System Analysis and Foresight Briefs
Early Warning, Emerging Issues and Futures

Transforming the lives of People, Places and Planet
Introduction

The System Analysis and Foresight Briefs Unit publishes science-based Foresight Briefs that highlights hotspots of environmental change, features emerging science topics, or discusses contemporary environmental issues. The Unit also carries out system analysis activities that can help with the exploration and understanding complex and dynamic systems and policy options under the Triple Planetary crisis, such as the global food system, the climate system, and the biodiversity system.

The Unit contributes to the synthesis and enhancement of UNEP’s collective efforts towards environmental early warning as one and delivering on UNEPs Early Warning for the Environment and through collaboration with the United Nations Strategic Foresight Community of Practice.

Functions of the Unit

- Publication of Foresight Briefs that provide guidance and inspiration for policy and action, by exploring a range of plausible, alternative futures and their implications. They help to identify emerging environmental issues and trends that need to be monitored and assessed for early warning.

- To provide unique insights using systems thinking based analysis and system dynamics modelling of emerging issues. Development of online simulators and scenario generators that enable policymakers to better understand structural issues and explore different policy interventions and their potential outcomes. These tools assist in understanding the long-term implications of policy decisions and in making informed decisions.

- Collaboration on Foresight initiatives in the UN system through the Strategic Foresight Community of Practice.
To view current and previous issues online and download UNEP Foresight Briefs
https://data.unep.org/earlywarning/foresightbriefs
UNEPE and UN System Engagements

• The Unit engages closely with internal partners on producing Foresight Briefs, the key engagements being with the Ecosystems Division, Economy Division, Communications Division, and the Chief Scientist Office. On Systems Analysis, the Unit has collaborated closely with MIKE (Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants) and the Disasters & Conflicts Branch. New partnerships are commencing with Climate Adaptation Unit.

• Other engagements include the GRID Centres, GRID-Geneva, GRID-Warsaw and GRID Arendal.

• UN System engagements include with UNESCO, UNDCO, OCHA, UNDRR and the UNRC Mozambique.

Partnerships


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