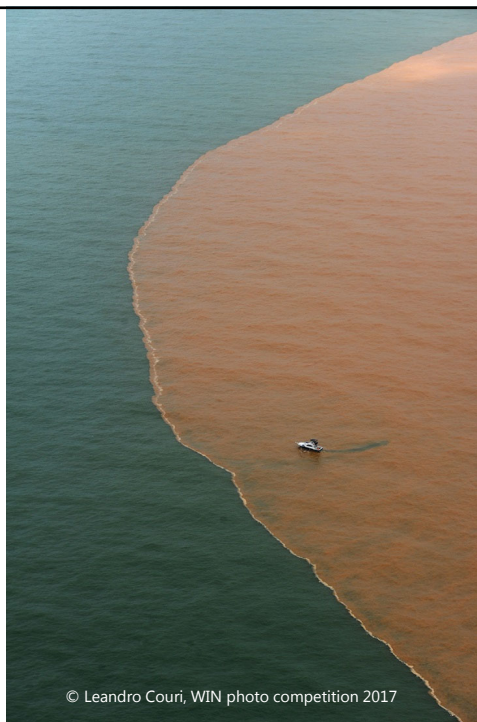


28th Economic and Environmental Forum
First Preparatory Meeting, Vienna, 17-18 February 2020
Session 4, Water Integrity Network

Combatting Corruption in Water Management

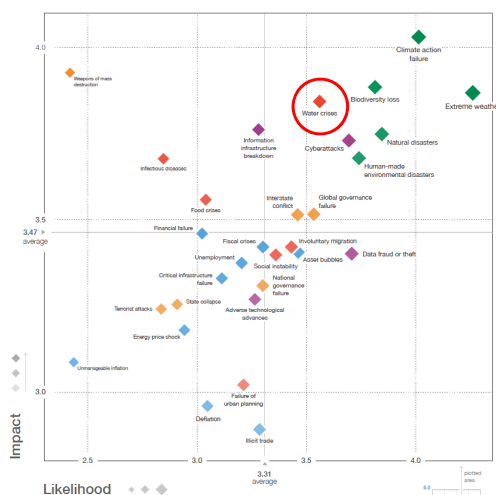
First Preparatory Meeting of the 28th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum, Vienna 18.02.2020

Lotte Feuerstein



© Leandro Couri, WIN photo competition 2017

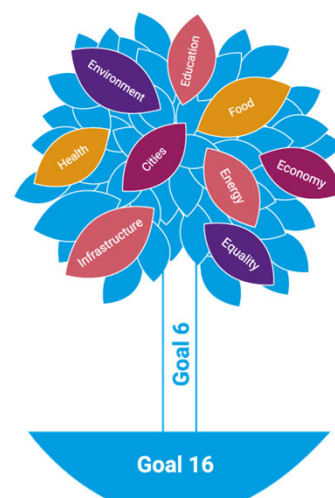
Water as a critical resource



Source: World Economic Forum 2020 Global Risks Landscape

Water is...

- Human right
- Finite resource
- Social good
- Economic good
- Ecological good
- SDG 6



CASE 1

Risk mitigation for the construction of Ziga Dam in Burkina Faso

Crucial infrastructure project, complex financing structure involving 12 partners.

Water Company ONEA restructured following financial difficulties and to de-risk this project specifically.



Proactive implementation of measures early in project planning



Set-up of project execution unit less vulnerable to conflicts of interest



Definition of high-quality technical specifications for tender



Close, regular third-party follow-up on financial and technical levels

Anti-corruption and risk mitigation measures throughout project design and execution.

CASE 1

Monitoring climate finance funds in Bangladesh

Climate finance governance assessment by TI Bangladesh



Proactive review of projects, external evaluation, special audit by Auditor General. \$3.4 Mio projects re-assessed. Fund procedures adapted to bring civil society on appraisal, monitoring and review.



About \$86 Mio Climate funds allocated to water infrastructure projects



Irregularities revealed by TI through monitoring implementation of climate funds: inflated budgets, embezzled funds...

CASE 2

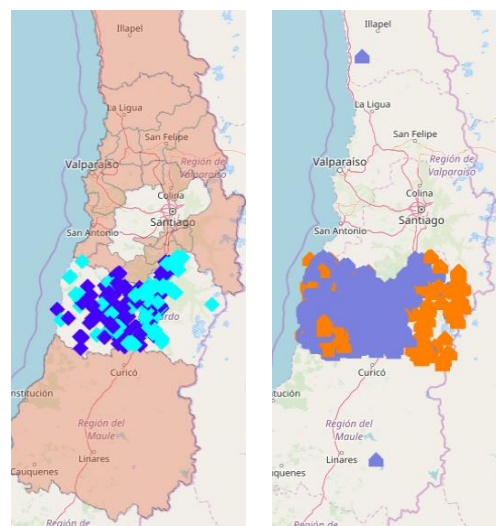
Opening up water use management in Chile

Chile's engagement in the Open Government Partnership:

- 2016 - 18: Web-App to make water licenses more transparent <http://snia.dga.cl/observatorio/>
- 2018 – 20: Expand App to show extraction by different users, and enable inclusion of user-generated data

"The issues we face in water management will not be solved with just data. The creation of opportunities for citizens to use and engage with the information for their benefit is essential."

Ivonne Roa Fuentes, General Directorate of Water



CASE 3

Journalists exposing environmental mismanagement in Spain

Ecological disaster in a protected lagoon due to three decades of illegal practices,

- allowance of hundreds of illegal canals and desalination plants,
- abstraction of water in overexploited aquifers and
- lack of monitoring and land use control.

Comprehensive investigative report published:

<https://datadista.com/medioambiente/desastre-mar-menor/eng/>

Publishing report coincided with popular protests due to acute crisis (dead fish, flooding), both contributed to corrective action – criminal investigations ongoing

CASE 4 Piloting Integrity Management in Albanian Water Utilities

- Five water utilities analysed integrity risks and applied tools to address these.
- The process had positive outcomes in terms of staff motivation, consumer relations and increasing revenues
- The process helped utilities implement reforms on curbing illegal connections and enforcing debt collection
- More systematic approach and upscaling to all 10 utilities in next programme phase



2/18/2020

SO WHAT: Recommendations for OSCE



- Integrity assurance & participation in infrastructure development starts in planning
- Complaints mechanisms and civil society monitoring to detect corruption and trigger corrective action – if financial & technical information are accessible
- Monitoring systems and open data platforms are particularly useful when
 - combining environmental, social, technical and financial information
 - Enabling users to put up and challenge information, raise questions, file complaints
 - Outreach is conducted to make sure they are known
- High quality investigative journalism is a powerful approach to increase public pressure and trigger investigations, especially for grand corruption
- Corporate governance and integrity of agencies managing water is crucial

2/18/2020

THANK YOU



WIN Water
Integrity
Network
Fighting corruption in water worldwide

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