



International Water
Management Institute

Advancing South-South Cooperation

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Research and Innovation for Water Security
Driving Action • Propelling Change



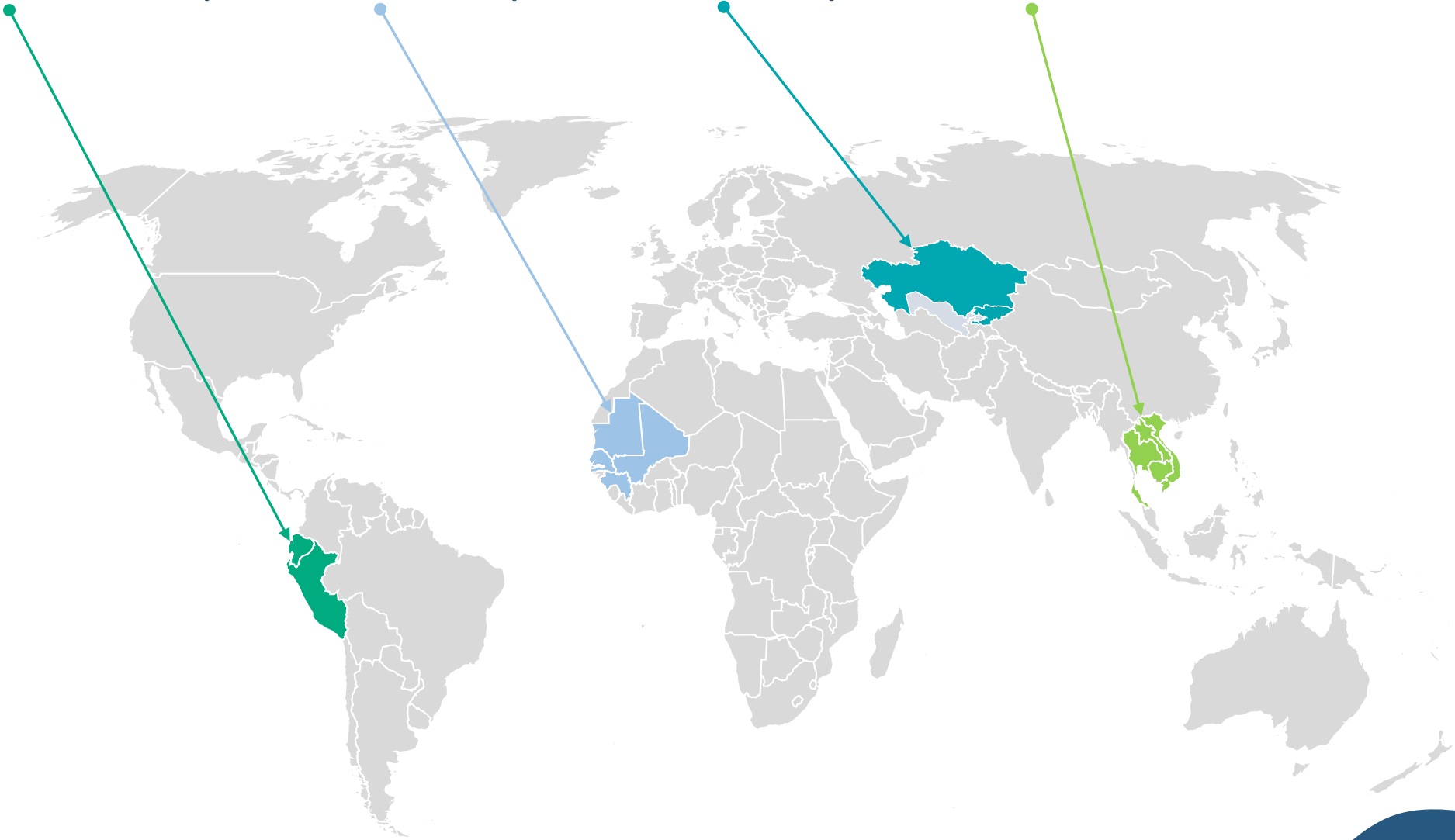
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An aerial photograph of a river system with multiple winding channels and large, light-colored sandbars or islands. The water is a deep blue-grey, and the sandbars are a bright, pale yellow. The overall scene is a complex, organic pattern of water and land.

Highlighting 3 international best practices from Asia, Latin America and Africa

New ways of working relevant to South Asia

South America / West Africa / Central Asia / Southeast Asia

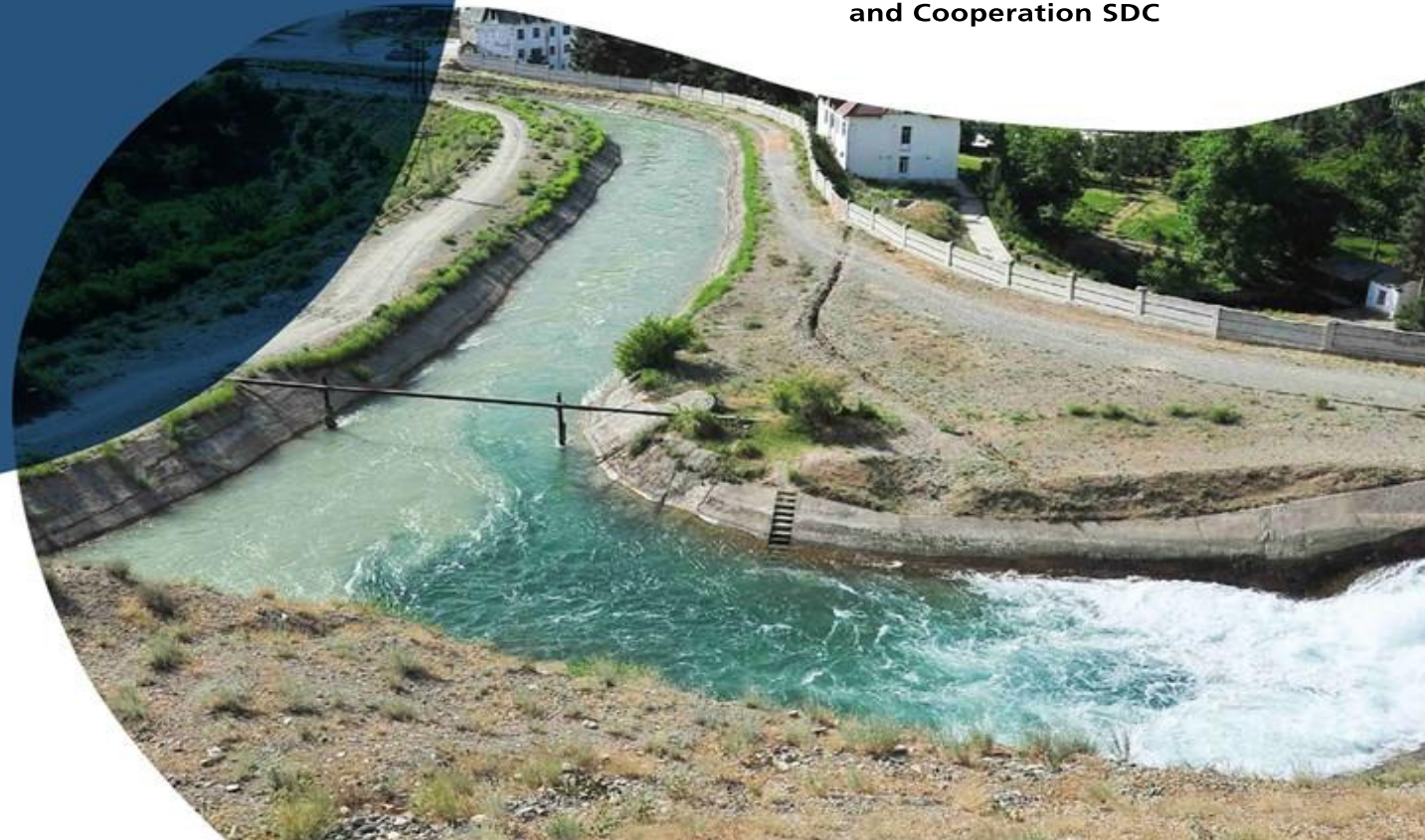


Cooperation on the Chu and Talas Rivers between Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

**Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC**





Geography of the Chu and Talas River basins

- Basin borders
- National borders

Legal Framework and Cooperation Mechanism in the Chu and Talas River Basins

2000

Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic on the Use of Water Management Structures of Interstate Significance (WMSIS) on the Chu and Talas Rivers, 2000

Legal basis for the joint operation of water management infrastructure used for the distribution of water flow from the Chu and Talas Rivers

2006

Bilateral Commission on the Use of Water Management Structures of Interstate Significance on the Chu and Talas Rivers (Chu–Talas Water Commission, CTWC)

A joint body (joint secretariat) responsible for establishing the agreed operational regime and determining the operational costs required to ensure the safe and reliable functioning of these facilities

2025

On September 26, the 36th meeting of the Kyrgyz–Kazakh Commission was held in Bishkek.

The delegation reviewed the outcomes of the 2025 vegetation period in the Chu and Talas river basins, and exchanged information on the works carried out at the water management structures



Rules of Procedure and key features of the Commission

- Holds its meetings alternately in both countries
- Decisions on consensus basis (In case of disagreements, the Parties shall hold additional consultations and reconsider the issues at the next session of the Commission.)
- The Commission engage experts on a temporary/permanent basis, establish temporary/standing working groups.
- The cooperation covers several Water Infrastructure (e.g.: National Hydromet Services), all are located on the territory of the Kyrgyz Republic and are its property
- Kazakhstan participates on a cost-sharing basis in the maintenance and operation of these infrastructures
- The shares in covering the costs are determined in proportion to the volume of water received by each Party
- Cost-sharing for maintenance and operation is implemented in various forms, including (carrying out repair and operational works and supplying materials/equipment

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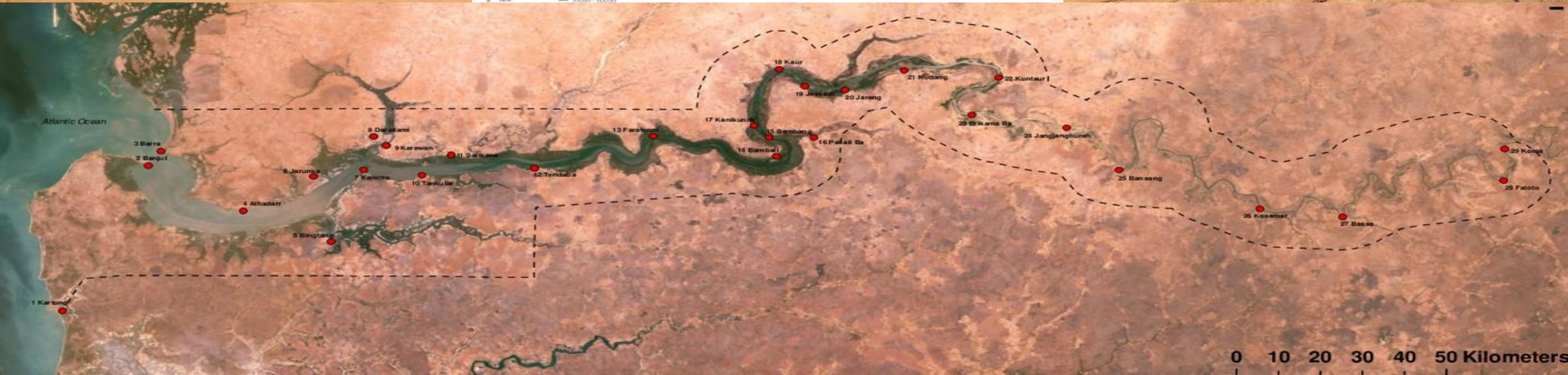
Insights from Southeast Asia



- From the **Lao–Vietnam Transboundary Groundwater Cooperation** (Attapeu–Gia Lai Plateau).
- Technical cooperation between the **Lao Department of Water Resources** (DWR-MONRE) and **Vietnam’s Department of Water Resources Management** (DWRM-MONRE) – joint work across both provinces to; i) Map groundwater recharge zones and flow directions, ii) Collect harmonized data on water quality, depth to groundwater, and aquifer lithology and, iii) Identify shared hotspots of groundwater stress.
- The data and analyses compiled into a shared hydrogeological map and cross-border aquifer profile.
- facilitating bilateral meetings between Lao DWR and Vietnam MONRE counterparts and helping navigate sensitivities around data sharing.
- The process used a science-for-diplomacy approach: starting with technical collaboration rather than legal or political negotiation
- **ASEAN Working Group on water resources** -South–South platform for drought/flood management, IWRM training
- The **Mekong River Commission** is an example of a long-standing South-led body operationalizing consultation and joint monitoring through its **Basin Development Planning Process**, data sharing agreements e.g., with the Low Mekong Commission, the Prior and Informed Consent Process used for hydropower

South America / West Africa / Central Asia / Southeast Asia





Insights from Gambia River Basin Organisation

- Created in 1978 - Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, and Senegal as member states
- Work done with Swiss Financing (Blue Peace Financing) and implemented by the 4 members states (Gambia, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Senegal) with support from UNCDF
- Great example of South-South, Triangular Cooperation in LDCs (on issues difficult to tackle independently)- support countries to overcome transboundary challenges, accelerate progress towards SDGs
- Solutions that have been tested, validated, adapted and/or scaled up in various locations
- **Adopted RBO Master Plan** – designed to ensure the sustainable and equitable use of shared water resources. A striking example of South-South Cooperation Frameworks, allowing for joint projects (like the Senegambia Bridge) that benefit all parties
- The masterplan -an outcome of an inclusive negotiation process between the four member states coupled with over three years of capacity building and TA provided by external stakeholders
- Until 2040, includes over **180 projects or project ideas** across sectors (as energy, agriculture, drinking water, sanitation, and navigation) potentially impacting **over 6 million people** through improved access to water-related services — including drinking water, energy, agricultural irrigation and food security

Insights on Blue peace financing in the Gambia river

The **Blue Peace Financing Initiative (BPF)**'s is to enable non-sovereign actors like RBOs to access the finance they **need** to deliver on their mandates for resilience, development, and cooperation.

It works across the **entire investment chain**: from basin-level investment strategy and project pipeline development, to investment-readiness and deal structuring, to blended finance and capital mobilization, **mobilizing and managing innovative financing for transformative, basin-wide development**.

To support this momentum, the RBO has also launched a dedicated **Technical Assistance Facility**, with support from UNCDF. This facility provides **early-stage project funding, capacity-building, and structuring support** to help guide priority projects toward investment readiness.

Vision:

- Translate their shared development vision into **bankable investment pipelines**;
- Leverage their existing **political mandates**;
- And structure **blended finance solutions** that make investment in transboundary water **viable and attractive**.

But this effort is not just about funding pipes and plants. It's about:

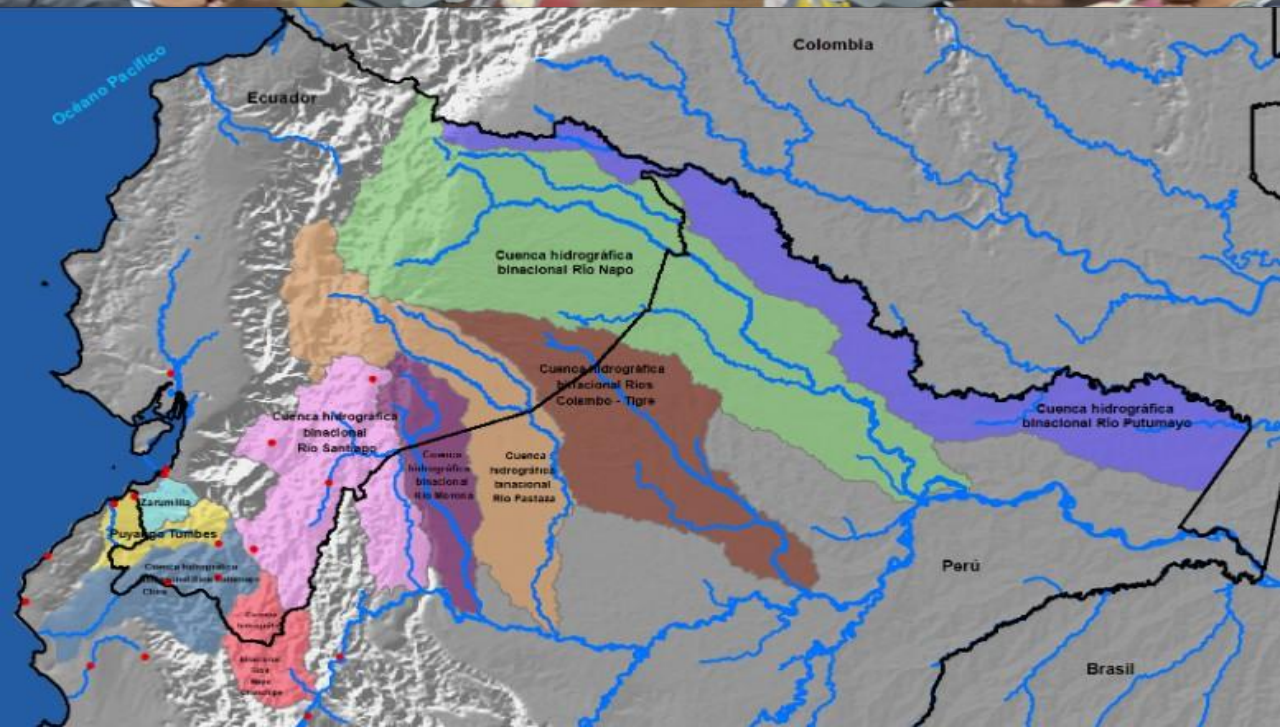
- Empowering RBOs to **become credible investment platforms**;
- Creating **new impact investment opportunities**;
- And **enabling multisectoral returns**—from water and energy to food, health, and cross-border cooperation.

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Peru and Ecuador consolidate their history of transboundary water management cooperation

The Ministries of Foreign Affairs of both nations signed the IWRM Binational Commission Regulations.



HISTORIA DE LA COOPERACIÓN EN CUENCAS TRANFRONTERIZAS ENTRE ECUADOR Y PERÚ

- 1971**
Convenio para el Aprovechamiento de las Cuencas Hidrográficas Binacionales de Puyango - Tumbes y Catamayo - Chira
- 1998**
Acuerdo de Paz entre Ecuador y Perú y acuerdo complementarios de "Integración Fronteriza, Desarrollo y Vecindad"
- 2009**
Conformación de la Comisión Binacional GIRH de Zarumilla
- 2010 - Presente**
Gabinetes Presidenciales y Reuniones de Trabajo
Compromiso de trabajo en ejes ambientales y gestión integrada de recursos hídricos transfronterizos
- 2012**
Reconocimiento de la Comisión Binacional GIRH para Zarumilla
- 2016**
Convenio específico para el Proyecto Binacional Puyango - Tumbes
- 2018**
Establecimiento de la Comisión Binacional para la Gestión Integrada de los Recursos Hídricos de las 9 Cuencas Hidrográficas Transfronterizas entre Ecuador y Perú (Comisión Binacional GIRH)
- 2022**
Ratificación de la Comisión Binacional GIRH
- 2023**
Suscripción del Reglamento de la Comisión Binacional GIRH

Insights Bridge project – Peru Ecuador

- In 2023, the States of [Ecuador](#) and [Peru](#) formally endorsed the Regulation of the Binational Commission for the Integrated Management of Water Resources of the 9 Transboundary Watersheds between the Republic of Ecuador and the Republic of Peru (Binational Commission IWRM Ecuador—Peru): Zarumilla, Puyango-Tumbes, Catamayo-Chira, Mayo-Chinchipe, Santiago, Morona, Pastaza, Conambo-Tigre, and Napo.
- Long history of cooperation dating back to 1971 with the signing of the "Agreement for the Utilization of the Binational Puyango-Tumbes and Catamayo-Chira Watersheds by Peru and Ecuador," to deepen joint efforts surrounding water: benefiting the development of their populations, water security, ecosystem protection, the fight against climate change, and other matters of common interest.
- The endorsement of the Regulation of the Agreement establishing the Binational Commission operationalizes this mechanism as an effective space for bilateral coordination, participation, and implementation of joint activities (joint ecosystemic and sustainable vision) and generate a positive impact on the quality of life of the population, productive activities, the environment, and freshwater ecosystems.

Rules and procedures of the Commission

- **Chaired** by a pro tempore presidency, exercised biennially and alternated by the representative of the governing body of water resources of Ecuador and Peru, as the case may be (Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Environment, and Water, as well as representatives from the watersheds of the Pacific and Amazon basins): serving as the decision-making and bilateral negotiation body
- **Binational Technical Secretariat** led by the respective Water Authority of the country holding the presidency at the time - technical and policy coordination of the Commission and the IWRM Committees of the 9 transboundary watersheds. Establish mechanisms and recommendations for developing joint proposals, conducting technical consultations, monitoring implementation progress, among other tasks
- **IWRM Committees** - develop and implement the Integrated Transboundary Water Resources Management (ITWRM) Plan, presenting proposals, implementing actions on the ground, exchanging knowledge, experiences, and technical information contributing to water security
- **Capacity building on water governance and water diplomacy** activities: tools that contribute to the financial sustainability of transboundary activities, and to the equitable distribution of the benefits of sustainable shared water management for a wide range of actors



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