



Global water management needs local strategies

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Traditionally, water resource management has been in the hands of local or regional authorities, planners and users. In order to alleviate urgent worldwide water problems, scientists and politicians are increasingly calling for global approaches.

But Eawag Director Janet Hering and other experts, writing in an article in the professional journal "Science", advocate local strategies. Whilst it is certainly the case, write the researchers, that a global perspective enables the identification of international fields of action and the mobilisation of international financial resources, the challenges of sustainable water management are nevertheless specific to the particular locality and dependent on local conditions. For these reasons, effective solutions can only be worked out and implemented by the people on the ground, as they are acquainted with the local needs and constraints and therefore have greater credibility. A global perspective harbours the danger that power and resources will be transferred from local to international institutions, claim the authors.

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