

**Name of the Partnership/Initiative**

**Global Alliance for Building Sustainability**

**Expected date of initiation:**

In effect, the Global Alliance has been working together for 3 months. It will be formally launched 28 August 2002 in Johannesburg, by Dr Klaus Töpfer, Executive Director UNEP and Under Secretary General of the United Nations

**Expected date of completion:**

Currently developing a 3-year plan of action which will be ratified and launched on 28<sup>th</sup> August 2002

**Partners Involved:**

Governments:

- Department of Food, Environment and Rural Affairs(DEFRA)
- Department of Environmental Quality Promotion, Thailand (DEQP)
- Environment Canada, Environmental Protection Branch, Ontario Region (EP-C)
- Environment Protection Agency, Australia (EPA-Aus)

Intergovernmental organisations:

- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP IETC)

Major groups:

Local Authorities

- International Council of Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI)
- Oxfordshire County Council, United Kingdom (OCCUK)
- Potchefstroom Authority, South Africa (PASA)

Labour organisations

- International Labour Organisation (ILO)

Business/Industry

- Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA)
- British Institute of Facilities Management (BIFM)
- Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB)
- Chartered Institution of Building Services Engineers (CIBSE)
- Construction Industry Council (CIC)
- Confederation of International Contractors' Association (CICA)
- Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales (ICA E&W)
- Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE)
- Institution of Electrical Engineers (IEE)
- International Facility Management Association (IFMA)
- Institution of Mechanical Engineers (ImechE)
- International Union of Architects (IUA)
- Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA)
- Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS)
- Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI)
- South African Institution of Civil Engineers (SAICE)
- South African Institution of Mechanical Engineers (SAIMechE)
- South African Property Owners Association (SAPOA)

Non-governmental organisations

- Commonwealth Association of Planners (CAP)
- Commonwealth Association of Architects (CAA)
- Commonwealth Association of Engineers (CAE)
- Commonwealth Association of Surveyors and Land Economists (CASLE)
- Commonwealth Consultative Group on Human Settlements (CCGHS)

- ❑ Commonwealth Engineering Council (CEC)
- ❑ Development Bank of South Africa (DBSA)
- ❑ Engineers Against Poverty (EAP)
- ❑ International Council for Research and Innovation in Building and Construction (CIB)
- ❑ International Institute For Sustainable Built Environment (iiSBE)
- ❑ Southern Business Challenge (SBC)
- ❑ World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)

***Leading Partner:***

Name of the contact person/focal point:

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*And*

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**Main objectives of the Partnership/Initiative**

**What is the main purpose of GABS?**

The Global Alliance for Building Sustainability was formed to accelerate the achievement of sustainable development in the land, property, construction and development sectors. The focus of GABS' work is on building and strengthening partnerships between policy makers and practitioners to promote participation and learning amongst the many stakeholders involved in these sectors.

**Our shared vision is:**

To create an operating environment throughout the four sectors of land, property, construction and development in which practitioners are enabled, and able, to implement partnerships, processes and practices that deliver sustainable development.

**Key Objectives**

- ❑ To bring together a truly global alliance of organisations committed and *signed-up* to actions for sustainable development. GABS members will *sign-up* to a Charter document.
- ❑ To provide a platform and communications hub for GABS members:
  - To enhance their ability to work in partnership and promote their efforts with other stakeholders.
  - To facilitate wider access to existing information, research, guidance, tools and best practice publications developed by member organisations and international agencies
  - To create a global learning network through building partnerships that contribute to sustainable development across the 4 sectors
- ❑ To develop a set of tools and guidance material aimed at policy makers and practitioners to enhance working environments and partnership practices across the 4 sectors
- ❑ To develop a compendium of good practice examples of stakeholders working in partnership
- ❑ To establish performance benchmarks relating partnership practices and sustainable development to performance indicators for business, environment, government and communities
- ❑ To provide a platform for practitioners in land, property, construction and development to contribute to the World Summit for Sustainable Development (Johannesburg, 26 August – 4 September 2002)
- ❑ To provide a mechanism for ongoing progress to be monitored and reported to international agencies, national, regional and local governments, communities and business
- ❑ To develop a business plan for self-reliance in 18 months through a series of activities

**Please also provide a brief description of the relationship of the Partnership/Initiative with:**

***The Principles of Sustainable Development***

GABS members believe that by enhancing the ability of organizations to work effectively in partnership, and providing a platform to share information and experiences, GABS will contribute to one of the underpinning principles of sustainable development - International partnerships and co-operation.

We also believe that the benefit of GABS will be long-standing, enhancing skills and understanding of diversity, encouraging effective participation from wider ranging groups of policy makers and practitioners, many of whom are currently unfamiliar with the principles or practices of sustainable development.

***Agenda 21***

GABS is a partnership which, by focusing on enhancing skills and capabilities of key decision makers, will contribute to long term goals of global sustainability such as poverty eradication, sustainable and equitable resource consumption, global warming, bio-diversity and participation of diverse and minority groups.

**GABS will enhance the ability of its member to directly benefit and contribute to the following Agenda 21 priority areas:**

- Chapter 2 International cooperation to accelerate sustainable development in developing countries and related domestic policies
- Chapter 23 Strengthening the role of major groups
- Chapter 27 Strengthening the role of non-governmental organizations: partners for sustainable development
- Chapter 31 Strengthening the role of business and industry
- Chapter 32 Scientific and technological community
- Chapter 34 Transfer of environmentally sound technology, cooperation and capacity building
- Chapter 37 National mechanisms and international cooperation for capacity building in developing countries
- Chapter 38 International Institutional Arrangements
- Chapter 39 International legal instruments and mechanisms
- Chapter 40 Information for decision-making

**GABS comprises organizations involved in land, property, construction and development. 4 discrete yet totally integrated sectors with considerable influence and impact on the following Agenda 21 priority areas:**

- Chapter 7 Promoting sustainable human settlement development
- Chapter 8 Integrating environment and development in decision-making
- Chapter 9 Conservation and management of resources for development
- Chapter 10 Integrated approach to the planning and management of land resources
- Chapter 14 Promoting sustainable agriculture and rural development
- Chapter 18 Protection of the quality and supply of freshwater resources: Application of integrated approaches to the development, management and use of water resources
- Chapter 21 Environmentally sound management of solid wastes and sewage-related issues
- Chapter 28 Local authorities' initiatives in support of Agenda 21
- Chapter 29 Strengthening the role of workers and their trade unions
- Chapter 33 Financial resources and mechanisms
- Chapter 35 Science for Sustainable Development
- Chapter 36 Promoting education, public awareness and training

**UN Millennium Development Goals**

No 7 Ensure environmental sustainability – integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes; reverse loss of environmental resources

No 8 Develop a global partnership for development – In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies – especially information and communications technologies

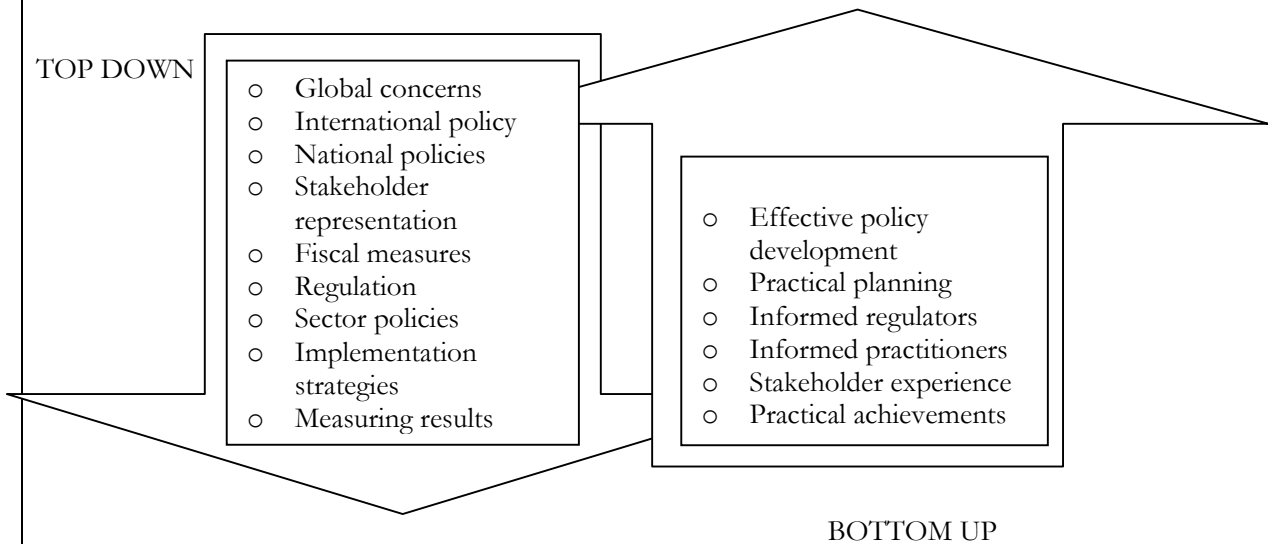
### Expected results:

Please provide a brief description:

GABS members are representatives of key stakeholders and experts in their field. Members comprise a range of organisations all committed to, yet at different stages of engaging with sustainable development.

GABS provides a valuable resource to accelerate the awareness, understanding, implementation and benchmarking of achievements for sustainable development.

- ❑ *It is a conduit for top down, policy lead and bottom up, practical achievement lead learning*
- ❑ *It is a powerful mechanism for CLOSING THE GAP between policy and practice for sustainable development*



GABS is developing an agenda of action that will help deliver the shared vision through a programme of activities beyond the WSSD. This agenda embraces issues of:

- ❑ **Scale** from site and locally based action to national, regional and global actions
- ❑ **Output** from components and products to buildings, facilities, infrastructure links and whole cities
- ❑ **Process** including policy and regulation, governance and accountability, tools and codes of practice, research, innovation, education and training

Expected Results from GABS:

- In 3 years - to close the gap between policy and practice
- Increased awareness and understanding amongst member organisations and their memberships of the key global issues and how they relate to policy and practice in each of the sectors
- A global resource for the United Nations and other international and governmental agencies to accelerate the implementation of sustainable development policies
- Increased awareness and understanding of what is being achieved throughout the sectors represented
- Wider accessibility to leading policy and implementation practices - by joining together in this Alliance organizations will have easier access to information, guidance and implementation tools created by other member organizations
- Accelerated learning for less experienced stakeholders
- A global resource, promoting and enhancing skills, knowledge and technology for sustainable development throughout the sectors

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

#### Key targets August 2002 – December 2002:

- 50 international organisations join GABS
- Specific deliverables noted below
- GABS representation at 6 events hosted by GABS member organisations (promoting membership of GABS and the outcomes from WSSD)

#### Key targets January 2003 – December 2003:

- 100 international organisations signed-up to GABS
- specific deliverables noted below
- GABS representation at 24 events hosted by GABS member organisations (promoting GABS membership, outcomes of WSSD, guidance publications and examples of good practice for sustainable development)

#### Specific deliverables:

- **Global Alliance – Launched 29<sup>th</sup> August 2002**  
The Global Alliance for Building Sustainability will be formally launched on 29<sup>th</sup> August 2002 by Dr Klaus Töpfer. By signing up to a charter/memorandum of understanding, the group will formally commit to achieving sustainable development in land, property, construction and development.
- **Business Plan and Work programme – Launched 30<sup>th</sup> August 2002**  
A work programme for GABS is being developed and will be agreed and launched at the Aspiration and Reality: Building Sustainability conference 30<sup>th</sup> August 2002
- **Global Alliance Charter – signed by members 30<sup>th</sup> August 2002**  
GABS members are signing up to a Charter of Action, with shared mission and goals.
- **Guidance and Tool Kit for Sustainable Development – Completed May 2003**  
This Tool Kit will provide guidance on the key issues, actions and ways of measuring achievement. It will cover 4 themes relevant to policy makers and practitioners:
  - Policy, regulation and fiscal measures
  - Governance and accountability
  - Practical measures, core values and professional practice
  - Research, innovation, education and training
 The outputs will be practical and transferable across sectors.
- **Compendium of Best Practice Case Studies in Sustainable Development**
  - **1<sup>st</sup> edition Completed December 2002**
  - **2<sup>nd</sup> Edition (updated with new case studies) December 2005.**
 This document will be based on the projects featured in the show case exhibition, part of the Global Alliance Launch event and also the case study projects used to illustrate aspects of the conference programme. Case studies will cover examples of policy development and good practice in land, property, construction and development.
- **Web Site re-designed and re-launched – by 30<sup>th</sup> August 2002**
- **Triennial conference – by end 2005**  
A conference will be held at the end of the first 3 year programme of work to report on progress, launch the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the Compendium and set targets for the next programme of work

#### Coordination and Implementation mechanism

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

- Project Direction – Alan Gilham, Sustainability Advisor, RICS Foundation is currently leading the development activities.
- Steering committee – A GABS steering committee will be established at the inaugural meeting of GABS in Johannesburg and will be consulted on strategic issues and governance. Meetings will take place annually to report and review progress, strategic planning and setting of performance targets. Steering committee meetings will coincide with events hosted by GABS members.
- Expert groups will be formed to carry out project or topic specific roles. (For example there are already 3 expert task groups: Carbon/Energy; Land Reform and Urban Sustainability )

- ❑ Executive management team – The RICS Foundation has provided the secretariat and management services required so far. An executive management team will be established at the Inaugural meeting of GABS in Johannesburg with responsibility for delivering the business plan and work programme.
- ❑ Communication - There is already a dedicated web site [www.earth-summit.net](http://www.earth-summit.net) hosted and managed by the RICS Foundation. This will be established as the primary communications hub, adapted for use by all GABS members after the launch in August featuring regular bulletins, articles and news of all events hosted by GABS members.
- ❑ Coordinated events – Many events are already planned by GABS members in their country or region of origin. One of the key objectives for GABS is to ensure the effective exchange of information, technology knowledge and skills amongst policy makers and practitioners and this will be achieved through structured exchanges at these events.
- ❑ Publications (see Specific Deliverables) – are a major outcome from the partnership and these will be distributed to members through electronic and paper copy as is most appropriate to user needs.

Please note: English is currently the primary language for communications and publications. Every effort will be made to embrace all official languages of the UN on the web site, in publications and newsletters. This will depend on levels of funding received for such purposes.

### **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.)

Currently, a range of funding options is being explored as part of the business planning exercise. A full plan will be submitted and agreed at the inaugural GABS meeting 28<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> August

Costs of mobilizing the Global Alliance including the inaugural meeting of GABS at the WSSD amount to approximately £200,000 (US\$ 280,000). Funding has been received through:

- Cash donations from Global Alliance members
- In-kind donations of resources to carry out key functions (management staff, administration, marketing, communications, mailing, etc - The RICS Foundation have been the major contributor, allocating almost £80,000 of resources for project direction, management, web site design and publicity)
- Commercial sponsorship

Further support is required for this mobilization phase and applications for support are being made to:

- National governments (UK, Nigeria, Canada)
- International organizations and financial institutions (for example – UNEP, DBSA)
- Private sector (for example – Carillion plc, Vinci plc, Skanska, ARUP)

As part of a structured development plan, approaches are planned to:

- International organizations and financial institutions (including UN and Commonwealth associations)
- European Commission
- Government departments
- Commercial sponsors

### **Arrangements for capacity building and technology transfer**

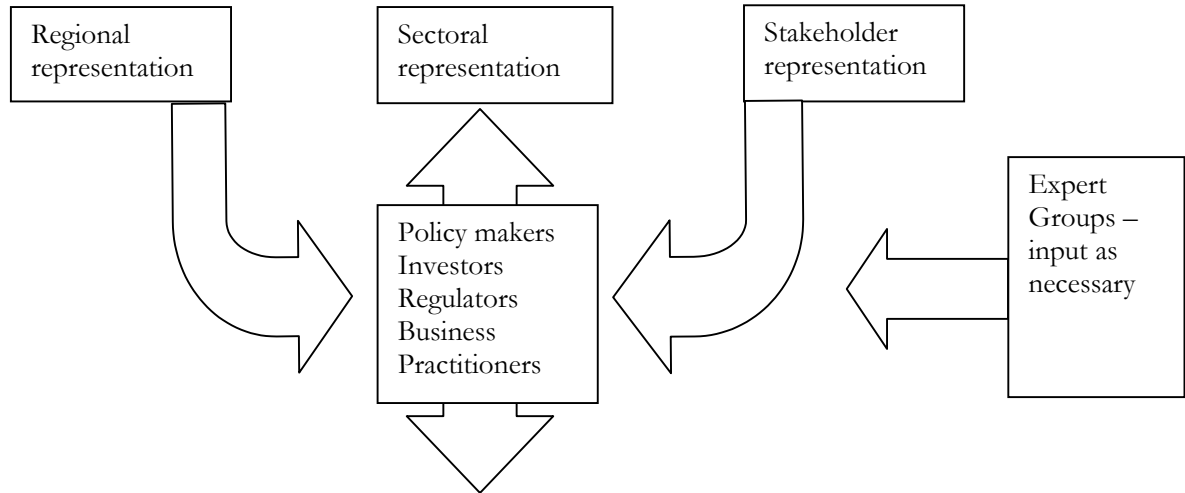
Please include information if the Partnership/Initiative provides for training, informational support, institutional strengthening and/or other capacity building measures:

The wide geographical, sectoral and functional spread of its member organizations means that GABS has considerable potential for capacity building, technology transfer, information support and institutional strengthening. The key theme for the Global Alliance is to develop and promote partnerships, processes and practices for sustainable development across the 4 sectors of land, property, construction and development.

**Transferable outputs will be:**

- Information and awareness about sectoral, regional and stakeholder issues
- Guidance on partnerships, processes and practices for sustainable development
- Tool kits for implementation
- Case studies of good practice, benchmarks and indicators

The diagram below illustrates the potential for horizontal and vertical distribution of technology, processes, practices and skills.

**Currently Planned**

Stage 1 - GABS will provide a platform for the transfer of information between regions, sectors and stakeholders.

Stage 2 – GABS will generate core guidance, tools, case studies, benchmarks and indicators that can be used and adapted by member organizations in their sector, region, function.

*The primary beneficiaries of the outputs from this stage will be the member organizations of GABS, international organizations and UN.*

**Potential**

Stage 3 – GABS can advise international development, financial institutions, governments and other stakeholder groups on partnership, processes and practices for sustainable development as developed for the 4 sectors of land, property, construction and development

Stage 4 – GABS can provide accredited training and capacity building material on partnerships, processes and practices in land, property, construction and development for international organizations, financial institutions, governments and other stakeholders.

*Benefits from the outputs of this stage will be shared between member organisations of GABS and the international organizations, financial institutions, governments and other stakeholder groups using GABS advice and guidance on partnerships, processes and practice.*

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

Please provide a brief description:

Members of the Global Alliance for Building Sustainability (GABS) are currently being asked to identify their on-going sustainable development activities so that a full register can be made available at the launch on 29<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> August 2002.

**Examples identified so far include:**

- ❑ Agenda 21 for Sustainable construction research (CIB)
- ❑ Agenda 21 for Sustainable construction in developing countries (CIB/UNEP-IETC)

- Red man, Green man, a project on sustainability indicators (RICS Foundation)
- Sustainable investment – indicators (RICS Foundation)
- Carbon task group – (CIBSE)
- Eco-footprint, London (Herbie Girardet, Greater London Authority)
- Energy Efficient Office of the Future (EOF) Group, Low-energy building (CIBSE)

### **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)

### **Steering Committee**

- Responsible for Governance and business targets

### **Executive (Project Director or equivalent)**

- Responsible for Executive function
- Implementation of corporate governance
- Implementation of business objectives
- Reporting including:
  - Monthly newsletter posted on web site
  - Quarterly review of activities posted on web site
  - Annual review of work programme and targets
  - Annual review and reports to international organizations and funding agencies

### **Membership**

- Responsible for supporting the Executive and Steering Committee in executing good governance and business objectives

### **Other relevant information:**

Web-site (if available): [www.earth-summit.net](http://www.earth-summit.net)

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

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