



Water and energy are highly interdependent. Choices made and actions taken on energy can positively or negatively affect energy and vice versa. How these two domains are managed have crucial impacts on poverty alleviation both *directly*, as a number of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) depend on major improvements in access to water, sanitation, power and energy sources, and *indirectly*, as water and energy can be binding constraints on economic growth.

The post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) is likely to include increased access to water and energy services. To contribute to the ongoing international process, the 2014 edition of the United Nations *World Water Development Report (WWDR2014)* seeks to inform the decision-making about the interlinkages, potential synergies and trade-offs, and to highlight the need for appropriate responses and regulatory frameworks that account for both water and energy priorities. The Report provides a comprehensive overview of major and emerging trends from around the world, with examples of how some of the trend-related challenges have been addressed, their implications for policy-makers, and further actions that can be taken by stakeholders and the international community.

Supported by the most recent quantitative data available on current and projected growth in the demand for energy and water resources, the report describes the potential water-related constraints, challenges and impacts of the different choices in energy production that will ultimately determine the future global energy mix.

This comprehensive report revolves around eight key messages, some of which are:

1. Demand for energy and freshwater will increase significantly in the coming decades. This increase will present big challenges and strain resources in nearly all regions, especially in developing and emerging economies.

2. Policy-makers, planners and practitioners can take steps to overcome the barriers that exist between their respective domains. Innovative and pragmatic national policies can lead to more efficient and cost effective provision of water and energy services.
3. Water and energy are both at the heart of sustainable development and need to be recognized as such.
4. Private sector involvement and governmental support for research and development are crucial for developing alternative, renewable and less water intensive energy sources.

Comprised of two volumes (comprehensive overview and case studies/data-indicators annex), the Report provides concrete examples of actions and responses that can mitigate the energy's impacts on water resources and other water users, including agriculture, rapidly expanding cities, expanding industry and the environment.

The WWDR 2014, coordinated by the World Water Assessment Programme hosted by UNESCO and financially supported by the Italian Government, is the results of an exceptional level of collaboration of 31 UN Agencies comprising UN-Water.