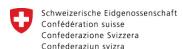# Global Resource Information Database (GRID)
GRID-Europe

One of UNEP's major centres for data and information management, with a unique, "value-adding" mandate in the handling of global and regional environmental data, which in turn support the environment assessment and early warning activities of UNEP and its partners. GRID-Europe occupies the niche of francophone centre for the global GRID network.

Background

DEWA/GRID-Europe is part of UNEP's global network of environmental information centres, known as the Global Resource Information Database (GRID). The former GRID-Geneva (now GRID-Europe) and GRID-Nairobi were the first centres of the network to be established in mid-1985.

Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
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Swiss Confederation

Bundesamt für Umwelt BAFU
Office fédéral de l'environnement OFEV
Ufficio federale dell'ambiente UFAM
Uffizi federal d'ambient UFAM
Federal Office for the Environment FOEN

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Since its foundation, the Geneva office received considerable support from Swiss and local authorities. This support as significantly reinforced, and GRID-Europe's institutional base broadened, with the signing of a "Partnership Agreement" between UNEP, the Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN) and the University of Geneva in June 1998. Over the years, the European Union and many governments such as Denmark, France, Finland, the Netherlands, Switzerland and the USA have provided personnel and technical support. Commercial products and services have also been provided to GRID-Europe by the ESRI Corporation, DEC, ERDAS, IBM and PCI, among others.

Located in the "Maison Internationale de l'Environnement" or "International Environment House" (MIE/IEH) in Geneva, GRID-Europe occupies the niche of francophone centre for the global GRID network.

Focus of work

The principal aim of DEWA/GRID-Europe is to support environmental decision-making within UNEP, and the UN system as a whole, by generating and disseminating information about the state of the world's environment in a timely and understandable manner. To provide reliable environmental assessments, GRID-Europe specialises in handling and analysing spatial and statistical data on environmental and natural resource issues through computerised Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and remotely-sensed imagery. Over the years, GRID-Europe has compiled an archive of global, European and other geo-spatial databases as part of its information management function. These data, which are typically in digital format, include maps, satellite imagery, statistical tables and reports.

GRID-Europe is one of UNEP's major centres for data and information management, with a unique, "value-adding" mandate in the handling of global and regional environmental data, which in turn support the environment assessment and early warning activities of UNEP and its partners. GRID-Europe is developing and operating a global data support service, mainly by means of the GEO Data Portal, as part of the data-to-information chain of support to the GEO and related assessment process.

In response to UNEP's new priorities for action as laid down in the "Nairobi Declaration" (1998), GRID-Europe has sharpened its focus to provide "early warning" on emerging environmental stresses and threats, mobilising environmental information to backstop international action in crisis situations, and providing value-added information products. GRID-Europe also closely monitors developments in Information Technologies and examines their utility to environmental monitoring and policy formulation, and creates client-specific databases and Internet websites.

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Regional Coordination

The GRID-Europe 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 such as the European Environment Agency (EEA) and the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (EC/JRC). The office also carries out capacity activities, and collaborates on specific projects with regional and national organisations in the development States, Eastern European, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA) countries, South Eastern Europe and Mediterranean regions.

GRID-Europe Projects

Final projects included in the workplan 2008:

> GNV001   DEWA Regional Coordination (including IEA/GEO process)
> GNV002   GRID-Europe Partnership Office Direction
> GNV003   GRID-Europe Website Development and Maintenance
> GNV004a   Meta data infrastructure (MetaGRID)
> GNV004b   Data infrastructure
> GNV006   System Management; hardware/software/network
> GNV007   Administrative and Secretarial Support
> GNV008   GIS Outreach, Project Activities & Development and User Support
> **GNV013a**   Project for Risk Evaluation, Information and Early Warning (PREvIEW)
> **GNV013b**   Global Risk Information Programme (GRIP, with UNDP et al.)
> **GNV013c**   Environment Alert bulletins ("Early Warning" briefs)
> **GNV013d**   Promotion of "One Planet Many People, atlas of our changing environment"
> **GNV019**   Envirocat CH (former CDS; joint activity with/sponsored by FOEN)
> GNV022   GRID-Europe Information Service and Research Support
> **GNV026**   Global Assessment & Reporting Support (GEO global and Regional Data portals)
> **GNV031**   UN System-wide Earthwatch Support Service for UNEP
> **GNV032**   Environment and Security in EECCA Sub-regions
> **GNV033**   Capacity Building for IEA/GEO in EECCA Countries
> **GNV035**   Carpathians Environment Outlook (KEO)
> **GNV036**   Iraqi Marshlands Observation System (IMOS)
> **GNV038**   Meta-genomes Map Server
> **GNV038b**   OceaniaDB
> **GNV040**   ISDR Database and Website support
> **GNV041**   Lake Balaton Integrated Vulnerability Assessment
> GNV042   EECCA Indicators Compendium (EEA TACIS Project)
> **GNV043**   "GEO Cities" for Europe pilot implementation
> **GNV044**   Canton of Geneva Land Cover mapping
> **GNV045**   Swiss Environmental Domains
> GNV046   Old aerial panchromatic photographs rectification
> **GNV047**   ACQWA EU/FP7 project
> **GNV048**   EnviroGRIDS @ Black Sea Basin
> **GNV049**   TRIEC