

AMBIENTE



The world continues to speed down an unsustainable path despite over 500 internationally agreed goals and objectives to support the sustainable management of the environment and improve human wellbeing,

according to a new and wide-ranging assessment coordinated by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The fifth edition of the Global Environmental Outlook (GEO-5), launched on the eve of the Rio+20 Summit, assessed 90 of the most-important environmental goals and objectives and found that significant progress had only been made in four. These are eliminating the production and use of substances that deplete the ozone layer, removal of lead from fuel, increasing access to improved water supplies and boosting research to reduce pollution of the marine environment.

Some progress was shown in 40 goals, including the expansion of protected areas such as National Parks and efforts to reduce deforestation. Little or no progress was detected for 24 - including climate change, fish stocks, and desertification and drought. Further deterioration was posted for eight goals including the state of the world's coral reefs while no assessment was made of 14 other goals due to a lack of data.

The report cautions that if humanity does not urgently change its ways, several critical thresholds may be exceeded, beyond which abrupt and generally irreversible changes to the life-support functions of the planet could occur. (...)

The article:

<http://www.unep.org/newscentre/Default.aspx?DocumentID=2688&ArticleID=9158&lang=en>

More about:

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=42166&Cr=sustainable+development&Cr1=>

http://www.repubblica.it/ambiente/2012/06/06/news/rapporto_geo_5_allarme_ambiente-36672163/

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-18339905>

<http://www.un-ngls.org/rioplus20/newsletter/issue5/article4.html>

Tables from The Global Environmental Outlook (GEO-5):

http://www.unep.org/geo/pdfs/geo5/Progress_towards_goals.pdf

The Full Report:

http://www.unep.org/geo/pdfs/geo5/GEO5_report_full_en.pdf

GEO 5 website:

<http://www.unep.org/geo/>