

# IEA

## Training Manual

*A training manual on  
integrated environmental  
assessment and reporting*

### Training Module 1

*The GEO approach to  
integrated environmental  
assessment*

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## List of Acronyms

<b>ADB</b>	African Development Bank
<b>AEIN</b>	African Environment Information Network
<b>AEO</b>	Africa Environment Outlook
<b>AIT</b>	Asian Institute of Technology
<b>AMCEN</b>	African Ministerial Conference on the Environment
<b>AMU</b>	Arab Maghreb Union
<b>CILSS</b>	Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel
<b>CONACYT</b>	Public Research Center System of the National Science and Technology Council (Mexico)
<b>DEWA</b>	Division of Early Warning and Assessment
<b>ECOWAS</b>	Economic Community of West African States
<b>GC/GMEF</b>	Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum
<b>GEO</b>	Global Environment Outlook
<b>IEA</b>	Integrated Environmental Assessment
<b>IGAD</b>	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
<b>IISD</b>	International Institute for Sustainable Development
<b>IOC</b>	Indian Ocean Commission
<b>MA</b>	Millennium Ecosystem Assessment
<b>MZMC</b>	Metropolitan Zone of Mexico City
<b>NEC</b>	National Environment Council (Bhutan)
<b>NEPAD</b>	New Partnership for African Development
<b>NORAD</b>	Norwegian Agency for Development Co-operation
<b>OAU</b>	Organization of African Unity
<b>ROA</b>	Regional Office for Africa
<b>ROLAC</b>	Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean
<b>SACEP</b>	South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme
<b>SADC</b>	Southern African Development Community
<b>SERI</b>	Sustainable Europe Research Institute
<b>SoE</b>	State of the Environment
<b>UNECA</b>	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme
<b>UNEP</b>	United Nations Environment Programme
<b>UNGA</b>	United Nations General Assembly
<b>WSSD</b>	World Summit on Sustainable Development

# Overview

The objective of this module is to introduce the integrated environmental assessment (IEA) and reporting approach based on the Global Environment Outlook (GEO) Process of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). You will learn why the IEA approach is an effective way of developing policy relevant recommendations about the state of the environment and its interaction with human development.

We begin with a short description of UNEP, its mandate from the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) for keeping the global environment under review, and how the GEO process fulfils this mandate. The goal of the GEO process is to ensure that environmental problems and emerging issues of wide international significance receive appropriate, adequate and timely consideration by governments and other stakeholders. As part of the GEO initiative, UNEP is involved in capacity building to help people learn how to carry out integrated environmental assessments at the regional, sub-regional and also national levels.

An IEA is much broader than a traditional state of the environment (SoE) report. It expands on a SoE report by undertaking a critical objective evaluation and analysis of data and information designed to meet user needs and support decision making. It applies the judgment of experts to existing knowledge to provide scientifically credible answers to policy relevant questions. This provides a participatory, structured approach to linking knowledge and action. Over time, GEO has developed an increasingly integrated approach to environmental assessment and reporting. It asks the following questions:

- what is happening to the environment and why?
- what are the consequences for the environment and humanity?
- what is being done and how effective is it?
- where are we heading? and
- what actions could be taken for a more sustainable future?

For *GEO-1*, *GEO-2000* and *GEO-3*, UNEP's comprehensive global integrated environmental assessments were carried out using the **Drivers-Pressure-State-Impact-Response** (DPSIR) framework, which is also used in Module 5 of this training manual. For *GEO-4*, the latest assessment which is expected to be published in 2007, the conceptual framework has been modified, and the differences between this new framework and the DPSIR framework are briefly explained in this module.

Geographically, we can distinguish between the global and sub-global (regional, national and sub-national) GEO assessments. While *GEO-1*, *GEO-2000* and *GEO-3* were global in scope, they were differentiated at regional and sub-regional levels to highlight important variations and the environmental priorities requiring policy attention in different parts of the world. Each GEO assessment covers a specific time period decided by, or relevant to, the policy makers to whom it is targeted.

GEO products include:

- global assessments (*GEO-1*, *GEO-2000* and *GEO-3*);
- GEO yearbooks (2003; 2004/5; 2006);
- regional and sub-regional reports;
- technical reports; and
- educational products.

The module concludes by providing examples of three sub-global GEO assessments: the Africa Environment Outlook (a regional assessment), the Bhutan national GEO and the assessment carried out for Mexico City. These examples show how the processes started and were carried out, their main results and how they have been followed up.



## Notes

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# Course Materials

## 1. Introduction and learning objectives

The objective of the module is to introduce the Global Environment Outlook (GEO) integrated environmental assessment (IEA) and reporting process. Throughout this report GEO refers to assessment processes led by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the associated products, while IEA is used for assessment processes and products that follow the GEO style.

You will learn why the IEA approach is necessary for making policy relevant recommendations about the environmental state and trends, and links with human development. The material covered in this module highlights the need for an enabling mandate to undertake an environmental assessment; the mandate of UNEP; the objectives of the GEO assessment; the scope and objectives of the fourth GEO assessment (*GEO-4*); and its analytic framework. The module also deals with issues related to international environmental governance and the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity Building. The Bali Strategic Plan was adopted by the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environmental Forum at its 2002 session. Its purpose is to improve the effectiveness of capacity building, and to address capacity gaps and needs identified by assessments of existing activities. Examples of GEO assessments at the global, regional, national and sub-national levels illustrate the approach taken and the kinds of results that can be obtained using the GEO approach.

Successful completion of this module will allow you to do the following:

- understand the mandate and role of UNEP in environmental assessment and reporting, and in capacity building;
- describe the objective and scope of the GEO assessment;
- compare and contrast IEA in the context of the first three GEO reports and the GEO-4 process; and
- become familiar with examples of regional, national and sub-national GEO and IEA processes.

## 2. UNEP assessment mandate

UNEP derives its mandate from the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Resolution 2997 of 1972, which led to the establishment of the organization. The resolution states in part that UNEP should keep the global environment under review. The UN Conference on the Human Environment whose recommendations led to Resolution 2997 highlighted the importance of environmental assessment and reporting (see box below).



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## Box 1 Decision on environmental assessment at the UN Conference on Human Environment, Stockholm, 1972

One of the early decisions of the international community on environmental assessment and reporting highlighted the following:

- To facilitate the development of social and cultural indicators for the environment, in order to establish a common methodology for assessing environmental developments and preparing reports on the subjects.
- To prepare, on the basis of (the) national reports on the state of, and outlook for, the environment, periodic reports on regional or sub-regional situations and on the international situation in this matter.

Source: UNEP 1981

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### UNEP's Division of Early Warning and Assessment

The Division of Early Warning and Assessment (DEWA) is one of eight UNEP sub-programmes (divisions) responsible for implementing Resolution 2997. The DEWA mission is to:

“Provide the world community with improved access to meaningful environmental data and information, and to help increase the capacity of governments to use environmental information for decision making and action planning for sustainable human development.”



### GEO Assessment

DEWA, in collaboration with other UNEP programmes, and with other partners around the world, implements the UNGA resolution by, among other activities, coordinating GEO, the UNEP flagship assessment reporting process. The first GEO assessment report was initiated in 1995 by UNEP Governing Council in its decision 18/27, which requested UNEP's Executive Director to prepare a new, comprehensive report on the present and future state of the world environment, including possible response measures. Following the establishment of the GEO process and production of the first GEO report, the Governing Council renewed the mandate for GEO in 1997, 1999 and 2003 and 2005.<sup>1</sup> The Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GC/GMEF) decisions in 2003 and 2005 facilitated the preparation of *GEO-4*.

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预览已结束，完整报告链接和二维码如下：

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