

Inside:

Opinion

News

"Four in '94"

Roundups

Global Forum
'94 Insert

Letters

Insight

Conferences

January 1994

Gearing Up for 1994

Rio Follow-Up Continues Across Range of Issues

As illustrated by the list of conferences on the back page of this edition of *The Network*, the beginning of 1994 will be a busy period, characterised by a series of intergovernmental meetings on desertification, climate change, social development and population, as well as inter-sessional meetings of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development. The focus of the CSD sessions will range from consumption and health, to finance and technology transfer.

This flurry of activity will provide a number of reports and recommendations for the second session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, which starts on May 16 in New York. The provisional agenda of the session includes: general discussion of progress; finance; technology transfer and cooperation; and the review of five sectoral clusters in two sets (a) health, human settlements and freshwater, (b) toxic chemicals and hazardous wastes.

The CSD Secretariat has urged all 'Major Groups' to be involved in the review of progress by submitting inputs (See Network #32 for guidelines). They should be sent to the CSD Secretariat at: One UN Plaza, 10th Floor, New York, NY, 10017, USA; fax: (1 212) 963-1267; e-mail: dpcsd@apc.igc.org.

Although the deadline for final draft reports is 1 February 1994, the Secretariat will welcome 'last minute'

contributions through March 1994. For further information, contact Ms. Zehra Aydin, Major Groups Focal Point, at the above coordinates or at (1 212) 963-8811.

Update Needed on Financial Mechanism

A further consideration at the CSD meeting will be progress on financial mechanisms to implement the action plan, Agenda 21. A number of sessions will be taking place early this year to attempt to seal the future of the Global Environment Facility. Some sources say that a restructured version of the financial mechanism will be presented to the ninth negotiating session of the climate change convention committee, which begins on 7 February in Geneva. The industrialized countries within the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) met on 7 January to review outstanding issues and consider ways of resolving them, while developing country parties also planned to meet in mid-January for a strategy session. A date for another substantive meeting is unlikely to be set until member governments are confident that a final agreement is in sight.

Contact: Maria Subiza, Global Environment Facility, World Bank, 1818 H Street, NW, Washington, DC 20433, USA; tel: (1 202) 473 1053; fax: 477 0551.

Climate: 50th Ratification

On 21 December 1993, the fiftieth instrument of ratification of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change was deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations. As a result, the Convention will enter into force on 21 March 1994.

In a statement to press on 21 December, UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros Ghali highlighted the problems that future generations may have to face. "Droughts, floods, storms, and other climate and weather extremes may become more frequent," he said. "People living in risky or marginal areas would swell the ranks of refugees, and social and political tensions would worsen as competition for water and other scarce resources intensified. This extra pressure would make it even more difficult to solve the kinds of problems and crises that we already face today."

Dr. Boutros Ghali emphasised that commitment to sustainable development must come from all sides. "Developed countries will have to take the lead in

responding to climate change, both through action at the national level to limit their emissions of greenhouse gases, and by making available financial and technological resources. For their part, developing countries will have to pursue their economic development in ways that are environmentally sustainable."

The forthcoming entry into force of the Convention sets a firm timetable for the work of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee in its preparation for the first session of the Conference of the Parties. This session is scheduled to be held in Berlin, Germany from 28 March to 7 April 1995. At its ninth session in Geneva from 7 to 18 February 1994, the Committee must take a number of important decisions if the preparatory process is to remain on track.

(For an insight into the ratification process, see article on page 7).

Contact: Climate Change Secretariat, 16, Avenue Tremblay, CH-1209 Geneva, Switzerland; tel: (41-22)798-8400/5850; fax: (41-22)788-3823; e-mail: unfccc@igc.apc.org

Sustainable Development and Ecomanagement

by Jaro Mayda

Until recently it would have been almost churlish to raise any doubts about that crown jewel of the Rio conference, Agenda 21. It was a policy statement of the highest order, entitled to generous benefit of doubt.

Not that the repetitive, wordy patchwork, often inferior to the original drafts of the secretariat, was not obvious at once. But the baggage of political oratory was part of the price for the promise of an "unrelentingly integrated approach" under whatever rallying slogan.

Eighteen months later, the implementation moves at a snail's pace in both the more developed and the less developed countries. An OECD member reported to a recent workshop on Agenda 21 that one of its country's two significant "achievements" was the publication of an annual report on bathing water quality. Another member established an inter-departmental committee for environment and development policy integration, since discontinued.

The European Union further admits that it may not meet the target of stabilizing CO₂ emissions at the 1990 levels by 2000. The Maastricht Treaty, which recently made the "community" into a "union" does not codify sustainable development, only "sustainable growth respecting the environment".

Meanwhile, China's potentially path-breaking effort at developing a national Agenda 21 might be undermined by pressures of the "socialist market economy." And elsewhere in many Asian countries the notion is still entertained that economic growth to the "developed" level is a precondition for any serious attention to the environment. For its part, the World Bank only recently began to act on the premise that investment in the environmental component of development

assists economic growth rather than impeding it.

Furthermore, the new UN Commission on Sustainable Development must operate within the limits of the mother organization. The first session took a whole year to happen. And although there was a feeling that Agenda 21 was alive and that "the spirit of Rio had returned", the real work was expected to begin only in 1994.

Some reasons for this less than perfect follow-up are the magnitude and complexity of the tasks; the need for capacity building, and the not quite concentrated political mind. But even if it were not for these, the implementation of Agenda 21 would be difficult on grounds that are inherent to the document and its logic.

The problem is not the definition of goals; the "where to go"? For although 'sustainable development' is a complex issue transformed into a simple phrase, everyone understands the aim: that we should not live and prosper at the cost of our children.

The real question is "how to get there"? For all the language of 'progressive integration of environmental and developmental issues'; 'integrated planning and management system'; 'fundamental reshaping of decision-making', etc, Agenda 21 nowhere maps out the process of achieving the desired state of dynamic equilibrium which is what sustainable development is really about.

A quarter of a century ago, at the outset of the present intensive concern about the environment, both the process of integrated management and its underlying holistic philosophy seemed naturally given. Obviously any human uses of natural resources, including those for techno-economic development, were subject to the same rules and limits as those governing the function and survival of natural ecosystems. Hence human management

of environmental resources had to be ecosystemic; in other words, ecomanagement.

This proposition continues to be the operational formula for sustainable development. Of course, there are "new" issues — demography, poverty, consumption patterns — which were not as apparent in the late 1960s as they are now. But ecomanagement always aimed at the human ecosystem as a whole that is bigger than its economic, social, technological, financial and environmental parts.

Under-Secretary-General Nitin Desai correctly stressed that the Rio conference was about policy development, and the CSD is about policy implementation. With the policy goals set, and a "natural" approach to implementation available, the missing ingredient is a growing conceptual sophistication that could quickly leapfrog over the weaknesses of the Rio document — principally the gap between intuition and applicability.

For easy and widely understood application, Agenda 21 needs to be 'de facto' restructured to aid practical translation into well-tailored national plans. The concern is more than aesthetic, unless orderly thought is considered a luxury.

Fortunately, the 'decision making structures' chapters (8, 38, 39 and 40) are scheduled for a yearly review. That should be an opportunity to keep on fine-tuning them. Chapter 40 'Information for Decision Making', the last in the document, although the first in the real-world decision/management cycles, is a prime candidate.

Professor Jaro Mayda has consulted for various international organizations on environmental policy, management and law since 1971.

Contact: Dr Jaro Mayda, R. Pedro Ornelas 12-B, 9000 Funchal, Portugal.

THE NETWORK

Editor: Joanne Barr • Layout: J. Klein, Laboratoire infographique, Geneva • Printed by SRO Kundig, Geneva • Published by the Centre For Our Common Future

The Centre For Our Common Future is a charitable foundation founded in 1988 to encourage greater public and institutional involvement throughout the world in efforts to achieve sustainable development. With the support of its network of more than 200 Working Partner Institutions, the Centre regularly collects information on sustainable development initiatives taken by all sectors of society and disseminates it to individuals and organisations in more than 170 countries. The Centre also encourages and facilitates public participation in national and international decision-making processes, and fosters intersectoral dialogue on issues related to sustainable development.

Executive Director: Warren H. Lindner • Information Director: Ellen Permató

The Centre gratefully acknowledges its supporters, the governments of: Canada, Denmark, Finland, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, and the City of Geneva; as well as the Sasakawa Peace Foundation, the Simons Foundation, the United Nations Environment Programme and the Centre's Friends and Working Partners.

Editorial advisors: Ricardo Bayon, Tore Brevik, Felix Dodds, Vili Fuuavao, Massimo T. Kalaw Jr., Yemi Katerere, Calestous Juma, Erzsébet Schmuck, Susan Tanner, Roberto Troya, Mercy Wambui.

Human Settlements

Preparatory Process Begins for Habitat II in 1996

Human settlements reaches the agenda of this year's meeting of the Commission on Sustainable Development, and countries will be expected to illustrate how they have begun to implement the recommendations of Chapter 7 of Agenda 21.

That chapter identified the problems of increasing migration to the world's urban centres and the resulting symptoms of pollution, poor sanitation, consequent ill health and poverty, as well as the potential impacts of urban sprawl onto neighbouring agricultural land.

Recommendations to combat these problems — particularly in developing countries where they are most intense — included locally designed energy efficient construction and transport programmes; support for the informal economic sector; improvement of rural living conditions and the development of medium sized cities that create employment and housing.

These issues have been discussed before however and will continue to be so. The first United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, Habitat I, took place in 1976 in

Vancouver, Canada. The Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1988. And this year, the preparatory process will get underway for Habitat II, the second UN conference, which is being held in Istanbul, Turkey, from 3-14 June 1996.

The themes of that conference are: 'Sustainable Human Settlements in an Urbanizing World' and 'Adequate Shelter for All'. It will review the implementation of the recommendations given by previous conferences and the Global Strategy.

The Habitat International Coalition, an international NGO based in the Netherlands, has issued a briefing note about the Habitat II conference and what can be expected. It warns: "Adopting more solemn resolutions in itself will not help. In view of the experience of the last years it is also unrealistic to believe that enough international resources will be mobilised to solve the problems."

HIC points out that the emphasis will be on shifting priorities at a national level and in a similar vein to the preparations for UNCED, non-govern-

mental organizations will be expected to participate widely.

The first Preparatory Committee for Habitat II will be held in Geneva from 13-22 April this year. The second session will be held in Nairobi from 26 April to 9 May 1995. Applications for accreditation to the conference and its preparatory process should be addressed to the UN Commission on Human Settlements (UNCHS) at the address below.

Meanwhile HIC is organizing an NGO conference on 9-10 April in Geneva in order to discuss NGO involvement at national and international levels; to coordinate NGO points of view and action concerning the subjects of the first preparatory committee, and to prepare the programme and practical arrangements for the NGO Forum in Istanbul in 1996.

Contact: Davinder Lamba, Convenor, HIC Habitat II Task Force, c/o Mazingira Institute, PO Box 14550, Nairobi, Kenya; tel: (254 2) 443219; fax: 444643.

Applications for accreditation; contact: Secretariat, Habitat II, c/o UNCHS, PO Box 30030, Nairobi, Kenya; tel: (254 2) 621234; fax: 624266.

Objective: Four in '94

Concrete National Actions to Implement Agenda 21

by Jared Blumenfeld and Jacob Scherr

In 1993, NRDC's Earth Summit Watch, in collaboration with NGOs from all over the globe, produced a survey on what 90 countries had done to begin to implement the Earth Summit commitments, called *One Year After Rio*. This year, CAPE 2000 and Earth Summit Watch invite you to join us in our "Four in '94" initiative. The objective of the initiative is to persuade governments to send ministerial representatives to the May CSD meeting to announce four concrete actions they have taken within the 1994 Agenda 21 clusters.

It is critical that nations begin to demonstrate a willingness to go beyond mere promises and undertake policies and projects to make real

progress towards sustainable development. By the May 1994 CSD meeting, each national government should be able to point to four actions within the clusters to be discussed at the next CSD meeting: Health, Human Settlements and Freshwater; and Toxic Chemicals and Hazardous Wastes.

What countries actually do will undoubtedly vary, but what is important is that they take action. Cape 2000 and NRDC have identified four possible actions which are widely recognized as urgent and the subject already of significant international concern. Draft explanations are available on the four following areas:

1. Ban leaded gasoline and limit lead exposures;

2. Clean up freshwater;
3. Ratify, implement and strengthen the Basel Convention on Hazardous Wastes;
4. Protect natural rivers.

Earth Summit Watch's national "Four in '94" implementation survey will be presented to the May CSD meeting. We will also be seeking information on what each nation is doing to prepare its national Agenda 21 or sustainable development strategy.

If you would like to participate in the "Four in '94" survey/campaign, please contact us as soon as possible, at:

Earth Summit Watch, c/o Natural Resources Defense Council, 1350 New York Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20005, USA; tel: (1 202) 783 7800; fax: 783 5983; email: nrdcdc@igc.org





Global Roundups

New Foundation for Air, Water and Environment

A new foundation was established in Geneva at the beginning of December to promote closer ties between private and public sectors and to mobilize governmental and non-governmental support for the World Meteorological Organization's environmental programmes to improve air and water resources. 'The New Sun Foundation: Alliance for Air, Water and Environment' is based at the headquarters of WMO in Geneva. The main emphasis of the Foundation will be protection against floods and combating pollution such as carbon monoxide, sulphur dioxide, ozone and other toxic gases. It will focus specifically on assisting developing countries and countries of central and eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union to achieve these measures.

Contact: The New Sun Foundation, c/o Information and Public Affairs Office, World Meteorological Organization, PO Box 2300, CH 1211 Geneva 2, Switzerland; tel: (41 22) 730 8315; fax: 734 2326; telex: 414199 OMM CH.

UNEP: Environmental Reporting By Industry

UNEP's Paris-based Industry and Environment Programme Activity Centre convened a meeting on 2-3 December 1993 that focused on building partnerships to improve the quality of industry's environmental reporting and to extend it to more companies worldwide. Thirty representatives from industry, financial, non-governmental and international organizations were present at the meeting. During discussions, industrial environmental reporting was seen as a long term, ongoing process towards sustainable development. Criticisms were made of some of the major corporations in the world who have not yet begun to produce environmental reports. Participants agreed that special efforts were now needed to move environmental reporting into the business mainstream, particularly for small and medium sized compa-

nies. It was suggested that an informal global network on environmental reporting should be created in order to assist this.

Contact: Director, UNEP IE/PAC, Tour Mirabeau, 39-43 quai André Citroën, 75739 Paris CEDEX 15, France; tel: (33 1) 44 27 14 50; fax: 44 37 14 74.

Global Biodiversity Networking Group

The Interim International Liaison Group on Biodiversity, established at the intergovernmental meeting on biodiversity in Geneva from 11-15 October 1993, has produced a proposal for the formal establishment of the group and for a trust fund for Southern and central and eastern European NGO participation. The Environment Liaison Centre International is acting as the international coordinator and has requested a one-page sheet of information from all interested regional and international networks/liaison persons about their structure and their activities until the next intergovernmental meeting. This information will be distributed back to other interested NGOs in their region. A list of regional focal points is available from ELCI.

Contact: Heinz Greijn, ELCI, PO Box 72461, Nairobi, Kenya; tel: (254 2) 560215; fax: 572175; email: elcidwr@ga.spc.org.

Drylands Workshop in Kenya

An international workshop entitled, 'Listening to the People: Social Aspects of Drylands Management' was held by UNEP at its headquarters from 14-17 December. Participants included representatives of NGOs, governments and donor agencies, as well as scientific researchers from all over the world. The aim of the workshop was to discuss ways in which effective policies and programmes can be put into effect, emphasizing local community involvement in the sustainable development process. The key to the success of the case studies presented to the workshop was the involvement of local people in planning, and their subsequent support of project activities. Decentralization of power

to local governments to combat desertification was one recommendation of the workshop, while participants also suggested that land tenure reforms should be adopted and environmental education made a priority.

Contact: David Lazarus, UNEP, PO Box 30552, Nairobi, Kenya; tel: (254 2) 623337 or 623409; fax: 226895.

Ethical Questions of Agenda 21 Examined

How should the nations of the earth resolve the often competing goals of environmental protection and economic development? What obligations do the developed countries have to the poor countries of the world? These and other ethical questions were posed at a meeting on 13-14 January which addressed ethical questions that must be faced in implementing Agenda 21 - the UN action plan on environment and development into the 21st century. Teams of scientists, philosophers, lawyers, institutional experts and representatives of the international business community took part in the event at UN headquarters in New York. The conference was organized by Earth Ethics Research Group - NE, in cooperation with UNEP and a number of co-sponsors.

Contact: Donald A. Brown, Earth Ethics Research Group-NE, 2915 Beverly Road, Camp Hill, PA 17011, USA; fax: (1 717) 787 9383 or 787 9368.

DOWN TO EARTH: Highlights

Between the Summits: DOWN TO EARTH finished in Copenhagen, Denmark on 12 December, having brought together people from around the world to strategize on a number of issues. Topics under discussion in the conference working groups included trans-national corporations, alternative economic strategies and NGO monitoring and lobbying strategies. A summary of their recommendations and of the closing plenary sessions was published on the final day of the conference.

Contact: EDRG, Bld. Brandwhitlock, 146, 1200 Brussels - Belgium; tel: (32 2) 736 8050; fax: 733 5708.



Cities and Sustainable Development

UPDATE

January 1994

Global Forum '94

Churchgate House
56 Oxford Street
Manchester M1 6EU
England

Mailing address:
P.O. Box 532
Town Hall
Manchester M60 2LA
England

Tel: (44-61) 236 0868
234 3741

Fax: (44-61) 234 3743

Electronic mail:
Greenet:gf94
Internet:gf94@gn.apc.org

Global Forum '94 Receives EU Funding

Global Forum '94 has received £1.6 million (US\$2.4 million) financial support from the European Union. This cash grant clearly demonstrates the EU's commitment to sustainable development in cities. Graham Stringer, leader of Manchester City Council expressed delight about the financial support. He commented: "It is one more clear demonstration that Manchester's initiatives are considered valuable contributions to Europe." Part of the grant will go towards funding participation in Global Forum '94's Core Programme for developing country delegates.

Cities Acceptances Grow

Global Forum '94 has been encouraged by the fast response of local authorities to invitations issued in December 1993 for participation in the core programme. Over 60 per cent of the 50 cities invited to Global Forum '94 have accepted the invitation to come to Manchester next summer.

The following cities have now sent confirmed acceptances:

Bridgetown, Surabaya,
Kathmandu, Krakow, Alma
Aty, Manchester, Colombo,

Bulawayo, Alexandria, Berlin,
Dhaka, Nairobi, Wuhan,
Buenos Aires, Rio de Janeiro,
Guatemala City, Barcelona,
Cebu City, Amman, Bombay,
Perm, Kita Kyushu, Pecs,
Mexico City, Quito, Dakar, St.
Petersburg, UK Delegation,
Bologna, The Hague, Accra.

Acceptances in principle have also been made by:

Adelaide, Hong Kong,
Suva, Des Moines,
Gothenburg, Nancy and
Chiang Mai.

Earth Council Hearing at Global Forum '94

The Earth Council has confirmed that its first international public hearing will be held during Global Forum '94 centred around the People's Agenda 21 and the Alternative Treaties process. The Earth Council, based in Costa Rica, was founded following the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio, to support the transition to more sustainable patterns of development world-wide, to maintain the spirit of Rio and to monitor progress made since Rio. Its role is that of a watchdog institution to follow progress made worldwide in implementing Earth Summit accords. Maurice Strong, the Chairman of the

Earth Council who was the Secretary-General of UNCED, outlined the importance of Global Forum '94 to environmental sustainability: "The 92 Global Forum was a vitally important people's counterpart to the Earth Summit and made an indispensable contribution to its results. I am especially pleased that Manchester, through the Global Forum '94, will provide continuity to the work begun at Rio and give it new impetus and momentum." The Earth Council, a body of 21 members drawn from the world's political, business, scientific and NGO communities, intends that the outputs from its

international hearings at Global Forum '94, and elsewhere, become a key part of its ongoing mission, including issuance of an annual "independent, objective and courageous report" to governments and NGOs, the "Earth Report". It also plans to help influence major events by preparing specific inputs to important post-UNCED international conferences. The Earth Council will focus its programme on reviewing and supporting efforts to implement the Earth Summit results and encourage use of People's Agenda 21 as a mechanism to empower grassroots organisations.

Included in this issue is a copy of a brochure, "The Manchester Global Market," which will give your organisation a better idea about the Market Booth space availability at Global Forum '94. You also will find a form to enable you to reserve a Market Booth. Please act soon as time is limited.

Open Speakers: Update

The Open Speakers Forum at Global Forum '94 is a unique daily platform that will enable visitors to the event to hear internationally prominent individuals speak out on topical subjects.

By mid-January, these were some of the speakers who had agreed to come to Manchester: Anil Agarwal is director of the Centre for Science and Environment in New Delhi, as well as a writer and editor of "Down to Earth" magazine and is on the UNEP Global 500 honour role.

Anita Roddick is founder of the successful retail chain The Body Shop, with stores all over the world. She has pioneered the production of goods which are made using the earth's natural resources and has been in the forefront of the movement to raise the awareness of the importance of recycling.

Bella Abzug, American attorney, author, lecturer, news commentator, former U.S. Representative and lifelong civil rights activist, she is currently co-chair of the Women's Environment and Development Organisation (WEDO).

David Bellamy is a British television presenter specialising in botany and nature programmes and is deeply committed to environmental issues.

Jonathan Porritt has been one of the most influential environmental spokesperson in the UK over the last fifteen years. He is author of the books 'Seeing Green' and 'Save the Earth' - the latter being produced in the run-up to the 1992 Earth Summit. Currently, he is the Chair of UNED in the UK.

Maneka Gandhi is a former Environment Minister of India who currently is active in environmental conferences at home and abroad. Particular interests include animal

welfare, consumer production, Indian mythology and environmental protection and conservation.

Marguerita Marino de Botero is founder of The Green College, an independent institute dedicated to environmental learning and practice in Colombia. The Green College is working to promote a permanent exchange between modern scientific knowledge and traditional popular wisdom.

Maurice Strong, Chairman of the Earth Council, is also Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Ontario Hydro, North America's largest utility. Prior to this, Mr. Strong was Secretary-General of the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development (the Earth Summit). From 1985-86, he served as Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Co-ordinator of the United Nations Office for Emergency Operations in Africa.

Fundação Cuidar o Futuro

Peace Pavilion at Global Forum '94

Manchester City Council's Nuclear Policy Unit is organising a "Peace Pavilion" during Global Forum '94. It will devote a full 10-day period to the theme of "Sustainable Security." Activities will be co-ordinated from the Nuclear Policy Unit at the Town Hall where the Secretariat for both National and International Nuclear Free Local Authorities is based. Organisers are in close liaison with other peace movements including the International Peace Bureau, The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom and War Resisters International who have all pledged to be involved in the event.

The Peace Pavilion will enable peace, environment and development activists from around the world to meet, exchange ideas and plan

campaign strategies. Peace Movement Activities for 1995 - the 50th anniversaries of the end of the World War II, the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the founding of the United Nations, will be discussed and plans will be activated. Military issues were largely excluded from the UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) although they were accepted in Agenda 21 and the Rio declaration which stated that: "peace, development and environmental protection are interdependent and indivisible."

The theme "Sustainable Security" aims to encourage a reduction in wastage of the world's resources whilst meeting people's needs for food, shelter, clean water and a healthy environment. Discussions, seminars and workshops in the Peace Pavilion will focus on the steps that can be

taken to move towards a more sustainable security system.

Themes of the event will include: nuclear issues; the arms trade; militarism and the environment; arms conversion and demilitarisation; ethnic conflict; reform of the United Nations; religions and war/religions and peace making; youth and peace education. The "Cities for Peace" day will look at the role of local authorities in the promotion of peace and sustainable development.

Anyone interested in hosting a meeting, organising a workshop or seminar or becoming involved within the "Sustainable Security" programme should contact Olive Bowers or Linda Walker, Nuclear Policy and Information Unit, Manchester Town Hall, Manchester M60 2LA, UK; tel: 44 61 234 3325; fax: 44 61 236 8864.

Fundação Cuidar o Futuro

"Me and My City"

Schools Find Theme for Global Forum '94

"Me and My City" will be the theme of a major programme of educational involvement in Global Forum '94. The programme will be co-ordinated by Louise Gomez, Children's Programme Co-ordinator, who says: "It is only right that today's youth should be empowered to

influence the type of world in which they have to live and work as tomorrow's adults." Global Forum '94 will provide young people with a forum to explore ideas and ways in which they can be involved in the decision-making processes within the local community. On a wider international level it will provide a unique opportunity for children

from both developed and developing countries from around the world to join together to debate urban problems. The 10-day programme will involve children in workshops and events such as art projects in the urban environment, a children's parliament and a children's version of Agenda 21.

III KEY SECTORS

Citizens Group Key Sectors Draft Programme Now Ready

The Citizens Group Key Sector is to be focused around two major conferences: "Creating Sustainable Cities" and "New Directions for Urban Action." The UK United Nations Association (UNA) has taken the lead to organise this sector's ten-days of activities in Manchester with Felix Dodds as director, Chris Church as project leader and Gilbert West as the project development worker. A preliminary programme has been drawn up after consultation with leading voluntary groups. The liaison group set up by UNA UK can be reached at (44 71) 930-2931. The draft programme is as follows:

- June 24: GF Opening ceremony and Citizens Group launch meeting.
- June 25: Opening Conference: Creating Sustainable Cities. Day 1.
- June 26: Creating Sustainable Cities. Day 2.
- June 27: Urban Employment and Livelihoods
- June 28: Strategies for Healthy Cities
- June 30: (AM) Governance, Human Rights & Sustainability;
(PM) Education for Sustainability
- July 1: Agenda 21 - Is it working?
- July 2: New Directions for Urban Action, Day 1
- July 3: New Directions for Urban Action, Day 2 and Closing Ceremony

Delegates Fee: What It Costs, What You Get

Global Forum '94 has now finalised its participant registration fees. They are as follows:

FULL REGISTRATION:
£60.00 for 10 days.

Fee includes delegate pack with full programme details; associated registration with one Key Sector; 10-day free travel pass within Manchester; reductions on some cultural events; priority accommodation access.

LIMITED REGISTRATION:
£30.00 for three days.

A limited number of three-day passes are available to environment/development/local citizens groups/charities at £30.00, but these do not include the free travel pass or priority accommodation access. Deadline to apply for the three-day pass is March 15.

Please contact Events Manager Sarah Adams at the Global Forum '94 secretariat for updated information on Guest Meeting venue hire and fees.



Regional Roundups

AFRICA

Seminar on Environmental Protection and Exportation in Southern Africa

Prospective exporters from Africa will be made aware of current and future requirements resulting from increased demands for environmental protection, at a one-day seminar in South Africa on 15 February. Three major topics will feature during the seminar: global environmental issues and the environmental debate; environmental protection as a barrier to international trade, and tools for overall assessment of environmental performance. A number of case studies presented during the seminar will focus on the experience of South African companies in adapting to different kinds of environmental protection requirements as well as compliance. For more details, contact the conference organizer.

Contact: Rosa da Silva, Manager, Seminars and Conferences, SAFTO, PO Box 7327, Sandton 2145, South Africa; tel: (27 11) 883 3737; fax: 883 6569.

ASIA & THE PACIFIC

NGO Pacific Region Conference on Population and Development

A major non governmental conference on population and development will be held in Fiji from 2-4 March 1994. The theme of the conference is 'Pacific NGO Partnerships in Population and Development'. Representatives from all 22 Pacific island states and territories are expected to attend, as well as Hawaii, Rapenui (Easter Island) and Irian Jaya. Participants will produce a conference statement and action plan for submission to the International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo, Egypt, from 5-13 September 1994.

Contact: Nancy Jacobs, Conference Organizer, Fiji Council of Social Services, GPO Box 13476, Suva, Fiji; tel: (679) 312 649; fax: 302 936; or: David Turbayne, Australian Council for Overseas Aid, Private Bag 3, Deakin, ACT 2600, Australia; tel: (61 6) 285 1816; fax: 285 1720.

EUROPE

European Colloquium on Environmental Education

A colloquium to discuss current and future trends in environmental education in Europe will gather Europe's leading experts in environmental education in Bradford, England, from 25-27 February 1994. Participants will discuss and exchange up-to-date information on the status and practices of environmental education in EU member countries. Participants will discuss issues of concern for those executing environmental education programmes in Europe and will recommend measures to mitigate current problems and highlight priority areas, so as to maximize financial and logistical resources available in the European Union as a whole.

Contact: European Research Unit on Environmental Education and Development, University of Bradford, Bradford BD7 1DP, UK; tel: (44 274) 385391; fax: 384231.

LATIN AMERICA

Programmes of Universidad Latina in Costa Rica

The Universidad Latina is developing a new degree programme in Environmental Conservation which will directly address issues that include the loss of biological diversity; global warming; pollution of the oceans and destruction of the ozone layer. The new curriculum will specifically address the problem of economic development in Costa Rica and will support a sustainable development approach that balances economic and environmental concerns. In order to make the Environmental Conservation programme as comprehensive and informative as possible, the Universidad Latina is actively promoting academic and experimental alliances, particularly those that promote broad based, multi disciplinary research projects.

Contact: Alexander Bonilla D., Environmental Conservation, Universidad Latina de Costa Rica, Apdo. 10979-1000 San José, Costa Rica; tel: (506) 55 38 33 or 32 41 70; fax: 31 04 61 or 33 94 20.

NORTH AMERICA

US Teleconference on Population

A Teleconference highlighting the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) is being organized, with sponsorship from the National Wildlife Federation, for the last week in March 1994. Its purpose is to make governments seriously consider the global population issues facing us. From 4-22 April, over 180 governments will send negotiators to New York to draft a world population plan of action. On 31 March, television satellites will beam the NWF teleconference to activists all over the United States. Teleconference attendees will participate in a nationwide public opinion survey on population; sign a petition for international population assistance, and write to federal officials.

Contact: Sidonie Chiapetta, National Wildlife Federation, 1400 16th Street NW, Washington, DC 20036, USA; tel: (1 202) 797-6639; fax: 797 5486.

GLOBE '94: Trade Fair on Business and Environment

More than 450 companies from around the world will be displaying the newest in environmental technologies at GLOBE '94, the third GLOBE conference and trade fair on business and the environment, which takes place from 21-25 March at the Vancouver Trade and Convention Centre in Canada. In addition, more than 1,000 delegates will hear experts from some 20 countries speaking on a range of subjects, including regulations and competitiveness; corporate environmental strategy; finance and investment; emerging international markets and technology cooperation. A meeting of environment ministers from the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) nations will also take place, at the invitation of Canada's Prime Minister Jean Chrétien, on 24-25 March.

Contact: Alastair Gordon, Communications Counsel, GLOBE Foundation of Canada, c/o World Trade Centre, 504-999 Canada Place, Vancouver, BC, Canada; tel: (1 604) 684 5986; fax: 666 8123; or Suzanne Armstrong, Communications Manager; tel: (1 604) 775 7517; fax: 666 8123.



Readers' Letters

We hope that this new page will assist readers to network and learn from the experiences of others. Please feel free to respond to the writers below, either directly or through this page. The section should also be used to seek answers to questions that you may have; to promote any partnerships that you might want to form, or simply to share news from your region – good or bad. To improve our coverage of local level activities, we would especially like to hear news of any local projects and progress made in implementing Agenda 21.

Please address your correspondence to: Letters Page, The Network, Centre for Our Common Future, Palais Wilson, 52 rue des Pâquis, 1201 Geneva, Switzerland; fax: (41 22) 738 5046.

Search for Environmental Education Contacts

From Lipaessa Sissie Matela, Lesotho

In my present position, I am involved in the design and dissemination of environmental awareness and education programmes, especially to the rural communities in our project area, in collaboration with the government and NGOs. We are also working together with curriculum developers from the Ministry of Education to get Environmental Education included in the school syllabus as a subject.

The main problems we face include a lack of teaching materials and trained people to deliver Environmental Education, since the subject is a relatively new concept to most of the people involved. I would like to make contact with organizations internationally; with those involved in the production of materials, and training of trainers; with people directly involved in the dissemina-

tion of Environmental Education, and beyond this any publications and journals to which we could contribute.

Contact: Lipaessa Sissie Matela, Lesotho Highlands Development Authority, PO Box 7332, Maseru 100, Lesotho; tel: (266) 311280; fax: 310050.

From Mrs F. Tahir, UK

I am a lecturer from the Open University in Pakistan and am currently undertaking a doctoral research programme that focuses on provisions for environmental education with particular reference to higher education. I would like to receive information on such initiatives taking place in Asia as well as in other parts of the world and would appreciate if readers could contact me. Summaries of my findings will be made available to all those contributing to the research.

Contact: Mrs F. Tahir, European Research Unit on Environmental Education and Development, Department of Environ-

mental Science, University of Bradford, Bradford, West Yorkshire BD7 1DP, UK; tel: (44 274) 385391; fax: 384231.

Help Needed for Rehabilitation Project

From Mimi Peretti, Argentina

My organisation, ECOVAL, is working on a number of water reserve projects in the Los Melados area of Argentina where our efforts are ahead of time. Awareness is lacking and law enforcement poor or non-existent. We are working non-stop on rehabilitating a site that was recently devastated and would welcome any ideas on how we might find the right support to speed it up, given the isolated conditions of the site, which with lack of communication and public transport make it very difficult to achieve quick results.

Contact: Mimi Peretti, ECOVAL, O.A.N.G., Cerrito 188, CC 131, 5111 Rio Ceballos, Córdoba, Argentina

NEWS

Small Islands NGO Reminder

Due to the sparse response from NGOs to calls for input to the small island states conference, the Secretariat has felt the need to send out this reminder to further request NGOs to submit as soon as possible information on their activities in small island countries. NGOs are requested to send this information to the address below.

The information should be on current operational activities at the national, sub-regional and regional levels to cover the years 1991, 1992, and 1993. The information and the activities should be directly linked to small island developing States. It is particularly important that the information be grouped under the substantive headings of A/CONF.167/PC/L.5. These are as follows:

1. Climate change and sea-level rise

2. Natural and environmental disasters
3. Management of wastes
4. Coastal and marine resources
5. Freshwater resources
6. Land resources
7. Energy resources
8. Tourism resources
9. Biodiversity resources
10. National institutions and administrative capacity
11. Regional institutions and technical cooperation
12. Transport and communication
13. Science and technology
14. Human resource development

Due to time constraints, please send your submission by fax to Mr. Christopher Hackett at (1 212) 963-5935.

ACRONYMS IN THE NETWORK

CSD	(UN) Commission on Sustainable Development
DPCSD	(UN) Department of Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development
GEF	Global Environment Facility
INC	Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
UNCED	UN Conference on Environment and Development
UNEP	UN Environment Programme

The Long Road to Ratification

Months and even years can pass between the signing of a convention and its passing into law. Fortunately, the Rio conventions on Biodiversity and Climate Change have, or are about to, come into force. But what is ratification and why is it such a lengthy process? Using the Framework Convention on Climate Change as an example, Seth Osafo, Programme Officer in Environmental Law and Institutions at UNEP, describes the process and explains the difficulties faced by many countries in processing these pieces of international legislation.

by Seth Osafo

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change has received 166 signatures since it was first unveiled at the June 1992 Rio 'Earth Summit'. On 21 December, the 50th government ratified its country's commitment to the convention and the total number of ratifications now stands at 53.

Compared to earlier environmental treaties, the pace of ratification has been rapid. But for many governments, ratifying the treaty will be a long and difficult process. Those that have not ratified will not be able to participate fully in the first session of the Conference of the Parties in early 1995 and the fewer ratifiers there are at this session, the less effective the early phase of implementing the convention will be.

One person delegations

Ratifying can be particularly difficult for developing countries. This is partly because they have problems more pressing than global warming, such as debt, poverty, social strife and natural disasters. But another reason is the ratification process itself. This tends to be cumbersome, complex and slow.

Due to financial constraints, most developing countries have been represented by a single delegate during the entire Convention process. The dynamism and persistence of this sole representative is critical to getting the ratification process underway. Unless he or she takes the initiative in spurring the government to act, nothing will happen.

Furthermore, most of these lone representatives are from the Meteorological Service, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (often the permanent

missions in New York and Geneva), or the Ministry or Department of Environment. Yet they have to persuade other ministries, including powerful economic and financial departments, of the importance of climate change and the need for a coordinated national response.

Convincing Ministers

A representative returning home from a negotiating session must start by reporting to the relevant government authorities on the session's outcome. S/he must convince the responsible minister that the country stands to benefit by becoming a party to the Convention. The minister must also be convinced that becoming a party will not impose serious financial obligations on the country. With the growing number of treaties to which states are subscribing, the financial burden is increasing for many small countries. Ratification can often depend on this crucial factor.

To convince ministers and officials, the representative must draft memoranda and attend meetings to explain the Convention's key provisions. Meanwhile, other responsibilities besides processing the Convention must be attended to. In the worst case the officer responsible for piloting the Convention through the ratification process may be transferred to another department or ministry or even, for one reason or another, removed altogether.

Once convinced, the minister may need to persuade fellow cabinet members of the benefits of ratifying the Convention. In the case of the Climate Change Convention, these benefits could include technology transfers, information exchange, capacity building and access to funding. The cabinet in turn might

decide to refer the Convention to an office responsible for examining all international legal instruments and evaluating their provisions and their legal implications for the country. (In some countries the legal department's opinion may be requested before the decision goes to the cabinet.)

Under a parliamentary system of government, the cabinet's approval must be followed by the government's. Much will depend on the parliament's legislative programme and on whether climate change-related issues are accorded a high priority. Then the Head of State must give assent and the final documentation must be prepared and submitted to the depository at UN headquarters in New York. Other forms of government may have a different procedure.

Process Depends on Diligence

This whole process can take months or even years, depending on the diligence of government officials, the efficiency of the governmental machinery, and the nature of the legislative agenda.

But countless efforts are underway to assist the process, inspired by the conviction that the early and widespread ratification of the Convention is important. Given their limited resources however, many developing countries will need further support for their efforts to ratify and, later, to implement the Convention.

Seth Osafo wrote this article originally for the newsletter of the Information Unit on Climate Change (IUCC) while on assignment with the INC/FCCC secretariat.

Contact: IUCC, UNEP, CP 356, 1219 Châtelaine, Geneva, Switzerland; fax: (41 22) 797 3464.

CALENDAR OF SELECTED UN AND OTHER ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT MEETINGS

JANUARY - MARCH 1994

This calendar summarises meetings taking place during the first quarter of 1994. Dates and locations are subject to change. Please contact the secretariats, where mentioned, for confirmation.

- January 17 - 28 Third session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for an International Convention to Combat Desertification (INCD), New York
- January 19 - 20 Symposium on Sustainable Consumption, Oslo, Norway
- January 31 - 11 Feb. PrepCom for World Summit on Social Development, New York
- February 1 - 4 ECOSOC Organizational Session, New York
- February 2 - 4 Preparatory meeting on finance, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- February 3 - 6 Third Global Structures Convocation: Human Rights, Global Governance, and Strengthening the United Nations. Contact: Global Structures, 420 7th Street, SE, Washington, DC 20003 tel:(1-202) 546-1095, fax: (1 202) 546-1156.
- February 7 - 18 Ninth session of INC-Climate Change, Geneva
- February 21 - 23 Roundtable on Water and Health in Underprivileged Urban Areas, Sophia Antipolis, France
- Feb 22 - March 4 UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) intersessional working group meetings on technology transfer and finance, New York
- February 23 - 27 Annual General Meeting of the Alliance of the Northern People on Environment and Development, Krakow, Poland. Contact: Ewa Charkiewicz, ANPED WG on Consumption/Production Patterns, c/o WISE, Pstbus 18185, 1001 ZB, Amsterdam, The Netherlands; tel: (31/20) 6392-6821, fax:6391-379; email: wiseamster@gn.apc.org)
- March 2 - 4 Meeting on Health, Copenhagen, Denmark
- March 3 - 4 Changing Forums in a Changing World: NGO Consultation for United Nations 4th World Conference on Women, New York. Contact: Coordinator, NGO Planning Committee - Forum '95, 777 UN Plaza, 8th Floor, New York, NY 10017, USA, tel:(1-212) 986-0987; fax: 986-0821, email: ngoforum95@igc.apc.org
- March 7 - 11 Resumed Preparatory Committee meeting for the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, New York
- March 8 - 10 Workshop on Trade and Sustainable Development, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada
- March 14 - 31 Second session of the UN Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, New York
- March 17 - 22 Meeting of the UN High Level Advisory Board on Sustainable Development
- March 21 - 31 Fourth session of the INC for an International Convention to Combat Desertification (INCD), Geneva
- March 22 - 23 Ministerial Conference on Drinking Water and Environmental Sanitation - Implementing UNCED Agenda 21 (hosted by Netherlands Government), Noordwijk, Netherlands
Contact: Conference Secretariat, p/a Ministry of Housing, Physical Planning and Environment, PO Box 30945 / 630, 2500 GX Den Haag, Netherlands.
- March 31 - April 1 Seminar on "Systems and Technologies for the Disposal of Urban Solid Wastes and Toxic Wastes", Rome, Italy

Thanks to the Earth Negotiations Bulletin, the UN Non-Governmental Liaison Service, the Alliance of Northern People for Environment and Development and the relevant conference organizers for the above information.

Subscription form for THE NETWORK

Please complete the following form to ensure you will receive The Network in 1994.

Credit card payments are accepted, but only by VISA. Please do not send postal money orders and coupons. If you move, please send us your change of address and include your mailing label to ensure we make the change correctly.

Name: _____

Address: _____

I enclose payment of US\$ 30.00.

I transfer payment of US\$ 30.00 to your account number Union Bank of Switzerland, Geneva 288 867 01 Q.

My VISA card number is: _____

Expiry: _____

Date: _____

Please return this order form with your payment to the address below.

The Centre for Our Common Future

Palais Wilson - 52, rue des Pâquis - 1201 Geneva, Switzerland

tel: (41 22) 732 71 17; fax: 738 50 46; E-mail: commonfuture@gn.apc.org