



A Snapshot of the World's Water Quality:
Towards a global assessment

In 2016, UNEP published **A Snap shot of the World's Water Quality: Towards a global assessment**, revealing the lack of monitoring data particularly in developing countries, rendering the sole reliance on measured data impossible. The UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-3) Resolution 3/10 on 'Addressing water pollution to protect and restore water related ecosystems' called for a **World Water Quality Assessment** to be developed in collaboration with relevant stakeholders.

The major components of the Assessment are:

- 1) Baseline Assessment of worldwide water quality in surface and groundwater bodies
 - 2) Scenario Analysis of future pathways of water quality in freshwater systems and its compartments
 - 3) Mitigation Options, i.e. information on how to protect or restore water quality
- A global display of the document will be delivered for consideration by the Environment Assembly, after which the fully-fledged assessment will be launched

For Membership, the Declaration (signed by the UNEP Executive Director), the Terms of Reference and other important information regarding the WWQA, please visit the website on: <https://communities.unep.org/display/WWQA>



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Hartwig Kremer



ADDRESSING THE FRESHWATER QUALITY CHALLENGE IN GLOBAL, NATIONAL AND LOCAL AGENDAS

The World Water Quality Alliance (WWQA) brings diverse disciplines together to translate science on water quality into action. It constitutes a voluntary and flexible global expert, practitioner and policy network, including private and public sector and civil society, with a motivation to assist the global community in addressing key water quality issues of socio-political and environmental concern. It provides evidence based assessments, as well as pathways and examples of scalable solutions and innovation on water quality issues.

The goals are to:

- Advocate the central role of freshwater quality in achieving prosperity and sustainability
- Support water quality assessments at all scales
- Explore and communicate water quality risks in global, regional, national, and local contexts
- Provide guidance for maintaining and restoring water quality as well as foster ecosystem and human health and well-being
- Serve countries throughout the lifetime of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with end-to-end information services

#WWQA

#waterqualitymatters

Main outputs:

National/system scale water quality appraisal including SDG 6, stakeholder analysis and engagement, co-design and testing of pilot products for operational services, policy and upscaling

Water quality community process:

National/local water quality state and hotspots, product demonstration and piloting, upscaling

Beneficiaries:

Public/Private Sector, Civil Society, National Operational Services, Community Level and UN Country Teams

Main outputs:

Global Community of Practice, advisory committees, supported water quality Science, Technology and Innovation platforms, operational and flexible multimedia tailored communication

Engagement, Communication and Management:

Pooling expertise and commitment, water quality improvement and impact at scale

Beneficiaries:

Member States, UN, Global and Regional Agreements, Official Development Assistance, Public and Private Sector, Civil Society, Science, Policy and the Media



Main outputs:

Baseline water study, regular updates, hotspots, causal chains (Nexus type case studies) and interlinkages (food, health, ecosystems, etc.)

Policy/Advocacy/Governance:

Global goals (2030 Agenda and its SDGs, Sendai Framework, the New Urban Agenda, etc.), Regional and Multilateral Environmental Agreements

Beneficiaries:

Member States, Public and Private Sector, Civil Society, UNEA and other Science Policy Interfaces, Regional Economic Commissions and Alliance Members

Main outputs:

Horizon scanning, investigating, synthesizing of persistent/emerging water quality issues, implications for sustainable development, science, technology & innovation

Scientific information/Technical information/ Knowledge products:

Peer reviewed science, policy and business information, business models

Beneficiaries:

Public and private sector, civil society, WWQA and its governing bodies, UN-Water, Official Development Assistance and UN Country Teams