

Best Ethical practices

Fundamental principles for ethical Practices water resource Management are as follows:

Human dignity: for there is no life without water and those to whom it is denied are denied life;

Participation: for all individuals, especially the poor, must be involved in water planning and management with gender and poverty issues recognized in fostering this process;

Solidarity: for upstream and downstream interdependence within a watershed continually poses challenges for water management resulting in the need for an integrated water management approach;

Human equality: for all persons ought to be provided with the basic necessities of life on an equitable basis;

Common Good: for water is a common good, and without proper water management human potential and dignity diminishes;

Stewardship: for protection and careful use of water resources is needed for intergenerational and intra-generational equity and promotes the sustainable use of life-enabling ecosystems;

Transparency and universal access to information: for if data is not accessible in a form that can be understood, an opportunity will arise for an interested party to disadvantage others;

Inclusiveness: water management policies must address the interests of all who live in a water catchment area. Minority interests must be protected as well as those of the poor and other disadvantaged sectors. In the past few years the concept of Integrated Water Management (IWRM) has come to the fore and the means to ensure equitable, economically sound and environmentally sustainable management of water resources;

Empowerment: for the requirement to facilitate participation in planning and management means much more than to allow an opportunity for consultation.

Best ethical practice will enable stakeholders to influence management.” There has been considerable reflection on environmental ethics throughout the world.

The adoption of the Universal Declaration of Bioethics and Human Rights (UDBHR) by all member countries of UNESCO in 2005 followed a series of consultation meetings. In these meetings a number of agencies and governments called for more formal codifications of environmental ethics principles that have been adopted in international treaties and texts (COMEST, 2010).

The UDBHR provides a universally agreed framework to describe bioethics, which brings together much of the previous scholarship and recommendations in environmental ethics by describing common ethical principles, and providing a framework which could be applied for

normative ethical reflection. Although the UDBHR does not elaborate specific ethics for environmental application, it includes a number of consensus statements that can be applied to water ethics. The preamble of the UDBHR states that it is “addressed to States. As appropriate and relevant, it also provides guidance to decisions or practices of individuals, groups, communities, institutions and corporations, public and private

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