

OECD Water Governance Initiative

Tools, publications and events from the 13th to the 14th OECD WGI meeting

Inputs by members.

14th WGI Meeting
2-3 November
Virtual Event

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Tools and Initiatives

Agroparistech-Montpellier, [Training program 'Water for all'](#). The Training program is devoted to managers in water and sanitation, equivalent to an MBA. The program is co-sponsored by the Suez Foundation and the French Development Agency.

German Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources (BGR), Groundwater Country support tool with Namibia. Groundwater is a crucial resource for most African countries to meet water demand of growing populations, as well as to support their agriculture sector and economy. In many countries, there is still potential to enhance water supplies from groundwater, while other countries or regions may struggle to implement sustainable groundwater management practices that protect the resource from overexploitation and contamination. Water is present in many national development plans, framing its fundamental role for national growth and development, as well as for poverty reduction. However, groundwater issues often receive little attention in National Water Strategies and Planning, resulting in the fragmentation and minimisation of measures and investments in groundwater. Under the African Ministers Council on Water (AMCOW) Pan African Program on Groundwater (APAGroP), BGR is supporting the Namibian Ministry of Agriculture, Water & Land Reform in the development of a countrywide groundwater support tool. The aim is to identify potentials and needs for groundwater management and align them to the needs of sustainable economic development. The tool includes participatory diagnostic and dialogue phases and culminates in a strategic action plan. As a result, APAGroP will look to apply this tool in interested countries aiming to develop and manage groundwater resources for secure livelihoods and sustainable economic development. The development and pilot application of the tool in Namibia will provide lessons learnt and recommendations on how to roll out the tool to other countries.

Global Water Partnership (GWP), [Massive Open Online Course on Governance for Transboundary Freshwater Security](#): this course provides understandings of transboundary freshwater governance in theory and practice. Topics include transboundary freshwater security, international water law, water diplomacy, negotiations, institutions, management tools, and sustainable finance. The course is designed for professionals who manage and make decisions about transboundary waters. This includes professionals within line ministries and river basin organisations; managers of transboundary water projects and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) International Waters Portfolio; the GEF IW:LEARN Network; NGOs, academics, and private sector actors working on basin management; development practitioners; young professionals and future leaders in transboundary waters, including undergraduate and graduate students; and anyone else who is keen to learn about the topic. The course opened on 31 August on SDG Academy edX platform. The course attracted over 1000 participants in the first 4 weeks of its opening, with number increasing every day. The course is available at <https://www.edx.org/course/governance-for-transboundary-freshwater-security>.

International Water Association (IWA), Regulating for Citywide Inclusive Sanitation (CWIS) Initiative. The IWA aims to identify the needs, opportunities, and tools for action to support and inspire regulators in their contribution to achieving citywide inclusive sanitation in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals. Launched in May 2020, IWA will host a series of meetings to dive into the “Areas of Priority” (the identified needs). The initiative aims to achieve the following shared goals: i) Citywide inclusive sanitation to be recognised as an essential public service and an important part of regulators’ mission to advance the dedicated water goal SDG 6 and SDG 11; ii) Regulators’ role in the path towards

achieving CWIS is understood. iii) Regulators and service providers become enabled to act and be engaged as champions for joint action in support of this mission.

International Water Association (IWA), Climate Smart Utilities Initiative. This Initiative supports water professionals to embrace the challenge and opportunity of transitioning towards carbon neutrality, while adapting to climate change: a knowledge platform for resources. The Initiative is a community of practice for exchanging on common problems and solutions and inspiring innovation, driving sound governance and leadership through Steering Committee of utility leaders from across the globe.

Norwegian Environment Agency, Simple tools to assess challenges in cross-sectoral co-ordination (linked to OECD Water Governance Principle 3). As the national co-ordinating agency for implementing the Water Framework Directive in Norway, the Norwegian Environment Agency regularly analyses and assesses the challenges of cross-sectoral co-ordination, and develops strategies to promote the integration of water policy objectives into other sectoral policies. There are two tools that have proved helpful: i) The "ladder of coordination" is helpful to analyse and describe the status of sector integration. The "ladder of coordination" can be found as Figure 1 in this publication from the Norwegian Institute of Urban and Regional Research "[The impact of network management and complexity on multi-level coordination](#)". ii) The "source-to-sea approach" stems 2, 3 and 4 are helpful to further analyse stakeholders, governance system and design a strategy for improved integration. The "source-to-sea approach" can be found at this [web page](#) of the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI).

Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), E-learning course on “Water Diplomacy and Integration of Water Norms in Peacebuilding”. The e-learning course is part of the OSCE project on Water Diplomacy and Conflict Prevention – Phase I that aims to enhance co-operation across sustainable transboundary water management, contributing to comprehensive approaches to security in the OSCE area. The project includes activities that contribute to increased capacities of stakeholders and institutions in conflict resolution and water negotiations, strengthened dialogue and co-operation around transboundary water bodies and enhanced knowledge of the role of transboundary water resource management in peacebuilding. The e-learning course will increase awareness of water practitioners, professional negotiators and university students in the field of water management on the importance of the integration of sustainable water norms in peacebuilding processes. The course will be available in the spring 2021.

Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), E-learning course on gender mainstreaming in water governance: This e-learning course is part of the OSCE’s continued efforts to foster the incorporation of gender perspectives in water governance and the participation of women in conflict resolution and water management at all levels. The e-learning course will increase awareness of water practitioners and university students in the field of water management on the importance of gender mainstreaming in sustainable water management. The course will be available in the spring 2021.

Open University, UK, Agricultural Knowledge: Linking farmers, advisors and researchers to boost innovation ([Agrilink](#)). The goal of AgriLink is to stimulate transitions towards more sustainable European agriculture by furthering the understanding of the roles of a wide range of advisory organisations in farmer decision-making and enhancing their contribution to learning and innovation. A key part of AgriLink is the use of six ‘Living Laboratories’ (Living Labs) where farmers, advisors, and researchers co-develop and test innovative advisory tools and methods. The Living Lab methodology and approach is being used in the following countries: The Netherlands & Belgium (sustainable maize cultivation); Italy (Rebuilding a local food community for sustainable farming); Norway (crop rotation between farms); Latvia (information provision for farmers); Spain (improving advisory services on integrated pest management and nitrate use); Romania (improving fiscal information and performance). Although most of the six living labs have not been focussed on water governance explicitly, the use of Living Labs as a methodological innovation offers scope for systemic improvements to agro-environmental performance and advisory services. The Living

Labs are suited to topics such as nitrates, pesticides or abstraction, or water governance practices more generally.

Open University, UK, Review of Approaches to Communicating Drought Status and Risk (RADAR).

The UK's weather is naturally highly variable and droughts can co-exist with floods as experienced dramatically in the UK in 2012 and 2019. This presents significant challenges for communicating drought status and risk. Climate change, population growth, increased and diverse demands for water and changes in socio-ecological systems will require a shift in the way the UK thinks about and acts on droughts. The overall aim of the project is to explore alternative, more relevant and useful approaches for communicating drought risk and status. Objectives include: Review current approaches to communicating drought risk and status, Co-develop alternative approaches, Test the appropriateness of different drought communication approaches and identify the most promising, and Summarise and disseminate key findings. RADAR is in progress and findings and outcomes have not yet been finalised. Expected outcomes include: Rapid Evidence Assessment of literature on drought communication, Summary of findings from stakeholder surveys on current drought communication, Workshops with key stakeholders on improved drought communication strategies, and Recommendations for policy-makers.

Water Integrity Network, Water Integrity Risk Index. Existing evidence suggests that corruption and weak integrity can lead to inefficient use, as well as siphoning off, of financial resources from the water and sanitation (W&S) sector. This has led many international organisations and governments to call for effective action for strengthening integrity in the sector. However, policy reform effectiveness and adequate policy targeting are difficult to gauge without valid and reliable measurement of corruption. WIN has collaborated with the Government Transparency Institute to develop a novel measurement of corruption risks in the W&S sector in urban areas. The novelty of the approach comes from applying Big Data analytics to administrative data and survey datasets in order to develop a composite risk index, which is comprehensive (encompasses many risks), objective (uses direct measurement) and actionable, offering insights across different categories, and the results are comparable across time and space

Water Integrity Network, Integrity assessment tool for water utilities. WIN and the IDB launched a joint initiative to develop an innovative integrity assessment tool for water utilities. The main objective of the new assessment tool is to help assess the preparedness levels of water utilities to prevent integrity and corruption risks from materialising in their organisation. Ultimately, the assessment results are expected to support utility organisations in improving their performance by implementing evidence-based integrity practices. The integrity assessment tool has been pilot tested with two utility organisations, which differ significantly in terms of their size, corporate governance arrangements and resource endowment, among others. The results of the pilot tests demonstrate that, despite these differences in the organisations, the assessment tool enabled the identification of the strengths and shortcomings in their integrity management practices and processes. The data and evidence generated during the two pilot assessments were found to be useful in formulating strategies and actions to improve integrity management in the participating organisations. The tool is suitable for self-evaluation purposes by utility organisations and can facilitate internal dialogue between different parts of the organisation to address integrity management in an integrated manner. It can also be used to support external accountability through independent verification of the data and results. The integrity assessment tool for water utilities can therefore be a valuable resource for water utilities, regulators, and other relevant stakeholders seeking to improve utility performance through evidence-based integrity management.

Recent and Future Publications

French Development Agency (AFD), The role of Public Development Banks in financing the water and sanitation SDG 6, the water related goals of the Paris agreement and contribute to biodiversity protection. This study analyses the role of Public Development Banks (PDB)s, and particularly of National (and local) Development Banks in financing Sustainable Development Goal 6 and the Paris Agreement and biodiversity protection water related goals. It provides policy recommendations to guide the future actions of PDBs in relation to financing the water sector. The study will have a global dimension but also two regional focuses: one on the Mediterranean area and one on Latin America.

Asia Pacific Water Forum (APWF) Secretariat c/o Japan Water Forum, Policy report SDG6 and COVID-19 in the Asia Pacific Region. Under the leadership of the UN ESCAP (Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific), the APWF Governance Working Group is working to publish the policy report entitled “SDG6 and COVID-19 in the Asia Pacific Region. The objectives are to: review the state of COVID-19 and SDG 6 progress in the Asia Pacific region; identify synergies between regional COVID-19 responses and SDG6 progress; identify the most effective policy interventions at national, regional and local levels for each Asia Pacific country grouping in the context of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda; identify the most effective technical interventions at national, regional, and local levels for each Asia Pacific country group in the context of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. Organisations willing to provide expert knowledge and practical experience, please contact Yumiko Asayama, APWF Secretariat (asayama@waterforum.jp).

BGR (German Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources), Groundwater governance capacities assessment in Jordan. Groundwater management in Jordan is facing serious challenges. In many regions, groundwater levels are declining at high rates. Controlling the overexploitation of groundwater is a crucial task of public authorities. While information on the status of Jordan’s groundwater resources is growing, management and policy initiatives seem to have problems with effective implementation. The management and depletion of groundwater affects many stakeholders from different sectors. In the context of its cooperation with the Jordanian Ministry of Water, BGR conducted an assessment of groundwater governance capacities in Jordan. Based on interviews with key stakeholders and experts, the capacity of Jordan’s institutions to act jointly on the issue of groundwater over-abstraction has been evaluated against an indicator framework. Results will be published by the end of 2020.

National Water Commission, Mexico (CONAGUA), [2020-2024 Mexico’s National Water Program \(PNH\) and Regional Water Programs \(PHR\)](#). The PNH is a special program derived from the National Development Plan, aiming to guide the national water policy of Mexico. The PNH is the result of a consultation process that began with the forums for the construction of the PND and was complemented by 44 PNH specific forums and 8 consultation forums for the Environment and Natural Resources Sectorial Program (Promarnat). The Regional Water Programs (PHR) are being prepared in each of the country’s 13 hydrological-administrative regions so that at the local level and with the active participation of water users and society as a whole, collective activities can be defined to achieve the objectives set out in the PNH. The River Basin Councils, at the basic platform for participation, lead the process of integrating the PHR with the guidance and support of CONAGUA. The 2020-2024 PNH is about to be published.

Dutch Water Authorities, Benchmark publication Dutch Water Authorities ([Waterschapspeil 2020](#)). Waterschapspeil 2020 is the result of the 2019 benchmarking. This benchmark program has been in place

for around 30 years now, as an instrument that contributes to public transparency and that provides a valuable opportunity for learning and improving practices for the water authorities themselves. The objective is to compare the water authorities' performance and costs, regarding their main tasks but also looking at customer service, sustainability and other aspects of modern public government. This yearly benchmark, in which all Dutch water authorities participate, supports transparency and accountability of water authorities as public organisations. They show how revenues from taxes are spent, monitor the utilities' work towards agreements and keep to (inter)national standards. All 21 authorities are involved in the design of shared indicators and interpretation of the results. All benchmark data are publicly available in the [online WAVES dashboard and databank](#).

GIZ Tunisia and International Association for Water Law (AIDA), A new look at water governance: what it takes in practice to move from a bad to a good status in the different water sectors. This paper is a contribution to the international discussion on "water governance". The paper uses the OECD Principles on Water Governance as a framework and interprets what is necessary to put each Principle into practice. The paper argues that it is necessary to more clearly define what consists of "bad" and "good" status to orient specific actions for each Principle towards the respective water sectors, i.e., water resources and water supply, since several well-known approaches in water management are a means to an end, not an end in themselves. As such, the text starts and ends with descriptions of bad and good status and shows how water governance is a means to an end and what this 'end' finally means for the two sectors of water resources management and drinking water supply. For more information on the document and research, please contact Manfred Matz, at Manfred.Matz@giz.de.

Global Water Partnership (GWP), Understanding and advancing gender-sensitive responses to Integrated Water Resources Management, in line with SDG indicator 6.5.1. The purpose of this research is to contribute to a better understanding among key target audiences on the multiple benefits of more fully integrating gender considerations into water resources management and empowering women's participation, to accelerating achievement of SDG 6.5.1 and other related SDG targets, through literature analysis and structured interviews. It will conclude with a comprehensive report and a list of specific ways in which countries have addressed gender issues in water resources management. The report will be based on the answers from countries in each of eleven possible values (in increments of 10, from 0 to 100) on the three gender-related questions in the 2017 SDG 6.5.1 survey, with real-life examples from countries that self-evaluated. The progressive description of what it means to be at each of the levels, going from lowest to highest, should show how a greater inclusion of gender issues in laws/plans or similar at the national level leads to a better basis for water resources management.

International Network of Basin Organisations (INBO), City-basin dialogue: methodological guide INBO-IWA on basin connected cities. Through practical cases, testimonials and recommendations, this guide will illustrate how the "urban actor" can and must play an active role in the protection of the resource, and thus reconnect it to its basin through its city. The aim of this guide is to promote the concept of "basin-connected cities" through the improvement of dialogue between cities and basin organisations, on the basis of good collaboration practices between cities (the services of urban waters in particular, among others) and basin organisations. The guide will be available in March 2021 in English, French, Spanish. The guide is a collaboration between the International Water Association (IWA) and the International Network of Basin Organisations (INBO).

International Water Association (IWA), [Guidelines for Public Participation in the Regulation of Urban Water Services](#). The Guidelines look at the benefits and risks of public participation and outline a new framework that aims to serve as a baseline for practitioners when assessing the associated benefits and risks of a public participation approach to regulating urban water services. The guidelines are accompanied by a set of "Tools" that can be used as a simulation exercise to help practitioners with the first steps of preparing public participation for decision-making, using the example of tariff setting. This exercise can be used both as a self-reflection exercise as well as in a group workshop setting.

Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, Babbitt Center for Land and Water Policy, [“Current Issues and Perspectives in Urban Water Demand Management: A Report on the 5th Urban Water Demand Roundtable April 8–9, 2019, Tempe, Arizona”](#): Published April 2020. The Urban Water Demand Roundtable (UWDR) is a convening of practitioners, consultants, and academics engaged in water demand research. The UWDR was initially organised in 2012 by a group of water professionals and academics to fill a need for a forum with a higher level of dialogue about the ongoing and unexplored changes in urban water demand than could be found at existing national conferences and professional association events. This report was written to capture, organise, and communicate important and interesting insights, questions, and opinions expressed by participants in the 5th UWDR held April 8–9, 2019. The authors thank the Water Research Foundation, Arizona State University, and the Lincoln Institute for their financial support of the UWDR and the development of this report.

Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, Babbitt Center for Land and Water Policy, [“The Hardest Working River in the West: A StoryMap of the Colorado River”](#). Posted June 2020. This effort illustrates how StoryMaps can educate broad audiences about the history, current challenges and policy debates surrounding river basins. In the first 4 months since posting, StoryMap has been viewed over 7,000 times. This StoryMap introduces viewers to the key water sustainability issues in the Colorado River Basin through data and stories. Although not the largest or longest river in the world, the Colorado River connects a rich array of social and ecological communities along its 1,450-mile journey from its headwaters in the Rocky Mountains of Colorado to its mouth in the Gulf of California, Mexico.

Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, Babbitt Center for Land and Water Policy, [“Incorporating Water into Comprehensive Planning: A Manual for Land Use Planners in the Colorado River Basin”](#). This guidance manual produced by the Lincoln Institute Babbitt Center for Land and Water Policy, examines the integration of water into community comprehensive plans. This work is focused on the seven USA States within the Colorado River Basin. By making smart decisions about water before development begins, municipalities and counties can better equip themselves to deal with water scarcity and other challenges. The comprehensive plan provides an opportunity for a community to bring water issues to the forefront of their future vision, solicit public input, and foster public buy-in for a more sustainable future. The manual for land use planners covers the processes, practices, and topics needed to successfully incorporate water management into a community’s comprehensive plan. A manual for integrating land use issues into utility water efficiency plans is also available from the Babbitt Center’s website. A Lincoln Institute Policy Focus Report will be published in mid-2021.

Ministry for Ecological Transition, Spain, [The Initiative Green Paper on Water Governance \(Iniciativa Libro Verde de la Gobernanza del Agua\)](#). The Initiative Green Paper on Water Governance was promoted by the Ministry for Ecological Transition and is currently a work in progress. It seeks to open spaces for debate and generate proposals for improvement in collaboration with institutional actors and stakeholders. The objective is to advance in the collaborative construction of a water governance model that allows us to face the present and future challenges posed by water management while guaranteeing the availability of water, in quantity and quality, for people and for the economic activities that depend on it. Between December 2018 and January 2019, a consultation process occurred between the General Water Directorate, the Hydrographic Confederations and the public water companies to identify challenges and proposals related to water governance. These proposals served to identify 12 thematic axes and prepare a Working Document as a basis for the Territorial Forums that have been organised in different Autonomous Communities throughout the months of March and April 2019. The results of the territorial Forums have served to consult on the validity of the thematic axes and to make specific proposals for governance in each one of them. Based on the proposals collected, experts in each of the axes will prepare reports setting out the main governance reform proposals that have emerged from the consultation process and are most relevant to promote the necessary transition process.

The Nature Conservancy, [Community-based management of freshwater resources: A practitioners’ guide to applying TNC’s voice, choice, and action framework](#). Indigenous peoples and local

communities play an important role in the sustainable manage and use of freshwater resources (FWR), but their ability to do so effectively may be undermined by various factors. FWR are under enormous stress from agricultural systems, climate change, and factors directly linked to human behaviour. There are often also multiple competing claims to FWR, and the unique properties of water and its varying nature across time and space make FWR challenging to manage. This guide provides a grounded practitioner-focused framework for developing robust freshwater community-based conservation programs based on The Nature Conservancy's Voice, Choice, and Action framework. The guidance builds on four pillars for strengthening CBC of FWR: secure rights to territories and resources, strong community leadership and capacity, effective multi-stakeholder platforms, and sustainable economic development opportunities. Further, the guidance elevates equity and a community's connection to place within these four pillars. Growing recognition around devolving rights and management of resources back to local communities has created a need for guidance around how stakeholders should work with communities to help manage their FWR.

Office International de l'Eau (OIEau), [The French policy approach for water resources management and biodiversity aquatic 2020](#): Publication about the French experience on water governance and policy.

Office International de l'Eau (OIEau), [Handbook on water law enforcement](#): Publication offering examples of experiences around the world to implement water control, the main administrative and legal processes of water law enforcement and its organisation at country and basin level. It will be available in March 2021 in English, French, Spanish.

Open University, UK, [Special issue on 'Social learning for sustainable water resource management'](#). This Special Issue is an opportunity for authors to offer new, critical insights into how social learning approaches to sustainable water resource management have developed and evolved in practice in a variety of settings, contexts and scales. Papers detailing experiences of designing and enacting social learning processes in water resource management and governance and critical reviews of the processes and governance outcomes are particularly welcome. Contributions to the conceptual aspects of social learning and the methodological implications for practitioners are also encouraged, especially when based on case studies or similar practice-related experience and evidence. Submissions close in March 2021.

Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), [Gender Mainstreaming in Water Governance in Central Asia](#). The OSCE has developed this guide to gender mainstreaming in water governance in Central Asia for the benefit of water practitioners in the region. Gender mainstreaming in water governance contributes to stability and security as it can lead to more effective policies and can work to reduce social imbalances and tension. This document is part of the project, "Women, Water Management and Conflict Prevention – Phase II". This guide can be helpful in various circumstances to ensure gender mainstreaming in organisations and at project level. Organisations can use the step-by-step process presented in the guidance document in staff workshops and with stakeholders in planning sessions for new projects. The process may also serve as training of trainers guidance for professionals responsible for gender considerations in their organisations or as teaching material in courses on water governance.

Scottish Government, Water Industry Division, [Sustainable Industrial Water Use: Perspectives, Incentives, and Tools \(IWA Publishing\)](#). The amount and quality of water available to sustain human life and ecosystems is subject to three inter-related threats: population growth, climate change, and water use. Industrial water use poses particular risks because effluent from industrial processes can make water toxic to the life it should support. This anthology is a unique addition to existing literature on industrial water use because it focuses on the steps required to move from sustainability concepts to concrete improvements in how water is used by industry across the globe. It includes the voices and perspectives of the sectors whose collaboration will be required, provides recommendations for incentives and barriers that will change the investments and operating decisions of industry, and describes analytical, technological, and management tools for achieving better outcomes. This anthology provides: views from industry, academic,

research, government policy-makers, regulators, non-profit organisations, finance, water/wastewater utilities, and special populations such as indigenous peoples; close-up views of industrial water use in North America, Latin America, Europe, Asia, and Africa; and concrete steps that readers from any sector or geographical area can take to promote more sustainable use of water by industry.

University of Arizona Water Resources Research Center, [An overview of Managed Aquifer Recharge in Mexico and its legal framework](#). In Mexico, 100 of the 188 most important aquifers dedicated to agriculture and human consumption are over-exploited and 32 are affected by seawater intrusion in coastal areas. Considering that Mexico relies on groundwater, it is vital to develop a portfolio of alternatives to recover aquifers and examine policies and programs regarding reclaimed water and stormwater. Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR) may be useful for increasing water availability and adapting to climate change in semi-arid regions of Mexico. In this paper, we present an overview of water recharge projects that have been conducted in Mexico in the last 50 years. This study includes the examination of the legal framework for MAR to identify some challenges and opportunities that Mexican regulation contains in this regard. The paper finds that beyond the technical issues that MAR projects normally address, the regulatory framework is a barrier to increasing MAR facilities in Mexico.

University of Arizona Water Resources Research Center, [Hydrodiplomacy and Adaptive Governance at the U.S.-Mexico Border: 75 Years of Tradition and Innovation in Transboundary Water Management](#). The United States and Mexico have engaged in hydrodiplomacy—a practice of transboundary water management that blends water diplomacy and science diplomacy—for more than 75 years, since the adoption of the Treaty of 1944 and the creation of the International Boundary and Water Commission. The paper examines six major turning points in U.S.-Mexico hydrodiplomacy to ascertain the key factors in the region’s history of resolving transboundary water issues. We find that recognised adaptive governance indicators are essential elements of hydrodiplomacy. The research suggests that robust and foundational institutions comprise another key indicator of adaptive governance specifically in transboundary contexts. A commitment to both science and diplomacy have been important components underlying the effectiveness of hydrodiplomacy in the border region. Binational networks involving diverse state and non-state actors at multiple scales have increasingly played a pivotal role in shaping desirable hydrodiplomatic outcomes in the region.

University of Arizona Water Resources Research Center, [The Special Issue of Water on transboundary aquifers](#). The need to feed and support the world’s growing population has placed a spotlight on the world’s underground freshwater resources. As groundwater use increases globally, there is growing recognition that critical to sound groundwater management is a detailed understanding of aquifer conditions. Of special consideration is aquifer assessment in a transboundary setting, where cooperation of multiple jurisdictions, sometimes with different languages and cultures, is required. This Special Issue of Water invites papers reporting on transboundary aquifer assessment research and that describe aquifers, groundwater availability and quality, and water use. Integrated studies, including modelling, that incorporate various aspects of the hydrologic system and/or socioeconomic conditions are welcomed. Papers could also analyse relevant institutional issues and mechanisms for cooperation, which could serve as the foundation for collaboration extending to management of transboundary groundwater. Submissions re welcome until April 2021.

UNSW-Global Water Institute, [Sustainable Groundwater Management: A Comparative Analysis of French and Australian Policies and Implications to Other Countries](#). This book, published in March 2020, describes and analyses the diversity of possible approaches and policy pathways to implement sustainable groundwater development, based on a comparative analysis of numerous quantitative management case studies from France and Australia. The originality of the contributions also lies in the different disciplinary perspectives (hydrogeology, economics, planning and social sciences in particular) adopted in many chapters. The book offers a unique comparative analysis of France, Australia and experiences in countries such as Chile and the US to identify similarities, but also fundamental differences,

which are analysed and presented as alternative policy options – these differences mainly related to the role of the state, the community and market mechanisms in groundwater management.

Water Integrity Network, Money Down the Drain: Corruption in South Africa's Water Sector.

Released in March 12, 2020, the report examines the extent and drivers of corruption in the water and sanitation sector and makes recommendations on actions to address such corruption and maladministration. The report describes a number of cases that reveal the involvement of a vast array of players, from plumbers, tanker drivers and senior officials, to mayors to ministers, and the many private businesses that benefited richly from corruption, and in some cases, actively promoted it. Although the behaviour of public sector officials and politicians comes under particular scrutiny, the report also makes clear how the actions of private individuals and businesses, who deliberately exploit weaknesses in the public sector, have an acute impact on water security and on the human right to water. Some companies have actively created conditions which serve their own ends, and in which corruption flourishes.

Water Integrity Network, Water Integrity Global Outlook (WIGO) 2021. The Water Integrity Global Outlook 2016 (WIGO 2016) demonstrated a growing recognition of the need for measures to improve integrity and to eliminate corruption to enhance performance in the water and sanitation sector. It emphasised the use of transparency, accountability, participation, and anticorruption measures (TAPA) to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6 on water and sanitation. WIGO 2016 also demonstrated the need for stronger data and evidence on the extent and impacts of corruption in the sector to guide the development and implementation of pro-integrity/anti-corruption programs. The next WIGO will be published in 2021 and have a focus on integrity and corruption dynamics and solutions in urban water and sanitation. In particular, WIGO 2021 will take stock of trends and emerging issues in regard to integrity and corruption in the urban W&S sector, and spotlight tools and solutions.

Water Policy Group and UNSW-Global Water Institute, 2021 Water Policy Report. The Water Policy Group, with the assistance of UNSW's Global Water Institute, will support the newly launched Global Acceleration Framework for SDG 6 by issuing a regular Water Policy Report. The report will identify the key issues and constraints facing governments in the development and implementation of water and sanitation policies. Water policy makers around the world face challenging issues that are constantly evolving. This complex policy landscape requires decisions that must adapt to uncertain conditions and draw from the best available information. The Water Policy Report will contribute to policy development by providing insight, timely intelligence and peer support offered by shared experiences from across the world. The report will be based on a survey of the perspectives and opinions of persons who are decision makers on, or key influencers of, water policy at the national level from a wide range of countries of different regions and national income categories. The first edition of the Report is intended for release in 2021, early enough to inform the preparation of the World Water Development Report 2022 and events for World Water Day, with a special focus on groundwater.

Water Policy International (Prof. Ian Barker), Applying the WGI 12 Principles to assess the governance of a new UK water resources planning organisation. Recent forecasts of the impact of climate change and water demand growth have indicated that parts of the UK – primarily in the east and southeast – are at risk of imminent water shortages and supply failure. Planning for water supply security is the statutory responsibility of the privatised water companies in England and Wales, under the scrutiny of regulators and government. This note summarises the outcome of a review of Water Resources East's (WRE) governance arrangements, using the 12 WGI Principles. WRE is responsible for creating a plan for Eastern England. This is the driest part of the UK, and the only region where agricultural water demand is a critical and significant proportion of total demand, and contributor to the economy. The review demonstrated that WRE has adopted a thoughtful and comprehensive approach to water governance, which reflects the value of water in the landscape, culture and economy of Eastern England and which seeks to protect and enhance this vital resource. WRE has to operate within an existing legislative and regulatory framework, and the review demonstrated that some of what it wants to achieve such as improved land management, is at risk since it will require voluntary action with little sanction for non-

compliance. Similarly, although internally it adopts an integrated policy approach, government and regulatory policy is less joined up and so could prejudice successful delivery. Finally, the capacity and competence of many of the stakeholders who are involved as co-creators and co-collaborators will need to be enhanced as the work programme develops.

Water Youth Network, Between Regulation and Targeted Expropriation: Rural-to-Urban Groundwater Reallocation in Jordan. In response to rising urban water demand, some regions have reallocated water from irrigation to uses that are more valuable. Groundwater over-exploitation, however, continues to degrade aquifer quality and states rarely succeed at stopping overuse. This study asks whether growing urban requirements enable the reallocation of groundwater from irrigation to higher value added uses in domestic and industrial consumption. The paper is based on a series of interviews with policy makers and academics in Jordan, combined with data from remote sensing analysis. The results suggest that urban water needs increase state interest in reallocation. That reallocation was successful in only one of the attempted basins suggests that donor-region resistance is a major factor in reallocation outcomes. Discussion includes the strategy for future re-allocators, targeting only aquifers with low political and enforcement costs.

Water Youth Network, South-American Transboundary Waters: The Management of the Guarani Aquifer System and the La Plata Basin Towards the Future. In South America, water is at its heart, underpinning hydropower generation, agricultural production, and industry. Transboundary water bodies cover almost half of South America territory. All countries in the region share transboundary waters, such as aquifers, basins, and rivers that may create enough reason for political conflict among those countries. Therefore, there is a vital need to develop regional strategies to manage those shared water resources, especially with the continuous increase in population growth, climate change, and the increase in demand for water. This chapter takes the La Plata basin and the Guarani Aquifer in South America as a representative example to discuss the management of transboundary water bodies and demonstrates how countries are collaborating to face the challenge to achieve sustainable development on both sides of their borders.

Water Youth Network, Transboundary waters, conflicts and international cooperation – examples of the La Plata Basin. This article details the case of the La Plata Basin, a transboundary basin shared between Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay. By addressing some cases of disputes between local and state actors from the La Plata Basin, the article shows that even with the existence of an institutional framework for cooperation and transboundary water management, conflicts and tension may remain between riparian states.

Water Youth Network, Brazilian Hydropolitics under the United Nations 2030 Agenda. The global framework set forth by the United Nations 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) include water resources in their scope, which emphasises how water assets and society well-being are closely intertwined and how crucial they are to achieving sustainable development. This paper explores the role of hydropolitics in that Post-2015 Development Agenda and uses Brazilian hydropolitics set to reach SDG6 as a case study.

Water Research Commission, South Africa: [Comparison of the Municipal Strategic Self-Assessment and the OECD Water Governance Indicator Framework as tools for learning and ongoing improvement in water services delivery.](#) In 2018, the OECD published a Water Governance Indicator Framework (WGIF), consisting of a set of principles and indicators to assist in self-assessment, dialogue and learning. Prior to this, the South African water sector developed the Municipal Strategic Self-Assessment (MuSSA) to assist Water Service Authorities to measure their overall business health and drive ongoing improvement. This study set out to compare and evaluate the content and process of MuSSA and the WGIF, to identify potential for reciprocal learnings and improvement of each framework. The project further analysed communication aspects of MuSSA and the WGIF from a linguistic perspective. The research team used a cognitive interviewing framework to engage with officials in Water Service

Authorities who are responsible for completing the MuSSA self-assessments, with the aim of identifying structural, logic, semantic and respondent task aspects that participants are likely to find problematic. Whereas the WGIF is deliberately generic in order to be applicable at a range of scales and locations around the world, the MuSSA is far more specifically designed for a particular purpose at South African local government level. Nonetheless, the comparison did highlight that the MuSSA could consider the OECD principles that it does not currently explicitly address, including those dealing with innovation and policy coherence across sectors. The comparison also showed potential for improvement of the existing elements of MuSSA that focus on stakeholder engagement. An additional principle, focusing on organisational culture and behaviour, was proposed for inclusion in the OECD framework.

World Business Council for Sustainable Development, [Wastewater Zero: A call to action for business to raise ambition for SDG 6.3](#). This report provides a six-point action framework for businesses to address the problem of industrial wastewater pollution: (1) **Circularity:** Incorporate principles of circularity throughout the organisation. (2) **Targets and metrics:** Establish targets and metrics based on science and context. (3) **Valuing water:** Value water to minimise negative externalities and incentivise reuse. (4) **Disclosure:** Improve disclosure beyond compliance. (5) **Partnerships:** Invest in public-private partnerships. (6) **Value chain:** Incentivise and support value chain partners. This report, the action framework it articulates and the commitment towards “Wastewater Zero” it compels business to make can help businesses join us in raising the ambition for SDG 6.3 - which calls for halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse. Business will be encouraged to commit to Wastewater Zero, which has three components: (1) **ZERO POLLUTION:** Commitment to treat all wastewater and ensure that effluent quality meets or exceeds relevant regulatory requirements in facilities and by suppliers. (2) **ZERO FRESHWATER:** Commitment to not increase absolute freshwater withdrawals and to increase the proportion of reused and recycled wastewater used in facilities and by suppliers (3) **LOW-CARBON TREATMENT:** Commitment to treat all wastewater using low carbon technologies that are in line with corporate net-zero GHG emissions targets.

Past Events on Water Governance

January-October 2020

January 2020, International Water Association (IWA), [Nature for Water: Spotlight on a UK Utility and Regulators.](#)

February 2020, International Water Association (IWA), [Regulating the WASH sector from a human rights lens.](#)

29 April 2020, International Water Association, [COVID-19: The Regulators' Response.](#) Four esteemed senior figures representing regulators from different areas of the globe, moderated by Ms Carolina Latorre (IWA Water Policy & Regulation Lead) were at the heart of this event. They were joined by 480 attendees from 89 different countries. Requests for contacting the speakers, viewing the recorded online sessions, and accessing additional material was impressive.

14 May 2020, Water Youth Network, Water Investments through Adaptation Finance and Climate Risk Assessment. The session featured Marta Modelewska (Principal, Climate Resilience Investments), Christian Severin (Coordinator, International Waters), and Beth Burks (Associate Director, sustainable Finance), and was moderated by Claudia Neuschulz from the WYN governance team. The panellists shared their experiences, addressed the need for water investments, and the role of climate risk assessment and water governance measures within such investments.

18-19 June 2020, University of Arizona Water Resources Research Center's 2020 Annual Conference, [Water at the Crossroads: The Next 40 Years, June 18-19, 2020.](#) This conference explored water management and governance in Arizona and the Colorado River Basin.

1 July 2020, Water Youth Network, [Covid-19 and the La Plata basin boundaries.](#) This session featured Luis Paulo Batista (UFBA), Wagner C. Ribeiro (USP), Maria Luísa Telarolli (USP), Isabela Espíndola (USP) to discuss how the COVID19 pandemic affected the management of the La Plata Basin.

31 July 2020, Water Youth Network, Webinar Water Innovations by Climate Pods. Organised by the FXB International Climate Advocates and Youth Climate Leaders on the topic Water Innovations, WYN presented the Youth for Rhine initiative and discussed several water innovation activities undertaken at Water Youth Network. The objective of the Youth for Rhine project is to connect young people on the issue of transboundary waters in the Rhine river basin as well as prepare the project implementation. Activities will include workshops, online consultations, and collaborative projects with different universities. The governance team is working with 5-7 members. Other stakeholders included are RWS, UNESCO, IHP, IHE Delft, Wageningen University and Research, TU Cologne, University of Montpellier as well as the Rhine Commission for Hydrology.

8 August 2020, Water Youth Network, Water Governance and Sustainability: Exploring perspectives and best practices. The webinar featured Repaul Kanji from the Gujarat Institute of Disaster Management and Neha Midha from the UNESCO-New Delhi cluster who shared their experiences in the field of water governance and highlighted examples of good and bad mechanisms. They also emphasised on the role of youth in strengthening the governance of water resources and ensuring its sustainability.

21 September 2020, The Nature Conservancy, [Africa Source Water Protection Seminar](#). This was a virtual seminar that brought together leaders from government, local authorities, international finance institutions, corporations, and civil society to share the vision and discuss accelerating and resourcing source water protection efforts to improve water security in Africa.

23 September 2020, Asia-Pacific Water Forum (APWF), Webinar Series. As an important part of preparation for the 4th Summit, the APWF Webinar Series aimed to provide the government officials of the 49 countries including those working in the embassies in Asia and the Pacific with an opportunity to learn and deep-dive into water and water-related issues. The speakers were invited to share the latest knowledge about water fields, including the perspectives of governance and inclusive development.

- [1st APWF Webinar](#): Speaker: Dr. Cecilia Tortajada, Senior Fellow, the Institute of Water Policy, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore. Topic: Climate change and National Security.
- [2nd APWF Webinar](#): Speaker: Mr. Howard Bamsey, GWP Chair. Topic: Climate Change, Sustainable Development, and Investors: More Risks, More Opportunities through better Governance.

October 2020, International Water Association, [Regulating Citywide Inclusive Sanitation](#). The IWA hosted the first webinar, which is part of a new series on Regulating for Citywide Inclusive Sanitation linked to a new IWA initiative of the same name. Panellists from the Initiative's Taskforce shared their experiences and lessons learnt from Latin America, Africa and Asia. Specifically, they highlighted the importance of policy, institutional and regulatory frameworks, how regulators are using regulatory tools and instruments to incentivise investment and innovation in under-served areas as well as showcasing how to ensure that service providers expand sanitation services sustainably in line with government commitments. Over the coming months, IWA will continue to host webinars that are in line with its water policy and regulation work including two further webinars as part of the Regulating for Citywide Inclusive Sanitation series. Upcoming and past webinars, the videos of which are available on-demand, can be found on the IWA Learn section of IWA's website. A special Summit on the theme will also be held in Copenhagen at the IWA World Water Congress.

20 and 27 October 2020, The Nature Conservancy, [Exchange of experiences and learning between regulatory entities in Latin America](#) virtual workshop. The Workshop was hosted by the Association of Water and Sanitation Regulatory Entities of the Americas (ADERASA), the partners of the Latin American Alliance of Water Funds, IWA, SUNASS, ARSESP and the CRA. It served as a virtual learning exchange between regulatory entities of Latin America and their experiences in the incorporation and implementation of nature-based solutions with water utilities.

27 October, 2020, Global Water Partnership (GWP), [Online Engagement Session: Does the World Need More International Water Law?](#) GWP and Wuhan International Water Law Academy organised an online engagement session for those enrolled or interested in enrolling in the Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) on Transboundary Freshwater Security. The purpose of the session was to explore the contemporary role and relevance of international law as it relates to transboundary rivers, lakes and aquifers. How has international law evolved in this field? What is its current status? How might international law address future challenges in this area, especially considering current global challenges, such as climate variability, biodiversity loss, unsustainable practices and the COVID-19 pandemic? These are some of the important issues that an interactive panel discussed. There was a focus on taking questions from the participants and live interactions.

Future Events on Water Governance

November/December 2020, Sanitation and Water for all, [Finance Ministers' Meetings](#): November 4 2020 (Africa); November 18 2020 (Latin America and the Caribbean) and December 2 2020 (Asia and the Pacific). Building on the previous SWA Finance Ministers' Meetings (FMMs), and adapting to these unexpected times, in 2020 SWA will organise three virtual Regional Finance Ministers' Meetings. These meetings aim to develop and strengthen partnerships with finance ministers for smart investments in water, sanitation and hygiene. These partnerships are especially important given the central role this sector can play in national economic and health recovery, delivering improved resilience, employment opportunities, health benefits, and access to innovative finance, all allowing countries to build forward better. The meetings will be co-convened with two SWA global partners, UNICEF and the World Bank Water Global Practice, as well as key regional partners for each of the three regions, including regional development banks and organisations. The goal is to raise awareness on the opportunities to build forward better using WASH as an integral part of a national COVID recovery strategy. This will deliver long-term health, economic and environmental benefits, as well as the advantages of working with national WASH stakeholders and with regional and global partners to support SMART investments in WASH that leverage finance to achieve a scalable impact.

10 November 2020, APWF Secretariat c/o Japan Water Forum, [3rd APWF Webinar](#). This Webinar will be held at 1:30pm – 2:30pm Japan Time. The featured speaker is Professor Shahbaz Khan, Director, UNESCO Regional Science Bureau for Asia and the Pacific, who will discuss “Re-Charting Water Pathways for Greener Recovery Options.” The secretariat welcomes webinar proposals related to water governance and inclusive development, which will be useful for government officials in Asia and the Pacific. Some key messages of the APWF Webinars will be the basis of the 4th APWS discussion.

10 November 2020, French Development Agency, on line event on Water Drives Resilient Countries, within the [Finance in Common Summit](#). The greatest risks of global warming relate to water, and the pressure over quantity and quality of water resources is a threat to human lives and ecosystems. 2.1 billion people do not have access to safe water yet, and 4.1 billion people are still deprived of proper sanitation. This lack of service coverage and sustainable water resource management has dramatic consequences on health, gender equality, economy and environment. However, the water and sanitation sector remains underfinanced. According to the World Bank, more than USD 110 billion would be necessary every year to achieve safe access to water and sanitation, but only one-third of the needs are actually covered. Public Development Banks (PDBs) have played a key role in financing water and sanitation infrastructures in many countries. The current challenges call for a larger intervention of PDBs to finance this sector, especially in emerging and developing countries. The event will launch a call for action to all public development banks to gather and work together towards a Water Finance Coalition. The Water Finance Coalition will be dedicated to finding concrete solutions for improving financing of water and sanitation projects, and to ensuring a better integration of water as a transversal issue in public development banks' daily activities.

2 December 2020, The Nature Conservancy, [Alliance for Water Stewardship Forum: Fresh opportunities for collaboration and collective action](#). The session will encompass tools and investment pathways for Nature Based Solutions, drawing from learnings in South Africa, Brazil, Indonesia with governments, business and civil society on water resource planning, conservation and usage.

3-5 February 2021, Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), Three-day moderated online simulation workshop on Transboundary River Basin Agreements in partnership with SIWI. The online simulation workshop will be set up as an interactive training session with approximately 20 participants from all over OSCE area. This workshop is part of the OSCE project on Water Diplomacy and Conflict Prevention – Phase I that aims to enhance co-operation over sustainable transboundary water management, contributing to comprehensive approach to security in the OSCE area. The objective is for the participants to develop a proposal on a permanent “River Basin Commission” including key issues such as its members and observers, mandate, operations, structure, dispute mechanisms and more. Through the process of the negotiation simulation participants are able to gain important insights into how real-life negotiation processes work and how different stakeholders behave.

10-14 May 2021, Copenhagen, IWA World Water Congress & Exhibition 2021. During the World Water Congress and Exhibition, the 6th International Water Regulators Forum (IWRP) will be held. This biennial meeting of the global network of regulators of IWA welcomes regulatory authorities and officials with regulatory and supervisory functions related to the provision of water, sanitation and wastewater treatment. In its 6th edition, the Forum will revise progress, new challenges and the future of regulation before today’s paradigm shift – moving from a contingency approach towards a water security one for resilient and sustainable water and sanitation for all. The Congress will also host the High-Level Summit on the SDGs to escalate action. The IWA Summit will highlight opportunities for action that can help secure progress for cities especially in the recovery phase from the pandemic. In particular, it will facilitate high-level contributions and debate around funding needs, governance, and the roles and input of stakeholders in shaping and sustaining smart liveable cities.

19-21 July 2021. Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, Babbitt Center for Land and Water Policy, “[Connecting Land and Water for Healthy Communities](#)”. American Water Resources Association Specialty Conference. The goal of this conference is to bring together stakeholders across multiple disciplines, types of organisations and professions to address the design, integration, and implementation of the programs necessary to better connect land and water planning and policy. This specialty conference will bring together practitioners and researchers across the intersecting areas of water management, land planning, natural resources policy and related technical and design professions. Sessions will be multi-disciplinary and will focus on understanding the integrated nature of the challenges, goals, and programs. Topics will include: land and water aspects of water supply, water demand management, stormwater management, wastewater treatment, community planning and design, conservation, and integrated “one water” approaches. With a focus on the relationships among water resources management, utility operations, and land use planning and design, attendees will come away with a new understanding and strengthened personal networking connections across the disciplines and professions critical to water and community sustainability. Call for [session proposals](#). Call for [peer-reviewed articles](#). University of Arizona Water Resources Research Center will also be a collaborator.

22-23 April 2022, APWF Secretariat c/o Japan Water Forum, 4th Asia-Pacific Water Summit (APWS), Kumamoto, Japan. The objectives of the Asia-Pacific Water Forum (APWF) is to prioritise water security issues highlighted in the development agenda. Thus, the APWF has provided countries and organisations in Asia and the Pacific with a common platform and voice to accelerate the process of effective integration of water resources management into the socio-economic development process. The theme of the 4th APWS is “Water for Sustainable Development: Best Practice and the Next Generation”. High-level delegates in 49 countries of the Asia and the Pacific, including heads of state and government and representatives of international organisations, will discuss various water-related priority issues and reach better alignment of priorities and actions at different levels for a water-safe and sustainable future. The goal is to ensure all of Sustainability, Resilience, and Inclusiveness to promote the achievement of the water-related SDGs. The water governance and institutional architectures as well as mobilising finance, and science & technologies will be discussed to ensure quality growth in each water-related sector. The outcomes of the 4th APWS will be delivered as the Kumamoto Declaration.