

## Hints for the reflection questions

This document gives an overview of the reflection questions for the case studies. It should be seen as a starting point, which enables participants and teachers to start a discussion on these case studies. The answers are not complete, and new answers or insights can always be discussed within the students groups.

### Reflection questions TAIZ:

- Explain why it was important to use an IWRM approach instead of building a dam to save water for the Ta'iz region, or to construct more wells?

*The construction of a dam would be successful for one group of water users, but it could leave to negative impacts on nature, on other stakeholders (for example water users downstream, or the people living in the area which will be flooded). So, it is not a sustainable solution for every one. It will be a gain for one, and a loss for others.*

*The abstraction of more groundwater through wells can also lead to a loss for others. The water table will lower due to the abstraction, which makes that farmers with a pump with a lower capacity can not abstract water anymore. Furthermore, it will not be a sustainable solution in the future, as too many water can be pumped, without it being recharged naturally by rainfall.*

- Explain what could happen when traditional habits wouldn't be taken into account in the regulatory framework.

*Students can discuss what a farmer would do when rules are enforced while they do not match with cultural norms. Would he obey the rules? Or would he find other solutions to get his traditional right?*

- This case explains how urban water problems are related to rural water management. Could you mention other water uses which are interrelated?

*See p.24-29 of the GWP paper. Think about upstream-downstream water related interests, freshwater management and coastal zone management, drinking water and water for agriculture, etc.*

- Water Users Associations such as the example of the Redah District focus on combating illegal drilling of wells. Which other water management related activities do you consider important tasks of a WUA?

*Representing the water users, monitoring the concerns of their members, the management of communal wells and regulating their maintenance, distributing funding, etc.*

- What would you do to improve the current situation? How could one strengthen the cooperation between the society and the local authority?

*Students can discuss options such as: organizing workshops, hiring local staff, also being informed in informal activities of the water users, etc.*

#### Reflection questions institutional reform NWSA:

- This case study does not explicitly explain the IWRM aspects of the institutional reform of the NWSA. Could you describe which aspects are related to the IWRM vision, as described in the TAC Background Paper of the Global Water Partnership?
  - 1) *Related to the IWRM principles, p. 13 in the GWP paper: principle II: the participatory approach (which is not clearly explained in this case study!) and principle IV: Water as an economic good (which the NWSA uses by implementing a cost-recovery policy and letting institutions for water services work on a commercial base.)*
  - 2) *The government's role is as an enabler, which is facilitating the work of different institutions and networks (p. 34 GWP paper)*
  - 3) *It should be noted that different water users and multiple water uses are not described in this case study.*
- Why would decentralization make governmental services more efficient?
  - 1) *In a decentralized system, the services are normally closer to the resource and the service users. This gives them a better view on the demand of water users and the issues which are actually at stake and it is easier to control permits and regulations.*
  - 2) *Providers are more accountable for their actions. The functions and tasks of staff members better overseen then at a national governmental body.*
- Why would working on a commercial basis be more efficient?
 

*It increases the possibility for governmental bodies to let institutions make different offers, and to choose for the best proposal. It increases the competition between companies, and they will see the benefit to deliver good work, as that may lead to a new contract for other projects.*

- What would you see as an option to ensure the efficiency of water supply and sanitation services?

*Students can reflect on this question by discussing whether they agree with the above mentioned institutional changes of the NWSA, and they can discuss the possible negative impacts of decentralization and working on a commercial basis (= less government control, less homogeneity in policy of different local districts, etc).*

*Students can discuss whether it would be more efficient to include also other water uses in the plans of the NWSA.*

### Reflection questions Marine Resources RSGA:

- Mention which functions the marine environment fulfills for different actors?

*p.29 GWP paper:*

*water for food (fishermen and RSGA population who eats fish),*

*water for nature (ecosystems such as reefs etc),*

*water for industry (commerce, oil industry)*

- Explain why it is of importance to form a regional organization in which all countries bordering the Gulf of Aden and the Red Sea are involved.

*p.43 and p.44 of GWP paper: An international organization can fulfill the role of catalyst or mediator, and can enforce the negotiation processes. It is important to form joint management plans which strengthen each other. Otherwise, countries could develop conflicting policies.*

- Why do you think that the PERSGA paid much attention to data collection and assessments?

*Without knowledge on the water resources it is impossible to make well-based decisions on the availability of stock, and the demands for the resource. One should know the natural limits of the resource.*

- What could, in your opinion, be a solution to create awareness of the need for and the benefits of effective fisheries management by stakeholders in the fisheries sector?

*Students can think about the options such as workshops, pilot projects, or comparisons between the different countries to show their national management strategies.*