



Water  
Resources  
Programme

# Where does river water come from?

Stream and river waters originate through contribution from various sources. The changes in isotopic composition of a river along its length allow one to quantify inputs from groundwater and tributaries. New developments in dating techniques of groundwater will permit managers to predict the response of surface water to land use change.

The IAEA has initiated the Global Network of Isotopes in Rivers (GNIR) to help monitor and pre-empt hydrological changes that may have a deleterious effect on water quality.

