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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.

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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: The Ministry for Foreign Affairs is responsible for development cooperation with developing countries and with countries in transition. Dialogue among all relevant institutions is an integral part of the decision-making processes in Austria. In order to promote decentralization, the management of programmes and projects is often transferred to the partner countries, where the necessary structures are established on the spot, in the form of regional offices. An Austrian Law on Development Cooperation exists. In line with the partnership principles of the DAC 21st Century Strategy the Austrian Development Cooperation has supported so far development processes in its partner countries of development cooperation, which are based on the principles of respect for human rights, promotion of democratic structures and good governance, gender equality and environmental protection. Austria fully supports the in-country dialogues on national strategies for sustainable development (nssds). It strives for political dialogue at least once a year with its development cooperation partners. Non-governmental organizations and firms execute projects and programmes of the Austrian Development Cooperation.

Programmes and Projects: At present there are no specific environmental programmes but environmental protection and sustainable natural resource management are nevertheless major objectives in a number of cooperation programmes in various partner countries and regions, such as: a) Sustainable use of tropical rainforests in North Western Amazon (Brazil, Columbia). The respective projects pursue the strengthening of local indigenous societies and include measures to build up institutional capacities, to improve health services and educational institutions and the sustainable use of natural resources (especially non-timber forest products). b) The rural development programmes in West Africa and in the Himalayas/Hindukush region focus on the fight against increasing degradation and rehabilitation of soil and vegetation. . c) Measures to develop sustainable use of resources and improvement of living conditions in buffer zones which are situated near precious ecological-systems, reserves or parks are currently promoted in Ethiopia (Simien Mountain National Park) and in Central America (Nicaragua, Guatemala). d) The Nicaraguan Cleaner Production Center (NCPC) in Managua, financed by Austria, gives an example of co-operation for the development of cleaner and sustainable industrial development. In all projects Austria follows a participatory approach to create local ownership. Furthermore, each project financed by the Austrian Development Cooperation is subject to an environmental impact assessment.

Status: The Austrian Development Cooperation endeavors to play a more pronounced role in the context of multilateral cooperation and to introduce its principles in the field of multilateral cooperation by way of the committees in which Austria is represented. Austria's election to the Presidency and four functional commissions of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in May 2000 has been an important step in this direction. Austria concentrates its contributions on a number of specific organizations. Regarding financing institutions IDA, a subsidiary of the World Bank receiving approx. ATS 345 million annually, plays a central role. For UNDP, the most important UN organization for financing technical assistance, an annual volume of approx. ATS 127 mill. is provided, which is the largest share to a UN development organization. Thus, Austria ranks among the medium group of donors. Austria has markedly contributed to the intensification of practical cooperation between Funds and Programmes of the United Nations and Austria by means of joint projects, and has also developed corresponding framework agreements for the future cooperation with UNDP and UNICEF.

Capacity-building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: In the last years, an amount of about ATS 50 million annually was appropriated by the Austrian Development Cooperation in the Federal Ministry for Foreign Affairs for awareness raising in Austria. The largest share (about 2/3) was disbursed for structural promotion measures in the field of nation-wide educational activities in and outside schools, the publication of magazines (Südwind Magazine, Journal for Development Policy), documentation centers and libraries, cultural activities as well as encounters and events. The remaining 1/3 was distributed among some 70 projects per year, whose eligibility for support was determined according to the promotion programme elaborated in 1997. Preference was given to projects in the field of education and culture as well as to publications. Capacity-building and technology

issues are integrated into the three-year Programme of Austria's Development Cooperation. The key areas of the projects supported during the last three years were employment, global economy, fair trade, the development policy of the EU, environment/climate, development cooperation, cultural exchange, Africa and Latin America. Target groups include: teachers and other responsible actors in the field of youth and adult education (multipliers); NGOs and various interest groups; journalists and media; communal institutions; and individuals interested in cultural activities as well as young people. The main means of cooperation used were: advisory services, information events (lectures, meetings, conferences), exhibitions and cultural activities (with a focus on music, but also featuring arts and literature).

Information: Information and data on bilateral, sub-regional, and regional and multilateral/international cooperation are made available to potential users by the following means and communication activities (and can be accessed via the Internet: www.eza.at). Also, through a 3 Year Programme of Austrian Development Cooperation, a 3 Year Report of Austrian Development Cooperation, Newsletter "Weltnachrichten" and Website of the Federal Ministry for Foreign Affairs: www.bmaa.gv.at A more detailed presentation of all the supported projects (grouped by organization, theme, activities, target groups and disbursed sums) is available online (www.komment.sbg.ac.at).

Research and Technologies: The government plays the role of facilitator. The promotion of transfer of environmentally sound technology and know-how is taking the special situation of the partner countries in account. The cooperation is guided by the following principles: Cooperation with the target groups and use of traditional knowledge and know-how wherever sustainable technologies are being offered. Cooperation with the private sector is important. The cooperation in the field of science and research for environmental technologies plays a key role within the sector of education.

Financing: In order to contribute to the sustainable development of the private sector, Austrian Development Cooperation supports the financial and organizational sustainability of Business Development Services (BDS). Local business service providers are strengthened and supported in the development of new service products demanded by and adapted to the local private sector

Cooperation: The geographic concentration on selected priority-countries and cooperation-countries in specific key regions, which has been practiced for a few years, has shown measurable results: in 1999 almost 70 percent of the bilateral programme and project aid were used for the following key regions: Central America: Nicaragua, Costa Rica, El Salvador and Guatemala; West African Sahel: Burkina Faso, Cape Verde and Senegal; East Africa: Ethiopia, Uganda, Tanzania, Kenya, Burundi and Rwanda; Southern Africa: Mozambique, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Republic of South Africa; Himalayas-Hindu Kush: Bhutan, Nepal, Pakistan. Multilateral development cooperation plays an important role in the general framework of the Austrian Development Cooperation. At present Austria contributes between 2 and 2.5 billion Austrian Schillings to international development organizations (1999: UN approx. ATS 575 mill., EU approx. ATS 1.5 bill., international financing institutions approx. ATS 234 mill.). In addition Austria plays an active role in the policy development of the EU. Special emphasis is placed on the coherence of measures taken by the Austrian Development Cooperation and EU development policy principles. Furthermore, Austria is a Contracting Party to the three Rio Conventions (Framework Convention on Climate Change, Convention to Combat Desertification and Convention on Biological Diversity) and supports the implementation of its principles within the framework of development cooperation.

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

Decision-Making: For the general competence for development cooperation, see the respective text under the general heading in Chapter 2. For trade issues (in particular WTO issues which also have development aspects) the Austrian Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Labor is responsible. It coordinates with other ministries and also consults established interest groups and other NGOs.

Programmes and Projects: As an EU member, Austria fully supports the EU initiatives in favor of sustainable development in developing countries. With reference to WTO there is in principle a positive attitude towards problems for developing countries in the context of the implementation of the WTO agreement. Austria is also in favor of accelerated WTO accession procedures for Least Developed Countries. In the field of the protection of trade-related property rights under the respective WTO Agreement (so-called TRIPS Agreement), Austria (the Federal Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology) organizes seminars for developing countries.

Status: Austria fully supports the objectives of further trade liberalization and expansion of world trade and the strengthening of the multilateral system (WTO) as a secure basis for international trade. As a small country, Austria has followed traditionally a rather open trade regime. Austria as a EU member is continuing to follow a rather liberal course in the further development of EU trade policy. Austria also actively supports the goal of mutual supportiveness of trade and environment and the consideration of social and development issues in trade policy. To promote exports from developing countries, Austria applies the EU System of Generalized Preferences (including the EU "Everything but Arms/EBA" initiative)

Capacity-building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: Austria supports effective trade-related assistance and capacity-building (by WTO and other relevant organizations) so that developing countries can also benefit from trade liberalization. For national training projects, see the above-mentioned seminars for developing countries on issues concerning the protection of intellectual property. Austria is also in favor of clarifying the issue of labeling in WTO, thus fostering transparent and responsible decision-making by consumers, which promotes the consideration of sustainability impacts and developing countries' interests. Austrian consumers have proved to be rather sensitive on the environmental and sustainability impact of certain products.

Information: As a WTO member, Austria is obliged to report trade-related information to WTO, which is in general carried out by the European Commission. The European Commission provides WTO with a complete report for all EU Member Countries (according to its competence in the field of external trade). The Austrian government submits to the European Commission specific Austrian data. The following list mentions some cases of regular information to WTO which might also have an impact on sustainable development in developing countries: for example concerning the Agreement on Agriculture, concerning the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) or concerning the Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS). Information on the respective WTO activities can be found on the WTO website: <http://www-wto.org>.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: Austria considers increased WTO activities for trade-related technical assistance, which are financed from national contributions to the WTO budget. Austria also gave financial support for the participation of Least Developed Countries in WTO Ministerial Conferences.

Cooperation: For Austria the preparation for a new round of broad-based trade negotiations to be launched at the 4th WTO Ministerial Conference in Doha (9-13 November 2001) is of great interest. A new round of trade negotiations should also lead to a better integration of developing countries into the multilateral trading system and meet their specific concerns. Apart from the WTO negotiations on agriculture and services (which already started in 2000), Austria strongly supports the inclusion of issues like trade and environment, trade and investment and trade

and competition in a new round of trade negotiations. In the Austrian view also developing countries should profit by the inclusion of these topics, which should lead to more transparent, predictable and stable conditions. (In the environmental field clarification of the relationship between WTO and multilateral environmental agreements as well as clearer WTO rules on precaution and labeling are of particular importance.) Austria also emphasizes environment and other non-trade concerns (including food security and rural development) in the WTO agricultural negotiations. Besides, Austria advocates that the issue of trade and social development is effectively pursued in a multi-institutional context (with an important role for ILO and WTO) where all interests should be taken into account. To promote exports from developing countries, Austria applies the EU System of Generalized Preferences (including EU's "Everything but Arms/EBA" initiative).

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CHAPTER 3: COMBATING POVERTY

Decision-Making: The General Social Security Act from 1955 and the Family Burden Equalization Act from 1984 are the most important acts under this chapter and have been reviewed after UNCED. The Social Welfare Acts of the Laender have not been reviewed.

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Status: Austria recognizes that it is one of the world's richest countries and, remembering the misery brought about by past world wars, it accepts its responsibility in regard to hunger and poverty. However, anxiety is also growing about increasing impoverishment at the domestic level, especially affecting socially underprivileged groups. Some social security benefits require certain minimum periods of employment under the social insurance scheme, which is difficult to obtain for some groups of persons, e.g. mothers with many children, women in agriculture and handicapped persons. The poverty rate in 1998 was 11.1% of the total population, of which 58 % were women.

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

Information: No information available

Research and Technologies: No information available

Financing: The Federal Ministry of Social Security and Generations provides financial assistance to families and pregnant women affected by special hardship.

Cooperation: Austria's overseas development policies are designed to promote viable economic growth that reduces poverty in a direct way, meets the basic needs of growing populations, provides a basis for viable economies and enables the recipient countries to participate in and benefit from the world economy. Austria's development cooperation activities focus, above all, on the poorest developing countries as a whole and on the poorest regions and population groups in other developing countries. It promotes the development of poor majorities, paying particular attention to the fair sharing of resources and means of production by such measures as land and agricultural reforms and the elimination of discriminatory practices. Education and training also play a particularly important role in developing countries. Programme and project proposals are scrutinized in terms of their effects on and importance for women.

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CHAPTER 4: CHANGING CONSUMPTION PATTERNS

Decision-Making: Various measures such as energy efficiency, district heating, and traffic reduction measures come under the responsibility of the federal “laende” and municipalities. The Federal Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management awards eco-labels and makes voluntary agreements with industry. The basis for this is Article 15a of the Federal Constitutional Law agreements. The environment label is a quality label awarded by the Federal Ministry of the Environment, Youth and Family Affairs upon approval by a state-authorized testing institute. The first eco-label criteria guidelines were approved in 1991. Voluntary agreements are complemented by the EU regulation on the voluntary participation of business enterprises in the Community Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS), which entered into force in April 1995. The success of these voluntary measures depends on the incentives the government can offer to the enterprises so as not to cause considerable costs for installing an eco-management system in their enterprises. The EMAS Regulation has been supported by the national Eco-Auditors and Register of Sites Act (1 Oct. 1995). National policies to reduce waste and to promote energy and material efficiency have been initiated in Austria. Public procurement policy and provision of enabling facilities and infrastructure have been changed to be more sustainable. The government of Austria favors non-regulatory instruments to implement its policies. With these instruments, including information and education, voluntary agreements, eco-label and quality label for timber and timber products, as well as economic instruments, the government tries to influence consumption and production. There is an NGO project on sustainable lifestyles together with the Austrian UNCED-Commission. In addition to the central government, local authorities can introduce regulatory instruments in Austria.

Programmes and Projects: Austria has a programme of national targets. Some examples are: Stabilization of CO₂ and other greenhouse gas emissions at 1990 levels by 2000 and a national target to reduce CO₂ emissions by 20 per cent by the end of 2005 compared to 1988; 80 per cent reduction of sulphur emissions by 2000 compared to 1980; Stabilization of NO_x emissions to 1987 levels by 1994 with additional reduction of the order of 30 per cent by 1998 compared to 1986 and a three-step national target to reduce NO_x emissions by 40 per cent by the end of 1996, by 60 per cent by the end of 2001 and by 70 per cent by the end of 2006 compared to 1985; 30 per cent reduction of VOC emissions by 1999 compared with 1988 and a national three-step target to reduce VOC emissions by 40 per cent by the end of 1996, by 60 per cent by the end of 2001 and by 70 per cent by the end of 2006 compared with 1988; Mandatory collection targets of packaging, first, 40% of the packaging on the market, the 50% by July 1995, 70% by July 1998 and 80% by January 2000.

Status: In 1993, the total bio-energy output in Austria amounted to 12% of the country's primary energy output and approximately 14% of its energy consumption. In the field of waste management, in particular, voluntary agreements have been concluded between a number of economic sectors and the ministries in charge, under which the sectors concerned agree to take back the waste material generated by them. The following represent examples of the recycling rate in some sectors: Cars: recycling share of some 90% of annual total 210,000 wrecked cars; Paper: return rate of some 66%; Tires: annual volume some 50,000 tons; 80% used for energy production; Batteries: backflow is about 60% of all batteries sold; Credit cards and other cards made of PVC: collected since 1991, possible recycling rate is 100%, return rate 80%; and Glass: return rate about 72%.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: National awareness programmes on consumption and production and its consequences have been initiated. There are action campaigns to monitor the implementation.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: There is a project under way (on behalf of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management and the Federal Ministry of Transport, Innovation and Technology) carried out by the Austrian Institute of Economic Research to investigate the effects of different economic instruments to reach a more sustainable consumption. This study is made with the help of an expansion of the

macroeconomic model of the Austrian Institute of Economic Research. Its focus lies in the fields of mobility and space heating.

Financing: Funds are made available to encourage its use for individual space-heating installations and small-scale district heating system. Among the fiscal measures introduced in Austria are the following: Mineral oil tax, Special levy on crude oil (until 1995), Standard consumption charge (NOVA) levied on purchase price of new cars, Engine-related insurance tax, Road traffic charge, Motor vehicle tax, Energy tax on electricity and natural gas (since 1 July 1996) and Contribution to the cleaning up of contaminated sites. In 1994, twenty-five small- and medium-sized enterprises received approx. 38 million ATS (US\$ 3.5 million) within the framework of the Innovation and Technology Support Programme.

Cooperation: Within the OECD cooperation activities have concentrated in the field of environmentally sustainable transport and sustainable food consumption, where an Austrian case study was performed in 2000.

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CHAPTER 4: CHANGING CONSUMPTION PATTERNS - ENERGY

Decision-Making: The Federal Constitution allocates responsibilities either at the federal level (e.g. energy taxation, energy statistics, energy metering, energy supply emergency regulations, prohibition of nuclear power) or to both federal level and the level of the states (e.g. electricity, gas, district heating, energy conservation, subsidies). The Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs and Labor (BMWA) is the main body responsible for energy matters on the federal level. Other ministries involved in energy policy matters include: Agriculture and Forestry, Environment and Water Management; Transport, Innovation and Technology; and Finance. Energy policy – as all other policies – is formulated and implemented in close co-operation with the social partner organizations, i.e. organizations representing important groups of society (employers, employees, agriculture and others), and in dialogue with NGOs and the public. On the level of states the responsible bodies for energy matters are units of the authorities of State Governments. Energy related aspects are negotiated in respective committees or working groups and legal acts (e.g. a draft of a law) are submitted to parliament for further treatment, or other cases (e.g. a political basis document as the Energy Report) have to be finalized by the council of ministers. In order to ensure a nation-wide coherent strategy an agreement between the Federal State and the states under Article 15a of the Federal Constitution was concluded which obliges the states to adopt stringent energy efficiency legislation. Since 1995, when this agreement entered into force, all states have adopted legal regulations, which, *inter alia*, include provisions on k values for buildings and efficiency standards for room heating and hot water supply. In the transport sector apart from the taxation of fuels, vehicle taxation is used as a powerful tool to stimulate energy efficiency improvements. Implementation of the EU internal market for electricity is already well advanced in Austria. Currently all electricity consumers with an annual consumption of more than 20 GWh are free to choose their supplier. According to new legislation the market will be 100 % open as of 1 October 2001.

Due to the adaptation of the new Austrian Electricity Law in 2000, targets for electricity from renewable sources have been extended and strengthened. In 2007, 4% of electricity in the grid has to be generated with so called “new renewable” sources (N-RES, i.e. wind, biomass, biogas, solar, geothermal energy). The target has to be achieved step-by-step with intermediate target for 2001 (1%), 2003 (2%), 2005 (3%) and 2007 (4%). In 2000, this share amounted to approximately 0.5%. Those electricity suppliers who are not able to achieve the (intermediate) targets will be charged with a compensation duty, which will be earmarked for renewable energy projects. The compensation duty, to be collected by the *Länder*, will be calculated according to the difference between actual net-market prices for electricity and average production prices for “green-electricity”. Supplementary to these targets the *Landeshauptmänner* (governors of the provinces) have to lay down fixed *feed-in-tariffs* according to the production costs of N-RES-electricity and an *extra grid-charge* for recovering the additional costs (resulting from the fixed feed-in-tariffs) to the regional distributors. In addition to targets for so called “new renewable” energy sources the Electricity Law from 2000 also sets a quantified target for “small hydro” up to a peak performance of 10 MW. From the date of entry into force of the law in October 2001 8% of electricity delivered to consumers have to be produced in small hydro power plants. That is roughly the actual share of small hydro in the distribution grid in Austria, but under the conditions of rising electricity demand further investments will be needed to increase power production from that source in absolute terms. In difference to the feed-in price policy for “new renewables”, a trading scheme for “small hydro certificates” has to be in operation in October 2001 to guarantee compliance with the target in a cost-effective manner.

In general Austria’s energy policy is committed to the following four goals: security, (cost-) efficiency, environmental compatibility, and social acceptability of the energy supply system. These energy policy goals are fully in line with those of the EU and the principles of the International Energy Agency. In order to achieve these objectives the Federal Government especially makes use of the following strategies: promotion of rational use of energy (improvements in energy efficiency) and promotion of renewable sources of energy. These strategies are complemented by a number of activities in various energy policy action fields: liberalization of energy markets, diversification of energy sources and suppliers, IEA crisis-mechanisms, mandatory oil stocks, prohibition of nuclear energy, and price monitoring. The Energy Report (and Energy Action Plan) of the Federal Government describes the Austrian energy supply situation and contains a forecast of energy consumption as well as energy policy goals and measures. Austria will continue her way of energy policy whereby some pillars beyond the

already mentioned ones are setting targets that need special attention. Austria does neither consider nuclear power as compatible with the concept of sustainable development nor as a viable option to combat the greenhouse effect. Energy production and distribution are nearly completely organized in a private sector. The Federal Republic and the nine states (Bundesländer) respectively the governments of them in principle only set the (legal) framework for activities.

Programmes and Projects: By Commission of the Federal Ministries of Agriculture and Forestry, Environment and Water Management and of Economic Affairs and Labor a study on Energy-/Emissions-Prognosis and – Scenarios 2000-2020 was carried out. This study will be part of the next Energy Report of the Federal Government, and a basis for modification of the Energy Action Programme of the last Energy Report. The Energy Report of the Federal Government (and Energy Action Programme) is the basis-document of energy policy in Austria. The Energy Action Programme was set up in 1993 and is part of the 1993 Energy Report, which was approved by the Federal Government and taken note of by Parliament. A further Energy Report, which contains a review of the Energy Action Programme, was set up in 1996. It was also approved by the Federal Government and taken note of by Parliament. The Austrian Energy Action Programme contains a total of 97 measures, which cover all areas of final energy consumption (room heating and hot water preparation, process heat, mobility and lighting and data processing) as well as all kinds of energy sources. Most of these measures strictly envisage energy efficiency goals.

Status: Energy related activities cause 80 per cent of CO₂ emissions (transport and space heating contribute 1/4 of total emissions each, energy industry less than 1/5), more than 85 per cent of NO_x emissions (more than half of total emissions by transport, about 1/5 by space heating), 80 per cent of SO₂ emissions (1/3 of total emissions by space heating) and about 35 per cent of anthrop. NMVOC emissions. (Sector assignment according to IPCC inventory reporting format. Requiring the most immediate attention is the transport sector (with a share of more than 29%) followed by the residential sector (with a share of nearly 21%).

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: Energy auditing services and agencies at the level of the states offer advice all over Austria in the fields of energy and environment to private organizations (housing companies, building societies, consultants, architects, suppliers, etc.) Subsidized by the Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs and Labor the Austrian Association of Energy Consumers (ÖEKV) carries out energy audits in industry. The Federal Ministry for Foreign Affairs launched the “Global Forum on Sustainable Energy” (GFSE), which took place the first time in December 2000. The GFSE is a platform for multi-stake-holder dialogue on issues pertinent to energy for sustainable development. The second meeting (28 – 30 November 2001, near Vienna) will look at how transfer of technologies appropriate for rural energy development can be facilitated and financed.

Information: Energy related information is disseminated either manually or electronically in form of booklets, brochures (studies) etc. by responsible federal ministries, state governments, agencies, private organizations and academic institutions. Information, which is available to the public, is mostly tax-free. In reaction to the White Paper referring to renewable sources of energy, the Federal Ministries of Economic Affairs and Labor and of Agriculture and Forestry, Environment and Water Management commissioned a study “Strategies for further promoting renewable energy in Austria with special respect to the EU-White Paper on renewable sources of energy and the Campaign for Take-off”, which was finalized in July 2001.

Research and Technologies: Austria is very successful in the development and utilization of renewables. This aspect gains additional importance taking into account that Austria does not use nuclear energy.

Financing: In 1999 the total government energy research budget was 365million ATS.

Cooperation: Since the accession to the European Union, the European Commission also has an important role in Austria’s energy policy. International organizations, e.g. IEA, UN-ECE and the Energy Charter Secretariat, do have an impact on Austria’s energy policy. Austria takes measures to reduce emissions and protect sinks, annually updates and communicates an inventory of greenhouse gas emissions, has submitted national communications according to the provisions of the protocol, has provided financial contributions to the GEF and bilaterally, promotes research and systematic observation as well as education and public awareness related to the climate

system. As to the Montreal Protocol, Austria has issued bans on production, placing on the market and use of prohibited substances. In regard to the Kyoto Protocol, the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Environment and Water Management drafted a paper, Climate Strategy 2000-2008/2012, which covers seven areas of measures (room heating, electricity and heat generation, waste management, transport, industry, agriculture and forestry, greenhouse gases other than CO₂). This draft strategy is at present subject of political discussion.

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CHAPTER 4: CHANGING CONSUMPTION PATTERNS - TRANSPORT

Decision-Making: Principally, the Federal Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology is the federal decision making body for transportation and infrastructure related issues in Austria. However, other government bodies or institutions are also involved to some extent, in the decision making process where appropriate. It is important to bear in mind that in Austria, as a general principle, decisions are taken at the appropriate level (e.g. national, regional or local). For international and national transport matters, the Federal Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology is the relevant authority. At present Austria has one of the most stringent emissions standards for vehicles on a global scale. Since Austria joined the European Union in the year 1995, all emissions standards have been brought in line with the European standards. Furthermore, Austria has established a comprehensive incentive based framework to reduce the environmental impact of transport by limiting unnecessary travel. On the fiscal side, several reforms were conducted aiming at making individual motorized transport more environmentally sustainable. Outstanding in this context is the introduction of a motor toll sticker obligatory for all vehicles using Austria's highway system as well as an electronic ecopoint system for transit traffic. The "Austrian Federal Transport Infrastructure Plan (Bundesverkehrswegeplan)" is currently drafted by the Federal Ministry of Transport, Innovation and Technology. A core-part of the "Federal Transport Infrastructure Plan" is the "Master Plan for the transport infrastructure", which was published in 1998. Based on a calculation, the Master Plan states requirements as to how the railway and road network should evolve up to the year 2015. The Federal Transport Infrastructure Plan and the Master Plan should be regarded as the practical implementation of the 1991 "Austrian Overall Transport Concept (GVK-Ö)". The principal transport objectives of the Concept include: avoiding unnecessary traffic (better loading factors, IT-based logistics, short every-day trips;), switching traffic to ecologically friendly forms of transport; opening up regions to which access has previously been poor; involving the affected population, in order to secure public acceptance of transport policy.

Programmes and Projects: Road infrastructure projects: The Austrian motorway and highway network is almost complete. Still, there are a few gaps, as e.g. in the lesser-congested sections of the Pyhrn motorway in Upper Austria and in the link from the East Motorway A4 to Bratislava as well as the so-called North Motorway linking Vienna with Brno. Provision is made in the Master Plan for closing these gaps. The Master Plan indicates which sections are to be improved for reasons of capacity or safety. On the rail infrastructure similar investments are foreseen e.g. construction of the Koralmbahn connecting Graz with Klagenfurt to be prepared for the projected growth in transit traffic.

The Combined Freight Transport Programme (1999 – 2002) is focused to support the construction or retrofitting of terminals, handling and loading equipment and other innovative technologies and systems such as information and communication technologies for facilitating combined freight transport. Moreover the programme allows funding for feasibility studies in the area of terminal technologies and for special training in the field of combined freight transport. The funding is issued in the form of grants up to 30% (maximum 20 million ATS/1,45 million €) of overall expenditures. Eligible for this funding are projects in the field of combined transport like the construction of new terminals. In the case of transportation equipment 100% of the estimated additional costs in comparison to the conventional equipment will be funded. For feasibility studies and training programmes funding is foreseen up to 50%. The overall budget for the combined freight transport programme includes 40 million ATS/2,9 million € per year.

Another essential element to switch transport to environmentally sound modes is the concept of the "Anschlußbahnförderung". This programme focuses on financial support to build railway infrastructure to major enterprises and has the idea that with already existing railway infrastructure a strong incentive is given to companies to take advantage of it. An evaluation of these programmes has surprisingly shown that almost two thirds of the environmental benefits take place in the neighboring countries. Upgrading the Western railway (Westbahn) between Vienna and Wels to four tracks has also been a priority. The main purpose of these measures is to increase capacity and cut journey times (e.g. Vienna - Linz: 1 1/2 hours). Only in this way the Western railway will become an attractive alternative to the Western motorway. In order to shift transport to less polluting transport modes the Austrian government has put a lot of emphasis in revitalizing the inland waterway Danube. For that very reason the BMVIT has established in 1999 a company – *via donau* – which is exclusively dedicated to that purpose. *Via Donau* is a technology and logistics company to realize transport technology and economical goals. It

is a competent partner in inland navigation transport and the logistics sector and stands for: developing high quality transport and logistics on the Danube; carrying out technological projects for freight transport on the Danube; and, public relation and lobbying for the Danube as an important waterway; integration of the Danube waterway in the Transeuropean transport network. Furthermore Via Donau is charged to carry out the Pilot Program Waterway Danube. Approximately 1 million € per year will be spent on stimulating combined water/rail transport by funding container service lines Studies, logistic concepts and other activities, which are in line with the guiding principle of intermodality, can be also co-funded up to 50%.

Moreover the BMVIT has developed a concept based on the expansion of the railway network, and the improvement of the entire transportation system using innovative technologies. The strategic program Logistic Austria Plus which is designed to implement the above mentioned vision of an intermodal transport system is based on the following three main objectives: support research and development in order to gain a technological edge; swiftly implement research results with the aim of becoming more competitive; and, ensure that these findings are applied to secure Austria's standing as economic location." Logistic Austria Plus combines in a unique way transportation, technological and economic policies. The policies include financial assistance for the industry, but with a view to reconciling the interests of the transportation sector, industry and the general public. *Pilot Project "Sanfte Mobilitätspartnerschaft – Betriebliches Mobilitätsmanagement"* : In the framework of this project in which five enterprises participated, traffic was analyzed and measures for traffic reduction respectively a shift to environmentally friendly traffic modes were elaborated. The very positive results of the pilot project show great potential for the reduction of the environmental impact at the same time offering also economic advantages for the enterprises and advantages for their employees. A reduction between 3% and 30% of related CO2 emissions could be noted. Another very successful project is the project "*Grossveranstaltungen - umweltgerecht ohne Stau*" which aims to find environmentally friendly and safe traffic solutions for mega-events such as the Nordic Ski World Championship 1999 in Austria.

Status: As people without a car become more and more disadvantaged, it's an important task to develop public transport systems, which are efficient also with little demand in rural areas. Dial-up busses and taxis can be an economically reasonable and comfortable alternative to normal scheduled bus and train services. In Austria a number of measures have been taken: In order to ensure the integration of handicapped people in the transport system, e.g. the federal railway company ÖBB (in co-operation with the Transport Ministry and consultants - some of them are blind) developed a guiding system for blind people.

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

Information: A study of the Technological University of Vienna (institute for town- and regional research) shows clearly where poor accessibility still exists in Austria.

Research and Technologies: Mobility and transport technology play a major role in a problem oriented research and technology policy. An efficient transport system remains a prerequisite for an attractive business location in an internationally connected society based on information and knowledge. Moreover, a safe ecologically sound and customer oriented transport system secures the quality of life as well as Austria's competitiveness. Technological, economical and social development creates ever more demands for sound transport planning which should be in the position to accommodate the needs of the economy while being environmentally and socially sound. A problem oriented research and technology policy is regarded as one of the centerpieces for an intelligent sustainable mobility system. For that reason the Federal Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology has come up with a comprehensive R&D strategy which comprises following elements:

Guidelines to an intelligent mobility: Creating and implementing together with Europe an intelligent transport system: Research and technology policy supports the development of innovative transport solutions for the whole of Europe. The strategic orientation of the BMVIT's research and technology policy is targeted to support Austria's companies in an ever-increasing global competition; *Developing intelligent transport technologies in Austria:* Innovative technologies make intelligent transport solutions possible and support innovation processes within the local enterprises; *Intelligent transport systems with and for the people:* The application of new technologies assures a higher quality of life and competitiveness; and, *securing mobility together:* Establishment of network and

communication platforms renders information exchange between the main players in the entire innovation system. It stimulates cooperation between science, economy, politics and customers.

Goals of an intelligent mobility system - Together with its programs and activities the BMVIT supports: the efficiency and innovation potential of transport systems through integrating research and technology policy into transport and infrastructure policy; the safety and environmental integrity of transport systems through enhanced application of transport telematics and other future oriented technologies; the competitiveness of Austria as one of the leading business locations through targeted actions in key future areas like logistics, satellite navigation, railroad technology, auto supply industry and aeronautics; and, the offer in multimodal, customer-friendly transport services through gradual removal of innovation barriers and systematic upgrading of public infrastructure.

“Move” which stands for mobility and transport technologies is a technology stimulation program running for several years and designed and financed by the BMVIT. It supports the development of an efficient and innovative transport system, which is key for securing the mobility needs of the individuals as well as of the economy.

A central aspect of TAKE ÖV, which is part of the MOVE-Programm, is the development of customer-tailored telematic applications as a predominant key to increase the attractiveness of public transport. A close cooperation between technology and system providers, public transport services and customers triggers innovation and development.

Transport and its impact on human beings and the environment is considered to be one of the biggest challenges of today. Research and development in the field of new propulsion systems (e.g. fuel cell), and innovative vehicle design have the potential to reduce emissions of transport considerable. Computer based simulation programmes for engine and vehicle design, new light materials and intelligently designed system components for cutting vehicle weight are regarded as the most promising technology areas. In the field of noise which affects around 20 percent of the Union's population, this program is based on results of the former „low noise road/train“ abatement program of the Ministry. Basic research in the field of sustainable mobility is primarily aimed at understanding the socio-economic principles of a customer-oriented sustainable transport system. Furthermore this focal area supports the Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology to keep abreast of the most recent developments in the field of science and basic research. In that context the areas of future transport needs, mobility management and innovative mobility systems are considered of utmost importance. Besides the technological and organizational aspects of an innovative transport system emphasis is put on needs assessment and customer involvement. Since transport is a derived demand the influence of economic, social, ecological and technological aspects on future transport requirements as well as mobility patterns will be analyzed thoroughly. The outcome should serve as a sound bases for designing a customer-oriented mobility system without jeopardizing health, safety and environment.

Financing: The above mentioned MOVE - Mobility and Transport Technologies (1999-2003) program promotes research and development projects in the field of transport and mobility by funding demonstration projects capable to trigger innovation in the transport system. According to the Innovation and Technology Fund's (ITF) guidelines following activities can be funded: projects in economic basic research; system and feasibility studies; applied R&D projects and pilot schemes of innovative procedures, products, services and systems solutions; and, networks and interactive information platforms designed for technology transfer. The proportion of funding quotas (10% bonus for small and medium sized enterprises) and private investments is strictly in line with the relevant EU guidelines. For MOVE and its programs approximately 40 million ATS are budgeted annually.

Cooperation: Mobility Management - The BMVIT promotes the development and market penetration of customer oriented and ecologically sound mobility technologies as well as new services combining public and individual transport. For that reason strategic partnerships preferably with the private sector has become an essential element. Mobility Management, which is a new concept to promote sustainable transport, is primarily a demand-orientated approach that involves new partnerships (e.g. between enterprises, authorities, transport companies and customers) and a set of tools. The tools of mobility management are based on information, communication, organization, and coordination and require intensive promotion. Mobility management is not only restricted to urban/local transport but is also successfully applied for regional and interregional transport. A perfect example is the pilot project “Car Free Tourism” of the well-known Austrian holiday resorts Bad Hofgastein and Werfenweng. This project proves

that a holiday without your car doesn't limit your mobility at the holiday destination. Moreover, tourists are encouraged to test new mobility services in combination with alternative vehicles like electric cars or scooters.

The national Mobility Management Network NEMO is an initiative of the BMVIT and serves as the national focal point for the European Platform on Mobility Management (EPOMM). EPOMM is an international partnership aiming to promote and further develop Mobility Management in Europe and to fine-tune its implementation between the Member States of the EU and other countries in Europe. In October 2000 the Austrian Environment Ministry organised the OECD Conference "Environmentally Sustainable Transport (EST) – Futures, Strategies and Best Practices", where the Vienna Guidelines on EST were adopted. In May 2001 the Environment Ministers of the OECD Countries approved these Guidelines.

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CHAPTER 5: DEMOGRAPHIC DYNAMICS AND SUSTAINABILITY

Decision-Making: The following ministries and bodies are engaged in integrated demographic policy development: the Federal Ministry Economic Affairs and Labor and the Federal Ministry of Social Security and Generations. The Institute for Family Research provides empirical data for family policy decision-making. Major Groups have participated in the national debate about population and environment and in the discussions about family policy issues. The Government has supported seminars at the community level organized by NGOs. An NGO delegate has been financed for ICPD in the field of family planning. A national debate on linkages between population and environment was initiated during the preparations for the ICPD. The Austrian National Committee for the Preparation and Implementation of the International Year of the Family (IYF) set up two working groups which were the broadest forum for discussing family policy issues, including all major groups, federal and regional authorities, as well as representatives of cities and local communities, interest groups, research organizations and NGOs. The findings of these workshops were put together into a common family policy programme in 1994. This programme is designed to chart the course of the Austrian family policy into the next century.

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Status: No information available.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: A public competition on "Ways towards Commonness" was undertaken to foster grass-roots participation in the IYF. A State Prize for Journalism for publications on family issues has been instituted and is designed to raise the level of awareness on the importance of family for society at large and its function in the process of sustainable development. An Austrian Institute for Family Research was established to provide empirical data for family policy decision-making.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: In 1993, Austria contributed some US\$ 180,000 to maternal and child health projects and family planning projects of UNFPA and some US\$ 730,000 for basic health stations in Nicaragua.

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CHAPTER 6: PROTECTING AND PROMOTING HUMAN HEALTH

Decision-Making: With regard to health and safety at work, the protection of employees is within the domain of federal, and to some extent, provincial legislators. Preliminary work aimed at incorporating basic social rights in the Austrian Constitution, such as the right to safe and healthy working conditions, has been going on for years. Currently, the representative bodies of employees and employers have the right to be heard before the adoption of laws and regulations relevant to their health in the work place. The IHCS Model and IHCS Manual were finalized in 1993. The provinces translate the recommendations of the guidelines into specific objectives and create the organizational framework for their operation. Local authorities (provinces) play a key role in the IHCS operation, thus providing for the necessary adjustments to regional requirements, particularly in rural areas. The main approaches to prevent and to reduce the risks for safety at the workplaces and the risks of occupationally derived diseases naturally consist of using actual experiences, projecting new provisions and monitoring them. Actually new projects and provisions have been worked out e.g. in the field of manual handling of loads, work equipment and the use of protective equipment at work.

Programmes and Projects: As a part of WHO's Healthy Cities Project, the Austrian Healthy Cities Network was established in 1992, and a coordination office for this network was set up in Vienna in 1993. The project is intended to create healthier living conditions in Austrian towns, develop new approaches to health promotion and exchange information at all levels.

Status: Health care in Austria is a very high national priority. Creation of IHCSs helps to relieve the burden of hospitals, reduce costs and serve humanitarian objectives by allowing people to remain in their familiar environment as long as possible.

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

Information: On behalf of the Austrian Federal Ministry of Social Security and Generation, the Austrian Federal Institute for Public health organizes information meetings in the provinces. Among measures taken in the field of communicable diseases, strategies and concepts aimed at the prevention of AIDS have received particular attention since 1987. These measures include, for example, information campaigns and production of teaching material for schools.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: Recognizing the interdependence of health, socio-economic conditions and the environment is one of the guiding principles of Austria's overseas development cooperation. Austria supports local health-care and planning activities through cooperation with decentralized institutions and partners particularly in the field of primary health-care. Traditional knowledge and experience in modern health-care systems have been integrated and support is given to autonomous health-care centers of indigenous groups. Special emphasis is laid on on-site health-related measures, above all through advice and counseling, installation of drinking-water systems, and efforts to reduce the use of pesticides.

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CHAPTER 7: PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE HUMAN SETTLEMENT DEVELOPMENT

Decision-Making: Due to the federal structure of Austria, the essential instruments for implementing sustainable human settlement development do not rest with the federal government but the nine regions (federal provinces) and their local authorities representing a total of more than 2000 communities. The provincial governments are responsible for legislation and enforcement in areas such as spatial planning acts including the respective building regulations, nature conservation acts and acts on residential construction subsidies, while the authorities at the community level are in charge of drawing up and adopting land-use plans and development plans.

On the one hand, this practice and the understanding for the decentralization of authorities associated with it, offers a favorable setting for accepting the independence of local authorities as well as bottom-up strategies of popular participation. On the other hand, national programmes become more difficult, e.g. the centralised (Austria-wide) evaluation of progress made regarding sustainable human settlement development, specially Habitat Agenda and LA 21 processes. In order to fulfill tasks more efficiently, municipalities may group together and form, specific purpose associations of municipalities“. The regions may give to these associations the same powers as to the municipalities. Some 500 such associations exist to provide water deal with sewerage or waste.

Programmes and Projects: The approaches to the development of holistic concepts, strategies and action plans for future-oriented urban development in Austria based on the following programmes: “Austrian Spatial Development Perspective” – “ÖRK 2001” spelling out the national concept for the special development in the next decade; “National Environmental Plan” – “NUP” - spelling out environment-related standards with regard to traffic over and above the objectives set out above; and, “National Environment and Health Plan” - “NEHAP” spelling out environment and health – related standards with regard to a future-oriented holistic settlement policy.

The smaller and small communities in Austria, which have a long tradition of self-government, started developing and implementing socio-economic and eco-logically networked projects and bottom-up strategies of municipal policy and planning, at a stage when they were not even familiar with concepts like "sustainable development".

The regional governments play an important role in recent efforts to stimulate sustainable settlement development, inter alia, by intensive promotion of information and training programmes as well as measures to ensure a joint and wide dissemination of the UN-Agendas “Habitat” and “Local Agenda 21.

Numerous projects launched by the Federal Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water is in order to avoid waste and reduce waist as well to purify water and air. There are cooperations with the Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology and the Ministry for economical affairs in the areas. In addition to the Ministry - from time to time in collaboration with the Federal Ministry for Transport and the Ministry for economical affairs in the areas: „soft mobility and reduction of traffic with special consideration of best possible access to public transport, energy saving and use of alternative renewable energies as well as on the development of ecologic-biologic building materials an building styles. Numerous activities taken by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water are inter alia: Co-financing of environmentally sound projects for EU-subsidized regional and settlement development with pre-eminent reference to the settlement areas like EU-Objective 1, EU-Objective 2 and URBAN; International co-ordination of ecologically oriented projects and programs for special and settlement development and for soft mobility in tourism with EU-promotion EFRE Art. 10 and INTERREG A and C; Campaign, ‘Sustainable Cities and Municipalities’ to accelerate the signing of the “Aalborg Charta;” and, Commission and supervision of directive studies such as: “Sustainable spatial development” and “Regionalized spatial development for Austria,” with special consideration of the objectives of HABITAT II and Local Agenda 21, “Transport demand management” dealing with the promotion of mobility plans that help institutions and business to reduce car traffic, for example land-use planning etc; and, competition “Visionary Dreams, Action Spaces in the 21st Century” This competition initiated to support programmes and projects for smaller and small settlement areas has proven highly successful in motivating communities to develop innovative approaches and ensure strategic implementation in the spirit of the Habitat Agenda and LA 21.

Status: The experience gained from activities in Austria summarised in the publication “Implementing the Habitat Process in Austria” prepared for Istanbul + 5 in New York 2001 highlights key areas where intensified efforts will be required in the future, e.g.: stronger focus on networked approaches to regional and settlements development;

Increased popular participation and an efficient cooperation of local authorities with the citizens to ensure the basis of joint actions; stronger support of smaller and small communities in which the know-how for implementing Habitat Agenda and LA 21 processes has to be provided from out-side due to inadequate human and financial resources; and, increased involvement in developing technologies for a future oriented, sustainable settlements development. This task has been tackled in Austria with a view to the international level. In this context, the commitment of the City of Vienna in implementing the Habitat Agenda is of particular relevance. Based on an agreement between the municipality and United Nations Centre for Human Settlement (Habitat), Vienna is not only the hub for exchanging information on urban environmental technologies and Good Practices of sustainable urban development, but also for regional Best Practices in Central and Eastern Europe.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: Examples to illustrate the activities on regional level specially related to the implementation of Habitat- and La 21 processes are: in Styria a comprehensive programme to support the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and LA 21 in rural areas (with the participation of the Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management); and, in Upper Austria a coordination centre Agenda 21 was set up; the federal government of Carinthia adopted the implementation of a Regional Agenda 21 covering the entire federal province. Activities specially related to the implementation of EU- subsidized regional and settlement development are: the training of regional managers for EU-promoted regional development, carried out by the commission of the Chancellery; and, the training of regional managers and other promoters of regional development in environmental questions (affairs) a pilot project of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water.

Information: Examples for the most important guides and information media on national level are as follows: A comprehensive database to document national programmes and projects devoted to a sustainable regional and settlements development and organised in the framework of activities to implement the "National Environment Plan"; A "Guide to the Implementation of the Habitat Agenda and the Local Agenda 21 in Austria" providing information concerning the goals, concepts and strategies of the Habitat Agenda and the Local Agenda 21 to promoters of regional and settlements development at the municipal level: civil servants, politicians, representatives of NGOs, interested citizens; A "Good Practice Manual" that offers a compilation of model projects implemented in the past or in the process of being realised to illustrate solutions in specific problem areas. This Manual has been designed to provide additional guidance for the practical implementation of the LA 21 process in Austria; and, a follow-up documentation of the Habitat Agenda and LA 21 processes recording the experience gained in implementing the ideas competition on pilot projects on sustainable settlements development organised by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management in accordance with the provisions of the Habitat Agenda and the Local Agenda 21. This publication offers a selection of those elements, which are considered to be of international interest.

Research and Technologies: *Public private partnerships with universities and small sized industry:* The Austrian Universities have play an important role by stimulating Austria-wide awareness-raising processes and developing sustainable municipal policy concepts fit for the future as envisaged in the Habitat Agenda and LA 21. Public-private-partnerships of Universities, small sized industries and communities have proved to be successful launching projects to improve and develop environmentally sound technologies for the enterprises involved.

Monitoring and Evaluation: Major initiatives have been taken, in particular, by the provincial capitals and the Association of Cities and Towns to develop previously unavailable communication channels among the organisational units of local authorities, among different local authorities, and between local authorities and all other bodies promoting sustainable urban development (chambers, social partners, interest groups, institutes, NGOs, active citizens). The "environment data catalogue" to be kept since January 1, 1995, under the Environment Information Act, by the Federal Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water was paralleled on the local level by the development of comprehensive information systems. More recently, the flow of information among local authorities and administrative units at the provincial and federal levels has been supported by a newly developed service provided by the Association of Cities and Towns under the name "Local authorities on the Internet".

By undertaking this initiative, the Austrian Association of Cities and Towns has been one of the first associations in Europe to present information relevant to local authorities in summarised form on the Internet.

Advisory services and public participation - A model for integrated environmental and public health advisory services at the local level are the advisory centre for environmental medicine operated by the Institute for Environmental Medicine in Vienna.

Local support groups - Local support groups were established as specifically Viennese institutions in the seventies under the so-called "gentle rehabilitation" scheme.

Financing: (Key Data as per 1998) - The situation of the Austrian local authorities is best described in terms of their budget volumes and staff resources. While Austria's GDP is about 2.600 billion shillings, i.e. about 200 billion US\$ the budgets of the public sector (federal government, provinces, local authorities) are 1,61 billion shillings or 61,8 percent of the total GDP. The local share amounts to one fifth or 10,4 percent of the total GDP including Vienna as a province and a local authority, or 6.3 percent without Vienna. The budget of the Länder without Vienna amounts to 9,1 % of GDP. The public sector employs a workforce of 525,000, 29 percent of which are employed with the local authorities (including Vienna), and 15 percent with the local authorities (not including Vienna). The Länder employ some 153.000 persons or 29 % of the personnel of the public sector. The provinces have a higher general budget volume and a bigger workforce than the local authorities if Vienna is excluded. The proportionate shares of the regional and local levels have been stable for a longer time during past years. There is no general control of the decisions taken by the municipalities in advance except for taking out loans above certain percentages of the total budget or some cases of land use planning in order not to contradict with provisions of regional planning. What exists is ex post auditing, whether the decisions taken do not interfere with the principle of legality. This auditing is done by the Länder. Citizens pretending, that their rights were hurt by the municipality may appeal to the Länder and to the supreme national courts as well. In case of municipalities with more than 20.000 inhabitants the national financial auditing court reviews from time to time the budgets of the municipalities and their companies and examines decisions, whether they were taken according to the principles of efficiency, expediency and thrifty administration.

Cooperation: Within the limited scope of action at the federal government level, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management has supported the Habitat Agenda and LA 21 processes on EU- and international level with numerous activities of international meetings (congresses, workshops) to related subjects like: "Encouraging local initiatives towards sustainable consumption patterns" a joint activity with ECE, "International conference on environmental aspects of the health of traffic" a joint activity with WHO, International days for sustainable Urban Transport joint activity with OECD Conference on „Environmental Balance of Transport ending with the drafting of a "Ministerial Charta" and a "Data Handbook for Environmental Balance of Transport in Austria" etc. The international involvement in developing technologies for sustainable settlement development has increased, especially by the agreement of the City of Vienna and Habitat-Nairobi mentioned above.

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CHAPTER 8: INTEGRATING ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT IN DECISION-MAKING

Decision-Making: Since 1992, the following legislation in the area of sustainable development entered into force: Ozone Act; Environmental Assistance Act; Environmental Information Act; Environment Accident Information Regulation; Federal Act on Environmental Impact Assessment and Citizens' Participation; Federal Act on the Establishment of an Environmental Board; Trade Regulation Act; Genetic Engineering Act; Fertilizers Act; Act on Eco-Auditors and Register of Sites; Packaging Regulation. Amendments have been added to the Regional Planning Acts, the Environmental Protection Acts and the Construction Codes of the Laender. Environmental impact assessments are usually used for projects, but not for programmes and policies. In 1994, the Federal Act on Environmental Impact Assessment and Citizens' Involvement (UVP Act) entered into force. The UVP Act calls for active participation of citizens in Environmental Impact Assessments and requires a concise approval procedure to be carried out by the Laender governments for i.e. in waste treatment plants, power plants, certain industrial plants and skiing areas. The Environment Council consisting of representatives of the political parties, organizations of the Social Partnership, as well as federal, provincial and local governments controls compliance with the UVP Act. In 1995, Austria adopted its first national environmental plan (NUP). The planning process was supervised by a National Committee chaired by the Minister of Environment, and engaged all relevant actors within administration at the Federal and the provinces (Laender) level, industry and manufacturing, employer's association, unions, the agricultural sector as well as the scientific community and environmental organizations in developing environmental quality goals and corresponding proposals for implementation procedures to comply with these targets along a long-term gradient. The key objective of the National Environmental Plan was to define the necessary structural changes needed to integrate environmental concerns into all political levels of the society. Developing the NUP was a necessary first step designed to intensify the discussion on sustainable development. Moreover, the Austrian Council for Sustainable Development is actively promoting the integration of environment and development into decision-making.

Programmes and Projects: The strategies and measures outlined in the NUP (National Environmental Plan) are entry points of a number of concerted implementation efforts (examples are: the Waste Management Strategy Plan, the Clean technology Policy Campaign). In view of our goal "Integration" a major concern in this Networking approach is to avoid an "Environmental Department" bias. Therefore as many actors from other sectors as possible (Economic, the Traffic Policy, the Spatial and urban planning, the Finance Sectors, etc) are involved. A comprehensive implementation strategy is in preparation. Several organizations and institutions are involved: Ministries (Environment, Agriculture, Science) Universities (Vienna, Graz, Klagenfurt, Salzburg) Non-university related institutions: Austrian Institution for Sustainable Development (ÖIN), Sustainable Europe Research Institute (SERI), Association for the Coordination of Research on Sustainability (SUSTAIN), Öko-Soziales Forum (ÖSF). Numerous Austrian projects and initiatives emphasize on sustainability: *Network Sustainable Austria Project* - In 1997 the Austrian Federal Ministry for Environment launched the network "Sustainable Austria" for exchange of information and experience regarding the question of implementation of sustainable development between experts of the public sector (regional and national level), private sector and scientists. The network meets twice a year, a newsletter appears quarterly. *Implementation of Local Agenda 21 Project* - The Province of Styria started with the implementation of Local Agenda 21. In each district of the province at least one community is involved in this project. Accompanied scientific research and coordination by experts ensures high quality of the process. *Best practice database Project* - The best practice database of Austrian sustainable development projects ("NachhaltigkeitsTATENbank") shows more than 100 examples of success. It is meant to encourage imitation and to introduce the Austrian performance to the public in the best possible way. Every month three special topics are emphasized and highlight the most interesting projects according to that (at the moment available only in German language). *Factor 4+ Congress Project* - A project to address the subject of "Sustainability and Future-orientation" with a conference. Partners are the town of Klagenfurt, the province of Carinthia the Ministry of Environment together with the Ministry of Science and the World Business Council. Currently the City of Vienna carries out a strategic environmental impact assessment for a transport concept in the North-East of Vienna.

Status: Additionally to the national environmental plan, the Green Paper “A Sustainable Future for Austria”, prepared in 2001 is an important step towards the concrete specification of the political commitment to sustainable development. It describes the most important fields of activities for sustainable development in Austria, identifies the required activities and points out the opportunities resulting there from. It was prepared by a group of experts coming from ministries, the social partners and selected scientists mandated by the Austrian Federal Government. On this basis, the more detailed “Strategy for a Sustainable Austria” will be drawn up in co-operation with the relevant ministries and with the involvement of opinion leaders, NGOs and Austrian citizens by the end of 2001. It will contain the fundamental principles for the sustainable development of Austria in the 21st century.

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

Information: www.nachhaltigkeit.at

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: Austria takes an active part in the CSD process and related UNCED follow-up, and has a leadership role in the ECE and in the Environment for Europe process. As one important step regarding the implementation of the UNECE Vienna Declaration on Transport and Environment (Austria is Lead Country for Chapter IV “Sensitive Areas”) the Austrian Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management organised and hosted jointly with the state Burgenland in March 2001 the international Conference “Sensitive Areas- a Key Challenge for Environment and Transport in Europe” and started the bilateral pilot project “Sustainable Transport for Sensitive Areas on Example of the Austrian/Hungarian Region Neusiedler See/Fertő-tó”.

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CHAPTER 9: PROTECTION OF THE ATMOSPHERE

Decision-Making: The Federal Ministries of: Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management; Transportation, Innovation and Technology; and Economic Affairs and Labor are responsible for atmosphere-related activities. With regard to climate change, action is coordinated within committees including ministries and social partners (“Inter-ministerial Committee for the Coordination of Measures to Protect Global Climate”) and the federal provinces (“Kyoto-Forum”), these committees are hosted by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management. Measures have been developed at the level of expert working groups. For decision-making on air quality regulations, the ministry responsible must coordinate decisions with other ministries, social partners and federal provinces. Legislation to protect the atmosphere has been reviewed and revised in part in the light of Agenda 21. Already in place are energy and emission-related taxes including a mineral oil tax, a car registration tax and a motor vehicle tax as well as an energy tax on natural gas and electricity which was introduced in 1996; the tax level for electricity was increased in 2000. The Government encourages industries to develop safe technologies through strict legislation and incentives such as subsidies and tax exemptions. One of the fundamental provisions for protection of the atmosphere lies within the Industrial Code and the Clean Air Act for Steam Boilers, where a license for each new or modified installation is required.

Product regulations have been set with respect to sulphur content of fuels, heavy metals, several persistent organic pollutants and ozone depleting substances. The Ambient Air Quality Law prescribes air quality standards and alert thresholds, the Ozone Law alert thresholds for ozone as well as reduction targets for the ozone precursor substances. The motor vehicle tax increases with engine power, surcharge for cars without catalytic converter. A general road use duty exists for heavy-duty truck. The fuel consumption levy applies to newly registered passenger cars and depends on the standard fuel consumption of the vehicle. Taxation on energy products exists for electricity, natural gas, petrol, diesel and fuel oil (part of the revenues earmarked for environmental and energy-saving measures and funding of public transport). Measures for emission reduction, energy-saving and renewable energy in the commercial/industrial sector can receive financial support according to the federal Environmental Support Act. The Government promotes policies and programmes in the area of energy efficiency, environmentally sound and efficient transportation, industrial pollution control, sound land-use practices and management of toxic and other hazardous waste. Greenhouse gas emissions shall be reduced mainly by domestic measures. Currently the strategy is being revised with regard to the Kyoto-Protocol; main focus is put on increased energy efficiency for residential housing, increased share of renewable energy sources, measures in regard to transport, waste and HFCs.

The relatively high share of forested land and the use of sustainable forest management practices shall be ensured for the future and enhanced where possible, by implementing the Pan-European Criteria for Sustainable Forest Management, by preserving and increasing biodiversity and by reducing air pollution. Regarding substances that deplete the ozone layer, the strategy comprises bans on production, placing on the market and use. Some 137 municipalities and communities (including almost all major cities) as well as eight Austrian laender (federal provinces) have formed a "Climate Alliance". Municipalities in the neighboring countries also participate in this Alliance. They have committed themselves to reducing their carbon dioxide emissions by the year 2010 through concrete measures in the field of traffic, energy, procurement, etc. and to supporting their partners in the Amazon region in the active preservation of rainforests. Representatives of local authorities as well as of farmers, workers unions, business and industry (“social partners”) are involved in the process of law making. Decisions on licensing procedures, regional planning etc. happen at local level involving neighbors and people affected respectively.

Programmes and Projects: There is a national climate strategy to meet the Kyoto target, which is coordinated on the experts level; the final coordination on the political level is under way (October 2001). A mix of measures related to energy supply, domestic energy consumption, industry and transport was considered essential. Regarding industry and agriculture, measures comprise a. o. promotion of combined heat and power generation, consulting services for efficient energy use in industry, favorable conditions for growing biofuels and for the use of biogas, support of organic farming as well as extensive farming in general (integrated husbandry and reduced fertilizer use, leading to a. o. reduced energy demand), preservation of the existing structure with a large share of small farms (favorable for local sale, leading to lower transport needs).

Status: Compared to the 80s, the level of CO₂ emissions was somewhat higher in the 90ies; within the last years the CO₂ emissions were almost stable. The CO₂ emissions per GDP index show a steady decrease for more than twenty years now. Other gases currently contribute to approx. 18 per cent of total GHG emissions (in CO₂ equivalents); whereas CH₄ emissions have slightly decreased in the 90ies, N₂O emissions have risen due to increased use of catalytic converters in cars. There is no production of CFCs in Austria, and the Government provides information on refrigerator maintenance. As of 1 January 1995, CFCs were completely phased out. The target date for completely phasing out H-CFCs is 1 January 2002. While no major problems occurred with regard to eliminating the use of ozone depleting substances, the situation is different for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Rising demand for road transport inside and outside of Austria, international treaties as well as missing harmonization within the EU with respect to fiscal measures, an already high share of hydro power in electricity generation, the fear of competitive disadvantages in the EU internal market, legislative and administrative competencies scattered between different ministries and different levels of administration pose problems for the reduction of greenhouse gases.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: Several action programmes have been launched to raise public awareness concerning ground level ozone and climate change. Target groups were schools (information material for teachers, school competitions), decision makers at community level (regular exchange of information, community competitions for best solutions) and the general public (brochures, radio and TV spots). The campaigns aimed at scrutinizing day-to-day behavior and switching to more environmentally sustainable products, modes of transport etc. Modern media as CD-ROMs shall give an incentive to deal with the problem and give playful access to detailed underlying information. The "Ecologisation of Schools" programme is central for environmental education; it focuses on the school's function as a role model, whose environmental classes will be only credible if the school is run in an environmentally friendly and sustainable manner. It includes an analysis of the ecological and technical state of the school and development of improvement plans (energy consumption, air emissions, waste...). It started with a pilot phase with 22 schools, followed by national competition with over 100 participating schools. Currently a regional infrastructure is being set up and the aim is to reach about 1000 schools in the next three years up to 2002 all over Austria.

Information: The Austrian Academy of Sciences is publishing studies on the air quality criteria since the late 70s, which formed the basis for limit values in the ambient air legislation. A GAW monitoring site has been established i.e.. for total ozone column at the Sonnblick (3,105 m a.s.l.). The government participates actively in the strengthening of the Global Climate Observing system at the national level with seven observation stations and in the Global Ozone Observing System with one observation station. Austria supports the findings of the second assessment report of the IPCC concerning threshold levels of atmospheric greenhouse gas concentrations. An air emissions inventory for a series of pollutants is maintained by the Austrian Federal Environment Agency. The inventory conforms to CORINAIR methodology and EMEP and IPCC reporting standards. Emission inventory data and up-to-date air quality data are presented on the web site of the Austrian Federal Environment Agency (<http://www.ubavie.gv.at>). General information about air quality and climate change is published periodically (e. g. Report on ground level ozone, national communications to the UNFCCC) and is available in printed form as well as on the web (<http://www.bmu.gv.at>). Reports on special topics regarding air quality are published by the Federal Environment Agency. Information on climate change is compiled/distributed by the Austrian Council on Climate Change (<http://www.accc.gv.at>) and the climate change node of the Austrian Network Environmental Research (<http://nuf.boku.ac.at/cc.htm>). Pollutant and GHG emission data and air quality measurement data provided within the framework of UN/ECE CLRTAP (EMEP) and UNFCCC as well as to the European Environment Agency. The climate change node of the Austrian Network Environmental Research is a platform for sharing scientific information on climate change at national and international level.

Research and Technologies: Governmental activities in the field of energy, transport and industry concentrate on the development of safe technologies, R&D, development of new and renewable energy systems, public awareness-raising including product labeling, EIA and life-cycle analysis and environmental audits as well as introduction of economic instruments. The Austrian Federal Government publishes Energy Reports containing reviews of current energy supply mixes. In the framework of five-year research programs for environmentally sound transport (vehicle

technology, integrated logistics concepts, improvement of public transport) and for sustainable economy (e.g. sustainable buildings, renewable raw materials, regional-scale economy) support for development and pilot-projects is granted. The Austrian Network Environmental Research has established a "Climate Change" node to interlink Austrian research groups working in this field. Research is conducted at several universities and other institutes and covers a broad field of topics, e. g. evaluation of long-term climate data series, participation in the WMO Global Atmosphere Watch program, monitoring of stratospheric ozone, research about alpine regions (mesoscale weather effects, vegetation changes), glacier research, modeling of forest development in relation to climate change, development of a carbon balance model, etc.

Financing: Public funds according to the Environmental Support Act is available for activities which are more ambitious than existing legal standards; funds are granted for the business sector for reduction of pollutant emissions, for use of renewable energy and for energy saving measures. Public funding, partly coupled to energy efficiency and related parameters, is granted also for the construction of residential housing. Agricultural subsidies are granted for sustainable farming practices, which lead to decreasing emissions and energy consumption. Scientific research on air quality and climate change issues is funded by the public to a large extent.

Cooperation: Austria has concluded a series of bilateral treaties on cooperation in environment matters with its neighboring countries in the Eastern part of Europe since 1985, directed at enhancing energy efficiency and use of renewable energy sources, at collecting and exchanging environmental data and information and at developing educational capacities and structures. Austria plays an active role in multilateral and regional cooperations such as the Regional Environmental Center in Budapest, the Central European Environmental Data Request Facility (CEDAR) and the Central European Initiative (C.E.I.). The Austrian Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management chairs the CEI Subgroup Environment and Transport where the CEI Declaration on Transport and Environment in the CEI Countries and the UNEP/OECD/Austrian Joint Pilot Study EST in the CEI Countries in Transition were elaborated. The Montreal Protocol, London Amendment, Copenhagen Amendment, and Montreal Amendment have been ratified and implemented; the Beijing Amendment will be ratified within the next year, the measure to reach its objective have already been implemented successfully. Austria has signed the Kyoto Protocol and its target, according to the burden sharing agreement within the EU, is a GHG reduction of 13 % for the first commitment period compared to the emissions of the year 1990. After UNCED, Austria signed the EU treaty to reduce on-road transit traffic through Austria. Austria contributes US\$ 1.5 million per annum to the Vienna/Montreal trust funds and the interim multilateral ozone fund (1996). In 1982, Austria ratified the LRTAP-Convention and its protocols.

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

Decision-Making: Land-management by surface-dedication- and -development-plans lies in the hand of the municipalities (local level). Austria is a Federal State with 9 autonomous provinces ("Laender") and more than 2000 municipalities. Due to the fact that there is no uniform law for biological land-protection and land-management the competent authorities are federal as well as regional. The Austrian conference for spatial planning was established to coordinate federal and regional interests. On the basis of a voluntary agreement meetings of representatives of the Federal Chancellery, of the Federal Ministries, of the Federal Regions, of the Cities-Association and of the Municipalities-Association as well as representatives of the so-called Social Partners (Chamber of Commerce, Trade Union, etc.) are organized. The federal authorities are responsible for the legislation and execution of land-protection in the context of forest-, water-, air pollution control-, waste-management-, decontamination of contaminated sites- and mountain-law as well as in the context of trade and industrial regulations. Concerning land-protection in the context of e.g. the agricultural settlements-law and the plant-protection-law the federal authorities set the basic legislation and the regions are responsible for executive laws. The regions are fully responsible for the central instruments of land-management as spatial management-laws, nature-conservation-laws and laws concerning housing development-aid.

Environmental aspects of land have increasingly been enforced by: behavior-controlling regulations: requirements for waste-disposal (especially concerning dangerous wastes), speed-limits for cars (emission-reduction). And also plant-related regulations: regulations concerning installation and operation of locally fixed sources of soil-contamination (emission-limitation), etc. The Clean-Up of Contaminated Sites Act, in existence since 1989, forms the legal basis for the surveying, financing and implementation of securing and remediation of contaminated sites in Austria. Environmental aspects of land have increasingly been enforced by planning-standard specifications: consideration of land-management-issues in the context of local and supra-local space-management and space-related specialized plans, e.g. forest development plan (federal level), plans for dangerous zones and concept for the improvement of the protective function of the forest. A land-political approach for better self precaution by public stock-piling of land by the municipalities is of increasing importance in the light of a lack in building land especially in municipalities close to urban centers and tourist-municipalities. This approach offers broader flexibility and the possibility of punctual intervention. Successful efforts of municipalities on the land-market require exact market-knowledge and entrepreneurial acting on the market. The importance of professionalism has led to a number of different ways of semi-autonomous organization.

Programmes and Projects: In order to cope with the sustainability of agricultural operations the Austrian government introduced in 1995 the "Austrian Program for Sustainable Agriculture" (OePUL). Through OePUL farmers receive under well-defined conditions, payments for their sustainable agriculture (e.g. limiting the use of fertilizer), co-financed by the EU. In the context of OePUL the condition of the Austrian land was presented, development tendencies were pointed out and preventive measures were suggested. The possibilities of land-protection in Austria shown by the OePUL-publications are being used as a scientific basis for agricultural aid-management.

Status: By January 1, 1998, 133 suspected contaminated sites had been registered as proven contaminated sites in the inventory, 43 proven contaminated sites are being secured or remedied and 11 proven contaminated sites had been registered in the inventory as "secured" or "remedied". In Austria there is a general trend towards transforming land used for other purposes into forest land.

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

Information: A systematic mapping of soil under agricultural use is carried out in Austria since 1958. Up to now, almost 98% of the area to be mapped is already surveyed in the field. Soil survey is done from both a pedagogical and an agricultural point of view. It also considers geological, geomorphologic and climatically conditions. Out of 220 districts, 150 districts have been published as soil maps 1: 25 000 and further 50 districts as manuscript maps 1:

25 000; 15 districts remain for editorial work and 5 for field survey. For the digital capture of these soil data a GIS – based soil information system was installed. A three years programme to convert geometric and attribute data to a digital form has already been started. Further on, available soil information is completed by a large set of data referring to distinct sampling points. Most of these points are arranged in grids of different densities, covering almost all the country.

Research and Technologies: Technological capacity in integrated planning and management of land resources has been strengthened. Further measures to strengthen education and training in this field are being planned.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: The Austrian-Hungarian Regional Planning Commission has given a recommendation on the transfer of technology and on the areas for technology transfer centers. Austria participates in the work of the OECD, UN/ECE and CEMAT in this field. It has established bilateral Regional Planning Commissions with Germany, Hungary and Slovakia and contacts with Italy, Liechtenstein, Switzerland, Slovenia and the Czech Republic. Member States of the Alpine Convention in Europe have initiated recommendations towards integrated protection of the Alps supplemented by a regional policy protocol. Austria has also established regional desertification monitoring centers in Senegal and in Burkina Faso.

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CHAPTER 11: COMBATING DEFORESTATION

Decision-Making: The management, the protection and the sustainable development of Austrian forests is based on a well established legal and institutional framework. The Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management is primarily responsible for the forestry sector in Austria. At the same time, a number of areas directly or indirectly relating to forests or forestry are under the responsibility of the nine provinces. The most important regulatory instrument is the Forest Act of 1975, amended in 1987. Implementation of the law is in the hands of forest authority. About 3000 forest experts at district, regional and federal level implement the decisions and ensure compliance with forestry legislation. Provincial laws regulate regional planning, agriculture, nature conservation, and hunting. In Austria, the representation of group interests is transferred from the state to self-governing bodies called “chambers” (Kammern) at the provincial level. Chambers are statutory interest organizations, established by public law and with obligatory membership. Forestry interests are represented by the Chambers of Agriculture. All farm and forest owners are automatically considered as a member of the Chambers of Agriculture. Although the Chambers of Agriculture as such exist only at the provincial level, the presidents of the Chambers of Agriculture are informally organised at the national level. The President’s Conference of Chambers of Agriculture represents agrarian and forestry interests within the social partnership. As constituent part of the social partnership, the Chambers of Agriculture, or rather the Presidents’ Conference, have an institutionalised influence on policy formulation. Already in the preparatory stage, they are informed on draft legislation and are allowed to comment on it. In addition to statutory interest organisations, there is a network of interest groups based on voluntary membership.

The most important voluntary interest groups in the Austrian forestry sector are the Austrian Federation of forest Owners’ Associations (Hauptverband der Land- und Forstwirtschaftsbetriebe Österreichs) and the Austrian Forest Association (Österreichischer Forstverein). The objectives of forest land-use planning, as defined in the Forest Act, are the description and foresighted planning of forests on a national as well as on a local level. The most important tools of forest land-use planning are the “forest development plan” (Waldentwicklungsplan) and the “hazard zones plan” (Gefahrenzonenplan). Hazard zones plans are prepared by the Torrent and Avalanche Control service (TACS). TACS, an agency directly subordinated to the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management, is responsible for the protection against torrents and avalanches. All major groups are fully involved in the forestry planning at all levels in Austria. The Forest Act (1975) provides for preparing regional forest plans in a transparency manner and enables concerned citizens to take part in the planning process. Austria is signatory of the resolutions adopted by the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE) and is participating actively at the global forests processes (IPF/IFF/UNFF). Based on these commitments, Austria is developing a National Forest Program (NFP) focusing to ensure ecological, economical and socio-cultural sustainability of Austrians forests.

Programmes and Projects: A Protective Forest Restoration Framework has been developed in Austria with the following measures: continuation and strengthening of clean air policies; restoration of a balanced stock of game; and separation of forests and pasture in ecologically sensitive, protected and mountain forest regions. Suitable forest management measures will be taken to reduce regeneration intervals. It is also intended to raise the tree line by means of new plantations at higher altitudes. More detailed regional plans are elaborated by the federal provinces in close cooperation with competent authorities and forest owners. A great importance is given to the Mountain Forest Protocol within the framework of the Alpine Convention. Small-scale and naturalistic forest management projects have been promoted by means of intensive counselling and by providing financial support. In the new forest inventory, covering all types of forests, ecological parameters are taken into account in addition to yield related parameters. In fulfilling the commitments assumed at the UN-Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) e.g. the CBD, Austria has been establishing a network of natural forest reserves. This network aims at covering all representative types of forest-ecosystems in Austria. In order to implement the legislation of the European Union (Fauna Flora Habitat Directive, Bird Protection Directive) 16 % of Austria’s forests are nominated for the EU-Network ‘NATURA 2000’.

Proholz, a marketing association sponsored by the forest and forest industry sector and supported by the Austrian government has launched a broad, middle term public relations initiative to promote the use of timber. Legal

obstacles concerning the use of timber particularly in the construction sector have been lifted Due to the federal law, voluntary quality labelling is being introduced in Austria. Apart from this federal initiative, there is a Pan European Forest Certification Initiative (PEFC) of private forest-owners. Besides the Pan European Forest Certification - Initiative there is the so-called FCS (Forest Stewardship Council)- Label initiated and supported by WWF and other environmental NGOs.

Status: Covering about 47% of the federal territory, forests are a dominant element of the Austrian landscape, providing a variety of economical, ecological and socio-cultural benefits. Apart from its economic importance for timber production, forest performs a number of further functions, like the protective and recreational one, which directly or indirectly benefit the whole Austrian population. Increased air pollution caused by the economic growth of the last decades resulted in a large-scale loss of vitality in Austrian forests. For the last ten years the improvement of the condition of the forests, in particular the restoration of their protective function, has been one of the main issues of the Austrian forest policy. In addition close to nature silvicultural measures have been promoted to enhance biological diversity. Over the years forest cover has been continuously increasing also the share of deciduous wood and mixed stands. In terms of economic viability and financing sustainable forest management small-scale forest ownership structure and the high share of mountainous terrain are serious obstacles. Within the UNESCO project "Man And The Biosphere" (MAB) the study "Hemerobia of Austrian Forest Ecosystems" was carried out. In this study the geographical distribution and the share of original, manipulated and artificial forest ecosystems have been examined. The results of this study serve as the basis for new development concepts in forest management and facilitate estimates of future capacities of forest areas (tourism etc.), the choice of necessary forest management activities (stock conversion, maintenance measures) and the designation of natural forest reserves and biotopes. A natural forest reserve network has already been established. Natural forest reserves are forest sections dedicated to the natural development of the ecological forest system in the absence of any direct human intervention. Long-term service contracts between the Republic of Austria and forest owners has been concluded, which stipulate a compensation for the tending of these areas and for the economic losses incurred, in order to ensure that this plan can be realised.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: Forestry is taught in two forestry colleges and 12 agricultural colleges. Five forestry training centers are responsible for the education and training of foresters and for holding information seminars for rural forest owners. The experts of the Chambers of Agriculture and Forestry mainly provide counselling for forest owners. In close co-operation with FAO, Austrian forest education centers have organized training courses for foresters with a special focus on forest technology. The Division for Torrent and Avalanche Control has trained experts in the mountain regions of the developing countries in the implementation of methods for the technical and biological stabilisation of erosion and for its prevention.

Information: The Austrian Forest Report is published regularly by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. Regularly up-dated information about the Austrian Forests and Forestry is available at the following website: www.bmlf.gv.at

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Research and Technologies: For more than 20 years, Austria has been active in attempts to reduce air-borne forest pollution by introducing comprehensive technological measures in power stations and industrial plants and by making the use of catalytic converters mandatory. Consequently, sulphur dioxide emissions have been reduced by approx. 75% from the 1980 level. Nitrogen oxides were reduced only by 12% because of increasing traffic emissions.

Financing: Sustainable Forestry in Austria is basically considered as a self-financing concept. The contribution of forest management and timber industry to the GDP is only about 0,3%. However, with an annual value of exports of approximately € 1.2 billion for coniferous sawnwood, Austria is the fourth-biggest exporter of coniferous sawnwood worldwide and, with an export surplus of approx. € 1.8 billion, forest management and the timber

industry together with tourism brings in the highest amount of foreign exchange. Beside the timber value it is important to recognize the non-wood benefits (protection, recreation). As far as public incentives are concerned the financial interventions is relatively low. The system of subsidies for forestry primarily aims at ensuring the non-wood functions of public interest.

Cooperation: Austria is a member of the general co-ordination committee of the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of the Forests in Europe and is hosting the secretary (Liaison Unit) of the Ministerial Conference. Austria has established a regional center of the European Forest Institute (EFI) and is also hosting the secretary of IUFRO (International Union of the Forests Research Organisations). In co-operation with WWF the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry co-financed a program for the protection of rare and endangered tree- and shrub-species. As a supplement to Austria's development assistance, a special program has been designed from 1993 to 1996 to provide support for the developing countries wishing to establish a system of sustainable forest management. 35 projects in 16 countries in Latin America, Africa and South-East Asia were financed. Austria has financially supported the FAO Tropical Forestry Action Program, the Agricultural Forestry Research Center established within the framework of the Consulting Group for International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) and the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR). Being a member state of the European Union Austria is deeply involved in the UNFF-process. In support of the IFF-process Austria organised an 'International Consultation on Research and Information Systems in Forestry' in co-operation with Indonesia, FAO, IUFRO and CIFOR. Despite of the termination of the above-mentioned special program sustainable forest management remains an important environmental objective of Austrian Development Co-operation. In the next 3-year period, 4 to 6 partnerships in North Western Amazonia (Brazil, Colombia) and Nicaragua will benefit of 25 Mio ATS Austrian support in total.

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CHAPTER 12: MANAGING FRAGILE ECOSYSTEMS: COMBATING DESERTIFICATION AND DROUGHT

Decision-Making: No information available.

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Status: There are no deserts or areas in danger of becoming deserts in Austria.

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: Austria is a party to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification. Austrian supported activities related to the implementation of UNCCD focus on the West African Sahel region. Among others, Austria contributed to the establishment of regional desertification monitoring centers in Senegal and in Burkina Faso. Comprehensive information about UNCCD-related co-operation programmes and projects in Africa is provided under <http://www.unccd.int/cop/reports/africa/developed/1999/austria-eng.pdf>. In addition to this, a number of small projects to improve food security, promote sustainable natural resource use and rehabilitate degraded soils in the Himalaya/Hindu Kush region and in Latin America receive financial support. Respective ODA flows for UNCCD-related co-operation outside Africa total 40 Mio ATS since 1997.

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CHAPTER 13: MANAGING FRAGILE ECOSYSTEMS: SUSTAINABLE MOUNTAIN DEVELOPMENT

Decision-Making: The Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management is responsible for sustainable mountain development in Austria as the coordinating body of environmental activities. Other bodies closely involved in the planning and implementation activities are the following: The forest authorities (incl. Forest Technical Service for Torrent and Avalanche Control as well as the Federal Forest Research Institute; Federal Institute for Matters concerning Mountain Farmers; Federal Institute for Alpine Agriculture; Federal Institute for Alpine Dairy Industry. The main legislation and plans related to sustainable mountain development are the following: Austrian Forestry Act (1975); Torrent Control Act (1884); Hydraulic Engineering Development Act (1979); Austrian Regional Policy Concept 91; Convention on the Protection of the Alps and its protocols; woodland development plan; danger zone plans; protective forest plans; environmental and regional policy laws of the "Laender" (federal provinces); regional planning programmes and specific regional plans. Major groups involved in mountain issues in Austria are IUCN, CIPRA and Alpenvereine (climbing and mountaineering clubs).

Programmes and Projects: To prevent forest damages and to maintain biodiversity in the mountain regions, a high altitude reforestation and protected forest safeguarding programme has been introduced, as well as area cultivation projects for safeguarding the protected forests in areas of torrents and avalanches. Forest damages in the mountain regions were considered insignificant in 1993.

Status: The Alpine regions comprise 67.1% (56,244 km²) of Austria's total land area. 32,850 km² of the area is forests; 23,500 km² is cultivated land; 8,900 km² is pastureland; 9,100 km² is high mountains with no significant use, and 6,800 km² is water surface and building areas (information from 1993). Major obstacles to sustainable mountain development are caused by local or trans-frontier emissions of air pollutants, excessive game populations, forest pasture, avalanches, local overstraining of the physical region through outdoor sports, large number of second homes, leisure time facilities and development of infrastructure.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: Several social, economic and cultural incentives for farmers and mountain communities have been designed to undertake conservation and regenerative measures. To ensure sustainable agricultural management of mountains, increased use of local resources is promoted (e.g. further processing and direct marketing of indigenous products, alternative cropping, use of handicraft skills, conservation of cultivated alpine pastures). Compensation mechanisms for landscape conservation and regeneration have also been introduced based on the principle of true costs under the precautionary and the polluter pays principle.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: The most important instrument governing international regional cooperation in sustainable mountain development is the Convention on the Protection of the Alps (signed 1991, entry into force 6 March 1995). It promotes trans-regional cooperation among the Alpine countries and the EU, taking into account the special needs of this European mountain range through comprehensive and transboundary protection of the environment and thus preserving the Alps as a human habitat. There are also various relevant activities under the Austrian Development Assistance Programme.

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CHAPTER 14: PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Decision-Making: The Austrian Federal Ministry for Foreign Affairs is responsible for the development cooperation. The Federal Ministry has carried out activities concerning food relief for Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management. Due to Austria's membership in the European Union Council Regulation 2092/91 on organic production of agricultural products is applied to Austria. "Integrated pest management" was implemented into national law with the "Plant Protection Products Act 1997" in August 1997. According to this Act plant protection products have to be used taking into account the principles of integrated pest management. According to the "Fertilizer Act 1994" the marketing of fertilizer which endanger the fertility of the soil or the health of humans and animals is forbidden. A body of independent experts related to the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management worked out "Guidelines for appropriate fertilization". These Guidelines made Austria one of the countries with the most moderate use of fertilizer in Europe. The so-called "ecologically and socially orientated market economy" which was developed in Austria in 1987 followed the same targets. The goal of this concept was to renew the Austrian agricultural policy, to improve the situation of the environment and to maintain farms of small scale (70% of all farms in Austria have less than 20 ha). Within this concept Austria recognized the multifunctional role of agriculture from production of food to the conservation of rural landscapes and the protection of the environment. Initially all in conservation activities for endangered breeds of livestock in Austria were based on private initiative. Idealistic farmers and other enthusiasts kept and bred these animals.

Programmes and Projects: The Federal Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management started the project "Profit – Paket". This project promotes the distribution of computers, software and Internet to farmers, to take the opportunity of tele-working, tele-learning, electronic publishing and Internet publication. With the accession of Austria to the European Union a comprehensive agri-environmental programme was established according to EU-Regulation 2078/92. The environmental programme consists of 36 measures. Austrian farmers can select and combine measures in a suitable manner. Main objective of the agri-environmental programme is the reduction of harmful impacts of farming to the environment. The programme promotes agricultural intensification and by doing so the conservation of resources like water, soil, landscape, genetic variety and habitat.

Status: With an organic farm share of 9% of all agricultural farms and of 10% of the utilized agricultural area, Austria, in relative terms, ranks first among the European countries. Most of the organic farms in Austria are members of organic farm associations applying even stricter guidelines than those of the corresponding EU-Regulation. In Austria irrigation is primarily used as supplemental irrigation to compensate for the lack of rainfall during the vegetation period. The main irrigation regions are in the northeastern where natural precipitation reaches approx. 450 - 700 mm/y (approx. 300 - 450 mm in the vegetation period)

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: There is strong acceptance of the environment programme (OePUL), which results in a greening of the Austrian agriculture. About 70% of all domestic farms and 90% of Austria's utilized agricultural area take part in this programme. This shows strong a development of environmental awareness in Austria. The further development of environmental awareness to promote sustainable agriculture practice is backed up by a well organized education and training system. The main objective in training and education of school teachers and special advisors of the district chambers of agriculture is to maintain and ensure sustainable development in the Austrian agriculture under a social, ecological, and economic point of view. As part of the federal training and further development of teachers and advisors, courses are offered continuously, concerning the promotion of organic farming, direct marketing, accomplishment to the project "holiday on the farm" promotion of renewable energy sources, environmental protection at farm level, biological sewage treatment, plants, environmentally friendly production methods for foodstuffs.

Information: A systematic mapping of soil under agricultural use is carried out in Austria. Up to now, almost 98% of the area to be mapped is already surveyed in the field. Soil survey is done from both a pedagogical and an agricultural point of view. It also considers geological, geomorphologic and climatically conditions. Out of 220

districts, 150 districts have been published as soil maps 1: 25 000 and further 50 districts as manuscript maps 1: 25 000; 15 districts remain for editorial work and 5 for field survey.

Research and Technologies: The annual research report of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management including all results of research activities, which meet the demands of sustainable agriculture and rural development.

Financing: Since UNCED, financial support for energy use of biomass, has increased strongly. Supported projects are for instance, biomass heating for single farms and communities (long – distance heating-systems), biogas plants.

Cooperation: The European Union emphasizes the crucial importance of sustainable, multifunctional and competitive agriculture within the model of European agriculture. With the concept of Agenda 2000, the European Council established the promotion and the development of rural areas as second pillar within the Common Agricultural Policy. Europe's main objective is to protect the social structure of rural areas and to promote the establishment of environmentally friendly farm management systems. The "Index Seminum Austriae" published by the Federal Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management contains a general view of the gene-pool of old and typical Austrian varieties. In the "Austrian strategy to implement the Convention on Biological Diversity" agriculture and forestry are represented.

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CHAPTER 15: CONSERVATION OF BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Decision-Making: The Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management and its Agencies as well as Austria's 9 Provinces are primarily responsible for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and genetic resources in Austria. In Austria, regional governments are primarily responsible for nature conservation legislation and its implementation. As soon as the Austrian Government ratified the convention Austria began to determine measures required to meet the obligations of the convention. Recognizing the legislative and divided responsibilities for biodiversity in Austria a "*National Commission on Biodiversity*" was set up in 1995 by the Ministry responsible for the Environment, which: guides efforts on implementing the CBD; facilitates coordination & cooperation in the many activities and programs in the field of biodiversity; and, plays an important platform for information exchange on various issues related to biodiversity. This Commission is composed of representatives of: Administrative Authorities (Federal Ministries, Provincial Governments); Public & Private Interest Groups (Landowner Associations, Chamber of Commerce,); Scientists (Universities, Austrian Academy of Science, Natural History Museum,); and, NGOs (WWF Austria, Greenpeace, BirdLife,), which are important partners - also in disseminating information, creating awareness and influencing public behavior and mediating our goals. In 1997 the National Commission elaborated the first *National Report* of Austria to the Convention on Biological Diversity. Responding to one of the key obligations for parties, the "*National Strategy*" to govern its implementation has been developed by the National Biodiversity Commission. The Austrian Government endorsed this strategy in 1998. An evaluation of this strategy is taking place. For more details see Austrian national reports at <http://www.biodiv.org/world/reports.asp>

Programmes and Projects: The objectives of the nature conservation programmes, which have to be approved by the local authorities and population, are the preservation and enhancement of biodiversity and the conservation of habitats, creation of combined biotope systems and preparation of biotope conservation programmes, water protection, biotope mapping and the mapping of endangered animal species. Particular attention is being paid to the identification of the RAMSAR reserves (Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitats) and biogenetic reserves as well as the creation of national parks. For more details see Austrian national reports and strategy at <http://www.biodiv.org/world/reports.asp>.

Status: In Austria loss of fauna and flora is primarily the result of habitat destruction and pollution.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: For details see Austrian national reports and strategy at <http://www.biodiv.org/world/reports.asp>

Information: Red lists provide information on endangered animal and plant species. A red list for endangered types of biotopes is under development. In addition to this several provinces have compiled their own red lists. For more details see Austrian national reports and strategy at <http://www.biodiv.org/world/reports.asp>

Research and Technologies: For more details see Austrian national reports and strategy at <http://www.biodiv.org/world/reports.asp>

Financing: Public financial support has been provided to private initiatives. For more details see Austrian national reports and strategy at <http://www.biodiv.org/world/reports.asp>.

Cooperation: With regard to the global capacity-building cooperation, Austria participates in the GEF capacity building Si-A-PAZ (Nicaragua/Costa Rica) and in different programmes for indigenous self-administration. Austria has attempted to make Austrian financing facilities available for international programmes through the ECO Fund (foreign assistance) and within the financing mechanisms of the EBRD and World Bank trust funds. Austria cooperates with other European institutes (in the case of capacity-building for agricultural flora) and has established contacts with the Danube riparian countries. A series of international programmes has been launched for Central and Eastern Europe within the framework of the OECD and with the support of international financing institutions. The most important of these are the Danube River Basin Programme, the Black Sea Programme, the Black Triangle

programme, and the Danube Delta Programme. Within the framework of these programmes, Austria tries to increase the input of its environmental technologies and know-how. Austria carries out some projects in developing countries under CITES. Austria is member of all relevant Conventions except the Bonn Convention and its Agreements. For more details see Austrian national reports and strategy at <http://www.biodiv.org/world/reports.asp>

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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: No information available.

Biotechnologies: The main institutions specialized in biotechnology research in Austria are the Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Culture; Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management (responsible for the EU Framework Programme on Biotechnology); Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs and Labour (promotes research projects which contribute to an environmentally sustainable management in the field of biotechnology); Inter-university Research Institute for Agricultural Technology (Tulln); Institute of Applied Microbiology of the University of Agriculture; and the Institute of Biotechnology of the University of Technology (Graz). There are also several other institutes, societies and companies working in this field, such as the Institute of Molecular Pathology of the University of Vienna; Institute of Molecular Biology of the University of Vienna; Austrian Academy of Sciences, Institute for Technological Impact Assessment; Institute of Microbiology and Genetics of the University of Vienna; Austrian Society for Biotechnology (Vienna) etc. The Genetic Engineering Act (1994) is the main act governing activities with genetically engineered organisms in closed systems and their release, gene analysis and gene therapy in humans. It contains the principles on biotechnology risk assessment and risk management. The Genetic Engineering Act transforms EU Directives 90/219 and 90/220 into Austrian law. It has been amended in 1998 with respect to liability, representation of scientific disciplines in the Advisory Bodies and public participation. It will be further revised in order to transpose recent changes in the EU regulatory system on contained use and deliberate release of GMOs.

Programmes and Projects:

Technologies: In 1992, the Energy Technologies Programme (ATS 50 million in 1993) and the Industrial Design programme (ATS 15 million in 1993) were established and the programme for environmental technologies was renewed within the framework of the Innovation and Technology Fund (ITF) with the aim of promoting the development and use of cleaner technologies, production-integrated environmental protection, recycling logistics and new environmentally-compatible product and material use. In 1995, a total of 288 million ATS was made available through ITF of which about nearly 40% were earmarked for precautionary environmental measures, 53 million ATS to energy efficiency and environmental-friendly technologies and the use of renewable energy resources, and 50 million ATS to develop environmentally sound transportation technologies.

Biotechnologies: A study of the Austrian Scientists for Environmental Protection shows the uncertainty of risk management of new technologies, especially concerning GMOs and therewith the necessity for application of the precautionary principle. Several projects on risk assessment and monitoring of GMOs have been undertaken by the Austrian Federal Environment Agency in collaboration with other research institutes (see <http://www.ubavie.gv.at>).

Status:

Technologies: No information available.

Biotechnologies: No information available.

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

Technologies: Both in 1993 and 1994, product competitions (Ecodesign) were organized to stimulate new ideas and innovative solutions for environmentally sound product design and development and to raise awareness on these issues. In 1994, a junior research category was added to enable students and young designers to participate in the competition. In the Summer of 1996, the first Austrian Cleaner Production Center was established in Graz under the supervision of the Ministry of Environment. The activities include providing environmental technology and management of information, initiating and supporting regional and local cleaner production and toxic waste/emissions reduction programmes, stimulating research and development as well as transferring cleaner production technology. Austrian development cooperation promotes primarily capacity-building for independent technology development, including, above all, the promotion of independent R&D activities, strengthening R&D institutions, and support for education and training in technical and management disciplines.

Biotechnologies: Public hearings are organized in the case of a release of and activities involving genetically engineered organisms in closed systems at high security levels. The Austrian Federal Environment Agency is collaborating with the Netherlands in project, which aims at advising the pre-accession countries to the EU of Central and Eastern Europe in implementing a biosafety regulatory framework.

Information:

Technologies: The Seibersdorf Environmental Technology Database for products and processes has been set up to facilitate the access of Austrian enterprises to modern environmental technologies. Support is provided, i.e., for extended cooperation with the Eastern European neighbors, for linking up the database with the Network for Environmental Technologies Transfer (NETT-Brussels) and for cooperation with domestic and foreign banking institutions.

Biotechnologies: The Federal Environment Agency has published a study on biotechnology in Austria (see <http://www.ubavie.gv.at>). There is also a study on biological exhaust air decontamination.

Research and Technologies:

Technologies: In the Summer of 1996, the first Austrian Cleaner Production Center was established in Graz under the supervision of the Ministry of Environment. The activities include providing environmental technology and management of information, initiating and supporting regional and local cleaner production and toxic waste/emissions reduction programmes, stimulating research and development as well as transferring cleaner production technology.

Biotechnologies: The Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs promotes research projects which contribute to the environmentally-sustainable management of biotechnology, such as extraction of aromatics with supercritical CO₂ and abandoning hot sealing in the case of returnable glass packages. In the field of forestry, the research has been strengthened on new biochemical methods to improve the analysis, identification and monitoring of trees (measurement of genetic parameters). The Austrian Federal Environment Agency leads a project for co-ordination of various laboratories involved in analyzing and testing of substances with respect to GMO-presence.

Financing:

Technologies: A federal environmental funding system was initiated in 1987 and modified in 1993 to support environmental activities. It provides interest payment grants, investment grants and loans for water protection projects in municipalities, pollution control by industry and contaminated site clean up.

Biotechnologies: No information available.

Cooperation:

Technologies: Austria has participated in 21 transnational research projects under the 3rd EU Framework Programme on R&D. The total cost of these projects was ECU 16.7 million of which ECU 3.8 million was spent on Austrian projects. Austrian enterprises and research institutions have also participated in the COST (21 projects) and EUREKA (31 projects) Programmes of the European Union, e.g. in EUROENVIRON, a project that has investigated safe ways of utilizing industrial waste. In cooperation with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), Austria has organized three seminars in 1993 - 1995 for participants from developing countries (Egypt, India, Jamaica, the Philippines, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, Brazil, China, Cuba, Malaysia, Mexico, Vietnam, Indonesia, Kenya, Pakistan) to help establish or strengthen environmentally sound technology (EST) centers in those countries. Between 1993 and 1995, altogether 102 development assistance research projects aimed at the promotion of technology transfer, financed by Austria, were carried out in developing countries. Austria has also been financing south-south scholarships, e.g. Nicaragua to Brazil and Mexico, Cape Verde to Brazil. A meeting on energy-related issues was held in Slovakia and a counseling and training project on the use of energy was conducted in the Czech Republic. Austria participates also in the EU assistance programmes to Eastern Europe. Austrian consultancy companies are active in establishing environmental management systems (EMAS and ISO 14000) in Austria and the eastern neighboring states (STENUM).

Biotechnologies: Austria participates in the OECD Expert Group on Biotechnology for a Clean Environment, the OECD Working Group on Harmonization of Regulatory Oversight in Biotechnology, and the ICCP (of the Cartagena-Protocol). With regard to access to biotechnology through international cooperation, Austria participates or has participated in the following programmes: European Community Programme on the Development and

Adaptation of Rapid Molecular Screening Techniques for Assessing Genetic Diversity in Forest Trees (1991-1996); Micro propagation of Spruce programme, Unilever Colworth House, UK (1986-1992); and Rejuvenation and Somatic Embryo genesis in Woody Species - the Biotechnological Approach, Concerted action no. PL 94 2202 (1994-1996).

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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**

Though a landlocked country Austria ratified the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea on 14 July 1995.

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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 competence for decision making is allocated in the water departments of the Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management, and within the administrations of the nine federal “Laender” (states). Expert advice in the administrative system is also available at the Federal Office of Water Management and the Federal Environment Agency (investigations, monitoring, etc.), and in similar institutions at the level of the “Laender”. The involvement of the interested public, of stakeholders as well as of experts and parties concerned is an important part of the decision making process. The Water Act (last large amendment in 1990, with minor adjustments since) aims at an ambitious protection of all waters, surface and groundwater bodies, irrespective of uses. Recent intensive efforts are directed towards the re-vitalization of Austrian rivers, in order to improve the ecological functioning as required by the Water Act. This is also in line with the aims of the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD). The target of the WFD is i.e. to achieve in 2009 (after an analysis and relevant monitoring work) a 'management plan for river basin districts'. The term 'river' refers in this regard to a surface water body and its basin discharging to sea.

The territory of Austria is part of three important European river basins: the Danube, the Elbe and the Rhine. Austria is a member of the EU, and thus bound to implement the WFD. Austria limits its polluting discharges via emission ordinances, based on the Water Act and on best available techniques. The Water Act is implemented by the administrative systems of the “Laender”. These ordinances thus allow a uniform implementation of the relevant aims of the Water Act in particular for individual discharge permits. These emission ordinances cover urban as well as industrial wastewater. A large number of sector specific ordinances have been issued for industrial discharges (e.g. pulp and paper; metal finishing plants; etc.). The emission ordinances are subject to periodical reviews. *Organizational issues:* Water supply, sewerage and wastewater treatment are as yet mainly non-profit community run enterprises. The main Association of experts and professionals in the field of water management (including water pollution control, but not supply) is the Austrian Water and Waste Management Association (OeWAV). In the field of water supply the Austrian Gas and Water Association (OeVGW) is the relevant body. Other bodies (hydrography/hydrology; limnology) also exist. The professionals participating in the work of all these Associations come from the spectrum of all water related activities, be they private or public.

Programmes and Projects: The massive investment into sewerage and wastewater treatment, strongly ongoing since the 1960s, is the key part of a program to protect all waters. In 1998 81.5 % of the resident population of Austria was linked to public sewers and biological wastewater treatment (WWT) plants. In 1998 12.9 billion ATS (1.00 US\$ = ~ 15 ATS) were invested into this field, in 1999 10.2 billion, in 2000 10.5 billion, and the projections for 2001 are 9.1 billion, for 2002 8.0 billion, and for 2003 8.3 billion ATS. In order to cope with the sustainability of agricultural operations the Austrian government introduced in 1995 the “Austrian Program for Sustainable Agriculture” (OePUL). Through OePUL farmers receive under well-defined conditions, payments for their sustainable agriculture (e.g. limiting the use of fertilizer), co-financed by the EU.

An additional program to be mentioned is the systematic monitoring of water quantity and quality. This system is publicly administered, but it involves also private services (for sampling, and analyzing of samples for observing water levels). This program provides a sound basis for decision-making aiming at maintaining and restoring good quality of waters.

Status: The main objective of water resource management in Austria is an ambitious protection of all waters, irrespective of their uses. This means maintaining or improving the quality of both surface waters and groundwater, preserving or restoring the ecological functioning of water bodies, and - by the same token - protecting human settlements and properties against water hazards. Due to improved wastewater treatment in Austria, the total level of emissions discharged has declined considerably since the 1970s. In the period 1966 to 1971 17% of the monitored river length held an unsatisfactory biological quality status, whereas in 1998 this percentage had fallen to < 3%. In 2001 85.4% of the resident population was linked via sewers to biological wastewater treatment plants > 50 population equivalents, and the rest had on-site disposal systems. The removal of pollutants (carbon and

nutrients) from point source discharges can in general be called 'advanced', as demonstrated by the following averaged removal values for all urban WWT-plants, for mid-2000 to mid-2001: BOD₅-removal 95%, COD-removal 88% and P-removal 82%. Nutrient removal rose strongly in the last years: P-removal from 64% in 1998 to 82% in 2001, N-removal from 51% in 1998 to 63% in 2001. The coping with diffuse pollution has started, but it still has to be tackled further. Due to the methods for flood prevention in the past, but also due to using Austria's hydropower potential man's impact on the river corridor was strong; the re-shaping of this via the re-vitalizing of degraded river stretches (where possible) is an important ongoing task, but also a task for the future.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: An intensive program for post-graduate and advanced professional education and training takes place every year, organized jointly by the Professional Associations and the relevant institutions from universities and research institutes. The training of operators for water supply systems, sewer networks and WWT plants is also well established.

Information: The Austrian Minister for Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management is charged to deliver - at least tri-annually - reports on the status of water protection in Austria ("Gewässerschutzberichte": provided for 1993, 1996, and 1992; for 2002 in preparation) to the Parliament. These reports are published. Water quantity and quality are monitored via the already mentioned system (run by public means). This assessment of the quantity and quality resources relies on an Act on Hydrography. The quantitative view is gained via ~ 950 observation sites for precipitation, via ~ 850 gauges for water level and ~ 750 gauges for flow in rivers, and via ~ 3.000 observation sites for the water level in groundwater bodies. Additionally there are 50 observation sites for natural wells (mainly in the Austrian karst). The qualitative view is gained via ~ 1.820 sampling sites in 150 porous groundwater aquifers, via ~ 230 groundwater sampling sites in the fissured rock or karst, and via ~ 240 sampling sites in rivers. Overviews to this monitoring are regularly published. The holder of a permit monitors wastewater discharges according to the requirements in the permits, in line with the provisions in the emission ordinances. Public administration is crosschecking this self-monitoring.

Research and Technologies: Universities mainly undertake Research; technologies are developed mainly by the relevant industrial enterprises.

Financing: The setting-up of the primary infrastructure for water supply, sewerage and wastewater treatment was financed by charges and by public funds, in order to speed up the implementation time. The maintaining of this infrastructure will have to be covered by the charges collected from the beneficiaries utilizing these systems.

Cooperation: Austria is cooperating in the field of water among others within the frame of the EU, the UN-ECE as well as with those countries Austria is sharing the river catchments Danube, Rhine and Elbe. Bilateral and multilateral transboundary water commissions for the protection of transboundary bodies of water and the settlement of water management problems have been established with those neighboring countries with which Austria shares surface waters (Germany; Hungary; Slovak Republic; Slovenia; Switzerland). Austria takes particular interest in international cooperation for the protection of the Danube (as around 97% of its territory are situated within the Danube River Basin), and it holds also a long-lasting interest in the protection of Lake Constance. The "Danube River Protection Convention (DRPC)" was signed in 1994, and it entered into force in 1998. The body in charge with the implementation of the DRPC, the "International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR)", is located in Vienna. The ICPDR has been charged to be the platform for the implementation of the EU WFD in the basin wide context of River Danube. Austria also participates in the corresponding platform, which was set up for the implementation of the WFD in the Rhine basin.

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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: The Austrian Chemicals Act as of 1996 and its ordinances basically regulate placing on the market, use and export of chemicals. Plant Protection Products and Biocides are regulated under separate laws. Austrian chemicals legislation is in line with European legislation and partly even stricter. The Safety Data Sheets, which have to be handed out to commercial users and by request to consumers, serve as a basis of the Austrian Chemical Products Register. The Prior Informed Consent Procedure was incorporated in the Austrian Chemicals Act and is regarded as an important tool for information exchange; it is applied subsidiary to the principal rule, that once a chemical is banned in Austria it is also banned for export. Austria welcomes the Global Rotterdam Convention on PIC and the installation of its Interim Chemical Review Committee until the Convention enters into force. Austria also very much appreciates the successful completion of the POPs Protocol to the Geneva Convention and the Global Stockholm Convention on POPs. The Austrian Chemicals Act is based on the precautionary principle and manufacturer's responsibility is also anchored in Austrian chemicals legislation. Liability provisions rely on general civil law; the Penal Code deals separately with environmental penal law. General bans or restrictions concerning hazardous substances, preparations or products are supplemented by a number of non-regulative measures. An eco-label has been created to promote environmentally sound products, for example detergents. Best Practice Diffusion Programmes lead to environmentally sound alternatives in the field of chemical management. The Responsible Care Programme is a further incentive in this direction.

Programmes and Projects: Austria expects the Globally Harmonized System and its Committees installed under ECOSOC to raise awareness towards the necessity of labelling requirements on an international level. On a European level Austria actively participates in the work of the European Chemicals Bureau and in the elaboration of a New Chemicals Policy in the European Union. Austria welcomes UNEP Decision 21/7 on chemicals management and deems it appropriate to develop also a Global Chemicals Strategy.

Status: No information available.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: Austria supports UNITAR-activities and UNEP-workshops on chemicals management. The Austrian Economic Chamber also provides an extensive offer on educational and training support. (Conferences, brochures, guidelines, online help via Internet <http://wko.at/up>)

Information: Detailed Information on current activities can be found on <http://www.bmu.gv.at> and <http://wko.at/up/enet/ChemR.htm>

Research and Technologies: Research on endocrine modulators or the Monitoring Project on POPs in the Alps (MONARPOP) are some of the activities financed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management. (Folders and Abstract available). The Austrian Chamber of commerce provides also information on the following website: <http://www.fcio.at/steuerframe1.htm>

Financing: Austria supported the POPs-Club for the development of the Stockholm Convention. The Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management finances regularly studies on relevant items. Austrian companies participate in the Responsible Care Programme sponsored by the Austrian chemical Industry Federation.

Cooperation: As the global and European level of chemicals management forms a central input on Austrian chemicals legislation Austria cooperates strongly with European partners and like-minded countries. Cooperation is essential for the Austrian Research Cooperation on Endocrine Modulators and even more for the MONARPOP-Project.

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

Decision-Making:

Hazardous wastes: Austria has the Waste Management Act; Chemical Substances Act and a number of regulations concerning the reduction of pollutant load in waste streams, waste prevention and recycling (e.g. Batteries regulation, Lubricants Regulation, Lamp Regulation, Asbestos Regulation). Hazardous waste substances are to be classified in the same manner as hazardous new chemical substances. For waste and waste disposal, additional specific criteria are to be considered. Concerning the classification of hazardous waste, Austria carries out the relevant EU legislation. There is a Federal Waste Management Plan (1992) setting specific targets on the reduction of the volume and the pollutant load of waste streams, the environmentally sound and economically viable reuse of waste, on the disposal of non-avoidable or non-reusable wastes and on the regional distribution of waste-treatment facilities throughout the federal territory. The plan is revised every three years. The last revision was effected in 2001. Sector-specific waste-management strategies have been prepared for agriculture, leather industry, the medical sector, for the production and use of paints and varnishes, electro-plating industry and textile industry. To strengthen the institutional capacity in hazardous waste management, potential locations for landfills and thermal treatment plants have been identified.

Solid wastes: The Waste Management Act and a number of measures and regulations complementing it are to diminish the overall volume of waste generated in Austria. The Packaging Regulation, for example, requires certain percentages of packaging materials to be reused and recycled. At the local level, there are provincial sewage sludge regulations. The Plastics Labeling regulation and the PCP Regulation, for example, facilitate waste separation and collection for recycling purposes. A regulation has also been adopted for the reuse of construction debris and there is a Regulation on the Separate Collection of Biogenic Wastes. Emissions from thermal waste-treatment plants are subject to the Clean Air Regulation for Boiler Plants. The Landfill Regulation makes it obligatory for landfill sites to be built and operated according to the most recent state of art. There are several regulations supplementing the Waste Management Act. Enterprises with more than 100 employees, for example, have to appoint a waste-management officer, and companies exceeding a certain size are obliged to draw up their own waste-management plans. Legislative measures have been taken to minimize the amount of particularly dangerous pollutants in waste streams. In addition to legislative measures, voluntary agreements have been made with trade and industry to ensure separate waste collection and recovery such as the voluntary agreement concerning the recycling of used cars. There are also sector-specific strategies, e.g. for medical wastes, waste paint and varnish, disposal of old cars, and reprocessing of residues from electroplating.

Radioactive wastes: There is a Radiation Protection Regulation, but, since Austria is a country without nuclear power plants, radioactive wastes are generated only for medical, research and industrial purposes. Provisions made for the disposal of radioactive wastes are subject to regular examinations and inspections in accordance with Austrian radiation protection legislation. Minimizing the amount of radioactive waste is a declared objective in the Austrian radiation protection policy.

Programmes and Projects:

Hazardous wastes: “E-Schrott – vermeiden, sammeln, verwerten”: The aim of this project in the province of Lower Austria is the avoidance, collection and utilization of waste from electrical and electronic equipment.

Solid wastes: “Sei g’scheit, vermeid!”: The tasks of this project in the province of Lower Austria is to reduce solid waste as well as to provide information and guidelines e.g. how to repair things.

Radioactive wastes: No information available.

Status:

Hazardous wastes: Some 1 million tons of hazardous waste were generated in 2001. Since the amount of waste classified as hazardous depends on the definition used, a significant increase has been recorded in many sectors in the recent years in spite of successful waste prevention efforts.

Solid wastes: Austria generates about 48.6 million tons of waste per year (2001), a major part of which (7.5 million t/a) is construction residues. Residues from sewage treatment (sewage sludge) account for another 2.3 million t/a, which are disposed of in an environmentally sound manner in accordance with provincial sewage sludge regulations. Country-wide collection systems for waste paper, glass, hazardous waste, packaging waste and biogenic waste have been set up.

Radioactive wastes: No information available.

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

Hazardous wastes: No information available.

Solid wastes: No information available.

Radioactive wastes: No information available.

Information:

Hazardous wastes: No information available.

Solid wastes: No information available.

Radioactive wastes: No information available.

Research and Technologies:

Hazardous wastes: No information available.

Solid wastes: No information available.

Radioactive wastes: There is a research programme to study the health and environmental effects of a long-term storage site for low- and intermediate-level radioactive wastes. With regard to their import restrictions, Austria is committed to the principle that radioactive wastes generated in Austria are to be disposed of in Austria. Concerning the spent fuel elements of Austrian research reactors, the supplier state has assumed a contractual obligation to take them back in compliance with all the relevant safety regulations. To control radioactive emissions, 300 sites of nuclear radiation early warning systems have been set up in Austria.

Financing:

Hazardous wastes: No information available.

Solid wastes: No information available.

Radioactive wastes: No information available.

Cooperation:

Hazardous wastes: Austria ratified the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal in April 1993. Within the framework of the Technical Working Group of the Basel Convention, Austria participates in the elaboration of guidelines for environmentally sound treatment of wastes and supports these activities through a voluntary contribution to the Trust Fund of the Basel Convention. Austria also intends to contribute to the work done within the OECD in this field.

Solid wastes: Seminars and workshops on waste issues have been organized for various neighboring countries in Central and Eastern Europe.

Radioactive wastes: Austria supports the efforts made by the IAEA to harmonize standards governing the handling of radioactive wastes and to implement the Code of Practice for transboundary movements of nuclear wastes.

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CHAPTERS 24 TO 32: STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF MAJOR GROUPS

Women: Decision-making: Policies and strategies for achievement of equality in all aspects of society are being and have been drawn up. In 1995, advancement of women was included in the Austrian Federal Constitution and the equality principle was extended. The Federal Equal Treatment Act is gradually being implemented. The institution of a women's advocate for equality issues, established under the Equal Treatment Act is also being created at the regional level. Legislation has been enacted for a fair division of labor within the family and to combat violence within the family (Law and Public Order Act, Enforcement Proceedings Act). Policies and strategies for achievement of equality in all aspects of society are being and have been drawn up. In 1995, advancement of women was included in the Austrian Federal Constitution and the equality principle was extended. The Federal Equal Treatment Act is gradually being implemented. Capacity building, Education and Training: Curricula and educational material already promote gender-relevant information. Education in Austria is based on the principle of equality between men and women.

Children and Youth: Decision-making: The government recognizes the concerns and interests of children as equal to those of adults and promotes increased inclusion of children as partners in the negotiating process. Capacity-building, Education and Training: Austrian projects focus on the establishment, furnishing and operation of technical colleges and training workshops as well as training programmes for the crafts and the provision of teaching staff for crafts-related and commercial training programmes. Cooperation: In Austrian development cooperation, special emphasis has always been given to the education sector through comprehensive programmes (e.g. World Education Conference, World Bank) and through country-oriented initiatives of international organizations. Austrian Youth Organizations are members of the Austrian UNCED Commission. Austria grants scholarships and provides financial aid for students from the developing countries.

Indigenous People: No information available.

Non-Governmental Organizations: Decision-making: NGOs participate in the implementation of the Youth Environmental Plan and the National Environmental Action Plan which is a long-term environmental policy concept involving all competent bodies and interest groups. NGOs participate fully in the conception, establishment and evaluation of official mechanisms to review Agenda 21 implementation. Austrian major groups played an important role throughout the entire UNCED and CSD process, and they are represented in the Austrian UNCED Commission. NGOs have contributed to the design of the Eco-Office project, which evaluates the implementation of Agenda 21 in Austria and works for the harmonization of projects in this field. Contributions of NGOs to the sustainable development process at all levels have been constructive and helpful. Therefore, the Government has included NGO representatives in its national delegations to the major conferences and meetings in the field of sustainable development. Financing: The Government of Austria provides substantive financial and technical support to a number of NGOs for their national sustainable development efforts. For example, during the years 1994 and 1995, the Ministry of the Environment contributed over US\$19 million; the Ministry of Economic Affairs, over US\$35,000 (in the form of contracts or fees for services); and the Ministry for Science, Research and the Arts, over US\$200,000, plus an additional US\$1.33 million for cooperation with regional authorities. Cooperation: Austria strongly supports the idea of granting NGOs the status of active observers in the Alpine Convention. It also supports maximum participation of NGOs within the framework of the United Nations. Significant bilateral and multilateral NGO initiatives in which the government has been involved are the following: Climate Alliance, Anti-Atom International, East-West Cooperation of ARGE Umwelterziehung and the IUCN Covenant Project.

Local Authorities: Decision-making: Three Austrian cities (Vienna, Graz, Linz) signed the Charter of Aalborg to draw up a Local Agenda 21, Vienna has also signed the Charta of the European Regions for the Environment (Valencia). The Government supports Local Agenda 21 initiatives. In accordance with the principle of federalism, as laid down in the Austrian Constitution, municipal and local authorities play an essential role in public administration and policy formulation in Austria. Many local authorities have entered into partnerships with local authorities of other Austrian provinces or even beyond national borders. The increasing number of partnerships

with local authorities of Hungary and the involvement of Austrian territorial administrative bodies in the field of climate control are particularly noteworthy. Some 101 municipalities and communities as well as eight Austrian Laender together with municipalities from the neighboring countries have formed a "Climate Alliance". They have committed themselves to reducing their carbon dioxide emissions by the year 2010 through concrete measures in the field of traffic, energy, procurement etc. and to supporting their partners in the Amazon region in the active preservation of rainforests. Programmes and Projects: Initiatives taken by the Provinces and aimed at the rehabilitation and revival of rural communities are of special importance. The village renewal strategies focus on the social, economic and cultural revival of village life. Implementation of Local Agenda 21 – The Province of Styria started with the implementation of Local Agenda 21. In each district of the province at least one community is involved in this project. Accompanied scientific research and coordination by experts ensures high quality of the process. Cooperation: The Federal Laender, Federation of Austrian Towns and Federation of Austrian Municipalities are members of the Austrian UNCED Commission.

Workers and Trade Unions: Decision-making: The principle of combating risks at their source, central for occupational safety and health legislation, helps to promote integrated protection of the environment and consequently sustainable production patterns. At the level of the company, staff representatives have certain participatory rights concerning the working environment. Beyond that level, the Federal Chamber of Labor and the Austrian Trade Union Federation are actively involved in the legislative process. In the framework of Social Partnership, the Federal Chamber of Labor and the Austrian Trade Union Federation, as representatives of workers and employees, seek to promote high environmental standards in all matters of environmental policy. They recognize that the working environment and the environment beyond plant level form an inseparable unit. Cooperation: Most relevant ILO Conventions have been ratified and workers take full part in National Agenda 21 discussions and implementation. The Federal Chamber of Labor and the Austrian Trade Union Federation are members of the Austrian UNCED Commission.

Business and Industry: Decision-making: There are governmental policies encouraging increasing the efficiency of resource use, and requiring recycling. There are sectoral strategies, information campaigns etc. . The government has concluded voluntary agreements with many economic sectors. The Chamber of Commerce Austria and the Association of Austrian Industrialists are members of the Austrian UNCED Commission. Employers' representatives take part in federal decision-making on an equal basis with the representatives of the workers. The business community in Austria has taken several measures to diminish the burden on the environment through strategic, organizational and technical activities. Financing: The capital expenditure by industry for sustainable development activities amounted to approximately ATS 30 billion in 1994, and the amount was expected to increase in the future.

Scientific and Technological Community: Decision-making: At the national level, a Council for Technology Development has been established to improve communication among various bodies and institutions. This council concentrates on environmental aspects. In 1994, it was opened to the public by the appointment of a representative of citizens. In its Technology Policy Strategy (1989), the Austrian Federal Government stipulated that research and technology policies must take into account their respective environmental impact. The Forum of Austrian Scientists for the Environment and the Austrian Society of Environmental Technology are members of the Austrian UNCED Commission.

Farmers: Cooperation: The Standing Committee of the Presidents of the Austrian Chambers of Agriculture is a member of the Austrian UNCED Commission.

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CHAPTER 33: FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND MECHANISMS

Decision-Making: In June 1996, energy taxes on natural gas and electricity were introduced. The tax rates are 0.6 ATS/m³ of natural gas and 0.1 ATS/kWh of electricity. The tax rate on electricity was raised to approx. 0.2 ATS/kWh (15 €/MWh) in June 2000. Due to economic reasons, both taxes apply to enterprises that produce corporeal goods only to the extent of 0.35% of value added. In June 2000 the tax rate of the annual vehicle tax on vehicles up to 3,5 ton total weight was increased by more than 50%. With the beginning of 2001 the annual vehicle tax on vehicles above 3,5 ton total weight (trucks, lorries, etc.) was increased by approx. 50% in the average too. This increase is limited until the introduction of user fees for trucks and lorries on Austrian highways and then will be reduced to the old level again. In June 1996 the calculation of the fuel consumption tax was changed from the ECE-based method to the EU-harmonized MVEG method. This has led to an average increase of the resulting measured fuel consumption and therefore to an increase of the tax rate. Concurrently, the ceiling rate of the tax was raised from 14% to 16%. The deposition and export of waste materials are taxed. Tax rates depend on the type of waste. From 1997 onwards, tax rates have been gradually yet significantly increased and will continue to be stepped up until 2001. A further increment to the tax rate is imposed if the waste depot does not comply with a higher level of technical standards.

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Status: Austria makes no basic difference between foreign and domestic direct investment. As an impetus for promoting environmentally friendly projects through FDI, Austrian Federal Law (specifically the so called Umweltförderungsgesetz (UFG), Environmental Assistance Act) provides for an aid-mechanism to conduct endeavors of environmental significance in CEE countries bordering Austria. Most notably, projects to cut emissions from fossil fuel power plants as well as projects targeting the irrevocable exit from nuclear energy production receive subsidies. The ODA distribution per sector since 1992 has been the following: (1) Integrated planning and management of land resources, ATS 24 million; (2) Combating desertification, ATS 6 million; (3) Sustainable agriculture and rural development, ATS 20 million; and (4) Environmentally sound management of biotechnology, ATS 7 million.

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

Information: Information related to financing sustainable development is made available to potential users and can be accessed via the Internet: <http://www.kommunalkredit.at>

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Cooperation: As a result of UNCED, the Austrian Government spent a total of US\$ 20 million on a global programme (35 single projects) for the development and conservation or rehabilitation of forest biotopes in developing countries. During the pilot phase of the GEF (1991 - 1993) Austria contributed ATS 400 million; Austria's contribution under the first replenishment (GEF 2) amounted to ATS 231.51 million. This total amount will be transferred to the GEF in tranches during the period 1996 – 2005. The Austrian Global Environment Cooperation Trust Fund was initiated in 1995, and endowed with a maximum of ATS 4.5 million in special drawing rights from 1995 to 1997. Since 1992, Austria has provided US\$ 1.071 billion new and additional grant funds for sustainable development and US\$ 340 million in loans. By 1994, Austria had concluded bilateral debt-relief agreements with 11 African and 2 Latin American countries. Relative to the total period of rescheduling, the debt relief granted was equivalent to ATS 1 billion. Within the frame of the specific environment support scheme, the Federal Ministry of Environment supported a total of 103 projects in the Czech Republic, the Slovak Republic, Hungary and Slovenia with over 786 million ATS. During the last years emphasis shifted from end-of-pipe to integrated pollution prevention and energy saving projects.

In the context of the Pan European environmental process, Austria was involved in the review period of a study examining the effectiveness of financial instruments for environmental investment in CEE countries, and in the

development of innovative financing instruments, especially in the context of environmental funds in the Central and Eastern European countries.

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CHAPTER 35: SCIENCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Decision-Making: The Federal Ministry of Transport, Innovation and Technologie is primarily responsible for natural and social sciences and related legislation and policies in Austria. It is also represented in the national coordination mechanism for sustainable development. The Science and Research Council, Technological Development Council and the Conference of Austrian University Presidents are the other bodies directly involved in national decision-making in this field. Major groups involved in science for sustainable development are: World-Wide Fund for Nature, Greenpeace, Global 2000, the Austrian Scientists for Environmental Protection, the Austrian Society for the Protection of Nature and the Environment, and the Austrian Society for the Environment and Technology.

Programmes and Projects: According to the information received from the Federal Ministry of Science and Research, the most important post- Rio projects related to sustainable development are the following: Sustainable development of Austrian Man-Dominated Landscapes aiming at minimizing the substance flow and exploitation of energy resources caused by human beings; Research and development requirements for the transition to a sustainable economy in Austria; Austrian PREPARE Initiative (EUREKA/EUROENV - European research programme). It is generally accepted, that the challenges listed in the Agenda 21 can only be solved by both the special knowledge of single disciplines and by interdisciplinary approaches. Therefore the Austrian Scientists for Environmental Protection promote interdisciplinarity of sciences in various projects. Especially an own interdisciplinary journal is edited to provide a suitable publication medium for interdisciplinary papers and to support thereby interdisciplinary thoughts and concepts in basic and applied research, especially with respect to environmental problems. Moreover the Austrian Scientists for Environmental Protection recently made a poll about sustainability in the research on Austrian universities. The results will be used to remove the barriers between scientists and public in public awareness about environmental issues.

Status: No information available.

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

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: Within the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management (BMLFUW) in cooperation with the Federal Ministry of Transport, Innovation and Technology (BMVIT) a project concerning the instrument of Material Flow Analysis (MFA) is going on. The MFA delivers important pressure indicators concerning the resource use of different socio-economic systems to evaluate sustainable development. The above-mentioned project is carried out by the Institute for Interdisciplinary Studies of Austrian Universities (IFF), Department of Social Ecology, and makes an essential contribution to the harmonization of the EU-wide methods to construct MFAs. Another focus of the project is the depiction of the Austrian material performance with the help of physical-input-output tables. Also within this project Austria took part in the World Resource Institute publication of "The weight of nations" (2000) dealing with the material outflows of economies. Participating countries in this study were Germany, Japan, Netherlands, the United States and Austria. Another project of the BMLFUW in cooperation with the Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs and Labor, carried out by the Sustainable Europe Research Institute (SERI) together with the Institute for Interdisciplinary Studies of Austrian Universities (IFF), Department of Social Ecology, is dealing with the synergies between labor/employment and environment and their contribution to sustainable development. The aim is to start processes to integrate sustainability aspects into employment policy and to help putting the social dimension of sustainability into more concrete terms.

Financing: The public funding for scientific research on environment and development has more than tripled from 1980 to 1994. (From ATS 5,332,879,000, in 1984 to ATS 15,529,501,000 in 1994). There is no national target to increase the number of scientists working in this field. Sustainable development is a well-established topic in science and politics, with increasing importance. The Austrian Federal Government has passed a resolution to

increase the quota of women in science. In case of equal qualifications, women should be favored. Brain drain is not a significant problem in Austria.

Cooperation: In a programme that ended in 1998, Austria participated and invested in several multilateral and bilateral programmes addressing science for sustainable development, including: the European Union 4th Framework Programme for Research and Development; approx. (US\$ 70,000,000); the exchange of students from Nicaragua (ATS 2.6 million); the IGBP of ICSU US\$ 200,000; promotion of South-South cooperation (ATS 6.9 million); and the Man in the Biosphere, Natural Disaster Reduction and Hydrology Programmes of UNESCO (US\$450,000, 320,000 and 270,000 respectively).

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CHAPTER 36: PROMOTING EDUCATION, PUBLIC AWARENESS AND TRAINING

Decision-Making: The Federal Ministry of Education, *Science and Culture* is primarily responsible for education, public awareness, and training. The *FORUM for Environmental Education* (the former Working Group on Environmental Education of the Austrian Society for Nature Preservation and Environmental Protection) is an advisory body to the Ministry. Members of the *FORUM* are teachers, scientists, and representatives of NGOs, administration officers and *Environmental Education* experts. Major groups have participated in the publishing of educational material, in campaigns, competitions and *programme development*, such as Ecology in Every-day School Life, Environmental Education in Teacher Training as well as in advanced training seminars for teachers and youth counselors. They also participated in the distribution of Guidelines for the Protection of Climate and *for preserving Biodiversity* at the Local Level. The government has launched *campaigns on climate, biodiversity and sustainable development/Agenda 21* together with the NGOs. NGOs have also participated in the setting up of counseling and consultation centers for environmental, waste and energy issues and in the founding of do-it-yourself groups for solar plant construction.

Programmes and Projects: Periodic reports on environmental issues have been published in all mass media. Counseling and consultation centers for environmental, waste and energy issues have been established and do-it-yourself groups for solar plant construction have been founded. The Austrian Information Service for Development Policy has initiated a campaign on Sustainable Development Policy, and offers a training course on development policy (including environmental issues) to teachers and trainers. Printed material and audiovisual tools for environmental education are often used at all school levels. During the past ten years, considerable efforts have been made to include environmental projects in the curricula. In 1992, an Environmental Education Fund was established. Advanced training seminars for teachers, especially also for pre-service teacher training, have been introduced. Topics, such as environmental health, safe drinking water, sanitation, food, ecosystems, recycling and energy saving, are fully dealt with at all educational levels. In cooperation with the Austrian UNICEF Committee, a package of materials on environment and development has been published and distributed to all medium and higher-level schools. On the university-level a study has been launched in 1999 from the Austrian Scientists for Environmental Protection how to establish integrated environmental studies on Austrian universities. Since 1999 considerable efforts had been made by the project-group (members of various universities) to offer students a wide variety of interdisciplinary lectures, seminars and practices concerning environmental issues.

Status: In Austria, girls have, in principle, the same enrolment opportunities as boys for all schools and training facilities. The government has adopted a basic decision to this end (Education aimed at the Equality of Men and Women). Other supportive measures include the Girls and Technology programme with adequate vocational guidance and the Equal Treatment Act.

Information: web sites: www.umweltbildung.at, www.oekolog.at, www.ensi.org.

Research and Technologies: There are several evaluation projects and theses on university level and action research by teachers.

Financing: the Ministry provides financial support for various projects for Education, Science and Culture as well as through private financing.

Cooperation: The Government participates in the International decentralized OECD/CERI Network "Environment and School Initiatives" /ENSI, in the GLOBE project and in the WHO/CE/EU-Network "Health Promotion Schools".

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

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 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

Decision-Making: Austria plays an active role in the further development of international environmental law. Austria – as a member of the European Union - has submitted several concrete proposals and has taken appropriate initiatives both in the course of the follow-up process of the Rio Conference as well as within the framework of UNEP, especially in connection with the assessment of specific environmental agreements (e.g. the Montreal Protocol, FCCC, the Basel Convention, Convention on Biodiversity). Austria has ratified and taken the necessary legislative measures for the implementation of a large number of environmental agreements such as the Convention on Biological Diversity the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, The Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution and its Protocols, the ECE Convention on Transboundary Environmental Impact Assessment , the ECE Convention on Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents and the ECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Waterways and International Lakes. Most recently Austria ratified the Convention on Cooperation for the Protection and Sustainable Use of the Danube River and the Convention for the Protection of the Alps. Austria has actively contributed to the elaboration of the Montevideo Programme III on Environmental Law, which has been adopted By UNEP-Governing Council in 2001, and participates actively in the preparation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development to be held in Johannesburg 2002. 1997.

Programmes and Projects: No information available .

Status: Austria's interest is focused towards effective implementation of existing multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and of MEAs yet to be designed. Of special importance among such measures are mechanisms of procedures to monitor and to improve implementation of and compliance with MEAs by helping and encouraging parties to fulfill the obligations and commitments arising under them by simple, cooperative, non-judicial and transparent means. Austria has raised its voice in favor of the elaboration of such mechanisms, tailored to the specific requirements of the instruments they serve. Austria has in the past organized a number of international symposia and conferences on environmental law topics. It has hosted a number of informal meetings and workshops (together with relevant international organizations) On topics such as compliance and implementation of MEAs. Austria will organize workshops dealing with the precautionary principle and liability issues.

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

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: No information available.

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CHAPTER 40: INFORMATION FOR DECISION-MAKING

Decision-Making: All Ministries and the provinces are responsible for improving information availability for the purpose of decision-making. According to the Austrian Federal Act Concerning Access to Information on the Environment the public has to be informed on the environment, in particular by arranging for free access to the environmental data, which are at the disposal of the administration bodies, and by publicly announcing environmental data.

Programmes and Projects: Austria participated in the testing of UNCSD indicators and prepared reports on the result. The discussions on testing the UN-CSD indicators led to a further publication dealing with eco-efficiency-indicators. It shows diagrams on selected issues showing the development of various parameters as an index. The Conference of the environmental ministers on federal and regional level has passed a decision to work out and establish a system of environmental quality targets. This system shall convey information on the targets for the state of the environment and how its achievement shall be monitored and evaluated. There are activities to establish a monitoring system for biodiversity.

Status: Interaction between concepts and the actors behind these concepts at the Federal, the Länder and at regional level, as regards the further development and harmonization of Sustainable Development strategies in Austria, is not managed in the context of a formal framework. The Conference of the environmental ministers on federal and regional level appointed sustainability coordinators for each 'Bundesland' (federal province) to prepare a harmonized environmental policy with a view to sustainable development. This board is a policy-consultative forum that shall support the coordination between provinces and the federal level. Austria has a long tradition in collecting and evaluating data for decision-making in various fields, e.g. economy, environment, demographics, and health. Institutes, industry and the private sector, researchers at universities and NGOs collect information. Austria has an agreed system on responsibilities for indicators and respective data. The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management, the level of data collection by "Statistik Österreich", coordinate the level of indicators. This means that these institutions cooperate on the respective level with other organizations, for the data level the Statistik Österreich especially with the Environment Agency, which is mainly responsible for environmental data.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: Climate campaign, eco-label, mediation, campaign for mobility in schools, freshwater campaign and environmental day in Austria. Public information, training, workshops are provided for decision-makers and multiplication at all levels.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: Austria is one of the founding members of the Regional Environmental Center in Budapest (Hungary) and the Central European Initiative. The Central European Data Request Facility (CEDAR) was founded in 1990 to support the efforts of the Central and Eastern European (CEE) countries by supplying these countries with information, quality status of expert knowledge and access to a worldwide information network. It is based in Vienna. In 1993, CEDAR intensified its activities by becoming a UNEP/INFOTERRA Regional Service Center for the CEE countries. In addition, Austria is one of the six donor countries participating in the UNEP/ESA (European Space Agency) Mercure Project. This programme will provide a global satellite telecommunication connection between various countries. A modern network will allow access to and exchange of environmental data such as UNEP/GRID. Moreover, it will be connected to the CEDAR network by means of a ground station in Vienna (operational as of 1997).

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CHAPTER: INDUSTRY

Decision-Making: Business and Industry play a crucial role in a sustainable development of a country and support activities related to Agenda 21. Important goals in this subject are efficient production processes, preventive strategies, cleaner production technologies, product life cycles, minimizing and recycling or avoiding waste, reduction of the impact on resource use and the environment. These goals are as important for small and medium-sized enterprises as for Austria's industry. Technological innovation, development, application, transfer often comes from enterprises. Environmental management systems, voluntary initiatives are widely spread in Austria's business. Implementation of the sustainable development (Agenda 21) requires a process-oriented approach that treats economic, environmental and social interests in their mutual dependency equally but above all, does not play them off against one another. Therefore in 1997 the Austrian Business Council for Sustainable Development (ABCSD) – as a link between business and policy – was founded. The active inclusion of all participants in dialogue, planning, decision-making, implementation and control is necessary.

Programmes and Projects: Relevant programmes/projects and their status are as follows:

Programmes and Project	Status
Modern Waste Management Act (“WKÖ-Projekt: Modernes Abfallrecht”)	Ends in spring 2001
Self commitment on beverage packaging (“Selbstverpflichtungserklärung Getränkeverpackungen”)	Start in December September 2000; Status: continuing
Co-operation of Austrian Economic Chamber and World Wide Fond for Nature for a better implementation of Natural 2000 and the promotion of sustainability	Start: March January 2000 Status: Continuing
Voluntary agreement on End-of-life-vehicles (“Freiwillige Vereinbarung Alt-Pkw-Recycling”)	Start: 1992 Status: Continuing
Promotion of the management systems EMAS, ISO 14001 and responsible care	Status: Continuing
Development of EMAS Austria in co-operation with the Environmental Ministry	Status: End June 2001
Database for sustainability indicators and environmental data “Umweltdaten online” http://wko.at/up	Start: 1998 Status: Continuing
Award “Ökomanager”	Start: 19981997 Status: Continuing
Environmental Awards of the Austrian Industry	Start: 1993 Status: Continuing
Wood certification-system PEFC	Start: June 2001 Status: Continuing
Sustainability Concept of the Industry (“Nachhaltigkeitsstrategie der Industrie”)	Start: March 2000 Status: Continuing
Austrian Ecolabel (“Umweltzeichen”)	Start: 1991 Status: Continuing
Environmental Business Consulting (“Ökologische Betriebsberatung”)	Start: 1985 Status: Continuing
Waste sector concepts for:	Start: 1990

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wood - Agriculture - Medical waste - Paints and varnish paints - Waste from non halogen waste - Waste from leather industry - Foundry waste - Foodstuff waste - Dry cleaners waste - Metal surface cleaning - Cellulose and paper industry - Textiles - Waste from photographic laboratories - Waste out of grease and oils - Waste from galvanic industry - Surface technology 	<p>Status: Continuing</p>
<p>Voluntary agreements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Car End-of-life-vehicles agreement 2. Paper agreement 3. Tire agreement 4. Building sites and road works agreement 5. Starter batteries agreement 6. Electronic waste agreement 7. Yogurt beakers agreement 8. Soil surface agreement 9. Plastic bags agreement 10. Pharmaceuticals packaging agreement 11. Cheque card agreement 12. PVC window- frames agreement 13. Polystyrene agreement 14. Tropical woods agreement 15. Battery agreement 16. PVC agreement 17. ICC charta for environment 18. Environmental management "eco audit" 19. Austrian recycling agency (ARA) implementation 20. Detergent agreement 21. Plastic pipes agreement 22. Alkylphenolethoxylate agreement 23. Destearyl dimethyl ammoniumchlorid agreement 24. Car agreement for Vienna 25. Foundry sands agreement 26. Car batteries agreement 27. Refrigerators and cooling apparatus 28. Washing machines, dish washers and household appliance 	<p>Start: 1985</p> <p>Status: Continuing</p>

Status : See under **Programmes and Projects**.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: The Austrian Camber of Commerce runs the largest adult education organization: WIFI <http://www.wifi.at>.

Information: In cooperation with the Austrian economy special events were organized to discuss this matter with the consumer as well as with the producers. The main targets of these discussions are the integration of the environmental policy in other policies and the sustainable development strategy of the European Union as a whole (see www.sustainableeurope.net). Since spring 2001 the discussion for a national sustainable strategy is going on. The Austrian Industry is directly involved in this process. As a first step the Green Paper for Austria's Strategy on Sustainable Development "A Sustainable Future for Austria" was prepared. Till the end of 2001 – with the full participation of the Austrian business sector- the national sustainability strategy should be finished (see www.nachhaltigkeit.at). The Austrian Chamber of commerce under <http://wko.at/up> offers the largest Austrian environmental information system for businesses.

Research and Technologies: Key Areas of Commissioned Research have been introduced in research funded by the Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology, allowing funding to be focused on well-defined, usually interdisciplinary fields of research of great interest to the public. Research in this area needs stimulation with public money, since neither the market nor basic research activities of universities tend to be focused on such topics. Stimulation activities that require intensive co-operation between science, administration, enterprises and the public, have proven to be particularly effective. This is the case when research questions have to be identified and formulated. Here, greater efficiency and better results can be expected when the public is involved already at the local or regional level. Programmes in the fields of environmental research and the use of alternative energies exemplify the value of organizational models for the specification (formulation of programmes) and the realization (feedback) of research. The integration of the social sciences leads research programmes to adopt interdisciplinary methods, and the involvement of the public provides a higher degree of acceptance and practical relevance. Integrating enterprises at an early stage of the programme has been valuable when technical questions have had to be answered. Developments of considerable business relevance have also been achieved in certain niches (solar energy).

"Future-oriented energy and environmental technologies"- Priorities within this key sector relate to answers to the strategically important question of sustainability (long-term applicability). In other words: what is the essence of sustainable development, which energies and environmental technologies will play decisive roles, and which measures are required for successful implementation. Fields of priority are efficient use of energy, renewable energies, eco-friendly processes (cleaner production) and products, and sustainable regional economic development. Support for 2.000 thesis or diploma works in business related studies. Research on CO2 Emissions of the Austrian Industry by the Institute of industrial ecology (in Cooperation with the Federal Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management, the Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs and Labor, the Federal Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology and "Niederösterreichische Landesarbeiterkammer").

Financing: State support for environmental investments: Public financing by a bank named Kommunalkredit on behalf of the Environmental Ministry with a sum of 406 Mio ATS for the year 2000. 90,3 billion ATS public, private and business environmental investments; 29,3% (26,5 billion ATS) business investments (Östat Statistik Austria 2001)

Cooperation: Together with the Austrian Business Council for Sustainable Development (ABCSD), the Austrian Economic Chamber, the Federation of Austrian Industry, the Federal Ministry for Economy (BMWA), the Federal Ministry for Environment (BMLFUW) and the Federal Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology (BMVIT) an "Eco-efficiency-Action-Programme" will be discussed.

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CHAPTER: SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

Decision-Making: In the Austrian national tourism policy, protection of the environment is of prime importance. Recommendations and guidelines for action to make tourism and leisure industry more sustainable have been prepared within the framework of the National Environmental Plan. Shortly after the Rio-Conference in 1992 Austria already adopted measures to integrate the guiding principle of sustainable development into numerous political strategies and implemented this principle on national, regional and local level. As an example, a working group "Sustainability" was set up by the tourism and leisure industry department (Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs and Labor) and a study on "Sustainability in Austrian tourism, basic facts and stock taking" commissioned. It was finished in January 2000 and gives a survey and an analysis of the concept of sustainability in tourism. Measures already adopted in this respect are also listed in this study. With a view to further scrutinizing this subject two further studies were commissioned in 2000, i.e. "Elaboration of a measuring system for sustainability in tourism" and "Potentials of ecotourism in Austria". Both studies were terminated in 2001.

The *Austrian Eco-label* (see www.umweltzeichen.at) for Tourism celebrated its 10-year anniversary on 29th November 2000. This eco-label had been created in 1990 – initially only for products. The Eco-label for Tourism followed suit in 1996, awarded by the Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs and Labor and the Federal Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management. The Austrian Eco-Label for Tourism awards companies providing catering facilities and accommodation for their efforts in environmental management and social responsibility. It represents a national instrument aiming at promoting quality and environmental awareness in the Austrian tourism and leisure industry. The criteria document for issuing environmental awards for tourism companies was passed in October 1996. Criteria are e.g. waste avoidance and separating, use of energy-saving electronic devices, environment-friendly laundry detergents, water saving toilets, non-smoking zones and environment-oriented training of employees. Until August 2001, 152 tourism companies of all categories (hotels, B&Bs, training centers, youth hostels, restaurants, camping sites, Alpine mountain huts, private rooms and farmhouse holidays) providing together about 13.000 beds were labeled. The Eco-label for tourism is valid for 2 years, than the tourism company has to undergo a new certification process.

Programmes and Projects: CAR-free *TOURISM IN AUSTRIA - MEASURES AND PILOT SCHEMES*

The Federal Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology has established together with the Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management, the Ministry for Economic Affairs and Labor, the Province of Salzburg and 2 local community authorities a pilot program, which aims at reducing the dependency of tourism on cars. Car free tourism provides a chance not only to relieve and protect the environment but also to develop a new form of quality tourism with man instead of cars at the core of interest. The first phase of this 110 million ATS project has been accomplished successfully and for phase 2 even more money can be expected. In the following the major achievements of this projects are listed: establishment of a regional mobility management center in cooperation with the Austrian Railways; intermodal trip information system in combination with touristic packages; awareness raising campaigns; infrastructural investments to promote walking and cycling; enhancement of the image and the quality of the stay by unique appearance of the towns and manifold use of attractive streets, alleys, and places; mobility in an acceptable form - optimum conditions for pedestrians and cyclists, attractive public transport service, and the use of environmentally friendly technologies in motorized traffic (e.g. electric vehicles, e-scooters); and, regional shuttle services.

Moreover, this project is linked to the international "Alps Mobility" project where tourism regions from Italy, and Germany are exploring ways to promote and implement car-free tourism. By means of the rescue hut renovation programme "Environment-oriented rescue huts" (initiated in 1992 by the Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs and Labor) the federal government, the provinces, and the alpine associations contribute towards environment protection measures (renewable energy carriers such as sun, water, wind, waste disposal, sewage for rescue huts). The guidelines of the tourism promotion programmes of the Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs and Labor include environment relevant aspects. When granting ERP-credits to the tourism industry ecological aspects must be taken into account as well. ERP-credits for new constructions or total renovations are made available only where the separation and disposal of waste, energy savings and the environmentally friendly use of energy are

simultaneously provided for. At the exploitation of new areas for recreation and sports tourism the construction limits as laid down in regional planning concepts must be observed and tuned to the overall regional tourism development. Installations in respect of energy saving and the environmentally friendly use of energy are supported by the TOP-tourism promotion. Another study has been commissioned: "Modules for further training to enhance environment-oriented management in hotels and restaurants". Furthermore numerous projects exist on local level (traffic-free village, etc.)

Status: No information available.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: Training of employees with regard to the Environment Assessment Directive "Soft Tourism"; job information- material for teachers, etc.

Information: <http://wko.at/bstf>; www.umweltzeichen.at

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: various authorities promote The Austrian Eco-label for Tourism.

Cooperation: No information available.

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