

Outcomes of the fifth Outlooks authors meeting of the Global Environment Outlook

The Outlooks Chapter authors and assessment co-chairs met in Den Haag, The Netherlands from May 28-30, 2018 to advance the drafting of several elements of the Outlooks chapters of the sixth Global Environment Outlook. In the two and a half days of the meeting, the authors expected to address all comments received from the second order draft technical review and from the scientific editor's team as well as improve coherence and quality of all chapters. In order to improve the quality of the chapters, the authors worked on completing the scenario/outlook review chapter, advancing the methodology and 'Way Forward' chapters, linking the 'seeds' chapter to the top-down scenarios chapters, ensuring that all components needed for a third Order draft version are included, addressing any comments on structural, technical or science editing provided by the editing team and ensuring a full set of conclusions and recommendations related to the Healthy Planet / Healthy People theme of the sixth Global Environment Outlook are included.



During the meeting, authors also met in different drafting groups to advance the Outlooks chapters by discussing aspects of the work plan to meet the June 11/12 deadline. The authors, co-chairs, vice-chairs decided that it would be helpful to identify some simple key messages that are emerging from the chapters to focus the drafting process. Generally, the authors felt that the science editor comments were helpful and these were mostly accepted. In addition to these comments, the Secretariat requested that chapter 23 of the outlooks better define the purpose of the chapter and focus the chapter text on this purpose. Efforts were made to create more compelling conclusions for the scenario chapter 22 and to help link the scenario discussion to the bottom-up and way forward texts. Additional work was done to build the synergies and trade-offs matrix diagram and work was planned to support this matrix analysis with a literature review, with the collaboration of the students from Utrecht University Copernicus Institute of Sustainable Development. The group agreed to shorten the Chapter 23 review of the outlooks chapters in the GEO-6 regional assessments so that it focuses on the importance of regional priorities and can also help to complement the measures reviewed in Chapter 22.



A firm work plan and timeline was also established for each author team. All chapters will be redrafted per the science editor's comments as well as the comments received from the review grids. Chapter calls were also scheduled to further the work on the respective chapters.

Summary of the Technical Review of the sixth edition of the Global Environment Outlook

The technical review of the sixth Global Environment outlooks assessment ended on 15th of April 2018. It was the first-time technical experts nominated in the Global Environment Outlook process had a chance to review all chapters at the same time. This offered an opportunity for reviewers to review the content of the whole assessment while at the same time analyse the coherence, quality and duplication in each chapter. The science editors team also worked in parallel with the technical reviewers to assess the integrity of the science, the messaging and the fluency of the narrative. The outcome of this one-month review period was an in-depth analysis and specific reports by the science editors for each chapter with explanations and suggestion to improve the text. The technical review presented around three thousand comments spread through the twenty-five chapters which are now being addressed by the authors.

The secretariat also analysed the similarities throughout the chapters to ensure that the information in the final assessment is sound and where similar, the proportion is within UN publishing guidelines and percentages. These analyses have been shared with authors and relevant support accorded to the teams to effectively address this issue.

The final technical review will run in parallel to the intergovernmental review starting on 15th June 2018 and will be conducted for two months. During this period, the review editors of the sixth edition of the Global Environment Outlook will assess how authors addressed the comments and submit their report to the scientific advisory panel and the secretariat.

Know an Expert: Global Environment Outlook Author Profile



Prof. Jonathan Davies is a biodiversity scientist in the Departments of Botany, Forest & Conservation Sciences at the University of British Columbia. Following his PhD at Imperial College, London, he spent several years in the US as a postdoctoral fellow at the Odum School of Ecology, University of Georgia, and the National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis, University of California, Santa Barbara. He joined the faculty in the Department of Biology at McGill University in 2010. In 2018, he moved to his present position at the University of British Columbia, where he is a member of the Biodiversity Research Centre, a research excellence cluster with a goal to understand and conserve the diversity of life on earth, from genes to ecosystems, through research, education, and

outreach. His lab addresses questions related to the ecological and evolutionary processes shaping the present-day distribution of biodiversity, the challenges posed to its conservation by anthropogenic environmental change, and the consequences of biodiversity loss on ecosystems and the services they provide for us. His research touches upon key themes in biodiversity science related to invasion biology, climate change, emerging infectious diseases and species extinction. His work has also helped extend conservation thinking beyond the traditional focus on species, considering dimensions of diversity that capture species properties rather than just numbers. As a Coordinating Lead Author in the sixth edition of the Global Environment Outlook, he has a unique opportunity to communicate directly to policy makers the rapid advances we have made in biodiversity science over the past few years and help convey the potentially catastrophic consequences of unchecked biodiversity loss.

New Team Member of the Global Environment Outlook

By Sharif Shawky



My name is Sharif Shawky and I am an intern at UN Environment with the Global Environment Outlook (GEO) team. I studied Ecosystem Science and Sustainability with a focus on global environmental sustainability and environmental policy at Colorado State University, USA. I first became interested with UN Environment through my professor, Gillian Bowser. She sparked my interest in global environmental sustainability and when I happened to visit Nairobi, I stopped by UN Environment and fell in love with their program.

My day-to-day role involves contributing to the report, organize meetings and provide outreach through networking and social media. I am looking forward to help develop the sixth edition of the Global Environment Outlook report and its derivative products.

