

ESCWA: Environmental Mandate & Activities

Economic and Social Commission for West Asia

Environmental mandate

Aiming to promote regional integration and cooperation among ESCWA member countries, the goal of the Sustainable Management of the Environment team is to promote sustainable development by encouraging decision-makers in the region to integrate environmental concerns into the decision-making process and to reflect these concerns in the design and implementation of sustainable development programmes in the ESCWA region. Moreover, guided by the Millennium Development Goal 7 to "ensure environmental sustainability" and its targets, the Sustainable Management of the Environment Team seeks to promote environmental management through capacity building activities to develop and improve national and regional capacities and capabilities for sustainable development in an integrated and comprehensive approach.

Environmental activities

Issues addressed by the Environment team at SDPD during the last 4 years:

- Enforcement of Environmental Legislations;
- Evaluation of Environmental Impact Assessment;
- Development of guidelines for harmonized Environmental Impact Assessment;
- Development of National Sustainable Development Strategies and Action Plans;
- Enhance institutional capacities to upgrade environmental monitoring systems;
- Improve public access to environmental information for public participation;
- State of Implementation in the fields of Water, Sanitation and Human Settlements, Climate Change, and Air Pollution;
- Environment in the Transboundary Context in the ESCWA Region;
- Governance for sustainable development in the ESCWA Region;
- Genetically Modified Organisms in the ESCWA region. The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety deals with the following issues: capacity-building; compliance; financial mechanism; handling, transport, packaging and identification; liability and redress; risk assessment and management; roster of experts; monitoring and reporting; public awareness and participation; socio-economic considerations.