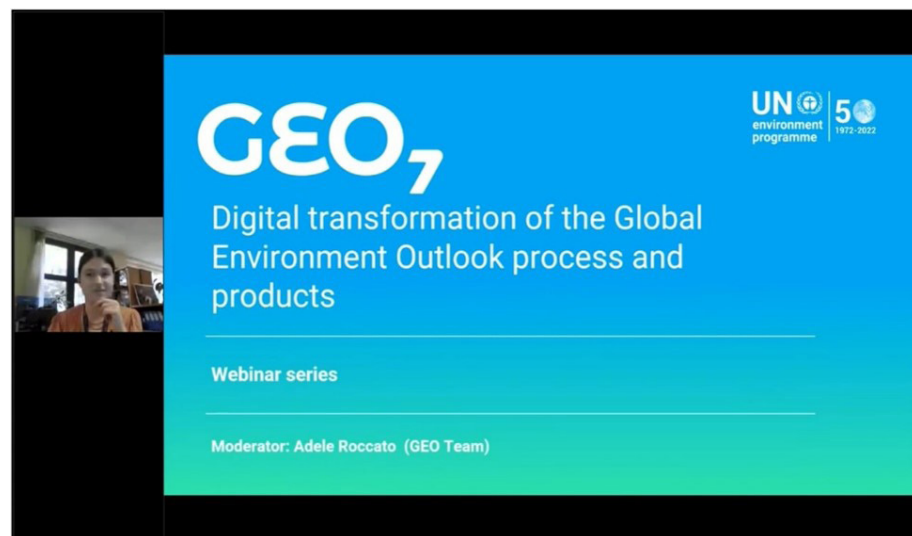


forum for them to ask questions about the digitization of GEO process; and to provide a platform where assessment experts can provide feedback through the questionnaire on the digitization of GEO. The session began with a brief interactive session of 'question and answer' to keep the participants engaged. These questions enabled the GEO team to get to know what region participants came from, the sectors they represent and if they had been part of previous GEO processes. The recording of this webinar can be found [here](#).

In the ongoing needs-assessment consultation, GEO team is organizing a series of informative webinars to further expand on key areas of focus in the needs-assessment study for GEO-7 and to help guide informed input into a questionnaire. Through the webinars, the secretariat is able to convene interested parties to share the highlights of the digitization of GEO and the process for responding to the questionnaire while providing a forum for participants to ask questions about the GEO-7 digitization process.



Screen capture of the first consultative webinar

Assessment experts can access the online survey [here](#) to provide any inputs to the needs-assessment study.

To attend any upcoming informative webinars on the GEO digitization process, please reach out to franklin.odhiambo@un.org. These consultations will close on 13 June 2022.

OUTREACH

UN DESA Editorial Board Training Series: Making of the Global Environment Outlook
 Wednesday, 11 May 2022, 9:30-11:00 am (NY Time)



Screen capture during the 'Making of GEO' presentation

As part of the UN DESA (Department of Economic and Social Affairs) Editorial Board Online Training Series, the GEO team was invited to present a behind the scenes of the **making of GEO**. The team, led by Mr. Pierre Boileau, provided an in-depth overview of what it takes to make a GEO that is comprehensive, scientifically credible and policy relevant.

The Global Environment Outlook has been published by UNEP since 1997, and it assesses the state of the environment, the effectiveness of the policy response to address these environmental challenges and the possible pathways to achieve various internationally agreed environmental goals. For more information on the GEO, click [here](#).

This session was part of UN DESA's new series of training sessions to further strengthen the impact of UN DESA publications. The series is aimed at providing opportunities for UN DESA colleagues to engage with experts across the UN system, learn from their experiences and apply them to enhance thought leadership to ensure UN DESA publications and products are communicated effectively to a wider audience with greater impact.

The event was virtual in nature and included Ms. Maria Francesca Spatolisano, Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs who gave the opening remarks for the session.

From 1997...





© Shutterstock.com

During the session, colleagues from UN DESA had an opportunity to learn key facets about the GEO including:

- What GEO is, why it is the UNEP flagship report and the unique features that affect its impact.
- Approaches for establishing advisory bodies, author teams and production schedule.
- Key quality control elements (e.g., Peer reviews, Science editing, Citations and references, Glossaries, Maps and graphs).
- Approach on outreach (e.g., Derivative products (**Cities, Business and Youth**), Translations (**Arabic, Spanish, Chinese, Russian**), **Summary for policymakers, Technical Summary, Key Messages**, Outreach events).

The GEO Team generously shared their experience, expertise and knowledge throughout the session and the post-event feedback showed that an overwhelming number of UN DESA colleagues were very satisfied with the session and felt they could apply what they learned about the making of the GEO to their own work.

SDSN and Stockholm +50: Acting for a healthy planet



The United Nations' Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) Northern Europe and Kenya organized an event on 31st May 2022 at 10am-1:00pm (W. Europe Standard Time) titled '**Acting for a healthy planet: Environmental Science-Policy Solutions and Pathways Stockholm +50.**' The theme for the event was **Putting science into policy and practice for a healthy planet.**

The purpose of the meeting was to engage SDSN members worldwide to highlight and discuss how the SDSN can support the UN Environment Programme, national and regional stakeholders to mitigate the triple planetary crisis (climate change, nature and biodiversity loss, and pollution) through science-policy, policy implementation and practice.

The **GEO-6** Co-chair and advisor of the **Making Peace with Nature** Report, Professor Joyeeta Gupta presented the findings of the report, and the Head of GEO, Pierre Boileau also made a presentation on UNEP's future environmental assessment work. Prof. Gupta discussed the **Making Peace with Nature** findings and highlighted the relevance of these findings for science-policy work, particularly recommendations for action by different actors. Mr. Boileau, then discussed the future of environmental assessments in UNEP, specifically the GEO-7 process and preparation plans.



GEO-7 is expected to be a 'solutions' GEO and will be developed by engaging with governments, stakeholders and UNEP-wide and external experts. This process will make the solutions presented in GEO-7 even more relevant and action focused. The first step in this process will be initiated by a call for research and expertise in environmental science-policy in early autumn this year. There will be a submission system for experts that have published or have ongoing research on systemic transformations in energy, food systems, and linear economics models that generate pollution and waste. Ultimately this call is looking for experts that can contribute to the solutions-focused GEO-7 assessment.



© Shutterstock.com



© Shutterstock.com

Ultimately this call is looking for experts that can contribute to the solutions-focused GEO-7 assessment.





© Shutterstock.com

Four separate presentations were made from different SDSN teams and Regions: The first was a presentation from **Mrs. Gun Rudquist**, was on bridging the Gap between Science and Policy, sharing experiences from Stockholm University Baltic Sea Centre. After a short break, **Dr. Bessy Kathambi**, from SDSN gave a presentation on a Better Earth through Environmental Governance from a Wangari Maathai perspective followed by **Dr. Kaisa Korhonen-Kurki**, from SDSN Northern Europe who talked about experiences from the Finnish Saumakohtia dialogues: science meeting politicians and the fourth and final presentation on good examples was done by **Dr Eng. Hiram Ndiritu** SDSN Kenya, who made a presentation on promoting Greenhouse Gas Reduction and Low Carbon Technologies in the African maritime sector.

During the presentations the audience actively participated in a rich question and answer discussion with the experts. Members of the audience inquired about how to participate in science-policy work and ways to stay optimistic for environmental solutions. Lastly the event concluded with a brief launch of the Call for Environmental Science-Policy Solutions and Pathways done by network managers of SDSNs Northern Europe and Kenya.



© Shutterstock.com

From a colleague, Science Division

A Showcase of Air Quality Sensors

by Ngongang Danude

The topic on air pollution in Nairobi, Kenya is gathering attention from various stakeholders including government officials who are working hard to provide clean air for sustainable livelihood for its residents.



Ngongang Danude, , GEMS Air Unit, Big Data Branch, Science Division

On Sunday 8 May 2022, for the first time in Africa, an international marathon was organized with air quality sensors deployed along the race route to monitor real time information of Nairobi's air quality, during the inauguration of the 27-kilometre Nairobi Expressway from Mlolongo, Machakos County through the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport to the city's Westlands area. The Nairobi City Marathon was organized by Kenya's Ministry of Sports, Arts and Social Development and was held ahead of the official opening of the Nairobi Express Way.

Around 10.000 participants were expected at the event to demonstrate their athletic skills and enjoy the new express way which changes the landscape of the Nairobi city. In attendance, was the President of Kenya, His Excellency, Uhuru Kenyatta, First Lady, Margaret Kenyatta, Cabinet Secretary of the Ministry of Sports, Hon. Amina Mohammed amongst other officials showing their commitment to sports activities.

The topic on air pollution in Nairobi, Kenya is gathering attention from various stakeholders including government officials who are working hard to provide clean air for sustainable livelihood for its residents.





President Uhuru Kenyatta (middle) receiving explanations on the air quality sensor platform from Mamo Boru Mamo, Director General of National Environment Management Authority (left) and Philip Osano, Centre Director General of Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI), Kenya (right)

I led the technical team which deployed air quality sensors along strategic locations ahead of the marathon. Nyayo stadium and Naivas Supermarket in Westlands were some of the key strategic points where sensors were deployed. A total of nine sensors covered the entire race route reporting data on the air quality to inform decisions and actions to Athletics Kenya, athletes, and the public on air pollution.

At the event, the Air Quality team and I demonstrated the relevance of air quality data and showcased the level of air quality the runners were exposed to. I had an opportunity to brief the President and First Lady on the online air quality platform which showed the network of air quality sensors throughout the marathon in Nairobi and specifically in Kasarani area. Representatives from the Ministry of Environment, Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) and UNEP were also present to witness this high-level outreach event.

The political atmosphere which I found myself was intriguing, where government officials asked questions on the linkages between air quality and the performance of runners and athletes. I was happy to shake the president's hands for exactly

30 seconds, after he had great satisfaction knowing that air quality projects could be brought to this level of athletic competitions with measurable expectations and targets to underline the commitment of Kenya Athletics and the Ministry of Sports in linking the environment and climate change. I was happy to note how knowledgeable the First Lady was on the topic of air pollution in cities, with questions oriented on how the project is intending to use the data. Despite the complexity of this technology, I was happy to have found the right terms to pass the key messages of the work undertaken by the Global Environment Monitoring System for Air (GEMS Air/ UNEP) in Kenya.

This unique experience continued as I also interacted with a medical doctor from the Ministry of Sports, who explained the methodology that could be used to establish a correlation between air pollution and the performance of runners and diseases they could possibly be exposed to. In the end, I understood some of the reasons why athletes are at higher risks from air pollution, for example:

- Increased ventilation during exercise,
 - A greater fraction of air is inhaled through the mouth during exercise, effectively bypassing the normal nasal filtration mechanisms,
 - The increased airflow velocity carries pollutants deeper into the respiratory tract.
- At the end, it was obvious to relate utilities (sports, climate change, transport etc.) that could provide sound basis to the air quality data from air quality sensors. The event was a success and we at GEMS AIR look forward to continue partnering with governments and other stakeholders in the air quality conversation and better year in providing solutions and necessary data to action change in improving air quality.



The first Lady Margaret Kenyatta receiving the explanation of the air quality platform



Lt. Gen (Rtd) Jackson Tuwei explaining to the president the importance to undertake environmental awareness on sports and environment

A total of nine sensors covered the entire race route reporting data on the air quality to inform decisions and actions to Athletics Kenya, athletes, and the public on air pollution.



© Shutterstock.com

