

Transformative Analysis of transboundary water arrangements

Water and Power webinar
International Water Resources Association
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A. Conventional Diplomacy

Water diplomacy for conflict management
in context of 'late upstream development'

**Tigris /
Euphrates**

Jordan

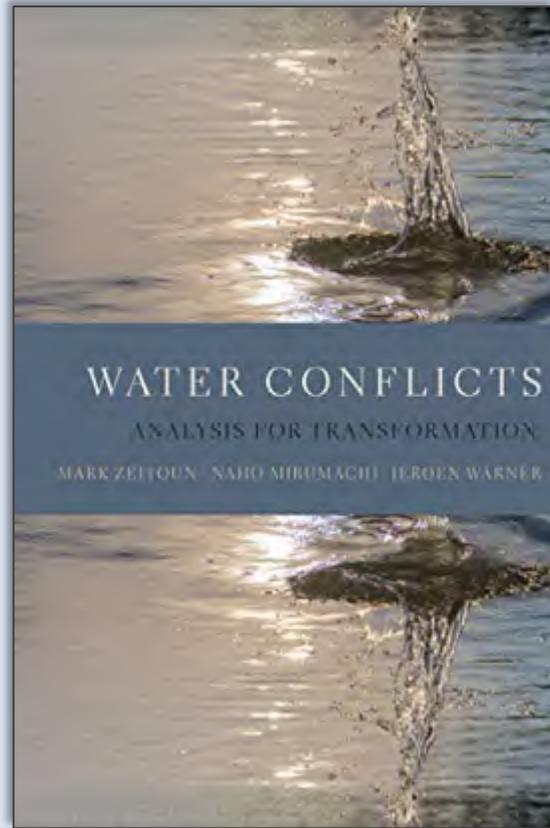
*diplomacy underpinning conflict
(by pushing for status quo)*

*diplomacy ignoring conflict
(through lack of relevance)*

Nile

*diplomacy creating conflict
(by stifling change)*

B. Transformative Analysis



Goal: 'improvement' of tbw arrangements to become more 'equitable and sustainable'

Equitable = fair, adaptable (but to whom?)
inequitable = not sustainable

Focus:

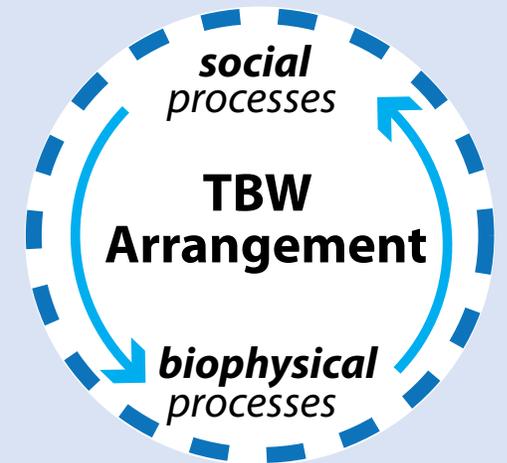
- alteration of structures that sustain any arrangement
- on the *harm* experienced, and ways to address it (rather than simply benefits derived from interventions, which may only be realised for some)

Object of study

Transboundary Water Arrangement

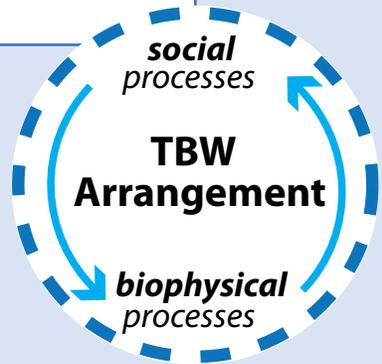
= agreements, protocols, river basin commissions and other institutional structures that shape policy and use of transboundary waters (primarily) between states.

- best understood as a result of interacting social and biophysical processes

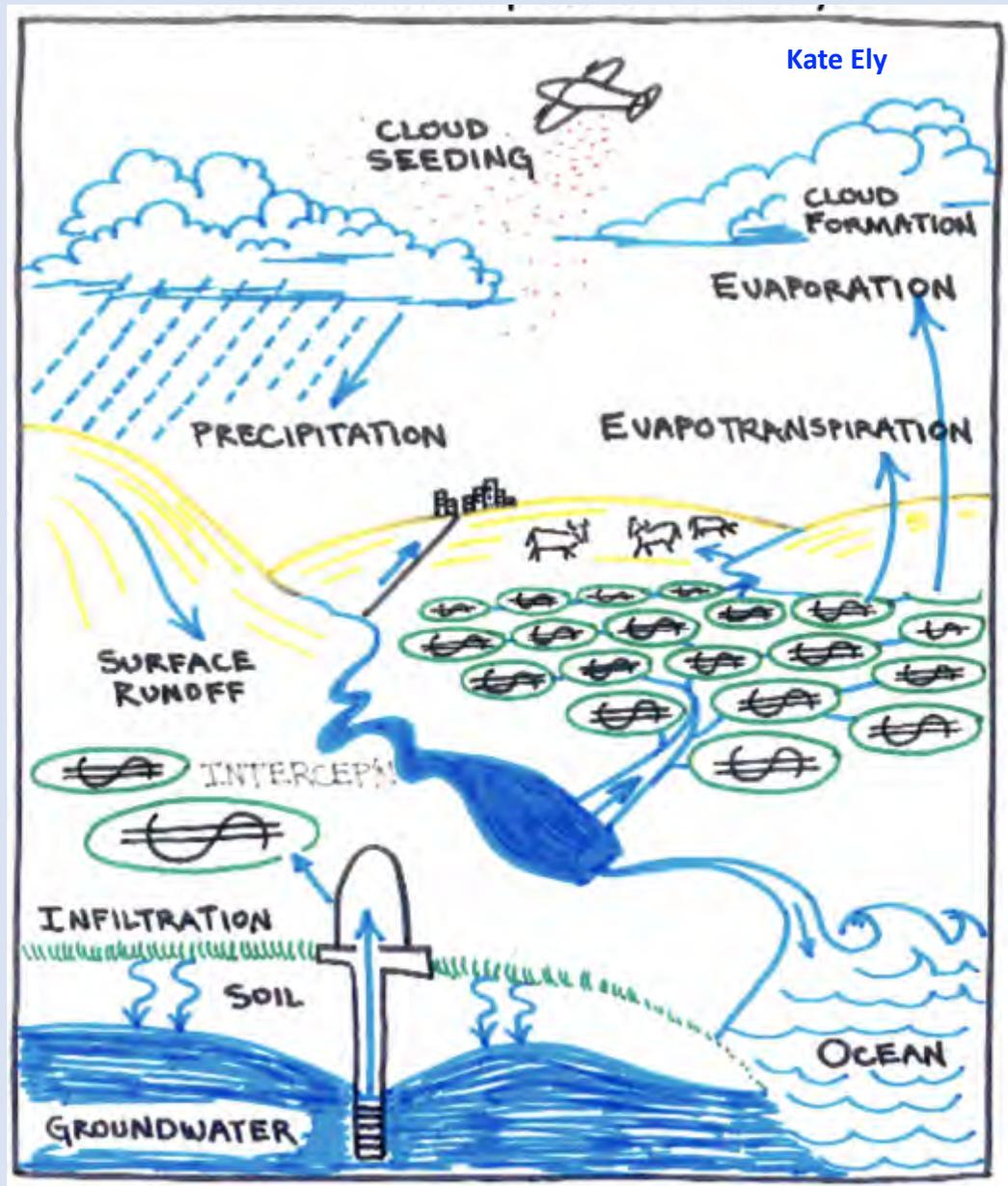


Starting Points

- Water ignores borders... but is subordinate to politics and power
- Conflict transformation > conflict management
- Consider all water flows (soil water, virtual water) + what makes them flow (power)
- Conflict and Cooperation co-exist (destructive cooperation) [Mirumachi (2015)]
- *Conflicts transform along pathways that can be described*



A most realistic hydro-cycle



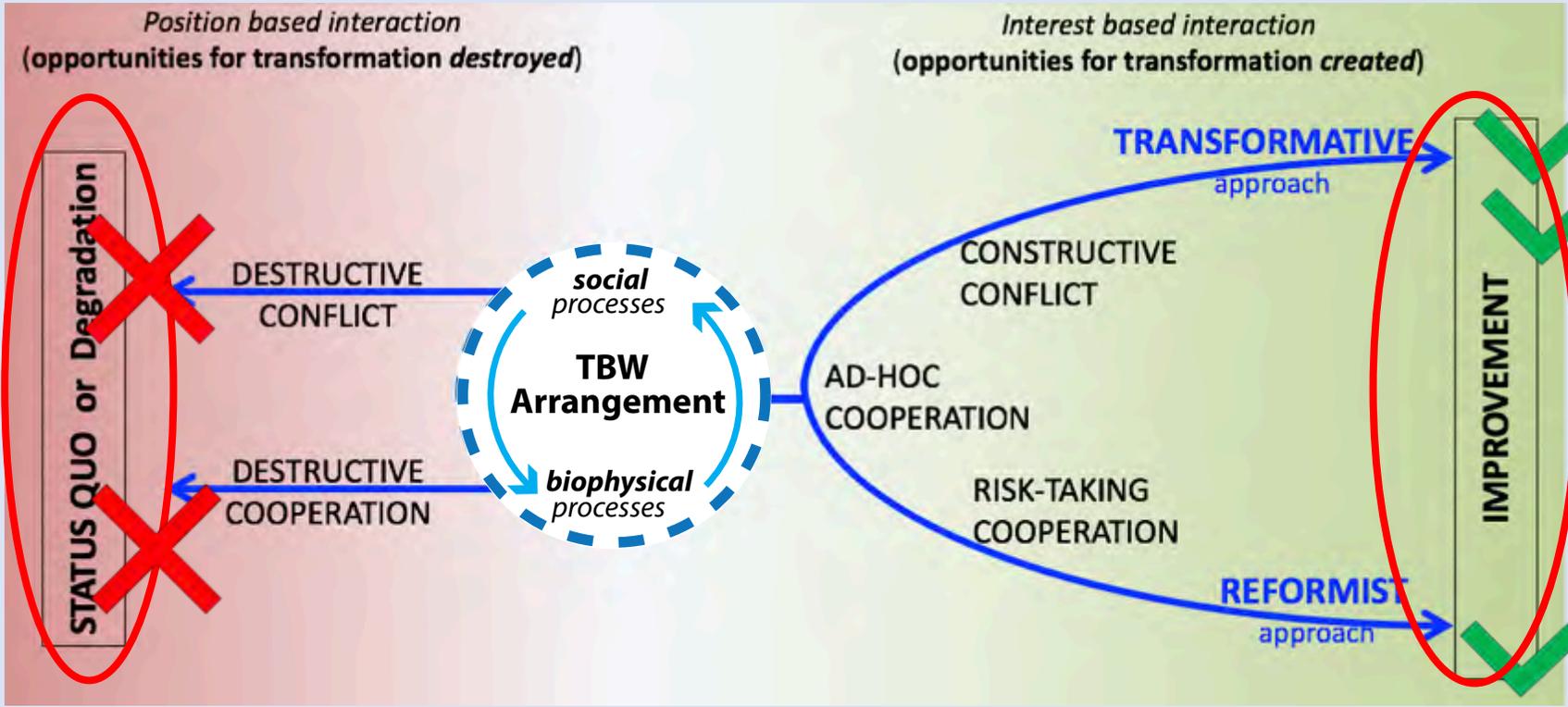
Pathways

TBW Arrangements are subject to structural and more accessible forces that lead to *status quo*; *degradation*; or *'improvement'*

Tendency towards status quo and 'destructive cooperation' (esp. when conflict management is the goal)

Opportunities for transformation are created by breaking consent / constructive conflict, or ad-hoc or risk-taking cooperation

Diplomacy which improves a tbw arrangement can be reformist or transformative



- **Transformative Analysis should:**
- be aware of the processes their analysis is taken up by
 - understand the processes and structures that maintain them
 - look for destructive conflict or cooperation
 - elaborate the constructive forms of cooperation and of conflict (and spot opportunities to move this along)

- Who benefits from a transformed arrangement?
- Does transformation oblige challenging what is politically acceptable?
- Risks of analysts being subjective (is anybody objective)?
- How can non-state actors be best integrated into the analysis?
- others?