



A Guidebook for Local Catchment Management in Cities

UNITED NATIONS HUMAN SETTLEMENTS PROGRAMME (UN-HABITAT)

NAIROBI

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Foreword

With its vast expanse of polar ice sheets, sub-surface aquifers, rivers, lakes and wetlands, the planet Earth is a rich repository of freshwater resources. But only a small fraction of this freshwater is accessible and usable for our survival and well being, and it is very unequally distributed in geographic terms. Nevertheless, with the prudent policies and practices, we can make the best and equitable use of available water.

Over the years, significant progress has been achieved in provision of water supply to millions of people. Yet a sizable population, at least 1.1 billion per 2000 estimates, is deprived of access to safe water. Recognizing the vital need for water as a life support system, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) have set a target to halve the world's population without access to safe water by 2015. It is a challenging but not an impossible task, if concerted efforts are made focusing on local action. To this end, the need for mobilisation of resources and capacity building of local institutions can hardly be over emphasized.

The concept of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) has gained coinage in recent years as a means for promoting sustainable water management. The main focus of attention in the planning and implementation of IWRM is on local water catchments. As history reveals, human settlements developed around water catchment areas. However with rapid and often unplanned urbanisation and the use of inappropriate technologies, local catchments in urban centers have been neglected and severely threatened by encroachment and pollution. Reliance on local sources of water has decreased and the cost of water supply has increased. There is a need to revive the traditional wisdom of local water catchment management with the appropriate infusion of modern technologies to bring about "contemporary relevance".

Water for African Cities and Water for Asian Cities are two regional programmes established by UN-HABITAT to support sustainable water management in rapidly developing urban areas and the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals. Working with several partners, including the Asian Development Bank and the African Development Bank, these programmes aim to strengthen local capacity through a blend of "know-how" and "do-how". The present Guidebook on Management of Local Catchments in Cities provides an overview of the principles and practices required for sustainable urban water catchment management. It also contains case studies from Australia, India, Latin America and South Africa to showcase "Do's" and "Don'ts".

I trust that this publication will stimulate local action for water resources management and thus contribute to providing access to safe water for all and to meeting the Millennium Development Goals.

Anna Kajumulo Tibaijuka
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Acronyms

AAWSA	-	Addis Ababa Water and Sewerage Authority
ADRA	-	Adventist Development and Relief Agency
AWN	-	Africa Water Network
BOD	-	Biochemical Oxygen Demand
Ca	-	Calcium
CBD	-	Central Business District
CBO	-	Community Based Organization
Cd	-	Cadmium
Cl	-	Chloride
COD	-	Chemical Oxygen Demand
Cr	-	Chromium
Cu	-	Copper
DDC	-	District Development Committee
DN	-	Daily Nation (a Kenyan Daily newspaper)
DSS	-	Decision Support System.
ECA	-	Economic Commission for Africa
EIA	-	Environmental Impact Assessment
EMIS	-	Environmental Management Information Systems
EPM	-	Environmental Planning and Management
F	-	Fluoride
FGD	-	Focus Group Discussion
GEMS	-	Global Environment Monitoring System
GIS	-	Geographical Information System
ICM	-	Integrated Catchment Management
IPM	-	Integrated Pest Management
K	-	Potassium
LPG	-	Liquefied Petroleum Gas

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