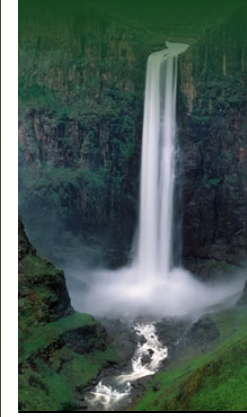




Orange-Senqu River Awareness Kit

Governance

- Introduction
- Definitions
- Integrated Water Resources Management**
- Introduction to IWRM
- Steps for IWRM
- River Basin Management
- River Basin Organisations
- Stakeholder Involvement
- Capacity Development
- Transboundary Water Management
- ▶ Southern African Development Community (SADC)
- ▶ Water Governance in the Orange-Senqu River Basin
- ▶ Stakeholders
- References



Feedback

[send a general website comment](#)

[report a specific problem with this page](#)

→ Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM):

Introduction to Integrated Water Resources Management

Introduction

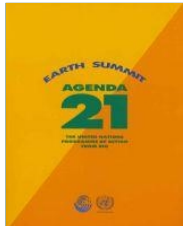
Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM): *"Promotes the co-ordinated development and management of water, land and related resources, in order to maximise the resultant economic and social welfare in an equitable manner without compromising the sustainability of vital ecosystems"* (GWP 2003).

"The IWRM approach helps to manage and develop water resources in a sustainable and balanced way, taking account of social, economic, and environmental interests." (GWP 2003).

IWRM is designed to coordinate actions across multiple sectors involving a range of stakeholders at local, national and international levels. This integrated approach is diagrammed below.

[Integrated River Basin Management \(IRBM\)](#) is a sub-set of IWRM and involves the implementation of IWRM at the basin level (IWR 2006). The existence of a national framework for IWRM is an important component of effective IRBM.

With support from GIZ, French-GEF, the European Commission and UNDP-GEF, ORASECOM is developing a single, harmonised basin IWRM plan. This collaborative basin-wide plan for the Orange-Senqu River basin is currently in its second phase and is the first of its kind in the SADC region. The development of this plan is in-line with the international harmonisation agenda according to the Paris and Windhoek Declarations and the Accra Agenda for Action (AAA). This is the first such plan in the SADC region, leading the way for other River Basin Organisations.



The Agenda 21 Earth Summit Report.
Source: UN 2011
(click to enlarge)

History

[International agreements](#) and principles provide the principles and framework for integrated IWRM. Two key international events in 1992 provided the impetus for formalising the principles of IWRM – the International Conference on Water and the Environment and the UN Conference on the Environment and Development.

The International Conference on Water and the Environment, held in Dublin, Ireland, in 2992, established recommendations for action at the local, national and international levels based on four guiding principles which became known as the [Dublin Principles](#) (IRC 2006).

Dublin Principles

The four guiding principles for managing freshwater resources contained within the [Dublin Principles](#) are (IRC 2006):

- Freshwater is a **finite** and vulnerable resource, essential to sustain life, development and the environment
- Water development and management should be based on a **participatory** approach, involving users, planners and policy-makers at all level
- **Women** play a central part in the provision, management, and safeguarding of water
- Water has an **economic value** in all its competing uses, and should be recognised as an [economic good](#)

The [Dublin Principles](#) were subsequently presented to the World Leaders at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro in June 1992.

The UN Conference on the Environment and Development released Agenda 21, which linked development with the environment, promoted the global management of freshwater, and adopted an integrated approach to water management.

Access an official copy of the United Nations Documents version of the [Dublin Principles](#) (1992) and [Agenda 21](#).

Next: Steps for Integrated Water Resources Management ▶

Interactive

Basin Map

Explore the sub-basins of the Orange-Senqu River

[enter](#)

Principles of IWRM

Explore the principles of Integrated Water Resource Management applied to the Orange-Senqu

[enter](#)

ORASECOM

Learn about water governance in the Orange-Senqu basin

[enter](#)

Video Tour

Tour video scenes along the Orange-Senqu River related to Governance

[enter](#)

