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Improving Transboundary Water Cooperation in the Mara River Basin

Wednesday, November 28th, 2018



The CEO Water Mandate



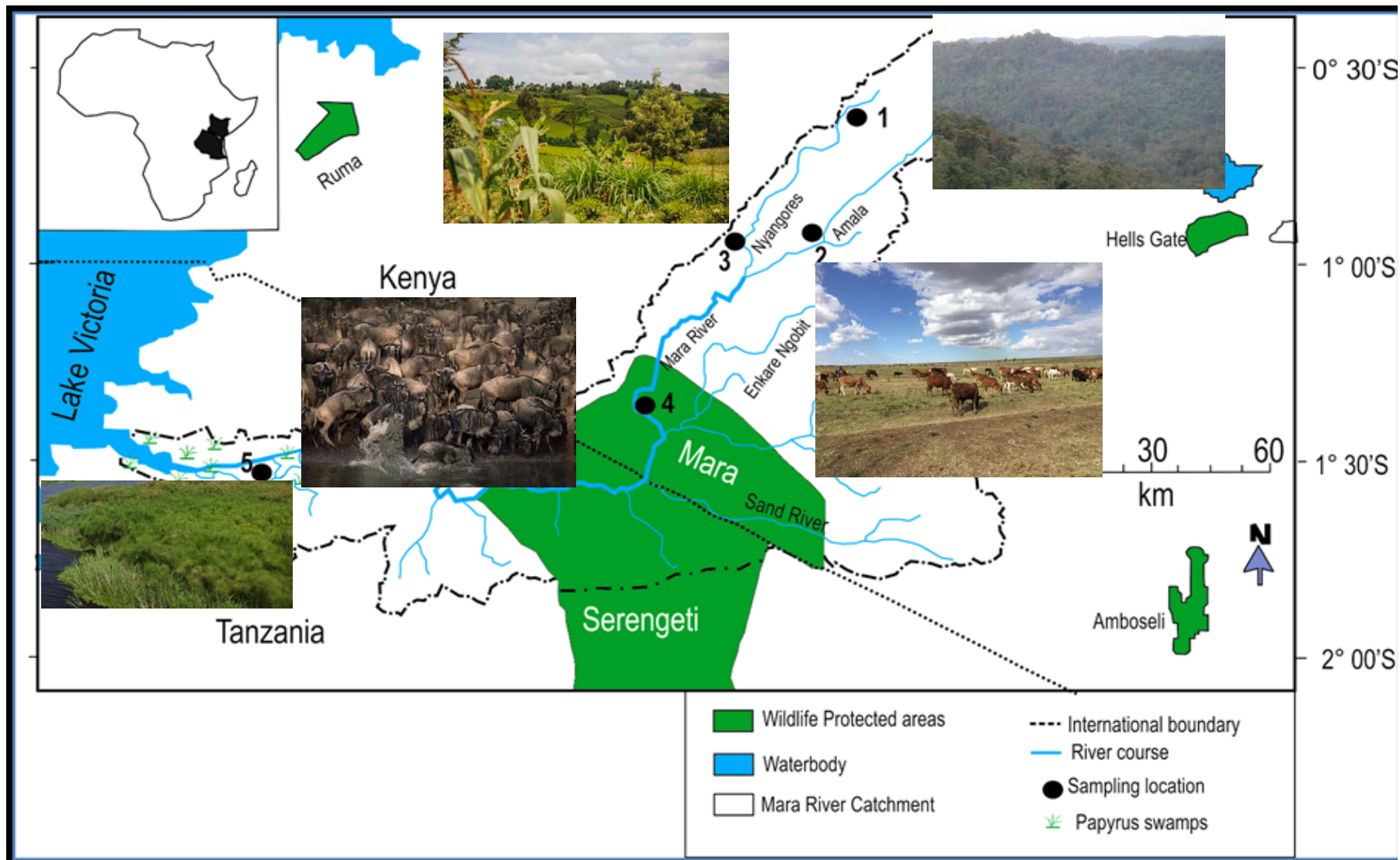
Framing Questions

- What approaches and tools can improve water cooperation across scales?
- What characteristics define an enabling environment for water cooperation?
- What is the role of foreign assistance in supporting water cooperation and peace-building?





Mara River Basin





Growing risks to water security in the Mara Basin

- Expanding urban areas and changing demographics
- Land use change
- Increasing food and energy demand
- Vulnerability to climate variability and change

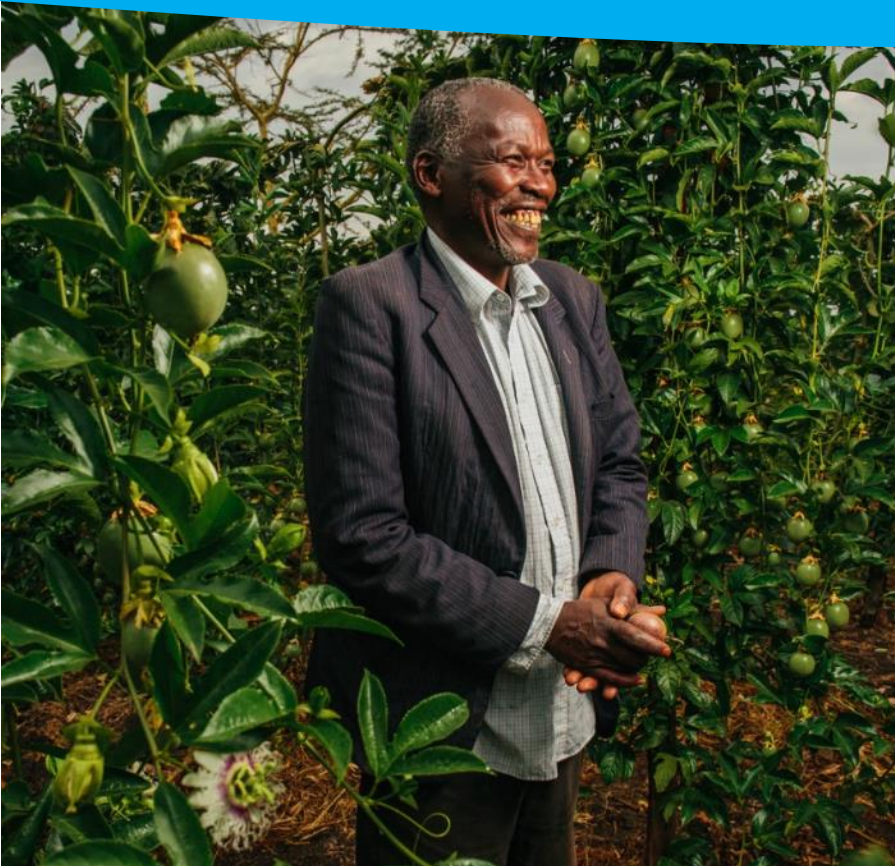




SWP's Sustainable Water for the Mara Activity

Approach

- Support Kenyan and Tanzanian institutions to improve joint management of the transboundary Mara River Basin
- Water Allocation Planning as a tool for allocating scarce resources and resolving potential conflicts
- Participatory, science-based tools to inform decision-making under uncertainty
- On-the-ground implementation to improve water security in Nyangores and Mara Wetlands





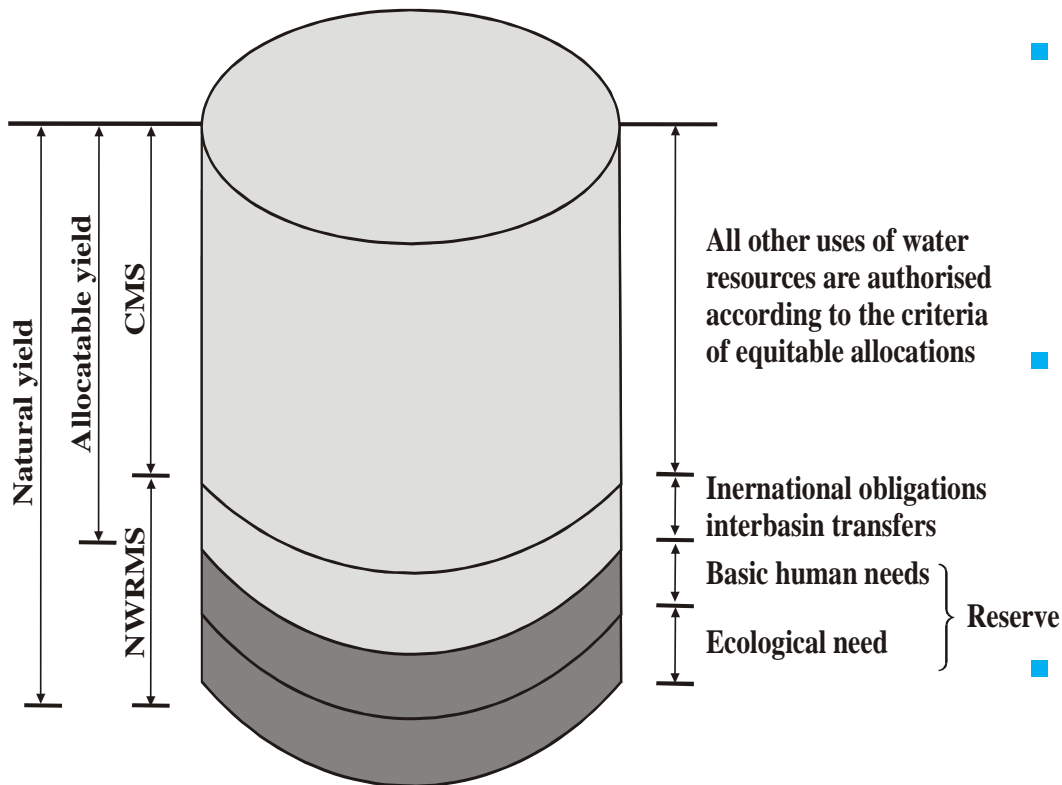
Enabling environment for water cooperation in the Mara

- MOU signed between Republic of Kenya and United Republic of Tanzania for joint management of the Mara River Basin on September 15, 2015.
- Establishes institutional arrangement for sustainable development and management of water resources in the Mara
- Policy and legal framework to support water allocation planning
- Existence of sub-catchment level institutions to support local planning and implementation





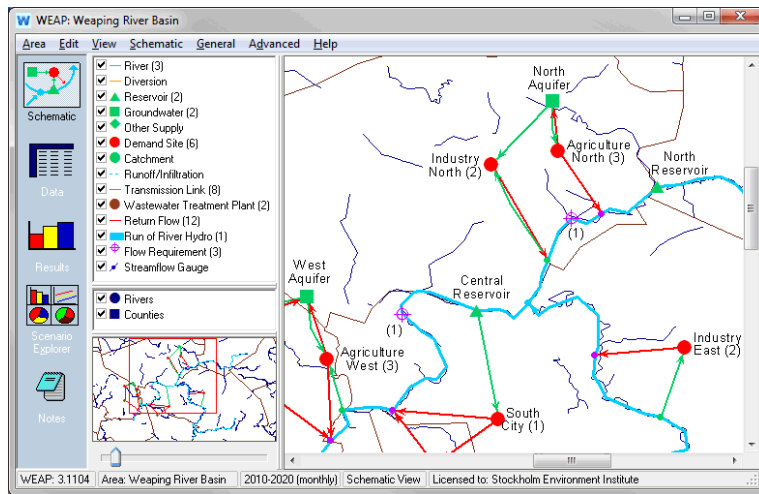
Water Allocation Planning (WAP)



- A process of sharing limited water resources between different regions and competing users
- Necessary when water availability and distribution fails to meet needs of all users
- Important tool for resolving international, regional and local conflicts over access to water



Robust Decision Support Process



- Supports participatory water planning and decision making under uncertainty
- Improves understanding and evaluation of competing water uses
- Informs stakeholder-led negotiation and selection of activities to safeguard water security



Water
Evaluation
And
Planning



<http://www.weap21.org>



On-the-Ground Water Security Actions

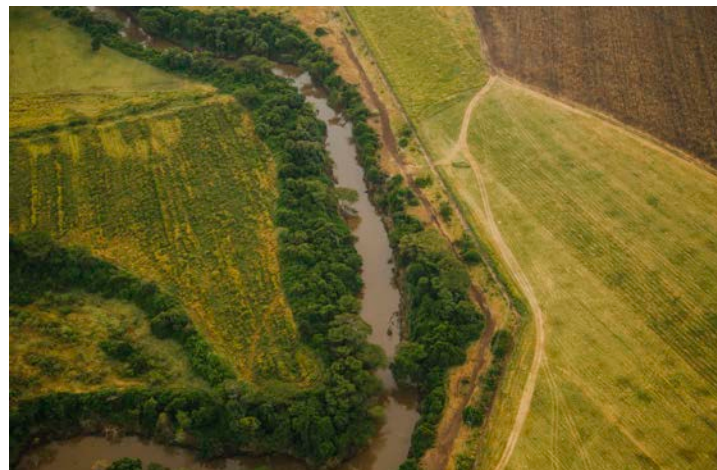
- Catchment Management
- Livelihoods Diversification
- Sustainable Provision of Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) Services
- Compliance and Enforcement





Role of Foreign Assistance in Water Cooperation

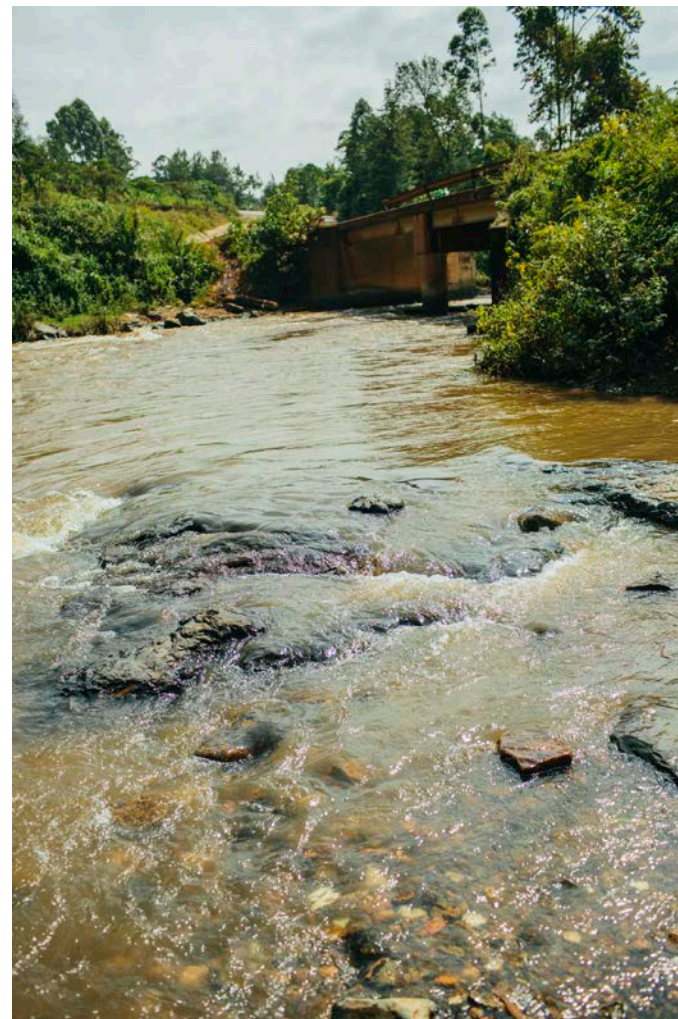
- **Transboundary Water for Biodiversity and Human Health** (USAID, 2005-2012)
- **ProMara** (USAID, 2010-2012)
- **PREPARED** (USAID, 2012-2017)
- **MaMaSe** (Dutch Government, 2013-2017)
- **SWP's Sustainable Water for the Mara Activity** (USAID, 2017-2020)





Key Takeaways

- Progress on transboundary water cooperation requires sustained engagement and partnerships
- Successful approaches must support and build trust among institutions and stakeholders across scales
- Water allocation planning and decision support tools can facilitate cooperation but must be participatory
- Foreign assistance investments can play an important catalytic role



Questions and Discussion

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