

## **FRESHWATER COUNTRY PROFILE**

### **DENMARK**

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**Decision-Making:** The Danish Government published the set of sustainable development indicators in Denmark in August 2002 prior to the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg. The indicators are related to the Denmark's "Sustainable Development Strategy: Common Future – Balanced Development". The aim of the Danish sustainable development indicators is to ensure that decision-makers and the interested public can obtain an overall and explicit description of the path to sustainable development. The indicators are updated annually. The process of formulating the indicators included a public consultation phase involving more than 250 major Danish and international NGOs and the broad public. The indicators for sustainable development consist of a set of key indicators that describes developments and results in light of the overall objectives for sustainable development in Denmark. Furthermore there is a detailed, specific set of indicators that describes developments and results for each area of activity compared to the objectives and initiatives of the strategy. The indicators are accessible in a public database: <http://www.mst.dk/indikator/bu/default.asp?sprogid=2>

In 2003 the Danish Government published "The World Summit in Johannesburg and Denmark's National Strategy for Sustainable Development". The publication follows up Denmark's National Strategy for Sustainable Development in the context of the Johannesburg World Summit. The publication reports on areas in which the Danish government would especially like to see progress. These include climate change and renewable energy, international development, trade and environment, bio-diversity, the environment and health, as well as sustainable production and consumption. It is also about partnerships in areas such as water and energy. In 2004 the Danish government is launching an action plan for Denmark's follow-up to the Johannesburg Summit, focusing on cooperation with developing countries within the framework of the Millennium Development Goals and the Johannesburg targets as well as national strategies for poverty reduction and sustainable development.

In addition several NGO-based activities have published strategies and objectives relating to sustainable development. The most important is "Danmarks Deklaration" from 2001, a result of several public meetings, and a wide co-operation between several Danish NGOs. The declaration contains a wide range of ambitious objectives to give inspiration to the Danish Government and strengthen public participation. In addition the "92 group", a group of 21 Danish environment and development organisations, is working jointly on the follow-up to the UN Conferences on Environment and Development. The 92 group has been a major driving force behind "Danmarks Deklaration". At the local level several Agenda 21 activities have raised public awareness about sustainable development.

By legislative requirement, municipalities and counties have to prepare strategies for sustainable development (Local Agenda 21 strategies) as an integrated part of their responsibilities for spatial planning. Until now about 83% of the municipalities and counties have published a strategy, and about 9% have reported to the Ministry of Environment that they expect to publish their strategy within a half year.

NGOs occasionally participate in the design of national sustainable development policies. NGOs participate regularly in local environmental impact assessment projects and occasionally in national environmental impact assessment projects. The Danish government has provided financial and technical assistance to support individuals, groups and institutions contributing to sustainable development. It also collaborates with international NGOs and other organizations of Major Groups in national and regional sustainable development programmes.

The national policy on oceans is part of the National Sustainable Development Strategy. The Ministry of the Environment is the focal point for the Convention on Biological Diversity and has the overall responsibility for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. The Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries is responsible for domesticated biodiversity and fisheries. The County Councils administer nature conservation as well as spatial planning legislation at the regional level and manage a large number of protected areas. The Municipalities are responsible for spatial planning at the local level.

The Ministry of the Environment is responsible for the overall environmental protection, including: the overall responsibility for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity; integrated management and sustainable development of coastal and marine areas; water resource management; the work on indicators of sustainable development and is further developing its internal information system; natural and social sciences; waste management; the promotion of clean technologies; educational activities in the field of the environment; etc.

The Nature Protection Act of 1992 provides a regulatory framework for biodiversity conservation including: provisions on conservation orders; general habitat protection; protection of coastlands; and species protection. Other legislation of particular relevance to biodiversity includes: the Hunting Act; the Forest Act; the Watercourse Act; and the Planning Act. During the last 12 years a considerable efforts have been made by the Government and the county councils to recreate some of the lost natural areas of the past. Lakes; wetlands; meadows; river valleys; and moors have been restored, and straightened watercourses have been given back their natural course. The Government has designated 194 specially protected areas in pursuance of the EC Habitat Directive of 1992 comprising of approx. 1,000,000 ha. (of which 77 percent are marine areas).

A new Forest Act enters into force on 1 October 2004. The new act will provide a framework for promoting near-to-nature forest management, and it will strengthen the possibilities for outdoor recreation in the forests for children and young people. It also holds provisions for the implementation in the forests of the EC Habitat and Protection of Birds Directives and for protection of forest areas of high nature value. As previous forest acts the new act designate most Danish forests as forest reserve land. The legislative framework also provides for reestablishment of forest areas after national windfall disasters (last disaster in December 1999) and comprises also the Nature Conservation Act of 1992; the Hunting and Game Management Act of 1993; the spatial planning legislation; and the agricultural legislation (under the Ministry of Food, Fisheries and Agriculture).

*Water resource management.* Coordination of water resource management and development at the national level is the responsibility of the Ministry of the Environment and the Environmental Protection Agency (DEPA), in close cooperation with the Danish Forest and Nature Agency. Regional and local authorities coordinate at sub-national levels. In case of conflicts, the general rule is that the superior level of administration mediates.

The Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) is central to the development of – and planning for – water resources in the future. The Directive has been implemented in Danish legislation through Act No. 1150 of 17 December 2003, and various ministerial orders. The legal implementation will have to be revised to some extent, to accommodate to structural changes resulting from the ongoing reform of the administrative structure in Denmark. Both the number of municipalities, but also their responsibilities, will be radically revised, and this necessitates a revision also of the present implementation.

Water supply is regulated through: the Water Supply Act of 1978, last amended by Act No. 435 of 9 June 2004; and the Environmental Protection Act, last amended by Act No. 314 of 5 May 2004. The National Act on Regional Planning provides a policy for integrated land and water management. The Watercourse Act of 1992 and the Nature Management Act of 1989 encourage actions to improve the condition of streams and lakes.

Principles for the assessment of chemical risk and the setting of limit values in/on: drinking water; groundwater; air; and polluted soil, have been laid down in national guidelines based on the Act on Environmental Protection. The Danish Environmental Protection Act enforces: substitution of harmful substances with less harmful substances; the principle of best available technology; and the use of cleaner technologies and products based on life-cycle analysis.

The Ministry of the Environment is responsible for the integrated management and sustainable development of coastal and marine areas, including EEZ. The Ministry of Defence is responsible for the combating of oil and chemical pollution. In accordance with national legislation, the general public is involved in coastal planning. In 1994, an Act on Coastal Planning was adopted. Under this Act, special planning and function justifications are required for permitting building projects in the coastal zone. If such justifications exist, the main rule is to locate behind already existing settlements. At the same time, legislation covering already built-up areas (urban zones) was eased, so that the main emphasis was placed on a quality based incorporation of new constructions in the city viewed in relation to the surrounding coastal landscape. The Act further stipulates that a coastal protection zone in cities be reduced and in some cases removed completely. Through the Act on Coastal Planning, Danish coasts are preserved as an important landscape resource, while in the areas, where the population is actually living, planning requirements are only imposed when absolutely necessary.

When major laws, policies, and so forth, are prepared, stakeholders are normally invited to take seat in a Committee with the task of elaborating a report with recommendations for action. There is also an act concerning equal representation of women and men in public committees.

### **Programmes and Projects:**

A. Integrated Water Resources Development and Management: A planning system has been established on a regional basis to ensure the integrated management of freshwater resources. The counties balance the different interests against each other. See under *Decision-Making*.

*Near-to-nature forest management.* An action plan is being developed for implementation of near-to-nature forest management in the Danish State forests. Implementation has already commenced and will continue during the coming years. Information, advice and a range of incentive schemes will also be launched to promote near-to-nature forest management and protection of forest nature in private forests. Also afforestation programmes are implemented.

Stakeholder organisations are on a regular basis invited to participate in forest policy-making activities. The main stakeholders are organisations representing the private forest owners, the industry and “green” NGO’s. This may take place through ad hoc working groups following policy processes. A National Forest Council has been established with the task of advising the Minister for the Environment on forest issues. The current Danish national forest programme from 2002 was drafted through a process, which included public debate. At a local level advisory user councils have been set up at the 20 state forest districts, and certain hearing procedures have been put in place for forest management planning.

*Sustainable coastal management.* The national policy on oceans is part of the National Sustainable Development Strategy. A programme for the integrated management and sustainable development of coastal and marine areas, including the EEZ exists. All activities under this programme area are rated “important” or “very important”. The Danish Government participates in systematic observation systems. Denmark’s goal is that its clean-sea programme will be completed by no later than 2020. This is also called a “generation goal”, because Denmark, and the other North-Sea countries, have given themselves 25 years in which to attain the targets, starting from 1995. One of these targets is a marine environment without environmentally harmful substances, in which the occurrence of heavy metals has been brought down to the natural environmental background level. Another target is to bring down the occurrence of nutrients to a level that ensures that oxygen depletion and toxic algae blooming only occur as the result of natural conditions.

B. Water Resources Assessment: Monitoring of the groundwater takes place at the waterworks and in a national monitoring programme. Principles for assessment of chemical risk and the setting of limit values

in drinking water and groundwater have been laid down in national guidelines based on the Act on Environmental protection.

C. Protection of Water Resources, Water Quality and Aquatic Ecosystems: Denmark has introduced environmental taxes on both households and industries. Drinking water, pesticides, waste, wastewater, chlorinated solvents, Nickel-Cadmium batteries, PVC, raw materials are among the taxable substances. In 1994, an environment tax on drinking water for household use was introduced in order to encourage conservation. In order to reduce the discharge of sewage, a tax on wastewater was introduced in 1997.

A programme of action for improving wastewater treatment in the countryside has been prepared in order to improve the conditions of small streams and lakes. The programme stipulates that municipalities may offer improved treatment to settlements in the countryside through local wastewater treatment in order to meet ambient surface water quality standards.

The Government has taken several steps to protect and improve the quality of freshwater based on the principle that substances likely to pollute shall not be discharged into watercourses, lakes or the sea; or stored in a manner, which may lead to pollution of the water.

An Action Plan for the Aquatic Environment was launched in 1987 with the objective of reducing the nitrogen and phosphorus content of the aquatic environment by 50 percent and 80 percent, respectively. A comprehensive nation-wide monitoring programme was designed to quantify the effectiveness of the Action Plan. As a result of the Action Plan, the emissions of nitrate and phosphorous from agricultural activities and wastewater treatment plants for agricultural emissions have been reduced. It has however proven more difficult than expected to reach the goals of the Action Plan. A second Action Plan for the Aquatic Environment II (1998-2003) was prepared in order to further reduce emissions from agriculture. This Action Plan has contributed further to reducing the nitrogen and phosphorus content of the aquatic environment. One of the means used in this second phase was the restoration of wetlands, which has both reduced the nutrient outlet and at the same time had a positive effect on biodiversity. The second Action Plan also introduced a new framework for groundwater protection based on detailed hydro geological mapping by the counties. Water works were allowed to compensate farmers for loss of income associated with measures to protect ground water. When the targets in the Action Plans for the Aquatic Environment I & II are reached the EU Nitrates Directive will be fulfilled. In 2003 the Action Plan was evaluated, and it was concluded that the reduction of the nitrogen leaching was reduced by 48 per cent.

In 2004 the third Action Plan for the Aquatic Environment III was launched, with an increased focus on the reduction of phosphorus emissions to the aquatic environment. This Action Plan runs for 2005-2015. The goal is to reduce the annual excess of phosphorous in agriculture by 50 per cent, to reduce the leaching of phosphorous into streams and lakes and to reduce nitrogen leaching from agriculture beyond 48% by additional 13 per cent in the period.

In 2003 a new Plan on Pesticides 2004-2009 was adopted by Parliament setting reduction targets for pesticides in the farmland. The plans are follow-ups to plans from 1986 and 2000. The use of pesticides has decreased with respect to the quantity of active substances. And also the treatment frequency has decreased. A tax on pesticides has been imposed and a number of pesticides have been removed from the market since 1994.

During the last 15 years considerable efforts have been made by the Government and the county councils to recreate some of the lost natural areas of the past. Lakes, wetlands, meadows, river valleys and moors have been restored, and straightened watercourses have been given back their natural course.

See also under *Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising*.

D. Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation: In 1995, the Government proposed a 10-point programme for the protection of the water table and drinking water. Both the urban and rural population has access to safe drinking water and safe sanitation. The health requirements for clean water and sanitation have been met. The coverage of water supply is practically 100 percent.

E. Impacts of Climate Change on Water Resources: Research in the area of climate change and related aspects is conducted by a number of institutes and organisations, including: the Danish Climate Centre at the Danish Meteorological Institute; universities; and research institutes. Danish researchers are participating in international research projects and in the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) as lead authors and reviewers. In addition, Danish researchers are participating in the Scientific Assessments of ozone depletion, coordinated by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). An integrated Danish programme for research related to Climate Change is currently underway.

**Status:** *Socio-economic aspects*: Absolute poverty does not exist in Denmark. All inhabitants in Denmark are ensured an adequate standard of living by law, and generally there is an equal distribution of income. According to the latest analysis made by the Government, low-income families in Denmark were numerated as families with an available income of less than half the median income. In 1998, 162,100 persons were in the low-income group, which is equivalent to 3.1 percent of the population. However it is generally not the same persons who constitute the group of low-income each year, as there is also a high level of mobility in this group.

The Danish population is 5.3 million. Almost one fifth of the population is under the age of 16 years. Approximately 15 percent of the population is more than 65 years and the number of people within this age group will increase by approximately 30 percent in the coming 15 years. Average life expectancy was in 2002 74.4 years for men and for 79.2 years for women.

Due to changes in family patterns and growth in the number of elderly people, more single persons are now demanding accommodation. Therefore emphasis has been put on constructing specifically for young and elderly people. 50 percent of dwellings are in private ownership. The average floor space available is 51m<sup>2</sup> per person. 98 percent of all dwellings have central heating and 94 percent have bathrooms.

Greenland is a geographically separate and well-defined part of the Danish Realm situated in the North Atlantic, covering an area of 2,175,600 square kilometres. The majority of the population is born in Greenland. As of January 1 2000, the total population was 56,124, out of which 49,369 persons were born in Greenland. By and large, the population born in Greenland constitutes the indigenous population of Greenland, sharing a language and culture distinct from the Danish.

Tourism is Denmark's fourth-largest industry. Tourists attach great importance to a sound environment and to the possibility of bathing in clean water.

*Topography*: During the last 200 years the forest area has increased from only a few percent of the Danish land to its present more than 10 percent. However, Denmark still remains a low forest covered country making the small forest area available subject to considerable interest and pressure from the surrounding society. Much of the forest increase during the past 200 years has taken place on the poor soils and in scarcely populated areas. Forestry has been competing with agriculture. Due to the demand for timber production and the harsh site conditions in many afforestation areas, foreign conifers dominate the new forests. Even on the better forest soils in the eastern parts of the country foreign conifers have increasingly replaced indigenous deciduous species. Consequently, while the area with indigenous deciduous forest tree species has been almost constant during the past more than 100 years, there has been a dramatic expansion in the area with coniferous foreign forest tree species, mainly spruce. These forests have been subject to intensive forest management involving: drainage; monoculture; heavy machinery;

ploughing; clear-cutting; and etc., leaving rather limited room for development of forest biodiversity. However, during the last 10 to 20 years this situation has changed. In addition to timber production the forests are also expected to provide public recreation, and nature and landscape amenity.

Desertification and drought is not an issue in Denmark. The issue of mountain does not apply to the country.

*Water resources management:* Water resources have until now been managed by the counties. A committee headed by DEPA is in charge of analysing how a future administrative model for water management can be designed. In the future, new financing opportunities may become available to such measures as groundwater protection.

About 90 percent of the water works are run privately, while the municipalities run the remainder. The public water works supply two-thirds of the water-works water. 99 percent of the drinking water supplied to consumers is abstracted from groundwater reservoirs. The basic principle for the drinking water policy is to prevent pollution of the groundwater rather than having to clean polluted water.

The EU Water Framework Directive will have a major impact on the management of water resources in Denmark. The directive requires the establishment of river basin districts (see also under Decision-Making).

An urgent problem concerning groundwater is toxic leaching from waste dumps and old industrial sites. The regional authorities are actively searching for the location of these sites before serious damage is caused. Further, Danish planning rules concentrate activities with the potential for causing pollution in areas where the water resources are the least vulnerable.

**Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising:** The public authorities and the water works encourage the consumer to use less water. From 1 January 1999, the consumption of water for all dwellings connected to common water works must be metered. This is expected to lower water consumption 10 to 15 percent. Industry and agriculture are also encouraged to use less water. In some instances these sectors can get subsidies from the Government to develop special water-saving techniques. In order to ensure stability in the supply of drinking water, information campaigns have been launched suggesting different ways in which the consumer can save or reuse water.

Denmark has built up a modern organisation and modern training courses for the Nature interpreters. A series of active interpretation methods have been developed in order to make experiencing nature an important tool in modern Danish environmental management and hopefully to inspire the population to have a positive attitude towards the future and towards a sustainable development. "The Danish Nature Interpreter Service" is managed by the Ministry of Environment and the Danish Outdoor Council and is a network of 300 Nature interpreters. There is every year more than 25,000 Nature Interpretation-events in Denmark with around 850,000 participants altogether.

Following an initiative of the "The Danish Nature Interpretation Service", International Ranger Federation (IRF) has developed 11 "Shared Principles" for Heritage Interpreters promoting sustainable development. The aim is to increase understanding and implementation of sustainable development practices. The first principles apply to all interpretation, while the second set refers to a specific focus on the impact interpreters can have with sustainable development. The "Shared Principles" are published in a handbook – "Ranger Interpretation Handbook" – with examples on "best practice".

The national plans of action for environmental education and green dimension are implemented through the decisions referred to above and through different national school development projects, including those undertaken as a part of the "Nordic Environmental Education" and by the Nordic Council of

Ministers on conflicting interests in the use of natural resources. In addition, several innovative initiatives are being carried out locally with the aim of developing education that gives priority to understanding sustainable development. Cooperation takes place on several levels among NGOs, research centres and ministries, through projects; seminars; coordination meetings; and other mechanisms. In-service training programmes are available for teachers, concerning the nature and methods of environment and development education. Environment and development concerns are part of teacher educational programmes. A portal for environmental education has been developed in cooperation between the Ministry of the Environment and the Ministry of Education.

**Information:** The Ministry of the Environment coordinates the preparation of the national indicators of sustainable development. The ministry further develops its internal information system (for indicators see under *Decision-Making*).

Information on water management and development, including: water quality; quantity; number of water works; drillings; and consumption by sector, is regularly collected and distributed, and is made available inter alia on the World Wide Web Site of the Ministry at (<http://www.mim.dk>). Another relevant website belongs to the Danish Water Works Association: (<http://www.dvf.dk>).

In 2001 the Ministry of the Environment published a technical report on Environmental Factors and Health. The report describes the relationship between environment and health, encompassing the areas: air; soil; drinking water; bathing water; swimming pools; chemicals; waste; wastewater; and noise. The technical report is available in Danish, English and Russian. In 2003 the Danish Government published a national strategy and action plan for Environment and Health factors “The Environment and Health are Interrelated – Strategy and action plan to protect the health of the public against environmental factors”.

Denmark publishes continuously environmental data and statistics. Statistics Denmark is, to a large extent, fed with data provided by the Ministry of the Environment. The main sources of information on sustainable development are data provided by regional and local authorities and industry. Computer networks, providing access to international information systems are available for the public and private sectors. The main users of sustainable development information are decision-makers at all levels and in all sectors. Danish data collection related to sustainable development is a full-fledged system, which is continually being expanded and revised to account for any shift in needs and circumstances, and it covers virtually every aspect of life in a complex, industrial society. Denmark also has access to international information systems. A comprehensive inventory of databases, relevant to sustainable development, was first carried out in 1994.

The general public has access to environmental data also on the website of the Danish Environmental Protection Agency (<http://www.mst.dk/homepage>). This includes environment and health related data, e.g. the quality of bathing water and nation. Furthermore the Danish Environmental Protection Agency publishes a series of Environmental Essays (“Miljø-Tema”, mostly in Danish) introducing into current environmental issues, latest on “Roads to healthier traffic”, environmental economics in practice, and adaptation to climate change (2004).

**Research and Technologies:** There are no major technological needs for water purification. 99 percent of Danish drinking water originates from the ground water and needs nearly no treatment. The policy is to maintain this situation.

The total capacity for wastewater treatment is 12.6 million PE at public wastewater treatment plants. All urban sewage is treated.

The Action Plan for the Aquatic Environment II of 1997 supported research into more sustainable production and consumption patterns. Furthermore, the Action Plan for the Aquatic Environment III of



2004 supports research in reduced environmental impact from agricultural production focusing in particular on nutrient losses (phosphorous and ammonia) and reduction of odour emissions.

In 1996 a programme for the development of technologies for cleanup and remediation of soil and groundwater contamination was established. The annual budget for the programme was DKK 15 million per annum until 2002 and is now DKK 5 million per annum. The objective of the programme is to gather experience from the application of different methods for remediation and cleanup of contaminated soil and to develop tests for new cleanup technologies. The technology programme has focused mainly on remedial technologies for chlorinated solvents and oil, heavy metals and petroleum contamination.

**Financing:** Denmark has introduced environmental taxes on both households and industries. Taxable substances or materials are: CO<sub>2</sub>; SO<sub>2</sub>; mineral phosphates in feed to animals; energy; pesticides; waste; wastewater; chlorinated solvents; Nickel-Cadmium batteries; PVC; raw materials; drinking water; green owner charge for cars; packaging; disposable items; and shopping bags. The revenue from environmental taxes constitutes approximately five percent of GDP and approximately 10 percent of the total tax revenue.

The general pricing policy for water follows a principle of balance, i.e., the total revenue from water charges must not exceed total costs, including appropriation for future investments. On the other hand, the water charges must cover total costs. The local authority can however, in some cases subsidize the water works.

Almost 100 percent of water costs are recovered through water charges. The Ministry has made general guidelines for water tariffs. One principle is that the price charged per cubic meter should not vary with the quantity consumed. There are no special policies implemented concerning the sectors.

The Government has limited funds to remedy pollution where the polluter cannot be found or is not able to pay. In 1996, the Parliament adopted a tax on wastewater for discharges of nitrogen, phosphorous and organic substances. This tax entered into force 1 January 1997. In accordance with the Action Plan for the Aquatic Environment, in the period 1987-1995 US\$ 1.2 billion were invested for municipal treatment plants.

New sources of income may be linked to groundwater protection: co-financing from local authorities aiming at recreational benefits; and fees for carbon sequestration.

**Development Cooperation:** Sustainable Development is a cornerstone in Danish policy. The principles of sustainable development cut through most policy areas, including development assistance. A number of international agreements have called for national strategies, plans and programmes in cross-sectoral and sectoral areas. Attempts to review and coordinate the totality of these requests, and their interrelationships with regard to sustainable development are undertaken by both the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry for the Environment.

Poverty alleviation is the overall objective of Danish support to the developing countries. In order to ensure maximum impact and sustainability of Danish aid the Government re-prioritized its development assistance in 2003 by strengthening the focus in five areas: Human rights, democratization and good governance; Stability, security and the fight against corruption; Refugees, humanitarian assistance and regions of origin; Environment and Social and economic development. Assistance is delivered in response to national priorities and plans for reducing poverty, partnership being the fundamental principle of Danish development cooperation.

Denmark is politically committed to support reaching the Millennium Development Goals by 2015 and the targets set at the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development. Achievement of these

goals will make a significant contribution to worldwide poverty reduction, economic growth and sustainable development.

In 2003 the Danish Official Development Assistance (ODA) totalled 1.747 million USD corresponding to 0.84 per cent of GDP. In 2004 the Danish assistance for the environment will total app. 2.45 billion DKK (app. 408 mill. USD)

Meeting the targets on water and sanitation in particular the 2005 target on developing Integrated Water Resources Management and water efficiency plans are integrated as objectives in Danish ODA-policy. Danish bilateral ODA to water, sanitation and integrated water resources management in 2003 totalled 82 million USD. To this should be added support to a growing number of innovative regional initiatives with the aim of strengthening transboundary water governance and preventing conflicts emerging from competition for scarce water resources. Furthermore, Denmark provides support for water and sanitation sector development programmes implemented by multilateral organisations.

With regard to progress on the Millennium Development Goals and the Johannesburg targets marked regional differences can be discerned. Africa, and in particular Sub-Saharan Africa, is progressing with very low speed. Danish development assistance to the water and sanitation sector is defined to address this trend.

In addition to the Danish assistance to the developing countries, Denmark has since the fall of the Berlin wall supported the water and sanitation sector in Central and Eastern Europe. Danish assistance includes more than 400 projects with the majority being investment projects, totalling app. 200 mill. Euro

Denmark's development cooperation within Water and Sanitation is described in a publication presented at the CSD 13. The publication describes the Danish contributions to developing countries to meet the targets on water and sanitation in the Millennium Development Declaration and the Johannesburg Summit on Sustainable Development. The themes described in the publication include the main constraints and obstacles identified to reach the goals: Water Governance, Integrated Water Resource Management, Partnership and cooperation, Financing and Capacity Building. The publication can be downloaded at the following address:

<http://danida.netboghandel.dk/publ.asp?page=publ&objno=250000155>

As a member of the European Union, Denmark is contributing to the EU development assistance and assistance to neighbouring countries. The Africa-EU Strategic Partnership on Water Affairs and Sanitation, in which Denmark has played a significant facilitating role, is of special importance to assist Africa. Denmark has played a similar role in the Eastern Europe, Central Asia and Caucasus (ECCA) component. Together with the EU, Denmark is furthermore promoting the work on sustainable production and consumption. Denmark is also within the EU working on the update and follow up to the sustainable development strategy.

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