



# United Nations Environment Programme

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PROGRAMME DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT • PROGRAMA DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA EL MEDIO AMBIENTE  
ПРОГРАММА ОРГАНИЗАЦИИ ОБЪЕДИНЕННЫХ НАЦИЙ ПО ОКРУЖАЮЩЕЙ СРЕДЕ

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## Ozzy and Zoe Ozone invite the World's Children to Take Action on Ozone, Climate and Pollutants

### Animated cartoon book "Ozzy goes polar" is launched on World environment day

**TROMSO, 5 June 2007** -- For the first time in public, Ozzy and Zoe Ozone, defenders of the planet, dropped down from their home in the stratosphere last night in Tromso, Norway to personally deliver important messages to children and adults about how they can protect the environment.

Life sized cartoon characters are not normally found walking around at meetings organised by the United Nations. But on this occasion, these two entertaining mascots stood out in the sea of business suits. Ozzy and Zoe were invited to deliver serious messages to mark the occasion of World Environment Day, a special day by which the UN stimulates worldwide awareness and action to protect the environment.

These molecular marvels came to Earth to launch "Ozzy Goes Polar", the newest edition of the United Nations Environment Programme's (UNEP) illustrated booklet series about ozone depletion and inter-related global environmental threats. The series is funded by the Multilateral Fund of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, the highly successful environmental agreement that is celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year.

"My friends Ozzy and Zoe are enlisting children across the world in their mission to combat ozone depletion, climate change and a group of 12 nasty chemicals called Persistent Organic Pollutants. Their goal is a safer, healthier and less polluted world for children and also for mums and dads too. They have got a lot of cool ideas and tips on how to do all this. But these chemical crime-fighters need your help. So when you see them today, ask them what you can do!" said **Achim Steiner, Under Secretary General of the United Nations and Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme.**

"Ozzy and Zoe help remind the rest of the world about real issues faced by Arctic people: climate change, ozone holes, and persistent pollutants. IPY has ambitious research programmes to better understand all these issues, but we need partners like Ozzy and Zoe to help us carry the polar messages to neighbors in other parts of the world" said **David Carlson, Director of the International Programme Office of the International Polar Year.**

"Ozzy Goes Polar" focuses on the effects that ozone depletion, climate change and Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) are having on polar ecosystems and communities and the ensuing consequences around the world. It was prepared by UNEP OzonAction in support of International Polar Year (IPY) with the special cooperation of the International Programme

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Office of IPY, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Stockholm Convention Secretariat and GRID Arendal.

UNEP, IPY and national partners launched "Ozzy Goes Polar" on three continents, in ceremonies in Argentina, Costa Rica, Cuba, Kenya, Mexico and Norway.

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Joint UNEP/IPY Press Release

**Note to journalists:**

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