

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 16. May 2013

www.un.org/waterforlifedecade/

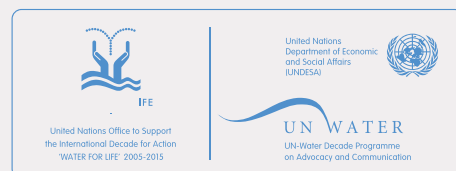
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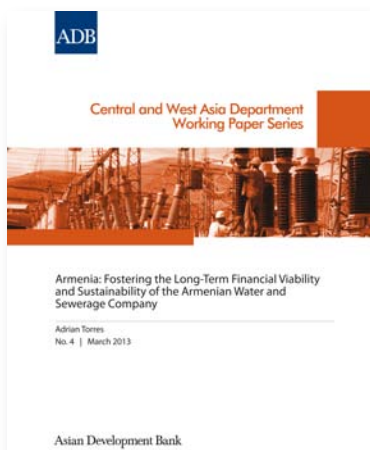
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A Decade for Water, a Decade for Life

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



Latest publications

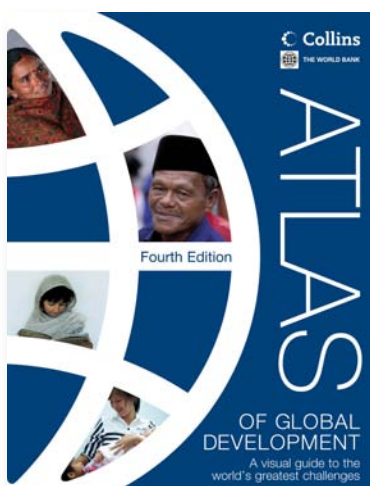


Armenia: Fostering the Long-Term Financial Viability and Sustainability of the Armenian Water and Sewerage Company

Asian Development Bank (ADB). March 2013

<http://bit.ly/146CXCy>

This paper outlines ADB's interventions to improve water supply and sanitation services in Armenia. It also highlights the rationale behind the structure of a new tariff regime, which is aimed at fostering the long-term financial sustainability of the Armenian Water and Sewerage Company (AWSC), and summarizes main lessons learned.



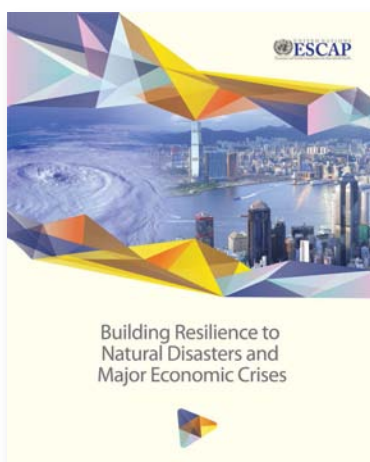
Atlas of Global Development, 4th Edition. A visual guide to the world's greatest challenges

World Bank. April 2013

<http://bit.ly/17sFA92>

The 4th edition of the Atlas of Global Development is a comprehensive guide to the most critical issues facing our changing world today; a visual guide to global issues – easy-to-read graphical presentation with every topic presented by world maps, tables, graphs, and photographs.

Water and sanitation issues are addressed all along the report, but chapter "A thirsty planet gets thirstier" specifically focuses on demand and competition for water.



Building Resilience to Natural Disasters and Major Economic Crises

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP). April 2013

<http://bit.ly/Zij8tb>

This report provides a comprehensive response to addressing multiple shocks in Asia and the Pacific. It shows how people, organizations, institutions and policymakers can work together to weave resilience into economic, social and environmental policies. Chapter 4 focuses on the land, water, energy nexus and addresses the issue of water scarcity among others.

Cost Recoverable Tariffs to Increase Access to Basic Services among Poor Households

Asian Development Bank (ADB). March 2013

<http://bit.ly/159maBP>

This paper presents a methodological approach to identifying tariff structures that ensure cost recovery for the provider while increasing take-up of basic services among the poor. It entails modelling the demand function for the entire market of potential users of the service using survival curve estimation techniques and knowing the costs faced by the provider. This allows for the identification of differential pricing schemes where less disadvantaged groups are charged higher prices in order to effectively cross-subsidize the lower prices charged to the poor. The low additional cost to implementing tariff structures with differential pricing therefore makes it a potentially powerful tool for increasing take-up of important services among the poor enabling providers of basic services to aid in more sustainable development while still allowing the provision of the service to be viable over the long term. However, the paper shows that altering tariff structures may not work for all types of services where the differences in willingness to pay (WTP) are less determined by level of income. To provide a concrete example, the approach is applied to a contingent valuation survey that captured household and businesses WTP for access to improved water and new sanitation services provided by the Metropolitan Cebu Water District (MCWD) in the Philippines.

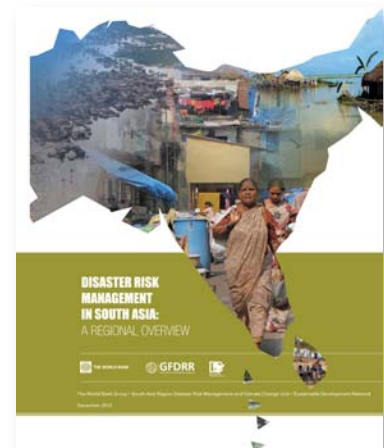


Disaster Risk Management in South Asia: A regional overview

World Bank Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR). December 2012

<http://bit.ly/18uyald>

This report informs readers about the elements that are driving increases in disaster risk in the South Asia Region (SAR). The report first examines the regional rise in disaster events and losses, the nature of the hazards, the drivers of current and future disaster loss, and provides an overview of activities that can reduce the vulnerability of exposed assets. A more detailed profile of each of the major hazards in SAR is then provided in Annex 1. Finally, Annex 2 examines the Disaster Risk Management (DRM) profile of each country in the region. These include the hazard profile, the DRM framework for each country, the progress made in reducing vulnerability to hazards, and ongoing activities to increase resilience that are being financed by the international community.

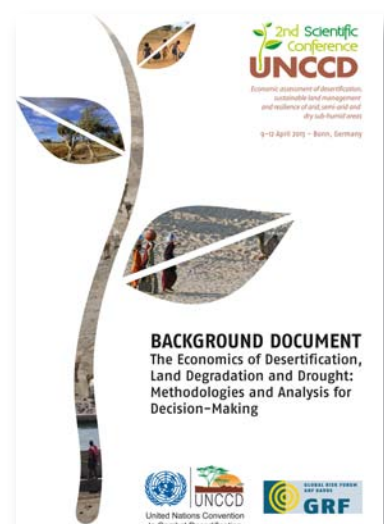


(The) Economics of Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought: Methodologies and Analysis for Decision-Making. Background document

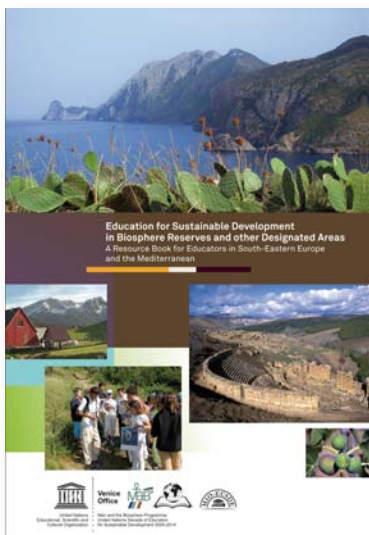
United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), Global Risk Forum (GRF) Davos. March 2013

<http://bit.ly/15iOih9>

The first part of this background paper estimates the costs of desertification, land degradation and drought (DLDD), or conversely, the benefits of sustainable land management (SLM), for different parts of the world. Consideration is also given to the costs (implementation, transaction and opportunity costs) associated with modifying current land-use practices to be more sustainable. The latter part of the background paper exemplifies the interlinkages and synergies of three Rio conventions. In particular, it argues that there is significant scope for mainstreaming the use of economic instruments to tackle biodiversity loss, poverty alleviation, land degradation, and climate change mitigation and adaptation. This, however, is contingent upon the rigorous monitoring of and baseline-setting for harmonized biophysical and socioeconomic indicators. Significant advances have already been made in this respect. The paper concludes by showing how these advances can help scale up economic assessments and national green accounting to improve decision-making and create effective instruments to change the very incentives that guide how we manage our lands.

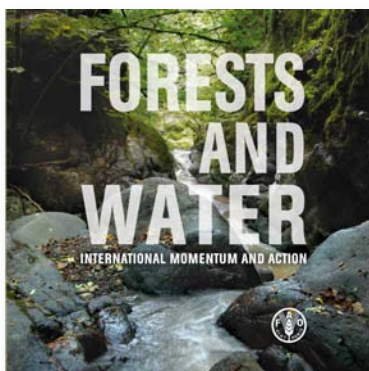


Latest publications



Education for Sustainable Development in Biosphere Reserves and other Designated Areas. A Resource Book for Educators in South-Eastern Europe and the Mediterranean
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). 2013
<http://bit.ly/133cCaH>

This resource book aims to increase the capacities of those trainers and educators seeking to design and implement innovative educational projects using Biosphere Reserves and other designated areas as “Education for Sustainable Development laboratories”. The book addresses several water-related issues, including the water cycle, water ecosystems, water pollution, etc. and contains different activities, including an indicative worksheet for a water quality test



Forests and Water. International momentum and action
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). March 2013
<http://bit.ly/1azh8PH>

Forests play a crucial role in the hydrological cycle. They influence the amount of water available and regulate surface and groundwater flows while maintaining high water quality. Moreover, forests and trees contribute to the reduction of water-related risks such as landslides, local floods and droughts and help prevent desertification and salinization. This publication provides an overview of forest and water interactions and describes the increasing international momentum gained by this topic. It then presents, in chronological order, summaries of the various events held between 2008 and 2011, as well as their main outcomes and recommendations. It concludes with an analysis of key recommendations and the forests and water agenda for the next years.



Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction 2013. From Shared Risk to Shared Value: the Business Case for Disaster Risk Reduction
United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR). May 2013
<http://bit.ly/15iOsJt>

Executive summary: <http://bit.ly/15iOtNH>

This 2013 Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction (GAR13) is the third biennial report coordinated by UNISDR. The previous two editions of the Global Assessment Report were predominantly written for an audience of policy- and decision-makers in government departments. In expanding its analysis to include and focus on the role of private investment, GAR13 aims at business leaders and private investors, on the one hand, and at local and national regulators, on the other hand.

GAR13 explores how businesses, by investing in disaster risk management, can reduce costs and interruptions represented by disaster losses and impacts; how performance and reputation can also be enhanced by minimising uncertainty and unpredictability; why effectively managing disaster risks should be the hallmark of a competitive, sustainable and resilient business; and why a broader approach to business value creation that also addresses underlying drivers of risk is required.

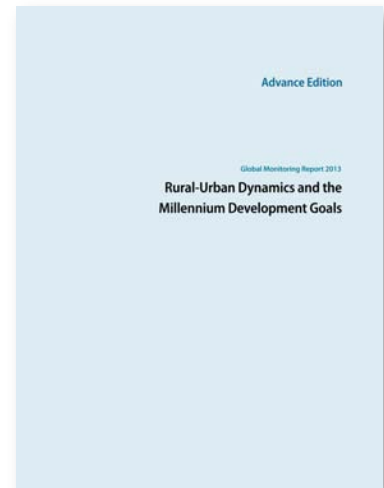
Global Monitoring Report 2013. Rural-Urban Dynamics and the Millennium Development Goals

World Bank, International Monetary Fund (IMF). April 2013

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

Overview: <http://bit.ly/11yGJsm>

The Global Monitoring Report (GMR) is an annual report card on the world's progress toward the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Each annual report has a thematic focus, an aspect of the development agenda on which the GMR provides a more in-depth assessment. The theme of GMR 2013 is rural-urban disparities in development and ways urbanization can better help achieve the MDGs. The report highlights the need to accelerate efforts to improve the lives of the poor in both rural and urban areas and states that, if the forces of urbanization are not managed speedily and efficiently, slum growth can overwhelm city growth, exacerbate urban poverty, and derail MDG achievements. Water and sanitation-related issues are addressed all along the report.

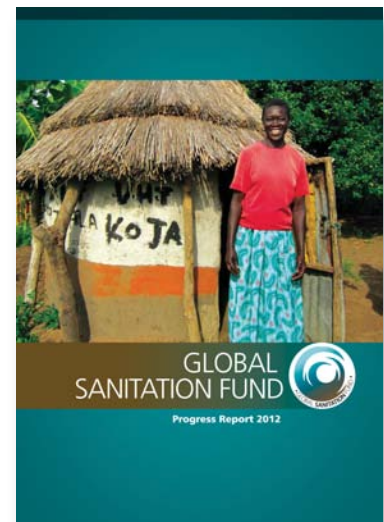


Global Sanitation Fund. Progress Report 2012

Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC). March 2013

<http://bit.ly/12OMSNC>

This report provides the latest information on the Global Sanitation Fund (GSF), established by WSSCC in 2008 to inject finances into countries with high needs for sanitation. Currently operational in ten countries in Asia and Africa, GSF supports national programmes developed through a consultative process among representatives from governments, local nongovernmental organizations and their associations, private companies, and international development partners. All programmes supported by GSF address the problem of inadequate sanitation and hygiene by focusing on methods of changing behaviour. In this report, the reader will find the main results for the Global Sanitation Fund programme as of 31 December 2012. Also presented are cumulative numerical results in dashboard form, for the Global Sanitation Fund as a whole and for each country with a contracted Executing Agency, and descriptions of the various results indicators. The country profiles also provide more detail on the national Global Sanitation Fund activities. Other sections present the Global Sanitation Fund's further added value, some illustrative perspectives and case studies, and a full listing of Sub-grantees.

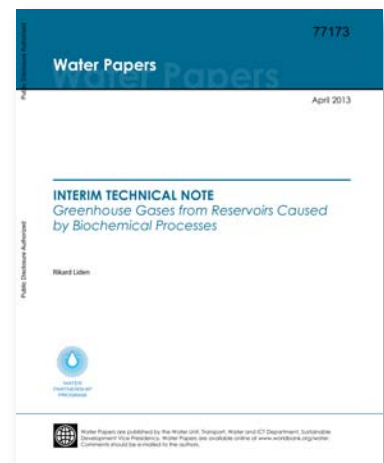


Greenhouse Gases from Reservoirs Caused by Biochemical Processes. Interim technical note

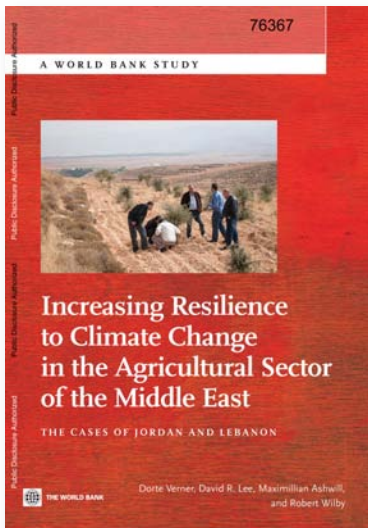
World Bank Water Partnership Program (WPP). April 2013

<http://bit.ly/19mavX0>

The purpose of this note is to provide interim guidance to World Bank staff on how to assess the contribution of greenhouse gases (GHGs) from reservoirs in preparation for dam infrastructure projects. The note describes the major biochemical processes that cause GHGs from reservoirs, provides the status of current knowledge and research, and puts the issue into a global perspective. Based on the state-of-the-art, it makes recommendation on how to assess GHG emissions and how to make preliminary rough estimates of emissions caused by biochemical processes for planned reservoirs.



Latest publications

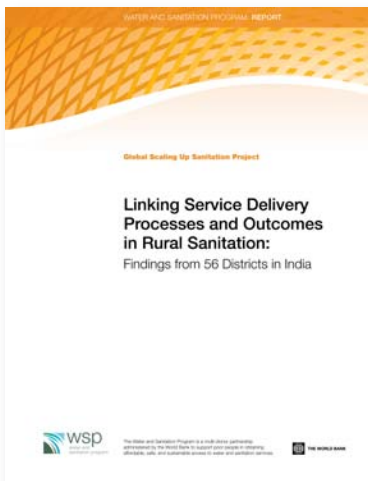


Increasing Resilience to Climate Change in the Agricultural Sector in the Middle East: The Cases of Jordan and Lebanon

World Bank, March 2013

<http://bit.ly/11p9pho>

The objectives of this study are threefold: (1) to improve the understanding of climate change projections and impacts on rural communities and livelihoods in selected regions of Jordan and Lebanon, specifically the Jordan River Valley and Lebanon's Bekaa Valley; (2) to engage local communities, farmers, local experts, and local and national government representatives in a participatory fashion in helping craft agricultural adaptation options to climate change; and (3) to develop local and regional climate change action plans that formulate recommendations for investment strategies and strategic interventions in local agricultural systems.



Linking Service Delivery Processes and Outcomes in Rural Sanitation: Findings from 56 districts in India

World Bank Water and Sanitation Program (WSP), April 2013

<http://bit.ly/ZepFpe>

The year 2012 marked the close of the Government of India's Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC). The program was started in 1999 to achieve universal rural sanitation coverage. Although rural sanitation coverage has increased during TSC, progress still falls short of the program goal of universal coverage. The objectives of this assessment are to: provide the Government of India with an overview of the range of service delivery processes adopted by different districts across states and their relative performance in terms of outcomes; identify which service delivery processes are linked to better (or worse) performance; and identify where the key bottlenecks are to achieving or sustaining outcomes.



Natural solutions for water security

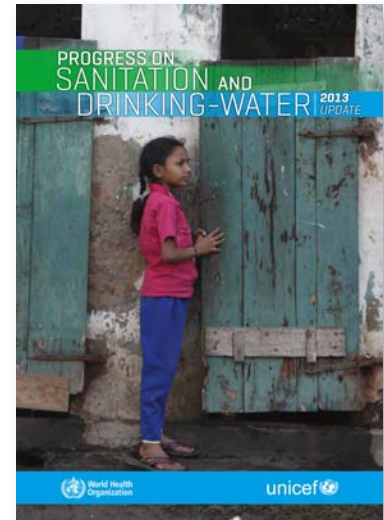
Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD), May 2013

<http://bit.ly/10A4cYX>

In view of the importance of water to sustainable development, and pressing problems with water availability and quality, the emphasis of this booklet is on how biodiversity provides us with solutions to meet water-related challenges. The booklet has been prepared for the International Day for Biological Biodiversity, which in 2013 focuses on water and biodiversity.

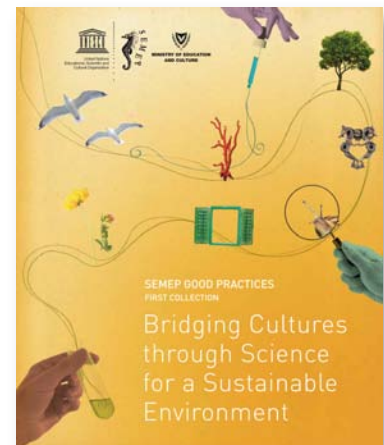
Progress on sanitation and drinking-water: 2013 update**WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation (JMP). May 2013**<http://bit.ly/18uyH6C>

This Progress on Drinking Water and Sanitation reports on access to drinking-water and sanitation worldwide and on progress towards related targets under Millennium Development Goal 7 “to halve, by 2015, the proportion of the population without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation”. The estimates presented in the 2013 report describe the situation as of end-2011. This 2013 update presents country and regional estimates for the year 2011 and global trends in sanitation, open defecation and access to drinking-water for the period 1990-2011. It also introduces the process of formulating proposals for post-2015 targets and corresponding indicators for water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH).

**SEMEP good practices 1st collection. Bridging Cultures through Science for a Sustainable Environment****United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Cyprus Ministry of Education and Culture. 2012**<http://bit.ly/16pj292>

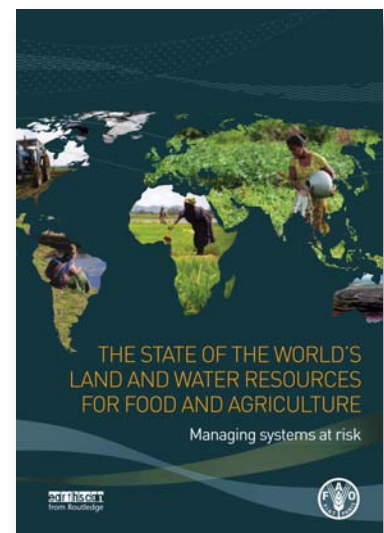
The South Eastern Mediterranean Environment Project (SEMEP) is an interdisciplinary environmental education project primarily focusing on the South Eastern Mediterranean Sea and the Black Sea region. The project promotes education for sustainable development through science and intercultural dialogue. This publication provides examples of good practices in education for bridging cultures and for sustainable development based on scientific methodology. Two of the best practices presented specifically focus on water-related issues:

1. A practice from Cyprus: Eutrophication is threatening the sustainability of the Athalassa lake ecosystem;
2. A practice from Israel: A scientific and cultural approach to developing a sustainable water supply for local environments.

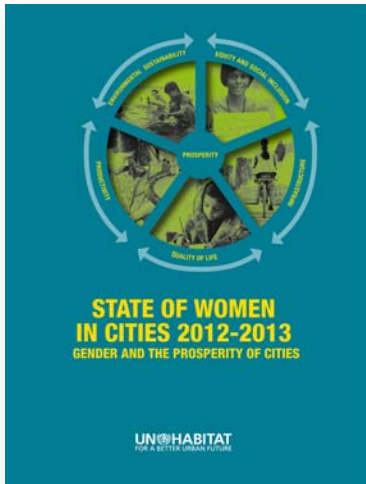
**(The) State of the World's Land and Water Resources for Food and Agriculture. Managing systems at risk****Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). 2011**<http://bit.ly/17sGItg>

This report examines the kinds of production responses needed to meet demand. It also assesses the potential of the world's land and water resources to support these desired increases in output and productivity. Risks and tradeoffs are examined, and options reviewed for managing these without harm to the resource base. Chapter 1 analyses the current status of land and water resources together with trends. It assesses the biophysical and technical aspects of the resources and their use, and presents projections for the year 2050. Chapter 2 reviews current institutional arrangements, and assesses socio-economic and environmental impacts of current land and water management. Chapter 3 reviews current and future threats to land and water and their implications for a series of major systems at risk. Chapter 5 assesses the institutional responses at local, national and international levels, with an analysis of lessons for the future. Finally, Chapter 6 draws conclusions and advances policy recommendations.

Full report is now available online.



Latest publications



State of Women in Cities 2012-2013. Gender and the Prosperity of Cities
United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat). 2013
<http://bit.ly/ZepQ3M>

The State of Women in Cities 2012/2013 Report focuses on Gender and the Prosperity of Cities. The Report examines the gender dimensions of the defining characteristics of a prosperous city - productivity, infrastructure development, quality of life, equity and social inclusion and environmental sustainability. It provides a conceptual framework for understanding the relationship between gender and prosperity and also reviews policies and institutional framework relevant for mainstreaming gender concerns in cities. Chapter 2.2. "Gender, Infrastructure and Prosperity in Cities" addresses water and sanitation issues.



Strong, Safe, and Resilient: A Strategic Policy Guide for Disaster Risk Management in East Asia and the Pacific
World Bank. March 2013
<http://bit.ly/12iNLTN>

This publication provides a brief overview of the key issues, strategic goals, and recommendations for disaster risk management (DRM) in East Asia and the Pacific. Chapter one gives an overview of the key trends related to disaster impacts in the region. Chapter two focuses on cross-sectoral issues of institutional arrangements for DRM and outreach to communities. Chapter's three to seven follow the core areas of DRM: risk identification, risk reduction, emergency preparedness, financial protection, and sustainable recovery and reconstruction. The appendixes include additional information related to specific sections of the report, a glossary of key terminology, and a summary of the main activities of the World Bank East Asia and the Pacific disaster risk management team. Drought and floods are addressed all along the report.



Technical Support Team Issues Brief: Water and Sanitation
UN-Water. May 2013
<http://bit.ly/11p9xxF>

This issues brief summarizes main water and sanitation-related commitments made by Member States at Rio+20, different proposals for integrating water and sanitation issues into the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) framework, and some reflections from the Post 2015 Global Thematic Consultation on Water.

Tracking Key Trends in Biodiversity Science and Policy

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO). 2013

<http://bit.ly/ZepVEz>

Based on the proceedings of a UNESCO International Conference on Biodiversity Science and Policy, this publication highlights different themes covered in the conference including:

1. The Biodiversity Knowledge Base: Taxonomy Today and Tomorrow for Environmental Sustainability and Human Well-being;
2. Conservation Biogeography: Integrating Biogeography and Conservation Science in a Changing World;
3. Priority-setting in Biodiversity Conservation: Strengthening Site-scale Approaches
4. Communication, Education and Public Awareness;
5. Mainstreaming Biodiversity into Policy-Making: Towards a Biodiversity Science Policy.

Water issues are addressed all along the report and more specifically in an article on 'Important areas for freshwater biodiversity'.



Water Challenge Badge

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). March 2013

<http://bit.ly/146E7hk>

Developed in collaboration with United Nations agencies, civil society and other organizations, the United Nations challenge badges are intended to raise awareness, educate and motivate young people to change their behaviour and be active agents of change in their local communities. The challenge badge series can be used by teachers in school classes and by youth leaders, and especially Guide or scout groups. The water challenge badge is designed to help educate children and young people about the crucial role water plays for life on our planet. The badge looks at how our water supplies are affected by human pressures, considers solutions for how water can be used more efficiently and motivates young people to save water.

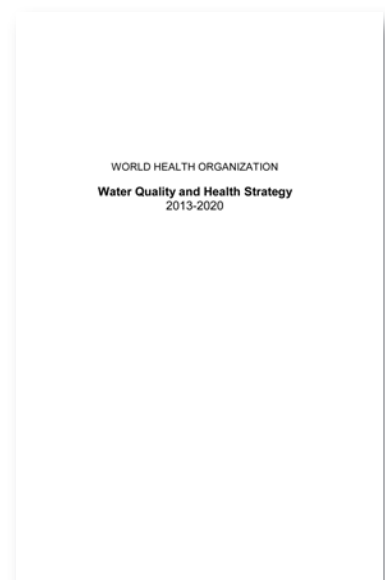


Water Quality and Health Strategy 2013-2020

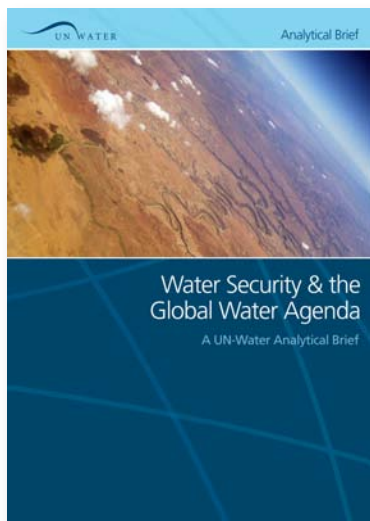
World Health Organization (WHO). January 2013

<http://bit.ly/112GDDx>

This document sets out the strategy adopted by the World Health Organization (WHO) for the period 2013-2020 to manage water quality with a view to protecting and promoting human health. The strategy is centred on primary prevention of waterborne and water-related diseases. The document provides background information on the burden of disease, linkages with global change, the economic risk-benefit approach; the WHO policy framework, international agreements and strategies; and guidelines for promoting effective policies and practices.



Latest publications

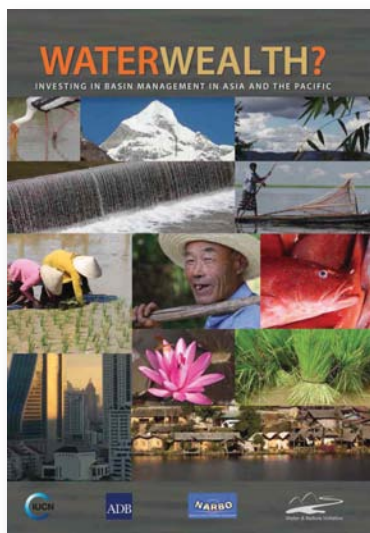


Water Security and the Global Water Agenda. A UN-Water Analytical Brief UN-Water. March 2013

<http://bit.ly/Zeq0IC>

This Analytical Brief aims to provide a starting point for discussion on the range of issues that collectively fall under the umbrella of water security, identifying the challenges that lay ahead, the necessity of relating water security to policy development, and offering possible options for responding to these challenges. It underlines the important role that cooperation will play in addressing water security challenges, including collaboration between different stakeholders and across all levels, from local to international.

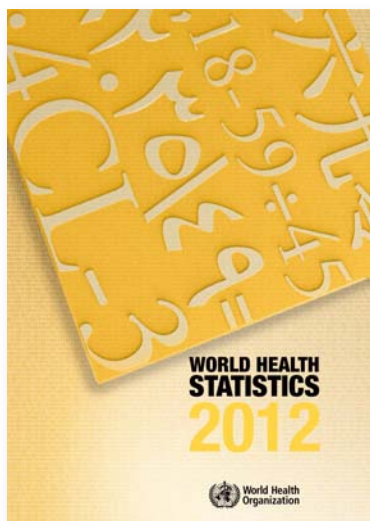
Section 1 introduces the brief and the concept of water security. Section 2 outlines the broad concepts for understanding water issues within the context of security. It establishes the link between water and human security issues, and highlights how water insecurity can lead to fragile and vulnerable societies. It points to the importance of the role of water in transboundary contexts, whether for cooperation, or in tensions or instability, and serves to stimulate the research and policy communities to address water security challenges. Section 3 explores the relevance of water security to policy formulation on a number of key dimensions – from human rights, to development, to the protection of ecosystems. Section 4 highlights the key supporting elements needed to achieve water security – policies, capacities, governance mechanisms and structures – and options for addressing water security challenges.



WaterWealth? Investing in Basin Management in Asia and the Pacific Asian Development Bank (ADB), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). March 2013

<http://bit.ly/112GJec>

This publication highlights how people work together in Asia and the Pacific to secure water for all through innovative approaches in basins. Drawing on a cross-section of 43 case studies prepared specially for this publication, WaterWealth explains the challenges to improving water governance and management across Asia and the Pacific region. It illustrates many examples of new approaches and practices already being applied by basin managers to secure water for all.



World Health Statistics 2012 World Health Organization (WHO). 2012

<http://bit.ly/19maXR0>

Spanish: <http://bit.ly/133bhAL>

French: <http://bit.ly/15iPVPY>

The World Health Statistics series is WHO's annual compilation of health-related data for its 194 Member States, and includes a summary of the progress made towards achieving the health-related Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and associated targets. Unsafe water supplies and inadequate levels of sanitation and hygiene increase the transmission of diarrhoeal diseases (including cholera); trachoma; and hepatitis. The report presents a series of regional charts and, for six indicators – including population without access to improved drinking-water sources and population without access to improved sanitation – the charts show the average annual rate of decline (AARD) since 1990 up to the latest available year, and the overall AARD required for the country to achieve the relevant MDG by 2015.

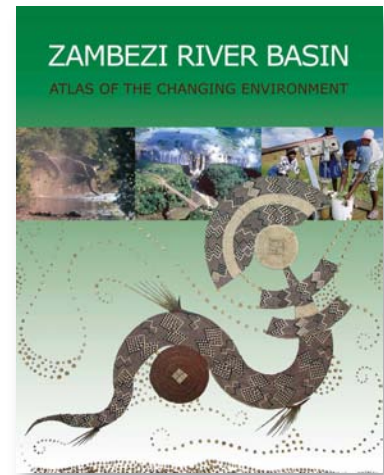
Zambezi River Basin Atlas of the Changing Environment

Southern African Research and Documentation Centre (SARDC), Southern African Development Community (SADC), Zambezi Watercourse Commission (ZAMCOM), GRID-Arendal, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)/GRID-Arendal. August 2012

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

The Zambezi River Basin Atlas of the Changing Environment is a basin collaborative initiative with the objective of providing scientific evidence about changes that are taking place in the natural resources and the environment. The Atlas, with climate change as its running theme, is for use by policy makers and other stakeholders, and the general public, to generate action towards climate resilience through adaptation and mitigation of the impacts of climate change. The Atlas discusses the impacts that these changes are having on the basin's people and resources, thus contributing to the documentation and study of the relationship between human populations and the environment.

The Atlas contains five chapters. Chapter 1 presents the biophysical and socioeconomic features of the Zambezi River Basin and sub-basins, and some examples of the rich cultures, stretching across eight countries – Angola, Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Chapter 2 presents the socio-economic and environmental changes taking place in the Zambezi River Basin. Chapter 3 presents six transboundary issues of importance to the Zambezi River Basin: ecosystems and protected areas, water resources, movement of people, movement of pollutants, fire outbreaks, and navigation. Chapter 4 tracks Goal 7 on Environmental Sustainability, of the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), with profiles of the eight riparian states of the Zambezi River Basin. Chapter 5 presents the policies and strategies that have been put in place to promote integrated resource management among the Basin states.



You can access the latest publications on water and sanitation from UN agencies and programmes at: <http://www.unwaterlibrary.org>

You can also keep abreast of the latest UN publications on water and sanitation on Twitter at: <http://twitter.com/undcws>

Previous issues available at: <http://www.un.org/waterforlifedecade/bimonthly.shtml>

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