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Ukraine's Prime Minister resigns



Mikola Azarov, Ukraine's Prime Minister, resigned on 28 January, the latest attempt by the administration of President Viktor Yanukovich to defuse an escalating two-month stand-off with anti-government protesters, which began after Mr Yanukovich turned his back on a trade-and-political deal with the European Union in favour of ties with Russia.

In a statement posted on the government website, Mr Azarov, a longtime Yanukovich loyalist and Prime Minister since 2010, explained his decision as being driven in the spirit of "compromise" and desire for a "peaceful resolution to the conflict". Mr Yanukovich accepted the resignation later in the day and ordered Mr Azarov and all ministers to remain in post as acting ministers until a new government is formed. Separately, in line with compromise talks between pro-presidential and opposition politicians, Ukraine's parliament voted by 361 votes to two to repeal controversial anti-protest legislation adopted on 16 January which imposed hefty fines and lengthy jail sentences on protest activities.

Greek Presidency of the EU announces its environmental priorities



On 1 January, Greece assumed the rotating presidency of the Council of the European Union. The highlight for the first half of the year is without any doubt the European elections to be held in all 28 countries. In May, 375 million EU citizens will be able to cast their vote to elect their new representatives for the European Parliament.

The biggest issue on the Presidency's environmental agenda will be the new climate and energy package that was unveiled by the European Commission on 22 January. Other key issues in 2014 will likely include the European Emissions Trading Scheme and emissions from international aviation; shale gas, waste and resource efficiency, and the EU's alternative fuel strategy. Maritime policies is a priority issue that will run horizontally through the Presidency's priorities.

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European Commission proposes 40% emissions target for 2030



The European Commission unveiled a long-awaited proposal for 2030 climate targets on 22 January, confirming plans not to renew the current 20-20-20 strategy for the following decade. The new communication proposes a binding target for reducing emissions by 40% from 1990 levels. Environmentalists dubbed it a "walk now, sprint later" package that would require the EU to decarbonise twice as fast in the last two decades to 2050, as in the four decades before. Notably, however, the reduction target can only be met domestically, unlike the EU's 2020 target, in which member states can meet their obligations by funding international projects in the developing world. At the same time, the Commission has retreated on the idea that there should be a binding renewable energy target on member states. The 2030 target – "up to" a 27% share of renewable energy in the total energy mix – would only be 'binding' at EU level and would not be broken down into national obligations. Without individual obligations on member states it isn't really binding, say critics.

More information [here](#).

New coalition government for Latvia



On 6 January, Latvian President Andris Bērziņš asked Laimdota Straujuma, a 62 year-old economist and Agriculture Minister since 2011, to form a new coalition government, following the resignation of PM Valdis Dombrovskis. Ms Straujuma is the first woman head of government in Latvia. The country has a population of two million, has been an EU member since 2004 and a Eurozone member since 1 January 2014. Ms Straujuma is due to lead this government until the elections planned for October 2014.

Luxembourg has a new government



In December 2013, a new government was installed in Luxembourg, following parliamentary elections in October. Although the then ruling Christian Social Party (CSV) won 23 seats during the election, while the Socialists took 13 seats, the Greens six and the last five seats were shared by two other small parties, opposition parties wanted to create a tricolour alliance (Socialist, Democratic Party, and the Greens) against the "monopartism" style of the CSV. François Bausch, leader of the Greens in the Chamber of Deputies, was appointed Minister for Sustainable Development, Transport, Public Works and Infrastructure. He was first elected to the Chamber of Deputies in 1989. He has also been a member of the communal council of Luxembourg City since 1994. Ms Carole Dieschbourg of the Green Party was appointed Minister of Environment under the Ministry for Sustainable Development, Transport, Public Works and Infrastructure. She was a member of the Echternach communal council between 2011 and 2013.

Cabinet reshuffle in Turkey



PM Erdoğan reshuffled his cabinet in December 2013, following a corruption scandal in Turkey, which led to the resignation of several government ministers, including the one of environment. İdris Güllüce was appointed Minister of Environment and Urban Planning on 26 December 2013. Mr Güllüce is an MP for Istanbul Province of the ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) and was formerly Mayor of the Tuzla municipality in Istanbul, serving three legislative terms. Mr Güllüce has published a book on "Problems of Regional Governments and Their Solutions".

New government for the Czech Republic



On 29 January, a three-party government was sworn in in the Czech Republic, three months after parliamentary elections.

The new Prime Minister is the leader of the Social Democrats (ČSSD), Bohuslav Sobotka. The other parties represented are the Christian Democrats and a parliamentary newcomer, ANO, which hopes to join the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe. Mr Richard Brabec (ANO) has been appointed as Minister of Environment.

II. UNEP ON THE GROUND



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UNEP Live platform launched to fill gaps between data providers and consumers



UNEP Live, a cutting-edge, dynamic new platform to collect, process and share the world's best environmental science and research, was launched on 16 January in Geneva.

UNEP Live will provide data access to both the public and policy makers using distributed networks, cloud computing, big data and improved search functions.

The platform was launched as more than 700 attendees representing the environmental, space, telecommunications and insurance communities gathered at the Tenth Plenary Session of the Group on Earth Observations and the Geneva Ministerial Summit (GEO-X).

Throughout the week, participants discussed the value of earth observation for better understanding and improving human wellbeing.

One of the themes that clearly emerged from the meeting was that significant gaps remain in the collection, analysis and dissemination of environmental data. Indeed, policy making "in the dark" - under high levels of uncertainty and without concrete data - carries high risks and transactional costs that need to be minimized. End users must be able to access data in a meaningful way. To that end, UNEP Live will fill gaps between data providers and consumers.

It will focus on the latest information and emerging issues. Through the platform's apps, multimedia content and digital publishing tools, users will have access to data from UNEP, national and regional resources and other knowledge and data providers.

Moreover, through these tools and resources, UNEP Live will extend the knowledge base for global environmental policy-making and evidence-based analysis.

It will also support the streamlining of national monitoring, reporting and verification of data for global and regional environmental goals, including the post-2015 agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Among the goals of UNEP Live is to provide full and open access to information to people around the world.

See more at: www.unep.org/uneplive

New web platform launched to accelerate green economy transition

A new, state-of-the-art, knowledge-sharing platform was launched in January by the Green Growth Knowledge Platform (GGKP), a diverse consortium of 29 leading institutions and organizations working in areas related to green growth and green economy.

The new platform was unveiled at a high-level dialogue and luncheon hosted by the Geneva Environment Network. Speakers included UN Under-Secretary General and UNEP Executive Director Achim Steiner, Swiss Federal Office for the Environment Director Bruno Oberle, Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) Director-General Howard Bamsey, the World Bank Sustainable Development Network's Chief Economist Marianne Fay and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Trade and Agriculture Directorate's Environment Division Head Dale Andrew. It was moderated by the International Institute for Sustainable Development's Vice President Mark Halle.

The new GGKP platform features a searchable e-library with over 600 technical and policy resources, as well as dashboards with data and policies for 193 countries. It mobilises knowledge, experience and support from disparate partners in both the global economic and environmental arenas with the aim of accelerating green growth. "Through world-class knowledge management, the GGKP is able to provide decision makers with the policy analysis, guidance, information and tools necessary to support a green economy transition," said Mr Bamsey of GGGI.

The event also celebrated the GGKP's new home in Geneva, and confirmed a CHF 1.6 million (US \$1.7 million), three-year commitment from the Swiss government. Mr Oberle said: "Geneva is already host to a number of different international organizations, NGOs, think tanks, and academic institutions working on green growth, building a green economy cluster. We are very excited to have the GGKP establish its roots here."

Moving forward, the GGKP will work with its partners to coordinate research on a number of priority themes, including green growth indicators and measurement, trade and competitiveness, green technology and innovation and fiscal instruments.

More information [here](http://www.ggkplive.org).





Amur Falcon. © Chandu Bandi

UN General Assembly proclaims 3 March as World Wildlife Day

On 20 December 2013, the 68th session of the United Nations General Assembly decided to proclaim 3 March, the day of the adoption of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), as World Wildlife Day, to celebrate and raise awareness of the world's wild fauna and flora.



**WORLD
WILDLIFE DAY
3 MARCH**

In its resolution, the General Assembly reaffirmed the intrinsic value of wildlife and its various contributions, including ecological, genetic, social, economic, scientific, educational, cultural, recreational and aesthetic, to sustainable development and human well-being, and recognized the important role of CITES in ensuring that international trade does not threaten the species' survival.

The General Assembly requested the CITES Secretariat, in collaboration with relevant organizations of the United Nations system, to facilitate the implementation of World Wildlife Day.

Welcoming the news, CITES Secretary-General, Mr John E. Scanlon, said, "World Wildlife Day is an ideal opportunity to celebrate the many beautiful and varied forms of wild fauna and flora and raise awareness of the multitude of benefits that conservation provides to people. At the same time, the Day reminds us of the urgent need to step up the fight against wildlife crime, which has wide-ranging economic, environmental and social impacts."

"We invite all member states, relevant organizations of the United Nations system as well as all other interested organizations and individuals - from airports to museums to schools - to get involved in this global celebration of wildlife", added Scanlon.

The CITES Secretariat has created a dedicated World Wildlife Day Facebook page to share news and stories of the Day, which can be followed at: <https://www.facebook.com/WorldWildlifeDay>. The hashtag for the day is #worldwildlifeday. A thunderclap will be also organized.

Managing resource wealth in fragile states

In Geneva, on 11 December 2013, UNEP and the World Bank co-hosted a full day expert meeting on geo-mapping extractive resources in fragile states, with a specific focus on the g7+ countries – a voluntary grouping of 18 fragile and conflict-affected states. These countries boast some of the most abundant reserves of natural resources that if managed well have the potential to accelerate growth and development. However, while many of the g7+ countries are rich in natural resources, they face challenges ensuring that the exploitation of their resource wealth results in multiple development benefits, including revenues, jobs and infrastructure.

Following a direct request from the g7+ secretariat, UNEP and the World Bank are working together to produce a series of interactive maps to help fragile states strengthen information transparency on resource contract boundaries and ownership and to help visualize interactions between resource contracts and different kinds of environmental, social and natural hazard risks. The mapping platform also provides a common and accurate pool of resource contract information to all stakeholders to help equalize information asymmetries and inform expectations. Efforts are now underway to finalize the first three prototypes maps for Afghanistan, DR Congo, and Sierra Leone.

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Raptor experts meet in Edinburgh to plan conservation of migratory birds of prey

New priorities were set to assist signatory states in implementing the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Birds of Prey in Africa and Eurasia (Raptors MoU). The First Meeting of the Technical Advisory Group to the Raptors MOU brought together eminent raptor specialists to develop a two-year work plan aimed at addressing threats to migratory birds of prey. It convened on 20-23 January in Edinburgh, Scotland, thanks to the generous support received from the UK Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), the Scottish Government, and Scottish Natural Heritage.

Raptors act as sentinels to the health of the environment, including for human well-being. The conservation status of most of these species is currently classified under IUCN criteria as 'unfavourable', primarily due to human-related factors.

Addressing the main threats to migratory birds of prey, such as electrocution, poisoning and illegal persecution are the highest priorities for the next two years. Since many of these threats also affect other wildlife species, the Group recognized the need to work with other Multilateral Environmental Agreements to achieve effective outcomes. Governments, industry, landowners as well as scientists and conservation bodies also need to play a role in this process.

The Technical Advisory Group was established in July 2013. It comprises ten Regional Representatives covering Africa, Asia, Europe, the Middle East and North Africa, five additional raptors specialists, and a representative from BirdLife International, the IUCN delegated Red List Authority for birds.

Acknowledging the logistical challenges of working in a geographically widespread group, the Raptors MOU has developed an online Workspace: an innovative and powerful platform that facilitates participation, promotes communication, and provides real opportunities for online collaboration for members of the Group.

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Hundreds of millions of hectares face degradation threat - UNEP report warns

Up to 849 million hectares of natural land – nearly the size of Brazil – may be degraded by 2050 should current trends of unsustainable land use continue, warns a report by UNEP launched at Davos, Switzerland on 24 January.

The need to feed a growing number of people globally has led to more land being converted to cropland at the expense of the world's savannah, grassland and forests.

This has resulted in widespread environmental degradation and loss of biodiversity, affecting an estimated 23% of global soil.

Agriculture currently consumes more than 30% of the world's land area, and cropland covers around 10% of global land.

Between 1961 and 2007, cropland expanded by 11%, a trend that continues to grow.

The report, entitled "Assessing Global Land Use: Balancing Consumption with Sustainable Supply", was produced by the International Resource Panel, a consortium of 27 internationally renowned resource scientists, 33 national governments and other groups, hosted by UNEP.

UN Under-Secretary-General and UNEP Executive Director, Achim Steiner, said: "Recommendations from the report are meant to inform policy and contribute to on-going discussions on targets and indicators for sustainable resources management as the world charts a new course for sustainable development post-2015."

The report outlines the need and options to balance consumption with sustainable production.

It focuses on land-based products, such as food, fuels and fibre, and describes methods to enable countries to determine whether their consumption levels exceed sustainable supply capacities.

At the same time it distinguishes between gross and net expansion of cropland.

While net expansion is a result of rising demand for food and non-food biomass – which cannot be compensated by higher yields – gross expansion comprises the shift of cropland to other areas due to losses caused by severe degradation.

Under a business-as-usual scenario, the net expansion of cropland will range from 120 to 500 million hectares by 2050.

Shifts to more protein-rich diets in developing countries and a growing demand for biofuels and biomaterials, especially in developed countries, are increasing the demand for land.

To download a copy of the report, please visit: www.unep.org/resourcepanel

Basel Waste Solutions Circle launches membership drive



The Basel Waste Solutions Circle is a global initiative to promote the protection of human health and livelihood through the environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes worldwide.

Launched by the Parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal in 2009, the Circle kicked off a global membership drive on 21 January 2014 to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Basel Convention.

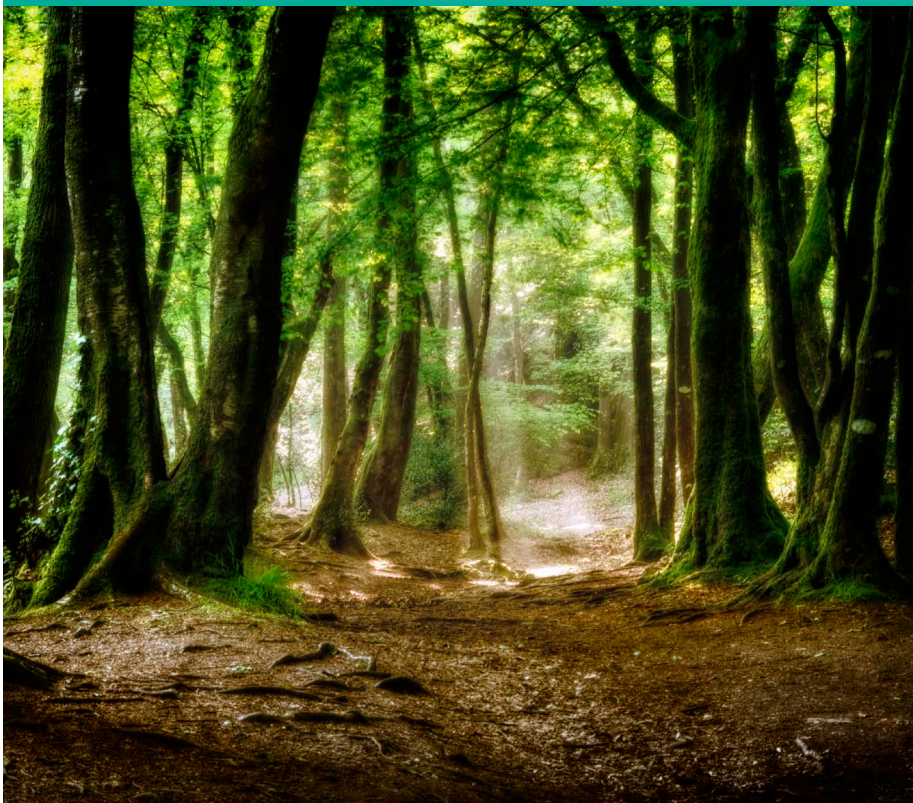
The Basel Waste Solutions Circle is composed of members who demonstrably contribute in a concrete manner to the implementation of the Basel Convention. Membership to the Circle is open to governments, intergovernmental organizations, public interest and civil society groups at all levels, professional organizations, industrial organizations, academic institutions, private enterprises, communities and individuals that implement an activity recognized under the Circle.

The 2015 Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention will recognize those admitted to the Circle during 2014. The Conference will honour the best activities in each of three categories:

- Successful projects and initiatives that demonstrate a direct impact on human health and/or the environment on the ground through the environmentally sound management of wastes;
- Successful projects and initiatives that demonstrate a concrete change of behaviour of target groups in relation to the environmentally sound management of wastes;
- Financial support or successful mobilization of resources for activities that achieve the environmentally sound management of wastes.

For more information, visit www.basel.int/bwsc or email michael.jones@brsmeas.org





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Valuing Europe's forests and paying for ecosystem services contribute to a Green Economy

During European Forest Week (9-13 December 2013), three UN agencies called upon governments to consider scaling up payments to European forest owners for serving as stewards for these valuable resources, although they said such payments should be complementary to government legislation, regulation or democratic accountability.

On 10 December, UNEP, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) released a joint report calling for the payment of ecosystem services (PES) to be used as a tool to "complement" government measures to manage Europe's forest ecosystems in a sustainable manner.

The report, "The value of forests: Payment for ecosystem services in a green economy", said payment for ecosystem services is an incentive for public and private partners to protect key forest areas, but it still requires the appropriate legislative framework to be cost-effective.

Highlighting the indisputable benefits derived from Europe's forests - such as clean air, fresh water, food, medicine and shelter - the report examines how paying foresters for these benefits can promote rural development and ensure that rural populations maintain their incomes and livelihoods. It also fits within the proposed ECE/FAO Action Plan for the Forest Sector in a Green Economy.

PES mechanisms encompass a range of measures to ensure that as forest resources are used by different sectors, incentives are available for users and suppliers alike to help keep these resources healthy and productive.

The report cites the example of Coca-Cola® bottling plant at the Tagua Reservoir, Portugal, which has agreed to pay local forest owners to maintain their forests, which help filter and protect this resource so the bottling plant has access to pure water. This successful example is the kind of win-win solution that PES can provide.

More information [here](#).

UNEP partners with EU to promote ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction

Around the world natural disasters such as floods, earthquakes and drought continue to wreak havoc, steal human life, and trigger massive financial losses. With more people living in settlements vulnerable to flooding and other adverse climate conditions, the need for achieving sustainable and disaster-resilient development is urgent.

UNEP is now collaborating with the European Commission on a three-year project to promote ecosystem-based solutions for disaster risk reduction, also known as Eco-DRR. These projects are being implemented in Afghanistan, Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Haiti to demonstrate that sustainably managing ecosystems can reduce disaster risk and provide livelihoods to vulnerable communities.

In January 2014, through these Eco-DRR projects, UNEP, together with local NGOs, delivered a series of environmental workshops aimed at promoting environmental awareness and enhancing disaster preparedness. Trainings were tailored to the local context and to the specific type of ecosystem-based intervention. In Sudan, UNEP's implementing partner, Practical Action, held an awareness raising sessions with five local communities covering issues related to climate change, drought, soil conservation, and farming techniques. In Afghanistan, where efforts are focused on building community resilience through landscape planning, trainings for early warning and disaster preparedness were carried out in seven villages in Bamyan.

Together this work forms a key component of the Eco-DRR projects which aims to foster community engagement and build local capacity to sustain and replicate similar initiatives in other vulnerable regions.

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Sudan Awareness Raising Event.

Green jobs for sustainable development: myth or reality?

Many countries are becoming interested in investment and development strategies that stimulate growth, create jobs and enhance social inclusion in a green economy. Recognising this growing trend, the Rio+20 Outcome Document "The Future We Want" devoted a full section on promoting full and productive employment, decent work for all, and social protection. It encouraged each country to consider the implementation of green economy policies in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, in a manner that endeavours to drive sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and job creation, particularly for women, youth and the poor.

However, what is the evidence that greener economies create more and better jobs? An event, hosted by the Geneva Environment Network Secretariat in December 2013, discussed national experiences from developed and developing countries in promoting green and decent jobs. The panel, moderated by Kamal Gueye from the International Labour Organization (ILO) included Steven STONE, Head of UNEP Economics and Trade Branch, Ulrike LEHR, from the Institute of Economic Structures Research (GWS) in Germany, Riad Mohammed AKHTAR SULTAN, from the University of Mauritius, Monia BRAHAM, from the Ministry of Equipment and Environment of Tunisia, and Regina GALHARDI from ILO Mexico.

The panel started the discussion on addressing environmental challenges by creating decent jobs. There is evidence from research on the issue of green jobs. Much money is moved in the green jobs sectors, and indirect jobs arising from the shift to greener economies are twice as high as direct jobs. Overall, a positive economic impact of greening was detected.

Through its Green Jobs Programme, the International Labour Organization is working with governments, social partners and other stakeholders to understand better the potential impacts on employment of greening initiatives, with a view to promote i) growth in employment, ii) quality jobs, and iii) social inclusion through innovative social protection mechanisms.

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E-Waste patent landscape report launch

The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) has been mandated to prepare patent landscape reports in areas of particular interest to developing and least developed countries, such as public health, food security, climate change and environment. For that purpose, WIPO is developing in cooperation with interested external partners the scope of each report.

The e-Waste Recycling Technologies Patent Landscape Report was prepared in the context of collaboration of WIPO with the Secretariat of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, which is administered by UNEP. The report aims at providing patent based evidence on the available technologies and the patenting trends in the area of electronic waste (e-waste) recycling and material recovery, while it is intended to provide background and supporting information to the Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment under the Basel Convention and complement the Guideline on Material Recovery and Recycling of End-of-Life Mobile Phones and the Guideline on Environmentally Sound Material Recovery and Recycling of End-of-Life Computing Equipment. The report was launched in cooperation with the Geneva Environment Network Secretariat in December 2013.

It was the occasion to remind that the lack of a standard definition of e-waste creates problems of quantification and identification of the sector. Around 50 million tons of e-waste are generated globally annually and that domestic generation accounts for a significant proportion of e-waste in all countries. Around 15 to 20% of the world's e-waste is recycled annually; however, e-waste recycling rates are progressing at an average rate of 18% annually.

The North-South direction of e-waste trade is shifting to a South-South direction. By 2025, the developing world will generate double the developed world's waste computers.

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Ms Kerstin Stendhal, Deputy Executive Secretary, Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions



Jan Dusik appointed Director of the UNEP Regional Office for Europe

Jan Dusik, a longtime champion of sustainable development both at the intergovernmental level and in his native Czech Republic, has been appointed as the new Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Regional Office for Europe.

Mr Dusik joined UNEP in July 2011 as the Deputy Director of the Regional Office for Europe, assuming the role of Acting Director and Regional Representative later that year.

Born in 1975 in Plzen, Czech Republic, Mr Dusik graduated with a Doctorate in Law in 2001 from the Law School of the Charles University in Prague. In 2002, he received a Master's of Science in Environmental Change and Management from the University of Oxford, United Kingdom.

Between 1998 and 2009 he held progressively responsible functions in the Ministry of Environment of the Czech Republic, including heading the European Union Department, through the Director General for International Relations, Deputy and First Deputy Minister.

Mr Dusik was the lead coordinator for the Czech Republic's Presidency of the EU Environmental Council in the first half of 2009. He was appointed as the Minister of the Environment of the Czech Republic in the care-taker government in November 2009, a role in which he served until March 2010. He has headed the delegation of the Czech Republic at numerous meetings of parties of multilateral conventions and international organizations and their bodies, including the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), and UNEP.

He also served as Vice-President of the Bureau of the UNEP Governing Council in 2007-2009, twice chairing the Committee of the Whole, and was the Chairman of the Bureau of the Aarhus Convention between 2008 and 2011.

Mr Dusik has been a staunch advocate of UNEP's work supporting the global transition to an inclusive green economy, representing the organization at a number of major international venues.



Fatoumata Keita-Ouane is the new Head of the Chemical Branch



Ms Fatoumata Keita-Ouane, a national of Mali, took office as the new Head of Chemicals Branch, Division of Technology, Industry and Economics, UNEP in January.

Ms Keita-Ouane holds a degree in Pharmaceutical Sciences and an advanced degree in Toxicology from the "Université Catholique de Louvain", Belgium.

She began her international career in Geneva at the World Health Organization's Division of Pharmaceuticals and then worked in UNEP's International Register of Potentially Toxic Chemicals (IRPTC), which later evolved to become Chemicals

Branch, until 2006. She was responsible for chemical management capacity building, particularly in African countries. Mr Keita-Ouane also initiated activities to build national chemical management infrastructures and supported countries with the negotiations of the Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions.

From 2006 to 2010, Mr Keita-Ouane was appointed Senior Scientific Affairs Officer at the Stockholm Convention Secretariat and led the establishment of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee and the Effectiveness Evaluation Programme for the Convention.

In 2010, she moved to the Division of Early Warning and Assessment (DEWA) where she held the post of Chief of the Scientific Assessment Branch.

John E. Scanlon receives 2013 International Environmental Law Award

The Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL) announced on 30 December 2013 that it had awarded the 2013 International Environmental Law Award to John E. Scanlon, Secretary General of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). The annual award recognises individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the effort to achieve solutions to environmental problems through international law and institutions.

Mr Scanlon has been honoured for his life-long contributions to safeguarding environmental integrity and human rights in the management of river basins and dams, to the understanding of the indispensable role of public participation in international environmental governance, and for his on-going leadership of CITES.

"Mr Scanlon has made significant contributions to our understanding of the intersecting legal, ethical and environmental dimensions--and values--that must inform water governance in the 21st century and beyond," said CIEL President Carroll Muffett. He also noted Mr Scanlon's leadership on environmental law within the International Union for Conservation of Nature and on work on international environmental governance within UNEP.

As CITES celebrates its 40th year, the award also recognizes Mr Scanlon's role in fostering a maturing understanding of the Convention and in the recognition of CITES's major role in achieving long term goals for the conservation of biological diversity.

More information [here](#).



UNEP and partners gear up to mainstream mountains into the Post-2015 development agenda

Following-up the 4th Global Meeting of the Mountain Partnership (MP) in Erzurum, Turkey in autumn last year, UNEP - through its Vienna Office - is currently gearing up together with other partners to mainstream mountain-related issues into the SDG debate.

Mountains provide various ecosystems goods and services, such as water, energy, and food, which are important to the lowland areas and thus global sustainable development. The importance of mountains has been also acknowledged in the recent Rio+20 outcome document "The Future we want" and its "mountains" section further reinforced by the recently endorsed UN GA Resolution on Sustainable mountain development.

In order to provide policy-makers, in particular members of the Open Working Group (OWG) meeting in New York, with a guidance for discussions, UNEP together with its collaborating centre GRID Arendal, the Austrian Development Agency (ADA), Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, CDE Bern and FAO and other partners including the Alpine and Carpathian Convention is preparing a series of thematic briefs related to mountain-specific clusters such as energy, climate change and disaster risk reduction, and forestry/biodiversity.

At the margins of the 7th session of the OWG in New York on 6-10 January, a side event was held entitled "Building resilience to climate change in mountain regions" to raise the issue for mountains in the current SDG debate. The event was organized by FAO in cooperation with UNEP. At the event, diplomats from Argentina, Italy, Kyrgyzstan and Peru stressed the need for global attention to mountains. UNEP and its collaborating centre GRID Arendal presented the produced policy brief called "Why mountains matter for climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction – A Call for Action on the SDGs", capitalizing on the various information and data gained throughout numerous projects and activities of UNEP and its partners.

For the produced briefs and more information on the event, see [here](#) and [here](#).



Why mountains matter for the SDGs

On 11 December, International Mountain Day, UNEP's Vienna Office - Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention (ISCC) organized the public event "The Post-2015 Agenda - Why mountains matter for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)" to raise awareness for mountain-related issues in the context of the current Post-2015 discussions. The event was organized by UNEP office in Vienna and UNIS Vienna in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water of Austria (Lebensministerium), the Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC), GRID Arendal (GRIDA), the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences of Vienna (BOKU), the European Academy Bolzano (EURAC) and the Carpathian Convention.

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Sustainable tourism and accessibility in mountain areas

On the occasion of the celebration of International Mountain Day (11 December as designated by the UN General Assembly), UNEP's Vienna Office - Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention (ISCC) supported the Italian Presidency of the Alpine Convention, the Italian Ministry of the Environment and the University of Camerino in the organization of the ninth edition of the SWOMM (Scientific Workshop on Mountain Mobility). The event was held at the Vienna International Centre and it also benefitted from the support of the Austrian Environmental Agency, the Austrian Ministry of the Environment and the European Academy Bolzano (EURAC).

The meeting focused on mobility and sustainable tourism, with a special focus on the accessibility in mountain areas in the Alps and the Carpathians, on the basis of the project "Access2Mountain". The workshop was attended by over fifty experts and representatives coming from ten countries of the areas of the Alps and the Carpathians.

The event provided a special opportunity for the exchange of experiences and best practices between the two Conventions and for strengthening the importance of developing further forms of cooperation and synergy between the Alps and Carpathians, also considering the upcoming adoption of the Protocol on Sustainable Transport of the Carpathian Convention.

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III. ON THE CALENDAR

Regional meeting on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management

The SAICM secretariat, in collaboration with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), is organizing the fifth EU-JUSSCANNZ regional meeting on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) in Paris, on 14 February at the OECD Headquarters.

The aim of the meeting is to review progress and provide guidance on implementation of SAICM, identify regional priorities, exchange experience and share information on activities undertaken at the national and regional levels, review and provide input to the draft document on the Overall Orientation and Guidance to facilitate achievement of the 2020 goal of sound chemicals management and to consult within the region on preparations for the upcoming second meeting of the Open-ended Working Group and the fourth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM4).

The EU-JUSSCANNZ regional meeting is the fourth in the series of regional meetings to be organized by the secretariat since ICCM3 held in Nairobi in September 2012.

More information [here](#).

Next TACC Workshop

On 4 and 5 March 2014 UNEP and the European Union (EU) funded Project Clima East, in partnership with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Moldova, will organize a "Territorial Approach to Climate Change (TACC) and EU Climate Action" Workshop in Chisinau, Moldova.

The TACC workshop will introduce climate change impacts in Moldova, mitigation and adaptation strategies, energy efficiency in buildings and sustainable transport options, and the resources to finance integrated energy efficiency and renewable energy projects in municipalities. The workshop will also address lessons learned in climate change initiatives such as the Covenant of Mayors as well as best practices in the Eastern European countries. Participants will include high level representatives from local authorities and the national government from Moldova.

TACC is a joint partnership between four UN agencies (UNDP, UNEP, UNITAR and UN-Habitat) whose purpose is to increase knowledge and capacity of local authorities to identify risks and opportunities related to climate change at a sub-national level. Clima East is an EU funded project that assists the Eastern Neighbourhood Partnership Countries and the Russian Federation in approaches to climate change mitigation and adaptation.

More information: www.uncclean.org/tacc ; www.climaeast.eu/

National Training Workshop for Green Economy simulation analysis

Under the EU, OECD, UNECE, UNEP, and UNIDO's partnership project "Greening Economies in the Eastern Neighbourhood" (EaP GREEN), UNEP in collaboration with the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of Ukraine will organize a training workshop for Green Economy simulation analysis on 10-11 February in Kiev, Ukraine. The main objective of the workshop is to introduce methodologies and tools for Green Economy quantitative assessments, including different types of simulation models and to discuss and plan next steps for conducting assessments in Ukraine. In addition to the theoretical part of the workshop, the participants will also have an opportunity to do practical exercises on scenario analysis. The workshop is primarily targeted to economists working on economic modelling and statisticians, as well as representatives from government agencies and key economy sectors and other relevant stakeholders.

Training of trainers on Sustainable Public Procurement

Under the EaP GREEN programme, UNEP is organizing a training of trainers for the participants from three countries, namely Azerbaijan, Moldova and Ukraine. The training will take place from 11 to 11 March in Paris, France. Its purpose is to train participants on the implementation of the UNEP Approach to Sustainable Public Procurement (SPP) and allow participants to practice the use of facilitation techniques to assist in the delivery of the UNEP Approach to SPP in their countries. The training is targeted to international and national consultants, as well as government counterparts involved in public procurement process and who will be carrying out national level activities following the training.