



*Integrated Watershed Management:
Navigating Ontario's Future*

Exploring the Role of Non-Government Organizations in Integrated Watershed Management



Pacific Salmon Foundation

A non-profit conservation foundation, founded in 1989

Mission:

To conserve and rebuild Pacific salmon populations through strategic and focused efforts where people and resources are mobilized to work together to achieve common goals

Introduction

- Integrated Watershed Management is critically important
- Beyond water, it is about sustainable ecosystems
- Climate change is impacting ecosystems
- Human migration has begun
- 2009 UN report *Water in a Changing World* “before 2030 water scarcity in some arid and semi-arid places will displace between 24 million and 700 million people”



- Environmental sustainability which supports social, cultural, and economic sustainability is the intended outcome of Integrated Watershed Management
- For success it requires an integrated decision making process, with engagement of all
- Who is all: all levels of government, stakeholders and community
- Decisions on development objectives and allocation of natural, human and financial resources needs to be made or influenced by all



- In Canada many reports acknowledge the gradual loss of ecological function in watersheds occurring as a result of uncoordinated decision-making and fragmented governance system
- Gc. Ca. Policy Research Initiative: Advancing Sustainable Development in Canada – Policy Issues and Research Needs identifies seven key areas in greatest need of policy research:
- #1 How to implement integrated freshwater management?
- Integrated Watershed Management and sustainable ecosystems require self determination of community



- How do we do it
- Water can be the currency
- Other countries have moved forward
- Work is being done in Canada
- Québec, watersheds fundamental water management unit
- In British Columbia, we are on the cusp of change

Significant Interest

- Interest of non-government organizations and community in integrated watershed management
- Desire by many well informed individuals and groups to embark on participatory watershed management
- Equal interest by the Province to do things differently
- The Water Act, the primary water management legislation for managing the diversion and use of provincial water resources is under review and the government that made the commitment to its change has a new 5 year mandate

We Are Ready

- Living Water Smart: By 2012 water laws will improve protection of ecological values, provide for community involvement and provide incentives to being water smart
- Canada's Policy for the Conservation of Wild Pacific Salmon: implementation to involve open and inclusive processes aimed at making decisions that consider social/economic/biological consequences with people from BC and YK contributing to the decisions that reflect social values for wild salmon
- BC Pacific Salmon Forum Final Report: By 2012 create an effective BC water and land agency responsible for making all resources decisions in watersheds and marine systems

Challenges & Opportunities

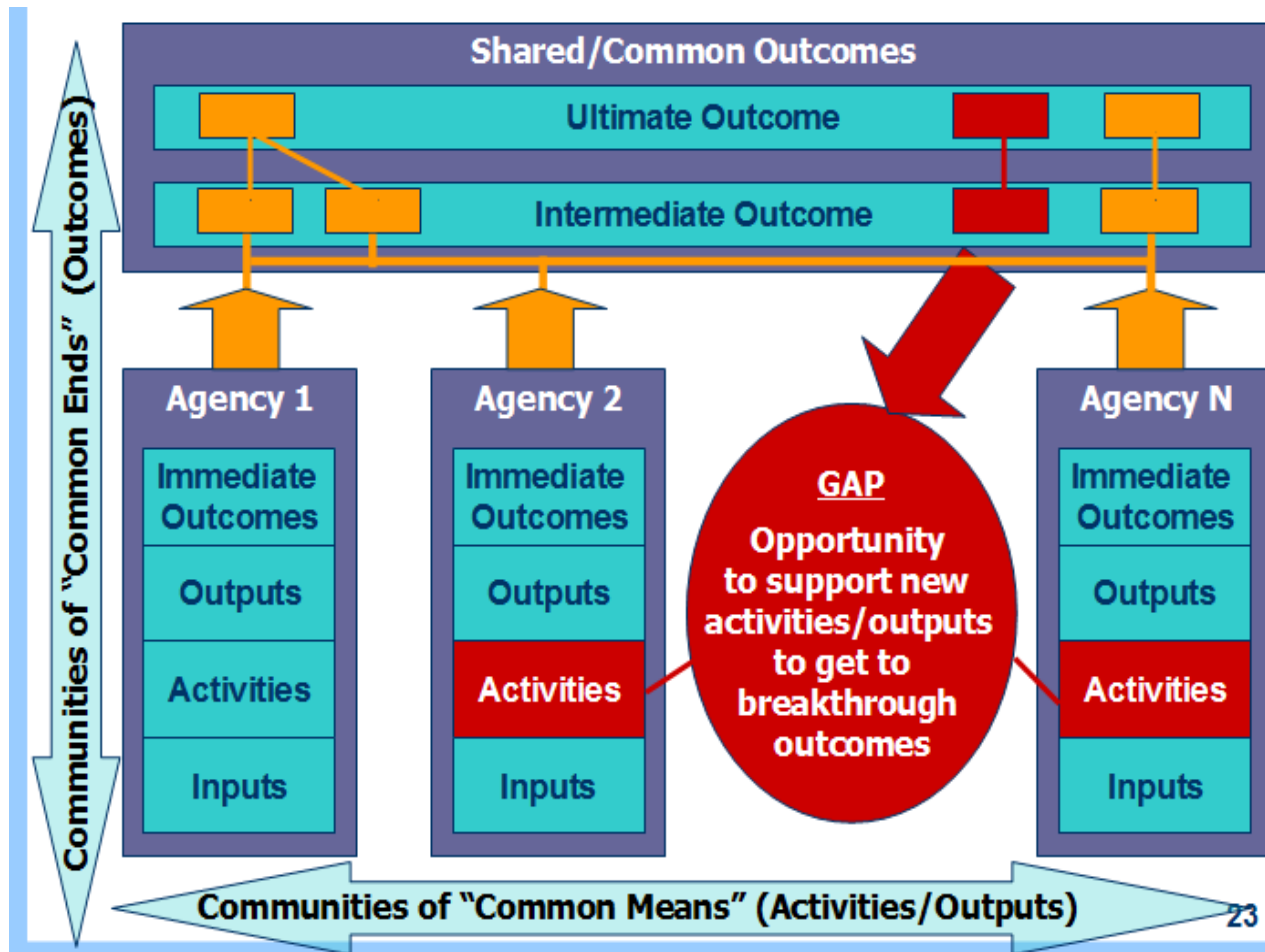
Challenges

- Scale: time, scope, geographic
- Jurisdictions, silos, interagency coordination
- Meaningful accountability/transparency and inclusiveness
- Data and information to inform decisions
- Community values, uncertainties,
- Fear of the huge work ahead and the necessary commitment of all
- Measurements of success and adaptive management, reflexivity
- Caution

Opportunities

- Community continuity, local experience, local and traditional knowledge, information
- Commitment, new leadership
- Funding and other resources
- Community values
- Political will

Logic Model



NGO & Broad Community Participation is Essential

- They need persistent and consistent support: funding, information, understanding, respect
- They bring credibility, accountability, resources, knowledge, effort, support and broader perspective
- Provide continuity, long-term commitment, non-government understanding of environmental and social impacts, can transform process

Current Activities

- Watershed processes:
Cowichan, Okanagan, Nicola, Somass
- Watershed Governance Workshops, leading up to Living Water Smart
- Collaborative Watershed Governance Initiative, began in late 2008
- Coalition of National Non-Government Organizations and Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Current Activities

- [BCIT Rivers Institute](#)
- [BC Agriculture Council](#)
- [BC Cattlemen's Association](#)
- [BC Fruit Growers Association](#)
- [BC Groundwater Association](#)
- [BC Lake Stewardship Society](#)
- [BC Ministry of Environment:](#)
 - [Stormwater Planning](#)
 - [Water Stewardship Division](#)
 - [River Forecast Centre](#)
- [BC Water and Waste Association](#)
- [Canadian Okanagan Basin Technical Working Group](#)
- [Canadian Water Resources Association](#)
- [Columbia Basin Trust](#)
- [David Suzuki Foundation](#)
- [Fraser Basin Council](#)
- [Kelowna Joint Water Committee](#)
- [Okanagan Collaborative Conservation Program](#)
- [Okanagan Partnership](#)
- [Osoyoos Lake Water Quality Society](#)
- [Pacific Salmon Foundation](#)
- [South Okanagan Similkameen Conservation Program](#)
- [Waterbucket](#)
- [Water Shed Watch Salmon Society](#)
- [Water Supply Association of BC](#)

Conclusion

BC is moving towards Integrated Watershed Management (IWM) by building on our past experiences and those of other jurisdictions

There is no deficit in human resources; the deficit is in human will

Enough and to Spare, 1944

Dr. Kirtley Mather

Resources

- <http://www.waterbucket.ca/>
- http://www.policyresearch.gc.ca/doclib/BN_SD_CWSI_200702_e.pdf
- <http://www.livingwatersmart.ca/>
- http://www-comm.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/pages/consultations/wsp/default_e.htm
- <http://www.pacificsalmonforum.ca/>