



Global Environment Outlook:
User Profile and Impact Study

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ACRONYMS

ACRONYM	DEFINITION
AMCEN	African Ministerial Conference on the Environment
CEU	Central European University
CONAMA	National Commission of the Environment, Chile
GEO	Global Environment Outlook
GEO-LAC	Global Environment Outlook - Latin America and Caribbean
IISD	International Institute for Sustainable Development
MEAs	Multilateral Environmental Agreements
NESDA	Network for Environmental and Sustainable Development
SEPA	State Environment Protection Agency (China)
SOE	State of the Environment report
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
IDB	Inter American Development Bank
OAS	Organization of American States
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
WB	World Bank
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
ROLAC	Regional Office for Latin America
ENRIN	Environment and Natural Resources Information Networking
BBC	British Broadcasting Corporation
UNIC	United Nations Information Centre
IEA	Integrated Environment Assessment
OdD	Development Observatory (of the University of Costa Rica)
CEU	Central European University
GC	Governing Council
UNFIP	United Nations Foundation for International Partnerships
SOEA	State of the Environment Assessment Unit
IUCN	The World Conservation Union
SEI	Stockholm Environment Institute
GRID	Global Resource Information Database
UNICEF	United Nations Children’s Fund
UNESCO	United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization

RMPE	Rescue Mission Planet Earth
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
AEO	Africa Environment Outlook
AIT	Asian Institute of Technology
INFOTERRA	The Global Environmental Information exchange Network of the United Nations Environment Programme

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1. Introduction

Background

UNEP's second Global Environment Outlook report (GEO-2000), and its predecessor, GEO-1, are unique products of a unique process. They respond to the UNEP Governing Council Decisions (18/27 May 1995 and 19/3 February 1997) requesting the preparation of a new, comprehensive report on the state of the global environment. The GEO reports and process are the prime activities of UNEP's State of Environment Assessment Unit (SOEA), Division of Early Warning and Assessment (DEWA), and the reports are considered the flagship products of UNEP.

As indicated above, GEO is both a series of periodic reports and an international participatory assessment process. GEO-1 was launched in February 1997 and GEO-2000 in September, 1999. These two initiatives clearly address the GEO project's two major objectives:

- to provide an overview of major global environmental concerns, their causes and impacts, and identify, from a regional perspective, the priority issues the international community should address in environmental policy setting and action planning;
- to set in motion a global participatory assessment process that provides a continuous regionally distributed, scientific and policy-consultative mechanism to keep under review the state of the global environment, identify emerging issues, set priorities for action and guide substantive debate and policy setting in international environmental policy forums.

GEO-2000 was prepared with the participation of more than 850 individuals around the world, and in collaboration with more than 30 Collaborating Centres (CCs), as well as other United Nations agencies. The resulting report and its associated products (see Appendix V for a full list) present a comprehensive integrated assessment of the global environment at the turn of the millennium.

Purpose of the study

This study was commissioned in response to the Governing Council's request (GC Decision 20/1) for a "Global Environment Outlook user profile and qualitative analysis of the actual use of the first and second Global Environment Outlook reports and the Global Environment Outlook process." Universalis, a Canadian consulting firm with considerable experience in the international evaluation field, was contracted by UNEP to undertake the GEO study. This document reports on that study.

It had three primary objectives:

- 1) to develop a qualitative, and where possible quantitative profile of users of the GEO-2000 and GEO-1 reports, including a typology of users;
- 2) to report on how readers were using the GEO reports;
- 3) to provide a qualitative, and where possible quantitative analysis of the impact of the GEO reports and process.

An additional objective was to collect suggestions for improvements to the GEO report from a separate set of questions in the senior advisor questionnaire.

Organization of the report

Following this introduction, the report contains four chapters and a series of appendices. The methodology used to conduct this study is described in chapter 2; a profile of the users of the GEO report is presented in chapter 3; chapter 4 provides a discussion of the ways in which GEO products and processes are being used; chapter 5 presents an assessment of the impact of GEO; and chapter 6 presents suggested improvements for the GEO reports.

Details on certain aspects of the report are provided in the appendices. These include the full text of several illustrative cases studies that were prepared in the course of the study, and which are excerpted in the body of the report.



2. Methodology

2.1 Introduction

The study was conducted in distinct phases: Study Design, Data Collection, Data Analysis and Report Preparation. The Universalia study team members included:

- Stephen Gruber and Charles Lusthaus - Project Team Leaders
- Simon Thibault, consultant
- Universalia technical staff

2.2 Study Design

Stephen Gruber, Project Team Leader, met with key UNEP State of Environment Assessment (SOEA) Unit staff responsible for the GEO process and reports in Nairobi to discuss and confirm the study design.

Working from a list of recipient organizations of the GEO reports, and of organizations associated with individual recipients, Mr. Gruber and the UNEP GEO staff developed a typology for this study.

The team leader reviewed GEO documentation in Nairobi and identified relevant documents for further analysis.

Universalia, in close collaboration with SOEA staff, developed and adapted questionnaires for three groups: Ministers of the Environment and their advisors, Permanent Representatives to UNEP, and Collaborating Centres (sample questionnaires are presented in Appendix XIII). As a component of the senior advisor questionnaire, respondents were also asked to provide suggestions for improvements to the GEO reports.

Illustrative case studies were identified, researched and written to provide a deeper investigation of the experiences of several organizations that were closely involved with and significantly influenced by the GEO process. The case studies became a rich source of information, as they addressed many relevant issues, and were drawn on in the analysis and writing of the report.

2.3 Data Collection

Data were collected for this study through document review, questionnaires, personal interviews, and telephone interviews.

Questionnaires

Written questionnaires were sent to:

- 202 Ministers of Environment and their Senior Environmental Advisors who were sent a two-part questionnaire for completion
- 94 Permanent Representatives to UNEP in Nairobi,
- 31 GEO collaborating and associated centres,

Universalia sent the questionnaire to the 22 GEO Collaborating Centres. The remaining questionnaires were distributed from UNEP's Nairobi headquarters and the responses were forwarded by UNEP to Universalia for analysis.

The response rate to the questionnaires was: Ministers - 20 per cent, Senior advisors - 20 per cent, Permanent Representatives to UNEP- 26 per cent. Although the response rates were low, the responses received provide a reasonably fair representation of opinion from 59 different countries and all the official UNEP regions. The numbers of responses from each region were: Africa (31), Europe (32), Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) (11), Asia and The Pacific (17) and West Asia (9). Of the 31 GEO Collaborating and Associated Centres that received questionnaires, 48 per cent responded.

An additional source of data was the 123 responses to a reader questionnaire that was part of the printed and online versions of GEO-2000. Distribution data were reviewed with the GEO-1 and GEO-2000 report publishers and the UNEP Publications Coordinator in Nairobi.

Interviews

A list of persons interviewed for this study is found in Appendix II.

- Personal interviews were conducted with 12 UNEP staff in Nairobi.
- An additional 22 telephone interviews were conducted with UNEP Regional Office Directors and DEWA Regional Coordinators, Collaborating Centre staff and other key informants.

Case studies

Data for case studies were identified and developed through document review, online research, correspondence with UNEP-LAC and UNEP-Nairobi, as well as in-depth interviews with key staff members of Collaborating Centres in Chile, Costa Rica, Central and West Africa and Europe.

2.4 Data Analysis and Reporting

Summary statistics were generated for the available quantitative data. The summary statistics, respondents' comments from questionnaires and interviews, and relevant documentation were then reviewed and analysed to develop findings to the study's key questions.

A draft report of the study was submitted by Universalia for review and feedback by UNEP staff prior to submission of the final report.

2.5 Limitations to the Study

There are several limitations to this study worth noting. The first relates to the sources of data. Some of the findings contained within this study are based in part on information reported by GEO stakeholders who are actively involved in the implementation of the current GEO-3 process. It was beyond the scope of the study to validate all of these findings through independent or first-hand

assessment. However, the study team members found nothing during the course of the study to suggest this presented a significant threat to any of the findings.

Secondly, and as is frequently the case in studies such as this, it is often difficult and sometimes presumptuous to attribute results to specific interventions. For example, the impact of GEO on policy development and decision making is confounded by the number of variables influencing these processes at any one time. Despite this limitation, however, the study team were able to identify several examples of how GEO has clearly played a role in this area.

Thirdly, the study team members were concerned (but not surprised) by the relatively low response rate to the questionnaires administered to the Ministers of the Environment, their Senior Advisors and the Permanent Representatives. Experience indicates that low response rates can typically be expected from respondent groups such as these.

Fourthly, the length of time elapsed since the publication of GEO-1 and the development of the GEO process during the preparation of GEO-2000 and the publication of the second report itself combine to eclipse the memory of GEO-1 informants contacted for this study.

Finally, and closely related to the above is the fact that there is more data and information available on GEO-2000 than on GEO-1

2.6 Study Findings

- Finding 1:** Of the 12,700 copies of GEO-1 that were printed in English, 4,200 copies were distributed by UNEP and 8,500 were distributed commercially.
- Finding 2:** The distribution profile of the English version of GEO-1, based on the number of copies formally distributed by UNEP, shows that the three largest categories of users are members of the policy development and decision-making community, the research community and information compilers and other environmental information depositories and distributors.
- Finding 3:** Fourteen thousand five hundred complimentary copies of GEO-2000 have been distributed in six different languages and more than 2000 copies sold.
- Finding 4:** The distribution profile of GEO-2000, based on the number of copies distributed by UNEP that can be tracked, shows that the three largest categories of GEO-2000 users are members of the research community and information compilers, the policy development and decision-making community and other environmental information depositories and distributors.
- Finding 5:** Most of the GEO-2000 readers who responded to the reader questionnaire contained in the GEO-2000 report itself were members of the academic and NGO sectors.
- Finding 6:** GEO-2000 is reaching its intended audiences.
- Finding 7:** The amount of traffic generated at the GEO web sites and sales of the report through the websites, suggest that this is an important distribution channel for GEO-2000 and the information it contains.
- Finding 8:** Thirty-five thousand copies of Pachamama are being published and are being widely distributed in seven different languages.

- Finding 9:** Seventy percent of the Ministers of the Environment, their senior advisors and permanent representatives to UNEP who responded to the study questionnaire had seen the GEO-2000 report. Of these, more than 95 per cent reported having a personal copy or access to one in their office, and 65 per cent have consulted it multiple times.
- Finding 10:** Ministers of the environment, their senior advisors and permanent representatives to UNEP find GEO-2000 useful for providing an overview of the environmental situation at both the global and regional level.
- Finding 11:** Ministers of the Environment, their senior advisors and permanent representatives to UNEP find GEO-2000 useful for providing policy guidance at the regional level, and information for national policy development.
- Finding 12:** Ministers of the Environment, their senior advisors and permanent representatives to UNEP find GEO-2000 useful for identifying major emerging environmental issues.
- Finding 13:** Ministers of the Environment, their senior advisors, and permanent representatives to UNEP find GEO-2000 useful for placing national issues in a broader perspective.
- Finding 14:** Respondents to the GEO-2000 readership questionnaire described a variety of uses for GEO-2000.
- Finding 15:** Media around the globe are using GEO-2000 as an authoritative information source for environmental reporting.
- Finding 16:** GEO-2000 is being used as course-related material in academic institutions.
- Finding 17:** GEO-2000 is being used as an authoritative source of environmental information by senior UN leaders for speeches and interviews.
- Finding 18:** Pachamama has been used at youth events around the globe as an environmental awareness raising tool.
- Finding 19:** The SIDS Caribbean Report was generally well received but some concerns have emerged regarding the Report.
- Finding 20:** The GEO-2000 report and process are contributing to regional and national policy development in several regions.
- Finding 21:** The most immediately identifiable impact of GEO-2000 to regional and national policy making is the growing adoption of the GEO methodology by regional governmental forums and national governments for the production and/or improvement of their state of the environment reporting.
- Finding 22:** UNEP GEO project staff and Collaborating Centre staff have expressed the need to systematically develop the capacity of Collaborating Centres.
- Finding 23:** Participation in the GEO-2000 process provided an important opportunity for Collaborating Centres to establish and/or strengthen their professional relationship with other organizations at the global, regional and national level.
- Finding 24:** Participation in the GEO process has supported the efforts of some Collaborating Centres to obtain additional funding. However, participation does not reduce overheads for most Centres.

- Finding 25:** Several Centres reported that participation in the GEO process led to an improvement in the quality of products and services offered, increased satisfaction among Centre stakeholders, and enhanced their credibility and reputation.
- Finding 26:** Several Collaborating Centres report participation in the GEO process allowed them to attract additional staff, optimize the use of the existing staff's knowledge and skills, and to develop new skills and knowledge for staff members.
- Finding 27:** Over 60 per cent of readers reported that they found the report very useful.
- Finding 28:** Readers reported that GEO-2000 presented a comprehensive, integrated, forward-looking, policy relevant assessment of the environment.
- Finding 29:** Readers reported GEO-2000 was unique in that it provided an integrated overview of the environment, the useful data, information and graphics and the global and regional perspectives on environmental issues and policies not provided by other reports.
- Finding 30:** The three sections of the report that readers refer to the most are: the state of the environment, the global perspectives and future perspectives.
- Finding 31:** Broadcast and print media in several regions across the globe view GEO-2000 as an authoritative information source to draw on in the preparation of environmentally related articles or programming.
- Finding 32:** Pachamama is reaching youth around the globe, and adults who work with them, to increase their understanding of, and potential solutions to, the world's environmental challenges.
- Finding 33:** Nearly 80 percent of senior advisors who responded to the questionnaire thought that future editions of the GEO report should contain more graphics and illustrations.
- Finding 34:** Eighty-six percent of senior advisors called for more information on specific issues in future editions of the GEO report
- Finding 35:** Ninety percent of senior advisors thought that it would be useful or very useful to have more data tables with country level data in future editions of the GEO Report.
- Finding 36:** Ninety-three percent of Senior Advisors held that there should be more specific, action oriented, recommendations in future editions of the GEO report.
- Finding 37:** Seventy-nine percent of senior advisors expressed an interest in more detailed regional and sub-regional coverage in future editions of the GEO report.
- Finding 38:** Ninety-six percent of senior advisors responded that there should be more information on emerging issues and early warning in future editions of the GEO report.
- Finding 39:** Ninety-six percent of the respondents noted that there should be a closer inter-linkage with sustainable development in future editions of the GEO report.
- Finding 40:** Sixty-nine percent of respondents indicated that more information and analyses of policy responses should be included in future editions of the GEO report.
- Finding 41:** Eighty-six percent of respondents indicated that there should be more information and analysis of policy responses at the regional level in future editions of the GEO report.

- Finding 42:** Nearly 90 percent of respondents answered that more information and analysis of policy responses at the global level should be included in future editions of the GEO report.
- Finding 43:** Ninety-three percent of respondents thought that more success stories of environmental management and sustainable development should be included in future editions of the GEO report.
- Finding 44:** Respondents' suggestions for improvements that could be made in future editions of the report centred on improved access, specific issues that have not been addressed and different perspective that should be considered.
- Finding 45:** Readers made suggestions regarding issues they would like to see addressed, new sections they would like to see in the report and changes to the format of the report.



3. Distribution and User Profiles

3.1 Introduction

The user profiles presented in this section reflect an analysis of data about products distributed directly by UNEP. These are indicative because UNEP has been responsible for distributing a large proportion of the GEO products. However, the profiles are not representative of all readers - primarily because privacy laws do not permit the publisher to reveal details of sales to individuals, and the majority of sales are to secondary distributors (i.e. overseas wholesalers, library suppliers, foreign importers, etc.).

An additional source of data for these profiles was responses from a reader questionnaire that was included with the GEO-2000 report.

In order to build a user profile from UNEP's distribution of the GEO-1 and GEO-2000 reports, UNEP GEO staff categorized each of the organizations to which the report had been distributed, as well as the organizations to which individual report recipients belonged. The categories are shown in **Table 3.1**.

It should also be noted that the category "Media" was initially included in the list. However, although the media have received and made considerable use of GEO reports, as noted elsewhere in this report, distribution to individuals in the media was not systematically recorded. Persons in the media have individually purchased or requested copies and have received them as a result of attending GEO-related events such as launches and conferences.

Table 3.1 Examples of organizations included in GEO profile categories

CATEGORY	EXAMPLES OF CATEGORY MEMBERS
Policy development and decision-making community	Members of the UNEP Governing Council/national Ministers of the Environment and their senior advisors, senior members of UN Environmental Convention Secretariats
Research community and information compilers.	Scientists (members of academic institutions and other research institutions)
Formal education sector	Universities and other post-secondary institutions
Other environmental information depositories and distributors.	Environmental conferences, libraries, etc. (e.g. INFOTERRA Focal Points, UN Depository Libraries)
Awareness-raising groups	Non-governmental and international organizations engaged in these activities, (e.g. IUCN, Green Peace International)
Integrators of information into other reporting formats	Organizations that integrate information from GEO-2000 into their own reports (e.g. Stockholm Environment Institute)

3.2 GEO-1

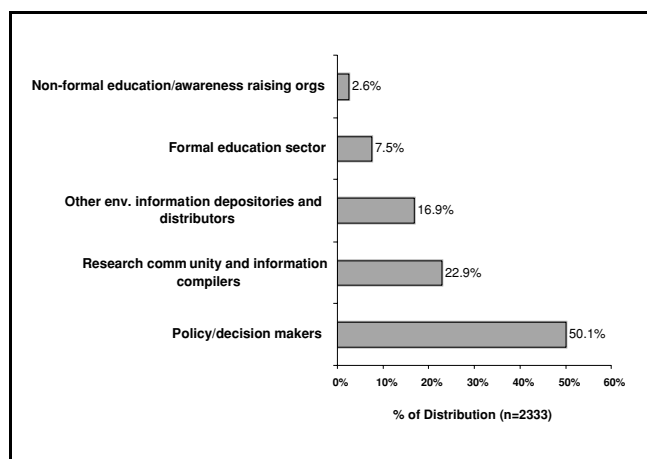
Finding 1: Of the 12 700 copies of GEO-1 that were printed in English, 4 200 copies were distributed by UNEP and 8 500 were distributed commercially.

GEO-1 was co-published by UNEP and Oxford University Press. The report was produced internally by UNEP, through a production sub-contract with the World Resources Institute. In total 12 000 paperback and 700 hardcover copies were printed. Oxford University Press commercially distributed some 8 500 copies. A total of 4 200 complementary copies of GEO-1 in English were distributed by UNEP, but the Distribution Profile analysis is only based on 2 333 complementary copies distributed through formal channels (56 per cent). The balance (44 per cent) was not tracked and therefore not included in the analysis. The distribution graph is for English copies only. GEO-1 was also published in Chinese, however UNEP received very few copies.

Finding 2: The distribution profile of the English version of GEO-1, based on the number of copies formally distributed by UNEP, shows that the three largest categories of users are members of the policy development and decision-making community, the research community and information compilers and other environmental information depositories and distributors.

The distribution statistics for the English version, based on the available UNEP data for GEO-1, indicate that policy-makers and their advisors were the most important users of the report. They received more than 50 per cent of the copies distributed by UNEP, approximately twice the quantity distributed to members of the research community, who received 23 per cent. Other environmental information distributors received 16.9 per cent of the copies while members of the formal education sector and awareness-raising groups accounted for 7.5 per cent and 2.6 per cent of the GEO-1 distribution respectively.

Figure 3.1 GEO-1 Distribution English



3.3 GEO-2000

Finding 3: A total of 14 500 complimentary copies of GEO-2000 have been distributed in six languages and more than 2000 copies sold.

A total of 14 500 complimentary copies of GEO-2000 in the six UN languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish) have been distributed by UNEP. The distribution profile is based only on an analysis of the known recipients of 7 056 complimentary copies of GEO-2000 in the 6 languages (49 per cent). A further 7 444 copies (51 per cent) were distributed free of charge at a range of events, including to the media and others at launches, at major conferences and

meetings, by regional offices, and to developing countries upon request, where the distribution has not been tracked and therefore could not be included in the analysis.

As of 30 June 2000, a total of 2 227 copies of GEO-2000 in English had been sold commercially. More recent sales figures, and those for other language versions, are not yet available.

Table 3.2 Distribution of Complimentary Copies of GEO-2000 (Formal and Informal)

LANGUAGE VERSION	FORMAL DISTRIBUTION BY UNEP	INFORMAL DISTRIBUTION BY UNEP	TOTAL NUMBER OF COMPLEMENTARY COPIES
English	3 525	2 475	6 000
French	1 597	903	2 500
Spanish	1 713	1 287	3 000
Other (Arabic, Chinese and Russian)	221	2 779	3 000
Total	7 056	7 444	14 500

Finding 4: The distribution profile of GEO-2000, based on the number of copies distributed by UNEP that can be tracked, shows that the three largest categories of GEO-2000 users are members of the research community and information compilers, the policy development and decision-making community and other environmental information depositories and distributors.

While this study was being conducted, substantive distribution data from UNEP was available for the English, French and Spanish versions of the report. **Figure 3.2, Figure 3.3, Figure 3.4 and Figure 3.5** show the total distribution and that of the English, French and Spanish translations respectively.

As can be seen from **Figure 3.2**, when the distributions of all language versions are combined, the three largest GEO-2000 recipient categories were members of the research community and information compilers (47.4 per cent), members of the policy development and decision making

Figure 3.2 GEO-2000 Distribution (All Languages)

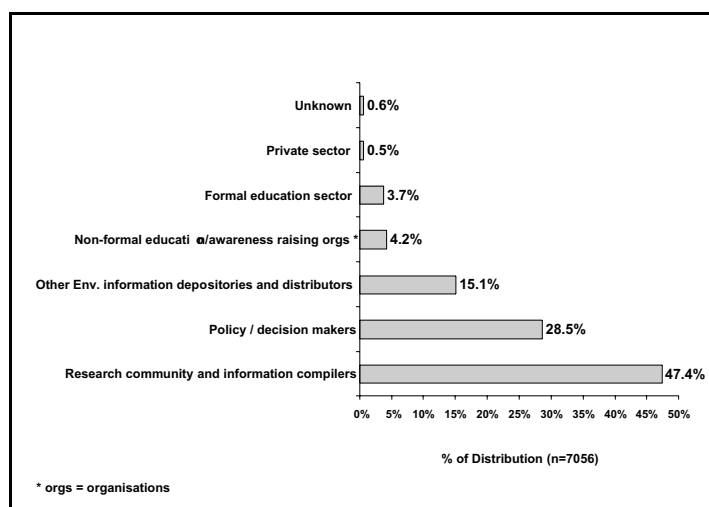
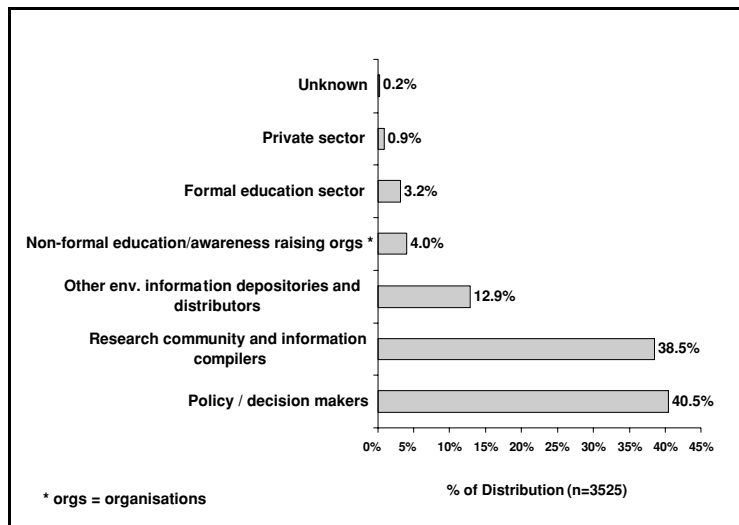


Figure 3.3 GEO-2000 Distribution (English)



community (28.5 per cent) and other environmental information depositories and distributors (12.9 per cent). These three largest categories were followed by users in non-formal education and awareness-raising groups (4.2 per cent), the formal education sector (3.7 per cent) and the private sector (0.5 per cent).

Figure 3.3, Figure 3.4 and Figure 3.5 show that the three largest categories of users were the same for the English, French and Spanish versions of the report. However, Figure 3.3 indicates that the policy development and decision-making community received 40.5 per cent of the English version of GEO-2000, making it the largest recipient category for that version of the report. In all other versions of the report, the research community and information compilers received the most copies.

All governments and permanent representatives who received copies of the GEO 2000 report received at least one English copy, no matter what their principle language. This contributed to the comparatively high number of English copies received by policy/decision makers, when contrasted with the distributions of the French and Spanish versions of the report.

Figure 3.4 GEO-2000 Distribution (French)

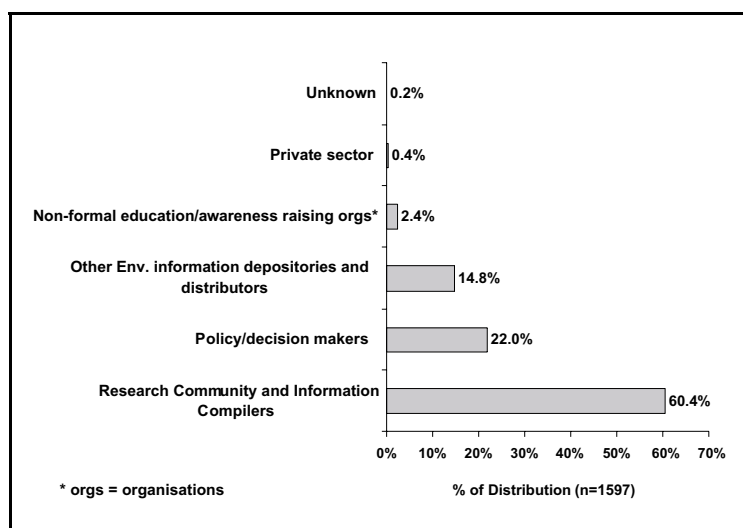
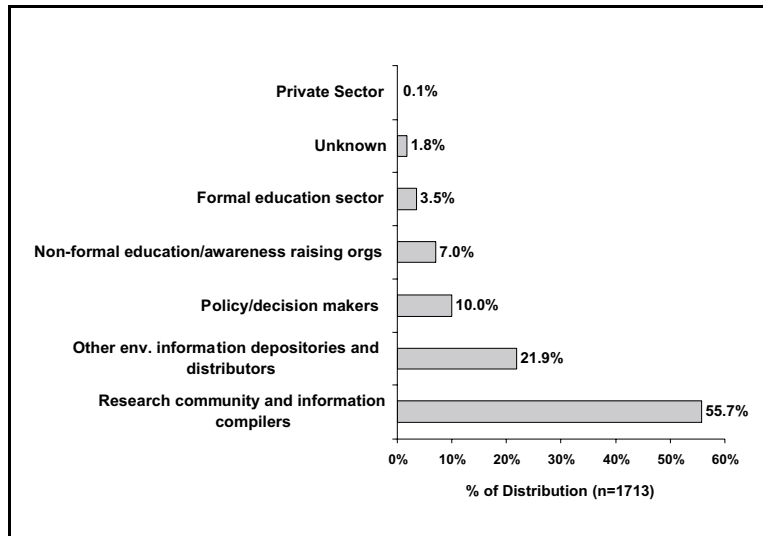


Figure 3.5 GEO-2000 Distribution (Spanish)

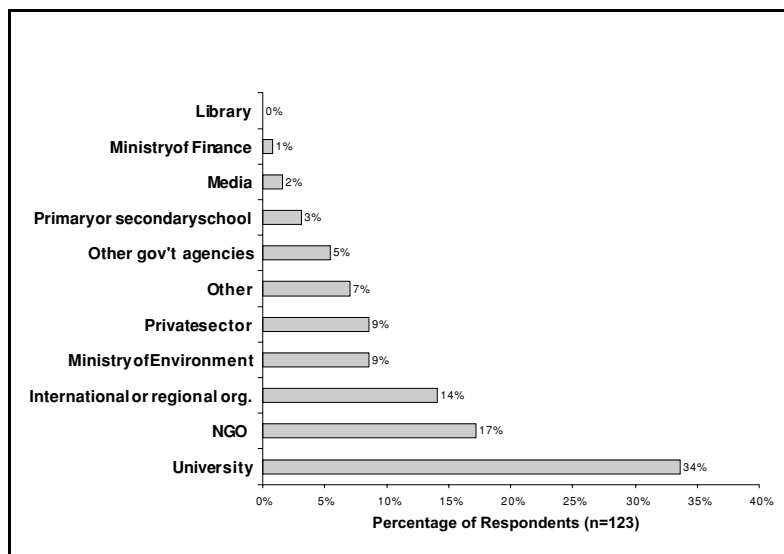


The proportionately greater figure for the distribution to the research community and information users was inflated because it includes a large number of copies distributed to reviewers and contributors who were not associated with any of the collaborating or associated centres. These copies have been categorized under research community when in fact they were actually distributed to a range of different user types, but were not tracked.

Finding 5: Most of the GEO-2000 readers who responded to the reader questionnaire contained in the GEO-2000 report itself were members of the academic and NGO sectors.

A breakdown of responses from the GEO-2000 reader response questionnaire is shown in **Figure 3.6**. It shows that the largest number of responses were received from readers associated with the academic sector (34 per cent) and those working in non-governmental organizations (17 per cent) and international or regional organizations (14 per cent). Nine percent of the respondents were from the private sector.

Figure 3.6 GEO-2000 Reader Distribution by Organization (Reader Response Questionnaire)



Finding 6: GEO-2000 is reaching its intended audiences.

From interviews carried out with UNEP staff for this study, it was established that the intended audiences for the GEO-2000 report were as follows: members of the UNEP Governing Council and national ministries of the environment, members of international environmental organizations and non-governmental organizations, members of the academic community, other UN agencies, followed by the media and concerned members of the general public. An analysis of the distribution figures shown in Appendix II and the user profiles shown above confirms that GEO-2000 is in fact reaching the members of its intended major audiences.

Finding 7: The amount of traffic generated at the GEO web sites, and sales of the report through the websites, suggest that this is an important distribution channel for GEO-2000 and the information it contains.

GEO-2000 and its associated products are also available in electronic format via the World Wide Web from UNEP's GRID Arendal web site in Norway. Mirror sites have been established in Japan, Kenya, Mexico, Switzerland and the USA. Usage data was available from three sites (Japan, Norway and the USA) for the first six months of 2000. An analysis of these data (excluding internal traffic) reveals that:

- Total traffic across all three sites averaged 1 422 web pages viewed per day.
- Monthly traffic has been increasing at the site for each month since January, except for a peak month in March. There was an overall increase in traffic from January (38 000 pages) to June (46 000 pages) of 20 per cent.
- Forty-five per cent of the total traffic went to the Norwegian site, 30 per cent to the USA site and 25 per cent to the Japanese site.
- Geo products can also be purchased from UNEP's on-line bookshop, Earth Print, which was launched in 1999. 72 copies of GEO-2000 had been sold through the Internet as of April, 2000 (in addition to the number of times the report was downloaded from one of the sites). This figure was the highest number of sales for all UNEP publications available from the site and more than ten times that of the second highest publication sales figure for the same period.

3.4 Distribution of Other GEO Products

This section documents the distribution of other major GEO products launched in 1999: Pachamama: Our Earth - Our Future, and the three Small Island Developing States (SIDS) reports: the Caribbean Environment Outlook, the Pacific Islands Environment Outlook and the Western Indian Ocean Environment Outlook. A list of additional products associated with GEO-2000 is presented in **Appendix V**.

Pachamama: Our Earth - Our Future is a special youth edition of GEO-2000. Created as a global environmental primer for 11 - 14 year olds, the book was launched in October 1999.

Finding 8: Thirty-five thousand copies of Pachamama are being published and are being widely distributed in seven languages.

Fifteen thousand copies of Pachamama have been printed in English and another 20 500 have been, or will be, printed in seven other languages. **Table 3.3** shows the distribution and sales of the English version of Pachamama as of October 2000.

A total of 7 466 complementary copies of Pachamama (English version) have or are being distributed by UNEP, UNICEF, UNESCO and Rescue Mission: Planet Earth (RMPE). Although no detailed distribution profile is available, the following is an indication of the main recipients:

- UNEP has distributed Pachamama to all ministries of environment, as well as to youth groups and at events such as the Millennium Young People's Congress in October 1999

and the International Children's Conference on the Environment held at Eastbourne, UK, in May 2000.

- UNICEF and UNESCO are distributing Pachamama to ministries of Education and to youth and school networks all over the world.
- Rescue Mission: Planet Earth (RPME) has distributed Pachamama to youth and children's groups who participated in the GEO for youth project.

Table 3.3 Distribution and sales of Pachamama: English version

DISTRIBUTION CHANNEL	TOTAL NUMBER OF COPIES DISTRIBUTED
UNEP	4 480
UNICEF and UNESCO	1 750
Rescue Mission: Plant Earth (RMPE)	1 236
International Sales	4 805
Total	12 271

SIDS

SIDS is a UN designation for Small Island Developing States. The countries carrying this designation are concentrated into three geographic regions: the Caribbean, the South Pacific and the Indian Ocean. More specific users of the SIDS reports could not be identified for this study.

Table 3.4 Outlines Distribution of SIDS reports.

	CARIBBEAN ENV. OUTLOOK	SOUTH PACIFIC ENV. OUTLOOK	INDIAN OCEAN ENV. OUTLOOK
Regional Office for North America	450	450	450
Regional Office for Africa	450	450	225
Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean - Mexico City	400		
Asian Institute of Technology - Bangkok		400	
European Community (EC)- Brussels	100	100	75
University of the West Indies - Jamaica	100		
South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) - Western Samoa		100	
Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) - Mauritius			50



4. Use of the GEO-2000 Report and Products

The data available for this study allow an analysis of the use of the GEO-2000 report and major associated products. Many interview respondents indicated that, due to the time elapsed since its publication, GEO-1 has been eclipsed by GEO-2000.

4.1 Use by Ministers of the Environment, their Senior Advisors and Permanent Representatives to UNEP

Finding 9: Seventy per cent of the ministers of the environment, their senior advisors and permanent representatives to UNEP who responded to the study questionnaire had seen the GEO-2000 report. Of these, more than 95 per cent reported having a personal copy or access to one in their office, and 65 per cent have consulted it many times.

As indicated in Section 2.3 of this report, a total of 32 ministers with an environment portfolio, 34 senior advisors, 26 permanent representatives and 10 INFOTERRA focal points responded to the GEO study questionnaire. As shown in **Figure 4.1**, 70 per cent of respondents had seen copies of GEO-2000 and 52 per cent had seen GEO-1. Only 23 per cent reported not having seen a copy of either report. **Figure 4.2** shows that of those who had seen GEO-2000, 45 per cent had a personal copy and 56

Figure 4.1 Percentage of respondents who had seen GEO-1 and /or GEO-2000

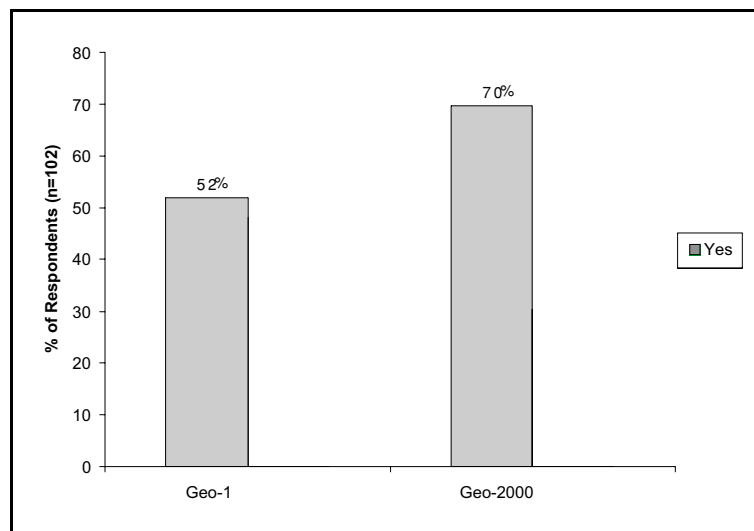
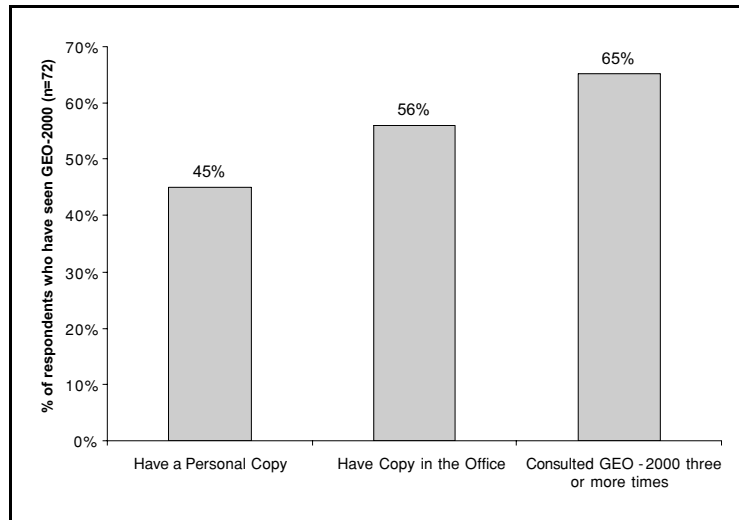


Figure 4.2 Accessibility of GEO-2000 to respondents who had seen and used the report



per cent had a copy in the office, and that 65 per cent of those who had access to a copy had consulted it three or more times.

Finding 10: Ministers of the Environment, their senior advisors and permanent representatives find GEO-2000 useful for providing an overview of the environmental situation at both the global and regional level.

Figure 4.3 and **Figure 4.4** show that respondents who had access to GEO-2000 almost unanimously report that GEO-2000 provides them with a useful overview of the environmental situation at both the global and regional level.

Figure 4.3 Usefulness of GEO-2000 in providing an overview of the regional environmental situation

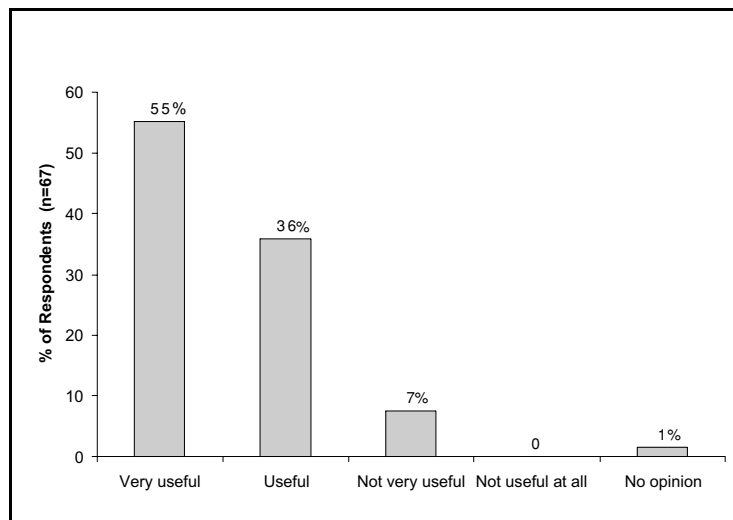
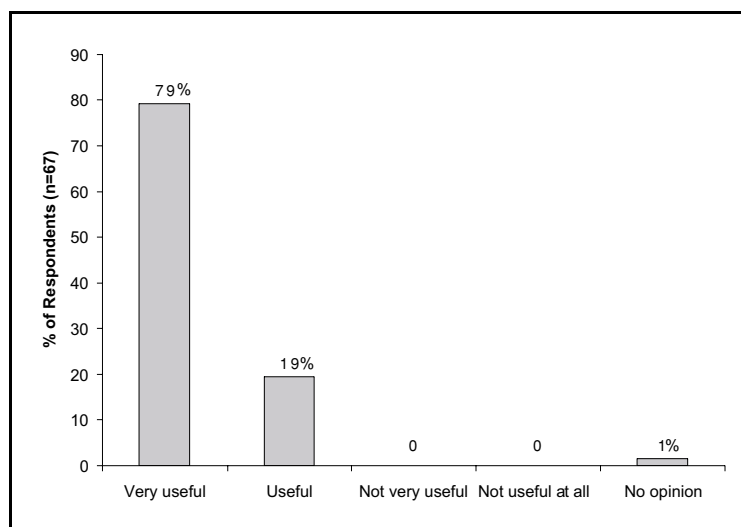


Figure 4.4 Usefulness of GEO-2000 in providing an overview of the global environmental situation



Box 4.1 Comments on use of GEO-2000 for its provision of regional and global overviews

An Environment Minister from Africa reports that he has used “GEO-2000 to provide an overview of the global environmental system, and will continue to do so.”

Another African Environment Minister notes that the most important use he has of GEO-2000 “is mainly as a global environmental reference to the state of the environment on a regional and global level.”

A Permanent Representative to UNEP, reports that GEO-2000 “is good reference material where regional issues are concerned.”

A Minister of the Environment from Europe notes “the consolidated overview provided by the report.” as the most important aspect of the GEO-2000 report.

Respondent’s comments illustrating that they value certain aspects of the report are shown in **Fig. 4.5**.

Finding 11: Ministers of the environment, their senior advisors and permanent representatives to UNEP find GEO-2000 useful for providing policy guidance at the regional level, and information for national policy development.

The sections of GEO-2000 dedicated to policy responses were divided into thematic sections:

- Policy Background
- Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and Non-binding Agreements
- Laws and Institutions
- Economic Instruments
- Industry and New Technologies
- Financing Environmental Action
- Public Participation
- Environmental Information and Education
- Social Policies.

Figure 4.5 and **Figure 4.6** show that more than 80 per cent of respondents who had access to GEO-2000 reported that it was useful in providing policy guidance at the regional level, and more than 70 per cent of these respondents found it useful for providing information to aid national level policy development.

Finding 12: Ministers of the Environment, their Senior Advisors and Permanent Representatives to UNEP find GEO-2000 useful for identifying major emerging environmental issues.

Chapter 5 of GEO-2000, entitled “Outlook and Recommendations,” deals directly with emerging issues. These issues include:

- Nitrogen Loading
- Forest fires
- Natural disasters
- El Nino
- Species Invasion
- Decline of Environmental Governance
- Eco-Fatigue
- War and Refugees.

Figure 4.5 The usefulness of GEO-2000 in providing policy guidance at the regional level

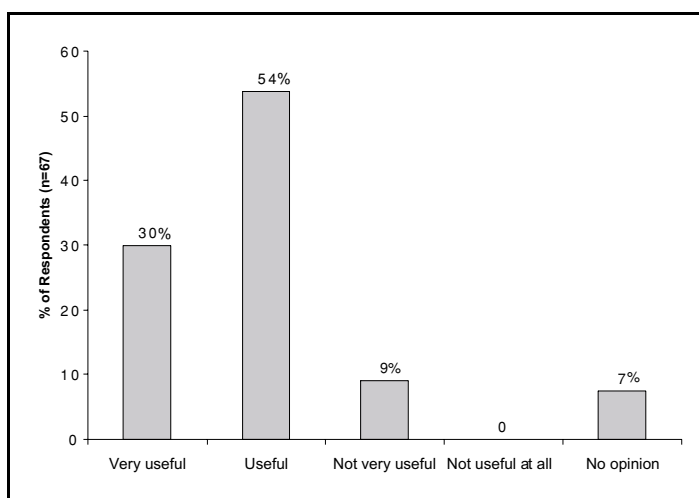
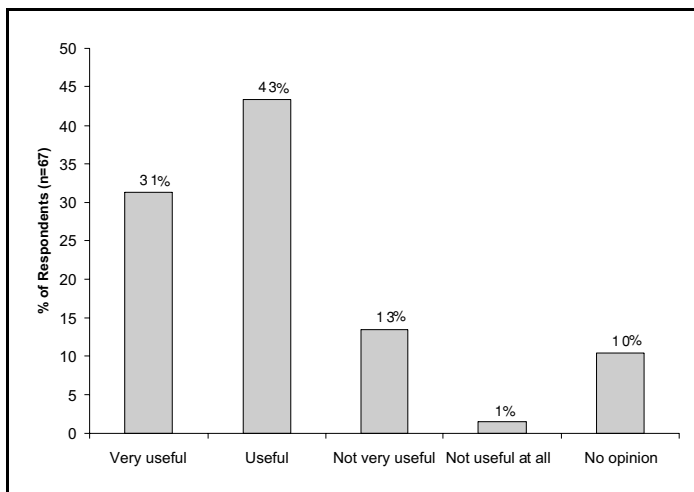


Figure 4.6 The usefulness of GEO-2000 in providing policy guidance at the national level



Over 90 per cent of respondents reported GEO-2000 to be either very useful (54 per cent) or useful (39 per cent) to them for identifying emerging environmental issues (see **Figure 4.7**). Comments from respondents on this aspect of GEO-2000 are shown in **Box 4.2**.

Finding 13: Ministers of the Environment, their senior advisors, and Permanent Representatives to UNEP find GEO-2000 useful for placing national issues in a broader perspective.

Figure 4.7 Usefulness of GEO-2000 for identifying major emerging issues

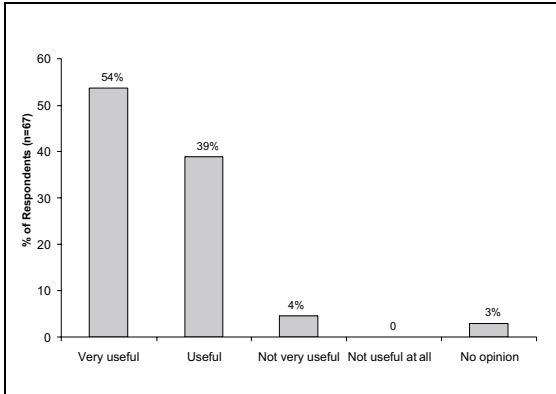


Table 4.2 Comments on GEO-2000 and emerging environmental issues

An Austrian Senior Environmental Advisor, viewed GEO-2000's most important role as that of "identifying emerging issues and to place national issues in a broader perspective."

Similarly, a Canadian Permanent Representative to UNEP, viewed GEO-2000's most important role as "a reference for major environmental developments and prognosis."

GEO-2000 contains separate sections which deal with environmental policy responses at the global level and for seven regions (Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, North America, West Asia and Polar Areas). Eighty-five per cent of respondents noted the useful role played by GEO-2000 in allowing them to place national policy issues in a broader perspective (see **Figure 4.8 and Box 4.3**).

Figure 4.8 Usefulness of GEO-2000 for putting national issues in a broader perspective

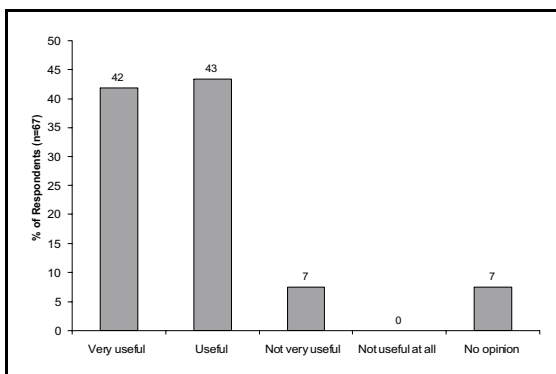


Table 4.3 Comments on GEO-2000: The Broader Perspective

A Senior Environment Advisor noted the usefulness of GEO-2000 as "a help in thinking about national strategy for environmental protection, particularly by providing us with a broader picture and as a pointer to emerging issues."

4.2 Use of GEO-2000 by Other Groups

Finding 14: Respondents to the GEO-2000 readership questionnaire described a variety of uses for GEO-2000. (see figure 4.9)

Figure 4.9 Reader responses on use of GEO-2000

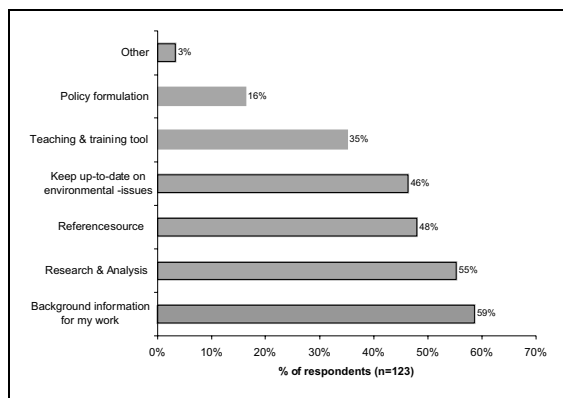


Figure 4.9 shows the uses of GEO-2000 as reported by GEO-2000 readers in response to a questionnaire contained in the report. For these readers, the four largest uses of GEO-2000 are background information for their work, for research and analysis purposes, as a reference source, and to keep them up-to-date on environmental issues. Thirteen per cent indicated that they used GEO-2000 as a teaching and training tool, and 16 per cent for policy formulation.

Finding 15: Media around the globe are using GEO-2000 as an authoritative information source for environmental reporting.

Although no systematic clipping service was established to track the use of GEO-2000 by the media, the study team found evidence that the media were using the report as an authoritative source of environmental information. (The impact that GEO-2000 is having within the media is discussed in more detail in **Section 5.5**.)

GEO-2000 was the primary source document for a six-part radio series, each segment of 25 minutes duration, broadcast on the BBC World Service. The series, introduced by UNEP Executive Director, Dr. Klaus Töpfer, was broadcast three times across eight time zones around the world.

Evidence was also collected of widespread print media coverage of either GEO-2000 itself or of issues drawn from it. The coverage was associated primarily with the global and regional launches of the report (**Appendix III** lists the location of GEO-2000 launches). The launches of associated GEO products such as Pachamama and GEO-LAC also attracted media coverage. Further, UNEP's Director of Communications and Public Information, Mr. T. Brevik, notes that GEO-2000 has generated the most media inquiries of any UNEP publication and that, as of June 2000, there was still "major currency with media across the globe."

Finding 16: GEO-2000 is being used as course-related material in academic institutions.

The academic sector was noted as a key audience who received or bought copies of GEO-2000 (**see User Profile section of this report**). Although the publisher reports only one known example to date of the English version of GEO-2000 being adopted as a course text, additional evidence of GEO-2000 being used as university level course-related material was gathered. Examples included:

- Adoption of the report as a course text for the London Guildhall University's course on International Environmental Politics
- A section of the GEO-2000 report being reproduced in 24 000 copies of the course text used by the UK Open University for its distance education "Technology for Sustainable Future" course

- The Chinese language version of GEO-2000 is used as reference material for the Environmental Assessment course at the University of Beijing. Further, the Vice Rector of the UN's University for Peace is making it available to all his staff.

Individual requests for copies of the report from academics received by UNEP also suggest that the report is being widely used as reference material for academic course work, but currently no tracking mechanism to quantify this type of use of the report is available.

Finding 17: GEO-2000 is being used as an authoritative source of environmental information by senior UN leaders for speeches and interviews.

During the study some evidence was gathered that GEO-2000 was being used as a source of authoritative environmental information by senior UN leaders and Directors, as background for the preparation of speeches and interviews. For example, correspondence with UNEP confirms that the Sustaining Our Future of the Report of the UN Secretary General to the Millennium Assembly of the United Nations drew significantly from GEO-2000's section on policy recommendations. UNEP Director, Dr. Klaus Töpfer, refers to the report regularly in interviews and speeches such as that given in Newsweek magazine, September 1999.

4.3 Use of GEO-2000 Associated Products

Finding 18: Pachamama has been used at youth events around the globe as an environmental awareness-raising tool.

Pachamama has been launched and used at environment-related youth events in more than 15 countries to date. These events include workshops, forums and conferences. As many of these events received extensive media coverage, the value of the event as an awareness-raising vehicle was enhanced. Further, Pachamama is already being used in schools in the UK (direct sales of 1 000 copies). Data are not yet available from school systems outside the UK, but a proactive strategy to promote the use of Pachamama in schools and youth groups is currently being piloted in several African, Asian and Latin American countries - which suggests that the product's use in school curricula in other areas of the globe will increase over the coming year.

Finding 19: The SIDS Caribbean Report was generally well received but some concerns have emerged regarding the report.

For the purposes of this study, the review team selected the SIDS Caribbean report to further their understanding of the SIDS reports. Based on an interview with Bruce Potter from the Island Resources Foundation the SIDS Caribbean report was generally well received but some errors in the beginning of the report may have negatively affected the first impressions of most readers. The report seems to reflect the generally accepted view of the state of the environment in the developing nations of the Caribbean. Mr. Potter noted that the report surprised him in that his work had not given him a deep enough appreciation of the extent to which the fisheries in the Caribbean had deteriorated. He also noted that he was afraid that because of a lack of practical policy development suggestions, the SIDS Caribbean report would not be used to its full potential. There was also too little time and money invested in the report to really instil a sense of ownership among the members of the conservation community.



5. Impacts of GEO Products and Process

5.1 Introduction

This section provides an assessment of the impacts that GEO reports and process are having on government policy development and decision-making, capacity development among those organizations involved in the GEO process, as well as the impact of GEO products on general audiences and the media.

5.2 Impact on Policy Development and Decision-making

Finding 20: The GEO-2000 report and process are contributing to regional and national policy development in several regions.

Box 5.1 “The primary impact (and I think mission) of the GEO reports is to raise the general awareness of policy makers, scientists and the general public on the large-scale processes and trends regarding the global environment and the human system that drives environmental change. I think it has successfully advanced this agenda, but in ways that are difficult to directly measure. But I believe that if GEO did not exist, the policy discussion would be impoverished. With GEO, there is a greater tendency to understand the linkages between environmental issues, the policy options and the urgency to act.”

Director, Boston Centre of the Stockholm Environment Institute

Indicators have not been developed within the GEO process to systematically measure the impact of the reports and process on environmental policy development. The Director of the Boston Centre of the Stockholm Environment Institute quoted above, reflects the responses of many persons interviewed for this study who believe that the GEO process and reports are having an impact, but in ways that are hard to measure. In addition to the lack of indicators, respondents note two other factors that make it difficult to identify the direct influence of the GEO reports and process on policy development: a) that trying to identify instances of GEO as a unique source of influence on policy development is often confounded by other influencing factors, and b) that influencing policy development is often a long-term and subtle process.

Despite these constraints, however, the study identified a range of examples that illustrate the impact of the GEO report and

process in this area. Specific examples of GEO-2000's contribution to policy development and decision-making are shown in **Box 5.2**. These comments show that GEO-2000 is used as a source of contextual information for policy discussions, and in the development of national environmental guidelines, and that it contributes to agenda setting of regional policy development forums. In conjunction with the questionnaire results from ministers of Environment, Senior Advisors and Permanent Representatives to UNEP (see section 4.1), a picture emerges of how GEO-2000 contributes in a variety of important ways to environmental policy development and decision-making in different regions of the world.

Box 5.2 Examples of GEO-2000's role in policy development and decision-making

GEO-2000 and Policy Development

Senior Policy Advisor of Sweden notes that the GEO-2000 report's most important use for him is as a "substantive and authoritative tool for facilitating policy making."

A European Environment Minister notes that "GEO-2000 information is important in discussions of environmental policies in the Baltic Sea sub-region and on responsibilities associated with the implementation of international conventions."

A European Policy Advisor, reported that GEO-2000 has been used "to provide background information and arguments in sectoral policy discussions."

An African Minister consults GEO-2000 "for examples of environmental policy from around the world when formulating domestic policy."

Permanent Representative to UNEP from Asia and the Pacific region observes that "GEO-2000 is very useful for environmental decision-making in Korea."

Senior advisor from Europe notes the importance of GEO-2000 "in the creation of guidelines for national sustainable development strategy."

Permanent Representative to UNEP from Asia and the Pacific region uses GEO-2000 "Upon the request of high level decision-makers of the government to prepare some substantive background information on the state of the environment both in a global context and in a regional context, which facilitates the decision-makers in policy formulation and in participating in some important environmental forums".

An Environment Minister from Africa notes the importance of GEO-2000 "as a reference text for policy analysis and development on major environmental themes"

UNEP's Regional Director for West Asia, noted that "at a recent conference of the environment ministers from the region, discussions of environmental priorities were based on the priorities set forward in the GEO-2000 report."

The background documents for the Eighth Session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) held in Abuja, Nigeria, in April 2000 drew on the regional information contained in GEO-2000

Finding 21: The most immediately identifiable impact of GEO-2000 on regional and national policy-making is the growing adoption of the GEO methodology by regional governmental forums and national governments for the production and/or improvement of their state of the environment reporting.

According to people interviewed for this study, GEO-2000's most clear influence on regional and national policy development was in the area of promoting and improving the preparation of state of the environment (SOE) reporting. Evidence indicates that the GEO-2000 report and process played an instrumental role in policy decisions to prepare regional and national SOE reports where they had not previously been done. Other regions, in which SOE reports were already being produced, reported that adoption of the GEO methodology had improved their reports significantly. Specific examples of GEO-2000's contribution to SOE reporting are shown in **Box 5.3**.

Box 5.3 Examples of GEO-2000's catalytic role in state of the environment assessment and reporting

GEO-2000 and SOE

- A representative of UNEP's Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) notes that "The GEO process and methodology have had a profound impact on the production of assessment reports in the region. At the national level, integrated assessment reports in the mould of GEO have been completed by Panama and Chile with the assistance of UNEP. Similar reports are under development for Cuba, Peru, Costa Rica and Barbados."
- The University of Chile's Programme for Sustainable Development, housed in the Centre for Public Policy Analysis (a GEO Collaborating Centre) negotiated with the Government of Chile to produce a series of three national SOE reports over the next six years based on the successful production of the first Chilean SOE produced by the Centre in 1999.
- The Eighth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN), held in Abuja, Nigeria, in April 2000 approved AMCEN's medium-term programme (2000-2004). A key element of this programme is the production of the Africa Environment Outlook (AEO) report. The programme also calls for strengthened capacity for addressing the information gaps and priority needs adopted in the African Environment Outlook Report by the GEO process. The AMCEN Inter-sessional Committee, which met in Malmo, Sweden on 31 May 2000, further requested that the first Africa Environment Outlook (AEO) report be prepared and launched at the next AMCEN session to be held in Kampala, Uganda, in April 2002, in advance of the World Summit on Sustainable Development.
- The Coordinator of NESDA, a GEO Collaborating Centre, reports that the GEO guidelines have been used as the basis for the preparation of SOE reports in Gabon, Senegal Congo, Ghana and Cameroon.
- The Government of Jordan has requested assistance from UNEP's regional office in West Asia in the development of its national SOE that is based on the GEO framework
- A representative of China's State of Environmental Protection Administration, reports that the GEO process has had significant impact on China's SOE framework, the framework being adjusted and expanded in line with the GEO process. He also reports that the release of GEO-2000 in Chinese has had a great impact on environmental assessment in China, resulting in improving the methodologies at the regional level.
- As a result of participating in the GEO process, 9 of the 16 Collaborating Centres responding to the study questionnaire reported that they had been requested to implement additional national and regional SOE reporting projects.

Three of these examples are explored in more detail below, to illustrate the extent to which GEO-2000 is contributing to policy development by promoting and improving regional and national SOE reporting. The first example is from a meeting of the ministers of the environment of Latin America and the Caribbean (see **Box 5.4**); the second example is from the Centre for Public Policy Analysis in Chile (see **Box 5.5**); and third from NESDA's work in Central Africa (see **Table 5.6**). The full text of these case studies can be found in the appendices.

Box 5.4 Case Study: LAC Environment Minister's Meeting, Adoption of the GEO Process

The Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean is “the longest standing, most representative and most important political gathering for reaching consensus on environmental policies and responses at the regional level.”

All the governments of Latin America and the Caribbean were invited to the Twelfth Meeting of Environment Ministers in Bridgetown, Barbados in March 2000. Other guests included observer delegations from Canada, the United Kingdom and the United States, as well as United Nations agencies (FAO, WB, ECLAC, UNDP), Convention Secretariats and Conventions, several inter-governmental organizations (such as the IDB and the OAS), and NGOs.

Building on a presentation of GEO-2000 at preparatory technical meetings, the ministerial meeting decided Decision 4, see **(Appendix VI)** to strongly support Integrated Environmental Assessment within the region using the GEO process and methodology.

In addition to supporting the GEO methodology and process, Decision 4 included a number of other requests that reflect the influence of GEO-2000. These included calls for the strengthening of regional networks of Collaborating Centres and experts, as well as support for the GEO for the youth process in Latin America and the Caribbean. Decision 4 finally urged all national, sub-regional and regional bodies to collaborate in and support common methodologies for regional assessments within the GEO framework.

Box 5.5 Case Study: Chile & SOE Assessment and Reporting

An important outcome of the GEO process in Chile was the production of a State of the Environment (SOE) report. Following a decision from its Council of Ministers, the National Commission of the Environment (CONAMA) requested the University of Chile to produce an SOE report. The Centre for Public Policy Analysis coordinated an interdisciplinary process that involved academics, experts and professionals from a variety of universities and NGOs, as well as external consultants.

On April 28, 2000, the final version of the SOE report in Chile 1999 was submitted to the CONAMA. Following its publication, the Centre received numerous requests for the document from several government ministries (Health, Culture, Public Work, Housing and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs), NGOs and other institutions, including businesses. This is a good indicator of the impact and potential influence of the report.

As a result of this successful experience, the Centre is currently (November 2000) negotiating with the government of Chile to produce a series of three SOE reports over the next six years (one every two years). This would be an important step in establishing sustainability for the SOE process in Chile. It would allow the Centre to generate new data as more time and resources would be available to conduct new research, update the data and perhaps develop new indicators with its partners.

Box 5.6 Case Study: NESDA and SOE Assessment and Reporting

UNEP and NESDA initiated two strategic workshops to strengthen national and regional capacities in environment assessment and raise awareness about the GEO process in Central Africa. Participants included high-level technical experts and representatives from Environment Ministries in Central African countries.

Overall, the two workshops generated positive outcomes and made the GEO process and methodology more widely known to high-level policy makers in the region.

Workshop in Libreville, Gabon from February 7 - 11, 2000

Participants included representatives from Cameroon, Congo Brazzaville, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, and Chad.

Participants were given a detailed explanation of the GEO methodology as well as the specific steps to conduct national and regional SOE. Participants discussed general trends in the management of natural resources for the mid and the long term. Several issues were identified, including concern over the availability of reliable data on the environment in African countries; the fact that environmental policy instruments do not enjoy public support; and the need for integrated environmental assessment (IEA).

- Participants recommended that an IEA be produced for Central Africa and that NESDA would manage the overall GEO process and environmental reporting activities.
- Participants adopted the “Libreville Declaration”, which expressed support for the SOE and GEO process as well as for NESDA in its objective to build capacity in IEA and reporting in the region.

Workshop in Douala, Cameroon, from August 28-30, 2000

Participants included policy-makers, as well as technical experts and scientists. Countries represented: Cameroon, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, Congo Brazzaville, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana.

One of the workshop goals was to produce and validate an IEA for Central Africa, based on the data gathered for the national SOEs.

Participants produced a draft IEA report for Central Africa, and Environment Ministries and governments from the participant countries are currently approving the document in their respective capitals.

Participants adopted the “Douala Declaration” which:

- reiterates the commitment of the Central African countries to environmental assessment and reporting and the GEO process
- proposes the establishment of a working group on the management of natural disasters and the environmental impact of armed conflicts in the region
- indicates the countries' willingness to be more involved as a region in environmental management at the global level.

5.3 Impact on Capacity Development at the Collaborating Centres

Finding 22: UNEP GEO project staff and Collaborating Centre staff have expressed the need to systematically develop the capacity of Collaborating Centres.

The initial assumption at the outset of the GEO-1 process was that the Collaborating Centres had sufficient capacity (knowledge, skills, resources, etc.) to deliver the necessary inputs for the Outlook report. No in-depth assessments of the Centres' capabilities were conducted prior to their incorporation into the network. In due course it was established and recorded in various GEO forums that the Centres varied considerably in their capacity to deliver the necessary inputs. Generally, North American and European Centres, with their greater experience of environmental assessment and reporting and easier access to resources, had stronger capacity than Centres in other regions.

UNEP and GEO Collaborating Centres (CCs) recognized the need to systematically develop the capacity of CCs, and this is being addressed. Towards the beginning of GEO-2000 a training programme and manual in Integrated Environmental Assessment was developed, aimed at national level reporting. During the production and launch of GEO-2000 (1998-1999), three training courses were held in West Asia, the Caribbean and West Africa. Since then, data collected for this study indicate that capacity development efforts have been strengthened and considerably expanded under GEO-3, with an additional seven training courses held up to the end of 2000 (see Table 5.1 below). However, the impact of these sessions will form a part of the GEO-3 evaluation.

Table 5.1 Training Sessions for Collaborating Centres: GEO-2000

DATE	LOCATION	TARGETED REGION OR GROUP	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS
December 1998	Bahrain	West Asia	16
May 1999	Ghana	West Africa	32
November 1999	Trinidad and Tobago	English Speaking Caribbean	16
March 2000	Kenya	East Africa	17
May 2000	Mauritius	Indian Ocean	15
July 2000	Thailand	Asia Pacific	16
October 2000	Zimbabwe	Southern Africa	14
November 2000	Trinidad and Tobago	English Speaking Caribbean	25
		Total	172

Despite the lack of a systematic capacity-building programme, several areas were identified in which Collaborating Centres (CCs) were able to build their capacity as a result of their participation in the GEO process. These areas are presented in the findings below. Specific examples drawn from the case studies illustrate each finding in more detail.

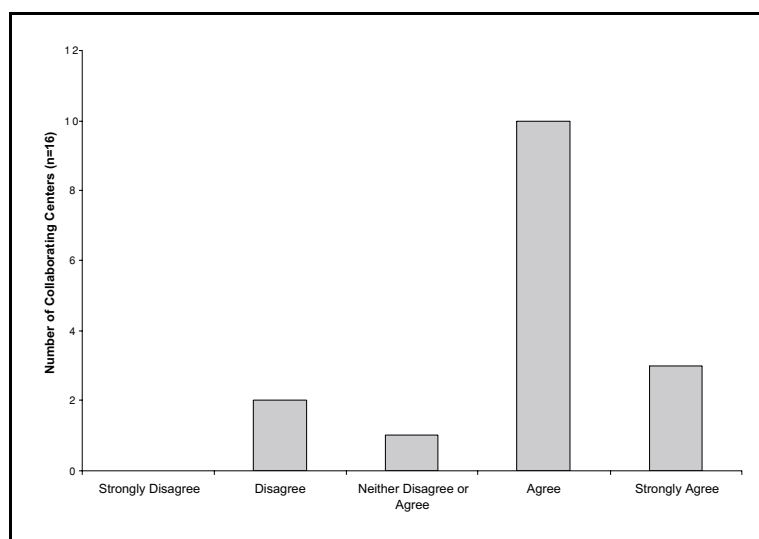
Finding 23: Participation in the GEO-2000 process provided an important opportunity for Collaborating Centres to establish and/or strengthen their professional relationship with other organizations at the global, regional and national level.

Box 5.7 “Participation in the GEO process has helped in the overall strengthening of the institutional capacity of the Collaborating Centre for carrying out environmental studies, integrated environment assessment and suggesting policy measures at the regional and global levels. It has also helped in increasing inter- and intra-regional cooperation through the Collaborating Centre network.”

Representative of the, Asian Institute of Technology

The GEO process required the collaboration of many organizations that until then had not had the opportunity to work together. **Figure 5.1** shows that 13 of the 16 Collaborating Centres responding to the study questionnaire reported that their Centres had established or strengthened their professional relationship with other regional institutions as a result of participating in the GEO process. Similarly 12 CCs had established or strengthened their professional relations with other global institutions and 10 CCs had done so with other national institutions. Collaborating Centre directors reported that the increased opportunities to network were very important to them, facilitating the exchange of important information and methodologies as well as opening up new opportunities for cooperation in their work.

Figure 5.1 The degree to which the Collaborating Centres agree that they have improved their regional networking as a result of the GEO Process.



The GEO process provided significant networking opportunities for the three GEO Collaborating Centres in Latin America and the Caribbean Region. At the national and regional levels particularly, it allowed them to develop and strengthen working partnerships with individuals and institutions working in the same area.

In Brazil, for example, IBAMA developed ties with several research centres, NGOs and networks of NGOs, the Ministry of the Environment as well as senators. At the regional level, it strengthened ties with research institutions in the Dominican Republic, Chile, Panama, Colombia, Paraguay, Mexico, Nicaragua and Costa Rica.

In Chile, the Centre for Public Policy Analysis developed relationships with several universities, research institutes and government bodies such as the CONAMA, the Catholic University, the Universities of Valdivia, Talca, Concepción and Austral, as well as other research centres, experts and consultants. The Centre also developed ties with organizations at the regional and global level, such as with GEO collaborating and associate centres in Brazil, Costa Rica and Cuba, as well as with the Stockholm Environment Institute in Boston, and the National Institute of Public Health and the Environment in the Netherlands. These networking opportunities, in addition to encouraging the sharing of views, knowledge, methodologies and experiences, enabled the Centre to establish and/or strengthen its professional relationships with a variety of key actors in the field of environment. It also allowed the Centre to gain exposure at the national and regional levels.

In Costa Rica, the Development Observatory (OdD) of the University of Costa Rica built a strong and effective network of collaborators with research institutions, experts, specialists, consultants and professionals at the national and regional levels. At the global level, it developed relationships with NGOs and research centres in the United Kingdom and Germany.

In Europe, the Central European University (CEU) Collaborating Centre's links with regional and global institutions were improved but the Centre also strengthened its links with the Soros Foundation network because of its experience across Northern and Central Asia, especially when the Centre had to deal with local languages.

Finding 24: Participation in the GEO process has supported the efforts of some collaborating Centres to obtain additional funding. However, participation does not reduce overheads for most Centres.

Access to sufficient financial resources is a critical issue for many environmental research organizations, and high profile projects such as GEO can support Collaborating Centre's efforts to obtain funds from additional sources. Eight of the 16 Collaborating Centres responding to the study questionnaire reported that participation in GEO had had a positive influence on their ability to attract additional financial resources (**figure 5.2**). It should be noted that of those Centres that did attract more funds, four were in North America or Western Europe. However, as shown in **Figure 5.3**, nine of the Centres responding to the GEO survey disagreed (four of them strongly) with the statement that they were able to reduce their overhead costs as a result of participating in GEO-2000.

In Chile, the Centre for Public Policy Analysis was able to develop contract opportunities and attract additional funding when it produced the State of the Environment (SOE) report. As a result of this successful experience the Centre negotiated (late 2000) with the government of Chile to produce a series of three SOE reports over the next six years. This series, which would be an important step in establishing sustainability for the SOE process in Chile, is a clear example of research and work opportunities provided to the Centre as a result of its involvement in the GEO process.

In the same vein, the capacity built by the (OdD) of the University of Costa Rica in the GEO process enabled it to provide technical assistance to the Government of Panama and produced their national IEA report at the request of UNEP/ROLAC.

Figure 5.2 The degree to which the Collaborating Centres agree that they were able to attract additional financial resources as a result of the GEO process.

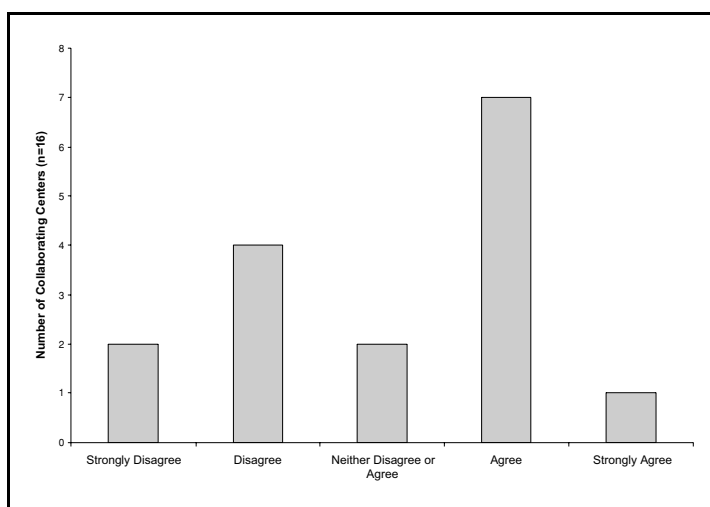
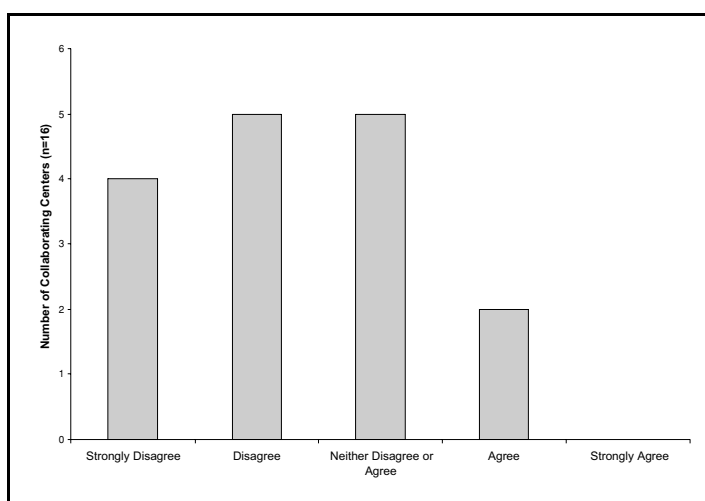


Figure 5.3 The degree to which the Collaborating Centres agree that their overhead costs were reduced as a result of the GEO process.



The CEU's Department of Environmental Studies and Policy is funded exclusively by the Hungarian Soros Foundation. As a result of the demands that GEO put on the Collaborating Centre's financial resources, it requested more funding from the Foundation. The Foundation agreed to provide partial funds for two additional positions on the department staff, provided that UNEP also provide a certain level of funding.

Finding 25: Several Centres reported that participation in the GEO process led to an improvement in the quality of products and services offered, increased satisfaction among Centre stakeholders, and enhanced their credibility and reputation.

Figure 5.4 shows that 9 of the 16 Collaborating Centres reported that they were able to enhance the quality of their services and products as a result of participating in the GEO process. **Figure**

5.5 shows that 9 of the 16 Collaborating Centres responding to the study questionnaire reported that their participation in GEO had enhanced their reputation with stakeholders. This was the case with Centres in North America or Western Europe as well as in the developing world.

Figure 5.4 The degree to which the Collaborating Centres agree that the quality of their products and services was enhanced as a result of the GEO process.

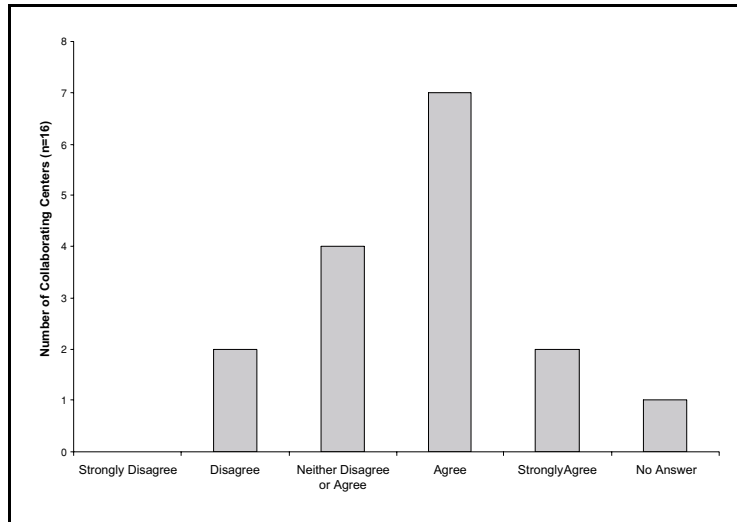
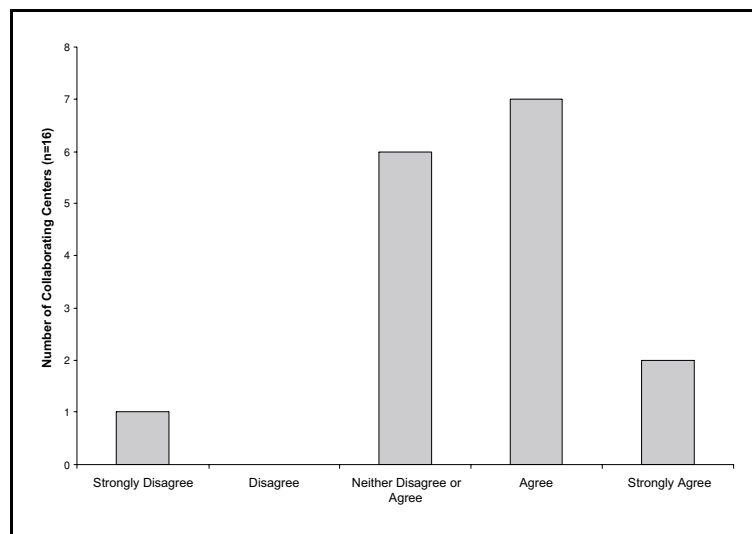


Figure 5.5 The degree to which the Collaborating Centres agree that the Centre's credibility was enhanced as a result of the GEO process.



In addition to its involvement in the production of GEO-2000, GEO LAC and the IEA for Panama, OdD is also developing a roster of environmental experts and a database of environmental information from the region, thanks to a grant from the United Nations Foundation for International Partnerships (UNFIP).¹ OdD plans to share and distribute these to the community of collaborating and associate centres in the region as soon as they are completed.

¹ Several Collaborating Centres received financial support from UNFIP to support GEO related activities.

“GEO-2000 meant for the OdD an opportunity to test its capacity to coordinate team work and to build new mechanisms for gathering data. It (also) helped strengthen the organization due to the fact that OdD was, at that moment, a brand new university initiative”.²

Director, OdD stated in a letter to UNEP, January 1999

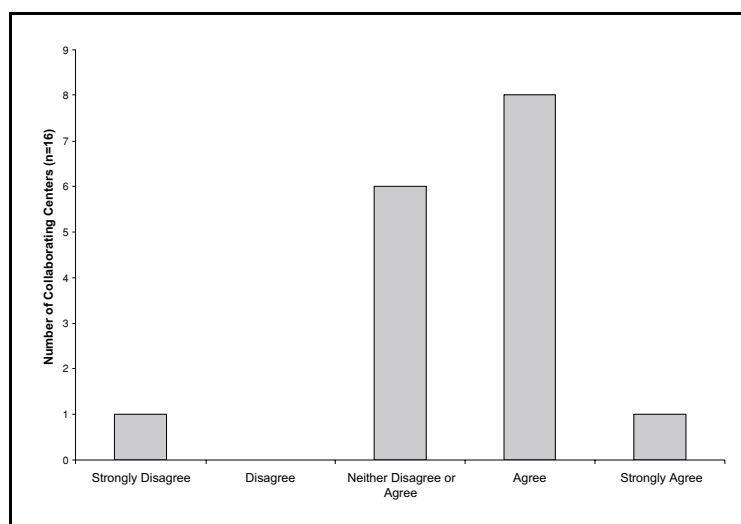
According to the Director of OdD, these GEO related activities contributed to enhancing the reputation of the Centre. As such, OdD’s Steering Committee is very satisfied with the work and products of the Centre so far. The OdD Steering Committee is composed of national stakeholders such as representatives from national assembly, civil groups, peasant organizations, cooperatives, etc.

Because of the unique position of the CEU’s Department of Environmental Studies and Policy in a predominately liberal arts university, the credibility of the department has sometimes been in question. Even though it was the largest department in the first few years after the founding of the University, their enrolment was steadily declining. The department director reports that GEO has helped reverse this trend because the department’s affiliation with UNEP and GEO has caused the rest of the University to view the department in a better light.

Finding 26: Several Collaborating Centres report that participation in the GEO process allowed them to attract additional staff, optimize the use of the existing staff’s knowledge and skills, and develop new skills and knowledge for staff members.

Participation in the GEO-2000 process had a positive effect on the human resource capacity at several Collaborating Centres responding to the GEO survey. Six of the 16 reported that they were able to attract additional human resources as a result of their participation in GEO (**figure 5.6**) and nine Centres were able to optimise the use of their staff members’ skills and knowledge (**figure 5.7**). Four of the six reporting the addition of staff also reported that GEO allowed them to optimise the use of their staff members skills and knowledge.

Figure 5.6 The degree to which the Collaborating Centres were able to optimise staff skills and knowledge as a result of the GEO process.



Further, 11 of the 16 responding Centres reported that their professional staff were able to develop new skills and knowledge as a result of their participation in the GEO process (**Figure 5.8**)

Figure 5.7 The degree to which the Collaborating Centres agree that they were able to attract additional human resources as a result of the GEO process.

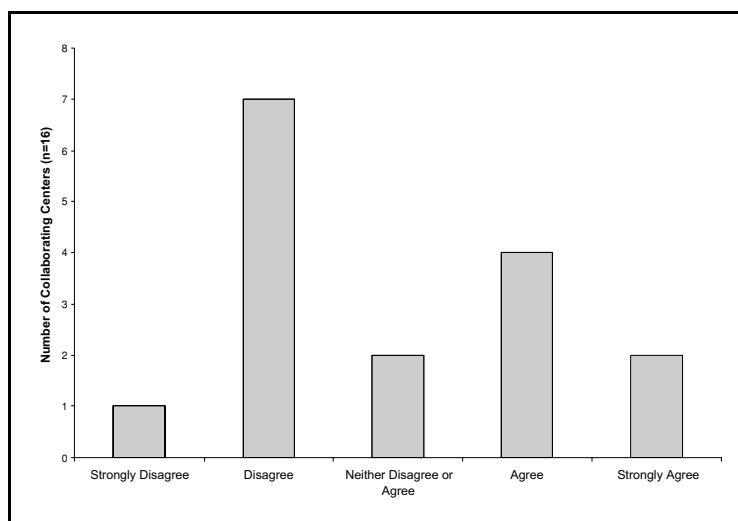
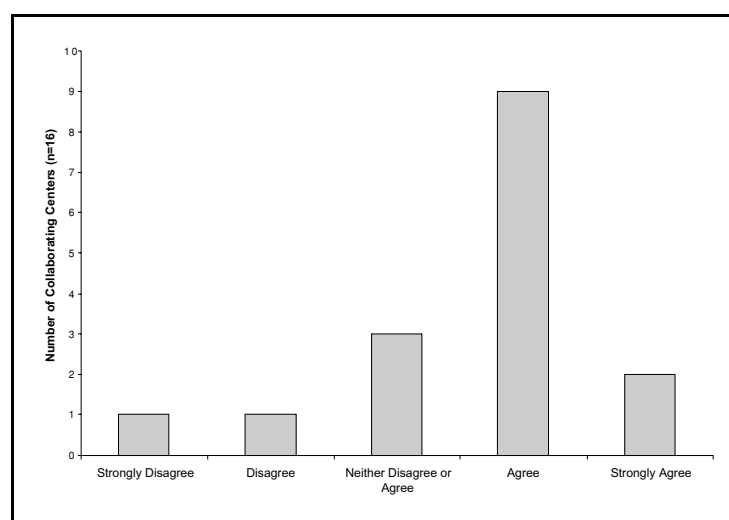


Figure 5.8 The degree to which the Collaborating Centres agree that their staff was able to develop new skills and knowledge as a result of the GEO process.



In Costa Rica, the involvement of OdD in the production of GEO-LAC provided opportunities for its staff to develop their expertise and knowledge of the GEO process and methodology. As for GEO-2000, the process presented several difficulties such as the need to reconcile different data collection procedures, methodologies, and ways to systematize the information. This allowed the staff of the Centre to develop a capacity to understand the concepts and data collection procedures used at the regional level. Overall, The Director of OdD, believes that he and his staff learned a great deal in the GEO process. “Our people have a much broader view, a more holistic approach toward environmental issues...We are the actors of this process.”

In Chile, the Centre for Public Policy and Analysis was involved in data collection for Southern American countries and contributed to production of GEO-1, GEO-2000, and GEO-LAC, as well as Chile’s SOE for 1999. As emphasized by the Director of the Centre, the biggest challenge in such a process is to ensure that the methodologies used and data collected from the networks of

institutions and experts are compatible. In other words, the challenge is about mainstreaming the data, as the ways to present information can vary considerably from one institution to another. The GEO process has allowed the staff of the Centre to develop a thorough understanding of the concepts and data collection methodologies used at the regional level while enabling staff members to develop new skills in environmental assessment.

In Brazil, the Director of IBAMA suggested that GEO enabled the Centre’s staff members to develop new skills, particularly in conceptual modelling of national and regional assessments, integrated assessment techniques, modelling, scenarios and database management.

As a result of GEO-2000 the CEU Collaborating Centre was able to add two members to its staff: one for integration of environmental data sets, and the other to collaborate on GEO researching on a temporary basis. This second person was seconded from another GEO Collaborating Centre, Moscow State University.

5.4 Impact on GEO-2000 General Readership

Included in every copy of GEO-2000 was a reader response survey. At the time of this report, 123 responses had been received. Thirty-seven per cent of respondents classified themselves as professional staff and faculty members. About a quarter were senior managers and decision-makers, while middle managers and students each made up 11 per cent. The remaining respondents classified themselves as either students, teachers or consultants.

Finding 27: Over 60 per cent of readers reported that they found the report very useful.

Of the respondents to the reader response survey, a combined total of 92 per cent thought that GEO-2000 was useful to them. **(Figure 5.9)** The most useful part of the report was considered to be the technical information, which 90 per cent rated as either good or excellent. Other positively-rated attributes were the report’s objectivity (83 per cent), its presentation and readability (83 per cent) and its accuracy and coverage (both 82 per cent).

Figure 5.9 Usefulness of GEO-2000

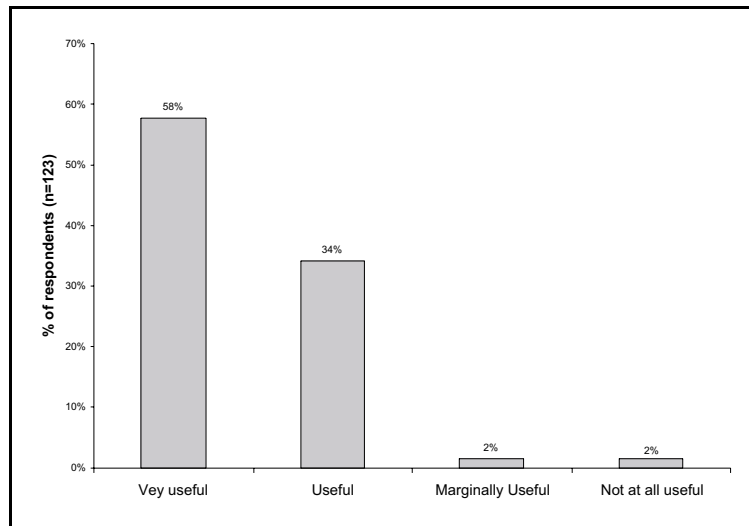
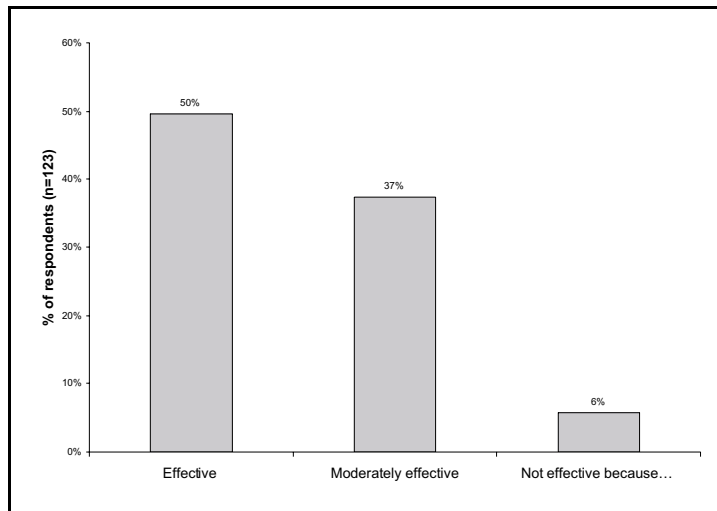


Figure 5.10 Achievement of GEO Objectives



Finding 28: Readers reported that GEO-2000 presented a comprehensive, integrated, forward-looking, policy-relevant assessment of the environment.

The majority of respondents (50 per cent) said that GEO-2000 had achieved its objectives of presenting an effective assessment of the environment that was comprehensive, integrated, forward-looking and policy-relevant. A further 37 per cent believed that its assessment was moderately effective, and only 6 per cent believed that it had not been effective at all. (Figure 5.10)

Finding 29: Readers reported GEO-2000 was unique in that it provided an integrated overview of the environment, useful data, information and graphics, and global and regional perspectives on environmental issues and policies not provided by other reports.

The usefulness of GEO-2000 depends partly on its uniqueness, and on its ability to provide users with information not found in other state of the environment reports. Fifty per cent of readers found GEO-2000's integrated overview of environmental issues and trends to be GEO-2000's most unique characteristic. A further 37 per cent believed that the global and regional perspectives on environmental issues and policy were the most unique aspect of the report. (Figure 5.11)

Figure 5.11 Uniqueness of GEO-2000

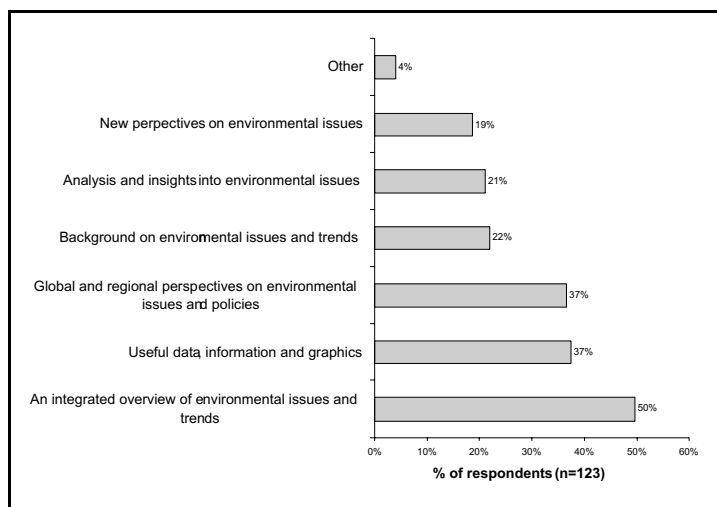
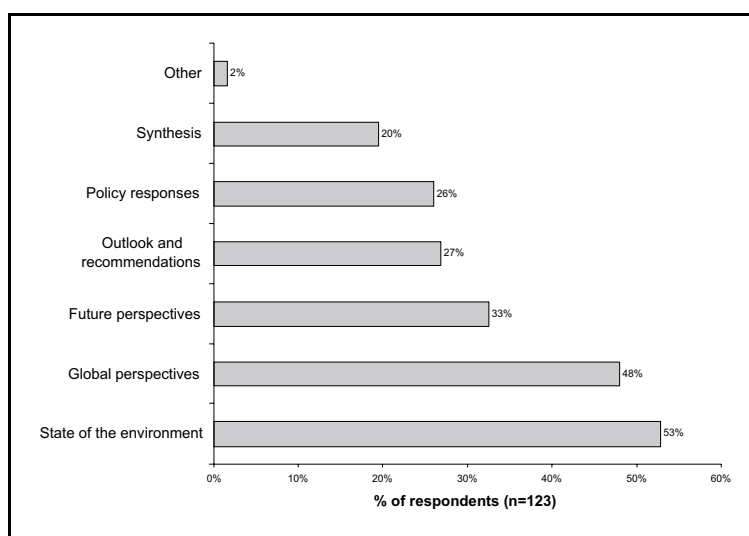


Figure 5.12 Most referred-to sections.



Finding 30: The three sections of the report most referred to by readers are: the state of the environment, the global perspectives and future perspectives.

Fifty-three per cent of readers said that they referred most frequently to the state of the environment section of the GEO-2000 report. The global perspectives section was also deemed to be important by 48 per cent of readers, and a further 33 per cent of readers referred most often to the future perspective. (Figure 5.12)

5.5 Impact on Media around the Globe

Finding 31: Broadcast and print media in several regions across the globe view GEO-2000 as an authoritative information source to draw on in the preparation of environmentally-related articles or programming.

As indicated in an earlier finding, both print and broadcast media are using GEO-2000 as a source of environmental information for the preparation of print articles and broadcasts. Evidence was identified in the course of this study that indicates not only that GEO-2000 is being used, but that it is regarded as an authoritative source of information by highly respected media around the globe. Although no clipping service has been employed to systematically track references in the media, significant references to GEO-2000 have been identified in such English language newspapers as The Times of London, The Guardian, The Financial Times, Newsweek and The Independent.

The global launch of GEO 2000 is regarded in London and New York to have been highly successful as reported by both UNEP staff and the amount of press and broadcast generated by the event. The London launch took place in September, 1999 at the Royal Academy of Arts and was presided over by UNEP Executive Director, Dr. Klaus Töpfer. The high-profile nature of the event (200 guests were invited from the media, academia, industry, NGOs, government, international organizations, financial institutions and GEO Collaborating Centres) combined with UNEP investing in the event resulted, in the words of UNEP's Communications Director, Mr. T. Brevik, in "the most successful UNEP press conference in 12 years," and was responsible for generating the initial extensive media coverage of GEO-2000.

The wide media coverage was repeated at many of the regional launches over the following months. In addition to the reports of such coverage from UNEP Regional Offices, examples have been collected from the press of a wide range of countries including: South Africa; Israel; Bangladesh; India; Peru; Mexico; Norway and Germany.

UNEP's Communication and Public Information Department reports that media interest in the publication has been sustained, their department still receiving (in late 2000) regular requests from media sources regarding the report. To quote the Department's Director again, "GEO 2000 is still major currency in the media world."

GEO-2000 also played a role in raising interest in environmental issues in the broadcast media. The producer of the six-part BBC world service radio programme based on GEO-2000, reported that one of his motivations for opting to prepare programming on the issues raised in the report was that, until that time, none of the issues had been adequately covered by the BBC. The interview with the programme's producer also provided insight into why the media had been receptive to consulting GEO-2000 for the basis of articles and programmes. The producer reported that in his view as a journalist interested in environmental issues, GEO-2000 is perceived as "one of the two most respected environmental outlook publications currently available." The producer also noted that GEO is perceived to be the more objective of the two because of the collaborative development process of the report.

5.6 Impact of Pachamama

Finding 32: Pachamama is reaching youth around the globe, and adults who work with them, to increase their understanding of, and potential solutions to, the world's environmental challenges.

Although the Pachamama project is ongoing there are already a number of indications that youth and the adults who work with them have been motivated by Pachamama to learn more about environmental problems and their potential solutions. Prior to its first publication in English, Pachamama exceeded its goal to involve 300 youth groups and schools around the world in its development. More than 490 participant groups from all regions were finally enrolled in the project.

The distribution and sales of the English language version alone is evidence of an active interest in the publication. This is further confirmed by publishers' interest in producing and distributing Pachamama in several other languages. The fact that youth themselves undertook to organize and/or be active participants in the launches of Pachamama around the globe indicates the degree of support enjoyed by the publication from its target audience and provides a specific illustration of the impact that Pachamama is having. As described in **box 5.8**, the Pachamama process and product have motivated the UNEP Youth Advisory Council members in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) to work to implement the same process to draw up a youth version of GEO-LAC (GEO-2000 for Latin America and the Caribbean region).

Box 5.8 Case Study: Pachamama and the LAC “GEO for the Youth” Project

Purpose

The GEO Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) for the Youth project was initiated as part of the GEO process. The project is aimed at youth between the ages of 15 and 25, and gives them an opportunity to create a youth version of the GEO-2000 report with a specific focus on the LAC region.

Process and Product

The UNEP Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (ROLAC) started the project in 1999 and two parallel processes have supported its progress. Through a pre-existing Youth Advisory Council, in ROLAC, young people were recruited in each of the sub-regions covered by the report (Mexico and Central America; the Caribbean; the South Cone and Brazil.) Key members of the Youth Advisory Council became the focal points for their regions and were responsible for soliciting submissions for the report. The second part of the process has been direct contact with ROLAC. Through their GEO for the Youth website, young people throughout the region were able to learn about the project and make their submissions directly to the Regional Office. The report will contain three main sections: the State of the Environment, Youth in Action, and Future Perspectives and Conclusions.

Activities

In March of 2000, members of the GEO for the Youth team officially presented the project at the Twelfth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean in Bridgetown, Barbados. The project was fully supported by the forum and a decision regarding the project was included in the final report. Members of the Youth Advisory Council and others, who will make up a group representative of youth in the region, will draft the report. GEO for the Youth was scheduled to be published for Earth Day 2001.

Media

GEO for the Youth in LAC has received good media coverage in the region. The Mexican press have been supportive of the the process since its beginning.

Distribution

The GEO for the Youth process was outlined in a workbook called “Preparing the Youth Version of UNEP’s Global Environmental Outlook”. There were 2 000 Spanish copies and 1 000 English copies printed. The workbook was also available online at the GEO for the Youth Website.

Impacts

The most significant impact of the GEO for the Youth process has been that it has galvanized the Youth Advisory Council into action for a specific goal. To date, the network has attracted 850 members. The process has also allowed for the Council to leverage additional funds by lobbying the Argentinean government to host the second editorial meeting.



6. Suggested Improvements

This section provides an overview of the suggested improvements to the GEO report which were assembled from responses to the senior advisor questionnaire. Additional details of the analysis of suggested improvements follows this section.

To assist in implementing the suggested improvements presented here, they have been ranked in the following ways: 1) the four suggestions which ranked the highest when combining the “very useful” and “useful” scores; 2) the two suggestions which ranked the highest for “not very useful”. These rankings are shown below.

The four suggestions to which respondents gave the highest positive response (i.e. the sum of those who rated the suggestion either “very useful” or “useful”) were:

- More information on emerging issues and early warning (96 per cent)
- Closer inter-linkage with sustainable development issues (96 per cent)
- Specific, action oriented recommendations (93.1 per cent)
- Including success stories of environmental management and sustainable development (93.1 per cent).

The two suggestions that received the highest “not very useful” rating were:

- More information and analyses of policy responses at the national level (31 per cent)
- Graphics and illustrations (17.2 per cent)

The second set of rankings (“not useful”) suggest that there is little satisfaction with the attention provided to these items in the GEO-2000 report.

The comments provided by both the senior advisors and the readers should be taken as individual starting points for discussion among the GEO team members.

6.1 Suggested Improvements to GEO reports by Senior Advisors to Ministers of the Environment

Introduction

While conducting this study, the assessment team, at the request of the UNEP GEO staff team, also collected additional data on suggestions by senior advisors to ministers of the environment for improvements to the GEO report. Advisors were asked 11 questions which requested them to rate their views on specific potential areas of improvement. An additional question asked to them was to provide their own suggestions for improving the report.

Each copy of the GEO-2000 report contained a readership survey which users were encouraged to fill out. The readership survey was also available on the GEO Web site at which the report could be downloaded. The survey included a question asking readers to provide their own suggestions for improvements to the GEO reports.

This section reports suggested improvements drawn from both the Senior Advisors questionnaire and from the readership survey.

Senior Advisors

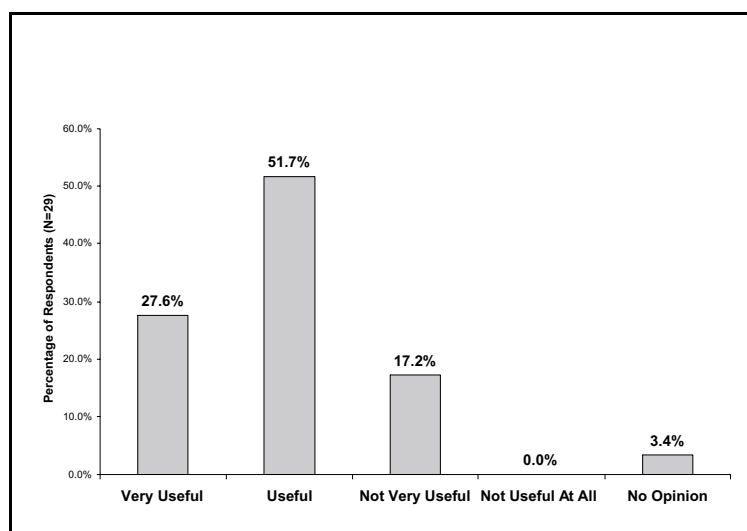
The impact study questionnaire was sent to 202 Senior Environmental Advisors and, of these, 42 sent back completed questionnaires. Their responses regarding improvements to the GEO reports are detailed in the findings below.

Graphics and Illustrations

Finding 33: Nearly 80 percent of senior advisors who responded to the questionnaire thought that future editions of the GEO report should contain more graphics and illustrations.

The GEO-2000 report contains many maps, colour illustrations of various forms, as well as numerous tables and diagrams. More than three quarters of the respondents to the senior advisor questionnaire answered that more graphics and illustrations would be useful or very useful in future editions of the GEO report. About 17 per cent stated that more graphics and illustrations would not be useful at all, representing the second highest negative rating among the suggested improvements.

Figure 6.1 Graphics and Illustrations



Information on Specific Issues

Finding 34: Eighty-six percent of senior advisors called for more information on specific issues in future editions of the GEO report

Among the issues covered by the GEO report were:

- Social and Economic Background
- Land and Food
- Forests
- Biodiversity
- Freshwater
- Marine and Coastal Areas
- Atmosphere
- Urban Areas

Figure 6.2 Information on Specific Issues

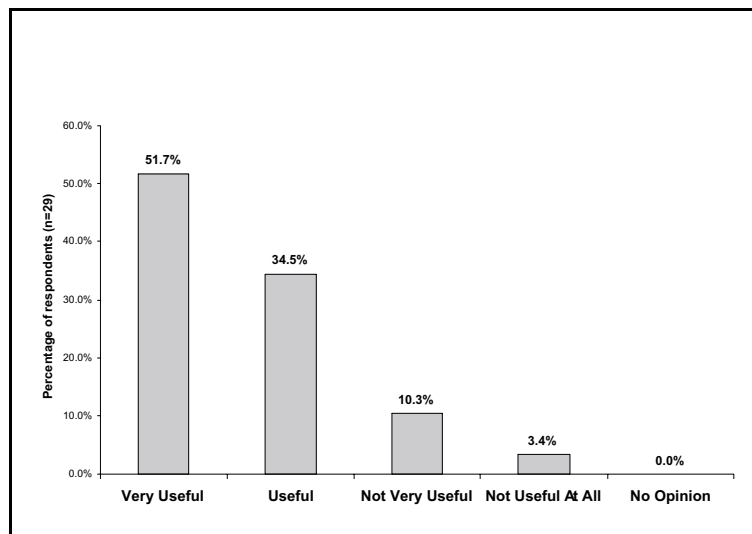


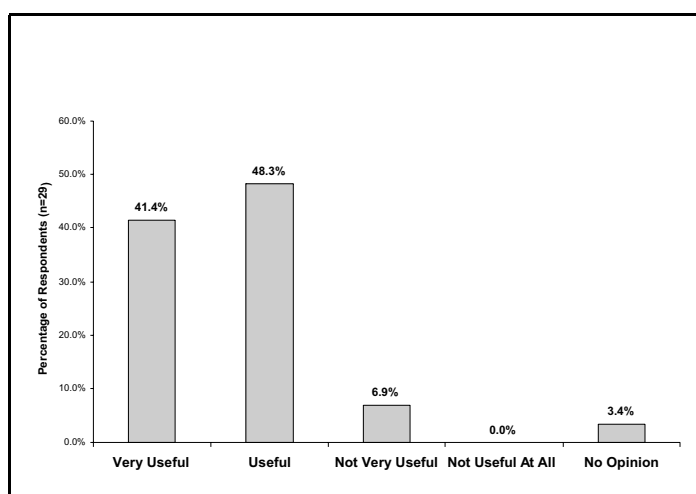
Figure 6.2 shows that fifty one percent of the Senior Advisors who responded to the questionnaire felt that it would be very useful to have more information on specific issues, while about 34 per cent felt that the information would be useful. Only about 10 per cent of the Senior Advisors responded that more information on specific issues would not be very useful and 3.4 per cent through that it would not be useful at all. This is one of only two suggested improvements where any respondents said that it would not be useful at all.

Country Level Data

Finding 35: Ninety percent of senior advisors thought that it would be useful or very useful to have more data tables with country level data in future editions of the GEO Report.

Over 40 per cent of the respondents felt that more country level data would be very useful and a further 48 per cent felt that it would be useful. (**Figure 6.3**) Seven percent thought that more tables with country level data would not be very useful.

Figure 6.3 Country Level Data

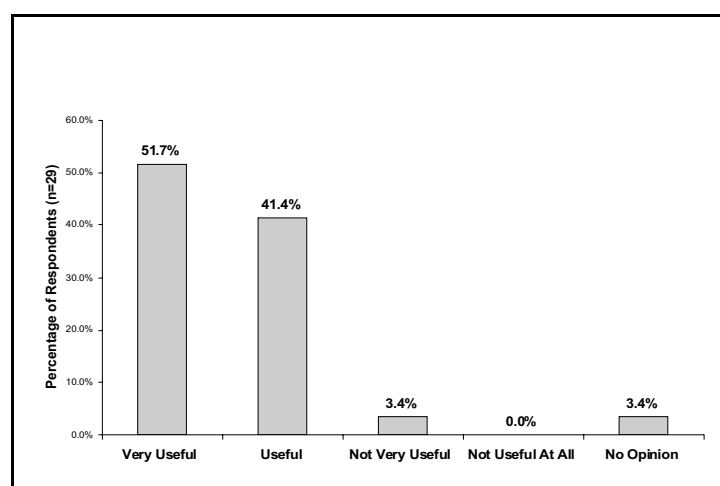


Specific, Action Oriented, Recommendations

Finding 36: Ninety-three percent of Senior Advisors held that there should be more specific, action-oriented, recommendations in future editions of the GEO report.

The overall objective of GEO-2000 was “to present a comprehensive, forward looking, policy relevant assessment of the environment. **Figure 6.4** illustrates that the vast majority of the respondents felt that providing specific, action-oriented recommendations in future versions of the GEO report would be very useful (51 per cent) or useful (41 per cent). Only 3.4 per cent thought that it would not be very useful.

Figure 6.4 Specific, Action-Oriented Recommendations

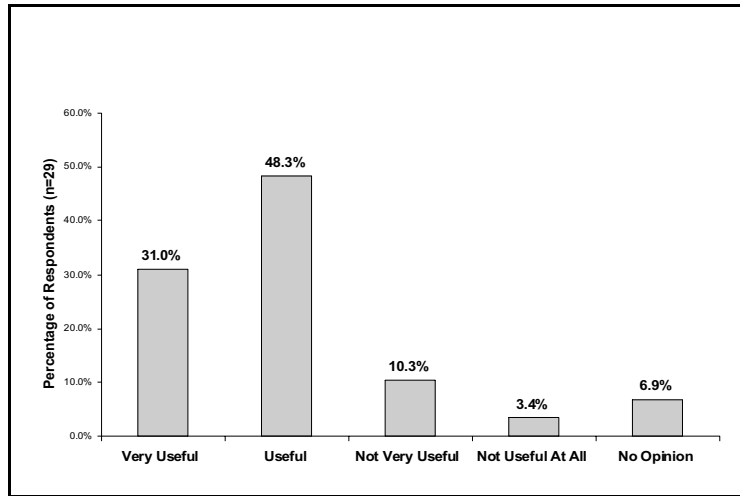


More Detailed Regional and Sub-regional Coverage

Finding 37: Seventy-nine percent of senior advisors expressed an interest in more detailed regional and sub-regional coverage in future editions of the GEO report.

The structure of the GEO-2000 report presents sections on the global state of the environment, followed by sections dealing with the state of the environment in each of the seven regions: Africa; Asia and the Pacific; Europe and Central Asia; Latin America and the Caribbean; North America; West Asia; the Polar Regions. As can be seen from **Figure 6.5**, 31 per cent of the respondents

Figure 6.5 More detailed regional and sub-regional coverage



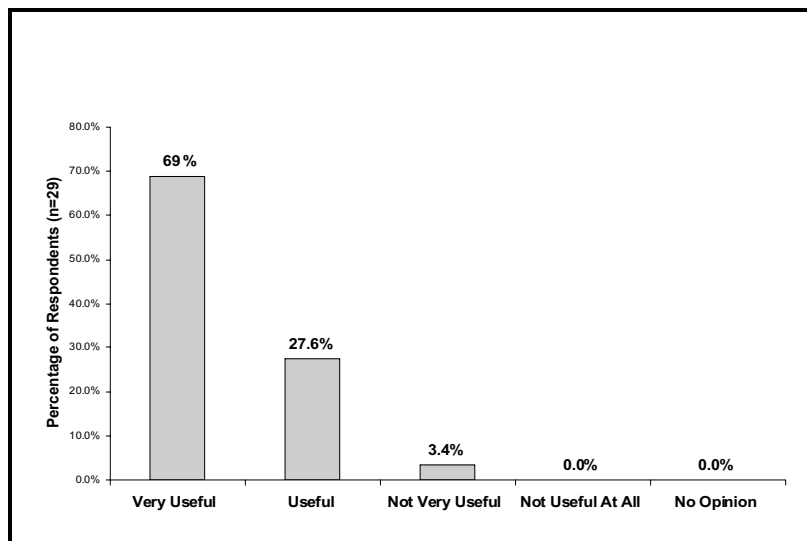
stated that more detailed regional and sub-regional coverage would be very useful and more than 48 per cent held that such coverage would be useful. More than 10 per cent of respondents answered that more detailed regional and sub-regional coverage would not be useful. This is also the second of the two suggestions which rated any “not useful at all” responses.

More Information on Emerging Issues and Early Warning

Finding 38: Ninety-six percent of senior advisors responded that there should be more information on emerging issues and early warning in future editions of the GEO report.

Throughout the GEO-2000 report emerging environmental issues and early warning are addressed. Of the responding senior advisors, 69 per cent answered that including more information on emerging issues and early warning in future editions of the GEO report would be very useful. This represents the highest “very useful” rating of all the suggested improvements. As seen in **Figure 6.6**, 27 per cent of the respondents indicated that it would be useful and 3.4 per cent noted that it would not be very useful. This is also one of the two suggestions which received the highest overall positive rating, that is to say when the amount of respondents who rated it either “very useful” and “useful” are combined.

Figure 6.6 More information on Emerging Issues and Early Warning

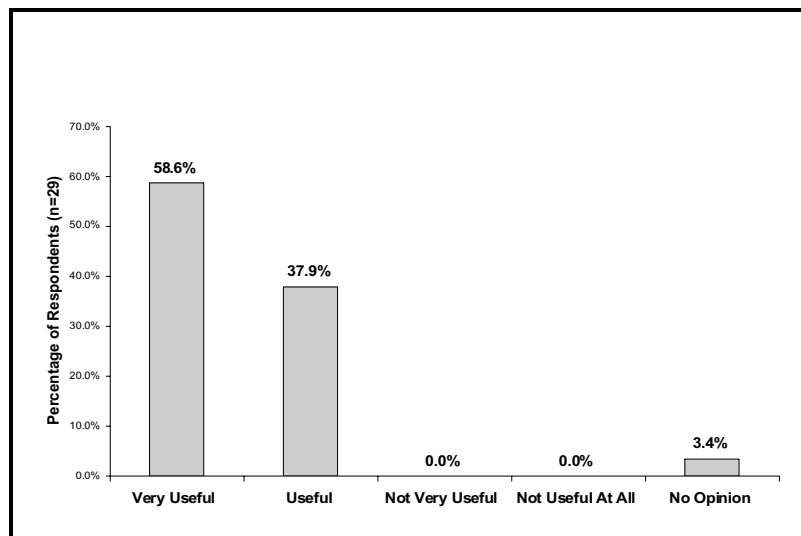


Closer Inter-linkage with Sustainable Development Issues

Finding 39: Ninety-six percent of the respondents noted that there should be a closer inter-linkage with sustainable development in future editions of the GEO report.

Given the prominence of sustainable development issues in contemporary conservation work, the GEO Report addresses them in several different ways. However, 58.6 per cent of respondents indicated that it would be very useful if the two were more closely linked in future editions of the Report (**Figure 6.7**). An additional 37.9 per cent responded that a closer linkage would be useful, while none of the respondents noted that this would not be very useful or that it would not be useful at all. These results make this the second of the two suggestions which received the highest positive rating.

Figure 6.7 Closer Inter-linkage with Sustainable Development Issues.

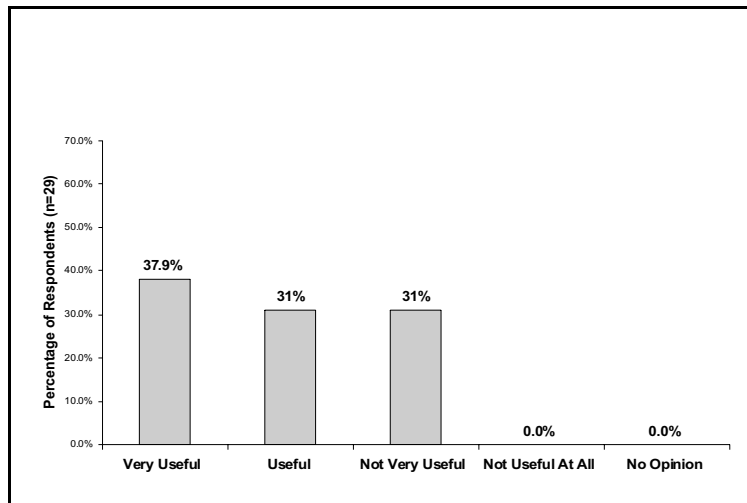


More Information and Analyses of Policy Responses at the National Level

Finding 40: Sixty nine percent of respondents indicated that more information and analyses of policy responses at the national level should be included in future editions of the GEO report.

As referred to above, one of the goals of GEO-2000 was to provide a policy relevant assessment of the environment. One of the ways it does this is to provide information and analysis of policy responses at the national level. As can be observed in **Figure 6.8**, a total of 37.9 per cent of respondents believe that more information and analysis of policy responses at the national level would be very useful, 31 per cent answered that it would be useful and 31 per cent thought that it would not be very useful. This represents the highest negative response to any of the suggestions, with almost twice as many negative responses as for any of the other suggestions.

Figure 6.8 More Information and Analyses of Policy Responses at the National Level

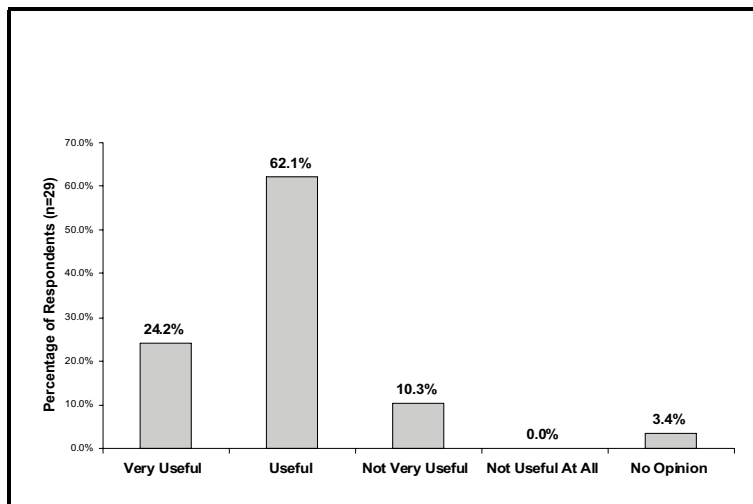


More Information and Analysis of Policy Responses at the Regional Level

Finding 41: Eighty-six percent of respondents indicated that there should be more information and analysis of policy responses at the regional level in future editions of the GEO report.

One of the most overall highly rated aspects of the GEO-2000 reports was the regional perspective it adopted. Twenty-four percent of the respondents thought that more information and analysis of policy responses at the regional would be very useful (**Figure 6.9**), and a further 62.1 per cent of respondents answered that they would find it useful. 10 per cent responded that they would not find it very useful.

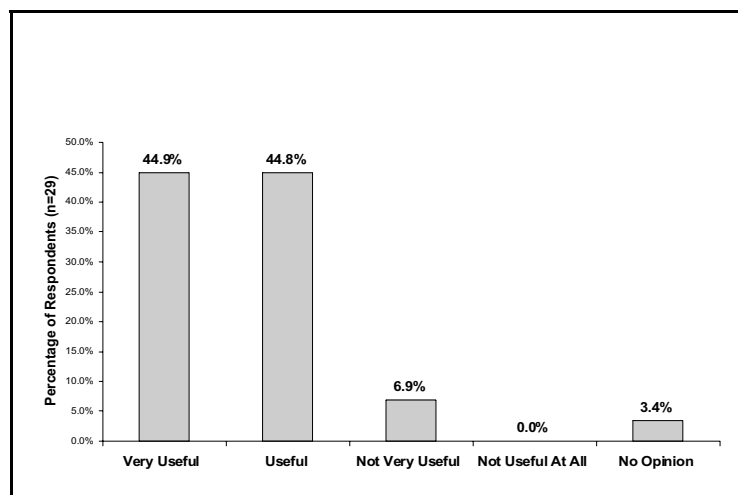
Figure 6.9 More Information and Analysis of Policy Responses at the Regional Level



More Information and Analysis of Policy Responses at the Global Level

Finding 42: Nearly 90 percent of respondents answered that more information and analysis of policy responses at the global level should be included in future editions of the GEO Report.

Figure 6.10 More Information and Analysis of Policy Responses at the Global Level

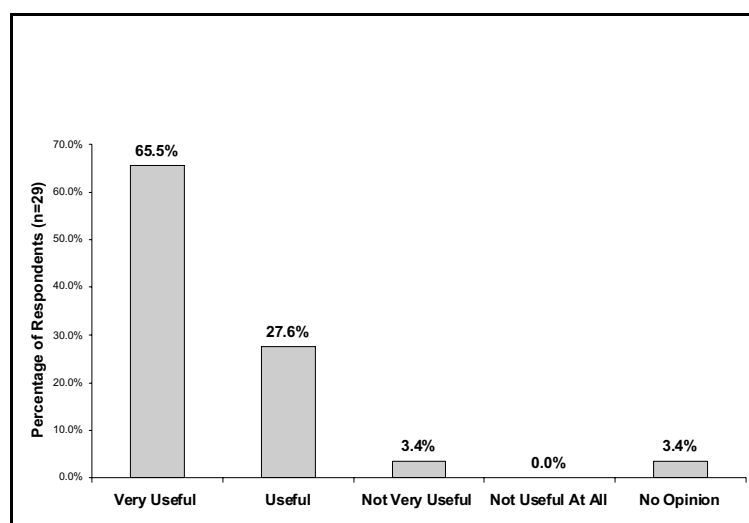


Almost 45 per cent of the respondents indicate that more information and analysis of policy responses at the global level in future editions of the GEO report would be very useful (**Figure 6.10**), another 45 per cent thought that it would be useful and 6.9 per cent thought that it would not be very useful. Of the three levels at which it was suggested more information and analysis of policy responses could be provided, the global level received the highest rating. In other words, given the choice between more information and analysis of policy responses at the country, regional or global level, respondents would choose the global level.

Including Success Stories of Environmental Management and Sustainable Development

Finding 43: Ninety-three percent of respondents thought that more success stories of environmental management and sustainable development should be included in future editions of the GEO report.

Figure 6.11 Including Success Stories of Environmental Management and Sustainable Development



As can be seen in **Figure 6.11**, a total 65.5 per cent of respondents answered that it would be very useful to include success stories of environmental management and sustainable development in future editions of the report. An other 27.6 per cent thought that it would be useful, while only 3.4 per cent found that it would not be very useful.

Other Ways in Which the GEO Report Could Be Made More Useful for Users.

Finding 44: Respondents' suggestions for improvements that could be made in future editions of the report centred on improved access, specific issues that have not been addressed and different perspective that should be considered.

Improved access was the most prominent theme among the suggested improvements from the senior advisors. Some advocated the publication of the report in more languages, while others simply wanted more copies to be printed. It was also suggested that certain specific issues, such as trade and environment or employment and environment, should be more thoroughly discussed. Finally, some respondents suggested that future reports take new perspectives into consideration, such as a coherent analysis of the global cycles of matter and energy (water, biomass, carbon, nutrients, chemicals) and their interlinkages.

Reader Survey

What readers would like to see in future editions of GEO.

Finding 45: Readers made suggestions regarding issues they would like to see addressed, new sections they would like to see in the report and changes to the format of the report.

The three main themes for improving the GEO reports in the suggestions made by readers in the readership survey were: new issues, new sections and formatting changes. With regard to new issues, many readers provided specific examples of issues they felt had been overlooked in GEO-2000. Some of these issues include: the nuclear power and plutonium economy; environmental accounting; human health and the environment; alternative development paths; and environmental activism.

Several readers requested that some parts of the GEO-2000 report were important enough to warrant being placed in a separate section, while others felt that some new sections should be added. Some of the suggestions for new sections were: country level analysis sections (Australia and New Zealand); sub-regional analysis sections (separate South Asia and the Pacific); and other types of groupings (a sections dedicated to SIDS). Finally, some of the readers made very concrete suggestions about how the format of the report could be improved (more maps/graphs, best practices/success stories).



7. Conclusion

The review team was asked to address three major issues in this study: 1) to develop a qualitative and where possible a quantitative, profile of users of the GEO-2000 and GEO-1 reports, including a typology of users; **(7.1)** 2) to report on how readers were using the GEO reports **(7.2)**, and; 3) to provide a qualitative, and where possible a quantitative analysis of the impact of the GEO report and process **(7.3)**. An additional issue the review team was asked to address were suggestions for improving the GEO reports through a section of the Senior Advisor questionnaire.

The review team were able to address each of the three major issues of this study. The experiences gained from this assessment has yielded significant lessons for the assessment of future editions of the GEO report, products, and associated process **(7.4)**.

This section provides the overall assessment conclusions, based on the findings detailed in this report, to each of the three issues described above and outlines the major lessons learned from implementing the assessment that can be applied to future assessments and makes recommendations based on these lessons for future GEO assessments.

7.1 Profile of Users

Based on the available distribution records, the most copies of GEO - 1 and GEO 2000 were distributed to and are mostly being used by, members of the environmental policy development and decision-making community, the research community and other environmental information depositories and distributors. This readership profile matches the desired profile for the reports identified to the review team by UNEP GEO staff.

However, several limitations to the development of a full readership profile for the GEO reports were met by the study team, some of which are not under UNEP's control, e.g. it is not possible to track distribution for commercially distributed copies of the report. Other limitations which are potentially under the control of UNEP are noted below under "Lessons learned."

Strong indications were established that major GEO products such as Pachamama were also reaching their intended audiences.

7.2 Uses of the GEO reports

The study concludes that GEO-2000 is being used, at the very least, by a core group of Ministers of the Environment, their Senior Advisors and Permanent Representatives to UNEP to aid them in a variety of ways. However, this may not be indicative of how the report is being used by those ministers who did not answer the questionnaire. The uses to which the report was being put included providing an overview of the environmental situation at the global and regional level, policy guidance at the regional level, and information for national policy development. GEO-2000 is also valued by this audience as a source for identifying major emerging environmental issues and placing national issues in a broader perspective.

The readership survey also provided insight into how the GEO-2000 report was being used by its general readership. A majority of respondents reported that they had found the report very useful and that it had provided them with a unique integrated overview of the environment and global and regional perspectives on environmental issues and policies.

Most notably, readers reported that they used the GEO-2000 report as a source of key background environmental information for the print and electronic media, course development at academic institutions and for major speeches and presentations by leaders at the international level.

7.3 Impact of the GEO report and process

This study was able to identify a wide range of impacts of the GEO reports and process. Drawn from responses to the study questionnaires and the development of illustrative case studies the assessment team was able to describe examples in this report of GEO-2000's contribution to the development of regional and national environmental policies.

The most readily-identifiable impact of the GEO report and process is the increasing adoption of the GEO methodology by regional governmental forums and national governments for the production and/or improvement of their state of the environment reporting.

Several key impacts of the GEO process on the Collaborating Centres (CCs) were also identified. The CCs participation in the process allowed several of them to establish and/or strengthen their professional relationship with other organizations at the global, regional and national level. Several Centres also reported that participation in the GEO process had led to an improvement in the quality of the products and services that they offered, increased satisfaction among Centre stakeholders and an enhancement of their credibility and reputation.

The financial impact of participating in the GEO process was something of a mixed blessing for several Centres. For some, participation has led to additional funding opportunities and the occasion to implement additional regional or national studies using the GEO methodology. However, participation in the process itself was reported to be a financial burden for several Centres.

All players in the GEO process recognized the necessity of continuing to develop and implement an appropriate and adequate capacity development process for the Collaborating Centres in order to bring the quality of all Centres' work to the required standards expected for the GEO report.

7.4 Lessons learned

While this analysis process is regarded as successful within the context in which it was carried out, three major lessons can be drawn from it to significantly improve similar assessments of future GEO editions. These lessons relate to the timing and planning of assessments and improvements to assessment tools. Each of these lessons is addressed in more detail below.

7.4.1 Timing of assessments

While every effort was made to identify uses and impacts etc. of the GEO-1 report and process, with the available resources, the results were relatively meagre. A key factor determining this outcome was attempting to assess it after the GEO-2000 report and process had been completed. Over the intervening period from GEO-1 to GEO-2000 players had changed and essentially the focus of those responding to questionnaires and interviews was on the GEO-2000 report, products and process. For the success of future assessments it is critical that the assessment of the report and process be made prior to the completion of another report edition.

7.4.2 Planning of assessments

Significant improvements can be made to future assessments by the development of a systematic assessment plan agreed to by key stakeholders. The limitations met in this assessment demonstrate the importance of planning for the assessment at the start of, or as early as possible in, the next round of a GEO process and report production. Planning should address the establishment of agreed relevant assessment indicators and the responsibilities and roles of key players for the collection of data in relation to the available resources. Such a planning process will make for significant enhancement of the quantity, reliability and evenness of the assessment results across regions.

If the planning process is carried out collaboratively with key players, as this assessment team would strongly recommend, an important sense of ownership over the results will increase the potential for implementation of lessons learned from it. To facilitate this, it is suggested that planning of (and data collection for) future assessments could strongly benefit from those responsible for developing and implementing the assessment plan participating in appropriate regional and global GEO meetings.

7.4.3 Development of assessment tools

Based on the experience of this assessment technical improvements can be suggested for the development of assessment tools such as the readership survey, collection of web site and GEO report distribution data.

Of these improvements, tracking the distribution of complimentary copies is critical. Tracking of a large proportion of the distribution of the complimentary copies of the GEO-1 and GEO-2000 reports at a central location was incomplete. For example, sub-distribution systems such as the Collaborating Centres, did not provide a distribution report for the copies that they received and distributed locally. Factors such as UNEP staff changes and cut-backs over the life-time of the GEO project undoubtedly has contributed to the limitations of a tracking system but some pre-planning and agreed procedures with other players in the distribution chain should provide improved tracking and therefore a more complete profile for future editions.

The study team also notes that the current web statistical reporting system is not able to provide cumulative data systematically from all mirror sites and on the category of user downloading all or part of the report. Planning attention to this issue prior to the release of the GEO-3 on the web will also enhance the quality of future readership profiles.

Appendix I People Interviewed for the Study

UNEP Headquarters Staff Interviewed at Nairobi Headquarters

Brevik, T. Spokesman/ and Director Communication and Public Information (CPI)
Cheatle, M. Programme Officer GEO/DEWA
Claasen, D. Early Warning Chief, Division of Early Warning and Assessment
Foresman, T. Director of the Division of Early Warning and Assessment (DEWA)
Goverse, T, Junior Professional Officer, GEO/DEWA
Ingraham, B. Information Officer, DEWA
Jackson, S. Audio Visual Coordinator, CPI
Mitchell, D. Programme Officer
MacDevette D. Acting Deputy Director, Division of Early Warning and Assessment
Poulton, N. UNEP Publications, CPI
Stabrawa, A. Programme Officer GEO/DEWA

UNEP STAFF (Regional Directors and GEO Regional Coordinators)

Latin America and the Caribbean	Sanchez Sosa, R. Regional Director Zahedi, K. Programme Officer. Fernandez, N. Regional Coordinator, DEWA
North America	Van Dyke, B. Regional Director Singh, A. Regional Coordinator DEWA Fox-Przeworski, Former Regional Director
Europe	Schlingemann, F. Regional Director Van Woerden, J. GEO Coordinator Witt, R. Regional Coordinator, DEWA
Africa	Kante, B. UNEP Regional Director Kakuyo, K. Regional Coordinator, DEWA
Asia and the Pacific	Shrestha, S. Regional Coordinator, DEWA
West Asia	Abdulraheem, M. Regional Director El-Habr, H. Deputy Director

Collaborating Centres

University of Costa Rica	Gutierrez-Espeleta, E. Director Development Observatory
IBAMA	Camara, Director
NESDA	Bamba, A. Coordinator
University of Chile	Sunkel, O. Director Center for Public Policy and Analysis
SEPA	Yue Ruisheng
Central European University	Mnatsakanian, R. Professor Dept. of Environment Studies and Policy

MEDIA

BBC

Coleman, J. Independent producer

Dean, T. Commissioning editor

Appendix II GEO-2000 Distribution

Distribution of GEO-2000 to Identifiable Recipients

	ORGANIZATION	NUMBER OF COPIES			
		ENGLISH	FRENCH	SPANISH	TOTAL
Governments	Ministries of Environment	285	40	20	345
	Permanent Representatives to UNEP	202	23	10	235
UN	UNEP Senior Management	29	7	7	43
	UNEP Staff	28	12	13	53
	UNEP Regional Offices	603	222	112	937
	UNEP Outposted Offices	29	66	55	150
	UNEP DEWA Nairobi Staff	22	7	4	33
	UNEP DEWA Regional Coordinators	155	92	256	503
	UNEP National Committees	40	4	90	134
	UNEP Convention Secretariats	34	7	7	48
	Executive Director's List	100			100
	Heads of other UN agencies and Convention Secretariats	69			69
	UN Information centres	66	67	67	200
	UN Depository libraries	55	36	36	127
	UNON Bookstore	20	10	10	40
	HABITAT and UNON Nairobi	10			10
Non - UN GEO Collaborators	Collaborating Centres (including WRI)	475	60	190	725
	Associated Centres	75			75
Reviewers and Contributors		956	820	820	2 569
INFOTERRA Focal Points		180	41	17	238
NGO & IGOs accredited to UNEP		132	36	6	174
GRID contacts		47	3	5	55
Earthscan sales and promotional copies		2 227			2 227

Appendix III Record of GEO-2000 Launches

GEO-2000 Global Launch

15/9/99	London, UK
Speakers:	Klaus Töpfer, UNEP John Ashton, Foreign & Commonwealth Office, UK Margaret Brusasco-McKenzie, EC DGXI, Brussels
Participants	Approximately 200 guests including representatives from media, academia, industry, NGOs, government, international organisations, financial institutions, Collaborating Centres
Organisers	UNEP TVE International UNED-UK UNIC-UK

Subsequent GEO-2000 Launches And Presentations

21/9/99	Nairobi - launch to UNEP Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR) , UN agencies, NGOs and local media
25/9/99	Abu Dhabi - presentation to media
1/10/99 EcoDialogue	Lima, Peru - launch to LAC Environment Ministers Meeting and
1/10/99	Nairobi - presentation to AMCEN Meeting
22/10/99 and Environment	Rio de Janeiro - presentation to 3rd Global Conference on Sport
22/10/99	Harare, Zimbabwe - Southern Africa launch
28/10/99	Bangkok - Thailand launch
1/11/99	Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago - presentation at the UN Awards Ceremony and IEA Workshop
1/11/99	Bonn - presentation to 4th Meeting of UNEP's High Level Committee of Ministers and Officials
4/1/00	Dhaka - Bangladesh launch
1/6/00	Santiago, Chile
26/6/00	Bahrain - launch of GEO-2000 in Arabic

The training programme based on the GEO Training manual builds capacity for regional and national scale assessment and reporting. Its main attributes are:

Integrated - it deals with the interactions of social, economic and environmental aspects of sustainable development over time and space;

Participatory - requires the active involvement of participants at every stage through a series of exercises and discussion in plenary and small group sessions;

Policy-oriented - helps identify and assess key economic, social and environmental policy issues associated with environmental trends and conditions;

Science-based - emphasizes the need and helps strengthen the scientific basis of assessment and reporting;

Forward-looking - requires the construction and examination of policy options using integrated future scenarios;

Institutionalized - helps consider the long term institutional aspects of the assessment and reporting initiative; and

Evolutionary - emphasizes the need to build on past and existing state of the environment reporting capacity.

Appendix V GEO-2000 and Associated Products

GEO-2000 Products

- GEO-2000 Report in, Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish
- GEO-2000 Overview Booklets in, Arabic, English, French, Russian and Spanish
- GEO-2000 Press Kit in English, French and Spanish
- GEO-2000 Video News Release
- “Time to Act” video summarizing facts from GEO and targeted at Ministers of the Environment

GEO Regional Reports

GEO-LAC in English and Spanish

GEO-SIDS Panama, Chile, Cuba, Peru, Costa Rica, Barbados were in the preparations at the end of 2000

- Caribbean Environment Outlook
- Pacific Islands Environment Outlook
- Western Indian Ocean Environment Outlook

GEO Technical Reports

- Training Manual: Capacity Building for Integrated Environmental Assessment and Reporting
- Emerging Environmental Issues for the 21st Century: A Study for GEO-2000
- Data Issues of Global Environmental Reporting: Experiences from GEO-2000
- Global Assessment of Acidification and Eutrophication of Natural Ecosystems
- Alternative Policy Studies (x 3)

GEO CD-ROM

- GEO-2000

Appendix VI Case Study: Costa Rica

The Director of the Development Observatory, at the University of Costa Rica (OdD) generously gave the study team an extensive interview for this case study.

The Development Observatory of the University of Costa Rica

The Development Observatory of the University of Costa Rica was established in 1997 with the support of UNDP. Its mission is to provide relevant information on the state of “development” in Costa Rica to facilitate the decision making process at the national level.

Overview of Participation in GEO Process

The Development Observatory has been an important contributor to the GEO process in the Latin American Region. Through its participation in GEO-2000 and GEO Report for Latin America and the Caribbean (GEO-LAC), the Centre developed a strong network of collaborators in the region, as well as capacity to manage environmental reporting at both the national and regional level. The capacity and reputation of the Development Observatory was recognized when it was asked to coordinate the production of the Integrated Environment Assessment for Panama - the first one to be released in this country. The Centre also played an instrumental role in influencing policy development at the regional level. The Director of the Centre contributed to the adoption of Decision 4 by Latin American and Caribbean Environment Ministers at the Barbados Meeting in March 2000. Essentially, Decision 4 recognizes and supports the GEO process and methodology in Latin America and the Caribbean - a significant policy development for the region.

Building Capacity in Producing GEO-2000 and GEO-LAC

Along with two other UNEP Collaborating Centres in Chile and Brazil, OdD gathered data for the region for GEO, focusing on the Meso-America region. The Observatory was also involved in the production of GEO for Latin America and the Caribbean (GEO-LAC), an associated GEO product stemming from the GEO-2000 process. It is worth noting that GEO-LAC was the first GEO regional report produced by UNEP.

The participation of the Observatory in the data collection process and production of GEO-2000 and GEO-LAC has allowed the organization to rapidly build its capacity. As the Director of OdD, Dr. Gutiérrez Espeleta, stated in a letter to UNEP:

GEO-2000 meant for the OdD an opportunity to test its capacity to coordinate team work and to build new mechanisms for gathering data. It (also) helped strengthen the organization due to the fact that OdD was, at that moment, a brand new university initiative.³

The sole opportunity to participate in a global project is by all means, the best experience of all. Collaborating Centre meetings taught us the global outlook from a very down-to-earth perspective. The opportunity to exchange views and experiences with colleagues from other cultures and world-views helped us understand the need for a global environment outlook that sheds light on the awareness process, not only at the decision-making level but also at the common people one.

The involvement of OdD in the production of GEO-LAC provided another opportunity for its staff to develop their expertise and knowledge of the GEO process and methodology, while strengthening the networks of collaborators in the region. The GEO-2000 process presented several challenges,

³ Personal communications, Ms. Cheadle, January 8, 1999.

such as the need to reconcile different data collection procedures, methodologies, and ways to systematize the information. Having overcome these challenges, GEO-LAC was officially launched in most Caribbean and Latin American countries with the presence of high-level government officials, UN representatives, and the media. The event was broadly covered at the national and regional levels.

A grant from a UN Foundation to support its GEO related work encouraged OdD's staff to undertake new projects. Their first initiative is the development of a roster of environmental experts from Latin America and the Caribbean region, as such a database of experts was missing. The second project is the development of a database of environmental information from throughout the region. The overall objective in creating these tools is to facilitate environmental reporting in LAC. OdD plans to share and distribute these tools to the community of collaborating and associate centres in the region as soon as they are completed.

Overall, OdD's Director believes that he and his staff learned a great deal in the GEO process. This experience not only built the capacity of OdD by providing new working opportunities, developing new skills among its staff and fostering sub-regional contacts - it also provided him and his staff with a different perspective on their work: "Our people have a much broader view, a more holistic approach toward environmental issues...We are the actors of this process."

Contributing to National SOE Reporting and Policy Development in Panama

The completion of GEO-2000 and GEO-LAC provided the Collaborating Centres of the region with interesting opportunities to be further involved in related policy guideline projects at the national level. As a UNEP Regional Office representative in Mexico stated: "The GEO process and methodology have had a profound impact on the production of assessment reports in the regions. At the national level, integrated assessment reports in the mould of GEO have been completed by Panama and Chile with the assistance of UNEP. Similar reports are under development for Cuba, Peru, Costa Rica and Barbados."

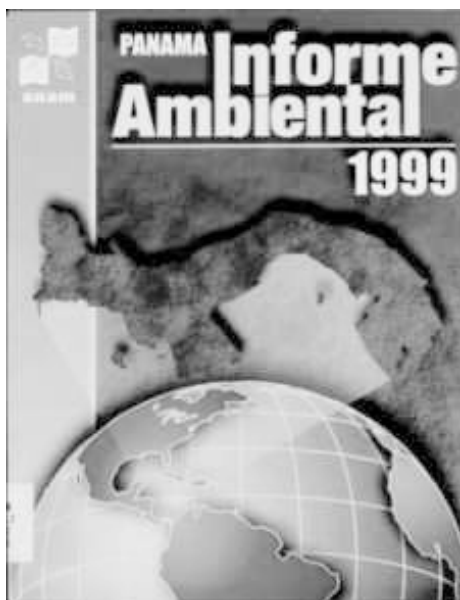


Figure 7.1 Integrated Environment Assessment for Panama

The Development Observatory received its share of action in the production of assessment reports in Latin America and the Caribbean. Following a request from the government of Panama to produce an Integrated Environment Assessment (IEA) report, the Dewa-LAC office of UNEP in Mexico recommended that OdD coordinate the effort. The IEA report seeks to provide an integrated vision by analyzing a variety of factors and linking these to policy making, drawing from the GEO framework and methodology. Factors analyzed in the IEA may range from the relevant socio-economic context, to environmental aspects, to human behaviour to the analysis of multinational environment agreements.

The IEA report - the first report of this kind to be produced in Panama - was part of an overall effort to develop a national strategy for the environment, as mandated by the General Law on the Environment (Law 41).⁴ Several organizations, such as the Inter-American Development Bank and UNEP, supported the initiative.

To achieve the IEA for Panama, OdD used a flexible participatory approach and set up a multi-disciplinary

⁴ "La Ley 41 General del Ambiente", See Panama: Informe Ambiental 1999 at <http://www.binal.ac.pa/informe.htm>

team composed of team leaders with different expertise and backgrounds. This participatory approach proved its effectiveness when the team experienced some problems with the completion of a chapter of the report. That addressed the impacts of multinational environmental agreements. To solve this problem, Director asked his team to bring civil groups together to discuss the matter. The discussion proved to be very fruitful and facilitated the production of the chapter.

The IEA for Panama was completed in August 2000. It was the result of an important consultative process in which more than 2000 people participated at the national and regional levels, including technical experts, specialists in working groups, consultants, etc. Though a new government came into office in Panama shortly after the release of the document, the Director of OdD met the Vice-Minister of the National Environment Authority of Panama at the Ministerial Meeting in Barbados. It appears that the report is considered useful as a reference for environmental policy as well as for other organizations in Panama.

Contributing to Policy Development at the Regional Level

The Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean is “the longest standing, most representative and most important political gathering for reaching consensus on environmental policies and responses at the regional level.”⁵

All the governments of Latin America and the Caribbean were invited to the Twelfth Meeting of Environment Ministers in Bridgetown, Barbados in March 2000. Other guests included observer delegations from Canada, the United Kingdom and the United States, as well as United Nations agencies (FAO, WB, ECLAC, UNDP), Secretariats and Conventions, several inter-governmental organizations (such as the IDB and the OAS) and NGOs.

The Director of OdD, represented the Vice President of Costa Rica and Minister of the Environment, at the Ministerial Meeting. This provided an opportunity for the Director to interact with Latin American and Caribbean Environment Ministers and other representatives and to promote the idea of integrated regional and sub-regional environmental assessment (IEA) reports in the region within the framework of the GEO methodology and process.

Representatives from UNEP-Mexico made a presentation on GEO-2000 which synthesized the main findings and recommendations of the report. The Director put forward a proposal to support IEAs within the region, based on the GEO process and methodology. The proposal quickly received full support from the Environment Ministers and, as a result, Decision 4 was adopted without much debate. According to the Director, there was a general consensus that such IEA methods and approaches were needed for the region.

In addition to supporting the GEO methodology and process, Decision 4 included a number of other requests, including calls for the strengthening of regional networks of Collaborating Centres and experts, as well as support for the GEO for the youth process in Latin America and the Caribbean. Decision 4 also requested UNEP to assist, whenever needed, in conducting IEAs at the regional and national levels. Decision 4 finally urged all national, subregional and regional bodies to collaborate in and support common methodologies for regional assessments within the GEO framework.

Overall, Decision 4 confirms that GEO's process and methodology are known, accepted and supported within the region by the community of Environment Ministers and their respective governments.

⁵ Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean, *Final Report of the Twelfth Meeting, Bridgetown, Barbados, March 2-7, 2000*, p. 1.

Decision 4: Integrated Environmental Assessments in Latin America and the Caribbean

Having considered decision 20/11 of the Twentieth Session of the Governing Council, and the progress report on the Global Environment Outlook (GEO), as well as the recommendation of the Governing Council to continue -in close collaboration with Governments, United Nations Agencies and bodies, and Collaborating Centres and experts- with a third GEO report to be published in 2002,

Having considered the progress report of the Secretariat to the Twelfth Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean, related to the activities carried out by UNEP in Latin America and the Caribbean region to implement the GEO process at the regional and sub-region levels,

Having considered the proposal for a regional environmental vision for Latin America and the Caribbean, including harmonised information systems to support decision making and indicators,

Decide

1. **To express** its appreciation to UNEP for the inclusion of regional views and perceptions on environmental matters in its global and regional assessments, through a broad participatory approach, including Collaborating Centres and national governments, as well as UN Agencies and regional partners.
2. **To express** its support for the use of participatory procedures in the global assessment process in the preparation of regional, sub-regional and sectoral environmental reports, and in supporting and catalysing the production of similar reports at the national level.
3. **To request** UNEP to continue providing leadership in Latin America and the Caribbean, for the preparation of integrated regional and sub-regional environmental assessment reports, within the framework of the GEO process and methodology.
4. **To request** UNEP to strengthen the regional network of Collaborating Centres and experts of the GEO process in Latin America and the Caribbean ensuring the participation and training of national experts.
5. **To continue and strengthen** the GEO for the youth process in Latin America and the Caribbean.
6. **To request** UNEP to provide where requested, capacity building for carrying out integrated environmental assessments at the regional and national levels.
7. **To urge** all national, subregional and regional bodies to collaborate in and support the application of common methodologies for regional environmental assessments, in the framework of the GEO process, to avoid duplications, save costs and ensure that national, subregional and regional reports are mutually supportive and comparable across the region.

Appendix VII Case Study: Chile

The Director of the Centre for Public Policy Analysis of the University of Chile, generously gave the study team an extensive interview for this case study.

The Centre for Public Policy Analysis of the University of Chile

The Centre for Public Policy Analysis of the University of Chile was created in 1993, following an initiative from the rector of the university. The Centre has an interdisciplinary nature and it aims, among other things, to contribute to the analysis and solution of public issues and problems with the help and collaboration of a variety of academic units and disciplines. More specifically, its mission is to support the University of Chile in its contribution to the reform of the state as well as in the improvement of its management and public policy formulation.⁶

Overview of Participation in GEO Process

The GEO process created an opportunity for the Centre for Public Policy Analysis to be a primary actor in environmental assessment and reporting in South America. Through its involvement in the production of GEO-1, GEO-2000 and GEO-LAC, the Centre developed a strong network of collaborators as well as a capacity to coordinate data collection procedures at both the national and regional levels. The exposure gained by the Centre in the GEO process generated important outcomes. For example when the National Commission of the Environment (CONAMA) requested the rector of the University of Chile to produce a State of the Environment (SOE) for Chile, the Centre was asked to coordinate the process. In April of 1999, the Centre released to CONAMA the final version of Chile's first SOE, supported in this endeavor by a close network of collaborating institutions and with financial and technical support from DEWA/LAC.

Building Capacity in the GEO Process

The Centre has been involved in the GEO process since its inception. For both GEO-1 and GEO-2000, it coordinated data collection for South American countries and contributed to the writing of the reports. According to the Director of the Centre, the biggest challenge in such a process is to ensure that the methodologies used and data collected from the networks of institutions and experts are compatible. In other words, the challenge is about mainstreaming the data, as the ways to present information can vary considerably from one institution to the other. The GEO process has allowed the staff of the Centre to develop a thorough understanding of the concepts and data collection methodologies used at the regional level.

Building on this experience, the Centre became involved in the regional effort to produce a Global Environment Outlook for the Latin and Caribbean region (GEO-LAC). According to the Director of the Centre, the release of GEO-LAC - as with the previous GEO reports - had an



⁶ For more information on the Centre, see <http://www.capp.uchile.cl/centro.html>

impact on public awareness. For example, university faculties and research centres and other experts who participated in the process subsequently used GEO reports in their work and with their students in their courses.

Finally, participation in the GEO process provided the Centre with significant networking opportunities. At the national level, for instance, the Centre developed relationships with several universities, research institutes and government bodies such as the CONAMA, the Catholic University, the Universities of Valdivia, Talca, Concepción and Austral as well as other research centres, experts and consultants. The Centre also developed ties with organizations at the regional and global level, such as with UNEP collaborating and associate centres in Brazil, Costa Rica and Cuba, as well as with the Stockholm Environment Institute in Boston, and the National Institute of Public Health and the Environment in the Netherlands. These networking opportunities, in addition to encouraging the sharing of views, knowledge, methodologies and experiences, enabled the Centre to establish and/or strengthen its professional relationships with a variety of key actors in the field of environment. It also allowed the Centre to gain exposure at the national and regional levels.

Producing Chile's SOE

An important outcome of the GEO process in Chile was the production of a State of the Environment (SOE). Following a decision from its Council of Ministers, the National Commission of the Environment (CONAMA) requested the rector of the University of Chile to produce an SOE that would depict the environmental situation in Chile at the end of the 1990s.

The rector asked the Centre for Public Policy Analysis to coordinate the effort. The process was interdisciplinary and involved academics, experts and professionals from a variety of universities and NGOs, as well as external consultants.

On April 28, 2000, the final version of the SOE in Chile 1999 was submitted to the CONAMA. Soon after its release, the Centre received several requests for copies of Chile's SOE 1999 from government ministries, NGOs and other institutions and businesses. Among the ministries that requested a copy were the Ministries of Health, Culture, Public Works, Housing and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The number of requests for the SOE in Chile 1999 is in itself a good indicator of the use and potential influence of the report. As a result of this successful experience, the Centre subsequently negotiated with the government of Chile to produce a series of three SOE over the following six years (one SOE would be produced every two years).

As explained by the Centre's Director, the undertaking of this series would be an important step in establishing sustainability for the SOE process in Chile. It would also allow the Centre to generate new data, as more time and resources would be available to conduct new research, update the data and perhaps develop new indicators with its partners.

Overall, the experience of the Centre for Public Policy Analysis in the GEO process triggered several interesting opportunities. It facilitated the Centre's efforts to build a strong network or professional relationships at the national and regional levels. It also enabled the Centre's staff members to develop new skills and knowledge in environmental assessment methodologies. It allowed the Centre to attract additional financial resources, notably through projects such as the production of the SOE for Chile. Its management of the SOE - and its likely continuation - is perhaps the best indication of the capacity and reputation that the Centre has built for its products and expertise in the past few years.

Appendix VIII Case Study: NESDA

Provided by the Coordinator of NESDA, Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire.

The Network for Environment and Sustainable Development in Africa (NESDA)

NESDA is one of the GEO Collaborating Centres in Africa. Its mission is to help African societies achieve environmentally sustainable development. Since 1995, NESDA has been involved in the production of the Africa regional perspectives for GEO-1 and GEO-2000, focusing on West and Central Africa.

The involvement of NESDA in the GEO initiative and the leadership it has assumed throughout the process has generated important outcomes in Central Africa. NESDA supported several SOE initiatives at the national level and facilitated policy development at the regional level through the organization of training activities and ongoing technical assistance.

Facilitating Environmental Assessment and Policy Development at the National Level: The Cases of Togo and Gabon

At the national level, NESDA has supported several Central African countries in the development or review of their strategic frameworks for managing the environment. In this process, NESDA acted as a facilitator and provided support to the coordinating units in charge of developing a national environment plan in each country. NESDA used the GEO methodology and its environmental assessment model to guide the coordinating units through the development and/or review of their strategic frameworks for managing the environment. The coordinating units - composed of government officers, experts, academics, etc. - usually function autonomously, though they remain accountable to the Ministry of the Environment.

In the environment assessment process, the coordinating units assess the state of the environment, the pressures exerted and the resulting impacts on the environment. The coordinating unit then makes recommendations on how to address some of the country's most pressing environmental issues.

In Togo, for example, the coordinating unit identified the need to build the capacity of civil servants in charge of managing the country's coasts, as it was determined that they lacked the training required to adequately perform their duties. With the assistance of NESDA, the coordinating unit developed a training course which it then presented to the Ministry of the Environment for approval. Following ministry approval, NESDA is helping the coordinating unit to organize a round-table of potential donors to support the training course. Participants may include European development agencies, the African Development Bank and the Islamic Bank of Development. The Togolese government, however, decided to postpone the round table after its current meetings with the IMF and the World Bank.

NESDA's actions and initiatives in Gabon also generated interesting policy developments. During a technical assistance mission, NESDA found that the environment did not appear to be a priority for the country, despite significant problems in the area. Hoping to raise the government's awareness of the socio-economic costs of environmental degradation, NESDA encouraged the national coordinating unit to produce a report that would emphasize the link between the country's socio-economic problems and the environment. The government adopted the report and the national assembly subsequently ratified it.

Contributing to SOE and Policy Development at the Regional Level: Workshops for High Level Policy Makers in Central Africa

UNEP and NESDA initiated two strategic workshops to strengthen national and regional capacities in environment assessment and raise awareness about the GEO process in Central Africa. The workshops were attended by high-level technical experts and representatives from Environment Ministries in Central Africa countries.⁷

Libreville Workshop

The first workshop was held in Libreville in Gabon, from February 8 -11, 2000. Its purpose was to develop awareness and capacity in integrated environmental assessment (IEA) at the national and regional levels and to facilitate the GEO process in Central Africa. Representatives from Central African countries, including Cameroon, Congo, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, as well as Chad, attended the workshop.

The workshop was officially launched by the Secretary General of the Ministry in Charge of Environment in Gabon. In a speech read on behalf of the Minister, he mentioned support for the SOE reporting activity and the GEO process in general and further added “that the workshop has been organized prior to the commencement of the Gabon National Environmental Plan process in order to benefit Gabonese experts. The Minister finally wished the participants “fruitful deliberations and hoped that the workshop would prepare them to provide input to the GEO process in the Central African region.”⁷

During the seminar, the GEO methodology as well as the specific steps involved in conducting national and regional SOEs were explained. The participants discussed general trends in the management of natural resources for the mid and the long-term. Several issues were identified during the three-day seminar, including concerns over the availability of reliable data on the environment in African countries; the fact that environmental policy instruments do not enjoy public support; and the need to integrate policy assessment and SOE reporting.

At the end of the workshop, participants developed conclusions and recommendations. One of these stipulated that an IEA would be produced for Central Africa and that NESDA would manage the overall GEO process and environmental reporting activities. Participants also adopted the “Libreville Declaration”, which expressed support for the SOE and GEO process as well as for NESDA in its objective to build capacity in IEA and reporting in the region.

⁷ For the above, see Report of the Regional Training Workshop on Integrated Environmental Assessment and Report Preparation on the State of the Environment in Central Africa, Libreville, Gabon, February 8-11, 2000, p. 2.

Libreville Declaration

Upon the invitation of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Network for Environment and Sustainable Development in Africa (NESDA).

The country participants and the members of sub-regional organizations and programmes in charge of environmental protection and management in Central Africa, meeting in Libreville, Gabon from 8-11 February 2000, on the occasion of the training workshop on "Integrated Evaluation and State of the Environment Reporting in Central Africa".

- Aware of the need to base any environmental management decisions on sound and efficient theories supported by reliable data and indicators.
- Convinced that sustainable management of the environment in Africa is only possible thanks to an integrated assessment as a means to produce the relevant information to be conveyed to policy makers.
- Aware that the environment in Central Africa is under severe pressures which hamper human development;
- Recalling the adherence of the various countries of the sub-region to the principles of biodiversity conservation within the framework of sub-regional and global co-operation.

Express Their Sincere Gratitude

- To his Excellency El Hadj Omar Bongo, President of the Republic of Gabon for his dedication to sustainable human development in Central Africa.
- The Gabonese government for offering excellent venues for meetings and initiatives on the Environment.
- And to the people of Gabon for their hospitality and welcome accorded to all participants.

Reiterate

The commitments made by the respective countries in favor of sustainable management of the environment by signing, ratifying and adhering to the relevant international legal instruments and the Yaounde Declaration of 17 March 1999.

Express

Their support to NESDA as a collaborative centre for west and central Africa in the field of Promoting Capacity Building for Integrated Environmental Assessment and Reporting.

Appreciate

The interest of UNEP in our sub-region for the first time in 25 years of existence, by organizing one of the few events directly related to the GEO process and sustainable environment in Central Africa and express the wish that this momentum would be kept and further strengthened.

Recommend

That similar national and sub-region for a should be organized to facilitate exchange of experience and local knowledge in the field of Environment and information sharing and to strengthen collaboration between countries on the one hand and the West and Central African region on the other.

The identification of a focal point in each country for the drafting, co-ordination and centralization of reports on the state of the Environment of policy-makers through CEMAC, a sub-regional economic integration body.

Wish

An effective presence and assistance from UNEP and NESDA in the Congo Basin Region, through actions for the protection of the environment and the sustainable management of natural resources.

Congratulate and Thank

UNEP, NESDA and the trainers for their financial and technical support in the framework of the training of participants and logistics.

The official closing ceremony was performed by a representative of the Environmental Ministry.

Douala Workshop

A second workshop was organized in Douala, Cameroon, from August 28 -30, 2000. Delegates and representatives from Environment Ministries participated in the seminar. In most cases, these high-level policy makers are responsible for providing guidance to Ministers of Environment in determining environmental policies and orientations. In the spirit of GEO, the workshop organizers also invited technical experts and scientists, to create a balance between policy makers and advisers. The following countries were represented: Cameroon, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, Congo Brazaville, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana.

One of the important goals of the workshop was to produce and validate an Integrated Environment Assessment (IEA) for Central Africa, based on the data gathered for the national SOEs and the work done prior to the meeting.⁸ In the opening ceremony, both the coordinator of NESDA and the UNEP representative emphasized that producing such a report was of utmost importance as it would provide inputs to the GEO 3 report - to be published in 2002.

By the end of the three-day workshop, the participants succeeded in producing a draft IEA report for Central Africa, but did not have the time to validate it. As a result, Environment Ministries and governments from the participant countries are currently approving the document in their respective capital.

Another important outcome of the workshop was the "Douala Declaration" adopted by the participants. The "Declaration" includes a set of recommendations on the next steps and initiatives for the region. It reiterates the commitment of the Central African countries to environmental assessment and reporting and the GEO process. The "Declaration" also proposes the establishment of a working group on the management of natural disasters and the environmental impact of armed conflicts in the region. The "Declaration" further indicates the countries' willingness to be more involved as a region in environmental management at the global level. Participants expressed their thanks to UNEP and NESDA for their logistical and financial support in organizing the workshop - a good indication of the countries representatives' appreciation of the leadership and efforts put forward by the two organizations.

Overall, the two workshops initiated by UNEP and NESDA generated positive outcomes as illustrated by the several regional initiatives mentioned in both "Declarations". However, one of the most important outcomes is perhaps the fact that these workshops made the GEO process and methodology known to high-level policy makers in the region - something that was not the case previously. Finally, the likely organization of future workshops will continue to provide an important platform where the countries of the region can discuss environmental initiatives at the regional level.

Déclaration de Douala

Sur invitation conjointe du programme des Nations Unies pour l'Environnement (PNUE) et le réseau pour l'environnement et le développement Durable en Afrique (REDDA); les participants des pays et les membres des organisations et programmes de protection et de gestion de l'environnement de la sous région ;

Réunis du 28 au 30 Août 2000 à Douala au Cameroun, à l'occasion de l'Atelier sous régional d'élaboration et de validation du rapport sur l'état de l'environnement en Afrique Centrale; conscient de l'ampleur:

- des pressions multiformes que subit l'environnement de manière générale en Afrique Centrale;
- de la nécessité de disposer de rapport pertinent présenté à partir des données fiables et actualisées;
- convaincus que la gestion durable de l'environnement en Afrique reste la voie appropriée pour produire des informations pertinentes aux décideurs ;
- rappellent l'adhésion de tous les pays de la sous région aux principes et idéaux de la conservation de la biodiversité et de la préservation du bien-être, dans le cadre de coopération sous régionale et internationale, voire mondiale;

Expriment leur sincere gratitude:

- à son Excellence Paul BIYA, Président de la République, Chef de l'Etat Camerounais pour son engagement constant en faveur du développement humain durable en Afrique Centrale;
- au Gouvernement Camerounais pour sa disponibilité à abriter le présent atelier;
- au vaillant peuple Camerounais pour l'hospitalité accordée aux participants.

Refaire et appuyer les engagements pris par les pays de la sous région en faveur de la gestion durable de l'environnement par la signature et la ratification des instruments juridiques internationaux et la déclaration de Yaoundé du 17 Mars 1999.

Apprécient:

- l'intérêt sans cesse croissant que le PNUE ne cesse de manifester depuis un certain moment pour la sous région Afrique Centrale et de l'ouest, quant aux voies et moyens nécessaires pour la sauvegarde de l'environnement.

Recommandent:

- que le processus entrepris conjointement par le PNUE, le RFDDA et l'ADIE soit poursuivi dans l'intérêt de la protection de l'environnement en Afrique Centrale;
- la mise sur pied d'un groupe de travail sur la gestion des catastrophes naturelles et anthropiques ainsi que la gestion des répercussions des conflits armés sur l'environnement de manière générale;
- que la sous région Afrique Centrale soit pleinement impliquée dans le processus de gestion de l'environnement à l'échelon global;
- que les actes du présent atelier soient communiqués aux pays de la sous région en vue de l'internalisation des recommandations et résolutions;
- enfin féliciter et remercier sincèrement le PNUE, le REDDA et l'ADIE pour avoir fourni l'appui technique et financier nécessaire à l'organisation du présent atelier.

Fait à Douala, le 30 Août 2000, les participants.

Appendix IX

Case Study: GEO for the Youth

The Coordinator of the project at the UNEP Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, generously gave the study team an extensive interview for this case study.

Purpose

The Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) GEO for the Youth project was initiated as part of the GEO process. The project is aimed at youth between the ages of 15 and 25, and gives them an opportunity to create a youth version of the GEO-2000 report with a specific focus on the LAC region.

Process and Product

The UNEP Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean started the project in 1999 and two parallel processes have supported its progress. Through a preexisting Youth Advisory Council for ROLAC, young people were recruited in each of the sub-regions covered by the report (Mexico and Central America; the Caribbean; the South Cone and Brazil). Key members of the Youth Advisory Council became the focal points for their regions and were responsible for soliciting submissions for the report. The second part of the process has been direct contact with ROLAC. Through their GEO for the Youth website, young people throughout the region were able to learn about the project and make their submissions directly to the Regional Office. The report will contain three main sections: the State of the Environment, Youth in Action, and Future Perspectives and Conclusions.

Activities

In March 2000, members of the GEO for the Youth team officially presented the project at the Twelfth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean in Bridgetown, Barbados. The project was fully supported by the Forum and a decision regarding the project was included in the final report. Members of the Youth Advisory Council and others, who will make up a group representative of youth in the region, will draft the report. The group's first editorial meeting took place from November 12-18, 2000 in Huatalco, Mexico. It was scheduled to coincide with the "Musica por la Tierra" music festival which raises money and awareness for environmental causes. 23 members of the group met to produce a draft version of the report and identify areas that had not yet been covered by submissions. The second editorial meeting was scheduled for February 2001 in Argentina, where the government has agreed to defray all costs of the meeting. GEO for the Youth was scheduled to be published for Earth Day 2001.

Media

GEO for the Youth has received good media coverage. The Mexican press have covered the process since its beginning. The best coverage so far has been of the first editorial meeting, which has been held in conjunction with the environmental music festival. Members of the youth advisory groups met with some of the musicians who participated in the festival and held press conferences with the musicians about GEO for the Youth. These press conferences were covered extensively by members of both the music and mainstream press.

Distribution

The GEO for the Youth process was outlined in a workbook called “Preparing the Youth Version of UNEP’s Global Environment Outlook”. There were 2000 Spanish copies and 1000 English copies printed. The workbook was also available online at the GEO for the Youth Website.

Impacts

The most significant impact of the GEO for the Youth process has been that it has galvanized the Youth Advisory Council into action for a specific goal. To date, the network has attracted 850 members. The process has also allowed the Council to leverage additional funds by lobbying the Argentinean government to host the second editorial meeting.

Appendix X Case Study: BBC World Service

Julian Coleman, an independent radio producer, and Tim Dean, a commissioning editor at the BBC World Service, generously gave the study team interviews for this case study.

The BBC and the “One Planet” programme

The BBC World Service is the subsidiary radio network of the BBC media group that broadcasts outside the United Kingdom. Its broadcasts are organized by programme, with each programme corresponding to a certain content type. Environmental content is assigned to the “One Planet” radio programme. This programme is usually 25 minutes long and is broadcast once a week in up to eight time zones.

The importance of “Facing the Future”

“Facing the Future” was a series of six reports produced for the “One Planet” programme that addressed a selection of the issues defined in the GEO-2000 report. One and a half months of One Planet’s schedule was allocated to this series. BBC commissioning editor, Tim Dean believes that this represents an important commitment of time and resources to this issue. Each of the six 25-minute reports aired twice in each of the eight time zones covered by the world service. The first programme aired on Thursday, 25 May 2000 and was rebroadcast the following Friday and Monday. The series continued with the same weekly pattern for the following five weeks, ending on Thursday, 29 June, 2000.

The commissioning of “Facing the Future”

Although staff reporters produce most of the BBC’s radio programmes, there are some issues that news editors at the BBC feel are better dealt with by independent producers. This was the case for GEO-2000. The environmental editors solicited submissions from independent producers and selected a series submitted by Julian Coleman. His proposed series dealt with the issues in GEO-2000 that had been classified as new issues or worsening issues: Eco-Fatigue, Eutrophication, Forest Fires, Natural Disasters, Alien Species and Quality of Governance. Mr. Coleman said that his selection was based on his own interests, on comments made to the BBC by UNEP Director Klaus Topfer about GEO-2000, and on the fact that none of the issues had been properly covered by the BBC in the last few years.

The media’s view of GEO-2000

According to Julian Coleman, GEO-2000 is currently one of the two most respected environmental outlook publications; the other is the State of the World report put out by World Watch. GEO is considered more objective than the State of the World report, as World Watch is a private institute and highlights what it feels are important issues. GEO is perceived to be more objective because it is not governed by UNEP or swayed by the opinions of its sponsors, but is an aggregation of contributions from the Collaborating Centres that make up GEO. Mr. Coleman also remarked that the UN’s tradition of impartiality contributes to this perception.

Appendix XI Case Study: Central European University

A Professor of the Department of Environmental Studies and Policy generously gave the study team an extensive interview for this case study.

History

The Central European University (CEU) is located in Budapest, Hungary and was founded in 1991 with an endowment from the Soros Foundation. The department of Environmental Sciences and Policy only accepts students at the graduate level and is the only “science” department in the University. Prospective students apply to the department through the Foundation and, if accepted, are automatically offered full scholarships (tuition, room and board).

The department came into being due to a variety of factors. During the Cold War, communist bloc governments had very limited interest in the environment. Mostly, this meant keeping what little information did exist from becoming public, which created a considerable vacuum of environmental information in former communist countries. In the early 1990s there was growing popular concern for environmental issues, and this provided the impetus for the creation of an Environmental Sciences Department in the predominantly liberal arts oriented (CEU). After the fall of communism a unique opportunity arose to assemble all the available environmental data from the newly opened archives of former communist countries, and in the early nineties the Department had one of the most comprehensive collections of such data.

How CEU became a Collaborating Centre

Because of this scarcity of environmental data, the Department became a contributor to UNEP’s GRID (Global Resource Information Database) through the GRID office in the Hungarian Ministry of the Environment. It was this contribution which led GRID Hungary to recommend the CEU as a Collaborating Centre for GEO-1.

GEO-1

At the time it became involved with GEO-1, the Department of Environmental Studies and Policy had 70 students, all of whom were at the graduate level. This represented 10 per cent of the student body of CEU, making it the largest department in the University. The academic staff was made up of five professors and the director. Funding for the department, as for all other departments, was provided exclusively by the Soros Foundation. Even though the CEU was a Collaborating Centre for GEO-1 it was not involved in much of the process. The haste with which the report was prepared only permitted limited involvement and only two members of the department participated.

GEO-2000

The Centre’s involvement in GEO-2000 was much more extensive. The process was better defined and consequently more productive. Specifically, the first consultative meetings were very informative for the delegates from CEU. One of the sticking points in the first report had been the lack of a common “language” for environmental assessment. The consultative meeting was an important step in overcoming this obstacle and the members of the Collaborating Centre have benefited from what they learned.

Human Resources

Because of GEO-2000, the Centre was able to add two members to its staff: an expert in the integration of environmental data sets and a researcher. This meant that the academic staff of the department went from 5 to 7 because of GEO.

Financial Resources

The Department of Environmental Studies and Policy is funded exclusively by the Hungarian Soros Foundation. The demands that GEO put on the Collaborating Centre's financial resources prompted a request for more funds from the Foundation. The Foundation agreed to provide partial funds for two additional positions on the department staff, provided that UNEP also provide a certain level of funding.

Effect on Research

After the fall of communism the trend had been to criticize the old regime. This backlash was a factor at the Collaborating Centre, especially because they dealt with an area that was neglected by the communist governments. Because of the nature of UNEP it could not make sharp criticisms and this moderate philosophy was passed on to Collaborating Centres through GEO. The UNEP GEO guidelines limited the views put forward by the Centre in a good way and have affected the work that continues to be done at the Centre.

Outcomes

For CEU the concrete outcomes have been two new professors and two new research projects. One of the research projects is the use of the Internet to assemble, analyze and disseminate environmental data.

Some of the less tangible outcomes of GEO relate to networking. Links with regional and global institutions were improved, but the Centre also strengthened its links with the Soros Foundation network because of its experience across all of Northern Europe and Central Asia, especially when the Centre had to deal with local languages. Another outcome is in the area of credibility. Because of the unique position of the Department of Environmental Studies and Policy in a predominately liberal arts university, the credibility of the department was sometimes in question. Even though it was the largest department, in the first few years after the founding of the University, its enrolment was on a steady decline. The department director felt that GEO helped improve the department's status - its affiliation with the UN caused the rest of the University to regard the department in a better light.

Appendix XII Case Study: SEPA

The Director of the State Environment Protection Agency generously gave the study team a written response to our case study questionnaire.

History

SEPA is China's State Environmental Protection Agency. It has been a major contributor to the SOE for China every year since 1989. SEPA is also involved with the GEO process, as a collaborating centre in GEO-1, GEO-2000 and GEO-3.

SEPA and SOE

SEPA has been involved with China's SOE process since 1989. Over that time period, the SOE process has been extended from a national to the provincial level of analysis. SEPA is now involved in several of the provincial SOEs partially because of the experience gained from GEO. The Director of the Agency, reported that SOE reporting in China had improved because of GEO and that specifically, the capacity to compile environmental data at the provincial level had been improved because of GEO. "China's SOE has been adjusted and extended with additional content of Pressures and Response. In addition, the indicator of core data in GEO has been applied to SOE systems of provincial and national levels."

Policy Development

With GEO-2000, the Chinese decision-makers could understand China's position in the regional/global environment, and hence, could improve their capacity for decision making. The Chinese government has adopted the assessment approach to environmental policy review put forth in GEO.

Distribution

The 1000 Chinese copies of GEO-2000 were distributed to: Universities such as Beijing University and Tsinghua University; research institutes such as the Policy Research Centre of SEPA, the Chinese Academy of Society, the Ecological Centre of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, and the Chinese Energy Research Institute; and other related ministries such as the State Development and Planning Commission, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Science and Technology, the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation.

Human Resources

SEPA has attracted many new staff members since they began their involvement with GEO. There are now more: researchers from academic institutions such as the Chinese Academy of Sciences and the Chinese Academy of Society; technical personnel from the Energy Institute of State Planning and Development Commission; and engineers from the Research Institute of Beijing Civil Engineering Construction. In addition, staff have started to use computers to exchange information more efficiently, a process that started with GEO.

Financial Resources

The translation of GEO-2000 into Chinese was partially funded by SEPA. Also, by mobilizing human resources in an effective manner, the overhead costs of the agency were reduced to a certain extent.

Status of the Agency

The Chinese Collaborating Centre and Beijing University were highly praised by the environmental communities in China. Researchers from the environmental sector and officials of the relevant ministries greatly value the agency's output and are fairly satisfied with their performance.

Sustainability

The sustainability of the collaborating centre has been enhanced with the increase in research capacity and the better understanding of global environmental issues fostered by the GEO process. The strengths and weaknesses of the GEO-2000 report perceived by SEPA are listed in **Table 5.22**

Table 7.2 Strengths and Weaknesses

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
Up-front discussions at the sub-regional level with the government.	Lack of in-depth study on the impacts of emerging issues on developing countries.
Political support / donor support mobilized	Not enough core data sets
Policy of multiple products targeting different audiences.	

Use of GEO at Beijing University

According to a Professor at Beijing University, GEO - 2000 is being used by about 300 students at the University. The report is a textbook for the university's Environmental Assessment course which has an annual enrollment of 60 students. "GEO - 2000 helps to broaden the view of students, with their understanding of the global environment greatly improved from limited issues of global warming and acid rain."

Appendix XIII Sample Questionnaires

Global Environment Outlook User Study Collaborating Centres Questionnaire

As noted in the accompanying letter, your responses to this questionnaire are an important component of UNEP's evaluation of the Global Environment Outlook reports (GEO-1 and GEO-2000), its associated products and the underlying assessment process, as requested by Governing Council decision 20/1. It is requested that Director of the Collaborating Centre respond to this questionnaire.

Please return all completed questionnaires by August 26, 2000 to Steve Gruber at Universalia: Fax - Canada (514) 485 3210, E-mail - <grubers@umg.ca. Thank you for your help in this matter.

1. Identification

1.1 Name: _____ 1.2 Title: _____

1.3 Name of Collaborating Centre: _____ 1.4 Country: _____

1.5 Telephone Number _____

1.6 Please indicate the status of your centre's participation in the GEO process:

Collaborating Centre GEO-1

Collaborating Centre GEO-2000

2. Outcomes related to the GEO process

Please indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with the following statements:

As a result of my institution's participation in the GEO process we have:

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Disagree nor Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
2.1 Been requested to implement additional in country or regional SOE project(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.2 Been requested to implement additional in country or regional project(s) other than SOE projects	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.3 Enhanced the quality of our services and / or products	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.4 Been able to attract additional human resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.5 Been able to attract additional financial resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.6 Optimized the use of our staff members' skills and knowledge	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.7 Established and/or strengthened our professional relationship with other national institutions involved in environmental studies	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.8 Established and/or strengthened our professional relationship with other regional institutions involved in environmental studies	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.9 Established and/or strengthened our professional relationship with other global institutions involved in environmental studies	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.10 Reduced the overhead costs or our Centre	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.11 Enhanced the Centre's reputation /credibility with key stakeholders	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.12 Enabled our professional staff to developed new skills and knowledge	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.13 Increased the Centres stakeholders' (clients, staff, donors etc.) satisfaction with the work of the Centre	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.14 Enhanced the overall sustainability of the Centre	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.15 Please describe any other way(s) in which participation in the GEO process has had an impact on your Centre:					

3. Impact of the GEO-1 and GEO-2000 reports

A major objective of this study is to identify the impact of the GEO reports themselves. In this section you are asked to identify any impacts of the reports under the different categories shown below that you are aware of. All examples provided are important; some will be selected for further amplification. For those selected we request the opportunity to interview you by telephone for further details.

3.1 Impact of the GEO-1 or GEO-2000 report (please specify) on environmentally related policy making: i.e. what examples are you aware of related to ways in which the reports have played a role in shaping environmental policies at the country or regional level.

3.2 Impact of the GEO-1 or GEO-2000 report (please specify) on the preparation and content of SOE reporting in your country and/or region

3.3 Impact of the GEO-1 or GEO-2000 report (please specify) on raising awareness of environmental issues in your country and/or region, e.g. have any special articles or broadcasts been prepared based significantly on either of the GEO reports?

3.4 Have either of the GEO reports contributed to environmental research work in your country and/or region? If so, please briefly describe their contribution.

3.5 Please describe any other impact(s) that the GEO report(s) have had in your country and/or region.

Thank you for your participation.

Please return all completed questionnaires by August 26, 2000 to Steve Gruber at Universalis:
Fax - Canada (514) 485 3210, E-mail - <grubers@umg.ca.

**UNEP GEO Report Evaluation:
Part 1: Ministers of the Environment**

As noted in the accompanying letter, your responses to this questionnaire are an important component of UNEP's evaluation of the Global Environment Outlook reports (GEO-1 and GEO-2000), its associated products and the underlying assessment process, as requested by Governing Council decision 20/1. Ministers of the Environment are requested to respond to Part One of the questionnaire and their Senior Advisor(s) to Part Two.

Please return all completed questionnaires by 15 September to UNEP by fax: +254 2 623944 or 623943

Thank you for your help in this matter

Part 1: The Minister of Environment is requested to complete this section

1. Identification

- 1.1 Name: _____ 1.2 Title: _____
1.3 Institution: _____ 1.4 Country: _____

2. Access to GEO reports

- 2.1 Have you seen a copy of the first Global Environment Outlook report (GEO-1) published in 1997? Yes No
- 2.2 Have you seen a copy of the second Global Environment Outlook report (GEO-2000) published in 1999? Yes No *(if never, end here and return the questionnaire)*
- 2.3 Do you have access to a copy of the GEO-2000 report? **Yes,** personal copy Yes, copy available in office **No**
- 2.4 Indicate how often you have personally referred to or consulted any part of the GEO-2000 report:
Three or more times **Once or twice** **Never** *(if never, end here and return the questionnaire)*

3. Usefulness of the GEO-2000 report

Rate the usefulness of the GEO-2000 report to you for the following:

	Not useful at all	Not very useful	Useful	Very useful	No opinion
3.1 Providing an overview of the global environmental situation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.2 Providing an overview of the regional environmental situation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.3 Providing policy guidance at the regional level	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.4 Providing information useful for national level policy development	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.5 Identifying major emerging issues	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.6 Placing national issues in a broader (regional or global) perspective	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.7 Other use (please specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.8 Please describe the most important way that the GEO-2000 report has been, or will be, used by you as a Minister					

4. Conclusion

4.1 Note any other comments you have concerning the GEO-2000 report:

Thank you for providing this valuable feedback

Please return by fax to the GEO Team by 15 September at the very latest: (+254 2 623944 or 623943) **Please request your Senior Environmental Advisor(s) to complete and return Part 2 of this questionnaire.**

**UNEP GEO Report Evaluation:
Permanent Representatives**

As noted in the accompanying letter, your responses to this questionnaire are an important component of UNEP's evaluation of the Global Environment Outlook reports (GEO-1 and GEO-2000), its associated products and the underlying assessment process, as requested by Governing Council decision 20/1.

**Please return all completed questionnaires by 15 September to UNEP by fax: +254 2
623944 or 623943**

Thank you for your help in this matter

1. Identification

1.1 Name: _____ 1.2 Title: _____
1.3 Country: _____

2. Access to GEO reports

-
- 2.1 Have you seen a copy of the first Global Environment Outlook report (GEO-1) published in 1997? Yes No
- 2.2 Have you seen a copy of the second Global Environment Outlook report (GEO-2000) published in 1999? Yes No *(if no, end here and return the questionnaire)*
- 2.3 Do you have access to a copy of the GEO-2000 report? Yes personal copy Yes, copy available in office No
- 2.4 Indicate how often you have personally referred to or consulted any part of the GEO-2000 report:
Three or more times Once or twice Never *(if never, end here and return the questionnaire)*

3. Usefulness of the GEO-2000 report

Rate the usefulness of the GEO-2000 report to you for the following:

	Not useful at all	Not very useful	Useful	Very useful	No opinion
3.1 Providing an overview of the global environmental situation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.2 Providing an overview of the regional environmental situation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.3 Providing policy guidance at the regional level	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.4 Providing information useful for national level policy development	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.5 Identifying major emerging issues	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.6 Placing national issues in a broader (regional or global) perspective	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.7 Other use (please specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.8 Please describe the most important way that the GEO-2000 report has been, or will be, used by you as a Permanent Representative.					

3.9 Have you forwarded or recommended copies of the report to others? Yes No (if no, go to Q 4.1)

3.10 Identify the categories of persons to whom you have forwarded a copy? e.g. Minister of Environment, Senior Environmental Advisors to the Minister etc.

Position/Title	Department	# of persons

4. Conclusion

4.1 Note any other comments you have concerning the GEO-2000 report:

UNEP GEO Report Evaluation: PART 2
Senior Environmental Advisor (s)

As noted in the accompanying letter, your responses to this questionnaire are an important component of UNEP's evaluation of the Global Environment Outlook reports (GEO-1 and GEO-2000), its associated products and the underlying assessment process, as requested by Governing Council decision 20/1. Ministers of the Environment are requested to respond to Part One of the questionnaire and their Senior Advisor(s) to Part Two.

Please return all completed questionnaires by 15 September to UNEP by fax: +254 2 623944 or 623943

Thank you for your help in this matter

Part 2: For completion by Senior Environmental Advisor(s)

1. Identification

1.1 Name: _____ 1.2 Title: _____
 1.3 Institution: _____ 1.4 Country: _____

2. Awareness of and access to GEO reports

-
- 2.1 Have you seen a copy of the first Global Environment Outlook report (GEO-1) published in 1997? Yes No
- 2.2 Have you seen a copy of the second Global Environment Outlook report (GEO-2000) published in 1999? Yes No *(if no, end here and return the questionnaire)*
- 2.3 Do you have access to a copy of the GEO-2000 report
- | | | |
|--|--|-----------------------------|
| Yes personal copy <input type="checkbox"/> | Yes, copy available in office <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
|--|--|-----------------------------|
- 2.4 Indicate how often you have personally referred to or consulted any part of the GEO-2000 report:
- | | | | |
|--|--|--------------------------------|--|
| Three or more times <input type="checkbox"/> | Once or twice <input type="checkbox"/> | Never <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>(if never, end here and return the questionnaire)</i> |
|--|--|--------------------------------|--|

3. Usefulness of the GEO-2000 report

Rate the usefulness of the GEO-2000 report to you for the following:

	Not useful at all	Not very useful	Useful	Very useful	No opinion
3.1 Providing an overview of the global environmental situation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.2 Providing an overview of the regional environmental situation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.3 Providing policy guidance at the regional level	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.4 Providing information useful for national level policy development	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.5 Identifying major emerging issues	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.6 Placing national issues in a broader (regional or global) perspective	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.7 Other use (please specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

3.8 Please describe the most important way that the GEO-2000 report has been, or will be, used by you as an environmental advisor.

3.9 Have you recommended or forwarded copies of the report to colleagues?

Yes No

3.10 Have your state of the environment (SOE) assessment practices been influenced by the GEO process or reports in any way? e.g. incorporating policy analysis into SOE reports.

Yes No *(if no, proceed to q 3.12)*

3.11 Please briefly describe how your national or regional state of the environment (SOE) assessment practices have been influenced by the GEO process or reports.

3.12 Is the GEO-2000 report being used by others in your Ministry?

Yes No *(if no, go to Q 4.1)*

3.13 Who else is using GEO-2000 in your ministry?

Position/Title	Department	# of persons

3.14 For what major purposes is the GEO-2000 report being used by others in your ministry?

4. Future editions of the GEO report

Indicate how useful future editions of the GEO report could be for you by the following changes:

	Not useful at all	Not very useful	Useful	Very useful	No opinion
4.1 More graphics and illustrations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.2 More detailed information on specific issues	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.3 Data tables with country level data	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.4 Specific, action orientated, recommendations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.5 More detailed regional and sub-regional coverage	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.6 More information on emerging issues and early warning	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.7 Closer inter-linkage with sustainable development issues	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.8 More information and analyses of policy responses at the national level	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.9 More information and analysis of policy responses at the regional level	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.10 More information and analysis of policy responses at the global level	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.11 Success stories of environmental management and sustainable development	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

4.12 Other (please specify)

4.13 Please note any other way(s) in which the GEO report could be made more useful to you:

5. Conclusion

5.1 Please note any other comments you have concerning the GEO-2000 report:

Thank you for providing this valuable feedback

**Please return by fax to the GEO Team by 15 September at the very latest on +254 2
623944 or 623943**

Reader's Survey

We need your help to improve the GEO-Report Series, make it more useful and user-friendly. If you complete and return this User/Reader Survey by 30 June 2000, we will send you a FREE COPY of the GEO-3 Overview Booklet which will be published in 2002.

If you would not like to fill out this survey, click here and return to GEO-2000 now

Top of Form 1

About GEO-2000

1. For what purpose do you use the GEO-2000?

If more than one, please rank them in order of importance (1, 2, 3...)

<i>Purpose</i>		<i>Rank</i>
<input type="text"/>	Research and analysis	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	Background information for my work	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	Policy formulation	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	Reference source	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	Teaching or training tool	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	Keep up-to-date on environmental issues	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	Other (please specify) <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

2. How do you use GEO-2000?

If more than one, please rank them in order of importance (1, 2, 3...)

<i>Use</i>		<i>Rank</i>
<input type="text"/>	Read all sections thoroughly	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	Read certain sections thoroughly	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	Skim through or glance at it	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	Use as a personal reference	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	Place in a Library	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	Share with colleagues	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	Keep on a shelf unused	<input type="text"/>
	Other <input type="text"/>	

3. How did you obtain GEO-2000?

4. How do you rate the overall usefulness of GEO-2000?

5. How do you rate GEO-2000 for the following attributes:

	Excellent	Good	Adequate	Poor
Technical information	Excellent	Good	Adequate	Poor
Accuracy	Excellent	Good	Adequate	Poor
Coverage	Excellent	Good	Adequate	Poor
Being up-to-date	Excellent	Good	Adequate	Poor
Rigor of analysis	Excellent	Good	Adequate	Poor
Objectivity	Excellent	Good	Adequate	Poor
Innovation	Excellent	Good	Adequate	Poor
Organization	Excellent	Good	Adequate	Poor
Presentation and readability	Excellent	Good	Adequate	Poor

6. The overall objective of GEO-2000 is to present a comprehensive, integrated, forward looking, policy relevant assessment of the environment. How effective has it been in achieving this objective?

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| <input type="text" value="Effective"/> | Effective |
| <input type="text" value="Moderately"/> | Moderately effective |
| <input type="text" value="Not effective"/> | Not effective because... |

7. What does GEO-2000 offer that is not provided by other sources?

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| <input type="text"/> | An integrated overview of environmental issues and trends |
| <input type="text"/> | Background on environmental issues and trends |
| <input type="text"/> | Analysis and insights into environmental issues |
| <input type="text"/> | New perspectives on environmental issues |
| <input type="text"/> | Data, information and statistics |
| <input type="text"/> | Other (please specify) <input type="text"/> |

8. What sections do you refer to the most?

- | | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| <input type="text"/> | Synthesis | |
| <input type="text"/> | Global perspectives | |
| <input type="text"/> | State of the environment | |
| <input type="text"/> | Policy responses | |
| <input type="text"/> | Future perspectives | |
| <input type="text"/> | Outlook and recommendations | |
| <input type="text"/> | Other (please specify) | <input type="text"/> |

9. What do you like most about GEO-2000?

- | | | |
|----------------------|--|----------------------|
| <input type="text"/> | Integrated approach | |
| <input type="text"/> | New insights | |
| <input type="text"/> | Forward looking | |
| <input type="text"/> | Format and structure | |
| <input type="text"/> | Layout and design | |
| <input type="text"/> | References on data and information sources | |
| <input type="text"/> | Other (please specify) | <input type="text"/> |

10. What do you like least about GEO-2000?

- | | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| <input type="text"/> | Approach | |
| <input type="text"/> | Content | |
| <input type="text"/> | Structure | |
| <input type="text"/> | Layout and design | |
| <input type="text"/> | Other (please specify) | <input type="text"/> |

11. How will GEO-2000 contribute to your work? Please give examples.

12. What would you like to see in future issues of GEO?

13. When looking for information on environmental issues, how useful do you find the following sources:

	Very	Moderately	slightly
Books		Moderately	lightly
Internet or on-line services	Very	Moderately	lightly
CD-ROM or diskette products	Very	Moderately	lightly
Journals	Very	Moderately	lightly
Newspapers	Very	Moderately	lightly
Courses and seminars	Very	Moderately	lightly
Colleagues	Very	Moderately	lightly
Others (please specify)	Very	Moderately	lightly

14. Please name the one key source of information on environmental issues that you use regularly.

15. Have you used the first Global Environment Outlook report (GEO-1)?

About You

It would help us greatly if you could provide the following information, which will only be used for the purposes of this survey.

Name:	<input type="text"/>
Title/Position:	<input type="text"/>
Organization:	<input type="text"/>
Street/Postal address:	<input type="text"/>
City:	<input type="text"/>
State/province:	<input type="text"/>
Postal code	<input type="text"/>
Country:	<input type="text"/>
Tel:	<input type="text"/>
Fax:	<input type="text"/>
Email:	<input type="text"/>

How would you classify the organization in which you work?

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
----------------------	----------------------

What type of position do you hold?

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
----------------------	----------------------

What are your areas of specialization?

<input type="text"/>	What are your areas of specialization?
<input type="text"/>	Environmental management
<input type="text"/>	Finance, banking, economics
<input type="text"/>	Law
<input type="text"/>	Natural sciences
<input type="text"/>	Social sciences
<input type="text"/>	Information management
<input type="text"/>	Lecturing or teaching
<input type="text"/>	Other (please specify)
<input type="text"/>	

What is your level of education?

How old are you?

And finally, please let us have any comments that may not have been covered by the questions above.

Thank you for taking the time to complete and return this important questionnaire

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