

The Sustainable Sanitation Alliance (SuSanA)

and

The UN International Year of Sanitation 2008

Motivated by the UN's decision to declare 2008 as the International Year of Sanitation (IYS), a number of organisations active in the field of sanitation decided in 2007 to form an open network on Sustainable Sanitation to support the IYS



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urgency for action in the sanitation sector



- globally some 2.6 billion people without access to any kind of improved sanitation
- 2.2 million deaths caused by sanitation-related diseases and poor hygienic conditions
- most affected group: children under the age of 5
- progress towards the MDG in sanitation is much too slow, particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa and Asia
- sanitation rarely receives the required attention and priority by politicians and civil society alike despite its key importance on many other sectors and for achieving most of the MDGs
- the political will has been largely lacking when it comes to place sanitation high on the international development agenda

why is sanitation not happening

the reasons are numerous

- **lack of political will**
- **neglect of external costs and benefits**
- **low prestige and recognition**
- ineffective promotion and low public awareness
- poor policy at all levels
- poor institutional frameworks
- Inadequate and poorly-used resources
- **Neglect of consumer preferences**
- **Inappropriate approaches** (e.g. planning and choice of adequate sanitation systems)

International Year of Sanitation 2008



- **UNSGAB suggests IYS** (in February 2006 within Hashimoto Action Plan)
- **decision of the UN for the IYS 2008** (in December 2006)
- **objectives of the IYS** (formulated by UNSGAB in May 2007):
 - increase of awareness and commitment from actors at all levels on the importance of reaching the sanitation MDG
 - mobilisation of governments, financial institutions, sanitation providers etc.
 - secure real commitments to develop and implement effective action to scale up sanitation programmes
 - encourage demand driven sustainable solutions and informed choices
 - secure increased financing to jump start and sustain progress
 - develop and strengthen institutional and human capacity
 - enhance the sustainability and effectiveness of sanitation solutions
 - promote and capture learning to enhance the evidence base and knowledge on sanitation

goal and objectives of the SuSanA

- **contribute to the achievement of the MDGs by promoting sanitation systems which are taking into consideration all aspects of sustainability**



- **raising awareness of what sustainable sanitation solutions are and promoting them on a large scale**
- **highlighting the key role of sanitation for achieving a whole series of MDGs**
- **showing how sustainable sanitation systems should be planned with the participation of all stakeholders and go hand in hand with hygiene promotion**
- **aiming at a paradigm shift in sanitation by the promotion of reuse oriented sanitation approaches without compromising health**

criteria for a sustainable sanitation system (1)

- **health:**
 - the risk of exposure to pathogens and hazardous substances
 - hygiene, nutrition and improvement of livelihood
 - effects on the health risks of the population living downstreams
- **environment and natural resources:**
 - required energy, water and other natural resources for construction, operation and maintenance of the entire system
 - potential emissions to the environment
 - degree of recycling and reuse practiced and the effects of these
- **technology and operation:**
 - functionality and the ease of constructing, operating, maintaining and monitoring the system with locally available resources
 - suitability to achieve an efficient substance flow management
 - robustness of the system and its vulnerability towards power cuts, water shortages, floods and other disasters
 - flexibility and adaptability of the system to the existing infrastructure and to demographic and socio-economic developments

criteria for a sustainable sanitation system (2)

- **financial and economic issues:**
 - direct costs for construction, operation and maintenance of the system
 - direct economic benefits from recycled products
 - external costs such as environmental pollution and health hazards
 - external benefits (e.g. increased agricultural production; employment creation; reduced costs in health services; reduced environmental risks)
 - willingness and ability of households and communities to pay for sanitation

- **socio-cultural and institutional aspects:**
 - socio-cultural acceptance and appropriateness of the system
 - convenience of the system
 - impacts on human dignity & gender issues
 - food security & contribution to subsistence economies
 - compliance with legal framework
 - institutional requirements

basic principles to be observed when planning and implementing a sanitation system

some basic principles were developed earlier and endorsed by the members of the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council as the “Bellagio Principles for Sustainable Sanitation”

1. **Human dignity, quality of life and environmental security** at household level should be **at the centre** of any sanitation approach.
2. In line with good governance principles, **decision making should involve participation of all stakeholders**, especially the consumers and providers of services.
3. **Waste should be considered a resource**, and its management should be holistic and form part of integrated water resources, nutrient flow and waste management processes.
4. The domain in which environmental **sanitation problems are resolved** should be **kept to the minimum practicable size** (household, neighbourhood, community, town, district, catchment, city).

evolution of the SuSanA within the year 2007

- **kick-off meeting in Eschborn (January 2007)**
 - initiated by a core group of organisations active in the field of sustainable sanitation
 - 23 participants representing around 20 organisations
 - establishment of various working groups
 - development of a first draft of a ‚joint roadmap for the promotion of sustainable sanitation within the IYS 2008‘
- **2nd SuSanA meeting in Dübendorf (April 2007)**
 - 40 participants from more than 30 organisations
 - group widened its focus and emphasised to support all approaches aiming at the overall sustainability of sanitation systems
 - official decision on the name ‚Sustainable Sanitation Alliance‘

evolution of the SuSanA within the year 2007

- **3rd SuSanA meeting in Stockholm** (August 2007)
 - 90 participants from more than 20 countries
 - representing around 50 multi and bilateral organisations, NGOs and research institutions
 - presentation of first working group results
 - endorsement of the joint SuSanA statement
- **4th SuSanA meeting in New Delhi**
 - Presentaion of progress in the working groups
 - just after the World Toilet Summit in New Delhi
- **regular quarterly meetings are planned for the upcoming year**

SuSanA activities and the joint roadmap (1)

joint road map

sustainable sanitation related activities of the Sustainable Sanitation Alliance (SuSanA) for the UN International Year of Sanitation 2008
version: September 2007

when	what expected outcome	who lead, partner	how next steps
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- establishment of various working groups covering different sanitation related issues & link them with adjacent areas & other MDGs

- capacity development for sustainable sanitation
- cost and economics of sustainable sanitation
- sustainable sanitation, renewable energies and climate change
- sustainable sanitation treatment options hygiene and health
- food security and productive sanitation systems
- sustainable sanitation for cities
- community sanitation
- sustainable sanitation in emergency and reconstruction situations
- public awareness and sanitation marketing
- political lobbying
- sustainable sanitation planning
- operation and maintenance of sustainable sanitation
- wikipedia

SuSanA activities and the joint roadmap (2)

sustainable sanitation alliance

Towards more sustainable sanitation solutions

Introduction

The urgency for action in the sanitation sector is obvious, considering the 2.6 billion people worldwide who remain without access to any kind of improved sanitation, and the 2.2 million annual deaths (mostly children under the age of 5) caused mainly by sanitation-related diseases and poor hygienic conditions.

The United Nations, during the Millennium Summit in New York in 2000 and the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg in 2002, developed a series of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) aiming to achieve poverty eradication and sustainable development. The specific target set for the provision of water supply and sanitation services is to halve the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation by 2015.

As the Joint Monitoring Programme of WHO/UNICEF and the UNDP Human Development Report (2006) have shown, the progress towards meeting the MDG sanitation target is however much too slow, with an enormous gap existing between the intended coverage and today's reality especially in Sub-Saharan Africa and parts of Asia.

The reasons for this are numerous. A major issue is the fact that sanitation rarely benefits from the political attention given to other topics despite its key importance on many other sectors. Political will has been sorely lacking when it comes to placing sanitation high on the international development agenda. This has pushed sanitation into the shad-

ows of water supply projects for example, and limited innovation in the sector.



Motivated by the UN's decision to declare 2008 as International Year of Sanitation (IYS), a core group of organisations active in the field of sustainable sanitation took the initiative to form a task force to support the IYS. In January 2007, a first meeting resulted in a large number of commitments by the participants from various organisations, and in drawing up a first draft of a "joint road map for the promotion of sustainable sanitation within the IYS 2008". During a second meeting which took place mid of April, the goal and the objectives of this global competence network were clarified and the joint road map was reviewed.

In order to have a joint label for the planned activities, and to be able to align with other potential initiatives, the group formed the "Sustainable Sanitation Alliance (SuSanA)".



- development of three SuSanA vision documents
 - the joint SuSanA statement
 - 'sustainable pathways to attain the MDGs'
 - support the development of sanitation action plans
- including of sustainable sanitation issues into existing funding instruments and initialising of new funding mechanisms
- promotion of sustainable sanitation within already planned international conferences and events
- development of a global database for sustainable sanitation projects and capacity development institutions
- dialogue on improvement needs of the UN Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP)
- joint monitoring of the contribution of sustainable sanitation systems to the MDGs

sustainable
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alliance

SuSanA considered as one of the partners of the UN for the IYS 2008

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the 'Partners' page of the International Year of Sanitation (IYS) 2008 website. The browser's address bar shows the URL <http://esa.un.org/iys/partners.shtml>. The page features a navigation menu on the left with categories like Introduction, Activities, Issues, and Resources. The main content area is titled 'Partners' and lists various organizations. A red box highlights the 'Sustainable Sanitation Alliance' logo and name. Other partners listed include UNDESA, UNDP, UNEP, UN-Habitat, UNICEF, WHO, WSSCC, UN-Water, UNSGAB, UN-GWTF, IRC, WaterAid, WSP, and SIWI. The footer contains links for Site Map, Contact Us, Terms of Use, Logo Terms of Use, and Privacy Notice, along with a copyright notice for 2007.

event • date • city • venue

SuSanA invites others to join the network



- other organisations are warmly invited to join the network, contribute ideas and become active partners of the thematic working groups
- contact: info@sustainable-sanitation-alliance.org

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thank you for your attention!



event • date • city • venue