Abstract Details

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Title: Regional Cooperation to Mitigate Water Related Disasters: The Case Ganges

Abstract:

The Ganges is one of the major eastern Himalayan Rivers that suppo livelihoods of over 300 million people of South Asia. The catchment of river system is spread over four countries: Bangladesh, China, India a Nepal. A number of tributaries • most of them originated in the uppe Himalayan reaches • contribute to the flows of the Ganges. The river eventually falls into the Bay of Bengal through the flat terrain of the E delta. Melting of snow and permafrost constitute the majority of the f the Ganges system during summer. During monsoon the majority of t is constituted by rainfall runoff. Monsoon causes a huge temporal vari for availability of water in the river basin by contributing two-thirds of flow-volume [1]. Abundance of water exhibited in wet months leads t frequent floods, while shortage in dry months results in low-flow, leac moisture stress, droughts and salinity intrusion along the coastal rive In various parts of the Ganges basin floods, salinity intrusion and drou are frequently occurring water-related disasters, which are attributed incidence of large-scale poverty in the region [3]. The south-eastern p the Ganges basin suffers from floods, while the western parts experie droughts. The tributaries of the Ganges flowing to the Bay of Bengal s from low-flows in the dry months, which cannot resist penetration of s from the seafront to the inland floodplains. The effect of flood is most observed in Bangladesh, and in adjoining Indian states [4]. Drought i observed mainly in the Indian States of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Wes Bengal, as well as in Bangladesh. Salinity intrusion is mostly observed the coastal areas of Bangladesh and West Bengal. The latter two are t the most vulnerable areas to water-related disasters. In recent decad there have been frequent calls by the civil society to engage respectiv governments into an effective regional cooperation. If regional waters developed jointly, it is believed that the regional countries can accrue scale benefits not only in terms of disaster mitigation, but also for alle of poverty and conservation of environment [3]. Unfortunately, over t years there hasn•t been any appreciable progress in regional coopera Lack of trust among and between countries, bureaucratic hindrances, weakness in political leadership • all dampened the spirit of regional cooperation in water and environment. Recently, the regional governr engaged in fruitful negotiations and signed bilateral cooperation treat relation to waters of the Ganges system. Two bilateral treaties, titled