Environmental Management Group **28 April 2004**

Report on the 7th Meeting of the Environmental Management Group 20 April 2004, New York

A. Opening of the meeting

1. The 7th meeting of the Environmental Management Group (EMG) was held on 20 April 2004 in New York. The Chairman of the Group, Dr. Klaus Töpfer, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), opened the meeting and welcomed all participants.

2. In his introductory remarks, the chairman presented an overview of the outcomes of the 8th Special Session of the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, which was held in Jeju/Republic of Korea, from 29 to 31 March 2004. The two main outcomes are the 'Jeju Initiative' and an omnibus decision on several aspects of international environmental governance. In addition, decisions were adopted on waste management, SIDS and on regional annexes (the latter relating to reporting requirements for UNEP on its work at the regional level).

3. The 'Jeju Initiative' resumes the ministerial discussions of the 8th Special Session of the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum on the priority environmental dimensions of the following water related themes: Ecosystem approaches (in particular in integrated water resources management), Water and sanitation, and Water, health and poverty. Ministers underlined the need for substantive progress in these areas and set out key environmental approaches and required actions. The 'Jeju Initiative' was forwarded to the 12th session of the Commission on Sustainable Development as a contribution to its discussions on how to achieve the internationally agreed targets on water, sanitation and human settlements.

4. The omnibus decision on international environmental governance addresses, inter alia, the question of universal membership to the UNEP Governing Council, the strengthening of the scientific base of UNEP, the intergovernmental strategic plan for technology support and capacity building, and the EMG. The report on the work of the EMG

submitted to the Jeju meeting (Doc. UNEP/GCSS.VIII/5/Add.2) was conveyed to the UN General Assembly for consideration at is 59th session.

5. The list of participants is contained in annex 3 to the present report.

B. Adoption of the Agenda

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6. The meeting adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

2. The EMG's programme of work for 2004
   a. environmental capacity building
   b. sustainable production and consumption/sustainable procurement

3. Outcomes of the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum in Jeju/Republic of Korea, 29-31 March 2004

4. Date and agenda for the next meeting

5. Other business

6. Closure of the meeting

C. Environmental capacity building (Agenda Item 2a.)

7. The Head of the EMG Secretariat informed the meeting on the status of the EMG's work with regard to environment related capacity building. At its last meeting on 6 February 2004, the EMG had decided to establish an Issue Management Group (IMG) on capacity-building which would further discuss and define the scope of the EMG's work in this area. As the first step it would undertake a "situation analysis " or a " needs analysis" in two areas; namely biological diversity and chemicals. The results of these two 'pilot studies' would then help in defining the scope for further work on this issue, including establishing a possible resource library.

8. The IMG held a teleconference on 25 March 2004, which discussed an outline for a situation/needs analysis in the area of biodiversity prepared with the assistance of UNEP/WCMC. A similar outline had been prepared for the area of chemicals with the assistance of UNITAR. Both outlines would be presented to the meeting for discussion and approval (see Annexes 1 and 2).

9. The Director of UNEP's New York Office then presented the background and process for the Intergovernmental Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building (ISP) and its linkages with the work of the EMG. The identification of the need to develop such a Plan was a key component of the outcomes of the 7th Special session of the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum held in Cartagena in 2002. The 22nd Session of the UNEP Governing Council, in its decision 22/17 I of 7 February 2003, requested the Executive Director of UNEP to develop a draft Plan, on the basis of inputs from States indicating their regional or national priorities, in collaboration with relevant organizations. In response to that decision, the Executive Director had circulated a background paper with possible elements for the development of the draft Plan at the Jeju meeting.

10. The omnibus decision on matters related to international environmental governance adopted in Jeju had set out a clear roadmap for the preparation of the ISP. The Governing Council had decided to establish a high-level open-ended intergovernmental working group with the mandate to prepare the Plan for its consideration at the 23rd Session of the Governing Council in February 2005. The decision calls for the involvement of all relevant organisations and stakeholders active in the field of technology support and capacity building to contribute to the work of the intergovernmental working group. It furthermore requests the Executive Director to make available an inventory of existing technology support and capacity building activities and notes that the EMG could play an active role in this regard.

11. The following process was envisaged for the elaboration of the draft plan: the intergovernmental working group was supposed to meet three times in 2004; with the first meeting being held at the end of June in the margins of ECOSOC in New York, the second meeting in September in Nairobi, and the third and final meeting in November in Indonesia, upon the invitation of the Indonesian government.

12. The EMG's work in the areas of biodiversity and chemicals could feed into this process, providing very useful examples of activities and challenges in those two specific areas.

13. The Chairman added that UNEP would be closely cooperating with UNDP and the GEF for the elaboration of the draft plan. He also informed the Group that the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR) in Nairobi would set up a working group on this issue. The draft plan had to be ready for submission to the 23rd Session of the Governing Council by the end of November 2004.

14. The Chairman then gave the floor to the representative of UNEP/WCMC to present the outline for the EMG's study on capacity building in the area of biodiversity. The consultant explained the aim of the study, namely to identify the role of the EMG in facilitating increased cooperation between its members involved in capacity building for biological diversity, including definition of the scope of a possible resource library. The objectives were to facilitate information exchange between EMG members on their activities and experiences, and to enable them to identify common areas of concern and interest. The study would provide a brief overview of relevant activities of EMG members in the area of capacity building for biological diversity. It would then identify issues of relevance for UN agencies and MEAs. An indicative list of major issues of relevance was included in the outline for discussion and refinement. For each relevant issue, EMG members would then be asked to share their experiences, particularly methodologies, successes, best practices and challenges. The study would conclude by identifying strengths, weaknesses and gaps in capacity building for biological diversity across the UN system as well as options for the EMG to support the further exchange of experiences between EMG members.

15. The representative of UNITAR presented an outline with a similar structure on capacity building for chemicals management. The study would provide an overview of activities of UN agencies and chemicals management related conventions and agreements in the area of capacity building. It would then identify issues for further information exchange and coordination. These issues would be identified through a discussion with participating organisations of the IOMC, other international bodies engaged in capacity building for chemicals management and a questionnaire sent to EMG members. Finally, the study would identify opportunities for the EMG to support further exchange of experience.

16. The Chairman thanked the representatives of WCMC and UNITAR for their presentations and opened the floor for discussion.

17. The representative of the World Bank sought clarification on the roles of the various actors in the intergovernmental process for the development of the intergovernmental strategic plan. On the study in the field of biological diversity he suggested to reach out to major NGOs active in the field of conservation of biological diversity. He suggested to also involve the Global Environment Facility and the STAP.

18. The representative of UNDP suggested to involve IUCN, and to include conservation management and finance as one of the topics in the study regarding biological diversity. He referred to the existing alliance for conservation management and finance, which involves major NGOs active in this area. He proposed to undertake the study in several layers, and to include the activities of relevant NGOs as one layer.

19. The Director of UNEP's New York Office replied that it was important to consider how to organize the participation of the IFIs in the process for the development of the Intergovernmental Strategic Plan in a meaningful way and asked for the World Bank's

advice on this matter. He recalled that there had been a special consultation with NGOs in the IEG process and that a similar procedure might be envisaged for the ISP.

20. The representative of the UNFCCC commented on the list of issues suggested in the outline of the study on capacity building for biological diversity. He said the issues needed to be revisited with a view to focus on a few sets of issues. Referring to the outline for the study in the area of chemicals, he expressed the view that the Chemical Weapons Convention should not be included in the scope of the study, as its objectives were different from the other agreements addressed. He further noted that the studies needed to be finalized in due time so that their findings could be considered in the intergovernmental process for the ISP.

21. The Chairman confirmed that the draft ISP had to be ready in due time for the 23rd session of the Governing Council and that therefore work on the two studies had to be optimised in the time available.

22. The representative of UNDP referred to the Ecosystem Conservation Group who had launched the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment and might also provide input for the study in the field of biological diversity. In terms of issues to be considered he recommended upscaling and replicating existing activities as well as the integration of biological diversity in PRSPs.

23. The representative of the World Health Organisation supported the outline for the study in the area of chemicals management and offered to act as an entry point for WHO's involvement in the study on biological diversity.

24. The Executive Secretary of the Convention on Migratory Species highlighted the necessity for more targeted and balanced capacity building activities in the area of biological diversity and expressed the hope that the study might contribute to achieving progress in this respect. He noticed that some aspects of biological diversity, like the ones covered by CMS, did not receive sufficient attention in terms of existing capacity building activities. He also stressed the growing importance of linkages between biological diversity and human health and informed the Group that a conference would be organized by CMS and WHO on this issue.

25. The representative of the World Meteorological Organisation expressed her organisation's interest to contribute to the studies and mentioned as specific areas: scientific research, monitoring and assessment of resources.

26. The representative of UNITAR suggested taking into account the capacity development initiative which could provide important inputs for the study in the area of biological diversity.

27. The representative of UNDP referred to the GEF's activities in the area of chemicals management as well as to an on-going review by UNDP in this area. He also announced a

UNDP financial contribution to the SAICAM process. The important work of OECD/DAC in the area of capacity building was also highlighted.

28. The Chairman suggested that the work in the existing Issue Management Group on the two studies should continue, taking into account the comments by EMG members, and that both studies would provide a very useful input for the intergovernmental process on the ISP. The study in the area of chemicals management could also feed into the next SAICAM meeting. At the same time a second Issue Management Group, jointly chaired by UNEP and UNDP, should focus more specifically on the overall contribution of EMG members to the ISP. The Group agreed with these suggestions.

D. Sustainable Production and Consumption/Sustainable Procurement (Agenda Item 2 b.)

29. The Chairman introduced the agenda item by pointing out that the need to work on the inclusion of sustainable development considerations in procurement practices is recognized in Agenda 21 as well as in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. Furthermore the International Expert Meeting on a 10-year-framework of programmes for sustainable consumption and production in June 2003 had recommended that 'the United Nations itself should adopt sustainable procurement and environmental management programmes for is offices and operations'. He also referred to the statement made by China at the last UNEP Governing Council which explicitly acknowledged the need to change unsustainable patterns of production and consumption. With regard to sustainable procurement policies for the UN system itself, a number of initiatives had been taken, but much remained to be done. The EMG might want to discuss if and how it could best contribute to raising awareness on sustainable procurement throughout the UN system.

30. He then gave the floor to the representative of the World Bank to report on the Bank's activities in this area. The representative pointed out that there were a number of efforts being undertaken for the World Bank lending programmes, and that procurement practices in the Headquarters' offices had already been changed. There was also an on-going dialogue in the framework of the Interagency Sustainable Procurement Group. However, he felt that there were still mixed views on the adoption of environmentally and socially responsible procurement practices. It was vital to keep the momentum by involving the heads of procurement services in the discussion. He also felt that closer linkages should be established with UNDESA and other UN entities. The EMG might consider how to bring the MDBs and the UN agencies closer together on this important issue. The World Bank would be ready to facilitate a dialogue with the heads of procurement services in the MDBs.

31. The representative of UNDESA referred to two expert meetings which had been organized by UNDESA with a view to promoting sustainable procurement at the national

level. She pointed out that for the UN system the issue was governed by General Assembly resolutions, and that it was difficult to address it system-wide.

32. The Chairman suggested that as a first step the EMG Secretariat should collect information on the existing regulations governing the procurement policies of EMG members. The Group should avoid touching upon procurement issues which were subject to debate in WTO.

33. The representative of UNDP informed the Group about his Programme's practices in this area, including a training programme with a module on green procurement.

34. The Chairman then proposed to take the following steps: The EMG Secretariat should collect information on the current situation in terms of procurement regulations and operations as well as environmental management programmes for compounds and offices. This information should be brought back to the next meeting of the EMG. The EMG will then examine how it can best contribute to advancing sustainable procurement practices and environmental management of compounds and offices throughout he UN system. The World Bank should be asked to lead the further work on this issue. The Group agreed with these suggestions.

E. Outcomes of the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum in Jeju/Republic of Korea, 29-31 March 2004 (Agenda item 3)

35. In addition to the overview which the Chairman presented in his introductory remarks, he highlighted that the Global Ministerial Environment Forum is not merely a UNEP ministerial meeting, but a forum for overall environmental policy discussion. He drew a parallel to the mandate of the EMG as an instrument to serve all its members.

F. Date and agenda for the next meeting(Agenda Item 5)

36. The next meeting of the EMG will be held in early September 2004 in Nairobi. Dates for further meetings of the IMG on environmental capacity building will be determined by the IMG itself.

H. Closure of the meeting

37. The Chairperson thanked all the participants for their constructive contributions and declared the meeting closed.

ANNEX I

DRAFT

Capacity-building for biological diversity – a situation and needs analysis for the Environmental Management Group

Draft outline prepared for the Environmental Management Group (EMG) by the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC)

13 April 2004

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. Solicit the EMG members input on their experiences in the area of capacity building in the field of biodiversity;
2. Prepare the draft outline of a "situation/needs analysis" in the area of capacity building on biodiversity based on the collected information from the EMG members;
3. Present the outline of the analytical paper to the Issue Management Group (IMG) on Capacity Building;
4. Further develop the outline based on the preliminary comments of the IMG;
5. Present the revised outline to the 7th meeting of the EMG in April 2004 in the form of a PowerPoint presentation;
6. Prepare the first draft of the situation/needs analysis and its distribution to the IMG members for comments;
7. Incorporate the comments and views of the EMG members into the paper and peer-review and finalize the draft in close consultation with the EMG Secretariat.

OUTLINE OF THE REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Mandate

a) Decisions of the 6th meeting of the EMG, February 2004, to work on capacity-building and to establish an Issues Management Group
b) The role of this study within the context of the EMG mandate

1.2 Definitions

a) Capacity
b) Capacity-building/development
(From the report of the UN Inter-Agency Workshop on Capacity Development, Geneva, November 2002)

1.3 The role of capacity-building for biological diversity within the global development agenda

a) Why is biological diversity important for the global development agenda (World Summit on Sustainable Development, Millennium Development Goal 7, UN General Assembly resolutions, WEHAB initiative)
b) The need for scientific, technical and institutional capacity to implement the biodiversity agenda (CBD documents, WSSD)

1.4 Aim and objectives

Aim:

Identify the potential role of the EMG in facilitating increased cooperation between UN agencies involved in capacity-building for biological diversity, including definition of the scope of a possible resource library[1].

Objectives:

1. Support the EMG members in facilitating information exchange on their experience in developing and implementing capacity-building in the area of biological diversity, in particular methodologies, approaches, successes and challenges.
2. Enable EMG members to identify common areas of concern and interest and to cooperate through the EMG and thus, use their resources more effectively.

2. EXISTING CAPACITY-BUILDING INITIATIVES OF UN AGENCIES AND BIODIVERSITY-RELATED MULTILATERAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENTS

This chapter will provide a brief overview of relevant activities of UN agencies and biodiversity-related conventions and agreements in the area of capacity-building. It is not intended to provide information on details, but to inform the EMG members of what is being undertaken and to provide references that enable interested parties to obtain more information on the specific activities. The existing coordination arrangements will be stressed.

2.1 Initiatives by the biodiversity-related conventions: CBD, CITES, CMS, Convention on Wetlands, World Heritage Convention

2.2 Initiatives by UN agencies: UNEP, UNDP, UNESCO, UNITAR, FAO, UNU, World Bank

[1] The project is expected to feed into the work of the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum on an intergovernmental strategic plan for technology support and capacity-building.

2.3 Cross-agency initiatives

3. CAPACITY-BUILDING FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY: THE ISSUES FOR UN AGENCIES AND CONVENTIONS

Building on the previous section, this chapter will identify the issues of relevance to UN agencies, including conventions, where experience in capacity-building has been gained and/or capacity-building is needed.

Method:
The issues would be defined through a first questionnaire to the EMG members who would be asked to comment on and to complete the list of issues as below.

The issues:
The issues below represent an **indicative** list of major areas of relevance for UN agencies and conventions' efforts and needs in capacity-building for biological diversity[2].

- Outreach and public awareness
- Stakeholder involvement
- Cooperation and synergies
- Scientific research, monitoring and assessments
- Incentive measures
- Sustainable use
- Traditional knowledge
- Ecosystem approach
- Invasive alien species
- Taxonomy

4. EXPERIENCES AND LESSONS TO SHARE AMONG UN AGENCIES AND CONVENTIONS IN CAPACITY-BUILDING FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

This chapter will assemble relevant experiences of UN agencies and conventions in capacity-building for biological diversity, including methodologies, approaches, successes, best practices and challenges.

Methods:
Through a second questionnaire, the EMG members would be asked to identify, for each relevant issue as defined above, their experiences, particularly methodologies, approaches, successes, best practices and challenges.

The experience could be assembled in a matrix as below.

[2] Not all issues are expected to be relevant for all UN agencies and conventions, but at least for a majority.

Issues/UN agencies & conventions	Outreach and public awareness	Stakeholder involvement	Cooperation and synergies	Criteria, indicators and monitoring	Incentive measures	Sustainable use	…
UNDP							
…							
CBD							
…							

5. OPTIONS FOR THE EMG TO SUPPORT FURTHER EXCHANGE OF EXPERIENCES

This chapter will analyse the matrix with a view to

- identify strengths, weaknesses and gaps in capacity-building for biological diversity across the UN system
- identify options for the EMG to support the further exchange of experiences between EMG members and
- to establish a resource library in the field of environmental capacity-building.

6. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

7. ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

8. BIBLIOGRAPHY AND SOURCES OF INFORMATION

ANNEX II

DRAFT

Capacity-building for chemicals management: a situation and needs analysis for the Environmental Management Group

Prepared for the Environmental Management Group (EMG) by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research

13 April 2004

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Mandate

c) Decisions of the 6th meeting of the EMG, February 2004, to work on capacity-building and to establish an Issues Management Group
d) Decision by the EMG secretariat to include chemicals management as one of two pilot case areas
e) The role of this study within the context of the EMG mandate

1.2 Definitions

c) Capacity
d) Capacity-building/development
(From the report of the UN Inter-Agency Workshop on Capacity Development, Geneva, November 2002)

1.3 The role of capacity-building for chemicals management within the global development agenda

- E.g. chemicals management and the Millennium Development Goals and WSSD agreed targets, "toxics and poverty", etc.

1.4 Aim and objectives of the paper

Aim:

To provide an information document summarizing activities of international organizations involved in chemical management capacity building

To assist the EMG in considering its potential role in facilitating cooperation between UN agencies involved in capacity-building for chemicals management taking into consideration ongoing collaboration within the IOMC [3].

2. INTERNATIONAL POLICY AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK CONCERNED WITH CHEMICALS MANAGEMENT CAPACITY BUILDING

2.1 International conventions and agreements

- 2.1.1 Stockholm Convention
- 2.1.2 Rotterdam Convention
- 2.1.3 Vienna Convention/Montreal Protocol
- 2.1.4 Chemical Weapons Convention
- 2.1.5 ILO Convention 170
- 2.1.6 FAO Code of Conduct
- 2.1.7 Basel Convention
- 2.1.8 GHS

2.2 Inter-Organization Progamme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC)

2.3 Inter-governmental Forum on Chemical Safety (IFCS)

2.4 Strategic Approach for International Chemicals Management (SAICM)

3. CAPACITY-BUILDING INITIATIVES AND SPECIFIC COORDINATION ARRANGEMENTS FOR CHEMICAL MANAGEMENT CAPACITY BUILDING

This chapter will provide an overview of activities of UN agencies and chemical management related conventions and agreements in the area of capacity-building, including an overview of related coordination arrangements. It is not intended to provide information on details, but to inform EMG members of what is being undertaken and to provide references that enable interested parties to obtain more information on specific activities. The existing coordination arrangements will be stressed.

3.1 Capacity building and coordination under chemical management related agreements

3.2 Capacity building programmes of UN bodies

[3] The project might also feed into the work of the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum on an intergovernmental strategic plan for technology support and capacity-building.

3.3 INFOCAP: a tool for information exchange on chemical management capacity building

4. CAPACITY-BUILDING FOR CHEMICALS MANAGEMENT: IDENTIFICATION OF ISSUES FOR FURTHER INFORMATION EXCHANGE AND COORDINATION

Building on the previous section, this section will identify issues in the area of capacity building of relevance to UN agencies, including conventions, which may benefit from additional information exchange, sharing of experiences or consideration of synergies for capacity building.

Method:
The issues will be defined through a discussion with participating organizations of the IOMC, other international bodies engaged in chemical management capacity building and a questionnaire to be sent to EMG members.

5. POTENTIAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE EMG TO SUPPORT FURTHER EXCHANGE OF EXPERIENCE

This chapter will analyse:

- the extent existing co-ordination structures may be in a position to address the identified issues;
- opportunities for the EMG to provide value added to existing efforts to support the further exchange of experiences among EMG members and between the EMG and other relevant organizations

6. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

7. ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

8. BIBLIOGRAPHY AND SOURCES OF INFORMATION

ANNEX III

List of Participants

Name	Organization
Klaus Töpfer	Executive Director, UNEP
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