

# Water Law for the Twenty-First Century

## *National and International Aspects of Water Law Reform in India*

Edited by **Philippe Cullet**, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, UK, **Alix Gowlland-Gualtieri**, International Environmental Law Research Centre, Switzerland, **Roopa Madhav**, International Environmental Law Research Centre, Switzerland, and **Usha Ramanathan**, Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, India

This volume critically analyses legal issues arising under international law, concerning the consequences of proposed water regulatory changes and their implementation. The book looks at reforms in India in order to ask broader questions about the relevance of international law in national law and policy making.

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In the face of growing freshwater scarcity, most countries of the world are taking steps to conserve their water and foster its sustainable use. Water crises range from concerns of drinking water availability and/or quality, the degradation or contamination of freshwater, and the allocation of water to different users. To meet the challenge, many countries are undergoing systemic changes to the use of freshwater and the provision of water services, thereby leading to greater commercialization of the resource as well as a restructuring of the legal, regulatory, technical and institutional frameworks for water.

The contributions to this book critically analyse legal issues arising under international law, such as environment and human rights provisions, concerning the economic, environmental and social consequences of proposed water regulatory changes and their implementation at the national level. The book examines the situation in India which is currently in the midst of implementing several World Bank led water restructuring projects which will have significant impacts on the realisation of the right to water and all other aspects of water regulation for decades to come. In analysing the situation in India the volume is able to detail the interactions between international law and national law in the field of water, and to ask broader questions about the compliance with international law at the national level and the relevance of international law in national law and policy making.

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