

UNESCO's Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme (IHP)

Phase Nine (IHP-IX)

**Water Governance based on science
for
mitigation, adaptation and resilience
Represented
by**

**Agnes Mbugua
Region: Va-Africa
KENYA**



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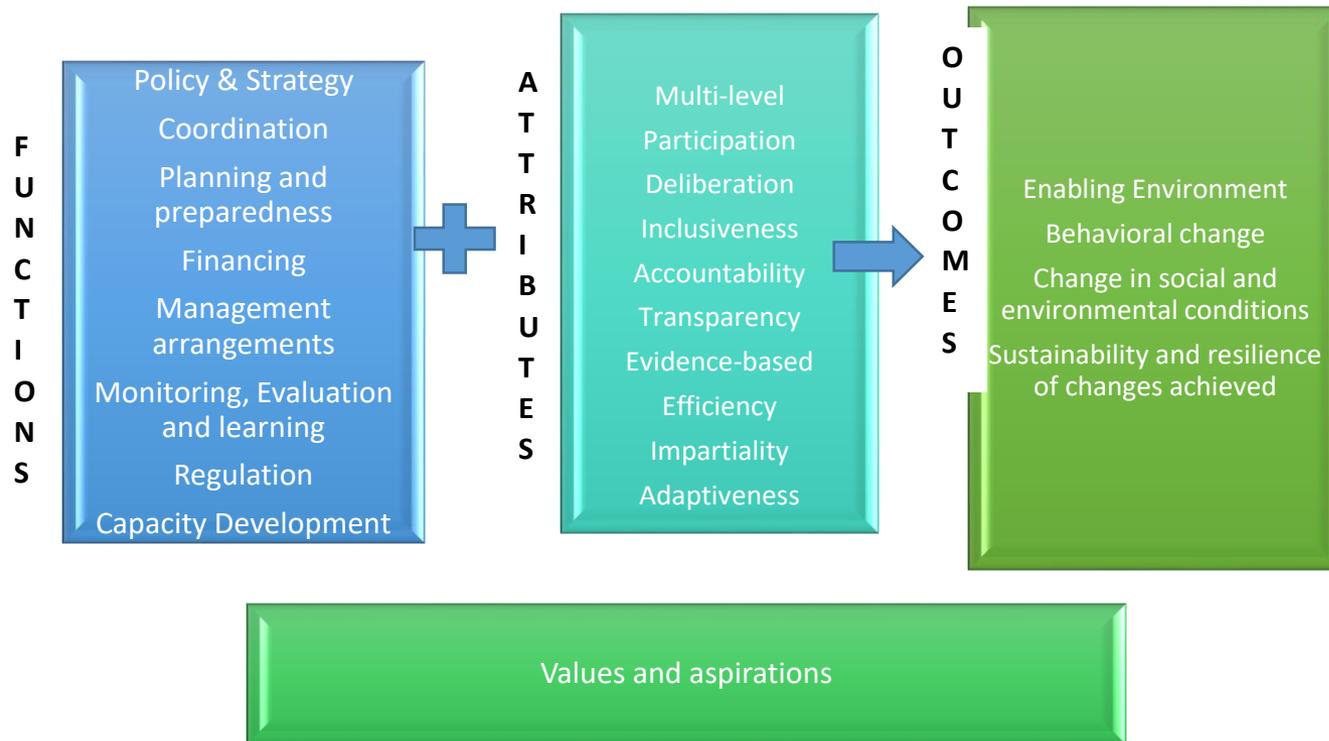
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Water Governance

- Refers to the **political, social, economic, legal** and **administrative** systems in place that influence **water's access** and **use, protection from pollution,** and **management.**
- Determines the **equity** and **efficiency** in water resource and services allocation and distribution, and balances water use between socio-economic activities and the goods and services provided through ecosystem preservation.
- Includes **formulation, establishment** and **implementation** of water policies, with clear and practical standards based on science and water democracy, including water ethics, legislation and institutions, and the roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders.



The Governance Framework, as a combination of functions, attributes and outcomes



9th IHP Vision on Water Governance:

By 2029,

- Significantly reduced water governance gaps,
- Generating greater equity and efficiency in the allocation, distribution and conservation of water resources and services,
- Designing and implementing water policies in an inclusive and participatory way
- Standards based on science
- Developing ongoing efforts addressing the adaptation and mitigation to climate change.



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Expected outputs

1. Awareness raised at all levels on the importance of science based water governance.
2. Capacities on new frameworks and tools such as Climate Risk Informed Decision Analysis (CRIDA) enhanced to underpin water governance and build resilience.
3. Novel approaches of adaptive water management to support sound water governance developed and capacities of Member States enhanced.
4. Water governance legal, policy and institutional frameworks assessed and proposals for their improvement made to ensure that they are context-dependent, location-based, reflecting adaptation to climate change and IWRM integrating both surface water and groundwater.
5. Cooperative frameworks and open-access internet-based databases for water data collection and monitoring developed and / or promoted to improve water governance.
6. Capacities and skills strengthened in water cooperation and diplomacy as well as in the application of the principles of the “from Potential Conflict to Cooperation Potential” (PC-CP) initiative in conflict negotiation.



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Relation between this priority area and the Agenda 2030

- linked SDG 6 Target 6.4,6.5.1,6.5.2,6A,6B
- SDG 1&2 targets 1.4, 1.5, 2.1, 2.3 and 2.4
- SDG 3 Target 3.9,
- SDG 4 Target 4.1 and 4.5
- SDG 5 Target 5.1 and 5B
- SDG 8 targets 8.2, 8.3, 8.4 and 8.9)
- SDG10 and 11
- SDG13 targets 13.1, 13.2 and 13.B
- SDG 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions) related to transboundary water cooperation (target 6.5)
- SDG17 (partnerships for sustainable development). water governance, requires partnerships between governments, the private sector and civil society.



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The comprehensive nature of Water Governance

- Current situation and Challenges in the water sectors
- Need for new water governance development approach

Science: the foundation for sustainable water governance

The sound scientific underpinning of water management decisions needs to become common practice globally

The characteristics of groundwater.....warrant special governance approach



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Adaptive governance based on science as a key to future management

- needs to be adaptive, context-dependent and location-based in order to take into account historical and territorial specificities and challenges
- adaptation to global changes and mitigation of environmental degradation
- promotion of additional research

Participation and partnership for Water Governance

- Necessary to improve decision-making processes through public participation.
- Ensure that decisions are based on shared knowledge, experiences and scientific evidence, are influenced by the views and experience of those affected by them
- Understanding and ensuring the role of transparency and participation of all stakeholders

accountability,



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Water cooperation and diplomacy

- Important to strengthen the cooperation and the leadership
- Emphasis on transboundary and groundwater resources governance
- Water governance should facilitate adaptation, mitigation and resilience processes
- **Ultimately, adequate water governance is a fundamental and solid pillar to guarantee sustainable water security for all**



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