

## Questionnaire for GEO-5

### ***About GEO-5:***

The GEO-5 process began in March 2010, with an Intergovernmental and Multi-stakeholder Consultation, which agreed, in a *Statement*, on the scope, objectives and process for the GEO-5 assessment.

GEO-5 has a strong regional focus and section 2 of the assessment will focus on the **Options for Regional Policy** Action. Please refer to the *Statement* of GEO-5 for further information ([www.unep.org/geo](http://www.unep.org/geo)).

### ***Aim of Questionnaire:***

The aim of this questionnaire is to facilitate the regional consultations by drawing out each region's specific context in relation to:

- Regional environmental priority issues/challenges (the priorities selected by the regions will need to be aligned to internationally agreed goals so that the assessment can analyze how the achievement of these goals can be speeded up);
- Examples of effective and perverse policy instruments; and
- Relevant regional processes.

Please complete the questionnaire below:

### **I. Respondent Information**

Name:	
Contact details (email address):	
Nationality:	
Organization:	
Field of expertise:	

## II. Regional priorities

<b><i>a. Selection of your region's main environmental priority issues/challenges.</i></b>
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i) Priorities should be selected from the following thematic areas **only**:

1. Air pollution and air quality;
2. Biodiversity;
3. Chemicals and waste;
4. Climate change;
5. Energy;
6. Forests;
7. Freshwater;
8. Oceans and seas;
9. Soil, land use, land degradation and desertification; and
10. Environmental governance.

***List regionally specific environmental challenges within the broad thematic areas provided above.***

***Select only up to 5 and list them below in order of importance. For example, if you select Biodiversity as a priority issue in your region, a specific challenge should be stated e.g.***

*e.g. Biodiversity – challenge: Loss of biodiversity due to invasive alien species*

*e.g. Energy – challenge: Acid rain from the combustion of fossil fuels*

- a.
- b.
- c.
- d.
- e.

### **Notes:**

- You may wish to refer to regional priorities selected in GEO-4 as they may still be of relevance (see **Table 1** below)
- Some suggested criteria that could be used to select priority issues/challenges include:
  - An environmental/developmental challenge that is important for the region
  - An issue that has global implications
  - An issue that is common across sub-regions or several countries
  - An issue that is trans-boundary in nature
  - An issue that has irreversible consequences
  - Is characterized by a rapid or uncontrollable speed/rate of change
  - An issue that has significant social and economic impacts
  - An issue that has been prioritised at an Environment Policy Forum or similar regional forum

***b.. In your region, list existing policy instruments<sup>1</sup> that have been effective in addressing these priority issues/challenges.***

***c. . In your region what existing policy instruments have been shown to be counter-productive/perverse or that have hindered meeting these priorities?***

***d. List any regional intergovernmental processes/agreements (recent or on-going) where information on the above priorities have been discussed/agreed***

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<sup>1</sup> Policy instruments for the purposes of this questionnaire can be defined as both policy approaches (such as legal and regulatory interventions, economic interventions, governance interventions, technological interventions and social, cultural and educational interventions) and policy response options resulting from the policy approaches i.e. property rights under governance interventions.

**Table 1: Key regional priority issues selected for GEO-4**

Africa	Land degradation and its cross-cutting impacts on forests, freshwater, marine and coastal resources, as well as pressures such as drought, climate variability and change, and urbanization
Asia and the Pacific	Transport and urban air quality, freshwater stress, valuable ecosystems, agricultural land use, and waste management
Europe	Climate change and energy, unsustainable production and consumption, air quality and transport, biodiversity loss and land-use change, and freshwater stress
Latin America and the Caribbean	Growing cities, biodiversity and ecosystems threats, degrading coasts and polluted seas, and regional vulnerability to climate change
North America	Energy and climate change, urban sprawl and freshwater stress
West Asia	Freshwater stress, land degradation, degrading coasts and marine ecosystems, urban management, and peace and security
Polar Regions	Climate change, persistent pollutants, the ozone layer, and development and commercial activity