

GWSP and Deltas

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The Global Water System

How are *human actions* changing the global water system and what are the *environmental and socioeconomic feedbacks* arising from the anthropogenic changes in the global water system?

2010

2000

2025

1970

Source: World Water Council

JAL &

 \bigcap -

CHEMICAL COMPONENTS



7



Framing Question 1

what are the magnitudes of anthropogenic and environmental changes in the gws and what are the key mechanisms by which they are induced?



activity 1.5 – nutrient & sediment transport: identify key variables & functional relationships assess & identify global hot spots assess demographic, cultural & other drivers



Framing Question 2

what are the main linkages and feedbacks within the earth system, arising from changes in the gws?



simulation models framework for analyzing spatial connectivities and long-term effects



Framing Question 3

how resilient and adaptable is the gws to changes, and what are sustainable management strategies?



framework to assess environmental & human water requirements indicators of adaptive capacity potential water conflicts options to alleviate water shortages



Selected Initiatives

digital water atlas







Working definition: The global suite of water-related human, physical, biological, and biogeochemical components and their interactions.



TOOLS

METHODS &

Observations

Medium-term Strategy: Global Initiatives

SPECIAL INTERESTS



Develop a consensus on env. flow assessments Valuate freshwater ecosystem goods & services Devise strategies for harmonising water needs of humans and nature



GWSP & Work on Deltas: Areas of Mutual Interest (1/2)

Digital Water Atlas / Info System major deltas/estuaries runoff, river discharge vulnerability map db on dams and Reservoirs conceptual framework Indicator development Vulnerability indicators Driving forces and impacts



GWSP & Work on Deltas: Areas of Mutual Interest (2/2)

Global Scale Initiative global water models + db main drivers and impacts
Global Catchment Initiative case studies
Global Water Needs: humans & nature delta-specific needs



Vulnerability

Vulnerability is a function of the sensitivity or susceptibility of a system (community, house-hold, building, infrastructure, nation etc.).

Determining vulnerability means asking what would happen if certain event(s) impacted particular elements at risk (e.g. a community).

Thywissen, K. 2006: Components of Risk – A Comparative Glossary. SOURCE 'Studies of the University: Research, Counsel, Education' Publication Series of UNU-EHS. No 2/2006



