

# Vocabularies in UNEP

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Outlook and Recommendations

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# Key facts

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- Controlled vocabularies are control tools used for information indexing (catalogers) and retrieval (users)
- The choice of the controlled vocabulary depends on the context and content.
  - ✓ UNBIS is adapted to the UN Secretariat work
  - ✓ AGROVOC (FAO) is adapted to agricultural concepts
  - ✓ Gemet is a compilation of several European and UNEP (Envoc) environmental thesauri
  - ✓ Sub-topic vocabularies exist
  - ✓ The UNEP Library uses a combination of UNBIS and Gemet to reflect both its membership of the UN Secretariat and its environment focus.
  - ✓ Other vocabularies in UNEP include SKOS and Sustainable Development Goal Interface Ontology (SDGIO)
- Vocabularies are linked. Concepts in one vocabulary can be translated/mapped to related concepts in another vocabulary.

# Recommendations

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- Use controlled vocabularies and discard the use of un-controlled vocabularies
- Use the vocabularies that are most appropriate to your content, as long as they are controlled
- Adopt Poolparty as the UNEP semantic aggregator
- Create a standard subject classification scheme that will enable the categorization of content under main clusters or domains in all main UNEP platforms. These clusters shall be the same in all main platforms and will facilitate the fetching of content across platforms (examples in following slides)

# Gemet groupings

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administration  
agriculture  
air  
animal husbandry  
biology  
building  
chemistry  
climate  
disasters, accidents, risk  
economics  
energy  
environmental policy  
fishery  
food, drinking water  
forestry  
general

legislation  
materials  
military aspects  
natural areas, landscape, ecosystems  
natural dynamics  
noise, vibrations  
physics  
pollution  
radiations  
research  
resources  
social aspects, population  
soil  
space  
tourism  
trade, services

# UNBIS groupings

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- ⊕ 01 - POLITICAL AND LEGAL QUESTIONS
- ⊕ 02 - ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND DEVELOPMENT FINANCE
- ⊕ 03 - NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE ENVIRONMENT
- ⊕ 04 - AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHING
- ⊕ 05 - INDUSTRY
- ⊕ 06 - TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS
- ⊕ 07 - INTERNATIONAL TRADE
- ⊕ 08 - POPULATION
- ⊕ 09 - HUMAN SETTLEMENTS
- ⊕ 10 - HEALTH
- ⊕ 11 - EDUCATION
- ⊕ 12 - EMPLOYMENT
- ⊕ 13 - HUMANITARIAN AID AND RELIEF
- ⊕ 14 - SOCIAL CONDITIONS AND EQUITY
- ⊕ 15 - CULTURE
- ⊕ 16 - SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
- ⊕ 17 - GEOGRAPHICAL DESCRIPTORS
- ⊕ 18 - ORGANIZATIONAL QUESTIONS

# Thank you



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