



21-24 February 2011, Nairobi, Kenya

GC.26 / GMEF

26th session of the Governing Council / Global Ministerial Environment Forum

DATE: Tuesday 22nd February 2011
TIME: 13.30 – 14.30
VENUE: Conference Room 12

SIDE EVENT:

Science and Policy The Future of Environmental Assessments *What Have We Learned So Far?*

Purpose: Integrated environmental assessments are a key element of modern environmental science and policy, over many spatial scales. At least (10) assessments are carried out by UNEP alone each year. But assessments often have important drawbacks that reduce their impact and relevance. The purpose of this side event is to review some of the key lessons learned by decades of experience with assessments with the aim to make new assessment processes such as IPBES and other ongoing environmental assessments even more relevant, credible and legitimate. We will draw on the latest evaluations of some of the most important assessments, focusing on the global scale.

Session Organization

5 min Introduction - Assessments are needed more than ever, but they have some key constraints that need to be addressed

Speaker: Joseph Alcamo, Chief Scientist, UNEP

8 min. What have we learned from 22 years of IPCC assessment?

Speakers: Renate Christ, Secretary, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

8 min. What have we learned from the International Assessment of Agricultural Science and Technology for Development (IAASTD)

Speaker: Bob Watson, Chief Scientist, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), UK



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8 min. What have we learned from the evaluation of GEO-4?

Speakers: Peter Gilruth, Director, Division of Early Warning and Assessment (DEWA)

Fatoumata Keita-Ouane, Chief, Scientific Assessment Branch, DEWA, UNEP

8 min Pan-European Assessment process

Speaker: Jacqueline McGlade, Executive Director, European Environment Agency (EEA)

8 min How can assessments better inform policy?

H.E. Ms Sherry Ayittey, Minister for the Environment, Ghana

H.E. Mr. Anura Priyadarshana Yapa, Minister for the Environment, Sri Lanka

15 min Discussion: The way forward: 10 ways to boost the impact and efficiency of integrated environmental assessments

Moderator: Joseph Alcamo, Chief Scientist, UNEP

