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of the United Nations
Environment Programme**

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Global Ministerial Environment Forum**
Nairobi, 5–9 February 2007
Item 6 of the provisional agenda*

**Implementation of the programme of work of the United Nations
Environment Programme and the relevant decisions of the Governing Council**

**Status of implementation of the decisions adopted by the Governing
Council at its twenty-third session and its ninth special session**

Note by the Executive Director

Summary

The Executive Director has the honour to provide, in the annex to the present note, an executive summary of the status of implementation of the decisions adopted by the Governing Council at its twenty-third session, held in Nairobi from 21 to 25 February 2005, and at its ninth special session, held in Dubai from 7 to 9 February 2006. The summary includes information on the status of implementation of the programme of work of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) for the biennium 2006–2007.

The summary should be considered in conjunction with the various documents being prepared for submission to the twenty-fourth session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, to be held in Nairobi from 5 to 9 February 2007. It has been issued without formal editing.

* UNEP/GC/24/1.

Annex

Status of implementation of the decisions adopted by the Governing Council at its twenty-third session and its ninth special session¹

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¹ Supplementary information of direct substantive relevance to the activities being reported is found in footnotes, while supplementary information to further support the information in the main text is found in endnotes. Detailed information on each of the activities should be referred to the relevant websites indicated in the footnotes or to the UNEP Home Page at www.unep.org.

I. International Environmental Governance

A. Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building

1. In response to decisions 23/1 I (*Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building*), activities of UNEP in the implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building (BSP) include the following²:

- § The Executive Director constituted an internal Task Force to harmonize and align the proposed 2008-2009 programme of work with the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building (BSP). The Task Force completed its work, 1 September, putting forward a set of actionable recommendations for the implementation of the BSP;
- § Dedicated a senior staff member to enhance the participation of UNEP in the United Nations Development Group (UNDG), and continued actively participating in the UNDG Working Group on capacity building;
- § Also continued to consult with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on the effective implementation of the 2004 memorandum of understanding (MOU). Several concrete steps have been taken following the exchange of letters between the UNEP Executive Director and the UNDP Administrator. Areas of initial cooperation identified include: joint poverty-environment centre, proposal for a partnership on the human development report, harmonisation of UNDP-UNEP administrative/financial systems, Global Environment Facility (GEF) collaboration, and UNEP's engagement in the UNDG;
- § The BSP pilot project in 6 African countries (Burkina Faso, Kenya, Lesotho, the Gambia, Rwanda, and Tunisia) is at an advanced stage of implementation. The project seeks to review capacity needs to identify priority needs and transferring these into national action plans for capacity building and technology support. Final draft reports have been received from Kenya, Burkina Faso and Lesotho. Continued discussing with the pilot countries on the follow up activities, as well as in identifying issues that are common to the countries which could be addressed through joint projects;
- § Improved the BSP database³ and harmonized with internal databases in UNEP as well as the United Nations system taking into account the structure and design of other databases of the World Bank and GEF;
- § Upon the request of the Supreme Council for the Environment and Natural Reserves (SCENR) in Qatar, conducted a national training workshop on Integrated Environmental Assessment and Reporting, Doha, 28-30 August.

B. Strengthening the scientific base of the United Nations Environment Programme

2. In response to decisions 23/1 II (*Strengthening the scientific base of the United Nations Environment Programme*), activities of UNEP include the following⁴:

- § The consultations being undertaken in 2006 include: an informal global expert group meeting on environmental information networking; informal regional expert group meetings on environmental information networking; an expert meeting on tools for capacity building in the context of BSP; as well as informal bilateral consultations with interested partners and agencies;
- § Continued with the process of consulting with Governments on their national situation and capacity building needs as it relates to the Environment Watch system and BSP. Governments received a questionnaire to this effect, to which 45 responses from Governments have been received;

² Also see documents UNEP/GC/24/3 and Add.1.

³ <http://www.cbts.unep.org>.

⁴ Also see document UNEP/GC/24/3/Add.1 and the Science Initiative website (<http://science.unep.org>).

- § Initiated a multi-stakeholder consultative process on environmental information networking. Following an expert meeting to develop generic guidelines on regional and national networking structures, held a regional meeting, Bahrain, September, on environmental information networking in West Asia. That meeting agreed to establish a West Asia environmental information network which would also link with the North Africa component of the Africa Environmental Information Network to form a League of Arab States Environmental Information Network, subject to approval by CAMRE⁵;
- § Organized a meeting on Piloting Environmental Information Networking in the Regions: West Asia Expert Group Meeting on Environmental Information Networking, Manama, 12-13 September; and the EcoMundus Workshop for Partners in West Asia, Manama, 14 September.

C. Multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and environmental law

1. Substantive and administrative support to MEAs

3. Presented the reports on the support by UNEP to MEAs were presented at: CITES at the 54th Standing Committee, Geneva, 2-6 October; 5th Session of the Meeting of the Parties of EUROBATS, Ljubljana, Slovenia, 4-6 September; and the Lusaka Agreement on Co-operative Enforcement Operations Directed at Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora at its the 8th Governing Council, Nairobi, 4-6 October.

2. Manual on Compliance with and Enforcement of MEAs

4. The re-edited the UNEP Manual on Compliance with and Enforcement of MEAs was finalized⁶.

3. Building regional and national capacity for compliance with and enforcement of MEAs

- § In cooperation with the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), completed the development of a draft Model Harmonized Biodiversity Legislation for implementation of biodiversity-related MEAs in the OECS Member States;
- § In cooperation with the International Network for Environmental Compliance and Enforcement (INECE), completed the development of environmental compliance and enforcement indicators for the implementation of a cluster of biodiversity-related MEAs which have also been tested in Brazil, Costa Rica, Kenya, and South Africa;
- § In cooperation with the Foundation for International Environmental Law and Development (FIELD), prepared and finalized the development of a Primer for MEA Negotiators which is awaiting final publication;
- § In cooperation with Stakeholder Forum, finalized a 10-Module Training Manual for NGOs negotiators and implementers of MEAs;
- § In cooperation with IUCN and Pese University, developing a university curriculum on compliance with and enforcement of MEAs based on the UNEP Guidelines and Manual on Compliance with and Enforcement of MEAs;
- § Continued to develop and review the draft Glossary of Terms and Acronyms for Negotiators of MEAs to incorporate comments and inputs from the first peer review phase (January-March 2006);
- § In collaboration with the Government of Finland, organized, participated and served as resource persons at the Third UNEP-University of Joensuu Course on International Environmental Law-Making and Diplomacy, held at the University of Kwazulu-Natal, Pietermaritzburg, South Africa, 27 June-7 July;
- § In collaboration with UNITAR, prepared, participated and served as a resource person and facilitator at the first session of the UNITAR Fellowship Programme on International and Comparative Environmental Law, Budapest, 31 July-4 August;

⁵ Also see document UNEP/GC/24/INF/12.

⁶ The Manual is available on-line at: (http://www.unep.org/dec/docs/UNEP_Manual.pdf).

- § In collaboration with the Government of Switzerland and University of Geneva, organized the Advanced Certificate Course in Environmental Diplomacy, Geneva, 29-31 August. The actual Course is a six-month Distance and e-Learning Course (August –December 2006) with a two week of interactive sessions with facilitators and resource persons;
- § Finalized the outcome document of the 2nd High Level Meeting on Envisioning the Next Steps for Compliance with and Enforcement of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs)⁷;
- § In collaboration with the Government of Austria, organized, conducted and served as facilitator at the meeting on Bridging the Gaps: Enhancing MEA Implementation in the Balkans, Vienna, 26-27 June⁸.

4. Interlinkages and synergies among MEAs

Climate change activities

- § Finalized a project with Scouts Canada on development of a Climate Change Programme Implementation Guide for Sub-Saharan African Scouting Associations;
- § Finalized a project with WWF-Russia on development of an educational course on climate change for universities and higher schools in Central Asia;
- § Started projects on launching national climate change outreach programmes with the Ministry of Physical Development, Environment & Housing of St. Lucia and the Department of State for Fisheries and Water Resources of the Gambia;
- § Continued the project with Climate Network Africa on producing a special newsletter on the twelfth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP-12 to UNFCCC), with particular reference of this meeting to the African countries;
- § Started a project with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) on the short-list of priority activities of the Global Initiative on communication, education and public awareness (CEPA).

Human well-being, ecosystem services and natural capital

- § Organized the First Meeting of the High-level Expert Group on Human Well-being, Ecosystem Services and Natural Capital in Bloomington, Indiana, United States of America, 26-29 September, attended by an eminent team of experts from ecological science and human well-being to deliberate and move forward on the normative gaps identified in the recently concluded Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA);
- § Specific outcomes from the meeting include: 1) an annotated outline of the technical document, “*Beyond the Wealth of Nations*” (title tentative); 2) an agreed time line for preparing the document, with the final output expected to be ready by the end of August 2007; and 3) substantive discussions on the elusive missing link between ecosystem services and natural capital, to form the basis for a conceptual framework of the technical document;

Payments for ecosystem services

- § Prepared an MOU with the Forest Trends, to coorganize the 2006 East & Southern Africa Katoomba Group Workshop on “Catalyzing Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES) in Africa: Planning for 2007 and Beyond”, to be held in Cape Town, South Africa, 8-10 November 2006. The meeting aims to strengthen capacity of participants from African institutions for the implementation of PES for rural poor communities in Africa, share lessons learned from around the world and in Africa, and to plan systematic strategy for investment in pro-poor PEA in Africa;
- § Prepared an MOU with the International Centre for Research in Agroforestry (ICRAF) for the join project on “Sustaining the Values of Ecosystem Services in the Lake Victoria Basin: Harmonizing Poverty Reduction and Environmental Management Objectives”, to be

⁷ http://www.unep.org/dec/support/mdg_meeting_geneva.html

⁸ http://www.unep.org/dec/support/mdg_meeting_vienna.html. This meeting will be followed by the Phase 2 which aims to implement the findings and outcomes of the Phase 1 http://www.unep.org/dec/docs/Meeting_Report_Final.pdf.

implemented from November 2006 to March 2008 The project aims to provide decision makers with: 1) better understanding on the ecosystem services generated in the Yala and Nyando river basins of Kenya; 2) quantitative estimates of the economic values associated with selected ecosystem services; 3) an analysis of compensation and reward mechanisms as possible option for harmonizing the objectives of enhancing human well-being and conserving nature; and 4) recommendations for integrating compensation and reward mechanisms into existing and future intervention strategies for the Lake Victoria basin, including action plans associated with MEAs for which Kenya is a signatory;

- § In relation to the above mentioned project in the Lake Victoria region, formed an informal task force among selected secretariats of MEAs.

CBD related activities

- § Organized and participated in the Workshop on “Capacity building for Implementation of the Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD) for the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) in the Asia-Pacific Region”, 9-11 October, as well as the Brainstorming Session on “MEAs and Communities”, 12-13 October, Bangkok, attended by eight LDCs from the region, representatives from NGOs, regional organizations, the MEA Secretariats, and other international organizations. The Workshop on CBD focused on strengthening capacities of LDC participants through enhanced scientific and technical understanding on CBD related issues, as well as negotiation skills. The Brainstorming Session on MEAs and Communities focused on various mechanisms to ensure active engagement of communities in the implementation of MEAs, and discussed also on possible follow-up activities to be undertaken based on the results of the meeting.

Environmental law

- § Organized the National Training Workshop on Environmental Law Enforcement for Provincial Science Technology and Environment Officers, Judges and Prosecutors, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, 9-12 August, which supported the sensitization of 78 legal stakeholders on environmental law issues including compliance and Asia Judges enforcement at the national level;
- § Organized the Environmental Diplomacy Course, Geneva, 27 August-6 September, aiming at building capacity of various stakeholders from developing countries in the field of environment, jointly organized by UNITAR, University of Geneva. Various modules including modules on environmental law were presented in this course;
- § Organized the Ad hoc Advisory Committee Meeting of Judges, Geneva, 30-31 August, to review and approve the finalization of training materials for the UNEP Judges Programme, the meeting of judges approved the training modules for finalization;
- § Organized the National Judges Sensitization Seminar on Environmental Law, Brazzaville, 28 August -1 September, The meeting sensitized judges on their role in the interpretation, enforcement and implementation of environmental law;
- § Organized the International Conference of Central Asian Judges: Challenges of Environmental Legislation Implementation, Almaty, 7-8 September, in cooperation with the Supreme Court and the Minister of Environmental Protection of the Republic of Kazakhstan. It aimed to enhance the capacity of judges and other stakeholders of the judiciary in the Central Asia sub-region in the compliance and enforcement of environmental law. It was attended by 65 senior judges from the Supreme Courts of the Republic of Kazakhstan (including Honourable Chairman) and the Supreme Courts of the Kyrgyz Republic and the Republic of Uzbekistan, senior judges from regional and city courts of Kazakhstan, and senior officials from the General Prosecutor Office, the Ministry of Justice as well as the Ministry of Environmental Protection of the Republic of Kazakhstan;
- § Held the Nineteenth Meeting of the Steering Committee Meeting of the Partnership for the Development of Environmental Law and Institutions in Africa (PADELIA), Nairobi, 7-8 September, which reviewed the work of the project including its achievements as outlined in the evaluation report and recommended that PADELIA should go to phase III. The draft project document was also reviewed. Since phase II of the project winds up by end of 2006 efforts are underway to fundraise for Phase III of the project;

- § Held a Sub-regional Meeting of Permanent Secretaries and Directors responsible for environment on the development and harmonization of environmental laws on selected statutes in the SADC region (Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi and Swaziland), as part of the implementation of the PADELIA project, Mbabane, 13-14 September. This was a follow up meeting recommended by the meeting on harmonization of laws held early this year on the importance of involving the Directors and Permanent Secretaries in the whole process of harmonization of laws of the four countries;
- § Responded to an invitation by the European Union Forum of Judges for the Environment to address the meeting, Helsinki, 15-16 September. This forum which meets annually to discuss environmental issues is a direct result of the UNEP capacity building programme of Judges;
- § Organized the Interaction Programme on Facilitating Effective Implementation of MEAs, Nepal, 19-21 September, jointly with IUCN Nepal and the National Ozone Unit of the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Supplies of Nepal, WCO ROCB and Interpol, attended by judges, prosecutors, custom officers and other stakeholders. This is the first of three workshops planned in Nepal, to be followed by other two, one in the East region, and the other in the West region of Nepal;
- § Held the Second Symposium of Environmental Law lecturers from African Universities, Entebbe, 25-28 September, where 45 lecturers from faculties of law of various African countries deliberated on bio-diversity issues and adopted the Entebbe Declaration on a Strategy for Teaching of and Research in Environmental Law and Policy in Africa. The meeting also adopted a constitution as the basis of their co-operation in the form of a Constitutive Instrument for the Association of Environmental Law Lecturers of African Universities. The Steering Committee of the Association of African Environmental Law Lecturers also met, 23-24 September. The lecturers agreed to work together to share information, launch an environmental law journal and to enhance the teaching of environmental law in their countries;
- § Held, in cooperation with PARLATINO and IUCN, the Meeting of Latin American Parliamentarians on the issue of Water Resources, 27-28 September; The meeting was organized to address a particular problem facing Latin American parliamentarians namely the lack of information and knowledge of environmental norms including those pertaining to water resources. The exchange of information and the presentations will give parliamentarians of the region tools that will support their activities related to the promotion and development of water legislation in the region.

D. Inter-agency coordination among the United Nations system and contribution to intergovernmental meetings of relevance to UNEP and GC/GMEF

1. Inter-agency coordination in the United Nations system

5. UNEP actively participated in the inter-agency coordination among the United Nations, including the participation in the following meetings and fora⁹:

- § An inter-sessional, 6 July, and the 12th regular session, 28-30 September, the Chief Executive Board (CEB) – High Level Committee on Programmes (HLCP) - which addressed the possible recommendations of the Secretary General's High Level Panel on System Wide Coherence of the UN's activities in the fields of development, humanitarian affairs and the environment. HLCP also focused on the UN system's work in employment, migration, the least developed countries, statistical activities, economic development, people with disabilities and relations with parliamentarians;
- § The UNDG Principals meeting, 12 July, which discussed system wide coherence, as well as other issues related to accountability among UN country teams in gender equality, the programme of action for the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People, non-resident agencies and the Global Action Plan of Education for All;
- § A series of regular UNDG working group and task team meetings;

⁹ For activities of Environment Management Group, see document UNEP/GC/24/3.

§ Meetings of the Executive Committee for Economic and Social Affairs, focusing on knowledge management among its members, migration and development, UN reform and UN system wide activities addressing the economic and social aspects of climate change, 5 July and 7 September; and

§ Weekly meetings of the UN Communications Group.

2. Follow-up on the 2005 World Summit

6. UNEP continued to follow-up on the developments related to the United Nations reform initiatives. Assistance was provided to the General Assembly working group on the UN's environment activities, through support to the co-chairs and contact with the Office of the President of the General Assembly. UNEP also attended formal and informal sessions of working groups that focused on the revitalization of the Economic and Social Council, the UN's work in the field of development, and the review of mandates.

3. Other intergovernmental meetings

§ The Ministerial/High Level Segment of the Economic and Social Council, which had as its overarching theme a focus on employment for all. Attended the preparatory meetings during which the Ministerial Declaration was discussed, as well as the session that dealt with the activities of the UN system in meeting the challenge of Avian Influenza, 3-5 July;

§ The 2nd Standing Committee between the UN and Regional and other Inter-governmental Organizations, which discussed conflict prevention, response to, and rebuilding after crisis, as well as the Ten Year capacity Building Initiative for Africa, 21-22 September;

§ The Partners briefing on the UN's post conflict activities, including those in the field of the environment, for the reconstruction of Liberia, 20 September;

§ Meeting of the Committee for Programme Coordination (CPC), 24-25 August, at which the Deputy Executive Director introduced the revised 2006/7 Programme of Work and the inputs of UNEP to the Secretary-General's Strategic Framework; also participated in the follow up meetings of CPC on these matters up to its conclusion and adoption by ECOSOC, 31 August-1 September;

§ The High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, 14-15 September, and the Mid-Term Review of the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries, 18-19 September;

§ The closing of the 60th and opening of the 61st session of the UN General Assembly, during which more than 75 heads of state and government participated in the general debate, 19-29 September.

Children's Environmental Health

§ Continued its discussions with UNICEF and WHO with a view to enhancing collaborative activities and developing a more strategic partnership in order to advance children's environmental health issues;

§ Also attended the launch of UNICEF's 'Progress for Children Report', 28 September, –the report assesses the results of efforts since 1990 to expand access to safe water and basic sanitation worldwide. UNICEF hosted a meeting, chaired by the Honourable Maria Mutagamba, Minister of Water and Environment in Uganda (Chair of the African Ministerial Council on Water), to create a Global Task Force on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene to assist UNICEF in implementing its 2006-2015 Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) strategy.

II. Water policy and strategy of UNEP

A. Updated water policy and strategy of UNEP

7. In response to *decision 23/2 (Updated water policy and strategy of the United Nations Environment Programme)*, activities of UNEP include the following¹⁰:

- § Conducted national workshops on integrated water resources management (IWRM) reform process in Nicaragua, Managua, 17-18 July, and Honduras, Tegucigalpa, 12-13 July, and a regional conference for South East Asia, Rayong, Thailand, 12-14 September;
- § Supported the preparation of IWRM roadmaps for Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam, September;
- § Continued with the updating process of the water policy and strategy of UNEP, based on the comments received in GCSS-IX/GMEF and other international fora. Provided to the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UNEP the draft updated water policy and strategy of UNEP and supported its consideration by the meeting of Subcommittee I, 31 August; distributed the final draft on 30 September;
- § Supported Lesotho and Kenya to conduct capacity needs assessment for the environmental aspects of water within the framework of the BSP;
- § Promoted rainwater harvesting in the Caribbean region. At the national level, UNEP supported Grenada to promote the use of rainwater through the development of (i) the 'National Rainwater Harvesting Programme for Grenada', (ii) maps showing potential of rainwater harvesting in the country and (iii) an elaborate awareness campaign. At the regional level, UNEP supported the development of the 'Programme to Promote Rainwater Harvesting in the Caribbean Region';
- § Continued with the support to the Kajiado community in Kenya to promote the use of rainwater harvesting for productive purposes and reforestation. The support includes a microfinance component to encourage the community to raise money for water related activities and an energy saving stove component. The community has built ponds, roof top rainwater harvesting tanks, energy saving stoves, family wood lots, formed common interest groups which have become focus of development. While it started as a women's project, men have expressed an interest to join. This is a joint project with the Regional Land Management Unit in the World Agroforestry Center (RELMA in WAC);
- § Attended the two-half days meetings of the UN Water Group organized under the Stockholm International Water Week, 20-26 August. Key members included UNDP, UNESCO, FAO, UNU, WHO, UN-HABITAT, WMO, UNECA, UNECE, UNESCWA, UN DESA and other partners including the Global Water Partnership (GWP) and the World Bank; The meeting discussed the first thematic paper presented by UNECE on transboundary waters, which was the second most advanced of the UN-Water thematic papers, the first having been finalized by FAO on Scarcity (see www.unwater.org), incorporating extensive input of UNEP. UNEP presented the proposal for a joint UN-Water/UN-Oceans thematic paper on freshwater coastal linkages, to be used as documentation for GPA IGR-2. The thematic paper on Sanitation was noted as having been drafted and distributed by UNEP. Agreement was reached on themes of the World Water Days in the next several years, in particular the year 2008 having the theme Sanitation and the lead agencies being WHO, UNEP, UNICEF and UN-HABITAT.

B. Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities

8. In the area of the *Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities*, activities of UNEP include the following:

¹⁰ See also documents UNEP/GC/24/4 and Add.1.

1. National Programme of Action (NPA)

- § Organized the Regional Latin America and Caribbean Meeting on the Implementation of National Programmes of Action in Preparation for the Second Intergovernmental Review meeting (IGR-2) of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities (GPA), Panama City, 4-5 July, jointly with the Water Center for the Humid Tropics of Latin America and the Caribbean (CATHALAC), aiming to (1) share experiences and discuss lessons learnt in the development and implementation of NPAs and (2) agree on regional recommendations for IGR-2. The meeting was attended by 15 countries of the region, the secretariats of the three Regional Seas Conventions of the region (Wider Caribbean, Southeast Pacific and Northeast Pacific), and the USA National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The outcomes of the meeting included recommendations regarding mainstreaming the GPA into national development plans, financing the implementation of the GPA and strengthening national legislative and institutional frameworks to further implement the GPA¹¹;
- § Conducted together with the Caspian Environment Programme (CEP) a Regional Workshop on Rapid Assessment of Pollution Sources (RAPS) in the framework of the revisiting process of the Caspian Sea Transboundary Analysis, Strategic Action Plan (SAP) and National Country Action Plans (NCAPs), organized by CEP, Baku, 10-11 July. During the sessions national experts were briefed on the goals, structures and elements of the national action programme under the GPA framework and its link with development of SAP and NCAP. Furthermore a methodology was discussed for conducting the rapid assessments of pollution sources in each of the Caspian littoral state's in near watershed using GIWA methodology and input from the Mediterranean Action Plan on methodologies to prepare baseline budgets of pollutant releases in the Mediterranean region;
- § 14 countries participated in a voluntary reporting exercise on the implementation of the GPA at national level by preparing a report on the progress and lessons learnt in the development and implementation of NPAs. The aim of these national reports is to contribute to the sharing of lessons learnt among countries engaged in activities related to the GPA, as well as to come up with recommendations¹²;
- § Supported Guatemala in the finalisation of the NPA for the basin of the Izabal Lake and the River Dulce involving a thorough stakeholder consultation process, for presentation at IGR-2;
- § Provided financial contributions and technical support through the GPA/NOAA Node to the organization of the first national consultation meeting in Panama on the development of an NPA, 11-12 September;
- § India in its efforts to revise the NPA produced a draft NPA that is being discussed with various stakeholders, while the Bangladesh Government has approved its revised NPA;
- § In the West and Central Africa 11 countries (Angola, Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Nigeria, Sao Tome and Principe, Sierra Leone, and Togo) have produced their draft NPA. The GCLME project is facilitating countries initiatives to prepare their NPAs.

2. GPA related legislation

- § Together with the Ministry of Natural Resources of the Russian Federation and the Project Implementation Unit (PIU) of the UNDP/GEF Black Sea Ecosystem Recovery Project (UNDP/GEF BSERP), held the National Workshop for the Russian Federation in Support of Capacity-Building of National and Local Authorities Responsible for the Implementation of the Land-based Activities (LBA) Protocol to the Bucharest Convention in Olginka, Krasnodar Kray, Russian Federation, 29-30 August, aiming to enhance the capacity of national and local authorities in each of the countries of the Black Sea region through a national workshop on the international legal instruments covering the issue of the land-based authorities. The participants considered the Workshop as useful and valuable exercise that contributed to better

¹¹ The report has been made available on the website of the meeting, both in English and Spanish: <http://www.gpa.unep.org/bin/php/programs/npa/regional.php>

¹² The reports are available on the following website: <http://www.gpa.unep.org/bin/php/igr/igr2/index.php>

understanding and familiarization with the Draft Revised BS LBSA Protocol and main issues to be considered in view of its expected adoption and implementation.

3. **Physical Alternation and Destruction of Habitats (PADH)**

- § Participated in the FAO Aquaculture Sub-committee meeting, Delhi, 6-8 September, and discussed the International Principles for Responsible Shrimp Farming, which have been prepared by a consortium consisting of FAO, NACA, WB, WWF and UNEP/GPA. The meeting endorsed the Principles, which are to provide guidance in implementation of the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries in the shrimp aquaculture sector.

4. **Strategic Action Plan on Municipal Wastewater (SAP)**

- § Attended and chaired a UN-Water working group meeting, Geneva, 28 September, which was convened to develop the outline of a policy brief and programme of work in the field of sanitation, jointly with UN-Water partner organizations active in this area. The meeting also addressed, among others, the recommendations postulated in the Compendium of Actions produced by the Secretary General's Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation, and the preparations for IGR-2, in particular the partnership on wastewater and sanitation;
- § Supported the organization of a training workshop on the Key Principles and the checklists of the Guidelines on Municipal Wastewater Management in the North East Pacific (NEP) Region, San Jose, 4-8 September, attended by 31 participants of local and national governmental authorities as well as of wastewater management institutions and experts of international organizations. The objectives included the familiarisation of participants with techniques and methods for wastewater treatment in coastal cities.
- § Conducted the following UN-interagency collaborative training on municipal wastewater management in coastal cities¹³; Training delivery in Papua New Guinea, Port Moresby, 26-30 June, Jointly with the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), the South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC) and the University of Papua New Guinea (UPNG), with participation from Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu; Following the translation of all course material into the Chinese language, jointly with the Tongjii Institute for Environment for Development, with support from the Chinese National Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA), Training delivery in China, Shanghai, 10-14 July, on wastewater management with participation of 36 professionals from Beijing, Tianjing, Shandong, Jiangsu, Shanghai and Guangdong provinces; This course will be followed by a course in Xiamen in the week after IGR-2; Jointly with the UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education and UNEP/GPA, the Regional Organisation for the Conservation of the Environment of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden¹⁴, regional training course on municipal wastewater management, Jeddah, to 25 experts from, Djibouti, Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Sudan and Yemen many of which were decision-makers. The course, though primarily delivered in the English language, was partially conducted in Arabic.
- § Issued the September Edition of the IRC's SOURCE Bulletin features an article about the UNEP/GPA training programme¹⁵. Source is a prime quality information source in the Water Sanitation and Hygiene sector (WASH). The e-mailing server reaches 50,000 professionals. In 2005 the SOURCE pages had around half a million page views and 10,000 hard copies have been sent to individual subscribers.

5. **Regional collaboration, projects and partnerships**

GPA partnerships

- § Participated in the PEMSEA 12th Programme Steering Committee meeting (PSC), Davao City, The Philippines, 30 July-5 August, attended by senior government officials of the participating countries, UNDP, IMO, FAO, Plymouth Marine Laboratory-UK, GEF IW-LEARN, GEF SCS project and Regional Seas Secretaries of COBSEA, NOWPAP and others;

¹³ This brings the number of professionals trained by the Train-Sea-Coast GPA to 380.

¹⁴ PERSGA: <http://www.persga.org/default.asp>

¹⁵ <http://www.irc.nl/content/download/27330/292248/file/SourceBulletin45-2006.pdf> The SOURCE bulletin is published in four languages: English, French, Spanish and Japanese.

- § The meeting and approved two important documents: the Partnership Agreement to be signed by the PEMSEA member countries and the Partnership Operating Arrangements to be signed by the PEMSEA Partners, thus paving the way for PEMSEA to transform into an institution to be called PEMSEA Resource Facility;
- § These two documents will be finalized and placed before the Ministers and other stakeholders for signature during the East Asian Seas Congress (EAS Congress), Haiku, Hainan, China, 12-16 December 2006;
- § Received visit of the representative of the Government of Japan, the Hague, 8 August;
- § Participated in the GCLME project steering committee meeting and the first meeting of the Ministers of 16 participating countries of the GCLME project, Abuja, 17-24 September. The Ministerial Summit adopted the Abuja Declaration, which among others decided “to institutionalize regional cooperation by the creation of a technical Interim Guinea Current Commission (IGCC) in the framework of the Abidjan Convention”, and entrusted the IGCC to assume leadership and coordination of the GCLME Project and for building countries capacity “for the successful implementation of the Abidjan Convention including the development of appropriate Protocols, execution of the Coastal and Marine Environment Component of the NEPAD Environmental Action Plan, the GPA, the Millennium Development Goals and drive the attainment of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) Goals in the region”.

6. Regional Seas Programme

- § Participated as an observer in the 17th SPREP Meeting of Officials, 11-14 September, and the 6th Meeting of Ministers of the Environment of the Pacific, 14-15 September, Noumea, attended by over 100 participants that included designated governmental officials of the Pacific Island Countries (PICs) and Territories, the four supporting metropolitan countries (Australia, France, New Zealand and the United States) as well as intergovernmental organizations and NGOs;
- § The outcome of the meeting regarding Pacific Environmental Conventions include:
 - § Noumea Convention (Convention for the Protection of the Natural Resources and Environment of the South Pacific Region and Related Protocols): The Parties agreed to further examine proposals for amending the body of the Convention with a view to taking a decision at its next session;
 - § Apia Convention (Convention on Conservation of Nature in the South Pacific): The Parties agreed to suspend the operations of the Convention until further notice because all its Parties are also Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity which encompasses the subject-matter;
 - § Waigani Convention (Convention to Ban the Importation into Forum Island Countries of Hazardous and Radioactive Wastes and to Control the Transboundary Movement and the Management of Hazardous Wastes within the South Pacific Region): The Parties adopted a work programme and core budget for 2007/2008;
- § Furthermore the Work Programme and Budget for 2007 was adopted and a “Regional Strategy on Shipping Related Marine Pests” was endorsed;
- § The meeting concluded in the successful closure of the GEF funded projects on renewable energy and the GEF/UNDP funded International Waters Project. Recommendations were made of forwarding a Declaration on “Deep Bottom Trawling to Protect Biodiversity in the High Seas” that was developed by the South Pacific Community (SPC) and others and, endorsed by the Forum Fisheries Ministers, for consideration by the Pacific Forum Leaders in October;
- § Also discussed the follow-up to the ongoing projects.

7. Global fora, programmes and partnerships

- § In collaboration with the Stakeholder Forum organized two events during the World Water Week¹⁶, that not only served as preparatory stakeholder consultation events for the IGR-2, but also raised awareness about the GPA¹⁷: Developing Solutions to Protect the Marine

¹⁶ For more information about World Water Week in Stockholm, visit www.worldwaterweek.org

¹⁷ For information on the outcomes of these events, please visit www.stakeholderforum.org/gpa.html

Environment from Land-based Activities: Stakeholder Consultation, which discussed issues threatening the marine environment and the livelihoods of coastal communities; and African Stakeholder Consultation: Developing Solutions to Protect the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities in the African Context.

8. Second Intergovernmental Review Meeting (IGR-2)

- § Produced the Fourth Announcement on the 2nd Intergovernmental Review of GPA¹⁸;
- § Called for registration in the IGR-2 poster exhibit;
- § Held the IGR-2 preparatory meeting of the East Asian Sea region jointly organized by COBSEA and PEMSEA, Bangkok, 4-5 September, attended by 6 member countries (Cambodia, China, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam), and Chairpersons of APEC and ASEAN Working Group on Coastal and Marine Environment. The meeting discussed the countries participation in the various session during the IGR-2, and holding of an EAS regional session in Beijing to further discuss and elaborate the regional and national POW in relation to GPA and SDS-SEA for the coming years. The meeting agreed to disseminate the outcomes of the regional preparatory meeting to the members of the national delegates at IGR-2.

9. Outreach activities

- § Published an article for the EU Parliamentary Magazine with the title “Seas and Oceans: protecting a world of neighbours”;
- § During the World Water Week in Stockholm, Stakeholder Forum and the Global Forum on Oceans, Coasts and Islands, in collaboration with the Stockholm International Water Institute, produced Special Series of *GPA Outreach*¹⁹;
- § Finalized the supporting documents as input to IGR-2²⁰;
- § Published an article titled “Institutional and policy cocktails for protecting coastal and marine environments from land-based sources of pollution” in the journal *Ocean and Coastal Management*, volume 48 (August 2006) published by Elsevier;
- § Other relevant activities²¹.

C. Assessment of water

9. UNEP undertook the following assessment activities in the area of water, prepared a draft resolution under Oceans and Law of the Sea for the sixty-first session of the United Nations General Assembly.

D. Regional Seas Programme

10. In the area of Regional Seas Programme (RSP), activities include the following:

¹⁸ <http://www.gpa.unep.org/bin/php/igr/igr2/home.php>

¹⁹ These are available at: <http://www.stakeholderforum.org/gpa.html>

²⁰ These documents are: Financing the implementation of regional seas conventions and action plans: A guide for national action (http://www.gpa.unep.org/document_lib/en/pdf/report5-webversion.pdf); Ecosystem-based management: Markers for assessing progress (http://www.gpa.unep.org/document_lib/en/pdf/report7-webversion.pdf); The State of the Marine Environment: Regional Assessments (<http://www.gpa.unep.org/bin/php/igr/igr2/supporting.php>); The State of the Marine Environment: Trends and Processes (http://www.gpa.unep.org/document_lib/en/pdf/r2-soe-web.pdf); Implementation of the GPA at the regional level: The role of Regional Seas Conventions and their Protocols (http://www.gpa.unep.org/document_lib/en/pdf/r3-internet.pdf)

²¹ GPA Newsletters are available on <http://www.stakeholderforum.org/gpa.html>

1. Regional seas strategies for sustainable development

- § In cooperation with the SPREP secretariat and Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council (WPRFMC), launched the publication “Pacific Island Mangroves in a Changing Climate and Rising Sea”. This publication primarily addresses the response of mangroves to changing sea level rise, capacity building priorities to address mangrove responses to climate change effects, considerations for developing a coastal site planning and adaptive strategy and regional and international initiatives.

2. Northwest Pacific Action Plan

- § As a part of NOWPAP Marine Litter Activity (MALITA), organized an international beach cleanup, Sakata City, Yamagata prefecture, Japan, 30 September, with the participation of more than 100 people from China, Japan, Korea and Russia. Held a workshop, 29 September, where representatives from government agencies, research and education institutions, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and local citizen shared their experiences in organizing International Coastal Cleanup (ICC) and similar events in their countries.

3. Abidjan Convention/Nairobi Convention

- § Supported Comoros, Kenya, Mozambique, Mauritius, Madagascar, Tanzania and Seychelles through MOUs to strengthen the Nairobi Convention national focal points to operationalize their offices and to compile national status reports on the coastal and marine environment. Draft national status report for Kenya is completed and currently under review;
- § To the same ends, supported Benin, Cameroon, Congo, Cote d’Ivoire, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria, Senegal and Togo through MOUs. Draft national status reports for Guinea and Ghana are completed and currently under review;
- § Under the same MOU; supported Gambia to produce transboundary assessments of coastal and marine water quality and habitat modification issues in support of the PDF-B process of the GEF-funded CCLME (Canary Current Large Marine Ecosystem) project. Preliminary assessments presented at the CCLME Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) workshop, Dakar 18-20 July, and first draft reports are currently under review;
- § Supported Wetlands International through an MOU to produce, in collaboration with Abidjan Convention Focal Points, a conservation strategy for the West African manatee throughout its entire distribution;
- § Supported the Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA) to strengthen the Nairobi Convention Forum of Academic and Research Institutions (FARI) through an MOU;
- § Supported, as the last workshop of three under an MOU of US\$ 60,000 signed with IUCN, a workshop in Mahé, Seychelles, 12-13 September, to train marine protected area, fisheries and forestry managers and practitioners in the use of products, including a Toolkit for Managing Marine Protected Areas, Workbook for MPA management effectiveness and the Western Indian Ocean Fisheries database;
- § Held the 2nd meeting to review progress in the implementation of activities financed under the agreement signed with SIDA for 2004-2007, Nairobi 28 September. Taking into account the need to support the COP-5 and COP-8 of the Conventions; a draft amendment to the original partner agreement was drafted and signed by Swedish Board of Fisheries (SFB) to provide for an extension of the period of implementation to include 2007. First steps taken towards creating a strategy for strengthening the linkages between the Abidjan and Nairobi Conventions and the EU, and for following up on the Swedish support to the Conventions;
- § Hosted the meeting of the partners' consultative forum for the conservation of marine ecosystems in the Western Indian Ocean (WIO), Nairobi, 31 August - 1 September. The meeting initiated the establishment of the NGO-led “Consortium for Conservation of Coastal and Marine Ecosystems in WIO” (WIO-C) anchored in the Nairobi Convention, which will work to improve coordination between NGOs working on coastal and marine environment issues in the region and to provide decision support, share information and management experiences, mobilize resources and develop collaborative programmes;

- § In collaboration with WIOMSA and the UNEP/Regional Seas Programme; contracted regional and national marine litter experts to undertake assessment leading to formulation of strategies for sustainable management of marine litter in the WIO;
- § Continued review and development of 10 selected demonstration projects on Municipal Waste Water Management (MWW) and Physical Alteration and Destruction of Habitats (PADH). Two of these projects initiated implementation including; the use of vetiver grass to control erosion and treat leachate from a landfill site into the Msimbazi Creek in Dar es Salaam, and development of a waste water collection and treatment system at Msingini Chake-Chake channel in Pemba (Tanzania);
- § Continued development of information and data management system building upon the Eastern African Coastal and Marine Resources Database and Atlas Project²². The system will take the form of a website which will host relevant data and meta-data related to the WIO coastal and marine environment, while at the same time functioning as a Regional Clearing House Mechanism (CHM) for GPA.

E. Coral reefs

11. In the area of coral reefs, activities include the following:
 - § Continued with the administration of the counterpart contributions of the United States in support of the work on coral reefs and ICRI. The existing MOU in support of coral reef monitoring and assessment undertaken by GCRMN and Reef Check for the period 2005-2006 has terminated, 30 September. A new MOU (duration October 2006-September 2007, utilising the US\$ 125,000) is in preparation;
 - § The 2005/2006 MOU between UNEP and the Government of Japan in support of the ICRI Secretariat was terminated, end of June. Terminal Report and Final Expenditure Statement were prepared for project closure and final payment. A new MOU with the Government of Japan, (duration July 2006-June 2007, cost to UNEP US\$ 95,000) was signed, July;
 - § Supported ICRAN and other UNEP coral reef partners in (i) the preparation and organization of the 3rd International Tropical Marine Ecosystems Management Symposium, Cozumel, Mexico, 16-20 October 2006; (ii) development of a project for a 10 year review of the publication 'Reefs at Risk'; (iii) arranging activities to celebrate 2008 as the International Year of the Reef 2008 (IYOR 2008);
 - § Applied to the EC for UNEP to become an official partner in the multidisciplinary deep water marine research project HERMES (Hotspot Ecosystem Research on the Margins of European Seas) in collaboration with the Coordinator of HERMES. The application was approved and supported by the EC with €20,040, from 1 October 2006 to the end of the project (31 March 2009);
 - § Made a presentation at the HERMES Science Policy Panel workshop, 29 September, on "UNEP perspective on deep sea governance"
 - § Continued and finalized the development of a global cold-water coral reef database and GIS/IMapS (with support from NOAA);
 - § Also finalized a TV documentary on cold-water coral reefs (with support from the Norwegian Government and IUCN) to be broadcast as an Earth Report on BBC World in the week starting 21 October;
 - § Revised and edited a report "Seamounts, Deep-sea corals and Fisheries", prepared by the Census of Marine Life Seamount (CenSeam) Group with support from the Dutch Government, to be published jointly by UNEP and UNESCO/IOC to support the upcoming negotiations at the UNGA concerning sustainable fisheries, and a potential moratorium on bottom trawling.

²² www.unep.org/easternafrika

F. Dams and Development Project (DDP)

12. Activities in the phase 2 project include the following²³:
- § Held the 11th Steering Committee and the Government Advisory Consultative Group meetings, the Hague, 28-30 August;
 - § Placed on the website the final reports elaborating nine key priority issues for the Compendium of Relevant Practices for review and comment by stakeholders²⁴;
 - § Participated in the multi-stakeholder dialogue on dams, Kampala, 25 July;
 - § Finalized the draft roadmap for the implementation of the environmental elements from the Action Plan of the African Ministerial Conference on Hydropower and Sustainable Development, Nairobi, 8-9 August;
 - § Drafted a proposal for funding consideration by the ACP EU Energy Facility based on the Roadmap to implement the outcomes of the African Ministerial Conference on Hydropower and Sustainable Development;
 - § The Dams and Development Forum membership has been expanded to include new organizations in various stakeholder categories including private sector/industry, international NGOs and utilities/owners/operators.

III. Small island developing states and other areas of special geographical and biological focus

A. Small island developing States (SIDS)

13. In relation to *decision 23/5 (Small island developing States)*, UNEP contributed by providing input to the United Nations Secretary-General yearly report on the Implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of SIDS, including further development and operationalization of concrete projects and programmes²⁵.

B. Great Apes Survival Project

14. In connection with the Great Apes Survival Project (GRASP), activities include the following:
- § Organized a GRASP side event “How can GRASP better support Great Ape Conservation?” at the International Primatological Society (IPS) congress, Entebbe, 29 June, which reiterated the importance of GRASP and the significance of the Kinshasa Declaration²⁶; A great apes exhibition, organized by the Muséum National d’Histoire Naturelle, France, was held at the Kampala museum during the IPS congress;
 - § Held the second GRASP executive committee meeting, Paris, 20-21 July, which discussed the implementation of the GRASP Programme of Action 2006-2007 and the second intergovernmental meeting on great apes and the GRASP council meeting;
 - § The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands was admitted into the GRASP Partnership, 21 July. This brings all the five biodiversity related conventions onboard the partnership. Potential areas of collaboration were identified as joint field activities that conserve wetland ecosystems of

²³ In addition, the Confluence Newsletter No. 9 was printed for distribution to a wide range of stakeholders. The DDP Interim Report was printed for circulation to a wide range of stakeholders.

²⁴ <http://www.unep-dams.org>

²⁵ Also see document UNEP/GC/24/5.

²⁶ Richard Wrangham, GRASP Patron and President of the IPS in his closing speech during the congress stressed the importance of GRASP and the significance of the Kinshasa Declaration. He also stressed that all scientists and conservationists use the Declaration as a tool to engage the great ape range states. Four of the five GRASP Patrons, Jane Goodall, Richard Wrangham, Russ Mittermeier and Toshisada Nishida were present at the IPS meeting and spoke positively of GRASP’s achievements and its potential. Mr. Moses Mapesa, Executive Director of the Uganda Wildlife Authority, and Chair of the GRASP Executive Committee, reiterated the importance of GRASP to the great ape range states.

importance to great apes, studies that assess the economic value of the services provided by these ecosystems, initiatives empowering indigenous peoples to become more involved in wetland protected area management and sustainable development and awareness raising projects with an international focus;

- § Met with the Cameroon High Commissioner, London, 17 August, and a UK Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs official, to discuss progress towards the establishment of a great ape-based ecotourism industry in Cameroon;
- § Held a meeting between UK-based GRASP NGO Partners and the UNESCO GRASP secretariat, London, 25 August, to review priority actions for the GRASP Partnership, including methods for coming to a decision on the venue of the next Intergovernmental Meeting and the Council Meeting for 2008;
- § Mark Leighton, Co-chair of the GRASP Scientific Commission, met with Indonesian government officials and other stakeholders to discuss a Biodiversity & Agricultural Commodities Program (BACP)/High Conservation Value Forest (HCVF) proposal. The project aims to identify the remaining landscape-level forests critical for conserving ecosystem, habitat, species and genetic diversity in Sumatra and Borneo and engage the palm oil industry and local governments in *a priori* designation of HCVF to comply with Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil Principles & Criteria (RSPO C&P) for Sustainable Palm Oil Production and establish 3rd party monitoring procedures so that the palm oil industry can receive tangible marketing benefits for their responsible stewardship of these HCVF regions;
- § Initiated an awareness campaign to the members of the United Nations Operation in Burundi (ONUB) and the public, in response to the concern brought by ONUB, 15 September, about chimpanzees held in cages as a visitor attraction in some hotels;
- § GRASP Chief consultant, Ian Redmond, was appointed Order of the British Empire (OBE) in the Queen's Birthday Honours List, 17 June, for his services to conservation.

IV. Keeping the world environmental situation under review

15. In relation to *decision 23/6 (Keeping the world environmental situation under review)*, activities include the following:

1. The Annual Statement on the Environment-GEO Year Book 2007 (GYB 2007)

(a) Advanced the preparation of GYB 2007. The statement has four sections: Overview of features issues or developments of policy relevance which have most influenced the environment during the year 2006; Feature Focus to highlight the topic of discussion at the next GC/GMEF; Emerging Challenges – New Findings which presents recent scientific findings which provide further, understanding of existing or emerging environmental challenges; and Indicators which presents key global and regional environmental trends²⁷.

2. The Fourth Global Environmental Outlook report

16. Continued developing the fourth Global Environment Outlook report (GEO-4) based on the GEO-4 Comprehensive Chapter Outline and chapter workplans:

- § Organized a GEO-4 Regional Consultation Meeting for Latin America and the Caribbean, Lima, 11-13 July, to review the first draft of GEO-4 and receive critical input from regional governments and other stakeholder groups for the revision of the first draft;
- § Completed the external review of the first draft of GEO-4 in July. More than 4,000 comments were received from Governments, scientific experts, NGOs and other stakeholders. Based on the external comments and the ones received from UNEP, the ten GEO-4 Chapter Expert Groups developed the second draft of the GEO-4 report, for external review and comments;
- § Organized, in cooperation with partner institutions, the GEO-4 Draft 1 revision meetings for GEO-4 Chapter Expert Groups with the objective to help the expert groups to respond to the external comments in the most constructive and effective way and produce the second draft of GEO-4 of high-quality;

²⁷ To be submitted to GC-24/GMEF as document UNEP/GC/24/INF/2.

§ Organized, in cooperation with the Government of Norway, a GEO-4 High-level Consultative Group inaugural meeting, Ålesund, Norway, 19-20 September. Members of the group, which consists of high-level managers of international environmental institutions, governmental officials and prominent scientists, discussed progress to date of the GEO assessment. The meeting also came up with the outline of the GEO-4 Summary for Decision Makers.

3. The second Africa Environment Outlook (AEO-2)

§ The AEO-2 report *Africa Environment Outlook: Our environment, our wealth* has been widely distributed in Africa and other region of the world;

§ Presented the report findings at the Africa Trade Unions Conference, Johannesburg, 28-29 July. It provided the essential background information to assist the Trade Unions in developing a comprehensive environment management strategy to be adopted by its member organizations;

§ Planning for the production of complimentary products of the AEO-2 report, including the Atlas of Africa's Changing Environment, the AEO-2 indicator booklet and an environmental statistical and data compendium.

4. Support to national and subregional reporting processes

§ Completed the editing of the Environment Outlook report for the IGAD region;

§ Held a meeting for the stakeholders to review the second draft of the Lusaka city environment outlook report, Lusaka, 4 September.

5. Implementation of the Africa Environment Information Network (AEIN)

17. Pursuant to decision 6 of AMCEN to endorse proposal for the extension of the Africa Environment Information Network from 12 to 38 countries in Africa: Twenty-two (22) countries have nominated focal institutions and persons to coordinate the implementation of AEIN at national levels (Algeria, Morocco, Niger, Chad, Mauritania, Malawi, Namibia, Cameroon, Libya, Sudan, Benin, The Gambia, Mali, Botswana, Madagascar, Congo, Central African Republic, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Angola, and South Africa). In this context: MOUs have been concluded with 10 pilot countries (Egypt, Tunisia, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Senegal, Ethiopia, Uganda, Lesotho, Seychelles and Zambia) and 6 Collaborating Centres (CCs) to strengthen AEIN networks at national and subregional levels as well as 9 additional countries (Cameroon, Benin, Mali, Madagascar, Congo, Central African Republic, Kenya, Tanzania and The Gambia) to initiate AEIN.

6. Other regional outlooks and activities

§ Worked with the Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment (ROPME) on enhancing the national guidelines for the input to the report on the State of Marine Environment of ROMPE Sea Area;

§ Continued to provide technical support to Abu Dhabi Emirate, Bahrain, Qatar, Syria, and Yemen for the preparation of State of Environment Reports to provide policy relevant, scientific information that supports decision-making and policy formulation to improve the environment in those countries;

§ Further developed the West Asia GEO Data Portal, which provides relevant environmental data and information that are needed to prepare the GEO reports. It is also to provide public access to environmental data users in the region;

§ Continued to work on West Asia Map server, which provides spatial data both as GIS data and remote sensing data for West Asia;

§ Completed the first draft of the Carpathians Environment Outlook (KEO) report through an interactive process with representatives from the seven Carpathian countries, for review by a regional stakeholders consultation;

§ Formally launched the print version of Africa's Lakes: Atlas of Our Changing Environment during World Water Week in Stockholm, August. The Atlas highlights dramatic environmental changes sweeping Africa's lakes through the use of spectacular satellite imagery over the past few decades;

- § Google Earth – Google’s 3D virtual world browser – released UNEP: Atlas of our Changing Environment, offering satellite images of 100 environmental hotspots from around the world, 12 September. The project builds on the success of the hardcover releases One Planet, Many People: Atlas of our Changing Environment and Africa's Lakes: Atlas of Our Changing Environment, 12 September.

7. Environment and conflict prevention initiative

- § Continued with development of two regional case study assessments for Latin America (in the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor) and Asia (Indus River Basin and Male Declaration); a third one expected for Africa. These assessments aim to increase understanding of the ways in which the environment can act as an important outlet for cooperation, trust building and conflict prevention;
- § Organized a meeting with part of the E&CPI’s Group of Experts, Nairobi, 25-27 September, to discuss the main findings and recommendations of the regional assessments in Latin America and Asia;

V. Environmental emergencies and post conflict environmental assessments

A. Environmental emergencies

18. In the area of environmental emergency prevention, preparedness, assessment, response and mitigation, and in relation to *decision 23/7 (Strengthening environmental emergency response and developing disaster prevention, preparedness, mitigation and early-warning systems in the aftermath of the Indian Ocean tsunami disaster)*, UNEP continued to implement activities in response to environmental emergencies and contributed to the United Nations system-wide coordinated efforts.

1. Environmental emergency response and activities through the UNEP/OCHA Joint Environment Unit

- § Undertook an UNDAC mission, led by the Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit, to East Java, Indonesia, to provide technical assistance to the Ministry of Environment in relation to hot mudflows, 25 June-7 July²⁸. As a follow-up activity, the Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit deployed an environmental monitoring advisor to further assist the Ministry of Environment;
- § The Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit and OCHA Indonesia visited national and local authorities responsible for 4 large dams in the Yogyakarta Earthquake affected area, 6-7 July. Subsequently, undertook a joint assessment mission, August, by experts deployed through the EC Monitoring and Information Centre. Although in need of repair, the dams appeared not to pose a major threat to the downstream communities;
- § In response to the Lebanon crisis, the Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit, together with the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) and the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Centre (REMPEC) undertook, 8-11 August, an assessment of the shorelines in Syria to assess the damage from the Oil Spill originated from the hostilities in Lebanon. The assessment concluded there was no need for major international assistance in Syria;
- § The Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit continued its support to the Government of Lebanon in response to the Oil Spill. Deployed a staff member, 12 August-15 September, to assist in the set-up of an ‘Oil Spill Operations and Coordination Centre’, organization of aerial surveillance flights and facilitating the various bilateral assessment teams;
- § In addition, the Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit cooperated closely with the Post-Conflict Branch in preparing the latter’s upcoming assessment of Lebanon. It issued Situation Reports on suspected environmental emergencies stemming from the hostilities;

²⁸ The mudflow, originating from a so-called ‘mud volcano’, has displaced 10,000 people to date. A final report, containing analysis undertaken in the Netherlands, can be found at <http://ochaonline.un.org/DocView.asp?DocID=5098>.

- § The Executive Director participated in a Donor Conference on the Oil Spill in Lebanon, Athens, 17 August;
- § The Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit supported the United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination team mission in Côte d'Ivoire in connection with the dumping of toxic chemicals; deployed an expert from Switzerland in hazardous materials and waste to work as an associate member to the team. Further ensured a close coordination between UN and EU efforts in the response²⁹;
- § The Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit in collaboration with the UNEP Regional Office for Europe is supporting the OSCE forest fire assessment mission to Nagorno Karabkh. Identified experts of the Global Fire Monitoring Centre to participate;
- § The Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit monitored a major oil spill in the Philippines and offered assistance. It initiated the production of satellite images and their provision to national authorities. Issued situation reports to keep stakeholders informed of developments;
- § The Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit has started preparations for the 7th Advisory Group on Environmental Emergencies, to be hosted by the Swedish Rescue Services Agency in Stockholm, June 2007.

2. Post disaster environmental recovery

Indian Ocean Tsunami

- § Participated in a special presentation of the Mangroves for the Future Initiative hosted by the UN Office of the Special Envoy for Tsunami Recovery and IUCN, New York, 12 September, as a follow up to earlier collaborations between UNEP and IUCN on the Initiative;
- § Signed the contract, September, with the European Union to implement the EU-funded project "Demonstrating ESTs for Building waste Reduction in Indonesia – DEBRI" in Banda Aceh, Indonesia;

Indonesia

- § Continued to support the Ministry of Environment, the Aceh-Nias Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Agency (BRR). The UN Recovery Coordinator and has provided technical assistance and capacity building to strengthen the environmental dimension of recovery, develop environmental disaster risk reduction knowledge and to continue to monitor environmental impacts of recovery;
- § Continued to participate in the UNDP and UNCT Tsunami Working Group meetings in Banda Aceh and meetings with implementing agencies for coordination and information sharing in recovery and reconstruction efforts;
- § Participated in the "UN-NGO-Donors" Meeting, Jakarta, 5 September, where the process of disaster related activities was discussed. The meeting was facilitated by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) Indonesia, attended by 50 participants from UN agencies, NGO's and government;
- § Hosted a meeting on Environment Disaster Assessment and Mitigation with the Ministry of Environment of Indonesia, Jakarta, 25 September, which sought to identify disasters-related interests, capacities and priorities of the various deputies. The meeting resulted in a common agreement to develop an overarching framework for disaster-related work at the Ministry and also agreed on a process for developing the strategic framework;
- § In collaboration with UN HABITAT, prepared final draft of a Sustainable Construction Guidance Manual for use by NGOs and UN agencies. The manual will provide information on sustainable construction materials (recycled materials) and techniques; energy efficiency and conservation; alternative water supply and sanitation systems; and waste recycling and composting. The manual will also focus on environmental management goals, such as secondary containment of fuel tanks and the minimization of dust and noise emissions;
- § At the request of the provincial environmental authorities, Bapedalda and BRR, tested, September, an initial website for an Environmental Impact Assessment Tracking Database

²⁹ The final report of the mission can be found at <http://ochaonline.un.org/DocView.asp?DocID=5086>

System. The database will enable the coordination of activities related to environmental screening and the review of proposed rehabilitation and reconstruction projects in Aceh and Nias that have been submitted to BRR;

- § In response to requests for support from BRR and Bapedalda, developed for final approval a Strategic Environmental Framework (SEF) for BRR to ensure that adverse effects on the environment of reconstruction are minimized and that reconstruction activities contribute to improved environmental conditions in Aceh and Nias;
- § Carried out an assessment, September, of the Environmental Aspects of Post-Tsunami Recovery and Reconstruction in Aceh, which was based on physical, institutional and environmental assessments including the monitoring of environmental indicators;
- § Contributing to the restoration of coastal habitats at a site in Aceh Besar that were destroyed or damaged by the tsunami, based on preparatory work undertaken by UNEP and its Indonesian project partner, Wetlands International Indonesia Programme (WI-IP). Activities included training in mangrove and beach tree (eg Cassuarina) seedlings preparation and rehabilitation techniques; building of two nurseries; launch of the revegetation project with local community groups at Pulot; planting a number of Cassuarina seedlings at the lagoon's bank; training of residents to design and implement local rehabilitation programmes. Prepared a report entitled 'a Study of Lessons Learned from Mangrove/Coastal Ecosystem Restoration Efforts in Aceh since the Tsunami'.

Sri Lanka

- § Continued to support the Ministry of Environment to organize critical environmental restoration and clean-up measures, environmental screening of 480 temporary housing sites, and to promote further environmental recovery in Sri Lanka. In addition, UNEP has assisted in the integration of vulnerability and hazard aspects into Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) structures;
- § Co-hosted 2 workshops on Strategic Environment Assessments for township planning. The first workshop, Colombo, 4-5 July, to train the CEA officials to select landfill sites for solid waste management in the context of SEA (2 groups of 20 Participants); and the second workshop, 12-13 July, cohosted by Central Environment Authority (CEA), in collaboration with the Netherlands Commission on Environmental Impact Assessment. The 20 participants were from the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, (MENR), the National Planning Department, the Physical Planning Department, the Disaster Management Department and the National Building and Research Organisation;
- § Continued its contribution to the UNDP and UNCT Tsunami Working Group meetings, Colombo, and in continuous dialogue with implementing agencies such as IUCN, World Bank, European Union and others for coordination and information sharing in recovery and reconstruction efforts;
- § At the invitation of the Chairman of the Central Environment Authority (CEA), participated in the CEA's 25th Anniversary celebrations, Colombo, 28-30 July. During this event, UNEP's support to the Post-Tsunami Environment Recovery Programme of the Ministry of Environment was highlighted through: Interviews (plus information/facilitation) for BBC "Earth Report" documentary and through local TV news coverage of the celebrations; Over the three days of the exhibition, extensive contacts made/information shared on ERP, with other entities (several hundred of which also exhibited their activities at the centre) and member of the public (thousands of whom participated in the event);
- § At the invitation of the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Sri Lanka, UNEP participated in the UN Strategic Planning Retreat for the 2008-2012 Sri Lanka CCA/UNDAF, Colombo and Wadduwa, 28-30 September, attended by the UN Country Team - comprising UNEP, UNAIDS, FAO, ILO, IOM, UNDP, UNFPA, UN-Habitat, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNOPS, WFP, WB, WHO, with support from the IMF and ADB - as well as the Government of Sri Lanka represented by the Secretary of Ministry of Finance and Planning. UNEP led inputs to the environment and disaster risk aspects of the discussions, in close collaboration with the UNDP-Environment, Energy and Disaster Management Programme. Retreat outputs include: 1) Formulation of four strategic UNDAF outcomes, 2) Workplan and mechanisms for the UNDAF preparation process, and 3) Contingency plans for 2007, given the general situation in Sri Lanka;

- § With the support of the UN Resident Coordinator in Sri Lanka, conducted briefings on ongoing and future efforts to respond to the environmental impacts of the tsunami, 19 and 20 September, addressing members from the UN system (ILO, IOM, UNDP, UN-HABITAT, UNOPS and OCHA), Government of Sri Lanka (Reconstruction and Development Agency, CEA, Disaster Management Centre), bilaterals (GTZ, CIDA, JICA, Italian Cooperation), as well as ADB, World Vision, IUCN, University of Moratuwa and SACEP. The strong consensus emerged from these briefings that: Further support to response efforts is needed in the environment sector, Donors and other stakeholders need to continue mobilizing funding and technical resources for the implementation of priority environmental responses, and UNEP should continue its presence in Sri Lanka to help lead and coordinate the support to the environmental authorities in responding to the environmental impacts of the tsunami;
- § In response to urgent requests from the Marine Pollution Prevention Authority (in the context of a broad appeal for assistance by the Disaster Management Centre), mid-September, loaned 150 hazardous waste barrels for transport and temporary storage of oil from a spill off the coast near Koggala, in southwestern Sri Lanka. This urgent intervention also linked to the APELL programme activities at the Koggala Export Processing Zone, as well as ongoing support to the Sri Lankan authorities to develop capacities to respond to and mitigate the effects of natural and man-made disasters.

Maldives

- § Conducted Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Training in a 5 day workshop, Malé, September, based on the UNEP EIA Training Resource Manual which was further adapted for the context of post-tsunami reconstruction and related developments in Maldives. The training materials incorporated key provisions of the draft EIA Regulations (June 2006) and local examples for practical case work. Participants at the workshop represented a cross section of Ministries including the Ministry of Environment, Energy and Water (MEEW), Ministry of Construction and Public Infrastructure, Ministry of Planning and National Development, Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation, Ministry of Fisheries, Agriculture and Marine Resources, the Marine Research Centre, Environment Research Centre, and other agencies and organisations such as UNDP and the Canadian Red Cross. The workshop was judged by participants to be a success in terms of content, delivery, discussion and highlighting the need for EIA as a planning tool. Follow up and continuous support in EIA was recommended;
- § Hosted a Roundtable on Coastal Erosion and Disaster Risk and Vulnerability Assessment, Male, 21 September, with support of UNDP, attended by a wide range of ministries and experts present in the Maldives in the area of coastal erosion. The roundtable sought to 1) identify key environmental and disaster risk concerns of the represented organizations, 2) clarify how the assessments will be used and identify users' needs and 3) identify the availability of requisite data sets, modelling and assessment capacities among represented organizations;
- § Supported 5 Senior Officers from MEEW enrolled, September, to follow the United Nations Institute of Training and Research (UNITAR) Distant Learning Course on International Environmental Law. The course aims to develop the skills needed by senior managers to understand and apply international environmental law. The course will be completed within 24 months and regular assignments are requested from the participants. The course will culminate in the award of a UNITAR Diploma in International Environmental Law;
- § Undertook intrusive site investigations to determine the nature and scale of the oil impact in the shallow soils and groundwater at the two islands: Mathiveri (North Ari Atoll), and Mahibadhoo (South Ari Atoll), 8-13 September. The site investigation of oil spills on two islands revealed significant contamination of soil and sensitive groundwater which represents a risk to human health and the environment. The results of the soil analysis recommended that groundwater clean-up is required at one island and both groundwater clean-up and soil remediation are needed at the other island.;
- § Initiated a Climate Change Trust Fund for Maldives. Following the initial consultations with UNDP and the Ministry of Environment, Energy and Water, UNEP in cooperation with UNDP and the Office of the Special Envoy developed a concept note, and is carrying out technical preparations with the UN Country Team to further develop the endeavour.

South Asia Earthquake/Pakistan

- § Revised the proposal of the UNEP/UNDP/MOE Environmental Recovery Programme in accordance with the comments from Earthquake Recovery and Rehabilitation Authority (ERRA) of the Government of Pakistan, approved by the meeting of the relevant parties, 16 September;
- § Participated in various Inter-Agency Standing Committee Task Force meetings, Geneva, to discuss the UN response and recovery activities, and reported on the progress with the Environmental Recovery Programme;
- § Contributed to the UN anniversary report on the South Asia Earthquake, and provided environmental inputs to the speaking points to UN Emergency Relief Coordinator and UNDP Administrator for the anniversary meeting in New York;

Central Java

- § Assisted the Ministry of Environment (MOE) in preparing the Post Tsunami Environmental Assessment Report of West Java. This report prepared by a joint team from MOE, UNEP, ESRI South Asia and Amelga Geosystems outlined findings in environment related impacts to the affected areas, issues to be resolved in post disaster recovery, and actions and recommendations to be implemented;
- § Participated in a presentation of the above Report of West Java, Jakarta, 3 August, aiming at disseminating findings and recommendation for post disaster environmental recovery to MOE and representatives from government at provincial and district levels in the affected areas, attended by over 50 participants attended;
- § In response to the recent tsunami experienced off the coast of Java, 17 July, UNEP participated in the Expert Meeting on West Java Tsunami, Bandung, 31 July, organized by Bandung Institute of Technology (ITB) and Tokyo University, aimed at sharing information on disaster impact in affected coastal areas; presented the preliminary results of MOE Joint Report on behalf of Research Team;
- § Assisted MOE in developing the plans for a comprehensive environmental assessment and to prepare environmental disaster risk reduction measures in Java. An initial UNEP-MOE field mission to central Java took place, September;
- § Briefed the UN Country Team, the UN Technical Working Group and MOE on possible remedial options for the Mud Spill in Java. The UN Country Team has requested UNEP for technical advisory services to guide the implementation of remedial options;
- § Assisted MOE, GIS and Remote Sensing Laboratory in developing an environmental database for tsunami affected areas in West Java and other vulnerable areas in Banten Province, 31 July - 11 August. This database is available for use in further environmental comprehensive assessments;

Environmental disaster prevention and management

- § Organized, through IETC, six training sessions, July –August, on environmental disaster prevention and management, participated by urban managers from 10 cities of Asia and the Pacific region³⁰;
- § Set up an experts group for environmental risk assessment to develop strategies and decision-making tools for effective technologies in disaster management, which held the first meeting, Kyoto, 28 July;

Disaster risk reduction

- § Made a presentation on Assessment of maritime environmental disasters at the Tsunami Stakeholders' Workshop, Mombasa, Kenya, 25-27 July, organized by the Ministry of Transport-Meteorological Department of Kenya. The main objectives of the workshop were; 1) To bring together tsunami stakeholders to deliberate on the ways and means of strengthening both the

³⁰ The topics of the six sessions included: 1. Disaster and environmental risk assessment; 2. Action planning for disaster mitigation; 3. Decision making for disaster management at the local level; 4. Disaster planning and implementation management; 5. Education and awareness raising; 6. Information management for disaster mitigation.

early warning and response systems, 2) To draft a National Tsunami Action Plan, and 3) To constitute a National Tsunami Coordination Committee as an effective mechanism to oversee the implementation of the Tsunami Action Plan;

- § Undertook a consultation with ISDR, 21 July, on the development of a subregional policy and institutional framework for environmental disaster risk reduction for the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), namely: Chad, Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Central African Republic, Congo, DR Congo, Rwanda and Burundi. The policy and institutional framework will be the core document for the operations of the ECCAS Environmental Disaster Mitigation Centre established in Brazzaville, Congo. The goal of the Centre is to foster cooperation between the countries in the subregion on common approaches to protection of the natural environment³¹;
- § Coorganized the International Conference on Disaster Reduction, Davos, 27 August-1 September, including the plenary session on Environment and Vulnerability. Also organized the meeting of the IATF EDWG (Environment and Disaster Working Group), Davos, 29 August. The meeting was attended by a number of ISDR partners and agreed, among other issues, to issue a discussion paper on Environment and Disaster Reduction;
- § Held an In-house Workshop on Post-Conflict and Disaster Management Branches, Nairobi, 7-8 September, to discuss the strategic direction for UNEP's work in the post-conflict and disaster management areas;
- § Participated in the Plenary Meeting of the Cluster Working Group on Early Recovery, Geneva, 8 August, which discussed the following: Cluster Membership (applications from UNOSAT, UNESCO and Inclusion of NGOs); Early Recovery Cluster Guidance note; the Cluster 2006 Calendar; the Global Cluster Appeal; Early Recovery in Lebanon Flash Appeal. The meeting, which was convened by UNDP (the cluster lead), was attended by 22 individuals representing UN agencies which are cluster members;
- § Participated in the ISDR Consortium Partner Meeting on Evaluation of Country Action Plans and Assembly of Package of Partner Responses, Bonn, 13-14 September, the overall purpose of which was to establish the basis for the next stage of concrete commitments and actions under the initiative, including enabling systematic responses to countries, systematic commitments by consortium partners and the development of a consolidated package of needs for donor consideration;
- § Met with the World Bank for further discussion of collaboration between UNEP and the World Bank in the field of disaster management, Washington D.C., 13 September, , such as collaboration in World Bank's new Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery, and opportunities to mainstream environmental risk management in national planning processes such as the World Bank Poverty Reduction Strategies;
- § Held meetings with the US NOAA to follow up on earlier discussions in the area of disaster risk reduction, Washington D.C., 14 September;
- § Participated in the Fourth Pan-African Local Government Summit (Africities), Nairobi, 18-22 September. The theme of the Summit was "Building local coalitions for implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in African Local Governments" and it served as a platform for political dialogue on decentralization in Africa. It brought together central and local governments, NGOs, the private sector, research and training institutions as well as partners in the donor and support agencies to discuss the best way they can work jointly at the local level towards the implementation of the MDGs in African Local Governments;
- § Made a presentation, 20 September, "Environmental Risks in Cities in Africa" during the Special Session on "Risk Management in African Cities". The presentation highlighted the key environmental hazards and vulnerabilities facing dwellers in African cities and the efforts by

³¹ The Centre was inaugurated on 21 May 2006 during the 11th ordinary session of the African Ministerial Conference for the Environment (AMCEN). The inauguration ceremony was attended by the Vice-Minister of Environment of the Peoples Republic of China and several African Ministers of Environment. The Centre was established based on a recommendation made at the first African Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 7 December 2005 which suggested the need to establish a sub-regional and national disaster risk reduction and management Centre.

UNEP to promote awareness and use of environmental sound technologies in urban environmental management;

- § Participated in the technical meeting on Local Level Needs Assessment, Geneva, 28 September, convened by UNDP as the lead for the Early Recovery Cluster, attended by UN agencies and International Organisations that are members of the Early Recovery Cluster (FAO, UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, WHO, ILO; UNEP; UNDGO; UN-HABITAT; UNV, UNOSAT, OCHA, IOM, OHCHR, ICRC, and IFRC), discussed a number of technical issues related to the development of the Local Level Needs Assessment tool in the Early Recovery context;
- § Participated in the Working Group meeting on Post-Conflict Needs Assessment (PCNA), Geneva, 29 September, convened by UNDGO and the World Bank, to present the findings from Phase 1 of the development of PCNA, received comments on the Terms of Reference for Phase 2 of this exercise. The UN family and the World Bank are in the process of developing a common tool that will be jointly used in future to conduct assessments in post-conflict situations. A number of issues were raised during the discussions, and these will be used to guide the next phase. The meeting was attended by UN agencies and International Organisations that are members of the Early Recovery Cluster.

B. Post-conflict environmental assessments

19. In the areas of post-conflict environmental assessments and the environment in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, UNEP continued its activities in Afghanistan, Liberia, Somalia, Sudan, Iraq and Gaza^a.

1. Lebanon

§ During the recent conflict, the Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit (JU) has been cooperating closely both during and after the conflict to monitor, identify and address the environmental impacts. Took the lead assessing the acute environmental risks during the conflict, in particular the oil spill;

2. Sudan

§ The field work component of the post-conflict environmental assessment of Sudan, consisting of 10 separate field missions in 2005-2006, has been completed, September. Consultations are in progress with both northern and southern partners, as well as other interested parties to ensure national ownership and implementation of the report recommendations. The final report is scheduled for release in January 2007;

3. Liberia

§ Following requests from the newly appointed Executive Director of the Environmental Protection Agency, undertook capacity assessments for environmental management in Liberia. Activities focused on initial assessments of institutional, policy and legislative frameworks and provision of recommendations on strategic priorities. In addition, the first part of an assessment of the government's environmental monitoring capacity was conducted, highlighting the need for environmental laboratory capacity;

4. Iraq

§ Clean-up work at two industrial contaminated sites was completed. Field sampling by Iraqi experts for the assessment of Depleted Uranium in Iraq has been completed and laboratory analyses of the final batch of samples is in progress by UNEP and Spietz Laboratory. Separately equipment was delivered to the Environmental Information Center and Environmental Monitoring Laboratory in Baghdad, together with appropriate training of Ministry of Environment staff;

5. Afghanistan

§ The National Environmental Protection Agency defended the new Environment Law in Afghanistan's new National Assembly. The ozone regulations, developed under the Environment Law, were passed by the Council of Ministers. Four new CBNRM projects begun in Herat, focusing on water resource management, disaster mitigation, water

conservation and forestation. Final preparations are being made to launch a countrywide campaign promoting environmental awareness for urban and rural areas. A site-specific assessment of potential rocket fuel contamination originating from the conflict in the 1980s was also undertaken. Discussions with the EC are underway to support phase 3 of the capacity building programme from 2007-2008;

6. **Rwanda**

§ Following a request from the Rwandan Minister of State for Lands, Environment, Forestry, Water and Mines, undertook a scoping and fact-finding mission to Rwanda to identify preliminary national priorities with assessment work in Rwanda;

7. **Inter-agency**

§ UNEP is contributing to the UNDG's Post-Conflict Needs Assessment Review process and is continuing to mainstream environmental and natural resources concerns in the Inter-Agency Standing Committee's Early Recovery Cluster. UNEP remains ready to provide environmental technical advice to the Peace Building Commission.

VI. Sustainable procurement, as well as sustainable consumption and production patterns

A. Economics and trade

20. In the area of economics and trade, activities include the following:

1. Integrated assessment

§ Met with the representatives from the Economic Development Board (EDB), Singaporean Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Singapore Environment Institute, and Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, to discuss joint UNEP-Singapore capacity building programmes on integrated assessment and policymaking for the Asia-Pacific region, Singapore, 21-22 August;

§ Published the synthesis and summaries of the capacity building project on integrated assessment and planning in nine countries, September, with the participation of Brazil, Chile, Colombia, the Czech Republic, Indonesia, Kenya, Lebanon, Russia, and Uganda³²;

2. Economic instruments

§ Attended and provided interventions on the outcome of a recent UNEP fisheries subsidies workshop, a UNEP paper on trade-related measures in MEAs, and UNEP's current integrated assessment initiatives at the World Trade Organization Committee on Trade and Environment (CTE) regular and special sessions, Geneva, 5-7 July;

§ Co-sponsored an international conference on ecological compensation mechanisms, Beijing, 24-26 August, to share experience and provide advice to a taskforce on this subject under the China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development, attended by approximately 200 participants from the national and local governments, research institutes and NGOs in China³³;

§ Organized a technical discussion on international payments for ecosystem services with IUCN in close consultation with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and with financial assistance from the German Ministry of the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, Geneva, 12-13 September. The discussions identified major gaps and proposed collective actions to scale up the payments for sustaining the world's critical ecosystem services;

§ Participated in and contributed to the two international workshops, Xi'an, China, 26-28 September, cosponsored by UNEP, the Stockholm Convention Implementation Office in China

³² A copy of the report is downloadable from www.unep.ch/etb. Individual country reports are being edited and uploaded as they become available.

³³ Other sponsors include the Forest Trends, German Technical Cooperation (GTZ), The Nature Conservancy, World Wide Fund For Nature, Conservation International, and the China-Europe Biodiversity Project Office.

and the United States Environmental Protection Agency; developed a GEF project proposal on the development and application of financing mechanisms for implementing the Stockholm Convention in selected regions and industries;

3. Finance Initiative

- § Participated in the International Fund Forum, Monaco, 5-7 July, aiming at distributing and marketing of Principles for Responsible Investment and Asset Management working group research. The Principles will provide investors with a menu of possible actions to take as appropriate in managing environmental, social and governance-related (ESG) risks and opportunities. Based on a ‘learning by doing’ approach, the focus of the Principles will be to encourage peers to collaborate and learn from each other;
- § Participated in the UNEP FI-GRI (Global Reporting Investment) Workshop for French Financial Institutions on the GRI Financial Services Sector Supplement, Paris, 8 September, organized in collaboration with the Club Finance of ORSE (Observatoire sur la Responsabilité Societale des Entreprises). In a similar way to the workshop held in Augsburg, Germany, the seminar aimed at disseminating and promoting reporting best practice as per the Supplement, as well as to collect feedback, which will feed into the current pilot process of the Supplement;
- § Convened the UNEP FI Side Event at the World Water Week, Stockholm, 23 August, and presented UNEP FI’s issues paper on water-related risk management for financial institutions. This paper was for a set of Management guidelines for financial institutions and policy makers. This framework identifies ways in which financial institutions can assess water related challenges, and how these can be addressed through adopting best practices;
- § Attended the 3rd Corporate Social Responsibility Summit, aiming to introduce the Principles of Responsible Investment (PRI) and assess their impact on investment returns, Dubai, 17-18 September. The Principles provide investors with a menu of possible actions to take as appropriate in managing environmental, social and governance-related (ESG) risks and opportunities;
- § Convened the French Signatories Briefing Meeting to discuss the Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI), Paris, 20 September 2006, Paris, as the follow up to the launch of the PRI in France. The meeting explored the real risks for the financial services community in France arising from complex sustainability challenges and the rewards associated with rapidly evolving markets that serve the goals of sustainable development;
- § Held the training workshop UNEP FI Latin America Task Force on Environmental Credit Risk for Latin American financial institutions, 19-20 September, Quito, which covered issues such as: carbon markets and clean energy; responsible investment for the regions largest pension funds and foundations; and project finance. The event also included different facets of sustainability in the financial sector and a talk on sustainable banking products, as well as a Workshop on credit risk management and project finance and case studies on environmental risks.

4. Trade

- § Convened and participated in a Steering Committee meeting for the project on “Enhancing National Capacities to Assess Wildlife Trade Policies in Support of Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES),” which is being undertaken jointly by UNEP, the CITES Secretariat, the Graduate Institute for Development Studies, and United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), Geneva, 8 August. The objective of this initiative is to enhance the capacities of developing countries to review, design and implement effective and sustainable national wildlife trade policies;
- § Participated in the WTO Public Forum, Geneva, 25-26 September; held bilateral meetings between the Executive Director, the Director General of the WTO, and UNCTAD as well as the Chairs of the WTO’s Rules Committee and the Aid for Trade Task Force;
- § Participated in the first Coordination Meeting for a joint project between UNEP, UNCTAD, the Geneva University Faculty of Law, Geneva-based Graduate Institute of Development Studies, and the International Network for Environmental Compliance and Enforcement entitled, “Technology Transfer, Trade and Environment,” Geneva, 6 September, aiming to determine

what role trade rules and institutions can play in facilitating the transfer of environmentally friendly technologies;

- § Participated in the meeting of the international steering committee of the International Task Force on Harmonization of Organic Agricultural Standards (ITF), Stockholm, 9-13 October, and contributed the work being undertaken under the auspices of the UNEP-UNCTAD CBTF project on development of harmonized East African Organic Agriculture Standards;

B. Promotion of sustainable consumption and production patterns

21. In the area of promotion of sustainable consumption and production patterns (SCP), activities include the following:

- § Supported the French Ministry of Environment to organize its 1st meeting of the Marrakech Task Force on Sustainable Tourism, Paris, 18-19 September, attended by 14 countries, one ministerial delegation from Central American countries and 14 IGO's, NGO's business associations, which developed a Programme of Work of the Task Force;
- § Organized, with the Indian Ministry of Environment and Forests and the Safety Action Group (ASG), the Indian National Roundtable on SCP in Mumbai, India, 29 September, sponsored by the European Commission (EC). It resulted in an endorsement of the Indian Government of the importance of working on promoting SCP patterns, and in engaging India in the Marrakech Process;
- § Participated in other relevant meetings³⁴;
- § Organized relevant meetings³⁵;
- § Organized several Task Force meetings of the Life Cycle Initiative: the 4th and 5th Task Meeting of the Task Force on Life Cycle Assessment and Social Aspects, Lausanne, 15-17 June, and Paris, 9 and 10 October. Discussed indicators including "corruption", "wages", "child labour", "freedom of association", "discrimination", health and safety", "working hours" and "forced labour";
- § Continued the project on Sustainable Management of two pilot Industrial Areas in Tunisia (SMIA) focusing on the implementation of concrete measures in the ground;
- § Developed the strategy for the 2nd phase of the Life Cycle Initiative, started to prepare training material and represent UNEP at meetings in relation to the Initiative;
- § Undertook several outreach meetings in the Sustainable Buildings and Construction Initiative (SBCI), in Africa, North America, and Europe;
- § Signed Letter of Agreement with *Veolia Environnement* for joint projects in the fields of waste, global compact, youthxchange and SD education for young engineers, August;
- § Signed Letter of Agreement with *Biennale de l'Environnement de Seine Saint Denis* for the participation of UNEP to and the endorsement of the 2006 edition of the biennale, August;
- § Signed Letter of Agreement with the *Departement de Seine Saint Denis* for joint projects in the fields of Global Compact, youth, environment and employment, sustainable procurement, green school canteens and environmental communication/education, 29 September;
- § Signed Letter of Agreement with *Cite des Sciences et de l'Industrie* for the participation of UNEP to the Exhibition: "Changer d'Ere" to take place in Paris between 17 October 2006 and 17 August 2007;

³⁴ SCP Approaches for Turkey in the EU Accession Process, Istanbul, 11 August; Raw Material Scarcity as a risk for Conflict, with SCP and competitiveness, Berlin, 21-22 September; Participated in 3rd youthxchange Summer Camp for Asian Youth; 9-13 August, Seoul.

³⁵ A 2 day national stakeholder meeting on Baseline Assessment for Integrated Solid Waste Management System for Maseru, Lesotho, 12-13 July; UNEP/Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry-Life Cycle Impact Assessment (UNEP/SETAC LCIA) Task Force meeting on Toxicity: Second Model Comparison Workshop, Paris, 31 August-2 September; Cleaner production and Energy Efficiency training workshop in Feldafing, Germany, 12-15 July.

- § Participated in *Biennale de l'environnement de Seine Saint Denis*: a four days exhibition on environment. Participation consisted in setting up a UNEP stand and in participating to debates on Sustainable Procurement and youthxchange, Paris, 28 September-1 October;
- § Finalised project design and organised launch of UNEP/Ecoles des Mines/Veolia project on “SD for young engineers” , Nancy, France, 15 September;
- § Contributed to the UN decade of Education for Sustainable Development by organising for the French government a panel on Sustainable Consumption Education as part of the French government Consultative Symposium on the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, Paris, 15-18 June; took part in the French consultations on the French UN DESD, Paris, 28 September;
- § Presented youthxchange in the second European Fair on education for Sustainable development, Hamburg, 14-15 September;
- § Updated the UNEP online Creative Gallery on Sustainability Communications, which received over 100,000 visits since its launch in June 2006.
- § Co-organized with the French Government the first meeting of the Marrakech Task Force on Sustainable Tourism, Paris, 18-19 September.
- § Meeting with UNESCO and OECD, Paris, 28 July, to discuss enhancing joint activities regarding sustainable tourism development. Three main topics related to sustainable tourism development were identified as priorities to be further developed: climate change; tourism and conservation of cultural heritage; tourism and innovation;
- § Participated in and facilitated a workshop in the 1st UNWTO International Seminar on Global Issues in Local Government: Tourism Policy Approaches, Madrid, 25 June-1 July;
- § Developed jointly with UNDP (Action for cooperation and Trust), and the Greek-Cypriot and Turkish-Cypriot chambers a bi-communal project proposal on the environmental principles of Global Compact in the tourism sector;
- § Signed an MOU with Conservation International to publish jointly a guidebook entitled “Tourism and Outdoor Activities: A Practical Guide to Managing the Social and Environmental Impacts in Natural and Mountain Areas”;
- § Participated in the 3rd Plenary session and on the 2nd session of the Editorial Committee of the Tourism Sustainability Group (an EU think tank mandated to produce a report on sustainable tourism and local agenda 21), Brussels, 25-26 September.
- § Developed a partnership template on “Planning instruments for sustainable tourism development in SIDS” to be launched in the 2nd Intergovernmental Review of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities;
- § Participated in the Third Meeting of Technical Oversight Committee of the Mesoamerican Reef Alliance, Miami, Florida, 20-21 August;
- § Prepared a concept note for the implementation phase of the UNEP-FAO project on encouraging sustainable cotton production in West Africa through capacity building on sustainable agricultural practices, supply chain partnerships and stimulating market demand;
- § Participated in Steering Committee meeting of Better Cotton Initiative which groups major retailers, environment and development NGOs and international organisations in a global effort with similar aims;
- § In relation to eco-towns and eco-industrial parks, discussed with senior political leaders, executive council members, and civil society entities, the implementation of an eco-town in Penang, Malaysia, and drafted the implementation plan, 28-30 August; organized an intensive training on “Development of Eco-Towns in the Asia Pacific Region”, Kawasaki, Japan, for 8 participants from Pune (India), Bandung (Indonesia) and Penang (Malaysia), 26 September-2 October;

C. Procurement practices

22. In relation to *decision 23/8 (Environmental and equity considerations in the procurement practices of the United Nations Environment Programme)*³⁶, relevant activities include the following:

- § Advanced overall work on UN procurement including: Initiated with Wuppertal institute a joint project on “Light Up Your Office Efficiently! – Green Lighting Procurement Handbook: Learning from UN experiences”, which will monitor the use of efficient lightening techniques in UN offices and produce a handbook for UN procurement officials, September; Agreement with the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank for a joint “Environmentally and Socially Responsible Procurement Interagency Meeting” in April 2007, Washington D.C.; Advanced proposal of training on Sustainable Procurement to UNON for the Gigiri Staff in Nairobi;
- § Initiated with the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) a Swiss funded project for the development of an online Sustainable Procurement Clearinghouse. Presented first draft of the Clearinghouse at the second meeting of the Marrakech Task force on Sustainable Procurement, Barcelona, 18-19 September;
- § Negotiated and agreed a joint UNEP/ILO one week training on Sustainable Procurement for governments in developing countries to take place in ILO International Training in Centre in March 2007, Turin, Italy;
- § Delivered second set of guidelines to assess the current management practices for waste management in Wuxi New District (WND), China, under the project on development and implementation of Integrated Waste Management Plan, and held the training session, 13-14 September;
- § Participated in a workshop, Maseru, 12-13 July, on the project on the baseline data assessment for solid waste management;
- § Through IETC delivered the Training Course on Sustainability Assessment of Technologies at the Vietnam National Cleaner Production Centre (VNCPC), Hanoi, 18-21 July, attended by VNCPC, CP service providers and industries;
- § Participated and delivered the training on methodology for Sustainability Assessment of Technologies in the Clean Technology Initiative Workshop on Energy Efficiency for Asian Countries, organized by International Centre for Environmental Technology Transfer, Yokkaichi, Japan, 1 August;
- § participated in the 3R South Asia Expert Workshop, Kathmandu, 30 August- 1 September, organized by Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), Asian Development Bank (ADB); facilitated the session on 3R Innovative Practices in Technological Dimension;
- § Supported the setting up of a “3R Consortium” in collaboration with the Osaka Prefectural Government. The first meeting of the Consortium was held in Osaka, Japan, 14 July;
- § Participated in the UNESCO-International Hydrological Programme (UNESCO-IHP) Scientific Advisory Committee of Ecohydrology; Paris, 4-5 September, which discussed a joint cooperation for the preparation of training materials considering Phytotechnologies;
- § Organized an initial meeting to start Phase II-B of UNEP’s ongoing project “Support for Environmental Management of the Iraqi Marshlands,” funded by the Government of Japan, in Amman, Jordan, 26-27 July 2006. The Iraqi delegation included the Deputy Minister of Environment and other high level representatives from the Ministry of Water Resources and the Ministry of Municipalities and Public Works. The meeting was held to discuss the objectives and activities of Phase II-B;
- § Released the monitoring and evaluation report of the Phase I of UNEP’s Iraqi Marshlands project^b, September.

³⁶ Also see document UNEP/GC/24/6.

VII. Chemicals management

A. Strategic Approach to international chemicals management

23. In response to *decisions 23/9 II (Strategic approach to international chemicals management – SAICM) and SS.IX/1 (Strategic approach to international chemicals management)*, activities of UNEP for the implementation of its responsibilities include the following³⁷:

- § Developed the draft comprehensive plan for UNEP's activities in support of the implementation of SAICM;
- § Advanced the operationlization of the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund;
- § Organized an African regional meeting on SAICM, Cairo, 11-14 September;
- § Advanced the organization of the SAICM regional meetings for the "European Union-Japan, the US, Switzerland, Canada, Australia, Norway and New Zealand, Iceland, Mexico, the Republic of Korea and other invited countries" (EU-JUSSCANZ) countries in Barcelona, 20-22 November, and the Central and Eastern Europe region in Riga Latvia, 4-6 December;
- § Advanced the preparation of the symposium on Illegal international traffic in hazardous chemicals, from 6-8 November 2006, Prague-Pruhonice, Czech Republic.

B. Lead and cadmium

24. In response to *decision 23/9 III (Lead and cadmium)*,

- § Convened the First meeting of the Lead and Cadmium Working Group in Geneva, 18-22 September. The Working Group reviewed scientific information on lead and cadmium, focusing especially on long-range environmental transport and prepared technical summaries of key findings for each metal, attended by nearly 100 participants³⁸;

C. Mercury programme

25. In response to *decision 23/9 IV (Mercury programme)*, activities of UNEP include the following³⁹:

- § UNEP invited Governments and other stakeholders, to provide information and input for the report requested under operative paragraph 22, on supply, trade and demand information for mercury, including in artisanal and small-scale gold mining. Twenty one (21) Governments and two (2) non-governmental organizations submitted information as a result of this request. The draft report was developed based on these submissions and comprehensive statistics on commercial trade available through the United Nations Commodity Trade Statistics Database (Comtrade). The draft report was circulated together with an invitation to provide comments among Governments, through their Official Contact Points to UNEP, to Ministries of Environment, as well as to the Mercury Working Group. Comments were received from 10 Governments, 5 non-governmental organizations, and from UNIDO⁴⁰;
- § UNEP co sponsored and participated in the Latin American Conference on Mercury in Health Care, Buenos Aires, 3-4 August, attended by representatives of 11 countries in the Region, made a significant Declaration on the Phase out and Elimination of Mercury in Health Care;
- § UNEP co-sponsored and participated in the 8th International Conference on Mercury as a Global Pollutant, Madison, USA, 6-11 August, attended by scientists and various stakeholders from different sectors and countries expressing concrete policy recommendations to global mercury use and release. It also served as venue for meetings and discussion with partners of the UNEP Mercury Programme;

³⁷ Also see document UNEP/GC/24/7.

³⁸ Also see document UNEP/GC/24/7 and relevant information documents. Further information can be found on the Lead and Cadmium Activities website at http://www.chem.unep.ch/Pb_and_Cd/Default.htm

³⁹ Further information is available on the mercury website at <http://www.chem.unepch/mercury/support.htm>

⁴⁰ Also see document UNEP/GC/24/7 and relevant information documents..

- § Participated in the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (IFCS) Forum V side event on “Heavy Metals”, Budapest, 23 September, which paved the way for the “Budapest Statement on Heavy metals”.

VIII. Poverty and the environment

26. In response to *decision 23/10 (Poverty and the environment)*, UNEP continued the implementation of a four-year project that aims at increasing developing countries’ capacity to mainstream environment in their development strategies, in seven pilot countries of Africa - Kenya, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda, in close collaboration with the ministries of environment and ministries of finance and planning of these countries⁴¹.

IX. Gender equality, civil society, environmental education and outreach activities

A. Gender equality

27. In response to *decision 23/11 (Gender equality in the field of the environment)*,
- § Following the workshop of the UNEP Senior Management Group on gender mainstreaming, June, continued with the in-house consultation and finalization of the UNEP’s Plan of Action on Gender Mainstreaming (POA);
- § Conducted inter-divisional review of the following four project proposals prepared by the Women’s Environment and Development Organization (WEDO): “A legacy of knowledge and Action: Learning from Case Studies on Gender, Women and the Environment”, “Wings on Waves: A mentorship Programme to Build Young Women’s Environmental Leadership”, “Improving Environmental Management and Expanding Gender Equity and Women’s Right to Natural Resources through the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)”, and “A World in Conflict, a World in Peace: Addressing Conceptual and Empirical Gaps in the Interlinkages of Gender, Conflict and the Environment”;
- § Advanced the finalization of the amendment to the supplementary agreement with IUCN for the initial implementation of the UNEP Gender PoA: “Elaborate a gender policy for UNEP”, “Form a network of gender focal points”, “Operationalizing the Gender Plan of Action”, and “Ensure that gender criteria are included in the elaboration of projects and programmes”;
- § Continued with mobilizing governments, receiving and analyzing surveys on the incorporation of gender perspectives in environmental programmes and policies at national level;

B. Civil society and major groups

28. In the area of civil society and major groups:
- § Prepared six civil society regional consultation meetings scheduled for October-November 2006;
- § The preparation included the launch of five web-pages on subjects that will be debated at the regional consultation meetings including Gender and the environment, Water, Chemicals management, the Millennium Development Goals and environment and Globalization, ecosystem services and human well-being⁴²;
- § Supported and participated in the African Trade Union Conference on Labour and Environment, Johannesburg, South Africa, 28-29 July, attended by 22 African countries. The meeting provided UNEP with an opportunity to present the key environmental challenges and messages outlined in the Africa Environment Outlook 2. Case studies on actions undertaken by trade unions in the workplaces were presented, including on hazardous substances in the workplace and communities, corporate social responsibility and the financial transparency requested from

⁴¹ Also see document UNEP/GC/24/INF/19.

⁴² Accessible at http://www.unep.org/civil_society/GCSF/regionalconsult.asp

companies. The Conference resulted in a regional action plan to integrate environmental issues into the trade union agenda.

- § Launched the Labour and Environment website⁴³, July;
- § Participated at the "Participatory 3-Dimensional Modelling/ Participatory Geographic Information System Workshop on Community mapping and capacity building: Strengthening the East African Regional mapping and Information Systems Network, Nessuit, Nakuru, Kenya, 17-19 August.

C. Youth, children and sports

29. In the implementation of the long-term strategy on engagement and involvement of young people in environmental issues, activities include the following:

- § Hosted the Tunza International Children's Conference for the Environment in Putrajaya, Malaysia, 26-31 August. The Conference which was co-organized by UNEP and the Yayasan Anak Warisan Alam (YAWA) - a local NGO, brought together 250 children and their chaperones from 60 countries, sponsored by Bayer, United Engineering Malaysia (UEM) group, Petronas, HSBC, SIG, Novozymes, Nestlé, Time Engineering, NSTP and BMW. The children delegates participated in a series of workshops organized by both local and international facilitators on the themes of the Conference (Forest and Bio-diversity, Recycling, Healthy Communities and Conservation). The children also made a number of field visits aligned to the Conference themes. The Conference culminated in an Environmental Contract which states commitments from the children as well as UNEP's responsibilities. A new Junior Board comprising 12 representatives from each of the regions was also elected by the children. The Conference was presided over by the Queen of Malaysia, Her Royal Highness Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Fauziah Binti Al-Marhum Tengku Abdul Rashid and the closing ceremony was graced by Ms. Nori binti Abdulla, the daughter of the Prime Minister of Malaysia.
- § A number of reports from children detailing the environmental activities they are undertaking as a result of the Conference have been received. These include tree planting activities in various parts of the world and a "say no to plastic" initiative in Australia and school/peer briefing on the Environmental Contract. UNEP has developed a group mail <tunzaicc@unep.org> to facilitate communication with all conference participants and chaperones, and is in the process of finalizing a bulletin board where the children can post short stories on their environmental activities.
- § Translated the 4 children's illustrated storybooks namely; *Theo and the Giant Plastic Ball*, *Tina and the Green City*, *Tore and the Town on Thin Ice* and *Trishna and the Dream of Water* into French and Spanish. Arrangements are underway to animate *Tore and the Town on Thin Ice*;
- § Embarked on the preparations of the Global Youth virtual Retreat, to be taken place in February 2007 prior to GC-24/GMEF;
- § Embarked on the preparations of the Tunza International Children's Conference for the Environment, to be held in Leverkusen, Germany, 8-12 September; The proposed themes of the conference are; gender and the environment, sustainable production and consumption and, poverty and the environment;
- § Produced and disseminated the third issue of the Tunza magazine for 2006 on "Energy";
- § Launched the 16th International Children's Painting Competition for the Environment which is on the theme of "Climate Change";
- § Continued to hold the monthly audio conference for children and youth focal points in the UNEP Regional Offices and Divisions. The monthly audio conference reviews activities, events areas of collaboration and seeks feasible solutions to identified constraints. The audio has been useful in harmonizing and expediting children and youth activities;
- § Instituted the first audio conference with the World Organization of the Scout Movement to review the operations of our joint MOU and identify areas of synergy and cooperation in the current plan of work. The meeting discussed the involvement of scouts in the Global Youth

⁴³ Accessible at http://www.unep.org/labour_environment/

Retreat and the Tunza Youth Conference and how UNEP can participate in the 2007 Scout Jamboree.

- § Held a meeting with the Minister of Environment, Cameroon, to discuss about the preparations and hosting of the 2007 regional children's preparatory conference for Africa which will take place in Cameroon. The Conference is a precursor to the 2008 International Children's Conference which will be held in Stavanger, Norway.
 - § (Para IV) Continued to hold the monthly chat sessions with the Tunza Youth Advisory Council (TYAC) on how implemented the various Tunza activities and how to better the collaboration between TYAC and UNEP.
30. In the implementation of the long-term strategy for sport and the environment, activities include the following:
- § Continued with the preparations of the fourth Global Forum for Sport and the Environment, to be held in Lausanne, Switzerland, 30 November- December. *The Forum whose theme is Mainstreaming the Environment in Major Sports Events* aims to bring together 150 participants comprising renowned sports stars, sports organizations/federations, sporting goods industries, media, civil society and the UN is co-organized by UNEP, the International Olympic Committee and the Global Sports Alliance.
 - § Held consultations with the local organizing Committee of the 2006 World Cup on the implementation of the MOU which aims to *green* the World Cup, convey environmental messages during the Games and UNEP's visibility at the 2006 World Cup under the "Green Goals" Project.
 - § The World Cup successfully met the requirements stipulated in the joint UNEP/FIFA MOU since environmental aspects were consciously taken into account during the preparation and hosting of the Games. Specifically, environmental messages were aired during the games, brochures and announcements on environmental issues of the game were widely circulated and UNEP was profiled. A report on the "Green Goal Project" will be presented by FIFA at the UNEP's Global Forum for Sport and Environment in November-December 2006.
 - § Held a series of discussions with the Beijing Organizing Committee for the Games of the XXIX Olympic Games – Beijing 2008 ("BOCOG") to review the implementation of the proposed MOU;
 - § Held initial consultations with the South Africa Organizers of the 2010 World Cup to discuss how UNEP would work with them in ensuring that the environmental aspects form an integral part of the preparations and staging of the 2010 World Cup.
 - § Held meetings with UNEP partner, Sadili Oval, to review the implementation of the Nature and Sport Camp, a sport and leadership training programme for children in the Kibera Slum of Nairobi. The meetings agreed on ways of enhancing and streamlining the operations for the Camp. An operation manual depicting key aspects of "how to start a Nature and Sport Camp" Is being developed and a codification document on the various operational aspects of the Camp is under preparation in close consultation with the partner. Meanwhile, the weekly training camps are on-going.

D. Environmental education and outreach activities

31. With regard to the promotional programmes of the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (UNDESD)⁴⁴:
- § Published an educational workbook on 'Environmental Education, Ethics and Action: A Workbook to Get Started' in collaboration with Rhodes University, South Africa and Lakehead University, Canada, July;
 - § Published the African Journalists Workshop Report on "UNEP Training Workshop for African Journalists: Implementation of Millennium Development Goals 1, 3 and 7." September;
 - § In connection with the Third University of Joensuu-UNEP Course on International Environmental Law-making and Diplomacy, South Africa, 29 June-4 July, attended by 33

⁴⁴ The newsletter is available at http://www.unep.org/training/downloads/newsletter/eet_news1_vol1.pdf

environmental experts and negotiators of MEAs from developed and developing countries, presented a lecture on *Convention for Biological Diversity (CBD) and the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (UNDESD)*;

- § Participated in the Inter-secretariat Committee Meeting of the UNEP/UNESCO/BMU International Postgraduate Training Programme on Environmental Management for developing countries. Also made a presentation at a workshop on 'UNEP and the UNDESD' to the 20 participants from 20 countries of Asia and the Pacific, Africa and Latin America attending the course at Technical University of Dresden, Germany, 13-14 July;
- § Facilitated the First Session of the 2006 Youth Encounter on Sustainability (YES) Student leadership Programme organized by ETHSustainability, Zurich and made presentation at a workshop on the *UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development and Environmental Leadership* to the 38 youth participants from both developed and developing countries, Braunwald, Switzerland on 14-23 July;
- § Delivered a Keynote Speech during the Learning for Sustainability Conference held for environmental education and sustainability practitioners with specific links to the (UNDESD). Also made presentations on environmental education and training programmes in UNEP at a meeting of Civil Society leaders and government officials from Sustainability from Victoria in Melbourne, Australia on 2-4 August;
- § Participated in the launch of the Nzoia River Basin Public-Private Partnership resulting in the development of a project proposal for the Nzoia River Basin Management Initiative at Mumias, Kenya, 3 August;
- § Presented a lecture on 'Millennium Development Goals – A voice from the South' at the Agder University College, Agder as part of the UN Association International week activities during 18 – 22 September 2006, Agders University College, Kristianstand, Norway⁴⁵.
- § Bilateral consultations held on 30 August 2006 with the Association of African Universities (AAU) resulting in the development of an MOU on making ESD the theme of the African University Day in November 2006.
- § Held in Nairobi on 7 September 2006 bilateral consultations with the Nile Basin Initiative resulting in submission of two project proposals (i) education awareness materials and (ii) Capacity Building, for the Nzoia River Basin Management Initiative for possible consideration in funding by the Nile Basin Initiative.
- § Held in Nairobi on 9 September, 2006 bilateral consultations with Mr. Rupert Maclean, Director, UNESCO-UNEVOC from Bonn, Germany resulting in identification of possible areas of collaboration and cooperation between UNESCO-UNEVOC and Environmental Education and Training with regard to the UNDESD.
- § Facilitated at and made presentation at a workshop on mainstreaming environment and sustainability in Law faculties as well as holding a problem solving debate at the Second Symposium of Environmental Law Lecturers from African Universities organized by the UNEP-PADELIA project in Entebbe, Uganda on 25-28 September;
- § Participated and presented a paper on 'mainstreaming environment and sustainability in African universities' at the stakeholders workshop coordinated by the University of Nairobi, Chemistry Department with the theme "*Towards Market-Sensitive Training and Problem-Oriented Research Programmes in Environmental Chemistry*" at College of Insurance, Nairobi, 6 September;
- § Undertook various outreach activities⁴⁶.

⁴⁵ Other lecturers during the occasion were the Minister of Development Co-operation, Mr. Erik Solheim and the Director of NORAD Mr. Poul Engberg-Pedersen. The Crown Prince Haakon of Norway was the Special guest of honour.

⁴⁶ These include the following: Annual International Ocean Institute's International Roundtable, in Halifax, Nova Scotia (20-21 July 2006); Video-conference roundtable with Buckminster Fuller Institute Design Science Lab on implementation of the MDGs at the local level, Asheville, North Carolina (28 July 2006); Annual DPI/NGO Conference: Roundtable on NGOs and UN system, 6 September, and Information Fair (6-8 September 2006); and UNEP NY Interfaith Partnership on the Environment (28 September 2006).

X. Activities at the regional level

A. Regional Office for Africa

1. Post-conflict environmental assessments

32. UNEP continued to support countries in the African region to assess and advise on the environmental impact of armed conflict⁴⁷. The involvement of UNEP also continued in the process of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (IC/GLR).

2. Climate and atmosphere

33. Through the OzonAction Compliance Assistance Programme (CAP), UNEP/ROA continued to provide capacity building and specialized technical support to African compliance with the Montreal Protocol, including the Regional Network of ODS Officers for English and French speaking African countries⁴⁸.

3. Promotion of sustainable consumption and production patterns

34. UNEP continued its work in promoting the implementation of the project on Institutionalizing the African Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Production⁴⁹:

§ In collaboration with the Kenya National Environment Management Authority and other partners, continued with the implementation of the Pilot Project on Plastic Waste Management in Nairobi;

§ In the area of Energy, continued to facilitate the development of a sustainable and environmentally sound energy sector in the region as well as the promotion of adoption of cleaner energy and renewable energy technologies.

4. Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building

35. The pilot project on implementing the Bali Strategic Plan in six African countries has completed. The results of the pilot project are being compiled along with lessons learnt for review in the

⁴⁷ UNEP/ROA participated in the following meetings: the workshop on Post Conflict National Plan for Environmental Management in Sudan and held discussions with the Ministry of Environment and Representative of other UN agencies in Sudan from 17-18 July 2006; and Steering Group Committee Meeting for the Great Lakes Region (GLR), Nairobi, 17 August.

⁴⁸ UNEP/ROA Ozone team was in Praia, Cape Verde for the National workshop on the control of illegal trade and identification of SAO for Customs Officers in the country and conducted the training and provided technical expertise and policy guidance; in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania to train the new ODS Officer and provide guidance on Implementation of the Montreal Protocol and projects under it - including project and progress reporting; in Maputo to hold a meeting with NOU and experts to finalize MB survey report, prepare 2004 and 2005 data report and pending IS reports; in Equatorial Guinea to assist the government to finalize the process for submission of ratification papers to the Depository of the Montreal Protocol; in Abuja, Nigeria to hold a meeting with ECOWAS Secretariat (Executive Secretary) to discuss plans for implementation of a project to harmonize ODS regulations in ECOWAS sub-region; in Tamatave, Madagascar to conduct the National workshop on control of illegal trade and identification of ODS for Customs Officers; UNEP/ROA Ozone team was in Rabat, Morocco to discuss with Morocco NOU the process for preparation of non-investment Component of the Refrigeration Management Plan (RMP) and provide guidance to the National Ozone Unit and the local consultant for the preparation of the RMP; in Sao Tome & Principe for the National workshop on control of illegal trade and identification of ODS for Customs Officers. S/M will conduct the training of Customs Officers on identification of ODS and control of illegal trade, as well as provide technical expertise and policy guidance; in Antananarivo, Madagascar for the 10th Joint Meeting of ODSNET/AF (English-speaking and French-Speaking Networks of Ozone Officers). The team coordinated and facilitated the meeting, as well as making presentations on the operations of the Africa networks and management of Institutional Strengthening projects in the region. Organized and participated in the Pre-COP12 African Climate Change Negotiators meeting, 1-7 September, Naivasha, Kenya. The meeting was to provide the African negotiators with opportunity to prepare their positions on key issues and hence ensure that the outcomes of COP12 are in Africa's best interests.

⁴⁹ These activities include the following: participated in and made the key note presentation during a Regional Conference on Better Air Quality in Sub-Saharan African Cities (BAQ-SSA 2006), Nairobi, 25-28 July. The Ministerial segment took place on 28 July and several Ministers from the Africa region attended; participated in the Biomass Energy Strategy (BEST) start-up workshop, held from 11-15 September 2006 in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania. The meeting was to initiate the process of developing National Biomass Energy Strategies.

respective countries. UNEP held discussions with the Government of the Gambia and UNDP on the implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity Building, Banjul, 1-2 July.

5. Support to Africa

36. UNEP continued capacity building and awareness raising activities by organizing and participating in various events to facilitate the implementation of decisions adopted by the sessions of the Governing Council⁵⁰.

B. Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

1. Bali Strategic Plan

- § Discussed with officials of the Ministry of Environment (MoE) and ASEAN on the progress of BSP MOU, and undertook a visit to Bandah Aceh to discuss with MoE and stakeholders on eco-village development planning, 21-26 August, Jakarta and Bandah Aceh, Indonesia;
- § Visit of officials from the Democratic People Republic of Korea (DPRK) to ROAP to discuss ROAP's strategy and UNEP's assistance for DPRK, 4 September, Bangkok;

⁵⁰ Relevant activities include the following:

- § Participated at the 7th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union and also held discussions with the Government of the Gambia and UNDP on the implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity Building from 1-2 July 2006 in Banjul, The Gambia;
- § Participated at the first meeting of Regional and International Organizations on the establishment of a Regional Initiative aimed at restoration, sustainable management and conservation of West Africa's forests that was held from 2 – 6 July 2006 in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.
- § Participated in a workshop to discuss the Country Environmental Profile (CEP) for Somalia held on the 18th July at IUCN-Eastern Africa Regional Office, Nairobi. The debriefing workshop discussed the final draft of the Country Environmental Profile UNEP delegation provided inputs into areas on biodiversity, dry land and rangeland systems, coastal and marine management, water resources and policy development emphasizing importance of identifying priorities and time frame for actions.
- § Participated in the Third Global Environment Facility (GEF) Assembly from 28 to 30 August 2006 which was hosted by the Government of South Africa in Cape Town;
- § Organized and participated in the Bureau meeting of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) held on 27 August in Cape Town, South Africa. The Bureau meeting covered the following agenda items: Follow-up to the 11th regular session of AMCEN, including the role of the Bureau of AMCEN; Some key matters of relevance to Africa arising from the GEF Assembly held in Cape Town on 29 and 30 August 2006; South Africa and Egypt's support to other African countries to develop their designated national authorities for the Clean Development Mechanism(CDM); Sustainable hydropower development in Africa; UNFCCC COP12 & COP/MOP2 of Kyoto Protocol; and 21st meeting of the Bureau of AMCEN;
- § Participated in the 19th meeting of the Steering Committee of the Partnership for the Development of Environmental Law and Institutions in Africa (PADELIA) from 7-8 September 2006 in Nairobi. The topics covered during the meeting included, among others, progress report on PADELIA; Implementation of PADELIA project- Mali's case study; Consideration of the external evaluation report; and status of preparation of Phase III.
- § Participated in the seminar on Parliament and Private Sector cooperation in the Great Lakes region organized by the Association of European Parliamentarians for Africa (AWEPA) with support from UNEP that was held from 8 – 9 September 2006 in Arusha, Tanzania. The seminar was to create a better mutual understanding between parliamentarians and the private sector in promoting sustainable development in the Great Lakes Region;
- § Organized and participated the Clean Up the World event in Nairobi held on Saturday 16 September 2006 in Dandora, Nairobi;
- § Participated in the High Level Meeting on the Mid-term Comprehensive Global Review of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010 held from 18-19 September 2006 in New York. Of relevance to UNEP was the appreciation by the high-level meeting of the Cotonou Strategy for the further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010;
- § Participated at the African Regional Workshop on Developing Guidelines for Inter-basin Water Transfers for Policy makers in Africa held from 25-29 September, Accra.

- § Attended Meeting with National Council on Environmental Affairs (NCEA) to follow up the progress of activities supported under the BSP MOU and to follow up on the National Sustainable Development Strategies MOU to be signed with NCEA, 11-12 September, Yangon;
 - § Visited Ministry of Environment of Cambodia to follow up on the progress of the activities signed under BSP on environmental database training 17-19 September, Phnom Penh;
- 2. MEAs**
- § Attended the Asia-Pacific Consultations on Climate Regime Beyond 2012 – South East Asia, jointly organized by the Institute for Global Environment Strategies (IGES) and ESCAP, 19-20 July, Bangkok;
 - § Attended the MEA Interaction Program to make presentations on the Montreal Protocol, Rotterdam Convention, and compliance and enforcement of environmental law, 18-22 September, Kathmandu;
 - § Attended the 8th Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting on Male Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and Its Likely Transboundary Effects for South Asia, 11-12 September, Thimphu.
- 3. Global Programme of Action**
- § Attended the PEMSEA 12th Programme Steering Committee Meeting to discuss the progress on collaborative activities with PEMSEA, 1-4 August, Davao, Philippines;
 - § Organized and attended the "East Asian Seas IGR-2 Preparatory Workshop", as a regional preparation to IGR-2, Bangkok, 4-5 September.
- 4. Environmental law**
- § Participated as resource person in the National Training Workshop on Environmental Legislation Enforcement; met with the Science, Technology and Environment Agency of Lao (STEA) and the People's Supreme Court to discuss about future cooperation/collaboration, 10-11 August, Luang Prabang, Lao PDR;
 - § Organized and participated as resource person in the Central Asia Judges Conference: Compliance and Enforcement of Environmental Law, 7-8 September, Almaty, to make presentations on compliance and enforcement of environmental law and also met with relevant people to discuss future cooperation/collaboration;
 - § Participated as resource person in the National Workshop on Environmental Law/National Ozone Unit, Ministry of Forestry, 11-12 September, Yangon.
- 5. Civil society**
- § Organized the First Conference and Official Launch of South East Asia Youth Environment Network (SEAYEN), meeting with Singapore Ministry of Environment, meeting with Hanns Seidel Foundation, Lien Foundation, Nanyang Technological University (NTU), and National Youth Achievement Award Council (NYAAC) to promote environmental forum for youth in Southeast Asia, 28-31 July, Singapore;
 - § Organized the launch of Eco-Peace Leadership Center (EPLC) and signing of MOU with EPLC; also attended NGO Forum to discuss Himalaya project (conservation of water basin reserves) with NGOs leaders, 17-18 August, Seoul;
 - § Participated in the International Children's Conference (ICC) to assist with media outreach for ICC, ROAP workshops and Samsung website launch, 26-29 August, Kuala Lumpur;
 - § Participated, as a judge, in the interview session for Thai envoys of the Bayer Environment Envoy project (BYEE) at the Institute of Public Relations, 15 September, Bangkok;
 - § Attended the Sub-regional Youth Network Meeting and Civil Society Organizations Forum, 25-28 September, Almaty;
- 6. Climate and atmosphere**

- § Attended the Atmospheric Brown Cloud Expert Consultation (ABC-water impact assessment), and held bilateral meetings with ABC Science Team Chair and Nanyang Technical University (NTU), Singapore, 28-29 July;
- § Participated in the National Train-the-Trainers Workshop on Good Practices in Refrigeration, Pyongyang, 1-5 August;
- § Participated in the workshop on ABC-water impact assessment; held bilateral meetings with ABC Science Team Chair and Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI). Also discussed with Environment Minister of India and senior officials on regional cooperation and national partnerships, New Delhi, 3-4 August;
- § Participated as resource person in the National Stakeholders Capacity Building Workshop, Kabuo, 21-23 August;
- § Organized and participated as resource person in the National Workshop on Compliance Assessment Programme (CAP), Kathmandu, 22-23 August;
- § Participated in the 6th Core Group Meeting under the National CFC Consumption phase-out plan focusing on refrigeration service sector, New Delhi, 28-29 August;
- § Participated in the Joint Meeting with Australia and SPREP on the implementation of Regional Ozone Strategy, Suva, 3-6 September;
- § Participated in the Joint Mission with UNDP on the implementation of UNDP Methyl Bromide phase-out plan, Apia, 7-9 September;
- § Participated in the Training for National Stakeholders from various line ministries and importers, Thimpu, 4-6 September;
- § Organized and attended a National Green Customs Training Workshop, Kathmandu, 12-14 September;
- § Participated in the National Ozone Day celebration in Changchun, China, 15-18 September;
- § Conducted a joint mission to Mongolia with the officials from the Ministry of Environment of Japan and Japanese resource person in Mongolia to review and implementation of the Terminal Phase-out Plan in 2006 and discuss the work plan of 2007, Ulaanbataar, 25-28 September.

7. Other activities

- § Participated in and provided sponsorships to various meetings at the regional level⁵¹; and
- § Participated in various meetings at the national level⁵².

⁵¹ These meetings include the following: Regional Consultation on the First Draft of the 4th Global Environment Outlook report, 5-7 July, Pattaya, Thailand; the signing ceremony and press event for the Beverage Carton Collection and Recycling project organized by Tetra Pak (Thai), 7 July, Bangkok, Thailand; Consultation Workshop on Sub-regional Sustainable Development Strategy, 21-22 Aug, Kathmandu, Nepal; Inception Workshop on South Asia Environment Outlook, 23-24 Aug, Kathmandu, Nepal; Workshop on Local Sustainable Development Plan, 25 Aug, Kathmandu, Nepal; eKH Partners Workshop, 25 Aug, Kathmandu, Nepal; Training Programme on Environmental Management Tools for Senior Officials in Nepal, 28 Aug- 1 Sept; and Sub-regional Workshop on 3R Waste Management, 30 Aug- 1 Sept, Kathmandu, Nepal; the Tongji Leadership Programme, 18-24 Sept, Shanghai, China; DRPK Planning Workshop, 17 Sept, Shanghai, China; Regional University Consortium Meeting, 22 Sept, Wuxi, China.

⁵² These meetings include: Review Meeting of the ASEAN Environmental Education Action Plan, 2006-10 to provide UNEP's inputs to the ASEAN Action Plan, as part of ROAP's strategy on the nexus issue of environment and education, 10-14 July, Yangon, Myanmar; Briefing for the International Herald Tribune (July 5) and Agence France Press (July 21) Asia Pacific correspondents, recently stationed in Bangkok, Thailand; UNESCAP Workshop on Trade and Environment to represent UNEP and deliver presentation on UNEP's activities on environment and trade, 26-27 July, Jakarta, Indonesia; the Annual Globe Conference on Environmental Education to deliver opening remarks at the Annual Globe Meeting, which was hosted by Thailand, 31 July, Cape Panwa, Phuket; the Asia Pacific Forum for Environment and Development (APFED) Annual Meeting to brief about progress and proposed showcase projects to the Meeting, 31 July-1 Aug, Adelaide, Australia; Meeting on Asia Pacific Guidelines for Development of National DESD Indicators to provide inputs in finalizing the Guidelines, 10-11 Aug, Hiroshima, Japan; Bangkok Annual General Meeting of Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) Student Alumni Network (theme on "Regional and Inter-regional Collaboration towards Sustainable Development: New Perspectives?") to make a presentation on UNEP, 11 Aug, Bangkok, Thailand; the Policy Training and Identification of Policy Integration Areas to facilitate alternative approaches for economic development at local level, 28-30 Aug, Guiyang, China; the UN Development

C. Regional Office for Europe

1. MEAs

- § As the Interim Secretariat to the Framework Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea (Tehran Convention) participated in the 2nd Regional Meeting of the TDA/NCAP/SAP⁵³ Revisit, which reviewed, *inter alia*, the work of the regional and national consultants for the preparation of a legal study, commissioned by UNEP, and the revision of the SAP, which forms the basis for developing an Action Plan for the Tehran Convention, Baku, 12-13 July; The Tehran Convention entered into force on 12 August 2006;
- § Held bilateral consultations with representatives of the European Commission and others in preparation of the Caspian Sea Fisheries Protocol, Brussels, 23 August, (5 participants representing various units of the European Commission);
- § Held discussions with the Azerbaijan Environment minister on a range of issues pertaining to Azerbaijan's role and position in the Tehran Convention process and in the Environment and Security Initiative, in particular the forthcoming Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)/UNEP mission to Nagorno-Karabakh;
- § Briefed representatives of the BP oil company on the Tehran Convention and its implementation; BP is interested in developing a partnership programme in support of the Convention.
- § Held further discussions with ten participants in the Caspian Environment process on the COP-1 documentation and its preparation, Baku, 24-27 September;
- § Organized and addressed the second Preparatory Meeting for the First Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathians Convention (COP-1), which agreed on the agenda and documentation for COP-1, Vienna, 11-13 September;
- § Attended and addressed the Seminar on Multilateral Environmental Agreements and their relevance to the Arctic and made a proposal to consider developing an environmental governance instrument for the Arctic region, Arendal, Norway, 21-22 September;
- § Presented the future perspectives of the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (PEBLDS) to the Regional Meeting on the follow-up of CBD COP-8 for conservation experts from Central and Eastern Europe, Isle of Vilm, Germany, 7 July, 60 participants from governments, NGOs and international organizations. Represented the PEBLDS Secretariat at the IUCN Biodiversity Conference, Brussels, 19 September, attended by 400 participants from governments, NGOs, international organizations, civil society; Organized and provided the secretariat for the 13th PEBLDS Bureau Meeting, Strasbourg, 22 September.

2. Post disaster environmental recovery

- § Held further discussions on the Religion, Science and Environment Symposium (RSE)/Arctic Symposium, to be organized by RSE in the summer of 2007, in close cooperation with UNEP/ENVSEC⁵⁴, with the representatives of the Norwegian Government and STATOIL, the

Assistance Framework 2008-2012 Strategic Planning Retreat, 29-31 Aug, Thimphu, Bhutan. At the meeting, the Government, donor partners and UN agencies discussed the priorities for the UN in Bhutan for 2008-2012; the Senior Management Group Meeting to provide regional inputs, and briefing on regional delivery of UNEP's programmes to the Asia Group of CPR, 4-6 Sept, Nairobi, Kenya; the First Policy Consultation Forum of the Seoul Initiative on Green Growth organized by UNESCAP to make a presentation on UNEP strategies and activities, 5-7 Sept, Seoul, Korea; the High-level Eco-house panel workshop; Bilateral Discussions with the Government of Bhutan on the framework agreement, 13-14 Sept, Thimphu, Bhutan; the Institute for Global Environment Strategies (IGES) Steering Committee Meeting to brief about UNEP's activities in Asia-Pacific and discuss work programme of IGES, Ministry of Environment of Japan and ADB, 15 Sept, Tokyo, Japan; 3R Waste Management Workshop in Cambodia to make presentation on ROAP's 3R activities and also implementation plan on Advanced Waste Management Project in Cambodia, 25-26 Sept, Phnom Penh, Cambodia; the National Workshop on Environmental Education, 25-27 Sept, Ulaanbataar, Mongolia.

⁵³ Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA); National Caspian Action Plans (NCAPs); Caspian Strategic Action Programme (SAP).

⁵⁴ The Environment and security Initiative (ENVSEC) is a partnership between UNEP, UNDP, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), NATO, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), and the Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC).

Norwegian oil company, Oslo, 7 July; held consultations with representatives from GRID-Arendal, RSE and Norway related to the Arctic Symposium and the finalization of a project proposal for STATOIL, Kristiansand, Norway, 10-11 August:

- § Participated in the European Conference on Policy Coherence for Development "Call for Coherence" and represented the ENVSEC Initiative in the Working Group on "Development and Security", Helsinki, 2-3 October, attended by over 250 participants from national ministries, parliaments and development agencies world-wide, EU institutions, European civil society organisations, international organisations and research institutes.

3. Forest related issues

- § Together with the Secretariat of the Ministerial Conference for the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE), revised a background paper and finalized the preparations for the forthcoming Workshop on pan-European recommendations for afforestation and reforestation in the context of the UNFCCC, Warsaw, 25 September.

4. Sports and the environment

- § Participated in activities dedicated to the theme "Sports for Peace and Development" and the related debate on the occasion of UNESCO's 60th anniversary, attended by 200 participants representing governments and sport and development NGOs, in the Bureau meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee for Physical Education and Sport (CIGEPS), and presented and exhibited UNEP's Sport and Environment Programme as well as related posters and publications, Paris, 17-23 July;

5. Sustainable consumption and production patterns

- § Presented UNEP's approach to sustainable consumption and production (SCP) to the ANPED (The Northern Alliance for Sustainability) Conference on SCP and General Annual Meeting, and discussed case studies, which could result in agreements on case studies and new projects on SCP in the countries of South East Europe (SEE) and of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA), Kiev, 6-10 September, attended by 80 participants from governments, NGOs and international organizations;
- § Participated in the Regional Workshop on the preparation of the Western Balkan Regional Environmental Report to develop an overall outline and content of the report, and coordinate with UNDP country offices on its preparation, Podgorica, Montenegro, 14-15 September.

D. Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean

1. Keeping the world environmental situation under review

- § Organized the Regional Consultation on the Environmental and Conflicts Prevention Initiative, where the draft of the case study from a content and methodological point of view of the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor was reviewed and commented. During the meeting regional experts who could form part of a network on environment and prevention of conflicts in Latin America and the Caribbean were identified;
- § Organized the Regional Consultation for GEO 4 in Latin America and the Caribbean, Lima, Peru, 10-13 July, with the support from *Universidad del Pacifico* and the GEO Collaborating Centre in Peru;
- § Continued with the data collecting activities for the elaboration of the National Indicator Follow-up Report, a product from the Latin American and Caribbean Sustainable Development Initiative (ILAC);
- § Organized the GEO Youth Brazil Editing Workshop, Brasília, 30 June-4 July, aiming at preparing the first draft of the GEO Youth report. 30 youth participants "expressed their impressions and opinions on environment and sustainability in Brazil";
- § Launched the GEO-Peru and undertook the signing ceremony of the letter of Agreement for the "Beyond Miing" Centre;
- § Organized a training workshop for the elaboration of the GEO Asuncion Report, with UNDP, the Secretary of Environment of Paraguay and the Municipality of Asuncion, 26-27 July;

- § Made a presentation on the GEO methodology at the methodological workshop sponsored by the Brazilian Water Agency, 3 August;
- § Held the GEO-Scenarios Workshop, 6-10 August, where issues such as social, economic and environmental trends in the world and LAC were discussed. Main focus was on global population growth, food demand, oil prices, grains used to produce biofuels, climate change, natural capital, Millennium Development Goals (MDG's), Doha Round of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and political trends;
- § Participated in workshops related to GEO El Alto, in Bolivia, and GEO Querétato, in Mexico. The participation was an opportunity to improve the methodology of training;
- § Participated in the "Second Meeting of Experts – LAC Countries and Goal 7 of the Millennium Development Goals" organized by ECLAC, Santiago. During the meeting the proposal of including a list of additional indicators and the viability for its inclusion was discussed. As a result, it is expected that there will be a harmonization of ILAC indicators and additional indicators for the Goal 7 of the MDG;
- § Launched GEO Chile, 26 September at the University of Chile in Santiago;
- § The Geo Youth Advisory Committee met in Brasilia to discuss the course of the revision of the GEO youth preliminary report and to define the next steps to the conclusion of this Project, 18 September.

2. Environmental law

- § Supported the Latin American Encounter of Legislators on Water Resources, Panama City, 28-29 September, where conservation and adequate use of water were discussed. Water Law formulation process in Argentina, Costa Rica and Panama, as well as the status of the water resources in Latin America, were some of the topics of the meeting;
- § Held an environmental law course for judges of the Portuguese-speaking countries, S. Paulo, Brazil, 23-25 October, attended by judges from Angola, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique and St. Tome and Principe, as well as judges, prosecutors and representatives of the Public Ministry of Brazil.

3. Civil society

- § Supported the Global Environment Citizenship, Seminar organized by the State of Mexico, the city of Ixtapan de la Sal, 14-15 July, aiming to promote awareness of GEC topics among main local opinion leaders, with emphasis on sustainable consumption as a basis for sustainable development. The event was attended by local opinion leaders on environment, members of municipal councils for the protection of the environment and presidents of various environmental associations;
- § Supported the "National Workshop on Global Environmental Citizenship" organized by the Latin American Parliament, Buenos Aires, 14-15 September, aiming to update the knowledge of national legislators on the main topics of the GEC. This was an opportunity to explain local authorities from different municipalities, the activities performed by the social networks and their progress in 5 municipalities;
- § Supported the organization by the University of Guadalajara, Dialogue Round-Table on desert and desertification, Guadalajara, in which journalists from Guadalajara City participated;
- § Inaugurated the Environmental Journalism Course, organized with the Iberoamerican University of Mexico City and the Faculty of Science from the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM);
- § Organized the First Art and Environment Week, San Luis Potosi. The exhibition includes environmental cinema, cartoon, poster and photography exhibitions, open until 2 September;
- § Participated in the First Documentary Film Festival of Mexico City, 21-30 September, with the projection of four winner films of the Brazilian International Festival of Environmental Film and Video (FICA) Festival.

- 4. Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity -building**
- § Organized in collaboration with UNIFEM, the Workshops “Women, Poverty and Environment”, Leon, Nicaragua, 7-9 August and Nacaome, Honduras, 10-12 August;
 - § Printed and distributed the Environmental Training Bulletin, Volume 18, Number 38 (Spanish and English);
 - § Held the Integrated Management on Solid Waste Workshop, Buenos Aires; contributed to the discussion on Communication Strategies for the Combined Management of Solid Wastes;
 - § Opened the V Latin American Forum on Environment and Sustainable Development, as a main resource person at a full day short course on environmental education for 250 educators;
- 5. Multilateral environmental agreements**
- § Organized with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico, the Second National Forum on Chemical Substances in appliance to the Stockholm Convention, Mexico City, and presented on SAICM;
 - § Participated in the opening of the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Seas meeting, Panama City, and contributed in the discussions on integrating the work of UNEP in Latin America and the Caribbean in conjunction with the regional seas. A presentation on water and coast marine resources was made;
 - § Held the 13th Meeting of the General Authority of the Plan of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of the Southeast Pacific, in accordance to the institutional and financial Framework of the Plan of Action of the Southeast Pacific, as part of the Regional Seas Programme, in 31 August;
- 6. Promotion of sustainable consumption and production patterns**
- § Uploaded online the three Modules for the on-line Cleaner Production and Sustainable Consumption Course, coordinated by the Mexican Center of Cleaner Production (IPN);
 - § Provided assistance to the First Sub-regional Meeting on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) in the Andean Community, Lima, 3-4 August 3-4;
- 7. Engaging business and industry**
- § Made a presentation on the environmental principles of the Global Compact during the Workshop on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) for the Tourism Sector, Galapagos, 5-6 September;
 - § Participated at the 14th International Congress Enviro-Pro Mexico meeting, Mexico City, attended by the business community from the environmental and energy industries in Mexico;
- 8. Climate and atmosphere**
- § During the 49th. Executive Committee Meeting of the Multilateral Fund Secretariat, the following funds for Country Projects were approved: Grenada terminal phase-out management plan (first tranche); Nicaragua renewal of Institutional Strengthening Projects (Phase IV); and Saint Lucia renewal of Institutional Strengthening Projects (Phase IV);
 - § Organized the Workshop on Alternative (Ozone Friendly) Technologies for the Air-conditioning and Refrigerants Sector and the Preparatory Meeting of the English Speaking Caribbean ozone Officers, Kingston, 28 August-1 September;
 - § International Workshop for the Prevention of Illicit Trade of Ozone Depleting Substances, organized by the Government of Mexico, Chiapas, Mexico;
 - § Traveled to Haiti, to work with the Ministry of the Environment for the coordination of the Montreal Protocol Policy Workshop and to attend to the World Ozone Day activities.

E. Regional Office for North America

1. Keeping the world environmental situation under review

- § Briefed members of the U.S. State Department on the Google Earth project; Washington D.C., 11 July;
- § Delivered a presentation on Global Environmental Alert Service at the 35th Assembly of Committee on Space Research; Beijing, 16-23 July;
- § Met with Water Staveloz, International Relations Director of Association of Science-Technology Centers to discuss possibility of partnering on climate change and the Polar Year Opening. The preliminary discussion about possible cooperation, especially in use of UNEP Atlas photos resulted in mutual agreement on needs and benefits; Washington D.C., 4 August;
- § Provided input from UNEP's 2005 Report, "Assessing Coastal Vulnerability", to two chapters of Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) – The Global Challenge, to be published by the Research Publishing Services (RPS) in August 2006 by the University of Madras;
- § Met with Marty Frederick, Lawrence Friedl, and Ed Sheffner at NASA to discuss future UNEP collaboration with NASA; Washington D.C., 28 August;
- § Released and distributed the Google and UNEP partnership through Google Earth, 13 September. Google's millions of viewers now have full access to all sites featured in UNEP's Atlases of Environmental Change. Google Earth blogs quickly picked up on the new layers and wide publicity for UNEP;
- § Gave a special presentation on "Opportunities to link the North America Atlas with satellite imagery depicting environmental change in North America" at the North American Atlas coordination meeting organized by the Commission on Environmental Cooperation (CEC), Washington D.C., 19 September;

2. Post conflict environmental assessments

- § Discussed with the Government of the United States further cooperation, Washington D.C., 13-14 September;

3. Global Programme of Action

- § Met with Michael Curley of EPA to discuss Terms of Reference for pre-feasibility study in connection with the Caribbean Revolving Fund for Wastewater Management; Washington D.C., 13 September;

4. Engaging business and industry

- § Conducted teleconference with Marc Duchesne, Director - Corporate Responsibility and Environment at Bell Canada (and Global E-Sustainability Initiative Vice Chair) on input for the marketing survey; Washington D.C., 7 July;
- § Met with Michelle Anthony GRID Sioux Falls and Dave Renné from the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) on the Solar and Wind Energy Resource (SWERA) website development, as a tool for promoting renewable energy products, Washington D.C., 11 July and 19-22 September;
- § Attended Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI) Congressional briefing on the value of incorporating high-performance "green" design in buildings: High-Performance Green Buildings - A Look at Their Benefits and the Role of Federal Policy; Washington D.C., 20 July;
- § Met with Timothy Whitehouse, North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC). Discussions evolved around possible ways of collaboration between both programmes in light of CEC new study on Green Buildings: "Opportunities and Challenges in North America"; Washington D.C., 8 August;
- § Participated in the Rethinking Sustainable Construction Conference, in particular, the Financing and Valuing Sustainable Property working dinner and following workshop, Sarasota, Florida, 18-20 September;

- § Participated in the Engineers for a Sustainable Future Annual conference 'Envisioning Sustainability', Panel member on the special workshop session on Responsible Property Investing, Iowa City, Iowa, 27-29 September;

5. **Environmental law**

- § Delivered a presentation followed by the panel discussion at the event: "The Future of Technology Transfer under International Environmental Agreements", co-sponsored by the American Bar Association, Section of International Law, and the Environmental Law Institute (ELI); Washington D.C., 18 July;

6. **Civil society, involvement of young people**

- § Attended conference on the "U.S. Press treatment of the climate change issues" organized by the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, in support of UNEP's activities in the global warming issues; Washington D.C., 20 July;
- § Participated in the "US Meeting to release report on proposal for US long-term energy security" organized by the Center for American Progress, following UNEP's activities in climate and energy areas; Washington D.C., 26 July;
- § Participated in teleconference with Cornell Global Labor Institute and partners regarding May 2007 North American Conference on Labor and the Environment; Washington D.C., 8 August;
- § Attended the Washington Summit on Climate Stabilization for religious leaders, sponsored by The Climate Institute; Washington D.C., 20 September;
- § Hosted special award events for Abigail Parker, 11 year-old winner of the runner-up award in the 15th International Children's Painting Competition on the Environment for the North American region, Washington D.C., 20 July. The special acknowledgement letter was handed by her district Congressman, M. Ferguson;
- § Delivered presentation on UNEP to the UN Family summer interns as part of "This is the UN – Brownbag Seminar Series" organized by the UNIC and UNDP-USA; Washington D.C., 26 July;

7. **Regional implementation of the programme of work**

- § Delivered briefing to a group of 50 Congressional Group Leadership Council members on UNEP's activities; Washington D.C., 7 July;
- § Attended Organization of American States (OAS) panel to prepare environmental component of fall ministerial meeting; Washington D.C., 14 September;
- § Discussed further cooperation between the United States Government and UNEP-ROA, Washington D.C., 20-22 September;
- § Clinton Foundation to explore funding possibilities; Washington D.C., 18 September;
- § Attended a series of meetings in Canada to brief government officials and non-governmental organizations on the recent structural and programmatic changes within UNEP and the progress on GMEF preparations, in addition to exploring avenues of future cooperation:
- § Explored the possibility of the City of Montreal serving as Global Host for the World Environment Day in 2009 with the Office of the Mayor of Montreal;
- § Attended a Conference on Energy and the Environment sponsored by the European Institute; Washington D.C., 27 September;

8. **Lead and cadmium, as well as the mercury programme**

- § Briefed the United States Government on the relevant activities, Washington D.C., 12-14 July;
- § Participated in the NGO roundtable hosted by Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL);

F. Regional Office for West Asia

1. Bali Strategic Plan

- § Participated in a meeting with the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (ISESCO) to discuss joint programming activities for capacity building, resulting on a programme of action for draft joint activities, Rabat, 10 July;
- § Continued with the provision of support to Qatar in the development of the “Green Gulf Initiative” for the Gulf Cooperation Council Countries, to provide capacity building and technology support in priority areas.

2. MEAs

- § Participation in the UNCCD 7th Asia-Pacific Regional Focal Point Meeting to discuss and identify solutions to challenges facing the implementation of the Sub-Regional Action Programme in West Asia, Bangkok, 7-11 August
- § Participation in the Halon Technical Options Committee, Winnipeg, Canada, 22-24 August;
- § Participated in the 1st and 2nd Meetings of the Saudi Arabia National Ozone Committee providing technical advice in the preparation of the Country Programme and National Phase Out Plan, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, 26-28 August and 18-19 September;
- § Meeting with the National Ozone Unit of Yemen to elaborate the Work Plan for the Refrigeration Management Programme in the country, 3-7 September;
- § Provision of technical guidance to the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC) Workshop on National Communication Reports from Non-Annex 1 Parties under the UNFCCC, Cairo, 10-11 September;
- § Participation in the Meeting of the National Ozone Unit of Qatar to prepare the country’s Terminal Phase-Out Management Plan, Doha, 20-21 September;
- § Provided technical guidance to the 4th Meeting of the Arab Technical Team on Biodiversity and Desertification and the CITES Arab Focal Point Meeting, Cairo, 20-22 September;

3. SAICM

- § Participated in the SAICM Regional Conference for Africa, Cairo, 11-14 September;
- § Provided technical guidance to the 20th Meeting of the Arab Technical Team on MEAs relevant to Chemicals and Waste Management, Cairo, 16-18 September;

4. Updated water policy and strategy

- § Continued the collaborative work with the sister UN agencies in the region, including activities relating to the organization of the Training Workshop for Parliamentarians on Integrated Water Resource Management to take place in November 2006
- § Co-organized with UNESCO the Workshop on Efficient Water Demand Management in Arid Regions, Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, 17-21 September;

5. Keeping the world environmental situation under review

- § Continued with the provision of technical and policy support to the Government of Lebanon in the aftermath of the conflict faced by Lebanon. Also participated in meetings organized by UNDP Bahrain to provide information to NGOs and the media on the UN activities in Lebanon during and after the conflict, 8 and 13 August;
- § Supported to the Regional Organisation for the Protection of the Marine Environment (ROPME) in the development of their State of the Marine Environment Report;
- § Organized a Workshop on Integrated Environmental Assessment, Doha, 28-30 August;
- § Continued with the development of the GEO Data Portal and Database of Experts and institutions, Abu Dhabi, 20-21 September.

6. Other activities

- § Participated in and provided sponsorship of Regional Meetings⁵⁵
- § Participated in and provided sponsorship of National Meetings⁵⁶

XI. Global Environment Facility

37. UNEP continued to implement its role in the Global Environment Facility (GEF) through corporate support to GEF, providing the secretariat for the scientific and technical advisory panel, and through the development and implementation of a portfolio of projects with several partners that focus on environmental assessment, analyses, research, the development of tools and methods for improved environmental management, and projects requiring regional and transboundary cooperation.

1. The initiation of a New Phase of GEF

38. The projects approved with GEF financing during this reporting period was low as the GEF is at the end of its Phase III and moving into a new phase where a Resource Allocation Framework (RAF) will be applied to all projects in the focal areas of biodiversity and climate change and where the replenishment for GEF IV was at the time still not effective to fund projects for GEF phase IV. The UNEP projects approved were:

- (a) National Capacity Needs Self-Assessment for the Global Environment Management - Turkey (approved 02/08/2006)
- (b) Regional Eastern Europe: Financing Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Investments for Climate Change Mitigation (Approved 26/10/2006)
- (c) Regional Africa: African Rift Geothermal Development Facility (ARGeo) - project preparation grant (PDF C) approval (Approved 03/11/2006)

39. While a new replenishment of the GEF for its Phase IV was agreed by the donors in the order of US\$ 3 billion, a minimum threshold of commitments will be needed for GEF Phase IV to be effective. In the meantime, a pipeline of some US\$ 1.7 billion in GEF projects across all GEF Implementing and specialized Executing Agencies of the GEF had been approved into the GEF pipeline for its next phase of GEF IV. With the arrival of a new CEO of the GEF, an exercise has begun to review this 'approved' pipeline of projects on the grounds that the GEF needs urgently to focus its operations. This pipeline of projects which were already approved into the official pipeline, including from UNEP, is being resubmitted to the GEF for 're-entry' into the pipeline. Projects that do not fall within the comparative advantage of the Implementing Agencies or are not seen to add enough strategic value to the GEF's overall objectives will be dropped from the pipeline.

2. UNEP's future role in GEF

40. With the GEF moving towards focusing its operations still further, other changes made within the GEF, that impact UNEP's operations in the GEF, include:

- § A new GEF policy, to go into effect in June 08, that no GEF Implementing or Executing Agency, including UNEP, will receive a corporate budget; This loss of financial resources is

⁵⁵ These meetings include the following: Participation in the UN-Organisation of the Islamic Conference General Cooperation Meeting, Rabat, Morocco, 11-13 July; Sponsorship of the participation of 4 experts to the 5th Arab Conference on Environmental Management from a Sustainable Development Perspective, organised by the Arab Administrative Development Organisation, Tunis, Tunisia, 27-31 August; Participation in the 1st Workshop on the Water Regional Project funded by the Government of Italy, Cairo, Egypt, 6-7 September; Participation in the USEPA Training Workshop on Environmental Impact Assessment, Manama, Bahrain, 10-13 September; Participation in the International Conference on Environmental Protection in Coastal Zones, Lattakia, Syria, 18-20 September; Participation at the 1st International Conference on the Clean Development Mechanism, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, 19-21 September; Participation in the African and Arab Regional Workshop on Emerging Technologies for Pollution Reduction and Pollution Prevention, Cairo, Egypt, 20-22 September.

⁵⁶ These meetings include the following: Provision of interview for Radio Bahrain in celebration of 2006 the International Year of Desertification, 9 July; Meeting with the Iraqi Minister of Environment to discuss UNEP's work in Iraq and to present UNEP's proposals to be submitted to the Iraq Trust Fund, Amman, Jordan, 2 September; Ongoing provision of technical guidance to the Bahrain National Development Strategy, 10-11 September.

compensated by an increase of project fees to the Implementing Agencies from 9 to 10% which is used to provide technical and financial oversight of projects in the portfolio. However, despite this, UNEP will incur a reduction of US\$ 2.5 million in its annual operating budget for its work in the GEF;

- § The specialized Executing Agencies of the GEF (FAO, UNIDO, IFAD and the Regional Development Banks) will be provided direct access to the GEF rather than having to work through the 3 GEF Implementing Agencies (UNDP, UNEP and the World Bank) although they could still choose to do so. This will make the GEF an even more competitive environment for project funding among the GEF Implementing and Executing Agencies;
- § Given that UNEP will be hardest hit in financial and operational terms by these 2 policy decisions, the GEF CEO has guaranteed UNEP a work programme of 10% of the overall GEF work programme, which is to be agreed over the next months. The aim is that UNEP can use this guaranteed work programme to be more strategic with the overall aim of using its 10% of financial resources to develop and implement a work programme in the GEF that can influence the way the GEF spends its overall resources. This would include using its scientific and technical analytical role, its assessment capabilities, methodology work to be more influential over the way the GEF operates (influencing GEF's strategy and investments);

3. Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP)

41. With the GEF placing a considerable emphasis on the comparative advantage of its Implementing and Executing partners, it is also putting more emphasis on receiving cost effective delivery of the financial resources it provides to other entities of the GEF such as the STAP. UNEP provides the secretariat to STAP and its future role in the GEF will be affected by how the STAP operates and the utility of its outputs for the rest of the GEF partners. A recent STAP meeting was held which has outlined the next steps to make the STAP more effective and which will require substantially more involvement of UNEP in providing technical backstopping to the STAP:

- § The work programme of STAP for the year will include critical work on the GEF's focal area strategies, an exercise that will refine the GEF's focus and for which STAP is to have a key role;
- § Developing an improved process by which STAP identifies and executes its work programme including through support of UNEP and the scientific networks that UNEP works with;
- § A proposal to show how STAP is being as cost effective as the GEF's Evaluation Office which operates on the same level of budget;
- § A refined process for STAP's scientific and technical review of projects under development and implementation that can show utility of the STAP reviews in project design;

XII. Budget and administrative matters

42. In response to *decision 23/4 D (Flow of financial information between the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nation Office at Nairobi and the secretariats of relevant conventions)*, direct access to headquarters databases has been secured at all convention secretariats and regional seas programmes outside Nairobi.

XIII. Preparation for the Ninth Special Session and the Twenty-Fourth Session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum

43. In keeping with *decision 23/12 (Provisional agendas, dates and venues of the ninth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum and the twenty-fourth session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum)*, the UNEP secretariat in consultation with the CPR and its Bureau, continued with the preparatory activities for organizing the twenty-fourth session of GC/GMEF. Discussions are ongoing within the secretariat and with the Governments on ways and means to improve GC/GMEF, in particular making the ministerial-level consultations more effective.

^a Other major activities in the area of post-conflict environmental assessments include the following

A. Lebanon

1. **Environmental impact of conflict:** Since the start of the conflict on 12 July, 2006 the Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit (JU) monitored key environmental issues and potential sites of impact. During this process, technical support was provided by PCoB and UNEP MAP, political support was provided by ROWA and external communications support, including a website, was provided by DCPI. Following the ceasefire agreement on 19 August, 2006 the JU deployed experts to the region to rapidly assess acute environmental risks and to conduct initial coordination of the response to the oil spill. The post-conflict response was then gradually handed over to PCoB's leadership to conduct a more detailed post-conflict environmental assessment (see below). The cooperation achieved between the JU, PCoB, DCPI and ROWA during the Lebanon response is considered to be a model of best practice.
2. **Post-conflict environmental assessment:** Following a request from the Lebanese Minister of Environment, PCoB is preparing to conduct a post-conflict environmental assessment of Lebanon to assess and mitigate environmental damage resulting from the conflict. The work is being funded by the Governments of Norway and Switzerland and is included within the national Lebanon Early Recovery Plan. Field work is scheduled to take place between 30 September-21 October, 2006 and the post-conflict assessment report is scheduled for release during December 2006. PCoB will conduct the assessment in close cooperation with ROWA, the JU, UNDP-Beirut, IUCN and local counterparts such as the American University of Beirut, National Council for Scientific Research and Lebanese Ministry of Environment. The assessment team will be lead by PCoB, and include two experts from ROWA and one expert from the JU. The assessment will cover the following thematic areas:
 - i) Solid waste
 - ii) Industrial contamination
 - iii) Coastal / marine contamination
 - iv) Water resources
 - v) Asbestos and air pollution
 - vi) Issues relating to weapons used
3. **Oil spill:** The most visible environmental impact from the conflict to date has been the oil spill resulting from the bombing of the Jiyeh power plant between 13-15 July, 2006. The JU played a central coordinating role in relation to the oil spill response during the conflict, while post-conflict coordination is handled by the IMO & UNEP Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC).

B. Sudan

1. **Post-conflict environmental assessment:** The post-conflict environmental assessment, currently in progress, is designed to provide a comprehensive analysis of the current status of the environment for all of Sudan, with an emphasis on current conflicts, peace building and post-conflict recovery. The assessment entails 10 field missions covering over 60 locations, remote sensing and desk based research. Fieldwork is now complete. The drafting of the report is being finalized in parallel with local consultations to ensure national ownership of report recommendations. The public launch of the report will take place in January 2007.
2. **Film making:** A documentary film maker accompanied field missions to North and South Sudan to gather footage for a documentary film and video news release (VNR). Production of the VNR is ongoing and is planned for completion in conjunction with the release of the assessment report. Development of the full documentary requires additional funding.
3. **Capacity building and environmental diplomacy:** A major capacity building workshop took place in Khartoum from 18-20 July, 2006 sponsored primarily by UNEP, the EC, the World Bank and the Nile Basin Initiative. This 3 day event, attended by 300 people including high-level national representatives, was the first event of its kind after the peace process to bring both Northern and Southern stakeholders together in a technical forum on the environment. A second workshop will take place in Juba, South Sudan on 31 October-2 November, 2006.

In South Sudan capacity building by UNEP continued and significantly expanded with the installation of an environmental library in the Ministry of Environment and the appointment of a consultant providing technical assistance to public service administration.

4. **Darfur Joint Assessment Mission (JAM):** UNEP is participating in the UNDG Darfur JAM with strategic attendance, sponsorship of consultants to the process and provision of technical guidance material. There is a high level of awareness of environmental issues, with key areas being the impact of drought, land degradation and climate change, management of scarce water resources and the severe deforestation process. The recent escalation in the conflict is, however, expected to delay the JAM process and change many JAM findings, with environmental issues expected to worsen significantly.

5. **Sudan Environmental Information Center:** In July 2006 UNEP donated more than 400 books for the establishment of an environmental information centre at the Ministry of Environment of the Government of South Sudan (GOSS). An equal number of books were also donated to the Khartoum headquarters of the Sudanese Environment Conservation Society (SECS). UNEP established a partnership with SECS to provide an environmental information facility to promote informed decision-making within the Government of National Unity of Sudan and national and relevant international organisations.

C. Liberia

1. **Institutional capacity assessment for environmental management:** In August 2006 Mr. Ben Turtur Donnie was appointed Executive Director of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and immediately requested UNEP to undertake an institutional capacity assessment of the EPA. A UNEP mission was conducted to Liberia from 6-15 September, 2006. The aim of the assessment is to provide objective information on Liberia's institutional, policy and legal environmental framework and provide recommendations on strategic priorities for sustainable environmental management. Consultations were held with more than 20 key EPA staff and key ministries and agencies. Representatives from 15 environmental NGOs were met during a specially convened meeting of the Coalition of Environmental NGOs. A follow-up mission will take place already in October 2006, in order to give EPA full support on site.

2. **Assessment of environmental monitoring capacity:** A PCoB mission visited Liberia from 13-18 August, 2006 to commence Phase 1 of an assessment of the government's environmental monitoring capacity. 17 Government, UN, academic, semi-autonomous and research institutions, as well as an international NGO were visited. The mission found an urgent need for environmental laboratory capacity. Various institutions offered space to establish a Central Laboratory, but the exact location needs further discussion. Phases 2 and 3 of the project, scheduled for 2007-2008, would focus on the procurement, installation and commissioning of the monitoring equipment, and training, in Liberia, on purchased laboratory equipment.

3. **Introduction of EPA's Executive Director:** On 8 September 2006 Mr. Donnie was officially appointed as Executive Director (ED) of the EPA. UNEP pledged support to help build an accountable, transparent, representative and effective system for the sustainable use and development of the country's extensive natural resources.

4. **Environmental considerations of displacement – publication:** The UNEP publication, *“Environmental Considerations of Human Displacement in Liberia: A guide for decision makers and practitioners”* has been printed and will be released on 6 October 2006 at a national event in Liberia. As a follow-up to the work, the IDP Consultative Forum (ICF) was established and for the first time incorporated environmental considerations into the assessment of closed camps for IDP (Internally Displaced People). A series of recommendations were prioritized in August 2006 by UNEP, UNHCR, the EPA and the NGO Environmental Foundation of Africa for phased implementation, to be funded by UNHCR.

5. **Environmental vulnerability mapping:** A poster describing the methodology developed by UNEP in its work on the environmental dimensions of human displacement in Liberia has been produced and will be distributed with the release of the above mentioned publication.

6. **Biodiversity Protection:** The draft report flowing from a three part assessment examining the legal, scientific and institutional framework for protecting biodiversity, has been completed. The report aims to assist the Liberian government in identifying opportunities to conserve and manage its biological resources sustainably and complements the reform process underway in the forestry sector. The draft report will be reviewed by stakeholders in Liberia before finalisation.

D. Iraq

1. **Environmental information center:** Following training provided to Iraqi Ministry of Environment staff on environmental information management in Nairobi by DCPI during October 2005 and May 2006, the Ministry was during Q3 provided with computer equipment configured with library software, furniture, 1500 publications and subscriptions to international online research databases. A video conferencing facility has been set up part of the environmental information center to facilitate remote training. The Minister of Environment has requested UNEP to assist with the procurement of Arabic resources, which are available in Iraq, Lebanon and Jordan. With this assistance UNEP's support to the environmental information center is expected to be completed by Q4 2006.
2. **Environmental monitoring laboratory:** During Q3 UNEP delivered the first shipment of equipment for the establishment of an environmental monitoring laboratory, while the remaining equipment is in transit. This project component will be completed during Q4 with the installation of the equipment and class room and occupational training to Ministry staff on environmental monitoring and analyses.
3. **Capacity building:** On 2 September, 2006 UNEP (ROWA and PCoB) met with the Iraqi Minister of Environment in Amman to discuss progress of UNEP's capacity building programme. UNEP's Regional Office for West Asia presented two concept proposals on hazardous waste management and multilateral environmental agreements to the Minister. In addition, the results of the Institutional Capacity Assessment were presented and discussed.
4. **Depleted Uranium DU:** Field work on sampling for depleted uranium by Iraqi experts of the Radiation Prevention Centre (RPC) of the Iraqi Ministry of Environment has now been completed (Package II). All samples from Package I field work have been analysed and the first batch of samples from Package II are currently being analysed. The Capacity Building/DU report will be ready in late autumn 2006. In parallel, UNEP is continuously updating a DU database with available international information.
5. **Hazardous Waste:** After a competitive bidding process, a Lebanese firm was selected and contracted to conduct clean-up work at Al Qadissiya and Al Suwaira, two industrial contaminated sites identified by UNEP in the hotspot report on Iraq. Training was provided to employees and government staff on the methodologies and health safety protocols for hazardous waste collection and storage. Work at Al Suwaira included the collection and storage of pesticides was completed on 3 August, 2006. A total of 149 drums have been stored inside a warehouse and enclosed by warning tape. Work at the Al Qadissiya site was completed by the end of September 2006.

E. Afghanistan

1. **Priority Restructuring and Reform:** The National Environment Protection Agency (NEPA) is continuing the recruitment of key personnel under the UNEP supported Priority Reform and Restructuring Programme.
2. **Environmental Law:** UNEP assisted NEPA to defend the Environmental Law, approved by the Council of Ministers in December 2005, in Afghanistan's new National Assembly. This included capacity building of the Environment and Natural Resources Commission of the National Assembly. A regional workshop on the implementation of the Environmental Law and its relationship with other legislation was held in Kunduz. The text of the Forest Management Law has been finalized and is being translated. The national consultation process will commence in October 2006. Ozone regulations were passed and protected areas regulations submitted to the Ministry of Justice. Interim environmental impact assessment regulations have been developed, pursuant to a stakeholder consultation process on the national environmental impact assessment policy.
3. **Multilateral Environmental Agreements:** The Third National Report under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) has been finalized and submitted to the Secretariat. The national consultation and stocktaking exercise has been undertaken within the framework of the National Initial Communication under the UN Convention on Climate Change. National consultation on the biodiversity Desk Study Thematic Assessment, developed under Afghanistan's National Capacity Needs and Self-Assessment (NCSA) and National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA) projects, has been undertaken. Input was provided to a National Report submitted under the UN Convention to Combat Desertification. A national training and capacity building workshop on ozone was held with support from UNEP-ROAP and consultants GTZ and attended by officials from Iran, Pakistan and Tajikistan. Interim management plans have been finalized for two wetlands, one of which will be

nominated for inclusion on the Ramsar List of Wetlands of Importance. The documents and reports required for accession to the Ramsar Convention and the Convention on Migratory Species, have been finalized and submitted to the National Assembly.

4. **Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):** Based on the outcomes of national consultations, the draft EIA policy has been finalized and will be considered for approval by the Government of Afghanistan. EIA regulations have been drafted and will be submitted to the Ministry of Justice for review. The second phase of pollution control technical assistance commenced with the arrival of a chemical survey and waste expert and will focus on identifying the types of chemicals used by industry in Afghanistan and the main chemical pollutant likely to have a significant impact on human health and the environment. UNEP finalized a technical report on risks associated with a military hazardous waste site in the Panjshir Valley, which has been submitted to UN and Government stakeholders for comment.
5. **Community-Based Natural Resources Management (CBNRM):** Three missions were conducted to Herat, Badakhshan, Kunduz, Takhar and Baghlan provinces to identify new CBNRM projects sites and to monitor ongoing projects. Three new potential project sites were identified in Badakhshan province as well as four new projects in Herat province.
6. **Environmental Education:** UNEP is about to launch a countrywide Environmental Awareness Campaign through Radio and TV in Afghanistan. UNEP is also in the final stages of preparing for Environmental Journalism training in Kabul. UNEP is working with a number of partners (UNICEF, USAID, Danida, UNOPS-APIF, GAIN, etc.) to gather information on demand for supplementary material and to coordinate and incorporate environmental education in curriculums. On UNEP's initiative a working group on Environmental Education and Awareness has been established with partners in GAIN and two meetings have been held to discuss outputs for broad dissemination.
7. **Support to ANDS:** UNEP supported NEPA in the development of its submissions to the Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS) – the Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRPS) for Afghanistan. Environment featured as a prominent cross-cutting priority in both documents.

F. Policy Development and Inter-agency Work

1. **UNDG Post-Conflict Needs Assessment (PCNA) Review:** Phase 1 of UNDG's PCNA review has been completed and consisted of a desk review of five PCNAs conducted to date. UNEP is part of the Core Learning Group and is, as such, playing a central role in addressing the way environment and natural resources are handled during PCNAs. UNEP conducted an internal "lessons learned" exercise during Phase 1 of the Review. This consisted of interviewing all staff members who have been involved in past PCNAs, examining gaps in PCNA guidance documents and in evaluating UNEP's final PCNA products against PCNA findings and recommendations. UNEP's findings were noted in a report and shared widely with UNDG and World Bank counterparts. During Phase 2 of the Review, which will continue until mid-November 2006, consultants are working on developing a framework for conflict analysis (FCA), and improving the integration of cross-cutting issues and security. UNEP is in regular contact with the consultants and is providing assistance as necessary to integrate environment and natural resources issues within the various analyses frameworks and assessment methods.
2. **Environment, conflict and peace building research partnership:** An Expression of Interest (EOI) was issued in June 2006 for a partnership between UNEP and relevant NGOs and academic institutes that could demonstrate their comparative advantage in the field of environment, conflict analyses and peace building. The partnership would develop methods and identify best practice for integrating environmental considerations within frameworks for conflict analyses (FCA) as i) the root or trigger of conflict; ii) an extenuating factor in conflict and iii) a stability factor in the post-conflict setting and component of peace building. Three organizations/consortia have responded to the EOI. Discussions are being held with each group to evaluate and select the partner. It is envisaged that the output methodologies of the partnership would contribute to developing an environmental component to the conflict analysis tool used by UNDG during PCNAs and would feed into Phase 2 of the UNDG PCNA Review mentioned above. The product would also be used as an input to the work of the Peace Building Commission.
3. **IASC Cluster Working Group on Early Recovery (CWGER):** UNEP is continuing to participate in the Working Group on Early Recovery to ensure that environment is included as a cross-cutting issue in the Cluster's activities. UNEP provided comments and inputs on the draft Guidance Note for Cluster members in the field and conducted an inventory of environmental tools that could be modified and used in the early recovery assessment process.

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4. **Peace Building Commission:** UNEP continues to monitor the establishment of the Peace Building Commission and will work to ensure environment and natural resource issues are included within the analyses framework.
5. **Fact-finding mission to Rwanda:** A preliminary UNEP fact-finding mission was conducted to Rwanda from 7-18 July, 2006. A scope of work for an assessment was drafted for potential implementation in 2007. The worked will be implemented in cooperation with ROA and DEWA, subject to donor funding.

^b The project, among other activities, has implemented drinking water facilities utilizing environmentally sound technologies in six rural communities. The report concluded that the project, which has been implemented successfully under very difficult circumstances, has had "a tremendous impact in confidence building within the communities," and also found that "the contribution and support given to the returning families of the Iraqi Marshlands through this project is deeply appreciated by the beneficiaries and has to a great extent alleviated suffering and covered the basic humanitarian need for sustaining life." The report also found "an increased confidence and desire on reviving life within the marshlands' ecosystem, encouraging many households to return to their village and begin their livelihood at the original locations of their roots, in turn resulting in an increased number of livestock, active production and supply of dairy products, reed related crafts, and other commodities for the main urban market centres, thus, adding to the income generation, employment, and generally, the prosperity of the community." The project was evaluated to have an overall positive outcome, and the report has strongly recommended additional projects for water supply.

Ten training manuals, completed within Phase I of the Iraqi Marshlands project, have been made available for free downloading from the IETC web site in English and Arabic

(URL: http://marshlands.unep.or.jp/default.asp?site=marshlands&page_id=859BBB84-BE8D-44D7-8CBF-89DD568A2728). The manuals address various aspects of sustainable environmental management of the Marshlands, and cover subject matters under three categories: policy and institutional, technical, and data management and analysis.
