

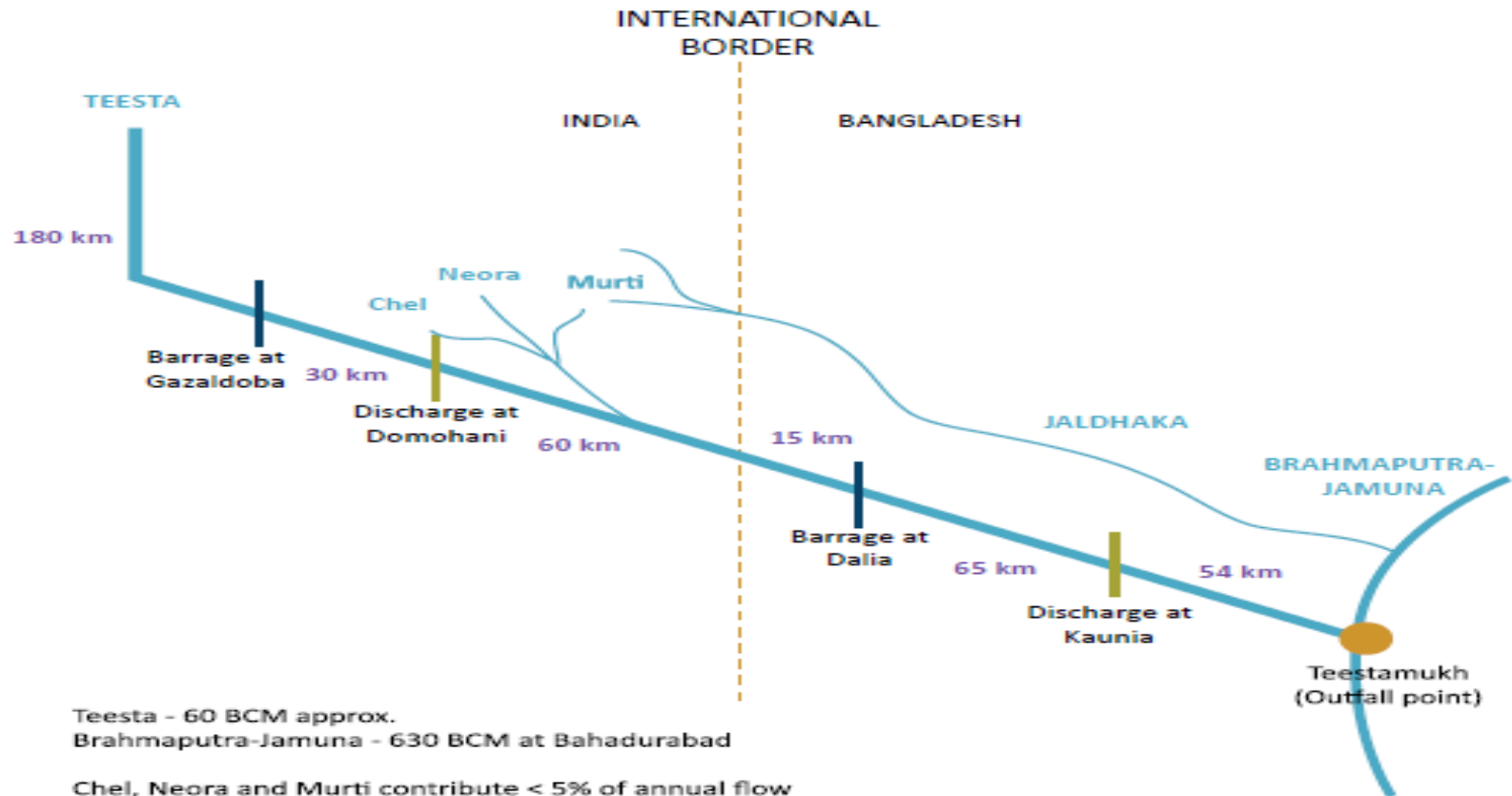
CASE STUDY – TEESTA RIVER BASIN

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Line Drawing of Teesta River



Joint Rivers Commission

- Signed in 1972
- Oversees all 54 transboundary rivers
- Has negotiated basin-wise treaties which have each taken decades

Teesta Agreement

- 2010 – India and Bangladesh arrive at agreement
- Each country receives 40% of the river's actual flow at the Gazaldoba Barrage
- 20% of river flow is reserved for 'environmental flow' to preserve the river
- Deals with water sharing in lean season, i.e. Between October and April

SFG 3-D Formula

- 1. Sign Teesta Treaty in its current iteration
- 2. Implement a Joint Investment Plan in the basin to augment water flow in winter months, favour drought-resistant crops and introduce non-agrarian livelihoods
- 3. Revamp the Joint Rivers Commission

BENEFITS

- **Biggest benefit is an informal water-for-peace deal**
- Environmental - maintenance of 'environmental flow', augmentation of river flows during lean season through means such as rainwater harvesting, fog water harvesting and wastewater treatment
- Social - reduction of cross-border migration

BENEFITS

- Economic – JIP introduces supplementary livelihoods (eco-tourism like in Sunderbans, for example); Benefits extend beyond the 30 million people in TRB and benefit 250 million people living in the region
- Regional – Co-operation bilaterally leads to multilateral co-operation to gradually include countries like China, Nepal and Bhutan

DERIVATION OF BENEFITS

- Convening of meeting of leaders and advisers of ruling and opposition political parties from India and Bangladesh, along with experts on water and security as well as diplomats, in Mumbai in July 2013
- Scientific and analytical research
- **BLUE PEACE FRAMEWORK**

COMMUNICATION

- Presented directly to PMO in India and Bangladesh as well as to MPs from all major parties in both countries
- Joint Op-Ed in leading newspapers in India and Bangladesh in English and Bangla as well
- 100s of articles covered both the meeting in July 2013 and the 3-D formula

KEY MESSAGES AND LESSONS

- Re-vamping of JRC and addition of arbitration clause
- Water-for-peace is a potential and viable trade-off in TWC
- Looking beyond water-for-water to climate change, economy, migration and health
- Most Importantly – Creating Political Ownership of TWC to make it viable

The End



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