



# Africa Water

A newsletter of UN-Water/Africa in support of the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW)

## World Water Forum ends; delegates express mixed opinions on its value

### Good experience; expectations met, says Asfaw Dimgamo, Ethiopian minister



“The Forum has been a good experience for me and an opportunity to share information. The deliberations have been valuable and our expectations have been met. The challenge will be financing and achieving global standards and goals in this sector. I

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### Forum failed to tackle water crisis - WWF

The World Wildlife Fund (WWF) said the Forum had failed to tackle the world water crisis. “When the Forum began a week ago, one in six on this planet lacked adequate access to freshwater,” said Jamie Pittock, the Director of WWF’s Global Freshwater Programme. “The Forum’s declaration has done nothing to improve these statistics”.

In a closing statement, WWF said “We’ve heard so much

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### Our mission was accomplished - Dione

“I think the glass is more full than empty... we have achieved 90% of what we came here to do. We launched the African Water Development Report and the key messages were well received.

In particular, we managed to get an important message across, that Africa needs its own monitoring tool. I also believe that the different panels we organized with partners have benefited from our substantive input.”

There wasn’t enough time

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## When the Prince of Orange visited...



*Crown Prince Willem Alexander moves to the African Talking Drum*

The African Exhibition Stand at the World Water Forum (WWF), coordinated by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) on behalf of UN-Water/Africa and ADB, was the scene of pomp and dance during a visit

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## Expectations met - Minister Dingamo

am hopeful that we will be able to mobilize the resources necessary to address water and sanitation problems and achieve food security”.

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## Forum did not tackle water crisis

talk of concrete structures but seen so little of concrete action for preserving the water systems that are the source of water for people and nature. “Too much focus is being put on large dams, but what’s the point of these if there’s no water to go in them?” said Pittock.

The Director of WWF-Mexico, Omar Vidal, said: “Every human being should be ensured adequate water supplies, just as they should be assured food and shelter. Wealthy countries are wasting water and this pattern of use is both indefensible and ecologically unsustainable.”

## Stakeholders discuss Africa water issues

Mexico City, 20 March 2006: Following the launch of the three major documents - African Water Development Report, African Regional Document - Water Resources Development in Africa and the African Ministerial Declaration on Water - African stakeholders and other partners met today in Mexico City to discuss the challenges, responses and prospects of water resources development in Africa.

## Mission accomplished

for in-depth discussions, particularly during the launching of the reporting and the meeting with the stakeholders, but we have had informal sessions to discuss and agree on the way forward. The momentum has built up and I think we have the solutions to turn some of the ideas developed so far into reality. ECA has the comparative advantage to support collaborative initiatives and activities.

## International action, not fair, needed - Wetland’s Chris Baker

“There are many legally binding international agreements; on climate change, on migratory species and even on the protection of bats. But on water, there is only this noncommittal fair. As water problems and threats are transboundary or even global, international action must be taken”. Chris Baker, WETLANDS International

Addressed by eminent panelists including Prof. Albert Wright, the multi-stakeholder session, was declared open by Hon. Paul Smit, Deputy Minister of Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry of Namibia. It’s objective was to provide an opportunity for wider participation of African stakeholders on water issues.

Representatives of Community Based Organizations

## When the Prince visited...

by the Crown Prince of Orange, Willem Alexander of the Netherlands on 18 March.

The Crown Prince whose country boasts over 800 years experience in water management, has invested tremendously in implementing integrated water resources management (IWRM) in Africa and has been a consistent supporter of initiatives carried out under the UN-Water/Africa umbrella.

He was accompanied by a number of dignitaries in the African water development scene, including Mr. Kodje Bedoumra Director of African Water Facility, Ms. Anna Kajumulo Tibaijuka, Executive Director, UN-HABITAT. Mr. Josue Dione, Director, Sustainable Development Division, ECA presented him with African handicraft, as a show of appreciation for his personal contribution to the water cause in Africa.

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(CBOs), NGOs and regional and international organizations offered perspectives on water resources development priorities in Africa. The session was also an opportunity to consolidate the knowledge base of the African water stakeholders.

Africa Water is an information service of UN-Water/Africa and African Development Bank in support of the African Ministers’ Council on Water (AMCOW).

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