**UNEDITED ADVANCE COPY**

**First session of the United Nations Environment Assembly of
the United Nations Environment Programme**
Nairobi, 23-27 June 2014
Item **XXXX** of the provisional agenda[*]

## Support structures and processes for keeping the world environment situation under review, including a progress report on UNEP Live: Report by the Executive Director

**Summary**

The Rio+20 outcome statement, *The Future We Want*, provides strategic direction on key actions needed to advance the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development. UNEP's progress on these actions is covered in this report.  The report provides a summary of recent progress in relation to the development of UNEP's knowledge management platform, UNEP Live.  A proposal for a staged approach is presented for the production of the next Global Environment Outlook (GEO-6). The status of various assessment processes, platforms and networks are also presented, including the Global Sustainable Development Report, the World Oceans Assessment, IPBES, the Eye on Earth Network, and the Programme of Research on Climate Change Vulnerability, Impacts and Adaptation (PROVIA).   More detailed information on these initiatives is presented in information documents

---

[*]      UNEP/EA.1/1.

## I.  BACKGROUND

1.  Assessment processes constitute the fundamental building blocks that support UNEP's core mandate to keep the world environment situation under review. They must, however, be underpinned by credible science, institutional networks, partnerships and multi-stakeholder collaborative mechanisms, which provide a number of support functions, such as catalysing data flows, facilitating access to and sharing of environmental information.  Collectively, these structures and functions support various levels of decision-making, from global to local, and set priorities for technology support and capacity-building interventions.

2.  The Rio+20 outcome document, *The Future We Want*, reiterated the importance of information access, data sharing, and the role of the Global Environment Outlook (GEO) as an important process to bring information and assessment together to support informed decision-making[1].  In addition, the need to *disseminate and share evidence-based environmental information and raise public awareness on critical as well as emerging environmental issues* is highlighted in para 88(e). Technology support and capacity building are emphasised in para 88(f).

3.  *The Future We Want* contains five references (paras 48, 76(g), 85(k), 88(d) and 276) to the need to promote and strengthen the science-policy interface, and para 88(d) called upon UNEP to take action.  In response to this request, a report on critical gaps in the science-policy interface and recommendations is contained in working document UNEP/EA.1/2/Add.1.

4.  The role of GEO as a process to strengthen the science-policy interface is also cited in para 88(d).  Since 1997, UNEP has published five editions of the Global Environment Outlook (GEO). The GEO reports have followed a 2-5 year cycle and the production process has been expensive, cumbersome, complex, and there have been difficulties in maintain continuity from one report to the next.  The development of UNEP Live presents an opportunity for a more dynamic approach by providing global services combined with regional, national and local data to identify key and emerging environmental issues and to support the development of integrated assessments, and policy analysis on the state of global, regional and local environments.  A staged approach will therefore be adopted for the production of the 6th Global Environment Outlook (GEO-6).  Although GEO is following a 5-year cycle, the establishment of UNEA provides an opportunity to provide direction on the production process and cycle for GEO-6 towards a more frequent and regular updating. This report presents an outline of this approach towards the production of GEO-6.

5.  In response to Governing Council decisions[2] 25/2, 26/2 and 27/11, UNEP is developing, in collaboration with a wide array of partners, a knowledge

---

[1] Para 88(d) called upon a strengthened and upgraded UNEP to promote *a strong science-policy interface, building on existing international instruments, assessments, panels and information networks, including the Global Environmental Outlook, as one of the processes aimed at bringing together information and assessment to support informed decision-making*;

[2] Decision UNEP/GC.25/2: UNEP requested that the Executive Director "...elaborate further on the requirements for a migration to targeted assessments on thematic priority areas supported by a UNEP-Live enabling framework and to report thereon to the Governing Council at its twenty-sixth session in 2011. Decision UNEP/GC.26/2: requested UNEP to inter alia "...to present the pilot proof-of-concept phase of a UNEP-Live platform... consisting of an interactive web application with supporting data management capacities able to present historic near-real-time data and indicators on a limited number of environmental themes to the

management platform called UNEP Live to promote access to, and use environmental information in support of UNEP's core mandate of keeping the world environmental situation under review. This report contains an update of progress made since GC.27 on the development of UNEP Live.

6.   Para 85(k) of *The Future We Want* refers to strengthening the science-policy interface in the context of the High-level Forum where one of its functions could be to *strengthen the science-policy interface through review of documentation bringing together dispersed information and assessments, including in the form of a global sustainable development report, building on existing assessments*.   UNEP's plans to contribute to the Global Sustainable Development Report are also outlined in this document.

7.   Currently, a number of parallel assessment processes, platforms and networking initiatives are underway which are complementary to UNEP Live and these are described briefly in this report with more detailed information provided in the following information documents:

(a) INF/x on the Programme of Research on Climate Change Vulnerability, Impacts and Adaptation (PROVIA),

(b) INF/xx on the Eye on Earth initiative, and

(c) INF/xxx on proposed procedures to enhance future assessment processes.

## II.   UNEP Live

8.   UNEP Live[3] is designed to support UNEA in keeping the environment under review. It is UNEP's knowledge management platform that uses global services combined with regional, national and local data to identify key and emerging environmental issues and to support the development of integrated assessments, and policy analysis on the state of global, regional and local environments. It provides tools for data visualization, mapping and comparisons to enable users to combine data, create maps and publish and track the effective use of their findings.

9.   The core principles of UNEP Live include i) open access to data from a wide array of sources including governments, research programmes, civil society, communities of practice and traditional knowledge; ii) sharing of data once collected for multiple uses; iii) responsible management of data and information at source; iv) archiving and tracking of the use of data and information; and v) access by citizens to data and information through multiple means.

10.  The foundations of the UNEP Live implementation programme are built on partnerships and networks to support policy analysis and assessments. UNEP works with countries and key partners within and outside the UN to build capacity, broker access to data and information and to develop global regional and national perspectives. UNEP Live is being developed as a UN System-wide tool for tracking

---

Governing Council at its twelfth special session, in 2012". Decision UNEP/GC.27/11 requested the Executive Director to "implement the next phase of UNEP-Live during the 2014–2015 biennium as an open platform in continued alignment with relevant environmental information systems designed for global, regional and national environmental assessment and data sharing."

[3] http://www.unep.org/uneplive/

the effectiveness of UN environmentally related activities, projects and investments around the world.

11. UNEP Live will support the monitoring, reporting and verification of data globally for countries and regions. In dialogue with UNEP's member countries, regional organisations and multilateral environmental agreements, these processes will be streamlined. UNEP Live will make available online National Reporting Toolkits to help governments collect, analyse and publish environmental information quickly and easily.

12. UNEP will organise Regional User Conferences in each region over the biennium to progress on data sharing, knowledge building and assessments; support technical development and capacity building and facilitate environmental priority setting.

13. A technical release of the UNEP Live platform took place on 16 January 2014 at the Tenth Plenary Session of the Group on Earth Observations and the Geneva Ministerial Summit (GEO-X). The platform currently contains country and global statistics from UNSD and the UNEP Environmental Data Explorer; charts and maps sourced from the UN and other sources; UNEP resources such as Publications and links to TEEB, InforMEA and UNEP Project information.

14. It also highlights several showcases including the Arctic region and on the Air Quality-Health-Climate Change nexus which include links to live data and relevant resources. Phase I of the UNEP Live platform will include showcases *inter alia* on Oceans (with analysis for climate prediction), Regional Seas, Forest Watch and tracking of environmental change at key hotspots around the world.

15. My UNEP Live page includes access to basemaps that allow users to add their own data and create charts and maps that can be saved and published.

16. During Phase 1 of the platform, countries will have the opportunity to store, publish and decide on which data to make available through UNEP Live. This will be pilot-tested with 3-4 countries. During this phase, UNEP will be contacting countries, through UNEP's regional offices, so that relevant and up-to-date information and data can be made available on the platform. The goal is to have all UNEA countries active within UNEP Live by the end of the 2014-15 biennium.

## III. INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PROCESSES, PLATFORMS AND NETWORKS

17. Assessment processes constitute the fundamental building blocks that support UNEP's core mandate to keep the world environmental situation under review. This Section provides a status report on a number of processes, platforms and networks currently under development.

### A. Multi-stakeholder assessment processes

18. The aim of a multi-stakeholder assessment process is to promote better decision making by ensuring that the views of the main actors concerned about a particular issue are heard and integrated at all stages through dialogue and consensus building. The process takes the view that everyone involved in the process has a valid view and relevant knowledge and experience to bring to the decision making. Stakeholders have a greater sense of ownership of the assessment. Legitimacy, policy relevance, saliency and credibility are core characteristics of an assessment.

Transparent and rigorous peer review is necessary to achieve the highest scientific credibility possible.

**Global Environment Outlook 6: Process and production elements.**

19. Following Governing Council decision 27/11, the Secretariat is moving forward with the design of GEO-6 taking into account the recent progress in the development of UNEP Live and relevant planned PoW activities.

20. GEO-6 will report on the state and trends of the global environment and progress towards meeting internationally agreed goals. In addition to using global datasets and information services to track changes in the environment and emerging issues, GEO-6 will be strengthened by shaving improved access to national and regional datasets generated through UNEP Live networks.

21. GEO-6 will also be strengthened by the findings of other major global assessments which are underway including; the Global Gender and Environment Outlook; the GEO- SIDS Assessment; the Global Biodiversity Outlook 4; the Global Waste Management Outlook, and relevant sub-regional and regional assessments.

22. A proposal is currently being developed with the UNEP Regional Offices to support and/or undertake national, sub-regional and regional assessments which will adhere to the best practice guidelines and procedures currently being developed for GC Decision 27/1/1 and GC Decision 27/1/2. These assessments will benefit from on-going work to improve assessment procedures and methodologies especially in regard to policy appraisal and evaluating progress towards meeting internationally agreed goals and targets. These sub-regional and regional assessments, that will reflect regional policy priorities, will provide the basis for the global analysis in GEO-6. They will be designed to improve the transparency, legitimacy and scientific credibility of UNEP's Global Environment Outlooks.

23. The Secretariat is scheduling a series of combined GEO-6 and UNEP Live regional workshops during 2014-15 to build capacity and enhance progress on data sharing and knowledge building and to develop regional assessments linked to the priorities set by the relevant ministerial fora.

24. In parallel to these regional assessment building processes, the Secretariat will organize a global, multi-stakeholder process to analyse the trends in the environment and prepare an evidence-based synthesis document to be delivered in 4th quarter of 2015 (or latest 1st quarter 2016).This document will be used to establish the context for the regional and thematic assessments.

25. The period up to UNEA-2 will be used to produce a succinct evidence based assessment and science-policy narrative to support a Summary for Policy Makers (SPM) to be agreed at UNEA 2. This staged process will endeavour deliver a GEO-6 that has been built on a series of regional assessments reflecting the prioritiies and perspectives set within a global context. In future cycles, it will be possible to repeat the cycle and therefore produce more up-to-date GEO outputs based on a stronger science-policy interface and national and regional context.

26. The suggested action[4] for consideration by UNEP Member States is to evaluate this staged approach to producing this and presenting GEO-6 to UNEA and subsequent GEO assessments.

---

[4] See also working document UNEP/EA.1/4

**Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR)**

27. Para 85(k) of *The Future We Want* refers to the strengthening the science-policy interface in the context of the High-level Forum where one of its functions could be to *strengthen the science-policy interface through review of documentation bringing together dispersed information and assessments, including in the form of a global sustainable development report , building on existing assessments*. UNEP will contribute to the production of this report by

(a)      Ensuring the environmental sustainability is fully integrated;

(b)      Assisting with a review of relevant existing assessments and dispersed information;

(c)      Providing reliable, relevant and timely data through UNEP Live;

(d)      Assisting with policy analysis;

(e)      Mobilizing experts and centres of excellence to assist with authoring and rigorous peer review; and

(f)      Ensuring that assessment products arising from the GEOs are made available to the experts assembling the GSDR.

**World Oceans Assessment**

28. The Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socio-economic Aspects currently being referred to as World Oceans Assessment (WOA) is following the implementation of modalities endorsed by resolution 65/37 resulting from the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole.  With the Secretariat (UN DOALOS) and member states implementing the first integrated assessment cycle 2010-2014, UNEP has continued to provide technical and scientific support to the process in the following areas: (1) Communication: initial support to set up of a communications portal for use by the Group of Experts and member states; (2) Assessments: sharing its extensive knowledge gained through the GEO processes and in the development of integrated assessments; (3) Capacity building: support to member states on the Regular Process in the organization/facilitation of regional workshops through the platform of the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans; (4) Resource mobilization: engagement with potential donor countries to support the Regular Process.

29. For the first cycle of the process, six regional workshops have been held through the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans to identify capacity building needs for the World Oceans Assessment (WOA) in the Latin America and Caribbean, East Asia and the Pacific, Western Indian Ocean, Pacific, Europe and the South Atlantic. Capacity building needs have been identified for each region in terms of the conduction of integrated assessments and accessibility of data.  UNEP is assisting the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans in aligning their State of Marine Environment Reports to the outline of the WOA in order to forge synergies between regional and global processes.

30. The Transboundary Waters Assessment Programme (TWAP), a project coordinated by UNEP and funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) under the GEF Transboundary International Waters Assessment Programme, is in its second phase (2013-2014).  Recognizing the value of transboundary water systems and the fact that many of them continue to be degraded and managed in fragmented

ways, the TWAP aims to provide a baseline assessment to identify and evaluate changes in transboundary water systems caused by human activities and natural processes, and their consequences on dependent human populations. It consists of five independent, indicator-based assessments (Groundwater, Lake basins, River basins, Large Marine Ecosystems and Open Ocean) and the linkages between them, including their socioeconomic and governance-related features. The indicators provide the scientific bases for classifying the ecological status of transboundary water bodies within each water system from least to most degraded, and the vulnerability of dependent human populations to multiple stressors from least to most vulnerable.

## Global Gender and Environment Outlook

31. UNEP has convened an expert scoping consultation meeting on the Global Gender and Environment Outlook to support the preparation of a project document. The consultation discussed the objectives, scope and process to develop options for consideration in the design and planning of the assessment. It is anticipated that the assessment will be launched at UNEA-2 in 2016.

## GEO-SIDS Assessment

32. UNEP is developing a GEO-SIDS assessment for all three SIDS regions using UNEP Live. UNEP will populate UNEP Live with SIDS data, prepare a GEO-SIDS assessment organized around needs and solutions in an e-Book format to be launched at the 3rd SIDS Conference in September 2014 in Samoa.

## Global Biodiversity Outlook 4

33. The 4th Global Biodiversity Outlook (GBO-4) will be a mid-term review of implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and progress towards the Aichi Targets. It will draw upon the latest CBD global indicator information and related scenarios and modelling work to provide a picture of recent trends and likely trajectories. It will also draw upon 4th and 5th National Reports to the CBD, as well as the work of the High Level Panel on Global Assessment of Resources for Implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 which is being undertaken concurrently. It will address issues such as current progress to meet each of the Aichi Targets and the implications for biodiversity in 2020 and for achieving the 2050 Vision.  It will also discuss the relevance of biodiversity in the post-20105 agenda and SDGs. The draft executive summary and technical report for GBO-4 are in preparation for review by Parties to the CBD prior to SBSTTA-18 in June 2014. GBO-4 will be launched at CBD COP-12 in the Republic of Korea in October 2014. The GBO-4 assessment process is being coordinated by the CBD Secretariat, working with input from a team of international scientists who are preparing the underlying technical report, and a science writer who is preparing the GBO-4 report on the basis of that. A GBO-4 Advisory Group, selected through a nominations process, is providing guidance.

## Global Waste Management Outlook

34. In response to UNEP Governing Council decision 27/12 on Chemicals and Waste Management, UNEP-IETC and ISWA are developing the Global Waste Management Outlook, an authoritative reference document succinctly addressing the global challenges, trends, financial models and policies across the waste sector. The

Outlook will focus on the waste management process, placing waste management in the context of aspects like sustainable consumption and production, prevention and minimization and resource efficiency, and make links to wider environmental policy challenges. The Outlook will provide a global analysis and guidance for national policies, in particular in developing countries. It will also cover the policies and instruments in use for waste management and include economic arguments in order to make the business case, addressing cost of inaction and win-win situations. The outlook will be developed through a multi-stakeholder process.

## B. Platforms

### UNEP Live

35. UNEP's knowledge management platform, UNEP Live, has been described in Section II above.

### Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)

36. The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)[5] was established in April 2012, and currently has 115 Member States. The Platform is an independent, intergovernmental body, open to all member countries of the United Nations. UNEP provides the Secretariat for the Platform, which operates from Bonn in Germany.

37. The second session of the Platform's Plenary (IPBES-2) held from 9 to 14 December in Antalya, Turkey adopted a number of key decisions including:

   (a) An initial work programme for the next five years and demonstrated strong commitment to its implementation by already pledging US$ 25.4 million of the total US$ 43.5 million required. The work programme deliverables cover capacity building, knowledge generation, assessment and policy support. The IPBES conceptual framework was also adopted;

   (b) Procedures for the nomination and selection of the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel, which will be used as the basis for the selection of the MEP for a 3 year period by the next session of the Plenary (IPBES-3);

   (c) A collaborative partnership arrangement with UNEP, UNESCO, FAO and UNDP, which aims to provide a framework for collaboration between the four UN bodies and IPBES, by representing the environment, the sciences, education, food and agriculture, development, and capacity building; and

   (d) Financial rules for the Platform, including agreement that UNEP would establish and manage the IPBES Trust Fund.

## C. Networks

### Eye on Earth

38. As cited in para 76(g) of *The Future We Want*, one important aspect of strengthening the institutional framework for sustainable development is to promote and facilitate "...*access to reliable, relevant and timely data in areas*

---

[5] http://www.ipbes.net/

*related to the three dimensions of sustainable development."* Para 274 highlights the role of the Eye on Earth Network and Global Earth Observing System of Systems (GEOSS) in developing environmental monitoring systems. However, the Eye on Earth Network as a 'network of networks' is an evolving initiative that needs to be regionalised, building on the existing core group of global and regional stakeholders.

39. The Eye on Earth User Conference (Dublin, 4-6 March 2013) adopted the Dublin Eye on Earth Network Statement which defined the niche role of Eye on Earth as being:

> *To facilitate the sharing of environmental, societal and economic data and information, provided by the diversity of knowledge communities, to support sustainable development.*

40. It was also agreed to establish the Eye on Earth Alliance comprised of institutional stakeholders that subscribe to the principles enshrined in the 2011 Eye on Earth Summit Declaration and share a common agenda centred on the achievement of the goal articulated in the niche statement. The Alliance will drive the formation of the broader Eye on Earth Network referenced in para 274 of the Rio+20 outcome document. The common agenda of the Alliance and Network will address such issues as:

    (a) Enhancing the availability and accessibility of data and information across the three pillars of sustainable development;

    (b) Delivering data to compute indicators that will measure progress towards the achievement of targets under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);

    (c) Promoting the role of citizen science for environmental observation and monitoring;

    (d) Implementing Principle 10 of the 1992 Rio Declaration on Environment and Development; and

    (e) Underpinning the development of UNEP Live with a global network of data and information providers.

41. The second Eye on Earth Summit has been scheduled for 10-12 November 2014 in Abu Dhabi. Further information on Eye on Earth is provided in information document UNEP/EA.1/INF/x.


**Programme of Research on Climate Change Vulnerability, Impacts and Adaptation (PROVIA)**

42. The Programme of Research on Climate Change Vulnerability, Impacts and Adaptation (PROVIA)[6] addresses the lack of international coordination with regard to research on climate change vulnerability, impacts and adaptation. It identifies research gaps and initiates processes to close them, and is responding to the scientific community's call for a more cohesive and coordinated approach to vulnerability, impacts and adaptation research, and the critical need to harmonize, mobilize, and communicate the growing knowledge-base related to this issue. UNEP took the initiative to establish PROVIA and currently provides it with secretariat support. PROVIA serves a new and growing network of scientists,

---

[6] http://www.unep.org/provia/HOME/tabid/55173/Default.aspx

practitioners and decision makers, working towards identifying research gaps and meeting policy needs in climate change vulnerability, impact and adaptation research, in collaboration with its implementing partners.

43. Two milestone publications were released in 2013. The first is entitled *Research Priorities on Vulnerability, Impacts and Adaptation: Responding to the Climate Change Challenge* [7]. The analysis of this work is based on a broad range of sources, including the Working Group reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC); peer-reviewed articles; books; white papers; and conference, workshop, and meeting proceedings, presentations and notes. The second publication, *The PROVIA Guidance on Assessing Vulnerability, Impacts and Adaptation to Climate Change* [8], contains the revised guidelines and assessment tools that need to be delivered to Governments, international agencies and individual experts. The publications were presented to Governments and other main stakeholders at different events including three side events during UNFCCC COP-19 (11-22 November 2013, Warsaw).

44. The WMO Executive Council 65th Session in Geneva, Switzerland, 15-23 May 2013 approved PROVIA as a component of the World Climate Programme (WCP)[9]. PROVIA and the other components of the WCP will thus contribute to the implementation of the Global Framework for Climate Services. PROVIA's first participated at the WMO Executive Council Working Group on Climate and related Weather, Water and Environmental Matters on 10-12 December 2013.

45. Strengthening communication within the research community and adaptation planners is one of PROVIA's priorities. To implement that PROVIA publishes a quarterly newsletter and maintains a regularly updated website. PROVIA will co-host the 3rd International Adaptation Conference (Fortaleza, Brazil in May 2014).

46. Further information on PROVIA is provided in information document UNEP/EA.1/INF/xx


## IV.   TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT AND CAPACITY-BUILDING

### A. Increasing demands from Member States

47. Para 278 of *The Future We Want* calls for the continued and focused implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan, thereby re-affirming UNEP's mandate and catalytic role to continue providing technology-support and capacity-building to assist developing countries, particularly in the context of a strengthened and upgraded UNEP (para 88(f)). Para 85(l) calls for action to *enhance evidence-based decision-making at all levels and contribute to strengthen ongoing efforts of capacity building for data collection and analysis in developing countries.*

48. Increasingly, UNEP is called upon to support countries to implement best practices for the regular monitoring and use of data and indicators for environmental reporting. The findings of GEO-5 and many UNEP-led assessments repeatedly highlight the lack of necessary data and indicators to assess the status of the world environmental situation and enable Governments to report on the achievement of agreed goals and environmental agreements. UNEP is taking the approach of "collect once, use often" as part of the UNEP Live initiative in respect of identifying

---

[7] http://www.unep.org/provia/RESOURCES/Publications/ResearchPriorities/tabid/130750/Default.aspx

[8] http://www.unep.org/provia/RESOURCES/Publications/PROVIAGuidancereport/tabid/130752/Default.aspx

[9] Resolution 4.3(2)/1 (EC-65)

and promoting the use of appropriate data and indicators useful for multiple reporting purposes, in an effort to streamline and reduce the reporting burdens that countries experience.

## B. UNEP Live: Technology support and capacity-building

49. Decision 27/11 called upon UNEP *to undertake and encourage capacity-building activities to ensure that developing countries and countries with economies in transition are able to work with UNEP-Live and contribute to scientifically sound evidence-based environmental assessment processes*. It also invited *Member States, major groups and stakeholders and United Nations agencies, funds and programmes to engage in the development of UNEP-Live and in particular the implementation of the online state-of-environment reporting capabilities by increasingly sharing relevant data, information and indicators through open platforms;*

50. The Inter-Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States (Bridgetown, Barbados, 26-28 August 2013) included in its Zero Draft Outcome Document a call for a data revolution in Small Island Developing States (SIDS) to enable effective follow up and evaluation of implementation and to indicate the level of success in attainment of internationally agreed development goals. Among other things, the Meeting called for the strengthening of data systems and partnership initiatives, for ownership of data and information to remain the property of SIDS governments within those regions, called for support in different areas from UN Statistics Division, UNEP and other UN agencies, and called on the international community to assist in the establishment of national and regional information and communication technology platforms and information dissemination hubs in SIDS to facilitate information exchange and SIDS-SIDS cooperation, linked with platforms such as SIDSNET.

51. As a first step, UNEP in collaboration with the Environment Agency Abu Dhabi (EAD) is developing an online National Reporting Toolkit (NRT) to help governments collect, analyse and publish environmental information quickly and easily.  The NRT is currently being tested and a pilot version will be available by mid-2014.

## C. New and updated support tools

52. Support is being provided to countries in the West Asia region in the development of national environment outlooks through training on integrated environment assessment (IEA) and facilitating the development of frameworks for State of the Environment reports. The *IEA Resource Book for the Arab Region* was published on the Internet in both Arabic and English.

53. UNEP, in cooperation with the League of Arab States, ESCWA, and AGEDI launched the online *Guidelines of the Core Set of Sustainable Development Indicators for the Arab Region*, in Arabic and English. The document addresses the lack of such indicators in the region by providing guidelines for the development and use of social, environmental and economic indicators for the Arab region.

54. In October 2013, the IPCC accepted in Batumi, Georgia, two reports of its Task Force on National Greenhouse Inventories (TFI), namely the *2013 Supplement to the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories: Wetlands*[10] and the *2013 Revised Supplementary Methods and Good Practice Guidance Arising*

---

[10] http://www.ipcc-nggip.iges.or.jp/home/wetlands.html

*from the Kyoto Protocol*[11]. The former provides countries with additional national-level inventory methodological guidance on wetlands to address the gaps identified in the *2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories*. The latter responds to an invitation by the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol to the UNFCCC to review and, if necessary, update supplementary methodologies for estimating anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions by sources and removals by sinks resulting from land use, land-use change and forestry (LULUCF) activities.

55. Technical assistance and capacity-building support were provided to Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar, Pakistan, Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) and the Pacific using the integrated environmental assessment approach (the *IEA Resource Book*) to review environmental states and trends and their impacts on human well-being and economic development with a view to supporting informed decision-making processes at the national level in 2012-2013.

---

[11] http://www.ipcc-nggip.iges.or.jp/home/2013KPSupplementaryGuidance_inv.html