



**Special Edition
for the 3rd World
Water Forum**



I am optimistic about water. Despite the shameful fact of billions of our fellow men, women and children living without water and sanitation; the horrendous state and over-exploitation of the world's natural water sources; and the almost universal inequality and mismanagement of water resources and services: I believe that we are ready to face up to the challenge. Since the 2nd World Water Forum in 2000, water has leapt higher up international agendas, and the urgent need to address the crisis is now one of the few issues on which all nations and stakeholders agree. Governments have committed to halving the proportions of people without water and sanitation. The UN has officially declared water to be a human right. Controversial questions related to transboundary watercourses, private sector involvement in water services, and the construction of large dams, are being discussed in a more transparent and constructive way. And there is a growing innovative union of the World Water Community – gathering this month in Japan for the 3rd World Water Forum. Crucial to the current state of world affairs, I believe that properly managed water, whether in a river, a pipe or deep underground, can be a powerful vehicle for peace.



As we stand ready to welcome in the International Year of Freshwater - which begins on World Water Day, March 22 – we have reason to be optimistic, but not complacent. For, although we may have begun to face up to it, we are currently failing to address the water crisis. Meeting the Millennium Water Goals by 2015 offers us the opportunity to achieve one of the great humanitarian breakthroughs in our history: one that will emphatically improve the lives of billions of people. But it will only be possible through genuine international solidarity and commitment on all sides. Rich countries must dedicate increased funds and technical assistance to the water sector. Developing countries must prioritise water and enact essential management reforms. Governing peoples' water confers enormous responsibility. I learnt this through my experience as Secretary for Agriculture for the former USSR, when I inherited the crisis caused by the decision to divert the rivers which fed the Aral Sea. Decades later, this decision continues to destroy lives and has left an environmental wasteland. On the other hand, changing water policies for the better can have a domino effect which improves the environment, public health and education, and gives people the chance to lead fulfilling lives.



This year should see our water commitments of recent years materialise into real, structured, integrated plans at the national and international level – backed up by the necessary finances. If we think of all the massive developments in the last twelve years, I am confident that we can reach the Millennium Water Goals by 2015 – if we learn from past mistakes and work together in a participative, integrated and honest way. We need to re-evaluate our value system and refuse to live in a world where billions have no water to drink.

I will be at the 3rd World Water Forum and Ministerial Conference in Japan this month: as talk of war dominates our lives, I cannot think of a more worthy cause to support than that of *Water for Life and Peace*.



Mikhail Gorbachev
President, Green Cross International

Green Cross International was founded by Mikhail Gorbachev in 1993, building on the 1992 United Nations Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro. Our mission is to help create a sustainable future by cultivating harmonious relationships between people and the environment following the principle of «Cooperation not Confrontation». Green Cross International has its headquarters in Geneva, and has national organisations in 25 countries, with projects linked to the five programmes of GCI: Environmental Consequences of Wars and Conflicts, Water Conflict Prevention & Desertification, Energy & Resource Efficiency, Environmental Education & Communication, and The Earth Charter.

Green Cross International has been granted consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations, and with the Council of Europe .

Water for Peace

Green Cross is committed to bringing the Water for Peace message to the fore of policy making at every level – from international negotiations, to national governments, right down to the community and municipality. This is our goal at the 3rd World Water Forum.

Water for Peace is about encouraging water management and decision-making to respect the needs and welcome the participation of all people in a basin, irrespective of nationality, gender, wealth or ethnicity, and to take the requirements and functions of the natural environment into account. Following these basic principles requires an integrated water resources management structure with strong communication channels with stakeholders. In international basins, there is also a need to reconcile different national strategies and priorities, and sometimes to overcome disputes and misunderstandings between states.

Achieving Water for Peace crucially requires awareness-raising and capacity building amongst the public, policy makers and government representatives at all levels. This has been the focus of the Green Cross Water for Peace project, currently being implemented in six international river basins: the Danube, the Jordan, the Okavango, La Plata, the Volga and the Volta. *Water for Peace* project aims to help ensure that civil society and local-level actors fully understand and have a proactive role in the political process as basin-wide principles, policies, projects and mechanisms for integrated water management are developed. Each basin project is managed by regional Green Cross partners and shaped to suit the particular problems and political situation of the basin, with an overall focus on building partnerships and enhancing the role of local people and authorities in conflict resolution and the process towards co-operation.

The Green Cross Water for Peace project is implemented in conjunction with UNESCO's "From Potential Conflict to Cooperation Potential" project, with whom Green Cross co-convened an international conference *From Conflict to Co-operation in International Water Resources Management: Challenges and Opportunities* in Delft, November 2002. Water for Peace is supported by:

- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Netherlands
- The Japan Water Resources Association
- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sweden
- The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, The Council of Europe
- Suez Lyonnaise des eaux

The Volta river is one of the essential shared watercourses of West Africa, with a basin including much of Burkina Faso and Ghana, and parts of Togo, Mali, Benin and Côte d'Ivoire. Flowing through a region afflicted by desertification and poverty, the Volta is crucial to economic development, agriculture and energy production - but as yet there is no basin agreement, management plan or conflict resolution mechanisms amongst the basin states. Green Cross is providing a forum for the involvement of civil society in the elaboration of such an agreement and integrated management plan, working with the National Governments, UN and World Bank. This capacity building project has carried out a basin-wide stakeholder consultation process and held two regional conferences to elaborate and approve a *Volta Basin Declaration* and

a *Strategy of Information, Communication and Sensitisation* on water related conflicts. The project has contributed to growing public awareness and has provided a bridge between stakeholders, the basin governments, and the inter-governmental organisations increasingly involved in the Volta basin.

The Danube region has been in a state of political transition for the past decade, and water management in the basin – divided amongst no less than seventeen states - is intrinsically linked with the major changes accompanying the end of the Cold War and the forthcoming accession of many Central and Eastern European nations to the European Union. Green Cross' activities have included a survey of the roles and challenges of local and regional authorities, public participation and the privatisation process, and their relation with the broader transitions taking place in the region. Working with the Council of Europe, Green Cross' role in the Danube basin has been stimulated by the direct engagement and support of several local authorities from different regions of East and West Europe, which will hold a *European Conference on the role of Territorial Authorities in the Management of River Basins* in Romania in April 2003, to analyse the findings of the Green Cross work and finalise a set of Recommendations and Resolutions to be presented to member states of the Council of Europe.

The potential for conflict in **the Jordan** basin is well documented. Operating during one of the most difficult periods in the region's recent history, the Green Cross project has approached

Water for Peace theme days at the 3rd World Water Forum

18 innovative sessions will be coordinated by Green Cross and UNESCO: Thursday 20th and Friday 21st March 2003, Shiga, Japan. If you cannot make it to Japan – write us your views on the Water for Peace session of the Virtual Water Forum at www.worldwaterforum.org

On March 22, World Water Day, Mikhail Gorbachev will address the Opening Ceremony of the Ministerial Conference in Kyoto.

the problem from two angles: by developing strategies to enhance public awareness about water conflicts and the need for co-operation, and investigating the potential of new sources of water. Green Cross has been active as a mediator in the Jordan River Basin for several years, and proposes to help facilitate the strong inter-state co-operation needed

Calling for Wisdom for Water

The *World Assembly of Wisdom for Water* is an initiative launched by the International Secretariat for Water (ISW) in partnership with Green Cross and others as a follow-up to the activities that took place at the first Citizen's Water House during the 2nd World Water Forum in March 2000. A focus of the Assembly's activities at the 3rd World Water Forum will be the discussion and adoption of a "Kyoto People's Declaration", an action plan calling for international solidarity in water management that ensures access to water and sanitation for all. The *World Assembly of Wisdom for Water* – bringing together water representatives experts, managers and theorists from around the world - will take place from March 16th to 20th in Kyoto.

for joint water projects, such as the Red Sea – Dead Sea project which Jordan and Israel jointly announced at the Johannesburg Summit. Three expert and stakeholder workshops as well as field questionnaires and several public hearings have been held in the past year to ensure strong feedback from the public and assess opinions about the vital role of water as an element of peace.

The three states of **the Okavango** basin have already embarked on the road towards cooperation over this unique river system. The creation of a basin organisation, OKACOM, and the end of the civil war in upstream Angola, have provided good conditions for reaching peaceful resolution of water allocation disputes. The Water for Peace project focuses on the current absence of an agreement on the equitable sharing of the benefits derived from the resources of the basin, and aims to enhance the co-operation process by linking OKACOM with the scientific and civil society communities to help develop an integrated basin plan. A workshop in Botswana in September 2002 brought OKACOM together for the first time outside of an official OKACOM meeting. A set of policies to guide decision-making and a hydropolitical model have been developed and discussed with OKACOM and other stakeholders at the 2nd workshop, in Namibia, February 2003. The scientific papers produced for Workshop One are being compiled into a book: *"An Introduction to the Hydropolitical Drivers of the Okavango River Basin"*, and a BBC film documentary on the project is currently being broadcast.

The **La Plata** basin project responds to water problems from the perspective of affected citizens, and facilitates the involvement of stakeholders in water project development. Work has begun in the important sub-basin of the Upper Paraná river, shared by Brazil, Argentina and Paraguay, where Green Cross' affiliates are stressing that effective water management, and in particular the plans for major infrastructure projects, must be framed within the broader territorial and human development strategy of the basin. Green Cross Argentina was invited to contribute to the resolution of the long-standing environmental and social conflicts created

by the construction of the Yacyreta dam between Argentina and Paraguay. By acting as a mediator between the different parties, they helped to earn back the trust of the affected communities and facilitated the resettlement into more suitable housing of thousands of people, the development of sources of employment and recreation, and the establishment of consultation centres where problems can be resolved in a spirit of true partnership.

Pilot conflict resolution initiatives are also being launched in **the Volga** River basin along with public awareness initiatives and the promotion of new basin management legislation. The objective is the creation of the legal, institutional and social conditions needed to resolve existing and prevent future water-related conflicts in the Volga basin, where the current absence of co-operation and compensation mechanisms fuels disputes between upstream and downstream regions. A pilot case-study of conflict resolution over the large Cheboksary hydroelectric power station, analysing the social, economic and environmental aspects of the dispute, is underway. The project is also creating an organization of networking and cooperative public bodies for the control of water consumption by different users and to protect human rights of the local populations in water conflict situations. A groundbreaking *Federal Law for the Integrated Water Resources Management of the Volga River Basin*, including tools for conflict resolution will be proposed.

The Green Cross Water for Peace project has a strong awareness raising and communication focus. The objective is not only to generate understanding amongst people within the basins of the

Workshop on water conflict in the Volta Basin held in Accra

By Dave Agbenu
A WORKSHOP aimed at drawing up information, communication and sensitization strategy for the prevention of water related conflicts in the Volta Basin has been held in Accra.

Organized by the Green Cross International of Burkina Faso with sponsorship from UNESCO, the one-day workshop was under the theme: "water for peace from potential conflict to co-operation potential".

It was attended by representatives of civil society from six West African countries.

They were from Ghana, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Mali, Benin and Togo and

were brought together by the Green Cross International/Burkina Faso, under its water related programme.

The representatives of the six countries which share water resources of the basin discussed the problems of sharp competition or even covetousness among the states.

They also touched on economic development policies of the countries of the shared basin that posed as a source of conflict in the sub-region.

Opening the workshop, Miss Theresa A. Tagoe, Deputy Minister of Works and Housing, acknowledged that the issue was topical and needed to be tackled.

"Shared water basins are vital instruments for regional co-operation, integration and development but they are

also sources for potential conflict unless appropriate mechanics are adopted for co-operate utilization," he said.

Ms Tagoe said it was important that the countries did not succumb to potential "water related wars".

On the contrary, she said that the management of shared water resources should constitute a major stake in relations among the various countries.

Mr Ousseni Diallo, general co-ordinator of Green Cross International/Burkina Faso, said the aim of the workshop was to sensitize the public in order to promote dialogue instead of conflict.

The outcome of the discussion, he said, would be presented to the politicians to adopt.

risks of conflicts over shared water, but also to encourage people to see their water from a new and wider perspective - as a vehicle for peace and development across their entire region. During the next phase of the Water for Peace project, as well as continuing the regional activities, the findings of the six basin projects will be consolidated and further developed into a set of guidelines for participative, cooperative management of international watercourses.

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Countdown to the Millennium Water Goals

With the Millennium Development Goals and Johannesburg World Summit, governments have pledged to halve the proportion of people without safe drinking water and basic sanitation by 2015. This is an essentially important but formidable task which will require *hundreds of thousands* of people to be connected to drinking water and sanitation services *every day* until 2015. To draw attention to this challenge, Green Cross and the International Secretariat for Water, are erecting a specially designed Water Clock to provide a stark visual reminder of the task ahead. The Water Clock will show the, continually increasing, actual numbers of people without access to water and sanitation on one side, and the, continually decreasing, numbers who would have been without access if the Millennium Goals had been met since 2000 on the other. Visit the clock at the Multistakeholder Centre in Kyoto during the Forum, and at other international water events in the coming months. The clock is designed by Bernard Gitton.

Water for Life and Peace – International Dialogues

On May 21 – 23, 2003, in Bologna and Reggio-Emilia, Italy, Green Cross will hold international dialogues on Water for Life and Peace. This conference will address three crucial issues: the Global Water Crisis, Transboundary Waters and Conflict Prevention, and Public Private Partnerships. Taking account of the findings of the 3rd World Water Forum, "Water for Life and Peace" will adopt a more political perspective and prepare a Declaration to be submitted at the highest level to the G8 meeting in Evian, France in June – where water is high on the agenda.

「第3回世界水会議」の滋賀会場において、グリーンクロス会長のミハイル・ゴルバチョフ氏と、ユネスコ（UNESCO）事務局長の松浦晃一郎氏が共同議長を務める「平和のための水」をテーマにした分科会が、2003年3月20日と21日の両日に開催されます。

「平和のための水」をテーマとして、河川の流域での紛争の防止や水資源管理の国家間協力が「ミレニアム宣言」、「ヨハネスブルグ宣言」、「世界と地域の安定」、「民主主義と人権の強化」などを実現していく上で果たし得る役割について焦点を当てていきます。

分科会全体を通しての目的は、関係する主要当事者や指導者達がこのフォーラム以降に勇気を持って実行に移せる具体的な提案や戦略を打ち出していくことです。

これらの提案は分科会の最終全体会議に提示された後、閣僚会議に参加した各国閣僚に手渡され、2003年「国際淡水年」そして、それ以降も分科会の参加団体により実行・推進されることとなります。

世界には263の国際河川流域があり、それ以上に複数の国が共有する地下水資源は数え切れない程あります。それらは地球の陸地の50%以上の面積を占めていて世界の人口の半分以上がそこに住んでいます。主な国際河川の例を挙げると、ナイル川、アマゾン川、メコン川、ガンジス川、ドナウ川などが有ります。こういった国際河川流域以外の国、例えば、日本、フィリピン、オーストラリアなどの島国、ブラジル、ロシア、アメリカなどの巨大な連邦国においても、国内の県や州の間での水資源分配の仕組みが必要となっています。

貴重な河川や湖の水資源管理における協力関係の不足は、「ミレニアム発展目標」、「ヨハネスブルグ地球サミット」で世界各国政府が公約した安全な飲料水の確保と衛生的な水の確保という目標の実現を阻害する主な要因となっています。また、中東、中央アジアやアフリカの一部など多くの地域で発生している紛争の隠れた原因は、ますます潤渇してゆく水資源の配分をめぐる争いにあるとの認識が高まってきています。

グリーンクロスはここ数年間にわたり「平和のための水」プロジェクトを実施してきました。最近ではユネスコと共同で「紛争の可能性から協調の可能性へ」というプログラムを実施しています。

日本政府からは、グリーンクロスとユネスコが行う「平和のための水」プロジェクトの推進に対し多大な支援をいただいています。

グリーンクロスは現在、6つの国際河川流域において実際的な水紛争解決のプログラムを実施しています。（ドナウ川、ヨルダン川、オカバンゴ川、ラプラタ川、ボルガ川、ボルタ川で実施。）

一方、スワジランド、ブルキナファソ、南米においては草の根の水プロジェクトを実施しています。

「第3回世界水会議」においてグリーンクロスは、「平和のための水」実現に不可欠な経済的、法律的な仕組みを確立するため国際的な団結と政治的決断を訴えています。

Upcoming Events:

5-6 March	EU Water Initiative consultation meeting, Moscow.	21-23 May	Water for Life and Peace, International Dialogues convened by Green Cross in Reggio Emilia and Bologna, Italy.
16-23 March	3rd World Water Forum and Ministerial Conference, Japan.	30-31 May	Forum on the Green Cross Chemical Weapons Destruction Campaign, Geneva
20-21 March	Water for Peace theme days, Shiga, Japan	31 May – 1 June	Green Cross International General Assembly, Switzerland
8-11 April	BioVision (with the participation of President Gorbachev and GCI), Lyon, France		

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