

An IAEA/Peaceful Uses Initiative (PUI) funded project

# Philippines IWAVE Project



Water  
Resources  
Programme

## Water challenges

**P**rimarily challenges for water planning and management are being driven by Philippine physiography and climate, population growth and migration, and the national priority for inclusive economic growth. Water is one of five infrastructure subsectors addressed in the Philippine Development Plan 2011–2016, which states that meeting existing and future demand requires the identification of new and sustainable sources of water, as well as the strengthening of national capability to plan and manage water resources and related infrastructure.

The Philippines faces a particular organizational challenge in its water sector because over thirty institutions are involved with water science, technology or management, often with overlapping missions and responsibilities. Strong programmes and abundant expertise exist among these institutions, but this issue presents an obstacle to the integration of hydrological data and the comprehensive assessment of national resources.

An important milestone of the Philippine IWAVE project has been the development of a report by the Philippine National Water Resources Board (NWRB) and the IAEA entitled Investment Needs for Resource Assessment Capability in the Philippines to Improve the Planning and Management of Water Infrastructure. This report documents the gaps in hydrological understanding, data and information identified and profiled by the Philippine IWAVE project, and proposes the investments in people and resources necessary to fill the gaps.



## Primary gaps in hydrological understanding in the Philippines

Gaps in hydrological understanding have been identified by the collaborative effort of national water agency experts through the IWAVE project, and include:

- The need for better understanding of the quantity and spatial/temporal distribution of surface and groundwater resources;
- Insufficient understanding of water quality status and trends, and the benefit of sustainable wastewater management;
- Inadequate understanding of water use and allocation.

## Activities

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### 2012

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June	Initiation of the reconnaissance sampling programme for analysis of chemistry and isotopes in water; Water resources regions 2 and 10
June	Initiation of compilation of historical paper records for selected hydrogeological data and conversion to digital form; Water resources regions 2 and 10
August	Initiation of inventory of water uses; Water resources regions 2 and 10
November	Workshop of the NWRB hydrological information sharing project to develop the necessary data infrastructure for the water sector of the Philippines (Phase 1)
December	Training workshop to fill gaps in surface water data and information, with a focus on estimating flow in gauged and un-gauged basins and specific water quality challenges

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### 2013

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February	On-location field training in advanced surface and borehole geophysical applications in hydrogeological studies including data collection, processing and interpretation; Water resources regions 2 and 10
March	National workshop on quantifying groundwater recharge, integrating and interpreting hydrogeological data and assessing groundwater resources
May	Workshop of the NWRB hydrological information sharing project to develop the necessary data infrastructure for the water sector of the Philippines (Phase 2)

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