



Outcomes Document of the fifth Policy Effectiveness authors meeting of the Global Environment Outlook- *Freie Universitaet, Berlin, June 13-15, 2018*

A selected group of the Policy Effectiveness authors met at the Freie Universitaet, Berlin to advance the drafting of several elements of the Policy Effectiveness chapters of the sixth Global Environment Outlook, including:

Move the Policy Effectiveness chapters towards third order draft quality by:

- Addressing all the comments from the Science Editors on the policy chapters, including shortening text and restructuring case studies.
- Addressing all comments received from the second order draft technical review period and from the scientific editor's team;
- Improving the coherence within single chapters, across chapters in part B and across the whole report;
- Ensuring adequate coverage of each cross-cutting issue by using the improved framework developed in Singapore by the Coordinating Lead Authors as a reference;
- Ensuring that all components needed for a third order draft version are included in the chapters (references and citations, graphs and charts and so on)
- Addressing any comments on structural, technical or science editing provided by the editing team.

On these issues the authors, decided:

- It is helpful to identify some simple key messages that are emerging from the chapters to focus the drafting process. From the current draft, some messages appear to be:
 - The success/failure of each policy is context sensitive. Planning strategically, instead of delivering policies based on urgency, helps in achieving better outcomes;
 - There is no single accepted methodology to assess policy effectiveness. Efforts are ongoing to improve how effectiveness is assessed and several criteria may be taken into consideration to try to assess policy effectiveness at different governance levels;
 - An ex-ante and ex-post evaluation of policies helps to achieve better policy outcomes in the future;

- Policies focusing on systems have better transformative potential than policies addressing single environmental issues;
 - Opportunities for policy and governance innovation already exist and need to be considered if we are to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.
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- Generally, the authors felt the science editor comments were helpful and these were mostly accepted. In addition to these comments, the Secretariat requested that chapter 24 (Outlooks: The Way Forward) better define the purpose of the chapter and focus the chapter text on the transformative potential of some policies driven by a systems approach. The Coordinating Lead Authors worked to achieve this restructuring and refocusing during the meeting.
 - A restructuring of the different thematic chapters based on the template provided by the Secretariat was also implemented and a clear drafting work plan was established. The Coordinating Lead Author team worked with the authors to better restructure their chapters.
 - It was decided that where enough evidence exists, confidence levels should be provided to support the statements in the executive summary of each chapter.
 - The analysis of policy instruments needed to be strengthened to produce more informative messages for policy makers. Less emphasis should be put on the case studies in the text. The case studies need to act only as contextualized examples.
 - Efforts were made to cut the length of most of the chapters. The new table for the 13 criteria helped a lot in this sense.
 - Some major innovative policy approaches needed to be highlighted from the thematic authors to respond to the criteria provided by the Coordinating Lead Authors and to support the development of chapter 24.
 - The coherence of the narrative across chapters was also reviewed and specific drafting and cross-referencing tasks were assigned to different authors. In addition, coherence with Parts A and C was discussed and cross-referencing was planned to help increase the coherence of the three Parts.
 - Fellows worked on the citations and references to support the author teams.
 - Graphics from the chapters will be professionally produced starting from Aug. 30.

The authors mostly worked in thematic groups using google docs and connecting remotely with the rest of the teams.

During the 3 days meeting the Coordinating Lead Authors also regularly exchanged with the Outlooks team to strengthen the joint chapter (chapter 24), which has been improved compared to the previous version.

With some minor delays, authors were able to submit their updated versions of the chapters to the Secretariat by the 17th of June for the intergovernmental review.

Interesting opening remarks were provided by Mr. Stephan Contius, representing the German Government, who reiterated the importance of communicating environmental messages in the right way in order to capturing more attention from decision makers and to align with other ongoing global assessments in order to improve effectiveness and avoid overlaps.

Annex 1: Participants List

	TITLE	FIRST NAME	FAMILY NAME	ADDRESS	EMAIL	COUNTRY
1	Dr.	Diana	Mangalagiu	University of Oxford 24 rue Dauphine 75006, Paris, France Tel: +33 6 1110 5738	diana.mangalagiu@ouce.ox.ac.uk	France
2	Dr.	Peter N.	King	IGES 54 Kenny Street Balwyn North Melbourne Australia	king@iges.or.jp	Australia
3	Dr.	Klaus	Jacob	Freie Universität Berlin Environmental Policy Research Centre, Inhnestr. 22 14195, Berlin, Germany	jacob@zedat.fu-berlin.de	Germany
4	Dr.	Pedro	Fidelman	Pedro Fidelman Centre for Policy Futures Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences Level 4, Building 20, Staff House Road The University of Queensland St Lucia QLD 4072 Australia	p.fidelman@uq.edu.au	Australia
5	Prof.	Katharina	Helming	Institute of Land Use Systems Leibniz Centre for Agricultural Landscape Research (ZALF) Eberswalder Straße 84 15374 Müncheberg	khelming@zalf.de	Germany
6	Dr.	Nibedita	Mukherjee	University of Cambridge, University of Exeter Penryn Campus & Visiting researcher, Department of Zoology CB23EJ, United Kingdom	nibedita.41282@gmail.com	UK
7	Prof.	Rakhyun	E. Kim	Utrecht University Copernicus Institute of Sustainable Development The Netherlands Tel: +31631288517	r.kim@uu.nl	Netherlands
8	Prof.	Pandi	Zdruli	CIHEAM Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari Via Ceglie 9 Valenzano, Bari Italy Tel: +390804606253 Fax: +390804606211	pandi@iamb.it	Italy
9	Prof.	Ania	Grobicki	Sustainability Management School of Switzerland (SUMAS) Gland Switzerland Tel: +41 79 617 2310	ania.grobicki@icloud.com	United Kingdom
UN Staff						
10	Dr.	Pierre	Boileau	Pierre Boileau Head, Global Environment Outlook UN Environment Tel: +254 20 762 3520	Pierre.boileau@un.org	Kenya
11	Dr.	Simone	Targetti-Ferri	Global Assessments Unit Science Division United Nations Environment NOF 3 GFSouth	simone.targettifferri@un.org	Kenya

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				P.O.Box 30552 - 00100, Nairobi, Kenya		
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