

## Exercise

Divide the trainees in four groups.

Every group gets one of the four statements.

The groups have to discuss 'their' statement for 10 minutes and find strong arguments in support of the statement, convincing others.

A representative of the group then has to argue their case for 5 minutes – supported by others from his group.

Next a plenary discussion can start for 20 minutes.

Before hand tell each group that the group that can argue their case best will get a 'price'.

Below some qualifiers on each statement are mentioned.

The conclusion will be that in groundwater management all these things are necessary. One has to press all buttons at the same time!

Statements (give on to each group and do not show the other statements)

Statement 1:

The only way to manage groundwater is to make it very costly to use groundwater.

Statement 2:

The only way to control the overuse of groundwater is for the government to introduce a strict licensing system.

Statement 3:

Aquifer associations and community groundwater management are the only real solution in managing groundwater.

Statement 4:

The only way to manage groundwater is to have accurate and up to date information on groundwater resources as well as proper monitoring systems.

Statements and *qualifiers* (to be used by discussion leader to 'spice' the discussion)

Statement 1:

The only way to manage groundwater is to make it very costly to use groundwater.

*It will be difficult to have differential (higher) energy pricing for agricultural pumpsets  
Charging for the use of the natural resource is difficult to introduce  
If one tries to raise the price of groundwater so high that it starts to hurt, one will have a political turmoil long before that*

Statement 2:

The only way to control the overuse of groundwater is for the government to introduce a strict licensing system.

*When there are many thousands of users, licensing is an enormous process.  
In Spain after 20 years only 30 percent of all wells were officially registered.  
In many countries electricity bills are hardly paid (even though it is easy to disconnect) - what do we expect licensing wells or drillers will help?  
Licensing can merely create more corruption.  
Licensing can get in the way of 'adaptive management' as it undermines the scope for local users to agree on binding restrictions in groundwater use.*

Statement 3:

Aquifer associations and community groundwater management are the only real solution in managing groundwater.

*On large alluvial aquifers it is hard to see where community management fits in.  
The scale is just too big.  
If local management is not supported by law and pricing it may not sustain.  
There is a need to be a 'slack' in being able to make more of the same water resources to be able to come to joint agreements on water use - it is hard to see that communities deny water to one another.*

Statement 4:

The only way to manage groundwater is to have accurate and up-to-date information on groundwater resources as well as proper monitoring systems.

*The experience is that in many cases groundwater reports never reach the 'real' people, but remain archived in Groundwater Departments  
There are so many unknowns in groundwater balances (for instance actual run-off, actual pumpage) that any exercise is bound to leave major question marks.  
Even if we know everything on the resource, what is that going to tell us on how to regulate the use of the resource?*