



9th World Water Forum Action Group 3A. Implement IWRM at all levels (6.5)

1. Organisation(s) // **Organisation(s): American Water Resources Association (AWRA)**

2. Main Contact Details // **Coordonnées principales :**
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3. Describe your action in one sentence (*Example: Dissemination and application of Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystem nexus in transboundary basins*) // **Décrivez votre action en une phrase (Exemple: diffusion et application du lien eau-énergie-alimentation-écosystème dans les bassins transfrontaliers)**

Assessment of the compatibility between IWRM and groundwater, especially nonrenewable and transboundary groundwater.

4. What kind of action are you proposing (multiple choice is possible)? // **Quelle sorte d'action proposez-vous (plusieurs choix possibles) ?**
 - Local initiative // *Initiative locale*

 - Funding mechanism // *Mécanisme de financement*

 - Legal mechanism // *Mécanisme juridique*

 - X Governance // *Gouvernance***
 - Stakeholder coordination // *Coordination entre parties prenantes*

 - X Data/knowledge/experience sharing // *Partage de données/connaissances/expériences***

 - X Awareness raising // *Sensibilisation***

 - X Other // *Autre : Establish a working group***

5. Has the action already started? // **L'action a-t-elle déjà débuté ?**
 - Yes // *Oui*

 - X No // *Non***



6. Describe your action in 300 words. The activities or projects can consist of new initiatives identified by the group. Members could also present to the group projects that they have already initiated that they are willing to scale up or adapt by involving other actors. //
- Décrivez votre action en max. 300 mots. Les activités ou projets peuvent consister en de nouvelles initiatives identifiées par le groupe. Les membres peuvent également présenter au groupe des projets qu'ils ont déjà initiés et qui sont disposés à développer ou à adapter en impliquant d'autres acteurs.*

AWRA, an organization long involved in the World Water Fora (3 through 8) and IWRM, proposes a session to assemble groundwater and IWRM experts to assess the state-of-the-art, future and compatibility of IWRM and groundwater, and chart a path forward.

The MDGs are now history, supplanted by the SDGs. Although water now has its own goal - #6 Clean Water and Sanitation - it is a crosscutting issue affecting all goals, especially 2 (Zero Hunger); 5 (Gender Equality); 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy); 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities); 13 (Climate Action); 14 (Life Below Water); 15 (Life on Land); and 17 (Partnerships).

Groundwater is by far the largest liquid freshwater reservoir. Its importance has been magnified by the desiccation of surface freshwater resources via global warming and its accelerated global depletion. Groundwater quality must also be addressed; considering only groundwater quantity is to deal incompletely with the resource.

IWRM is now about 25 years old. Despite global acceptance and implementation it does not often adequately deal with groundwater, especially nonrenewable ('fossil') and transboundary groundwater. IWRM's focus is on river basins, which may be underlain by multiple aquifers or be connected by a single large aquifer underlying several river basins. The river basin approach often does not adequately consider groundwater's properties and dynamic response, which are quite different from those of surface water.

This session will address the following questions:

- 1) Is IWRM inherently anathema to groundwater?**
- 2) Is the use of nonrenewable/fossil groundwater subsumed by IWRM?**
- 3) Should, and how can, IWRM be modified to accommodate groundwater development and depletion?**
- 4) Can transboundary aquifers be fully integrated into the IWRM concept? If not, what must change?**
- 5) How can we educate the water community on the above?**
- 6) Are there good examples of all of the above?**



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7. What outcomes are you expecting, and by when? (Max. 200 words) // *Quels résultats espérez-vous attendre, et quand ? (Max. 200 mots)*

1) Real-world global examples of IWRM-groundwater compatibility/incompatibility - 9/2021

2) Causes for (1) and pursuit of remedies - 9/2021 & ongoing

3) Formation of a working group to address/develop aforementioned remedies - 5/2021

4) Secure funding for operations/activities of (3) - 4/2022

5) Specification of a path forward to reconcile differences between IWRM approach and nonrenewable/transboundary groundwater governance/management - 9/2021 & ongoing