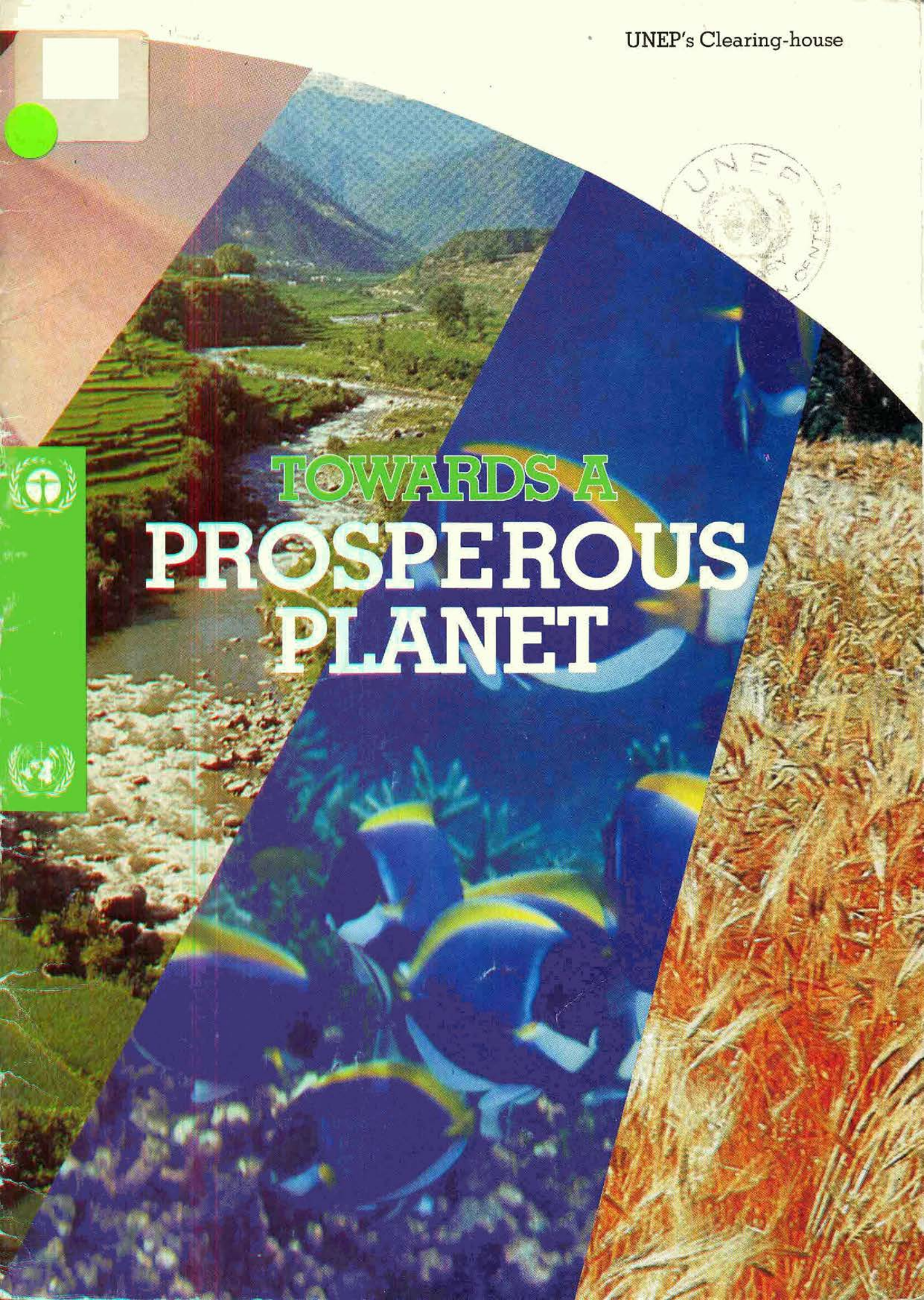




TOWARDS A PROSPEROUS PLANET



UNITED NATIONS
ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

ANET

UNEP's Clearing-house

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"Environment is everyone's concern"



A fundamental challenge was put to the world community at the beginning of the 1970s: development, a historical and human imperative, was leaving deep scars on our small planet. Was it possible to control this phenomenon, to achieve sustainable development, development that does not contaminate or dry up the wellsprings of survival?

A mammoth work programme was drawn up during the Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment in 1972. Its lessons are still valid today: preserving a sound environment for future generations is everyone's concern. Since our environment is not shaped according to political boundaries, international co-operation among governments and peoples is indispensable. Only international co-operation can fight marine pollution, stop the depletion of the ozone layer around the earth, protect the remaining tropical forests and their wealth of genetic material. Life on earth is a must win situation.

This is the message of the United Nations Environment Programme. UNEP is nothing else but a forum for international co-operation in environment, where issues can be debated and positive steps taken to make things better. As UNEP's Executive Director, I am proud that in 14 years this Organization has addressed some of the most complex problems that erode, leach away and endanger humanity's future existence and wellbeing. Of course, UNEP has been riding a groundswell of enthusiasm and commitment, without which breakthroughs such as the Barcelona Convention on the Mediterranean (1976) or the Vienna Convention on the Ozone Layer (1985) would not have been possible.

Today we cannot remain content with our achievements of the past. We face a new imperative: to ensure that every government is capable of playing its part in the concert of nations for a better tomorrow. Treaties, conventions, action plans will mean little more than fine intentions unless there is resolute action right where the problems are: in the countries, the cities, in the tens of thousands of villages, the forests, beaches, parks.

A serious effort must be made to help those countries that do not possess either the manpower or the financial resources to solve their environmental problems.

UNEP's Clearing-house, one of our youngest programmes, expands our roles of "catalysis and co-ordination" in the field of technical co-operation. The Clearing-house acts as a benevolent broker, an impartial friend and advisor to match the colossal needs of the poor with the significant resources of the more affluent. It has been created to be used as an unprejudiced source of information and advice, and as a facilitator. Established in 1982 by the Governing Council of UNEP as an initiative of the Governments of the Federal Republic of Germany, Netherlands and Sweden, the Clearing-house has assisted in channelling more than \$17 million worth of technical co-operation to developing countries for projects that are unlikely to have taken place without its intervention. Its serious preparation of proposals, and in many cases its thorough analysis of policy issues, have already earned the Clearing-house a reputation for integrity.

This function of UNEP must grow because it answers a strong need and because it is a service UNEP must provide. In signing this introduction, I call on governments and institutions to give us their support in a most worthwhile challenge: to join hands to build a prosperous planet.




Mostafa K. Tolba



Why UNEP has a Clearing-house

Clearing-house is a term used in the banking profession. It means the place where demand for capital meets the offer of capital. Similarly, one can speak of a clearing-house for information, for equipment, and so on. The role of a clearing-house is an active one: it involves advising recipients on how to package their demands while convincing suppliers to provide the matching resources, goods or services.

The UNEP Clearing-house for environmental programmes and projects fulfills the same basic functions. Demands originate in the governments of developing countries, usually as a vague notion that "there is a problem". UNEP's role is to help frame the problem, and the possible solutions, in the context of sustainable development, given a particular country's endowment in natural resources, level of social and economic development, credit worthiness and other

considerations. On the supply side, the Clearing-house functions as a bank of project ideas, a source of information on major environmental problems as they affect developing countries and a facility which can organize the co-financing of projects, the selection of consultants and the identification of executing agencies.

Take the example of environmental hazards caused by chemicals. UNEP has access to an invaluable source of knowledge in this domain: the International Register of Potentially Toxic Chemicals (IRPTC) in Geneva. But until recently few developing countries used IRPTC. Recent disasters such as the one at Bhopal prompted some developing nations to look seriously at what chemicals are imported or locally produced and what dangers might be caused by their presence. Ten countries, ranging in size from giant China to tiny Gambia, contacted UNEP for help. The Clearing-house

An uncertain tomorrow...

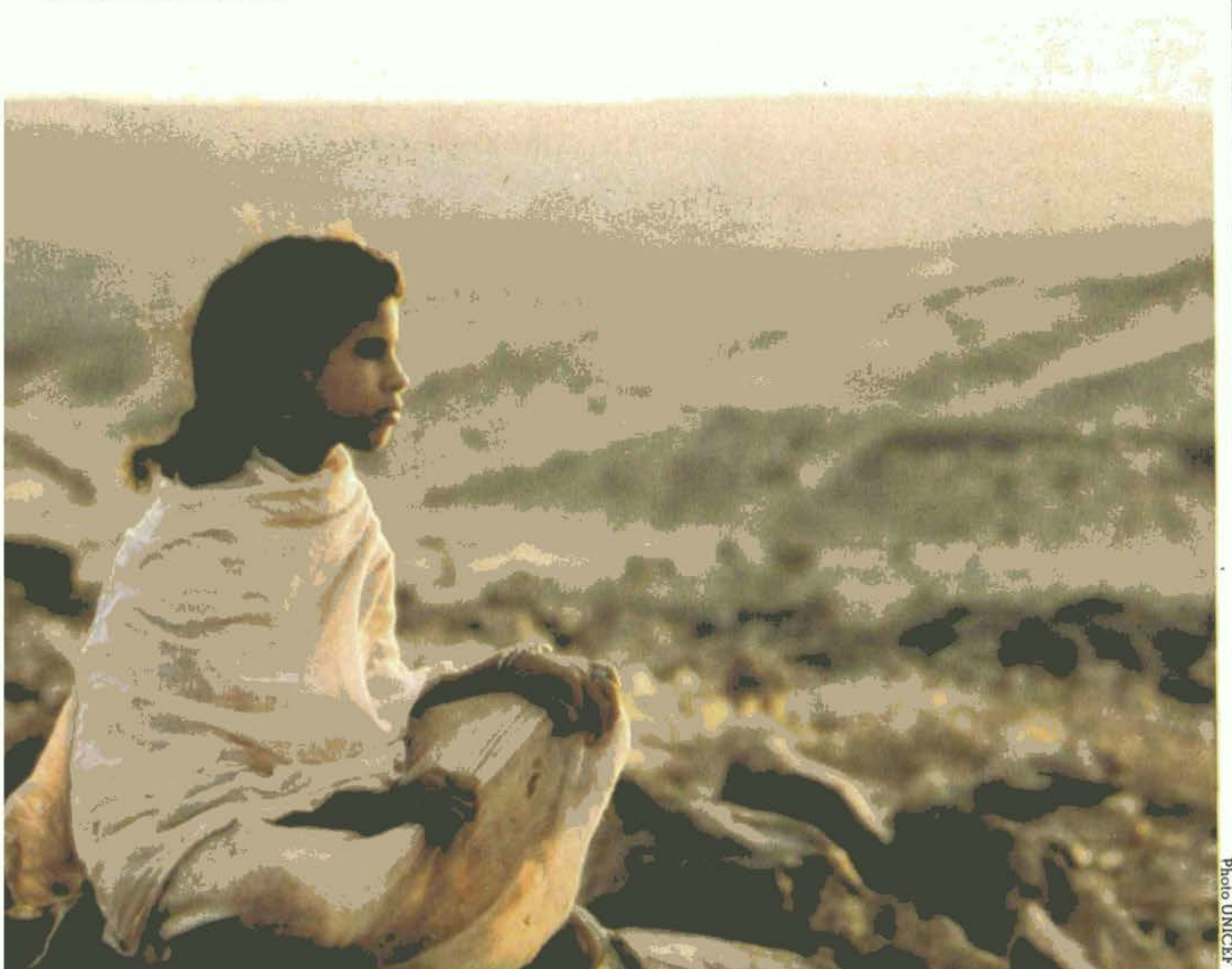


Photo UNICEF



found that the Government of Netherlands was willing to finance the venture. With technical guidance from IRPTC staff, a Dutch consulting firm investigated the situation in each country. IRPTC also ran two training courses for personnel from these countries. Today, using the recommendations from consultants and the expertise passed along by IRPTC training courses, all ten countries are clamping down on chemical misuse.

The Clearing-house functions came about because of a particular set of circumstances in developing countries. Most such countries are at a disadvantage when confronted by serious environmental problems because their natural systems are often less resilient to human abuses than are systems in developed countries; poverty means that less action can be taken to mitigate abuses or prevent them; know-how, financial resources and managerial organization are rarely adequate. These countries must contend with the immediate and often startling problems of boosting production, solving balance of payments deficits and managing the debt. Thus, they hardly find any resources left for programmes that will produce little economic or social returns in the short term.

There is growing awareness among those concerned with development, both in developing countries and in more affluent societies, that investments needed in natural resources conservation and environmental improvements will not happen without development assistance. UNEP's Clearing-house does not add a new source of technical or financial assistance to those already in place. Instead, it uses its services to co-ordinate and stimulate the channelling of aid toward sustainable development. The Clearing-house is thus a perfect example of UNEP's responsiveness to an emerging need for international co-operation.

...but certainly not this



Photo GAMMA



Environment: far-reaching concerns

Ensuring a healthy environment takes time. Devising ways and means of coping with serious long-term environmental situations is the essence of UNEP's mandate. As befits a small international organization with resources considerably smaller than those of most aid agencies, global and regional programmes remain the backbone of UNEP's strategy. If efficiently planned and executed, these programmes tend to maximize the returns on the financial and human resources contributed. Global and regional programmes also represent international co-operation at its best.

The Clearing-house helps to solve a perennial problem of these multicountry programmes: mobilizing resources needed for a real breakthrough. On the final page of this brochure, an example shows that co-operation between southern African countries along the Zambezi river system offers the prospect of significant environmental benefits because the Clearing-house can mobilize a large pool of human and financial resources.

In the final analysis, however, global and regional programmes must translate to national programmes, and from that level must trickle down to solve local problems. It is at this national level that Clearing-house services can be most useful, as many developing countries wishing to formulate national programmes often lack environmental infrastructures and manpower and have poor access to external assistance. In these countries the Clearing-house focusses expertise on analysing the environmental situation and trends and identifying priority projects. Then the Clearing-house connects needy countries with willing donors and later provides technical support for monitoring and evaluating the long-term programmes.

Thus, when developing countries face catastrophic problems such as desertification – the progressive sterilization of formerly productive land – the Clearing-house, using the means above, can help bring about radical changes in long-term planning in affected zones. Or when

developing countries want to protect their tropical forests from uncontrolled colonization and resource exploitation, the Clearing-house can help find resources to plan the necessary trade-offs between immediate gains and long-term losses.

The second half of this publication presents instances that illustrate how the Clearing-house has already intervened in particular developing countries. For each of these programmes UNEP considers that it has a firm commitment, stretching over the entire length of time it will take to redress the environmental situation in the country or countries concerned. UNEP would like to assist them along the hard road toward sustainable development, and not simply wave good-bye with a recommendation.

Today's needs

But most developing countries also have immediate environmental priorities, urgent courses of action needed to deal with environmental emergencies. Or they might need

Development...

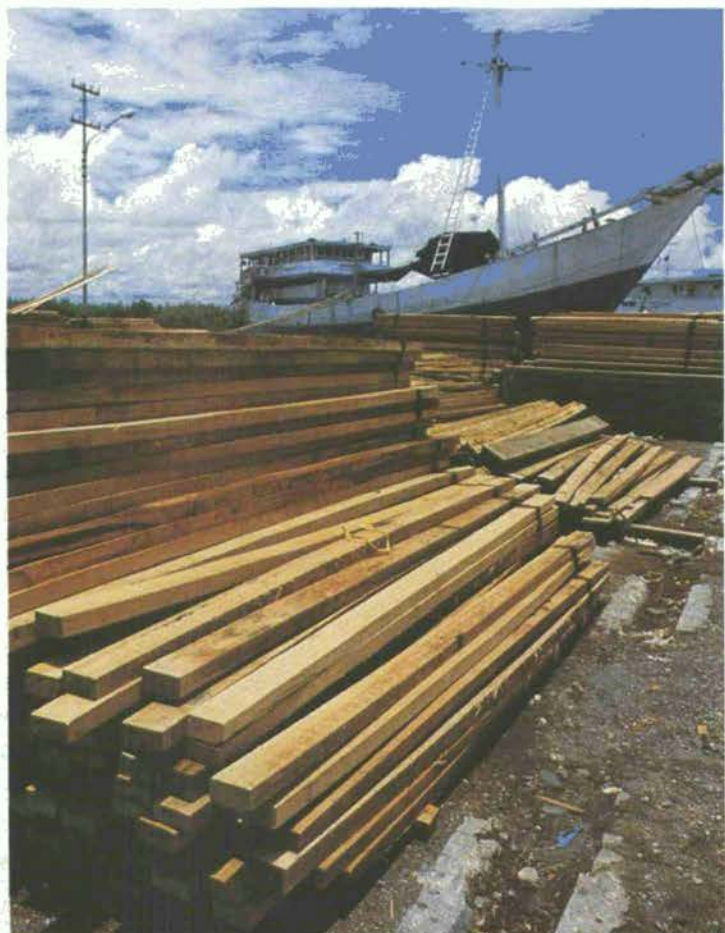


Photo: R. Francis

...and pressing needs

immediate preparations to pave the way for long-term environmental programmes. Burundi, having taken the bold step of gazetting one of its remaining wildland areas, needed a management plan to turn the preserve into a productive asset. Guyana, with only a few months left before starting construction of a hydropower dam, wanted an urgent environmental impact assessment made. Indonesia, having established a long-term programme for the Jakarta-Puncak area as described on page 11, needed to set up a management unit to co-ordinate such a complex operation. All these countries used the Clearing-house to obtain urgent short-term help.

There are many other pressing needs that influence developing countries to seek fast action from the Clearing-house. Training of personnel is required almost everywhere as a matter of priority. Monitoring and control structures are usually lacking in most countries. Legislative and administrative systems are often weak. When these kinds of situations are brought to the attention of UNEP, the Clearing-house is often called into action. Accordingly, the Clearing-house provided a consultant to Togo to advise its Government on the preparation of an environmental code. It sent another to Papua New Guinea to recommend improvements in environmental monitoring. And as part of its brokerage role the Clearing-house arranged that both consultancies be financed by the Federal Republic of Germany.

There are also "hot spots" where populations are so critically disturbed by natural calamities or mismanagement of their environment that a long-term framework would be ill-conceived and inhuman. In such situations, immediate action is the only recourse. For example, nomads recently had to resettle from the drought-stricken interior of Djibouti to the coastal plain, an alien environment for which they were technically unprepared. UNEP and other organizations rapidly organized the financing of a project providing the environmental refugees with species of fruits and vegetables suitable for growing in their new environment and training them how to

farm their new land.

A priority task for UNEP is to help the governments of developing countries in identifying those projects that are most urgently needed, and preparing proposals that will attract donors. One function of the Clearing-house is, therefore, to establish and maintain a pipeline of projects, and to assist the recipients in obtaining the resources required. Building a better tomorrow starts today.

...without destruction

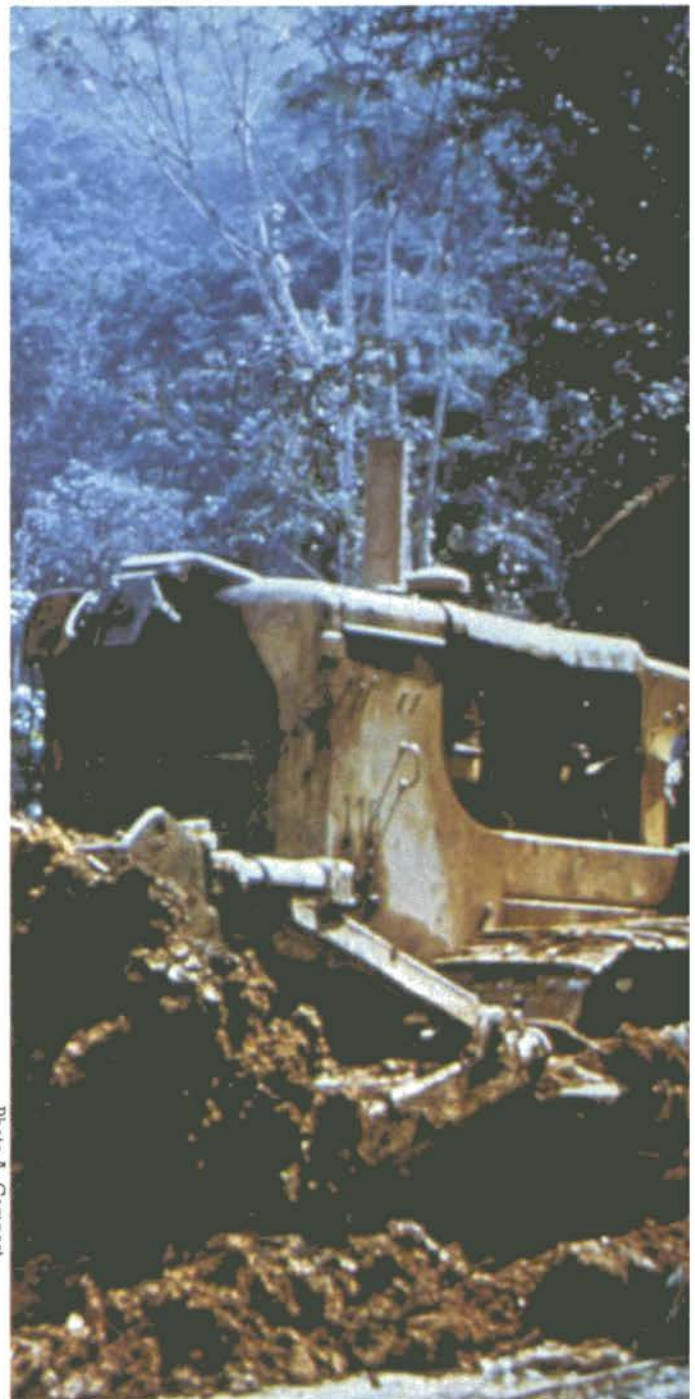


Photo A. Compost



Operation Clearing-house

The Clearing-house is managed by a small staff at UNEP headquarters. The responsibility of this staff is to conceive, stimulate and support a process in which other staff and units of UNEP, as well as outside institutions and experts, play an essential role. The Clearing-house inherits the traditional functions of UNEP: it is a co-ordinator and a catalyst, not an executor. The Clearing-house entrusts programme and project identification and preparation to teams of consultants, or to consulting institutions, under the technical control of competent UNEP staff. The Clearing-house can draw upon the professional resources of UNEP, the considerable expertise available in the UN system of organizations and hundreds of experts, academic institutions and corporations.

The administrative procedures for access to the services of the Clearing-house are as simple as possible. UNEP can be contacted directly or through a country's local UNDP office. Because the UNDP resident representative is always consulted on proposals originating from his or her country, the preferred process is that requests, each containing sufficient information for judging its value, are channelled through the UNDP office.

The basic functions of the Clearing-house have been developed thanks to an initial grant of \$1 million from the Government of Sweden. The financing of projects identified through the Clearing-house can be secured in a number of ways:

- by brokerage to a government, an international development agency, a non-governmental organization or even a private source. UNEP is usually not involved in the resulting transaction between recipient and donor, except as an advisor when required.

- from "credit lines" opened by various donors in their development co-operation budgets. These are funds specially earmarked for Clearing-house projects, which are usually implemented under donor responsibility. Argentina and Netherlands are two countries which have given the Clearing-house access to credit lines.

- from "trust funds" through which a donor entrusts UNEP with financial resources for Clearing-house projects,

usually for short-term consultancies in which fast funding makes the process more streamlined. Presently the Clearing-house operates trust-fund arrangements with the Federal Republic of Germany, Finland, and Norway.

- by co-financing between a donor and UNEP itself. The Clearing-house usually undertakes such an arrangement when UNEP wants to maintain close control over a project's execution.

- by in-kind services provided by donors, such as staff time or equipment.

The Clearing-house also seeks to enhance south-south co-operation in environment. For instance, Argentina, Brazil, Malaysia and Mexico have already offered to contribute to Clearing-house activities with cash or services.

Using arrangements of the types listed above, UNEP since 1982 has mobilized more than \$17 million through the Clearing-house, and 36 developing countries have benefitted through short – and long-term assistance.

Delays generally occur between the times of project identification and project approval by a donor. The reason is obvious enough: in most cases, UNEP is not able directly to finance requests from developing countries, but must contact development institutions through the Clearing-house. These delays, several months to two years, should be built into the timespan planned for a project by its recipient. In all cases, the Clearing-house's brokerage function is nothing more than an additional support to the recipient's own efforts to mobilize funds.

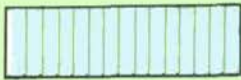


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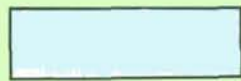
Total commitments by donor by year

9



Commitments through UNEP trust funds or counterpart funds

8



Direct commitments to recipients.

7

6

5

4

3

2

1

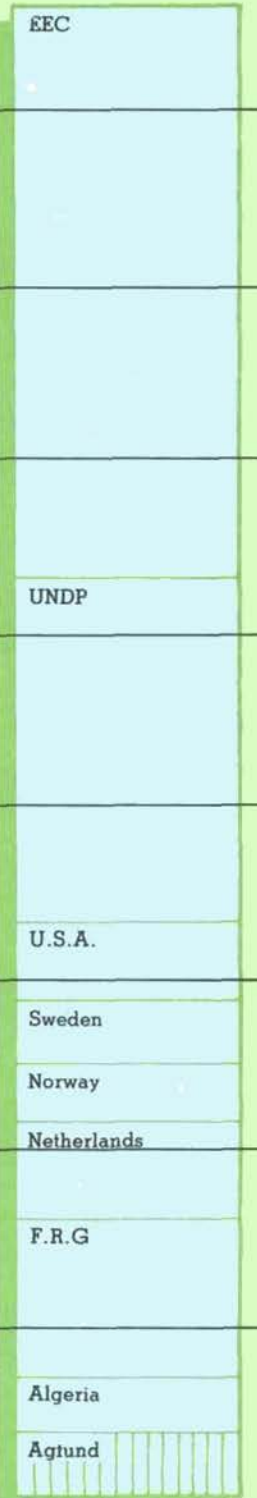
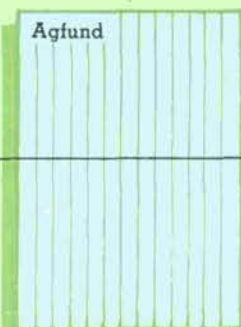
1982

1983

1984

1985

1986





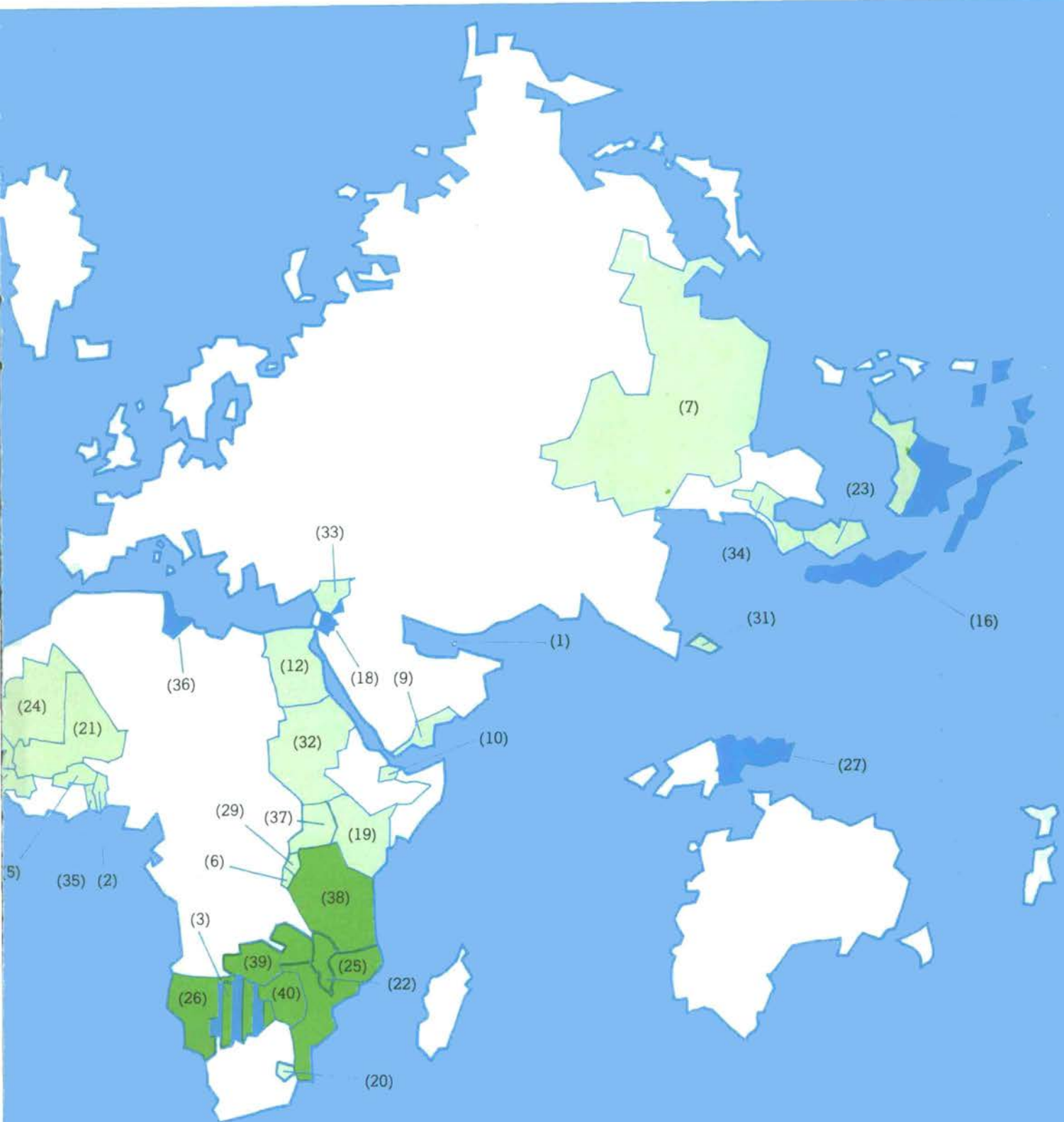
Who benefits

Countries having received short or long-term technical assistance through UNEP Clearing-house activities since 1982

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| (1) BAHRAIN | (33) SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC |
| (2) BENIN | (34) THAILAND |
| (3) BOTSWANA | (35) TOGO |
| (4) BRAZIL | (36) TUNISIA |
| (5) BURKINA FASO | (37) UGANDA |
| (6) BURUNDI | (38) UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA |
| (7) CHINA | (39) ZAMBIA |
| (8) COLOMBIA | (40) ZIMBABWE |
| (9) DEMOCRATIC YEMEN | |
| (10) DJIBOUTI | |
| (11) ECUADOR | |
| (12) EGYPT | |
| (13) GAMBIA | |
| (14) GUINEA | |
| (15) GUYANA | |
| (16) INDONESIA | |
| (17) JAMAICA | |
| (18) JORDAN | |
| (19) KENYA | |
| (20) LESOTHO | |
| (21) MALI | |
| (22) MALAWI | |
| (23) MALAYSIA | |
| (24) MAURITANIA | |
| (25) MOZAMBIQUE | |
| (26) NAMIBIA | |
| (27) PAPUA NEW GUINEA | |
| (28) PERU | |
| (29) RWANDA | |
| (30) SENEGAL | |
| (31) SRI LANKA | |
| (32) SUDAN | |



 Long term environmental management programmes



The Zambezi action plan



Others.

This stylized map is only intended to illustrate the approximate location of Clearing-house projects.



The Clearing-house in action



BOTSWANA

The great thirst

Botswana is the driest independent country of southern Africa. Almost 75 percent of its land surface of 580,000 square km constitutes what is known as the Kalahari desert, in fact not a true desert but a flat expanse of land so devoid of water that its name means "the great thirst". It is no surprise, then, that the country's word for rain, "pula," also serves as the national motto, a form of universal farewell and the name of the national currency. In Botswana pula is life.

Most of the small population of one million people inhabits the eastern and northern fringes of the Kalahari. Only three per cent of Botswana's land is suitable for agriculture. The rest is rangeland or reserves for wildlife. There are as many as three heads of cattle for each inhabitant, and many districts are seriously overgrazed. Since 1983 UNEP's Clearing house has assisted the Government of Botswana in a comprehensive programme of environmental management of its natural resources: water, vegetation, wildlife and wildlands. This programme has been particularly timely because the Government had been engaged in a dramatic soul-searching over the best strategy for the future and sustainable

development of the livestock sector, the country's social and economic backbone.

Soon after the approval of the programme by the Government in 1984, work began on an environmental profile of Botswana and a national conservation strategy. Norway, the Netherlands, Sweden and the EEC provided financial support, and the IUCN added technical assistance. Studies for the profile and strategy expand on the analysis made by the Clearing-house in 1983 and establish the essential data and analytical base for future environmental management. Other projects assess the key natural resources mentioned above. Those areas with greatest risk of ecological disruption — the Kalahari, the Okavango delta (a unique wetland for southern Africa), and the Greater Gaborone area — are the objects of special management plans and land-use schemes prepared with aid from Sweden and the EEC. Other reforms are also underway: a new wildlife policy; a revised policy on tourism; reform of water administration.

Botswana offers the finest example of the catalytic and co-ordinating role UNEP can play through the Clearing-house in support of developing countries with environmental concerns. UNEP's initial investment in 1983 hardly exceeded \$50,000. The country has since received foreign commitments of more than \$35 million for natural resources management and Governments, UN organizations, donors and non-governmental organizations work in harmony to make things better in Botswana. The Clearing-house continues to assist the Government in monitoring the programme, as well as in identifying new ventures such as environmental education projects and assessment of desertification risks.

Waiting for rain



Photo GAMMA



from 7 million in 1970 to 12 million in 1984, and is expected to reach 20 million by the end of the century. Urbanization (half the population lives in the city of Jakarta), industrialization (300 medium - to large-scale industries) and a modern agricultural sector

collectively exercise a tremendous drain on water (the consumption is expected to double its present level by the year 2000) and limited land resources. Serious environmental problems include deteriorating water quality, especially in coastal waters, reduced capacity of upland areas to retain water because of reductions in permanent vegetation and continued threats to protection forests and recreation areas.

The Clearing-house programme identifies the major conflict areas and the most serious environmental problems of each area. It analyzes the existing strategies for environmental management, from permits and environmental assessments to land management, pollution control and conservation measures. And it targets eight priority projects, all endorsed by the Government and submitted for foreign assistance.

Because of its ambitious objectives, the programme has been slow to take off, but several governments and UNEP are working with the Indonesian Government to remove the obstacles to projects approval and implementation. The case of the Jakarta-Puncak corridor verifies the assumption that mastering the complex relationship between environment and development requires sustained efforts, and can only happen if all institutions concerned, domestic and foreign, agree to co-operate within a common and long-term framework.

INDONESIA

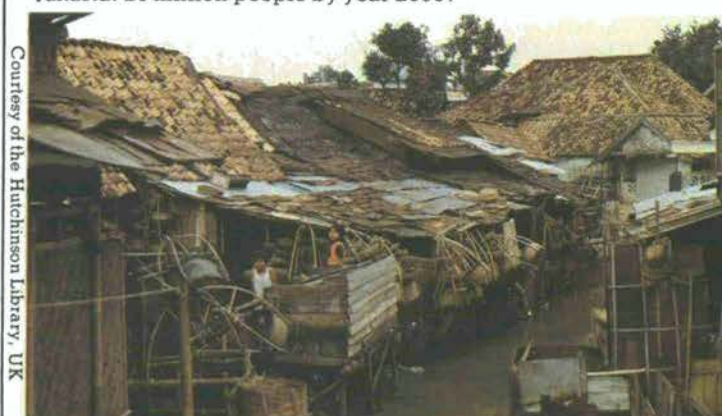
Treating "critical lands"

Indonesia's major environmental problems arise from its large population (160 million in 1985, with densities as high as 678/square km on Java) and the great diversity of natural and human conditions on the country's 13,000 islands. Its Government has chosen to focus environmental policy and actions on "critical lands", which are areas where the impact of population and pressures on the natural resource base of the country are particularly acute. They include the Jakarta-Puncak metropolitan area and lands open for new settlement under the "transmigration" programme. In these critical lands environmental management has to be conceived as a set of measures and activities that is an integral part of development planning for the area.

It is no surprise, therefore, that the Government of Indonesia requested the help of the Clearing-house to design an environmental management strategy for critical lands. Because the management of all such lands would go beyond the capabilities of the Government, it was decided to test the environmental management strategy in the area where practically all problems exhibited by critical lands can be found: the Jakarta-Puncak "corridor". A presidential decree has since created a special ministerial committee responsible for seeing that all development in the corridor area is properly co-ordinated and that negative environmental consequences are mitigated.

The environmental problems of the Jakarta-Puncak corridor are indeed enormous. The population has increased

Jakarta: 20 million people by year 2000?



Courtesy of the Hutchinson Library, UK



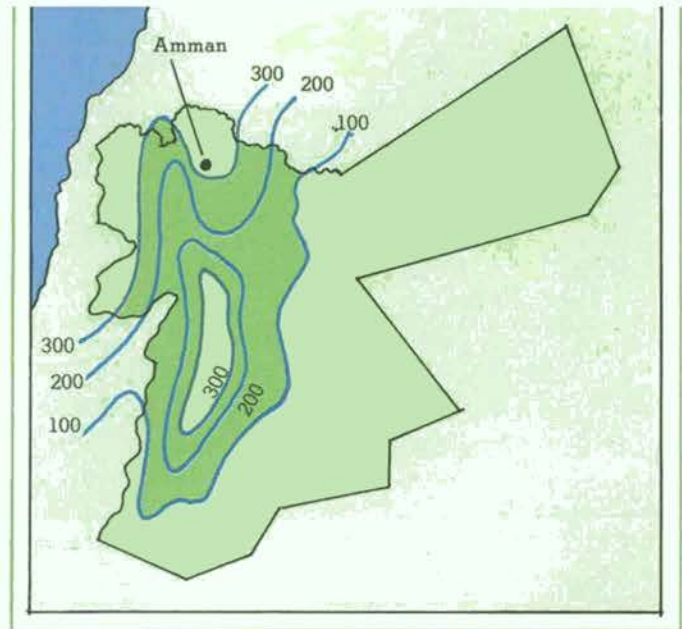
JORDAN

containing the spreading desert

The low rainfall areas of Jordan form a narrow and discontinuous band of lands bordering the Syrian desert on the east and north, where mean annual rainfall is between 100 and 300 mm. The total area covers approximately 1 million ha. Extensive rearing of small cattle has been the dominant lifestyle of the area for several millennia.

The Government is now committed to control the rampant desertification in these low-rainfall areas and fully subscribes to the principles and objectives of the United Nations Plan of Action to Combat Desertification, prepared by UNEP and adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1977.

UNEP's Clearing-house assisted the Government to prepare a long-term strategy for the rehabilitation of the low rainfall areas in 1983-1984. The strategy proposes a programme of land protection and development which should have



covered the entire area of low rainfall by the year 2000.

As a follow-up to the adoption of the strategy by the Government of Jordan, the Clearing-house designed the first project starting in 1987 and mobilized financial and technical support from USAID and other aid institutions. The project should rehabilitate an area of approximately 5,000 ha and demonstrate that, with suitable low-cost techniques and people participation, the range can accommodate four to five times more cattle than in its present, degraded state. The project will simultaneously

encourage co-operative organizations to use these techniques to rehabilitate at least 50,000 ha per year. Training of staff for the Ministry of Agriculture will also begin in 1987. The initial project results should encourage other donors to support the long-term programme and thus accelerate the speed at which land can be rehabilitated.

Grazing lands: an endless search

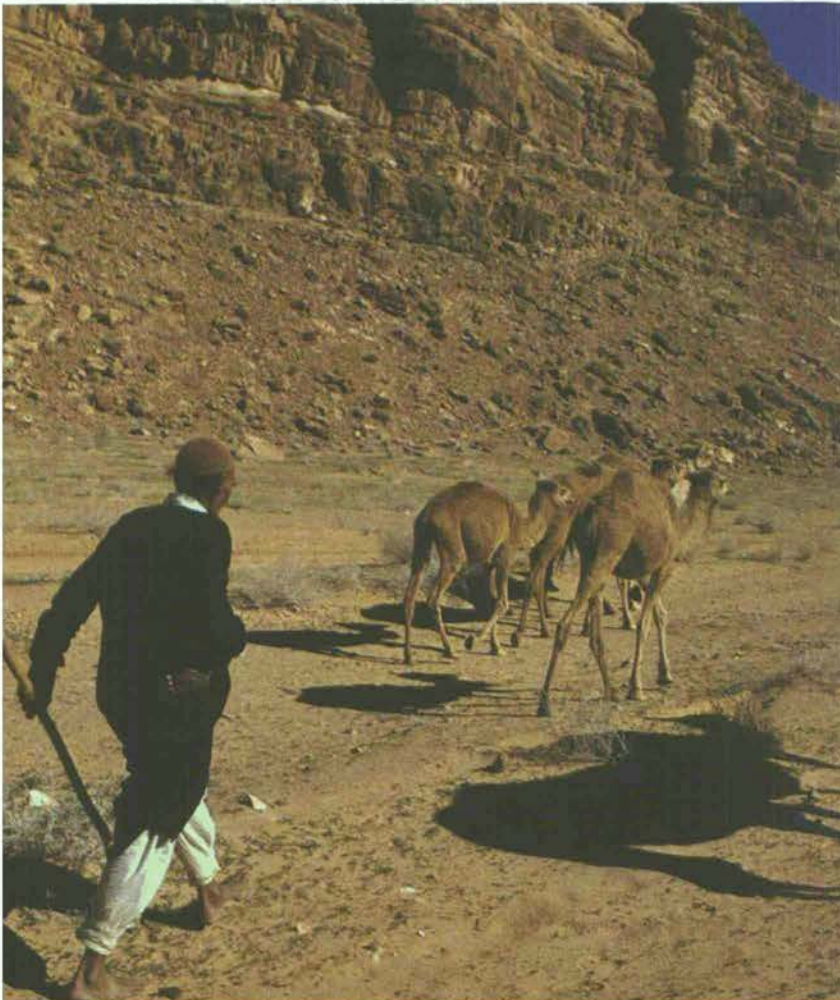
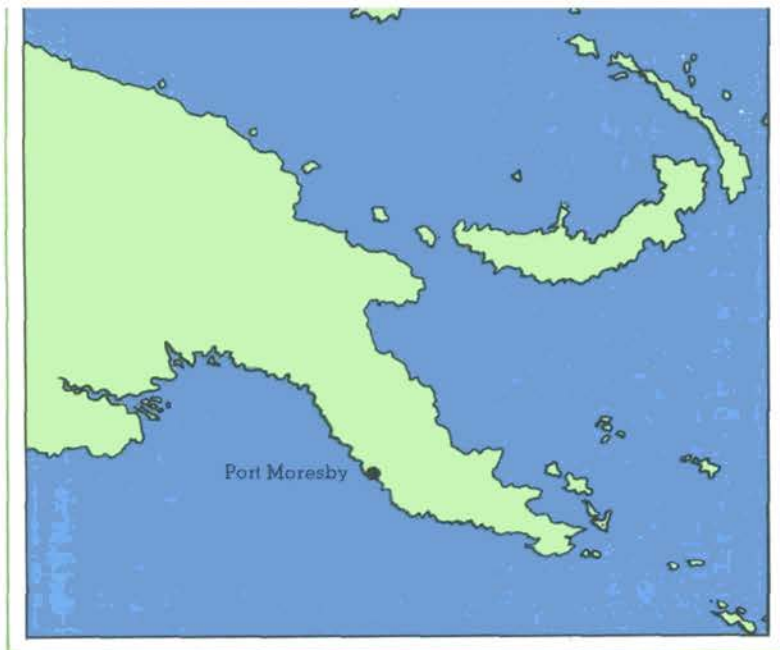


Photo GAMMA



Development objectives have been systematically examined and compared with the country's capacity to ensure sustainable development. The gaps were identified and priority measures recommended.

The package of measures proposed by the Clearing-house has been approved by the Government of Papua New Guinea, which in turn requested assistance to obtain the

necessary funding from donors. The Clearing-house contacted most bilateral and multilateral development co-operation agencies and registered commitments from several. The programme, delayed as part of a train of austerity measures the Government had to adopt, remains a high priority for Papua New Guinea as it represents a prime opportunity to put into place a daring environmental management regime that will watch over the country's rapidly expanding development and stave off environmental ills before they occur.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

protecting a nearly pristine environment

The island of New Guinea, of which Papua New Guinea occupies the eastern half, is the third largest in the world after Greenland and Madagascar. Its biological and other natural resources are not only extremely rich and diverse, but also, by world standards, in extraordinarily good (almost pristine) condition. Papuans are well aware of this inheritance and appreciate that they should preserve it for future generations. UNEP's association with Papua New Guinea goes back to pre-independence time, when the new Government's constitution was being drafted. UNEP helped Papua New Guinea give itself an outstanding corpus of environmental laws, as well as a system for environmental planning unique among countries of the economic "south".

But this bright picture has a darker side. Localized problems of environmental contamination have arisen. Deforestation progresses faster than reforestation. Papua New Guinea lacks the expertise and the scientific and technical infrastructure to realize its ambitions of environment protection.

UNEP's Clearing-house has therefore worked with the Government and prepared a comprehensive action programme for environmental management in Papua New Guinea.

Vanishing beauty



Photo WWF



PERU

tug-of-war between wilderness and frontier

The "selva" region of Peru, the tropical forest zone extending from the eastern ranges of the Andes into the Amazon basin, acts as the new economic frontier of the country. Large-scale colonization, a phenomenon spurred by rapid population increases in the sierra and the opening of roads into the selva, began in the early 1950s. The selva, which covers 54 percent of Peru's total land area, now harbours the fastest population and GDP growth-rates in the country and a very rapid agricultural development. To give support to this process, the Government has recently initiated nine large-scale integrated rural development projects at an estimated cost of approximately \$500 million. More than half is provided by foreign agencies. One of the objectives of these special projects is to promote an



equilibrium in the ecology of the selva through conservation of its natural resources. But in fact, the provision of economic and social infrastructures absorbs most of the resources of the special projects. Little attention is being paid to containing the negative impacts or spillover of land development.

In 1983 the Clearing-house assisted the Government of Peru in preparing an environmental management strategy for the upper selva region. During the initial period of this long-term programme, action is concentrated on the district of San Martin, where the environmental problems are the most representative of what happens in the upper selva.

The programme will be executed during the next three years with financial and technical support from the Government of the Netherlands, mobilized through the Clearing-house. It should result in a much more coherent system for taking development decisions in the district of San Martin, a higher level of public concern about environment amongst small farmers and district officials, and the introduction of environmentally benign modes of production. The initial phase will require a systematic follow-up, and more financial support from foreign aid agencies, in particular from the institutions financing the special projects.

The district of San Martin represents a very dynamic and expanding society, characteristic of the tropical forest zone in Latin America and in other parts of the tropical world. The Clearing-house programme can be a model of environmental management in tropical forest areas and prove that one of the last "frontiers" of our planet can be tamed.

Stripping the Amazon

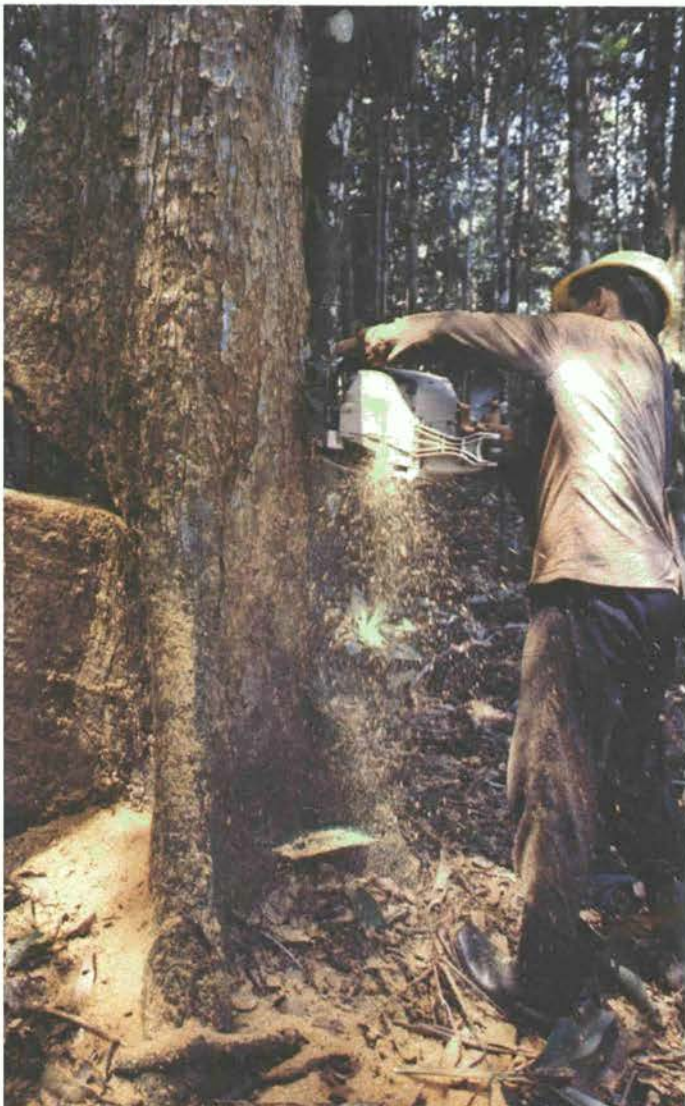
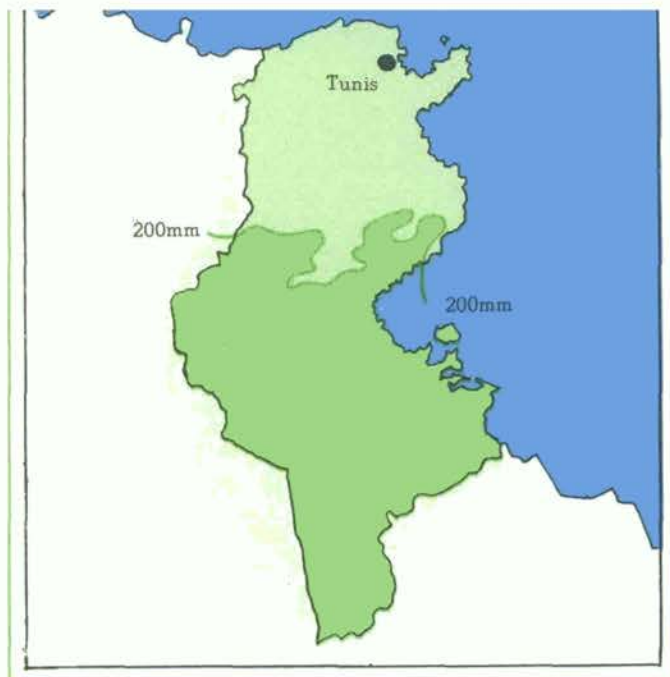


Photo GAMMA



TUNISIA

meagre rain, unforgiving sand

Two-thirds of the land area of Tunisia is threatened by desertification. The causes of this phenomenon are well known, and common to a number of countries of the southern and eastern Mediterranean belt: overgrazing; the disappearance of wooded species used as domestic fuels; and soil salinization where irrigated agriculture has been practised without adequate protection.

The United Nations Conference on Desertification recommended that each affected country should prepare a national strategy to combat desertification. In 1984 Tunisia, with UNEP, prepared its national strategy to combat desertification, probably one of the most comprehensive strategies of the kind existing to date. This national strategy concentrates efforts on the six governorates of southern Tunisia, where mean annual rainfall is less than 200 mm. Together the six governorates cover a land area of 8.5 million ha, of which 2.8 million ha are unproductive desert and 5.1 million ha are suitable as range only. The remaining .6 million ha, marginally suitable for agriculture, are almost entirely under the plough (arboriculture, cereal farming or irrigated agriculture).

Population in the six governorates totals 1 million, 62 percent more than 20 years ago.

The national strategy aims to reverse the deadly process of

land sterilization by the turn of the century. Its long-term goal is to encourage farmers and herders to undertake by themselves protection and management actions. Information about appropriate techniques will be spread through mass information campaigns and rural extension services.

The strategy builds on measures already taken by the Government, including creation of the Institute of Arid Zones in 1976, and the results of pilot projects in research and development carried out for several decades with external supports, including help from the UN system (FAO, UNESCO, UNDP and UNEP).

For the period 1986-1992, the national strategy has identified 21 projects to be undertaken urgently. Five projects have already gone into action during the 18 months since the adoption of the strategy and another four are at advanced stages of negotiations with donors.

The national strategy to combat desertification will not stop in 1992, nor when the 21 projects are completed. It has become a new approach to development in southern Tunisia, providing the proof that through an environmental perspective a revival can be launched in the economically depressed regions of the globe.

Village, South Tunisia

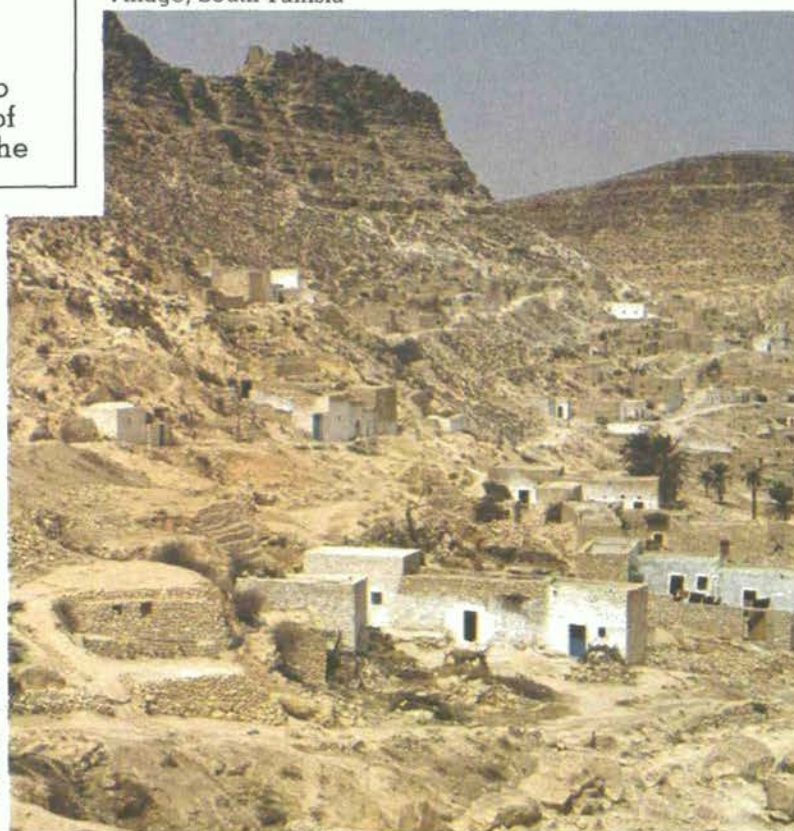


Photo GAMMA

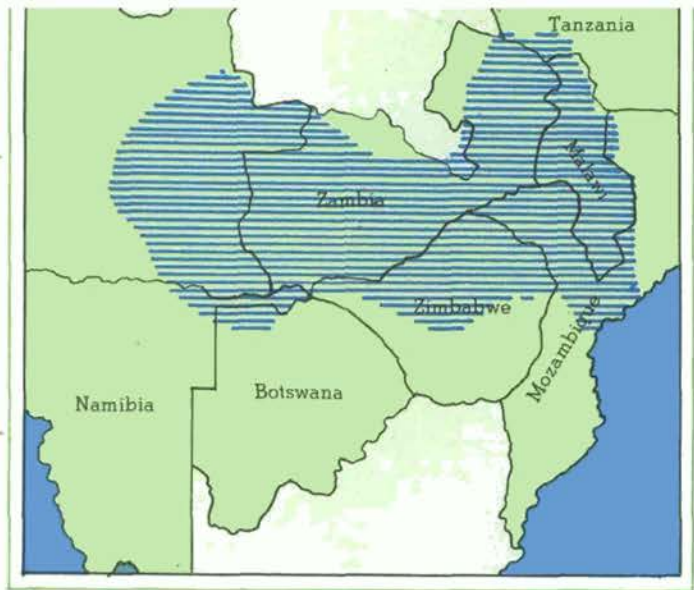


ZAMBEZI BASIN

Southern Africa's lifeline

Countries along one of Africa's mightiest waterways are planning a peaceful and fertile future for the Zambezi river and its basin, thanks to the help of UNEP. Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe have been negotiating since 1985 to work out ways to co-operate in the development of the river basin. They don't want it to become a source of conflict between upstream and downstream countries. UNEP is providing a negotiating forum and technical assistance in the preparation of the Zambezi action plan, whose adoption should take place in 1987. The Clearing-house method, in this case, is to offer access to a vast reservoir of technical and financial assistance for the formulation and execution of the plan.

With its tributaries, the Zambezi drains an area of about 1.3 million square km. The river itself spans 3,000 km from its source to its mouth, and discharges 500 billion cubic meters annually to the Indian Ocean. It is thus the fourth longest



African river, and six times more powerful than the Nile. But its basin is inhabited by only 20 million people, less than a third of the population of the Nile basin. Per capita consumption of water for domestic, industrial or agricultural use along the Zambezi is among the lowest in the world. These circumstances mean that, at present at least, there is no major conflict over utilisation of the Zambezi, simply because the output of water is so much in excess of needs.

But that tranquil situation could change. The Southern African region shows great dynamism in population growth and development changes. This major water resource, despite its tremendous potential, may in the future fail to satisfy burgeoning needs. The future, in this case, means 15 years from now. It may take that long to plan and realize any major waterwork.

UNEP's proposal to prepare the Zambezi action plan was welcomed by all the countries concerned, as well as by many governments and development co-operation organizations ready to contribute technically and financially through the Clearing-house. Once the Zambezi action plan is adopted by governments, work should start in 1987 on the design and establishment of hydrological and water quality monitoring networks, the training of personnel and environment-impact studies of planned and existing water uses. The Clearing-house target is to mobilize at least \$4.5 million during 1987-1989 for the implementation of the Zambezi action plan. This much will supplement the \$5 million expected to be supplied by the participating countries and the \$2.7 million from UNEP and the rest of the UN system.

Zambezi River and Lake Kariba



Photo supplied by Regional Remote Sensing Centre, Nairobi.

UNEP

UNEP is the United Nations Environment Programme. It was set up by the world community in 1973 to monitor and help manage the world's environment. It works with Government, industry and citizens' groups to promote sustainable development and international co-operation on environmental matters. It employs almost 200 scientists, lawyers, and other specialists working for development without destruction. It spends less money every year than the world spends on arms every twenty minutes. If you have any enquiries please write to us at our global headquarters in Kenya.

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