Products and Services

Meta-data Directory

The GRID Meta-data Directory is a storehouse of environmental data sets held by the GRID network and partner institutions around the world. It is available in hardcopy, diskette, CD-ROM or may be searched on-line at the GRID-Geneva website.

Database, GIS and Image Processing Services

GRID-Geneva provides expertise in the preparation of customised databases (tabular or GIS) and interpretation of satellite imagery.

Publications

GRID-Geneva in collaboration with various partner organisations publishes a variety of scientific reports and papers intended to assist decision-makers and for environmental awareness raising. This includes inputs to UNEP's Global Environmental Outlook (GEO) report.

INDIGENOUS AND TRADITIONAL PEOPLES IN THE GLOBAL 200 ECOREGIONS
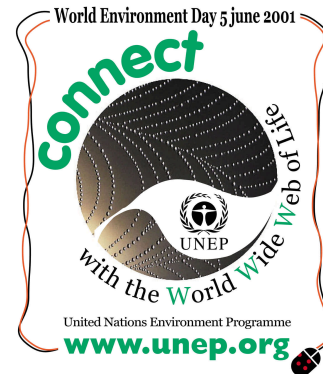
Cartographic and Related Products

GRID-Geneva creates a wide range of maps, posters and other thematic/visual products on a case-by-case basis.

Current/Recent examples of GRID Geneva Projects

- Development of a Data Portal for the Global Environment Outlook Report (GEO-3)
- African Environmental Information System 'On-line'
- Development of a Caspian Geographic Information System
- Alpine and Swiss Catalogue of Data Sources
- Cities Environment Report on the Internet for Geneva
- Developing Indicators for Global Vulnerability Mapping
- Mediterranean Remote Sensing Capacity Building

Our Mission

"To provide leadership and encourage partnerships in caring for the environment by inspiring, informing and enabling nations and peoples to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations."

World Environment Day 5 june 2001
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with the World Wide Web of Life
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www.unep.org
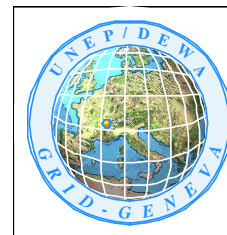
Global Resource Information Database – Geneva

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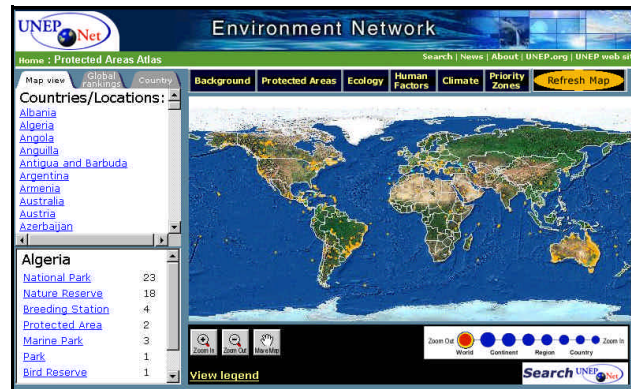## GRID-GENEVA

www.grid.unep.ch

What is GRID ?

A Global Network

The Global Resource Information Database (GRID) is a world-wide network of environmental data centres established by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). Presently, there are 15 such centres operating in all regions of the world and administered by UNEP's Division of Early Warning and Assessment (DEWA) based at its headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya. GRID aims to provide and facilitate access to high-quality environmental data and information for decision-making and policy setting at global, regional and national levels, and to underpin UNEP's review of the state of the world's environment and provide early warning on emerging environmental threats and problems.

GRID-Geneva

Since its foundation in 1985 as a pioneering pilot project for the GRID model, GRID-Geneva has received regular support from Swiss authorities. In June 1998, UNEP/GRID-Geneva reinforced this relationship and broadened its institutional base and support with the signing of a "Partnership Agreement" with the Swiss Federal Agency for the Environment, Forests and Landscape (SAEFL) and the University of Geneva.

The principal goal of GRID-Geneva is to backstop UNEP's assessment activities and its efforts to support global and regional environmental decision-making, by generating high quality data about the state of the world's environment, and which is primarily channelled through UNEP's Global Environmental Outlook (GEO) programme. As part of its information management function, GRID-Geneva has over the years amassed an extensive archive of global, regional and other geo-spatial databases, and is currently capitalising on advances in information technology to make its core data holdings, as well as that of international partner organisations, accessible to the global community through Internet-based applications. In this connection, plans are currently underway to designate GRID-Geneva as the Global Data Centre within the framework of UNEP's environmental information network on the Internet ("UNEP dot net").
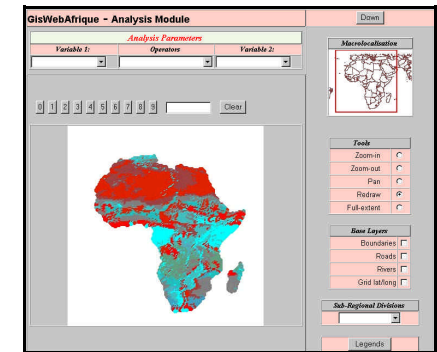

Data Management and Dissemination

To support reliable environmental assessments, GRID-Geneva specialises in the preparation and provision of value-added environmental information products using tools such as remote sensing, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), and by developing client-specific databases and Internet websites. Over the years, GRID-Geneva has compiled an archive of global, European and other geo-spatial databases as part of its information management function. These data sets, which include maps, satellite imagery, statistical tables and reports, are available 'on-line' for direct download by users via the GRID-Geneva website.

Major Activities

The core tasks carried out by GRID-Geneva are grouped in five broad areas. These include:

♦ provision of **early warning** on emerging environmental problems and threats;

♦ support to UNEP's assessment processes, including **Global Environment Outlook** (GEO), a bi-annual review of the state of the world's environment;

♦ implementation of **capacity building** projects to develop and strengthen environmental information systems of partner organisations;

♦ carrying out of case studies using GIS and remote

sensing for the mapping, monitoring and **sustainable use of natural resources**; and

♦ provision of technical expertise for **meta & GIS databases** and **website design and creation.**

European Regional Coordination

The GRID-Geneva office is responsible for coordinating the European programme of UNEP's Division of Early Warning and Assessment (DEWA) and serves as its main contact point with European (mostly Geneva-) based UN agencies, and with various regional institutions. Its major tasks at the regional level include:

♦ facilitating environmental information networking activities between European GRID centres;

♦ support to environmental assessment and reporting including the Global Environment Outlook (GEO) process and related thematic reports;

♦ increasing access to environmental information through new systems and tools; for example, the global environmental information network 'UNEP net'.

In addition, the office also carries out capacity building activities, and collaborates on specific projects with sub-regional organisations in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), Central and Eastern European and Mediterranean regions.