

Integrated Water Resources Management for Sustainable Environmental Health

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With a human population that is continuing to grow, the management of water resources will become of vital importance. In many developing countries, lack of adequate, clean, and safe water, pollution of aquatic environments, and the mismanagement of natural resources are still major causes of environmental health problem. Sustainable freshwater resource management will need to be included in future development plans and implementations. The increased vulnerability of surface and groundwater quality, in the face of climate and land use changes, is a major concern for policy and decision makers in many part of the world. To understand the sustainability of the water resources, one needs to understand the impact of future land use and climate changes and hydroclimatic variability on the water resources. A balanced approach to water resources development, on the one hand, and controls for the protection of water quality, on the other hand, is required for sustainability of water resources and environmental health. In addition to providing improved water and sanitation services, we must ensure that these services provide safe drinking water; adequate quantities of water for health, hygiene, agriculture, and development.