

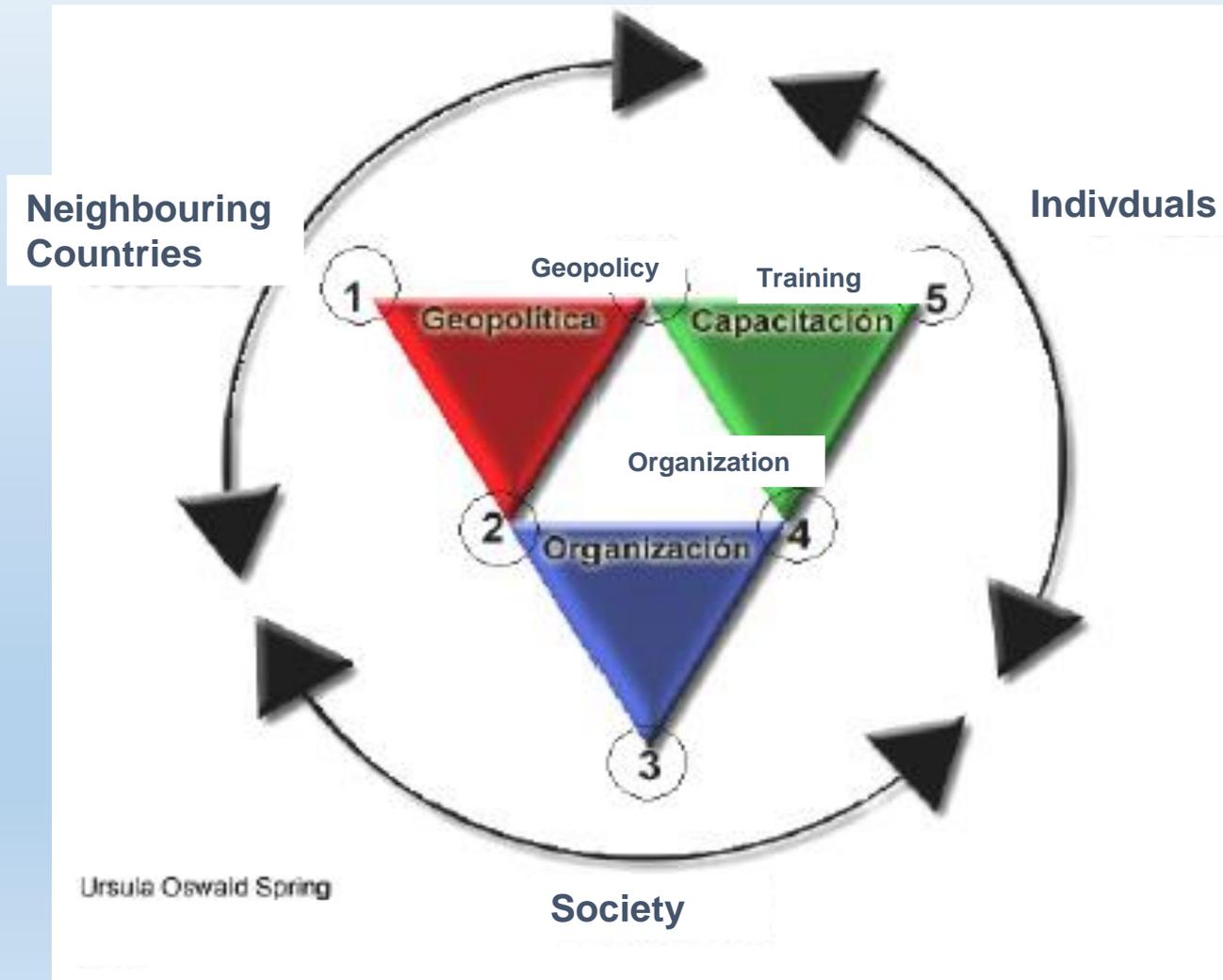
Climate Change, Conflict, Health and Education: Targeting Interdisciplinary Research to meet the Sustainable Development Goals, Schloss Leopodskron, Salzburg Global Seminar, 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday

# **Research into Action: Shaping Evidence Based Policy to Address the SDGs: Mechanisms for Change**

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# The Hydrodiplomatic Political Approach



# Integrated approach to hydrodiplomacy

1. Integrated analysis of water conditions among the involved countries and their environmental conditions.
2. Explaining geopolitical concerns of water to the affected and organised society.
3. Organising different stakeholders in a sustainable water management (domestic, agriculture, industries, ecology), taking into account the quality of water required and the scarcity.
4. Training organised stakeholder groups in water reduction, reuse and recycling of sewage water for agriculture.
5. Training individuals and small stakeholder groups in sustainable water management practices for reduction and recycling of water, taking into account the impact on human health, wellbeing and environmental sustainability.
6. Training diplomatic staff in water negotiation, international legal water systems and a sustainable understanding of water management from an integrated water resource management (IWRM).
7. Linking up interest groups from both countries for pressure for a sustainable, equal and just water management, taking into account vulnerable people and exposed ecosystems (e.g. deserts).

# Concrete outcomes

1. In the case of the Rio Grande and based on the Treaty of 1944 agreement between the United States and Mexican government, Mexico needed to pay back a 2 billion cubic meter debt of water, due to a long-term drought.
2. Environmental groups got a protection from a Texas judge for the conservation of the endemic grey fish in the river. Thus, Texas farmers had to reduce their water extraction in order to protect the ecosystem.
3. To protect the endemic fish and its reproduction, the negotiation of the water debt was expanded from the original river Concha towards the whole river basin. Accounting all the contributions from different basins to the Rio Grande, Mexico was able to show that its debt was already paid. Within this environmental sustainable approach not only the water debt was paid out, but one of the most biodiverse deserts on earth got an integrated conservation approach. Further, people learned to save, reuse and recycle a scarce resource in a highly fragile environment, as a desert.



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