

# **UNEP's Presentation to the UNFCCC Workshop on the Adaptation Fund**

Fairmont Hotel, Macdonald, Edmonton, Canada, 3-5 May 2006

## **About UNEP**

UNEP, established in 1972, is the voice for the environment within the United Nations system. UNEP acts as a catalyst, advocate, educator and facilitator to promote the wise use and sustainable development of the global environment. To accomplish this, UNEP works with a wide range of partners, including United Nations entities, international organizations, national governments, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and civil society.

UNEP work encompasses:

- Assessing global, regional and national environmental conditions and trends
- Developing international and national environmental instruments
- Strengthening institutions for the wise management of the environment
- Facilitating the transfer of knowledge and technology for sustainable development
- Encouraging new partnerships and mind-sets within civil society and the private sector.

UNEP's global and cross-sectoral outlook is reflected in its organizational structure, its activities and its personnel. Being based in Africa gives UNEP a clear advantage in understanding the environmental issues facing the world's developing countries.

To ensure its global effectiveness UNEP supports six regional offices, plus a growing network of centres of excellence such as the Global Resource Information Database (GRID) centres and the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC). UNEP also has major offices in Geneva and Paris, where its Division of Technology, Industry and Economics is situated.

UNEP also hosts several environmental convention secretariats including the Ozone Secretariat and the Montreal Protocol's Multilateral Fund, CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora), the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention on Migratory Species, and a growing family of chemicals-related agreements, including the Basel Convention on the Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and the recently negotiated Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs).

## **UNEP and Trust Funds**

The Environment Fund is the principal source of financing for UNEP's activities and projects. UNEP also benefits from earmarked funding for specific activities, provided through Trust Funds and Earmarked contributions. In addition, the UN Foundation supports UNEP projects in the areas of biodiversity and climate change.

UNEP is involved in administering several trust funds, as the Multilateral Fund, which is the biggest UNEP trust fund, where UNEP mainly serves as treasurer/trustee. The numbers of trust funds and their expenditures have increased steadily over the years.

From 1992 to 2004, UNEP increased its managing trust funds portfolio from 43 to 74. Since 1998, UNEP separates the financial reporting on the trust funds supporting the UNEP's Programme of Work (48 trust funds) from other trust funds like conventions that are managed by independent governing bodies (26 trust funds). In 2004-2005, direct support from trust funds amounted to US\$ 91.01 million.

## **UNEP and Climate Change**

UNEP has a key role to play in understanding, mitigating and adapting to climate change. The UNFCCC convention is the main guidance of UNEP's action on climate change. UNEP climate change enabling activities in 2004-2005 are focused on developing adaptive capacity for developing countries through the implementation of national and regional initiatives aimed at reducing climate change effects.

In implementing GEF projects, the UNEP Governing Council adopted the related work plan in 1999, which specifies that UNEP will focus on the following types of projects for climate change:

1. Advanced knowledge for environmental decision making through scientific and technical analysis including environmental assessment and targeted research
2. Relate national and regional environmental priorities to the global environment objectives of GEF
3. Promote regional and multi country cooperation
4. Catalyze response to environmental emergencies
5. Advanced environmental management through development testing and demonstration of approaches, methods and tools and through identification and promotion of best practices and lessons learned.

UNEP is developing and managing several projects in adaptation, such as UNEP's project to assist five countries in East Africa to integrate vulnerability and adaptation in sustainable development policy planning and implementation and UNEP's Glacial Lake Outburst Flood project in the Hindu-Kush Himalayan region for which approval is pending GEF decision. This later project seeks to preserve the population livelihoods by preparing an inventory of glaciers and glacial lakes, developing an early warning system and identifying other adaptation measures. Another project, the Capacity Building for the Development of Adaptation in Pacific Island Countries project, seeks to bring benefits to populations at risk in low-lying lands and flood-prone areas. UNEP has also been working with GEF to prepare NAPAs for fifteen developing countries including as Haiti, Liberia and Tanzania, in order to identify threats and solutions linked with climate change. 100 countries are benefiting from UNEP and UNDP expertise and support in adaptation to climate change. Together with the World Meteorological Organization, UNEP established in 1988 the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to collect information on existing knowledge about climate change, its environmental, economical and social impacts as well as the different responses available.

In addition, UNEP is one of the three IAs of the GEF. By April 2004, UNEP/GEF was managing a work program worth US\$ 774 million including US\$ 417 million in GEF resources. UNEP provides guidance and assessments on GEF-financed activities with regards to global, regional and national environmental priorities, policy frameworks and plans and international environmental agreements. UNEP action is supported by various scientific advisory groups, like the GEF STAP, which provides strategic advices on global environmental threats and solutions.

### **UNEP's Evaluation Oversight Unit**

The Evaluation and Oversight Unit (EOU) is charged with the responsibility for conducting, coordinating and overseeing evaluations within UNEP. This mandate covers all Programmes and projects of the Environment Fund, related trust funds, earmarked contributions and projects implemented by UNEP under the Global Environmental Facility (GEF). The activities of the UNEP administered Conventions fall outside the scope of the evaluation function of the Unit.

The activities of EOU to cover this mandate comprise management studies, in-depth sub-programme evaluations, project self-evaluations, and project evaluations, conducted with the lead of EOU. EOU also prepares an annual report to provide a synthesis of the evaluation findings and conclusions in a specific year.

The Unit follows the highest international norms and standards on evaluation including the OECD/DAC and UNEG. The Unit is also participating in the development of norms and standards for evaluation, at the level of the United Nations, and effectively cooperating with other programmes such as the GEF in testing and refining methodologies for evaluation and in incorporating risk identification in the evaluation process.

In accordance with the UNEP Organigram adopted by the Governing Council in 1998, the Unit is independent on issues related to developing its work programme, recruitment of consultants, conduct of evaluations, reporting of evaluation findings, and follow-up on the implementation of evaluation recommendations. Transparency is also key aspect of the work of the Unit, as most of the evaluations made are in the public domain.

Another key aspect of the Unit's work is follow-up of evaluations. Every programme and project evaluation is followed by an implementation plan for the recommendations. These plans, prepared by the relevant Programme/Project Manager, contain details on whether the evaluation recommendations are accepted, what action will be taken, when and by whom. The Evaluation and Oversight Unit reviews these plans in order to ensure that the responses address the requirements of the recommendations and follow-up on the status of implementation on a half- yearly basis. Some recommendations lie outside the scope of UNEP and the project managers. For example, evaluations often include recommendations which are addressed to the governments. EOU increasingly encourages consultants to split up recommendations (UNEP, Governments, and Executing Agencies etc.) so that the unit only follows up on the implementation of recommendations addressed to UNEP. However, last year, as part of the Units follow-up activities to evaluations conducted on climate change enabling activities, letters were sent to focal points within governments to ensure that

recommendations derived from the evaluations conducted were taken into consideration during stakeholder workshops planned prior to initiation of Phase II activities.