This book examines water management in Europe, and the difficulties and policy dilemmas involved in creating integrated water management institutions. The book is unique in that it concentrates on institutional development, norms and guiding principles, implementation strategies, and public participation mechanisms at the local level, European Union level, and globally. The book examines the European Union Water Law and Policy as it was adopted at the beginning of 2000 and the attempt to apply integrated water management in Europe. Today, many speak of a water crisis in that the supply of water is unlikely to meet demand and because of pollution that mars many water ecosystems. Water is one of the most mismanaged natural resources. Deficient management policies and fragmented water management institutions can have catastrophic results for the management of water resources. In Europe, water management has been fragmented as states have used water resources within their borders often ignoring the impact of their actions on co-riparian states. The effort to apply integrated water management in Europe is in essence an attempt to put a stop to the fragmentation of water management policies and to integrate: upstream and downstream uses, land use planning, and water management. Water Law and Policy provides insights that can guide water development policies across national borders. It is a must-read for policymakers, water managers, and students who need to understand national and transnational water management.
From Water Sector Reforms to Law and Policy Reforms
Philippe Cullet

in Water Law, Poverty, and Development: Water Sector Reforms in India
Published in print: 2009 Published Online: September 2009
Publisher: Oxford University Press DOI: 10.1093/acprof:oso/9780199546237.003.0004
Item type: chapter

This chapter analyzes the policy context within which water law reforms are introduced. It examines the basic principles that underlie existing water sector reforms, in particular the concept of integrated water resources management, the focus on water conservation, water as a basic need, water as an economic good, decentralization and participation, and governance and institutional changes. It considers the policy framework that has steered water sector reforms over the past two decades. It focuses in particular on the international policy framework and the role of development banks in fostering the adoption of these principles at the national level. It then analyzes water policies adopted at the national and state level, and discusses the shift towards an emphasis on water law reforms as one of the key elements contributing to the overall process of reform in the water sector.

Principles of Water Management
Elli Louka

in Water Law and Policy: Governance Without Frontiers
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Publisher: Oxford University Press DOI: 10.1093/acprof:oso/9780195374131.003.0003
Item type: chapter

This chapter discusses integrated water resources management (IWRM), which has been proposed as a means to redefine water management. Topics covered include basics of IWRM, international aspects of IRWM, and making and applying decisions in water management.

Water Law, Poverty, and Development
Philippe Cullet

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Item type: book

Page 2 of 5
With the world's supply of fresh water looking increasingly threatened, water law has gained tremendous importance in the last few years. This subject has however received remarkably little academic attention. This book examines water law reforms from a national and international perspective. It analyzes existing and evolving water law in its broader context, which includes the environmental, social, economic, and human rights aspects of water. This book focuses on water sector reforms, and more specifically water law reforms in India. India is perfectly placed for this analysis. On the one hand, its existing water law is characterized by the absence of a framework water legislation and its fragmented development on a sectoral basis through a variety of mechanisms, ranging from common law principles to statutes and judicial decisions. On the other hand, Indian water law is currently in the process of extensive reform. These reforms are based on the principles of water sector reforms rather than on a critical analysis of existing water law. This is further complicated by the fact that reforms are often linked to World Bank or Asian Development Projects or loans, which may come with law-related conditions attached. Ongoing water law reforms are on the whole based on a relatively narrow set of principles focusing on management concerns in the water sector. The conceptual framework that informs current water law reforms insufficiently addresses the human right, social, and environmental dimensions of water. A paradigm change is required in the conceptualization of water law reforms. This change needs to recognise water's vital role in poverty eradication and the realisation of a sustainable process of development. A series of alternative bases for reform based on human dignity, equity, and sustainability are thus proposed in this book.

Water Management in the European Union
Elli Louka

in Water Law and Policy: Governance Without Frontiers
Published in print: 2008 Published Online: January 2009
DOI: 10.1093/acprof:oso/9780195374131.003.0005
Item type: chapter

This chapter discusses water management in the European Union. Topics covered include the adoption of the water framework directive in 2000, instituting public participation in water management, and making water policy matter.
Towards a Future Water Policy
Ellis Louka

in Water Law and Policy: Governance Without Frontiers

Published in print: 2008 Published Online: January 2009
Publisher: Oxford University Press
DOI: 10.1093/acprof:oso/9780195374131.003.0026
Item type: chapter

This chapter discusses future directions for the EU implementation of integrated water resources management (IWRM). Topics covered include the advantages of centralization, multilevel coordination, parallel coordinating processes, decentralizing through participation, and organization of participation.

Implementing Water Management
Ellis Louka

in Water Law and Policy: Governance Without Frontiers

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Item type: chapter

This chapter discusses the implementation of water management in the EU. Topics covered include the role of the European Commission, and developing, testing, and evaluating the implementation strategy for the water framework directive.

Sketches from National and Transnational Experience
Ellis Louka

in Water Law and Policy: Governance Without Frontiers

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Item type: chapter

This chapter uses the Australian experience as a benchmark for measuring EU performance in practicing integrated water resources management (IWRM). The Murray-Darling Commission (MDC) in Australia has been projected as a good illustration of IWRM.
In this chapter we review techniques that managers may use to respond to climate change. First, modelling the impacts of climate change on freshwater ecosystems is discussed. While hydro-climatic projections can be used their imprecision requires the selection of robust adaptation options that provide benefits under a range of possible climate outcomes. Second, contested concepts for managing freshwater ecosystems and resources are summarised, and we conclude that they may be used to develop and implement cross-sectoral policies that sustain freshwater ecosystems. Third, options for climate change adaptation for freshwater ecosystems recommends application of six principles, emphasising: accommodation of change; application of ecological and socio-economic targets across multiple scales; maintaining connectivity, conservation of refugia, and representative habitats; initial implementation of no- and low-regret adaptation interventions; agreeing on thresholds for ecological change that trigger new management interventions; and scientific monitoring and evaluation. We conclude by considering how to manage the negative impacts and seize positive synergies in climate change responses: conservation advocates must engage with agriculture, energy, and water resources sectors if freshwater ecosystems are to be incorporated in their decisions.