

## What is IWRM?

IWRM is a participatory planning and implementation process, based on sound science, which brings together stakeholders to determine how to meet society's long-term needs for water and coastal resources while maintaining essential ecological services and economic benefits.

IWRM helps to protect the world's environment, foster economic growth and sustainable agricultural development, promote democratic participation in governance, and improve health. IWRM is also fundamental to the U.S. Strategic Plan for International Affairs, which calls for a sustainable global environment to protect the United States and its citizens from the effects of international environmental degradation.

*Millions of women and girls in the developing world spend as much as eight hours a day hauling water. These long collection times leave women with less time for education and productive labor, less control over income, and less time for child care.*



### Integrated Water Resources Management's Principal Components

- Supply optimization, including assessments of surface and groundwater supplies, water balances, wastewater reuse, and environmental impacts of distribution and use options
- Demand management, including cost recovery policies, water use efficiency technologies, and decentralized water-management authority
- Equitable access to water resources through participatory and transparent management, including support for effective water users associations, involvement of marginalized groups, and consideration of gender issues
- Improved policy, regulatory, and institutional frameworks, such as the implementation of the "polluter-pays principle," water quality norms and standards, and market-based regulatory mechanisms
- An intersectoral approach to decision-making, combining authority with responsibility for managing the water resource

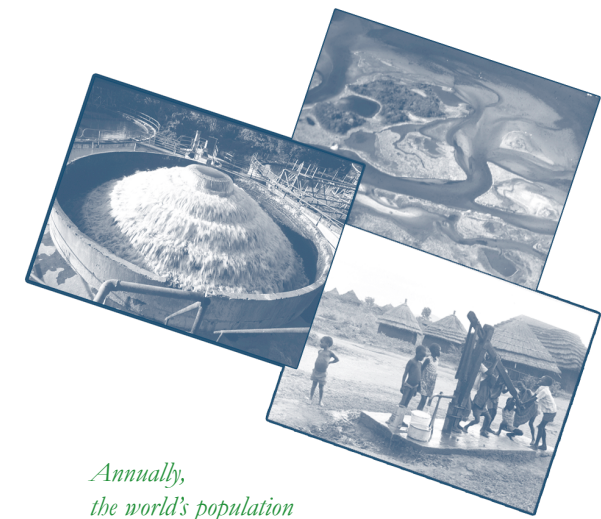
### IWRM Activities and the USAID Water Team

USAID's Water Team was formed to promote IWRM and support environmentally sound, cross-sectoral, and participatory approaches to managing, conserving, and sustainably using freshwater and coastal resources. It draws members from offices within Washington and overseas.

The Team seeks to develop long-term partnerships with host governments, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector to increase the effectiveness and cross-sectoral integration of their water programs, using sound IWRM practices. These involve participatory processes that include women, the poor, and marginalized groups; prioritizing and planning for water demand; and strengthening IWRM institutional capacity.

Specific activities include:

- Providing technical expertise to the field
- Implementing innovative water projects
- Compiling and analyzing USAID's experience in water resources, and communicating this information to the international community
- Coordinating among donors and leaders on water issues, and providing leadership at international forums



*Annually, the world's population suffers about 4 billion episodes of water-related diarrhea, causing widespread debilitation and reduced productivity throughout the developing world. An estimated 2.5 million people die from such diseases each year, primarily children under five. Much of this death and disease could be averted if water supply and sanitation services were adequate.*