



Fostering resilience through evidence-based water policies: the role of river basin authorities

D. Manful, Y. Wang, C. Biney, B. Alfa, Y. He

(1) Institute of Landscape Planning & Ecology, Universitaet Stuttgart (dm@ilpoe.uni-stuttgart.de / +4971168583381), (2) School of Public Policy & Management, Tsinghua University (wangyahua@tsinghua.edu.cn), (3) Volta Basin Authority (cbiney@ighmail.com), (4) Water Resources Commission of Ghana (bob.alfa@wrc-gh.org), (5) School of Social Science & Public Policy, King's College London (yi.he@kcl.ac.uk)

A great deal of investment has been made into water resources research. The impact of results from numerical models in the development of robust climate-proofing policies to foster resilience has not received sufficient attention. River basin authorities present a unique opportunity as test-beds where numerical model output can be stress tested.

Two river basin authorities, specifically the Yellow River Basin Commission in China and the Volta Basin Authority in West Africa are presented as case studies. Environmental flow requirements are important to ecosystem in both river basins. Proposed plans to improve the assessment of “adequate” flow requirements are evaluated and the willingness to incorporate the latter into long-term water management policy is assessed. The objective at this early stage of the study is to uncover the latent ability of natural ecosystems to contribute to the basin resilience.

Climate change is expected to affect both regions to varying degrees. Economic growth and populations pressures are also different, not to mention institutional inertia, culture and local capacity. The common denominator remains the urgent need for evidence-based climate-proofing policies to build resilience in both basins.