

[Managing Environmental Wealth for Poverty Reduction - Presentation \(PEP September 2005\)](#)

Human-induced environmental change has accelerated over the last three decades, as is clearly illustrated in UNEP's flagship [Global Environment Outlook \(GEO\)](#) series of reports and other assessments such as the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment(2005). The increasing complexity of environmental degradation now requires an enhanced capacity for scientific assessment, monitoring and early warning. For this reason [UNEP's Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum \(GC/GMEF\)](#) has initiated a consultative process to identify gaps and needs in the current assessment structure, and the means to address them.

This ongoing multi-stakeholder consultative process to strengthen the scientific base of UNEP is referred to as the Science Initiative. The purpose of this website is to help facilitate, and to report on, the process. The Science Initiative is an evolving process and progress made to date is best described by dividing the process into discrete phases:

- [Phase 1: 2001-2002 \(Origins in the IEG process and the recommendation to strengthen the scientific base of UNEP\)](#)
- [Phase 2: 2003 \(First global multi-stakeholder consultation on how to strengthen the scientific base of UNEP\)](#)
- [Phase 3: 2004 \(Conclusions and recommendations of Intergovernmental Consultation\)](#)
- [Phase 4: 2005 \(Evaluation of the conclusions and recommendations and the proposal of a new framework - Environment Watch\)](#)
- [Phase 5: 2005 \(Second global multi-stakeholder consultation to further develop the Environment Watch proposal\)](#)

Next Steps

The deadline set for responses to be submitted to UNEP is 15 September 2005. The responses will then be analysed. The Executive Director of UNEP will report on the consultation and present a revised version of the Environment Watch proposal and the outcome of the Situation Analysis and Capacity Building Needs Assessment to the 9th Special Session of UNEP's Governing Council to be held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 7-9 February 2006. Updates on the status of current consultative process will be made available on this website.

"The ultimate challenge underpinning UNEP's science"