

Bimonthly Publications Review

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

Issue 24, October 2014

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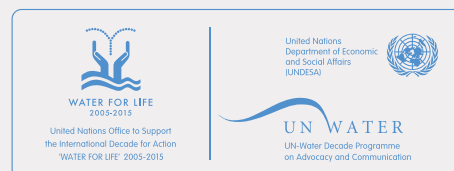
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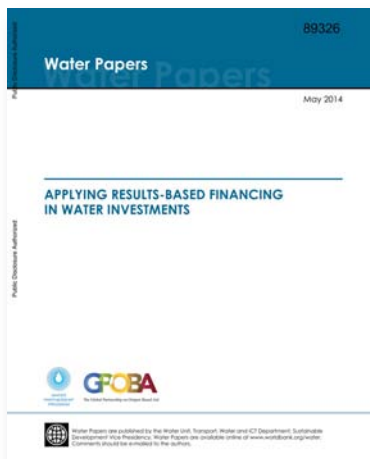
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A Decade for Water, a Decade for Life

United Nations Office to Support
the International Decade for Action
'Water for Life' 2005-2015



Latest publications



Applying results-based financing in water investments

World Bank Water and Sanitation Program (WSP). May 2014

<http://bit.ly/1sXCtMb>

This document is intended to contribute to a better understanding of Results-Based Financing (RBF) instruments and the conditions for success or failure of the approach in water. Given the broad variety of issues covered and the complexity faced by the water sector as a whole (from irrigation to flood protection, to water conservation and hydropower), concrete examples are provided in an attempt to make the document as practical as possible in guiding the design of future RBF schemes. Chapter 2 provides an analytical framework to explore if and when RBF can be a viable option; Chapter 3 then revises the concepts discussed in the analytical framework through the analysis of various case studies of RBF approaches in different water-related areas; Chapter 4 presents some conclusions and lessons learned.

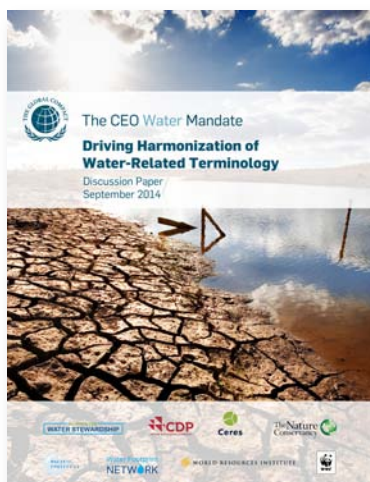


Corporate Water Disclosure Guidelines. Toward a Common Approach to Reporting Water Issues

United Nations Global Compact, Pacific Institute. September 2014

<http://bit.ly/1xloRsi>

These Corporate Water Disclosure Guidelines seek to advance a common approach to corporate water disclosure that addresses the complexity and local nature of water resources. In order to achieve this overarching goal, the Guidelines: (1) identify common corporate water disclosure metrics that support harmonization and comparability over time and across companies; (2) provide guidance on how companies can assess the water-related topics that are the most relevant to them and their stakeholders (as well as how to report this assessment process); (3) describe how companies can best report activities that are difficult to depict quantitatively, such as policy advocacy or engagement with nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), governments, suppliers, and communities; (4) align corporate water management with disclosure so as to enable companies to understand which information is most appropriate to report and how to generate water disclosure content. After an introductory chapter, the guidelines are divided into four sections: Section 2 'Aligning Disclosure with Corporate Water Management Practices' discusses the processes that underpin a company's water disclosure; Section 3 'Company Water Profile' describes how a company can offer a snapshot of its water management that a broad spectrum of audiences will easily understand; Section 4 'Defining What to Report' provides guidance on how companies can determine what water-related topics are relevant to the company and its stakeholders and what information is material to report, as well as how companies can report this process itself; Section 5 'Detailed Disclosure' provides in-depth guidance on the specific types of information that can be included in corporate water disclosures and discusses how companies can structure this information in a coherent manner.



Driving Harmonization of Water-Related Terminology. Discussion paper

United Nations Global Compact, Pacific Institute. September 2014

<http://bit.ly/1ERKYhm>

This discussion paper seeks to assert common definitions for water-related terminology. The paper summarizes key outcomes from a dialogue process through which participant organizations sought to work toward a mutual understanding on key questions such as: (1) Do "scarcity", "stress", and "risk" refer to three distinct, useful concepts in the context of corporate water stewardship?; (2) What specifically is meant by each term? How do organizations conceive of them differently?; (3) How do these terms relate to one another?; (4) How can these terms be used in practice? For what purposes may these terms not be appropriate or useful?

Envisioning a World Free of Water Problems. UNU-INWEH's 5-Year Strategic Plan - 2015-2019

United Nations University Institute for Water, Environment and Health (UNU-INWEH)

<http://bit.ly/1uyDM8V>

This document sets forth a summary of UNU-INWEH's strategy for addressing key global water challenges. The new approach focuses on knowledge exchange through research and strategic partnerships with universities and the private sector as key components. The plan presents the strategic priorities for 2015-2019, with a revamped organizational design and business model aimed at strengthening institutional capacity and impact over the next five years. Specific action items and estimated timelines (starting August 2014) for their completion are identified for each area.



Exploring the Business Case for Corporate Action on Sanitation. White paper

United Nations Global Compact, Pacific Institute. September 2014

<http://bit.ly/1xlphz4>

This white paper explores why action on sanitation is a moral imperative for companies around the world, and why there is also a good business case for making it so. It discusses the business risks resulting from a lack of sanitation, and the business opportunities and benefits offered by sanitation interventions. The paper focuses on unpacking the business drivers for action on sanitation as well as on presenting a framework for how companies can support sanitation objectives.

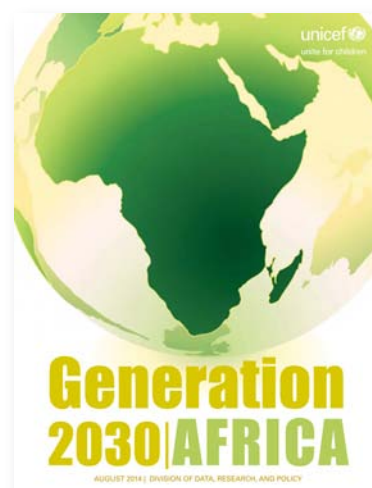


Generation 2030 | Africa. Child demographics in Africa

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). August 2014

<http://bit.ly/1uF5uR8>

This report, focusing exclusively on Africa, has two key components. Chapter 1 provides an in-depth analysis of child demographic trends in Africa, for the region as a whole, by subregion, and country-by-country, and contextualizes some of these trends. Chapter 2 seeks to raise some key policy questions on the implications of Africa's child demographics for the continent itself and for the world. It addresses the fact that parts of Africa already face considerable shortages of vital services and resources such as water, food and energy.



Latest publications

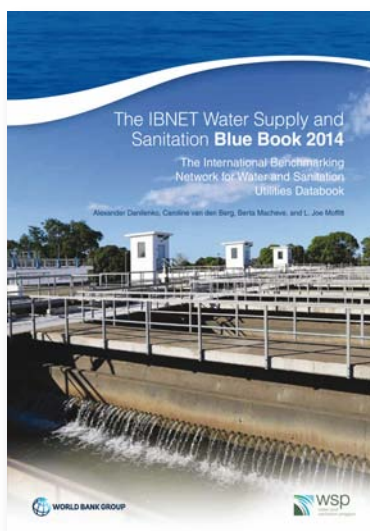


Green infrastructure. Guide for water management. Ecosystem-based management approaches for water-related infrastructure projects

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN), The Nature Conservancy (TNC), World Resources Institute (WRI). September 2014

<http://bit.ly/1qP7jWw>

The Green Infrastructure approach refers to the natural or semi-natural systems that provide services for water resources management with equivalent or similar benefits to conventional (built) “grey” water infrastructure. This guide addresses one of the main barriers to widespread adoption of Green Infrastructure (GI) solutions: a general lack of awareness of the solutions and associated cost benefits. The case studies in this guide provide examples of GI options that address water management challenges, while delivering a number of significant co-benefits. These include reforestation and afforestation, wetland conservation and construction, levee setbacks, flood bypasses and coastal protection, as well as a number of urban oriented options such as green roofs and permeable pavements. The guide also includes an outline methodology for water management options assessment comprised of a number of steps relating to definition of development objectives, specification of investment portfolios, modelling of environmental outcomes and economic evaluation, cost-benefit analysis, as well as risk and uncertainty analysis.

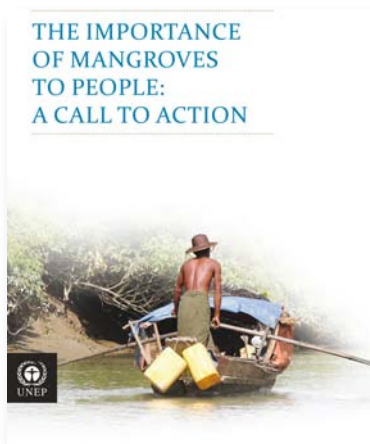


(The) IBNET Water Supply and Sanitation Blue Book 2014. The International Benchmarking Network for Water and Sanitation Utilities Databook

World Bank. August 2014

<http://bit.ly/1sZ2rPr>

The International Benchmarking Network for Water and Sanitation Utilities (IBNET) provides a set of tools that allows water and sanitation utilities to measure their performance both against their own past performance and against the performance of similar utilities at the national, regional, and global levels. The Blue Book is designed to raise awareness of how benchmarking and specifically IBNET tools can help enhance utility performance and thereby help to improve water and wastewater services. This issue summarizes water sector development in 2006–11, describing trends and monitoring effects of recent crises on utilities’ performance.



(The) Importance of Mangroves to People: A Call to Action

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). 2014

<http://bit.ly/14zBFrx>

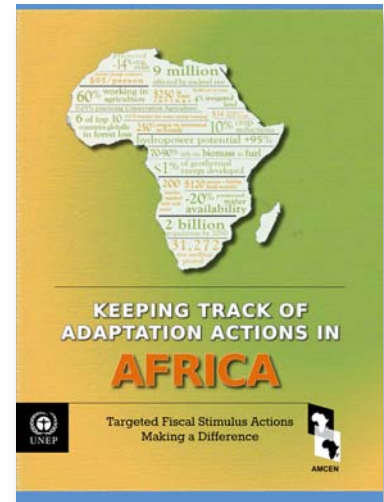
This publication provides a synthesis of the importance of tropical mangroves to people. It provides a range of policy and management interventions that can be used to better protect, sustainably use and restore mangroves to ensure they continue to support the people who have depended on them for generations. The document is divided into five thematic chapters, with several case studies that present local studies which support the chapter messages. Each chapter is led by key chapter messages and closes by recommending further (online) resources for policy makers. Chapter 1 provides an overview of global mangrove distribution as well as associated biodiversity and interconnectivity with adjacent ecosystems. Chapter 2 highlights the key ecosystem services that mangroves provide to people, and their link to human well-being. Chapter 3 presents an overview of the most significant drivers of mangrove loss, and presents an assessment of global mangrove losses through several regional change maps spanning the last two to three decades. Chapter 4 discusses the different management and policy options that are available to support mangrove conservation and sustainable management and restoration. Finally, Chapter 5 discusses the existing knowledge and data gaps and where research efforts should focus in order to gain a full understanding of the status and value of mangroves to people and the planet.

Keeping Track of Adaptation Actions in Africa. Targeted Fiscal Stimulus Actions Making a Difference

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). 2014

<http://bit.ly/1vkLHle>

Using projects conducted in various countries in sub-Saharan Africa, this publication shows, in myriad ways, the direct benefits of adaptation actions and their capability to provide transitional pathways to green growth and sustainable development. It also shows how concrete demonstration actions can provide solutions that can move countries and communities in Africa towards climate-resilient development. The first part of the booklet presents “snapshots” of the many elements of the climate change context (including water scarcity, agricultural production, deforestation and energy sources and uses). The second part talks about solutions to adapt to climate change. Pages 18-19 are dedicated to water, population and economic development linkages while page 20 focuses on sea level rise, drought and flooding.

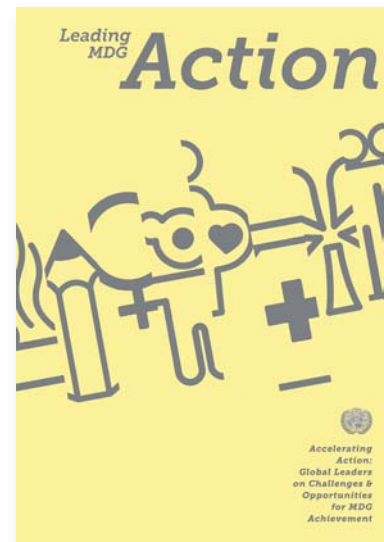


Leading MDG Action. Accelerating Action: Global Leaders on Challenges and Opportunities for MDG Achievement

United Nations. September 2014

<http://bit.ly/1t3UhnW>

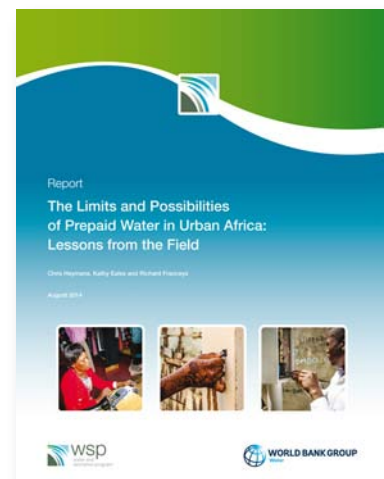
This report presents progress towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) with concrete examples from around the world. As a cross-cutting theme, water and sanitation issues are highlighted in different sections of the report.



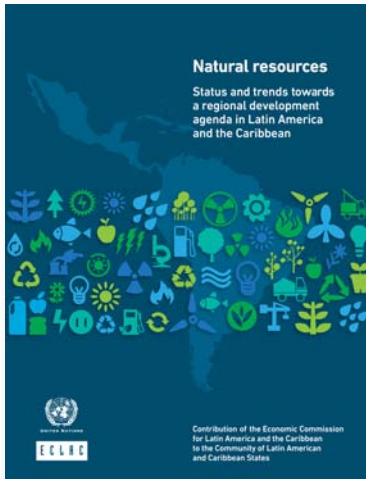
(The) Limits and Possibilities of Prepaid Water in Urban Africa: Lessons from the Field World Bank Water and Sanitation Program (WSP). August 2014

<http://bit.ly/1yMK3MZ>

This evidence-based study explores the opportunities, limits, costs, and benefits of different experiences of prepaid systems and their equity implications for serving urban poor communities. It provides urban utilities, oversight agencies, and other stakeholders in Africa with a basis for decision-making on the suitability, introduction, and management of prepaid meters. The report offers a tour of real-life cases in eight very different African cities: Kampala, Lusaka, Maputo, Maseru, Mogale City, Nakuru, Nairobi, and Windhoek. The study canvassed the perspectives of customers, including market research and opinion surveys on people's experience and views of prepaid water in practice. Women and children were represented in many of these groups.



Latest publications

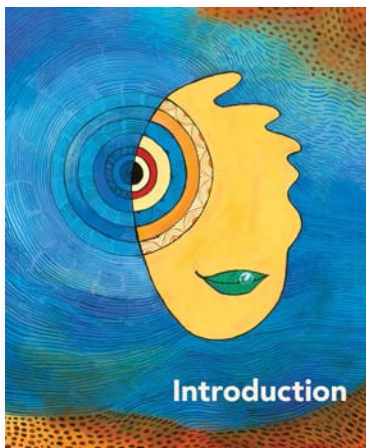


Natural resources. Status and trends towards a regional development agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean

United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNECLAC).
December 2013

<http://bit.ly/1ERQyAo>

This report makes recommendations on natural resources management in Latin America and the Caribbean. Chapter III deals with the Public Policies for the Development of the Hydroelectric Power and Water and Sanitation Services Sectors in Countries of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC). While the region has abundant water, its distribution is unequal and water management will be key as the region adapts to climate change. The paper presents the case for incorporating renewable energy sources, such as hydroelectricity, in order to maintain sustainable development.



Realizing the human rights to water and sanitation: A Handbook

UN Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation.
September 2014

<http://bit.ly/1wOvKVY>

This handbook aims to clarify the meaning of the human rights to water and sanitation; explain the obligations that arise from these rights; provide guidance on implementing the human rights to water and sanitation; share some examples of good practice and show how these rights are being implemented; explore how States can be held to account for delivering on their obligations; provide its users with checklists, so they can assess how far they are complying with the human rights to water and sanitation. The target audiences for this Handbook are governments at all levels, donors and national regulatory bodies. It provides information that will also be useful to other local, regional and international stakeholders, including civil society, service providers and human rights organisations. The Handbook is organised into booklets relating to five main areas relevant to States working towards realisation of the human rights to water and sanitation. These areas are: (1) Legislative, policy and regulatory frameworks; (2) Financing and budgeting; (3) Services; (4) Monitoring; (5) Access to justice. One further booklet (Principles) highlights State obligations relating to specific human rights principles: participation, non-discrimination and equality, access to information and sustainability.



Report of the Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation

United Nations. July 2014

<http://bit.ly/1vkM3yy>

This report to the UN General Assembly focuses on the right to participation in the context of realizing the right to safe drinking water and sanitation, emphasizing that States have an obligation to ensure participation. The UN Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation seeks to provide guidance on what the right to participation requires, what elements are essential for ensuring active, free and meaningful participation, and what participation entails at various levels of decision-making.

Report: Second Meeting of the WHO/UNICEF JMP Task Force on Monitoring Drinking-water Quality

WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation (JMP)

<http://bit.ly/1uZfBH>

In 2013, a Technical Task Force meeting of the WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation was convened to consider how improved measures of water quality and water system safety could be used to improve water safety in the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goal era. While the MDG to halve the number of people without access to safe water was achieved, questions remain regarding the quality of these new water sources. Due to technological limitations at the time of the formulation, the MDG target made use of a proxy indicator for water safety, based on the assumption that certain water supply technologies were likely to provide safe water. Recent advances in inexpensive methods for directly measuring water quality in the field mean that future water quality monitoring can rely upon actual measurements rather than technology-based assumptions. This report on the latest meeting of the JMP collects recent findings on all aspects of water quality management from the perspective of the latest knowledge and technology.



Second joint meeting of experts on targets and indicators for health and well-being in Health 2020

World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Office for Europe. 2014

<http://bit.ly/1xxBSrf>

The overall purpose of this meeting was to support the new European policy for health 'Health 2020'. The expert meeting discussed options for domains and indicators for objective well-being in Health 2020, as well as the theoretical and practical constraints affecting choices of indicators. In addition to the well-established requirements for indicators (face and construct validity, for example), a core requirement was that indicators should have reasonable availability across the 53 Member States in the WHO European Region. In practice, this proved to be a key limitation guiding the final recommendations of the expert group. Taking these and other issues into account, the expert meeting finally recommended that objective well-being be assessed across four domains: social connections/relationships, economic security/income, natural and built environment, and education. Two new core indicators for these domains were here recommended: availability of social support for the domain of social connections/relationships; and percentage of the population with improved sanitation facilities for the domain of natural and built environment.

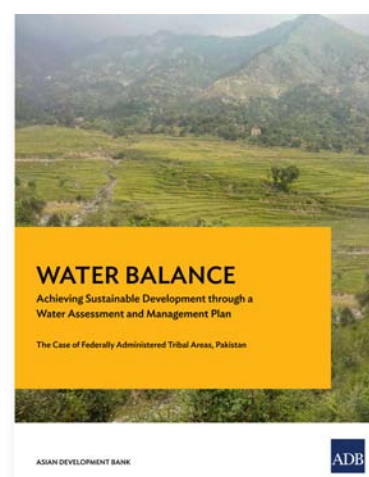


Water Balance. Achieving Sustainable Development through a Water Assessment and Management Plan. The Case of Federally Administered Tribal Areas, Pakistan

Asian Development Bank (ADB). September 2014

<http://bit.ly/1uFbF7C>

This report provides the guidance, methods, data, and analyses needed to assess water availability and needs in micro watersheds. It shows how to prepare short-, medium-, and long-term water investment and management plans on the basis of volume of surface and groundwater within a watershed and the needs of agriculture, people, and livestock. It also offers a practical approach based on real-life assessments that have helped planners decide on investments to develop and manage water. While emphasizing the need for assessing precise water availability and its uses, the report consolidates the findings of an assessment of water resources and develops a management plan for sustainable use of the water resources in Bajaur, Khyber, and Mohmand agencies in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) in Pakistan. It identifies basic concepts in water assessments, suggests various approaches for measuring availability of surface water and groundwater, pinpoints major users, and develops a water balance model. It also provides recommendations for using the water balance model as a critical planning tool for water resources development and suggests a way forward for expanding this tested approach.



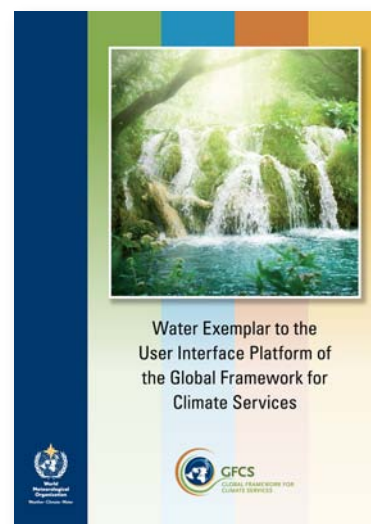
Latest publications

Water Exemplar to the User Interface Platform of the Global Framework for Climate Services

World Meteorological Organization (WMO). 2014

<http://bit.ly/1t3WMXe>

The purpose of the Water User Interface Platform (Water UIP) is to provide the necessary structure and processes to identify and respond to the needs of the water sector at all levels, in order to improve sector performance and management through the fuller use and understanding of climate information. This exemplar details the functioning of the Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) approach. This Water UIP plan outlines the general structure for partnerships and leadership, guiding needs, and opportunities to support and enhance climate informed decision-making.



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene in Primary School in South-East Asian Countries: Realities, needs and recommendations

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). December 2013

<http://bit.ly/1um1JP2>

This publication aims to provide a better understanding of opportunities to successfully implement Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) in Schools programs (planning, operations, management, and policy formulation). It aims to encourage the routine collection and use of more reliable data to strengthen country and regional level planning for WASH in schools, and will serve to guide policy-makers on steps necessary to ensure that water and sanitation issues are not an obstacle to a quality education for all the children of South-East Asian Countries. The report is divided into two parts, with annexes: To give a more regional perspective, the first part summarizes the highlights of the literature review for 11 countries and interviews and discussions in four selected countries for more in-depth analysis. The second part provides an overview of each country in terms of six themes: (1) education structure and trends in primary school education; (2) rationale for WASH activities in schools; (3) enabling environment; (4) WASH in schools; (5) main challenges; and (6) partners.



What Influences Open Defecation and Latrine Ownership in Rural Households?: Findings from a Global Review

World Bank Water and Sanitation Program (WSP). August 2014

<http://bit.ly/1xPKo3f>

This global review of formative research studies identifies a number of commonalities across countries and regions, as well as a number of emerging themes that positively and negatively influence sanitation behaviours. Although some differences are found across countries, in general themes coalesced around facets of opportunity, ability, and motivation. The document suggests a numbers of factors which serve to promote positive sanitation behaviours, including changing social norms, challenging perceptions of latrine affordability, fostering positive latrine attributes, and increasing consumer demand for latrines through aspirational books associating latrine use and ownership with improved social status.

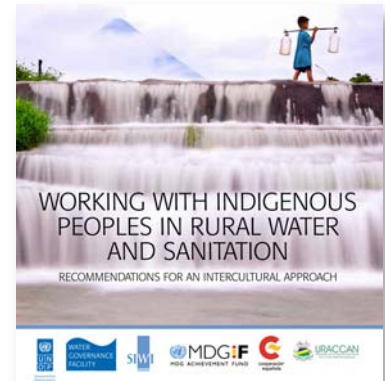


Working with Indigenous Peoples in Rural Water and Sanitation. Recommendations from an Intercultural Approach

UNDP Water Governance Facility, Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI). 2014

<http://bit.ly/1wOyAdA>

This document is one of the outcomes of a joint research initiative called Transcultural Transparency. It focuses on how to overcome sociocultural clashes between communities, service providers, development co-operation actors and local authorities, particularly in areas with large groups of indigenous peoples. It poses recommendations on how to implement an intercultural approach throughout the project cycle in rural water and sanitation projects with indigenous peoples, focusing in Latin America. The recommendations made in the document apply to any work on water and sanitation in rural areas, but they are especially relevant to work with indigenous and ethnic minorities.



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