

There is something scarcer than water....

TRUST

Rosario Sanchez
TWRI, Texas A&M University

Rosario Sanchez
Senior Research Scientist



SCIENCE IS NOT ENOUGH

Science diplomacy...

Interdisciplinarity

Hard and SOFT skills

Rosario Sanchez
Senior Research Scientist



New conditions, new profiles, new roles...

Science diplomacy is a form of new diplomacy that describes the number of **formal or informal technical, research-based, academic exchanges**, within the general field of international relations to tackle national and global challenges.

Diplomats have to understand science and speak on its behalf.

Scientists have to learn to communicate to different audiences, persuade and become sort of “diplomats”.

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What is the relevance of science diplomacy on transboundary waters?

Environmental challenges, are not constrained to borders or jurisdictional limits.

Intl orgs have a significant role on nation's partnerships **on a regional scale, more than on a national scale**

Regardless of power asymmetries, water serves as a leverage of differences because no party is willing to risk their own benefit

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Senior Research Scientist



A hand is shown holding a small amount of water, with droplets falling and creating ripples in the water below. The background is a deep blue with a subtle pattern of water ripples. The text is overlaid on this background.

What Drives the Permanent Forum of Binational Waters

We are a binational and multidisciplinary nonprofit institution of Water scientists and experts dedicated to foster water resiliency efforts along the Mexico-US border region.

The Power of Our Network

Our binational network of 270+ experts and community members collaborates to promote the sustainability of water resources across the U.S.-Mexico border.



Permanent Forum of
**Binational
Waters**

OUR WORK IS
MADE POSSIBLE
THANKS TO:



**WATER RESOURCES
RESEARCH CENTER**



**North American
Development Bank**





Building Knowledge and Community

Our community events foster dialogue on critical water issues, connecting experts with citizens, while providing specialized water education through our platform.

Mission

Strengthen water and environmental resilience in U.S.-Mexico border communities through scientific research, effective communication, and targeted education.

Vision

To foster sustainable, resilient border communities by transforming water challenges into opportunities for growth and cooperation.

Guiding Principles

- **Transboundary Cooperation:**
Bridging borders to address shared water challenges.
- **Science-Driven Solutions:**
Informing decision-making with rigorous research.
- **Community Engagement:**
Empowering stakeholders and local communities as active participants.

And the recipe . . . ?

There are NO straightforward answers. There are No protocols. There are No methods.

There are processes. There are timescales. There are scopes. But most of all, there are **PRINCIPLES**.

Principles for transboundary water cooperation

Shared vision

Every decision at any level and scale, will have an impact (environmental, social, economical or political) on the other side of the border. The magnitude of that impact should be evaluated.

Commitment

Respect the agreements. **Commit** to the objectives, to our **own words and actions**.

To a **shared** long-term vision.

Build trust

Trust has become *undervalued*, but still is the **strongest link among humans** and therefore institutions and sharing parties, within and across countries.

However, it is also the **most vulnerable link to break**. Hardly amended. **Non recyclable**. If you lose it, it is gone.

Principles for transboundary water cooperation

Inclusion

Inclusion and respect of differences. **Water is a natural suppressor of differences**, use it and learn from it.

Communicate....EFFECTIVELY

“the social environment where individuals and organizations located in different geopolitical jurisdictions assess each other’s verbal, written and other forms of expression to evaluate whether they are **trustworthy, respectful and committed to their statements, principles and values.**”

In a world of mass communication, miscommunication, information technologies, social media and speed, basic principles of healthy relationships, including, transboundary relationships, remain valid and even became stronger, but at the same time, harder to gain and maintain.



Rosario Sanchez
Senior Research Scientist



Thank you!

Rosario Sánchez

Senior Research Scientist

*Texas Water Resources Institute, Texas A&M University
Permanent Forum of
Binational Waters, Director
IAH Transboundary Aquifers Commission, Co-Chair*

rosario@tamu.edu

Rosario.sanchez@binationalwaters.org

binationalwaters.org

Transboundariness.com

