

March
2022

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Peace with Nature**

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LAUNCHES

Climate Change, Biodiversity Loss and Environmental Pollution: How to Make Peace with Nature



Date: 22 March 2022

Time: 4.30pm – 6.00pm (CET)

Online via Zoom

The relationship between humankind and nature is out of balance. The planet is facing several fundamental crises brought on by human actions. These include the climate crisis, the loss of biological diversity and increasing environmental pollution. UN Secretary-General António Guterres stated: "Making peace with nature is the defining task of the 21st Century" in his [landmark speech on the state of the planet](#). He also explained that "humanity is waging war on nature" that increasingly puts our survival, sustainable development and peace at risk.

How can we end this "war" and stop the destruction of our environment and our climate? How can we truly make peace with nature and finally put into practice what we have known for a long time; that a life in harmony with our environment is a prerequisite for our future, for sustainable development and peaceful togetherness.

These are some of the questions at the heart of the UNEP report "[Making Peace with Nature](#)", that will be presented during this event by the lead authors, the former Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), Robert Watson, and Norwegian scientist Ivar Baste. The theme of

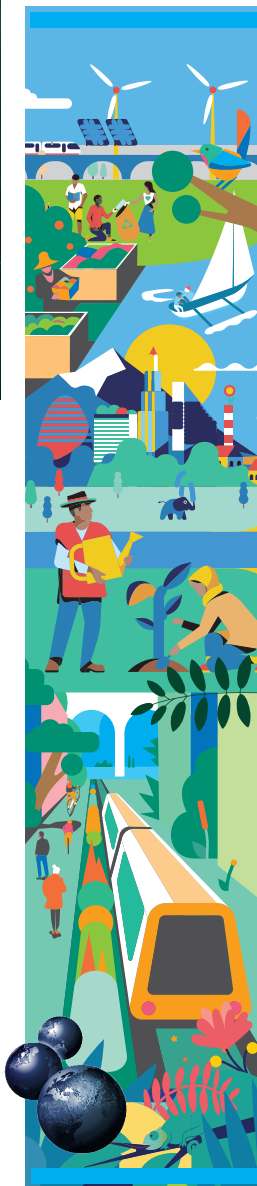


the event will be introduced with a short keynote speech by Eckart von Hirschhausen, a science journalist and founder of the "Gesunde Umwelt, Gesudne Menschen" ('Healthy Planet, Healthy People') Foundations.

The event was held in German and English with simultaneous interpretation via Zoom. To watch the recording of this launch, please click this [link](#).



Norwegian Ministry
of Climate and Environment



ACTIVITIES and OUTREACH

Sustainable Development Transformation Forum



Session Four: Life on Land 3 March 2022

Mr. Pierre Boileau, Head of the Global Environment gave a presentation on the GEO-6 findings for Life on Land on the **Theme: Life on Land: How COVID-19 recovery and 2030 Agenda can only be fully achieved through addressing SDG 15** during the fourth session at United Nations Office for Sustainable Development (UNOSD)'s **2021-22 Sustainable Development Transformation Forum**. The 2021-22 SDTF was organized by the office for Sustainable Development (UNOSD) of UN DESA, Division for Sustainable Development Goals (UN DESA-DSDG), in collaboration with the AsiaEurope Foundation (ASEF).

The Forum consisted of several interrelated modules, each covering concepts and issues of Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and the SDGs, of SDGs 4, 5, 14, 15 and 17 in particular, as well as challenges and solutions regarding the swift recovery from COVID-19 and implementation of the 2030 Agenda. There were formal presentations by international experts, scholars, practitioners, and actors followed by a Q&A session and discussions.

The sessions were led by the UNOSD team, namely, Mr. Jean D'Aragon, and a consultant, Mr. Darren Swanson, who has facilitated the in-person SDTF in prior years. The overarching theme of the forum, *Building back better from the COVID-19 pandemic and fostering the implementation of the 2030 Agenda*, with special focus on *Life on Land – How COVID-19 recovery and 2030 Agenda can only be fully achieved through addressing SDG 15*.

You can stay connected with UNOSD through their website and social media channels at <https://linktr.ee/unosd>

To watch the recording of this session please click this [link](#).

Global Environment Outlook | GEO MATTERS | www.unep.org/geo

MEETINGS

Launching the preparation of the seventh edition of UNEP's Global Environment Outlook

Following the very successful United Nations Environment Assembly, the resolution on the future of GEO was approved by Member States on 2 March 2022. We are pleased to share the resolution in its 'near-final' form so that you may understand the main changes and innovations that will likely emerge during the GEO-7 process.

For the English version of the resolution, click on this [direct link](#). Other language versions are available [here](#).

The main elements of the resolution focus on:

1. The main objective and form of GEO
2. The governance structure of GEO
3. New functions in capacity building, knowledge generation and support for policy making
4. The financing and administration of GEO

Each of these elements is supported the extensive analysis conducted by the [future of GEO Steering Committee](#) over the last two years, which produced:

- A [background paper](#)
- An [interim report](#)
- A [feasibility study](#)
- An [analysis of the results of the broad online consultation process](#)
- A [final options document](#) for UNEA-5

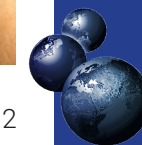
We look forward to engaging the GEO community more actively in the coming months as we launch into the preparation of the seventh edition of UNEP's Global Environment Outlook.



GEO
MATTERS



GEO-7



FROM THE GEO TEAM

Working for UNEP, Nairobi: A Dream Come True by Ignacio Sanchez Diaz

Exactly fourteen years ago, I went back to my hometown Madrid, Spain from South of England after nine months of living there and learning English. With a degree in Environmental Science and the 2008 economic crisis, I was optimistically looking for jobs when I came across UNEP's webpage and learnt about its work. It was at that moment; I told my father that I would one day work for UNEP in Nairobi. I did not know what the hiring processes was and certainly had no idea how to make an application.

I worked for two years in an Environmental NGO in Madrid and enrolled in a sponsored programme of the Spanish Government for an MBA on International Trade and to work in the Spanish Trade and Commercial Office in Angola. My work at the United Nations started with UNFPA in Copenhagen and later on with UNDP in Istanbul. I was getting closer to the promise I made myself when I started working for UNEP in the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean in Panama. There, I spent five years working in sustainable consumption and production, circular economy, youth and environmental education amongst other related tasks.



"The resolution UNEP/EA.5/RES L.20 was approved and we are now ready to initiate the process to develop the Seventh Edition of GEO. This will be a very interesting process in the coming years."

"We are all happy and looking forward to experiencing the warmth and hospitality of Kenya."

Here I am now, in 2022 starting my new role as Programme Management Officer for the amazing Global Assessment Unit (GEO Team) in the Science Division of the United Environment Programme in Nairobi. I had the opportunity to initiate my work with the GEO Team during the celebration of the resumed fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly. I was able to attend the dynamic negotiations among Member States on the Future of GEO. The resolution [UNEP/EA.5/RES L.20](#) was approved and we are now ready to initiate the process to develop the Seventh Edition of GEO. This will be a very interesting process for science policy and the environment in the coming years.

Moving from one duty station to another is never easy, I moved from Panama to Nairobi with my wife and 3 children. After 20 hours of flying and dealing with the jetlag, we are now settled in a wonderful neighbourhood in Nairobi and we cannot wait to explore what the city in the sun has in store of us. We are all happy and looking forward to experiencing the warmth and hospitality of Kenya.

As Steve Jobs said at his famous speech in the Stanford Graduation Ceremony in 2005: **"you can't connect the dots looking forward; you can only connect them looking backward. So, you have to trust that the dots will somehow connect in your future"**.



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