UNEP Live

OUR CHANGING ENVIRONMENT: PLACE BY PLACE

An integrated framework for Assessments, UNEP Live and IRIS
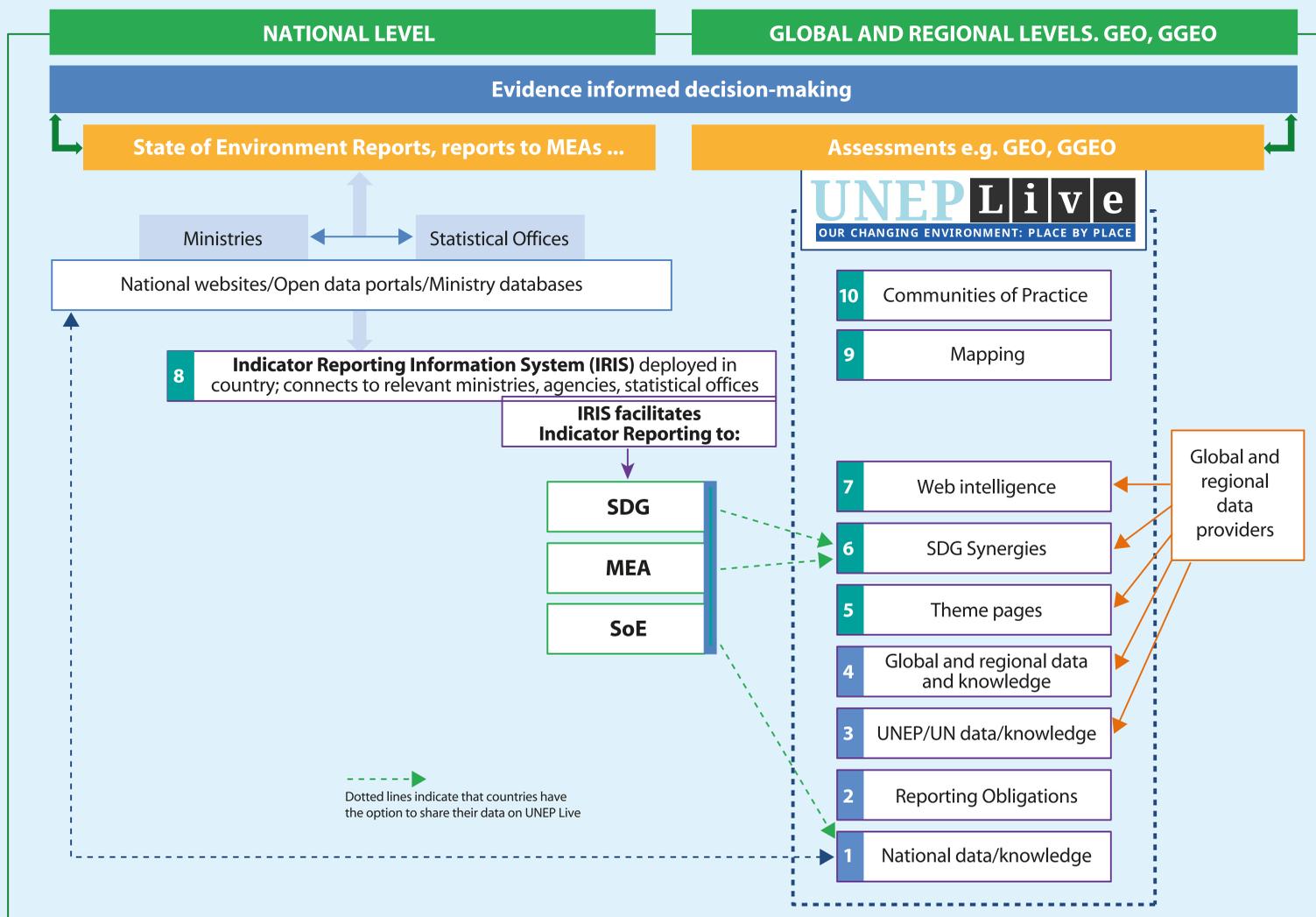
UNEP Live is developed using an evolutionary integrative approach. It has been designed to deliver value-added services in a phased approach to meet the goals of:

Strengthening UNEP's assessment processes through access to source knowledge and data flows to keep the environment under review	Shaping a knowledge sharing culture by supporting greater collaboration on knowledge co-creation, production and use of data, indicators, integrated and thematic assessment analyses and findings	Building capacity in countries and regions to facilitate reporting on the national state of the environment, reporting to MEAs and on SDG's using the Indicator Reporting Information System.

UNEP Live value-added services

NATIONAL LEVEL — **GLOBAL AND REGIONAL LEVELS. GEO, GGEO**

Evidence informed decision-making

State of Environment Reports, reports to MEAs ... — Assessments e.g. GEO, GGEO

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Ministries — Statistical Offices

National websites/Open data portals/Ministry databases

8 Indicator Reporting Information System (IRIS) deployed in country; connects to relevant ministries, agencies, statistical offices

IRIS facilitates Indicator Reporting to:

- SDG
- MEA
- SoE

10 Communities of Practice
9 Mapping
7 Web intelligence
6 SDG Synergies
5 Theme pages
4 Global and regional data and knowledge
3 UNEP/UN data/knowledge
2 Reporting Obligations
1 National data/knowledge

Global and regional data providers

Dotted lines indicate that countries have the option to share their data on UNEP Live

Stage 1: (2014-2015)

This stage started with the promotion of open access to data and data sharing; integrating UNEP and UN data assets and connecting to key data providers. These activities will be on-going throughout the project life-cycle.

Box 1	Box 2	Box 3	Box 4
UNEP Live principles promote open access to national data and knowledge connecting to open data portals, harvesting data from country websites and making it accessible and available. As at June 2016, more than 2183 data flows from 193 countries were available in UNEP Live and the platform is being continuously updated. Open access via UNEP Live offers countries multiple benefits e.g. increasing visibility of a country's progress and enhancing transparency; facilitating interdisciplinary research and integrated environmental assessments; advancing knowledge and enriching information-sharing.	UNEP Live has a Reporting obligations database that provides countries with information on global reporting obligations i.e. to MEA's. For each country, it contains reporting dates, legislative instruments, guidelines for reporting, agreed templates for reporting etc. This provides good reference on a country's international obligations.	UNEP Live aims to be a "knowledge integrator" of UNEP knowledge assets by connecting to existing data assets such as the Material flows data, the InforMEA portal, the GEF knowledge assets, UNEP publications repositories and UNEP project databases. It also supports search and cataloguing functions for these assets and information. This makes existing assets more easily discoverable.	UNEP Live connects to data providers to make accessible global and regional data flows essential for assessments. These flows are available as near-real time data, data files (csv/xls), as trend data for indicators relevant to internationally agreed goals, as maps, charts, scientific reports. As at June 2016, 292 global datasets/dataflows were accessible via UNEP Live, the platform had 861 maps and over 2100 publications which include analyses and assessment findings on environmental and related social and economic factors. Users can therefore find a range of data and knowledge which can be downloaded and exported in various formats for further analyses and decision-making.

Stage 2: (2016-2017)

In this stage assessment experts and other key users (policy-makers, scientists, etc.) can go beyond accessing unique data and knowledge flows at all levels to accessing various online tools (e.g. see Box 7, 9, 10); contextualized data that tracks emerging trends and stakeholder perceptions; as well as comparable data related to SDGs and MEAs and their linkages, related ontologies and national data flows.

Box 5	Box 6	Box 7	Box 8	Box 9	Box 10
Theme pages provide analyses and context on key issues such as those that track internationally agreed goals, SDG Synergies (see Box 6), track emission-impacts and climate change; air quality, coral reefs etc. provide more in depth and contextualized data and knowledge;	SDG Synergies provide decision support and offers users an effective way to retrieve relevant and comparable indicator level data; track a country's progress in reporting; show relationships between SDG and MEA-related data; access the common underlying language (ontologies) used for indicators so that comparisons on knowledge and data can be made from different users; make linkages and related data available through dynamic visualizations for easy accessibility.	Web Intelligence analyzes relevant individual and public opinion trends on air quality, biodiversity water and climate change from news channels, social media, online publications, global companies, environmental organizations, partners and stakeholders. The technology aligns and compares environmental indicators from structured sources with relevant documents and postings from these online sources. These analyses of stakeholder opinions and trends in the public discourse is computed in real time and in multiple languages using advanced visualizations. The collected information is important for obtaining a comprehensive and authentic reflection of current opinion on issues such as climate change.	A national reporting system, the Indicator Reporting Information System (IRIS) makes it easier for governments to take stock of the environment and share data across Ministries. Those responsible for collecting data, indicators and reporting to MEAs, on SDG's and at the national level (for SoEs), will be able to online and easily share data, create reports and communicate indicator-based information. For countries interested in using IRIS, the software will be deployed to a country and owned and managed by the country.	Mapping functionalities provide easy to use GIS capabilities thus enabling all users, including assessment practitioners, to create, save and publish maps easily – using a drag and drop function - one can easily visualize spatial content;	Communities of Practice enable sharing of ideas, data, information and knowledge and provide a centralized way to coordinate assessment work. As at June 2016, UNEP Live has over 10 CoP's with over 1600 members. The CoP portal provides a shared working and exchange platform.

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