

Indicator name		Access to information, participation and justice		
Public participation rights in constitutional and legal frameworks				
Indicators	Weak	Intermediate	Strong	
Constitutional guarantees to public participation	Constitution does not explicitly guarantee right to public participation in decision-making: Chile, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Mexico, South Africa, United States	No value offered: only two indicator choices were 'strong' and 'weak'	Constitution guarantees the right to public participation in decision-making: Thailand, Uganda	
Comprehensiveness of notice and comment in different types of decision-making processes	Types of policy- and project-level decisions requiring public notice and comment are not specified: Indonesia, Thailand	Types of project-level decisions requiring public notice and comment are specified, but types of policy-level decisions are not: Chile, Hungary, India, Uganda	Types of both policy- and project-level decisions requiring public notice and comment are specified: Mexico, South Africa, United States	
Public notice and comment requirements for environmental impact assessments	No requirement for public notice and comment for Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs): Thailand	EIAs require public notice and comment at final stage: Hungary, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Uganda	EIAs require public notice and comment at various stages: Chile, South Africa, United States	
Quality and accessibility of water data, selected countries				
Country	Quality of information <sup>1</sup>		Accessibility	
Hungary <sup>2</sup>	Intermediate		Weak	
India	Intermediate		Weak	
Indonesia <sup>3</sup>	Weak		Weak	
Mexico <sup>4</sup>	Strong		Weak	
South Africa	Intermediate		Intermediate	
Thailand	Weak		Weak	
Uganda	Weak		Weak	
United States: California	Intermediate		Strong	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Systems score weak when only a few parameters on quality of water are collected.</li> <li>2. Data from almost all 12 inspectorates and from 7 of 19 public health offices in four weeks; 7 of the 19 offices responded on drinking water.</li> <li>3. Indonesia submitted a single value for both air and water quality information.</li> <li>4. Mexico disseminates drinking water information at the state level but not by individual water supply.</li> </ol>				
Prepared by	UNDP Water Governance Facility (WGF) and Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI).*			
Example	<b>WWDR2, Chapter 2, Table 2.2, 2.3</b>			
Rationale	An assessment of conditions with regard to access to information, participation, and justice in water decisions and on-going water reform processes will give an indication of the inclusiveness of the reform process in water governance.			
Position in DPSIR chain	Response			
Definition of indicator	Proportion of countries with strong, intermediate or weak access to information, participation and justice.			
Underlying definitions and concepts	<p>Access to information = The ability of citizens to obtain water-related information in the possession of public authorities.</p> <p>Access to participation = The opportunity for citizens to provide informed, timely, and meaningful input and to influence decisions at various levels.</p> <p>Access to justice = The ability of citizens to turn to impartial arbiters to resolve disputes over access to information, decision-making and other water-related problems. With regard to access to information, participation and justice countries are classified into three categories: (1) Strong; (2) Intermediate; and (3) Weak</p>			

Specification of determinants needed	Number of countries surveyed. Number of countries designated to Group 1, Group 2 and Group 3.
Computation	$100(C_{\text{Group1}}/C_t)$ = Percentage of countries with a strong level of access to information, participation and justice $100(C_{\text{Group2}}/C_t)$ = Percentage of countries with intermediate level of access to information, participation and justice $100(C_{\text{Group3}}/C_t)$ = Percentage of countries with weak level of access to information, participation and justice Where: $C_t$ = Total number of countries surveyed $C_{\text{Group1}}$ = Number of Countries in Group 1 $C_{\text{Group2}}$ = Number of Countries in Group 2 $C_{\text{Group3}}$ = Number of Countries in Group 3
Units of measurement	Percentage Qualitative rankings: Strong, Intermediate and Weak
Data sources, availability and quality	Data on access to information, participation and justice in water decisions may be obtained from relevant administrative authorities and other stakeholders. These indicators are based on a number of “sub-indicators”.
Scale of application	National
Geographical coverage	The indicators have been applied to a very limited number of pilot countries in Latin America, sub-Saharan Africa, Eastern Europe, North America, South and South-East Asia.
Interpretation	<p>The indicators provide an assessment of the level of openness in decision-making in the water sector. They also relate to on-going water reforms and their openness and inclusiveness.</p> <p>A more open and transparent process for involvement in water decision-making processes would better identify appropriate goals for effective water management and conservation. Civil society engagement would serve as a vehicle to integrate social and environmental goals in approaches to water management, and as an instrument of accountability.</p> <p>Broad access to information about water quality allows people to find out whether they can use the water available to them for drinking, swimming, irrigating their crops, or fishing. With that knowledge, people can make informed choices regarding health, livelihoods choices, risk avoidance, among other factors. Information about water quality may also mobilize public opinion and urge polluters and governments to reduce pollution and to improve water quality.</p>
Linkage with other indicators	None identified
Alternative methods and definitions	None identified
Related indicator sets	World Bank Institute Governance Indicators, for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Voice and accountability</li> <li>- Government effectiveness</li> <li>- Rule of law</li> </ul> Freedom of Information (FOI) Legislation
Sources of further information	<i>World Resources 2002-2004: Decisions for the Earth: Balance, voice and power</i> , UNDP/UNEP/WRI, 2003. <i>Closing the Gap: Information, Participation, and Justice in decision-making for the Environment</i> , World Resources Institute (Based on the Access Initiative), 2002. <a href="http://archive.wri.org/governance/pubs_pdf.cfm?PubID=3759">http://archive.wri.org/governance/pubs_pdf.cfm?PubID=3759</a> (Accessed 4 March 2009)
Other institutions involved	*This indicator was originally developed by Access Initiative and World Resources Institute (WRI).