



PO Box 80521  
2508 GM The Hague  
The Netherlands  
tel: +31(0)70 352 33 34  
[www.terra-et-aqua.com](http://www.terra-et-aqua.com)

# PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Copenhagen Climate Summit, coastal protection and the future of waterborne transportation

*Terra et Aqua, #118 March 2010*

Environment has always been a “hot” topic for the dredging industry, but when the debate around climate change started to heat up several years ago, the dredging industry was in the forefront and ready to act. In fact, the dredging and maritime construction industry has long been aware of what happens when precautions are *not* in place to prevent flooding, protect coastal areas and limit the carbon footprint.

In this issue of *Terra et Aqua*, the urgency of being prepared for the results of climate change are described in an eyewitness report by a senior maritime consultant at the Copenhagen COP15 Summit. The report makes clear the need to combat climate change and indicates some of the measures to do it, including the importance of an internationally united and committed front to tackle the potential negative impacts of climate change.

For instance, what initiatives should be taken to meet the danger of sea-level rise which can destroy low-lying cities and towns? How do ports lacking depth hinder economic globalisation by limiting sea-going traffic, long-recognised as by far the cleanest and most fuel-efficient means of transporting goods? On the other hand, how do rehabilitated beaches and coastlines provide protection and recreation simultaneously?

The dredging industry has been providing intelligent solutions to these maritime construction issues for many years – by realising that the consequences of climate change are an economic opportunity and can be a stimulus for future growth and prosperity. The industry’s conviction that finding “green solutions” and adapting to climate change will lead to innovations and investments in clean technologies and products has already been proven true. Innovation, seeking sustainable solutions have long been goals which the private dredging and maritime construction companies have supported and implemented.

And the proof of these predictions is manifest. Call it “working” or “building with nature”, sustainable remedies for coastal protection constructed by dredging companies are already evident throughout the world. Two classic case studies are described in this issue of *Terra et Aqua*: The remediation of the shoreline of Taparura, at Sfax, Tunisia on the Mediterranean Sea, where a highly polluted industrial area has been transformed into a clean, useable and safe urban centre; and port deepening and widening in Melbourne, Australia, where new technology made environmentally sound dredging possible and cost-effective. Both these projects have benefitted from the dredging industry’s long-term commitment to finding sustainable solutions to the world’s maritime challenges, of which the dire consequences of climate change are at the top of the list.

---

*For further information contact René Kolman, Secretary General, International Association of Dredging Companies (IADC) at +31 070 352 3334 or [kolman@iadc-dredging.com](mailto:kolman@iadc-dredging.com).*

*The current issue is available online at [www.terra-et-aqua.com](http://www.terra-et-aqua.com). Photographs are available upon request. Back issues of Terra et Aqua to 1995 are also available at the website.*

*Terra et Aqua is a technical journal published quarterly in March, June, September and December for professionals and others interested in “maritime solutions for a changing world”. The infrastructure projects and the technologies presented aim to inform port authorities, developers, engineers, the offshore industry and government agencies about the state-of-the-art possibilities offered by dredging and maritime construction.*

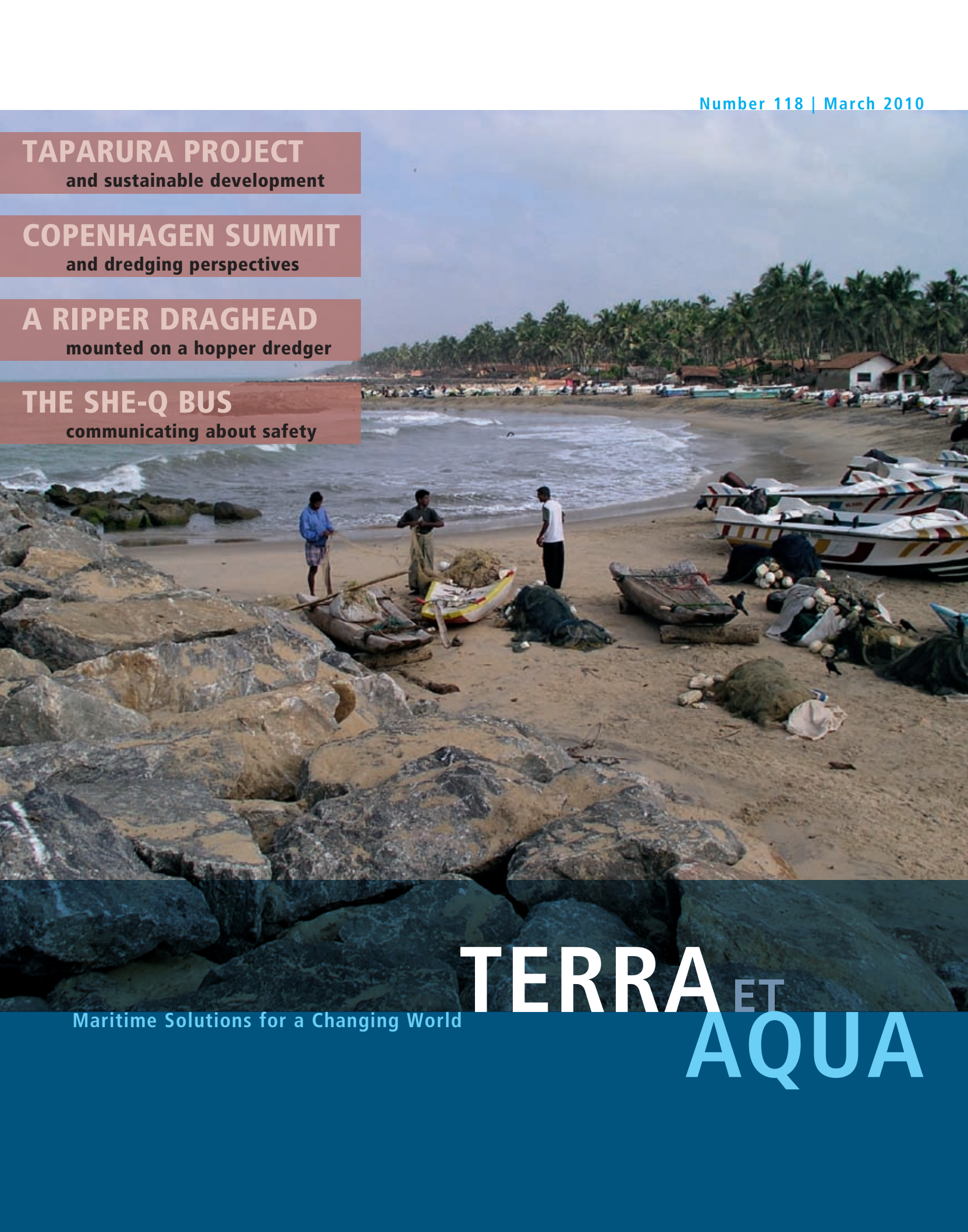
###

**TAPARURA PROJECT**  
and sustainable development

**COPENHAGEN SUMMIT**  
and dredging perspectives

**A RIPPER DRAGHEAD**  
mounted on a hopper dredger

**THE SHE-Q BUS**  
communicating about safety



**TERRA** ET  
**AQUA**

Maritime Solutions for a Changing World