



Reference Guide

to OHHLEP inventory
of One Health tools



Purpose of this guide

Those working on global health in partner countries increasingly encounter One Health (OH) tools, assessments, and processes – often introduced through health security, pandemic preparedness, Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR), zoonoses, food systems, or climate-related activities. These tools are frequently well-established, technically robust, and led by trusted international organisations, yet they can appear fragmented, overlapping, or opaque when encountered in practice.

At a global level, the One Health High-Level Expert Panel (OHHLEP), has compiled a comprehensive inventory of OH tools, reflecting the breadth and diversity of approaches currently in use. While this inventory provides an important global reference, its breadth can make it challenging to quickly identify which tools matter most for their role, when they are typically used, and how they fit together in country contexts.

This reference guide is therefore not intended to be exhaustive, nor to replace existing inventories. Instead, it is designed to help those working on global health **recognise, interpret, and navigate the most commonly used OH tools and processes**, and to understand what role they play within a wider national system.

Rather than promoting individual tools in isolation, the guide aims to support **strategic engagement** by explaining:

- **Why particular tools matter** from a practitioner perspective (e.g. policy dialogue, prioritisation, investment planning),
- **How key tools relate to one another**, especially where those working in global health commonly might find confusion or duplication (notably National Bridging Workshops, disease prioritisation, and stakeholder mapping),
- **When different tools are typically used** along the policy → planning → implementation → learning continuum, and
- **Where to find authoritative resources** to explore tools in more depth, if and when needed.

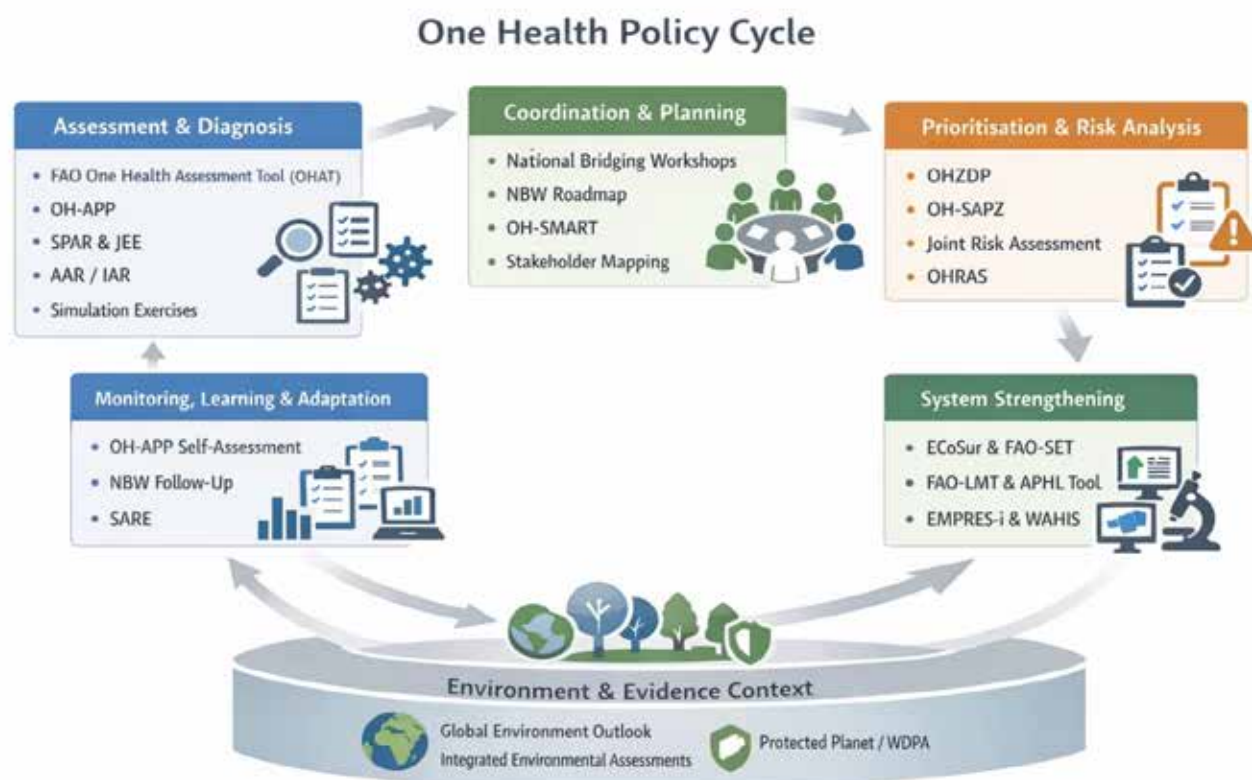


How to read this guide: the big-picture logic

In practice, **OH engagement at country level rarely follows a neat, linear pathway**. Instead, **it tends to evolve through a loose but recurring cycle**, shaped by political windows, funding opportunities, crises, and existing institutional arrangements. Across this cycle, environmental context and evidence are not standalone steps, but cross-cutting inputs that inform decision-making at multiple points. Most country experiences nonetheless map broadly onto five recurring functions, with environmental and wider evidence inputs intersecting throughout:

1. **Assessment and Diagnosis.** Countries seek to understand how well systems are functioning – both technically and institutionally – and where the most significant gaps lie. This includes not only health and animal health capacities, but also the extent to which environmental considerations and data are integrated into multisectoral decision-making. *Examples: International Health Regulations (IHR) Monitoring & Evaluation Framework tools, World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) Performance of Veterinary Services Pathway, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) One Health Assessment Tool, One Health Assessment for Planning and Performance (OH-APP).*
2. **Coordination and Planning.** Evidence and assessments are converted into jointly agreed priorities and plans, often requiring structured facilitation across sectors. At this stage, environmental evidence (such as land use, biodiversity, or ecosystem change) can help frame risks at the human–animal–environment interface and support more robust planning. *Examples: National Bridging Workshops (NBWs) and One Health Systems Mapping and Analysis Resource Toolkit (OH-SMART).*
3. **Prioritisation and Risk Analysis.** With limited resources, countries identify which zoonotic or shared risks merit focused, multisectoral attention. Prioritisation is strengthened when epidemiological data are considered alongside environmental drivers of risk, particularly for emerging or climate-sensitive threats. *Examples: One Health Zoonotic Disease Prioritization (OHZDP) and Joint Risk Assessment tools.*
4. **System Strengthening.** Attention then turns to improving the performance of particular building blocks, such as workforce, laboratories, surveillance and information systems, or coordination mechanisms. This may include linking health and animal health systems with environmental monitoring or information platforms, where relevant. *Examples: Surveillance and laboratory evaluation tools, and information systems.*
5. **Monitoring, Learning and Adaptation.** Countries revisit earlier assessments, track implementation, and adjust plans as systems mature or contexts change. Environmental trends and broader evidence bases can help anticipate future risks and inform course correction over time. *Examples: OH-APP, NBW follow-up and stepwise tools.*

Figure 1. Recurring Functions and Tools of the OH Policy Cycle



Not every country uses all tools, and no single tool provides a complete picture of OH performance. Those working on global health often encounter tools midstream – for example, when a roadmap already exists, a prioritisation exercise is underway, or a follow-up assessment is being planned. The purpose of this guide is to help those working in global health quickly understand what a given tool does, what it does not do, and how it connects to other processes already in play, including where and how environmental and evidence considerations can be meaningfully integrated.



How the core processes relate

Stakeholder mapping: enabling coordination

Stakeholder mapping is not an end in itself, but a practical enabler that underpins many OH processes. It helps ensure that:

- The **right institutions and actors** are involved in planning and implementation,
- **Roles, mandates, and relationships are sufficiently understood** to support coordination, and
- **Gaps or duplication in institutional engagement can be identified and addressed.**

Stakeholder mapping underpins tools such as OH-SMART, OH-APP, and NBWs, and is particularly valuable when translating assessments into coordinated action and when strengthening specific system components, where clarity on roles and relationships is required.

National Bridging Workshops: the connective tissue

NBWs are best understood as a translation and alignment mechanism within the OH landscape. They do not replace technical assessments, nor do they substitute for disease prioritisation or sector-specific planning. Instead, NBWs:

- **Draw explicitly on existing assessments**, such as Joint External Evaluation (JEE), State Party Self-Assessment Annual Reporting (SPAR), and Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS),
- **Diagnose how effectively sectors collaborate** across 15 technical areas relevant to prevention, detection, and response, and
- **Produce a jointly agreed, country-owned roadmap** to strengthen OH coordination in practical terms.

In this sense, NBWs sit between **assessing system capacity and collaboration** and **translating assessments into coordinated action**, converting technical evidence into jointly agreed priorities and plans. For those working in global health, they often represent a key moment where policy dialogue, planning, and potential investment discussions converge.

Disease prioritisation: focusing limited resources

Disease prioritisation tools address a different but complementary question: “Which zoonotic or shared risks should we focus on together?”. Rather than assessing systems or coordination per se, **these tools help countries focus collective attention and resources**. They are commonly used:

Before or after translating assessments into coordinated action, to shape the scope and focus of discussions, or

After NBWs or system assessments, to operationalise collaboration around a manageable set of concrete priorities.

For those working on global health, prioritisation exercises are often a critical bridge between high-level OH ambition and practical, fundable action.





Relevant OH tools and processes

The **tools and processes** outlined below represent commonly encountered entry points into OH work at the country level. While they vary in scope, intensity and technical depth, they form a complementary toolkit that supports countries to move across the OH policy cycle – from assessing system capacity and collaboration, through translating assessments into coordinated action and prioritising risks and diseases for joint action, to strengthening specific system components and monitoring progress and adapting over time.

For those working on global health, the value of these tools lies not in their technical detail, but in what they enable: structured dialogue across sectors, evidence-informed prioritisation, clearer investment pathways, and more coherent engagement with government counterparts.

A. Assessment and Diagnosis

These tools primarily support assessing system capacity and collaboration, providing the evidence base for subsequent coordination, prioritisation and system strengthening. They help countries understand how well OH collaboration functions, where coordination breaks down, and what institutional or system-level improvements are most needed. As such, they often serve as the starting point for multisectoral dialogue and underpin later efforts to translate assessments into coordinated action.

1. FAO One Health Assessment Tool (OHAT)

What is it? A facilitated, Excel-based self-assessment that allows multisectoral teams to evaluate the maturity and functionality of OH collaboration, covering governance, coordination, technical capacity, information sharing, and implementation.

Why is it relevant? OHAT provides a **practical, low-burden entry point for countries that want to take stock of how OH works in practice**, without launching a large or highly technical assessment. It is particularly useful where there is interest in OH, but limited shared understanding of current strengths and gaps. The assessment also includes an exercise to evaluate the extent to which the indicators contribute to delivering the six Action Tracks (ATs) of the OH Joint Plan of Action (JPA).

How does it relate to other OH tools?

- Can be used **before NBWs** to structure baseline discussion and surface coordination issues early
- Can support **follow-up monitoring** after NBW roadmap development
- Conceptually aligned with OH-APP, but **lighter-touch and facilitation-oriented**, making it accessible in a wider range of contexts

Resource: <https://www.fao.org/one-health/resources/one-health-assessment-tool/en>

2. One Health Assessment for Planning and Performance

What is it? An annual, workshop-based self-assessment framework for multisectoral coordination mechanisms to assess organisational capacity and performance, and to link results directly to planning and development assistance.

Why is it relevant? OH-APP **supports the institutionalisation of OH coordination** beyond one-off workshops or projects, making it particularly relevant where governments are seeking to formalise or sustain coordination mechanisms over time.

How does it relate to other OH tools?

- **Complements OHAT by offering a more formalised and repeatable** assessment
- Can be used to **track progress against NBW roadmaps** and other agreed plans over multiple years

Resource: www.onehealthapp.org (discontinued after USAID ceased its activities).

Example: https://rr-asia.woah.org/app/uploads/2020/01/4-9_oh-app.pdf

3. IHR Monitoring & Evaluation Framework tools

What are they? A suite of World Health Organization (WHO) tools assessing national capacities under the **IHR**, through **SPAR**, periodic external evaluation (**JEE**), and operational learning exercises: After Action Review (**AAR**), Intra Action Review (**IAR**) and Simulation Exercises (**SimEx**).

Why are they relevant? These tools are among the **most common and influential entry points for multisectoral dialogue on preparedness and response**, and they are explicitly referenced as inputs to National Bridging Workshops.

How do they relate to other OH tools?

- Provide a **shared evidence base** that can anchor coordination and planning discussions
- Frequently highlight **collaboration gaps** that OH-specific tools (such as NBWs, OHAT, or OH-APP) are designed to address

Resource: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/operations/international-health-regulations-monitoring-evaluation-framework>

WOAH Performance of Veterinary Services Pathway

What is it? A comprehensive, independent evaluation of national veterinary services conducted under the auspices of WOAH, assessing governance, technical capacity, surveillance, laboratories, and compliance with international standards.

Why is it relevant? PVS evaluations are one of the most frequently encountered veterinary sector assessment tools and are commonly referenced in National Bridging Workshops and OH coordination discussions. They provide a structured assessment of animal health system performance, complementing IHR tools focused on human health capacities.

How does it relate to other OH tools?

- Frequently paired with JEE/SPAR findings in NBWs
- Provides the veterinary evidence base that informs multisectoral coordination discussions
- Can highlight collaboration gaps later addressed through NBWs, OHAT, or OH-APP

Resource: <https://www.woah.org/en/what-we-offer/improving-veterinary-services/pvs-pathway/>

B. Coordination and Planning

These tools support translating assessments into coordinated action, turning evidence into jointly agreed priorities, plans and coordination mechanisms. They are particularly relevant where assessments already exist, but coordination remains fragmented or responsibilities unclear.

4. National Bridging Workshops Programme

What are they? A structured, multisectoral workshop process that assesses collaboration across 15 technical areas and produces a jointly agreed NBW Roadmap, setting out prioritised actions to strengthen OH coordination.

Why are they relevant? NBWs and their Roadmaps are explicitly framed to support **policy alignment, prioritisation, and investment planning**, making them a frequent point of engagement for development partners.

How do they relate to other OH tools?

- Draw on outputs from **IHR and veterinary assessments**
- Translate assessment findings to **concrete, prioritised actions** owned by national stakeholders

Resources: <https://www.who.int/activities/bridging-human-and-animal-health-sectors>

5. OH-SMART

What is it? A facilitated process that identifies stakeholders, maps systems, analyses bottlenecks, and develops coordinated action plans around specific OH challenges.

Why is it relevant? OH-SMART provides a **systems-thinking approach** that is particularly useful where challenges are complex, cross-cutting, or poorly defined.

How does it relate to other OH tools?

- Strong emphasis on **stakeholder mapping and systems analysis**
- Can complement NBWs or be used independently at **subnational or thematic level**

Resource: <https://oh-smart.umn.edu/>

C. Prioritisation and Risk Analysis

These tools support prioritising risks and diseases for joint action, helping countries decide what to focus on together, recognising that multisectoral collaboration is most effective when it is anchored around shared priorities.

6. One Health Zoonotic Disease Prioritization

What is it? A multisectoral workshop process to prioritise zoonotic diseases and agree next steps for joint action.

Why is it relevant? It is a **widely used, transparent, and adaptable** prioritisation method, suitable for a broad range of country contexts.

How does it relate to other OH tools?

- Can inform the scope and focus of **NBW discussions**
- Feeds directly into **joint risk assessment and planning**

Resource: <https://www.cdc.gov/one-health/php/prioritization/index.html>

7. One Health Systems Assessment for Priority Zoonoses (OH-SAPZ)

What is it? A structured process that combines zoonotic disease prioritisation with systems mapping across surveillance, laboratory, and coordination functions for priority zoonoses.

Why is it relevant? OH-SAPZ bridges the gap between prioritisation and system strengthening by identifying **where systems need to change** to address agreed priority risks.

How does it relate to other OH tools?

- Builds on OHZDP outputs
- Can inform NBW discussions and technical investment planning

Resource: <https://georgetown.app.box.com/s/50r9ay3kac56zfady15mdbas2k0zm69g>

8. Joint Risk Assessment (JRA) Tools

Tripartite Zoonoses Guide – JRA Operational Tool; One Health Risk Analysis System (OHRAS)

What are they? JRA tools support multisectoral teams to jointly identify, assess, and characterise priority zoonotic or shared health risks, and to agree on coordinated risk management and risk communication options. They are designed to bring together human, animal, and (where relevant) environmental health perspectives within a single, structured process.

Why are they relevant? These tools help move OH collaboration from **high-level coordination to operational decision-making**, particularly in contexts where governments need to assess concrete risks (e.g. priority zoonoses, emerging threats, or AMR) and justify targeted action or investment.

How does it relate to other OH tools?

- Typically applied **after disease prioritisation** (e.g. OHZDP or OH-SAPZ)
- Can be used to **deepen analysis on priority risks identified through NBWs**
- Complement system-level tools by focusing on **specific hazards rather than overall capacity**

Resources: JRA Operational Tool. A stepwise, qualitative approach developed by WHO, FAO, and WOA to conduct joint risk assessments of zoonotic diseases and identify coordinated risk management and communication options. <https://www.who.int/initiatives/tripartite-zoonosis-guide/joint-risk-assessment-operational-tool>

OHRAS. A flexible framework covering signalling, risk assessment, feasibility assessment, risk management, coordinated communication, and governance, designed to strengthen One Health collaboration across the full risk analysis cycle. <https://www.ohras.eu/page/home>

D. System Strengthening

These tools support strengthening specific system components, such as surveillance, laboratories, workforce, and information systems, including the development of cross-sectoral competencies required for effective OH implementation.

What are they? These tools focus on strengthening specific system components that are critical to effective OH implementation and that frequently constrain performance in practice. This includes not only technical capacities (e.g. surveillance and laboratories), but also workforce development, training, and institutional capabilities needed to support multisectoral collaboration. They are typically applied after priorities have been identified and coordination mechanisms are in place, to support targeted technical and institutional investment.

Why are they relevant? **System strengthening tools translate agreed priorities and risk analyses into tangible improvements** in surveillance, laboratory capacity, workforce capability, data management, and information sharing, often across human, animal, and environmental health domains. **They are central to moving from planning and coordination to operational delivery and sustained system performance.**

How do they relate to other OH tools?

- Build on **prioritisation and risk analysis outputs** (e.g. OHZDP, OH-SAPZ, JRA Tools) to focus investments on the most significant risks
- Operationalise coordination and planning decisions emerging from **NBW and NBW Roadmaps**
- Provide technical depth that complements **system-level assessments** (e.g. OHAT, OH-APP, IHR M&E tools)
- **Support workforce development and cross-sectoral competencies**, enabling frontline staff and institutions to operationalise One Health approaches in practice (e.g. joint training, field epidemiology, integrated service delivery)

- Generate evidence and performance data that can feed back into **monitoring, learning, and adaptation processes** over time

Which tools are in this category?

9. Evaluation of Collaboration for Surveillance (ECoSur)

A tool to assess how effectively different sectors collaborate within surveillance systems, focusing on organisational and functional aspects of multisectoral surveillance.

Resource: https://www.survtools.org/wiki/surveillance-evaluation/lib/exe/fetch.php?media=files:guidance_v2.pdf

10. FAO Surveillance Evaluation Tool (FAO-SET)

A structured evaluation of animal and zoonotic disease surveillance systems, including intersectoral coordination and performance across multiple system components.

Resource: <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/11c04433-29b8-4c60-be34-ebffa5dd6f6/content>

11. FAO Laboratory Mapping Tool (FAO-LMT)

A standardised semi-quantitative toolkit to identify gaps and capacity-building needs in veterinary laboratory systems, supporting prioritisation of investments.

Resource: <https://www.fao.org/3/i5439e/i5439e.pdf>

12. Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL) Informatics Self-Assessment Tool

A self-assessment framework to evaluate laboratory informatics capacity, data flows, and system interoperability in public health laboratories.

Resource: https://www.aphl.org/programs/informatics/Documents/LEI_2013Jun_Informatics-Self-Assessment-Tool-for-PHLs.pdf

13. EMPRES Global Animal Disease Information System (EMPRES-i)

A global animal disease information system supporting situational awareness and analysis of animal and zoonotic disease events.

Resource: <https://empres-i.apps.fao.org/>

14. World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS)

The official WOAH platform for accessing up to date validated global animal health information.

Resource: <https://wahis.woah.org/>

15. Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP)

A globally recognised programme that builds a skilled public health workforce capable of detecting, investigating, and responding to disease outbreaks, increasingly incorporating OH approaches across sectors.

Resource: https://www.cdc.gov/global-health-protection/php/programs-and-institutes/field-epidemiology-training-program.html?CDC_AAref_Val=https://www.cdc.gov/globalhealth/healthprotection/fetp/index.htm

16. Competencies for One Health Field Epidemiology (COHFE) Framework

A competency framework to guide the development of applied epidemiologists capable of working across human, animal, and environmental health sectors, supporting integrated surveillance and response.

Resource: www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/risk-comms-updates/dr_stacie_dunkle.pdf?sfvrsn=cf12a745_2

17. In-Service Applied Veterinary Epidemiology Training (ISAVET)

A field-based training programme targeting veterinarians and animal health workers, strengthening capacity for surveillance, outbreak investigation, and early response at local and district levels.

Resource: <https://www.fao.org/documents/card/fr?details=CA7015EN/>

E. Monitoring, Learning and Adaptation

These tools and processes support monitoring progress and adapting over time, helping countries track implementation, learn and adjust as systems mature or as risks and contexts change. In the OH cycle shown in Figure 1, they close the loop by feeding learning back into future assessment, planning, prioritisation, and system strengthening.

Monitoring, learning, and adaptation in OH are rarely delivered through a single standalone tool. Instead, they are typically embedded within repeatable assessments, structured reviews, and follow-up mechanisms associated with other OH tools described in this guide.

18. Stepwise Approach to Rabies Elimination (SARE)

What is it? A staged planning, monitoring, and evaluation tool for rabies elimination programmes, using clearly defined milestones to track progress from early capacity building through to sustained elimination.

Why is it relevant? SARE illustrates how OH collaboration can be **embedded within a disease-specific programme**, linking multisectoral coordination to measurable outcomes and iterative learning.

How does it relate to other OH tools?

- Complements **system-level coordination and planning tools** (e.g. NBWs and NBW Roadmaps) by focusing on **implementation and progress tracking**
- Provides a concrete example of **stepwise learning and adaptation**, which can inform broader OH system strengthening discussions
- Demonstrates how prioritisation and risk analysis outputs (e.g. OHZDP, joint risk assessment tools) can be translated into **long-term, monitored action**

Resource: <https://rabiesalliance.org/tools/planning-tools/sare>

Other monitoring, learning, and adaptation mechanisms referenced in this guide

In addition to SARE, the following tools and processes described previously in the guide also serve monitoring, learning, and adaptation functions:

- **NBW Roadmap follow-up mechanisms.** The NBW Programme includes structured follow-up (e.g. progress tracking, surveys, or follow-up workshops) to monitor implementation of agreed actions and adjust coordination approaches over time.
- **One Health Assessment for Planning and Performance (OH-APP).** Designed as an annual, repeatable self-assessment, OH-APP enables multisectoral coordination mechanisms to monitor progress, learn across cycles, and adapt plans accordingly.
- **AAR and IAR.** Part of the IHR Monitoring & Evaluation Framework, these reviews support structured learning during or after health events and feed lessons back into preparedness, planning, and coordination processes.

Together, these tools and mechanisms ensure that OH is treated not as a one-off intervention, but as an adaptive, learning-oriented approach that evolves in response to evidence, experience, and changing risk landscapes.

F. Environment evidence tools

These tools and resources help ensure that OH decision-making is informed by robust environmental and contextual evidence, rather than focusing solely on health system performance or disease outcomes. They support those working in global health and national counterparts to understand why risks are emerging, where they are concentrated, and how they may evolve over time, providing an essential foundation for effective assessment, prioritisation, planning, and adaptation across the OH cycle.

What are they? Environmental and wider evidence resources provide **contextual data, analysis, and foresight that inform all stages of OH cycle**. Rather than functioning as standalone OH tools or processes, they support understanding of the **underlying drivers of risk at the human–animal–environment interface**.

The environment and evidence are an **underpinning layer in the OH cycle**, playing a role in shaping understanding of factors such as land-use change, biodiversity loss, ecosystem degradation, and climate variability.

Why are they relevant? Environmental drivers are increasingly recognised as **critical determinants of health risk, particularly for emerging zoonoses, vector-borne diseases, food safety, and antimicrobial resistance**. These resources help ensure that OH decision-making is grounded in robust environmental evidence, strengthening risk framing and long-term resilience without adding unnecessary procedural burden.

How do they relate to other OH tools?

- Provide **contextual and analytical inputs** that inform system-level assessments (e.g. OHAT, OH-APP, IHR M&E tools)
- Strengthen **risk framing and prioritisation** in disease prioritisation and joint risk assessment processes
- Support **planning and coordination discussions** (e.g. NBWs, OH-SMART) by making environmental drivers visible
- Contribute to **anticipatory learning and adaptation**, helping countries account for future risks linked to environmental change

Key resources include:

19. Global Environment Outlook (GEO)

United Nations Environment Programme's (UNEP) flagship environmental assessment, providing policy-relevant analysis of global and regional environmental trends.

Resource: <https://www.unep.org/global-environment-outlook>

20. Integrated Environmental Assessments (IEAs)

Guidelines and methods for conducting environmental assessments to support decision-making.

Resource: <https://www.unep.org/explore-topics/environment-under-review/what-we-do/environmental-assessment>

21. Protected Planet / World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA)

The global database on protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, useful for evidence-based decision making with spatial and ecosystem context.

Resources: <https://www.protectedplanet.net/> ; <https://www.protectedplanet.net/en/thematic-areas/wdpa>

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