

Lessons Learned, Lessons Shared: Global Perspectives from Treaties on Transboundary Waters

Nebiyu Tiruneh¹

Abstract

Transboundary rivers have presented both opportunities and challenges to the countries that share these finite resources. The challenges and opportunities created by attempts to manage transboundary waters have been hailed as both glowing examples of success and in some cases warning lessons of failure. Treaties on transboundary waters become successful when they are based on science and data driven resource sharing framework that addresses delicate issues with facts and technically sound planning tools. The continued success of treaties also relies on mutual trust and understanding between the parties involved. These premises provide a platform for equitable sharing and mutually inclusive prosperity. Lessons obtained from examining several transboundary water treaties demonstrates the importance of cooperative framework agreements that address all the concerns of the parties involved and have a foresight to plan for future scenarios of both excess and deficit in the face of hydroclimatic variabilities.

Keywords: Transboundary water treaties, Transboundary rivers, Cooperative framework agreement

¹ Email: nebiyudt@gmail.com