Study of The Bahamas – Degree of IWRM Implementation

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IWRM

- WSC
  - Water service provision; regulation of other service providers

- DEHS
  - Regulation of bottled water providers

- DEPP
  - Management of water as a natural resource; oversight of other water management agencies

- Forestry Unit
  - Management of forest reserves and groundwater aquifers and wellfields on those reserves
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Policy Objective</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Efficient Use</td>
<td>To maximize the efficient use of water resources.</td>
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<td>Health</td>
<td>To improve overall water quality through ecologically sound water management practices.</td>
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<td>Pollution Prevention &amp; Control</td>
<td>To control water extraction, use and water pollution.</td>
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<td>Environment &amp; Biodiversity</td>
<td>To improve the overall environmental health of The Bahamas, and promote the health of wetlands and the terrestrial environment through ecologically sound water management practices.</td>
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<td>Water Supply</td>
<td>To ensure a safe, reliable and cost-effective water supply into the future for municipal, agricultural, industrial and other uses.</td>
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<td>Public Awareness &amp; Outreach</td>
<td>To implement programmes to educate the public on water consciousness and promote its participation.</td>
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<td>Disaster Preparedness &amp; Flood</td>
<td>To look for opportunities for partnerships, incentive programmes and other voluntary measures to implement an action plan for disaster preparedness and flood management.</td>
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Enabling environment
Policies, plans and laws to support IWRM.

Institutions and participation
Capacity, participation and coordination at all levels.

Management instruments
Instruments to monitor and manage water resources and ecosystems.

Financing
Budgets and revenue raising for IWRM and infrastructure.

Source: UNEP-DHI Centre, 2017
Recommendations for ECLAC’s Intervention to Advance IWRM in The Bahamas

1. Development and approval of an IWRM National Policy with 2030 goals as well as an associated action plan for implementation.

2. Increase of the resilience of its groundwater resources to climate change as well as exploring and implementing green alternatives to freshwater production.


4. Replicate the Abaco Sunny Waters project and associated ‘WASH in Schools’ program in all islands of The Bahamas to increase communication and outreach as well as stakeholder engagement in IWRM.
5. Development of a groundwater monitoring program that will be incorporated into the spatial decision support system (SSDS) being developed by DEPP.

6. Development and implementation of a Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR) demonstration project as a means of climate change adaptation for The Bahamas.