

TOGETHER FOR A GREENER EUROPE



Welcome to the
UN Environment Programme



www.unep.org/europe



UNEP MISSION

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

Within the United Nations, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is the voice and conscience of the environment. UNEP is represented across the world by the work of seven divisions and six regional offices, all dedicated to seven thematic priority areas: climate change; resource efficiency; disaster and conflicts; environmental governance; harmful substances and hazardous waste; ecosystem management; and environment under review. UNEP works with national governments, other United Nations entities, international organizations, industry, business and civil society to enable sound environmental management, and create the sustainable development models that are needed to meet global environmental challenges. At the 1972 United Nations Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm, the environment and its strong links with development issues were acknowledged as typifying United Nations system-wide challenges and opportunities; UNEP was established at this meeting. The United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) of UNEP reflects the full participation of all 193 UN member states in UNEP's governing body. Prior to 2012, membership in the highest decision-making body had been limited to 58 countries only.

FOREWORD

“A transition to a green economy is already underway. Not since the industrial revolution has our global economy undergone such a massive change – one that is just at its infancy in innovation and development of new green technologies, which will help us build a low-carbon, resource-efficient and more equitable society. From sustainable food production to renewable energy, a green economy offers us an alternative to the fossil fuel and consumption-driven society that we live in today.

It is clear that we cannot afford to continue in a business as usual mode any longer. Ecological scarcities are affecting key economic sectors, including fisheries, forestry and freshwater, which are the bedrock of human food supply and a critical source of livelihoods for many. An average European citizen uses about four times more resources than one in Africa, three times more than one in Asia, and half of that of a citizen in the United States, Canada or Australia. In Europe, about 75 per cent of the population lives in urban areas and this is projected to increase to about 80 per cent by 2020.

The challenge – and we can meet it – lies in safeguarding the natural resources that allow us to build a way of life and sustain generations to come. UNEP is doing its part – working with myriad partners who can include you – to ensure the future we all want”.

Jan Dusik

Director and Regional Representative, Regional Office for Europe, United Nations Environment Programme



A DRIVING FORCE OF NATURE,

Europe is home to many of the world’s iconic landscapes. Encompassing 54 countries, the pan-European region extends from the Atlantic to the Pacific, from the Central Asian plains and the Mediterranean Sea to the Arctic Ocean. The region is known as an engine for development but perhaps lesser known are its forest, freshwater and marine diversity that support life and livelihoods.

One example is the Carpathian Mountain Range in Central and Southeastern Europe: Covering an area five times the size of Switzerland, the Carpathian Mountains are home to 18 million people; supports populations of some of Europe’s last and greatest mammals; and provides critical water supplies and related benefits.

Europe’s cultural and environmental diversity are an asset and a challenge. Within its borders are some of the world’s wealthiest nations alongside others who continue to experience poverty, environmental degradation and varying policies. Environmental challenges include climate change impacts, ecosystem degradation, reduced water quality and water resources, air pollution, soil loss, and the need for cooperation over shared natural wealth.

BEHIND THE SCENES AND ON THE GROUND,

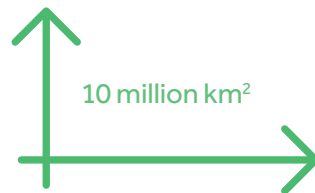
UNEP's Regional Office for Europe (ROE) provides guidance to governments, implements projects, and develops tools to tackle environmental challenges in Europe. These challenges include, among others, cross-border management of the Caspian Sea, resource efficiency in cities, climate adaptation in the Carpathian Mountains. We promote and facilitate switching to more sustainable agriculture such as in Eastern and Central Europe; and assist in developing sound management of transboundary resources, for example, river basins irrigating several countries. Our role entails scanning the horizon to alert authorities of emerging environmental threats, thus keeping the environment under review. UNEP in Europe advises and steers countries, the private sector and civil society on the road towards greener economies through fostering renewable energy sources, promoting sustainable transport, and sharing successes, experience, and best practices. In the region, UNEP supports capacity-building and implementation of environmental policies including Multilateral Environmental Agreements, biodiversity regional strategy and national action-plans, sustainable consumption and production programmes.



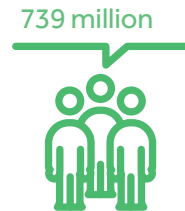
The Geneva Environment Network (GEN) plays a particular role. GEN is a cooperative partnership of more than 75 organizations active in the field of environment and sustainable development, including UN offices and programmes, NGOs, academic institutions and local authorities. Since 1999, the GEN Secretariat, led by UNEP, actively promotes increased cooperation and networking among its members, organizing and hosting several dialogues and events each year. It has become a resource and information portal for any sector wanting to learn about the environment, to green its economy and to develop sustainably.



Countries



Land area



Population



An average European citizen uses about four times more resources than one in Africa and three times more than one in Asia, but half of that in the United States, Canada or Australia.



One-third of the population lives in countries under considerable water stress.



Every year **18,000** children die of waterborne diseases.



100 million people still do not have access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation.



70 of Europe's river basins are transboundary; the Danube river basin, for example, irrigates **18** countries.



A large proportion of European animals and plants are unique (endemic) to the region including about **27** % of terrestrial mammal species, **77** % of amphibians, **52** % of reptiles, and **81** % of freshwater fishes.



About **75** % of Europeans live in urban areas and this is projected to increase to about **80** % by 2020.



European forests currently capture **236** million tonnes of carbon every year - equivalent to **9** % of Europe's annual greenhouse gas emissions.



Offshore wind energy capacity in Europe is projected to increase **17**-fold between 2010 and 2020.



THE BIG SEVEN

entails working with partners as diverse as the challenges at hand, UNEP's Regional Office for Europe (ROE) is committed to results in seven priority areas: Climate Change, Disasters and Conflict, Environmental Governance, Ecosystems Management, Harmful Substances and Hazardous Waste, Resource Efficiency, and Environment under Review, each generating examples of success to be replicated.



RESOURCE EFFICIENCY

A key aim is to ensure that natural resources are produced, processed and consumed in a more environmentally sustainable way in which environmental impact is decoupled from economic growth and social co-benefits are optimized. This involves key sectors including agri-food, cities and buildings, tourism, transport, energy, finance and information and communications technology.

GREEN ECONOMY ADVISORY SERVICES SPUR DIALOGUE AND ACTION

UNEP's Green Economy Advisory Services is conducting macroeconomic assessments of tens of national economies worldwide and specific economic sectors in an effort to help transition to a green economy. As every country and region must define its own pathway towards a green economy, UNEP is working closely with national experts, UN agencies and other partners to offer governments the tools and options that will best meet their needs. In Europe, UNEP is supporting the governments of Montenegro, Serbia, Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova, Caucasus, Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan to demonstrate the socio-economic and environmental benefits of a green economy approach, while making the case for energy efficiency, expanding the use of renewable energy and increasing organic agriculture. Wide stakeholder participation has led to solid data collection, and a thorough consultation process has shown positive results in all sectors.

In preparation for the Rio+20 conference for instance, UNEP provided technical input and financed a synthesis report which analysed the individual positions of the 12 member states of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation, generating consideration of a common vision for the wider Black Sea region.



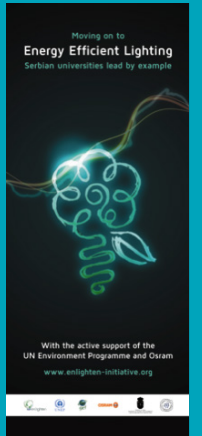
SERBIA MAKES FIRST SWITCH TO ENERGY-EFFICIENT LIGHTING

In 2013, UNEP has worked hand in hand with the Serbian Ministry of Energy, Development and Environmental Protection, the University of Belgrade and the company OSRAM to demonstrate the multiple benefits of moving to efficient lighting in Serbia. The Faculty of Mechanical Engineering led a pilot project in its main Atrium, whereby all inefficient lighting was replaced. This is expected to result in annual savings of up to 75% of electricity consumption and reduce CO2 emissions to 63.4 tonnes per year. The brand new lighting was inaugurated in October 2013 on the occasion of University Open Day and has the potential to be replicated elsewhere in the country.

The project is part of the UNEP/Global Environment Facility (GEF) "enlighten initiative", whose purpose is to accelerate global market transformation to technologies in environmentally sustainable lighting. The initiative provides a coordinated global strategy and technical support for the phase out of inefficient incandescent lighting. The project has brought together governments and lighting experts from over 40 international organizations to deliver guidance on the development and successful implementation of national and regional efficient lighting strategies. A global target of 2016 has been set for all countries to have phased out, be in the process of phasing out, or have policies in place to phase out inefficient incandescent lamps.

The global transition to energy efficient lighting globally would save billions of dollars in electricity costs and also boost economies and create green jobs in lighting and lighting-related industries. Improved access to electricity for millions of people would lead to increased productivity, income and quality of life. The transition to energy efficient lighting is a win-win for the lighting industry, governments and end users worldwide.

For more information: www.enlighten-initiative.org



CLIMATE CHANGE

We support countries in addressing climate change through four main avenues: adaptation and building resilience to climate change; mitigation and moving towards low carbon societies; reduction of emissions from deforestation and forest degradation; and finance for new models for the green economy.

TRAINING WORKSHOPS AT THE TERRITORIAL LEVEL OR HOW TO HELP LOCAL AUTHORITIES ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE

UNEP is organizing series of training workshops entitled 'Territorial Approach to Climate Change' (TACC). The objective is to support sub national authorities in entering into a low carbon and climate resilient economy, based on sound knowledge of efficient mitigation and adaptation strategies. From sustainable energy and sustainable transport options to creative urban planning, and sustainable buildings, the training addresses good practices in combating climate change, using local-level analysis.

TACC enhances participants' knowledge and understanding of the climate change policy framework and its implications for regional and local responses and actions. Particular focus is put on integrating this knowledge in relevant policies and plans; sources of funding for local actions are also highlighted during the workshop. Experts review practical measures for mitigating, and adapting to, climate change, stressing the importance of regional cooperation.



THE "GREENUP" CAMPAIGN

GreenUp means greening our economy with the help of citizens. GreenUp provides resources to citizens to help them connect their daily choices with supporting a Green Economy. More than 20 public transportation companies across Europe joined forces with UNEP in a specific GreenUp action to promote sustainable transport choices among commuters. Part of UNEP's GreenUp initiative, the Let's Travel Together campaign was launched at the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), and encouraged commuters to take everyday action so as to reduce carbon emissions from vehicles. Sustainable transport tips reached 500,000 Facebook users in July 2012. GreenUp continues to give daily tips for more sustainable lifestyles to his 10,000 fans and followers.

For more information:

www.unep.org/greenup

www.facebook.com/GreenUp.UNEP

PLANETSOLAR CATAMARAN SUCCESSFULLY CONCLUDES 2013 CAMPAIGN IN PARIS



PlanetSolar's 2013 campaign, which began on 8 April in La Ciotat (France), came to an end on 10 September in Paris. In successfully completing an unprecedented campaign of scientific measurements along the Gulf Stream in collaboration with the University of Geneva (UNIGE) and UNEP, the world's largest solar vessel demonstrated throughout this journey that she could be used for practical purposes. The ship sailed over 20,000 kilometers in 156 days, raising the general public's awareness about climate issues and promoting solar energy at each stopover. The Parisian stopover brought the 2013 mission to a close.

"PlanetSolar DeepWater made it possible to test several scientific instruments – some of which were prototypes developed at UNIGE – in real conditions. Extensive physical, chemical, and biological data is now in the hands of the institution and will be the subject of a thorough analysis. Interesting trends are already becoming apparent, particularly in relation to sea spray aerosol production," stated Martin Beniston, climatologist and Director of the Institute of Environmental Sciences at UNIGE.

UNEP was an active partner of this first ever large scale scientific solar expedition by processing satellite data that guided Planet Solar towards best locations for sampling. The scientists on the boat were looking for specific zones with great variations in temperatures and chlorophyll concentration, as these zones carry large amounts of energy and provide best possible information. Now that UNEP has fulfilled its "GPS-by-satellite" guidance role, it will host all the scientific data collected during the mission and ensure they are easily accessible for download and processing by the scientists involved.

For more information: www.planetsolar.org/

DISASTERS AND CONFLICT

We aim to minimize threats to human wellbeing and the environment from the causes and consequences of disasters and conflicts. Targeted results include enhanced environmental management capacity of member states, rapid and reliable assessments upon government request, and improved sustainable use of natural resources through the implementation of sound policies and practices in post-crisis situations.

SECURING THE FUTURE OF A TRI-NATIONAL LAKE

The transboundary water basin of Druksiai/Drisviaty Lake is shared by Lithuania, Belarus and Latvia. The basin is an environmental and security hotspot due to nuclear waste storage and repository facilities in parts of the region. Addressing these challenges requires appropriate measures to be taken, such as the procurement of accurate data, stakeholder exchange and advanced training. The GeolQ information management system is the first tool of its kind, enabling the exchange of timely information about the basin, with visual aids and analysis. In addition, information related to the climate conditions and water quality and quantity will help improve the management of resources now that all countries are providing comprehensive assessments. The project has been coordinated by the Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC), an alliance of six international organizations based at UNEP's ROE.



THE ENVIRONMENT AND SECURITY INITIATIVE TURNS 10

On 6 November 2013, the Environment and Security Initiative – ENVSEC – marked its 10th anniversary. Over the past decade, UNEP has worked hand in hand with UNDP, UNECE, OSCE, REC and NATO to transform shared environmental risks in the pan-European region into cooperation and joint management of precious resources.

On this occasion, over 70 participants from governments, project stakeholders, experts and international organizations, gathered in Brussels for the ENVSEC Partners meeting to share results and achievements and to debate the way forward for regional cooperation in environment and security.

Over this decade ENVSEC has worked with around 30 partner countries and over 100 local and international partners. More than 150 projects on environment and security have been implemented in the regions Central Asia, Eastern Europe, South Eastern Europe and South Caucasus. Approximately 170 million people have benefited from this work. The experience gained during this decade shows that shared environmental risks can be transformed into opportunities for regional and cross-regional cooperation, which lay the foundations for sustainable development. Success stories (from these 10 years of ENVSEC) include a joint declaration and regional action plan on radioactive waste management; transboundary agreements and modern water treaties; improved policies and legislation on challenges such as illegal logging and dam failure; improved flood and fire monitoring and early warning systems; and pilot remediation projects that provide solutions and catalyse follow-up projects.

Taking stock of the first decade of ENVSEC, the partners have produced the publication “Transforming risks into cooperation - Environment and Security Initiative 2003-2013” which sums up achievements and key results, lessons learned and best practices from this work.

Among the unique features that contributes to the added value of the ENVSEC Initiative are its multi-level, cross-border and participatory approach and its long-term standing for investments in disaster risk reduction and environmental diplomacy.



The ENVSEC partner organisations, combining their complementary mandates with the unique ENVSEC methodology and joint approach, will continue to strengthen regional dialogue and cooperation on assessing and addressing environment and security hot spots, including the adverse effects of climate variability and global warming, promoting coordinated adaptation strategies and shared regional approaches to transboundary river basins, mountains, and hazardous waste, for the countries to protect human security and enhance stability.

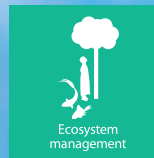
For more information: <http://www.envsec.org>





ECOSYSTEMS MANAGEMENT

Our support to countries is on integrating an ecosystem management approach into policy processes, working with them to realign their programmes and financing, and to tackle the degradation of ecosystems that naturally provide benefits and services such as fisheries, water, waste treatment, recreation, ecotourism, and many more.



PAN-EUROPEAN 2020 STRATEGY FOR BIODIVERSITY

The Pan-European 2020 Strategy for Biodiversity, approved in 2012, has set in motion a new phase of regional cooperation that aims to halt biodiversity loss. This strategy takes global biodiversity goals and defines regional measures for implementation, making it a blueprint for progress in the pan-European region. The strategy brings together 55 countries to deal with issues that go beyond national borders. It has already contributed to the 'Aichi Target' (adopted at the Convention on Biological Diversity Conference in Japan) to enhance the benefits of ecosystem services through ecosystem restoration.

In April 2013, the 6th Intergovernmental Biodiversity in Europe Conference, organized as part of the Pan-European Biodiversity Platform, took place in Batumi, Georgia. Hosted by UNEP and the Georgian Ministry of Environment Protection, more than 120 participants attended, including representatives from 30 countries, the European Commission, NGOs, the private sector, and scientists. Views and exchange of expertise and input were geared to planning the future of pan-European biodiversity cooperation towards the implementation of the global Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Pan-European 2020 Strategy for Biodiversity

THE ARCTIC UNDER CLIMATE PRESSURES: AN AGENDA FOR CHANGE

Arctic Agenda 2020 kicked off in December 2012, aiming at governance reforms for sustainable development of the Arctic in the Russian Federation. The Programme will help bring about firmer institutional arrangements for shared resources of transboundary marine ecosystems, energy efficiency improvements and renewable energy development. The Programme also aims to catalyse dialogue with other Arctic countries and develop a mechanism to promote investments. UNEP is engaged in Arctic 2020 to assist governments in reversing harmful environmental trends. Other Global Environment Facility implementing agencies involved are the World Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

GEORGIA TAKES THE LEAD IN ASSESSING ITS NATURAL CAPITAL

“It is often said that you can’t manage what you don’t measure. The same principle can apply for a country’s natural capital”, said Pavan Sukhdev, Chair, TEEB Advisory Board and UNEP Goodwill Ambassador, at the launch of “The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) Scoping Study for Georgia” that took place in Tbilisi in October 2013.

Georgia is one of the pilot countries that has volunteered to assess its natural capital with the ultimate objective of valuing it, including non monetary values, and the services provided by the country’s ecosystems. “Bringing the wealth of the natural world to the attention of decision makers will pave the way to better informed choices and policies for all Georgians”, added Mr Sukhdev.



The “TEEB Scoping Study for Georgia” – a joint effort of the Georgian Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection, UNEP and WWF Caucasus – is an important step forward in valuing ecosystems and biodiversity. Identifying five core sectors of Georgian economy – Energy, Tourism, Agriculture, Mining, and Forestry – the study highlights their substantial dependence on natural capital and related services, hence showing the importance of healthy ecosystems beyond environmental concerns.

Addressing the audience in Tbilisi, Jan Dusik, Director and Regional Representative for UNEP in Europe said: “UNEP is proud to host The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) initiative which has brought the multiple values, including the non monetary values, of the globe’s ecosystems and their services from the invisible into the visible spectrum of economic and developmental discourse. Not because the economics of nature are nature’s only relevance to humanity; but in a world where the ups and downs of GDP currently define much of policy making, informing decision makers by increasing the evidence base for countries to account for their natural assets in policy formulation may lead to more sustainable development and greener economies”.

The “TEEB Georgia: Scoping Study” is a preliminary study that sets the stage for undertaking a full TEEB study for Georgia that would provide decision makers with data and recommendations on questions that the scoping study identifies. The recommendations would cover a large spectrum, including public policies for subsidy reform, land use management, protected area management, investment in natural infrastructure restoration, and national accounting to include natural capital.

For more information: http://www.teebweb.org/publication/teeb-scoping-study-for-georgia-main-findings-and-way-forward/#.UlvDoINgV_Y



ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE

We work with governments and regional institutions to ensure that environmental sustainability is at the heart of their development policies by providing accurate and timely environmental data and information, thus supporting international decision-making processes.

COLLECTIVE COMMITMENT TO 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. It features 400 endemic species and faces the challenges of unprecedented growth in oil and gas exploration and transport. In 2006, the Framework Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea entered into force. In the framework of the Convention, the first of four protocols - the Aktau Protocol on Regional Preparedness, Response and Cooperation in Combating Oil Pollution Incidents - was adopted and signed in Aktau, Kazakhstan in August 2011.



INFORMATION SHARING PLATFORM TO BETTER PRESERVE THE CASPIAN

The five Caspian states are now sharing a common virtual platform to exchange information and data on the Caspian environment. This is one additional tool for Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation and Turkmenistan to better preserve, together, the Caspian and its unique biodiversity.

The virtual Caspian Environmental Information Centre (CEIC) web portal was launched in its prototype form at the Fourth meeting of the Conference of Parties (COP4) to the Tehran Convention in Moscow (Russia) in December 2012, and welcomed by the Conference as an effective tool to collect, store and disseminate readily available environmental data. Now fully operational, CEIC is linked to the official website of the Convention and will play a central role in the unified reporting system and the Caspian Environmental Monitoring Programme, ensuring collective policy and decision-making to protect the Caspian Sea.

The CEIC web portal has been established by GRID-Arendal – the Center Collaborating with UNEP, based in Norway and working closely with the five Caspian states and with the support of UNEP's Regional Office for Europe, which hosts the Interim Secretariat of the Tehran Convention on the protection of the Caspian Sea. Funding from the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, along with financial support from BP Azerbaijan and its partners ensured the development of CEIC in accordance with the provisions of the Convention, which stipulates that a centralised database and information management system be established, as a virtual network to exchange information and data on the Caspian environment.

For more information: www.tehranconvention.org

10 YEARS OF FRUITFUL COOPERATION FOR THE CARPATHIAN CONVENTION

The Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the International Organizations in Vienna hosted the celebration of the 10th Anniversary of the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians. The Convention was adopted on 22 May 2003 in Kyiv by the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovak Republic and Ukraine. The Carpathian Convention and its partners have been working together ever since to promote sustainable development of the Carpathian Region, appreciation for its natural and cultural value and preservation of rich natural assets for future generations. The Regional Office for Europe of UNEP has been servicing the convention and hosting the interim secretariat in Vienna since its establishment a decade ago. The convention and its implementation provide a good case study for, and linkages with, the global agenda for the sustainable development of mountain regions.

One of the latest achievements of the Convention is the entry into force of the protocols on Sustainable Forest Management and of the Protocol on Sustainable Tourism. The Convention is now finalizing the discussion on two more protocols on Sustainable Transport and one on Cultural Heritage and Traditional Knowledge.

HARMFUL SUBSTANCES AND HAZARDOUS WASTE

Part of promoting a sustainable environment means we aim to minimize the impact of harmful substances and hazardous waste on the environment and people by promoting chemical safety, providing access to information on toxic chemicals and providing policy guidance.

STRONGER COOPERATION, BETTER HEALTH

The Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions govern chemicals and hazardous waste safety at the global level. UNEP ROE supports countries in the region to manage hazardous chemicals and wastes in an environmentally sound manner, and is actively undertaking efforts to increase coherence in the implementation of the three chemicals and waste conventions. ROE has provided pivotal support to Global Environment Facility (GEF) projects such as the Last Mercury Mine in Kyrgyzstan; the Mercury Assessment and Action Plan in the Russian Federation; and the Regional Mercury Assessment and Action Plan in Ukraine, Belarus and Kazakhstan. Our work on chemicals and waste also includes the linkages between health and environment, and the engagement of children and youth in a range of sustainable development issues through research, capacity-building and student outreach.



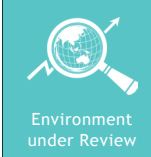
ENVIRONMENT UNDER REVIEW

The seventh thematic area is critical to one of UNEP ROE's key roles, that of gathering and sharing new science and knowledge. Emerging data and trends are important to catch early so that stakeholders can set the right policies and take decisions in time. By keeping the environment under review, UNEP seeks to enhance countries' capacity to access, analyze, use, and communicate information so that nature gets the chance to survive and thrive.

GEOS PROVIDING THE FACTS TO ACT

UNEP's Global Environment Outlook Reports gather the latest science to identify trends in our natural environment, thus helping to spread awareness and guide remedial interventions. The GEO-5 report: Environment for the Future contains the hard data behind the visible impacts of environmental mismanagement. Increased frequency and severity of floods and droughts and dwindling fisheries are among examples reflecting the breakdown in environmental systems. Significant progress – though on only four of the 90 environmental goals and objectives assessed - included increased access to improved water supplies and research to reduce pollution of the marine environment. Some progress was shown on expansion of protected areas such as National Parks; increased efforts to reduce deforestation; reducing hunger; increased policy responses to address invasive species; and management of chemicals and other wastes.

For more information: www.unep.org/geo/geo5.asp



UNEP LIVE

A cutting edge, dynamic new platform to collect, process and share the world's best environmental science and research.

From mapping natural capital to forecasting hydropower to intelligent energy and the sustainable use of materials, strong data presently exist in a wide variety of environmental arenas.

However, there is a need to translate those data into good political and socio-economic decisions that will contribute to the transition to an inclusive green economy.

Indeed, policy making "in the dark" under high levels of uncertainty and without concrete data - carries high risks and transactional costs which need to be minimized. End users must be able to access data in a meaningful way.

To that end, UNEP Live will fill gaps between data providers and consumers.

It will focus on the latest information and emerging issues. Through the platform's apps, multimedia content and digital publishing tools, users will have access to data from UNEP, national and regional resources and other knowledge and data providers.

Moreover, through these tools and resources, UNEP Live will extend the knowledge base for global environmental policy making and evidence based analysis.

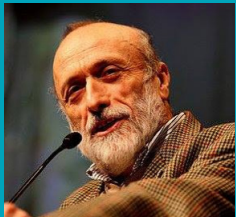
It will also support the streamlining of national monitoring, reporting and verification of data for global and regional environmental goals, including the post 2015 agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Among the goals of UNEP Live is to provide full and open access to information to people around the world.

For more information: www.unep.org/uneplive



TWO EUROPEAN LAUREATES RECEIVE 2013 UN CHAMPIONS OF THE EARTH AWARD



Carlo Petrini, founder of the Slow Food movement, and European Commissioner for the Environment Janez Potočnik received the United Nations 2013 “Champions of the Earth” award. The prize – the UN system’s highest environmental accolade – is awarded to leaders from government, civil society and the private sector whose actions have had a significant and positive impact on the environment.

Mr Petrini was recognised for his pioneering work over the past three decades to improve the efficiency and sustainability of the world’s agriculture and food supply “one bite at a time”. Slow Food has over 100,000 members and supporters in more than 150 countries, defending local food traditions, supporting biodiversity, tackling food waste, and promoting small-scale quality food products.



Mr Potočnik received the Policy Leadership award for his commitment to an inclusive Green Economy and boosting resource efficiency including in respect to food wastage across the European Union. The Slovenian national’s leadership has emphasized how rising pressures on water, land, and other resources can trigger a positive shift towards more sustainable, low-carbon economies and lifestyles.

They joined an eclectic group of “Champions of the Earth” laureates, including Brazil’s Environment Minister, the developers of Google Earth, and a leading air pollution researcher, who received their awards in September 2013 at a special ceremony held in New York with Achim Steiner and UNEP’s Goodwill Ambassador Gisele Bündchen.

“Champions of the Earth” is organized by UNEP: www.unep.org/uneplive

A PRESENCE YOU CAN COUNT ON,

the Regional Office for Europe (ROE) is one of UNEP’s six regional offices. Located in Geneva, ROE is also present in Brussels, Vienna, and Moscow. Our project office in Sarajevo hosted World Environment Day 2013, engaging in new ways with youth, academics, and decision-makers on environment and sustainable development.

UNEP’S OFFICE IN GENEVA

The Regional Office for Europe is the voice of the UN Environment Programme in the European region. In addition, the Geneva Environment Network (GEN) is made up of more than 75 organizations active in the field of environment and sustainable development. Core commitments of UNEP’s office in Geneva are to:

- Provide guidance to national governments at various levels;
- Engage with, and facilitate dialogue between civil society, the private sector and governmental authorities;
- Encourage closer cooperation between the main actors in the region, providing expertise in facing Europe’s environment;
- Undertake awareness raising campaigns, empowering Europeans to take a stand for a more environmentally secure, sustainably developed Europe.

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UNEP'S OFFICE IN BRUSSELS

The liaison function of UNEP's office in Brussels is focused both on closely following environmental policy-making at the EU level and contributing to policy shaping for sustainable development.

- The office was set up in 2001 and its main activities encompass:
- Gather information on new developments in European environmental policies and initiatives, maintaining a two-way flow of information between UNEP and the EU;
- Maintain and activate a network of regular contacts with the EU institutions, the respective national delegations and other partners such as NGOs and European federations;
- Increase UNEP's visibility in Brussels through participation in conferences and special events;
- Promote and facilitate the development of joint EU-UNEP collaboration, programmes and projects on the basis of yearly consultations for identification of synergies.

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UNEP'S OFFICE IN VIENNA

Established in 2004, UNEP's office in Vienna serves as the Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention (ISCC).

ISCC supports the implementation of the Carpathian convention, promotes ratification and facilitates cooperation between the signatory states as well as other relevant international bodies and conventions, encourages and supports research, communication and information exchange between partners, coordinates the preparation and implementation of the work programme under the Convention, prepares relevant documentation and supports further institutional development. UNEP Vienna - ISCC :

- Services the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians;
- Is a focal point for environmental cooperation with Central and South-Eastern European countries;
- Acts as a liaison between UNEP and organizations based in the region.

UNEP Regional Office for Europe - Vienna Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention Vienna International Centre

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Closer cooperation with the Russian environmental authorities and stronger relations with the Russian Federation are among the aims of the UNEP office in Moscow whose main functions include:

- Promoting UNEP and its programmes in the Russian Federation by developing and strengthening cooperation with state executive and legislative bodies, non-governmental community, science and business sectors;
- Gathering and analysing information on environmental and related political affairs and trends in Russia;
- Furthering collaboration with Moscow-based UN missions and those of other international organizations

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OUR FUTURE TOGETHER IS HERE NOW,

and our strength is in the science, outreach and advocacy as much as in our projects on the ground. A healthy, sustaining environment knows no bounds: Whether it is raising funds, designing a project, debating a policy, running a campaign, or rallying for a common vision, UNEP's results are because of partners in all sectors. Our nine major groups and stakeholders include indigenous peoples and their communities, women's groups, NGOs, local authorities, workers and trade unions, business and industry, the science and technology community, farmers, and youth.

The UN Millennium Development Goals set the bar high for nations to improve in eight areas including health, education, equity and environmental sustainability. Well into the decade, UNEP gives new impetus to guiding governments towards sustainable development. The post-2015 sustainable development goals aim to take us towards improved human well-being and social equity while significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcity. We aim for a future that is low carbon, resource efficient and socially inclusive - as defined by a green economy - and that future has begun.

With continued support from private and public sector partners, UNEP in Europe will develop a portfolio of results. This means a stronger future in which we:

- Equip leaders with tools for a green economy
- Alert stakeholders and decision-makers across sectors to trends and developments in environment
- Promote cooperation for sharing natural resources across borders and averting conflict
- Encourage new and sustainable production patterns and sensitize consumers
- Meet emerging challenges and opportunities such as in Central Asia's natural environment

Protecting the environment and sustaining our development is not a stand-alone concern that competes with others. We are increasingly aware that 'getting the environment right' means addressing fair policies, creating jobs, investing in health and education, building gender equality, and taking actions that give everyone a stake and a chance at a better life. Though one of this century's pressing challenges, a better environment for development has also come at a time when we understand it better than ever before, when we are learning more, and already facing it with new tools and inclusive strategies.



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