

# An integrated approach to water resources management



## A people-centred approach to water resources planning and management

Water Management Consultants has developed an innovative and participatory framework for the integrated management of water resources with the broad aim of achieving efficient, sustainable and equitable development of water resources.



*Learning together leads to improved capacity in water resources management.*

We believe that if water resource management is to be sustainable, it must be based on a rigorous problem situation analysis.

We adopt a people-centred and demand-led approach which works back from a management vision to a detailed analysis of problems and their causation to what needs to be done to solve them.

Using this 'bottom up' approach we can build up an integrated "big picture" of the important linkages and interactions involved in addressing issues in water resource management in any particular project location.

## Stakeholder analysis as an effective tool for water resource management

Using an interdisciplinary approach, we use participatory, analytical and transparent processes based on understanding, reflecting on and balancing diverse stakeholder interests.

Stakeholder analysis is a powerful tool for managing the challenge of multiple interests and objectives and increasing the chances for successful intervention. It has considerable potential in water resource planning and management due to the complexity of issues, including the multiple uses and users of water, unclear or open access rights to ownership and use of water resources and imperfect water markets.



*Developing a shared vision amongst stakeholders.*

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## Improving access to a safe water supply for poor people

Given that over 1 billion people around the world lack access to a safe water supply, improving the access to and management of scarce water resources is a vital contribution to poverty alleviation strategies in developing countries.



*Improved access to water is vital for poverty alleviation.*

The identification and inclusion of poor and marginalized groups in decision-making processes around water resource management is a critical keystone in enabling poor people to lead healthier and more productive lives.

## An interdisciplinary focus integrating key social, economic and technical disciplines

We have developed a robust teamworking methodology integrating key technical, social development and economic disciplines to achieve efficient, sustainable and equitable management of water resources to meet diverse human and environmental needs.

## Towards greater economic well-being

Building an integrated vision of water resource management is not solely an environmental conservation issue. It contributes to women's and men's needs for good quality water now and in the future. It is pivotal to the efficient use of water resources, generating improvements in economic well-being and contributing to poverty alleviation.

Our strength lies in building human resource capacity within counterpart organisations, particularly in important managerial and social science areas. Training in effective teamworking and project management skills has enabled us to work successfully in partnership with Southern counterparts on water management projects.



*Robust rural livelihoods depend on enough water being available at the right times for all people.*

Water Management Consultants' approach reflects our awareness of a range of cross-cutting themes such as gender, sustainable livelihoods, environment and human rights. We advocate the use of a flexible framework, providing iterative feedback mechanisms and emphasising the importance of learning by doing.

**WATER**  
**MANAGEMENT**  
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