PART 3

JOINT IMPLEMENTATION PROJECTS BETWEEN

THE NETHERLANDS AND POLAND

by Ryszard Janikowski, Beata Michaliszyn and Janusz Krupanek
1 INTRODUCTION

We know that the environmental problems and solutions we now face are different from those we faced in the past. We are determined to take our responsibility in the struggle to prevent environmental degradation. What we have to do next is to put our new responsibilities and ideas into practice. The key to success is international cooperation. When we act prompted solely by selfish interests, the benefits that accrue to all parties are limited. The benefits can be far greater if we act wisely, thinking at a higher level and in terms befitting that level. This precept, together with the strategy for sustainable living (IUCN/UNEP/WWF, 1991), is particularly appropriate in the case of global warming. It is, unfortunately, far from easy to put this higher level of thinking into practice.

The Framework Convention on Climate Change (FCCC) encourages the implementation of projects which contribute to the reduction of the emission of greenhouse gases (GHG) and which are based on cooperation between different countries or parties from different countries. These projects are called joint implementation projects (JIPs).

The basic idea behind joint implementation is the following: in a number of countries, especially less developed countries and countries with economies in transition, there are many relatively cheap opportunities for GHG emission reduction. To a certain extent, however, such opportunities are not taken up by these countries themselves, for instance because of lack of financial means or because they give priority to other economic objectives such as alleviation of poverty. It may therefore be attractive for rich developed countries that want to contribute to the mitigation of the climate problem to support such relatively cheap GHG reduction projects abroad, because this may be a cheaper way of bringing about GHG emission reduction than stimulating emission reduction at home.

At a general level the concept of joint implementation may be simple, but when we analyze joint implementation more in detail, many problems appear. In the preceding Part many such problems have been discussed at a general level. This Part discusses economic, social, environmental and institutional aspects of joint implementation projects in Poland. We do not aim to treat these aspects exhaustively. Rather, we will focus on a few selected issues.

The structure of this Part is as follows. Section 2 discusses the background and criteria for joint implementation projects in Poland in general. It is based on the theoretical foundations laid down in previous Parts. Section 3 presents a theoretical discussion concerning classification of projects which can be implemented in Polish conditions. Section 4 deals with the institutional aspects of JIPs, especially analyzing existing Polish administrative procedures and the institutional framework which can be of use in the process of implementing joint projects. Section 5 comprises a detailed discussion on criteria for JIPs, with emphasis on administrative procedures of assessment and monitoring.