



## Chapter 3:

# Civil Society Participation in the Implementation of UNEP's Programme of Work

© Vu Hai-UNEP / Still Pictures, Planting Trees: The Infertile soil is returning to life, Vietnam, Lap Thach, Vinh Phuc Province

**D**ecisions taken by governments at UNEP's Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GC/GMEF) serve as the basis for UNEP's Programme of Work. Many UNEP Governing Council Decisions call for active civil society participation in UNEP's work, as this involvement is necessary for strong results given civil society's scientific and legal expertise as well as its outreach abilities and in some cases its financial resources. For further information about the annual GC/GMEF, including background documentation and decisions taken, see <http://www.unep.org/resources/gov/>.

As civil society organisations seek to develop future collaborative activities with UNEP, they should consider how the work they are interested in undertaking would support Governing Council decisions as well as the overall objectives for the six thematic priorities established in UNEP's Medium-Term Strategy: Climate Change, Disasters and Conflict, Ecosystem Management, Environmental Governance, Harmful Substances and Hazardous Wastes, and Resource Efficiency and Sustainable Consumption and Production.

## Climate Change

On Climate Change, the MTS identifies UNEP's overall objective as: to strengthen the ability of countries to integrate climate change responses into national development processes.

Consistent with the UNFCCC and within the broader UN approach for dealing with climate change, the objectives and expected accomplishments focus on providing environmental leadership in the four areas prominent in the international response to climate change: adaptation, mitigation, technology, and finance. The work of UNEP will complement other processes and the work of other institutions and will emphasise the substantial co-benefits of climate change actions and their contribution to environmental sustainability. This will include efforts to create enabling environments at the national level through the promotion of national legislative, economic, and institutional frameworks that are adequate to address the climate change challenges.

UNEP will assist vulnerable states to adapt to a changing climate by building resilience in sectors of national priority with a special focus on national, subnational, and city level assessments, ecosystems management, economic incentives, disaster preparedness and supporting the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. In the area of mitigation, UNEP will support countries to make a transition towards societies based on more efficient use of energy, energy conservation, and utilisation of cleaner energy sources, with a focus on renewable energy, and on improved land management.

UNEP is already undertaking several important climate change initiatives in co-operation with Major Groups, including those described below.

On the issue of biofuels, UNEP is partnering with governments, industries, and civil societies through the Roundtable on Sustainable Biofuels (RSB) to create a set of criteria and recommendations to ensure that biofuels are sustainable. This list of criteria will allow governments, investors, and decision-makers to evaluate biofuels in a consistent and standardised manner. The principles informing this process include considerations such as biodiversity, climate change, water consumption, land use, and ensuring proper labor conditions. To ensure that the principles and criteria of sustainable biofuel production reflect the views of civil society, UNEP has organised three regional outreach meetings, one in Belo Horizonte, Brazil, in October 2007, one in Shanghai, China, in November 2007, and one in New Delhi, India, in June 2008.

For further information, see <http://www.unep.fr/energy/activities/rsb/> and <http://www.unep.fr/energy/bioenergy/documents/pdf/VersionZero.pdf>.

Another ongoing climate change initiative being carried out with the active co-operation of Business and Industry is the Caring for Climate Network, a voluntary network of businesses committed to climate action launched in 2007 that now has signatories from over 200 companies in 48 countries. The group's platform, launched by UNEP, the UN Global Compact, and the World Business Council, calls on its members to promote energy-efficient practices, engage with national governments, cooperate and share information, and champion active responses to the dangers of climate change. The platform also calls on governments to create financial and legislative frameworks to harness the power of the market to combat climate change and to invest in public projects designed to address climate challenges. Finally, the compact calls for co-operation and coordination between the private and public sectors as well as the United Nations. At the Global Compact Leader Summit in 2007, the three groups sponsoring the **Caring for Climate Network** released a book entitled *Caring for Climate: Tomorrow's Leadership Today*. This book contains a collection of best practices from businesses participating in the network and examples of success stories from a variety of industries involved in fighting climate change.

For further information, see [http://www.unglobalcompact.org/docs/news\\_events/8.1/caring\\_for\\_climate.pdf](http://www.unglobalcompact.org/docs/news_events/8.1/caring_for_climate.pdf) and <http://www.globalcompactsummit.org/docs/UNGC07-CaringForClimate.pdf>.

## Disasters and Conflict

On Disasters and Conflict, the MTS identifies UNEP's overall objective as: *to minimise environmental threats to human well-being arising from the environmental causes and consequences of conflicts and disasters*.

Within this priority area of work, UNEP will play a leadership role in building national capacity to minimise threats to human well-being arising from the environmental causes and consequences of conflicts and disasters. The desire for greater coherence in the UN system and the Bali Strategic Plan offer an important opportunity to play this role and to develop an integrated approach to disasters and conflicts, spanning the key pillars of risk reduction, post-crisis environmental assessments, and environmental recovery. This work will contribute to achieving the Millennium Development Goals and the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005–2015<sup>3</sup>.

Within these pillars, UNEP will emphasise the importance of addressing environmental risks and vulnerabilities as a prerequisite to sustainable development. UNEP will seek to integrate environmental management needs within the recovery plans and peacebuilding strategies of relevant United Nations actors, including UN Country Teams, the United Nations Development Group, and the Peacebuilding Commission.

<sup>3</sup> Hyogo Framework for Action 2005–2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters (A/CONF.206/6 and Corr.1, chap. I, resolution 2).

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UNEP is already cooperating with several Major Groups in this area of work, including through five key partnerships established in 2008 under the Environment, Conflict and Peacebuilding (ECP) programme. The ECP programme aims to prevent natural resources from contributing to conflict relapse, while at the same time using environmental co-operation as a platform for dialogue, confidence building, and reconciliation in post-conflict countries.

First, UNEP is providing technical expertise to the **UN Peacebuilding Commission Support Office** (PBSO). In this regard, UNEP seconded an environmental advisor to the PBSO in New York for a two-year period starting in March 2008. The advisor acts as the focal point for natural resources and environmental issues in PBSO, channeling the environmental experience and best practice of UNEP and other stakeholders into peacebuilding plans, policies, and processes.

Second, UNEP established an **Expert Advisory Group on Environment, Conflict, and Peacebuilding**. Coordinated by the International Institute for Sustainable Development, the advisory group provides independent expertise, develops tools and policy inputs, and identifies best practices in using natural resources and the environment in ways that contribute to peacebuilding. The group is composed of senior experts from academic institutions, NGOs, and think-tanks that have demonstrated leadership in environment and conflict issues. Members include experts from Duke University, Columbia University, the University of Maryland, the University of California at Irvine, the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, Adelphi Research, and Global Witness.

Third, as a complement to the Expert Advisory Group, UNEP has joined forces with IUCN, the Environmental Law Institute, and the Universities of Tokyo and McGill to collect, analyse, and publish 60 case studies on how natural resource management can contribute to peacebuilding in post-conflict countries. The project, entitled "**Strengthening post-conflict recovery and peacebuilding through natural resource management,**" comprises a focused research and awareness-raising programme that will culminate in the publication of an edited volume of case studies, cross-cutting analyses, and lessons learned for practitioners, scholars, and others working on post-conflict peacebuilding.

Fourth, UNEP has established a partnership with the **Earth Institute at Columbia University**, which covers research and co-operation on the environmental drivers and impacts of conflict and disasters. It includes an internship programme, lecture exchanges, as well as joint research and events. Within the framework of this co-operation, a new Masters-level course has been developed within the Earth Institute on environment, conflict, and peacebuilding.

Finally, UNEP is an associated partner in a proposed European research project involving 14 universities and private sector companies on monitoring environment and security linkages. The GEMOSEC research programme, managed by the University of Salzburg, aims to integrate

remote-sensing technology, natural science, and social science in understanding and monitoring environment and security linkages. The project will train next-generation researchers to carry out interdisciplinary research. It will also develop and apply methods to assess potential hotspots and advance early-warning mechanisms. UNEP's role is to share expertise, identify technical needs, peer review methods, provide training, and help focus research topics.

## Ecosystem Management

On Ecosystem Management, the MTS identifies UNEP's overall objective as: *ensuring that countries utilise the ecosystem approach to enhance human well-being.*

Facilitating management and restoration of ecosystems in a sustainable manner for socio-economic development is a key area of work for UNEP. UNEP will continue to catalyse integrated approaches for assessment and management of freshwater, terrestrial, and coastal and marine systems, including through integrated water resources management, land degradation assessment in drylands, the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, and the Regional Seas Programme.

In facilitating a more integrated approach, UNEP will draw upon its knowledge and on integrated environmental assessments for more effective management of natural systems at multiple scales and across sectors. UNEP will promote adaptive management, participatory decision-making, and sustainable financing through payments for ecosystem services to address the disjointed approach to natural system management that has led to the loss of biological diversity, fragmented habitats, and a decline in ecosystem services critical for human well-being.

UNEP will continue to promote the strong linkages between the state of ecosystems and human well-being, including the aspects of poverty and health. These interlinkages have been clearly demonstrated through the *Millennium Ecosystem Assessment*, a landmark assessment of the consequences of ecosystem change for human well-being coordinated by UNEP and carried out by more than 1,300 authors from 95 countries. For further information, see <http://www.millenniumassessment.org/en/index.aspx>.

In addition to the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment process itself, UNEP has undertaken several other important initiatives related to ecosystem management in co-operation with Major Groups, including those described below.

**The International Coral Reef Action Network (ICRAN)**, established in 2000, is a global partnership of coral reef experts working to halt and reverse the decline of the health of the world's coral reefs. It is made up of some of the world's leading coral reef scientists and conservation groups. CSO partners include the World Resources Institute (WRI), WWF, and the Nature Conservancy.

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ICRAN works closely with UNEP's Regional Seas Programme and its regional offices, which enables the implementation of concrete activities and coordination of regional action. The successes of this programme are an excellent example of how regional bodies, in this case the Regional Seas Programme, can be used as an effective platform to implement projects and activities at the regional and even global level. For further information, see [www.icran.org](http://www.icran.org).

The Great Apes Survival Project (GRASP) is an innovative and ambitious project of UNEP and UNESCO with an immediate challenge: to lift the threat of imminent extinction faced by gorillas, chimpanzees, bonobos, and orang-utans. The Executive Director of UNEP launched the GRASP in May 2001. It is an example of a successful civil society, UNEP, and private sector partnership coordinated by a UN agency. (See Box 3 for more on the ingredients of this success.) The keen interest of civil society in this partnership is reflected in GRASP's patrons—Dr. Russell Mittermeier, Dr. Jane Goodall, Prof. Toshisada Nishida, and Dr. Richard Leakey—all highly recognised by civil society, and by the high number of states and environmental NGOs involved in the partnership. GRASP also works with the private sector, including the timber and mining industry.

### Box 3. GRASP: An Example of a Successful Partnership

- Ensuring coordinated efforts among all the partners, especially NGOs, to promote collaboration of these organisations. GRASP facilitates exchange of information, promotes efficient utilisation of funds, and helps foster co-operation.
- Enabling all the parties concerned to speak with a strong and unique voice to the wider public, raising the level of public awareness on the critical great apes situation (through videos, press conferences, exhibitions, publications, etc.).
- Enabling civil society organisations to engage with ministers and governments, in a productive multistakeholder dialogue, for example, through the GRASP Council, GRASP's guiding body that includes a seat for each member organisation.
- Linking the local reality to the global policy arena. GRASP financially supported rangers from national parks with great apes to attend the World Parks Congress in Durban and has provided resources for capacity building within range-state national parks.
- Enabling effective action at the local level. UNEP, through its work in GRASP, coordinates with major NGOs and directly involves grassroots NGOs and local communities.

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Speaking with a unified and coordinated voice for great ape conservation is GRASP's most immediate challenge. In the longer term, GRASP has significant potential to match its record of growth in respect to partnerships with and among CSOs. UNEP has sought to include more members of civil society in GRASP, especially those working directly with great apes and communities, and it has succeeded in bringing a wide variety of stakeholders to the table. For example, the GRASP coalition now includes 23 states with great ape populations as well as several dozen NGOs. For further information, see [www.unep.org/grasp](http://www.unep.org/grasp).

The UNDP-UNEP **Poverty-Environment Initiative (PEI)** is a joint project designed to make governments aware of the linkage between the environment and poverty and to advocate for the mainstreaming of environmental policies. The PEI is now active in nine countries and is expanding to increase its worldwide scope. Environmental factors such as pollution, water depletion, and deforestation have significant negative effects not only on natural ecosystems but also on human development. Policies that damage the environment contribute to human poverty and suffering, while well-designed programmes can simultaneously protect the environment and lead impoverished areas to stronger economic growth. The PEI advocates for government programmes promoting both environmental protection and poverty reduction by "mainstreaming" these policies into national planning processes, illustrating the link between poverty and the environment, and providing training, technical, and financial support necessary to implement these policies.

In several countries, the PEI has accomplished these goals through co-operation with civil society. In Rwanda, the PEI partnered with a number of local civil society organisations to develop that nation's District Development Plans. It also created training programmes to teach youth and women about the link between poverty and the environment, and has involved civil society in the policymaking process. In Mozambique, all of the pilot projects have been implemented with the active involvement of civil society organisations, and the PEI plans to continue this practice with future initiatives. In Uganda, CSOs have been involved with the implementation of micro-projects and with advocacy work at district levels. In Tanzania, the PEI worked through the Foundation for Civil Society, a non-profit national institution that serves as a liaison between the government and civil society. Through this co-operation the PEI and FCS raised awareness of laws and policies related to poverty and the environment, built training programmes, and coordinated with the country's national development strategy, MKUKUTA, which stands for the National Strategy for Growth and Reduction of Poverty in Kiswahili. And in Mali and Mauritania, the PEI is currently developing micro-projects that will be implemented by local civil society organisations.

For further information, see <http://www.unpei.org/about/index.asp>. On Tanzania's initiative, see <http://www.povertymonitoring.go.tz/> and <http://www.thefoundation-tz.org/>.

## Environmental Governance

On Environmental Governance, the MTS identifies UNEP's overall objective as: *ensuring that environmental governance at country, regional, and global levels is strengthened to address agreed environmental priorities.*

Environmental governance at the national, regional, and global levels is critical for the achievement of environmental sustainability. At the global level, UNEP will help to improve coherence and co-operation among environment-related mechanisms. This will include identifying interlinkages among Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) to provide an opportunity for more effective implementation at all levels and to achieve the objectives for each cross-cutting thematic priority.

UNEP will, at all levels, support governments in establishing, implementing, and strengthening the necessary processes, institutions, laws, policies, and programmes to achieve sustainable development and will contribute to the evolution of norms and standards to secure the environmental basis for sustainable development. UNEP will continue to promote co-operation and action based on sound science.

UNEP will work with United Nations entities, international institutions, regional and national bodies, MEAs, governments, civil society, and the private sector to increase the mainstreaming of environment into other sectoral processes and policies, including at the country level. UNEP will also play an active role in the ongoing governance debate at the UN General Assembly and through its Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum. UNEP will continue to support and contribute to the Environmental Management Group and the United Nations Development Group.

UNEP has already undertaken several important initiatives related to environmental governance in co-operation with Major Groups, including those described below.

In February 2001, the UNEP GC/GMEF adopted the third 10-year programme (2001–2010) for work in environmental law: "The Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law of the First Decade of the Twenty-first Century (Montevideo Programme III)." **The Montevideo Programme III** is made up of 20 components, which are organised under three themes of equal importance: i) effectiveness of environmental law; ii) conservation and management; and iii) relationship between environmental law and other fields of law and policy.

The Montevideo Programme III focuses firstly on achieving an effective implementation of, compliance with, and enforcement of environmental law, rather than creating new international legal tools (component 1). The second major objective (component 2) of the programme consists of

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increasing the capacity of national institutions in developing countries to develop and implement environmental legal instruments. Public participation and access to information are also major objectives of the Montevideo Programme III (component 7).

UNEP is currently implementing Montevideo Programme III. A mid-term review of its implementation was undertaken in 2004, and the results were submitted to the Governing Council at its 23rd session in 2005. UNEP has already started working on the development of the fourth Montevideo Programme, in co-operation with relevant experts. For further information, see [http://www.unep.org/law/About\\_prog/montevideo\\_prog.asp](http://www.unep.org/law/About_prog/montevideo_prog.asp).

Public participation is necessary to implement environmental laws. If a government, in its task to regulate and help its citizens to live in harmony, adopts a law, then the public needs to be aware of it and to share responsibility in daily implementation. In this regard, tangible implementation of Principle 10 of the Earth Summit's Rio Declaration on Environment and Development is crucial, which states that environmental issues are best handled with participation of all concerned citizens, at the relevant level, and calls for i) access to information, ii) increased public participation, and iii) effective access to justice.

Along with IUCN, UNDP, the World Bank, governments, WRI, and other partners, UNEP is a founding member of the **"Partnership for Principle 10" (PP10)**.

### Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration states the following:

*"Environmental issues are best handled with the participation of all concerned citizens, at the relevant level. At the national level, each individual shall have appropriate access to information concerning the environment that is held by public authorities, including information on hazardous materials and activities in their communities, and the opportunity to participate in decision-making processes. States shall facilitate and encourage public awareness and participation by making information widely available. Effective access to judicial and administrative proceedings, including redress and remedy, shall be provided."*

Under PP10, UNEP has committed to increasing its performance in providing adequate information to the interested public. This initiative—unveiled at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg—identifies the three principles articulated in Principle 10 as keys for public participation in environmental governance. PP10 is committed to translating the principles into action by promoting transparent, inclusive, and accountable decision-making at the national level. It provides a venue for governments, international organisations, and civil society groups to work together to implement practical solutions that provide the public with access to information, participation, and justice for environmentally sustainable decisions. This partnership is open to new members, and CSOs can participate directly in the partnership. For further information, see [www.pp10.org](http://www.pp10.org).

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Involvement of civil society is critical for effective implementation, compliance, and enforcement of environmental law. CSOs play an instrumental role in bringing cases involving environmental issues to national courts. In so doing, they enable judges and force governments to take action. Judges often do not have all the necessary skills to handle cases pertaining to environmental issues. UNEP can work with litigation groups or environmental NGOs specialised in environmental law to train judges in handling such cases. Following the WSSD, UNEP has also been working directly with judges to enhance their ability to handle environmental cases, and with parliamentarians, by raising capacity to implement international environmental agreements within their own legal frameworks.

UNEP has developed guidelines and drafted a manual to help governments and civil society achieve effective compliance with and enforcement of environmental laws. These instruments provide practical guidance and specific examples in implementing MEAs. For further information, see [http://www.unep.org/DEPI/programmes/law\\_implementation.html](http://www.unep.org/DEPI/programmes/law_implementation.html).

UNEP has capitalised on its experience in law and made it available to practitioners. For example, the database ECOLEX—jointly run by UNEP, FAO, and IUCN—provides up-to-date and comprehensive information on environmental law. For further information, see [www.ecolex.org](http://www.ecolex.org).

### Harmful Substances and Hazardous Wastes

On Harmful Substances and Hazardous Wastes, the MTS identifies UNEP's overall objective as: *to minimise the impact of harmful substances and hazardous waste on the environment and human beings.*

As part of wider United Nations efforts to lessen the environmental and health impacts of harmful substances and hazardous waste, UNEP will continue to lead and participate in a number of partnerships to address such issues, including the Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles. UNEP will focus its efforts on: enhancing strategic alliances; servicing of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management and the implementation of its environmental component; supporting the development and evolution of internationally agreed chemical management regimes; and assisting countries in increasing their capacities for sound management of chemicals and hazardous waste, including the collection of relevant data and information, for the benefit of environment and human health. UNEP will also support initiatives related to specific chemicals, such as mercury, heavy metals, chemicals covered by MEAs (such as ozone depleting substances), and other chemicals of global concern; and will address emerging issues.

As detailed below, UNEP has already undertaken several important initiatives related to harmful substances and hazardous wastes in co-operation with Major Groups.

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The Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles aims to combat urban air pollution in developing countries by improving fuel and vehicle standards. It has focused on phasing out leaded petrol around the world, reducing the level of sulphur in fuel, and promoting technologies such as catalytic converters that reduce the emission of dangerous pollutants from vehicles into the environment.

One of the Partnership's greatest successes has been in moving the world from lead-based to unleaded fuels. In 2002, when the Partnership was formed, nearly all of Africa and the Middle East, as well as large portions of Asia, Eastern Europe, and South America, used only leaded petrol or both leaded and unleaded petrol. As of 2008, North Korea is the only country in the world to rely solely on leaded fuel, and only 14 countries have not banned it entirely.

In pursuing its goal of reducing urban air pollution, the Partnership has worked in concert with a variety of partners ranging from government environmental agencies, to international institutions to petroleum and vehicle businesses, to environmental NGOs. In total, it has over 110 partner organisations around the globe. For further information, see <http://www.unep.org/pcfvi/index.asp>.

**The Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM)** is an international policy framework designed to ensure that chemicals are manufactured, managed, and used in a manner that minimises negative impacts on human health and the environment. The development of SAICM was mandated by UNEP and endorsed by the WSSD in 2002 and the New York World Summit in September 2005. Since its adoption, SAICM has been formally recognised by the governing bodies of FAO, ILO, OECD, UNEP, UNIDO, UNITAR, and WHO, underlining its multi-sectoral credentials.

SAICM has taken notable steps to partner not only with governments and international organisations, but also with NGOs around the world. NGOs are active participants in nearly all SAICM meetings where, in practice, they have been treated on an equal basis to governments and IGOs, though the formal status of all participants remains to be confirmed through the negotiation of rules of procedure for the SAICM governing body, the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM), at its second session in May 2009. Civil society groups can apply for project funding through the Quick Start Programme.

One particular area where the SAICM process is delivering support for civil society is the **Global NGO Outreach Campaign**, launched in late 2007. With support from donor governments, including through the SAICM secretariat, several international NGO networks are partners in this campaign: Health Care Without Harm (HCWH), the International POPs Elimination Network (IPEN), International Society of Doctors for the Environment (ISDE), Women in Europe for a Common Future (WECF), Pesticide Action Network (PAN), and the World Federation of Public Health Associations (WFPHA). Each of these organisations serves as a focal point or representative for a larger group of

NGOs, so a much greater number of organisations participates directly or indirectly in the Global Outreach Campaign.

### The Global Outreach Campaign's overall goals are:

- 1) To expand civil society awareness in all regions that toxic chemical exposure represents a real and growing threat to public health and the environment;
- 2) To secure commitments from NGOs and other civil society organisations stating their intention to participate in national and local efforts that contribute to the SAICM implementation with the goal of advancing towards the achievement of the WSSD/SAICM 2020 goal.
- 3) To create an NGO/CSO database of organisations in all regions that have stated that they intend to contribute to SAICM implementation.

Industrial stakeholders have also had a chance to participate in the development of SAICM. The International Council of Chemical Associations, a coalition of chemical manufacturers and producers around the world, participated in the 2006 ICCM in which SAICM was adopted, and has backed its approval.

During the initial implementation phase, the SAICM secretariat has organised regional and international meetings in order to help nations and civil society develop humane and safe chemical policies and has worked with stakeholders of all kinds to implement and develop policies and programmes through mechanisms such as the Quick Start Programme.

For further information, see <http://www.chem.unep.ch/saicm/>, <http://www.icca-chem.org/index.html>, and <http://www.ipen.org/ipenweb/saicm.html>.

Addressing the dangers associated with the release of mercury into the environment, UNEP sponsored the **Global Mercury Partnership** meeting in April 2008. Out of this meeting emerged the creation of a new Global Mercury Partnership framework designed to bring in governments, international organisations, the private sector, and NGOs to combat mercury pollution. The new framework clearly lays out the goals of the organisation while providing an outline for management, organisational outlines, and business plans for members. The overall goal of the programme, as stated in the framework, is "to protect human health and the global environment from the release of mercury and its compounds by minimizing and, where feasible, ultimately eliminating global, anthropogenic mercury releases to air, water and land." One important feature of the new framework is the Partnership Advisory Group, a body of representatives from governments, businesses, and Major Groups created to coordinate and lead co-operation between these stakeholders and the UNEP programme.

For further information, see <http://www.chem.unep.ch/mercury/default.htm> and [http://www.ciel.org/Chemicals/UNEP\\_Mercury\\_Apr08.html](http://www.ciel.org/Chemicals/UNEP_Mercury_Apr08.html).

## Resource Efficiency and Sustainable Consumption and Production

On Resource Efficiency and Sustainable Consumption and Production, the MTS identifies UNEP's overall objective as: ensuring that natural resources are produced, processed, and consumed in a more environmentally sustainable way.

UNEP will promote the decoupling of growth in production and consumption of goods and services from resource depletion and environmental degradation, and will strengthen the scientific base for doing so. UNEP will also encourage the application of environmentally sound technologies and integrated waste management, leading to the more efficient use of resources, and it will promote needed reforms in government policies, changes in private sector management practices and decisions, and increased consumer awareness to address inefficient and polluting production and consumption patterns. Public-private partnerships that promote more sustainable product lifecycles and supply chains will also be a major focus of UNEP's work in this area.

UNEP has already undertaken several important initiatives related to Resource Efficiency and Sustainable Consumption and Production in co-operation with Major Groups, including those detailed below.

The **Marrakech Process** is a global multistakeholder process to promote Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) and to work towards a "Global Framework for Action on SCP," the so-called *10-Year Framework of Programmes* on SCP. UNEP and the UN Department for Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA) are the leading agencies of this global process, with increasingly active participation by national governments, development agencies, business and industry representatives, civil society, and other stakeholders. Two examples of Major Group involvement are the Business and Industry Forum and the NGO Forum, each of which provides a medium for collaboration and a place where these groups can engage directly with the Marrakech Process. For further information, see <http://www.unep.fr/scp/marrakech/>.

In a related initiative, UNEP is implementing a project on **SCP in Developing Countries**, which has the overall objective of contributing to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals through increased utilisation of opportunities of SCP for poverty alleviation in developing countries. In addition to national policymakers, the project also targets local authorities, business and industry, and NGOs, as well as the scientific and technological community. For example, the project is engaging with local governments of Peru to help them to integrate a lifecycle perspective into their waste management policies. It has also provided a cost-benefit analysis over the lifecycle of a private enterprise in Mali that uses solar technology for the drying of fruits and meats. The project has developed a toolbox to help analyse and make the "business case" for sustainable ventures. For further information, see <http://www.unep.fr/scp/poverty/>.

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The UNEP-led **International Panel for Sustainable Resource Management** (Resource Panel) aims to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation by providing independent scientific analysis. Launched in November 2007, the panel is expected to provide authoritative scientific assessments on the sustainable use of resources over a product's lifecycle, which includes impacts on the availability of supplies and environmental impacts of selected products and services on a global level. The aim is to contribute to raising awareness about the issues at stake and to strengthen the knowledge of ways to break the current link between economic growth and environmental degradation. The panel's membership includes leaders in the fields of environment and resource management from around the world. Its steering committee, which advises on annual programmes and budgets, includes representatives from 13 national governments and the European Commission, as well as from the International Council for Science, IUCN, and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD). For further information, see <http://www.unep.fr/scp/rpanel/>.

An important tool for bringing about more sustainable lifestyles is product information and labeling schemes. UNEP is involved in several innovative **eco-labelling initiatives**, in co-operation with diverse stakeholders. For example, it is providing capacity building and technical assistance related to ecolabelling for industries and governments in developing countries, particularly in Brazil, China, India, Kenya and the South East African Region, Mexico, and South Africa. UNEP has joined forces in this initiative with the German capacity-building organisation InWent and with other partners. For further information, see <http://www.unep.fr/scp/ecolabelling/>.

Ecolabelling and harmonization of standards is also a key topic in new work by UNEP on sustainable value-chains management, which is examining ways of advancing partnering and capacity building through global supply chains in the agrifood industries. For further information, see <http://www.unep.fr/scp/unchaining/>.

UNEP has also supported the development of the **East African Organic Products Standard (EAOPS)**, under the auspices of the joint UNEP-United Nations Conference on Trade And Development Capacity Building Task Force on Trade, Environment and Development. The standard has been adopted by the East African Council of Ministers as the official East African Community Voluntary standard. The EAOPS is the second regional organic standard in the world after the European, and the first ever to have been developed in co-operation between the public, private, and NGO sectors.

Through the joint development of a new set of globally relevant, **baseline criteria for sustainable tourism** operations, UNEP is assisting the travel and tourism industry to make tourism more sustainable worldwide. The criteria, available in a unique and accessible database, have been developed jointly with the United Nations Foundation (UNF), the Rainforest Alliance, IUCN, the

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UN World Tourism Organisation, the CBD Secretariat, the International Council on Monuments and Sites, and numerous other partners from the travel and tourism community. For further information, see <http://www.sustainabletourismcriteria.org/>.

In the area of **trade, finance, and economics**, UNEP seeks to improve countries' understanding of the inter-linkages and complementarities among trade, finance, economics, environment, and development. UNEP works closely with the World Trade Organization (WTO), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), other relevant intergovernmental organisations, and many NGOs. The Economics and Trade Branch (ETB) of UNEP's Division of Technology, Industry and Economics (DTIE) has entered into agreements with several institutions, including national training and research institutes, regional organisations, and universities, and has established a network of collaborating institutions. They participate in ETB's capacity-building activities through involvement in country projects, research and training activities, and regional workshops. For further information, see <http://www.unep.ch/etb/index.php>.

UNEP's Finance Initiative (UNEP FI) is a global partnership between UNEP and the financial sector. Over 160 institutions, including banks, insurers, and fund managers, work with UNEP to understand the impacts of environmental and social considerations on financial performance. For further information, see <http://www.unepfi.org/>.

In the field of **ozone layer protection**, UNEP's Division of Technology, Industry and Economics (DTIE) fulfills UNEP's mandate as one of the Implementing Agencies of the Montreal Protocol, through its OzonAction Programme. Since the 1990s, OzonAction has taken a leading role raising awareness among civil society on ozone layer issues. For example, it developed an information clearinghouse on its website to disseminate key information on ozone layer protection, and it encourages South-South dialogue so that best-practice initiatives in developing countries are shared and publicised throughout the regions. For further information, see <http://www.unep.tie.org/ozonAction/>.

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