



# Water Diplomacy at the Basin-Level

## What Role for River Basin Organizations?

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# A Need for Water Diplomacy?



## Water: A Global Crisis

The world water crisis is both severe and entirely avoidable.

Risk of water wars rises with scarcity  
*Almost half of humanity will face water scarcity by 2030 and strategists from Israel to Central Asia prepare for strife.*

**Water scarcity a contributing cause of wars, terrorism in Middle East, North Africa**

## Water Experts Warn of Conflict Over Mekong Dams

### Preventing a water war in Asia

China's extensive dam-building would give it control of Southeast Asia's rivers

Laos energy development spawns tensions

Water wars between countries could be just around the corner, Davey warns

Energy secretary tells conference that growing pressure on water resources could worsen existing war and lead to new ones

Why global water shortages pose threat of terror and war

### Water wars in Central Asia Dammed if they do

Spats over control of water roil an already unstable region

From California to the Middle East, huge areas of the world are drying up and a billion people have no access to safe drinking water. US intelligence is warning of the dangers of shrinking resources and experts say the world is 'standing on a precipice'

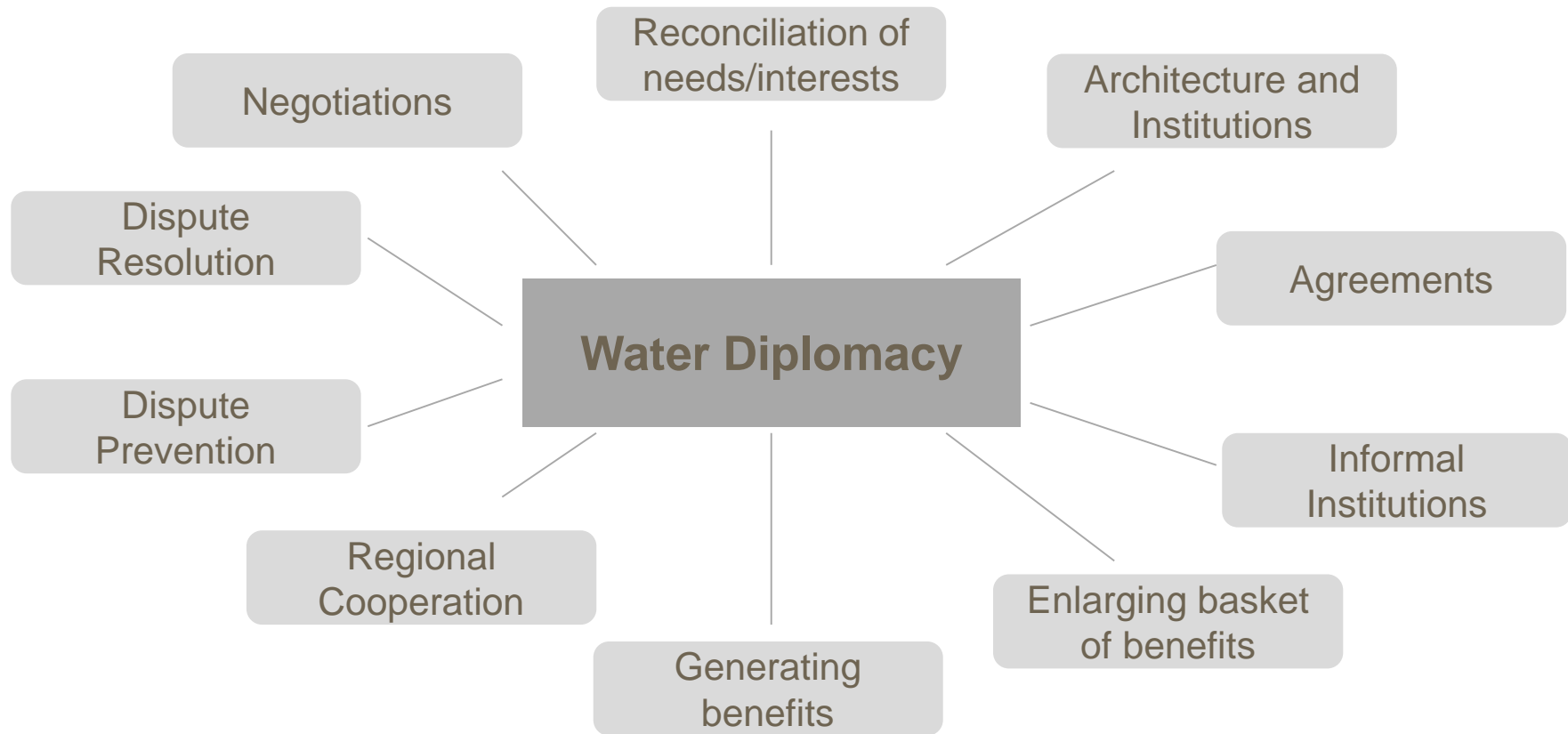
**U.S. intelligence sees global water conflict risks rising**

**Mekong River Countries Face 'Make or Break Moment' Over Lao Dams**

Which countries are most dependent on others for water?

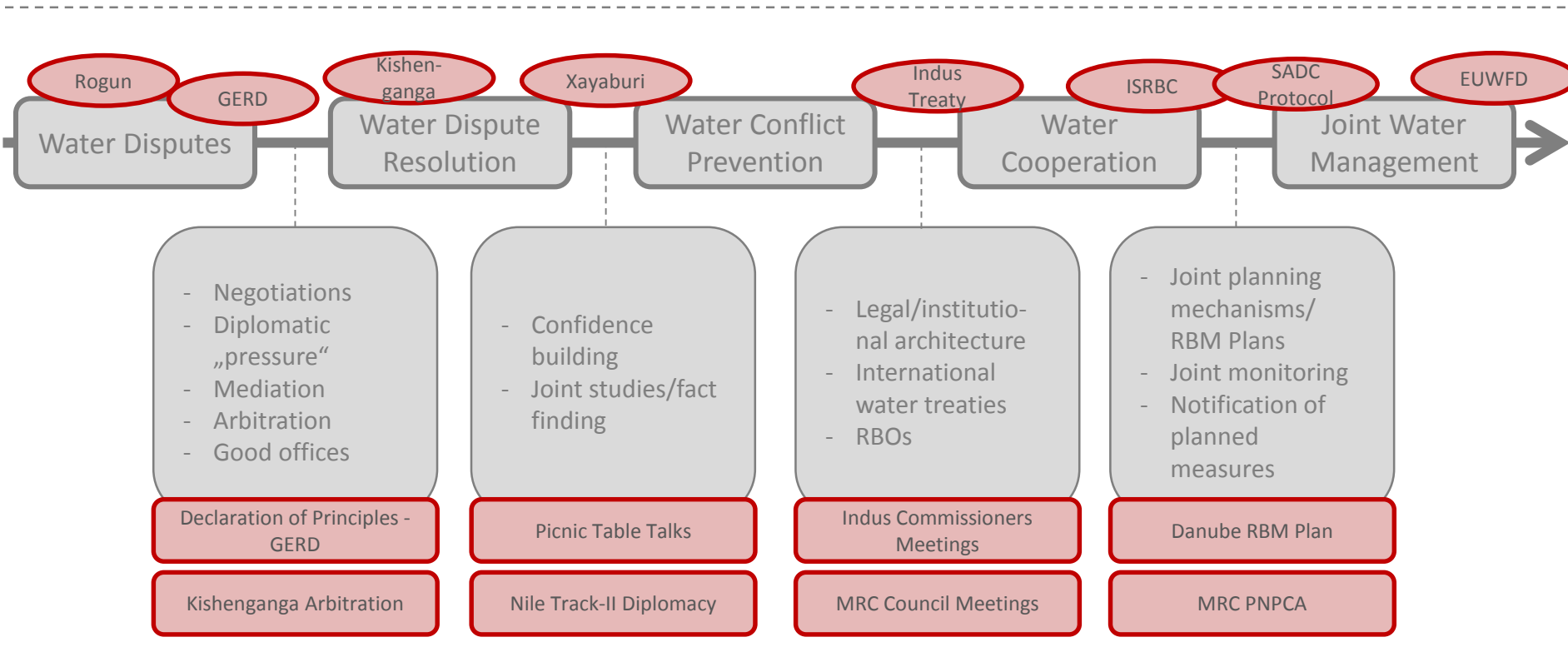
**Water Wars? Think Again: Conflict Over Freshwater Structural Rather Than Strategic**

# Defining „Water Diplomacy“

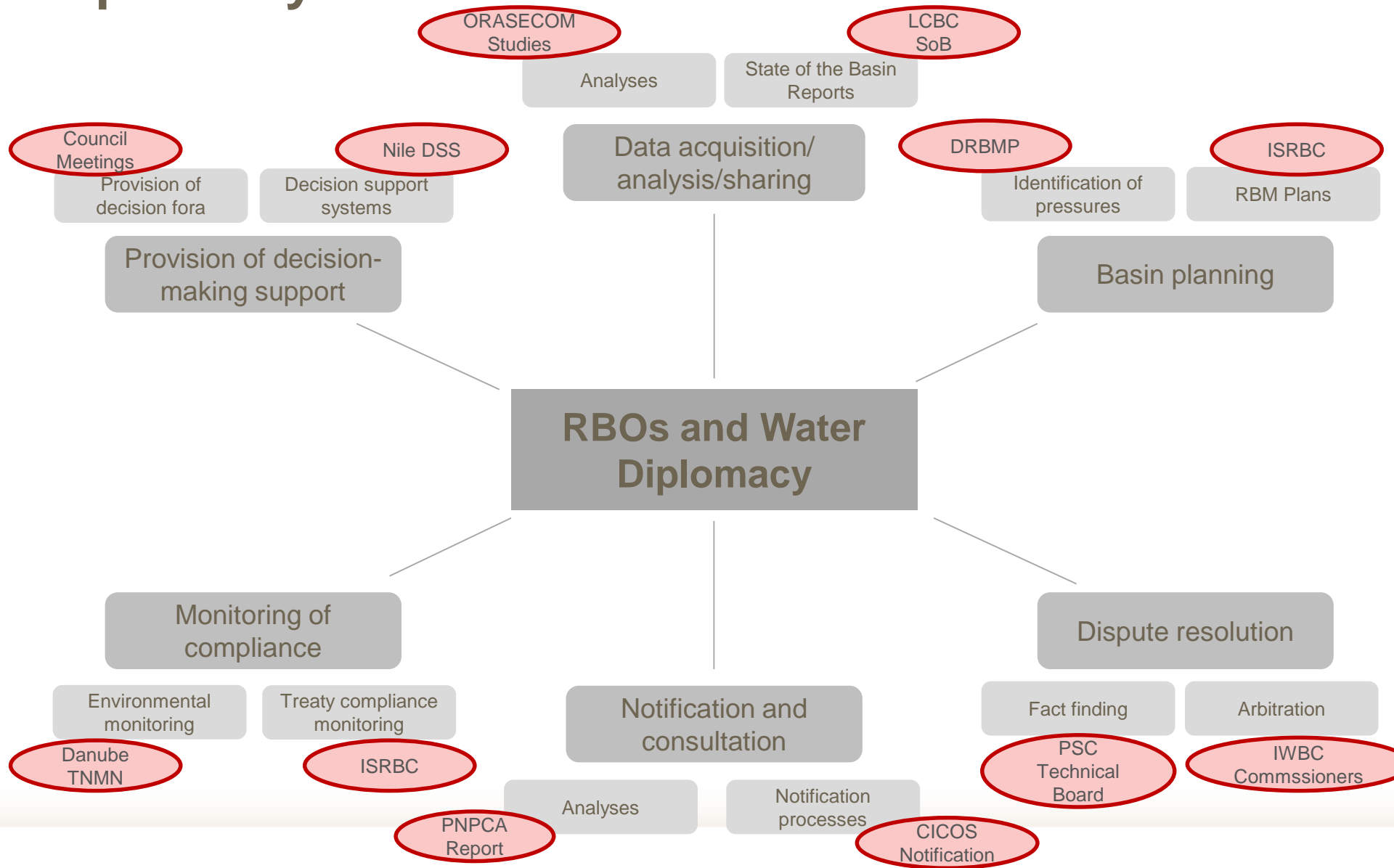


**The difference between water diplomacy and water cooperation:**  
Water as a goal in itself or water as a means for goals beyond water (stability, peace and cooperation)

# The Water Diplomacy Process



# River Basin Organizations and Water Diplomacy



# Water Diplomacy: Opportunities and Risks for RBOs

Water diplomacy provides benefits to basins, countries and riparian populations and opportunities to RBOs:

- Strengthening RBO's relevance
- Linking science/analyses to policy decisions
- Ensuring the basis for long-term sustainable basin development

BUT: Water diplomacy engagement also comes with risks for RBOs:

- Politization/securitization
- Risks to impartiality
- Capacity insufficiencies

RBOs need to carefully assess opportunities and benefits before embarking into water diplomacy activities.