



Chapter 4:

Providing Sound Science for Decision Makers, Raising Public Awareness, and Involving Stakeholders

© Ernst Tobisch-UNEP / Still Pictures, Water Pollution: Women looking at waste water stained blue with dye from a jeans factory, Lesotho

Providing Sound Science for Decisionmakers

A principal mandate of UNEP is to monitor the world environmental situation to ensure that emerging environmental problems of wide international significance receive appropriate and adequate consideration by governments.

UNEP's Division of Early Warning and Assessment (DEWA) is charged with this task in collaboration with a number of scientific centres that provide databases of information. For example, DEWA works with the World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC), a centre specialised in biodiversity, and with the Global Resource Information Database (GRID) Centres. Each GRID Centre provides regional data information and has developed sectoral expertise in environmental issues.

UNEP's role in assessments consists of catalysing the efforts of the scientific community around environmental topics. UNEP operates in the following manner:

- Identification of institutes or associations that have the required scientific expertise;
- Development of networks between these organisations named "collaborating centres" and UNEP to facilitate similar standards and reporting procedures;
- Establishment of a contract between UNEP and the CSO that stipulates how UNEP will assist the

CHAPTER 4: PROVIDING SOUND SCIENCE FOR DECISION MAKERS, RAISING PUBLIC AWARENESS, AND INVOLVING STAKEHOLDERS

organisation technically and financially to undertake the assessment or reporting activities;

- Development of the scientific assessment/products by the collaborating centre with UNEP support.

UNEP undertakes global and regional environmental assessments, such as the *Global Environment Outlook* (GEO) report and regional environmental assessments based on the same model. For further information, see <http://www.unep.org/geo/>.

UNEP also coordinates the following sectoral assessments:

- Millennium Ecosystem Assessment: <http://www.millenniumassessment.org/en/index.aspx>
- Global International Water Assessment (GIWA): http://maps.grida.no/go/graphic/global_international_water_assessment_tools_giwa
- Assessment of Impacts and Adaptation to Climate Change: www.aiaccproject.org
- Solar and Wind Energy Resource Assessment (SWERA): <http://swera.unep.net/>
- Regionally Based Assessment of Persistent Toxic Substances: www.chem.unep.ch/pops
- Land Degradation Assessment in Drylands (LADA): lada.virtualcentre.org

Capacity building of scientific institutions in developing countries and countries with economies in transition is at the core of the scientific assessment process. Reports such as the *Global Environment Outlook* and the *African Environment Outlook* were developed with assistance aimed at raising the capacity of participating institutions.

It is critical to underline the central place that CSOs play in all of these assessments. For example, the *Global Environment Outlook* is based on a network of 37 collaborating centres, 31 of which are universities, research institutes, or NGOs. These include: l'Association pour le Développement de l'Information Environnementale (ADIE), the Earth Council, Network for Environment and Sustainable Development in Africa, the Regional and International Networking Group (RING), the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI), Tata Energy Research Institute (TERI), and the World Resources Institute (WRI).

UNEP assessments result in scientific publications targeted at policymakers, especially government representatives. They can be purchased from www.earthprint.com, the official portal for environmental publications from UNEP. Summaries and syntheses of most of these assessments, up-to-date maps, graphics, and databases on environmental issues are available on the main UNEP website, following the link for "Resources for Scientists and Academics."

In one particularly successful case, the UNEP publication *One Planet, Many People; Atlas of Our Changing Environment* was released at the World Environment Day ceremonies in June 2005 and has been updated regularly since with satellite images of environmental hotspots around the world. Subsequently, UNEP made the Atlas photos and text available on the Internet at www.na.unep.net. The Atlas helps people identify, understand, and act on global environmental

CHAPTER 4: PROVIDING SOUND SCIENCE FOR DECISION MAKERS, RAISING PUBLIC AWARENESS, AND INVOLVING STAKEHOLDERS

issues. Because of the slow development of such issues as water shortages, forest loss, ecosystem degradation, biodiversity loss, invasive species, and climate change, it is often very difficult for policymakers and the public to visualise and appreciate both positive and negative changes to the environment and natural resource base.

The *Atlas* has received extensive worldwide coverage and has won many distinguished publication awards, indicating that visual images are able to successfully convey critical global environmental information. A follow-on regional report, the *Africa Atlas of Our Changing Environment*, was released in June 2008 at the African Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN). Thanks to UNEP's pioneering partnership with Google Earth, this valuable library is now available to a global audience of over 300 million people. (See Box 4.)

Box 4. UNEP's Partnership with Google Earth

The Google Earth website launched in September 2006 on the company's 3D virtual world browser and enables users to zoom in on any location of a satellite-based, color, 3D depiction of the planet. By overlaying photos from UNEP's Atlas of Our Changing Environment, it enables a vast number of users to view the images, illustrating some of the world's most extremely challenged areas over a 30-year time span. It also helps viewers to see and appreciate the environmental and natural resource changes in a way that makes them comprehensible and meaningful, thus allowing policymakers and the public to decide on taking constructive action on the causative factors.

Google Earth released the UNEP Atlas on September 13, 2006 as part of its "Featured Content," and it has already become one of the most popular Google Earth features. On April 10, 2007 Google Earth released new UNEP materials for 120 environmental hotspots, creating a new layer called "Global Awareness" to help draw world attention to environmental issues. The UNEP team won the UN 21 Award in 2005 for its productivity and won the International Digital Earth 3D Visualization Grand Challenge; the project was also recognised at the Fifth International Symposium on Digital Earth on June 5–9, 2007 in San Francisco. An updated version of the Atlas, with about 200 environmental hotspot sites, was launched on Google Earth in September 2008.

In 2007, the Google Earth Outreach team, in co-operation with UNEP, initiated a project to inspire people around the world to participate in International Cleanup Day on October 13–14, 2007 and created a web site and tutorial to show people how to use Google's MyMaps product to organise cleanups in their neighborhoods. The core concept was to demonstrate that technology (in this case, Google Maps) could enable distributed action on a large scale. Instead of central organisation, the aim was to encourage and enable many people around the world to plan their own cleanups close to home using maps that they make.

Raising Public Awareness

UNEP seeks to serve as the world community's collective environmental conscience, keeping us focused on forward progress as well as on remaining challenges in preserving the global environment.

Activities and programmes carried out by UNEP generate a wealth of information. UNEP communicates this information to the wider public, develops specific materials for mass media, undertakes actions to raise global public awareness, and sensitises specific groups, such as children and youth. The Division of Communications and Public Information (DCPI) carries out most these activities, in co-operation with other UNEP divisions.

Ensuring public access to UNEP's information

The first task of DCPI is to provide access for the public at large to all of the information generated by UNEP. Most of this information is directly available on the Internet at www.unep.org, where searches can be conducted using keywords. In some cases, this information can be supplied on request. Publications can be accessed at www.unep.org/publications and purchased from UNEP's online bookstore at www.earthprint.com.

Developing materials for the mass media and the general public

In a world where people are overwhelmed by information, environmental concerns often fall behind economic and social considerations. It is therefore extremely important to provide reference information to the media to mobilise public opinion.

Through its news centre, UNEP disseminates a significant amount of environmental news to the media. Resources for journalists and other interested civil society parties include up-to-date press releases, detailed information on meetings and other gatherings, public service announcements, speeches, and contacts. Press releases are available online at www.unep.org/MediaRoom/pressrelease and through existing networks such as the BBC. UNEP communicates directly with the media through its roster. To receive UNEP press releases, send a request directly to dcpiinfo@unep.org.

UNEP regularly releases a wide range of environmentally themed outreach products. These include pictures, maps and graphics, films, and video and audio resources. Photography competitions are organised regularly in partnership with the private sector, including companies such as Canon.

Audio-visual resources include the popular and widely watched "Earth Report," produced in partnership with the Television Trust for the Environment (TVE) and the Earth Report Commission.

Civil society organisations interested in proposing stories or obtaining copies of past programmes can contact TVE at www.tve.org.

UNEP publishes a quarterly magazine, *Our Planet*, which provides environmental information on the current environmental situation. Eminent persons and CEOs contribute regularly to *Our Planet*. The publication is available online at www.ourplanet.com.

Outreach programmes to raise public awareness

Putting climate neutrality on the map

In February 2008, UNEP launched the Climate Neutral Network (CN Net). This web-based initiative seeks to catalyse an international response to global warming and serves as a tool for communication, networking, and awareness-raising on climate change. The CN Net provides participants, including countries, regions, cities, local municipalities, companies, and organisations, with a platform to present their climate-neutral strategies to the global audience and share their practical experiences. While the number of web-based initiatives on climate neutrality is steadily increasing, the CN Net allows its participants to be in the vanguard of a global movement, to inspire others to follow their example, and to enhance their exposure and credibility. Candidates wanting to join the Network can fill out an online form at www.unep.org/climateneutral or write to the CN Net team at cn.net@unep.org.

Plant for the Planet: Billion Tree Campaign

The Plant for the Planet: Billion Tree Campaign is a unique worldwide tree-planting initiative spearheaded by UNEP and the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF). It was unveiled in 2006 as one of the responses to the threat of global warming as well as to the wider sustainability challenges, from water supplies to biodiversity loss.

The Campaign is aimed at empowering individuals, communities, business and industry, NGOs, CSOs, and governments to take simple, positive steps to protect our climate. To participate in the Campaign, participants enter tree-planting pledges online at www.unep.org/billiontreecampaign. Once the trees have been planted, participants are required to revisit the website and register the number of planted trees.

The Billion Tree Campaign has become a practical expression of private and public concern over global warming. To date, the initiative, which is under the patronage of Nobel Peace Prize Laureate and Kenyan Green Belt Movement founder Professor Wangari Maathai and His Serene Highness Prince Albert II of Monaco, has broken every target that has been set for it. In just 18 months, the Campaign catalysed the planting of 2 billion trees in more than 160 countries, double its original target of 1 billion trees.

CHAPTER 4: PROVIDING SOUND SCIENCE FOR DECISION MAKERS, RAISING PUBLIC AWARENESS, AND INVOLVING STAKEHOLDERS

Due to this record success, UNEP decided in May 2008 to raise its sights even higher—to catalyse the planting of 7 billion trees worldwide by the crucial climate convention meeting in Copenhagen, Denmark, in late 2009. Regional and national governments have organised the most massive plantings, with Ethiopia leading the count at 700 million, followed by Turkey (400 million), Mexico (250 million), and Cuba (136 million).

To boost public awareness on the environment, two dates are marked annually worldwide: World Environment Day on June 5, and Clean Up The World Campaign in September.

World Environment Day celebrates the establishment of UNEP in 1972, and is a political celebration meant to focus on the importance of the environment. Clean Up the World Campaign is a worldwide campaign that takes place in September of each year. All interested associations can participate on the ground to help clean up the environment. It is a unique occasion where citizens can actively manifest their commitment towards better environmental management. For further information, see <http://www.unep.org/wed/2008/english/> and <http://www.cleanuptheworld.org/en/Partnership/unep-and-cuw.html>.

In addition, UNEP has developed two environmental awards—the UNEP Sasakawa Environment Prize and the “Champions of the Earth Award”—to recognise and promote the contributions of individuals, communities, and institutions around the world. Most recipients of these awards have come from civil society.

The **UNEP Sasakawa Environment Prize** is probably the most prestigious worldwide environmental award. Presented each year to an individual, the award is worth US\$200,000, making it one of the world’s most valuable environmental prizes. Since its inception, interest in the award has increased significantly, as attested by the growing number of nominations. CSOs and individuals are welcome to nominate an individual for the prize. For further information, see www.unep.org/sasakawa.

Champions of the Earth, the successor to the “Global 500,” is awarded each year to seven outstanding environmental achievers and leaders of the world (six from different regions as well as a special prize) who made a significant and recognised contribution, regionally or beyond, to the protection and sustainable management of the Earth’s environment and natural resources. For further information, see www.unep.org/champions.

UNEP also plays a part in other awards that recognise the contribution of an individual or institution in a particular field or region:

- Royal Award for Responsible Investment: www.royalaward.org
- Global Business Award: www.uneptie.org/outreach/business/awards.htm

- European Better Environment Award: www.eu-environment-awards.org
- Ozone Awards: www.unep.org/ozone/
- Volvo Environment Prize: www.environment-prize.com
- Zayed International Prize for the Environment: www.zayedprize.org

All of these awards are subject to nominations, and more information on them can be accessed through the main UNEP website, www.unep.org, under “Events and Awards.”

Linking Sports and the Environment

The 22nd Governing Council of UNEP in February 2003 adopted a **Sport and Environment Strategy** that aims to promote the integration of environmental consideration in sports, use the popularity of sports to promote environmental awareness, and promote the development of environmentally friendly sports facilities and the manufacture of environmentally friendly sporting goods.

To achieve these objectives, UNEP has entered into agreements with a wide range of partners such as the International Olympic Committee (IOC), Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) World Cup organisers, the International Association of Athletics Federation, Commonwealth Games, and the Fédération Internationale de Motocyclisme to ensure that the environment is mainstreamed into the preparations and hosting of these games.

UNEP supports the IOC in organising the biennial World Conference of Sport and the Environment and hosts the Global Forum for Sport and the Environment with its partner, the Global Sports Alliance of Japan. Since 2001, UNEP has been collaborating with the Sadili Oval Club in Kenya on the implementation of a leadership training programme for underprivileged children, the Nature and Sport Camp. Owing to its success, UNEP is considering the replication of this model in other countries.

UNEP’s role as a leader in environmental assessments for sports events is gaining the confidence of the world, especially after the recent environmental assessments of the Beijing Games and the Sochi 2014 Winter Games. For further information, see http://www.unep.org/sport_env/.

Working with Specific Major Groups

Involving Children and Youth

Children (defined by UNEP as those 14 years and under) and Youth (defined by UNEP as those between 15 and 24 years old) have a critical role to play in shaping the environment. They can have great deal of influence on their peers and elders in term of promoting new ideas that are urgently needed to build and sustain environmental action. It is in this context that UNEP has worked with young people since 1985, the International Youth Year.

CHAPTER 4: PROVIDING SOUND SCIENCE FOR DECISION MAKERS, RAISING PUBLIC AWARENESS, AND INVOLVING STAKEHOLDERS

In February 2003, to further promote UNEP work with young people, the GC/GMEF endorsed a “long-term strategy (2003–2008) on engagement and involvement of young people in environmental issues” (the Tunza strategy), which provides the framework to involve young people worldwide in environmental issues and debate.

UNEP has set up a Youth Advisory Council (or Tunza Advisory Council), which is composed of 14 youth leaders, two per region and two representing indigenous youth organisations. The Council advises UNEP on its programmes and activities with youth. Council members are elected at the Tunza International Youth Conference for a mandate of two years. This global conference takes place every other year. The organization also periodically convenes Global Youth Retreats, the most recent of which took place in Nairobi in July 2008. UNEP, in collaboration with Bayer, also organises Eco-Innovate, the Tunza Regional Youth Conference for Asia and the Pacific.

A Tunza International Children’s Conference on the Environment for children between 10 and 14 years old is also held every other year, to provide children with an opportunity to learn about and voice their concerns on the environment. This conference provide a unique opportunity for children and youth to share views and commit themselves to environmental protection. Nomination forms for these conferences are distributed worldwide and are available on the UNEP website. Certain criteria need to be met, including proof of membership in an environment-related youth organisation or school and falling within the age requirements for each conference.

UNEP has developed several publications for young people. The quarterly magazine, *Tunza*, a publication for and by youth, was launched in June 2003. The magazine carries information on selected best practices by youth organisations and is published in English, French, and Spanish. A youth guidebook on the environment, *Tunza: Acting for a Better World*, was also published in August 2003. UNEP also produced *Pachamama: Our Earth—Our Future* and *GEO for Youth*, two publications that engage young people across the world. In Latin America, UNEP has set up a programme to train young journalists on environmental issues.

UNEP and UNESCO have also developed a website, www.youthxchange.net, and produced a training kit on responsible consumption entitled YouthXChange. YouthXchange was developed for young people, especially in the developed world where consumption patterns are increasing. For further information, see <http://www.youthxchange.net/main/home.asp>.

With children, the emphasis is on awareness and education. UNEP launched the “Plant for the Planet project,” a global campaign on children and tree planting. UNEP produced *Water World – Children’s Voices*, a unique educational booklet on water, for children, by children. It also publishes a series of illustrated books for children on environmental themes. An annual international children’s painting competition on the environment is organised by UNEP, the Japan-based Foundation for Global Peace and Environment, Bayer and Nikon. In addition, UNEP and Volvo launched a recognition

CHAPTER 4: PROVIDING SOUND SCIENCE FOR DECISION MAKERS, RAISING PUBLIC AWARENESS, AND INVOLVING STAKEHOLDERS

programme for children and the environment, the Volvo-UNEP Adventure programme, which recognises outstanding environmental achievements by schools around the world.

Children and youth are welcome to participate or contribute to these programmes, publications, campaigns, and conferences. For further information, they can contact UNEP at children.youth@unep.org.

To implement the long-term strategy on engagement and involvement of young people, UNEP has limited resources. Donors, including civil society and the private sector, are important supporters:

- Since 2003, Bayer has contributed 1 million Euro annually towards youth capacity-building activities at the global and regional levels, especially in developing countries.
- Volvo and UNEP are collaborating on an environmental awards programme for schoolchildren under age 15 from around the world.

For further information, see <http://www.unep.org/Tunza/>.

Promoting Environmental Education and Training

In the context of the United Nations Literacy Decade – Education for All (2003–2012) and the ongoing United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005–2014), UNEP has strengthened its work in environmental education, providing a wide range of programmes and materials. These materials benefit from expertise and activities in the scientific, policy, and law fields. They are tailored towards youth and children, the academic community, and policymakers. The materials are disseminated through seminars, meetings of experts, workshops, conferences, and the Internet.

For example, the Environmental Action Learning (EAL) programme addresses the needs of youth and children in primary and secondary schools as well as first and middle level colleges. At the university level, UNEP supports the development of courses on environmental management for students that incorporate elements of environmental protection into their workplace upon graduation. UNEP is also promoting continuous building of skills and knowledge through programmes such as the UNEP-Watson International Scholar of the Environment programme, based at Brown University, and the UNEP/UNESCO/BMU Dresden post-graduate programme for developing countries. UNEP supports the Global Virtual University, an online university for sustainable development, with a particular objective to meet educational needs of developing countries. For further information, see <http://www.unep.org/Training/>.

Mainstreaming Gender and Enhancing Women's Participation

Women represent more than half the world's population. They stand at the front line in terms of poverty, yet they provide invaluable contributions to sustaining communities around the world and managing the Earth's biodiversity and natural resources. Despite their role and know-how, the contribution of women is regularly undervalued and ignored. Furthermore, due to their productive and reproductive roles, women are uniquely vulnerable to environmental degradation. For example, it is well established that environmental hazards are among the major causes of global death and disease, and that the burden falls disproportionately on women and young children, especially in less-developed countries.

Since 1985, UNEP has been working to highlight the important role that women play in sustainable development. Building on the existing UNEP Governing Council decisions, and inspired by the outcomes of the **WAVE Assembly - Women as the Voice for the Environment** held in Nairobi in October 2004, UNEP's Governing Council, at its 23rd session in 2005, adopted Decision 23/11 on **Gender Equality in the Field of Environment**. This decision calls upon the Executive Director of UNEP to ensure that gender is fully mainstreamed into UNEP's programme of work and that it undertake special measures to ensure that women are participants in key decision-making bodies, as well as to liaise with the Committee on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women to ensure that women's concerns in environmental management are well addressed.

The implementation of Governing Council Decision 23/11 has been through the UNEP Gender Plan of Action of 2006, which calls for high-level and sustained commitment to internal capacity-building on gender mainstreaming, utilizing various strategies including organisational workshops and training, changes in policy and practice, and accountability for implementation, as well as resource mobilization and human resources management. From September 2007, a multi-pronged approach has been adopted to facilitate the implementation of the Gender Plan of Action. This has included setting up an operational structure composed of over 70 staff from the divisions and regional offices, forming a gender team for UNEP. An additional priority has been the ongoing capacity building of staff on gender mainstreaming, which will continue into 2009 in preparation for the next programme of work. In addition, an online database *Who's Who: Women in Environment* was launched on International Women's Day 2006 that gives visibility to women leaders in the environmental field.

UNEP's Medium-Term Strategy recognises gender as an integral institutional mechanism for the achievement of the MTS and its attendant Programme of Work. Gender equality is now a key priority in all UNEP activities, and the organisation is systematically integrating gender perspectives into its programme design and implementation, along with measurable goals and indicators. For further information, see http://www.unep.org/gender_env/About/index.asp.

Engaging Business and Industry

In delivering a work programme on UNEP's six thematic priorities, the engagement of business and industry is critical in the effort to advance complementarity between public regulation and private-sector voluntary action. The activities of business and industry depend on the natural resource base and have a major impact on the environment. It is therefore essential to engage the private sector in action that could advance its contribution to improved efficiency in resource use whilst displaying environmental care and social responsibility. UNEP engages business and industry through project-based work, initiatives with groups of companies that form target industry sectors, collaboration with business and industry associations, as well as multistakeholder events in which public-private dialogue is facilitated.

In working with the private sector, UNEP seeks to assist industries to improve their environmental performance and join partnerships in technology support and capacity building. The Division of Technology, Industry and Economics (DTIE) leads in this terrain. The mission of DTIE is to encourage decision-makers in government, local authorities, and industry to develop and adopt policies, strategies, and practices that are cleaner and safer; make efficient use of natural resources; ensure environmentally sound management of chemicals; reduce pollution and risks for humans and the environment; enable implementation of conventions and international agreements; and incorporate environmental costs.

Multistakeholder dialogue and engagement of business and industry associations

Since 1984, UNEP has received industry associations in an annual consultative meeting. Today, this takes the form of the **UNEP Business & Industry Global Dialogue**, a multistakeholder event attended by international industry associations, business organisations, and companies from all regions as well as public officials, consumer groups, international NGOs, and labour federations. The event is held in Paris every second year and in the regions during the years in between. These events serve to address topical issues on the world business and environment agenda, and to seek opportunities for co-operation in meeting stakeholder needs and implementing the UNEP work programme. It includes multistakeholder discussions in small groups where business representatives interact with NGOs and others. For further information, see www.unep.fr/scp/business/dialogue/.

The 2008 Business & Industry Global Dialogue was co-hosted with the International Chamber of Commerce and addressed sectoral approaches to climate change mitigation. The annual event is also used to mobilise industry associations in international processes in preparation for global environmental events such as the WSSD in 2002, Johannesburg +10 follow-up events, and the Marrakech Process. These processes are linked with thematic discussions under the UN CSD, as was done on the topic of Industrial Development when UNEP facilitated the development of industry-sector Report Cards during 2006–2007. For further information, see www.unep.fr/scp/csd/csd/.

CHAPTER 4: PROVIDING SOUND SCIENCE FOR DECISION MAKERS, RAISING PUBLIC AWARENESS, AND INVOLVING STAKEHOLDERS

UNEP also collaborates with the UN Global Compact, Business for Social Responsibility (BSR), and others to host the annual **Business for the Environment (B4E) Summit**, as well as thematic Global Compact Policy Dialogues on corporate environmental responsibility issues. The 2008 B4E Summit, "Business and Markets in a Climate of Change," addressed business action, investment, and accountability to address climate change. Following the success of the first B4E Summits in Singapore, with close to 1,000 mainly business delegates attending, future sessions of this global high-level event will mainly take place in other Asian countries. The 2009 summit will be held in Paris. Called "The Climate Imperative," it will address resource efficiency and climate change. For further information, see www.b4esummit.com/.

Working with groups of companies in voluntary initiatives and partnerships

Since the 1990s, UNEP has been involved in the creation of numerous international voluntary initiatives with groups of companies on an industry sector basis. Sectors involved included finance, telecommunications, tourism, advertising and communications, automotive manufacturing, mining, oil and gas, and building and construction. In recent years, the focus has been on a more limited number of initiatives involving clusters of related industry sectors. One example is the **Sustainable Buildings and Construction Initiative (SBCI)**, launched in 2006 and involving 20 companies in an agreed work programme to address matters such as climate change and energy efficiency in buildings. This initiative includes companies from a variety of sectors, including architects, building material suppliers such as the cement and steel industries, as well as contractors, construction companies, and related standards and research institutes. Part of the added value is engaging companies across sectors, as well as involving interested stakeholder organisations such as NGOs in issue-based activities. For further information, see www.unepsbci.org/.

Another example is the UNEP-based **Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles (PCFV)**, formed in 2002, which currently has over 110 partners. Twenty-eight of the PCFV partners are from the oil and vehicles industry and are actively engaged with government agencies and NGOs to promote the adoption of cleaner fuels and vehicles in developing countries. These companies have been involved in the preparation of reports to address key issues of concern to developing countries in adopting cleaner fuels and vehicles standards, and they provide technical, networking, and other support to PCFV activities. For further information, see www.unep.org/pcfV.

In 2001, UNEP was instrumental in creating the **Global e-Sustainability Initiative** with telecommunications companies as well as the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), the European Telecommunications Network Operators Association (ETNO), and North American members of the Communications Environmental Excellence Initiative (CEEI). Today, GeSI has become a well-developed information and communications technology (ICT) initiative, with 22 companies and collaboration with the Electronic Industries Code of Conduct (EICC) in addressing global supply-chain issues. The initiative operates more independently today, but UNEP continues to support its activities in the terrain of e-waste. For further information, see www.gesi.org.

CHAPTER 4: PROVIDING SOUND SCIENCE FOR DECISION MAKERS, RAISING PUBLIC AWARENESS, AND INVOLVING STAKEHOLDERS

The oldest sector initiative associated with UNEP remains the **UNEP Finance Initiative (UNEP FI)**, the roots of which go back to the early 1990s. Close to 300 banks and insurers from over 50 countries have signed up. Initiated as a means of engaging financial institutions on environment and climate matters, signatories commit to integrate sustainable development considerations into all aspects of their operations and services. The participating institutions (i) support the precautionary approach to environmental management; (ii) recognise that identifying and quantifying environmental risks should be part of the normal process of risk assessment and management; and (iii) pursue best environmental practices. In recent years, UNEP FI has collaborated with the UN Global Compact in creating the **Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI)** initiative, with its secretariat operating from London. Through its working groups, UNEP FI continues to address new topical issues such as valuing biodiversity and investment in climate friendly technologies. For further information, see www.unepfi.org/.

In the area of hard technology support, UNEP has been working with Greenpeace and six food and beverages companies under the **Refrigerants Naturally initiative**. This group collectively promotes a shift in point-of-sale cooling technology in the food and drink, food service, and retail sectors towards alternative refrigeration technology that protects the Earth's climate and ozone layer. A similar initiative, **Solar Chill**, involves UNEP and partner organisations advancing a climate- and ozone-friendly vaccine cooler that is powered by solar energy and helps improve the health of people living in rural areas of developing countries. For further information, see www.unep.fr/ozonaction/partnerships/index.htm.

At the cross-sectoral level, an umbrella initiative in which UNEP remains a core UN agency is the **UN Global Compact**. As of 2008, the initiative had close to 6,000 participants including over 1,300 non-company stakeholder organisations. As proposed by UNEP in the past, the initiative has started requiring participant companies to report annually on how they implement the ten Global Compact principles. A process has started to de-list companies that do not annually report progress on how they internalise social and environmental responsibility in their operations. UNEP works with the UN Global Compact in launching new work in the area of climate change as well as responsible supply or broader value chains. UNEP also participates in activities of the **CEO Water Mandate**, where involvement of expert organisations in matters related to water efficiency in industrial operations is key. For further information, see www.unep.fr/scp/compact/.

Voluntary initiatives need to be accompanied by sustainability reporting, which advances transparency and accountability. Since the late 1980s, UNEP has worked to stimulate individual companies to report on their environmental performance and the implementation of their voluntary commitments in the form of codes of conduct and charters. UNEP and SustainAbility Ltd have for many years produced benchmark reports on corporate sustainability reporting and dialogue through its joint **Engaging Stakeholders Programme**. Demand for greater transparency and accountability underline the value of sustainability reporting. UNEP addresses

this need through the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI). The GRI secretariat, a UNEP Collaborating Centre based in Amsterdam, continues to facilitate the refinement of a common framework for reporting by all organisations on the sustainability of their operations, products, and services. UNEP supports the development of sector supplements to the GRI, and special guidance to, for example, small companies (SMEs). As of 2008, UNEP is also leading new efforts to improve public sector engagement and address the role of governments in the GRI process. For further information, see www.unep.fr/scp/gri/.

Support through project work, management guidance, and training through collaborating centres

At the project level, a recent example of industry engagement by UNEP is a project in Safer **Production and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)** at the site level. This project focuses on the chemicals and mining sectors, with involvement of the relevant industry associations, in adapting the longstanding APELL model to a broader safer production and corporate responsibility approach. A special guide has been developed and is being pilot tested at chemicals and mining sites in Thailand and Peru, to facilitate adaptation to local needs. The guide provides for stakeholder engagement and business partnering in improvement of safety procedures, awareness and preparedness, as well as ongoing communication or progress at the local community level.

UNEP will also continue its work to support small entrepreneurs and companies (SMEs) through partnership initiatives such as **The Seed Initiative** (www.seedinit.org), environmental management and resource efficiency guides for SMEs such as the Efficient Entrepreneur (UNEP/Wuppertal Institute-Centre), and the new network of 24 UNEP/UNIDO National Cleaner Production Centres (NCPCs) in developing and transition economy countries. These centres support the introduction of local level training, assessments, and demonstration projects. Through in-plant demonstrations, an NCPC can, for example, show that the concept of Cleaner Production can be applied to any industrial sector and how waste avoidance can be turned into profit. Involving local experts, the NCPCs will play a key role in promoting Resource Efficiency and concepts such as the 3Rs (reduce, re-use, recycle) in local business operations. For further information, see www.unep.fr/scp/cp/network/ncpc.htm.

Involving Workers and Trade Unions

In April 2007, UNEP⁴ and Sustainlabour⁵ launched a project on **“Strengthening trade union participation in international environmental processes,”** with the support of the government of Spain. The overall objective is to improve engagement of workers and trade unions in the development and implementation of environmental policy. It is currently being implemented in four regions: Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Eastern Europe, and Latin America and the Caribbean. The project focuses on:

1. Capacity building (with a particular focus on climate change, as well as sound and sustainable management of chemicals);
2. Adaptation and replication of selected trade union case studies; and
3. Awareness raising.

The project intends to contribute to the implementation of the resolutions adopted by the first Trade Union Assembly on Labour and the Environment (15–17 January 2006), in an attempt to empower workers and trade unions in being active partners for progress on environment and sustainable development issues and in launching related initiatives in their workplaces.

The project will result in the creation of regional working groups that will be able to provide input to a variety of further activities and disseminate knowledge among trade unions in their respective regions.

Achievements and outputs since the inception of the project include:

1. Training sessions on Climate Change and its consequences on employment and trade union action, and on the Sound and Sustainable Management of Chemicals. (Training manuals and other documents are available at http://www.unep.org/labour_environment/features/trade-unions-project.asp in four UN languages: English, French, Russian, and Spanish).
The capacity-building component of the project revolves around a series of training sessions at the global and regional levels. Trade union representatives from four regions—Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Eastern Europe, and Latin America and the Caribbean—attended the global “Training of Trainers on Climate Change and Sound and Sustainable Management of Chemicals in Geneva from 26–30 May 2008. These training sessions are unique opportunities to enhance knowledge on Climate Change and on Sound and Sustainable Management of Chemicals among trade unions, as well as to have trade union representatives from different regions meet and develop coordinated strategies on these issues in the future. For further information, see http://www.unep.org/labour_environment/features/trade-unions-project.asp.
2. Review and replication of trade union experiences. An extensive survey was conducted to

⁴ The project is coordinated by the Major Groups and Stakeholders Branch – Division of Regional Cooperation (DRC) of UNEP, and benefits from the support and expertise of the Regional Offices and other divisions, especially the Division of Technology, Industry and Economics (DTIE) - Energy and Chemicals Branches.

⁵ International Labour Foundation for Sustainable Development, based in Madrid.

CHAPTER 4: PROVIDING SOUND SCIENCE FOR DECISION MAKERS, RAISING PUBLIC AWARENESS, AND INVOLVING STAKEHOLDERS

identify and collect existing practices and literature on labour and the environment within trade unions' organisations. Selected experiences will be replicated or adapted to different regions/countries/workplaces.

3. Participation of workers and trade unions at international environmental meetings. Trade union delegates were sponsored to attend meetings/conferences/fora, where they made substantive contributions and statements. The statements and position papers attest to an increased understanding and knowledge of environmental issues and their interlinkages with and impacts on employment. These meetings include the 15th and 16th sessions of the UN CSD (CSD-15 and CSD-16, in New York), the North American Assembly on Climate Crisis (New York, 2007), the UNEP Regional Consultation Meeting for Europe (Geneva, 2007), the UNFCCC meetings (Bali, 2007 and Bangkok, 2008), and the UNEP Governing Council (Monaco, 2008).

Box 5. Focus on the Geneva "Training of Trainers," 26–30 May 2008

During the Geneva "Training of Trainers," 17 trade union representatives from four regions (Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Eastern Europe, and Latin America and the Caribbean) were trained on the labour and environmental challenges raised by climate change and the sound and sustainable management of chemicals in the workplace. A particular emphasis was put on: (i) the link between environmental sustainability and fundamental labour/human rights, including occupational health and safety; (ii) trade union experiences in the fields of climate change and chemicals; and (iii) the way forward for effective trade union action globally, aimed at mitigating potential risks and benefiting from potential opportunities for workers. Training manuals on these two issues have been designed and translated into four UN languages (English, French, Spanish, with Russian pending) for better dissemination, and made available on the UNEP Civil Society website.

These initial 17 trade union representatives will contribute to and share/disseminate their knowledge/expertise on these issues and deliver the trainings in their respective regions. Four regional sessions will be organised over 2008–2009 and focus on the specific environmental context, agenda, and trade union action of each region.

Ultimately, the Geneva training will result in (i) strengthening the Climate Change and Chemicals networks of experts among trade unions in the regions and globally, and (ii) improving trade unions' expertise, their representation in international environmental processes, and their contribution to drafting and implementing international environmental strategies that take into account labour aspects, with a view to sustainable development.

The Geneva training was also an opportunity to communicate on the different action/programmes/projects and entry points within UNEP, for future collaboration with major groups and stakeholders.

Engaging Indigenous Peoples and their Communities

UNEP is drafting a strategy for engaging with indigenous peoples, with the assistance of Tebtebba (the Indigenous Peoples' International Centre for Policy Research & Education from the Philippines) and GRID Arendal, a UNEP-affiliated resource centre based in Norway. The document is aimed at engaging UNEP more actively with indigenous peoples as well as on their issues in relevance to the environment and vice versa. The strategy aims to support diverse perspectives on the environment and will allow a more integrated approach towards environmental issues, taking into account the social and cultural aspects that are linked to the environment from an indigenous person's point of view. It is also intended to encourage regular consultations between UNEP and Indigenous Peoples, as well as the inclusion of indigenous peoples in UNEP's work.

A public consultation on the first draft was held in December 2007 during the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC, with 46 indigenous peoples' representatives from different regions. This was followed by an electronic consultation on the draft in January-February 2008 and a discussion session held during the 7th Session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues held at UN Headquarters in April 2008. It is expected to be finalised in 2009 after undergoing consultations among UNEP staff.

When the strategy is completed, it will represent an important tool for UNEP alongside the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, adopted through Resolution 61/295 of the General Assembly on 13 September 2007 to engage indigenous peoples effectively in policy development and implementation processes. It is now up to the member states and the UN to collaborate with Indigenous Peoples to ensure the rights as they are contained in the Declaration.

Of particular importance to UNEP is to ensure the free prior informed consent of the respective indigenous peoples regarding any issues concerning the development or activities on their traditional lands and territories. These could be related to forced removal from their lands without relocation, compensation, or any option of return, as well as hazardous waste dumping on traditional territories, military activities, and exploitation of natural resources. Although not a legally binding instrument, governments and the UN have the political and moral obligations to use it as a reference document on international indigenous issues and as a political document to raise awareness. For further information on the Declaration, see <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfi/en/declaration.html>.

The UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UN-PFII) is an advisory body to the Economic and Social Council with a mandate to discuss indigenous issues related to economic and social development, culture, the environment, education, health, and human rights. According to its mandate, the PFII:

CHAPTER 4: PROVIDING SOUND SCIENCE FOR DECISION MAKERS, RAISING PUBLIC AWARENESS, AND INVOLVING STAKEHOLDERS

- Provides expert advice and recommendations on indigenous issues to the Council, as well as to programmes, funds, and agencies of the UN, through the Council;
- Raises awareness and promotes the integration and coordination of activities related to indigenous issues within the UN system; and
- Prepares and disseminates information on indigenous issues.

The Permanent Forum holds annual two-week sessions. The first meeting of the Permanent Forum was held in May 2002, and yearly sessions take place in New York. For further information, see <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/>.

UNEP is a member of the Inter-Agency-Support Group to the PFII, and has thus taken part in some of the following processes:

The United Nations Development Group has developed Guidelines on Indigenous Peoples issues, the purpose of which are to assist the UN system to mainstream and integrate indigenous peoples' issues in processes for operational activities and programmes at the country level. The Guidelines set out the broad normative, policy, and operational framework for implementing a human rights-based and culturally sensitive approach to development for and with indigenous peoples. They also provide lines of action for planning, implementation, and evaluation of programmes involving indigenous peoples, as well as a framework for duly integrating the principles of cultural diversity into UN country programmes. For further information, see http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/UNDG_Guidelines_indigenous_FINAL.pdf.

The Secretariat of the PFII, in co-operation with ILO, UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA, and SCBD, published the **Resource Kit on Indigenous Peoples Issues**. The Kit is aimed UN Country Teams (UNCTs) and other development agents, providing them with guidance for engaging indigenous peoples and including their perspectives in development processes, including CCA/UNDAF, MDG monitoring, PRSP, and others. It should help UNCTs implement the UNDG guidelines and the recommendations of the Permanent Forum, in addition to serving as a tool that enhances and strengthens the role of UNCTs in integrating indigenous issues in the UN system's work at the country level. Finally, the Kit includes a thorough, if not exhaustive, overview of international agreements and legal frameworks that deal directly or indirectly with indigenous issues, as well as international mechanisms that specifically target indigenous peoples. For further information, see http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/resource_kit_indigenous_2008.pdf.

UNEP already engages in a variety of projects addressing environmental issues and indigenous peoples. For example, UNEP's Major Groups and Stakeholders Branch and Great Apes Survival Project (GRASP) jointly coordinated a project on **"Indigenous Peoples' Participation in Mapping of Traditional Forest Resources for Sustainable Livelihoods and Great Ape Conservation,"** implemented in Cameroon by WWF and Forest Peoples Program/UK. The objective of the project is

CHAPTER 4: PROVIDING SOUND SCIENCE FOR DECISION MAKERS, RAISING PUBLIC AWARENESS, AND INVOLVING STAKEHOLDERS

to engage the indigenous Baka peoples to participate effectively in protected areas management where great apes are under protection. It aims to support such communities to document their forest resource uses through participatory mapping techniques and to establish a dialogue with governmental and non-governmental conservation agencies in order to devise joint plans for the protection of community forest uses and the conservation of great ape species.

In addition, UNEP/GRID Arendal recently launched the five-year-action plan **“Many Strong Voices”** (MSV), designed to support indigenous peoples that are at risk from climate change through research, support, and training. Inhabitants of the Arctic and Small Island Developing States are already seeing dramatic effects from climate change in their communities. Their partnership with the Many Strong Voices programme has not only ensured that the programme best addresses their needs, but has also allowed them to share their experience with the rest of the world. The programme itself is community-driven, but it addresses both local and global issues related to climate change. For further information, see www.manystrongvoices.org.

For further information about UNEP’s work with indigenous peoples, see <http://www.unep.org/indigenous/>.

CHAPTER 4: PROVIDING SOUND SCIENCE FOR DECISION MAKERS, RAISING PUBLIC AWARENESS, AND INVOLVING STAKEHOLDERS
