

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](#)
 - 1.3 Setting national water policy [2, 3, 4, 5](#)
 - 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 [6, 7, 8, 9](#)
 - 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) [10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17](#)
 - 5.4 Protecting aquatic ecosystems
 - 5.5 Monitoring and enforcing water service standards

B. GOVERNANCE PROCESS CHARACTERISTICS

- 1. Transparency.** 18
- 2. Participation.**
- 3. Accountability and Integrity.**
- 4. Rule of law.** 19, 20
- 5. Coherency and Integration.**
- 6. Responsiveness.**

C. CROSS CUTTING CATEGORIES

- 1. Water Sources**
 - 1.1 Surface water 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28
 - 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)

**Joint Order of the Minister of Infrastructures and the Minister
responsible for Land Use Planning, Urban Development, Habitation and
the Environment No. 1275-01 of 10 Chaabane 1423 (17 October 2002)
establishing the quality grid for surface waters 10, 21**

The Minister of Infrastructures,

In view of Decree n° 2-97-787 of 6 Chaoual 1418 (4 February 1998) relative to water quality standards and the inventory of the degree of pollution of waters; 11, 19

After obtaining the opinion of the Minister of Health and the Minister of the Interior;

Hereby resolve:

Article 1: As of the publication date of this Joint Order, the quality standards for surface waters cited in article 1 of Decree no. 2-97-787 mentioned above are established for surface waters in table no. 1 attached to this Order. 12, 20, 22

Article 2: For those environments that are not subjected to the influence of pollution sources, the simplified quality grid for surface waters defined in table no. 2 may be used. 6, 13, 23

Article 3: The surface water quality grid distinguishes five classes of quality. 7, 14, 24

Surface water in a given place during a given season is declared to be quality water: 25

- if the samples of the water taken at regular intervals at the same place of extraction present parameter values that fall within the range defining class 1 for at least: 2

- 95% of the measurements of all the parameters taken together; 3

- 90% of the measurements of a given parameter; 4

- if the measured values that do not fall within the range defining the limits of class 1 do not exceed the 50% class limit, except for the temperature, pH, dissolved oxygen and the bacteriological parameters. 5

Article 4: The minimum number of samples on the basis of which the water is assessed is: 8

- 12 per year for the environments that are subjected to the influence of pollution sources, at the rate of one per month;

- 4 per year for the environments that are not subjected to the influence of pollution sources, at the rate of one per season.

Article 5: All samples on the basis of which the water quality is assessed must be 24-hour composite samples. 9

For the intents and purposes of this Order, a composite sample is understood to be any intermittent

or continuous mixture in suitable proportions of at least six samples or parts of samples of which the average value of the desired parameter can be obtained.

Article 6: Samples collected at the time of floods, accidental pollution incidents or natural disasters are not considered for the purpose of assessing the overall quality of surface water. 15, 26

Article 7: The parameters indicating the quality of surface water are measured according to standardized methods. 16, 27

Article 8: The colors used to illustrate surface water quality are : 17, 28

- blue for water of excellent quality;
- green for water of good quality;
- orange for water of average quality;
- red for bad quality water;
- purple for very bad quality water.

Article 9: The basin agency is responsible for the application of this Joint Decree, which will be published in the *Bulletin Officiel* (Official state gazette). << 1, 18

Rabat, 10 Chaabane 1423 (17 October 2002).

The Minister of Infrastructures,
Bouamor Taghouan

The Minister for Land Use Planning,
Urban Development, Habitation and the Environment,
Mohamed El Yazghi

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Table I – Quality Grid

Table II - Simplified Grid for the evaluation of the overall quality of surface waters