

GEO Outputs

Meeting user needs cuts across all elements of GEO outputs.

Introduction

Assessing and reporting on the state of the world's environment is a fundamental mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The Global Environment Outlook (GEO) process emerged out of this mandate. It is a consultative, participatory process with a strong element of capacity building for global environmental assessment aimed at the interaction between science and policy decision-making.

The GEO process has many elements. It supports multi-stakeholder networking, provides a platform for the exchange of knowledge, promotes intra and inter-regional cooperation in identifying and addressing key environmental issues and concerns and builds capacity at many levels. Meeting user needs cuts across all elements of GEO outputs.

GEO Reporting

The contents of GEO reports are derived from a process of assessment and broad consultation, with expertise provided by a global network of Collaborating Centres, partners, stakeholders, technical, academic, and scientific experts.

The main aim of GEO products is to provide objective, scientifically-credible information on the state of the environment to support decision-making at many levels.

Target Audiences

- Policymakers - especially UNEP's governing bodies
- Scientists
- NGOs
- Civil Society

- Media
- Public
- Youth

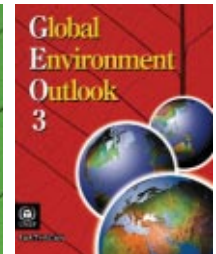
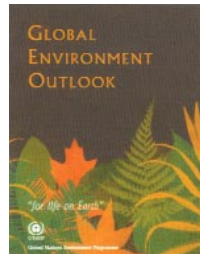
The GEO Family of Products

Since the inception of GEO in 1995, an integrated environmental assessment process has been expanded, refined and applied to a wide range of GEO products resulting in a family of reports and publications. Each has its own purpose, process and identity but is unified by the participatory and consultative characteristics of the GEO approach.



built on the process and lessons learned during the GEO-1 cycle. It offered a review of the state of the world's environment over the last 100 years and a guide to international policy setting.

GEO-3: Published in 2002, a few months before the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), GEO-3 provided a retrospective overview of the main environmental developments of the previous three decades and focused on



The comprehensive GEO series provides scientifically credible, policy-relevant, up-to-date assessment of, and outlook for, the state of the global environment.

GEO-1: The first GEO report provided a snapshot of global and regional issues through a worldwide environmental assessment process. Initiated in response to the environmental reporting requirements of Agenda 21 and a UNEP Governing Council decision requesting the production of a new, comprehensive state of the environment report series, it was published in 1997. Its goal was to advance consensus on essential environmental issues.

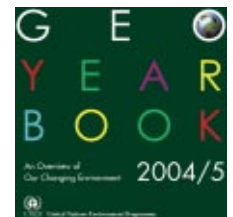
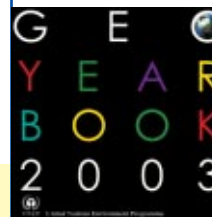
GEO-2000: Published just before the turn of the century, GEO-2000, UNEP's millennium report on the environment,

how social, economic and other factors contributed to the changes that occurred. This report also used a scenario approach to look ahead at the next 30 years.

GEO-4: The GEO process leading up to the production of GEO-4 is currently underway. The report will be published in 2007.

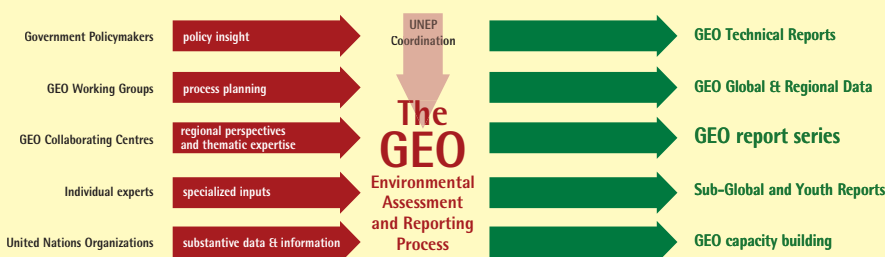
As well as the main GEO series, there is a large range of other GEO outputs. They include:

• GEO Year Book Series



The GEO Year Book is an annual report on recent environmental developments. It highlights significant environmental events and achievements during the year, raises awareness of emerging issues from scientific research, investigates a selected environmental topic of concern and presents key indicators of environmental conditions and trends. The first GEO Year Book was published in 2004 and the second report in February 2005.

GEO Process and outputs



• GEO Sub-global Reports

These are environment outlook reports on specific areas prepared using the GEO process. UNEP either coordinates or plays an advisory role in their development. Regional and Sub-regional reports include the:

- Africa Environment Outlook
- Asia-Pacific Environment Outlook
- GEO Latin America and the Caribbean
- North America's Environment Outlook
- Caucasus Environment Outlook
- Pacific Environment Outlook
- Caribbean Environment Outlook
- Atlantic and Indian Oceans Environment Outlook

National reports such as:

- GEO Barbados
- Estado del Medio Ambiente en Chile
- Estado del Ambiente en Nicaragua

Cities reports such as:

- GEO Ciudad de Mexico
- GEO Bogota

• GEO Technical Reports

These reports are prepared by UNEP and its partners and examine specific issues such as scenario modelling, data selection or other elements associated with the main GEO series. Recently published technical reports include:

- GEO-3 Data Compendium
- Global Environment Outlook Scenario Framework – Background Paper for UNEP's Third Global Environment Outlook Report (GEO-3)
- GEO-3 Scenarios 2002-2032 – Quantification and analysis of environmental impacts.

• Capacity Building for Integrated Environmental Assessment and Reporting – Training Manual (1999)

As part of GEO's commitment to capacity building a training manual was



compiled giving step-by-step guidelines on the GEO integrated environmental assessment and reporting methodology. The manual primarily targets practitioners involved with the development of environmental reports at national level.

• GEO Education

These products are educational tools targeting youth and educators. They include:

Pachamama: Our Earth – Our Future: an introduction for children aged 9-14 years, to the environmental challenges we are facing in the 21st century. It is written by young people for young people, outlining some of today's most significant environmental issues through the use of stories, poems and pictures. Pachamama is published in several languages.

The Pachamama Teacher's Guide: based on Pachamama, Our Earth-Our Future, this contains lesson plans and activities for use by educators at primary and lower secondary levels. It is published in English, French and Spanish.

GEO-Active: is a cd-rom with videos introducing environmental themes, games, a youth action database, and a database for environmental information on the web. It is geared towards the youth market and is an important resource for teachers.

User Feedback

UNEP recognizes the importance of monitoring and evaluation to improve upon the GEO process and outputs.

A number of tools and mechanisms have been used to solicit user feedback on the products within the GEO series of reports and on the associated processes:

- A SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats) analysis and evaluation of the GEO-3 process from the perspective of GEO Collaborating Centres was undertaken and a report produced (2004) to learn from the views and experiences of core partners, and improve the next cycle
- A GEO User Profile and Impact Study covering the first two GEO reports (GEO-1 and GEO-2000) was commissioned and carried out in 2000 by an independent firm of consultants
- Monitoring the GEO website traffic and email feedback to UNEP
- Monitoring media coverage
- Analysing reader surveys.

“ I find the GEO reports very good reference documents. I am working on a state of environment report at a local government level and am therefore very interested in reporting processes from around the world.

Governmental Consultant, South Africa

I believe that if GEO did not exist, the policy discussion would be impoverished. With GEO, there is a greater tendency to understand the linkages between environmental issues, the policy options and the urgency to act.

Director of an international environment institute

GEO-2000's most important role is that of identifying emerging issues and to place national issues in a broader perspective.

Senior Environmental Advisor, Austria



GEO Outputs: How to order

GEO publications are available from:
EarthPrint Limited
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Hertfordshire SG14TP
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To order online: www.earthprint.com

GEO Data Portal

<http://geodata.grid.unep.ch/>

An important and innovative 'tool' is the GEO data portal giving access to best available data sets compiled over the last 30 years covering different parameters relating to environmental monitoring and reporting.

The online database currently holds more than 400 variables as national, sub-regional, regional and global statistics or as geo-spatial data sets (maps).

It covers broad environmental themes, such as climate, disasters, forests, and freshwater as well as categories in the socio-economic domain, including education, health, gross domestic product (GDP) and population.

The Portal enables users to easily display data interactively as maps, graphs and tables and to download them in different formats.



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