

GREENING WATER LAW: MANAGING FRESHWATER RESOURCES FOR PEOPLE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

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ABSTRACT

A principal challenge facing nations is ensuring adequate water resources for both people and the environment. In many parts of the world, communities compete with nature for dwindling supplies, to the detriment of both. Water, however, is an inseparable component of life, both human and environmental. It forms a relationship based on the intricacies of both the hydrologic cycle and the interdependencies of all life. The challenge is to overcome the competition and find ways to harmonize the water requirements of people with those of nature. Potentially the most effective means for achieving such harmonization is to integrate environmental concerns into national and international water laws and policies. Such integration would ensure that the water needs of both are considered collectively and balanced in a way that furthers the sustainable use of freshwater resources and maintains ecosystem integrity. This study presents the foundation for such harmonization.

PALAVRA-CHAVE: greening water law, water scarcity, water pollution, water law, environmental flows