

**GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT OUTLOOK SIXTH EDITION (GEO-6) ASSESSMENT
REVIEWER'S GUIDELINES
July, 2017**

General

The Global Environment Outlook (GEO) is UN Environment's flagship assessment of the state of the global environment, providing environmental trends for air, climate, water, land and biota. The Global Environment Outlook complements other assessments from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and other UN bodies by demonstrating the interactions and feedback loops among social, economic and environmental drivers, assessing how different policy options may move us to a more sustainable world in the near to longer term.

UN Environment launched the preparation of the sixth edition of the Global Environment Outlook, responding to UNEA Resolution 1/4, by holding a first drafting meeting for the global assessment in Frascati, Italy from February 20-24, 2017. The meeting focused on providing participants with a sound understanding of the assessment process and also allowed for extensive interaction with the Secretariat and advisory bodies of the Global Environment Outlook process. Author teams also worked toward producing the zero-order draft of their chapters while ensuring coherence with other chapters in the report.

In order to ensure the scientific integrity of the Global Environment Outlook, the assessment's Scientific Advisory Panel recommended that a review of both the first order draft and the second order draft be conducted. First order drafts review of the first 9 chapters of the Global Environment Outlook was conducted in May and comments were addressed during the second authors meeting in Bangkok, Thailand. The second order drafts are now ready for review.

This review period will focus on the following nine chapters of the assessment:

- **Introduction;** General knowledge about environmental assessment and the global context around the environmental challenges that we face.
- **Drivers;** Understanding of the drivers of environmental change. Subject areas like economic growth and development, population and demographics, technology diffusion and climate change.
- **State of our data and knowledge;** the state of environmental data and information. What we know and what we do not know about the state of the environment.
- **Air;** Knowledge of the state of the environment for Air. For example, air pollution, greenhouse gas emissions, ozone depletion, persistent organic pollutants, heavy metals and toxins.
- **Fresh water;** Knowledge of the state of the environment for Fresh water. For example, water quantity, quality, infrastructure and ecosystems.
- **Oceans;** Knowledge of the state of the environment for Oceans. For example, fish production, ocean acidification, and waste in the ocean.
- **Land;** Knowledge of the state of the environment for Land. For example, land degradation, agricultural production, land use patterns, desertification.
- **Biota;** Knowledge of the state of the environment for Biodiversity. For example, species richness, alien invasive species, genetic diversity.

- **Linkages among cross-cutting issues;** Knowledge about areas of the economy and society that affect and are affected by the environment. For example, food production, energy production and consumption, resource use, gender, human health, economic development, equity, urbanization, environmental disasters, chemicals, waste, culture, education and society and finally polar regions.

Reviewing the sixth edition of the Global Environment Outlook global assessment (GEO-6)

In reviewing the second-order draft of the sixth edition of the Global Environment Outlook global assessment (GEO-6), you are expected to keep in mind the theme of the assessment, namely '**Healthy planet, healthy people**'. Note that the theme of Healthy Planet, Healthy People should be integrated into all chapters. The equity and economic dimensions should also be integrated as a common thread across chapters. Authors have also been instructed to present 'what's new' since the fifth Global Environment Outlook and present the current policy response and governance surrounding each environmental theme in the global assessment. Authors have also been requested to present a concise assessment of the state of the environment, with a limit of 10,000 words or less for each chapter. This was requested because 6 regional assessments have already been published, where much of the more detailed information is provided (<http://www.unep.org/geo/assessments/regional>). The Policy Effectiveness and the Innovative Outlooks Chapters will be forthcoming during the 2018 review period.

In conducting your review, we are requesting you to focus your comments on one main chapter, but you may also provide written comments on other chapters if there is a reasonable link to your area of expertise. In doing so please take note of the following:

- Submit your review comments in English in the reviewers grid provided, while identifying the page, section and line number of the text that the comment refers to.
- In case of general or overview comments on the entire report or chapter please put your comments in the General Comments tab of the review grid, and identify it as applying to all chapters in the Chapter's column.
- Specific comments on the material in the chapter should be reported in the Specific Comments tab of the review grid.
- Comments that refer to a table or figure should identify the page number and the table or figure number. In the case of tables, please also identify the row and column to which the comment refers.
- Please refrain from commenting on grammar, spelling, or punctuation, unless it affects the meaning or clarity of the presentation. Professional editing will be done in the final draft.

You are encouraged to:

- Indicate any information which you consider might be particularly appropriate for graphical presentation rather than as text. Indicate any information which you consider might be better placed in a box rather than in the main text (and vice versa).
- Indicate any information which you consider might be moved to a technical Annex or presented in a different format.

- Indicate any information which you consider might be moved to another Chapter or which might be duplicated in another chapter or section of the document.
- Point out other priority, emerging and cross-cutting issues or evidence which have not been highlighted but would be considered a serious omission if these were left out of the final GEO-6 assessment, and include details of appropriate sources/references.
- Point out any errors, inconsistencies and/or contradictions of facts/data within and across different sections/chapters.
- Point out non-essential material that could be deleted, with explanations, if appropriate, about why a change needs to be made.
- Indicate where further cross-referencing between sections is needed.
- Suggest specific remedies for identified shortcomings of the draft report.
- When commenting please consider the major messages of the chapter, and the report as a whole.
- Indicate the major policy strengths and weaknesses clearly evident from the analysis, if these are not already included.
- Provide additional source documents (with full reference details) information and data, including boxes and other illustrations to enrich the chapters or to fill data gaps or update existing data, if necessary.
- Provide suggestions for alternative boxes and illustrations.

Please do not cite or quote the draft report other than in your review. Please do not represent any material in the draft report as reflecting the preliminary GEO-6 assessment findings.

GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT OUTLOOK SIXTH EDITION (GEO-6) ASSESSMENT REVIEWER'S GUIDELINES – Template for Comments

Contact Information

Name:

Institute:

E-mail address:

General Comments

Please provide any general comments concerning a chapter, multiple chapters, or the entire guidelines draft in this section of the review grid. Please clearly indicate the Chapter name to which your general comments refer.

Specific Comments

Please provide specific comments in this section using this table of the review grid. Comments that refer to a table or figure should identify the page number and the table or figure number. In the case of tables, please also identify the row and column to which the comment refers. Note that you may enter general comments using this table if you wish, by specifying all chapters (general comments for the entire draft).