Guidance on Water Resource Sharing and Sustainable Management

1. Introduction

Water is a fundamental resource for life, agriculture, industry, and the environment. However, as the global population grows,
the demand for water increases, making sustainable management and equitable sharing of water resources a critical issue.
This document provides guidance on how to manage and share water resources in a sustainable manner, ensuring that they
are available for current and future generations.

2. The Importance of Water Resource Management

- Essential for Life: Water sustains ecosystems, human health, agriculture, and industry.
- Economic Growth: Water is critical for agriculture (irrigation), energy (hydropower), and industrial processes.
- Environmental Sustainability: Sustainable water use ensures the protection of natural habitats and biodiversity.
- Equity and Justice: Fair distribution is essential to ensure all communities, especially marginalized ones, have access to clean water.

3. Principles of Sustainable Water Resource Management

To effectively manage water resources sustainably, several guiding principles should be considered:

- Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM): IWRM is a holistic approach that coordinates water, land, and related resources.

It focuses on balancing social, economic, and environmental needs.

- Equity: Ensure fair distribution of water to meet the needs of all users, particularly vulnerable groups.
- Efficiency: Maximize the utility of available water resources to minimize waste and ensure more efficient use.
- Environmental Sustainability: Protect water ecosystems, wetlands, and watersheds to maintain natural water cycles.
- Resilience: Build systems that are resilient to climate variability, droughts, and floods.

4. Water Resource Sharing Approaches

Water resource sharing must be approached collaboratively to balance the needs of different users. Here are some key approaches:

- Negotiation and Collaboration: Stakeholders (government, communities, industries, and environmental organizations) must engage in collaborative discussions
to develop water-sharing agreements.
- Water Allocation Plans: Allocate water based on priorities, ensuring essential needs (drinking water, agriculture) are met first.
- Water Pricing: Proper pricing can incentivize water conservation and ensure equitable distribution.
- Conflict Resolution: Mediation mechanisms should be in place to address disputes arising from water sharing among users.