



Freshwater Action Network

Informal Advisory Group Meeting

5-7 June 2006

Objectives

*Review the progress of FAN, ANEW, FANCA from April 2005 – June 2006
Develop a governance structure for FAN
Develop an annual plan for FAN 2006/07 and a longer term strategy
Update the FAN communications strategy
Develop a fundraising strategy*

Methodology

The first day was a reporting-back session, with presentations from the FAN secretariat, FANCA, ANEW, Asia and South America. Time was allocated for discussions after each presentation.

The second day comprised of brainstorming sessions to discuss the global objectives of FAN, shared values, collective identity and governance structure. The day ended with a presentation and discussion about FAN's communications strategy.

The final morning focused on discussions about fundraising strategies for FAN secretariat and the regional networks and which future international policy processes FAN should follow and organise around.

Participants

13 people participated, the 2 staff members from FAN secretariat, 3 from Africa, 2 from Europe, 2 from South Asia and 3 from Central America and 1 from South America.

<i>Danielle Morley</i>	<i>FAN Coordinator</i>
<i>Ceridwen Johnson</i>	<i>FAN Information and Communications officer</i>
<i>Jorge Mora-Portugez</i>	<i>FANCA secretariat & FUDEU</i>
<i>Jeanette de Noack</i>	<i>CALAS, Guatemala FANCA</i>
<i>Andres Mora-Portugez</i>	<i>FANCA Communications Officer</i>
<i>Edward Kairu</i>	<i>MajinaUfanisi, Kenya and on behalf of ANEW secretariat</i>
<i>Patrick Apoya</i>	<i>CONIWAS, Ghana, FAN/ANEW</i>
<i>Simphiwe Nojyeza</i>	<i>South Africa, South African Water Caucus, FAN/ANEW</i>
<i>Mariana Sell</i>	<i>Institute Ipanema, Brazil, representing South American network</i>
<i>R. Murali</i>	<i>MARI, India, FAN</i>
<i>Joseph Halder</i>	<i>NGO Forum, Bangladesh, FAN</i>
<i>Danielle Hirsch</i>	<i>Both ENDS, Netherlands, FAN</i>
<i>Stephen Turner</i>	<i>WaterAid, FAN</i>

Advisory Board expectations for the meeting were as follows:

- Strategy/future/nature/focus of FAN
- Strengthening FAN secretariat and strengthening the relationship between members and regional networks
- Governance structure
- Communications / fundraising strategy
- Role of FAN secretariat
- Network to network learning

Background paper: FAN Future Discussion Paper should be read together with the minutes

**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS OVER COURSE OF MEETING
ACTIONS, AGREEMENTS AND POINTS FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION**

1. REGIONAL NETWORKS

Each regional network provided an update on their activities over 2005/06 and an introduction to their future plans. Everyone was satisfied with progress being made. A summary of presentations can be found at the end of this paper.

2. GOVERNANCE

2.1 ROLE OF FAN SECRETARIAT

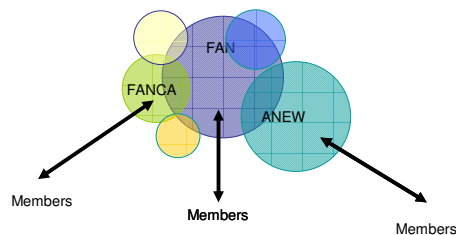
The mission of FAN is to support local CSOs and the regional networks to engage in and influence international water policy processes. To further the mission the work plan is around information dissemination & exchange, confidence building and advocacy skills, institutional development of regional networks, involving FAN members in international processes and event and facilitating NGO participation. The FAN secretariat coordinates activities, fundraises, produces communications, provides support & technical assistance to members and regional platforms and is developing the governance structure for FAN.

2.2 SHARED VALUES / COLLECTIVE IDENTITY

It is clear that FAN is a dynamic network and that there is a shared vision between FAN, FANCA and ANEW, but they may take different positions on certain issues. The Advisory Board reconfirmed the relationship between FAN, regional partner networks and members as an alliance which is focused on advocating access for local actors and civil society organisations to play an active negotiating role in water sector policy making. All are united in their commitment to water as a human right; with concepts of eco-system / environmental sustainability and equity of access being paramount.

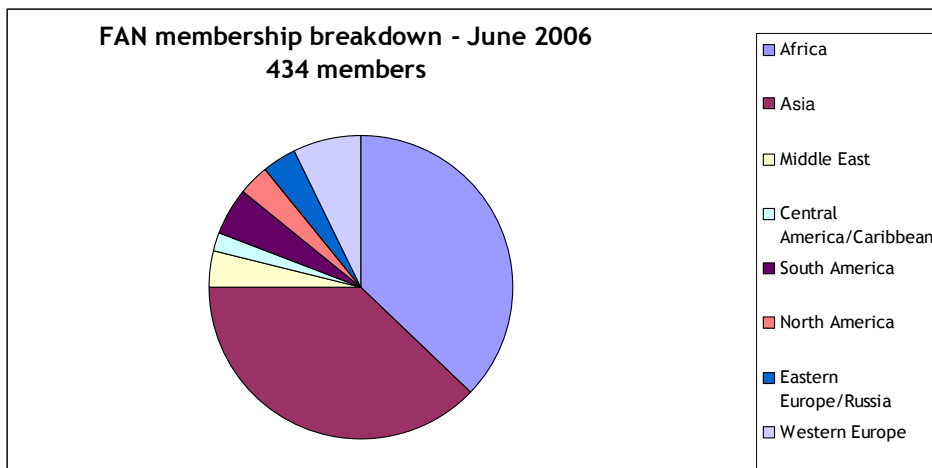
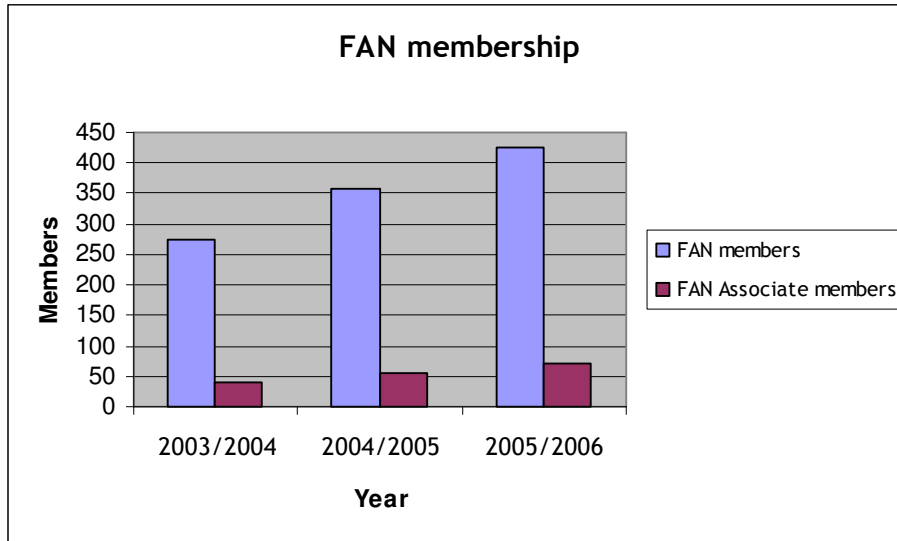
The regional networks also focus on issues relevant to their own regions. These issues may be broader than, but encompass, FAN's principles.

FAN & REGIONAL NETWORKS



2.3 MEMBERSHIP

FAN has 434 members and 72 Associate members.



Approximately 25% of members are active. The primary benefit of FAN membership is information sharing on policy making processes (water resources, rights, sustainability and access to basic services), advice on international processes, support to participate and profile raising.

FAN's Advisory Board is drawn from international and regional network members. The Advisory Board agreed that members should agree to a common set of principles (see 2.1).

Action agreed

- Responsibility of work should be shared with members but we must consider what is realistic in establishing roles and responsibilities bearing in mind of commitments people make.
- Currently, only registered members of FAN can access the FAN online database but people do not remember their password. Advisory group agreed that the database should be made public in line with principles of promoting local actors. We would have to consult all members before making it public due to the Data Protection Act.

2.4 SUPPORTING EMERGING REGIONAL NETWORKS

Whilst there is work to do in defining the nature of any further 'FAN' networks (South America, Mexico or South Asia) the initiatives themselves are well supported by FAN and all agreed that it is tremendously positive that these groups have been inspired by FAN to develop regional networks.

We agreed not bring in more "FAN" networks until we can clarify governance details and the issues that bind up together. Participants did not feel they had enough information to be able to make a decision within the meeting, so until the issues of collective identity/use of logo/relationships are clearly resolved and agreed, it could not be agreed that FAN South America would adopt FAN logo.

Action agreed

- Murali (MARI) will write a detailed proposal on South Asian network and how it could be developed in the region, how it can be resourced and who to work with. A meeting would be expensive and FAN-Asia only has a budget of £10,000 for this year. Could FAN-Asia develop an MoU with an organisation such as CapNet to co-fund the work?
- Mariana (Institute Ipanema) will inform the South American members about the decision

2.5 DEVELOPING A GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE FOR FAN

Action agreed

- The Advisory Group needs to be organised and facilitated to make stronger decisions and not just discussions. Future meetings to be chaired and proposals to be tabled.
- Governance needs to be fully reviewed and proposals presented for discussion. This will be undertaken by a consultant during Danielle's maternity leave. The brief will be agreed by the Advisory Group, but will be based on the list of outstanding issues (below).

2.6 FAN – ADVOCACY PRINCIPLES

FAN is not politically hegemonic; it is a facilitative network that strives to be inclusive and allow for a range of organisations to advocate together. International processes are exclusive due to language, technical topics, fast-moving agendas etc, they also can polarise debate. FAN has broken down these barriers to progress and participation. FAN activities have successfully increased trust and understanding between CSOs and brought a wide range of CSOs into regional and international advocacy activities during the grant period (refer to annex documents for reports and details). However FAN has developed a strong advocacy principle to promote local voices and organisations into policy and programmes that seek to deliver MDG targets on WSS.

To be decided

1. *What is added value of the network/networking together for the FAN Alliance?*
2. *Is FAN the important factor that binds the networks together into an alliance?*
3. *When do members act as 'FAN' and when do they act as FANCA or ANEW?*
4. *What is the role of members supporting the work of FAN?*
5. *Should we define clearly advocacy and governance principles and ask members to explicitly agree to them?*
6. *How can we support more members or encourage their activity beyond current levels*
7. *When are we members of regional platforms or members of FAN international?*
8. *Should we have a policy which allows FAN to withdraw membership status?*
9. *What is within the overlap (FAN & region issue) and what is without (region only)?*

10. *What is in the middle of the circle (FAN issue/responsibility only) (see 2.2)*
11. *When do you speak as FAN & when to do you speak as regional platform?*
12. *What is the affinity between the regional networks?*
13. *Do we need more active regulation on who can and can not join FAN? / As the network grows, how does it maintain its credibility?*
14. *Brand identity – who can use FAN logo and how?*
15. *Who makes the decisions in FAN?*
16. *What is the role of the advisory group in keeping delivery of annual plan on track?*
17. *How can FAN and regional networks manage their differences while maintaining a collective identity?*
18. *What are the advantage/disadvantages for South America or South Asia network to adopt a different name/logo to FAN*
19. *What is the character of alliance and level of independence of regional networks with respect to FAN?*
20. *Many networks already exist in South America. Has a mapping or evaluation been undertaken to identify and consider the need for a new network in South America?*
21. *What is the expectation and role that FAN can play in support of new regional networks?*

3. FUNDRAISING STRATEGIES

Aims of the discussions:

*Developing a global fundraising & marketing strategy
Responsibilities and resources of regional networks*

3.1 Short term

FAN only has secured funding from WaterAid until April 2007. FAN has been asked to present a proposal including a plan of activity and budget to WaterAid by September so that WA can see how FAN fits in with their strategy and mission and how it links to the work of their country programmes.

Actions agreed

- **FANCA** and **ANEW** must submit by mid-August their 12 month action plan and 3 year vision. They should also describe how FAN supports their mission and how they support the WaterAid 5 year strategy.
- Stephen Turner will take the lead presenting a proposal to WaterAid in September 2006 for funding 2007-2010.

3.2 Long term

How can FAN support FANCA, ANEW and others in marketing themselves and the way in which they negotiate with donors?

FANCA can find funds for regional events and activities but finds it hard to find resources for core costs. FANCA suggest that the regional networks should fundraise to support to their own activities and that FAN has the responsibility to finance their core costs.

FAN needs to explore new funding sources and held to built sustainability for the regional networks. Fundraising is time consuming and demanding on the small FAN secretariat. The ultimate goal is for all regions to be independent and secure their own funds.

Actions agreed

- FAN will appoint a fundraising consultant to develop guidance around funding and fundraising as the FAN family. Ethics, governance and collective identity must be built in.

The strategy will have an ethical dimension built in to it. The consultant should also identify and advise on possible new sources of funding and perhaps prepare proposals. The strategy must decide what will be funded globally and what will be packaged regionally.

4. GLOBAL ORGANISING & INFLUENCING - INTERNATIONAL POLICY MONITORING

FAN's Advisory Board recognised the continuing need to access international opportunities for local actors, strengthen the capacity of its members to act and to coordinate actions between different members. FAN has become a credible and respected voice for those organisations wishing to engage in dialogue and negotiations with policy makers. The board agree that without FAN action in this sense, many local and national organizations wouldn't have access to this events and this should remain the focus.

4.1 Forthcoming policy events/processes for FAN involvement

4.1.1 WTO – water out of GATS - Regional trade negotiations - Privatisation debates

No decision taken due to lack of time.

4.1.2 Right to Water

FAN aims to strengthen civil society to hold government accountable so that, the moment that the right to water is there, they can act on it. FAN should build on its bottom-up approach to develop a programme of advocacy, learning and lobbying on the Right to Water via national network members. FAN will also continue to lobby the UK government.

Action agreed

- Initiate a consultation with national network members to develop a plan of action on the Right to Water.

4.1.3 Regional Development Bank investment in water

Actions agreed

- FAN will continue to monitor and share experiences working collaboratively with regional partners.
- ANEW and FAN will jointly develop research work around AfDB/AMCOW

4.1.4 Making Governments accountable and monitoring their progress

Action agreed

- MARI are considering getting involved in the training/investigation and research. The current FAN/CAPNET mapping exercise is looking in to whether other civil society platforms do exist in India.
- NGO Forum Bangladesh is in a position and willing to do such type of advocacy. But all 700 partners may not be willing as they fear unfavourable response from government.
- Risk assessment should be taken to consider implications for members/resources cost/benefit analysis

4.1.5 Stockholm Water Week August 2006

FAN is facilitating NGO contribution in EUWI discussions.

4.1.6 Zaragoza Water Fair 2008 (Spain)

Jorge to find more information and summarise for members but FANCA are planning to be involved.

4.1.7 World Water Forum 2009, Turkey

The next World Water Forum is in Turkey. Experience shows that it is very important to be involved in the preparatory process in order to influence sessions before the forum. Members benefit from influencing and networking.

Action agreed

- Evaluate how much we should invest to participate and build into funding strategy
- Look at proposals from World Water Council
- Write local actors participation in to work plan/ fundraising proposal

4.1.8 UN-CSD 2008 and MDG review 2010

FAN will begin to develop activities which follow up the 2004/05 work on the UN-CSD

4.1.9 World Bank CSO dialogue on urban water

FAN has been identified as a potential hub/coordinator to help to facilitate CSO dialogue with the World Bank around urban water supply at regional, global or country level, on issues such as privatisation and pricing.

In principle it was agreed that this is a good opportunity, but that it needs further discussion among FAN members on the risks/benefits of getting involved. The World Bank is open to ideas from civil society and any dialogue would form part of a 3-4 year program.

Action agreed

- Murali, Danielle Hirsch, Patrick and Jorge will produce a paper to analyse the risks, potential impact, capacity and basis for advancement and circulate on the listserve to wider membership.
- Belinda to provide history / documents
- Danielle Morley will liaise with the contacts at World Bank.

Update

The World Bank have submitted a proposal for funding which names FAN as a potential partner to develop a communications platform for planning and facilitating dialogues between the World Bank and civil society. If the first concept note is approved there will be more time to discuss FAN's possible role in this between August and September 2006.

5. COMMUNICATIONS

The objectives of FAN communication work are to:

- Evaluate and share *timely, accessible and relevant* information on water and sanitation issues with the network including updates on the international policy agenda
- Provide practical guidance on how to participate
- Provide a platform for developing and articulating joint policy messages
- Develop a sense of ownership of the network
- Promote the members

FAN members

FAN is a multi-lingual, multi-issue, international network. FAN has 424 members and 72 associate members. This figure does not include regional network membership. The majority of FAN members are connected in some form or other to web based communication. FAN currently uses information and communication technologies (ICTs) as its main means of information sharing - Newsletter, e-Bulletin, List Serves and Website.

Action points - Agreed

Freshwater News – FAN newsletter

- Aim to be more strategic with dissemination, sending newsletter to contacts in the regions who can then send out through their networks. Create a network of postboxes.
- Look in to getting it printed in a different country to keep costs down. Cost saving can be used to increase number of pages/make it colour
- There should be less text and more pictures on each page

FAN eBulletin

- Members should contribute more to the eBulletin in order develop a greater sense of ownership and better cover and promote members activities
- **Ceridwen** to identify active members to become local news correspondents that contribute news on a regular basis
- **Ceridwen** will trial using an index page to help readers scan the information contained within.

Website

The website receives, on average 7,500 visitors each month

- Ceridwen will be working on improving the look, feel, organization and design of the website over the next few months. Input/ideas required from all members to be done via survey
- Memorandum of Understanding to be developed between FAN and FANCA and ANEW in relation to updating their own pages.
- Over next few months we will develop a system of FAN member's pages which will allow members to create their own webpage to increase their profile and share lessons and experiences on promoting the local actions. **Ceridwen to follow up, consult FAN members and implement**

General

- **Advisory committee** will support Ceridwen with communications whilst Danielle is away, to ensure that the quality of information remains of a high standard and relevant to civil society.
- **Advisory committee** will help Ceridwen to identify one person in country to be news hound – to provide news for the newsletter, eBulletin and website.
- Capacity building on ICT for members to improve their advocacy capacity. Ideas are:
 - *Research who is doing communications training in countries and link this to members.*
 - *Look in to ways of building capacity of members to influence policy using the media.*
 - *Help to develop writing skills of members.*
 - *Facilitate links between networks to encourage south to south learning.*
 - *Use of public hearings as in India.*

6. DANIELLE MORLEY MATERNITY COVER PLANS

- Danielle on maternity leave mid-July until February/March.
- Ceridwen will be the main contact for communications work and for communicating with/among FAN members. She will be supported within WaterAid and perhaps by a consultant.
- Two consultants will be appointed for i) Governance/Institution building and ii) Fundraising.
- Stephen Turner will manage Ceridwen, develop the policy proposal to WaterAid and manage consultants.
- Advisory group will support Ceridwen and each other while Danielle is away.

Next steps - Agreed

- Advisory group comment on this paper by 7th July
- Involve other FAN members
- Involve others from outside the network
- Feed in to terms of reference for consultant
- The Action Plan from meeting will be drawn up by FAN and circulated to all FAN members with a request for members to volunteer to undertake various tasks.

SUMMARY OF PRESENTATIONS

UPDATE ON THE WORK OF THE FAN SECRETARIAT AND THE FUTURE OF FAN

Presentation By Danielle Morley, FAN Coordinator

Summary of achievements 05/06

- Global membership growth
- Partner platforms in Mexico & South America begun
- Database of Indian CSOs (almost!)
- Improved communications
- Strengthening alliances
- Right to water promotion
- ANEW AGM - a politicised alliance
- WaterAid funding
- 4th World Water Forum - FAN was the unique civil society voice. see reflections paper

Actions not achieved 05/06

- Governance - Protocol for decision making / Membership benefits
- Formalise learning opportunities - South-south /Advocacy skills training
- Joint publications or research
- Long-term funding / Fundraising strategy
- IWRM at local level - Mapping & understanding

Why did some agreed tasks not happen?

Lack of capacity/resources of FAN secretariat. Staffing is limited for the ambition. Nature of work is opportunistic and some issues get left behind

FAN Future

All participants were asked to read the FAN Future discussion paper Danielle explained that she hoped this paper would

- Provide a basis for development of a shared future vision for FAN, its form and structure.
- examine FAN relationship with WaterAid beyond March 2007
- take forward discussions in which began in Mexico (see– meeting minutes from Mexico)

FANCA presentation

Jorge Mora- Portuguez – FANCA Regional Coordinator

Overall progress since inception

- FANCA has become one of the most relevant civil society regional networks in Central America, with a strong presence in North and South America
- FANCA now participate in the most important water policy processes in the Region and also organize its own regional processes
- FANCA research processes (Water Boards Project, CA, Regional Documents of the Americas, Right to Water Program, etc.)

Update of last 12 months

- Supported the creation of FAN-México (FANMEX) and recently FAN-South America. – FAN-Mex paper
- Facilitated and coordinated civil society participation of the Americas in the IV WWF in the framework of the Regional Committee of our continent (COA)
- Led Latin American local actors participation in the Comprehensive Assessment on Water and Agriculture of IWM

- Significant participation in the IV WWF including facilitating the process of selection of local actions, coordinating preparatory workshops, developing sessions, presenting local actions and participation in dialogue with ministers to the Ministerial conference

Outline of priorities for next 12 months

- Communal Water Boards Project. Phase 2
- International Event on Water as a Human Right.
- Araucaria Program of the Spanish Cooperation Agency.
- Central American Integrated Water Resources Strategy (ECAGIRH).
- National Water plans and water laws processes
- FANMEX/FANCA/FANSA Strategic and Planning meeting

FAN South America

Presented by Mariana Sell, Insitute Ipanema, Brazil

South American NGOs who believe in negotiation, dialogue and participation came together at 4th WWF to progress creation of FAN-South America. They hosted a workshop in Chile on May 26th 2006 to discuss future objectives. They propose to call the network FANSA a logo incorporating the FAN logo.

Expectations from FAN and FANCA

- Support its recognition process and assist its structuring process
- Support the capacity-building of its coordinators and other members
- Support its projects
- Promote meetings and information exchange
- Allow social organizations to display their experiences of community water management
- Provide information, technological and communicational support

ANEW presentation

Edward Kairu – ANEW secretariat

Overall progress since inception

- Membership of over 50 WSS CSO organizations and networks
- Maintaining a functioning secretariat, supported by national, sub-regional and regional representatives, mirroring the 5 AMCOW regions
- Recognition of enormous potential of ANEW as a platform that speaks on behalf of all the African WSS CSOs recognized by key organizations in Africa e.g. AfDB + AMCOW
- Linkages made with key agencies e.g. UNEP, GTZ, WB, UN Habitat and the World Water Council

Update of last 12 months

- ANEW Coordinator and the Ethiopian Focal Point invited to the AMCOW EXCO/TAC Meetings held in Addis Ababa in June 2005
- ANEW represented at the Public Private Infrastructure (PPI) Conference - June 2005, Cape Town - organized by the World Bank
- ANEW participated in thirteenth session of the UN Commission for Sustainable Development (CSD 13)
- First ANEW AGM held in September 2005 in Pretoria hosted by Government of South Africa.
- ANEW members presented Local Actions at 4 WWF, a number of which were selected for the Kyoto Grand Water Prize

Summary of priorities for next 12 months include

- Appoint ANEW Coordinator

- ANEW Constitution awaiting final comments and registration in Kenya as a Trust to follow
- MoU with AMCOW to be signed in November 2006 when AMCOW Secretariat moves to Congo Brazzaville
- membership recruitment drive particularly for Central Africa
- Develop ANEW as the choice platform for WSS advocacy in the region
- fund raising
- Next AGM hopefully around November 2006 to enable the shift of AMCOW to Congo Brazzaville and to give time to the ongoing efforts

FAN Asia Presentation
Ramisetty Murali, MARI

Overall progress

- Asian Grassroots activists were supported by FAN to participate in several events WSSCC, WSSD, CSD-12, 3rd & 4th WWF
- Improved understanding of and meaningful participation in international policy processes.
- Developing advocacy skills and good networking contacts
- Experience sharing among members and exposure to good initiatives from all over the world situates issues in the global context.

Summary of forthcoming priorities

- Follow up processes of the international political commitments
- Strengthen IT based advocacy process.
- Facilitate cross learning between regional networks (FAN-CA, ANEW, FAN-SA)
- Studies on issues of regional importance to feed into on going advocacy process.
- Establishing alliances between different actors working on water and sanitation issues (NGOs, Activists, Researchers, Resource Centers, Advocacy Networks, etc.)

Update on CapNet South Asia Database (supported by FAN)

The objective of compiling the database is to create a map of resources, expertise, knowledge, and capacities of South Asian CSOs working in the water sector that will be useful and accessible by South Asian CSOs looking for information, training, advice, or potential partners for their advocacy work on water issues. The database will be hosted on FAN website.

Future agenda of FAN in South Asia

Members from FAN-Asia were inspired in Mexico by the systematic work of FANCA and ANEW. They would like to create a regional network - FAN in South Asia. Members hope to complete a national consultation process by August /September then come together a regional level then present to FAN International.