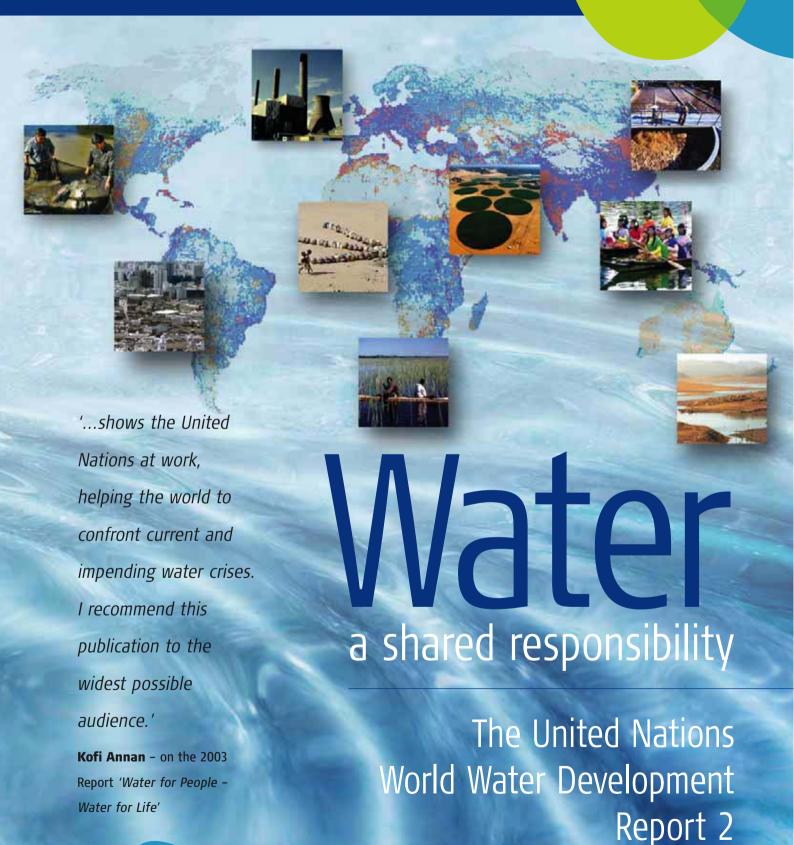
The most comprehensive undertaking to date of monitoring and assessment of the planet's freshwater by the United Nations, in partnership with governments and other entities.







WATER. A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

Contents:

Foreword: Kofi Annan, UN Secretary General

Prologue: **Koïchiro Matsuura** *UNESCO Director General*

Preface: **Gordon Young**, *WWAP Coordinator*

PART I: CHANGING CONTEXTS

CHAPTER 1: Living in a Changing World

Emphasizing the central role of water use and allocation in poverty alleviation and socio-economic development, this chapter discusses some of the many ways in which demographic and technological change, globalization and trade, climate variability, HIV/AIDS, warfare, etc., affect and are impacted by water. Key concepts of water management, sustainability and equity are introduced, as is the pivotal role of the many activities of the UN system in the water sector.

CHAPTER 2: The Challenges of Governance UNDP, with IFAD & UN-ECE

Recognizing that the water crisis is largely a crisis of governance, this chapter outlines many of the leading obstacles to sound and sustainable water management: sector fragmentation, poverty, corruption, stagnated budgets, declining levels of development assistance and investment in the water sector, inadequate institutions and limited stakeholder participation. While the progress towards reforming water governance remains slow, this chapter provides recommendations for balancing the social, economic, political and environmental dimensions of water.

CHAPTER 3: Water and Human Settlements in an Urbanizing World - UN-HABITAT

Increasing population growth is creating major problems worldwide. Growing urban water supply and sanitation needs, particularly in lower- and middle-income countries, face increasing competition with other sectors. Rising incomes in other portions of the world population fuel demand for manufactured goods and environmental services and amenities, all of which require water. This chapter emphasizes the scale of the growing urban water challenges, pointing out that nearly one-third of urban dwellers worldwide live in slums.

CHAPTER 4: The State of the Resource UNESCO & WMO. with IAEA

This chapter reviews the main components of the water cycle and provides an overview of the geographical distribution of the world's total water resources, their variability, the impacts of climate change and the challenges associated with assessing the resource.

CHAPTER 5: Coastal and Freshwater Ecosystems - UNEP

Natural ecosystems, rich in biodiversity, play a critical role in the water cycle and must be preserved. In many areas, a variety of pressures on freshwater ecosystems are leading to their rapid deterioration, affecting livelihoods, human well-being and development. To reverse this trend, protecting ecosystems and biodiversity must become a

fundamental component of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM).

PART II: CHALLENGES FOR HUMAN WELL-BEING AND DEVELOPMENT

CHAPTER 6: Protecting and Promoting Human Health - WHO & UNICEF

The state of human health is inextricably linked to a range of water-related conditions: safe drinking water, adequate sanitation, minimized burden of water-related disease and healthy freshwater ecosystems. Urgent improvements in the way in which water use and sanitation are managed are necessary for improving progress towards meeting the MDGs related to human health.

CHAPTER 7: Water for Food, Agriculture and Rural Livelihoods - FAO & IFAD

The daily demand for food is not negotiable. As the largest consumer of freshwater, the agriculture sector faces a critical challenge: producing more food of better quality while using less water per unit of output, in order to help protect the complex aquatic ecosystems on which our survival depends. This chapter examines the challenges of feeding a growing population and balancing its water needs with other uses in a sustainable way. Water opens the pathways and empowers the livelihoods approach to poverty reduction

CHAPTER 8: Water and Industry - UNIDO

Despite industry's need for clean water, industrial pollution is damaging and destroying freshwater ecosystems in many areas, compromising water security for both individual consumers and industries. This chapter focuses on industry's impact on the water environment through its routine water withdrawal and wastewater discharge, analysing a broad range of regulatory instruments and voluntary initiatives that could improve water productivity, industrial profitability and environmental protection.

CHAPTER 9: Water and Energy - UNIDO

To be sustainable, economic development needs an adequate and steady supply of energy. Today's changing contexts require the consideration of a range of strategies to incorporate hydropower generation and other renewable forms of energy production to improve energy security while minimizing climate-changing emissions. This chapter stresses the need for the cooperative management of the energy and water sectors to ensure sustainable and sufficient supply of both energy and water.

PART III: MANAGEMENT RESPONSES AND STEWARDSHIP

CHAPTER 10: Managing Risks: Securing the Gains of Development - WMO, ISDR, UNU

The climate is changing, thus increasing the occurrence and intensity of water-related natural disasters and creating greater burdens on human and environmental development. Employing an integrated approach, this chapter explores some of the ways of better reducing human vulnerabilities and examines the recent developments in risk reduction strategies.

CHAPTER 11: Sharing Water - UNESCO

Increasing competition for water resources can have potentially divisive effects. Mechanisms for cooperation and shared governance among users must be further developed in order to ensure that the resource become a catalyst for cooperation and a medium for deterring political tensions, while encouraging equitable and sustainable development.

CHAPTER 12: Valuing and Charging for Water UN-DESA

Water has a range of values that must be recognized in selecting governance strategies. Valuation techniques inform decision-making for water allocation, which promote not only sustainable social, environmental and economic development but also transparency and accountability in governance. This chapter reviews techniques of economic valuation and the use of these tools in water policy development and charging for water services.

CHAPTER 13: Enhancing Knowledge and Capacity - UNESCO

The collection, dissemination and exchange of waterrelated data, information and know-how are imbalanced and, in many cases, deteriorating. It is now more urgent than ever to improve the state of knowledge concerning water-related issues through an effective global network of research, training and data collection and by implementing more adaptive, informed, and participatory approaches at all levels.

PART IV: SHARING RESPONSIBILITIES

CHAPTER 14: Case Studies: Moving Towards an Integrated Approach

These 17 Case Studies from around the world examine typical water resource challenges and provide valuable on-the-ground insights into the facets of the water crisis and different management responses: The Autonomous Community of the Basque Country (Spain), China (Heihe Basin), Danube River Basin (Albania, Austria, Bosnia-Herzogovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Moldova, Poland, Romania. Serbia and Montenegro, the Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Switzerland, Ukraine, Romania, Slovak Republic, Slovenia), Ethiopia, France, Japan, Kenya, Lake Peipsi (Estonia, Russian Federation), Lake Titicaca (Bolivia Peru), Mali, the State of Mexico, Mongolia (Tuul Basin), La Plata Basin (Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Paraguay, Uruguay), South Africa, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Uganda.

CHAPTER 15: Conclusions and Recommendations for Action

Drawing on the essential points and key messages presented throughout the Report, this chapter weaves together a set of conclusions and recommendations to guide future action and enhance the sustainable use, productivity and management of the world's increasingly scarce freshwater resources.



Water a shared responsibility

The United Nations World Water Development Report 2 (WWDR 2)

For some, the water crisis means having to walk long distances every day to fetch enough drinking water – clean or unclean – just to get by. For others, it means suffering from avoidable malnutrition or disease caused by drought, flood or inadequate sanitation. Still others experience it as a lack of funds, institutions or knowledge to solve local problems of water use and allocation.

Many countries are still not on track to reach the water-related targets of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) – threatening their security, development and environmental sustainability – and millions of people die each year from treatable water-borne diseases. While water pollution and the destruction of ecosystems increase, we are witnessing the consequences that climate change, natural disasters, poverty, warfare, globalization, population growth, urbanization and disease – all of which impinge on the water sector – have on so many of the people of the world.

It is widely accepted that sustainable and equitable water management must be undertaken using an integrated approach, that assessment of the resource is the basis for rational decision-making, and that national capacities to undertake such assessments must be further supported and expanded at local through international levels. It is therefore paramount to provide the best possible understanding of the state of the world's freshwater resources to the world at large.

The triennial World Water Development Report (WWDR) lays the foundation for a continuous, global monitoring system and shows the United Nations system at work, pooling the unique perspectives and expertise of the 24 UN agencies that comprise UN-Water, in partnership with governments and other entities concerned with freshwater issues.

Water, a Shared Responsibility (March 2006) is the main outcome of Phase 2 of the World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP), founded in 2000 as a collective response of the UN system to assist countries in reaching their commitments in key water-related challenge areas. WWDR 2 offers a comprehensive and holistic assessment of the world's water, while bringing the issues of water governance, knowledge accessibility and the specific challenges of managing water into the mainstream of development thinking and practices, across all the major intersections of water, human well-being and development.

Bearing in mind users needs, the 2006 Report aims to be practical in orientation, offers best practices as well as in-depth theoretical and analytic analyses to help stimulate ideas and actions for better stewardship in the water sector. The use of hundreds of maps, tables, figures, boxed examples, indicators and case studies illustrate that only our global cooperation will help to ensure an integrated, equitable and sustainable management of the world's most

precious resource water.





Survey: A call to readers worldwide

In order to better orient our production of WWDR3, we welcome and urge you to take a few minutes to respond to our survey. Your comments on all aspects of the Report will be especially helpful to us. Please detach the questionnaire and mail or fax (see over), whether or not you are ordering.

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Water a shared responsibility

The United Nations World Water Development Report 2

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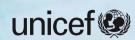
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Water a shared responsibility





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A joint undertaking of the 24 UN agencies comprising UN-Water, and in partnership with governments and other entities concerned with freshwater issues, this volume, covering as it does all regions and most countries of the world, provides an up-to-date global overview of the state and uses of freshwater, critical water-related problems and societies' coping mechanisms. Drawing on an extensive database, expert analysis, case studies, and hundreds of graphic elements, it is the most comprehensive undertaking to date of freshwater assessment, providing a mechanism for monitoring changes in the resource and its management and progress towards achieving development targets, particularly the Millennium Development Goals.





Building on the conclusions of the first World Water Development Report, Water for People, Water for Life (2003), the 2006 Report confirms the ongoing, serious and growing water crisis – to a large extent a crisis of governance – and points to a prevalent lack of capacity and knowledge base as today's primary obstacles to achieving the necessary levels of water governance. This volume proposes a more integrated vision of water resources management to respond to changing environmental and socio-economic conditions.





The accompanying interactive, searchable and hyperlinked CD-ROM includes all of the WWDR2 data tables, graphs, charts and maps, as well as detailed sections on indicator and case study developments, among other valuable materials, all of which are available on the WWAP website





WWDR2 is aimed at a wide audience, including all those interested or directly involved in the formulation and implementation of water-related policies, as well as managers, researchers, teachers, students and, of course, water users themselves.











CBD

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