

Tecocomulco Lagoon River Basin Commission Stakeholder Engagement

In partnership with the OECD Studies on Water: Stakeholder Engagement for Inclusive Water Governance

Published On: 03 November 2015

Organisation: National Water Commission

Country:

Level of government: Local government

Sector: Environmental protection

Type:

Launched in: 2005

Overall development time: 9 year(s)

Link to the innovation's website

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Description

Tecocomulco lagoon is considered a natural relic of the ancient lake ecosystem which prevailed in the Mexico Valley river basin and contributed to regulating water levels and recharging aquifers in the basin.

However, it is facing storage capacity challenges and high levels of sedimentation related to different production systems and accelerated erosion in the basin. The River Basin Commission of the Tecocomulco Lagoon was created in 2005 as an auxiliary structure of the Mexico Valley River Basin Council with the objective to reverse these serious risks of deterioration.

It is composed of representatives from different levels of government (federal, state, municipal), water users and civil society organisations. It has responsibilities in land and water conservation, as well as sanitation and training activities to foster integrated water resources management (IWRM) and water conflict resolution in the lagoon.

The commission builds on constructive dialogues across sectors that had been historically antagonistic. Regular and dynamic meetings as well as monitoring agreements since its creation have positioned the commission as an instance of trusted social participation. It is taken as a reference by consulting regional governments for the implementation of their development programmes at basin level.

Why the innovation was developed

- The National Water Law allows the mixed composition (government-society) in the creation of the River Basin Commissions which is not limited to users of national waters, but also to those organizations of civil society with intervention in the water body.
- The commission has legitimized itself as an open space for discussion and management agreements of water resources in the basin in which all players with any interest in the basin want to participate.
- It has also consolidated itself as a trustworthy organisation of social participation, and is taken as a reference for instances of regional government for the implementation of their development programs.
- The Commission is a structure of mixed composition, in which members representing levels of government (federal, state and municipal) and representatives of water users involved and civil society organizations, are also integrated the various sectors that inhabit and live there.
- Its existence is regulated by the National Water Law and formed as a civil association has the legal personality to obtain resources from various private and government sources to develop their conservation projects.
- Participatory processes to define the problem causal relationships; and planning for possible solutions With this it was possible to build a constructive dialogue between historically antagonistic sectors.
- The desilting of the channel network and drainage and eradication of tule, generating a local economic benefit that social participation incentive to manage other project.
- The constant dynamic meetings and monitoring agreements for six years, which has positioned the Basin Commission as an instance of trusted social participation and is taken as a reference by consulting regional government for the implementation of their development programs.
- Service providers
- Government
- Water institutions
- Regulators
- Civil society
- Science, academia and research centres
- Agriculture sector

Results

Efficiency

- Cost-saving: Restoration programs in the basin (government and private) are applied together and do not dissolve in isolated efforts.
 - Sustainability/resilience: An example is the conservation works as barriers to prevent the entrainment of the land into the lagoon, through the implementation of the Temporary Employment Program, which means that the community is employed in conservation Basin and their work is paid.
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Effectiveness

- Capacity-development: Through agreements that the commission held with higher education institutions and the state of Hidalgo, each year users are trained in the related topics: rights and obligations of users with concession title water, product development, marketing, land conservation and improvement of the crops in the area, as well as care and sustainable management of trees in the region.
 - Broader economic development: An example is how we developed together with the National Water Commission a project to establish a Technified Rain-fed District, and make more profitable crops and more productive agricultural land in the Basin area.
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Service quality

Responsiveness:

- Acceptability/ownership of stakeholders involved: The River Basin Commission has established itself as a reliable structure for the democratic process, with their resolutions adopted and members playing a role during the appropriate processes of the commission.

Development

Design

River Basin Commissions, as auxiliary structure of the River Basin Councils by law are not subordinated to the National Water Commission, still monitoring and coordination if they are in charge of the CONAGUA, in the case of the Teccocomulco Lagoon River Basin Commission the CONAGUA Local Management in Hidalgo is in charge of supporting and monitoring the work and programs developed

Testing

- No methods were used to test the innovation.
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Implementation

Tools used:

- The legal framework for this participation is composed of: National Water Law (the federal law that gives rise to River Basin Councils and River Basin Commissions).
- Rules of Organization and Operation of the Mexico Valley's River Basin Council Management Program.
- The Tecocomulco Lagoon Basin for restoration and protection of their natural resources.
- Statutes of the constitutive act of the as Civil Association.
- Internal Rules of the Tecocomulco Lagoon, River Basin Commission.

Resources used:

- The resources for operational support are a grant from the federal government through National Water Commission, which are exercised by means of an agreement with the government of the State of Hidalgo, which also contributes an amount equal to that which was provided by the federation, resources that are deposited to the bank account of the civil association.
 - In addition, the River Basin Commission managed resources from different departments of the federal, state and municipal governments that have managed to invest in the restoration of the basin in the period 2005 - 2012.
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Diffusion

- The innovation has been used as a reference by consulting regional governments for the implementation of their development programmes at basin level.

Lessons Learned

Lessons Learned

- The coordination of efforts, concerted action and involving all actors and levels of government in discussing shared issues and solving shared problems affecting the basin were key.
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Conditions for success

- Democratic decision making processes help to enable public policies and concrete actions.
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