

Selected reading on water policy and strategy

A number of documents have emerged from the World Bank and UN in recent years, setting out broad principles of water policy, and guidance on the development of strategy. These are mainly aimed at national governments:

● **'African water resources: challenges and opportunities for sustainable development'**. World Bank Technical Paper No 331. N. P. Sharma, T. Damhaug, E. Gilgan-Hunt, D. Grey, V. Okaru, and D. Rothberg (1996) World Bank, Washington DC.

● **'A guide to the formulation of water resources strategy'**. World Bank Technical Paper No. 263.

G. Le Moigne, A. Subramanian, M. Xie, and S. Giltner (1994), World Bank, Washington DC. (1995a)

● **'Methodology for water policy review and reform. Proceedings of the Expert Consultation on Water Policy Review and Reform, Rome, 25-27 January 1995'**. Water Report No 6, FAO, Rome.

● **Water Resources Management. A World Bank Policy Paper**
World Bank, Washington, 1993. (World Bank publications can be obtained in the UK via Microinfo Ltd., PO Box 3, Omega Park, Alton, Hants GU34 2PG, UK. Fax: +44 1420 89889. E-mail: wb@ukminfo.demon.co.uk).

● **'Water sector review and strategy formulation: a general framework'** (1995b), FAO Land and Water Bulletin No 3, FAO, Rome.

An international conference on water policy and the practical outworkings of water policy was held at Cranfield University in 1996. The proceedings contain the presented papers, grouped under the headings Water Allocation, Water Resources, Environment and Water Quality, Water-Supply Management, Water Economics, Water Politics, Institutional Issues, and Water Users:

● **Water Policy: Allocation and management in practice**. Proceedings of the International Conference on Water Policy held at Cranfield University, 23-4 September 1996.

Edited by Peter Howsam and Richard C. Carter
E. & F. N. Spon, London, 1996. Hbk. £75. ISBN 0419 216 502.

The British Government's Department for International Development (DFID, formerly ODA) published a paper on water policy issues in 1997:

● **'Water policy issues'**, Water Resources Occasional Paper No. 2
Jim Winpenny
DFID, London, 1997. (FREE).
DFID Engineering Divn., 94 Victoria Street, London, SW1E 5JL,

books

Minimum standards and Guidelines for Groundwater Resource Development for the Community Water Supply and Sanitation Programme

P. J. Hobbs and S. J. Marais
Department of Water Affairs and Forestry, Pretoria, 1997. 310pp. Hbk (binder).

An urgent realization of the need for adequate rural water supplies and sanitation followed the election of the South African Interim Government of National Unity in April 1994; and, almost immediately, an extremely ambitious and demanding Water Supply and Sanitation White Paper was published, in which the role of community participation in decision-making and implementation was identified for the first time in South Africa.

Now, nearly four years on, a great deal has been achieved but a great deal more is required. To this end, the *Minimum Standards and Guidelines for Groundwater Resource Development for the Community Water Supply and Sanitation Programme* has been produced. The *Guidelines* provide the technical framework for the development of groundwater resources for rural water supply within the overall water and sanitation programme. Unlike any other contemporary guideline document in this field, the rural water-supply issues are dealt with on their own and sanitation is not included. The *Guidelines* also concentrate on the technical aspects of water-resources development — not the accepted principles of bottom-up programming and management. This reflects not only the magnitude of the development task that faces South Africa, but also the traditional dominance of engineers in the water sector in that country, and their resilience to the 'softer' approaches of sociology and economics.

UK. Fax: +44 171 917 0072.

The 'Dublin Statement' was an outcome of a conference in 1992, prior to the Rio Conference on Environment and Development the same year:

● **'Dublin Statement on Water and Sustainable Development.' January 1992'.**

● See also *Waterlines*, Vol. 10, No. 4. IT Publications, London, 1992. Fax: +44 171 436 2013. E-mail: orders@itpubs.org.uk

Two good references on water law and economics are:

● **Water Law and Administration**
Caponera, D. A. (1992). A. A. Balkema, Lissleplein 1, PO Box

1675, 3000 BR Rotterdam, the Netherlands. Fax: +31 10 4145119.

● **Managing Water as an Economic Resource**
J. Winpenny (1994).
Routledge, London.
Pbk. £13.99.
ISBN 0 415 103 789.

Of particular interest to NGOs:

● **Developing and managing community water supplies**
Davis, J., Garvey, G. and M. Wood (1993), Oxfam, Oxford. 178pp. Pbk. £8.95.
ISBN 0 8559 8193 8.

● **Water Supplies for Rural Communities**
Colin and Mog Ball
IT Publications, London, 1991. 64pp. Pbk. £6.95.
ISBN 1 8533 9112 3.

● Documentation associated with the procurement of services for the development of groundwater resources.

Part 1 describes, albeit briefly, the institutional framework in South Africa along with project scoping, demand identification, and prioritization. The greater part of this section is a very detailed technical procedural description of borehole-siting, drilling, testing, completion and, most importantly, the recording and reporting of work done. Part 2 contains numerous excellent technical drawings to support the text, and there is a comprehensive set of sample pro forma with which to record field data and borehole dimensions. Part 3 provides detailed tender and contractual information along with recommended wording for contractual agreements for a variety of work.

Although there is nothing new in any of this technical material, the *Guidelines* form a valuable and comprehensive framework in which groundwater technicians can work. The *Guidelines* will be very welcome throughout the whole of southern and eastern Africa as well as elsewhere. These *Guidelines* would be greatly strengthened, however, by the inclusion of an introductory chapter outlining the need for an integrated approach to rural water supply and sanitation, and an explanation of the philosophy behind community participation and ownership.

N.S. Robins, British Geological Survey Hydrogeology Group

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