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## **topic 3.1: "Basin Management and Transboundary Cooperation".**

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## 3.1.2 How can Stakeholders be involved in basin management and Transboundary water cooperation?

- Advantages of engaging stakeholders in Basin Management
  - Create sense of ownership and responsibility. Raise awareness and involvement in Water Master Plan (De Grandmaison, Landry).
  - Provide more information to the decision-makers.
  - Monitor Government policies



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## ■ Institutions

- A distinction should be made between national and transboundary (TB) institutions.
- Basin institutions (national) must have clearly defined roles, good communication systems (Amron), balanced representation from civil society, government and local authorities (De Grandmaison).
- Cases (e.g. Martinique) where these are advisory, but also others with statutory bases (e.g. Quibec) were presented



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## ■ Institutions (cont'd)

- Basin institutions should be well run and instil confidence in society
- The boundaries of the "basin" should not always be hydrological but also consider economic and other interests. The example of the capital of Mozambique, Maputo, vis-à-vis the Incomati Basin was quoted (Muller).
- TB Institutions require most of the above characteristics but with the exception of (direct) representation of civil society
  - "Governments are better placed to look after their citizens' interests" (Muller)
- Example of engaging the youth; "Blue Ambassadors" in Martinique with tasks to do surveys and extract information that feeds back to basin institutions.



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## ■ Process

- Stakeholder pressurise can move governments towards basin management e.g. Togo-Benin (Alé)
- External assistance sometimes catalyst (UNESCO)
- Stakeholder representation should be appropriate to the level of the institution (Sokolov).





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## ■ Challenges

- Stakeholders must have a clear interest in participating; it could be financial (Brilly), recreations such as fishing, or even cultural/spiritual, e.g. Yellow River (Hongqi)
- Stakeholders, officials and politicians alike need capacitating/educating; e.g. lack of hydrodiplomatic knowledge. Information systems and modelling to communicate complex relationships are important tools to overcome these constraints
- Still (some) lack of political will to bring in civil society?