

the aim of finding ways to respond to the challenges of health and the environment in the context of sustainable development. Acknowledgement was also given to the preparation, by the Department of Health at the national level, of an environmental health policy with the following priorities: the classification, at the local level, of the hazardous waste that entered the country; identification of the people at risk as well as the risks involved; and the training of officers and capacity-building of local institutions dealing with the waste. The SR also referred to decisions by the Department of Health to elaborate a regulatory mechanism which might include the prosecution of the responsible entities, and to focus on how to identify who was responsible. Among the sanctions foreseen were not renewing permits or withdrawing licences.

## FIELD OPERATIONS

### OHCHR South Africa

The OHCHR South Africa Office is responsible for carrying out the activities provided for in the Human Rights Institutional Strengthening Project for South Africa (SAF/96/AH/16), which began in 1997/1998. The headquarters is located in Pretoria. Russell Ally, National Project Manager, c/o South African Human Rights Commission, 351 Schoeman Street, P.O. Box 6541, Pretoria 0001, South Africa; Phone: (27-11) 484-8300; Fax: (27-11) 484-8403; e-mail: rally@jhb.sahrc.org.za.

The project is managed and implemented by a nationally-recruited project team consisting of the National Project Manager and two national officers. A National Project Coordinator was designated by the Minister of Justice to ensure effective coordination between the Project Team and the government. A Project Steering Committee, consisting of the major project counterparts, was established to review developments and make recommendations on the timing and content of project activities.

In order to assist in building the capacity of the project's major counterparts, the National Project Manager is physically located on the premises of the South African Human Rights Commission; the National Project Officer is located in the Justice College of the Ministry of Justice; and the Land Rights Community Liaison Officer is based at the Land Rights Restitution Commission. The arrangement facilitates the integration of project personnel into these institutions for the purpose of providing on-going advice and assistance.

The project focusses on all human rights, including economic, social and cultural rights, and provides:

- ♦ expertise to key institutions (Human Rights Commission, Justice College, Ministry of Justice, the Commission on Restitution of Land Rights, Ministry of Safety and Security) to assist them in developing an institutional capacity for planning, implementing, managing and evaluating policies, strategies and training programs for the promotion and protection of human rights; and coordination of external assistance and development of policies and plans of action in the area of affirmative action;
- ♦ assistance in the development of human rights training capacities, through the training of trainers in key sectors including the magistracy, police, military and correctional services;
- ♦ training and assistance to government departments in order to strengthen their capacity to fulfil their obligations under newly ratified human rights treaties;
- ♦ assistance to the South African Human Rights Commission to develop, in consultation with civil society and NGOs, a national human rights plan of action; and support for the Human Rights Commission to fulfil its broad mandate better, particularly with respect to the monitoring of economic, social and cultural rights;
- ♦ support for the Land Affairs Department in implementing a rights-oriented approach to land reform, and strengthen the existing capacity to implement the land restitution policy; and
- ♦ expertise to and support for the initiative of Fort Hare University — one of the nation's leading historically black universities — to develop a human rights resource centre to serve one of the most disadvantaged provinces in the country and to provide services to government in the field of human rights training.

The main activities as of August 1998 included: provision of advisory services to finalize the human rights training package developed by the South African Police Service (SAPS); joint publication with the SAPS of a pocket guide for police on human rights standards and practice; ongoing advice and assistance to the South Africa Human Rights Commission (SAHRC) on developing a National Plan of Action in the Field of Human Rights, to be adopted by the government on Human Rights Day, 10 December 1998; support to SAHRC for a workshop on the draft human rights National Plan of Action; ongoing advice and assistance to the Justice College of the Ministry of Justice in integrating human rights into the training curriculum for magistrates, prosecutors and other officials concerned with the administration of justice; assisting Fort Hare University to develop the capacity to hold human rights training workshops; and support for the documentation collection of the Human Rights Centre of Fort Hare University.

### Regional Human Rights Programme Office

In addition to the OHCHR South Africa Office, the Regional Human Rights Programme Office for Southern Africa is based in Pretoria. David Johnson, Regional Programme Adviser, c/o UNDP, 351 Schoeman Street, P.O. Box 6541, Pretoria 0001, South Africa; Phone: (27-12) 338-5300; Fax: (27-12) 320-4353/4; e-mail: djohnson@un.org.za. This is a joint project of OHCHR and UNDP, administered by UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS). The programme is aimed at mobilizing