



# Transboundary Water Management between Conflicting States

*Case studies of environmental collaboration despite political tensions*

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Dr. Mary M. Matthews

ESPOO Convention Working Group  
Geneva

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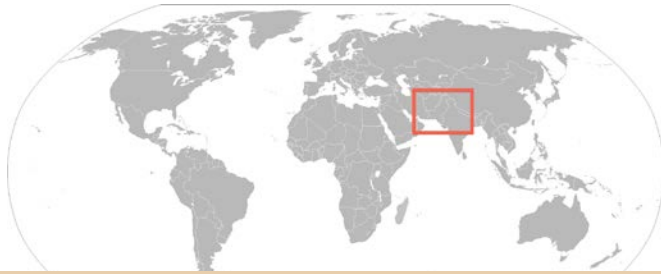
*Empowered Lives.  
Resilient Nations.*

1. Can countries **without diplomatic ties** or with significant political tensions **cooperate regarding the environment**?

2. Are there **examples of transboundary cooperation** for management of shared natural resources **when other cooperation is difficult**?

3. What are the **conditions that support this**, and what **factors need to be considered**?

# Case Study: The Indus River Basin



3 Riparian States  
5 Basin States

Conflicting States:  
India, Pakistan

Long term sustainable  
agreements despite 3 wars and  
numerous conflicts

Functioning since September  
1960



# Case Study: The Danube River Basin



10 Riparian States  
14 Basin States

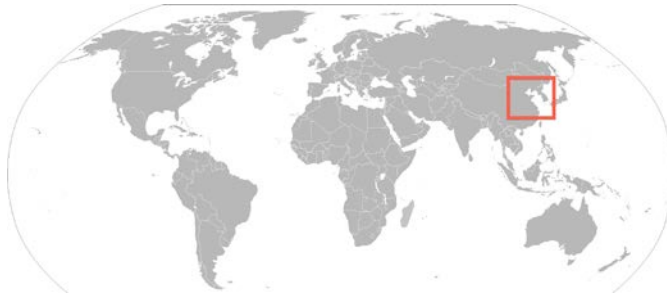
Conflicting States:  
Serbia,  
Bosnia and Herzegovina

Balkan War ongoing during  
negotiations of the project

Currently all functional  
members of the Danube River  
Commission



# Case Study: The Yellow Sea



3 Littoral States

Conflicting States:  
North Korea, South Korea

UNDP-GEF Project on reducing  
environmental stresses from  
development on the sea

Currently in the foundational  
phase – developing a  
Transboundary Diagnostic  
Analysis and Strategic Action Plan



# Case Study: The Humboldt Current



2 Littoral States

Conflicting States:  
Peru, Chile

Border disputes between countries  
ongoing

UNDP-GEF Project to address  
transboundary issues and to  
develop plan to address shared  
challenges - *ongoing*



# Case Study: The Nile River Basin



5 Riparian States  
11 Basin States

Conflicting States:  
South Sudan, Sudan

GEF Nile Basin Initiative and  
Eastern Nile Subsidiary Action  
Program/ Technical Regional  
Organization (ENTRO)

*Potential Conflicts:*  
Egypt, Ethiopia



# Lessons Learned



## *Similarities*

Environmental Cooperation Despite Armed Conflict and Long-Term Tensions

Intervention of International Development Agencies

Commissions Provide Mechanism for Sustained, Iterated Relationships

Environmental Cooperation Fits into Larger Conflict Management Goals

## *Differences*

Role of Other International Actors, The EU, Other Riparian/Basin States, Etc.

Role of International Agencies as Mediator vs. Facilitator

Upstream vs. Downstream Issues Associated with River Basin Systems

Equitable Use Issues Associated with Large Marine Ecosystems





# Conclusion



1. Can countries **without diplomatic ties** or with significant political tensions **cooperate regarding the environment?**

1. YES!

2. Are there **examples of transboundary cooperation** for the management of shared natural resources **when other cooperation is difficult?**

2. YES! MANY

3. What are the **conditions that support this**, and what **factors need to be considered?**

3. Type of system and history of interdependence

3. Other regional interests & actors

3. International drivers (+/-)





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