

Questions to be assessed in the seventh edition of the Global Environment Outlook report (GEO-7) on policy, technological, behavioral, and socioeconomic pathways towards achieving an environmentally sustainable world by 2050.

Briefing to the consultation

Three key points about GEO



UNEP's flagship intergovernmental and expert-led integrated environmental assessment.

Viewed by MS as the foundation of UNEP's science-policy interface. Must be politically legitimate, policy relevant and scientifically credible. Commitment of MS to GEO is strong, as demonstrated by 2 years of work by Member States on the future of GEO.



GEO should underpin UNEA decisions and our next MTS.

Findings in GEO are meant to support major global policy decisions, negotiations, major shifts in thinking. E.g. The types of decisions that established the Paris Agreement or those for the post-2020 biodiversity framework.



GEO is more flexible than IPCC/IPBES.

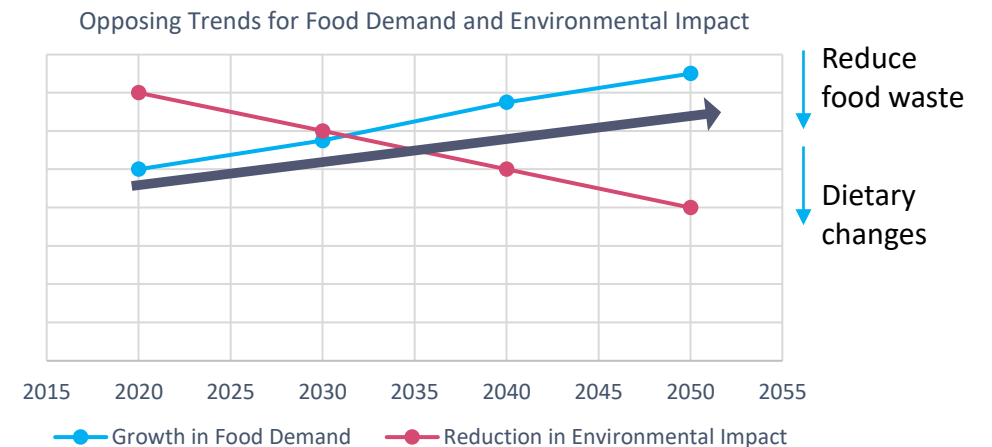
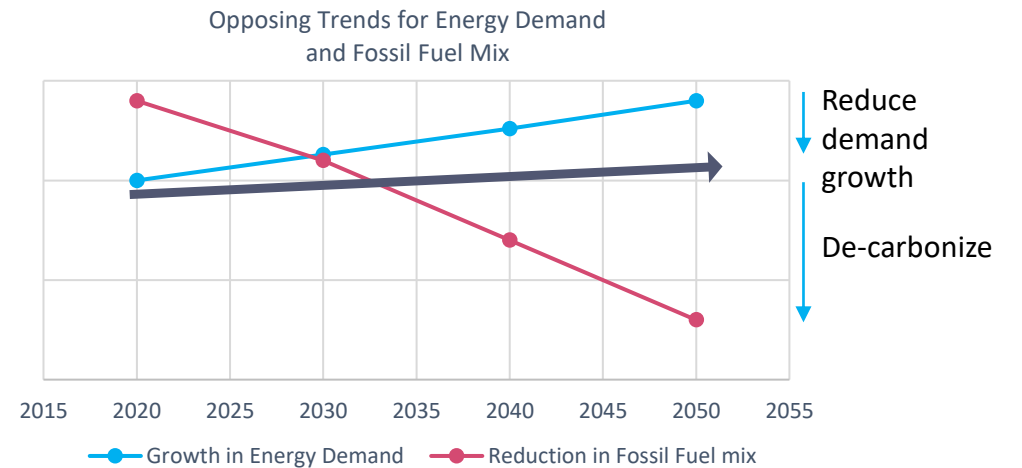
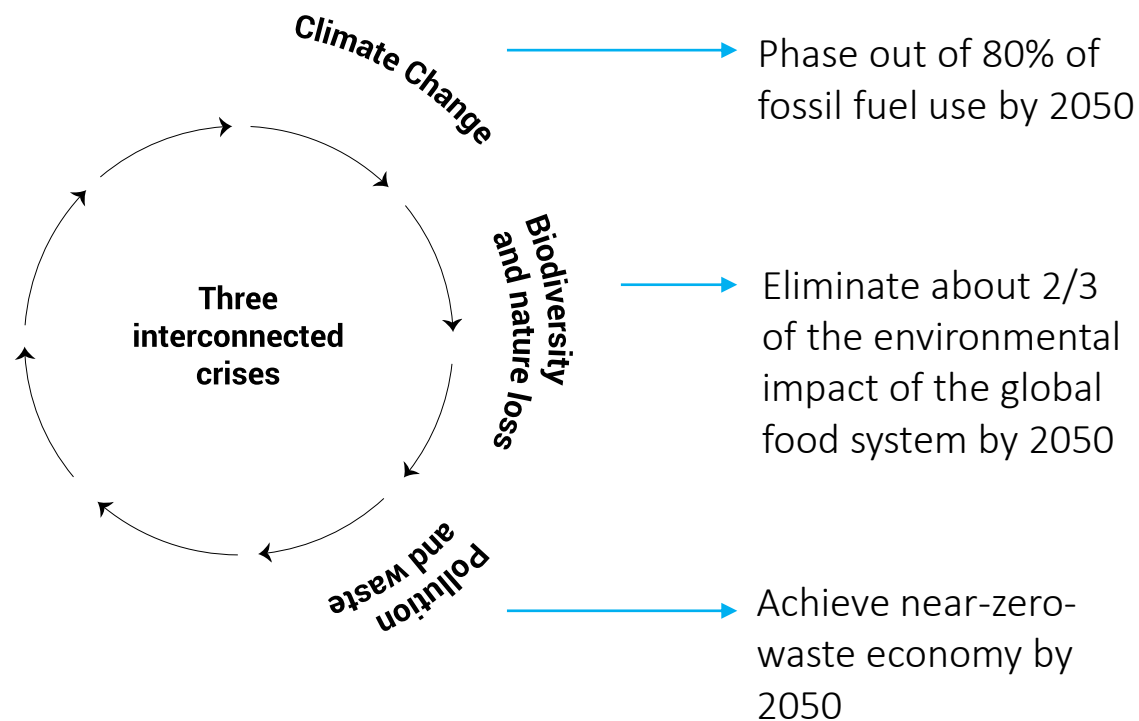
Can assess policy effectiveness (what is working, what isn't). Can look at systemic policy solutions that achieve social and economic outcomes, because of its integrated approach. Can develop innovative outlooks/foresight approaches which explain more of the 'how to' rather than the 'what if'. Can perform risk assessment, scenarios and outlooks on different social/economic issues.

Policy findings from GEO

- Used case studies and outcomes indicators to **assess effectiveness of current policies in reaching environmental goals.**
- Assessed five individual case studies across five environmental themes. **25 Global North and Global South environmental policies assessed.**
- Policies that try to conserve or clean up the environment **cannot keep pace with the rate of environmental degradation we see today.**
- Must **address the larger systems or root causes of environmental degradation**, transforming these to reach environmental goals.
- Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement case study, **only 7 or 41 areas of concern cleaned up in a 20 year time span.**
- With current policies, **none of the environmental SDGs will be achieved by 2030.**
- With current policies, **biodiversity and climate targets will not be achieved**
- Must **transform the energy, food and waste systems, to stabilize the climate and create a nature rich (biodiverse) and near-zero-waste (circular) world by 2050.**

GEO messages helped inform UNEP's MTS

- Chapter 22 of GEO-6 provides pathways to achieve politically agreed targets (e.g. Paris, Aichi, SDGs)
- More would be needed to achieve science-based targets.



Closing the resource extraction/waste loop

Global Resource Extraction

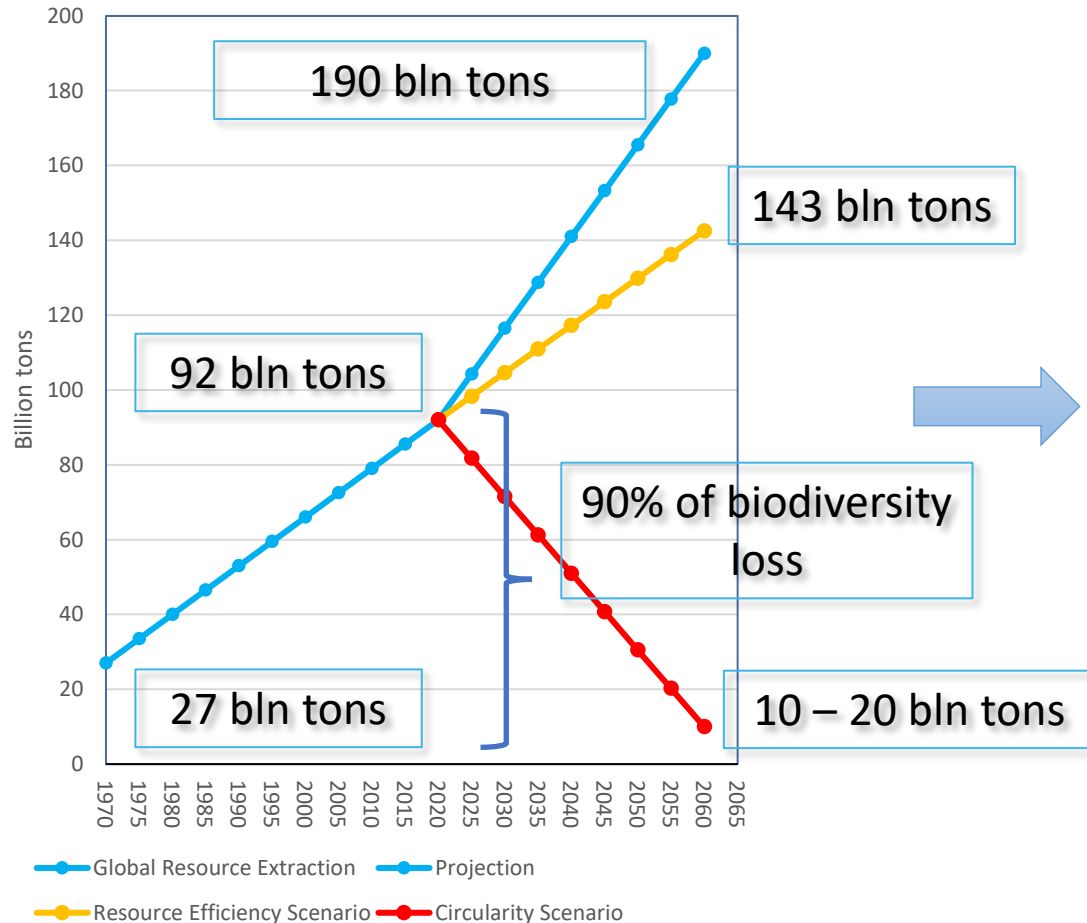
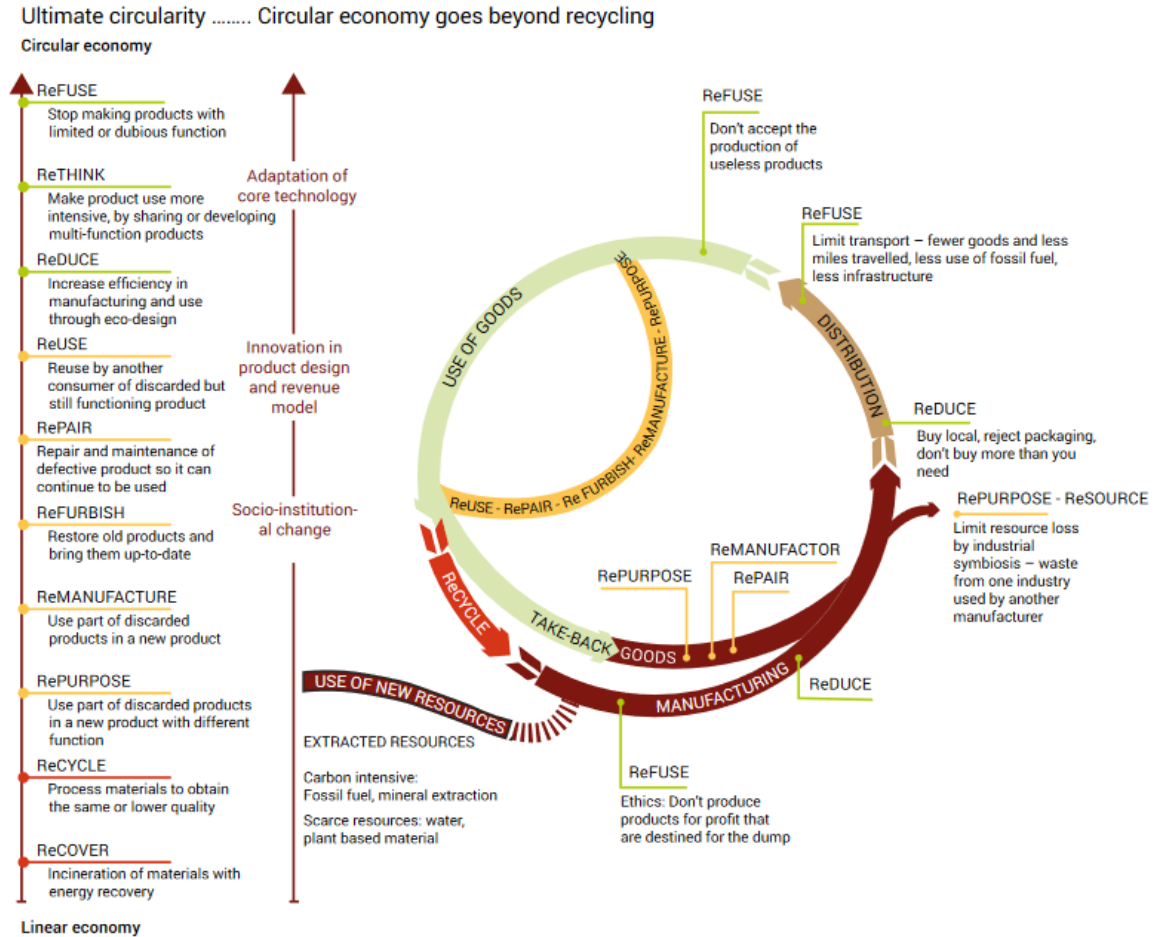


Figure 17.4: Building a circular economy



Source: Based on Stahel (2016) and Potting et al. (2017).

How do we change resource extraction companies into resource recovery companies?



GEO7

...will be the most solutions-focused, innovative, useful and impactful GEO yet...with your help...

for:

- Clearly defining which policy questions to be considered in scoping of GEO-7 to transform the energy, food and waste systems that are at the root cause of the triple planetary crisis (climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution), while considering the need to adapt to climate change within all three of these systems
- Designing questions to be assessed in GEO-7 (policy, technological, behavioral, and socioeconomic) in :
 - decarbonizing energy systems
 - environmentally sustainable agri-food system
 - implementing a near-zero-waste, circular economy
 - holistically implementing environmentally sustainable systems



Asanteni sana!

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