



Natural Allies

UNEP and Civil Society





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Foreword

When the Earth Summit was organized in 1992, two revolutions were in the making: first, the focus of global governance on planetary management; and second, the movement of civil society to the centre-stage of defining global agendas on the basis of ecology, equity and democracy.



But the revolutions of 1992 stalled. The focus on planet was replaced by the focus on commerce, citizen leadership was set aside for corporate leadership.

Both planet and people have paid a high price for the marginalization of ecology and democracy in the management of world affairs. Every ecological problem, which the Earth Summit addressed, has worsened. Biodiversity erosion and climate instability have accelerated, the water crisis has increased, hazards to the environment and public health are growing exponentially.

The publication of *Natural Allies* is extremely timely. Engagement between UNEP and civil society is necessary, both for UNEP and for the protection of the planet's fragile web of life. In this engagement lies the potential for resurgence of democracy and ecological awareness, the processes that were interrupted over the past decade by the euphoria that all decisions can be left to the market and deregulated global commerce can take care of the planet's health.

Commerce ministries alone do not run countries. Global governance cannot be left only to free trade treaties. We need environmental policy and management at the global level. UNEP needs to be strengthened to provide the ecological context for trade and commerce to be sustainable and equitable.

I welcome this new engagement of UNEP with the democratic forces of civil society: it will strengthen both.

Dr. Vandana Shiva

Dr. Vandana Shiva holds a Ph.D. in physics. She later shifted to inter-disciplinary research in science, technology and environmental policy.

■ In 1982, she founded an independent institute, the Research Foundation for Science, Technology and Ecology in Dehra Dun, India, dedicated to address significant ecological and social issues, in close partnership with local communities and social movements. In 1991, she founded Navdanya, a national movement to protect the diversity and integrity of living resources, especially native seeds.

■ Her books, *The Violence of Green Revolution* and *Monocultures of the Mind*, have become basic challenges to the dominant paradigm of non-sustainable, reductionist Green Revolution Agriculture. Dr. Shiva also launched Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) and Biopiracy campaigns such as the "Neem Campaign" and the "Basmati Campaign".

■ Besides her activism, Dr. Shiva serves on expert groups of government on IPR legislation and is a regular contributor to international fora, including the CBD, where she is the NGO representative for issues pertaining to gender





Introduction



The planet's ecosystems are facing unprecedented challenges. Climate change, atmospheric pollution, land degradation, freshwater scarcity and the loss of biological diversity on land and sea are all issues of global importance. Reversing global environmental decline demands the full and effective participation of all sectors of society.

There are two main questions that society is faced with in the endeavour to meet these challenges. One is descriptive: how does the world work? The other is prescriptive: what do we need to do? The second question requires more than a technocratic approach to policy making. Stakeholder participation is an essential ingredient in addressing this question.

The Johannesburg Plan of Implementation adopted at the World Summit of Sustainable Development in 2002 recognizes this truth. With its clear focus on implementation, regionalization and partnership, the Plan of Implementation underscores the vital role of civil society in designing, implementing and reviewing sustainable development policies and strategies at all levels.

UNEP has the responsibility within the UN system of providing leadership and encouraging partnerships in protecting the environmental base of sustainable development. *Natural Allies* provides a clear picture of how civil society can and does work with UNEP, both benefiting from and strengthening UNEP's programme of work.

After describing UNEP's structure and role, *Natural Allies* explains how civil society can interact directly with governments, whose decisions guide UNEP's work. The book also explains how civil society can participate in UNEP activities, such as scientific assessments, the development and implementation of policy and law, raising public awareness and working with business and industry. In response to the two most frequent inquiries from civil society, two chapters also address civil society in the regions and UNEP's financial resources.

Natural Allies incorporates the advice of the many civil society organizations that were consulted during peer review. The book is targeted at civil society and should be read from a civil society point of view. Take, for instance, the example of a local fisherman affected by international overfishing. He needs information. What is the exact situation of fish stocks in his area? Is there any national or international law that applies to his situation? What are the policy discussions on this topic to which this local fisherman could contribute? And what about raising public awareness and undertaking a global campaign? Can this fisherman count on UNEP to engage the fishing industry in adopting a voluntary code of conduct to improve current practice? Is there a similar initiative in another region? Can UNEP provide funds to undertake a project? *Natural Allies* proposes answers to all these questions.

The example of the artisanal fisherman could apply to any sector of civil society or to any environmental topic. The purpose of *Natural Allies* is to provide answers to all your questions about UNEP. More importantly, I hope this book provokes a desire to participate in UNEP's work and enables organizations and individuals to gain the maximum benefit from UNEP's commitment to working closely with civil society. My sincere wish is that this book will contribute to helping civil society catalyze the political and social changes that are needed if we are to achieve a sustainable future.

Dr. Klaus Toepfer
Executive Director, UNEP



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Chapter 1

UNEP's Mandate and Civil Society Engagement

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This chapter contains general information on UNEP and the contextual framework for engagement with civil society. UNEP is a UN organization composed of member states and is a secretariat charged with the responsibility of carrying out the member states' decisions.

1.1 UNEP's mandate

Established in 1972, UNEP's mission is *"to provide leadership and encourage partnership in caring for the environment by inspiring, informing, and enabling nations and peoples to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations"*.

UNEP's mandate was expanded and rearticulated by the Nairobi Declaration adopted in 1997 *"to be the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, that promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimensions of sustainable development within the United Nations system and that serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment"*.

These changes were instituted against a background of major developments in international environmental governance. In 1992, the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (UNCSD) was established to monitor the implementation of Agenda 21 – the sustainable development agenda agreed during the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) or "Earth Summit". During the 1990s, the international environmental conventions¹ resulting from UNCED evolved towards autonomous decision-making bodies. In addition, the establishment of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the growth of environmentalism within development agencies, such as The World Bank and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), emphasized the challenge to UNEP for better engagement both within the UN system and with civil society.

1.2 Role of the UNEP secretariat

UNEP's secretariat, composed of about 890 staff (about 490 international staff and 400 locally recruited staff), is charged with the implementation of the member states' decisions. The secretariat manages an annual budget of around US\$ 105 million, which essentially comes from Governments².

UNEP Headquarters is located in Nairobi, Kenya, and has six regional offices distributed across the world, as well as field offices and collaborating centres.

The evolution of international environmental cooperation and the consequent reworking of the UNEP mandate led to UNEP's restructuring in 1999 around

¹ The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)

² UNEP budget comes from four sources:

- The Environment fund (50%), voluntary funds by Government to finance UNEP activities.
- Trust Funds (35%), voluntary funds by Governments to finance specific UNEP activities.
- Counterpart contributions (17%), voluntary funds from Governments, UN agencies, other organizations including individuals and earmarked for specific activities.
- Regular Budget (4%), compulsory fund provided by UN General Assembly.





functional areas. Prior to that, UNEP's activities were centred on sectoral issues and natural resource areas.

These structural changes resulted in the creation of the following eight divisions:

- Division of Early Warning and Assessment (DEWA)
- Division of Policy Development and Law (DPDL)
- Division of Environmental Policy Implementation (DEPI)
- Division of Environmental Conventions (DEC)
- Division of Technology, Industry and Economics (DTIE)
- Division of Communication and Public Information (DCPI)
- Division of the Global Environmental Facility (DGEF)
- Division of Regional Cooperation (DRC)

DEWA assesses the state of the world's environmental situation, in order to foresee environmental trends and provide scientific reference material. Assessments are the basis for governmental discussions. At the request of Governments, DPDL helps develop international or national policies and laws, in response to environmental concerns. Once these are developed, DEPI assists Governments to implement these policies and laws at the international level, as well as in their own nation states. DEC assists the Multilateral Environmental Agreements (CBD, UNCCD, CITES, CMS, Montreal Protocol, etc.) to ensure implementation. The four Divisions – DEWA, DPDL, DEPI and DEC – cooperate closely to ensure coherence and effectiveness between scientific knowledge, development of environmental policy and law, and implementation.

DTIE works with the private sector, including profit-making companies and their associations, to assist industries to develop responsible and environmentally sound systems. DTIE has a Production and Consumption Branch, an Energy and Ozon Action Branch in Paris, a Chemicals Branch, an Economics and Trade Branch based in Geneva, as well as its International Environmental Technology Centre (IETC) based in Osaka.

DCPI serves as UNEP's voice. DCPI disseminates environmental information worldwide, raises public awareness and mobilizes opinion on critical environmental issues.

DGEF executes UNEP's role in the Global Environmental Facility (GEF), a financial mechanism established as a partnership by UNDP, the World Bank and UNEP. Within the GEF, UNEP's role consists of:

- Developing and implementing projects;
- Ensuring administrative (financial and technical) reporting to the GEF; and
- Providing scientific support through the secretariat for the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP).

DRC has the role of adapting and coordinating programmes of work at the national and regional levels. DRC is composed of a coordinating office based at Headquarters in Nairobi and six regional offices.

- Regional Office for Africa (ROA)

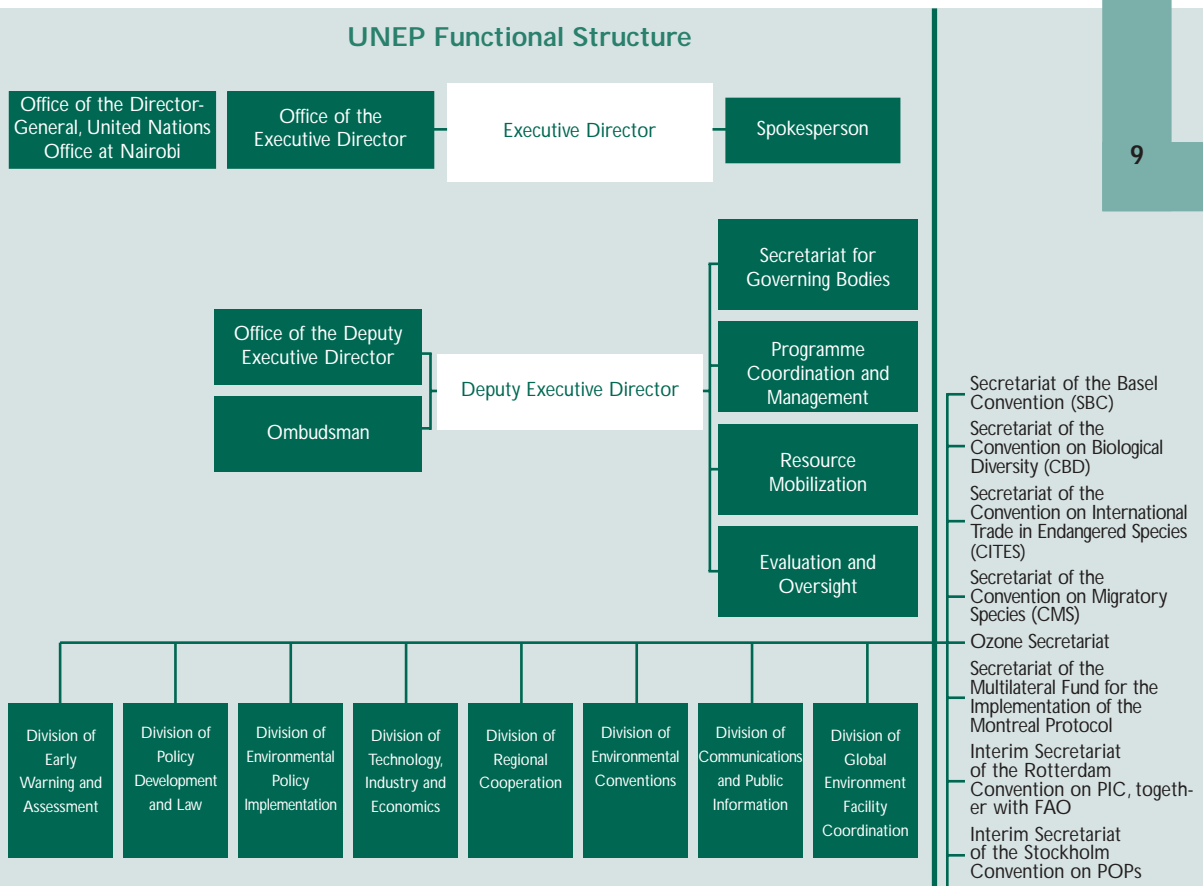


- Regional Office for Europe (ROE)
- Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (ROLAC)
- Regional Office for North America (RONA)
- Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP)
- Regional Office for West Asia (ROWA)

In addition, the Secretariat of the Governing Bodies (SGB) provides a link between UNEP as a secretariat and the Governments. The SGB is the coordinating body that provides information to Governments on UNEP activities, prepares and organises the Governing Council, and assists the Committee of Permanent Representatives. The latter is a subsidiary organ of the Governing Council, whose membership is open to Permanent Representatives accredited to UNEP from among members of the UN and its specialized agencies. It has the mandate to: review, monitor, and assess the implementation of decisions of the Council; review reports on the effectiveness, efficiency, and transparency of the functions and work of the secretariat and make recommendations thereon to the Council; and prepare draft decisions for consideration by the Council.

To carry out its duties, UNEP divisions work with a wide range of partners. These partners include the other United Nations entities, international organizations, national Governments and civil society.

1.3 Structure of UNEP secretariat





1.4 Civil society definition

In 1992, at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) or Earth Summit, Governments agreed on the following definition of Major Groups: farmers, women, the scientific and technological community, children and youth, indigenous peoples and their communities, workers and trade unions, business and industry, non-governmental organizations as well as local authorities. Since then, the concept of civil society has continued to evolve, with different views of how it should be defined.

UNEP seeks to engage the full range of non-governmental actors: local, national, or international; for-profit or non-profit; and advocacy, research, or business oriented. Consistent with the governmental definition of Major Groups and the purpose of this guidebook, the term “civil society” used throughout is inclusive and should be understood in the broadest sense possible. In particular, it encompasses all the Major Groups defined at UNCED.

The term “profit-oriented” encompasses profit-making companies, enterprises, corporations, as well as federations of corporate interests, but not trade unions. The term “private sector” includes profit-making companies and their federations.

Considering UNEP's segmentation into functional divisions, we can differentiate civil society organizations (CSOs) according to their functions. In relation to the environmental field the following major categories of CSOs are relevant:

Service-delivery – organizations that develop, monitor and implement projects/programmes or services; these CSOs are often based at the grassroots level or work closely with community-based organizations (CBOs).

Representation – organizations that aggregate citizen voices; these include CSO umbrella and network organizations and indigenous peoples' groups.

Advocacy and policy inputs – organizations that provide expertise and lobby on particular issues; these include think-tanks, research-oriented institutions and “watchdog” institutions.

Capacity building – organizations that provide support to other CSOs, including funding, training and raising awareness; these institutions include foundations and major NGOs.

Social functions – organizations that foster collective social activities, including religious groups.

Many CSOs, such as indigenous peoples' networks and their communities or local authorities, fall into more than one category as they carry out different functions.

The primary means of UNEP's engagement with the diverse members of civil



society is through networks and organizations that have developed the capacity to relate with UNEP. For example, rather than working directly with a particular rural community, UNEP facilitates action through umbrella organizations.

1.5 A brief history of civil society engagement in UNEP

As a result of public pressure, Governments organized the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (or Stockholm Conference) in 1972, which saw UNEP's inception. A large NGO forum attended the Conference. UNEP developed an NGO section in 1973, charged with the task of collaboration with civil society, especially in outreach activities to raise public awareness. Civil society was, therefore, involved in the definition of the pillars that continue to structure UNEP: scientific assessment, policy and law, and public information.

In 1974, UNEP backed the establishment of the Environment Liaison Centre International (ELCI), an NGO designed to serve as a focal point for liaison between NGOs across the world and UNEP. UNEP's links with civil society also included drawing expertise from it. For example, UNEP's first Executive Director, Maurice Strong, is a well-known figure from civil society.



Credit/Still Pictures

Since 1974, UNEP and civil society have developed positive relationships, which culminated in 1992 with the Earth Summit in Rio. Attended by many thousands of NGOs, the Summit was an outstanding success. Two outcomes of this conference – the Rio Declaration and Agenda 21 (a ten-year programme for sustainable development) – consecrated the Major Groups as necessary partners to achieve sustainable development.

From a civil society perspective, Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration is probably the most critical achievement of the Conference. It stipulates, *“Environmental issues are best handled with the participation of all concerned citizens, at the relevant level. At the national level, each individual shall have appropriate access to information concerning the environment that is held by public authorities, including information on hazardous materials and activities in their communities, and the opportunity to participate in decision-making processes. States shall facilitate and encourage public awareness and participation by making information widely available. Effective access to judicial and administrative proceedings, including redress and remedy, shall be provided.”*

Catalysed by the impressive CSO presence at the Earth Summit, CSO mobilization gained speed in other conferences in the following decade, including the Vienna Human Rights Summit (1993), the Cairo Population Summit (1994), the Beijing Women's Summit (1995), the Istanbul Summit on Human Settlement (1996), and the World Summit on Sustainable Development (2002).





Chapter 1

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In 2002, more than 2,000 CSOs were accredited at the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), which means that the representatives of these organizations can attend its different meetings and conferences. At the global level, the number of international non-governmental organizations doubled during the 1990s, growing from about 20,000 in 1990 to more than 45,000 in 2000.

Also during the 1990s, UN agencies greatly benefited from the strengthening of civil society and its multiple abilities – scientific assessment, advocacy, watchdog, raising public awareness – in the environmental field.

Established in 1992 as an intergovernmental policy forum, open to the public and located in New York, the UNCED became the major venue for CSOs to incorporate their views into policy debates. At the same time, the WTO and development agencies, like UNDP and the World Bank, have provided new avenues for civil society engagement in their work. Moreover, the maturation of multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) has provided new and opportune avenues for civil society to interact with Governments on technical topics, such as climate change (UNFCCC), biodiversity (CBD) and desertification (UNCCD).

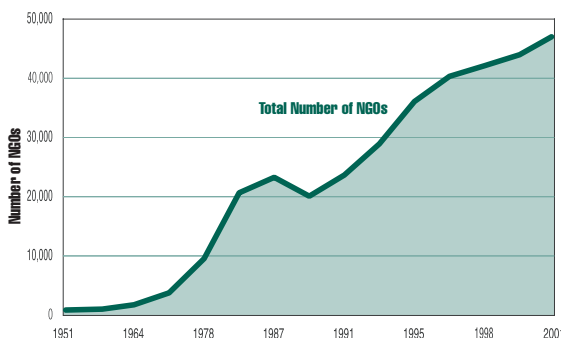
The diversification and strengthening of civil society, which has emerged as a key actor in the global environment in the 1990s, represents a critical means to strengthen the environmental pillar of sustainable development and foster action to concretely implement Agenda 21.

In this context, a Civil Society & NGOs Unit was created in the Policy Branch of the Division of Policy Development and Law (DPDL) as part of UNEP's reorganization in 1999. This move underlined UNEP's commitment to engage with civil society more directly, especially at the policy level. The first major accomplishment of the unit was the organization in May 2000 of the first Global Civil Society Forum



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Growth of International Nongovernmental Organizations



Source: World Resources Institute report 2003, page 71



(GCSF), prior to the 6th Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GMEF), in Malmö, Sweden.

Throughout 2001 and 2002, UNEP involved civil society in the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) preparatory process, through a number of regional workshops and global consultations. UNEP produced a set of books (*Civic Entrepreneurship - a Civil Society Perspective on Sustainable Development*), as a civil society contribution to the WSSD.

Following Governing Council Decision 21/19 and SSVII.5, UNEP developed the Strategy Paper *Enhancing Civil Society Engagement in the work of the United Nations Environment Programme*. This strategy resulted from an extensive two-year discussion and was presented to the 22nd UNEP Governing Council, in Nairobi, Kenya, held in February 2003.

The strategy is based on three interdependent pillars:

- I. Strengthening institutional management.** To facilitate transparent and meaningful communication between civil society and UNEP, using Internet-based technologies, and also building internal and external capacity mechanisms for civil society to deal with UNEP.
- II. Engagement at the policy level.** To take into account civil society expertise and views when Governments are discussing UNEP's work programme and when Governments are discussing major environmental issues.
- III. Engagement at the programmatic level.** To involve civil society when UNEP implements its work programme.

Strengthening institutional management is a precondition for meaningful civil society participation with UNEP, both at the governance and programmatic levels, and steps have been taken in this direction. In 2002-03, UNEP set up an interdivisional civil society task group and developed a comprehensive website dedicated to civil society, www.unep.org/dpdl/cso. The website includes a searchable database (by key words: country, topic or type) of the CSOs involved with UNEP. This practical guidebook is also one of the tools developed to strengthen the institutional pillar.

In 2004, UNEP further enhanced participation of civil society in its work by creating the Major Groups and Stakeholders Branch in DPDL to implement the three aforementioned pillars. The responsibilities of the Branch include:

- Overall coordination of UNEP communication and response to major groups and stakeholders;





- Promote active participation of major groups and stakeholders in the work of UNEP;
- Organize and coordinate the Global Civil Society Forum;
- Maintain a website on major groups and stakeholders, including a database; and
- Promote regional cooperation and networking with major groups and stakeholders.

Civil Society milestones at UNEP include the following declarations and policy engagements:

1972	Stockholm Conference on the Environment
1992	Rio Declaration and Agenda 21
1997	Nairobi Declaration
1999	Establishment of the Civil Society & NGOs Unit in the Policy Branch of DPDL
2000	Malmö Ministerial Declaration, highlighting the role of civil society for environment management. www.unep.org/malmo/malmo_ministerial.htm
2000	Global Compact with the Private Sector www.unglobalcompact.org
2002	Global Civil Society Forum endorsed as a yearly practice by Decision GC/SS/VII.5
2002	Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, stressing regionalisation and partnership, as two major means of implementing Agenda 21 www.johannesburgsummit.org
2003	Strategy paper on enhancing civil society engagement in the work of UNEP
2004	Major Groups and Stakeholders Branch established

Box 1

Detailed information about these milestones is available on www.unep.org/dpdl/cso

1.6 Necessity of engaging civil society in the work of UNEP

During the “UNEP and Civil Society: 30 years of partnership”, an event held in Bali, Indonesia, in June 2002 (during the Fourth Preparatory Session for the WSSD), civil society participants emphasised that civil society and UNEP are natural allies, sharing many common goals and ideas. More pragmatically, civil society can provide expertise and additional resources, at the governance level or when UNEP is implementing its work programme.

Engaging civil society at governance level

When Governments are making Governing Council decisions or discussing major environmental policies, it is in their own interest to take into account civil society views to ensure sound environmental governance.

Intergovernmental decisions will have stronger and broader recognition and support by the public if Governments take civil society views into account as early as possible in the policy-making decision process. Civil society also plays a direct role in the formation of policy as



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researchers, think-tanks, watchdogs or through advocacy. Open political decision-making processes enhance transparency, foster coordination among organizations taking part in environmental governance, and foster accountability of the actors in their decisions. In addition, participation of civil society in governance strengthens the environmental pillar in relation to the social and economic pillars of the sustainable development paradigm.

Recognizing the crucial role of civil society, Governments decided to facilitate civil society participation in the ministerial debates. In 2002, in Cartagena, Colombia, the Governments endorsed UNEP's annual practice of organizing a Global Civil Society Forum (GCSF) in conjunction with the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum by adopting the decision GC/SS/VII.5, which requested *"the Executive Director to continue the current practice of convening a civil society forum that is regionally balanced and representative in conjunction with the meetings of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum in close consultation with civil society"*.

Engaging civil society in implementing UNEP's work programme

CSOs can help implement UNEP's work programme far beyond UNEP's capabilities. Civil society strengths in this regard include the ability to raise funds and play a proactive role in the design, implementation and monitoring of a range of projects and programmes related to the environment. Civil society organizations working on specific environmental areas can adapt the global UNEP work programme to national or local realities, and to a certain extent liaise between UNEP and local communities. Civil society can also function as an ever-alert environmental watchdog, holding Governments accountable for their actions. In addition, civil society can also provide scientific, policy and law expertise necessary for implementation.

Civil society is well-placed to raise public awareness and engage the general public in an informative and educative manner. Many civil society organizations are closely tied to channels of media and can disseminate relevant information effectively. Civil society can also educate the public, through schools, universities, scientific institutions, or through targeted campaigns, to raise the awareness of new generations to their roles and duties so that they become responsible citizens.

Stressing the importance of civil society at the implementation level, Governments – in decision GC/SS/VII.5 adopted in 2002 – decided the following about UNEP's civil society strategy paper, *"The strategy should provide clear direction to the secretariat to ensure that all programmes take into account opportunities for multi-stakeholder participation in design, implementation, monitoring of activities, and dissemination of outputs."* ■



Chapter 2

Civil Society Participation in Governance at UNEP

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Credit/Still Pictures



This chapter provides information for civil society on how it can interact with Government representatives through UNEP. This interaction is important when Governments are undertaking policy discussions and making decisions of a global nature in the environmental field. This takes place during the regular and special sessions of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum.

2.1 The Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum

UNEP's Governing Council (GC) is composed of 58 Member States elected by the UN General Assembly, for four-year terms, based on the principle of equitable regional representation. The UNEP GC functions like a "board of directors" for UNEP. The Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GMEF) is convened annually to review important and emerging policy issues in the field of the environment. As the GC is only convened during the GMEF, UNEP normally uses the term GC/GMEF, to designate a meeting of both the GC and the Ministerial Forum.

The main functions and responsibilities of the GC consist of deciding on the nature of UNEP's work programme, on its budgetary allocation and on promoting international policy cooperation in the field of the environment. In practice, all Member States of the United Nations system can have a say regarding UNEP's work and the 58 Member States of the GC have a specific role only when a decision is to be adopted by vote, which is seldom the case.

The regular and special sessions of the GC/GMEF

Every other year, UNEP holds a week-long regular session of the GC/GMEF in Nairobi. In this session, the GC/GMEF makes decisions on UNEP's work programme and budgetary allocation for the following two years. For example, in February 2003, at the twenty second session of the GC/GMEF, Governments adopted the UNEP budget for the biennium (2004-05) and made about 30 decisions shaping the UNEP programme of work. These decisions included topics such as the Global Marine Assessment, development and implementation of law, production and consumption patterns and strengthening the scientific basis of UNEP.

Since 2000, due to increasing pressure on natural resources and environmental degradation, Governments decided to organize biennial special sessions of the GC/GMEF in between the regular sessions – this takes the form of a three-day session where Ministers can exchange and coordinate policy views on the environment. The GC/GMEF special session agenda normally follows current world environmental policy issues and the on-going discussion in the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (UNCSD).

Civil society participation in the Governing Council and its special sessions

International non-governmental organizations (INGOs) can be accredited to participate in the GC/GMEF. The participation of INGOs in the Governing Council is subordinated to the Rule 69 of the Rules of Procedures of the GC.





Rules of procedure of the Governing Council Chapter XIII. Observers of International non-governmental organizations. Role 69



1. International non-governmental organizations having an interest in the field of the environment, referred to in section IV, paragraph 5, of General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII), may designate representatives to sit as observers at public meetings of the Governing Council and its subsidiary organs, if any. The Governing Council shall from time to time adopt and revise when necessary a list of such organizations. Upon the invitation of the President or Chairman, as the case may be, and subject to the approval of the Governing Council or the subsidiary organ concerned, international nongovernmental organizations may take oral statements on matters within the scope of their activities.
2. Written statements provided by international non-governmental organizations referred to in paragraph 1 above, related to items on the agenda of the Governing Council or of its subsidiary organs, shall be circulated by the secretariat to members of the Governing Council or of the subsidiary organ concerned in the quantities and in the languages in which the statements were made available to the secretariat for distribution.

Box 2

When accredited, the INGO is allowed to:

- Sit as an observer at the GMEF;
- Address oral statements to the plenary of the Ministerial segment, if called upon by the Chair and subject to the approval of the GC/GME; and
- Circulate written statements on the Agenda of the GC/GMEF.

Any CSO, which meets the criteria stipulated in Rule 69, can seek accreditation, following the procedure described below:

Steps for civil society accreditation to UNEP:



- NGO checks that it meets the criteria of accreditation: (a) being an International NGO and (b) having an interest in the field of environment.
- NGO provides a file with proof matching the above criteria. The documentation should include: (a) proof of interest in the field of the environment; (b) proof of non-profit making status, including documents of incorporation of the entity; (c) proof of being an international NGO; and (d) any other documents of proof matching the above criteria, such as conference or seminar reports, background papers, newsletters or other periodicals, bulletins and pamphlets, press releases or media statements.
- NGO explains if it has consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).
- NGO sends an electronic or hard copy of the file and the explanation if it has the consultative status with ECOSOC to the Major Groups and Stakeholders Branch using the following address:
 - Major Groups and Stakeholders Branch, Division of Policy Development and Law, United Nations Environment Programme, P.O. Box 30552, Nairobi, Kenya - E-mail: civil.society@unep.org
- Major Groups and Stakeholders Branch will review the file in cooperation with the Law Branch in the Division of Policy Development and Law.
- The Secretariat for the Governing Bodies (SGB) notifies the organization on whether it has met the criteria for accreditation and, if necessary, asks for additional information.
- When the accreditation procedure is successfully completed, the Office of the SGB notifies the NGO.

The Secretariat for Governing Bodies
United Nations Environment Programme - P.O. Box 30552 - Nairobi, Kenya, Fax (00 254 20) 623 748/929

As the process can take up to six months, the NGOs should request accreditation well in advance of any Governing Council regular or special session.

Box 3



The Secretariat for Governing Bodies, responsible for the organization of the GC/GMEF, will automatically invite the accredited INGO to participate in the GC/GMEF as an observer. The INGO has to send back the list of representatives willing to participate.

The INGOs accredited to the GC/GMEF may be invited to the yearly Global Civil Society Forum (GCSF). At the same time, CSOs participating in the GCSF may also receive a temporary accreditation to participate in the GC/GMEF as an observer. This enables continuity between the GCSF and the GC/GMEF itself.

2.2 The Annual Global Civil Society Forum (GCSF)

The First GCSF was organized in May 2000 in Malmö, Sweden. Governments endorsed this annual practice through Decision SSVII.5 adopted at Cartagena, Colombia, in 2002 (see section 1.6).

Each GCSF is a two-day event, that takes place in connection with each GC/GMEF. Agenda items for the GCSF are the same as those on the ministerial agenda. To ensure the quality of the discussion among the participants, UNEP provides relevant information in advance. CSOs are encouraged to gather their views at the regional level and to consult scientific information available from the UNEP website and other sources. The GCSF has a global and a regional focus, reflecting UNEP's efforts to improve civil society engagement both globally and regionally. Civil society is primarily active at national and regional levels and can provide valuable policy views that can inspire and complement UNEP activities.

The Major Groups and Stakeholders Branch coordinates the preparation and execution of the GCSF, in cooperation with the Regional Offices and the Secretariat for Governing Bodies.

Selection of participants for the GCSF

Approximately 100-150 civil society representatives from around the world attend the GCSF. UNEP is particularly keen to have fair representation of civil society. Criteria for selection of participants include gender equity, regional balance and the representation of different civil society components.

To ensure a fair and transparent selection process, the following guidelines are used in choosing civil society representatives:

- Youth representatives are selected by the Youth Advisory Council, which advises UNEP on youth activities. The Youth Advisory Council is selected every two years at the Tunza Youth Conference (www.unep.org/children_youth/tunza/).
- Representatives from the private sector and trade unions are selected in collaboration with the Division of Technology, Industry and Economics (DTIE).
- Regional CSOs are selected by the civil society organizations in each region during the regional civil society meetings preceding the GCSF or by the regional offices if it is not possible.





- Global CSOs and NGOs accredited to UNEP are invited directly by the Major Groups and Stakeholders Branch in DPDL.

As the two-day GCSF has a global and a regional focus, participation of civil society from the specific region where the GC/GMEF takes place is important. Therefore, about half of the civil society participants come from that region.

UNEP strives to cover the costs of hosting the GCSF, including the production of background papers, translation and facilitation for the venue of the meeting. UNEP also strives to provide financial assistance (travel from home country and Daily Subsistence Allowance-DSA) for civil society representatives from developing countries and from countries in transition, as well as for youth representatives.

Inputs from the GCSF to the GC/GMEF

During the GCSF, the participants produce a report, which conveys the views and recommendations of civil society to the GC/GMEF. On invitation by the chair, a civil society representative or representatives read a statement or statements to the plenary of the Ministers.

Regional preparatory process for the GCSF

The GCSF preceding the GC/GMEF is the main entry point for civil society participation at the governance level. The regional preparatory processes allow for coordinated and coherent inputs from civil society.

By nature, civil society is very diverse and represents very different views. From this combination of factors, it is crucial that civil society develops regional platforms and comes well-organised to the GCSF. Therefore, prior to the GCSF, each UNEP region facilitates a regional CSO meeting. UNEP provides discussion papers to promote meaningful dialogue. Each region also develops regional materials such as drafts of specific policy papers. To reinforce the scientific basis of the discussion, regional offices cooperate with other UNEP science related officers posted within each region to provide relevant information to CSOs. Ideally, the regional civil society representatives to the GCSF should be selected during the regional civil society forums. If this is not possible, UNEP's regional office in cooperation with civil society in the region can recommend to the Major Groups and Stakeholders Branch CSOs that should be invited to the GCSF.



UNEP Asia-Pacific civil society consultation in preparation of the 5th Global Civil Society Forum, 12th – 13th November 2003, Bangkok-Thailand



The regional civil society forum is not an end in itself. It should enable civil society at the regional level to channel regional input towards the GCSF and the GC/GMEF. This forum should also serve as a means for UNEP's regional offices to strengthen relationships with civil society in key policy areas, and to build regional networks of civil society organizations around important environmental policy issues.

For more information about these regional meetings, civil society organizations can contact the regional offices within their respective regions or the Major Groups and Stakeholders Branch.

Improvement of the GCSF and the regional processes

UNEP staff, civil society representatives and some Governments would like to strengthen the interaction between civil society and Governments during the GC/GMEF. UNEP, as a secretariat, can improve the format of these interactions. Decision SSVII.5 invited *“the Executive Director to consider the best way to include the views of civil society in the proceedings of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum”*.

There are two main ways to improve interaction. The first is substantive and consists of continually improving the regional civil society forums, in order that views of civil society are provided in advance to Governments (six weeks before the start of the GC/GMEF). This information would form part of the package provided to Government representatives. The second is normative and consists of improving interaction between civil society and the GC/GMEF. UNEP is committed to work on both of these areas to ensure that the views of civil society are effectively included.

2.3 Exploration of new ways for civil society participation at the governance level

The GCSF and the direct participation of civil society at the GC/GMEF is currently the main entry point for civil society at the governance level. Other types of interaction are outlined below.

Civil society expert meetings to assist the CPR

The Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR) is composed of all the Government representatives to UNEP. The CPR monitors implementation of UNEP's work programme and also drafts the decisions that will be used to further the UNEP work programme. In order to better inform the preparation of new decisions, the strategy paper on enhancing civil society engagement within the work of UNEP proposed that civil society representatives could address the CPR at its sessions.

Inclusion of civil society representatives in governmental delegations

Some Governments include representatives from CSOs in their delegations. These CSOs can therefore participate in the GC/GMEF. For example, at the GC22, there were civil society representatives in eight different governmental delegations. These





representatives included NGOs, members of the scientific community, academics and parliamentarians.

Such invitations by Governments enhance understanding between civil society and Governments at the national level. A second positive outcome is that it enhances the transparency and accountability of the Governments. A third advantage of this formula is that Governments can sponsor the civil society organizations. This further enables CSO participation as many CSOs have limited financial resources.

2.4 Necessity to be consistent with the UN system at large

Current reforms in the UN system

Interaction between the United Nations and civil society has grown significantly in the past decade. Thousands of NGOs now have formal consultative status. Their contribution has enriched the debates and influenced the outcomes of many intergovernmental deliberations. Due to the scale and number of diverse interactions, there is a pressing need for better ways of organising the relationship between the UN system and civil society.

On 9th September 2002, in his report to the 57th General Assembly (A/57/387), the Secretary-General highlighted the engagement of civil society as an aspect of the UN reform process and announced that he would *"assemble a group of eminent persons representing a variety of perspectives and experiences to review past and current practices and recommend improvements for the future in order to make the interaction between civil society and the United Nations more meaningful."* In February 2003, the Secretary-General appointed Mr. Fernando Enrique Cardoso, former President of Brazil, to chair a panel of 12 individuals with backgrounds that span across the governmental and non-governmental sectors. For more information, please see www.un.org/partners/civil_society/home.

In June 2004, the panel released its report "We the people: civil society, the United Nations and global governance" that provides a set of practical recommendations on how the UN's relationship with civil society, as well as with the private sector and parliaments, could be improved. In the spirit of being consistent with the UN system at large, UNEP will apply these recommendations, taking into account its own specificities, concerning:

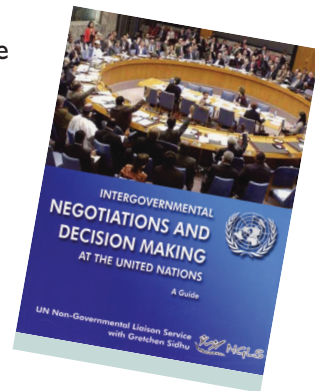
- Standardization/streamlining/simplification of accreditation procedures; and
- Improvement of interaction mechanisms between civil society and Governments during the UNEP GC/GMEF.

Co-ordination within the UN system

As UNEP's global focus is on "environment for development", it is important for UNEP to cooperate with other multilateral agencies working on environmental, social and economic issues – in particular UNDP, the WB, WTO, UNESCO and FAO – towards better engagement of civil society. This will enable civil society to engage meaningfully with these organizations, avoid duplication of efforts, and strengthen civil society inputs in the policy development process.



Strong links with the Non-Governmental Liaison Service (NGLS), www.un-ngls.org, help to this effect. Established in 1975, NGLS is the key contact point between the wider UN system and NGOs. The NGLS secretariats in Geneva and New York are voluntarily funded by programmes (such as UNEP) and specialized agencies in the UN system and by bilateral agencies and foundations. They have done a great deal to interpret the UN system and its work for civil society and to facilitate CSO engagement in its activities – in particular by mobilizing and administering resources for developing countries – as well as NGO participation in major conferences. NGLS also advises agencies across the system on their civil society strategies and convenes occasional informal meetings of NGO focal points to discuss common challenges and share experiences.



In addition, a strong network originating from civil society fosters linkages through “The Conference of NGOs in consultative relationship with the United Nations” – CONGO, www.ngocongo.org. CONGO is an independent, international, not-for-profit membership association of non-governmental organizations that facilitates the participation of NGOs in United Nations debates and decisions. CONGO is most active in the major UN centres of New York, Geneva, and Vienna, but extends its work to all regions of the world. This forum works by the following methods:

- Assists NGOs in consultative status to promote their common aim of supporting the United Nations Charter;
- Works on behalf of NGOs in consultative status to develop that status and improve their relationship and cooperation with the United Nations and its various organs; and
- Provides a forum for NGOs with common interests to come together to study, plan, support, and act in relation to the principles and programmes of the United Nations.

CONGO’s membership comprises national, regional and international NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC. CONGO associate membership is open to NGOs associated with the United Nations system but not holding consultative status. Members represent a vital range of interests, including human rights, gender, peace and disarmament, social justice, governance, environment and sustainable development. CONGO and its members collaborate with the larger community of NGOs through standing NGO committees, which follow issues of key substantive interest to NGOs. ■



Chapter 3

Civil Society Participation in the Implementation of UNEP's Programme of Work

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Introduction

Decisions taken by Governments serve as the basis for UNEP's programme of work. Some decisions specifically target civil society, including decision GC22/18 on civil society adopted in February 2003, which addresses:

- "(I) The amendment to rule 69 of the Rules of Procedure of the Governing Council,*
- (II) The long-term strategy on the engagement and involvement of young people in environmental issues,*
- (III) The long-term strategy for sport and the environment."*

Most of the decisions call explicitly for active participation from civil society, including NGOs, research institutes and stakeholders (all parties potentially concerned), in the implementation of decisions. An active role of civil society is necessary, given its scientific and legal, outreach or financial capacity. This role is especially relevant in relation to decisions on technical topics (such as law, chemicals and atmosphere), linked to assessment (scientific, post-conflict) or implicating partnerships (Regional Seas programme, conventions). For example, Decision GC22/1/I adopted in February 2003 on strengthening the scientific basis of UNEP underscores *"the importance of international cooperation among the organizations of the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations, Governments, the scientific community, non-governmental organizations, private enterprises and appropriate national institutions in exchanging information and scientific knowledge on environmental matters, inter alia, through the United Nations system-wide Earthwatch"* and *"Invites Governments, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, and scientific institutions to submit to the Executive Director by a date specified by him their views on the following questions"*.

All Governing Council (GC) decisions are available online (www.unep.org, follow the link to information for Government officials). CSOs are welcome to write to UNEP to participate in implementation of these decisions, where their participation is relevant or explicitly requested by the decisions.

To implement its strategy on enhancing civil society involvement, UNEP has set up an interdivisional Civil Society Task Group (CSTG). This group is composed of one staff member from each UNEP division. The CSTG has the task of advising and supporting the Major Groups and Stakeholders Branch in the design and implementation of activities aimed at mainstreaming civil society engagement.

The strategy developed for enhancing the engagement of civil society in the work of UNEP also calls for an advisory group to the Executive Director. Composed of 10-15 eminent figures from civil society, the advisory group would meet to advise the Executive Director on the design and implementation of UNEP's work programme.

The Major Groups and Stakeholders Branch, located within DPDL, works as a secretariat for both the CSTG and the advisory group to the Executive Director. The implementation of UNEP's work programme follows the logical sequence described below:

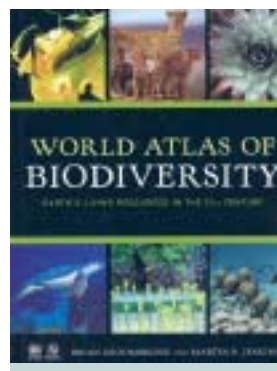
- Early Warning Assessment



- Policy Development and Law
- Implementation of Environmental Policy and Law
- Communication and Public Information
- Engaging business and industry in a partnership approach

3.1 Early warning and scientific assessment of the global environment

The main objective of these assessments is to keep the global environmental situation under review and to report on it. The Division of Early Warning and Assessment (DEWA) undertakes these activities through collaboration with a number of scientific centres that provide databases of information. DEWA works with the World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC), a centre specialized in biodiversity, and the Global Resource Information Database (GRID) centres. Each GRID Centre provides regional data information and has developed sectoral expertise in environmental issues. WCMC is also part of DEPI, which underscores UNEP's commitment to strengthen the bridge between science and policy.



UNEP's role in these assessments consists of catalysing the efforts of the scientific community around environmental topics. UNEP operates in the following manner:

- Identification of institutes or associations that have the required scientific expertise;
- Development of networks between these organizations named "collaborating centres", and UNEP to facilitate similar standards and reporting procedures;
- Establishment of a contract between UNEP and the CSO that stipulates how UNEP will assist technically and financially the organization to undertake the assessment or reporting activities; and
- Development of the scientific assessment/products by the collaborating centre with UNEP support.

UNEP undertakes global and regional environmental assessments, such as the *Global Environment Outlook* (GEO), www.unep.org/geo/geo3/index, and the *Africa Environment Outlook* (AEO). UNEP plans to develop regional assessments for each region, based on the model of the Africa Environment Outlook.

UNEP also coordinates the following sectoral assessments.

- The Millennium Ecosystems Assessment. www.millenniumassessment.org
- The Global International Water Assessment (GIWA). www.giwa.net
- The Assessment of Impacts and Adaptation to Climate Change. www.aiaccproject.org
- The Solar and Wind Energy Resource Assessment (SWERA). www.swera.UNEP.net



- The Regionally Based Assessment of Persistent Toxic Substances.
www.chem.unep.ch/pops
- Land Degradation Assessment in Drylands (LADA).
lada.virtualcentre.org

Capacity building of scientific institutions in developing countries and countries with economies in transition is at the core of the scientific assessment process. Reports such as the *Global Environment Outlook* or the *African Environment Outlook* were developed with assistance aimed at raising the capacity of participating institutions.



It is critical to underline the central place that CSOs play in all of these assessments. For example, the *Global Environment Outlook* is based on a network of 37 collaborating centres, 31 of which are universities, research institutes or NGOs, such as l'Association pour le Développement de l'Information Environnementale (ADIE), the Earth Council, Network for Environment and Sustainable Development in Africa, the Regional and International Networking Group (RING), the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI), Tata Energy Research Institute (TERI), and the World Resources Institute (WRI).

UNEP assessments result in scientific publications targeted at policy makers, especially Government representatives. They can be purchased from www.earthprint.com, the official portal for environmental publications from UNEP. Summaries and syntheses of most of these assessments, up-to-date maps, graphics, and databases on environmental issues, are available from the main UNEP website, following the link for "Resources for Scientists and Academics".

UNEP also works as a clearing-house for scientific knowledge in the environmental field. As a leading global environmental agency, UNEP acknowledges that there are numerous specialised environmental institutions with scientific expertise. In September 2000, UNEP initiated the "Environment Directory" or "UNEP.net", a webbased information mechanism. The primary goal of the Environment Directory





consists of sharing environmental information, in a bottom-up approach, where each partner is responsible for maintaining and updating the information that they provide.

To participate in scientific assessments or to exchange scientific information, CSOs, especially NGOs and the scientific and technological community, are welcome to contact DEWA.

3.2 Development of policy and law

The Division of Policy Development and Law (DPDL) develops policy in key focal areas that correspond to priorities in the global environment and assists Governments to develop national and international legal instruments. The development of these policies and laws benefits from the result of scientific assessments (section 3.1.) and the feedback from the implementation of policies and law (section 3.3.).

3.2.1 Development of policy

The key policy focal areas support the policy concept of “environment for development”. Below is a summary of the main topics under policy development.

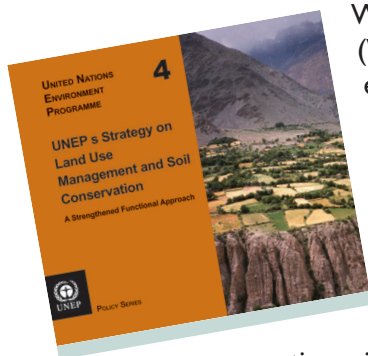
■ **Poverty & Environment:** UNEP assists countries in the formulation of policies and response strategies that address the linkages between poverty and environment, using the ecosystem and capability approach. This approach highlights the three different services provided by ecosystems: provisioning, regulating, and cultural/enriching. Further, it explains how these services contribute towards extending the range of choices available to the poor so that they can extricate themselves from poverty and become agents of change.

■ **Urban environment:** Not only is the environment in cities a health concern to its inhabitants, but cities also increasingly contribute to national, regional and global issues such as water pollution and climate change. UNEP works closely with UN-Habitat and others partners, especially developing countries, to support and address urban environmental issues.

■ **Health & Environment:** UNEP, in cooperation with the World Health Organization (WHO) and other agencies, evaluates the linkages between health and the environment, especially in the area of impacts of environmental changes on vulnerable groups.

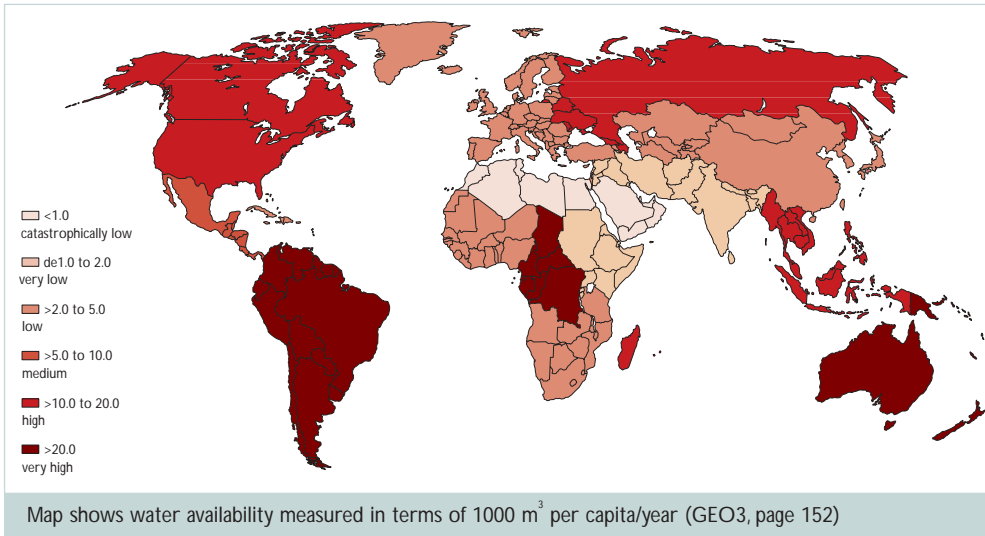
■ **Land degradation:** UNEP addresses the environmental dimensions of land use management and soil conservation. UNEP supports Governments and civil society by developing policy guidance in close

co-operation with all these actors, and other UN and international organizations. UNEP has already developed a strategy and finalised the publication *UNEP's Strategy on Land Use Management and Soil Conservation* in this context.





- **Water:** UNEP develops policy on water, including strategies to address freshwater policy issues, and policies related to the management of oceans.



- **Energy:** UNEP develops policy on sustainable energy production feeding into the regional policy dialogues.
- **Climate change:** UNEP develops regional climate change scenarios, identifying research priorities for the scientific community.
- **Civil society:** UNEP is developing ways and means to improve civil society engagement within its work, as well as to provide better delivery towards civil society.

Development of policies requires additional or specific scientific expertise. In this respect, some CSOs provide feedback on existing policies. For example, in the area of Poverty & Environment, the Mazingira Institute, the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) and the WWF/Macro-Economic Programme contributed to the development of guidelines on the integration of environment concerns into social and economic frameworks. Another example is the negotiations around the UNFCCC. To provide support to developing countries, UNEP involves research institutes, such as the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) as well as other CSOs, such as WWF and IUCN.

When UNEP develops a new policy, it operates in the following manner:

- Consultation with experts and relevant institutions (CSOs, Governments, UN agencies) to develop a concept paper or “desk study”;
- Organization of expert meetings to ensure scientific and policy validity of the concept paper;
- Organization of intergovernmental consultations, where Governments can provide their views to ensure the policy acceptability of the concept paper.





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CSOs are often invited as experts to these intergovernmental consultations;

- Elaboration of a draft policy paper, which is then peer reviewed by a committee of experts, including civil society organizations and potentially affected peoples; and
- Finalization of the policy paper.

Civil society experts, in their individual capacity, or as representatives of a CSO, contribute to the development or the peer review of the concept paper. UNEP does not depend on a comprehensive roster of experts or civil society organizations. UNEP contacts different stakeholders on an ad hoc basis because of their scientific expertise. Such stakeholders include UNEP partners in the field of scientific assessment and scientific experts on the different panels of the multilateral environment agreements (MEAs).

Taking into account marginalized civil society groups in the development of environmental policy

When developing a policy, UNEP has created a number of ways in which civil society can interact with UNEP. However, only CSOs that understand the intergovernmental process and have a strong background in environmental policy and implementation can fruitfully participate in the development or implementation of environmental policies.

Civil society groups from developing countries, indigenous peoples, women, and trade unions often encounter problems in participating in the development and further implementation of environmental policies and laws. These groups represent innovative views and perspectives. In addition, they are often the first affected when environmental policies are not correctly implemented.



Credit/Still Pictures



For these reasons, UNEP is supporting regional civil society meetings alongside intergovernmental meetings. In Africa, Asia-Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, UNEP is providing policy information as well as offering technical workshops to improve civil society skills. UNEP also strives to take into account indigenous peoples groups and their communities, and collaborates with UNESCO, the Secretariat of the Permanent Forum for Indigenous Issues and the World Intellectual Property Organization. Women offer a unique perspective on environmental issues, with themes cutting across all the major focal areas.



UNEP's work focuses on mainstreaming gender concerns in policy development. UNEP and the Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO) have produced the publication *Women and the Environment* that demonstrates the value of involving women in policy making on key environmental issues.

To participate in policy developments with UNEP, CSOs are welcome to contact the Major Groups and Stakeholders Branch.

3.2.2 Development of law

In February 2001, the UNEP GC/GMEF adopted the third 10-year programme (2001-2010) for work in environmental law: "The Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law of the First Decade of the Twenty-first Century (Montevideo Programme III)". The Montevideo Programme III is made up of twenty components, which are organised under three themes of equal importance: 1) effectiveness of environmental law; 2) conservation and management; and 3) relationship between environmental law and other fields of law and policy. The full text of the Montevideo Programme III is included in www.unep.org/gc_21st/Documents/gc-21-INF-03/K0000295.E.PDF.

The Montevideo Programme III focuses firstly on achieving an effective implementation of, compliance with, and enforcement of environmental law, rather than creating new international legal tools (component 1). The second major objective (component 2) of the programme consists of increasing the capacity of national institutions in developing countries to develop and implement environmental legal instruments. Public participation and access to information are also major objectives of the Montevideo Programme III (component 7).



Public participation is necessary to implement environmental laws. If a Government, in its task to regulate and help its citizens to live in harmony, adopts a law, the public needs to be aware of it, and share responsibility in daily implementation. In this regard, tangible implementation of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration, which states that environmental issues are best handled with participation of all concerned citizens, at the relevant level, and calls for a) access to information b) increased public participation and c) effective access to justice, is crucial.

Along with IUCN, UNDP, the World Bank, Governments, the World Resources Institute and CSOs, UNEP is a founding member of the "Partnership for Principle 10" (PP10). Under PP10, UNEP has committed to increase its performance in providing adequate information to the interested public. This initiative – unveiled at the WSSD – identifies the three principles articulated in Principle 10 as keys for public participation in environmental governance. PP10 is committed to translating the principles into action by promoting transparent, inclusive, and accountable





decision-making at the national level. It provides a venue for Governments, international organizations, and civil society groups to work together to implement practical solutions that provide the public with access to information, participation, and justice for environmentally sustainable decisions. This partnership is open to new members and CSOs can participate directly in the partnership. More information is directly available at www.pp10.org.



In addition, the UNEP Governing Council adopted, in February 2003, Decision GC22/17.II.B, on "Enhancing the Application of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development", which *"Requests the Executive Director to assess the possibility of promoting, at the national and international levels, the application of principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and determine, inter alia, if there is value in initiating an intergovernmental process for the preparation of global guidelines on the application of principle 10; Invites Governments and relevant intergovernmental and civil society organizations to participate actively in the above process."*

3.3 Implementation of environmental policy and law

Implementation of environmental policy and law is carried out by DEPI and DEC. DEPI focuses its activities around capacity building at national and regional levels for developing countries, countries with economies in transition and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) for effective implementation of environmental policy and law. DEC liaises with secretariats of MEAs related to UNEP to ensure their effectiveness and to coordinate implementation.

3.3.1 Implementation of law

Involvement of civil society is critical for effective implementation, compliance and enforcement of environmental law. CSOs play an instrumental role in bringing a case involving environmental issues to national courts. In so doing, they enable judges and force Governments to take action. Judges often do not have all the necessary skills to handle cases pertaining to environmental issues. UNEP can work with litigation groups or environmental NGOs specialized in environmental law, to train judges in handling such cases. Following the WSSD, UNEP has also been working directly with judges to enhance their ability to handle environmental cases, and with parliamentarians, by raising capacity to implement international environmental agreements within their own legal frameworks.

UNEP has developed guidelines and drafted a manual to help Governments and civil society achieve effective compliance with and enforcement of environmental laws. These instruments provide practical guidance and specific examples in implementing MEAs. For further information please see: www.unep.org/depi/implementationlaw.asp.

UNEP has capitalized on its experience in law and made it available to practitioners under www.unep.org/dpdl/law.



For example, the database ECOLEX – jointly run by UNEP, FAO and IUCN – provides up-to-date and comprehensive information on environmental law. For more information, please see www.ecolex.org. Similarly, the UNEP Partnership for Development of Environmental Law and Institutions in Africa (PADELIA) has developed materials specifically targeted to African countries. For more information please see www.unep.org/padelia.

3.3.2 Implementation of policy

The implementation of policies represents a major opportunity for civil society to participate. There are three ways in which civil society can participate through:

- Capacity building activities;
- The implementation of partnerships, either ad hoc or institutionalised; and
- The development and implementation of MEAs.

A) Civil society's role in capacity building

The Seventh Special Session of the GC/GMEF in February 2002 mandated UNEP to increase delivery and coordination of capacity building and technology support at the national level. To achieve this, UNEP is increasing engagement with civil society at the local level through:

- **Promoting success stories** that are global or regional, and which specifically address sound environmental practices. For example, DEPI developed an online database of best practices, where civil society can select and promote case studies.
- **Supporting pilot projects** to test policy and demonstrate how new policies can be implemented or improved. These pilot projects have helped UNEP to develop long-term comprehensive capacity-building programmes with regional and country focus. UNEP supported pilot projects in: 1) Rainwater harvesting and management; 2) Renewable energy technologies, especially relating to gender issues in environmental management and poverty alleviation; and 3) Integrated management of river basins and projects to develop and test vulnerability tools. These projects were often implemented through CSOs, especially institutions of higher learning. With its knowledge of the needs and priorities of the people on the ground, civil society plays a key role in developing ideas and proposals for programmes with UNEP.
- **Developing core training programmes and educational materials.** For example, UNEP prepared a training course for policymakers in the use of economic instruments in environmental management for sustainable development and undertook the project “Living Wealth of Africa” to develop educational materials for biodiversity conservation. UNEP developed training programmes relating to gender and the environment with specific focus on women, e.g. in renewable energy and water management. These programmes are developed with and implemented through national, sub-regional and regional CSOs.
- **Testing and developing guidelines** for implementing environmental policy at the national, sub-regional and regional levels. The guidelines help to translate policy into action. For example, the guidelines on empowering women in water resources management could assist countries in implementing environmental





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policy governing water resources, as well as advancing objectives of gender equality.

■ **Providing support to networking.** For example, UNEP has established a network of African journalists interested in environmental reporting that builds their capacity to continue reporting. UNEP has helped identify and link trainers of trainers from different institutions. UNEP helps them stay in touch and communicate through a newsletter.

In the context of the United Nations Literacy Decade – Education for All (2003-2012), it is important to underline that UNEP has strengthened its work in environmental education, providing a wide range of programmes and materials. These materials benefit from expertise and activities in the scientific, policy and law fields. They are tailored toward youth and children, the academic community and policymakers. The materials are disseminated through seminars, meetings of experts, workshops, conferences and through the Internet.



Promoting environmental education

Credit/Still Pictures

For example, the Environmental Action Learning (EAL) programme addresses the needs of youth and children in primary and secondary schools as well as first and middle level colleges. At the university level, UNEP supports the development of courses on environmental management for students that incorporate elements of environmental protection into their workplace upon graduation. UNEP is also promoting continuous building of skills and knowledge through programmes such as the UNEP-Watson International Scholar of the Environment programme, based at Brown University and the UNEP/UNESCO/BMU Dresden post-graduate programme for developing countries. UNEP supports the Global Virtual University, an online university for sustainable development, with a particular objective to meet educational needs of developing countries. The comprehensive resource manual *UNEP Programmes and Resources on environmental education products and programmes* is directly accessible under www.unep.org/depi.



B) Partnerships to participate in the implementation of policies

Partnerships are voluntary multi-stakeholder initiatives. They can include a wide range of groups who have an interest in a particular issue, and may include a range of projects or programmes.



Three types of partnerships can be distinguished:

- **Ad hoc partnerships:** these partnerships focus on a specific issue and have always existed within UNEP;
- **Highly institutionalised partnerships:** these partnerships involve many CSOs. They are developed by CSOs that have the financial, technical and administrative capacity to deal with UNEP. Smaller CSOs can take part in these partnerships under their umbrella; and
- **The partnerships issued from the WSSD process and formalized in the UNCSD-11.** These are institutionalised partnerships.

Ad hoc partnerships to implement a specific activity

These partnerships include components of scientific assessments, the execution of pilot projects or university programmes.

CSOs are welcome to submit project proposals to implement some of UNEP's activities, in cooperation with the private sector and other agencies (such as the governmental co-operations and foundations). Such a proposal must take into account that any kind of partnership should be consistent with UNEP's work programme and UNEP's GC/GMEF decisions (available under www.unep.org, follow the link for Government representatives). The structure of a project proposal should follow the framework described in chapter 5.

Institutionalised partnerships

These partnerships include the Great Apes Survival Project (GRASP) and the International Coral Reef Action Network (ICRAN).

ICRAN, established in 2000, is a global partnership of coral reef experts working to halt and reverse the decline of the health of the world's coral reefs. It is made up of some of the world's leading coral reef scientists and conservation groups. CSO partners include WRI, WWF and the Nature Conservancy. ICRAN works closely with UNEP's regional seas programme and its regional offices. This enables the implementation of concrete activities and coordination of regional action. The successes of this programme are an excellent example of how regional bodies, in this case the Regional Seas Programme, can be used as an effective platform to implement projects and activities at the regional and even global level. For more information, please see www.icran.org.

GRASP is an innovative and ambitious project of UNEP and UNESCO with an immediate challenge – to lift the threat of imminent extinction faced by gorillas, chimpanzees, bonobos and orang-utans. The Executive Director of UNEP

Credit/Chuk Savai



Credit/Mary Lou Frook



launched the GRASP in May 2001. It is an example of a successful civil society, UNEP and private sector partnership coordinated by a UN agency. The keen interest of civil society in this partnership is reflected in GRASP's patrons (Dr. Russell Mittermeier, Dr. Jane Goodall, Prof. Toshisada Nishida and Dr. Richard Leakey), all highly recognized by civil society, and by the high number of environmental NGOs involved in the partnership. GRASP also works with the private sector, including the timber and mining industry.



GRASP – Save the Great Apes

Credit/Ian Redmond

Credit/Christoph Bosch

GRASP: An example of a successful partnership

- Ensuring **coordinated efforts** among all the partners, especially NGOs, to promote collaboration of these organizations. GRASP facilitates exchange of information, promotes efficient utilization of funds and helps foster cooperation.
- Enabling all the parties concerned to speak with a strong and **unique voice** to the wider public, raising the level of public awareness on the critical great apes situation (through videos, press conferences, exhibitions etc.).
- Enabling civil society organizations to engage with ministers and Governments, in a productive **multistakeholder dialogue**, for example, through the GRASP Council.
- Linking **the local reality to the global policy arena**. GRASP financially supported rangers from national parks with great apes to attend the World Parks Congress in Durban.
- Enabling **effective action at the local level**. UNEP, through its work in GRASP coordinates with major NGOs and directly involves grassroot NGOs and local communities.

Box 4

Speaking with a unified and coordinated voice for great ape conservation is GRASP's most immediate challenge. In the longer term, GRASP has great potential for growth in respect to partnerships with and among CSOs. UNEP seeks to involve more partners in GRASP, especially those working directly with great apes and communities. For more information, please see www.unep.org/grasp.

Partnerships through the WSSD process

The WSSD process recognized and established the partnership as a powerful mechanism to contribute to the implementation of the intergovernmental commitments outlined in Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.



Partnerships – the future?

Credit/Still Pictures



Consequently, the partnerships resulting from the WSSD process, and formalized by the CSD, consist of highly institutionalised arrangements to take concrete action towards Agenda 21. It is important to emphasize that these partnerships are a complement to, but not a substitute for, these commitments.

Criteria and guidelines for partnerships established by the UNCSD-II



- "(a) Partnerships are voluntary initiatives undertaken by Governments and relevant stakeholders, such as major groups and institutional stakeholders;
- (b) Partnerships should contribute to the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, and should not divert resources from commitments contained in those agreements;
- (c) Partnerships are not intended to substitute commitments made by Governments but to supplement the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;
- (d) Partnerships should add concrete value to the implementation process and should be new, that is, they should not merely reflect existing arrangements;
- (e) Partnerships should bear in mind the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development in their design and implementation;
- (f) Partnerships should be based on predictable and sustained resources for their implementation, should include the mobilization of new resources and, where relevant, should result in transfer of technology to, and capacity building in, developing countries;
- (g) It is desirable that partnerships have a sectoral and geographical balance;
- (h) Partnerships should be designed and implemented in a transparent and accountable manner. In this regard, they should exchange relevant information with Governments and other relevant stakeholders;
- (i) Partnerships should be publicly announced with the intention of sharing the specific contribution that they make to the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;
- (j) Partnerships should be consistent with national laws, national strategies for the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, as well as the priorities of countries where their implementation takes place;
- (k) The leading partner of a partnership initiative should inform the national focal point for sustainable development of the involved country/countries about the initiation and progress of the partnership, and all partners should bear in mind the guidance provided by Governments;
- (l) The involvement of international institutions and United Nations funds, programmes and agencies in partnerships should conform to the intergovernmentally agreed mandates and should not lead to the diversion to partnerships of resources otherwise allocated for their mandated programmes."

Box 5

The United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development: report of the eleventh Session (27 January 2003 and 28 April – 9 May 2003) Page 9-10

In the wake of the WSSD, UNEP has been implementing some of these partnerships developed and formalized during the process. The PP10 (see section 3.2.2. above) and the Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles are two good examples. This second partnership between Governments, NGOs, intergovernmental organizations and industry, involves more than 60 partners, including 20 from industry. The goal of





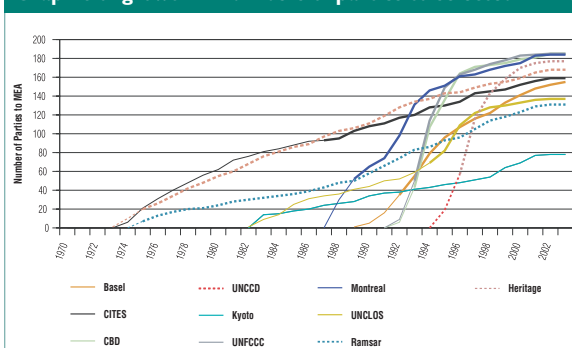
the initiative is to phase out leaded gasoline/petrol, lower sulphur levels in diesel, and improve vehicle technology.

C) Civil society engagement in the Multilateral Environmental Agreements

An agreement in international environmental policy takes the form of a multilateral environmental agreement (MEA). The MEA has to be adopted at an intergovernmental level and each of the adopting countries has to ratify its implementation within its own national legal system. When a

certain number of Governments have ratified the MEA, typically around 70% of the number of countries that adopted the MEA, the MEA becomes a legal entity.

Graphic of growth in numbers of parties to selected MEAs



Source: World Resources Institute report 2003, page 148

Status of some Major Multilateral Environmental Agreements as of 15 November 2003³

MEA	Purpose	Date Adopted	Entry in Force	Parties to MEA	Secretariat
Convention on Wetlands Ramsar Convention	To conserve and promote the wise use of wetlands	1971	1975	136	IUCN, Ramsar Convention Bureau, Gland, Switzerland www.ramsar.org
World Heritage Convention	To establish an effective system of identification, protection, and preservation of cultural and natural heritage, and to provide emergency and long-term protection of sites of value	1972	1975	176	UNESCO, World Heritage Centre, Paris, France www.unesco.org
CITES Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species	To ensure that international trade in wild plant and animal species does not threaten their survival in the wild, and especially to protect endangered species from overexploitation	1973	1975	164	UNEP, CITES Secretariat, Geneva, Switzerland www.cites.org
CEM Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals	To conserve wild animal species that migrate across or outside national boundaries by developing species-specific agreements, providing protection for endangered species, conserving habitat, and undertaking cooperative research	1979	1983	84	UNEP, CMS Secretariat, Bonn, Germany www.cms.int/

³ The information in the table was retrieved from the various MEA websites and the United Nations database available at <http://untreaty.un.org/English/access.asp>





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UNCLOS United Nations Convention on the Law of the Seas	To establish a comprehensive legal order to promote peaceful uses of the oceans and seas, equitable and sufficient utilization of their resources, and conservation of their living resources	1982	1994	145	United Nations, Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, New York, United States www.un.org/Depts/los/index.htm
Vienna Convention Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer	To protect human health and the environment from the effect of stratospheric ozone depletion by controlling human activities that harm the ozone layer and by cooperating in joint research	1985	1988	185	UNEP, Ozone Secretariat, Nairobi, Kenya www.unep.org/ozone/
Montreal Protocol Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (Protocol to Vienna Convention)	To reduce and eventually eliminate emissions of man-made ozone depleting substances	1987	1989	184	UNEP, Ozone Secretariat, Nairobi, Kenya www.unep.org/ozone/
Basel Convention Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal	To ensure environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes by minimizing their generation, reducing their transboundary movement, and disposing of these wastes as close as possible to their source of generation	1989	1992	158	UNEP, Secretariat of the Basel Convention (SBC), Châtelaine, Switzerland www.basel.int
UNFCCC United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change	To stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level preventing dangerous human-caused interference with the climate system	1992	1994	188	United Nations, Climate Change Secretariat, Bonn, Germany unfccc.int/
Kyoto Protocol Kyoto Protocol to the UNFCCC	To supplement the UNFCCC by establishing legally binding constraints on greenhouse gas emissions and encouraging economic and other incentives to reduce emissions	1997	Not yet in force	120	United Nations, Climate Change Secretariat, Bonn, Germany unfccc.int/resource/convkp.html
CBD Convention on Biological Diversity	To conserve biological diversity and promote its sustainable use, and to encourage the equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources	1992	1993	188	UNEP, Secretariat for the Convention on Biological Diversity, Montreal, Canada www.biodiv.org



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UNCCD United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification	To combat desertification, particularly in Africa, in order to mitigate the effects of drought and ensure the long-term productivity of inhabited drylands	1994	1996	190	United Nations, Secretariat of the Convention to Combat Desertification, Bonn, Germany. www.unccd.int/
POPs Stockholm Convention On Persistent Organic Pollutants	To protect human health and the environment from persistent organic pollutants (POPs)	22 May	2004	41	Interim Secretariat for the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants Geneva, Switzerland www.pops.int
PIC Rotterdam Convention on Prior Informed Consent Procedure	To prevent export of harmful pesticides and industrial chemicals, unless the importing country agrees to accept them	2001	2004	51	Interim secretariat for the Rotterdam Convention on Prior Informed Consent Procedure held jointly by UNEP and FAO located in both Rome and Geneva. www.pic.int
Aarhus Convention Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environment Matters	To guarantee the right of access to information, public participation in decision-making and legal redress in environmental matters	1998	2001	26	Aarhus Convention Secretariat, Environment and Human Settlement Division (ENHS), United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), Geneva, Switzerland. www.unece.org/env/pp/
Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans	The Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans or "Regional Seas" are a set of 18 Regional Agreements which cover the marine environment, currently covering more than 140 of the world's coastal countries	First in 1975			13 regional seas programmes are administered by UNEP and 5 run independently www.unep.ch/seas/

To administer a MEA, the parties set up a secretariat, which is tasked to:

- Convene the Conferences of the Parties (COPs), where the Government parties to the MEA adopt policies and goals to track compliance and promote implementation;
- Convene expert panels to advise the Governments (Parties) on ways of achieving the targets set up by the COPs; and
- Help to implement concrete programmes to reach the goals and report on the real status of implementation of these goals.



Civil society can actively support the work of the secretariat and the Governments in the design, execution and monitoring of activities for effective implementation of the MEAs. For example, the rapid entry into force and implementation of the Aarhus Convention can be attributed to the role of civil society. Participation of civil society in the UNFCCC or in the Mediterranean Action Plan, two of the most proactive MEAs to engage CSOs, is enlightening on how to incorporate civil society participation at all levels in the implementation of a MEA.

The following sections cover the three main areas of civil society involvement within a MEA:

- Participation of civil society at the Conferences of the Parties (COPs);
- Participation of civil society representatives on the expert panels; and
- Participation of civil society in implementing projects and programmes related to a MEA.

Participation of civil society at the Conferences of the Parties (COPs)

CSOs can participate at the COPs as observers, which means that the CSOs can come to the meeting, sit and listen. For example, the UNFCCC has a roster of more than 1000 CSOs accredited as observers. CSOs can usually provide written and oral statements to the plenary. They are normally allowed a slot at the opening, and in some COPs they can read statements from the floor: these include CITES, UNFCCC, the Montreal Protocol, and the CBD. For example, at the Montreal Protocol COPs, Friends of the Earth and Greenpeace regularly make statements of global public concern.

Some MEA secretariats provide additional means for civil society participation in the COPs. The CBD has a liaison officer and the Ramsar Convention has an official relationship with IUCN, Birdlife International, WWF and Wetlands International.

Interactions between Government and civil society in the MEAs vary, and direct interaction is limited. Participation of civil society as an observer is always assured. By being an observer, civil society can:

- Work through its own Government to try and include its views in the intergovernmental debate;
- Lobby before and during the session, contribute to daily newsletters and attend briefings provided by Governments for CSOs (the EU and USA do this regularly);
- Hold side events to launch publications or initiatives relevant to the implementation of the conventions; and
- Take note, and be a neutral observer of the meeting, making its own Government accountable for the actions taken when implementing the MEA.

To be an observer, a CSO should contact the secretariat of the MEA directly. The secretariat handles administrative matters, and can provide accreditation for the CSO applying. The criteria are generally two-fold. First, the CSO has to provide





proof of being non-profit. Second, the CSO has to demonstrate interest in the particular field of the MEA (such as biodiversity for the CBD or regional waters for Regional Seas).

In some cases, the secretariat of a MEA, such as the UNFCCC, has a specific focal point for a CSO to apply as an observer. In other cases, there is no focal point and the CSO should request its status as observer directly from the director of the MEA.

Participation of civil society representatives on the expert panels

There are different technical panels of experts in relation to each MEA. These include technical and economic panels, environmental effect panels, or scientific assessment panels. The panels provide technical views, information on economic implications or scientific information necessary for Governments to make properly informed decisions.

Governments select experts proposed by the Secretariat. Individuals from NGOs, the private sector or research centres have strong expertise in a specific environmental field and are often selected as experts.

There are two main avenues for nomination as an expert. A CSO can propose a name to the secretariat of the MEA or work through Governments to propose a name. In either case, the secretariat will then seek intergovernmental endorsement at the COP. The secretariat maintains a roster of these experts, and can contact them directly to receive their views as a panellist. The Ozone Secretariat, for example, has a roster of 1,300 experts.

Participation of civil society in implementing projects and programmes related to a MEA

Effective implementation of the agreed targets remains the obligation of each nation. International multilateral agencies have contractual agreements with the MEAs to assist countries in developing, implementing and financing projects. In the case of the Montreal Protocol, for example, there are four executing agencies: the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the World Bank.

Projects often take the form of a partnership, which brings together all the concerned parties. Such Partnerships provide a powerful means to implement MEAs at the national, regional and even global levels. This is important in the post-WSSD context, which focuses on implementation, partnerships, and the regional dimensions of the objectives set up in Agenda 21 and within the different MEAs.

3.4 Communication and public information

As part of the world's environmental conscience, UNEP keeps the world's eyes focused on progress, crises and the remaining challenges faced by humankind in preserving the environment.



Activities and programmes carried out by UNEP generate a wealth of information. UNEP communicates this information to the wider public, develops specific materials for mass media, undertakes actions to raise global public awareness and sensitises specific groups, such as children and youth. The Division of Communications and Public Information (DCPI) carries out these activities.

Ensuring public access to UNEP's information

The first task of DCPI consists of providing access for the public at large to all the information generated by UNEP. Most of this information is directly available on the Internet, www.unep.org, where searches can be conducted using keywords. In some cases, this information can be supplied on request. Publications can be purchased from UNEP's online bookstore: www.earthprint.com.

Developing materials for mass media and the public in general

In a world where people are overwhelmed by information, environmental concerns often fall behind economic and social considerations. It is therefore extremely important to provide reference information to the media to mobilize public opinion.



Communicate to the public

Credit/Sill Pictures

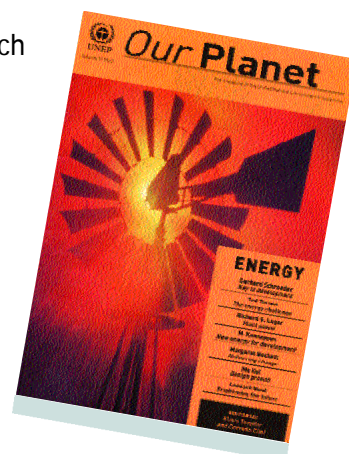
Through a news centre, UNEP disseminates a significant amount of environmental news to the media. Resources for journalists and other interested parties from civil society include up-to-date press releases, detailed information on meetings and other gatherings, public-service announcements, speeches and contacts. Press releases are available online, www.unep.org/MediaRoom/pressrelease, and through existing networks such as the BBC. UNEP communicates directly with the media through its roster. To receive UNEP press releases, send requests directly to dcpiinfo@unep.org.

UNEP regularly releases a wide range of environmentally-themed outreach products. These include pictures, maps and graphics, films, video and audio resources. Photography competitions are regularly organized in partnership with the private sector, including companies like Canon.

Audio-visual resources include the popular and widely watched Earth Report. This programme is produced in partnership with the Television Trust for the Environment (TVE) and the Earth Report Commission. Civil society organizations interested in proposing stories or obtaining copies of past programmes can contact the Television Trust for the Environment: www.tve.org.



UNEP publishes a quarterly magazine, *Our Planet*, which provides environmental information on the current environmental situation. Eminent persons and CSOs regularly contribute to *Our Planet*. The publication is available online: www.ourplanet.com.



Outreach programme to raise public awareness

To boost public awareness on the environment, two dates are marked annually worldwide:

- World Environment Day - 5 June
www.unep.org/wed/2004/
- Clean Up The World Campaign -
September www.unep.org/cuw.asp

World Environment Day celebrates the establishment of UNEP in 1972. It is a political celebration meant to focus on the importance of the environment. Clean Up the World Campaign is a worldwide campaign that takes place in September of each year. All interested associations can participate on the ground to help clean up the environment. It is a unique occasion where citizens worldwide can actively manifest their commitment towards better environmental management.



In addition, UNEP has developed environmental awards – the UNEP Sasakawa Environment Prize and the “Champions of the Earth Award” – to recognise and promote the contributions of individuals, communities and institutions around the world. Most recipients of these awards have come from civil society.

The UNEP Sasakawa Environment Prize is probably the most prestigious worldwide environmental award. It is presented each year to an individual. The award is worth US\$ 200,000, making it one of the world's most valuable environmental prizes. Since its inception, interest in the award has increased significantly as attested by the growing number of nominations. CSOs and individuals are welcome to nominate an individual for the prize. For more information, please see: www.unep.org/sasakawa.

“Champions of the Earth”, the successor to the “Global 500”, is awarded each year to six outstanding environmental achievers and leaders of the world, who made a significant and recognized contribution, regionally or beyond, to the protection and sustainable management of the Earth's environment and natural resources. For more information, please see: www.unep.org/champions.





UNEP also plays a part in other awards that recognize the contribution of an individual or an institution in a particular field or region:

- Royal Award for Responsible Investment www.royalaward.org
- Global Business Award www.uneptie.org/outreach/business/awards.htm
- European Better Environment Award www.eu-environment-awards.org
- Ozone Awards www.unep.org/ozone/
- Volvo Environment Prize www.environment-prize.com
- Zayed International Prize for the Environment www.zayedprize.org

All these awards are subject to nominations and more information on them can be accessed through the main UNEP website: www.unep.org – under “Events and Awards”.

Sensitise specific groups, such as children and youth

Youth – persons between 15 and 24 years old – have a critical role to play in shaping the environment. They can have great deal of influence on their peers and elders in term of promoting new ideas that are urgently needed to build and sustain environmental action. It is in this context that UNEP has worked with young people since 1985, the International Youth Year.

In February 2003, to further promote UNEP work with young people, the GC/GMEF endorsed a “long-term strategy (2003-2008) on engagement and involvement of young people in environmental issues” or Tunza strategy that provides the framework to involve young people worldwide in environmental issues and debate.

UNEP has set up a Youth Advisory Council (or Tunza Advisory Council), which is composed of twenty-eight youth leaders, four per region and four representing indigenous youth organizations. The Council advises UNEP on its programmes and activities with youth. Council members are elected at the Tunza International Youth Conference for a mandate of two years. This global conference takes place every other year.

UNEP also organises a Tunza International Children's Conference on the Environment for children between 10 and 14 years old to learn about and voice their concerns on the environment. The children's conference is held every second year, in alternate years to the youth conference.



The conferences provide a unique opportunity for children and youth to share views and commit themselves to environmental protection. Nomination forms for these conferences are distributed worldwide and are available on the UNEP website. Certain criteria need to be met – including proof of membership in an environment related youth organization or a school and falling within the age requirements for each conference (10 to 14 for children and 15 to 24 for youth).





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Environmental awareness and education are the cornerstones of the strategy. UNEP has developed several publications for young people. The quarterly magazine, *Tunza*, a publication for and by youth, was launched in June 2003. The magazine carries information on selected best practices by youth organizations and is published in English, French and Spanish.

A youth guidebook on the environment, *Tunza: Acting for a Better World*, was also published in August 2003. UNEP produced *Pachamama – Our Earth-Our Future* – and *GEO for Youth*; two publications that engage young people across the world.



In Latin America, UNEP has set up a programme to train young journalists on environmental issues. UNEP and UNESCO have also developed a website, www.youthxchange.net, and produced a training kit on responsible consumption entitled *YouthXChange*.

YouthXChange was developed for young people, especially in the developed world where consumption patterns are increasing. UNEP, in collaboration with Bayer, also organizes Eco-Innovate, the Tunza Regional Youth Conference for Asia and the Pacific.



With children, the emphasis is on awareness and education. UNEP launched the "Plant for the Planet project", a global campaign on children and tree planting. UNEP produced *Water World – Children's Voices*, a unique educational booklet on water, for children, by children. A series of Tunza illustrated books for children and the environment are published by UNEP. An annual international children's painting competition on the environment is organized by UNEP and the Foundation for Global Peace and the Environment. In addition, UNEP and Volvo launched a recognition programme for children and the environment. The Volvo-UNEP venture recognizes outstanding environmental achievements by schools around the world.

Children and youth are welcome to participate or contribute to these programmes, publications, campaigns or conferences. They can contact UNEP through: children.youth@unep.org.

To implement the long-term strategy on engagement and involvement of young people, UNEP has limited resources. Donors, including civil society and the private sector, are important supporters:

- Since 2003, Bayer contributes US\$1 million annually towards youth capacity-building activities at the global and regional levels, especially in developing countries.
- Since 1998, Tetra Pak has supported the participation of children in the



International Children's Conference. The corporation has run an environmental competition for schools in selected countries.

- Volvo and UNEP are collaborating on an environmental awards programme for schoolchildren under 15 from around the world.

3.5 Engaging business and industry in a partnership approach

The activities of business and industry depend on the natural resource base and have a major impact on the environment. It is therefore essential to engage the private sector in action that could advance their contribution to sustainable development and catalyse their greater corporate environmental and social responsibility (CESR).

As already noted in this chapter, the private sector has key technical skills, knowledge and financial resources that need to be utilised in support of the implementation of UNEP's work programme.

Examples of private sector resources supporting UNEP's work programme

- a. **Scientific assessment.** The Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) – a commercial Global Information System (GIS) software company based in Redlands, California, has been supporting UNEP/DEWA since 1985, when they started to support the Global Resource Information Database activities.
- b. **Implementing policies.** The private sector is particularly active in different partnerships that UNEP is carrying out; for example:
 - The International Coral Reef Action Network (ICRAN). Private companies sponsor programmes, e.g. Hotels and diving operators fund tourist outreach. Another example of private sector partnership is the Ocean Wonderland 3D IMAX movie in which UNEP and ICRAN participated in developing the script as well as funding a Teachers Manual.
 - GRASP (Great Apes Survival Project). Industries are necessary partners. Discussions are under way with the tourism sector, especially in southeast Asia. It is also hoped to involve the mining and timber industries of Central and West Africa, who play a major role in the forested regions inhabited by great ape species.
- c. **Communication and public information.** UNEP works with the private sector, especially for its activities related to children and youth. The main actors are Tetra Pak, Volvo and Bayer.

Box 6

3.5.1 Private sector engagement to improve the environmental performance of companies and their contribution to sustainable development

In working with the private sector, UNEP seeks to assist industries to improve their environmental performance and display greater responsibility towards society. The Division of Technology, Industry and Economics (DTIE) addresses these issues. DTIE was created in 1998 and it brought together four existing UNEP offices (International Environmental Technology Centre, Industry and Environment Programme Activity Centre, Chemicals and Economic Unit, and Trade and Environment Unit) in order to provide integrated responses to industrial and urban issues.

The mission of DTIE is to: encourage decision-makers in Government, local authorities and industry to develop and adopt policies, strategies and practices that are cleaner and safer; make efficient use of natural resources; ensure environmentally sound management of chemicals; reduce pollution and risks for





humans and the environment; enable implementation of conventions and international agreements; and incorporate environmental costs.

A key activity in efforts to engage stakeholders is the annual consultative meeting with industry associations and related stakeholders held in Paris. The consultative meeting is organised in liaison with the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA). Industry associations and other stakeholders (such as consumer groups, international NGOs, labour federations and intergovernmental agencies) advise on how DTIE can implement its work programme. The topics under discussion follow topical issues on the international agenda and new sustainability trends in the business world. For more information on this consultative meeting, please contact: unep.tie@unep.fr.

When implementing its work programme, DTIE focuses support for the private sector on four focal areas (production and consumption patterns, chemicals, energy and ozone and economics, finance and trade) and on three crosscutting aspects (training, voluntary action, sustainability reporting and dialogue).

3.5.2 DTIE support in production and consumption patterns, chemicals, energy and ozone, and economics, finance and trade

On production and consumption patterns, in the follow up to the WSSD, UNEP is supporting the further development of a 10-year framework of programmes to promote sustainable consumption and production patterns. This is done with the participation of experts from civil society in all regions. In cooperation with UNESCO, DTIE has also developed a programme, YouthXchange, that targets young people, encouraging them to adopt responsible consumer behaviour.



DTIE provides necessary information portals and tools for private companies to improve their environmental performance, including:

- Sustainable Alternative Networks (SANet): a web portal to disseminate information and advance a network of partnerships to replicate win-win solutions in the field of technology transfer. www.sustainablealternatives.net;
- Green procurement database: a directory on environmentally sustainable procurement. www.unep.tie.org/pc/sustain/design/green_find.asp;
- Awareness and Preparedness for Emergencies at a Local Level (APELL): a programme developed in conjunction with Governments and industry with the purpose of minimising the occurrence and harmful effects of industrial accidents and environmental emergencies; and
- Monthly newsletters and the Industry & Environment Review: available directly by requesting to sc@unep.fr.



For more information, please contact:
unep.tie@unep.fr or see www.uneptie.org/pc
Address: UNEP/DTIE, Production and
Consumption Branch. 39-43 Quai André
Citroën. 75739 Paris Cedex 15 France.
Tel.: + 33 1 44 37 14 39
Fax: + 33 1 44 37 14 74.

On chemicals, DTIE supports the efforts of civil society to protect human health and the environment from toxic chemicals and hazardous wastes. This may include training and awareness raising, specific projects and symposia to explore topical issues.

For more information, please contact:
chemicals@unep.ch or see
<http://www.chem.unep.ch/>.
Address: UNEP/DTIE Chemicals Branch.
11-13, Chemin des Anémones. CH-1219
Châtelaine Geneva 10 Switzerland.
Tel.: +41 22 917 8111 Fax: +41 22 797 3460.

In the field of ozone layer protection, DTIE fulfils UNEP's mandate as one of the Implementing Agencies of the Montreal Protocol, through its OzonAction Programme. OzonAction, since the 1990s, has taken a leading role raising awareness among civil society on ozone layer issues. It developed an information clearinghouse on its website in order to disseminate key information on ozone layer protection. It encourages South-South dialogue so that best-practice initiatives in developing countries are shared and publicized throughout the regions.

For more information, please consult the Internet site: www.uneptie.org/ozonaction/



To develop renewable energy

Credit/Still Pictures

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Two initiatives illustrating the approach of OzonAction in engaging civil society

Communication strategy. The Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer is predicated on the active support and participation of civil society (public, policymakers and industry). Even after a decade of implementation, the global Montreal Protocol community still needs to ensure the continued support of civil society to protect the successes already achieved in phasing out ozone depleting substances and to sustain the momentum. Accordingly, the OzonAction Programme, in collaboration with international agencies with world-renowned public awareness programmes (WHO, UNICEF, etc.) and national communication experts, developed "the Communication Strategy for Global Compliance with the Montreal Protocol" to help address this communication challenge. UNEP is also working with other international and bilateral agencies and National Ozone Units (i.e. Governments in developing countries) to engage civil society through implementation of this strategy.

Box 7





Continued

Methyl Bromide Communication Programme (MBCP). Using the expertise of NGOs across the globe, the MBCP was the first project under the Montreal Protocol Multilateral Fund to fund NGOs to conduct awareness-raising activities about the phase out of methyl bromide, an ozone-depleting pesticide/fumigant. The OzonAction Programme funded NGOs in 13 countries to 1) raise awareness about the methyl bromide phase out and available alternatives, 2) enhance the capacity of NGOs and agricultural organizations in promoting methyl bromide alternatives, and 3) disseminate the results of methyl bromide alternatives. The project achieved these goals and in many cases the NGOs exceeded the objectives and reached out to methyl bromide users in creative and cost-efficient ways.

Box 7

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On energy, DTIE focuses its activities on renewable energy, transport, energy efficiency and energy policy. It helps the private sector and other actors from civil society to develop and implement concrete programmes. DTIE produces a range of publications targeted at the wider public interested in energy issues.

For more information, please contact: unep.tie@unep.fr or see www.uneptie.org/energy/ and www.uccee.org

Address: Energy and OzonAction Branch 39-43, Quai André Citroën, 75739 Paris, Cedex 15 France. Tel.: +33 1 44 37 14 59 Fax: +33 1 44 37 14 74.

Email: www.uneptie.org/hp_oa.htm.

In trade, finance and economics, DTIE seeks to improve countries' understanding of the inter-linkages and complementarities between trade, economics, environment and development. DTIE works closely with the World Trade Organization (WTO), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), other relevant intergovernmental organizations and many NGOs. The Economics and Trade Branch (ETB) has entered into agreements with a number of institutions, including national training and research institutes, regional organizations and universities, and has established a network of collaborating institutions. They participate in ETB's capacity-building activities through involvement in country projects, research and training activities, and regional workshops. At the core of ETB's activities are country projects that are led by national research centres and institutions based on a broad participatory process involving ministries of environment, trade and planning, the private sector, local communities and academia. The projects are designed to enhance national capacities in assessing the environmental as well as the economic and social impacts of trade and other macroeconomic policies with a focus on sustainable trade promotion and poverty alleviation.

For more information, please contact: <http://www.unep.ch/etu>

Address: Economics and Trade Branch, International Environment House, 11-13 Chemin des Anémones, CH-1219, Genève, Switzerland, Tel.: +41.22.917.8243 (Economics & Trade) or +41.22.917.8178 (Finance).



3.5.3 DTIE support in the field of training, voluntary action, sustainability reporting and dialogue

Working to support training through a network of centres world-wide

UNEP has developed training materials and manuals targeted at companies of all sizes. An example is the UNEP/International Chamber of Commerce/International Federation of Consulting Engineers Environmental Management Systems (EMS) Training Kit. The “Efficient Entrepreneur Calendar and Guidebook” of UNEP/Wuppertal Institute supports small and medium-sized enterprises with the introduction of environmental management and reporting. Small entrepreneurs in Africa, Latin America and China are supported through the Rural Energy Enterprise Development (REED) programme, www.uneptie.org/energy/REED/REED_index. In addition, over twenty National Cleaner Production Centres (NCPCs) in developing and transition economy countries conduct training of trainers. The NCPC network is run jointly by UNEP and UNIDO, www.uneptie.org/pc/cp/npc/home.htm.

Working with companies in voluntary initiatives

UNEP is involved as a core agency in the UN Global



Compact, www.unglobalcompact.org, a voluntary initiative initiated by United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan in 1999.

The Global Compact challenges individual corporations to advance basic values within their sphere of influence. These values are based on internationally agreed principles in the areas of human rights, labour and the environment. Corporate environmental responsibility and precaution are two key principles in all DTIE activities. Environmentally sound technology is one of the environmental principles where UNEP's International Environmental Technology Centre, www.unep.or.jp/, is particularly active.

In addition to the Global Compact as an umbrella initiative, UNEP has been involved in the creation of sectoral voluntary initiatives with companies and related stakeholders.

More than 270 banks and insurers from over 50 countries have signed up to the UNEP Finance Initiative, www.unepfi.net. Initiated as a means of engaging financial institutions on sustainable development, signatories commit to integrate sustainable development considerations into all aspects of their operations and service. The participating institutions: (i) support the precautionary approach to environmental management; (ii) recognize that identifying and quantifying environmental risks should be part of the normal process of risk assessment and management; and (iii) pursue best environmental practices.

The Tour Operators Initiative involves 20 global tour operators and has been developed in co-operation with the World Tourism Organization,



www.worldtourism.org, and UNESCO, www.toinitiative.org. Signatories commit to:

- 1) introduce environmental policy and management systems into their operations;
- 2) monitor and report progress implementing sustainable tourism practices; and
- 3) promote sustainable tourism to suppliers, contractors and customers.

A growing number of information and communications technology service providers and suppliers are participating in the Global e-Sustainability Initiative, which was launched in early 2000, www.gesi.org. The proposal for this global initiative was made by UNEP, the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), the European Telecommunication Network Operators Association (ETNO) and North American members of the Communications Environmental Excellence Initiative (CEEI).



UNEP has also worked with industry partners to launch a Mobility Forum. The participating automotive manufacturers agreed that there was added value in taking a joint approach in specific areas, such as global standards for reporting, global technical standards for vehicles, dialogue with stakeholders, development of infrastructure for new fuels and traditional but clean (lead and sulphur-free) fuels, Kyoto mechanisms, technology transfer and the needs of developing countries, especially in mega-cities.



UNEP's work with the advertising and marketing sectors originated from the recommendation by Governments at the Rio+5 Conference of 1997 that business, the media, advertising and marketing sectors need to be encouraged to help shape sustainable consumption patterns. As a result, UNEP set up an Advertising and Communication Forum, in partnership with the European Association of Communications Agencies (EACA), the World Federation of Advertisers (WFA) and the World Association of Research Professionals (ESOMAR). The purpose of the Forum is to foster more and better communication on sustainability issues, in close co-operation with advertisers and advertising agencies.

Supporting sustainability reporting and dialogue,
www.uneptie.org/outreach/

Voluntary initiatives need to be accompanied by sustainability reporting, which advances transparency and accountability. Since the late 1980s, UNEP has worked to stimulate individual companies – and industry associations through their membership – to report on their environmental performance and the implementation of their voluntary commitments in the form of codes of conduct and charters. Since 1994, UNEP and the London-based SustainAbility Ltd have produced reports on corporate sustainability reporting and dialogue through its joint “Engaging Stakeholders Programme.”





Demand for greater transparency and accountability underline the value of sustainability reporting. UNEP addresses this need through the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI), www.globalreporting.org. Since its inception in 1997, the GRI has worked to design and build acceptance of a common framework for reporting on the linked aspects of sustainability – the economic, the environmental, and the social. The guidelines developed under the GRI are applicable to all types of organizations. Consultations with stakeholders are held by the GRI in all regions to continually revise the GRI Guidelines. Sector-specific supplements to the guidelines are developed in a multi-stakeholder process through the international voluntary initiatives in different industry sectors. ■

Chapter 3



Chapter 4

UNEP in the Regions





4.1 Role of the Division of Regional Cooperation

Global environmental policy development and implementation can only be effective if full account is taken of regional priorities. Environmental problems are often local, regional or sub-regional in scale, and require regionally-based solutions that take into consideration geography, specific environmental conditions, cultural heritage, traditions and practices. A strong focus on local and regional levels is crucial to the ownership and successful development of sustainable livelihood strategies; at the same time, it fosters local capacity development and provides an enabling environment for local initiatives oriented towards combating poverty and reducing environmental degradation.

In this context, Governments decided to strengthen UNEP's regional presence. In February 2003, they adopted decision GC22/21, which requests UNEP to *"establish and strengthen partnership at the regional and sub regional levels with other United Nations bodies, development banks and other institutions, including major groups, with a view to enhance the effectiveness of the development and delivery of the programme of work of the United Nations Environment Programme in the regions."*

UNEP's Division of Regional Cooperation (DRC) is composed of a coordinating office based at the headquarters in Nairobi, and of the following six Regional Offices.

- Regional Office for Africa (ROA)
- Regional Office for Europe (ROE)
- Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (ROLAC)
- Regional Office for North America (RONA)
- Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP)
- Regional Office for West Asia (ROWA)

Regional offices play a leading role in the delivery of UNEP's vision and mandate. The main activities of the DRC are to:

- Undertake relevant information and data-gathering to bring regional perspectives to the development of UNEP policies and programmes;
- Present UNEP global policies in the regions and enlist support for them at all levels;
- Implement and complement relevant parts of UNEP's global programmes through initiating, co-ordinating, and catalysing regional and sub-regional cooperation and action in response to environmental problems and emergencies;
- Assist in the development of policies and programmes on global and regional environmental issues between and within Governments in the regions;
- Provide advisory services to help Governments translate global commitments into national action for the protection and enhancement of the environment;
- Raise public awareness of environmental problems and create a constituency for environmental action;
- Promote cooperation between UNEP and NGOs and the private sector; and
- Broaden the constituency of UNEP.



4.2 Civil society engagement within UNEP's regional offices

Primary contact points for local, national and regional CSOs, the regional offices are at the "front line" of civil society engagement. In this context, the regional offices play a proactive role in engaging civil society in governmental decision-making (chapter 2) and in all aspects of the implementation of UNEP's work programme (chapter 3): scientific assessment; development of policies and law; implementation of environment policies and law; communication; and engaging business and industry. Additionally, each regional office focuses on specific actions according to each regional context. Below is a summary of the main activities targeted at civil society within the different regional offices.

4.2.1 Regional Office for Europe (ROE)

Europe is home to some of the largest and most powerful CSOs. The Governments of this region also maintain a long tradition of involving civil society in their work programmes. Consequently, there are numerous opportunities for civil society to engage with ROE.

UNEP National committees

The main objective of the National Committees is to improve outreach through an NGO acting as a platform in each country. This NGO works with other NGOs and the public in general to foster a greater awareness of global, regional and national environmental concerns and undertakes fund-raising activities to finance environmental activities. The first National Committee was set up in 1986.

As of 1 January 2004, there were 33 UNEP National committees; one in ROAP (South Korea), two in RONA (represented by the United Nations Association of Canada and USA), four in ROLAC (Argentina, Brazil, Jamaica and Peru), and 26 in ROE (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Malta, Moldova, The Netherlands, Norway, Romania, Russia, Sweden, Spain, Turkey, United Kingdom, Ukraine and Uzbekistan). These national committees were being formed in a number of countries with encouragement from UNEP, but to a large extent, they were emerging as a spontaneous movement.

The UNEP National Committees benefit from the support of UNEP regional offices to raise public awareness. They are connected by a "unep-natcom" listserv:

UNEP-NATCOM@ cedar.at

Box 8

ROE supports civil society in key environmental policy areas. This includes: the promotion of the Aarhus Convention; the promotion of voluntary industry codes of conduct (Global Compact) or reporting (Global Reporting Initiative); the facilitation of the Geneva Environment Network; and the promotion of national actions on sustainable consumption. ROE supports the implementation of concrete action focusing on energy, consumption and production patterns, water quality and air pollution. ROE works with youth and the ageing population, two groups with increased purchasing power, to educate and encourage alternatives to the current "consumerism."



ROE is particularly active in the outreach field. It produces outreach materials, including youth publications, and supports a Youth network through the Tunza Europe E-mail listserv: Europe-Tunza@yahoogroups.com. ROE also developed and maintains an extensive network of UNEP national committees, which support implementation of UNEP's work programme and outreach activities at the



national level. ROE supports the Geneva Environment Network, a network of international environmental organizations with NGO involvement, which publishes directories of green organizations, newsletters and develops websites.

ROE's main CSO partners include Friends of the Earth Europe, the Environmental NGO Coalition, IUCN, The World Council of Churches, The World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD), and the WWF.

Please see ROE contacts details below:

UNEP Regional Office for Europe (UNEP/ROE)

International Environment House

11-13, chemin des Anémones CH-1219 Chatelaine, Geneva - Switzerland

Tel.: +41 22 917 82 79 - Fax: +41 22 917 80 24

E-mail: roe@unep.ch - Web: www.unep.ch/roe

4.2.2 Regional Office for Africa (ROA)

Located at UNEP Headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya, ROA provides a wide range of advisory services through an umbrella project known as Regional Advisory Services (RAS).

ROA's work focuses on ensuring that environmental considerations are the engine driving Africa along the road to recovery, stability and sustainable development. ROA has been instrumental in developing the environmental focus of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and for assisting the African Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN) Forum, as the main vehicle for reviewing African environmental issues and identifying priorities.



Credit/Still Pictures

ROA supports civil society policy involvement within NEPAD. CSOs can contact ROA and the IUCN Regional Office for Southern Africa, which has programmes on NEPAD and civil society, www.iucnrosa.org.zw. At the sectoral level, ROA is focusing its attention on water and reversal of land degradation, two major African challenges. ROA implements the "Nairobi River Basin Initiative", a project that seeks a restored riverine system with clean water for Nairobi and a healthier environment for the people.

ROA also works with the African Network for Environmental Journalists and with schools and universities through work with the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE). FEE was established in 1981 to raise awareness of environmental issues and effect change through education. Working with FEE, ROA is partnering African educational institutions with others in Europe.





Please see ROA contact details below:

UNEP Regional Office for Africa (UNEP/ROA)

P.O Box 30552 - Nairobi, Kenya

Tel.: +254 20 62 38 12 or 42 92 - Fax: +254 20 62 39 28

E-mail: roainfo@unep.org - Web: www.unep.org/roa

4.2.3 Regional Office for North America (RONA)

The Regional Office for North America (RONA) is located in Washington, DC. It works with the Canadian and United States of America Governments and a range of CSOs in North America, including NGOs, the corporate sector, scientific communities, environmental research organizations and the media.

At the policy level, RONA hosts meetings of civil society to discuss issues relevant to UNEP's programme such as sustainable consumption and production, strategies for raising the profile of environmental issues, trade and environment, sustainable building and construction, green procurement and others.

RONA fosters partnerships between North American organizations and UNEP. RONA is currently working in partnership with universities on the Global Reporting Initiative and exploring several other partnerships.

To raise public awareness, RONA conducts an annual information campaign targeted at the US Congress. In addition, RONA works with the Global Legislators Organization for a Balanced Environment (GLOBE), www.globeinternational.org, to better inform parliamentarians of key environmental issues.

Please see RONA contact details below:

UNEP Regional Office for North America (UNEP/RONA)

1707 H. St. NW Suite 300 - Washington, DC 20006 - United States of America

Tel.: +1 202 78 5 0 465 - Fax: +1 202 78 52 096

E-mail: info@rona.unep.org - Web: www.rona.unep.org

4.2.4 Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP)

UNEP's Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP) is located in Bangkok, Thailand.

ROAP involves civil society in a sub-regional policy dialogue. Initiated in 2003, this dialogue seeks to strengthen regional policy formulation through an annual meeting of the chairs of five sub-regional governmental processes and five eminent civil society leaders. Additionally, UNEP plans to establish sub-regional civil society forums in five ROAP sub-regions that aim to identify priority emerging issues and implement programmes based on State of the Environment Assessments and WSSD/Millennium Development Goals imperatives. Representatives are drawn from each country within the sub-region and from the nine civil society groups defined in Agenda 21.



ROAP supports sub-regional networking, capacity building and knowledge management. It focuses its work on young people, parliamentarians, media and the private sector. With Youth, in addition to active implementation of the Tunza strategy, ROAP established the South Asia Youth Environmental Network (SAYEN), which has created membership criteria, network hosting arrangements, print and electronic communications, meeting schedules, programme activities – including publication in 2003 of the South Asian Youth SOE Children of the Monsoon – and capacity building mechanisms. In 2003, UNEP hosted the Eco-Innovate 03 Forum involving 120 Australian and South East Asian young people in Sydney in a partnership with Bayer and the University of New South Wales.



Credit/Ben Roche

With NGOs, ROAP has established links with the biennial Asia-Pacific NGOs Environmental Conferences and the Asia outreach programme of the Council of NGOs in consultative relationships with the UN (CONGO). At the core of ROAP's civil society strategy lies a regional environmental knowledge centre accessible to NGOs. UNEP also involves the media in addressing sustainable development issues, working with groups including the Asia-Pacific Forum of Environmental Journalists, the Asia Media Information and Communication Centre, the Asia-Pacific office of the Television Trust for the Environment as well as national and regional environmental journalists associations. With parliamentarians, UNEP works to deliver targeted capacity building programmes where feasible through existing regional parliamentary forums and networks such as the GLOBE programme.

ROAP's specific support to the private sector includes programmes such as the "Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction from Industry in Asia and the Pacific" (GERIAP), which involves the transfer of environmentally sound technologies, cleaner and safer production, sustainable consumption, tourism, industrial pollution management, chemicals, the compliance assistance programme under the Montreal Protocol.

Please see ROAP contact details below:

UNEP Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (UNEP/ROAP)

United Nations Building, Rajdamnern Nok Avenue, Bangkok 10200 - Thailand

Tel.: +662 28 81 234 - Fax: +662 28 03 829

E-mail: uneproap@un.org - Web: www.roap.unep.org

4.2.5 Regional Office for Latin America and Caribbean (ROLAC)

ROLAC is located in Mexico. Academic centres and NGOs play a major role in ROLAC's work, which focuses its actions on the Latin American "Forum of





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Ministers of the Environment.” The forum identifies regional environmental priorities through periodical meetings and develops a Regional Action Plan that lists the required activities for making regional co-operation more effective and congruent. One of the main challenges of the forum is to address the growing levels of poverty and inequality, while at the same time integrating environmental and social concerns into development policy in all sectors.

ROLAC involves civil society in policy debates during the Ministerial Forum where CSOs can organise and participate in parallel meetings. ROLAC is particularly active in the implementation of Principle 10 and the presentation of cultural diversity for environmental protection. ROLAC implements a partnership with civil society, “Global Environmental Citizenship”, a GEF Project executed in coordination with six NGOs to improve citizenship engagement within the areas of climate change, biodiversity, international waters and the ozone layer.

In raising public awareness, ROLAC works with youth networks to develop national and regional youth GEO reports. ROLAC works with the media for the “Tierramerica Project”, a joint UNEP, UNDP and International Press Service project with 27 regional newspapers, over 500 radio stations, and a webpage – reaching more than 5 million people each week. ROLAC also contributed to the creation of two networks of environmental journalists for Central America and South America. ROLAC has also developed the “environmental training network for Latin America and the Caribbean” to reach universities and academic communities, focusing its work on thematic issues, including the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor.

ROLAC is actively engaged with a wide range of civil society actors including the following: Academia Mexicana de Derecho Ecológico (AMDA); The Ford Foundation; Caribbean Law Association (CLA); Caribbean Law Institute Centre-Barbados (CLIC); Energy through Enterprise, Brazil (ECO); Environmental Law Centre, Fondo de las Américas, Chile; Lawyers for a Green Planet Institute, Brazil (LGPI); the Institute for Tropical Studies, Rare Center for Tropical Conservation (RARE); IUCN; universities and educational institutions.

ROLAC is the operative secretariat of the Commission de Medio Ambiente del Parlatino, working with them to prepare parliamentarians on emerging environmental issues.

Please see ROLAC contact details below:

UNEP Regional Office of Latin America and the Caribbean (UNEP/ROLAC)

Boulevard de los Virreyes 155 Apartdo postal 10-793

Colonia Lomas Virreyes - P.O. Box 11000 Mexico City, D.F. - Mexico

Tel: +52 55 52 02 63 94 and +52 55 52 02 48 41 - Fax: +52 55 52 02 09 50

E-mail: unepnet@rolac.unep.mx - Web: www.rolac.unep.mx.



4.2.6 Regional Office for West Asia (ROWA)

The Regional Office for West Asia is located in Bahrain. The office serves 12 countries in West Asia: six Gulf Cooperation Council Countries (Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates) and six Mashreq Countries (Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Syria and Yemen).

ROWA assists the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment (CAMRE), especially its Steering Committee on Environmental Education, Information and Public Awareness. ROWA elaborates environmental strategies in collaboration with the Joint Committee of Environment & Development in the Arab Region (JCEDAR) and the Economic and Social Commission for West Asia (ESCWA).

The focus of ROWA reflects the focus of the region in the environmental field: the need for scientific assessment; freshwater and marine ecosystems; land; industrial pollution; and biodiversity.

In the policy debate, ROWA supports a number of consultations at the regional level, including ensuring the participation of civil society and parliamentarians. At the project implementation level, ROWA has focused on coral reefs (with the International Coral Reef Action Network), the phase-out of leaded fuel/gasoline, water, environmental law (with the Arab Regional Centre for Environmental Law), and clean production and environmental management systems.

In public awareness, ROWA is developing a media knowledge centre and is supporting the Arab media towards achieving sustainable development. UNEP works also with youth, taking advantage of its network established when producing GEO for youth. ROWA seeks to strengthen its scientific base, and its partners such as the Arabian Gulf University, while taking into account the spiritual component of environmental education in coordination with ministries of religious affairs and other civil society groups.

Please see ROWA contact details below:

UNEP Regional Office for West Asia (UNEP/ROWA)

1083 Road n° 425, Jufair 342 - P.O. Box 10880 - Manama, Barhain

Tel.: +973 82 66 00 Fax: +973 82 51 10 or 11

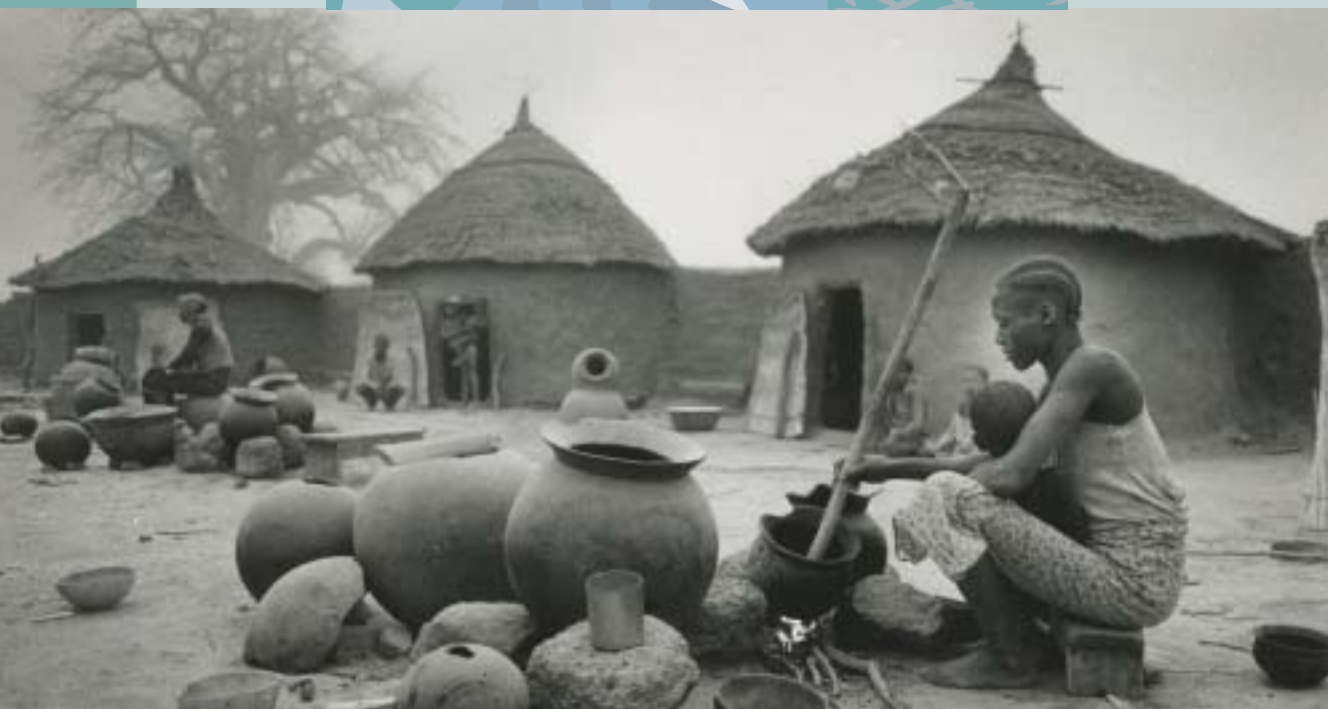
E-mail: www.uneprowa@unep.org.bh - Web: www.unep.org.bh. ■



Chapter 5

Financial Resources within UNEP

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The primary role of UNEP is to catalyze environmental action. It has limited funds to allocate to civil society compared to intergovernmental development agencies, such as UNDP. Financial resources for civil society can be generated through UNEP, when implementing its work programme or when acting as an implementing agency of the Global Environment Facility

5.1 Main areas of financial resources for civil society

The development of scientific assessments, policy and laws, as well as their implementation can generate some resources for civil society. Following are some of the main areas of opportunity.

In the field of scientific assessment, UNEP provides leverage to attract governmental and intergovernmental funds (especially from the GEF). As UNEP's work depends on research and academic/scientific centres, UNEP finances these institutions. The Global Environment Outlook, as well as all the other assessments undertaken by UNEP are excellent examples of results from this support.

When developing a policy or law, individuals or their organizations, in the technical or policy field, may be contracted directly by UNEP to prepare papers or organize seminars on different technical topics. These experts can work as consultants or UNEP can formalize cooperation with their respective organizations.

The objective of expert consultation is to inject fresh and accurate knowledge into UNEP on new environmental trends or complex policies and laws. In the same vein, it is current practice to finance individuals from developing countries or countries in transition, to participate in policy dialogues or meetings at both the regional and global level.

In the field of policy implementation, UNEP can finance some CSO pilot projects. For example, UNEP financed EarthCare Africa to execute a project on "Empowering Women in Rainwater Harvesting in Kenya." The project illustrated the critical role played by pastoralist Maasai women and by women living in the slums in water management. UNEP also finances bigger projects executed by CSOs. For example the Stockholm Environment Institute – Boston Centre (SEI-B) was supported to execute "Civic Entrepreneurship", a project launched at the WSSD. This project underlines the critical role of civil society in pursuing sustainable development. UNEP has also financed the Stakeholder Forum For Our Common Future.

In the field of implementation of policy or law, partnerships with CSOs are a powerful tool to garner additional support. In a partnership with a civil society partner, UNEP can endorse and promote the project of the CSO. This endorsement is a powerful leverage to seek funds from financial institutions, such as national or international development agencies. Another financial advantage of participating in a UNEP partnership is that CSOs, which usually compete for the same scarce financial resources, are collaborating rather than competing.





5.2 Elaboration of a project proposal with UNEP

Any project that UNEP could possibly finance has to be formulated according to UNEP standards. These standards on developing a project are detailed in the Project Formulation, Approval and Evaluation Manual available online at: www.unep.org/project_manual and are summarized in the box below.

Summary of structure for project proposals submitted to UNEP

Title

Legislative Authority (UNEP GC decision with which the project has to comply)

Geographical Scope (regional, national, or global)

Co-operating Agency (agency executing the project in cooperation with UNEP)

Supporting Organizations (cooperating for project execution)

Duration of the Project

Project Coordinator

Project cost (consistent with planned activities)

Description of the project

Needs: These explain why this project should be supported. What makes this project unique and not overlapping with a previous one? What are the needs (gaps) that the project is addressing in relation to the UNEP GC decision quoted?

Objectives: These translate the need (gap), into a positive goal (fill the gap). There is usually an overall objective and under it some specific objectives.

Activities: These consist of the set of activities to achieve the different objectives. For example, an activity can be to organise a meeting or to produce a report. Each activity has to be described clearly. In brief: who is responsible of what and at which cost?

Outputs: These consist of the clear measurable outcomes of the projects when all the activities have been undertaken. For example, this could be a publication or a workshop.

Results: These consist of the overall benefits that the project can provide. They are usually not quantifiable. It is, for example, improvement of public awareness or the capacity enhancement of CSOs to address an issue.

Box 9

When the project is approved, UNEP and the CSO sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The MOU provides a contractual basis for the relationship between the CSO and UNEP. This document describes the major activities and expected outputs. It contains the legal clauses that UNEP and the CSO have to fulfil in order to execute the project. The MOU also contains administrative information on the mechanism for disbursement of funds.

Where there is no financial commitment from either party, UNEP and the CSO can work with a framework of agreement or a letter of agreement.

5.3 Financial resources through UNEP-GEF

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) provides grant and concessional funding to developing countries and those with economies in transition to meet agreed incremental costs of measures to achieve global environmental benefits in six focal areas addressing **biological diversity, climate change, international waters, land degradation, persistent organic pollutants and ozone layer depletion.**



The agreed incremental costs of activities to achieve global environmental benefits concerning **chemicals management** as they relate to the GEF focal areas are also eligible for funding.

The GEF serves as a financial mechanism for the implementation of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), and the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). The GEF also supports the objectives of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer and the Regional Seas Agreements. Currently 176 countries are members of the GEF.

The GEF operates on the basis of collaboration and partnership among three Implementing Agencies, UNDP, UNEP and the World Bank, responsible for supporting project development and implementation. The Implementing Agencies support project proponents, including organizations from civil society and government, to develop and implement GEF projects. Seven GEF Executing Agencies (the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the UN Industrial Development Organization, and the four Regional Development Banks) provide similar support to access GEF funding.

Such support is provided to eligible countries through a variety of activity types. Full-size and medium-sized projects within fifteen Operational Programmes; and “enabling activities” that support countries – and build their capacity – to meet the obligations of being Party to the CBD (and its Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety), the UNFCCC, and the Stockholm Convention.

The GEF is a project co-financier, bringing together GEF resources with those from governments, banks, NGOs, bilateral and multilateral agencies and the private sector. GEF projects must be “country-driven” and address the global environment within the framework of country priorities, complementing national programmes and policies. The funds GEF allocates, seek to reach “new and additional” benefit to these national initiatives to obtain global environmental benefits.

GEF projects are:

- Proposed and carried out by a wide variety of executing agencies, including government agencies, UN agencies, NGOs, private sector groups, and educational and research institutions.
- Supported in their preparation and implementation by the GEF’s Implementing Agencies (UNDP, UNEP, and the World Bank) or one of its seven Executing Agencies.
- Approved by the GEF Council or its Chief Executive Officer (CEO) based at the GEF Secretariat in Washington D.C.

As an Implementing Agency of the GEF, UNEP provides the Secretariat to the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP) of the GEF; provides corporate





support to the GEF (for example in the development of policy); and assists a broad range of project proponents to develop and implement eligible, country-driven projects that, in general, address one or more of the following broad objectives that fall within UNEP's recognized strengths and areas of comparative advantage:

- Promote regional and multi-country cooperation to achieve global environmental benefits (management of transboundary ecosystems, transboundary diagnostic analyses and cooperative mechanisms/action);
- Advance knowledge for environmental decision-making through scientific and technical analyses, including environmental assessments and targeted research;
- Develop and demonstrate technologies, methodologies and policy tools for improved environmental management; and
- Build capacity to prepare and implement environmental strategies, action plans and reports and environmental management and policy instruments to implement multilateral environmental agreements.

A breakdown of the UNEP/GEF portfolio by resource allocation to the various focal areas, and biosafety (a sub-set of the biodiversity focal area), is provided in Box 10. Projects implemented by UNEP represent approximately 11% of the GEF portfolio by number and 5% by value of the GEF grants.

UNEP-GEF's portfolio by thematic area, as of 1 June 2004			Box 10
Thematic area	GEF (US\$ millions)	Co-funding (US\$ millions)	Total (US\$ millions)
Biodiversity	83.1	91.1	174.2
Biosafety	43.4	16.0	59.4
Climate Change	74.0	45.0	119.0
International Waters	112.2	133.6	245.8
Land Degradation	28.7	36.3	65.0
Ozone	7.4	3.0	10.4
POPs	42.6	22.5	65.1
Multiple	23.7	43.3	67.0
TOTAL	414.9	391.1	806.0

In terms of eligibility, a GEF project must meet eight key criteria:

- Be country-driven and endorsed by host countries.
- Produce measurable global benefits related to the targets of the GEF focal areas.
- Involve participation of all affected groups and transparency.
- Be consistent with the objectives of the Conventions which GEF serves as a financial mechanism.
- Have a firm scientific and technical basis.
- Be financially sustainable and cost-effective.
- Include processes for monitoring, evaluation and incorporating lessons learned.
- Play a catalytic role that leverages other financing.

The development of a UNEP/GEF project with a CSO is a participatory process:

1. In the process of supporting GEF projects, UNEP promotes awareness and

cooperation among all sectors of society involved in the implementation of the international environmental agenda. UNEP-GEF additionally serves as a link between major stakeholders and fosters partnerships with and between CSOs as part of the project development and execution.

2. When a project has been identified, UNEP, in collaboration with the CSO, can develop a project proposal. If necessary, UNEP can allocate a "Project Preparation and Development Facility" (PDF) grant, to help the organization to develop and finalize its project proposal, in a participatory manner.
3. The project has to be endorsed by the respective Government(s) where the project takes place. In some countries, there is a multi-stakeholder GEF platform, which assists the Government to review and approve projects.
4. The most formal and well-organized CSOs, able to fulfil UNEP administrative requirement procedures, often work directly with UNEP as an executing agency to manage and monitor the implementation of projects. Smaller CSOs often work as sub-contractors with the executing agency within relevant areas of the project implementation.

Full-size projects

UNEP/GEF full-size projects, involving more than US\$ 1 million, are regional, multi-country or global in their scope, and typically involve several executing partners. As of 1st June 2004, UNEP/GEF was implementing 65 full-size projects.

Subject to approval by the CEO of the GEF, UNEP can provide project development grants (PDF-B) of up to US\$ 350,000 for development of projects to be implemented in a single country and up to US\$ 700,000 for development of multi-country projects. PDF-B grants are typically used to support detailed project design, feasibility and baseline studies, and stakeholder consultations.

CSOs are actively involved in many UNEP/GEF full-sized projects. For example, in the regional biodiversity project, "The Development of a Wetland Site and Flyway Network for Conservation of the Siberian Crane and other Migratory Waterbirds in Asia", the International Crane Foundation (ICF) is the lead executing agency, coordinating efforts of a consortium of organizations including the Secretariat of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and Government agencies, including the State Forestry Administration of China and the Department of the Environment of Iran. Other CSO partners acting as major executing agencies on GEF full-sized biodiversity-themed projects include IUCN, the Bolivian Foundation Amigos de la Naturaleza, the Universidad Mayor de San Andres and the Arctic Council Program for the Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF).

Medium-sized projects (MSPs)

Involving no more than US\$ 1 million GEF financing, proposals for medium-sized projects (MSP) benefit from expedited processing by the GEF. Smaller in size, scope and





Chapter 5

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duration than a full size project, they can be designed and executed more quickly and efficiently. For these reasons MSPs are an attractive option for nongovernmental organisations. UNEP gives high priority to working with a wide range of partners to develop and implement MSPs to achieve global environmental benefits. As of 1st June 2004, UNEP was implementing 61 MSPs.

UNEP can provide project development grants (PDF-A) of up to US\$ 25,000 to support preparation and development of medium-sized projects. CSOs are extremely active within the GEF's MSP, playing roles of execution, assessment, capacity building and development.

"UNEP recognises that NGOs are important players in the environmental arena, amidst the growing array of global problems. The multiplier effect of working through NGO and other civil society networks makes medium-sized projects an ideal mechanism for reaching a broader constituency and for enhancing efforts aimed at catalysing global environmental management. While medium-sized projects can be proposed from a broad range of stakeholders including Governments, NGOs, scientific bodies, intergovernmental bodies, the private sector and others, increased efforts will be placed on those project activities that arise from NGOs and are within national priorities."

Klaus Toeffer, Executive Director, UNEP- in the UNEP GEF-MSP Summary, 2002

The following sections provide some examples of CSOs that engage with UNEP-GEF in MSPs.

International waters

The Sahara and Sahel Observatory (Observatoire du Sahara et du Sahel-OSS), based in Paris, is the major executing agency for the project "Protection of the North West Sahara Aquifer System (NWSAS) and related humid zones and ecosystems." This project is implemented in three countries: Algeria, Libya and Tunisia.

Biodiversity

CSOs are particularly active in this focal area. The WWF Russian Project Office (WWF-RPO) is the main executing agency for the project "Development of the Econet for long-term Conservation of Biodiversity in the Central Asia Ecoregions." Participating countries in this project include Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Kyrgistan and Tajikistan. In addition, IUCN is leading a consortium of NGOs and intergovernmental bodies in the implementation of the project "Global Biodiversity Forum (GBF) – Multistakeholder support for the Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity – Phase III."

Other CSO partners in this focal area include Birdlife International, The Nature Conservancy, Centre for Applied Bioscience International (CABI), Conservation International, Third World Academy of Sciences (TWAS), Scientific Committee for the Protection of the Environment and the Wild Camel Protection Foundation.

Biosafety

UNEP is implementing a global programme that assists countries to meet their obligations under the CBD Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. The programme focuses on supporting the development of National Biosafety Frameworks in 120 signatory countries (Parties) from developing countries and countries with economies in transition. Article 23 of the Cartagena Protocol: "Public Awareness and Participation", requires that Parties "... consult the public in the decisionmaking process ... make the results of such decisions available to the public, ... endeavor to inform its public about the means of public access to the Biosafety Clearing-House." Although the UNEP biosafety programme has no specific project targeting civil society, national-level implementation of the programme requires that each Party develops its biosafety framework with full civil society participation, and ensures that systems for public participation and information are incorporated into the national biosafety frameworks.



Climate change

One MSP in this area involves a unique linkage of a private sector enterprise and an academic department in the pursuit of alternative energy sources, in this case geothermal power. The Kenya Electricity Generating Company Ltd. (KenGen) and Duke University from USA are co-executing agencies on the project "Joint Geophysical Imaging (JGI) Methodology for Geothermal Reservoir Assessment."

Land degradation

CSO partners in this area include the University of Chile, the Natural Heritage Institute, the Esquel Group Foundation and others joining forces to develop a baseline application for the project "An Indicator Model for Dryland Ecosystems in Latin America."

Projects addressing land degradation take into account farmers groups, individual farmers as well as indigenous peoples and their communities. For example the Sub-Saharan "Desert Margins Programme", which seeks to utilize both development and action-research efforts to unravel the complex factors of biodiversity loss through land degradation. Other



To support local communities for land management

Credit/Still Pictures

examples include the "Management of Indigenous Vegetation for Rehabilitation of Degraded Rangelands in the Arid Zone of Africa (Botswana, Kenya, Mali)." A more localised example is the "Lake Baringo Community Based Integrated Land and



Water Management Project” in Kenya, which works with CBOs to preserve and rehabilitate the diverse and fragile Lake Baringo area in Kenya’s northern great rift valley.

Persistent organic pollutants (POPs)

CSOs involved in this area include indigenous peoples organizations, such as the Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North (RAIPON), the Inuit Circumpolar Conference (ICC), the Saami Council (SC) and the Aleut International Association (AIA). These particular organizations are working with the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP) to execute the project “POP’s, Food Security and Indigenous Peoples in Arctic Russia”, which aim to assess levels of toxins in this region.

Information on GEF and UNEP’s activities in the GEF is available from website: www.unep.org.unep/gef or by contacting directly UNEP-GEF director.

5.4 The GEF Small Grants Programme

Since 1992, the GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP), administered on behalf of the GEF partners by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), has been promoting grassroots action to address global environmental concerns on GEF thematic areas.

The SGP is considered one of the most successful programmes of the GEF. In 2003, the programme was active in 60 participating countries and planned to expand the programme to ten more countries each year. As of November 2003, the funding was US\$ 117.35 million from GEF and US\$ 65.66 million from other partners in cash or in-kind equivalents.

Funding is channelled directly to communities and NGOs in developing countries to support the efforts of local people to conserve and restore their environment while generating sustainable livelihoods.

Proven, non-bureaucratic, country-driven mechanism

Complementing medium and large size GEF projects, SGP allocates grants of up to US\$ 50,000, averaging between US\$ 10-20,000, directly to non-governmental and community-based organizations.

Decentralized management of SGP, using a transparent and participatory approach, provides a proven mechanism that enables funding decisions to be informed, owned and implemented by local people. Specific criteria established by a global strategic framework are adapted to local conditions guide

“Small, strategically targeted projects can contribute to solving global environmental problems whilst enhancing the livelihood security of local people... there is evidence that many of these projects deliver more favourable cost-benefit ratios than larger projects.”

Second Overall Performance Study on GEF, 2001





the approval of grants locally. This allows SGP to be demand rather than supply driven. Planning grants, workshops and “write-shops” are organized to help communities draft grant proposals that meet their specific needs while meeting SGP criteria. Country level activities are managed by broad-based National Steering Committees (NSCs), consisting of representatives from local NGOs, Government, academia, UNDP and, as appropriate, co-funding donors, indigenous peoples’ organizations, private sector and the media.

NSC members, serving on a voluntary basis, play an important role in ensuring decentralized, non-bureaucratic management of SGP funds. Each NSC considers whether proposals are feasible, meet SGP criteria, and what kind of technical support is needed; grants are then provided directly to the NGO or CBO. NSC members also prepare country strategies and ensure monitoring and evaluation. SGP National Coordinators, who are locally recruited, are responsible for day-to-day management and serve as secretary to the NSC.

Partnerships

While mandated to focus on GEF priority areas, the SGP has raised co-funding to meet complementary community priorities. Altogether, over 600 partner organizations provide co-financing and other support to GEF SGP activities. Efforts to link communities vertically with ongoing global and national sustainable development efforts and horizontally between a broad array of stakeholders are hallmarks of SGP. While SGP considers grantees as the heart of the programme, other core partners include bilateral donors, foundations, the full spectrum of civil society as well as UNDP core programmes.

More information on the SGP is available at www.undp.org/sgp and from UNDP country offices. ■



Chapter 6

Conclusion

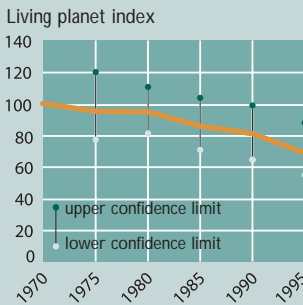
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Beyond merely recognising each other's relative strengths and weaknesses, UNEP and civil society have to keep in mind that there are very real issues to be addressed: Environmental trends are of great concern. In 2002, in its GEO3 report, UNEP stated that the net loss in forest area was estimated at 9.4 million ha/ year (the size of France and England over some ten years) in the 1990s; the rate of biodiversity loss had never been higher and greenhouse gas emissions, particularly carbon dioxide, continued to increase.

Global biodiversity reduced by 30% between 1970 and 2000



The Living Planet Index system is based on the estimates of population size of individual wild species in the scientific literature. The index is calculated as a percentage of the population size estimated at 1970. The mean value of the index is calculated as an average of all the species included in the assessment at each time interval.

Box 11

From UNEP Global Environment Outlook 3, page 122

All concerned parties agree that there can be no real change in these environmental trends without a corresponding improvement in the living standards and situation of many millions of people around the world. This is especially relevant with respect to developing countries, where most of the world's poor are currently living.

1,2 billion peoples survive on less that US\$ 1 a day



More than 1.2 billion people – one in every five on Earth – survive on less than US\$1 a day. During the 1990s the share of people suffering from extreme income poverty fell from 30 to 23%. But, with a growing world population, the number fell by just 23 million – a small fraction of the progress needed to eliminate poverty. And excluding China, the number of extremely poor people actually increased by 28 million.

Box 12

From UNDP Human Development Report 2003, page 5

According to the *UNDP Human Development Report 2003*, soil degradation is damaging the livelihood of up to 1 billion people living on drylands; 1.7 billion people – a third of the developing world's population – live in countries facing water stress; up to a fifth of the disease burden in poor countries may be linked to environmental risk factors; and some 900 million poor people depend on natural products for much of their livelihood.

Civil society and UNEP have to work together in order to achieve positive change. UNEP will take into account the broader trends of the world development agenda in order to foster the meaningful participation of civil society. The goals of the United Nations Millennium Declaration shape the overall framework of this engagement.





The Millennium Development Goals

The global environment and humanity are faced with the great challenge of alleviating widespread poverty and developing the planet in a sustainable manner. All concerned parties agree that there are certain crucial, minimal steps that must be taken to improve the living conditions of millions of people across the world. Central to this are the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) (www.un.org/millennium). The MDGs consist of a series of pledges by the Governments of the world, to be effected by 2015.

Of particular importance for UNEP is Goal 7 "To ensure environmental sustainability", which has three main targets:

- Integrate the principle of sustainable development into country policies and programmes; reverse the loss of environmental resources.
- By 2015, halve the proportion of peoples without sustainable access to safe drinking water.
- By 2020, have achieved a significant improvement in lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers.

Box 13

At the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), Governments agreed on mechanisms to implement Agenda 21. The Johannesburg Plan of Implementation stresses the importance of partnerships (section 3.3.2.) and regional dimensions of the implementation (chapter 4).

The regional component of UNEP's work is increasingly important. At the WSSD, the UNCSD asserted its role to monitor the implementation of Agenda 21 at national and regional levels. The emergence of regional action plans (such as the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and the Latin American and Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development), are fostering policy engagement of civil society within the regional processes.

At the beginning of this new millennium, civil society has emerged as a true partner both at the global governance level and in the implementation of programmes. Governments have made several declarations and decisions, which underline their commitment to see direct civil society engagement in both governance (chapter 2) and implementation (chapter 3) of UNEP's work programme.

Clear channels for civil society engagement are necessary conditions for this to be realised. Effective UNEP interdivisional civil society coordination, use of Internet-based technologies and this guidebook are three available instruments. The Internet in particular, will be explored further: it is a cost-effective tool to



By 2020, have achieved significant improvement in lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers

Credit/Sull Pictures



support networks of CSOs, enables UNEP to provide information to a wide audience, and facilitates the flow of information.

At the governance level, there is a clear need for civil society to have meaningful input towards intergovernmental debate. UNEP can help build bridges between Governments and civil society.

Existing mechanisms, such as the multi-stakeholder dialogues established by the UNCSD, as well as the current reform in the UN system could serve as examples in this regard. At the implementation level, the challenge is to effectively mainstream civil society participation in all programmes and activities. UNEP should be creative in coming up with new ways of forming links with civil society, to broaden the scope and the type of CSOs interacting, and to include all the Major Groups.

To conclude, as a lead UN agency in intergovernmental environment governance, UNEP can facilitate and promote synergies among all the actors involved. This is already under way: the UNEP Environmental Management Group (UNEP/EMG) seeks to enhance cooperation and joint action within and beyond the UN system, including the World Bank, the WTO and civil society. The EMG draws its membership primarily from specialized UN agencies and multilateral environmental agreements. UNEP provides the secretariat for both the EMG (emg@unep.ch) and the Geneva Environment Network. The Geneva Environment Network, www.environmenthouse.ch, seeks to increase the effectiveness of environmental action through closer collaboration and improve synergies among UN organizations and international CSOs. ■



Importance of the new communication technologies

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Chapter 6

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B. Main contacts at UNEP

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C. Some sources of information for civil society organizations

Listed below are some websites of environmental or sustainable development organizations that have information on a range of environmental issues.

CONGO – Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations www.ngocongo.org

ELCI – Environment Liaison Centre International www.elci.org

ENS – Environment News Service www.envirolink.org/environews

FAO – Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations – www.fao.org

Friends of the Earth – www.foe.org

Greenpeace - www.greenpeace.org

IAITPTF – International Alliance of Tribal Peoples of the Tropical Forests – www.international-alliance.org

ICCWBO – International Chamber of Commerce - The World Business Organization – www.iccwbo.org

IIED – International Institute of Environment and Development www.iied.org

IISD – International Institute for Sustainable Development www.iisd.org

IUCN – The World Conservation Union www.iucn.org

NEPAD – New Partnership for Africa's Development www.nepad.org

NESDA – Network for Sustainable Development in Africa www.nesda.kabissa.org

NGLS – Non-Governmental Liaison Service www.un-ngls.org

OECD – Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development www.oecd.org

Science and Development Network – www.scidev.net

Stakeholder Forum – www.stakeholderforum.org

Third World Network – www.twinside.org.sg

UNDESA - United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs www.un.org/esa

UNDP – United Nations Development Programme www.undp.org

UNEP – United Nations Environment Programme www.unep.org

WB – World Bank Group www.worldbank.org

WEDO – Women's Environment and Development Organization www.wedo.org

WRI – World Resources Institute www.wri.org

WWF – World Wild Fund for Nature www.wwf.org



Acronyms

CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CBO	Community Based Organization
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
CMS	Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals
CONGO	Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Relationships with the United Nations
COP	Conference of Parties
CPR	Committee of Permanent Representatives
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CSTG	Civil Society Task Group
DCPI	Division of Communications and Public Information
DEC	Division of Environmental Conventions
DEPI	Division of Environmental Policy Implementation
DEWA	Division of Early Warning and Assessment
DGEF	Division of the Global Environmental Facility
DPDL	Division of Policy Development and Law
DRC	Division of Regional Cooperation
DTIE	Division of Technology, Industry and Economics
ECOSOC	Economic and Social Council
ELCI	Environmental Liaison Centre International
EMG	Environmental Management Group
ETB	Economics and Trade Branch
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FEE	Foundation for Environmental Education
FIDIC	International Federation of Consulting Engineers
GC	Governing Council
GCSF	Global Civil Society Forum
GEF	Global Environmental Facility
GEO	Global Environment Outlook
GLOBE	Global Legislators Organization for a Balanced Environment
GMEF	Global Ministerial Environment Forum
GRASP	Great Apes Survival Project
GRI	Global Reporting Initiative
GRID	Global Resource Information Database
ICC	International Chamber of Commerce
ICRAN	International Coral Reef Action Network
INGO	International Non-governmental Organization
IUCN	The World Conservation Union
MBCP	Methyl Bromide Communication Programme
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
MEA	Multilateral Environmental Agreement
MSP	Medium Size Project
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization





Acronyms

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NSC	National Steering Committee
PADELIA	Partnership for Development of Environmental Law and Institutions in Africa
PDF	Project Development Fund
PIC	Prior Informed Consent
POP	Persistent Organic Pollutants
PP10	Partnership for Principle 10
ROA	Regional Office for Africa
ROAP	Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
ROE	Regional Office for Europe
ROLAC	Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean
RONA	Regional Office for North America
ROWA	Regional Office for West Asia
SGB	Secretariat for Governing Bodies
SGP	Small Grants Programme
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
STAP	Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel
UN	United Nations
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNCED	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
UNCLOS	United Nations Convention on the Law of the Seas
UNCSD	United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific & Cultural Organization
UNF	United Nations Foundation
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNGC	United Nations Global Compact
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNNGLS	United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service
US	United States
WB	World Bank
WCMC	World Conservation Monitoring Centre
WRI	World Resources Institute
WSSD	World Summit on Sustainable Development
WTO	World Trade Organization
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature

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