

World Water Day
"Clean Water for a Healthy World"
March 22, 2010



Centro de Documentación - Embajada de Estados Unidos
Montevideo, Uruguay

World Water Day

International World Water Day is held annually on March 22 to recognize the importance of freshwater and advocating for the sustainable management of freshwater resources. An international day to celebrate freshwater was recommended at the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED). The United Nations General Assembly responded by designating 22 March 1993 as the first World Water Day.

The theme of World Water Day 2010 is: *"Clean Water for a Healthy World"*

America.gov Resources

What is America.gov?

America.gov is a website put together by the State Department's Bureau of International Information Programs (IIP). In this way, IIP communicates with foreign opinion makers and other publics through a wide range of print and electronic outreach materials published in English, Arabic, Chinese, French, Persian, Russian, and Spanish. IIP also provides information outreach support to U.S. embassies and consulates in more than 140 countries worldwide.

America.gov ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT PAGE: Protecting our natural resources

Articles, climate change experts debate, environmental treaty timeline, plus more

[→Read more](#)

WATER AND CLIMATE PUBLIC WEB RESOURCES COLLECTION

A range of materials about the effects of climate change on water (websites, videos, webcasts, publications, plus more).

[→Read more](#)

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America.gov Highlights:

Coming up next summer 2010 from the Bureau of International Information Programs (IIP)...
Book: "Global Water Issues"
To learn more about this upcoming publication, take a look at these two chapters excerpted from it:

Water and Health

According to the World Health Organization, if humankind would manage its water resources properly, ensure everyone has reliable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation, and make basic hygiene practices the norm, we could save around 1.8 million lives yearly — mainly the lives of young children. →[Read more](#)



Water and Climate Change

The world's governments now accept that climate change poses a serious long-term threat to their nations' economic and social health. But who caused the problem? Who should address it, and how? And who should pay for the measures required both to limit climate change and to help people adapt to its impact? On one issue almost everyone at the Copenhagen COP-15 climate summit in December 2009 agreed: **The impacts of climate change will be felt through water.** →[Read more](#)



Public Web Resources



**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BUREAU OF OCEANS AND INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL AND SCIENTIFIC
AFFAIRS**

The Bureau of Oceans, Environment, and Science (OES), led by **Assistant Secretary Kerri-Ann Jones**, promotes transformational diplomacy through advancing environmental stewardship, encouraging economic growth, and promoting social development around the globe to foster a safer, more secure and hopeful world. →[Read more](#)

Oceans

The Oceans and Fisheries Directorate has two offices dedicated to international oceans issues. The **Office of Marine Conservation** focuses on conservation of fisheries and other living marine resources, as well as their associated ecosystems. The **Office of Ocean and Polar Affairs** has primary responsibility for international ocean law and policy, marine pollution, marine mammals, polar affairs, maritime boundaries, maritime security, and marine science. →[Read more](#)



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World Water Day 2010
22 March 2010

Clean Water
for a
Healthy World

UN WORLD WATER DAY SITE

UN-Water is dedicating World Water Day 2010 to the theme of water quality, reflecting its importance alongside quantity of the resource in water management. [→Read more...](#)

Statistics, Graphs and maps

This section presents some examples of statistics related to water. It is by no means complete at this point. UN-Water is currently working on the identification of a set of key indicators for the water sector that can be used at a global, regional and national level. The information on this page will be updated regularly to reflect the progress made in this area. [→Read more](#)

Water Resources. [→View Statistics](#)

Water Use. [→View Statistics](#)

Drinking Water and Sanitation. [→View Statistics](#)

Water, Agriculture and Food Security. [→View Statistics](#)

Water Pollution, Environmental Degradation and Disasters. [→View Statistics](#)



UNEP United Nations Environment Programme environment for development

UNEP'S mission is to provide leadership and encourage partnership in caring for the environment by inspiring, informing, and enabling nations and peoples to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations.

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is coordinating the organization of the World Water Day 2010 campaign on behalf of UN-Water and in collaboration with FAO, UNDP, UNECE, UNICEF, UNESCO, UN-Habitat, WHO, and the UN-Water Decade Programme on Advocacy and Communication as well as with partner organizations such as International Water Association, World Wide Fund for Nature and World Water Council.

Freshwater

Equitable and sustainable management of water resources is a major global challenge. About one third of the world's population lives in countries with moderate to high water stress with disproportionately high impacts on the poor. With current projected human population growth, industrial development and the expansion of irrigated agriculture...

[→Read more](#)

Regional Seas

The UNEP Regional Seas Programme has emerged over the last quarter century as an inspiring example of how to craft a regional approach to protecting the environment and managing natural resources. The Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans cover issues ranging from chemical wastes and coastal development to the conservation of marine animals and ecosystems. [→ Read more](#)

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FAO WATER

In the face of increasing water scarcity, and the dominance of agricultural water use, FAO is in the forefront to enhance global agricultural performance while promoting the sustainability of water use for food production.

→[Read more...](#)



WHO is the directing and coordinating authority for health within the United Nations system. It is responsible for providing leadership on global health matters, shaping the health research agenda, setting norms and standards, articulating evidence-based policy options, providing technical support to countries and monitoring and assessing health trends. → [Read more](#)

Water Sanitation and Health (WSH)

WHO works on aspects of water, sanitation and hygiene where the health burden is high, where interventions could make a major difference and where the present state of knowledge is poor:

- :: Drinking-water quality
- :: Bathing waters
- :: Water resources
- :: Water supply and sanitation monitoring
- :: Water, sanitation and hygiene development
- :: Wastewater use
- :: Water-related disease
- :: Healthcare waste
- :: Emerging issues in water and infectious disease

→[Read more](#)



USAID's history goes back to the Marshall Plan reconstruction of Europe after World War Two and the Truman Administration's Point Four Program. In 1961, the Foreign Assistance Act was signed into law and USAID was created by executive order. Since that time, USAID has been the principal U.S. agency to extend assistance to countries recovering from disaster, trying to escape poverty, and engaging in democratic reforms.

USAID is an independent federal government agency that receives overall foreign policy guidance from the Secretary of State. Our Work supports long-term and equitable economic growth and advances U.S. foreign policy objectives by supporting: economic growth, agriculture and trade; global health; and, democracy, conflict prevention and humanitarian assistance. →[Read more](#)

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WATER

USAID WATER

Water at USAID: From Ridge to Reef

As the first decade of the new millennium comes to an end, there remains no doubt about either the critical importance of water resources to every aspect of life on Earth, or the enormity of the water-related challenges currently facing global society. Despite many successful water projects, billions of people still lack adequate water and sanitation; pollution and over-exploitation threaten rivers, lakes and oceans; and water insecurity hinders efforts to foster economic growth in the developing world.

USAID is committed to addressing these challenges, and creating a water secure world in which every society enjoys access to an acceptable quantity and quality of water to meet human, livelihood, production, and ecosystem needs.

[→Read more](#)

Social Media



Global Conversations: Climate is on Facebook

The climate is changing. What will it cost to confront the problem? What is the cost of inaction? Join the conversation and discuss courses of action. [→Connect](#)

Blogs at America.gov: "Water: A Delicate Balance"

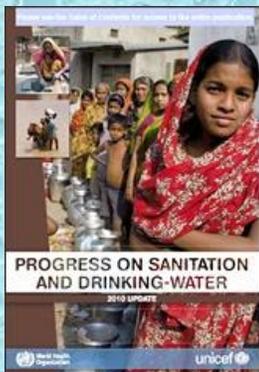
Blogs at America.gov offers readers a place to discuss designated topics with experts from the United States and around the world, and to share their comments and reactions with the broader Internet public. [→Read and Comment](#)



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Water Highlights



WHO/UNICEF Report: Progress on Sanitation and Drinking Water, 2010 Update

This report by the WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation (JMP) confirms that advances continue to be made towards greater access to safe drinking-water. Progress in relation to access to basic sanitation is however insufficient to achieve the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) target to halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking-water and basic sanitation.

[→Read more](#)

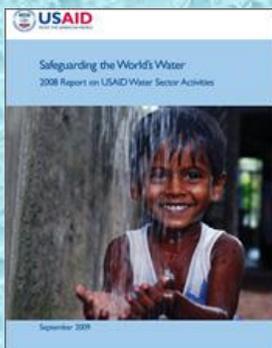


Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act, Report to Congress, June 2009

The Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act of 2005 (the WfP Act) was signed into law on December 1, 2005. The Act makes access to safe water and sanitation a specific policy objective of U.S. foreign assistance. It requires the Secretary of State, in consultation with the U S Agency for International Development (USAID) and other U S Government agencies, to develop and implement a strategy "to provide affordable and equitable access to safe water and sanitation in developing countries" within the context of sound water resources management. It also requires the Secretary of State, in consultation with the USAID Administrator, to submit an annual report to Congress describing changes in the U.S. strategy

and progress in achieving the objectives of the WfP Act. This is the fourth report to Congress since the passage of the WfP Act in FY 2008.

[→Read more](#)



USAID Water Sector Activities 2008 Annual Report, September 2009: Safeguarding the World's Water

The following report summarizes the fiscal year (FY) 2008 investments and programs of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) in safe drinking water and sanitation supply projects and related water management activities.

USAID's total investments in all aspects of the water sector reached almost \$490 million in 2008. USAID provided more than 7 million people with improved water supply, more than 4 million of whom received first-time access to an improved water source. More than 6 million people received access to improved sanitation, more than 2 million of whom received first-time access. The Agency fulfilled its worldwide water earmark with FY 2008 funding of \$296.65 million "for safe drinking water and sanitation supply projects, including water management related to safe drinking water and sanitation".

The Agency's water sector activities implement the Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act; these include water supply, sanitation and hygiene (WSSH), water resources management (WRM), water productivity (WP) and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR).

[→Read more](#)