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A periodic update on the Geneva Environment Network and the International Environment House, Geneva

Geneva Environment Network gets active

By Michael Williams,
United Nations Environment Programme

The second half of 1999 saw the Geneva Environment Network (GEN) grow from an idea into a reality. This cooperative partnership of over 30 Geneva-area organizations active in environment and sustainable development organized several successful events and strengthened its information resources. The key achievements over this period were:

- **Inauguration of the International Environment House.** The ceremony organized by the Government of Switzerland in September 1999 attracted hundreds of guests from both the Swiss and international communities and was well reported in the Geneva newspapers. Situated in Châtelaine and known formerly as the Geneva Executive Center, the House is a key asset and symbol of the Network, hosting as it does many Network members and common facilities. The House has experienced a considerable increase in visitors and queries since its inauguration and continues to attract growing interest.

- **First thematic roundtable.** To promote the exchange of information and views, the Network will host regular roundtables on critical environmental issues. The first roundtable, held at the House on 26 November, addressed the steps that should be taken over the coming decade to promote action under the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes. The meeting was attended by some 50 participants from permanent missions, UN and non-governmental organizations, and academia.

- **First informal meeting of GEN librarians.** On 10 December, 16 librarians and documentalists reviewed the need for networking and cooperation, identified actions for the

first half of the year 2000, and discussed possible synergies with the Association of International Librarians and Information Specialists (AILIS). The meeting agreed recommendations on developing links to CD-ROM holdings, assisting partners in making electronic databases available on-line, strengthening links between GEN and other library networks, and exploring how and whether to establish an integrated on-line electronic catalogue.

- **Expansion of common library.** Located in the House, the GEN library has most recently absorbed the full Geneva documentation centre of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS/Habitat). Permanent display and distribution shelves for the principal publications of GEN partners have been set up. Next steps include ensuring a complete collection of UNEP books and materials, expanding the number of partners whose full or partial collections are located in the library, and building an environmental video collection.

- **Opening of web site and cybercafé.** All Network outputs and activities are featured at www.EnvironmentHouse.ch, which went on-line in September. The site also directs users to environment information and resources on partners' individual sites, announces upcoming environment events in the Geneva area, reports on these events, and provides links to other environment-related information on the Web. A French language version of the site will be available shortly. The cybercafé, which is open to the public, is located in the periodicals and reading room of the common library.

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- **Launching of “Environment House News” bulletin.** Produced in English and French, the newsletter provides an update on environment events and activities of the GEN partners. The first issue appeared in September, and the second issue is in your hands.

- **Growing membership.** Since the September inauguration, GEN’s membership has increased to include

the War-torn Societies Project – Transition Programme (WSP) and the Zero Emissions Research Initiative (ZERI), both located in the House, and the Centre for International Environmental Law (CIEL), located in Conches, and UNCHS (Habitat), whose liaison office is located at the Palais des Nations.

- The next six months will see all of these activities continue and expand.

Roundtables, informal meetings, public outreach activities, and other joint projects amongst GEN partners are all on the agenda. In an age of globalization, this kind of collaboration will be an essential part of ensuring that environmental concerns achieve the high profile that they deserve.

Major Accords Reached at Basel Convention COP

By Sam Pickens, Secretariat of the Basel Convention

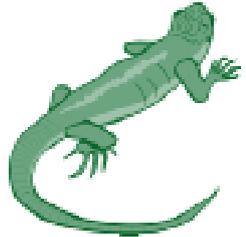
At the end of the 5th Conference of the Parties on 10 December 1999, some delegates were nostalgic for the contentious negotiations of previous COPs, but most were happy to go home having adopted three major accords: a Protocol on Liability and Compensation, a Ministerial Declaration on priorities for the next decade of the Basel Convention, and an agreement on the budget.

It was a highly successful conference, according to Per Bakken, Officer-in-Charge of the Basel Convention. “We had several major issues on the agenda, and the Parties delivered them all. We have the Liability Protocol, which has been under negotiation for seven years. We have an emergency fund to cover incidents that occur during the period between the adoption of the Protocol and when it enters into force. We have the Ministerial Declaration, with a work programme attached to it. And we even have an allocation of financial resources to be used for follow-up, which is highly unusual.”

Despite good spirits, the Protocol negotiations, which began in 1993, were often difficult. The Protocol was drafted in response to the concerns of developing countries about their lack of funds and technological capacity for coping with illegal dumping or accidental spills. The Protocol addresses who is financially responsible in the event of an accident during each phase of a transboundary movement, from the generation of wastes to their export, international transit, import, and final disposal. Delegates adopted a decision for an interim arrangement to cover emergency situations until the Protocol enters into force.

“For the first time, we have a mechanism for assigning responsibility for damage caused by accidental spills of hazardous waste during export or import,” said Klaus Töpfer, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, which administers the Convention’s Geneva-based secretariat. “The adoption of the Protocol is a major breakthrough.”

NatureNotes



Now that the first real sunny and warm days are returning, on your next walk keep an eye out for three “little dragons” sunbathing: the wall lizard — the smallest and most common one, especially fond of walls and piles of rocks; the larger but declining green lizard; and the rarest and most threatened sand lizard, which is medium-sized and loves well-exposed forest borders and edges of vineyards.

In the Ministerial Declaration, the ministers called for broadening access to the means of managing hazardous wastes in an environmentally sound way to every sector of society. They emphasized the urgent need to minimize the generation of such wastes as well as the need to strengthen the capacity worldwide for handling these wastes properly.

The Secretariat’s attempts to make its financial picture transparent were highly appreciated and helped the negotiations go more smoothly than expected. “We cleared up the Secretariat’s financial status,” Per Bakken said, “and got a good budget for the next few years.”

“Despite having all these major issues on the agenda,” he concluded, “the spirit throughout the meetings was incredibly good. That made a big difference in the negotiations and for the overall success of the Conference.”

For more information see www.basel.int.

NatureNotes



Absent for over 30 years as a breeding bird in our region, hoopoes are staging a comeback, probably linked to changes in agricultural practices. The very first ones arrive in mid-March.

If you see one, please note the date, time and place and inform Denis Landenbergue, La Criblette, 1261 Burtigny (022) 366.77.88.



Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution turns 20

By Kaj Bärlund, Director, Environment and Human Settlements Division,
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UN/ECE)

Under this slogan environment ministers and senior officials gathered in Gothenburg, Sweden in December 1999 to mark the 20th anniversary of the UN/ECE Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution and to adopt its eighth Protocol.

The Convention was the first region-wide agreement to recognize the environmental and health problems caused by the flow of air pollutants across borders and the pressing need for international solutions. Initially signed by 33 countries and the European Community, the Convention now has 45 Parties. In its first 20 years, it has proven to be a remarkably flexible and cost-effective tool for dealing with air pollution in a region of great geographic, political and economic diversity.

Most importantly, it has brought about tangible results. By the mid-1990s, sulphur emissions in Europe had halved compared to 1980, nitrogen oxide emissions were down 16% on their 1990 levels and emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) 20%. The Protocols adopted in 1998 will lead to cuts in emissions of heavy metals (cadmium, lead, and mercury) and persistent organic pollutants (POPs) by, for instance, phasing out leaded petrol and banning the use of hazardous pesticides like DDT.

Yet, despite the Convention's success, air pollution continues to threaten our environment. So during the recent meeting in Gothenburg, 27 European and North American States signed a new Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone.

This Protocol is probably the most sophisticated environmental agreement so far and marks a leap forward in international law-making. It sets emission ceilings for 2010 for four pollutants: sulphur, NO_x, VOCs and ammonia. These ceilings were negotiated on the basis of scientific assessments of pollution effects and abatement

options. Countries whose emissions have a more severe environmental or health impact and whose emissions are relatively cheap to reduce will have to make the biggest cuts. Once the Protocol is fully implemented, Europe's sulphur emissions should be cut by at least 63%, its NO_x emissions by 41%, its VOC emissions by 40% and its ammonia emissions by 17% compared to 1990.

The Protocol also sets tight limit values for specific emission sources (e.g. combustion plant, electricity production, dry cleaning, cars and lorries) and requires best available techniques to be used to keep emissions down. VOC emissions from such products as paints or aerosols will also have to be cut. Finally, farmers will have to take specific measures to control ammonia emissions.

Once the Protocol takes effect, the area in Europe with excessive levels of acidification will shrink from 93 million hectares in 1990 to 15 million hectares. The area with excessive levels of

eutrophication will fall from 165 million hectares in 1990 to 108 million hectares, while the number of days with excessive ozone levels will be halved. Consequently, it is estimated that life-years lost as a result of the chronic effects of ozone exposure will be about 2,300,000 lower in 2010 than in 1990, and there will be approximately 47,500 fewer premature deaths resulting from ozone and particulate matter in the air. The exposure of vegetation to excessive ozone levels will be 44% down on 1990.

As the Convention turns 20, its focus is increasingly shifting to helping countries implement its Protocols and verifying whether the Parties are effectively complying with their obligations. In this way it will undoubtedly continue to play a leading role in protecting the environment of the UN/ECE region in the new millennium.

For more information, please visit the Convention's website: <http://www.unece.org/env/lrtap/>

NatureNotes

In March local residents should keep their eyes out for the emergence of the lovely but misnamed dog's tooth violet, *Erythronium dens-canis*, which is really a small, bright pink lily. It's extremely localized, but if you're lucky you can find a few on the forested foothills around Geneva.

Further afield, they can be seen with other wonders at Le Vuache, a mecca for botanists several kilometres southwest of the canton in France.

Don't pick!





Environmental governance goes on-line

By Christophe Nuttall, Programme Coordinator,
United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)

National, regional, and international environmental programmes often generate large volumes of data and information. This treasure trove of information, however, can be difficult to access, either for technical reasons (such as incompatibility of format), for administrative reasons (including barriers between ministries, departments, universities, or NGOs), or for cultural ones (for instance, the belief that information is power).

New information and communications technologies can offer solutions to these barriers. UNITAR and the Observatory of the Sahel and Sahara (OSS) have conducted the first phase of a series of promising projects in Africa with this aim in view. UNITAR's recent move to the International Environment House has facilitated a partnership for the second phase of these projects with the United Nations Environment Programme's Global Resources Information Database (UNEP/GRID) and the Rehabilitation and Social Sustainability Division of the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS/RESS), in addition to the nearby International Telecommunication Union (ITU).

The projects involve establishing Environmental Information Systems on the Internet (EISI). These Systems have been set up in response to Agenda 21's Chapter 40 on "Information for decision making" and to the commitments set out in international environmental agreements. These agreements include the conventions on biological diversity, climate change, desertification, wetlands, and trade in endangered species.

Environmental Information Systems on the Internet can serve as virtual clearing-house mechanisms for National Environmental Action Programmes at the national and regional levels. They can provide access to a wide set of environmental information and data to all the actors involved – the public sector, civil society, and research

and training institutions. They can thus enhance the value and the use of existing information resources, particularly in the decision-making process, and facilitate synergies between the different partners.

Virtual "kiosks"

The Systems are comprised of a set of information "kiosks" available through the Internet. The "institutional kiosks" list stakeholders involved in environmental programmes and describe their activities. "Thematic kiosks" identify know-how and skills related to a certain topic, thus promoting synergies between national, sub-regional, and regional coordination efforts, as requested by international environmental agreements.

The topics include, among others, biodiversity, climate change, desertification, forests, and coastal areas. Kiosks on "products" take the form of: (i) a virtual library regrouping existing bibliographic references on a given topic while also providing access to full texts of some documents; (ii) a virtual map library providing on-line maps and images in a standard format; and (iii) an at-a-glance summary of the national state of the environment through an

on-line geographical information system.

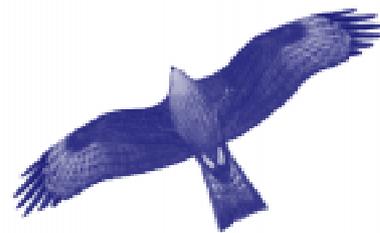
There have been several important achievements so far. At the national level, in the context of implementing their individual national action program, and under the auspices of the OSS, Mali, Morocco, Senegal, and Tunisia have created a first version of their Environmental Information System on the Internet. In order to set up its environmental action programme, Benin is also developing a System, while Burkina Faso, Guinea, and Uganda are preparing theirs with support from the ITU, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the World Bank. These countries have now a common information tool that can address the same cross-cutting communications issues for different conventions.

At the regional level, in partnership with OSS and UNEP/GRID Geneva, an on-line geographical information system using the Web is being set up to promote better use of UNEP/GRID data by environment experts. At the global level, in partnership with UNEP in the context of its Global Environment Outlook 3, a communication tool will be set up to exchange and share environmental data and

NatureNotes

In early spring, bird-lovers can take part in the annual kite-watch, an informal friendly competition to see who can spot the first black kite of the season. These magnificent raptors are especially drawn to the Lake Lemán region where they are found in some of the highest densities in Europe.

It seems curious that a scavenger that eats dead and dying fish is attracted to such a seemingly tidy place. Watch for a streamlined dark silhouette with a slightly



forked tail gliding high over the treetops and water bodies.



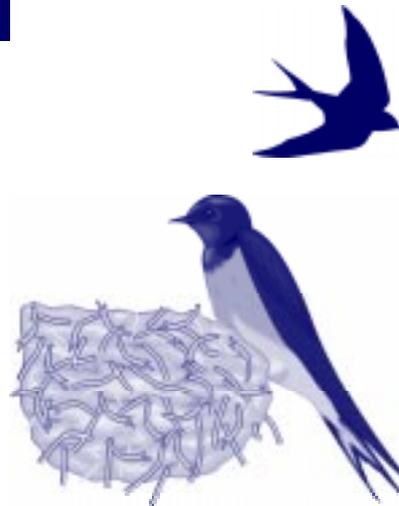
information in order to promote synergy between different regional Collaborative Centers throughout the five continents and to get a comprehensive overview of the state of environment. Activities are also taking place at the local and sub-regional levels.

In conclusion, to address and inter-link the same cross-cutting information needs identified by different initiatives for sustainable development, UNITAR will strengthen its cooperation with UNOPS RESS and UNEP's GRID Geneva to offer jointly, at lowest cost, a complete set of services including technical expertise, training, and quality data provision and management.

NatureNotes

The second half of March sees the first swallow arrive from Africa, announcing Spring. Three species of swallow nest in our region: the barn swallow, house martin and, rarest of all, the sand martin, restricted to nesting in sandy riverbanks and some gravel pits.

If you are lucky enough to have some build their nest under the eaves of your roof, please don't disturb!



Members of the Geneva Environment Network (as at February 2000)

Basel Convention Secretariat (SBC)	www.unep.ch/basel/
Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) secretariat	www.cites.org/
Centre for International Environmental Law (CIEL)	www.ciel.org/
International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD)	www.ictsd.org/
International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)	www.iisd.ca/ and iisd1.iisd.ca/
Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) secretariat	www.ipcc.ch/
International School of Geneva, Earth Focus Magazine	www.ecolint.ch/
Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit	www.unep.ch/ocha_unep.htm
Ramsar Convention on Wetlands	www.ramsar.org/
The World Conservation Union (IUCN)	www.iucn.org/
United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), Geneva Office	www.unchs.org/
United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)	www.unctad.org/
United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), Liaison Office	www.unccd.de/
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), European Office	www.undp.org/
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UN/ECE)	www.unece.org/
UNEP Chemicals	irptc.unep.ch/
UNEP's Economics and Trade Unit (UNEP/ETU)	www.unep.ch/etu/
UNEP's Global Resources Information Database (UNEP/GRID)	www.grid.unep.ch
UNEP's Information Unit for Conventions (UNEP/IUC)	www.unep.ch/iuc/
UNEP's Regional Office for Europe (UNEP/ROE)	www.unep.ch/roe_home.htm
United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)	www.unitar.org/
United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service (NGLS)	ngls.tad.ch/
United Nations System-wide Earthwatch	www.unep.ch/earthw.html
United Nations Volunteers (UNV)	www.unv.org/
War-torn Societies Project - Transition Programme (WSP)	www.unrisd.org/wsp/
World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD)	www.wbcds.ch/
World Health Organization (WHO)	www.who.org/
World Meteorological Organization (WMO)	www.wmo.ch/
World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)	www.panda.org/
Zero Emissions Research Initiative (ZERI)	www.zeri.org/



Eco-efficiency comes of age

By Björn Stigson, President, World Business Council
for Sustainable Development (WBCSD)

All parents feel pride in watching their son or daughter develop from babyhood. Those of us at the birth of the eco-efficiency concept before the 1992 Rio 'Earth Summit' savor something of that feeling.

Leading companies have adopted eco-efficiency as a core business concept, and are reaping the benefits from doing so.

But eco-efficiency is now growing from a purely business management tool to a policy concept – a clear and timely response to a debate that is shifting from sustainability issues of manufacturing and production to issues of product use and consumption. That is the reason why the European Commission is putting its weight behind the European Eco-Efficiency Initiative (EEEI).

The Initiative – launched by the WBCSD in 1998, with European Part-



Our chick will grow fast and become very influential!

ners for the Environment (EPE), and supported by the European Commission's Directorate-General III for 'Enterprises' – confirms that eco-efficiency is coming of age.

The EEEI's objective is no less than to turn eco-efficiency into a leading business and policy concept throughout Europe. And the key point here is a 'policy' concept.

What the EEEI also offers to business – and specifically to the WBCSD through its leading role in the activities – is a legitimacy to influence the policy debate at the regional level in Europe. It will potentially have a profound effect on the relationship between business, policy-makers, and other stakeholders.

This initiative is a model for a multi-stakeholder agenda, where key stakeholders can together find effective ways of making progress toward sustainable development by demonstrating that micro changes can and do have an effect at the macro level.

The first phase of the EEEI, encompassing a stream of activities involving the WBCSD, EPE, DGIII, and 20 partners organizations in all EU countries and in Central and Eastern Europe, has already produced encouraging results. It has launched national processes to promote and extend eco-efficiency. The collection and dissemination of

best-practice case examples has demonstrated that eco-efficiency works. We at the WBCSD have extended our work on eco-efficiency indicators and reporting – so that we can measure performance in a more uniform way.

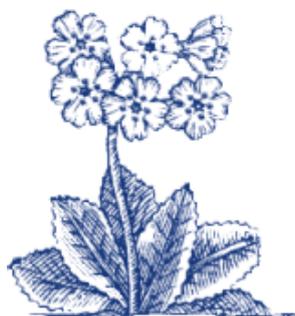
A First Progress Conference was held in November in Brussels to assess progress to date and define the second phase of the Initiative. As part of the European Eco-efficiency Initiative 2000-2002 activity plan, four regional eco-efficiency dialogues will be set up in Central and Eastern Europe (Poland, Croatia, Czech Republic and Hungary).

The EEEI has widened our platform for dialogue and created an effective network to disseminate our thinking to both the business community and to policy-makers. It has built confidence in our work, and enhanced our credibility as a leading-edge organization, open to dialogue.

The Initiative has two more years to run. We are pleased with the results achieved so far, and we are confident that at the end of this project we can confirm that eco-efficiency has reached maturity and is contributing to economic and environmental progress in Europe.

WBCSD is located at 160, route de Florissant, Conches-Geneva.

NatureNotes



Soon the roadside verges around Geneva will be adorned with bunches of pale yellow flowers: the oxslips, cowslips and wild primroses. All three species are members of the genus *Primula*, and the smaller oxslips and cowslips are sometimes hard to tell apart: watch for the cowslips' deeper yellow colour and five orange spots around the centre of the flower.



Clean Energy 2000 conference

The Millennium Conference on Energy and Environment took place from 24 to 28 January 2000 at the International Congress Center in Geneva. Delegates from more than 100 nations came together to prove that the problems of global warming and environmental degradation from excessive pollution can be resolved before it is too late to bring the Earth back into balance.

Political leaders, top scientists and industry representatives from the whole world presented practical, feasible solutions on emission reductions and clean energy systems implementation. Emissions-free vehicles were demonstrated during a rally from the Swiss Federal Palace in Bern to the United Nations in Geneva. Lawyers, bankers and fund managers prepared proposals on the necessary legislation and financial instruments to implement these solutions.

The CLEAN ENERGY 2000 conference was a follow-up to the Kyoto Protocol and the November 1999 Climate Change Conference in Bonn. It was organized through the co-operation of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the World Meteorological

Organization (WMO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), other relevant UN Agencies and over 50 major NGOs.

The ambitious conference agenda included reaching a consensus on the concept of total energy costing. Total energy costing builds external social costs into the internal cost structures of different energy sources. The conference also introduced a new ISO standards series for the design of sustainable energy systems.

In addition, participants in CLEAN ENERGY 2000 unveiled a new planning method based on a complete energy matrix that enables governments and the private sector to make a smooth transition from risky and polluting energy systems to clean and sustainable ones. An exhibition at the Conference Center demonstrated practical solutions to problems encountered during this transition.

World famous painter Hans Erni dedicated a large Millennium painting on energy, mobility and environment to the CLEAN ENERGY 2000 conference and to the 50th Anniversary of the World Meteorological Organization.



The painting, which illustrates the clean energy future of the next Millennium in Erni's brilliant style, hung in the entrance hall of the International Conference Center.

On the last day of the conference, CLEAN ENERGY 2000 announced the Geneva Proclamation for Clean Energy and issued a blueprint to the UN Commission on Sustainable Development. For the first time since the 1992 Rio Earth Summit (UNCED), the Commission on Sustainable Development's upcoming 9th plenary session will be fully dedicated to energy.



IISD opens a branch

The International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) has opened up a Geneva-branch Office in the International Environment House for its Earth Negotiations Bulletin (ENB) and Linkages Journal (www.iisd.ca).

ENB provides up to the minute coverage on convention-related and other multi-lateral meetings. *Linkages Journal* is the primary source of information on all meetings related to sustainable development around the world. This office will act as a liaison point between the ENB-Linkages Journal Headquarters in New York, and organisations involved in sustainable development in Europe, Africa and the Middle East.

For more information, or to find out how ENB-Linkages Journal can help to provide coverage or disseminate information on your event, please contact: Tom Rotherham, Assistant Editor, Linkages Journal, IEH, Tel: +41.22.979.9491, Fax: +41.22.979.9093, Tom@iisd.org.



Environment-related meetings and events in Geneva area

Date	Event (Organizer/contact)
24-25 January 2000	Ad Hoc Group of Experts on the Supply and Use of Gas, Committee on Sustainable Energy (United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UN/ECE), Tel: +41 22 917 4444, Fax: +41 22 917 0505, Email: info.ece@unece.org)
24-29 January	CLEAN ENERGY 2000 – Millenium Conference and Exhibition in Geneva (www.cleanenergy2000.com)
26-28 January	Working Party on Gas, Committee on Sustainable Energy (UN/ECE, Tel: +41 22 917 4444, Fax: +41 22 917 0505, Email: info.ece@unece.org)
21-25 February	Rotterdam Convention on Prior Informed Consent, Interim Chemical Review Committee – First Session (Rotterdam Convention Interim Secretariat, Tel: +41 22 917 8184, Fax: +41 22 767 3460, Email: pic@unep.ch)
3-5 April	16 th Session of the Technical Working Group of the Basel Convention (Basel Convention secretariat, Tel. +41 22 917 8213)
6-7 April	Legal Working Group of the Basel Convention (Basel Convention secretariat, Tel. +41 22 917 8213)
26 April	Ad Hoc Meeting for the Pilot Project Demonstrating the Environmental Clean-up of Selected Sites Polluted by Chemicals, Committee for Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development (UN/ECE, Tel: +41 22 917 4444, Fax: +41 22 917 0505, Email: info.ece@unece.org)
8-12 May	Working Group on Environmental Impact Assessment, Meeting of Parties to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (UN/ECE, Tel: +41 22 917 4444, Fax: +41 22 917 0505, Email: info.ece@unece.org)
23-26 May	Working Party on Pollution and Energy, Inland Transport Committee (UN/ECE, Tel: +41 22 917 4444, Fax: +41 22 917 0505, Email: info.ece@unece.org)
29-31 May	Steering Committee of the Energy Efficiency 2000 Project, Committee on Sustainable Energy (UN/ECE, Tel: +41 22 917 4444, Fax: +41 22 917 0505, Email: info.ece@unece.org)
5-9 June	Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) of the Ramsar Convention, Gland, (Ramsar Convention secretariat, Tel. +41 22 999 0170, Fax +41 22 999 0169, Email ramsar@ramsar.org)
15-16 June	Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Natural Gas Resources, Committee on Sustainable Energy (UN/ECE, Tel: +41 22 917 4444, Fax: +41 22 917 0505, Email: info.ece@unece.org)
10-14 July	Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, 20 th Open-Ended Working Group (Ozone Secretariat, Nairobi, Mr. K. Sarma, Email: Ozoneinfo@unep.org , Fax: +254 2 623913 or 623601)
18-20 September	Committee on Human Settlements (UN/ECE, Tel: +41 22 917 4444, Fax: +41 22 917 0505, Email: info.ece@unece.org)
25-29 September	Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent procedure, Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee – Seventh Session (Rotterdam Convention Interim Secretariat, Tel: +41 22 917 8184, Fax: +41 22 767 3460, Email: pic@unep.ch)
26-28 September	Committee on Sustainable Energy (UN/ECE, Tel: +41 22 917 4444, Fax: +41 22 917 0505, Email: info.ece@unece.org)
22-27 October	Standing Committee of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar Convention secretariat, Tel. +41 22 999 0170, Fax +41 22 999 0169, Email ramsar@ramsar.org)

Environment House News

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This newsletter includes information contributed by Geneva-area organizations. It provides general information only and does not represent the official views of these organizations nor of the United Nations. Readers are welcome to reprint articles giving appropriate credit.

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www.EnvironmentHouse.ch