

# World Water

## Assessment Programme

# WWAP

# The United Nations World Water Development Report **WWDR**

WWAP's primary product is the WWDR – a triennial, comprehensive review providing an authoritative picture of the state, use and management of the world's freshwater resources as the basis for sustainable, social and economic development. It provides a mechanism for monitoring change in the resource and its management, and offers best practices, in addition to in-depth theoretical analyses.

The basis for the WWDR springs from the Rio Earth Summit of 1992 and the UN Millennium Declaration of 2000. By 2015 the international community pledged to halve the proportion of people who are unable to reach or afford safe drinking water, and stop the unsustainable exploitation of water resources.

A large number of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are dependent upon water resources and their sound management. The progress of a country towards achieving the MDGs can partly and implicitly be measured by assessing that country's water situation.

WWAP synthesizes data and information gathered from the UN agencies and entities that make up UN-Water and from other prominent stakeholders, including non-governmental organizations, universities, research centres and countries.

*To learn more about WWAP and the WWDR please visit the WWAP website:  
[www.unesco.org/water/wwap](http://www.unesco.org/water/wwap)*

1

## Preparing and producing the triennial United Nations World Water Development Report (WWDR)

The development of the triennial United Nations WWDR, coordinated by WWAP, is a joint effort involving UN agencies and entities which make up UN-Water. The WWDR is a key UN report and monitors changes in water resources and its management, and tracks progress towards achieving targets - in particular the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

2

## Global Water Scenarios

The project explores alternative futures of the world's water and its uses to 2050, taking into account impacts of climate change, demography, social and economic development and other major drivers, and provides tools to water managers and decision-makers

3

## Case studies in conjunction with partners

The case studies developed by WWAP provide an in-depth analysis of the state of freshwater resources and related challenges that affect the livelihoods of people. The studies outline water resource issues in practice in different parts of the world in order to improve their assessment capability

## WWAP's activities include:

# The World Water Assessment Programme

# WWAP

In 1998, the 6th Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development stated there was a need for regular, global assessments on the status of freshwater resources, and that a collective UN system-wide continuing assessment process was necessary. The World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP) was founded in 2000 as a response to this call.

As the flagship programme of UN-Water, WWAP is hosted and led by the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). Initially housed in UNESCO's headquarters in Paris, in 2007 the WWAP Secretariat relocated to Perugia, Italy.

WWAP assesses and reports on the state, use and management of the world's freshwater resources; the demands on these resources; and knowledge about emerging critical issues. WWAP seeks to equip water managers and key decision-makers with the information, data, tools and skills necessary to enable them to effectively participate in the development of policies.

- It is necessary to reposition water as central to development goals
- Assessment of water resources is fundamental for decision-making



4

## Indicators for freshwater resources, their use and management

WWAP had established an Expert Group on Indicators, Monitoring and Databases (EG-IMD), to promote dialogue between potential users of data and indicators and experts in the provision and interpretation of data. WWAP is also developing a Pilot Study on Indicators in partnership with Global Terrestrial Network for Hydrology and GEO/IGWCO (Water Community of Practice), to estimate country-level Total Actual Renewable Water Resources (TARWR).

5

## Capacity-building programmes

One of the overarching objectives of WWAP is to assist countries in enhancing their national capacity for water resources assessment. WWAP does this by encouraging governments to share knowledge, build on their existing strengths, and learn from their own and others' experiences.

6

## Mainstreaming gender equality

The WWAP Advisory Group on Gender Equality provides guidance and feedback on the design and implementation of the programme's gender mainstreaming strategy. The group assists WWAP in mainstreaming gender equality in its activities and products, with particular focus on the WWDR.

# WorldWater

## Assessment Programme

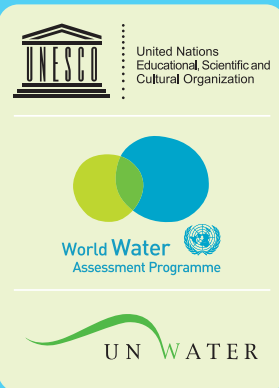
# WWAP



*Decisions must be based on the best possible understanding of all relevant water systems*



*It is vital to monitor, understand, and share information about water resources, their uses and benefits*



United Nations World Water Assessment Programme  
Programme Office for Global Water Assessment  
Division of Water Sciences, UNESCO  
06134 Colombella, Perugia, Italy  
Tel.: + 39 075 591 10 11  
Fax: + 39 075 591 33 23 / + 39 075 691 96 67  
[www.unesco.org/water/wwap](http://www.unesco.org/water/wwap)