

# Management of Water in a Changing World: Lessons Learnt and Innovative Perspectives

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## Keynote Presentation

Integrated Water Resources Management: Lessons Learnt and where we have to go beyond

Dietrich Borchardt<sup>1</sup> Peter Krebs<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research – UFZ, Germany

<sup>2</sup> University of Technology Dresden, Germany

### Abstract

Due to increasing water demand, global and climate change and a multitude of use conflicts the sustainable management of water is central for future societal developments. The goal is to promote economic and social developments by addressing and balancing diverse use interests, while simultaneously safeguarding water resources. However, current water management practices are far from fulfilling these objectives for different reasons. In some cases, adequate management structures and techniques are not available while in other cases existing management falls short in properly addressing the key problems.

In recent years some significant advancement in water management has been initiated by introducing the concept of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), which has become a widely accepted guiding principle in the water sector. On the other hand, the concept of IWRM has been criticized to be amorphous and with no agreement on fundamental issues like what aspect should be integrated, how, by whom, or even if such integration in a wider sense is possible. Therefore, in order to make water management more effective and IWRM successfully implementable advanced concepts are needed. We will discuss the lessons learnt, potential and challenges of the IWRM approach based on experiences in Europe and hydrological sensitive regions worldwide. With this background we will outline future developments needed in the fields target setting, instrument choice and governance.