

Key Conclusions "Harnessing Uncertainty"

Global environmental change is likely to entail increasing environmental variability and increased occurrence of extreme weather events. The increasing complexity of freshwater resources poses a fundamental challenge for conventional approaches such as IWRM.

A number of hard and soft solutions were discussed as strategies to undertake this challenge. Water policy makers should take the potential of *adaptive management* seriously. The capacity of local stakeholders to adapt from environmental change should be strengthened by promoting social learning, network building and collaborative risk assessments. Hard solutions should be designed to enhance the capacity of communities to self-organize after extreme events and surprises such as flooding and drought.

A number of actors need to act more on these issues such as the UN, NGOs, international aid agencies and national government bodies. The World Water Week provides a key arena where these diverse actors can elaborate novel solutions to increase the resilience of social-ecological freshwater systems.