

CONFLICT MANAGEMENT & RESOLUTION IN IWRM



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Defining Conflict.

- A conflict exists when two or more parties perceive that their interests are incompatible, express hostile attitudes or pursue their interests through actions that damage the other parties.
- OR
- A clash of interests of two or more parties when at least one of the parties seeks to assert its interests at the expense of another party's interests.



Kinds/Types of Conflicts:

- Intra-personal – you have a conflict within yourself – do I use a bath or a shower which saves on water?
- Interpersonal – occurring between two or more people.
- Intra-group – occurring within one group of people.
- Inter-group – occurring between two or more groups of people.



Some Causes of Conflict.

- Access to and distribution of scarce resources;
- Incompatible objectives or methods;
- Jurisdictional ambiguities/functional overlaps;
- Unrealised or unmet expectations;
- Distortions in communication;
- Differences in behavioural styles;
- Unequal power or authority;
- Misperceptions...etc...



Are Conflicts always a bad thing?

NO!! They may actually help in:

- Identifying real problems needing solutions;
- Bringing about needed change;
- Enabling adjustments to systems or processes;
- Helping build new relationships;
- Changing perceptions about things;
- Identifying what is most important.



Two aspects of Conflict handling:

(1) Conflict Management:

- To prevent conflict occurring by encouraging communication & collaboration among diverse interests to address underlying causes using the participatory approach. It is PRO-ACTIVE.

(2) Conflict Resolution:

- This is a RE-ACTIVE approach of using various techniques to address a conflict situation that has already occurred.



Conflict Analysis:

This covers:

- Identification of ISSUES;
- Identification of Actors;
- History;
- Level & Intensity;
- Political, Economic, Social & Institutional structures;
- Impact.



Methods of Conflict Resolution:

- (1) Litigation – Using the legal system of the land;
- (2) Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) – emphasises consensus seeking outcomes and resonates with many traditional societies.



Litigation:

- Approaching the Legal System of the Land/State –this is the formal and ultimate mechanism for conflict resolution.
- Usually results in WIN-LOSE situation and much disharmony;
- Can be a lengthy and expensive process;
- Very unsuitable in IWRM & to be discouraged.



Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR):

Puts emphasis on “CONSENSUS” seeking outcomes and it resonates very well with many traditional societies.

Includes among others:

- Negotiation;
- Facilitation;
- Mediation ;
- Arbitration.

Generally inexpensive and promotes social harmony. The recommended option in IWRM.



CONCLUSION!

- Have you had any conflicts in your Sub-Catchment?
- How have you solved them?



HAVE A NICE DAY!