



Global Water Partnership

– building a worldwide network promoting integrated water resources management



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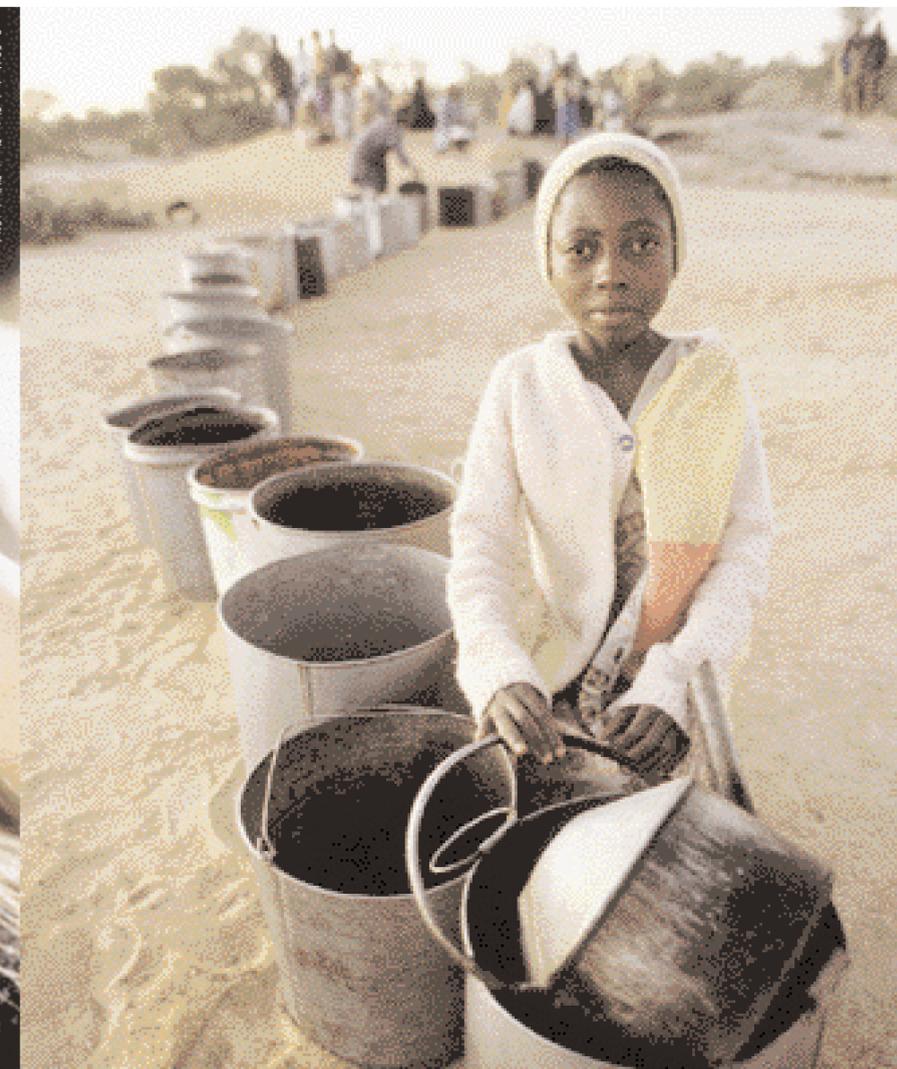
From vision to action

The GWP and the World Water Council are jointly developing a long term vision for water, life and the environment. This "World Water Vision"—to be presented at the Second World Water Forum in The Hague in March 2000—is designed to take us where we need to be to meet the water needs of the 21st Century. Through full consultation with the regional partners in the network, GWP is developing a "Framework for Action" which will document the short and long term actions that need to be taken to make the World Water Vision a reality.

The patrons of the Global Water Partnership are His Royal Highness, Crown Prince of the Netherlands, and Professor Kader Asmal, Member of Parliament, Republic of South Africa.



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Only 2.5 % of the world's water is freshwater.

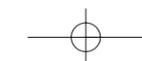
Less than 1 % of all freshwater is available for use.

Households, farmers, industries and nature – we all need safe water.

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 **Global Water Partnership**



For how long will our water last?



Freshwater for all

Freshwater's greatest benefit is health – health of people, societies and nature. Water is vital in contributing to alleviating poverty, securing livelihoods and strengthening economies.

Competition for water is escalating faster than the world's population growth. The United Nations reports that between 1940 and 1990, the world's population increased from 2.3 billion to 5.3 billion, while the per capita use of water rose four times. Today, freshwater is rapidly becoming scarce.

Water shortage can cause serious conflicts

It is not easy to say who owns water. Take a river for example. Upstream users often determine the water quantity and quality for downstream users. Water is diverted and consumed by industries, agricultural schemes, towns and nature. Any unconsumed water returned to the river may be polluted and unsuitable for human consumption and other uses downstream. Consequently, overcon-

sumption and contamination of this resource can seriously impair the economy and the living conditions of people located in downstream provinces or countries.

GWP – turning principles into action

At the international conferences on water and the environment held in Dublin and Rio de Janeiro during 1992, the international community endorsed several fundamental principles for water resource management. To help translate these principles into action, the Global Water Partnership's mission is to support countries in the sustainable management of their water resources.

From the UN to small private companies

Today, GWP is an independent global network consisting of representatives from national governments, research and non-profit organisations, non-government organisations (NGOs), United Nations agencies, multilateral banks, private compani-

es, and many other institutional stakeholders. The work of GWP is guided by a Steering Committee and a Technical Advisory Committee. The network is divided into several regions of the world, each with its own Regional Technical Advisory Committee (RTAC).

Providing practical advice

The business of the network is to synthesize and share knowledge on integrated water resources management in order to bring greater efficiency and effectiveness to investments made in the water sector. The network operates in a highly decentralised and regionally self-reliant mode. At the same time, the network provides a mechanism for dialogue and information exchange between people in different locations around the world. Through the network, local experts are able to learn about each other's experiences and needs and, when required, it provides the platform to mobilise people and resources from other parts of the world to help address these needs. In this way,

the network facilitates action at the local, regional and global levels.

"Endorsed by GWP"

To stimulate financial support for activities designed to improve the management of water, GWP and its Technical Advisory Committees work to advise donors on which programmes to support. Twice a year the GWP financial support group—which includes the major international donors—meets to discuss the programmes that TAC has recommended for funding. Increasingly, these recommendations are seen as a mark of quali-



ty assurance—a useful criterion for donors to use as a basis for committing resources to programmes.

The Global Water Partnership at work

The GWP encourages and empowers both organisations and people to participate in devising and implementing solutions to their water problems. Through the network of Regional Technical Advisory Committees, GWP offers new and innovative ways of networking between stakeholders in countries, regions and other parts of the world

Who owns the water?

by providing strategic assistance in a decentralized, self-reliant and cost-effective way. As shown in the examples below, GWP is playing a major role in the development of integrated water resources management for the sustainable use of freshwater:

- In Southeast Asia, the GWP regional TAC promoted the creation of an institutional network in the region. In December 1997, President Fidel V. Ramos presented this proposal to the ASEAN Informal Summit in Kuala Lumpur as one of the initiatives from the Philippines. The ASEAN Heads of State adopted the proposal and resolved to cooperate with one another in ensuring the conservation and sustainability of water resources and the systematic transfer of knowledge and technology.
- In South Asia, the presence of the GWP network has encouraged integrated water resources management to be placed on the national agenda with the result that it is shaping the development of national water poli-

es. In some countries in the region, GWP country networks are being established as independent, broad-based and inclusive platforms that work closely with their government partners.

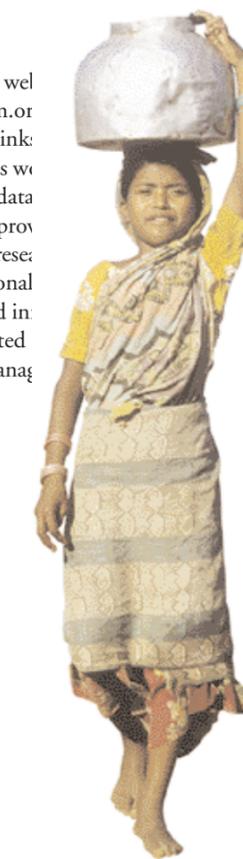
- Through the South American network, an analysis of Latin American experiences on water management reforms has been presented. The results of this analysis are expected to provide useful tools for practitioners in the region, and for guiding government policy on water management in the future.
- The recent endorsement of a GWP programme for capacity building in Southern Africa is leading to a regional network for education, training and research on integrated water management.

Visit our home site!

Any organisation agreeing to the Dublin-Rio principles may become a GWP partner. There is no partnership fee. Information on how to join

is included on our website, www.gwpforum.org. The site contains links to other organisations working on water, links to data and libraries, and provides opportunities for researchers and professional exchange ideas and information on integrated water resources management.

Welcome!



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