

UNEP, Regional Seas, Rio+20

Regional Seas Meeting
3-5 October
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Based on recent internal UNEP Rio+20 workshop

Content

- 3 Pillars
 - IFSD/IEG
 - Green Economy
 - Emerging Issues
- 2 Themes
 - Global Marine Commons
 - Food, Agriculture, Land Systems for People & Nature
- Other Initiatives
 - Youth, Resource Efficiency,

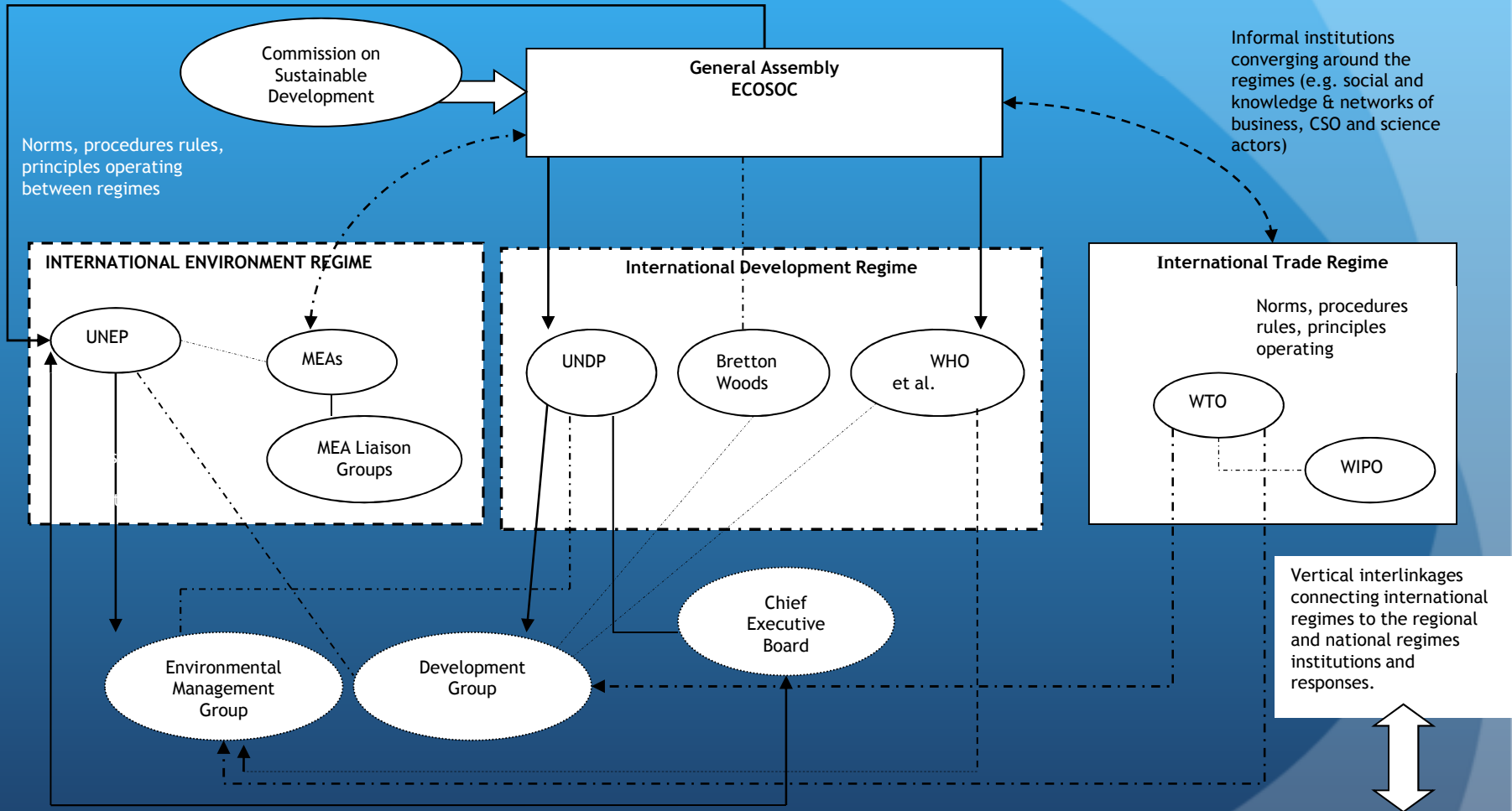
1) Major Challenges Current IEG System

The IEG System is Fragmented, Complex,
Under financed and Inefficient and as a result

It's WEAK



Governance System



UNEP Lacks Political Clout

- Programme not a Organization & lacks stature in UN attracts less important decision makers
- Governing Body is not Universal but expected to play advisory role to bodies that are universal Decisions renegotiated in NY
- Mandated to provide more coherence to MEAs but no power to do it.

IFSD/IEG - for Rio+20

- Strengthen environmental governance framework for SD
 - Environmental pillar of SD considered weakest
 - Fragmentation
 - Weak funding, financing disconnected from policy making
 - Too many MEAs, lack of coherence between MEAs
- 2 Year intergovernmental process of reform options:
 - Upgrading UNEP to specialized agency
 - Strengthening role in the UN Secretariat

Essential Elements of IFSD

- Consolidated authority
 - integration of economic & social pillars
 - Global environment agenda
 - Coherent MEAs
- Financing - policy alignment
- Implementation commitment
- Accountability
- Civil society partnership

Preferred Option: Specialized Agency

- Securer & more predictable funding
- Single Authority
- Platform equal in strength to other pillars
- Can negotiate treaties under it
- Can decide appropriate bodies when necessary

2) Green Economy

3 Main Messages

- Integrate the value of natural capital and environment in financial and economic decision-making
- Enabling policies to facilitate transition to green economy, particularly in developing countries
- Reverse the misallocation of capital by removing barriers to green investment & mobilizing capital

Along with sector specific targets

GE - Natural capital into financial decision making

- Beyond GDP accounting
- Agreed mechanisms & metrics
- Private sector accountability “comply or explain”
- Standardized ESG* criteria in finance decision making

*ESG = environmental, social & governance

GE - Enabling Policies

- Trade opportunities
- Facilitate markets for green goods
- Standards for green technologies
- Prioritize public spending
- Transitional measures for industry
- Resources and technical assistance
- Synergies between national planning processes
- UN “Green Economy”

GE - Removing Barriers

- Perverse subsidies
- Reform taxation
- Green investment goal
- International financial mechanisms

Emerging Issues - Foresight Process

What?

- A systematic procedure for canvassing top experts every two years → identify and rank critical emerging issues.

Coordination:

- Chief Scientists Office & UNEP's Division of Early Warning & Assessment

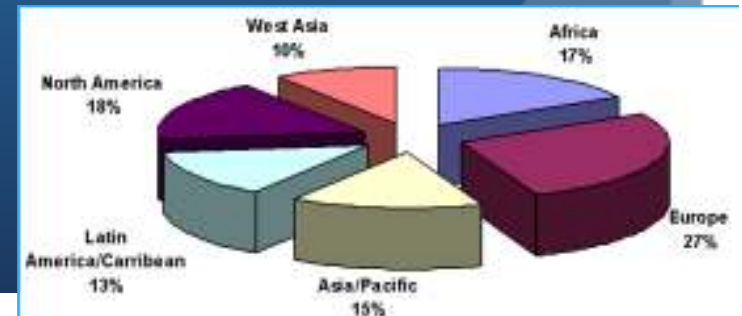
Foresight Panel

- 22 distinguished scientists/experts - Broad regional & disciplinary representation

Process:

- 1) Canvass of UNEP community → identified 68 issues
- 2) Foresight Panel meetings → debated 95 issues → selected 21 priority issues
- 3) Electronic Consultation (Survey) → 933 scientists worldwide → 428 responses

Regional Profile of Respondents to Electronic Consultation



Themes



Covers the major environmental themes

Food and Land

Freshwater and Marine

Biodiversity

Climate Change

Energy

Waste and Technology

Also, include cross-cutting issues

Environmental Governance

Human behavioural change

Bridging Science and Policy



21 Issues for the 21st Century



Issue Title	Ranking *
Aligning Governance to the Challenges of Global Sustainability	1
Transforming Human Capabilities for the 21 st Century: Meeting Global Environmental Challenges and Moving Towards a Green Economy	2
New Challenges for Ensuring Food Safety and Food Security for 9 Billion	3
Broken Bridges: Reconnecting Science and Policy	4
Social Tipping Points? Catalyzing Rapid and Transformative Change in Human Behavior for the Environment	5
New Insights on Water-Land Interactions: Shift in the Management Paradigm	6
Accelerating the Implementation of Environmentally-Friendly Renewable Energy Systems	7 **
Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation: Managing the Unintended Consequences	7 **
Beyond Conservation: Integrating Biodiversity Across the Ecological and Economic Agendas	7 **
Greater Risk than Necessary? The Need for New Approaches to Minimizing Risks of Novel Technologies and Chemicals	10
Boosting Urban Sustainability and Resilience	11
The New Rush for Land: Responding to New National and International Pressures	12
Potential Collapse of Oceanic Systems Requires Integrated Ocean Governance	13
Changing the Face of Waste: Solving the Impending Scarcity of Strategic Minerals and Avoiding Electronic Waste	14
Shortcutting the Degradation of Inland Waters in Developing Countries	15
Acting on the Signal of Climate Change in the Changing Frequency of Extreme Weather Events	16
The Decommissioning of Nuclear Reactors and their Environmental Consequences	17
New Concepts for Coping with Creeping Changes and Imminent Thresholds	18
Adaptive Governance for Addressing Increasing Pressures on Coastal Ecosystems	19
Coping with Migration Caused by New Aspects of Environmental Change	20
Consequences of Glacier Retreat: Economic and Social Impacts	21

* Ranking based on scoring of UNEP Foresight Panel after extensive deliberations and after consideration of polling results of over 400 scientists worldwide.

** Score not statistically different

Marine & Coastal Issues

- Beyond conservation: integrating biodiversity across the ecological and economic agendas
- Adaptive governance for addressing increasing pressures on coastal ecosystems
- Potential collapse of oceanic systems requires integrated ocean governance

Summary



- ✓ 21 compelling issues with broad consequences for many audiences
- ✓ Cover all major themes → climate, biodiversity, hazardous substances and waste, freshwater, land/food, energy, cities, oceans, coastal zone
- ✓ But also 7 cross-cutting issues → governance, resource consumption, human capabilities, science-policy chasm, social tipping points, migration
- ✓ Cover both natural science & social science perspectives
- ✓ Based on credible & legitimate process - beyond *ad hoc* approach:
Derived from debate amongst a distinguished, representative Foresight Panel with wide consultations within UNEP and external scientific communities

2 Themes

- Food, Agriculture, Land Systems for People & Nature
 - Delivery of food / food products while maintaining or restoring natural capital and ecosystems
- Global Marine Commons

Marine Global Commons

7 Key Messages based on GE reports & Ocean Governance in consultation with UNEP divisions

- ✧ Ocean governance of marine ECOSYSTEMS
- ✧ Fisheries and Aquaculture paradigm shift
- ✧ Nutrient Management

Promoting the role of coastal ecosystems for climate change adaptation & mitigation

Preventing ocean acidification

Regular Process

Marine Invasive Species

Ocean Governance

Main Message

- The management of ocean ecosystems within and beyond national jurisdiction is most effective when gaps are strengthened building more synergies among UNCLOS, the relevant regional and subregional arrangements and the national frameworks.

Expected Outcomes

- Regional and subregional frameworks and mechanisms to bring regional and subregional bodies together
- Global, regional and subregional ocean management plans
- Conservation placed in a wider context of ocean management

Fisheries & Aquaculture

Main Message:

- Reduce pressure on fisheries resources through a increasing use of appropriate property rights and shifting perverse subsidies to supporting the development of sustainable aquaculture and suitable plant-based feeds.

Expected Outcomes

- Economic efficiencies in commercial fisheries.
- Decrease of wild capture fishery inputs into fish feeds and greater investment in developing alternatives to fishmeal.
- Sustainable aquaculture ventures increasing at the industrial and small scale level,

Nutrient Management

Main Message

- A policy framework to mitigate the adverse effects of hypoxia/eutrophication through the integration of nitrogen fertilizers and phosphorus into the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM).

Expected outcomes

- Integration of nutrients into the SAICM discussions in order to integrate them into the “2020 goal” adopted by the World Summit on Sustainable Development market-based mechanism that creates monetary incentives to reduce nutrients run-offs.
- Higher recovery rates of N and P from through innovative technologies
- Increased efficiencies in the use of fertilizers through innovation and awareness raising

Global Compact between Science & Society

- Knowledge & science underpin Green Economy
- Closer relationship between science & society needed
- 4 components - sustainability science
 - Research priorities
 - Voluntary national sustainability research & education targets
 - Global change research architecture
 - Upgraded funding

Youth

- Mobilizing youth for and beyond Rio+20
- Benefit from Green Economy - direct job creation

Resource Efficiency

- 10 year Framework for Sustainable Consumption Production
- Strengthen Life Cycle Approach - across sectors
- Develop agreed RE indicators

UNEP Efforts

- Specific messages for its inputs to Rio+20
- GE SIDS - with UN DESA
 - Engaging in SIDS regional/global meetings, and other regional meetings
- GE in Blue World
 - Regional and global meetings, CPR distribution
- Ocean Governance Institutions Review
- Working with other UN agencies to harmonize messages and to disseminate messages