

# UNEP INITIATIVE ON CAPACITY BUILDING FOR INTEGRATED ASSESSMENT AND PLANNING FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

25-26 JUNE 2003, PALAIS DES NATIONS  
SUMMARY

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## OBJECTIVES AND SUMMARY

The Workshop on the Initiative on Capacity Building for Integrated Assessment and Planning for Sustainable Development was held at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, Switzerland on 25/26 June 2003 under the sponsorship of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The workshop was attended by more than 50 [participants](#), including representatives from the Ministries of Planning and Environment of 14 transitional and developing nations, members of the Integrated Assessment and Planning for Sustainable Development Working Group and outside institutions, including 5 intergovernmental organizations, 5 nongovernmental organisations, and 8 universities.

The workshop was structured around an agenda and [background paper](#) prepared by UNEP. Workshop presentations and discussions sought to share experiences with integrated assessment and planning for sustainable development, clarify the purpose and objectives of the initiative, and identify approaches and planning processes relevant to capacity building for poverty alleviation and environmental issues. This workshop was also designed to assist the invited governments with the formulation of project proposals for a pilot case study to be supported by UNEP.

Attendees exchanged thoughts and experiences on integrated assessment and planning for sustainable development. It was apparent the invited countries in question were not fully taking into account environmental issues in their planning processes and that assistance from UNEP is needed to build capacities of the participating governments to conduct integrated assessments and planning as they strive for sustainable development. The government representatives expressed interest in conducting integrated assessment and planning projects for this initiative. These governments were invited to submit project proposals for consideration by UNEP. Eight countries will be selected and supported by UNEP for implementation of these projects, based on the consideration of regional balance and quality of proposals.

The workshop was opened by UNEP with an introduction of the initiative, stressing the importance of integrated assessment and capacity building of planning processes. Representatives from Uganda, Tanzania, Tunisia, Mozambique, China, Indonesia, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kazakhstan, Russia, Brazil, Bolivia, Guatemala, and Nicaragua presented background information on their experiences with integrated assessment and planning for sustainable development and the relevance of this initiative to their own capacity building. Information was also given on some of the current planning processes these nations have in place relevant to poverty reduction, trade and the environment. It was clear that the environment was the weakest factor in these planning processes and capacity building was necessary. Some specific planning processes were also presented by individual countries as potential project foci for this initiative.

The projects to be launched are intended to be country led and driven, ensuring a high degree of national level coordination between the lead Ministries in charge of the project and other relevant government Ministries and departments. Technical support will be provided by UNEP to assist collaborating Governments in the implementation of these projects. Financial support will be provided by UNEP to cover national workshops, steering committees, support and review meetings, publications, distribution, translation, and technical expertise. The meeting participants were informed that a format for project preparations will be provided to Governments providing guidance for the preparation of the project proposal. The deadline for project proposals will be two months after the reception of this document.