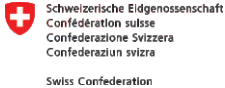


INTEGRATION OF STAKEHOLDERS FOR IMPROVING WATER GOVERNANCE



Quality of water management (operation and maintenance) depends on quality of water governance. Traditionally, the major role in water governance is performed by the same structures which are responsible for water management, i.e. water delivers – water management organizations. Incidentally, there is a wide group of people who, to this or that extent, are interested in quality of water management and whose participation in decision making on water issues could improve their equity and effectiveness.

The work has been carried out within “IWRM-Ferghana” Project aimed at functions partition between water management and water governance and integration of all stakeholders for the purpose of improving water governance.

Function partition between water management and water governance

Water Governance is the term specifying activity involving political, social, economic and legal aspects intended for achieving equitable, effective and environmentally appropriate water management.

Management is the term specifying (*in narrow sense*) activity including planning and implementation of technical, technological, financial and organizational measures aimed at ensuring water distribution and maintaining HMS in working condition – that is we consider “management” as a synonym to the wording “operation and maintenance”. *To wide extent* – the term management is used in abbreviation IWRM and means activity including the whole spectrum of functions designed to ensure water distribution and water

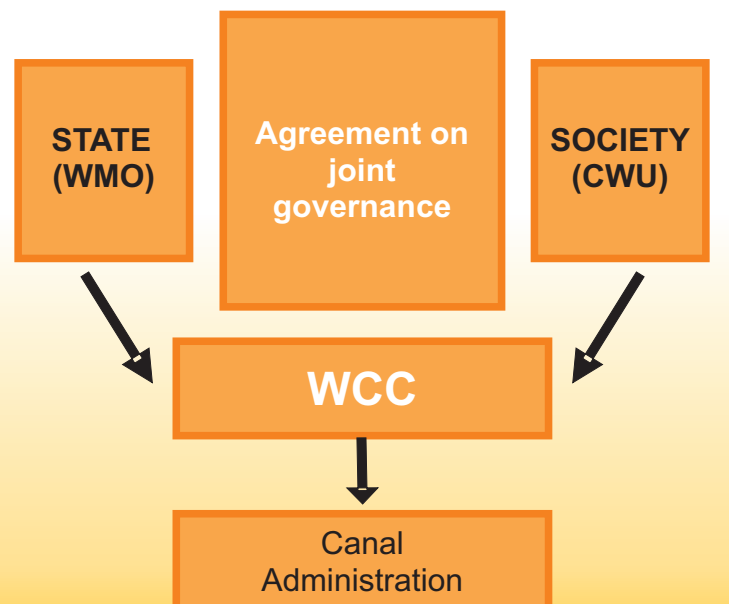
use: political, legal, socio-economic, technical-technological, etc. - that is it includes both notions - governance and management (in narrow sense).

Significance of governance, showing itself basically in the field of politics and partially in economics domain, comes to creation of the climate appropriate for introduction of IWRM, where managers and stakeholders could successfully interact and integrate.

WCC

WCC – is the organ of joint (state and public) governance, formed on the basis of the agreement between the State (in person of the state water management organization - WMO) and the Public (in person of CWU) on joint governing activities carried out by the Canal Administration. WCC is formed involving representatives of water users, water specialists, local authorities, clergy, non-governmental organizations and governmental agencies (hydro energy, municipal, nature protection, etc.) and other stakeholders.

The major objective of WCC activity is to improve equitable, stable and efficient water distribution in the Canal Zone through introduction of integrated water resources management (IWRM).



Scheme of joint water governance

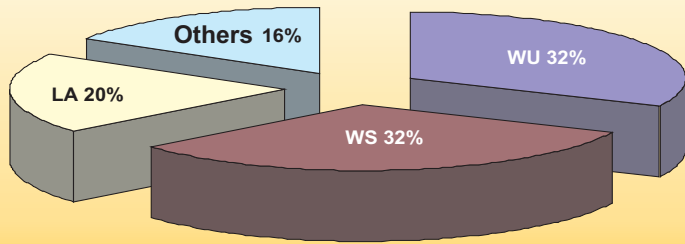
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Water Specialists Water Users Local Authorities



Scheme of joint water governance

WCC – Water Committee of the Canal.
CWU – Canal Water Users Union.
CAd – Canal Administration.
WMO – Water management organization.

The Council of Water Committee is formed on the basis of the Board of Water Committee by way of involving other stakeholders and enhancing their representation

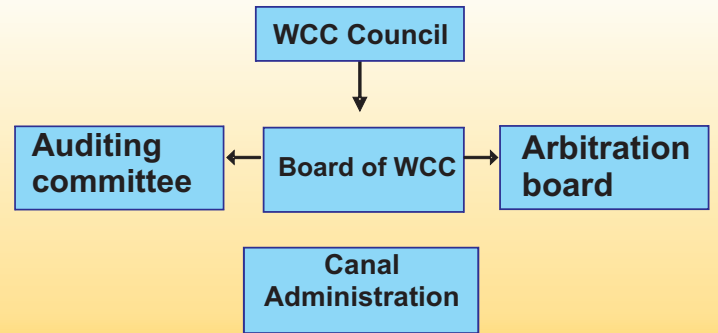
Representatives of the following structures are included in the Council of Water Committee:

- o Water management organizations (land reclamation services, operation services, water inspection).
- o Agricultural water users (WUA, production cooperatives, farms).
- o Other water users (industry, hydro-power stations, communal use)
- o Local authority.
- o Nature protection and other agencies.
- o Public (non-governmental) organizations.
- o Private business.

One of the main tasks of the “IWRM-Ferghana” Project is to augment efficiency of WCC work through involvement into their activities representatives of the listed structures. Necessity to involve representatives of local authorities in WCC Council is absolutely obvious since it is impossible to make decisions concerning the canal zone and in particular to implement them without their participation.

Also very important is participation of representatives of environmental and drinking water supply offices in WCC Council (even if they are not direct water users), because situation in water protection zone and drinking water deficit in the canal zone exert notable impact on operational regime of the canal and standard of life.

While forming membership of the Council it is expedient to take into account difference in share of water use (for example, agricultural water users are major consumers), the share of the State contribution and water users in funding CAd, etc.



Structure of WCC

Experience of establishing WCC and its functioning

Starting situation

1. Management of pilot canals Administrations is carried out only by the senior State water management organization. организацией.
2. Water users do not take part in decision making. The only right they have is to apply for water.
3. Openness and transparency principles are not functioning.

Achievements

1. Developed, approved and signed Agreements on “Joint governance...” with regard to pilot canals:
 - In Kyrgyzstan the Agreement is signed between Osh Basin WMO and AACWU.
 - In Tajikistan the Agreement is signed between Ministry of Land Reclamation and Water Resources of the Republic of Tajikistan and KhBCWU.
 - In Uzbekistan the Agreement is signed between fergana valley main canal system management and SFCWU.
3. On the basis of signed Agreements on “Joint governance...” organs of joint governance are formed and function: Boards of Water Committees of Canals (SFCWU, KhBCWU, AACWU), that include representatives of:
 - Water management organizations (WMO).
 - Water users (CWU).
4. Water users are involved in water governance process: water users of CWU, through their representatives in WCC Board take part in decision making on joint water governance at the canal level.
5. During vegetation, every decade meetings of WCC Board, where evaluation is made of water distribution on the pilot canal in previous decade and decisions are taken on water issues for the next decade.
6. WCC Councils are established. They in the course of water governance process involve representatives of closely-related (non-agricultural) sectors (drinking water supply, energy), as well as representatives of local authorities, nature protection organizations, women, elders.

Openness and transparency principles are put into action: more information on water is available for water users and they more informed about decisions taken.