



Auditing water issues

Experiences of Supreme Audit institutions



WGEA Paper



“The world water crisis is a crisis of governance – not one of scarcity”

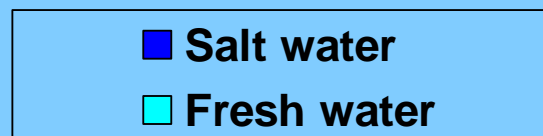
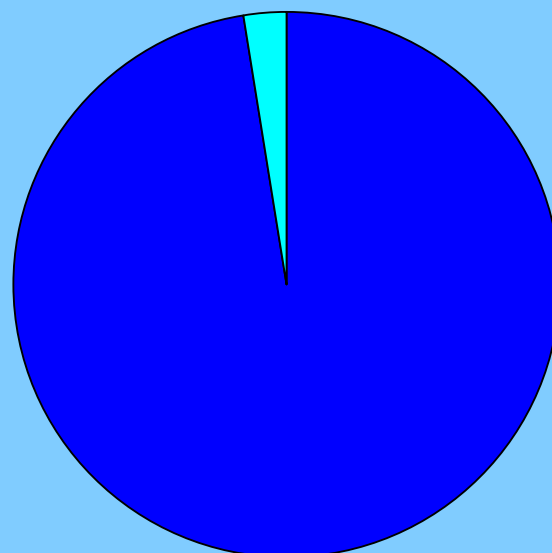
HRH the Prince of Orange of the Netherlands,
Johannesburg, 2002



Structure of the paper

- Overview of water issues
- Public involvement in water issues
- International agreements and organisations
- Overview of water-audits by SAIs
- Results of water audits
- Conclusions and recommendations

Water resources

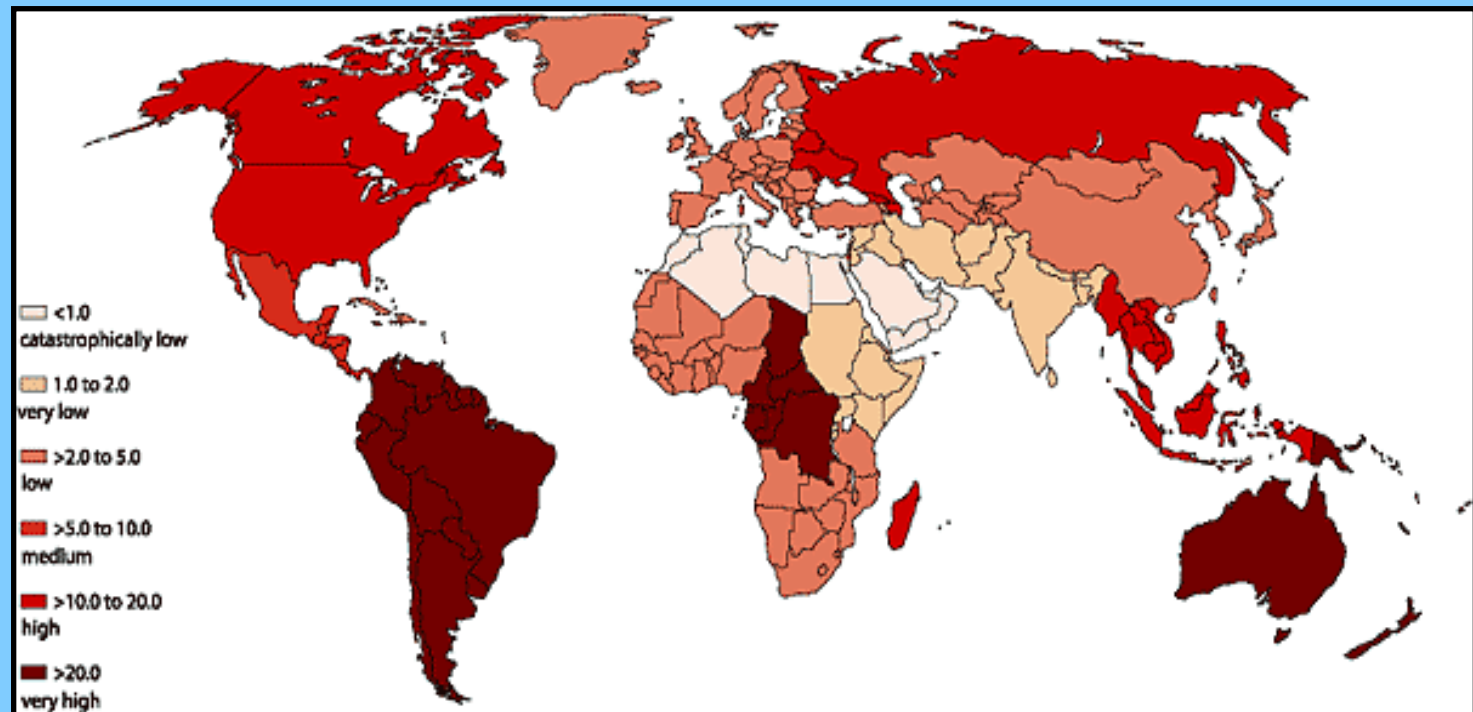


2,5% of the total water volume is fresh water

Less than 1 % of all fresh water is accessible for human use



Water availability



1,000 m³ per capita/year; source: UNEP.



Water quality

Fresh water pollution:

- Human waste and sewage
- Industry and mining
- Agriculture (pesticides, fertilizers, manure)

Marine pollution:

- Land based sources
- Maritime transport, oil and gas platforms



Public involvement in water issues

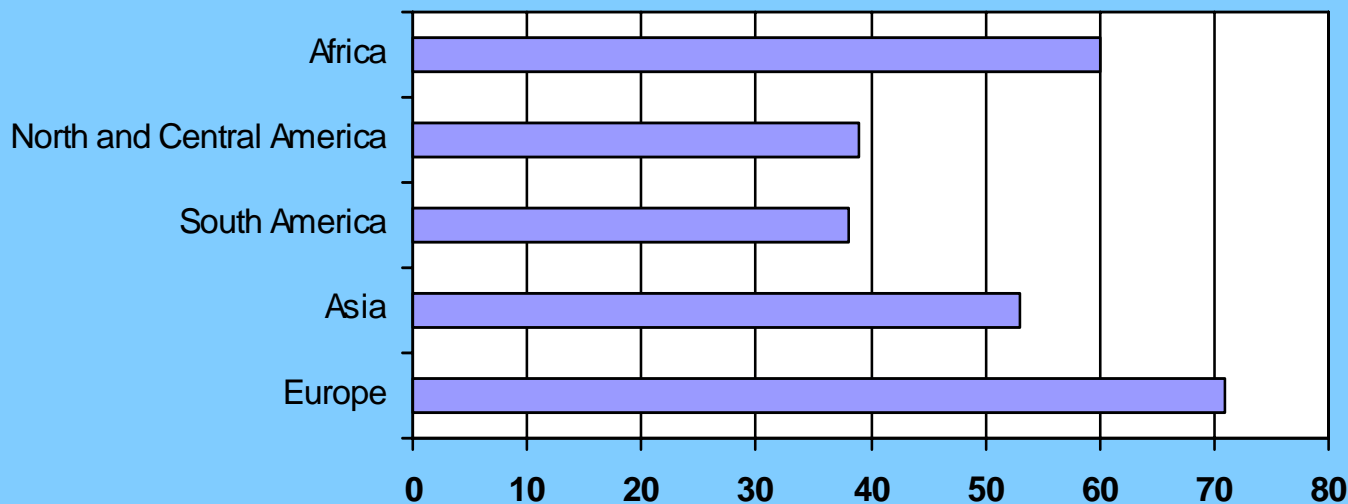
Policy instruments:

- General water policy
- Water pricing
- Water legislation
- Permits
- Inspection and enforcement
- Fees and fines
- Investments in infrastructure
- Scientific research
- Providing information to the public
- Monitoring and evaluation



International agreements

Number of international river basins





International agreements

Number of international agreements

Water resources and conservation management	20
Desertification	6
Seawater quality and pollution	91
Marine resources conservation and management	32
Fishing management	54



International organisations

- UNEP
- UNDP
- UNESCO
- FAO
- Secretariats



SAIs audit activities

Frequently used types of audit:

- Compliance with national environmental laws and regulations
- Implementation of environmental programmes
- Evaluation of impacts or effects of existing environmental programmes
- Environmental effects of non-environmental programmes
- Government environmental management systems



SAIs audit activities

- Rivers & lakes, waste water & sewage and drinking water are audited most
- Many initiatives by Working Group members
- Examples selected to illustrate a wide range of topics and approaches



Audit examples

- Water quality
- Rivers and lakes
- Flooding
- Drinking water and sanitation
- Water in relation to nature and biodiversity
- Marine environment



Recommendations

The Working Group recommends SAIs to continue to perform water audits

- The Working Group recommends SAIs (to continue) to exchange experiences and to co-operate
- Co-operation within regional working groups is desirable
- Additional communication strategies might increase the effectivity of SAIs in the region

‘Mutual experience benefits all’

