



**Governing Council  
of the United Nations  
Environment Programme**

Distr.: General  
4 November 2004

Original: English



**Twenty-third session of the Governing Council/  
Global Ministerial Environment Forum**  
Nairobi, 21–25 February 2005  
Item 4 of the provisional agenda\*

**Assessment, monitoring and early warning: state of the environment**

**State of the environment and contribution of the United Nations  
Environment Programme to addressing substantive  
environmental challenges**

**Report of the Executive Director**

**Addendum**

**Multilateral environmental agreements**

*Summary*

The present report focuses on the progress made in the implementation of Governing Council decision SS.VII/1 on international environmental governance, with special reference to multilateral environmental agreements; the status report on compliance with and enforcement of multilateral environmental agreements called for by decision SS.VII/4; and the progress of the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) as mandated by decision 22/3 II. The report also provides information on the activities of UNEP in the area of biodiversity and biosafety as well as an overview of UNEP involvement in the Great Apes Survival Project (GRASP), which is undertaken in cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) as part of continuing UNEP work on species conservation. It also touches upon the results of a survey on environment and cultural diversity called for by decision 22/16.

\* UNEP/GC.23/1.

## Background

1. Multilateral environmental agreements are a concrete manifestation of the global community's commitment to achieving sustainable development and environmental protection. The global community has had well over a century of experience in crafting such agreements to meet the perceived priorities of the time, as suggested by the existence of over 500 environmental treaties – global, regional and bilateral. Clearly, the interest of the global community in improving coherence among multilateral environmental agreements as a way of devising more efficient and streamlined structures for global environmental governance is a welcome development. This interest must be seen in the context of two simple assumptions that have underpinned the process that spawned decision GCSS.VII/1. The first is that international cooperation is the key to sustainable development and that multilateral environmental agreements are important instruments for achieving that cooperation. The second is that there are unrealized opportunities to make relevant institutions and their policies and legal frameworks work together more effectively in pursuit of sustainable development. This is because these institutions and frameworks have been developed separately from each other, notwithstanding the fact that their governmental memberships are broadly the same.

2. The series of actions that UNEP has taken to improve coherence among multilateral environmental agreements stems from formal UNEP mandates such as Governing Council decisions SS.VII/1, 17/25, 19/9C and 20/18 and the Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme (Governing Council decision 19/1). UNEP support to multilateral environmental agreements is implemented within a framework of cooperation and collaboration with the agreements, with full respect for their autonomous legal and policy nature. This approach envisages bringing together all the major actors to discuss and agree on the components that will support the coherent implementation of conventions at the national level.

3. Adoption by UNEP of its Guidelines on Compliance with and Enforcement of Multilateral Environmental Agreements in February 2002 was an important response of the international community to the urgent need to enhance compliance with multilateral environmental agreements through institutional improvements, enhanced organizational coordination, strengthened national environmental implementation and enforcement mechanisms, capacity-building and training. The guidelines, a pragmatic outcome of experience-sharing based on the views of Governments and multilateral environmental agreement secretariats, seek to engage countries through a menu of options for strengthening implementation of multilateral environmental agreements and enforcement of national laws, regulations and policies.

4. The guidelines are relevant to present and future multilateral environmental agreements and anticipate a broad range of environmental issues, including global and regional environmental protection, management of hazardous substances and chemicals, prevention and control of pollution, desertification, conservation of natural resources, biodiversity, wildlife and environmental safety and health.

5. The guidelines address enforcement of national laws and regulations implementing multilateral environmental agreements in a broad context under which States, consistent with their obligations under such agreements, develop laws and institutions that support effective enforcement and pursue actions that deter and respond to environmental law violations and crimes. Approaches include the promotion of appropriate and effective laws and regulations. The guidelines accord significance to the development of institutional capacities through cooperation and coordination among Governments and international organizations for increasing the effectiveness of enforcement.

6. There are concrete indications that the secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements are taking steps to promote full compliance with their agreements by countries. For instance, Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) are developing procedures and mechanisms for compliance under the Kyoto Protocol. Parties to the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES) are developing a comprehensive plan to address, among other things, compliance and enforcement issues. The CITES secretariat regularly reviews and analyses national laws of Parties to determine whether such laws meet CITES implementation requirements. Consequently, collaboration with and support from multilateral environmental agreement secretariats, as well as the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol) and the World Customs Organization, in this process is a *sine qua non* for the successful implementation of the Guidelines on Compliance with and Enforcement of Multilateral Environmental Agreements.

7. UNEP also works on biodiversity- and biosafety-related issues in collaboration with the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). Its main areas of focus include support of CBD to achieve 2010 biodiversity targets; capacity enhancement in the area of risk assessment and risk management of living modified organisms; and access and benefit sharing.

8. UNEP administers the following multilateral environmental agreements and related bodies: CBD; Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals; CITES, Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal; Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer to the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer; Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol; Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade (for which it is co-secretariat along with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)); Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants. Secretariats of some non-UNEP administered multilateral environmental agreements are also involved in the discussions. The process of improving coherence remains open to all secretariats.

## **I. UNEP support for multilateral environmental agreements**

### **A. Tenth meeting of secretariats of multilateral environment agreements**

9. The tenth meeting of multilateral environment agreement secretariats was held on 8 and 9 March 2004 in Nairobi. The meeting was attended by the executive secretaries of all UNEP-administered conventions, including CITES, as well as those of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, and the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar Convention). The discussions that took place during the meeting are summarized below:

(a) Systematic contact should be established between UNEP and the secretariats of multilateral environment agreements. Annual or biannual meetings between UNEP and the secretariats should be organized to coincide with the preparation of the UNEP work programme. These meetings should preferably be held back-to-back with the meetings of the Environmental Management Group to promote synergies with the intergovernmental organizations represented there. The meetings should be complemented with bilateral meetings between UNEP and the secretariats of multilateral environment agreements;

(b) Focus areas for UNEP should be established. UNEP should focus on areas where it has comparative advantages in terms of human and financial resources such as transboundary issues; capacity-building and institution-building at the national level; work on compliance and enforcement at the regional and national levels; trade and the environment; outreach and public awareness; and identification of joint programmes of work;

(c) UNEP should provide political support to multilateral environment agreements by facilitating communication between parties interested in the environment and other related areas; improving public participation and access; preparing a research data base on gaps and emerging issues; examining potential conflicts between multilateral environmental agreements; and highlighting linkages between the agendas of international meetings, such as the World Summit on Sustainable Development, and multilateral environmental agreements;

(d) UNEP should provide practical support by establishing an interdivisional task force within UNEP to coordinate and enhance activities in support of multilateral environment agreements and by providing an assessment of progress on the implementation of decisions of previous multilateral environment agreement meetings that had called for UNEP action, as well as to identify successes and failures;

(e) UNEP should strengthen regional delivery through capacity-building and training activities, national level coordination and implementation of the environmental components of sustainable development frameworks at the ministerial level. Further, UNEP could follow up decisions taken by the Parties to multilateral environmental agreements, provide assistance in the development of subregional and regional collaboration mechanisms through subregional and regional ministerial forums, and use regional workshops on multilateral environment agreements;

(f) UNEP should help to improve coherence among multilateral environment agreements by ensuring that experiences gained with respect to one multilateral environment agreement are passed on to others. Convention secretariats should make case studies available to each other and to UNEP.

10. As a follow-up to the tenth meeting of the secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements, UNEP has established an interdivisional task force to coordinate the work of all UNEP divisions in support of multilateral environmental agreements. A database is being developed to monitor the implementation of decisions of conferences of the parties with respect to which UNEP has been asked to take action. Desk officers have been appointed in the Division of Environmental Conventions to assist convention secretariats in their interactions with UNEP divisions and on administrative matters with the United Nations Office at Nairobi. A meeting of the ad hoc working group on administrative matters was held in May 2004 to discuss pending administrative issues with the UNEP administered multilateral environmental agreement secretariats.

## **B. Project on issue-based modular approach to the implementation of the decisions of the biodiversity related multilateral environmental agreements at the national level**

11. A project on an issue-based modular approach to the coherent implementation of the decisions of biodiversity-related conventions at the national level has been launched with the support of all the major biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements including non-UNEP administered conventions such as the Ramsar Convention and the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (World Heritage Convention). This project, which would initially involve countries in Africa, would assist countries in implementing the multilateral environment agreements to which they are party by providing them with structured information on cross-cutting topics. Specific products in the form of issue-based modules on cross-cutting topics would be developed to deliver this information. The project would aim at developing a system that could be applied to any cross-cutting topic for any combination of multilateral environment agreements. Following a consultative meeting with the major biodiversity conventions, four issues have been chosen for the development of priority modules: Climate change; inland waters; invasive alien species; and sustainable use. To be properly appreciated, this project should be viewed in the context of biodiversity being one of the priority topics of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development.

## **C. Harmonization of national reporting**

12. Following the completion of four country-based pilot projects, a draft summary report entitled "Harmonization of information management and reporting for biodiversity-related treaties" was published by the United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) in February 2004 and is available on the centre's web site ([www.unep-wcmc.org](http://www.unep-wcmc.org)). The draft report summarizes the outcome of the four pilot projects, makes recommendations for follow-up at the international level and sets out guidelines for national level harmonization of reporting and related work.

13. Eight conventions and international programmes, including CITES, CBD, the International Whaling Commission, the Ramsar Convention, the World Heritage Convention, the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (the Cartagena Convention), and the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Programme were covered by one or more of the pilot projects.

14. Following completion of the pilot projects, a workshop was convened by UNEP WCMC in cooperation with the Governments of Belgium and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland at Haasrode, Belgium, on 22 and 23 September 2004. The workshop was attended by representatives of the five global biodiversity-related conventions, eight countries, the European Commission and a number of international organizations with experience in this area. The objectives of the workshop were:

- (a) To review the conclusions and recommendations from the four pilot projects;
- (b) To review the conclusions and recommendations of other recent harmonization and streamlining initiatives and the implications of other recent developments in reporting processes;

(c) To use those inputs as a means for further identifying and clarifying mechanisms to support harmonization at the national level; and

(d) To develop plans and set priorities for future work in this area.

15. Based on pilot project reports, presentations made at the workshop and subsequent discussions, the workshop developed 12 recommendations for action. Amongst other things, those recommendations called on conventions and agreements to clarify and redefine the information they need in order to assess implementation and outcomes. They should also address the balance between reporting on implementation and reporting on outcomes, particularly in the light of the 2010 target. When requesting reports, conventions and agreements should also explain clearly what the information will be used for and how it will be analysed. The recommendations also stated that the reporting should relate to decisions taken by the governing bodies, both providing information to support the decision-making process and reporting on actions taken to implement decisions and their effect. With this in mind, after each meeting of governing bodies, countries should disseminate the relevant parts of decisions and an analysis of their impacts to all ministries that are affected by those decisions. The liaison group of biodiversity-related conventions should consider establishing a technical task force to develop and promote a streamlined reporting agenda across conventions and agreements, taking into account the issues raised in the pilot projects and in the present report, developments requested by governing bodies, and issues discussed during the Environmental Management Group review. The task force would comprise technical officers from the secretariats supported as necessary by other appropriate experts. It is anticipated that the group and task force would work intersessionally to develop proposals which would be considered and adopted by governing bodies.

16. At the national level, focal points for each of the biodiversity-related conventions and agreements should establish a mechanism appropriate to national circumstances to ensure coordination of all activities to do with the implementation of international obligations at the national level, including reporting. Countries should develop their capacity for managing information more effectively to support implementation of obligations and for reporting. Such approaches should focus on enabling access to information, should build on the experience of the pilot projects and use both existing tools (e.g. the Global Biodiversity Information Facility or the Inter-American Biodiversity Information Network) or tools and networks that are being developed. Access to information necessary for implementation of, and reporting to, all biodiversity-related agreements through a single portal or clearing house would significantly facilitate a more harmonized approach.

17. Conventions and agreements should also explore opportunities for taking concrete actions to reduce the reporting burden, for example, by not adding new requests for information without removing existing requests in parallel, by reducing the amount of information requested, by linking reporting more closely to strategic planning, by exploring new mechanisms for reporting, and so on. This could be done within the existing mandates of most secretariats. Capacity-building activities for information management and reporting among local, national, regional and multilateral applications should focus on all three levels of capacity development: individual, institutional and systemic. It is also recommended that steps should be taken to ensure that the Global Environment Facility and its implementing agencies take fully into account the coordination and information management required to support both implementation and reporting for the various multilateral environmental agreements when financing and implementing programmes.

18. The draft report on the pilot projects was also considered at an expert workshop promoting CITES/CBD cooperation and synergy held at Vilm, Germany, from 20 to 24 April 2004 and organized with UNEP support. The workshop proposed that:

(a) The thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES should be asked to give a clear mandate to allow Parties to meet their biennial reporting obligations under a harmonized format to be agreed with the governing bodies of other biodiversity-related conventions;

(b) The Conference of the Parties to CBD and the other biodiversity-related conventions should be asked, at future meetings, to meet their reporting obligations using a harmonized format;

(c) UNEP should continue to convene and facilitate the process and seek further endorsement for its role by Governments at the next meeting of the UNEP Governing Council in February 2005;

(d) One or more developed and additional developing countries should conduct pilot studies of harmonized reporting, taking into account the results of the follow-up workshop, beginning in January 2005.

## **D. Expert workshop promoting CITES/CBD cooperation and synergy**

19. UNEP, together with the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation, the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ) and the United Kingdom's Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, financed a workshop on CITES/CBD cooperation and synergy, which was held from 21 to 24 April 2004. Workshop participants paid specific attention to the issues of sustainable use of wildlife resources, access and benefit sharing, and linking site-based, thematic and species-based approaches to achieving biodiversity conservation and sustainable use. Changes desired within each of these areas were identified, methods and mechanisms to achieve those changes suggested, and possible constraints to achieving such changes noted. Other areas covered during the workshop included links to the World Summit on Sustainable Development 2010 target on biodiversity loss, the CBD global strategy for plant conservation, and invasive alien species. The workshop report was tabled for consideration during October's CITES meeting in Bangkok, and will be brought to the attention of participants in the next meeting of the CBD Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA), tentatively set for February 2005, also in Bangkok. The full report of the proceedings of the workshop can be accessed at [http://www.traffic.org/news/cites\\_cbd.html](http://www.traffic.org/news/cites_cbd.html).

## **E. Coordinated national implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions**

20. In the period 2002–2004, UNEP organized a series of regional and subregional workshops to discuss how to improve synergies at the national level amongst the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions. The workshops were held in the Latin American and Caribbean region (Montevideo); Eastern and Central Europe and the Caucasus (Riga); Western Africa (Cotonou); Southern and Eastern Africa (Pretoria); and the Middle East and Northern Africa (Damascus).

21. The convention focal points who participated in the five regional workshops agreed that many of the tools, skills and human resources required for each of the three conventions were essentially the same. So too were the obstacles the conventions faced and the strategies needed to overcome them. They also realized that there were many opportunities for working together which would lead to reducing costs, boosting effectiveness and eliminating the risk of gaps or overlaps. More details on the presentation and reports of the five workshops can be viewed at [www.environmenthouse.ch](http://www.environmenthouse.ch).

## **F. OzonAction in support of multilateral environmental agreements**

22. The OzonAction Programme of the UNEP Division of Technology, Industry and Economics (UNEP/DTIE) has been established to help developing countries and countries with economies in transition improve their ability to comply with the Montreal Protocol. The Montreal Protocol is probably one of the few multilateral environmental agreements that has a very strong compliance regime that has entered into its critical phase. To address the needs that have become evident in the face of this compliance regime, the OzonAction Programme has been reoriented and regionalized to provide timely, direct and focused assistance to countries, particularly in cases of potential non-compliance. The regionalized programme is called the Compliance Assistance Programme, or CAP.

23. OzonAction collaborates with the secretariats of other multilateral environmental agreements and in related activities, for example the "Green Customs" initiative. With a focus on training border guards to better spot and apprehend criminals trafficking in "environmental commodities," a new "Green Customs" web site was launched in June 2003 (<http://www.unepie.org/ozonaction/customs/>). The web site is part of an initiative to help tackle the growth of environmental crime, one of the most profitable and fastest growing new areas of international criminal activity. In an effort to help combat this problem, the UNEP-led Green Customs initiative aims to improve coordinated intelligence gathering, information exchange, guidance (such as codes of best practice) and training amongst the partner organizations involved. The initial partners in the project include UNEP, Interpol, the World Customs Organization and the secretariats of the Basel Convention, CITES and the Montreal Protocol. Many of the partners are already collaborating on training and information exchange. One of the aims of the Green Customs project, however, is to harmonize efforts amongst the various actors, particularly the multilateral environmental agreements, so that customs and other enforcement officers receive training that covers all relevant environmental agreements.

24. The Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol and the Conference of the Parties to UNFCCC have taken decisions on joint efforts between the two conventions (in particular, UNFCCC

decision XII, taken at the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, and the tenth Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol).

25. OzonAction has been coordinating the SolarChill Project with the World Health Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund, Greenpeace International, GTZ, the Danish Technological Institute and the Program for Appropriate Technologies in Health, which is addressing issues related to climate change, ozone protection and rural poverty and health. This project is intended to help deliver vaccines and refrigeration to the rural poor. To achieve this objective, the SolarChill Project developed — and plans to make freely available — a versatile refrigeration technology that is environmentally sound, technologically reliable, affordable and multi-source powered.

26. OzonAction has attended the first two meetings of the Preparatory Committee for the Development of a Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM), in Bangkok in 2003 and Nairobi in 2004. It intends to share experiences with and benefit from the implementation of other chemical-related multilateral environmental agreements in the chemical cluster. It is also developing a project funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) for training of national ozone officers on best practices in HFC management in countries with economies in transition. HFCs are greenhouse gases used as a replacement for ozone-depleting substances.

## **G. Biodiversity and bio-safety related issues**

27. UNEP, in support of the work of CBD and in collaboration with the CBD secretariat and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), hosted a meeting in London under the rubric "2010 - the Global Biodiversity Challenge". The meeting took place from 21 to 23 May and was attended by approximately 160 participants, including 46 countries, seven United Nations agencies and intergovernmental, non-governmental and academic organizations. The meeting participants considered the following issues at the local, national and international levels: (a) understanding and measuring biodiversity loss; (b) addressing the 2010 target and other multiple biodiversity-related targets; (c) reporting on biodiversity loss; and (d) key initiatives in addressing biodiversity loss. The recommendations of the meeting were forwarded to the 9<sup>th</sup> session of SBSTTA, whose recommendations were adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its seventh [meeting] [session], which took place in Kuala Lumpur from 9 to 20 and on February 2004. UNEP will carry out the necessary follow-up activities, including: (a) promoting and encouraging synergies and harmonization of activities, targets, assessments and reporting processes for the 2010 target at both the national and international levels; (b) enhancing collaboration and partnership with international initiatives relating to environmental assessment, e.g., the Global Environmental Outlook, the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment and the Global International Waters Assessment; and (c) enhancing the role of multilateral environmental agreements in responding to the 2010 target by providing support in reporting processes, including development of reporting formats, synthesis of reports, data management and development of major reports.

28. UNEP and the Norwegian Institute for Gene Ecology (GENOK) entered into a partnership agreement to assist developing countries, countries with economies in transition and small island developing States to enhance their capacities in the area of risk assessment and risk management with respect to living modified organisms following the entry into force of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.

29. The first joint activity implemented under the agreement was a two-week course entitled "Holistic Foundations for Assessment and Regulation of Genetic Engineering and Genetically Modified Organisms". The course, held at the University of Tromsø, Norway, from 25 July to 7 August 2004, attracted 365 applicants, from which 62 participants representing 40 countries were selected. The overall goal for the course is to empower participants to implement the risk assessment provisions of the Cartagena Protocol in their respective countries. The course is unique in following the process of genetically modifying an organism from the first step of finding a gene up to and beyond the stage of releasing it into the environment.

30. Representatives of indigenous communities were among the participants and resource persons. Throughout the course work, they debated and shared their experiences with risks related to intellectual property rights for genetically modified organisms. Reframing biosafety issues in social, economic and cultural terms was aimed at empowering national regulators, especially those in developing countries, to envision plans of action that go beyond simply reacting to the public debates on genetically modified organisms.

31. Other components to be jointly implemented under the programme between UNEP and GENOK include a biosafety forecast service and a handbook and CD-ROM on risk assessment methodologies and modern techniques for molecular biology and biotechnology.
32. UNEP, in cooperation with the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM), the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN) and the World Conservation Union (IUCN), organized the Third International IFOAM Conference on Biodiversity and Organic Agriculture, which was held at UNEP headquarters in Nairobi from 24 to 26 September 2004. A total of 120 participants from 30 countries attended the meeting. In addition to UNEP, other organizations that attended the conference included FAO, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, IUCN and the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology.
33. The objectives of the conference were to create a platform for international information and knowledge exchange on the relationship between biodiversity and organic agriculture – with a focus on the thematic relevance for developing countries; to provide a platform for networking and cooperation; and to intensify cooperation among the organizing and cooperating partners as well as a wide spectrum of stakeholders.
34. Key topics addressed at the conference included current and future contribution of organic agriculture to nurturing and enhancing biodiversity conservation; the relationship between biodiversity, nature protection and organic agriculture; and the impact of genetic engineering on biodiversity and organic agriculture. The proceedings of the conference will be synthesized and co-published with UNEP and others for global distribution.
35. The Executive Director in his opening statement to the Sixth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity announced a UNEP initiative on access to genetic resources and the equitable sharing of benefits arising out of their utilization. He stressed the UNEP commitment to building the capacity of developing countries in this area of need. The CBD Conference of the Parties at its sixth [meeting] [session] welcomed these complementary initiatives and asked UNEP to provide information on them to the CBD Executive Secretary. In response, an informal advisory group comprising an international, multidisciplinary and regionally balanced group of experts was established by the Executive Director to give advice and guidance on the way forward with respect to the initiative, consistent with decisions of the governing bodies of the respective relevant multilateral environmental agreements and taking into account other ongoing processes. The meeting of the UNEP informal advisory group of experts on access and benefit sharing with respect to genetic resources was held at UNEP headquarters in Nairobi from 24 to 26 March 2004.
36. Traditional knowledge of indigenous people and local communities is crucial for effective implementation of biodiversity related multilateral environmental agreements. In this regard, UNEP, in collaboration with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), has published a report of a joint study on the role of intellectual property rights in the sharing of benefits arising from the use of biological resources and associated traditional knowledge. A pre-publication version of the study was jointly made available by UNEP and WIPO to the ministerial segment of the seventh [meeting] [session] of the CBD Conference of the Parties in Kuala Lumpur.
37. Access and benefit sharing systems aim to promote scientific and technological breakthroughs from the use of microbial, plant and animal genetic resources, while at the same time recognizing the contributions and rights of those who cultivated and preserved these resources or have come to understand their uses. The judicious and effective use of intellectual property systems has a vital role in achieving the goals of equitable access and benefit-sharing. Patent systems, for example, recognize innovations based on genetic resources and provide a framework for investment in the development of valuable new products and processes.
38. The objective of the study was therefore to identify and explore the role of intellectual property rights in the sharing of benefits arising from the use of biological resources and associated traditional knowledge. Originally commissioned in response to decision IV/9 of the CBD Conference of the Parties, the subject became even more topical when the World Summit on Sustainable Development resulted in a commitment to negotiate "an international regime to promote and safeguard the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources." (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, paragraph 44(o)). In particular, it is hoped that the study may provide lessons relevant to the role of intellectual property rights in the implementation of articles 8, 10 and 15 to 19 of CBD and in the implementation of various commitments agreed at the Johannesburg Summit.
39. In collaboration with the United Nations University Institute of Advanced Studies, UNEP held a workshop on capacity-building and follow-up activities on access and benefit sharing of genetic



resources for the Asia Pacific region in Palau in May 2004, paying particular attention to the role of customary law and practice in access to genetic resources, benefit sharing and traditional knowledge.

## **H. Lusaka Agreement on Cooperative Enforcement Operations Directed at Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora**

40. At the last meeting of the Governing Council of the Lusaka Agreement on Cooperative Enforcement Operations Directed at Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora (the Lusaka Agreement) in July 2003, UNEP was requested to undertake a review and evaluation of the work of the Lusaka Agreement since its adoption in September 1994. The draft review report has been completed and is currently undergoing internal review. Following the internal review, the report will undergo peer review and revision. Once the report has been revised based on the review processes, it will be submitted to a regional stakeholder workshop comprising the Parties to the agreement and others who will review and comment on the report. The report will be revised once more based on the comments of the Parties and others before it is submitted to the Governing Council for consideration at the next Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum in February 2005.

41. The draft review report proposes mechanisms for effective implementation of the Lusaka Agreement, including its financial implications. The report critically analyses and assesses the achievements of the agreement, as well as challenges faced by both the Parties to the agreement and the Lusaka Task Force in the agreement's effective implementation and enforcement.

## **I. Atmosphere and desertification conventions**

42. Action taken by UNEP to support the conventions relating to atmosphere (UNFCCC and IPCC) is elaborated in the section on support of the work of IPCC.

## **J. Outreach activities**

43. UNEP provides media and public information support to multilateral environmental agreement secretariats through its Information Unit for Conventions (IUC) in Geneva. This unit seeks to make environmental treaties and the scientific, technical, and legal issues underlying them more easily understood by non-specialists, particularly policy-makers and the media. With a better understanding of environmental problems and the strategies being adopted by the international community to solve them, people can choose to become actively involved in ensuring that treaties achieve their objectives. IUC supports UNFCCC, IPCC, CBD, the Montreal Protocol, CITES, and the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions. This support includes the following menu of services:

- (a) Managing press relations and outreach to journalists;
- (b) Producing public information materials such as information sheets, booklets, and newsletters;
- (c) Disseminating information via mailings, conferences, and other outlets;
- (d) Organizing campaigns, seminars, and workshops;
- (e) Formulating media strategies, issuing press kits, and managing press relations for conferences;
- (f) Promoting the development of information programmes at the national level.

44. The most recent IUC products, produced jointly with secretariats, include popular guides to the Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions, a Spanish-language version of its climate change information kit, a 12-page CITES press kit and a booklet on how to promote synergies at the national level amongst the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions.

## **K. Great Apes Survival Project**

45. GRASP, a Johannesburg Summit type II partnership, comprises the following members: UNEP, UNESCO, four biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements, 32 major international conservation related non-governmental organizations, great apes range states, donor Governments, four patrons and interested parties from the private sector and universities. Through policy instruments, the international community, national Governments and local forest dwellers are increasingly aware of the need for urgent action to arrest the decline of the great apes.

46. The GRASP partnership has been very active in the past two years. Significant progress has been achieved in many areas, including GRASP field activities; institutionalizing the governance of the GRASP partnership; strengthened interagency cooperation between UNEP and UNESCO and other United Nations bodies; collaboration with the multilateral environmental agreements; and publicity and fundraising from new and additional sources to address the urgent situation facing the great apes and their human neighbours.

## **1. GRASP field activities**

### **(a) Technical Support Team**

47. The GRASP Technical Support Team (TST) is responsible for two main activities: endorsement at high levels in both donor and range States to strengthen support for great ape conservation; and (b) promotion and assistance in preparation of national great ape survival plans (NGASPs) or equivalent policy documents. To date, 17 of the 23 great ape range States have been visited by TST and 18 have formally signed up to GRASP.

48. Key to the development of successful NGASPs is the input of all stakeholders and official approval by the national Government concerned. To achieve this, an in-country consultative process is undertaken followed by the convening of a national workshop. Finalized NGASPs are being produced in priority range States, and to this end four workshops were held during the reporting period in Mfou, Cameroon (18–20 March 2003), Brazzaville, Congo (15–17 April 2003), Kibuye, Rwanda (27–30 July 2003) and Conakry, Guinea (28–29 October 2004).

### **(b) Promotion of transboundary cooperation**

49. Many populations of great apes, notably the chimpanzee of West Africa, the Cross River gorilla of Nigeria and Cameroon and the mountain gorilla of Uganda, Rwanda and Democratic Republic of Congo, occupy ranges that cross international borders. This provides UNEP with a unique opportunity to encourage transboundary cooperation between range State authorities, which GRASP has done through:

(a) Oversight of the repatriation of two gorillas in May 2003, confiscated in Nigeria, to their native country, Cameroon, with the collaboration of both Governments;

(b) Financial support to the International Gorilla Conservation Programme during 2002–2003 for mountain gorilla conservation work involving local communities in the transboundary area of the Virungas National Park, shared by the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda and Uganda;

(c) Intervention by the Executive Director to resolve the June–August 2004 land encroachment and deforestation crisis in the Virunga transboundary conservation area, augmented with funds to assist the Democratic Republic of the Congo build a wall around the affected area of the park.

### **(c) Other GRASP-funded field activities**

50. Small-scale GRASP field projects undertaken in 2001–2002, have now been supplemented with replicable flagship pilot activities in collaboration with GRASP NGO partners in the field. GRASP supported the following projects during 2003–2004, working closely with local communities:

(a) Pandrillus Foundation, emergency repatriation action, Nigeria and Cameroon;

(b) Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund (Europe), consultative process with miners, Democratic Republic of the Congo;

(c) Nature Uganda, participatory environmental management programme, Uganda

(d) WWF, Virunga parks crisis resolution, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda and Uganda.

## **2. Institutionalizing the governance of the GRASP partnership**

51. In November 2003, GRASP convened a preparatory experts meeting on great apes and GRASP at UNESCO headquarters in Paris. Representatives from 17 of the 23 great ape range States (including several suffering from the effects of civil war), 7 donor Governments, 7 United Nations agencies and intergovernmental bodies, the European Commission, international nongovernmental organizations and other GRASP partners met to discuss the way forward in ensuring the survival of the great apes. The meeting participants discussed, amended and agreed a global strategy for the survival of great apes, a

five-year work plan for GRASP and a draft set of rules for the organization and management of the GRASP partnership. These documents will be formalized and officially adopted at a full intergovernmental meeting scheduled for 2005.

52. An Interim Executive Committee (IEC) was established at the above meeting. Uganda chairs IEC, which comprises the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Indonesia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, two non-governmental organizations and the CITES secretariat. IEC provides oversight and advice to UNEP and UNESCO on the functioning of the GRASP partnership. A GRASP interim scientific commission is in the process of being formally incorporated to advise the partnership on conservation priorities. The commission will most likely consist of six members of the IUCN Species Survival Commission's Primate Specialist Group, the president of the International Primatological Society, or his/her representative, and four great ape range State scientists representing the West, Central and East Africa and Southeast Asia.

### **3. Strengthened interagency cooperation between UNEP and UNESCO and other United Nations bodies**

53. UNEP and UNESCO agreed on 17 March 2004 to manage the GRASP partnership through a joint secretariat. Both agencies have one full-time staff member, supplemented by United Nations volunteers and other personnel. UNEP has also worked closely with UNICEF in southern Sudan, the United Nations Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) and UNDP in Liberia to spread the GRASP message and raise awareness of the importance of great ape conservation.

### **4. Collaboration with multilateral environmental agreements**

54. GRASP has a good working relationship with four biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements, three administered by UNEP – CITES, CBD and the Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) – as well as one administered by UNESCO – the World Heritage Convention. All four are GRASP partners.

55. At the thirteenth meeting of the CITES Conference of the Parties in Bangkok in October 2004, a resolution on the conservation of and trade in great apes was adopted, with specific reference to GRASP. The resolution calls for all CITES Parties to fully support GRASP and urges all range States and relevant organizations to join the GRASP partnership. In addition, the CITES Secretary-General participated in the GRASP side event at the Conference of the Parties. GRASP cooperates with CITES in the field to address enforcement and illegal trade issues, such as the trade in ape bushmeat and the poaching and smuggling of wild caught apes. The CITES secretariat also holds a seat on the GRASP Interim Executive Committee and attended the GRASP November 2003 Paris intergovernmental meeting.

56. The CMS secretariat has been an active participant in a number of GRASP meetings and cooperates with GRASP in the production of publicity material. GRASP and CMS are currently exploring the possibility of a CMS Article IV agreement to cover the mountain gorillas of Uganda, DRC and Rwanda.

57. GRASP held a well attended fundraising side event in the margins of seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CBD in Kuala Lumpur in February 2004, and is in the process of investigating the possibility of a CBD strategy on great apes.

58. The UNESCO World Heritage Centre (WHC) and GRASP cooperate in and around World Heritage Sites containing great ape populations, including such activities as satellite mapping and awareness-raising. UNESCO and WHC convened an international conference on the promotion of Congolese heritage with a special session on great apes and GRASP in Paris in September 2004.

### **5. Publicity and awareness-raising**

59. Much hope for the conservation of the great apes and their habitat and improved livelihoods for people sharing their forest ecosystems lies in generating enough international awareness of the crisis facing the great apes to encourage governments to lend their full support to the GRASP Partnership. The fact that more than 250 newspaper and journal articles in at least 28 countries, and 35 radio and television interviews, resulted from the GRASP November 2003 Paris meeting, reveals just how much publicity GRASP has the potential to produce. In addition to public service announcements in coordination with UNESCO, BBC Television Trust for the Environment and other international documentaries and bilingual publicity posters, leaflets, newsletters and web sites, UNEP expects that

The World Atlas of Great Apes, compiled by UNEP-WCMC, will be published in 2005. To supplement this publicity, GRASP has held many side events and presentations at international forums over the course of 2003–2004.

60. A major GRASP activity in this area is the development of a global exhibition on great apes. GRASP has partnered with the United Kingdom-based natural history and science consortium at-Bristol and the Wildscreen Trust to produce a mobile pilot GRASP exhibit. Future plans include a bilingual travelling exhibition that will reach out to audiences in Europe and North America as well in African and Southeast Asian range States.

## **6. Fundraising from new and additional sources**

61. Germany, Ireland, Norway and the United Kingdom, as well as foundations and the private sector, have contributed approximately \$2 million to UNEP for GRASP activities. A fundraising strategy is being implemented, targeting donor governments, the European Commission, GEF, the United Nations Development Account, the United Nations Foundation and other international donor organizations. To complement this strategy, GRASP has established a portfolio of partner projects that is updated as necessary. In addition, a gala dinner, hosted by Mr. Elliot Morley, Minister for the Environment and Agri-Environment of the United Kingdom, was held on 24 May 2004 in London, with 140 people representing Governments and the private sector in attendance, and raised funds and publicity for GRASP. Further progress will depend heavily on raising new and additional resources of at least \$25 million by 2007 – from country donors, from foundations and the private sector, and from existing mechanisms.

## **II. Progress report on the implementation of Governing Council decision SS.VII/4 on compliance with and enforcement of multilateral environmental agreements**

62. The UNEP Governing Council, by its decision SS.VII/4 on compliance with and enforcement of multilateral environmental agreements, adopted the Guidelines on Compliance with and Enforcement of Multilateral Environmental Agreements and requested the Executive Director to disseminate them to Governments, multilateral environmental agreement secretariats and other international organizations. It also requested him to take steps to advance capacity-building and strengthening of developing countries, particularly less developed countries and countries with economies in transition, in accordance with the guidelines. The decision further requested the Executive Director to take measures through the programme of work and in close collaboration with other international organizations to facilitate implementation of the guidelines. To fulfil these tasks, the Executive Director was also mandated to seek additional extra budgetary resources to facilitate implementation of the guidelines.

### **A. Dissemination of the guidelines**

63. The guidelines have been translated into all official United Nations languages and disseminated through official United Nations channels as well as relevant conferences, meetings, training courses and workshops to all Governments and numerous international organizations, multilateral environmental agreement conferences of parties and other stakeholders. The guidelines are also available in the official United Nations languages on the UNEP web site.

### **B. Development of a manual for implementation of the guidelines**

64. UNEP has developed a manual which further explains the use and the content of the guidelines in a simplified, user-friendly format to be used as an additional tool by countries in implementing the guidelines and multilateral environmental agreements generally. While the guidelines enumerate a variety of measures to strengthen national enforcement and international cooperation, the manual expands upon the enumerated measures through explanatory text, checklists, case studies, and references to additional resources. The manual tracks the format and the content of the guidelines, setting forth a range of experiences, approaches, and models that are relevant to present and future multilateral environmental agreements that cover issues from hazardous chemicals to desertification, from biodiversity to the protection of the ozone layer.

65. UNEP has used an innovative iterative approach to develop and refine the manual. This approach ensures a consultative and transparent process that eventually will involve most of the

countries in the world in refining the manual by providing input on its format, substance and even style. The initial draft of the manual was developed based on a desk study and research. After the first draft was completed, UNEP conducted a series of regional capacity building workshops that provided UNEP, multilateral environmental agreement secretariats, national Governments and other experts opportunities to strengthen the analysis, add case studies, best practices, etc., and make the manual more user-friendly. The manual was revised and amended, as necessary, to incorporate useful comments, recommendations and case studies received from regional workshops. The revised manual then served as a resource tool for later regional workshops, at which it was again tested, and it was then again revised. UNEP also took the opportunity at each workshop to request each participating country to assess its implementation of, compliance with and enforcement of multilateral environmental agreements, and the resulting information is being used to further refine the draft manual.

### **C. Regional workshops to test the manual for the implementation of guidelines**

66. Five regional workshops have been held so far to review and test the draft manual developed by UNEP. The five regional workshops held so far include:

(a) Asia/Pacific regional workshop on compliance with and enforcement of multilateral environmental agreements, held in Colombo, Sri Lanka, from 14 to 19 September 2003. It was attended by 50 governmental and non-governmental experts from 18 countries including three permanent representatives to UNEP (Iran, Pakistan and Sri Lanka);

(b) English-speaking Caribbean regional workshop on compliance with and enforcement of multilateral environmental agreements held in Kingston, Jamaica, from 20 to 23 October 2003. Forty-three governmental and non-governmental officials from 13 countries throughout the region participated in the workshop;

(c) Southeast European regional workshop on compliance with and enforcement of multilateral environmental agreements, held in Belgrade, Serbia and Montenegro, from 26 to 29 January 2004. Twenty-eight governmental and non-governmental experts from 6 countries in the region took part in the workshop;

(d) Anglophone Africa regional workshop on compliance with and enforcement of multilateral environmental agreements, held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 1 to 4 March 2004. Sixty-five governmental and non-governmental experts from 23 countries throughout the region participated in the workshop, including eight permanent representatives to UNEP (Belgium, Egypt, Eritrea, Kenya, Nigeria, Norway, South Africa and the United Republic of Tanzania);

(e) Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia regional workshop on compliance with and enforcement of multilateral environmental agreements, held at Kyiv, Ukraine, from 22 to 25 March 2004. Thirty-nine governmental and non-governmental officials from 13 countries throughout the region participated in the workshop.

67. The guidelines and the reports of the five regional workshops held are all available at <http://www.unep.org/depi/implementationlaw.asp>.

### **D. Existing activities for the implementation of the guidelines**

#### **1. More regional workshops to test the manual**

68. Three more regional workshops will be organized and conducted to further disseminate the guidelines and test the manual. The workshops envisaged are for Latin America (in Spanish), Francophone African countries (in French) and Arabic-speaking countries (in Arabic) during the first quarter of 2005. The manual will then be revised and finalized taking into account input to be received from the last three regional workshops. An official launch of the manual will then be organized. The launch will also be utilized to further disseminate both the manual and the guidelines to Governments and other stakeholders for use as a “tool box” of options and a “user’s manual” to assist countries to better implement, comply with, enforce and participate in multilateral environmental agreements.

## 2. Regional and national implementation of the guidelines

69. During the five regional workshops, governmental officials and experts identified challenges and made specific requests for assistance to enable them to effectively implement multilateral environmental agreements, in particular at the national level. Based on these identified challenges and priorities for action gathered from the workshops, UNEP is developing a strategic action plan for phase II of the project on compliance and enforcement of multilateral environmental agreements. The project will be geared toward practical action on the ground to actually implement multilateral environmental agreements using the guidelines and the manual which was developed during phase I of the project. Based on the requests, the activities will focus on regional and national level implementation of clusters of multilateral environmental agreements in collaboration with global, regional and national partners. While convention secretariats concentrate the activities on assisting Parties to implement and enforce their specific multilateral environmental agreements, phase II of this project will focus on implementation of clusters of multilateral environmental agreements with common cross-cutting issues so as to ensure synergy and interlinkages among them. This focus will also encourage UNEP to facilitate collaboration and cooperation with and among several convention secretariats to solve common challenges facing them, learn lessons from each other and exchange information and experiences on compliance and enforcement of crossing-cutting issues common to clusters of multilateral environmental agreements such as technology transfer, capacity-building, training and reporting.

70. The draft strategic action plan under preparation already includes the following areas of concentration for phase II of the project:

- (a) Regional training programmes on multilateral environmental agreement negotiation techniques and skills, including development of a reference and training tool for environmental negotiators from developing countries;
- (b) Support four or five selected countries to develop national legislation implementing clusters of related multilateral environmental agreements (e.g., biodiversity, chemicals, and regional seas agreements);
- (c) Strengthening of enforcement capacities through training of judicial and legal practitioners, customs officials (in collaboration with DTIE), decision-makers and parliamentarians on their role in the implementation and enforcement of multilateral environmental agreements.

## E. Development of national laws implementing the Rio conventions taking into account poverty reduction

71. The Government of Belgium will support for four years (2004–2007) a programme on the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements. The programme, intended to benefit Mozambique, Rwanda, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania, will build and enhance capacities of these countries in the integration and institutionalization of environmental management into national poverty reduction programmes and related activities. Specifically, the programme will focus on three components, namely integration and mainstreaming of key environmental issues into poverty reduction strategy papers, capacity-building to alleviate poverty through synergistic implementation of the Rio conventions; and capacity-building for the development of national legislation implementing the Rio conventions taking into consideration the impact of implementation of poverty reduction. UNEP, therefore, intends to add and integrate a legal component into the capacity-building programme to ensure that national environment-related laws developed by countries for the implementation of the Rio conventions, namely, CBD, UNFCCC and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, impact on poverty reduction and guarantee that national implementation of multilateral environmental agreements will take into account environmental considerations and contribute to poverty reduction.

72. With regard to development of national legislation for implementation of the Rio conventions, UNEP intends to prepare a study on a global overview showing the links between environmental law and poverty alleviation as the latter relates to the national implementation of multilateral environmental agreements, in particular, the three Rio conventions. The results and outcome of the global overview will provide input for the national implementation of the Rio conventions in relation to poverty alleviation in the countries that are to benefit from the programme.

73. UNEP is currently in consultation with relevant national authorities and experts in the four countries to determine specific needs and status of national legislation implementing multilateral

environmental agreements in relation to poverty reduction. Such consultations will permit UNEP to identify focal points and national teams of experts to work with and execute the priority activities necessary to ensure that national legislation for implementation of the Rio conventions is in place where it does not yet exist and where it exists, to ensure its effective enforcement for the implementation of the Rio convention.

#### **1. Implementation in Africa of the Bonn Guidelines on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of the Benefits Arising from their Utilization**

74. With support from the Government of Ireland, UNEP will in the period 2004–2005 facilitate the implementation of the Bonn Guidelines on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of the Benefits Arising from their Utilization (ABS) in four selected countries in Africa. The four countries will review their national legal regimes and institutional frameworks on ABS and identify needs and lacunae in the national legislation for implementing ABS regimes. On the basis of the recommendations from the review, national implementing legislation will be developed where none exists or amended where lacunae in existing law have been identified. Regional and national training courses will also be held on legal and scientific aspects of ABS.

### **III. Progress of the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change**

75. Following a decision by IPCC at its 19th session, in 2002, the fourth assessment report will be completed in 2007 and will consist of three working group contributions, namely “The Physical Science Basis” by Working Group I, “Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability” by Working Group II, and “Mitigation of Climate Change” by Working Group III. During the period 2003–2004, a series of scoping meetings was convened to agree on the outline of the fourth assessment report, list of coordinating lead authors, lead authors and review editors and to consider information for cross-cutting themes.

76. IPCC completed in 2003 two methodology reports, namely “Good Practice Guidance for Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry” and “Definitions and Methodological Options to Inventory of Emissions from Direct Human-Induced Degradation of Forests and Devegetation of Other Vegetation Types”, which marked a major accomplishment of the Panel in providing guidance on land use, land use change and forestry issues pertinent to UNFCCC.

77. The UNFCCC Conference of the Parties, at its ninth session, welcomed the reports and recommended that “Good Practice Guidance for Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry” be used by the Parties in preparing annual inventories under the Convention as well as in the design and implementation of afforestation and reforestation project activities under the clean development mechanism. Within the process of preparing the IPCC 2006 guidelines for national greenhouse gas inventories, which would be used by Parties to the UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol for reporting their greenhouse gas inventories, IPCC prepared the outline of this publication, determined the work plan and selected the authors.

78. IPCC is finalizing two special reports:

(a) “Special Report on Safeguarding the Ozone Layer and the Global Climate System: Issues Related to Hydrofluorocarbons and Perfluorocarbons”, which was requested by the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties at its eighth session and the Fourteenth Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol. The report will provide a summary of relevant findings regarding the relation of ozone layer depletion and global warming, cover relevant considerations in choosing among options to replace ozone-depleting substances and present publicly available information on currently installed and planned global production capacities;

(b) “Special Report on Carbon Dioxide Capture and Storage”, which was prepared at the request of the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties at its seventh session, will concentrate on characteristics of CO<sub>2</sub> emission sources, capture systems, storage options, including geological storage, ocean storage and re-use options as well as outline implications for emission inventories and accounting.

79. UNEP is disseminating IPCC findings and supporting implementation of UNFCCC article 6, on education, training and public awareness. In January 2004, UNEP co-sponsored and co-organized with the UNFCCC secretariat a regional African workshop on article 6 in Banjul (the Gambia), which was

attended by representatives from 30 countries and focused on assessing local needs and priorities on climate change outreach. In March 2004, UNEP sponsored and organized a subregional workshop for Russia and member countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States in Moscow on implementation of New Delhi Work Programme on article 6 and dissemination of IPCC findings. The workshop provided a forum for further discussing major findings of the IPCC third assessment report and elaborating specific measures to promote public participation in climate change activities in the region.

80. To support implementation of UNFCCC article 6, UNEP started in 2004 a project that included, among other things, national climate change outreach campaigns in Ghana, Kenya, Namibia, Russia and Uzbekistan; an update of Vital Climate Graphics based on the IPCC third assessment report and production of a version of Vital Climate Graphics for Latin America, with data from the IPCC third assessment report, national communications to UNFCCC and other relevant sources; a workshop for African journalists on climate change issues; a youth outreach campaign; and support to a UNFCCC regional workshop on article 6 for Latin America. Efforts are under way to raise funds to follow up this project by launching national campaigns in other countries, producing more graphic and information materials on causes and implications of climate change and entering into partnerships with new target population groups.

81. UNEP has continued to support the functioning of the IPCC secretariat. UNEP has signed a memorandum of understanding with the World Meteorological Organization regarding the provision of \$220,000 to the IPCC Trust Fund for 2004–2005. This base funding will ensure the functioning of IPCC and cover some costs of participation by experts from developing countries and countries with economies in transition in the IPCC process, including the preparation of the IPCC fourth assessment report and IPCC special, technical and methodology reports, as well as attendance at IPCC scientific and technical meetings. UNEP also finances the post of the IPCC Deputy Secretary at D-1 level.

82. After Mr. G. Love vacated the post of IPCC Secretary in August 2003, a new Secretary, Ms. Renate Christ, was recruited in accordance with agreed modalities. The post of IPCC Deputy Secretary has been advertised for recruitment according to established procedures.

#### **IV. Environment and cultural diversity**

83. Pursuant to decision 22/16, which requested “the Executive Director, subject to availability of voluntary funds, to examine the issue, inter alia, by conducting a survey, in cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and relevant stakeholders, on the state of current work and possible developments on environment and cultural diversity, with particular attention to human well-being, and to report back to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its twenty-third session for its consideration”, a report was prepared which provides insight into the relationship between environment and cultural diversity and possible developments to further deepen the understanding of the linkages and their possible effects in sustainable development strategies. The full report on implementing decision 22/16 is available as an information document (UNEP/GC.23/3/INF/23, Survey on environment and cultural diversity). The following paragraphs are a summary of the report.

84. UNEP and UNESCO, together with CBD, held various consultative meetings on the approach of the survey on environment and cultural diversity, as requested in decision 22/16, and a collaborative agreement was signed by both organizations, whose basis for joint action is provided by the operative paragraph of the decision, i.e., the proposed survey to identify the current state of work and possible developments. The full survey report takes into account existing literature as well as the findings and results of the consultative meetings with UNESCO and CBD held in September and November 2003 in Paris and Nairobi. A collection of women’s voices – collected through questionnaires and interviews, prior to and during the Global Women’s Assembly on Environment, or WAVE (Women As the Voice of the Environment), held in Nairobi from 11 to 13 October 2004, is annexed to the full report. It provides individual perspectives of women and their relation to the environment and gives evidence on how relevant and important culture is to the way people relate to the environment.

85. In international debates on biodiversity conservation, it is becoming clear that the link between cultural and biological diversity is often an indissoluble one, and that it is necessary to think of preserving the world’s biological and cultural diversity as an integrated goal. Of the 350 million indigenous people in the world, half live in tropical rain forests, which are known to harbour 80 per cent of our planet’s biological diversity. Of the 12 mega-centres for biological diversity, 10 can be found among the 25 countries containing the largest number of endemic languages. Cultural and biological



diversity are inextricably interrelated. Local knowledge is a pillar of traditional medicine and health systems. Up to 80 per cent of the non-industrial world's population rely on traditional forms of medicine, and many of the world's top-selling drugs are derived from natural sources. Within the academic and scientific sectors, there is increasing consensus on the need for a holistic focus for the solution to problems. A theme that remains the focus of much debate is the relationship between scientific and traditional knowledge; an area that should be stimulated in the future. Finally, it is important to highlight that all those interviewed recognize that the loss of all forms of diversity, especially cultural, biological and food diversity, engenders vulnerability and poses a threat to the future well being of humanity and its societies if current trends continue. There are many analyses that show this vulnerability, which should be compiled and distributed in an effective way so as to raise awareness and contribute to the debates and policy arguments in the different international, regional and local forums.

86. UNEP proposes the following possible activities linked to the broader theme of environment and cultural diversity:

(a) Implementing the recommendations to UNEP stated by the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues at its second (E/2003/43,E/C.19/2003/22) and third (E/2004/43,E/C.19/2004/23) sessions, which include:

- (i) Integrating human rights and the special concerns and needs of indigenous women into UNEP programmes and policies and reporting regularly to the Forum;
- (ii) Adopting positive measures to address indigenous education issues in environmental education. Research should be undertaken and best practices and knowledge should be promoted throughout the United Nations system and to all Member States;
- (iii) Mainstreaming indigenous gender issues and knowledge in national environmental policies and programmes, recognizing the unique contributions made by indigenous women in terms of possessing and transmitting through the generations a wealth of knowledge on the conservation of biodiversity and sustainable development;
- (iv) Supporting indigenous peoples organizations in order to develop capacity on research, work and proposals on human indicators applicable to the implementation of environmental conventions and the plans and programmes of work of CBD;

(b) As proposed in the 2006–2007 programme of work:

- (i) Capacity-enhancing workshops on health and environment linkages for experts in environment and health (five workshops), (Governing Council decisions 22/6, 22/10, 22/16), (internal: Division of Environment Conventions, Division of Environmental Policy Implementation (DEPI), Division of Early Warning and Assessment (DEWA), Division of Regional Cooperation (DRC), (external: World Health Organization (WHO), Environment Canada, Health Canada, United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA));
- (ii) Educational and promotional information material on environment and health linkages, with special attention to children and women, to promote environmental health education at all levels and in all regions. (2 publications), (Governing Council decisions 22/6, 22/10, 22/16), (internal: DRC, Division of Communications and Public Information, DEPI, DEWA), (external: WHO, USEPA, United States National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences);
- (iii) Expert group meeting and partnerships and collaborative arrangements aimed at increasing understanding among United Nations agencies, multilateral environmental agreements and civil society of the linkages between the environment and human societies, pending a decision by the Governing Council at its twenty-third session on the follow-up to its decision 22/16 related to environment and cultural diversity (1 event), (21/18), (internal: DEWA, DEPI, DRC), (external: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organizations (UNESCO), multilateral environmental agreements, Permanent Forum for Indigenous Issues, WIPO, FAO);

(c) Project proposals emanating from a meeting of Women as the Voice of the Environment (WAVE), held in Nairobi in October 2004:

- (i) A project, in partnership with other organizations such as the International Labour Organization, the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), GEF, the Global Resource Information Database (GRID)-Arendal and local women's groups, on the restoration of ecological balances and sustainable increase in biomass production and monitoring the effects on local women and girls with regard to their health, income and workload;
- (ii) A pilot project, in liaison with other United Nations agencies and local groups, on women and health in an area where women use exclusively natural products and indigenous knowledge. Such a project should mainstream gender at all levels and monitor health and environment indicators throughout its duration;
- (iii) A policy and research project that highlights how much indigenous and local women depend on the natural environment in rural areas and how environmental degradation contributes to women's impoverishment in all fields (social, cultural, political, economic). The project could assess the role of cultural tradition in allowing, or preventing access to, control and sustainable use of natural resources by indigenous women;

(d) Organization of a workshop on cultural, environmental and social impact assessments by CBD in coordination with the World Bank, UNDP, FAO, IFAD and UNEP, as requested by the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. The Akwé: Kon Voluntary Guidelines for the Conduct of Cultural, Environmental and Social Impact Assessments regarding Developments Proposed to Take Place on, or which are Likely to Impact on, Sacred Sites and on Lands and Waters Traditionally Occupied or Used by Indigenous and Local Communities, adopted by the Conference of the Parties to CBD in February 2004, are an important instrument and will provide guidance to Parties and Governments on the incorporation of cultural, environmental and social considerations of indigenous and local communities into new or existing impact-assessment procedures. The planned workshop is aimed at further strengthening the understanding of the links between culture and the environment. Sacred sites accumulate the local knowledge and cultural values of many communities. In addition, sacred sites are often located within important natural areas with significance for biodiversity conservation. The protection of sacred sites by indigenous peoples can make a substantial contribution to biodiversity protection. Sacred sites also provide an opportunity to establish environmental and social monitoring by the local community. A close collaboration with different divisions and regional offices, including GRID- Arendal, will be initiated in the context of this project;

(e) Organizing and implementing a regional workshop on ethics, customs and traditions on environmental protection with a view to integrating the cultural and spiritual dimensions, as well as traditional ethic knowledge in the development of environmental policy and law. The workshop will also look into the various socio-cultural dimensions of environmental protection at the grass-roots level. This workshop has the strong support of the Hans-Seidel Foundation in Singapore, and will be implemented in cooperation with the UNEP Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific.

87. A deeper analysis in form of a comprehensive desk study, including regional consultations in collaboration with other agencies, like UNESCO and CBD could be another possible development in the context of GC 22/16. The desk study would seek to examine the different modalities of interdependence between environment and culture and will involve the greatest possible number of interested groups and entities at the local, subregional and regional levels, through consultations whereby initiatives in progress can be identified, along with practical experiences and multiple interpretations and approaches to the theme.