



Environmental Alert Bulletins/ Bulletins d'Alerte Environnementale

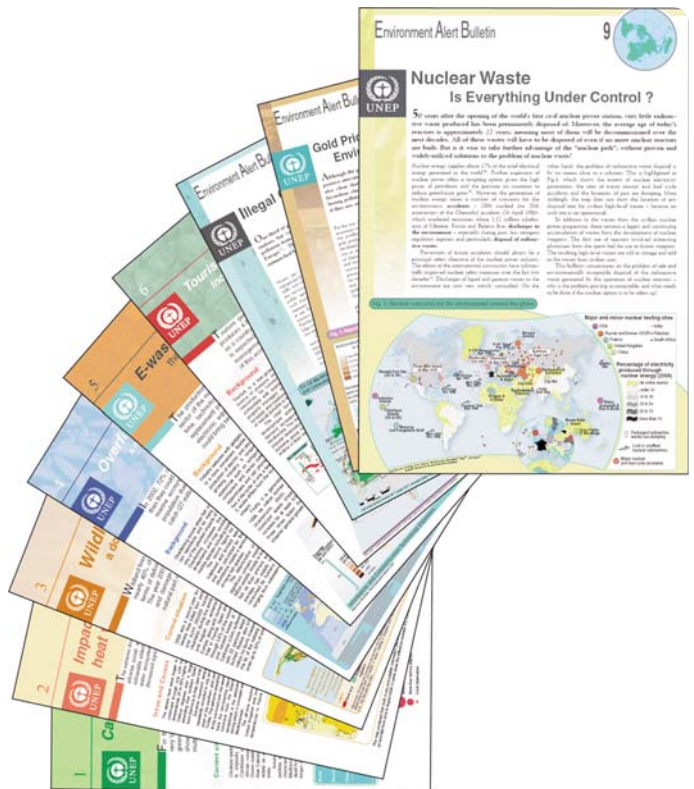
Based on cutting-edge scientific information, the bulletins are aiming at explaining the causes and the consequences of a wide range of existing and emerging problems threatening global to local ecosystems and the human environment.

Background

In early 2004, DEWA/GRID-Europe launched a new series of publications called "Early Warning on Emerging Environmental Threats". Eight such publications were released in the 2004/2005 biennium. Since the beginning of 2006, the series has adopted a new layout and a change in name to: Environmental Alert Bulletin (*Bulletin d'Alerte Environnementale* in French).

In a deliberately journalistic style, the bulletins aim to explain the causes and consequences of a wide range of problems threatening global, regional and local ecosystems and the human environment through time, as well as offer some policy solutions. The content of the publications is derived as much as possible from GRID-Europe products (map, graphs, analyses), and is based on cutting-edge scientific publications and experts' inputs. These publications can serve as a powerful tool to inform and provide a large benefit to the general public's and policy-makers' environmental awareness. The publications are all available as hard copies (English and French), at the GRID-Europe office and press stands in UNEP/Geneva's International Environment House. The briefs are also distributed through the post and accessible at GRID-Europe's website (in PDF format) at the address:

www.grid.unep.ch/product/publication/earlywarning_briefs.php



Objectives

Slow-onset/continuous hazards such as climate change, deforestation, biodiversity loss and chemical pollution do not receive enough attention in the media, when compared with rapid-onset hazards (such as earthquakes, cyclones, floods). However, in the medium/long-term, they are more likely to be responsible for greater and more serious impacts. Numerous organisations are already following rapid onset hazards, but very few promote mitigation measures for slow-onset hazards. Human activities are inducing significant changes in the environment, that in turn threaten the livelihoods, health and sustainability and the quality of ecosystems.

UNEP's mandate is "to provide leadership and encourage partnership 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". As this commitment includes future generations, it requires taking action based on relevant information, being provided to avoid or at least mitigate such negative long-term impacts.

Partners

DEWA, other divisions and other GRID regional centres (LAC, W.Asia et al).

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Partners

1. Caulerpa taxifolia, a growing menace for the temperate marine environment (2004-01)
2. Impacts of summer 2003 heat wave in Europe (2004-03)
3. Wildland Fires, a double impact on the planet (2004-06)
4. Overfishing, a major threat to the global marine ecology (2004-08)
5. E-waste, the hidden side of IT equipment manufacture and use (2005-01)
6. Tourism Expansion : Increasing Threats, or Conservation Opportunities? (2005-04)
7. Illegal Oil Discharge in European Seas (2006-02)
8. Gold prices on the rise, environment under pressure (2006-11)
9. Nuclear waste: is everything under control? - Special six-page edition (2007-02)
10. The environmental price to pay for heavy goods traffic (2007-11)
11. Coastal degradation leaves the Caribbean in troubled waters (2008-02)
12. Human induced harmful algal blooms (2008-05)

Upcoming issues

Following are suggestions for other upcoming editions:

- > Habitat fragmentation and biodiversity losses (Europe)
- > Peatland Degradation Fuels Climate Change (South East Asia)
- > Nitrates in rivers (in North Europe), (France, Bretagne, Belgium, NL)
- > Firewood collecting and impacts on forests (Burkina, Haiti or Madagascar)
- > Impacts of climate change on water security (Coropuna, Peru).
- > Soil sealing by construction.
- > Deforestation in Thailand, China and Laos.
- > Impacts of conflicts on the environment (Africa)
- > Hazardous waste traffic.
- > Light pollution.
- > European importation of soja and related impacts on deforestation in Amazonia.

About GRID-Europe

UNEP/DEWA/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. Located in the "Maison Internationale de l'Environnement" or "International Environment House" (MIE/IEH) in Geneva, GRID-Europe serves as the unique francophone centre for the global GRID network. DEWA/GRID-Europe is supported by a "Partnership Agreement" between UNEP, the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN) and the University of Geneva.