

Water as an entry point for peace mediation – Evaluation on Finnish water diplomacy

Presentation of conclusions and recommendations

Public Webinar

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Introduction

Realisation

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Team

Rens de Man - Team Leader

Hannu Vikman - Senior Evaluator

Imeru Tamrat - Country Specialist

Kim Geheb – Country Specialist

Saila Toikka - Emerging Evaluator

Evaluation management services and quality assurance

Pirkko Poutiainen

Petra Mikkolainen

Roosa Tuomaala

Focus

- The study focused on the degree to which **strategic coordination of resources and activities** supported the prevention or mitigation of water-related tensions in the past Finnish cooperation.
- For this purpose, the evaluation analysed past Finnish activities in the:
 - Mekong basin (1987-2015)
 - Nile basin (2001-2015)
 - Finnish-Russian cooperation (1961-today)
 - Finnish activities under the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Water Convention (1992-today).



Methodology



(The numbers correspond to the original objectives)

What is water diplomacy?

- ***Water is an entry point for peace mediation in complex conflicts*** that may and should relate to other issue areas such as energy security, navigation, boundary disputes, migration, livelihood security, identity politics, and so forth.



Source: Flickr vgm8383

Findings & Conclusions

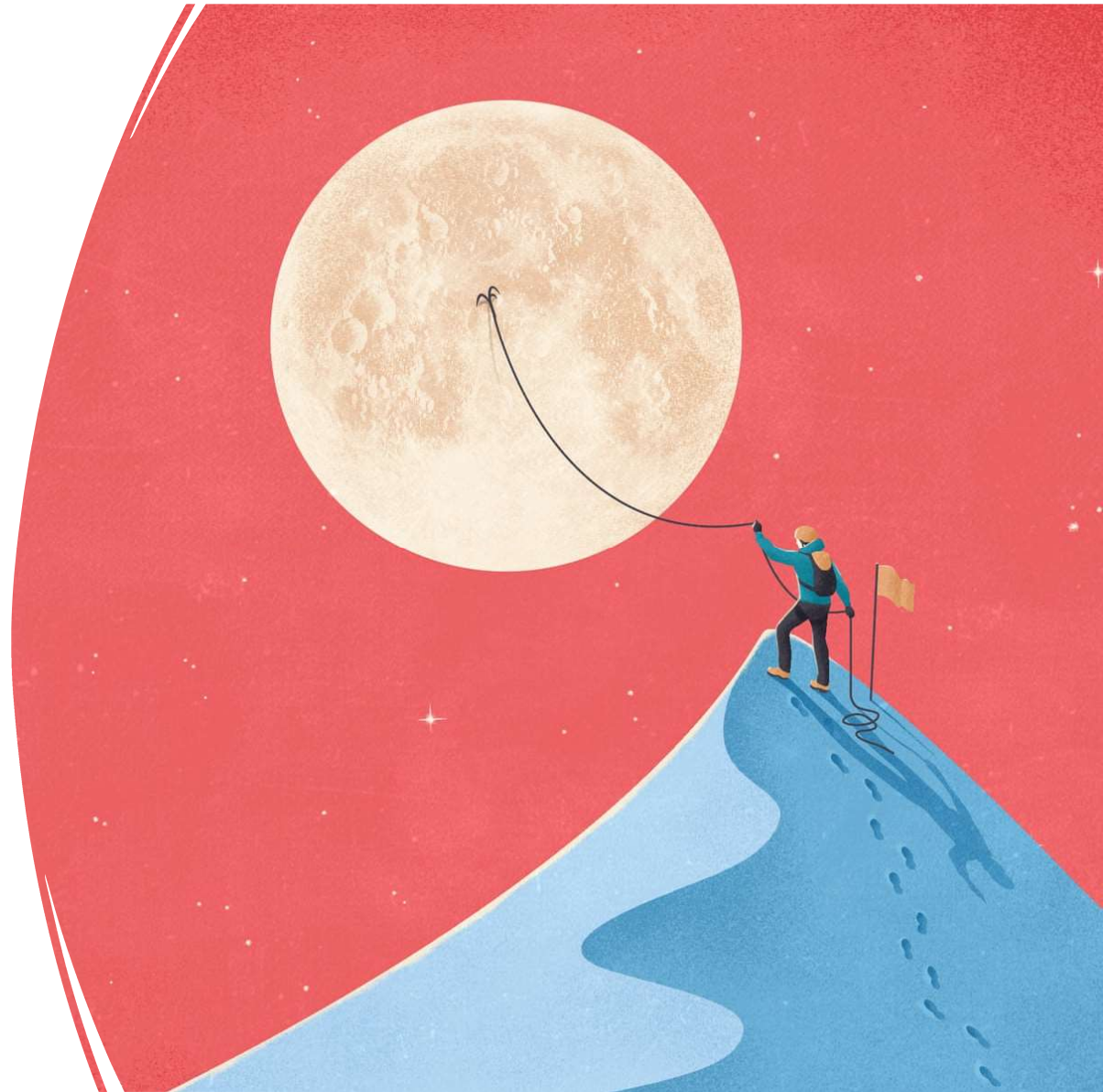
Past achievements

- The evaluation shows that Finland's engagement in the Mekong and Nile basin was based on strategic motives, such as promoting regional integration.
- However, the intent didn't materialise
- Within the international domain Finland continues to demonstrate its ability to adequately respond to water-related tensions



Ambition is present

- There is a strong motivation within MFA to establish internationally respected Finnish water diplomacy.
- Through joint learning sessions a preliminary but strong ambition was identified



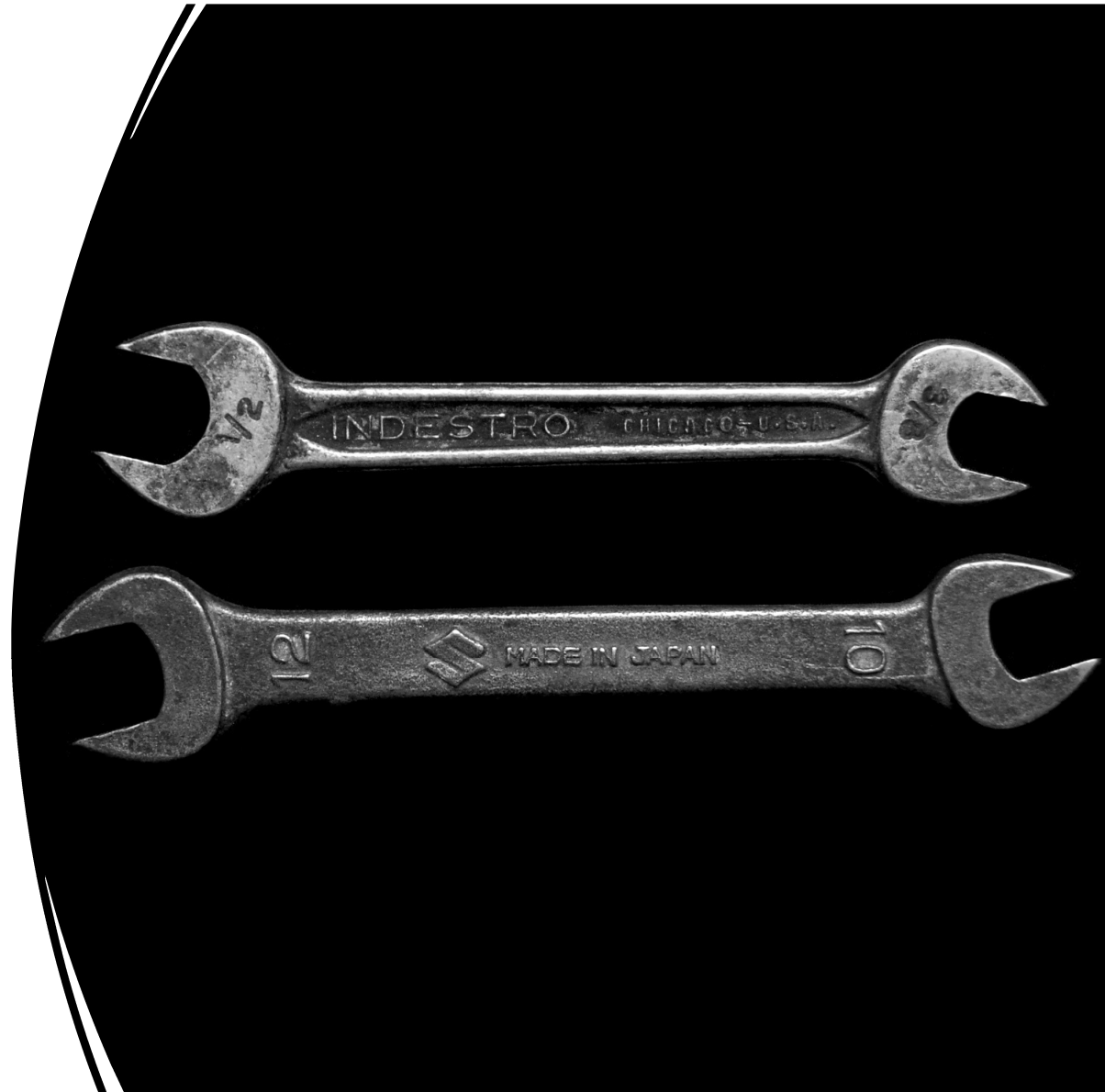
Niche & Focus

- Finland is not recognised as an important player with a specific niche in water diplomacy as the ambition of the MFA and its focus is not yet clear.
- MFA needs to choose possible engagements strategically given resource constraints.



The ambition requires operationalisation

- Coherency, consistency, commitment and continuity is required for future activities.
- Insufficient clarity about responsibilities and coordination limits the effectiveness of responses to support short and long-term support requests.



The Water Diplomacy Network is a key strength

- Research institutions and civil society organisations are the backbone of the ambition of the key ministries to further water diplomacy.



Future possibilities

- Finland is well-positioned to become a leader in international water diplomacy in the near future.
- Many opportunities to contribute to water diplomacy are available



Recommendations

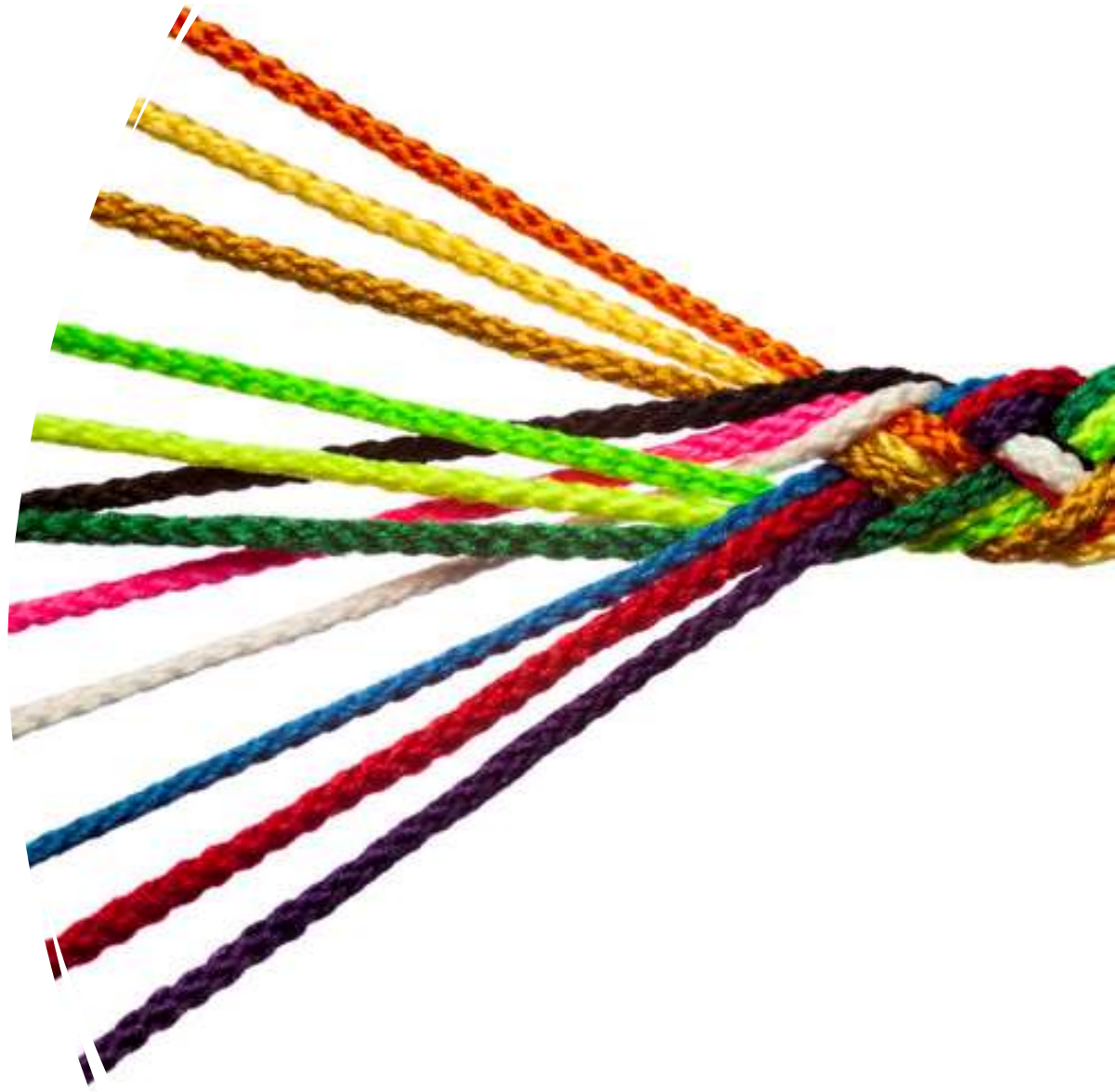
Ambition

1. Decide on the **ambition level**
2. Steering group needs to **provide direction to the long-term development** of Finnish water diplomacy
3. **Operationalise the responsibilities**



Capacity development

4. Setup **supporting arrangements for ad-hoc activities**
5. Strengthen the **capacity of the MFA and its partners**
6. Invest in a **mutually beneficial partnership** with Finnish partners



Resources and policy embedding

7. Use the possibilities of the budget process and medium-term operational and economic planning to ensure long-term funding and commitment.
8. Treat water diplomacy as an approach that provides entry points and levers in complex nexus/climate-related conflicts.



Knowledge, information and organisation

9. Finland should **identify networks and key organisations on the ground** and procure the knowledge needed to support its water diplomacy effectively.
10. Dedicate staff at key positions to **keep track of critical water-related dossiers** and **develop close relations** with essential research, civil society partners, and sector representatives.



New activities, niche and joint learning

11. Build on the **existing Finnish activities**.
12. Identify **new long-term engagements** in support of diplomatic objectives.
13. Identify the **Finnish niche** and develop the niche by targeted communication and by leading the international community.
14. Set up a **joint learning programme for staff, partners and decision-makers** through the Centre for Peace Mediation to support adaptive management.



Questions and panel discussion