

## Water Governance Benchmarking Criteria

Click on each red number in order to link to the corresponding paragraph.  
Click again on the red number in order to return to criteria page.  
Numbers found next to an article or item title correspond to the entire article or item.  
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### **A. GOVERNANCE FUNCTIONS**

- 1. Organizing and building capacity in the water sector**
  - 1.1 Creating and modifying an organizational structure
  - 1.2 Assigning roles and responsibilities
  - 1.3 Setting national water policy
  - 1.4 Establishing linkages among sub-sectors, levels, and national sub-regions
  - 1.5 Establishing linkages with neighboring riparian countries
  - 1.6 Building public and political awareness of water sector issues
  - 1.7 Securing and allocating funding for the sector
  - 1.8 Developing and utilizing well-trained water sector professionals
- 2. Planning strategically**
  - 2.1 Collecting, managing, storing and utilizing water-relevant data
  - 2.2 Projecting future supply and demand for water
  - 2.3 Designing strategies for matching expected long-term water supply and demand and dealing with shortfalls (including drought mitigation strategies)
  - 2.4 Developing planning and management tools to support decision making
- 3. Allocating water**
  - 3.1 Awarding and recording water rights and corollary responsibilities
  - 3.2 Establishing water and water rights transfer mechanisms
  - 3.3 Adjudicating disputes
  - 3.4 Assessing and managing third party impacts of water and water rights transactions
- 4. Developing and managing water resources**
  - 4.1 Constructing public infrastructure and authorizing private infrastructure development
  - 4.2 Forecasting seasonal supply and demand and matching the two
  - 4.3 Operating and maintaining public infrastructure according to established plans and strategic priorities
  - 4.4 Applying incentives and sanctions to achieve long and short term supply/demand matching (including water pricing)
  - 4.5 Forecasting and managing floods and flood impacts
- 5. Regulating water resources and services**
  - 5.1 Issuing and monitoring operating concessions to water service providers
  - 5.2 Enforcing withdrawal limits associated with water rights
  - 5.3 Regulating water quality in waterways, water bodies, and aquifers (including enforcement)
  - 5.4 Protecting aquatic ecosystems
  - 5.5 Monitoring and enforcing water service standards

## **B. GOVERNANCE PROCESS CHARACTERISTICS**

- 1. Transparency.**
- 2. Participation.**
- 3. Accountability and Integrity.**
- 4. Rule of law.**
- 5. Coherency and Integration.**
- 6. Responsiveness.**

## **C. CROSS CUTTING CATEGORIES**

### **1. Water Sources**

- 1.1 Surface water
- 1.2 Groundwater
- 1.3 Derivative water (reclaimed, reused, desalinated)

### **2. Water Uses**

- 2.1 Irrigation
- 2.2 Municipal
- 2.3 Industrial
- 2.4 Environmental
- 2.5 Hydropower
- 2.6 Fisheries, navigation, recreation
- 2.7 Other uses (including social, esthetic, and religious uses)