

Foreword

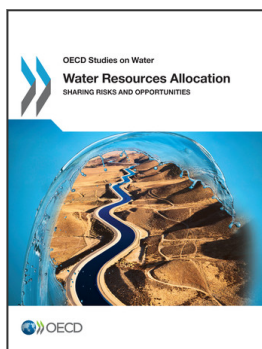
The intensifying competition for water resources is widely documented. The OECD Environmental Outlook to 2050 highlights that water resources are already over-used or over-allocated in many places, with global demand expected to increase by 55% between 2000 and mid-century. The situation is compounded by climate change, with impacts on water expected to become more pronounced in the coming decades. These pressures have already made water allocation an urgent issue in a number of countries and one that is rising on the agenda in many others. Within this context, the OECD undertook work on water resources allocation to strengthen the evidence base and develop policy guidance to improve the design of allocation regimes and manage the challenges of reform.

This report is an output of the OECD Environment Directorate, under the leadership of Director Simon Upton. The project co-ordinator and lead author of the report is Kathleen Dominique. The Head of the Water Unit in the Environment Directorate, Xavier Leflaive, provided substantive inputs and advice. The OECD Secretariat project team, including Kun Wook Kim and Ignacio Deregibus, provided substantive inputs and analysis, in particular in the development of the Survey of Water Resources Allocation and the case studies of reform. The project was undertaken in collaboration with the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) which provided in-kind support and expertise. The author is particularly grateful to John Joyce, Chief Economist at SIWI, for his sustained engagement and valuable insights.

Case studies on the reform of water allocation regimes were prepared by the OECD Secretariat project team, as well as Ian Barker of Water Policy International, Chibesa Pensulo and Johanna Sjödin of SIWI, Barbara Schreiner of Pegasys Strategy and Development, and Gavin Quibell, independent consultant. A background paper prepared Professor Mike Young, Chair in Water and Environmental Policy at the University of Adelaide provided a solid foundation for the work. The financial and in-kind contributions of the government of the Netherlands and the government of Korea helped to make this work possible and are greatly appreciated.

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