



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 advice, 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–

# UNEP as a political entity

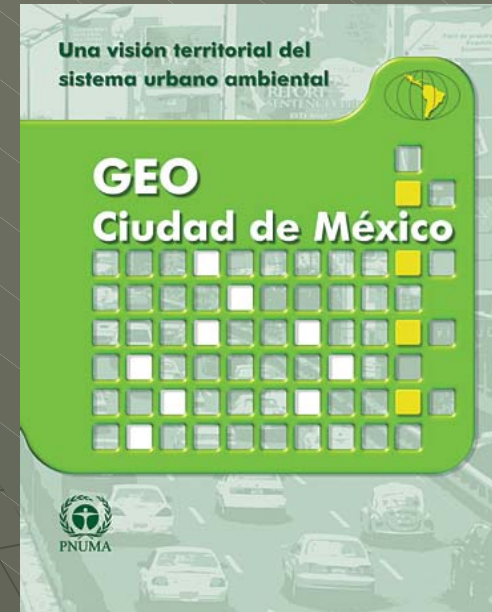
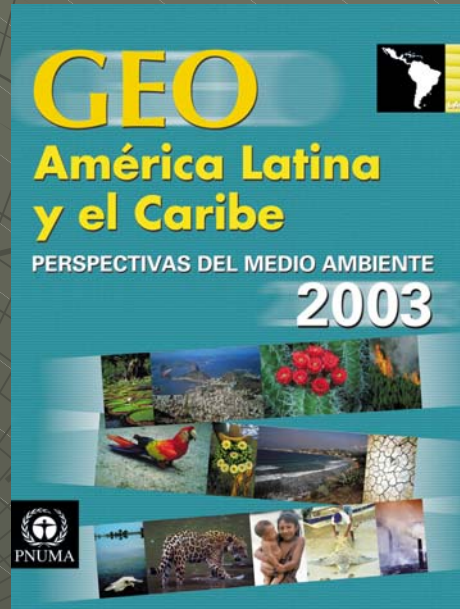
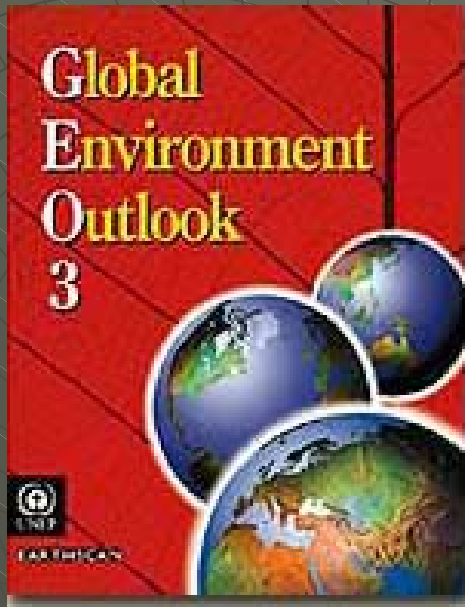
- ▶ Inter-governmental consensus, treaty as methods, stakeholders' consultations
- ▶ Information as strategic tool: underpinning the assessment process –at all levels–
- ◆ From science to policy: we are paid to interpret science for policy purposes... telling the story of the environment to policy-makers

# UNEP as a political entity

- ◆ Inter-governmental consensus, treaty as methods, stakeholders' consultations
- ◆ Information as strategic tool: underpinning the assessment process –at all levels–
- ◆ 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

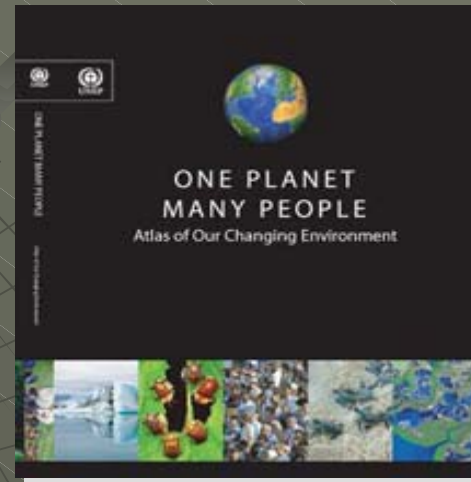
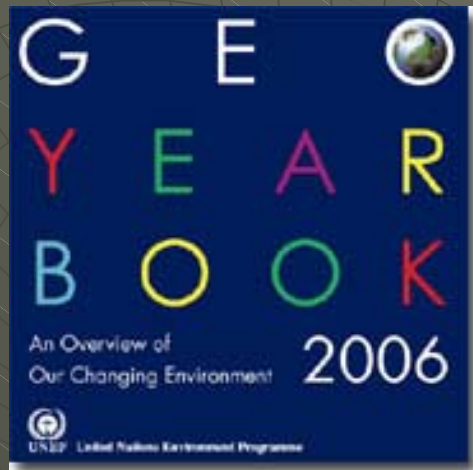


- ✓ Environmental and urban emerging issues
- ✓ Vulnerability and risk assessments
- ✓ Early warning of emerging issues
- ✓ Policy options for action



# Linking science and information with policy...

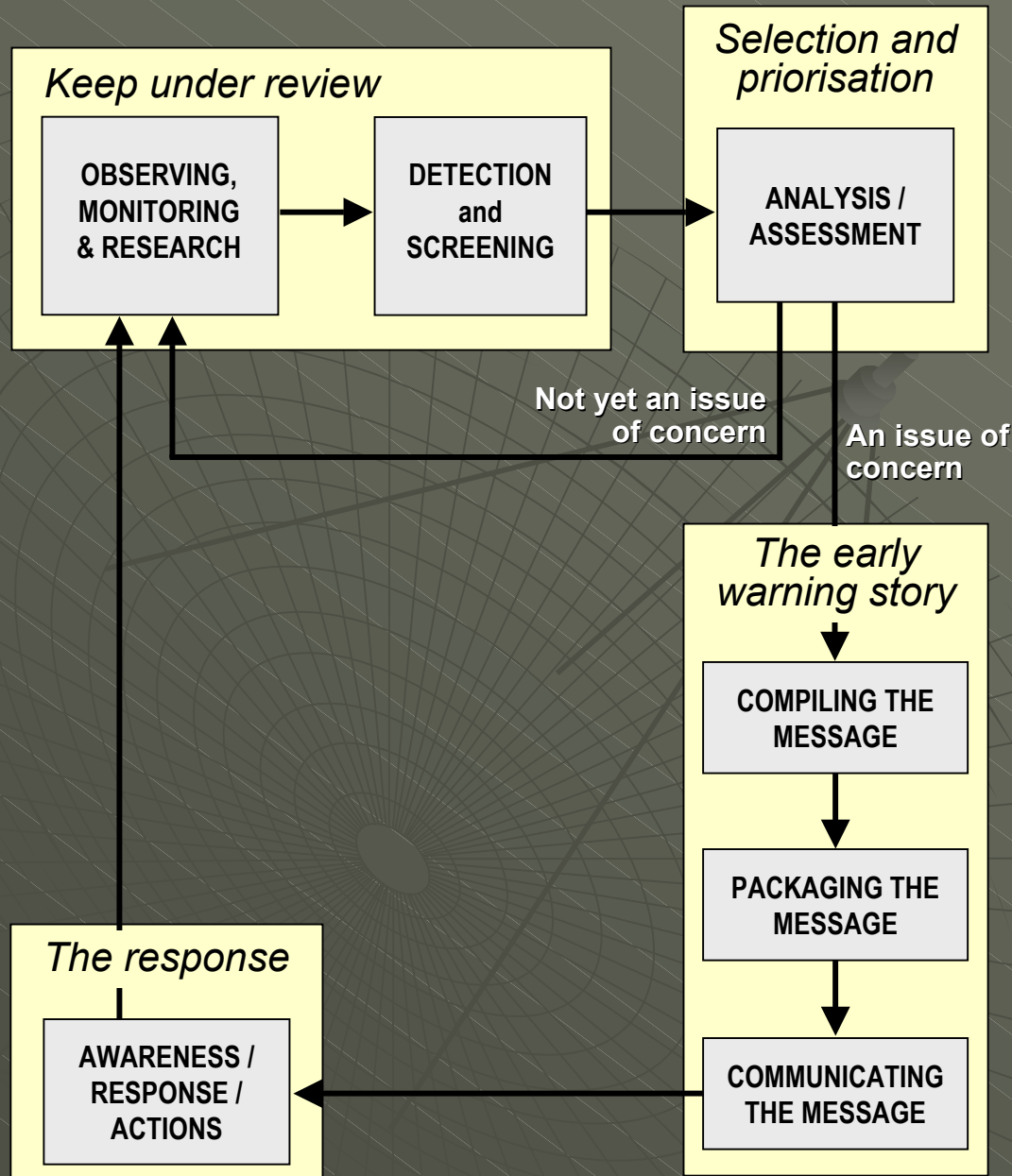
## Annual survey and Atlas of our changing global environment



- ✓ 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."

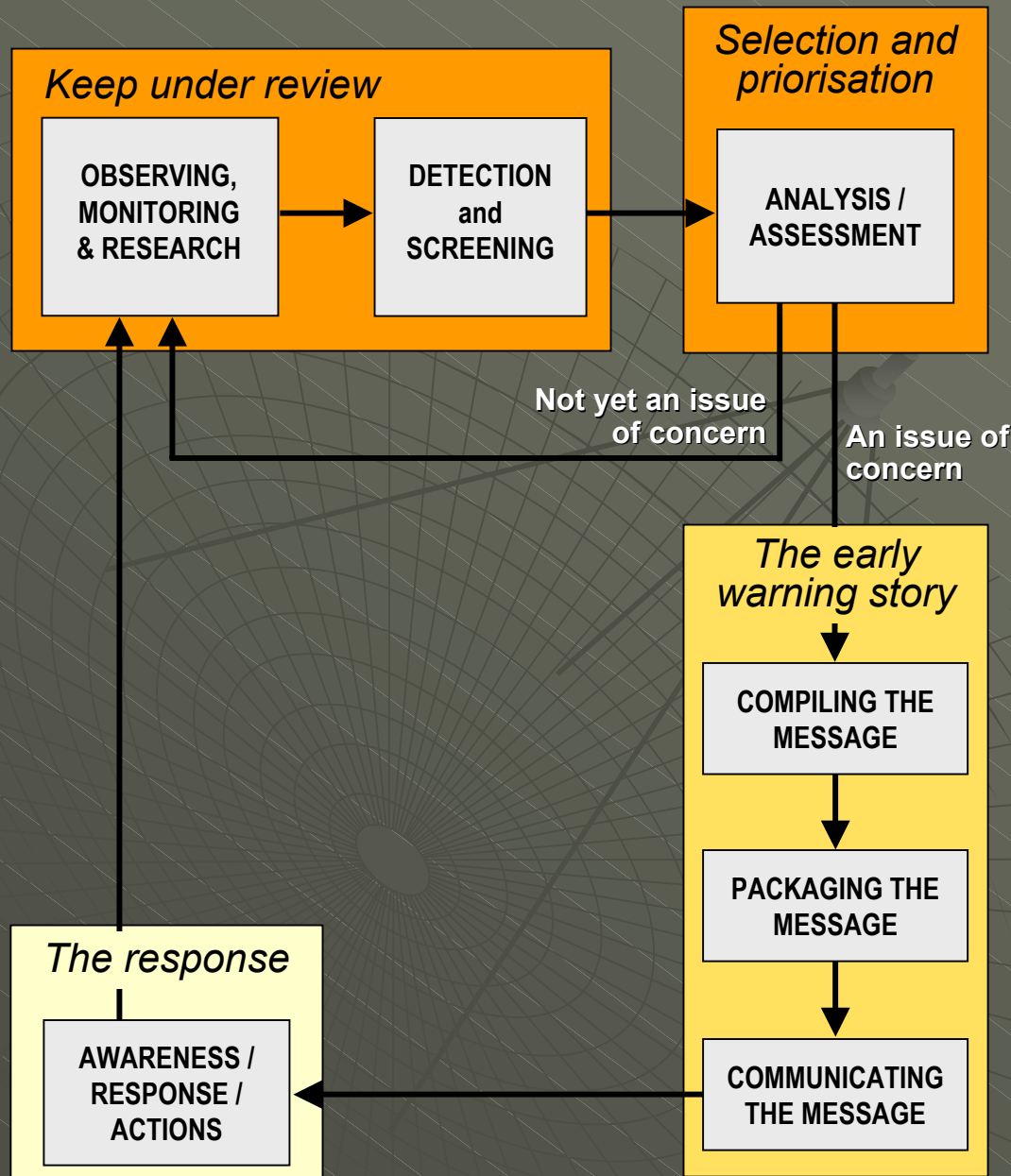
# Early Warning of Environmental Emerging Issues and Threats



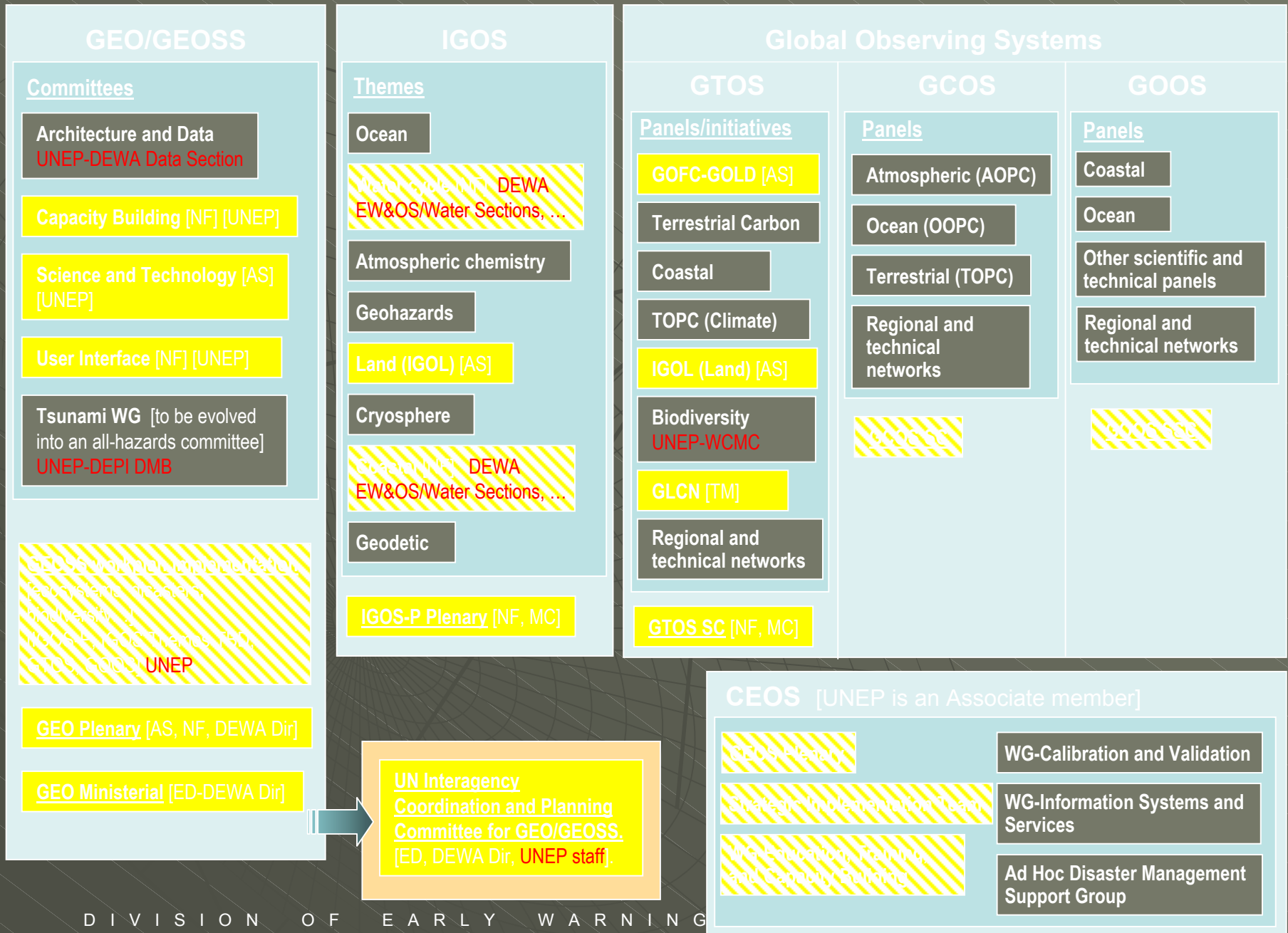


# Early Warning of Environmental Emerging Issues and Threats

Making use of a range of global observation systems and initiatives



# UNEP and the global observing systems

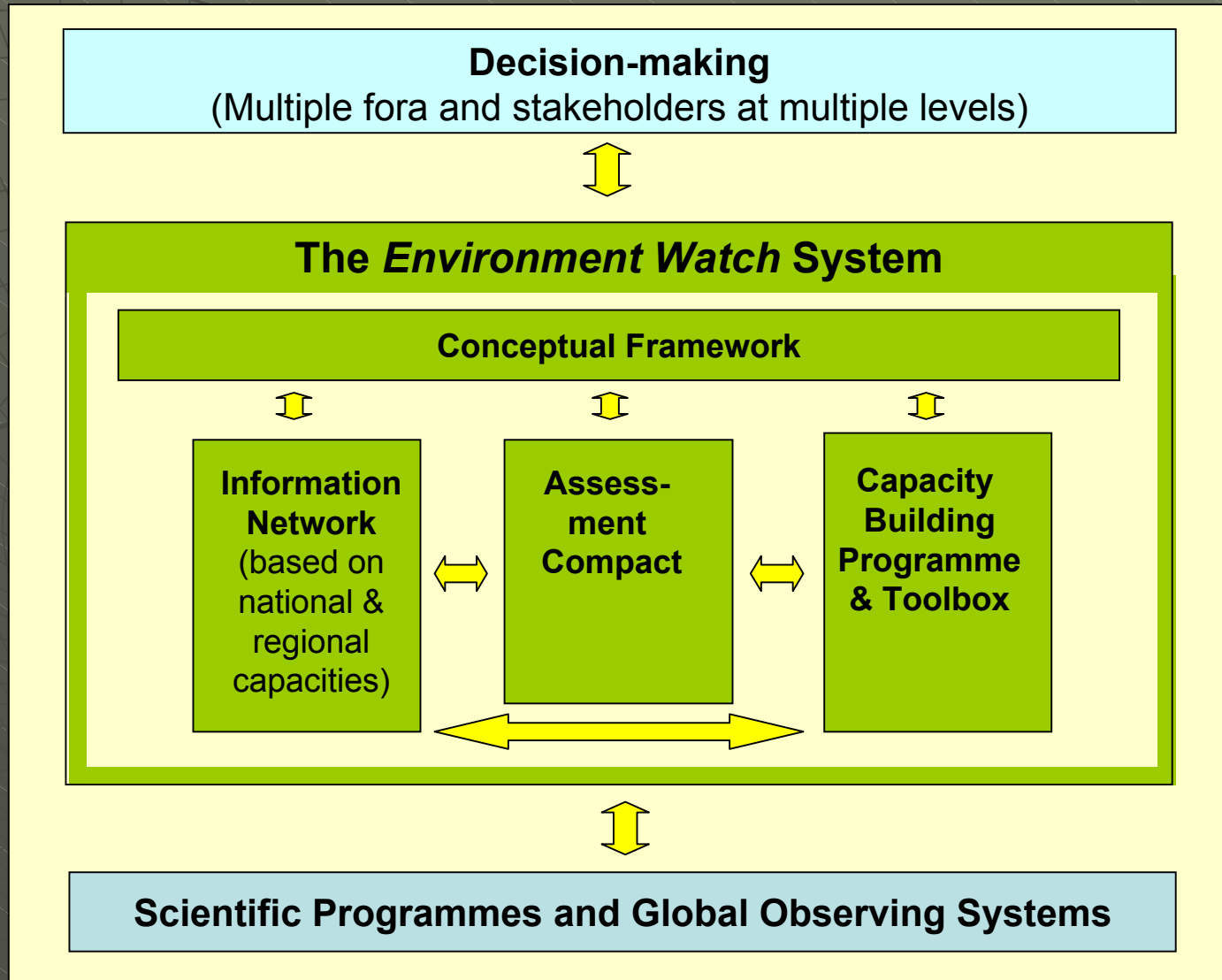


Inter-governmental mandate...

## 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

Developed  
incrementally  
over time  
through  
partnerships



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# The Information Network of the Environment Watch System

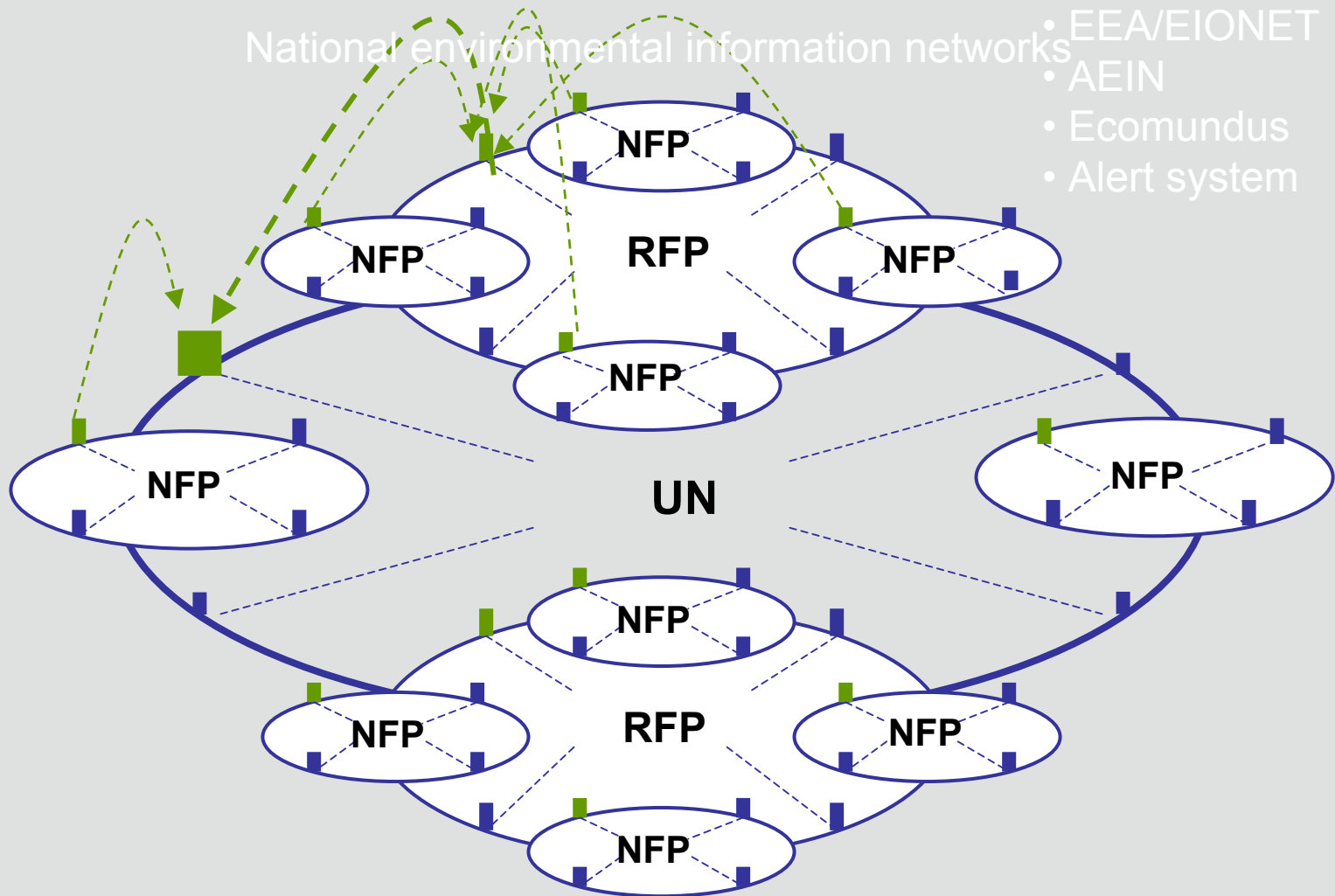
- ◆ National environmental networks and focal points (NFPs)
- ◆ Regional environmental networks and focal points (RFPs): e.g. European Environmental Information and Observation Network (EIONET) and the European Environment Agency (EEA), AEIN;
- ◆ Thematic and functional networks and focal points: e.g.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



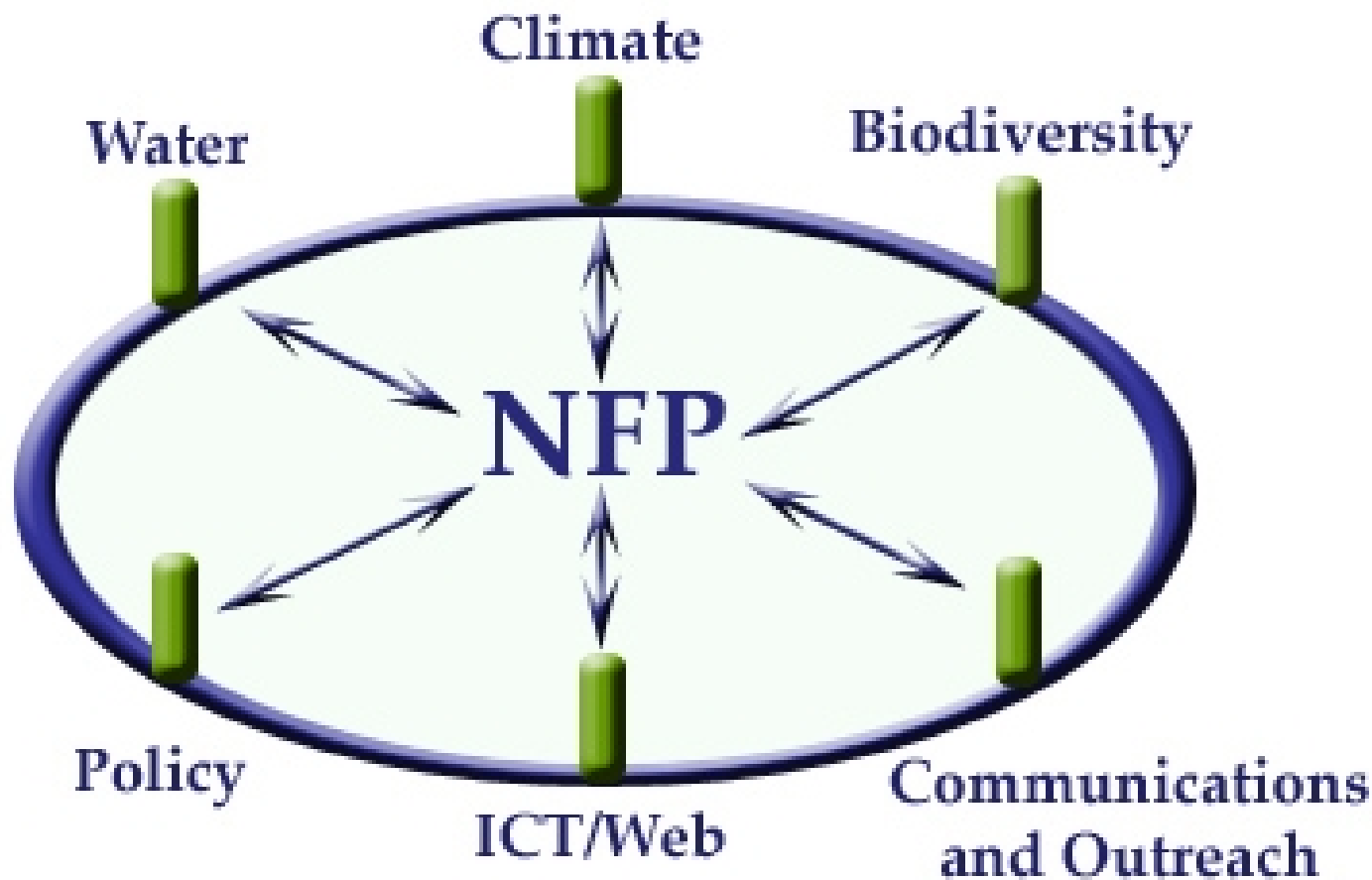
# The Information Network

## 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.)



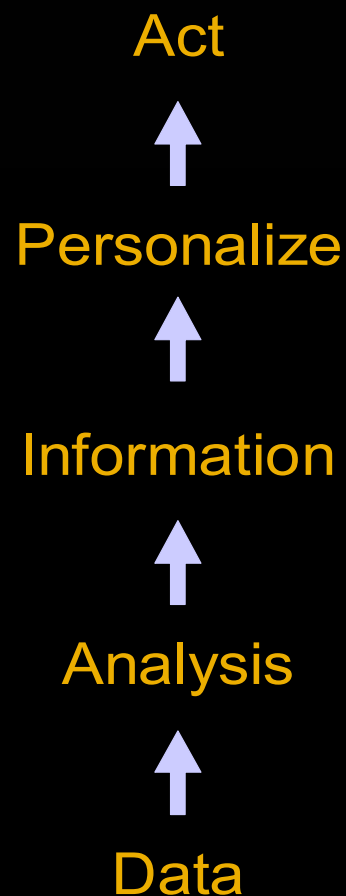
# Challenges in Capacity Building

- 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



# 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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