

# Water (In-)Security and Conflict

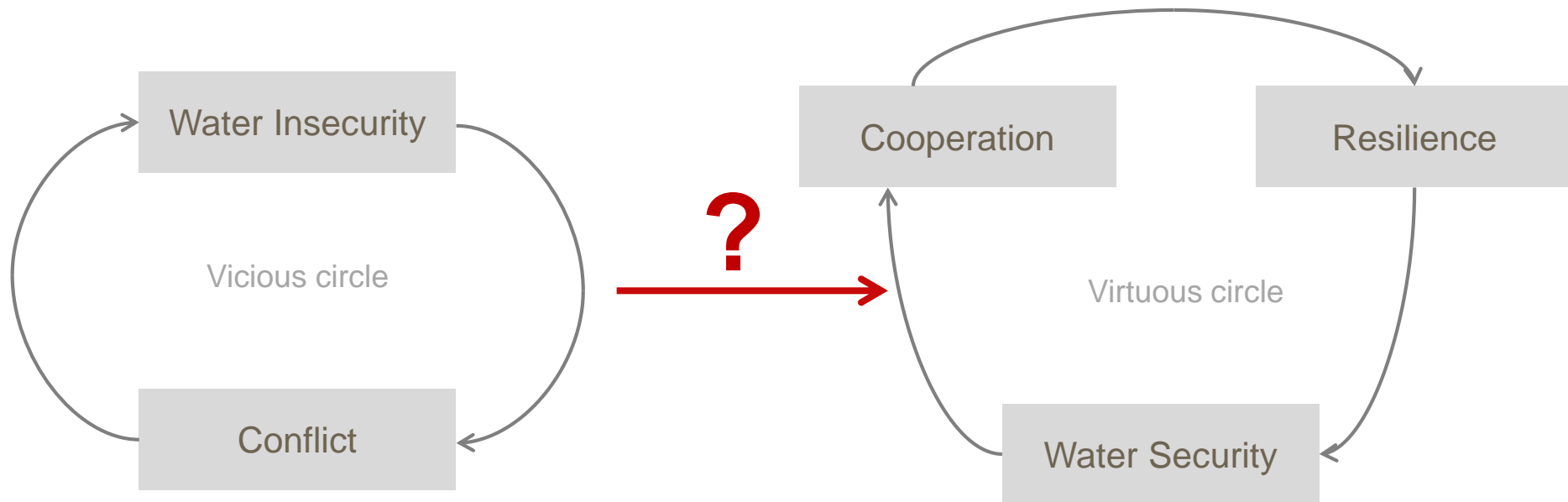
## How effective water resources management prevents and mitigates conflicts

Stockholm World Water Week 2017

29 August 2017



Good water resources management can prevent or mitigate conflicts if vicious circles are turned into into virtuous cycles



Resilience (technical, legal, institutional and management) matters

# Solving a water conflict through technical means in the Lake Naivasha Basin

- Illegal abstraction through private intakes – increasing scarcity
- Conflicts at local level between different user groups
- Provision of more sophisticated technical solution (common intake) with awareness raising/training provides more effective solution

Simple technical solutions can help overcome conflicts and create benefits



# Maintaining water cooperation in the Jordan River Basin in spite of conflict



- Highly water stressed region/strong dependence of countries
- 1994 Israel-Jordan Peace Treaty includes provisions on water sharing/management
- Trust building and acknowledgement of benefits created new opportunities for cooperation

Trust building and clear benefits for all riparians can ensure cooperation in spite of tensions outside the water sector



# Sharing Water in the Orange-Senqu Basin



- Increasing water stress in the region and economic pressure from droughts
- Originally only bilateral water resources development scheme, but multilateral cooperation mechanism
- Pressure on resources led to cooperative response

Addressing water scarcity and allocation challenges in a cooperative manner/through joint institutional mechanisms ensures water resources development and prevents conflicts



# Fostering Peace through water in the Sava Basin



- Highly conflictive region emerging from war – all cooperation stalled
- Great interest in developing/restoring water resources
- Water used as a means for starting cooperation

Water can drive cooperation outside the water sector by demonstrating benefits of cooperation





Water – and water insecurity – do not automatically  
and necessarily lead to conflict

Instead, they can be mitigated or even prevented  
through effective water resources management, aiming  
at increasing water security

Which factors determine whether conflict or  
cooperation prevails?





## Round Table 1: Scarcity

- How does scarcity affect relations between individuals/communities/countries?
- Will increasing scarcity lead to conflicts?

## Round Table 2: Infrastructure Projects

- How does infrastructure affect relations between individuals/communities/countries?
- Which factors determine whether infrastructure leads to conflict or cooperation?

## Round Table 3: Socioeconomic Dynamics

- Which socioeconomic factors fuel or mitigate conflict over water use?
- How can socioeconomic challenges leading to conflict be overcome?

## Round Table 4: Political Dynamics

- Which political mechanisms fuel or mitigate conflict over water?
- How do political relations beyond the water sector contribute to conflict or cooperation?

