

UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT GROUP

**COLLABORATION AND COORDINATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL
ACTIVITIES IN THE UN SYSTEM: TAKING STOCK**

Working Draft: 15 August 2009

***PREPARED BY THE UN ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT GROUP WITH SUPPORT OF THE
UNITED NATIONS INSTITUTE FOR TRAINING AND RESEARCH (UNITAR)***

TABLE OF CONTENTS

LIST OF ACRONYMS	I
1. INTRODUCTION	1
2. UN SYSTEM COLLABORATION AND COORDINATION IN THE AREA OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT	4
2.1 Challenges for Coordinating Environmental Management.....	4
2.2 United Nations Environment Management Group	4
2.3 EMG in the Context of UN System-wide Cooperation and Coordination.....	6
2.4 International Environmental Governance Reform Process	9
2.5 Analysis	11
3. REFLECTIONS ON EMG: PERSPECTIVES FROM ITS MEMBERS	14
3.1 Role and Function of EMG.....	14
3.2 Suggestions for Issue Management Groups	16
3.3 Institutional and Operational Issues	17
3.4 Criteria for Evaluating EMG Effectiveness.....	18
ANNEX 1: UN COLLABORATION IN THEMATIC AREAS OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT	20
Air Pollution Control	21
Biodiversity	23
Chemicals Management.....	26
Climate Change	29
Desertification.....	32
Energy	34
Environmental Health	37
Forests	39
Freshwater	42
Oceans and Coastal Zone Management	45
Protection of the Ozone Layer.....	49
Sustainable Agriculture.....	51
Sustainable Consumption and Production.....	53
Waste Management.....	56
Wetlands Protection	59
ANNEX 2: INVOLVEMENT OF EMG MEMBERS IN CROSS-CUTTING AREAS	61
ANNEX 3: ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROFILE OF EMG MEMBERS	64
1. UN Secretariat.....	65
2. Regional Commissions.....	65
3. UN Funds and Programmes.....	66
4. Other UN Entities.....	68
5. Research and Training Institutes.....	69
6. Specialized Agencies.....	69
7. Convention Secretariats.....	73
8. Related Organizations	74

LIST OF ACRONYMS

ADB	Asian Development Bank
AEWA	African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement
AU	African Union
CBD	Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity
CTBTO	Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization
CCAD	Central American Commission for Environment and Development
CEB	United Nations System Chief Executives Board
CIFOR	Centre for International Forestry Research
CITIES	Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
CLI	CropLife International
CMP	Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol
CMS	Secretariat of the Convention on Migratory Species
CoMI	Census of Marine Life
ECA	Economic and Social Commission for Africa
ECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
ECETOC	European Centre for Ecotoxicology and Toxicology of Chemicals
ECLAC	Economic and Social Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
EMEP	Geneva Protocol on Long-term Financing of the Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe
EMG	Environment Management Group
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
ESCWA	Economic and Social Commission for West Asia
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation
GA	General Assembly
GEF	Global Environment Facility
HDNO	Head Department of Navigation and Oceanography
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
IASG	Inter-agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues
ICAO	International Civil Aviation Organisation
ICRAF	World Agroforestry Centre
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development

ILO	International Labour Organisation
IMG	Issue Management Group
IMO	International Maritime Organisation
INSTRAW	International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women
IOC-UNESCO	Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO
IOCC	Inter-Organization Coordinating Committee
IOMC	Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals
ISA	International Seabed Authority
ISDR	United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction secretariat
ITTO	International Tropical Timber Organization
ITC	International Trade Centre
ITU	International Telecommunications Union
IUCN	World Conservation Union
IUFRO	International Union of Forestry Research Organization
LDC	Least Developed Country
MEA	Multilateral Environmental Agreement
NATO	The North Atlantic Treaty Organization
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
OPCW	Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons
OSCE	Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe
PAHO	Pan American Health Organization
PAN-Africa	Pesticide Action Network
PREDAS	Regional Programme to Promote Household and Alternative Energies in the Sahel
RAMSAR	Ramsar Convention on Wetlands Secretariat
REC	Regional Environment Center for Central and Eastern Europe
SAICM	Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management
SBC	Secretariat of the Basel Convention
UN	United Nations
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNCCD	Secretariat of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification

UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDESA/DSD	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Division for Sustainable Development
UNDG	United Nations Development Group
UN/DM	UN Department of Management
UNDOALOS	Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UN/DPA	UN Department of Political Affairs
UN/DPI	UN Department of Public Information
UN/DPKO	UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNEP-DELC	UNEP - Division of Environmental Law and Conventions
UNEP-WCMC	UNEP - World Conservation Monitoring Centre
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNESCO	United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation
UNFCCC	Secretariat of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNGA	United Nations General Assembly
UN-HABITAT	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organisation
UNIPLOS	?
UNITAR	United Nations Institute for Training and Research
UN/OLA	UN Office of Legal Affairs
UNPFII	United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.
UNU	United Nations University
UNU-IAS	United Nations University - Institute of Advanced Studies
UPOV	International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants
UPU	Universal Postal Union
WCO	World Customs Organization
WFP	World Food Program
WHO	World Health Organisation
WIPO	World Intellectual Property Organisation
WMO	World Meteorological Organisation
WSSD	World Summit on Sustainable Development

WTO (Trade)	World Trade Organisation
WTO (Tourism)	World Tourism Organisation
WWF	World Wildlife Fund/World Wide Fund for Nature

1. INTRODUCTION

Background

This report has been prepared by EMG to facilitate knowledge sharing and reflection in support of concerted efforts to enhance the coherence in environmental management and governance within the UN system. It represents a follow-up to a recommendation issued by participants of the High Level Forum on the United Nations Reform Initiatives, Geneva, 3-4 July 2006, to prepare a report which provides an overview of UN system environmental operations, collaboration, and coordination. The Terms of Reference (TOR) for the “stock-taking exercise”, collectively developed and approved by EMG members, includes, inter alia, the following objectives:

- Identify core environmental areas, topics, and issues addressed by EMG members
- Document evidence of inter-agency collaboration in designing, implementing, and evaluating activities
- Identify constraints and lessons, and determine best practices from inter-agency collaboration
- Identify niches where EMG can play an active role
- Make suggestions for regular stock-taking

A Task Force—comprising UNDP, WHO, WMO, UNESCO, UNITAR, UNFCCC, RAMSAR, UNECE, UNESCAP, and UNISDR—provided valuable input in developing the approach of the stock-taking exercise and reviewed a questionnaire prior to its dissemination to all EMG members. Of the 44 EMG members, 14 replied to the questionnaire, including CBD, CMS, ECE, ESCAP, IAEA, IMO, RAMSAR, UNEP, UNFCCC, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNITAR, UNU, and WHO. Complementary to the questionnaire responses, other relevant documentation and information has been taken into account in preparing this report, including papers prepared for discussions at EMG meetings on international governance reform.¹ The process of synthesising the information and preparing the final report took place during the second half of 2007 and early 2008, and was undertaken with the assistance of UNITAR.

While the stock-taking exercise was initiated in 2007, important developments related to international environmental governance reform have taken place in the meantime which seek to strengthen system-wide coherence.² While a significant part of information collection for the EMG stock-taking exercises took place prior to these developments, the draft stock-taking report seeks to take relevant developments into account, as appropriate. A revision of main sections of the document was undertaken by UNITAR and the EMG secretariat in August 2009. The Annexes do not feature revised information, but could be updated, if considered valuable by the EMG.

¹ These include, for example, the document *System-wide coherence on International Environmental Governance: Key issues for further consideration by the Environment Management Group* (17 September 2007).

² These activities were mandated by paragraph 169 of the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document, which referred to the need to explore a more coherent institutional framework environment.

The Stock-taking Report in a Nutshell

At least 44 organizations in the UN system are actively engaged in environmental management activities.³ Many activities of EMG members are linked to and take place at the level of specific thematic areas (e.g. chemicals, pollution control, oceans and coastal zone management). These activities are often guided by specific international agreements that are implemented through collaboration of the UN, as well as governmental and nongovernmental organizations. In a number of thematic areas, mechanisms have been established that facilitate regular information exchange and interaction among the respective UN organizations. Formalized coordinating mechanisms are, for example, in place in areas such as energy, water, oceans, biodiversity, and chemicals.

In some cases, such as biodiversity, governments established a formal mechanism under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Biodiversity Convention to coordinate biosafety capacity development activities. In other thematic areas, for example, chemicals management, the Inter-Organisation Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) was established by UN organizations with major chemicals programmes. In addition, information exchange and coordination takes place through a multitude of joint activities, several of which have advisory groups that involve representatives of UN organizations. Annex 1 provides an overview of these collaborative programmes and initiatives.

Given the diversity of existing mechanisms of cooperation in the area of environmental management within the UN System, the stock-taking exercise addressed the question of what added-value EMG could provide in enhancing the UN system's response to the growing environmental management challenges. More specifically it identified EMG member perspectives on the role and function of EMG, identified opportunities for establishing focused and time-bound EMG issue management groups (IMGs), and elicited suggestions concerning the institutional linkage of EMG to other relevant bodies.

The exercises also explored how to strengthen EMG as an institution. EMG members appreciated recent reform measures initiated by UNEP's new Executive Director and the Director of EMG. Responses suggest that the TOR for EMG agreed upon in 2000 by the ACC do not provide sufficient guidance to ensure fully effective operation of EMG in light of new emerging governance challenges. However, the TOR are in themselves not seen as a hinder for the members of the EMG to further their cooperation in supporting the implementation of the intergovernmental environmental agenda. Informal consultations on how the efficiency of the EMG can be enhanced suggest that it can be achieved through systematic and transparent agenda setting and well planned and results-oriented cooperation.

As a contribution to facilitate information exchange on UN environmental activities, the stock-taking exercise revealed a wealth of collaborative programmes and initiatives of UN bodies. In collecting this information, it became apparent, however, that information on environmental management-related collaboration within the UN system is scattered and difficult to access.

An interesting side-finding of the stock-taking exercise was that terminology concerning collaboration and coordination of environmental management activities in the UN system is not harmonized. The terms "sector", "cluster", and "thematic area" are, for example, interpreted in different ways by various organizations. Similarly, the concept and scope of

³ There are 44 EMG members with focal points.

what constitutes an environmental management activity is not used consistently within the UN system. It is, for example, not fully clear if topics such as clean water or energy fit into the scope of environmental management or constitute separate sectors. This report follows terminology used in the report of the high level panel on coherence that refers to specific areas of environmental management such as climate change, biodiversity, or chemicals as “thematic” areas. Use of the term “sector” implies a reference to broader categories (or clusters) such agriculture, transport, and environmental management as a whole.

Structure of the Report

This report is structured as follows: Part 2 provides an introduction to collaboration and coordination structures within the UN system for, or relating to, environmental management and sustainable development. Part 3 summarises EMG members’ perspectives concerning the role EMG could play and ways in which it could become more effective in fulfilling its mandate.

The body of the report is complemented by three Annexes. Annex 1 features “fact sheets” summarizing collaboration and coordination within the UN system for 15 thematic areas of environmental management. Each fact sheet provides a brief introduction to the thematic area, refers to relevant international agreements, outlines current mechanisms of coordination, provides references to collaborative programmes and initiatives, and presents an overview table summarizing the involvement of EMG members in normative and operational activities. Annex 2 provides a summary of EMG members’ involvement in cross-cutting areas of environment and sustainable development. Annex 3 contains brief environmental management profiles for each EMG member.

2. UN SYSTEM COLLABORATION AND COORDINATION IN THE AREA OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

2.1 Challenges for Coordinating Environmental Management

Environmental management includes a diverse set of activities, affects a number of development issues, and is implemented through a wide range of actors. Often, environmental management activities take place as specialized activities within thematic areas, as well as in the context of sectoral strategies, such as agriculture, health, industrial development.

The example of climate change illustrates the complex interface of environmental management and broader development issues. Climate change is addressed at the thematic level (e.g. climate change assessment activities, adaptation plans) and within other thematic areas, such as air pollution control, biodiversity, ozone depletion, chemicals, and desertification. In addition, climate change issues have become an integral part of sectoral development strategies, for example, agriculture, industrial development, and land use planning. This complex web of activities creates challenges both for information exchange and coherent planning.

One EMG members suggests that inter-linkages and opportunities for information exchange and coordination exist at three levels: (1) within a particular thematic area (e.g. within chemicals management); (2) across thematic areas (e.g. climate change and biodiversity); and (3) between thematic areas of environmental management and sectoral development strategies (e.g. environment and industrial development). While information exchange and related coordination is relatively easy to achieve at the thematic level—in light of regular international meetings that bring relevant actors together—coordination *across* thematic areas, and between environmental management and sectoral development strategies is more challenging.

The following section provides a brief overview of mechanisms within the UN system that seek to facilitate collaboration and coordination in the area of sustainable development and the environment. It introduces EMG as well as other relevant mechanisms at the global regional and national levels.

2.2 United Nations Environment Management Group

A key function assigned to UNEP when it was established in 1972, was the promotion of environmental activities within the whole UN system. The four parts constituting UNEP: - the Governing Council of UNEP (which since 2000 also sits as the Global Ministerial Environment Forum); - the Environment Secretariat; - the Environment Fund; and - the Environment Coordination Board were all given mutually supportive functions and responsibilities in this respect (see UNGA resolution 2997 of 1972). As integral parts of the UN system these parts could all draw from and call upon the authority of the highest levels in the UN. Efficient programme coordination among UN agencies and the economic commissions was to be assured through the Environment Fund and The Environment Coordination Board. The board was chaired by the Executive Director of UNEP, and worked under the auspices and within the framework of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC). In a restructuring of the UN system in 1977, however, the UNGA in decision UNGA/32/197 assigned the functions of the Environment Coordination Board and other similar thematic coordination mechanisms to the ACC.

The establishment of the EMG by UNGA resolution (A/RES/53/242) in 1999 can therefore be seen as a reestablishment of a separate environmental coordination mechanism in the UN. It was established with the “purpose of enhancing inter-agency coordination in the field of environment and human settlements”. The concept of EMG had been recommended to the Secretary-General by his designated Task Force on Environment and Human Settlements in 1998. The establishment of EMG was part of a broader suite of measures included in the resolution to enhance coherent and coordinated action within the UN system, as recommended by the Secretary-General in his report on Environment and Human Settlements (A/53/463).

The EMG TOR were endorsed by the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) in 1999⁴, following a process of consultation carried out through the Inter-Agency Committee on Sustainable Development (IACSD)⁵. The TOR call for EMG to be a flexible mechanism to facilitate a timely identification of emerging issues and to integrate knowledge available in the UN system. They refer to two specific responsibilities of the Group. First, EMG should provide an “effective, coordinated and flexible UN system response for important and emerging issues... through an issue management approach”. Second, by promoting inter-linkages, encouraging exchange of information on specific issues, and reviewing the compatibility of different approaches taken by its members, EMG is expected to contribute to synergy development, ensure complementarity, and add value to the existing UN system-wide inter-agency cooperation. The EMG Secretariat, which is provided by UNEP, became operational in 2003 and is located in Geneva, Switzerland.

Members of EMG comprise the specialized agencies, programmes, and organs of the UN system, including the secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), as well as the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization.⁶ It differs slightly in its membership from CEB membership, as it also includes MEA secretariats. Participation of non-UN partners in EMG is possible through its IMGs and specific meetings by invitation of the EMG Chair.

The TOR specifies a two-tiered structure for EMG. The first tier is a senior-level decision-making body, the Environmental Management Group, which usually meets once per year. It is chaired by the Executive Director of UNEP and consists of senior-level officials from member organizations of the Group. The second tier includes IMGs established by EMG and lasting as long as necessary for the completion of their tasks. Meetings of EMG are, inter alia, used to identify specific issues; establish, as appropriate, IMGs; decide on the mandate and time-frame of IMGs; and adopt reports of IMGs. Currently, EMG operates three IMGs which are concerned with: moving the UN towards climate-neutrality; sustainable procurement practices in the UN system and providing an input to the formulation of the post 2010 biodiversity targets. In addition the chair of the EMG has of late also convened meetings at technical level in follow up to or in preparation of the senior officials meetings. Informal consultative meetings have also been convened lately to explore issues under consideration by EMG. A current such issue is cooperation on land issues in the UN.

In the course of its initial years of operation, EMG has, with limited resources, made progress in a few specific areas, most notably harmonization of reporting on biodiversity-related

⁴ The precursor to today’s Chief Executives Board (CEB).

⁵ The functions of IACSD have now been incorporated into the High-level Committee on Coordination of Programme (HLCP) of CEB.

⁶ A summary of the environmental mandate/activities of each EMG member is provided in Annex 1.

issues; environmental aspects of water, sanitation, and human settlements; and capacity building in the areas of biodiversity, chemicals management, air pollution/atmosphere, and industrial development. Most of the EMG IMGs were initiated by UNEP in its efforts to engage and solicit inputs from other agencies for its respective policies and processes. Other EMG members participated, but mostly passively, following the UNEP proposals and initiatives.

2.3 EMG in the Context of UN System-wide Cooperation and Coordination

EMG is embedded and functions within a web of interagency mechanisms which cover both strategic and specific aspects of sustainable development and environmental management collaboration and coordination within the UN system, including mechanisms at the global, regional, and national levels.

United Nations Chief Executives Board and its Subsidiary Bodies

The UN Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) is the highest level inter-agency coordinating mechanism in the UN system and a “successor” of the former Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC). CEB members comprise the Executive Heads of the Specialized Agencies, Funds, Programmes, International Monetary Fund (IMF), and World Bank. The UN Secretariat is represented by the Secretary General, and the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) provides administrative support to the CEB secretariat. CEB is important because it formally includes the Specialized Agencies as well as the World Bank and IMF (unlike the UN Development Group where the Specialized Agencies join voluntarily). While the UN Secretariat is represented by the Secretary General, the heads of departments are not present. One of the Executive Secretaries of the Regional Commissions is usually invited to represent all five Regional Commissions. CEB meets twice a year in plenary and has the following three sub-committees: the High Level Committees on Programmes (HLCP), the High Level Committee on Management (HLCM) and the United Nations Development Group (UNDG). It is chaired by the SG and reports to the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in an annual report. In addition to its regular reviews of contemporary political issues and major concerns facing the UN system, CEB approves policy statements on behalf of the UN system as a whole.

As part of the commitment of the Secretary-General to foster a One UN approach in the area of climate change, the CEB established in 2007, under the High Level Committee on Programme a Working Group on Climate Change. In response to the priorities identified under the UNFCCC negotiation process, and in pursuance of the broader mandates and capacities in the UN system, the CEB identified and established inter-agency working groups for five areas to enhance UN system coordination, namely: Finance (Mitigation, Adaptation), Adaptation, Technology Transfer, Capacity Building, and Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD). In addition a number of cross-cutting topics were identified and addressed through working groups.

The United Nations Development Group (UNDG) has recently become a sub-committee of the CEB. It was established in 1997 to deliver more coherent, effective and efficient support to countries seeking to attain internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Its members include Funds and Programmes of the UN, the UN Secretariat Departments as well as, on a voluntary basis, the Specialised Agencies. UNDG deals mainly with operational activities for development such as the implementation of the Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review (TCPR), the development of

guidelines for the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), as well as support to the Resident Coordinator system and the UN country teams. UNDG membership has grown to 32, plus five observers.⁷ UNDG meets at least three times yearly and decides on issues related to country level coordination to achieve the MDGs. In the area of environmental management, UNDG is in the process of completing a guidance note for United Nations Country Team and implementing partners concerning entitled “Mainstreaming Environmental Sustainability in Country Analysis and the UNDAF”.

The CEB oversees specific inter-agency collaborative arrangements to deal with water and sanitation (UN-Water), energy (UN-Energy), oceans and coastal areas (UN-Oceans), and consumption and production. These mechanisms were established in 2003, when CEB adopted a set of approaches and guidelines to orient the system’s follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD). The aim of relevant action was to strengthen system-wide support for the implementation of WSSD outcomes and integrate them into the follow-up processes for other relevant UN conferences. The secretariat functions for the above mechanisms are provided by UNDESA.

While the Environment Coordination Board, and subsequently the EMG was working under the auspices of and within the framework of ACC, the EMG is currently not recognised by the CEB as a subsidiary body. However, in practical terms EMG cooperates with the CEB and its subsidiary bodies on issues such as climate neutrality and sustainable procurement.

Coordinating Mechanisms for Thematic Areas of Environmental Management

In addition to CEB (and its subordinate bodies), coordinating mechanisms, both formal and informal, exist which cover thematic areas of environmental management. In the area of biodiversity, for example, under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Biodiversity Convention, governments established a formal mechanism to coordinate biosafety capacity development activities, which involves UN organizations as well as representatives from member states. In the area of chemicals management, the Inter-Organisation Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) serves as the principal mechanism for initiating, facilitating, and coordinating international action to achieve the WSSD 2020 goal for sound management of chemicals. IOMC is a formal coordinating mechanism with an MOA signed by the heads of agencies of all participating organizations.

In addition, mechanisms exist which facilitate coordination and cooperation *across* thematic areas. The Joint Liaison Group for the three Rio Conventions serves as an informal forum which exchanges information and explores opportunities for synergistic activities across the three Rio Conventions. Under the UNECCE Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention), an information exchange clearinghouse has been set up and regular meetings are organized by the secretariat to facilitate coordinating of capacity building activities of UN and non-UN actors under the Convention. Another example is the Geneva Environment Network, hosted at UNEP Regional Office for Europe, as a flexible cooperative partnership of over 50 organizations (many of which are UN bodies) based in the International Environment House and elsewhere in the Geneva area.

Inter-agency/intergovernmental committees which are engaged in reviewing project proposals for capacity development projects also serve as important means to facilitate

⁷ For further details, please see: www.undg.org.

information exchange and ensure that relevant capacity building activities are not duplicated. The recently established Implementation Committee for the SAICM Quick Start Programme Trust Fund, for example, brings together all IOMC organizations, as well as UNDP. In the case of ozone depleting substances, significant information and coordination takes place in the context of meetings of the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol. Similarly, meetings of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) at various levels bring together governments and key agencies engaged in GEF implementing activities.

Regional Level Structures

Most of the large UN bodies have regional offices which are engaged in environment-related activities, such as UNEP, WHO, FAO, and the Regional Economic Commissions. Regional level coordination of environmental activities often takes place in the context of ministerial environmental conferences which regularly take place in several UN regions. UN organizations support these ministerial processes by providing secretariat functions. While UNEP supports ministerial conferences in Africa, the secretariats of the regional economic commissions support ministerial environmental processes in Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), Europe (UNECE), Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), and West Asia (ESCWA).

The regional ministerial processes provide a valuable opportunity to exchange information and coordinate activities. The ‘Environment for Europe’ process, for example, is a partnership of the member States within the UNECE region, organizations of the UN system represented in the region (UNEP, UNDP, World Bank, WHO), other intergovernmental organizations (OECD, EBRD), the European Commission, regional environment centres, non-governmental organizations, and other major groups, with ministerial conferences taking place every 4-5 years. The Regional Implementation Forum, which is being organized every two years, provides coordinated input from the UNECE region to the sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD). In addition, coordination meetings between the UNEP Regional Office for Europe and the UNECE Housing and Land Management Division (EHLM) take place once a year.

Some challenges exist in facilitating effective regional coordination, in particular at the level of implementation. For example, the geographical coverage and membership of the regional offices of UN bodies is not fully consistent, e.g. in the case of the UN and WHO regions. Furthermore, in some cases, regional headquarters are located in different locations. Finally, regional development banks, which often have robust environmental management programmes, are not always fully integrated with UN system action on the environment.

National Level Coordination Structures

At the national level, UN Country Teams (UNCTs) are meant to facilitate coordinated development support of the UN system. The teams are composed of the heads of UN agencies and other institutions represented in the respective country. County teams are responsible for monitoring the implementation of the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF)—a national planning framework which outlines the common objectives and strategies shared by UN organizations providing development assistance. UNCT also monitors the linkages between UNDAF and the formulation of programmes and projects by each of the resident UN agencies, as well as the development of any joint

initiatives. Recently, “Delivering as One” pilot projects were initiated in eight countries.⁸ These pilot projects explore how the UN family—with its many and diverse agencies—can deliver in a more coordinated way at the country level. The overall goal of the “Delivering as One” initiative is to ensure faster and more effective development operations and accelerate progress to achieve the MDGs.

UNCTs could in principle serve as mechanisms to facilitate specific collaboration and coordination on environmental capacity building (and some of the teams do), but challenges remain how to effectively integrate environmental collaboration and coordination at the national level. One of the reasons is that country teams are engaged in the implementation of *all* MDGs, of which environmental sustainability is only one goal, which is seldom high on the agenda. In addition, several UN bodies which support environment-related capacity development, such as convention secretariats, UNEP, and UNITAR are not resident organizations. To fill this gap at least partially, UNEP is currently exploring how to better engage in the national pilot initiatives on “Delivering as One”.

2.4 International Environmental Governance Reform Process

WSSD and the High Level Panel on UN System-Wide Coherence

The 2005 World Summit Outcome has accorded priority to system-wide coherence including for environmental issues. The Outcome specifies the need to ensure “more efficient environmental activities in the UN system, with enhanced coordination, improved policy advice and guidance, strengthened scientific knowledge, assessment and cooperation...and better integration of environmental activities in the broader sustainable development framework at the operational level, including through capacity-building...”⁹ World leaders agreed to explore the possibility of a more coherent institutional framework to address this need, including a more integrated structure building on existing institutions and internationally agreed instruments as well as the treaty bodies and the specialized agencies.

In early 2006, in order to respond to this call, the Secretary General commissioned a small panel of eminent and experienced international figures to develop concrete and comprehensive analyses and recommendations on UN system-wide coherence in the fields of humanitarian assistance, environment, and development. An important recommendation of the panel was to establish “One United Nations” at the country level that has full country ownership, and is supported by a strengthened and more consolidated funding structure to substantially increase the effectiveness of UN interventions. Regarding environmental management, the Panel recommend inter alia that “UN entities should cooperate more effectively on a thematic basis and through partnerships, with a dedicated agency at the centre” and “that the status of sustainable development in the UN institutional architecture should be upgraded”.

At the level of the UN Secretariat, the Secretary General established a High-Level Advisory Group on System-wide Coherence in 2007 as a mechanism to develop a response to the recommendations of the *High-Level Panel on UN System-wide Coherence in the Areas of Development, Humanitarian Assistance, and the Environment* which issued its report *Delivering as One* in November 2006. The Group is chaired by the Deputy Secretary General

⁸ Pilot countries include Albania, Cape Verde, Mozambique, Pakistan, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uruguay, and Viet Nam.

⁹ *General Assembly resolution 60/1 of 16 September 2005*, para 169.

and requested in May 2007, the UNEP Executive Director to facilitate a process to consider the environment-related recommendations of the High Level Panel.

Intergovernmental Initiatives to Reform IEG

At the intergovernmental level, the UN General Assembly (GA) initiated in 2006 an *Informal Consultative Process on the Institutional Framework for the United Nations' Environmental Activities*. The process reached an important milestone in June 2007, through release of an options paper by the two co-chairs. Through the Executive Director of UNEP, EMG provided views of its members to the High-Level Advisory Group. In 2008, the Co-Chairs presented a revised draft resolution for discussion in the GA on strengthening International Environmental Governance and indicated in February 2009 that the chances of reaching a substantive decision in the 63rd session of the General Assembly were small. They recommended to all interested parties to make best use of upcoming intergovernmental meetings “to remain seized on the matter”.

At the 25th session of UNEP's Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum in February 2009, environment ministers initiated a consultative process of ministers and high level representatives to develop recommendations for the reform of international environmental governance. Recommendations are expected to be developed for the 11th special session of the Governing Council, to be held in February 2010. It will take into account relevant prior initiatives including the work of the Co-Chairs of the General Assembly's Informal Consultations on Environmental Governance as well as a recent report of the Joint Inspection Unit on “Management review of environmental governance within the United Nations system”, and the discussion paper of UNEP's Executive Director on international environmental governance.

Joint Inspection Unit Report

In late 2008, the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) released a report on "Management Review of Environmental Governance in the United Nations System". The report pursued the objective “to strengthen the governance of and programmatic and administrative support for Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) by United Nations organizations by identifying measures to promote enhanced coordination, coherence and synergies between MEAs and the United Nations system, thus increasing United Nations system's contribution towards a more integrated approach to international environmental governance and management at national, regional and international levels. The report highlighted a number of coherence problems with the current approach to global environmental governance. The topics addressed by the report mirrored to a large extent the issues discussed in the GA, such as coordination of MEAs, and the roles and functions of various UN bodies, including the EMG. The UN system input to the report was coordinated through the CEB, which issued its comments in June 2009 for the discussion at ECOSOC on the subject matter.

References to the EMG

Within the context of the UN reform, EMG has often been considered an important element of any reform strategy—especially in its assumed ability to improve coherence and enhance synergies between agencies, including MEAs. References to EMG are included in various UN reform documents, such as the report of the High-level Panel, the CEB reform processes, and also in discussions within UNDG. In addition, a number of civil society organizations have referred to the role of EMG in their comments on the co-chairs option paper currently

discussed in the GA. These references suggest that great expectations exist for EMG in enhancing coherence.

2.5 Analysis

A review of UN coordinating structures for environment and sustainable development reveals different origins, mandates, and reporting structures of the mechanisms. Some, such as EMG or the BLG₂ were established by member states. In other cases, mechanisms were created through initiatives from within the UN system, either from the top (e.g. in the case of the subsidiary bodies of CEB) or as bottom-up initiatives (e.g. IOMC). In the case of IOMC, it was the heads of departments of international bodies engaged in chemicals management who realized the need for, and benefits of, a formalized coordination arrangement at the thematic level.

The stock-taking exercise revealed a significant number joint initiatives, programmes, and long term projects which involved cooperation of two or more UN agencies. Many of these collaborations have advisory groups which often involve other agencies as well, and in some cases governments and nongovernmental stakeholders. Through these informal, non-institutionalized mechanisms, UN staff meet their peers face-to-face and explore opportunities for synergies.

Documenting the diversity and breadth of these collaborative mechanisms and joint programmes for the entire UN system and measuring their impact is difficult and hard to achieve in a top-down exercise. It would rather need to be undertaken at the thematic level. Annex 1 of this report therefore can only be considered an initial attempt to providing a general overview of cooperation among UN organizations in the various thematic areas of environmental management.

Despite existing mechanisms of coordination and collaboration at the systemic and thematic levels, UN organizations are aware that some overlap and duplication may exist. A solution to possible deficiencies in coordination necessitates action both at the level of organizations and through political commitment. As documented for the thematic area of biodiversity, the latter can serve as a driving force to formalize coordination, if deemed necessary.

The TOR of EMG, although referring to the role of EMG in enhancing United Nations system-wide inter-agency coordination, also spells out that such coordination be focused on addressing specific issues in a time bound manner. While EMG has made, according to its members, a number of valuable contributions since its inception to advance specific issues, it has not always achieved the expectations.

These sentiments were reiterated in a recent (June 2009) evaluation by the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) of Implementation by the EMG Secretariat of the Secretary - General's Commitment to Move the United Nations Towards Climate-Neutrality concludes that "EMG is still unable to act as the envisaged forum for facilitating system-wide policy coherence and international environmental governance more broadly. The positive progress noted by the current report is centred on the internal operations of the United Nations rather than EMG's promise as a tool for wider environmental cooperation OIOS notes that this does not constitute a failure on the part of the EMG secretariat. ... Rather, EMG's inability to

deliver on its promise seems more due to the larger uncertainties and weaknesses in international environmental governance; issues that are currently being discussed by Member States in General Assembly deliberations on strengthening the environmental activities of the UN system. OIOS acknowledges that the EMG secretariat has attempted to strengthen EMG's role in wider coordination issues, for example, by examining EMG's potential contribution to biodiversity strategy and targets under the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity and to the implementation of the ten-year strategy of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.”

These developments were also commended by the UNEP Governing Council which in its decision 25/1 “welcomed the attention of the EMG to key environmental processes under the three Rio conventions”. The Council also requested the Executive Director to promote the cooperation across the UN system to assist Member States to implement the international environmental agenda, including through consideration of joint approaches to addressing environmental challenges of UN system-wide significance.”

In its recommendations the OIOS on its side “commends the recent efforts of the EMG secretariat at encouraging EMG members to play a more active role in developing the EMG work programme and in focusing on issues of relevance to the UN system. OIOS considers that the EMG secretariat should continue to facilitate an EMG focus on broader environmental issues. However, OIOS also recognises that the EMG secretariat and UNEP (as Chair of EMG) cannot alone determine the success of EMG in fulfilling its mandate.... OIOS considers that the EMG secretariat should continue to engage UN agencies in using EMG as a tool for better coordination and cooperation by: (i) encouraging greater senior participation in EMG meetings; (ii) clarifying amongst EMG members the purpose, terms of reference and membership of EMG; and (iii) developing and facilitating agreement on a strategic plan for the work of EMG.”

The need for a more strategic approach to environmental activities in the UN was also reiterated by the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) in its management Review of Environmental Governance within the UN system. The review made reference to the System-Wide Medium-Term Environment Programmes (SWIMTEP) which was approved by UNEP Governing Council for the periods of 1984 – 1989 and 1990 – 1995. The ACC acknowledged the strategy as a “useful instrument and a compilation of activities and as a coordinating tool in the field of environment. To this end the JIU recommends that the “Secretary-General as Chairman of the CEB should encourage the executive heads of the organisations and the MEAs to develop a joint system-wide planning framework for the management and coordination of environmental activities, drawing on the results-based management framework endorsed by the General Assembly resolution 60/257 and to this end draw up an indicative-planning document serving for joint programming of their activities in the environmental sphere”.

Annex I to this report provides a series of “fact sheets” which outline, for each thematic area of environmental management: key issues, international agreements, primary coordination mechanisms, collaborative programmes and initiatives, and an overview of EMG members' activities. The findings presented in the annex may provide resource of information for developing a structure for a strategic approach to joint programming for environmental activities in the UN.

As the intergovernmental discussions on international environmental governance continue, opportunities exist to explore options to adjust the role and contribution of EMG to address

and contribute to the evolving institutional system. Part 3 of this report provides some suggestions, collected from EMG members contributions, on how this could be achieved.

3. REFLECTIONS ON EMG: PERSPECTIVES FROM ITS MEMBERS

3.1 Role and Function of EMG

Focusing on its Original Task: Issue Management¹⁰

A number of agencies emphasised that EMG should focus, as anticipated in its TOR, on establishing limited and time-bound issue management/task groups with defined TOR for specific policy issues and with a strong problem-solving focus. Most of the work of EMG should be undertaken through intersessional work. Meetings of EMG could then focus on monitoring operations and outputs of IMGs, with operational responsibility being held at the level of IMGs. It was also pointed out that IMGs should be led by one or more of the EMG members, i.e. by providing the chair and/or secretariat services.

Simple criteria could be agreed upon regarding how IMGs could be established. Such criteria could include, for example, interest in participating from a minimum number of EMG members, presence of clear and measurable outputs, and willingness of a member to provide secretariat functions. A bottom-up selection process driven by two or more EMG members could be complemented by a top-down process where all EMG members collectively decide on priorities for IMGs, as happened in the case of the current IMG on “climate change UN operations”. Individual EMG members had proposed the topic for an IMG. At the same time the topic received increasing attention through a CEB and by Secretary General. This constellation ensured both bottom-up demand and policy support from above.

Providing a Collective Voice on Environmental Governance Reform¹¹

Several EMG members also felt that environmental issues are not yet sufficiently addressed and integrated within high levels decision-making structures and coordination bodies in the UN system. Thus, it was suggested in a number of responses that EMG could make a valuable and important contribution to the ongoing reform processes within the UN, both with regard to overall UN reform and international environmental governance reform (e.g. by collecting perspectives of members concerning a possible UN environment organization). Through its extensive membership of more than 40 organizations, EMG could also provide leadership and advice to CEB on the relevance of the environmental dimension to economic and social development, peace and security, as well as poverty eradication policies.

Identifying and Responding to Emerging Issues¹²

Given the collective expertise of EMG members on environmental matters, EMG could play a role in identifying emerging issues that might benefit from increased cooperation of organizations involved in environmental matters, and for governments. A situation and gap analysis could be prepared to assess the extent to which emerging issues are already being addressed through current mandates and activities of UN agencies. Gaps could be identified and proposals developed for consideration on how to fill the gaps.

¹⁰ Input provided by UNEP, UNEP/CMS, and UNITAR.

¹¹ Input provided by CBD, UNEP/CMS, UNITAR, and WHO.

¹² Input provided by CBD, IMO, UNECE, UNEP/CMS, and UPU.

Facilitating Dialogue across Thematic Areas of Environmental Management¹³

While coordination at the thematic level is facilitated through existing networks and policy forums, gaps seem to exist regarding opportunities to discuss linkages across thematic environmental areas, including potential synergies and conflicts among environment issues. Potential areas of cross-cutting topics include, for example, biodiversity and carbon sequestration activities, climate change and desertification, or chemicals management and biodiversity. Given the broader scope of the EMG mandate vis-à-vis existing thematic platforms, EMG may be an appropriate forum to facilitate such discussions through IMGs (that would include members of the concerned thematic networks).

Facilitating Dialogue across Development Sectors¹⁴

EMG might also be in a good position to reach out and provide, as appropriate, input to discussions within other sectors concerning the environmental dimension of their work. Examples of such linkages include climate change and transport, environment and trade, or environment and humanitarian operations.

Contributing to the Coordination of Environmental Activities¹⁵

Some EMGs members proposed that EMG should facilitate dialogue and coordination *within* thematic areas of environmental management. However, many other organizations cautioned against EMG involvement in daily coordination at the thematic level. Such coordination could be better achieved through decentralized approaches involving the relevant actors' engagement in thematic level activities. A broader co-coordinating role of EMG would also necessitate reconsideration of the TOR which do not foresee such a coordinating function. EMG may, however, consider maintaining an overview of existing coordination mechanisms in thematic areas, periodically reviewing their effectiveness, and discussing options for strengthening coordination, as appropriate. Some EMG members suggested that, if deemed appropriate, EMG could provide an impulse for strengthening coordination at the thematic level. In addition, by focusing on issue management and problem solving, EMG activities would also and ultimately strengthen coordination (rather than pursuing coordination as an immediate objective).

Contributing to Information Exchange and Knowledge¹⁶

The TOR for EMG includes a strong call for information management. The Sarma report¹⁷ recommended that the main focus of EMG should be to become a major clearinghouse of information. Some EMG members supported such a function and suggested, for example, that EMG maintain an up-to-date inventory of all environmental projects supported by UN organizations. Others pointed out that information exchange should rather be undertaken at the thematic level given that relevant actors are closer to the activities. An alternative approach to a 'super clearinghouse' (and less costly in human and financial terms) is that EMG would facilitate information exchange through an interactive 'information portal' with links to websites of existing environmental programmes, activities, coordinating mechanisms, websites, online forums, etc., including an electronic bulletin and thematic mailing-lists. Such

¹³ Input provided by CBD, IMO, RAMSAR, UNFCCC, UPU, and WHO.

¹⁴ Input provided by CBD, UNESCAP, UNHCR, and WHO.

¹⁵ Input provided by CBD, IMO, RAMSAR, UNECE, UNEP, UNEP/CMS, UNFCCC, UNITAR, and WHO.

¹⁶ Input provided by IAEA, IMO, UNEP/CMS, and UNITAR.

¹⁷ A Study of the Environmental Management Group. UNEP, Evaluation and Oversight Unit, December 2004.

a tool would point to existing information, rather than be based on new information collected or generated by EMG.

EMG could, however, develop an information management component as part of serving its issue management functions. Over time, the totality of information available on the various issues that will have been managed would result in a substantial information and knowledge base, including appropriately developed metadata.

Some aspects of information management may also lend themselves to being considered within an issue management context. This could involve, for example, development of information exchange standards on environment issues, to facilitate the interoperability of information systems on the environment, thus enhancing synergy and cooperation between EMG members. The CBD and UNFCCC secretariats are already working on this.

Knowledge Management and Lesson-sharing¹⁸

Closely linked to its information exchange role, several members suggested that EMG become a clearinghouse to identify and share best practices and lessons learned for particular issues areas. This could be achieved through electronic means, but also through face-to-face workshops and task forces, as appropriate, with results featured on the EMG website.

3.2 Suggestions for Issue Management Groups

The stock-taking survey, as well as informal consultative processes held during the course of 2007, revealed a number of potential topics that could be addressed in IMGs. Quite a number of proposals address issues of capacity development at the national level as well as integration of environmental issues and capacity development within national development planning frameworks. These suggestions include the following.¹⁹

- Integrating environmental considerations into “One UN” initiatives at the country level
- Capacity-building (building on the Bali plan) and cooperation on public awareness, education, training, and communication, with a problem-solving rather than policy development focus
- Building capacity in the key national ministries involved in global environmental issues
- Facilitating interaction between different UN focal points and relevant ministries at the country level
- Coherence in mainstreaming environment into development planning
- Facilitating working relationships with, and support for coordinated country operations from, funding institutions (i.e. GEF and the World Bank)

In addition, members provided a range of suggestions for IMGs which could facilitate knowledge sharing at the global level. Proposals falling within this group include the following²⁰:

¹⁸ Input provided by IAEA, IMO, UNEP/CMS, UNFCCC, and WHO.

¹⁹ Input provided by CBD, UNESCAP, UNFCCC, UNHCR, UNITAR, and WHO.

²⁰ Input provided by CBD, IMO, UNECE, UNEP, UNEP/CMS, UNITAR, UPU, and WHO.

- Identifying lessons learned and best practices of stakeholder engagement in decision-making
- Environment and health linkages and integration of the WHO-UNEP Health and Environment Linkage Initiative (HELI) into country-level action
- Developing and implementing a work plan for the 2010 biodiversity target
- Implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Work on Adaptation
- Strengthening UN system-wide support to contribute to MEA implementation
- Assessment of the implementation of global legal instruments for marine protection
- Identifying lessons-learned regarding engaging the private sector in UN environmental activities
- Sharing experiences of engaging civil society in intergovernmental fora
- Identifying opportunities for coherence and synergies between MEAs

3.3 Institutional and Operational Issues

*Institutional Linkages and Reporting*²¹

Many EMG members pointed out that the functioning of EMG would benefit from a more clearly defined relationship with intergovernmental bodies and existing coordinating mechanisms in the UN system. Reporting relationships of EMG to the GA, Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GC/GMEF), CSD, as well as the governing bodies of EMG member agencies are currently not well defined.²² Similarly, the relationships with coordination and policy structures within the UN such CEB (and its subsidiary bodies such HLCP, HLCM, UN-Water, UN-Oceans and UN-Energy), as well as with UNDG, are not clear. A third dimension is the undefined relationship of EMG with thematic coordinating mechanisms, such as IOMC.

EMG members provided a range of suggestion concerning how EMG could be institutionally linked to other bodies, including both informal and formal approaches. Proponents of an informal approach pointed out that agencies participating in EMG also participate directly in UNDG and CEB and do not need to be represented in those forums through EMG. Informal contacts and good information flow between the respective secretariats would be appropriate.

A more formal approach could involve EMG becoming a sub-committee of CEB, working in close partnership with UNDG. EMG should examine and adapt in particular to UNDG's structure and priorities to complement its work in areas such as capacity building and the resident coordinator system. Other suggestions made by individual members include a pyramidal coordinating system (from national to regional to international), establishing EMG

²¹ Input provided by CBD, RAMSAR, UNECE, UNESCAP, UNITAR, UPU, and WHO.

²² The practice thus far has been that the reports of EMG have been submitted to the GA through the GC of UNEP. This practice is based on an interpretation of GA Resolution 58/209 of December 2003, which requested EMG (in the context of the implementation of the UNEP Bali plan on capacity-building and technology transfer) to make available the reports of its work (on capacity-building) to the 59th session of the GA through the GC of UNEP. EMG has continued this practice and provided its reports to subsequent sessions of the GA through the GC of UNEP.

as an independent agency (de-linked from UNEP), or creating a sustainable development board.

Mode of Operation²³

Members provided a number of suggestions aimed at strengthening the operating procedures of EMG and, through this, strengthening EMG as a professionally-managed institution. Many of the suggestions are already being implemented under UNEP's new Executive Director and the Director of EMG, however, they are included below in order to accurately reflect the entirety of suggestions made. These include:

- Holding regular EMG meetings (e.g. once a year) with a clear agenda and ensuring consistency in the participation of senior level representatives
- Ensuring that preparatory work through IMGs is completed in advance and includes precise recommendations for decision-makers to consider at annual EMG meetings
- Defining clearly and institutionalizing the role of EMG focal points in order to ensure more continuity. Similarly, define and provide lists of focal points for IMGs
- Consider formalizing “membership” of organizations in EMG (including defining both duties and rights associated with such membership)
- Consider amending the TOR to ensure a common understanding of the role and function of EMG by all members including roles and responsibilities (e.g. clarifying mandate, objectives, membership, modus operandi, participation, reporting, and support structure for the secretariat)

Resource Mobilization for EMG²⁴

The GA Resolution 53/242 on EMG and the TOR do not elaborate on the support structure for EMG. The TOR provides limited guidance and mentions that “UNEP will be providing the Secretariat of the EMG”. The support structure can be considered in terms of its substantive, financial, administrative, and human resources aspects. One EMG member pointed out that EMG was established pursuant to a UNGA resolution and that the decision should have been accompanied by a corresponding budget decision. Thus, this issue should be taken up again and brought to the attention of UNGA. In a parallel process, EMG could consider member support to the functioning of EMG, such as support for the work of the IMGs; secondment of staff; generation of a sense of ownership through regular symbolic or assessed financial contributions to a core administrative fund of EMG; as well as co-chairing and hosting the EMG meetings and activities.

3.4 Criteria for Evaluating EMG Effectiveness²⁵

EMG members provided a range of ideas on how the success and effectiveness of EMG could be measured. At the strategic level, members found it important that EMG develop a clear identity, distinctive from other UN mechanisms. In addition, leadership and a strong voice of EMG on matters of UN system coordination, UN policy coherence on environment, and mainstreaming of environment into development programmes was considered an

²³ Input provided by IMO, UNECE, and UNITAR.

²⁴ Input provided by UNECE and WHO.

²⁵ Input provided by CBD, IAEA, IMO, RAMSAR, UNEP/CMS, UNHCR, UNITAR, and WHO.

important indicator of success. At the more operational level, regular participation of senior level representatives in the annual meetings of EMG would show that the Group is considered relevant and important by its members. Also, by developing specific indicators of success for each IMG and by holding the Groups accountable at the annual EMG meetings would enhance the likelihood of success of IMGs. If all IMGs work effectively, EMG as a whole will be successful.

Other indicators mentioned include:

- Speed in responding to emerging issues and in addressing them within the inter-agency context—in the short-term
- Number of joint activities or coordinated projects/activities initiated as a result of EMG engagement in specific topics
- The level of resources mobilized outside of UNEP (e.g. EMG members willing to service specific IMGs)

Finally, more indirect and less tangible measures of success were identified, such as the satisfaction of EMG members concerning the perceived effectiveness of the Group, or the trust held by members in the Group and its secretariat. The development of annual work-programmes, including deliverables and outputs, would both facilitate management of EMG operation and, at the same time, could serve as a means to help assess the effectiveness of EMG.

ANNEX 1: UN COLLABORATION IN THEMATIC AREAS OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

This annex provides a series of “fact sheets” which outline, for each thematic area of environmental management: key issues, international agreements, primary coordination mechanisms, collaborative programmes and initiatives, and an overview of EMG members’ activities.

The following thematic areas are addressed:

Air Pollution Control	21
Biodiversity	23
Chemicals Management	26
Climate Change	29
Desertification.....	32
Energy	34
Environmental Health	37
Forests	39
Freshwater	42
Oceans and Coastal Zone Management	45
Protection of the Ozone Layer	49
Sustainable Agriculture.....	51
Sustainable Consumption and Production.....	53
Waste Management.....	56
Wetlands Protection	59

AIR POLLUTION CONTROL

Context

Air pollution control is a broad and multidimensional endeavour involving various sectors of economic activity. According to WHO, only 15% of the largest cities in developing countries have acceptable air quality—due, for example, to emissions of nitrogen oxides, sulphur oxides, particles, carbon monoxide, and hydrocarbons. CSD’s fourteenth session in 2006 and fifteenth session in 2007 focused on a cluster of thematic issues, including atmosphere and air pollution.

International Agreements

- Agenda 21, Chapter 9: Protection of the atmosphere, 1992
- WSSD Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, Paras 39, 56, 2002
- UNECE Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (LTARP), 1979

Coordination

Information exchange and coordination in the area of air pollution control takes place within the context of agreements such as LTARP and through major programmes such as the Clean Fuels and Vehicles Partnership.

Collaborative Programmes and Initiatives

Title/Topic	Partner Agencies	Website
Clean Fuels and Vehicles Partnership	UNDESA, UNDP, UNEP, WHO, World Bank	www.unep.org/pcfvs
Prevention and Control of Dust and Sandstorms in North-East Asia	ADB , UNESCAP, UNCCD, UNEP	www.adb.org
Partnership for Clean Indoor Air	WHO, UNEP, UNDP, World Bank, PREDAS, PAHO, CCAD	www.pciaonline.org

**UN Involvement and Collaboration in Thematic Areas:
Air Pollution Control**

Organization Involvement in Air Pollution Control

<p><i>“+” in the cell indicates that the organization is active in the respective activity within the thematic programme area</i></p>	International Normative & Assessment Activities		Operational & Capacity Building Activities			
	International Knowledge Generation and Assessment	Development of Conventions, International Guidelines, etc	Support of National Legislation, Governance, Institution and Programme Development	Support of National Research and Education	Technical Support and Training	Technology Transfer
CBD						
CITIES						
CMS	+					
ECA						
ECE	+	+	+	+	+	+
ECLAC						
ESCAP	+	+	+	+	+	+
ESCWA						
FAO						
GEF						
IAEA	+			+	+	+
ICAO						
IFAD						
ILO						
IMO	+	+	+	+	+	+
ISDR						
ITC						
ITU						
OCHA						
OHCHR						
RAMSAR						
SBC						
UNCCD						
UNCTAD						
UNDESA/DSD						
UNDP						
UNEP	+	+	+	+	+	
UNESCO						
UNFCCC						
UNFPA						
UN-HABITAT						
UNHCR						
UNICEF	+		+	+	+	
UNIDO						
UNITAR					+	
UNU						
UPU						
WFP						
WHO						
WIPO						
WMO						
The World Bank						
WTO (Trade)						
WTO (Tourism)						

BIODIVERSITY

Context

The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment released in March 2005 concludes that there has been a substantial and largely irreversible loss in the diversity of life on earth due to human action. Among the outstanding problems is the dire state of many of the world's fish stocks, the vulnerability of the two billion people living in dry regions to the loss of ecosystem services, and the growing threat to ecosystems from climate change and nutrient pollution. In April 2002, the Parties to the CBD committed themselves to achieve by 2010 a significant reduction of the current rate of biodiversity loss at the global, regional, and national level as a contribution to poverty alleviation and to the benefit of all life on Earth. This "2010 Biodiversity Target" was subsequently endorsed by the WSSD and UNGA, and was incorporated as a new target under the MDGs. Biodiversity has also been discussed by CSD on several occasions and is one of the themes for discussion in the 2012/2013 two-year cycle.

International Agreements

- Agenda 21, Chapter 15: Conservation of biological diversity, 1992
- WSSD Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, Paras 44, 45, 2002
- Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), 1992
- Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity, 2000
- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), 1973
- Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), 1979
- International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, 2001
- Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar Convention), 1971
- Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (World Heritage Convention), 1972

Coordination

In order to enhance coherence and cooperation in implementation of the six biodiversity-related conventions, the Biodiversity Liaison Group was established between the heads of the secretariats of the conventions in 2002. The Group meets regularly to explore opportunities for synergistic activities and increased coordination, and to exchange information.

The Heads of Agencies Task Force on the 2010 Biodiversity Target, which held its first meeting in September 2006, includes representatives of UNEP, UNDP, FAO, UNESCO, UNCTAD, and UNITAR, as well as the CBD, CITES, CMS, Ramsar, IUCN, WWF, and the International Plant Genetic Resources Institute. In order to facilitate intersessional work and discussions, the CBD Secretariat maintains and moderates a listserv or equivalent, and each agency nominates a focal point(s) for the intersessional work of the partnership.

Under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the CBD, governments adopted the Capacity Building Coordination Mechanism, which involves UN organizations as well as representatives from member states. The Mechanism includes the Liaison Group on Capacity Building in Biosafety; biosafety capacity-building databases; information-sharing and

UN Involvement and Collaboration in Thematic Areas: Biodiversity

networking mechanism; coordination meetings; and the Reporting Mechanism.

Collaborative Programmes and Initiatives

Title/Topic	Partner Agencies	Website/Webpage
Biological Diversity of Dry and Sub-humid Lands	CBD, UNCCD, UNEP-DELC	www.cbd.int/drylands
RAMSAR-CBD Joint Work Programme	RAMSAR, CBD	www.ramsar.org/cbd/key_cbd_jwp3_e.htm
CBD-UNEP/WCMC Joint Work Programme	CBD, UNEP-WCMC	www.unep-wcmc.org/cbd/support/
Forest Biodiversity	CBD, FAO, UNFF, other members of the CPF	www.cbd.int/forest
Island Biodiversity	CBD, WTO (Tourism), UNEP-WCMC, UNEP-DTIE	www.cbd.int/island
Marine and Coastal Biodiversity	CBD, UNIPLOS, IOC-UNESCO, FAO	www.cbd.int/marine
Mountain Biodiversity	CBD, FAO	www.cbd.int/mountain
Protected Areas	CBD, UNESCO, UNEP	www.cbd.int/protected
Access and Benefit-sharing	CBD, UNEP, FAO, WIPO, WTO, UPOV, UNCTAD, UNU-IAS	www.cbd.int/abs
Traditional Knowledge, Innovations, and Practices	CBD, WIPO, UNESCO, UNPFII, members of IASG	www.cbd.int/traditional
Technology Transfer and Cooperation	CBD, WIPO, UNCTAD	www.cbd.int/tech-transfer
Economics, Trade, and Incentive Measures	CBD, UNEP	www.cbd.int/incentives
Biodiversity Planning Support Programme	UNDP, UNEP, GEF	www.undp.org/bpsp/
Year of the Dolphin Campaign	UNEP-CMS, UNESCO	www.yod2007.org/en/Start_page
Great Apes Survival Project (GRASP)	UNEP, UNESCO	www.unep.org/GRASP
Global Partnership for Plant Conservation	FAO, UNEP-WCMC, others	www.plants2010.org
2010 Biodiversity Indicators Partnership	UNEP, Convention Secretariats (CBD, CITES, CMS), UNESCO, FAO, UNEP, GEF	www.twentyten.net

**UN Involvement and Collaboration in Thematic Areas:
Biodiversity**

Organization Involvement in Biodiversity

<p><i>“+” in the cell indicates that the organization is active in the respective activity within the thematic programme area</i></p>	International Normative & Assessment Activities		Operational & Capacity Building Activities			
	International Knowledge Generation and Assessment	Development of Conventions, International Guidelines, etc	Support of National Legislation, Governance, Institution and Programme Development	Support of National Research and Education	Technical Support and Training	Technology Transfer
CBD	+	+	(Indirect)	(Indirect)	(Indirect)	(Indirect)
CITIES						
CMS	+	+	+	+	+	
ECA						
ECE						
ECLAC						
ESCAP	+	+	+	+	+	
ESCWA						
FAO						
GEF						
IAEA						
ICAO						
IFAD						
ILO						
IMO	+	+	+	+	+	+
ISDR						
ITC						
ITU						
OCHA						
OHCHR						
RAMSAR	+	+	+	+	+	+
SBC						
UNCCD						
UNCTAD						
UNDESA/DSD						
UNDP						
UNEP	+	+	+	+	+	+
UNESCO						
UNFCCC						
UNFPA						
UN-HABITAT						
UNHCR	+		+	+	+	+
UNICEF						
UNIDO						
UNITAR			+	+	+	
UNU						
UPU						
WFP						
WHO						
WIPO						
WMO						
The World Bank						
WTO (Trade)						
WTO (Tourism)						

CHEMICALS MANAGEMENT

Context

Chemicals are essential to meet the social and economic goals of the world community. Today's best practice demonstrates that they can be used widely in a cost-effective manner and with a high degree of safety. However, significant challenges remain to ensure the environmentally sound management of toxic chemicals, within the context of sustainable development. In addition to the many international agreements on chemicals management, the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM), adopted in February 2006, will support the achievement of the goal, agreed at WSSD, of ensuring that, by the year 2020, chemicals are produced and used in ways that minimize significant adverse impacts on the environment and human health.

International Agreements

- Agenda 21, Chapter 19: Environmentally sound management of toxic chemicals, including prevention of illegal international traffic in toxic and dangerous products, 1992
- WSSD Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, Paras 23, 68, 2002
- Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM), 2006
- Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, 2001
- Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade (PIC), 1998
- Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction (Chemical Weapons Convention; CWC), 1993
- ILO Chemicals Convention 1990, No. 170, 1990
- ILO Prevention of Major Industrial Accidents Convention 1993, No. 174, 1993
- International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides (Revised version), 2002
- The Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS), 2002

Coordination

The Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) serves as the primary mechanism for initiating, facilitating, and coordinating international action to achieve the WSSD 2020 goal for sound management of chemicals. It was established in 1995 through a Memorandum of Understanding signed by the Executive Heads of seven Participating Organizations (POs). These organizations include FAO, ILO, OECD, UNEP, UNIDO, UNITAR, and WHO. UNDP and the World Bank currently participate as observer organizations. An Inter-Organization Coordinating Committee (IOCC) is composed of representatives of the POs and meets twice a year. The Chair position rotates annually and decisions are taken by consensus. For specific issues, subsidiary groups are established, such as the IOMC Coordinating Group on Persistent Organic Pollutants. WHO is currently the administering organization for the IOMC and provides secretariat services to IOCC.

**UN Involvement and Collaboration in Thematic Areas:
Chemicals Management**

Collaborative Programmes and Initiatives

Title/Topic	Partner Agencies	Website
International Programme on Chemical Safety	WHO, ILO, UNEP (working jointly with FAO and in collaboration with other UN agencies and IOMC)	www.who.int/ipcs
Africa Stockpiles Programme	AU, SBC, FAO, NEPAD, UNECE, UNEP, UNIDO, UNITAR, WORLD BANK, WHO, PAN-UK, PAN-Africa, WWF, CLI	www.africastockpiles.org
Partnership Initiative for the Integration of Sound Management of Chemicals: Considerations into Development Planning and Processes	UNEP, UNDP	www.undp.org/chemicals
Pesticide Residues in Food and the Environment	WHO, FAO	www.who.int/ipcs/food
Capacity Building to Implement the GHS	UNITAR, ILO, OECD, UNECE	www.unitar.org/cwm/ghs
Assisting Countries to Develop Integrated National Programmes for the Sound Management of Chemicals	UNITAR, IOMC Organizations, SAICM Secretariat, World Bank, UNDP, OPCW, SBC	www.unitar.org/cwm/saicm
Green Customs Initiative	UNEP, SBC, Stockholm Convention Secretariat, Rotterdam Convention Secretariat, CITES, Ozone Secretariat, Interpol, WCO, OPCW	www.unep.fr/ozonaction/partnerships/greencustoms.htm
Rotterdam Convention Secretariat	UNEP, FAO	www.pic.int
Alert and Response Mechanisms for Chemical Accidents	WHO, IPCS, UNEP, UNEP/OCHA, OPCW, IMO, WMO, UNICEF	www.who.int/ipcs/emergencies
Environmental Assessment following Chemical Emergencies	Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit	www.reliefweb.int/ochaunep
EXICHEM Database	OECD, WHO, UNEP, ECETOC	webdomino1.oecd.org/ehs/exichem.nsf
Capacity Building to Implement the Rotterdam Convention	Rotterdam Convention Secretariat, UNITAR	www.unitar.org/cwm
Capacity Building to Implement the Stockholm Convention	GEF, UNDP, UNEP, UNIDO, Stockholm Convention Secretariat, UNITAR	www.unitar.org/cwm/pops

UN Involvement and Collaboration in Thematic Areas: Chemicals Management

Organization Involvement in Chemicals Management

<i>“+” in the cell indicates that the organization is active in the respective activity within the thematic programme area</i>	International Normative & Assessment Activities		Operational & Capacity Building Activities			
	International Knowledge Generation and Assessment	Development of Conventions, International Guidelines, etc	Support of National Legislation, Governance, Institution and Programme Development	Support of National Research and Education	Technical Support and Training	Technology Transfer
CBD						
CITIES						
CMS	+					
ECA						
ECE	+	+	+	+	+	+
ECLAC						
ESCAP	+				+	
ESCWA						
FAO						
GEF						
IAEA						
ICAO						
IFAD						
ILO						
IMO	+	+	+	+	+	+
ISDR						
ITC						
ITU						
OCHA						
OHCHR						
RAMSAR						
SBC						
UNCCD						
UNCTAD						
UNDESA/DSD						
UNDP						
UNEP	+	+	+	+	+	+
UNESCO						
UNFCCC						
UNFPA						
UN-HABITAT						
UNHCR						
UNICEF			+	+	+	+
UNIDO						
UNITAR			+	+	+	
UNU						
UPU						
WFP						
WHO						
WIPO						
WMO						
The World Bank						
WTO (Trade)						
WTO (Tourism)						

CLIMATE CHANGE

Context

The Earth's climate system has changed on both global and regional scales since the pre-industrial era, with some of these changes attributable to human activities. The atmospheric concentrations of key anthropogenic greenhouse gases (i.e. carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide and tropospheric ozone) reached their highest recorded levels, primarily due to the combustion of fossil fuels, agriculture, and land use changes. The consensus scientific basis on climate change is provided by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), established in the late 1980s under the auspices of WMO and UNEP. The summary of the IPCC Fourth Assessment Report, released in early 2007, concludes that the warming of the climate system is unequivocal and accelerating. It goes on to state that the observed increase in global average temperatures is very likely (greater than 90% confidence) due to GHG emissions from human activities, up from greater than 60% confidence in its 2001 assessment report. Both Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI) assert that the UNFCCC is the key instrument for addressing climate change. Climate change formed part of the thematic cluster with energy, industrial development, and air pollution/atmosphere reviewed by CSD at its fourteenth session in 2006 and fifteenth session in 2007.

International Agreements

- Agenda 21, Chapter 9: Protection of the atmosphere, 1992
- WSSD Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, Para 38, 2002
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), 1994
- Kyoto Protocol to the UNFCCC, 1997

Coordination

The COP to the UNFCCC and the COP serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP), which usually meets annually for a period of two weeks (with over 50 intergovernmental agencies and international organizations attending as observers) provide a regular forum for sharing information and facilitating coordination (including among UN agencies) regarding climate change-related activities. In addition, the UNFCCC Secretariat regularly prepares reports to the COP on relevant UN activities and international cooperation.

Collaborative Programmes and Initiatives

Title/Topic	Partner Agencies	Website/Webpage
Global Climate Observing System	UNEP, UNESCO, WMO	www.wmo.int/pages/prog/gcos
Collaboration on Climate Change Activities	CBD, UNFCCC	www.cbd.int/climate
Climate Change Capacity Development (C3D)	UNDP/GEF National Communication Programme, UNFCCC, UNITAR	www.c3d-unitar.org/

**UN Involvement and Collaboration in Thematic Areas:
Climate Change**

Title/Topic	Partner Agencies	Website/Webpage
National Adaptation Programme of Action Training Workshops	UNDP/GEF, World Bank/GEF, GEF, UNFCCC, UNFCCC LDC Expert Group, UNITAR	www.unitar.org/ccp/napaworkshops
Information Exchange on the Reduction of Greenhouse Gas Emissions from International Transport	UNFCCC, UNEP (Vienna Convention and Montreal Protocol), ICAO, WMO, UNECE (LTARP)	
Cities Alliance	UNEP, UN-Habitat, World Bank	www.citiesalliance.org
National Communications Support Programme	UNEP, UNDP, GEF	ncsp.undp.org
Vulnerability and Adaptation Resource Group	BMZ, CIDA, DFID, DGIS, EC, GEF, GTZ, KfW, OECD, Red Cross/Red Crescent (Climate Center), SIDA, UNDP, UNEP, UNISDR, USAID, USEPA, World Bank, WMO, WHO	www.climatevarg.org

**UN Involvement and Collaboration in Thematic Areas:
Climate Change**

Organization Involvement in Climate Change

<p><i>“+” in the cell indicates that the organization is active in the respective activity within the thematic programme area</i></p>	International Normative & Assessment Activities		Operational & Capacity Building Activities			
	International Knowledge Generation and Assessment	Development of Conventions, International Guidelines, etc	Support of National Legislation, Governance, Institution and Programme Development	Support of National Research and Education	Technical Support and Training	Technology Transfer
CBD	+	+				
CITIES						
CMS	+					
ECA						
ECE	+					
ECLAC						
ESCAP	+	+	+	+	+	
ESCWA						
FAO						
GEF						
IAEA	+	+	+	+	+	+
ICAO						
IFAD						
ILO						
IMO	+	+				
ISDR						
ITC						
ITU						
OCHA						
OHCHR						
RAMSAR		+		+		
SBC						
UNCCD						
UNCTAD						
UNDESA/DSD						
UNDP						
UNEP	+	+	+	+	+	+
UNESCO						
UNFCCC						
UNFPA						
UN-HABITAT						
UNHCR						
UNICEF	+					
UNIDO						
UNITAR			+	+	+	+
UNU						
UPU						
WFP						
WHO						
WIPO						
WMO						
The World Bank						
WTO (Trade)						
WTO (Tourism)						

DESERTIFICATION

Context

Desertification includes land degradation in arid, semi-arid, and dry subhumid areas resulting from various factors, including climatic variations and human activities. Desertification affects as much as one-sixth of the world's population, seventy percent of all drylands, and one-quarter of the total land area of the world. It results in widespread poverty as well as in the degradation of billion hectares of rangeland and cropland. Combating desertification and drought has been discussed by CSD in several sessions. In the framework of CSD's current multi-year work programme, the third cycle, CSD 16-17 in 2008 and 2009 will focus on desertification and drought along with the interrelated issues of Land, Agriculture, Rural development, and Africa.

International Agreements

- Agenda 21, Chapter 12: Managing fragile ecosystems: combating desertification and drought, 1992
- WSSD Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, Para 41, 2002
- United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (CCD), 1994

Coordination

The COP to the UNCCD, which as of 2001 is held on a biennial basis, provides a regular forum for sharing information and facilitating coordination (including among UN agencies) regarding desertification-related activities. UNCCD activities are coordinated with the secretariats of other relevant international bodies and conventions, like those of the UNFCCC and CBD. The Facilitation Committee of the Global Mechanism of the UNCCD meets regularly to discuss coordination around issues concerning the Global Mechanism and provides advisory support to enhance its work. In addition, the UNCCD Secretariat regularly prepares reports to the COP on relevant UN activities and international cooperation.

Collaborative Programmes and Initiatives

Title/Topic	Partner Agencies	Website/Webpage
CCD/UNFCCC-related joint activities	UNCCD, UNFCCC	www.unccd.int/php/document.php?ref=ICCD/COP(8)/4
Conservation and sustainable management of Saharan biodiversity and ecosystems	CMS, UNCCD	www.unccd.int/php/document.php?ref=ICCD/COP(8)/4
Middle East North Africa Regional Investment Program	IFAD, UNDP, AFDB, UNEP, FAO	
TerrAfrica	World Bank, UNDP, IFAD, FAO, AFDB, UNEP, GEF	www.terrafrica.org

**UN Involvement and Collaboration in Thematic Areas:
Desertification**

Organization Involvement in Desertification

<p><i>“+” in the cell indicates that the organization is active in the respective activity within the thematic programme area</i></p>	International Normative & Assessment Activities		Operational & Capacity Building Activities			
	International Knowledge Generation and Assessment	Development of Conventions, International Guidelines, etc	Support of National Legislation, Governance, Institution and Programme Development	Support of National Research and Education	Technical Support and Training	Technology Transfer
CBD	+	+				
CITIES						
CMS	+					
ECA						
ECE						
ECLAC						
ESCAP	+		+	+	+	
ESCWA						
FAO						
GEF						
IAEA	+			+	+	+
ICAO						
IFAD						
ILO						
IMO						
ISDR						
ITC						
ITU						
OCHA						
OHCHR						
RAMSAR	+	+		+		
SBC						
UNCCD						
UNCTAD						
UNDESA/DSD						
UNDP						
UNEP	+	+	+	+	+	+
UNESCO						
UNFCCC						
UNFPA						
UN-HABITAT						
UNHCR	+	+	+		+	+
UNICEF	+					
UNIDO						
UNITAR					+	
UNU						
UPU						
WFP						
WHO						
WIPO						
WMO						
The World Bank						
WTO (Trade)						
WTO (Tourism)						

ENERGY

Context

Energy is fundamental to achieving sustainable development goals. Its use enables socio-economic development, but contributes to environmental degradation. Access to reliable and affordable energy services is essential for improving economic and social development and eliminating poverty. Today, across the world, 1.6 billion people lack access to electricity and 2.4 billion people rely on traditional biomass for their cooking and heating needs. Lack of energy services can negatively affect prospects for realizing sustainable development and achieving all of the MDGs. At WSSD, the linkages between energy and poverty reduction were clearly established, and there was an emphasis on changing unsustainable patterns of consumption and production. Energy was one of the major themes of the ninth session of the CSD, held in 2001. CSD's fourteenth session in 2006 and fifteenth session in 2007 focused on a cluster of thematic issues, which included Energy for Sustainable Development; Industrial Development; Air pollution/Atmosphere; and Climate Change.

International Agreements

- Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, 1997
- WSSD Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, Paras 9, 20, 21, 59, 62, 2002
- Agenda 21, Chapter 7: Promoting sustainable human settlement development, 1992
- Agenda 21 Chapter 9: Protection of the atmosphere, 1992

Coordination

UN-Energy is the principal collaborative mechanism to ensure that UN work on energy is undertaken in a coherent manner. With the diverse perspectives of the twenty members, the strength of this mechanism is the ability to offer synergies and new approaches in the design and implementation of programmes, projects, and products across the field. UN-Energy also offers a platform for knowledge sharing. UN-Energy has a rotating chairmanship at a high policy level, and vice chair at the expert level. It is open to all UN organizations, meets at least once each year, and will review its TOR every four years, or as appropriate. Secretariat services are provided by DESA.

Collaborative Programmes and Initiatives

Title/Topic	Partner Agencies	Website/Webpage
UN-Energy Africa	UNIDO, ECA	esa.un.org/un-energy
Policy guidance, capacity building, and awareness on Tools for policy integration at national level	IAEA, DESA, FAO, UNEP, UNIDO	esa.un.org/un-energy
International Bioenergy Platform	UN-Energy, UNEP, UNDP, UNIDO, ECE, UNCTAD, ECLAC, INSTRAW	

**UN Involvement and Collaboration in Thematic Areas:
Energy**

Title/Topic	Partner Agencies	Website/Webpage
Global Network on Energy for Sustainable Development	UNDESA, UNDP, UNEP, UNIDO, WORLD BANK	www.gnesd.org
Policy Coherence and Operational Cooperation on Bio-energy	FAO, UNEP, UNDP, ECE, UNIDO, DESA, ECLAC, INSTRAW	esa.un.org/un-energy
Collaboration on Energy Conservation	UNHCR, WFP	
Energy Sector Management Assistance Program	UNDP, World Bank	
Delivering Coordinated Action on the Ground to Respond to Energy Challenges	UNDP, UNEP, World Bank	www.energyandenvironment.undp.org

**UN Involvement and Collaboration in Thematic Areas:
Energy**

Organization Involvement in Energy

<p><i>“+” in the cell indicates that the organization is active in the respective activity within the thematic programme area</i></p>	International Normative & Assessment Activities		Operational & Capacity Building Activities			
	International Knowledge Generation and Assessment	Development of Conventions, International Guidelines, etc	Support of National Legislation, Governance, Institution and Programme Development	Support of National Research and Education	Technical Support and Training	Technology Transfer
CBD						
CITIES						
CMS						
ECA						
ECE	+		+		+	+
ECLAC						
ESCAP	+		+	+		+
ESCWA						
FAO						
GEF						
IAEA	+	+	+	+	+	+
ICAO						
IFAD						
ILO						
IMO						
ISDR						
ITC						
ITU						
OCHA						
OHCHR						
RAMSAR						
SBC						
UNCCD						
UNCTAD						
UNDESA/DSD						
UNDP						
UNEP	+	+	+	+	+	+
UNESCO						
UNFCCC						
UNFPA						
UN-HABITAT						
UNHCR	+	+	+	+	+	+
UNICEF	+					
UNIDO						
UNITAR						
UNU						
UPU						
WFP						
WHO						
WIPO						
WMO						
The World Bank						
WTO (Trade)						
WTO (Tourism)						

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Context

Environmental health addresses all the physical, chemical, and biological factors external to a person, and all the related factors impacting behaviours. It encompasses the assessment and control of those environmental factors that can potentially affect health. It is targeted towards preventing disease and creating health-supportive environments. This definition excludes behaviour not related to environment, as well as behaviour related to the social and cultural environment, and genetics.

International Agreements

- Agenda 21, Chapter 6: Protecting and promoting human health conditions, 1992

Coordination

Information exchange and coordination in the area of environmental health mainly takes place through collaboration in specific programmes and initiatives (see below).

Collaborative Programmes and Initiatives

Title/Topic	Partner Agencies	Website/Webpage
Health and Environment Linkages Initiative	WHO, UNEP	www.who.int/phe
Global Initiative on Children Environmental Health	WHO, UNEP, UNICEF	http://www.who.int/ceh/en
Global Plan of Action on Workers' Health	WHO, ILO, UNEP	www.euro.who.int/occhealth
Health Adaptation to Climate Change	WHO, UNFCCC, WMO, UNEP, UNDP, GEF	www.who.int/globalchange/climate
Healthy Environments for Children Alliance	WHO, UNEP, UNICEF	www.who.int/heca
Focusing Resources on Effective School Health	UNESCO, WFP, UNICEF, WHO, World Bank, FAO	www.freshschools.org/
Environmental Management for Vector Control	WHO, FAO, UNEP	www.who.int/water_sanitatio_n_health/resources

**UN Involvement and Collaboration in Thematic Areas:
Environmental Health**

Organization Involvement in Environmental Health

<p><i>“+” in the cell indicates that the organization is active in the respective activity within the thematic programme area</i></p>	International Normative & Assessment Activities		Operational & Capacity Building Activities			
	International Knowledge Generation and Assessment	Development of Conventions, International Guidelines, etc	Support of National Legislation, Governance, Institution and Programme Development	Support of National Research and Education	Technical Support and Training	Technology Transfer
CBD						
CITIES						
CMS	+	+		+		
ECA						
ECE	+	+	+	+	+	
ECLAC						
ESCAP			+		+	
ESCWA						
FAO						
GEF						
IAEA		+		+	+	+
ICAO						
IFAD						
ILO						
IMO	+	+				
ISDR						
ITC						
ITU						
OCHA						
OHCHR						
RAMSAR	+			+		
SBC						
UNCCD						
UNCTAD						
UNDESA/DSD						
UNDP						
UNEP	+	+	+	+	+	
UNESCO						
UNFCCC						
UNFPA						
UN-HABITAT						
UNHCR	+	+	+	+	+	+
UNICEF	+	+	+	+	+	+
UNIDO						
UNITAR			+		+	
UNU						
UPU						
WFP						
WHO						
WIPO						
WMO						
The World Bank						
WTO (Trade)						
WTO (Tourism)						

FORESTS

Context

Forests are an integral part of global sustainable development: forest-related economic activities affect livelihoods of 1.6 billion people worldwide; they provide socio-cultural benefits and are the foundation for indigenous knowledge; and as ecosystems, forests play a critical role in mitigating the effects of climate change and protecting biodiversity. Every day, some 350 square kilometres of forest cover are lost worldwide. Conversion to agricultural land, unsustainable harvesting of timber, unsound land management practices, and creation of human settlements are the most common reasons for this loss of forested areas. In 2000, ECOSOC established the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF), as a subsidiary body with the main objective to promote "...the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests and to strengthen long-term political commitment to this end...". In the framework of CSD's current multi-year work programme, CSD 2012/13 will focus on forests along with biodiversity, biotechnology, tourism, and mountains.

International Agreements

- Agenda 21, Chapter 11: Combating deforestation, 1992
- Non-legally Binding Authoritative Statement of Principles for a Global Consensus on the Management, Conservation and Sustainable Development of all Types of Forests (Forest Principles), 1992
- WSSD Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, Para 45, 2002
- Non-legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests, 2007

Coordination

Within UNFF, three broad constituencies are central to the Forum's work: the member States of UNFF, major intergovernmental agencies working in forest issues, and the major groups as defined in Agenda 21. UNFF meets annually for two weeks and organizes intersessional meetings—ad hoc expert group meetings—in the interval between annual sessions.

The Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) was established in 2001, following the recommendation of ECOSOC, to support the work of the UNFF and member countries and to enhance cooperation and coordination on forest issues. The Partnership is currently comprised of 14 international organization members—FAO, CBD, GEF, UNCCD, UNFF, UNFCCC, UNDP, UNEP, World Bank, CIFOR, ITTO, IUFRO, ICRAF, IUCN—which includes designated focal agencies and supporting agencies. CPF regularly holds meetings, with senior-level participation.

UN Involvement and Collaboration in Thematic Areas: Forests

Collaborative Programmes and Initiatives

Title/Topic	Partner Agencies	Website/Webpage
Collaborative Partnership on Forests	FAO, CBD, GEF, UNCCD, UNFF, UNFCCC, UNDP, UNEP, World Bank, CIFOR, ITTO, IUFRO, ICRAF, IUCN	www.fao.org/forestry/site/cpf
Integrated Programme of Work on Forests and Timber	UNECE, FAO	www.unece.org/trade/timber

**UN Involvement and Collaboration in Thematic Areas:
Forests**

Organization Involvement in Forest Issues

<p><i>“+” in the cell indicates that the organization is active in the respective activity within the thematic programme area</i></p>	International Normative & Assessment Activities		Operational & Capacity Building Activities			
	International Knowledge Generation and Assessment	Development of Conventions, International Guidelines, etc	Support of National Legislation, Governance, Institution and Programme Development	Support of National Research and Education	Technical Support and Training	Technology Transfer
CBD	+	+	(Indirect)	(Indirect)	(Indirect)	(Indirect)
CITIES						
CMS	+	+				
ECA						
ECE	+		+		+	
ECLAC						
ESCAP			+	+	+	
ESCWA						
FAO						
GEF						
IAEA	+		+	+	+	+
ICAO						
IFAD						
ILO						
IMO						
ISDR						
ITC						
ITU						
OCHA						
OHCHR						
RAMSAR						
SBC						
UNCCD						
UNCTAD						
UNDESA/DSD						
UNDP						
UNEP	+	+	+	+	+	
UNESCO						
UNFCCC						
UNFPA						
UN-HABITAT						
UNHCR	+	+	+	+	+	+
UNICEF						
UNIDO						
UNITAR					+	
UNU						
UPU						
WFP						
WHO						
WIPO						
WMO						
The World Bank						
WTO (Trade)						
WTO (Tourism)						

FRESHWATER

Context

Freshwater resources are an essential component of the Earth's hydrosphere and an indispensable part of all terrestrial ecosystems. The freshwater environment is characterized by the hydrological cycle, including floods and droughts, which in some regions have become more extreme and dramatic in their consequences. Global climate change and atmospheric pollution could also have an impact on freshwater resources and their availability and, through sea-level rise, threaten low-lying coastal areas and small island ecosystems. Further recommendations to support implementation of Chapter 18 of Agenda 21, "Protection of the quality and supply of freshwater resources: application of integrated approaches to the development, management and use of water resources" were taken by CSD at its second (1994) and sixth (1998) sessions. CSD, at its twelfth session (2004), reviewed and assessed implementation of three thematic issues, including water and sanitation. At its thirteenth session, CSD explored policy options for furthering implementation on the issues of water and sanitation as well as on human settlements as reflected in its decision. It was also decided to monitor and follow up the implementation of CSD-13 decisions on water and sanitation, and their interlinkages in 2008 (CSD-16) and 2012 (CSD-20).

International Agreements

- Agenda 21, Chapter 18: Protection of the quality and supply of freshwater resources: application of integrated approaches to the development, management and use of water resources, 1992
- WSSD Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, Paras 29, 40, 58, 76, 2002

Coordination

UN-Water is the inter-agency mechanism that promotes coherence in, and coordination of, UN system actions aimed at the implementation of the agenda defined by the Millennium Declaration and the WSSD as it relates to its scope of work. UN-Water is made up of relevant UN agencies, programmes, and funds as well as major non-UN partners. UN-Water facilitates synergies and joint efforts and interfaces with other inter-agency mechanisms, including UN-Energy, UN-Oceans, EMG, and others, on issues of common concern. Management of UN-Water is performed by a Chair and Vice-Chair, elected from among its members on a rotational basis and normally serving for two years. Its plans of work are updated every two years. UNDESA provides secretariat support.

Collaborative Programmes and Initiatives

Title/Topic	Partner Agencies	Website/Webpage
Global Water Partnership and World Water Council	UN, UN-Water	www.worldwatercouncil.org
World Water Assessment Programme	CBD, ECA, ECE, ECLAC, ESCAP, ESCWA, FAO, IAEA, ISDR, UNCTAD, UNDESA, UNDP, UNEP,	unesco.org/water/wwap

**UN Involvement and Collaboration in Thematic Areas:
Freshwater**

Title/Topic	Partner Agencies	Website/Webpage
	UNESCO, UNFCCC, UN-HABITAT, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNU, WHO, WMO, WORLD BANK	
Global Environment Monitoring System/Water Programme	FAO, UNDP, UNEP, WHO, WMO, WORLD BANK	www.gemswater.org
Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation	WHO, UNICEF	www.wssinfo.org
Collaboration on Freshwater Activities	IAEA, UNDP, GEF	www-naweb.iaea.org/napc/ih/Nubian/IHS_nubian.html
2005 Water Resources Alliance Initiative	UNDESA, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, UN-HABITAT, WORLD BANK	www.unep.org

**UN Involvement and Collaboration in Thematic Areas:
Freshwater**

Organization Involvement in Freshwater Issues

<p><i>“+” in the cell indicates that the organization is active in the respective activity within the thematic programme area</i></p>	International Normative & Assessment Activities		Operational & Capacity Building Activities			
	International Knowledge Generation and Assessment	Development of Conventions, International Guidelines, etc	Support of National Legislation, Governance, Institution and Programme Development	Support of National Research and Education	Technical Support and Training	Technology Transfer
CBD	+	+	(Indirect)	(Indirect)	(Indirect)	(Indirect)
CITIES						
CMS	+					
ECA						
ECE	+	+	+	+	+	+
ECLAC						
ESCAP	+	+	+	+	+	+
ESCWA						
FAO						
GEF						
IAEA	+		+	+	+	+
ICAO						
IFAD						
ILO						
IMO						
ISDR						
ITC						
ITU						
OCHA						
OHCHR						
RAMSAR	+	+	+	+	+	+
SBC						
UNCCD						
UNCTAD						
UNDESA/DSD						
UNDP						
UNEP	+	+	+	+	+	+
UNESCO						
UNFCCC						
UNFPA						
UN-HABITAT						
UNHCR	+	+	+	+	+	+
UNICEF	+	+	+	+	+	+
UNIDO						
UNITAR			+	+	+	
UNU						
UPU						
WFP						
WHO						
WIPO						
WMO						
The World Bank						
WTO (Trade)						
WTO (Tourism)						

OCEANS AND COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT

Context

Oceans, seas, islands, and coastal areas form an integrated and essential component of the Earth's ecosystem and are critical for global food security and for sustaining economic prosperity and the well-being of many national economies, particularly in developing countries. Important considerations for oceans and coastal zone management include: global and regional coordination and cooperation; sustainable fisheries; marine biodiversity and ecosystems; marine pollution from both land-based and sea-based sources; and marine science and assessments of the marine environment. CSD reviewed implementation of the goals and targets called for in Chapter 17 of Agenda 21, "Protection of the oceans, all kinds of seas, including enclosed and semi-enclosed seas, and coastal areas and the protection, rational use and development of their living resources", at its fourth (1996), fifth (1997) and, in particular, seventh (1999) sessions, which resulted in a comprehensive decision, 7/1.

International Agreements

- Agenda 21, Chapter 17: Protection of the oceans, all kinds of seas, including enclosed and semi-enclosed seas, and coastal areas and the protection, rational use and development of their living resources, 1992
- WSSD Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, Para 30, 2002
- United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), 1982
- International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as modified by the Protocol of 1978 relating thereto (MARPOL 73/78)
- Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter (London Dumping Convention), 1972
- International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation (OPRC), 1990
- Protocol on Preparedness, Response and Co-operation to pollution Incidents by Hazardous and Noxious Substances (HNS Protocol to OPRC), 2000
- International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments, 2004
- Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities, 1995
- Regional Seas Programme, 1974

Coordination

In 2003, UN-Oceans was established to serve as the UN inter-agency coordinating mechanism on oceans and coastal issues. In addition to overseeing the management and development of the UN Atlas of the Oceans, UN-Oceans has established four time-bound task groups, each coordinated by a lead organization. These focus on: post-Tsunami Response (led by UNESCO/IOC); global monitoring of the marine environment (led by UN-DOALOS); marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction (led by CBD secretariat); and the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (led by UNEP/GPA).

UN-OCEANS operates as a flexible mechanism to review joint and overlapping ongoing activities and to support related deliberations of the UN Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea (ICP), coordinating as far as possible its meetings with ICP

UN Involvement and Collaboration in Thematic Areas: Oceans and Coastal Zone Management

sessions. The Coordinator and Deputy Coordinator of UN-OCEANS are normally elected for a term of two years. UN-OCEANS is served by an Organizing Secretariat (established in UN-DOALOS) and an Implementing Secretariat (established in IOC-UNESCO).

Collaborative Programmes and Initiatives

Title/Topic	Partner Agencies	Website/Webpage
Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities	FAO, GEF, IAEA, IMO, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, UN-HABITAT, UNIDO, WHO, WMO, WORLD BANK	www.gpa.unep.org
Atlas of the Oceans	FAO, IAEA, IMO, UNEP, WMO, IOC-UNESCO, CBD, HDNO, NOAA, CoMI, National Geographic Society	www.oceansatlas.org
Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS)	UNEP, UNESCO/IOC, WMO, FAO, ICSU	www.ioc-goos.org
Partnerships for Environmental Protection and Management of the Seas of East Asia	IMO, GEF/UNDP	www.pemsea.org
International Coral Reef Initiative	CBD, CITIES, FAO, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, WORLD BANK	www.icriforum.org
Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection	IMO, FAO, IOC-UNESCO, UNIDO, IAEA, UN, UNEP	gesamp.net
GESAMP Working Group on Ballast Water	IMO, UN, UNECO, IAEA, FAO, UNIDO, WMO, UNEP	www.gesamp.org/page.php?page=12
GESAMP Working Group on the Evaluation of Hazards of Harmful Substances Carried by Ships	IMO, UN, UNECO, IAEA, FAO, UNIDO, WMO, UNEP	www.gesamp.org/page.php?page=12
UNGA 60/30 Assessment of Assessments of the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment	UNEP, IOC/ UNESCO, FAO, WMO, UNDOALOS, IMO, ISA	www.unga-regular-process.org
Global Ballast Water Management Programme	IMO, GEF, UNDP	globallast.imo.org
Joint IMO/FAO Working Group on Illegal Unreported and Unregulated Fishing and Related Matters	IMO, FAO	

**UN Involvement and Collaboration in Thematic Areas:
Oceans and Coastal Zone Management**

Title/Topic	Partner Agencies	Website/Webpage
The Marine Highway Development and Coastal and Marine Contamination Prevention Project	IMO, GEF/World Bank	www.gefonline.org/projectDetails.cfm?projID=2098
Technical Backstopping and Management of Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea	IMO, UNEP	www.rempec.org
Technical Backstopping and Management of the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Information and Training for the Caribbean	IMO, UNEP	
Guinea Current Large Marine Ecosystem Project	IMO, GEF/UNDP, GEF/UNEP, UNIDO	www.chez.com/gefgclme
Seminar on Ocean Affairs and Law of the Sea	UNITAR, DOALOS/OLA	www.un.org/law/programmeofassistance

**UN Involvement and Collaboration in Thematic Areas:
Oceans and Coastal Zone Management**

Organization Involvement in Oceans and Coastal Zone Management

<p><i>“+” in the cell indicates that the organization is active in the respective activity within the thematic programme area</i></p>	International Normative & Assessment Activities		Operational & Capacity Building Activities			
	International Knowledge Generation and Assessment	Development of Conventions, International Guidelines, etc	Support of National Legislation, Governance, Institution and Programme Development	Support of National Research and Education	Technical Support and Training	Technology Transfer
CBD	+	+	(Indirect)	(Indirect)	(Indirect)	(Indirect)
CITIES						
CMS	+	+				
ECA						
ECE						
ECLAC						
ESCAP		+	+	+		
ESCWA						
FAO						
GEF						
IAEA	+	+		+	+	+
ICAO						
IFAD						
ILO						
IMO	+	+				
ISDR						
ITC						
ITU						
OCHA						
OHCHR						
RAMSAR	+	+	+	+	+	+
SBC						
UNCCD						
UNCTAD						
UNDESA/DSD						
UNDP						
UNEP	+	+	+	+	+	
UNESCO						
UNFCCC						
UNFPA						
UN-HABITAT						
UNHCR						
UNICEF						
UNIDO						
UNITAR			+	+	+	
UNU						
UPU						
WFP						
WHO						
WIPO						
WMO						
The World Bank						
WTO (Trade)						
WTO (Tourism)						

PROTECTION OF THE OZONE LAYER

Context

The ozone “hole”— an area of sharp decline in ozone concentrations over most of Antarctica for about two or three months during the southern hemisphere spring—was discovered in 1985 and led to the development of an international general agreement in 1985, known as the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer. Specific commitments came in 1987 through the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, with governments, over subsequent years, taking action to strengthen the Protocol through amendments. The implementation of the Protocol has led to a dramatic drop in the consumption of ozone depleting chemicals in the last ten years. Scientists predict that the ozone layer will begin to recover in a few years and will be fully restored by the year 2050, if implementation of the Protocol is completed. CSD’s fourteenth and fifteenth session in 2006 and 2007 respectively focused on a cluster of thematic issues, including atmosphere and air pollution.

International Agreements

- Agenda 21, Chapter 9: Protection of the atmosphere, 1992
- WSSD Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, Para 39, 2002
- Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer, 1985
- Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, 1987

Coordination

The Vienna Convention COP/Montreal Protocol MOP provide regular fora for sharing information and facilitating coordination (including among UN agencies) regarding activities related to protection of the ozone layer. In addition, the Ozone Secretariat regularly prepares reports to the COP/MOP on relevant UN activities and international cooperation.

The Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol, which operates under the authority of the parties to the Protocol, works together with ‘implementing agencies’—the World Bank, UNEP, UNDP, and UNIDO—in delivering financial and technical assistance. Its operations are overseen by an Executive Committee comprising seven Article 5 and seven non-Article 5 parties, with a voting structure designed to ensure that neither donors nor recipients could dominate.

Collaborative Programmes and Initiatives

Title/Topic	Partner Agencies	Website
Collaboration on methyl bromide information and training activities	UNEP, FAO	www.uneptie.org/ozonation/partnerships/mfgef.htm
Terminal phase-out management plans	UNEP, UNIDO, UNDP	www.unep.ch/ozone/Meeting_Documents/mop/19mop/MOP-19-4E.pdf
Mainstream Ozone in Education	UNEP, UNESCO, WHO	www.unep.fr/ozonation/partnerships/education.htm

**UN Involvement and Collaboration in Thematic Areas:
Protection of the Ozone Layer**

Organization Involvement in Protection of the Ozone Layer

<p><i>“+” in the cell indicates that the organization is active in the respective activity within the thematic programme area</i></p>	International Normative & Assessment Activities		Operational & Capacity Building Activities			
	International Knowledge Generation and Assessment	Development of Conventions, International Guidelines, etc	Support of National Legislation, Governance, Institution and Programme Development	Support of National Research and Education	Technical Support and Training	Technology Transfer
CBD						
CITIES						
CMS						
ECA						
ECE						
ECLAC						
ESCAP						
ESCWA						
FAO						
GEF						
IAEA						
ICAO						
IFAD						
ILO						
IMO	+	+				
ISDR						
ITC						
ITU						
OCHA						
OHCHR						
RAMSAR						
SBC						
UNCCD						
UNCTAD						
UNDESA/DSD						
UNDP						
UNEP	+	+	+	+	+	+
UNESCO						
UNFCCC						
UNFPA						
UN-HABITAT						
UNHCR						
UNICEF						
UNIDO						
UNITAR					+	
UNU						
UPU						
WFP						
WHO						
WIPO						
WMO						
The World Bank						
WTO (Trade)						
WTO (Tourism)						

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

Context

Sustainable agriculture and rural development can be defined as the management and conservation of the natural resource base, and the orientation of technological and institutional change in a way that ensures the attainment and continued satisfaction of human needs for present and future generations (FAO, 1999). Furthermore, such sustainable development (e.g. in the agriculture, forestry, and fisheries sectors) conserves land, water, plant, and animal genetic resources, is environmentally non-degrading, technically appropriate, economically viable, and socially acceptable. Chapter 14 of Agenda 21, “Promoting sustainable agriculture and rural development”, notes that, by the year 2025, 83% of the expected global population of 8.5 billion will be living in developing countries. Yet the capacity of available resources and technologies to satisfy the demands of this growing population for food and other agricultural commodities remains uncertain. Agriculture has to meet this challenge, mainly by increasing production on land already in use and by avoiding further encroachment on land that is only marginally suitable for cultivation. Agriculture is included as one of the thematic areas along with rural development, land, drought, desertification, and Africa in the CSD’s 3rd implementation cycle (CSD-16/17) in 2008-2009.

International Agreements

- Agenda 21, Chapter 14: Promoting sustainable agriculture and rural development, 1992
- WSSD Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, Para 40, 2002

Coordination Mechanisms

Information exchange and coordination in the area of sustainable agriculture mainly takes place through collaboration in specific programmes and initiatives (see below).

Collaborative Programmes and Initiatives

Title/Topic	Partner Agencies	Website/Webpage
Agricultural Biodiversity PoW	CBD, FAO	www.cbd.int/agro
Joint FAO/IAEA Programme: Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture	IAEA, FAO	www-naweb.iaea.org/nafa

**UN Involvement and Collaboration in Thematic Areas:
Sustainable Agriculture**

Organization Involvement in Sustainable Agriculture

<p><i>“+” in the cell indicates that the organization is active in the respective activity within the thematic programme area</i></p>	International Normative & Assessment Activities		Operational & Capacity Building Activities			
	International Knowledge Generation and Assessment	Development of Conventions, International Guidelines, etc	Support of National Legislation, Governance, Institution and Programme Development	Support of National Research and Education	Technical Support and Training	Technology Transfer
CBD	+	+				
CITIES						
CMS						
ECA						
ECE		+				
ECLAC						
ESCAP						
ESCWA						
FAO						
GEF						
IAEA	+	+	+	+	+	+
ICAO						
IFAD						
ILO						
IMO						
ISDR						
ITC						
ITU						
OCHA						
OHCHR						
RAMSAR						
SBC						
UNCCD						
UNCTAD						
UNDESA/DSD						
UNDP						
UNEP	+		+	+	+	
UNESCO						
UNFCCC						
UNFPA						
UN-HABITAT						
UNHCR	+	+	+	+	+	+
UNICEF	+					
UNIDO						
UNITAR			+		+	
UNU						
UPU						
WFP						
WHO						
WIPO						
WMO						
The World Bank						
WTO (Trade)						
WTO (Tourism)						

SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

Context

Sustainable consumption and production (SCP) requires a fundamental rethinking of the way societies produce, use, and dispose of products. Changing consumption and production patterns is one of the overarching objectives of and essential requirements for sustainable development, as recognized in the Johannesburg Declaration. The Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI) calls for the development of “a 10-year framework of programmes in support of regional and national initiatives to accelerate the shift towards SCP.” Related to this, the Marrakech Process is a global effort to promote progress on the implementation of SCP and the elaboration of the 10-year framework. At its third session, in 1995, CSD adopted an International Work Programme on Changing Consumption and Production Patterns. “Changing consumption and production patterns” has been the subject of discussion by CSD at its first, second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth, and seventh sessions. In the context of the multi-year programme of work adopted by the GA for the CSD in 1997, it will continue to appear, as an “overriding issue”, on the agenda of CSD each year. CSD will review the theme of SCP during its 2010/11 two-year cycle.

International Agreements

- Agenda 21, Chapter 4: Changing consumption patterns, 1992
- Agenda 21, Chapter 20: Environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes, in hazardous wastes, 1992
- Agenda 21, Chapter 30: Strengthening the role of business and industry, 1992
- WSSD Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, Paras 15, 16, 2002
- UNEP International Declaration on Cleaner Production, 1998

Coordination

The Marrakech Process was launched at the first international expert meeting on the 10-year framework held in Morocco, 2003, organized by DESA’s Division for Sustainable Development and UNEP. The Marrakech Process, inter alia, provides opportunities for information exchange and coordination through organising regional consultations, building regional strategies and implementation mechanisms, implementing concrete projects and programmes, and evaluating progress and encouraging international cooperation and coordination. A DESA-UNEP SCP database provides information on various international cooperation mechanisms on SCP, organised by policy instrument initiatives (such as analytical tools changing consumption patterns) and sectors and issues-related initiatives (such as solid waste management and urban planning and transport).

Regarding cleaner production, coordination is mainly facilitated by UNEP-DTIE and UNIDO which jointly manage the National Cleaner Production Centres (NCPC) Programme in collaboration with other partners. UNEP is responsible for developing and disseminating conceptual, strategic, and policy guidance and materials on Cleaner Production. UNIDO is the executing agency for the Programme, managing donor funding and providing technical expertise.

UN Involvement and Collaboration in Thematic Areas: Sustainable Consumption and Production

Collaborative Programmes and Initiatives

Title/Topic	Partner Agencies	Website/Webpage
Interagency Cooperation on the 10-year Framework on Sustainable Consumption and Production	ILO, SBC, UNCTAD, UNDESA, UNDP, UNEP, UN-HABITAT	www.un.org/esa/sustdev/sdissues/consumption/Marrakech/conprod10Y.htm , www.uneptie.org/pc/sustain/10year/home.htm
International Expert Meetings on the 10-Year Framework of Programmes for Sustainable Consumption and Production	UNDESA, UNEP	www.un.org/esa/sustdev/sdissues/consumption/Marrakech/conprod10Yglobmeet.htm
National Cleaner Production Centres	UNEP, UNIDO, WHO, World Bank, FAO, IFAD, ILO, UNDP	www.uneptie.org/pc/cp/ncpc
YouthXchange	UNEP, UNESCO	www.youthxchange.net

**UN Involvement and Collaboration in Thematic Areas:
Sustainable Consumption and Production**

Organization Involvement in Sustainable Consumption and Production

<i>“+” in the cell indicates that the organization is active in the respective activity within the thematic programme area</i>	International Normative & Assessment Activities		Operational & Capacity Building Activities			
	International Knowledge Generation and Assessment	Development of Conventions, International Guidelines, etc	Support of National Legislation, Governance, Institution and Programme Development	Support of National Research and Education	Technical Support and Training	Technology Transfer
CBD	+	+				
CITIES						
CMS	+	+	+	+	+	+
ECA						
ECE	+					
ECLAC						
ESCAP	+		+	+	+	+
ESCWA						
FAO						
GEF						
IAEA						+
ICAO						
IFAD						
ILO						
IMO						
ISDR						
ITC						
ITU						
OCHA						
OHCHR						
RAMSAR						
SBC						
UNCCD						
UNCTAD						
UNDESA/DSD						
UNDP						
UNEP	+	+	+	+	+	+
UNESCO						
UNFCCC						
UNFPA						
UN-HABITAT						
UNHCR						
UNICEF			+			
UNIDO						
UNITAR						
UNU						
UPU						
WFP						
WHO						
WIPO						
WMO						
The World Bank						
WTO (Trade)						
WTO (Tourism)						

WASTE MANAGEMENT

Context

Effective control of the generation, storage, treatment, recycling and reuse, transport, recovery, and disposal of hazardous wastes is, according to Agenda 21, “of paramount importance for proper health, environmental protection and natural resource management, and sustainable development.” Prevention of the generation of hazardous wastes and the rehabilitation of contaminated sites are the key elements, and both require knowledge, experienced people, facilities, financial resources, and technical and scientific capacities. Waste management can also address solid wastes, such as all domestic refuse and non-hazardous wastes such as commercial and institutional wastes, street sweepings, and construction debris and, in some countries, human wastes. Hazardous waste is frequently intermixed with other waste, posing particular management challenges. CSD will review the theme of waste management, along with transport, chemicals, mining, and sustainable consumption and production, during its 2010/11 two-year cycle.

International Agreements

- Agenda 21, Chapter 20: Environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes, in hazardous wastes, 1992
- Agenda 21, Chapter 21: Environmentally sound management of solid wastes and sewage-related issues 1992
- Agenda 21, Chapter 22: Safe and environmentally sound management of radioactive wastes, 1992
- WSSD Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, Paras 22, 23, 2002
- Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, 1989

Coordination

The COP to the Basel Convention as well as meetings of its subsidiary bodies, provides a regular forum for sharing information and facilitating coordination (including among UN agencies) regarding waste management activities. In addition, the Basel Convention Secretariat regularly prepares reports to the COP on relevant UN activities and international cooperation.

Collaborative Programmes and Initiatives

Title/Topic	Partner Agencies	Website/Webpage
Pacific Islands Waste Management Initiative	FAO, UNEP, SBC, WHO, UNDP	http://webapps01.un.org/dsd/partnerships/public/partnerships/1193.html
Working Group on Ship Scrapping	ILO, IMO, UNEP (SBC)	www.imo.org/Environment/mainframe.asp?topic_id=1044
POPs/Waste-related issues	SBC, Stockholm Convention Secretariat, FAO	UNEP/CHW.8/3/Rev.1, i28e
Health/Waste-related issues	WHO, SCB	UNEP/CHW.8/3/Rev.1

**UN Involvement and Collaboration in Thematic Areas:
Waste Management**

Title/Topic	Partner Agencies	Website/Webpage
Recycling, Reuse and Resource Recovery Methods towards the ESM of Hazardous Wastes and Implementation of Basel Convention	BCRCs, African Union, New Partnership for African Development Secretariat (NEPAD), UNCTAD, UNIDO, UNEP, GEF, SBC	UNEP/CHW.8/INF/4

**UN Involvement and Collaboration in Thematic Areas:
Waste Management**

Organization Involvement in Waste Management

<p><i>“+” in the cell indicates that the organization is active in the respective activity within the thematic programme area</i></p>	International Normative & Assessment Activities		Operational & Capacity Building Activities			
	International Knowledge Generation and Assessment	Development of Conventions, International Guidelines, etc	Support of National Legislation, Governance, Institution and Programme Development	Support of National Research and Education	Technical Support and Training	Technology Transfer
CBD						
CITIES						
CMS						
ECA						
ECE						
ECLAC						
ESCAP	+	+	+	+	+	+
ESCWA						
FAO						
GEF						
IAEA	+	+	+	+	+	+
ICAO						
IFAD						
ILO						
IMO	+	+	+	+	+	+
ISDR						
ITC						
ITU						
OCHA						
OHCHR						
RAMSAR						
SBC						
UNCCD						
UNCTAD						
UNDESA/DSD						
UNDP						
UNEP	+	+	+	+	+	+
UNESCO						
UNFCCC						
UNFPA						
UN-HABITAT						
UNHCR						
UNICEF						
UNIDO						
UNITAR					+	
UNU						
UPU						
WFP						
WHO						
WIPO						
WMO						
The World Bank						
WTO (Trade)						
WTO (Tourism)						

WETLANDS PROTECTION

Context

Wetlands are among the world's most productive environments. They are cradles of biological diversity, providing the water and primary productivity upon which countless species of plants and animals depend for survival. They support high concentrations of birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, fish and invertebrate species. Wetlands are also important storehouses of plant genetic material. Rice, for example, which is a common wetland plant, is the staple diet of more than half of humanity. The multiple roles of wetland ecosystems and their value to humanity have been increasingly understood and documented in recent years. While this has led to large expenditures to restore lost or degraded hydrological and biological functions of wetlands, it remains important to improve practices on a significant global scale as the world copes with the accelerating water crisis and the effects of climate change. The thematic area of wetlands was addressed at CSD-13 and in particular in Decision 6/1, "Strategic approaches to freshwater management".

International Agreements

- WSSD Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, Paras 32, 37, 40, 66, 2002
- Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar Convention), 1971

Coordination

The COP to the Ramsar Convention, which is held every three years, provides a regular forum for sharing information and facilitating coordination (including among UN agencies) regarding wetlands protection-related activities.

Collaborative Programmes and Initiatives

Title/Topic	Partner Agencies	Website
RAMSAR-CBD Joint Work Programme	RAMSAR, CBD	www.ramsar.org/cbd/key_cbd_jwp3_e.htm
Joint Work Plan	RAMSAR, CMS, AEWA	
MOU between the Ramsar Secretariat and the World Heritage Centre	RAMSAR, UNESCO	
Wings Over Wetlands: The African-Eurasian Flyways Project	UNEP-GEF, UNOPS, Wetlands International, BirdLife International, UNEP/AEWA Secretariat, RAMSAR	www.wingsoverwetlands.org

**UN Involvement and Collaboration in Thematic Areas:
Wetlands Protection**

Organization Involvement in Wetlands Protection

<p><i>“+” in the cell indicates that the organization is active in the respective activity within the thematic programme area</i></p>	International Normative & Assessment Activities		Operational & Capacity Building Activities			
	International Knowledge Generation and Assessment	Development of Conventions, International Guidelines, etc	Support of National Legislation, Governance, Institution and Programme Development	Support of National Research and Education	Technical Support and Training	Technology Transfer
CBD	+	+	(Indirect)	(Indirect)	(Indirect)	(Indirect)
CITIES						
CMS	+	+	+	+	+	
ECA						
ECE		+				
ECLAC						
ESCAP						
ESCWA						
FAO						
GEF						
IAEA						
ICAO						
IFAD						
ILO						
IMO	+					
ISDR						
ITC						
ITU						
OCHA						
OHCHR						
RAMSAR	+	+	+	+	+	+
SBC						
UNCCD						
UNCTAD						
UNDESA/DSD						
UNDP						
UNEP	+	+	+	+		
UNESCO						
UNFCCC						
UNFPA						
UN-HABITAT						
UNHCR						
UNICEF						
UNIDO						
UNITAR			+	+	+	
UNU						
UPU						
WFP						
WHO						
WIPO						
WMO						
The World Bank						
WTO (Trade)						
WTO (Tourism)						

ANNEX 2: INVOLVEMENT OF EMG MEMBERS IN CROSS-CUTTING AREAS

Collaborative Programmes and Initiatives

Title/Topic	Partner Agencies	Website
Millennium Ecosystem Assessment	CBD, GEF, UNCCD, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, UNFCCC, WHO, WORLD BANK	www.millenniumassessment.org
Global Terrestrial Observing System	FAO, UNEP, UNESCO, WMO	www.fao.org/gtos
Ecosystems Conservation Group	FAO, UNEP, UNESCO	www.unep.org
Awareness and Preparedness for Emergencies at Local Level Programme	IAEA, IMO, UNEP, UNIDO, WHO	www.uneptie.org/pc/apell
North-East Asian Subregional Programme for Environmental Cooperation	UNESCAP, UNEP, ADB, UNDP	www.neaspec.org
International Partnership on Sustainable Development in Mountain Regions	CBD, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, UNU, WORLD BANK	www.mountainpartnership.org
Partnership for the Development of Environmental Laws in Africa	UNEP, UNDP, UNOPS, IUCN, FAO, World Bank	www.unep.org/padelia
Capacity Building Task Force on Trade, Environment and Development	UNCTAD, UNEP	www.unep-unctad.org
Poverty and Environment Initiative	UNEP, UNDP	
International Assessment of Agricultural Science and Technology for Development	UNEP, FAO, GEF, UNDP, UNESCO, WHO, World Bank	www.agassessment.org
Global Environment Outlook	UNEP, other UN and IGOs, MEA secretariats	www.unep.org/GEO
UN Geographic Information Working Group	CTBTO, ECA, ECE, ECLAC, ESCAP, FAO, IAEA, ICAO, OCHA, UNAIDS, UN/DESA, UN/DM, UN/DPA, UN/DPI, UN/DPKO, UN/OLA, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UN-HABITAT, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNITAR, UNODC, UNOOSA, UNOPS, UNU, WB, WFP, WHO, WMO	www.ungiwg.org

Organisation Involvement in Cross-cutting Areas

<i>“+” in the cell indicates that the organization is active in the respective activity within the cross-cutting area</i>	Mainstreaming environment into development	Environment and poverty	Environment and gender	Environment and health	Environment and trade/economic globalization
CBD	+	+	+	+	+
CITIES					
CMS	+	+		+	+
ECA					
ECE	+	+	+	+	
ECLAC					
ESCAP	+	+	+	+	+
ESCWA					
FAO					
GEF					
IAEA	+	+		+	+
ICAO					
IFAD					
ILO					
IMO	+			+	
ISDR					
ITC					
ITU					
OCHA					
OHCHR					
RAMSAR		+			
SBC					
UNCCD					
UNCTAD					
UNDESA/DSD					
UNDP					
UNEP	+	+	+	+	+
UNESCO					
UNFCCC					
UNFPA					
UN-HABITAT					
UNHCR	+	+	+	+	
UNICEF	+	+	+	+	
UNIDO					
UNITAR	+	+	+	+	+
UNU					
UPU					
WFP					
WHO					
WIPO					
WMO					
The World Bank					
WTO (Trade)					
WTO (Tourism)					

Involvement of EMG Members in Cross-cutting Areas

<p>“+” in the cell indicates that the organization is active in the respective activity within the cross-cutting area</p>	<p>Environmental information systems</p>	<p>Civil society participation in environmental governance</p>	<p>Public private partnerships</p>	<p>Decentralized collaboration (local authorities, provinces/regions)</p>	<p>Synergy development under MEAs</p>
CBD	+	+	+	+	+
CITIES					
CMS	+	+	+		+
ECA					
ECE	+	+	+	+	+
ECLAC					
ESCAP		+	+	+	+
ESCWA					
FAO					
GEF					
IAEA	+				
ICAO					
IFAD					
ILO					
IMO	+	+	+	+	+
ISDR					
ITC					
ITU					
OCHA					
OHCHR					
RAMSAR	+		+		+
SBC					
UNCCD					
UNCTAD					
UNDESA/DSD					
UNDP					
UNEP	+	+	+	+	+
UNESCO					
UNFCCC					
UNFPA					
UN-HABITAT					
UNHCR	+		+	+	
UNICEF		+	+	+	+
UNIDO					
UNITAR	+	+	+	+	+
UNU					
UPU					
WFP					
WHO					
WIPO					
WMO					
The World Bank					
WTO (Trade)					
WTO (Tourism)					

ANNEX 3: ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROFILE OF EMG MEMBERS

The environmental mandate/activities of each EMG member are briefly outlined below.²⁶ EMG members are organised according to the following categories:

1. UN Secretariat.....	65
2. Regional Commissions.....	65
3. UN Funds and Programmes.....	66
4. Other UN Entities.....	68
5. Research and Training Institutes.....	69
6. Specialized Agencies.....	69
7. Convention Secretariats.....	73
8. Related Organizations	74

²⁶ Additional details can be found at: www.unemg.org/members/index.php.

1. UN Secretariat

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Division for Sustainable Development (UNDESA/DSD), www.un.org/esa/sustdev

UNDESA/DSD promotes sustainable development as the substantive secretariat to the CSD and through technical cooperation and capacity building at international, regional, and national levels. It provides coordinated support for the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the further implementation of Agenda 21, the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of SIDS, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI), and work programmes and decisions adopted by the CSD.

Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), ochaonline.un.org

OCHA mobilizes and coordinates effective and principled humanitarian action in partnership with national and international actors. It also plays a role in identifying, monitoring, and providing technical and policy support both before and after a crisis, and effectively responding to environmental emergencies. The Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit serves as the integrated UN emergency response mechanism to countries facing environmental emergencies and natural disasters with significant environmental impacts.

2. Regional Commissions

The five UN Regional Commissions provide intergovernmental frameworks for regional cooperation to assist countries in promoting economic and social development and addressing sustainable development issues. The Regional Commissions have unique convening power in organizing ministerial conferences and high level meetings to further the implementation of regional and global sustainable development action plans through policy dialogues.

Economic and Social Commission for Africa (ECA), www.uneca.org

Consistent with the NEPAD framework, activities focus on the following four priorities: Strengthening strategies and programmes for integrated water resources management; Improving land resources management; Harnessing science and technology for sustainable development; and Assessing and monitoring progress on the implementation of the WSSD outcomes.

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), www.unece.org

ECE services five environmental Conventions and 12 Protocols to them; services the tripartite Transport, Health and Environment process together with the ECE Transport Division and WHO/Euro; and provides the secretariat services to the 'Environment for Europe' Ministerial process and to the regional follow-up to the WSSD.

Economic and Social Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), www.eclac.cl

The work of ECLAC in the area of environment and human settlements is articulated in four areas: Evaluation of sustainability in Latin America and the Caribbean; Public

policies and pursuit of a global environmental agenda; Economy and environment; and Poverty and the environment.

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), www.unescap.org

ESCAP's environmental activities focus primarily on: Coordinating and monitoring the implementation of the Regional Action Programme for Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development, 2001-2005, JPOI, the Phnom Penh Regional Platform on Sustainable Development for Asia and the Pacific, and other recommendations of the Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific; Reviewing the regional implementation of relevant international conventions; Promoting the integration of environmental considerations into economic and social planning; Developing and implementing strategic environmental plans and sustainable development indicators; Promoting the increased involvement of stakeholders in achieving sustainable development goals; Serving as a focal point for the coordination of natural disaster reduction; and Strengthening the capacity of member and associate member countries to achieve sustainable energy development.

Economic and Social Commission for West Asia (ESCWA), www.escwa.org.lb

Environmental issues recently addressed by ESCWA include: Enforcement of environmental legislations; Evaluation of environmental impact assessments (EIA); Development of guidelines for harmonized EIA; National Sustainable Development Strategies and Action Plans; Institutional capacities to upgrade environmental monitoring systems; 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; and Governance for sustainable development.

3. UN Funds and Programmes

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), www.unctad.org

Established in 1964, UNCTAD promotes the development-friendly integration of developing countries into the world economy, through functioning as a forum for intergovernmental deliberations; undertaking research, policy analysis, and data collection; and providing technical assistance. UNCTAD's environmental activities include: Environmental goods and services; MEAs (conceptual and ad-hoc agreements, Basel, Montreal, POPs, etc.); Organic agriculture; Traditional knowledge; REACH and chemicals; Gender and environment; Biotrade; Climate change; POPs; Clean Development Mechanism; Standards and trade; Environmental requirements and market access; Services from ecosystems and related economic instruments; Economic instruments and MEAs; Sustainable tourism, eco-tourism, fair trade, eco-labelling; and Research, policy-advice, capacity-building, training and technical cooperation on above mentioned topics.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), www.undp.org

UNDP is the UN's global development network, an organization advocating for change and connecting countries to knowledge, experience, and resources to help people build a

better life. UNDP's environmental activities include: Frameworks and strategies for sustainable development; Effective Water governance; Access to sustainable energy services; Sustainable land management to combat desertification and land degradation; Conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity; National/sectoral policy and planning to control emissions of Ozone Depleting Substances and POPs; Climate change; Poverty and Environment Initiative (PEI); Capacity development; Mainstreaming gender; and Community-based approaches to sustainable development.

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), www.unep.org

UNEP provides leadership and encourages 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 environmental activities include: Early warning and assessment; Environmental policy development and law; Technology, industry, and economics; Environmental policy implementation; Regional cooperation; Environmental conventions; and GEF coordination.

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), www.unfpa.org

UNFPA promotes the right of every woman, man, and child to enjoy a life of health and equal opportunity, and supports countries in using population data for policies and programmes to reduce poverty and to ensure that every pregnancy is wanted, every birth is safe, every young person is free of HIV/AIDS, and every girl and woman is treated with dignity and respect. UNFPA's environmental activities include: Policy dialogue, planning, and research relating to population, poverty, environment, and sustainable development; Providing support for institutional capacity building to improve data collection, analysis, research, and dissemination; and Promoting population and sustainable development information, education, and advocacy.

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), www.unicef.org

UNICEF advocates for the protection of children's rights, to help meet their basic needs and to expand their opportunities to reach their full potential. UNICEF's environmental activities include: Promoting enabling environments to ensure the effectiveness and sustainability of all water and sanitation programmes; Community and household water security; Water, sanitation, and education focusing on improving the health of school children; and Water and sanitation in emergencies.

United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT), www.unhabitat.org

UN-HABITAT is mandated by UNGA to promote socially and environmentally sustainable towns and cities with the goal of providing adequate shelter for all. Within UN-HABITAT four main sub programmes can be identified: Shelter and Sustainable Human Settlements Development; Monitoring the Habitat Agenda; Regional and Technical Cooperation; and Financing Human Settlements. Particularly in the area of environment, UN-HABITAT assists local authorities on basic urban services, such as waste management, water, sanitation; sustainable urban mobility and transportation issues; and urban poverty and environment nexus through capacity building, providing technical advice, guidelines, tools, etc.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), www.unhcr.org

UNHCR was established in 1950 by UNGA to lead and coordinate international action to protect refugees and resolve refugee problems worldwide. UNHCR's environmental activities include: Site planning and settlement establishment; Water and sanitation; Reforestation; Household energy conservation; Sustainable agriculture; Environmental education and awareness raising; Soil and water conservation; Environmental friendly shelter construction; Livestock and animal husbandry; and Environmental assessment, monitoring, and evaluation.

World Food Program (WFP), www.wfp.org

As the food aid arm of the UN, WFP uses its food to meet emergency needs and support economic and social development. It also provides the logistics support necessary to effectively provide food aid and works to put hunger at the centre of the international agenda, promoting policies, strategies, and operations that directly benefit the poor and hungry. WFP has undertaken a number of initiatives to address environmental concerns in both its relief and development interventions including: Incorporating the consideration of environmental issues in its programme design manual; Presenting a paper to the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes (CFA) on sustainable development; Adopting as much as possible various procedures and measures to systematically introduce sound environmental practices in its operations; and Helping poor communities adopt sustainable coping strategies and by addressing environmental concerns in relief and development.

4. Other UN Entities

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), www.ohchr.org

OHCHR has a unique mandate from the international community to promote and protect all human rights. OHCHR works on issues related to human rights as a component of sustainable development and conducts work in the field of MDGs and poverty. OHCHR provides assistance to the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the adverse effects of the illicit movement and dumping of toxic and dangerous products and wastes on the enjoyment of human rights, and conducts research on the linkages between human rights and sustainable development.

United Nations University (UNU), www.unu.edu

UNU contributes, through research and capacity building, to efforts to resolve the pressing global problems that are a concern of the UN, its peoples, and Member States. UNU focuses on the interactions between human activities and the natural environment and their implications for sustainable human development. The basic issues of human survival, development, and welfare are at the core of the themes covered. Environmental activities include: Management of fragile ecosystems; Water crises; Sustainable urbanization; Environmental governance and information; and Holistic view of environmental transitions.

5. Research and Training Institutes

United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), www.unitar.org

UNITAR was established in 1965 as an autonomous body within the UN with the purpose of enhancing the effectiveness of the Organization through appropriate training and research. UNITAR's Environmental Programmes are committed to assisting the development of sustainable institutional, technical, and human resource capacities; raising awareness; increasing knowledge; and improving communication in partner countries and organizations. Six environmental and sustainable development-related areas are involved: Chemicals and waste management; Environmental governance and democracy; Climate change, Decentralized cooperation; Environmental law; and Information society frameworks.

6. Specialized Agencies

Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), www.fao.org

FAO's mandate is to raise levels of nutrition, improve agricultural productivity, better the lives of rural populations, and contribute to the growth of the world economy. FAO's Sustainable Development Department focuses on four key dimensions of sustainability: Sustainable livelihoods, people's participation, and mainstreaming of gender and population issues; Agrarian transformation and institutional reform; Research, extension, education, and communication; and Natural resource monitoring and management. It promotes sustainability concepts, strategies, and methods in each of these areas, and helps integrate them in the development programmes of both FAO member countries and the Organization's own technical units.

International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO), www.icao.int

ICAO, as the global forum for civil aviation, aims to achieve safe, secure, and sustainable development of civil aviation through cooperation amongst its member States. ICAO's environmental activities include: Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) for aircraft noise and engine emissions certification; Noise abatement operational procedures; Land-use planning and management; Operation restrictions to minimize aircraft noise; Fuel efficiency; Aircraft noise scenarios; Aircraft emissions scenarios; Aircraft noise modeling; Aircraft emissions modeling; Aircraft noise charges policies; Local air quality; Market-based options to reduce emissions including local air quality emissions charges, emissions trading, and voluntary agreements to reduce emissions; Aviation's impact on the upper atmosphere; Climate change; Ozone depletion; and Health issues related to aircraft operations.

International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), www.ifad.org

IFAD is dedicated to eradicating rural poverty in developing countries, focusing on country-specific solutions, which can involve increasing rural poor peoples' access to financial services, markets, technology, land, and other natural resources. IFAD uses a sustainable livelihoods approach (SLA) to improve understanding of the livelihoods of poor people.

International Labour Organisation (ILO), www.ilo.org

ILO is dedicated to bringing decent work and livelihoods, job-related security, and better living standards to the people of both poor and rich countries, by promoting rights at work, encouraging opportunities for decent employment, enhancing social protection, and strengthening dialogue on work-related issues. Activities of ILO's SafeWork programme seek to advance four goals: Preventive policies and programmes are developed to protect workers in hazardous occupations and sectors; Effective protection is extended to vulnerable groups of workers falling outside the scope of traditional protective measures; Governments and employers' and workers' organizations are better equipped to address problems of workers' well-being, occupational health care, and the quality of working life; and The social and economic impact of improving workers' protection is documented and recognized by policy- and decision-makers.

International Maritime Organisation (IMO), www.imo.org

IMO's mandate is to promote safe, secure, environmentally sound, efficient, and sustainable shipping. Within its environmental mandate, IMO has developed and adopted a range of international instruments to address marine pollution arising from international shipping. In addition, a range of mandatory and voluntary Guidelines and Codes have been developed and adopted to provide international standards for the safe transport, storage, and handling of harmful substances. IMO has Secretariat responsibilities for such instruments and regulations, and regularly reviews and updates these.

International Telecommunications Union (ITU), www.itu.int

ITU is the leading UN agency for information and communication technologies, which spans three core sectors: radiocommunication, standardization, and development. ITU's activities assist member states to implement national strategies for sustainable development by facilitating: Access to remote sensing technologies and communications networks permit more effective monitoring, resource management, mitigation of environmental risks; Increased access to/awareness of sustainable development strategies, in areas such as agriculture, sanitation and water management, mining, etc.; Greater transparency and monitoring of environmental abuses/enforcement of environmental regulations; and Facilitating knowledge exchange and networking among policy makers, practitioners, and advocacy groups.

United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), www.unesco.org

UNESCO provides a forum for designing and coordinating regional and global scientific programmes, assessing and synthesizing scientific information for use by member governments, and building scientific and technological capacities in support of its programmes. A wide range of environmental issues are addressed through a series of UNESCO programmes: International Hydrological Programme (IHP); World Water Assessment Programme; Programme on the Management of Human Transformations (MOST); Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme; International Basic Sciences Programme (IBSP); Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission; International Geoscience Programme; and Natural Disaster Reduction Programme.

United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO), www.unido.org

UNIDO's vision is to reduce poverty in countries with developing and transition economies through sustainable industrial growth. Its work aims to enhance the diffusion and transfer of environmentally sound technologies (EST), through: Investment and technology promotion, quality and productivity, small business development, energy and different sectoral activities; and Environmental and energy management. Environmental activities include: Implementation of Montreal Protocol; Implementation of Stockholm Convention and chemicals management; Cleaner Production Centre Programme; Energy-related services; Water Management Programme; and Waste Management Programme.

Universal Postal Union (UPU), www.upu.int

Established in 1874, UPU is the primary forum for cooperation between postal-sector players and helps to ensure a truly universal network of up-to-date products and services. UPU's Task Force "Environment and Sustainable Development" 2005-2008 work programme includes: Gathering feedback from national postal services in order to understand their vision, actions, and policy regarding sustainable development; Updating the Guide "Postal services and the environment"; Developing a tool-kit for self-diagnosis of postal services; Implementing a public awareness campaign of postal services and their employees on the benefits implementing sustainable development policies; Organising an international conference on environment and sustainable development for national postal services in 2006; Continuing cooperation with UNEP; Continuing cooperation with the Group "Environment" of PostEurop; and Planning and conducting a 2008 international audit on the sustainable development practices of the national postal services of UPU member states.

World Tourism Organisation (WTO), www.world-tourism.org

WTO is the leading international organization in the field of tourism, serving as a global forum for tourism policy issues and a practical source of tourism know-how. Environmental activities include: The Sustainable Tourism-Eliminating Poverty programme (ST-EP); Planning for the sustainable development of tourism; Compilations of good practices in sustainable development of tourism; Indicators of sustainability for tourism; Voluntary initiatives and certification systems for sustainable tourism; Sustainable development of tourism in coastal areas and islands; Ecotourism, tourism in protected areas; Urban tourism and tourism at cultural heritage sites; Congestion management at cultural and natural sites; Global Code of Ethics for Tourism; Climate Change and Tourism; The Tour Operators Initiative; and Microfinance and Tourism.

The World Bank Group (The World Bank), www.worldbank.org

The World Bank's mission of global poverty reduction and the improvement of living standards is achieved through providing low-interest loans, interest-free credit, and grants to developing countries for education, health, infrastructure, communications, and many other purposes. Environmental activities include: Natural resources management—biodiversity, climate change, coastal and marine management, forests and forestry, land resources management, and water resources management; Pollution management and environmental health; Environmental economics and indicators; Global environmental management; and Environmental and social sustainability.

World Health Organisation (WHO), www.who.int

WHO is the directing and coordinating authority for health within the UN. It is responsible for providing leadership on global health matters, shaping the health research agenda, setting norms and standards, articulating evidence-based policy options, providing technical support to countries, and monitoring and assessing health trends. Through its Protection of the Human Environment Department, WHO addresses the following environmental issues: Chemical safety including WHO's participation in the International Programme on Chemical Safety; Environmental and occupational health focusing on climate change, indoor air pollution, traffic emissions, and occupational health; Radiation and health addressing the multiple and emerging threats to public health from technologies from exposure to ionizing and non-ionizing (EMF and UV) radiation; Water and sanitation which creates guidelines and identifies best practices; and Healthy environments for children focussing on the settings approach and supports countries in maintaining healthy environments for children.

World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO), www.wipo.org

WIPO, established in 1967, is dedicated to developing a balanced and accessible international intellectual property (IP) system, which rewards creativity, stimulates innovation, and contributes to economic development while safeguarding the public interest. Traditional Knowledge arises as an issue in relating to food and agriculture, biological diversity and the environment, biotechnology innovation and regulation, human rights, cultural policies, and trade and economic development. Working in cooperation with other international organizations and in dialogue with NGOs, WIPO provides a forum for international policy debate concerning the interplay between intellectual property and traditional knowledge, genetic resources, and traditional cultural expressions (folklore). It is developing draft legal mechanisms and a range of practical tools aimed at enhancing the IP interests of the holders of such knowledge, resources, and expressions.

World Meteorological Organisation (WMO), www.wmo.ch

WMO, established in 1950, is the UN system's authoritative voice on the state and behaviour of the Earth's atmosphere, its interaction with the oceans, the climate it produces, and the resulting distribution of water resources. WMO's environment-related activities include: Weather and climate observations both surface and space observations; Data collection, dissemination, and processing; Weather forecasting and warning to decision-making and public; Application of meteorological services and information to areas such as agriculture, transport, marine activities, etc.; Climate prediction including urban climatology and heat wave prediction; Application of climate information and services to socio-economic benefit and for human health and other sectors such as energy, urban issues, and tourism; Atmospheric research, in particular through the Global Atmosphere Watch to detect, monitor and assess and project changes in the composition of the atmosphere; Emergency response in cases chemical and nuclear accidents, forest fire, and volcanic ash; Assessment of the quantity and quality of water resources; and Natural disaster prevention and mitigation.

7. Convention Secretariats

Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), www.biodiv.org

The secretariat supports Parties to achieve the objectives of the Convention: the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components, and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources. A supplementary agreement to the Convention—the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety—seeks to protect biological diversity from the potential risks posed by living modified organisms resulting from modern biotechnology. The COP to the CBD has initiated work on seven thematic work programmes addressing: marine and coastal biodiversity; agricultural biodiversity; forest biodiversity; island biodiversity; the biodiversity of inland waters; dry and sub-humid lands; and mountain biodiversity.

Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), www.cites.org

Supported by the secretariat, CITES aims to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival. CITES works by subjecting international trade in specimens of more than 30,000 species of animals and plants to certain controls. All import, export, re-export, and introduction from the sea of species covered by the Convention has to be authorized through a licensing system.

Secretariat of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), www.cms.int

The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (also known as CMS or Bonn Convention) aims to conserve terrestrial, marine, and avian migratory species throughout their range. It is an intergovernmental treaty, concluded under the aegis of UNEP, concerned with the conservation of wildlife and habitats on a global scale. The CMS Secretariat, under the auspices of UNEP, provides administrative support to the Convention.

Ramsar Convention on Wetlands Secretariat (RAMSAR), www.ramsar.org

RAMSAR is a multilateral treaty established in 1971, which deals with conservation and wise use of wetlands and water resources, through national actions and international cooperation. The secretariat facilitates its implementation by Parties. Environmental activities concern all aspects of wetland and water resource conservation and wise use, comprising both freshwater and saline inland waters (including subterranean systems), and marine waters up to a depth of six metres.

Secretariat of the Basel Convention (SBC), www.basel.int

The main goal of the Convention is to protect human health and the environment from the adverse effects which may result from handling, transporting, and disposing of hazardous and other wastes. To achieve this, the Convention pursues four objectives, with the assistance of the secretariat: To reduce transboundary movements of hazardous wastes to a minimum consistent with their environmentally sound management; To treat and dispose of such wastes as close as possible to their source of generation; To promote the environmentally sound management (ESM) of hazardous wastes; and To minimise the generation of hazardous wastes.

Secretariat of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), www.unccd.int

Recognizing that desertification is a major economic, social, and environmental problem of concern to many countries in all regions of the world, the Convention aims to tackle desertification through an integrated approach, emphasizing action to promote sustainable development at the community level. Countries affected by desertification are implementing the Convention by developing and carrying out national, sub-regional, and regional action programmes. The secretariat facilitates the development of action programmes. Consultations among affected countries, donors, and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations improve coordination and channel development assistance to where it can be most effective. They also produce partnership agreements that spell out the respective contributions of both affected and donor states and of the Secretariat and other international organizations.

Secretariat of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), www.unfccc.int

The Convention sets an overall framework for intergovernmental efforts to tackle the challenge posed by climate change. Under the Convention, with the assistance of the secretariat, governments: Gather and share information on greenhouse gas emissions, national policies, and best practices; Launch national strategies for addressing greenhouse emissions and adapting to expected impacts, including the provision of financial and technological support to developing countries; and Cooperate in preparing for adaptation to the impacts of climate change. In relation to climate change mitigation and adaptation, the secretariat's activities are focused in four programmes: Methods, Inventories and Science; Sustainable Development; Cooperative Mechanisms; and Implementation.

8. Related Organizations

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), www.iaea.org

Set up as the world's "Atoms for Peace" organization in 1957 within the UN family, IAEA works with its Member States and multiple partners worldwide to promote safe, secure, and peaceful nuclear technologies. Environmental activities include: Nuclear techniques for development and environmental protection; Nuclear safety and security; Management of technical cooperation for development; and Nuclear power, fuel cycle and nuclear science.

World Trade Organisation (WTO), www.wto.org

WTO's main function is to ensure that trade flows as smoothly, predictably, and freely as possible, thereby contributing to economic growth and development. Sustainable development is enshrined in the Marrakesh Agreement establishing the WTO as one of the core objectives of the organization. As part of the Doha Round of negotiations, WTO Members have engaged in negotiations on specific environment-related issues—such as fisheries subsidies; the relationship between WTO and MEAs; and the liberalization of trade in environmental goods and services—with the aim of enhancing the mutual supportiveness of trade and environment. The Doha Development Agenda also contains a general mandate to monitor the sustainable development aspects of the negotiations in

all areas covered in WTO. The WTO Secretariat provides a wide range of technical assistance activities and training for developing country officials in the field of trade and environment.

International Trade Centre (ITC), www.intracen.org

ITC is the joint technical cooperation agency of UNCTAD and the World Trade Organization. ITC enables small business export success in developing countries by providing, with partners, trade development solutions to the private sector, trade support institutions, and policy-makers. ITC provides environment-related technical assistance in each of its areas of work: Product and market development; Development of trade support services; Trade information; Human resource development; International purchasing and supply management; and Needs assessment, programme design for trade promotion

Global Environment Facility (GEF), www.gefweb.org

GEF is a catalyst and a facilitator of global environment sustainability. As a financial mechanism with the core mandate of providing new and additional funding for agreed incremental costs of projects and programs in developing countries that produce global environmental benefits, GEF works in the following areas: Biological diversity; Climate change; International waters; Land degradation; Ozone depletion; and POPs.

United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction secretariat (UN/ISDR), www.unisdr.org

ISDR aims at building disaster resilient communities by promoting increased awareness of the importance of disaster reduction as an integral component of sustainable development, with the goal of reducing human, social, economic, and environmental losses due to natural hazards and related technological and environmental disasters. ISDR secretariat activities related to the environment include: Promoting multi-disciplinary institutional mechanisms in countries to support effective disaster risk reduction implementation, involving environmental ministries; Promoting disaster risk reduction, as an integral part of sustainable development policies and practices, in relevant sectoral development agendas; Developing education material on environment and disaster risk reduction; Supporting capacity building efforts, related to sound environmental practices that reduce disaster risk; and Compiling information on 'good practices' for environmental management that integrate disaster risk.

