



# ENVIRONMENT HOUSE

# NEWS

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Happy  
Holidays

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Swiss Agency for  
the Environment,  
Forests and  
Landscape SAEFL

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

## New Annex for International Environment House

By Sofie H. Flensburg, Coordinator, Geneva Environment Network  
The following article is based on information received from La Fondation des Immeubles pour les Organisations Internationales (FIPOI):

Residents and visitors at the International Environment House will have noticed the new building taking shape right next door. Despite its name, *Bâtiment Administrative du Balxert*, or *BAB*, this new building has in fact been built as an annex to the House, where space is starting to become scarce.

The idea is that Geneva-based NGOs working on issues related to environment or sustainable development will be offered office space in the new building at a lower price than otherwise available on the market, namely 255-280 CHF m<sup>2</sup>/year (the higher floors are the most expensive). The annex was expected to be ready to host its first organizations as of 1 November 2003. Some 250 people are expected to fit in the 5,314 m<sup>2</sup> of office space. There will be 47 underground parking places.

The building will feature a conference centre on the ground floor, consisting of a large conference room seating 100 people (this room can be divided into two or three smaller rooms when needed), a meeting room for 50 people (which can also be divided into two smaller rooms), a foyer and a self-service bar. The large conference room can be equipped for simultaneous interpretation upon request. The conference facilities should be ready by January 2004

and will be managed by the Conference Services of FIPOI. They can be used will be free of charge by all the organizations located in the annex and possibly in the House as well. The annex's residents will be invited to use the cafeteria in the House.

An effort has been made to meet the needs of future residents and to incorporate the spirit of sustainable development. The following features confirms this intent:

- Tenants will rent office space and decide whether to keep this space as an open floor plan or to divide it into any number of offices. A "normal" office for one or two persons is around 15 m<sup>2</sup> – slightly less than in the Environment House. In





addition, a central space on each floor can serve various purposes according to the wishes of the tenant, e.g. meeting room, photocopying or archives.

- Wood has been used where possible, in particular on the front of the building.
- The light in each office is adjusted automatically according to the amount of daylight outside and the presence of people in the office.
- Special protection against noise from the road (on the north-western side of the building) has been installed.
- There are two handicap toilets on each floor.
- The heating and air-conditioning are as natural as possible, using a system of "active tiles" in order to provide optimal comfort using a minimum of energy.
- The building is linked to the House through a "high speed" connection for the transmission of data and for the phone system.

For the time being, it is not foreseen that the reception area will be staffed; access to the building will be controlled through a video camera and a door phone. Each organization will have the possibility of buzzing in its visitors.

## NatureNotes

### Surviving the winter



Animals have a number of strategies for surviving our often harsh winters. Some migrate, but many stay put, making the most of their adaptations to cold temperatures.

Others may hibernate, or simply live and hunt as usual. Still others – including small rodents such as mice, voles and shrews – take the middle road, slowing down and passing the winter in a state of semi-hibernation.

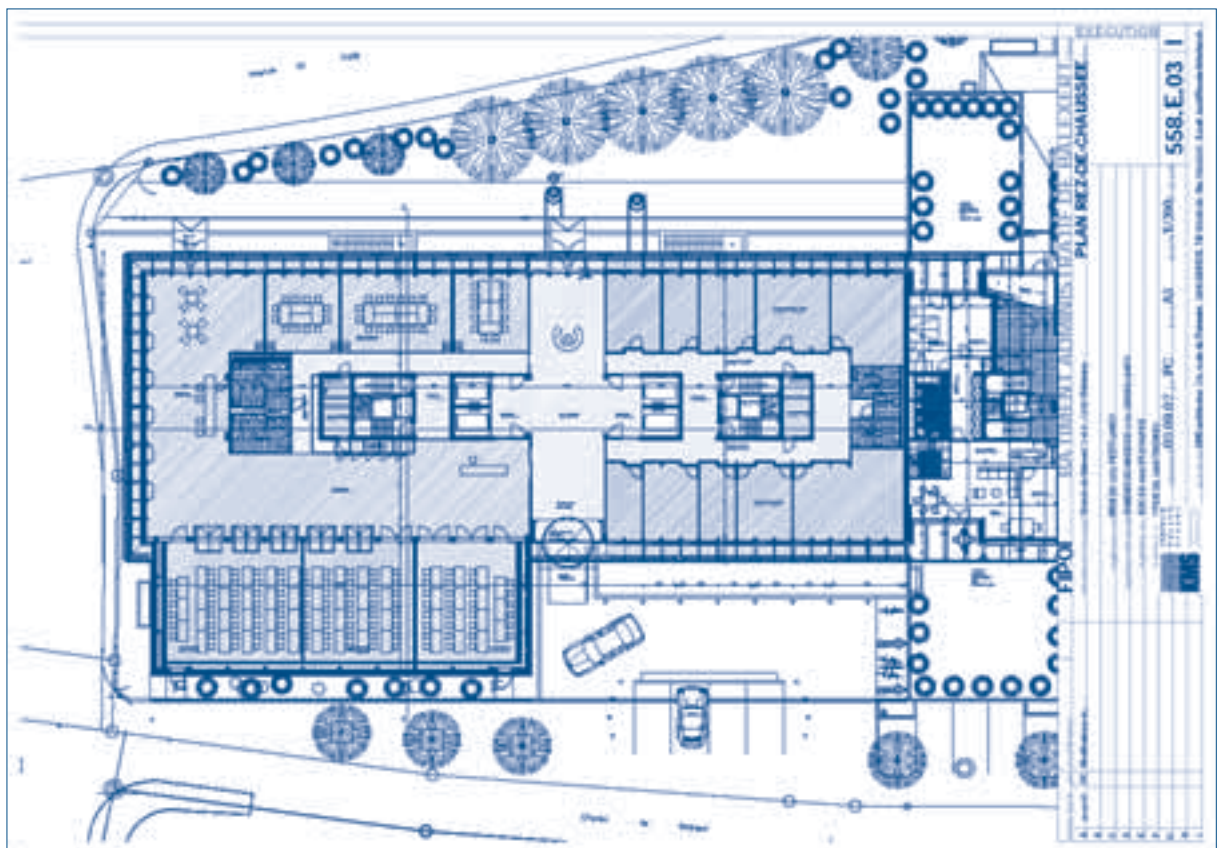
Barn owls *Tyto alba* are 'partially migratory'. Only more northern populations fly south during the winter months, but the owls are resident throughout Switzerland. Their principle prey include voles, which live in tunnels under the snow in wet meadows.



The date of the annex's inauguration has not yet been determined. It may, however, coincide with one of the major environmental events in Geneva, such as the celebration of World

Environment Day on 5 June.

For more information, please contact FIPOI: Tel. +41 22 791 91 11, E-mail: adm@fipoi.ch





## Providing freshwater for all: a challenge for the 21<sup>st</sup> century

By Philippe Roch, State Secretary for the Environment, Forests and Landscape (SAEFL), Switzerland

Last June, on World Environment Day, I had the pleasure of chairing a Geneva Environment Network roundtable on the theme "Providing freshwater for all". The presentations by Delmar Blasco, the outgoing Secretary-General of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands; José Maria Figueres, Senior Managing Director of the World Economic Forum; Maarten Blokland, Acting Director of UNESCO-HIE Institute of Water Education; Juerg Gerber, VP/Environment, Alcan Europe; and José Augusto Hueb, Coordinator of the WHO-UNICEF Global Assessment of the water supply and sanitation sector/joint monitoring programme set the stage for a lively discussion. This is what the participants learned:

Water is the key to sustainable development and food security. Water supplies of good quality are also fundamental to the eradication of poverty. The international community has pledged to establish integrated water-resources management plans by the year 2005 and to halve the number of people who lack access to safe drinking

water and basic sanitation by 2015. This will require establishing water supply services for 1.5 billion people while improving the sanitation situation for 2.4 billion people.

But it is not just a matter of finding ways to "put water in the pipes": if we are to bring freshwater and sanitation

*Ecosystems for water;  
water for people;  
ecosystems for people*

services to billions more people in sufficient quality and quantity over the long term, we must also address how the natural sources that provide the water are managed and conserved. Indeed, to ensure a sustainable water supply of good quality, we should protect and use in a sustainable manner the ecosystems that naturally capture, filter, store, and release water, such as forests, wetlands and soils. Water management has been regarded in an overly narrow way and would benefit

from a more holistic approach.

It will require investing in better management of our natural water resources, which means paying more attention to forests and wetlands – and to the people who live in and manage these vital ecosystems. This ecosystem approach will benefit from the implementation of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and its set of guidelines on how to allocate supplies from freshwater sources in a way that is sustainable for water ecosystems.

### Finding the money

Improving the current situation will also require large sums of money for the protection and sustainable use of water-related ecosystems and for infrastructure and maintenance.

The private sector will have to integrate the ecosystem approach into its overall management approach, something that has already been initiated by some companies. This approach should be further promoted, and in fact, during the roundtable, the World Economic Forum announced that it was on that day launching its Water Initiative (see next article). This Initiative is to be an incubator for public-private partnerships on addressing the importance of watershed management for the environment and the need for better use of water in the business production cycle. It will also promote the implementation of the ecosystem approach by showing the benefits of payments by the private sector for environmental services.

The private sector will also have to be engaged in other domains, such as water supply and sanitation. Further funding is needed and guidelines for public-private partnerships will have to be applied.

The challenge of "providing freshwater for all" will clearly remain on the global agenda for many years to come. It will require an intersectoral approach that will treat ecosystems as the basis for water supply and sanitation and support their protection and maintenance.

## NatureNotes

### Hedgehog

**The European hedgehog *Erinaceus europaeus* hibernates in the winter, in brush piles, under rocks or in crevices. Its hibernation period is not as continuous as other mammals, and it wakes occasionally to rebuild its nest.**

**Although an insectivore, the hedgehog eats a wide range of foods. It favours invertebrates like earthworms, slugs and snails, millipedes and ground beetles, but it will also eat frogs, small reptiles, young birds and their eggs, mice, carrion, acorns, and berries.**







## The World Economic Forum's Water Initiative

By Andrei Iatsenia, Senior Project Manager, World Economic Forum Water Initiative

Recognizing that freshwater will be the key natural resource in the 21st century, the World Economic Forum is developing an Initiative to facilitate multi-stakeholder cooperation on managing watersheds "from the summit to the sea".

The Water Initiative was launched in Geneva on 5 June 2003 – World Environment Day. The event featured representatives from the World Economic Forum, the United Nations Environment Programme, the Swiss Government and Alcan Inc.

Conceived in association with UNEP, the Initiative seeks to improve the quality and quantity of water available to both communities and businesses. The Initiative has two principal goals:

- To facilitate the adoption of best practices in watershed management for the benefit of consumers, businesses and the environment. This includes promoting the idea that the environmental services provided by watersheds should be paid for; supplying freshwater, for example, is an essential environmental service that manufacturers and other users should purchase.

- To serve as an incubator for public-private partnerships that will manage specific watersheds and other water-related ventures. Involving business in thematic or regional water-related pilot projects can create important benefits for the general public and for the environment.

For many major businesses, water is a critical component of the production cycle. Reductions in water availability and quality can lead to higher costs. Flood control – another critical service provided by watersheds – is also vital to ensuring that business operations are not interrupted. A few examples of the benefits and risks for business include:

- The food-processing sector needs access to high-quality drinking water to clean, prepare, process and package food. Nearly three-quar-

ters of the world's water supply is used to grow food.

- Water suppliers who commit themselves to supplying a specified quantity or quality of water are legally liable if they fail to deliver.
- Manufacturers can be exposed to a wide range of water-related risks, including environmental emergencies such as droughts, floods and water contamination.
- The energy and hydropower industries are directly affected by losses due to the siltation of reservoirs and unpredictable water flows, both of which can be caused by the mismanagement of mountain ecosystems.
- For tourism, the lack of snow, well-maintained mountain habitats and shortages of water supply often spell economic disaster.

Among the methods the Forum is highlighting to improve water management, Payments for Ecosystems Services (PES) offers a promising approach to dealing with the ongoing degradation of natural habitats and the valuable environmental services they provide. By compensating the providers of environmental services, PES mechanisms increase their incentive to conserve them.

Addressing water issues can reduce costs and increase incomes for business. Being proactive can also serve the enlightened interests of corporations by contributing to sustainable development. In benefiting the bottom line, the Water Initiative can provide businesses with many positive economic, social and environmental benefits.

For more information, please visit the World Economic Forum website ([www.weforum.org/water](http://www.weforum.org/water)).

### New book:

### SPIRITUAL APPROACHES TO ECOLOGY

**This new book helps the reader to analyze the ways in which ecological problems relate to the central ethical, moral and political issues of our time while at the same time demonstrating how a spiritual approach must inevitably improve his or her relationship to the world. Beyond our materialistic aspirations, beyond our ways of seeing or imagining the environment, the spiritual approach guides us even though we may not be aware of its very existence.**

**Yet the same approach can easily be distorted until it becomes its precise opposite, a mundane superstition such as, let us say, a belief in progress. What is spirituality? Is it an emanation of social relationships, a product of evolution? Or does it bring us face to face with a reality infinitely greater than man, a reality without which neither nature nor society would exist?**

**These are questions that ecology cannot afford to ignore if it seeks to understand what it is ultimately founded upon – if it wants, at long last, to come of age.**

**Approches spirituelles de l'écologie**

**Under the direction of Frédéric Paul Pinget**

**Editions Charles-Léopold Mayer, Paris, 2003**

**Expected publication date: December 2003**



# Sustainable development: a practical guide for Geneva's companies

By Alexandre Epalle, Head, Cantonal Sustainable Development Service

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are situated at the very heart of the production and consumption complex. They thus have a central role to play in attaining the goals of sustainable development.

Increasingly under pressure to prove their compliance with responsibility criteria, SMEs are gradually adopting standards and codes of conduct promoting best practices in the fields of environmental protection and social solidarity. Responding to this new dynamic, the Canton of Geneva has recently published a guide designed to inform Geneva companies about tools and methods that can help them to incorporate social and environmental concerns into the day-to-day running of their businesses while still attaining their economic goals.

## Profits and equity

By producing goods or services, enterprises create value and so contribute to the development of society. But if this development is to be sustainable, enterprises must take care that the value thus created is equitably shared with their stakeholders.

For example, the long-term success of a company is inconceivable unless it is accompanied by health and safety for its personnel. To offer a few minutes' training in the use of a new piece

of equipment, for example, can be a cost-effective way of forestalling the risk of future accidents, minimizing the impact on employees' health and increasing their efficiency. By respecting and improving the working conditions of its personnel, and particularly by increasing their know-how and skills, an SME can motivate its employees and raises their productivity.

*The long-term success of a company is inconceivable unless it is accompanied by health and safety for its personnel.*

Similarly, an SME that invests in creating and maintaining a social network will reduce its operating costs because many operations will be transacted in an informal manner through this network. This way, a company can improve its economic performance by meeting more of the welfare needs of the society within which it operates. Geneva's new SME guide offers concrete advice on the social dimension of sustainable development within an enterprise.

## Environmental economics

The production of goods or services involves the consumption of raw materials and energy – which is costly in both financial and environmental terms – by the SME. The question facing SMEs

today is how to improve their production while keeping their consumption to a minimum – or, in other words, how to produce in the spirit of sustainable development.

Part of the answer is to be found in tools such as “eco-efficiency”, which facilitates environmental management, and the “eco-concept”, which takes into account the life cycle of a product. With the help of such tools a company can significantly reduce the environmental impact of its activities while making financial savings at the same time.

For example, a company that minimizes its waste products will contribute towards environmental protection while cutting down costs. By offering products with a longer working life, it will be more successful in meeting its customers' increasingly stringent requirements. The advice offered in the SME guide will help companies meet the demands and expectations of the market.

## Partnership for sustainable development

Providing information to civil society is one the goals set by Geneva's local Agenda 21, the plan of action adopted by the State of Geneva with a view to promoting sustainable development. By publishing, in collaboration with the Geneva Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCIG) and the Federation of

## NatureNotes

### Badger



If you live in the country or at the edge of a town, you might have a badger *Meles meles* visiting your garden at night. If you're lucky enough to see one, you'll recognize its striking black and white striped face.

Badgers don't hibernate, but in winter they sleep for long periods, waking from time to time to search for food. They are least active in December, when they rely on their reserves of body fat.



Employers' Associations (FSP), a practical guide for small and medium-sized companies, the canton seeks to support its SMEs in their pursuit of sustainable development.

The guide is composed of some thirty index cards, each concerned with a specific area of activity. The three objectives of sustainable development – social solidarity, economic efficiency and responsibility in environmental matters – are dealt with on a practical and integrated basis. The advice given is simple and practical, and the booklet contains a wealth of information, references and addresses that will enable SMEs to apply the principles of sustainable development. And the benefits in terms of costs, management and competitiveness to be derived from the implementation of these principles are clearly explained.

*The practical guide (in French only) exists in the form of a loose-leaf file (277 pages) and booklet (80 pages). An electronic version is also available and can be downloaded from [www.geneve.ch/agenda21/PME](http://www.geneve.ch/agenda21/PME).*

*For any additional information, please contact:*

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*Environmental Service-Info : tel. 022/327 80 83*

*E-mail : [eve.siegenthaler@etat.ge.ch](mailto:eve.siegenthaler@etat.ge.ch)*

## The Environmental Management Group sets its agenda

By Monika Linn, Head of the EMG Secretariat

The United Nations Environment Programme is the only major UN body whose mandate is to focus exclusively on environmental matters. But over the last two decades, almost all organs of the UN system have integrated environmental concerns into their work programmes. This "mainstreaming" of the environment promises enormous benefits – but coordinating and integrating these various activities would create even more benefits for the global environment.

Recognizing the need "to optimise the work and effectiveness of the United Nations' environmental work, as well as the work of UNEP as the leading environmental organization," the UN General Assembly recently established an Environmental Management Group (EMG). The EMG's members include specialized agencies such as WHO and ILO, UN funds and programmes such as UNDP, and the secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) such as the climate change and biodiversity conventions. The EMG's secretariat is provided by UNEP and is located at the International Environment House, Geneva.

The EMG seeks to strengthen intra-UN co-operation through an issues-management and problem-solving

approach. It aims to find solutions to important and newly emerging issues on the environment and human settlements agenda and to foster joint action.

In fulfilling its mandate, the EMG works with other existing formal or informal interagency groups, including the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, the United Nations Development Group and the UN-Water Group, adding value to and complementing their respective efforts.

The EMG works through a two-tiered structure:

- 1) A senior-level decision-making body chaired by the UNEP Executive Director and consisting of senior level officials from all EMG member organizations; and
- 2) Time-limited, *ad hoc* Issue Management Groups (IMGs) that address specific issues identified by the EMG and then expire after completing their mandates.

### Practical contributions

The EMG secretariat became fully operational earlier this year and invited members to meet in Geneva on 3 July to discuss the EMG's work programme for the next two years. In shaping the work programme, the participants referred in particular to the Plan of Implementation and other outcomes of the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development.

The Johannesburg Plan of Implementation highlights a challenging set of issues, including eradicating poverty, changing unsustainable patterns of consumption and production, protecting the natural resource base of economic and social development and supporting Africa.

The EMG decided to focus on making practical contributions to implementing this agenda. The Group agreed that it should become an instrument for its members to share their views or concerns on issues of common interest, review progress, identify obstacles, set policy directions, and convey their views and recommendations to intergovern-

## NatureNotes

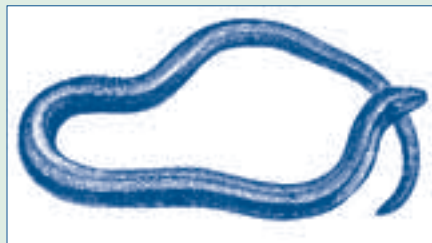
### Slow worm

**Most species of reptiles and amphibians – snakes, frogs, salamanders and turtles – are killed by extremes of heat or cold, so those which live in temperate zones hibernate in the winter.**

**An example is the slow worm *Anguis fragilis*, a legless lizard and perhaps Europe's most common reptile.**

**Slow-worms hibernate in burrows under piles of leaves, in tree roots and in crevices of banks, from October to February or March (depending on the weather).**

**They resemble snakes, but are harmless. You can easily tell the difference: slow worms have eyelids.**







mental forums such as the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GMEF), the UN-HABITAT Governing Council and the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD). In line with the spirit of the Johannesburg Summit, the EMG intends to involve NGOs, the private sector, scientific organizations and other groups of stakeholders in its work.

### Issues on the table

The EMG has so far considered a number of issues such as environmental education and the harmonization of biodiversity-related reporting. These topics are now being dealt with through Issue Management Groups, the results of which will be included in the EMG's report to the GMEF.

One of the most complex and pressing issues on the international agenda in the field of environment and sustainable development is freshwater. The Group decided to consider how it could best contribute to furthering the implementation of the water agenda, bearing in mind that water, sanitation and human settlements will be addressed by the next two-year cycle of the CSD and by the next UNEP Governing Council/GMEF in Jeju, Republic of Korea, in March 2004. It will identify environment-related aspects of the water agenda that would require a consolidated input from the Group.

Other issues to be considered by the EMG include the development by UNEP of an intergovernmental strategic plan on technology support and capacity-building for developing countries. This task, assigned to UNEP by its Governing Council, requires close consultations with both governments and relevant international organisations. The EMG will facilitate the inter-agency consultations by coordinating the input of its members.

At its second session, held in Geneva in September 2003, the EMG returned to the environmental aspects of water, sanitation and human settlements. Participants shared their views on a draft UNEP paper being prepared for the GMEF. The Group agreed to hold further consultations amongst themselves as well as with NGOs and the private sector. The outcomes of the EMG's work will be reported to the GC/GMEF as well as to the 12<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on Sustainable Development next April.

## NatureNotes

### Wild boar

**Wild boar *Sus scrofa* neither hibernate nor migrate, but spend winter nights and early mornings digging for bulbs and tubers, munching on insect larvae and chewing on nuts and other plant material. In Europe they mate in winter, giving birth to as many as a dozen striped piglets in spring.**



## News from the Environment House library

### Paperback exchange...

**In the spirit of sustainable consumption, waste minimization and reuse, the Environment House library has dedicated a shelf to the exchange of paperback books. Since you will normally only read your paperbacks once, we invite you to bring your well-thumbed favorites to the ground-floor library so that other people can read them as well. And next time you forget to bring a book when going on mission, have a look at the paperback collection in the library and choose one for the flight.**

### New acquisitions

**A number of new books on issues related to environment and sustainable development have recently arrived at the library, including:**

**Providing Global Public Goods (2003)**, edited by Inge Kaul, Pedro Conceição, Katell Le Goulven and Ronald U. Mendoza

**Environmental Indicators and Agricultural Policy (1999)**, edited by Floor Brouwer and Bob Crabtree

**The Skeptical Environmentalist (2001)**, by Bjørn Lomborg

**Betrayal of Science and Reason – How anti-Environmental Rhetoric Threatens our Future (1996)**, by Anne H. Ehrlich

**Contesting Global Governance (2000)**, by Robert O'Brien, Anne Marie Goetz, Jan Aart Scholte and Marc Williams

**The Right to Tell – the role of mass media in economic development (2002)**, World Bank Institute Development Studies

**In addition, the library just received the fourth edition of the Encyclopedia of the European Union (July 2003), which includes essays on the European Union and its history, an A-Z list of issues, an overview of the institutions with the names and contact details of unit heads as well as statistical information on the Union and its Member States.**

**Please note that the library would welcome your proposals for new acquisitions – see Fatma Gordon in the library or send an e-mail to [fatma.gordon@unep.ch](mailto:fatma.gordon@unep.ch).**



**Upcoming environment-related events in the Geneva area – 2004**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event (Organizer/contact)</b>
12-16 January	UNCTAD: Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme Budget, Tel: + 41 22 917 1234, <a href="mailto:meetings@unctad.org">meetings@unctad.org</a> - <a href="http://www.unctad.org">www.unctad.org</a>
13-16 January	UNECE: Working Party on Pollution and Energy, Tel: +41 22 917 1315, <a href="mailto:info.ece@unece.org">info.ece@unece.org</a> - <a href="http://www.unece.org/env">www.unece.org/env</a>
14-15 January	UNECE: First Regional Implementation Forum for Sustainable Development, Tel: +41 22 917 1315, <a href="mailto:info.ece@unece.org">info.ece@unece.org</a> - <a href="http://www.unece.org/env">www.unece.org/env</a>
20-21 January	UNECE Committee on Sustainable Energy: Working Party on Gas, Tel: +41 22 917 4444, Fax: +41 22 917 0505, <a href="mailto:info.ece@unece.org">info.ece@unece.org</a> - <a href="http://www.unece.org/ie">www.unece.org/ie</a>
22 January	UNECE Committee on Sustainable Energy: Ad Hoc Group of Experts on the Supply and Use of Gas, Tel: +41 22 917 4444, <a href="mailto:info.ece@unece.org">info.ece@unece.org</a> - <a href="http://www.unece.org">www.unece.org</a>
26-27 January	UNECE Aarhus Convention: second meeting of the Task Force on Electronic Information Tools, Tel: +41 22 917 1879, <a href="mailto:public.participation@unece.org">public.participation@unece.org</a> - <a href="http://www.unece.org/env/pp">www.unece.org/env/pp</a>
26-27 January	UNECE Espoo Convention: Second preparatory meeting for the first meeting of Signatories to the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment, Tel: + 41 22 917 2448, <a href="mailto:eia.conv@unece.org">eia.conv@unece.org</a> - <a href="http://www.unece.org/env/eia">www.unece.org/env/eia</a>
28-30 January	UNECE Espoo Convention: Working Group on Environmental Impact Assessment, Tel: + 41 22 917 2448, <a href="mailto:eia.conv@unece.org">eia.conv@unece.org</a> - <a href="http://www.unece.org/env/eia">www.unece.org/env/eia</a>
2-6 February	Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure: Fifth session of the Interim Chemical Review Committee, Tel: +41 22 917 8183, <a href="mailto:pic@unep.ch">pic@unep.ch</a> - <a href="http://www.pic.int">www.pic.int</a>
9–13 February	UNCTAD Commission on Trade in Goods and Services and Commodities, Eighth session, Tel: +41 22 917 1234, <a href="mailto:meetings@unctad.org">meetings@unctad.org</a> - <a href="http://www.unctad.org">www.unctad.org</a>
16-18 February	UNECE Aarhus Convention: Working Group on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers, Tel: +41 22 917 2384, <a href="mailto:public.participation@unece.org">public.participation@unece.org</a> - <a href="http://www.unece.org/env/pp/prtr.htm">www.unece.org/env/pp/prtr.htm</a>
19-20 February	UNECE: First meeting on Education for Sustainable Development, Tel: +41 22 917 4444, <a href="mailto:info.ece@unece.org">info.ece@unece.org</a> - <a href="http://www.unece.org/env">www.unece.org/env</a>
1-3 March	UNITAR: Thematic Workshop on Synergies for Capacity Building under International Agreements on Chemicals and Waste Management, <a href="mailto:cvm@unitar.org">cvm@unitar.org</a> - <a href="http://www.unitar.org/cwm">www.unitar.org/cwm</a>
12 March	Geneva Environment Network: Roundtable on Human Rights and the Environment, International Environment House, Tel: +41 22 917 8310, <a href="mailto:gen.secretary@unep.ch">gen.secretary@unep.ch</a> - <a href="http://www.environmenthouse.ch">www.environmenthouse.ch</a>
15-17 March	Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics, Tel: +41 22 917 4444, <a href="mailto:info.timber@unece.org">info.timber@unece.org</a> - <a href="http://www.unece.org/trade/timber/Welcome.html">www.unece.org/trade/timber/Welcome.html</a>
15-19 March	50 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the CITES Standing Committee (CITES), Tel: +41 22 917 8139, <a href="mailto:cites@unep.ch">cites@unep.ch</a> - <a href="http://www.cites.org">www.cites.org</a>
26-30 April	Basel Convention: Third Meeting of the Open-ended Working Group, Tel: +41 22 9178 2227, <a href="mailto:milton.catelin@unep.ch">milton.catelin@unep.ch</a> - <a href="http://www.basel.int">www.basel.int</a>
3-14 May	Fourth session of United Nations Forest Forum, Tel: +1 212-963-3160/3401, <a href="mailto:unff@un.org">unff@un.org</a> - <a href="http://www.un.org/esa/forests">www.un.org/esa/forests</a>

**Environment  
House News**

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