

TURKEY ARMENIA WATER COOPERATION
Anselmo Cassiano

1- Case Description

TURKEY ARMENIA WATER COOPERATION - Anselmo Cassiano

(Skip) 1-1 Geolocation:

1-2 Indicate the three uses of water most important to this case study:

Hydropower Agriculture and Irrigation

1-3 Case Study Summary: A story of cooperation, between two countries that do not even have diplomatic relations. the agreement has survived the second world war the cold war the collapse of the soviet union the independence of one of the countries. TURKEY-ARMENIA have been sharing the water of the Arpacay River which forms the border between them. The agreement will celebrate 100 years in 2027.

1-4 Keywords: water cooperation, Turkey Armenia, Kars Protocol, Arpacay River, Water sharing

2.0 Issues and Stakeholders

Issues: The two countries has agreement about the quantity of water (split 50/50%) but there is no agreement about the quality of water

Stakeholders Type: Sovereign State National Federal Government

Natural Societal and Political Domain Variables: Government, Water Quality

Because are not part of the Kars Protocol signed in 1927 both countries must found the way to addressing the quality of water issue.

Stakeholders: Permanent Water Commission (PWC) Armenia and Turkey Governments

<p>Natural Societal and Political Domain Variables</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water Quantity (allocation, competitive use, climate influence/uncertainty) • Water Quality (quality for a given purpose, quality from the viewpoint of a stakeholder) • Governance (institutions, entities, legal frameworks) • Assets (specific human or economic assets) • Values and Norms (social value or cultural norm) • Ecosystems (ecosystem services, biodiversity, ecological communities, environmental considerations) 	<p>Stakeholder Types</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local/township/county/city government • Federated state/territorial/provincial government • Sovereign state/national/federal government • Supranational union • Non-legislative governmental agency • Development/humanitarian interest • Environmental interest • Industry/Corporate Interest • Community or organized citizens
---	--

Issue: The Turkey do not accept Armenian accusations that they are polluting the waters of the Arpacay River.

Natural Societal and Political Domain Variables: *Water Quality, Ecosystems (ecosystem services, biodiversity, ecological communities, environmental considerations)*

Stakeholder Types: *Governance*

Stakeholders : *Turkey and Armenia governments, Non Profit ecological organizations from both sides*

3- Details

3-1 Case Status

What is the status of the core problem described in this case?
ONGOING (Water quality)

3-2 Presence or absence of enabling conditions

a) Parties agree to explore mutual interests and invent creative options for mutual gains.

Kars Protocol signed in 1927
Decision to Build Arpacay Dam on the river in 1964
Agreement o technical cooperation, joint hydropower facilities in 1990

b)Active recognition of interdependencies among involved parties :
Each country has a water gauges located in each other territory so every month
Both sides visit together to check the numbers, building trust and reliable
relationship.

4- Key Questions

1.What Mechanism beyond simple allocation can be incorporated into transboundary water agreements to add value and facilitate resolution?

The Water gauges located in each other countries. PWC Permanent Water Commission have been meeting monthly

2. **How can mutual trust amongst riparians be nurtured? What actions erode that trust?**

The lack of transparency about water quality could erode the trust between the countries

5- Connections (link yo ur case to the relevant riparians/water features/projects/agreements)

- **Riparians** Armenia, Turkey
- **Water Features** Arpacay River
- **Projects** Arpacay Dam
- **Agreements** – Kars Protocol 1927, Arpacay Dam Protocol Joint construction,

(Skip) 6- Analysis, Synthesis, and Insights (ASI)

7- The Case (Case Content)

Armenia and Turkey is an example of how two countries, with little in common, are able to join forces, create, and honor a water agreement Since 1927 the protocol signed share the water 50/50% between Armenia and Turkey.

“The Armenia and Turkey, on every other topic but water, have a history of not trusting each other, and not cooperating with one another. This turbulent relationship started during World War I, in April 1915, when the Ottoman Turkey Empire was in the process of “moving its Armenian population away from the eastern parts of the empire bordering Russia”. This forced displacement was accomplished with terrible violence and depredation. Even today, Armenians claim that 1.5 million of their ancestors were killed “in the modern world’s first genocide.” Turkey has challenged this number, and the stories surrounding this period of time, noting that the killing of Muslim villagers by Armenian nationalists in 1915 has been conveniently overlooked. Additionally, the Turkish-Armenian border has been closed since 1993, and is still guarded by Russian and Turkish troops. The Russian Federation has military garrisons in Armenia as well, and they intend to stay there through at least 2045. International mediators attempted to construct a framework in 2009 that would open the borders with little success, and with tensions still running high. Given the hostile sentiment, it makes the fact that they are able to cooperate on water even more incredible. Reasons for this cooperation can be seen in how their agreements over time, focusing on water quantity, have adapted to fulfill aspects of the 1997 Water Courses Convention and the Water Diplomacy Framework.” (4)

7-1 Basic Facts

The border where is Arparcay River is 116 miles long, the border is formed by Kars river (Turkey) and Ahuryan (Armenia) the water is used for 3 Armenian provinces and for two provinces (turkey)

Armenia in completely inside of the basin and Turkey only have 4% of your territory lay in the river.

7-2 Historical, Regional, Political Timeline: Past Successes and Enabling Conditions (4)

1927 USSR signs treaties with Turkey over Arpacay River splitting the water 50/50%

1964 Commit to joint construction of Arpacay Dam on the river

1986 Dam construction complete.

1991 USSR collapse, Armenia become independent country

1993 Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (6year war) border closes

1994 End of The war (Armenia- Azerbaijan)

2020 September Armenia and Azerbaijan restarted the conflict

7-3 Stakeholder Interests, Roles, Impact on Future Challenges

Permanent Water Commission

Armenia National Government

Interests:

Prevent Water shortage

Fish production

Hydropower

Role: 3 representative Permanent Water Commission PWC

Actions Towards Cooperation:

Assumed Responsibility to comply with soviet's agreement

Design Coordination

Turkey National Government (Role:3 representatives PWC)

Interests:

Same as Armenia

Domestic Purpose

Role: Local Farmers support agreement

Same as Armenia

Actions Towards Cooperation:

Assumed Responsibility to comply with soviet's agreement

Design framework

Former USSR

Interests :

Management of Water

Role: Co-financing Dam

Actions Towards Cooperation:

Signed Kars-Protocol in 1927

7-4 Water Diplomacy Framework Lens

See below examples a number of articles in the Protocol on the Joint Construction of the Arpacay Dam (1964) elements of the Water Diplomacy Framework were present in the agreement. (4)

Article 12, Section 23

“Every year, at the end of the irrigation season, the Permanent Working Commission shall check to see if the amount of water used by the parties is in accordance with the water usage schedule.”

Article 14, Section F

“By taking into consideration the hydrological data, the water usage schedule shall be reviewed each year by the permanent commission and revised according to the requirements declared by the parties. This revised schedule shall contain the amount of water to be released from the reservoir, the places where water is to be taken from and the amount of water to be taken. The revision of water usage schedule may be performed monthly.”

Enclosure 3, Section 4

“The Permanent Working Commission shall check once a month the conformity of the amount of water actually drawn by the parties with the water usage schedule in effect. A balancing shall be made in the waters from the Arpacay (Akhuryan) River and the reservoir waters according to Form 2 enclosed in the instructions.”

Enclosure 3, Section 23

“The parties may obtain their half share of water either from the regulated waters made in the reservoir or from the water flowing in the river Aras, at any point on the Arpacay (Akhuryan) river and Aras River that constitute the border.”

7.5 Water Diplomacy - Future Challenges

Incredibly, the two countries are able to dialogue when it comes to water even though the border has been officially closed since 1993. Currently the border is guarded by Turks and Russian soldiers in an agreement that runs until 2045. I believe that the great challenge of the future is to incorporate a sustainable agenda based on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals # 6 focusing on the issue of water quality and not just quantity. I suggest the already existing PWC Permanent Water Commission to add a new chapter to increase the team on both sides towards this objective. Some of the reasons for the success of these 95 years of agreement are comprised of Comprehensive, clear, and sustainable regulatory and Institutional framework, Low profile, free of high politics, and directed at the technical level of management, Instant informal Communication, frequent subcommittee meetings, the parties water gauges are located in each other regions, long-standing management experience and cooperation, support of the local farmers and administrators (8).

References

1-“Turkey-Armenia: Water-Quality Challenges | ECC Factbook.” *Factbook / Map*, 16 Jan. 2018, factbook.ecc-platform.org/conflicts/turkey-armenia-water-quality-challenges.



2-Protocol on the Joint Construction of the Arpacay Dam, 1964.

3-"Water Diplomacy Framework." *Water Diplomacy*, waterdiplomacy.org/framework/.

4-K Schiwnd, Arpacay River Cooperation, page 11, 2018

5-"Turkey-Armenia: Water Cooperation Despite Tensions | ECC Factbook." *Factbook / Map*, 16 Jan. 2018, factbook.ecc-platform.org/conflicts/turkey-armenia-water-cooperation-despite-tensions

6- *Water Diplomacy: A Negotiated Approach to Managing Complex Water Networks* (RFF Press Water Policy Series) 2012 English S. Islam, L.E. Susskind

7- TEPAV - The ongoing official Contacts and cooperation on the Turkish-Armenian Border, Burcu Gultekin Punsman, PHD, 2010 September

8- Lessons for Pakistan on Turkey Armenia Water Agreement, Mehmat Altingoz, PhD student University of Delaware

9- Environmental Cooperation in Conflict Zones: Riparian Infrastructure at the Armenian-Turkish Border, 2019

10 Iran and the Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict: Preserving the Status quo, 2020, October

11 Do Nations go to war over water? *Nature* 458 (7236,283-283,2009)

MIT OpenCourseWare
<https://ocw.mit.edu>

11.382 Water Diplomacy
Spring 2021

For more information about citing these materials or
our Terms of Use, visit <https://ocw.mit.edu/terms>.