

The Sixth Global Environment Outlook: The Road to Singapore

As the Global Environment Outlook process advances, we are quickly approaching our fourth and final authors meeting in Singapore (19-23 February 2017). This meeting will be crucial for ensuring high-quality second-order drafts of all the chapters are prepared for the 16 April to 18 May 2018, expert review period. This review will be followed by a full intergovernmental and expert review period from 15 June to 17 August 2018. Once authors have addressed all of these comments, this is expected to result in a final Global Environment Outlook text in September or October of 2018. Following professional layout, this draft will then be shared with UN Environment Assembly Member States in December 2018 as an embargoed copy, in preparation for the official launch at the fourth UN Environment Assembly, (11-15 May 2019).

The Singapore meeting, therefore, is a critical step in the drafting process and authors will need to focus primarily on advancing their drafts and ensuring coherence across the whole document. However, the meeting will also focus on the theme of sustainable cities, with a high-level panel of invited experts discussing this topic on Monday, 19 February, 2018. A fourth visioning workshop will complement this high-level panel discussion for the Outlooks component of the report, also focused on sustainable cities. Our gracious local hosts will bring us on an exclusive guided tour of Singapore's physical transformation over the past 50 years at the Singapore City Gallery on Wednesday, 21 February 2018. We will wrap up the day with a relaxing evening reception at the iconic Green Roof at Marina Barrage that commands a panoramic view of Singapore's city skyline and the open sea. These events are expected to energize and encourage the author teams towards the objective of producing complete, high-quality drafts of their chapters.

Once again, we are inviting a large cohort of authors to ensure that all the areas of expertise are covered and, through lively discussions, solutions to the various drafting challenges will be found. Also, we are again encouraging authors to consider text that addresses the economic and equity dimensions of the Sustainable Development Goals, to complement their in-depth analysis of the environmental aspect. At the same time, we are expecting that authors will begin extracting key messages from their chapters that can be considered by separate groups of authors working on the Technical Summary and the Summary for Policy Makers. A decision to produce a technical summary of the full report, as other assessments do, was taken in Guangzhou, China at the [third authors meeting](#).



The Green Roof at Marina Barrage

Photo Credit: Singapore's National Water Agency

The Summary for Policy Makers will be the key focus following the completion of the second-order drafts and the start of the review periods. The High-level Intergovernmental and Stakeholder Advisory Group is taking leadership in the development of this crucial document and has approved a procedure for its preparation. This procedure requests that a first-order draft of the Summary for Policy Makers be produced by the coordinating lead authors and the co-chairs of the Global Environment Outlook process. This summary will then be followed by a review by the [three main advisory bodies](#) of the Global Environment Outlook process and a drafting meeting in September, 2018. Finally, the Summary for Policy Makers will be reviewed and revised line-by-line by UN Environment Assembly Member States in either late November 2018 or late January 2019. The Summary for Policy Makers and the full Global Environment Outlook report will then be presented to the fourth UN Environment Assembly for consideration of endorsement in March 2019; thereby bringing to a close the official preparation of this critical assessment report.

However, the UN Environment Secretariat has also begun to identify drafting groups to prepare three derivative products of the Global Environment Outlook, which we expect to be released in stages throughout 2019. These products: GEO for Youth, GEO for Business and GEO for Cities, have been produced in the past and have informed vital audiences of the findings within the Global Environment Outlook which are relevant to them. The Secretariat expects that these will be products that will present the relevant information in a format and with content that will be adapted to that audience. These products are also expected to expand the impact of the Global Environment Outlook and allow different groups to better understand how to apply the findings of the report in their context.



Gardens by the Bay is a park or botanical garden in Singapore

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Equity dimensions inform Global Environment Outlook-6

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The drivers and pressures of environmental degradation are not evenly distributed across society. Nor are the benefits and risks of exposure to, and impacts of, environmental change equitably shared by present and future generations.

The Sustainable Development Goals hold out the promise to ensure that no one will be left behind as we strive to implement the 2030 Agenda. The inability to account for equity issues lead to policy failure on environmental issues which endanger the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Globally, approximately 702 million people live in extreme poverty on less than US\$1.90 per day.¹ Most poor people today live in middle-income countries, but in 10 years poverty will become more concentrated in the more fragile least developed countries facing conflict and climate stress. In Sub-Saharan Africa, 41% of the population – 389 million people – lived in extreme poverty in 2013,² leaving them vulnerable to economic downturns and other external shocks.

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¹ Development Economics, World Bank Group, Ending Extreme Poverty and Sharing Prosperity: Progress and Policies, October 2015.

² In 2011 Purchasing Price Parity (PPP) prices. OurWorld in Data, University of Oxford, 2017.



