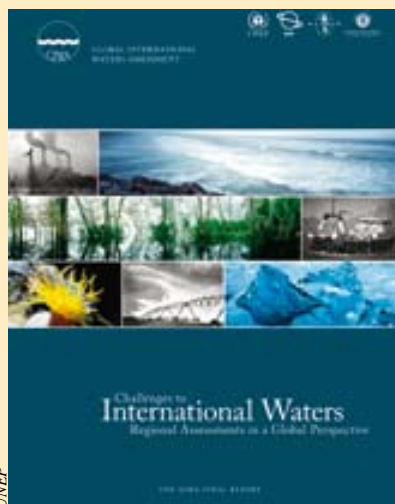


BOOKS & PRODUCTS



The triennial **UN World Water Development Report** – a joint undertaking of 24 UN agencies – was launched at the **World Water Forum** in Mexico City, Mexico, in March. It presents a comprehensive picture of freshwater resources in all regions and most countries of the world, as it tracks progress towards the water-related targets

of the **UN Millennium Development Goals**. It also outlines a set of conclusions and recommendations to guide future action and encourage sustainable use, productivity and management of our increasingly scarce freshwater resources. The **Global International Waters Assessment** – a UNEP-led and GEF-funded programme – published its final report at much the same time. Involving 1,500 experts, it warned that freshwater shortages are likely to trigger increased environmental damage over the next 15 years.

Clean Up the World, in partnership with UNEP, is encouraging members to organize environmental activities to coincide with **World Environment Day (WED)** in June 2006. Coordinated and promoted from Australia, the campaign inspires and empowers millions of people in over 100 countries to take simple, positive steps to improve and protect their environment. Last year's activities included

workshops in environmental leadership training and sustainable development for decision-makers and young scholars in Morocco; recycling of tyres, lead acid batteries, appliances and scrap metal in Pennsylvania, USA; a drawing competition in Hue, Vietnam; and a month long Eco-Festival in Athens, Greece. **Clean Up the World Weekend** will be celebrated on 15-17 September 2006.



UNEP

The first major investigation into the environmental impact of the Israeli disengagement from Gaza last year, by and large gives it a clean bill of health. Other than some localised pollution and issues associated with asbestos, **UNEP's Environmental Assessment of the Areas disengaged by Israel in the Gaza Strip** did not find contamination of water, land or buildings that pose a significant risk to the environment or public health. It said that as long as recommendations concerned with the necessary clean-up are implemented there are no environmental constraints to Palestinian settlement in the area. As well as being good news for the environment and for possible future economic investment in Gaza, the report demonstrates how environmental issues can be a potential bridge-building element between the Israelis and Palestinians as they seek to find new grounds for cooperation.

SHARKS 3D – an IMAX theatre documentary that offers audiences an astonishing close-up encounter with these fascinating and endangered creatures has drawn in its two millionth viewer since its release a year ago. Distributed worldwide by 3D Entertainment in collaboration with UNEP and with the support of



UNEP

the success of **Ocean Wonderland 3D**, focussing on the crucial function of the endangered coral reef system, released in February 2002 in association with UNEP and **WWF**.

Jean-Michel Cousteau's **Oceans Futures Society**, it has established itself as the second highest grossing IMAX theatre documentary released last year. It follows

Prominent science journalists and writers from around the world have collaborated to produce **DRY**, a book of 16 snapshots of what it is like to live in drylands. Their essays – drawn together into a book to mark the International Year of Deserts and Desertification by the Academy of Sciences for the Developing World and the Third World Network of Scientific Organizations – span the drylands of Africa, Asia, Central and South America, and the Middle East. From the attempt to save Egypt's corncrake to the creation of nets to trap fog and convert it to usable water for the people of the Atacama desert, they tell how people attempt to improve their environment and quality of life through knowledge or research ■