

Internal Working Document for the development of
the GEO-7 Intergovernmental and Multi- stakeholder
Advisory Group (IMAG) Validation Opinion Regarding
the Implementation of its GEO-7 Mandate

Introduction

The Global Environment Outlook (GEO) is the flagship intergovernmental, expert-led integrated environmental assessment from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) which reviews the current state of the global environment, the effectiveness of our policy response and the prospects for the future. It presents the environmental trends for air, climate, water, land and biodiversity, drawing on, but not duplicating, all the major global assessments from international science panels and UN bodies. The assessment also looks at the interactions and feedback loops between social, economic, and environmental drivers to assess different policy responses towards achieving more environmentally sustainable pathways.

In accordance with the resolution entitled the “Future of the Global Environment Outlook” adopted by Member States at the resumed fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-5), the GEO-7 process should be supported by an Intergovernmental and Multi-stakeholder Advisory Group (IMAG). The IMAG will provide advice to UNEP’s Executive Director on the policy relevance of GEO-7 and will help move the process forward.

In this validation opinion report the IMAG assesses whether it has fulfilled its mandate, namely, *to ensure the policy-relevance of the GEO-7 process, to review the major outcomes of the GEO-7 process and whether it has achieved its outcomes and provide guidance to UNEP’s Executive Director and the UNEP Secretariat on ways to improve the process for the preparation of future GEO reports.*

During the Third In-Person Meeting of the IMAG, 3-5 September 2024 in Nairobi, IMAG agreed to produce its own validation opinion, separate from the one being developed by the Multidisciplinary Expert Scientific Advisory Group (MESAG), starting from a policy perspective on the GEO process using the approach that was used for the mid-term review. This approach was welcomed by the UNEP Executive Director. This validation opinion will focus on adherence to the GEO-7 process rather than the content of the report. It will be released following the assessment of the GEO-7 process using the GEO principles. This document highlights the advice provided and main decisions taken by the IMAG in combination with the results and challenges found during the GEO process to provide a validation opinion on the policy relevance of GEO-7.

Terms of Reference

The IMAG currently consists of 35 members nominated by Member States (25) and Stakeholders (10) with a gender and geographically balanced composition across all United Nations Regions (Annex 1). As outlined in the adopted GEO procedures document, the task of the IMAG is to provide policy guidance for the functions undertaken by UNEP’s Executive Director in the implementation of the UNEA-5 resolution on the future of the Global Environment Outlook (EA.5/3) as well as in the preparation of the seventh edition of the Global Environment Outlook.

IMAG will provide policy guidance for the functions undertaken by the Executive Director, directed by UNEA, including:

- Providing advice to experts and the Secretariat in the drafting of the scope of GEO assessments;
- Provide advice in conducting nomination and selection processes for external experts who will contribute to the Global Environment Outlook process, including members of advisory groups, authors, fellows, peer reviewers and review editors, ensuring geographic balance across all UN regions, as well as disciplinary and gender balance;
- Providing advice on the identification of intergovernmentally defined needs and terms for the provision of support for capacity-building, knowledge generation and support for policymaking, in line with the mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme, and the provision of

support services for addressing those needs, in partnership with relevant institutions as appropriate;

- Providing advice on the development of a flexible, multi-year workplan and timebound budget, setting out a programme of activities, such as assessments and supporting services, according to the needs identified by the Environment Assembly in the present resolution; and
- Interacting with assessment authors and the Multi-disciplinary Expert Scientific Advisory Group (MESAG) in ensuring reliable and relevant advice is provided to the Executive Director throughout the GEO process.

The IMAG validation opinion's structure is based on the GEO operational principles. However, IMAG's functions within those principles are indicated underneath each principle.

IMAG Activities from May 2022 to November 2025 based on the GEO Operating Principles

(a) Mandate consistency and comparability across editions of GEO;

GEO supports UNEP's mandate of 'keeping the state of the global environment under review' and the IMAG has fulfilled its role in this regard through the approval of the GEO-7 scoping document which outlines that GEO-7 will,

"Update the assessment of the current state and trends of the environment, focusing on four of the established GEO environmental themes (Air, Oceans and coasts, Land and soil and Freshwater)".

These environmental themes have been assessed in past GEO's thus ensuring comparability on these themes across all six previous GEO editions and current GEO-7 assessment.

The GEO-7 scoping document also outlines that the human – environment interactions in GEO-7 will be analyzed by making use of the Drivers-Pressures-State-Impacts-Responses (DPSIR) framework, which is the analytical framework used in previous GEOs, thus also ensuring comparability across editions of GEO.

The GEO-7 report also demonstrates the growth and consistency of the GEO reports by moving from reports that only present the current state of the environment to those that offer solutions to the current environmental challenges. This is seen in the GEO-6 which was published in 2019, and which went a step further to look at the effectiveness of policy responses and now with GEO-7 that is solutions oriented.

(b) The relevance (or salience) of GEO in terms of responding flexibly to the needs of Member States and stakeholders, for example improving the effectiveness of environmental policy;

Given the request from Member States and stakeholders for a solutions-focused report, IMAG has fulfilled its mandate on this principle by providing advice to experts and the Secretariat to build on the findings of GEO-6 and other major global assessments to explore the solutions pathways that are available.

Through interactions with the GEO-7 assessment co-chairs, joint meetings of the IMAG-MESAG, Coordination Group Meetings and the solutions pathways authors, IMAG has provided advice that policy documents and policy impact assessments (ex-ante and ex-post) should be included as additional evidence base and literature in the GEO-7 report and authors have followed this guidance. IMAG, based on a series of discussions, provided guidance on the policy questions pertinent to GEO-7. Overall, the policy questions for GEO-7 build upon the findings of GEO-6, IPCC, IPBES and IRP reports, and address

the drivers and pressures causing environmental degradation, the status and trends of climate change, biodiversity loss, land degradation and desertification and pollution and waste, and their impact on economic and finance, energy, food, and materials/waste systems, as well as health and security. They also address pathways for transformation and plausible futures (i.e., outlooks).

As advocated by IMAG in its fifth virtual call, authors should outline in the GEO-7 the level of confidence in terms of how certain policy responses will deliver or might deliver the desired outcome. IMAG further advised that the language used in GEO-7 should not be policy prescriptive as not all parties are party to or in agreement with all internationally agreed environmental goals. IMAG recognized that the policy priorities of Member States at the time of producing the GEO are represented in the policy questions and finalized the process of the policy questions during the third face to face meeting of the IMAG in September 2024, where IMAG requested the authors to flag the policy questions their chapters are responding to.

(c) The legitimacy of GEO, as an assessment accepted by Member States and stakeholders as authoritative, produced through unbiased, representative and defensible procedures,

Resolution EA.5/3 requests the Executive director:

“with guidance from the intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder advisory group, to convene an intergovernmental, multi-stakeholder and expert meeting to establish a set of procedures that reflects the objectives and core function of the Global Environment Outlook process outlined above”

IMAG’s contribution to the legitimacy of GEO has been in the adoption of defensible GEO procedures that guide the GEO-7 process. Member States and stakeholders were invited to the September 2022 intergovernmental, multi-stakeholder and expert meeting to deliberate on the procedures, which were based on best practice from other global assessments such as IPBES, e.g. on the inclusion of IK&LK. These procedures outlined in the document include procedures for preparation of comprehensive assessments, peer reviews, interactions with authors, addressing errors, conflict of interest, selection of experts, and assessment of confidence.

(d) The credibility of GEO as a robust and rigorous assessment based on scientifically accepted methods and analysis, from multiple official sources; to ensure team compositions that are balanced with respect to geography, gender and discipline;

Credibility of GEO as a robust and rigorous assessment: The GEO procedures outline that the assessment report should consist of a scientifically referenced full report with several chapters which present the state of knowledge accompanied by confidence level statements and a Summary for Policy-Makers (SPM). The GEO-7 report has 21 chapters that were approved in the Scoping Document which contain confidence statements and is accompanied by a SPM. During the development of GEO-7, proposals for some minor restructurings were proposed to IMAG, discussed and approved e.g. the inclusion of Indigenous Knowledge and Local Knowledge (IK&LK) chapeaux.

The GEO-7 report also makes use of the DPSIR framework for its analysis, which is a scientifically accepted integrated framework. Multiple sources such as peer reviewed scientific literature, Indigenous Knowledge and Local Knowledge, Citizen Science and other grey literature have also been incorporated into the development of the GEO-7 report. IMAG provided guidance that policy documents and policy impact assessments (ex-ante and ex post) are also included in GEO-7.

Selection of members for the MESAG: By providing advice to the Secretariat in the selection of the MESAG, the advisory body that ensures scientific credibility of the GEO process, the IMAG was able to ensure the credibility of GEO as a robust process as the MESAG is responsible for developing recommendations to promote approaches to help ensure the scientific credibility of the GEO process.

IMAG's advice on MESAG's membership ensured that all key fields of expertise needed for the GEO-7 were covered by developing a proposal to include 13 nominees from Member States, 6 nominees from the UNEP accredited major groups and stakeholders and 11 nominees from the Experts group. IMAG approved the list as it agreed that their advice in the formulation of the MESAG was followed. MESAG membership achieved the gender and geographical balance as required by the GEO resolution with 48% male and 52% female membership and a regional distribution of 28 countries.

Table 1. MESAG members

UN regional distribution				
UN Region	Male	Female	Total	
Africa Group	3	3	6	21%
Western Europe	4	3	7	24%
Eastern Europe	2	2	4	14%
Asia Pacific	3	3	6	21%
Latin America and the Caribbean	2	4	6	21%
	15	14	29	
%	48%	52%		

Nomination and selection processes for GEO experts: IMAG's guidance in the selection and gap filling exercise for authors, review editors, peer reviewers and fellows to draft the GEO-7 was implemented in a timely and effective manner and resulted in a balanced pool of experts that helps to ensure GEO is a robust and rigorous assessment. The balanced pool of experts aimed to identify the best available expertise representing a range of environmental, social and economic skills and contains behavioural, social and cultural science expertise as well as Indigenous Knowledge and Local Knowledge expertise, as recommended by IMAG.

In terms of gender and geographical balance in the cohort of authors, IMAG noted that the GEO should first strive to achieve the best possible balance at the overall GEO level, and then at the chapter and sub chapter level where feasible. While expertise balance in the author teams is a predominant concern, gender and geographic balance is also of utmost importance to ensure an inclusive and credible process. The tables below show the gender and geographic balance in the author teams including the IK&LK taskforce, SPM team, fellows, review editors, and peer reviewers.

The GEO resolution requires a balance of experts among the five UN regions (Africa, Western Europe and Other Regions, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean and Eastern Europe). To achieve a better geographical balance, IMAG reached out to various networks in the Eastern Europe region to nominate experts to the GEO-7 process as the region has been underrepresented historically in not only GEO assessments but IPBES and IPCC assessments as well. Progress was achieved as there were significant improvements in the underrepresented regions e.g. during the expert reviews during the GEO-7 process. IMAG recommended new strategies to ensure that various academic networks are informed about the process and that more GEO partners in the region would need to be found. It would also be worth for the Secretariat to find out whether this is the most appropriate method to assess the geographic balance based on the number of experts involved from across the five UN regions or consider using the following groupings: developed economies, developing economies and economies in transition.

IMAG expressed concern that the time available for providing guidance on the first selection of authors was limited and therefore requested the Secretariat to develop a procedure to replace CLA's or LAs, when necessary, in a transparent manner. While it was noted that the deliberations of the IMAG were moving in parallel with other processes such as the allocation of authors to various chapters, IMAG recognized and agreed to the efforts made by the Secretariat and other participants to accommodate changes to timelines and work plans in response to the evolving guidance provided by the IMAG.

Table 2. GEO-7 Authors

UN regional distribution				
UN Region	Male	Female	Total	%
Africa Group (AG)	18	18	36	16%
Asia Pacific Group (APG)	30	25	55	24%
Eastern Europe Group (EEG)	14	7	21	9%
Latin America and the Caribbean Group (LACG)	15	25	40	17%
Western Europe and Others Group (WEOG)	51	28	79	34%
Total	128	103	231	
%	55%	45%		

Table 3. GEO-7 Fellows

UN regional distribution				
UN Region	Male	Female	Total	%
Africa Group (AG)	5	5	10	23%
Asia Pacific Group (APG)	6	2	8	18%
Eastern Europe Group (EEG)	2	3	5	11%
Latin America and the Caribbean Group (LACG)	2	5	7	16%
Western Europe and Others Group (WEOG)	2	12	14	32%
Total	17	27	44	
%	39%	61%		

Table 4. GEO-7 Review Editors

UN regional distribution				
UN Region	Male	Female	Total	%
Africa Group (AG)	5	6	11	20%
Asia Pacific Group (APG)	6	8	14	26%
Eastern Europe Group (EEG)	2	4	6	11%
Latin America and the Caribbean Group (LACG)	5	4	9	17%
Western Europe and Others Group (WEOG)	10	4	14	26%

Total	28	26	54
%	52%	48%	

Indigenous Knowledge & Local Knowledge Task Force: The GEO-7 scoping document outlined the need for inclusion of Indigenous Knowledge and Local Knowledge (IK & LK) into the GEO-7 report. It was agreed by the Assessment Co-chairs in consultation with IMAG and MESAG that a GEO IK & LK Task Force would be created to oversee this work. The IMAG provided advice in the setting up of the task force and provided guidance and support in the planning of the IK & LK dialogues. IMAG also provided advice on the integration of IK & LK into the GEO-7 report through chapter level integration and IK&LK chapeaux noting the need for consistency in input across the report.

Table 5. GEO-7 IK & LK Task Force members

UN regional distribution			
UN Region	Male	Female	Total
Africa Group	3	0	3
Western Europe	1	5	6
Eastern Europe	0	0	0
Asia Pacific	3	1	4
Latin America and the Caribbean	1	4	5
	8	10	18
	44%	56%	

Peer Reviews: To ensure credibility of GEO-7, several peer reviews of GEO-7 were conducted:

- Internal review of the Zero Order Draft (Sept-Oct 2023)
- Expert peer review of the First Order Draft (FOD) (February-March 2024)
- Intergovernmental and Expert peer review of the Second Order Draft (SOD) of the main report and FOD of the SPM (Nov 2024-January 2025)
- Intergovernmental review of the SOD of the SPM (Aug-Oct 2025)

The Secretariat received peer reviewer applications on the GEO READ platform and the IMAG together with the MESAG and Assessment co-chairs provided advice on the selection of Review editors. A total of 50 review editors were selected to assess the review process.

The FOD external peer review ran between the 9th of February and the 31st of March 2024. It was then extended to the 14th of April 2024 to increase the number of comments. In total, 3,710 comments were received by the deadline from 208 out of 312 reviewers. Early analysis by the Lead Review Editors showed that 48% of the reviewers provided 0-10 comments, and a further 47% provided 10-50 comments.

Given the participation of reviewers in the First Order Draft, IMAG advised for the second peer-review process that all reviewer applications should be accepted with a focus on geographic and gender balance. This led to firmly improved participation of reviewers in the Intergovernmental and Expert peer review of the SOD of the main report and the FOD of the SPM. The Secretariat extended the reviewer

nomination deadline from 30 September 2024 to 15 October 2024 and thereafter to 25 October 2024, 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. As of 31 October 2024, approximately 1955 reviewers were registered in the GEO READ platform where the GEO-7 draft was reviewed. In total for both the SPM and main report, 15,431 comments were received, and 34 Member States provided comments.

The importance of regular briefings to the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR) was also reiterated by IMAG to boost government interest and involvement. The table below shows the various dates where CPR briefings were held.

GEO-7 CPR Briefing	Focus	Dates
1	-Brief on outcomes of GEO scoping meeting -Presentation on key elements of energy systems and potential solutions -Presentation on key elements of the circularity systems and potential solution -Presentation on key elements of the food systems and potential solutions -Presentation on the need to adapt to climate change in food/energy/circularity system -Presentation on link GEO-7 with UNGA resolution 76/300 - Interactive dialogues with Member States and key stakeholders	24 October 2022,
2	-Update on the gap filling exercise for the author teams in GEO-7 -Update on the virtual collaboration workshop held in June 2023 -Update on the drafting process for the GEO-7 chapters and the successful second Solutions Pathways and Outlooks workshop in Shanghai, China -Key issues to be considered by the Intergovernmental and Multi-stakeholder Advisory Group (IMAG) and the Multidisciplinary Expert Scientific Advisory Group (MESAG) -Outline of the next steps in the GEO process and update on the budget situation	21 September 2023

3	-Update on the outcomes of the 3rd GEO-7 authors meeting in Nairobi, 2-5 September 2024 -Efforts to encourage more intergovernmental and expert peer reviewers to review the Second Order Draft of the main report and the First Order Draft of the Summary for Policymakers -Overview of the timeline and process for preparing the Summary for Policymakers and preparation for the SPM review and approval meeting in November 2025.	19 September 2024
4	-The Second Order Draft of the main report and the First Order Draft of its Summary for Policy Makers -Update on the terminology to refer to the environmental crises in the GEO-7 report -The intergovernmental and expert peer review process from 1 November 2024 until 15 January 2025 -Overview of 2025 timeline to produce GEO-7 -Integration of Indigenous Knowledge and Local Knowledge in GEO-7	3 December 2024
5	-Results of the Intergovernmental and expert peer review of the Second Order Draft of the main report and the First Order Draft of its Summary for Policy Makers (1 November 2024 – 22 January 2025) -Progress on the production of the GEO-7 report and its Summary for Policymakers -Progress on the integration of Indigenous Knowledge and Local Knowledge in GEO-7 -Progress on the implementation of GEO Supporting Services	17 April 2025

6	-Progress on the development of Second Order Draft of the Summary for Policy Makers (SPM) -Progress on the GEO-7 validation opinion process by GEO-7 Advisory Groups -Update on preparations for the SPM Review and Approval Meeting in October 2025 -Update on the GEO-7 launch, communication and outreach plan	17 June 2025
7	-Preparations for the Ad-Hoc Open Ended SPM Review and Approval Meeting, 27-31 October 2025, Nairobi -Plan for the launch, communication and outreach of the GEO-7	18 September 2025

IMAG specifically highlighted the need for greater accountability and transparency regarding the acceptance and rejection of comments and to this end the reviewing platform (GEO READ) was modified by including an additional field where authors could indicate how comments have been 'Accepted' like in the case when comments are 'Rejected'.

Table 6. GEO-7 Peer Reviewers First Order Draft

UN regional distribution				Total
UN Region	Male	Female	PNS ¹	
Africa Group (AG)	13	46	0	59
Asia Pacific Group (APG)	38	21	0	59
Eastern Europe Group (EEG)	15	11	1	27
Latin America and the Caribbean Group (LACG)	42	23	0	65
Western Europe and Others Group (WEOG)	10	12	2	24
Total	118	113	3	234
	50%	48%	1%	

Table 7. GEO-7 Peer Reviewers Second Order Draft

UN regional distribution			
UN Region	Male	Female	PNS

¹ Preferred not to say

Africa Group (AG)	344	189	1	27%
Asia Pacific Group (APG)	203	108	1	17%
Eastern Europe Group (EEG)	50	41	4	5%
Latin America and the Caribbean Group (LACG)	317	382	3	16%
Western Europe and Others Group (WEOG)	202	161	5	35%
Total	1,116	881	14	2011
%	55%	44%		

SPM process: The SPM development was led by the assessment co-chairs supported by the GEO-7 author team. The SPM was subjected to a thorough review process (two layers of external review as well as multiple internal reviews) to ensure consistency with the content in the main report and Executive Summaries while including confidence statements.

- First Order Draft (FOD) review by expert peer reviewers from governments and academia/research centers
- Second Order Draft (SOD) review, only by governmental peer reviewers

In total, the GEO Secretariat received 3,204 comments on the SPM from a total of 306 external peer reviewers during the review of the First Order Draft (FOD) (Africa 61; Asia and Pacific 58; Latin America and the Caribbean 68; Eastern Europe 17; Western Europe and Other Groups 102)

Note: some reviewers commented on more than one part of the SPM.

Table 8: number of reviewers and received comments for the SPM during the SPM FOD review.

Section	No. FOD comments	No. FOD reviewers
Part 1	795	135
Part 2	727	109
Part 3	210	68
Executive Summary	1,066	167
All SPM	226	100

The Second Order Draft (SOD) of the SPM was submitted to Member States for their review and approval. Comments will be discussed during the SPM review and approval meeting (27-31 October 2025, Nairobi), and an approved document will be presented during UNEA-7. Additionally, the SPM drafting team met during 2-6 June 2025 in Jeju Island, Republic of Korea, to refine the SPM while finalizing on the SPM comments from the First Order Draft Review of the SPM.

IMAG provided guidance on the development of the SPM through a series of discussions with the assessment co-chairs on the development of the Summary for Policymakers. IMAG emphasized a unidirectional process where changes in the main report led to updates in the Executive Summaries and thereafter the SPM draft. It was noted that the feedback from governments and experts during the FOD and SOD review of the SPM was crucial in aligning the SPM with policy needs. It was noted that the principles for preparing the SPM were comparable with those of other global assessments such as IPCC and IPBES and the process to develop it was aligned with the approved GEO procedures. The observation of the SPM development process by the MESAG co-chairs also helped ensure the scientific integrity and credibility of the process. IMAG has also made contributions to the SPM process by providing advice in the formulation of a SPM team drawn from the authors of the main GEO-7 report.

Table 9. GEO-7 SPM Core Drafting Team

UN regional distribution				
UN Region	Male	Female	Total	
Africa Group	1	1	2	15%
Western Europe	2	2	4	31%
Eastern Europe	1	1	2	15%
Asia Pacific	0	2	2	15%
Latin America and the Caribbean	2	1	3	24%
	6	7	13	
	46%	54%		

Table 10. Aggregation (Authors including SPM team, Fellows, Review Editors)

UN regional distribution				
UN Region	Male	Female	Total	
Africa Group	29	30	59	17%
Western Europe	65	46	111	33%
Eastern Europe	19	15	34	10%
Asia Pacific	42	37	79	23%
Latin America and the Caribbean	24	35	59	17%
	179	163	342	
	52%	48%		

- (e) **The accessibility of GEO, meaning that its outputs and the underlying methodologies, knowledge base and environmental data are accessible by Member States and stakeholders to support policymaking, decision-making and strengthening of the science-policy interface;**

The digitization of GEO-7 is meant to ensure accessibility of GEO and its outputs to its audience, including Member States, stakeholders, academia, youth, business etc. The digitization effort covers five main areas:

1. Online graphing and mapping capabilities and tools
2. Online glossary and definitions
3. Online collaboration platform
4. Online management of peer review processes
5. Digital presentation of GEO-7 in an interactive and user-friendly way

Collaborating Centers and Supporting Services:

To support the development and implementation of these main areas, as well as deliver supporting services as per the GEO Resolution in the areas of capacity building, knowledge generation and support for policymaking, the GEO Secretariat put out a call for collaborating centres (See paragraph h, j and Annex 3).

IMAG provided advice on the selection of the collaborating centres and determined that the network of collaborating centers for GEO-7 should be a strategic and continuous exercise requiring a continuous scanning of options for collaboration instead of periodic calls for expression of interest. It should not only address immediate GEO-7 needs, but also be aimed at providing a structural and growing basis of partners for future GEO's. IMAG also noted that the selection of the collaborating centers should be regionally balanced and be able to contribute in a balanced manner to the development of the GEO-7 report and the provision of supporting services, ranging from outreach, knowledge generation and capacity building. There should also be a balance between collaborating centres that have a track record of working with GEO and can bring input to these processes, and centres that can learn and further develop their capabilities to support the GEO processes in the future. IMAG determined that the selection of GEO collaborating centres followed the best possible principles given the guidance provided to the Secretariat.

The collaborating centres will ensure that GEO is accessible at a regional, national and local level wherever possible and they would provide supporting services such as support for policy making through science to policy seminars on how to incorporate science into policy decision making based on the policy context of that country. IMAG also advised that to ensure successful implementation of supporting services, the focus should be on improving funding, coordination across GEO collaborating centers, and using digital infrastructure. This would then support the strengthening of the science-policy interface. Annex 3 includes a list of the GEO-7 collaborating centers.

(f) The added value of GEO, in terms of ensuring that it responds to UNEP's mandate, that it avoids duplication with other global assessment processes, while addressing interlinkages and cross-cutting issues and identifying gaps and emerging issues;

UNEA resolution 5/3 reaffirms that GEO's objective is to keep the world environmental situation under review as per UNEP's mandate. IMAG has recommended that the GEO-7 should draw from and build upon existing global assessments and should not duplicate them. The Secretariat has followed this guidance through its continuous participation in the [Ad-hoc Global Assessments Dialogue \(AGAD\)](#).

AGAD brings together different assessment processes, especially UN led assessment processes, to try and find synergies across the different assessments which allows for collaborative links to other assessment process such as IPCC and IPBES, thus avoiding duplication. Outcomes of this collaboration process include the use of the GEO-READ platform by the Global Resources Outlook, the development of the GEO-7 glossary platform with the support from IPCC, the sharing on issues related to AI as well as several jointly organized outreach events. GEO also has the added value of inputting into UN-wide led processes such as the Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR) prepared by the Independent Group of Scientists for the UN Secretary General.

The GEO-7 scoping document highlights how the assessment will address interlinkages across environmental crises, scales and geographic regions, and sub-regions. As requested by Member States in Resolution EA.5/3, the main geographic scope of the GEO-7 should be 'a global assessment with regional specificities' which can be integrated in the state of the environment section of the GEO-7, in the policy section, including through the production of solutions pathways, and in the outlooks section through globally and regionally specific socioeconomic analysis. IMAG noted that the classification of regions and sub regions for the analysis to be used in GEO-7 should have clear and transparent rationale and should also consider data availability at the regional level. IMAG recognized and agreed to the subregional groupings based on the [UN's M49 standard](#) which is now included as annex in the GEO-7 report as it allows for statistical and political groupings that match the five UN regions that were agreed at the scoping meeting so that if there's a need to develop a new sub-regional classification.

The GEO-7 report highlights the interlinkages across the system chapters of economics/finance,

materials/waste, energy, and food and integrates the results of a scenario and narrative analysis developed using a suite of well-established and linked models, which cover various environmental and socioeconomic aspects across multiple systems and global environmental crises. IMAG advised that enhanced alignment of frameworks across the chapters and a focus on practical and actionable solutions could further strengthen the report in its solutions focus.

(g) The overall feasibility of GEO, including continuity of operations for the periodic production of the report and in terms of the implications for administrative, financial and collaborative structures and other initiatives across the UNEP science-policy interface;

The overall feasibility of the production of GEO is dependent on a number of factors. Sufficient financial and staff resources are very important to allow the Secretariat to support the assessment process and allow for effective planning. In addition, technical and logistical support to the author teams allows them to be most effective in their drafting work. Finally, clear guidance on key issues from the assessment co-chairs or the advisory bodies allows for better understanding across the author teams and allows for addressing emerging issues (e.g. use of artificial intelligence tools in the assessment process) in a timely and coherent fashion.

IMAG has supported the GEO process by providing advice on the budget and change in timeline of the GEO-7 process to allow key elements of the process to move forward (e.g. supporting services, incorporation of Indigenous Knowledge and Local Knowledge). IMAG members have also provided funding from their own governments to UNEP to provide additional resources for the GEO ensuring the Secretariat had sufficient mobilized resources to make sure the successful delivery of the GEO-7.

IMAG has provided clear guidance on difficult issues, such as regional and sub-regional classification and policy questions to be addressed by the assessment. In addition, IMAG has responded to the emerging issue around the reorganization of the chapters to ensure a more coherent flow of the narrative.

Finally, IMAG has worked closely with MESAG to ensure scientific guidance is available to authors on difficult issues such as the use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools in the assessment process.

h) Transparency of the GEO process, to support the scientific credibility and legitimacy criteria. Key tools to increase transparency can be incorporated into the process through the digital transformation efforts for GEO-7;

IMAG has supported the development of several of these tools by providing advice on the selection of the collaborating centres (Paragraph e). Some of the tools which have been created by these collaborating centers include the GEO-READ that's used for peer reviews, the collaborative workspace that the authors use in their drafting of the GEO-7 report and the collaborating center that is supporting the harmonization of the online glossary tool. IMAG members in a joint call with MESAG also received a presentation on the various digital tools employed in the GEO-7 and attended a webinar on the online glossary tool and provided their feedback on how it could be used and further improved.

Collaborative authors workspace: The online collaborative workspace for GEO-7 was built on Microsoft's infrastructure, providing a secure platform for research, drafting, and decision-making. It allowed experts to view all chapters while maintaining role-based permissions, ensuring that only designated authors, fellows, and the Secretariat liaison for each chapter had editing access. GEO-7 authors and fellows used this tool to draft and refine content, while the Secretariat and Co-chairs tracked progress and provided support. The workspace enabled real-time collaboration, ensuring efficient integration of expert contributions. Its version control features enhanced transparency by tracking changes, capturing revisions, and documenting contributions, streamlining the drafting process throughout the GEO-7 production cycle.

Peer Reviews: The Global Environment Outlook – Review Editing Analytical Database (GEO-READ) enhanced transparency and efficiency in the GEO-7 peer review process. It allowed reviewers to submit comments and track how authors addressed them, ensuring accountability. Authors could see reviewer identities and access quality assessments of their responses from review editors. The platform enabled reviewers to categorize comments and allowed authors to justify rejected feedback based on factors like word count, scientific disagreements, or relevance. GEO-READ streamlined peer reviewer selection and structured the review process, supporting a transparent and efficient approach for GEO-7.

Online Glossary Tool: Having clear definitions for important terms used in an assessment is a critically important part of ensuring scientific clarity and credibility. The Secretariat, through its discussions under the Ad-hoc Global Assessments Dialogue (AGAD), decided to adopt the glossary tool and procedures used by IPCC, since these are much more robust than the procedure that was used in GEO-6. The tool enables a clear and efficient process for discussing, agreeing, and incorporating terms and definitions into the glossary for GEO-7. The Secretariat will also publish the glossary of terms on the GEO website for greater transparency after the launch of GEO-7.

Nomination Portal: The GEO Nomination Portals ensured the scientific credibility and legitimacy of the GEO-7 process by providing a structured and transparent mechanism for expert selection. All experts involved were nominated through these portals, creating a comprehensive and continuously updated record of nominees and selected participants. This system facilitated an open and accountable nomination process, ensuring that all contributors met established expertise criteria. By maintaining a detailed database of experts, the portals supported balanced and diverse participation, reinforcing the integrity of the GEO-7 assessment.

(h) All assessment products are strongly evidence based and supported by authoritative data and knowledge. Data and knowledge tools can be incorporated into the process through the digital transformation of the GEO-7 assessment.

IMAG guidance on the relevant evidence base and literature to support the GEO-7 determined that policy documents and policy impact assessments (ex-ante and ex post) are an important evidence base to be included in GEO-7 and requested the Secretariat to ensure that this category of literature is actively applied throughout the GEO-7 report. Authors of the regional chapters in GEO-7 and the solutions pathways chapters have been using policy documents and policy impact assessments in their assessment.

- (i) **Active outreach and awareness raising to inform outside audiences about the key steps in the GEO process and the impact of the main findings. GEO supporting services can serve as outreach and awareness raising activities.**

Through the GEO-7 author meetings, side events on key topics from the GEO-7 report, crafted to the specific regional context, have been organized to raise awareness. These side events have been organized in the three-author meeting of GEO-7 and the solutions pathways and outlooks workshop in Shanghai as well as on the sidelines of the sixth United Nations Environment Assembly and other events.

- 17th October 2022, Nairobi, Kenya. 'Transformation of global food systems for an environmentally sustainable world.'
- 18th October 2022, Nairobi, Kenya. 'Transformation of global energy systems to achieve a net-zero-carbon, environmentally sustainable world.'
- 19th October 2022, Nairobi, Kenya. 'Transformation to achieve near-zero-waste economies through circularity.'
- 24th October 2022, Nairobi, Kenya. 'Progress and Outcomes of Global Environment Outlook (GEO-7) Inaugural Meetings.'
- 14th March 2023, Bangkok, Thailand. 'Energy transition and natural resources – global and regional discussions.'
- 7th September 2023, Shanghai, China. 'Transformation of global food systems for an environmentally sustainable world.'
- 7th September 2023, Shanghai, China. 'Transformation of global energy systems to achieve a net-zero-carbon, environmentally sustainable world.'
- 7th September 2023, Shanghai, China. 'Transformation to achieve near-zero-waste economies through circularity.'
- 7th September 2023, Shanghai, China. 'Pathways for transforming environmental systems to address prominent planetary crises.'
- 16th January 2024, Vienna, Austria. 'Financing a transition to a circular economy – global and regional discussions.'
- 17th February 2024, Nairobi, Kenya. Global Youth Environment Assembly: Youth Environment Assembly SPI event'
- 26th February 2024, Nairobi, Kenya. 'UNEA-6 side event: What's cooking? Developing solutions to transform the current food system.'
- 28th February 2024, Nairobi, Kenya. 'Tackling the Triple Planetary Crisis: Building the Linkages from Science to Action.'
- 28th February 2024, Nairobi, Kenya. UNEP Business & Industry Major Group (BIMG) High Level Dinner: Innovative Pathways: Business Solutions to tackle the Triple Planetary Crisis
- 6th June 2024, Virtual. UN Behavioural Science Week: Behavioural Initiatives for a Sustainable Planet
- 13th June 2024, Virtual. OHCHR: Wiki for Human Rights

- 12th June 2024, Virtual. Imperial College London. Presentation on GEO-7
- 7th August 2024, Virtual, GEO-7 Update to the Regional Environmental Information Network of Latin America and the Caribbean
- 3rd September 2024, Nairobi Kenya. Feeding the Change: Cultivating Sustainable Solutions for Food Systems Globally.
- 4th September 2024, Nairobi, Kenya. Translating Science into Policy: The GEO-7 Supporting Services.
- 5th November 2024, Nairobi, Kenya. Briefing to the Africa UN Resident Coordinators Briefing
- 12th November 2024, Nairobi, Kenya. UNICEF ESARO SBC Network meeting: Social and Behaviour Change for Climate Action
- 13th December 2024, Virtual. 'Briefing | Update on the GEO-7 Process for Geneva Environment Network Partners'
- 24th March, Virtual. IUCN Behaviour Change Task Force internal meeting.
- 7th April 2025, Virtual. UN Behavioural Science week: Embedding Behavioural Science in the UN
- 10-11th April 2025, Geneva, Switzerland. GEO-7 update to 27th session of the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment - United Nations Economic Commission for Europe.
- .
- 9th May 2025, Virtual. A presentation on behavioural sciences within the UN, with GEO-7 as a case study to students and professors at the El-Erian Institute, University of Cambridge.
- 10th June 2025, Virtual. A presentation on behavioural sciences within GEO-7 during the UN 2.0 Week: Behavioural Science Day (High-Level Opening Panel)
- 17th July 2025, in person. A presentation on 'From Practice to Science' workshop - with IPCC Special Report on Cities authors.

Through the capacity building stream of the Supporting services, GEO through partners, has developed a master's level education course made up of 11 modules on translating science for policy. The purpose of this course is to raise awareness for the students about translating science into policy by making use of the GEO-6 report findings. A pilot course, with GEO fellows and Peking University students was organised, and once the course material is finalised, wider outreach to various other educational institutions will be possible.

Another capacity building effort under the GEO supporting services is the focus on the 'training of trainers' and ensuring that the Integrated Environmental Assessment (IEA) Methodology training is well embedded to ensure different experts around the world can conduct their own integrated environmental assessments or State of the Environment and Outlook reports. The first effort with regards to training on the IEA methodology happened in Malawi (19-21 March 2024), Bahrain (June 24-26 2024) and in Pakistan (4-5 December 2024) and this informed audiences in Malawi and Pakistan about the key steps in the GEO process as well as the underlying methodology for producing an integrated environmental assessment so that these can then be applied in their local context.

Horizontal Issues and challenges:

GEO-7 Budget: The approved planned GEO-7 budget in 2022 was at USD **10.3 million** (including secured and unsecured funding). This was due to cover:

- Production costs

- In-person meetings
- Extrabudgetary staffing costs (7x extrabudgetary positions)
- GEO outreach and supporting services (to be continued in 2026-27)

This cost was later revised to reflect changes in actual staffing costs and the updated timeline (the total GEO production timeline was shortened by 3 months due to the move of the launch date at UNEA-7 from quarter 1 in 2026 to December 2025). The updated cost for the GEO-7 report, as of May 2025, **was USD 7.9 million**.

The Secretariat, in line with the GEO resolution, mobilised between 2022 and 2025 **USD 7.9 million** (from UN core funding (Regular Budget (RB), Environment Fund (EF), Thematic Fund (TF) and additional extrabudgetary (XB) funding from individual donors), out of which a total of USD 5.6 million was spent by January 2025. This amount covers the total costs of the GEO-7 report. To date (May 2025), all approved activities in the workplan have been delivered in accordance with their delivery timeline (considering that several activities are ongoing and to be concluded in the period June-December 2025).

Through adaptive management and decisions by the Secretariat with the advice of the IMAG and MESAG, actions were taken to ensure cost-effectiveness of the GEO process given the updated GEO-7 timeline, including: i) engaging with host countries to ensure that local costs of meetings were covered; ii) restricting the printing of the main report; and iii) suggesting that donors/member states pay for translations of the main report iv) redesigning the scope of in-person meetings in line with the updated GEO-7 timeline.

Efforts have been made by UNEP's GEO Secretariat to ensure that all the activities outlined in the GEO-7 workplan have been implemented ensuring the scientific integrity of the process. UNEP's GEO-7 Secretariat is also working with Collaborating Centres, accruing an estimated USD 18 million in in-kind contribution through their expert time and services.

Outreach and awareness raising and budget constraints: A strong outreach and awareness strategy is key to ensure communication of the main findings of the Global Environment Outlook. Due to budget constraints, outreach activities did not receive sufficient budget which may lead to less outreach to certain audiences about the GEO process and its findings. The resource mobilization efforts by the Secretariat will need to be complemented by a strong outreach strategy that also incorporates member states, collaborating centres and regional UNEP offices to ensure that the findings are readily available at the regional and national level wherever possible. The IMAG, in collaboration with the MESAG and assessment co-chairs have provided guidance and feedback to the initial outreach strategy that was prepared by the Communications Division including a possible request by Member States to the UNEA-7 presidency for the presentation of GEO-7 during the UNEA-7 plenary. UNEP communication colleagues are also supporting the launch strategy for GEO-7 at UNEA and related communication activities.

Integration of Indigenous Knowledge and Local Knowledge in the GEO-7 process: The GEO-7 scoping document requested that the GEO-7 assessment draws key findings from Indigenous Knowledge and where possible Local Knowledge. GEO-7 for the first time included IK & LK experts in the drafting process through a task force and has so far conducted 3 IK & LK dialogues based on IPBES best practice methodology of incorporating IK & LK in environmental assessments.

Dialogue no.	Focus	Dates
1	Framing, conceptualization, and key themes or messages for each part of the GEO-7 assessment.	Virtual, March 2024

2	Fill gaps and identify bridges of the GEO-7 in regard to IK & LK, as well as develop content for the GEO-7 evaluation.	Oaxaca, Mexico June 2024
3	Review the Second Order Draft of the report (especially on the IK&LK chapeaux) and the First Order Draft of the Summary for Policymakers	Chiang Mai, Thailand January 2025
4	This Dialogue will take place after the release of the GEO-7 main assessment report and the Summary for Policymakers. The focus of this dialogue will be on the IK&LK methodology used in GEO-7 and collect lesson learned for future similar processes.	TBD

In addition to the budget constraints due to the expansion of the GEO-7 expert pool, there was a lot of learning in a constrained timeline required on the part of the Secretariat on how best to engage Indigenous Peoples, Local Communities in the development of the GEO-7 report. The IK & LK Task Force was introduced at a later stage into the authors pool, which created issues with coherence in the text and variability in how IK&LK are presented as there was lack of consideration of IK&LK issues and needs during the scoping stage.

However, with the guidance of the IMAG, the Secretariat and authors worked effectively to include IK&LK in the GEO-7 report through ensuring IK&LK expertise was included in the gap-filling exercise and engagement on funding with relevant bodies on IK&LK processes. IMAG also advised on issuing a call for a collaborating centre with IK&LK expertise to which the Secretariat implemented to support the integration of IK & LK into the report. The Secretariat was also flexible in meeting the needs of the Indigenous Peoples, Local Communities to ensure a safe space for them to share their knowledge and contribute to the process in the IK&LK dialogues. The experience from IK&LK in GEO-7 has also provided a learning experience for other UNEP colleagues working in similar areas of work.

Conclusion for GEO-7:

Overall, based on the GEO operating principles and terms of reference of the IMAG, the IMAG concludes it has fulfilled its mandate and allocated relevant tasks to the Secretariat to help with the implementation of the GEO process.

Given the involvement and observations throughout the design and development of GEO-7, IMAG is of the opinion that IMAG's guidance has been adhered to in a satisfactory manner and the GEO-7 process has being implemented in accordance with the agreed GEO objectives and procedures.

Therefore, IMAG is giving its validation opinion that the GEO process implemented for GEO-7 has been policy relevant and politically legitimate.

Annex 1: GEO-7 IMAG Membership

IMAG Co-Chairs

Names	Affiliation	Nationality	Region(s) of Representation
Ms. Anna Mampye	Director: State of Environment Information, Ministry of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment	South Africa	African Group
Mr. Arthur Eijs	Policy coordinator Natural Resource Management & Sustainable Land Use - Ministry of Infrastructure & Water Management, Department of International Affairs	Netherlands	Western European Group

IMAG Members

Names	Affiliation	Nationality	Region(s) of Representation
Mr. Thomas Chali	Senior Policy Advisor on Environmental Conservation and Natural Resources Management in Tanzania	Tanzania	African Group
Dr. Jerome Lugumira Sebadduka	Natural Resources Management Specialist (Soils and Land Use), National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) Uganda	Uganda	African Group
Dr. Modibo Sacko	Vice President of the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CONA-CILSS), Mali	Mali	African Group
Dr. Leila Bendifallah	Professor, M'hamed Bougara University, Algeria	Algeria	African Group
Ms. Yi Huang	Professor, School of Environmental Sciences and Engineering, Peking University, China	China	Asia and the Pacific Group
Dr. Thuraya Al Sariri	Assistance Director General of Nature Conservation at MECA-Oman	Oman	Asia and the Pacific Group
Mrs. Rolenas Baereleo	Principal Officer, Biodiversity and Conservation; Department of Environmental protection and Conservation (DEPC), Vanuatu	Vanuatu	Asia and the Pacific Group
Mrs. Maha Maayta	Director of the Policy and International Cooperation, Ministry of Environment, The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan	Jordan	Asia and the Pacific Group
Mr. Takashi Otsuka	Director of Knowledge and Communications, Strategic Management Office, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), Hayama, Japan	Japan	Asia and the Pacific Group
Ms. Meri Harutyunyan	Chief specialist of Strategic Policy Department, Ministry of Environment, Armenia	Armenia	Eastern European Group
Mr. Toghrul Feyziyev	Advisor, International Cooperation Division of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Azerbaijan	Azerbaijan	Eastern European Group

Mrs. Dušica Pešević	Associate Professor, University of Banja Luka, Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, Bosnia and Herzegovina	Bosnia & Herzegovina	Eastern European Group
Dr. Marek Haliniak	General Counsellor in the Ministry of Climate and Environment, Department of Strategy and Analysis, Poland	Poland	Eastern European Group
Mr. Miroslav Havránek	Director of the Czech Environmental Information Agency	Czechia	Eastern European Group
Ms. Gillian Stanislaus	Environmental Programme Officer, Environmental Management Authority (EMA)	Trinidad & Tobago	Latin American and Caribbean Group
Mr. Kenset Amaury Rosales Riveiro	Coordinator, Information Unit, Environment and Climate Change; Ministry of Environment and Resources Natural Resources (MARN)	Guatemala	Latin American and Caribbean Group
Mr. Silvio Albuquerque e Silva	Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Brazil to UNEP; Embassy of Brazil in Kenya	Brazil	Latin American and Caribbean Group
Ms. Alexandra Gurgel Valente da Costa	Special Advisory on International Affairs / Office of International Affairs Ministry of Environment and Climate Change/ Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change	Brazil	Latin American and Caribbean Group
Mrs. Neyra Herrera	Environmental Statistics Chief – Ministry of Environment	Panama	Latin American and Caribbean Group
Eng. Ana Julieta Calvo-Obando	National Center for Geoenvironmental Information, Ministry of Environment and Energy; Costa Rica	Costa Rica	Latin American and Caribbean Group
Mr. Carlos Cordero Vega	Director of the Planning Secretariat of the environment sector at the Ministry of Environment and Energy; Costa Rica	Costa Rica	Latin American and Caribbean Group
Dr. Salla Rantala	Development Manager, Environmental Policy Centre, Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE)	Finland	Western European Group
Dr. Lisa Eriksson	Senior Advisor, Transport Analysis, and the Department for Outlook and Policy	Sweden	Western European Group
Ms. Claudia Kabel	German Environment Agency (UBA), academic staff member, International Sustainability Strategies, Policy and Knowledge Transfer	Germany	Western European Group
Ms. Christina Komorski	Director, Information & Indicators Division, Sustainability Directorate, Environment and Climate Change Canada	Canada	Western European Group
Dr. Toral Patel-Weynand	Director of the Southern Research Station at the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service	United States	Western European Group

Dr. Keri Holland	Senior Policy Advisor in the Office of Environmental Quality in the Bureau of Oceans, International and Scientific Affairs at the U.S. Department of State	United States	Western European Group
Names	Affiliation	Nationality	Major Group
Dr. Mohamed Abdelraouf	Sustainability Research Program Director at Gulf Research Center (GRC)	Egypt	Science and Technology
Dr. Fabian Wagner	Dean, Capacity Development and Academic Training, IIASA, Austria	Germany	Science and Technology
Ms. Ruth Viola Spencer	Chair, Marine Ecosystems Protected Areas (MEPA) Trust	Antigua and Barbuda	Women
Ms. Djatougbe Aziaka	President and founder of welfare Togo; co-facilitator of UNEP NGO major group	Togo	Non-governmental organization
Mr. Jan-Gustav Strandenaes	Advisory board member of sustainability/environment governance project at the University of Stockholm	Norway	Non-governmental organization
Mr. Prem Singh Tharu	Regional Programme Officer, Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP) under Environment Programme	Thailand	Indigenous peoples
Ms. Zahra Abu Taha	Recycling Officer at ZATARI Refugees Camp, Oxfam	Jordan	Children and youth
Mr. Dominic Kailash Nath Waughray	Senior Advisor to the CEO World Business Council for Sustainable Development	India	Business and industry
Ms. Ingrid Coetzee	Director, Biodiversity, Nature & Health; ICLEI Africa	South Africa	Local authorities
Ms. Merylene Chitharai	Lan Manager at UKZN Howard College	South Africa	Faith-based groups

Annex 2: Meeting Summaries and Outcome Documents

Virtual Call Summaries

- [First Virtual Call of the IMAG, 7 October 2022](#)
- [Second Virtual Call of the IMAG, 6 December 2022](#)
- [Third Virtual Call of the IMAG, 25 January 2023](#)
- [Fourth Virtual Call of the IMAG, 14 February 2023](#)
- [Fifth Virtual Call of the IMAG, 13 April 2023](#)
- [Sixth Virtual Call of the IMAG, 16 May 2023](#)
- [Seventh Virtual Call of the IMAG, 19 September 2023](#)
- [Eighth Virtual Call of the IMAG, 22 November 2023](#)
- [Ninth Virtual Call of the IMAG, 15 February 2024](#)
- [Tenth Virtual Call of the IMAG, 9 April 2024](#)
- [Eleventh Virtual Call of the IMAG, 14 May 2024](#)
- [Twelfth Virtual Call of the IMAG, 19 June 2024](#)
- [Thirteenth Virtual Call of the IMAG, 20 August 2024](#)
- [Fourteenth Virtual Call of the IMAG, 7 November 2024](#)
- [Fifteenth Virtual Call of the IMAG, 12 February 2025](#)
- [Sixteenth Virtual Call of the IMAG, 3 April 2025](#)
- [Seventeenth Virtual Call of the IMAG, 8 May 2025](#)
- [Eighteenth Virtual Call of the IMAG, 9 July 2025](#)
- [Nineteenth Virtual Call of the IMAG, 23 September 2025](#)

Face to Face Outcome Documents

- [First Face to Face Meeting of the IMAG, October 21, 2022](#)
- [Second Face to Face Meeting of the IMAG, 14-16 March 2023](#)
- [Third Face to Face Meeting of the IMAG, 3-5 September 2024](#)

Coordination Group Meeting Documents

- [1st Face to Face Meeting of the Coordination Group, 16 March 2023](#)
- [Virtual Meeting of the Coordination Group, 18 May 2023](#)
- [Virtual Meeting of the Coordination Group, 1 February 2024](#)
- [2nd Face to Face Meeting of the Coordination Group, 6 September 2024](#)
- [Virtual Meeting of the Coordination Group, 20 May 2025](#)
- [Virtual Meeting of the Coordination Group, 23 July 2025](#)
- [Virtual Meeting of the Coordination Group, 28 August 2025](#)
- [Virtual Meeting of the Coordination Group, 24 September 2025](#)

Joint IMAG and MESAG Meeting Documents

- [1st Face to Face Joint Meeting of the IMAG and MESAG, 16 March 2023](#)
- [Virtual Joint Meeting of the IMAG and MESAG, 20 June 2023](#)
- [Virtual Joint Meeting of the IMAG and MESAG, 1 November 2023](#)
- [2nd Face to Face Joint meeting of the IMAG and MESAG, 5 September 2024](#)
- [Virtual Joint Meeting of the IMAG and MESAG, 24 June 2025](#)
- Virtual Joint Meeting of the IMAG and MESAG, November 2025

Annex 3 List of GEO-7 Collaborating Centers

Name of the institution/organization	Country	Region	Track Record with GEO	Thematic area 1: Developing scenarios and modelling of solutions pathways for the three interdependent systems, energy, food and materials/waste.	Thematic area 2: Providing scientific information and expertise for respective region/sub region and/or thematic areas relevant to the analysis conducted in GEO-7.	Thematic area 3: Providing support for capacity-building, knowledge generation and policymaking at global, regional and national levels; Additional information on these supporting services can be consulted here.	Thematic area 4: Supporting UNEP's outreach and communication efforts for the dissemination of the GEO findings.	Thematic area 5: Providing technical expertise in the GEO process e.g., digitalization of key process elements
Centre for Environment and Development for the Arab Region and Europe (CEDARE)	Egypt	Africa	Yes					
Centro de los ODS para America Latina (CODS)	Colombia	Latin America and the Caribbean	Yes					
Department of Agronomy/University of Agriculture Peshawar	Pakistan	Asia and the Pacific	No					
Environmental Pulse Institute (EPI)	United States	Western Europe and Other regions	Yes					
GRID-Arendal	Norway	Western Europe and Other regions	Yes					
Institute for Environmental Assessment and Water Studies (IDAEA)	Spain	Western Europe and Other regions	No					

Name of the institution/organization	Country	Region	Track Record with GEO	Thematic area 1: Developing scenarios and modelling of solutions pathways for the three interdependent systems, energy, food and materials/waste.	Thematic area 2: Providing scientific information and expertise for respective region/sub region and/or thematic areas relevant to the analysis conducted in GEO-7.	Thematic area 3: Providing support for capacity-building, knowledge generation and policymaking at global, regional and national levels; Additional information on these supporting services can be consulted here.	Thematic area 4: Supporting UNEP's outreach and communication efforts for the dissemination of the GEO findings.	Thematic area 5: Providing technical expertise in the GEO process e.g., digitalization of key process elements
Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)	Japan	Asia and the Pacific	Yes					
Institute of Landscape Ecology, Slovak Academy of Sciences (SAS)	Slovakia	Western Europe and Other regions	No					
PBL Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency	Netherlands	Western Europe and Other regions	Yes					
Programa de Investigacion en Cambio Climatico (UNAM)	Mexico	Latin America and the Caribbean	Yes					
Society of Entrepreneurs & Ecology (SEE)	China	Asia and the Pacific	Yes					
University of East Anglia (Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research)	UK	Western Europe and Other Regions						
Universidad Veracruzana	Mexico	Latin America and the Caribbean	No					
Korea Environment Institute	South Korea	Asia and the Pacific						
The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)	India	Asia and the Pacific	Yes					