



GRID-Arendal Annual report 2002



UNEP

GRID
Arendal

Greeting from UNEP's Executive Director and Norway's Minister of the Environment

It is clear that goals set forth by the implementation plan agreed upon by the World Summit for Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg in August 2002 require a strong focus on bridging the gap between science, decision-making and implementation. GRID-Arendal is a key center in

strengthening UNEP's capacity to follow up such commitments.

In particular, as UNEP's Key Polar Center, GRID-Arendal plays a crucial role in supporting UNEP's capacity needs for providing timely, high-quality environmental information in these fragile regions which play an increasingly important role as part of the global ecosystem.

UNEP recognizes that GRID-Arendal, also during 2002, has continued to contribute substantially to the realization of UNEP's global environmental leadership.



Norway sees the outcome of the WSSD Summit in August 2002 in Johannesburg as an important milestone in achieving global commitment in turning global development into sustainable development for future generations. We now have to prove both nationally and internationally that the

action plan agreed upon is more than a document with good intentions.

Norway's ambition is to do our homework in the follow-up to Johannesburg through a national plan of action combined with being a strong international actor in the environment and development area.

We would like to see an energetic UN bringing the Johannesburg goals into reality, and in particular we would like to see a strengthened UNEP as the leading force for developing global environmental policy for development. Our support to GRID-Arendal is part of our efforts to strengthen UNEP's capacity and scientific authority to undertake the challenges of producing and communicating environmental information supporting environmental policies.

Klaus Töpfer
Executive Director
UNEP

Børge Brende
Minister of the Environment
Norway



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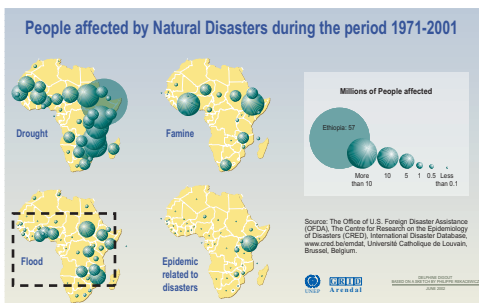
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On the cover:

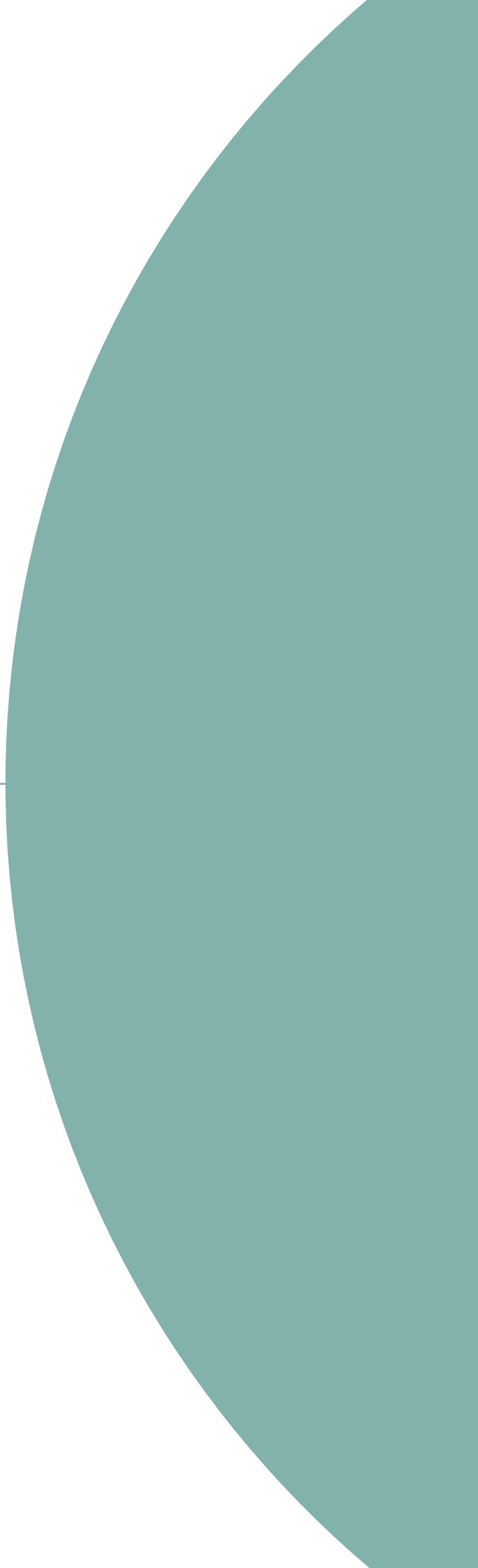
Vital Climate Graphics for Africa:
People affected by Natural Disasters
1971-2000, "Flood".

www.grida.no/climate/vitalafrica/english/08.htm

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GRID-Arendal **Annual report 2002**

Section 1

Annual report

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2002 in review

A key focus of GRID-Arendal activities during 2002 was the WSSD in Johannesburg, where we, together with UNEP, organized a joint UNEP and GRID-Arendal stand at the *Ubuntu Village*. This presence provided high profile to our products and services. At this Summit, agreement was reached to establish the Global Virtual University at GRID-Arendal.

During the year, we benefited from the findings of an independent external evaluation of GRID-Arendal – the second such evaluation in the history of our institution. We were encouraged by its conclusion that GRID-Arendal has been successful in implementing its mission. Its recommendations will help us improve our technical competence and professional capacity.

Efforts have been made to improve the management capacity in GRID-Arendal. This has led to a reorganization of the program structure. Recruitments were completed for new Program Managers for the Polar, Web and Information, and the Nordic-Baltic programs. Our Nordic profile has been strengthened by the co-location of our Swedish branch office at the Stockholm Environment Institute.

We owe our colleagues in UNEP warm appreciation for very close and productive working relationships. GRID-Arendal has been strengthened by a growing network of partners and donors. We are particularly encouraged by a growing support from the users of our products and services. During the year they provided more than 10 000 responses through our new on-line user feedback system.

We express our special gratitude to members of the Board for their sage advice and guidance, and to our staff, whose impressive professionalism and strong motivation have ensured a strong institutional performance.



Leif E. Christoffersen
Chairman of the Board

Svein Tveitdal
Managing Director



Highlights of the year

- A Memorandum of Understanding on the establishment of an Operational Unit of the United Nations University (UNU) at GRID-Arendal was signed by UNEP, UNU and the Government of Norway at the WSSD. A particular focus is to serve students in developing countries.
- The *Environment and Poverty Times* was released at the WSSD, and the *Arctic Environment Times* at the Arctic Parliamentarian Summit in Tromsø, Norway, in line with our commitment to broaden the scope of new innovative GRID-Arendal products in communicating information for decision-making.
 - *Vital Climate Graphics for Africa* were presented at the eighth Conference of the Parties (COP 8) of the Climate Change Convention in Delhi, India.
 - *Vital Water Graphics* were finalized for presentation in early 2003 at the UNEP Governing Council Meeting in Nairobi, Kenya and at the World Water Day in Japan.
- Technical guidance and support from GRID-Arendal led to the launch of EarthWire Africa at the summit of African Ministers of the Environment in Kampala, Uganda.
 - A popularized version of an assessment of the Caspian environment was produced in cooperation with the countries in Caucasus and Central Asia.

Report of GRID-Arendal's Board of Directors

During 2002 the Board initiated an independent external evaluation of GRID-Arendal. This process benefited from a prior internal evaluation completed by GA staff and management. When the Board discussed the findings of the external evaluation at its November meeting, it was noted that GA was commended for a strong performance record. At the same time the evaluation pointed out opportunities for further improvement and strengthening of GA's institutional structure, management capacity and program content.

The Board noted with satisfaction the effective participation by GRID-Arendal at the World Sustainable Development Summit in Johannesburg, South Africa. GRID-Arendal played an important role in helping to coordinate and profile UNEP's presence at the Summit. Since this was a major investment by our institution, it was gratifying that this was highly appreciated by UNEP.

One of the important achievements at the Summit was a partnership arrangement with the United Nations University (UNU) for the purpose of establishing a UNU Operational Unit at GRID-Arendal. This will be focusing on e-based learning under the concept of a Global Virtual University (GVU). It led to the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement between UNEP, UNU and the Government of Norway. Partnership arrangements are being explored with many national and international academic institutions. The GVU Operational Unit would administer internationally relevant courses through remote education, in part built on products from GRID-Arendal, UNEP and other UN agencies.

The Board and staff of GA were commended by the UNEP Executive Director for the very professional manner by which the UNEPnet/Mercure communication systems were terminated in March 2002. It is being replaced by a larger UN-wide communication system.

With regard to an earlier proposal to develop GRID-Arendal into a UNEP Center of Excellence – or a Key Center – for information services, the Board wanted to have verification that the concept is well understood in both UNEP and GA. Time is needed to explore this idea further.

The third and last meeting of the GRID-Arendal Advisory Panel took place in June. It contributed very interesting ideas

and suggestions on how to measure and ensure the impact of environmental information on decision-making processes.

With regard to the use of core funding, the Board encouraged GRID-Arendal management to continue its focus on key strategic issues. The relationship between the use of core funding and the annual work programs and budgets has now been clarified.

Our strategy sets forth how GRID-Arendal can provide environmental information, communications, and capacity building services for information management and assessment related to the UN system, particularly the United Nations Environment Programme. While most of GRID-Arendal's activities are operated from its headquarters in Arendal, it continues to conduct some key activities from office locations in Stockholm, Sweden, from Geneva, Switzerland, and from Ottawa, Canada.

Plans for new office space and possible building plans in Arendal were discussed by the Board at the end of the year, in close cooperation with local authorities in Aust-Agder Province and the City of Arendal.

Agreement was reached to co-locate the office of the University Director of the new Arctic University at GA headquarters.

The Board is satisfied that the foundation has a sound organizational structure and that it has effective management. At the same time, the Board also endorses further efforts to strengthen the management capacities of the foundation.

The working conditions within the foundation were found to be good. The sick leave in 2002 amounted to 2% of the total working days. There were no injuries to staff in 2002, and there were no significant damages to the equipment of the foundation.

There were regular staff meetings between staff and management where issues concerning working conditions were discussed. In recent years the GRID-Arendal staff has participated in job satisfaction surveys that have revealed good indications of overall job satisfaction. Areas in need of continued improvement include reduced stress, improved teamwork and more effective feedback to staff.

The Board noted with appreciation the achievements of two departing Board members in 2002. Since he was appointed to the Board in 1989, Odd Rogne has provided significant

programmatic advice and valuable insights on governance issues. Our distinguished Dutch Board member, Hans Alders, has helped broaden our international networks and has given us valuable institutional guidance. Furthermore, we are very grateful to him for hosting our March Board meeting in Groningen, The Netherlands.

Consistent with its overall institutional objective, we are pleased to report that the foundation does not conduct activities that damage the environment, as defined by the Norwegian accounting law. As with similar organizations, GRID-Arendal uses energy, creates waste, consumes paper, and uses hazardous chemicals (e.g. in copying machines). Efforts are being made to raise awareness among staff and reduce its ecological footprint through a "green office" policy. GRID-Arendal makes determined efforts to use environmentally friendly materials and to reduce the accumulation of waste. GRID staff tries to use environmentally friendly forms of transportation when possible. Since its activities involve extensive international travel, GA encourages video-conferencing and phone-conferencing means to help reduce staff travel.

It is the Board's view that the annual accounts give a fair view of the foundation's position as of end 2002. The project portfolio has been solid throughout the year while the cash

flow has been below levels estimated in budget plans, in part due to late payments on some larger projects.

The result for the year was NoK 964 481 compared with NoK 2 465 002 during the previous year. The Board noted that the Operational Result for 2002 was NoK 1 691 927 and that it was an improvement compared to that of the previous year. However, the overall result was reduced by adverse financial conditions in 2002, largely due to foreign exchange losses on existing contracts, negative returns on our holdings of "green" mutual funds, and lower than expected interest income on our cash flow.

The Board concluded that the result for the year of NoK 964 481 will be added to the retained earnings. These earnings will be used solely to support the mission statement and long-term goals of the foundation.

As a non-profit foundation, a main financial goal of GRID-Arendal is to have an equity level equivalent to about half of the fixed operational cost. With the financial result achieved this year, it is now 54%. The Board considers the foundation to have a sound financial structure.

The Board concludes that the foundation has a sound basis for continuing operations and for planning further strategy-relevant operational activities for several years into the future.

April 7, 2003



Leif E. Christoffersen



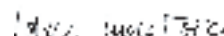
Dan Claasen



Øystein Dahle



Kari Elisabeth Fågernæs



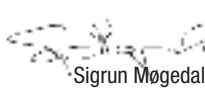
Lars Kristofersen



Lasse Lønnum



Gordon McInnes



Sigrun Møgedal



Anu Pärnänen-Landtman



Eva Thörmelöf

GRID-Arendal's Board of Directors

Leif E. Christoffersen

Chairman of the GRID-Arendal Board of Directors
Norway

Hans Alders (until May)

Commissioner of the Queen
Province of Groningen
The Netherlands

Daniel van R. Claasen

Acting Director
Division of Early Warning and Assessment
UNEP Headquarters

Øystein Dahle

Board Chairman
World Watch Institute, Washington
Norway

Kari Elisabeth Fagernæs

Research Director
Norwegian Institute for Nature Research (NINA)
Norway

Lars Kristoferson

Secretary-General
World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)
Sweden

Lasse Lønnum (from May)

Research Director
Norwegian Polar Institute
Norway

Gordon McInnes (from May)

Programme Manager
Reporting and Networking Coordination
European Environment Agency (EEA)

Sigrun Møgedal (from May)

Senior Advisor
Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD)
Norway

Hanne Kathrine Petersen (until May)

Director
Danish Polar Center
Denmark

Anu Pärnänen-Landtman

Counsellor
Global Environmental Affairs
Department for International Development Cooperation
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Finland

Odd Rogne (until May)

Executive Secretary
International Arctic Science Committee (IASC)
Norway

Eva Thörnelöf

Deputy Director
MISTRA/Foundation for Strategic Environmental Research
Sweden



*Board members
from May 2002*



Gordon McIntosh

Leif E. Christoffersen

Lars Kristoferson

Dan Claasen


Eva Thörnelöf

Øystein Dahle

Sigrun Møgedal

Anu Pärnänen-Landtman

Lasse Lønnum

Kari Elisabeth Fagernaes 

Financial statement

As of 31.12.2002 1 USD = NoK 6,98
1 EURO = NoK 7,31

Balance (NoK) as of 31.12		31.12.2002	31.12.2001
FIXED ASSETS			
MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT	Note 2	733 573	697 421
SHARES, GEODASENTERET A/S		100 000	100 000
PENSION FUNDS	Note 4	243 701	97 422
TOTAL FIXED ASSETS		1 077 274	894 843
CURRENT ASSETS			
ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE TRADE	Note 5	7 987 640	13 534 757
OTHER RECEIVABLES		853 750	781 562
WORK IN PROGRESS	Note 6	6 159 371	4 648 377
INVESTMENTS IN SHARES	Note 7	1 071 636	1 648 141
INVESTMENTS IN BONDS	Note 7	0	300 000
PETTY CASH AND BANK ACCOUNTS	Note 8	4 371 340	8 975 232
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		20 443 738	29 888 069
TOTAL ASSETS		21 521 012	30 782 912
EQUITY			
PAID IN CAPITAL			
FOUNDATION CAPITAL		500 000	500 000
TOTAL PAID IN CAPITAL		500 000	500 000
RETAINED EARNINGS		12 702 638	11 738 157
TOTAL RETAINED EARNINGS		12 702 638	11 738 157
TOTAL EQUITY		13 202 638	12 238 157
SHORT-TERM LIABILITIES			
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE TRADE		1 762 124	1 071 187
EMPLOYEE TAXES WITHHELD, PAYABLE			
SOCIAL SECURITY ETC.		1 170 288	1 002 585
ACCRUED SALARIES AND VACATION FEES		1 213 116	1 366 317
OTHER CURRENT LIABILITIES		752	447 051
ADVANCE	Note 9	4 172 094	14 657 614
TOTAL SHORT-TERM LIABILITIES		8 318 374	18 544 755
TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES		21 521 012	30 782 912

Notes

Note 1

Basic principles – assessment and classification – other issues

The financial statements, which have been presented in compliance with the Norwegian Companies Act, the Norwegian Accounting Act and generally accepted Norwegian accounting principles in effect as of 31 December 2002, consist of the profit and loss account, balance sheet, cash flow statement and notes to the accounts. In order to simplify the understanding of the balance sheet and the profit & loss account, they have been compressed. The necessary specification has been provided in notes to the accounts, thus making the notes an integrated part of the financial statements.

Profit and Loss Account (NoK)		2002	2001
OPERATING REVENUES			
OPERATING REVENUES		42 721 617	39 345 885
TOTAL OPERATING REVENUES		42 721 617	39 345 885
OPERATING EXPENSES			
PROJECT COSTS		16 128 915	16 428 813
PERSONNEL COSTS	Note 3	17 496 264	14 469 555
DEPRECIATION	Note 2	390 836	353 818
OTHER OPERATING EXPENSES		7 014 194	6 512 226
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES		41 030 209	37 764 412
OPERATING RESULT		1 691 408	1 581 473
FINANCIAL INCOME AND EXPENSES			
FINANCIAL INCOME		375 197	1 249 666
FINANCIAL EXPENSES		-1 102 124	-366 137
NET FINANCIAL ITEMS	Note 7	-726 927	883 529
RESULT FOR THE YEAR		964 481	2 465 002

The financial statements have been prepared based on the fundamental principles governing historical cost accounting, comparability, continued operations, congruence and caution. Transactions are recorded at their value at the time of the transaction. Income is recognised at the time goods are delivered or services sold. Costs are expensed in the same period as the income to which they relate. Costs that cannot be directly related to income are expensed as incurred.

When applying the basic accounting principles and presenting transactions and other issues, a “substance over form” view is taken. Contingent losses, which are probable and quantifiable, are shown as costs.

Accounting principles for materials items

Revenue recognition

Revenue is normally recognised at the time goods are delivered or services sold.

Cost recognition/matching

Costs are expensed in the same period as the income to which they relate. Costs that cannot be directly related to income are expensed as incurred.

Fixed assets

Fixed assets are entered in the accounts at original cost, with deductions for accumulated depreciation and write-down.

Assets are capitalized when the economic useful life is more than 3 years, and the cost is greater than NoK 15.000. Operating lease costs are expensed as a regular leasing cost, and are classified as an operating cost.

Depreciation

Based on the acquisition cost, straight line depreciation is applied over the economic lifespan of the fixed assets.

Accounts receivables

Trade receivables are accounted for at face value with deductions for expected loss.

Pension liability and pension costs

GRID-Arendal has a pension plan that entitles its members to defined future benefits.

Net pension cost, which consists of gross pension cost, less estimated return on pension plan assets adjusted for the impact of changes in estimates and pension plans, is classified as an operating cost, and is included in personnel costs.

Note 2

Machinery and equipment

Purchase value 01.01.02	NoK	4 319 273,-
Added this year	NoK	426 988,-
Accumulated depreciation 31.12.02	NoK	4 012 687,-
Book value 31.12.02	NoK	733 573,-
Depreciation this year	NoK	390 836,-

Note 3

Salary costs

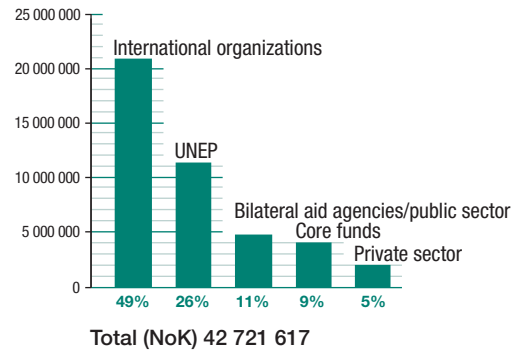
	2002	2001
Salary and holiday pay	NoK 12 991 233,-	NoK 10 733 783,-
Employer's contribution	NoK 1 904 738,-	NoK 1 559 628,-
Other personnel costs	NoK 2 600 293,-	NoK 2 176 144,-
Total	NoK 17 496 264,-	NoK 14 469 555,-
Average no of employees	36	35
Salary Managing Director	NoK 608 179,-	
Fee Chairman of the Board	NoK 35 000,-	
Fee other Board members	NoK 136 000,-	

The audit fee for 2002 was NoK 32 860,-. The fees for other services provided by the auditor were NoK 19.500,-

Financial statement

continued

Funding sources in 2002 (NoK) NOT SUBJECT TO AUDIT



Note 4

Pension funds

The premium for the year, NoK 1 008 102,- is charged to personnel costs. The yield from the pension premium fund of NoK 47 752,- is included under financial income. The pension funds include the annual premium for the Managing Director.

Value 01.01.02	NoK	97 422,-
Pension Managing Director	NoK	98 527,-
Yield	NoK	47 752,-
Value 31.12.02	NoK	243 701,-

Note 5

Accounts receivable trade

Accounts receivables are included in the accounts at face value.

Note 6

Work in progress

Work in progress carried out and costs incurred, not invoiced at the year end, related to 47 projects, and costs incurred amounted to a total of NoK 6 159 371,-.

Note 7

Short-term investments

Unit trust	No. of units	Purchase cost	Market value
DNB Grønt Norden	1 525,22215	NoK 992 063,-	NoK 327 043,-
DNB Miljøinvest	24 265,6368	NoK 992 063,-	NoK 699 632,-
EarthPrint Ltd	3500	NoK 44 961,-	NoK 44 961,-

The Unit trust funds, DNB Grønt Norden and DNB Miljøinvest, are written down to their market value, and the loss of NoK 576 505,- is included under financial expenses. Earthprint Ltd is valued at its purchase cost.

Note 8

Petty cash and bank accounts

NoK 502 472,- of the total bank holdings is restricted to meet the liability arising from payroll taxes withheld.


Note 9

Advance

Work in progress invoiced on account and advances at the year end related to 26 projects and amounted to a total of NoK 4 172 094,-.

Cash Flow Statement (NoK)	2002	2001
CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
RESULT OF THE YEAR	964 481	2 465 002
DEPRECIATION	390 836	353 818
WRITE-DOWN OF FIXED ASSETS	576 504	321 062
CHANGES IN INVENTORY, ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLES AND ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	-5 758 460	-659 555
CHANGES IN OTHER BALANCE SHEET ITEMS	-650 265	180 952
NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	-4 476 904	2 661 279
CASH FLOW FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
PURCHASE OF TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS	-426 988	-597 862
PROCEEDS FROM SALE OF OTHER INVESTMENTS	300 000	329 174
PURCHASE OF OTHER INVESTMENTS	0	-44 961
NET CASH FLOW FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES	-126 988	-313 649
NET CHANGES IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	-4 603 892	2 347 630
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS 01.01	8 975 232	6 627 602
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS 31.12	4 371 340	8 975 232

Auditor's report

			
KPMG AS P.O. Box 101 N-0403 Oslo	Adresse: 2400 Arendal	Telefonnummer: 022 44 11 11 Fax: 022 44 52 82 23 www.kpmg.no Postboks 407 080 174 217 0806	

To: The GRID – Arendal Foundation

AUDITOR'S REPORT FOR 2002

Respective Responsibilities of Directors and Auditors

We have audited the annual financial statements of the GRID – Arendal Foundation on pages 12-14 of 31 December, 2002, showing a profit of NOK 954,481. We have also audited the information in the Board of Directors' report on pages 6-8 concerning the financial statements, the going concern assumption, and the proposal for the appropriation of the profit. The financial statements comprise the balance sheet, the statement of financial cash flows and the accompanying notes. These financial statements and the Board of Directors' report are the responsibility of the Foundation's Board of Directors and Managing Director. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements and other information according to the requirements of the Norwegian Act on Auditing and Auditors.

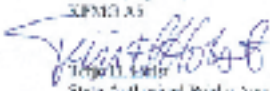
Basis of Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with the Norwegian Act on Auditing and Auditors and auditing standards and practice generally accepted in Norway. These standards and practice require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements and first of material misstatements. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. To the extent required by law and auditing standards and practices as mentioned comprises a review of the management of the Foundation's financial affairs and its accounting and internal control systems. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.


Opinion

In our opinion:

- the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with law and regulations and present the financial position of the Foundation as of 31 December 2002, and the results of its operations, as well as cash flows for the year then ended, in accordance with accounting standards, principles and practices generally accepted in Norway;
- the Foundation's management has fulfilled its obligation in respect of preparation and documentation of accounting information as required by law and accounting standards, principles and practices generally accepted in Norway;
- the information in the Directors' report concerning the financial statements, the going concern assumption, and the proposal for the appropriation of the profit is consistent with the financial statements and comply with the law and regulations.

Arendal, April 7, 2003
 KPMG AS

 Signe H. Skjerve
 State Audited Public Accountant

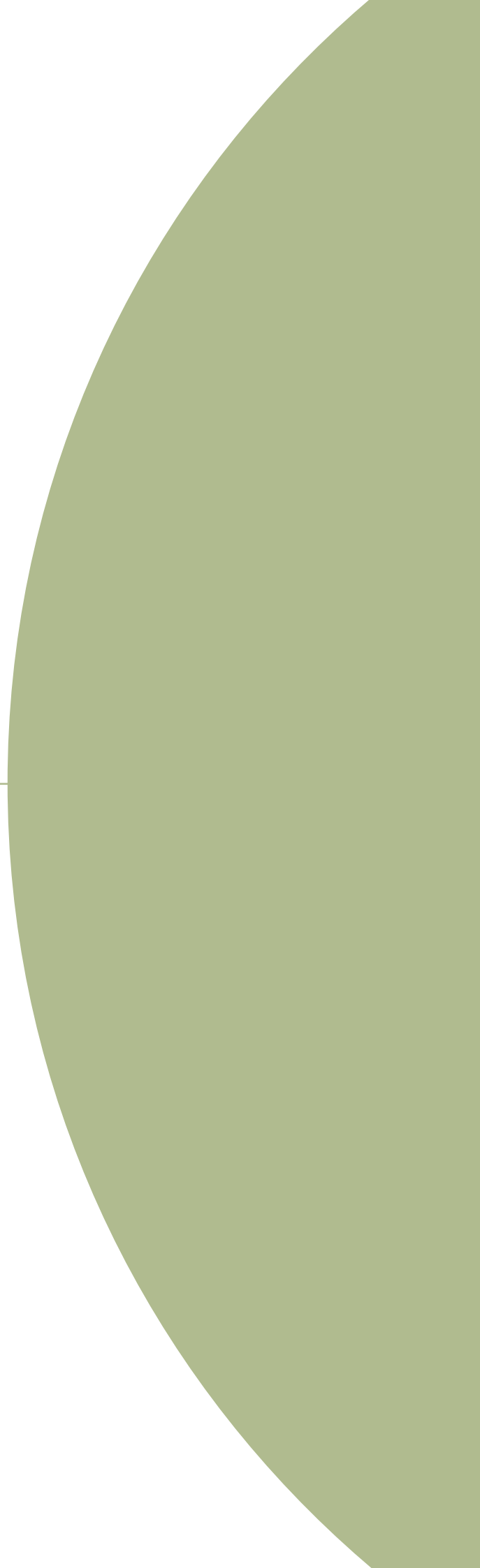
Note: This translation of the Norwegian statutory audit report has been prepared for information purposes only.

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● Annual report



● Management report





GRID-Arendal Annual report 2002

Section 2

Program report

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31	Global Virtual University (GVU)



Keith Finlayson
Polar
Manager

In 2002 the Polar Program continued its initiatives in three main focal areas: fostering cooperation between UNEP and our key Arctic stakeholders, namely the Arctic Council, Arctic Parliamentarians, indigenous peoples and the research community. The Polar Program provided key assessments on the impact of biodiversity, and extended the application of methodologies to other regions of the globe; moreover, the program took a leadership role in the development of Global Environment Facility (GEF) projects on Arctic conservation.

Key Polar Center for UNEP

Major Activities in 2002

Standing Committee of Arctic Parliamentarians

GRID-Arendal was a key participant in the 5th Conference of the Parliamentarians of the Arctic region, where UNEP's Executive Director, Klaus Töpfer, presented our perspective on the likely impacts of development and climate change on Arctic wilderness. Our GLOBIO modelling project – which synthesises the results of several hundred peer-reviewed scientific studies on biodiversity loss near roads, power-lines and other infrastructure – was instrumental in illustrating the cumulative result of development. Without the implementation of stronger policy measures, 70 percent of the Arctic might be heavily impacted over the next 50 years.

Also launched at the conference was the premier edition of the *Arctic Environment Times*, which included contributions from the Arctic Council, WWF, Arctic Indigenous Peoples, and the University of the Arctic. The newspaper covered issues ranging from the thinning of sea ice to pressures on reindeer husbandry from commercial forestry, and it has proved to be a very popular publication.

GRID-Arendal will continue supporting the work of the Arctic Parliamentarians, including maintaining the web site for the Standing Committee.



Photo Mats-Rune Bergström

The World Summit for Sustainable Development

GRID-Arendal joined forces with the Arctic Centre in Rovaniemi, Finland and the WWF to highlight the Arctic during the WSSD in Johannesburg. The exhibition, as part of the UNEP main exhibition in Ubuntu Village, showcased issues pertinent to indigenous peoples, climate change, and biodiversity in the High North.

Global Environment Facility Projects in Russia

GRID-Arendal continued to support international collaboration on a number of project applications for GEF funds. Of particular note in 2002 was the development and subsequent approval of an integrated ecosystem management project focussing on the conservation of biodiversity and minimisation of habitat fragmentation in the Russian Arctic (ECORA). The geographical coverage will be three model areas in the Kolyma River Basin, the Beringovsky District and on Kolguev Island. The project will be co-executed by Russia, the Arctic Council's Conservation of Flora and Fauna (CAFF) Working Group, and GRID-Arendal.

The Arctic remains the world's last large wilderness area.

The plants and animals of the Arctic have adapted to its harsh climate, which is characterized by extreme variations in light and temperature and extensive snow and ice cover, creating rich but highly vulnerable ecosystems. But there are growing concerns about environmental threats in the Arctic, especially the effects of climate change on this fragile ecosystem and the already detectable impacts of toxic pollutants introduced from sources located both outside and inside the Arctic region.

Scientists have demonstrated that persistent organic pollutants (POPs) migrate far north through water, air, and migratory species. In the North Pacific and polar regions, humans as well as albatross, seals and other creatures high on the food chain carry toxic compounds in their blood and tissues that have been manufactured thousands of miles away. Hotspots contaminated with PCBs, heavy metals, hydrocarbons, and radionuclides are also present in the Arctic, especially within the Russian Arctic. In partnership with UNEP, GRID-Arendal, the Arctic Council member countries, the Russian Federation, and the Advisory Committee on the Protection of the Sea, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) is taking decisive action to protect Arctic ecosystems and the peoples they support. GEF's \$15 million grant has already leveraged \$25 million from other sources to support three GEF projects in the Russian Arctic.

I want to warmly congratulate GRID-Arendal for its successful efforts to facilitate Arctic collaboration through these GEF projects.



Mohamed T. El-Ashry
Chief Executive Officer and Chairman
Global Environment Facility (GEF)



The ECORA project will help secure the integrity of some of the world's last remaining pristine areas and support livelihoods of indigenous peoples.

Cooperation with Indigenous Peoples

GRID-Arendal continued its activities in capacity building with indigenous peoples in collaboration with the Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North (RAIPON) and the Nordic Saami Council. These activities included strengthening project management skills within RAIPON, resulting in greater efficiency in the preparation of a quarterly RAIPON journal which is distributed to some 700 indigenous villages. This is one of the main channels of communication between the indigenous peoples in Arctic Russia. In addition, GRID-Arendal facilitated the creation of the RAIPON web site, maintained in both Russian and English, which serves to inform the domestic and international audiences about important indigenous issues.

In a new initiative, GRID-Arendal also supported RAIPON in carrying out an initial survey of health, living conditions, and environmental issues in areas where indigenous people make up the majority of the population.

Global Environment Outlook 3

GRID-Arendal was involved in the coordination of Arctic input to UNEP's GEO 3 report, seeking participation from key stakeholders. The GLOBIO methodology for illustrating the impact of infrastructure on wilderness was applied, not only to the Arctic, but also featured on a larger scale in the report to visualize four different development scenarios looking 30 years into the future.

Strengthened GRID-Arendal presence in North America

In October 2002, GRID-Arendal expanded its Polar Program and significantly raised its North American profile by establishing an office in Ottawa, Canada. The Canadian Polar Commission has been particularly generous in providing office space and support, and the synergies with GRID-Arendal bode well for future cooperation.

Tiina Kurvits of the GRID-Arendal office in Ottawa, Canada.



Siv Fridleifsdottir
Minister for the Environment
Iceland



In view of Iceland's Chairmanship of the Arctic Council 2003-2004, I am pleased to note that UNEP's Governing Council, in its 22nd Session, has recognized the increasing global importance of the Arctic in a global environmental context. As UNEP's Key Polar Center, GRID-Arendal has an important role to play in providing a link between Arctic and other international organizations working for a sustainable Arctic environment. We strongly encourage GRID-Arendal to continue its efforts in pursuing this important issue.

Key Polar Center for UNEP

continued

Decision on the Sustainable Development of the Arctic

From the United Nations Environment Programme
22nd Meeting of The Governing Council
February 3-7 2003, Nairobi, Kenya

The Governing Council;

Recognizing the increasing global importance of the Arctic in a global environmental context;

Noting with satisfaction the inclusion of concerns relevant to the Arctic in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, especially those dealing with ocean issues, sustainable use of natural resources, the eradication of poverty among indigenous communities, the impact of climate change, persistent organic pollutants and heavy metals;

Recognizing the important work of the Arctic Council in protecting the environment and supporting sustainable development in the Arctic;

Noting the relevance of both the United Nations Environment Programme's global assessment of mercury and persistent organic pollutants, and the third Global Environment Outlook report to the Arctic region;

Welcoming the cooperation agreement between the United Nations Environment Programme and the Arctic University;

Also welcoming the work by the Global Resource Information Database at Arendal, the key polar centre of the United Nations Environment Programme, on preparation of information on environment and sustainable development issues in the Arctic, in particular those relating to health and the environment for indigenous people, prepared in cooperation with the World Health Organization;

Encourages continued cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme and the Arctic Council, Arctic parliamentarians, the Indigenous Peoples Secretariat and the private sector, and continued support from the United Nations Environment Programme as an implementing agency of the Global Environment Facility funded portfolio of projects addressing water, climate change, biological diversity, pollution and health issues in the Arctic;

Requests the Executive Director to provide continuous assessments and early warning on emerging issues related to the Arctic environment, in particular its impact on the global environment.

The University of the Arctic

The University of the Arctic is a "university without walls", a cooperating network of universities, colleges and other organizations committed to higher education and research in the Arctic. The University of the Arctic was launched in 2001, and comprises more than 50 members promoting a joint development of shared knowledge and understanding, access to

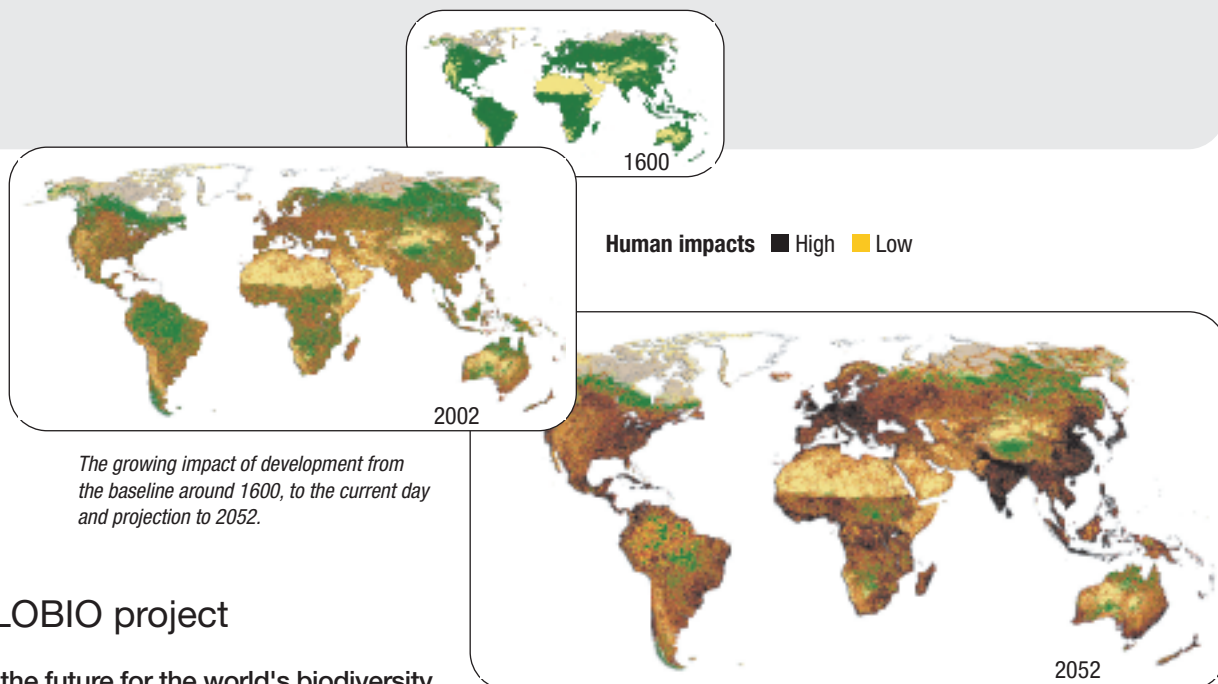
education, and sustainable practices in the Arctic. This development is based on northern-relevant curriculum, a suite of coordinated Master and PhD field courses, a Circumpolar Mobility Program and the Arctic Learning Environment to reduce the barriers to education that northerners often face.

The Director of the University of the Arctic (UARctic) is co-located with GRID-Arendal for optimal support to both institutions.

UARctic Director Lars Kullerud and Gwen Healey, intern under the International Institute for Sustainable Development in Canada.



Photo Sameera Huque/Servis Kommunikasjon AS



The growing impact of development from the baseline around 1600, to the current day and projection to 2052.

The GLOBIO project

Mapping the future for the world's biodiversity

During 2002, the world media, including BBC-World News, CNN and other agencies, ran a number of stories on the future of the world's biodiversity considering the pressures of continued resource exploitation and development. The scenarios used were provided by the GLOBal methodology for mapping human impacts on the BIOSphere project (GLOBIO), a collaborative project between the World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC) and GRID-Arendal.

In May, the scenarios were featured prominently in the newly released GEO 3 report from UNEP. Again in August the GLOBIO scenarios also caught the attention of policymakers and the public with the launch of the Global Biodiversity Atlas.

In early September another report using GLOBIO scenarios was released at the WSSD in Johannesburg. Entitled *The Great Apes – The Road Ahead*, it assesses the future for the Great Apes given the continuing road development, deforestation, poaching and industrial exploitation in their key habitats in Indonesia and Central Africa. The report was prepared together with the Great Ape Survival Project (GRASP), and launched by Klaus Töpfer, the Executive Director of UNEP, and Dr. Jane Goodall, one of the World's leading experts on chimpanzees. The report prompted action in numerous countries, including the EU, to undertake more intense investigations of the imports of illegally cut rainforest timber and pulp, and the role of economic networks.

In November, UNEP's Mountain Watch report was released at the World Mountain Summit in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, and included scenarios for biodiversity in the world's mountain regions. The report highlights the particular sensitivities for mountain people and biodiversity from unsustainable development.

Numerous other publications also made use of GLOBIO-generated scenarios, clearly demonstrating its use in communicating the consequences of unchecked development on biodiversity.

GRID-Arendal developed and implemented the GLOBIO methodology for identifying the impact of infrastructure and industrial development on biodiversity. GRID-Arendal's GIS (Geographic Information Systems) expertise was used in the analysis of data and in the production of impact maps used in many of 2002's projects and reports.



Otto Simonett
Capacity Building
Manager

To strengthen its activities in national and regional capacity building for environmental information management, GRID-Arendal initiated, in 2002, a process to integrate the Global and the Eastern European Programs under a new Capacity Building umbrella.

In the area of capacity building, GRID-Arendal is cooperating closely with the UNEP Regional Offices and Regional Coordinators in order to guarantee adequate delivery of the program in the field. Three main pillars comprise the program:

1 assessment and design of solutions for environmental information management in countries, cities and regions. This component also includes facilitation of consensus-building workshops;

Capacity Building

Central and Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia

For over 10 years GRID-Arendal has assisted countries in this very dynamic region in redesigning their approach to environmental information management. This cooperation has resulted in many pioneering – mainly electronic – publications and institutions such as the GRID centers in Warsaw, Budapest, Tbilisi and Moscow. Fundamental in this work is GRID-Arendal’s cooperation with the European Environmental Agency (EEA) and the Aarhus Convention. At the first Meeting of Parties of the Aarhus convention in Lucca, UNEP/ROE, UNECE and GRID-Arendal have launched the *Aarhus Service* to assist countries in the region in implementing the convention.

Activities and Highlights 2002

Balkans

Under the umbrella of the Regional Environmental Reconstruction Programme for South Eastern Europe (REReP), GRID-Arendal held regional environmental assessment and reporting workshops in Szentendre, Hungary and Sofia, Bulgaria, which were attended by national and local governments and NGOs from the Balkan countries. In Bor, one of the most prominent environmental “hot spots” in Serbia-Montenegro, GRID-Arendal is engaged in the information component of the Local Environmental Action Plan (LEAP). One of our main partners in the region is the Regional Environmental Center (REC). The results of these activities are, in addition to advice and trained staff, national and local environmental reports produced and published online by the countries of Bulgaria, Croatia, and Serbia-Montenegro, and the municipalities of Brasov and Bor.

Russia, Ukraine, Moldova

In Russia, our capacity building activities targeted the sub-national level, which – with the sheer size of the territories – will remain a priority. A workshop in St. Petersburg brought together experts from north-west Russian regions, Ukraine and Moldova. Besides exchange of “best practices” this workshop also provided “hands-on” training in turning environmental data into information.

Cooperation with Ukraine focused on activities around the 5th ministerial conference *Environment for Europe* in Kyiv in 2003.

Caucasus and Central Asia

In these key regions, GRID-Arendal has continued to support various processes and actors with environmental information and training. One highlight was the production of *Caspian Environment 2002*, a CD-ROM featuring a popularized version of the information base of the Caspian Environmental Programme. In order to draw attention to the dramatic Caspian trends of growing pollution and declining fish stocks, we organized an international media tour to Atyrau, Kazakhstan situated on the northeastern shore of the Sea.

About 90 percent of the world’s sturgeons are found in the Caspian Sea. The sturgeon catch – a direct indicator of the overall population – has dramatically declined over the last 20 years.

Environmental hot spots in Central Asia.



Riga city map from the CEROL report.



2 development of tools for integrated environmental assessment and information management and training of the various components of the “information pipeline”;

3 facilitation of the development of user-friendly environmental information products and fostering cooperation between government agencies (as the main data providers) and the media, the educational system and political decision-makers (as the main users of information).



Cities Environment Reports on the Internet (CEROI)

During 2002, GRID-Arendal continued to build urban capacity in environmental assessment and reporting under the umbrella of the CEROI Program.

In Norway, the last building block was made to complete the environmental reporting system, adding local authority State of the Environment reports to the existing national and county reports. In cooperation with the Pollution Control Authority, GRID-Arendal is offering local authorities tools and support in their reporting efforts. Thirty local authorities have committed to participate, and the city of Trondheim was the first to launch their report on the same day as Norway implemented the Aarhus Convention into Norwegian law.

GRID-Arendal also worked with the city of Oslo to solidify cooperation with the European Environment Agency to facilitate reporting based on the European Common Indicators for urban sustainability. The report for Oslo was launched in March 2003 as part of a larger portal communicating the cities’ efforts towards urban sustainability.

Capacity building activities within the Environment and Natural Resources Information Network (ENRIN) Program continued to result in urban State of the Environment reports from Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia. The reports for Riga, Kosice, Bishkek and Tashkent were all launched in 2002.



Other Capacity Building activities included data collecting for the Kyiv Assessment of the European Environmental Agency, assisting in the development of the next stage of UNEP’s Regional Environmental Action Plan (REAP), and organizing a workshop on implementing the Aarhus Convention in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. With support from GRID-Arendal the cities of Bishkek, Dushanbe and Tashkent released their online environment reports, Turkmenistan’s Ministry of the Environment issued an environmental cartoon series on TV, and a collection of Vital Climate Graphics was prepared in Tajikistan.

In a recently launched *Environment and Security* initiative by UNEP, the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and GRID-Arendal is developing an innovative system for mapping priorities and concerns.



Capacity Building

continued

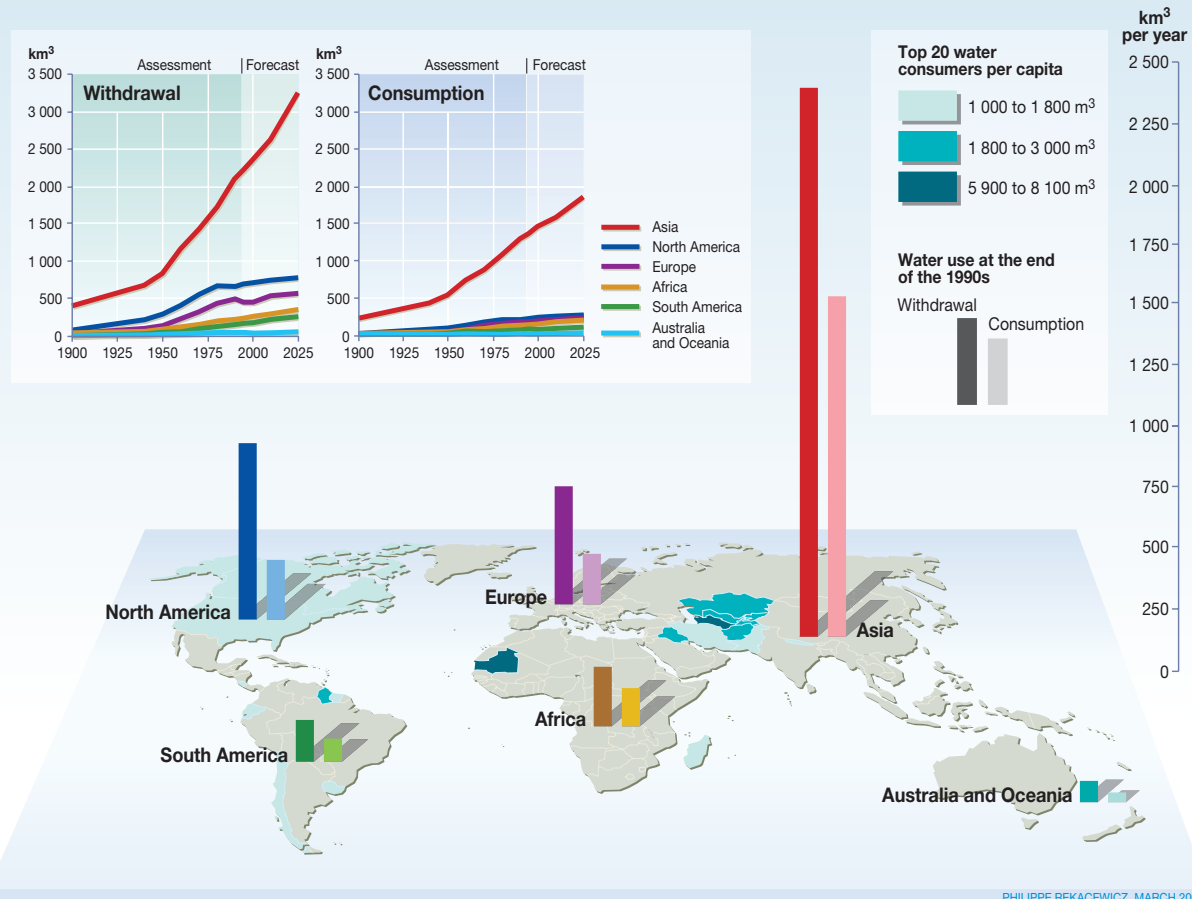
Carto(graphics)® at GRID-Arendal

GRID-Arendal has evolved into a world leader in environmental carto(graphics)®, with an annual output of hundreds of maps, graphs and illustrations covering most environmental issues.

GRID-Arendal is also coordinating the production of UNEP's vital graphics® packages, to provide a minimal amount of information about an issue in an attractive format (graphics) to facilitate decision-making. In 2002, two vital graphics® series were published: *Water Management in the World* and *Climate Change in Africa*.

The carto(graphic) team was also instrumental in publishing the *Environment & Poverty Times*.

Information products from GRID-Arendal were published in the Norwegian and international press.



PHILIPPE REKACEWICZ, MARCH 2002

Graphic from the Vital Water Graphics package showing global water withdrawal and consumption.



GRID-Arendal at the World Summit on Sustainable Development

The World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) took place in Johannesburg in South Africa from 26 August to 4 September 2002 and brought together tens of thousands of participants. The summit aimed to review progress since the Rio Conference in 1992 and set new targets for speeding up sustainable development. GRID-Arendal was strongly represented at the summit in sharing a display booth with UNEP at the exhibition centre, the Ubuntu Village. GRID-Arendal assisted UNEP in designing, setting up and running the display. Between 200-600 visitors came to the booth each day, including ministers, UN representatives, international environmental

organisations, research institutions and local schools. A large number of UNEP and GRID-Arendal information products were disseminated. In addition, GRID-Arendal organized and attended several events, among them the Africa Environment Information Network (EIN) initiative that was endorsed as a framework for the promotion of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD).

10,000 copies of the *Environment & Poverty Times* were distributed to readers all over the world.



Photo Sameera Huque/Sørvis Kommunikasjon AS

Africa Environmental Information Network (EIN)

Africa EIN is a proposed network of African stakeholders through which participating countries will have better access to environmental information.

The objective will be to strengthen capacity for managing information relevant to Africa's environmental assets and to provide inputs to UNEP's *Africa Environment Outlook* report.

UNEP and GRID-Arendal performed a feasibility study in 2002, and the results from this study were presented at a side event at WSSD in Johannesburg. The African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) endorsed the recommendation to establish an Environmental Information Network in Africa.

Mapping global poverty

GRID-Arendal continued to support the use of poverty and environment mapping to alleviate poverty and food insecurity in developing countries in the joint project between the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) and UNEP. GRID-Arendal is responsible for communications and outreach, to show the benefits of spatial analysis, in locating priority areas and targeting development assistance to donors, decision-makers and planners.

In 2002 we published the *Environment & Poverty Times*, a newspaper, detailing the linkages between environment and poverty in journalistic stories, pictures and graphics. The *Environment & Poverty Times* was launched at the WSSD and due to its success, further editions have been planned for 2003-4.

GRID-Arendal also published another publication regarding poverty together with the World Resources Institute (WRI): *Where are the Poor? Experiences with the Development and Use of Poverty Maps*. This has led to further cooperation planned for 2003 in establishing a global online database of poverty maps and environmental information.

Geneva Office 2002

The GRID-Arendal satellite office in Geneva has consolidated its activities to strengthen UNEP/ROE and DEWA-Europe (GRID-Geneva). Current focus – in addition to a general presence in Geneva – is on the following priority areas:

- 1 **Aarhus Convention & Legal Service:** cooperation with the Aarhus Secretariat at UNECE to assist countries in Central and Eastern Europe and the Newly Independent States (CEE & NIS) in implementing the Aarhus Convention;
- 2 **Environment and Security:** provide support to the joint UNEP, OSCE and UNDP initiative *Enhancing Environment and Security in South Eastern Europe and Central Asia*, in particular the mapping component, the communication package for the Kyiv Conference and support during the operational phase of the project;

3 **Kyiv Conference:** support UNEP/ROE's presence at the Kyiv 2003 *Environment for Europe* conference, in particular by managing the joint UNEP EEA exhibition and producing information material for all activities.

4 **EEA cooperation and Kyiv Assessment 2003:** support UNEP in implementing the Memorandum of Understanding with the EEA, in particular activities related to the Kyiv Assessment, to Polar Areas and to Streamlining Environmental Assessments.

5 **Post Conflict Assessments:** cooperate with UNEP's post-conflict assessment unit in the field of monitoring, information systems and the production of information materials.



Cato Litangen
Web & Information
Manager

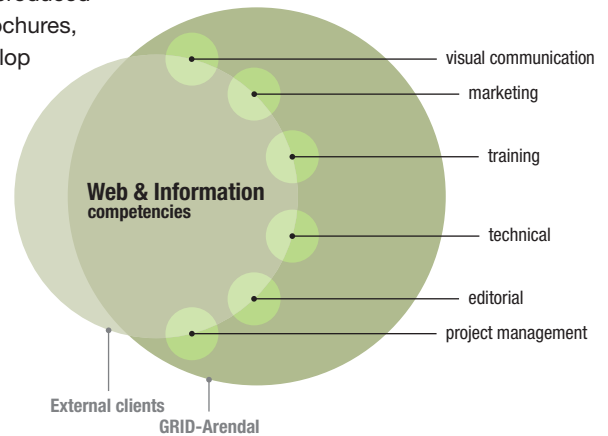
The Web & Information Program serves the publishing needs of GRID-Arendal projects and external clients such as UNEP and other international organizations.

We provide complete web site development services, ongoing maintenance for long-term projects, and technical support to project teams. We shared our expertise in 2002 through training workshops for staff from six UNEP collaborating centers and for the Ministries of Environment of seven Caribbean countries.

Web & Information

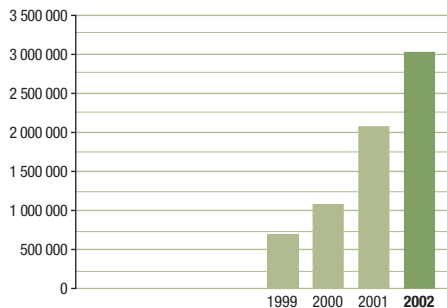
In addition to online information products, the Web and Information Program produced promotional materials in a variety of formats including CD-ROMs, posters, brochures, press kits, and more. We work with project teams and external clients to develop marketing concepts and designs, and produce the desired products.

The largest product produced by GRID-Arendal this year was the five-meter-long continuous wall display used in UNEP's exhibit booth at the WSSD.

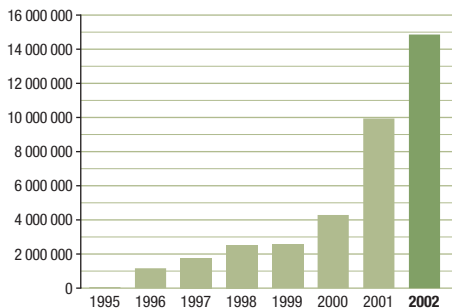


Web statistics

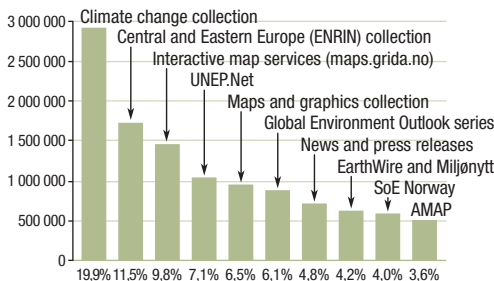
Total annual web site visits



Overall page views



Pages most accessed



Selected examples of significant projects

daily local EarthWire online news service

The EarthWire online news clipping service delivers environmental news from Norway, southern Africa, and Serbia. In addition, in 2002 EarthWire provided global coverage of more than 100 news sources reporting on the WSSD. The service has attracted a faithful audience of policy-makers and journalists who rely on it every day. EarthWire is operated by GRID-Arendal in partnership with local journalists, and is supported by corporate sponsorships and grants.



<http://www.grida.no>
www.earthwire.org
www.earthprint.com
www.grida.no/geo/geo3
www.sustainablealternatives.net

e-bookshop success

EarthPrint

UNEP's official online bookshop continued to show great success in 2002. Three new organizations joined the service, bringing the total number of participating organizations to 18 and the total number of available publications to more than 11,000. EarthPrint serves its partners well by enhancing their channels for distribution and by improving users' access to environmental publications. EarthPrint is a joint venture between GRID-Arendal and SMI (Distribution Services) Ltd.



multilingual web publishing

Global Environmental Outlook (GEO)

The online edition of the GEO-3 report was prepared by GRID-Arendal in four official UN languages (English, Spanish, French, and Russian), with a Chinese edition provided by collaborators in China and an Arabic edition still in production. Publishing this flagship UNEP report in multiple languages with consistency among the editions was a major achievement for UNEP and for GRID-Arendal.



solutions for industry

Sustainable Alternatives Network (SANet)

The Sustainable Alternatives Network (SANet) helps businesses in countries with emerging markets invest in cleaner technologies by providing information and expertise relating to alternative solutions. In 2002, the SANet web site was redesigned to improve usability, and the site now includes more than 30 detailed case studies and links to more than 100 planning tools. GRID-Arendal's role is to provide technical services to SANet in collaboration with UNEP's Division of Technology, Industry, and Economics (DTIE).

Web & Information

continued

it was a really useful website for my project i am doing on...
 it help me expl...
 prone to floodin...

I need information on the marsh-Arabs in Mesopotamia and the drying out of their culture. How will deforestation affect future generations? Where can I find information on protected areas in Scandinavia?

I'm a university student from Hong Kong and found great your climate information extremely helpful.
 Suggestion: a few links to definitions would be useful.



Our users have indicated to us which of our websites they consider most useful.

listening to our users

Improved user feedback reporting

We continued to improve our ability to collect and analyze information from our web site user feedback system, whimsically named OOPS (Optional Online Omni-Present Survey). Visitors are invited to rate their level of satisfaction with our web sites and answer basic questions about who they are and how they intend to use our information. We received 111,000 satisfaction ratings, with 9,000 people providing some information about themselves and their needs, and nearly 2,000 leaving written comments.

GRID-Arendal's media team

A devoted team supports the media and outreach needs of GRID-Arendal in general as well as individual projects. They distribute UNEP's press releases to Nordic media, assist with and liaise with UNEP's media team on global press coverage maximizing public awareness of GRID-Arendal and UNEP products and messages. The team also writes and initiates environmentally related articles and commentaries.



Berlingske Tidende, May 2002

UNEP's GEO-3 report was released in May 2002 and the media team helped promote the report to the Nordic media.

Support to IPCC

GRID-Arendal continued to work closely with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) by providing support in the publication of IPCC reports. In 2002, GRID-Arendal:

- completed the layout of the Synthesis Report in Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian and Spanish;
- facilitated the printing of the *Biodiversity and Climate Change Report* in English;
- finalized the translation and layout of the French and Spanish editions of the *Biodiversity and Climate Change Report*;
- began the work in translating and formatting the report *Good Guidance Practice and Uncertainty Management in National Greenhouse Gas Inventories* in Arabic, Chinese and French;
- completed the online version of the *Climate Change 2001 Synthesis Report* in English.

Through a special web site, www.grida.no/climate, IPCC publications as well as graphics on climate change may be accessed online.

Publications 2002

- 1 <http://www.grida.no/enrin/aarhus/yerevan>
- 2 www.ceroi.net
- 3 www.sustainablealternatives.net
- 4 www.grida.no/impact
- 5 www.earthwire.org/africa
- 6 www.grida.no/enrin/htmls/bosnia2002/index.html
- 7 www.grida.no/caspian
- 8 reports.eea.eu.int/technical_report_2002_82/en/techreport82.pdf
- 9 gaskompriroda.ccc.uz/tashkent/index.htm
- 10 www.earthwire.org/serbia

- 11 <http://www.unep.org/aeo>
- 12 www.grida.no/about/annual.htm
- 13 povertymap.net/pub/povertytimes/01
- 14 povertymap.net/pub/wherearethepoor
- 15 www.grida.no/prog/polar/arctictimes
- 16 www.unep.org/grasp
- 17 www.grida.no/climate/vitalafrica

Electronic publications

- *The Environment in Romania*, 2001, CD-ROM
- *The Environment in Estonia*, 2001, CD-ROM
- 1 *Second Regional South Caucasus Workshop on the Aarhus Convention*
- Calendar 2002: *Central Asia: Environment and Development*, vital graphics + CD-ROM in cooperation with UNDP
- *The Environment in Uzbekistan*, 2001, CD-ROM
- 2 *State of the Environment Report for Kosice*, Slovakia
- 3 Sustainable Alternatives web site re-launched by GA
- 4 *Environmental Awareness in Ukraine*
- *State of the Environment Tajikistan*, CD-ROM
- 5 *EarthWire/Africa* launched
- 6 *State of the Environment Report* by the Civil Society Promotion Centre with help from GA
- 7 *Caspian Environment 2002*, CD-ROM and web site
- 8 EEA report: *Implications of EEA/EU Enlargement for State of the Environment Reporting in the EU and EEA Member States*, co-authored by GA and the National Environmental Research Institute of Denmark (NERI)
- 9 *State of the Environment Report of Tashkent, Uzbekistan* prepared in cooperation with GA
- 10 *EarthWire/Serbia* launched

Hardcopy publications

- *State of the Environment in Dushanbe*, methodology support from GA
- *Vital Maps and Graphics on Climate Change: Tajikistan 2002*, in Russian and English, GA facilitated the production
- Keynote speeches from GA Advisory Panel Seminar: *Assessing the Impact of Environmental Information on Decision-making Processes*
- 11 *African Environment Outlook*, GA contributed to the report and put it on the Internet
- 12 *GA Annual Report 2001*
- 13 *Environment & Poverty Times*, WSSD Issue
- 14 *Where are the Poor? Experiences with the Development and Use of Poverty Maps*, joint publication with WRI
- 15 *The Arctic Environment Times*, Arctic Parliamentarian Meeting Issue
- 16 UNEP's *Great Apes Survival Project (GRASP)*, edited by GA and WCMC
 - UNEP/WCMC's *World Atlas on Biodiversity*, contributions by GA
 - UNEP's *Mountain Watch Report*, contributions by GA
- 17 *Vital Climate Graphics Africa*
 - *The Climate Changing Our World*, 2002 calendar





Magnus Magnusson
Nordic/Baltic
Manager

In October 2002 GRID-Arendal strengthened its presence in the Nordic/Baltic region via the establishment of a satellite office in Stockholm. GRID-Arendal has had a presence in Sweden since 1989. The new office implies a strengthening of GRID-Arendal's capacity to act as a key partner in the region-wide environmental and sustainable development information and assessment activities with partners and stakeholders.



Hugo Ahlenius of the GRID-Arendal office in Stockholm, Sweden.

Nordic/Baltic

In accordance with the request from the Executive Director of UNEP, the Stockholm office assists in increasing the outreach of UNEP in the Nordic/Baltic region and also provides UNEP headquarters with news updates from the region. The office is co-located with the Stockholm Environment Institute and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Swedish office.

Lena Sommestad
Minister of the Environment
Sweden



In 2002 UNEP celebrated its 30th anniversary after its establishment following the Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment in 1972. Today UNEP is the global authority in the field of the environment with a unique position to provide substantial support to international efforts aimed at shaping a sustainable society.

The Swedish government is a long standing friend and supporter of UNEP. In this connection, I am pleased that UNEP, in the autumn of 2002, has strengthened its presence in the Nordic-Baltic region through the establishment of a UNEP/GRID-Arendal Office in Stockholm. As a key UNEP Center for providing environmental information for decision-making processes, GRID-Arendal, via its Stockholm Office, can prove to be an important link between the pioneering processes related to the environmental dimension of sustainable development in the Nordic-Baltic region and UNEP's global program of work.

Membership in Baltic 21

GRID-Arendal was voted a member of the Senior Officials Group of the Baltic 21 as a representative of UNEP. Membership in Baltic 21 gives access to an important network of 11 countries and the most prominent organizations working on Baltic Sea issues in the region. Similarly, membership allows GRID-Arendal to contribute to the Baltic 21 process with expertise and experience related to environmental information management in the Baltic Sea region. During 2002 we were contracted by the Baltic 21 Secretariat to produce the overall indicators for the second indicator report of the Baltic 21 process.

Lead party in the e-Environment Action Line of the Northern e-Dimension

In the fall of 2002, GRID-Arendal was appointed lead party for the e-Environment Action Line of the Northern e-Dimension – an initiative under the Northern Dimension Action Plan of the European Union. The role of lead party allows GRID-Arendal, in collaboration with the 11 member countries and prominent institutions in the Northern Dimension region, to actively promote the development of skills and usage of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) connected to environmental issues in the Northern Dimension region, thereby strengthening our role as a key partner in this work.





Harald Holt
UNU/GVU
Director

The mission of the Global Virtual University (GVU) is to provide online-based higher education within the fields of environment and development. It is particularly designed to serve the educational needs of the developing world. GVU is a new branch of the United Nations University (UNU) which was officially launched in September 2002 at the WSSD.

The Norwegian Government, UNU and UNEP have pledged their support and partnership. The GVU is hosted by GRID-Arendal in Norway with financial backing of NOK 15 million (US\$2 million) over a four-year period from the Government of Norway.

GRID-Arendal Annual Report 2002 Section 2 Program report

The Global Virtual University

e-Learning for a sustainable future

Since the launch, GVU has been working closely with Agder University College (AUC), designing master level courses intended to raise students' sensitivity to, and involvement in, solutions for environment and development issues. These courses aim to enhance capacities of students to understand the potentials and limits of the environment, and to foster awareness, values and attitudes. Focussed on supporting students and teachers in developing countries, these courses are being developed in cooperation with an international network of universities.

GVU uses modern e-Learning technology

The GVU is based on an e-Learning approach using the Internet and CD-ROMs. A commercial Learning Management System (LMS) provides compatibility with emerging e-Learning standards as well as the potential for the smooth transfer of course materials between partner universities.

Pedagogy and philosophy at GVU

The GVU e-Learning strategy was agreed upon in 2002 and it is based on promoting socially critical thinking. The core partners, UNU, AUC and GRID-Arendal, developed a framework combining traditional group learning and individual learning with support from e-Learning technologies.

GVU focus on development support

Students will be recruited through the network of partner universities in the developing world and through the Internet. GVU is a major initiative to enhance the capabilities of higher education in developing countries and to create opportunities for interaction with students around the world.



Financial considerations for studying with GVU

In the future it is expected that GVU e-Learning programs will, in full operation, be substantially cheaper to run than standard on-campus fellowship programs. Early calculations indicate that the cost per student can be less than half the cost of regular international fellowship programs. An additional advantage of a virtual model of education is that selected course modules will be made freely available on the Internet.

Prof. Dr. Hans van Ginkel
Rector, United Nations University
Tokyo, Japan



Hilde F. Johnson
Minister of International Development,
Norway



The initiative to create the GVU, based on innovative technology and pedagogy, is an attempt to build capacity, to find good solutions and to develop the decision-makers of tomorrow. This is why GVU is strongly supported by the Norwegian government.

The World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg in 2002 saw many difficult political discussions and compromises sometimes weaker than what we would have liked. Simultaneously many good partnerships were established and the Global Virtual University (GVU) was one of them. The GVU is a major pilot project that shows how we can reach out across the world in practice, and how we can present the best knowledge in an optimal combination of the high quality audio-visual learning materials with face-to-face support. Using internet broadcasting and stimulating at the same time intense human interaction, the GVU aims to be the learning institution for a sustainable future with a worldwide reach.

- Annual report
- Program report





GRID-Arendal Annual report 2002

Section 3

Management report

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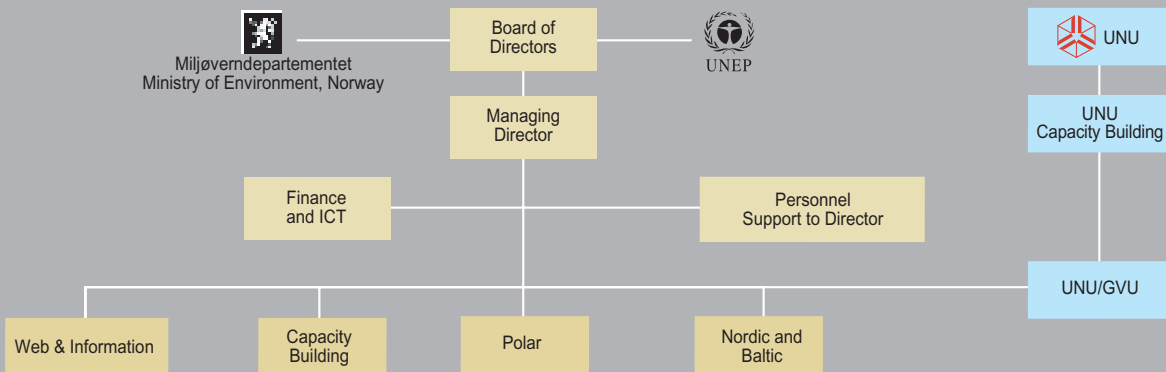


The mission of GRID-Arendal: **GRID-Arendal provides environmental information, capacity building services for information management and assessment, the United Nations through its Environment Programme (UNEP), credible, science-based knowledge understandable decision-making for sustainable development.**

About GRID-Arendal

GRID-Arendal is located in the Longum Park Technology Center in Arendal, a city on the southern coast of Norway. Longum Park houses 30 firms with a total staff of 240. GRID-Arendal has outposted offices in Geneva, co-located with UNEP's Regional Office for Europe; in Stockholm, co-located with the Stockholm Environment Institute; and in Ottawa co-located with the Canadian Polar Commission.

GRID-Arendal was established, as a foundation under the Ministry of Environment, by the Government of Norway in 1989 as a specific follow-up to the recommendations of the 1987 World Commission on Environment and Development to support and strengthen the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). GRID-Arendal represents a unique model as a non-profit foundation supporting international activities within the program framework of a UN agency.



GRID-Arendal management (2002-2003)

- Brian Lucas Acting Web & Information Manager *until Feb 03*
- Cato Litangen Web & Information Manager *from March 03*
- Otto Simonett Capacity Building Manager
- Magnus Magnusson Nordic/Baltic Manager
- Keith Finlayson Polar Manager *from Feb 03*
- Harald Holt Director UNU/GVU
- Thore-André Thorsen Finance/ICT Manager
- Morten Wasstøl Rotating Capacity Building Coordinator
- Kathrine Johnsen Acting Polar Manager *until Jan 03*
- Karen Folgen Personnel Manager
- Svein Tveitdal Managing Director





communications, and Established to strengthen our focus is to make to the public and to

The mission of UNEP:

To provide leadership and encourage partnership in caring for the environment by inspiring, informing and enabling nations and people to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations.

The mission of UNEP's Division of Early Warning and Assessment (DEWA):

To keep under review the state of the global environment, assess global and regional environmental trends, and provide early warning information on environmental threats.

GRID-Arendal is a unique collaboration between a national government and an international organization, UNEP, and shows how a private foundation, with strong government support, can provide meaningful support to an important international environment early warning and assessment process. As the UNEP Key Centre for Polar Early Warning and Assessment, GRID-Arendal has added to UNEP's ability to identify locations, trends and issues relating to environmental change and compile data and information with particular focus on the Arctic. GRID-Arendal has been a great success in furthering UNEP's objectives in providing technical support to programs in state of the environment assessment and reporting and environmental data management in Central and Eastern Europe.

Daniel van R. Claasen
Acting Director
UNEP-DEWA



GRID-Arendal values

GRID-Arendal adopts the United Nations Core Values as the shared principles underpinning our work and guiding the daily actions and behaviours of our staff, the Core Values being:

Integrity

- Demonstrates the values of the United Nations in daily activities and behaviours;
- Acts without consideration of personal gain;
- Resists undue political pressure in decision-making;
- Does not abuse power or authority;
- Stands by decisions that are in the Organisation's interest, even if they are unpopular;
- Takes prompt action in cases of unprofessional or unethical behaviour.

Professionalism

- Shows pride in work and in achievements;
- Demonstrates professional competence and mastery of subject matter;
- Is conscientious and efficient in meeting commitments, observing deadlines and achieving results;
- Is motivated by professional rather than personal concerns;
- Shows persistence when faced with difficult problems or challenges;
- Remains calm in stressful situations.

Respect for Diversity

- Works effectively with people from all backgrounds;
- Treats all people with dignity and respect;
- Treats men and women equally;
- Shows respect for and understanding of diverse points of view and demonstrates this understanding in daily work and decision-making;
- Examines own biases and behaviours to avoid stereotypical responses;
- Does not discriminate against any individual or group.

In addition to these three UN core values, we adopt a fourth value reflecting our affiliation with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP):

Environmental Commitment

- Actively disseminates information on the environment based on scientific knowledge of high quality;
- Promotes environmental awareness by agenda-setting "green" thinking and innovation among staff and within projects with partners and stakeholders;
- Practices environmentally friendly office routines;
- Funds an internal project on a continual basis dedicated to promoting internal and external environmental knowledge and commitment.



Photo Sameera Huque/Sarvis Kommunikasjon AS

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(from Jan 03)



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Polar Program
Nordic/Baltic Program
Global Virtual University
Capacity Building Program
Web & Information Program

GRID-Arendal outlook 2003

2003 marks the beginning of a new innovative venture for GRID-Arendal: the opening of the United Nations University's operational unit; the **Global Virtual University (GVU)**. The immediate focus of the GVU, which will be officially opened in Arendal in June 2003, will be the development of a Master degree program in Environment and Development studies with the Agder University College and other national and international academic partners. Indeed the GVU will seek close cooperation between universities in North and South in regard to both course development and teaching.

In our **Capacity Building Program** a key event will be the 5th Ministerial Conference *Environment for Europe* in Kyiv in May where GA will staff the joint UNEP/EEA exhibition and will be responsible for the production of information and outreach activities. In view of UNEP's strengthened mandate within the area of capacity building, GA will increase its activity in this area, with a particular focus on developing partnerships with UNEP's regional offices and regional coordinators.

The **Web & Information Program** will continue to strengthen its capacity in technical support, web design, graphics and report production as well as media contact and outreach. In 2002 GA was appointed focal point in UNEP together with UNEP/DEC for support to Article 6 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) on education, training and public awareness. GA's goal is to expand cooperation with UNEP, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and UNFCCC. The Internet services EarthWire and EarthPrint will be further developed and strengthened.

The **Polar Program** will focus on the implementation of UNEP's Governing Council (22nd Session held February 2002) decision on the Arctic. This will include strengthening the links with the Arctic Council, Arctic Indigenous Peoples, Arctic Parliamentarians and the Arctic University. In cooperation with these partners GA will formulate cooperative strategies to provide assessment and early warning on emerging environmental issues in the Arctic. A stakeholder seminar will be held in Arendal in August. GA will seek greater engagement of the private sector, and continue to develop new GEF-funded projects in Arctic Russia and in Antarctica.

The **Nordic/Baltic Program** will consolidate its new office in Stockholm with focus on cooperation with the Helsinki Commission (HELCOM), Baltic 21 and other partners in the Baltic region. Special focus will be given to our role as lead party in the Northern e-Dimension Action Plan, relating to the environment (Internet-related technologies and e-skills in the Baltic countries and Northwest Russia) in close cooperation with the 11 member countries.

Based on the recommendations from the comprehensive internal and external evaluations of GRID-Arendal carried out in 2002, GRID-Arendal will embark on a follow-up program to continue to strengthen the institution and our management capacity.

Svein Tveitdal
Managing Director

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Glossary

AMAP	Arctic Monitoring Assessment Programme	ENRIN	Environment and Natural Resources Information Network	NOK	Norwegian currency
AMCEN	African Ministerial Conference on the Environment	FAO	United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation	NORAD	Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation
AUC	Agder University College	GEF	Global Environment Facility	OSCE	Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
CAFF	Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna	GEO-3	UNEP's Global Environment Outlook report	RAIPON	Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North
CEE	Central and Eastern Europe	GLOBIO	Global Methodology for Mapping Human Impacts on the Biosphere	REReP	The Regional Environmental Reconstruction Programme for South Eastern Europe
CEROI	Cities Environment Reports on the Internet	GRID	Global Resource Information Database	ROE	UNEP's Regional Office for Europe
CGIAR	Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research	GVU	Global Virtual University	SANet	Sustainable Alternatives Network
COP 8	Conference of Parties (8th Meeting of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change)	HELCOM	Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission (Helsinki Commission)	UArctic	University of the Arctic
DEWA	UNEP's Division of Early Warning and Assessment	IASC	International Arctic Science Committee	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
DTIE	UNEP's Division of Technology, Industry and Economics	IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change	UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
EarthWire	The Environmental News Portal	NEPAD	The New Partnership for Africa's Development	UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
ECORA	Integrated Ecosystem Approach to Conserve Biodiversity and Minimise Habitat Fragmentation in the Russian Arctic	NERI	National Environmental Research Institute, Denmark	UNU	United Nations University
EEA	European Environment Agency	NINA	Norwegian Institute for Nature Research	WCMC	World Conservation Monitoring Centre
		NIS	Newly Independent States	WRI	World Resources Institute
				WSSD	World Summit on Sustainable Development
				WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature



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