

COMING IN 2021...

WATER POLICY REPORT

Insights from the world's first periodic survey of national water policy leaders.



THE PURPOSE

Water policy makers around the world face challenging issues that are constantly evolving. This complex policy landscape requires decisions that must adapt to uncertain conditions and draw from the best available information.

Water Policy Group will contribute to ensuring the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all (Sustainable Development Goal 6) and support the United Nations SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework by issuing a regular Water Policy Report. The report will identify the key issues and constraints facing governments in the development and implementation of water and sanitation policies. The Water Policy Report will contribute to policy development by providing insight, timely intelligence and peer support offered by shared experiences from across the world.

THE WATER POLICY REPORT WILL BE BASED ON A SURVEY OF THE PERSPECTIVES AND OPINIONS OF PERSONS WHO ARE DECISION MAKERS ON, OR KEY INFLUENCERS OF, WATER POLICY AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL FROM A WIDE RANGE OF COUNTRIES OF DIFFERENT REGIONS AND NATIONAL INCOME CATEGORIES.

MINISTERS, VERY SENIOR OFFICIALS AND PERSONS FROM OUTSIDE GOVERNMENT WITH SIGNIFICANT INFLUENCE IN NATIONAL WATER POLICY MAY BE INVITED TO RESPOND TO THE SURVEY. INVITATIONS AND SURVEY MATERIAL WILL BE SENT TO RESPONDENTS IN CONFIDENCE. SURVEY RESPONSES WILL BE ANONYMOUS AND COMBINED WITH ALL OTHER RESPONSES IN PREPARING THE WATER POLICY REPORT.

The report aims to identify the issues governments are dealing with in a broader global context of the Sustainable Development Goal on water and sanitation (SDG 6) and the United Nations Global Acceleration Framework for this goal.

By aligning directly with the themes that are adopted each year by the United Nations, the Water Policy Report seeks to reveal the perspectives of national water leaders on topics of high policy interest.

THE FIRST EDITION OF THE REPORT IS INTENDED FOR RELEASE IN 2021, EARLY ENOUGH TO INFORM THE PREPARATION OF THE WORLD WATER DEVELOPMENT REPORT 2022 AND EVENTS FOR WORLD WATER DAY, WITH ITS SPECIAL FOCUS ON GROUNDWATER.

THE BENEFITS



A **'must read'** for national policy makers who seek to understand water issues more broadly, for national water leaders who seek to understand the perspective of peers in comparable countries, and for regional and global water professionals who seek to better understand the 'real world' of water decision making at the national level.



Provides deep **insight** into the key enablers of and constraints to progress in achieving sustainable water and sanitation for all.



High **impact** and high visibility, leveraging a survey of water leaders, the knowledge of WPG members and selected international experts on global water issues of great relevance.



Identifies water policy priorities and challenges from the perspective of people of influence in policy development at the national and international level.



Aligns with and supports wider global processes to achieve their objectives.

THE FRAMEWORK

The Water Policy Report will be produced on an annual basis with each edition highlighting the evolution of water policy issues related to the SDG 6 Acceleration Framework and the UN World Water Development Report theme.

The report will comprise:

- a survey of water leaders, which will include infographics, statistics and information that is useful and practical for policy support; and
- analysis and discussion of the outcomes.

The research and data collection associated with the Water Policy Report will be conducted to the highest ethical standards. To ensure ethically sound research, the Water Policy Group is supported by an inter-disciplinary team of researchers from the University of New South Wales Global Water Institute (UNSW-GWI) and the research has been approved by UNSW's Human Research Ethics Committee [HC200546]. Research responses will be anonymised and only aggregated data integrated into the Water Policy Report.

The survey will capture the perspectives of a representative sample of people in water policy leadership roles in a wide range of countries in all regions and climate zones and in different stages of economic development.

The survey will consist of two main parts:

- Questions that provide an annual insight on water policy issues that will be continually tracked over multiple years, aiming to provide policy insight into the trends affecting the five key elements of the proposed SDG6 Global Acceleration Framework: financing, data, capacity building, innovation and governance.
- Questions that provide additional and specific policy insight into the theme of the UN World Water Development Report (commencing with the Groundwater theme for 2022). For each theme, a Thematic Expert Committee will be established comprising subject matter experts.

The respondents will be national water policy leaders, that is, persons who make key decisions on water policies at the country level or are senior advisers to such persons, noting in some countries the person may not necessarily be a government official or may work at the sub-national level.

Additional analysis, messaging, content and key supporting studies or articles will be provided by members of Water Policy Group and the Thematic Expert Committee.

THE REPORT AIMS TO BRING TOGETHER THE EXPERIENCE AND NETWORKS OF THE WATER POLICY GROUP TO DELIVER A UNIQUE SURVEY OF WATER LEADERS AT GLOBAL, NATIONAL, AND BASIN SCALES ON TOPICS OF HIGH PERTINENCE AND INTEREST TO BOTH POLICY MAKERS AND THE WIDER PUBLIC.

PARTNERSHIPS

Water Policy Group will build partnerships with interested international organisations which may find the Report useful in their work and may be able to assist in its preparation.

A group of 'friends of the Water Policy Report' will be formed of persons who are active in international water matters and are able to assist with the conduct of the survey and possibly use its outcomes.

ABOUT WATER POLICY GROUP

Water Policy Group is a global network of water sector experts who have been decision makers and trusted advisers within governments and international bodies handling water policy and strategy. The members of the group have had direct experience in working with complex water policy issues, and share a common goal that their knowledge, networks and experience can help achieve the sustainable development of water resource to serve the global public interest.

The Water Policy Group secretariat is provided by the Global Water Institute located at UNSW Sydney, Australia (www.globalwaterinstitute.unsw.edu.au) Water Policy Group members will work with researchers from the Global Water Institute on the delivery of the 2021 survey.

www.waterpolicygroup.com

Twitter: @waterpolicygrp

ABOUT UNSW-GWI

The UNSW Global Water Institute (UNSW-GWI) is a world leader in water research, innovation and problem solving. Currently ranked 5th in the world for water resources, the Institute is a truly multi-disciplinary venture, drawing on water expertise from seven faculties and 13 specialist centres across the University.

www.globalwaterinstitute.unsw.edu.au

Twitter: @unswwater

