



UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre

Annual Report 2001



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welcome

The World Conservation Monitoring Centre has completed its first full year as a part of the United Nations Environment Programme and I am pleased to see the support the Centre has received, and the successes that staff and associates have accomplished in this short time.

In this Annual Report you will see that the arrangement with UNEP is achieving many successes, both programmatically and financially. The Centre is well placed to push its planning horizon forward and to make ever greater contributions to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.

I recognise that almost all the Centre's work is done through agreements and understandings with other organisations, not only in the governmental and intergovernmental sectors but also with NGOs and in the private sector. Such a wide participation and partnership is essential in today's globalised world.

I should like to take this opportunity to thank the many organisations that work alongside UNEP and the World Conservation Monitoring Centre in caring for the global environment.



Klaus Töpfer
Executive Director, UNEP

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foreword

Biodiversity is the defining characteristic of planet Earth. But our understanding of living things, their role in ecological processes and, most importantly, their significance to our own future, remains poor. What we do now know is that human beings dominate all other species. We divert more than one third of the sun's life-giving power to feed ourselves and our livestock, we have transformed around one third of land to agriculture, and we capture probably more than half the fish production of the oceans and seas every year. The Centre's role is to establish and communicate the impact this dominance has on other life forms, and to evaluate this in terms of its sustainability.

Turning complex data into policy-relevant information is one of the tasks that the Centre does best. The World Atlas of Coral Reefs and our input to the Biodiversity Convention's Global Biodiversity Outlook are good examples of successes in 2001. In the coming year we will, amongst other projects, develop further assessments on the world's mountains, seagrass beds and great apes.

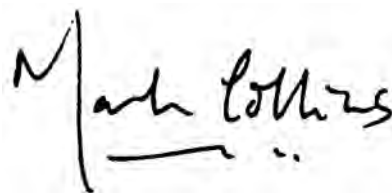
Less high-profile work, but equally important in establishing a baseline for planning and policy-making, has been our

Tackling biodiversity problems at the global level increasingly needs multi-stakeholder partnerships between governments, scientists, NGOs and the private sector. Initiatives such as the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, the International Coral Reef Action Network and the Great Apes Survival Programme, in all of which the Centre plays a significant role, illustrate the advantages of such partnerships.

In planning for the future, and to enhance our contribution to sustainable development in coming years, the Centre will soon redevelop its information systems and take steps to strengthen its sources of data by networking more effectively with national and regional centres of excellence. I look forward to reporting on these and other initiatives in future years.



background work for international programmes and processes. For example, our analytical support to the UN Forum on Forests, to the FAO Forest Resources Assessment and to the Conservation of Arctic Fauna and Flora programme has been very rewarding.



Mark Collins
Director, UNEP-WCMC

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assessment and early warning

The UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre informs policy-makers on the priorities and concerns for the future conservation and sustainable use of all living resources.

In 2001 the Centre continued its strong record of breaking new ground in providing assessments of biodiversity for a range of different ecosystems. Greater emphasis was placed on the human dimensions of assessment work - especially in our work on mountain regions, a theme that is set to be centre-stage in environmental discussions throughout 2002, which is designated as the International Year of Mountains.

Coral Reefs: Research and Action

The World Atlas of Coral Reefs, launched in September, provides the most detailed and definitive account yet produced of the state of the planet's coral reefs. Coral reefs are not only one of the most diverse ecosystems, but are important to millions of people for food resources, physical shelter for islands and coastal regions and increasingly as a source of revenue from tourism. The Atlas is remarkable for the newly researched maps and satellite images of the reefs and for detailing the threats faced by reefs and received wide acclaim.

International Coral Reef Action Network (ICRAN)

The Centre now hosts the Directorate/Coordinating Unit of [ICRAN](#), a partnership that brings together scientific, cultural, social and economic perspectives to promote improved management, assessment and monitoring as well as communicating knowledge about reefs.

Marine Ornamentals Trade

A substantial increase in the data



available on the world trade in marine ornamental species was achieved through research and networking with partners during 2001.

The [Global Marine Aquarium Database](#) was launched at the aquarium trade's conference following its successful promotion through the Marine Aquarium Council's website and through a workshop with the association of Indonesian exporters. This initiative will provide a scientific basis for improved decision making on the sustainability of the trade.



Further Information

- [Global Marine Assessment](#)
- [Mountains](#)
- [Millennium Ecosystem Assessment](#)
- [Indicators](#)
- [Forest Biodiversity](#)
- [Global Environment Outlook \(GEO\)](#)

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conventions and policy support

Throughout 2001, the Centre continued to provide support for the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs). This has not only included regular support to the work of MEA secretariats, but also activities that have directly supported national governments in their implementation of international agreements and programmes.



Convention on Biological Diversity

The Global Biodiversity Outlook (GBO) was launched during the meeting of the Convention's technical body (SBSTTA) during November 2001, after significant further work by the Centre's staff on the tables and maps (the text having been drafted the previous year). The GBO has been very well received by the Contracting Parties to the Convention, and a new edition is foreseen for 2004.

Following its work with national governments in Albania, the Czech Republic, Kyrgyzstan, Lithuania, Moldova and Romania during 2001, UNEP-WCMC worked with the seven countries of Central America to develop national reviews of progress in implementing the Convention, and coordinated regional review. This work will be completed early in 2002 with a workshop held in Central America and another at the CBD Conference of



Parties.

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)

UNEP-WCMC has continued to support the CITES Secretariat and Contracting Parties by managing the official database of trade in listed species, and in providing reports, technical support and analyses. The Centre also provides related services to the European Commission with regard to implementation of the EU Wildlife Trade Regulation.

UNEP-WCMC has worked with a number of CITES Parties to develop and test sharing and exchange of data over the Internet between the species database managed by the Centre and information systems used by the Parties to implement the Convention. The Centre is currently developing a number of tools to assist Parties in their analysis of trade data.



Further Information

- [Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals \(CMS\)](#)
- [Harmonisation](#)
- [World Heritage Convention](#)
- [Support to National Policy Development](#)

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biodiversity information services

The UNEP-WCMC website attracts up to 275,000 visitors in a month, and makes an incomparable amount of information available to the general public on conservation of nature and its biodiversity. By the end of 2001 the Centre was delivering 35 gigabytes of information per month to visitors; more than doubling the highest figure for the previous year. The majority of the 2,500 enquiries that the service received and answered came through the website. Questions ranged from requests for background information for environmental impact assessments by commercial companies to enquiries about the conservation status of species. Approximately half the enquiries came from school and university students. In the latter part of 2001, the Centre's information service started to review its reply procedures to set priorities for handling this volume of enquiries with the resources available. This work is still under way but should achieve significant efficiencies when it is completed in 2002.

As well as queries arriving electronically, the Centre welcomed nearly 1,300 personal visitors during

Internet and GIS

The Internet and GIS programmes were combined in 2001 to ensure that the Centre could rapidly develop integrated solutions to users' needs and requirements. The redevelopment of the website continued to provide further dynamic content in place of static pages. Another key activity has been to increase the accessibility of the website by including pages in different languages, including Swedish, Norwegian, French, German, Russian and Korean. The Interactive Map Services (IMapS) was successfully launched during 2001 and is now freely available on the Centre's website. IMapS was developed in partnership with the International Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Association (IPIECA), and has become an invaluable tool for the petroleum, mining and extractive industries when undertaking planning or emergency responses.



the year for consultations on a wide range of topics. The service has also established links with local United Nations Association groups through presentations about the Centre's activities.

Further Information

- [Information & Communications Technology \(ICT\)](#)
- [Marketing](#)
- [Publications](#)
- [Human Resource](#)

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[networks and international relations](#)



UNEP-WCMC works with a host of organisations world wide and a selection of recent project partners is given below.

International and Regional Organisations

- Botanic Gardens Conservation International
- BirdLife International
- British Council
- Central American Commission for Environment and Development
- Center for International Forestry Research
- Commonwealth Secretariat,
- European Environment Agency
- European Topic Centre on Nature Protection and Biodiversity
- European Forest Institute
- European Commission
- EU Joint Research Centre
- ICLARM World Fish Center
- International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development
- International Institute for Environment

National Conservation and Research Organisations

- Aburi Botanical Gardens, Ghana, African Centre for Technology Studies, Kenya.
- Africa Resources Trust, UK. Albertine Rift Conservation Society, UK.
- Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand.
- Asociación Centro de Estudios y Acción Social Panameño, Panamá.
- Association Nationale pour le Gestion des Aires Protégées, Madagascar, CATIE, Costa Rica.
- Centre de Suivi Ecologique, Sénégal.
- Centre for Remote Sensing and Geographical Information Systems, Ghana.
- Centre National de Télédétection et de Surveillance du Couvert Forestier, Benin.
- College of African Wildlife Management, Tanzania.
- Comité National de Télédétection et d'Information Géographique, Côte d'Ivoire.
- CONABIO, Mexico. CONAF, Chile.
- Conservation Foundation, UK.
- Earthwatch, UK & USA.
- Ecole de Formation des Spécialistes de la Faune, Cameroon.
- Econatura, Venezuela.
- English Nature, UK.
- Environmental Resources Centre, Côte d'Ivoire.
- Fundación Habitat, Argentina.
- Fundación Natura, Ecuador, JNCC, UK.
- Natural History Museum, UK. NASA, USA.
- NOAA, USA.
- Oxford Forestry Institute, UK.
- Raleigh International, UK.

and Development
International Tropical Timber Organization
International Union of Forestry Research
Organizations
South Pacific Regional Environment
Programme
TRAFFIC International
UNESCO World Heritage Centre
UNEP Regional Offices
World Conservation Union (IUCN)
World Resources Institute
Wetlands International
WWF International
WWF National Offices and Programmes

Rijksinstituut voor Volksgezondheid en
Milieu (RIVM) The Netherlands. Royal
Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, UK. Royal
Botanic Gardens, Kew, UK. Royal Society
for the Protection of Birds, UK. Russian
Institute for Nature Conservation, Russian
Federation. Southern African Wildlife
College, South Africa. Universities of
Cambridge (UK), Legon (Ghana),
Makerere University Institute of Natural
Resources Management (Uganda),
Moscow State (Russian Federation) and
UNAM (Mexico) Wildlife Institute of India,
India.

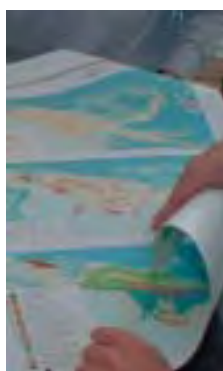
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financial report



Following the official launch of UNEP-WCMC in July 2000, the main financial objective has been to improve the Centre's financial stability, thereby facilitating longer-term strategic planning and development. To assist in achieving this, in 1999/2000 the UK Government made a grant of £750,000 to the new UNEP Centre to facilitate the redemption of the mortgage on the building, thus saving interest charges of approximately £35,000 per annum. This, together with a greater portfolio of projects across most sectors and strict cost control, has resulted in the Centre achieving a surplus of £88,702 for the year ended 31 December 2001. This is an excellent result, in excess of the original budgeted surplus of £57,789 to provide working capital for the Centre. Over the next four years it is planned to create working capital for three months expense requirements (£500,000).

During 2001, the Centre's cash reserves show a marked improvement, rising from £255K in January to £481K at the end of the year, owing to the receipt of significant advance project funding. In keeping with the Centre becoming an integral part of UNEP,



2001 saw an increase in contracted project income from UNEP of 30% (Figure 1). The second largest provider of income (17%) was governmental organisations, a large proportion of which came from the UK. Excellent project management kept the Centre's very low write-off level at less than 1% of income. Strict cost controls resulted in running costs (as a percentage of project costs) decreasing from 19% in 2000 to 6% in 2001. Overall the financial results for 2001 demonstrate that the Centre is on a firmer financial footing than in the past and will aim to consolidate this position in 2002.

[Market Segmentation of Restricted Project Invoices for the Year Ended 31 December 2001](#)

[Financial Report for the Year Ended 31 December 2001](#)

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Sponsors

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| AEWA Secretariat | INBAR |
| Alcatel | IPIECA |
| Anglo American plc | IUCN |
| Aventis SA | IUCN/WCPA |
| BfN | JNCC |
| British Airways Assisting Conservation | NOAA |
| BP plc | Oracle |
| BP Shipping | PADI Project AWARE |
| Breathe | Perth College |
| CAFF Secretariat | Raleigh International |
| Cambridgeshire County Council | Rio Tinto |
| CBD Secretariat | RMC plc |
| CEP | RSPB |
| CITES Secretariat | Scottish Natural Heritage |
| CMS Secretariat | Shell International |
| Darwin Initiative | Smartlogik |
| DEFRA | South African Wildlife College |
| DfID | Swiss Federal Agency |
| ECNC | UK Hydrographic Office |
| EFI | UN Foundation |
| ESRI | UNEP |
| European Commission | UNEP/GEF |
| FAO | UNEP/GRID Arendal |
| FFI | UNESCO |
| Global Marine Systems Ltd. | University of California Press |
| Granherne | University of Hull |
| GTZ | WWF Forests for Life |
| ICLARM | WWF International |

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