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Bridging the science-policy interface for improved water quality management

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Improved science-policy interface is needed

- The science-policy interface in the area of sustainable development is becoming ever stronger.
 - ❖ UN Scientific Advisory Board for sustainable development was established in 2013 and entrusted to UNESCO to serve as the Secretariat to the Board.
 - ❖ The Board will provide advice on science, technology and innovation or sustainable development to the UN Secretary-General and to Executive Heads of UN organizations.
 - ❖ The Board is composed of 26 eminent scientists from all regions and a wide range of disciplines.
- There is a greater demand for **science-based assessments**



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Key elements in bridging the science-policy interface

- Science can influence policy in an effective way by providing scientific evidence and information.
- Science and policy should not take place in isolation from each other.
- Creating the political awareness on water quality issues both within and outside the water sector is crucial.
- Scientists should be involved in the policy-making from the very beginning.
- There is a crucial need to build the scientific capacity in developing countries in water sciences and innovative scientific and policy approaches to water quality.



Bridging the science and policy gap in water quality and wastewater

How science and scientists can make a difference by improving policies to address the global water challenge



UNESCO-IHP

International Initiative on Water Quality

promoting scientific research, knowledge and policies to respond to water quality challenges towards ensuring water security for sustainable development



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International Initiative on Water Quality

- **Established** in 2012 by the 20th session of the Intergovernmental Council of the International Hydrological Programme of UNESCO **at the request of UNESCO Member States**
- **Initiated by the Africa region**, as one of the recommendations of UNESCO International Workshop on Addressing Water Quality Challenges in Africa in 2011
- An **umbrella programme for UNESCO-IHP activities in the area of water quality**, including **access to water and sanitation, water quality** and **wastewater management**.



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International Initiative on Water Quality

- Builds a **bridge between available scientific knowledge and policy-making** in the field water quality
- **Makes scientific knowledge**, research and information on water quality issues **easily available to policy-makers**
- **Facilitates science-based water quality policies** through **enhanced knowledge base, capacity building and knowledge mobilization**

International Initiative on Water Quality

- **Fosters scientific cooperation and exchange** in the area of water quality.
- Facilitates **the uptake of scientific innovations** and research results **in policy-making** in the field of water quality and wastewater
- Develops and **promotes innovative scientific, technological and policy approaches** to water quality and wastewater issues
- **Creates and raises awareness** on water quality and wastewater