

preservation of nature in the region. The Center will be a source of information and assistance for citizens of the region regarding environmental problems, and will foster the capability to address critical or persistent local, national and regional problems. These purposes are best served by the active participation of non-governmental organizations (NGOs - business and non-profit organizations) in the organization and operation of the Center.

1.2. Activities

The Center acts as a catalyst for the support of individuals and organizations that develop or implement solutions to the environmental problems in the region. It promotes interaction and cooperation among diverse interests. The Center, being an impartial body, shall not participate in or intervene in any political campaign on behalf of (or in opposition to) any candidate for public office. Without prejudicing the legal authority of national governments or of international organizations, the Center may engage in, support and encourage activities in the following key areas:

1.2.1. Data Collection and Dissemination

- provide access to established environmental information data bases (e.g., the International Registry of Potentially Toxic Chemicals (IRPTC), the Global Environmental Monitoring Systems (GEMS) network, the European Monitoring and Evaluation Programme (EMEP)); may encourage creation of new data bases, if needed;
- assist in developing local and regional monitoring capabilities;
- make environmental information available to the public.

1.2.2. Development of Institutional Capability and Outreach

- promote constructive public participation in environmental decision-making;