



Partnerships: Working Together to Achieve Common Goals

Progress on sustainable development cannot be achieved without a concerted effort on behalf of all sectors of society, including governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and businesses.

Effective partnerships among these players can ensure that initiatives are targeted to bring real, long-term benefits to communities. By working together, partners are able to maximize scarce financial and human resources in order to achieve their shared goals.

A key outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development held in Johannesburg in 2002 was the launch of more than 200 partnerships for sustainable development. There are now over 260 partnerships working on a diverse range of issues, which are registered on the Commission on Sustainable Development's (CSD) online searchable database. Over 95 per cent of these partnerships were initiated from 2002 onwards.

Partnerships are voluntary, multi-stakeholder initiatives that are specifically linked to the implementation of commitments outlined in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21.

FACTS AND FIGURES ON PARTNERSHIPS

- More than half of the registered partnerships are global in scope.
- Three out of four registered partnerships have successfully secured funding for their initiatives; a majority of these have obtained financial support from governments.
- The most common issues addressed by registered partnerships include: education, health, poverty eradication, sustainable consumption and production, and water.
- Some 20 per cent of registered partnerships have a primary focus on water, human settlements or sanitation.
- Integrated water resources management is a focal area for partnerships working on water and sanitation.
- Several water and sanitation partnerships also have a secondary focus on agriculture with examples of activities including the development of low-cost irrigation technologies.
- Human settlements partnerships include activities such as capacity building programmes for city managers and water utilities to develop sanitation and wastewater emission targets.

PARTNERSHIPS FAIR: 19 TO 30 APRIL 2004

As part of the CSD-12 Review Session, a Partnerships Fair will be held from 19 to 30 April 2004. This event will showcase over sixty of the partnerships that have been launched as part of the Johannesburg Summit process and its follow-up. It will provide participants with an opportunity to create synergies with other groups, share experiences and identify new partners and funding sources. The event will include information desks, a poster exhibit, partnership presentations and thematic discussions.

Many of the partnerships attending the Partnerships Fair in 2004 are involved in work in the areas of **human settlements, water and sanitation**: the three main themes of the current CSD-12 Session.

For detailed information on the CSD-12 Partnerships Fair, visit the CSD-12 Official Programme at <http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/csd12/csd12.htm>



AT A GLANCE: A SAMPLING OF CSD REGISTERED PARTNERSHIPS

Volunteer participation in improving urban environments

The **Caring Cities: Volunteer Capital for Urban Development** partnership is an initiative of state and local governments from Ecuador, Jamaica, Yemen and Egypt, together with the UN Volunteers programme. It also utilizes resources donated from the private sector for projects. The partnership aims to leverage volunteer participation for urban improvement activities such as reforestation campaigns to provide industrial buffer zones, installing playgrounds in city parks, cleaning beaches, and refurbishment of local schools.

For more information, see www.unv.org/infobase/volunteerism/Caring_cities.pdf or visit the Partnerships Database at www.un.org/esa/sustdev/partnerships

Capacity building to provide safe and sustainable water in Africa

Partners for Water and Sanitation (PAWS) is an initiative led by the United Kingdom government which aims to provide training and expertise in the area of water and sanitation for countries including South Africa, Nigeria and Uganda. A partnership made up of governments, private sector companies, trade unions and civil society organisations, PAWS has to date provided training seminars in South Africa for local governments and is examining opportunities for assistance in legislative and planning issues.

For more information, see www.partnersforwater.org/ or visit the Partnerships Database at www.un.org/esa/sustdev/partnerships

Sustainable energy for small islands

The **100% Renewable Energy Islands** partnership involves governments from many island States and is led by the Danish NGO Forum for Renewable Energy Islands. The partnership aims to assist Small Island Developing States to meet their energy needs from locally available renewable sources. The lead organization provides

technical, financial and managerial assistance to island nations to support their plans for achieving a 100 per cent renewable energy future.

For more information, see www.re-islands.org or visit the Partnerships Database at www.un.org/esa/sustdev/partnerships

Providing ecological sanitation in China

Ecological sanitation (Ecosan) is an environmentally friendly, safe and economical approach to sanitation. A special form of composting toilet which separately treats urine and faeces, Ecosan saves water, prevents water pollution, and sanitizes and recycles the nutrients in human waste to improve soil fertility. **ECOSANRes**, a partnership between the Swedish International Development Agency, UNICEF and the Government of China among others, began as a pilot programme in three Chinese provinces and now has activities in half of China's provinces. It provides ecological sanitation facilities to communities in China and has led to "ECOSAN villages and towns" being developed, as well as ECOSAN facilities being constructed in schools.

For more information, see www.ecosanres.org or visit the Partnerships Database at www.un.org/esa/sustdev/partnerships

Simple solutions for safe water at the household level

The Safe Water System partnership consists of various state governments, businesses and NGOs working together in countries in South America, Africa and Asia to provide simple technologies for water quality improvement at the household level. Combined with social marketing and community mobilization, these technologies – safe storage containers and solutions for the treatment of contaminated water – have been shown to reduce the risk of diarrhoea by up to 85 per cent.

For more information, see www.cdc.gov/safewater/ or visit the Partnerships Database at www.un.org/esa/sustdev/partnerships

For more information on registered partnerships, visit the **Partnerships Database** on the CSD Partnerships website: www.un.org/esa/sustdev/partnerships. This valuable tool can be searched using a variety of criteria.

For media queries regarding sustainable development and the CSD, story ideas and interviews with partnerships, please contact:

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