

Christopher Schulz (CS, Research Associate, University of Cambridge, UK)

Water governance a. an analytical concept to describe the relationships between the state, stakeholders, and society, on water. Water governance encompasses the related concepts of *water policy*, or the instruments and mechanisms used to achieve a certain outcome, *water politics*, or the power relations between different actors, and *water polity*, or the institutions in which decision-making on water takes place (Schulz et al., 2017). b. a normative concept to describe more flexible, constructive, and participatory approaches for governing water, that challenge traditional hierarchical relationships between the state and society, often captured under the headline 'from government to governance' (Yazdanpanah et al., 2013).

See *also*: Groundwater governance, Good governance, Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM)

Further reading:

Antunes, P., Kallis, G., Videira, N., and Santos, R. 2009. Participation and evaluation for sustainable river basin governance. *Ecological Economics* 68 (4): 931-939.

Benson, D., Gain, A.K., and Rouillard, J.J. 2015. Water governance in a comparative perspective: from IWRM to a 'nexus' approach? *Water Alternatives* 8 (1): 756-773.

Castro, J.E. 2007. Water governance in the twentieth-first century. *Ambiente & Sociedade* 10 (2): 97-118.

Cleaver, F. and Hamada, K. 2010. 'Good' water governance and gender equity: a troubled relationship. *Gender & Development* 18 (1): 27-41.

Lautze, J., de Silva, S., Giordano, M., and Sanford, L. 2011. Putting the cart before the horse: water governance and IWRM. *Natural Resources Forum* 35 (1): 1-8.

Pahl-Wostl, C. 2017. An evolutionary perspective on water governance: from understanding to transformation. *Water Resources Management* 31 (10): 2917-2932.

Citations from definitions:

Schulz, C., Martin-Ortega, J., Glenk, K., and Ioris, A.A.R. 2017. The value base of water governance: a multi-disciplinary perspective. *Ecological Economics* 131: 241-249.

Yazdanpanah, M., Thompson, M., Hayati, D., and Zamani, G.H. 2013. A new enemy at the gate: tackling Iran's water super-crisis by way of a transition from government to governance. *Progress in Development Studies* 13 (3): 177-194.