

IWRM

A specific requirement of the Project is the need to help Viet Nam understand the concepts of IWRM and sustainability, and to start a process of change that will allow Viet Nam to develop and implement IWRM initiatives.

IWRM is the international concept that is shaping approaches to water resources management across the World. It originates from a growing recognition that the traditional water management approaches simply don't work in the long term, as the pressures on rivers and aquifers from economic development continue to grow. As these pressures continue, ultimately they impose unsustainably high economic, social and ecological costs on communities and on their natural environments. Water quality and river health deteriorates, conflicts over access to water increase, people cannot get their basic *water for living* rights, wetlands dry up, etc.

Throughout the Project, there has been considerable debate on what an IWRM approach really means in practice. The Figure below shows the fundamental differences between the traditional approach to water management and an IWRM approach. This has formed one of the bases of many of the concepts developed under this Project.

Old Approach v IWRM Approaches

