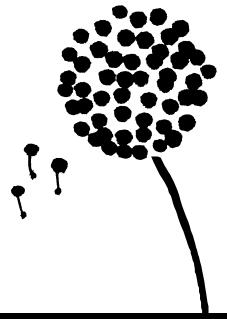


*Increasing
ability and
effectiveness
in advocacy*

ADVOCACY GUIDELINES



TEARFUND
CHRISTIAN ACTION WITH THE WORLD'S POOR

Advocacy and Water: a practical guide



ADVOCACY GUIDELINES

THE AIM OF THIS GUIDE To increase our partners' ability and effectiveness in their advocacy work on water.

SECTION 1 explains Tearfund's understanding of advocacy and why water is seen as a crucial issue.

SECTION 2 provides a background of factual information, that can be used for reference as and when required.

SECTION 3 gives case studies of water advocacy in practice, as an encouragement to readers.

SECTION 4 looks at how to go ahead with advocacy work, and reminds readers of the basic principles behind good practice in this area.

Appendices provides details of useful organisations and networks, conferences and processes.

A glossary gives helpful definitions of some words used.

The Tearfund *Advocacy Study Pack* forms the basis of our understanding of advocacy work.

This guide follows on from the discussion paper *Thirsty World*, and the subsequent feedback received from partners on the issues it raised.

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1 Introduction

Water is a major focus of Tearfund’s advocacy work. One billion poor people do not have their basic water needs met; two and a half billion have no access to sanitation. The 1980s were the Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade and some good progress was made, but population growth was often greater than the rate of improvements. The table below shows the 1999 World Health Organisation figures:

NUMBERS OF PEOPLE WITHOUT ACCESS TO SAFE WATER OR SANITATION

	POPULATION millions	PEOPLE WITHOUT ACCESS TO SAFE WATER		PEOPLE WITHOUT ACCESS TO SANITATION	
		millions	% of total	millions	% of total
Africa	784	302	38%	289	37%
Latin America & Caribbean	519	87	17%	137	26%
Asia	3,683	627	17%	2,003	54%
Total	4,986	1,016	20%	2,429	48%

There is no simple solution to solving the problem of water access and sanitation. In some places, practical, technical solutions are needed; in others there has to be collaboration with government authorities; in some places advocacy to those in power is necessary. **Tearfund believes that in all these cases, the involvement of local communities must be central.**

Advocacy can mean many different things. For Tearfund it means ‘speaking on behalf of the poor to people in power’. The main methods we use are:

- lobbying
- campaigning
- winning attention from the media
- prayer.

Tearfund sees water as a gift from God, given to human beings to use with care and responsibility. Just as the earth belongs to God, so does water as part of his creation. Nobody can stake a claim to the ownership of water: it has been given to everybody by God and every human being has a right to access to it. Tearfund has been supporting partners who work on water ever since the organisation was founded over 30 years ago.

Water as a major issue

Tearfund is now focusing on water as a major issue because:

- many of our partners are involved in water and sanitation projects
- the situation is so serious
- it is linked to other crucial issues like food security and land rights
- an even greater crisis is predicted if solutions are not found



- as governments, NGOs and individuals realise how urgent the situation is, international policy processes and networks are becoming more common. This gives Tearfund and our partners an opportunity to influence the process at top level on behalf of poor people.

Underlined words are explained in the Glossary on page 47

Objectives

Tearfund's objectives are to:

- improve poor people's access to water and sanitation by the wider promotion of appropriate technologies and by encouraging institutions to adopt a similar approach
- try to minimise the impact on the environment
- increase the ability of the poor to engage in advocacy on this issue
- increase public awareness of the water crisis.

Principles

Tearfund's principles in working for these objectives are:

- **justice** in that all people should have access to a clean and affordable water supply and sanitation service
- **participation** of the poor in the water and sanitation decision-making process
- **accountability** of governments, industry and NGOs involved either directly or indirectly in water supply and sanitation
- **sustainability** of all water usage for domestic, industrial, agricultural and environmental purposes
- **integration** of the different demands on water into its management.

2 *The Water Crisis*

This section briefly summarises the main aspects of the water crisis, both globally and looking at different parts of the world.

GLOBALLY

Water stress is defined as a situation in which the total resource is between 1,000m³ and 1,700m³ per year per person. Water scarcity is a situation in which the resource is less than 1,000m³ per year per person. Fourteen African countries already face water stress or scarcity and another 11 will join that list in the next 25 years.

- Agriculture**
- Agriculture is the largest user of water; as population grows, the need for more food to be grown will increase this further. It is predicted that water shortages will become the main limitation on sufficient food being grown.
 - Water is generally used far less efficiently than it could be. If the land is flooded, water evaporates and salts are drawn to the surface. This salinisation and waterlogging are serious environmental problems. Irrigation is efficient when the right amount of water is applied at the point of need, and any excess drains away below the root zone.
 - Where no controls exist on how farmers use groundwater for irrigation, this can lead to overuse and falling groundwater tables.
- Rise in population and rise in demand**
- In 1990–1995, consumption of fresh water rose 600%: more than twice the rate of population growth.
 - The figures for 1999 show that current need was not being met.
 - With the worldwide rise in population, there have been increasing conflicts between households, farming and industry in their demand for water. To tackle this, strong governance and political will are needed.
- Pollution**
- With growing industrialisation and the use of nitrates and other chemicals in agriculture, pollution of waterways is a major problem. Discharges by industry are rarely treated, as few environmental regulations exist or are enforced.
 - Sewage is one of the commonest types of pollution: Asia's rivers, for example, contain ten times as many bacteria as is considered safe. Throughout the world, diseases caused by polluted water account for many deaths, particularly of children.

- Mining activities easily pollute groundwater. Mercury pollution from gold mining is a major problem in many areas of the world.

Poor water quality Eutrophication, weeds and salt water also threaten water quality. When the quality falls, freshwater fishing is threatened. This has an effect on people's income and their nutrition, as fish is an important source of protein for millions of people across the world.

Mismanagement and lack of management of renewable water resources Inadequate infrastructure in most countries means that water resources are not managed properly, and not enough investment is put into this. As people move from the countryside to towns, basic water services need to be provided, but without a good infrastructure this is very difficult to do. Water needs to be seen as a public good and as a commodity with a value. It is free at the point of supply but not at the point of use: by then value has been added to it. This is something that needs to be discussed and understood at every level of society.

Conflict In Africa and the Middle East particularly, rivers are shared between two or more countries. There are growing fears about the possibility of conflict over water issues, as demand grows.

Debt The burden of debt has been a major factor in restricting the ability of many governments to meet their citizens' most basic needs, as they have spent more on servicing their debt than on basic services. Although the 1980s were the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade, it was also the time when most of the current international debt was built up!

Natural disasters

- Flooding kills more people and causes more damage than any other natural disaster.
- Floods, cyclones, storm surges, drought and other disasters affect many countries.
- The frequency of natural disasters is increasing. Scientists predict that global warming will increase extreme weather patterns: there will be more floods and storms in some areas, and more droughts in others.

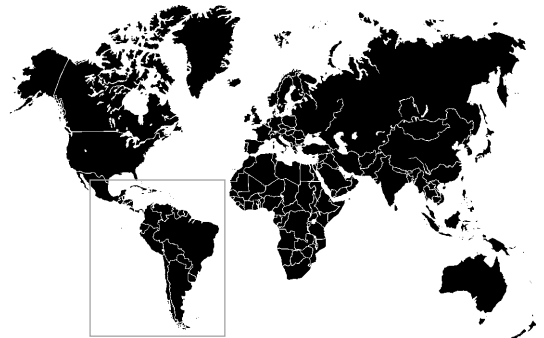
REGION BY REGION

In the context of this global crisis, each region has its own pressure points and problems. The following pages give an overview of some of these.

LATIN AMERICA

Central America

- In 1995 70% of the population had access to a piped public water supply. In 1998 Hurricane Mitch devastated water services, particularly in Honduras and Nicaragua, and progress in all aspects of development was set back.
- Access to water and other natural resources is a major issue because of the monopoly of land ownership by a small elite. Environmental degradation of water resources has been caused primarily by poverty linked to the lack of access to land. In Honduras the loss of wetlands is a major threat to the environment.
- Water resources cannot be managed adequately in the interests of all, as long as there is unequal land distribution.



South America

- South America is usually seen as a middle-income region, but 20% of the population have no access to water and more than 30% have no sanitation. Despite the many water resources within the region, Argentina, Bolivia, Chile and Peru have semi-arid or arid areas and Peru has particularly bad water shortages.
- Governmental regulation and management of water resources have had many failings, and there are few examples of consistent water policies that look to the long term. So pollution and depletion of water are common.

- *Extremely rich in water resources, with some of the largest and longest rivers in the world. Yet two-thirds of the territory is arid or semi-arid.*
- *Since 1980 significant progress made in sanitation coverage, but access to safe drinking water has not improved so quickly. Growing poverty gap between rich and poor: so the poor have a major problem of accessing safe, affordable water.*
- *Many current patterns of water use are unsustainable, and national policies do not usually consider sustainability.*
- *Lack of co-ordination between different regulatory bodies controlling water use in many countries.*
- *Many countries do not encourage the involvement of groups with a specific interest in water issues and representing poor communities and indigenous people.*
- *Mining activities are common in most countries in Latin America, and pollution of groundwater by industry is doubling every 15 years.*
- *Increasing cost of supplying water to cities. In Lima alone, upstream pollution has increased treatment costs by about 30%. Over the next 40 years, the population of cities will rise threefold and domestic demand for water will increase fivefold. Pressure will increase on governments to turn to private companies to run water utilities. In the case of large cities, multi-national water companies will compete to win contracts. Profit-making will be put above the needs of the community or of the environment.*

AFRICA

North Africa and the Eastern Mediterranean

- North Africa has the lowest rainfall in Africa with many countries facing severe water shortages.
- Lack of water is becoming an obstacle to further social and economic development.
- High population growth expected, with further pressure on water resources.
- Situation between many countries is already tense because of competition for water, and could worsen.

West Africa

	URBAN POPULATION	RURAL POPULATION
SAFE DRINKING WATER	62%	40%
SAFE SANITATION	59%	25%

- Water-related diseases are common eg: malaria, guinea-worm, cholera.
- Many lakes and rivers, so some countries have large water resources but others have severe shortage.
- Desertification and deforestation spreading south from Sahara. Lake Chad has shrunk to less than 1/12th its size in 1960s. Rainfall in Sahel has decreased steadily since 1970s.
- Water laws exist, but are rarely accepted or enforced, because of:
 - political instability and conflict
 - governments' inability to impose them
 - lack of grassroots participation in formulating these laws
 - lack of understanding of alternative ways of meeting people's needs.

East Africa

- By 2025, nine countries will face water shortages.
- Extreme variability in rainfall: droughts and floods.
- Several major shared water resources eg: the Nile, Lake Victoria. But no co-operative agreements between countries governing their use. Conflicts are likely to increase as water grows more scarce.
- Water quality in many lakes: a growing problem. Invasive aquatic plants have seriously affected Lake Victoria and the Nile.
- Ethiopia: only 25% of people have access to safe water and sanitation.
- Uganda: only 30% of rural people had access to safe water in 1994.
- Kenya: over 60% of people do not have access to adequate water.

Southern Africa

- Some areas have plenty of water, even floods. Others have regular droughts.
- AIDS: catastrophic effects. But preventable water-related diseases are still primary cause of death.
- Conflict over water most likely here: almost entirely dependent on rainfall and rivers for water supply. Every major river shared by two or more countries. Already several regional disputes unresolved.



Predicted water stress and water scarcity in Africa in 2025

By the year 2025, 25 African countries will be subject to water scarcity or water stress.



Source: John Hopkins 1998

ASIA

- *One in three Asians has no access to a safe drinking water source operating at least part of the day and within 200 metres of their home. Almost one in two have no access to sanitation.*
- *In West Asia water is the most precious and limited natural resource.*
- *Critical level of water resources because the volumes withdrawn far exceed the natural rate of replenishment.*
- *Massive population growth in China and India and a rising standard of living, leading to increased industrial and personal consumption. The amount of freshwater drawn from all sources increased more in Asia during the last 100 years than anywhere else in the world.*
- *It is expected that India will be water-stressed by 2025, and China even sooner.*
- *Natural hydrological cycles severely disrupted by water development programmes.*
- *Important watersheds damaged by intensive deforestation resulting in reduced river levels and depleted wetlands.*
- *Demand for water is growing most quickly in urban and industrial sectors. With competing demands, countries will need to allocate and manage freshwater fairly.*
- *500,000 children die every year because of a lack of water, dirty water and poor sanitation.*

South Asia

- Large amounts of investment are needed, not for complex technologies but because the coverage is so low.
- Mega-cities are growing with large slum districts. Many governments cannot keep up with the rate of expansion, particularly in informal settlements where people have no land rights. Countryside: sanitation poorly provided. So in both cities and country: high levels of water-related diseases.
- By 2025 the use of water resources in India will need to have doubled in order to meet demand from all sectors. This would mean more efficient use of water, recycling and reclaiming it, and capturing more.

Southeast Asia

- By 2025, the region's population will be about 50% larger in each country.
- Humid climate: a good deal of rain and abundant water resources. Problems of poor access to drinking water and sanitation come from a failure of governance. Many precious water resources are not treated with respect: rivers are the most polluted in the continent.

Greater Mekong and China

In China:

- The first signs of water shortages; by 2025 they are expected to be severe.
- The agricultural production needed to feed the large population demands a great deal of water. China has only 8% of the world's freshwater resources and supports 22% of the world's population.
- 1950–1980, Beijing – Daily demand for water increased by 100 times.

In Vietnam:

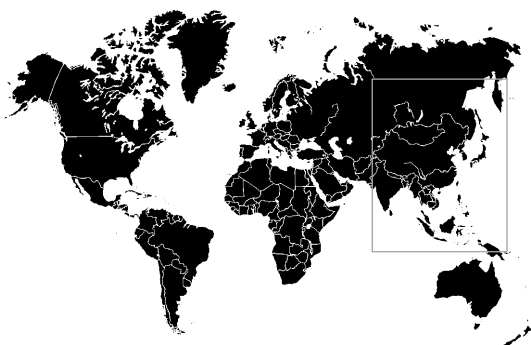
- Approximately 90% of people rely on unprotected sources of water; 50% have no sanitation.
- Inadequate water and sanitation: the biggest causes of children's deaths.

In Cambodia:

- 82% of rural households have no sanitation.
- Droughts and floods in five of the last nine years have destroyed harvests.
- The largest lake, Tonle Sap, supplying 40% of the country's fish protein, is being rapidly depleted.
- Many rivers in the Mekong region have been heavily polluted by natural processes but also by industry.

Central Asia

- Largest source of freshwater is surface water.
- Obstacles to safe drinking water, especially around the Aral Sea are:
 - poor quality
 - lack of chemicals to purify the water
 - a weak distribution system.
- One of the main causes of infant deaths is poor quality drinking water.



MIDDLE EAST

- *Water is the most limited natural resource.*
- *Groundwater is in constant decline because the amount withdrawn far exceeds the rate at which the supply is replenished.*
- *Syria: rivers and springs have dried up because of overuse of groundwater.*
- *Severe pollution by industry and agriculture of surface water and groundwater has led to concerns over the impact on health.*
- *New methods are being used more and more to increase the use of water resources, such as desalination and recycling wastewater. But the population is growing faster than this development. If the current situation continues, it will cause major environmental problems and possibly conflict.*



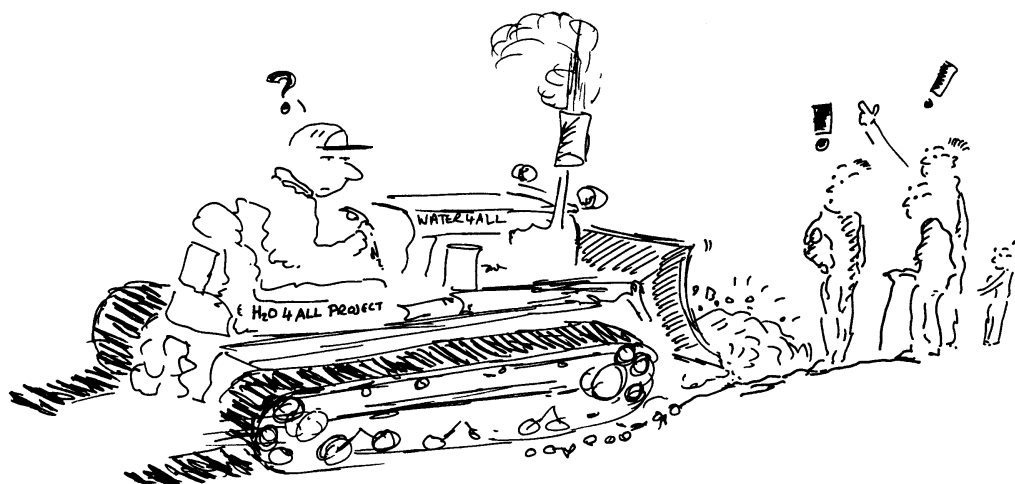
OBSTACLES TO SOLVING THE CRISIS

As we look around the world it is clear that the water crisis is not simply the result of weather patterns or misfortune. What turns natural phenomena into a crisis is at least partly a failure of governance.

The poor excluded from decision-making

Water is a natural resource that is crucial to each person's life, so each person should be able to have a say in how it is provided, managed and paid for. In the North, water provision has been based on expensive technology run by highly skilled engineers.

This approach has frequently been introduced to developing countries where the results have often been less successful because of the different levels of technology and skills available. A lack of community participation in decision-making around new water projects has led to many projects being unsustainable in the long term.

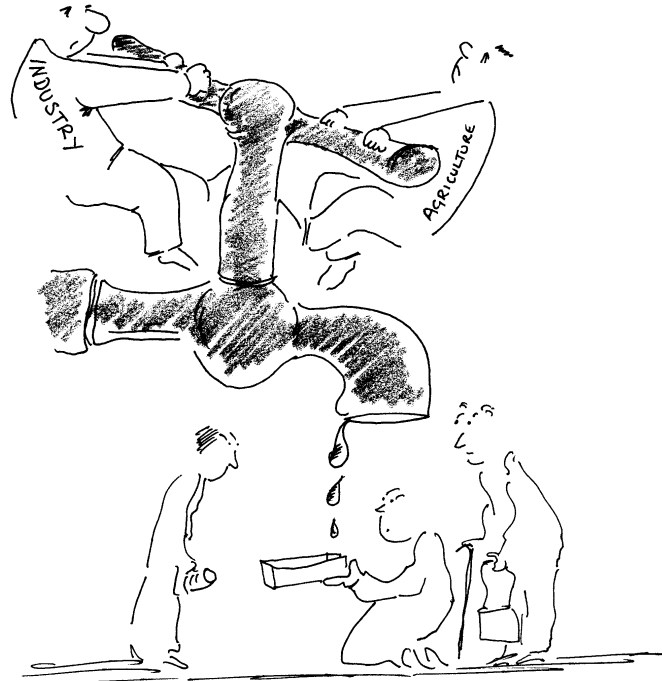


This is not to say that large-scale complex solutions to problems are always wrong, but they can make it even more difficult for communities to find a way of having their views and potential contributions taken into account. New and innovative ways need to be found which encourage government and business to involve local communities – particularly in urban areas – in planning, building, operating and maintaining water services.

Failure to manage water effectively at a national level

Alongside the involvement of communities in water provision, firm policies need to be in place at regional and national level. Currently in most countries there is no system to prioritise the various demands on water from agriculture, households, industry and the environment. Much water use is unsustainable, and access to water is uneven, with the poor losing out the most. Integrated management at national level is crucial, to ensure that all sectors and departments are properly co-ordinated. This requires political will at the highest level because integration is notoriously difficult to achieve. At local level such integration needs input from local communities, through encouraging their participation in political decisions and through including

them in the local management of water resources. Without both political will and this grassroots input, integrated water resource management is likely to fail at both national and regional level.



FAILURE TO MANAGE WATER EFFECTIVELY
AT A NATIONAL LEVEL.

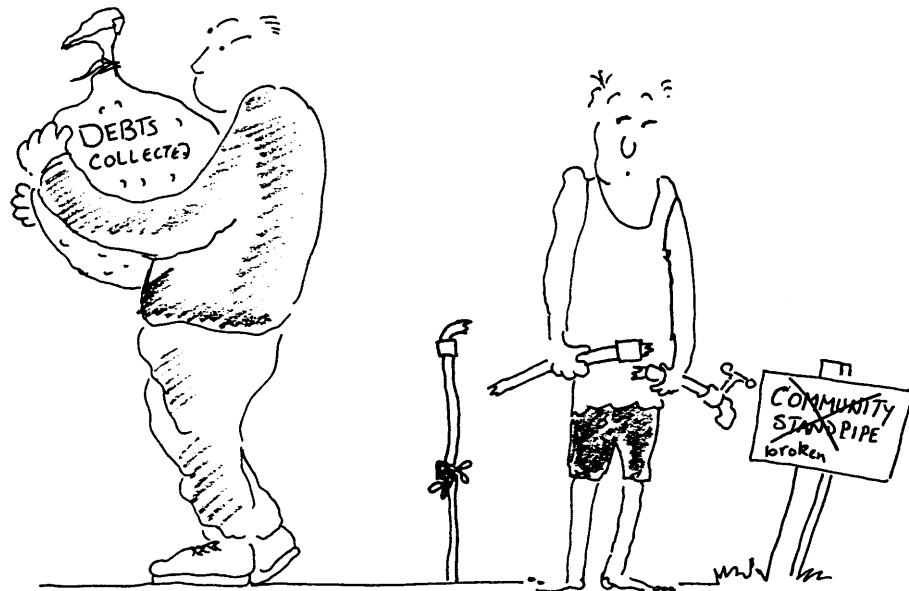
Lack of effective government regulation and infrastructure

The increase in water pollution, especially in developing countries, is a result of several factors. Firstly, heavy industry has become more common as some countries have developed economically, and as Northern companies have moved their operations South to reduce costs. Secondly, a lack of strong government regulation concerning environmental waste has allowed unscrupulous companies to pollute land, water, sea and air. Finally, there has been an increase in human waste and sewage pollution as a result of population growth and urbanisation. These factors combined have had serious consequences for water quality, both in the ground and on the surface.

Failure of international economic system

Despite the enormous growth of the global economy in the last ten years, governments have failed to provide a basic water and sanitation service to half the world's poor. Whilst the last few years have seen unprecedented economic growth in some countries, others, particularly in Africa, have been disadvantaged by the international trading system and their own problems of conflict and corruption. The crippling burden of debt owed by developing countries to foreign donors has drained money away from key services such as water and sanitation.

Even within countries where there has been sustained economic growth, the gap between rich and poor has widened. Multi-national companies have grown in number and influence, often exploiting the poorest and their environment. Cities have been favoured by economic growth leaving rural areas neglected and poorer. Yet the phenomenal urban growth has resulted in city infrastructure being unable to cope with providing basic services to poorer inhabitants.



Failure at international level to put water on the agenda

In the last 10–20 years there have been several international initiatives and high-level conferences which have aimed to solve water problems. Despite some progress being made, the situation worldwide remains a matter of urgency and could worsen significantly. Although water has been seen as an important issue, we have been better at talking about the problems and the solutions, than at providing finances and taking action. As a consequence, many organisations have appeared, all trying to contribute to solutions but with very little co-ordination between them. Meanwhile, governments show through continued low levels of investment, how little importance they really give to the provision of this basic human right.

3

Water Advocacy in Practice

In this section we hope to encourage you to have confidence to do advocacy work by showing what is being done already. We are also including examples of regional initiatives aiming to find solutions to water problems. (Details of how to become involved in these initiatives are given in Appendix 2.) We hope you will find the questions for discussion useful within your organisation.

Question for discussion

- *Why is there a lack of access to water and sanitation in your country eg: drought, flooding, pollution, infrastructure failure, land rights – anything else?*

LOCAL

CASE STUDY 1: ACCESS TO WATER

CORD Rwanda and UNICEF¹

UNICEF had devised a national programme: 'Water and Environmental Sanitation' for water development in Rwanda. Looking at the country's water problems from a national perspective, they had decided on a standard solution for every area. CORD were given a quota of materials and money by UNICEF in Spring 1998 to protect 40 springs in the area they worked in.

However, the majority of the springs in that area were technically very difficult to protect. The government had even encouraged people to move from the valley where the springs were situated to the hilltops. CORD did not want to carry out the UNICEF plan because they had found other springs to the West that would be easier to protect and would provide cleaner water that could be distributed more easily.

CORD drew up the following objectives:

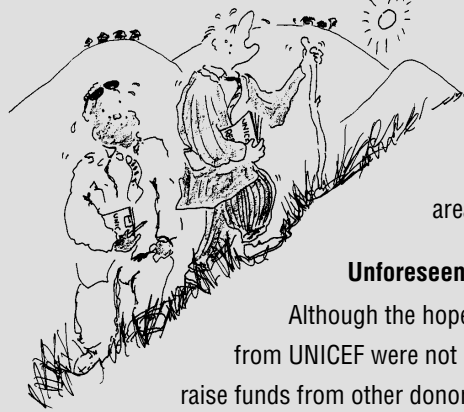
- To convince UNICEF that it would be unwise and impractical to carry out its proposed solution in the designated area.
- To persuade UNICEF to agree to let CORD use the same money and materials to protect springs in another area.

Advocacy action

At first CORD attempted to change UNICEF's mind by visiting their offices for meetings, and by making various telephone calls and writing letters. But this did not work so they decided to change their methods. They invited some people from UNICEF to come and visit the site of the proposed spring protection in the valley. They walked from the hilltops where people were living down to the valley where the springs were situated and then back up the hill again. This was the route the women would have to walk to obtain water from the protected springs.

¹ Christian Outreach Relief and Development (CORD) is a British relief and development agency, committed to helping refugees, children and marginalised people, both at times of crisis and post emergency. They aim to enable communities and individuals to have greater control over situations that affect their lives, to encourage self-reliance and to provide sustainable solutions to problems. UNICEF is the part of the United Nations that deals with issues affecting children.

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As they walked back up the hill there was a change of heart as UNICEF officials realised that their solution was impractical.

By Spring 1999, UNICEF agreed that CORD could use the materials to protect the springs in the other area instead.

Unforeseen outcomes

Although the hoped for result was achieved, the money and materials from UNICEF were not enough, and considerable extra work was needed to raise funds from other donors. The technical solution in the new project was also far more complex than in the original one, and consequently more work was needed in training the community to ensure the adequate management and maintenance of the project. In spite of all this, ultimately the new solution was much more appropriate for the long term than the original plan would have been.

Questions for discussion

- *What are international donors doing about water problems in your area? Do you agree with what they are doing?*

CASE STUDY 2: PARTNERING WITH WATER AUTHORITIES

DSK in Bangladesh

A Bangladesh NGO, Dushtha Shasthya Kendra (DSK) has been piloting an innovative approach to the provision of water for urban slum dwellers in Dhaka, with the support of a number of international agencies. The Dhaka water authority does not have the flexibility to provide water to informal groups with no legal status, such as those living in the city's slums.

DSK provided an 'intermediation' role between the slum communities and the government. They helped to organise community groups, providing training in managing the water supply, obtaining community contributions, organising credit, and providing technical support for the design of the water points. They also trained community group leaders in how to lobby water utilities. Finally, with the support of DSK, the groups approached the water authority and signed an agreement for the provision of the waterpoint.

Nineteen of the originally planned 20 water points are now in operation and a further ten have since been completed. The loan recovery rate is satisfactory and the groups are all expected to be able to complete repayment during the agreed time schedule, after which they will take full responsibility for management of the waterpoint. A second phase has been planned to cover another 30 water points to be installed by DSK and a further 36 by other NGOs, with technical support from DSK.

The success of this pilot programme has generated interest from other NGOs and agencies including UNICEF, who have begun to replicate the approach for themselves.²

Question for discussion

- *Is there a government authority that you could partner with, to achieve your aims?*

2 Taken with grateful thanks from Cathy Watson, *WaterAid Advocacy Sourcebook*.

CASE STUDY 3: DON'T GIVE UP

The Sahsa community, Nicaragua

The Sahsa community was established in the mid-1980s when the Sandinista government moved them away from the dangers of crossfire in the civil war at the time. There are now 1,300 inhabitants, living in the RAAN (the North Atlantic Autonomous Region).

From the start, the health of the community was very poor: high levels of infant mortality (more than 200 deaths per 1,000 live births in 1989), malaria epidemics, diarrhoea and respiratory infections...

In 1989 Acción Médica Cristiana (AMC) began work in the community, and found great organisational strength, due to the community's traumatic origins. Through its leaders, the community had identified the need for latrines and clean water if health was to improve.

Water came mostly from a small river, while the few people who had corrugated iron roofs managed to collect rainwater. The overcrowding, lack of latrines, and many animals moving freely round the area meant the river was very easily contaminated. A number of steps were taken to improve this: animals were not allowed close to the river; water was only to be taken from up-river, while washing and laundry were to be done downstream; chlorine was increasingly used and water was boiled to purify it. All this had positive results but needed great efforts by the people.

Other options were discussed such as communal and family wells. Then in 1992 after consulting experts, a draft project was chosen for constructing a gravity-driven mini-aqueduct for drinking water. (There was no electricity for a pumped system.) The cost would be US \$60,000, and the community set up a committee to work with the AMC to find the funds. The community itself would provide the labour, land and maintenance of the work.

For several years government authorities and national and international organisations were approached, but with no success. Then in 1997 came a breakthrough: a Swiss development co-operation agency, along with the Canada-Nicaragua Counterpart Fund, began looking at water projects in the area. They called together all the NGOs and community leaders, and representatives from the AMC with a delegation from the community presented their project. Interminable negotiations followed with endless bureaucratic complications: it was only thanks to the strong motivation and will of the community that in November 1999 the funds were finally obtained for their project.

A consortium was formed of various organisations, with the local Mayor's office providing the necessary legal and logistical support, and the community being the owners and executors of the project.

Worse problems now arose, as an individual in the community claimed ownership of lands that everyone had thought were communal. For political reasons, the State did not declare these lands 'areas of public utility' which would have over-ridden the individual's claims. The whole project was in danger of collapsing, and some people began to put pressure on the individual, even resorting to violence. This did not help as he then took the community leaders to court, accused of physical aggression. At the same time, the community took him to court for contaminating the water: he had located 300 cattle by the river's source.

Meanwhile, the community appointed representatives to put pressure on the Mayor's office, the Ministry of the Interior, offices of justice and regional media. A group of leaders even went to Managua, the capital city, to the National Assembly where they met opposition Members who expressed their support. The trip was paid for by the community, and supported logistically by the AMC.

They also visited NGOs, human rights organisations, the media and leaders of the different political parties. They met with much support, but the final decisions had to lie with the judge and the landowner. The AMC and other NGOs joined in the campaign to put pressure on the landowner.

In August 2000 a final ultimatum came from the funding agencies: if the conflict continued, the funds would be withdrawn and invested in another community. This decision filled the community members with fear. They thought and prayed hard for a rapid and positive resolution of the problem, and then decided to try a process of conciliation through a lawyer. They made themselves available to talk with the landowner in order to assess the current and future implications of losing this opportunity. Incredibly, after all that had occurred, the landowner agreed to donate part of the land needed to construct and protect the water system (approx 20 manzanas of land), and to allow permanent passage for its maintenance.

In October 2000 the dream began to turn into reality: 580 people (nearly half of whom were women) were organised into groups of 80 to give their vital contribution of labour. The aqueduct should only take a few months to construct. From beginning to end, from deciding on the project, gaining approval and funds, fighting the legal battle for land ownership, and finally participating in the building and maintenance, it has been the strong motivation and organisational capacity of this community that has ensured its success.

Questions for discussion

- *How can your organisation involve the local community in any advocacy you do? Think of the different methods you could use for your advocacy actions eg: networking, media work, lobbying officials, legal mechanisms. Which ones are most appropriate and at which stages of an advocacy strategy?*

CASE STUDY 4: PUBLIC CAMPAIGNING

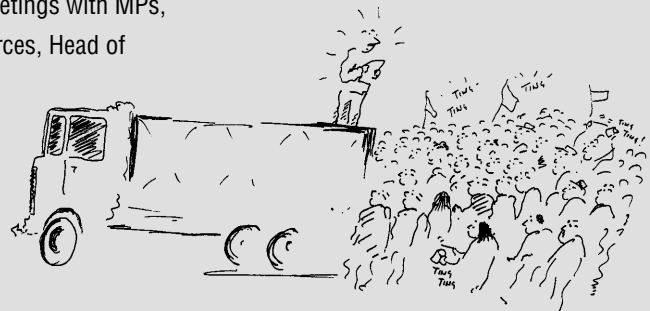
Ação Evangélica (ACEV), Brazil

Ação Evangélica is a small Pentecostal denomination with 27 churches in Brazil, 18 being in rural areas of the Northeast. Ação Evangélica seeks to put into practice the holistic Gospel message it preaches, being active in evangelism, church planting, discipleship, Bible teaching, leadership training, development and relief work.

Pipeline campaign

Amongst their various activities, Ação Evangélica drills wells for poor communities and in parallel to this it does water advocacy work. For the last seven years they have been campaigning for a pipeline to be run from the Coremas reservoir to the Patos, São Mamede and Santa Luzia region. This has taken the form of regular public meetings with MPs, Secretary of State for Water Resources, Head of the State Water Board, Mayor and Local Councillors.

One day the organisation held a can-bashing day which involved 5,000 people. The politicians' attitude was fascinating as they



hoped the day would be a flop and not many would turn out. However, as they saw that crowds were gathering and TV cameras had arrived, they quickly joined the march at the front!

This ended in a public meeting with speeches from on top of a large lorry. ACEV led the meeting, carefully controlling the party political balance of speakers. This got some politicians really angry as they were not allowed to speak. The majority of speakers were non-party political.

ACEV also organised a petition to the State Governor, and even paid for adverts on TV in favour of the pipeline. Sadly though, so far all this work has led to nothing but promises.

Well-drilling campaign

At Olho D'Água, ACEV wanted to drill two wells but were constantly hampered by the authorities who refused to give them even a small patch of land. Says John Medcraft, the Director of Ação Evangélica, 'Water here means political power. If the people have their own water, the people have power. Corrupt politicians hate that.'

More recently they had similar trouble at Maturéia where the Mayor, plus his allies, refused to co-operate. They eventually managed to sink a well with a low hand pump production level because they were refused a better site that had been recommended by their geologist.

Why no success yet?

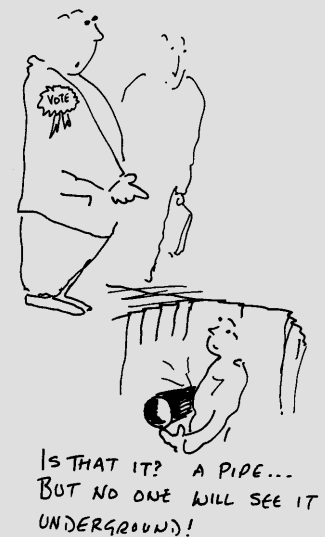
The organisers do not think there is anything wrong with their campaigning, but they feel they have failed to make much headway because they do not have decision-making power in their hands. They believe they will win and eventually the pipe-line will be put in place: it is all a question of bringing enough pressure to bear on the authorities, who have spent a fortune on spreading electrical power statewide so as to be able to privatise it. Ação Evangélica are arguing that they should spend some of this money on the pipeline.

Another lesson learnt is that politicians do not like doing things underground – pipelines, proper sanitation and drainage systems – because you cannot see them and thus they do not win elections. The politicians have actually said this off the record!

As for the future, Ação Evangélica are utterly determined to continue. They plan to hold two public meetings: the first one exclusively with those in power, and the second with the opposition politicians. They hope that this will increase pressure, with elections coming up in 2002.

A sign of success?

Recently, the State Governor announced on the radio that he would, as soon as possible, be starting work on the pipeline! He might not keep his promise but the group do see it is a step forward because they can now hold the authorities to a public announcement.



Questions for discussion

- Are any of these examples of campaigning appropriate for you (eg: a can-bashing day, public meetings with political leaders, adverts on TV, petitions)? If so, which ones?

CASE STUDY 5: LOBBYING GOVERNMENT

NGO Network in India

A group of NGOs, Oxfam (India) Trust and Hyderabad Training and Development Centre decided to work together in Visakhapatnam district in the state of Andhra Pradesh following the failure by government to maintain 300–400 handpumps. The maintenance was dependent on government mechanics who did not have the right resources to do the job properly. The situation was serious because most people were dependent on the handpumps as their main source of water.

Consequently, the group of NGOs decided to put together an alternative proposal to solve the problem. They started a project to train community mechanics to maintain the handpumps in each village.

Before the project could be successful, the NGOs had to persuade the government staff of its benefits, as officials are often suspicious of the quality of the work of community mechanics. After much persuasion and hard work the government agreed to let the community mechanics have access to the handpumps.

However, government officials were still unhappy about working with the community mechanics. As the NGOs were concerned that this relationship problem would lead to delays in mending the handpumps, they put a new proposal to the government. They asked for a full operational partnership based on a written agreement, so that collaboration would be formal and effective. They drafted a document to show the government officials. After a lot of persuasion and lobbying, the proposal was accepted.

The NGOs had to be patient and persistent. They had to contact many different officials eg: the Collector, the Chief Executive Officer, the Superintendent Engineer... The hard work paid off, and these officials became convinced that this was the best way to work together. There is now close collaboration with government mechanics, and the government continues to provide replacement spare parts to community spares banks. The government also now agrees that the community has an important role to play in handpump maintenance. In addition, relationships between all parties – government, NGO staff and communities – are much closer.³

Questions for discussion

- *Is there a network of NGOs working on advocacy on water issues that you could join? If not could you set one up?*

3 Taken with grateful thanks from Cathy Watson, *WaterAid Advocacy Sourcebook*.

NATIONAL

CASE STUDY 6: CHANGING PRIORITIES

NGOs in Uganda

In 1999, a small group of development and advocacy NGOs in Uganda carried out a Participatory Poverty Assessment with funding from the World Bank, to ask poor communities how they defined poverty and what their priorities were for poverty reduction. In 8 out of 45 districts, water and sanitation facilities and services was found to be their second priority for poverty eradication. Prior to this study, government budget allocation to the water and sanitation sector was the lowest among the social sector. With the results of the Poverty Assessment, the NGOs lobbied the Ministry of Finance to reflect the priorities of the poor for poverty reduction in Uganda's PEAP (Poverty Eradication Action Plan). Consequently the PEAP was revised, and water and sanitation now have second priority in budget allocations. A taskforce of NGOs has been formed to ensure that the study results are also reflected in the current PEAP review.

Questions for discussion

- *What are the local and national governments doing to combat or overcome water problems? Do you agree with what they are doing? Are there key policy processes in which they are or could be involved, that you could influence, eg: Framework for Action, NSSD? (see Appendix 1).*

REGIONAL

Some examples of work going on at a regional level:

Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC)

The WSSCC is an international member organisation with regional focal points.

The **Latin American Regional Group** was established in 1997 in Manila. The group set up five working groups to look at issues including the 'modernisation of potable water and sanitation sectors' and 'community management and collaboration with civil society'. The working groups are based in various countries: Bolivia, Colombia, Honduras and Venezuela.

The Latin America working group has also been involved in Vision 21: a global vision for water in the 21st century. Now they are working at country, regional and global level to work out how the Vision can be translated into action.

The **Southeast Asia Regional Group** was also established in 1997 in Manila. Members of the group come from different types of agencies – government, NGOs etc. Firstly the group contributed to a vision for Asia through national consultations in Myanmar, Philippines and Thailand with users, governments and NGOs.

Then in 1999 there was an Asian Regional Consultation which adopted the target of 2015 for every person to have an 'adequate hygiene, sanitation and safe domestic water supply with equity for all'.⁴ This contributed to the global Vision 21 (see above).



Other meetings have been held, such as an Advocacy Planning Workshop in Myanmar. Now all efforts are being put into translating the Vision for Asia into action: with awareness-raising and advocacy work, getting more stakeholders involved in Vision 21, identifying resources and making hygiene and sanitation a priority issue.

Nile Basin Initiative (NBI)

There are ten countries making up the Nile River Basin: Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda. Each country has different uses for the water and other resources of the basin. The NBI was set up in 1999 as a regional partnership, aiming to agree a permanent legal framework so that the rivers of the Nile can be sustainably managed and safeguarded for generations to come. This will become quite a challenge as population and economic demands grow and put greater pressure on water resources.

The NBI works through grass roots action and decision-making. They also want to set up joint development projects which they hope can bring about 'tangible benefits'.

The International Water Management Institute (IWMI)

In 2000 the IWMI, a global organisation, set up a new project in the Aral Sea region encompassing the countries of Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Tadjikistan and Kyrgyzstan. The aim of the project is to contribute to the building of effective water resource institutions in the region.

Following the break-up of the Soviet Union in the 1990s there has been a big problem over the management of water for farming between the different countries. A body called the Interstate Co-ordination Water Commission of Central Asia (ICWC) was set up to co-ordinate the allocation of water between the countries. IWMI is working with ICWC and others including the agricultural ministries of the countries themselves.

⁴ www.wsscc.org/forum5/execsumm/mapxs08.html

INTERNATIONAL

CASE STUDY 7: WORLD WATER FORUM

Tearfund, EFICOR and Kale Heywet Church at the World Water Forum and Ministerial Conference March 2000

This was the second World Water Forum to be organised by the World Water Council (WWC) and the Dutch government. It was intended to give an opportunity to 'address the challenges ahead and set down the conditions for a world in which everyone has access to clean water in 2025'. It was open to everybody but particularly to 'stakeholders' in water. The main stakeholders were considered to be:

- NGOs
- youth
- women
- business

... although government representatives and Trade Unions were also present.

The Ministerial Conference, running in parallel, was intended to 'generate political commitment' to solving the world's water problems. At the end of the conference, the Ministers would produce a declaration stating their commitments and beliefs, and agree to establish national water targets. In response to this, the four major stakeholder groups had to produce their own declaration and make an oral statement to the Ministerial meeting.

What was the problem?

The World Water Forum identified the problem as a global one of availability and quality of water, in the context of rapidly growing populations. But the solutions that the Forum was proposing also posed potential problems, as it seemed to many that there was an underlying agenda of privatisation and the unthinking involvement of the private sector to solve the water crisis. The approach of the large institutions dominating the Forum was to provide large-scale, high technology top-down solutions requiring big injections of investment. There were concerns that this approach is not necessarily the most appropriate, and does not favour the involvement of poor communities in water management and service provider accountability.

Tearfund, EFICOR (India) and the Kale Heywet Church (Ethiopia) were represented at the Forum. Between us we had various objectives, including to:

- gain a clearer idea of what each of our organisations should include in its advocacy and policy work on water, and to build up our relationships with each other
- input into the NGO declaration
- learn more about the international policy processes
- learn to do water advocacy work: speaking for the community and addressing their needs holistically; contributing to government policy; developing water policy in local areas
- develop contacts with other NGOs and form networks.

Were the objectives achieved?

The Forum helped to focus our ideas about the advocacy work on water and informed us about policy processes.

Tearfund had already had an opportunity to input views into the NGO declaration at earlier meetings in London. While at the Hague, everybody contributed to producing a policy document to influence the NGO declaration. Tearfund's prior knowledge of the process helped everyone to participate actively, unlike many NGOs who were disadvantaged by the Northern-based procedures.

Meeting as a team every day and in the evening on the last day helped to build relationships with each other. Useful contacts were also made, with government officials, NGOs and people from the private sector. Networking with other like-minded organisations was particularly useful because it encouraged each person and helped people to see how they could work together in future.

LESSONS LEARNT

An educational experience

Attending the Forum and participating in the Framework for Action consultations previously was a very educational experience. One starts to understand some of the different interests and forces that may be at work at international fora and to learn about which problems can be avoided.

NGOs must put their own interests aside and work together

It is very important for NGOs to work together and not push their own agenda when it is not directly relevant to the wider agenda.

Understand the process and relevant documents

Before attending such an event it is extremely important to have a good grasp of the exact process and documents. Most of the people from NGOs did not, partly because it was all very complicated. However, having prior knowledge ensures a much more effective strategy and targeted responses.

Christians have a role of reconciliation

It is very important for Christians to be involved in these events because we should try to bring a sensible viewpoint, to find the middle-ground. We should listen to others, and not try to dominate discussions. When we do speak we should identify the most important things and people will listen to us.

Not everybody has the same agenda

It cannot be assumed that everybody has the same understanding of poverty: it is more complicated than that. Business often wants to take advantage of the poor and everybody has their own agenda.

Don't attack others

It is very important to understand the policy process clearly and to know the facts, as it helps us to be more objective rather than falsely attacking others. We must be passionate in what we believe but never attack others.

Questions for discussion

- *How do the national and international policy processes affect the work you are doing? How could you influence them? Is there any way that your organisation and Tearfund could work together to influence the international policy processes?*

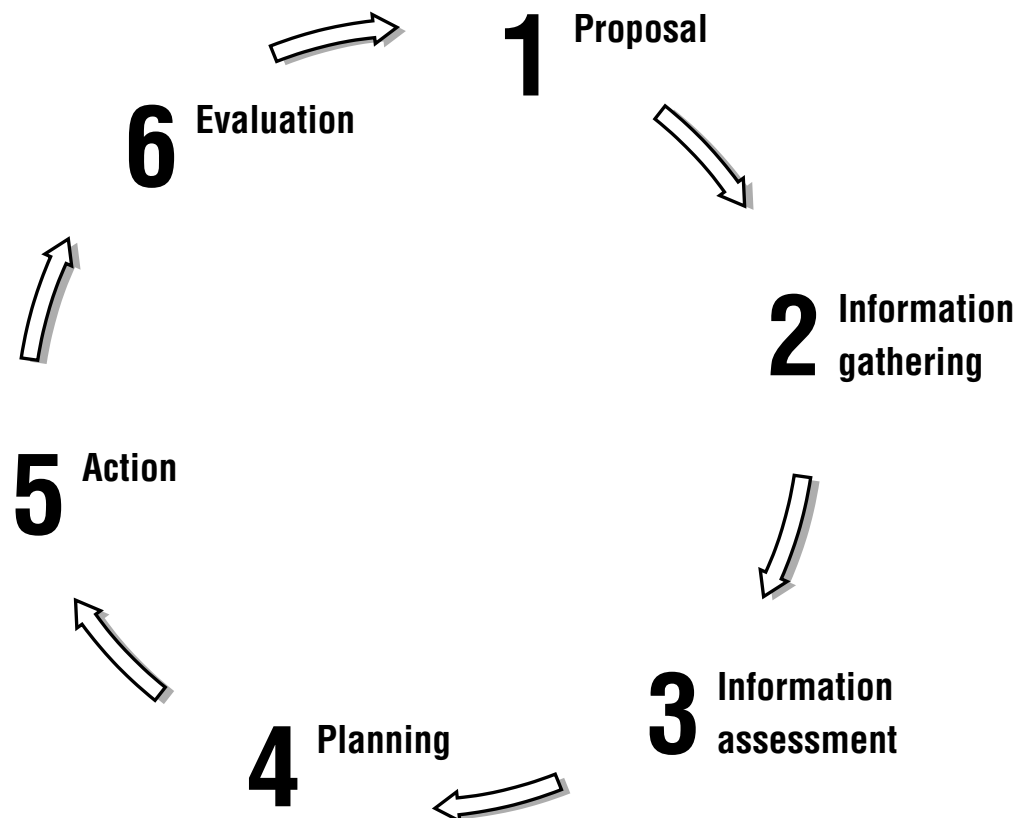
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What Can be Done?

Before you start to think about doing advocacy work, it is a good idea to be familiar with a process for planning it. To get the full picture we would advise you to read the *Advocacy Study Pack* produced by Tearfund. Here are some of the basic things to be aware of, reproduced from the *Advocacy Study Pack*:

THE ADVOCACY CYCLE

Any advocacy initiative can be divided into stages. In practice these stages will overlap. The time it takes you to complete all the stages and the necessary detail will vary greatly, depending on the urgency and complexity of your particular issue, the amount of information you need in order to act, and the advocacy methods you choose. The basic advocacy procedure is:



Within the advocacy cycle the key questions to be considered are:

- What is the problem?
- What are our objectives to solve that problem?
- Who is our target? ie: who has the power to make change happen?

- What methods and activities are we going to use to achieve our objectives, eg: meetings, letter-writing, press-releases, public demonstration?
- Who are our allies?
- Who are our opponents?
- What time-scale are we working to?
- What risks will we run if we carry out the advocacy? What risks will we run if we don't?
- Who has responsibility for the different activities?
- How can we measure whether we have been successful?

Having integrity

When we do advocacy work, people will always look critically at our own organisation and its activities. Are we practising what we preach? Are we just saying the right things, or do our own activities reflect the standards we are putting forward? So we must make sure our own organisation reflects good practice in the water sector. Our activities, whether well-digging, irrigation or sanitation, should be able to withstand investigation so that we can speak with integrity about wrong practices and injustice done by others.

START WHERE YOU ARE – THINK LOCALLY

- What are the main problems to do with water supply and access in your area?
- Who are the different interest groups concerned with water?
- Who in the local government is responsible for water management?
- What other organisations working on water might be willing to join you in advocacy?

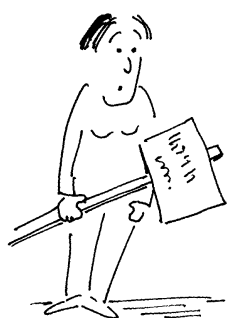
Being small

If you are a small organisation it is important to recognise your own limitations and assess your capacity realistically. Others may not think that you have anything to contribute to decisions about how the water needs of people in your locality are met. But don't be discouraged! There are ways to overcome this. Just because you are small it does not mean that your experiences and contributions to water project work are not valuable.

Credibility

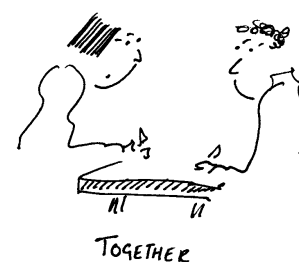
You will gain credibility by working with other organisations, community groups and local government departments or officials to achieve your objectives. There are many other advantages in working with others, eg: increasing impact, working to each other's strengths and weaknesses, and sharing information.

An example

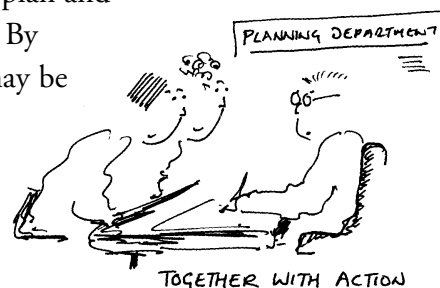


ALONE

You have a small community health project in a village. You think that the local authorities' solution for the lack of sanitation is impractical and that it fails to address the real needs of the village. Before approaching the relevant official, think about whether there are other organisations or groups working in another village nearby on a similar project. If they are having or have had a similar experience, propose working together. They could share with you their experience of persuading officials of a different viewpoint, or if their problem is ongoing you could approach the local authorities together and present an alternative proposal. Two organisations are much more likely to persuade the officials than one.



It may take much time and perseverance to persuade the authorities. You may first need to take them to the village and show the negative impact of their work. But if you are successful, could you suggest to the authorities that you collaborate on meeting the sanitation needs? Draw up an action plan and decide who will have responsibility for which bit. By working together with officials in this way, you may be able to solve the original problem of bad policies, pool resources and begin to co-ordinate your efforts. Ultimately the sanitation needs of the villagers may be met more effectively and fewer people will die from water-related diseases.



THINK NATIONALLY

- Does your government have a water policy or strategy?
- If they don't have a policy, should they have one?
- If they do, do you agree with it? Is it being implemented?

There are national-level water initiatives happening in many countries as a result of the activities of various international organisations. They could lead to new water legislation. If such a process is happening in your country, it could be important for you to have a say, as the policies will directly affect your work and the welfare of the poor.

What can you do?

- Find out more about your government's policies and initiatives by contacting the Ministry of Water/Environment/Health.
- Find out about processes initiated by external bodies but which are taking place in many countries, by consulting Appendix 2.
- Contact your Tearfund Regional Advisor and find out if Tearfund is associated with any other organisations working on water issues in your country. If so, you

might be able to work with them to lobby the government to reform, implement or introduce national water policies.

- Find out if there are other NGOs working on water who you could work with. The more organisations, the more influence you will have!

South Africa: What can be done when the political will is there

The Southern Africa region has been plagued with many water problems. All the major rivers in the region are shared by more than one country; the population growth is rapid, as is economic development. The water policies of the apartheid era gave water rights to those who owned land – the white population. By the time apartheid ended in the early 1990s the majority black population (10–20 million people) was without access to drinking water and sanitation.

In response to this the South African post-apartheid government took radical steps to redress many of the inequalities and to deal with the problems of mismanagement and conflict over shared water resources.

One of the steps taken was to guarantee to all citizens in the constitution ‘the right to have access to sufficient food and water’, and to state that ‘every person shall have the right to an environment which is not detrimental to his or her health or well-being’.⁵

This constitutional right was the basis of the new water policy legislation, based on the following principles:

- Decisions about water use should be driven by demands and needs for community development
- Basic water services should be considered a human right
- The regional allocation of water resources should be more equitable
- The integrity of South Africa’s environment should be protected and maintained.

The process of deciding the content of the new legislation was completely different from what had happened in the past. Workshops were held around the country to get feedback on the principles from local organisations and particularly disadvantaged communities. The new legislation has now been passed; the great challenge now is to make sure it is implemented!

THINK INTERNATIONALLY

Decision-making

Many important decisions regarding water services, affecting your work and the lives of vulnerable local communities, are being made outside your country. Moreover these decisions are often made without the involvement and opinions of the poor being taken into account.

For example, at many international meetings the involvement of large multi-national water companies is promoted as the main way to solve the world water crisis! Whilst the involvement of the private sector is important, it is certainly not the solution to

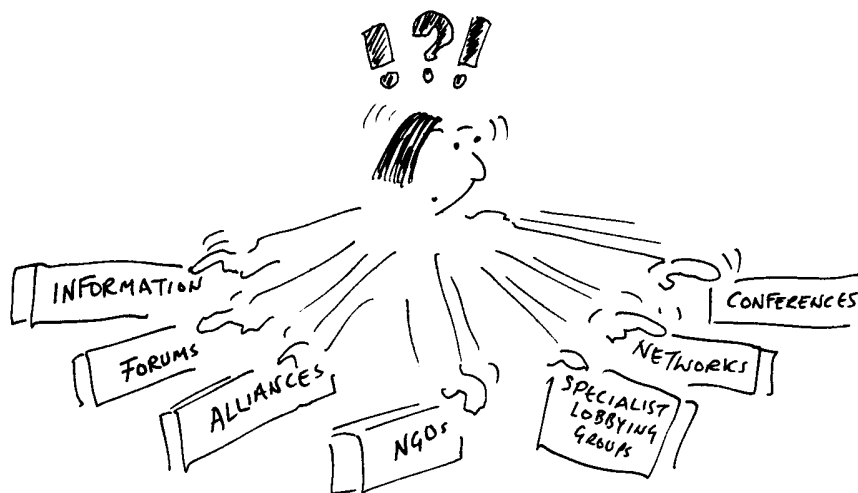
5 Gleick P (1998) *The World's Water: the biennial report on freshwater resources 1998–1999* Island Press, p159

all the water problems around the world. At international level Tearfund has been advocating for the participation of the poor in all levels of decision-making as the most important element in solving the water crisis.

People from developing countries are usually seriously under-represented and therefore it is all the more important that organisations who have good experience of working with poor communities attend and have their say.

A lot is happening!

There are currently many different international conferences and policy processes under way or due to take place that involve water issues to a greater or lesser degree. With so many events and processes, it can be a temptation to either dismiss all of them because of their number, complexity and lack of co-ordination, or to try to become involved in all of them and have a negligible impact because you have spread your organisation too thinly.



Tools for change

The way to approach these many policy processes is to view them as a tool for an ultimate objective. Your objective may be broad or it may be narrow, relating specifically to your project. Therefore, decide which policy process provides the best opportunity for you to fulfil your objective. Find out which, if any, processes your government and other NGOs are involved in. It is important to be realistic about what you can achieve, but also to make the most of opportunities that arise.

Join-up

Joining an organisation or network, whether national or international, is a key way to find out about international conferences that are coming up. For example, if you have e-mail, joining the freshwater CSD list-server (details given on page 41) will mean you will be updated with most major international policy conferences free of charge. In addition to this, Tearfund is promoting the Freshwater Action Network as a key group to become involved in (details on page 41) for accessing policy and campaign information.

5 Appendices

1 RELEVANT POLICY PROCESSES AND CONFERENCES

NSSDs National Strategies for Sustainable Development originated from discussions at the first Earth Summit (Rio de Janeiro, 1992). NSSDs do not have a stipulated form or definition. They should define how countries are going to fulfil Agenda 21 (see below) at a national level. The main thrust of an NSSD is to integrate environmental issues into mainstream planning.

An NSSD should incorporate policy initiatives that are already taking place but reorient them, if necessary, to a sustainable development goal. An individual country may have a range of initiatives and strategies in response to international commitments or agreements. These strategies may contribute to or even individually reflect what is considered to be an NSSD.

Each country should have these in place by 2002 and should have begun to implement them by 2005. NSSDs are also intended to put poor people at the centre and be owned at a local level. The UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) has agreed that they should include commitments to national water management policies. Special assistance to help developing countries to meet this commitment has been given by some donor governments, such as the UK.

If you are interested in NSSDs, write to your government (Ministry of the Environment) and ask them if they are going to fulfil the commitment they have made to have an NSSD in place by 2002. You could ask them if the NSSD includes or is going to include a national water management policy. What input could your organisation have into it? Alternatively you could visit the NSSD website which has information on every country and the status of their NSSD, as well as all the environmental regulations, strategies and international agreements they have signed.

TO FIND OUT MORE www.un.org/esa/agenda21/natlinfo/
(In English, Spanish, French, Russian, Arabic and Chinese)

Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs)

Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers are a relatively new World Bank/International Monetary Fund (IMF) initiative. They are meant to be poverty-focused, country-driven and have a comprehensive partner-oriented approach. PRSPs have been praised by the World Bank and IMF as taking a participatory approach towards civil society.

Unlike an NSSD, having a PRSP is going to be a prerequisite for developing countries to secure debt relief and further grants and loans. It is likely that water-related issues will feature highly in many countries' PRSPs as an essential element in reducing poverty. This is likely to be widespread and influential because it is central to unlocking further

donor funding. The strong focus on participation and partnership with civil society also provides a good opportunity for partners to get involved.

TO FIND OUT MORE *For more information about PRSPs generally, and to view PRSPs which have already been produced by your government, either contact the World Bank by writing, telephoning or e-mailing and asking for 'country contacts' or visit the World Bank website.*

The World Bank

1818 H Street, NW Washington DC 20433, USA

Tel: 202 477 1234

E-mail: feedback@worldbank.org

Website: www.worldbank.org/prsp/ (In English, Spanish, French, Portuguese and Russian)

Or you could write to your own government directly (probably the Ministry of Economic Affairs or Treasury) to find out if they are involved in producing a PRSP, and if so, ask them how you can become involved.

World Water Forum

The First World Water Forum was held in Marrakesh in 1997. It was established by the World Water Council as an international meeting place for all stakeholders in water. In this first meeting, the World Water Council issued a declaration 'mandating the council to prepare a Vision for Water, Life and the Environment'. This was presented at the Second World Water Forum in the Hague in March 2000. (See the case study on page 27). The Third World Water Forum is due to be held in Japan in 2003.

TO FIND OUT MORE *www.worldwaterforum.org (In English only)*

World Water Vision

At the Second World Water Forum and Ministerial Conference, the World Water Vision and Framework for Action was launched.

This is an initiative intended to address the water crisis by developing long-term visions on Water, Life and the Environment in the 21st century. This Vision is claimed to have come about through a global consultation process with the principal stakeholders. The whole process was intended to be as participatory as possible, relying on a decentralised structure, setting targets and milestones that would try to 'make every drop count'.

There has been some concern that participation has not been as widespread or inclusive as it should have been in some areas, for example Eastern Africa. This process is effectively over now but it is worthwhile having a look at the different sectoral visions. Vision 21 incorporates domestic water and sanitation and has been widely accepted by NGOs.

TO FIND OUT MORE *www.worldwatercouncil.org (In English only)*

Framework for Action

Translating the World Water Vision into practical plans is being executed by the Global Water Partnership (GWP) through the 'Framework for Action', an ongoing initiative that incorporates regional Frameworks for Action.

The global Framework for Action is a single document which is a work in progress. Regional and country Frameworks for Action are being drawn up by technical advisory committees and are meant to involve all stakeholders in water. The benefit of becoming involved in a Framework for Action is that it is focused down on water issues, unlike an NSSD or a PRSP. It is likely that a Framework for Action could become the water component of an NSSD or a PRSP.

TO FIND OUT MORE

GWP Framework for Action Unit
HR Wallingford, Howbery Park, Wallingford, OX10 8BA, UK
Tel: +44 (0)1491 822443
E-mail: gwp.fau@hrwallingford.co.uk
Website: www.hrwallingford.co.uk/projects/gwp/fau (In English only)

Convention on the Non-Navigational Uses of International Watercourses

After nearly three decades of negotiations, the redrafting of the Convention on the Non-Navigational Uses of International Watercourses was approved by the UN General Assembly in April 1997. The convention covers issues such as co-operation between watercourse States and the peaceful settlement of disputes over shared watercourses. However the Convention is not binding and does not give specific guidance to countries.

If your work is affected by the existence of a river or lake that is shared with another country, you could write to your national government and find out if they are a signatory to this convention. Then work out if it has any implications for your project. If the government has not signed the convention, perhaps you could ask them to do so.

TO FIND OUT MORE

www.un.org/esa/sustdev (In English, Spanish, French, Russian, Arabic and Chinese)

Agenda 21 – Chapter 18

Agenda 21 was an outcome of the Earth Summit held in Rio in 1992. It establishes many important principles of sustainable development on every environmental issue. Chapter 18 of Agenda 21 was devoted to freshwater. Local Agenda 21 is an initiative to bring sustainable development to local communities around the world and so it is hoped that water and sanitation are playing a key role in the development of these 'agendas'. The fact that these plans should be developed locally provides a good opportunity for civil society to influence them.

TO FIND OUT MORE

www.un.org/esa/sustdev/agenda21.html
(In English, Spanish, French, Russian, Arabic and Chinese)

Bonn 2001 In 1992 a major global conference on freshwater was held in Dublin prior to the Earth Summit in Rio. At this conference, four important principles were established concerning the use and provision of water resources:

- Freshwater is a finite and vulnerable resource essential to sustain life, development and the environment.
- Water development and management should be based on a participatory approach, involving users, planners and policy-makers at all levels.
- Women play a central part in the provision, management and safeguarding of water.
- Water has an economic value in all its competing uses and should be recognised as an economic good.

These statements have become extremely important guiding principles in the water sector.

Bonn, Germany, December 2001 is the setting and date for the follow-up freshwater conference. It is intended as a preparatory step for the upcoming World Summit on Sustainable Development. The aim is to deliver 'clear forward-looking messages and encourage concrete action'. The Conference will also set out how it will contribute to the achievement of the international water target – to halve, by the year 2015, the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water.

TO FIND OUT MORE *Secretariat of the International Conference on Freshwater,
Tulpenfeld 7, 531133 Bonn, Germany
Tel: 49 228 2804655
E-mail: infor@water-2001.de
Website: www.water-2001.de (In English only)*

United Nations Commission for Sustainable Development

The Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) was also established as a result of the Earth Summit in order to monitor the implementation of Agenda 21, and it has recently been focusing on water. In April 2000 a report on freshwater was presented to the eighth session meeting in New York. The paper was a report on the 'Progress made in providing safe water supply and sanitation for all during the 1990s'. The CSD recently proposed that water should be a key issue at Earth Summit III.

TO FIND OUT MORE *www.csdngo.org/csdngo (NGO information) (In English only)
www.un.org/esa/sustdev (CSD homepage)
(In English, Spanish, French, Russian, Arabic and Chinese)*

World Summit on Sustainable Development

The work of the Commission on Sustainable Development is also focused on 2002, when another Earth Summit will be held, this time in South Africa. Freshwater should be a priority issue for discussion and agreement. The meeting will be extremely important in making sure that key problems are recognised by all governments and that enforceable commitments are made to solving them.

TO FIND OUT MORE *www.johannesburgsummit.org (In English only)*

2 ORGANISATIONS AND NETWORKS

Freshwater Action Network

The Freshwater Action Network is being developed in response to a demand from the NGOs who attended the Second World Water Forum at the Hague in 2000. Its overall aim is to 'support the progressive and sustainable implementation of the UN Millennium Assembly target to halve the number of people unable to reach or afford drinking water by 2015 and to stop the unsustainable exploitation of water resources'.

The Network will be a place for information sharing and eventually campaigning. It will promote the participation of NGOs at international events, argue for governmental integration on water issues and facilitate improved co-ordination between organisations. The Network is available in Spanish, French and Portuguese.

TO FIND OUT MORE *Danielle Morley, Co-ordinator
Freshwater Action Network, WaterAid, 27-29 Albert Embankment,
London, SE1 7UB, UK
Tel: +44 (0)20 7793 4522
E-mail: daniellemorley@wateraid.org.uk*

STREAMS of Knowledge

STREAMS of Knowledge is a 'Global Coalition for Capacity Building in the Water and Sanitation Sector'. It is a database accessible to all, designed to share experiences and knowledge from the past in order to make it easier to devise strategies for the future. STREAMS covers all capacity building issues (including advocacy) related to water and sanitation but has only recently been established and so currently they do not have extensive information on their website.

TO FIND OUT MORE *www.irc.nl/stream (In English only)*

Freshwater Commission on Sustainable Development List Server

This list server is a very important way of finding out information about international policy on water. It is hosted by United Nations Environment and Development Forum.

TO FIND OUT MORE *To join this free service, e-mail: rgardiner@earthsummit2002.org (In English only)*

Global Water Partnership

Global Water Partnership (GWP) is a membership organisation whose primary purpose is to involve other organisations in actions that will help to solve water problems at both local and regional level. They promote Integrated Water Resource Management which is a way of managing the different demands of water (agricultural, environmental, domestic and industrial) and formulating practical policies and actions associated with them.

TO FIND OUT MORE

GWP Secretariat
Sida, Stockholm SE-105 25, Sweden
Tel: 46 8 698 50 00
E-mail: gwp@sida.se
Website: www.gwpforum.org (In English only)

GWP has regional networks called Technical Advisory Committees (TACs). Their aim is to support the implementation of Integrated Water Resource Management practices and to have dialogue across the sectors at all levels within the region:

Mediterranean

MEDTAC, C/o VERSeau, Domaines de la Valette, 859 Rue J-F Breton
Montpellier, Cedex 34093, France
Tel: 33 4 67 610400
E-mail: gwp.medta@mnet.fr

South Asia

Dr Chitale, Chairperson, SASTAC, C/o Water and Land Institute, Aurangabad
Maharashtra, India
E-mail: sastac@bom4vsnl.net.in

Southeast Asia

Prof Angela Alejandrino, SEATAC, PO Box 37, Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines
Tel: 63 2 927 7190

China

Mr Ruiju Liang, CHINATAC, Advisor to China Institute of Water Resources and
Hydropower Research, Beijing, China
E-mail: liangrju@iwhr.com

South America

Carlos A Fernandez Jauregui, SAMTAC, Av Brasil 2697, Montevideo, 11000, Uruguay
Tel: 598 2 70720223
E-mail: uhcfj@unesco.org.uy

Central America

Maureen Ballester, CATAAC, C/o IUCN, 0146 2150, Moravia, Costa Rica
Tel: 506 236 2733
E-mail: correo@orma.iucn.org

Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council

The Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council was established in 1990 at the end of the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade. Its mission is to 'accelerate the achievement of sustainable water, sanitation and waste management services for all people, with special attention to the unserved poor, by enhancing collaboration among developing countries and external support agencies and through concerted action programmes'.

TO FIND OUT MORE

WSSCC
C/o WHO (CCW), 20 Avenue Appia, CH-1211, Genève 27, Switzerland
Tel: 41 22 7913685
E-mail: wsscc@who.ch
Website: www.wsscc.org (In English only)

WSSCC is a membership organisation that has different working groups and regional networks. The contacts for the regions are as follows:

Africa

Ebele Okeke, Deputy Director, WS, Federal Ministry of Water Resources, PMB 159 Garki-Abuja, Nigeria
Tel: 234 9 2343714

Latin America

Alejandro Castro, Executive Director, ANDESAPA, Av Mariana de Jesus Edificio, Emaap-Q, Quito, Ecuador
Tel: 593 2 501391
E-mail: anemapa@anemapa.org.ec

South Asia

Dinesh Pyakural, Director General, Department of Water Supply and Sewerage, Panipokhary, Kathmandu, Nepal
Tel: 977 1 419802
E-mail: cpmo@dwss.mos.com.np

East Asia

Lilia Ramos, Executive Officer, Approtech Asia, PSDC Bldg, Real Com. Maqallanes Intramuros, Manila 1002, Philippines

Tel: 63 2 527 3744

E-mail: loramos@sun1dost.gov.ph

Nile Basin Initiative

The Nile Basin Initiative was launched in Dar es Salaam in February 1999 as a regional partnership.

TO FIND OUT MORE

The Nile Basin Initiative Secretariat

PO Box 192, Entebbe, Uganda

Tel: 256 (41) 321 329/321 424

E-mail: nbisec@afsat.com

IWMI – Central Asia Project

IWMI is a global scientific research organisation focussing on the use of water in agriculture and on water needs in developing countries. It works with partners in the South to develop tools and methods for eradicating poverty through more effective management of their water resources.

In 2000 the IWMI set up a new project in the Aral Sea region encompassing the countries of Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Tadjikistan and Kyrgyzstan. The aim of the project is to contribute to the building of effective water resource institutions in the region.

TO FIND OUT MORE

The International Water Management Institute (HQ)

PO Box 2075, Colombo, Sri Lanka

Tel: 94 1 867404

E-mail: iwmi@cgiar.org (In English only)

3 REFERENCES

- Department for International Development (UK)
 - Kenya Country Strategy Paper* (1998)
 - China Country Strategy Paper* (1998)
 - Vietnam Country Strategy Paper* (1998)
 - Central America Regional Strategy* (1999)
 - Cambodia Country Strategy Paper* (2000)
 - Addressing the Water Crisis – healthier and more productive lives for poor people* (2001)
 - Tearfund
 - Advocacy Study Pack* (available in English, French, Spanish, Portuguese)
 - Footsteps No 30* on Water, sanitation and hygiene (available in English, French, Spanish and Portuguese)
 - Footsteps No 45* on Advocacy (available in English, French, Spanish and Portuguese)
- Cosgrove WJ and Rijsberman FR (2000) *World Water Vision – making water everybody’s business* Earthscan Publications Ltd, London
- United Nations Environment Programme (1999) *Global Environment Outlook 2000* Earthscan Publications Ltd, London
- World Commission on Water for the 21st Century (2000) *The Africa Water Vision for 2025: equitable and sustainable use of water for socioeconomic development*

6 Glossary

- arid** Description of a dry, parched area or climate.
- can-bashing** Hitting small metal containers with spoons, sticks etc to make as much noise as possible.
- credibility** To be believable, convincing.
- desalination** The removal of salt, and purification process associated with it, from seawater to produce freshwater.
- eutrophication** Occurs when water becomes enriched with nutrients which then stimulate plant and algal growth. Usually occurs over thousands of years but can happen over a matter of years as a result of human activities (sewage, agriculture, household and industrial pollutants). End result is the elimination of oxygen from water, making it uninhabitable for fish and other aquatic life, eg: coral.
- governance** The act or manner of governing.
- groundwater** Water that flows downwards and saturates soil or rock, is stored underground and supplies springs and wells.
- holistic Gospel** Approach to the Gospel that seeks to meet the needs of the whole person: physical, emotional, social, mental and spiritual.
- hydrological** The properties, distribution and circulation of water.
- infrastructure** The basic economic foundations of a country, eg: roads, bridges, sewers.
- intermediation** Acting as a link between two things, eg: people, companies, groups.
- irrigation** A means of providing otherwise unavailable water to farmers to enable crops to be grown. It may involve the flooding of whole fields or the water may be run in channels between rows of plants. Irrigation is extremely water intensive: it can take as much as 1,700 cubic kilometers to grow half a ton of grain.
- mega-cities** A city with a population of five million or more.
- policy process** A process, initiated by government, of drafting or re-making a policy, either at the national or the international level. This process may include surveys of public opinion, consultations with those who have expertise or experience in a particular area, and detailed work by civil servants and parliamentary committees.

- recycling** Converting waste material into a form where it can be used again.
- salinisation** The process through which salt in the soil builds up. This happens when rainfall is low and evaporation is high. Irrigation of land which is used year after year without fallow periods is now a major cause of salinisation.
- sustainability** Meeting human needs without depleting natural resources or permanently damaging the systems which produce those resources.
- wastewater** Water containing waste including greywater, blackwater or water contaminated by waste contact, including process-generated and contaminated rainfall runoff.
- watercourses** Depressions formed by runoff moving over the surface of the earth; any natural course that carries water.
- waterlogging** Saturation of soil with irrigation water so the water table rises close to the surface.
- watershed** Land area from which water drains towards a common watercourse in a natural basin.
- wetlands** Wetlands are areas such as marshes, swamps, bogs and fens. They are highly productive eco-systems. They are important breeding grounds for fish and other wildlife and they also act as a filter – cleaning up polluted water, encouraging plants to grow and improving water quality. They protect coastlines from erosion and act as barriers against storm surges.

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