

Policy Guidelines for the Dissemination of Data of the *Inventory of Shared Water Resources in Western Asia*

1. Background

The *Inventory of Shared Water Resources in Western Asia* (hereinafter referred to as the “Inventory”) was prepared by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN-ESCWA) and the German Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources (BGR). It is a comprehensive reference document that characterizes shared surface water and groundwater systems throughout the region by providing a comprehensive, descriptive analysis of each basin. Its main purpose is to provide a sound scientific basis for informing discussion and fostering dialogue on these precious resources that have become increasingly important to sustain development in an era of growing demand and dwindling supply.

In line with its intended character as a technical reference document, the Inventory is primarily descriptive in its nature and writing style. Information on shared surface and groundwater resources was initially collected and summarized from UN-ESCWA reports, regional literature, scientific publications, country papers, national and regional maps and data sets, satellite imagery, media reports and other grey literature. It is the outcome of an unbiased scientific process and all information and data in the chapters are duly referenced to allow for independent verification.

The authors of the Inventory cannot be held responsible for the accuracy or correctness of data taken from published sources or provided by countries. Similarly, the involvement of country representatives in the compilation of the Inventory does not imply their official endorsement of the report or of the information presented therein, except where explicitly stated. Where differing or contradictory information was obtained from different sources, the different data sets and arguments were included to reflect a range of findings and viewpoints.

The sections below highlight the conditions related to the dissemination of data presented in the Inventory.

2. Principles of data acquisition and access

- 2.1. This publication makes use of data collected and compiled from different sources, and in line with its intended character as a technical reference document on shared water resources in Western Asia, it is primarily descriptive in its nature and writing style.
- 2.2. The Inventory is not a database intended for distribution of raw data on water resources. All data rights remain with the original owners or their authorized distributors, as referenced in the notes and bibliography.
- 2.3. Certain data presented in the Inventory may be made available upon request, and provided on a case by case basis under the conditions outlined in Section 3.
- 2.4. Requests for data will be considered by UN-ESCWA primarily with a view to encouraging further research, as well as supporting education and training on this topic area.

3. Dissemination of data from the Inventory

- 3.1. Data is available to data users free of charge and under the conditions set forth in points 3.2 to 3.8 below.
- 3.2. Requests for data must reach the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN-ESCWA) in writing and include the completed form for use in this respect (see attached Data Request Form). The provision of data by UN-ESCWA will be decided on a case by case basis.
- 3.3. By signing the Data Request Form, the data user(s) listed in the form and affiliated institution agree in writing that the data received are not transferred to third parties, including other individual researchers at the same institution working on a research or study project not listed in the form. The data supplied from the Inventory is released solely to the data user(s) listed on the request form and for the purposes identified there within upon identified access.
- 3.4. The data shall not be used for commercial purposes.
- 3.5. The data user(s) agrees that UN-ESCWA may inform its member States and data providers about the use to which data from the Inventory has been requested and will transfer the names and addresses of the data user(s) to its members and other data providers concerned as may be requested.
- 3.6. UN-ESCWA can make available subsets of data from the Inventory on a request basis to support specific research and study projects, as stated above. Requests for the entire database or substantial parts of it cannot be entertained.
- 3.7. Data or data subsets approved for dissemination will be provided in an electronic format deemed suitable for dissemination by UN-ESCWA.
- 3.8. Data originating from publicly available sources, data distributors and member States requested in the Data Request Form will be considered based upon the conditions set forth by the owners of that data. Such data or data subsets cannot be made available by UN-ESCWA, unless otherwise authorized. Please refer to the Inventory chapter notes related to the text or a figure caption listing data sources and consider first whether the relevant data can be retrieved from the original source.

4. Disclaimer

While the authors of the Inventory made every effort to eliminate errors from the data compiled and presented multiple, differing values for certain parameters when contradictory information was obtained from different sources, there may be errors in the data unknown to the authors. Neither UN-ESCWA nor its partners can be held responsible for the accuracy or correctness of data taken from published sources or provided by member States, as well as for consequences resulting from the use of the data supplied from the *Inventory of Shared Water Resources in Western Asia*.

Inventory of Shared Water Resources in Western Asia
 Data Request Form

Individuals and institutions requesting data from the aforementioned publication should send their request in writing by completing and signing this form and submitting it by e-mail to escwa-h2o@un.org or to the following address: Mr. Ziad Khayat, Senior Sustainable Development Officer (Water), Climate Change and Natural Resource Sustainability Cluster, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN-ESCWA), United Nations House, P.O. Box 11-8575, Beirut, Lebanon.

a) Origin and specification of the request

Name of individual (data user) submitting the request:	
Position Title:	
Affiliated institution:	
Address:	
E-mail:	
Telephone:	Fax:
Name and title of associated data user(s) expected to use the data for the same purpose listed below: (1) (2)	
Data requested (clearly specifying the chapter, page number, figure number, etc.):	
Reason for the data request:	
Detailed description of the use to be made of the data, with a brief summary of the research or study project:	

**Kindly attach an additional page if more elaboration is needed for any of the fields.*

b) Declaration of the Data User

The undersigned data user, who serves as lead researcher or the lead representative of the requesting party, declares that he/she is aware of the Policy Guidelines for the Dissemination of Data of the *Inventory of Shared Water Resources in Western Asia* and is responsible for the appropriate use of the data provided by UN-ESCWA. The undersigned agrees to use the data under the following conditions:

1. The data provided are not transferred either in part or in total to third parties or to the general public (e.g., by electronic media), except to those listed as associate data users in this Data Request Form.
2. The data will not be used for commercial purposes.
3. The data will be not accessible to unauthorized persons and, after completion of the specified research or study projects outlined in this request form, the data will be kept separate from the general database or data processing facilities that may be generated or made available on CD-ROM or other medium associated with the research or study project.
4. After completion of the research and parts thereof drawing upon the data supplied from the Inventory, information about the results will be made available to UN-ESCWA as well as a copy of the publication(s) arising from the use of the data or parts thereof.
5. Unless specified otherwise by UN-ESCWA, in all publications the source of the data will be fully cited as: "UN-ESCWA and BGR (United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia; Bundesanstalt für Geowissenschaften und Rohstoffe). 2013. *Inventory of Shared Water Resources in Western Asia*. Beirut."

Disclaimer

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I, as principal researcher/lead representative of the requesting party, agree to the conditions stated above:

Signature: _____

Name: _____

Place and date: _____