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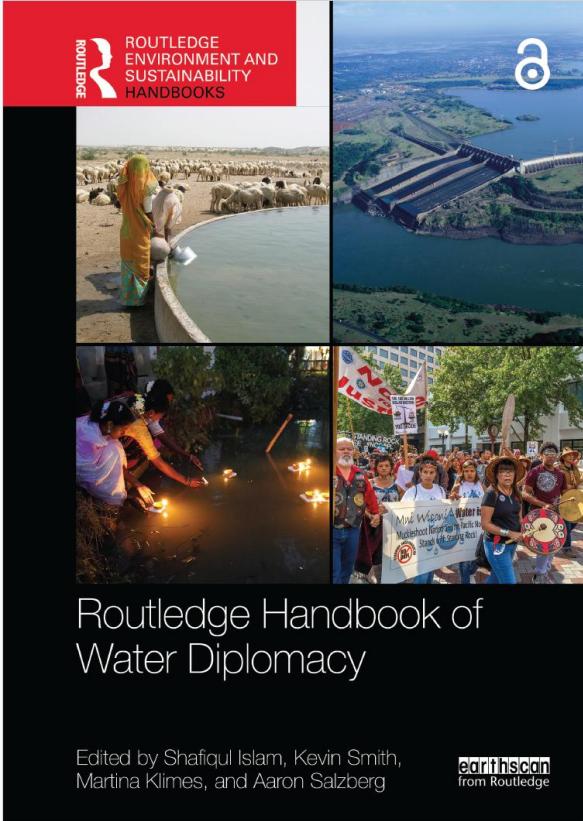


**Gender component : OUTPUTS and  
expected impacts for 2026**

**JustWATER**  
*Water Decision Making tools for informed  
hydropolitics in Italy*

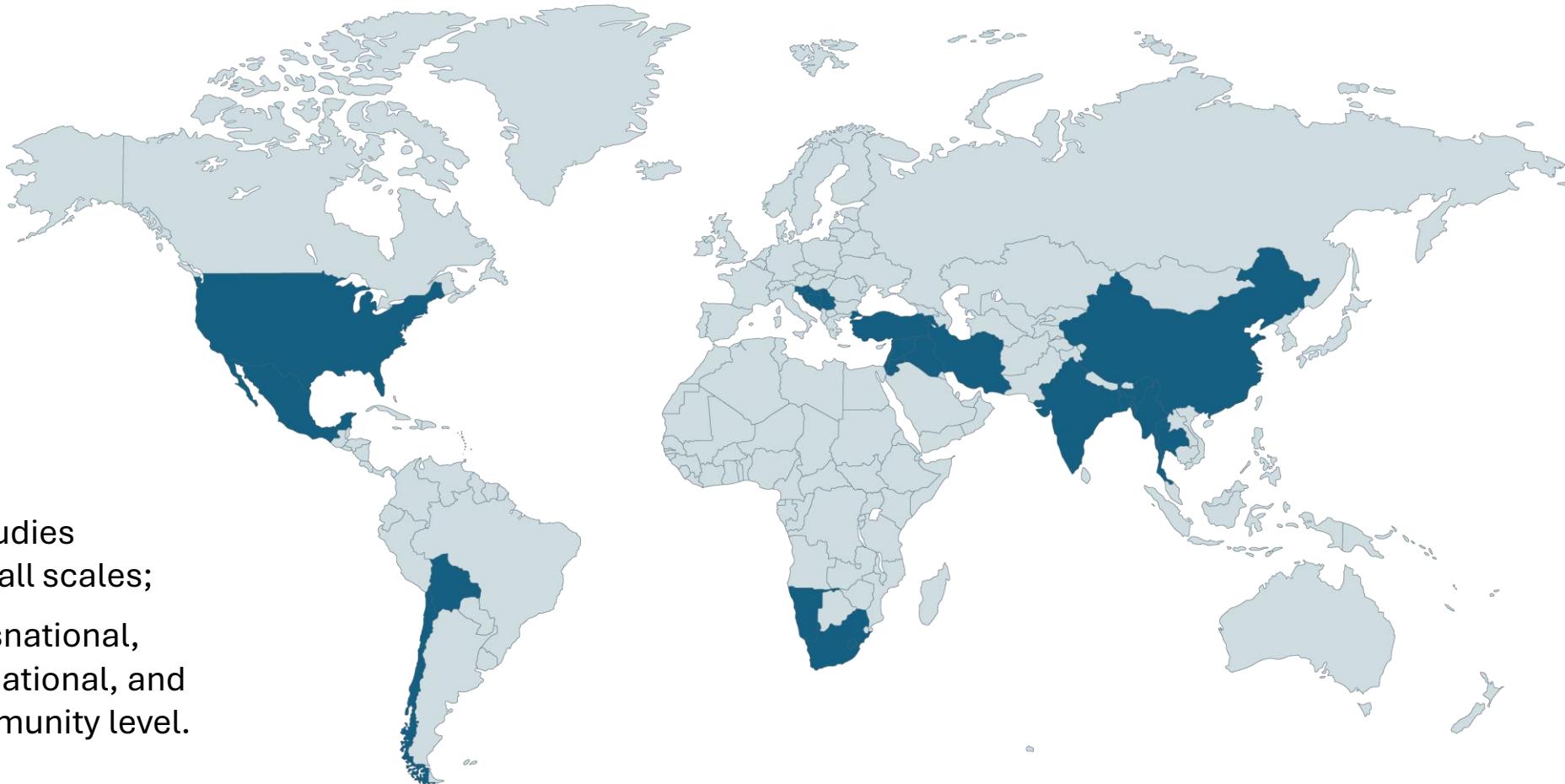
Dr. Francesca Greco, PhD, MSc,  
Marie Curie Fellow Researcher at University of Bergamo, Italy  
Visiting Researcher at King's College London, Geography Department, London, UK

# The Routledge Water Diplomacy Handbook



This book is not a guide to solving transboundary water problems but is intended to equip provide practitioners - at all levels – with the knowledge, tools, and practical examples to inform thinking of context-driven solutions to prevent and mitigate tensions over shared waters and to use water to strengthen social cohesion, build trust, and promote peace and security.

# Countries with case studies



Case studies include all scales;  
• transnational,  
• subnational, and  
• community level.

# The editors



## Dr. Shafiqul Islam

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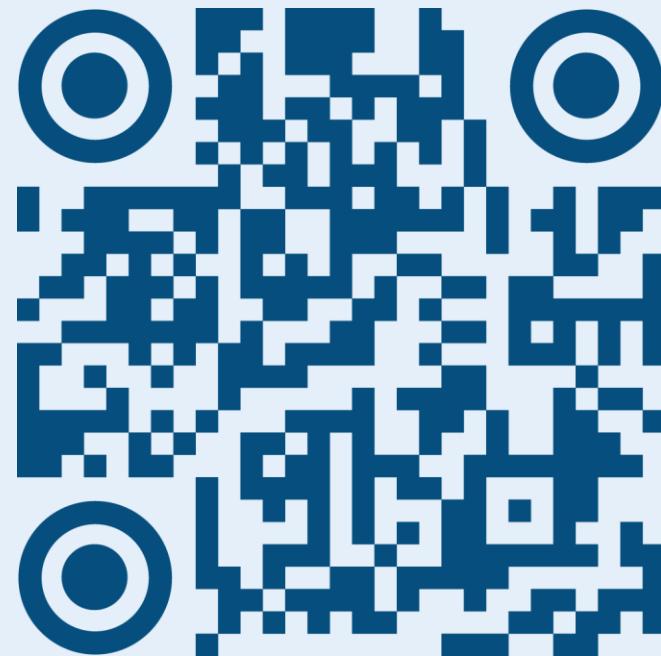


## Dr. Aaron Salzberg

Professor of Environmental Sciences and Engineering & Director of The Water Institute

**The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill**

Download your copy at [waterdiplomacyhandbook.com](http://waterdiplomacyhandbook.com)





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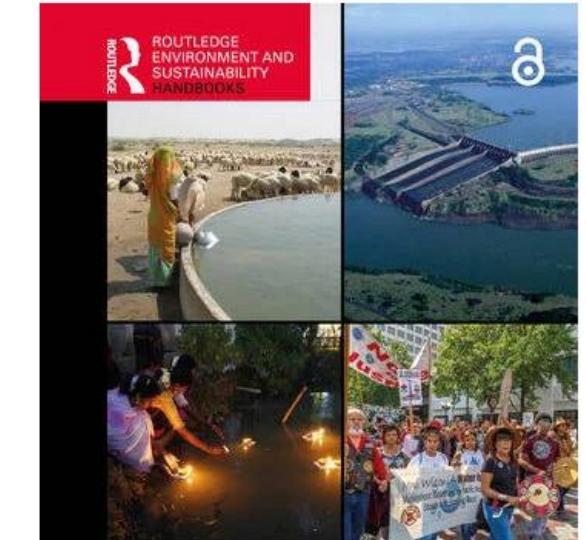
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25

# GENDER MAINSTREAMING AND GENDER TRANSFORMATIVE APPROACHES

Assessing Progress and Potential in  
Water Diplomacy

*Francesca Greco*



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Martina Kimes, and Aaron Salzberg

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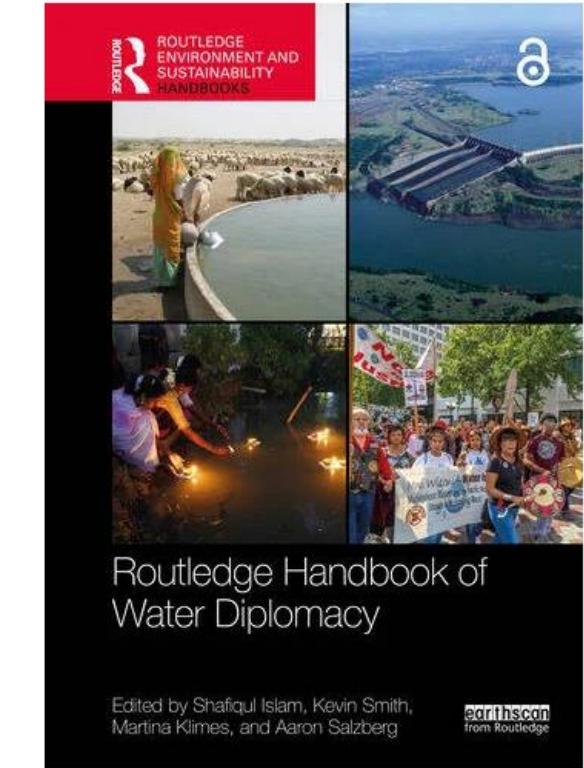
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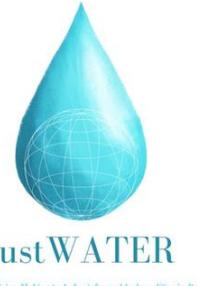


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### Key Takeaways

- Gender considerations are almost entirely absent from water diplomacy
- women remain underrepresented in water processes and institutions
- Gender mainstreaming alone is not enough to ensure gender equity in the hydro- diplomatic process
- gender transformative actions need to be considered

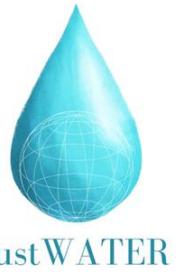
**The role of women in water diplomacy is critical to ensuring the best and most sustainable outcomes**

PRECISE steps can be taken to ensure fair and equal representation in these processes:

- gender budgeting
- Avoid tokenism
- Involve men in championing gender equality in decision making and negotiation processes



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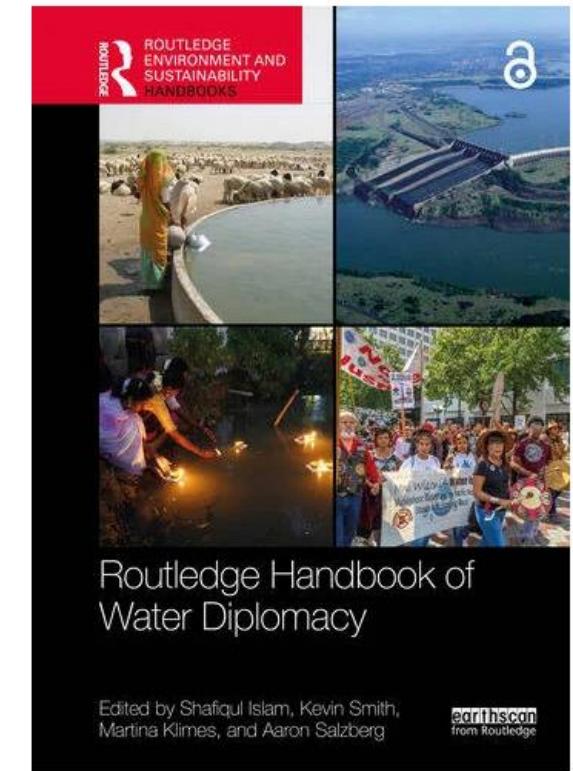
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### *Gender Mainstreaming and Gender Transformative Approaches*

Table 25.1 Evolution of the Concepts of Gender and Development

Concept	Timeline	Focus
Women in Development (WID)	Initiated in the 20th century until the early 1970s	Promoted a more active role of women in society and economic development, mostly in Western societies and as an evolution of feminist movements in North America. Until the 1970s, WID influenced NGOs, donors, and governments in their development projects and actions oriented toward the promotion and improvement of conditions for women (Boserup 1975).
Women and Development (WAD)	late 1970s (First UN World Conference on Women in Mexico City in 1975)	As a critique of WID, WAD promoted the idea that women had always been part of development, but they were never recognized in their role because of the existence of a patriarchal economic system. WAD addressed the conditions of women in the Global South and openly denounced the relations between capitalist development and patriarchy. An important advancement of gender studies was the contribution of WAD in the assertion that women should no longer be considered passive recipients of development aid but rather become active actors and participants in development projects. WAD promoted alternative institutions for women and women-specific programs.





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Gender and  
Development  
(GAD)

1980s rooted  
in India, was  
recognized at  
the Third UN  
Conference  
on Women  
in Nairobi in  
1985

The GAD approach elaborated more on gender roles, specifically on the disproportionate burden of the neoliberal agenda of the Washington Consensus on women in the Global South. GAD contributed to the clarification of the use of the term “gender roles” instead of “women issues.” GAD clarified how masculinity and femininity and their associated roles were socially constructed, being the outcomes of perceptions and bias (Oakley 1972; Rubin 1975). The division of labor was demonstrated to be a gendered perception; the same explanation was valid as well for the distribution of power within institutions.

Gender  
Mainstreaming  
(GM) also known  
as “mainstreaming  
gender equality”  
(MGE)

1990s (1995  
Beijing  
Declaration  
and Platform  
for Action)

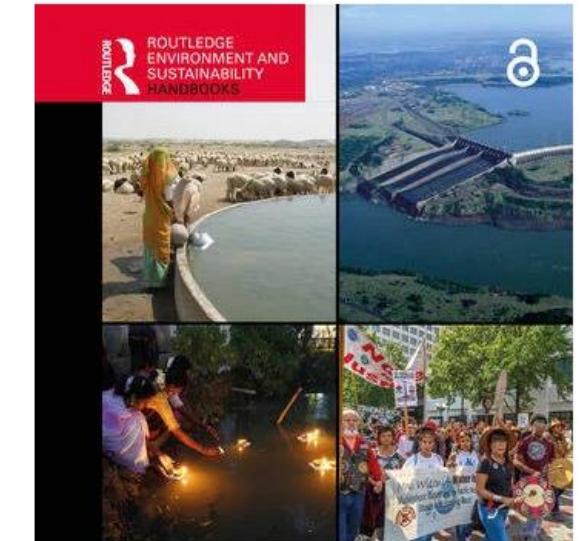
GM action incorporates a gender perspective into all policies, programs, and activities. The purpose of gender mainstreaming is to ensure that gender considerations are considered in all areas of decision-making and that policies and programs do not unintentionally perpetuate gender inequalities. This can be accomplished by ensuring that gender considerations are considered in all decision-making areas.

Gender  
Transformative  
Approaches  
or Gender  
Transformative  
Action (GTA)

2010 to present

“It seeks to actively examine, challenge and transform the underlying causes of gender inequality rooted in inequitable social structures and institutions. It promotes gender transformative change at the individual and systemic level and across informal and formal spheres of life. At the core of gender transformative programming lie interventions that aim at addressing practical gender needs (e.g., knowledge, skills, access to productive resources) and strategic gender interests (e.g., decision-making power, position/status in society) by triggering changes in agency, social relations and social structures” (FAO, IFAD and WFP 2020). Other actions foresee gender budgeting as a strategy for changing the economic assets of development projects.

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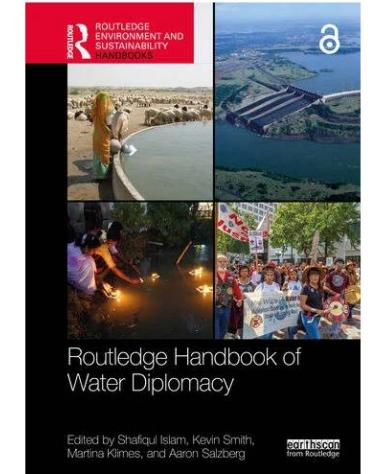
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### Box 25.1 Timeline of Official Recognition of Women's Role in Water-related Issues

- 1992 Dublin Principles on the role of women in decision-making in the water sector. These principles hold that: (1) freshwater is a finite and vulnerable resource essential to sustain life, development, and the environment; (2) water development and management should be based on a participatory approach, involving users, planners, and policymakers at all levels; (3) women play a central part in the provision, management, and safeguarding of water; and (4) water has an economic value in all its competing uses and should be recognized as an economic good.
- At the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro (June 1992), it was determined that the participation of women was vital for the proper management of water.
- 1992 AGENDA 21, chapters 18 and 24 mentioned the role of women in sustainable development and in water resource management.
- 1995 The UN Beijing Platform for Action listed among its strategic objectives the active involvement of women in environmental decision-making at all levels.

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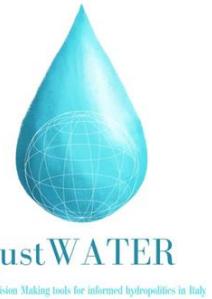
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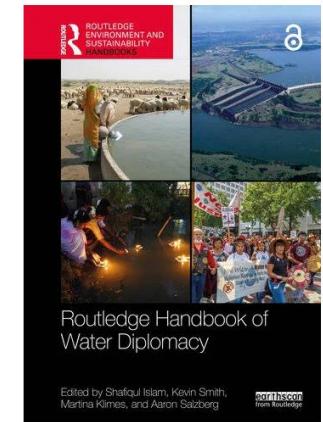
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### Box 25.1 Timeline of Official Recognition of Women's Role in Water-related Issues

- 2002 The Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the 2002 UN World Summit on Sustainable Development mentioned that all water infrastructure and services should be gender sensitive.
- United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security (adopted on 31 October 2000) focused on the role of women in peace, conflict resolution, and security.
- Between 2000 and 2019 including the UNSC 1325 resolution, there were ten different resolutions of the UN Security Council on women, peace, and security.<sup>4</sup>
- The Millennium Development Goals (MDG 3 Promote gender equality and empower women).
- The Sustainable Development Goals (Goal 5, Goal 6).
- The 2005–2015 International Decade for Action, “Water for Life.”
- The 2018–2028 International Decade for Action on Water for Sustainable Development.



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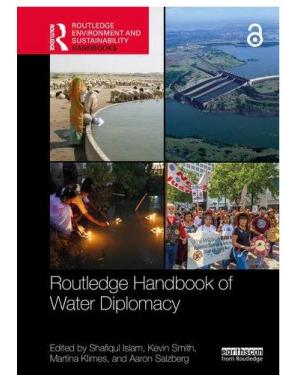


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## Scale and Intersectionality

Water diplomacy is rarely affected by debates around gender issues, but there are some examples. At the community level, Sultana (2011) sought to explain gender roles among women around water collection in rural Bangladesh and how their relationships influenced discussions on water security. Extrapolating, gendered aspects of regional conflicts in transboundary systems may similarly affect transboundary relations. According to Offutt (2022), the mobilization of gendered identities at a local level among the communities of the Cochabamba Valley in Bolivia and the Heiltsuk (British Columbia) played a crucial role in mediating conflicts and shaping the state. In contrast, building on a national ideology, Fantini (2020) observed how propaganda targeting Ethiopian “mothers” on the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) built public support for the dam by creating a gendered narrative focused on the “need to protect womens’ livelihoods”.





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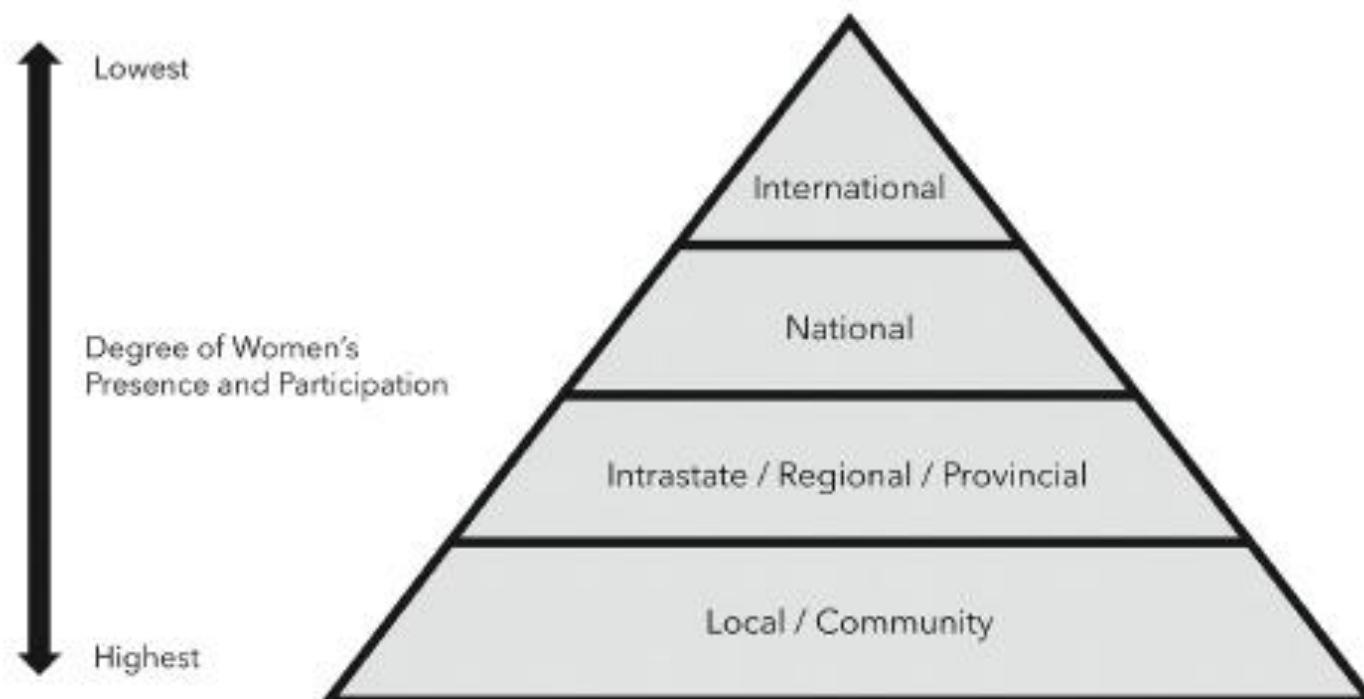
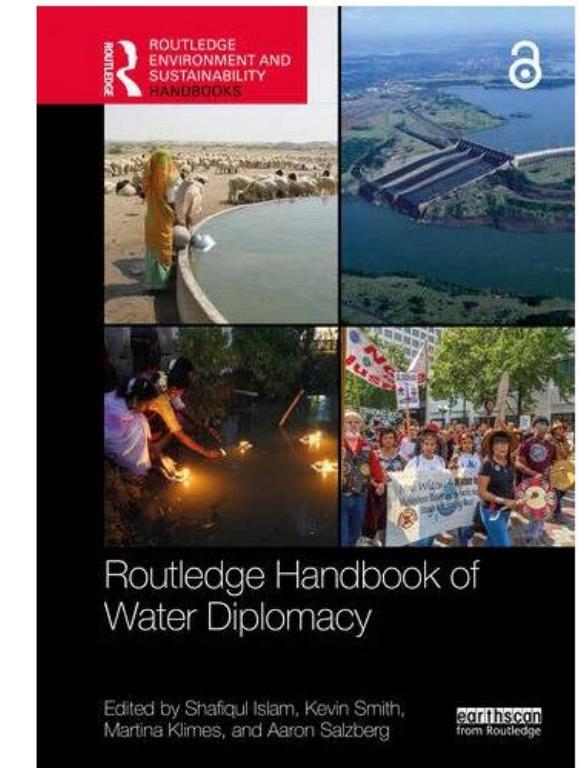
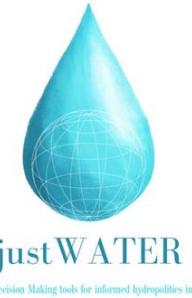


Figure 25.1 Water diplomacy pyramid of women's presence and participation at different scales of decision-making and water negotiations.





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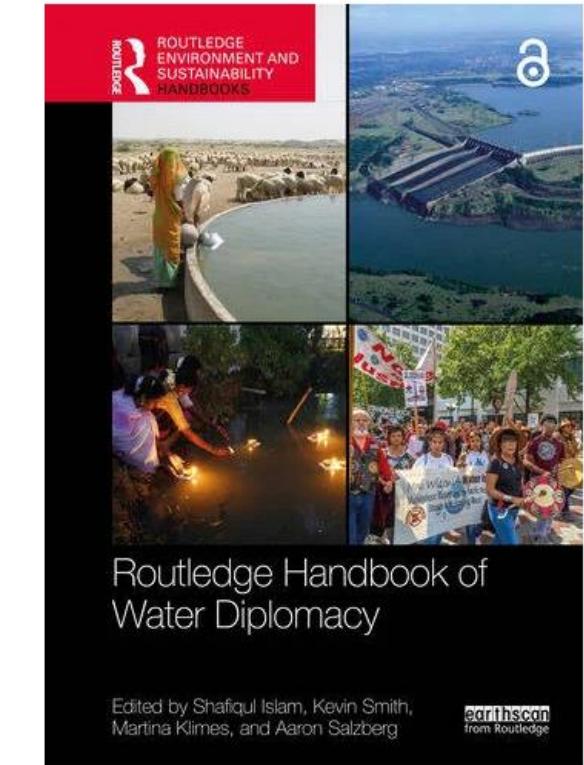


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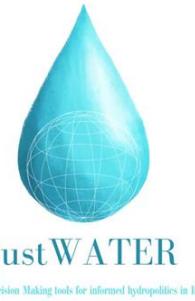
When evaluating the presence and effectiveness of women's participation in transboundary water, it is important to consider

**intersectionality** – that is, how a woman's experience and effectiveness might be influenced by other overlapping identities such as race, economic status, and disability. These intersectionalities can create unique experiences of discrimination and privilege.





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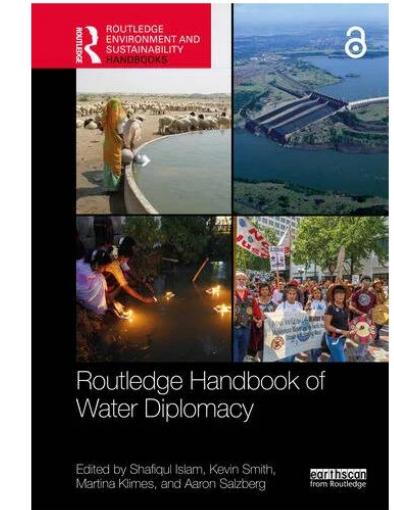


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**EXAMPLE** of the intersectionality of gender roles and race is included in a series of interviews collected by ter Horst. One interview features an interview with the only Black woman at the Water Commission of Namibia at the time. She recounts how, soon after the independence of Namibia, she happened to be not only the only woman in her position at the Department of Water Affairs but also the only Black woman. Being both a woman and Black uniquely shaped others' perceptions of her as an individual and as a professional: she remembers how she used to be asked if she was a secretary (ter Horst et al. 2022).

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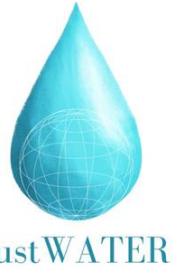
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## OUTPUT 3 / GENDER / THE UNIVERSITY OF BERGAMO JOINED THE UNESCO COALITION

The University of Bergamo joined the UNESCO Coalition for the Acceleration of Gender Equality in the Water Domain (April 2024)





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OUTPUT 4 / GENDER / WEBSITE LAUNCH / QUESTIONNAIRE TO BE LAUNCHED SOON



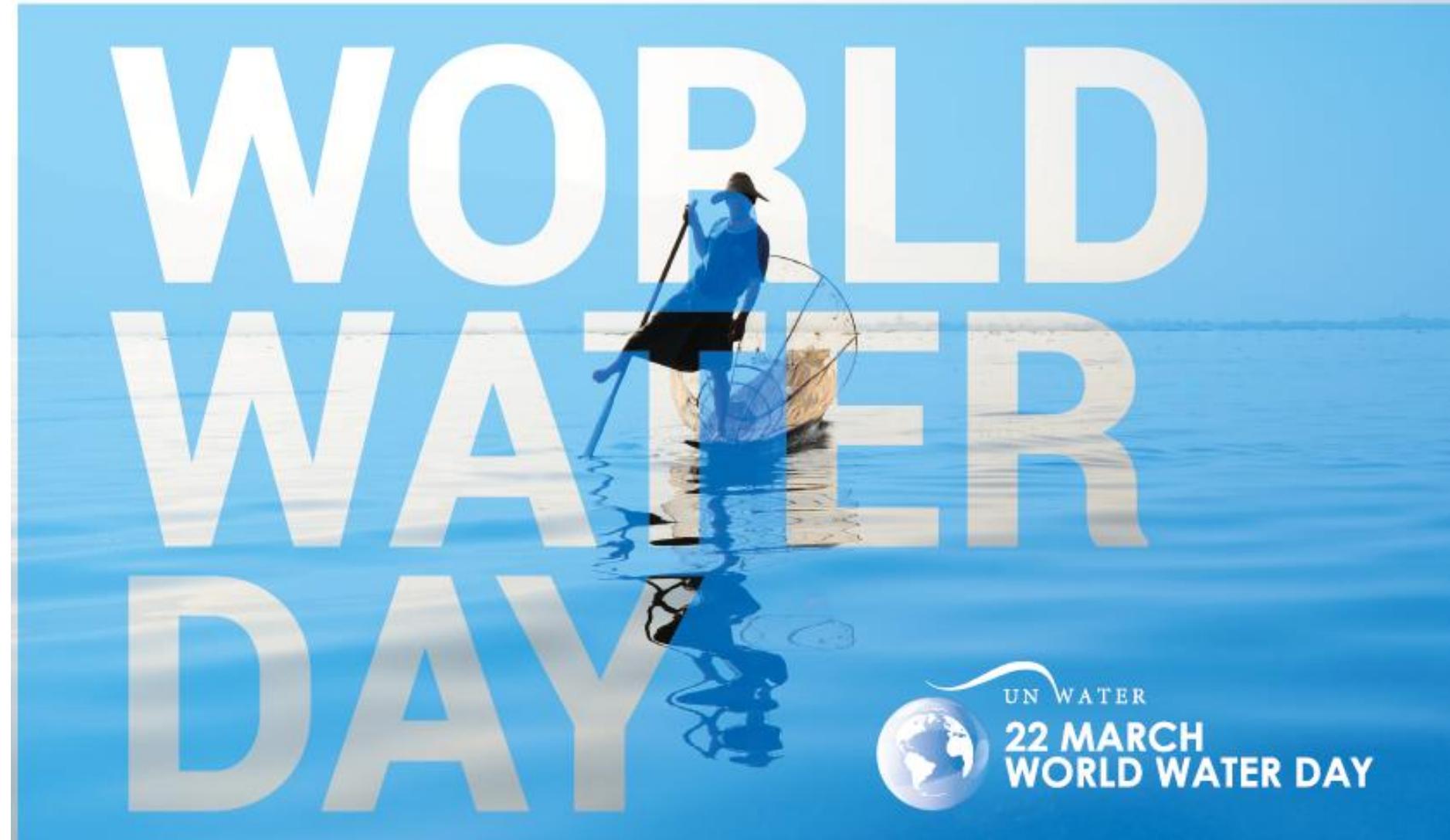
WOMEN IN WATER ITALY  
is part of the project



<https://sites.google.com/unibg.it/WOMENINWATERITALY>

WORLD  
WATER  
DAY  
2026

WATER  
AND  
GENDER  
EQUALITY



## 12.25 Attiviste: l'impegno per difendere le risorse del nostro pianeta

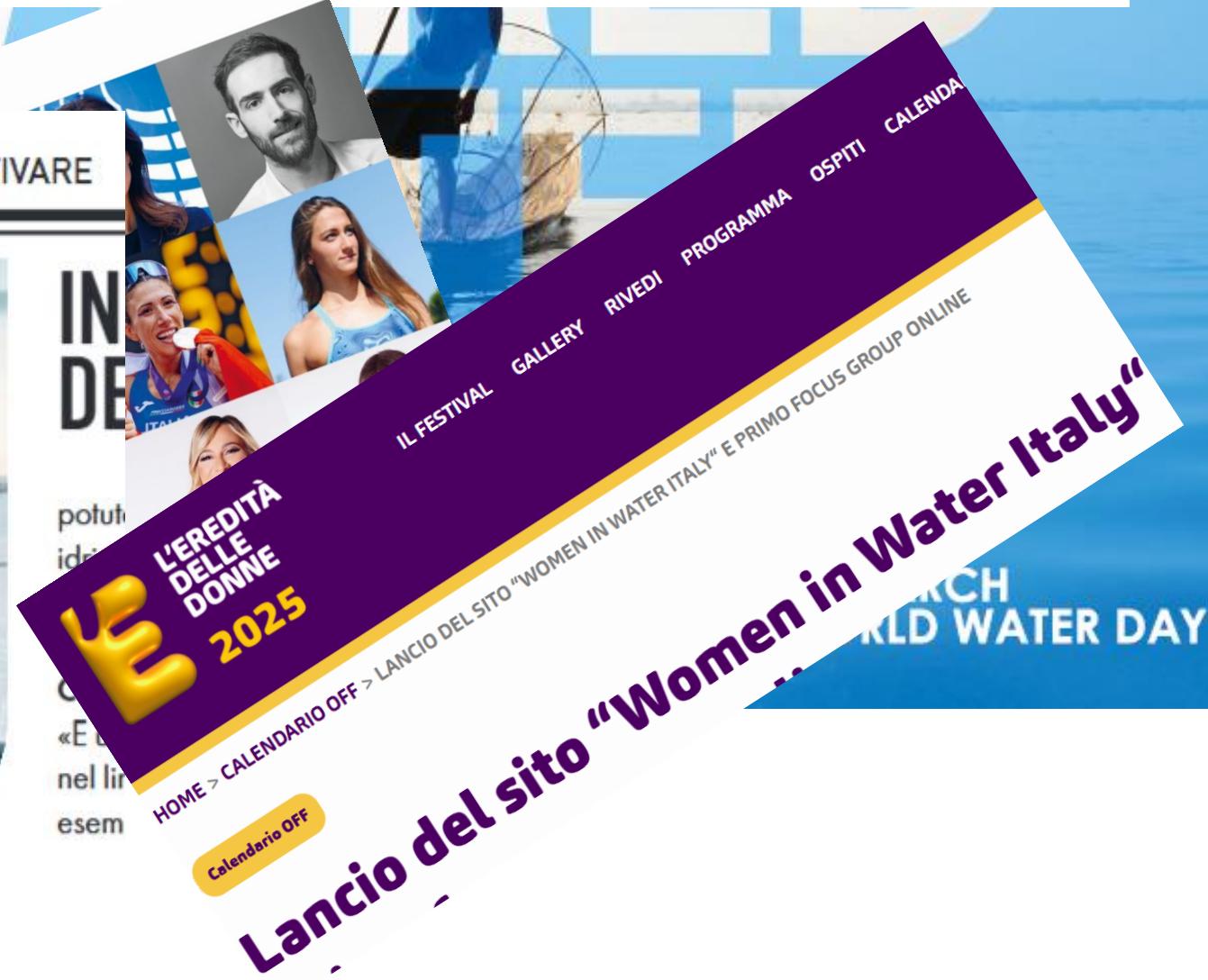
Con Giuseppe di Vita, co-founder Acqua Foundation e Francesca Greco, Ricercatrice "Marie Skłodowska-Curie", Università di Bergamo e Visiting Research Fellow, King's College London.

DAY  
2026

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9 NOVEMBRE MASTERCLASS MOTIVARE





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# JustWATER as a tool to HELP BUILDING NARRATIVES OF WATER AND AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION

## SILENT NARRATIVES WOMENS' ROLES

## HYDRO SOCIAL NARRATIVES OF VIRTUAL WATER AND WATER CONSUMPTION



## JUST WATER PROJECT IS FUNDED BY THE EU UNDER THE MARIE SKŁODOWSKA CURIE FELLOWSHIP ACTION

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Topic: **HORIZON-MSCA-2022-PF-01-01** Type of Action: **HORIZON-TMA-  
MSCA-PF-EF** (HORIZON TMA MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships - European  
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