

implementation of national action plans and local water management schemes]

[q. capacity building, including the rationalization and strengthening of institutional and legal structures and the development of the necessary human resources basis.]

Means of Implementation

24. [The implementation by developing countries of specific programmes and actions envisaged under Agenda 21 will be subject to the provision of adequate new and additional financial resources and of technology on concessional, preferential and non-commercial terms.

Proposals for means of implementation will include the following headings:

- Financing and cost evaluation
- Scientific and technological means
- Human resources development
- Building capacity of developing countries for preventive and corrective action in the field of environmental protection and promotion of development.]

B. WATER RESOURCES ASSESSMENT

Basis for action

25. Water resources assessment, including the identification of potential sources of freshwater supply, is the continuing determination of sources, extent, dependability, and quality of water resources. It is the practical basis for their sustainable management and a prerequisite for evaluation of the possibilities for this development. There is, however, growing concern that at a time when more precise and reliable information is needed about water resources, hydrological services and related bodies are less able to provide this information, especially information on ground water and water quality. Major impediments are: the lack of financial resources for WRA, the fragmented nature of hydrological services and the insufficient numbers of qualified staff. At the same time the advancing technology for data capture and management is increasingly difficult to access for developing countries. Establishment of national data bases is, however, vital to WRA and for mitigating the effects of floods, droughts, desertification and pollution.

Objectives

26. Based upon the Mar del Plata Action Plan, this programme area is extended into the 1990s and beyond with the overall objective to ensure the assessment and forecasting of the quantity and quality of water resources, in order to estimate the total quantity of water resources available and their future supply potential, to reflect their current quality status, to predict possible conflicts between supply and demand and to provide a scientific data base for rational water resource utilization.

27. Five specific objectives are set accordingly as follows:

- a. to make available to all countries water resource assessment technology which is appropriate to their needs, irrespective of their level of development, including methods for the impact assessment of climate change on freshwaters;