



## Partnerships for Sustainable Development: Working together to make a difference

Progress on sustainable development requires concerted effort by 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 300 partnerships registered by the Commission on Sustainable Development, working on a diverse range of issues. Information on these is available on the Commission's online searchable database ([www.un.org/esa/sustdev/partnerships/partnerships.htm](http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/partnerships/partnerships.htm)).

Partnerships for sustainable development 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 CSD-registered partnerships are global in scope.
- Over three out of four CSD-registered partnerships have successfully secured funding; 72 per cent have obtained financial support from governments and 20 per cent have private sector donors.
- Over half of all CSD-registered partnerships are working on issues related to protection and management of natural resources.
- One in three CSD-registered partnerships is working on issues related to: education, poverty eradication, and sustainable consumption and production.
- Over a quarter of all CSD-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; examples of activities include the development of low-cost irrigation technologies and better management of wastewater resources.
- Human settlements partnerships include activities such as capacity building programmes for city managers and water utilities to develop sanitation and wastewater emission targets.



## Snapshots of existing partnerships

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### **Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) for All Initiative**

The Governments of some 30 countries, 8 UN agencies and 3 regional development banks have joined forces to contribute towards the achievement of the goal of delivering by 2015, safe, affordable and reliable water and sanitation services to over 1.1 billion people who have no access to water supply and more than 2.6 billion who have no adequate sanitation. WASH focuses on teaching basic sanitation and hygiene to school children and communities, with an emphasis on girls' education, as a necessary complement to the success of water and sanitation infrastructure projects. For more information, visit <http://www.wsscc.org/>, or <http://webapps01.un.org/dsd/partnerships/public/partnerships/84.html>

### **White Water to Blue Water**

The White Water to Blue Water Initiative (WW2BW) (United States) has partnered with the local authorities of Chagres District, Province of Colon (Panama) and the Water Center for the Humid Tropics of Latin America and the Caribbean (CATHALAC) (Panama) to protect drinking water sources for human use, develop rural aqueducts and reduce coastal erosion, and engage in information exchange and capacity building and awareness activities aimed at enabling its communities to manage their water and coastal and marine environments. For more information, visit <http://www.ww2bw.org>.

### **Sister Cities Network for Sustainable Development**

The United States' Government, UN-Habitat, Citrix Systems, Inc., the International City/County Municipal Association (USA), PADCO, Inc. and Standard & Poor's have joined with Sister Cities International (SCI) in creating a network of sister city partnerships committed to implementing the concepts of sustainable development, as outlined by the international community. Through innovative and cross-cultural projects they are improving the quality of life for citizens within their communities and mutually reinforcing and integrating the goals of good governance, sustainable economic development, social development and environmental stewardship, and achieving concrete results through partnerships with the public and private sector. *For more information, visit <http://www.sister-cities.org>.*

### **Sustainable Freshwater Management in West/Central Asia and North Africa (WESCANA)**

The Government of Italy and 25 other Governments, the University of Venice, the World Conservation Union (IUCN), Hydroaid and the WESCANA Water Programme Centre joined their forces to contribute to sustainable, ecosystem-based freshwater management, improve water quality, and facilitate effective and informed policy and decision-making on integrated freshwater management. *For more information, visit <http://www.wescana-patc.org/index.htm>.*

## **CSD-13 Partnerships Fair: 12 to 19 April 2005**

As part of the CSD-13 policy session, a Partnerships Fair will be held from 12 to 19 April 2005. This event provides participants with an opportunity to create synergies with other groups, share experiences and identify new partners and funding sources. The CSD-13 Partnerships Fair will include information tables and interactive discussion sessions.

In keeping with the policy year's focus on "practical measures and options to expedite implementation of commitments", the CSD-13 Partnerships Fair will highlight the lessons learned from CSD-registered partnerships for sustainable development. Many of the partnerships in this year's Fair are involved in work in the areas of human settlements, water and sanitation: the three main themes of the current CSD-13 session.

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For detailed information on the CSD-13 Partnerships Fair, visit the CSD-13 website at <http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/csd13/csd13.htm>

For more information on registered partnerships, visit the partnerships database on the CSD partnerships website: [www.un.org/esa/sustdev/partnerships](http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/partnerships).

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

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## **Snapshots of existing 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/](http://www.partnersforwater.org/)*

