

JOHANNESBURG SUMMIT 2002

IRELAND



COUNTRY PROFILE



UNITED NATIONS

INTRODUCTION - 2002 COUNTRY PROFILES SERIES

Agenda 21, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, underscored the important role that States play in the implementation of the Agenda at the national level. It recommended that States consider preparing national reports and communicating the information therein to the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) including, activities they undertake to implement Agenda 21, the obstacles and challenges they confront, and other environment and development issues they find relevant.

As a result, in 1993 governments began preparing national reports for submission to the CSD. After two years of following this practice, the CSD decided that a summarized version of national reports submitted thus far would be useful. Subsequently, the CSD Secretariat published the first Country Profiles series in 1997 on the occasion of the five-year review of the Earth Summit (Rio + 5). The series summarized, on a country-by-country basis, all the national reports submitted between 1994 and 1996. Each Profile covered the status of all Agenda 21 chapters.

The purpose of Country Profiles is to:

- Help countries monitor their own progress;
- Share experiences and information with others; and,
- Serve as institutional memory to track and record national actions undertaken to implement Agenda 21.

A second series of Country Profiles is being published on the occasion of the World Summit on Sustainable Development being held in Johannesburg from August 26 to September 4, 2002. Each profile covers all 40 chapters of Agenda 21, as well as those issues that have been separately addressed by the CSD since 1997, including trade, energy, transport, sustainable tourism and industry.

The 2002 Country Profiles series provides the most comprehensive overview to date of the status of implementation of Agenda 21 at the national level. Each Country Profile is based on information updated from that contained in the national reports submitted annually by governments.

Preparing national reports is often a challenging exercise. It can also be a productive and rewarding one in terms of taking stock of what has been achieved and by increasing communication, coordination and cooperation among a range of national agencies, institutions and groups. Hopefully, the information contained in this series of Country Profiles will serve as a useful tool for learning from the experience and knowledge gained by each country in its pursuit of sustainable development.

NOTE TO READERS

The 2002 Country Profiles Series provides information on the implementation of Agenda 21 on a country-by-country and chapter-by-chapter basis (with the exception of chapters 1 and 23, which are preambles). Since Rio 1992, the Commission on Sustainable Development has specifically addressed other topics not included as separate chapters in Agenda 21. These issues of trade, industry, energy, transport and sustainable tourism are, therefore, treated as distinct sections in the Country Profiles. In instances where several Agenda 21 chapters are closely related, for example, chapters 20 to 22 which cover environmentally sound management of hazardous, solid and radioactive wastes, and chapters 24 to 32 which refer to strengthening of major groups, the information appears under a single heading in the Country Profile Series. Lastly, chapters 16 and 34, which deal with environmentally sound management of biotechnology, and transfer of environmentally sound technology, cooperation, capacity-building respectively, are presented together under one heading in those Country Profiles where information is relatively scarce.

*At the release of this Country Profile, Ireland had not updated it and therefore any new changes will appear on our web page:
<http://www.un.org/esa/agenda21/natlinfo>*

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LIST OF COMMONLY USED ACRONYMS

ACS	Association of Caribbean States
AMCEN	Africa Ministerial Conference on the Environment
AMU	Arab Maghreb Union
APEC	Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
CARICOM	The Caribbean Community and Common Market
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
CGIAR	Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research
CILSS	Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
CSD	Commission on Sustainable Development of the United Nations
DESA	Department for Economic and Social Affairs
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
ECCAS	Economic Community for Central African States
ECE	Economic Commission for Europe
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
ESCWA	Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FIDA	Foundation for International Development Assistance
GATT	General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
GAW	Global Atmosphere Watch (WMO)
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GEMS	Global Environmental Monitoring System (UNEP)
GESAMP	Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GIS	Geographical Information Systems
GLOBE	Global Legislators Organisation for a Balanced Environment
GOS	Global Observing System (WMO/WWW)
GRID	Global Resource Information Database
HIV/AIDS	Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
ICSC	International Civil Service Commission
ICSU	International Council of Scientific Unions
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
ICTSD	International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development
IEEA	Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounting
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IFCS	Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety
IGADD	Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IMF	International Monetary Fund

IMO	International Maritime Organization
IOC	Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IPCS	International Programme on Chemical Safety
IPM	Integrated Pest Management
IRPTC	International Register of Potentially Toxic Chemicals
ISDR	International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
ITTO	International Tropical Timber Organization
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources
LA21	Local Agenda 21
LDCs	Least Developed Countries
MARPOL	International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships
MEAs	Multilateral Environmental Agreements
NEAP	National Environmental Action Plan
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
NSDS	National Sustainable Development Strategies
OAS	Organization of American States
OAU	Organization for African Unity
ODA	Official Development Assistance/Overseas Development Assistance
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PPP	Public-Private Partnership
PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers
SACEP	South Asian Cooperative Environment Programme
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SARD	Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SPREP	South Pacific Regional Environment Programme
UN	United Nations
UNAIDS	United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNCED	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNCHS	United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)
UNCLOS	United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDRO	Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNFF	United Nations Forum on Forests
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNIFEM	United Nations Development Fund for Women
UNU	United Nations University
WFC	World Food Council
WHO	World Health Organization
WMO	World Meteorological Organization

WSSD	World Summit on Sustainable Development
WTO	World Trade Organization
WWF	World Wildlife Fund
WWW	World Weather Watch (WMO)

CHAPTER 2: INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION TO ACCELERATE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND RELATED DOMESTIC POLICIES

Decision-Making: No information available.

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Status: No information available.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: No information available.

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**CHAPTER 2: INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION TO ACCELERATE SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND RELATED
DOMESTIC POLICIES - TRADE**

Decision-Making: No information available.

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Status: No information available.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: No information available.

CHAPTER 3: COMBATING POVERTY

Decision-Making: In Ireland, the Social Welfare Acts are reviewed each year. Other legislation concerned with social housing, health, education, and community employment has a legal framework for anti-poverty action. The Combat Poverty Agency (CPA) was established by statute in 1986 under the Combat Poverty Act. It is under the aegis of the Department of Social Welfare. Ireland is currently preparing a National Anti-Poverty Strategy (NAPS). The strategy involves setting out the extent of poverty, an identification of main themes, and formulating strategic responses to combat poverty in Ireland. The sub-groups were established to identify policy areas, which cut across departments and strategic responses to be developed. These groups included representatives of Government departments, trade union and employers' bodies, and National anti-poverty networks. As part of this process a public consultation seminar has been held by each of the sub-groups. All the working groups have now or are in the process of reporting to the NAPS Inter-departmental Committee. Each Government department has been asked to prepare a statement in relation to poverty, after reviewing the key issues/themes already identified by the strategy within their own areas of responsibility. A commitment to the continued development of NAPS has been included in the new three-year National agreement between the Government and the social partners (employers, employees, and farming organizations) entitled "Partnership 2000". The National Women's Council, which is funded by the Department of Equality and Law Reform, is a representative forum of women's organizations in Ireland. The output of the Council is being considered by decision-making bodies concerned with empowering disadvantaged groups, including women.

Programmes and Projects: The Agency is involved in a range of programmes and activities to combat poverty. Exchequer support for the three Irish projects in the third European Union (EU) Poverty Programme were, for example, channeled through the CPA. The Local Development Programme, in partnership with local companies, facilitates alleviation of poverty in disadvantaged areas. This involves cooperation with trade unions, employers, farmers, etc. In 1993, voluntary support helped the Government establish the National Economic and Social Forum. The Forum provides an opportunity through a structured mechanism to contribute to the development of initiatives to tackle unemployment at both national and local levels. It consists of a wide base of 49 representatives, including those representing the disadvantaged and the unemployed.

Status: No information available.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: The Economic and Social Research Institute carried out two studies for the Department of Social Welfare and the Combat Poverty Agency. These studies provide a wide variety of very useful information on poverty levels in Ireland from 1994 data and will be a key input to the NAPS process. The second report reviews the findings of the Commission on Social Welfare, which reported in 1986 on what constituted a minimally adequate income for those receiving social welfare payments. It is intended that a report to the UN setting out progress achieved to date will be finalized very soon. Proposals for the next phase of development of the strategy will also go to Government very soon. The Department of Social Welfare is represented on the High Level Group on Social Exclusion Which did the European Commission establish in 1995. The group was established to exchange information on developments affecting social exclusion and to assist the Commission in the preparation of its strategies and initiatives.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: The Agency funds a number of representative National voluntary anti-poverty networks including the Community Workers Co-operative, the European Anti-Poverty Network, the Irish National Organization of the Unemployed, Irish Rural Link, and the Irish Traveler Movement. The Department of Social Welfare supports local self help and community development initiatives to assist people as individuals and as members of communities develop the confidence and capacity to participate as partners alongside statutory agencies and others in local development initiatives. Funding for community development groups, women's groups, and other groups representing disadvantaged communities is supported by the Department of Social Welfare. The CPA also supports community development and directly funds a National network of organizations representing the sector.

Cooperation: No information available.

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CHAPTER 4: CHANGING CONSUMPTION PATTERNS

Decision-Making: There is no single Department charged with responsibility for sustainable production and consumption. However, the Department of the Environment and Local Government has an overall coordinating role in relation to the implementation of the national sustainable development strategy-Sustainable Development: A Strategy for Ireland. Otherwise, all Departments have responsibility for relevant aspects of sustainable production and consumption, e.g. the Department of Enterprise. A national strategy on recycling was adopted in 1994; it establishes targets for waste recovery and recycling up to 1999. A national policy statement, Waste Management Changing Our Ways (September 1998) has as a major general objective to stabilize, and in the longer term, reverse the growth in waste generation. Issues of green procurement are included in policy for green housekeeping, as set out in the Green Government Guide, which was circulated to all Government Departments in August 1996, and subsequently to local authorities and semi-state bodies. In adopting the principles of green housekeeping, benefits for the environment can be realized through reductions in the consumption of natural resources, emissions, discharges and waste generated. The adoption of green housekeeping principles, as well as producing administrative savings, can also enhance the quality of service. The move to independently certified environmental management systems, such as ISO 14001, which is now being pursued by a number of Government Departments and local authorities, is seen as a logical extension of the process initiated with the Green Government Guide. While there is no overall legislation on sustainable consumption and production, the principle of extended producer responsibility is incorporated in the Waste Management Act, 1996. In addition, the Integrated Pollution Control (IPC) licensing system operated under the Environmental Protection Agency Act, 1992, requires scheduled industries to take on board many relevant principles, including cleaner technology and cleaner production to reduce and minimize waste production, as an important facet of the environmental management systems required under the terms of IPC licenses. The REPAK Scheme, launched in 1996 by the Industry Task Force on Recycling, represents an important producer responsibility initiative in respect of packaging waste. In 1997, a similar scheme commenced in relation to collection and recovery of waste farm plastics; this is operated by the Irish Farm Films Producers Group (IFFPG), a body established by the plastics industry in cooperation with the Irish Farmers' Association. The European Union's Eco-label scheme operates in Ireland as an information aid for consumers, getting criteria for categories of products which establish their environmental credentials. The enforcement of most environmental law (e.g. regarding water pollution or air pollution) is primarily a matter for local authorities. The Environmental Protection Agency, established in 1993, has responsibility for environmental monitoring.

Programmes and Projects: A training programme in environmental management was launched early in 1997 by the employers' body IBEC (Irish Business and Employers' Confederation), in conjunction with the Environmental Protection Agency, the Clean Technology Centre and An Taisce - the National Trust for Ireland (a major NGO). The training programme covers the legal, technical, community and financial aspects of sustainable development in an industrial context. It aims to help to develop in Irish industry a pro-active approach to environmental management, and also to improve interaction between business and non-governmental organizations in the field of the environment. The main objective of the programme is to use training to improve the environmental performance of Irish industry. The GAP Household ECOTEAM Programme, operated by the NGO Global Action Plan Ireland, is designed to guide and support individuals in taking effective action for the environment through: reducing waste; improving water and energy efficiency; improving transport efficiency; becoming eco-wise consumers; and, empowering others through home, workplace and community action.

Status: In general, any methods adopted by industry are on a voluntary basis. However, the (mandatory) requirements of Integrated Pollution Control licensing for larger industries and activities include the introduction of

environmental management systems, which may incorporate changes in methods and processes. The Environmental Protection Agency has reported that, since the introduction of IPC licensing in May 1994, and the issuing of the first IPC license in 1995, there has been a noticeable swing away, in many IPC licensed companies, from investment in end-of-pipe technologies in favor of source reduction of pollutants. This change of emphasis is taking the form of changing from hazardous to less hazardous materials, rationalization and reduction of solvent use, reduction in water use and more efficient use of energy. A pilot demonstration initiative on Cleaner Production, carried out as part of the R&D sub-programme of the Operational Programme for Environmental Services, 1994-1999, was approved in late 1996. Following this, the companies would participate in a publicity campaign to disseminate the findings to a wider industry audience. Following an open call for proposals, which was advertised in the press in January 1997, fourteen companies were selected for participation in the demonstration programme. Contracts were signed in June, and the programme was formally launched in October 1997. The fourteen companies completed their projects by September 1998 and are now engaged in the publicity phase. Case study reports have been published and synthesis and final reports are currently being prepared.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: General environmental information is disseminated through the Environment Bulletin, which is issued quarterly by the Department of the Environment and Local Government. At Central Government level, an Inter-Departmental Steering Group on Sustainable Development Indicators was established in 1998. The Steering Group is made up of representatives from the Departments of Environment and Local Government, Agriculture and Food, Finance and Public Enterprise, together with the Irish Energy Centre, Forfás (the development authority for indigenous industries), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Central Statistics Office (CSO). The EPA and CSO already collect a wide range of statistics, including environmental data. The EPA are currently working on national environmental indicators with the emphasis on eutrophication, waste and the urban environment, and will produce a national report by the end of 1998; this report will be circulated initially for discussion, with a view to finalization and publication by April 1999. The Agency also has regard to the work of the European Environment Agency, and other relevant agencies of the European Union in this area. Sustainability Indicators Working Group was established in 1998 by the Dublin and Mid-East Regional Authorities with representatives also from some of their constituent local authorities and from the Department of the Environment and Local Government.

Research and Technologies: Clean and environmentally sound technologies are promoted and applied in production. A major promoter of clean and environmentally sound technologies in Ireland is the Clean Technology Centre at the Cork Institute of Technology. The Clean Technology Centre (CTC) believes that the most important environmental issues today involve the development of sustainable production and consumption programmes. This requires total commitment and involvement by local and regional authorities and government. These issues are best tackled at the local level. CTC is thus involved in several European initiatives to examine using local programmes as tools for sustainability and striving to expand the boundaries of current human understanding. A recently announced project for recycling and re-using construction and demolition waste will further emphasize the cooperation between the local authority and CTC. Cleaner Production Promotion Centre in University College Cork focuses on academic input into cleaner production processes, and has established a network with EU and US institutions. Enterprise Ireland (a State agency) sponsors the annual Better Environment Awards for Industry (which are associated with the European Better Environment Awards for Industry). The awards scheme includes a category under the heading of Cleaner Technologies for companies which have developed new technologies or techniques in their production processes, resulting in significantly less environmental impact.

Financing: Activities may be financed from the national budget, or through private sector funds, or a combination of both.

Cooperation: Ireland participated in the preparatory committee for the planned United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Conference of Ministers in relation to transport and the environment. Ireland also participates in the THERMIE and SAVE programs within the European Union (EU).

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CHAPTER 4: CHANGING CONSUMPTION PATTERNS-ENERGY

Decision-Making: Trade and Employment is responsible for industrial production and also for consumer issues; the Department of Public Enterprise is responsible for issues of sustainable consumption in the transport and energy sectors. In April 1996, following a major review of renewable energy policies and programmes, the Department of Transport, Energy and Communications (now the Department of Public Enterprise) launched Renewable Energy - A Strategy for the Future which sets out the long-term development of renewable energy in Ireland and has the overall objective of increasing the proportion of electricity produced from renewable energy sources.

Programmes and Projects: The Irish Energy Centre (established under a national energy conservation programme in place since 1994) carries out programmes with industry on energy efficiency. The Cleaner Production Promotion Centre and the Clean Technology Centre also work with industry in relation to its production processes and the technologies used. Since 1990, Dublin has had a permanent ban on marketing, sale, and distribution of bituminous coal. In 1995, this practice was adopted in Cork. In connection with these bans, a special weekly allowance (in 1995, 3 weekly) paid by the Department of Social Welfare to lower income groups has helped overcome the increased cost of environmentally friendly fuels in comparison to bituminous coal. These schemes cost IR6 million and IR1.6 million for Dublin and Cork, respectively. Since 1995, the Department has operated a series of Alternative Energy Requirement (AER) schemes to secure electricity generation capacity from alternative energy systems. The results of the third AER were announced during 1998. Ireland participates in the THERMIE and SAVE programmes within the European Union. The annual Energy Awareness Week, coordinated by the Irish Energy Centre on behalf of the Minister of State at the Department of Public Enterprise and the Energy Advisory Board, remains the single most important platform for promoting energy efficiency in Ireland. The primary target audience was household consumers. The campaign informed them of how much energy they use, where it comes from, and the longer-term implications of current consumption trends.

Status: The use of energy in Ireland is growing; between 1980 and 1993, the total primary energy requirement grew by 24%. The amount of energy consumed per capita is also increasing, and this trend is projected to continue. The growth has been driven principally by marked increases in energy use in the transport and commercial sectors. The industrial sector, on the other hand, has decreased its energy consumption by 19% since 1980. Since 1990, Dublin has had a permanent ban on marketing, sale and distribution of bituminous coal; this was extended to Cork in 1995 and to a further five cities and towns in 1998. The purpose is to improve air quality in these urban areas. In connection with these bans, a special weekly allowance paid by the Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs to lower income groups has helped overcome the increased cost of more environmentally-friendly fuels in comparison to bituminous coal.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: On the local level, perhaps the most important development is the co-operation between CTC and local authorities. The Cork region is pursuing an active programme towards sustainability, which includes waste reduction as the primary focus. Projects range from generation of electricity from landfill gases to abstraction of heat from rock and soil for provision of heating.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: No information available.

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CHAPTER 4: CHANGING CONSUMPTION PATTERNS-TRANSPORT

Decision-Making: Trade and Employment is responsible for industrial production and also for consumer issues; the Department of Public Enterprise is responsible for issues of sustainable consumption in the transport and energy sectors.

Programmes and Projects: The Transport Operational Programme 1994-1999 reflects a development of previous policy, which was largely concerned with National roads. The Programme has put an increased emphasis on rail transport, urban public transport, and local road networks. The Dublin Transportation Initiative (DTI) includes proposals for the increased use of public transportation. Effective action on traffic management and enforcement is acknowledged as essential (including parking restraint), particularly in Dublin City, if the DTI strategy is to be successfully implemented and its objective of shifting commuters from the private car to public transport is to be achieved. At the same time it is recognized that there is a need to provide for certain business, shopping, leisure, and tourist trips by private car as part of the policy of supporting the continued viability of the city centre. Almost \$600 million will be invested in public transport and enforcement measures over the period 1994 to 1999.

Status: Under the Transport Operational Programme 1994-1999, urban transport has increased in the same period from 2% to 14%, and non-National roads from 8% to 17%. Five-to-twenty percent of investment in Dublin's Transportation initiative is earmarked for a general improvement in improved traffic management and enforcement and enhanced facilities to accommodate an increase of cycling and walking. Progress on the Initiative's 1995 Strategy has been achieved across a number of fronts to date, including improvements in public transport (both bus and rail) and in facilities for cyclists and pedestrians, as well as significant investment in traffic calming and traffic management. In addition, there has been significant progress in achieving widespread public acceptance of the need for a holistic approach to transportation planning with an emphasis on the more sustainable modes - public transport, cycling and walking. Despite this progress, there has been some slippage in the implementation of the full Strategy, and this, coupled with increased demand for travel in the Strategy area, has led to the preparation of a Short Term Action Plan (1998) to address immediate needs. The Plan is designed to accelerate the implementation of those elements of the DTI Strategy that can be completed in the period up to the year 2000.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: Under the Transport Operational Programme 1994-1999, the investment in railroads has increased from 3% of the total amount available in the programme for the period 1989-1993 to 11% for the period 1994-1999.

Cooperation: No information available.

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CHAPTER 5: DEMOGRAPHIC DYNAMICS AND SUSTAINABILITY

Decision-Making: The Departments of Health and Finance are responsible for demographic sustainability in Ireland. The country is currently working on a National Strategy for Sustainable Demographic Development. The Strategy will address issues linking the environment and demographics in an Irish context. Issues include the depopulation of rural areas combined with the increasing population in urban areas, and as a consequence, the economic pressure of migration and emigration. In the policies related to family planning, NGOs provide complementary services to those offered by the Health Authorities. The Irish Family Planning Association and the Dublin Well Woman Center are important participants in this process. In June 1995, a discussion document on special health needs for women was published and will be the basis of a widespread consultation with women and those interested in improving the health and welfare of women. This consultation will in time become the foundation of a National Plan made by the Department of Health to be adopted by the Government. The Government is funding the NGOs that are involved in providing the complementary services.

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Status: No information available.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies:

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: In 1993, Ireland made its first contribution to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). The Government has subsequently announced that an increase in the contribution is to be expected. Ireland's policies in this area of demographics are consistent with EU principles.

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CHAPTER 6: PROTECTING AND PROMOTING HUMAN HEALTH

Decision-Making: In the policies related to family planning, NGOs provide complementary services to those offered by the Health Authorities. The Irish Family Planning Association and the Dublin Well Woman Center are important participants in this process. In June 1995, a discussion document on special health needs for women was published and will be the basis of a widespread consultation with women and those interested in improving the health and welfare of women. This consultation will in time become the foundation of a National Plan made by the Department of Health to be adopted by the Government. Particular attention has been paid to the potential health effects of air and water-borne pollutants. Traditionally, environmental protection strategies tended to concentrate on reducing potential health risks associated with these media. The introduction of sanitation practices, for instance, which led to the elimination of many water-borne diseases, was one of the largest contributors to improved public health in this century. More recently, the marketing of coal which caused localized smog in Dublin city was banned, which is expected to lead to a reduction in the number of respiratory complaints.

Programmes and Projects: Together with the Health Strategy, a Four-Year Action Plan has been established. The Plan details risk reduction targets and action programs. These focus on key issues, which contribute significantly to premature deaths. In 1993, it was proposed to examine, under the Bilateral Aid Programme, what specific projects in AIDS-related areas might be undertaken in cooperation with the recipient country.

Status: Ireland has improved the general level of health during the last decades. However, much remains to be done. Life expectancy is still lower than the European Union (EU) average and, in 1992, over one-fifth of all deaths in Ireland were under the age of 65. In 1994, a National Health Strategy was designed. Its objective is to improve the average life expectancy, which includes an effort to minimize the main causes of premature deaths, namely: cardiovascular disease, cancer, and accidents.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: In 1995, the Government of Ireland indicated its intention to increase the financial and technical assistance to health care.

Cooperation: No information available.

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CHAPTER 7: PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE HUMAN SETTLEMENT DEVELOPMENT

Decision-Making: The responsibility of accommodating homeless adults lies with local authorities, which are also responsible for providing accommodation for travelers. The Health Boards and the Department of Health share responsibility for sheltering people under the age of 18. Urban-management rests with local authorities. A scheme of capital assistance is available to approved bodies providing accommodation for people who qualify: the elderly, homeless and handicapped persons, victims of violence and desertion, single parents, or people otherwise accepted as qualified for local authority housing. There is an Irish Standard Specification (IS) for building products, which is the responsibility of the National Standards Authority of Ireland (NASI). Ireland must recognize, as a European Union (EU) Member State, building materials equivalent to the IS. The current Urban Renewal Plan is for the period 1994-1999. The central tenet of the schemes has been to target the core areas of urban centres, which have suffered from the worst effects of urban decay and to make incentives available in those areas to encourage private sector investment. Former derelict and decaying inner urban areas have been transformed. This has had considerable positive impacts in terms of sustainability. Greater use is now being made of existing infrastructure in city and town centres, with less development pressures on the green belts in the suburbs. In addition, the greater number of people "living in town" means there is less reliance on the motor car for commuting to work.

Programmes and Projects: In addition to the tax incentive schemes, the Urban and Village Renewal Sub-Programme of the operational Programme for Local Urban and Rural Development provides for funding to be made available for measures which are designed to promote sustainable physical, social, and economic revitalization of urban centres ranging from the smaller villages to the larger cities throughout the country. Among the measures, which are being implemented is one which funds a major initiative in each of the five main cities based on an action plan for a key area. A range of urban improvement actions, including landscaping, improving pedestrian amenities, and eradication of derelict sites, is also being implemented in the smaller urban centres. The principal objective is to improve the physical environment of towns in order to attract and sustain a business base, as well as support tourism and living conditions generally.

Status: Between 1926 and 1991, the urban population in Ireland increased from 32% to almost 60% of the total population. The five largest urban centers -Dublin, Cork, Limerick, Galway, and Waterford-among them have 67% of the total urban population. Up to the mid 1980s, there had been a dramatic decrease of both economic activity and population in the core centres of the large cities. Large central areas were left under-utilized or derelict as a result of, for example, a decline in port-related and traditional city center industries, changes in retail shopping patterns, the emergence of large-scale suburban residential areas, and a movement of business and commercial activities to the periphery areas of the cities.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: The Urban Renewal Plan for 1994-1999 will have an implementation cost of IR 92.5 million over the five years. Funding for this programme is pooled together from the Exchequer, the EU, and local authorities. The local authorities provide a rental subsidy scheme whereby people qualified to receive the benefit are paid an ongoing subsidy according to their situation. Local authorities also provide incentives for home ownership cooperatives.

Cooperation: No information available.

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CHAPTER 8: INTEGRATING ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT IN DECISION-MAKING

Decision-Making: In 1978, the Ministry of the Environment was assigned general responsibility for the promotion and protection of the physical environment. Ireland has an Environment Action Programme which at a National level formulates environmental targets and policy objectives. This programme was reviewed in 1993 for the period 1993-1997, and the Government made commitments to speed up its implementation. By early 1997, a National Sustainable Development Strategy was published, with an objective of providing a cross-sectoral framework for all sectoral plans and programmes related to Sustainable Development. The Strategy provides for the identification of future objectives. The Strategy also led to the establishment of a National Coordinating Mechanism for Sustainable Development. For the period 1994-1999, Ireland has adopted both a European Community Support Framework (CSF) and a National Development Plan. Both the CSF and the Plan have as their primary objective the enhancement of Ireland's economic performance through sustainable growth and development. They are both multi-sectoral and cover a vast range of Agenda 21 issues. In October 1994, a Green Network of Government Departments was established. The concept of the network is to promote better exchange of information among departments and to support the work of the environment units which have been established in the main economic departments. A Parliamentary Committee on Sustainable Development has also been established. In February 1999, the Minister for the Environment and Local Government officially launched Comhar, the National Sustainable Development Partnership. Participants in Comhar include representatives of the Environmental Protection Agency, the Central Fisheries Board, the County and City Managers' Association, the Irish Assembly of Regional Authorities, the Department of the Environment and Local Government/Green Network of Government Departments, the Small Firms Association, the Irish Farmers' Association, the Irish Business and Employers' Confederation, the Irish Tourist Industry Confederation, the Irish Creamery Milk Suppliers' Association, the Irish Congress of Trade Unions, the Irish Coalition for Sustainability, An Taisce, the Irish Uplands Forum, the Irish Environmental Conservation Organization for Youth, the National Women's Council of Ireland, the National Youth Council of Ireland, Partnerships for Local Action Network, the Community Platform, the Royal Town Planning Institute, the Environmental Sciences Association of Ireland, and the Institution of Engineers of Ireland. The EPA has an Advisory Committee which includes representatives of environmental NGOs, and the industry, agriculture, education, and research sectors.

Programmes and Projects: In December 1994, a Government programme was published which included a commitment to adopt both the "precautionary" and the "polluter pays" principles, as well as integrated environmental protection considerations in all policy areas and at all levels of Government.

Status: No information available.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: The Department of the Environment has concluded an agreement with the National Economic and Social Research Institute to set up an Environmental Policy Research Center to study the economic aspects of environment policy.

Financing: The European Regional Fund is supporting the 1994-1999 Operational Programme.

Cooperation: No information available.

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CHAPTER 9: PROTECTION OF THE ATMOSPHERE

Decision-Making: In Ireland, the Montreal Protocol (1987) and the London Amendment (1990) were ratified on 10 August 1992; the Copenhagen Amendment (1992) was signed in 1996. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was ratified on 20 April 1994. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of the Environment are the institutions primarily responsible for this sector. Post-Rio, the Air Quality Act, 1987 and the Environmental Protection Agency Act, 1992 have been reviewed, taking into account the

measures recommended in Agenda 21. Ireland has also implemented emissions standards to reduce the adverse environmental effects of benzene, sulphur, and lead.

Programmes and Projects: In 1994, the Irish Energy Center was established to coordinate the implementation of the National Energy Conservation Programme and other Government policy on energy efficiency, renewable energies, and research. The Government is promoting policies and programmes in a wide range of areas concerned with atmospheric protection, including energy efficiency, environmentally sound and efficient transport, and industrial pollution control. In 1995, a scheme of Power Purchase Agreements amounting to 111 megawatts (MW) was approved. The scheme includes 34 alternative energy projects providing over 100 MW at a cost of 70 million over the next fifteen years. A competition to secure a 30 MW Biomass/Waste to energy electricity generating plant is nearing completion and further renewable energy targets have been set to 2010. Ireland is currently complying with European Union (EU) Regulation EC 3093/94, which adopted targets to phase out chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) (except for essential use) by 1995, halons by 1994, carbon tetrachloride by 1995, hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) by 2015, 1,1,1,-trichloroethane by 1996, hydrobromofluorocarbons (HBFCs), and curbs on methyl bromide by 1996.

Status: Under the Energy Audit Grant Scheme the Irish Energy Center provides grants of 40%, subjected to a maximum of IR5,000, to energy users in the industrial, institutional, and commercial sectors for the hiring of consultants to make energy audits. The Energy Efficient Investment Support Scheme provides grant assistance to energy users within these sectors. The grants paid out are for energy technology and amount to 40% of the investment subjected to a IR250,000 maximum.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: Ireland's capacity to observe and assess transboundary atmospheric pollution and to exchange information is sufficient. The Government has conducted surveys concerning air pollution and selective limited observations regarding emissions from traffic. The Government has also facilitated training opportunities, data and information exchange at both National and international levels. Participation by industry and the private sector is crucial for meeting the atmospheric objectives of the EU.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: Government spending from multilateral trust funds, including the Vienna-Montreal Trust Fund, went from \$246,414 in 1993, to \$321,754 in 1995. After Rio and in addition to the global conventions, Ireland has acceded to a number of other international agreements concerning transboundary air pollution, including the Sofia Protocol and the Second Sulphur Protocol, both in 1994.

Cooperation: No information available.

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CHAPTER 10: INTEGRATED APPROACH TO THE PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT OF LAND RESOURCES

Decision-Making: A system of land-use management, in line with that envisaged in Agenda 21, has been in operation in Ireland since 1964. Under the Local Government (Planning and Development) Acts, 1963 to 1993, each of Ireland's 88 planning authorities has been obliged to prepare, at least every five years, a Development Plan. The Government is committed to drawing up guidelines for both National policy-makers and planning authorities regarding the location of agricultural, industrial, forestry, aquaculture, and tourism developments. The Government is also preparing a series of guidelines on land use issues for local planning authorities and An Board Pleanala (Planning Appeals Board). Guidelines on Telecommunications Antennae and Support Structures were published on 31 July 1996, and Guidelines on Wind Farm Development were published on 19 September 1996. Guidelines on Forestry Development, high amenity landscapes, and the scope and content of development plans are now being prepared. Taken together, the National Sustainable Development Strategy and the guidelines will provide a comprehensive policy framework for land use planning. Legislation with respect to land use planning is supplemented by administrative and policy measures at the National level. Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) procedures have been incorporated into the planning system and are also applied to public development proposals. The National Department of the Environment issues circulars and guidelines to local land planning authorities to advise and inform them of issues to be taken into consideration in the operation of the planning process. The Department also monitors the overall operation of the planning process.

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Status: Decisions by local authorities may be appealed to the independent National Planning Appeals Board by any individual or organization. The Rural Environment Protection Scheme (REPS) which provides special grants for farming in an environmentally friendly way is available to landowners in all parts of the country. Additional payments are available in certain designated areas in order to solve specific environmental problems, to protect important habitat sites, and to give farmers the opportunity to respond to market demands for the supply of organic food and the provision of tourism/leisure facilities. Local authorities are taken into account by the National Department of the Environment on issues related to the operation of the planning process.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: Ireland is represented on the European Union Committee on Spatial Development and on the informal Council of Ministers for Regional and Spatial Development. Ireland is also a member of the European Conference of Ministers responsible for Regional Planning under the Council of Europe. The EIA of Ireland's land planning takes full account of relevant EU directives.

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CHAPTER 11: COMBATING DEFORESTATION

Decision-Making: The Forest Service of the Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry is responsible for National forest policy. Public forests are managed by the State company, Coillte Teoranta. In 1996, the Government published a Strategic Plan for the Development of the Forestry Sector in Ireland, a long-term development plan for the sector up to the year 2030. Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and planning permission is required for afforestation projects over 70 ha. A range of environmental controls is applied to all afforestation projects including guidelines in relation to the landscape, fisheries, and archaeology. The forest estate is predominantly Sitka spruce, an exotic conifer species, but there is an increasing emphasis on species diversity and on the planting of broadleaves in particular, for which the target is 20% of planting. Irish forests are managed primarily for timber production on the basis of sustained yield.

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Status: Some 70% of Irish forests are owned by Coillte Teoranta, reflecting the dominant role of the State in forestry development. The balance of ownership is changing, however, as the private sector, and in particular farmers, becomes increasingly involved. In 1995, 27% of afforestation was undertaken by Coillte Teoranta and 63% by the private sector, of which 85% was undertaken by farmers. The area under forest in Ireland has been steadily increasing from the 1% under forest at the turn of the century to the current 8%. The annual afforestation targets are 25,000 ha/per/annum up to the year 2000 and 20,000 ha/per/annum thereafter to the year 2030. This should increase the area under forest to 17%. Harvesting is controlled by a licensing procedure, under which replanting is a basic condition. Because of the relatively young age of the forest estate, only about 5,000 ha are being harvested (and replaced) annually.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: Consultation with the public on forestry has been on an ad hoc basis. In early 1994, a wide range of interested parties and the general public were invited to make submissions in relation to the Strategic Plan for the Development of the Forestry Sector in Ireland. The Forest Service has produced and distributed a series of school video packs on forestry. Since 1989, courses on forest establishment and maintenance, forest harvesting, and the downstream timber industry have been developed in addition to forest degree courses. Two thousand trainees have graduated from these courses.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: The total investment planned for forestry in the period 1989-1999 is IR521 million, of which some IR170 million was spent under the Forestry Operational Programme 1989-93. The contribution from the European Union (EU) is IR303 million of the total amount. The Strategic Plan for the Development of the Forestry Sector in Ireland estimates that the cost of the afforestation programme to the end of 2030 will be over 3 billion.

Cooperation: Ireland participates in EU forest health surveys; United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) forest related activities; the Pan-European Process on the Protection of Forests in Europe; and the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests. The Pan-European Process is developing the concept of sustainable forest management in Europe and the criteria and indicators by which it can be measured.

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CHAPTER 12: MANAGING ERAGILE ECOSYSTEMS: COMBATING DESERTIFICATION AND DROUGHT

Decision-Making: No information available.

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Status: No information available.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: The International Convention to Combat Desertification in Countries Experiencing Drought and/or Desertification Particularly in Africa was signed by Ireland in October 1994.

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CHAPTER 13: MANAGING FRAGILE ECOSYSTEMS: SUSTAINABLE MOUNTAIN DEVELOPMENT

Decision-Making: Soil erosion as a result of overgrazing is a significant problem in the mountain and highland areas of Ireland as the number of mountain sheep has increased. In 1992, with the agricultural policy reform, the number of sheep in Ireland has been tied to a quota which should prevent any further increase. A change was made to the Rural Environment Protection Scheme (REPS) in October 1995 to make it more attractive and feasible for upland farmers in designated "degraded" upland areas to reduce or maintain sheep numbers at sustainable levels. This measure is mandatory for REPS participants in mountain and highland areas. A committee consisting of representatives of the Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry, the National Parks and Wildlife Service, REPS planners and farming organizations has recently devised a set of rules for the application of REPS in proposed Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs). In addition, large areas of proposed NHAs are to be further designated as Special Protection Areas (SPAs) under EU Wildlife Legislation, which will ensure that sustainable farming is maintained in these areas. Flock-owners who do not comply with this requirement lose entitlement to Ewe Premium and Rural World Premium for the year in question and the following year. European Union (EU) Council Regulation 3013/89 (Article 5a) provides for the prohibition of leasing and transfer of sheep quota rights from the 1994 marketing year between disadvantaged areas and non-disadvantaged areas in Ireland.

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Status: A time limit condition was introduced into the National administration of the Ewe Premium Scheme in 1994. Flock-owners who graze sheep on degraded common land and are not participating in REPS, but who wished to acquire additional quota rights, give an undertaking not to graze their additional ewes on the "degraded areas" between 1 November and 30 April each year.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: No information available.

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CHAPTER 14: PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Decision-Making: The Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry administers the Operational Programme for the Control of Farmyard Pollution. A Code of Good Practice to Protect Waters from Pollution by Nitrates was launched in July 1996 by the Ministers for Agriculture, Food and Forestry, and the Environment which is required by European Union (EU) Directive 91/676/EEC (the Nitrates Directive). This Code prescribes methods to prevent or minimize the pollution of waters from nitrates by adopting certain farm waste management techniques. Ireland has experienced an intensification of stock-farming leading to excessive nutrient enrichment of some waters, particularly by nitrogen and phosphates. Overgrazing, especially by sheep, has also become an issue of concern. In 1992, an agreement on a Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) was reached. The policy was accompanied by two schemes for investment aid: the Rural Environment Protection Scheme (REPS) to promote environmentally friendly farming, and a complementary scheme for on-farm investment measures called Control of Farm Yard Pollution (CFP). Organic crop production is governed by European Economic Community (EEC) Regulation No 2092/91. A draft regulation on organic livestock production is currently under preparation at the EU level. The Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry has approved three Organic Certification Bodies who provide advice, information, and certification of farms which are converting to the organic system of production. Farmers are the key major group in meeting the objectives of the Operational Programme. Substantial assistance has been provided by the Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry in recent years in grant aid for pollution control facilities under the CFP and the FIP.

Programmes and Projects: The REPS, the CFP, and the Farm Improvement Programme (FIP) have major roles to play in the prevention of nutrient enrichment of water courses. All participants in REPS are required to draw up a nutrient management plan in order to maintain the quality of water resources by minimizing nutrient losses from agriculture. Under CFP and FIP, participants receive grant aid towards the provision of animal housing and waste storage facilities. The Erne Catchment Nutrient Management Scheme (ECNMS) was launched during 1996 under the EU's Support Programme for Peace and Reconciliation in Northern Ireland and the Border Counties of Ireland. This Scheme offers a nutrient management service to intensive farmers on both sides of the Border along the River Erne in Counties Cavan and Monaghan in the Republic, and Fermanagh in Northern Ireland. The Department's Operational Programme for Agriculture, Rural Development and Forestry, 1994-1999 contains a Scheme of Aid for the Development of the Organic Farming Sector. A number of allocations were made under the Scheme for 1996, and further allocations will be made for 1997, 1998, and 1999. In addition, additional financial payments are available to organic farmers under the Department's Rural Environment Protection Scheme (REPS). There were 430 organic farmers in Ireland at the end of 1995, covering a land area of 12,400 ha.

Status: A total of about 1 million cattle and 800,000 sheep have been housed, with effluent storage of 6.1 million cubic metres and fodder storage of 2.6 million tonnes.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: Research, funded by the Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry, in the area of sustainable agriculture is ongoing. Under the Structural Funds of the Teagasc (agriculture and food research and development authority) Environment Protection Programme, research is to be focused on the following priority areas: the development of viable nutrient and waste management strategies designed to minimize the impact on the environment of agriculture and other developments in rural areas; and the development of strategies for the enhancement of rural landscapes and the ecological management of set-aside areas, including habitat re-establishment studies. Projects under this research programme include Sustainable Farming Systems; the Environmental Impact of Phosphorus; the Environmental Impact of Nitrogen; Waste Management; Land Use

Management; and Soil Fertility. These projects will provide the scientific basis for the implementation of EU and National legislation pertaining to agriculture and the environment.

Financing: Between 1986 and 1995, 26,000 applicants received grant aid for a total of 120 million under the FIP. A further 145 million was allocated in grant aid to some 25,000 applicants under the CFP Scheme between 1989 and 1993 and under funds agreed for the period 1994-1999.

Cooperation: No information available.

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CHAPTER 15: CONSERVATION OF BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Decision-Making: Ireland intends to ratify the CITES, the objectives of which are already in force in Ireland through European Economic Community (EEC) Regulation No. 3626/82. Ireland can meet the requirements of jurisdiction of the Convention on Biological Diversity via the Wildlife Act, 1976. A National Biodiversity Plan is being drawn up in accordance with Article 6 of the Biological Diversity Convention. The plan will integrate the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity into all sectoral and cross-sectoral plans, programmes, and policies. A Heritage Council was established on a statutory basis in 1995, to propose policies and priorities for the identification, protection, preservation, and enhancement of the National heritage, including the promotion of interest and knowledge in the National heritage.

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Status: In 1995, there was no indication of species loss over the previous 10 years. However, some species are in serious decline due to changes in farming practices. Habitat destruction is thought to be the main reason for the decrease in biological diversity. Pollution and over-harvesting (mainly in the marine environment) are also of concern. Ireland has set aside protected areas, including National parks and nature reserves. Regulation of exploited species takes place, as does ex-situ maintenance of threatened populations, and establishment of pilot studies in restoration ecology. Ireland has conducted surveys on Areas of Scientific Interest (ASIs) to review old areas and to set up new ones. In 1992, the Government decided to preserve 550,000 ha (7% of the State area) as Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs). These sites are reserved for Ireland's native flora and fauna. To date, over 100 special protection areas (SPAs) have been designated under EU Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the Conservation of Wild Birds (Birds Directive). Regulations to transpose European Union (EU) Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (Habitats Directive) into Irish law are at an advanced stage. Following the making of these regulations, special areas of conservation (SACs) will be designated. Proposals are currently being prepared to include a system of compensating for curtailed farming practices in the Rural Environment Protection Scheme (REPS). Due to the mostly extensive nature of Irish agriculture, landscape quality and habitat biodiversity have been well conserved in addition to hedges/streams and field systems. Improvement in the authorization process for plant protection products and the continuing success of REPS, which contains measures to retain wildlife habitats, should act to preserve these valuable resources into the future.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: Farmers who have land designated for Natural Heritage Areas containing habitats listed in EU Habitats and Birds Directives are eligible for higher payments under the Rural Environment Protection Scheme. Within the EU, Ireland has obtained funding for purchasing threatened areas.

Cooperation: Ireland participates in international conservation by cooperating, for example, with Northern Ireland authorities on protected areas for birds. In Ireland, the Convention on Biological Diversity was signed in 1992 and ratified in 1996. The Washington Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) was signed in 1974. In addition, Ireland has ratified the Berne Convention on Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, the Bonn Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, and the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance.

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CHAPTERS 16 AND 34: ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND MANAGEMENT OF BIOTECHNOLOGY AND TRANSFER OF ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND TECHNOLOGY,

COOPERATION AND CAPACITY-BUILDING

Decision-Making:

Technologies: Work on developing and promoting the concept and use of clean technologies is undertaken by the Clean Technology Center at Cork Regional Technical College. The focus is on minimizing waste and avoiding pollution. It is co-funded by members of the Irish chemical/pharmaceutical industry and by European Union (EU) structural funds. In addition, the Cleaner Production Promotion Center at University College Cork focuses on academic input into cleaner production processes. The Center has also established a network with EU and USA institutions.

Biotechnologies: In Ireland, the Ministry for the Environment is responsible for the legal and political issues relating to the environmentally sound management of biotechnology. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is the competent authority for the purpose of monitoring and regulations. Ireland has both legislation dealing with environmentally sound management of biotechnology and a broad based research capacity. The Genetically Modified Organisms Regulation, 1994 came into effect on 1 January, 1995. It gives legal effect to two European Union (EU) directives on the contained use of genetically modified micro-organisms (90/219/EEC) and the deliberate use of genetically modified organisms (90/220/EEC).

Programmes and Projects:

Technologies: Ireland is involved in two projects in Tanzania: a coastal protection programme in Tanga and a joint research project in the field of hydrology. The coastal protection programme is a multi-disciplinary project managed by the World Conservation Union (IUCN).

Biotechnologies: No information available.

Status:

Technologies: No information available.

Biotechnologies: No information available.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising:

Technologies: No information available.

Biotechnologies: Ireland has brought together biotechnology expertise in one organization, Bio Research Ireland. One of its key functions is to raise awareness of biotechnology. Almost half of all University-based researchers work in biotechnology. Biotechnology is being used for in-house treatment of waste and the recovery of energy for re-use.

Information:

Technologies: No information available.

Biotechnologies: No information available.

Research and Technologies:

Technologies: No information available.

Biotechnologies: No information available.

Financing:

Technologies: No information available.

Biotechnologies: Since 1985, the Government has been funding research within the sector.

Cooperation:

Technologies: See under "Programmes and Projects."

Biotechnologies: No information available.

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CHAPTER 17: PROTECTION OF THE OCEANS, ALL KINDS OF SEAS, INCLUDING ENCLOSED AND SEMI-ENCLOSED SEAS, AND COASTAL AREAS AND THE PROTECTION, RATIONAL USE AND DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR LIVING RESOURCES.

Decision-Making: The Department of Arts, Heritage, Gealtacht and the Islands is responsible for the conservation of species and habitats. The Department of the Environment and Local Government is responsible for dealing with pollution from land-based sources and also for Coastal Zone Management. The Department of the Marine and Natural Resources is responsible for marine matters generally, including marine environment protection. The document, Sustainable Development: A Strategy for Ireland (1997) identifies marine resources as a strategic section and contains a separate chapter on the sustainable use of marine resources. A draft policy document on CZM was published for further consultation and discussion. National policy is being developed. Marine policy is generally addressed in, Making the Most of Ireland's Marine and Natural Resources, (1998). RTDI issues are addressed in, A Marine Research, Technology, Development and Innovation Strategy for Ireland (1998). The Local Government (Planning and Development) Acts provide for the planning and control of physical development in all areas, including coastal areas. The following legislation applies to the area of oceans and seas: Dumping at Sea Act in 1996; Foreshore Acts Environmental Protection Agency Act; Fisheries Acts; Local Government (Water Pollution) Acts; Marine Institute Act in 1991; Oil Pollution of the Sea Acts; Sea Pollution Act in 1991; Waste Management Act in 1996; The Fisheries Act.

Programmes and Projects: The following major programmes are in effect: Water Services Investment Programme to provide upgraded treatment facilities for effluents discharged to estuarine and coastal areas; Provision of port reception facilities for ships' waste; Monitoring programme in relation to bathing water quality; Blue Flag Scheme in relation to beaches; Local authority programmes to combat coastal erosion.

Status: Fifty-two percent of the population, or 1.8 million people, live within ten km of the coast. The five largest urban conurbations are located along the coastline. There are 130 fishing ports (and more than 900 landing places) and 10 major shipping ports. Coastal areas are also used for tourism and recreation. Consistent with the EU Common Fisheries Policy, Ireland's National Fisheries Policy designates special protection status for specified areas, species and habitats.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: The publication of a draft national CZM policy document for comment in 1997 was followed by a public consultation seminar on CZM in 1998. The Marine Institute and the Environmental Protection Agency produce a range of publications related to oceans and seas issues generally. Training courses for public authorities and private sector agencies are provided by the Marine Institute, the Institute of Public Administration and other bodies, e.g., the Institute of Engineers of Ireland, universities and other third-level institutions. CZM demonstrations are organised under an EU funded programme. In an effort to raise awareness of issues related to oceans and seas, the Marine Institute regularly organizes conferences on marine matters, including, in 1998, the Year of the Ocean Conference. The Environmental Information Service, ENFO, provides a range of services to facilitate public access to information on the environment (e.g., information leaflets) and present exhibitions on environmental topics (including an exhibition on the Oceans and Seas in 1998).

Information: Ireland's "Marine and Coastal Areas and Adjacent Seas: an Environmental Assessment" (forthcoming) will inform both decision-makers and planners working in coastal areas, related to the following areas and dealing with issues such as the sustainable management of fishery resources, marine pollution, mineral resources, living resources (other than fish) and critical uncertainties. Monitoring of the implementation of relevant laws and regulations is carried out by the Government Departments concerned, local authorities, the Marine Institute and the Environmental Protection Agency.

Research and Technologies: The Marine Institute recently launched, A Marine Research, Technology, Development and Innovation Strategy for Ireland. This Strategy includes a section devoted to the marine

environment and identifies the following aspects of special relevance to a marine environment RTDI strategy: Sustainable Development, Prevention of harm, Role of science and technology, International cooperation.

Financing: In general, activity in this sector is funded by the Exchequer. The Waste Water Services Capital Investment Programme is financed from the Exchequer with significant support from EU Structural Funds.

Cooperation: In Ireland, the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea was signed in 1982 and ratified in 1996. In January 1995, Ireland ratified the MARPOL International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships. Ireland participates in the OSPAR Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-east Atlantic. Ireland recognizes that action at the international level is an essential element of any strategy for sustainable development and the protection of the marine environment and, to that end, participates fully in the activities of relevant United Nations organizations, including UNCLOS, CSD and IMO. At a regional level, membership in the European Union and the OSPAR Commission are significant influences. There is also close bilateral cooperation with the UK in relation to the Irish Sea.

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CHAPTER 18: PROTECTION OF THE QUALITY AND SUPPLY OF FRESHWATER RESOURCES: APPLICATION OF INTEGRATED APPROACHES TO THE DEVELOPMENT, MANAGEMENT AND USE OF WATER RESOURCES.

Decision-Making: The Department of Environmental and Local Government and the Environmental Protection Agency are responsible for the development of national water resource management. The terms of the Environmental Protection Agency Act 1992, provide for the preparation and implementation of national water resource monitoring programmes and overseeing the performance by the 33 local authorities of their statutory environmental protection functions. Government measures to prevent pollution of fresh water supplies as well as for integrated land and water management and development are detailed in its May 1997 policy document entitled *Managing Ireland's Rivers and Lakes - A Catchment Based Strategy Against Eutrophication*. At the local level, county development plans, water quality management plans and the operation of integrated pollution control licensing for selected activities all contribute to integrated land and water management. Ireland does not have a separate regulatory framework, the following laws apply to water management, agriculture, industry and households: Local Government (Water Pollution) Acts 1977 and 1990, Local Government (Sanitary Services) Acts 1878-1964 and Local Government Planning and Development Acts 1963-1993. Government has implemented pricing policies that are geared toward cost recovery and equitable and efficient allocations of water, including the promotion of water conservation. In practice, charges are made for all non-domestic uses of water. When policies are formulated, draft county development plans and water quality management plans proposed by local authorities are put on display for public inspection and comment by interested parties.

Programmes and Projects: A major national water Conservation Programme for water supply systems in the larger cities and towns is underway to address an identified problem with water leakage. Several local projects have been launched to protect inland waters from pollution. These projects address many aspects, including farmyard pollution, improved monitoring of water quality, and introducing phosphate-free domestic detergents.

Status: In 1993, a survey, based on 1200 rivers, 172 lakes and important bays and estuaries, showed that 77.5% of the rivers (measured by length) were unpolluted; the rest were either "slightly polluted" (12%), "moderately polluted" (9.5%), or "seriously polluted" (1%).

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: Public awareness campaigns are undertaken by the larger urban local authorities.

Information: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) collects and publishes hydrometric data on a regular basis, including river flow data and reports on specific regions of interest to water resource managers. National reports on water quality in Ireland are produced by the EPA every 3 to 4 years based on data collected by the EPA, local authorities and fisheries bodies, while interim reports on individual rivers and lakes are published annually. The EPA also publishes an annual report on Ireland's drinking water quality, including public and private sources of drinking water. The EPA distributes this information through wide dissemination of its publications which are readily available to the general public and are supplied to the Department of the Environment and Local Government, local authorities, environmental NGOs and research bodies at national level and through the European Commission reporting requirements mechanism and the European Environmental Agency. Most of the data is available in electronic format using spreadsheets or databases and can be sent by e-mail to users. Information on the Internet is not currently provided.

Research and Technologies: Ireland has the capacity to treat waste water, but not to recycle waste water. Urban sewerage is treated at different levels; 33% of arising receive primary treatment, 18% of arising receive secondary treatment and 2% of arising receive phosphorus reduction in addition to secondary treatment. Water supply coverage targets over 95% of the population while sanitation coverage targets 95% of the population of which 68% are connected to the public sewage disposal scheme. Before usage, 83% of water is treated for drinking purposes. Ireland has a target of 90% by 2005.

Financing: Ireland's national sustainable development strategy, published in 1997, recognizes the role of the private sector in the environmental area and promotes the integration of environmental considerations into all policy areas. Water management and supply are the responsibility of local (public) authorities. Capital investment is financed by central government with EU support, while operational and maintenance costs are met by local authorities. State grants are available for private wells and for private community initiatives to provide water supplies and ensure observance of quality standards. The financial commitments stated in the Environmental

Action Programme were reaffirmed in the National Development Plan, 1990-1994. The total capital spending on water services was IR442 million. The Environment Action Programme committed a IR300 million investment until the year 2000 for the provision of new and improved public water supply. Under the Operational Programme 1994- 1999, IR61 million is to be spent on drinking water, wastewater treatment, and group water schemes. A IR230 million sewage treatment programme involves the provision of full secondary treatment for inland towns discharging to rivers and lakes. The EU has been sponsoring the Operational Plan for Water, Sanitary and other Local Services with IR110.92 million. The flow of external resources into water resource management and development in 1996 was IR78 million, IR1.1 million for technical cooperation and IR76.9 million for grants. The ratio between domestic expenditures for water resource management and development and external funds is 36% and 64% respectively. The estimated percentage of ODA allocated for water resource management and development in 1996 was 4%.

Cooperation: No information available.

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CHAPTER 19: ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND MANAGEMENT OF TOXIC CHEMICALS, INCLUDING PREVENTION OF ILLEGAL INTERNATIONAL TRAFFIC IN TOXIC AND DANGEROUS PRODUCTS.

Decision-Making: Ireland is committed to the key programme areas of toxic chemical management under Agenda 21. It is involved in the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (IFCS) which seeks to advance environmentally sound management of toxic chemicals. The National Authority for Occupational Safety and Health is the competent body for implementing European Union (EU) legislation related to risk assessment, and the classification and labeling of dangerous chemicals other than for pesticides and biocides, for which the Pesticide Control Service of the Department of Agriculture is the competent body. The Environmental Protection Agency is responsible for integrated pollution control licensing. Participation by Irish industry, which is fully committed to toxic management, is essential to achieve the objectives of Agenda 21 in this area. Ireland is also committed to any global risk reduction activities within the framework of IFCS/OECD, including those on lead and Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs). The country has implemented risk reduction measures for a number of dangerous chemicals at the EU level under the EU Marketing and Use Directive (76/769/EEC). On 16 May 1994, Ireland launched the integrated pollution control licensing of activities which pose a high risk of pollution. The activities include managing materials such as minerals, energy, mineral fibers, glass, chemicals, food, drink, wood, paper, textiles, leather, and cement.

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Status: No information available.

Capacity Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: In compliance with EU legislation set out for this sector, Ireland has developed the capacity for responding to emergencies, to rehabilitate contaminated sites and poisoned persons, and has established systems for notification of new chemicals, and information gathering and dissemination.

Information: Ireland participates in an information exchange network on the import and export of certain dangerous chemicals under EU legislation, and is committed to the impending Prior Informed Consent (PIC) procedure.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: Ireland participates in the EU/Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) work on chemical risk assessment, and is currently drafting a risk assessment procedure for priority chemicals within this programme. Ireland is committed to the advancement of global harmonization of toxic chemical classification, and participates in EU/OECD/IFCS discussions on this topic. Ireland is already part of the harmonized EU system for classification and labeling of dangerous chemicals. Ireland participates fully in all EU work related to management of toxic chemicals, and participates in the OECD and IFCS fora as resources permit.

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CHAPTERS 20 TO 22: ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND MANAGEMENT OF HAZARDOUS, SOLID AND RADIOACTIVE WASTES.

DECISION-MAKING:

Hazardous wastes: The Ministry of the Environment retains power over policy direction and makes regulations to promote waste prevention. In 1995, Ireland drafted a new Waste Bill, enacted in 1996 as the Waste Management Act, which is meant to bring consistency between international and National waste management. Under the new Act, it is suggested that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is responsible for the licensing of all significant waste disposal activities, including local authority landfills, and for planning, management, and control of hazardous waste. Pollution Control license under the Environmental Protection Agency Act, 1992. The Waste Management Act requires that a National Hazardous Waste Management Plan be prepared by the EPA.

Solid wastes: The Government recently enacted the Waste Management Act which, inter alia, introduces comprehensive measures for the management of solid wastes in Ireland. Local authorities are empowered under General Government legislation to collect household waste and provide waste disposal facilities.

Radioactive wastes: The storage and disposal of all radioactive waste in Ireland is controlled by the Radiological Protection Act, 1991. The Radiological Protection Institute of Ireland handles the licensing that is mandated by the Act. In 1994, all imported sealed radioactive sources were to be sent back to the original supplier at the end of their useful time period. In 1994, the Radiological Protection Institute recommended establishing a centralized waste management facility for low level radioactive waste. In 1993, Ireland supported the ban on dumping of low and intermediate level radioactive waste at sea, which was adopted at the Consultative Meeting of the London Convention.

Programmes and Projects:

Hazardous wastes: In 1995, the Operational Programme included improvement of the waste management system as a priority.

Solid wastes: No information available.

Radioactive wastes: No information available.

Status:

Hazardous wastes: In 1995, hazardous waste amounts in Ireland were estimated to be 243,754 tonnes. The recovery rate for hazardous waste was estimated to be 42.5%. Over 90% of reported hazardous waste is treated in Ireland. Incineration of hazardous wastes and hospital waste requires an Integrated

Solid wastes: In 1995, Ireland had 118 municipal waste landfills receiving approximately 2.2 million tonnes of waste per annum. The majority of these sites are relatively small with 58% accepting less than 15,000 tonnes per annum and only 7 landfills receiving in excess of 50,000 tonnes per annum. In 1994, the Government set targets for increased recycling of packaging materials in compliance with targets set by the European Union (EU). Municipal waste recovery infrastructure is improving with 6 recycling schemes, 28 civic amenity sites, and over 400 bring banks reported for 1995.

Radioactive wastes: No information available.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising:

Hazardous wastes: The private sector has been encouraged to promote the capacity for the prevention, reduction, and safe management of hazardous waste. In 1992, for example, a Discussion Document was published bringing together the thoughts and ideas from interested parties for the new Waste Bill. Investment of some 30.5 million will be undertaken in the period 1995-1999 to develop waste management strategies at local and regional levels, improve recycling infrastructure, and support the provision of appropriate hazardous waste management.

Solid wastes: No information available.

Radioactive wastes: No information available.

Information:

Hazardous wastes: No information available.

Solid wastes: In 1995, a new National Waste Database was constructed and a report detailing waste and the infrastructure for disposal and recovery was published.

Radioactive wastes: No information available.

Research and Technologies:

Hazardous wastes: No information available.

Solid wastes: No information available.

Radioactive wastes: No information available.

Financing:

Hazardous wastes: No information available.

Solid wastes: Between 1989 and 1993, IR1.6 million was allocated to a demonstration project and programmes for municipal waste recycling. Among other benefits, this has created an increase in public awareness and participation.

Radioactive wastes: No information available.

Cooperation:

Hazardous wastes: In Ireland, the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal was ratified in 1994.

Solid wastes: No information available.

Radioactive wastes: No information available.

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CHAPTERS 24 TO 32: STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF MAJOR GROUPS

Women: Cooperation: In Ireland, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women was ratified on 23 December 1985.

Children and youth: No information available.

Indigenous people: No information available.

Non-governmental organizations: Decision-making: Local and National major groups are considered essential in the overall contribution to the National sustainable development initiatives, and participate most actively at the local level. In particular, NGOs are involved in the National Economic and Social Forum, the Advisory Committee to the Environment Protection Agency, and the National Forum on Development Aid. NGOs were also consulted in the preparation of the National Sustainable Development Strategy during 1996. Financing: Financial aid is given to a number of NGOs linked with Agenda 21 issues, and the Government considers NGOs and major regional groups (for example, Amazonian, Baltic, Pacific) as being quite helpful. Cooperation: NGOs took part in the 1996-1997 meetings of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD). They have also participated in other UN meetings, such as the Social Development Summit, Copenhagen, and the Women's Conference, Beijing.

Local authorities: Decision-making: In Ireland, local authorities are empowered by the Local Government Act, 1991. It was recommended that the National Sustainable Development Strategy for 1997 should be accompanied by a complementary strategy for local levels. The strategy should involve the whole community, its local elected members, and other community and representative groups. The Government supports Local Agenda 21 initiatives, which given the structure of governance in Ireland, should be at county and borough levels. Guidelines were issued by the Department of the Environment in mid-1995 to assist local authorities in developing local Agendas 21.

Workers and trade unions: Decision-making: The National Authority for Occupational Safety and Health (NAOSH) is responsible for enforcing safety in work legislation and promoting safety awareness among employers and employees.

Business and industry: Decision-making: The Department of Enterprise and Employment is responsible for the implementation of industrial policy. The Department works closely with the Departments of Agriculture, Food and Forestry, and the Marine in developing natural resource based industry reconciled with conservation and environmental protection objectives. The Community Support Framework (CSF) 1994-1999, is based on principles which will entail: focusing on cleaner technologies, waste minimization and recycling, and pursuing a policy of conservation of energy and other raw materials. Voluntary initiatives in relation to the industrial sector include: participating in the annual industry environment awards schemes, exploring the potential of voluntary agreements to reduce emissions, developing initiatives to implement the National Recycling Strategy, and implementing environmental management and auditing at the company level. Programmes and Projects: In March 1995, Ireland, as an European Union (EU) member, launched the Eco-management and Audit Scheme (EMAS), and complemented it with some of their own standards under the Environmental Management Systems (EMS). Integrated pollution control (IPC) and the licensing measures handled by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) are continuously being expanded to address a broader range of industrial activities.

Scientific and technological community: No information available.

Farmers: No information available.

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CHAPTER 33: FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND MECHANISMS

This issue has been covered under the heading **Financing** in the various chapters of this Profile.

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CHAPTER 35: SCIENCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Decision-Making: No information available.

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Status: No information available.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: No information available.

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CHAPTER 36: PROMOTING EDUCATION, PUBLIC AWARENESS AND TRAINING

This issue has been covered under the heading **Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising** in the various chapters of this Profile.

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**CHAPTER 37: NATIONAL MECHANISMS AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION FOR
CAPACITY-BUILDING IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.**

This issue has been covered either under Chapter 2 or under the heading **Cooperation** in the various chapters of this Profile.

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CHAPTER 38: INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

This issue deals mainly with activities undertaken by the UN system.

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CHAPTER 39: INTERNATIONAL LEGAL INSTRUMENTS AND MECHANISMS

This issue has been covered under **Cooperation** in the various chapters of this Profile.

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CHAPTER 40: INFORMATION FOR DECISION-MAKING

This issue has been covered either under Chapter 8 or under the heading **Decision-Making** in the various chapters of this Profile.

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CHAPTER: INDUSTRY

Decision-Making: The Department of Enterprise and Employment is responsible for the implementation of industrial policy. The Department works closely with the Departments of Agriculture, Food and Forestry, and Marine. A national sustainable development strategy for ecologically sustainable industrial development was published by the Minister for the Environment in April, 1997. For the period 1994-1999, Ireland adopted both a European Community Support Framework (CSF) and a National Development Plan. There are several voluntary initiatives in relation to the industrial sector include: participating in the annual industry environment awards schemes, exploring the potential of voluntary agreements to reduce emissions, developing initiatives to implement the National Recycling Strategy, and implementing environmental management and auditing at the company level. The Irish Trade Board (ABT) has put in place a new marketing programme to work closely with firms in identifying and exploiting these opportunities. Forbairt (the Irish business development agency) has also been supporting firms in the sector and has a project in place to identify further opportunities. Joint working arrangements between ABT and Forbairt have been established to prepare joint development strategies and consistent operational arrangements between the agencies in sectors with good growth potential.

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Status: Ireland has largely escaped the serious land use contamination problems of industrialized countries where heavy industry operated for many years before the need for environmental protection was fully acknowledged. Nevertheless, it is necessary to guard against the potential contamination and erosion of soils. Furthermore, recent environmental protection strategies have tended to concentrate on reducing emissions to air and water. This has left soil as the least regulated disposal option and it is therefore increasingly exposed to pollution threats. Integrated pollution control (IPC), where applicable, is designed to prevent this from happening in the future. Freshwater pollution by industry is not a major problem in Ireland. Most substantial industries are located in coastal areas and discharge effluent in accordance with approved procedures into the sea - often after substantial effluent treatment. Inland factories are subject to strict controls which are generally effective.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: Forbairt has adopted a positive approach to the promotion of environment protection measures. Its environment division has a wide range of technological capabilities which are used to encourage and assist companies to meet their obligations in the area of environmental protection. Forbairt is currently implementing an initiative to help Irish businesses to identify environmental threats posed by their current operations and to implement solutions which will avoid current or potential environmental damage. In addition, Forbairt's Irish Energy Centre manages an extensive programme to help industries to use energy more efficiently by reducing their consumption of hydrocarbons and by eliminating waste among the initiatives. The National Accreditation Board (NAB) is active in the field of advising industry on the implementation of Environmental Management Systems (EMS) standards as a means to secure ongoing compliance with Environmental Regulations. In addition, the NAB message to industry emphasizes the role of Environmental Management Systems in improving competitiveness and opening up new markets.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: Under the Energy Audit Grant Scheme the Irish Energy Center provides grants of 40%, subjected to a maximum of IR5,000, to energy users in the industrial, institutional, and commercial sectors for the hiring of consultants to make energy audits. The Energy Efficient Investment Support Scheme provides grant assistance to energy users within these sectors. The grants paid out are for energy technology and amount to 40% of the investment subjected to a IR250,000 maximum.

Cooperation: In March 1995, Ireland, as an European Union (EU) member, launched the Eco-management and Audit Scheme (EMAS), and complemented it with some of its own standards under the Environmental Management Systems (EMS). Integrated pollution control (IPC) and the licensing measures handled by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) are continuously being expanded to address a broader range of industrial activities. The Government is promoting policies and programmes in a wide range of areas concerned with atmospheric protection, including industrial pollution control. Participation by industry and the private sector is crucial for meeting the atmospheric objectives of the EU.

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