FT4.37 Assessing livelihood and environmental trade-offs and synergies for water management in agriculture

LA-0063 Negotiations to rescue Lake Chapala in Mexico

- 795,000 ha of irrigation; 188,000 landowners
- 285,000 ha in 11 irrigation districts (IDs)
- 510,000 ha in some 16,000 irrigation units (IUs)
- 10 IDs transferred to WUAs in the 1990s
- WUAs formed at secondary level (5-15,000 ha)
- Management structures in irrigation units diverse

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>River Basin Area</th>
<th>54,300 km²</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mexico’s Gross National Product</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population</td>
<td>11 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irrigated Area</td>
<td>794,000 ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mexico's Irrigated Area</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Area of Lake Chapala</td>
<td>1,112 km²</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean depth of Lake Chapala</td>
<td>7.2 m</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Institutional Transition

- Conagua responsible for investment programs, water licensing, planning and collection of water taxes
- Council created up-down approach, with consultative functions
- User representatives on council appointed by CNA
- State level water user committees searching its institutional role in a decentralization process
Due to water over-exploitation many river basins have “closed” (water depleted = annual renewable water supply)

- River basin closure (water over-exploitation) leads to very real problems:
  - Lake Chapala 14% of its total storage capacity
  - declining water quality, destruction aquatic ecosystems
  - inter-sectoral water transfers, inequitable water allocation
  - reduced access to water, especially by the poor
  - increase in use derivative water, health impacts
The success in a New Surface Water Allocation Agreement in 2004

* What a good negotiation process requires?

All negotiation process is based on interest groups, pressure groups, social movements, … The integration in the Integrated Management is a sociopolitical process

• Constraints in the negotiation process in the Lerma Chapala Basin

  Institutional arrangement, Water Governance to a effective “public action” (governmental action and social participation)

  Representativeness, legitimacy

* Putting social participation first

  It is necessary… but not sufficient

  It’s a long term process