



Located in Geneva with offices in Brussels, Moscow, and Vienna, ROE encourages closer cooperation between the main actors in the region, provides expertise in problems facing Europe's environment, and undertakes awareness-raising campaigns, giving Europeans the chance to act towards a greener, cleaner, more environmentally-oriented Europe.

70% of Europe's river basins are transboundary and international and regional cooperation for effective ecosystems management is broadly acknowledged as an imperative

Highlights:

- The Geneva Environment Network (GEN) is a cooperative partnership of over 75 organizations active in the field of environment and sustainable development, including UN offices and programmes, non-governmental organizations, academic institutions and local authorities. Set up in 1999, the GEN Secretariat, led by UNEP, actively promotes increased cooperation and networking between its members and organizes and hosts roundtables, discussions, briefings and film projections on a range of environmental issues. The Secretariat maintains a resource centre, responding to a large number of requests and disseminating information.

Regional Facts

Population: 739 million

Land Area: 10 million km²

Environmental Challenges: climate change, ecosystems at risk, water quality and water resources under threat, air pollution especially from particulate matter, irreversible soil loss, transboundary issues

Regional Forums and Consultations on Environment



Environment and Security (ENVSEC) Initiative

The Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC) is an inter-agency partnership created to reduce environment and security risks and strengthen cooperation between and within countries that are vulnerable to environmental damage and competition over natural resources in the regions of Eastern and South Eastern Europe, South Caucasus and Central Asia. UNEP hosts the ENVSEC Secretariat on behalf of its partners UNDP, UNECE, OSCE and REC and implements field projects aimed at assessing and addressing environment and security risks, including the security impacts of climate change.

Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (PEBLDS) is a framework to promote regional cooperation and build capacity for the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity in Pan-Europe, in particular the EECCA region. It provides biodiversity-related input on the Environment the European process. The principal aim of the Strategy is to ensure the sustainability of the natural environment with special emphasis on concerted pan-European actions. UNEP will continue to act as the Secretariat jointly with the Council of Europe.

Pan-Europe Regional Consultation with Major Groups and Stakeholders of Civil Society

The UNEP European Regional Consultation Meeting with Major Groups and Stakeholders (MGS) was held in Baku, Azerbaijan, in November 2012. The meeting brought together representatives of European civil society organizations, UNEP National Committees, local NGOs from Azerbaijan, and observers from other regions of the world. The outcome included a number of important recommendations, including a 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns.

UNEP and UNDAF

UNEP, through its involvement in the Delivering as One process and UNDAFs in a number of pan-European countries has been supporting the mainstreaming of environmental sustainability into national development programmes. Through close collaboration with the UN Country Teams, UNEP has successfully supported Green Economy Scoping Studies and other technical interventions, such as the Assessment of Environmental, Social and Economic Impacts of Biofuels in Belarus.

UNEP has been increasingly called upon to provide technical expertise at the national level on the Green Economy and other aspects of environmental sustainability. Since 2009, UNEP has been engaged in the UNDAF processes in over 10 countries, with Moldova adding to the list in 2012. Through the joint UNEP-UNDP Poverty Environment Initiative (PEI), the poverty-environment nexus was integrated in the Kyrgyzstan UNDAF 2012-2016.

UNEP's work on the ground

New Pan-European 2020 Strategy for Biodiversity is endorsed

The Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (PEBLDS) is a framework to promote regional cooperation and build capacity for



the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and other biodiversity-related MEAs in Pan-Europe, in particular in the EECCA region. In 2011, countries adopted the new Pan-European 2020 Strategy for Biodiversity which reinforces cooperation for the conservation and sustainable use of pan-European biodiversity and the coordinated national implementation of biodiversity-related MEAs. The principal aim of the Strategy, whose Secretariat is hosted by UNEP, is to ensure the sustainability of the natural environment with special emphasis on concerted pan-European actions.

While the region is home to some of the wealthiest nations of the world, others continue to experience extreme poverty and environmental degradation.

UNEP and Saving Lake Baikal

Situated in southeast Siberia, Lake Baikal is the oldest (25 million years) and deepest (1,700 m) lake in the world. The Lake is home to more than 1,700 species of plants and animals, two thirds of which can be found nowhere else in the world, and was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1996. But a pulp and paper mill factory on the shorelines and the proposed construction of the world's first International Uranium Enrichment Center, is threatening the environment in the area. UNEP together with the Center for International Projects and Buryat Regional Institutions, implemented a project on the development of specially protected areas in the Republic of Buryatia on the eastern shores of the lake.

UNEP and the Carpathian Convention

The Carpathian mountain range is rich in both wildlife and culture. It is Central and South Eastern Europe's greatest reserve of untouched forest, serving as a refuge for brown bears, wolves, bison, lynx, eagles and some 200 unique plants found nowhere else in the world. It also provides some of the continent's cleanest streams and supplies of drinking water. Yet, the Carpathians are also subject to a variety of threats and adverse impacts from land abandonment, deforestation, climate change, industrialization, pollution and over-exploitation of natural resources.

In 2001, UNEP was requested by the Government of Ukraine to service a regional cooperation process aiming at the protection and sustainable development of this major transboundary mountain range. The Carpathian Convention, which entered into force in August 2006, addresses the threats facing the region's people and natural resources and is the only multi-level governance mechanism covering the whole Carpathian area that allows for cross-sector integration and broad stakeholder participation. UNEP-ROE currently provides the interim secretariat hosted by Austria in Vienna.

UNEP and the Caspian

The Caspian Sea, surrounded by the five coastal countries of Azerbaijan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kazakhstan, Russian Federation and Turkmenistan, is the largest land-locked body of water on earth. Situated in a natural depression, below mean sea level, it receives water from the Volga, Ural and the Kura rivers and numerous other freshwater inputs, but has no outlet to the world's oceans. UNEP hosts the interim Secretariat of the Framework Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea, also known as the Tehran Convention, which came into force in August 2006 and aims at protecting the Caspian environment from all sources of pollution including the protection, preservation, restoration and sustainable and rational use of the biological resources of the Caspian Sea.

UNEP and the Moldova and Ukraine Cooperation for the Conservation and Sustainable Development of the Dniester River Basin

Moldova and Ukraine have signed a treaty on Cooperation for the Conservation and Sustainable Development of the Dniester River Basin. The enhanced cooperation of the two countries has been supported by the Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC) through a series of Dniester projects managed by UNEP, UNECE and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

UNEP and the MDG-F in Bosnia and Herzegovina- empowers local stakeholders to mainstream environmental issues into policy agendas

The UN Joint Programme under the Milenium Development Goals Achievement Fund (MDG-F) was designed to address significant barriers to effectively deliver environmental services and management at national and local levels. As part of a multi-pronged approach, the Joint Programme sought to improve local environmental planning nationwide, primarily through the development of Local Environmental Action Plans (LEAPs) and Sustainable Energy Action Plans (SEAPs) which empowered local stakeholders to mainstream environmental issues into policy agendas.

UNEP and the MDG-F in Turkey helps to mainstream climate change adaptation

As part of the southern belt of Mediterranean Europe, Turkey is highly vulnerable to climate change impacts. The severity of these impacts is expected to increase in frequency and magnitude. The UN Joint Programme under the MDG-F chose a strategy that would mainstream climate change adaptation into the country's National Development Framework. As part of the southern belt of Mediterranean Europe, Turkey is highly vulnerable to climate change impacts. The severity of these impacts is expected to increase in frequency and magnitude. The UN Joint Programme under the MDG-F chose a strategy that would mainstream climate change adaptation into the country's National Development Framework.

UNEP to the Rescue of River Volga

The Volga is Europe's longest river and the principal waterway of western Russia. Some of the largest reservoirs in the world can be found along the Volga. In recent years, the river is increasingly threatened by heightened levels of pollution. UNEP has provided expertise and support to the Russian Ministry for Natural Resources and the State Duma for the environmentally-sound management of the Volga river basin.