

NETWORK 2005

CSD-13
SUPPLEMENT

CSD-13 IN FOCUS: WATER, SANITATION & HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

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EDITORIAL INTRODUCTION

Welcome! This is the first edition of Stakeholder Forum's CSD-13 Supplement, which will be produced monthly in the run-up to the 13th Meeting of the Commission on Sustainable Development in April 2005.

Our aim for this publication is twofold: firstly, to help inform and engage all stakeholder sectors in the CSD process; and secondly, to provide a forum for policy discussion between different stakeholder groups.

As such, this edition includes a report on the Water Round Table held in the UK in September; three Major Groups' 'Priorities for Action' papers; and a case study on Water and Biodiversity in Nigeria.

Future editions will include debates, stakeholder viewpoints, policy briefings on key topics, and case studies of partnerships in action. If you would like to contribute articles on any of these areas, please contact us at the address below.

CSD-13 is a major opportunity to push for progress on the key issues of Water, Sanitation & Human Settlements – issues that are equally important for stakeholders in both the Environmental and Development communities. In addition, CSD-13 also provides us with a chance to show that the multilateral system can play a positive role in coordinating action. With the 5-year review of the Millennium Development Goals coming up next September, there isn't a better time to get things moving! **The Editor**

UK ROUNDTABLE ON WATER AND SANITATION

On September 15, 2004, Stakeholder Forum hosted a roundtable discussion on water issues in London. It was attended by 50 individuals from a wide range of stakeholder groups. The recommendations of the meeting were sent as a formal national stakeholder contribution to the Secretary General's Report for CSD-13.

In order to make focused recommendations, four particular challenges were addressed: Integrated Water Resources Management; Water Supply & Demand; Water and Climate Change; and Coastal Zone Interfaces.

Both domestic and international challenges and solutions were discussed, and participants were invited to recommend policy options and specific actions regarding each of these challenges.

The following key issues were recommended for particular attention:

- Fully integrate water and sanitation into PRSPs including through the use of effective stakeholder engagement processes;

- Carry out a strategic assessment to inform the development of integrated water and energy policies;
- Employ full-cost accounting to ensure informed decisions are made on appropriate action plans and policy options;
- Empower and enable local communities to develop incremental local-level solutions to improve water supply and services through capacity building, technology transfer and adequate financing.

The full report of the meeting will shortly be available on the Stakeholder Forum website

To build on the success of this first roundtable meeting, Stakeholder Forum is organising further meetings at the start of 2005 to facilitate UK input into the CSD process. Meetings are planned for January 6th and February 15th, and further details are presented on page 12.

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Building from the base -

Priorities for action from Local Government Major Group

This article presents the position paper of the local government major group in advance of CSD 13. The paper summarizes the key challenges and policy needs for local government to help achieve progress in the sustainable provision of water, sanitation and human settlements. It highlights the vital importance of building up local government and community capacity in order to help achieve these and other commitments set out in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation as well as in the Millennium Development Goals.

Water, sanitation and human settlements are focal areas of local government action. In Johannesburg governments agreed to “enhance the role and capacity of local authorities as well as stakeholders in implementing Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the Summit and in strengthening the continuing support for Local Agenda 21 programmes and associated initiatives and partnerships”. The policy recommendations of CSD-13 should further support these commitments.

I. Challenges for Local Government

Water and Sanitation

- Poor or non-existent local water governance
- Lack of water and sanitation management tools
- Poor access to finance for water and sanitation infrastructure and for capacity building
- Poor understanding of the interlinkages of water and sanitation with gender issues, health, education, poverty and economy

Human Settlements

- Rapid urbanization due to rural – urban migration
- Unplanned ‘informal’ settlements
- Poor planning regulation and building standards
- Increasing homelessness, decline in investment in social housing
- Regulatory gaps in land reform, housing, planning and building policies

Local Government needs identified in the CSD-12 Chair’s report:

- Further decentralization of services and devolution of decision-making
- Further involvement of local communities, especially women, in planning and policy making
- Capacity building for local water governance to strengthen analysis and management of solutions

- Understanding of partnerships as an effective implementation tool but not as a substitute for government leadership and action
- Further mobilization of local finance and other resources (technical, human etc)

II. Strategies and Programs

Recommendations:

- Local to national links - to ensure a coherent approach, national poverty reduction and sustainable development plans should better reflect local priorities, e.g. through supporting local strategies and sub-national processes.
- Strengthening of the Local Government level - capacity building programs for local decision-makers and municipal staff are needed to support local strategic approaches, including through national Local Government associations and networks of municipalities.

III. Legal, Regulatory and Institutional Policies - a framework for decentralisation and subsidiarity

“Decentralised governance for development (DGD) is a key area of democratic governance which is crucial to attaining human development and the MDGs” (UNDP 2004). Principles of “Good Urban Governance” are sustainability, subsidiarity, equity, efficiency, transparency and accountability, civic engagement and citizenship, and security (UN-Habitat). These principles should be further supported by member states.



Recommendations:

- Decentralization of both regulatory powers (ability to enforce local guidelines, policies, and create revenue through taxation and fees) and resources (finance, technical, management and governance capacity)
- Involvement of the local level in national planning strategies and reporting
- Land reforms to provide secure tenure, especially for the poorest.

IV. Finance - enhanced local autonomy

Improving access to finance for targeted service provision requires increased financial autonomy of sub-national and local authorities. This is at the core of decentralization and subsidiarity. Financial autonomy can enable greater efficiency by reflecting local priorities better, and accountability through establishing closer relationships between service providers and recipients.

Fiscal decentralization should be a core component of poverty reduction programs. To improve mechanisms for mobilizing local fiscal resources and local spending, local financial administrators must be trained in revenue generation and accountability. Such activities require additional resources from governments and external donors.

Recommendations:

- Development of tools and mechanisms (e.g. pooling of Local Government regionally to access funds jointly) to increase finance of local infrastructure (water, sanitation, housing etc)
- Access to finance locally and local revenue creation (e.g. capacity to raise taxes and fees)



Mexico D.F. - Sustainable City?

- Sustainable consumption and production – national policies should be enacted and networks of municipalities encouraged to purchase goods and services (e.g. transport, shelter, water and sanitation delivery) that meet sustainability criteria.

V. Capacity building

Elected Local Government officials and municipal staff require capacity building in a number of areas to enable sustainable development locally. Support is needed through national Local Government associations, municipal networks and cooperation between cities, in addition to national and donor support.

Recommendations:

- Instituting good local water governance with human rights, sustainability and pro-poor orientation as the basis of any capacity building
- Introduction of local government decision-making and management skills – enabling local politicians and officials to be effective managers of water, sanitation and human settlements in the short to long term
- Targeted capacity building is needed for key local practitioners e.g. planners, environmental health officers, sanitation and waste service providers, financial administrators
- Building skills for participatory approaches (civic dialogues, negotiation, conflict management, consensus building) to support active community involvement in local planning, decision-making and service delivery
- Information for decision-making – strengthening local capacity for data collection and analysis to enhance monitoring, reporting and decision making, also providing better information for national governments.

VI. Recommended actions

Water and sanitation

- Good local water governance is key.
- Water financing – develop mechanisms to increase finance of local water and sanitation infrastructure. A thorough assessment of the recommendations made by the World Panel on Financing Water Infrastructure is urgently needed.



- Decentralization and Local Government engagement with other stakeholders has a direct impact on water governance. Building on lessons learned from Local Agenda 21 (LA21) participatory processes helps to address issues of gender and other inequalities.
- Capacity building of Local Government leaders is crucial to fully understand the implications of various options for service delivery, including privatization and partnerships.
- Affordable service provision – housing programs that help low-income households afford better provision of water and sanitation are essential.
- Tenure – inhabitants of informal settlements must be provided with tenure, allowing utilities to extend provision for piped water and sewer connections.

Human Settlements

- Informal and illegal settlements require basic services. Service delivery to these areas should therefore be a commitment by all stakeholders, including all levels of government.
- National housing standards need to be re-examined in regard to sustainability. National support is required to

ensure that standards are applied.

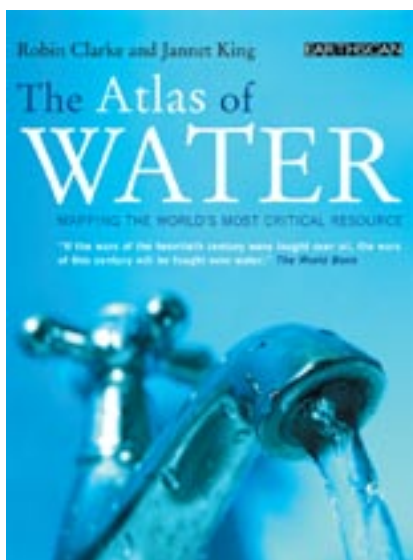
- Local involvement is needed in national, multilateral and bilateral schemes to make housing affordable for all.

General actions

- Urban - rural links – national strategies need to foster dialogue and cooperation between urban and rural jurisdictions, and encourage greater regional coherence.
- Inter-municipal cooperation – governments and international agencies should encourage networking, technical exchanges and study visits which support local learning and capacity building for sustainable development. National, regional and international urban sustainability programs require additional support. More targeted information sharing is needed, enabling cities to learn from each other.

- Local action needs to be encouraged by governments and international agencies

The full compilation paper for CSD-13 from all the Major Groups will be available shortly on the CSD website: <http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/csd.htm>



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Personal Comment:

Andy Wales, Group Head of Corporate Responsibility, Severn Trent Plc

The scale of the challenge facing the international community to fulfil the Millennium Development Goals requires that all sections of society work together, each contributing vital skills and experience. The business and industry Major Group has submitted a Priorities for Action paper for CSD13 which articulates a number of steps to enable a better environment for working together. Severn Trent has been involved in international water discussions for over a decade and over that time the debate has changed. The current awareness of a need for more innovative partnerships between the sectors to deliver water services is one of the most positive signs that the agenda is moving on. We hope that CSD13 will encourage all groups to support solutions that are both efficient and acceptable to the local community.

One of Severn Trent's particular areas of expertise is climate change, where we have a strong programme in place to understand and manage the greenhouse gases emitted throughout our group. As an environmental services business we will be one of the first industry sectors to feel the effects of a changing climate. Our work on climate change adaptation has led us to understand that for water infrastructure investments to be sustainable, the increasing volatility of our climate over the coming years must be considered at the planning stage. We hope that CSD 13 will consider the challenges for the management of water and sanitation services in this context.

For more information on Severn Trent's corporate responsibility programmes visit www.severntrent.com

Business and Industry Major Group

Introduction – business action for water and sustainability

Business shares the concerns about the scale of the challenge of meeting the goals and targets for water, sanitation and human settlements agreed to in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and the Millennium Declaration. Business recognises, however, that to achieve the necessary rate of progress requires engagement of all sectors of society. Business can only operate effectively in a strong and stable legal, regulatory and economic context. This document identifies priorities for action that will enable the business community to contribute more effectively through the following:

1. Responsibilities for action
2. Unlocking finance
3. Catchment management and planning
4. Infrastructure and technology
5. Effective partnership building

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PRIORITY ACTIONS

Contribution to the combined Major Groups submission to the inter-governmental preparatory meeting for CSD-13

Submitted by the International Chamber of Commerce
www.iccwbo.org

and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development
www.wbcsd.org

1. Responsibilities for action

1.1. Global targets for water; sanitation and human settlements must be broken down into country targets so that national governments and their partners can improve measurement, management and reporting of progress.

1.2. Governments and donor agencies should encourage an understanding of how water and sanitation contribute to economic development and improved health and education with an aim of raising the profile of water and sanitation priorities in national Poverty Reduction Strategy Programmes - PRSPs.

1.3. A focus on improving hygiene education and developing appropriate sanitation facilities should be encouraged, as these steps will bring significant health benefits on a local level.

1.4. Land tenure issues need to be tackled to enable provision of improved water and sanitation services to those who most need it.

1.5. Devolution of water responsibilities to local authorities requires capacity building focused on contract negotiation and sustainable economic management. Government agencies and regulators need better training to oversee operator performance, irrespective of whether the operator is public, private or from the informal sector.

1.6. Businesses providing water services should encourage effective economic, quality and environmental regulation and conform to its requirements.

1.7. Water users require capacity building to engage in stakeholder consultations and to improve community water management. Particular emphasis should be given to the involvement on women, who are often responsible for domestic water management.

2. Unlocking finance

2.1. With the following enabling conditions in place, business recognizes the role of private sector financing alongside public sources of investment.

2.2. Governments and donor agencies should emphasize that access to financial resources goes hand in hand with good governance, by creating environments favorable to private investment, reducing risk through combating corruption and by providing credit support through grants, loans and/or guarantees.

2.3. Appropriate models for tariffs and taxes should be developed, including local community inputs regarding how they value water across different options for use. Civil society organizations should promote community engagement in this process. All models should allow government to protect the public interest and ensure that investors and service providers are fairly compensated for the services they provide.

2.4. Government and donor agencies should support innovative partnerships between local governments, the local and international private sector and local and international NGOs, allowing ODA to be used to initiate these shared risk models.

2.5. Donor agencies should streamline the process of releasing ODA marked for water and sanitation.

3. Catchment management and planning

3.1. States should implement IWRM programmes and promote harmonised data capture and management systems. States may require capacity building to manage the linkages between IWRM legislation, planning, implementation and monitoring processes.

3.2. Businesses should contribute to IWRM by taking a responsible approach to their impact on water throughout the life cycle of their products and processes. They should share their understanding of these impacts and how they can best be managed with local decision-makers. Major water users should develop water management plans, with the input of appropriate stakeholders.

3.3. The potential implications of a changing climate should be taken into account by governments, business and civil society as they develop their action plans.

3.4. Governments, business and civil society should view water as a cyclical rather than a linear process, encouraging greater focus on the re-use of waste water

- 3.5. Irrigation practices that use water inefficiently may need to be changed to allow other uses for the water, such as municipal supplies or protecting ecosystems
- 3.6. The further development of full cost accounting should be encouraged, to understand the economic benefits derived from ecosystem services and to ensure that environmental costs and benefits of different water uses are fully accounted for.
- 3.7. Water treatment and sanitation facilities require significant energy inputs and should be planned in the context of utilizing or developing appropriate local energy sources, including the renewable electricity generation potential of the facilities themselves.
- 3.8. Water resources development and management should be planned for a hydrological unit such as a drainage basin as a whole or for a sub-basin. Transboundary cooperation should be actively encouraged.
- 3.9. States should ensure that catchment management plans prevent ecosystems being exploited beyond their natural capacities to recover.
- 3.10. Catchment management plans should consider the needs of all stakeholders (domestic, agricultural, industrial, urban and rural) and involve them in planning and decision making processes. Education and awareness raising should be encouraged to enable effective participation of stakeholders.
- 3.11. In both the developed and developing world, governments, business and civil society should work together to develop and implement education programmes to bring about a shift to more efficient water use in the domestic, agricultural and industrial sectors.

4. Infrastructure and technology

4.1. Governments, business and civil society should work in partnership to lever business resources to transfer knowledge and skills and to share technologies and co-operate to accelerate their dissemination. Partners should assist business to build local capacity to improve community water and sanitation facilities. Business will innovate to create adaptable, affordable and effective solutions, such as desalination and rainwater harvesting.

4.2. Wherever safe piped water supplies are unavailable, point-of-use water treatment and safe storage should be implemented immediately. Such solutions should not be seen as a substitute for appropriate infrastructure that can provide substantial economic benefits and reliability of supply.

4.3. Multinational businesses should help build the capacity of local industry, including small water service providers, so that they can undertake operational, maintenance and renewal works, improving sustainable economic management through avoiding dependence on imported skills.

5. Effective partnership building

5.1. Public versus private delivery of services is not the issue. The provision of water and sanitation services is generally recognised as a public service, whether operated by the public or private sectors. Governments, donors and civil society should ensure that they support solutions that are both efficient and acceptable to the local community.

5.2. New management models based on clearly defined partnerships should be encouraged. These may include different combinations of local and international NGOs, businesses, public sector operators and local water sellers; fountain or well operators.

5.3. Much of the success of a partnership lies in a common commitment to understanding the challenge faced, building trust and solving problems together. Training on how to ensure successful partnerships should be encouraged for all participants.

6. Conclusion

It is vital that governments and all major groups recognise the enormous and very diverse contribution that business will make to the development of new and sustainable models for meeting the world's needs for water, sanitation and human settlement. They should actively seek the widest possible engagement from the business sector. The business sector is committed to positive engagement with all stakeholders to meet the Millennium Development Goals.

The full compilation paper for CSD-13 from all the Major Groups will be available shortly on the CSD website: <http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/csd.htm>



NGOs 'Priorities for Action' at the UN-CSD 13

Freshwater Action Network, with inputs from other networks, coordinated and submitted the NGO Background Paper for CSD 13. This forms part of the official documentation for the UN meeting on how to progress implementation of international commitments in water, sanitation and human settlements.

FAN is a global network of environmental and developmental NGOs and Community Based Organisations working to strengthen civil society's participation in international water policy formulation.

For more information please visit our website www.freshwateraction.net or contact info@freshwateraction.net



NGO Priorities for Action on Water and Sanitation and Habitat

Background Paper for UN-Commission for Sustainable Development: Session 13 2005

Agendas and action programmes on water, sanitation and habitat, have been accepted in various international forums. In practice, however, NGOs have evidence that in many countries:

- The human rights to adequate, affordable water, housing and sanitation are not respected
- Participation is widely accepted but not adequately implemented
- Fragmentation of responsibilities for water and sanitation between government agencies is very problematic
- Community-based management is successful but not promoted
- Prioritisation for the poor rarely occurs
- Impacts on the environment are not considered - IWRM plans are missing
- Insufficient consideration of cultural diversity and gender
- Objectives don't link to local financing structures and capacities

Thus, NGOs identify the following actions to achieve the goals of CSD13:

Governments significantly increase their political and financial commitment to the sector taking a poverty and rights-based approach with defined criteria for implementation.

Considering that access to sufficient water for basic human needs and housing are established human rights, incorporate them into national law, backed by specific measurable plans for implementation.

An integrated sector-wide approach becomes the basis to coordinate across government ministries, bringing together agencies responsible for water, sanitation, environment, health, agriculture and education, including the cross cutting theme "sustainable consumption and production" and involving all stakeholders.

IWRM is used for management and planning; providing a model for the long term environmental security of water resources, requiring a long-term political and technical push and to be operationalised locally.



Many community groups and NGOs are successfully managing local resources and are willing and able to do more to support actions, communicate impacts, local demands and knowledge. This valuable resource requires promotion and support by governments and access to information and decision making. Stakeholder-led platforms that monitor and discuss policies on water, sanitation, hygiene promotion and habitat have proven successful in many different contexts.

Develop culturally and gender sensitive approaches to sanitation; a major cause of poverty through ill-health.

Unresolved transboundary and local conflicts over quantity and quality of waters prevent access by people who need it to live. Responsibility for resolution must be addressed urgently at all levels.

The goals of CSD13 can only be delivered by governance structures that allow local communities to participate and provide a basis for equitable allocation of water. Strategic frameworks and delivery plans should include steps aimed at:

Ensuring the participation of local communities, farmers, business and NGOs in a multi-stakeholder framework where:

- All relevant actors are involved in planning, implementation, monitoring of projects/policies as equal partners from the outset
- Different interests and responsibilities are acknowledged
- Particular attention is paid to the involvement of community groups, women and children

Strengthening institutional capacities aimed at:

- Changing the mindset
- Optimising the use of the knowledge of local communities and institutions.
- Education and social marketing campaigns on sanitation, hygiene and wise use of water

Setting up dialogues, networks and mechanisms for monitoring, evaluation and reporting, aimed at sharing experiences, determine the lessons learned and translating them into policy.

Monitoring and reporting on progress, distinguishing between impacts according to different gender, ethnicity and cultures.

Infrastructure development is required, with the environmental and social sustainability principles respected, including:

- Recognition and implementation of existing safeguard policies for large scale infrastructure, such as the recommendations of the World Commission on Dams, as due diligence, by governments and financiers.
- Use full cost-benefit analysis to assess various options before implementation
- Upscale the use of 'soft' engineering techniques for water resource management and work within natural systems.

Mobilising resources for long-term investment in the sectors requires actions at all levels, but heed the needs and desires of local stakeholders, don't make them pay for a service they can't afford or need.

Developed country governments to reverse declining levels of ODA to the sector and focus on countries most in need. Coordinate multilateral and bilateral programmes working on the same target group, and/or region.

Set up tariff structures for water use, but this must not prevent poor people's access to affordable services. Include methods for valuing their contributions "in kind" towards operation and maintenance. Water and related services must never be traded as a commodity.

Private sector participation is not the solution to the financial gap and must never be imposed as a condition of grants or loans. Water is a public good, therefore regulation of and control over water must always remain with the public sector.

Systemise the collection of accurate data for consolidation into national budgeting and planning, prioritising then needs of the poorest.

Build on the successful pilot cases of innovative mechanisms for paying for **ecosystems services**.



Increasing access to sanitation and hygiene promotion is problematic but there are many good examples to be adopted, such as:

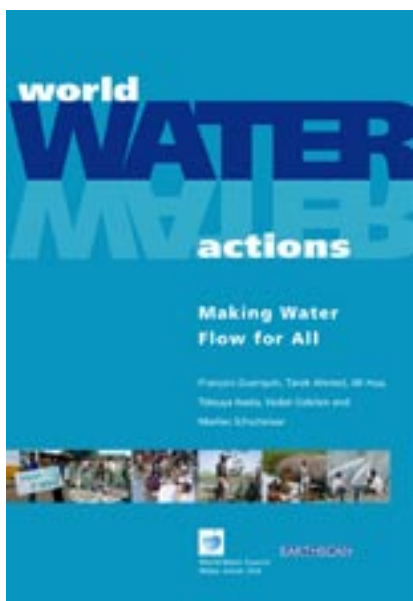
- city-wide sanitation strategies with adapted solutions for whole population
- social marketing and educational programs of hand-washing & hygiene
- scaling up of the grass-roots led total sanitation campaign begun in South Asia and by WASH
- supplying people with technology choices that accord to their needs and demands, including decentralised systems, eco-sanitation and dry toilets, and send information to help them choose.

Reform of out-dated laws in a participatory process is urgently needed, together with capacity building and training for all actors to comply with and monitor legislation, also:

- Legislate for IWRM and water efficiency strategies that conserve watersheds and guarantee equitable sharing of water between users, underpinned by an effective environmental regulatory framework.

- Provide land tenure for poor people in urban slums in particular improving the legal recognition of women's rights.
- Provide a legal framework for local municipalities and civil society groups to safeguard their rights, quality standards and affordability when third parties are involved in provision of water or housing.
- Undertake reforms to separate out the powers of water service providers and regulators which should always remain in public control.
- Recognise small-scale private sector water suppliers, within an environment where all service providers are regulated. New service providers can't be promoted without a resourced regulatory framework being in place.
- Regulate to prevent infill of water bodies from urban sprawl and depletion of the water table from mega-cities.
- UNEP and UN-HABITAT cooperate to provide capacity building and guidelines on urban management.

The full compilation paper for CSD-13 from all the Major Groups will be available shortly on the CSD website: <http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/csd.htm>



WORLD WATER ACTIONS - Making Water Flow for All

Marlies Schuttelar, Vedat Ozbilen, Tetsuya Ikeda, Mia Hua, François Guerquin and Tarek Ahmed

'World Water Actions provides a review of over 3,000 initiatives in every field of water management and affecting all stakeholders. It clearly demonstrates that the World Water Movement envisioned by the World Water Commission is well underway'

ISMAIL SERAGELDIN, Chairman, World Commission for Water in the 21st Century

World Water Actions looks at innovative water actions by communities large and small— individuals and organizations whose work is related to the management and use of water and who share an interest in ensuring safe, reliable, sustainable water resources for current and future generations. It shows that many actions have been initiated; many are ongoing; but many more are needed.

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STAKEHOLDER FORUM: UPCOMING EVENTS IN THE UK

Press Launch: UNEP Contributions to SIDS review meeting

Location: The International Maritime Organization (IMO), 4 Albert Embankment, London, SE1 7SR

Date: 6th January 2005

Time: 11am – 12pm

Scheduled to launch the report are:

- Klaus Toepfer, United Nations Under-Secretary General and Executive Director of UNEP, and
- Ambassador Koonjul of Mauritius – Chair of the Alliance of Small Island Developing States (AOSIS).

The United Nations Environment Programme will be launching their publications: Global Environment Outlook and Global International Waters Assessment in respect to Small Island Developing States. These reports will constitute UNEP's global input to the Summit of Small Island Developing States to be held in Mauritius from 10th – 15th January 2005, where governments will meet to carry out a 10-year review on delivering sustainable development in SIDS

The launch is being organized by Stakeholder Forum on behalf of, and as the UK national committee for, UNEP. The audience at the launch event will also include members of the press and Ambassadors from the small island states involved.

Due to security arrangements at IMO, confirmation of attendance should be received by end of business on 4th Jan.

Second meeting of the UK Water Roundtable

Location: The International Maritime Organization (IMO), 4 Albert Embankment, London, SE1 7SR

Date: 6th January 2005

Time: 1.30pm – 4.15pm (1pm Registration)

The first water roundtable meeting held on 15th September in London produced an excellent report, which was submitted to the UN Secretary General. The report was the first, and so far the only, national stakeholders' submission to the ongoing Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) process.

This second meeting of the roundtable will review the Secretary General's papers due to be presented to the UN CSD Intersessional meeting in February. The Advance, Unedited version of the Secretary General's Report is now available, and we believe the final report will come out before Christmas. We will also be able to discuss the 'Priorities for Action' papers submitted by different Major Groups, in this supplement.

Our aim will be to put together a UK response to the SG's report. The outcomes from our meeting on the 6th will lead to further discussion at our third round table on 15th of February 2005. Our final report will then be submitted to the UK Government, the European Commission, the UNEP Governing Council in Nairobi and the UN Commission on Sustainable Development.

During the initial time for coffee and participant registration, we will also be launching our new book, The Plain Language Guide to the World Summit on Sustainable Development, which has been produced jointly with the Commonwealth Secretariat.

Due to security arrangements at IMO, confirmation of attendance should be received by end of business on 4th Jan.

CSD-14 Around the Corner – 'Energy & Climate' Roundtable planned

With CSDs-14&15 in 2005-06 focusing attention on the issues of Energy for Sustainable Development; Industrial Development; Air Pollution / Atmosphere; and Climate Change, Stakeholder Forum will also soon be starting a roundtable on the theme of 'Energy and Climate' to provide early stakeholder input into the policy review process. The first meeting of this roundtable will be in February, and will be following on from the very successful evening debate event "Is Nuclear Power the Answer to Climate Change?" held on the 17th of November 2004.

For further information about any of these events, please contact SF Deputy Director Mehjabeen Price on

mprice@stakeholderforum.org



Water: supporting life, sustaining livelihoods

The BirdLife International experience in Africa



“...For the poorest members of the human family in particular, development means the chance to feed, school and care for themselves and their children. But development that takes little account of sustainability is ultimately self-defeating. Prosperity built on the despoliation of the natural environment is no prosperity at all, only a temporary reprieve from future disaster.”

Kofi Annan, TIME Magazine, Sunday, August 18, 2002.

KEY POLICY TARGETS - World leaders have agreed to:

- **By 2005, develop integrated water resources management and water efficiency plans** (World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) 2002).
- **By 2010, achieve a significant reduction in the current rate of biodiversity loss at the global, regional and national levels as a contribution to poverty alleviation and to the benefit of all life on Earth** (Convention on Biological Diversity, 2002); **and recognition that this “will require the provision of new and additional financial and technical resources”** (WSSD 2002).
- **By 2015, halve the proportion of people who are unable to reach, or to afford, safe drinking water** (Millennium Development Goal 7 ‘Ensuring environmental sustainability’, Millennium Summit, 2000).
- **By 2015, halve the proportion of people without access to basic sanitation** (WSSD, 2002).

Water is crucial to life and livelihoods and key to sustainable development.

Freshwater ecosystems occupy less than 1% of the earth’s surface, but sustain life and provide goods and services of enormous value. Inland wetlands¹ have been estimated to provide services worth US\$2 - 5 trillion! A key challenge is to meet people’s needs, while ensuring ecosystems are properly valued and able to continue to provide the goods and services on which we all depend.

The need for healthy ecosystems has never been greater:

- More than a billion people lack access to safe water and 2.4 billion lack access to basic sanitation. Poor communities consistently identify the

provision of reliable and safe water as a priority. Each year, 250 million cases of water-related diseases cause over two million deaths. Although provision and micro-management of water and sanitation are largely to blame, the declining condition of river basins and catchments play a crucial role.

- Water supplies are dependent on the protection and sustainable use of ecosystems that naturally capture, filter, store and release water – such as wetlands, forests and soils, including their biodiversity.
- Wetlands are vital for biodiversity and act as significant storehouses for genetic material. They are among the world’s most productive environments. Their goods and services (including fish, other foods

and fibre, flood control, water storage and purification, coastal protection, local climate stabilisation, transport routes and recreation) are essential for human well-being.

However, it has been estimated that half of the world’s wetlands have been destroyed or heavily altered in the past 100 years; with coastal and inland wetlands being lost at a particularly alarming rate². This decline is putting at risk both the goods and services derived from wetlands and the biodiversity they support. There are currently 2981 threatened species listed under the freshwater biome on the IUCN Red Data List³, and downward trends are increasing⁴.



Freshwater ecosystems are under unparalleled stress today. The threats are many, including over-exploitation, pollution, habitat conversion, infrastructure development (dams etc), and climate change. In developing countries, an estimated 90% of wastewater is discharged directly into rivers and streams without treatment, imperilling human health and biological diversity.

Climate change will put even more stress on freshwater ecosystems, as well as on the human systems that manage them. While the local impacts of climate change are hard to predict, greater extremes are likely in weather patterns. The average global temperature is set to rise between 1.4 and 5.8°C this century, depending on the technological and lifestyle choices that we all make. Low-lying and coastal areas will become increasingly vulnerable to flooding while droughts and desertification are already spreading.

Many countries face severe water constraints. Forty percent of the world's population live in water-scarce river basins. Livelihoods are under threat and conflicts over water are likely to increase.

BirdLife – making the connections

BirdLife International recognises that people in the poorest countries, particularly in rural areas, depend on natural resources for their livelihoods. Degradation of these resources deepens poverty and heightens people's vulnerability to environmental and economic shocks. At the other extreme, environmental protection that excludes people from natural resources can lead to greater poverty; environmental protection efforts are less likely to succeed if they do not incorporate local people's needs and concerns.

BirdLife International works locally, nationally and internationally to identify and tackle the causes of bird declines and to support sustainable development. BirdLife helps people to achieve secure, sustainable livelihoods that are positively linked to natural ecosystems. At our project sites, we:

- provide local jobs in wildlife conservation and eco-tourism
- promote measures to meet local needs and improve local livelihoods
- support robust decision-making processes at a community level.

In 2002, BirdLife launched a report, *Important Bird Areas and potential Ramsar sites in Africa*, highlighting the fact that 86 % of Africa's most important wetland bird sites lack international protection under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. BirdLife also showed that these sites are under widespread threat from agricultural intensification and expansion, industrialisation and urbanisation.

These threats are not only potentially damaging to wildlife, but affect local people too – and often the most marginalized in society. Those living in poverty know well that nature is actually the best provider. As well as supporting plants and animals, freshwater wetlands provide people with 'free' environmental and socio-economic services: mitigation of flood and droughts, cooking and cleaning materials, raw products to make goods through sustainable agriculture and forestry, fisheries, groundwater recharge etc.

The Hadejia-Nguru wetlands, Nigeria – river basin management for people and wildlife

The Hadejia-Nguru wetlands of northern Nigeria form the middle reaches of the Hadejia-Jama'are-Yobe river basin. They are home to a million people from the Fulani, Hausa and Kanuri tribes, who directly depend on the wetlands for water, agriculture and fishing. The area is rich in flora and fauna, and of international importance for its vast numbers of resident and migratory waterfowl. The economic and social value of the wetlands, and their ecological function, depend upon a natural cycle of seasonal floods. The wetlands also provide water to groundwater reservoirs that supply wells and boreholes over a much larger area.



Migrants from across Nigeria come to seasonal wetlands to catch and sell fish, Hadejia Nguru Wetlands

Photo: JLW



By the 1980s, the wetlands' integrity was under severe threat from upstream irrigation and dam building, as well as from droughts. Competing groups of water users within the river basin – farmers, fishermen, protected areas managers, local and regional government agencies – did not communicate with each other. As a result, tensions flared over water extraction and upstream management practices that impacted negatively on other users.

The Hadejia-Nguru wetlands conservation project (HNWCP) was established in 1985 by the Nigerian Conservation Foundation and the RSPB (BirdLife in Nigeria and the UK, respectively). Initially, the project aimed to protect the interests of important migratory bird species in the wetlands. However, the intimate connection between biodiversity, conservation and local people's livelihoods was soon recognised. The prosperity of both wildlife and people depended on restoring and maintaining the natural hydrological regime within the wider ecosystem. All of the uses and potential benefits of the wetlands needed to be negotiated within a robust governance framework.

The Hadejia-Nguru wetlands were a prime example of what can result from uncoordinated water use. In subsequent years, with additional support from the World Conservation Union (IUCN) and the Federal Government of Nigeria, the project became an international test case for putting integrated water resource management into practice.

The project has promoted:

- **Diverse stakeholder participation**

The project created a forum for water-users to represent their interests and negotiate wise management of the water to benefit their communities and the environment. It gained the support and full participation of local communities when it became as much people- as wildlife-centred. The regular, structured forum increased co-operation between stakeholders in the basin.

- **Improved environmental information.** Project staff strengthened the basis for water related decision-making by collecting ecological data, socio-economic information and monitoring wildlife.

The project shared information about the wetland ecosystem with and among stakeholders, including local communities.

- **An ecosystem-based approach to water management** People were viewed as part of the ecological system – the project addressed social, environmental and economic issues in an integrated way. For instance, an assessment of the economic value of different functions provided by intact wetlands was used to shape plans for sustainable use. Project staff figured people and wildlife's needs into calculations for water flows.

Results

The project has resulted in some notable accomplishments:

- A mechanism for co-ordinating stakeholder interests within the river basin was established by the Komadugu-Yobe basin co-ordinating council, with funding from the Nigerian Government.
- Development of a major dam in the basin was suspended; water management in the basin has become more effective overall.
- Test releases of water from upstream reservoirs were undertaken to address the needs of downstream communities and nature conservation.
- Options for more equitable water use within the basin have been developed.
- Nigeria joined the Ramsar Wetlands Convention and the Hadejia-Nguru wetlands were designated Nigeria's first Ramsar site. Several other areas have been protected in the wetlands, thanks to the project's efforts.



BirdLife supports local people in trial of sustainable fishing methods, Hadejia Nguru Wetlands.

Photo: JILW

The challenge ahead

More work is needed to ensure that threats from large-scale irrigation projects do not again jeopardise local livelihoods and the ecosystems on which they depend. It now rests on all the agencies, groups, and donors involved to secure this approach through institutional development, appropriate regulation and continued political and financial support.

For further information on the Hadejia-Nguru wetlands conservation project, contact: Muhtari Aminu-Kano, BirdLife International (muhtari.aminu-kano@birdlife.org) or the Executive Director, Nigerian Conservation Foundation (ncf@hyperia.com)

The way forward -

Policy Recommendations: Lessons from the BirdLife experience

Establishing sound, transparent and participatory governance processes helps deal with the pressing issues of today, including water-related conflicts, while preparing for tomorrow's challenges. This will require:

- **Improved governance at the catchment level**

- Creating the right institutional and regulatory frameworks for integrated catchment management and to meet the globally agreed 2005 IWRM and water efficiency plan target.
- Reducing pollution at the source and enforcing the 'polluter pays' principle.
- Reducing diffuse pollution as much as possible, partly by ending the application of surplus nutrients in agriculture.

- Introducing full cost-accounting when considering infrastructure development and broad-scale land use planning. This should recognise the total economic value of environmental features such as natural flood cycles.
- Participatory decision-making, by identifying and engaging all stakeholders as early as possible and establishing a clear mechanism for stakeholder involvement.
- Educating relevant stakeholders about reducing the demand for water and managing land in an environmentally-sustainable way.
- Using facilitation and arbitration processes to resolve conflicts over trans-boundary and shared water resources.
- Encouraging cooperation between the Ramsar Convention and others, such as the Global Water Partnership, working towards IWRM and water efficiency plans.

- **Overall improvements in environmental governance**

- Better integration of the role and relevance of biodiversity and

ecosystem functions in poverty eradication programmes.

- Using comprehensive environmental impact assessments and strategic environmental assessments for development projects and sector policies (especially water sector policy) to ensure that biodiversity and environmental assets are sufficiently valued and protected.
- Bolstering forest protection in non-forest development policy and practice (including agriculture and education policy).
- Recognising the value of local knowledge and skills for maintaining environmental solutions in the long-term.
- Twinning outside, scientific expertise with local knowledge from the outset of projects and programmes.
- Cooperating internationally and following global standards through full implementation of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.



Community consultation process, Hadejia Hguru Wetlands

Photo: JLW

Summary

Integrated management practices for wetlands and river basins that address the big picture (including ecological and biological as well as social, instructional, economic and cultural aspects) are essential in ensuring water resources into the future.⁵

Truly sustainable development requires long-term strategies and support for locally-led initiatives. The best, most cost-effective results come from small-scale, resource-intensive activities that build capacity at a local level. The challenge is duplicating these effectively.

Scaling up can be achieved through government-led decentralisation processes and multi-agency programmes. Such initiatives must empower local decision-makers, who are accountable to both local needs and environmental standards at catchment and regional levels.

BirdLife International is a worldwide network of over 100 non-government conservation organisations, including over 50 in Africa, who work together to conserve wild birds, their habitats and global biodiversity by working with people towards sustainability in their use of natural resources.

www.birdlife.org

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CSD-13: BirdLife's key concerns

1. The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, due to be published early next year, suggests that by following a single sectoral focus in achieving the MDGs, there is a risk that the long-term viability of ecosystems to deliver their services so as to maintain these improvements in human well-being could be lost (see e.g. draft MA wetlands synthesis report, at www.millenniumassessment.org/en/products_chapters.aspx). We need to learn from current good practice and knowledge to ensure sustainable development. The Ramsar Convention parties have defined 'wise use' of water resources and river basins and have adopted guidance and tools to help deliver this (e.g. Integrated River Basin Management and Water Management Guidance).
2. Protecting and managing the natural resource base is a fundamental cross-cutting issue. This was acknowledged at CSD-12 and needs to be carried forward into CSD-13.
3. Protecting ecosystem functionality is fundamental to water security and human livelihoods. Recognising the centrality of an ecosystem-based

approach to the management of water sanitation and human settlements, and the importance of ultimately striving to restore and conserve river basins/catchments to as near natural states as possible, is crucial to this.

4. Integrated management practices for wetlands and river basins that address the big picture (including ecological and biological as well as social, instructional, economic and cultural aspects) are essential in ensuring water resources into the future. Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) and water efficiency plans, which should be in place by 2005, can crucially support this and should be established and implemented as part of addressing development needs. This target needs to be reaffirmed.

5. Meeting other inter-related and significant commitments, such as the 2010 biodiversity target (EU, CBD, WSSD) and MDG7, are inextricably linked to this debate here and vital to long term sustainable development. Whilst many 'natural resources', such as water, are the 'basis for... development', they are also part of the complex web that supports life on Earth in its entirety.

RSPB is the UK Partner of BirdLife International and contributes to the Partnership's global advocacy work on water and wetlands. This is an extract from a leaflet produced by the RSPB ahead of CSD-13.

www.rspb.org.uk

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Footnotes

- 1 These include aquatic habitats such as lakes, rivers, swamps, marshes etc.
- 2 Freshwater wetlands and mangroves have the most rapid loss rates at around -2.5% per year.
- 3 IUCN Red Data List of Threatened Species, 2004 at www.redlist.org
- 4 Living Planet Report, WWF, 2004.
- 5 In the context of Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM), the Ramsar Convention has adopted its Integrated River Basin Management and Water Management Guidance.



December 2004

January 2005

- 12-14/12: Arab regional workshop on national sustainable development strategies and indicators for sustainable development, UN DESA (Cairo).
- 13/12: High-level briefing on integrated water resource management in the ECSWA region, UNECSWA (Beirut).
- 13/12: EU multi-stakeholder meeting on CSD-13, (Brussels).
- 13-14/12: Seminar on the role of ecosystem as water suppliers, UNECE (Geneva).
- 14-15/12: Working group on integrated water resource management, UNECE (Geneva).
- 15-16/12: Bonn water steering group meeting.
- 15/12: Commission hosted NGO meeting on preparation for CSD13 (Geneva).
- 16/12: Meeting with members of CSD-13 Bureau, (Frankfurt).
- 20-21/12: 3rd Meeting of CSD Bureau (New York).
- 20-22/12: Sixth session of the committee on water resources, UNECSWA (Beirut).

- 05/01: Water and Ecosystems conference (Netherlands).
- 06/01: UNEP Press Launch of SIDS Reports followed by Stakeholder Forum UK Water Round Table, (London).
- 10-14/01: International Meeting to Review the Barbados Program of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (Barbados +10) (Port Louis, Mauritius).
- 18-22/01: World Conference on Disaster Reduction, UN ISDR (Kobe, Japan).
- 28/01: 4th Meeting of CSD Bureau.
- 31/01-04/02: Africa Ministerial Conference on urbanization and habitat development (tbc), UN HABITAT & African Union (South Africa).

Are you involved with an event related to the focus of CSD-13?

Send us details and we will include it here in future editions.

NETWORK 2005 CSD-13 SUPPLEMENT: **STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK AND SUPPORT**



If you would you like to make any comments or suggestions, or would like to contribute an article or case study for future editions of this supplement, please contact the editor on

clittlecott@stakeholderforum.org .

The editor will also be pleased to hear your thoughts and insights into the ongoing CSD-13 policy discussions and arrangements.

Stakeholder Forum is currently seeking sponsorship to help support the continued production of this multi-stakeholder e-magazine. For further details on sponsorship opportunities, please contact the editor on the above address.

Coming up in future editions:

- CSD-13 Developments: Papers, Plans and Processes
- News and Analysis
- Partnerships in action: Case Studies from around the world
- Briefings on key policy matters: IWRM, Financing, Ecosystem Valuation
- Discussion and Debate: What role for Regulation?

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