

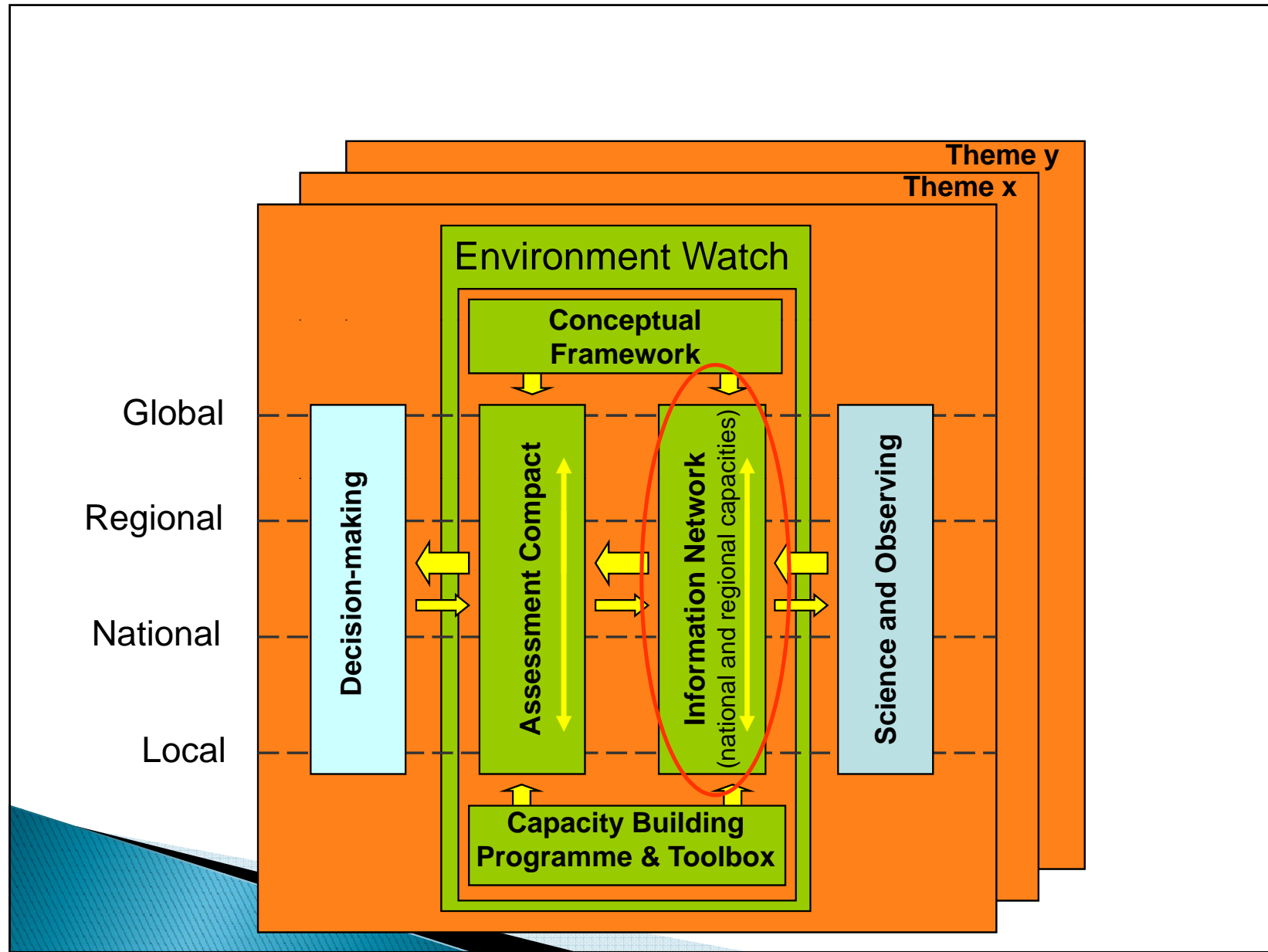


UNEP Work on Environmental Information and Green Economy Initiative

**EGM on Environmental Economic Accounting for the ESCWA
Region**

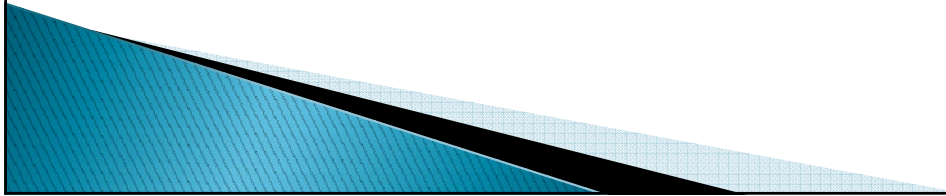
**ESCWA, Beirut
14-16 October, 2009**

**Yasmina Adra
UNEP-DEWA West Asia**



Purpose of the network

Mobilize institutional cooperation on a multilateral basis among relevant stakeholders collecting, managing and disseminating environmental data and information in order to:



- ▶ support environmental monitoring, assessment and reporting for informed decision-making;
- ▶ enhance the availability and accessibility of environmental data and information; and
- ▶ exchange information and experience on cutting-edge information and communication technologies.



Network Functions

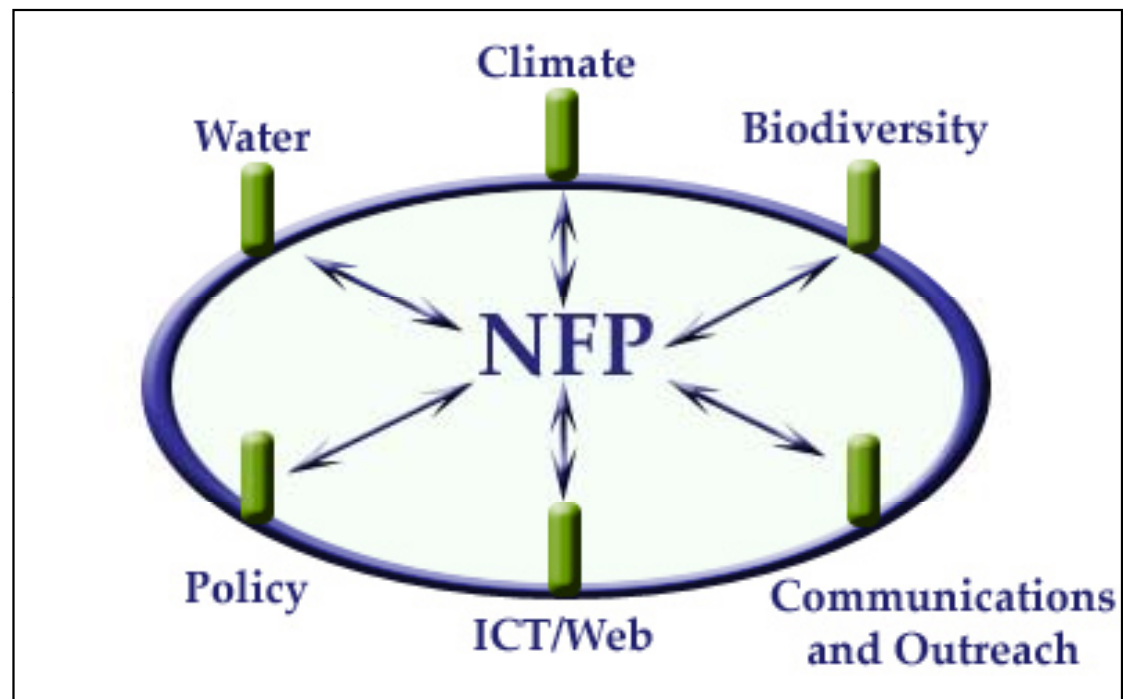
- ❖ Keep the environment under review at the relevant level (national, regional, global, thematic,...)
- ❖ Setting the environmental information policy agenda & building an information infrastructure
- ❖ Data collection, management and analysis to support IEA & reporting, policy-making
- ❖ Early warning alerts (in situ observation of threats)
- ❖ Information access & sharing using electronic tools (websites and web-based platforms – national portals)
- ❖ Information dissemination, communications and outreach

Data and Information Exchange and Support

- ▶ Global
- ▶ Regional
- ▶ National

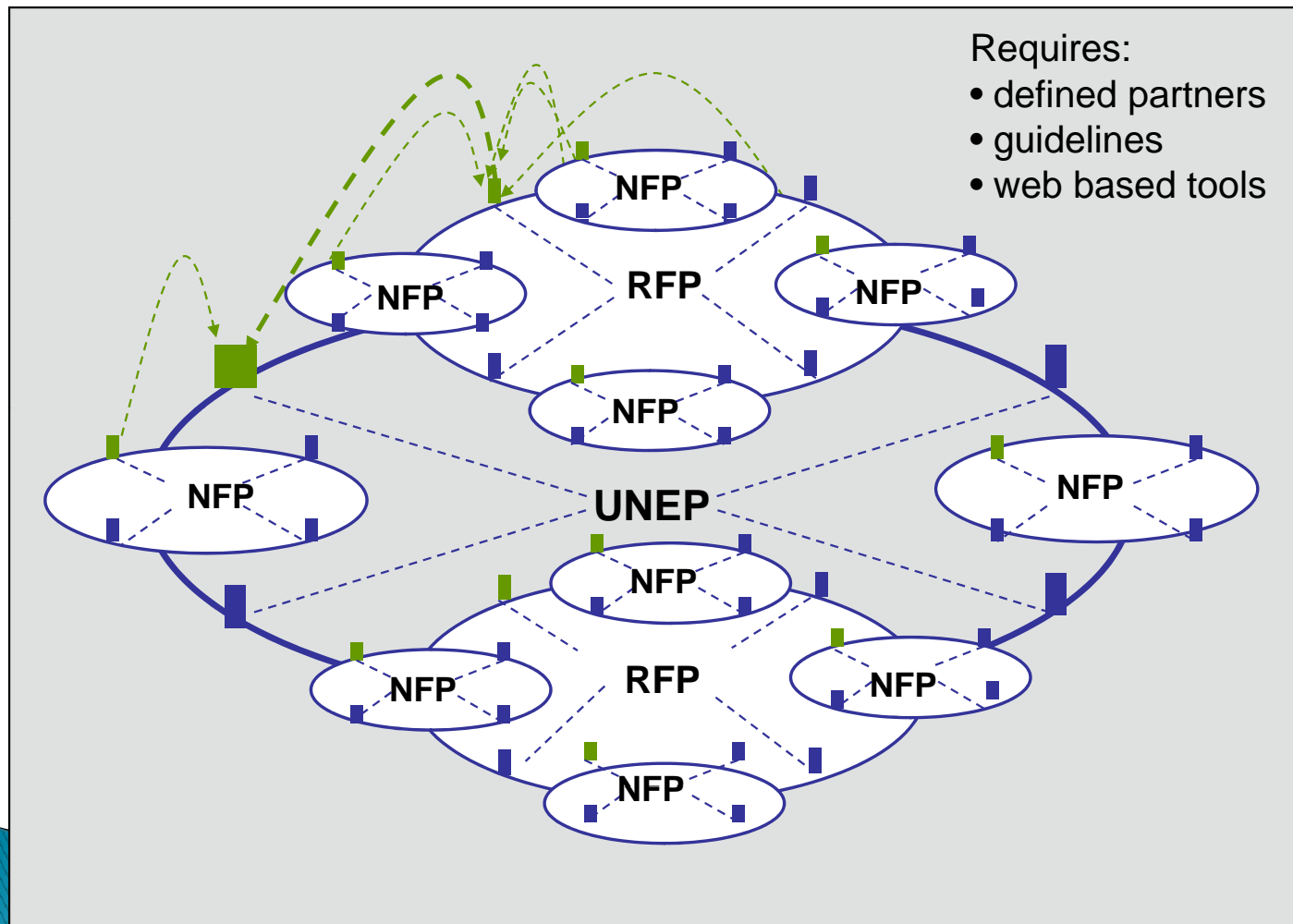


Information Network





Global Information Network





Green Economy Initiative(GEI)



What is a **Green** Economy?

- ▶ Increase in public and private investment in **green sectors**
- ▶ Increase in quantity & quality of jobs in **green sectors**
- ▶ Increase in share of **green sectors** in GDP
- Decrease in Energy/resource use per unit of production
- Decrease in CO₂ and pollution level/GDP
- Decrease in wasteful consumption

What is a Green economy?

Domestic policy initiatives

- a) reforming perverse subsidies, taxes, and other incentives;
- b) rationalising land use and urban policy;
- c) adopting Integrated Water Resources Management;
- d) improving and enforcing environmental legislation;
- e) ensuring monitoring and accountability related to the implementation of the stimulus packages.

International policy architecture

- a) multilateral and bilateral trade regimes conducive to the flow of environmental goods and services,
- b) international aid in support of the national shift towards a green economy;
- c) the proper functioning of a global carbon market;
- d) the development of global markets for ecosystem services;
- e) the development and transfer of environmentally friendly technologies;
- f) international coordination in implementing green stimulus packages.



UNEP Green Economy Initiative (GEI)



What is the UNEP-led GEI?

- Launched in October 2008
- Motivate and enable governments to invest in green economies for the benefit of people, especially the poor and vulnerable, the economy, and the environment
- Financially supported by the Governments of Norway, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the United Nations Foundation
- Implemented in partnership with over 20 UN agencies and BWIs

GLOBAL **GREEN NEW DEAL**

OBJECTIVES RELATING TO POVERTY

- Revive the world economy, create new and decent jobs, and protect the vulnerable
- Reduce carbon dependency, ecosystem degradation, and water scarcity
- Eliminate persistent poverty by 2015.... achieve the MDGs

What are the key messages from the **GEI**?

- Place green investment at the core of the stimulus packages
- Include green investment in regular government budget
- Create public-private green investment funding mechanisms
- Provide domestic enabling conditions (fiscal/pricing policy, standards, education & training)
- Provide global enabling conditions (trade, IPRs, ODA, technology transfer, environmental agreements)

COUNTRY LEVEL ASSISTANCE

- **South Korea: review of National Green New Deal Policy by UNEP (on-going)**
- **China: UNEP Policy research (feeding into five-year plan)**
- **Requests from:**
 - **Azerbaijan, Burkina Faso, Senegal, Cambodia , Dominican Republic, Haiti, Greece, Kenya, Indonesia, Panama, Russia, Rwanda, Uruguay, France, ...**

REGIONAL **Green Economy ACTIVITIES**

MAY –OCTOBER 2009

- **East Asia Low carbon **Green** Growth Initiative sponsored by South Korea**
- **Series of **Green** Economy National Workshops in Arab Region in partnership with AFED**
- **African **Green** Economy Initiative (East African States) to be sponsored by the European Commission**

What is good about the GEI?

- It focuses on the positive links between being “green” and economic growth/decent job creation/poverty reduction
- It promotes green sectors as new growth engines and enables developing countries to leapfrog into modern economies
- It has the potential to address multiple challenges facing the humankind

Evidence of **green** economies

- ▶ 2.3 million jobs in renewable energy now to grow to 20 million by 2030
- ▶ USD 253 bn market for water supply, sanitation, & water efficiency now to grow to USD 658 bn by 2020
- ▶ EU & US: green buildings to create 2–3.5 million jobs
- ▶ Organic agriculture provides more than 30% more jobs/hectare
- ▶ China: 10 million jobs in recycling and renewable energy output at USD 17 bn/year employing 1 million

UNEP WEBSITES and PUBLICATIONS

- ▶ GEI : www.unep.org/greeneconomy
- ▶ Environmental Governance :
<http://www.unep.org/environmentalgovernance/Introduction/tabid/341/language/en-US/Default.aspx>
- ▶ Green Jobs Report, September 2008
http://www.unep.org/labour_environment/PDFs/Greenjobs/UNEP-Green-Jobs-Report.pdf
- ▶ Global Green New Deal Report, December 2008
http://www.unep.org/greeneconomy/docs/GGND_Final%20Report.pdf
- ▶ UNEP Policy Brief on the GGND, March 2009
http://www.unep.org/pdf/A_Global_Green_New_Deal_Policy_Brief.pdf



Thank You