



# Global values, regional circumstances, priorities and needs

- Pathfinding the  
UN Resource Management System,

Julian Hilton



Webinar on Sustainable and integrated natural resource  
management: Values, principles and requirements  
10 September 2020

# Principles and Practicable Methods

UNRMS as enabler of useful new learning



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“In physical science the first essential step in the direction of learning any subject *is* to find principles of numerical reckoning and practicable methods for *measuring* some quality connected with it. [...] many of the greatest advances that have been made since the beginning of the world to the present time have been made in the earnest desire to turn the knowledge of the properties of matter to some purpose useful to mankind”.

Lord Kelvin, Lecture to the Institution of Civil Engineers, London, on Electrical Units of Measurement, May 3, 1883

See UNRMS Concept Paper ECE/ENERGY/GE.3/2020/7

[https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/energy/se/pdfs/egrm/egrm11\\_apr2020/ECE\\_ENERGY\\_GE.3\\_2020\\_7.pdf](https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/energy/se/pdfs/egrm/egrm11_apr2020/ECE_ENERGY_GE.3_2020_7.pdf)

# Shared Values and Common Principles

## Agenda 2030: Time for a step change in resource management



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- The classification and management of global natural resources, according to shared values and agreed principles, is at the heart of harmonious and equitable use of the resource endowments of the planet, at national, regional or international levels.
- Balanced, integrated resource management is mission critical for the successful Delivery of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- This means:
  - i. a programmatic (not market-driven) approach based on
  - ii. a new point of environmental-economic equilibrium
  - iii. grounded in mapping and understanding complex resource nexuses.
- Of these the Food – Energy – Water (FEW) resource nexus is perhaps primordial.
- Resources which may be necessary or even critical to all countries are not evenly distributed across the planet: so close cooperation on the identification, recovery, trade and use of these resources is not only essential for peace and stability, but also in the self-interest of all countries and regions - socially, environmentally and economically.
- Countries and regions – and regions within countries – are moving at different speeds, with different needs and priorities. To avoid conflict over and avoidable waste of resources, cooperation and partnership (SDG 17) is vital for whole life-cycle resource management.

# A Modest Ambition

Resources as public good



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Can UNRMS be the “game-changer” for resource management that CRISPR has become for genetic engineering - “to turn the knowledge of the properties of resources to some purpose useful equally to”

## People: Planet: Prosperity?

See ECE/ENERGY/GE.3/2018/7 **Role of the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources in the delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals**

[https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/documents/2019/WAT/10Oct\\_22-24\\_IWRM/ECE\\_ENERGY\\_GE.3\\_2018\\_7\\_ENG.pdf](https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/documents/2019/WAT/10Oct_22-24_IWRM/ECE_ENERGY_GE.3_2018_7_ENG.pdf)



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# Thank you

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