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IWRM Conference: Management of Water in a Changing World: Lessons Learnt and Innovative Perspectives Wednesday 12 October 2011

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WRM Conference : Management of Water in a Changing World: Lessons Learnt and Innovative Perspecti

Water is essential for all life forms. It is a fundamental resource necessary for human well-being and ecosystem functioning. At the same time, water is a resource under considerable pressure. Due to increasing water demand, global change and a multitude of use conflicts the sustainable management of water is central for future societal developments.

The concept of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) has gained wide acceptance as the best way to tackle these challenges. The goal is to promote economic and social developments by addressing and balancing diverse use interests, while simultaneously safeguarding water resources. However, current water management practices are far from fulfilling these objectives for different reasons. In some cases, adequate management structures and techniques are not available while in other cases existing management approaches fail in properly addressing the key problems.