

Issue 93 | March 21, 2013 | Focus on World Water Day 2013

World Water Day is held annually on March 22 as a means of focusing attention on the importance of freshwater and advocating for the sustainable management of freshwater resources. The theme for 2013 is Water Cooperation. The World Water Day 2013 website states that access to water can be a source of conflict, but it is also a catalyst for cooperation and peace building. Cooperation on such a practical and vital issue as water management and drinking water supply and sanitation services can help overcome cultural, political, and social tensions, and can also build trust and social peace among different groups, genders, communities, regions, or states.

WORLD WATER DAY PUBLICATIONS

- **International Year of Water Cooperation: Frequently Asked Questions**, 2013. UN. ([Link](#))

This section of the UN's website answers frequently asked questions on the theme of water cooperation and provides some quick links, and answers other practical questions about how to get involved in the International Year of Water Cooperation. or World Water Day.

- **Key Lessons Learnt on Promoting Water Cooperation**, 2013. UN. ([Link](#))
Climate change, poverty, economic progress, and population growth imply that there will be increasing competition for water resources that can become sources of local, regional, and international conflicts. However, water has proven to be a productive pathway to cooperation and conflict prevention. Experience shows that, sooner or later, the advantages of cooperation and of sharing water's benefits become evident for all the parties involved.

- **Promoting Water Cooperation: Alternative Dispute Resolution Information Brief**, 2013. UN. ([Link](#))

The competition for water could increasingly become a source of tension and conflict among states, sectors, and communities. Other potential sources of conflict include degrading water quality, inadequate water management, and infrastructure

development such as dams. While most acute conflicts occur locally, they can present challenges to the larger context of (inter)national peace. However, water has also proven to be a productive pathway for confidence building, cooperation, and conflict prevention. Water can also be a key point in negotiating the end of a conflict, even if water did not precipitate it.

- **Promoting Water Cooperation: Financing Information Brief**, 2013. UN. ([Link](#))
Promoting water cooperation is a long-term and resource-intensive process. Funds need to be mobilized for long-term processes such as establishing collaborative structures and institutions, and building capacity, trust, and consensus (Jägerskog 2012). This brief provides information on the sustainable financing required for joint water resource management programs and water infrastructure development projects.

REPORTS/BLOG POSTS

- **Himalayan Rivers: Time for Transboundary Management**, *East Asia Forum*, Feb 2013. R Wirsing, Georgetown University. ([Link](#))
The time has clearly arrived to move South Asia's transboundary Himalayan rivers toward basinwide management. While the obstacles in the path of any such effort are clearly immense, the costs of failure to do so— which include but are by no means restricted to the threat of violent interstate conflict—are virtually certain to be even greater.
- **Guidelines for Water Reuse**, 2012. USAID; EPA. ([Link to full-text](#))
This document updates and builds on the *2004 Guidelines for Water Reuse* by incorporating information on water reuse that has been developed since the 2004 document was issued. It includes updated discussion of regional variations of water reuse in the United States, advances in wastewater treatment technologies relevant to reuse, best practices for involving communities in planning projects, international water reuse practices, and factors that will allow expansion of safe and sustainable water reuse throughout the world. The 2012 guidelines also provide more than 100 new case studies from around the world that highlight how reuse applications can and do work in the real world.
- **Learning about Water: Multiple-Perspective Approaches**, 2012. UNESCO. ([Link](#))
The Multiple-Perspective Tool is a valuable framework for teaching any sustainable development issue. The focus of this particular companion document is on applying multiple perspectives on education for sustainable development to freshwater issues.
- **Orientation Framework: Water, Sanitation and Hygiene**, 2013. R Ellert, Welthungerhilfe. ([Link](#))
Based on the results of a sector evaluation and the latest research in the WASH sector, the Orientation Framework focuses on the fundamental requirements for providing water and sanitation services that can make a successful impact on hunger and poverty reduction. Working with other sectors, putting the user first, addressing

sustainability, and promoting hygiene behavior are some of the issues addressed in the publication.

- **Transboundary River Basin Management: Addressing Water, Energy and Food Security**, 2012. H Bach, Mekong River Commission. [\(Link\)](#)

Results of transboundary water management such as infrastructure developed on a transboundary scale, improvements in the state of the environment, water resource benefits that create wealth for the basin population, improved access to water services, and protection of the international public good are the ultimate goals of transboundary river basin management but are not easy to realize. In this context, the nexus approach described in this publication provides opportunities for new insight and options for solutions to water, energy, and food security issues.

- **Ways to Integrate Efforts in Furthering Water Dialogue and Cooperation**, 2013. C Holmes. USAID Global Water Coordinator. [\(Link\)](#)

Mr. Holmes discussed four U.S. government approaches where water programs promote cooperation within and across country boundaries. These include: development and application of science and technology to advance cooperation; development of bilateral assistance programs; development of regional assistance programs; and support of partnering mechanisms to advance cooperation.

CASE STUDIES

- **Green Water Credits (GWC)**. [\(Website\)](#)

GWC is an investment mechanism that enables upstream farmers to practice water management activities. The Green Water Credits team, with ISRIC World Soil Information as the lead agency, assists financiers that are establishing programs and funds for farmers by performing scenario studies and cost-benefit analyses. The team is working in Kenya, China, and Morocco.

- **Scaling Up Micro-Irrigation Systems in India, Madagascar and Guatemala**. [\(Website\)](#)

The goal of the scaling up micro-irrigation systems (SCAMPIS) project in India, Madagascar, and Guatemala is to improve the livelihoods and food security of 30,000 smallholder farmer households, especially women.

- **USAID East Africa - Transboundary Water for Biodiversity in the Mara River Basin**. [\(Website\)](#)

USAID is working in Kenya and Tanzania to improve water resource management and reduce and mitigate threats to biodiversity in the Mara River Basin and Mara-Serengeti Ecoregion. The water sources for this area are under threat due to deforestation, agricultural development, human settlements and mining, and intensive ecotourism inside the protected areas.

WEBSITES

- **International Annual UN-Water Zaragoza Conference 2012/2013.** ([Website](#))
This site contains conference outcomes, interviews, and photos from the International Annual UN-Water Zaragoza Conference 2012/2013 "Preparing for the 2013 International Year. Water Cooperation: Making it Happen!" that took place January 8-10, 2013.
- **USAID Global Water for Sustainability Program (GLOWS).** ([Website](#))
GLOWS is a consortium financed by USAID that works to increase social, economic, and environmental benefits to people of the developing world. GLOWS works on the ground to implement water supply, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services; improve water management practices; and build local capacity.
- **World Water Day 2013: Water Cooperation.** ([Website](#))
The official website of this annual international celebration, first recommended in 1992 by the UN Conference on Environment and Development, contains facts and figures, resources, and a map of worldwide events. The UN General Assembly designated March 22, 1993, as the first World Water Day.
- **World Water Week 2013: Water Cooperation, Building Partnerships, September 1–6, 2013.** ([Website](#))
Perspectives for building partnerships, advancing future water cooperation, and finding solutions to the world's water-related challenges will be explored.

Each WASHplus Weekly highlights topics such as Urban WASH, Indoor Air Pollution, Innovation, Household Water Treatment and Storage, Hand Washing, Integration, and more. If you would like to feature your organization's materials in upcoming issues, please send them to Dan Campbell, WASHplus knowledge resources specialist, at dacampbell@fhi360.org.



About WASHplus - WASHplus, a five-year project funded through USAID's Bureau for Global Health, creates supportive environments for healthy households and communities by delivering high-impact interventions in water, sanitation, hygiene (WASH) and indoor air pollution (IAP). WASHplus uses proven, at-scale interventions to reduce diarrheal diseases and acute respiratory infections, the two top killers of children under five years of age globally. For information, visit www.washplus.org or email: contact@washplus.org.

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