

United Nations University

UNU update on its activities relating to oceans and the law of the sea: UNU's Inter-linkages Initiative is pursued as an innovative approach to managing sustainable development. Based on the recognition that environmental management is strongly related to human behaviour at all levels of natural and human interaction, it promotes greater connectivity between ecosystems and societal performance. Under this initiative, 14 national and regional case studies were carried out in Southeast Asia and the Pacific in 2001-2002, the results of which were presented at a public forum and are also disseminated widely through the UNU website <<http://www.unu.edu/inter-linkages/>> and the 2003 spring edition of Work in Progress, a UNU research periodical that featured the initiative and its recent findings. In spite of the diversity of the countries studied in geographical, socio-economic and environmental conditions and in institutional arrangements, the studies identified some needs common to the region: capacity development, information policies, and regional support mechanisms. Contributing to the preparations and follow-up of the WSSD in 2002, the