



Roundtable on illegal environmental trade

Tuesday, 5 June 2001, 10h30 - 12h30
International Environment House, Room 3

Governments have adopted a number of legal agreements on international trade in wildlife and industrial materials aimed at protecting the global environment. The 1989 Basel Convention regulates the transboundary movement of hazardous wastes. The 1987 Montreal Protocol is phasing out CFCs and other ozone-depleting chemicals while regulating their trade in the meantime (for example in recycled CFCs used to maintain existing equipment). The 1973 Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES) bans trade in 900 species and uses a permit system to ensure sustainable trade in 30,000 others.

Ensuring compliance with these environmental trade rules can present considerable challenges to developed and developing countries alike. Checking all containers at busy ports, accurately identifying innumerable kinds of chemicals and animal parts, and ensuring that people correctly understand and obey the law are just some of the difficulties faced.

This roundtable will explore some of the practical challenges to combating lucrative illegal trade markets. It will focus on how can policy-makers work together to overcome these problems through national efforts and international cooperation.

Programme

- 10:00 Coffee
- 10:30 Introduction by moderator, Frits Schlingemann, Director,
Regional Office for Europe, United Nations Environment Programme
- 10:45 Panel of experts:
 - Sachiko Kuwabara-Yamamoto, Executive Secretary, Basel Convention Secretariat
 - Rajendra Shende, Chief, Energy and OzonAction, United Nations Environment Programme
 - Thierry Uldry, Caviar House International AG
 - Willem Wijnstekers, Secretary-General, CITES Secretariat
- 11:35 Discussion with panelists and participants
- 12:25 Wrap-up by moderator
- 12:30 End