



# The STEER Project – Major Results

Erhöhung der STEuerungskompetenz zur ERreichung  
der Ziele eines integrierten Wassermanagements

*Increasing Good Governance for Achieving the  
Objectives of Integrated Water Resources Management*

GRoW Conference  
21st of October 2020

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# STEER's Objectives



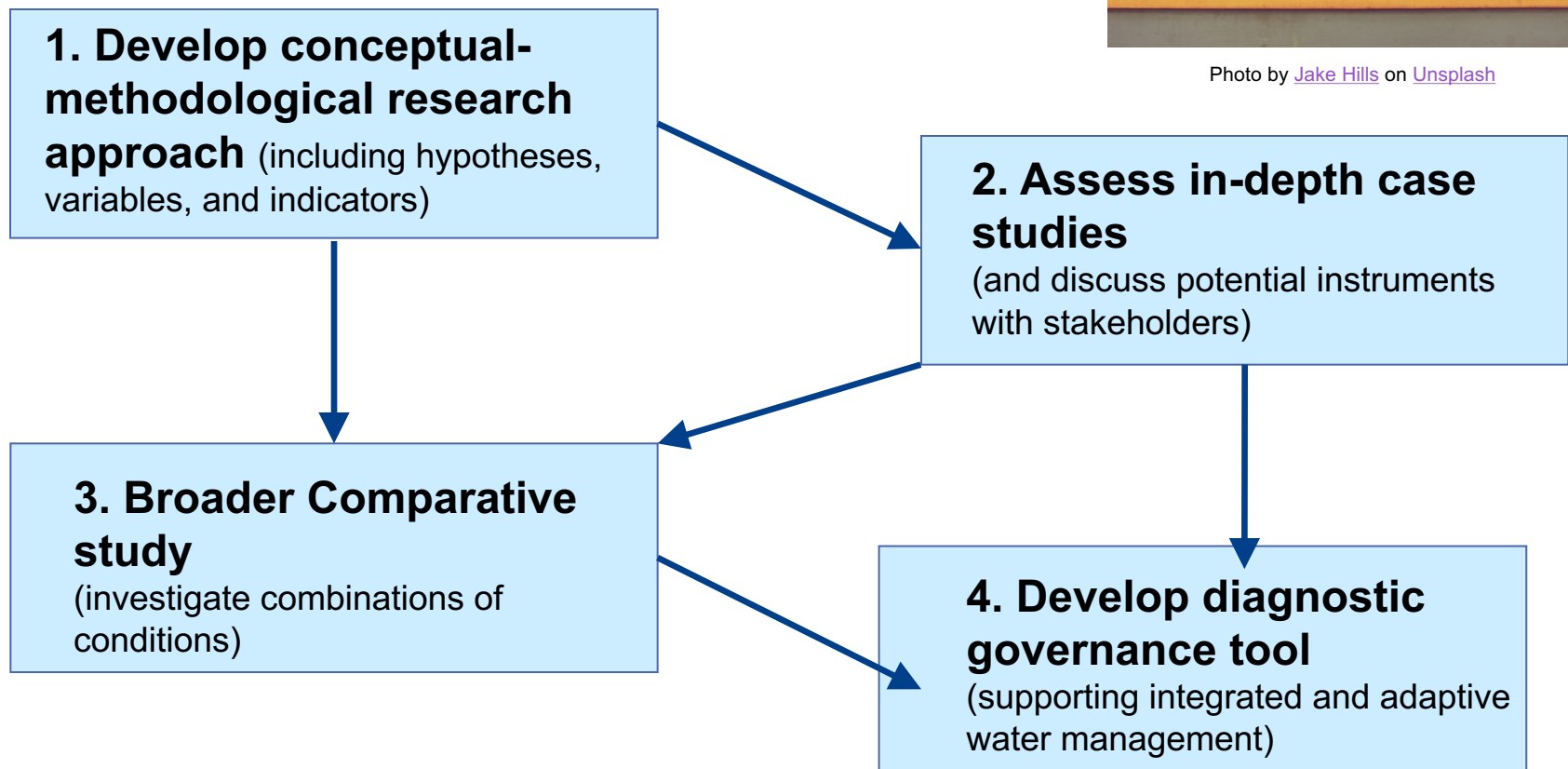
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- Development of a **diagnostic approach**
- Analysis of the **transferability** of insights on water governance (emphasis on coordination) to different contexts
- Elaboration of strategies to **support transformative change** towards improved water governance and management
- Support implementation of the **Sustainable Development Goals** (SDGs)

# Steps

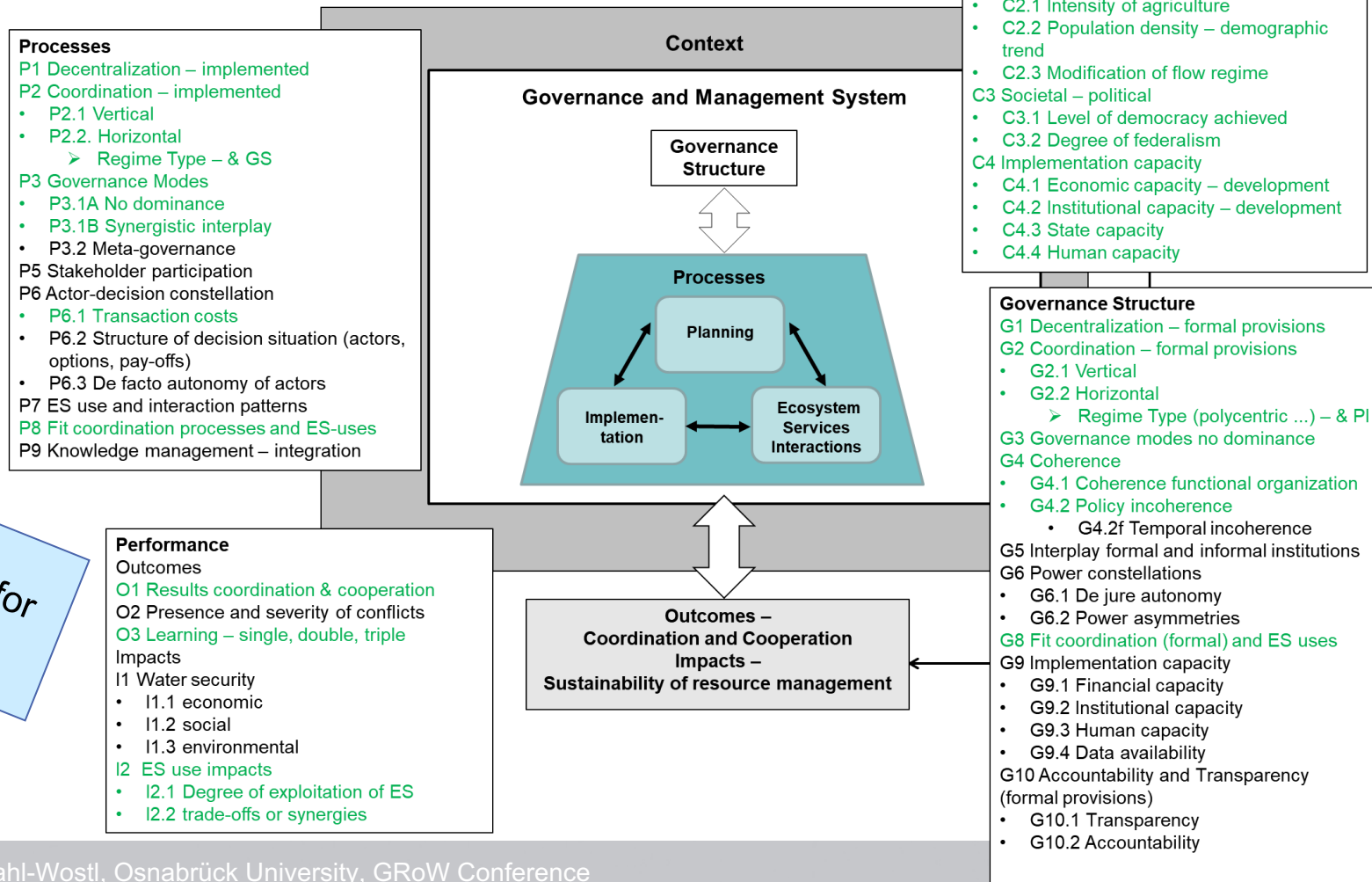


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# Step 1: Develop Conceptual-Methodological Research Approach – *Variables*



# Guiding Hypotheses on What Supports Governance Capacity

- Polycentric structures with flexible coordination across sectoral and administrative boundaries
- Synergistic combination of governance modes (Markets, Bureaucratic Hierarchies, Networks)
- Synergistic not conflictual relationships between formal and informal institutions
- Coherence of sectoral policies
- Ecosystem services approach to make complex interdependencies and trade-offs explicit and meaningful

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## Environmental Science and Policy

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/envsci](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/envsci)



### Enhancing the capacity of water governance to deal with complex management challenges: A framework of analysis



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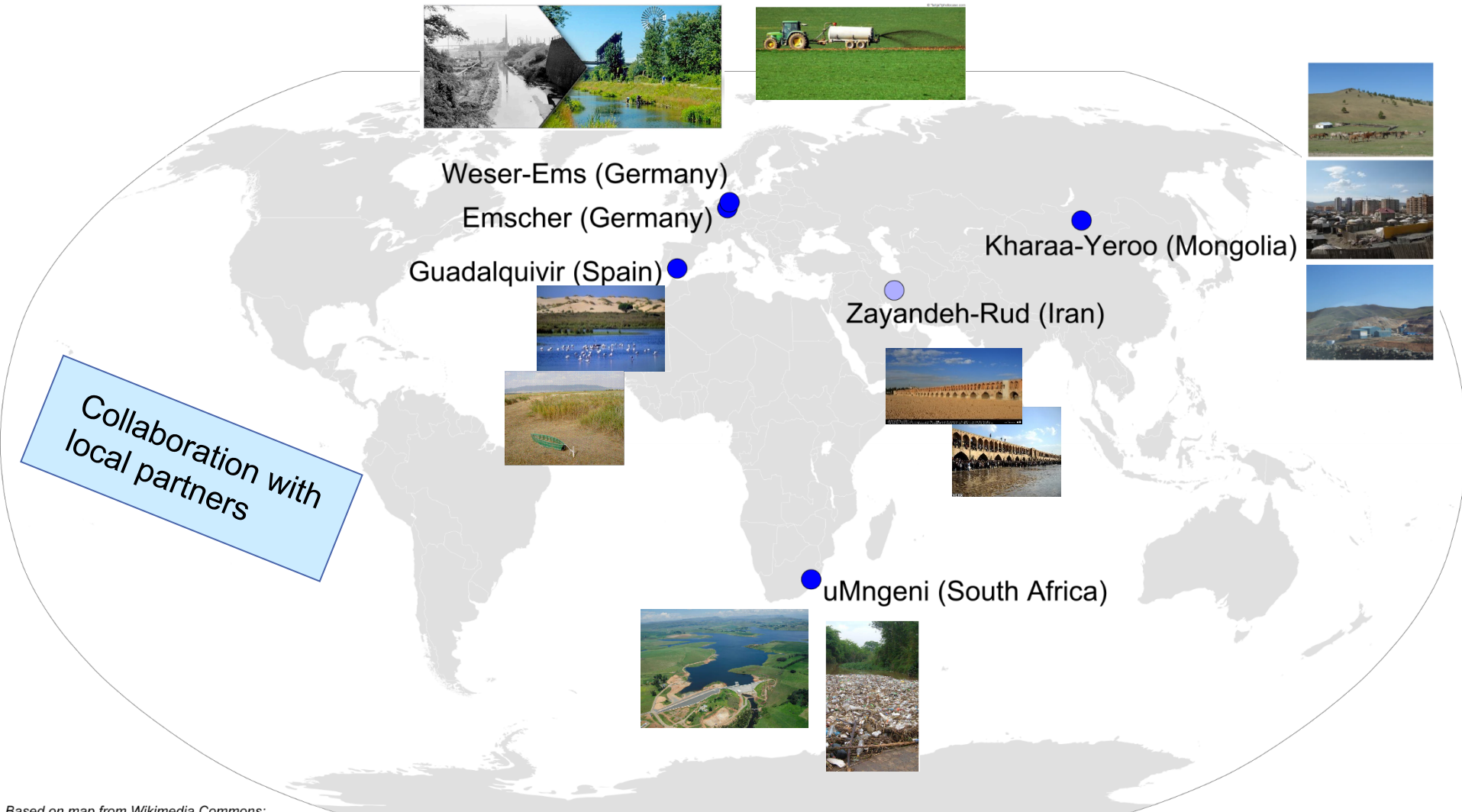
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Special issue in Environmental Science and Policy in preparation

## Step 2: Assess In-Depth Case Studies



Based on map from Wikimedia Commons:  
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:BlankMap-World6.svg?uselang=de> (accessed on January 29th 2019)

# Some Overarching Observations

- Implementation is a key challenge – also in highly developed economies
- Hybrid coordination instruments (integrating governance styles) seem to play a key role
- The role of (different types of) knowledge – generation, integration, accessibility – needs to receive more attention
- Coordination is a complex multi-faceted process



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## More Information:

### Policy Briefs for each case study

- Koordination und Kooperation von Wasserwirtschaft, Naturschutz und Freiraumentwicklung beim Emscher-Umbau
- Strengthening coordination in river basin governance in Southern Spain - cooperation, incentives, and persuasion
- Forums, fees and data flows - Coordinating mining and water policy in Mongolia
- Coordination beyond the state to solve complex water problems – Insights from South Africa
- Im Spannungsfeld von Wasser-, Energie- und Landwirtschaftspolitik: Neue Wege für den Wasserschutz in der Weser-Ems-Region
- Reviving the dying giant: addressing the political causes of water shortage in the Zayandeh Rud River, Iran

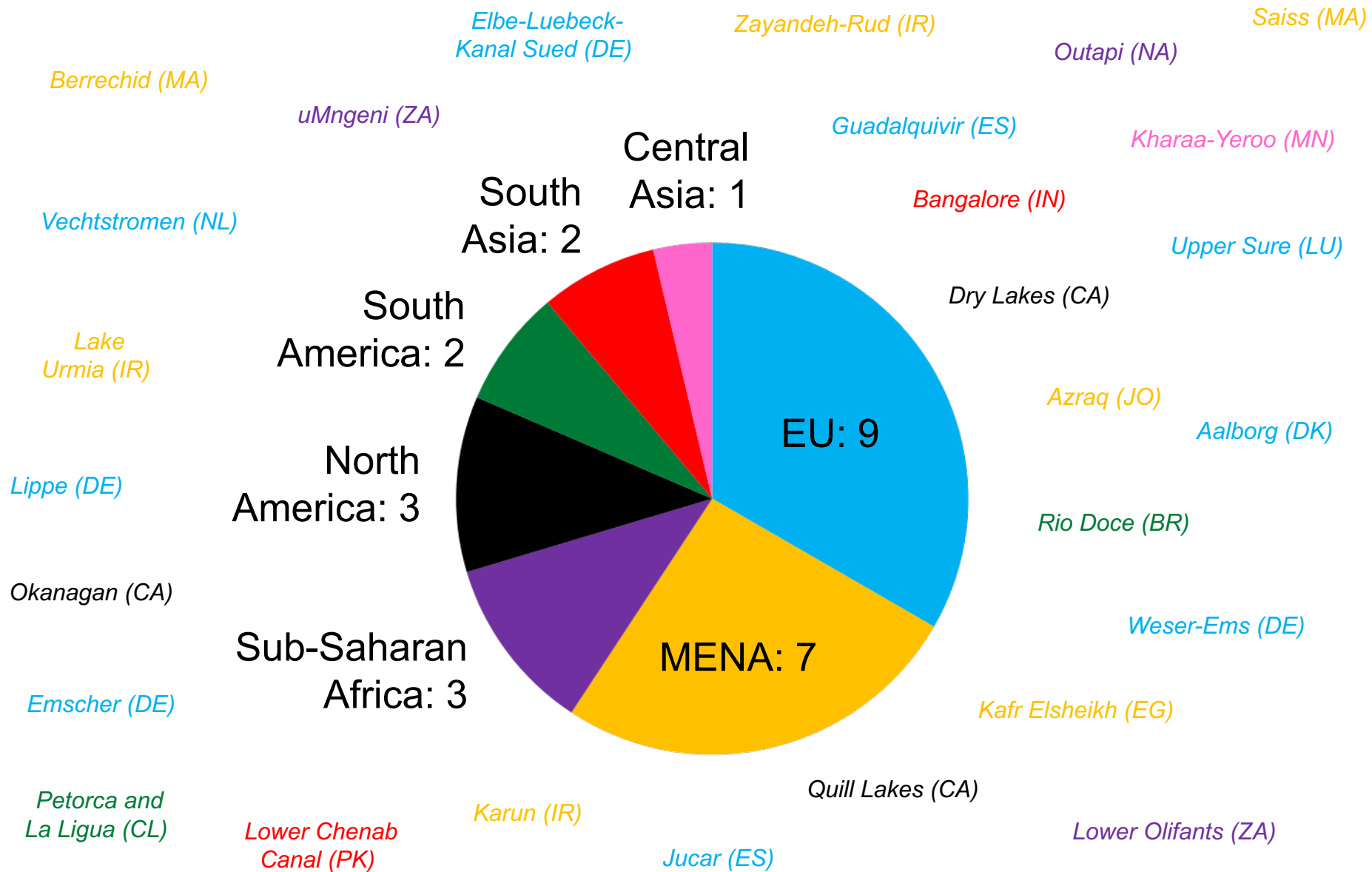
## Step 3: Broader Comparative Study



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### **Objective:**

Identification of **combinations of factors** that are necessary or sufficient for successful water management – especially for good cross-sectoral coordination and cooperation

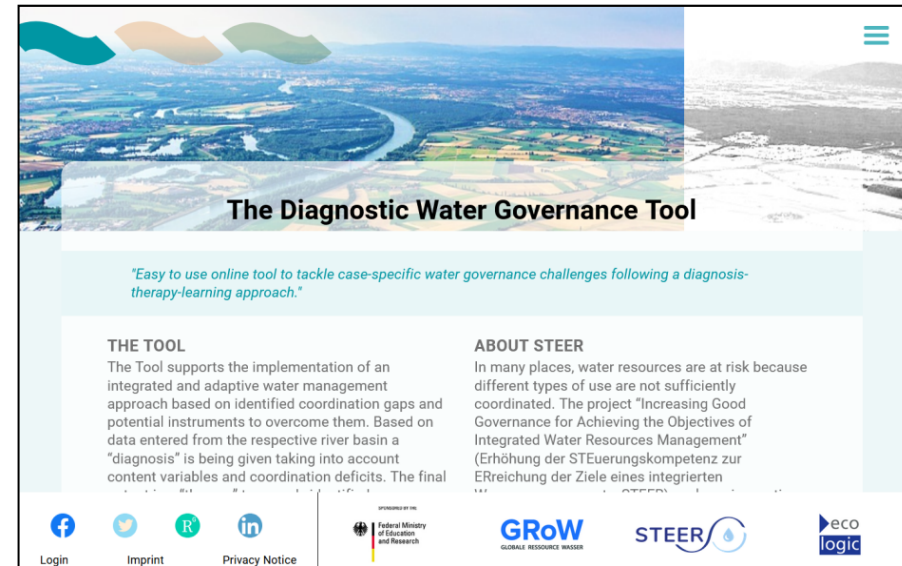


## Some General Insights from the Broader Comparative Study

- Institutional capacity is a necessary but not sufficient condition for effective coordination
- Polycentric governance systems perform better than centralized or fragmented governance systems
- Vertical (across levels) and horizontal (across sectors) coordination are interdependent
- Analysing and implementing coordination needs to take into consideration formal and informal processes and context



## Step 4: Develop Diagnostic Governance Tool for Practitioners



- **Inventory** of instruments for better coordination and cooperation (e.g. cross-sectoral)
- Operationalizes the diagnostic approach: shows **what instruments are suitable under what conditions** (based on insights from steps 2 & 3)

## Step 4: Develop Diagnostic Governance Tool for Practitioners

- Users describe the governance system in their region. The Tool provides national context data.
- Based on user input, the Tool makes a **diagnosis**, showing governance strengths and weaknesses. Similar cases from the STEER dataset are shown to facilitate learning.
- As a **therapy**, the Tool recommends specific coordination instruments to address identified weaknesses.
- The Tool allows the collection of further case studies to improve the diagnostic strength of the approach.

# Thank you for your attention: the STEER Team



Meeting in pre-Corona times.....

For more information visit: <https://www.steer.uni-osnabrueck.de/>