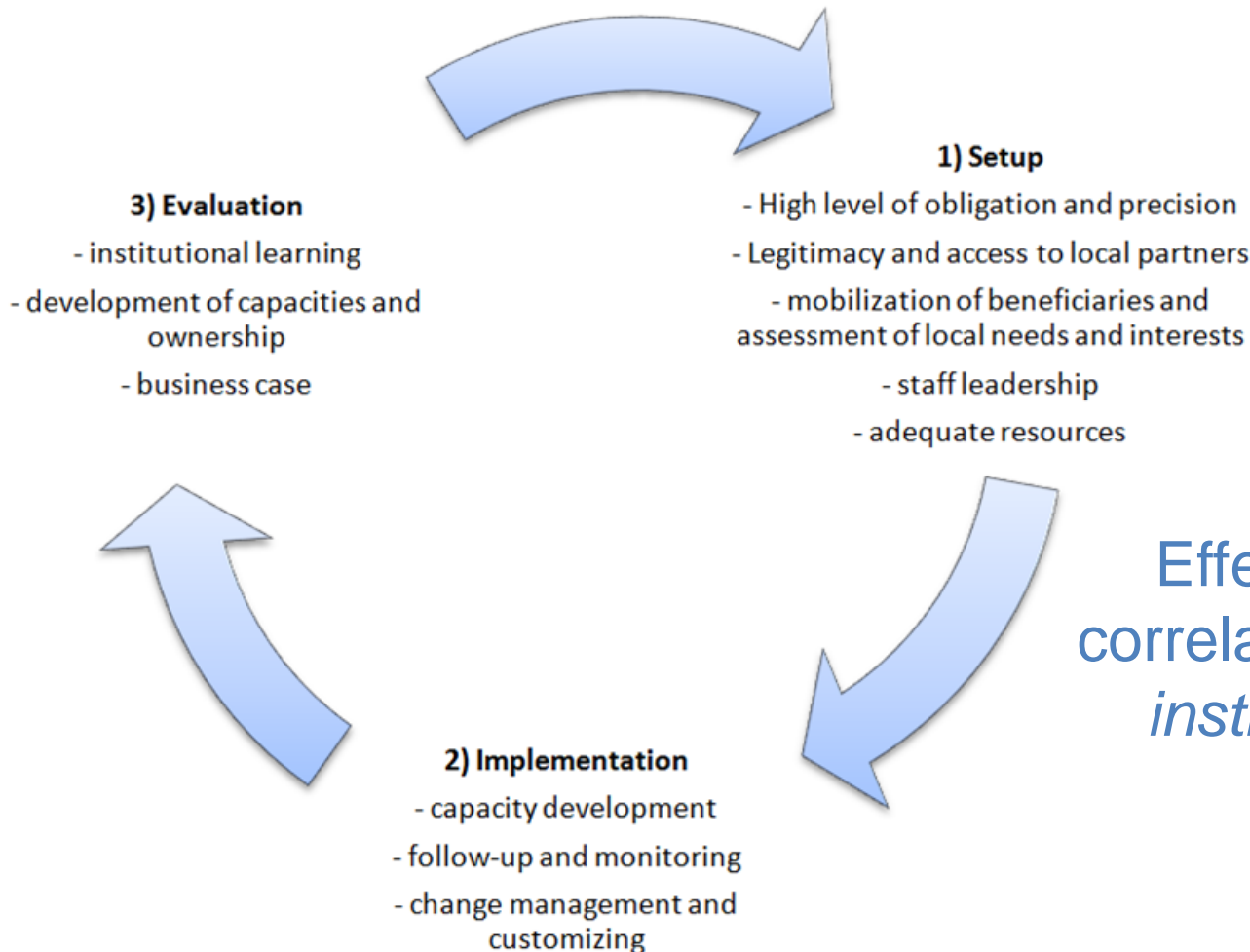
Interviews and Field Work: 21 partnerships and 40 projects in four countries



WSUP in Kenya and India



Conditions for Success: Institutional Design Matters



Effectiveness strongly correlates with degree of *institutionalization* and quality of *process management*

Specific Conditions for Success along Types

- *Service-providing* and *standard-setting* partnerships require **precise and obligatory rules** and **independent monitoring**
- *Knowledge partnerships* do not necessarily require binding rules and a monitoring system to be effective in generating or sharing knowledge. For them, **effective learning mechanisms**, **pronounced openness** and **critical reflection** are crucial.
- **No blueprint! But...**
All types of partnerships benefit from **good process management** and **institutional** learning. For this, it is important to **balance** precise and obligatory norms and close monitoring with **flexible** and **adaptive** strategies to cope with challenges.

Current and Future Research (2014-17)

Assess stakeholder views

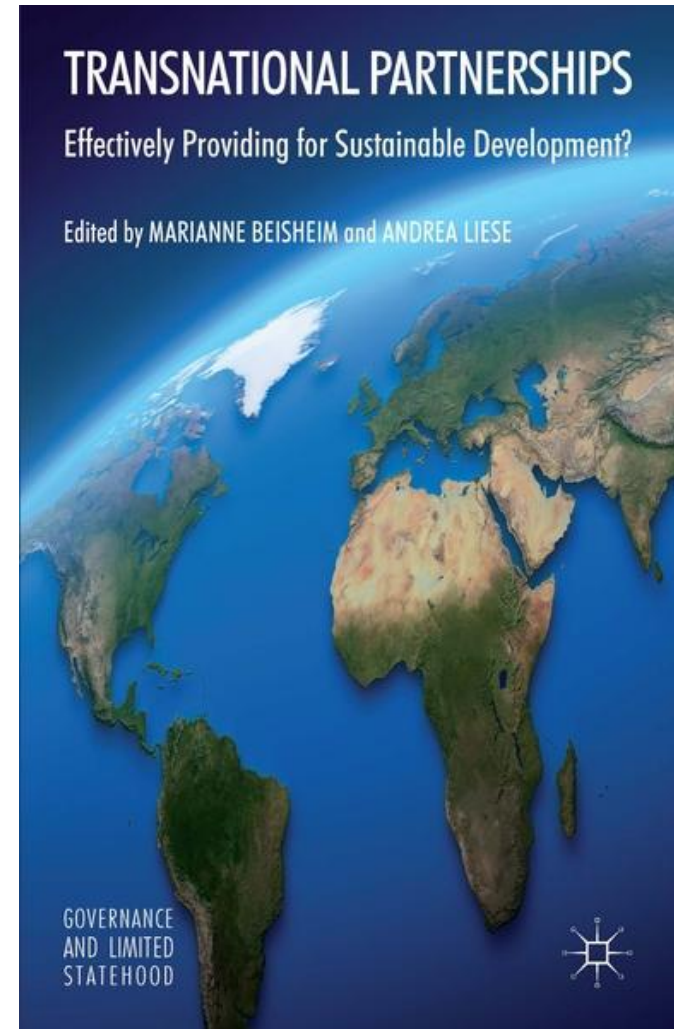
- (1) on how to achieve broad-scale and long-term *impact*
 - (2) on *meta-governance* of partnerships as a success factor for partnerships, e.g. role of criteria, guidelines or accountability frameworks
- ▷ Special focus on *UN guidance* for the Post-2015 partnerships for sustainable development, linked to SDGs
 - ▷ Explore also *national initiatives* that aim at better political guidance for partnerships
 - ▷ Also evaluate *private initiatives* to follow-up partnerships

Further Reading

*Beisheim, Marianne/Liese, Andrea (Eds.)
Transnational Partnerships:
Effectively Providing for Sustainable
Development?
Palgrave Macmillan 2014*

*Beisheim, Marianne
Partnerships for Sustainable
Development
SWP Research Paper, 2012/RP 03
(free download)*

See also: www.sfb-governance.de/ppp



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