Groundwater Governance Project
A Global Framework for Action

Third Regional Consultation
Arab States Region

8–10 October 2012
Kempinski Hotel – Amman, Jordan

Hosted by the Ministry of Water and Irrigation of Jordan

with the support of
the German Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources (BGR)

AGENDA
5 October 2012

MONDAY 8 OCTOBER

9:00–10:30 Opening Ceremony
Master of Ceremony - Alice Aureli

- Carol Chouchani – United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA)
- Shammy Puri – Secretary General of the International Association of Hydrogeologists (IAH) and Project Steering Committee
- Marcus Wijnen – World Bank and Project Steering Committee
- Mohamed Bazza – Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and Project Steering Committee
- Anna Paolini – Director, Amman UNESCO Office
- Intisar Al-Qhiwi – Secretary General, UNESCO National Commission of Jordan
- H.E. Mohammed El Najjar – Minister, Ministry of Water and Irrigation, Jordan

10:30–11:00 Coffee Break
11:00 – 13:00  Plenary Session 1 – Setting the Scene of the Groundwater Governance

11:00 – 12:00  Presentation of the Groundwater Governance Project

Chair: Marcus Wijnen (World Bank)
Rapporteurs: John Chilton (IAH) and Louise Whiting (FAO)

- Video message from Nairobi to Amman
- Introduction to the GEF Project on Groundwater Governance
- Presentation of the objectives of the Project /Presentation of the objectives Regional Consultations – Alice Aureli (UNESCO-IHP) and Andrea Merla (International Expert) 20’
- “GGG: Good Groundwater Governance” - Project Thematic Paper on Groundwater Policy and Governance – Robert Varady and Sharon Megdal (University of Arizona, USA) 20’
- Synthesis report of FAO Study on Groundwater Management in the Near East Region – Mohamed Bazza (FAO) 20’

12:00 – 13:00  Governance of Groundwater Resources: A Worldwide Concern

Chair: Marcus Wijnen (World Bank)
Rapporteurs: John Chilton (IAH) and Louise Whiting (FAO)

- Keynote Presentation
  - OECD’s Water Governance Programme: Overview and Main Results – Aziza Akhmouch (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development - OECD) 20’

- Panel Debate & Questions and Answers with Panelists, Participants and the Press
  Facilitator: Shammy Puri (IAH)
  Panelists
  - Aziza Akhmouch (OECD)
  - Alice Aureli (UNESCO-IHP)
  - Mohamed Bazza (FAO)
  - Carol Chouchani (UNESCWA)
  - Sharon Megdal (University of Arizona)
  - Andrea Merla (International Expert)
  - Robert Varady (University of Arizona)
  - Marcus Wijnen (WB)
13:00–14:00 Lunch Break

14:00–15:45 Plenary Session 2 – Presentation of National and Regional Experiences on Groundwater Governance

Chair: Louise Whiting (FAO)
Rapporteur: Youssef Filali-Meknassi (UNESCO)

- Status of Groundwater Governance in Sudan – Mohamed Khalafall Ahmed (Sudan) 15’
- Status of Groundwater Governance in Oman – Ahmed Said Hilal Al Barwani (Oman) 15’
- Groundwater Governance in Jordan – Ali Subah (Jordan) 15’
- Groundwater Governance in Bahrain – Waleed AlZubari (Bahrain) 15’
- Groundwater in Egypt, Challenges and Related Control Actions – Madiha Hassan (Egypt) 15’
- Groundwater Governance in Lebanon – Talal Darwish (Lebanon) 15’

15:30-15:45 Questions and Answers 15’

15:45–16:00 Coffee Break

16:00–18:30 Break Out Sessions

- **Working Group 1: Competing Demands for Groundwater**
  - Rural vs. Urban Needs
  - How to Solve Conflicts between the Multiple Uses of Groundwater?
Facilitator: Mohamed Bazza (FAO)
Rapporteur: Djamel Latrech (Sahara and Sahel Observatory - OSS)

- **Working Group 2: Groundwater in the Face of Climate Change**
  - Do we have enough information to establish realistic scenarios that can be considered into groundwater governance programmes?
  - How to consider population growth and demand uncertainties?
  - How to fully integrate artificial recharge and waste water treatments?
  - What role for desalination?
  - How to ensure preservation and restoration of coastal aquifers?
  - How to consider adaptations measures in the governance frameworks?
Facilitator: John Chilton (IAH)
Rapporteur: Waleed AlZubari (Bahrain)

- **Working Group 3 – Securing Sustainable Financing for Groundwater Resources Governance**
  - Main financial mechanisms in the region
  - Limitations and drawbacks
Facilitator: Marcus Wijnen (World Bank)
Rapporteur: *Ebel Smidt* (IGRAC)

20:00

Cocktail

**TUESDAY 9 OCTOBER**

08:45–11:00  Plenary Session 3 – Presentation of National and Regional Experiences on Groundwater Governance (continued)

Chair: *Mohamed Aboufirass* (IAH – MENA)

Rapporteur: *Marcus Wijnen* (WB)

- Water Management and Strategy in Libya – *Omar Salem* (Libya) 15’
- Status of Groundwater Governance at the United Arab Emirates (UAE) – *Ahmed Ali Murad* (United Arab Emirates) 15’
- Groundwater Governance – *Omer Zayed* (Palestinian Authority) 15’
- La gestion des eaux souterraines en Algérie – *Abdelmadjid Demmak* (Algeria - FAO country report) 15’
- Status of Groundwater Governance in Tunisia – *Moncef Rekaya* (Tunisia) 15’
- Water Governance in Saudi Arabia – *Abdulrahman Al-Dakheel* (Saudi Arabia) 15’

10:15-10:30  Questions and Answers

10:30–11:00  Coffee Break

11:00–13:00  Plenary Session 4 – Presentation of Regional and International Programmes

Chair: *Mohamed Bazza* (FAO)

Rapporteur: *Jacques Ganoulis* (INWEB)

- Ecosystem Approach for the Management of Fresh Water Resources – *Fouad Abousamra* (UNEP-ROWA) 15’
- Water resources and Governance – *Khaled AbuZeid* (CEDARE – Arab Water Council, AWC) 15’
- The SASS Experience : Lessons Learnt on the Governance of Transboundary Groundwater Resources Management – *Djamel Latrech* (OSS – SASS) 15’
- Shared Water Resources in Western Asia: UNESCOA Inventory – *Yusuf Al-Mooji* (UNESCWA) 15’
- Transboundary Groundwater Resources : A Global Assessment – *Alice Aureli* (UNESCO-IHP) 15’
- Developed Toolkit on Groundwater Operational Management as a Tool for Enhancing Groundwater Governance in the Arab region – *Abdelaziz Zaki* (UNESCO Cairo Office) 15’
- On-going Global Projects Related to Groundwater governance – *Jac van der Gun* (International Expert) 15’
12:45-13:00  Questions and Answers
13:00-14:00  Lunch Break

14:00–15:15  **Plenary Session 5 – Panel Debate on Groundwater Governance in Arid and Semiarid regions**
Specific focus on:
- Renewable vs. non renewable and sustainability issue.
- Transboundary Aquifers /shared water resources
- Managing Aquifer Recharge

**Chair:** Marcus Wijnen (WB)
**Facilitators:** Andrea Merla (International Expert) and Waleed AlZubari (Bahrain)
**Rapporteur:** Youssef Filali-Meknassi (UNESCO)

**Panelists**
- Fouad Abousamra (UNEP-ROWA)
- Khaled AbuZeid (CEDARE – AWC)
- Yusuf Al-Mooji (UNESCWA)
- Muhammad Al Rashed (Kuwait)
- Djamel Latrech (OSS – SASS)
- Ralf Klingbeil (UNESCWA)
- Wael Seif (ACSAD)
- Mohamed Shatanawi (UNESCO Chair, Jordan)
- Omar Salem (UNESCO Centre on Transboundary Groundwater, Libya)
- Jac van der Gun (International Expert)
- Abdelaziz Zaki (UNESCO Cairo Office)

15:00–15:15  Questions and Answers

15:15–18:00  **Break Out Sessions**

- **Working Group 4 – General Policies and Principles for Groundwater Governance**
  **Facilitators:** Robert Varady and Sharon Megdal (University of Arizona)
  **Rapporteur:** Louise Whiting (FAO)

- **Working Group 5 – Groundwater Governance in Arid and Semiarid Regions**
  Specific focus on:
  - Renewable vs. non renewable and sustainability issue
  - Transboundary Aquifers /Shared water resources
  - Management of aquifer recharge (MAR)

  **Facilitators:** Wael Seif (Water Resources Department - ACSAD) and Andrea Merla (International expert)
  **Rapporteurs:** Jac van der Gun (International Expert) and Ralf Klingbeil (UNESCWA)
• **Working Group 6: How to Strengthen Effective Participation of Civil Society in Groundwater Governance**

  **Facilitator:** *Asma El Kasmi* (UNESCO Chair on Water, Women and Decision Power, Morocco)
  **Rapporteur:** *Michael van der Valk* (The Netherlands UNESCO-IHP National Committee)

  

  

  18:00  [Closed Session: GWG Project Steering Committee Meeting]

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**WEDNESDAY 10 OCTOBER**

**09:00–11:15**  **Plenary Session 6 – Sharing Experience and Practices**

09:00–10:00  **Panel Debate: How to Strengthen Effective Participation of Civil Society in Groundwater Governance**

  **Chair and Facilitator:** *Vanessa Vaessen* (BGR)
  **Rapporteur:** *John Chilton* (IAH)

  **Panelists:**
  - *Abdalla Abdelsalam Ahmed* (UNESCO Chair in Water Resources, Sudan)
  - *Faiza Bouchama* (AMCOW - ANRH - Algeria)
  - *Boubker El-Houadi* (Morocco)
  - *Asma El Kasmi* (UNESCO Chair on Water, Women and Decision Power)
  - *Mufleh Abbadi* (International Union for Conservation of Nature - IUCN)
  - *Muhammad Shatanawi* (UNESCO Chair in Wadi Hydrology, Jordan)
  - *Jacques Ganoulis* (UNESCO INWEB)
  - *Abdulla M. Al-Thary* (National Water Resources Authority, Yemen)

10:00–10:20  Questions and Answers


10:35–11:10  Coffee Break

11:00–11:15  **Knowledge sharing and awareness raising on groundwater**

  Presentation on: GEF IW LEARN Project; “Groundwater Talks” Initiative; Groundwater Community of Practice (CoP) and Permanent Consultation Mechanism (PCM) – *Lucilla Minelli* (GEF IW LEARN – UNESCO-IHP)

11:15  **End of the Plenary Session 6**

11:15–14:00  **Preparation of the Working Group Reports** [Only for Rapporteurs and Facilitators of the Working groups]
Facilitators and Rapporteurs of the Break-out sessions will meet to prepare the working groups’ reports. Reports will be presented during the closing session. Presentations and written reports should be provided to the UNESCO secretariat by 14h.

13:00–14:30 Lunch Break

14:30–17:00 Plenary Session 7 – Closing Session

14:30–15:45 Recommendations: Setting up the Framework for Action (FA)

Chair: Basem Telfah (Ministry of Water and Irrigation)

Rapporteur: John Chilton (IAH)

- Presentation of the results of the questionnaires – Setta Tutundjian (International expert) 15’
- Reports of the Breakout Sessions: Presentation on the outcomes of the six Working Groups Sessions (10’ each)

15:45–16:15 Questions and Answers

Facilitators: Mohamed Bazza (FAO) and Shammy Puri (IAH)

16:15–17:00 Closing Remarks

- Closing Messages
  FAO, GEF, IAH, World Bank, UNESCO, BGR, UNESCWA, Jordan National Commission to UNESCO

- Closing Message
  H.E. Mohammed El Najjar (Minister of Water and Irrigation, Jordan) (tbc)

17:15 [Out of Session: IAH Meeting]