Governing vulnerability in a transboundary context: the Trialogue approach

*Workshop on water and adaptation to climate change*

Session 3
Reducing uncertainty: forecasting, modelling and vulnerability

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Introduction

- Adaptation not only involves governments
- **Trialogue model** (Turton et al.*
  - Requisite for effective transboundary water management and cooperation
- Good **water governance** depends on the interface of three processes, namely...

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** Water governance is the process of informed decision-making that enables trade-offs between competing users of a given resource so as to balance protection with beneficial use in such a way as to mitigate conflict, enhance equity, ensure sustainability and hold officials accountable (Turton et al, 2007).
Trialogue Model of Governance

The (lack of) Policy-Science-Society interactions
Where do we stand?

- Quality of interface = important
- What are the roles of the three actors?
  - How is science used to develop policies?
  - How can scientists interact with policymakers?
  - How can the public be involved in water research and management?
  - Where are the gaps between the 3 interfaces and how can these be bridged?
Potential Barriers

Governments
- Short-term vision
- Sensitive to lobbies
- Protectionism
- Inertia

Society
- Economic individualism
- Mantra of profits
- Lack of consideration

Science
- Scientific individualism
- No or low diffusion of information
- Science for science
Where do we want to go?

Options for cooperation:

- Voluntary cooperation between government, science and society
- Legal enforcement by government
- Science as mediator
How can we get there?
Successful trialogue approaches

Canada:
N-Cycle of P.E.I. Aquifers

BC:
Abbotsford-Sumas Aquifer
In conclusion

The Trialogue Model of Governance is a useful conceptual model and analytical tool.

Effective transboundary water management requires all sectors of an international shared river basin to work together to achieve a shared vision.
Thank you for your attention.

Questions?
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