UN environment

GEO MATTERS

GEO 6 GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT OUTLOOK

HEALTHY PLANET HEALTHY PEOPLE

OCTOBER 2017

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Scoring policy effectiveness using the expert elicitation method

A core component of the sixth edition of the Global Environment Outlook is the assessment of Policy Effectiveness which seeks to inform policymakers on how to move our global society towards a more sustainable world. The Policy Effectiveness chapter will be presenting a range of policy case studies that will be scored for their effectiveness through an expert elicitation process.

The Expert elicitation process develops knowledge and judgments provided by experts in a workshop setting. During the third global author's meeting in Guangzhou, China, UN Environment will be conducting an expert elicitation workshop where participants will establish the effectiveness of different policy case studies in a manner which will inform policy makers about which elements of these policies are worth replicating and which mistakes should be avoided.

Each policy will be evaluated against 12 criteria by the participants in the workshop. The criteria considered include:

- Effectiveness/Goal achievement,
- Unintended effects,
- Baselines,
- Coherence/synergy,
- Co-benefits,
- Equity/Winners and Losers,
- Enabling/Constraining Factors,
- Cost/Cost-effectiveness,
- Timeframe,
- Feasibility/Implementability,
- Acceptability, and
- Stakeholder Involvement.

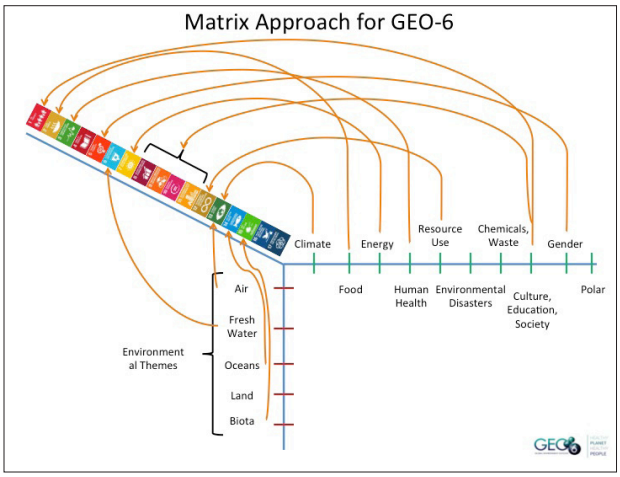
The criteria will be assessed from a scale of Very low to very high. Participants will discuss the each particular criterion and agree on the assessment based on careful consideration of the grading systems provided. The confidence in the assessment will also be specified for each criterion:

- The **assessment will be considered to have High confidence** where there is there is a published, peer-reviewed paper or report that supports the conclusion, while **Medium confidence** is established where the experts are aware of un-refereed reports or unpublished data that support the conclusions.
- **Low confidence** will be established when there is expert consensus supported by opinion and anecdotal information.
- **If consensus on the assessment is not reached the** criterion will not be scored.

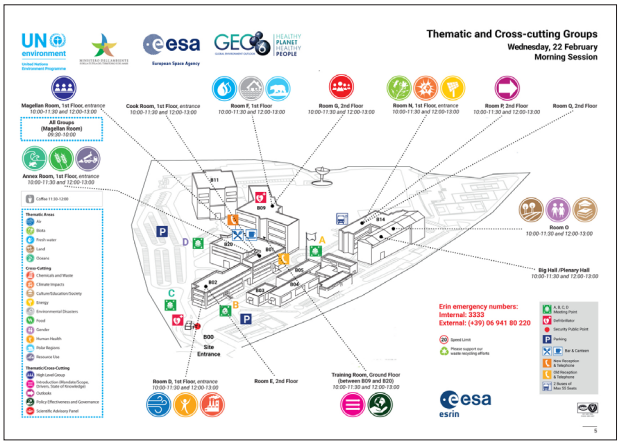
The results of the overall policy effectiveness assessment will then be recorded by a rapporteur and will support each case study presented in the policy effectiveness chapters.

The novel approach of using expert elicitation to assess policy effectiveness was developed by the Coordinating Lead Authors of the Policy Effectiveness chapter, guided by the advice of the Global Environment Outlooks High-level Intergovernmental and Stakeholder Advisory Group and the Scientific Advisory Panel. These innovative approaches will differentiate the Global Environment Outlook from other assessments and complement their findings, with the purpose of informing policy makers and helping achieve Agenda 2030 and its Sustainable Development Goals.

Matrix Drafting Approach and the "Speed Dating" exercise within the GEO-6



The Matrix Drafting Approach is an integrated approach which addresses the need for added coherence in the drafting process and coordination among Coordinating Lead Authors (CLA), Lead Authors (LA) and Contributing Authors (CA) while producing an Integrated Environmental Assessment such as GEO-6. The 'matrix' referred to in the approach involves analyzing five environmental themes (air, fresh water, oceans, land and biota) while considering ten cross-cutting issues within each environmental theme. The cross-cutting issues are intended to align well with the environmental dimension of the Sustainable Development Goals, and other internationally agreed on environmental goals, to provide a comprehensive picture for policymakers of the impact of these issues on environmental degradation. In this context, and to better respond to the challenges posed by the integrated nature of the sustainable development goals and other internationally agreed environmental goals, this approach aims to integrate the work of different contributors ensuring appropriate treatment of the cross-cutting issues within the thematic areas. The Matrix Drafting Approach is expected to stimulate a constant dialogue between Coordinating Lead Authors and Lead Authors, allowing the Lead Authors an opportunity to keep an eye on each thematic area to ensure that cross-cutting issues are appropriately covered in the analysis. Key questions that could be considered are: What are the impacts of air pollution on food security? How is demand for food affecting land use change? How can Governments address overfishing? How can sustainable fisheries be achieved to reduce impacts on oceans and human health? These types of questions can also allow examination of achievement of Sustainable Development Goals in an integrated way. For example, when we speak about climate impacts we could focus on SDG 13, but there are impacts on oceans from increasing ocean temperatures (SDG 14) and decreasing fish stocks, affecting the livelihoods of poor populations (SDG1).



In practical terms, this integrated approach is guaranteed through the implementation of the so-called "Speed dating" exercise happening during each Global Authors' meetings. The Crosscutting authors are invited to draft few paragraphs explaining the key synergies and correlations existing between each particular Cross-cutting issue and the five environmental themes. For purposes of ensuring the right understanding and integration of these ideas into the final product, the Cross-Cutting authors are invited to discuss with each of the five groups representing the environmental themes, during one hour, through a rotational process. In this way, during the "speed dating" day, the "energy" authors will meet the "air" authors from 10 to 11 am, the "biodiversity" authors from 11 am to 12 pm and so on…This experimental process resulted in an apparent success which embedded the integrated approach into the authors' mindset in perfect synergy with the value behind the SDGs.

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The Second Order Draft Review Process of the Global Environment Outlook.

The best possible scientific and technical advice being the motivation behind the Global Environment Outlook process, the assessment has the objective of being the best in quality and content to enable impact on policy.

The second order review of the first nine chapters of the global assessment started on 3 July 2017 through to 15 September 2017. The period saw about eight hundred and eighty-four technical experts, two hundred and forty-eight government-nominated experts, ninety-two United Nations experts invited to contribute to specific thematic areas of the draft. Forty High-Level Group members and twenty-two Scientific Assessment Panel members (Invited as experts in their specific thematic fields for technical review) also examined the drafts in the given seventy-five days. This broad circulation ensured representation of independent experts, from all regions and gender, represented in the Global Environment Outlook process. The outcome was four thousand seven hundred and eighty-three comments that in summary suggested specific remedies for identified shortcomings of the draft report. Some of these observations pointed out emerging and cross-cutting issues or evidence which were not highlighted but would be considered a serious omission if left out of the final report. The comments also pointed out the inclusion of appropriate sources/references.

Other comments point out errors, inconsistencies and/or contradictions of facts/data within and across different sections/chapters. Others indicated information which might be moved to another Chapter. The review indicated information which might be particularly appropriate for graphical presentation rather than as text and information which might be better placed in a box rather than in the main text (and vice versa) as well as information which might be moved to the technical annex of the chapter. Also, the comments pointed out non-essential material that could be deleted and indicated where additional referencing/citing or cross-referencing between sections is needed. Reviewers also provided additional source documents (with full reference details) information and data, including boxes and other illustrations to enrich the chapters or to fill data gaps or update existing data while others provided suggestions for alternative boxes and figures.

A team of twenty review editors led by two Lead review editors will be in Guangzhou for the third authors meeting to help assess the review of the second order drafts. These review editors will be split according to the different chapters for a closer analysis.

The review process is an important task to achieve the best quality of the text that is relevant to our thematic states and trends chapters with the competent scientific facts and figures. The sixth edition of the Global Environment Outlook assessment promises a more holistic approach to inform policy.

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Know an Expert: Global Environment Outlook Author Profile

Dr. Leandra Goncalves is an interdisciplinary environmental scientist with a particular interest in public environmental policies, international institutions and common resource management, in the context of global environmental governance. With a Ph.D. in Institute of International Relations at the University of São Paulo, Brazil (IRI – www.iri.usp.br), she researched international fisheries agreements and the interface between science and politics. She graduated in Biological Sciences from the Pontifical Catholic University of Campinas-SP and then has a Master's Degree from the Federal University of Juiz de Fora / MG - Postgraduate Program in Biological Sciences / Masters in Biology and Animal Behavior.

Throughout her professional life, she also participated in some Non-Governmental Organizations, such as Greenpeace, the SOS Mata Atlântica Foundation and others, working mainly on environmental policies. On an international level, she joined a network of other Non-Governmental Organizations to advocate for policies on international conferences such as International Whaling Commission (IWC) and International Commission for the Conservation of Tunas (ICCAT) and Rio+20.

Currently, she is a Young Fellow at the Center for Environmental Research and Studies (NEPAM, Unicamp), where she is part of a research group of the Brazilian Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (BPBES). This is a scientific contribution to biodiversity and environmental policies in Brazil, and it is also a regional subsidy for the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES).

Also, she is a research fellow at the Earth System Governance Project and a Lead Author (Environmental Policy Effectiveness) for UN Environment in the sixth edition of the Global Environment Outlook. Her main area of research is governance and effectiveness of environmental policies, mainly for the management of common resources, focusing on the interplay of science and policy, processes, actors and the way institutions build their socio-environmental systems.

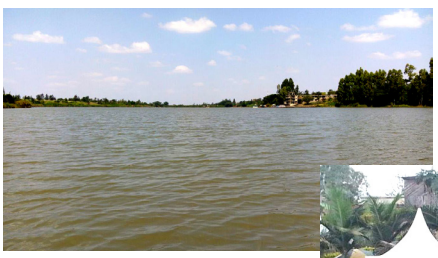
She is happy to join such a professional team contributing to the sixth edition of the Global Environmental Outlook as she firmly believes there is no better way to promote a healthy environment than to provide useful knowledge to policymakers and society. Leandra feels that the entire process that just started has been inspiring, and she feels that we will get to the end with a state of the art publication for the environment that will mobilize people to take immediate action to address environmental issues by turning environmental discussions into practice.

Boat Riding at Ruiru

By Caroline K

Friends enjoying the boat ride

Ruiru town is 27 kilometers from Nairobi's Central Business District and is home to a man-made dam that serves as a recreational facility. One can access the dam either from Rock Beach Resort or Courtesy Beach Hotel which are located on its beaches. The area surrounding the dam was once great coffee farms that have now been turned into residential areas and commercial hospitality sites. The dam is approximately 400 meters wide, 1000 meters long and about 10m on the deep edge. The tranquility of the man-made lake is a great experience when cruising along with either a canoe, Kayak or a motorboat. Fishing is also allowed aboard the canoe or the motorboat.



The dam has many plant species surrounding it and is also a great site for bird watching.

Rock Beach