

ORGANIZATION AMERICAN STATES
INTEGRAL SECRETARY OF INTEGRAL DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTAMENT OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



The Political Economy of Regionalism and International Waters

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Organización de los
Estados Americanos

Global Challenges = Σ [Hemispheric { Σ Regional (Σ Local) }] Challenges

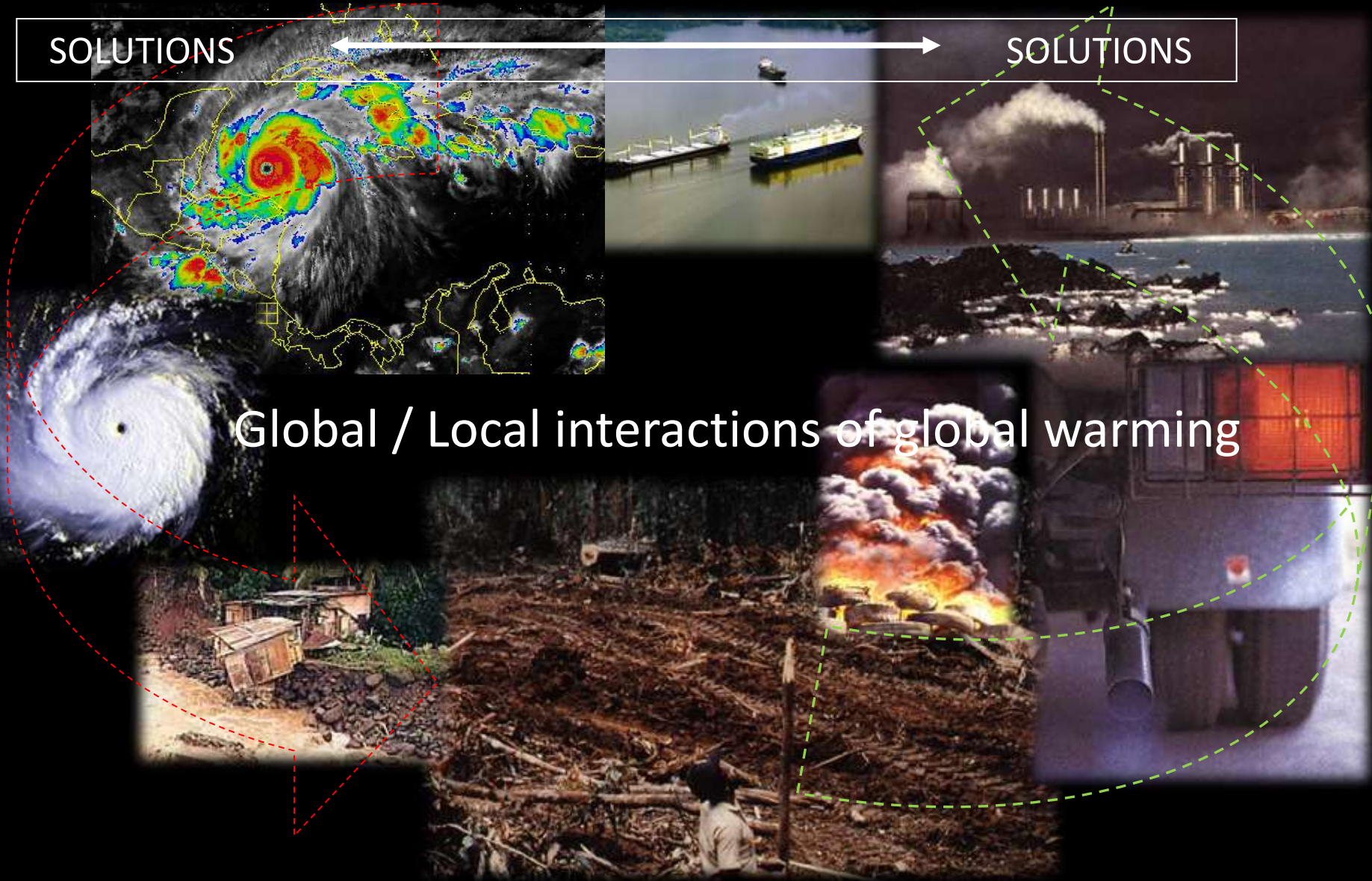
IMPACTS

IMPACTS

SOLUTIONS

SOLUTIONS

Global / Local interactions of global warming



Overview and Context



Organization of
American States

- The Organization of American States (OAS) is the oldest public international organization in the world.
- The OAS brings together all 35 independent states of the Americas and constitutes the main political, juridical, and social governmental forum in the Hemisphere. In addition, it has granted permanent observer status to 67 states, as well as to the European Union (EU).
- Brings together countries of the Western Hemisphere to strengthen cooperation and advance in common interests.
- The Organization was established in order to achieve among its member states, as stipulated in Article 1 of its Charter.....
"an order of peace and justice, to promote their solidarity, to strengthen their collaboration, and to defend their sovereignty, their territorial integrity, and their independence"





Basis for Action

- Summit of the Americas Process
- OAS-General Assembly Resolutions
- Santa Cruz +10 Declaration:
 - Inter-American Program on Sustainable Development (PIDS) 2006-2009 (extended to 2014),
 - Declaration of Santo Domingo for the Sustainable Development of the Americas;
 - Strategic Plan for Partnerships for Integral Development
 - Declaration on Security in the Americas (October 28, 2003)
- PC Committee on Hemispheric Security
- Joint Consultative Organ (JCO) on Natural Disasters
- National Focal Points (Networks)



**II Inter-American Meeting of Ministers
and High-Level Authorities on
Sustainable Development**
Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic
October 6-8, 2010



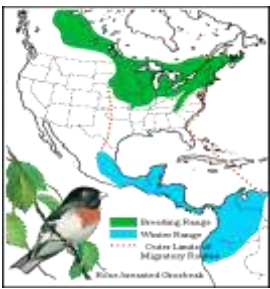


- More than 50 years of experience on Sustainable Development and Environment in the Americas.
- Principal Technical arm of GS/OAS, responsible for supporting Political Organs of OAS and meeting technical-policy needs of Member States on Environment and Sustainable Development.
- Facilitates regional exchange of information and cooperation on Sustainable Development through project execution, policy recommendations, support to political bodies and Ministerial Processes.
- Vehicle for Public Participation in Sustainable Development and Environmental Management (Secretariat for ISP and highest percentage of Civil Society relations in the Organization)
- Supports Program of Work of the General Secretary of OAS in addressing Democracy and Development by fostering cooperation among countries with shared circumstances or problems and by strengthening multinational and national cooperation for sustainable development and environment in its strategic areas.



Strategic Priority Areas

- Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM)
- Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use of Forests
 - Sustainable Cities
- Sustainable Energy and Climate Change Mitigation
- Management of Natural Hazards Risk
- Environmental Law, Policy and Good Governance



GLOBAL TO LOCAL CHALLENGES

-Exponential contamination of water.

-Decrease in financial investments for maintenance and new hydraulic infrastructure (safe drinking water, sanitation, hydropower, transportation, tourism and recreation).

-Changes in water supply due to climate variability and change.

-Increase in water demand due to population growth and water's associated services

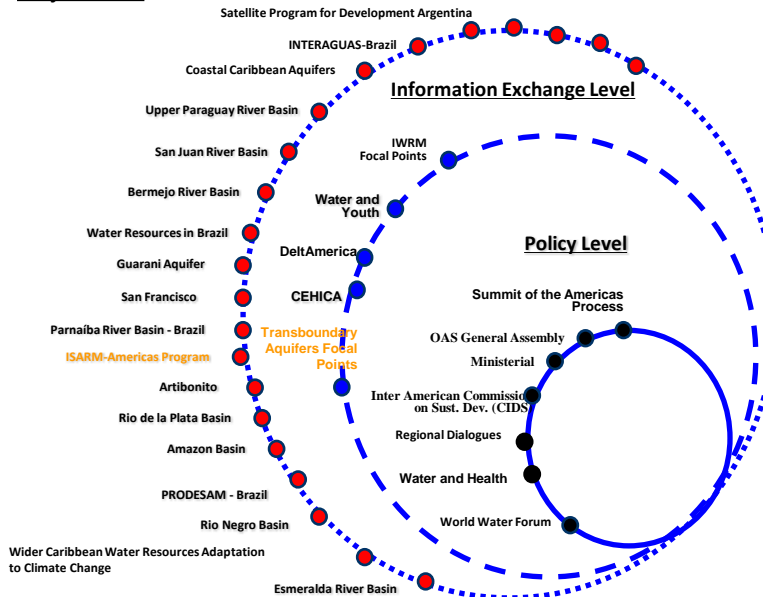
GENERAL SCENARIO IN THE AMERICAS

-Weak institutions, obsolete or fragmented legislation, limited investments and/or financial mechanisms, unarticulated participation of civil society, private sector, academia and government, need for transparent management with information access and accountability fragile GOVERNANCE



OAS WATER AGENDA: Support Member States in developing plans, policies and projects to improve management, protection, conservation and sustainable use of water resources in the framework of their efforts to reduce poverty, converting water resources in a factor for understanding, cooperation and integration as well as a mechanism to strength peace, democracy and to promote sustainable development.

Project Level



Challenges: Planetary-Hemispheric-Regional-National-Local

Benefits of Regionalism:

3 objectives of GEF-IW-6 TRANSBOUNDARY..... They recognize the importance of regionalism

- **Transboundary factor:** multilateral regional agreements/political resolutions, transboundary vision for problem/solution, experiences/best practices exchange
- **Complementarity:** regional added value to national efforts, capacity building at the regional level, scale economy....
- **Transparency/accountability:** international/country supervision, agreed administrative procedures and processes, auditing.
- **Political engagement with Decision Makers:** it provides confidence and trust to other sectors (private sector) platform for sustainability



Organization of
American States