

## WEST ASIA/MIDDLE EAST REGIONAL MEETING

Facilitators: Tarek Genena, Ruth Rotenberg  
 UNEP Facilitator: Ossama El-Kholy

### GOALS

Workshop discussions focused on:

- Shared problems and challenges.
- Institution-building needs.
- Opportunities for institutional support and exchange.  
(Review of existing mechanisms)
- Proposals for regional networking: agenda for action.
- Desired linkage to international capacity building efforts.
- Targets of Opportunity.

### 1 INTRODUCTION

The representation from the West Asia/Middle East was smaller than expected and so broad conclusions could not be reached on next steps. However, the group had a good discussion which led to several conclusions.

### 2 DISCUSSION SUMMARY

2.1 There are significant differences among the nations in the region in terms of environmental issues, status of environmental laws and their implementation, but each nation is struggling to address them.

2.2 There are some cooperative efforts already underway which should be expanded to focus on related compliance problems. The participants will go back and review existing mechanisms and projects for these opportunities.

2.3 Political will, time, and effort is needed before a functioning network for environmental compliance and enforcement can be established within the Region, but participants will follow up with working groups at both the national and regional levels and see how specific activities might benefit from exchange.

### LIST OF PARTICIPANTS FOR WEST ASIA AND THE MIDDLE EAST

Dr. Ossama El-Kholy	Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency	Egypt
Dr. Tarek Genena	Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency	Egypt
Ms. Bina Baron	Ministry of the Environment	Israel
Ms. Ruth Rotenberg	Ministry of the Environment	Israel
Ms. Gila Stopler	Israel Union for Environmental Defense	Israel
Eng. Muzahem Muhaisin	Aqaba Region Authority	Jordan
His Excellency Ahmed Obeidat	Jordan Environment Society	Jordan
Mr. Ali A. Murshed	Sharjah Municipality	United Arab
Emirates		
Ms. Susan Becker	United Nations Development Program	UNDP