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APPENDIX A: GLOSSARY

PART I: Terms

Assessment: the process of interpretation of data obtained from monitoring networks and other sources.

Baseline station or area: a monitoring station or area in a remote area far from civilization.

Earthwatch: the UNEP programme of environmental monitoring, environmental assessment, the International Referral Service, the development of environmental criteria and supporting activities.

Environment: ambient conditions, normally out-of-doors.

Global pollutants: ubiquitous pollutants that spread around the world.

Impact station or area: a monitoring station or area for measuring the concentrations of pollutants to which receptors are exposed. Such stations or areas could be located in cities, polluted rivers or estuaries, where dosages are suspected of causing harmful effects.

International pollutants: pollutants found in sufficiently high concentration at a number of individual locations around the world that they may cause local harmful effects; and alternatively, pollutants that cross international boundaries.

Langley: unit of energy transfer—one gram-calorie per square centimetre.

Monitoring: the process of repetitive observing for defined purposes of one or more elements or indicators of the environment according to pre-arranged schedules in space and time, and using comparable methodologies for environmental sensing and data collection.

Pollution: a resource out of place.

Regional station or area: a monitoring station or area in a rural or forested area, or in the ocean or lake, at sufficient distance from urban and industrial pollution sources to permit considerable initial dilution of the pollution.