



Developing an information strategy for water accounts and statistics

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Outline

- Water data stakeholders (data users and data producers)
- Key lessons from SEEAW implementation
- Data Collection Strategy: Process of development



Water data stakeholders (data users or data producers)

Government

Ministries responsible for:

- Water
- Environment
- Agriculture
- Electricity (especially hydro-electricity)
- Central planning
- Health, housing, infrastructure, public works, etc

National statistics offices

Meteorological agency

Hydrological agency

Government operated water supply or sewerage

Government research agencies (scientific, economic and social)



Water data stakeholders (data users or data producers)

Non-government

Environmental NGOs

Water supply companies

Sewerage or wastewater treatment companies

Agricultural associations (including Irrigation associations)

Research institutions (e.g. universities)

International agencies (e.g. UN, OECD, FAO)



Key findings of the Global Assessment and lessons from countries implementing SEEAW

1. Build on existing knowledge and recognise that a range of different systems are already in place
2. Cooperation is essential
3. High level support is needed
4. An agency needs to take the lead
5. A phased approach is needed and pilot or experimental accounts are very useful
6. A lot of progress can be made quickly



Build on existing knowledge and recognise that a range of different information systems are already in place

- Many institutions already have information
- Countries have developed information systems to meet their own data needs for management, including international obligations
- These institutions need to understand that their data is valuable and that others could use it for their purposes



Cooperation is essential

- The majority of countries report cooperation with other agencies in the production of water accounts (68%)*
- Despite this the lack of cooperation or data sharing was identified as an issue in 32% of countries for water accounts*
- Data are usually dispersed in many agencies (e.g. agricultural agencies collect information on irrigation water, water ministries collect information to construct water balances, etc.)*
- In many countries there are data gaps and in some countries there is duplication of statistical activity*

Cooperation is needed

- Within statistical offices
- Between statistical offices, water departments, economic/planning departments and agricultural departments
- With the water supply industry
- With the scientific and research communities
- Between users and producers of information

*Data from the Global Assessment of Water Statistics and Water Accounts

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/doc09/B-G-WaterAccounts.pdf>



High level support is needed

- The water accounts require a high degree of coordination within and between agencies, and so high level support helps to ensure that:
 - The proper legal and administrative processes are developed and used for the sharing and integration of data and that the duplication of activity is reduced between different agencies
 - Within agencies it paves the way for internal cooperation
 - There are no “turf wars” between or within agencies
- Resources need to be devoted to the production of the accounts.



An agency needs to take the lead

It is usual for one agency to take the lead in the coordination and production of the accounts.

- In the majority (53%) of case the agency is most often the NSO*
- The lead agency does the preliminary work, including learning the details of the SEEAW and investigating the available data

*Data from the Global Assessment of
Water Statistics and Water Accounts

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/doc09/B-G-WaterAccounts.pdf>



A phased approach is needed and pilot or experimental accounts are very useful

- Start with the accounts that address the issues of most importance to countries:
 - In water scarce countries it has been water supply and use and asset accounts. In industrialized countries it has been pollution and emission accounts.
- Pilot accounts enable indicators and other policy uses to be demonstrated with data

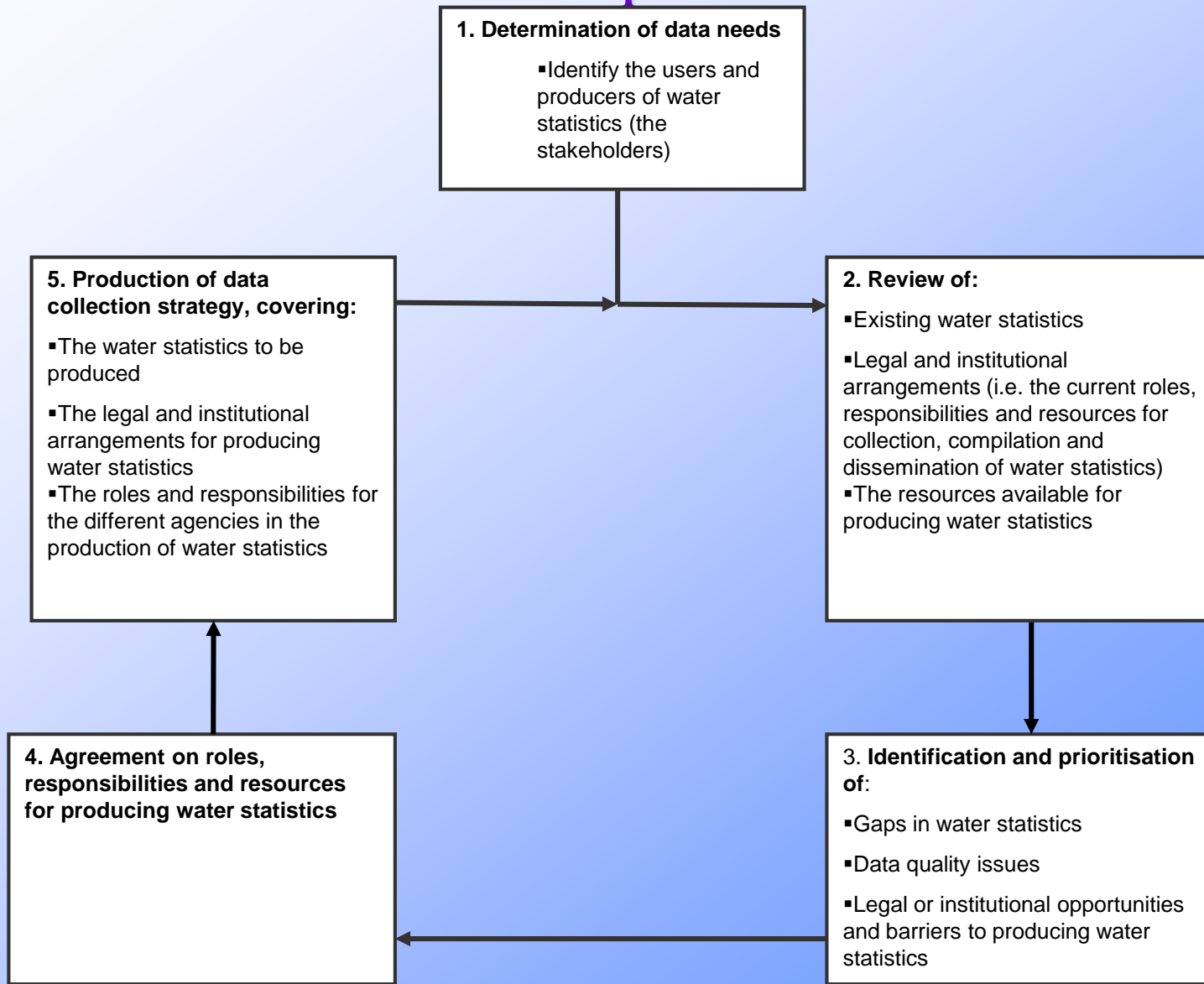


A lot of progress can be made quickly

- Many countries already have much of the data needed to compile water accounts
- For example, China, Mexico, Jordan and Dominican Republic were all able to produce preliminary accounts within 6 months
- In addition it appears that UNSD/UNEP, OECD/Eurostat and the EEA already collect much of the data needed to produce some of the water accounts
- As such for many countries and agencies is a matter of re-arranging current data to match the format of the standard tables and to ensure they are consistent with the definitions and classifications of SEEAW
- In this process data gaps and deficiencies may be identified and, if important enough, these can be addressed



Data Collection Strategy: Process of development





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