



SSWM

*sustainable sanitation
and water management*

SUSTAINABLE SANITATION AND WATER MANAGEMENT TOOLBOX

an integrative tool for capacity
development on the local level

«Linking up Sustainable Sanitation,
Water Management & Agriculture»

www.sswm.info



1. BACKGROUND

Water resources are under increasing pressure. Population growth and urbanisation, rapid industrialisation, expanding and intensifying agricultural production, and increasing demand of water for industry and energy production are all putting pressure on water resources. Climate change exacerbates the problem.

This development leads to water scarcity and conflicts worldwide and seriously undermines progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

Although water is scarce, it is often used in an unsustainable way: different stakeholders (water suppliers, industry, agriculture, households, sewage managers, etc.) frequently fulfil their needs without taking into account the impact on others. This lack of coordination causes overexploitation and wastage. Once used, proper treatment and reuse of wastewater is worldwide rather an exception than a norm. Essentially, this leads to the contamination of ecosystems, a lack of nutrients and soil degradation in agriculture, and negatively influences food security.

Single sector approaches such as wastewater treatment or river basin management are too limited. *To save and recycle water, regain resources and protect ecosystems, the whole water cycle needs to be considered in an integrated, holistic approach. We need to link up reuse-oriented sanitation with water resources management and agriculture.*

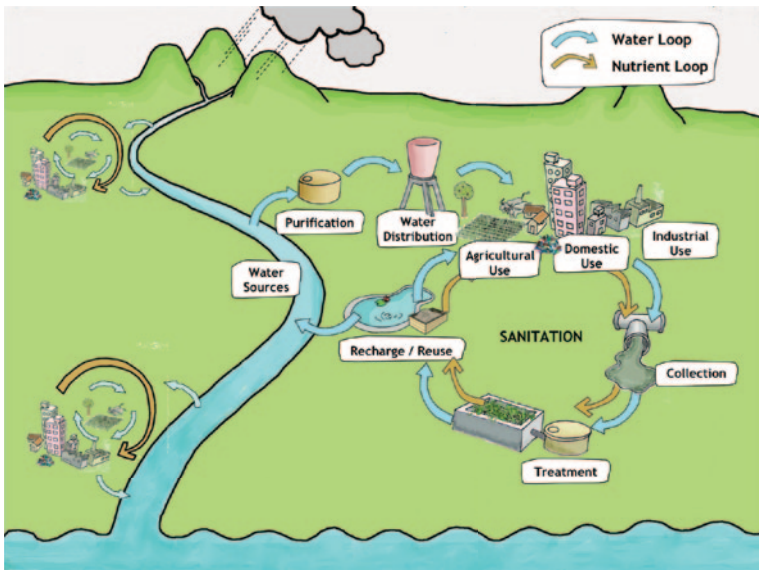
2. WHY A SSWM TOOLBOX?

The Sustainable Sanitation and Water Management Toolbox considers the entire water cycle from source to sea, and back. It focuses on the human influence on the water and nutrient cycle and presents solutions for a sustainable use, treatment and reuse of water resources at the local level, thereby linking water management, sanitation and agriculture. The toolbox helps in finding answers to the following core question:
With what kind of processes, measures or tools can I optimise my local sanitation and water management system and make it more sustainable?

Hundreds of well-established approaches and good practice examples exist. Yet, searching for a special case or tool to optimise water and wastewater use is long and arduous, and it is easy to lose oversight and get lost in details.

The SSWM Toolbox allows users to find all relevant information and plan their approaches, while keeping a holistic approach in mind. It combines process and planning tools, software and technological approaches, and links them with publications, articles and weblinks, case studies, training material and ready-to-use presentations for download.

3. WHAT IS THE SSWM TOOLBOX?





Today, the SSWM Toolbox is the most comprehensive collection of tools and approaches on water management and sustainable sanitation.

It follows a holistic and cross-sectoral approach:

Following a sustainability concept, the SSWM Toolbox enables you to find tools and approaches that allow for closing the water and nutrient cycle at the local level, thereby linking water management, sanitation and agriculture.

It addresses and integrates different stakeholders:

SSWM aims at bringing together all stakeholders that are concerned with a respective problem at the local level: decision makers, NGOs, households, water users, etc.

It contains understandable and manageable contents:

The toolbox breaks down a complex matter so it is easy to grasp – but remains comprehensive.

It is user and problem specific:

The SSWM Toolbox allows you to get a sound understanding of the local water and sanitation situation and to find specific approaches and tools for a respective problem.

It has a high standard and pedagogic approach:

The SSWM Toolbox follows a specifically developed pedagogic approach and guarantees a high standard — all references, further readings, training material, etc., are revised and summarised. It can be used both to get a broad overview and to dig deep into the subject.

It links planning, software and technology:

The SSWM Toolbox gives equal importance to software (behavioural change approaches) and technical tools and allows you to go through a complete planning process.

It provides ready-to-use and adjustable material:

The SSWM Toolbox contains ready-to-use course material for organisations that wish to carry out their own courses, and even a section on how to train trainers.



4. WHO IS THE SSWM TOOLBOX FOR?

The SSWM Toolbox is particularly useful for water practitioners at the local level. However, it can also be used as an excellent and comprehensive information pool for students and as a ready-made training tool for international organisations and all those working within the water sector, i.e.:

- NGOs from the sanitation, water and agriculture sectors
- Community based organisations
- Local decision makers
- Environmental agencies
- International organisations (for education and training)
- Students
- Businesses and industrial actors





5. WHAT DOES THE SSWM TOOLBOX OFFER YOU ?

The Toolbox structures ‘the best of’ the available material that supports users for a more holistic planning and implementation of water and sanitation interventions. It contains seven main sections:

Concept: What is sustainable sanitation and what is Integrated Water Resource Management? Learn more on these and other concepts and understand why it is crucial to consider sanitation and water management jointly.

Understand Your System: How does the water at your local level travel and what are the roles and interests of different stakeholders in water management and sanitation? This tutorial guides the user step-by-step through the assessment of the local situation. It helps to identify areas where an optimisation is required and where synergies occur.

Planning & Process Tools: What are necessary steps for a participatory planning process? What are appropriate strategies for different situations and stakeholders? This section gives an overview on existing water and sanitation frameworks as well as a collection of tools for each step of the project cycle, which can be mixed and matched in order to design an individual approach for a given local situation.

Implementation Tools: This part contains concrete measures to optimise water management and sanitation. It compiles both hardware (technical) tools and software (behavioural change) instruments for each step of the water and nutrient cycle: from water sources and use to wastewater treatment, reuse, and safe disposal. Softwares cover awareness raising, political, institutional and economical tools and a whole section on how to create an enabling environment.

Specific Topics: Would you like to know more about a certain topic or region? STEPs (Specific Topic Entry Pages) are tailor-made „mini Toolboxes“ for specific user groups or topics related to sustainable sanitation and water management.

Background: Further information on subjects linked to SSWM such as environmental issues, economics, legal and institutional framework issues, socio-cultural issues, health and hygiene, agricultural aspects, and development issues.

Train the Trainers: How can I plan, organise and carry out trainings using the SSWM Toolbox? This is a specific module for trainers supporting them to carry out trainings and capacity development courses based on the SSWM trainings.

Moreover, seecon and its partnering organisations also offer tailor-made training courses and workshops in the field of SSWM upon request to sswm@secon.ch.



In each of these content areas, you will find *factsheets* for each topic, including an executive summary, a description of the respective tool or approach, its applicability, and advantages and disadvantages. The factsheets give a comprehensive but concise overview on the topic, completed with advice for further readings and websites, case studies, and training and awareness raising material.

Furthermore, the SSWM Toolbox contains:

- A library of open source documents, including general reading material, training material, manuals or handbooks, case studies, awareness raising material and methods in various languages.
- An extensive glossary of technical and specific terms, instantly accessible.
- A comprehensive and annotated weblink list which links the user to tools and related organisations.

6. OPEN SOURCE COPYRIGHT

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READY FOR SSWM? GO TO..

www.sswm.info

NOTE: The SSWM toolbox is an ongoing project that went online in November 2010. It is continuously updated and revised. Please send your comments regarding contents, your ideas and suggestions to sswm@seecon.ch.

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