



**Contact the UNDP Water Governance Facility at SIWI:**

Håkan Tropp, Project Director, e-mail [watergovernance@siwi.org](mailto:watergovernance@siwi.org)

Joakim Harlin, Water Resources Specialist, EEG, BDP, UNDP, e-mail [joakim.harlin@undp.org](mailto:joakim.harlin@undp.org)

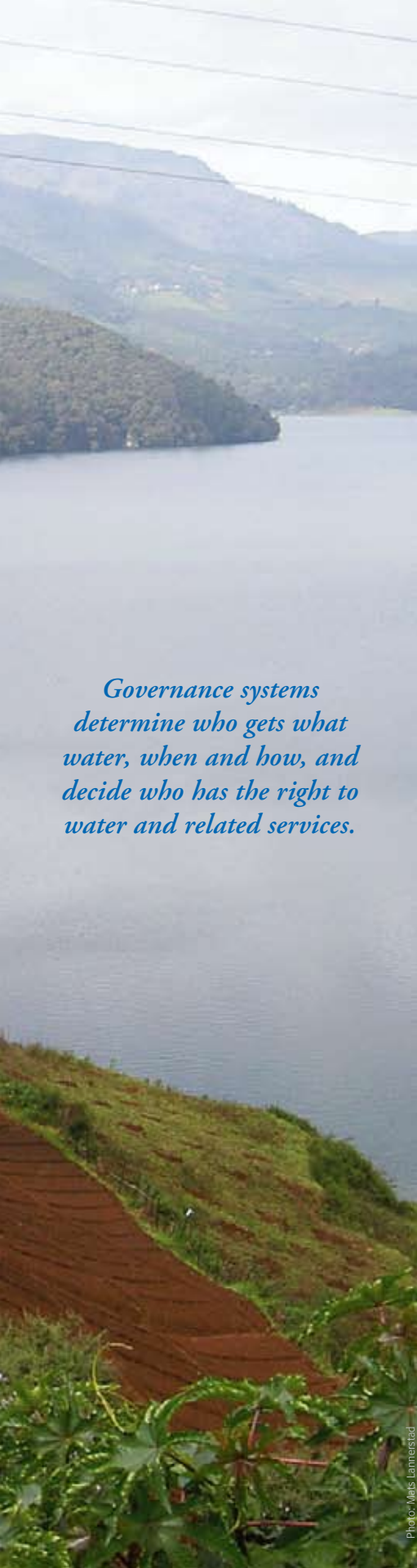


[www.watergovernance.org](http://www.watergovernance.org)



# The UNDP Water Governance Facility at SIWI





*Governance systems determine who gets what water, when and how, and decide who has the right to water and related services.*

## **What is Water Governance?**

More than 1.1 billion people lack sustainable access to safe drinking water and 2.6 billion people lack access to basic sanitation. But increasing water scarcity and growing pollution are problems humans have caused: water itself is not in short supply. The water crisis is increasingly about how we, as individuals and as members of society, govern access to and control over water and its benefits.

UNDP defines water governance as the range of political, social, economic and administrative systems that are in place to develop and manage water resources and their delivery. Water governance also covers a range of issues intimately linked to water, from health and food security to economic development, land use and the preservation of the natural world on which our water resources depend.

Water governance is concerned with drawing up and adopting the right laws, policies and institutions. It also looks at how they are established, enforced and implemented. Finally, it clarifies the roles and responsibilities of everyone involved – local and national government, the private sector, civil society – on owning, administering and managing water resources.

Water governance is fundamental to achieving the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Wise water management is crucial for national development and for improving the livelihoods of poor people, who suffer greater disadvantages in gaining access to safe drinkable water and basic sanitation, as well as water for agriculture and other economic uses. Water governance is also a vital part of improving environmental sustainability, by maintaining ecosystems – for example, wetlands and swamps – and by bringing together stakeholders around a key resource that can divide societies.

## **The UNDP Water Governance Facility at SIWI**

Established in 2005 by the United Nations Development Programme and the Stockholm International Water Institute, the UNDP Water Governance Facility at SIWI (WGF) promotes better water governance reform and implementation. It works in a range of areas, from integrated water resources management to transboundary water issues, water supply and sanitation, climate variability, gender and capacity-building.

The WGF benefits the water governance work of government agencies, civil society organisations and other stakeholders in developing countries. It fosters South-South collaboration and promotes the exchange of experience and best practice. It does this by informing and educating people about water governance, including what it is, why it matters, and what governance is like in certain countries.

Beyond this, the WGF is concerned with decentralising water decision-making and helping people to participate in it. It helps to fight corruption, to identify suitable partnerships, clarifies the roles of water institutions, and helps to improve transboundary water cooperation.

Finally, the WGF helps to improve the implementation of water governance by supporting dialogue- and network-building and advising on investment and financing choices.

The programme is funded jointly by the Swedish Agency for International Development Cooperation (Sida) and UNDP. The WGF is housed in and implemented in collaboration with SIWI, a policy institute which contributes to international efforts to find solutions to the world's growing water crisis.

### **WGF Services**

The UNDP Water Governance Facility at SIWI provides strategic support to developing countries to advance water governance reform and implementation. It does so by:

- Providing policy advice and support adapted to meet demands at the local, national, and regional level.
- Improving of the knowledge base on water governance through developing tools and reports and as well as through participating in water governance monitoring and assessment processes.

Through its work WGF promotes:

- Improved water governance to advance socially equitable, environmentally sustainable and economically efficient management of water resources, including water supply and sanitation services,
- Implementation of integrated water resources management approaches at local, national and regional levels, and
- Achievement of the MDG and World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) targets for water supply and sanitation.

### **How We Work**

Water governance has no one-size-fits-all solutions. The path to wise water governance varies between each nation, community and context. Values, conditions and challenges differ everywhere – so too must the approaches taken by governance systems. Local institutions, governments and actors know the problems they face and the answers needed best – connecting them is the challenge. WGF provides support and builds capacity to navigate the process.

WGF is a demand-driven programme that responds to the growing needs from developing countries for policy and institutional support to address water governance issues linked to livelihood and sustainable development challenges. It works through existing UNDP networks, so requests from developing countries demand are channelled through UNDP and SIWI. WGF complements ongoing work, and helps to raise additional in-country funding.

Currently, WGF has projects in Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Yemen, Kenya, Jordan and Iraq and is working extensively in Southern African Development Community (SADC) Region. To learn more about these projects and how water governance can be reformed and implemented please visit, [www.watergovernance.org](http://www.watergovernance.org).



Photo: Mats Lannerstad

*Improving how we, as individuals and as society govern the access to and control over water resources and their benefits.*



Photo: Elin Weyler, SIWI



Photo: UNDP