

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 14. January 2013

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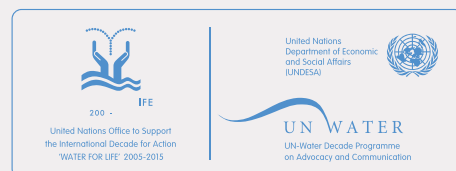
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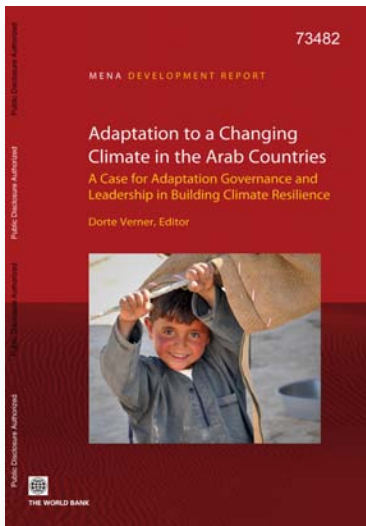
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A Decade for Water, a Decade for Life

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



Latest publications



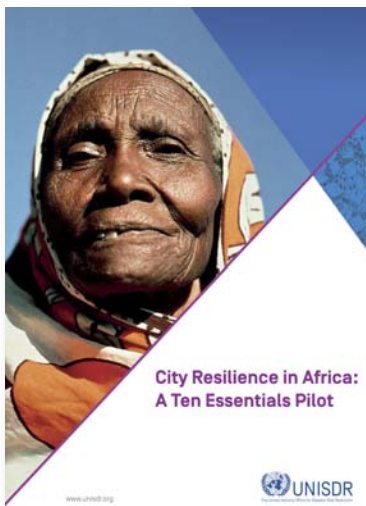
Adaptation to a Changing Climate in the Arab Countries. A Case for Adaptation Governance and Leadership in Building Climate Resilience

World Bank. December 2012

<http://bit.ly/VvLn8A>

This report assesses the potential effects of climate change on the Arab region and outlines possible approaches and measures to prepare for its consequences. It offers ideas and suggestions for Arab policy makers as to what mitigating actions may be needed in rural and urban settings to safeguard key areas such as health, water, agriculture, and tourism. The report also analyzes the differing impacts of climate change, with special attention paid to gender, as a means of tailoring strategies to address specific vulnerabilities. Climate change may also affect water availability and its impacts (potentially severe) in both rural and urban areas.

Chapter 3 of the report focuses on how climate change contributes to water scarcity.



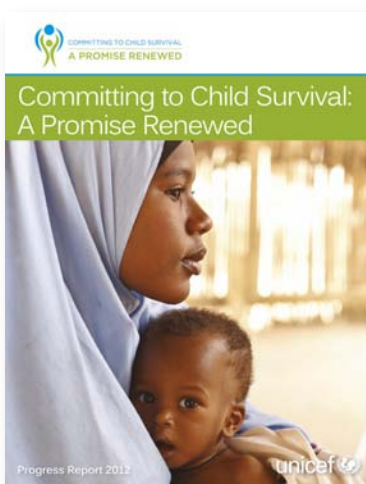
City Resilience in Africa: A Ten Essentials Pilot

United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR). December 2012

<http://bit.ly/XScSUy>

In 2010, UNISDR launched a global resilient cities Campaign with the specific focus on improving urban cities' capacity to withstand and recover from natural disasters. By signing up to the Campaign, cities commit to take specific actions to build their resilience. These actions are guided by the "Ten Essentials for Making Cities Resilient", a 10-point checklist of factors considered fundamental for cities to improve their resilience capacity.

In 2012, UNISDR Regional office for Africa in Nairobi, Kenya commenced a pilot project to 'operationalise' the Campaign in three cities in Africa – Narok and Kisumu in Kenya and Moshi in Tanzania. This document provides a background to each city and highlights some of the underlying factors that make the three cities vulnerable to hazards, including those related to water.



Committing to Child Survival: A Promise Renewed

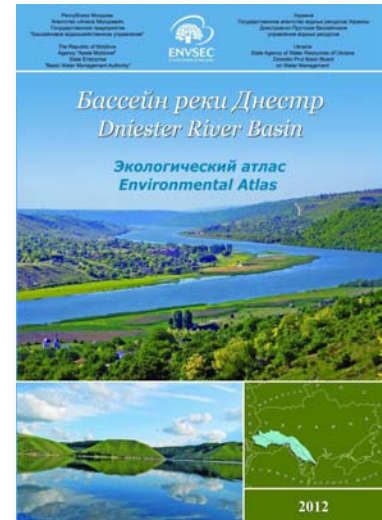
United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). September 2012

<http://bit.ly/VWl5Zw>

This report examines trends in child mortality since 1990, analyses the causes of preventable child death, and outlines strategies to accelerate progress. Chapter 1 describes levels and trends in child mortality. Chapter 2 focuses on the leading causes of child deaths and makes an assessment of different diseases, including diarrhoea. Chapter 3 proposes different strategies for accelerating progress on child survival.

Environmental Atlas of the of the Dniester Basin**Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)/GRID-Arendal. November 2012**<http://bit.ly/TXcs3X>

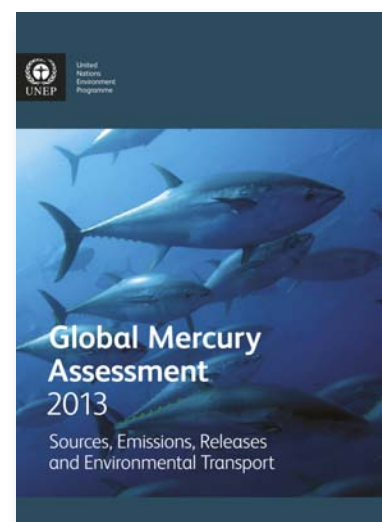
The Environmental Atlas of the Dniester is the first attempt to present the environmental state of this transboundary river in a visual format which includes over 30 thematic maps of the basin, graphics, diagrams and pictures. The target groups for the Atlas are specialists in environmental protection, as well as authorities and population in the Dniester basin.

**First Environmental Performance Review of Turkmenistan****Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). November 2012**<http://bit.ly/YEnEUq>Synopsis: <http://bit.ly/Vrn1JG>

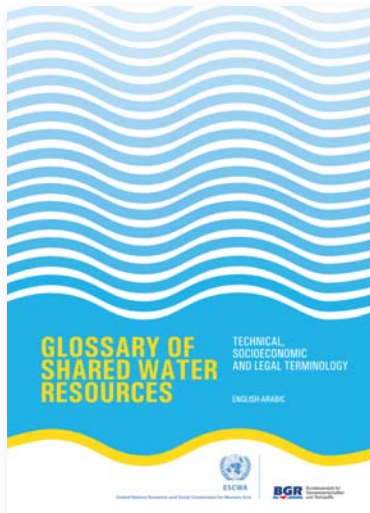
The first Environmental Performance Review of Turkmenistan covers 13 issues of importance to Turkmenistan related to policymaking, planning and implementation, the financing of environmental policies and projects and the integration of environmental concerns into economic sectors, in particular the sustainable management and protection of water resources, waste management, air pollution, forestry, biodiversity and protected areas, energy and climate change.

**Global Mercury Assessment 2013. Sources, Emissions, Releases and Environmental Transport****United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). January 2013**<http://bit.ly/WwSV8B>

This report provides the most recent information available on worldwide atmospheric mercury emissions, releases to the aquatic environment, and the transport and fate of mercury in the global environment. The report emphasizes emissions to air from human (anthropogenic) activities, but includes releases to water because the aquatic environment is the main route of exposure to humans and wildlife. It is in aquatic systems that the inorganic mercury is transformed into the more toxic form, methylmercury, which can accumulate in fish and marine mammals consumed by humans.



Latest publications



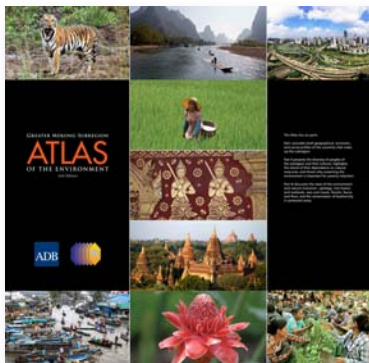
Glossary of Shared Water Resources. Technical, Socioeconomic and Legal Terminology. English-Arabic

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA), Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources of Germany (BGR). July 2012

<http://bit.ly/XiF4Ru>

This glossary is a response to a request from the 6th session of the Committee on Water Resources at ESCWA, which called for a clearly explained vocabulary for use in describing internationally-shared surface and groundwater resources. Arabic language translations and explanations of such terminology are needed by water resources specialists from ESCWA member countries, who must negotiate treaties and agreements with non Arabic-speaking countries.

This glossary may be employed in a variety of ways. Users seeking the explanation or Arabic language translation of an English language word may jump immediately to the main body of this alphabetized, English to Arabic glossary. Those who wish to find a precise, yet unspecified term may browse through the thematic indexes. Finally, a user searching for the English language translation of an Arabic language word may consult the index at the end of this publication, which is alphabetized in Arabic.



Greater Mekong Subregion Atlas of the Environment. 2nd edition

Asian Development Bank (ADB). December 2012

<http://bit.ly/TaGIXu>

In 1992, Cambodia, the People's Republic of China, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Thailand, and Viet Nam established the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) Economic Cooperation Program with the aim of strengthening economic linkages between them and to foster the achievement of common policy goals.

This second edition of the atlas illustrates the diversity of the subregion's natural environment, progress made by the GMS countries over the past decades, and the need to address the increasing risks that they face. The Atlas has six parts:

- Part I provides brief geographical, economic, and social profiles of the countries that make up the subregion.
- Part II presents the diversity of peoples of the subregion and their cultures, highlights the extent of their dependence on natural resources, and shows why sustaining the environment is important for poverty reduction.
- Part III discusses the state of the environment and natural resources—geology, river basins and wetlands, seas and coasts, forests, fauna and flora, and the conservation of biodiversity in protected areas
- Part IV outlines development trends in the subregion, from agriculture and fisheries to water availability, energy, urbanization, transport, and tourism, and the pressure that these developments place on the environment and natural resources.
- Part V describes the challenges posed by development in the subregion, including the impact of natural disasters and climate change, and the responses to meet these challenges by the countries and various international and regional organizations.
- Part VI contains information resources: statistical tables that complement the text of each chapter and references to the literature and other sources used in compiling the atlas.

Information briefs on water cooperation

UN-Water Decade Programme on Advocacy and Communication (UNW-DPAC). January 2013

For the purposes of the International Year of Water Cooperation (IYC) and the International Annual UN-Water Zaragoza Conference 2012/2013 'Preparing for the 2013 International Year. Water Cooperation: Making it Happen!' which took place in Zaragoza, Spain, from 8 to 10 January 2013, UNW-DPAC has produced a series of information briefs on different issues and tools on water cooperation. A total of 5 information briefs have been produced on the following issues:

- Information brief on Water Cooperation**
<http://bit.ly/WQhE6i>
 This brief provides information on water cooperation: why is this theme important? What are the main challenges and benefits? Which tools can be used to promote water cooperation?
- Information brief on Alternative Dispute Resolution**
<http://bit.ly/VnibX6>
 This brief provides information on Alternative Dispute Resolution methods: what are the key approaches and techniques? Which skills are required to apply these techniques? The brief also highlights some quick facts and practical examples related to the theme.
- Information brief on Legal Frameworks and Institutional Arrangements**
<http://bit.ly/129AYB1>
 This brief provides information on legal frameworks and institutional arrangements: in what way do they contribute to water cooperation processes at different levels? The brief highlights a number of key legal frameworks and institutional arrangements and outlines some conditions for success. Some quick facts and examples are also included.
- Information brief on Financing**
<http://bit.ly/XSdqdd>
 This brief provides information on financing water cooperation: what are the main challenges in financing water cooperation processes? Which tools are available for financing water cooperation? What are the main sources?
- Information brief on Information Sharing and Joint Assessments**
<http://bit.ly/129B1gb>
 This brief provides information on information sharing and joint assessments: how can they contribute to water cooperation processes at basin levels and in cities? The brief also highlights some conditions for success and some examples.

Investing in Water Infrastructure: Capital, Operations and Maintenance

World Bank. November 2012

<http://bit.ly/XSdrOl>

This paper outlines the major challenges related to financing the gap in global water infrastructure, including those systems that provide urban and rural water supply, and sanitation and irrigation services. The paper synthesizes the extensive body of literature on this subject, providing some examples of historical trends and proposing a reform agenda to assist countries in weathering the current financial climate.

Section 1 introduces the linkages between water infrastructure and growing global challenges, including food and energy security as well as climate change. Section 2 describes investment needs in the sector and details various traditional funding sources. Section 3 proposes a 5 step reform cycle for making better use of limited funding in the sector. Tools for making these improvements are outlined in Section 4. The paper concludes with Section 5, a summary of the challenges and recommendations for the way forward.



Latest publications

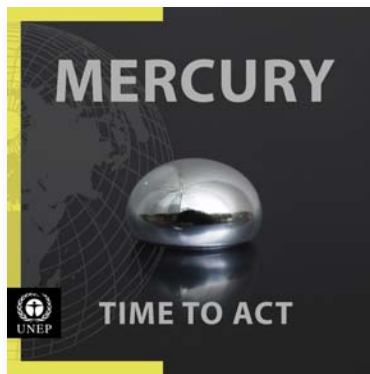


Measuring progress towards an inclusive green economy

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). December 2012

<http://bit.ly/VWnDXs>

This publication introduces a framework for the use of indicators in developing and tracking green economy policies. The objective is to provide guidance on the role of indicators in major stages of policymaking, using environmental issues as an illustrative entry point. Section 2 introduces the indicators for environmental issues and targets. Section 3 discusses indicators for environmental policy interventions. Section 4 focuses on indicators that show the impacts of policy interventions on well-being and social equity beyond the environmental realm. Examples of policies and the indicators that can be utilized to evaluate them are presented in Section 5. Data needs and capacity-building issues are highlighted in Section 6, and the final section points to the next steps that could facilitate the use of this framework

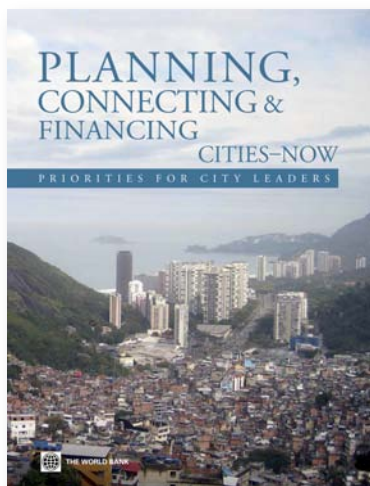


Mercury. Time to Act

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). January 2013

<http://bit.ly/VvMFAk>

This report speaks directly to governments involved in development of the global treaty on mercury. It presents updates from the UNEP Global Mercury Assessment 2013 in facts and figures backed by graphics that provide governments and civil society with the rationale and the imperative to act on this notorious pollutant.



Planning, Connecting and Financing Cities Now. Priorities for City leaders

World Bank. January 2013

<http://bit.ly/X88fVN>

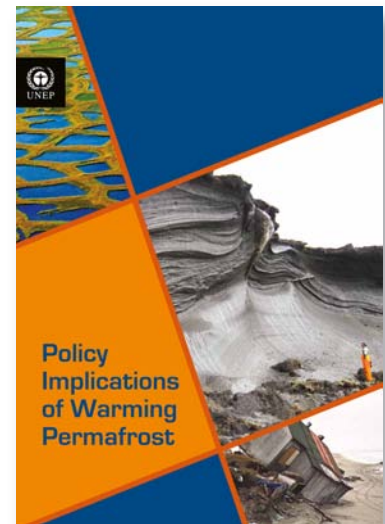
This report provides a framework to help city leaders make informed decisions for sustainable development in their cities. What must be done to improve living conditions, especially in slums and hazard-prone areas? To expand the coverage and quality of basic infrastructure services (water, sanitation)? To manage the city's physical form? These are some of the questions this report tries to respond.

Policy Implications of Warming Permafrost

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). November 2012

<http://bit.ly/XSeD48>

This report seeks to inform a broad audience about permafrost and communicate to decision-makers and the general public the implications of changing permafrost in a warming climate. It defines basic terminology and describes fundamental physical and biological processes that shape the permafrost landscape using the best scientific information available from published literature. The report discusses the impacts of a changing climate on ecosystems and human infrastructure in regions with significant presence of permafrost, as well as the impacts of thawing permafrost on global climate. Graphics, illustrations and photographs help explain complicated concepts and ideas in a way that is easily understood and visualized by a non-scientific audience.



Promoting Handwashing Behavior: The Effect of Large-Scale Mass-Media and Community Level Interventions. New Findings from an Impact Evaluation in Peru

World Bank Water and Sanitation Program (WSP). November 2012

<http://bit.ly/VnJs0g>

Summary: <http://bit.ly/XJT45a>

This paper focuses on a handwashing promotion intervention which attempts to improve child health by changing this key hygiene-related behaviour rather than by implementing large and costly infrastructure investments in water supply or sanitation. In particular, the document analyzes the Global Scaling Up Handwashing Project in Peru, a large-scale intervention that aims to generate and sustain handwashing with soap behaviour at critical junctures among mothers, caregivers, and children up to 12 years old in rural households. By trying to change the underlying factors that determine handwashing behaviour (such as knowledge, beliefs, and accessibility of soap and water) among the target population, which is expected to result in improved handwashing behaviour, the program tries to disrupt the causal chain that links poor hygiene with parasitic and microbiological disease transmission and thus ill health in children. Thereby, the study focuses on the following relevant outcomes: exposure to the intervention, changes in determinants of handwashing behaviour (knowledge, beliefs, and access to/placement of soap and water), handwashing behaviour (self-reported and observed), environmental contamination, and child health. To measure these behaviours and outcomes, the study combined different quantitative and qualitative data collection techniques, including detailed questionnaires, structured observations, microbiological analysis of samples of children's stools, drinking water collected in the field, and anthropometric measures performed by health experts.



Second Environmental Performance Review of Albania

Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). November 2012

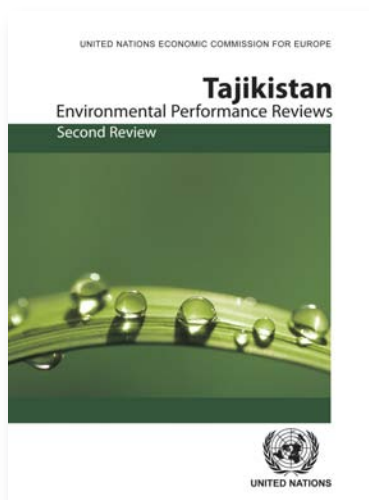
<http://bit.ly/TaJZ92>

Synopsis: <http://bit.ly/X88ssb>

The second Environmental Performance Review (EPR) of Albania takes stock of the progress made by Albania in the management of its environment since the country was first reviewed in 2002. It assesses the implementation of the recommendations contained in the first review. This second EPR also covers 10 issues of importance to Albania related to policymaking framework for environmental protection and sustainable development compliance and enforcement mechanisms; monitoring, information, public participation and education; environmental international agreements and commitments and their implementation; economic instruments and expenditures for environmental protection; sustainable management of water resources; waste management; forestry, biodiversity and protected areas; energy and environment; and health and environment.



Latest publications

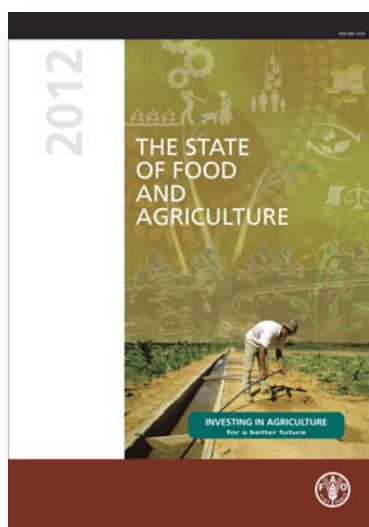


Second Environmental Performance Review of Tajikistan
Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). November 2012

<http://bit.ly/UD1KNS>

Synopsis: <http://bit.ly/X88zDV>

The second Environmental Performance Review (EPR) of Tajikistan takes stock of the progress made by Tajikistan in the management of its environment since the country was first reviewed in 2004. It assesses the implementation of the recommendations contained in the first review. This second EPR also covers 10 issues of importance to Tajikistan related to policymaking, planning and implementation, the financing of environmental policies and projects and the integration of environmental concerns into economic sectors, in particular the sustainable management and protection of water resources, waste management, climate change, forestry, biodiversity and protected areas and environmental health.

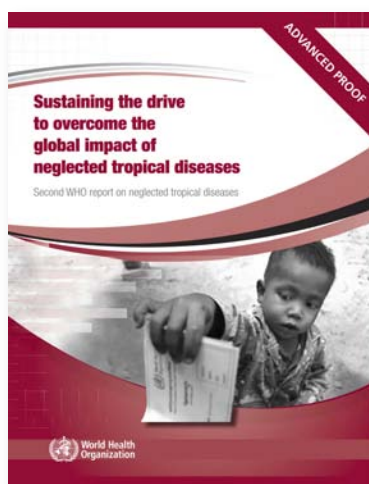


(The) State of Food and Agriculture 2012. Investing in agriculture for a better future
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). December 2012

<http://bit.ly/129C9Av>

Executive summary: <http://bit.ly/TXgs4r>

This edition of The State of Food and Agriculture, "Investing in agriculture for a better future", makes the case that increasing the levels and the quality of investment in agriculture is central to achieving the hunger eradication goal. It also argues that we need to change the way we invest in agriculture. The report argues that insecure tenure for land, water and other resources can constitute a serious disincentive to invest in agriculture and that negative environmental impacts, inter alia, depletion of natural resources such as soil, water, forests and biodiversity, may also be significant threats to investment in agriculture. As such, water-related issues are addressed all along the report.



Sustaining the drive to overcome the global impact of neglected tropical diseases.
2nd WHO report on neglected tropical diseases

World Health Organization (WHO). January 2013

<http://bit.ly/UD1Y70>

This second report is mainly concerned with assessing the progress made in preventing and controlling neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) in relation to the targets and milestones in the WHO roadmap. This report also includes updated information on the distribution and impact of NTDs and their effects on women and children. Assessed water-related diseases include dracunculiasis (Guinea-worm disease) and Schistosomiasis among others.

Chapter 4 makes a situation report of key interventions, including safe water, sanitation and hygiene.

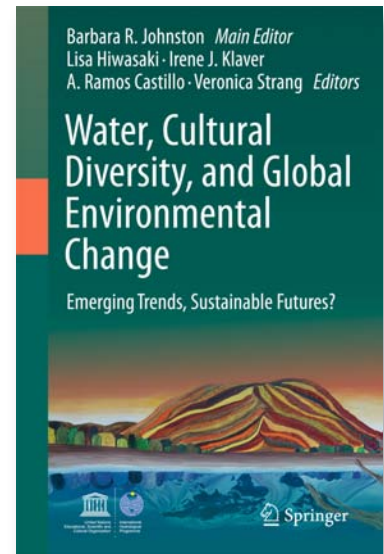
Water, Cultural Diversity, and Global Environmental Change. Emerging Trends, Sustainable Futures?

UNESCO Office in Jakarta, UNESCO-International Hydrological Programme (IHP).
December 2012

<http://bit.ly/117Npy2>

This book tries to respond to a series of core questions, including among others: What are the roles that water plays in sustaining diverse forms of human sociocultural life? What roles do diverse human societies and cultures play in valuing, managing, preserving and using water and its associated ecosystems? What are the consequences of these resource relations in sustaining, or undermining the means to sustain, the viability of human communities and their environments? The traditional knowledge, stewardship and management systems, and technologies developed by different peoples typically reflect the deep relationship between biological and cultural diversity. Might these time-tested strategies help meet the complex needs of a changing environment?

The book is divided into five parts. Although their themes, interests, and geographic locations intersect and overlap, each of the parts has a particular orientation. Part I explores water's fundamental place in life. The case studies and brief vignettes, conceptual essays and graphic imagery of this Part articulate the "culture of water" and the environmental consequences of human relationships with water. Part II considers the "culture of water" through an explicit focus on traditional ecological knowledge and water resource management: approaches that have historically served to sustain the lifeways of indigenous groups and ethnic minorities. Part III examines current patterns of water resource management in various ecoregions and geopolitical contexts. It considers problematic contexts where water resource development and management have undermined the viability of culturally diverse groups (asking what are the lessons learned), as well as cases where water resource management has achieved sustainable societal goals by strengthening biocultural viability. Case studies explore problems such as access to clean water and environmental health, and the role of culture and power in shaping, and addressing, vulnerability. Part IV considers the changing and possible future dynamics of intersections between water, biodiversity, and cultural diversity, with a critical focus on the lessons learned from the past several decades of hydrodevelopment. This section asks 'what lessons can be gleaned from past experience, and how might these transform understandings of the cumulative effect and synergistic forces at work in hydrodevelopment?' Part V sketches out alternative scenarios for the future, arguing that a sustainable approach to water resource development must, first and foremost, be one that sustains the cultural and biological diversity of life. Contributions expand upon the case-study lessons with strategic recommendations for incorporating sociocultural perspectives into water resource management systems; and, with a more inclusive notion of sustainability, they address rights and entitlements to water for all human groups and all species, as well as reaffirming established stewardship principles and responsibilities.



Where the rain falls: Climate Change, Food and Livelihood Security, and Migration. An 8-country study to understand rainfall, food security and human mobility

CARE, United Nations University-Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS). November 2012

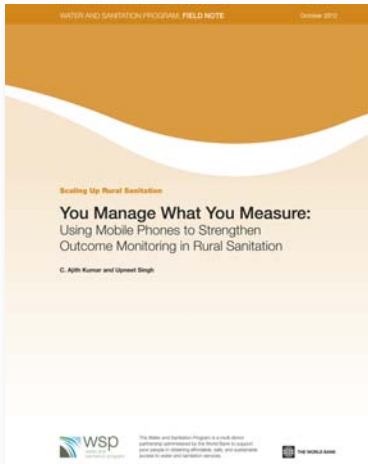
<http://bit.ly/11f2Fit>

The «Where the Rain Falls» research explores the interrelationships among rainfall variability, food and livelihood security, and human mobility in a diverse set of research sites in eight countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America. The central focus of the «Where the Rain Falls» initiative was to explore the circumstances under which households in eight case study sites in Latin America, Africa, and Asia use migration as a risk management strategy when faced with rainfall variability and food and livelihood insecurity.

Countries analyzed include: Bangladesh, Ghana, Guatemala, India, Peru, Tanzania, Thailand, Viet Nam.



Latest publications



You Manage What You Measure: Using Mobile Phones to Strengthen Outcome Monitoring in Rural Sanitation

World Bank Water and Sanitation Program (WSP), October 2012

<http://bit.ly/117Nulo>

The use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT), through the use of mobile phones, to collect data on sanitation behaviour and make available almost real time data, offers potential at large scale. A proof of concept was piloted to test the viability of using mobile technology to strengthen monitoring in the rural sanitation sector in two blocks (sub districts) of varying socioeconomic characteristics in India. The pilot covered 23,000 households in a span of two to three months. This field note presents results of a proof of concept piloted by World Bank Water and Sanitation Programme (WSP).

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