



NEXUS Gains:
Realizing Multiple Benefits
Across Water, Energy, Food
and Ecosystems

What is the role for Multistakeholder Platforms (MSPs) in Transboundary Basin Governance?

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NEXUS Gains Workstreams



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- 1. Co-developing and scaling NEXUS innovations** using foresight methodologies and trade-off analyses
- 2. Boosting water productivity across scales** (farm to watershed to basin) **and sectors** using a whole systems lens
- 3. Energizing food and water systems** sustainably and inclusively
- 4. Strengthening cross-sectoral, multi-stakeholder governance** at community, national and regional levels
- 5. Developing Capacity for WEF E Actors**, Including Emerging Women Leaders

The diagram illustrates the water cycle in a 3D isometric view. At the top, a cloud labeled "Precipitation" shows rain falling onto a green landscape. The landscape features a river, a city with buildings, a wetland with a bird, and a body of water labeled "River". A dashed line represents the "INTERNATIONAL BORDER". Arrows indicate the flow of water: "Overland Flow" from the land into the river, "Infiltration" from the land into the ground, and "Groundwater" flow beneath the ground. The river flows from the left towards the right, eventually emptying into the "River" body of water.



Research approach



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What is the governance function of MSPs in relation to existing state-based, formal organizations?

- More pronounced in the transboundary context

Review of River Basin Organizations (RBOs) and key informant interviews

MSPs can serve a fundamentally different governance function than state-based transboundary organizations, but it depends on the place and design

Organizational context

What are multistakeholder platforms?

- institutionalization of integrating multi-scalar and multi-sectoral stakeholder voices and interests over time into river basin governance (forums, processes, dialogues, partnerships)

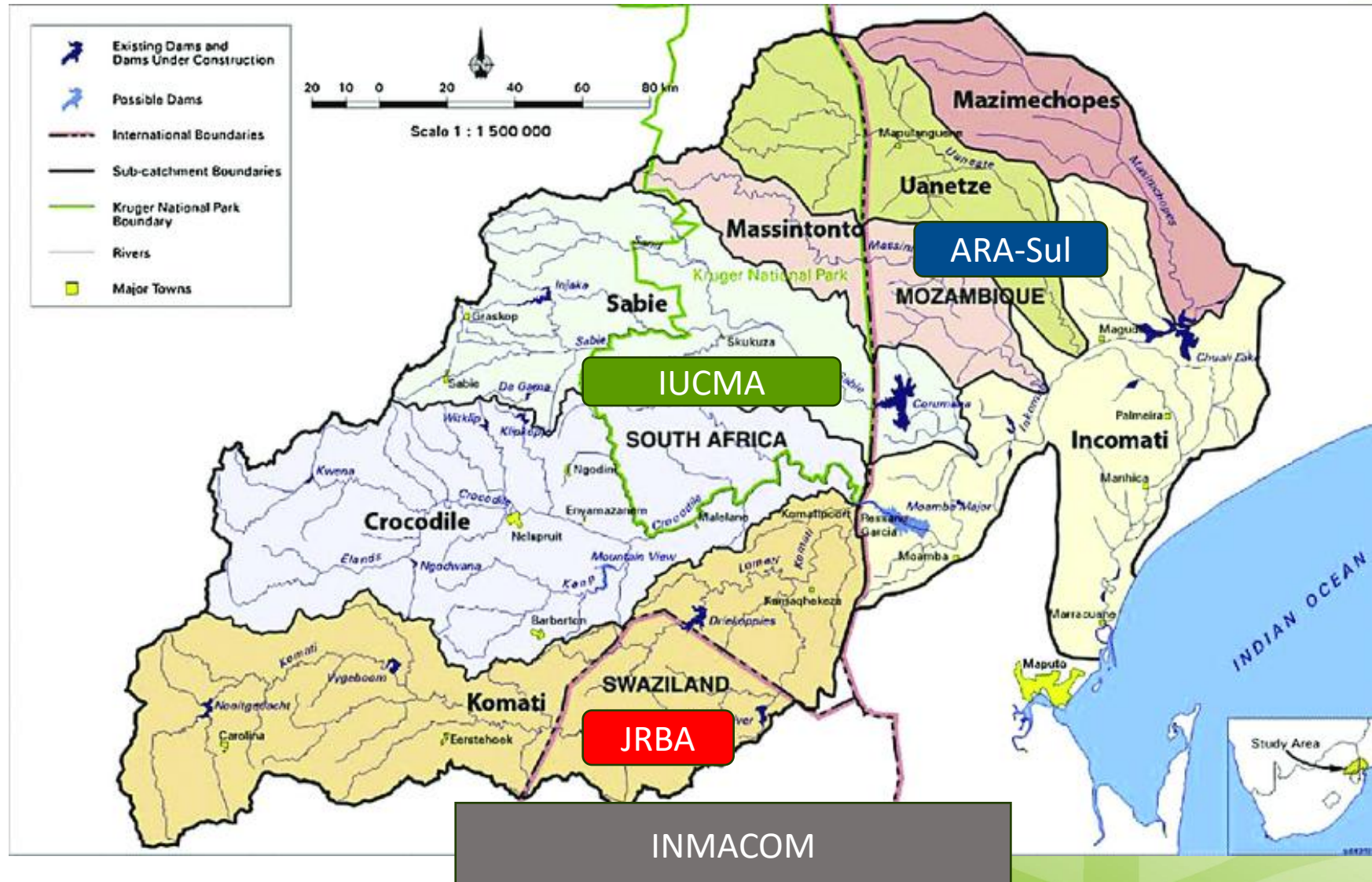
Value of MSP

- Channels stakeholder voices (through alternative means) at the transboundary level
- Builds trust through meaningful, and ideally equitable, collaboration
- Supports conflict resolution
- Information sharing upstream and downstream



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The Incomati Basin



Learning from three basins



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Mekong Basin: State-based MSP

- Stakeholder voices channeled via national governments
- MRC responsible for stakeholder engagement strategy
- Inclusive development

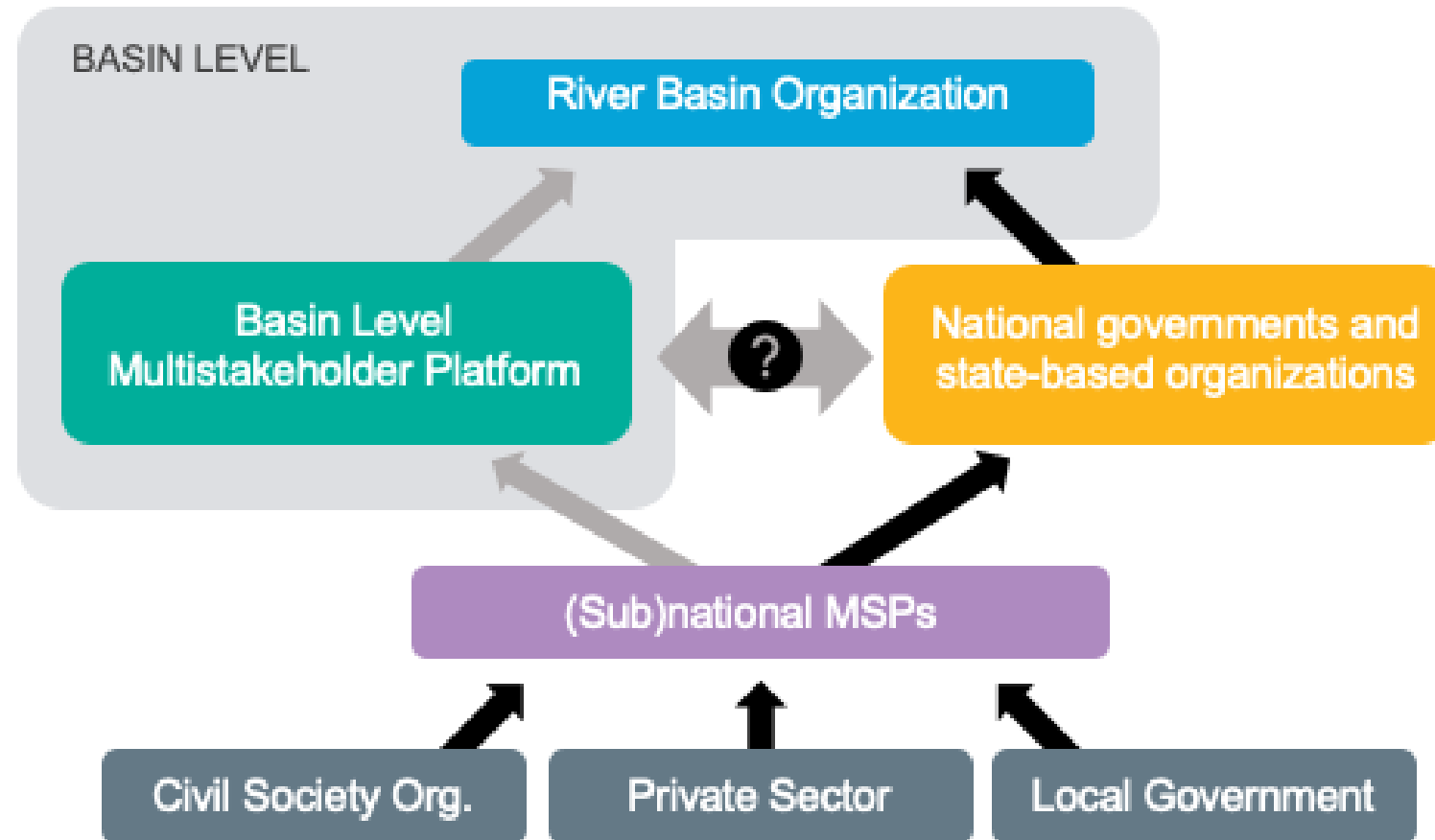
Nile Basin: Semi-autonomous MSP

- Nile Basin Discourse (2003) & Nile Basin Initiative (1999)
- Funded by international donors
- Normalizes relationships between transboundary communities

Zambezi Basin: RBO-based MSP

- ZAMCOM
- National-level MSPs
- Watercourse-wide MSP
- Rules and procedures for data and information sharing

Conceptualizing transboundary governance



MSPs and RBOs

At the transboundary level, RBOs and MSPs negotiate disparate interests:

- RBOs negotiate national state-based interests
- MSPs negotiate multi-scale stakeholder interests

Further reading:

- Nehring, Lautze and Mgudlwa. “What is the role for Multistakeholder Platforms in Transboundary Basin Governance? Distilling lessons from three cases and applying them in the Incomati Basin” under review at *Water International*
- Nehring and Lautze. “An evolving landscape for nexus governance in transboundary basins: Recognizing and harnessing the growing role of Multistakeholder Platforms” under review at *Society & Natural Resources*



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Thank you

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