

January - February
2023

GEO-7 Nominations
Successfully Concluded

MEETINGS & WORKSHOPS

Modelling and Scenarios and Solutions
Pathways Methodology Workshops and
First Global Author's Meeting

Behavioural Science Workshop

Review: "What's cooking?
An assessment of the potential
impacts of selected novel alternatives
to conventional animal products"



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GEO-7 Nominations Successfully Concluded

As requested by Member States in [Resolution EA.5/3](#), UNEP initiated the preparation of the seventh edition of the Global Environment Outlook (GEO-7) assessment and its accompanying Summary for Policymakers, to be launched at UNEA-7. In line with this mandate, UNEP set out to seek nominations of a broad range of expertise, ranging from natural sciences to policy, economics, and social sciences, as well as expertise in outlooks and scenarios, for this ambitious endeavor.

UNEP reached out to a broad range of networks to ensure a gender, geographic and disciplinary balanced selection and received over 700 nominations from interested Experts, Member States and Stakeholders.

The selected authors and fellows will be invited to the First Global Author's Meeting which will take place from 13th to 17th March 2023 at the United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok, Thailand. The objective of the authors' meeting is to expand the annotated outline and agree on the drafting process for different chapters. Following the Bangkok meeting, the Secretariat will conduct a gap filling exercise on what additional expertise is required to complete the chapters. This gap filling exercise will be conducted throughout the month of April 2023.

There was also a call for expressions of interest for collaborating centers to provide support to the [GEO-7](#). Over 40 interested institutions and organizations expressed an interest.

The Environment Assembly also requested the Executive Director, with guidance from the Intergovernmental and Multi stakeholder Advisory Group (IMAG), to establish The Multidisciplinary Expert Scientific Advisory Group (MESAG). In line with this mandate, the MESAG nomination process opened on 15th November 2022 and closed on 15 December 2022. The Secretariat, with support from the IMAG, worked on the group's constitution, and the MESAG was established in January 2023. A total of 179 nominations were



IMAG Members

received from Member States, Stakeholders, and Expert Groups. The MESAG members were carefully selected considering gender, geographic and disciplinary balance. The first face to face meeting of the MESAG will take place on the 14th -16th March at the United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok, Thailand where the members will meet to discuss various objectives of the work and provide advice to the GEO-7 process.

The IMAG members will have their second face to face meeting in parallel to discuss various objectives regarding the GEO-7 process and the next steps.

Membership of the IMAG

Membership of the MESAG

First to Face Meeting of the MESAG

Second Face to Face Meeting of the IMAG

The First Global Author's Meeting



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MEETINGS & WORKSHOPS

Modelling and Scenarios and Solutions Pathways Methodology Workshops and First Global Author's Meeting

The seventh edition of UNEP's Global Environment Outlook was requested at UNEA 5.2. As per that [resolution](#), UNEP started the process of producing the assessment. The GEO-7, expected to be presented to the 7th UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-7) by 2026, will provide an integrated and holistic environmental assessment of pathways to address the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution.

In line with this, the Secretariat is planning the “**Modelling and Scenarios and Solutions Pathways Methodology Workshops**” scheduled for 8th to 10th March 2023 at the United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok, Thailand. The overall objective of the two workshops is to develop a shared understanding of the objectives of the policy and outlooks chapters of GEO-7 ahead of the **First Global Author's Meeting** which will take place from 13th to 17th March at the United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok, Thailand.



Modelling and Scenarios Workshop

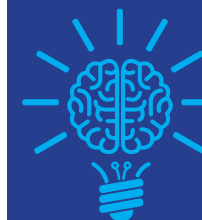
Solutions Pathways Methodology Workshop

Behavioural Science Workshop



The Scientific Assessments Branch appointed a UNEP-wide focal point to investigate opportunities to integrate behavioural science into scientific assessments and specifically using the GEO-7 as a case study, as the most innovative and solutions-focused GEO yet. Mr Edoardo Zandri, Chief, Scientific Assessments Branch reached out to colleagues across UNEP (as well as GEF-STAP and WCMC experts) with experience on the topic and had various informal discussions and sought advice from the **United Nations Innovation Network (UNIN)** that published the **UN Behavioural Science Report and Practitioner's Guide** in response to the Secretary-General's Guidance on Behavioural Science. Using this knowledge, a group on behavioural science was established to host a learning community.

Following advice from experts, the branch planned a 1.5-day **workshop to brainstorm behavioural science interventions** focusing on the case study of GEO-7. The team discussed (a) how to incorporate Behavioural Science in the work of the GEO-7 **authors**; and (b) how to tailor **content** for the wide range of GEO-7 **audiences**. All with the overarching aim of maximizing GEO-7 impact in terms of behavioural change achieved. 25 UNEP colleagues including from the **scientific assessments team, Law, Comms, Chief Scientist's Office and WCMC** attended the workshop facilitated by Busara behavioural science experts.





An Expert Dialogue was organized with Alisa Zomer, Associate Director at MIT and Ed Carr, Professor at Clark University and GEF-STAP facilitated by Steve Wendel, VP at Busara to share findings from the field relevant for GEO-7 and UNEP's work on scientific assessments.

Following the workshop, 3 main tools including a guide for authors, a GEO-7 "journey tailored for the audience", segmentation, ranking and possibly AI-interrogation tools for easily accessible and user-tailored GEO-7 content will be designed and implemented in partnership with Busara experts who will support the entire GEO-7 process.



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Review: "What's cooking? An assessment of the potential impacts of selected novel alternatives to conventional animal products"

The special issue of the UNEP *Frontiers Series* on food systems transformations, tentatively titled "**What's cooking? An assessment of the potential impacts of selected novel alternatives to conventional animal products**" (working title) underwent a first successful peer review. More than 500 comments were received and addressed by the co-chairs and the authors. The production team is now gearing up for the second review period at the end of February 2023.

This assessment explores selected food production technologies and assesses emerging scientific evidence on the potential environmental, health and nutrition, social and economic and animal welfare impacts of these technologies, as potential complements or replacements for traditional meat, fish, dairy and egg products. The UNEP team, in collaboration with the co-chairs, are also working on the development of infographics that will ensure the report is both visually compelling and easy to read.



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What's cooking

