

Module 7 Making Use of Laws

Regulatory Impact Assessment

Many countries have laws on water resource management – and in some cases even special laws on groundwater management. In this exercise the participants are requested to do a so-called Regulatory Impact Assessment.

What is required is to divide the participants in groups of 4-6 persons. Then distribute copies of relevant sections on groundwater of a Water Law, preferably of course the national or local law.

The participants are now requested to undertake a Regulatory Impact Assessment. They are requested to read the sections of the Water Law and then jointly discuss:

- What is required to implement the Law?
 - Are responsibilities and procedures clear?
 - Who will be involve in the different procedures?
 - What are the total manpower and other resources required to implement the law?
 - Is training necessary?
 - Is this law widely known? Among lawyers or among water users? Does it need to be promoted?
- Is the Law likely to achieve better groundwater management?
 - Are there likely loopholes or ways to flout the law?
 - Is it likely that the law is used unfairly? In what way?
- What improvements are required to implement the law or is it not feasible?
 - Training and capacity building?
 - Awareness raising?
 - Procedures be simplified and still yield results?

On the basis of the group discussion a joint discussion should be organized. A special question to ask is – how can the Law be used to strengthen local groundwater management?