



SaWaM

Stakeholder Integration and Outreach



Introduction

The goal of SaWaM is to assess the performance and suitability of global freely available information as decision support for the regional water management in semi-arid regions. The strength of SaWaM is the development of methods and tools that can be applied in very different regions. However, water management issues can only be solved by profound expertise in the local systems and management strategies. The concrete provision of needed information has to be developed in close coordination with local stakeholders and special user needs are to be identified. On-site workshops, including methods training, allowed the direct cooperation with the local decision makers and stakeholders to actively foster the transfer and uptake of developed information and methods into practice and the exchange of local knowledge with the German consortium.

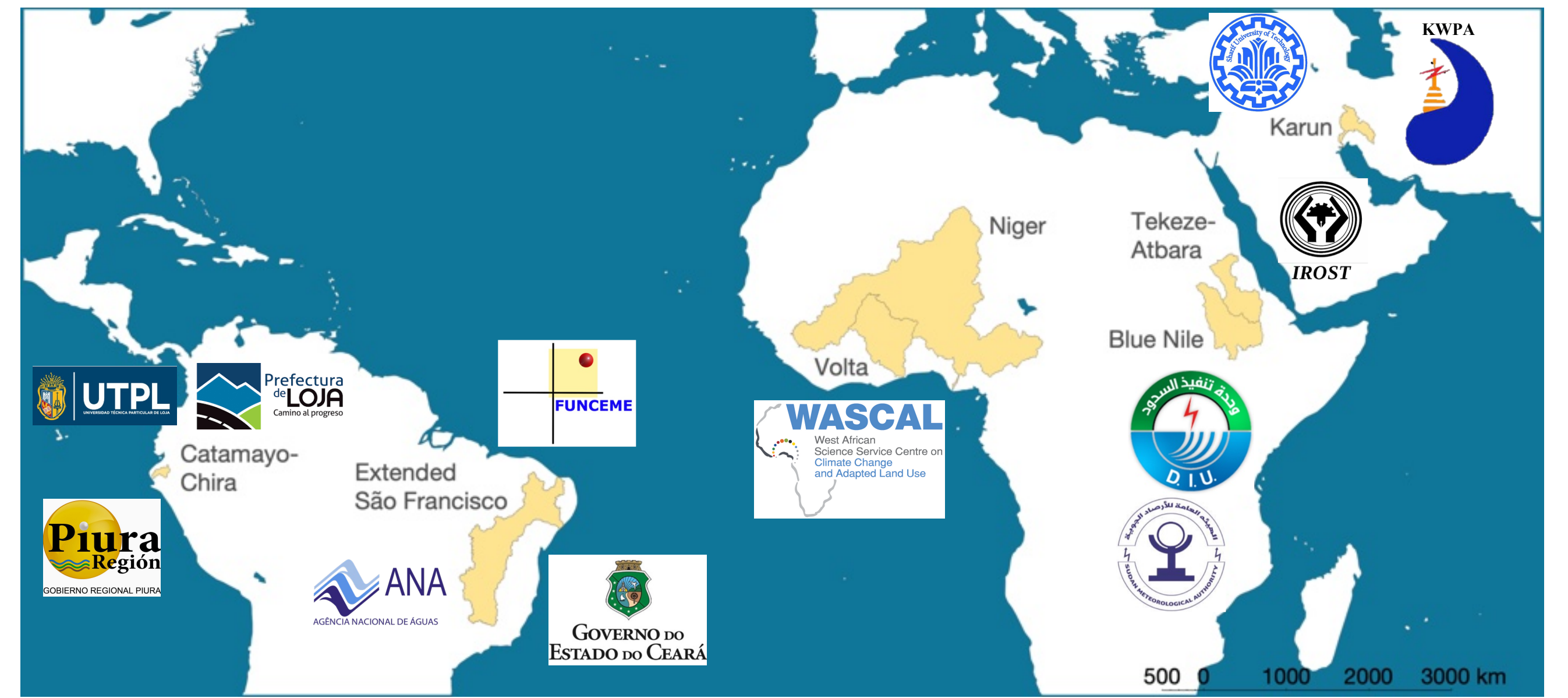


Fig. 1: SaWaM study regions from West to East in Ecuador/Peru, Northeast Brazil, West Africa, Sudan/Ethiopia, and Iran.

On-site Workshops in Iran, Brazil, Sudan and Ecuador

On-site workshops, allowing the exchange of developed methods in SaWaM, were gratefully acknowledged by the partners in the study regions. They appreciated the German research consortium financed by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) in developing solutions jointly for water issues in each of the regions.

SaWaM workshop in Brasilia, Brasil, in October 2017



SaWaM workshop in Ahwaz, Iran, in December 2017



SaWaM workshop in Karthoum, Sudan, in May 2018



SaWaM workshop in Loja, Ecuador, in May 2019



Challenges and Insights

For countries like Sudan and Iran considerable international sanctions apply, posing special challenges in the cooperation and complicating the organization of workshops on-site. In particular, the financial transaction turned out to be challenging as Sudan and Iran are not allowed to be part of the classical international monetary system. Workshops needed to be paid in cash, credit cards were unserviceable.

With the on-site workshops, the German consortium not only gained valuable insights in local water management, but also special intercultural experiences in the study regions. Different hierarchies could be acknowledged and the close cooperation provided a better understanding of the local governance structures and management systems. This allowed a commensurate work flow and effective exchange with local authorities.

SaWaM workshop in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany, in February 2019

Bringing together all partners from Sudan, Iran, and Brazil during the mid-term workshop in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany, valuable exchange of experiences in water management of different countries was enabled. Common issues were addressed, challenges in the different countries discussed and differences assessed. German representatives of the water management sector shared their positive experiences in transboundary water management especially with the Sudanese partners that are facing increasing problems in the transboundary water management of the Nile river basin.



8th WWF, Brasilia 2018 and COP24 in Katowice, Poland 2018



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