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# Governance of a Transboundary River

The Rhône

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## Praise for *Governance of a Transboundary River*

“This book addresses a less well-understood yet crucially important case of conflict and cooperation over shared water resources in Europe and provides highly relevant insights for scholars and water managers alike - in Europe and beyond.”

—Dr. Susanne Schmeier, *IHE Delft Institute for Water Education,  
The Netherlands*

“*Governance of a Transboundary River* is an assiduously researched and expertly argued intervention into the deepening conversations over transboundary river governance in a rapidly changing world. Using Europe’s highly altered Rhône River basin as the central case, the authors combine an insightful framework for assessing current and future transboundary governance arrangements with a keen understanding of how these arrangements have been shaped through a variety of historical processes. Bréthaut and Pflieger are especially deft at bringing to life the biophysical processes—sediment transport and river flows—that are too often neglected in accounts of transboundary governance. Scholars and practitioners of water-society relations will discover a

compelling account of the contemporary state of transboundary river governance and, more importantly, the various governance futures that hinge on the complex circumstances and decisions of today.”

—Prof. Chris Sneddon, *Dartmouth College, USA*

“How does the transboundary governance of a river like the Rhône change over time? Bréthaut and Pflieger’s book answers this question in a highly systematic fashion, covering the socio-history, assessment of regulatory and coordinating mechanisms as well as analysis of key actors. This book, *Governance of a Transboundary River: The Rhône* is the most up-to-date and comprehensive analysis of the institutional features of this complex river with increasingly competing interests of water use. In addition, Bréthaut and Pflieger reveal intriguing paradoxes of the current governance, which is fragmented and polycentric. Their suggestions of possible future trajectories will be of great interest to all those keen to find alternatives and see more diverse ways of doing transboundary river governance.”

—Dr. Naho Mirumachi, *King’s College London, UK*

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# Acronyms

ASN	Nuclear Safety Authority (France)
BC Hydro	British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority (Canada)
CIPEL	International Commission for the Protection of Lake Geneva
CNR	Compagnie Nationale du Rhône (France)
COGEFE	Geneva Committee for the Use of the Eco–Electricity Fund (Switzerland)
DETEC	Federal Department of the Environment, Transport, Energy and Communications (Switzerland)
DREAL	Regional Directorate for Environment, Spatial Development and Housing (France)
EDC	European Danube Commission
EDF	Electricité de France
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EU	European Union
FRS	Functional Regulatory Space
GCN	Lake Geneva General Navigation Company
GWP	Global Water Partnership
ICPDR	International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River
ICPR	International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine

ICREP	International Commission on the Use of Rhône Waters for Energy Production (fictional)
IDC	International Danube Commission
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IWRM	Integrated Water Resource Management
LFH	Federal Law on the Use of Water Power (Switzerland)
MASL	Metres Above Sea Level
MISE	Inter-Agency Water Task Force (France)
NPP	Nuclear Power Plant
NWD	United States Army Corps of Engineers Northwestern Division
OFEN	Federal Office of Energy (Switzerland)
OFEV	Federal Office for the Environment (Switzerland)
ONEMA	National Agency for Water Biodiversity (France)
PLAGEPOMI	Migratory Fish Management Plan
RBO	River Basin Organization
SAGE	Local Water Development and Management Schemes (Schéma d'Aménagement et de Gestion des Eaux)
SDAGE	Water Development and Management Master Plans (Schéma directeur d'aménagement et de gestion des eaux)
SFMCPSA	Société des Forces Motrices de Chancy-Pouigny
SIG	Services Industriels de Genève
SMHAR	Rhône Regional Association for Agricultural Water Use
SWOT	Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats
UN	United Nations
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
VUE	Association for Environmentally Sound Energy
WFD	Water Framework Directive (European Union)
WPA	Water Protection Act (Switzerland)
WPO	Water Protection Ordinance (Switzerland)
ZABR	Zone Atelier Bassin du Rhône

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