Implementing climate change goals and commitments through partnerships

Patricia Chaves (Partnerships Team) opened the discussion by noting that 26 partnerships in the CSD partnerships database listed their primary area of focus as climate change and emissions reductions.

Kevin Conrad (Coalition for Rainforest Nations) pointed out that no provision is made for emissions from deforestation in the Kyoto Protocol, even though deforestation accounts for 18-20 per cent of GHG emitted by human activity. He stressed that inequities are inherent in the commercial practice of buying raw materials from developing countries and transforming them into products which are sold for 100 times the initial price paid. The Coalition for Rainforest Nations seeks partners to achieve greater sustainable development and to initiate reform in regulatory frameworks. In November 2005, nine rainforest countries, led by Papua New Guinea and Costa Rica, proposed that countries reduce deforestation below a given baseline in order to be eligible for carbon credits, which other countries could then buy instead of cutting their emissions.

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United States Clean Energy Initiative (CEI)

This umbrella energy initiative aims to increase access to modern energy services, promote clean transportation fuels, indoor cooking and heating practices, and improve the productivity and efficiency of current energy systems. The wide range of partnerships and projects presented at this session focused on: creating markets cleaner and more energy-efficient technologies, products and services; promoting public leadership that spurs demand for efficient energy products and advancing sustainable buildings and community development.

The initiative provides an open network for distributed peer production of models and tools for energy smart community planning, design and development. Specific examples of community partnerships for sustainable energy included: the Global Energy Network—an international network of centers helping communities develop integrated and sustainable energy systems; the Alliance to Save Energy—focuses on buildings and utility efficiency, energy and water efficiency, and efficient industrial processes; CLASP—focuses on energy efficiency standards, labels and testing; and PEPS—which works to create markets for energy efficient products and services through government energy management programs and alternative financing.

Asia-Pacific Environmental Innovation Strategy Project (APEIS)

The APEIS partnership aims to develop and promote scientific knowledge-based tools and policy options for sustainable development. Mikiko Kainuma (Climate Policy Assessment Section, National Institute for Environmental Studies, Japan) provided an overview of the initiative, outlining how APEIS supports policy-making processes by supplying tools and databases. She described the three sub-projects of APEIS: Integrated Environmental Monitoring (IEM), Integrated Environmental Assessment (IEA) and Research on Innovative and Strategic Policy Options (RISPO). The sub project IEM utilizes satellite observation and an ecological observation network to assess ecosystem services and detect ecosystem vulnerability. The sub project IEA concentrates on the potential for innovative strategies to achieve win-win situations for economic development and the environment. The third subproject, RISPO, will carry out an economy-wide policy impact assessment. Specific sectors will be more thoroughly analyzed and the results described in three scenarios, which will vary by economic performance of the region. The outcome of this sub project area will be a delineation of economic, social and environmental implications of policy options.

Ancha Srinivasan, (Climate Policy Project, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)) gave a brief overview of the institute’s involvement in the RISPO project. The focus of the collaboration by IGES is on the potential impacts of trade on the environment.
The EEP partnership promotes the use of renewable energy sources and clean technologies in Central America, and aims to make energy services more accessible to the poor, particularly to those in rural areas. Markku Nurmi (Ministry of Environment, Finland) provided an overview of the initiative, stressing that EEP seeks to contribute to the region's efforts towards achieving sustainable development and mitigating of global climate change.

Dr. Nurmi pointed out that the numerous renewable energy projects carried out by EEP help foster regional cooperation. The partnership introduces pilot projects with a high level of expertise, to serve as examples for replication by other initiatives. The experience gained by EEP can then be used and adapted for other contexts. The partnership fosters ownership by partner governments and communities, who are closely involved in all steps of project planning and implementation.

Dr. Nurmi announced that the initiative has introduced a carbon finance guide to promote and clarify the steps involved in the implementation of CDM projects in the region.

Ricardo Ulate (Ministry of Environment and Energy, Costa Rica) pointed out that the success of the EEP is a promising beginning and a substantial contribution to regional sustainable development plans. The integration of the work of energy and environmental ministries is viewed as important in this regard to ensure a compatibility of the energy sector with sustainable development goals of the country.

The Energy and Environment Partnership with Central America (EEP)

“Satisfying the energy needs of Central America and mitigating global climate change”

White Water to Blue Water (WW2BW)

The WW2BW partnership focuses on sustainability of small economies of the Caribbean region and aims to improve collaboration between governments, international organizations, NGOs and the private sector. The initiative also seeks to enhance existing partnerships and promote new partnerships to advocate best practices and provide training.

Garfield Barnwell, (Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM)) provided an overview of the initiative. He stressed that the rationale for forming the initiative stemmed from the recognition that watersheds, marine and coastal ecosystems are under threat in the region. Given the interlinkages between these systems and the economies and livelihoods of the societies in the region (e.g. tourism and sugar production), the partnership aims to intervene in these areas. Specific priority areas identified to achieve these efforts include: integrated watershed management; marine ecosystem-based management; sustainable tourism; and environmentally sound marine transportation.

Mr. Barnwell said that there is recognition of the overlapping natures of the topics and that the initiative promotes new approaches of integrated management. He pointed out that partnership aims to include scientific knowledge in the formulation of projects and incorporates a wide range of experience from all levels of cooperation into its activities.

Adela Backiel, (United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)) mentioned the initiative's “Communicating Successes Primer”, which provide simple guidelines and indicators for communicating the successes of WW2BW partnerships.

“Globally, 80% of marine pollution is derived from land-based sources”
The ISED partnership works to develop energy indicators to assess progress towards a sustainable energy future; assist countries in energy and statistical capacity building and supplement the general indicators effort being undertaken by the CSD.

Mr. McDonald presented an overview of recent developments within the initiative. He referred to two publications that provide details on indicators and how to use them along with practical case studies: Energy Indicators for Sustainable Development: Methodologies and Guidelines. Vienna, IAEA, 2005; and the Natural Resources Forum, Special Issue on Policy Applications of Energy Indicators, 29 (4): November 2005. Both these documents were prepared by the five agency partners: IAEA, UN/DESA, EUROSTAT, the European Environment Agency and the International Energy Agency. Case studies were drawn from the seven country partners: Brazil, Cuba, Lithuania, Mexico, the Russian Federation, Slovakia and Thailand.

Mr. McDonald stressed that these indicators are intended for use in national analyses and self assessment, and that they are not meant to set up pass-fail situations or international benchmarking. A country can use the indicators to see where it is going and how to adjust its policy.

He mentioned that uses of the indicators in IAEA analytic tools include IAEA models that calculate indicators; inclusion of indicators in IAEA databases and IAEA training programs.

The Indicators for Sustainable Energy Development (ISED) presentation took place at the CSD-14 Partnerships Fair on 3 May 2006 from 5:10 - 6:00 pm.

Climate change goals and commitments (continued)

continued from Page 1

own emissions.

Markku Nurmi (Energy and Environment Partnership with Central America (EEP)) described the work of this initiative between Finland and seven Central American countries. EEP aims to promote renewable energy projects, and holds annual partnership forums to showcase good practices, which are attended by Ministers of both Energy and the Environment. Dr. Nurmi highlighted Finland’s expertise in renewable energy solutions and the country’s ability to provide technical assistance to partners in technology and policy areas. He stressed that the partnership has large private sector participation on all sides.

Kim Lundgren (Cities for Climate Protection Campaign) outlined how this initiative of local governments achieves reductions in local greenhouse gas emissions, improves air quality, and enhances overall urban livability. She spoke of how the partnership assists local authorities in quantifying results of good practices, demonstrating, for example, reductions in CO2 emissions. The partnership develops a baseline, sets reduction targets, prepares action plans for municipalities, implements the plans and verifies results. She pointed out that ICLEI works with local agencies and local and regional NGOs, providing clean air and climate protection software and toolkits. Ms. Lundgren stressed that action from local governments can have a significant impact on climate protection and provided examples from Costa Rica and South Africa where the use of renewable energy and market incentives helped prevent deforestation.

The need for flexible incentives that deliver benefits to communities in developing countries was stressed. Incentives suggested included: mayors combining purchasing power to demand vehicles that causes less pollution; co-generation of waste heat from the production of electricity such as in Scandinavia and the steam system in New York City; hybrid electric buses; and tax credits for green building.
At the Partnerships Fair Information Desks (May 3)

Sustainable Rural development and Ecovillage Training Program

In the Partnerships Fair Today (May 9)

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<td>10:45 - 11:25 Global Village Energy Partnership (GVEP)</td>
<td>3:00 - 4:25 Closing Session and “Partnerships in Practice” interactive discussion on Working in Collaboration: Partnership Networking and Relationship-building</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Sarah Adams, GVEP Technical Secretariat</td>
<td>Chair: Azanaw Abreha, Vice-Chair CSD-14 Lead Discussants:</td>
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<td>• Marta Rivera, Fondacion Solar, Guatemala</td>
<td>• Ross Andrews, UK Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA)</td>
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<td>• Gregory Woodsworth, UNDP Regional Energy</td>
<td>• Jane Ross, International Partnership for Sustainable Development in Mountain Regions (Mountain Partnership)</td>
<td>• Renewable Energy Policy Network for the 21st Century</td>
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<td>• Don Melinick, Columbia University</td>
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<td>• Geoffrey Heal, Columbia University</td>
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<td>• Kevin Conrad, Columbia University</td>
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<td>12:15 - 1:00 Strategic Partnership Among Benin, Bhutan and Costa Rica for Co-operation on Sustainable Development</td>
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<td>• Nim Dorji, SDS, Bhutan</td>
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<td>• Eugenia Wo Ching Sancho, Costa Rica</td>
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<td>• Severin Asse, Benin</td>
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