



Ministry of Energy and Water MEW

National Groundwater Conference
June 7–8, 2015

GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT POLICY Draft

Mamarine Palace
Kabul – Afghanistan
June 08, 2015

Vision

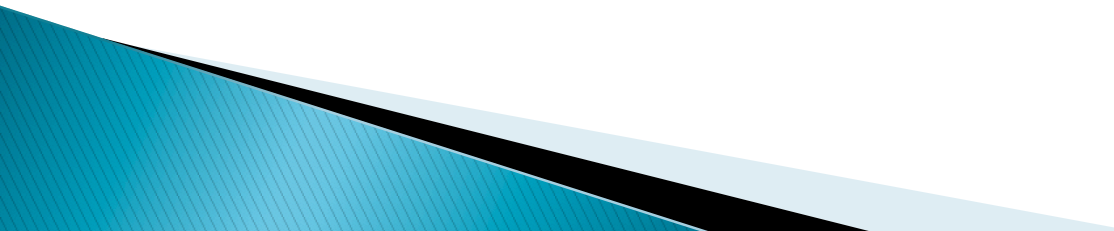
GW Resources will be managed in a way to enable the people to **derive the maximal social and economic benefits** without compromising the ecological sustainability.

The focus of the Policy is on:

- ▶ Use and Management, and
- ▶ Ecosystems: Recharged and Discharge.

Challenges for GW Management

From unfavourable natural conditions to the human made problems (war and unrest).

- ▶ Variability of precipitation
 - ▶ Data and information
 - ▶ Water infrastructure
 - ▶ Water quality
 - ▶ Groundwater knowledge
 - ▶ Enforcement of water law and regulations
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Objectives

- ▶ Sustainable Mgt. and use.
- ▶ Provides a **guideline for assessing costs and benefits** of the social, economic and the environmental implications.

GW mgt. will:

- ▶ Improve **water security** for all uses / **ecological sustainability**.
- ▶ Protect GW from **pollution**.
- ▶ **Quantify / monitor**, estimate recharge rates and determine the interaction between GW and SW resources.
- ▶ Evaluate the **impacts of climate change**
- ▶ Evaluate GW quality including **mapping**,
- ▶ **Prioritise GW resources under threat** (quantity and/or quality).
- ▶ **Remediate polluted groundwater** if feasible.

Responsibilities

- ▶ MEW: Main responsible org for mgt. at national level. The **new groundwater database shall be hosted by MEW.**
- ▶ RBAs: Responsible for **GW Mgt.** at basin level and enable community participation in GW Mgt.
- ▶ MoM: Responsible for all natural resources underground. Therefore, it needs to coordinate with MEW when it comes to using such resources.
- ▶ NEPA: Responsible for protection of GW related ecosystems
- ▶ MoH: Responsible for health related aspects of GW.
- ▶ MUDA: Responsible for **UWS and GW development** in coordination with MEW.
- ▶ AWSSC: Responsible for **UWS of cities** in coordination with **MUDA and MEW.**
- ▶ MRRD: Responsible for **RWS** with coordination with MEW
- ▶ MAIL: Responsible for irrigation in coordination with MEW in order to ensure a sustainable use of GW resources.

Principles of GW Mgt.

Water is a Basic Human Need

- ▶ Access to a minimum amount of safe, potable water.
- ▶ GW is the main source of potable water for population
- ▶ The supply with drinking water has priority

Ecologically Sustainable Mgt. of GW Resources

- ▶ Sustainable development of GW resources,
- ▶ Abstraction of GW should not exceed the long-term, average recharge rate,
- ▶ Consideration of future generations

Principles of GW Mgt. (cont.)

Precautionary Principle

- ▶ Precaution needs to be exercised in all activities

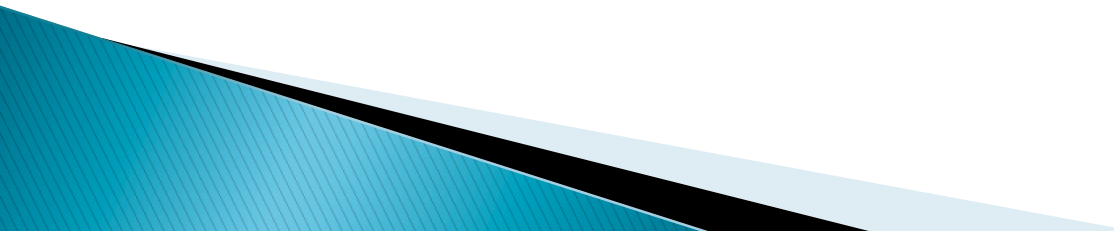
Water Conservation

- ▶ The gov. will encourage the promotion of more efficient uses

Conjunctive Mgt. GW and SW

- ▶ Considering IWRM, ground and surface water resources shall be managed jointly.
- ▶ Important buffers against droughts.

Polluter Pays

- ▶ Establishment of clear mechanisms to hold polluters responsible.
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Principles of GW Mgt. (cont.)

Transparency and Information Sharing

- ▶ Data and information sharing
- ▶ Set-up of a system,

Participation and the Role of Women

- ▶ Dev. and mgt. in a participatory and consultative ways,
- ▶ Acknowledgment of role of women as key players in water management,.

RB Mgt.

- ▶ Decentralized development and Mgt. of GW resources, when shared to be done jointly
 - ▶ Prioritization and allocation.
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Implementation of GW Mgt.

- ▶ MEW responsible for implementation of policy,
- ▶ MEW, together with other stakeholders, will develop GW Mgt. Strategies for RBs,

Implementation Steps for Resource Assessment and Monitoring

- ▶ Establishment of a comprehensive system of resource assessment and monitoring:
- ▶ Develop national standards for data format.
- ▶ Establish a national database on GW quantity and quality.
- ▶ Establish water quality monitoring networks,
- ▶ Establish water quantity monitoring networks,
- ▶ Conduct an inventory survey,
- ▶ Conduct a baseline survey
- ▶ Identify and mapping vulnerability zones

Thank you

