

October - December
2024

GEO-7 Intergovernmental and Expert
Peer Review is Underway

Third Indigenous Knowledge and Local
Knowledge Dialogue

Collaborating Centres Contribute to the
Development of the Global Environment
Outlook

Happy New Year, GEO Friends!

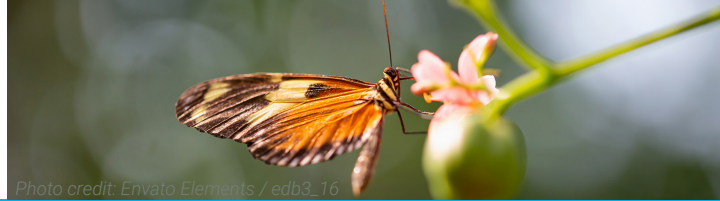


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GEO-7 Intergovernmental and Expert Peer Review is Underway

The Second Order Draft (SOD) of the main report and the First Order Draft (FOD) of the Summary for Policymakers (SPM) were submitted for intergovernmental and expert peer review on 1 November 2024, and the drafts will be available for comments till the 22 January 2025.

The Secretariat has followed the recommendations from the Intergovernmental and Multistakeholder Advisory Group (IMAG) and the Multi-disciplinary Expert Scientific Advisory Group (MESAG) to make significant efforts in recruiting more peer reviewers, prioritizing the diversity of expertise in the selection process, while also striving to achieve gender and geographic balance. This should help ensure sufficient external review of the GEO-7 main report and its SPM.

The Secretariat extended the reviewer nomination deadline twice, for an additional 2 weeks to ensure Member States and members of specialized agencies could share their reviewers' nomination list with the GEO Secretariat, ensuring their participation in the GEO-7 review process and the final deadline was on 25 October. Nevertheless, the [reviewer application portal](#) remains open for nominations from Member States and members of specialized agencies.

As of 10 December 2024, 2039 reviewers were registered on the GEO READ platform where the GEO-7 draft is being reviewed. So far, 44 Member States and members of specialized agencies have submitted nominations for intergovernmental reviewers.

Reviewers are asked to consult and follow the provided review guidance on how to submit comments on the READ platform. To ensure that the high-quality of comments are submitted, the Secretariat organized 6 orientation webinars.



Third Indigenous Knowledge and Local Knowledge Dialogue



Participants of the 2nd IK&LK Dialogue in Mexico

The third in-person Indigenous Knowledge and Local Knowledge dialogue (IK & LK) for GEO-7 will take place in Chiang Mai, Thailand from 13 to 15 January 2025 at the Amora Thapae Hotel, Chiang Mai, with a field trip to Huay E-Khang Village on 12 January. The meeting is co-hosted by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP). This dialogue will focus on the review of the Second Order Draft (SOD) of GEO-7, the IK & LK Chapeaux and the First Order Draft (FOD) of the Summary for Policy Makers (SPM), specifically to provide feedback on the IK & LK content.

36 participants have been invited to the dialogue including 15 International participants from different Countries in the Asia Pacific Region, 6 Local Indigenous Participants from Thailand, 6 Indigenous Peoples from the core group who have been part of the first and second dialogue, 4 members of the IK & LK task force, 4 members of the facilitation team who have been leading the dialogues and 2 members of the scientific advisory group MESAG who have been following the dialogue.



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Collaborating Centres Contribute to the Development of the Global Environment Outlook

GEO's global network of [collaborating centres](#) is now established and delivering valuable in-kind support to the GEO Secretariat in the development of GEO-7.

The network was set up in 2022 as a result of [UNEA Resolution 5/3](#) at the request of Member States, to contribute expertise, knowledge and capacity to the development of the full GEO report. It consists of 16 selected specialist partner organizations including universities, government agencies, and international not-for-profit bodies such as think tanks. The centres will also play an important role once GEO-7 is published in December 2025 in outreach and communications of the conclusions of GEO and in delivering the GEO supporting services plan; this will focus on stimulating knowledge generation, capacity building and policy-making to enhance its reach and impact at national level.

Each centre has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with UNEP and a brief work plan defining their skills and contributions is in place. Some of the collaborating centres are long-time partners of UNEP who have worked on GEO for many years, but UNEP has also welcomed new institutional partners to the network so that they can become more familiar with UNEP and its role in global assessments.

The role of the collaborating centres to date has been indispensable to the multi-faceted dimensions of GEO. For example, [PBL Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency](#) has been coordinating the work by many contributors on the complex and iterative task of modeling the behaviour-focused and technology-focused transformation scenarios as part of the Outlook section of GEO. In contrast, [the Environmental Pulse Institute](#) is supporting the development of the GEO glossary, a key source of reference to ensure a common understanding of new, emerging and familiar terms widely used by authors across GEO.



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Prior to the in-person dialogue, two virtual dialogues were scheduled for 4 November and 4 December 2024. The objective of the first virtual meeting held on 4 November was to help participants understand the structure of GEO-7 and how to contribute to the GEO-7 review process. There were two identical sessions scheduled to cater for participants from the different regions and time zones. The objective of the second virtual meeting was to present logistics of the 3 Dialogue, and possibly give time for the participants to have a caucus session before the in-person dialogue. The session also had two identical sessions of 3 hours each, planned to accommodate participants from different regions and time zones.





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Other examples include the GEO-READ peer review platform developed and maintained by [CEDARE](#) which is critical to organizing the many thousands of comments received during peer review and is a key tool for review editors to ensure GEO's credibility and relevance can be demonstrated and many collaborating centres have also provided nominations for reviewers for the first and second order drafts of GEO drawn from their own extensive regional and national networks. Many countries are keen to use the GEO approach of integrated environmental assessment at a national level and as a pilot, [GRID-Arendal](#) has been working with the Secretariat to facilitate the development of a National State of the Environment Report in Malawi.

Looking ahead, other collaborating centres are likely to have a role in helping to roll out these pilot schemes to many other countries as the supporting services plan gathers momentum. For example, [IGES](#) has developed a proposal for national science policy workshops and materials to ensure that policy-makers understand GEO's scientific conclusions and policy implications for them which could be delivered on demand by collaborating centres across the world; the successful science-to-policy course piloted at Peking University in 2024 (described in a previous edition of [GEO MATTERS](#)) could also be delivered with the support of GEO collaborating centres in the higher education sector.

Happy New Year, GEO Friends!

Dear Friends of GEO

As the year draws to a close, we wanted to take a moment to extend our warmest wishes to each and every one of you. Your support and friendship have been invaluable to us throughout the year, and we are truly grateful for your continued involvement with GEO-7.

Thank you for being a part of our community. We look forward to another year of collaboration, growth, and shared achievements.

Warm regards,
GEO Team, UNEP

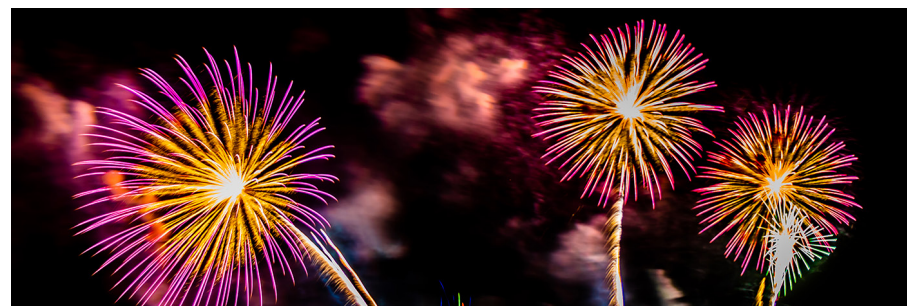


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