

Launch of the Arabic version of GEO-6 Report



Meeting participants at the event



Panel members during the launch of the report

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), in collaboration with the League of Arab States (LAS) and the Center for Environment and Development in the Arab Region and Europe (CEDARE), organized an event on 21 July 2022 to launch the Arabic version of the sixth Global Environment Outlook (GEO-6). The objective of this event was to present, in a simple and evidence-based manner the main environmental challenges of the region and thus trigger an open and constructive discussion on the role of science and its ability to inform decision-making and the development of public policies.

The meeting opened with remarks from the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States, Dr. Mahmoud Fathallah. The Minister of Environment, Egypt, H.E. Dr. Yasmine Fouad also delivered his message stating that “the current report has illustrated new drivers with very important impacts on the environment at the global level, foremost among which is climate change and its obvious effects on the world not only its environmental impacts but also its increasing economic and social impacts. This phenomenon has thus become the most prominent challenge of our time”.

UNEPs Executive Director, Ms. Inger Andersen joined virtually, sharing her insights on the GEO-6 report and how our actions over the next eight years must be governed by rapid transformative change and these actions must also involve each one of us; children, scientists, researchers, government and civil society and businesses and that we must focus on solutions. She also mentioned the approval of the **GEO-7 resolution** at the 5th United Nations Environment Assembly earlier this year and that the next outlook report will explain how the three system shifts identified in GEO-6: food systems, waste systems, and energy systems can be transformed to achieve an environmentally sustainable world.

The Lead Review Editor from CEDARE then launched the report giving emphasis on the close ties that CEDARE has with UNEP as CEDARE has participated in Global Environment Outlook reports since their inception with the first report that was launched in 1997.

This was followed by a panel discussion facilitated by Dr. Mahmoud Fathallah and led by Dr. Abdelmenam Mohamed who thanked the League of Arab States for their generous hosting and gave a detailed presentation on the report, explaining its most important findings. Dr. Asma Abahussein and Dr. Ahmed Abdelrehim, from the panel, stressed that the aim of the report is to assist decision makers and society in achieving the environmental dimension of the SDGs, and in identifying options to do so, and that it is necessary to differentiate between possible paths ‘scenarios’ and expectations. Dr. Ahmed Abdelrehim also discussed the steps taken to prepare and review the report, and it’s use in the preparation of Arab State of Environment (SOE) reports such as the **State of the Environment Report of the Arab Republic of Egypt**.

During the Q&A sessions, questions came in from the audience on the opportunities for maximizing the benefits of the report in Arab countries and the organizations and media present at the launch and promised that the Arab Water Council would use all its capacities to benefit from the report. More questions were on the main highlights of the new approach to be adopted by the seventh Global Environment Outlook report and it was thought that it would likely address the repercussions of the Russian-Ukrainian crisis on energy, food, and other systems. Dr. Samir Tantawi suggested that the League of Arab States initiative on preparing experts to contribute to, and review, reports could be useful in the nomination of experts, and that the GEO-6 Arabic report and its findings should be presented as a side event at the twenty-seventh COP of the UNFCCC. Dr. Mahmoud Fathallah concluded the activities of the session thanking all the experts for their time and apologizing for the lack of time that prevented them from continuing it for any longer.



Meeting participants at the event



Panel members during the launch of the report

To watch the video for the opening and panel discussion, please click [here](#).

GEO-6 Arabic.
Download [here](#):



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OUTREACH: World Circular Economy Forum



July 21st, 2022
15:00-17:15 PM (CEST)

Circular Economy Policies and Legislations: Experiences from Emerging Economies

GOAL
Support policy making
Accelerating Circular Economy
Net Zero

INDUSTRY
Governmental organization
Think Tanks
Businesses



Ignacio Sanchez from the GEO Team at UNEP, participated as a panelist in session 3 - The role of international organizations, think tanks and civil society in promoting circular economy policies in emerging countries at the World Circular Economy Forum 2022 event titled **'Circular Economy Policies and Legislation: Experiences from Emerging Economies'**. This event entailed discussions around the need for circular economy policies and legislations in emerging economies, the barriers and enablers of such frameworks, as well as the benefits of implementing them. The aim of the event was to foster such discussions in the developing world.

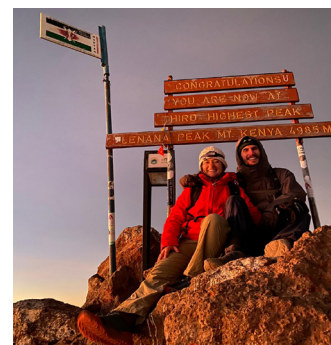
The sixth Global Environment Outlook (GEO-6) established several key policy findings which will be further explored in the next GEO-7 report. The three interdependent systems that should be transformed in this timeframe are the energy, food and waste systems. By transforming these systems, we should contribute significantly to creating a world with a stable climate that is nature rich (biodiverse) and which produces near-zero-waste (circular) for current and future generations.

The circular economy represents a pathway through which developing countries can "build back better" following the COVID-19 pandemic and recession. Circular economy policies and laws would enable developing countries to promote and enforce circular economy principles by bringing down some of the existing barriers such as having a clear nationwide strategy to implement circular economy, financing circular economy, supporting industry in capacity building, and duplicating efforts by different departments and ministries. The successfully held event had **300 attendees, 12 speakers** from different **national governments** and **5 speakers** from international think tanks including the United Nations.

Watch the recording of the event by clicking [here](#).

From the GEO Team: Hiking Mt. Kenya

By Adele Roccato



In March 2022, just in time for my fourth anniversary since moving to Kenya, I decided to finally attempt to summit Mount Kenya. Even though I like hiking, I had always been told that Mount Kenya could be very tough, tougher than Mount Kilimanjaro and that it would be very important to do it with the right group of people. But now I had a good excuse, my partner was coming to visit me in Kenya for the first time and we were planning a 2-week long road trip in the Northern part of Kenya and Mount Kenya was on our way.

After lots of research and recommendations shared by friends, we chose a guide, who offered us a good price for the route we wanted to take, the Chogoria Route. There are many routes to reach the highest point reachable without climbing for example Point Lenana, 4,985 meters. The most popular ones are the Sirimon and Naro Moru routes, which can be done in 3 days/2 nights, which is usually the time most people have coming from Nairobi. For accommodation, there are mountain huts which have bunk beds and a real kitchen for food preparation.

We went up using the Chogoria Route, and came down through the Sirimon Route, which takes longer by one day. We were fascinated by the idea of sleeping on the shore of three different lakes, knowing that it would be easier to adapt to the altitude gradually. And yes, I would absolutely recommend it! We were lucky enough to be accompanied by 1 guide, 1 chef and 3 porters, who would bring our bigger backpacks and set up camp for us every night. It seems like too many people (and it probably is), but we were not able to find any company who would let us do this with just a guide.

On the second day, the real hike started, the landscape got interesting, with new plants all around us. We were lucky enough to see some animals in the distance such as hyenas, mongoose, zebras, bushbucks and elands. The views are quite spectacular as you climb. On this day, around lunchtime, we reached 4,300 meters before descending again to Lake Michaelson (4,100 meters) where we would spend the night.



Lake Michaelson

The circular economy represents a pathway through which developing countries can "build back better" following the COVID-19 pandemic and recession.

Lake Michaelson, a glacier lake, is breath-taking, closed in a small valley surrounded by incredible mountains. There, we spent a quiet, cold night and started feeling the altitude.

Talking to our guide, Wilson, was very interesting, he told us about his experiences at high altitudes, the conservation initiatives of the communities around the mountains, the importance of preserving the ecosystems and how tourism can support but also threaten the mountain's environment as well as talks on Kenyan politics. He also made sure to collect the plastic waste we found on the path, even though I personally found Mount Kenya very clean (compared to other parks in Kenya) and believed Wilson when he told us that the guides are strict when it comes to plastic being left along the way.



Giant Desmodrosenecio (groundsel trees)

Day 3 was a short one, from Lake Michaelson to Simba Tarn. It was a short hike but heavy as the altitude at that point reached 4,600 meters. This is also the day where we passed the Chogoria Valley, filled with Giant Desmodrosenecio (groundsel trees), which we decided to just call "giant artichokes"

and house of the hyraxes trying to blend into the rocky landscape. The peaks were now visible and we started to get excited about the summit. However, this day was also the day when we started seeing the smoke of wildfires that were burning the mountain from different sides. Worried about the smoke, Wilson mentioned that the rainy seasons came later and were fewer and this has had a huge impact on the environment of Mt. Kenya and the people who work there, from farmers to tourist guides. At this point, the altitude was now very noticeable both in our mind and our bodies, as breathing was more difficult, the head heavy and somehow, it felt like we were on a bubble, but we were lucky enough to not have heavier symptoms, which would have forced us to start the descent to lower altitudes for safety reasons.

Day 4 started early, we woke up at 3.30am and started the hike at 4am, in total darkness to ensure we reach the summit at sunrise. After around 2 hours of an uphill rocky path, illuminated only by head torches and the full moon, surrounded by what is now left of the glaciers, we reached Point Lenana and the view,



Shrimpton's Camp

coloured by the orange sunrise was stunning! If you're lucky, even Mt Kilimanjaro can be seen from there. After a quick stop for pictures, we started the very steep descent to Shipton's camp. Going down allowed us to see the cliffs that surrounded the path, which were not visible with the dark. This was spectacular and scary at the same time.



Burned area

After a breakfast break at Shipton's camp in front of a beautiful clear view of the peaks, we took the Sirimon Route to descend the mountain and go back to Nanyuki. The way back is quite long, but allowed us to see new landscapes, new plants and walked next to a river, crossing different valleys. During our descent, we started getting worried because of the number of helicopters flying over our heads trying to extinguish the wildfires in the area. Wilson kept on looking for phone connection (which is almost never found on the mountain) to reach colleagues and understand whether the path was walkable. In the end, we managed to pass in the middle of a burned area, where everything that was left was burnt plants, ashes, smoke, and some colourful plastic residue still visible in the black that surrounded us. After around 6 hours of walking, we made it to Old Moses Camp, the end of our trip.

It was a beautiful, challenging hike, but it is something I would absolutely recommend also to someone who doesn't have too much experience with mountaineering. The amazing staff that accompanied us really provided us with great support and even "too many" comforts and I am sure they would be able to accommodate different kinds of clients.



Adele (left) and Jordin (right)

And, in general, I would recommend spending some time quietly in nature, disconnected from technology, to appreciate the environment around you, and maybe understand even more why we should do everything we can to protect this planet.

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