



## **REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME REGIONAL OFFICE FOR WEST ASIA (UNEP/ROWA), 2006**

### **1.0 Introduction**

UNEP's work in the West Asia region is driven by a number of forces; the decisions of the Governing Council (GC), the priorities highlighted by the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment (CAMRE), priorities identified by regional consultation meetings, and issues highlighted by sub-regional groupings (e.g. the Gulf Cooperation Council, GCC) and relevant regional organisations (e.g. the Regional Organisation for the Conservation of the Environment of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden, PERSGA, the Regional Organisation for the Protection of the Marine Environment, ROPME and the Centre for Environment and Development in the Arab Region and Europe, CEDARE). At the present time, alongside the decisions of the GC, there are two main documents driving the Programme of Work in the region. These are the Sustainable Development Initiative in the Arab Region (SDIAR) and the Bali Strategic Plan on Technology Support and Capacity Building (BSP).

### **1.1 Sustainable Development Initiative in the Arab Region**

The SDIAR was developed by a Joint Secretariat (comprising CAMRE, UNEP/ROWA and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, ESCWA) and endorsed by the League of Arab States (LAS) as the part of the regional input to the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) held in Johannesburg in 2002. Since the Summit, LAS, through the Joint Secretariat, has worked with its partners in the region and member states to elaborate and plan an implementation strategy for SDIAR. This has involved close cooperation within the Joint Secretariat preparing a programme of work and the identification of relevant regional partners. The implementation strategy was then circulated to member states for their review and comments. The strategy considers each of the parts of the SDIAR in turn, identifies specific actions to implement that part and the regional organisations who might take a leading and supporting role. This includes UN agencies as well as regional organisations. Much of these discussions have been made under the umbrella of the Joint Committee on Environment and Development in the Arab Region (JCEDAR).

### **1.2 Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity Building**

Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation emanating from WSSD both recognised the need for environment-related technology support and capacity building in developing countries and countries with economies in transition. Decision SS.VII/1 of 15 February 2002 of the Governing Council of UNEP recognised the need to urgently develop a strategic plan to provide such support. As such, the High-level Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on an Intergovernmental Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity Building was established, adopting the Bali Strategic Plan (BSP) at its third session in Bali, Indonesia, 4 December 2004, which was then formally adopted at GC23 (Nairobi, Kenya, February 2005).

The main objectives of the BSP are:

- To strengthen the capacity of governments
- To provide systematic targeted measures for technology support and capacity building
- To provide a framework of support for capacity building in the implementation of MEAs
- To endeavour to ensure the principles of transparency and accountability built on a participatory approach
- To integrate gender-mainstreaming strategies and promote participation of women in environmental decision-making

- To provide a basis for developing partnerships, including public-private partnerships
- To emphasise the identification and dissemination of best practices and fostering partnerships and entrepreneurship
- To enhance the delivery by UNEP of technology support and capacity building within its mandate
- To strengthen cooperation among UNEP, MEA secretariats and other bodies engaged in environmental capacity building
- To promote, facilitate, and finance, as appropriate, access to and support of environmentally sound technologies and corresponding know-how

Its key considerations include:

- Provides the basis for UNEP to play a more substantial role in UNDG framework
- Provides a coherent platform for enhanced coordination with other UN agencies
- Provides a coherent approach to strengthening relevant national and regional institutions
- Provides a strategy for strengthening technology support and creating an enabling environment for innovation and transfer
- Promotes efficiency and effectiveness in use of human and financial resources
- Importance of national ownership and bottom-up approach to needs assessment

Its implementation in the region has been through:

- Inputs have been requested from national governments to ascertain priorities (in this region through CAMRE)
- Strengthening of UNEP Regional Offices to facilitate effective support
- Indicative list of main areas of technology support and capacity building activities prepared including both cross-cutting and thematic issues
- Table of priorities prepared and circulated for further inputs based on these elements

The elements of the Bali Strategic Plan are outlined in Annex 1. CAMRE also agreed upon a Regional Annex to the Bali Strategic Plan, emphasising the priorities for its implementation in the Arab Region. This is provided in Annex 2. UNEP/ROWA developed a table of priority actions under the elements of the BSP, which were circulated to member states through CAMRE, requesting them to identify their own priorities for action.

UNEP, for its part, has linked the implementation of the SDIAR very closely with the BSP. This linkage is in recognition that much of the work highlighted under the SDIAR, particularly the role that UNEP has been requested to play by LAS, is very much in the capacity building arena. As such, UNEP is seeking to combine these two areas of work to provide the region with a well-founded programme of technology support and capacity building in the areas highlighted as well as the promotion of South-South cooperation on the environment.

The report presented below provides an overview of the activities undertaken by UNEP/ROWA in addressing a variety of environmentally related themes. The text of the reports provides an overview of the programmes carried out, while the table provided in Annex 3 provides details of the activities that have been undertaken.

## **2.0. UNEP/ROWA Thematic Activities**

### **2.1. Assessment and Early Warning**

#### *2.1.1 Integrated Environmental Assessment and Reporting*

##### *a. Capacity Building and Supporting National State of Environment*

Within the framework of the ongoing programmes of UNEP's Division of Early Warning and Assessment (DEWA) in the region, a number of capacity building activities have been carried out. This includes a capacity building programme on Integrated Environmental Assessment (IEA), in which technical support is being provided to countries in the region for the preparation of National Environment Outlook reports.

This has involved the development of a regional strategy on capacity building for IEA, with a major goal to integrate the IEA approach into the decision-making and policy frameworks for sustainable development in the region.

Three MoUs have been signed with Bahrain, Syria and Yemen to support the preparation of national SoE (Outlook) reports. There is also ongoing partnership with AGEDI including support to the preparation of the SoE of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi. A national training Workshop on integrated environmental assessment and State of environment Reporting was also conducted for Qatar, based on the request of the Supreme Council for .....

#### *b. Global Environment Outlook*

UNEP/ROWA has also been working with its Collaborating Centres (Arabian Gulf University, AGU and Arab Centre for the Studies of the Arid Zone and Drylands, ACSAD; in addition to Arab Forest Institute, AFRI; Arab Planning Institute, API; American University in Beirut, AUB; Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research, KISR; and Environment Agency Abu Dhabi, EAD) in the region in the preparation of the relevant chapters for GEO-4, due to be published in 2007. This includes the regional chapter for West Asia (Chapter 6), input to the Global Chapters (Air, Water, Land, Biodiversity), Interlinkages, Challenges and Opportunities, the Future Today, and Policy Options. The West Asia First Production and Authors Meeting for GEO-4 was conducted 29-31 August 2005 in Manama, Bahrain. The meeting came up with a detailed outline for the West Asia section in Chapter 6, defined roles and responsibilities and an implementation plan. The Second Production and Review Meeting took place in Bahrain (4-6 December 2005) and a Scenario Production Meeting was held 25-27 February 2006 and a Regional Consultation on GEO-4 held in Bahrain, 18-20 June 2006. The office and the representatives of its collaborating centres have also attended several global meetings related to GEO-4 production.

#### *c. GEO Year Book*

The GEO Year Book is produced annually. It includes global and regional overviews. It highlights the linkages between environmental well-being, vulnerability and poverty; records recent findings on the value of ecosystem services; and describes new research findings on polar and ocean changes that may prove a turning point in the urgency of our awareness and response to global change. It has a regular section on West Asia and for 2006 this will include conflicts in the region, chemical management and the dying juniper of the Arabian Peninsula.

#### *d. Arab Environment Outlook*

This report was requested by the seventeenth Session of the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment (CAMRE) that was held in December 2005 in Cairo, Egypt. The resolution invites UNEP/ROWA to prepare an Environment Outlook for the Arab Region in collaboration with Arab specialized centres and GEO collaborating Centres in the Region.

This authoritative document will be used by the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment and other regional and national stakeholders for sound decision-making and policy formulation to improve environmental management and achieve progress towards sustainable development in the region. The outcome of this report is expected to reach the Arab Summit in order to support its policy options recommendation.

The report will be under the umbrella of the League of Arab States and implemented by partner institutions in West Asia and other Arab countries in Africa.

An inception meeting for the preparation of the report took place on 7-9 May 2006 at the premises of the League of Arab States in Cairo.

#### *e. GEO Cities*

The GEO cities programme aims at building capacity in West Asia to undertake integrated environmental assessment and reporting at city and local levels (municipalities/local governments) to meet urban environmental challenges. Activities include information sharing, development of databases and indicators, policy development, among others. Collaboration on the programme was initiated with the Arab Towns Organisation and its Environmental Centre for Arab Towns at the Symposium on 'Challenges & Threats to the Environment', Dubai, 14-15 November 2006.

*f. Arab Millennium Ecosystem Assessment*

The main goal of the assessment is to promote the adoption of integrated assessment approaches in the Arab region at the local, national and regional levels. This will be accomplished by conducting a pilot study that will serve to develop the framework for a coordinated and integrated regional collaborative multi-scale assessment effort. An integrated assessment approach will provide the information to decision-makers for designing a comprehensive and sustainable management plan for the environment. The assessment is being piloted in three sites Assir national Park, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; Sinai Peninsula, Egypt; and Tafilalt Oasis, Morocco.

*g. Support to ROPME on SOMER Report*

Provided support to the Regional Organisation for the Protection of the Marine Environment (ROPME), towards enhancing the guidelines for the preparation of the report on State of the Marine Environment for the ROPME Sea, Area including a meeting to discuss its development in Kuwait, 9-10 July 2006.

*2.1.2 Environmental Data and Information and early warning*

The programme aims to build capacity and develop improved environmental data and information systems for early warning and decision making by supporting monitoring and data collection systems and developing indicators for assessments and reporting.

It also aims to promote the Environment Watch Concept proposal, which is defined as a holistic, coherent and distributed system for watching the environment. The system would consist of the five components. The conceptual framework would provide the analytic, functional, thematic and spatial approach to keeping the environment under review.

The key activities that being undertaken are:

- Develop a Geo West Asia Data Portal.
- Publish an Atlas for Environmental Change for West Asia.
- Develop a Core GIS Database and make it available online through a GIS Map Server.
- Distribute Landsat Data from 1990, and 2000 and provide visualization access through an online server.
- Develop databases for experts, institutions, and activities.
- Piloting environmental information networking through coordinating a regional network for environmental information and assessment, and promote and integrate national environmental information networks into the regional network to facilitate exchange of experiences, sharing of information, facilitating aggregation of data and information; promoting compatibility and interoperability between research, monitoring, early warnings and assessments; and framing cooperation for technology support and capacity building needs.
- The development of knowledge bases for IEA for the 12 countries in the region, which will be made available on the internet as part of the DEWA West Asia website, which is currently under development.

- Preparing guidelines on the development and use of core environmental indicators for West Asia, and follow up with the League of Arab States and ESCWA on a core set of sustainable development indicators.
- Provision of support for the development of information systems in Yemen and Syria.
- A framework agreement with the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organisation (ALECSO) on a variety of projects, including a strategy on disaster management, awareness raising and support to development and distribution of awareness raising CDs throughout the region.

UNEP/ROWA has also continued to support Abu Dhabi Global Environmental Data Initiative (AGEDI), as a strategic partner on the initiative and in support of regional and national efforts in environmental information development and management. As such, UNEP organized and coordinated regional and global studies for AGEDI. The regional study, named "West Asia Regional Study on the Experience in the Development of Environmental Data and Information Systems," produced 12 national studies, and 4 regional cases, in addition to the integrated study. The global study included a global environmental data and information systems knowledge base, global lessons learned for the design of environmental information systems and a conceptual design document for AGEDI. Several meetings have been held to support the design and implementation of the initiative at the level of Abu Dhabi and continue the work aiming at finalizing the regional study on experiences and best practices in development and management of environmental information, and on the development of a UNEP-AGEDI regional strategy for environmental information.

## **2.2 Water**

Within the West Asia Region, water is one of the priority issues. The arid climate of the region means that the available, renewable freshwater resources are limited, currently standing at well below the 1,000m<sup>3</sup> per capita per annum figure used to indicate chronic water shortage. The volumes of water withdrawn far exceed natural recharge rates, with the result that groundwater resources, both in terms of quantity and quality, are seriously threatened. If all the indications of UNEP's GEO3 future scenarios of water demand in the region are correct, the pressures of increasing population and industrial demand will place further demand on the already stretched water resources of the region (UNEP, 2003).

The main driving forces for water problems in the region are the burgeoning population, the accelerated development and competition for water in the urban, industrial and agricultural sectors (with the agricultural sector consuming more than 70% of the water supply in most countries of the region), ineffective water management policies and practices, erratic precipitation and the highly volatile regional peace and security situation. The growing water claims of upstream riparian countries of shared water resources has resulted in further reducing the share of the downstream Arab countries, especially in Syria and Iraq. Water quality has also become a major issue of concern in the Arab Region. Water pollution, mainly with sewage pathogens, industrial wastes and agricultural effluents represent a serious threat to human health and further aggravate water scarcity by reducing clean water availability.

### *2.2.1 Integrated Water Resources Management*

Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) is a focus of UNEP's water policy, recognising the need to address this issue in a holistic manner. This is reflected in the close cooperation between UNEP/ROWA, ESCWA, the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) and the World Health Organisation (WHO) in implementing activities relating to water in the region.

The programme being implemented in the region by the partners follows closely the principles of IWRM, including the development of a training course for use within the region. One of the key focuses of activities, recognising that the region has some of the highest per capita demands of water in the world, is

water demand management, addressing a series of activities to raise awareness within government, industrial, agricultural and domestic sectors in the importance of managing water demand in the region.

#### *2.2.2 Global Programme of Action of the Protection of the Marine Environment (GPA)*

The GPA, which is based on the Washington Declaration (1995), addresses the protection of the marine environment from land-based sources of pollution. It is a global initiative, with headquarters in The Hague, The Netherlands, and is being implemented on a regional level to take account of regional disparities, and as such is making use of the already established Regional Seas Programmes to provide geographic coverage of each region and to utilise the experience and expertise.

The overall objective of the implementation of the project in West Asia is to assist member states in enhancing the protection and sustainable development of their coastal and marine environment, by facilitating concrete action to address human impacts. One approach to this is the development of pilot projects for innovative municipal wastewater management. A number of potential sites have been identified in the region, and at present donors are being sought for the implementation of the pilot projects.

A Clearing House Mechanism has also been developed to disseminate the products of the GPA and to act as a forum for further development and capacity building in municipal wastewater management.

#### *2.2.3 Water Desalination*

More than 60% of the world's desalinated water is produced in the GCC region, making the sustainable development of desalinated water and its quality an important issue for the region. As such, UNEP is providing technical and policy inputs to the WHO process for the development of a Guidance Document on Desalination for Safe Water Supply. This has involved a series of Expert Working Groups, discussing:

- i, Technology: Engineering, chemistry, large and small facilities
- ii, Health: Toxicology of contaminants and nutritional issues
- iii, Microbiology: Sanitary and marine
- iv, Monitoring: microbiological, analytical chemistry and regulatory
- v, Environmental Effects and Impact Assessments

The last meeting of the Working Groups took place in the Cayman Islands in March 2006 and the guidelines are currently being finalised for publication. UNEP/ROWA is also publishing a stand-alone document on Environmental Impact Assessment for Desalination.

#### *2.2.4 Other water-related activities*

UNEP was a co-sponsor of the Water Middle East 2005 Conference and Exhibition held in Bahrain in November 2005. It will continue this partnership, as a member of the Organising Committee for Water Middle East 2007, taking place in January 2007.

Technical papers and sponsorship have also been provided to a number of other water-related events in the region, including the provision of a paper in celebration of Regional Environment Day in Qatar, organised by the Supreme Council for the Environment and Natural Reserves on 27 April 2006 as well as the co-organisation of the Workshop on Efficient Water Demand Management in Arid Regions, with UNESCO and other international/regional organisations in Sharm El-Sheikh, 17-21 September 2006 and the co-organisation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference on Water Resources and the Arid Environment in Riyadh, 26-29 November 2006.

### **2.3. Coastal and Marine Environment**

The coastal and marine environment of the region is one that is under threat from a wide variety of anthropogenic activities. For example, the operation of over 800 producing offshore oil wells in the Gulf Area and the related maritime transport of oil and oil-related products, the approximately 25,000 tankers

navigating through the Straits of Hormuz on an annual basis (this is expected to double in the coming decade), carrying about 60% of the total oil exports to the world, and the estimated 2 million barrels of oil spilled in the region each year from the routine discharge of dirty ballast water. Added to this is the rapid development of our coastal areas and the discharge of wastewater into the marine environment from these developments.

UNEP/ROWA therefore continues to work closely with the Regional Seas Programmes in the region (PERSGA, ROPME and the Mediterranean Action Plan, MAP), participating in the Focal Point and Ministerial Sessions. UNEP/ROWA is also working with ROPME in the review and updating of their State of the Marine Environment Report.

A number of technical presentations relating to UNEP's Offshore Oil and Gas Forum have also been given at relevant conferences and seminars in the region and a presentation on waste management made to Offshore Arabia in Dubai, 19-21 December 2006..

#### **2.4. Land Degradation and Biodiversity**

In West Asia, 79.3% of the land cover is desert or desertified, with a further 16.3% vulnerable to desertification. The land area at no risk is very small, in the Arabian Peninsula, only 2.4% of the land area is classified as not at risk.

The underlying causes of desertification are the complex interactions between a number of factors, including physical, biological, political, social, cultural and economic factors. Population growth and the need for food production in ecologically fragile arid and semi-arid lands are putting too much pressure on the ecosystems. Many land use projects are designed with little understanding of the socio-economic conditions of the population and the dynamics of sustainability and of the natural resource base.

UNEP/ROWA is the host of the Regional Coordinator for the Sub-regional Action Programme (SRAP), and has carried out a number of activities in this regard, including an inventory for water resources and vegetation cover in the region and the implementation of 4 pilot demonstration projects (in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and Yemen), through MOUs signed with ACSAD and the International Centre for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas (ICARDA). This has included the development and implementation of a sustainable land management programme in Jordan, working closely with communities and farmers. Work with these communities in the development of appropriate land management strategies has been ongoing. Work is also continuing with a number of member states to provide technical support in the development of their National Action Plans on desertification, including Bahrain and Saudi Arabia

As 2006 is the International Year for Deserts and Desertification, which will also be recognised in the celebration of World Environment Day 2006, with the slogan "Deserts and Desertification – Don't Desert Drylands", UNEP/ROWA has worked with ACSAD in the production of a documentary and a book on Arabian deserts.

A PDF A project proposal through the Global Environment Facility (GEF) is being prepared on Integrated Natural Resources Management for West Asia as a step toward the preparation of a GEF Medium-Sized Project (MSP) on land degradation in the region.

In terms of biodiversity, UNEP/ROWA is working within the region on a Biodiversity Work Plan and Strategy is being developed, in partnership with ACSAD and ICARDA, to provide overall direction in terms of the protection of the region's biodiversity in accordance with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). This will address biosafety issues alongside a follow up to work carried out on gene banks in the region.

UNEP/ROWA launched a Workshop on Biodiversity in Desert Ecosystems: Challenges and Opportunities at the Second Festival of the Cultures and Civilizations of World Deserts, organised by the Zayed International Prize for the Environment in partnership with the World Deserts Foundation and the Government of Dubai's Department of Tourism and Commerce Marketing, in Dubai, 16-22 April 2005.

The Workshop elaborated on the significance of desert biodiversity, recognising the unique biomes contained within the region's deserts. These include the importance of wetland areas within desert ecosystems in supporting migratory bird species, as well as local species and the desert crops that have become some of the worlds' staple foodstuffs.

UNEP/ROWA translated and edited the GCC Convention on "Wildlife and Natural Habitats" from Arabic into English.

Work has also been in contact with the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) to facilitate the translation of the Convention Text, Appendices, COPs decisions as well as other important documents into Arabic. Coordination with the region's member states to the convention is also being carried out to ensure that Arab speaking countries being provided with adequate translation of documents and interpretation during the COPs and other key meetings of CITES.

UNEP/ROWA has sponsored and co-organised in cooperation with EPA-Yemen a Workshop on Wetlands (RAMSAR) in Yemen during the period 4-5 March 2006.

## **2.5. Industry**

### *2.5.1 Production and Consumption*

In coordination with CAMRE, the Arab Industrial Development and Mining Organisation (AIDMO), the Arab Labour Organisation (ALO) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO), UNEP/ROWA is developing an Arab strategy to promote Sustainable Consumption and Production for the Arab Region. The current plan of UNEP/ROWA is to continue to promote Cleaner and Safer Production in the region. This cleaner production work is done primarily through capacity building, promotion of establishment of NCPCs (help is provided to UAE, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria), initiation of cleaner production pilot projects in relevant industrial sectors (e.g. in the edible oil industry in Jordan).

Furthermore, UNEP/ROWA linked the issues of cleaner production and sustainable consumption with environmental management systems (EMS), Industrial Estates Management (IEM), Awareness and Preparedness for Emergencies at the Local Level (APELL), and industry based voluntary initiatives (especially ongoing support to the Arab Union for Cement and Building Manufacturers), and is also in the process of publishing guidelines with CAMRE, on EIA, Industrial Estate Management and Environmental Self-Monitoring and Auditing in various industrial sectors.

The cleaner production and sustainable consumption programme can be broadly split into two areas of activity, cleaner production activities and sustainable consumption activities.

The Cleaner Production Strategy involves technical support to the establishment of National Cleaner Production Centers (NCPCs) and capacity building activities in Cleaner Production techniques to raise awareness and capacity within the region in government agencies, industrial support agencies and industry. This has included continued technical support on request to the NCPC in Jordan, technical support to UAE in the development of its NCPC, and the development of a concept proposal for founding a Regional Cleaner Production Centre and a number of capacity building activities.

To realistically pursue the ideals of sustainable consumption in the region, it has been recognised that a platform is needed for awareness raising, capacity building and catalyzing stakeholders to exchange information and develop cooperative programmes. Such approaches could be via approaching sustainable consumption from governmental procurement angles, health related issues (e.g., adverse impacts of "junk food", leaded gasoline problems...etc.), and working with youth issues. UNEP/ROWA is thus working to facilitate efforts for fostering more sustainable consumption patterns, working with governments, business and NGOs, forming the basis of a sustainable consumption campaign in the region.

Raising awareness among all groups, especially youth, through sustainable consumption surveys, workshops and youth events, as well as education curricula and information materials is a key part of this

process. This has included ongoing work with the Emirates Diving Association, including the translation of the YouthXchange Manual on Sustainability to Arabic and dissemination of the Arabic Manual in the region. Other activities have included organisation of a series of related workshops and a proposal has been developed for capacity building in secondary schools and universities in the YouthXchange Programme.

In the region, UNEP/ROWA, in partnership with CAMRE and other regional stakeholders, is also advocating an Arab approach towards sustainable tourism. This can be broadly be split into 2 key areas of activity (1) development of policy guidelines and a regional strategy for sustainable tourism and (2) capacity building within the tourism sector for sustainable development. (1) will focus on the promotion in the Arab Region of the establishment of national and regional tourism strategies and programmes of action that adhere to the principles of Sustainable Development, ensuring that it is based on knowledge of natural resources, biodiversity conditions and environmental impacts, and is integrated with national and regional sustainable development plans. UNEP/ROWA and UNESCO launched a Regional Workshop on Tourism Impacts on Natural Preserves, Sharm El-Sheikh, November 2005 and UNEP/ROWA was also the co-organiser of the International Conference on Eco-Tourism held in Muscat, Oman on 26-28 February 2006.

### *2.5.2 Chemicals and Waste*

The last few decades have seen a dramatic growth in the manufacture and use of chemicals, and their unintentional production as by-products, which result in the release of toxic pollutants. Many of these activities are essential to modern society, especially in terms of agriculture, for pest control, but they can also pose a serious threat to human health and the environment. Alongside the rapidly increasing number of chemicals being introduced to the environment is the associated, potentially hazardous waste, as well as the increasing waste arising from increased consumption. As such, UNEP/ROWA is working on a number of initiatives in the region.

With support from UNEP-Chemicals and the Secretariats of the relevant conventions, and in coordination with CAMRE and the Basel Convention Regional Centre in Cairo (BCRC), UNEP/ROWA continues to promote the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions through involvement in the Arab Technical Team concerned with MEAs relevant to chemicals and wastes management (ATTWCW). UNEP/ROWA and member states are also looking to the development of an integrated regional strategy on chemicals and wastes management, advocating principles of Life Cycle Assessment (LCA), alongside sound management strategies. This is done within the framework of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) in the region.

Support is also being provided to member states in their coordinated national legislations and Implementation Plans under the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions. UNEP, with CAMRE, is currently working on conducting a study to review all Arab legislations and evaluating their adequacy for the implementation of the relevant MEAs. Also a "Model" environmental legislation is being developed as a guidance document. Capacity building activities in this regard have included the Sub-Regional Consultation Meeting on the Rotterdam Convention for GCC countries, Oman, May 2006. UNEP is also sponsoring an international expert to assist the UAE in developing its National Implementation Plan for the Stockholm Convention.

UNEP/ROWA will work with colleagues on other Divisions in the implementation of SAICM approved by the Ninth Special Session of UNEP's Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GCSS.IX/GMEF) held in Dubai in February 2006. UNEP was instrumental in catalysing the issuance of the Cairo Declaration on SAICM in December 2005 at the 17<sup>th</sup> Session of CAMRE.

### *2.5.3 Sustainable Energy*

The West Asia region, particularly the Arab Gulf States, holds an overwhelming majority of the world's collective energy resources (whether oil, solar or natural gas resources). The responsibility of protecting

human health and the environment and conserving precious, non-renewable resources while satisfying the global appetite for energy is a collective one, but one in which the region has an important role to play.

In recognition of this challenge, the Regional Committee on Energy (branched from JCEDAR) recommended the preparation of national action reports on energy for sustainable development as part of the region's preparation for the Commission on Sustainable Development's 14<sup>th</sup> Session (CSD-14), which took place in May 2006. The themes of CSD-14 were energy for sustainable development, industrial development, air pollution/atmosphere and climate change. The regional inputs to CSD-14 were discussed and elaborated during the Arab Regional Conference on Energy for Sustainable Development: Progress Achieved and Environmental Issues (September 2005) and UNEP/ROWA, with ESCWA and the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC) has provided technical support to the development of a framework document on Arab Energy Strategy for Sustainable Development, focusing on clean fuels, energy efficiency, clean energy and renewable energy and has also promoted the ratification and implementation of UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol, including the Cleaner Development Mechanism (CDM).

Based on the Terms of Reference established by the Abu Dhabi Declaration on Environment and Energy (UAE, 2003), the Dubai Declaration on Transboundary Atmospheric Pollution (UAE, 2004), the Sana'a Statement on Renewable Energy for Sustainable Development (Yemen, 2004) and the Abu Dhabi Declaration on Sustainable Transportation in Developing Countries (UAE, 2005); the four key issues identified for the Arab Regional Strategy on Sustainable Energy are:

- i, Access to energy and modern energy services,
- ii, Cleaner fossil-fuel technologies,
- iii, Energy efficiency and
- iv, Renewable energy

UNEP/ROWA also participated in the 8<sup>th</sup> Arab Energy Conference (Jordan, 14-17 May 2006) and co-organised the third Middle East and North Africa Regional Energy Conference (MENAREC III) Cairo, 12-13 June 2006, building upon its partnership in MENAREC I (Yemen, 2004) and II (UAE, 2005).

#### *2.5.4 Air Quality*

Suspended particulate matter in the air represents a health hazard to humans; especially matter within the respirable size range. With rapid development in the region, including rapid economic expansion and the introduction of increasing numbers of vehicles, the concentrations of such particulate matter have increased over time. These increases are having an impact on human health in terms of increased incidence of asthma, bronchitis, allergies and other respiratory illnesses.

In response to concerns over urban air quality, Yemen sought UNEP's assistance in identifying an air quality expert to work with them on issues related to air pollution due to urban transportation systems. The technical expert was expected to delineate the problem, study the existing records, design a systematic monitoring programme(s), and recommend corrective policies, workable solutions and national action plan to be carried out in major cities (e.g., Sana'a). UNEP/ROWA issued a paper on Air Quality and Atmospheric Pollution in the Arab Region in September 2005 and participates in the Meetings of the Permanent Committee on Meteorology (Qatar, 2005 and Egypt, 2006)

#### *2.5.5 Trade*

In partnership with ESCWA and CAMRE, UNEP/ROWA has jointly developed a 5-year regional Trade and Environment capacity building programme for Arab Countries. The proposal is aimed at:

- Identifying priorities for capacity building activities and developing a long-term programme for the region
- Identifying a network of potential institutions to assist in implementing the capacity building work

- Setting the stage for collaboration between Ministries of Environment, Planning and Trade in order to integrate key environmental considerations into sustainable development issues as well as bilateral and multilateral negotiations.

The programme has defined the capacity building objectives, scope, needs activities and funding mechanisms on trade, environment and sustainable development. A copy of the project is available upon request. As part of this programme, a Regional Capacity Building Workshop on Trade and Environment was held in Muscat, Oman (25-30 March 2006), running in parallel to a meeting of the World Trade Organisation. UNEP is also working with CAMRE on developing a list of environmental goods and services for Arab bilateral and international trade.

## **2.6. Montreal Protocol and Protection of the Ozone Layer**

The Regional Ozone Network is continuing its work in the region, through the Compliance Assistance Programme (CAP). In order to ensure and maintain compliance with 2005-2007 control measures, the CAP of the Regional Office for West Asia continued its momentum of giving special attention to institutionalizing its activities through strengthening cooperation with regional and sub-regional organizations and secretariats i.e. GCC, LAS, the Regional Intelligence Liaison Office (RILO) of the World Customs Organisation (WCO) and the regional representation of the WCO. As a result, the issue of Ozone Layer protection and its international treaties in the region has been kept at the highest level of attention of the key stakeholders. An example success story on this is the inclusion of the Montreal Protocol in the mandate of the Arab Technical Team on MEAs relevant to Chemicals and Waste Management which operates under CAMRE. Another example is maintaining the ODS trade in the agenda of the regional customs directors annual meetings where CAP is attending these meeting officially as observer.

CAP ROWA has provided necessary support to countries facing difficulties in complying with the Montreal Protocol and its amendments. Furthermore, during network activities special attention has been given to countries that were either currently or had potential to be in non compliance in one or more ODS; e.g. Bahrain, Qatar, Lebanon, Oman and Yemen. CAP organized several sub-regional meetings on non-compliance issues for the concerned countries which resulted in resolving all pending cases in West Asia including revising the baseline of Lebanon and Yemen which was pending under the Montreal Protocol Implementation Committee for many years. Support to update and enforce related policies and legislations was also given high consideration by CAP.

Considering the special political situation of Iraq and it being currently the largest non-party to MP, CAP continued its close contact with Iraqi officials i.e. Minister of Environment, National MEAs Committee as well as the National Focal Point for the Montreal Protocol.

In terms of Palestine, the Environment Quality Authority continues as an observer at Network Meetings, where travel is possible, and funding for activities within Palestine (not currently covered under the Multilateral Fund) is being investigated.

In order to enrich the technical backstopping support given to West Asia countries, CAP signed a cooperation agreement with regional chapters of the American Society of Heating, Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE). The agreement set an outline for cooperation in specific areas like analyzing market trends, developing technical awareness materials, cooperation in area of chillers sector and exchanging calendar of relevant activities, as well as reciprocal representation in relevant activities and events.

As a continuation of the regional work-plan for the chillers sector, CAP supported Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman and Yemen in surveying their national inventory of remaining CFC based chillers through conducting national meetings for relevant stakeholders and contracting national experts. These activities assisted countries in their national phase out plans and in the preparation of the terminal plans.

Technical support to non-UNEP projects or non-funded countries was also provided by CAP. CAP assisted UAE in organizing and conducting national customs training workshop to increase awareness of customs authorities in controlling and monitoring ODS trade; in line with international and regional activities for combating legal trade. Technical support was also given to Jordan and Lebanon in assisting the implementation of their Terminal Phase-Out Management Plans. Support to other non-UNEP projects was also given i.e. Refrigerant Management Plan (RMP) of Qatar and Oman.

CAP also ensured that regional technical concerns were appropriately addressed through conducting regional thematic meetings and workshops.

The Halon Officer of CAP ROWA commenced his activities in the Halon Sector. He provided technical support to Qatar in order to achieve compliance in regard to Halon consumption; provided support to the regional Halon Banking Project for West Asia; provided support to Oman's National Ozone Unit with respect to preparations for a national Halon banking project led by the World Bank. In addition he also maintained close coordination with the Multilateral Fund Secretariat during their evaluation of Halon banking projects for Low Volume Consuming Countries. CAP also provided technical support to the National Halon Management workshops of Jordan as facilitator and technical resource person during the workshops.

## **2.7. Emergency Response**

The importance of emergency preparedness and response to environmental disasters has never been more compelling than in the aftermath of the Asian Tsunami Disaster of 26 December 2004. But sadly, such disasters, both natural and anthropogenic, are a fact of life. The impacts of such disasters when they occur can be minimised however through good early warning systems and emergency preparedness, prevention and management.

### *2.7.1 Tsunami Disaster Task Force Rapid Assessment*

UNEP/ROWA participated in the rapid assessment to assess the damage caused by the 2004 tsunami to Socotra Island and the coastal regions of Yemen (5-10 February 2005) and also in Somalia. The assessment identified areas affected and made recommendations for rehabilitation. UNEP is also involved in developing an emergency response system for Yemen for natural and human disasters. In this regard, a National Workshop on Environmental Emergencies was conducted in Sana'a (January 2006).

### *2.7.2 Awareness and Preparedness for Emergencies at the Local Level*

The strategy of the APELL approach is to identify and create awareness of risks in an industrialised community, to initiate measures for risk reduction and mitigation and to develop coordinated preparedness between industry, local authorities and the local population.

APELL has been actively promoted in the region through national training workshops on APELL have also been provided by UNEP through the region over the past few years.

## **2.8. Civil Society and Outreach Activities**

The important role of Civil Society in promoting and disseminating the environmental message has been clearly seen through the strength of the Civil Society Forums at WSSD. UNEP/ROWA is working with Civil Society and other partners to further emphasise their role in our activities in the region. To this end, workshops have been held with Civil Society organisations to discuss their role in protecting the environment. Several youth activities have also been undertaken, predominantly in connection with the YouthXchange programme discussed above.

Regional Civil Society Forums are being held on an annual basis, as part of the preparations for the Global Civil Society Forums held in conjunction with UNEP's Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environmental Forum (GC/GMEF). These Forums develop a West Asia Final Statement, produced by the participants themselves, which conveys their views and recommendations to the GC/GMEF.

## **2.9. Post-Conflict Assessment**

UNEP/ROWA is currently working closely with UNEP's Post Conflict Branch (PCoB), based in Geneva, in addressing post-conflict activities in the West Asia region. Reports from PCoB on North African countries will be provided separately.

### *2.9.1 Lebanon*

As a first response to the conflict in Lebanon in the summer of 2006, UNEP's Executive Director, Mr. Achim Steiner, convened, with Mr. Efthimios Mitropoulos, Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) a meeting in Athens, Greece on 17 August, hosted by the Greek Mercantile Ministry in Piraeus, to identify an action plan to assist the authorities in Lebanon with the clean up of coastal oil pollution and to prevent any damage to neighbouring countries. The International Assistance Action Plan was prepared by the Experts Working Group for Lebanon under the supervision of UNEP-MAP's Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC) and H.E. The Minister of Environment of Lebanon.

UNEP/ROWA began its work PCoB by developing a proposal for a Post-Conflict Assessment for Lebanon. This was done in close cooperation with, and at the request of the Ministry of Environment. The work assessed all aspects of the environment, with a specific focus on air pollution (including from burning and the dispersal of asbestos fragments in the air), environmental and health impacts of decomposed carcasses and remains under rubble, soil and groundwater pollution, oil spills, impacts due to disruption of power supply (disposal of untreated sewage to land, river and seas and disposal of healthcare waste without incineration), impacts due to general breakdown of civil amenities (lack of collection of municipal solid waste and mixing of municipal and industrial waste), impacts associated with refugee exodus and specific impacts relating to the weapons used.

UNEP's team of experts travelled to Lebanon during the period 30 September to 16 October, working with a team of national experts and UNDP to assess the damage to the environment caused by the conflict and developing an action plan for remediation. The Assessment Team visited different parts of Lebanon, not every site bombed, but all the relevant major sites in order to ensure a representative report.

At the start of the assessment, a training day took place to familiarise all members of the Assessment Team with the tools and techniques to be used, acting as a form of capacity building for future or additional assessments.

The final report of the Post-Conflict Assessment is being prepared by UNEP's in-house experts, containing findings and recommendations and will be an independent, neutral report based on field and laboratory work. It will provide a tool for use in any recovery and reconstruction plans for Lebanon, ensuring that such plans have an environmental dimension. The report will be ready for publication in December 2006.

### *2.9.2 Iraq*

In terms of Iraq, a number of activities have been carried out, including the maintenance of a close liaison with the Minister of Environment for briefings on developments and identification of priority areas. UNEP has been studying the environmental situation in Iraq since early 2003, including field missions and meetings with institutions to identify the local priorities in Iraq.

Since March 2004, UNEP has been undertaking capacity building training programmes for Iraqi officials working in the area of environmental management and contaminated sites assessment. So far training has been undertaken in the areas of Environmental Emergency Response, Environmental Inspections, Environmental Laboratory Analyses, Environmental Impact Assessment and Environmental Site Assessment. UNEP's work in Iraq is being funded through the UN Trust Fund Mechanism with funding from the Government of Japan. In addition, the Governments of the United Kingdom and Germany have provided funds for training and capacity building.

UNEP/ROWA has prepared two project proposals, which have been presented to H.E. The Minister of Environment for approval and also shared with the Government of Japan. These are on ratification of MEAs and chemicals and waste management.

One of the key areas of focus for work in Iraq has been the rehabilitation of the Mesopotamian Marshlands. The destruction of the Mesopotamian marshlands is widely recognised as one of the great environmental tragedies of our times. The disappearance of this rich cultural and biological marshland system is a loss not only for Iraq but is upsetting the delicate coastal and marine ecosystems in the northern part of the Gulf.

UNEP/ROWA with IETC and ACSAD also conducted a Training Workshop for Iraqi Experts on Environmentally Sound Technology (EST) Applications in the Mesopotamian Marshlands (Syria, December 2005) and has conducted a Workshop on Information Networks concerning ESTs, Bahrain , April 2006, the first of two such workshops.

UNEP is also working closely with the Ministry of Environment in Iraq, in their preparations to sign and ratify a number of MEAs, including Montreal Protocol, Stockholm Convention, Basel Convention, CBD, Ramsar and UNCCD. This has included the provision of technical advice to the National Committee for MEAs, established in August 2005 to study and make recommendations to the government for approval, involving representatives of the Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Sciences and Technology and Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research Trade etc..

### *2.9.3. Palestine*

UNEP/ROWA is continuing to support the Palestinian people in capacity building and participation as Observers in all international and regional event and meeting, including those of the MEA Conferences of the Parties (COPs).

With the ongoing evacuation of Israeli settlements in the Gaza Strip, the Environmental Quality Authority of the Palestinian National Authority approached Dr. Klaus Toepfer, Executive Director of UNEP to provide assistance in undertaking an environmental assessment of the settlements after their evacuation and disengagement. UNEP agreed to undertake this activity and in August and September 2005 began making preparations for such an audit.

The first on-the-ground assessment by the UNEP Team took place in early December 2005 within the settlements already evacuated in the Gaza strip. This was the first time that such an assessment had taken place. The team prepared for the mission through the analysis of detailed remote sensing data.

The areas addressed in the assessment included:

- Water resources
- Biodiversity
- Coastal issues
- Hazardous wastes
- Land contamination
- Radioactive substances

In addition to the assessment itself, UNEP provided Palestinian Officials with capacity building training so that they are able to undertake such assessments themselves in future.

The assessment report was finalised, having been reviewed by both the Palestinian and Israeli authorities and was published and launched by UNEP in Gaza in March 2006. The Palestinian side indicated reservations on some of the findings.

As a result of the report, a Training Workshop for Palestinians on Asbestos Handling was conducted by UNEP and the Basel Convention Regional Centre in Cairo in May 2006.

### **3.0. Special Events**

#### **3.1. Ninth Special Session of the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environmental Forum**

One of the major activities that has taken place in 2006 in the region was the Ninth Special Session of the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environmental Forum (GCSS.IX/GMEF), which was hosted by the Government of the United Arab Emirates in Dubai (7-9 February 2006). The key policy issues discussed at the GCSS.IX/GMEF were:

- i. Chemicals Management
- ii. Energy
- iii. Tourism

Preparatory Work for GCSS.IX/GMEF and associated meetings included the development of partnerships with the Zayed International Prize for the Environment and Emirates Diving Association to provide logistical support. Over 1,200 people participated in the GCSS.IX/GMEF and its associated meetings.

The associated activities were:

- International Conference on Chemicals Management (4-6 February 2006)
- Global Civil Society Forum (5-6 February 2006)
- Environmentally Sound Technology Showcase (5-8 February 2006)

The *International Conference on Chemicals Management* was the culmination of work that had taken place since the World Summit on Sustainable Development in response to WSSD's goal of ensuring that by the year 2020 chemicals are produced and used in ways that minimise significant adverse impacts on the environment and human health (building on the Decision of UNEP's Governing Council in February 2002, GCSS.VII/3). To achieve this goal, representatives of the world's governments, intergovernmental organisations and other stakeholder groups have met, developed and discussed a Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) to provide an overarching framework for global action on chemical hazards and enable governments and other stakeholders to collaborate more effectively on minimising potential risks. SAICM has at its heart three core documents; a high level declaration, an overarching policy statement and a global plan of action and was formally adopted at the International Conference on Chemicals Management.

The *Global Civil Society Forum* (GCSF) took on 5-6 February 2006. This was the seventh global forum held in association with UNEP's governing council sessions and provided a platform for civil society to feed into the governing council processes. In preparation for the GCSF, regional preparatory meetings were held throughout the world, during which regional civil society organisations have elaborated their views and agreed on regional statements around the three key issues being discussed by the GCSS.IX/GMEF. These regional statements, along with the Global Civil Society Statement, were incorporated into the formal documentation process of both the GCSF and GCSS.IX/GMEF.

The *Environmentally Sound Technology Showcase* was a special technology showcase of clean technology sponsored by UNEP as a complimentary activity to the GCSS.IX/GMEF and its associated meetings. The Showcase had at its heart three broad themes:

- Elements (physical and climate e.g. mining, oil and gas, chemicals, power generation, construction, ozone related technologies)
- Connectivity (e.g. transport, information and communications technology, financial services, tourism)
- Life Cycles (e.g. plastics, steel, waste, recycling, pharmaceuticals, food)

It provided companies in environmental markets an opportunity to meet and influence market makers by demonstrating their environmentally sound technologies.

#### **3.2. Other Major Events**

- Ongoing involvement with the Kingdom of Bahrain on the Development of a National Strategy on Sustainable Development , especially in the fields of terrestrial and marine and coastal zone management.
- Co-organisation of the Environment 2005 Conference and Exhibition on Sustainable Transport, 29 January-2 February 2005, Abu Dhabi, including member of the Organising and Technical Committees for the Conference and Exhibition, organisation and delivery of Pre-Conference Workshop on Sustainable Transportation and the Environment: Technology, Fuel and Management Improvement Initiatives, delivery of paper to main conference and Exhibition Stand at the Exhibition
- Co-organisation of the International Conference on Eco-Tourism, Muscat, Oman, 26-28 February 2006, in which UNEP delivered opening and closing statements, a keynote speech and technical presentation, chaired a session and participated in drafting the Conference Recommendations and Communiqué. The conference was attended by more than 250 people with over 50 speakers from around the globe. The Conference was accompanied with a small exhibition and field trips. The Conference was concluded with fairly strong recommendations to refine and enhance sustainable and eco-tourism in the region and abroad.
- Co-organisation and management of the technical component of the Syrian Environment Exhibition (Syrenviro 2006) Damascus, Syria, 3-9 April 2006.
- Co-organisation of the Third MENA Regional Energy Conference (MENAREC III), 12-13 June, Cairo, Egypt, including participation in Steering Committee Meetings
- Co-organisation and provision of technical workshop to the International Conference and Exhibition on Green Industry Manama, Bahrain, 20-22 November 2006.

#### **4.0. Future Areas of Focus**

The UNEP/ROWA Programme of Work for 2006/2007 has been prepared based on the priorities identified in the various mandates discussed in the introduction to this report (those emanating from UNEP's Governing Council, from CAMRE and in line with SDIAR and BSP). A summary of the Programme of Work is provided as Annex 4.

#### **5.0. Conclusions**

UNEP/ROWA will continue to implement a wide ranging programme in the West Asia region, with the aim of "Environment for Development" at its core. The activities carried out will continue to respond to the needs of the member states, providing technology support and capacity building in highlighted areas. UNEP/ROWA will continue to seek to strengthen its office, using resources and support from within the UN system, but also through seeking support and resources from within the region itself in order to serve the region better.

## ANNEX 1

## ELEMENTS OF THE BALI STRATEGIC PLAN ON TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT AND CAPACITY BUILDING

**Cross-cutting issues:**

- i. Strengthening of national and regional environmental or environment-related institutions (government institutions, judiciary, enforcement);
- ii. Development of national environmental law;
- iii. Strengthening of cooperation with civil society and the private sector;
- iv. Assistance for facilitating compliance with and enforcement of obligations under multilateral environmental agreements and implementation of environmental commitments;
- v. Preparation, integration and implementation of environmental aspects of national sustainable development plans;
- vi. Poverty and environment, including the implementation of poverty reduction strategy programmes;
- vii. Development of national research, monitoring and assessment capacity, including training in assessment and early warning;
- viii. Support to national and regional institutions in data collection, analysis and monitoring of environmental trends;
- ix. Access to scientific and technological information, including information on state-of-the-art technologies;
- x. Facilitating access to and support for environmentally sound technologies and corresponding know-how;
- xi. Education and awareness raising, including networking among universities with programmes of excellence in the field of the environment;
- xii. Promotion of sustainable consumption and production patterns, including support for cleaner production centres;
- xiii. Development of gender mainstreaming strategies in environmental policies;

**Thematic areas:**

- i. Biological diversity, including biosafety and the issue of invasive species;
- ii. Climate change;
- iii. Desertification, drought and land degradation;
- iv. Freshwater resources;
- v. Conservation of wetlands;
- vi. Oceans and seas and coastal areas, including regional seas and the protection of the marine environment from land-based activities;
- vii. Chemicals;
- viii. Waste management;
- ix. Pollution;
- x. Health and environment;
- xi. Trade and environment;
- xii. Renewable energy;
- xiii. Transboundary conservation and sustainable management of natural resources when agreed by the countries concerned;
- xiv. Environmental emergency preparedness and response;
- xv. Taxonomy;
- xvi. Forests;
- xvii. Post-conflict assessment;
- xviii. Sanitation;
- xix. Food security and environment.

## ANNEX 2

### REGIONAL ANNEX TO THE BALI STRATEGIC PLAN FOR TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT AND CAPACITY BUILDING

In its sixteenth session held in Cairo on December 2004 The Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment (CAMRE) adopted decision no.(Res.211 – RS 16 – 9/12/2004) in which it agreed to add an annex to The Intergovernmental International Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity Building for The Arab Region. This shall bring an added value to the United Nations documents and shall constitute a framework for the implementation and execution of this strategy in the Arab Region.

- Taking into consideration the limited capacity of the institutions concerned in the region , and encouraging national and regional institutions to play a more active role in developing and implementing environmental programs including the development and execution of training programs and researches particularly those relevant to new environmental technologies and best practices.
- Aware of the need to draw policies that focus on sustainable development , and wishing to support the development of policy frameworks to ensure the effective implementation and compliance at the local and regional levels of the relevant multilateral environmental agreements as well as regional and international agreements and conventions.
- Aware also of the importance of streamlining relevant priorities of the Arab region in international agreements in their early stages of preparation ,so as to build the capacities of the countries of the region and enable them to contribute actively in international environmental negotiations.
- Reiterating the need to provide accurate data to decision makers, and to support local, national and regional institutions contributing to the collection, analysis and assessment of data, and those preparing and submitting reports and environmental information. Added to this the need to monitor environmental trends and patterns in the region including the development of centres of excellence that have definite targets in this respect.

CAMRE welcomes the work of the intergovernmental international open ended task force of high officials regarding the intergovernmental strategic international plan for technology support and capacity building, and assert in that decision that the strategic framework of the plan should be based on the following principles:

1. Supporting the capacity building of the countries in the region so that they may be able to implement their national and regional programs to protect their environment, and attain sustainable development.
2. Transferring and adapting sound and environmentally friendly technologies to the region and building the capacities so that these technologies may be used and supported as a step to enable environmentally sound technologies and best practices to take root. This aims at applying integrated environmental assessment, and at solving the problems and meeting the challenges of the region.
3. Responding to the needs of the region which focus on the conditions and priorities mentioned in the Arab Initiative for sustainable development. These include review, assessment and follow up of its elements to ensure the continuity of their implementation.
4. Setting clear targets and time frames to ensure the optimum use of resources so as to ensure their full implementation within the strategic framework of the plan.
5. Ensuring that the United Nations Environment Program exercises its mandate and collaborates with other relevant specialized agencies, and that this mandate is reflected in its work programs and budget.

6. Supporting the regional offices of the United Nations Environment program in West Asia and Africa on a continuous basis, so as to strengthen the mechanism for follow up and execution at the regional level to support technologies and build capacities in the Arab Region.
7. Strengthening joint north- south , and south –south cooperation in the fields of technology support, and capacity building, in application of the principle of common but differentiated responsibility.

CAMRE, in this decision, stressed that the strategic framework of the plan should take into consideration the following elements:

- Dealing with the issue of capacity building at the popular level and implementing its activities at the local, national, sub regional, and regional levels in a collective manner.
- Engaging all the stakeholders of sustainable development activities, and supporting and facilitating the exchange of the necessary information and expertise and best practices among the relevant parties including the involvement of the civil society and non governmental institutions in accordance with the tenth principle of the Rio Declaration.

## ANNEX 3

## TABLE OF ACTIVITIES 2005-APRIL 2006

Theme	Activities
Assessment	<p data-bbox="464 354 800 378"><b>Global Environment Outlook</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="464 402 1339 427">▪ Coordinated the development of West Asia input to the GEO Yearbook 2006.</li> <li data-bbox="464 451 1440 475">▪ Prepared and finalized drafts of West Asia sections for GEO-4 to be published in 2007.</li> <li data-bbox="464 500 1871 581">▪ Organisation of the West Asia Scenario Production Meeting for GEO-4 in collaboration with the Arabian Gulf University, Manama, Bahrain, 25-27 February 2006 and ongoing work with Collaborating Centres in the preparation of the draft reports for the region</li> <li data-bbox="464 605 1451 630">▪ Participation in the GEO-4 Lead Authors Meetings in Nairobi, Kenya, 5-10 March 2006</li> <li data-bbox="464 654 1829 678">▪ Organisation of the Inception and Planning Meeting for the Arab State of Environment Report, Cairo, Egypt, 7-9 May 2006</li> <li data-bbox="464 703 1472 727">▪ Organisation of the Regional Consultation on GEO-4, Manama, Bahrain, 18-20 June 2006</li> <li data-bbox="464 751 1738 776">▪ Participation in the GEO-4 Third Production and Authors Meeting on Draft 2, Cairo, Egypt, 13-17 November 2006</li> <li data-bbox="464 800 1724 824">▪ Development of GEO West Asia GEO Data Portal, a draft is online for testing and will be launched early in 2007.</li> </ul> <p data-bbox="464 841 772 865"><b>Other assessment activities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="464 889 1829 938">▪ Provided technical support to Yemen in the preparation and review of the national State of Environment Report, including a working visit on 29-30 April 2006</li> <li data-bbox="464 963 1906 1011">▪ Provided technical support to Syria in the preparation and review of the national State of Environment Report, including a working visit on 14-15 May 2006</li> <li data-bbox="464 1036 1871 1084">▪ Participation in the Expert Meeting on the Preparation of a Proposal on Monitoring and Assessment of Land Degradation in the Arab Region, 16 – 17 May 2006, Damascus, Syria</li> <li data-bbox="464 1109 1877 1198">▪ Organisation of a meeting to develop a South-South network of GEO Collaborating Centres for integrated environmental assessment and reporting to support policy formulation and informed decision-making processes at national, regional and global levels, 21 June, 2006, Manama, Bahrain</li> <li data-bbox="464 1222 1864 1304">▪ Provided support to the Regional Organisation for the Protection of the Marine Environment (ROPME), towards enhancing the guidelines for the preparation of the report on State of the Marine Environment for the ROPME Sea, including a meeting to discuss its development in Kuwait, 9-10 July 2006</li> <li data-bbox="464 1328 1871 1377">▪ Organisation and delivery of the Workshop on Integrated Environmental Assessment and reporting, Doha, Qatar, 28-30 August 2006</li> </ul>

- Launch of the Abu Dhabi State of Environment Report, Abu Dhabi, UAE, 12 November 2006
  - Finalised a regional strategy on capacity building for integrated environmental assessment with a major goal to integrate the IEA approach into the decision-making and policy frameworks for sustainable development in the Region.
  - Developed environmental knowledge bases for integrated environmental assessment for the 12 countries in the region.
- Millennium Ecosystem Assessment**
- Ongoing support to Arab Millennium ecosystems sub-global assessment, which is ongoing in three sites: for Sinai, Egypt, Tafilalet Oasis, Morocco and Assir National Park, Saudi Arabia, to be completed in 2007.
- Environmental Data including AGEDI**
- Organisation of the Meeting of the Gulf Cooperation Council Focal Points for the Network for Environmental Information and Monitoring, Manama, Bahrain, 3-4 June 2006
  - Piloting Environmental Information Networking in the Regions, West Asia Expert Group Meeting on Environmental Information Networking, 12 - 13 September 2006
  - Organisation of the EcoMundus Workshop for Partners in West Asia, Manama, Bahrain, 14 September 2006
  - Participation in a meeting with the Environment Agency Abu Dhabi to review progress on the implementation of the GEO Data Portal and the Database of Experts and Institutions, Abu Dhabi, 20-21 September 2006
  - AGEDI Future Planning Meeting, Abu Dhabi, UAE, 13-14 November 2006
  - Finalized a regional study on Experiences and Best Practices in Environmental Information Management in West Asia, which includes 12 national studies, 4 studies prepared by regional institutions, an integrated regional study and an environmental information strategy.
  - Prepared a global study on lessons learned and best practices in environmental information systems and information management. The study is being revised and finalised.
  - Finalised the guidelines on the development and use of core environmental indicators for West Asia.
  - Completed the distribution of Landsat data from 1990 and 2000 to countries and regional organizations, which designated a focal point to receive the data.
  - Development of database systems for experts, institutions, and activities, which is being tested.
  - A draft map server including GIS and remote sensing data for West Asia has been developed to provide an online access to these data, and is being tested.
  - A comparative study on regional – global data sets, to compare country data coming from international data sets to country data coming from regional data sets, has been finalized.

<b>Water</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Provision of technical and policy advice to the final Working Group Meeting to discuss the 5 chapters for the WHO Guidance on Desalination for Safe Water Supply, Cayman Islands, 13-15 March 2006</li> <li>▪ Presentation of a technical paper to the International Conference on Economic Incentives and Water Demand Management, Muscat, Oman, 18-22 March 2006</li> <li>▪ Participation in the World Water Day Celebration in Manama, Bahrain, 22 March 2006</li> <li>▪ Participation in the Workshop on Water Conservation organised by the Bahrain Ministry of Electricity and Water and the Gulf Cooperation Council, Manama, Bahrain, 12 April 2006</li> <li>▪ Participation in the opening ceremony of the Chinese-Arab First Training Session on Water Pollution and Control, organised by the State Environmental Protection Administration, Beijing, China, 1-12 June 2006</li> <li>▪ Presentation of technical paper and session chair for the Middle East Water Congress, Dubai, UAE, 12-13 June 2006</li> <li>▪ Meeting with relevant counterparts at ESCWA to discuss the water programme in the region, in particular the organisation of the Arab Parliamentarians Meeting on Integrated Water Resources Management, Beirut, Lebanon, 5-6 July 2006</li> <li>▪ Participation in the 1<sup>st</sup> Workshop on the “Water Regional Project” funded by the Government of Italy, Cairo, Egypt, 6-7 September 2006</li> <li>▪ Co-organisation of the Workshop on Efficient Water Demand Management in Arid Regions, with UNESCO and other international/regional organisations, Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, 17-21 September 2006</li> <li>▪ Co-organisation of the International Conference on Integrated Water Resources Management in the Arab Region, Beirut, Lebanon, 29-31 October 2006</li> <li>▪ Co-organisation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference on Water Resources and the Arid Environment, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, 26-29 November 2006</li> </ul>
<b>Coastal and Marine Environment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Participation in the 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Council of the Regional Organisation for the Conservation of the Environment of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden (PERSGA) in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, 25 January 2006</li> <li>▪ Participation in the 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Council of the Regional Organisation for the Protection of the Marine Environment (ROPME), Muscat, Oman, 24 April 2006</li> <li>▪ Participation in the International Conference on Environmental Protection in Coastal Zones, Lattakia, Syria, 18-20 September 2006</li> <li>▪ Participation in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Intergovernmental Review Meeting of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities, Beijing, China, 16-20 October 2006</li> <li>▪ Co-organisation of the Training Course on Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis of Coastal and Marine Environmental Issues in the ROPME Sea Area, with UNESCO and ROPME, Manama, Bahrain, 11-16 November 2006</li> <li>▪ Presentation of paper to the Offshore Arabia 2006 Conference and Exhibition, Dubai, UAE, 17-19 December 2006</li> </ul>

<p><b>Land Degradation and Biodiversity</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Participation and provision of policy advice to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Arab Team on Desertification, Land Degradation, Biodiversity and Water organised by CAMRE and UNEP, Cairo, Egypt, 22-24 January 2006</li> <li>▪ Co-organisation, in cooperation with EPA Yemen/ Ministry of Water and Environment, of a Workshop Promoting RAMSAR Convention on Wetlands in Yemen, 4-5 March 2006</li> <li>▪ Participation in the 4th Session of the Food and Agriculture Office for the Near East Agriculture, Land and Water Use Commission (ALAWUC), Sana'a, Yemen, 6-9 March 2006</li> <li>▪ Provision of technical guidance to the updating of the UNCCD/ NAP for the Kingdom of Bahrain in cooperation with the Ministry of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture (MOMAA) and UNDP-Bahrain, including technical meetings on 2 April, 7 May and 28 June 2006</li> <li>▪ Presentation of a technical paper to the Workshop on Biodiversity and the Oil and Gas Industry in Arid Environments of North Africa and the Middle East, Abu Dhabi, UAE, 5 April 2006</li> <li>▪ Co-organisation of the Workshop on Arabian Deserts: Current Status and Future Horizons (with ACSAD), Damascus, Syria, 14-15 May 2006</li> <li>▪ Co-organisation of the Expert Group Meeting on the Development of a Project on Assessment and Monitoring of Biodiversity and Land Degradation in the Arab Region (with ACSAD), Damascus, Syria, 16-17 May 2006</li> <li>▪ Co-organisation of the Workshop on Biodiversity and Biosafety (with ACSAD), Damascus, Syria, 12-14 June 2006</li> <li>▪ Participation in the Meeting on Wildlife Legislation in the Arab Region, Beirut, Lebanon, 13-15 June 2006</li> <li>▪ In celebration of the International Year for Deserts and Desertification, took part in a one-hour interview with Bahrain Radio to promote the conservation of desert ecosystems and the efforts for combating desertification in the region, 9 July 2006</li> <li>▪ Participation in the UNCCD 7<sup>th</sup> Asia-Pacific Regional Focal Point Meeting to discuss and identify solutions to the challenges facing the implementation of the SRAP in West Asia, Bangkok, Thailand, 7-11 August 2006</li> <li>▪ Participation in the 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Arab Technical Team on Biodiversity and Desertification and co-organization of the CITES Arab Focal Point Meeting, Cairo, Egypt, 20-22 September 2006</li> <li>▪ Coordination of the SRAP-WA start-up pilot activities in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and Yemen</li> <li>▪ Conducting initial communications with CITES Secretariat to discuss the issue of translating the convention documents into Arabic and adoption of Arabic as an official language for the convention.</li> <li>▪ Preparation of a GEF PDF A for the project on Integrated Natural Resources Management for West Asia as an ongoing step toward the preparation of GEF-MSP on land degradation.</li> <li>▪ Provision of technical inputs to ACSAD during the preparatory work for the production of a documentary and a book on the Arabian deserts, to be released by mid 2006 in celebration of the International Year for Deserts and Desertification- 2006.</li> <li>▪ Provision of technical advice and delivery of opening statement in the workshop on "Water Issues in Relation with Land</li> </ul>
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	<p>degradation, Environment and Biodiversity” co organised and cosponsored by ACSAD and UNEP/ ROWA.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Co-organization in cooperation with ACSAD and ICARDA the final workshop of the UNCCD SRAP-WA pilot activities (to be finalized sometimes early-mid November 2006)</li> </ul>
<b>Industry</b>	<p><b>General</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Secretariat support to the Council of Arab Minister’s Responsible for the Environment (CAMRE) Joint Committee on Environment and Development in the Arab Region (JCEDAR), the Arab Technical Team on MEAs relevant to Chemicals and Waste management, and the Arab Permanent Committees on Meteorology and Climate Change.</li> <li>▪ Contribution to the implementation of Bali Strategy on Technology Support and Capacity in the Arab Region in partnership with CAMRE via JCEDAR, and the development of Implementation Plan for the Sustainable Development Initiative for the Arab Region (SDIAR) via JCEDAR.</li> <li>▪ Sponsorship of the publication of several industry-related environmental studies and Arab guidelines (e.g., Status of Renewable Energy in MENA Countries, Tourism Guidelines, EMS and Voluntary Initiatives...etc.).</li> <li>▪ Participation in the National Committee for developing the National Planning Development Strategy in Bahrain.</li> <li>▪ Supporting the GCC countries via the State of Qatar to develop National Environmental Plan</li> </ul> <p><b>Cleaner Production and Sustainable Consumption</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Work with member states for the establishment of National Cleaner Production Centres in the region (e.g., NCPC in Syria), including a proposal of DTIE for the development of a Regional Cleaner Production Centre (e.g., RCPC proposal in Jordan). Provision of technical and financial support towards establishing new NCPC.</li> <li>▪ Contribution to the regional consortia to promote SCP (e.g., EDA) in support of the implementation Youthexchange programme in the Arab Region.</li> <li>▪ Participation in the USEPA Training Workshop on Environmental Impact Assessment, Manama, Bahrain, 10-13 September 2006</li> <li>▪ Participation in the African and Arab Regional Workshop on Emerging Technologies for Pollution Reduction and Pollution Prevention, Cairo, Egypt, 20-22 September 2006</li> <li>▪ Participation in the Workshop on the Economic and Environmental Returns of Recycling Industrial Waste, Cairo, Egypt, 5-7 November 2006</li> </ul> <p><b>Chemicals and Waste Management</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Coordinated efforts with UNEP/DTIE-Chemicals and the relevant Convention Secretariats to integrate, as far as possible, activities under these Conventions within the region</li> <li>▪ Co-organisation of the 19<sup>th</sup> Arab Technical Team Responsible for MEAs on Chemicals and Wastes, Cairo, Egypt, 16-18 April 2006</li> </ul>

- Co-organisation, with the Secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention of the Sub-Regional Consultation Meeting on the Rotterdam Convention, Muscat, Oman, 21-23 May 2006
- Delivery of a lecture on the Sound Management of Hazardous Wastes at the Short Course on Environmental Pollution and Control organised by the University of Bahrain, 12 September 2006
- Participation in the Africa Regional Conference on the Strategic approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM), Cairo, Egypt, 11-14 September 2006
- Participation in the 20<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Arab Technical Team on MEAs relating to Chemicals and Waste, Cairo, Egypt, 16-18 September 2006
- Co-organisation of the Regional Workshop on Oil and Gas Wastes Management, with the Basel Convention Regional Centre, Aden, Yemen, 11-13 December 2006

#### **Sustainable Energy and Climate Change**

- Provision of policy advice to the 22<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Permanent Arab Meteorological Committee discussing UNFCCC, Cairo, Egypt, 4-7 April 2006
- Presentation of a technical paper to the 8<sup>th</sup> Arab Energy Conference, Amman, Jordan, 14-17 May 2006
- Presentation of technical papers to the Regional Clean Fuels and Vehicles Meeting for the Middle East, Cairo, Egypt, 24-25 May 2006
- Co-organisation of the Third Middle East and North Africa Renewable Energy Conference (MENAREC III), Cairo, Egypt, 12-13 June 2006
- Provision of policy advice to the Training Workshop on Climate Change and the 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Climate Change Sub-Committee, Cairo, Egypt, 18-22 June 2006
- Participation in the OAPEC Workshop on National Communication Reports from Non-Annex 1 Parties, Cairo, Egypt, 10-11 September 2006
- Participation in the 1<sup>st</sup> International Conference on the Clean Development Mechanism, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, 19-21 September 2006
- Co-organisation of the Arab Regional Solar Energy Conference, Manama, Bahrain, 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> November 2006
- Recruitment of a consultant to undertake research on sustainable energy institutions and activities in the region for publication in English and Arabic
- Development of a case-study project on Renewable Energy Applications in Southern Lebanon with AUB.
- Support through JCEDAR the development of Arab Position Reports for CSD-15 on Energy, Climate Change, Air Quality and Sustainable Industrial Development

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Development and advocating the establishment of a Centre of Excellence on Renewable Energy in Egypt (with the German Government in coordination with DTIE-Energy Branch)</li> </ul> <p><b>Trade</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Partnership in the capacity-building for policy-makers on trade, environment and development issues- a regional programme on trade and environment, including the co-organisation (with the League of Arab States and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia) a Regional Capacity Building Workshop on Trade and Environment and provide a presentation to the concurrent WTO Meeting in Muscat, Oman (25-30 March 2006)</li> <li>▪ Participation in the CAMRE Experts Meeting to Develop a List of Environmental Goods and Services in the Arab Region, Cairo, Egypt, 15-16 October 2006</li> </ul>
<p><b>Montreal Protocol (Compliance Assistance Programme, CAP)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Participation in the National Workshop on Enforcement of Oman's New Legislation on Control and Monitoring of ODS, organised by the National Ozone Unit of Oman in Muscat, 7 February 2006</li> <li>▪ Support to National Ozone Unit of Kuwait in preparation for their Natural Refrigerants Conference, Kuwait, 18-21 February 2006</li> <li>▪ Participation in the 32<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Customs Committee for the Gulf Cooperation Council, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, 19-22 February 2006</li> <li>▪ Organisation of a trilateral meeting in Bahrain between UNEP, the American University of Beirut and Kuwait University organised by the Compliance Assistance Programme as part of its cooperation agreement with the American Society of Heating, Refrigeration and Air-conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) Chapters in the Region, Bahrain, 24-25 February 2006</li> <li>▪ Hosted the visit of the ODS Officer of Jordan, to meet with CAP Team and discuss RMP &amp; Halon programme of Jordan, Manama, Bahrain, 24-25 February 2006.</li> <li>▪ Participation in the Halon Technical Options Committee Lead Authors Meeting in Paris, France, 6-8 March 2006</li> <li>▪ Provision of technical support to the Jordanian National Ozone Unit (NOU) in the implementation of the National Refrigeration Training Programme, Amman, 8-9 March 2006</li> <li>▪ Provision of technical support to the Halon Technical Assistance and Stakeholder Meeting in Kuwait, 13-15 March 2006</li> <li>▪ Provision of technical support to the Halon Bank Management Workshop and Meeting with the Jordanian NOU, Amman, 27-29 March 2006</li> <li>▪ Participation in the 48<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Executive Committee (ExCom) of the Montreal Protocol, Montreal, Canada, 3-7 April</li> <li>▪ Participation in the Meeting of Refrigeration Management Plan Officers, Shanghai, China, 11-14 April 2006</li> <li>▪ National Stakeholders Meeting on Terminal CFC Phase-out Management Plan (TPMP), Bahrain 12 April 2006</li> <li>▪ Participation in the Meeting to discuss the Project Completion Report Preparation for the Refrigeration Management Plan of Syria, Damascus, Syria, 17-20 April 2006</li> </ul>

- Participation in the Main Meeting of the Ozone Officers Network for English Speaking Caribbean to present UNEP's Halon Programme, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, 25-28 April 2006
- High level mission to Saudi Arabia to meet with the Chair of the ExCom and the Director of the Presidency of Meteorology and the Environment concerning related MOP and ExCom decisions, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, 30 April-2 May 2006
- Organisation of the 2006 Main Meeting of the ODS Officers for West Asia Network, Dubai, UAE, 14-17 May 2006
- Participation in the Kuwait National Meeting, a meeting with the National Ozone Unit and provided technical advise to the ASHRAE Seminar, Kuwait, 22-24 May 2006
- Co-organisation of the exploratory meeting for a Bahrain Chapter of ASHRAE, Manama, Bahrain, 7 June 2006
- Participation in the ECA Workshop on Halon Management, Prague, Czech Republic, 22-23 June 2006
- Mission to Jordan to visit the refrigeration servicing sector that benefited from the R&R project and assess their technical needs for additional training and problems encountered in dealing with equipment, Amman, Jordan, 1-3 August 2006
- Participation in the Main Meeting of the Halon Technical Options Committee, Winnipeg, Canada, 22-24 August 2006
- Participation in the First Meeting of the National Ozone Committee, Country Programme and National Phase-Out Plan, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, 26-28 August 2006
- Mission to Yemen to prepare work plan and MOUs for starting projects on Customs Training and Monitoring of RMP, Sana'a, Yemen, 4-6 September 2006
- Participation in the Second Meeting of the National Ozone Committee and the National Stakeholders meeting for Chillers, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, 18-19 September 2006
- Meeting with the National Ozone Unit to develop a work plan for the Terminal Phase-Out Management Programme, Doha, Qatar, 20-21 September 2006
- Participation in Regional Network Coordinators and Policy Officers Meeting, Paris, France, 11-13 October 2006.
- Meeting of ASHRAE/ROWA Working Committee, U.A.E., Dubai, 31 October 2006.
- Halon Management Training, Sri Lanka, October 2006.
- Review meeting of the final draft of special undergraduate course of American University of Beirut (AUB), Kuwait University (KU) and UNEP; about ODS management, Kuwait, 4 November 2006.
- Second joint Mission (UNEP & UNIDO) and Third Meeting for the National Ozone Committee for the preparation of the CP/NPP of Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, 11-15 November 2006.
- National Meeting for updating the Technical and Vocational Curricula, Amman, Jordan, 21-22 November 2006.
- Organisation of the Round Table Meeting on Halon Management in the Maritime Sector, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, 3-4 December 2006

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Organisation of the 2006 Follow up Meeting of the ODS Officers Network, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, 3-6 December 2006</li> <li>▪ Workshop on building capacities of technical sectors in Iraq &amp; Palestine in phasing out ODS in the refrigeration &amp; halon sectors, Cairo, Egypt, 12-14 December 2006.</li> <li>▪ Participation in the meeting with UNIDO, Qatar and Saudi Arabia to finalise project documents, Vienna, Austria, 18-19 December 2006</li> <li>▪ Organisation of the National Customs Training Workshop on Combating Illegal Trade in ODS, Aqaba, Jordan, 20-21 December 2006</li> </ul>
<b>Disaster Management and Emergency Response</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Participation in the Awareness Raising Training on Environmental Emergencies, Paris, France, 13-15 March 2006</li> </ul>
<b>Environmental Law</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ An MOU has been prepared with CAMRE for the preparation of two studies (i) a Compilation and Indices concerning Arab Environmental Legislation and Laws, including 12-15 Arab States, in a reference book, including a comparison study to evaluate the suitability of environmental law in the countries with selected Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and also their suitability with new legal environmental concepts and voluntary initiatives and (ii) a Guideline Manual for Arab Legislations to be used as a Model Legislation and to include the best legal mechanisms to achieve compatibility with MEA implementation, compliance and enforcement. The Guidelines should include clear terminologies and precise and unified descriptions of all modern environmental legal concepts and methods for implementation.</li> <li>▪ An Environmental Lawyer has been recruited on a short term contract for the development and implementation of a programme on Environmental Law in the region</li> <li>▪ Organisation of the Workshop on Environmental Law, Sana'a, Yemen, 14-16 November 2006</li> </ul>
<b>Global Environment Facility</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Lecture to postgraduate students at the Arabian Gulf University on Financing for the Global Environment, Manama, Bahrain, 21 February 2006</li> <li>▪ Meetings with the relevant authorities to discuss project opportunities, including a Medium-Sized Project for geothermal and energy efficiency, Sana'a, Yemen, 31 March-7 April 2006</li> <li>▪ Provision of technical guidance to the Stakeholder Consultation Meeting for the preparation of a GEF proposal for UNFCCC, Manama, Bahrain, 20 April 2006</li> <li>▪ Provision of technical advice to the GEF Sub-regional Dialogue Workshop for West/South Asia, Cairo, Egypt, 16-20 May 2006</li> <li>▪ Introduction of the new resource allocation scheme of the GEF to Third Environment Expert Consultation Meeting for OAPEC countries, Cairo, Egypt, 10-11 September 2006</li> </ul>
<b>Civil Society and Outreach</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Development of agreement and submission of monthly editorial and articles on UNEP activities in the region to the Al-Bia Wal-Tanmia (Environment and Development) Magazine</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Participation in the Seminar on Women and the Environment organised on the occasion of Bahrain National Environment Day, 22 February 2006</li> <li>▪ Participation in the Regional Meeting on benefiting from the Media in Environmental Issues and Sustainable Development, Muscat, Oman, 27-28 February 2006</li> <li>▪ Provision of an opening statement to the 12<sup>th</sup> Bahrain Model United Nations (BAHMUN) organised by the Rotary Club of Adliya and involving a number of national and expatriate schools in Bahrain, 2 March 2006</li> <li>▪ Co-organisation of the Environment and Public Views Meeting with the Environment and Development Magazine and CAMRE, Beirut, Lebanon, 17-18 June 2006</li> <li>▪ Organisation of the Regional Civil Society Forum in preparation for GC24, Manama, Bahrain, 31 October-1 November 2006</li> <li>▪ Co-organisation of the 1<sup>st</sup> Arab Media Forum for Environment and Sustainable Development, with CAMRE and Environment and Development Magazine, Beirut, Lebanon, 28-30 November 2006</li> </ul>
<b>Post Conflict Support</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Participation in the meeting with representatives of the Palestinian National Authority to discuss the Gaza Assessment Report prepared by UNEP, Cairo, Egypt, 17-18 March 2006</li> <li>▪ Participation in the Meeting on the Extension of Support for Environmental Management of the Iraqi Marshes, Paris, France, 7 April</li> <li>▪ Provision of technical presentations to the Workshop on Environmentally Sound Technologies for Iraqi Experts, Manama, Bahrain, 25-26 April 2006</li> <li>▪ Provision of technical guidance to the meeting of UNEP and the Palestinian National Authority in preparation for the Post-Disengagement Assessment in Gaza, held in Cairo, Egypt, 17-18 March 2006</li> <li>▪ Participation in the Asbestos Training Workshop for Palestinian Experts based on the recommendations of the Post-Disengagement Assessment Report, Cairo, Egypt, 30 April-2 May 2006</li> <li>▪ Participated in the meetings of the International Reconstruction Facility for Iraq Donors and the UN Country Team for Iraq to elaborate UNEP work in support of Iraq, Amman, Jordan, 21-24 May 2006</li> <li>▪ Provision of technical guidance to the Awareness Workshop on the Montreal Protocol organised by UNIDO for Iraqi officials, Amman, Jordan, 3-4 June 2006</li> <li>▪ Participation in the Meeting between UN agencies in Bahrain and national NGOs to elaborate the UN activities relating to the conflict situation in Lebanon, Manama, Bahrain, 8 August 2006 and the UN Briefing Session on the same for media professionals, 13 August 2006</li> <li>▪ Meeting with the Iraqi Minister of Environment to discuss cooperation with Iraq and present UNEP's proposals for work in Iraq, Amman, Jordan, 2 September 2006</li> <li>▪ Member of the Preliminary Team for the Post-Conflict Assessment of Lebanon, meeting with Ministry of Environment and other agencies to organise the Terms of Reference for the Assessment, Beirut, Lebanon, 10-14 September 2006</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Participation in the Post-Conflict Assessment of Lebanon, 30 September-24 October 2006</li> </ul>
<b>International and Regional Cooperation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Participation in the Meetings of Bahrain National Planning Development Strategies-Subcommittee on Marine and Terrestrial Environment in Manama, Bahrain 17-18 January 2006, 26 April 2006 and 10-11 September 2006</li> <li>▪ Meeting with His Majesty the King's Deputy, Sheikh Salman bin Hamad Al-Khalifa of the Kingdom of Bahrain to discuss the Global Ministerial Environmental Forum in Dubai and implications for the region. In return, the Sheikh affirmed Bahrain's keenness on bolstering cooperation with UNEP, Manama, Bahrain, 12 February 2006</li> <li>▪ Undertook an Official Mission to Egypt to meet with H.E. The Minister of State for Environmental Affairs, H.E. The Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and other dignitaries, 1-2 April 2006</li> <li>▪ Undertook an Official Mission to Syria to meet with various high level officials and participate in the inauguration ceremony of the Friends of Environment Association, 3-6 April 2006</li> <li>▪ Participation in the Coordination Meeting of the UN and League Of Arab States, Vienna, Austria, 11-13 April 2006</li> <li>▪ Undertook an Official Mission to Yemen to meet with H.E. The Prime Minister and H.E. The Minister of Environment and Water, 15-16 April 2006</li> <li>▪ Undertook an Official Mission to Egypt to meet with H.E. The Secretary General of the League of Arab States, 7-9 May 2006</li> <li>▪ Participation in the 24<sup>th</sup> Session of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), Beirut, Lebanon, 8-10 May 2006</li> <li>▪ Undertook an Official Mission to UAE to meet with H.E. The Minister of Environment and his predecessor, 14-16 May 2006</li> <li>▪ Undertook an Official Mission to Jordan to meet with H.E. the Minister of Environment and various UN agencies based in Amman to discuss collaboration, 21-24 May 2006</li> <li>▪ Participation in the Annual General Meeting of the Arab Organisation for Agricultural Development, Cairo, Egypt, 23-24 May 2006</li> <li>▪ Undertook an Official Mission to Qatar to meeting with the Supreme Council for Environment and Natural Reserves, 28 May 2006</li> <li>▪ Presentation of UNEP's Programme to the Meeting of the GCC Environmental Focal Points and Ministerial Session, Manama, Bahrain, 5-7 June 2006</li> <li>▪ Participation in the UN Regional Coordination Group Meeting, Beirut, Lebanon, 19-20 June 2006</li> <li>▪ Participation in the Programme Formulation Mission to Qatar with UNDP as part of the UN Country Team, 24-30 June 2006</li> <li>▪ Provision of guidance to the Focal Point of Qatar in the elaboration of a sub-regional Sustainable Development Initiative for the Gulf Cooperation Council and a national strategy as a pilot project for Qatar, 27-28 June 2006</li> <li>▪ Provision of a keynote address to the Opening Ceremony of the Global centre for Environmental Studies, Amman, Jordan, 2 July 2006</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Meeting with ISESCO to discuss areas of collaboration and participation in the UN/Organisation of the Islamic Conference General Cooperation Meeting, Rabat, Morocco, 10-13 July 2006</li> <li>▪ Participation in the International Symposium on Challenges and Threats to the Environment – Lessons from the Past to Shape the Future, Dubai, UAE, 14-15 November 2006</li> <li>▪ Participation in the Third Islamic Conference of Ministers of Higher Education and Scientific Research, organised by ISESCO, Kuwait, 19-21 November 2006</li> <li>▪ Participation in the meetings of the CAMRE Bureau, CAMRE Council and JCEDAR, Cairo, Egypt, 21-25 November 2006 and Algiers, Algeria, 18-20 December 2006</li> </ul>
<b>Special Events</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ongoing work with the Zayed International Prize for the Environment through its Technical Advisory Committee for the award of the Third Cycle (to be presented in February 2006 as part of Governing Council activities)</li> <li>▪ Co-organisation and presentation of a paper to the Regional Environment Day celebrations and presentation of award to the Regional Winner of the UNEP Painting Competition, Doha, Qatar, 27 April 2006</li> <li>▪ Organisation of the Regional World Environment Day Celebrations in Manama, Bahrain, 5 June 2006</li> </ul>
<b>Major Conferences</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Co-organisation of the International Conference on Eco-Tourism, Muscat, Oman, 26-28 February 2006</li> <li>▪ Co-organisation and management of the technical component of the Syrian Environment Exhibition (Syrenviro 2006) Damascus, Syria, 3-9 April 2006.</li> <li>▪ Co-organisation of the Third MENA Regional Energy Conference (MENAREC III), , Cairo, Egypt, 12-13 June 2006, including participation in Steering Committee Meetings (also highlighted under Energy and Climate Change above)</li> <li>▪ Co-organisation of the 5<sup>th</sup> Arab Conference on Environmental Management: Economic Development from a Sustainable Perspective, organised in cooperation with the Arab Administrative Development Organisation, Tunis, Tunisia, 27-31 August 2006</li> <li>▪ Co-organisation and provision of technical workshop to the International Conference and Exhibition on Green Industry Manama, Bahrain, 20-22 November 2006</li> <li>▪ Co-organisation of the Euro-Arab 2006 Conference and Exhibition on the Environment, Kuwait, 27-29 November 2006</li> </ul>

## ANNEX 4

## PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE BIENNIUM 2006/2007

**1. Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies****1a. Substantive servicing of meetings***Parliamentary documentation*

Documents and reports/inputs to reports for the meetings of the GC/GMEF and other UNEP bodies.

*Expert groups*

Expert group meeting on trade and environment and meeting report and on Sustainable Energy Technologies for West Asia (with DTIE).

**1b. Other substantive activities***Recurrent publications*

Series of Environmental Law, Education and Awareness Kits including legislative guidelines and model legislation (with DPDL,) and inputs to global GEO and other regional GEO reports (with DEWA)

*Non-recurrent publications*

Publications on Sustainable Energy Technologies on integrated approach to chemicals and waste management in West Asia, on a regional approach to sustainable consumption (with DTIE)

*Booklets, pamphlets, fact sheets, information kits, wall charts*

Monthly electronic newsletter in English and Arabic, booklets on opportunities and applications of CDM projects in West Asia, and sustainable consumption fact sheets (with DTIE).

*Technical materials*

ROWA website operational and updated and development of regional knowledge network (including work with AGEDI in conjunction with DEWA)

*Promotion of legal instruments*

Promotion of the implementation of global and regional environmental agreements in West Asia including regional conventions, and related support to Governments (with DPDL, DEC, and DEPI)

*Fact finding and other special missions*

Ad hoc missions at governments request

*Special events*

Organizational support to special media and outreach events (World Environment Day, Youth and Children, and other major groups events) and to the organisation

of environmental campaigns, awards and competitions such as Champions of the Earth, Sasakawa and Zayed International Prize for the Environment as well as support to ERWDA.

*Press releases and press conferences*

Media briefings, interviews, press conferences, press releases, press articles and opinion editorials.

*Exhibits, guided tours and lectures*

Guided tours and lectures for Government delegations, donors, civil society groups, students, industry associations and other groups active in the environmental field.

*Seminars for outside users*

Preparatory regional meetings for the Global Civil Society Forum and organization and servicing of other regional/sub-regional Civil Society network meetings (with DPDL)

## **2. Technical Cooperation**

### **2a. Advisory services**

Support to countries in: development of their National Action Plans in the area of water resources and demand management (with DPDL and DEPI), updating national legal frameworks for environmental law (with DPDL), implementation of the HELI Initiative in West Asia (with DPDL), establishment/ strengthening of national committees/councils for sustainable development and a regional mechanism at the level of the League of Arab States (with DEPI), sustainable development of the Mesopotamian Marshlands (with DEPI/PCAU) and the implementation of MEA requirements (with DTIE, DEPI and DPDL).

Technical guidance and assistance to governments and regional organisations and programmes in West Asia, in the development of environmental projects for GEF, UNFIP and other sources of funding.

### **2b. Training courses, seminars and workshops**

Regional outreach programme focussing on civil society groups including moral and ethical aspects of sustainable development and environmental education (with DPDL)

Training workshops on: Integrated Environmental Assessment and information systems, (including regional environmental data and development of regional environmental knowledge network) (with DEWA), Conflict resolution on shared water resources (with DEPI), Development and implementation of NAPs for desertification, Energy efficient technologies, clean fuel and sustainable mobility (with DTIE), Cleaner production, EMS, IEM, APELL (with DTIE), Integrated chemicals and waste management (with DTIE), Sustainable construction and sustainable tourism (with DTIE), Trade and environment (with DTIE), Compliance and enforcement of environmental law (with DPDL and DEPI), Obligations of CITES and implementation of the Biosafety Protocol (with DEPI, DEC), Post conflict capacity building (with DEPI/PCAU), Wastewater treatment and solid waste management and integrated coastal zone management under GPA (with DPDL)

3<sup>rd</sup> Regional Parliamentarians Meeting (with DPDL)

## **3. International Cooperation and Interagency Coordination and Liaison**

### **3a. International Cooperation**

Participation in negotiations and contribution to UNEP-relevant policy papers (with DPDL and other relevant Divisions)

Support to CAMRE Secretariat in the implementation phase of the Arab Initiative on Sustainable Development (with ROA, DPDL, DEPI), Support cooperation between AMCEN and CAMRE re NEPAD and SDIAR (with ROA), Participation at CAMRE Steering Committees and regional technical teams (including provision of support to Arab LDCs) (with ROA), and participation in and contributions to other intergovernmental regional and subregional processes, such as ESCWA and the League of Arab States (with ROA, DEPI and DPDL)

**3b. Support interagency activities**

Participation and contribution to initiatives led by other UN bodies related to environment in the region.

