

## ENVIRONMENT RELATED INSTITUTIONS - II

### KYOTO PROTOCOL- WHAT IT MEANS

The Kyoto Protocol, an international and legally binding agreement to reduce greenhouse gas emissions worldwide, entered into force on 16 February 2005.

#### Responsibility and vulnerability

- The Convention places the heaviest burden for fighting climate change on industrialized nations, since they are the source of most past and current greenhouse gas emissions. These countries are asked to do the most to cut what comes out of smokestacks and tailpipes, and to provide most of the money for efforts elsewhere. For the most part, these developed nations, called “Annex I” countries because they are listed in the first annex to the treaty, belong to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).
  - These advanced nations, as well as 12 “economies in transition” (countries in Central and Eastern Europe, including some states formerly belonging to the Soviet Union) were expected by the year 2000 to reduce emissions to 1990 levels. As a group, they succeeded.
  - Industrialized nations agree under the Convention to support climate-change activities in developing countries by providing financial support to these countries. A system of grants and loans has been set up through the Convention and is managed by the Global Environment Facility
- . Industrialized countries also agree to share technology with less-advanced nations. Because economic development is vital for the world’s poorer countries and because such progress is difficult to achieve even without the complications added by climate change the Convention accepts that the share of greenhouse gas emissions produced by developing nations will grow in the coming years. It nonetheless seeks to help such countries limit emissions in ways that will not hinder their economic progress. The Convention acknowledges the vulnerability of developing countries to climate change and calls for special efforts to ease the consequences.

## NON GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATION

A non-governmental organization (NGO) is an organization that is not part of a government. It is largely funded by private contributions that operate outside of institutionalized government or political structures. NGOs are therefore typically independent of governments. In general, NGOs have their agendas. There are many NGOs that are committed to the cause of wildlife conservation, environmental protection, resource conservation and sustainable development.

Activities and areas of important international and national NGOs working in environmental field are given below.

### INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE (IUCN)

International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) is the world's oldest and largest global environmental network – a democratic membership union with more than 1,000 government and NGO member organizations, and almost 1 1,000 volunteer scientists in more than 160 countries. IUCN's work is supported by over 1,000 professional staff in 60 offices and hundreds of partners in public, NGO and private sectors around the world. The Union's headquarters are located in Gland, near Geneva, in Switzerland. IUCN works to develop pragmatic solutions to the most pressing environment and development challenges. It supports scientific research, manages field projects all over the world and brings governments, non-government organizations, United Nations agencies, companies and local communities together to develop and implement policy, laws and best practice.

#### IUCN's vision and mission

- To influence, encourage and assist societies throughout the world to conserve the integrity and diversity of nature and to ensure that any use of natural resources is equitable and ecologically sustainable.

- The nature provides all the basic requirements of life including water, food, clean air, energy and shelter so it must be protected and used wisely. But social and economic development must also continue to reduce poverty and improve people's lives.
- The backbone of all life on earth, including our own, is biodiversity – the intricate network of animals, plants and the places where they live. Conserving biodiversity – stopping the extinction of animal and plant species, and stopping the destruction of natural places – is the core of IUCN's work.
- Profoundly linked to biodiversity are four of humankind's greatest challenges: climate change, energy, livelihoods and economics. IUCN therefore works on each of these four areas through its core work on biodiversity.

## Functions

1. Knowledge: IUCN develops and supports cutting edge conservation science, particularly in species, ecosystems, biodiversity, and the impact these have on human livelihoods.
2. Action: IUCN runs thousands of field projects around the world to better manage natural environments.
3. Influence: IUCN supports governments, NGOs, international conventions, UN organizations, companies and communities to develop laws, policy and best-practice.
4. Empowerment: IUCN helps implement laws, policy and best-practice by mobilizing organizations, providing resources, training people and monitoring results.

## WORLD WILDLIFE FUND FOR NATURE (WWF)

The World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) is an international non-governmental organization working on issues regarding the conservation, research and restoration of the environment, formerly named the

World Wildlife Fund, which remains its official name in the United States and Canada. It is the world's largest independent conservation organization with over 5 million supporters worldwide, working in more than 90 countries, supporting around 1300 conservation and environmental projects around the world. It is a charity, with approximately 60% of its funding coming from voluntary donations by private individuals. 45% of the fund's income comes from the United States, the United Kingdom, and the Netherlands.

The mission of WWF is "to halt and reverse the destruction of our environment" Currently, much of its work focuses on the conservation of three biomes that contain most of the world's biodiversity forests, freshwater ecosystems and oceans and coasts. Among other issues, it is also concerned with endangered species, pollution and climate change. The organization was formed as a charitable trust on September 11, 1961, in Morges, Switzerland, under the name World Wildlife Fund. It was an initiative of Julian Huxley and Max Nicholson, who had thirty years experience of linking progressive intellectuals with big business interests through the Political and Economic Planning think tank. There is also a head office in Toronto, Canada for the Canadian Fund. In its deed of foundation, the organization stated its original mission to be the "conservation of world fauna, flora, forests, landscape, water, soils and other natural resources by the management of land, research and investigation, and publicity, coordination of efforts, cooperation with other interested parties and all other appropriate means." In the last few years, the organization set up offices and operations around the world. The initial focus of its activities was the protection of endangered species. As more resources became available, its operations expanded into other areas such as the preservation of biological diversity, sustainable use of natural resources, and the reduction of pollution and wasteful consumption. In 1986, the organization changed its name to World Wildlife Fund for Nature, retaining the WWF initials, to better reflect the scope of its activities. However, it continues to operate under the original name in the United States and Canada.

Greenpeace In 1971, motivated by their vision of a green and peaceful world, a small team of activists set sail from Vancouver, Canada, in an old fishing boat. These activists, the founders of Greenpeace, believed a few individuals could make a difference. Their mission was to "bear witness" to US underground nuclear testing at Amchitka, a tiny island off the West Coast of Alaska, which is one of the world's most earthquake-prone regions. Amchitka was the last refuge for 3000 endangered sea otters, and home to bald eagles, peregrine falcons and other wildlife. Even though their old boat, the Phyllis Cormack, was intercepted before it got to Amchitka, the journey sparked a flurry of public interest. The US still detonated the bomb, but the voice of reason had been heard. Nuclear testing on Amchitka ended that same year, and the island was later declared a bird sanctuary.

Greenpeace is the world's largest grassroots environmental network, uniting 77 national member groups and some 5,000 local activist groups on every continent. With over 2 million members and supporters around the world, they campaign on today's most urgent environmental and social issues. Based in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, Greenpeace has 2.8 million supporters' worldwide and national

as well as regional offices in 41 countries. Today, Greenpeace is an international organisation that prioritizes global environmental campaigns.

Greenpeace's cornerstone principles and core values are:

- To prevent environmental destruction in a peaceful, non-violent manner;
- Financial independence from political or commercial interests;
- seek solutions for and promote open, informed debate about society's environmental choices.

**Vision and Mission** A peaceful and sustainable world based on societies living in harmony with nature. A society of interdependent people living in dignity, wholeness and fulfilment in which equity and human and peoples' rights are realized.

- To collectively ensure environmental and social justice, human dignity, and respect for human rights and peoples' rights so as to secure sustainable societies.
- To halt and reverse environmental degradation and depletion of natural resources, nurture the earth's ecological and cultural diversity and secure sustainable livelihoods.
- To secure the empowerment of indigenous peoples, local communities, women, groups and individuals, and to ensure public participation in decision making.
- To engage in vibrant campaigns, raise awareness, mobilize people and build alliances with diverse movements, linking grassroots, national and global struggles.

TATA ENERGY RESEARCH INSTITUTE (TERI)

TERI is a public interest research and advocacy organisation that promotes environmentally sound and equitable development strategies. It was formally established in 1974 with the purpose of tackling and dealing with the rapid depletion of the earth's finite energy resources which are largely non-renewable, and on account of the existing methods of their use which are polluting. TERI has been actively working for developing solutions to global problems in the fields of energy, environment and current patterns of development, which are largely unsustainable. The Institute has grown substantially over the years, particularly, since it launched its own research activities and established a base in New Delhi, its registered headquarters. TERI has its branches in North America, Europe, Japan, Malaysia and the Gulf. TERI not only has offices in different parts of the world, but its activities have wide geographical relevance. It organizes annual Delhi Sustainable Development Summit (DSDS), a major event focusing on sustainable development, the pursuit of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and assessment of worldwide progress in these critical areas. TERI has also established a World Sustainable Development Forum (WSDF), which is guided by the patronage of a group of select world leaders. WSDF would extend the experience of each DSDS to other parts of the world and carry out careful evaluation and monitoring of developments worldwide, particularly in meeting the MDGs.

#### NATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS (NGOS)

Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) The Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) is a public interest research and advocacy organisation based in New Delhi. CSE researches into lobbies for and communicates the urgency of development that is both sustainable and equitable. The challenge of environmental degradation due to extreme exploitation of natural resources on one hand and problems created by rapid industrialization on the other hand, is one of the important tasks taken up by CSE to bring about a balance of the two. CSE makes efforts to create awareness about problems and propose sustainable solutions. There is a growing interest amongst all sections of people including students in environmental issues. With this in mind, CSE has been developing non-formal environmental education. Their tools for creating awareness are periodicals publications, films, exhibitions and other products. Two of their interesting publications are 'Down to Earth' and 'Gobar Times' magazine for children.

Kalpavriksh

An NGO established in 1979 and works on environmental awareness, campaigns, litigation, research, and other areas. It has taken a position on a number of environment-development issues, more often than not confronting the state through measures ranging from protest letters to street demonstrations. Many of its members have been through an intense and diverse learning process: initiating local

protests against the destruction of Delhi's largest green area (the Ridge), treks through the Himalayan region with the Chipko Andolan, the first detailed study of the impacts of the Narmada projects, investigations into police firing in Bharatpur bird reserve, and all this while continuing nature walks and lobbying for wildlife conservation and animal rights. With such a background, it is not surprising that the NGO has continued to participate in mass movements challenging the state and its policies, while episodically supporting elements of the state that have moved progressively on environmental and development fronts. Kalpavriksh believes that a country can develop meaningfully only when ecological sustainability and social equity are guaranteed, and a sense of respect for, and oneness Environmental Management with nature, and fellow humans is achieved. It is a non-hierarchical organisation and the group takes all decisions after appropriate debate and discussion.

### Development Alternatives

It is a non-profit organization engaged in research and action for sustainable development. It was established in 1983 and is registered under the Societies Registration Act with the Government of India. Development Alternatives believes that 'development', being a dynamic process, is all about evolving inter-relationships between social and environmental factors, particularly interactions between nature, machines, institutions and people. The activities of Development Alternatives Group broadly cover the three primary areas that underlie any form of sustainable development process: the design and large-scale dissemination of appropriate technologies, environmental management systems and effective people-oriented institutions and policies. Development Alternatives and its associate organisations operate on the philosophy that sustainable development benefits not only the economy, but also the environment and above all – the people. The Development Alternatives Group is, therefore, dedicated to bring about a better balance among the basic prerequisites of sustainable development: social equity, environmental quality and economic efficiency.

The mission of the Development Alternatives Group is to promote sustainable national development. The corporate objectives are to innovate and disseminate the means for creating sustainable livelihoods on a large scale, and thus to mobilise widespread action to eradicate poverty and regenerate the environment. The activities of Development Alternatives cover a broad array of development issues. And these issues are complex, requiring sophisticated, trans-disciplinary responses. The Group has built up a strong capacity to identify the priority issues confronting the nation and devise effective ways to solve them. It has therefore brought together a cadre of professional staff members with a wide range of skills and backgrounds but a common, solid commitment to excellence and team work.

Sulabh International

Sulabh International is a social service organization which works to promote human rights, environmental sanitation, non-conventional sources of energy, waste management and social reforms through education. It was founded by Dr Bindeshwar Pathak in 1970. It has played a defining role in changing the mindset of the people of India towards sanitation. It has played an important role in preventing the practice of defecation in the open and has motivated people for using of toilets and following sanitation practices. Prior to intervention of Sulabh in 1970 toilet was a subject of cultural taboo.

Environmental Management A healthy and hygienic India, free of the practice of defecation in the open and faecal pollution of environment. A society free of untouchability , social discrimination and prevalence of the sub-human practice of manual cleaning of human excreta (scavenging).

#### Mission

To educate and motivate the people, sensitize policy makers and functionaries and promote activities and programmes of the Govt. and as well as the people, to achieve Sulabh' s vision in the foreseeable future.

Sulabh has been also working for changing the attitude of people towards those who clean human excreta manually (known as scavengers). Respectability has been lent to discussion and writing about toilet practices.

Untouchables (before independence) engaged in the profession of cleaning excreta have acquired social acceptance and people do not hesitate associating with them in their day-today routine and social gatherings.

Sulabh' s approach to restore human dignity to the scavengers has five distinct stages: • Liberation; • Rehabilitation; • Vocational training; • Social elevation; and, • Proper education to next generation.

Sulabh innovations include a scavenging-free two-pit pourflush toilet (Sulabh Shauchalaya ); safe and hygienic on-site human waste disposal technology; a new concept of maintenance and construction of pay-and-use public toilets, popularly known as Sulabh Complexes with bath, laundry and urinal facilities being used by about ten million people every day and generates biogas and biofertiliser produced from excreta-based plants, low maintenance waste water treatment plants of medium capacity for institutions and industries.

Other work includes setting up English-medium public school in New Delhi and also a network of centres all over the country to train boys and girls from poor families, specially scavengers, so that they

can compete in open job market. In October 2007, Sulabh announced the design of a cheap toilet system that recycles human waste into biogas and fertilizer.

#### WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNT

- The role of national government is critical for control of environment pollution control, conservation and improvement of environment for promoting sustainable development.
- In 1972, National Committee in Environmental Planning and Coordination (NCEPC) was formed, that gradually evolved and become a full fledged Ministry of Environment and Forests in 1985.
- CPCB (Central Pollution Control Board) is a statutory organization constituted in 1974. Its main function is to monitor, control and regulate air and water quality.
- CPCB advises Central Government on any matter concerning prevention and control of air and water pollution.
- Indian Board for Wildlife (IBWL) is an apex advisory body in the field of wildlife conservation in the country.
- The international environment agencies are: United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), F AO, WHO, their main job is to coordinate the environment polices for 193 Environment Related Institutions and Organizations keeping the global environment under review and bring the issues to the attention of international community for action.
- WHO (World Health Organisation) has the objective as “Attainment by all people the highest possible level of health.” Formally came into force on 7th April,1948, thus 7th April is celebrated as World Health Day .

- F AO (Food and Agriculture Organisation ) of the United Nations. Its aim is to modernize and improve agriculture, forestry and fisheries. It ensures food security for all.
- Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) in June,1992, the landmark global agreement reached for its formation in the Earth Summit held in Rio De Janeiro. It was established in Decemebr, 1992.
- Main function of CSD is to monitor the progress and activities related to the integration of environmental and developmental goals by governments, NGOs and other UN bodies.
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The main aim of the convention is to consider what can be done to reduce 'global warming' and to cope with whatever temperature increases are inevitable.
- Kyoto Protocol is an international and legally binding agreement to reduce green house gas emissions worldwide. It came into force in 16th February, 2005.
- Non- government organisations (NGOs) are independent of governments. There are many NGOs that are committed to the cause of wild life conservation, environmental protection, resource conservation and sustainable development.
- International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) is the oldest and largest global environmental network. Its headquarter in Switzerland.
- World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) is an international NGO which works on issues regarding conservation research and restoration of the environment.
- The national NGOs are Centre for Science and environment (CSE), Kalpavriksh, Sulubh International and Development Alternatives,