

## Module 3 Promoting Local Regulation

### Endless Game<sup>1</sup>

The Endless Game helps to understand the importance of developing common rules and norms on using a common resource. All that is required for the game are some 60 pebbles.

This is how it is played. A facilitator puts fifteen stones in the middle and ask three people to play the game. Each player is requested to take a number of stones from the heap.

After each round the facilitator quietly doubles the number of stones that are left in the middle. Usually when the game is played for the first time, the players exhaust all the stones after two to four rounds.

The facilitator then requests three new people and plays the game again. This time around the players generally become more modest in taking the stones and the number of stones in the middle rapidly increases.

This is used to discuss the importance of developing norms and rules in using a common resource. This is particularly important in groundwater – were – until it is exhausted – users have not much knowledge on the availability of the resource.

(Note – to make sure the game works well the facilitator may secretly ask one of the players in the first game to act greedy)

---

<sup>1</sup> The Endless Game was kindly suggested by WASSAN ([www.wassan.org](http://www.wassan.org))