

# The Disputed Silala River Basin: A Catalyst for Cooperation?

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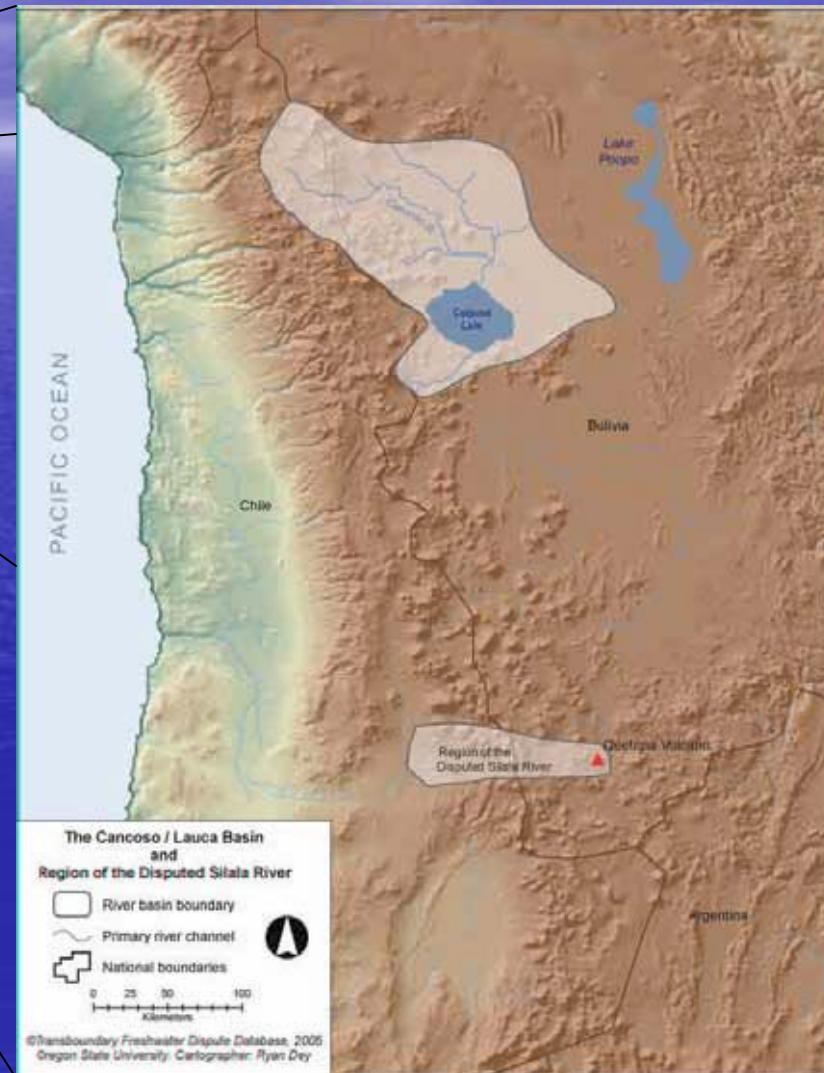
## Question

- How can water improve the relations between Bolivia and Chile, nations which do not have official diplomatic relations?

# Global Context: Transboundary Waters (Int'l)

- **World**
  - State-centric
  - Weak international governance
- **Transboundary Waters** (Wolf 2003)
  - 263+ basins worldwide
  - 3,500+ international treaties
- **Stresses on Water**
  - Population growth
  - Inefficient infrastructure
  - Pollution
  - Climate change

# The Disputed Silala River Basin



# Silala River Basin Description

- Silala River Origin



- Flow: 6.3 MCM/yr
  - Jordan (~1,400 MCM/yr)
  - Amazon (~6,630,000 MCM/yr)
- Climate: Arid

# Silala River Basin Description



# Historical Context

- War of the Pacific (1879-1884)
- Peace and Friendship Treaty (1904)
- Concession of the Use of the Silala Water to the Antofagasta Bolivian Railway Company (1908)

# The Silala River Basin Dispute

- Bolivian Perspective



- Chilean Perspective



## Some Poignant Reminders

- It's not just about the H<sub>2</sub>O
- Small amount of water ≠ cooperation
- Lack of information/legal framework does hinder the negotiation process

# Possible Solutions

- International Court of Arbitration
- 

- Bi-national Technical Committee
- 

- David Grey/Claudia Sadoff - World Bank (2003)

- Forward Linkage Effect

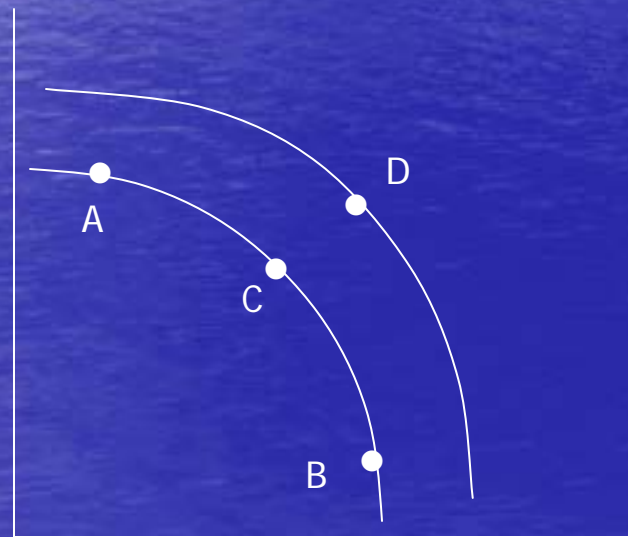
- “Expanding the Pie”

# "Expanding the Pie"

- Adding Value
  - Bolivia (Energy)
  - Chile (Coast)
  - Other transactions
- Benefit-sharing Literature
- Possibilities Frontier



Value to Chile



Value to Bolivia

# Conclusions

- Even with entrenched positions over shared water resources (and other issues) there are still options to move forward
- Additional value (not necessarily water-related) may be able provide the leverage needed to break through protracted disputes

# Why Is This Important?

- We're talking about water
- Water as a catalyst
- Can be translated across :
  - Basins (Nile, Tigris-Euphrates, Mekong, Jordan, etc.)
  - Scales (Local, National)



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