

from a lack of public awareness and education about surface and groundwater resource protection. Ecological and human health effects are the measurable consequences, although the means to monitor them are grossly inadequate or non-existent in many developing countries.

Objectives

32. Already the Mar del Plata Action Plan recognized the intrinsic linkage between water resource development projects and their important repercussions of a physical, chemical, biological, health and socio-economic nature. The overall environmental health objective was set:

"to evaluate the consequences which the various users of water have on the environment, to support measures aimed at controlling water-related diseases, and to protect ecosystems".

33. Three objectives will have to be pursued concurrently to integrate water quality aspects into water resource management:

- a. maintenance of ecosystem integrity—a management principle to preserve aquatic ecosystems, including the living resources, and to protect them effectively from any form of degradation;
- b. public health protection—a task requiring not only the provision of pathogen-free drinking water but also the control of disease vectors in the aquatic environment;
- c. human resources development—a key to capacity building and a prerequisite for implementing water quality management.

34. [The following targets have been set to integrate water quality aspects into water resource management:

- a. by the year 2000 all countries, appropriate to their capacities and resources available, should have identified all potential sources of water supply and prepared outlines for their protection, conservation and rational use;
- b. by the year 2000 all countries should have effective water pollution control programmes, defined as enforceable standards for major point-source discharges and high-risk non-point sources, commensurate with their socio-economic development;
- c. by the year 2000 all countries should participate, as far as appropriate, in inter-country and international water quality monitoring and management programs such as the Global Water Quality Monitoring Programme GEMS/WATER, UNEP's Environmentally Sound Management of Inland Waters, FAO's regional inland fishery bodies, and the RAMSAR Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat;
- d. by the year 2025 the prevalence of water-associated diseases should be drastically reduced, starting with the eradication of dracunculosis (Guinea worm) by the year 2000 and onchocerciasis (river blindness) by the year 2000.
- e. by the year 2025 all countries should have established biological, health, physical and chemical quality criteria for all water bodies (surface and ground water) with a view to an ongoing improvement of water quality.]