Produced by the UN-Water Decade Programme on Advocacy and Communication (UNW-DPAC), every two months this review brings you the latest publications produced by United Nations agencies and programmes on issues related to water and sanitation. Publications presented here in alphabetical order are freely accessible from the web.

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A Decade for Water, a Decade for Life

**Advancing Agroforestry on the Policy Agenda. A guide for decision-makers**

*Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). February 2013
http://bit.ly/WymirR*

Agroforestry sustains livelihoods, alleviates poverty and promotes productive, resilient agricultural environments. In addition, when practised at scale, it can enhance ecosystems through carbon storage, prevention of deforestation, biodiversity conservation, cleaner water and erosion control while enabling agricultural lands to withstand events such as floods, drought and climate change. The guidelines presented in this report are aimed primarily at all those involved in making policies at national and regional levels, such as decision-makers, civil servants and key policy advisors. Their function is to support increased recognition of agroforestry benefits, facilitate the development of policies promoting agroforestry systems and educate those that constrain agroforestry at the national level. The guidelines present a set of principles rather than prescribed methods. They advise how to integrate agroforestry into policies, particularly helping countries to formulate policies for their specific conditions. They provide examples of good practices and success stories, as well as lessons learned from challenges and failures. They are designed as an entry point for policy creation or change. In cases where agroforestry policy is completely absent, they can assist in creating awareness of agroforestry systems and show how, through innovative policy design taking trees, crops and animal production into account, policy issues can be addressed. In other cases, where agroforestry is recognized in policy frameworks, the guidelines can assist in improving the economic, social and policy context, so that incentives for practising agroforestry are strengthened.

**Africa Environment Outlook-3. Our Environment, Our Health. Summary for policy makers**

*United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). February 2013
http://bit.ly/YlKVW0
In French: http://bit.ly/16DVZVn*

The Africa Environment Outlook (AEO) is a tool of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) for monitoring environmental management in Africa. This issue (AEO-3) focuses on the linkages between environment and health. The AEO-3 report begins by highlighting the major drivers of environmental change in Africa and their implications for human health. It also assesses environment and health linkages in the region by focusing on seven priority themes: air quality; biodiversity; chemicals and waste; climate change and variability; coastal and marine resources; freshwater and sanitation; and land. In addition, the report contains a scenario analysis and teases out a series of policy directions. Based on the findings of the thematic assessments and scenario analysis, the report concludes by setting forth transformative policy directions to ensure a sustainable future.
Asian Development Bank (ADB). March 2013

This second edition of the Asian Water Development Outlook (AWDO) provides a quantitative and comprehensive view of water security in the countries of Asia and the Pacific. By focusing on critical water issues, AWDO 2013 provides finance and planning leaders with recommendations on policy actions to improve water governance and guidance on investments to increase their country’s water security. AWDO 2013 is presented in three parts.

- Part I introduces the five key dimensions of water security and presents the combination of indicators for assessment of national water security. The assessments for individual countries are aggregated to provide regional snapshots, with overviews of what the findings mean, identifying regional issues and hot spots where urgent action is required to improve water security.
- Part II applies the indicators to demonstrate how countries in Asia and the Pacific measure up against the AWDO vision of water security, discusses what is at stake, and introduces policy levers that may be used to increase security in each key dimension. It summarizes a series of background papers and analyses that underpin this edition of AWDO.
- Part III presents a summary of policy and strategic actions to increase water security, synthesized as key messages to assist political, water sector, and civil society leaders guide actions on water security nationally, in river basins, and in communities.

Block Mapping Procedures. Volume 3
UN-Habitat. January 2013

This manual is part of a Utility Management Series for Small Towns. It can be used either as a training module to support the delivery of capacity building programmes in utility management and operations or as a reference manual to guide operations and maintenance staff in designing and implementing programmes in Block Mapping. The Manual introduces the concept and procedure of “Block mapping”, which aims at subdividing the water and sewerage services area so that developments and services can be clearly mapped.

Community-Based Landslide Risk Reduction: Managing Disasters in Small Steps
World Bank. January 2013

This book has two main aims: to demonstrate to international development agencies, governments, policy makers, project managers, practitioners, and community residents that landslide hazard can often be reduced in vulnerable urban communities in the developing world, and to provide practical guidance for those in charge of delivering Management of Slope Stability in Communities (MoSSaiC) on the ground. The purpose of the book is to take readers into the most vulnerable communities in order to understand and address rainfall-triggered landslide hazards in these areas. This book standardizes those elements of MoSSaiC that have led to its successful implementation in the Eastern Caribbean, and that are essential to the overall objectives (such as community engagement, mapping localized slope features, and broad drainage design principles). The book’s nine chapters provide guidance to project managers and practitioners on the entire end-to-end process of community-based landslide risk reduction.
Conjunctive use and management of groundwater and surface water
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Global Environment Facility (GEF), International Association of Hydrologists (IAH), UNESCO-International Hydrological Programme (IHP), World Bank. 2012

Conjunctive use of groundwater and surface water in an irrigation setting is the process of using water from the two different sources for consumptive purposes. The planned conjunctive use of groundwater and surface water has the potential to offer benefits in terms of economic and social outcomes through significantly increased water use efficiency. This paper explores the reasons underpinning the apparent poor approach to full integration in the management and use of both water sources, and the absence of more coordinated planning. This paper is intended to provide insight into these barriers to adoption and hence provide a new focus on an old paradigm; a focus intended to make progress with the objective of improved water management and water use efficiency and so support longer term outcomes in the form of improved food security in critical parts of the world.

Costs of Inaction on the Sound Management of Chemicals

Harmful chemicals damage the environment, thus impairing its ability to provide environmental goods (such as food and water) and ecosystem services (such as air and water purification). This document provides a practical assessment of the current state of knowledge of the economic costs of inaction on the sound management of chemicals. It aims to raise political awareness of the benefits stated in economic terms of providing resources to sound management of chemicals and to strengthen the rationale for inclusion of sound chemicals management priorities into national development policies and plans. It also aspires to build capacity for ongoing assessment at international, national, and local levels through demonstration and practical application of proven techniques. The report includes an extensive literary review in order to identify economic information on the health, environmental, and development planning effects of harmful chemicals. Chemicals reviewed within the scope of study include industrial, minerals and metals, agricultural, household chemicals and pharmaceuticals among others.

Customer Services User manual. Volume 2
UN-Habitat. January 2013
http://bit.ly/149gMR0

This manual is part of a Utility Management Series for Small Towns. Water Utilities’ Customer Service is one of the key commercial functions in any Utility. The responsibility of customer service unit lies with the Head of the Commercial department who is the overall supervisor of the customer service activities. The Lake Victoria Region Water and Sanitation Initiative has provided many useful lessons on the importance of a customer service unit in an organizational structural set-up, the appropriate office set-up framework for customer service, and the staffing as it is used as an example. This manual also provides comprehensive guiding principles governing customer service along with the attendant codes of practice and procedures for effective customer service. Finally it outlines strategies of how to implement Customer service policy.
Deforestation Trends in the Congo Basin: Reconciling Economic Growth and Forest Protection
World Bank. February 2013
http://bit.ly/1SuRy78
In French:
http://bit.ly/1mpMBY

This study analyzes the current and future pressures exerted by different sectors of the economy on Congo Basin forests, and highlights policy options to limit deforestation while pursuing inclusive, green growth. Emerging environmental finance mechanisms, such as reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+) under the climate change negotiations, may provide additional resources to help countries protect their forests. The structure of this report is as follows:

- Chapter 1 gives an overview of the forests of the Congo Basin, including an analysis of the historical trends of deforestation and forest degradation;
- Chapter 2 presents the dynamics of deforestation and summarizes the results of a sector-by-sector analysis of significant drivers of deforestation in the Basin, including agriculture, logging, energy, transportation, and mining;
- Chapter 3 provides an update on the state of negotiations under the UNFCCC on REDD+ and implications for Congo Basin countries—covering, in particular, some of the key opportunities as well as the challenges for “high forest cover, low deforestation” countries. The chapter builds on the analysis of the previous chapters and recommends priority activities for Basin countries in order to address the current and future drivers of deforestation.

Disaster risk reduction in school curricula: Case studies from thirty countries

This publication captures key national experiences in the integration of disaster risk reduction (DRR) in school curricula, identifying good practice, noting issues addressed or still lacking, and reviewing learning outcomes. The study researched DRR related curriculum development and integration, pedagogy, student assessment, teacher professional development and guidance, learning outcomes and policy development, planning and implementation aspects covering thirty countries. Floods and droughts are among the water-related disasters addressed in the report.

UN-Habitat. January 2013

This manual is part of a Utility Management Series for Small Towns. This volume is intended to provide guidance to those engaged in execution of finance and accounts function in water utilities for systematic and consistency in their financial work. The manual comprises of methods and measurers adopted by a utility to safeguard its assets, secure the accuracy and reliability of its accounting data and promote operational efficiency. The manual also provides an introduction to finance policies and procedures, role of key officers in financing and accounting functions, how to budget and dealing with various financial transactions. Demonstrates how internal accounting control extends beyond internal checking, internal audit and other matters relating directly to the accounting functions.
Governance of the subsurface and groundwater frontier

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Global Environment Facility (GEF), International Association of Hydrologists (IAH), UNESCO-International Hydrological Programme (IHP), World Bank. June 2012
http://bit.ly/Yt4Sul

This Thematic Paper focuses on the conventional and non-conventional use of aquifers, encroachment into the subsurface space and the evolution of groundwater “frontiers” to the extent that they impact aquifers and pose new challenges for groundwater governance. Some uses of underground space, such as mining, are not new, but the scale and intensity of mining activity and the environmental consequence of groundwater recovery in abandoned mines are such that groundwater legislation is having to “catch up”. The same applies to the controversial use of hydrofracturing (or “fracking”) to capture shale gas. Groundwater protection forms the main governance concern when abstracting water, gas and oil resources and when using wells to inject fluids into underground formations. The approach of this paper is to consider the range of cases the underground space is being used, establish a geographical distribution and geological setting of the resource, as well as a timeline covering its exploitation and the necessary legislation to control the beneficial or detrimental impacts of developments.

Groundwater Governance. Synthesis of Thematic Papers/Case Studies. Preparing the ground for Regional Consultations and Global Diagnostic Report

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Global Environment Facility (GEF), International Association of Hydrologists (IAH), UNESCO-International Hydrological Programme (IHP), World Bank. April 2012

This document synthesizes the 12 thematic papers and case studies prepared by the Groundwater Governance project in an effort to review the global situation of groundwater governance and develop a Global Groundwater Diagnostic. This diagnostic presents current knowledge and experience concerning key economic, policy, institutional, environmental and technical aspects of groundwater management, and addresses emerging issues and innovative approaches.

Groundwater Policy and Governance

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Global Environment Facility (GEF), International Association of Hydrologists (IAH), UNESCO-International Hydrological Programme (IHP), World Bank. June 2012

This paper starts by pointing to the large, remaining gaps in our understanding of how water is an integral part of society and its relationship to the planet’s environment. It recognizes that, at their root, all modes of tapping, distributing, and managing water supplies are the result of organized human effort, usually achieved through institutions. The authors address the role of governance of subsurface water, which according to many practitioners and observers remains largely uncharted, incompletely assessed, and notably uncertain and complex.
How Much International Variation in Child Height Can Sanitation Explain?
World Bank. February 2013

This paper documents the cross-country gradient between sanitation and child height that can statistically explain a large fraction of international height differences. It also documents the interaction between sanitation and population density, and contributes to a resolution of the puzzle of the “Asian enigma” of Indian stunting, which has received much recent attention from economists. Three sections of the paper contribute complementary analyses of the relationship between height and open defecation, each focusing on a different dimension of heterogeneity.

Integrated Environmental Assessment of Agricultural and Farming Production Systems in the Toledo River Basin (Brazil)
UNESCO-IHP. January 2013
http://bit.ly/14dTITg

This study aims at performing an integrated environmental assessment of agricultural and farming production systems located in the Toledo River Basin (Paraná State, Brazil). Water, material, energy, and money resources invested in supporting such production systems were evaluated with the final goal of calculating a large set of multi-criteria indicators useful to describe the environmental performance and sustainability of the production systems at farm and basin level. Finally, three alternative scenarios are drawn to explore the sustainable use of resources according to different land uses, production levels, and management practices, paying special attention to water use.

Leakage Control Manual. Volume 5
UN-Habitat. January 2013

This manual is part of a Utility Management Series for Small Towns. It describes the objectives and functioning of a leakage control programme. The objectives of a Leak detection Programme (LRP) are: i. To reduce physical water losses through proactive visible-leak search campaigns and pressure regulation in all zones; ii. To reduce physical losses through prompt leak repairs in the entire water supply system / network. The manual is divided into four chapters:

• Chapter one entails the background, scope and objectives of the manual;
• Chapter two entails useful literature about leaks;
• Chapter three describes the set up of the leak reduction unit and details the operating procedures;
• Chapter four highlights the logistics required for implementation, including the human resource, skills and activities of the responsible leak detection team.
Legal and institutional frameworks
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Global Environment Facility (GEF), International Association of Hydrologists (IAH), UNESCO-International Hydrological Programme (IHP), World Bank. June 2012

Whereas day to day management of groundwater resources takes place within the national sphere, and often at local level, domestic regulatory systems cannot be seen in isolation from international legal frameworks when transboundary aquifers are concerned. In that case international law determines states’ rights and obligations to which domestic law has to be made compatible. The legal framework for groundwater management should provide answers to key questions such as, who can access groundwater, where, for which purposes and under which conditions? How are aquifers protected against depletion and pollution? According to which criteria are the finite resources of non-recharging aquifers to be allocated and protected? Which kind of monitoring and planning tools have to be used? How will private and public interest be balanced and how get stakeholders involved in decision making and management processes? These are some of the questions this report tries to respond.

Management of aquifer recharge and discharge processes and aquifer storage equilibrium
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Global Environment Facility (GEF), International Association of Hydrologists (IAH), UNESCO-International Hydrological Programme (IHP), World Bank. 2012

This paper draws attention to case studies from a range of hydro-geological, climatic and societal settings where innovative management has been successful in reversing groundwater storage declines (or increases). Informing and engaging stakeholders in governance has resulted in more resilient outcomes that take better account of local needs. Importantly, in many settings local action by motivated communities has run ahead of state and national policies and been highly effective in managing groundwater storage, increasing farm incomes and protecting the environment.

Reduction of Illegal Water. Volume 6
UN-Habitat. January 2013

This manual is part of a Utility Management Series for Small Towns. This manual covers all the different categories of illegal connections normally found in consumer premises and the procedures/guidelines for their investigations and identification. The manual is divided into four chapters:

- Chapter one entails the background, rational, scope and objectives of the manual;
- Chapter two discusses the operating procedures which is the main purpose of this manual;
- Chapter three entails the key result areas and the performance indicators that help the management to set realistic targets for the implementing team, and aid decision making as well;
- Chapter four details the logistics required for implementation, this also includes the human resource, equipment and or skills and abilities required for the key team.
Social adoption of groundwater pumping technology and the development of groundwater cultures. Governance at the point of abstraction

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Global Environment Facility (GEF), International Association of Hydrologists (IAH), UNESCO-International Hydrological Programme (IHP), World Bank. January 2012

This thematic paper examines the historic and ongoing development of water lifting technologies and the governance problems and solutions that have arisen from controlled or uncontrolled groundwater abstraction. It also examines legislation to improved pump efficiency and the economics and life cycle costing of borehole pumps.


Two years into the conflict in Syria, children are paying the heaviest price. The affected population estimates made in late 2012 speak for themselves: of the 4 million affected people inside Syria, almost 2 million are children, and of the 2 million displaced, 800,000 are children. Basic infrastructure and public services are being systematically destroyed. Water availability is a third of what it was before the crisis. Children and women in shelters are more exposed to unsanitary conditions, including unsafe drinking water and a lack of water for personal hygiene, placing them at further risk of water-borne diseases. This document summarizes funding needs and UNICEF and partners response to date.

Trends in groundwater pollution: loss of groundwater quality and related aquifers services

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Global Environment Facility (GEF), International Association of Hydrologists (IAH), UNESCO-International Hydrological Programme (IHP), World Bank. 2012

The purpose of this Thematic Paper is to review the trends in groundwater quality and pollution, taking into account the physical, environmental, institutional and social actors involved in groundwater quality governance. The final goal is to diagnose historical and current issues related to groundwater use under the threat of pollution, and to identify prospects for improved and sustainable aquifer governance through prevention and mitigation of the factors that may impact water quality.
Trends in local groundwater management institutions
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Global Environment Facility (GEF), International Association of Hydrologists (IAH), UNESCO-International Hydrological Programme (IHP), World Bank. 2012
http://bit.ly/Yt5L69

This brief account of groundwater institutions attempts to point to the discernible trends in the evolution of local groundwater management institutions and their effectiveness in sustaining the practice of groundwater use. It looks at the scope for securing benefits through improved governance within institutional arrangements and examines the prospects for implementing such improvement. This Technical Paper is organized in three parts:

- Part 1 (Baseline) presents a broad overview of the types of local groundwater institutions and identifies a set of key drivers for such local organization around groundwater;
- Part 2 (Diagnostic) provides a review of the most relevant constraints to and opportunities for improving governance at local scales and addresses a few specific issues;
- Part 3 (Prospects) attempts to identify where positive responses are likely to be deployed with most effect.

TUNZA Acting for a Better World: GEO-5 for Youth
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). February 2013

This publication incorporates key findings from the UNEP Global Environment Outlook (GEO-5) in order to equip young readers with the latest science-based information on the current state of the global environment, including water, climate change, air quality, biodiversity, land use, and other areas. Chapter 5 focuses on water issues and suggests different ways youth can make a difference.

TUNZA magazine: Freshwater
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). February 2013
http://bit.ly/11j7fCq

At the start of 2013, International Year of Water Cooperation, the February issue of Tunza magazine, the UNEP magazine for youth, focuses on freshwater issues.
UN system task team on the post-2015 UN development agenda: building resilience to disasters through partnerships


This paper outlines the modus operandi of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction partnership in working with and empowering stakeholders to build partnerships and political legitimacy for international agreements in the context of disaster risk reduction. With this approach the paper refers to the directions outlined in the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005–2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters. It calls for localising and leveraging partnerships for risk reduction and asserts that the strength of the Hyogo Framework for Action is the ability to influence and guide diverse groups and generate partnerships amongst a wide variety of stakeholders (not just national governments) including local government representatives, science and technology institutions, parliamentarians, interest groups and community practitioners, the private sector, and media.

Urban-rural tensions and opportunities for co-management

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Global Environment Facility (GEF), International Association of Hydrologists (IAH), UNESCO-International Hydrological Programme (IHP), World Bank. 2012

This thematic paper examines urban-rural tensions and opportunities for co-management. It provides a macro view of how urban-rural tensions develop in various domains and how the development of appropriate structures of governance can reduce conflicts and eliminate, or at least ameliorate, the problem.

Water Audit Manual. Volume 4
UN-Habitat. January 2013
http://bit.ly/Y0V8L9

This manual is part of a Utility Management Series for Small Towns. The Water Audit manual gives guidance on all aspects from when water gets to the distribution system to when water finally gets to the consumer. The scope of this water balance manual covers all aspects from the water supplied to the distribution system as well as water losses and/or used with the distribution system and what eventually reaches to the customer's premises and is billed/converted into revenue for the utility. The manual covers the procedures for determination of the various components of the water balance.
Established in November 2006, the Water Financing Partnership Facility (WFPF) aims to provide additional financial and knowledge resources from development partners to support the implementation of Asian Development Bank’s (ADB) Water Financing Program and help achieve the Program’s targeted outcomes. This Annual Report covers the period January to December 2012 and presents the performance for the year against the annual work program.

This handbook is one third of a water safety plan (WSP) training package. It accompanies the WSP training workbook and WSP training PowerPoint presentations. The handbook is designed to be used by professional and non-professional trainers, who should have prior knowledge and understanding of WSPs, and who are facilitating WSP training based on the 2009 WSP manual of the International Water Association (IWA) and the World Health Organization (WHO). The training is targeted at all professionals involved in the management of drinking-water safety. The handbook is divided into three parts:

- Part 1 – Overview of the training approach, training structure and mode of training assessment
- Part 2 – Module learning material, which includes module objectives, delivery information, key points and exercises
- Part 3 – How the material can be adapted to different utility contexts

This workbook is designed to be used by participants attending a water safety plan (WSP) training workshop that has been organized around the materials developed by the International Water Association (IWA) and World Health Organization (WHO). The learning material included in this workbook relates explicitly to the theory sessions that will be presented and the designed exercises. It therefore cannot be used as a standalone document to train people on all WSP aspects.

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