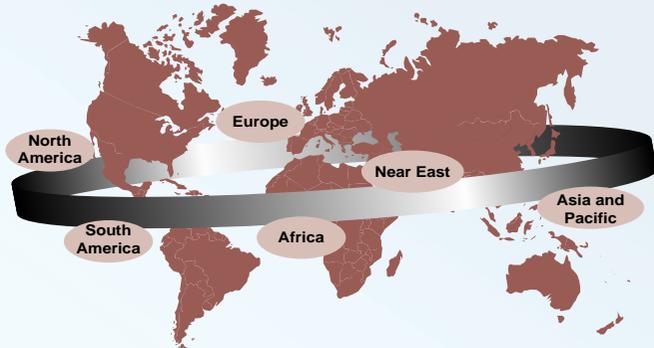
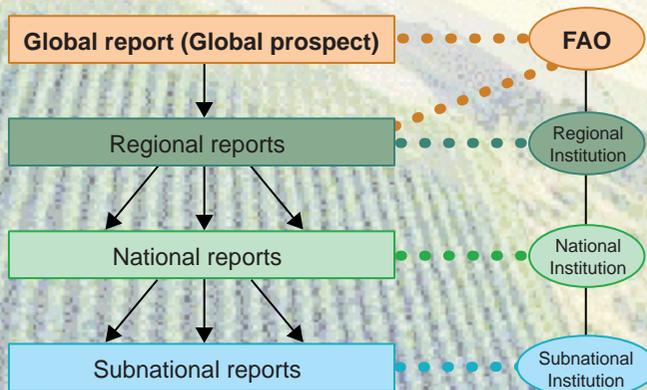


The purpose of Gateway is to provide information on the state, condition and trends of rural land and water resources at national, regional and global scales. The objective is to promote improved decision-making for the sustainable use of agricultural natural resources worldwide.



Gateway is a **dynamic** Internet-based network. It relies on the active participation of professionals and institutions from all over the world who are concerned with collecting reliable information on land, water and plant nutrition for improved natural resources management and sharing it with the global community.

This network essentially consists of land and water “reports”. The reports are compiled at different levels (see below) and are linked together as part of a global system of information on the Internet. Gateway acts as clearinghouse and facilitator, providing a useful entry point for land and water information, including FAO’s databases on Soil, Agro-ecological Zone, Fertilizer and Water/Irrigation (AQUASTAT).



## Operation

### Gateway has two functions:

- An access point to global, regional and national reports compiled by FAO and the participating institutions worldwide.
- An entry point to the World Wide Web of information on land, water and plant nutrition and related subjects.

### Common process:

1. National/regional institution is identified.
2. The institution starts compiling national/ regional report using guidelines, a checklist and Internet template provided by FAO.
3. Draft is sent to FAO for a preliminary consistency review.
4. The institution posts the final report on its local Web site and establishes a hyperlink to the Gateway and vice versa. FAO assists institutions without access to local Web sites in hosting their reports on the FAO Web site. The final reports are also disseminated on CD-ROMs.
5. The report is updated regularly by the institution.
6. The Gateway homepage is updated by FAO.

### Common process:

1. Organization and maintenance of FAO internal links, the global links and database links, by FAO.
2. Contribution of the participating institutions and the users of this network to the enrichment of the new Internet links by means of the feedback function of the Gateway.

## Guidelines

Comprehensive guidelines have been elaborated through interaction with specialists from national institutions all over the world. They are presented in the form of a checklist of items that can be applied depending on the relevance and availability of information for each country. They constitute a general framework within which existing information can be inserted. This procedure ensures that reports will be comparable along the lines of common themes such as land use and degradation, the state of water resources, hot spots and bright spots.

### What are the principles for reporting?

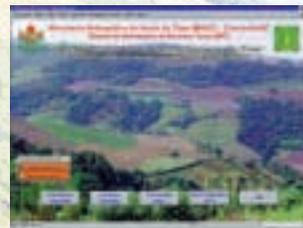
**The report needs to be accurate, concise and to the point.** It should provide synthetic information in the form of **short text, maps, tables, charts** and **photographic images** and reliable metadata (title, year, data provider, place of origin, etc.), references as complete as possible and well-sorted related Internet links. Technical terms should be clarified with definitions and notes should be provided on the methodology of information gathering.

**The report needs to be in simple language and be understandable, neutral and reliable.**

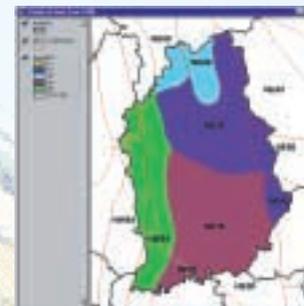
The information must be comprehensible and up to date, which requires both constant updating and an indication of when the content was last updated.

**The report should be attractive.**

The report should allow visitors to navigate smoothly and it should stimulate their curiosity. The colours should be easily distinguished and legends legible.



Planning sustainable land use in Brazil



Bangladesh district watershed map

## Checklist

The checklist of items are arranged according to the following categories.

### 1. Overview

*Country's/region's natural-physical, social, economic background*

### 2. Land resources

*Physiography, soils, land use, land cover, natural hazards*

### 3. Water resources\*

*Hydrography, irrigation*

\*Water information for most countries is readily available in the FAO AQUASTAT database.

### 4. Plant nutrition resources

*Nutrient balance, fertilizer cost/use/production*

### 5. Hot spots

*What are the land-and-water-related problems the country is facing?*

### 6. Bright spots

*How is society/government tackling the problems?*

### 7. Challenges and viewpoints

*Prospect for future actions for sustainable agriculture*

### 8. References/related internet links

*Sources of information, supporting/related materials from the Internet*

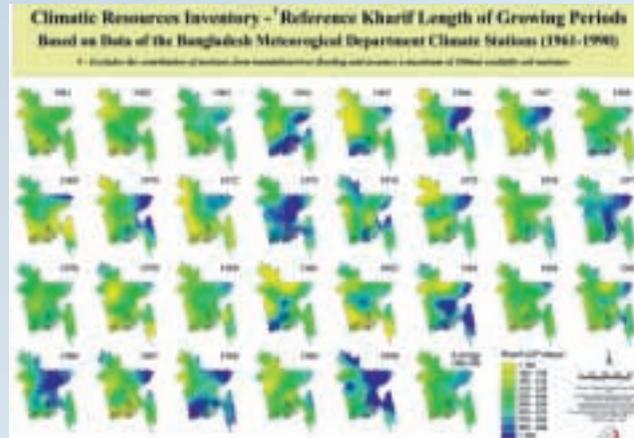
An HTML template for the report is available upon request. It contains the full checklist of items that should be replaced by the actual information.

The template is available on the Gateway website. It can also be obtained by contacting the Land and Water Development Division, FAO.

## Contact

The Gateway homepage has a section called "Contact worldwide". It is a list of all the national/regional professionals and institutions participating to this network.

Please contact them directly for information regarding the content of specific national/regional report(s).



Monitoring Bangladesh Climate

### Disclaimer

Gateway information is provided by national institutions in the participating countries and remains their property. FAO does not assume responsibility for any error or omission in the information or for views/opinions expressed in the reports.

### Further information on Gateway

*Further information on Gateway is available from:*

#### **Land and Water Development Division**

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Viale delle Terme di Caracalla

00100 Rome, Italy

E-mail: [land-and-water@fao.org](mailto:land-and-water@fao.org)

# Gateway

to

# Land and Water Information