

GUIDELINES TO THE INTRODUCTION OF TRANSFERABLE WATER RIGHTS

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ABSTRACT

There has been in the last 20-30 years, a more or less worldwide political shift to the right, which in economic terms has expressed itself by a free market approach to the management of resources. Transferable Water Rights (TWR) are a reflection of this. International experience, suggests that introducing TWR should not simply be a matter of economic reform, but a multifaceted process that touches upon diverse aspects of man's social and physical environment. This is particularly so in South Asia, and Central and South America, where groundwater is the lifeline of the poorer communities. Balancing economic aspects with those of water resources sustainability, the environment and social equity, is crucial, if unwanted impacts are to be avoided. A generic model has been developed to help achieve this, consisting of a step-by-step logical progression of questions and answers on key factors, leading to decisions and recommended actions.

PALAVRA-CHAVE: transferable, rights, groundwater