



First face to face authors meeting of the sixth Global Environment Outlook global assessment

European Space Research Institute, Frascati, Italy, 20-24 February, 2017

The global assessment authors for the sixth Global Environment Outlook met to:

1. Consider how the process for producing an assessment has evolved and the new tools and approaches that are available to do so, including the new Integrated Environmental Assessment Guidelines.
2. Understand the role of the High-level Intergovernmental and Stakeholder Advisory Group as well as the Scientific Advisory Panel.
3. Define the drafting approach for the environmental thematic chapters and the cross-cutting issues.
4. Learn how communications and outreach for the Global Environment Outlook will be undertaken.
5. Create the zero order drafts for the first 8 chapters of the sixth Global Environment Outlook global assessment.
6. Develop work plans for drafting the subsequent sections of the Global Environment Outlook, namely the Policy Effectiveness and Governance chapter(s) and the Outlooks chapter(s).
7. Learn about the Global Environment Outlook timeline and work programme for the following two years.
8. Emphasize the Global Environment Outlook's relevance to the Sustainable Development Goals and illustrate linkages for the environmental theme and cross-cutting issue authors.

On these items, the meeting and the Co-chairs and Vice-chairs agreed:

Content

1. The sixth Global Environment Outlook should be ambitious and innovative in its analysis, in particular for the assessment of policy effectiveness and for examining different environmental outlooks.

2. The new approaches for writing the document (e.g. matrix drafting approach, managing citations and references, using visuals and graphics) explained by the Secretariat should be applied uniformly by all authors in order to ensure coherence and scientific integrity of the assessment.
3. The Integrated Environmental Assessment Guidelines published by UN Environment should be consulted and used by authors and they should provide comments on areas of improvement for these Guidelines to the Secretariat.
4. Some space in the introductory chapters of the Global Environment Outlook should be allocated to provide an overview of each cross-cutting issue and explain the interlinkages among them.
5. Each chapter should begin with an explanation of the Drivers, Pressures, State, Impact and Response framework as it applies to their theme.
6. Each of the chapters should incorporate an analysis of the relevance of the Sustainable Development Goals to their environmental theme.
7. The title of the Biota chapter should be changed to Biodiversity, to ensure comprehensiveness and better understanding and analysis of the subject matter.
8. Linkages among the environmental thematic chapters (e.g. Fresh water and Oceans, Fresh water and Land) should be considered in the assessment, in particular when assessing the State of the Environment.
9. A synthesis approach should be used for drafting the introductory and State of the Environment chapters, referencing existing assessments where possible and filling gaps in the analysis where necessary.
10. New platforms and data sources such as EnvironmentLIVE and the European Space Agency should be used by authors to work towards an indicators-based assessment.
11. The introductory chapters should set the stage and create interest in the remainder of the document, without pre-empting the findings of the assessment in the subsequent chapters.
12. The State of the Environment chapters should be kept short (e.g. 20 pages each) and use extensive citing of key assessment documents in order to have a comprehensive review of the evidence on environmental improvement or degradation in the 5 environmental themes.
13. Authors and Scientific Advisory Panel members should provide the Secretariat with recommendations for additional contributing authors to fill the gaps in expertise within the individual chapters. Geographic and gender balance should be maintained when selecting the new authors.
14. A common thread or more substantive assessment of the environment/economy interaction should be produced in order to ensure the analysis in the assessment appropriately considers this aspect. Further guidance on this element will be forthcoming from the Secretariat.
15. Environmental thematic authors, and cross-cutting authors, will be assigned space in the Policy Effectiveness and Governance chapter for consideration of policy responses for their theme.
16. The approach for assessing policy effectiveness and governance will have a semi-quantitative component, taking into account case studies under each environmental theme.

17. The innovative approach for conducting the outlooks for the sixth Global Environment Outlook will incorporate a review of existing scenarios and goals-based outlooks combined with a series of workshops to validate the findings of the outlooks.
18. Interactions between the policy effectiveness and outlooks chapter must also be considered in the drafting process.
19. Authors are encouraged to identify pieces of evidence that can be used for communications and outreach.
20. Coordinating Lead Authors are encouraged to contact cross-cutting authors if they need contributions on cross-cutting issues.

Timeline

21. The zero-order draft of the first 9 chapters (including the new cross-cutting issues chapter/section) should be produced by March 15, 2017. The zero-order draft of each chapter should be of sufficient quality to be acceptable, with minor changes, to the other Global Environment Outlook chapter authors. Thematic and cross-cutting authors should send their comments on other chapters by March 30, 2017.
22. The first order draft of the first 9 chapters should be produced by April 15, 2017. The first order draft should be of sufficient quality to be reviewed by a select group (e.g. 20) of expert reviewers who have subject matter expertise in each of the chapters and have one month to review (to May 15, 2017).
23. For the 9 chapters, the May 22-26, 2017 meeting in Bangkok will address the review comments and identify critical gaps.
24. The second order draft of the first 9 chapters should be produced by June 30, 2017. The second order draft should be of sufficient quality for intergovernmental review and broad scientific and technical review through the months of July to September 15, 2017.
25. The Policy Effectiveness and Governance author team should work to develop and document their analytical approach by April 30, 2017 and work to create a working draft for the start of the second authors meeting, May 22-26, 2017 in Bangkok, Thailand.
26. The Innovative Outlooks Group and chapter authors should work to develop and document their analytical approach by Sept. 15, 2017 and create a working draft of the first part of their chapter for the third authors meeting (Oct. 9-13, 2017).

Guidance was provided to the author teams by the Scientific Advisory Panel on the following issues

27. A multi-stage review process for the different chapters of the Global Environment Outlook should include both a First Order Draft review and a Second Order Draft review.
28. There are gaps in expertise in the current author teams that must be filled by end of March in order to ensure comprehensiveness and scientific integrity.
29. Procedural guidance for the interaction between advisory body members and authors has been produced. It covers:
 - a. Avoiding undue influence by ensuring all interactions are in group settings;
 - b. Guidance from the advisory bodies should fall within their area of responsibility;
 - c. To the extent possible, the Co-chairs and Vice-chairs should be used as the bridge to communicate between the advisory body members and the authors;

- d. If an author feels that undue influence has been applied, communicating this to the Co-chairs, Vice-chairs and/or Secretariat for action is the appropriate response.
30. The first draft of the Summary for Policy Makers of the sixth Global Environment Outlook should be prepared by the Coordinating Lead Authors, the Co-chairs and Vice-chairs. The Scientific Advisory Panel should participate in the process to ensure 'line of sight' between the underlying report and the draft Summary for Policy Makers.
31. The Scientific Advisory Panel along with the Coordinating Lead Authors, Co-chairs and Vice-chairs should participate in the subsequent drafting and negotiating meetings for the Summary for Policy Makers to ensure 'line of sight' is maintained.

Guidance was provided to the author teams by the High-level Intergovernmental and Stakeholder Advisory Group

32. A precautionary approach should be applied to the timing of the development of the Global Environment Outlook, since there is a possibility that the fourth UN Environment Assembly could occur earlier in 2019 than originally planned (e.g. February or March).
33. A change in the date of the fourth UN Environment Assembly would affect the date of the fourth authors meeting, moving it from March, 2018 to February 11-15, 2018. This could affect the dates for production of the Policy Effectiveness and Outlooks chapters.
34. The Policy Effectiveness and Outlooks chapters should be where the innovation is demonstrated in the sixth Global Environment Outlook. These will be the chapters of most interest to policy makers.

The following concluding remarks were provided by the Co-chairs and Vice-chairs

35. The sixth Global Environment Outlook global assessment is not only ambitious in its content but also in its production timeline.
36. The Secretariat must consolidate the guidance from the High-level Group and the Scientific Advisory Panel into a revised work plan for the Global Environment Outlook process. This should be completed by mid-March 2017 and will define author's work for the next year.
37. The collaboration established at this meeting is essential to maintain and continue to strengthen.
38. The value that the Global Environment Outlook adds for decision makers is the assessment of the relationships and interlinkages among environment, social and economic issues (i.e. the integrated nature of the assessment). This must be the focus of our drafting going forward.
39. Focusing the assessment on solutions and innovation is the role of the Policy Effectiveness and Outlooks chapter authors. Environmental thematic authors will be assigned space in the Outlooks chapter for consideration of possible developments related to their theme.
40. The Global Environment Outlook should highlight and focus on alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals.
41. Chapter authors are encouraged to consider answers to the following questions:
 - a. What has changed since the fifth Global Environment Outlook?

- b. What is the impact of this environmental theme on humans?
 - c. Why do we care about these impacts?
 - d. How much of this impact is because of what humans are doing to the environment?
- 42.** Policy Effectiveness chapter authors are encouraged to consider the question:
- a. What have we already done to address these impacts?
 - b. Has it been effective?
 - c. What more can we do?
- 43.** Outlooks authors are encouraged to consider science-based along with politically agreed targets in their analysis of outlooks.