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UNEP-UNSD Meeting on Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounting Copenhagen, 19-23 September 2004

This meeting was organized jointly by UNEP and the United Nations Statistical Division (UNSD). Participants included representatives from Australia, Canada, China, Denmark, Germany, India, Jordan, Mexico, Morocco, Philippines, South Africa, Sweden, USA as well as from Eurostat, UNDP, ECLAC, ESCWA and individual experts. The meeting was convened to provide a forum for consultation, identification of needs and priorities in this area of work, and to assist in the development of an action programme to promote the implementation of Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounting (IEEA). A proposal for a joint UNEP/UNSD Committee on IEEA was put forward for discussion.

The proposed Committee would help to raise the profile of environmental accounting beyond the statistics community and play a major role in the promotion of environmental accounts, undertake further work on classifications, harmonization of data, concepts and methods, coordination of work in this area at the international and national level, and monitor and assess implementation at the national and regional levels. The Committee would also promote and coordinate activities and interaction between statistical users and practitioners and identify gaps in knowledge, methodologies and institutional as well as other gaps in using IEEA, and raise funds to support further research and development of techniques, capacity building and implementation. The proposal will be considered at the next UN Statistical Commission meeting in March 2005.

The meeting was held back to back with the 9th Meeting of the London Group on Environmental Accounting. The London Group provides a forum for the exchange of experience in the field of IEEA and has played a major role in the advancement of methodology in environmental-economic accounting. There was general agreement that the London Group would provide an expert body upon which the UN Committee could rely for development of methodologies and technical support.

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Third International IFOAM* Conference on Biodiversity and Organic Agriculture Nairobi, 24-26 September 2004

The meeting was organized in cooperation with UNEP, the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN) and The World Conservation Union (IUCN). The objectives of the meeting were to: create a platform for international information and knowledge exchange on the relationship between biodiversity and organic agriculture, with a focus on the thematic relevance for developing countries; provide a platform for networking; intensify cooperation among the organizing and cooperating partners and a wide spectrum of stakeholders; and prepare for and contribute to the IUCN Agro-Ecology Conference in Nairobi in September and the IUCN World Assembly in November in Bangkok. The Conference was attended by Government officials, NGOs, farmers' associations from developed and developing countries, as well as representatives from FAO and UNCTAD.

Discussions at the Conference indicated there is a clear need for further research to be carried out on organic agriculture (OA), in particular on developing statistics on organic products and enhancing understanding of the interrelationships between OA, environmental and biodiversity conservation, sustainable trade promotion, food security and poverty reduction.

UNEP/UNCTAD Project on Organic Agriculture in Kenya: National Stakeholders' Meeting Nairobi, 27 September 2004

The objective of the meeting was to discuss with Government representatives and relevant stakeholders the proposed UNEP/UNCTAD project on OA in Kenya, receive feedback and input on the objectives and propose the way forward. Participants included representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture, the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA), the Ministry of Trade and Industry, KOAN, KIOF, Kenya International Freight and Warehousing Association (KIFWA), Environ-



* International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements

mental Integrated Systems, Kenya, Bridge Africa, Sustainable Agriculture Community Development Programme (SACDEP) Kenya, Kenyatta University, and the Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis (KIPPRA).

Kenya currently has no clear legislation and no specific policy regarding OA, there is currently little Government support for OA and there are no extension workers trained in this field. A strategic plan for promoting OA has been completed, and the standards developed by KOAN, which aim to harmonize existing standards, have been adopted by the National Bureau of Standards. The Government is also developing its own standards which may eventually form the regulation.

Projects on OA are also being considered in Tanzania and Uganda.

Train-the-Trainer Workshop on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

Tunis, 19-22 September 2004

This train-the-trainers workshop was organized by the Tunis International Centre for Environmental Technologies (CITET) within the framework of the



Mediterranean Environmental Protection Technical Assistance Program (METAP) and in cooperation with UNEP ETB and the Post Conflict Assessment Unit (PCAU). The workshop targeted METAP countries in West Asia and brought together EIA experts from Syria, Lebanon, Palestine Authorities, Albania, Egypt, Jordan and Iraq.

The entire workshop was based on UNEP's Training Resource Manual on EIA and each country had to prepare one training topic and present it to the other participants. The training reconfirmed the need to improve EIA systems in the region in order to really integrate environmental aspects into decision-making. Most countries face similar problems, such as EIA systems that are donor-driven, a strong influence from other sector ministries, insufficient public involvement, lack of personnel resources and weak monitoring systems. The trainers trained in this workshop can now play an important role in training other stakeholder groups in their countries - such as government officials, consultants and civil society representatives.

UNEP-UNCTAD CBTF Training Workshop on Enhancing Policy Coordination on Trade and Environment Issues: Implementation of MEAs Containing Trade-related Measures

Phnom Penh, Cambodia, 5-6 October 2004

The aim of this training workshop was to build capacity in Cambodia on trade and environment issues related to the implementation of four multilateral environmental agreements – the Basel Convention, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, the Montreal Protocol and the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Biosafety Protocol. The workshop was opened by HE Khong

Samnuon, Secretary of State, Cambodian Ministry of Environment, and HE Sok Siphana, Secretary of State, Ministry of Commerce and included 40 participants from Cambodian federal and regional government institutions, non-governmental organizations, academia and the private sector attended the workshop.



A number of issues were highlighted for discussion, including Cambodia's recent accession to the WTO and the current financial and human capacity constraints to efforts to implement multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs). It was also noted that in order for Cambodia to actively participate in the trade and environment negotiations taking place in the WTO it is necessary for the key government ministries to have a sound understanding of the negotiating mandate, various negotiating positions and relevant provisions within MEAs that have a bearing on the negotiations. A number of high priority issues for trade and environment capacity building activities in Cambodia were highlighted: the need to enhance national coordination for the effective implementation of MEAs; the need for training on the application of environmental impact assessments to determine the impact of economic activity on sustainable development; the need for technical assistance and capacity building for government officials and customs officers on issues related to MEA implementation; and the need to study the potential and risks of promoting organic agriculture in Cambodia. The following specific thematic areas were mentioned as critical to Cambodia: deforestation and illegal logging; water quality (illegal settlements along major lakes); coastal areas that are under threat from unregulated development; loss of biodiversity from illegal trade and pollution; application of chemicals, herbicides and pesticides in agriculture; and disposal of used batteries.

For further information, please visit

<http://www.unep-unctad.org/cbtf/cbtf2/F1.htm>

IAIA Capacity Development Workshop on the Marrakech Declaration and Action Plan

Marrakech, 6-9 October 2004

The International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA) workshop was convened to discuss and finalize the Marrakech Declaration and Plan of Action for Capacity Building for Impact Assessment adopted in June 2003. Along with the Declaration, IAIA delegates agreed that a Plan of Action should be developed and presented to the IAIA 2004 annual meeting in Vancouver. This initiative was based on a suggestion made by UNEP to IAIA in preparation for the 2003 annual meeting. Institutions represented at the meeting included IAIA Board members and selected institutions including UNEP, the World Bank, UNDP and DIFID. Presentations were made by

several participants who have ongoing environmental assessment programmes.

UNEP's presentation focused on the lessons learned from its capacity building activities, including gaps in current capacity building activities due to lack of: needs assessment; public participation; addressing national priorities; evaluation and assessment; involvement of national experts and institutions; a long term perspective; a comprehensive approach; inter ministerial coordination; policy response packages and being country-driven. UNEP emphasized that in order to promote the integration of the environment in macroeconomic policies it is necessary to demonstrate and establish the linkages between environment, development, poverty reduction and trade promotion.

Training Workshop on Transboundary Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in North-East Asia, Seoul, 24-31 October 2004

The workshop was organized by the Korean Environment Institute (KEI) in cooperation with UNEP ETB. The objective was to familiarize the countries within the Tumen NET initiative with each others' EIA systems. Tumen NET is a North Asian Multilateral Development Cooperation Initiative based around the sustainable development of the River Tumen Basin. Participants included representatives from national environment and resource management ministries and research institutes from South Korea, Russia, Mongolia and China, local government representatives from China and Russia and one non-governmental organization. The workshop was orientated around presentations of the countries' EIA systems, technical discussions on EIA methodologies and presentation of examples of international 'good practice' including the ESPOO Convention on Transboundary EIA and the Caspian Sea Guidelines on Transboundary EIA. It also included a study tour to a railway station being jointly developed by North and South Korea.

Update on IAP Initiative

The UNEP Initiative on Integrated Assessment and Planning for Sustainable Development (IAP) seeks to enhance the capacities of countries, particularly developing countries and countries with economies in transition, to undertake integrated assessment as a tool to improve the design of plans and programmes, with particular focus on sustainable trade promotion, poverty reduction and sound environmental management. Eleven country projects are being conducted under this initiative.

Russia, Chile and Indonesia

The first project was launched in Russia in December 2003 and is led by the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade. The designated national institution in charge of it is ECOLINE. An integrated assessment of a Regional Development Plan in the Tomsk Region will be conducted and a District Plan for the cities of Tomsk and Asinski will be developed. This project was chosen because, despite efforts from the state and local governments, poverty reduction and achieving sound environmental management remains a

challenge to be addressed in this region that is endowed with natural resources.

The next two projects were launched in Chile and Indonesia in May 2004. In Chile, the Ministry of Agriculture leads the project and *Recursos e Investigación para el Desarrollo Sustentable* (RIDES) is the national institution in charge of conducting the study. The Chile team will conduct an integrated assessment of the Environmental Agenda of the Ministry of Agriculture by analysing five key sub-sectors: forestry, fruit, wheat, poultry and dairy products. These sectors were chosen because of their economic relevance, potential influence on poverty reduction, environmental impacts and trade potential.

The Indonesia project is led by the National Planning Agency (BAPPENAS), and *Conservation International Indonesia* is the institution in charge of facilitating it. An integrated assessment of Indonesia's Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) will be conducted and Strategic Guidelines for Poverty Reduction will be developed. The project will focus on the Buleleng District in the Bali Province. This district was chosen because of the commitment of the local government to the project, familiarity and involvement in the PRSP process, environmental relevance, high poverty incidence and strong domestic and international trade issues.

Colombia, Uganda and Brazil

During the last quarter, national launching workshops were convened in Colombia and Uganda (September). The Colombian project will undertake an integrated assessment of the Free Trade Agreement that Colombia is negotiating with the United States (US-Col FTA) in order to contribute to the development of the Plan of Implementation. The negotiated trade liberalization in the agricultural sector and its relationship with biodiversity and food security will be analysed to enhance understanding of the linkages of the three pillars of sustainable development with particular focus on the small farmers. The Ministry of Environment, Housing and Territorial Development leads the project, and the *Instituto Alexander von Humboldt* is in charge of facilitating it.

The Uganda project is being led by the National Environmental Management Agency (NEMA) and the Economic Policy Research Centre is the designated institution in charge of facilitating the project. An integrated assessment will be carried out in the Trade Sector in close cooperation with the Working Group on Trade. The project will identify key issues that need to be addressed to achieve sustainable trade and enhanced use of natural resources.

The Brazil project has just been launched (October) and will focus on analysing the impact of an infrastructure development project (Federal Highway



BR 163). The Brazilian Ministry of Environment is in charge of the study and the Centre for Sustainable Development (CDS) is the national institution in charge of facilitating the project. The Brazil team have selected the region of *Novo Progresso* in the Para state to conduct the integrated assessment and findings will help to understand the dynamics throughout the whole region of influence, in which soybean production and mechanized agriculture is expanding. This project will lead to recommendations for improving the Sustainable Plan for the BR163.

Upcoming projects

A project in the Czech Republic, due to be launched in November, will conduct an integrated assessment of the National Development Plan. It is led by the Czech Ministry of the Environment and is being facilitated by the Regional Environmental Centre (REC). This project will help maximize the benefits of the EU Structural Funds provided to the Czech Republic, improve social inclusion and environmental management and help achieve sustainable development. The findings of the pilot project will be applicable not only to the Czech Republic but also relevant to other new members of the European Union. An Expert Review Meeting to assess project developments and provide guidance for the next steps is being convened on 29-30

November 2004. Projects in China, Kenya, Lebanon, and Tanzania are due to be launched in the coming months.

WTO Committee on Trade and Environment Meetings 12-14 October 2004

UNEP ETB attended both the Regular and Special (negotiating) Sessions of the WTO Committee on Trade and Environment (CTE). Negotiations at the CTE Special Session (CTESS), held on 12-13 October, continued to focus on the relationship between WTO rules and specific trade obligations in MEAs and the reduction or elimination of tariff and non-tariff barriers on environmental goods and services.

Discussions at the CTE Regular Session, held immediately following the CTSS, focused on a variety of issues related to trade and environment including the impact of environmental standards on market access, technical assistance and capacity building activities. Under the latter topic, UNEP briefed delegates on the activities of the joint UNEP-UNCTAD Capacity Building Task Force on Trade, Environment and Development (CBTF). In particular, UNEP highlighted the recent training workshops organized by the CBTF in East Africa and Southeast Asia. The next CTE and CTSS meetings are scheduled to take place in February 2005.

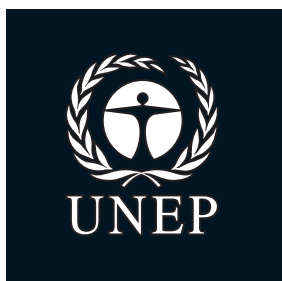
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New publications:

Analyzing the Resource Impact of Fisheries Subsidies:

A Matrix Approach

This publication builds on earlier work carried out by UNEP, which developed a matrix as an analytical framework for assessing the impact of subsidies (see *Fisheries Subsidies and Overfishing: Towards a Structured Discussion, 2003*). Using this framework, the paper offers a detailed assessment of the impact of eight categories of subsidies, taking into account the specific characteristics of a fishery including its level of exploitation and management regime. The matrix is designed to serve as an analytical basis for designing new or improved disciplines on fisheries subsidies with the goal of improving the health and productivity of fisheries resources. The results of the analysis show that most subsidies have the potential to be harmful to fish stocks under the management and bio-economic conditions found in the vast majority of fisheries today. While most fisheries subsidies would theoretically not be harmful under truly effective management regimes, very few, if any fisheries today are subject to management systems that are sufficiently effective to ensure that subsidies will not harm fisheries resources.

However, well-designed fisheries subsidies including government programmes for the reduction of fishing capacity and the improvement of fishing techniques, can contribute to the achievement of sustainable fisheries, provided that effective safeguards are put in place.

Incorporating Resource Impact into Fisheries Subsidies Disciplines: Issues and Options - A Discussion Paper

This discussion paper considers the potential implications of the conclusions drawn in the "Matrix Paper" for an international reform of fisheries subsidies. With the aim of stimulating dialogue, it offers one view of several possible options for incorporating the impact on resources into existing and new WTO disciplines on fisheries subsidies.

To order these publications please contact etb@unep.ch or visit www.unep.ch/etul.

