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UNEP in the regions

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UNEP in the Regions

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Environment for Development

The mission of the United Nations Environment Programme

is

"to provide leadership and encourage partnership in caring for the environment by inspiring, informing and enabling nations and peoples to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations"

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About UNEP

Established in 1972 as the voice of the environment within the UN system, the United Nations Environment Programme is headquartered in Nairobi, Kenya. It is guided by its member states, which together constitute the UNEP Governing Council.

UNEP is organized into divisions that reflect the Programme's agreed priorities: early warning and assessment; policy development and law; policy implementation; regional cooperation; communications and public information; trade, industry and economics; support for conventions and other multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs); and implementation of projects under the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

The Division of Regional Cooperation consists of the six UNEP regional offices – for Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, North America and West Asia – and a small coordination team at headquarters. It also includes several small liaison offices – in Addis Ababa, Beijing, Brasilia, Brussels, Moscow – that report to the relevant regional office. The Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention is located in Vienna.

What we do

For over thirty years, UNEP has promoted global collaboration on environmental issues. It supports efforts to address the loss of biodiversity, the degradation of soil and water, climate change, production and consumption patterns, the relationship between trade and the environment, and the development of environmental legislation, to name a few examples.

UNEP remains a global leader in the environmental field, facilitating the adoption and implementation of multilateral environmental agreements, integrating the private sector into a new culture of environmental responsibility, creating space for the participation of civil society and fostering environmental policies and legislation. Capacity building and technology transfer are also firmly at the top of the UNEP agenda.

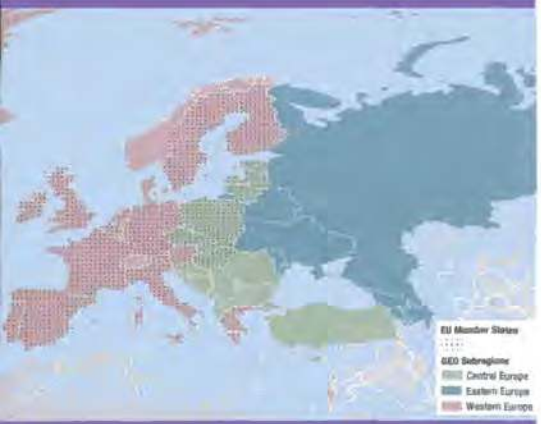
In the aftermath of the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development, UNEP realigned its programmes more closely to the resulting Plan of Implementation. New strategies for UNEP's regional programmes were put in place as a blueprint for the way forward – strategies that accord with UNEP's global priorities and mandates while responding to each region's own priorities.

"We will spare no effort to free our fellow men, women and children from the abject and dehumanizing conditions of extreme poverty to which more than a billion of them are currently subjected."

United Nations Millennium Declaration – 2000

Development Goals in the Millennium Declaration

- Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
- Achieve universal primary education
- Promote gender equality and empower women
- Reduce child mortality
- Improve maternal health
- Combat HIV / AIDS, malaria and other diseases
- Ensure environmental sustainability
- Develop a global partnership for development



One of the key new elements in UNEP's regional programmes is the Bali Strategic Plan of Action for Technology Support and Capacity Building (BSP). Through the Plan, UNEP will be able to increase its assistance to Ministers of Environment and, in collaboration with UNDP and other partners, ensure environmental delivery and impact on the ground. UNEP's Regional offices with their network of country level contacts will play a crucial role in environmental priority setting and delivery.

Within the context of the implementation of the BSP and through its role and work in the field of environmental norm setting and advocacy, UNEP will pursue the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Introduction to Europe

The European region as defined by the UN comprises 53 highly diverse countries and various regional groupings. The 25 member states of the European Union are amongst the wealthiest nations in the world, although their economic growth has slowed in recent years. The ongoing enlargement of the EU is a positive force for the region's environment due to the improved environmental standards that it encourages in new and potential member states. At the same time, the growing economies and infrastructures that enlargement will promote may place greater pressure on the environment.

Europe's politics, once dominated by the fall of the "iron curtain" and a series of conflicts in its southeastern corner, are increasingly driven by the efforts to integrate into the EU. With the accession in 2004 of ten new countries, many of the remaining countries have declared their intention of either joining the EU over the next five to 10 years or of aligning their legislation with EU rules. Meanwhile, especially in the Community of Independent States, a number of countries are still struggling to complete their economic transition, some more successfully than others.

This complexity is reflected in the range of approaches to regional environmental cooperation. Many non-EU countries in Western, Southern and Eastern Europe have formed associations with the EU, either individually or as groups, including strategic partnerships between the EU and its neighboring countries that are leading to concrete support of environmental policies in those countries.

Most of these groups also pursue environmental cooperation amongst themselves. The result is a great variety of environmental forums and activities within the region. UNEP's European activities respond to this diversity.

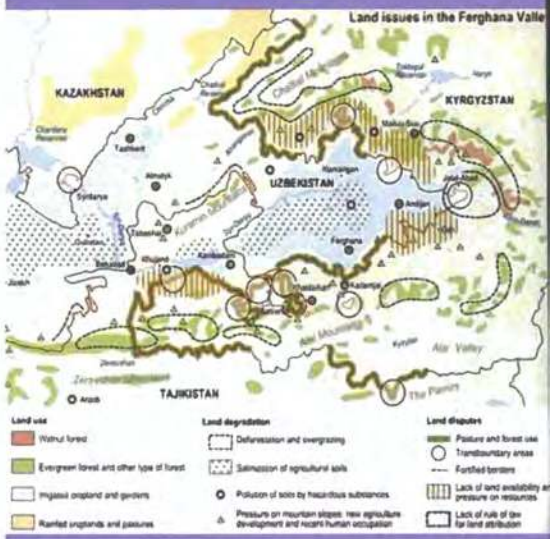
Several key political forums have addressed and identified a wide range of environmental challenges facing Europe, including:

- Climate change
- Nature and biodiversity
- Ecosystems at risk
- Environment and health and quality of life
- Natural resources
- Waste
- Water quality and water resources under threat
- Continued growth of transport and tourism
- Air pollution, especially from particulate matter
- Irreversible soil loss
- Need to strengthen regional and sub-regional cooperation as well as to support partnership initiatives outside the region
- Integration of environment into sectoral policies

Together, these political and economic trends help to ensure that Europe's political landscape continues to be marked by change and flux, demanding a flexible and creative response from UNEP.

In terms of environmental policy and cooperation, Europe can be divided in five distinct country groupings:

1. The enlarged European Union and the associated countries (Switzerland, Norway, Liechtenstein, Monaco, Andorra, San Marino and Iceland);
2. The two accession countries (Bulgaria and Romania) and the two candidate countries (Turkey and Croatia);
3. The four potential candidates of South-Eastern Europe (Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, FYR of Macedonia and Serbia-Montenegro), where the EU Stabilisation and Association process has set the clear objective of harmonization with EU standards;
4. Eastern Europe and the Caucasus (Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, and Moldova, Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia), which have partnership and cooperation agreements for improving laws and promoting convergence with EU standards. These agreements also provide for regular high-level dialogue on environmental matters (in the case of Russia and Ukraine through specific environment sub-committees);



5. The countries of Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan), which participate in pan-European cooperation as members of the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE).

Environmental policy settings in Europe

In addition to environmental policy setting within the European Union for developing a series of strategies, e.g. for the marine environment, air pollution and chemicals, three region-wide political process will require particular attention during the next biennium:

- **The "Environment for Europe" Ministerial process.** Every four years the region's Environment Ministers meet to review the state and management of Europe's environment and to promote environmental protection and sustainable development. The sixth "EfE" conference will take place in Belgrade, Serbia and Montenegro, in 2007. Preparations were initiated in October 2005 by the Ad hoc Working Group of Senior Officials. The UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) will serve as the conference secretariat assisted by a number of intergovernmental processes, including the UNEP-serviced Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (PEBLDS). The Environment for Europe conference will review the implementation of the EECCA (Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia) strategy adopted in Kyiv, Ukraine in May 2003 as well as key topics to be identified by the Working Group of Senior Officials. Initial discussions have highlighted environment and security, sustainable consumption and biodiversity as being among the possible key issues.

- **The fifth meeting of Ministers responsible for health and environment** will also meet in 2007 in connection with the sixth EfE conference to review the state and management of Europe's environment and health nexus.

- **The Ministerial Process on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE).** Every three years, Ministers responsible for forest management in Europe meet to review the state and management of the region's forests. These conferences are prepared by Expert-Level Meetings under the auspices of a lead country. The MCPFE Liaison Unit serves as secretariat and is also hosted by the lead country. The Fourth Ministerial Conference, held in Vienna, Austria, in May 2003, adopted a Framework for Cooperation

between the MCPFE and the Environment for Europe/PEBLDS. The next Ministerial Conference will be hosted by Poland in 2006.

The role of UNEP in Europe

UNEP views its role in Europe as being that of a facilitator and supporter of regional and sub-regional cooperation and partnerships, a provider of assessments and early warnings, an advisor on responses to emerging environmental issues, a builder of capacity in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, and a provider of outreach, environmental education and public information services.

Consistent with this view and with due regard to the changing political landscape of Europe, notably the growing role and influence of the EU both at regional and global levels UNEP's Regional Office for Europe (ROE) in Geneva will firstly continue to support and promote the European inputs to global environmental policies and discussions, including the pan-European preparations for UNEP's Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GMEF), the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

ROE will furthermore facilitate regional consultations on the Global Environmental Outlook (GEO) assessment, preparations for the Civil Society Forum, national agendas and sub-regional and regional stakeholder meetings for the Marrakech process.

In the context of the implementation of the BSP, ROE will promote, implement or backstop technical assistance, training and advisory services to the Balkans and countries of the EECCA region. Most if not all of this work will continue to be carried out as a joint venture with the UN Development Programme (UNDP) and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. Considerable attention will continue to be given to the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), in close cooperation with their Secretariats.

Particular initiatives during the next two years will include the UNEP/UNDP/OSCE EnvSec Initiative on environmental and security and the development of a training course on environmental diplomacy with UNITAR and the University of Geneva.

Meanwhile, ROE will publicize UNEP and its work in Europe, organize the World Environment Day activities, facilitate partnerships amongst the many organizations comprising the international environmental community in Geneva, and represent UNEP at European capitals.

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UNEP's priorities in Europe

Supporting the policy dialogue within Ministerial processes

The Regional Office for Europe represents UNEP in the major policy dialogues in the UNECE region, including the Environment for Europe process, the Health and Environment process, and the Ministerial Process on the Protection of Forests in Europe. The Ministerial meeting in Kyiv in May 2003 under the Environment for Europe (EfE) process identified UNEP as a facilitating organization for assistance to countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA) in the areas of waste, chemicals, biodiversity and integrated water resources management.

It also confirmed UNEP as a supporting organization for developing and brokering transboundary environmental agreements. In addition, UNEP is actively engaged in the review of the implementation of the EECCA strategy under the overall leadership of the OECD.

During the preparations of the 2007 Ministerial Conference, UNEP will focus on environment and security, sustainable consumption patterns and biodiversity. It will also ensure close coordination between UNEP and the European Environment Agency (EEA) in preparing their 2007 assessment reports – GEO 4 and EEA 4th Assessment report.

Inputs are being provided to the meetings of the ECE Environmental Policy Committee, meetings under the various conventions, and the ECE regional review meetings in preparation of the sessions of the Commission for Sustainable Development. UNEP, through ROE, participates in the work of the Task Force for the Environmental Action Plan for Central and Eastern Europe (EAP), and in many meetings of subregional bodies, action plans and strategies

Policy developments and decisions related to environmental management practices in Europe were and continue to be analysed and transmitted to UNEP HQs for consideration and integration in the preparation and implementation of decision making by the UNEP Governing Council, UNEP's Global Ministerial Environment Forum, the Committee of Permanent Representatives, the Environmental Management Group and other relevant UNEP bodies.

Managing the environment to mitigate security risks

There is a growing understanding that environmental degradation, inequitable access to critical natural resources and transboundary movements of hazardous materials increase the probability of conflict and thereby pose a risk to human and even national security. Ongoing disputes and disagreements over the management of natural resources shared by two or more states can deepen divides and lead to hostilities. But common problems regarding the use of natural resources can also bring people together in a positive way.

Since 2002 ROE has been working together with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the UN Development Programme (UNDP) to assess and address environmental problems that may pose internal or cross-border security risks to communities. The three partners – OSCE, UNDP and UNEP – plus NATO as an associated member since 2004 through its Public Diplomacy division, have already helped the participating countries to assess environment and security hot spots in three regions: Central Asia, the Southern Caucasus and South-Eastern Europe. An ENVSEC assessment in Eastern Europe (Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine) started in late 2005.

Led by UNEP, the ENVSEC assessments aim not only to identify hot spots, but also to discuss possible solutions to the problems identified. The latter can range from mitigating and eventually eliminating conflict-related environmental threats, such as sources of cross-border pollution, to confidence building between different nations and ethnic groups thus making the environmental challenges subject to a common understanding and approach. Today the ENVSEC portfolio includes 40 projects prepared and implemented in cooperation with national Governments and research and non-governmental organizations in Central Asia, the Southern Caucasus and South-Eastern Europe.

Campaigning for sustainable consumption

The 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development recognized that "fundamental changes in the way societies produce and consume are indispensable for achieving global sustainable development". The Johannesburg Plan of Implementation called for the "development of a 10-year framework of programmes in support of regional and national initiatives to accelerate

the shift towards sustainable consumption and production patterns that will promote social and economic development within the carrying capacity of ecosystems."

UNEP's governing body requested it to collaborate with the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) on developing training, awareness-raising and capacity-building programmes on sustainable production and consumption in support of Governments, local authorities and business and industry, in particular in developing countries and countries with economies in transition. Governments were invited to provide financial and technical support to enable developing countries and countries with economies in transition to take an active part in these activities.

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As part of the Marrakech process, UNEP and the EU, in consultation with UNDESA, organized a European Stakeholder meeting on Sustainable Consumption and Production in Oostende, Belgium in November 2004. UNEP has also collaborated with governments and civil society groups on organizing a series of multi-stakeholder workshops and dialogues, most recently in the Baltic Sub-region and the Russian Federation. These workshops provided a platform for governments, NGOs, business and researchers to identify the status of consumption and production patterns, to share knowledge and exchange information about good practice, and to discuss priorities, needs and plans for action.

Making transport and mobility more sustainable has been identified as a priority issue throughout all the Sustainable Consumtion and Production (SCP) workshops. In response to this, ROE, in collaboration with OECD, the Central European Initiative (CEI), and the Austrian government, has developed a multi-lingual decentralised Clearing House, *EST goes EAST*, to facilitate information exchange on good practice and innovative projects for sustainable transport (*http://esteast.unep.ch*).

In response to calls made at international level and country-specific requests for assistance, UNEP will continue to assist in mainstreaming SCP in European governmental policies and supporting the development and implementation of a 10-year framework of programmes for sustainable consumption and production.

Protecting Biological and Landscape Diversity

The ***Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (PEBLDS)*** was launched in 1994 to monitor and reduce the degradation and loss of biodiversity resources in Europe. UNEP and the Council of Europe provide the joint Secretariat. PEBLDS provides a framework to promote a consistent approach and common objectives for national and regional action to implement the CBD. National authorities, donors, international organizations, NGOs, the research community and the general public implement the Strategy.

PEBLDS seeks to address the commitment made in 2002 by the Parties to the CBD to reduce the rate of loss of biodiversity by 2010 at all levels; the pledge by the participants at the World Summit on Sustainable Development to achieve by 2010 a significant reduction in the current rate of loss of biological diversity; and the Millennium Development Goals. The European Ministers of Environment of the States participating in the PEBLDS committed to halt the loss of biological diversity in the pan European region by the year 2010 at the Fifth Ministerial Conference *Environment for Europe* held in Kyiv, Ukraine in May 2003. The ***Kyiv Resolution on Biodiversity*** commits then to achieve by 2010 nine key targets in seven areas: forests, agriculture, protected areas and ecological networks, invasive alien species, biodiversity financing, biodiversity indicators and monitoring, and public awareness and participation.

ROE also coordinates and administers the ***Biodiversity Service*** that was launched in 1999 by UNEP, IUCN-The World Conservation Union, the European Center for Nature Conservation (ECNC), and the Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe.

The Biodiversity Service assists countries in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia with the implementation of their national biodiversity strategies and action plans that are developed under the framework of the CBD as well as the implementation of the Kyiv Resolution on Biodiversity. Key activities include strengthening legislation related to biodiversity, raising awareness and building capacity on biodiversity issues, producing publications and developing financial strategies.

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Promoting environmental law and conventions

UNEP supports the design, formulation, compliance with and enforcement of environmental policy and law in the region through:

- Training and technical assistance to governments in the field of environmental institution building, policies and law
- Training and other forms of technical assistance in the implementation of MEAs
- Development and implementation of sub-regional agreements.
- Assistance in the preparation, adoption and implementation of national environmental legislation, including liaison with national parliaments and training of the judiciary.
- Collection, analysis and dissemination of environmental law related information

ROE's main activities in this field center on four regional agreements: The Bucharest Convention (the Black Sea), the Caspian Convention, the Carpathians Convention and, to a lesser extent, the Aarhus Convention.

In support of the Black Sea Commission and jointly with UNEP's Global Programme of Action (GPA), ROE facilitates the revision and subsequent implementation of the Protocol on pollution of the Black Sea from land-based sources and activities to address the complex threats to the Black Sea marine environment.

The ***Framework Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea*** addresses over-exploitation, habitat destruction, pollution and the many other threats facing the world's largest land-locked body of water. In 1995, a report of a joint mission of UNEP, UNDP and the World Bank recommended the development and implementation of a Caspian Environment Programme (CEP) as a comprehensive long-term strategy for the protection and management of the Caspian environment. The most significant outcome of the Programme has been the adoption of the Caspian Convention in early November 2003.

Responding to the request of the Caspian Governments, UNEP, in close cooperation with UNDP and EU TACIS is continuing to service the Convention process pending the Convention's entry into force. Four protocols now under

preparation will address Environmental Impact Assessment, Pollution from Land-Based Sources, Biodiversity Conservation and Oil Pollution Incidents; they are to be adopted as soon as the Convention enters into force. UNEP is also providing support to raise awareness and to facilitate implementation of relevant Multilateral Environmental Agreements in the Caspian region. In addition, it is promoting the use of economic instruments to improve the national and regional environmental management regimes.

At the Fifth Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe", the Carpathian countries adopted the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians. The Conference of Plenipotentiaries for the adoption and signature of the Carpathian Convention requested ROE to continue servicing the Convention process as the interim secretariat. Austria offered to host and support the interim arrangement. UNEP Vienna – ISCC opened on 15 July 2004; it is fully operational and supports the interim implementation of the Carpathian Convention.

The interim secretariat is now preparing for the 1st Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention. Romania has confirmed its offer to organize this high-level event in the city of Brasov. The main items on the agenda will include a Ministerial Declaration, the scope of application of the Convention, draft rules of procedure and financial rules, interim and permanent Secretariat arrangements, the official work programme which includes the preparation of four future Protocols, and progress on UNEP/GEF and EU project submissions.

In the European region, UNEP's work on Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration focuses on the ***Aarhus Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters.*** Adopted under the auspices of the UNECE in 1998, the Aarhus Convention grants the public rights, and imposes on Parties and public authorities obligations, regarding access to information and public participation and access to justice in environmental matters. Secretary-General Kofi Annan has called the Convention the most impressive elaboration of Rio Principle 10.

Together with GRID-Arendal and the Aarhus Secretariat, ROE has promoted the establishment of the Aarhus Convention capacity-building service, which currently functions under the capacity-building coordination framework supervised by the Aarhus Secretariat. In March 2004, ROE organized an Eastern

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Europe, Caucasus, and Central Asia Regional Workshop on Compliance with and Enforcement of MEAs. In close cooperation with the Aarhus Secretariat, GRID-Arendal developed a Clearing House Mechanism to support the collection, dissemination and exchange of information on laws and good practices.

Environmental assessment and alerts

UNEP works with governments, expert centres and other partners in the region on a wide range of environmental assessments and information-support activities for environmental management, decision-making and policy setting. Activities include:

- **Integrated environmental assessments** using the methodology developed by the Global Environment Outlook project. UNEP is now working with its partners in Europe and other regions to develop GEO-4, which will be published in 2007 simultaneously with the next Pan-European assessment, the 'Belgrade report' published by the European Environment Agency (EEA). In addition, UNEP will publish sub-regional assessments for the Carpathian Mountains (KEO, Karpathian Environment Outlook) and the Caspian Sea (Caspian SeaVital Graphics).
- **Data management** involving harmonizing data collection, facilitating access to information and generating high-quality data and indicators to address information gaps that exist in priority areas. Through its European networks and Global Resource Information Database (GRID) offices, UNEP arranges for the delivery of key environmental and socio-economic data covering most of the EECCA countries.
- **Early warning related** identification and assessment of emerging environmental threats that may affect the long-term vulnerability of people, ecosystems and ecosystem services.
- **Capacity building** through UNEP's European GRID centers seeks to enable countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia to conduct and contribute to integrated environment assessments by providing training in methodologies and tools.

Outreach to major groups and stakeholders

Civil society organizations (CSOs) have always been a key partner of UNEP in the region. ROE continues to reach out to a wide and diversified spectrum of constituencies such as regional, sub-regional, national non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and grassroots organizations, children and youth, women, local authorities, trade and consumer unions, industry and the private sector and educational institutions. ROE's civil society outreach work is implemented as follows:

- ***UNEP National Committees.*** UNEP National Committees (NatComs) have been set up under Governing Council Decision 13/33 of 1985 which authorized the establishment of national environmental committees world-wide in order to support the activities of UNEP, in particular by increasing public awareness. As of November 2005, there are 29 NatComs in the region.
- ***NGOs and CSOs.*** In addition to the UNEP NatComs, ROE works with several NGO and CSO networks in the region to deliver its programme, most importantly to solicit their views and opinions in preparation for UNEP forums. Starting with a November 2005 event, ROE has started to organize capacity-building workshops for NGOs from the Balkans and EECCA countries on how to lobby and position themselves on regional and international processes.
- ***Partnerships with local authorities.*** ROE exchanges information and ideas with Local Authorities for example through the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) and its branch for Europe.
- ***Gender and environment.*** ROE regularly exchanges information with women's groups and gender-based organizations, which participate in ROE-organized meetings. In response to Governing Council Decision 23/11, ROE will, inter alia, co-organize a conference on Women as the Voice for the Environment for EECCA countries.
- ***Education for sustainable development.*** ROE works with several of its civil society partners in the region to promote and implement the UNEP Environmental Education and Training Strategy 2004 – 2014.

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- ***Youth, children and environment.*** ROE is responsible for coordinating the UNEP flagship youth magazine, TUNZA. It also coordinated youth inputs into the European Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health. In 2005, the TUNZA Europe network represented European youth organizations in forums established by this conference. ROE has established a TUNZA Europe e-mail list server and identifies delegates for UNEP's annual TUNZA youth retreat.
- ***Sport and the environment.*** ROE is the focal point for UNEP's sport and environment activities in Europe. It also serves as UNEP's liaison with the International Olympic Committee and the Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Sport for Development and Peace.
- ***Information outreach.*** ROE regularly disseminates UNEP publications and media releases to journalists as well as civil society organizations and networks.
- ***Special events.*** ROE organises events in support of WED and other designated UN Days and Years, and facilitates the participation of individuals and organizations in UNEP- related environmental campaigns, awards and competitions.

ROE's Geneva Environment Network (GEN) project

Launched in 1998 and entirely funded by the Swiss Government, the Geneva Environment is a cooperative partnership of 50-plus environment and sustainable development offices based in Geneva. The partners consist of United Nations offices, programmes and specialized agencies, NGOs, and non-profit environmental and academic institutions. The partnership contributes to raising awareness of major international environmental conventions and to promoting the environment-related work and activities of the international community in Geneva.

The GEN organizes roundtables and seminars to discuss emerging issues related to the environment and to sustainable development. It also convenes international workshops; for example, GEN, in collaboration with the three secretariats, has organized regional workshops on the synergies between the Rotterdam, Stockholm and Basel Conventions in Latvia, Oman, South Africa, Syria and Uruguay.

The GEN co-organizes an annual "Sustainable Development Fair" together with the City and Canton of Geneva to enhance the local public's awareness of the UN's international environmental activities. It also organizes exhibits and stands at major fairs, for example at the recent October 2005 Geneva-Palexpo Symposium on the Sustainable Development of Cities. GEN publications include the "Geneva Green Guide", a practical guide for Geneva-based organizations working on the environment and sustainable development and the GEN Bulletin.

The environmental diplomacy programme

ROE is collaborating with the University of Geneva and the UN Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) to establish the Geneva Programme in Environmental Diplomacy. This programme will teach the skills necessary for participating in global negotiations in environment, sustainable development and related fields, including negotiations related to the development and implementation of legal instruments and other types of agreements. In this way it will help future policy- and decision-makers to understand the nature of specific environmental concerns as well as their place and weight in multilateral negotiations.

The programme is aimed at present or future diplomats, negotiators, policy and decision makers in governments, regional intergovernmental bodies, local authorities, the private sector, NGOs, trade unions and UN bodies, with an initial emphasis on wider Europe, including countries with economies in transition in the Balkan and the Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia regions. The course will initially consist of the following modules:

- Sustainable development: constraints and opportunities in economic, social and environmental diplomacy
- Ethics, religion and science in environmental diplomacy
- International environmental policy and law – the interface between policy and law in environmental management
- Environmental governance
- The science, politics and economics of climate change
- Role and place of biodiversity in sustainable development
- Trade and the environment
- Human health, ecosystem health and the chemical-waste cycle
- Forestry and environment
- Environment and security

Technology Support and Capacity Building

Adopted by the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its twenty-third session in February 2005 the ***Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-Building (BSP)*** *is an intergovernmentally agreed approach to strengthen technology support and capacity-building in developing countries, as well as countries with economies in transition. The Bali Strategic Plan is designed to assist these countries:*

- *To strengthen their capacity to achieve their environmental goals, targets and objectives, as well as environment-related internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development.*
- *To strengthen their capacity to implement programmatic goals set by the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, in parallel to the response by UNEP to requests by Governments for targeted capacity building within the mandate of UNEP.*
- *To strengthen their capacity to participate fully in the development of coherent international environmental policy, to comply with international agreements and implement their obligations at the national level, and to use and sustain the capacity or technology obtained through training or other capacity-building efforts after such efforts have been completed.*
- *To strengthen their capacity to develop national research, monitoring and assessment capacity to support national institutions in data collection, analysis and monitoring of environmental trends and in establishing infrastructure for scientific development and environmental management, in order to ensure sustainability of capacity building efforts.*

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UNEP's liaison offices in Europe

Cooperating with the EU and its institutions: the Brussels Office

The Brussels liaison office was established in April 2000 to promote policy exchange between UNEP and the European institutions. Key issues of common concern include chemicals management, sustainable consumption and production, protection of the marine environment, the implementation of MEAs, and environment and security.

A growing policy dialogue led to a Memorandum of Understanding between the European Commission and UNEP in September 2004. This MOU is accompanied by an annual work programme, which encompasses several areas of exchange and cooperation. The work programme was reviewed in December 2005.

In parallel to the policy liaison work, the Brussels office has developed fund-raising activities, many of them directed at the European Commission. For the period 2004 to date, the EC has agreed to fund some nine UNEP projects, amounting to a total of over 7 million Euro, which in 2005 included work on sustainable consumption and production and chemicals.

UNEP Brussels has four staff members, while the Head of the office acts as the Deputy to the ROE Director.

Cooperating with the Russian Federation: the Moscow Office

UNEP opened its office in Moscow in February 2000 to work more closely with the Russian environmental authorities. The main objectives of UNEP's Moscow Office are to:

- Promote UNEP and its programmes in the Russian Federation by strengthening cooperation with the Government, the Parliament, the non-governmental community and the science and business sectors;
- Supervise and assist in implementing UNEP and UNEP/GEF projects in Russia;
- Gather and analyze information on environmental and related political affairs in the country;
- Increase UNEP's credibility and visibility of the Russian Federation;

- Assist in fundraising for UNEP; and
- Collaborate with Moscow-based missions of UN and other international organizations.

MOUs specifying areas of future cooperation between the Russian Federation and UNEP, in general and with respect to GEF collaboration, have been signed. Cooperation with the Russian Parliament (State Duma) is also built on MOUs dealing with specific projects on environmental legislation. The fourth and most recent MOU on developing renewable energy based on forest biomass was signed on 26 October 2005. Since the establishment of UNEP's Moscow Office, which has two staff members, Russia has contributed $500,000 a year to the UNEP Environment Fund.

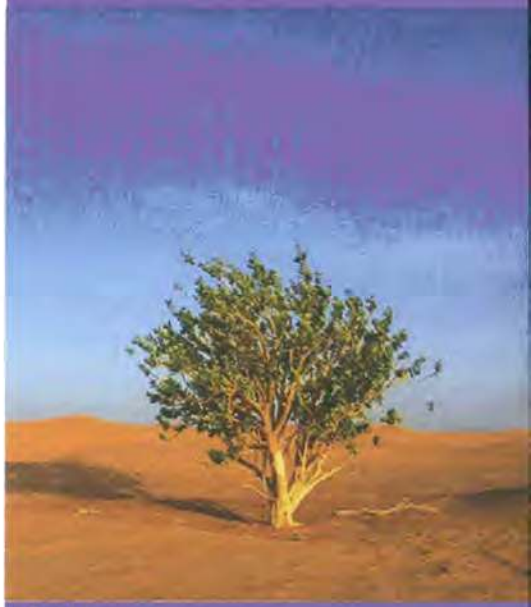
The UNEP office in Vienna

The UNEP office in the Vienna International Centre (VIC) was opened on 15 July 2004. Its role is to:

- Provide the interim secretariat to the Carpathian Convention.
- Serve as the UNEP focal point in the Secretariat of the Mountain Partnership (hosted at FAO in Rome).
- Serve as focal point and host of the sub-regional desk for South Eastern Europe of the UNEP-OSCE-UNDP Environment and Security initiative and support the implementation of UNEP projects in the EnvSec portfolio in South Eastern Europe.

UNEP Vienna-ISCC coordinates a work programme under the Carpathian Convention that includes a broad project portfolio. Current projects and activities include preparing for a full-sized GEF submission on the Carpathian Ecoregional System of Protected Areas in cooperation with the UNDP Regional Centre for CEE in Bratislava.

UNEP Vienna-ISCC liaises with the Secretariat of the Alpine Convention, located in Innsbruck, as well as with the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR). The office also coordinates with the Regional Environment Center (REC), in particular as a partner in the Regional Environmental Reconstruction Programme (REReP) for South-East Europe.



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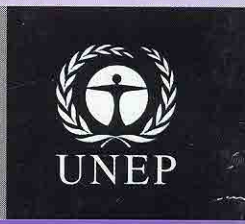

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