



RECOMMENDATI

- Article 21. Basin water diversion
- Article 22. State management of the river basin

In version 5, there was no separate chapter on river basin management. Articles on the Contents of river basin management, List of river basins, River Basin Committee, River Basin Office, and State management of the river basins were removed although River Basin “Organisations” were mentioned in Article 22. State management of the river basin.

Comments:

The provisions for public participation are very weak.

4. KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

VRN has summarized the workshop recommendations into a paper and submitted it to DWRM. Some of the key recommendations are:

1. The new law should define the vital role of water for life and should represent major advance on the 1998 law.
2. The new law should define the IWRM approach to ensure equitable development and sustainable water use for future generations. In order to realize this approach, there is a need to define the role and responsibility and ensure the feasibility of river basin committees.
3. The new law one should allow and encourage the active participation of communities, especially affected ones, civil society organisation and other stakeholders in the decision making processes relating to water use, management, development, and protection. Greater public participation will help to ensure more effective water management, sustainable development and equity as well as transparency in water use and water exploitation. There is a critical need to have a separate chapter on this issue.

5. NEXT STEPS

The workshop and its result are absolutely not the end of the story. VRN will follow up with the drafting team and National Assembly. In line with the Following the National Assembly's agenda for law development, the water law will be reviewed and, if passed, approved by the National Assembly in May 2012. According to the National Assembly's procedures, this final draft has to be reviewed, verified and appraised by different National Assembly Committees before presentation in the plenary session. There is therefore an opportunity for VRN to convince the National Assembly to incorporate our