

## Dams and Development: Evaluation and Continuity

UNEP-DDP entered the last semester of its current phase with the onset of year 2004. This is the time for continued efforts to fulfil a full agenda under its committed plan of activities.

Clearly, this is a time for reflection on what the project has achieved so far, of what it is expected to achieve by July 2004, and of its potential for further benefits in the medium and long-term. The UNEP-DDP Secretariat will continue to follow up and further promote dialogue at regional and country levels, to organize the planned components of global dialogue including the remaining issue-based workshops and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Dams and Development Forum, to further strengthen networking and dissemination activities and to develop the database of relevant examples and lessons learnt. At the same time, the project is undergoing an evaluation of past and expected performance and future potential to better ascertain and design the best possible approach for the second phase of the project. In order to make a recommendation to UNEP in this regard, during its fifth meeting in Geneva in September last year, the Steering Committee members requested UNEP to commission an external and independent evaluation of the UNEP-DDP. As I write this article, the evaluation report is being finalized. It will soon be distributed to the Steering Committee members for their reflection and proposals.

There is little doubt that UNEP-DDP, as one of the most important institutional follow ups of the WCD recommendations, has significantly contributed to keeping the WCD message alive by widely disseminating it among the various stakeholder

groups around the world. UNEP-DDP has spread this message jointly with a proposal for all inclusive and open dialogue to temper conflicting views and to agree on ways to improve policy and procedures for making decisions on water and energy resource management in the context of local needs, institutional settings and legal frameworks. The UNEP-DDP has facilitated and contributed to dialogues at national, regional and global levels, and in both developing and developed countries, based on WCD's core values and strategic priorities and addressing the key issues concerning the dams and development debate. The project has made efforts to involve governments, financiers, private sector and civil society in a new ethos of constructive and proactive discussion to transform dams and their alternatives into effective tools for promoting sustainable development, regional integration and peace. Ongoing and emerging country consultations and dialogue processes, the DD Forum meetings, the issue-based workshops, the website, the relevant examples and lessons learnt database and many other aspects of UNEP-DDP activities have all contributed to the attainment of these objectives which are the very essence of UNEP-DDP mandate and goal.

Looking forward, there is little doubt that there still is a long way to go to bridge the gap between aspirations and reality. Aspirations deal with putting in place decision-making processes that result in solutions involving dams and their alternatives that are accepted by the public, effectively contribute to poverty alleviation,

*Contd. on p.2*

### CONTENTS

Dams and Development: Evaluation and Continuity .....	1
Progress in Promoting Dialogue at a Glance ..	2
National Dialogue .....	2
Nepal .....	2
South Africa .....	3
Sri Lanka .....	3
Vietnam .....	4
Regional Dialogue .....	
Update on the regional Dialogue: SADC .....	
Global Dialogue .....	5
Global Forum: Second Dams and Development Forum .....	5
Issue-based Workshop "Comprehensive Options Assessment" .....	6
Networking Activities .....	7
WCD report and materials .....	7
International meetings .....	8
UNEP-DDP at the CGIAR Challenge Program on Water and Food .....	8
UNEP-DDP at the First Southeast Asia Water Forum .....	8
UNEP-DDP at the PAN-African Conference .....	8
Fifth Steering Committee Meeting in Geneva, September 2003 .....	7
Evaluation of the Dams and Development Project .....	8
Up Coming Events .....	9
Remember to submit your Good Practice and Lessons Learnt .....	10
Views and Expressions of New UNEP-DDP Staff Members .....	10
• Constance Hunt .....	10
• Rene Nijenhuis .....	10
Events with UNEP-DDP participation .....	11
Calender of Water Events .....	12
Contacting the UNEP-DDP .....	12

promote equity and are sustainable in environmental, social and economic terms. Some aspects of reality indicate that governments and all those influencing decisions still find it difficult to incorporate multi-stakeholder and intersectoral approaches and public participation in the established decision making frameworks. It is obvious that moving comprehensive options assessments upstream in the planning process requires more political will and international co-operation; that recognizing entitlements, sharing benefits and ensuring that project-affected people are better off requires more progressive and effective legal and institutional approaches to overcome weaknesses in the recognition of rights and assessment of risks; and that stronger motivation and innovative approaches are needed to implement tools and build institutions to ensure compliance as a safeguard for sustainability.

These are some of the critical and central aspects that national dialogues need to address if they are to come out with practical solutions at country level that improve decision-making and produce better development outcomes. The global dialogue must also address these and other remaining controversies and provide sound guidance based on stakeholder experiences from around the world to help remove the stumbling blocks created by entrenched positions. UNEP-DDP experience indicates that the proper way to move beyond conflict towards consensus and to enhance cooperative attitudes among stakeholders is to discuss these critical issues in the arena of national, regional and global multi-stakeholder dialogues. It is also necessary to pave the way for the adoption of improved policies and procedures by governments, developers, industry, private sector and non-governmental organisations. While the scenarios that led to the launching of the WCD in 1997 and the establishment of UNEP-DDP in 2001 continue to evolve, the need remains: to improve decision-making. Let us all renew our efforts in this direction.



## Progress in Promoting Dialogue at A Glance

One of the four elements of the UNEP-DDP work programme is "Promoting Dialogue" at national, regional and global levels. During its second meeting, DD Forum members identified these dialogues as being of the highest priority. Accordingly, the UNEP-DDP has actively promoted dialogues, resulting in the following considerable progress as indicated in pages 2-6.

### National Dialogue

UNEP-DDP has been consulted in this field during the last six months concerning national initiatives to discuss dams and development issues in Ghana, India, Iran, Indonesia, Kenya, Lesotho, Mozambique, Malawi, Myanmar, Namibia, Nigeria, the Philippines, and Zambia. To date UNEP-DDP financial, intellectual, technical and other in kind support has gone to 7 national processes namely Argentina, Nepal, Pakistan, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vietnam. The recent updates on national multi-stakeholder workshops are published in this issue. Proceedings and minutes of national workshops are available on the UNEP-DDP website. Scoping reports have been elaborated for Nepal, South Africa and Vietnam national processes. Please visit <http://www.unep-dams.org> for more information on progress on activities and outputs of national processes.



### Nepal National Process and Scoping Report

The Nepal country initiative that is a WCD follow up process is one of several successful UNEP-DDP initiatives in Asia. The dialogue has built upon a special session on the WCD at a regional meeting on Integrated Water Resources Management organized by the Nepal Water Partnership on 26-28 Feb 2002. On 2 January 2003, IUCN Nepal organized a meeting to discuss future actions to develop Nepal's position on the WCD report. There was a general agreement amongst the participants that the WCD report provided a very good basis for discussion within Nepal for more effective water resources management for Nepal's overall development. It was mentioned that the main issue was neither a complete adoption nor rejection of these recommendations but to internalise them for better dams planning and implementation. A subsequent meeting of the task force agreed on an overall mission statement for the process:

*"To carry out national consultations on dams and development, to consider the relevance of the recommendations of the WCD and other bodies in the Nepalese context with the*

## UNEP-DDP Activities and Progress from July to Dec 2003

*ultimate aim of recommending the development and adoption of a national guideline for improved decision making, planning and management of dams and alternatives for Nepal".*

UNEP-Dams and Development Project supported the Nepalese Dams and Development National Consultation Process from 1 January to 31 July 2003 both financially and technically.

#### The scoping report

The first draft of the "Nepalese scoping report," also known as "status report on Nepal's policy, legal and other guidelines vis-à-vis the D&D recommendations," was issued in September 2003.

The report provides a very comprehensive review of existing laws and regulations related to dams and development in Nepal. UNEP-DDP congratulates the Nepal National Task Force, the writing team and all parties involved in this process. In undertaking the comparison of national provisions with recommendations of WCD, the task team analysed the seven strategic priorities, focusing on the content of 26 WCD guidelines. The result is a compilation of areas where Nepal's policies already provide coverage and where there is no current policy.

The analysis also identifies areas where implementation needs to be strengthened in the light of existing policies.

#### At the second DD Forum

Nepalese stakeholders presented the Nepal national multi-stakeholder process before the international audience at the second Dams and Development Forum held in September 2003 in Geneva.

#### What is the next?

The consultation meeting with the representatives from the government ministries and departments was held on 14 November 2003 in Kathmandu. At this moment, Nepal is gearing up for the second phase with renewed commitment from government, NGOs, INGOs, the private sector and academia to continue multi-stakeholder dialogue on Dams and Development in Nepal towards sustainable development.

### South African Multi-stakeholder Initiative on the WCD Report

The South African Multi-stakeholder Initiative on the WCD Report was the first national initiative on dams and development. Compared with other national initiatives, this initiative has progressed the furthest in addressing the recommendations of the WCD report. Significantly, it has now entered into a phase of more substantive analysis of the issues raised in order to consider specific areas of policy and legislative reform appropriate to the South African context, including the establishment of institutional structures for multi-stakeholder participation in follow-up and monitoring.

A multi-stakeholder Coordinating Committee has been established to provide overall guidance to the process. The first major output was a scoping report that critically assessed and identified key dams and development issues in South Africa. Each strategic priority has been addressed through workshops attended by the multi-stakeholder Coordinating Committee at approximately two month intervals. Three individual strategic priorities (gaining public acceptance, comprehensive options assessment and addressing existing dams) have been discussed and consolidated into a substantive report. The report was presented at the South African Initiative's 3<sup>rd</sup> Multi-stakeholder Forum meeting held in Valley Trust, Durban on 23-24 October 2003.

The UNEP-DDP has been actively supporting this initiative as well as providing financial assistance to it. UNEP-DDP funds have been used to pay for preparation of reports by an independent consultant/author and also to assist the affected community representatives with travel costs to caucus with their constituents prior to each Coordinating Committee workshop. The South African Initiative foresees its successful completion in October 2004. More details can be found on the UNEP-DDP web site, <http://www.unep-dams.org>.

### Sri Lanka National Multistakeholder Workshop

The first multistakeholder consultation workshop, entitled "Dams and Development Dialogue," was held in Colombo on 5-6 December 2003. Hon. Gamini Jayawickrama Perera, Cabinet Minister, Ministry of Irrigation and Water Management, opened the workshop. More than 50 participants from across the country and representing diverse groups of stakeholders including farmers, dam-affected peoples, religious figures, government ministers, senior government officials, water and energy professionals, advocacy



NGOs and international NGOs attended the meeting. Participants remembered the first WCD regional consultation held in Colombo five years ago on 10-11 December 1998 and the presentation of WCD Report in Colombo that was made in November 2000. The Dams and Development dialogue was launched through the joint efforts of a sub-multistakeholder organizing committee comprising the Ministry of Irrigation and Water Management, Interim Water Resources Authority and Network of Women Water Professionals. The groundwork has been laid by the Network of Women Water Professionals, which translated the WCD overview into Sinhalese. The WCD Sinhalese overview and seven strategic priorities were used as a basis for the entire, two-day dialogue. At the end of the workshop, a consensus on some issues was reached and a final declaration was written in Sinhalese and translated into English. The statement focuses, among other issues, on the priority that should be given to affected groups in the allocation of benefits from projects as well the compensations due to displaced communities. The need to ensure participation of all stakeholders in the planning process is also addressed. Reference is made to the need of small and large reservoirs and their organisation according to traditional cascade practices. The full text of this declaration can be found on [http://www.unep-dams.org/document.php?cat\\_id=69](http://www.unep-dams.org/document.php?cat_id=69)

#### What is the next step?

The translated WCD overview in Sinhalese is now undergoing a peer review process. Sri Lanka has a keen interest to engage in a Dams and Development Dialogue as a long-term process. It also is interested in playing an active role in a South Asia Dams and Development Multistakeholder Regional Initiative.

## Vietnam National Process

After the initial workshop on the World Commission on Dams Report in Hanoi on 11 October 2002, a two-phase programme has been developed to produce policy recommendations incorporating the WCD strategic priorities into the Vietnamese context.

#### First Phase of Co-operation: Preparation of Scoping Report

A multi-disciplinary writing team drafted a scoping report that identified key areas in relation to the WCDs seven strategic priorities for further analysis. The five national specialists involved in the team covered areas of water resources planning and design, water resources policy, hydropower planning, the environment such as freshwater ecosystems, and social issues including resettlement. They collected, collated and analysed existing information and perspectives as a basis for defining the scope of further multi-stakeholder discussion and more detailed analysis of priority issues. The team submitted the draft scoping report to UNEP-DDP in August 2003. UNEP-DDP commented on the



report and highlighted the key issues and recommendations. The scoping report will be finalized in early 2004.

#### Second Phase of Co-operation

Drawing on the discussions that took place during a UNEP-DDP mission to Vietnam on December 2003, a proposal for a second phase of co-operation made by UNEP-DDP to MARD, MoNRE and MoI has been well received. The process to the proposed second phase would include the following components. The organization of a second multi-stakeholder workshop in Hanoi to consider the issues raised in the revised scoping report. The scoping report would be a background document for the workshop. The office of the NWRC will lead the preparation of the workshop in consultation with departments of the sectoral ministries, UNEP-DDP and other agencies providing support to the workshop. A short briefing document (4-5 pages) will summarise the key issues for discussion in the plenary and breakout sessions of the workshop. The outcomes of the second workshop will provide input to the design of a programme for the second phase of the dialogue on dams and development with the goal of developing recommendations at policy, procedural and management levels that address the key topics raised at the workshop. Based on experience from other countries undertaking a similar process, it is expected that this programme could take 12 to 24 months to complete.

UNEP-DDP has been consulted to discuss the possibility of organizing regional initiatives on dams and development issues in Mekong River Basin and South Asia recently.

## Update on the Regional Dialogue: Southern African Development Community (SADC)

A description of the Southern African Development Community's ongoing regional process was published in Confluence No.3, July 2003. This issue updates readers on the progress SADC has made up to December 2003. In response to a request from SADC ministers, the SADC Water Directorate, in collaboration with GTZ, Germany and UNEP-DDP, agreed on a three-phase SADC Regional Consultation process on Dams and Development. The main objective of the consultative process is to define SADC's future role and the policies for its involvement in dams and development in the region.

The three-phase programme of activities was agreed in Maseru, Lesotho in December 2002. A concept note on the process and framework for initiating SADC national initiatives, a background paper covering key issues on dams and development in the region and a framework for the regional process have been produced. In addition, a draft SADC Regional Policy on Dams and Development and a draft SADC position on the WCD Report have been developed and discussed intensively with the Water Directorate and other related SADC sectors.

In November 2003, the decision was taken to merge the Dam Policy with the SADC Water Policy, which is also currently being developed. It is envisaged that this process will include widespread stakeholder consultations at both national and regional levels during February 2004. A multi-stakeholder regional workshop is planned for April or May 2004 to review and discuss the SADC Water Policy. During this multistakeholder workshop, there is a plan to have a special Dam Session in which the SADC position on the WCD and dam-related issues within the Water Policy will be critically evaluated. More information on the regional consultation process can be acquired from [ddpinfo@unep.org](mailto:ddpinfo@unep.org).

The UNEP-DDP promotes and facilitates global dialogues through two processes. The first is by convening the Dams and Development Forum meetings and the second is the organization of issue-based workshops. The Second DD Forum meeting and the first issue-based workshop on WCD strategic priority 2, "Comprehensive Options Assessment," were successfully held back-to-back in September 2003 in Geneva. The other issue-based workshops to be held during the first semester of 2004 are presented in the upcoming events section.

## Global Forum: Second Dams and Development Forum in Geneva, September 2003

The second Dams and Development Forum meeting was held on 25-26 September 2003 in Geneva. More than 90 participants representing thirteen different categories of stakeholders attended the meeting. It was held in the form of five plenary sessions and one breakout session. The Forum Chair and the Executive Director of UNEP made opening remarks, which were followed by a presentation by the UNEP-DDP coordinator on project activities that have taken place from the project's inception in November 2001. After the first four plenary sessions, Forum members separated into five breakout sessions in which participants generated input to the UNEP-DDP on conducting national dialogues and on the issue-based workshops which were yet to be organized. The fifth and last plenary session summarized the outputs of the five breakout sessions and provided guidance to the project for the remaining nine months.

During the first plenary session, entitled "The Global Dialogue on Dams and Sustainable Development: Dams and Development Forum opportunities and responsibilities,"



participants discussed the fulfilment of Forum roles and responsibilities, taking into account decisions made at recent international meetings. The second plenary session, "Framing National Dialogues," dealt with the promotion of dialogue on dams and development at the national and sub-national levels, building on the experience and outcomes of the initiatives supported by UNEP-DDP so far and addressing issues raised at the Steering Committee meetings. The third plenary session, "Comprehensive Options Assessment: Linking Global and National Dialogues," discussed how the outcomes of the workshop on comprehensive options assessment, which were produced at the global level, would nourish national initiatives and stimulate similar actions at national and sub-national levels. The fourth session, "Looking Beyond Strategic Priorities: Promoting Dialogue on Key Issues," tackled the remaining issues to be addressed in the upcoming workshops on WCD strategic priority 3: addressing existing dams, on WCD strategic priority 6: ensuring compliance, and on financing dams and sustainable development, with the goal of identifying the key topics that should be brought to the global discussion arena. These topics involve principles, policy, criteria and guidelines that emerge when the implementation of the strategic priorities is addressed at the national and sub-national levels. The issue of how UNEP-DDP deals with gender inequity in the field of water resources management was raised. The audience was broken out into five smaller groups that addressed topics concerning the framing of national dialogue processes and the four planned issue-based workshops. The rapporteurs presented the outputs of each group to the Forum.

Following the final plenary session, "Dams and Sustainable Development: Dams and Development Forum Challenges Half Road Ahead", devoted to seek guidance from the Forum members to streamline the activities for the remaining nine months, the Director of the UNEP Division of Environmental Policy Implementation, Mr. Svein Tveitdal and the Forum Chair, Mr. Donald Kaniaru, delivered closing remarks.

### Issue-based workshop "Comprehensive Options Assessment"

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Dams and Development Project (UNEP-DDP) convened an issue-based workshop on comprehensive options assessment, which was the second Strategic Priority identified by the World Commission on Dams, on September 22-24 2003 in Geneva, Switzerland. The objective of the workshop was to develop strategies for closing the existing gap between aspiration and reality when it comes to implementing comprehensive options assessments of dams and their alternatives.

Over 40 participants gathered to earnestly share experience, knowledge and ideas. Out of 22 case studies submitted to UNEP-DDP in preparation for the workshop, 13 were presented during the workshop. These case studies reflect state-of-the art, since the ideal approach to comprehensive options assessment as articulated by the WCD and elaborated on by workshop participants has not yet been executed. The purposes of the case studies are to share lessons learned, including both successes and failures, and help identify challenges and opportunities to performing comprehensive options assessments. All of the case studies, including the ones not presented in Geneva, are now available from the UNEP-DDP secretariat or as a PDF file at <http://www.unep-dams.org>.

Workshop participants agreed on the need to move the process of options assessment further upstream in the decision-making process, to the policy and strategic planning levels, rather than leaving the assessment of options until the time comes to choose specific projects. At this point, the technology to be used has, in many cases, already been determined and an options assessment is unlikely to influence final decisions on development strategies. To address this issue, workshop participants recommended that cross-sectoral needs assessments at the national policy level are a necessary prerequisite to comprehensive options assessment, and that the options assessment process should begin with the consideration of national policies and programs to meet identified needs. Workshop participants further identified the necessity of placing all options for meeting water- and energy-related needs on the table at the outset of the decision-making process. The need for more inclusive decision-making processes was also strongly expressed. The full workshop proceedings are available for downloading from the UNEP-DDP's web site (<http://www.unep-dams.org>) or on request from the UNEP-DDP secretariat in Nairobi, Kenya.



### Networking activities

Newsletter Confluence 2, Dec 2002, and Confluence 3, July 2003 were issued and distributed in electronic and printed versions. The UNEP-DDP standard Power Point presentation is available upon request and/or can be downloaded directly from UNEP-DDP web site, <http://www.unep-dams.org>. It has been frequently updated for targeted presentations at international conferences and workshops. The UNEP-DDP Power Point Presentation has also been distributed to organisations requesting it for various purposes. Eight info-sheets have been produced dealing with Objectives and Work Programme, DD Forum (updated), Issue-based workshops (updated), workshop on comprehensive options assessment, South Africa dialogue (updated), Vietnam (updated), SADC (updated), Strategic Priorities, National Dialogues and Translation Guidelines. A Help Desk/ UNEP-DDP info facility is available for all our readers. Between July 2003 and Dec 2003 UNEP-DDP received sixty-five requests from students, professionals, governments, NGOs and institutions of higher learning asking for information, data, newsletter, info sheets, the UNEP-DDP interim report, first DD Forum proceedings, WCD CD roms, WCD knowledge base and other sources of information. The UNEP-DDP secretariat would be happy to service your information needs. Please do not hesitate to send your requests/inquiries to [ddpinfo@unep.org](mailto:ddpinfo@unep.org).

### WCD Reports and Materials

WCD Reports and materials distributed in more than 20 countries. A targeted distribution including UNEP-DDP information is being further planned to inform relevant ministers in countries with active dam construction programs that have not yet responded to the WCD recommendations or engaged in national dialogues on dams and development. The WCD overview has been translated into 16 languages, some of which, including the German, Polish, Sinhalese and Burmese translations, were produced with local resources and without financial support from the UNEP-DDP. The full WCD Report has been translated into Spanish and Vietnamese, in addition to English. The translation of the WCD Final Report and

the Proceedings of the Third WCD Forum meeting into Chinese, and their peer review, printing and distribution in China have been agreed with the State Environmental Protection Administration of China (SEPA). The translation will soon be finalised and printing and distribution is expected to be completed by July 2004.

### Fifth Steering Committee Meeting in Geneva, September 2003



The Fifth Steering Committee Meeting was held in two sessions straddling the second DD Forum meeting on 24 and 26-27 September 2003 at the International Conference Centre in Geneva, Varembe Centre.

The facilitator of the meeting, Mr Donald Kaniaru, Special Advisor to the Executive Director of UNEP opened the first session welcoming the participants. The Director of the Division for Environmental Policy Implementation and Division on Environmental Conventions, Mr. Svein Teivdal gave a short speech. Five important items were discussed in the first session: review of the UNEP-DDP mandate, tabling the issue for DD Forum consideration; the enlarged membership of the Forum; the conclusion of the Comprehensive Options Assessment workshop; and the background materials prepared for DD Forum members' discussions, finalisation of DD Forum meeting agenda, Forum facilitation and assignment of roles for both SC members and UNEP-DDP staff.

In the second session, the review of UNEP-DDP mandate beyond 2004 on the basis of 2nd DD Forum outcomes was discussed. The steering committee advised UNEP-DDP to undergo an external evaluation to assess the current performance and potential benefits for a second phase if the project were to extend beyond July 2004. Next, the third DD Forum agenda was discussed in the light of lessons learned from the second DD Forum. The minutes of the Fourth Steering Committee meeting at Gland in Jan 2003 were considered and approved. Goals, dates and venue of the next Steering Committee were agreed. Renewed consideration was also given to the issue of government representation in the UNEP-DDP SC. A considerable amount of time was devoted to the UNEP-DDP Work programme until June 2004, with the steering committee members providing direction and guidance to the UNEP-DDP secretariat. UNEP-DDP will focus on the following key items for the next nine months: facilitating country and regional dialogue processes, convening the third DD Forum meeting in June 2004, organising issue-based workshops, the participation

and involvement of the secretariat in international meetings, further promoting the exchange of ideas for good practice, and fund raising activities. The meeting was adjourned on September 27 2003.

### Evaluation of the Dams and Development Project

UNEP-DDP is a time-bound project that has a two-year mandate, which was designed to terminate in July 2004. The fifth Steering Committee meeting held in Geneva decided that UNEP-DDP should be evaluated by an independent external evaluator to assess its current performance, as projected up to July 2004, and to predict

the potential of the future benefits beyond 2004 if UNEP-DDP were to operate for a second phase.

The UNEP Evaluation and Oversight Unit (EOU) was commissioned to organise the assessment. The terms of reference were elaborated in consultation with the SC members. The list of potential evaluator was built on the basis of candidates recommended by the SC members. Dr. Mohan Munasinghe from Sri Lanka was selected by EOU to undertake this very important duty, on the basis of its well-established criteria. The evaluation report is meant to provide input for a Steering Committee recommendation to UNEP on the future of UNEP-DDP, which is expected to be issued in early 2004.

### International meetings



#### UNEP-DDP at the CGIAR Challenge Program on Water and Food Baseline Conference United Nations Office in Nairobi (UNON) Conference Centre, 2-6 November 2003

Some 200 researchers representing 20 countries and 50 institutions have contributed to the discussion, brainstorming, drafting and research planning sessions that led to the creation of this baseline conference. The CGIAR Challenge Program on Water and Food (CP Water and Food) baseline conference has five major themes. The Dams and Development Project participated in Theme 4 - Integrated Basin Water Management Systems, and contributed a presentation titled "A New Framework for Decision-Making in Dams and Development." The UNEP-DDP presentation was well received and, following the presentation a number of conference participants have consulted with UNEP-DDP Secretariat. Among others, a representative from Iran who is involved in the organisation of a national consultation workshop which is planned to be held in Iran in early 2004. The Power Point Presentation on the above subject is available on request. Please contact the secretariat at [ddpinfo@unep.org](mailto:ddpinfo@unep.org).

#### UNEP-DDP at the First Southeast Asia Water Forum

The meeting was held on November 15-20 2003 in Chiang Mai, Thailand, convened by the South East Asia Technical Advisory Committee (SEATAC) of the Global Water Partnership (GWP). The UNEP-DDP made a presentation on the project during the sub-session on Improving Environmental Governance through Ecosystems within the main session on Water and Ecosystems coordinated by IUCN. UNEP-DDP presented the WCD decision framework in the context of water governance and IWRM. UNEP-DDP activities focusing on national multi-stakeholder dialogue initiatives were also presented. UNEP-DDP also participated in the regional workshop on WCD convened by IUCN on 21 November 2003 in the same venue. The meeting was devoted to assess the progress, interchange experiences and propose next steps regarding the WCD follow up activities carried out by IUCN in the Mekong region. UNEP-DDP made a presentation of the project with emphasis on the ongoing national dialogue activities.

#### UNEP-DDP at the PAN African Conference

The UNEP-DDP made a presentation on 8 Dec 2003 at the PAN African Implementation and Partnership Water Conference (PANAFCON, 8-12 December 2003, in Addis Ababa. This presentation was made in Thematic Session 6, "Water Valuing and Allocation." The Ministry of Water Resources of the Republic of Congo chaired the session. The UNEP-DDP message, which emphasises the importance of a multistakeholder approach to improve decision-making in water and energy, was adopted in the session statement. This wording also permeated into the final draft of the Conference Statement issued by the group of ministers gathered at the ministerial segment of the PANAFCON.

#### Issue-based workshop on Gaining Public Acceptance Join us in this new approach

The Issue-based workshop on 'Gaining Public Acceptance' that was scheduled to take place in Bangkok, Thailand on 10 and 11 February 2004 has been suspended in view of the limited number of participants able to attend. To date, UNEP-DDP has received 19 papers submitted for the GPA workshop. In the light of the quality papers received and the existing knowledge base on the subject, UNEP-DDP Secretariat has decided to move the discussion to a wider audience by hosting a virtual workshop on 'Gaining Public Acceptance.' Please send your experience, good practice and lessons learned which are directly relevant to Gaining Public Acceptance to the UNEP-DDP Secretariat. At present, the background document to be used as basis for the GPA virtual conference is being compiled. The background paper will be published on UNEP-DDP website by the end of April 2004. The virtual conference will take place during the entire month of May 2004. More details on the agenda, dates, and moderation procedure will be disseminated soon (by email and on the website). We encourage all those interested in the topic of gaining public acceptance to apply for the registration of the virtual conference. The relevant audience will be formed by UNEP-DDP's official invitation only.

#### Financing Dams and Sustainable Development

An issue-based workshop, **Financing Dams and Sustainable Development**, is scheduled to be held at the Institution of Civil Engineers, London, United Kingdom on 22-23 April 2004.

#### Objective

The aim of the workshop is to identify ways of minimizing risk related to the financing of dams and their alternatives and thereby achieve more sustainable projects. Risks to be addressed include financial and investment risk, reputational risk, risk to livelihoods and environmental risk.

#### Key Issues

A number of issues to be considered in the discussion were proposed by a working group at the Second Dams and Development Forum held in Geneva in September 2003 and are listed below.

- Mapping of recent and ongoing initiatives of financing institutions related to 'dams and development' and the core values and strategic priorities of the WCD report.
- Integration of financial issues within the challenges and opportunities created by the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Kyoto Protocol, Third World Water Forum
- Meeting increased needs for funding – particularly for upstream planning and project preparation
- Minimizing risk – (social, environmental, financial, economic, technical, reputation risk)
- Reward for sustainability
- Internalisation of costs and benefits
- Type of rules to be adopted by financial institutions
- Role of Government in creating an enabling environment for development of sustainable projects
- Partnerships

#### Expected Output

The workshop will:

- Provide guidance on specific financing issues in the form of case studies and good practice;

- Provide clarification on the roles of the public and the private sector; and
- 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.

More information about the workshop and criteria for submission of case studies can be downloaded from the UNEP-DDP website: <http://www.unep-dams.org>.

#### Issue-based Workshops on Addressing Existing Dams and Ensuring Compliance

These two issue-based workshops are scheduled to be held in June 2004 just before the third Dams and Development Forum meeting on 14-15 and 15-16. June 2004 respectively at UNEP headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya. The objective of the workshop on addressing existing dams is to develop guidance on how to interpret and apply the WCD recommendations on Strategic Priority 3. Issues to be addressed in this workshop will include:

- Assessment and implementation of dam safety programs,
- Ways to address outstanding social and environmental issues,
- Methods to overcome barriers to regular performance assessments, and
- Optimising performance.

The expected outcome of the workshop on ensuring compliance will be a brief statement on the roles and responsibilities of various stakeholders in ensuring compliance. Topics to be discussed will include:

- How to ensure a clear allocation of responsibilities among the various actors and ensure transparency in the dealings of each agency,
- The role of dispute resolution mechanisms in ensuring compliance,
- The role of external compliance bodies in ensuring compliance,
- Information needed for ensuring compliance, and
- Ways in which governments can secure resources to ensure compliance.

#### Sixth UNEP-DDP Steering Committee Meeting

The sixth UNEP-DDP Steering Committee meeting will be held on 20-21 April 2004 in London in connection with the issue-based workshop entitled, "Financing Dams and Sustainable Development". The meeting agenda will be dominated by the implementation of the recommendation on the future of the Project issued by the SC members to UNEP and the agenda of the third DD Forum meeting, among other issues.

#### Third Dams and Development Forum Meeting

The third Dams and Development Forum meeting will be held on 17-18 June 2004 in Nairobi, Kenya at the United Nations Head Quarters. UNEP-DDP received a limited number of responses to the second DD Forum questionnaire issued in early November 2003. They will be analysed to elaborate a preliminary draft proposal of the third DD Forum meeting agenda to be discussed at the forthcoming sixth UNEP-DDP Steering Committee meeting. The background papers will be prepared by taking into account the guidance provided by participants at both the UNEP-DDP Steering Committee and the second Forum meeting. These background papers will be distributed to the DD Forum members two weeks in advance of the DD Forum meeting.

## Remember to Submit your Experiences!

(Good Practice and Lessons Learnt)

The UNEP-DDP continues to dedicate much effort in facilitating the exchange of ideas on good practice in order to enhance interaction and strengthen networking amongst the diverse participants of the dams debate. Since October 2002, a web-based database on experiences and lessons learnt that contribute to improving current practice in the field of dam projects and their alternatives has been operational.

May we remind all stakeholders involved in the field of dams and their alternatives to submit and share relevant good practice and lessons learnt examples or views with others drawing from their personal and institutional networks.

**Reference framework:** The WCD's seven strategic priorities are used as the reference framework for the submission database and each case study should clearly indicate the relevant strategic priority that it addresses. Related reference material such as papers, reports or illustrations can be attached to the submission if available for further information.

**How to contribute?:** Two simple steps outlined below:-

- Click on <http://www.unep-dams/goodpractice.php>. You can access and submit your good practice and lessons learnt examples directly onto the database.
- Or, write to the UNEP-DDP Secretariat to complete the submission template on your behalf providing a briefing documentation. Once completed, the author (you) will have the opportunity to make changes to the content, wording or phrasing before the good practice example is made available to the public on the website (<http://www.unep-dams.org>).

Please do not miss out on this distinctive opportunity to make a contribution to the UNEP-DDP Experiences and Lessons Learnt database as posted examples are expected to make significant input into the discussions of the various issue-based workshops. Furthermore, the UNEP-DDP is also committed to compiling a substantive report critically analysing and evaluating all the submissions before July 2004. Therefore, your information on important experiences relating to a particular 'good practice' or 'lesson learnt' is highly appreciated. For further assistance, contact us at [ddpinfo@unep.org](mailto:ddpinfo@unep.org).

## Views and Expressions of New UNEP-DDP Staff Members



**Constance Hunt**  
Senior Advisor

One of the greatest values of the UNEP-DDP global and national dialogues is that broader participation in decision-making opens the door for consideration of a wider range of development options. If the development goal is to increase food security, rather than only considering irrigation expansion, we can address food distribution mechanisms, change consumption patterns, and use polyculture to increase the productivity of rain-fed farms, among other strategies.

When increasing energy services, large hydropower is one option on the menu, along with small-scale renewable sources that are often better-suited to rural electrification and demand-side management to minimize the need for increases in generating capacity to service cities.

If the goal is to minimize flood damages, rather than focusing exclusively on flood control, we can consider opportunities for flood proofing, flood forecasting and warning systems, better watershed management, and floodplain regulation along with, or as alternatives to, river regulation.

Multi-stakeholder dialogues can result in better and more sustainable development outcomes. Rather than relying exclusively on industrial-scale technologies, the use of small-scale and traditional approaches can quickly improve the livelihoods of the world's poorest people. By embracing modern, information-age technologies as well, we can avoid the negative impacts that industrial technologies can have on people and the environment while ensuring a wider distribution of development benefits.

Inclusive, participatory and transparent decision-making processes can bear fruit in all sorts of resource distribution and management debates – not only those related to water and energy. I hope that these early years of the UNEP-DDP will pave the way for improvements in the way people manage all of nature's bounties.

**Rene Nijenhuis**  
Associate Expert



To promote a dialogue, in days when unilateralism seems to be prevailing, is to me one of the core values and challenges of the United Nations. People with contrasting opinions should show enough respect to listen to contrasting opinions. And with that, a first step to reach common ground has been made. The Dams and Development Project is unique in its own way- the way it has been set up and the things it has achieved so far.

My previous experience for both the UN Economic Commission for Europe as well as UNEP will hopefully enhance achieving the objectives of the UNEP-DDP. I look forward to working closely together with the numerous stakeholders involved in Dams and Development. Within the UNEP-DDP team, I will focus on the translations of the various reports, set up and maintenance of the WCD/UNEP-DDP library here in Nairobi, as well as on the regions of Central Asia and Eastern Europe in which I have developed certain expertise.

## Events with UNEP-DDP participation during July – December 2003

Date	Location	Meeting	Organisers
22-24 Sep 2003	International Conference Centre Geneva, Switzerland	The Comprehensive Options Assessment of Dams and their Alternatives	UNEP –DDP
25-26 Sep 2003	International Conference Centre Geneva, Switzerland	The Second Dams and Development Forum Meeting	UNEP-DDP
23-24 Oct 2003	Durban, South Africa.	The Third Multi-stakeholder Forum of the South African Initiative on the World Commission on Dams Report	Coordinating Committee of the South African Initiative on the World Commission on Dams Report
14 Nov 2003	Kathmandu, Nepal	Nepal Dams and Development Consultative Meeting	IUCN Nepal
17-23 Nov 2003	Chiang Mai, Thailand	First South East Asia Water Forum	GWA-SEA TAC, Government of Thailand
21 Nov 2003	Chiang Mai, Thailand	Regional Workshop on WCD	IUCN Regional office for Asia and Pacific
5-6 Dec 2003	Colombo, Sri Lanka	National Multistakeholder Consultation Workshop on Dams and Development	Ministry of Irrigation and Water Management, Interim Water Resources Authority, Network of Women Water Professionals
8-12 Dec 2003	Hanoi, Vietnam	Vietnam Dialogue on Dams and Development	UNEP-DDP
8-13 Dec 2003	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.	Pan-African Implementation and Partnership Conference on Water	AMCOW UN-Water/Africa. ADB Ethiopian M/O WR African Water Task
15-19 Dec 2003	Bangkok, Thailand	Thailand Dialogue on Dams and Development	UNEP-DDP
19 Dec 2003	Kisumu, Kenya	Meeting for strengthening Kenya's resilience to cope with extreme climate events	UNEP-ROA, Drought Monitoring Centre
18, 22 and 30 Dec 2003	Yangon, Myanmar	Water and Sanitation Thematic Group (WTG) meeting and meeting with senior government officials from water, environment and dam related ministries	Water, Research and Training Centre on behalf of the Water and Sanitation Thematic Group
26-27 Dec 2003	New Delhi, India	Meetings with India Water partnership, Senior Government officials and GWP SA	India Water Partnership, Institute for Resources Management and Economic Development

### List of Financiers

The following organizations have committed financial support to the UNEP-DDP Dams & Development Project. UNEP-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 UNEP-DDP and discussions with others are underway."

## Calendar of Water Events

### *A Seminar on World Commission on Dams (WCD): A tool for sustainable water management?*

Friday, March 5th 2004  
Venue: Stockholm  
Organizers: World Wide Fund for Nature WWF and the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation

### *ICID 2004 - 2nd Asian Regional Conference*

From 2004-03-14 to 2004-03-17  
Venue: Moama, New South Wales, Australia  
Organizers: Australian National Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (ANCID)  
URL: <http://www.icid2004.com/overview.htm>

### *International Conference on Hydraulics of Dam and River Structures*

From 2004-04-26 to 2004-04-28  
Venue: Tehran, Iran  
Organizers: Iranian Hydraulic Association, International Association of Hydraulic Engineering and Research (IAHR), International Commission on Large Dams (ICOLD) and the Water Research Institute  
URL: <http://hdrs.pwit.ac.ir/>

### *Global H2O Partnership Conference*

From 2004-05-11 to 2004-05-14  
Venue: Cairns, Australia  
Organizers: UNEP, GPA, Australian Government, Natural Heritage Trust  
URL: <http://www.hilltops2oceans.org/conference.html>

### *STORAGE2004 - First International Conference on Service Reservoirs*

From 2004-05-12 to 2004-05-14  
Venue: Geneva, Switzerland

Organizers: SIG Services Industriels de Genève  
URL: <http://www.storage2004.org/>

### *International Conference on River/Catchment Dynamics: Natural Processes and Human Impacts*

From 2004-05-15 to 2004-05-20  
Venue: Solsona (Catalonia), Spain  
Organizers: IGU International Geographical Union, COMLAND Commission on Land Degradation (IGU), ICCE International Commission on Continental Erosion (IAHS)  
URL: <http://www.ctfc.es/conference2004/>

### *72nd Annual ICOLD Meeting*

From 2004-05-16 to 2004-05-22  
Venue: Seoul, Korea  
Organizers: International Commission on Large Dams (ICOLD) and the Korea National Committee on Large Dams (KNCOLD)  
URL: <http://www.icold2004-seoul.or.kr/>

### *Hydropower'2004*

From 23-25 May 2004  
Venue: Yichang, China  
Organisers: China Yangtze Three Gorges Project, Qingjiang Hydroelectric Development Co. Ltd, Chinese Society for Hydroelectric Engineering, Chinese Hydraulics Engineering Society  
URL: <http://www.icold-cigb.org.cn>

### *Renewables 2004*

From 1- 4 June 2004  
Venue: Bonn  
Convenor: The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany  
URL: <http://www.renewables2004.de>

### *HydroVision 2004 conference*

From 2004-08-16 to 2004-08-20  
Venue: Montréal, Québec, Canada)  
Organizers: HCI publications, publishers of Hydro Review and HRW magazines  
URL: <http://www.hcipub.com>

### *55th ICID International Executive Council Meeting and Interregional Conference on "Food Production and Water: Social and Economic Issues of Irrigation and Drainage"*

From 2004-09-05 to 2004-09-12  
Venue: Moscow, Russia  
Organizers: ICID Russian National Committee on Irrigation and Drainage  
URL: <http://www.vniigim.ru/conf/55/prospect.pdf>

### *International conference on Climate change: a challenge or a threat for water management?*

From 2004-09-27 to 2004-09-29  
Venue: Amsterdam  
Organizers: The International Water Association (IWA) in co-operation with the Netherlands Association on Water Management, Aquatech and the Co-operative Programme on Water and Climate.  
e-mail: [roelof.kruize@dwr.nl](mailto:roelof.kruize@dwr.nl)

### *HYDRO 2004: A new era for hydropower*

From 2004-11-18 to 2004-11-20  
Venue: Porto, Portugal  
Organizers: Hydropower and Dams, supported by EDP, WB, IHA and ICOLD  
URL: <http://www.hydropower-dams.com>

## Contacting the UNEP-DDP

Kindly visit the UNEP-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**



United Nations Avenue, Gigiri Nairobi P.O. Box 30552 Nairobi Kenya Tel: +254 20 624517 Fax: +254 20 623859/3545  
Email: [ddpinfo@unep.org](mailto:ddpinfo@unep.org) Website: [www.unep-dams.org](http://www.unep-dams.org)