ALBERT-LUDWIGS-UNIVERSITÄT FREIBURG

ETH Zürich

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Nachdiplomstudium für Entwicklungsländer
Postgraduate Course on Developing Countries

CIS
Center for Comparative and International Studies

Water Governance in Zambia
The Case of the Kafue River Basin

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Area of the Study

Water is critical to Zambia's sustainable development and poverty eradication, but, as the economy develops and the population increases, there is a corresponding increase in the demand for the available resources making it imperative to reduce on potential competition.

The Kafue River Basin plays an important role in Zambia's economic development: It is host to more than 40% of the Zambian population and supplies the major industrial, commercial and agricultural areas of Zambia. Water from the Kafue river is abstracted for municipal supplies, industrial use, mining, irrigation. Moreover, the Kafue's waters are fundamental for the survival of the dense fisheries activities as well as of rich natural resources and are widely used for hydropower generation.

Objective of the Study…

The complex web of consumptive and non consumptive water uses is causing intersectoral competition and, with increasing water scarcity, the lack of proper governance mechanisms in the basin will exacerbate already existing conflicts.

In this context, the research aims at conducting an institutional analysis of the regimes that govern the use of water in the Kafue River Basin.

The study will explore, in particular, the existence of gaps in the current water governance regime, with the objective to identify their main causes and to suggest possible improvements.

…and Methodology Adopted

This action oriented qualitative research uses the conceptual framework adapted from Hofwegen and Jaspers (1999), which analyses governance at three functional levels of Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM): Constitutional, Organizational, and Operational framework.

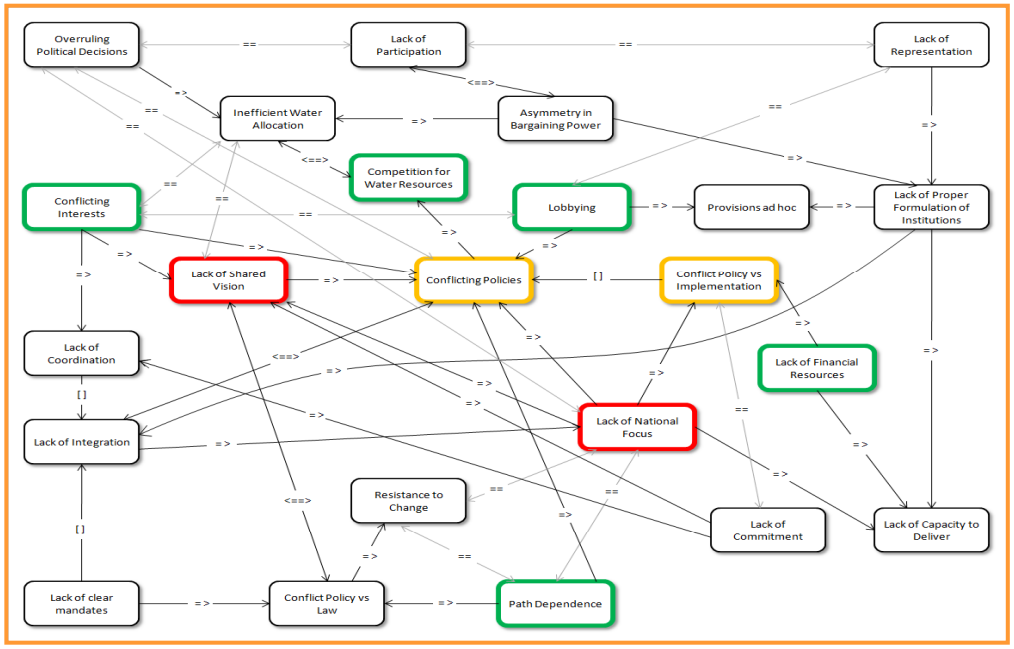
The empirical approach is based on grounded theory (Strauss and Corbin,1998). 28 open-ended interviews, involving 40 interviewees from relevant stakeholder groups, were conducted. The interviews were transcribed, then coded and analyzed using the software Atlas.ti.

The concepts that collected the highest score of grounding and the strongest density of conjunctions were selected as critical issues of relevance for the governance of water resources.

Main Findings

The water sector appears well structured, but on the ground the institutional arrangements are often conflicting and not fully implemented. Water sector reforms have been started but not carried through, and the institutional setup is not fully aligned to the water sector polices, leaving grey areas of responsibilities.

The main areas of tensions are the existence of conflicting policies and the discrepancies between policies and their implementation. The existence of conflicting interests and the lack of commitment contribute to explain these conflicts. But the strongest explanatory power lies on the lack of a national focus and the lack of a shared vision: the decision makers, influenced by path dependence and an insufficient platform for participation, tend to privilege some partial interest groups and to discriminate against others.



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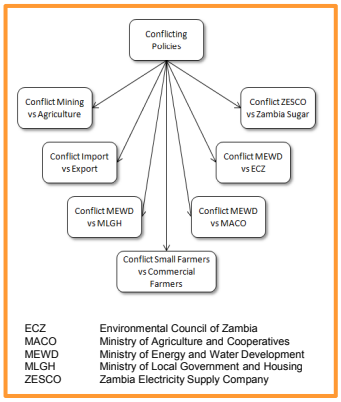

ECZ	Environmental Council of Zambia
MACO	Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives
MEWD	Ministry of Energy and Water Development
MLGH	Ministry of Local Government and Housing
ZESCO	Zambia Electricity Supply Company

- Atlas.ti, Version 6 for Windows, 2002-2009 - ATLAS.ti Scientific Software Development GmbH.
- Hofwegen van Paul J.M. & Jaspers, F.G.W. (1999). Analytical Framework for Integrated Water Resources Management, IHE Monograph 2, Inter-American Development Bank, Balkema, Rotterdam.
- Strauss, A., & Corbin, J. (1998). Basics of qualitative research: Techniques and procedures for developing grounded theory (2nd ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

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