

Launch of UNDP and GWA Materials on Gender and Water Management

Venue: The Citizen's House, Kyoto
Title: A Practical Journey to Sustainability: Launch of UNDP Resource Guide on Mainstreaming Gender into Water Management and related GWA material
Date: 17th March 2003
Name of Conveners: Hakan Tropp (UNDP), Catarina Fonseca, Ian Smout
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The Gender and Water day included this joint launch event, which was enlivened by the music of the Massukus band from Mozambique. The start was delayed while people vacated the area after the previous event, and as a result the event did not go wholly to plan, but overall it was a success.



There were four speakers:

- Mr. Alvaro Umana, Leader of Environmentally Sustainable Development Group, UNDP
- Mr. Bengt Johansson, Deputy Director, Dept. of Natural Resources and Environment, SIDA
- His Excellency Minister Ronald Kasrils, Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry, South Africa
- Mr. Ian Smout, Director, WEDC and Task Manager for the Gender and Water Alliance

Mr. Umana introduced the UNDP Resource Guide on Mainstreaming Gender into Water Management, which is designed to incorporate gender perspectives into the day-to-day work of development practitioners. The Guide was prepared by UNDP in collaboration with the GWA and was especially designed to be used at both the community and national levels. It was distributed as a CD at the launch, and is also available as a website <http://www.undp.org/water/gender.html>

The Resource Guide contains sections on:

- Existing tools and resources regarding gender mainstreaming in water management
- Good practices and case studies
- Step by step information on how to include gender issues in planning, negotiating, implementing and monitoring water resources management initiatives.

Mr. Johansson said that SIDA was pleased to be supporting this Resource Guide, as part of its ongoing commitment to promoting gender approaches in international development. He

summarized key gender issues in water management and the reasons for mainstreaming gender.

Ian Smout, representing the GWA, said he was speaking because Minister Kasrils had to be at a press conference for Africa Day and hoped to return later. It was unfortunate that Minister Maria Mutagamba from Uganda had had travel difficulties, and as a result all the speakers were male. But this also illustrated one of the key points in mainstreaming gender –it concerns the roles of both women and men. Ian Smout then described the GWA network and outlined the key features of the GWA products which were being launched:

- The Gender and Water Development Report 2003, which analysed policies and presented data from the four water and sanitation sectors
- The Gender Approach to Water Management, presenting findings from GWA e-conferences
- Gender and Water on CD, and the GWA postcards.



After a break during which the UNDP and GWA materials were distributed and Massukus entertained the audience, Minister Kasrils returned and made a lively speech. He thanked the band, saying the men and women of Mozambique had provided valuable support during the long South African struggle for freedom. Speaking as a member of the Africa Ministers Council on Water, he stressed the importance of both men and women working together and the imbalance in women's workloads in the water sector. He then welcomed the new products from the Gender and Water Alliance and hoped they would be widely used to promote the mainstreaming of gender in integrated water resources management.

The launch finished on this high note.