

GEO-3 contents

Introduction

The introduction will place GEO in the context of other global assessment and reporting processes.

SOE and Policy Retrospective 1972-2002

Major emphasis will be placed on providing an integrated explanation of trends by identifying their root causes and drivers. The relationships between policy and environment will be analysed to show how policy can impact on environment and how the environment can drive policy. An evaluation will be made of whether policy responses over the past 30 years are appropriate for the next 30 years.

For structural and presentational clarity, sectoral areas will be used as the entry points for assessment. However, the cross-cutting, integra-

tive nature of environmental issues will be emphasized, with integrated analysis of themes and policy impacts where appropriate and emphasis on geographical and sectoral interlinkages.

Description and analysis will be at global and regional levels but will include sub-regional differentiation where appropriate. The analysis will focus on priority issues, with assessment of vulnerability, hot spots and possible emerging issues.

The analysis of environmental trends will take into consideration the widest possible range of social, economic, political and cultural drivers and root causes – demographics, production and consumption, poverty, urbanization, industrialization, governance, conflict, globalization of trade, finance, information and others.

Special focus will be placed on the impacts of national, regional and global policies, including multilateral environmental agreements. The assessment will take into consideration not only environmental policy but also the impacts of general and sectoral policies on environmental issues.

Outlook 2002-2032

Within a 2002-2032 time frame, this chapter will contain a forward-looking, scenario-based, integrated analysis linked to the major issues identified in the retrospective section and contrasting conventional and sustainable paths. The initial global-level analysis will be extended to regions and sub-regions, thereby identifying potential areas of vulnerability and hot spots of the future. Possible trends in the environment will be developed for the next 30 years, quantitatively wherever possible.

Synthesis and Action

This section will include positive policy and action items, linked to the conclusions of the earlier sections and targeted at different categories and levels of decision-makers and actors. It will elaborate the conditions and capacities required for successful application of policies and actions.

GEO-3 Contents

Chapter 1: Introduction

Chapter 2: State of the Environment and Policy Retrospective 1972-2002

Environmental themes

Land
Forests
Biodiversity
Freshwater
Coastal and marine areas
Atmosphere
Urban areas

Cross-cutting themes

Environmental disasters
Human health and the environment

Chapter 3: Outlook 2002-2032

Scenario and vulnerability analyses for:

Africa
Asia and the Pacific
Europe
Latin America and the Caribbean
North America
West Asia
The Polar Regions

Chapter 4: Synthesis and Action



GEO-3: approach and contents

GEO-3 will be published 10 years after the first Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro (1992) and 30 years after the Stockholm Conference on The Human Environment (1972). It is intended that *GEO-3* will link closely into the Rio+ 10 preparatory process, thereby helping to set an action-oriented environmental agenda at the Earth Summit in 2002 and other relevant fora.

The GEO series of reports are distinguished by a number of key attributes. They:

- are underpinned by sound data, information and science;
- use the pressure-state-impact-response (PSIR) framework;
- integrate state-of-the-environment reporting with a policy perspective;
- incorporate global and regional perspectives;
- incorporate multi-stakeholder perspectives;
- identify priority and emerging issues;
- provide early warning of impending threats;
- are oriented towards sustainable development;

- are action oriented and address root causes;
- are readable and target specialized audiences — including youth — through a range of products.

GEO-3 will continue this tradition. In addition, it will:

- engage a wider range of clients and stakeholders in the production process;
- integrate policy and state of the environment issues more closely;
- diversify its products to target an even wider range of user groups;
- place greater emphasis on the social and economic implications of environmental policy actions and options;
- link up with other relevant global reports.

Major themes in the GEO series

- atmosphere
- land
- forests
- biodiversity
- freshwater
- marine and coastal areas
- urban areas
- human health and environment
- environmental disasters

GEO-3 timetable

	2000												2001												2002		
	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M			
Chapter preparation: SOE/policy	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■																		
Chapter preparation: Outlook		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■																		
Chapter preparation: Introduction				■	■	■	■	■	■																		
Chapter preparation: Synthesis and action								■	■	■	■																
Draft compilation										■	■																
Distribution													■														
Regional consultations and review													■	■													
Draft revision															■	■	■										
Production															■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■			
Film to printer																							■				
Publication																								■			

GEO-3 will be published in March 2002. The box on the left outlines the principal steps leading to publication.

GEO data and information

One of GEO's most important tasks is helping to improve the data and information available on environmental issues. A GEO Data Working Group, established during the preparation of *GEO-1*, surveyed existing data at regional levels. Statistical databases have been put into a consistent format and aggregated into GEO sub-regional, regional and global totals in order to underpin the text and provide the basis for graphics used in GEO reports. A *Technical Report* has also been prepared which summarized the data experiences of the GEO process and data needs for environmental assessments in general.

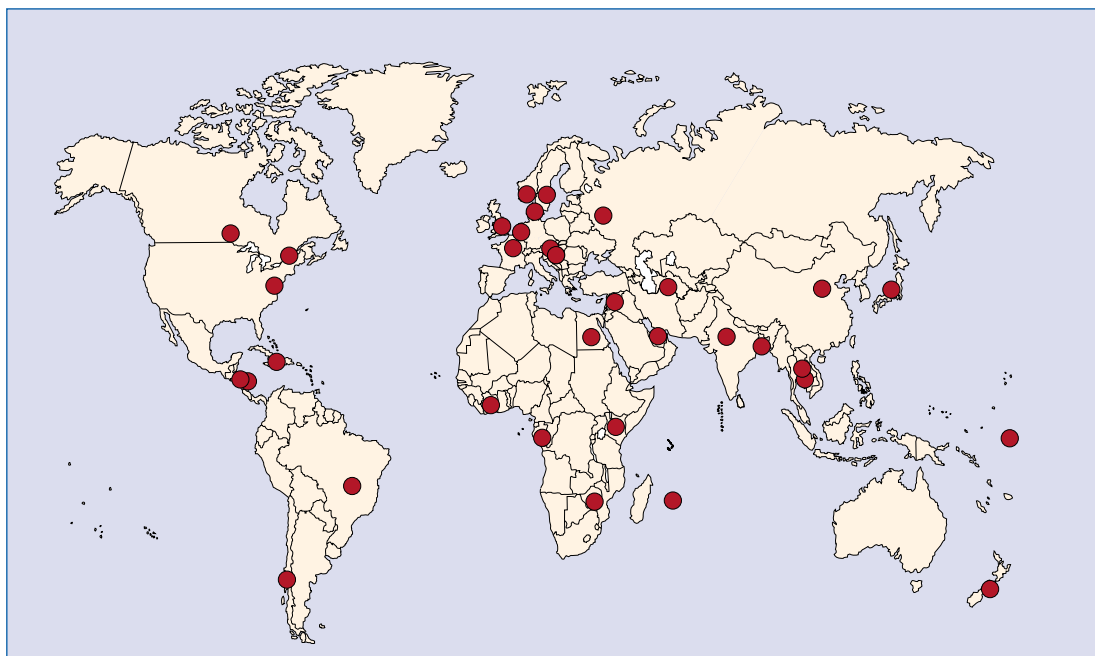
Over the longer term, it is intended that a number of evolving core data sets and derived indicators will be used as the basis for most of the conclusions about environmental trends made in GEO reports.

GEO working groups

The GEO process has always included specialized working groups, created to address specific problems in the GEO process, and to make the work of the Collaborating Centres easier and better harmonized. For *GEO-3*, working groups have been created for:

- scenarios and vulnerability;
- policy analysis and integration;
- data and illustrations;
- capacity building;
- GEO strategy and Rio+ 10 integration
- product development and dissemination;
- communications, including development of the Internet-based GEO Support System (GEOSS); and
- management strategy (including resource mobilization).

The *GEO* Network of Collaborating Centres and Associated Centres





GEO — the big picture

Capacity building

Capacity building is a major element of the GEO Process. Collaborating Centres' capacities to carry out integrated environmental assessment and reporting, as well as scenario analysis and development of alternative policies, is being strengthened through: participation in the GEO Process, training courses, and north-south and south-south collaboration and assistance facilitated by GEO (see box below).

As a specific example, under the Africa programme, special focus is being given to building capacity for integrated assessment and reporting, to support GEO and sub-regional State of the Environment reports. Training courses have been carried out for participants from countries in Western, Central, Eastern and Southern Africa, and the Indian Ocean islands. Institutional networks to support the GEO and SOE processes are also being established. Similar activities are under way in other regions.

Capacity building

Capacity building activities during *GEO-3* will include:

- provision of training in integrated environmental assessment and reporting to national, regional and sub-regional organizations working with Collaborating Centres;
- training of trainers at regional and sub-regional levels;
- specialized technical training in areas such as analytical and evaluation methods, alternative policies, scenario development and modelling;
- provision of equipment (hardware and software);
- provision of minimum base-funding to Collaborating Centres to finance a staff-member dedicated to GEO work to ensure institutional commitment and continuity of participation.

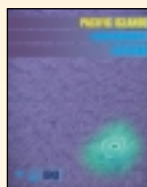
GEO-2000 publications



- *The Global Environment Outlook 2000* Report available or upcoming in printed form (in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish) and on the Internet (<http://www.unep.org/geo2000/>) in English, Chinese and Russian



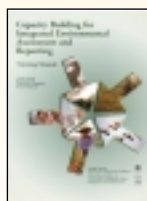
- The GEO-2000 *Overview* (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Japanese, Norwegian, Russian and Spanish)



- Sub-regional reports such as those on the Small Island Developing States: the *Caribbean Environment Outlook* (English), the *Pacific Islands Environment Outlook* (English), and the *Western Indian Ocean Environment Outlook* (English and French)



- *Pachamama: Our Earth Our Future* — the GEO-for-Youth (Arabic, Chinese, Danish, English, Italian, Japanese, Portuguese and Spanish) and on the Internet in English (<http://www.unep.org/geo2000/pacha/>)



- GEO Training Manual: *Capacity Building for Integrated Environmental Assessment and Reporting* (English, French and Spanish)



- GEO Technical Reports (English):
Emerging Environmental Issues for the 21st Century: A Study for GEO-2000
Data Issues of Global Environmental Reporting: Experiences from GEO-2000
Global Assessment of Acidification and Eutrophication of Natural Ecosystems
Alternative Policy Studies



Background to the GEO project

UNEP launched the Global Environment Outlook (GEO) Project in 1995. It has two components:

- A global environmental assessment process, the GEO Process, that is cross-sectoral, participatory and consultative. It incorporates regional views and builds consensus on priority issues and actions through dialogue among policy-makers and scientists at regional and global levels. It also aims to strengthen environmental assessment capacity in the regions through training and 'learning-by-doing'.
- GEO outputs, in printed and electronic formats, including the GEO Report series. This series makes periodic reviews of the state of the world's environment, and provides guidance for decision-making processes such as the formulation of environmental policies, action planning and resource allocation. Other outputs include technical reports, a Web site and a publication for young people.

Centres is the core of the GEO process. These centres have played an increasingly important role in preparing GEO reports. They are now responsible for almost all the regional inputs, thus combining top-down integrated assessment with bottom-up environmental reporting. A number of Associated Centres also participate, providing specialized expertise. Working groups provide advice and support to the GEO process, helping coordinate the work of the Collaborating Centres to make their outputs as comparable as possible.

Other United Nations agencies contribute to the GEO Process through the United Nations System-wide Earthwatch, coordinated by UNEP. In particular, they provide substantive data and information on the many environmentally-related issues that fall under their individual mandates; they also help review drafts.

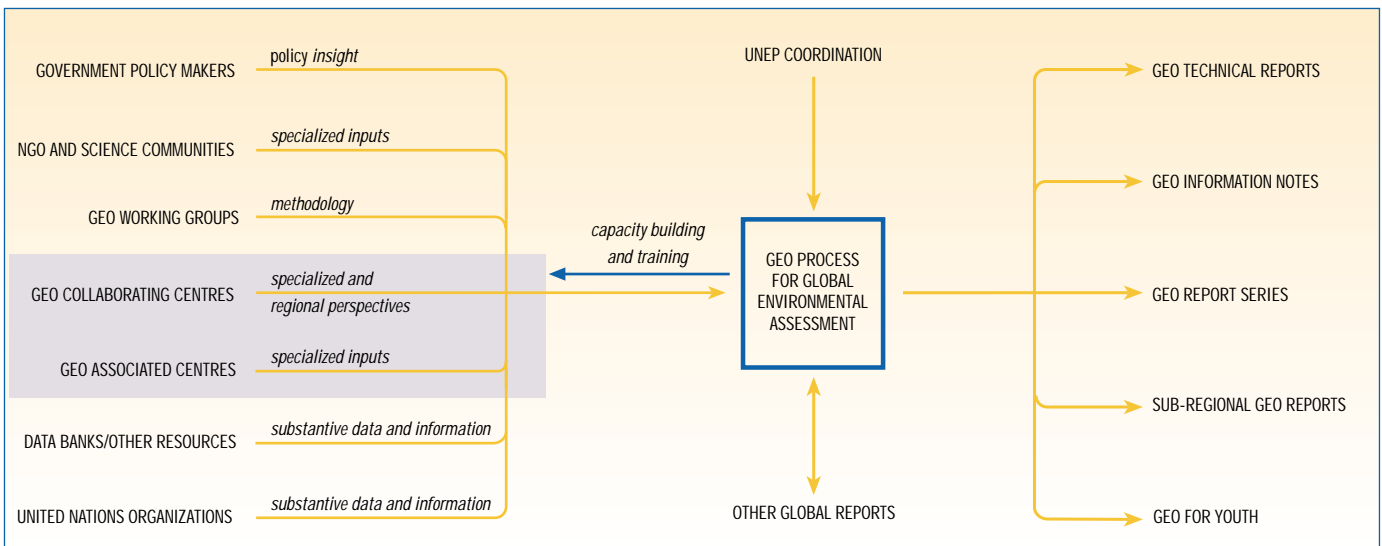
Regional consultations and other mechanisms to promote dialogue between scientists and policy-makers are an essential element of the GEO process. More than 850 individuals and some 35 centres contributed to the production of *GEO-2000*.

The Global Environment Outlook series — UNEP's flagship report on the state of the environment

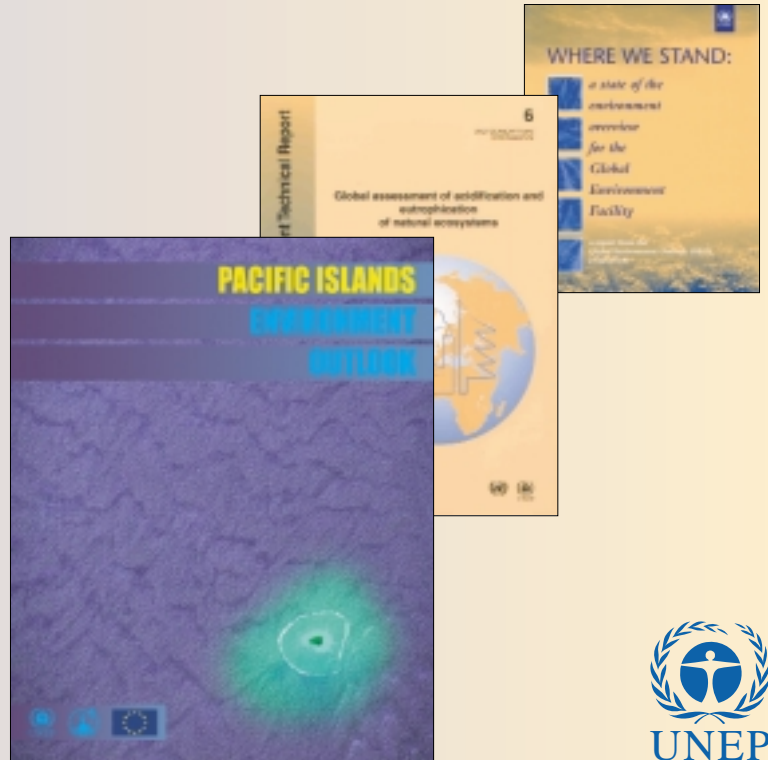
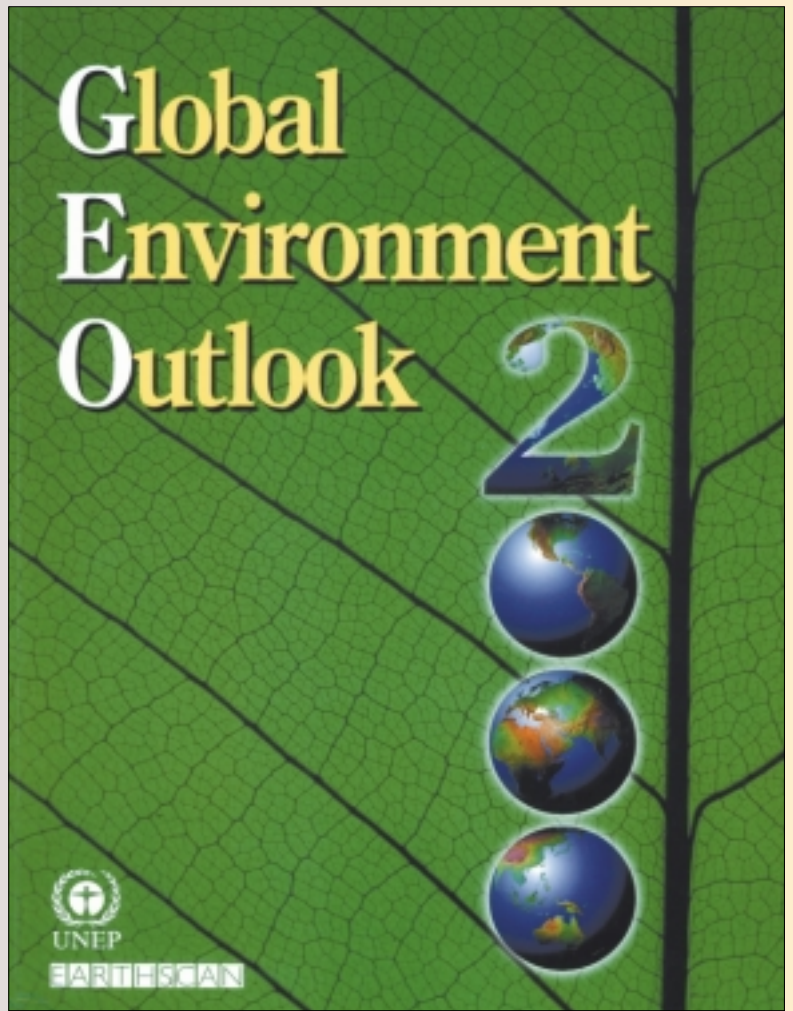
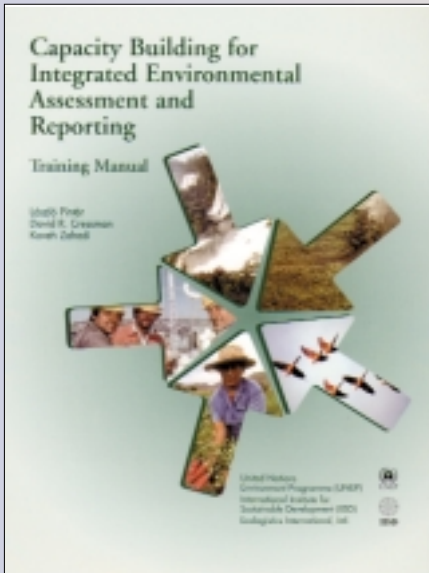
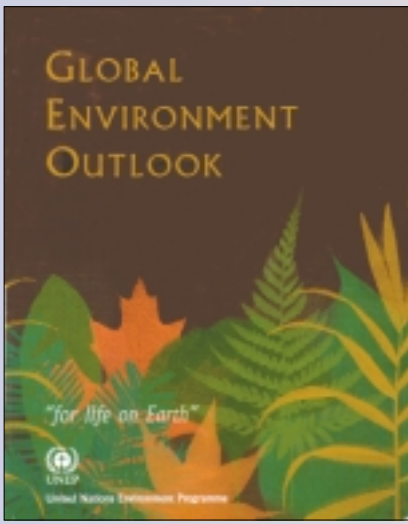


A coordinated network of Collaborating

GEO project organization and outputs



Global Environment Outlook: prospectus



Further information

How to obtain further information on GEO

Contact the Division of Early Warning and
Assessment (DEWA) at the
United Nations Environment Programme
(UNEP)

PO Box 30552, Nairobi, Kenya

Tel: + 254 2 623520/623562

Fax: + 254 2 623943/44

E-mail: geo@unep.org

Web site: <http://www.unep.org>

How to access GEO on Internet

<http://www.unep.org/geo2000/>

Japan: <http://www-cger.nies.go.jp/geo2000/>

Mexico: <http://www.rolac.unep.mx/geo2000/>

Norway: <http://www.grida.no/geo2000/>

Switzerland: <http://www.grid.unep.ch/geo2000/>

United States: <http://grid2.cr.usgs.gov/geo2000/>

How to obtain GEO products

Contact SMI (Distribution Services) Ltd

PO Box 119, Stevenage

Hertfordshire SG1 4TP, United Kingdom

Tel: + 44 (0)1438 748 111

Fax: + 44 (0)1438 748 844

E-mail: customerservices@earthprint.co.uk

Web site: <http://www.earthprint.com>





Financing the future of GEO

GEO is financed primarily by UNEP from its Environment Fund, with additional support from donors for specific activities. *GEO-2000* and associated products were produced with the generous support of the Government of the Netherlands, the European Commission, the United Nations Fund for International Partnerships and others.

GEO is a dynamic process which is continuously evolving, expanding and improving. To meet this challenge, UNEP needs more support specifically to:

- Continue strengthening the capacities of our collaborators and partners in developing countries and regions, in the areas of integrated assessment and reporting, policy analysis and evaluation, as well as forward-looking perspectives. In addition to improved assessments of the state of the environment, this will provide the skills needed to identify potential 'hot spots', the areas and groups most vulnerable to environmental change, and to convey this information to decision-makers in effective and convincing ways.
- Bridge the data gap. The information upon which environmental policies and management decisions are made

must be based on accurate and reliable data that are accessible to all. Much has been done but significant gaps in data remain at global, regional and national levels. Bridging this gap is essential for sustainable development. To facilitate this, UNEP, together with the GEO Data Working Group, collaborating centres and the private sector, is developing a global environmental information system to support the GEO process. Provisionally known as UNEP.net, this system will enable GEO partners and many others involved in integrated environmental assessment to access environmental information at the sub-regional, regional and global levels.

- Reach a wider audience, through the production of a larger range of effective, attractive and readable GEO products specifically targeted to meet the needs of users in their own languages.

UNEP welcomes contributions from old and new partners and donors to support the increasingly wide range of activities gathering momentum through the GEO Process.

The impact of GEO

The GEO process and outputs have already had many impacts:

- The GEO framework is being adopted more widely to produce state of the environment reports — at national level in countries such as Brazil, China and Uganda, and at sub-regional and regional levels in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, and West Asia. Environment Outlooks for Africa and West Asia are among the other studies under way.
- GEO has led to the development and improvement of assessment methodologies, and the forward-looking outlook studies, using scenarios and modelling, have generated considerable interest, particularly at regional level.
- GEO Collaborating Centres have benefited from participation in the project through capacity

building, through participation in a global process and interaction with other regional and global CCs, and through increased exposure and recognition of their work both regionally and internationally.

- *GEO-2000* has been quoted, referred to or used as a reference document by many leading figures, including the UN Secretary General in his report to the Millennium Assembly.
- *GEO-2000* received considerable media coverage, and has formed the basis for a number of environment-focused initiatives, such as a six-part radio series of One Planet broadcast on the BBC World Service. It is also being used by the Open University in the United Kingdom for educational purposes.
- Some opinions of *GEO-2000*:
"GEO-2000 lays out what is the most serious

political challenge facing the globe."
The Guardian

"This outstanding report on the environmental issues we face today is unique in its truly global perspective. Africa, Asia, Australia, South America and the Polar regions are extensively covered in addition to Europe and North America."
Social and Environmental Accounting, Vol. 20, No. 1, 2000

"The most authoritative summing up of the environmental situation for the new millennium."
The Independent

In order to develop a more comprehensive picture of the impacts of GEO, both qualitative and quantitative, a User Profile survey and analysis have been carried out.