

Name of the Partnership/Initiative: Local Government & Business Alliance for Sustainability

Date of initiation: 1 January 2003

Expected date of completion: 31 December 2007

Partners Involved (to be confirmed):

Governments:

Intergovernmental organizations:

UNEP

Global Reporting Index

Major groups:

Business: Bendigo Bank Australia, EcoGen Australia, Business Council of Australia, national business associations in Asia and Europe

Local Authorities: Municipal Association of Victoria, Local Authorities associations in Europe and Asia engaging in sustainable purchasing and socially responsible investment

Research institutes: RMIT Centre for Design, research institutes developing product/service sustainability assessment models

Other:

Publikit, SAM Index, Natural Step, UK Sustainability Exchange, National ethical investment associations, National consumer advocate groups

Leading Partner: Environs Australia: local government environment network

Name of the contact person/focal point: Stephen Ray, Executive Director

Address: Level 4, 247 Flinders Lane Melbourne 3000 AUSTRALIA

Phone: +613 9654 1322

Fax: +613 9654 1625

E-mail: steve.ray@environs.org.au

Main objectives of the Partnership/Initiative

Please provide a brief description:

1. To develop a global alliance between local authorities associations and businesses, particularly local and small sustainability businesses in order to implement bioregional approaches to sustainable purchasing and investment
2. To jointly develop and link these bioregional initiatives to provide an international clearinghouse and model for a global network of sustainable products and services for local governments and their communities.
3. To jointly implement a consistent set of products/services assessment tools that can be used by small and medium businesses
4. To develop investment options by local governments to support local sustainability industries.

Rationale:

This initiative seeks to link local governments, their contractors, partners and communities to sustainability products and services. Local Governments around the world are committing to

sustainable purchasing and can provide a significant local market for small-medium businesses. A bioregional focus is seen as essential to growing both local sustainability industries and markets.

Note: A sustainability business refers to any business that provides a sustainability product/service or is involved in a sustainability industry, such as renewable energy.

Please also provide a brief description of the relationship of the Partnership/Initiative with the objectives of Agenda 21 as well as relevant goals and objectives of the United Nation Millennium Declaration:

This initiative aligns with the objectives set in Chapter IV of Agenda 21 and the Millennium Declaration - changing unsustainable consumption and production patterns. It aligns with Agenda 21's aims to promote sustainable development through trade, cooperation and capacity building, and improving availability of information. The initiative also focuses on technology, model and knowledge transfer to developing nations, and offers the opportunity for a genuine exchange of products, services and investment options between local governments and businesses in developing and developed nations. Further, it will internationally showcase to new markets the growing sustainability products/services by developing nations. It attempts to ensure that the development costs of assessment tools and models is carried by developed nations. Its bioregional focus also allows for local innovation suited to local conditions and resources – an increasingly critical strategy in both developing countries and the rural areas of many developed countries. Finally, a global network of bioregional partnership “clusters” will assist in developing innovation at the local level. Finally, the project promotes the Millennium Declaration's objectives of more transparent trading systems

Expected results:

Please provide a brief description:

1. Linking identified markets to sustainability businesses will increase bioregional products/services use and demand
2. Developing and implementing global or globally consistent product/service assessment models
3. Improved social and environmental performance in businesses seeking to deliver to this market
4. Bioregional investment in sustainability industries.

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

October 2002: Partners confirmed.

March 2003: Information and models exchange system set up and running.

March 2003 onward: Promotion to, and register of, local businesses through a common reporting format. Promotion through national local government networks.

October 2003: finalisation of initial assessment formats and distribution to businesses on register.

December 2003: Initial local investment arrangements finalised.

March 2004: Fine tuning, project assessment criteria finalised.

From June 2004: bi-annual (6 monthly) assessment and reporting on progress by partners.

Coordination and Implementation mechanism

Please provide a brief description of expected coordination/implementation mechanism of the Partnership/Initiative.

Enviro Australia will coordinate and implement the initiative in partnership with a national local government association each from Europe and Asia. Note that most project partners will have a role in developing either their local networks/markets and/or global information and assessment processes. The program will have a Steering Committee including UNEP representatives and some program partners.

Arrangements for funding

Please describe available and/or expected sources of funding for the implementation of the Partnership/Initiative (e.g. donor government(s); international organization(s)/financial institution(s); foundation(s); private sector; other major groups, etc.)

These are to be finalized as cost-sharing measures between partners. Other potential funding sources include:

- National governments
- Local financial institutions and business associations
- The UNEP for global modeling and assessment support and set-up funding to developing nation partners.

Arrangements for capacity building and technology transfer

Please include information if the Partnership/Initiative provides for training, informational support, institutional strengthening and/or other capacity building measures:

The project contains these goals as primary aims.

Please also provide here a brief description of expected arrangements for technology transfer (if applicable).

The project aims to encourage both domestic technology innovation and transfer to both developing and developed nations through global information and modeling networks. Technology transfer will primarily consist of business tools and assessments such as sustainability criteria, eco-design, energy use quantifications, life cycle management, and advocacy to national governments to remove local obstacles (regulatory or subsidies/incentives) to growing local sustainability businesses and investment initiatives.

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

Please provide a brief description:

This initiative links to international and national efforts by local government associations and UN agencies to achieve green purchasing and eco-procurement.

Monitoring Arrangements

Please describe expected arrangements for monitoring of progress in the implementation of Partnerships/Initiative after it will be launched at the WSSD:

(e.g. frequency/modalities of preparation of progress reports; electronic updates, news-letters, etc) There will be regular electronic updates and exchange between partners, while the primary

partner in each country will provide six-monthly progress reports and assessments beginning June 2003.

Other relevant information:

Web-site (if available):

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

Name: Lalitha Ramachandran

Position: Research Coordinator

Address: Lvel 4, 247 Flinders Lane, Melbourne 3000 Australia

Phone: 613 9654 1322

Fax: 613 9654 1625

E-mail: eanat@environs.org.au