

MAY 2017

Road to Bangkok - Second Global Authors Meeting

The highly anticipated second global authors meeting of the Global Environment Outlook will take place in Bangkok, Thailand from the 22-26 May 2017. The meeting will be hosted at the United Nations Conference



United Nations Conference Centre, Bangkok, Thailand

The meeting will cover a full 5 days, with opening ceremonies and author orientation on Day One and further drafting of the chapters in order to finalize the first-order draft of the first nine chapters of the sixth edition of the Global Environment Outlook (GEO-6). Authors will be mainly addressing comments on their zero-order draft in order to finalize on their first-order draft chapters. In parallel, authors of the Governance and policy effectiveness chapters will begin their drafting of their chapter in this meeting. Similarly, the Innovative Outlooks Group authors will develop their outline of the material that they intend to cover and begin working on their draft of the chapter. Global Environment Outlook Fellows will attend all five days of the meeting and focus on research support for the Global Environment Outlook author teams. To provide guidance and leadership, the Global Environment Outlook co-chairs and vice-chairs will circulate amongst the drafting groups to observe and provide thoughts on the overarching themes and focus areas of the sixth edition of the Global Environment Outlook. Co-chairs and vice-chairs of the High-Level Intergovernmental and Stakeholder Advisory Group (HLG) and Scientific Advisory Panel (SAP) will also be present in the discussions of the drafting teams. The UN Environment Secretariat will provide administrative and technical support. Substantive support will be provided by UN Environment content experts.

Role of the High-level Group

The [High-Level Intergovernmental and Stakeholder Advisory Group \(HLG\)](#) or a similar body has been an integral part of the Global Environment Outlook process from the beginning. The group combines 30 governmental representatives and 10 stakeholder representatives, with a focus on regional and issues balance. The group's main responsibility is to help ensure that the documents produced through the Global Environment Outlook process are relevant for policy makers. It was also established to provide guidance to the policy assessment process within the assessments leadership on the producing the Summary for Policy Makers, and substantive support to relevant outreach activities. It comprises of five members from each of the United Nations Regional Groups of Member States plus five stakeholder representatives. The High-Level Intergovernmental and Stakeholder Advisory Group (HLG) for the sixth Global Environment Outlook, was formed following the Global Intergovernmental and Multi-stakeholder Consultation held in Berlin, 21-23 October 2014.



High-Level Intergovernmental and Stakeholder Advisory Group (HLG)

Since 2014 the High-Level Intergovernmental and Stakeholder Advisory Group (HLG) have contributed to the Global Environment Outlook process in the following ways;

- Provided guidance during the development of the six Global Environment Outlook Regional Assessments and their summaries;
- Requested that regional assessments and other recent assessments are used as the foundation for the global assessment process;
- Provided important feedback and input to the annotated outline for the Global Environment Outlook global assessment;
- Provided advice on specific outreach events and activities; and
- Participated in several planning calls in the lead up to the first Author's meeting in Frascati (20-24 February 2017).

The High-level Group continues support the Global Environment Outlook by:

- Providing advice on the theme of the third UN Environment Assembly;
- Providing advice on the 'pollution paper' being prepared Assembly, and
- Preparing a progress report on the Global Environment Outlook process for the third UN Environment Assembly.

Through the strong commitment of the High-level Group members the Global Environment Outlook process is strengthened and the products are more targeted and useful to governments and other interested audiences. This pillar of the Global Environment Outlook process continues to be an essential part of UN Environment's global, regional and thematic assessments.

Click [here](#) to view membership of the High-Level Intergovernmental and Stakeholder Advisory Group (HLG).

Author Profile: Dr. Adelina Mensah



Dr. Adelina Mensah is a Senior Research Fellow at the Institute for Environment and Sanitation Studies (IESS), University of Ghana (UG). She is also the coordinator of the graduate programme in Sustainability Sciences at the Institute. Dr. Mensah has an interdisciplinary background in environmental sciences, with a focus on aquatic sciences and the human dimensions that impact on its management and sustainability. Her graduate studies in Tropical Coastal Management and Marine Sciences were carried out at the University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, U.K., and post-graduate at the University of Bonn (Centre for Development Research), Germany, where she was also a Resident Scholar at

the United Nations University – Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS). She lectured at the Department of Marine and Fisheries Sciences for ten years before transferring to IESS, where her research activities on the biophysical aspects of inland and coastal aquatic systems include the inter-linkages with the socio-economic drivers of resource use. Her current interests are research and innovation in science and technology for promoting sustainable futures.

Dr. Mensah has worked extensively as an academician and consultant with various national institutions such as the Ghana Environmental Protection Agency, the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation (MESTI), Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development, etc. on ecosystem management initiatives for coastal and inland wetlands. She has co-facilitated the development of some national policies, including the National Climate Change Policy (NCCP) Framework, the NCCP and the NCCP Implementation Plan (2015-2020), and the National Infrastructure Plan that is being currently formulated. Dr. Mensah also has considerable experience working on international donor funded projects by the World Bank, UNDP, FAO, START and other international NGOs on aquatic ecosystem functioning and natural resource management, and more recently on climate adaptation.



Currently, she coordinates national activities of the Adaptation at Scale in Semi-Arid Regions (ASSAR) project. She is a national work-package lead of the DELtas, Vulnerability and Climate Change; Migration and Adaptation (DECCMA) project, both of which are IDRC funded projects with the combined consortia representing over 20 institutions from all over the world.

First order draft review process of the sixth edition of the Global Environment Outlook assessment

In order to ensure the scientific integrity of the Global Environment Outlook, the assessment's Scientific Advisory Panel (SAP) recommended that a review of both the first order draft and the second order draft be conducted. First order drafts of the first nine chapters cover the introduction, drivers of environmental change, the state of our data and knowledge as well as the state of the global environment in five main thematic areas: air, fresh water, oceans, land and biota. Before this review period, the authors cross-examined each other's work to ensure coherence and avoid overlaps within the assessment report. The review will be conducted through the Community of Practice with the overall purpose of strengthening the science-policy interface. This is by providing experts, policymakers and practitioners the opportunity to contribute and share their knowledge and experience via this online platform. The Community of Practice also serves as a repository for resources used in this knowledge exchange, as well as support the quality of the drafting process by linking author groups and other governing and advisory bodies to a credible source of data among other resources.

UN Environment, therefore, has invited experts to participate in the expert review of the first order drafts of these nine chapters of the sixth Global Environment Outlook (GEO-6). The review period of the chapters will run from 18 April to 15 May 2017. This review will be in time for the second authors meeting of the Sixth Global Environment Outlook (GEO-6) which will be in Bangkok, Thailand from 22-26 May 2017 at the United Nations Conference Centre where these valuable comments will be addressed.

Cleaning up Lake Naivasha

by Evelyn Ongie



I attended a brown bag session organized by my colleagues from Ecosystems Division, in collaboration with two Kenyan based Non-Governmental Organizations; [Nature Kenya](#) and [Clean up Kenya](#). This was in-line with the World Water day held on 22 March of every year. The focus of the brown bag was about the once picture perfect Lake Naivasha which was once full of animal and bird life now slowly dwindling to a deplorable state. Lake Naivasha is a fresh water lake without any known outlets, which supports abundant wildlife and a vibrant horticulture and flower industry. After the session, we were all invited to a clean-up of Lake Naivasha. The threat that is facing the lake is the pollution from the near-by factories and flower farms as well as plastic litter by the local community and tourists. Lake Naivasha is a tourist location and the local community depends on it for their livelihood.



Nearly one hundred colleagues from various UN agencies joined forces to be part of the solution to clean up around the lake. When we reached Lake Naivasha, the local community was curious about the buses that streamed into their vicinity. Some continued cleaning their fishing nets, others played a game of pool, and others cooked, while some just sat idly by. I looking at the local community partly responsible for the litter and I decided that aside from collecting litter, I will also take the time to create awareness on the value of keeping the environment around the lake clean and litter-free. The organizers set up a competition to crown the group that would collect the most trash as the 'Kings and Queens of Trash'. As we collected the trash, I spoke with the community members in large groups in order to save on time.

This strategy proved quite useful. The community members realized that as they littered they were affecting not only themselves but also future generations. The birds and animal life were ingesting toxins strewn in and around the lake. Nets made of plastic were thrown all around and stuck to the ground; we worked with colleagues to remove a huge nets lodged to the ground. All the efforts to speak to the community members bore fruit since they responded to say that they would take the trash to the compost pits dug in various sections around the lake and recommended for the county council to bring trucks to take the trash out of the surrounding area.

This clean-up was so timely since an announcement was made by the Kenyan government to ban the use, manufacture and import of all plastic bags. The ban will take effect in six months' time. About 100 million plastic bags are handed out every year from supermarkets alone, which contribute to the 8 million tonnes of plastic that leak into the ocean every year. In Africa, Rwanda and Morocco are pace setters since they banned plastic bags.