


EGM for the GSDR: Emerging issues for the attention of policy makers,
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Key points from the background paper

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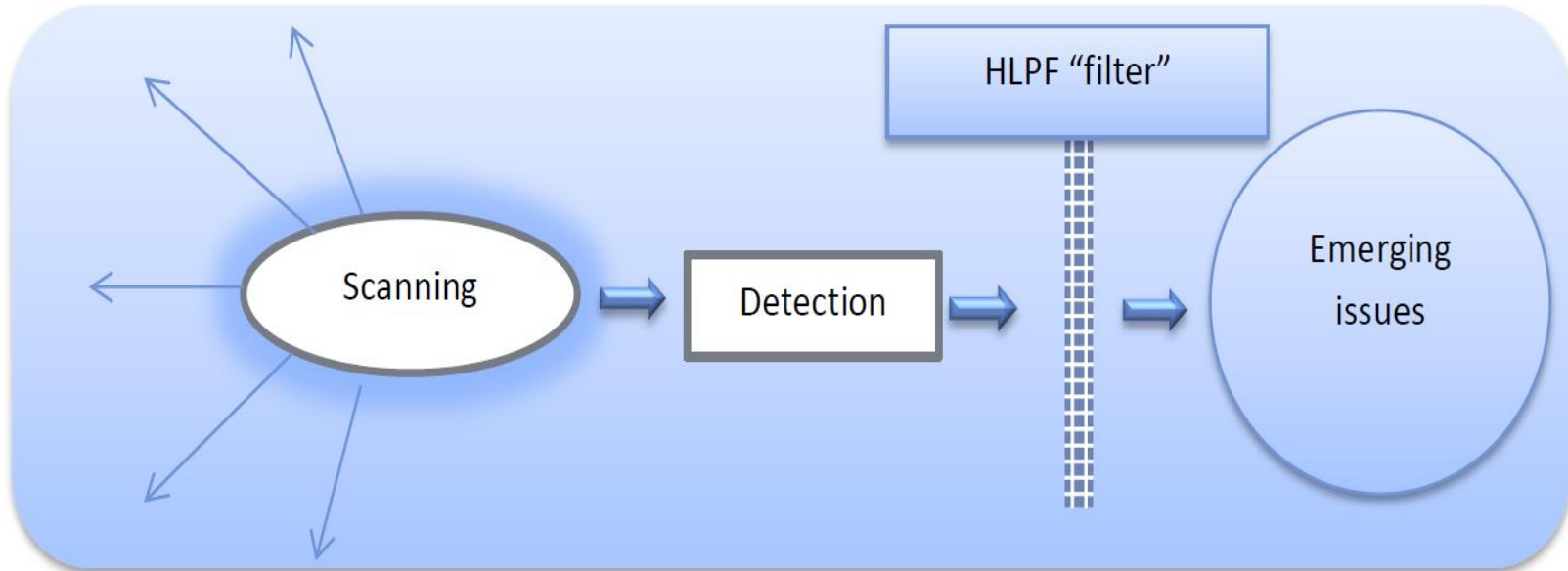
A working definition

In broad terms, an emerging issue can be understood as one that is not yet generally recognized, but could have major impact on sustainable development if not addressed. Often perceived as risks, emerging issues could also be positive, potentially resulting in foregone opportunities, or negative and could result in critical undesired effects in the future if not addressed. (Adapted from: UNEP, 21 issues for the 21st Century, 2012)



Criteria	Explanation
<i>Risk assessment</i>	
Probability of occurrence	Likelihood of occurrence
Impact/extent of potential damage	Impact on society, economy, environment
<i>General/cross-cutting</i>	
Persistence	Short to long-term effect, long decay in environment
Irreversibility	Damage/harm cannot be undone
Latency/delayed response	Gap between causal event and damage/harm
Ubiquity	Geographic (local to global), across multiple dimensions of sustainable development
Novelty	New to policymakers, departs from prevailing scientific understanding
Potential for mobilization	Limited to high political relevance
Plausibility	Clear cause-effect links, authoritative sources, evidence-based
Resolvability	Perceived as conducive to human intervention, within existing paradigms of action
Priority	Importance in terms of social and cultural norms, impact on already vulnerable/marginalized

Emerging issues for the HLPF



1. Does the issue in question relate closely to the Sustainable Development Goals?
2. Is the potential threat or opportunity of global or at least international relevance?
3. Does management of the risk or harnessing of the opportunity depend on international action and cooperation?
4. Is the issue expected to persist (non-transient) and/or does it have a clear increasing trend?

Emerging Issues Source	Social	Technological	Economic	Environmental	Political
"Global Risks" with highest average impact and likelihood, World Economic Forum, 2016	Large-scale involuntary migration Profound social instability Water crises	Cyberattacks	Fiscal crises in key economies Unemployment and underemployment Asset bubble	Failure of climate-change mitigation and adaptation	Interstate conflict
10 Global Risks in Terms of Impact in the next 3 years, Swiss RE	Lifestyle drugs Rising pandemic risk	Predictive maintenance The dangers of LED light	De-globalisation The great monetary experiment	Super natural catastrophes Brazilian drought Wildfires Fossil fuel management	
Sutherland et al, A Horizon Scan of Global Conservation Issues for 2016		Artificial Intelligence Electric Pulse Trawling Osmotic Power Satellite Access to Shipborne Automatic Identification Systems Passive Acoustic Monitoring to Prevent Illegal Activity Synthetic Body Parts of Endangered Animals Artificial Glaciers to Regulate Irrigation	Changing Costs of Energy Storage and Consumption Models	Managed Bees as Vectors Increasing Extent of Construction of Artificial Oceanic Islands Increasing Aquatic Concentrations of Testosterone Effects of Engineered Nanoparticles on Terrestrial Ecosystems Invasive species as Reservoirs of Genetic Diversity	Ecological Civilization Policies in China Unregulated Fisheries in the central Arctic Ocean Threaten Expanding Fish Stocks

Thank you

<http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/globalreport>

