

NETWORK 2005

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON RENEWABLE ENERGY

JUNE 2004

New Consensus on a Renewable Future

The International Conference on Renewable Energy came at a crucial time for governments to consider the how to meet the world's energy needs more sustainably following the World Summit on Sustainable Developments. Stakeholders too rose to the occasion, participating in arguably the most advanced and integrated dialogue seen at international fora (see page 4).

At the conclusion of the International Conference for Renewable Energies in Bonn, Federal Environment Minister Jürgen Trittin and Federal Development Minister Heidemarie Wieczorek-Zeul see positive results. "The conference was a complete success," they declared on Friday. "Together the delegates have paved the way for a global transformation in energy structures and for a massive increase in the use of renewable energies. This will alleviate global poverty and protect the climate."

"We have laid down new international goals for the increased use of renewables," said Federal Environment Minister Jürgen Trittin. "The action plan will mobilise billions in investments in generating energy from wind, solar, biomass and geothermal sources. This will also benefit the climate. Implementing these measures will lead to the continued and significant decrease in global emissions of carbon dioxide: by 2015 estimated savings of 1.2 billion tonnes CO₂ per year are anticipated. Renewables 2004 is a milestone along the road towards an energy system which places equal emphasis on both climate protection and real development opportunities for the world's poor."

"We have achieved our goal," said Federal Development Minister Heidemarie Wieczorek-Zeul. "We have achieved a common vision - a declaration of intent to supply one billion people with energy from renewable sources by 2015. We agreed on this in the Political Declaration. This will advance poverty alleviation considerably. And we have given this Political Declaration a concrete basis through proposals that have been incorporated in the International Action Programme." The Minister said she was very pleased with the success of the Action Programme. "These contributions show an impressive willingness on the part of all government delegations, companies and civil society to help renewable energies achieve a lasting breakthrough."

Germany made a special contribution to the International Action Programme. Federal Chancellor Gerhard Schröder announced before the



Agreement all round

delegates that from 2005, the German Government would provide € 500 million per year for five years, which would be used to set up a new financing facility in the Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau. This increases Germany's previous pledge, made in Johannesburg in 2002, to make available €1 billion for measures promoting energy efficiency measures and the increased use of renewables.

Altogether around 165 voluntary actions and commitments were submitted for inclusion in the Action Programme. Particularly ambitious goals were presented by China and the Philippines for example, as well as from the World Bank and the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

By 2010, China plans to increase the share of renewable

(Continued on page 2)



energies in its total installed energy capacity to 10 per cent. This is equivalent to 60 GW total installed capacity and is expected to be made up of 50 GW from small hydropower installations, 4 GW from wind energy, 6 GW from biomass utilisation and 450 MW from solar power. In order to achieve this goal, China has developed its own national strategy for renewable energies. The government will raise around € 50 billion for this in cooperation with other stakeholders.

By 2013, the Philippines has set itself the goal of raising the share of renewable energies in the national total energy capacity by 100%, to 4,700 MW, primarily through geothermal power and wind energy. This will make the Philippines the world's main producer of geothermal energy and South-East Asian leader in wind energy generation. Hydropower will also be used, with the Philippines planning to double the volume of energy generated from this source. The Philippines will furthermore become the central producer and trading centre for solar cells in the ASEAN region. To implement this pioneering strategy, in addition to state funding measures the government is relying strongly on private sector participation.

Questions of financing were among the central topics of the Conference. The Global Environment Facility (GEF) agreed to use US\$ 100 million per year to support ambitious renewable energy projects in developing countries. The aim is to trigger total investments of around US\$ 500 million per year.

The World Bank Group announced it will increase funding in the renewable energies and energy efficiency sectors by 20% p. a. over the next five years. Support for renewable energies and energy efficiency will amount to a total of US\$ 400 million in 2010, equivalent to twice the previous amount.

"The positive results of the Conference are most encouraging: Renewable energies are accepted worldwide; both here and in developing countries they are gaining more and more supporters," said Wieczorek-Zeul. "By reducing greenhouse gas emissions through the use of renewables, we will make a significant contribution towards sustainably alleviating global poverty and protecting the climate."

"We have overcome the blockade of Johannesburg," said Federal Environment Minister Jürgen Trittin. "The message of Bonn is actions not words! Here in Bonn, the international community got down to business. The Bonn results have set the world in the right direction. The age of renewables has now begun."

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Building Partnerships for Sustainable Development

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There's nothing quite so satisfying as a good success story. I'm not one of those who subscribes to the cynical 1990's media adage that 'if it bleeds it leads'. There is just as much mileage, if not hopefully more, in hearing about things that work. So, if you would be so kind, I beg that your indulgence.

The International Conference on Renewable Energy was well thought out, well planned and well executed. The Johannesburg summit put implementation squarely at the centre of its agenda. . . A key lesson from the last decade of summits has been the importance of creating a closer relationship between ideology and expectation. Targets need to be achievable, not inspirational, policy needs to be realistic, rather than rhetorical. There is a very real anxiety that we just don't know how to deliver coordinated, multi-lateral action quickly enough.

So why did the Bonn conference feel different? Perhaps the tone set by stakeholders during the opening day's dialogue was reflective of the meeting as whole. Participants were encouraged not only by the significant convergence of their views, but also on the clear message that the dialogue sent to governments: 'We are willing to move ahead with renewables more quickly than you thought was politically safe.'

Part of this convergence was due to an widespread appreciation of renewable energy as a win-win solution offering gains under all three pillars of the sustainable development concept: economic; social; and environmental.

Previous intergovernmental discussions on energy and sustainable development ground to a halt with the process weighed down too many views on too many issues. Unburdened from the constraints and political sensitivities of oil, gas and nuclear, delegates were able to park their differences and focus on the what was mutually agreeable and achievable.

Of course, and as ever, the real test will be in the follow-up. The German government has done a fine job so far, and should be encouraged to continue to provide political leadership. But others must come to the fore also. The international agenda, as we have illustrated in previous issues, certainly provides the necessary process with the review of the MDG's next year followed by a CSD focusing on Energy from 2006-2007.

None of this should detract from the central message of a job well-done.

Meantime, the global community is starting, ever so slowly, to come back together. The recent UN resolution of a handover of power to the Iraqi people is an important step not only towards their right to govern themselves, but also of governments willingness to work in a multi-lateral setting.

Next year will put governments further to the test in terms of their ability to maintain and build on this momentum with the review of the Millennium Development Goals, reform of the UN, report of the Secretary General's panel on peace & security and conclusion of the WTO Doha Development Round.

What is critical in the meantime, is that for all these agendas to converge and integrate, the groundwork needs to be put in place over the next 6 months. With governments going into recess the un-glamorous, non-international conference work begins. Let us congratulate ourselves a little too much.

T. Middleton, Editor

SUSTAINABLE NEWS

Development Issues Knock on G8 Door

This year's G8 summit at Sea Island, USA has included the human face of the development issues on its agenda. Leaders of 6 African nations have joined their developed country counterparts to work through a number of issues specific to their continent.

Following on from the successful adoption of the resolution on handover of power in Iraq at the UN last week, the G8 leaders started the summit with discussions on broader security considerations in the middle east, oil prices, the global economy and the state of international trade.

Thursday, the summit's final day saw leaders from both developed and developing nations turn their attention to debt relief, which is expected to be extended to the poorest of Africa's nations, HIV/AIDS and the growing humanitarian crises in Sudan.

At a time when growth rates and life expectancy are falling and poverty is growing amid the Aids epidemic and continuing war, corruption and bad governance, the need to concerted and coordinated efforts by the global community could not be more urgent.

To try to stabilise the region, the assembled G8 leaders are expected to commit to train and equip a 50,000 strong peacekeeping force over the next 5 years.

The participation of African leaders at the G8 Summit is designed to support the ability of the continent to take charge of its own challenges. South Africa's President, Theo Mbeki, underlined the importance of African ownership of African issues, stating "We must be able to set our own priorities, based on our own realities, experience and needs, rather than those of foreign donors and the organisations through which they channel funds," he said.

The fifth Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe" in full

The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) has released a compact disk with the full proceedings of the fifth "Environment for Europe" Conference.* The CD-ROM is trilingual – English, French and Russian – and contains the official documents and the report of the Conference, the Ministerial Declaration and the speeches made by delegates.

The "Environment for Europe" process is an important platform for dialogue and cooperation among Governments, international organizations, NGOs and the private sector. It has had a direct impact on environmental policy throughout the region covered by UNECE, whether in improving environmental rights, strengthening public participation, promoting education for sustainable development or banning leaded petrol. During these conferences the Environment Ministers have made great strides in extending the environmental legal framework, ensuring compliance with and enforcement of international environmental law, and keeping the environment high on the international agenda.

The Kiev Conference, which took place in May 2003, was the fifth in a process that began in 1991. It was the first high-level regional meeting to assess

the follow-up to the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development. The Conference was the largest environmental gathering Ukraine had ever hosted. It drew some 1100 delegates, including 40 Environment Ministers and many NGOs.

The sixth "Environment for Europe" Conference will take place in Belgrade in 2007.

UN Desert Convention's 10th Birthday

On the eve of the tenth anniversary of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the United Nations and its agencies remind the global community that the breadth of drought and soil degradation cannot be ignored.

The World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought is commemorated each year on 17 June. It is part of a UN led international campaign to increase awareness of land degradation. This year's celebration carries special significance as 2004 marks the tenth anniversary of the Convention's implementation. Its theme also highlights the Social Dimensions of Desertification: Migration and Poverty.

Celebrations are set to take place worldwide. In Bonn, Germany, the home of the UNCCD Secretariat, a ceremony marking the anniversary will be held with local authorities and civil society at the City Hall on June 17.

Desertification is a land degradation process that happens in all regions of the world. Its causes are brought about by human-induced factors and climate change. Desertification occurs slowly, as different areas of degraded land spread and merge together, rather than through advancing desert. It is comparable to a slowly but clearly progressing "skin disease" over the planet.

Arable land per person is shrinking throughout the world, threatening food security, particularly in poor rural areas, and triggering humanitarian and economic crises.

Since 1990, it is estimated that some six million hectares of productive land have been lost every year due to land degradation. This in turn has caused income losses worldwide of US\$ 42 billion per year.

Desertification and drought force people to leave their home in search of a better life. It is estimated that 135 million people - the combined populations of France and Germany - are at risk of being displaced by desertification. By contrast, in the past 20 years, nearly half of the total male population in Mali has migrated at least once to neighbouring African countries (96 percent) or to Europe (2.7 percent). In Burkina Faso, desertification can be identified as the cause for 60 percent of the swelling of main urban centres.

Without access to sustainable land use practices, institutional services, credit and technology, most poor farmers are obliged to cultivate degraded land that is unable to meet their needs. This constant pressure on the land causes a decline in food production that further aggravates poverty.

www.unccd.int

Stakeholders lead the way

The opening day of the renewables2004 conference was dominated by the Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue. Representatives from 10 stakeholder groups took centre stage to explore a common approach to renewable energy production. Below is the Facilitators summary of that dialogue.

Dear Ministers and Delegates,

The Plenary Sessions of Multi Stakeholder Dialogue produced a richness and diversity of views that is difficult to summarise adequately. A number of stakeholder groups were represented for the first time in this kind of international conference in order to secure the necessary range of views and experience. There is a sense of urgency in addressing the accelerating impacts of climate change and in preparation for the Millennium Development Summit in 2005 and the UN Commission on Sustainable Development sessions on energy in 2006 and 2007. There was strong consensus among stakeholders over many issues and well articulated concerns were highlighted on a number of others. Contributions served to underscore the message that renewables can deliver multiple benefits while moving the world in the right direction on the issues of climate change and sustainable and equitable access to energy services.

The poorest people of the world remain those most at risk under current energy systems and we heard about the appalling loss of life resulting from unequal energy access and how this impacts most heavily on women. Local technology solutions can also help to deliver the economic benefits essential for enabling people to move out of poverty. We were reminded of the hard facts of finite fossil fuels, climate change, the dangers of price instability and lack of energy security and, in addressing these complex issues, the requirement for an integrated approach that also includes energy efficiency as well as clean, and renewable technologies.

Energy prices should reflect the true social and environmental costs of energy generation and use. The level playing field should extend to international financial institutions reviewing support for non renewable projects that fail to deliver on poverty reduction, but the poor and women must be seen as active participants and not as passive recipients. Projects must be designed to meet need at the appropriate level; in many cases large-scale grid connected systems are unlikely to meet the needs of the poorest communities, small-scale consumer friendly initiatives are more likely to be successful. In addition the local manufacture of low cost RE solutions can deliver significant local economic benefits.

The dialogue brought together views from the north and south, helping to illustrate that RE means many things to many people, for some countries it is the energy of the poor or even a tool for

basic survival. RE already represents significant employment opportunities and access to energy services for domestic use, enterprise development, illumination, education, health and overall livelihoods enhancement. Declining technology costs together with increased levels of support can help to spread the benefits of renewables much more widely.

There was strong consensus on the need for targets to achieve the necessary progress in delivering on renewable energy. Lessons from past experience coloured the discussion with a move away from global targets but increased emphasis on the need for appropriate commitments on a range of measures for



various institutions at local, sub-national, national, regional and international levels. The move towards a significant percentage of renewables will need to come quickly but during a just transition there must also be a balanced approach incorporating the necessary energy mix. The opportunity to learn from best practice needs to be taken and the establishment of African centres of excellence delivered through public-private partnerships was put forward as one way of achieving progress.

There was broad consensus on the need for a coherent regulatory framework and the role of local and sub-national government was acknowledged as instrumental in the promotion and delivery of RE via approaches that utilise incentives, subsidiarity and local action. Governments need to use this conference to review existing frameworks and legal instruments in order to determine which had been successful and might be adapted to other situations. A call was made for gender mainstreaming and gender impact assessment within policies, programmes and projects to be implemented. A comprehensive framework for enhancing the use of RE technologies needs to include support for R&D. Much of this support could be redirected from the high current levels of R&D funding for nuclear and fossil fuel technologies. Appropriate government policies can also help to spur commensurate R&D investment by the private sector. Support for basic and applied R&D should be integrated directly into renewable energy policy frameworks, sharing funding and institutional structures as part of the energy planning of each country.

The challenge of a just transition to sustainable energy was presented as a 'virtuous circle' with cost savings from energy efficiency used to invest in RE and efficient technologies to secure jobs, livelihoods and peace. The new policy frameworks needed to deliver the age of renewables must be based around the principles of empowerment and participation in order to address real need at all levels.

It was perhaps not unexpected that the issue of finance provided so much fertile ground for discussion. The role of local government as the provider of basic services for people was highlighted, but innovative financing needs to come from all levels of government. In order to create the level playing field required to deliver on renewables the significant funding of fossil fuels must end – the balance must be redressed by

increasing finance directed to RE as recommended by the World Bank Extractive Industries Review. The inadequate expenditure by development banks and Export Credit Agencies must change to ensure local development and capacity building including within banking and finance sectors. It is critical not to separate the issues of technology and finance. The design and promotion of RE may work best at a local and subnational level, in addition the role of domestic banks and financing should not be overlooked.

The policy framework needed to support more capital investment in renewables must be '*loud, long and legal*'. One of the core challenges here is to address the issue of subsidies that artificially reduce the costs of fossil fuels and can make RE options uncompetitive. The public sector has a role to play here in sharing risk at all levels as a means of encouraging investment.

There was strong feeling that changes in financing should address the requirement for low cost small-scale projects that will help to meet the needs of the poor for example improved biomass technologies. New structures and programmes must also achieve a gender balance by securing equal participation of women in RE financing and policy making. Financial and policy instruments have to meet the poor and women's strategic interest and the costs of just transition for displaced workers. There were valued comments on the potential for public-private partnerships as drivers to accelerate RE, with public finance used as a lever to mobilise private money also within International Financial Institutions.

There were interesting exchanges on the issue of large hydro projects. While utilising a renewable energy source, these initiatives often receive very high levels of subsidy and yet fail to deliver the range of benefits that small-scale initiatives can provide. There were calls for the application of the guidelines of the World Commission on Dams. There was strong recognition that there needs to be an increased share of renewables in the energy mix if we are to make progress on achieving the Millennium Development Goals particularly bringing down the numbers of people living in poverty. We cannot rely solely on market forces to determine the application of RE in this regard, these are maturing technologies in the sense that where they may not currently deliver economies of scale, effective subsidies can help to bring down costs in this maturation phase enabling greater deployment of these technologies to address the issue of poverty and lack of access to energy.

For the first time in this kind of major international conference consumers as a group were given the opportunity to speak to governments directly on the demand side of RE. Informed consumers can help to provide the demand for renewables – there must be greater effort to ensure wider education and communication to enable consumers to play their part in the energy revolution. Governments were requested to provide the

necessary frameworks including targets that will deliver economies of scale and bring down RE prices for consumers.

As the dialogue progressed it became clear that there was considerable convergence and widespread agreement on the principal themes of the conference. The degree of concurrence was remarkable given the diversity of stakeholders in the discussion. This concurrence supported by apparently widespread political will should equate to substantial and rapid progress but there seems to be a problem over the capacity to act. Real progress requires the political will to innovate, cooperate, develop and invest in RE with cooperation happening at local, regional and international levels. The conference outcomes and the political declaration can help to illustrate the convergence among stakeholders and states and should mark a significant change rather than an incremental signal that more capacity is required.

We stakeholders are the engine of change in a just transition to renewables and capacity building must be an integral component of this change. Training for workers and public education can help to deliver the systemic change that is required for progress towards sustainable energy systems. Likewise strong science and engineering education is a critical element of capacity building. The level of existing knowledge and experience cannot be underestimated; this is one of our best resources in moving forward. However, learning from best practice can help to overcome institutional obstacles; whether in the provision of innovative credit facilities for women or through using tried and tested tools and techniques to bring together actors and communities working on real projects that make a real difference.

Within the issue of reform of energy sector subsidies there was a call for greater multi-lateral transparency and cooperation around the theme of carbon charges as an option in securing financing for RE. There is also a need to have an adequate monitoring, reporting and follow up process with stakeholder participation, as an outcome of the conference.

We have the technology and the impetus but we don't have the time to continue talking. Building capacity and increasing awareness operate on long timescales so a significant increase in effort is needed now if we are to see and achieve the ambitions of the age of renewables.

We also wish to applaud the compassion, commitment and competence demonstrated by the Federal government of Germany for staging the MSD during the first day of the conference.

CAVEAT: This summary reflects where David Hales, in his role as facilitator of the MSD, has identified significant contributions from stakeholders. It is important to recognise that the statements included here are non-exclusive and represent the facilitator's summary.

David Hales, Chairman - Stakeholder Forum

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

Cold-Water Corals New Global Conservation Challenge

Cold-water corals, mysterious and generally deeper living than their better known warm-water cousins in the tropics, are far more widespread and numerous than had previously been

thought – and under serious threat.

Researchers, using the latest submersible technologies, are now discovering cold-water coral reefs in many of the world's seas and oceans including the Atlantic, Pacific, Indian Ocean and the Mediterranean.

Some, as the various individual reefs on the continental shelves of the East Atlantic stretching from Norway as far south as West

Africa, are when combined far bigger than more famous tropical ones such as Australia's Great Barrier Reef.

Living in waters of 4° – 13° C, they are usually found in depths between 200 and 1,000 metres. However, they can occur as shallow as 40 metres and as deep as 6,300 metres.

The new findings show that cold-water corals thrive in waters off the coasts of more than 40 countries including Spain, Surinam and the Seychelles (see notes to editors).

Until recently, it was popularly thought that cold-water corals were largely confined to waters in the northern hemisphere off places like Canada, Scandinavia and the British Isles.

New surveys, however, have detected cold-water coral reefs as far afield as the Galapagos Islands and Brazil and Indonesia and Angola.

The new findings, released to mark World Environment Day (WED), which is being hosted by City of Barcelona, the Catalan Regional Government and the Government of Spain, with the theme 'Wanted! Seas and Oceans: Dead or Alive?', are likely to strengthen calls for greater conservation of these curious habitats globally.

The full report, "Cold-Water Coral Reefs: Out of Sight- No Longer Out of Mind", will be published at an International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) meeting taking place in Okinawa, Japan, between 3 and 4 July following the 10th International Coral Reef Symposium which opens on 28 June.

Cold-water corals grow slowly – only a tenth of the growth rate of warm-water tropical corals - and build beautiful but fragile 3-dimensional lace work structures, which are particularly vulnerable to impacts such as damage from heavy deep-sea fishing gear. Some reefs in the East Atlantic have already been destroyed, and most others show scars from trawling.

Some countries, including Norway, Ireland, the United Kingdom and the United States, have over recent years placed some of their cold-water corals under tighter protection, including designating them as Special Area of Conservation or Habitat Areas of Particular Concern.

Many of the fish species found living in and around cold-water corals are also slow growing and have lower reproductive rates than shallower living species such as herring and cod.

These deep-water fishes, which include orange roughey, blue ling, roundnose grenadier, black scabbardfish and some deep water sharks, are increasingly being targeted as trawlers switch from traditional, depleted, fishing grounds to deeper ones.

Other threats include impacts from oil and gas exploration and production, the laying of cables and telecommunications links and waste disposal.

Experts hope the discovery that cold-water corals are more widespread will spur other nations to consider precautionary measures to protect them by, for example, designating cold-water coral reefs within marine protected areas (MPAs).

The report, Cold-Water Coral Reefs: Out of Sight-No Longer Out

of Mind, is believed to be the most comprehensive ever on the subject. Initiated and co-ordinated by the Coral Reef Unit of the United Nations Environment Programme at the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), the report has been compiled by an international network of scientists led by Professor Andre Friewald of the University of Erlangen-Nuremberg, Germany.

It has been supported by the Governments of Ireland, Norway and the United Kingdom and WWF and UNEP.

Klaus Toepfer, UNEP's Executive Director, said, "To date our main thrust in respect to corals has been to conserve and better manage those found in the warm, tropical waters. The discovery that cold-water corals are more numerous and more widespread than had previously been thought, highlights how the natural world remains full of surprises and how our focus may need to be broadened."

"We are only beginning to understand where these life forms are and what their role is in, for example, replenishing deep sea fish stocks and nurturing other marine living organisms. Cold-water corals may also harbour important compounds and substances that could be the source of new drugs or novel industrial products," he said.

Mr Toepfer added: "All these benefits could be lost if we mismanage this newly emerging resource. Clearly, conserving tropical corals must remain our main objective, given their importance to millions of poorer people in the developing world. Threats to warm-water corals are also more complex ranging from climate change

to run off from the land. However, arguably the biggest threat to both cold and warm-water corals is coming from unsustainable fishing. So it is incumbent upon us to not only better manage deep sea fisheries, but all fisheries so that there is less pressure on the deep and shallow parts of the seas".

Professor Friewald, who has just returned from a scientific cruise to search for more cold-water reefs, said: "We are finding not only new species of corals and cold-water corals in new locations but associated organisms, like snails and clams, that were believed by paleontologists to have become extinct 2 million years ago. That was a real surprise, and we expect many of these surprises in the future as we undertake more scientific missions."

Mr Toepfer also announced a new initiative to link coral conservation and dependent communities in developing countries, entitled Reefs for People. "UNEP are to propose the creation of executive partnerships in each of the regions hosting major warm-water tropical reef systems. The partnerships - a direct outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD)- will link the coral reef range states' authorities, NGOs with active scientific and conservation programmes in the area, the private sector including tourist and fisheries industries, and international bodies including UNEP, the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN) and ICRI." A further announcement is expected in July.

UNEP Press Release



Deeper, colder and in danger

HILLTOPS-2-OCEANS

Linking the water cycle

As the world grapples with the massive economic, social and environmental losses associated with coastal degradation, and with the challenge of providing water supply and sanitation services to over two billion people who lack even basic services, it must never forget that river systems are highways of both prosperity *and* poverty. Water supplies are primary vectors for transporting pollutants over large distances from the hilltops to the oceans. In the coastal zone these pollutants accumulate and impinge on public health, biodiversity and important economic sectors such as fisheries and tourism.

In this context, the H₂O Partnership Conference reaffirmed the crucial links between watersheds, river systems, coastal estuaries and the marine environment. It also highlighted the interdependence of the respective stakeholders in these environments and the critical need to strengthen cooperation between freshwater, coastal and oceans institutions. In particular, action is needed at all levels to foster collaborative partnerships between government and stakeholders. Such partnerships should address the integration of coastal and marine management with watershed management policies, programs and legislation.

Voluntary multi-stakeholder partnerships can complement the implementation of legally binding instruments and go beyond binding commitments. Good examples of partnerships building initiatives, such as the White Water to Blue Water Initiative, can be used as a model in other regions.

The conference focused on National Programmes of Action (NPA) and on the possible use of Wastewater Emission Targets (WET) as they refer to sanitation.

With regard to using National Programmes of Action the key outcomes and major points of discussion included:

- Agreement that NPAs provide an effective tool and policy framework for integrated 'whole-of-government' actions to protect water resources from the Hilltops to the Oceans.
- NPAs should be long term iterative processes that contribute to poverty reduction strategies and/or national sustainable development strategies, and should be appropriately reflected in domestic priorities and budgets.
- Mobilization of domestic resources is clearly required to implement NPAs. International financing can only provide a stimulus to embed the implementation of the NPA into national structures – in this regard, the GPA Coordination Office has an important role to play as a broker of partnerships between developing countries and donors/international financial institutes.
- NPAs can provide a platform to coordinate partnerships emerging from multilateral negotiations, e.g. partnerships relating to the WSSD targets on freshwater, coastal and marine environments.
- NPA's can also provide a platform for Public Private Partnerships aimed at protecting and preserving water resources.
- The enhancement of the GPA Clearing House Mechanism, the use of its Marine Pollution Solutions database and the formation of a network of NPA practitioners will facilitate the continued sharing of experiences, promoting best practices and providing technical assistance to advance

implementation.

- An indication that the 2006 H₂O target of 40 countries actively involved in developing or implementing NPAs will be exceeded.

With regard to Wastewater Emission Targets (WET) as they relate to Sanitation, the key outcomes and major points of discussion included:

- Launch of a partnership between UNEP and the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC), linking the WET-initiative with the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene for all campaign, WET – WASH, to ensure that the WSSD targets on Water and Sanitation include all aspects, in particular hygiene awareness and the safe discharge and re-use of wastewater.
- In the implementation of the WSSD sanitation target, all of the water cycle management and hygiene practices should be considered, from hand washing to sustainable treatment of wastewater, including its reuse.
- Considerable progress in the integration of policies for wastewater management has been achieved in several regions, including in the Pacific Islands and South Asian regions. The use of Wastewater Emission Targets (WET) was highlighted as a potential vehicle to further the implementation of the GPA component on municipal wastewater at the regional level.
- Setting targets is not an end in itself but a tool to achieve specific policy objectives. Targets will differ at global, regional, national and local levels depending on specific circumstances. Flexibility is key to an adequate use of targets, setting different types of targets addressing various situations and needs. Once targets are set, progress towards them should be monitored and evaluated periodically.
- The community should be involved in the process of setting targets.

New partnerships emerging from the Conference, amongst others, include:

- The WET-WASH partnership – the H₂O initiative (WET component) and WSSCC WASH campaign
- A partnership between the Ramsar Secretariat and UNEP/GPA on wetland conservation
- A partnership between World Ocean Network and UNEP/GPA for an H₂O awareness campaign
- A partnership between the Pacific Region and UNEP/GPA for the development of NPAs
- A partnership between the Caribbean Region and UNEP/GPA for the development of NPAs
- A partnership with the Australian Water Partnership as a means of sharing H₂O experiences
- An expert exchange between the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (USA) and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (Australia)

These partnerships are indicative of the important role of the GPA as a broker among stakeholders. These partnerships, and others, will be the basis of a dynamic H₂O Programme of Work to be implemented in preparation for the 2nd Inter-Governmental Review of the GPA in 2006.

Special thanks are given to the Australian government for hosting and contributing to the H₂O Partnership Conference and to Minister Jan Pronk for his insightful and dynamic facilitation of the discussions.

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21 - 25 June	Celebration of the 10th Anniversary of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification. Brasilia, Brazil. Contact: www.unccd.int
24 June	Global Compact Leaders Summit. New York, USA. Contact: www.unglobalcompact.org/Portal/Default.asp
28 - 30 June	ECOSOC High Level Segment. New York, USA. Contact: www.un.org/esa/coordination/ecosoc/hl2004/index.htm
28 June - 2 July	10th International Coral Reef Symposium. Okinawa, Japan. Contact: www.plando.co.jp/icrs2004/
28 June - 23 July	ECOSOC Substantive Session. New York, USA. Contact: www.un.org/esa/coordination/ecosoc/
6 - 8 July	African Union Summit 2004. Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Contact: www.africa-union.org
6 - 23 July	31st Session of the UN Commission for the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women. New York, USA. Contact: www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/31sess.htm
7 - 9 July	Sustainable Tourism 2004. Segovia, Spain. Contact: www.wessex.ac.uk/conferences/2004/sustainabletourism04/index.html
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