



NEW PUBLICATION
COMING SOON



Water Policies to Support Investments in Humans and Nature

A Compilation of Good Practices in Asia and the Pacific

Water and sanitation are a human right.¹ The world is not acting quickly enough to solve the lack of drinking water and sanitation for the billions of people that continue to be left behind. There is increasing pressure to develop infrastructure to meet the growing needs of populations in a changing climate. The conservation of natural water resources is linked to the provision of drinking water and productive use. The interconnectedness of the environment and the ways people live cannot be ignored any longer.

The human rights-based approach (HRBA) is an important part of the solution for reaching everyone, especially vulnerable and marginalized groups.² HRBA helps ensure they have a voice through a community-based, participative, and transparent approach. It also brings extra accountability for governments and

society, leading to more innovative solutions, higher adoption rates, and greater reach.

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Human Right 2 Water are launching a publication that highlights HRBA across Asia and the Pacific at World Water Week in Stockholm. Called *Water Policies to Support Investments in Humans and Nature: A Compilation of Good Practices in Asia and the Pacific*, it draws upon legislative good practice combined with ADB projects where the HRBA has been applied and demonstrates improved results. The publication can serve as a guide for lawmakers and project developers who are seeking more inclusive solutions to achieving Sustainable Development Goal 6, ensuring availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS



Engage local communities for sustaining project collaboration and creating long-term environmental, economic, and cultural sustainability.



Include women and indigenous peoples in the design, development, and operating stages of the project cycle.



Make data and information accessible through educational activities, particularly for young people.



Create structured feedback and grievance mechanisms with transparent systems of redress to encourage participation of civil society and optimize the project's sustainability.

For more information, please contact:

Tanya Huizer, Senior Water Resilience Specialist, ADB
thuizer@adb.org

Amanda Loeffen, Chief Executive Officer, Human Right 2 Water
a.loeffen@humanright2water.org

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¹ United Nations. General comment no. 15 (2002), The right to water (arts. 11 and 12 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights). <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/486454?ln=en&v=pdf>

² United Nations Sustainable Development Group. 2003. *The Human Rights Based Approach to Development Cooperation Toward a Common Understanding Among UN Agencies*. <https://unsdg.un.org/resources/human-rights-based-approach-development-cooperation-towards-common-understanding-among-un>