

### *Partners and Addressees*

**B**ICC works within an international network of partners. We closely cooperate with European and African research institutes, bi- and multilateral development agencies and NGOs.

With the results of our work we provide information and advice to governments, non-governmental initiatives as well as public and private sector organizations.

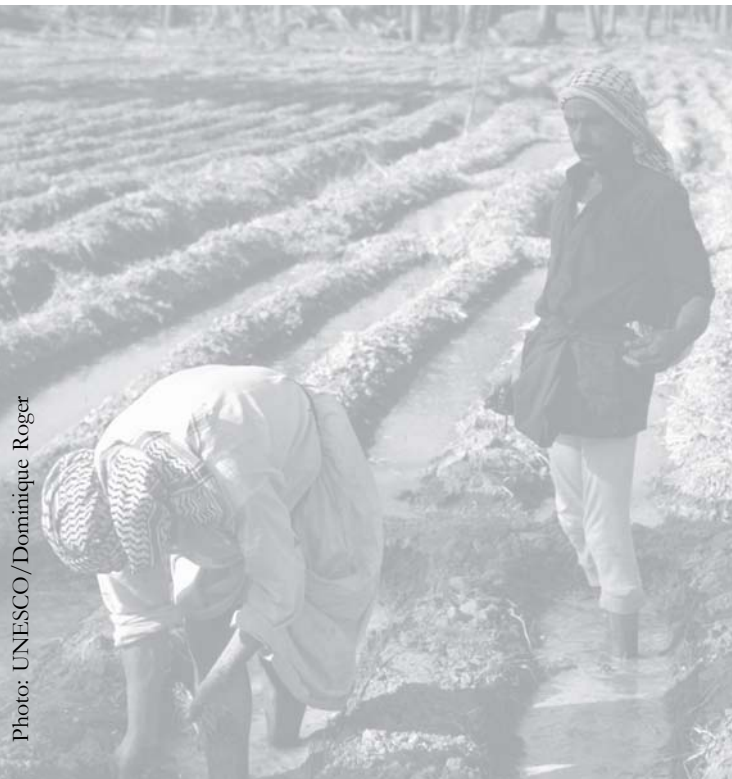


Photo: UNESCO/Dominique Roger

### *About BICC*

**T**he Bonn International Center for Conversion (BICC) is an independent non-profit organization dedicated to promoting and facilitating peace and development through multi-disciplinary and policy-oriented research, technical assistance and training.

BICC's work seeks to combine concerns of national security in a narrow sense with those of human security in a broad sense, encompassing threats from poverty and the lack of good governance. BICC contributes to conflict prevention, conflict management, post-conflict peacebuilding and human development.

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# Transboundary Waters and Crisis Prevention

Photo: Katharina Morahit

## *Crisis Prevention and Transboundary Water Governance?*

Conflicts arising out of the environmental degradation pose serious challenges to security and overall human development. Especially conflicts related to freshwater resources can easily cause international tensions, since many rivers, groundwater reservoirs, lakes and marshlands are shared by two or more sovereign states.

Therefore, we at **BICC address the subject of transboundary water, conflict and cooperation in special research projects** in our issue area “Conflict – Resources-related violence and its management”.

Our research activities focus on **Good Transboundary Water Governance** which is the precondition for increased security and human development in transboundary water basins. To foster cooperation and avoid conflict, promote equitable and efficient water management and environmental protection, an inclusive approach to transnational water governance aiming at multi-level and multi-actor participation is needed.

## *Objectives of the Transboundary Waters Research Project:*

- Identifying implications and challenges of implementing a **multi-level and multi-actor approach to Transboundary Water Governance** to foster cooperation and conflict prevention
- Documenting **lessons learned** through systematic and comparative case studies of hydropolitics in a selected set of transboundary river basins.
- Developing **policy recommendations and tools** for practitioners
- **Communicating the results** to a wider public in the North and the South.

Currently we are centering our work on **transboundary water basins in Sub-Saharan Africa** where several conflict-prone hotspots as well as promising progresses in Transboundary Water Governance can be found. However, a number of important challenges remain which need to be addressed if conflicts are to be prevented from escalating and can be dealt with in a peaceful manner.

## *BICC research contributes to the following key areas:*

- Formulation and implementation of adapted **dispute settlement mechanisms**, taking into account **customary ways** of dealing with water related conflicts
- Linkages between water-related conflicts on the sub-national and the international level, and the **interplay of institutions and stakeholders** from the local, regional, national and international level
- **Participation** of civil society and local communities **especially in weak and failing states**.