

# Confluence

NEWSLETTER OF THE DAMS AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

## Dams and Development - A Half Way Ahead

**Mr. Svein Tveitdal**

*Director, Division for Environmental Policy Implementation and Division on Environmental Conventions*



I joined the United Nations Environment Programme on the first of June this year as the Director of the Division for Environmental Policy Implementation and the Division on Environmental Conventions. Since then, I have been consulting with colleagues to get a grasp of the history, mandate, goals, work programme, current activities and strategies of the Dams and Development Project (DDP). I am no stranger myself to the subject of dams and the myriad of economic, environmental and social issues that revolve around them. I started my carrier as general planner of electricity transmission lines from hydropower plants in the Norwegian Water and Electricity Board almost 30 years ago. And last year, I cruised the Three Gorges Dam on the Yangtse river just before the dam started impounding.

It has been said that, "It is not just about Dams", - a statement which DDP staff members reiterate whenever the opportunity arises. Clearly, there are many important issues around dams and development - issues which encompass almost every aspect of human development, their well-being as also their relationship to the environment. These issues remind me of the UNEP Executive Director, Dr. Klaus Töepfer's motto "Environment for Development". This motto links well with the spirit of the decisions arrived at the 22<sup>nd</sup> session of the UNEP Governing Council which asked UNEP to play an active role in the follow-up to the water-related outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, in particular the World Summit's Plan of Implementation. The aim of the Plan of Implementation is to achieve the Millennium Development Goals relating to water and energy ensuring an environmentally sound management of water resources.

The goal of the DDP, which is "to promote a dialogue on improving decision-making, planning and management of dams and their alternatives based on the World Commission on Dams (WCD) core values and strategic priorities", is clearly linked to the implementation of the GC/GMEF decisions.

To achieve its goal, the Dams and Development Project focuses on four areas:

1. promoting and facilitating dialogue on dams and development issues at national, regional and global levels;
2. networking;
3. dissemination of the World Commission on Dams (WCD) Report, related material and DDP publications; and
4. facilitating exchange of ideas on good practice.

*... continued on page 11*

## Message from the new Co-ordinator



**Mr. Alberto Calcagno**

*DDP Co-ordinator*

The Dams and Development Project (DDP) has before it a very intensive Plan of Activities involving the promotion of dialogue at global and country levels, enhanced networking among stakeholders, dissemination of the World Commission on Dams (WCD) materials and facilitating the exchange of ideas on good practice and lessons learnt. Opportunities to add new dialogue initiatives, expand the Project outreach, intensify networking and the exchange of experiences are numerous. They signal that the Project is addressing key issues concerning freshwater resources management: enhanced water governance and integrated water resources management. These issues are today at the forefront of the global concerns. They are conceived, together with sound financing mechanisms, as the pathway to achieve the goals set up by the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) 2002. On promoting dialogue to improve decision-making on dams and their alternatives based on WCD core values and strategic priorities, UNEP-DDP is contributing to provide substance to the effective implementation of these new approaches. As a recently appointed Co-ordinator of DDP, I am fully aware of these opportunities and challenges and I am committed to devote my best efforts to the accomplishment of DDP goals, with the invaluable and indispensable collaboration of all DDP staff members.

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# DDP ACTIVITIES AND PROGRESS

## Dams and Sustainable Development Theme

Third World Water Forum Kyoto, Japan

Dams and Development: Promoting dialogue for improved decision-making

A Session organised by the UNEP - DDP

**Address by Dr Klaus Toepfer,  
Executive Director- UNEP**

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dams are at the centre of many controversies related to the management of water resources. Their role in supplying water for different uses (irrigation, hydropower, municipal and industrial water, flood mitigation etc.) combined with diverse impacts they have on a range of stakeholders and the environment has generated sharply contrasting reactions. The report by the World Commission on Dams has similarly led to a wide range of reactions, itself fuelling the debate, but has provided us with a framework for decision-making that is being used to promote dialogue on dams and their alternatives.

Looking at the intensity of the campaigns and the rhetoric from one side or the other, a lay person would see these extreme views as irreconcilable. One group saying that more dams are necessary, despite the impacts, if we are to meet tomorrow's needs. The other group saying that the record of dams is so poor that no more should be built.

Of course we should not be so naïve as to expect all divisions will be washed away. The underlying concepts and values we are dealing with are fundamental to development and affect people's lives.

But, when we look beyond these postures, there is evidence from the past few years that demonstrates a remarkable coming together on specific issues. There is more to unite us, it seems, than to divide.

For example, look at the following:

- acceptance of the concept of sustainable development
- concurrence that inclusive participatory processes are fundamental
- agreement that those adversely affected should be among the first to benefit
- recognition that the environment directly supports livelihoods
- growing support for good governance and accountability
- and there are more....

Experience from some parts of the world demonstrates that there is a limit to the amount of water that can be stored before impacts outweigh the benefits. A balance needs to be found.

More dams will be needed. Of this I have no doubt. Look at the Millennium Development goals and targets emanating from Johannesburg and we will see a call for more storage infrastructure.

But at the same time existing dams need to be made more efficient and other approaches are needed. Technology is not



**Dr. Klaus Toepfer**

*Executive Director, UNEP*

standing still either in the planning and implementation of dam projects or their alternatives.

Lets us concentrate our efforts to providing a framework within which each society can determine itself what is required to suit its own specific circumstances. In a particular river basin, what is the most appropriate development response to expressed needs? I welcome you to this event that provides a window on some of the challenges before us and yet at the same time demonstrates, by example, why stakeholders consider it important to work together. And how this is achieving results in identifying appropriate recommendations for reform of policy and procedures at national levels.

We have with us today a broad panel with governments, professional associations, industry, affected people and advocacy groups represented. Differences of perspective will emerge I am sure - that's why many of you in the audience have come no doubt!

Yet beyond the divergent views, let us focus on the areas where progress can be made. Together, we can realistically expect to make a difference.

UNEP is committed to working with all groups in taking this process forward. Our door is always open to explore areas of mutual co-operation. That is why we registered DDP as Type II Partnership in Johannesburg. It offers a new approach and we welcome your involvement.



**20 March 2003**

**Kyoto  
International  
Conference  
Centre**

**Room B1, 15:45-  
18:30 hrs.**

# FROM DECEMBER 2002 TO JUNE 2003

## Fourth Dams and Development Steering Committee meeting

30 and 31 January 2003, Venue: Gland



The DDP Steering Committee (SC) convened for its fourth meeting on January 30 and 31 in Gland, Switzerland. SC meeting are called to provide policy guidance for DDP activities, assess progress and consider administrative and financial matters in order to provide a direction, guidance and advice to DDP Secretariat and UNEP to proceed further with its work programme. Mr. Achim Steiner, Director General of IUCN, welcomed the participants and Mr. Donald Kaniaru, then Head of Division UNEP/DEPI, made the opening remarks. The agenda included a wide range of items including a paper on the Analysis of Reactions to WCD report, DDP's participation in the Third World Water Forum, development of the Good Practice and Lessons Learnt Database, convening of issue-based workshops, ( particularly the workshops on Options Assessment and Gaining Public Acceptance planned for the current year), the programme for the Second Dams and Development Forum

meeting, the status of the Forum Enlargement process, and the approval of a Code of Conduct for DD Forum Members. Steering Committee provided guidance on these matters as well as other of administrative and financial nature.

As an information item, the Deputy Director of the Ramsar Convention, Nick Davidson was invited to provide a briefing to SC members on Resolution VIII. 2 of the 8th Conference of the Contracting Parties adopted in Valencia, Spain last November. This resolution recognizes that, although large dams have made significant contributions to development, they have also altered the hydrology and ecology of aquatic ecosystems with severe consequences for vulnerable, aquatic species. The resolution encourages the Convention's contracting parties faced with managing or assessing the impacts of dams to use WCD information and calls on to participate in the UNEP Dams and Development Project.

The summary minutes of this meeting will be published on the DDP web site after review during the forthcoming 5<sup>th</sup> meeting that will take place in Geneva, Switzerland, in two sessions on September 24 and 27 2003, bracketing the 2<sup>nd</sup> Dams and Development Forum meeting that has been rescheduled for 25-26 September 2003, also in Geneva.

## DDP at the Third World Water Forum

20th - 21st March 2003 , Venue: Kyoto, Japan

In March 2003, DDP played two prominent roles at the Third World Water Forum. First, DDP co-coordinated the "Dams and Sustainable Development" theme on behalf of UNEP together with the World Water Council. The theme consisted of nine separate sessions on a variety of issues, ranging from specific case studies to public policy decision-making frameworks, including financial issues, and addressing global, specific national or river basin contexts. In involving a wide spectrum of diverging views, the debate on the dam issues lead to a scintillating debate on the pros and cons of dams. It is not surprising that the attendance was overwhelming in many of the dams sessions. And debaters did not disappointed such massive interest as they tore into each other's positions with zeal and, in many occasions, a refreshing sense of humour.



Following the "Dams and Sustainable Development" sessions, the conveners engaged in intense deliberations and finally produced a consensus statement, known as the "Theme Summary for the Ministerial Conference". This document can be downloaded from the DDP web site <http://www.unep-dams.org>.

The second role filled by DDP at the forum was as convener of the "Dams and Development: Promoting Dialogue for Improved Decision-making," or DDP, session on 20 March 2003. Dr. Klaus Toepfer, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, chaired the session. His opening comments appear on page 2 of this newsletter. Jeremy Bird, then Co-ordinator, UNEP Dams and Development Project, convened the DDP session. Panelists included Wang Hao, Director, Institute of Water Resources, IWHR, Ministry of Water Resources, China; Joan Carling, Representative, Cordillera People's Alliance, Philippines, Hans Peter Schiffer, Managing Director, Hydro Equipment Association; and Patrick McCully, Campaign Director, International Rivers Network. Panelists reflected on why they considered a broadly participatory process to avoid and resolve the conflicts that often arise when dam construction is on the table as a development option. Next, water resource professionals and managers from South Africa, Vietnam, Nepal and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) presented case studies designed to illuminate their experience with multi-stakeholder decision-making processes. Following the case studies, representatives from India and Thailand discussed the outcomes of their own in-country workshops. The participants in this session felt that the presentations and discussions were extremely useful in guiding their own efforts to engage a broader spectrum of society in water resources decisions.

*During the last six months Vietnam, South Africa and Thailand have made significant progresses.*

## Vietnam National Process Prepares National Scoping Report

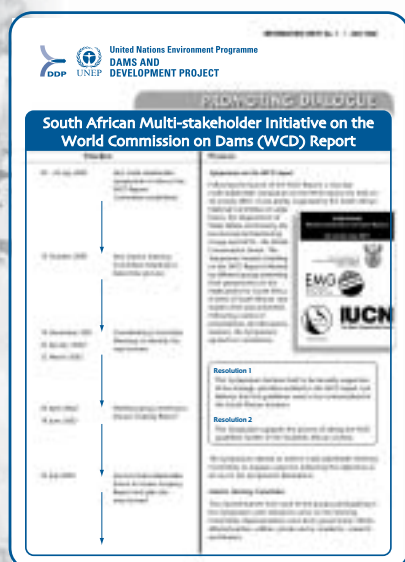
In February 2000, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) hosted the Fourth Regional Consultation of the World Commission on Dams. Following the launch of the WCD report, a delegation from Vietnam participated in a regional workshop on the report in Manila organised by the Asian Development Bank in February 2001. After that, a national initiative on WCD follow up process was launched. The WCD Report and Overview were translated into Vietnamese language. A multi-stakeholder review meeting was held in Hanoi on 11 October 2002 where 100 participants attended from all over the country. A two-phase follow-on process was proposed and it is now underway.

**Phase 1 (Dec 2002 - July 2003):** Following the initial stakeholder workshop, a multi-disciplinary writing team has prepared a Scoping Report that identified key areas in relation to the WCDs seven strategic priorities for further analysis. The five national specialists cover areas of water resources planning and design; water resources policy; hydropower planning, the environment including freshwater ecosystems; and social issues including resettlement. The existing information and perspectives have been collected, collated and analysed for defining the scope of further multi-stakeholder discussion and more detailed analysis of priority issues. The first draft of the scoping report has been completed. It now is in the process of being reviewed and finalized. Even as the first draft the report is well balanced in its coverage of the experience of the past, current procedures and challenges for the future. It has openly identified some of the key issues for future planning and management of dams and their alternatives. Overall, it is a very useful starting point for the future discussions, analysis and recommendations for dams and development in Vietnam which laid the foundation for the next phase.



**Phase 2 (July 2003 onwards):** A second multi-stakeholder workshop is planned to review the Scoping paper and identify priority tasks and an institutional mechanism within which to develop detailed recommendations on policy and procedural reforms. It is expected that this phase will take about one year to prepare its recommendations and that linkages will be developed with similar activities in other countries in the region.

## South African Initiative on the WCD Report



The Coordinating Committee of the South African Initiative on the World Commission on Dams (WCD) Report meets on a regular basis. The DDP is invited to attend the meetings as an observer. The initiative began in July 2001. In early 2002, an independent author prepared a Scoping Report, to identify the key issues in the South African context (see <http://www.unep-dams.org>). The scoping paper was discussed and refined by a second meeting of the wider multi-stakeholder forum on 23 July 2002 and finalised in October 2002.

The initiative has now entered the phase of more substantive analysis of the issues raised to consider specific areas of reform appropriate to the South African situation. Each of the WCD's Strategic Priorities is being addressed and analysed and, where appropriate, recommendations for changes in existing South African policies and procedures will be made.

Each committee member prepares brief notes from their constituency's perspective on each priority and together with appropriate elements from the scoping report form the content of each report, which is then reviewed and finalised by the Committee. To ensure a balanced output the coordinating committee has commissioned an author to attend the workshops and write-up the reports. The reports on the individual priorities will be put together into a substantive report, which will be presented to the South African Initiative's 3<sup>rd</sup> Multi-stakeholder Forum. It is to take place in late October 2003 (possibly 23/24 October) in Kwa Zulu Natal. Discussions are underway to arrange a venue.

The DDP has provided some financial assistance to the initiative, which has been used to appoint two independent authors and also to fund the expenses of the affected communities representatives who travel to caucus with their communities.

## Dams and Development Multi-stakeholders Initiative in Thailand



Translation of the WCD Overview into Thai has been finalised with financial support from DDP. A national multi-stakeholder meeting organised by the National Water Resources Committee was held on 13-14 March 2003 to discuss the major issues currently facing Thailand in the dams and development arena. More than 50 participants from all over the country joined the meeting. It produced many fruitful discussions with the identification of the key issues relevant to Thailand and consideration how these will be addressed.

The Consultation provided an excellent opportunity for constructive dialogue on what we all know are very sensitive issues. It provided an opportunity to move beyond the controversy of both individual projects and any concerns over the report of the World Commission on Dams. In summary, it was the first step to identify the key issues that are relevant in the Thai context.

*The Consultation provided an excellent opportunity for constructive dialogue.*

The fact that each of the stakeholder groups saw the value of these discussions on policy and procedural aspects and the dialogue was elevated above individual project controversy is an encouraging sign for the future process.

The recommendation to establish a Thai national task force on dams and development with representation from government agencies, water user groups, civil society and academics is a positive step in addressing the main issues facing development of water and energy infrastructure in Thailand and the broader region. This task force is expected to lead to an inclusive process and productive outcome. The formation of the task force is currently being sanctioned by the responsible Government ministry.



## DDP Activities and Progress from December 2002 to June 2003

### 1. Promoting Dialogue

- DDP engaged in numerous and diverse consultations on proposed national initiatives, e.g. Brazil, Namibia, Niger, Mexico, Senegal, Malawi, Kenya, Philippines, Indonesia, and Sri Lanka.
- DDP has been active in supporting national dialogues and initiatives in Nepal, Pakistan, South Africa, Thailand, Vietnam, UK and SADC.
- Continued the process of Forum enlargement from 68 members at time of WCD Third Forum meeting (February 2001) to over 115 from 40 countries.

### 2. Information Network

- Communications strategy prepared and agreed with Steering Committee. Now published on the DDP web site <http://www.unep-dams.org>
- Standard DDP power point presentation completed. Copy can be requested from [ddpinfo@unep.org](mailto:ddpinfo@unep.org).
- Web site has been transferred to UNEP Headquarters in Nairobi, updated and used to disseminate information on activities related to DDP work programme.
- DDP's second newsletter published in January 2003.
- Five information sheets produced on DDP related activities: South Africa, Vietnam and SADC processes; DD Forum and Issue-based Workshops.
- Responsive mechanism in place - all queries submitted to the 'help desk' are replied to. Query's traffic is monitored and statistics elaborated. Please send your inquiries to [ddpinfo@unep.org](mailto:ddpinfo@unep.org).
- Report on analysis of reactions now published on the web site.
- Updated WCD CD Rom including all reactions to the Report, Spier Proceedings and additional translations.

### 3. Dissemination

- Continuous distribution of WCD materials: distributed on request and at international, regional and national meetings. Distribution records and level of feedback through national processes monitored.
- Translation of WCD Report and Overview into Vietnamese completed and translations and review of WCD Overview into Hindi and Thai being completed. Spanish version of 3<sup>rd</sup> WCD Forum Proceedings now available. Translations of WCD Report and 3<sup>rd</sup> WCD Forum Proceedings into Chinese and Russian are in the pipeline.
- DDP presentations and discussions based upon these presentations were made at several international meetings including: Third World Social Forum, Third World Water Forum and ILEC/IAGLR 10<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Lake management.
- DDP newsletter, information sheets and other materials widely distributed to DD Forum members, those in the contacts database and at the various meetings.

### 4. Facilitating exchange of ideas on good practice

- To date 26 case studies submitted to the DDP's web based database of experiences and lessons learnt. DDP is actively involved in promoting the submission of additional case studies and comments. Submission of comments to existing examples is encouraged.

## South African Development Community (SADC): an ongoing regional process

A series of meetings were hosted by South African Development Community (SADC) Water Directorate in Gaborone, Botswana, to discuss the outputs of Phase 1 of the SADC Regional Consultation on Dams and Development and support for Phase 2 of the process. In response to a request from SADC ministers, the SADC Water Sector Coordination Unit in collaboration with GTZ, Germany and DDP agreed on a three-phase SADC Regional Consultation process on Dams and Development. The three-phase programme of activities agreed in Maseru in December 2002 is currently undergoing. Phase 1 comprised exploratory visits to six countries in the region to discuss the progress, and plans for national and regional follow-up activities.

Reports for each country have been elaborated, as well as a background report that provides an initial comparison of SADC policies with the WCD strategic priorities and an overview on key dam issues in the SADC region. As regards phase 2, a framework document for building SADC's position on the WCD report, a definition of its future role in dam and development and policies for its engagement is in place. The development of this policy will be based on multi-stakeholder discussion on the national and regional basis.

The outputs of the process are broadly seen as:

- Output 1: 3-4 National Multi-stakeholder Processes on Dams and Development initiated.
- Output 2: SADC Regional Policy on Dams and Development developed.
- Output 3: SADC inter-sectoral discussions on dams and development initiated.

A Plan of Action for Phase 2 of the Regional Consultation process was drawn up during the meeting held on 7-8 April 2003, in Gaborone. More information on SADC regional process can be acquired from [ddpinfo@unep.org](mailto:ddpinfo@unep.org).



### Now Hosted By UNEP

The DDP library has safely landed in the premises of UNEP Library, where it has its own place as a separate section and a storage. DDP library collection includes an abundance of high quality research including World Bank reports, the IUCN wetlands series, papers on social and environmental aspects of specific projects, to name a few.

The library subscribes to three hydropower journals and receives many other journals and newsletters on topics relating to the work of DDP. It also has a rich collection of journal articles and conference papers relating to the WCD themes.

It is planned that electronic database of the library and 'Dams in the News' database will be made available to UNEP network and to the outside world through the UNEP library. We are also arranging to make the catalogue system available on the DDP web site, <http://www.unep-dams.org>. For more information please contact [ddpinfo@unep.org](mailto:ddpinfo@unep.org)



## The second Dams and Development Forum meeting, 25-26 Sept 2003 Geneva, Switzerland

The second Dams and Development Forum has been rescheduled to 25-26 Sept 2003, in Geneva UN conference center in Switzerland. A broad range of Forum members from national governments, affected and indigenous peoples, utilities, NGOs, the private sector, multilateral and bilateral agencies, professional associations, researchers and groups working on alternatives to dams are being invited. Approximately 120 participants around the Globe are expected to join. The DD Forum is a broad-based multi-stakeholder group with representatives from governments, civil society and private sector. The specific role of the Forum is to:

- act as a platform for global multi-stakeholder dialogue on dams-related issues including follow-up to the WCD report;
- exchange experiences and lessons learnt on operationalising and implementing WCD core values and strategic priorities;
- be a consultative body on key outputs of the DDP;
- review the mandate of the DDP to continue beyond 2004.

The second DD Forum meeting will discuss several key issues described in the meeting programme as shown below. Briefing documents will be circulated at the meeting to support the participants in preparation of their own comments, input and discussions. For more information, detailed agenda and briefing documents can be downloaded from the DDP web site, <http://www.unep-dams.org>.

### Meeting programme

- Session 1** Opening session - The Global Dialogue on Dams and Sustainable Development: DD Forum opportunities and responsibilities
- Session 2** Framing National Dialogues
- Session 3** Comprehensive Options Assessment: Linking global and national dialogue
- Session 4** Looking beyond Strategic Priorities: promoting dialogue on key issues
- Session 5** Dams and sustainable development: DD Forum challenges half road ahead
- Session 6** Closing session: Procedural aspects related to the Forum meeting

### Contents of the briefing documents

- DDP Interim Report
- Briefing note on common element from National Initiatives and a proposed framework for their further development and assessment
- Briefing note and preliminary agenda for issue-based workshops on Gaining Public Acceptance, Addressing Existing Dams, Compliance and Financing Dams and Sustainable Development
- DDP Activity Plan 2003-2004
- Status of Forum membership (as of 30<sup>th</sup> August 2003)

## Comprehensive Options Assessment of Dams and their Alternatives

A workshop dealing with *comprehensive options assessment of dams and their alternatives* will be held on 22-24 September 2003, Geneva, Switzerland. This multi-stakeholder Workshop on Options Assessment is the first of the two issue-based workshops scheduled to be held in 2003. The theme of this workshop corresponds to the second Strategic Priority of the World Commission on Dams (WCD) and is one of the four main issues raised by the first Dams and Development Forum held in Nairobi, in July 2002.

### Objective of the workshop

The workshop aims at facilitating an international multi-stakeholder debate on Comprehensive Options Assessment with the objective of

- (i) assessing the state of the art
- (ii) mapping the challenges to produce criteria for implementation that are broadly accepted, and
- (iii) identifying ways and means to move ahead on its institutionalisation into the planning process.

### Key issues

The meetings will address critical issues grouped under four headings:

1. Planning levels and scope of analysis;
2. Identification of options. Focus on process;
3. Assessment tools; and
4. Process implementation.

Plenary sessions with presentation of case studies and working groups sessions will be carried out under each heading. Characterisation of planning levels, their links, scope and time horizons for carrying out needs and options assessment are key topics of session 1. Session two will deal among other with the institutional set up for decision making process, stakeholder involvement and public participation, incorporation of grassroots approaches and local perspectives and criteria for establishing thresholds of acceptability. Session 3 is devoted to assessment tools and criteria for their selection, assessment of monetary values to environmental and social impacts; incorporation of risk analysis, benefit-sharing mechanisms, integrated distribution, and cumulative impacts analysis in the assessment of options. Obstacles for embarking governments and society on comprehensive options assessment; financing; triggering factors; dealing with short-term needs; stakeholder participation and institutional and capacity building are the main topics to be discussed in session 4.

The findings of the workshop will provide input to the discussions on the same topic by the global Dams and Development Forum members in the second meeting to be held immediately after this workshop on Sept 25-26, Geneva, Switzerland. Agenda and briefing documents can be downloaded from the DDP web site, <http://www.unep-dams.org>.

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## Gaining Public Acceptance Issue-based workshop

The second issue-based workshop, Gaining Public Acceptance, is based upon the World Commission on Dams' first strategic priority. It is to be held on 24-26 November 2003, in Chiang Mai, Thailand. The timing of this workshop falls between two important events: the first ever Southeast Asia Water Forum and the Ministerial Conference, 17-21 Nov 2003, and the Second International Meeting of Dam-Affected people, 28 Nov - 3 Dec 2003.

The First Dams and Development Forum agreed on this priority as a key issue for the global dialogue on dams and development. Although the overwhelming consensus has been reached, a road map to gain public acceptance has yet to be drawn.

### The objectives of the workshop are:

1. to identify key issues and different perspectives related to "Gaining Public Acceptance", mapping the contentious ones;
2. to discuss means and methods of addressing all stakeholders concerns at the different stages of planning and project development;
3. to elaborate a road map to promote the incorporation of gaining public acceptance criteria and mechanisms into national legal frameworks.

### Key issues

Four sessions under the following headlines will address the wide range of issues involved in the implementation of gaining public acceptance criteria into decision-making. They are:

1. Stakeholder identification, involvement and roles: the rights and risks approach;
2. Recognising entitlements and sharing benefits for Gaining Public Acceptance;
3. Processes and tools for public participation in decision-making at different levels of project planning; and
4. Measure of success in public participation processes.

Topics for discussion will address aspects of stakeholder identification, their roles including those of the government, international stakeholders and industry, and expectations. The rights and risk approach, factors triggering a proactive attitude of governmental agencies and keeping the motivation of relevant stakeholder. Benefit sharing mechanisms and feasible methods to implement the concept of prior informed consent for indigenous peoples will be addressed as key issues for gaining public acceptance. Discussion will seek to clarify processes and tools for public participation in the decision making process, including access to information, dispute resolution mechanisms and funding. Criteria to assess gaining public acceptance, indicators and measures of success are also relevant key topics. A call for case studies has been announced. More information about the workshop and criteria for submission can be downloaded from the DDP web site, <http://www.unep-dams.org>.

## Addressing Existing Dams

Addressing Existing Dams, an issues-based workshop, is planned to be held in early 2004. The following is an excerpt of objectives and key issues that appears in the preliminary outline to be presented to the second Dams and Development Forum meeting in September 2003. After the Forum meeting the workshop agenda and briefing documents will be published on the DDP web site <http://www.unep-dams.org>.

### Objectives

The objectives of the *Addressing Existing Dams* issue-based workshop are three-fold:

- The first is to address outstanding social problems associated with existing dams in order to initialize the affected communities to redress their needs and entitlement.
- The second is to involve all stakeholders, especially government agencies, beneficiaries and affected peoples, in dam safety issues so as to produce optimum benefit, socially, environmentally and economically, out of existing dams, both large and small.
- The third is to discuss about management and operation practices under the changing context of public policies in areas of environment, safety, economics and technical regulations.

### Key issues

The following key issues are almost universal concerns of all stakeholders when addressing the existing dams in social, environmental, economic and technical contexts:-

- the optimisation of performance of existing dams,
- addressing the outstanding social and environmental issues of existing dams,
- the need for dam safety programmes,
- restoration of riverine ecosystems in case of decommissioning,
- The need for post-project evaluation to provide 'lessons learnt' for future decisions about planning, design and operations of dams,
- Need to restore, improve and optimise benefits from existing dams, both large and small should be identified and implemented.

## Financing dams and sustainable development

An issue-based workshop, **Financing dams and sustainable development** is scheduled for the early 2004.

### Objective of the workshop

The aim of the workshop is to discuss key obstacles, constraints and opportunities related to the financing of dams and their alternatives and identify initiatives to address these issues. The focus will be on facilitating the funding of projects that emerge from a planning process as the appropriate solution to a development need.

### Key Issues

A range of critical issues concerning public and private investment in dam infrastructure will be considered at the meeting. Among them are: accommodating all costs, including social and environmental externalities; – meeting responsibilities and sharing risk; making the Equator principles operational; appraisal of secondary or multiplier benefits; the policies of private banks and developers regarding dams; incorporation of "sustainability assurance" criteria (such as ISO 14001 or GRI); financing social development and environmental mitigation; financing alternatives – small-scale and decentralized options, demand side management and efficiency improvements;

capacity building requirements for sound financial decision making; the financial dimension of information disclosure and transparency in private and public sector projects; strengthening evaluation and adaptive management provisions in project licenses including re-negotiation; and implications for guarantee and insurance schemes for risk mitigation.

### Expected Output

The workshop will:

- (i) provide guidance on specific financing issues in the form of case studies and good practice;
- (ii) provide clarification on the roles of the public and the private sector; and
- (iii) consider the nature of sustainability criteria for dams and development that are suitable for

corporate social responsibility policies and, as necessary, identify institutional arrangements necessary to develop these further.

The meeting is planned for early 2004. Dates and venue will be announced on the DDP web site, <http://www.unep-dams.org>, soon.

## Views and expressions of new DDP staff members



**Wanjiku Kaniaru**  
Associate Expert

Chinese Philosopher Lao Tzu once stated that "a journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step". In many ways, this astutely captures my experience over the last two months at the Dams and Development Project (DDP). This

enjoyable yet challenging experience has broadened my horizons considerably, particularly with regard to understanding the various complexities underlying dams and development issues. On the one hand, dams will continue to make a substantial contribution to development by meeting the food and energy needs of exponentially rising populations. However, integrating previously marginalised voices of a broad range of stakeholders in ensuring that only environmentally and socially acceptable dam projects are implemented remains a critical issue. Of particular interest to me have been the DDP national multi-stakeholder dialogue initiatives in various countries, which have been an important vehicle in promoting informed debate and demonstrating that localised solutions tailored to suit each differentiated reality can be found. I am proud to be a member of the DDP team. Looking forward to contributing positively towards building upon these progressive approaches that lay the foundation of co-operation beyond antagonism in identifying sustainable solutions in each local context.



**Mary Muthamia**  
Programme Assistant

I joined the Dams and Development Project (DDP) at the height of the preparation of the second Dams and Development Forum and the Options Assessment workshop, both of which were scheduled to take place between 2 - 6 June 2003. Even though I was quite disappointed when both meetings had to be postponed, the spirit still continues. To me it was like coming home, having assisted in establishing the DDP in the year 2001.

I was also privileged to have already been acquainted with most of the other DDP family members who had passed through my office in the Division of Environmental Policy Implementation (DEPI) when I was assisting them to settle in. This has enriched my experience and working relationship with each staff member.

The work of a Programme Assistant in DDP is quite challenging but very interesting and satisfying, because everything you do is a new learning experience. You have to be alert at all times and ready to rise up to any occasion. I am glad I have been given the opportunity to explore my talents and work experience. Long live DDP.



**Martin Wahogo**  
Network Assistant

When I joined the project in June, the reception from the Co-ordinator and his team was very warm and generous and I felt great to be part of the team. I am looking forward to sharing in this exciting

opportunity. In the last few years, Information and Communication Technology (ICT) has truly changed the way of humanity.

As I sit here at the Dams and Development Project (DDP) office I cannot help but thinking of the opposing schools of thought with regards to dams, their pros and cons, and the challenges presented by them. This represents a real challenge to ICT, with regards to playing a role in helping the diverse sides come to a compromise for a better world. Providing and supporting people-centred and accountable processes, vis-à-vis dams and sustainable development is an interesting new challenge for ICT in DDP. My work experience after joining DDP has been about seeking new ways of reaching out to the stakeholders and ultimately humanity in this noble task. The Internet is the first obvious means of achieving this, and DDP is working hard to ensure that ICT and Internet become one of our strongest tools for reaching out to you. DDP will use the same tools to help you impact on humanity's way of life.



**Rose Oloo**  
Communication Assistant

I joined UNEP - Dams and Development Project (DDP) in May 2003, thus getting an opportunity to work with a multi-cultural team drawn from all over the world. I received a lovely welcome from the Co-ordinator, Senior Advisor and all the members of staff of DDP. As communication assistant, my daily duties include sending out information, facilitating the production of internal and external DDP communication materials, design and layout, dissemination, updating *Contacts Database*, assisting in the organization of meetings and workshops, and the DDP help-desk function. This is, in the first place, a challenging job.

In the second place, it allows me to learn more about important and crucial issues around dams and their alternatives. In the third place, this has enabled me to learn about valuable tools and how to propagate the World Commission on Dams core values and strategic priorities and the DDP dissemination material to a global audience. I would like to say that I am honoured to be part of the DDP team, which is a very strong unit with dedicated staff. Let us make a long lasting DDP for the sake of Equity, Efficiency, Participatory Decision-Making, Sustainability and Accountability in the *Dams and Development* arena.



**Masline A. Oketch**  
Secretary

Yesterday is not ours to recover, but tomorrow is ours to win or lose. The opportunity to work as a Secretary with Dams and Development Project in April 2003 unlocked a new door through which to expand my knowledge and experience. This has been an exciting and yet challenging period for me, shifting from the UNEP Division of Environmental Policy Implementation (DEPI) Capacity Building Branch and now providing secretarial support to the entire project team.

Nevertheless, it has been especially rewarding for me to make this important contribution to the Dams and Development Project whilst simultaneously gaining a greater sense of appreciation of the important role dams play in meeting the food and energy needs of millions of people globally. In particular, I am also grateful that my fellow team members possess such remarkable patience and sensitivity, thereby enabling me to handle stressful situations in a positive and constructive manner. I am certainly very proud to be a member of the DDP team!!

## Profile of the new UNEP-DEPI and DEC Director

(DEPI - The Division for Policy Implementation  
DEC - The Division on Environmental Conventions)

**Svein Tveitdal**, Managing Director of UNEP/GRID Arendal since 1992, has joined UNEP as Director of the Division for Policy Implementation and the Division on Environmental Conventions, effective 1 June 2003.

Born in Norway, Svein is married with two children. He received a Master of Science degree in Civil Engineering, Photogrammetry and Geodesy from the Norwegian Institute of Technology at the Norwegian Technical University NTH in 1972. From 1978-1992 he held various positions with Asplan Viak Soer, a major Norwegian consulting company, serving as Chairman of the Board, Director for Overseas Operations, Manager of the southern region, and Head of the Surveying and Mapping Division. Before that he worked as a Planner and Surveyor for various Norwegian consulting companies and the Norwegian Mapping Authority. He has also served as chairman/board member in more than 20 private companies, research institutes and NGOs.

Svein is a keen orienteering runner (running in the woods with a compass) and mountain hiker who has climbed both Mt. Kenya and Mt. Kilimanjaro. He also plays Norwegian folk songs on the accordion.



## DDP Experiences and Lessons Learnt Database

([www.unep-dams.org/goodpractice.php](http://www.unep-dams.org/goodpractice.php))

Contributing to and promoting the exchange of ideas on good practice is one of the four main goals of DDP. DDP Experiences and Lessons Learnt database is one of the main tools implemented towards its achievement. The database was established in DDP web site in October 2002, where it is readily accessible either for consultation or to submit examples. Since then the DDP Secretariat has been vigorously engaged in the process of expanding the contents of the database to ensure that it becomes a valuable and powerful tool for the exchange of ideas on good practice. A systematic review of possible sources of examples is being conducted and requests for submissions have been sent out to a large number of potential contributors. These include experts currently directly involved with DDP activities or that have contributed to WCD and it Knowledge Base, as well as other potential submitters from all stakeholder groups. The DDP also intends to compile a report analysing the submissions in 2004.

### Call for submissions

Dams and Development Project (DDP) requests your contribution by submitting specific example(s) of good practice and/or lessons learnt of which you may know. Please note that the submissions may relate to only one aspect of a process or project that is considered an interesting example, it need not cover the whole project. In the case of 'lessons learnt' DDP is particularly looking for cases where such lessons have been implemented. The web-based submissions interface is now fully operational after the office relocation to Nairobi.

It can be accessed on and submit the information directly into the database <http://www.unep-dams.org/goodpractice.php> or by completing the submission template. Alternatively, the DDP Secretariat is willing to complete the submission template for you by summarising other material you provide or you may recommend the author. All we need is the corresponding paper or relevant briefing documentation. Once we complete the draft submission template, we will send it back to allow for changes to the content, wording or phrasing before proceeding to upload it into the website database. Please send e-mail to [ddpinfo@unep.org](mailto:ddpinfo@unep.org) for assistance. The WCD's seven strategic priorities are used as a reference framework for the submission database. A brief summary of the submitted case is required, together with an indication of which of the seven strategic priorities are relevant. Related information such as papers, reports or illustrations can be attached to the submission to provide more detail if available. Examples of submissions are available on the DDP website. Once posted, other users will be able to comment on the submissions. Posted examples will also be discussed at the series of issues-based workshops that are planned to be held from September 2003 to early 2004.

# coming soon

## Calendar of Events:

**XXXth Congress of IAHR: Water Engineering And Research in a Learning Society**  
August 24-29, Aristotle University, Thessaloniki, Greece. Organized by: IAHR, <http://iahr2003.internet.gr/>

**9th IWA Conference on LWWTs** (Design, Operation and Economics of Large Wastewater Treatment Plants)  
September 1-4, Prague, Czech Republic. Organized by: IWA and Association of Wastewater Treatment Experts of the Czech Republic

**Sixth International River Management Symposium**  
September 2-5, Brisbane Queensland, Australia. Organized by: River Festival Brisbane 2003, [www.riverfestival.com](http://www.riverfestival.com)

**Envirowater 2003**  
September 3-5, Regional Centre for Water Studies, University of Castilla-La Mancha, Albacete, Spain. Organized by: CIGR, EurAgEng, Essc, ICID, <http://crea.uclm.es/envirowater2003.php>

**Sixth Water Information Summit and Workshop 2003**  
September 9-17, UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education, Delft, Netherlands. Organized by: IRC, <http://www.irc.nl>

**54th Executive Council of ICID and 20th European Regional Conference**  
September 14-19, Montpellier, France. Organized by: French National Committee of the ICID (AFEID), <http://afeid.montpellier.cemagref.fr>

**XI World Water Congress: Water Resources Management in the 21st Century**  
October 5-9, Madrid, Spain. Organized by: Ministerio de Fomento, Spain; Ministerio De Medio Ambiente, Spain And-IWRA <http://www.cedex.es/iwracongress2003/>

**HYDRO 2003. International Conference and Exhibition**  
November 3-6, Cavtat (Dubrovnik), Croatia. Organised by The International Journal on Hydropower and Dams and Network Events Limited. Supporting Organisations IHA, WB, ICOLD.

**International Conference on Estuaries and Coasts**  
November 9-11, Hangzhou, China. Organised by the International Research and Training Center on Erosion and Sedimentation (IRTCES) and Zhejiang Provincial Bureau of Water resources, China.  
<http://www.irtces.org/asshhu/icec/index.htm>

**The first Southeast Asia Water forum and Ministerial Conference**  
November 17-21, Chiang Mai, Thailand. Organised by: Global Water partnership (GWP) Southeast Asia Technical Advisory Committee (SEATAC) and the Government of Thailand.

**Hydro Africa 2003: International Conference on Hydropower**  
November 17-19, Arusha, Tanzania. Organised by International Center for Hydropower (ICH) and Tanzania Electric Supply Company Limited (TANESCO), <http://www.ich.no/hydroafrica.htm>

**Rivers for Life: Second International Meeting of Dam-Affected People and their Allies**  
Nov 28- Dec 3 2003, Rasi Salai, Thailand. Organised by Southeast Asia Rivers Network and International Rivers Network in association with an international agenda committee, <http://irn.org/riversforlife/>

**International Conference on Advanced Modeling Techniques for Sustainable Management of Water resources**  
January 28-30, 2004, Warangal, India. Organised by National Institute of Technology – Warangal, <http://amtsmw.tripod.com/>

**International Conference Water India-4 on Water resources Development – Flood Control, Irrigation, Drinking Water, Water Ways, Electric Power and Its Transmission System**  
February 4-6, Hotel Hyatt Regency, Bhikaji Cama Place, New Delhi, India. Organised by Council of Power Utilities (CPU) in Association with the Dams Society and the Hydro Power Association, [http://www.india-power.org/events\\_cwrd.htm](http://www.india-power.org/events_cwrd.htm)

## International Year of Freshwater 2003

From 2003-01-01 to 2003-12-31

The United Nations General Assembly in resolution 55/196 proclaimed the year 2003 as the International Year of Freshwater. The resolution, adopted on 20 December 2000, was initiated by the Government of Tajikistan and supported by 148 other countries. It encourages Governments, the United Nations system and all other actors to take advantage of the Year to increase awareness of the importance of sustainable freshwater use, management and protection. It also calls upon governments, national and international organizations, non-governmental organizations and the private sector to make voluntary contributions and to lend other forms of support to the Year. The International Year of Freshwater provides an opportunity to accelerate the implementation of the principles of integrated water resources management. The Year will be used as a platform for promoting existing activities and spearheading new initiatives in water resources at the international, regional and national levels.

URL: <http://www.wateryear2003.org>

## Dams and Development - A Half Way Ahead

... continued from page 1

At the national level, the follow-up processes to the WCD Report are developing in a range of different ways. However, in each case, there is an expressed commitment at the political level to the process and to the broad multi-stakeholder involvement. At the regional level South African Development Community (SADC) initiative is developing as a leading case and we foresee such kind of initiatives in Asian and other continents influenced by their own cultural and social values. At the global level the second Dams and Development Forum and Comprehensive Options Assessment workshop is to be held in September 2003. Four more issues based workshops are being scheduled for late 2003 and early 2004.

Speaking on behalf of two Divisions which I head, we are pushing the boundaries of what participation, transparency, and openness imply in a global dialogue on public policy issues in the environment arena.

In the UN wide context, in his millennium report Kofi Annan, UN Secretary General, emphasizes that renewal of the United Nations requires bringing international institutions, civil society, the private sector and national governments together in informal policy networks.

You will agree with me that this highlights the relevant role of DDP in bringing all interested groups together at the multi-stakeholders meetings and facilitating their open and inclusive dialogue about improved decision-making, planning and management of dams and their alternatives.

## Relocation of the DDP office to Nairobi

DDP Secretariat was established in Cape Town at the time the Project was launched in November 2001. It made convenient use of the facilities inherited from the WCD including office, furniture and equipment as well as of all WCD documentation and materials stored there. The Project also benefited from the hospitality of the South African government that played a relevant role during the WCD process. In July 2002, at the occasion of the 1<sup>st</sup> DD Forum meeting, UNEP made public its decision of relocating DDP Secretariat to Nairobi. Decision was taken to better support the networking and outreach activities of the Project, particularly regarding relationships with governments and international organisations, and benefit from the synergies with other UNEP major programmes (GIWA, UNEP-FI, GPA, GEF) and the activities of its various divisions dealing with environmental aspects of development.

Relocation process started in December 2002 with the early move of a Senior Advisor to Nairobi to organise the establishment of DDP Secretariat in UNEP headquarters. The movement of furniture, equipment, WCD and DDP documentation and printed materials, files and library to Nairobi was divided in three shipments along the months of January, March and April 2003 to allow for the smooth transfer of activities to Nairobi following the closure of Cape Town office on April 30<sup>th</sup> 2003. Relocation also

involved the migration of all IT based systems to Nairobi making them operational in the UNON-UNEP environment. This refers to the website, dam's database, dam-server and other associated databases that contribute to the wealth of DDP knowledge and capacity to operate. Relocation also involved recruitment of new local staff members and even senior and associate professional staff, due to the fact that not all members of the original team were able to continue serving the Project in Nairobi. Thus relocation involved a major challenge for the Project resulting in a substantially renewed staff, different administrative and IT environments and operational rules that required many efforts in terms of training, adaptation and tuning to minimise impacts on Project activities and its work programme.

As a result of relocation Mr. Jeremy Bird, former coordinator, Pamela Wallace, associate expert and the Cape Town support team integrated by Pamela Morris, Nadia Richards, Phumla Yeki and Thando Magadla left DDP in search of other challenges. DDP thanks all them for their dedication and valuable contribution to the successful development of the Project and wishes them all the best in their new assignments. At the same time DDP welcomes the new support staff whose views and expressions are included in other section of this newsletter.

### List of Financiers

The following organizations have committed financial support to the Dams & Development Project.  
DDP is most grateful for their financial contributions.



**Organisation:** Federal Ministry for Economic Co-operation & Development (BMZ)  
Country: Germany



**Organisation:** Directorate-General for Development and Co-operation (DGIS)  
Country: Netherlands



**Organisation:** Swedish International Development Co-operation Agency (SIDA)  
Country: Sweden



**Organisation:** Department of International Development  
Country: United Kingdom



**Organisation:** Swiss Agency for Development Co-operation (SDC)  
Country: Switzerland



**Organisation:** British Dams Society  
Country: United Kingdom

"The World Bank, IUCN and GTZ are supporting specific activities of the DDP and discussions with others are underway."

## Events with DDP Participation in the last six months

Date	Location	Meeting	Organisers
9 – 11 December 2002	Kathmandu, Nepal	Presentation to Regional Seminar on WCD Report Discussion with Ministry of Water Resources on follow-up	Water and Energy Users' Federation-Nepal (WAFED)
14 – 16 December 2002	Islamabad, Pakistan	Presentation on Dams and Development to Second Asia Water Forum	Global Water Partnership (GWP)
24 January 2003	London, UK	Consultation on UK Draft Position on WCD Report	UK Stakeholder Group
26 January 2003	Porto Alegre, Brazil	Brazil Forum Meeting Presentation on DDP	Third World Social Forum
13-14 March 2003	Bangkok, Thailand	National Consultation on Dams and Development	Department of Water Resources / Southeast Asia Technical Advisory Committee (SEA TAC)/ GWP
16-23 March 2003	Kyoto, Japan	Third World Water Forum	Third WWF Secretariat/ World Water Council
1 April 2003	Niamey, Niger	Regional Wetlands Conference	IUCN, West Africa Office
16-20 June 2003	Montreal, Canada	*The 21 <sup>st</sup> Congress of the International Commission on Large Dams (CIGB-ICOLD)	The International Commission on Large Dams (ICOLD), the Canadian Dam Association (CDA) and Hydro-Québec
June 2003	Chicago, USA	10 <sup>th</sup> ILEC's/46 <sup>th</sup> IAGLR International Conference on Lake Management	International Lake Environment Committee and International Association for Great Lake Research

\*The 21st Congress of the International Commission on Large Dams (CIGB-ICOLD) was held on 16 – 20 June 2003 in Montreal, organized by the Canadian Dam Association. Dams and Development Project participated in the event and made a well-received presentation. The Congress tackled four main questions, numbered Q80 to Q83, comprise two on financial and economic aspects and two on technical aspects of dams as follows:

- Financing of hydraulic projects including dams (question 80);
- Economic evaluation of hydraulic projects including dams (question 81);
- Aging and rehabilitation of concrete and masonry dams and appurtenant works (question 82);
- Seismic aspects of dams (question 83).



**Montréal 2003**  
CIGB-16-20 Juin 2003  
ICOLD-June 16-20 2003

More details on the topics that were discussed at the Congress can be found on the ICOLD web site, <http://www.cigb-icold.org>

### Contacting the DDP

Kindly visit the DDP website: [www.unep-dams.org](http://www.unep-dams.org) for information about follow-up initiatives around the world, reactions to the Report and submissions on good practice.



**United Nations Environment Programme**  
**DAMS AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECT**



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