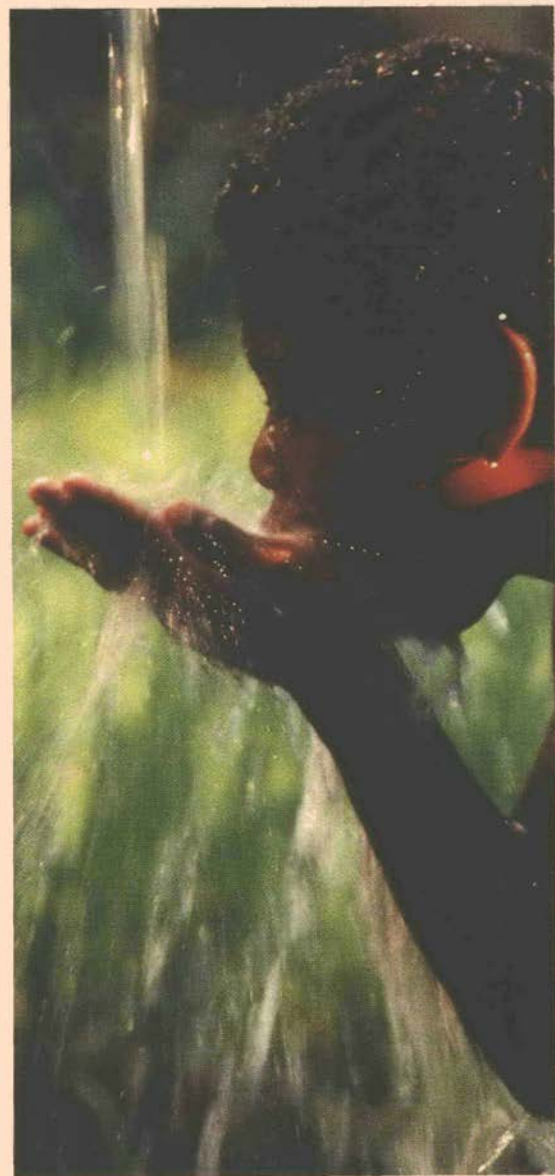
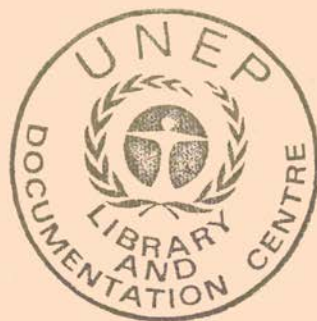




UNEP Support for Achieving the IWRM 2005 Target

A CONTRIBUTION BY UNEP TO THE 2005 WATER RESOURCES ALLIANCE INITIATIVE AND
THE THIRTEENTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

UNEP Support for
Achieving (IWRM)
2005 Target



UNEP Support for Achieving the Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) 2005 Target

I. PREFACE

1. Against a background of rapid population growth, industrialization, urbanization and environmental degradation, UNEP is participating in the ongoing global initiatives and processes on Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), especially with respect to the environmentally sound management of all types of water resources: surface water, ground water, rain water, water in coastal and marine environments, and water in river basins and aquifers. UNEP also participates in other water-related initiatives and activities, such as Water and Small Islands Developing States, Water and Dams, desalination of water, water for mega-cities, and meeting water demand challenges worldwide.¹
2. Building on the Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of UNEP, adopted in February 1997, and other UNEP Governing Council decisions, the UNEP Water Policy and Strategy², has set goals that cut across sectoral and administrative boundaries and continues to make significant contributions to finding appropriate solutions for water-related problems worldwide, *inter alia*, through:
 - a) Promoting the adoption, at all levels, of a holistic, environmentally sound ecosystem approach to achieve the water and sanitation targets endorsed in the outcomes of the Millennium Summit and the World Summit on Sustainable Development;
 - b) Filling the information and knowledge gaps on critical Integrated

“Many of the problems facing the water sector are due to poor implementation of the principles of integrated water resources management. While countries agreed at the WSSD to prepare integrated water resources management and water efficiency plans by 2005, with support to developing countries, the implementation of that goal requires coordinated action on several fronts. Efforts are needed to improve the quality of databases and information systems, including water accounting systems. Fragmented institutional structures with overlapping mandates and inadequate legislative and policy frameworks are important impediments to integrated water resources management. An equally important challenge is to foster dialogue among riparian states for efficient management and utilization of international waters. Action plans to minimize the impacts of water-related disasters deserve priority in national planning processes”.

UN Secretary General's Report on Integrated Water Resources Management

¹ Several other programmes and activities contribute to UNEP's work on IWRM, including the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Pollution (GPA), the Regional Seas Programme, the Global International Water Assessment (GIWA) project, the programme for the Environmentally Sound Management of Freshwater (EMWA), and the UN HABITAT-UNEP Water for African Cities programme, among others.

² Now revised and made available as UNEP GC.23/3/Add.5/Rev.1 (www.unep.org).

"This is indeed a very special occasion - we have been brought together by the common desire to see greater progress in the implementation of the WSSD outcomes and, particularly, the 2005 IWRM target. So many have expressed and continue to show concern about the status of action on the development of integrated water resources management and water efficiency plans, which are envisaged in the 2005 target. The discussion on IWRM here at the CSD also highlighted the limited progress. On 19 April, in this very hall, the Global Water Partnership presented preliminary findings of its informal stakeholder baseline survey. The findings remind all of us how much more needs to be done. The countries making good progress, according to the survey, are not so many. Consider the following: Africa: 13%; Asia and Pacific: 12%; Latin America and the Caribbean: 14%. What is holding back the international community? Is it political commitment? Is it the lack of financial resources? Is it the lack of capacities? International solidarity and cooperation are urgently required to accelerate progress if the 2005 target is to be met. This is why we must all commend the partners who came together, notably, UNEP, UNDP, UN-DESA, the World Bank, Global Water Partnership, UN-Habitat, WHO, UNESCO and others to put in place the 2005 Water Resources Alliance Initiative, which is open to all concerned parties. As we launch together the 2005 Water Resources Alliance Initiative, it is our hope that many more stakeholders will join hands, at the national, regional and global levels, to increase the prospects for achieving the 2005 target".

Dr. Klaus Töpfer, Executive Director UNEP on the launch of the 2005 Water Resources Alliance Initiative, CSD 12, April 2004

Water Resources Management (IWRM) issues, especially through UNEP's freshwater assessment programmes (Global Environment Outlook reports, GEO; Global International Waters Assessment, GIWA; Global Water Quality Assessment Programme, GEMS/Water; and groundwater vulnerability assessment activities, among others);

- c) Providing or supporting fora for intergovernmental policy dialogues on issues relating to the environmental aspects of IWRM, also gender-mainstreaming and poverty reduction;
 - d) Reviewing policy responses to existing and emerging IWRM issues;
 - e) Promoting the use of integrated policy and legal measures as well as instruments to tackle the root causes of major water-related concerns;
 - f) Stimulating cooperative actions to respond to the increasing challenges of IWRM;
 - g) Providing technology support and capacity-building for IWRM, especially to developing countries;
 - h) Strengthening consultation, coordination and networking with various stakeholders on IWRM-related challenges.
3. It is clear that the need for water, for human survival, social and economic development, and ecosystem sustainability, will remain a major issue in the first decade of the twenty-first century and beyond, hence the ongoing robust intergovernmental dialogues. The primary concerns revolve around the need to manage and use the world's available water resources in a way that:
- (a) Is environmentally sound and sustainable over the long term, and protects the resource;
 - (b) Maximizes water-related benefits for the majority of people, especially the poor, without leaving anyone worse off;
 - (c) Addresses all significant human and ecosystem water needs; and
 - (d) Ensures the participation of all relevant parties in the water allocation process and at the appropriate levels.
4. Under an integrated water resources management programme, all the relevant components must be addressed in a comprehensive and sustainable

package, taking the river basin and/or aquifer as the basic water management unit. Moreover, a number of other concerns must be addressed:

- (a) The protection, conservation and more efficient use of all water resources need to be accorded much higher priority in the future plans and budgets of Governments. In many areas, especially in developing countries, agriculture is the major user of water. Accordingly, one priority is to ensure that the use of water for irrigation is more effective, with proper incentives for water protection and increased efficiency. The industrial sector and urban areas can also reduce water use, thereby bringing down water pollution and associated treatment costs, increasing capacity to meet new water demands, and postponing or eliminating the need for expensive new dams, wells and water treatment plants;
- (b) Many “national” water resources are in fact shared by two or more countries. Yet, few international water basins or aquifers are covered by effective agreements on equitable use and environmental protection of the shared water resources. The uncoordinated exploitation of shared water resources is already causing significant adverse environmental, economic and social impacts in many basins. To ensure sustainable water use, as well as to avoid serious conflicts over the unsustainable use of shared water resources, new and more effective agreements for the management of shared water systems, and measures for avoiding or resolving water-related disputes, are urgently needed;
- (c) With rising demand and increasing competition among various water uses and users, a community-based and multi-stakeholder approach is crucial for ensuring that decisions are fair and their implementation effective, especially in water-stressed and water-scarce areas, where the conservation and efficient use of water is often a matter of life and death;
- (d) An equitable allocation of water among competing uses and users, especially agriculture, industry and municipal and household users,

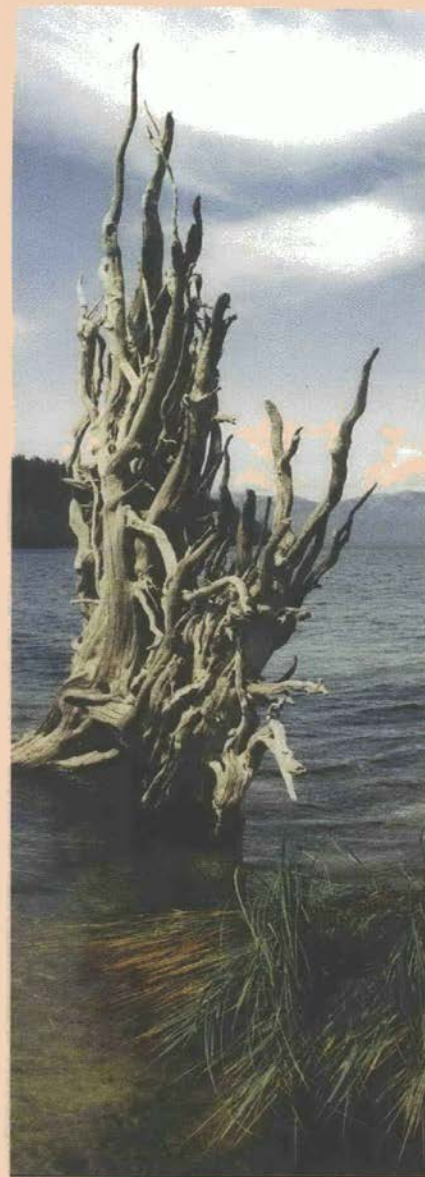
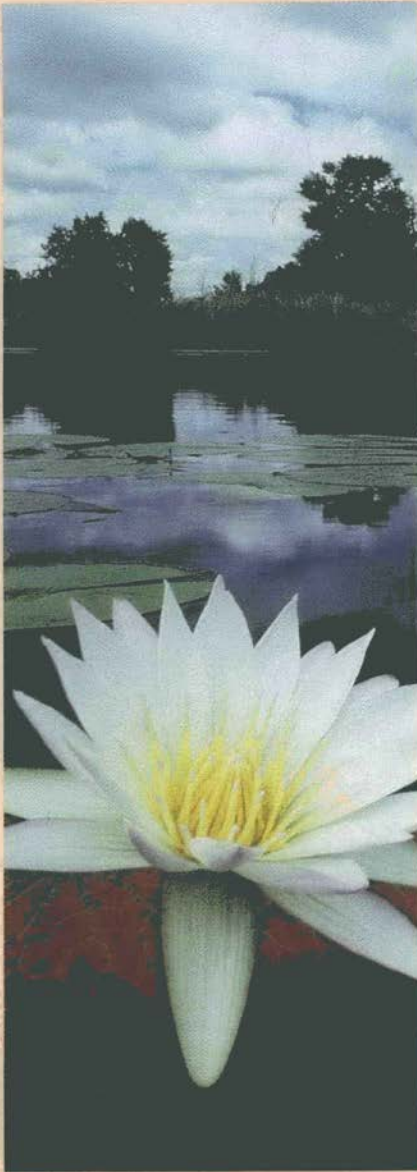


Photo: UNEP / Salomonart V.L



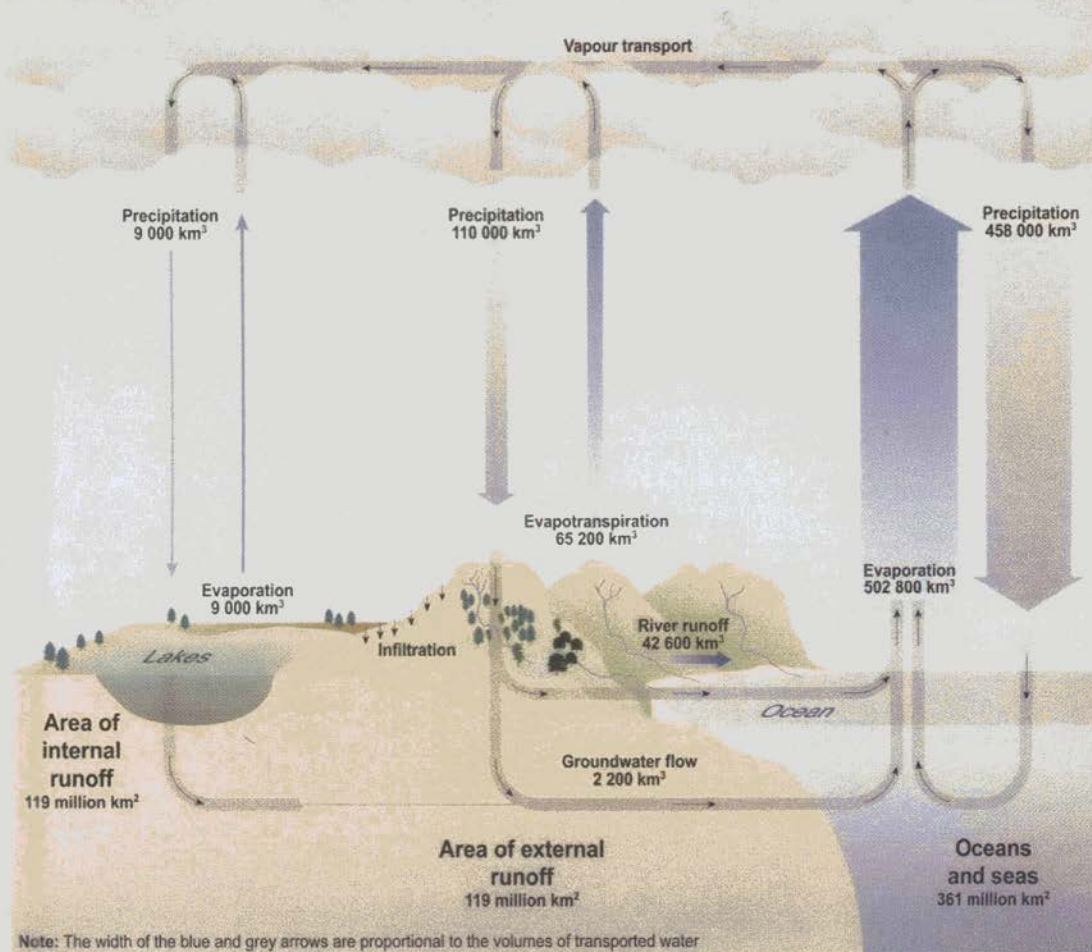
must be given high priority in water-related and sustainable development agendas and activities;

- (e) Human survival and socio-economic development require that aquatic habitats and ecosystems and their living resources also receive their necessary share of available water resources. With increasing human water demands, there is a high risk that nature will not receive its share.

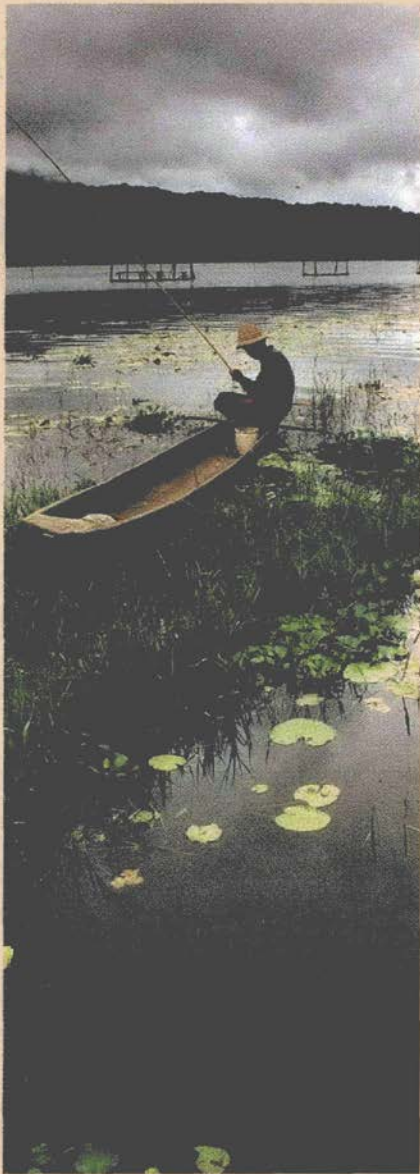
UNEP underscores the importance of, first, protecting every drop of fresh water and putting it to optimal use to overcome the global water challenge in an environmentally-sound and sustainable manner; second, turning every good idea into a best practice for widespread adoption and adaptation throughout the global community; and, third, mobilizing adequate financial resources for the management and development of water and sanitation.

The World's Water Cycle

Global Precipitation, Evaporation, Evapotranspiration and Runoff



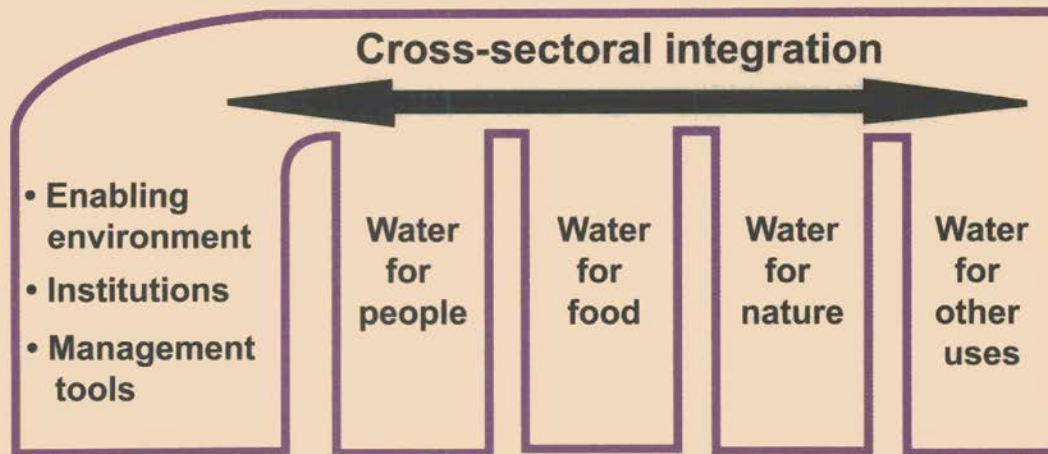
Source: Igor A. Shiklomavov, State Hydrological Institute (SHI, St. Petersburg) and United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO, Paris), 1999; Max Planck, Institute for Meteorology, Hamburg, 1994; Freeze, Allen, John, Cherry, Groundwater, Prentice-Hall: Engle wood Cliffs NJ, 1979.



II. SUPPORT TO ACHIEVING THE IWRM 2005 TARGET

6. An important target was set at the World Summit on Sustainable Development for countries and basins to “develop integrated water resources management and water efficiency plans by 2005, with support to developing countries” (the “IWRM 2005 target”). The IWRM 2005 target requires a set of national, regional, basin-wide and global road-maps for the adoption and implementation of sustainable water resources development and management policies and practices. Specific plans will be milestones in these processes that will emphasize ownership by the Governments as well as all the appropriate stakeholders in civil society. Progress on achieving the target will be documented in a global status report that may be presented at the 4th World Water Forum in Mexico in March 2006.
7. Global Water partnership (GWP) defines IWRM as “a process which promotes the coordinated development and management of water, land and related resources in order to maximize the resulting economic and social welfare in an equitable manner without compromising the sustainability of vital ecosystems”.
8. IWRM relates to three Es: Economic Development, Social Equity and Environmental Sustainability, and can be represented by the IWRM “comb” (see the figure below). A key IWRM concept is the cross-sectoral integration of the four “teeth” of the comb: water for people, water for food, water for nature and water for other uses (flood-risk management, industry, hydropower, etc.). This integration addresses the needs for an Enabling Environment (policy and legal framework), Institutional Framework (government, communities, private sector, NGO’s) and relevant Management Tools.³

³ The technical Committee of the GWP has recently published a booklet entitled “IWRM and water efficiency plan by 2005 - why, what and how?” as a first guideline on how to understand and achieve this target. Additional more in-depth handbooks are under preparation.



9. For most developing countries and countries with economies in transition, the implementation of the IWRM target requires acceleration. A survey presented by GWP at CSD-12 in April 2004 estimated that about half of the more than 100 countries surveyed had hardly begun the process of formulating IWRMs. There is, thus, an urgent need for a deliberate effort to promote action (within intergovernmental mechanisms and their respective governing bodies; UN agency coordination mechanisms, notably UN Water; the Global Water Partnership, the World Water Council, regional and global financial institutions, and other bodies) for supporting and facilitating processes and mechanisms for achieving the IWRM 2005 target in the best way possible—nationally, regionally, and globally.
10. In light of this need and recognition of the importance of the IWRM 2005 target, a number of meetings were held in 2004 in Stockholm, Copenhagen, Kuala Lumpur, Washington D.C. and Jeju (Republic of Korea) between representatives of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Global Water Partnership (GWP), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Bank, UN-DESA, UN-HABITAT, and some national Ministers responsible for water as well as other interested parties. The objective of these meetings has been to discuss and ascertain how these organizations, as partners, can coordinate and strengthen their support to developing countries and countries with economies in transition to achieve the IWRM 2005 target.
11. The consultations have aimed, *inter alia*, to identify the roles and potential contributions of different international actors in supporting developing countries and countries with economies in transition, through an open and all inclusive



collaborative partnership, and to chart the way forward for such an alliance.

12. The outcome of this process was the launch, with active participation and support of UNEP, at the twelfth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) in April 2004 of the “2005 Water Resources Alliance” Initiative (in brief the “2005 Alliance”). This Alliance is expected to contribute to an enhanced level of achievement of the IWRM 2005 target. To this end, the members of the Alliance will carry out the following tasks:
 - (a) Compiling national IWRM 2005 status reports from United Nations member countries, in accordance with an agreed template, on how far Governments have proceeded in identifying:
 - The actual status of water resources management and development (“where we are”);
 - The desired future goal on integrated water resources development and management (“where we want to go”);
 - The necessary actions and national road map to achieve the goal, including an IWRM and water efficiency plan as a milestone (“how we get there”);
 - (b) Assisting and enabling regional and sub-regional networks for knowledge-sharing on lessons learned and for concept development in support of integrated water resources management;
 - (c) Developing specific international guidance documents;
 - (d) Building capacity and providing technology support to national activities related to the achievement of the IWRM 2005 target⁴.
13. In subsequent informal meetings of the Alliance partners, most recently in Stockholm in August 2004, it was emphasized that it is an Alliance of equal partners that - without the creation of new structures or a secretariat - will

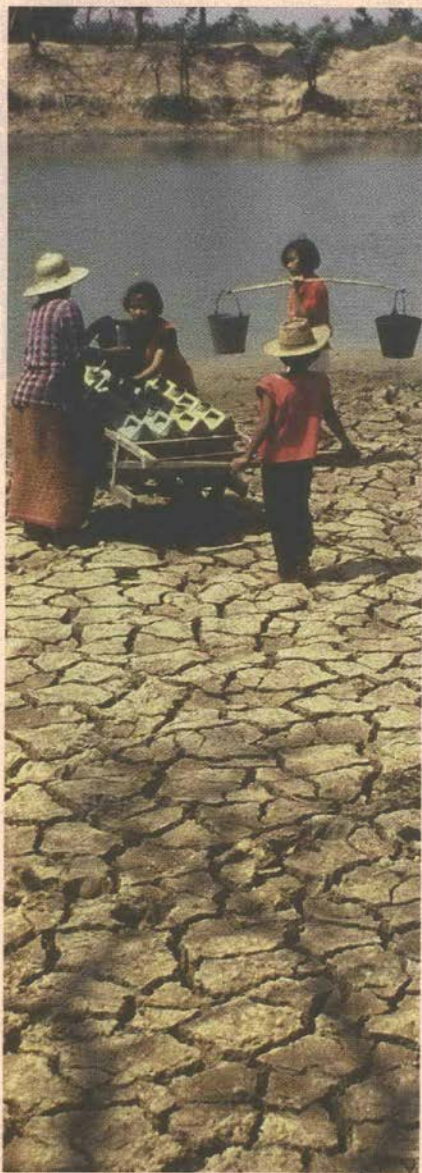
⁴ Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-Building, UNEP/GC.23/6/Add.1.

build on and enhance the activities of its partners. By joining hands in various activities and events, hence offering the experience of all rather than just one of the partners, the various stakeholders will get optimal “service” from the international community. This will lead to learning across regions, countries and organizations, and thus improve the quality of the IWRM and water efficiency planning efforts. Parties involved in the initiative will proceed with their specific activities, share experiences, collaborate whenever appropriate, and support the common promotion of the initiative.

III. UNEP'S ROLE IN THE 2005 ALLIANCE

14. In identifying the roles of the members and implementing the activities of the Alliance, special attention will be given to exploit the comparative advantages of particular partners, recognizing that, through their mandates and day-to-day work, the partners have specific thematic, geographic and administrative advantages.
15. As emphasized in Chapter 38 of Agenda 21, a key objective to be pursued by UNEP within the United Nations system is the provision of policy guidance and coordination in the field of the environment. This entails the major responsibility for facilitating the integration of the environmental aspects of social and economic development into policy discussions, decisions and plans involving water resources. In pursuit of this goal, UNEP accords high priority in its activities to the protection, conservation, equitable distribution and efficient use of freshwater resources, both for human survival and for the maintenance and protection of ecosystems of value to humans.
16. UNEP's thematic focus in IWRM is expressed in the goals of the UNEP Water Policy and Strategy:
 - (a) Achieving greater global understanding of freshwater, coastal and marine environments by conducting environmental assessments in priority areas;
 - (b) Raising awareness of the importance of sustainable water use and the consequences of unsustainable water use;
 - (c) Supporting the efforts of Governments in the preparation and





implementation of plans for integrated management of freshwater systems and their related coastal and marine environments;

- (d) Providing support for the preparation of integrated management plans and programmes for aquatic environmental hot spots, based on the assessment results;
 - (e) Promoting the application by stakeholders of precautionary, preventive and anticipatory approaches to the management and use of water resources.
17. UNEP is strengthening the freshwater component of its Water Policy and Strategy, with the IWRM 2005 and efficiency plans as a key focus. Previously, UNEP had developed the programme on the Environmentally Sound Management of Inland Waters (EMINWA) which is being further developed and strengthened as the programme on Environmentally Sound Management of Freshwater (EMWA). Other relevant UNEP approaches include the Ecosystems Approach (by the COP3 of the Commission on Biodiversity) and the Integrated Coastal Area and Riverbasin Management (ICARM) approach. UNEP continues its active partnership with the Global Water Partnership.
18. Regionally, UNEP operates in developing countries through its regional offices in Africa, West Asia, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America. To ensure a context-relevant approach, UNEP's operations are further subdivided into subregions. UNEP has been active in the water resources management field in partnerships with, among others, ECOWAS (West Africa), SADC (Southern Africa), CPPS (Latin America), SACEP (South Asia) and ASEAN (South East Asia).

IV. THE UNEP APPROACH

19. In accordance with the objectives of the 2005 Alliance, UNEP plans to take as a point of departure the established subregional networks and activities related to IWRM in Africa, Asia and South America. The general approach will be, in cooperation with appropriate Alliance partners, to:
- (a) Establish subregional peer networks on the introduction and

- initiation of the environmental aspects of the IWRM 2005 process and, where appropriate, the general IWRM process;
- (b) Establish subregional work plans for addressing the environmental aspects of the IWRM 2005 target;
 - (c) Develop generic and sub-regional guidelines for the environmental component of the IWRM and water efficiency planning process. (Particular themes may include ecosystems approach, environmental flow, environmental impact assessment in the water sector, linkage of river and coastal water management, wastewater management and pollution control, clean technology, and implications of climate variability for water resources).
 - (d) Provide, on specific request from countries and basins, technology support and capacity—building to national Governments and other stakeholders in their IWRM planning activities, including support for concrete pilot projects undertaken as part of the planning exercise.
 - (e) Assess and report on the subregional IWRM progress generally and in the field of Water and Nature, and aggregate these results at regional and global levels for presentation at the 4th World Water Forum in Mexico in March 2006.
20. The specific objectives, outcomes and activities will be initially specified for each sub-region in workshops, addressing the special status and needs of the particular subregions. Participants will be national stakeholder representatives and international and regional representatives from the organizations in the 2005 Alliance.
21. The selected activities will be carried out by local focal points through sub-regional workshops, with a maximum application of internet communication, web-fora and tele-conferencing. The outputs will comprise assessments of the IWRM status of countries and basins in the subregions, initial or advanced national roadmaps for reforming water management frameworks (depending on the stage of planning in individual countries), initiation of concrete capacity-building and technology support programmes, and identification of assistance needs for sustainable capacity development.





V. INITIAL ACTIVITIES

V.1. Regional, sub-regional and national support

22. Pending the availability of resources, the following subregions may be included in a first targeted batch for IWRM-related activities:
 - (a) ECOWAS countries, where an initial Ministerial Conference and workshop on IWRM planning was convened in Ouagadougou in October 2003;
 - (b) SADC countries, where a regional meeting was held during 18-20 October 2004 as preparation for the AMCOW meeting on 5-7 November 2004;
 - (c) North Africa, where the African Development Bank, in cooperation with GWP Mediterranean, is planning a sub-regional workshop on IWRM planning;
 - (d) ASEAN countries, where a follow-up of the 1st. SE Asian Water Forum, in cooperation with GWP-SEAWAP, can be initiated based on the existing FreshCo network.

23. The second batch may include
 - (a) SACEP in South Asia, in cooperation with GWP;
 - (b) West Asia, in cooperation with UNDP;
 - (c) Latin-America, where the Inter-American Development Bank, in cooperation with the regional GWP networks, is planning workshops and support activities at the sub-regional and national levels.

Where and when requested and possible within the available time and resources, subregional workshops will be followed up with direct support at the national and basin levels.

24. In collaboration with other Alliance partners, activities and support at the regional level (pan-Africa, Latin America, etc.) will be included as appropriate, possibly as part of the regional preparatory activities for global events, such as the 4th World Water Forum.

25. Development of guidance material and case studies, and organization of workshops, seminars and training courses at the global, regional and/or sub-regional level on various environmental aspects of IWRM will be given high priority, in collaboration with some Alliance partners, such as the IUCN and GWP. Specific plans for this will be developed through consultations.



Photo: UNEP / K Songmuatana

**Article 26 from the WSSD
Plan of Implementation
Johannesburg, September 2002**

Develop integrated water resources management and water efficiency plans by 2005, with support to developing countries, through actions at all levels to:

- (a) Develop and implement national/regional strategies, plans and programs with regard to integrated river basin, watershed and groundwater management and introduce measures to improve the efficiency of water infrastructure to reduce losses and increase recycling of water;
- (b) Employ the full range of policy instruments, including regulation, monitoring, voluntary measures, market and information-based tools, land-use management and cost recovery of water services, without cost recovery objectives becoming a barrier to access to safe water by poor people, and adopt an integrated water basin approach;
- (c) Improve the efficient use of water resources and promote their allocation among competing uses in a way that gives priority to the satisfaction of basic human needs and balances the requirement of preserving or restoring ecosystems and their functions, in particular in fragile environments, with human domestic, industrial and agriculture needs, including safeguarding drinking water quality;
- (d) Develop programs for mitigating the effects of extreme water-related events;
- (e) Support the diffusion of technology and capacity-building for non-conventional water resources and conservation technologies, to developing countries and regions facing water scarcity conditions or subject to drought and desertification, through technical and financial support and capacity-building;
- (f) Support, where appropriate, efforts and programs for energy-efficient, sustainable and cost-effective desalination of seawater, water recycling and water harvesting from coastal fogs in developing countries, through such measures as technological, technical and financial assistance and other modalities;
- (g) Facilitate the establishment of public-private partnerships and other forms of partnership that give priority to the needs of the poor, within stable and transparent national regulatory frameworks provided by Governments, while respecting local conditions, involving all concerned stakeholders, and monitoring the performance and improving accountability of public institutions and private companies.

The Jeju Initiative (8th GC/GMEF, March 2004) provides clear guidance on UNEP's role in water resources management

- Identifying methods, in close collaboration with relevant United Nations agencies, the Global Water Partnership and other partners and, upon request, to integrate environmentally sustainable approaches to water and sanitation in national water policies, sector plans, IWRM plans, poverty reduction strategy papers, and sustainable development strategies;
- Assisting countries in the integration of environmental sustainability issues, including water and sanitation, into national sustainable development strategies, poverty reduction strategies and other plans;
- Undertaking regional and global assessments of water resources relevant to IWRM, including groundwater vulnerability assessment, and promoting sustainable groundwater resource management;
- Reviewing national water policy and recommendations for reform relevant to the achievement of IWRM;
- Assisting in the review and enhancements of national legislation applying to relevant aspects of environmental and water law, including capacity building;
- Capacity building in the area of water governance including water policy development, water legislation and related instruments in furtherance of the goals of IWRM;
- Assisting Governments in the development of shared waters agreements;
- Undertaking regional reviews of transboundary water basins to identify transboundary waters where legal regimes for environmental protection do not exist or need reinforcement.
- Supporting integrated water resources management efforts (regional, national, river basin, watershed, and groundwater aquifers);
- Supporting IWRM initiatives on a regional basis;
- Building capacities for the integrated freshwater and coastal area management;
- Supporting international and regional cooperation on IWRM;
- Strengthening the ability of UNEP to convene, including in facilitating cross-border dialogue with the full consent of involved countries, and actively participate in partnerships;
- Strengthening interaction between UNEP and international financial institutions, in particular the World Bank;
- Creating stronger links between water management and ecosystem stewardship by mapping ecosystems in different regions and identifying means for achieving better protection, in close consultation and concurrence with the countries involved;

- Developing further guidelines on environmentally friendly sanitation, based on best practices and taking into account differing circumstances, such as a rural, urban or megacities settings, and locations, such as inland, by a river or by the sea;
- Providing environmental input to the 2005 review of the implementation of internationally agreed development and sustainable development goals and targets. (e.g., MDGs);
- Ensuring that environmental dimensions are introduced into poverty reduction strategies, working closely with international financial institutions, in particular the World Bank;
- To participate actively in relevant partnerships, including, for example, the European Union Water for Life initiative.

Forging strategic partnerships:

- (i) Enhanced co-operation in the 2005 Water Resources Alliance Initiative and supporting national, sub-regional and regional policies/programmes/processes for the 2005 IWRM Plan implementation for specific water basins;
- (ii) Cooperation with UN Water and its member agencies.

**Twenty-third session of the Governing Council (GC)/
Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GMEF)
Nairobi, 21-25 February 2005**

Summary of the President of the GC/GMEF

1. Recommendations for countries and the international community

“It is vital to achieve environmentally sustainable water use, and the application of integrated water resources management (IWRM), including ecosystem approaches, is the appropriate process for that purpose”.

2. Recommendations for UNEP

“UNEP should increase its support for the implementation of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation target of integrated water resources management and efficiency plans by 2005, with support to developing countries, including through capacity-building and with partners such as UNDP, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), other United Nations agencies and the Global Water Partnership”.

“UNEP should also provide support for the establishment of regional ministerial bodies on water, such as the African Ministers' Council on Water”.

Updated water policy and strategy of the UNEP

The GC/GMEF “Adopts the updated water policy and strategy of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP/GC.23/Add.5/Rev.1/Add.1) as a general framework/guidance for UNEP activities in the field of water and sanitation for the period of 2005-2007 to be implemented with interested countries, upon their request”.



For more information contact:

Mr. Niels Henrik Ipsen

Director UCC-Water

UNEP Collaborating Centre on Water and Environment

Agern Allén 5 DK-2970 Hørsholm Denmark

Tel: +45 45 16 95 18 Fax: +45 45 16 92 92

E-mail: nhi@dhi.dk www.ucc-water.org