Integrated Water Resources Management in post-socialist countries – a comparison of Mongolia and Ukraine

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IWAS

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Integrated Water Resources Management Mongolia

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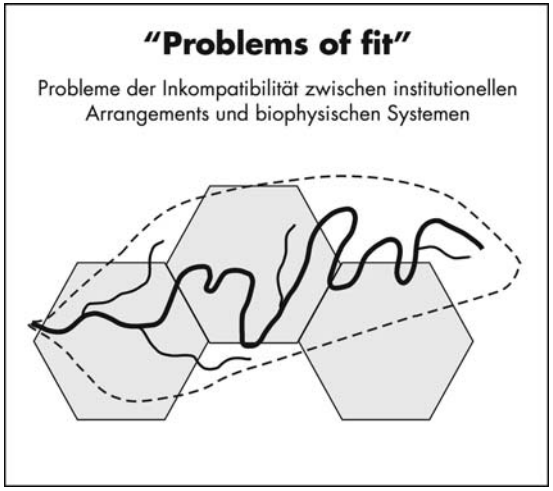
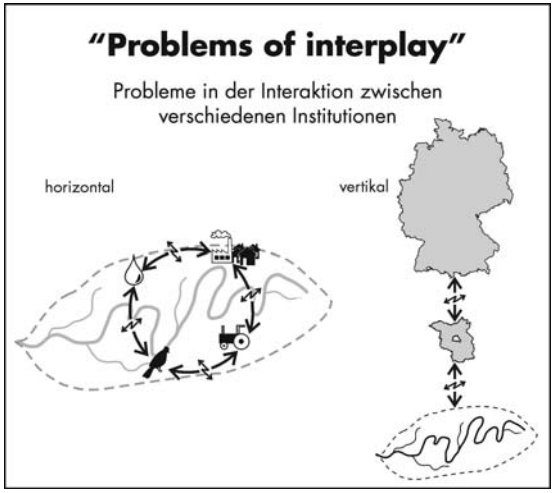
The institutionalization of IWRM

IWRM requires coordination among

1) Jurisdictions at river basin scale (fit)
2) water using sectors (horizontal interplay)
3) administrative levels (vertical interplay))

taking into account the principles of subsidiarity, participation and cost recovery





Source: ***IRS,*** Moss, 2003

→ *In many cases institutional reforms and establishment of new organizations (e.g. river basin organizations)*

Context Factors in Post-socialist Transition Countries

- Introduction of market economy
  - Emergence of new economic actors
  - New pricing / fee mechanisms
- Often incomplete decentralization processes
- Mental models from soviet era
  - Hierarchical thinking
  - Water / service for free
- Little experience with participation

- *Transformation process opens windows of opportunity, but certain context factors may also limit progress*

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Research Questions and Methodology

- What are the circumstances, institutional forms and degrees of success of the introduction of IWRM in Mongolia and Ukraine?
- ➢ Which conclusions can be drawn regarding the introduction of IWRM in post-socialist countries?

- Review of laws, policy documents, government programs
- Qualitative interviews with relevant stakeholders: national and local government agencies, academia, NGOs, donor organizations, private sector (Mongolia: 45, Ukraine: 10)

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Case Study Areas

Mongolia

Kharaa and Khovd Catchments

Ukraine

- Western Bug

Context factors in Mongolia and Ukraine

	Mongolia	Ukraine
Water problems	Mainly quantity, partly quality Outdated infrastructure	Quality Outdated infrastructure
Political order	Devolution of tasks, but fiscal centralism (‘dual governance approach’)	Administrative decentralization
Who promotes IWRM and how?	Donors, scientists 2004 water law: IWRM plans 2010 water program	EU neighbors Wish to accede to EU 1995 water code: RBM 2009 water program: IWRM and RBM by 2020

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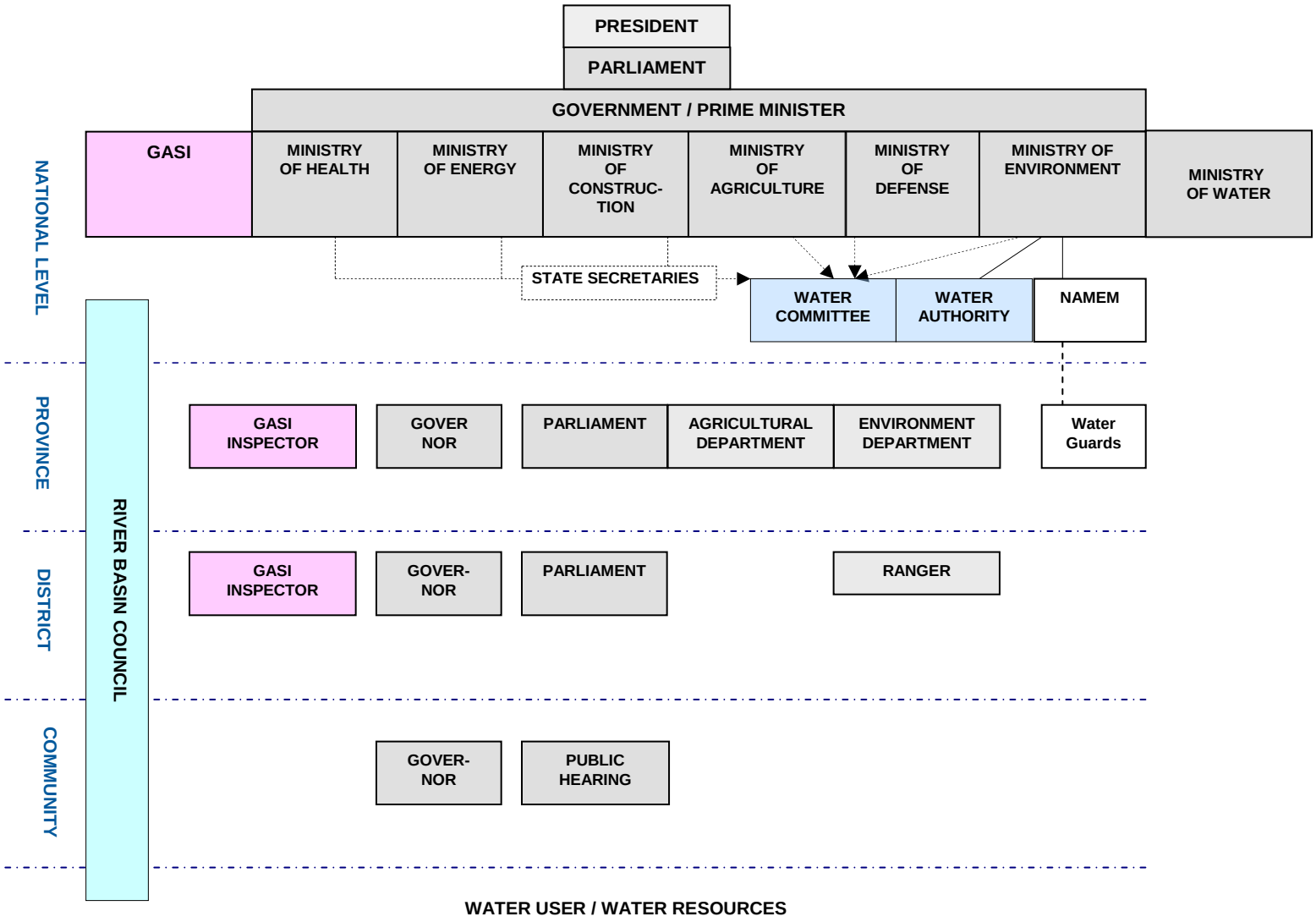
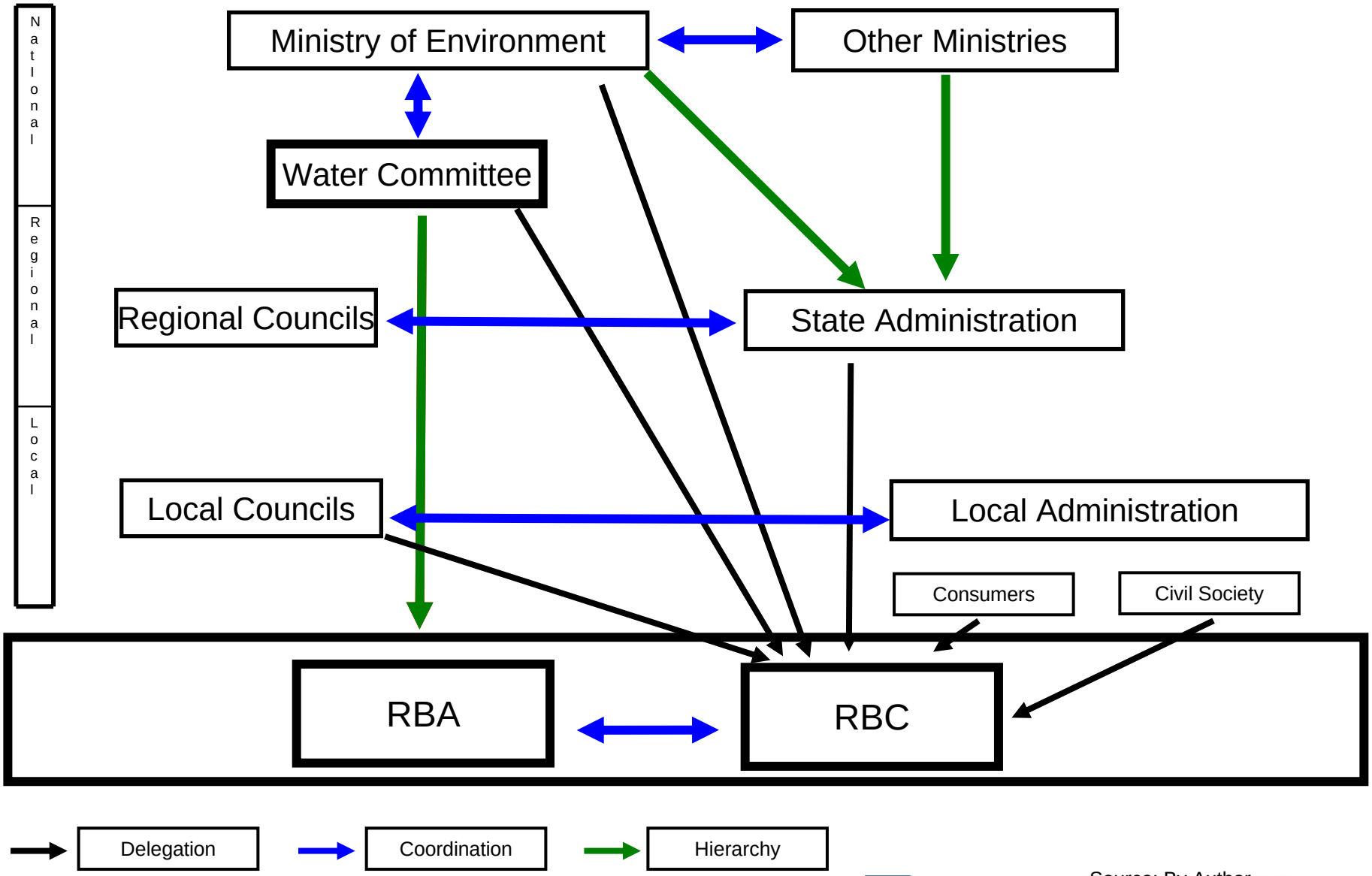
Actors in Mongolia‘s Water Sector & IWRM Institutionalization



Actors in Ukraine‘s Water Sector & IWRM Institutionalization



Source: By Author

Comparing the IWRM institutionalization and effects to date

	Mongolia	Ukraine
Legislation	IWRM and RBM mentioned in laws and programs	
Fit	5/29 RBCs functional, 2 RBM plans (donor dependent) Implementation unclear	RBAs ineffective RBCs non-operative
Horizontal interplay	6 highly autonomous ministries National Water Committee ineffective	Partly overlapping responsibilities
Vertical interplay	Fragmented and overlapping distribution of tasks No water administration at province and district level	Water Committee hinder RBM

Conclusions

- IWRM is challenging in general: simultaneous coordination between jurisdictions at river basin scale, water using sectors and administrative levels.

- In post-socialist transition countries this challenge is aggravated by the fact that decentralization processes are incomplete and hierarchical thinking persists.

- Both in Mongolia and Ukraine:
  - Water legislation should be revisited to clarify tasks;
  - Decentralization should be completed to ensure generation and distribution of financial resources;
  - Local actors should be strengthened, e.g. through training of specialists or awareness raising.

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Thank you!