

Geneva Environment Lab: The International Environment House Innovation Hub

An Introduction

The Geneva Environment Lab is a grassroots initiative made up of UN staff, consultants, and interns. Initiated by UN Environment's Resources and Markets Branch of the Economy Division, membership has since grown to other divisions and UN agencies. The group has been meeting on a volunteer basis every week for the last four years.



**GENEVA
ENVIRONMENT
LAB**

Design thinking

So far, the Geneva Environment Lab has pursued a “design thinking” approach to innovation. Design thinking focuses on connecting to people, clearly understanding their needs, and then developing solutions that can be tested and improved over time. The group's efforts have also led to the creation of partnerships and links with other innovation groups within the broader Geneva community. To date, the Geneva Environment Lab has built connections with innovators from CERN, UNHCR, the Global Humanitarian Lab, ICRC, WHO, C4SI, ITC, and the Geneva Impact Hub.

Innovation challenges

The Geneva Environment Lab's most recent design thinking challenge focused on moving “beyond reports”. The Lab developed ideas for replacing traditional publications with solutions that could communicate complex information and data in a more compelling and interactive way. Previous innovation efforts by the group looked at developing innovative ways to create and strengthen policy champions, and ideas for scaling a green economy transition.

Our way forward

The Geneva Environment Lab is focusing on two core goals: #1 Harnessing innovation to tackle environmental and other challenges, and #2 Supporting and enhancing a culture of innovation in our constituent organizations, including promoting risk-taking as a prerequisite for transformative change. To achieve these goals, the Lab is working on many fronts: organizing events, engaging with senior leadership in our organizations, building skills on innovation processes, tackling specific challenges using design thinking, and creating an innovation community for environmental issues both inside and outside the UN.

If you're interested in joining us, we'd love to hear from you.

**For more information, please contact:
genevaenvironmentlab@gmail.com**