



Ministry for the  
Environment and Territory  
Italy

# Protect the planet: the Italian commitment

Programs and Initiatives of the Ministry for the Environment and Territory of Italy

The protection of the environment is a global commitment: this is one of the principles that shall orientate the government's political strategies throughout the world. It represents the warning emphasized by the international community at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg, 2000).

Italy accepted the challenge: to face the major environmental issues of the world and match them with the objectives of social and economic development of all countries, sharing capacities, experiences and innovations.

In this perspective, the Minister for the Environment and Territory, Altero Matteoli promoted international initiatives that gave to the Ministry the chance of playing a leading role in the promotion of partnerships with, enterprises, NGOs, Research Institutes, Universities and many other Institutions, providing skills, economic resources and advanced technologies. Within the Multilateral Environmental Agreements and

the Johannesburg Action Plan for Sustainable Development, the Ministry has since now implemented 120 projects with more than 25 Developing Countries.

Countries and International entities has recognized that these projects has allowed to test a new model of partnership.

The objectives are various and ambitious: efficient use of energy and water resources; promotion of renewable sources; protection and safeguard of natural heritage, professional training and exchange of know-how; promotion of eco-efficient technologies; combat desertification.

With regard to this, it is very significant that this year, the Chinese Government awarded the Director General of the Department for Environmental Research and Development, Corrado Clini, with the "International Science and Technology 2004 Prize". It is the only european awarded with such a recognition.

