



GLOBAL WATER FUTURES AND WATER JUSTICE: GOVERNANCE

PROJECT SUMMARY

Project summary: Throughout GWF, in the context of a number of projects, including Boreal Water Futures and Co-Creation of Indigenous Water Quality Tools, we have considered water governance, citizen participation and innovation as distinct and interconnected themes. Here, looking to long-term impact and next steps, including the mid-decade meeting of UN Water in 2023, we flag some opportunities ahead for achieving the 2030 SDG targets.

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PROJECT NAME: WATER JUSTICE - LOCAL TO GLOBAL AND BACK AGAIN

Water as Life: the Human Right to Water

The recognition of the human right to water is significant – no mistake – BUT – recognition without implementation is a vacant right.

The positive right to water must be supported by positive measures to reduce and eliminate the factors that adversely impact the access to water of sufficient quality and quantity to sustain life, such as:

- Addition of deleterious substances to water in any form
- Appropriation of water sources for commercial purposes to the exclusion of communities



We are ALL Water People...

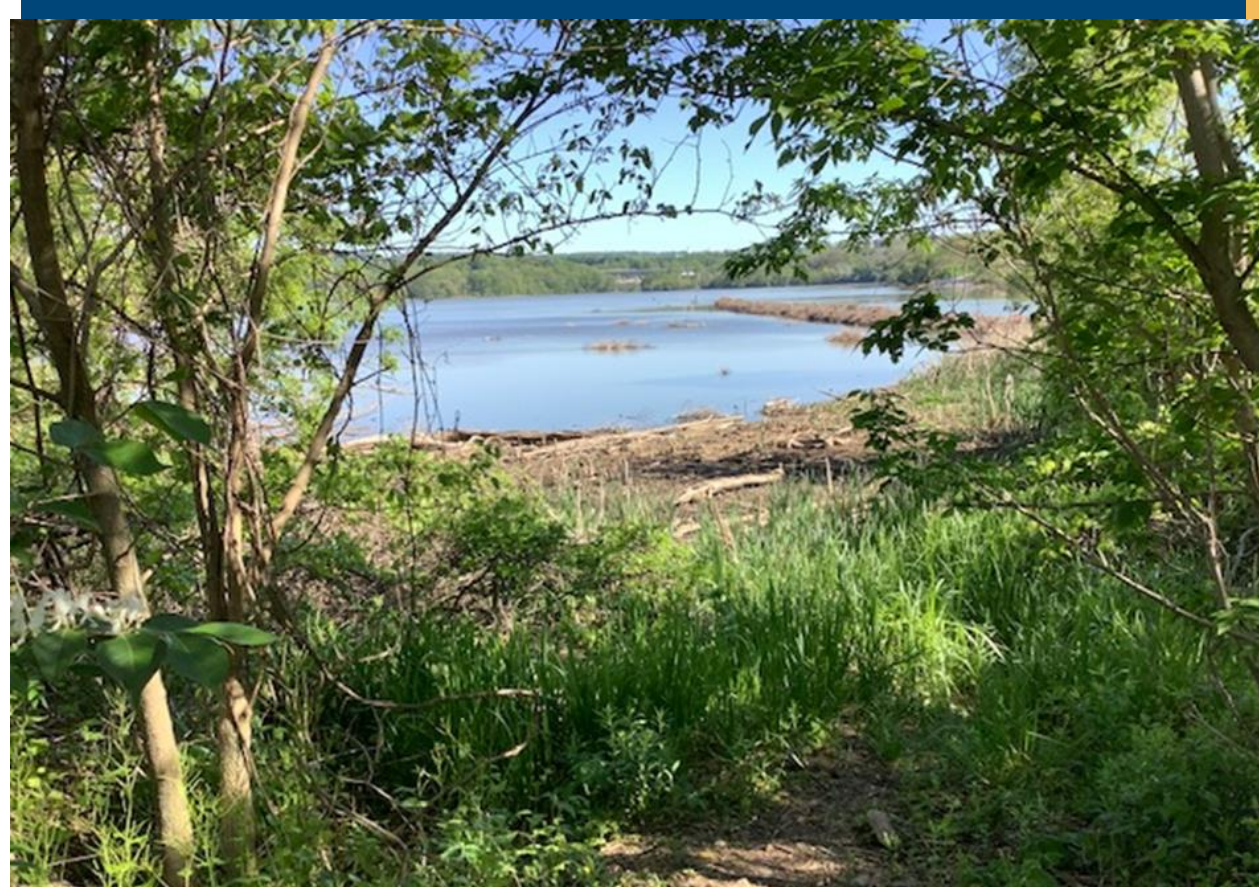
A water security lens allows a multimodal analysis of health & well-being, migration, biodiversity and climate adaptation

- It also begins a conversation about the roles of citizens and the importance of subsidiarity as a fundamental principle to defend and protect the human right to water at an operational scale – in most cases, the local government scale. One avenue available to citizens in local watersheds is to adopt mitigation of human impacts on the water cycle to enhance the resilience of nature-based processes and solutions.

Key Observations

We note that - in addition to meeting its research goals - GWF serves the human right to water, and also serves water justice by 5 key points

1. Broadening participation in the water research community
2. Centring Indigenous communities in Indigenous water research leadership
3. Situating large questions of changing water futures across scales within Canadian landscapes, accessible to all Canadians
4. Supporting decolonization of indigenous research
5. Involvement of indigenous youth and community members in knowledge cocreation and active stakeholders in project implementation



Deflected by artificial barrier, Chedoke Creek enters Cootes Paradise, Hamilton, ON Canada. Photo by: Nancy Doubleday



Indigenous peoples forum at COP 27: Discussions on climate justice to deliver water, food, and social justice: Photo by: Nidhi Nagabhatla

Outcomes and application: The UN Commission on Human Rights dedicated the 2022 Social Forum to the Human Right to Water and held a consultative meeting with international and regional organizations, Indigenous Peoples' representatives, activists, and academics, in preparation for the 2023 UN-Water meeting (New York) and the recent climate discussion COP 27 (Egypt, Nov 22) witnessed a record participation of indigenous people tabling their stakes and agenda to ensure that traditional wisdom and indigenous solutions for climate change are well integrated into negotiations and decisions from the conference. While the rate of success of such representation may not be highly visible, the transformative agenda of inclusivity and equality, and justice can only be achieved if such representation remains active and vocal about rights, responsibilities, and resilience for all. The international Indigenous Peoples Forum on Climate Change (IIPFCC - <http://www.iipfcc.org/>) established in 2008, provides a platform for indigenous peoples participating in the COP (Conference of the Parties) process and designing of climate action

More at : <https://www.culturalsurvival.org/news/indigenous-peoples-challenge-lack-ambition-and-rights-cop27-close>