

## The UNEPnet Applications Project

The UNEPnet Applications project was launched in May 1999. It is sponsored by the Swiss Foreign Ministry and provides funding for one position for one and a half years. The project is co-located with the UNEPnet Implementation Centre (UIC) in Arendal/Norway and has two main goals:

Improve the capacity at the UNEPnet/Mercure stations (mostly hosted by the local Ministries of Environment) to make efficient use of modern Internet based technology and to enable them to provide useful information about the state of the environment of their countries to the global community. In particular, interested sites can get:

- Support and training in the design, contents structuring and implementation of web sites with environmental information
- Support in the optimization of existing web sites and exploration of the potential for further development
- Training in advanced methods for information retrieval from the Internet and search strategy development
- Support in concept development and implementation of web based national environmental information systems and environmental data infrastructures
- Help on demand for IT related questions and problems (help desk)
- Participate in UNEP projects related to information systems

Due to the distribution of the UNEPnet/Mercure stations over four continents, their different cultural and economic backgrounds and their varying experience with IT technology it is assumed that customized approaches will have to be developed for each site.