

Note: activities for target (d) are included in part under section D and in the Agenda 21 chapter on human health aspects [PC/54].

Activities

35. [All countries, especially developing countries, according to their possibilities and with the assistance of appropriate UN agencies and other international organizations, regional economic cooperation organizations, and in cooperation with the industrialised countries could embark upon the following activities:]

a. Water resources protection and conservation

- establishment and strengthening of technical and institutional capacities to identify and protect potential sources of water supply
- promotion and extension of the application of GIS and EIA
- identification of potential sources of water supply and preparation of national inventories
- preparation of national plans for water resources protection and conservation
- strengthening of administrative and legislative measures to prevent encroachment into potentially usable catchment areas.

b. water pollution prevention and control

- application of the polluter pays principle to all kinds of sources, including on-site and off-site sanitation
- promotion of the construction of treatment facilities for domestic sewage, drainage waters, industrial effluents, and the development of appropriate and indigenous technologies
- establishment of standards for the discharge of effluents and for the receiving waters
- introduction of the precautionary approach in water quality management
- mandatory environmental impact assessment on all water resource development projects potentially impairing water quality and aquatic ecosystems, combined with a strengthened control of new industrial installations, solid waste landfills and infrastructure development projects
- enforcement of decisions based on risk assessment and risk management
- identification and application of best environmental practices to avoid diffuse pollution, i.e. through a limited, rational and planned use of nitrogenous fertilizers and other agrochemicals (pesticides, herbicides) in agricultural practices
- encouragement and promotion of adequately treated and purified wastewaters in agriculture, aquaculture, industry and other sectors.

c. development and application of clean technology

- control of industrial waste discharges, including low-waste production technologies and water recirculation
- treatment of municipal wastewater for safe reuse in agriculture and aquaculture
- development of biotechnology for waste treatment, production of biofertilizers etc.
- development of appropriate and indigenous methods for water pollution control.

d. groundwater protection

- application of the necessary measures to mitigate saline intrusion into aquifers of small islands and coastal plains as a consequence of sea-level rise or of overexploitation of coastal aquifers