



WATER GOVERNANCE FACILITY



WGF Newsletter March 2006

Word from WGF

It has been an exciting first year for the UNDP Water Governance Facility at SIWI. The WGF was launched in April 2005 in connection with 13th meeting of the Commission on Sustainable Development. The Facility has come a long way since then. It is currently supporting the implementation of river basin organizations in Kazakhstan and support is also underway to support water reform processes in Mozambique and Mongolia. There has been a constant flow of various requests to the Facility on more information and support on water governance; what it is and how to work with it. During this first year we have really felt that there is a great demand in developing coun-

tries for supporting improved water governance reform and implementation. The Facility has also set in place a comprehensive website with the purpose of sharing available material on water governance reform work. A major work during this first year has been to produce the main water governance chapter for the World Water Development Report. We at the Facility hope that 2006 will continue to be an exciting year.

Håkan Tropp, UNDP Water Governance Facility at SIWI.

WGF in Action

The Facility is engaged in a wide range of activities and is currently supporting water governance reform work in countries such as Mozambique, Kazakhstan and Mongolia:

Mozambique is currently undergoing water reform and, as a part of this, the Facility is underway to support the strengthening of institutional capacities for improved long-term water management planning and implementation.

Kazakhstan is in the process of implementing river basin organisations. The Facility is facilitating this process by supporting stakeholder participation in the water resources management decision making through ensuring broad stakeholder representation

in the eight River Basin Councils of Kazakhstan. Linked to this process the Facility is also publicizing experiences of doing water reform in Kazakhstan that will be disseminated throughout the Central Asian region.

Mongolia is currently planning to formulate a national plan for improved water supply and sanitation. The Facility is underway to support this process, particularly with regard to linking water resources management and water services.

How to contact the Facility
Website: www.watergovernance.org
E-mail: watergovernance@siwi.org

On the Web

Water Governance: Make It A Daily Point

At the Facility's home page, www.watergovernance.org, visitor's can learn more about water governance, how it can be reformed and implemented. Case studies, resource links and more is available at www.watergovernance.org.

Other good governance-related sites:

- www.undp.org/water/watergovernance.html
- www.adb.org/Governance/default.asp
- www.transparency.org
- info.worldbank.org/governance/kkz2004/

Have a water governance-related web site tip? Send it to rebecca.lofgren@siwi.org!

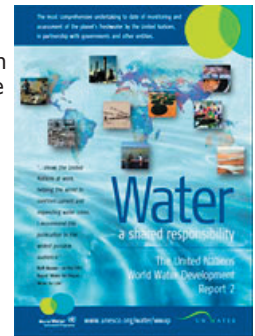
News

Facility Contributes to New World Water Development Report

Although unevenly distributed, the world has plenty of freshwater. However, mismanagement, limited resources and environmental changes mean that almost one-fifth of the planet's population still lacks access to safe drinking water and 40 per cent lack access to basic sanitation says the United Nations World Water Development Report 2.

The triennial report is the most comprehensive assessment to date of freshwater resources. It will be released during the Fourth World Water Forum (Mexico City, March 16-22). Entitled "Water, A Shared Responsibility", this edition focuses on the importance of governance in managing the world's water resources and tackling poverty. The UNDP Water Governance Facility at SIWI played an important role in developing the report's focus on governance, particularly in Chapter 2.

For more information, visit www.unesco.org/water/wwap/ or www.watergovernance.org



Calendar

March 16-22, Mexico City 4th World Water Forum

Key events include *How to Overcome Corruption in Water Resources and Service Management* and *Linking Poverty Reduction and Water Management* on March 17th. For more information, visit www.siwi.org or www.worldwaterforum4.org.mx.

Did You Know

The South African White Paper calls human capacity building "the perhaps single most important factor in achieving wise and efficient water resources management". Lack of capacity development has been worse for women, "who have been informally excluded from the scientific and technical sectors". Emphasis must therefore be given to "training and skills development for members of disadvantaged groups, with a special focus on women." (Section 7.3.1) *Gender and Water Alliance, 2003*