



# Groundwater Governance

## A global framework for action



FAO, in partnership with UNESCO, IAH, and WORLD BANK, is working to build a global framework for action. The aim is to **provide countries with a series of policy, institutional and investment options**, together with **recommendations for improved management and governance** at local, national and transboundary levels.



Information, and the strengthening of the global discourse on groundwater governance, are critical players in ensuring the long-term functionality of groundwater systems. They are pillars supporting a broad range of social, economic and environmental services.

Increasing awareness and global understanding of the enormous benefits brought by good groundwater governance are to be prioritized in political and policy discussions on natural resource management.

## A Global Framework for Action- framing the programmes' steps:

### Synthesis report, case studies and thematic papers

Comprehensive background information on a wide range of technical and governance topics has been captured in a number of case studies and thematic papers. Moreover, the global state of knowledge on groundwater governance, including a broad agreement on the scientific and economic issues and a consensus on the scope for future action, has been compiled in a Synthesis Report.

### Global Groundwater Diagnostic

Input from groundwater stakeholders has been collected through a series of regional consultations (Latin America and the Caribbean, Sub-Saharan Africa, The Arab Region, Asia and the Pacific and the UNECE Region covering North America, Western and Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the Caucasus) and through a private sector roundtable. The experience distilled from these consultations are synthesised in a Global Groundwater Diagnostic. The latter is being projected globally by mainstreaming viable groundwater management and governance practices into GEF programs and projects across the world.



## Shared Vision

An overall vision, including globally valid guiding principles and processes that should accompany groundwater governance, will be shared. The vision is compiled based on the information gathered through the above steps.



## Framework for Action on Groundwater Governance (FA)

A menu of country level policy including best practices based on known experiences where institutional and investment options will be outlined. Recommendations for improved management and governance at the local, national and transboundary levels will also be provided.

## Communication and Information Dissemination

A mechanism to consult with groundwater practitioners worldwide during the development of the project outputs has been established. Additionally, the main project outputs will be diffused to direct and indirect stakeholders and the public at large to raise awareness for groundwater issues.

## Background

Groundwater accounts for over 98% of all liquid freshwater on earth. It contributes a large portion of the increasing demand for water in all sectors, particularly domestic supply, food production and industry; constitutes the main source of water in water-scarce regions and acts as a buffer against climatic extremes. Yet, this important role is jeopardized due to poor management. Depletion, quality degradation and reduced replenishment stemming from ineffective governance systems are serious threats to this vital resource. The project comes in response to these emerging global concerns over increasingly unsustainable groundwater use and aquifer degradation.



## Partners

Execution:	FAO, UNESCO, IAH
Core Funding:	GEF
Co-financing:	FAO, UNESCO, IAH, WORLD BANK
Steering Committee:	FAO, UNESCO, IAH, WORLD BANK, GEF STAP

The programme is implemented in close collaboration with a large number of regional and international organizations and agencies and specialized research centres.

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## MORE INFORMATION

<http://www.fao.org/groundwater-governance>