



Millennium Development Goals and Commission for Sustainable Development; working together or miles apart?

Access to Water and Sanitation are being actively pursued by the UN through two high profile activities: *the Commission for Sustainable Development and the Millennium Development Goals*.

This overlap appears to be more coincidence than planned. However there are opportunities for synergy of effort and for NGOs there are twice as many reasons to get governments moving on water.

What is CSD?

The CSD evaluates governments' progress implementing Agenda 21 (Rio Earth Summit – 1992) and Johannesburg Plan of Implementation agreed at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) 2002.

The CSD is an inter-governmental forum where all countries participate, and is open to all stakeholders; NGOs participate via the NGO major group. It is a division of UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs and reports to the UN Secretary General.

Water, sanitation and human settlements commitments made at the WSSD are being evaluated at CSD during 2004-2005.

What are the MDGs?

The MDGs are an agenda for reducing poverty by 2015 that world leaders agreed to at the Millennium Summit in September 2000. For each of the eight Goals, there are specific targets, using 1990 as a benchmark.

The process runs until 2015 and is managed by the UN Development Programme, reporting to the Secretary General.

The Millennium Project, an advisory forum, is researching priorities and plans to assist all countries to meet the MDGs and will report in time for the 2005 Special General Assembly to review progress implementing the Goals.

The commitments

Drinking Water

- **MDG-7:** halve the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water by 2015
- **WSSD:** states agreed to 'launch a programme of actions, with financial and technical assistance to achieve the MDG on safe drinking water'

Sanitation

- **MDG-7:** sanitation was not originally included in 2000, but was added to the water goal, after the WSSD
- **WSSD:** all governments agreed to a new target to halve the proportion of people without access to basic adequate sanitation by 2015

IWRM

- **MDG-7:** no target
- **WSSD:** All governments to develop plans for integrated water resource management and water efficiency by 2005 with support to developing countries

Overlaps and Linkages

The 1992 Rio Earth Summit had a strong environmental focus; ten years later the Johannesburg 2002 WSSD addressed the poverty-environment nexus. This shift towards poverty eradication in an environmental agenda can be attributed to the commitments made at the Millennium Summit.

Sanitation was added to the original MDGs two years later. This followed hard lobbying in Johannesburg until all governments agreed to it being added to the water MDG as an urgent issue for lifting people out of poverty.

The environmental agenda, including issues such as forests and oceans, not included as an MDG, may loose out as governments and donors re-organise themselves around poverty and achieving the MDGs.

Over the last 10 years the CSD process has laid the foundations for local environmental sustainability. Hopefully when individual governments come to implement the MDGs on the ground they will build on them.

Meanwhile NGOs working in the water sector are concerned

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about how little cross-over there is between the parallel UN forums. Efforts are needed to make sure goals and targets are met sustainably and efficiently. Water NGOs are also concerned that governments recognize that water and sanitation underpin the achievement of all the other MDGs.

CSD Session 12 will run until April 2005 and identify how to speed up implementation on water, sanitation and IWRM (integrated water resource management). After this water and sanitation will cease to be top of its agenda, and will be replaced by access to energy. Water resource issues will still be very relevant to discussions on renewable energy sources, such as hydropower.

This issue of 'Freshwater News' updates you on what happened at CSD-12 in April as well as how FANs partner networks in Africa (ANEW) and Central America (FANCA) are working towards improving civil society participation in these and other international processes.

In April 2004 FAN held its first International Advisory Group meeting, in New York during the Commission on Sustainable Development.

The vision for the day was to review activities and plan for the future of FAN as a:

- facilitating network
- information sharing network
- capacity building network
- evolving international network
- creator of dialogue between diverse local actors



Eight people attended: two each from FAN secretariat; FAN, FANCA and ANEW. Unfortunately the representative from South Asia was not able to join us.

The day began with a review of FAN's milestones since 2001; significantly the facilitation of Southern NGO delegates, experts in their field, to join discussions at the Bonn International Freshwater Conference 2001; the WSSD Water-Dome 2002 and the 3rd World Water Forum 2003. These events catalysed the growth of FAN and developed members advocacy skills and networking opportunities. As well as lobbying governments and international actors on a pro-poor and environmentally sustainable development strategy in the water sector, members have also reported on many and varied off-shoots that resulted from their participation. During 2004-2005, FAN will be working to support and strengthen the advocacy capacity of members in Asia, FANCA and ANEW.

Essam Nada and Rosemary Rop for ANEW & Jorge Mora and Ima Avila for FANCA shared their experience, opportunities and challenges in creating new water advocacy networks in Africa and Central America respectively. Danielle Hirsch from BothEnds and Stephen Turner from WaterAid were keen to find out more and provided useful objective advice during this session.

Jayne Millar, our Information & Communication Officer, outlined latest developments to the communications strategy; website, e-bulletin. We decided to produce a six-monthly newsletter to be posted out to members containing in-depth news about the FAN secretariat and members.

The final session of the day was on governance. There was a lively discussion on what it means to be a FAN member and what role FAN should play. FAN will continue to facilitate NGO participation and to promote the role of CSOs to achieve the international water targets, IWRM and access to services, particularly helping those with a low international profile. It is clear that FAN will not take policy positions beyond advocating for south civil society participation in policy, legal, decision making.

The next advisory group meeting will be in April 2005.

A full report on the meeting is available at:

www.freshwateraction.net

New on www.freshwateraction.net

- Minutes of the FAN Advisory Group Meeting, April 2004 www.freshwateraction.net
- International Conferences
 - Feedback from CSD-12 www.freshwateraction.net/conferences/csd/csd12.asp
 - Planning for the 4th World Water Forum www.freshwateraction.net/conferences/wwf4.asp
- Latest news from the EU Water Initiative www.freshwateraction.net/policy/10msb.asp
- Advocacy Resources www.freshwateraction.net/resources/res6.asp

Don't forget to check out the FAN member pages. This space is for members to post news and questions to others in the network. Please email us your contributions to info@freshwateraction.net (www.freshwateraction.net/publicmembers/publicMembers.asp)



Looking forward...

4th World Water Forum – “Local Action for a Global Challenge”, Mexico 2006

Preparations have begun for the 4th WWF, the 2006 global water event has taken “Local Action” as its theme. Obviously this should not be simply a slogan; it should really make a difference and is a challenge for NGOs and international organizations alike.

With this in mind, FAN has been trying to influence the World Water Council, who organize the Forum, to involve NGOs in preparations; to develop innovative approaches to sessions that will help NGOs and social movements to shape debates, rather than to simply respond to an agenda set by international organizations and also to make the subject matter of the forum relevant to the lives of people living with-out access to water.

Building on FAN’s role coordinating the NGO panel debate during the Kyoto 3rd World Water Forum, we were invited to the ‘Kick Off’ meeting in Mexico City. Danielle Morley attended for FAN and Jorge Mora for FANCA. We followed up with further discussions with Daniel Zimmer of the World Water Council, raising issues of content, NGO participation and representation. Our report from both these meetings is published on the FAN website.

For more information visit:

www.freshwateraction.net/conferences/wwf4.asp

Water Laws

FAN is working with BothEnds, FANCA and WAFED to finalize a proposal for an action-research project to create a platform for the exchange of information on the reform of water laws and the role that civil society has or has not played.

UN-CSD 13, New York, 2005

FAN will be working with other NGO networks towards CSD-13 in 2005, so that the experiences and knowledge of NGOs working with communities can be used during government negotiations. FAN is seeking partners interested and able to get involved in this process in advance of the meeting and to reinvigorate the NGO Water Caucus.

For more information contact: dsd@un.org

EU-Water Initiative “Water for Life”

FAN has continued to attend the multi-stakeholder forum meetings and to promote the involvement of ANEW members in the African component. Overall progress on this initiative is very slow. A governance structure has been finalized so accountability and efficiency might improve. The next meeting is in August at the Stockholm Water Week.

Members’ news

FAN members are actively campaigning, researching and lobbying for water related issues, for example:

Society for Water and Public Health Protection (Nigeria)
SWAPHEP co-organized a Nigerian roundtable conference on “Critical Review of the Water Policies of the World Bank: Activities and Impacts in Nigeria” which coincided with the World Bank’s 60th anniversary.
swaphep@yahoo.com <http://swaphep.virtualactivism.net>

Young Volunteers for the Environment YVE (Togo)
Sena Alouka from YVE appeared on national TV to highlight one of the main issues in Togo under the theme ‘potable water for all’. yvetogo@hotmail.com
www.earthday.net/goals/water/togo_thirstychildren.stm

Anjuman Samaji Behbood (ASB) (Pakistan)
A recent IIED case study about ASB showed how they support community-built and financed sewers and water supply lines in informal settlements. ASBs work is evidence that local skills, self-reliance and dignity – rather than external plans and funds – are the key to providing sustainable water and sanitation facilities.
asbwatto@fsd.paknet.com.pk

People and Water (Slovakia)
Their world-wide campaign, The Blue Planet Project, hopes to raise awareness about the need for more water in watersheds and the atmosphere, to prevent a drying planet.
kravcik@changenet.sk www.peopleandwater.sk

If you would like your organizations successes profiled on our website and newsletter please email us we would love to hear from you. fan@freshwateraction.net

CSD-12, the outcomes and next steps

The UN Commission on Sustainable Development Session 12 was a review of progress in implementation of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI) that came out of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD).

It was a non-negotiating session which provided a listening environment for governments and civil society groups to talk about experiences, successes, lessons learnt and recommendations for action. Several members of FAN attended the morning NGO coordination meetings. Overall NGOs liked the participatory nature of the UN meeting but thought that it failed to prioritize real issues of concern on the water, sanitation and human settlements theme.

Other disappointments were that no clear link was made between implementation and reporting on the Millennium Development Goal’s and the CSD process. Also cross-cutting issues such as agriculture, the rural poor and biodiversity, crucial to water, sanitation and human settlements were not given a place at the political forefront.



La Red Centroamericana de Acción del Agua FAN-Central America

Since launching in 2003, FANCA has made networking in Central America a priority and as a consequence has grown in numbers and confidence. Jorge Mora Portuguez, the FANCA Coordinator shares what they've been up to;

We are keen for FANCA to be involved in the preparations for the 4th World Water Forum, so in March this year, I attended the Kick-off Meeting in Mexico City with the FAN coordinator Danielle Morley. Although a 'local action' theme was promoted for the Forum, we were disappointed not to be able to participate in the preparations for the 'Day of the Americas', with GWP, IADB and other international actors. We have already created a strong focal point in Mexico with 9 participating organizations to represent FANCA to the National Water Commission of Mexico, a coordinator of the 4th World Water Forum. Time will tell if NGOs are really going to be given adequate opportunities to get involved.

Also in March, the national focal points from Panamá, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala participated in the White Water to Blue Water conference organized by the Central American Environment Commission (CCAD) and the USA State Department in Miami. While the focal points were together in Miami, FANCA held its first planning meeting, to develop the annual work plan and governance framework.

At the WW2BW event, we recruited more NGO members, from Mexico, Belize and Dominican Republic, prompting a debate about whether we should change our scope from a Central American to a continental network.

In April two FANCA members traveled to New York to attend the first FAN global meeting of the Advisory Group (more info on page 2). We were also able to observe the workings of the UN Commission for Sustainable Development which was in session at that time.

One of our biggest achievements to date is joining the Technical Group supporting Central American Ministers on Environment, Agriculture and Health who are developing a Regional Strategy of Water Resources. FANCA will develop a series of case studies, through the Dialogue on Water, Food & Environment, to identify successful local experiences to contribute to the elaboration of this Regional Strategy. This is a great opportunity for FANCA and the local and national organizations to be involved in developing water policies for the region.

FANCA is using our website as a platform to promote and to strengthen diverse process of local dialogues on water management in the Central American countries. The Dialogue on Water, Food and Environment secretariat have recently approved financial support for this process and we are recognized as a Local Action Platform.

Members are preparing for the annual regional meeting in



October in Costa Rica. We hope it will be a useful meeting with organizations from Mexico, Dominican Republic, Brazil, Argentina and each country of Central America joining us. We will be discussing regional activities, joint participation at the 4th World Water Forum and the expansion of FANCA to include all Latin American countries and Mexico.

FANCA works at country level through focal points coordinated by a lead NGOs.

Locally we have had workshops and meetings in most of the focal point countries to prepare work plans and incorporate new organizations into FANCA,

Guatemala:

*Lead organisation: Centro de Acción Legal Ambiental y Social (CALAS)
jnoack@terra.com.gt*

One of our most active focal points, Guatemalan NGOs have met twice and are now preparing for an August workshop. The lead organization, CALAS, is involved in a water law project and is working with closely with Ulé Ché Já, a local indigenous organization to incorporate local people's experiences into case studies.

Panama:

*Lead Organisations: Grupo para la Educación y el Manejo Ambiental Sostenible (GEMAS)
cepsai@cwpanama.net
Círculo de Estudios Científicos Aplicados (CECA)
cecapanama@hotmail.com*

CECA & GEMAS, have begun to create a national basis for a network in Panama. A large number of CSOs and local people living in the western river basin of the Panama Canal participated in a recent workshop, as well as representatives from the Panama Canal Authority (ACP) and the National Authority of Environment (ANAM). Two new campesinas organizations are now members of FANCA.

La Red Centroamericana de Acción del Agua FAN-Central America



Honduras:

Lead organisation: PLATAFORMA DEL AGUA
kriay@yahoo.com

In Honduras they are working hard building links with local organizations and preparing for their first workshop.

The Honduran National Focal Point had its first meeting at the end of June in Tegucigalpa with the presence of the Regional Coordinator of FANCA, the Platform of Water, the Pico Bonito Foundation and a network of NGOs called REDES. They approved a first Action Plan for FANCA in Honduras, the agenda of their workshop and the beginning of their preparation for the IV World Water Forum and the regional meeting of FANCA at the end of this year.

El Salvador:

Lead organisation: Fundación Salvanatura
nicogoll@yahoo.com

In El Salvador the FANCA members are developing a dialogue with actors in El Imposible River Basin, preparing for a national workshop, networking and working with NGOs lobbying against the building of Dams in the region.

Nicaragua:

Lead Organisation: Asociación Nicambiental
nicaragua_ambiental@hotmail.com

This focal point is still being established.

Costa Rica:

Lead organisations: FUDEU
jmorapo@racsa.co.cr
CEDARENA
ale@cedarena.org

This focal point hosts FANCA's secretariat. It is writing a publication on water law with GWP, UICN, CENAT, the Congress and MINAE. They are leading the preparations for the regional meeting in October.

private sector in drinking water supply (from small scale independent providers to multinationals). The review will be linked into existing processes and initiatives and be centered on (pre-existing or new) national level dialogues that feed into an international synthesis process.

To download the full report or executive summary of the Global Water Scoping Process or for further information on the outcomes of the workshop, please refer to www.wateraid.org.

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Website

FANCA's website is now up and running. Go to www.freshwateraction.net/fan-ca to find out what has been happening in the region or to find out more about joining the network. Recent updates are:

Regional meeting report
Objectives, Mission, Vision
Coming soon....pages from the focal points
Case studies on Dialogue of Food, Water and Environment

Global Scoping for Private Sector Participation Review

The FANCA coordinator joined the June meeting in Berlin which brought together 70 practitioners and policymakers from 20 countries to discuss if and how a global multi-stakeholder review into private sector participation in water and sanitation services would proceed.

The 3 day meeting concluded that such a review could make an important contribution to the debates around the role of the

African CSOs Network for Water ANEW

Juliette Malenge was recently appointed as the ANEW Coordinator, she is based at the Environmental Liaison Centre International (ELCI) in Nairobi and introduces herself here;

"I was hired mid-May to help ANEW with communications, logistics and be a focal point for our members and task force. You can contact me at work Monday-Wednesday when I promise to give all members my undivided attention!

I communicate well in English and French, and I am trying to learn Arabic so that I can work better with the North African members.

In June I produced the first ANEW Newsletter which is being translated into French. I would welcome comments and contributions for the next edition so that it reflects ANEW member priorities and activities.

It has been great to meet some ANEW members passing through Nairobi and I welcome other ANEW members to do the same, otherwise email me on anewsecretariat@elci.org.

I look forward to working closely with you." Juliette Malenge

The UK Prime Minister Tony Blair has referred to Africa as 'the scar on the conscience of the world'; in February this year he committed to start the healing process.

Blair's Commission for Africa will take a fresh look at Africa's past, present and future; looking at what has worked and what has not. The report, to be delivered to the G8 next spring, aims to generate action for 'a strong and prosperous Africa'.

There are 17 Commissioners; 9 are from Africa, including the President of Tanzania and the Prime Minister of Ethiopia, the rest are 'experts' from the UK and North America. Their recommendations will cover the economy, natural resources (including water), governance, peace & security, human development and culture and participation.

NGOs have cautiously welcomed this initiative. Although concerned that it will not produce any changes, there is agreement that to not take advantage of Blair's enthusiasm and his G8 presidency next year would be a missed opportunity.

The UK Water Network is contributing to a submission on the 'Political Economy of Water'. We hope that African NGOs will be able to input via ANEW and are working to achieve this opportunity.

www.commissionforafrica.org.



Nigerian Network established

The "National Civil Society Network for Water and Sanitation" was launched in 2003 at a workshop coordinated by Society for Water & Public Health Protection (SWAPHEP) and African Network on Environmental and Economic Justice (ANEEJ). The steering committee has representatives from Nigeria's six regions. For more information email ANEEJ: waterandsanitation@yahoogroups.com

A report of the workshop is available at www.freshwateraction.net/anew

Controversy over the new Arab Water Council (AWC)

The AWC was launched in April this year as a civil society, non-profit, regional organization dedicated to water issues in Arab States. It wants to promote understanding and management water resources in a non-political manner, disseminate knowledge and enhance sharing experiences. Its President, Dr. Mahmoud Abu-Zeid, Egypt's Minister for Water & Irrigation, says the AWC is "pioneering a new definition of the civil society and its role in the water affairs in the Arab States".

Our concern is that the AWC is composed of representatives from Arab governments, international development organisations and the World Bank. By promoting itself as a civil society organization it is blurring the boundaries and possibly diverting funding from genuine civil society involvement from initiatives such as Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) and the Nile Basin Discourse (NBD). The NBD involves all affected stakeholders in issues affecting the Nile. At a national level it works through civil society forums to promote awareness of NBI projects and engage civil society in activities and dialogue.



The African Development Bank (AfDB) held its first Water Week in June. Timeyin Uweja from WaterAid Nigeria updates us;

The AfDB water week celebrated water in Africa and aimed to build partnerships for delivery of the water and sanitation MDG. The AfDB outlined their plans, including the possibility of direct funding for NGOs. An 'investor's coalition' was suggested for coordination of investment in the sector and mobilization of African capital funds, tying into a water privatisation agenda as private capital will require a rate of return on its water investment.

At a parallel event AMCOW ministers discussed financing of water investments and various regional initiatives, such as the EU Water Initiative. It was also decided that The African Water Facility, hosted at the AfDB, will be managed by 5 African water ministers; 5 donors, 1 NEPAD & 1 UN-Habitat representative who will determine the allocation of \$600 million to start-up the priority activities presented by AMCOW at the PanAfCon on Water last year.

A full report is on our website www.freshwateraction.net

Looking forward...

September-December 2004

Sub-regional meetings for ANEW members to share advocacy priorities, build advocacy skills and develop information sharing strategies.

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Asia Regional News and Events

EFICOR's 'Water is Life' Campaign

The campaign adopts a "Rights-based" approach to address those issues hindering the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in Water in India. It aims to give 1000 villages' access to safe drinking water and motivate communities to influence National Water Policy.

To read more about EFICOR visit their website <http://eficor.org>

Total Sanitation for South Asia

The Dhaka Declaration, signed at the South Asian Conference on Sanitation (SACOSAN) in 2003, endorsed the Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) approach for the entire region. This is a great result for NGOs and community groups, who began the campaign for 100% sanitation in Bangladesh.

It is a behaviour-orientated set of activities which will promote hygiene and end open defecation. Communities drive the process, with NGOs and local government working as their facilitators, providing hygiene education and sanitation facilities via self-help groups. FAN member, Village Education Resource

Centre (VERC) were instrumental to the success in Bangladesh and shared their 100% sanitized village approach at SACOSAN. It is now being scaled-up in India, Nepal, Bangladesh and Pakistan.

To read more about TSC follow these links:

www.wateraid.org/in_depth/in_depth_publications/1498.asp

www.wsp.org/06_FeaturedNews.asp?FeatureID=123

FAN upcoming activities in Asia....

FAN recognizes the strength of existing networking capacities of water NGOs in South Asia. We have been trying to identify how we can add value and respond to requests from smaller sized members in the region for skills training on the 'art of advocacy' as we have a small budget for work in South Asia. Recommendations made from discussions at our International Advisory Group were:

- 1 FAN develops a facilitating space to link existing networks to one another and providing information for smaller NGOs that want to access potential partners for water advocacy work.

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- 2 FAN does a 'stakeholder analysis' – a 'where/what /who/how' of the NGO water networks, as a basis for future work.
- 3 A training that bridges a traditionally polarised approach to advocacy, with conflict/activism at one end quiet diplomacy at the other.

It is likely that we will undertake a stakeholder analysis and organise a small regional meeting in November or December. As always, we are open to suggestions from members on how we proceed and any offers of support in terms of time and energy are most welcome.

Please contact danielle@freshwateraction.net

Member interview

Ilya Trombitsky has been an active FAN member for 2 years. He was on the FAN delegation to Dushanbe in 2003 for the EU Water Initiative East-West Meeting and attended the 3rd World Water Forum, where he presented on transboundary rivers. Ilya is from Moldova, Eastern Europe, and is involved with research and lobbying on transboundary issues of the Dniester River.

You are associated with two organisations in Moldova, what are their activities?

BIOTICA has pioneered research on the Dniester River which is shared by Moldova and Ukraine. In 2003 Ramsar recognized the lower Dniester as a site of valuable wetlands and international importance. Now BIOTICA are trying to establish Moldavia's first national park in this area. We have organized four expeditions and two international conferences bringing together different stakeholders. www.biotica-moldova.org

BIOTICA is part of Eco-TIRAS, a network of 40 Moldavian and Ukrainian NGOs working on issues surrounding the Dniester River basin. The network came out of the "Dniester-99" Eco-Forum in 1999 and has also built the capacity of stakeholders from both countries in favor of the river and local people. The latest initiative is an International Conference on Integrated Management of Natural Resources in the Transboundary Dniester River Basin taking place in Moldova this September. www.eco-tiras.org

What will be the main focus of the conference and how can other FAN members get involved?

Discussion will be on the environmental situation, as well as legal, institutional and economic instruments to manage natural resources of transboundary Dniester River. Hopefully this event will encourage sustainable use of the river and surrounding areas based on EU Framework Water Directive, Helsinki Convention and the Guidelines for the allocation and management of water for maintaining the ecological functions of wetlands (Ramsar, Valencia, 2002).

To get involved please email me ecotiras@mtc.md.

How has involvement in FAN helped you and your organisation?

We are happy to be in the FAN family. FAN membership helps us establish partnerships and international cooperation and promote environmental values. We have benefited both from FAN's information sharing through website, e-bulletins and newsletter as well as from the opportunities to participate in international conferences.

FAN membership

FAN has over 280 members worldwide. We keep our members informed about what is happening in water policy via our monthly e-bulletins, newsletters and website.

If you would like to join the FAN network please email us at:

info@freshwateraction.net

or visit our website at:

www.freshwateraction.net

The Freshwater Action Network is a global network of environmental and developmental Non-governmental and Community Based Organisations working to strengthen civil society's participation in international water policy formulation.

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