



# WATER GOVERNANCE: THE IWRM FRAMEWORK

## MODULE 1: WATER GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTION



Adapted by for presentation in GIZ – ACWUA  
Regional Seminar on Water Integrity  
Muscat, June 6<sup>th</sup> 2012

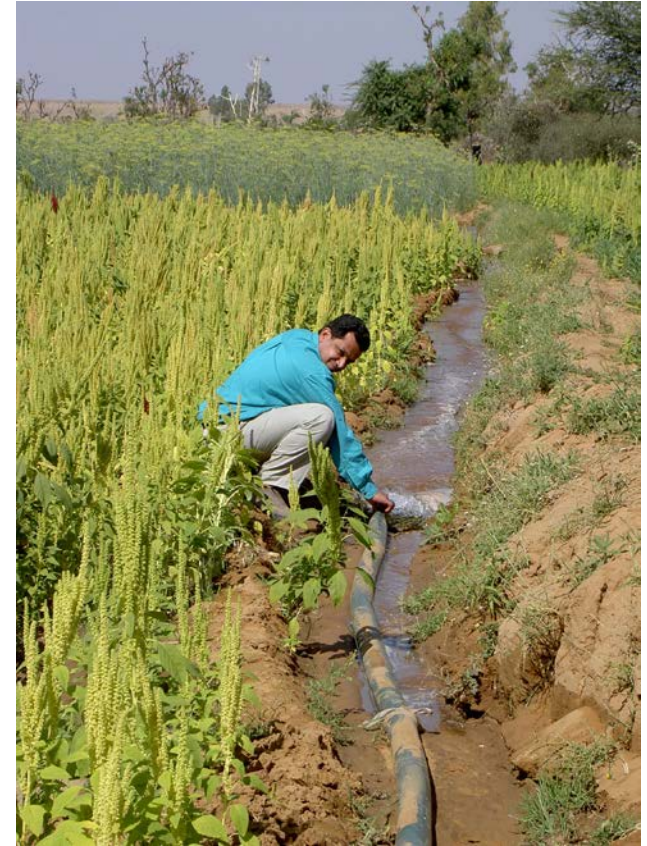


**GIZ – ACWUA Regional Seminar on Water Integrity**  
Muscat, Oman, June 6<sup>th</sup> , 2012



# Outline presentation

- IWRM and water governance
- Governance dimensions
- Good water governance
- ... In MENA region
- Principals of integrity
- Institutional reform
- Conclusions



# Definitions of governance

- **Many definitions** of governance exist
- Some place more emphasis on role of government
- Others focus on **the interaction between different role players** and the need for **co-operation**
- Most definitions refer to **decision making** and how this takes place in relation to public goods and services
- Most recognize that governance is much more than government

# Let's explore governance a bit further

- Governance is about the **processes** by which **decisions are made and implemented**
- It concerns the **interactions**, relationships and networks between the **different sectors** (government, public sector, private sector and civil society) to ensure **optimal services**
- It involves decisions, negotiation, and different **power relations** between **stakeholders** to determine who gets what, when and how.

# UNDP Definition of Water governance

*Source: UNDP 2004. Water Governance for Poverty Reduction. Key issues and the UNDP Response to MDG. United Nations Development Programme, New York.*

Water governance considers : the political, economic, and social **processes and institutions** by which governments, civil society, and the private sector make **decisions** about

how best to use, to develop and manage water resources.

It comprises of : the mechanisms, processes, and institutions through which all involved **stakeholders**, including citizens and other interest groups articulate their priorities, exercise their legal rights, meet their obligations, and mediate their differences.



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**The water crises is not water or financial scarcity but mainly a crises of governance (GWP, 2000).**

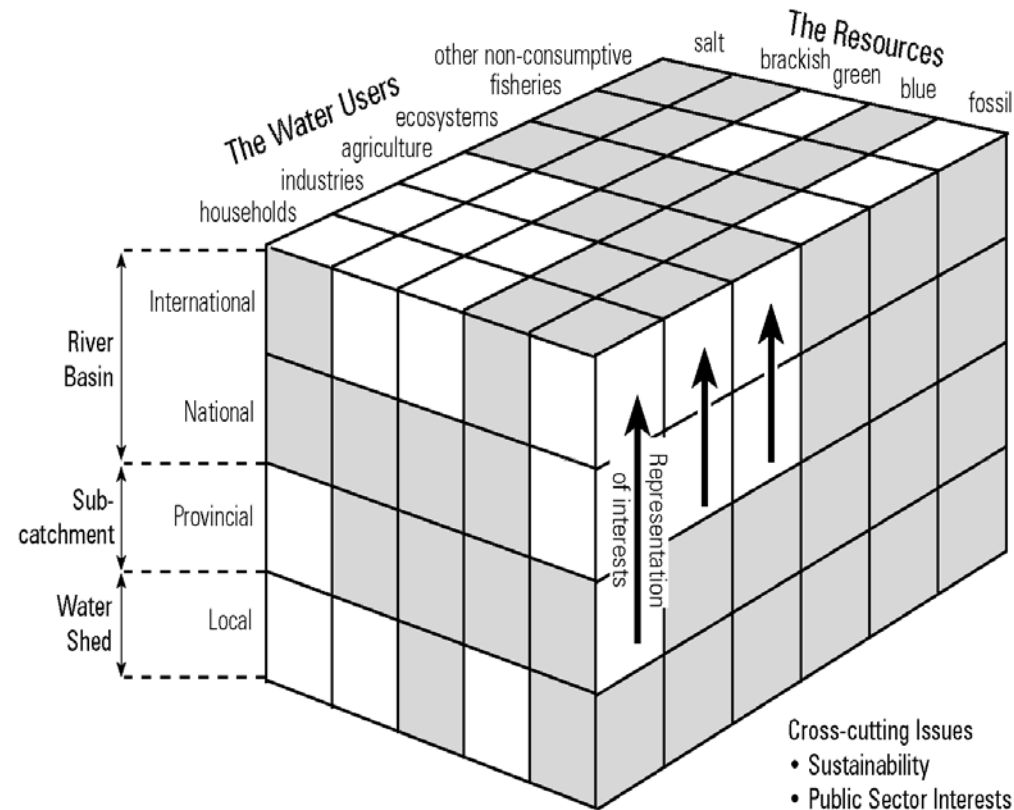


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# IWRM & water governance

- IWRM is about holistic management of water, taking into consideration all dimensions: the entire water cycle (resource), all sectors (users), spatial (basin / administrative), time scales and **interests**
- Both IWRM and (water) governance are complex, intertwined, and profoundly political

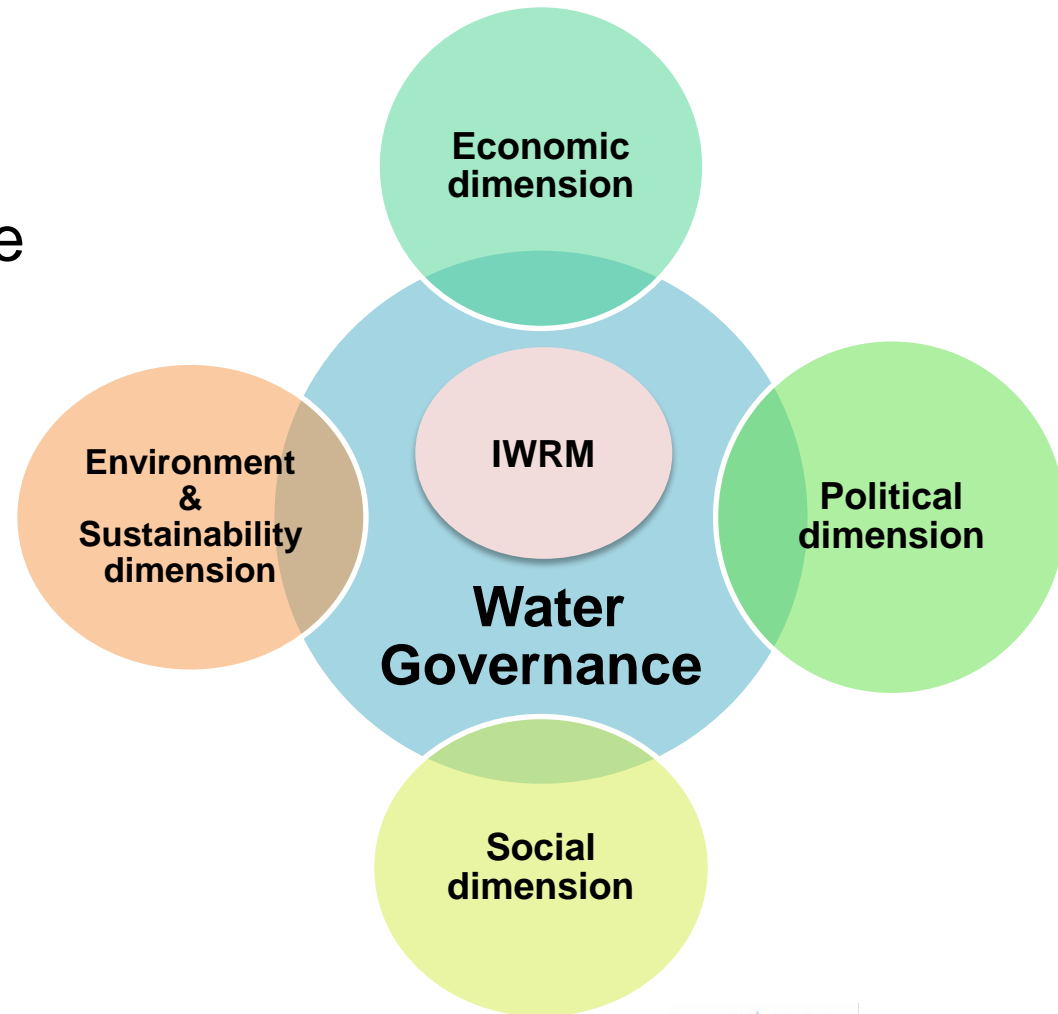


The IWRM Cube

# IWRM & Water governance

Water governance describes the broader picture which provides the context in which IWRM can be applied

(Rogers and Hall, 2003)





# Important principles of Governance

## Transparency

Clear rules and roles & responsibilities of actors  
(differs from manual which states access to information & understanding decision making)

## Accountability

Procedures are applied; actors hold each other accountable (answerable for action)

## Participation

Information accessible to third parties who can file effective complaints (access to justice) and influence

# Benefits of participation ??

- More successful projects in terms of scale, design, operation and maintenance;
- Improve cost recovery . Key to revenue generation and financing;
- Environmental resources are protected and cultural and human rights are respected;
- Coordinate interests and resolve conflicts;
- Increase transparency and accountability in decision-making.

# Main Issues and Challenges in MENA

- **Scarcity**, declining per capita share
- Water is treated as a **sensitive political and social issue**.
- Water is a **free natural commodity**
- Low water **use efficiency**
- Strong **fragmentation** of the sector
- Weak **institutional set-up** (overlapping or conflicting roles and poor coordination)
- Shortcomings in **enforcement of laws & policies**
- **Centralization**
- Lack of **participation and stakeholder involvement**
- Insufficient **data/information** (reliability, accessibility/ sharing)
- Generally low **public awareness**
- **Environmental** degradation

## **Policy and institutional efforts have not reached the expected results due to:**

- Inefficiency in resource management and public expenditure on water services
- Subsidy regimes do not promote organisational capacity growth
- Water organisations do not attract and retain required skills for efficient service delivery
- Legislation lacks the necessary implementing instruments

- Water is gradually becoming an “economic and social good” rather than “public good”
- Restructuring water organizations and moving towards decentralization
- Growing involvement of the private sector
- Empowerment of civil society, communities
- Awareness improving (role of media growing)
- Increasing emphasis on capacity building

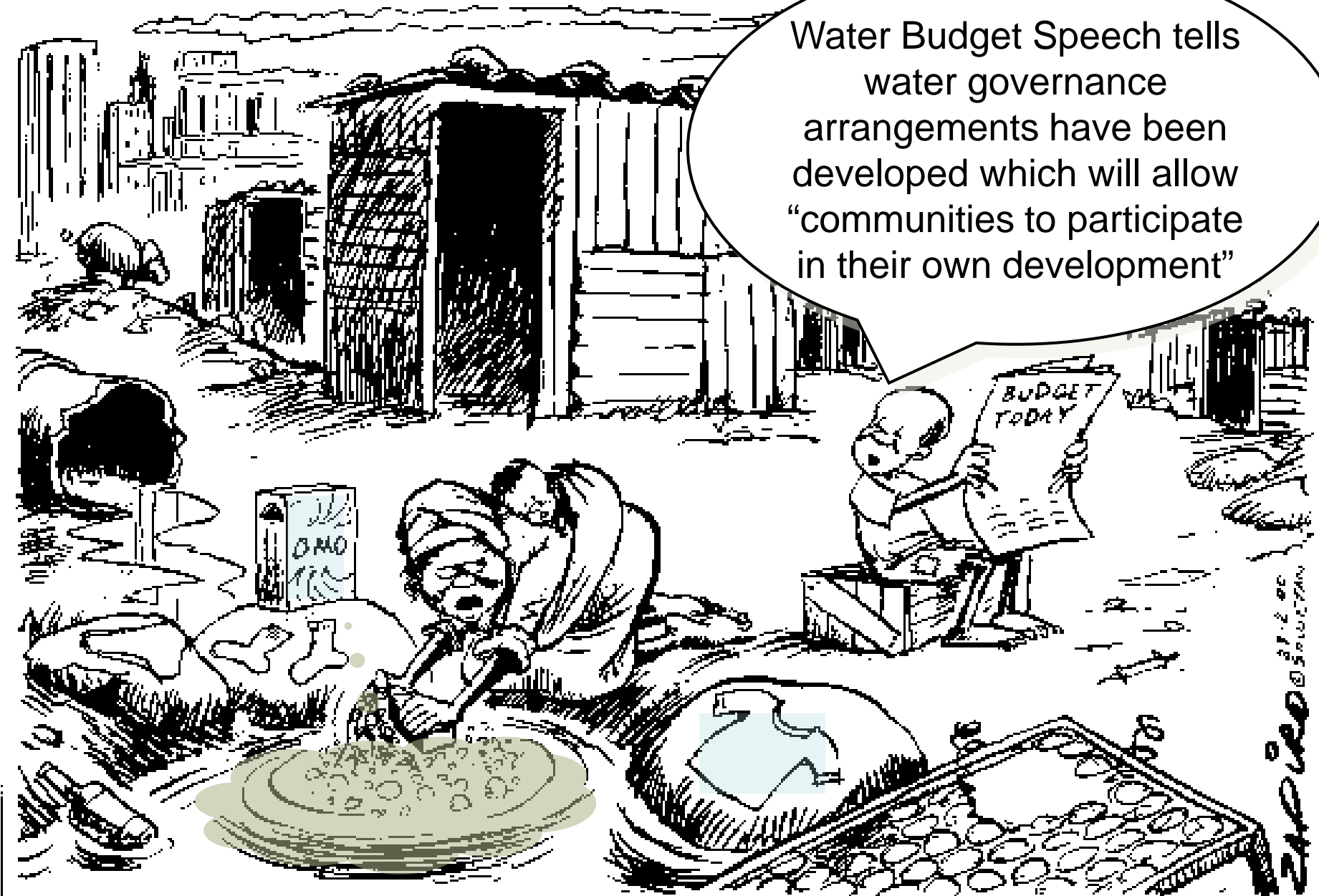
- MENA region made significant governance improvements over the past few years
- MENA countries made the strongest effort compared to the rest of the regions of the world
- MENA countries developed, or are in the process of developing innovative water policies and institutional reforms

# Making a change

- A change entails concurrent **reforms** in the legal, policy, and administrative spheres of the water sector.
- New water administration and water sector decision processes have to accommodate an increasing role of all actors.
- Policy formulation, water allocation, M&E and regulation functions need to be separated from operational functions.
- Increase Integrity

# Getting governance right

Water Budget Speech tells water governance arrangements have been developed which will allow “communities to participate in their own development”





# Focus of sector reform

- Improving the institutional framework with particular emphasis on regulation and for IWRM on basin approach
- Clarifying rights and responsibilities with government moving towards facilitation and regulating role with 'independent service developers and providers
- Monitoring service performance (benchmarking)
- But sector integrity needs strengthening and has to be included in monitoring to better fight corruption

# Concluding statement:

## Effective water governance requires

- Political will
- Stakeholder participation
- Clear rights and responsibilities (embedded in policy (gender equity/pro-poor) and law)
- Clear institutional framework of functioning organizations for IWRM and WASH
- Good anti-corruption legislation & access to justice
- Clear action oriented monitoring and evaluation
- Effective complaint and control mechanisms

# Global Corruption Report 2008

in water sector

IT



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# Important principles of integrity

<b>Integrity</b>	Practices impeding corruption and promoting respect for rule of law
Transparency	Clear rules and roles & responsibilities of actors (differs from manual which states access to information & understanding decision making)
Accountability	Procedures are applied; actors hold each other accountable (answerable for action)
Participation	Information accessible to third parties who can file effective complaints (access to justice) and influence

# Let's try it out

- You all have a water supply connection at home, which implies that you have a relationship with your water provider;



- Discuss with your neighbours (5 minutes how integer this relationship is in your case)