

Name of the Partnership/Initiative: *August 8 draft*

Strengthening Science-Based Decision-Making

Date of initiation:

September, 2002

Expected date of completion:

First round of workshops would be completed by September 2003, but the project is expected to continue thereafter.

Partners Involved:

Governments: United States Environmental Protection Agency

Intergovernmental organizations:

Major groups: Industry (American Chemistry Council), ENGO (National Council for Science and the Environment), foundations (Heinz Foundation) and Science and Technology (The National Academies, US).

Other:

Leading Partner:

Name of the contact person/focal point:

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Main objectives of the Partnership/Initiative

Please provide a brief description:

The creation of a partnership between The National Academies (United States) and the U.S. government, industry, non-governmental organizations, and foundations to work with scientific communities (e.g. environmental health, engineering, economics) in G77 countries to identify common elements of the scientific process (e.g., transparency, data quality, peer review, etc.) and practical applications of science in decision-making.

Please also provide a brief description of the relationship of the Partnership/Initiative with the objectives of Agenda 21 as well as relevant goals and objectives of the United Nation Millennium Declaration:

A principal goal of WSSD is to focus on those key issues that are most critical to formulating and implementing policies to promote and facilitate true sustainable development. Science is fundamental to addressing a broad range of issues that support the ability of governments and the public to make sound decisions about and act in the interest of promoting sustainable development.

Expected results:

Please provide a brief description:

A principal product of the proposed partnership will be sponsorship of a series of “science in decision-making workshops” in G77 countries. The workshops will focus on issues addressed at WSSD (e.g. water sanitation, agriculture and food, biodiversity) that are of concern to the host

country and address the role of science in making good decisions. This approach will also contribute to capacity building in host countries. One outcome of the workshops that will benefit many countries will be a report (or series of workshop proceedings) that describes the elements or principles of science-based decision-making and the role of the local and regional scientific community in ensuring that science is an integral part of the decision-making process.

Specific targets of the Partnership/Initiative and timeframe for their achievement:

- Identify national scientific academies interested in working with their counterparts in other countries: September-November, 2002.
- Select locations and host national academy for workshops: November-December, 2002
- Sponsor workshops: January- September 2002.
- Develop materials describing principles of science in the decision-making process.

Coordination and Implementation mechanism

Please provide a brief description of expected coordination/implementation mechanism of the Partnership/Initiative.

It is important that the workshops and resultant products are science based, solutions oriented, and international. Therefore, the U.S. National Academies will reach out to other national and regional scientific academies.

Arrangements for funding

Please describe available and/or expected sources of funding for the implementation of the Partnership/Initiative (e.g. donor government(s); international organization(s)/financial institution(s); foundation(s); private sector; other major groups, etc.)

Funding for the Partnership for Strengthening Science-Based Decision Making will come initially from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, with likely additional support from foundations, industry, other government agencies, and non-governmental organizations committed to the utilization of the best available science in their decision-making. Following the WSSD in Johannesburg, additional partners (other national governments, international organizations, foundations) and funds will be added. The level of activities undertaken (numbers of workshop, written products, web sites, etc.) will depend on the amount of funds raised.

Arrangements for capacity building and technology transfer

Please include information if the Partnership/Initiative provides for training, informational support, institutional strengthening and/or other capacity building measures:

Training and technology transfer will occur during the three planned workshops (additional workshops are anticipated) as well as through the establishment of a worldwide network of scientists and governmental science managers.

Please also provide here a brief description of expected arrangements for technology transfer (if applicable).

The conferences will provide an opportunity for scientists to engage with fellow scientists and governmental decision-makers to discuss issues and approaches to decision-making. The Partnership will also create knowledge action links that will allow for continued communication and technology transfer.

Links of Partnership/Initiative with on-going sustainable development activities at the international and/or regional level (if any)

Please provide a brief description:

The workshops will focus on issues addressed at WSSD (e.g. water sanitation, agriculture and food, biodiversity) and will link to WSSD Type 2 Partnerships that relate to Science and Technology and Governance.

Monitoring Arrangements

Please describe expected arrangements for monitoring of progress in the implementation of Partnerships/Initiative after it will be launched at the WSSD:

(e.g. frequency/modalities of preparation of progress reports; electronic updates, news-letters, etc)

The Partners will prepare quarterly progress reports and special reports following each of the workshops. The reports will be submitted tot the appropriate international organizations and widely distributed within the scientific and governmental policy communities and made available to all through a public web site.

Other relevant information:

Web-site (if available):

Partners will develop a public web site containing quarterly progress reports, conferences agendas and background material, products resulting from the conferences, and additional materials.

Name and contact information of the person filling in this table:

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