

Water Governance Benchmarking Criteria

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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](#)
 - 1.2 Assigning roles and responsibilities [3, 4](#)
 - 1.3 Setting national water policy
 - 1.4 Establishing linkages among sub-sectors, levels, and national sub-regions [5, 6](#)
 - 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 [7](#)
- 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 an 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.** 8, 9
- 2. Participation.** 10
- 3. Accountability and Integrity.**
- 4. Rule of law.** 11
- 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)

**Decree no. 2-97-488 of 6 Chaoual 1418 (4 February 1998) regarding
the membership and functioning
of the prefectorial and provincial water commissions
Official State Gazette no. 4558 of 5 February 1996 1, 5, 8**

Article 1: The prefectorial or provincial water commission created by article 101 of the previously mentioned Law no. 10-95 includes, under the chairmanship of the governor or his representative, the following members: 2, 6, 10, 11

- a representative of the government authority responsible for infrastructures;
- a representative of the government authority responsible for agriculture;
- one representative of the National office of drinking water, appointed by the government authority responsible for infrastructures;
- one representative of the National office of electricity, appointed by the government authority responsible for energy;
- a representative of the hydrological basin agency or agencies concerned, appointed by the government authority responsible for infrastructures;
- a representative of the Regional Agricultural Development Offices, appointed by the government authority responsible for agriculture;
- the president of the prefectorial or provincial legislature;
- the president of the Agricultural council;
- the president of the Chamber of commerce, industry and services;
- three representatives of the communal councils, appointed by the prefectorial or provincial legislature;
- a representative of the ethnic groups, appointed by the Minister of the Interior.

The chairman of the commission may invite, in an advisory capacity, any competent persons to attend the commission meetings. 7

Article 2: The secretariat of the commission, provided by the ministry responsible for infrastructures, is responsible for preparing the commission meetings and for monitoring the execution of its recommendations. 3

The seat of the prefectorial or provincial water commission shall be the capital of the prefecture or province.

Article 3: The prefectorial or provincial water commission meets when convened by its chairman, once per quarter or whenever circumstances require a meeting.

Article 4: The Minister of State for the Interior, the Minister of Agriculture, Infrastructures and the Environment are responsible, each in his own domain, for the execution of this Decree, which shall be published in the Official state gazette. 4, 9