Online Access to Research in the Environment (OARE) – Strengthening Scientific Competence in Lower Income Countries through Access to Environmental Research

**Three-day Capacity-building
Concept Note**

This note presents an overview of a three-day training (multiple sessions) on the access and use of electronic scientific information resources available through the Online Access to Research in the Environment (OARE) programme managed by UNEP.

Background and context

OARE provides academic, research and government institutions in low-and middle-income countries with free or low cost online access to academic and professional peer-reviewed content in the environment and related fields. It aims to improve teaching, research and policymaking in the environment. It was set up by the United Nations Environment Programme in 2006 together with Yale University and major scientific publishers. OARE builds the capacity of researchers and experts to facilitate the development of science-driven policies for sound management of the environment and helps bridge the knowledge gap between developing countries and the industrialized world.

OARE forms the Research4life partnership together with sister programmes with the same objectives: Hinari (health/WHO), AGORA (agriculture/FAO), ARDI (development and innovation/WIPO), and GOALI (global justice/ILO).

Research4Life provides over 110,000 institutions in more than eligible 125 countries access to over 200,000 peer-reviewed international journals, books and databases. Eligible countries are grouped into two categories. Group A (annex 1) countries have free access to the resources while Group B (annex 2) have low-cost access to the resources.

Training and effective promotion are extremely important to make the best use of OARE/Research4Life. The training workshops also provide an opportunity to promote UNEP knowledge and publications platforms.

Rationale for embedding the training workshops in the UNEP Programme of Work

UNEP has been participating in the Researc4Life partnership since 2006 as manager of the environmental component (OARE). With over 200,000 peer-reviewed resources available for use in eligible countries, Research4Life is a low-hanging asset for UNEP's ambition to promote evidence and science-based decision making and policy action.

The training workshops are being proposed as part as UNEP project activities on the ground. In fact, OARE directly contributes to the following UNEP enabling subprogrammes in support of climate action, nature action, and chemicals and pollution action:

Science-policy: Access to peer-reviewed scientific content will strengthen the capacity of government officials, environmental experts and researchers to make science-based policy making and environmental action.

Digital transformation: The training will improve the digital literacy of the audiences and enable them to access information from all parts of the world, thereby helping them bridge the digital divide.

Method and approach

The proposed method is to insert the training workshop as an activity/side event within a bigger project activity on the ground.

Curriculum: The training covers several topics including: information literacy, effective information search strategies, overview of Research4Life content, eligibility criteria and registration process, browsing and searching Research4Life effectively, usage policy and fair use, evaluation information resources, etc. After introducing the concepts, the trainer provides some examples, then gives the participants some exercises to evaluate their understanding of the concepts.

Duration: The training consists of a combination of theoretical and hands-on delivery methods. From experience, three days are necessary to cover the agenda.

Audience: Suitable audiences for the training include but are not limited to:
- Policy makers
- Environmental professionals
- Researchers
- University students

For maximum learning experience, the number of participants should not exceed 30.

Cost
Travel and DSA for two trainers.

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Annex 1 – Group A (Free access)

Afghanistan
Angola
Bangladesh
Belize
Benin
Bhutan
Burkina Faso
Burundi
Cabo Verde
Cambodia
Cameroon
Central African Republic
Chad
Comoros
Congo
Cook Islands
Côte d'Ivoire
Democratic People's Republic of Korea
Democratic Republic of the Congo
Djibouti
Dominica
Equatorial Guinea
Eritrea
Eswatini
Ethiopia
Gambia
Ghana
Grenada
Guinea
Guinea-Bissau
Guyana
Haiti
Kenya
Kiribati
Kyrgyzstan
Lao People's Democratic Republic
Lebanon
Lesotho
Liberia
Madagascar
Malawi
Maldives

Mali
Marshall Islands
Mauritania
Micronesia (Federated States of)
Mozambique
Myanmar
Nauru
Nepal
Nicaragua
Niger
Niue
Palau
Papua New Guinea
Republic of Moldova
Rwanda
Saint Helena
Saint Lucia
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Samoa
Sao Tome and Principe
Senegal
Sierra Leone
Solomon Islands
Somalia
South Sudan
Sudan
Suriname
Syrian Arab Republic
Tajikistan
Timor-Leste
Togo
Tokelau
Tonga
Tuvalu
Uganda
Ukraine
United Republic of Tanzania
Vanuatu
Yemen
Zambia
Zimbabwe

Annex 2 – Group B Eligible countries (Low-cost access)

Albania
Algeria
Antigua and Barbuda
Armenia
Azerbaijan
Belarus
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Botswana
Colombia
Cuba
Ecuador
Egypt
El Salvador
Fiji
Gabon
Georgia
Guatemala
Honduras
Iraq
Jamaica
Jordan
Kosovo (in accordance with Security Council resolution 1244 (1999))
Libya
Mauritius
Mongolia
Montenegro
Morocco
Namibia
Nigeria
North Macedonia
Pakistan
Paraguay
Peru
Saint Kitts and Nevis
Seychelles
Sri Lanka
Tunisia
Uzbekistan
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
Viet Nam
West Bank and Gaza Strip