

## PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVES INFORMATION SHEET

### Name of the Partnership/Initiative

Award Scheme "Examples of Excellence" (EoE)

An International Initiative for the World Summit on Sustainable Development

**Date of initiation:** Initiated April 2002

**Expected date of completion:** Initial plan until 2012

### Partners Involved:

**Governments:** Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation & Nuclear Safety of Germany (Berlin)

Contact: Stephan Contius,     Stephan.Contius@bmu.bund.de

                  Jessica Suplie,     Jessica.Suplie@bmu.bund.de

### Intergovernmental organization:

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Division of Technology, Industry and Economics,

Tour Mirabeau 39/43

Quai André Citroën

Phone +33.1.44.37.14.50

Fax: +33.1.44.37.14.74

Contact : Cornis van der Lugt,     Cornis.Lugt@unep.fr

Major groups:

**Other:** Stakeholder Forum for Our Common Future (London)

Contact: Minu Hemmati,     minush@aol.com

**Leading Partner:** Stakeholder Forum for Our Common Future (London)

Name of the contact person/focal point: Minu Hemmati

Address: 7 Holyrood Street, London SE1 2EL, UK

Phone: office +44 20 7089 4309, mobile +44 7949 777 453

Fax: +44 20 7089 4310

E-mail: minush@aol.com

### Main objectives of the Partnership/Initiative

#### 1. Vision

To increase the contribution of partnership initiatives for sustainable development that benefit from private sector's involvement through highlighting and supporting the replication of successful partnership models.

## **2. Award process**

### **2.a. Criteria**

- Planned replications of successful partnership initiatives with significant private sector involvement, thus providing incentives for research and development and for investing in sustainable development. Partnership proposals are those where the private sector joins forces with national or local governments and/or other stakeholders such as NGOs, private sector, trade unions, etc.
- Proposals should be based on successful implementation of partnership initiatives that can be replicated. They need to contain clear commitments and time frames and ideally involve institutions and organisations in the countries where the projects and investment programmes are to be replicated.
- Proposals need to demonstrate the integration of economic, ecological and social aspects of sustainable development.
- Priority is given to projects involving local communities and small and medium-size entities because of their particularly high potential for technical support.
- EoE shall focus on emerging issues. Particular attention shall be given to sectors where the private sector has a role in promoting sustainable management of natural resources as mean to achieve poverty and equity considerations, or where the encouragement of SME-involving partnerships seems particularly timely. Thus, the award scheme would also serve to increase networking and learning between the local communities involved in natural resources related activities, such as fisheries, biodiversity, agriculture, desertification, water, energy, etc.

### **2.b. Secretariat: Knowledge building on partnerships**

- A Secretariat shall serve to administer the award scheme and to build information & networking service and guidance for award recipients and other submissions, based on accumulating experiences with existing private sector/multi-stakeholder initiatives for implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and sustainable development policies.
- The Secretariat shall also be active in the Johannesburg Summit follow-up process, particularly the partnership initiatives forum at UN CSD.

There is widespread agreement that sustainable development can only be achieved through joint efforts of governments, intergovernmental agencies and stakeholders. Working in partnership among governmental and non-governmental entities has been identified as key success factor of implementing sustainable development: Harnessing the innovative potential of entrepreneurship and using the financial leverage for investment of the private sector, while ensuring human rights, equal opportunities and access to resources as well as the conservation of the Earths ecosystems, requires a stable framework based on the rule of law and conducive regulations and standard-setting mechanisms. Governments are responsible for creating such a framework, but the private sector is critical. National research institutions, trade unions, NGOs, academia, farmers, private sector and other stakeholder groups all need to provide their specific expertise and skills, creativity and networks.

The role and influence of the private sector has significantly increased over recent years. Correspondingly, governments, stakeholders as well as the private sector community itself have recognized the increased responsibility of the private sector in contributing to sustainable development.

For example, at the Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GMEF) in Malmö in May 2000, Ministers called for a greater commitment by the private sector “to engender a new culture of environmental accountability”. Since then, UNEP, in co-operation with the CSD Secretariat, has engaged in an evaluation process of contributions of business and industry to the implementation of Agenda 21. A report on this joint effort was submitted as a background paper to the GMEF in Cartagena in February 2002 (UNEP/GCSS.VII/Inf/4, “Business, Industry and Agenda 21: Paving the way for sustainable entrepreneurship”). The authors of the report conclude that

“...a number of companies have demonstrated that leadership and sustainability is good business, even among SMEs (small and medium-sized enterprises). The challenge is now to expand rapidly the corresponding practices and technologies in all companies, and globally demonstrating that sustainability is good business.”

The UN Secretary General’s report “Implementing Agenda 21” (December 2001) has outlined the basic strategic components for strengthening implementation of and global partnerships for sustainable development. The suggestion in this report was to arrive in Johannesburg at a “Global Deal” which “seeks to reflect the notion of partnership and commitment”. The common understanding of the concept is that such a global deal would encompass not only intergovernmental commitments (type 1 outcomes), but also the contributions of civil society to sustainable development with the private sector being one of the Major Groups (type 2 outcomes: Partnership Initiatives).

The draft “Johannesburg Plan of Action”, being negotiated at this point, highlights the important role of initiatives of/with the private sector in implementing Agenda 21, the Millennium Development Goals and the Johannesburg Summit outcomes.

**Expected results:**

- Increased awareness successful partnership initiatives
- Increased number of partnership initiatives with private sector’s involvement beyond the Johannesburg Summit, and increased number of replications of successful initiatives
- Increased sustainable investment opportunities in developing countries, in order to promote sustainable trade and development in an integrated manner, combining economic, social and environmental benefits, and further collaboration between different stakeholders
- Increased networking and knowledge building among governments and stakeholders working on sustainable development in different areas

**Specific targets of the Partnership/Initiative and timeframe for their achievement:**

**Objectives**

- Establish a high-visibility award scheme of high reputation that celebrates successful partnership initiatives and their planned replications
- To provide incentives for sustainable investments as an opportunity for market access for developing countries and as a tool to promote sustainable development, combining economic, social and environmental benefits, and promoting further collaboration between different stakeholders
- To provide incentives for developing partnership initiatives with private sector’s involvement beyond the Johannesburg Summit
- To support networking and knowledge building among governments and stakeholders working on sustainable development in different areas

**Timeframe**

- Full development of the Award Scheme by March 2003 via
  - further conceptual work, networking, and fund raising starting August 2002
  - an international workshop with partners, experts, and identified board members in January 2003
- First award in 2004 (biodiversity), then biannually; all 5 WEHAB themes covered by 2012

**Coordination and Implementation Mechanism**

See below

### **Internal governance structure**

- **Founding organisations:** German Federal Ministry for the Environment (Berlin); UNEP/DTIE (Paris); Stakeholder Forum (London).  
UNEP's role is to provide advisory and technical assistance with no financial implications.
- **Additional partners:** Private sector and national research institutions; governments; award scheme bodies.
- **Board:**  
Members: focal points from the three founding organisations and the additional partners; EoE Secretariat with one position (ex officio)  
Tasks: provide strategic guidance for the EoE Award Scheme; selection of jury; promotion of award; participation at launch event & award ceremonies, fund raising support; agree set of core "EoE Principles"; agree focus areas for award;
- **Jury:**  
Members: maximum of 10 technically qualified stakeholder representatives, interdisciplinary and geographically balanced; to be selected by the Board. The jury may decide to co-opt up to 5 members for each round awards, who provide specific expertise on the respective issue areas.  
Tasks: identify award winners from the pool of submitted partnership initiatives replications, based on the set of "EoE Principles".
- **Examples of Excellence Forum:**  
Members: representatives of award recipients partnership initiatives; representatives of submitted partnership initiatives; all partners
- **Secretariat** (to be established): close collaboration with founding organisations and additional partners; governed by EoE Board  
Tasks: point of call for all communication with and within EoE; outreach & promotion of EoE; dissemination of calls for submissions; collection and initial screening of submissions; organisation of board and jury meetings; organisation of award ceremonies; fund raising; financial administration; establish networking tools for EoE Forum; establish services for networking and knowledge building (website, newsletter, collaboration with relevant organisations)

### **Arrangements for funding**

Please describe available and/or expected sources of funding for the implementation of the

- Development of the Award Scheme funded by the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation & Nuclear Safety of Germany (Berlin)
- Further funds for full implementation to be generated by early 2003, from foundations and governments

### **Arrangements for capacity building and technology transfer**

Knowledge building on partnerships

- A Secretariat shall serve to administer the award scheme and to build information & networking service and guidance for award recipients and other submissions, based on accumulating experiences with existing private sector/multi-stakeholder initiatives for implementation of sustainable development agreements.
- The Secretariat shall also be active in the Johannesburg Summit follow-up process, particularly the partnership initiatives forum at UN CSD.

**Links of Partnership/Initiative with on-going sustainable development activities at the international and/or regional level (if any)**

- A wide range of initiatives will be linked with the Award Scheme, as the objective is to identify those that shall become part of the knowledge building and replication network;
- Stakeholder Forum for Our Common Future's ongoing work on multi-stakeholder processes and partnership initiatives;
- Experts to be included in the development and further implementation of the Award scheme include bodies that are engaged in Award Schemes themselves (list to be developed); we have developed the scheme so far in consultations with some of those bodies within and outside the UN system.

**Monitoring Arrangements**

- Full progress reports: annually
- Desired inclusion in presentations at future CSD
- Website with continuous updating
- Newsletter: probably quarterly, primarily in electronic format

**Other relevant information:**

**Name and contact information of the person filling in this table:**

Name: Minu Hemmati

Position: Project Coordinator

Address: 7 Holyrood Street, London SE1 2EL, UK

Phone: office +44 20 7089 4309; mobile +44 7949 777 453

Fax: +44 7089 4310

E-mail: minush@aol.com