

**United Nations Environment Programme  
World Conservation Monitoring Centre**

**Green Report**

**2009**



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## Citation

UNEP-WCMC (2010) United Nations Environment Programme – World Conservation Monitoring Programme: Green Report 2009. UNEP-WCMC: Cambridge, UK.

## Introduction

### UNEP-WCMC Mission and Goals

The United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) is the biodiversity monitoring arm of UNEP. UNEP-WCMC's vision is of a wiser world: one in which people everywhere recognize that the diversity of life on Earth is vital to the future of humanity, and use this knowledge in all their decisions. In striving towards this vision the Centre promotes wiser decision-making and a sustainable future by providing information on the conservation and sustainable management of the living world.

UNEP-WCMC's Vision and Mission Statement are:

*"A world where biodiversity counts"*  
and  
*"To evaluate and highlight the many values of biodiversity and put authoritative biodiversity knowledge at the centre of decision-making"*

To this end, it is vital that UNEP-WCMC commits to the principles of sustainability and wiser decision-making that it promotes. An important first step to achieve this was the development of an Environmental Strategy in 2006, which sets achievable targets, objectives and actions. This should help UNEP-WCMC to ensure the sustainability of its own activities, and to identify and, where possible, address any areas that are currently unsustainable. An annual Green Report will help to track progress made over time and continually improve the Centre's environmental performance.

Other initiatives are similarly occurring across other organisations: UNEP is in the process of developing an environmental strategy to ensure the sustainability of its operations. Similarly, many international conservation organisations (e.g. IUCN, BirdLife International, and TRAFFIC International) have conducted environmental audits on their own in-house activities and subsequently developed environmental strategies. UNEP-WCMC strives to stay at the forefront of this kind of initiative to ensure it is considering environmental sustainability internally as well as externally in all that it does.

### UNEP-WCMC Environmental Strategy

Many positive actions are being undertaken by UNEP-WCMC. However, there is always room for improvement. The Environmental Strategy sets achievable targets and objectives, which UNEP-WCMC strives to attain, and it lists a series of actions that will help achieve the respective targets. Many of the activities do not require additional financial resources; instead changes in certain aspects of the Centre's management and staff behaviour are achieving a lot, and are indeed expected to lead to reduced costs of running the Centre.

The targets and objectives laid out in the Strategy are as follows:

- *Natural Environment*
  - To ensure biodiversity-friendly mowing
  - To support native species
  - To carefully manage non-native species
  - To compost all garden waste
  - To clear the pond annually
  - To further enhance biodiversity through toad and frog protection and nest boxes

- To monitor biodiversity
- To regulate the use of biocides
- *Centre Management*
  - Energy Consumption
    - To raise awareness among staff on the need for and the options of reducing energy consumption
    - To properly document energy consumption levels within the Centre
    - To actively reduce energy consumption at UNEP-WCMC
    - To ensure that electricity supply comes from 100% renewable resources.
  - Recycling
    - To maintain and strengthen the efficiency of the existing recycling schemes at UNEP-WCMC
    - To establish a system for collecting compostable waste
    - To establish recycling schemes for other recyclable waste, including cardboard, plastic and IT waste
  - Carbon Offsetting
    - To raise awareness among staff on the need for and the options of reducing air travel
    - To properly document the air mileage of UNEP-WCMC staff
    - To reduce air mileage of UNEP-WCMC staff
    - To offset all carbon production from travel
    - To further develop the carbon offset issue with UNEP-WCMC partners
  - Transport
    - To encourage more staff to cycle
    - To encourage staff to use public transport
    - To encourage car sharing
  - Paper Use
    - To raise awareness amongst staff on how to reduce their paper use
    - Reduce paper use at UNEP-WCMC
    - Source and use paper that meets a high environmental standard
  - Ethical Purchasing
    - To purchase Fair Trade consumable products where possible
    - To purchase environmentally friendly products
  - Environmental Information
    - To raise awareness among current staff of all available environmental information, including the Strategy for the Centre.
    - To raise awareness of the Environment Committee and its activities to new staff members and Chevening scholars
    - To promote the activities being undertaken by the Centre towards the sustainable management of its activities
  - Finances
    - To encourage UNEP-WCMC to provide competitive ethical pension options to all staff
    - To encourage UNEP-WCMC to bank with an ethical bank
    - Ensure financial support for activities needed to ensure the sustainability of the Centre's activities

### **Scope and purpose of this report**

The UNEP-WCMC Green Report is a form of tracking progress against the targets and objectives listed in the Strategy in 2009. This is the first attempt at such a report, and attempts to highlight progress made using both qualitative and quantitative approaches, including the Environmental

Performance Indicators of the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI; see page 19). The report also aims to highlight the efforts of UNEP-WCMC in the context of the wider United Nations (UN) approach to environmental self-management.

A traffic light system is used throughout this report to signify the level of satisfaction with the various facets under consideration. Using this system, the colours signify the following:



- Red = No or inadequate implementation to date
- Yellow = A degree of implementation has taken place, but improvements are required
- Green = Highly satisfactory degree of implementation

## Message from the Director

As a leading player in the global environmental field, UNEP-WCMC must 'practice as it preaches'. Our engagement with decision-makers at a range of levels on issues including biodiversity conservation, climate change, sustainable use of resources and appropriate business practices, we must ensure that our own approach is as sound as possible.

The Environmental Committee has been striving to 'green' the Centre since its formation in 2004, and has already implemented a range of excellent initiatives, including the reduction of paper and energy use, carbon offsetting, developing an appropriate gardening protocol for the grounds, and composting, to name a few. While most staff at UNEP-WCMC hold environmental considerations close to their hearts, it undoubtedly requires the efforts of the Committee to focus that goodwill into organization-wide good practice.

This Green Report comes at a timely point in the Centre's history, which will celebrate its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2010. The World Conservation Monitoring Centre has come a long way since it was founded in 1980/81, and I welcome the efforts of the Environmental Committee and all staff in their efforts to continually improve the Centre's environmental sustainability, and to reduce UNEP-WCMC's ecological footprint as far as possible.

Jon Hutton  
Director, UNEP-WCMC

## The UN Context

The issue of in-house environmental policies and measures has been on the agenda of the United Nations system since considerations at the UNEP Governing Council meeting in 1995. Strategies for the promotion of best practices in environmental housekeeping at United Nations offices have since been called for and partly implemented. Of particular importance have been the following:

- The Marrakech process on sustainable consumption and production coordinated by UNEP/Sustainable United Nations (SUN) and the Department for Economic and Social Affairs (DESA);
- The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)/Inter-Agency Procurement Services Office (IAPSO) Working Group on Procurement to formulate sustainable procurement guidelines;
- The work of the Environment Management Group (EMG), an inter-agency coordination body, on sustainable procurement guidelines, waste disposal and energy efficiency; and
- The climate-neutral UN initiative led by the Secretary-General, launched in 2007.

The latter initiative has gained particular momentum, with the decision of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB), entitled *Moving towards a climate-neutral UN*, through which the executive heads of the organizations committed themselves to making their operations and travel climate neutral. A first result was an inventory of all UN organizations' greenhouse gas emissions in 2008, presented through the Secretary-General's document *Moving Towards a Climate Neutral UN – The UN system's footprint and efforts to reduce it* to the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) at its 15th meeting in Copenhagen in December 2009. According to the report, the total emissions of 49 UN organizations amounted to 1.741 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent in 2008.

UNEP achieved its goal of climate-neutrality by 2008, through reducing emissions and offsetting residual emissions by purchasing certified emission reductions (CERs). The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) has committed to offset all carbon emissions arising out of the Secretariat's operations between the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Conferences of the Parties in 2008 and 2010 (estimated at around 10,200 tons of carbon equivalent) through contributions to tree-planting under the Riparian Reforestation Programme, led by the government of the Brazilian state of Parana. In addition, the secretariats of the Global Environment Facility and the Basel Convention as well as the World Bank Group have declared themselves climate-neutral or carbon-neutral or to become so in the near future.

In response to the Secretary-General's initiative, in 2008 UNEP established Sustainable United Nations (SUN), which aims to support the United Nations and other organizations in achieving climate neutrality and overall sustainability, working closely with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA). Through SUN, UNEP provides the organizations individually with advice and training tailored to their specific situation.

The United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON), with support from UNEP, has issued the *United Nations Office at Nairobi Supplier Sustainable Procurement Guidelines*. The guidelines inform vendors on the main procurement principles followed by the United Nations: the best value for money; effective competition; fairness; integrity and transparency; and the interests of the United Nations. They also address aspects of green procurement, including product life cycles, a consolidated list of products, avoiding harmful substances, etc.

Against this background of environmental initiatives, UNEP-WCMC acknowledges these UN initiatives and strives to make its own contributions to these efforts in parallel.

## Materials

### Office Paper



At UNEP-WCMC, the paper used for printing is FSC-certified and comes from mixed sources (i.e. from 'well-managed forests and other controlled sources'). In 2009, the Centre purchased 600 reams (each of 500 80 g/m<sup>2</sup> sheets), approximately 100 reams more than in 2008. This increase was attributed to an increase in staff and improved printing facilities that allow for easier production of larger or numerous copies of documents. The Centre's official headed paper is made from 100% recycled sources.

There are no figures available for the amount of paper recycled, although it is estimated that approximately 80% of used sheets are subsequently disposed in this manner. In 2009, the amount of existing printed materials that were also recycled was particularly high owing to recent efforts to digitise older files and documents.

The Environmental Committee encourages staff to actively consider their printing needs. This includes printing double-sided, shrinking pages to allow for multiple pages per side, and considering using the Secure Print function to avoid accidental use.

### Publications



UNEP-WCMC, as a Collaborating Centre, is expected to conform to the printing policy of UNEP (<http://www.unep.org/publications/policy.asp>), which strives to achieve environmentally-sound printing. To this end, UNEP divisions and collaborators consider several criteria when choosing and evaluating a printing job, above and beyond that of price.

The following criteria are placed at the forefront in any tender. At least four of the criteria have to be achieved on each and every publication. It is also mandatory that the specific criteria are referenced on each publication in the Green Dot statement (<http://www.unep.org/publications/greendot.asp>). They include:

- Chlorine-free paper;
- Recycled paper (preferably above 75%);
- Wood pulp from sustainably managed forests;
- Post-consumer waste;
- Mill broke;
- Ink from renewable resources, e.g. vegetable, soy, linseed;
- Coatings should be water based;
- The percentage of paper bleach must be minimal; and
- Mailed in photodegradable polythene film.

In addition to the above, UNEP considers the printing process, not just the products. This includes issues such as: the consumption of energy; the use of solvents; best practices; certificates (ISO 14000, EMS, eco-labelling, Forest Stewardship Council); and waste treatment. As the transport/shipping industry moves billions of units each year and accounts for the emission of millions of tons of CO<sub>2</sub> (and other greenhouse gases), distribution is also looked at with an eye to engaging partners or companies that 'offset' their CO<sub>2</sub> and which try to be carbon neutral.

UNEP-WCMC takes the above criteria into consideration and uses the Green Dot approach on its publications, consistently exceeding the minimum required number. There is no Centre-wide uniform approach to using printers, although there is a list of appropriate companies in the UK recommended to staff. Printing is generally constrained by time and budgetary matters, and these may on occasion be considered more pressing issues.

## Recycle and Reuse



UNEP-WCMC encourages the reuse of items wherever possible. For instance, glass milk bottles are returned to the dairy after use, and bubble wrap is retained when possible. Other waste items are recycled as far as possible using the services provided by the Cambridge City Council. Facilities are provided in the Centre to recycle the following items:

- Paper: white paper, coloured paper, thick paper, shiny paper, tissue wrapping paper, newspaper, magazines, plain envelopes, window envelopes
- Envelopes
- Card: including thick paper style card, cardboard/Tetrapak drink and soup containers
- Crisp packets
- Milk bottle tops
- Glass and bottles
- Plastic bottles
- Tin cans
- Batteries
- Compostable kitchen waste

## Utilities



### *Electricity*

In 2009, the Centre used 273,134 kWh of electricity, up from 254,085 kWh in 2008. This increase is in part due to increased staff numbers in the building, but the majority of this usage is due to running servers and the air-conditioning equipment required in the server room.

In 2009, UNEP-WCMC reviewed the potential of installing renewable systems, including an industrial-sized wind turbine, for energy generation. Owing to the aspect and the expected excessive weight on the building roof, and the space needed for a ground-based system, a photovoltaic-based system was dismissed. Funding was secured for a wind turbine but the Centre was informed that planning permission would not be granted owing to the Centre being located on an important transect area for telemetric systems. It is expected that the Centre will switch to electricity from hydroelectric power at the end of 2010. However, this is an expensive option and its adoption will depend on the financial status of the Centre at the year's end.



### *Gas*

In 2009, the Centre used an estimated 120,000 kWh of gas, a reduction from an estimated 136,000 kWh in 2008. This decrease was attributed to a milder winter.

UNEP-WCMC would like to consider installing geothermal or other renewable systems for heat generation, but this is currently not feasible owing to expected financial cost.



### *Water*

In 2009, the Centre used 1,200 m<sup>3</sup> of water (equating to approximately 1,000 gallons/day), down from an estimated 1,900 m<sup>3</sup> in 2008. Owing to calculations being based on a shared water meter, it is hard to put definite figures to this, but the rate per day is based on the amount flowing into the sewage system.

### **Computers and IT Equipment**



IT equipment purchased for use at UNEP-WCMC is considered for their environmental credentials, where financially feasible. For instance, new Xerox printers have both lower energy requirements and are 50% more efficient on ink use. Computer screens that are mercury-powered are no longer purchased, with LED-lit systems preferred. The upgrading to new servers also considers energy efficiency.

All disposal of older and unwanted equipment is carried out through a local certified recycling company, where appropriate. This company then either refurbishes the machines for resale or breaks them down to their components for reuse.

## Green Procurement

### Catering



The sustainability of the food the Centre provides has been considered from an environmental perspective. Due to the international scope of UNEP-WCMC's work, there are frequently large meetings that require catering. It is estimated that there are between 70-80 catering days per year. UNEP-WCMC currently uses Enjoy Catering in Cambridge which claims they use "the highest quality natural ingredients, avoiding chemicals, additives and preservatives and sourced locally where possible." Already our catering requests are typically 50% vegetarian and specifically ask for no tuna or prawns. As we have struggled to find a completely 'green' caterer in Cambridge (organic, fair trade, locally sourced, and vegetarian), the Environmental Committee has submitted a proposal to Senior Management to provide vegetarian-only catering. It is hoped that this will be accepted so that the Centre can reduce its own impact on the environment while demonstrating forward-thinking environmental leadership that could inspire other organisations and agencies.

At the annual staff Christmas party and the summer staff barbeque, while environmental concerns are considered, these are also balanced with the need to keep costs down when supplying food for approximately 120 people. Organic meat was not purchased, for instance, due to the high cost premium, but this could be a consideration for future events.

In terms of other food and beverages available at the Centre, the coffee and tea are all Fair Trade and, where possible, organic. The milk is not organic as organic milk would be 30% more expensive and also because it is only available in cartons as opposed to the reusable glass bottles currently used. The vending machines are stocked with some Fair Trade items (e.g. Cadbury's Dairy Milk), but we are limited in what the vending machine company (Integer) can offer. Other vending machine suppliers are being considered, but the options are limited since the Centre does not purchase items at high enough volumes for most companies.

## Staff Travel

### Commute to Work



UNEP-WCMC, situated in the northwest of Cambridge, approximately 2 miles from the city centre, is currently accessible on foot or by bicycle, bus, car or taxi. It is a 30-40 minute walk from the city centre and about one hour walk from the train station. As part of a broader strategy to ensure that UNEP-WCMC maintains a proactive approach in reducing its overall ecological footprint, in 2008 the Centre decided to join the Travel for Work (TfW) scheme, a not-for-profit partnership that promotes sustainable and healthy travel to work (<http://www.tfw.org.uk/about.php>). As part of the scheme, the Environmental Committee prepared a Workplace Travel Plan, which covers travel to work, business travel, visitors travel, and deliveries. Objectives of the Plan are:

- 1) Reduce carbon emission by staff in local travel, encouraging more staff to cycle, and use public transport or car sharing;
- 2) Reduce business travel

As full members of TfW's employer network, UNEP-WCMC receives support for maintaining, developing and monitoring the Travel Plan. Furthermore, TfW carries out an annual Travel Survey, which provides a good picture of the ways UNEP-WCMC's staff get to work, analyses the current status of staff travel habits, and understands the reasons behind any choices made. The survey also helps capture problems faced by staff members and allows for suggestions on how to improve the facilities available. Through the survey, it is finally possible to measure the Centre against similar organisations in Cambridge and compare the results to previous years. Results are analysed by TfW and discussed with Environmental Committee members from UNEP-WCMC; after analysing UNEP-WCMC data, TfW offer advice on strategies to further improve the Centre's practices. The results of the Travel Survey 2009 are shown in the Table 1.

**Table 1. UNEP-WCMC's Travel Survey Results for 2008, 2009 and comparison with all TfW Employers 2009.** *Source:* Cambridgeshire Travel for Work Partnership (2010). Travel for Work Survey Report 2009 produced for UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre.

Mode	2008	2009	All TfW Employers 2009
Bicycle	46%	47%	21%
Car share	8%	8%	9%
Drive (alone)	28%	19%	46%
Home-working	0%	2%	2%
Motorbike	2%	0%	1%
Other	0%	2%	1%
Other workplace	0%	5%	2%
Public bus	3%	8%	6%
Staff bus	0%	0%	0%
Train	0%	2%	4%
Walk	12%	7%	7%
Number of one way trips	217	239	48593
Participation (no of respondents as a percentage of total staff)	75%	58%	

The Environmental Committee strongly supports bicycle use and encourages their use by providing information on bikes and alternative forms of transport, supplying cycle maps and bike seat covers, promoting shower facilities and making bicycle repairing kit available in the office. Through the TfW partnership, it also seeks solutions for the provision of additional covered cycle racks and promotes bike friendly initiatives.

UNEP-WCMC also takes part in Bike Week (<http://www.bikeweek.org.uk/index.php>), a nationwide annual event that promotes cycling. We celebrate Bike Week by providing free breakfast to employees who get to the office on foot, by bike or public transport. People who did not use the car during Bike Week will also participate in a raffle. Finally, we host bike maintenance training workshops and invite a bicycle mechanic to visit the Centre to maintain staff bicycles for a reduced fee.

As a member of TfW, UNEP-WCMC staff can have significant discounts with cycle shops in Cambridge. To further promote bike use, in 2009 the Centre joined a Cycle to Work scheme (<http://www.cyclescheme.co.uk/>). By implementing the Scheme, UNEP-WCMC loans cycles and cyclists' safety equipment to employees as a tax free benefit, encouraging employees to cycle while benefiting from a healthier workforce.

The Centre is also trying to promote car sharing particularly through the production of the Staff Travel Map, which shows the approximate home location of those who have agreed to take part in a car sharing plan.

### **International Travel**



International travel is currently a major component of the business model of UNEP-WCMC; the Centre recognises this and has a carbon offsetting policy (see below), and it also has made investments in teleconferencing. The Environmental Committee strives to change this high reliance on travel by encouraging the use of communication technology to increase teleconferencing.

In 2009, 65.9% of the international flights were to European destinations, with long haul flights equating to 34.1%. Exact figures are not available, but this is estimated to equal 170 and 88 return flights respectively. There were no internal flights taken in the UK, and travel by train is encouraged to nearby European cities (in particular Brussels and Paris).

In 2008, the figures equated to 54.3% (102) to European destinations and 45.7% (86) to long haul destinations. Increased staff numbers and workload have been used to explain the increased figures for 2009.

## Carbon Emissions and Offsetting Activities



In December 2008, UNEP-WCMC, under funding from the Cambridge Conservation Forum (CCF), completed a report that looked into current carbon offsetting policy within the CCF and reviewing options to help inform the development of a CCF wide carbon offsetting strategy.

Carbon offsetting provides an opportunity for individuals and organisations to take responsibility for their carbon footprint and take steps to minimising its impact. The voluntary carbon market is evolving exponentially without a regulatory framework to ensure integrity and accountability from offset providers. This has resulted in confusion around the efficacy of carbon offsetting and in the absence of clarity, avoidance. Inconsistencies in carbon calculators have also aided obscurity of the carbon market with different calculators giving drastically different results.

Developing a CCF-wide Carbon Management Strategy is quite a complex process given the range of size and variety of member organisations. It is therefore recommended that the strategy provides a framework to assist with the decision making process rather than requiring organisations to conform to one set of standards or one specific offsetting retailer.

The main recommendation that came out of this report is that carbon offsetting should be considered as part of a broader emissions management policy. A five step process was developed to help guide organisations through the process of recording emissions, identifying and implementing emissions savings, and challenging the *modus operandi* by shifting to more of a local focus. At the end of this five step process, or mitigation hierarchy, remaining emissions should be offset through retailers carefully chosen on the basis of strict accounting and environmental principles, and from projects that address the priorities of the organisation concerned. Go to <http://www.cambridgeconservationforum.org.uk/projects/> to download the full report.

In 2009, UNEP-WCMC has used two forms of carbon offsetting: [www.climatecare.org](http://www.climatecare.org) for offsetting flights, an option that is encouraged on the Centre's travel form, and a project connecting west Cambridge woodlands of the Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire and Peterborough for our building emissions. More information on this initiative is available at [www.greatfen.org.uk](http://www.greatfen.org.uk). The Environmental Committee will undertake a review of our offsetting provider and associated carbon calculator in 2010.

UNEP-WCMC is committed to carbon neutrality. The Environmental Strategy specifies the target for carbon offsetting as:

*To reduce the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions caused by UNEP-WCMC staff travelling by at least 2% each year until 2010, measured through a 2% reduction in annual international and/or air travel compared to the 2005 baseline and to offset the carbon produced through travel. To achieve carbon neutrality by 2010 through the offset of travel.*

Discussion through 2009 around taking the findings of this report forward has generated interest from the Cambridge Conservation Initiative (CCI) in supporting a pilot workshop involving UNEP-WCMC along with the four other CCI organisations. This workshop would identify the main components for the creation of a carbon management 'blueprint' that would form the foundations of the CCF Carbon Management Strategy for review by the wider CCF community. Discussions are still to be finalised.

## Local Outside Environment



2009 saw the continuing management by the gardeners of the outside environment through the regular caretaking of trees, shrubs and the meadow surrounding the pond. This management follows the Environmental Strategy's specific objectives of ensuring biodiversity-friendly mowing, supporting native species, carefully managing non-native species, composting all garden waste, and regulating the use of biocides.

As every year, a team of staff in September cleared the pond from some of the ever-growing vegetation. This involved a total of some ten people working for two evenings after work. A particular focus in 2009 was put on removing some of the expanding Water Lilies and to dig a connecting channel between the open water and the back of the reed area as the latter tends to dry out in spring when frog spawn is developing there. Interestingly, for the first time a number of pond clearers attracted a harmless but itching disease from pond clearance, and it is likely that this was Swimmers (or Cercarian) Disease, which is transmitted by *Lymnaea* snails that are common in the pond.

The Centre had kindly made available funds for the Environmental Committee to purchase nest boxes for birds and bats and several nest boxes were erected in late autumn in trees and at the back wall of the office building.

The annual migration of Common Frogs and Common Toads from their nearby wintering sites to the pond took place in February/March although numbers seemed to be down from previous years. As with every year, the Environmental Committee asked staff and visitors to drive carefully; but sadly, a small number of run-over frogs and toads were recorded. Later, however, the amount of common frog spawn and numbers of emerging froglets recorded were encouraging, although very little Common Toad spawn was found.

Casual observation of wildlife by interested members of staff continued. In late spring, a family of foxes was observed regularly from the office. Other sightings include Muntjac and a number of birds and invertebrates. In November, a Black Redstart was observed for two days, only the second record for the premises. On several occasions, a Little Owl was heard and on one day in November was also seen during the day. In early winter, large numbers of Fieldfares and Redwings took residence near the Centre, feeding on the remaining berries in the trees and shrubs and in the adjacent fields. Common Buzzards have become a regular sight over the last years but sadly, for the first time in many years, no Moorhens took residence at the pond. In spring, a Smooth Newt was seen marching into reception. While no unusual invertebrate records became known, the meadow around the pond, the bramble bushes and many of the flowering plants attracted a variety of insects, including crickets and grasshoppers, dragonflies, butterflies and hoverflies. As every year, a number of Bee and Marsh Orchids were seen flowering near the pond in spring.

## Raising Staff Awareness



A number of actions have been undertaken to increase staff awareness about both the Environmental Committee's activities and about environmental issues within the Centre and in our local environment through 2009.

With regard to raising staff awareness about the activities undertaken by the Environmental Committee, emails have been sent out when appropriate to inform staff about particular events or tasks, and to circulate where our meeting minutes can be found after each meeting. Announcements have been made when necessary at Wednesday tea, to draw attention to particular issues.

Signs can be found in appropriate places to inform staff about issues such as paper usage and switching off lights and computers. Occasional emails are sent round reminding people of these issues when it is felt necessary.

Finally, information about the Environmental Committee is now provided to new starters as part of their induction packs, ensuring that staff are aware of the Environmental Committee's existence as soon as they join the Centre.

## Conclusions and Next Steps

The Environmental Strategy and the work of the Environmental Committee are guided by UNEP-WCMC's vision of a world where people everywhere recognize that the diversity of life on Earth is vital to the future of humanity and use this knowledge in all their decisions.

This Green Report shows that UNEP-WCMC has made significant progress in relation to the targets and objectives set out in the Environmental Strategy. Many of the original goals are now being consistently met.

A particular success is UNEP-WCMC's maintenance of a local environment comprised of native fauna and flora, with few invasive species allowed to persist. Not only is this a haven for local wildlife, but it also provides a refreshing amenity for staff and visitors alike. The recycling services provided by Cambridge City Council allow for the Centre to send a minimum amount of waste to landfill.

According to the traffic light system, particular areas where attention should be focused include international travel and electricity consumption. These areas reflect the fact that the realities of implementing perfect systems that ensure the Centre and its staff have a minimal footprint, such as financial cost or the international nature of the industry, do pose difficulties. However, the Environmental Committee, staff and senior management team continue to make progress in reducing the impact. In a similar vein to UNEP, which achieved its goal of climate-neutrality through the purchase of certified emission reductions (CERs), the Centre has utilised an offsetting route, acknowledging that emissions reductions are the preferred ultimate goal.

It cannot be ignored that UNEP-WCMC has a large carbon footprint, in particular from high energy use and predominance of international travel. Such is the nature of the conservation sector in the current times, the Centre's niche as a data hub and recognised UNEP Centre of Excellence, as the clear preference for face-to-face engagement with partners and supporters, means that it is unlikely that this will change dramatically in the near future. However, the Senior Management Team, Informatics Programme and Environmental Committee, as well as all staff, continue to strive to make reductions in this as far as realistically possible.

### Plans for the Future

In 2010, the "Environmental Committee's Tip of the Day" will be implemented whereby a short statement relating to environmental sustainability is displayed by the sign-in sheet at reception, changing every other day. These tips will vary from providing information about a local event such a talk, or suggesting ways to make cooking more energy efficient, and so on. This is designed to remind staff about the importance of environmentally actions within our own lives, not just in our work.

The following days have been identified for raising awareness of:

- Fairtrade Fortnight (22<sup>nd</sup> February-5<sup>th</sup> March)
- World Water Day (22<sup>nd</sup> March)
- Earth Day (22<sup>nd</sup> April)
- International Day for Biological Diversity (22<sup>nd</sup> May)
- World Environment Day (5<sup>th</sup> June 2010)
- World Day to Combat Desertification (17<sup>th</sup> June)
- World Food Day (16<sup>th</sup> October)
- Human Rights Day (10<sup>th</sup> December)

There are also plans to establish a series of film nights, to show films/documentaries related to environmental issues at UNEP-WCMC, during evenings.

A key priority will be to update the Environmental Strategy to continue to improve upon the results of this Green Report. Other areas identified for further work and improvement are to continue encourage staff to consider e-conferencing technology instead of travel, to investigate connecting up with the UN 'Greening the Blue' initiative, to continue to promote sustainable commuting options such as cycling, bus and car sharing, and to further investigate financially-feasible alternative energy and heat sources for the Centre.

## GRI Environment Performance Indicators

The Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) produces one of the world's most prevalent standards for sustainability reporting, used by more than 1,500 organizations to produce their sustainability reports. There are core and additional aspects to report on, from EN1 to EN30, shorthand for the 30 indicators relating to environmental performance. These vary from materials to products and services. Please see the [GRI website](#) for more information.

GRI indicators are included within this report because it allows UNEP-WCMC to determine its performance based upon indicators established through an external multi-stakeholder process, and it allows comparison with other organisations if necessary.

See table below for a summary of UNEP-WCMC's performance in relation to these indicators.

Indicator		UNEP-WCMC 2009 figures
<b>Aspect: Materials</b>		
<i>Core</i>	EN1 Materials used by weight or volume.	300,000 sheets of paper
<i>Core</i>	EN2 Percentage of materials used that are recycled input materials.	100%
<b>Aspect: Energy</b>		
<i>Core</i>	EN3 Direct energy consumption by primary energy source.	273134 kWh
<i>Core</i>	EN4 Indirect energy consumption by primary source.	120,000 kWh (estimated)
<i>Add</i>	EN5 Energy saved due to conservation and efficiency improvements.	N/A (increase on 2008)
<i>Add</i>	EN6 Initiatives to provide energy-efficient or renewable energy-based products and services, and reductions in energy requirements as a result of these initiatives.	Procurement of electric items, while must be financially appropriate, are considered on the basis of their environmental credentials
<i>Add</i>	EN7 Initiatives to reduce indirect energy consumption and reductions achieved.	N/A
<b>Aspect: Water</b>		
<i>Core</i>	EN8 Total water withdrawal by source.	1,200 m <sup>3</sup> (estimated)
<i>Add</i>	EN9 Water sources significantly affected by withdrawal of water.	None
<i>Add</i>	EN10 Percentage and total volume of water recycled and reused.	None
<b>Aspect: Biodiversity</b>		
<i>Core</i>	EN11 Location and size of land owned, leased, managed in, or adjacent to, protected areas and areas of high biodiversity value outside protected areas.	Land (219c Huntingdon Road, Cambridge) adjoins a Site of Special Scientific Interest
<i>Core</i>	EN12 Description of significant impacts of activities, products, and services on biodiversity in protected areas and areas of high biodiversity value outside protected areas.	None
<i>Add</i>	EN13 Habitats protected or restored.	All land is managed in a manner appropriate to maintaining the diversity of native species of fauna and flora
<i>Add</i>	EN14 Strategies, current actions, and future plans for managing impacts on biodiversity.	An Environmental Strategy exists
<i>Add</i>	EN15 Number of IUCN Red List species and national conservation list species with habitats in areas affected by operations, by level of extinction risk.	None

<b>Indicator</b>		<b>UNEP-WCMC 2009 figures</b>
<b>Aspect: Emissions, Effluents, and Waste</b>		
<i>Core</i>	EN16 Total direct and indirect greenhouse gas emissions by weight.	173.06 tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e
<i>Core</i>	EN17 Other relevant indirect greenhouse gas emissions by weight.	None
<i>Add</i>	EN18 Initiatives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and reductions achieved.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustainable transport initiatives</li> <li>• Encouragement to switch off machines</li> </ul>
<i>Core</i>	EN19 Emissions of ozone-depleting substances by weight.	None
<i>Core</i>	EN20 NOx, SOx, and other significant air emissions by type and weight.	None
<i>Core</i>	EN21 Total water discharge by quality and destination.	1,200 m <sup>3</sup> (estimated)
<i>Core</i>	EN22 Total weight of waste by type and disposal method.	Unknown
<i>Core</i>	EN23 Total number and volume of significant spills.	None
<i>Add</i>	EN24 Weight of transported, imported, exported, or treated waste deemed hazardous under the terms of the Basel Convention Annex I, II, III, and VIII, and percentage of transported waste shipped internationally.	None
<i>Add</i>	EN25 Identity, size, protected status, and biodiversity value of water bodies and related habitats significantly affected by the reporting organization's discharges of water and runoff.	None
<b>Aspect: Products and Services</b>		
<i>Core</i>	EN26 Initiatives to mitigate environmental impacts of products and services, and extent of impact mitigation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provision of video and teleconferencing facilities</li> <li>• Encouragement of use of rail transport to flying, if travel essential</li> </ul>
<i>Core</i>	EN27 Percentage of products sold and their packaging materials that are reclaimed by category.	None
<b>Aspect: Compliance</b>		
<i>Core</i>	EN28 Monetary value of significant fines and total number of non-monetary sanctions for noncompliance with environmental laws and regulations.	None
<b>Aspect: Transport</b>		
<i>Add</i>	EN29 Significant environmental impacts of transporting products and other goods and materials used for the organization's operations, and transporting members of the workforce.	None
<b>Aspect: Overall</b>		
<i>Add</i>	EN30 Total environmental protection expenditures and investments by type.	None

## Acknowledgements

The Environmental Committee would like to thank the Senior Management Team for their continued support for the efforts to reduce the Centre's footprint. Thanks are especially given to all staff and consultants for their participation in and active contributions to the various initiatives undertaken.

## Acronyms

CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CCF	Cambridge Conservation Forum
CCI	Cambridge Conservation Initiative
CEB	United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination
CERs	Certified emission reductions
CO <sub>2</sub>	Carbon dioxide
DESA	(UN) Department for Economic and Social Affairs
EMG	Environment Management Group
FSC	Forest Stewardship Council
GRI	Global Reporting Initiative
IAPSO	Inter-Agency Procurement Services Office
IT	Information Technology
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
LED	Light Emitting Diode
NO <sub>x</sub>	Mono-nitrogen oxides
SO <sub>x</sub>	Sodium oxides
SUN	Sustainable United Nations
TfW	Travel for Work
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNON	United Nations Office at Nairobi
WCMC	World Conservation Monitoring Centre

## Photo Credits

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