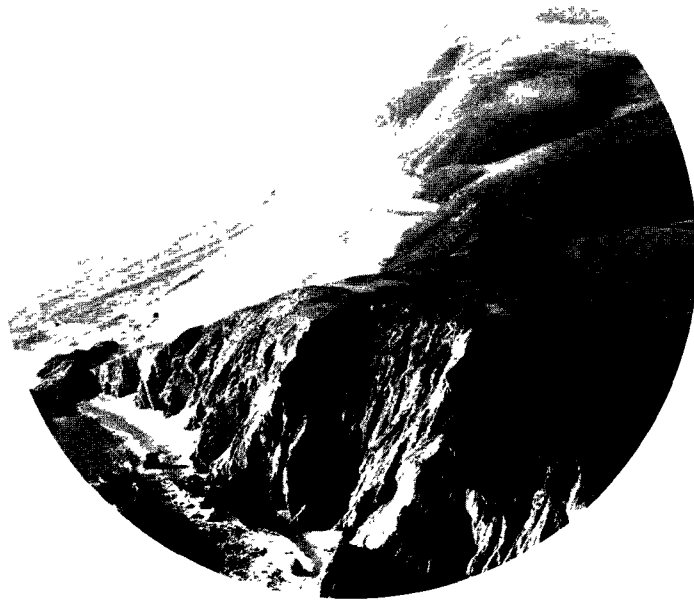


EPA

**and
the worldwide struggle
to save our planet**



Congress passed the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 by a unanimous vote. This landmark legislation directs that “to the fullest extent possible, all agencies of the Federal Government shall recognize the worldwide and long-range character of environmental problems and, where consistent with the foreign policy of the United States, lend appropriate support to initiatives, resolutions and programs designed to maximize international cooperation in anticipating and preventing a decline in the quality of mankind’s world environment.”

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

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Technology makes our lives easier, healthier and more abundant, but it also heavily impacts the natural world. Our survival depends upon the biosphere, a closed system in which organic and inorganic matter are continuously recycled to sustain life. Worldwide environmental problems cannot be solved by one nation: everybody is downwind or downstream from everyone else.

The 1972 United Nations Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm marked the first coordinated effort by the nations of the world to alleviate their common ecological problems. The conference focused on developing uniform international pollution control standards and promulgated a list of priorities to protect the environment. It also served to underscore some of the major differences between the industrial nations and the developing countries. The economic demands of developing nations often conflict with efforts to protect the environment.

Conquering pollution on a global scale will be an enormously complex task. It means creating new concepts, institutions, measures and controls, and developing strong motivations. The challenges are great—so are the stakes. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is in a unique

September 1974

position to stimulate this worldwide movement of environmental renovation and reform.

Through its Office of International Activities (OIA), EPA works with other countries on the entire range of environmental problems including air and water pollution, noise, toxic substances, solid waste disposal, radiation, natural resources and the impact of environmental policies on world trade. OIA collaborates in all this with the Department of State and other U.S. Government agencies as is appropriate. Currently OIA concentrates on:

- data collection and analysis
- technology transfer
- investigations of certain long-range environmental problems
- exchange of technical information and personnel to keep updated and to prevent duplication of effort
- cooperative research and action programs to prevent or minimize pollution.

OIA works through multilateral organizations, bilateral programs, Special Foreign Currency programs and international exchanges to carry out these vital activities.

A major portion of our overseas involvement is with multilateral organizations. EPA works primarily with the UN and its specialized agencies, NATO's Committee on Challenges of

Modern Society and the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development. OECD comprises the major industrial nations of the free world and focuses on the economic and trade effects of environmental policies.

MULTILATERAL ORGANIZATIONS

Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)

Intergovernmental Maritime Consultative Organization (IMCO)

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

NATO's Committee on Challenges of Modern Society (CCMS)

Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)

The Common Market (EEC)

The UN Environment Program (UNEP)

UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

World Health Organization (WHO)

World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

Multilateral Activities

EPA's work with multilateral organizations covers a broad spectrum of action projects. Some examples:

EPA operates the WHO International Reference Center for Air Pollution Control, analyzing and publishing data from WHO international laboratories. EPA assists WHO in developing and publishing air pollution criteria and improving methods of analysis and data reporting.

Supports the UN Law of the Sea Conference.

EPA assists IMCO in:

- preventing oil spills at sea
- resolving the extent of coastal and port state jurisdiction to establish and enforce environmental standards
- establishing resource and pollution control jurisdiction over the continental shelf and deep seabeds and
- managing coastal migratory and anadromous fish species.

EPA supports OECD in promoting the "polluter pays" principle, which means that nations should not subsidize pollution control costs or use environmental standards to erect non-tariff barriers. That way environmental policies will not exert a harmful impact on world trade

patterns. With EPA assistance, OECD also studies:

- the economics of trans-boundary pollution problems
- better methods of gathering and disseminating data
- studying pollutant levels in order to develop emission standards consonant with available technology.

EPA and NATO's CCMS combine their efforts on toxic waste disposal projects, water pollution programs and an air pollution study designed to encourage other countries to adopt a common management approach to air pollution control. EPA specialists also lead projects to develop low pollution motor vehicles, advanced wastewater treatment and better river basin management.

EPA actively supports the UN Environmental Program in its efforts to establish a global monitoring system, an Information Referral Service, and other projects of international significance.



Bilateral Programs

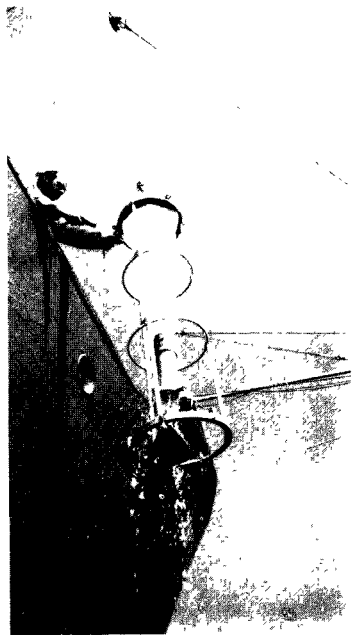
EPA's Office of International Activities works directly with an increasing number of nations in spot investigations, long-term research, joint control projects and information or visitor exchanges. Major programs have been developed with our hemispheric neighbors. The historic Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement launched both the United States and Canada on a massive campaign to restore this giant natural resource. EPA is also helping Canada to maintain the quality of the Red, Rainy and St. Croix Rivers and to ameliorate air pollution in the Detroit-Windsor metropolitan region. The two countries are devising oil spill contingency plans for coastal and other boundary waters.

EPA has collaborated with Mexico in monitoring air pollution, training water quality experts, exchanging technical information, staging hemispheric ecology seminars and conducting joint meetings to assess pollution along our common boundary. EPA is working hard to fulfill a pledge for a less salty Colorado River.

The U.S.-Soviet Environmental Agreement is a major undertaking for EPA. The program was initiated with exploratory visits and work is now underway in the fields of air, water, marine and agricultural pollution.

Japan and EPA exchange ideas and information in a multitude of areas: advanced wastewater treatment technology, solid waste management, photochemical smog and air quality standards among others.

Projects with other countries include: longitudinal investigations of health effects of mercury exposure at the Almaden mercury mine in Spain; eutrophication studies of the Sea of Galilee; and exchange of data on stack gas scrubbing technology with Romania. A U.S./ West German Environmental Agreement has just been completed and both countries are now in the process of identifying areas of cooperation.



In a joint project with Canada, EPA is studying the water quality of the Great Lakes.

In Spain, working with mercury mine officials, an EPA team is investigating health effects of mercury exposure.

A layer of polluted air over the Kremlin is an example of the similar pollution problems shared by the Soviet Union and the United States.



International Technology Programs

An active exchange of environmental technology is being conducted to provide EPA and American industry a better understanding of pollution control and energy-related technological developments abroad; an example is the study to "Assess the Impact of Multi-national Corporations on International Pollution Control Activities." This study is intended to analyze any barriers and incentives to global innovation in environmental technology.

EPA conducts with five countries cooperative programs ranging from basic research on a given pollutant to interdisciplinary experiments in regional planning throughout an entire watershed. These programs are financed with foreign currencies owned by the United States which must be spent in the host country. They merge scientific and resource capabilities of the U.S. and the foreign country. Examples:

- A study of marine pollution in the Adriatic and Baltic Seas which parallels U.S. programs in Puget Sound, the Great Lakes and Chesapeake Bay.
- A U.S.-Polish expedition to measure pollution levels in the Himalayas by glacier core analysis. Perennial glaciers add new layers of

POLAND
YUGOSLAVIA
TUNISIA
PAKISTAN
EGYPT
INDIA

ice every year; by looking at the laminations, glaciologists can tell what poisons were absorbed when and in what quantities.

- A study of shallow Lake Tunis, fouled by garbage from Tunis and Carthage for 2,000 years, which may be applicable to the renewal of certain American lakes of this type.
- An assessment of the environmental damage caused by the Aswan Dam.

Others include research into the significance of lead and mercury in the environment, the toxic effects of sulphur and nitrogen oxides, control of industrial effluent and ways to use or dispose of industrial and municipal sewage sludge.



Top left: Traffic-free zones successfully being used in European cities are of interest to EPA.

Left: Oil spills in the Adriatic sea are being studied in a joint U.S.-Yugoslavia project.

Above: The Yugoslav-U.S. project uses this hydro-biological research ship.

Shallow Lake Tunis, polluted for some 2,000 years, provides baseline data for EPA researchers which may be applicable in renewing American Lakes.

Visitor and Information Exchange

The Visitor and Information Exchange Program briefs foreign government officials, scientists, journalists, industrialists, community leaders and student groups. Comprehensive environmental tours have been arranged for Austrian, German and Taiwanese delegations. These three countries made intensive studies of EPA before recommending national environmental programs to their governments.

As plans for national programs develop, EPA is called on to provide "source documents." Arrangements have been made with 24 countries and 8 international organizations to receive EPA reports on microfiche; in exchange, EPA receives about 1200 reports a year from abroad. EPA has printed a bibliography of world environmental laws, soon to be followed by bibliographies on environmental management and the economic impact of pollution control. EPA has actively assisted the UNEP information referral service in studying systems and hardware for a compatible, worldwide information referral service and clearinghouse.

The activities cited in this pamphlet do not ordinarily create headlines but they do constitute the necessary first

steps toward coordinated international action to save the earth. We must move faster to clean up our own environment and help other nations do the same. Already international organizations are developing action programs and 13 countries now have agencies specializing in pollution analysis and control.

EPA bears a heavy responsibility to advance this effort. We have the resources and the expertise. Other countries look to us for advice, moral support and technical assistance. We will have an enormous impact in shaping the quality of our planetary environs for years to come. But we have just begun.

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