



Global Environment Outlook

United Nation Environment Program (UNEP) has recently released the 6th edition of the Global Environment Outlook Report (GEO).

- It outlines the current state of the environment illustrates possible future environmental trends and analyses the effectiveness of policies.

About GEO

- The Global Environment Outlook is often referred to as **UN Environment's flagship environmental assessment.**
- UN Environment launched the **first Global Environment Outlook in 1997.**
- It is a flagship report because **it fulfills the core functions of the UNEP.**

Key Findings of the GEO-6 report

- As greenhouse gas emissions continue to rise amid **an increased risk of droughts, floods and superstorms made worse by climbing sea levels, there is a growing political consensus that climate change poses a future risk to billions.**
- **A quarter of all premature deaths and diseases worldwide are due to manmade pollution** and environmental damage - around 9 million deaths in 2015 alone.
- Lacking access to clean drinking supplies, **1.4 million people die each year from preventable diseases such as diarrhea and parasites** linked to pathogen-riddled water and poor sanitation.
- **Chemicals pumped into the seas cause "potentially multi-generational" adverse health effects.**
- Land degradation through mega-farming and deforestation occurs in areas home to 3.2 billion people.
- The report **called for a decrease in greenhouse gas emissions and pesticide use** to improve air and water quality.
- Food waste for instance, which accounts for 9% of global greenhouse gas emissions, could be slashed.
- The world currently throws away a third of all food produced. In richer nations, 56% goes to waste.
- The **report advises adopting less-meat intensive diets and reducing food waste in both developed and developing countries.**
- This would reduce the need to increase food production by 50% to feed the projected 9-10 billion people on the planet in 2050.

United Nation Environment Program

- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), **was established in 1972 to guide and coordinate environmental activities within the United Nations (UN) system.**
- UNEP **promotes international cooperation on environmental issues, provides guidance to UN organizations.**
- Through its scientific advisory groups, UNEP encourages the international scientific community to participate in formulating policy for many of the UN's environmental projects.
- UNEP is **headquartered in Nairobi, Kenya.**

- The organization also encourages participation by the private sector to promote the sustainable use of the world's natural resources.

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