



UNEP

UNEP and GEOSS

UNEP activities to contribute to the development of the Global Earth Observing System of Systems

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"To analyse the state of the global environment, and assess global and regional environmental trends, provide policy advise, early warning information on environmental threats... *based on the best scientific and technical capabilities available.*"
(Nairobi Declaration)

UNEP as a political entity

- ◆ Inter-governmental consensus, treaty as methods, stakeholders' consultations

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- ◆ Information as strategic tool: underpinning the assessment process –at all levels–

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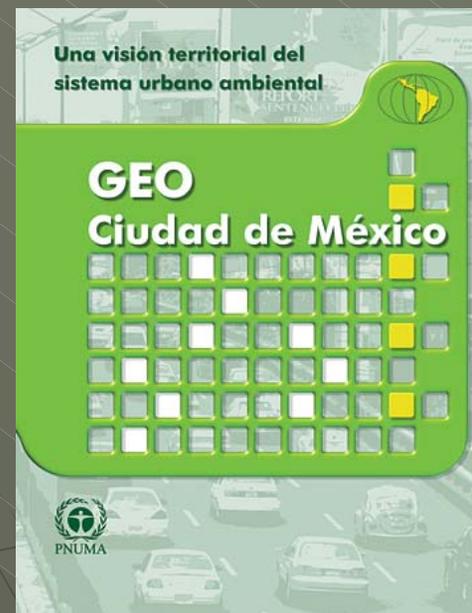
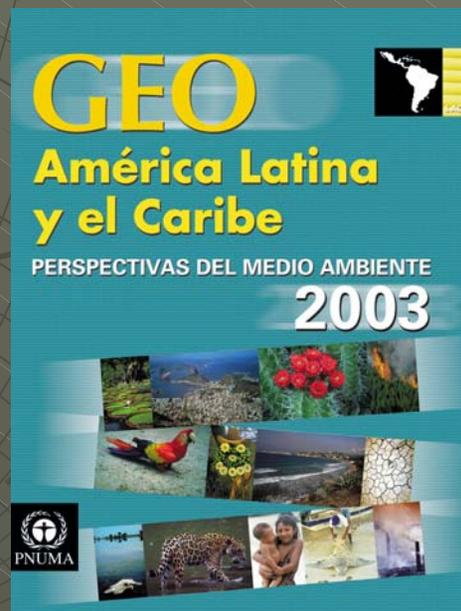
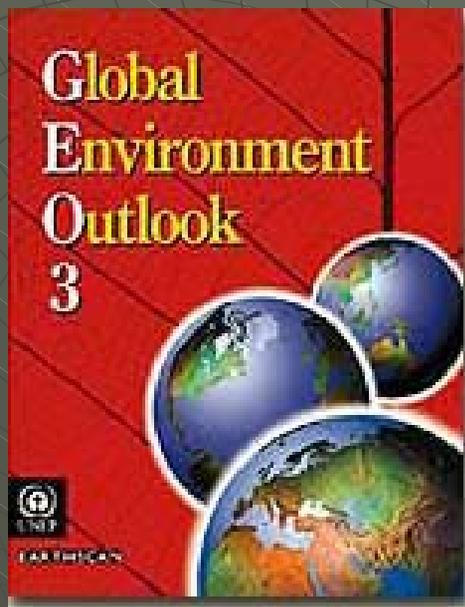
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- ◆ From science to policy: we are paid to interpret science for policy purposes... telling the story of the environment to policy-makers

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- ◆ From science to policy: we are paid to interpret science for policy purposes... telling the story of the environment to policy-makers
- ◆ Fewer staff than you may imagine, with a growing mandate... *(underpaid and overworked, but happy)*

Linking science and information with policy...

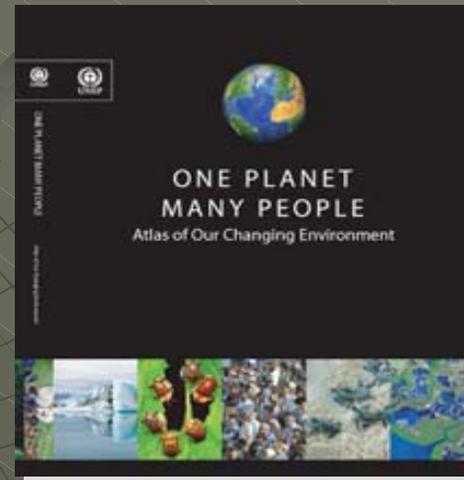
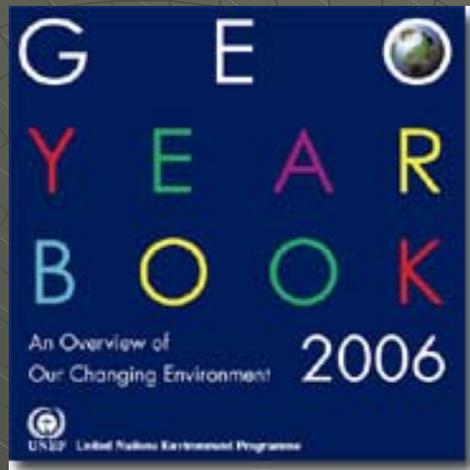
Integrated environmental and urban assessments



- ✓ Environmental and urban emerging issues
- ✓ Vulnerability and risk assessments
- ✓ Early warning of emerging issues
- ✓ Policy options for action

Linking science and information with policy...

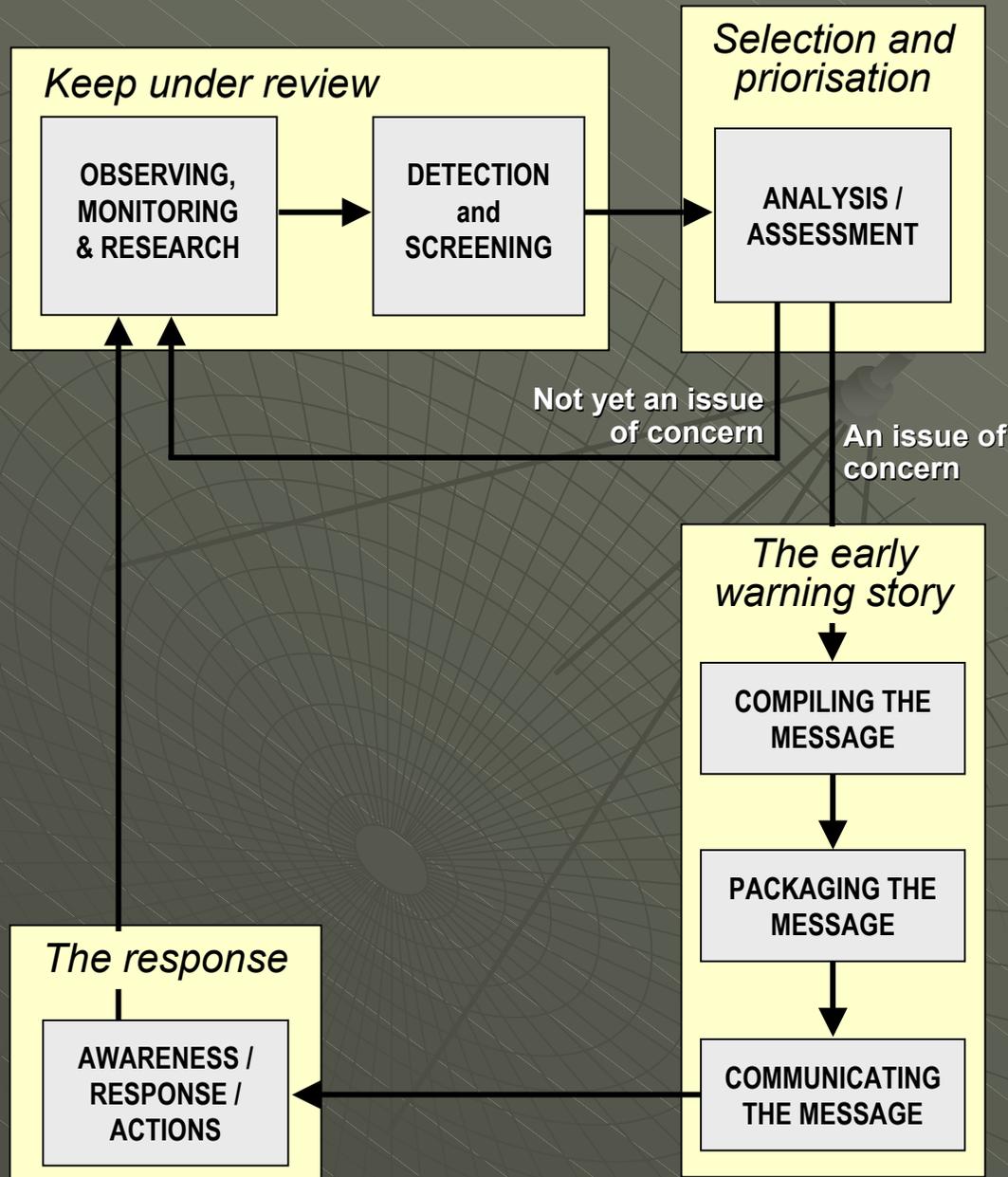
Annual survey and Atlas of our changing global environment



- ✓ Special feature focus
- ✓ Emerging challenges, new findings
- ✓ Indicators

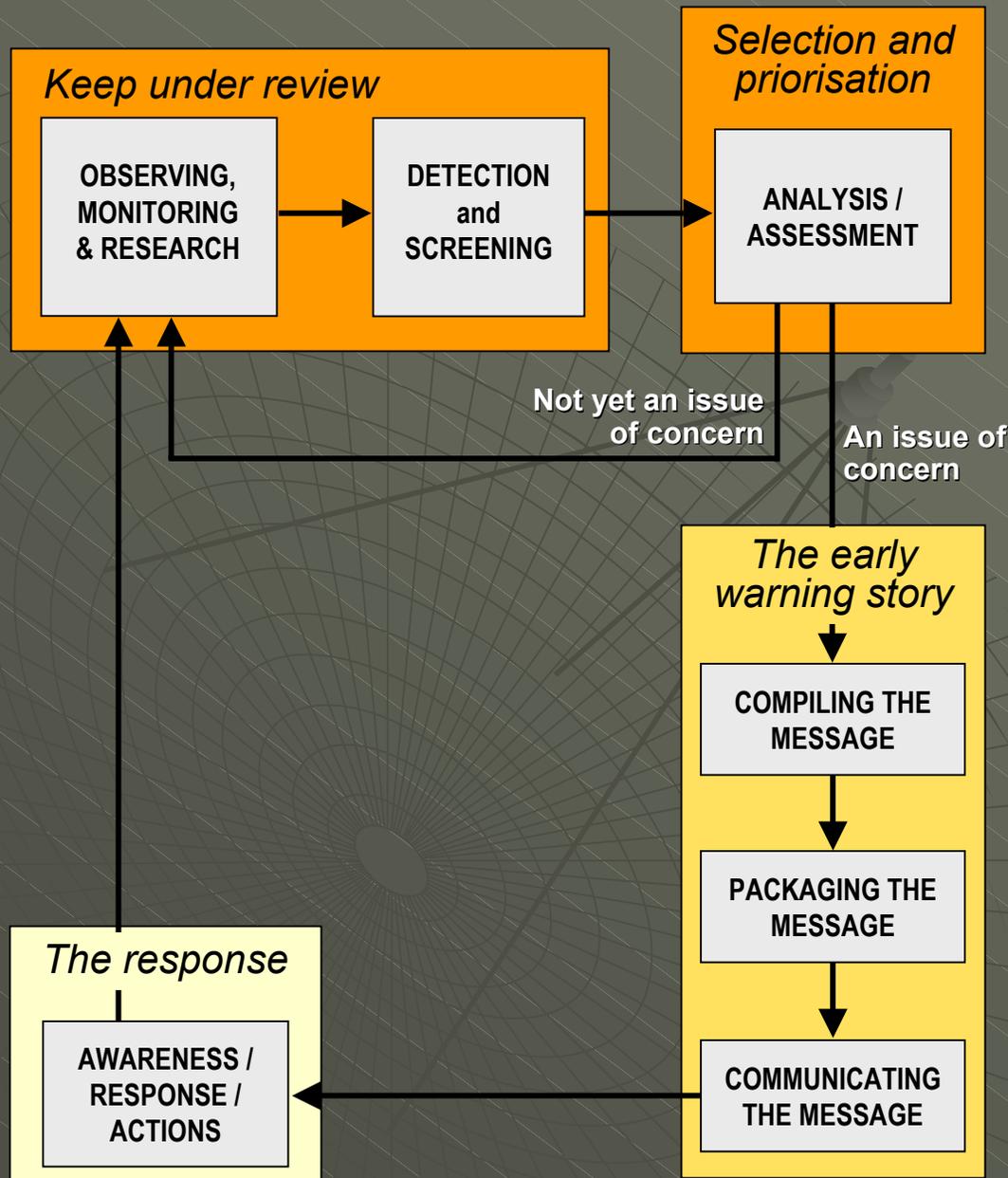
“...how humans have altered their surroundings and continue to make observable and measurable changes to the global environment.”

Early Warning of Environmental Emerging Issues and Threats

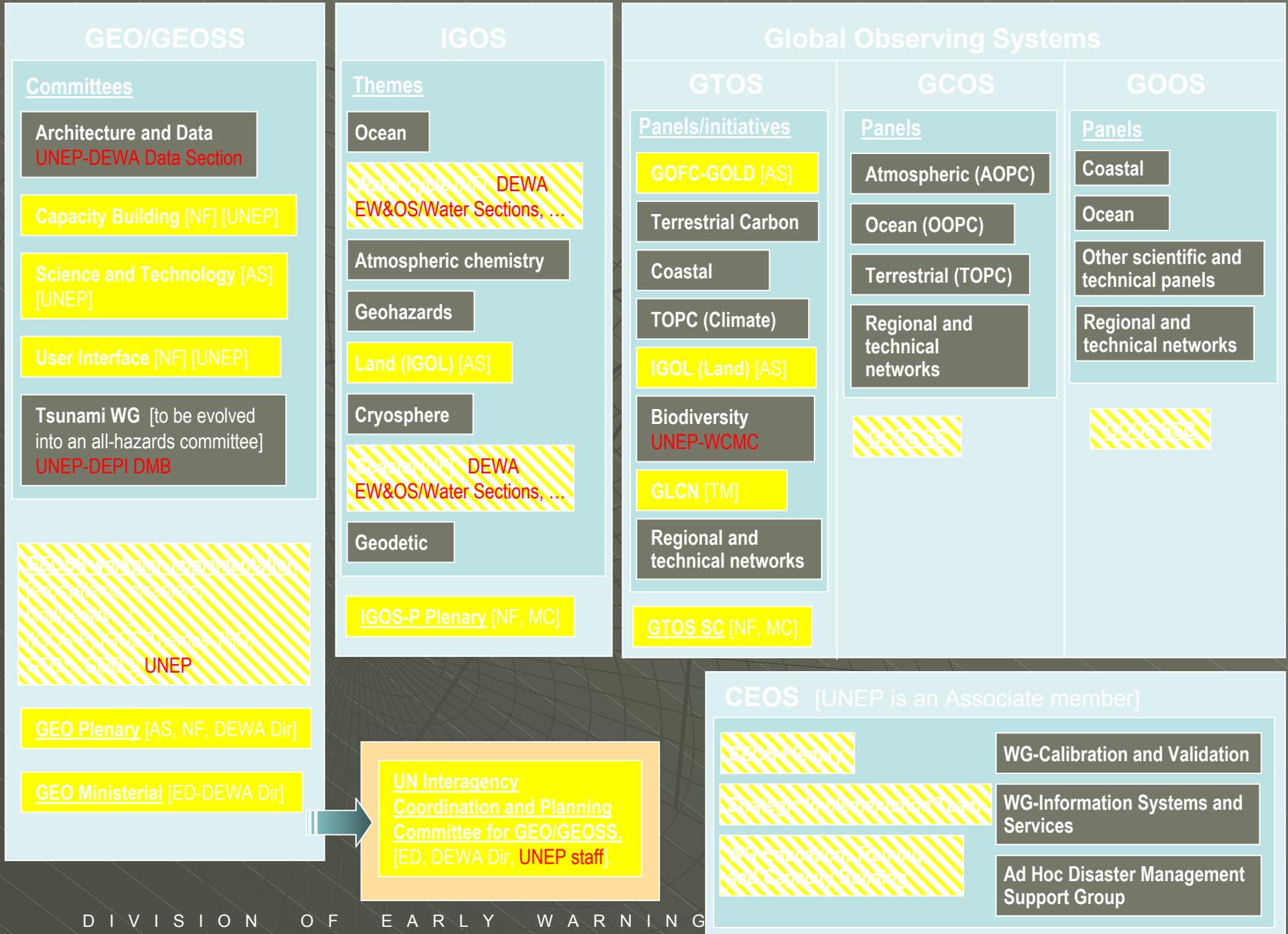


Early Warning of Environmental Emerging Issues and Threats

Making use of a range of global observation systems and initiatives



UNEP and the global observing systems

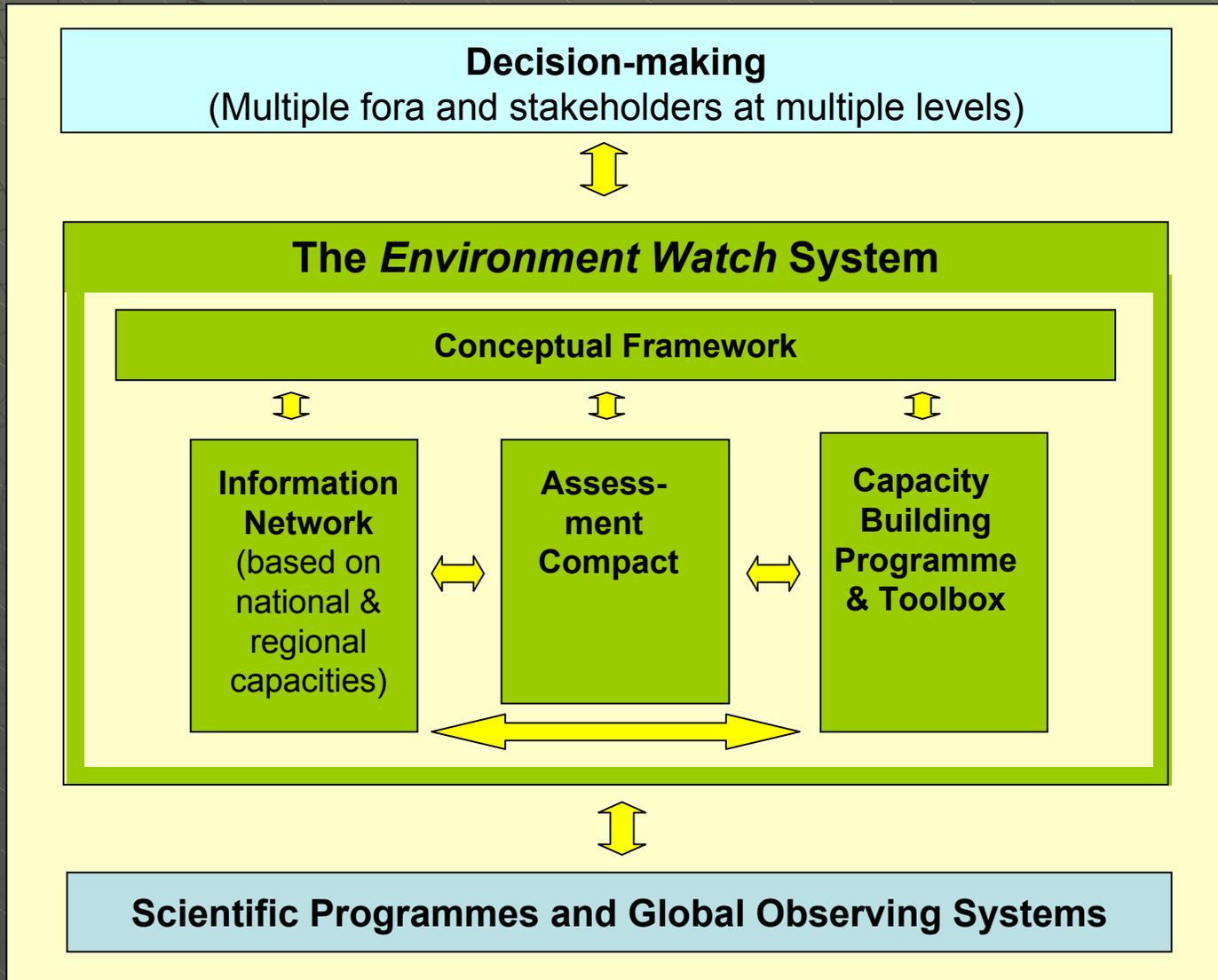


Inter-governmental mandate...

Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building

A strategic plan for the provision of technology support and capacity-building to developing countries as well as countries with economies in transition

Components of the Environment Watch System



System-wide system

Contribute to horizontal and vertical coherence

Theme y

Theme x

Environment Watch

Conceptual Framework

Decision-making

Assessment Compact

Information Network
(national and regional capacities)

Science and Observing

Capacity Building Programme & Toolbox

Global
Regional
National
Local

Developed
incrementally
over time
through
partnerships



The Information Network of the Environment Watch System

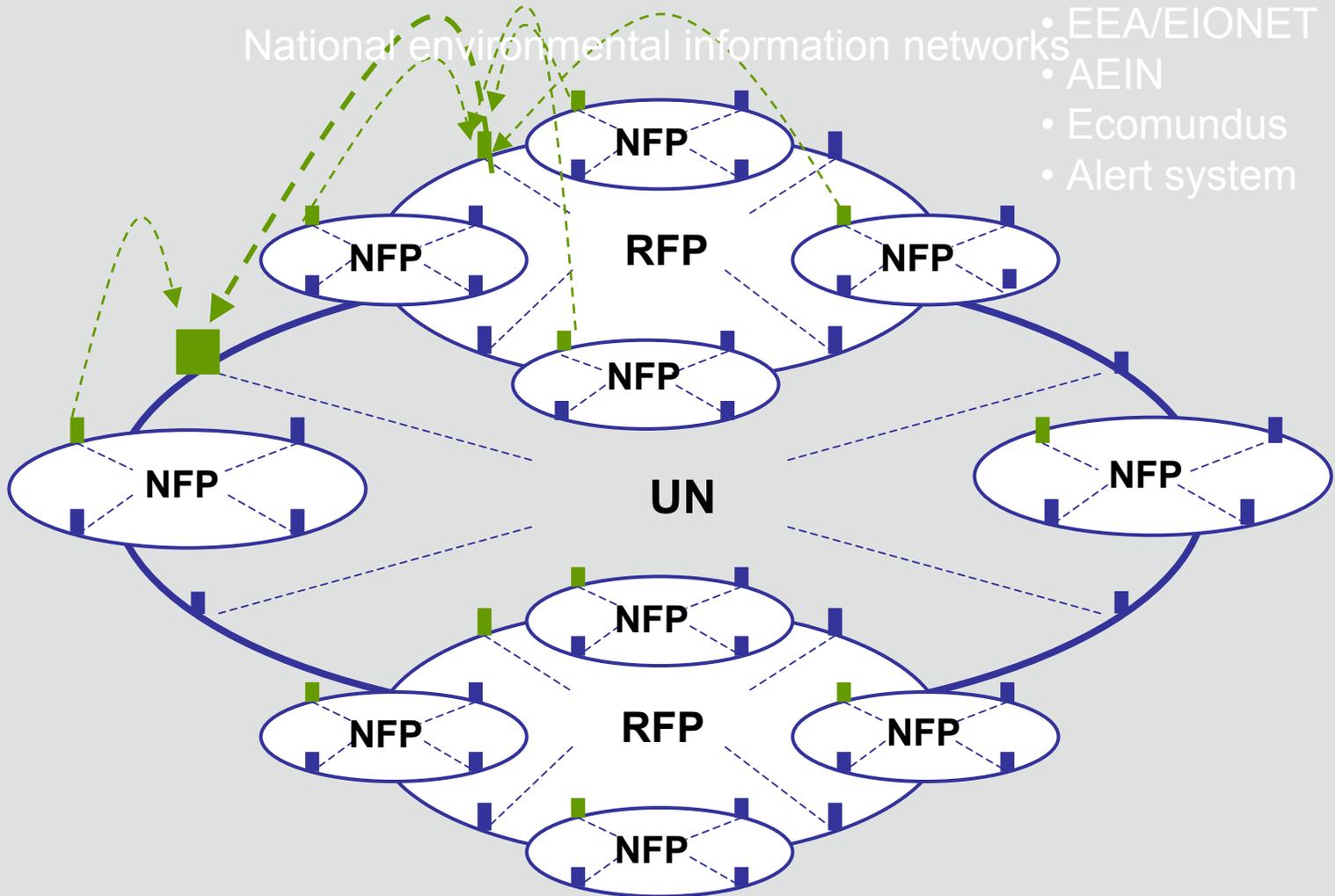
- ◆ National environmental networks and focal points (NFPs)
- ◆ Regional environmental networks and focal points (RFPs): e.g. European Environmental Information and Observation Network (EIONET) and the European Environment Agency (EEA), AEIN;
- ◆ Thematic and functional networks and focal points: e.g. links to Global Resource Information Database (GRID), FAO-UNEP Global Land Cover Network (GLCN).

The Information Network

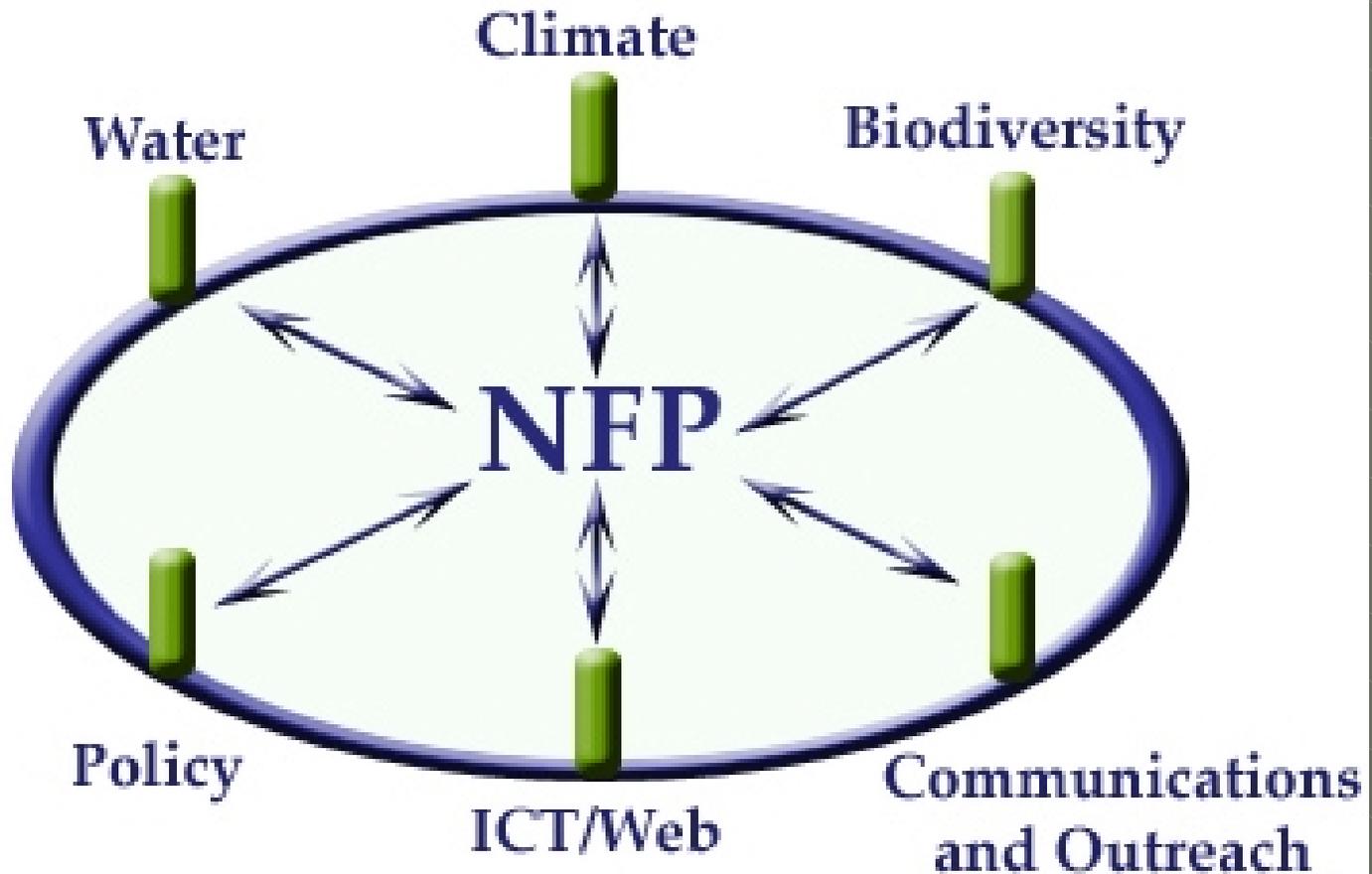
National environmental information networks

Current activities:

- EEA/EIONET
- AEIN
- Ecomundus
- Alert system



The National Information Network



The Environment Watch System and the GEOSS

- ◆ Environment Watch will make use of the data and services provided by the observing systems, including GEOSS.
- ◆ It will interact and co evolve with GEOSS in areas such as the development of methodologies, identification of global observation needs and capacity-building.

The Environment Watch System and the GEOSS

- ◆ Environment Watch will facilitate the distribution of global data from GEOSS to the regional and national levels.
- ◆ It will also provide GEOSS with access to environmental assessments and compiled environmental data.

What can we offer?

- ◆ Global reach of issues
- ◆ Integrated analysis (environmental, social and economic dimensions)
- ◆ Mandate to facilitate
- ◆ Convening power
- ◆ Cooperation/consensus

The GEOSS Tasks for 2006 areas for collaboration

- ◆ Participation in GEOSS Committees (User Interface, Capacity Building, ...)
- ◆ Implementation of targets GEOSS workplan 2006 –transverse capacity building activities,
- ◆ Implementation of specific targets; e.g. AG-06-03: Utilizing global and regional high-resolution land-cover datasets... series of land cover change case studies (Google Earth interface, the Atlas, etc.)

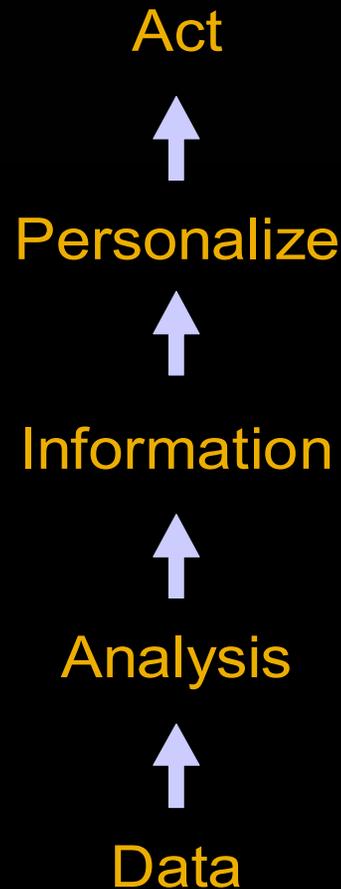
Challenges in Capacity Building

- Enabling Activities (e.g. Access to broadband internet)
- Institution Building (long term national commitment)
- Fellowships/Training
- Technical advice, H/w, S/W, data etc.

Challenges

- Incentives for action (i.e. economic growth, prestige, jobs)
- Link to decision making process (does improved information leads to improved decision making?)

Information for Decision-Making



ONE PLANET MANY PEOPLE Atlas of Our Changing Environment



NEEDS

New

Existing

Box B:

Existing Users with *New* Needs

Box C:

New Users with *New* Needs

Box A:

Existing Users with *Existing* Needs

Box D:

New Users with *Existing* Needs

Existing

New

USERS

Thank you very much!

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