Every day the world faces new challenges to the supply and quality of freshwater, threatening the health of humans and ecosystems.

**New chemicals**
are developed and distributed by industry.

**New sources of pollution**
are introduced into the environment through careless waste disposal, and an unprecedented increase in levels of pollution from agriculture and industry.

**New construction**
alters the landscape, stimulates erosion, destroys forests, degrades watersheds and disturbs natural ecosystems.

**New climate patterns**
introduce new impacts on water quality, threaten water supplies and make existing problems worse.

Reaction to polluting incidents and ecosystem destruction is no longer adequate; we must anticipate problems and take action to prevent them.