

MAKING IT HAPPEN

The 2005 World Summit, which marked the opening of the 60th session of the UN General Assembly, emphasized the central role of environmental sustainability in achieving UN objectives, including global security and the Millennium Development Goals. It also highlighted “the need for more efficient environmental activities in the United Nations system, with enhanced coordination, improved policy advice and guidance... and better integration of environmental activities in the broader sustainable development framework at the operational level, including through capacity-building.”

2005 WORLD SUMMIT



UNITED NATIONS

At the 2005 World Summit, UNEP worked to emphasize the importance of environmental sustainability to the achievement of all the UN Millennium Development Goals. Among its initiatives was the creation a ‘Green Room’ where partners could work together to communicate the environmental message.

The Summit’s Outcome Document invites the Secretary-General “to launch work to further strengthen the management and coordination of United Nations operational activities so that they can make an even more effective contribution to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals....” Towards this end, the Secretary-General has commissioned a new study on United Nations System-wide Coherence

in the Areas of Humanitarian Assistance, the Environment and Development, to be undertaken by experienced international figures, supported by a senior UNEP staff member as Executive Director, to develop concrete and comprehensive analysis and recommendations on needed reforms.

In the area of environmental activities two issues will be addressed. First is an assessment of how to achieve more comprehensive and coherent implementation, management and monitoring of the growing range of multilateral environmental agreements. Second is the need for better integration of environmental considerations in UN country-level activities and, in particular, capacity building and technology support undertaken by the entire UN system.

The study will encompass organizational and funding issues, ranging from the duplication and overlap of work across UN entities to prospects for joint, multi-year funding and programming arrangements. It is a natural progression to the process that led to the establishment in 1999 of the Environmental Management Group (EMG) to provide a UN system-wide response to emerging environmental and human settlements issues. UNEP provides the EMG secretariat. In February 2005, the UNEP Executive Director presented an independent evaluation of the work of the EMG to the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum. A High-Level Forum in Geneva in January 2006 will take stock of the current international environmental context and its implications for the EMG, and propose a strategic work plan.

Canada’s Minister of Environment Stéphane Dion addresses the United Nations Climate Change Conference, 28 November 2005, in Montreal, Canada. Dion was president of the conference, where negotiations took place on how the world will confront global warming in the coming decades. The conference marked the first Meeting of Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, which entered into force in February 2005. © Normand Blouin/AFP/Getty Images

The
United Nations
Climate Change
Conference



Montreal 2009



UNEP Executive Director Klaus Toepfer (right) with Haitian musician Wyclef Jean (centre) and Kemal Dervis, Administrator of the UN Development Programme (UNDP), at the Poverty and Environment Partnership event 'Environment for the MDGs' at the 2005 World Summit, September 2005. The World Summit emphasized the central role of environmental sustainability in achieving UN objectives, including global security and the Millennium Development Goals. At the same Summit, the UN Secretary-General stressed the importance of improved coordination between UN bodies. Both elements are addressed in a Memorandum of Understanding between UNEP and UNDP signed in November 2005, which will, among other things, enhance UNEP's implementation of the Bali Intergovernmental Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity Building endorsed by the 23rd UNEP Governing Council in February 2005.

CAPACITY BUILDING AND TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT

UNEP's contribution to the "better integration of environmental considerations in UN country-level activities" and, in particular, capacity building and technology support, was enhanced in 2005 by the adoption by the UNEP Governing Council of the Bali Intergovernmental Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity Building. The Bali Plan is a bottom-up approach to strengthening the capacity of developing countries and countries with economies in transition to manage their environment and meet their obligations under internationally agreed goals and targets. The Plan will provide country-wide 'blueprints' to improve coordination in environmental capacity building and technology support among development partners. It will also promote South-South cooperation. Approximately 30 per cent of UNEP reserve funds was allocated in 2005 to UNEP's Regional Offices for the Plan's implementation.

The Bali Plan highlights a number of cross-cutting and thematic issues. The thematic areas include oceans and seas, management of natural resources, climate change, pollution, post conflict assessment and environmental emergencies. The cross-cutting areas cover cooperation with civil society and the private sector, addressing unsustainable production and consumption patterns, and building capacity to assess and monitor the state of the environment. To facilitate implementing the Plan, UNEP and the UN Development Programme (UNDP) have a memorandum of understanding whereby the UNDP Resident Coordinator represents UNEP at the country-level. UNEP will also participate in the work of UN Country Teams in the UN Common Country Assessment and the Development Assistance Framework.

In Asia and the Pacific, UNEP is helping countries to develop national sustainable development strategies. The National and sub-Regional Sustainable Development Strategy and Action Plans project to mainstream sustainable development in decision making processes is being implemented with the support of the Norwegian Government. Specific demonstration projects, such as the Eco-house, are being supported in Bhutan, Indonesia, Maldives, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Sri Lanka. In Africa, UNEP started a pilot project in Burkina Faso, the Gambia, Kenya, Lesotho, Rwanda and Tunisia to mainstream the environment into national development planning and contribute to national poverty reduction strategies. The project, which was launched at the 2005 World Summit, will build on existing assessments to develop a Strategic National Capacity Building and Technology Support Plan for each country.

WORKING WITH GOVERNMENTS

As well as increasing national-level activities, UNEP continued supporting intergovernmental and regional processes during 2005. In Latin America and the Caribbean, UNEP provides the secretariat for the Forum of Ministers of the Environment, whose Latin American and Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development (ILAC) provides the basis for environmental cooperation in the region. At the 15th Forum of Ministers, in Caracas, Venezuela, from 31 October to 4 November 2005, ministers recognized that "despite the efforts made to achieve sustainable development in the region, serious poverty, inequality and environmental

degradation persist.” Based on the experiences of the Regional Action Plan 2004–2005, they committed “to take further actions to develop public policies focused on sustainability and participation” in a Regional Action Plan for 2006–2007. ILAC’s objectives include ensuring that 10 per cent of regional energy requirements are from renewable energy sources, improving watershed and marine and coastal zone management, reducing the discharge of pollutants and adopting measures to regulate access to genetic resources and ensure a fair distribution of benefits.

In Africa, UNEP provides technical, logistical and financial support to the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD), as well as providing the secretariat for the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN). In March 2005, UNEP supported the second Partners Conference on the Implementation of the Action Plan for the Environment Initiative of NEPAD, which met in Dakar, Senegal, to review the implementation of the Action Plan and deliberate on its financial mechanism. UNEP also gave technical support to five intergovernmental consultative meetings to review the first draft of the NEPAD sub-regional environmental action plans.

UNEP also signed an agreement with the NEPAD secretariat to strengthen human and institutional capacity for the implementation of the Environment Initiative in the five sub-regional African Economic Communities, and five Environment and Natural Resource Coordinators have been recruited. UNEP is also helping the NEPAD secretariat to coordinate the development of a portfolio of priority programmes and projects for the implementation of the Action Plan. To this end UNEP helped to develop a package of environment projects submitted by the NEPAD secretariat and the African Union to the NEPAD African Partnership Forum and to Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) countries as a follow up to the G8 Gleneagles Summit.

In Asia and the Pacific, UNEP provides the secretariat for the Sub-regional Environmental Policy Dialogue (SEPD) which brings ministers and eminent personalities from the five sub-regions together annually to provide policy guidance on UNEP’s programme of work and inputs for global events. In September 2005,

the Royal Government of Bhutan hosted the third SEPD meeting in Thimphu. During 2005, UNEP supported and participated in various sub-regional intergovernmental forums, including the South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, the Inter-State Sustainable Development Commission for Central Asia, the Association for Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the Greater Mekong Sub-region, Tripartite Environment Ministers Meetings for China, Japan and the Republic of Korea, and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme.

In West Asia, the League of Arab States, through the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment (CAMRE), is working to implement the Arab Initiative on Sustainable Development. A Joint Secretariat, consisting of CAMRE, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia and UNEP’s Regional Office for West Asia is responsible for the programme of work and the identification of relevant regional partners. The

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Securing the future

implementation of the Initiative is closely linked with the Bali Strategic Plan, especially since much of the work highlighted under the Initiative, and particularly the role that UNEP has been asked to play, is capacity building.

In Europe, as well working with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, UNEP operates liaison offices in Brussels, to maintain contact with all European Union institutions, and Moscow, to strengthen policy exchanges with the Government of Russia. In November 2005, UNEP's cooperation with Russia was given a fresh impetus with the signing of a Programme of Cooperation between UNEP and the Government of the Russian Federation for 2005–2007.

MULTILATERAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENTS

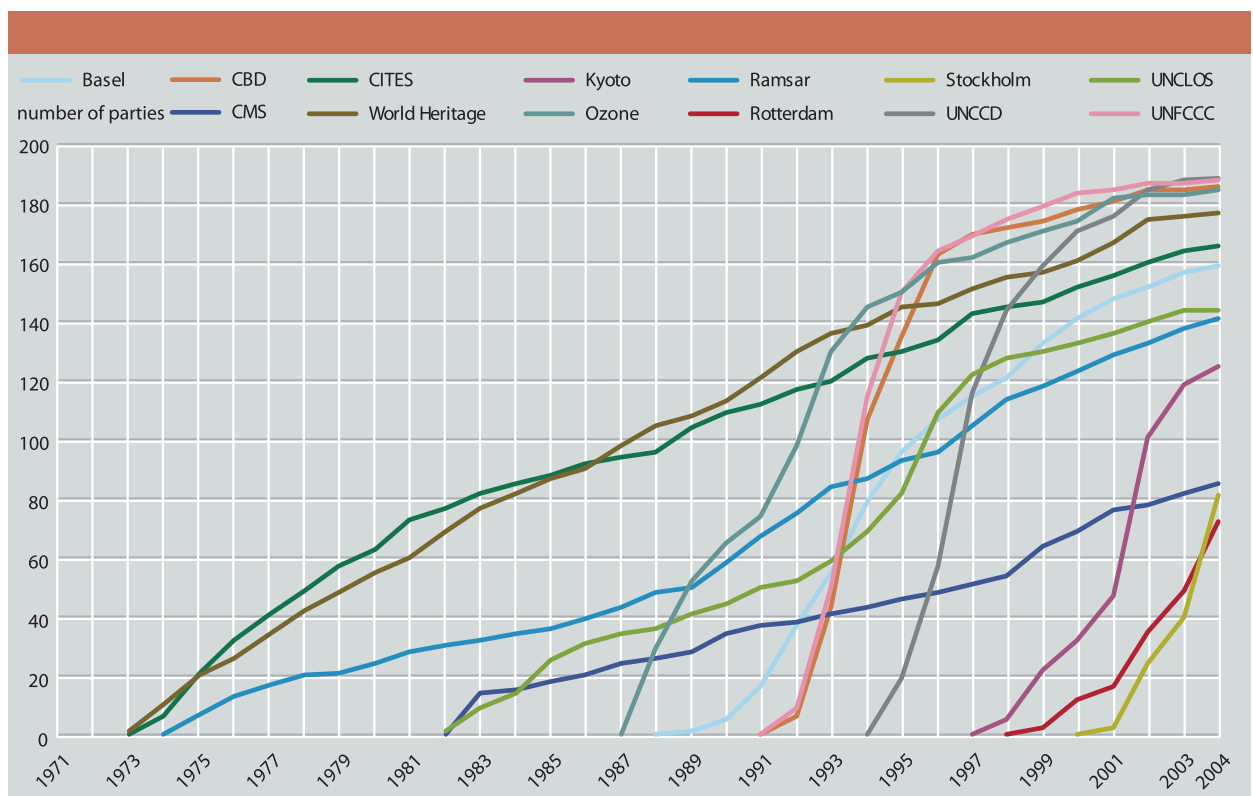
The 2005 World Summit reaffirmed the importance of improving coordination among the multilateral

environmental agreements (MEAs). To determine areas of possible cooperation and to establish common issues, UNEP conducted a review in 2005 of the decisions of Conferences to the Parties of MEAs that ask for UNEP action. Based on the recommendations, activities were launched to develop guidelines on harmonized reporting and to strengthen administrative support to MEA secretariats. UNEP also worked to create better public information materials and improve its media assistance to MEA meetings, both of which helped to achieve the public outreach goals of the MEA secretariats. By collaborating closely with secretariats on practical outputs, UNEP's relationship with MEAs was also strengthened.

UNEP also continues to develop tools to strengthen the implementation of MEAs. A Negotiators Primer was tested in three regional workshops and a ten-module Training Manual on Negotiation and Implementation of MEAs for NGOs was developed and tested during the

Ratification of major multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) has progressed, indicating increasing commitment of countries to addressing environmental issues. The Kyoto Protocol to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change was the most recent MEA to gain sufficient ratifications to come into force, which it did in February 2005. On chemicals, the Rotterdam Convention on Prior Informed Consent, and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, both entered into force in 2004. All the selected MEAs have seen the number of ratifications grow steadily, and many are approaching the maximum number of parties by now. Taking all 13 MEAs together, 75 per cent of possible ratifications have been made for the world as a whole. In every region at least 60 per cent of the potential ratifications have been made.

Number of parties to multilateral environmental agreements, 1971–2004



UNEP Governing Council in February and at the Commission on Sustainable Development in April 2005. A Training Manual for Customs Officials for the Implementation of Trade-related MEAs was also developed and tested at a series of six regional workshops between May and November 2005.

Compliance and enforcement in the area of environmental crime is a priority area for many MEAs. Illegal trade of prohibited items, whether they be ozone-depleting substances or products from endangered wild plants and animals, is highly lucrative and undermines the effectiveness of those agreements. The role of customs officials in monitoring and controlling flows of regulated chemicals at borders was the subject of a series of workshops in Bhutan, Georgia, Tanzania, and Trinidad and Tobago organized by UNEP, the World Customs Organization, Interpol, and MEA secretariats as part of the Green Customs initiative. The initiative, which is continuing in 2006, covers several MEAs, making it more efficient than separate training on individual agreements.

UNEP is also promoting compliance and enforcement through a manual of case studies, best practices, explanatory notes and checklists that elaborates the 2002 UNEP Guidelines on Compliance with and Enforcement of MEAs. The manual was tested in 2005 in three workshops for Spanish-speaking Latin American and Caribbean countries, Francophone African countries and Arab-speaking countries in West Asia. UNEP is also developing indicators for environmental compliance and enforcement of biodiversity-related MEAs for testing in Costa Rica, Kenya, Brazil and South Africa.

ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

Compliance and enforcement of MEAs and the successful implementation of environmental policy depends on a solid body of national and international environmental law. UNEP has been involved in the development of environmental law, and related capacity building for legislators, the judiciary and other legal officers since its inception. The framework for UNEP's work in this area is the Montevideo Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law, which is now in its third 10-year phase.

During 2005, national training programmes on developing national environmental legislation and implementing international environmental legal instruments were held in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Legal instruments were drafted and reviewed with the help of national legal experts, and are currently being deliberated in national consensus building workshops before being processed through parliaments. Special attention is given to ensure that countries have full ownership of legislation being developed.

Other capacity building activities included national and regional training programmes in environmental law and various workshops for judges, including a Central Asian Judges Conference in Turkmenistan for judges from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, and the biannual Global Training Programme on Environmental Law and Policy was held for two weeks in November 2005 with 47 participants from all regions. Feedback indicated that participants felt better equipped to undertake their respective roles in developing and implementing environmental legislation, as well as in taking part in multilateral negotiations.

UNEP also continues to develop and disseminate environmental law publications, which are increasingly available online, and is a partner in the ECOLEX environmental law database with the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation, FAO, and the World Conservation Union, IUCN. A project on developing legal environmental databases in African countries has also been initiated. In December a Training Manual on Environmental Law was published, which comprehensively summarizes all aspects of international environmental law. UNEP's Environmental Law Branch also organized a Round Table Dialogue on Advancing the Millennium Development Goals through the Rule of Law and is studying new and emerging issues in international environmental law.

During 2005, the Partnership for Development of Environmental Law and Institutions in Africa (PADELIA) continued to work with 13 governments throughout the continent. Twenty country-specific and transboundary environmental laws were developed and reviewed, and a number of capacity building projects implemented for judges, lawyers, lecturers, legal experts and practitioners.