United Nations
High Level Panel on Water
World Bank Group

Introducing the World Water Data Initiative

Thursday, 31 August
Location: NL 253

Introduction – HLPW actions

WATER DATA VALUING WATER WATER GOVERNANCE

Types of Water Data

- Meteorological data
- River data
- Groundwater data
- Water storage data
- Water use data
- Water quality data
- Water pollutant data
- Waste water data
- Manufactured water
- Ecosystem data
- Water rights data
- Administrative data
- SDG6 indicators
- Water statistics

WWDI – pillars and purposes

To improve cost-effective access to and use of water and hydro-meteorological data by governments, societies and the private sector through policy, innovation and harmonisation

Policy: Guidance for societies to have better and more equitable access to water data and tools, and capacity to use this information, to manage water better.

Innovation: Providing governments, societies and the private sector with approaches to access reliable data about water that is adequate to their needs at the lowest possible cost

Harmonisation: reduce water data-related costs and complexity at the national level by accelerating progress on development and adoption of common standards

Policy pillar

Guidance for societies to have better and more equitable access to water data and tools, and capacity to use this information, to manage water better

Four key areas – unable to be tackled in isolation

- Policy
- Planning
- Management
- Operations

Our approach

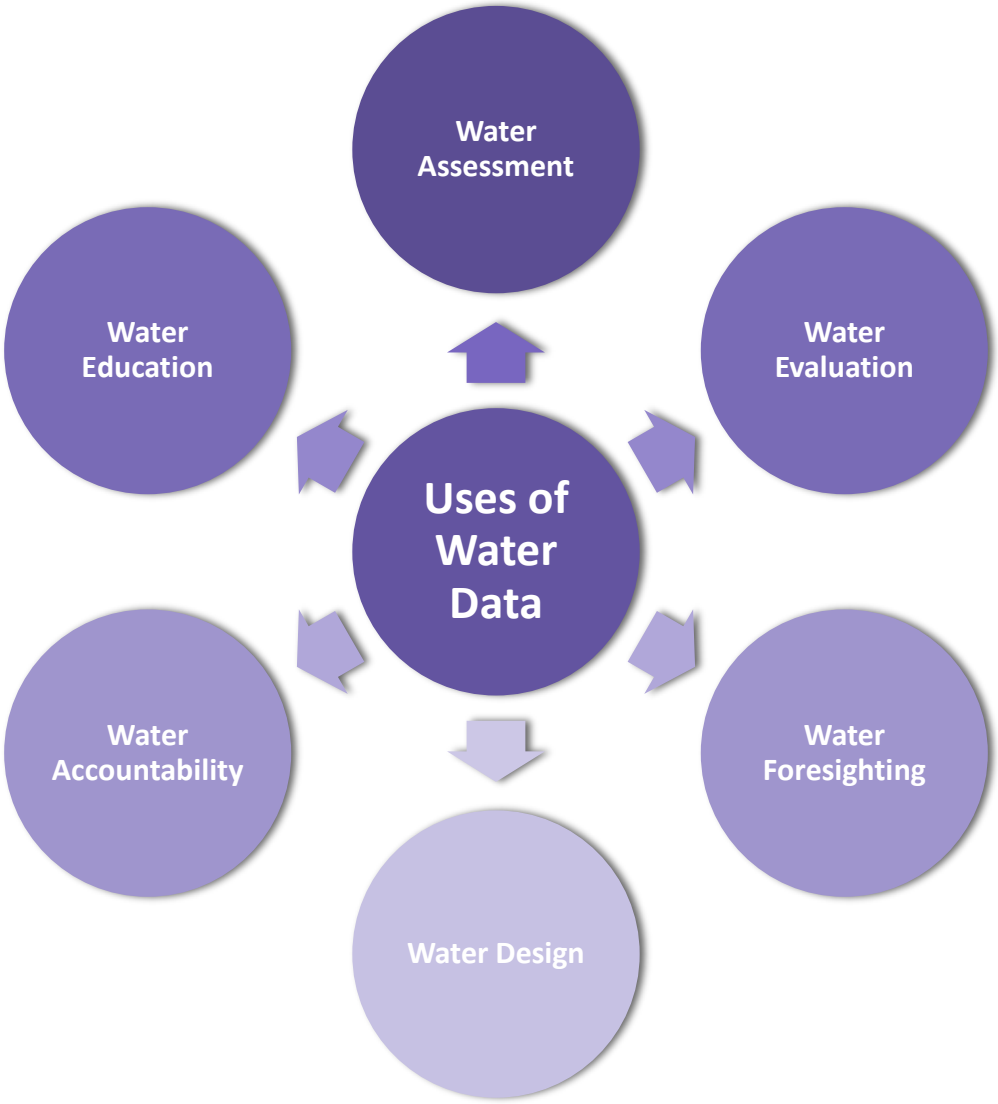
Principles and rationale for Good Practice Guidelines:

- Practical
- Flexible
- Accessible
- Non-prescriptive
- Able to be actioned
- Time-bound

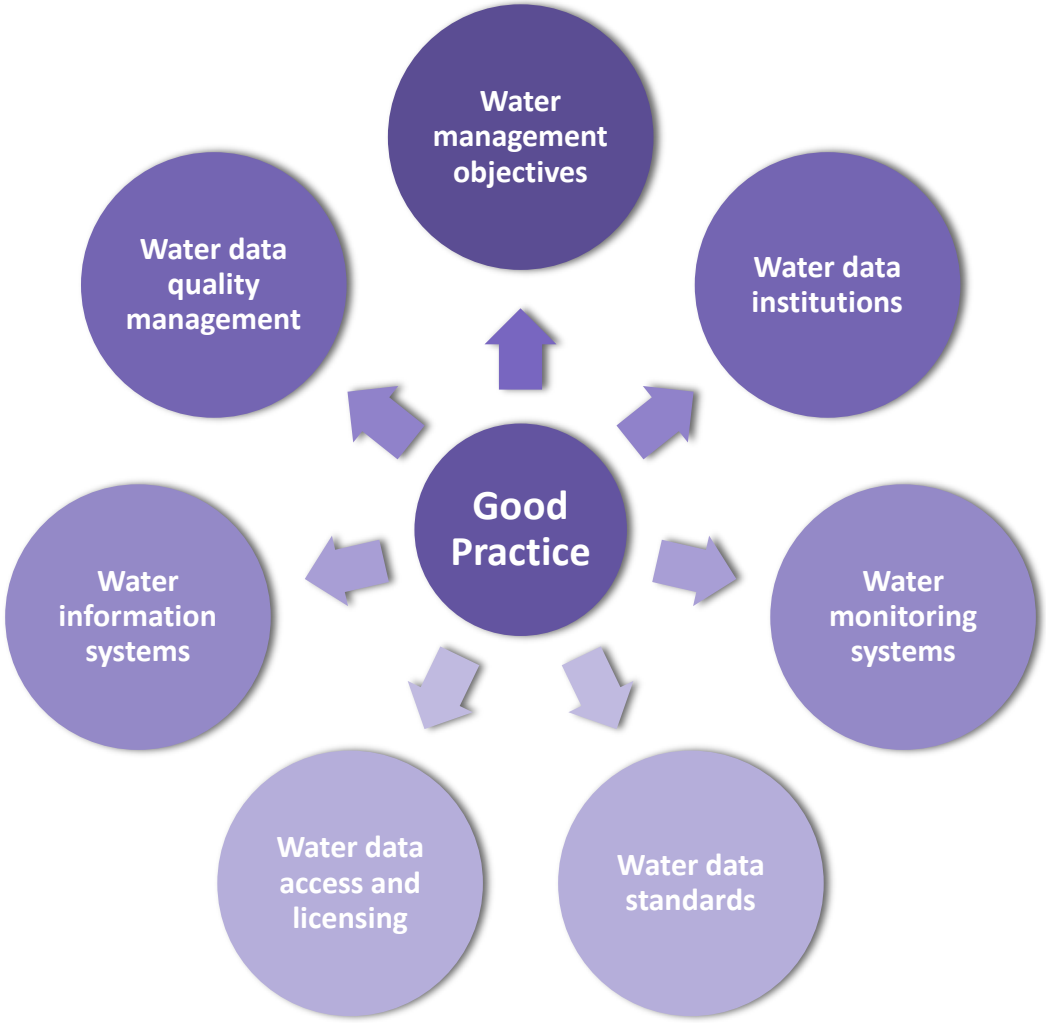
Target audience:

- Senior Ministers, and officers responsible for formulating and implementing government strategy

Uses of Water Data



Elements of Good Practice



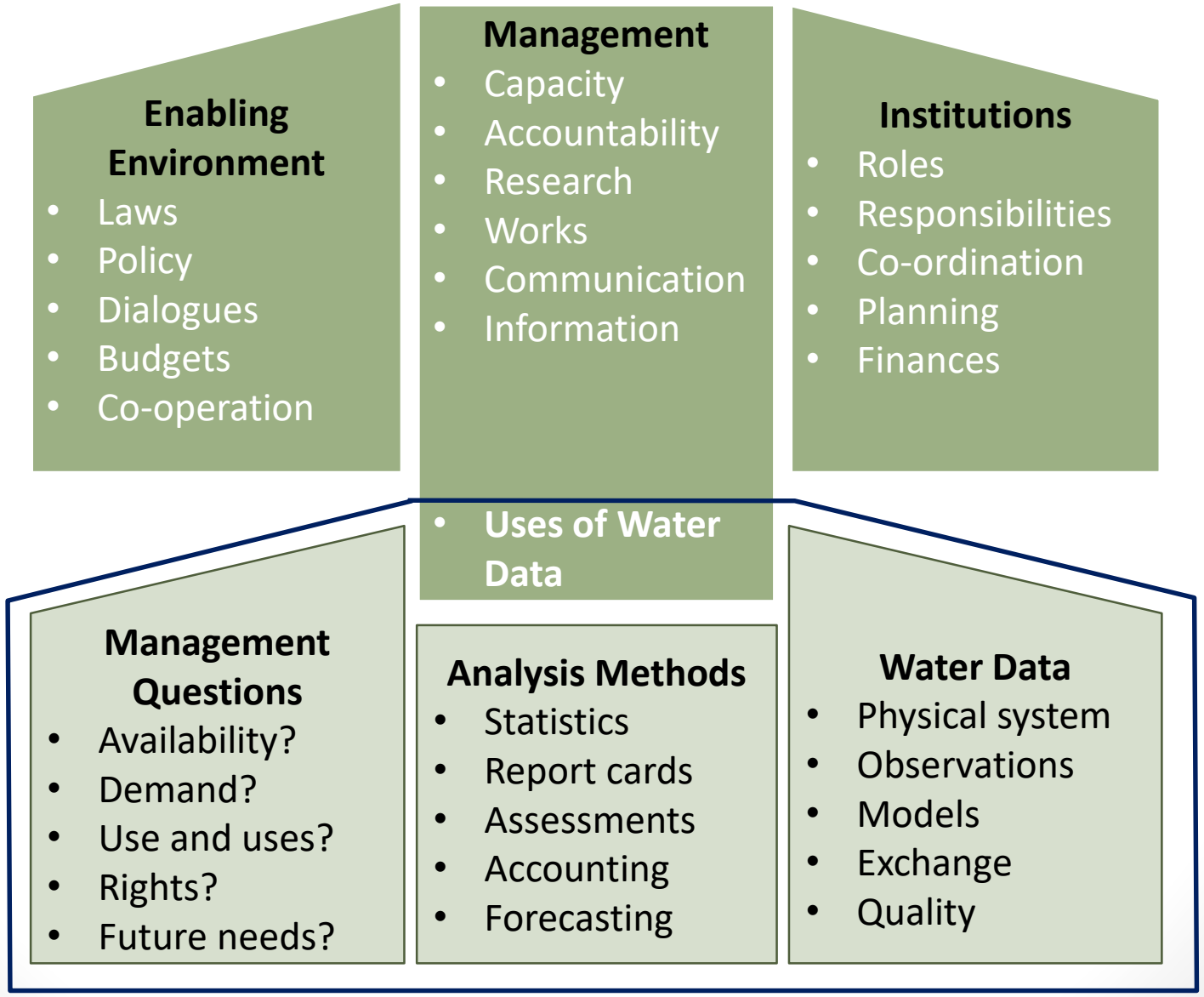
Harmonisation pillar

Reduce water data-related costs and complexity at the national level by accelerating progress on development and adoption of common standards

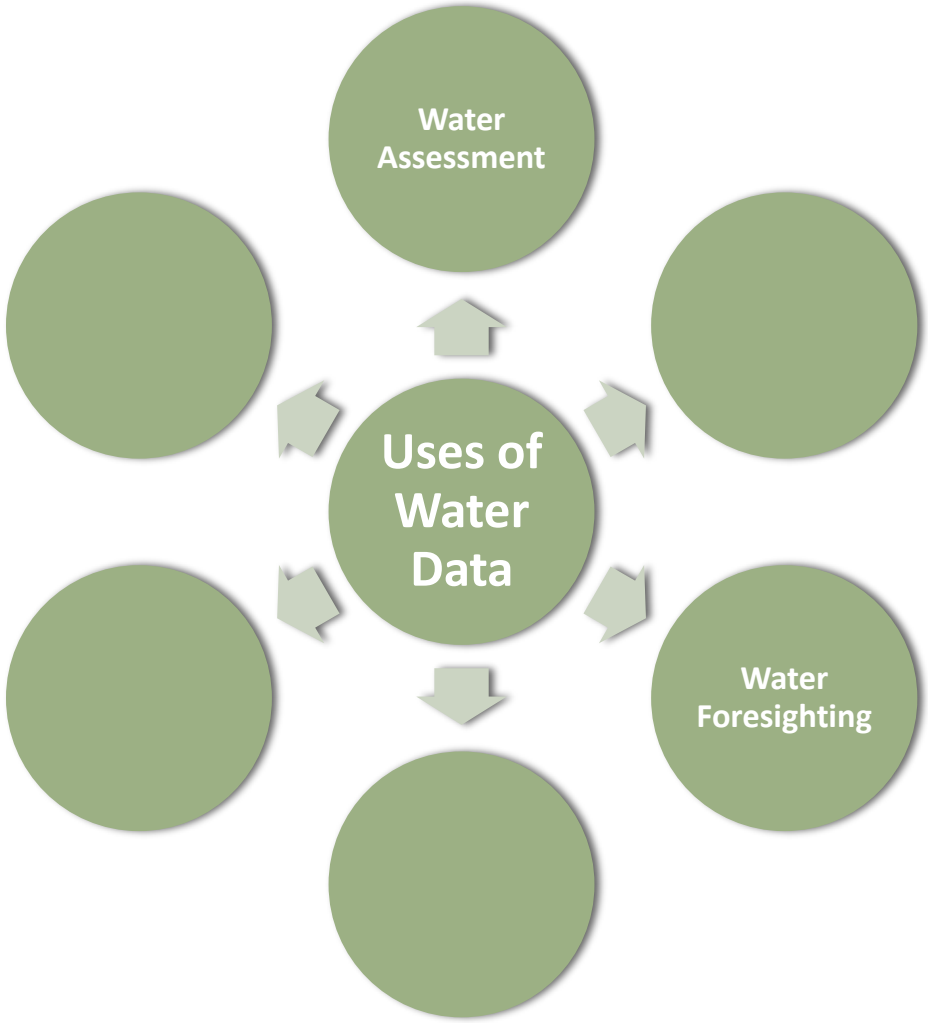
Key elements

- Basis in IWRM and SDG indicator work
- Development of an analysis framework
- Identifying the contributions of indicators, statistics, data, modelling
- Implementing a harmonising approach

Informed by IWRM dimensions



Target uses of water data



Example Priority questions

How much water is available now?

Where is the water that is available (eg lakes, rivers, snow, soil, ground)?

Who is using the water?

Who has rights to water and how much water do they have?

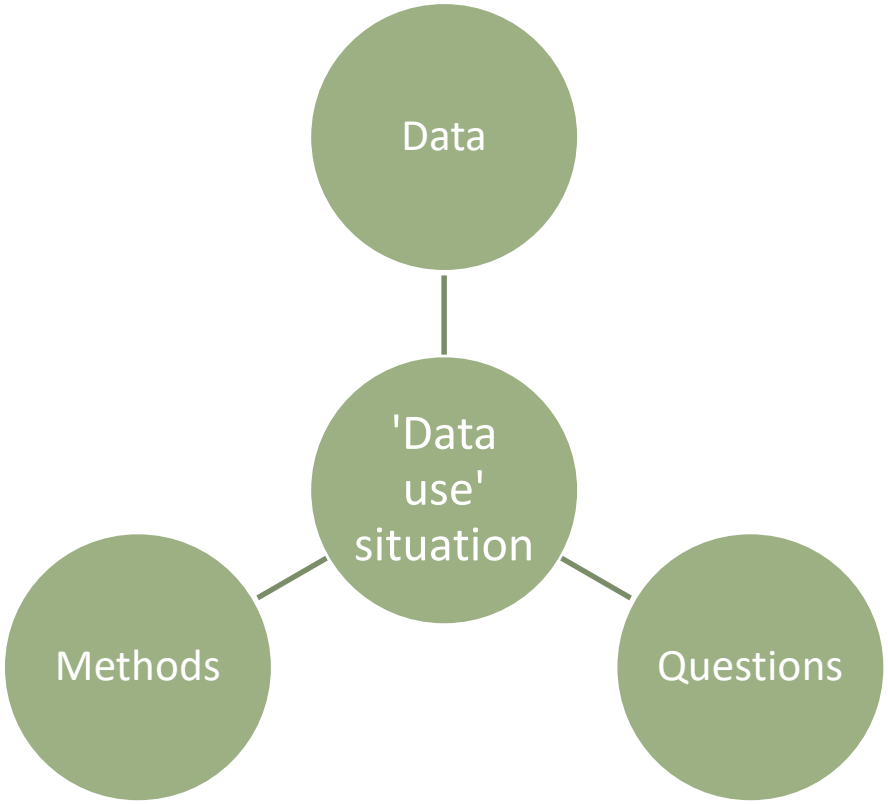
What is the water used for? (e.g. social, environment, commercial)

How much water is going to be available in future?

What is the demand for water, now and in the future?

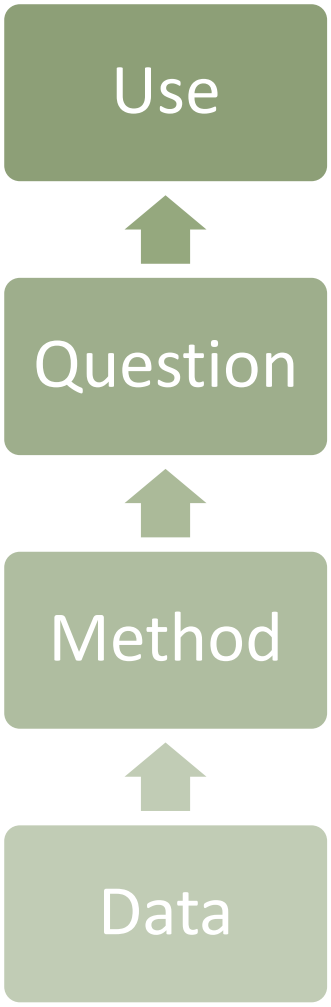
The decision-makers dilemma

- Do I have the data I need to answer my questions?
- What questions can I answer with the data I have access to?
- What extra data do I need to do the analysis I want?



Evidence-based Decisions

- Providing a structure to reduce cost and complexity by clearly relating:
  - The 'use' of interest
  - The question/s being asked
  - The method/s used to answer the questions
  - The data needed by those methods



Analysis Framework

Water Resources Overview

- Total incoming and outgoing volumes and storage changes for a country/region
- Variations in these over time
- Comparison of these against long term and future values

Use of Water

- How much of the available water is used?
- For what is it used?
- How does use compare against long term targets, allocations, controls?

Water Rights, Allocation and Use

- What are the water rights or licenced amount for each type of use?
- How much water is allocated against these rights?
- How does actual use vary against allocations?

Water Security – Current and Future

- What are the current supply and demand volumes for different sources and uses?
- How are these predicted to change in future, in response to various drivers?

Populating the framework

- Many standard methods and data sets available
  - SDG 6 indicators
  - Water statistics
  - Resources metrics and report cards
  - Resources assessment and accounting methods
  - Global water data sources, centres and models
  - Standards for gathering, managing and exchanging data

- Role of implementation partners in application of these methods