

Projet de Fin d'Etudes



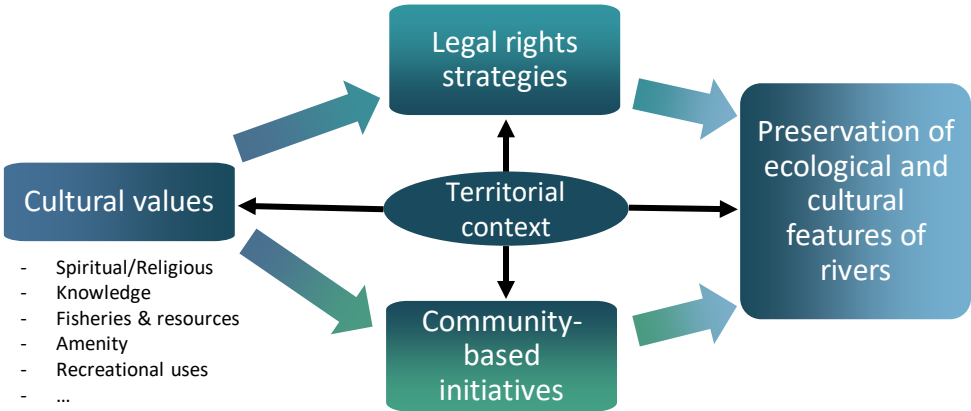
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Socio-cultural arguments and management strategies for river conservation

HIGHLIGHTS

- Cultural values based on free-flowing rivers are highly diverse
- Comparable socio-cultural values can be found for both legal rights and community-based management of rivers, however their outcomes are different and even complementary
- Assessment results depend on the local context
- Global North countries might rely on other cultural values than Global South countries

GRAPHICAL ABSTRACT



RESEARCH QUESTIONS

Which method is better adapted to preserve rivers and the socio-cultural values of the people living alongside them? Do the methods correspond to specific strongness or type of values? Can a prototype assessment method differentiate the two management systems by giving scores to the level of importance or endangerment that cultural values linked to rivers face?

HYPOTHESIS

- Correlation between socio-cultural indicators types and management of rivers

METHOD

Literature Search

RESULTS

LEGAL RIGHTS	Whanganui river (NZ)	Ganga river (India)	Atrato river (Colombia)	Vilcabamba River (Ecuador)
Arguments in favor of giving legal status to the river	River sacred Spiritual values Colonial history	River sacred – Hinduism Millions of people depending on the resource Whanganui example	Spiritual importance Whanganui example	River sacred – Pachamama Interconnection
Main stakeholders	Maori Iwi (local tribe) Central and local government	Uttarakhand Indian High Court State representatives	Constitutional Court Residents Associations & NGOs	Court Citizens
Practical consequences	Legal standing Guardians Funds	Legal standing Ban of mining	Guardians Committees	Legal standing Provincial government repair damages
Missing elements	Practical protocol Legislation for private owners Penalization system	Practical protocol Citizen participation Penalization system clarity	Practical protocol Emphasis on indigenous interests Penalization system	Enforcement of ruling Emphasis on indigenous interests

COMMUNITY	Murray (Australia)	Fitzroy (Australia)	Mekong (South-East Asia)	Indus (Pakistan)
Arguments in favor of giving legal status to the river	Spiritual connection to the river Improve social outcomes Difficulties in governance	Sacred river Maintain spiritual and cultural health of the river	Mekong river development Society concerns Traditional participatory approach	Religion Dependence on water resources Enforcement of community awareness
Main stakeholders	Murray-Darling Basin Commission Ministerial Council Population	Traditional Owners Martuwarra Fitzroy River Council Kimberley Aboriginal Law and Culture Centre	Ministerial Council Joint Committee Secretariat Population	Local communities WWF-Pakistan Wildlife department
Practical consequences	Inter-state governance Access to governance information for population	Proposition of protection area Collaboration of Aboriginal people and institutions	International governance Access to governance information for population	Use of indigenous knowledge None for integration of tribal cultural values
Missing elements	Clear definition and threshold for a satisfying population participation	Practical solution for culture integration	Equity in access to information Enforcement of ruling	Recognition of indigenous cultural values linked to fishing

CONCLUSION

- Colonized territory generally comprises strong and various cultural values
- Success highly depends on stakeholders' willingness and empowerment

Legal rights declaration

- Based on pre-existing legal tools
- Should be developed on a wider range of cultural values
- Needs both bottom-up acknowledgement or back-up and top-down implementation

Community-based initiatives

- Need involvement of various stakeholders to be effective in a wider scale (both top-down and bottom-up implication)
- Need to rebuild or redefine connection to the river

Preliminary assessment

- Comparable spiritual and use values for the two strategies
- Solution and outcomes as well as significance of cultural values depend on local context (stakeholders, social, economic, legal, cultural, history ...)