Governance of Groundwater: Linking Global Processes and Regional Needs

Ralf Klingbeil, Regional Advisor Environment and Water
IUCN-ROWA Regional Conference, Sharm El Sheikh, 12-14 May 2015
Why did we fail to control, protect and sustainably use our groundwater?

What is needed to reverse the course and ensure good groundwater governance by 2030?

Yes, we can ... make a difference ... reversing the trends!
Non-renewable Groundwater

Agricultural Groundwater Use
e.g. Wadi Al-Sirhan, Saudi Arabia
Non-renewable Groundwater

Accumulated Groundwater Abstractions 1975 - 2004 per Region for Saudi Arabia
Sneak Preview …

• Energy Use for Groundwater Pumping 2010, and

• Saq-Ram Aquifer System (West), Exploitable Area
3 key project documents now available

'Shared Global Vision', 'Global Framework for Action' and 'Global Diagnostic' released ahead of WWF7

The Groundwater Governance 'Shared Global Vision for 2030', 'Global Framework for Action' and 'Global Diagnostic' are all now available to download from the project website. These key documents have been made available ahead of the Side Event taking place at the 7th World Water Forum, scheduled...
In the context of this project, groundwater governance “comprises the enabling framework and guiding principles for responsible collective action to ensure control, protection and socially-sustainable utilisation of groundwater resources for the benefit of humankind and dependent ecosystems”.
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Process

• **Five Regional Consultations:** Arab States Region, Amman, Oct 2012

• **Country Synthesis Reports:** Algeria, Libya, Morocco, Near East Region, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, Yemen, Dec 2012

• **Twelve Thematic Reports,** Dec 2012

• **Five Regional Diagnostics:** Arab Regional Diagnostic Report, 2013
Global Diagnostic on Groundwater Governance: Why & Where do we need to act?
A Shared Global Vision for 2030: What do we want to achieve?
Global Framework for Action to achieve the vision on Groundwater Governance How can we achieve the Global Vision?
Global Diagnostic on Groundwater Governance (1/2)

- Inadequate Leadership from Government Agencies
- Limited awareness of Long-Term Groundwater Risks
- No Measurement of Groundwater Resource Status
- Non-Performing Legal Systems on Groundwater
- Insufficient Stakeholder Engagement in Groundwater Management
- Limited Integration of Groundwater in Related National Policies
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Global Diagnostic on Groundwater Governance (2/2)

- World’s groundwater resources are falling victim to a lack of effective governance.
- Overabstraction of groundwater reflects incentives that users face resulting from both market and policy failures.
- Available enabling frameworks and guiding principles are insufficiently used and there is a paucity of responsible collective action.
A Shared Global Vision for 2030 (1/2)

Year 2030 - Groundwater Governance is Reality

This is a Vision of the World in 2030 in which countries have taken appropriate and effective action to govern their groundwater in order to reach globally shared goals of social and economic development and avoid irreversible degradation of groundwater resources and their aquifer systems.
The Vision aims that by 2030
- Enabling environment and collective responsibility
- Resource information and knowledge available and shared
- Management plans prepared and implemented
- Institutions resourced and key tasks secured
- Incentives and investments foster sustainable use and adequate protection
1. Initial steps to establish an adequate basis for groundwater governance
2. Strengthening institutions in groundwater governance
3. Creating linkages with main interrelated areas of human action and policy
4. Redirecting finances (investments and incentives) for effective groundwater management
5. Establishing a process of groundwater planning and management
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UN Economic And Social Commission For Western Asia