



## GLOSSARY

This glossary is compiled from citations in different chapter of the GEO-6 and draws from glossaries and other resource available of the websites of the following organizations, networks and projects:

American Academy of Ophthalmology; American Meteorological Society; Asian Development Bank ; Biodiversity Journal; Business Dictionary; Business Dictionary ; Cambridge Dictionary; Center for Transportation Excellence (United States); Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; Charles Darwin University(Australia); Collins Dictionary; Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research; Convention on Biological Diversity; Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar); Department of Agriculture (United States); Department of the Interior (United States); Department of Transportation (United States); Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit, GmbH, GiZ; Edwards Aquifer Website (United States); Encyclopaedia Britannica; Encyclopedia of Earth; Energy Information Administration (United States); Environmental Protection Agency (United States); Environmental Science and Pollution Research; Europe's Information Society; European Commission; European Environmental Agency; European Nuclear Society; Farlex Free; Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Foundation for Research; Gender GEO; Global Earth Observation System of Systems; Global Environment Outlook Sixth Edition; Global Footprint Network ; Global Land Outlook; Glossary of Environment Statistics; GreenFacts Glossary; Hayes' Handbook of Pesticide Toxicology; Healthline; IGI Global; Illinois Clean Coal Institute (United States); Illuminating Engineering Society of North America; Industrial Organisation Economics and Competition Law; Intellectual Property Organization; Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change; Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services; International Centre for Research in Agroforestry; International Comparison Program; International; Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements; International Research Institute for Climate and Society at Columbia University (United States); International Strategy for Disaster Reduction; International Union for Conservation of Nature; Journal of Pharmaceutical Microbiology; Journal of the Association for Information Science and Technology; Lyme Disease Foundation (United States); Manual Práctico de Ecodiseño; Medical Dictionary; Merriam-Webster Dictionary; Millennium Ecosystem Assessment; Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe; Ministry of Environment New Zealand; Ministry of Rural Development (Malaysia); MIT Press; National Aeronautics Space Administration (United States); National Bureau of Economic Research; National Cancer Institute (United States); National Center for Biotechnology Information (United States); National Geographic; National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute (United States); National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (United States); National Safety Council (United States); National Snow and Ice Data Centre (United States); Natsource (United States); Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development; Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development; Oxford Dictionary; PPP Knowledge Lab; Professional Development for Livelihoods (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland); RadioPaedia; Redefining Progress (United States); SafariX eTextbooks Online; Science and Technology (New Zealand); Science Dictionary; SDG Knowledge platform; Semantic Scholar.org; SER Primer; The IUP Journal of Applied Economics; TheFreeDictionary.com; Tirana Declaration; UN Environment; UN-Habitat; United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification; United Nations Development Group; United Nations Development Programme; United Nations Development Programme; United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific; United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change ; United Nations Industrial Development Organization; United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction; United Nations Statistics Division; United Nations Water; United Nations Women; United State Geological Survey; University of Sydney; USLegal.com; Water Footprint Network, (Netherlands); Water Quality Association (United States); Wikipedia; World Bank; World Health Organization; World Health Organization; World Meteorological Organization; World Wide Fund for Nature



### **Agrifood system**

This is the combination of activities and institutions around the production and consumption of a particular food item in crops, livestock, forestry, aquaculture and fisheries.

### **Antimicrobial**

Agents that prevent the spread of bacteria, fungi, and some viruses

### **Decarbonization**

Removal of carbon or carbonaceous deposits from

### **Adaptation**

Adjustment in natural or human systems to a new or changing environment, including anticipatory and reactive adaptation private and public adaptation and autonomous and planned adaptation

### **Biodiversity**

The variety of life on Earth, including diversity at the genetic level, among species and among ecosystems and habitats. It includes diversity in abundance, distribution and behaviour, as well as interaction with socio-ecological systems. Biodiversity also incorporates human cultural diversity, which can both be affected by the same drivers as biodiversity, and itself has impacts on the diversity of genes, other species and ecosystems.

### **Biofuels**

Fuels produced from dry organic matter or combustible oils from plants, such as alcohol from fermented sugar or maize, and oils derived from oil palm, rapeseed or soybeans

### **Business as usual**

An ongoing and unchanging state of affairs despite difficulties or disturbances

### **Citizen science**

The collection and analysis of data relating to the natural world by members of the general public, typically as part of a collaborative project with professional scientists.

### **Climate change**

The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change defines climate change as "a change of climate which is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere and which is in addition to natural climate variability observed over comparable time periods."

### **Climate finance**

Refers to local, national or transnational financing that seeks to support mitigation and adaptation actions that will address climate change.

### **Drivers**

The overarching socioeconomic forces that exert pressures on the state of the environment

### **Energy intensity**

Ratio of energy consumption to economic or physical output. At the national level, energy intensity is the ratio of total domestic primary energy consumption or final energy consumption to GDP or physical output. Lower energy intensity shows greater efficiency in energy use.

### **Equity**

Fairness of rights, distribution and access. Depending on context, this can refer to access to resources, services or power.

### **Food waste**

Any food that is discarded or lost uneaten

### **Fossil fuel**

Coal, natural gas and petroleum products (e.g. oil) formed from the decayed bodies of animals and plants that died

### **Gender**

Gender refers to the roles, behaviours, activities, and attributes that a given society at a given time considers appropriate for men and women. In addition to the social attributes and opportunities associated with being male and female and the relationships between women and men and girls and boys, gender also refers to the relations between women and those between men. These attributes, opportunities and relationships are socially constructed and are learned through socialization processes. They are context/ time-specific and changeable. Gender determines what is expected, allowed and valued in a woman or a man in a given context. Gender is part of the broader socio-cultural context, as are other important criteria for socio-cultural analysis including class, race, poverty level, ethnic group, sexual orientation, age, etc. Circular economy – a circular economy is a systems approach to industrial processes and economic activity that enables resource users to maintain their highest value for as long as possible.



### Groundwater

Water that flows or seeps downward and saturates soil or rock, supplying springs and wells. The upper surface of the saturated zone is called the water table.

### Human health

Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity

### Impacts

Changes to the environment or social systems that are caused directly or indirectly by humans

### Invasive species

Introduced species that have spread beyond their area of introduction, (and rarely, native species that have recently expanded their populations) and which are frequently associated with negative impacts on the environment, human economy or human health

### Paris Agreement

An agreement within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) that sets out an action plan to put the world on track to avoid dangerous climate change by limiting global average temperature to well below 2°C, while pursuing efforts to limit warming to 1.5°C. Adopted by 195 countries at the Paris climate conference (COP21) in December 2015, the Paris Agreement is the first-ever universal, legally binding global climate deal.

### Poverty

The state of one who lacks a defined amount of material possessions or money. Absolute poverty refers to a state of lacking basic human needs which commonly include clean and freshwater, nutrition, health care, education, clothing and shelter.

### Pressures

The stresses that human activities place on the environment

### Protected areas

A clearly defined geographical space, recognised, dedicated and managed, through legal or other effective means, to achieve the long-term conservation of nature with associated ecosystem services and cultural values

### Resilience

The capacity of a system (social or ecological) to absorb disturbance and reorganize while undergoing change so as to still retain essentially the same function, structure, identity, and feedbacks.

### Response

The responses by society to the environmental situation

### Scenario

A description of how the future may unfold based on if-then propositions, typically consisting of a representation of an initial situation, a description of the key drivers and changes that lead to a particular future state. For example, "given that we are on holiday at the coast, if it is 30°C tomorrow, we will go to the beach."

### State

Condition of the environment/ human

### Urbanization

An increase in the proportion of the population living in urban areas

### Vulnerability

An intrinsic feature of people at risk. It is a function of exposure, sensitivity to impacts of the specific unit exposed (such as a watershed, island, household, village, city or country), and the ability or inability to cope or adapt. It is multidimensional, multi-disciplinary, multi-sectoral and dynamic. The exposure is to hazards such as drought, conflict or extreme price fluctuations, and also to underlying socio-economic, institutional and environmental conditions.

Please consult the following link for a more extensive glossary: [https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/33925/GEO-6\\_Glossary.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y](https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/33925/GEO-6_Glossary.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y)