



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



World Water
Assessment Programme



UN WATER

The United Nations **World Water Development Report 3**

and related publications produced by the
World Water Assessment Programme

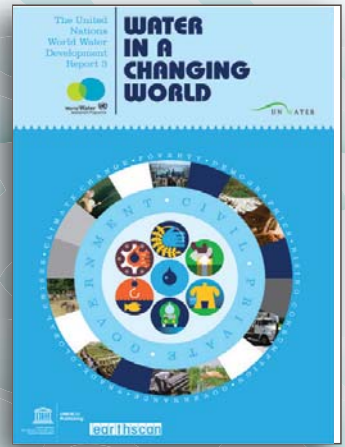


Outside the Box

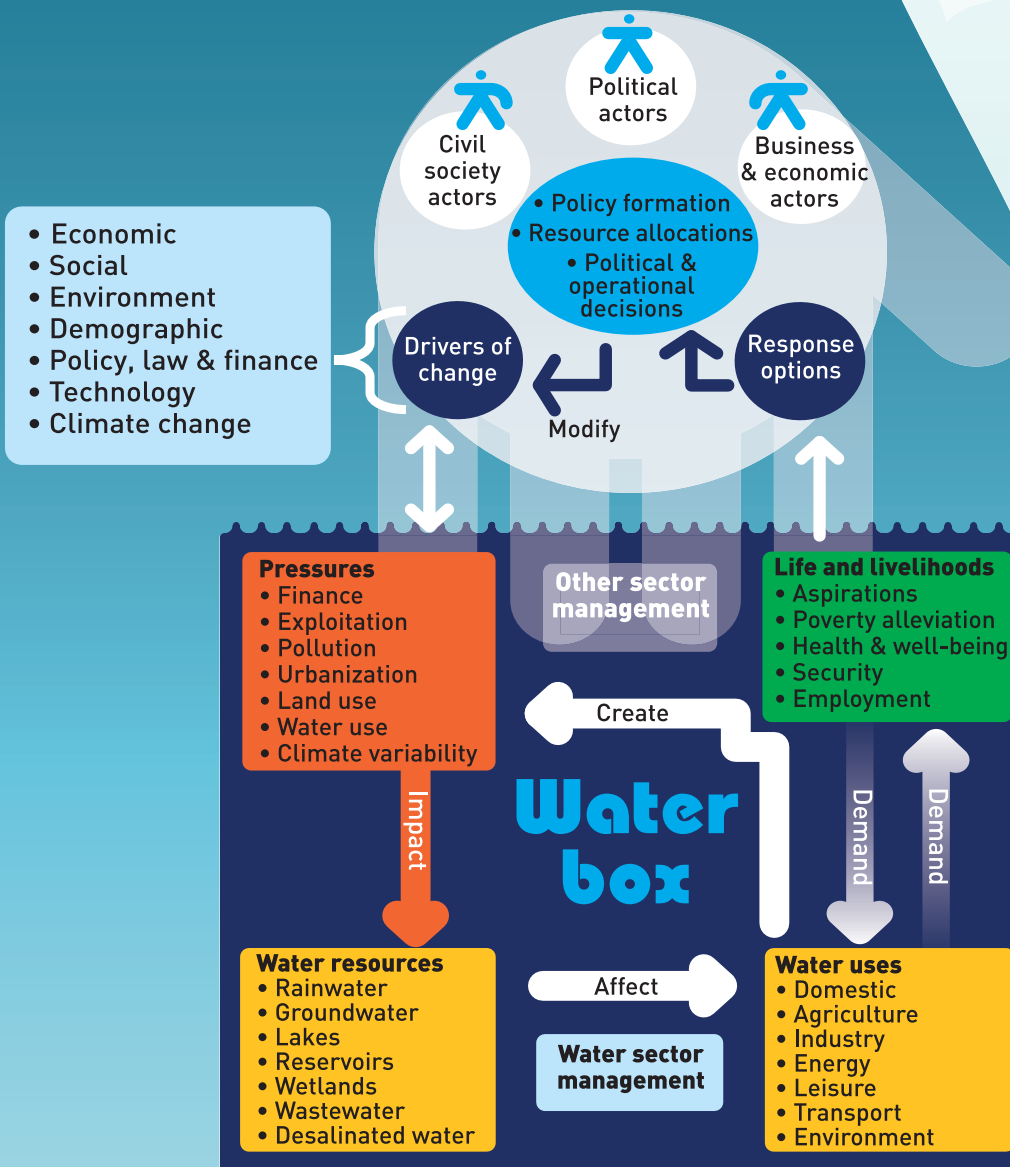
The third edition of the United Nations World Water Development Report takes a new approach to assessing global freshwater resources and water challenges worldwide.

The first two editions of this authoritative report focused on water professionals and on institutions directly responsible for managing our water resources. The third edition — *Water in a Changing World* — recognizes that decisions taken by leaders in business, in civil society, and in government at all levels and in multiple sectors also have important impacts on water resources and water management.

Water in a Changing World directly addresses these decision-makers. It encourages them to recognize the role that water plays in attaining their objectives, and the role their decisions can play in securing the future of the world's water resources.



Water in a Changing World emphasizes the role of water in development and economic growth. It warns that demographic changes, increases in population and climate change are depleting the planet's freshwater supply at an unsustainable rate, and projects that by 2030, 47% of the world population will be living in areas of high water stress.



Water in a Changing World

United Nations World Water Development Report 3

Coordinated by the World Water Assessment Programme, the World Water Development Report offers in-depth analyses and examples of best practices to help stimulate better stewardship in the water sector.

This unique report is the collective effort of UN-Water members: 27 United Nations organizations with a role in addressing global water concerns. Invaluable input also comes from national, regional and other groups and individuals supporting progress towards water-related development goals.

Water in a Changing World, the third World Water Development Report, was launched in Istanbul on March 16, 2009 at the Fifth World Water Forum. It builds on the work of the first two editions, *Water for People, Water for Life* (2003) and *Water, A Shared Responsibility* (2006). The fourth edition is under preparation and will be published in 2012.

Table of Contents

16 chapters, divided into four parts:

Part 1	Understanding what drives the pressures on water
Part 2	Using water
Part 3	Status of the resource
Part 4	Responses and choices

Drivers of Change

Water in a Changing World shows how changes in water demand and supply are affected by and in turn affect other global dynamics. A major theme is that important decisions affecting water management are made outside the water sector and are driven by external, largely unpredictable forces – forces of demography, climate change, the global economy, changing societal values and norms, technological innovation, laws and customs, energy needs and financial markets. Many of these external drivers are dynamic, and changes are accelerating.

The report emphasizes that decisions in other sectors and those related to development, growth and livelihoods should incorporate water as an integral component. At the same time, the analysis of the state of the world's water resources is imbedded in a more expansive context of what can be accomplished through water management.

The report is accompanied by a case study volume, ten targeted "Mess

Case Studies

Facing the Challenges

Adopting the premise that local actions and on-the-ground insights are the starting point of a global strategy to improve management of the world's freshwater resources, *Facing the Challenges* highlights the essential points of twenty case studies from around the world, examining water challenges and the differing management approaches taken in response. This volume brings the number of countries studied at the regional or national level to 64 over the life of the programme.

Facing the Challenges includes national studies of Bangladesh, Cameroon, China, Estonia, the Netherlands, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Tunisia, Uzbekistan and Zambia, as well as case studies at the regional or river basin level from the Autonomous Community of the Basque Country in Spain; Cholistan Desert in Pakistan; Han River Basin in the Republic of Korea; Istanbul in Turkey; Lake Merín Basin in Brazil and Uruguay; the Pacific Island States; La Plata River Basin in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay; Po River Basin in Italy; Vuoksi River Basin in Finland; and the Russian Federation.

MESSAGES TO DECISION-MAKERS

These four-page publications bring the findings of the World Water Development Report to the attention of decision-makers in areas ranging from local and national governments to NGOs and the private sector.

Each Message provides an overview of relevant water issues and challenges. They stress the need to consider water availability and quality when making decisions or formulating policies, and to take into account the impact these may have on water resources.

The series to date includes Messages targeted to Business Leaders, Development Agencies, Non-Governmental Organizations, Religious Leaders, Financiers, Political Leaders and Cabinet Ministers, Urban Mayors and Local Governments, Ministers of Finance, Parliamentarians, and Youth.

How do decisions made outside the water sector affect water use?

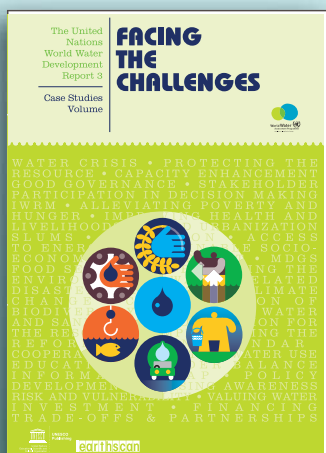
An understanding of water issues and of the support needed to ensure a reliable, safe water supply for the future requires partnerships between those responsible for the economy-wide benefits of water and those responsible for managing water.



Messages to Decision-Makers" and a series of side publications

The first two editions of the World Water Development Report each included a section presenting national or river-basin case-studies.

For the first time, the 2009 edition is accompanied with a standalone volume of case studies: *Facing the Challenges*



WWAP Side Publications



This series provides more focused, in-depth information and scientific background knowledge on topics discussed in the World Water Development Report.

From scientific analyses to contributions from development organizations, legal experts and environment groups, these papers offer a closer look at less conventional water sectors and examples from regions around the world highlighting particular water challenges or approaches to managing water resources.

Topics range from adapting to climate change to transboundary co-operation and integrated water resources management.

Drawing on the findings of the World Water Development Report, these present overviews of specific water issues and challenges and identify coherent sets of policy and management actions towards the sustainable development and use of the world's water resources.

Special Report: Climate Change and Water

Water is an integral component of climate change and the primary medium through which it exhibits its impacts.

This WWAP Special Report describes the dynamic linkages that interconnect changes in climate, the state of our water resources, demographic expansion and migration issues, food and energy shortages, and the challenge of poverty. It then identifies key actions towards ensuring long-term economic, environmental and social sustainability and averting a global water crisis.



Special Report: Water – the blue web that unites us

Prepared as a contribution to the July 2009 G8 Summit in Italy, this short report highlights the importance of recognizing water as an international and global issue.

WWAP Briefing Notes

Water for Sustainable Urban Human Settlements

Building on the outcomes of the World Water Development Report and on the work of UN-HABITAT, this Briefing Note outlines the critical water-related challenges of today's unprecedented urban expansion – from providing access to basic services to ensuring environmental and human security.



The Implications of Climate Change on Water

Developing countries are often especially vulnerable to climate change. Drawing from the findings of the World Water Development Report, this paper explains why public policy on water services and functions must prioritize a strengthening of competencies and focus on the need for greater investment in water infrastructure to adapt to a changing climate.

Lakes: Freshwater Storehouses and Mirrors of Human Activities

Degradation of the world's lakes is a serious global issue. This Briefing Note shows why lakes and their drainage basins should be considered a single water management unit, and why effective lake management has greater potential for developing sustainable solutions to water resources issues than any other type of water management.

The UN World Water Development Report 3: *Water in a Changing World* is published jointly by UNESCO Publishing, Paris and Earthscan, London.

Copies can be ordered at:

<http://publishing.unesco.org>
or www.earthscan.org

To download a PDF version of the report or other publications, please see the World Water Assessment Programme website www.unesco.org/water/wwap

The United Nations World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP) monitors and reports on the status of global freshwater resources and the progress achieved in reaching the Millennium Development Goals related to water. WWAP provides recommendations, develops case studies, enhances assessment capacity at the national level and informs the decision-making process.

WWAP is the flagship programme of UN-Water and is hosted by UNESCO. It produces the triennial UN World Water Development Report .

Background:

In 1998, the Sixth Session of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development stated that there was a need for regular, global assessments on the state of the world's freshwater resources. The World Water Assessment Programme was created in 2000 in response to this recommendation, with the mandate of producing a regular UN World Water Development Report.

UN-Water:

UN-Water is composed of member representatives from 27 United Nations organizations that work on all aspects of freshwater and sanitation. Other groups outside the UN system are partners in UN-Water.



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United Nations World Water Assessment Programme
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