

OurRef: UNEA/GEO/CoordGroup/4

February 1, 2024

Outcomes Document

The Coordination Group Meeting for the Seventh Edition of UNEP's Global Environment Outlook (GEO-7)

February 1 2024

On the 1st February 2024, the GEO-7 Co-ordination Group met to consider the following agenda items:

1. GEO-7 general update
2. IK & LK Dialogues approach with virtual and in person dialogues
3. Existing literature on solution pathways to transform proposed systems
4. BSC and CCA task groups and IK& LK taskforce approaches
5. AOB

On these agenda items, the meeting decided:

- IMAG to consider how to encourage a high number of reviewers from Eastern Europe
- The Solutions Pathways chapters should include grey literature as well as academic literature
- The Solutions Pathways chapters should discuss examples of what has worked well, as well as what has not worked well
- The MESAG will discuss how authors from the solutions pathways chapters can address the perceived lack of literature and will provide guidance
- The next Co-ordination call will be held in three months' time (date TBC)
- The Secretariat will update and share the online meetings document

Rapporteur	Signature
Pierre Boileau	<i>Pierre Boileau</i>

Meeting summary

The meeting began with a round of introductions.

1. GEO-7 general update

The second authors meeting took place between the 15-19th January in Vienna, Austria, attended by 205 authors. The purpose of the meeting was to develop a First Order Draft for peer review. All chapters have made progress, though some will still require more work ahead of the First Order Draft deadline (5pm EAT 8th February). Progress has been as expected for a First Order Draft.

Several MESAG members attended the meeting to follow the IK & LK Task Force progress, as well as the assessment co-chairs.

The third authors meeting will take place during the 2-6th September 2024. The IMAG and MESAG face to face meetings will take place during the 3-5th September 2024. All meetings are currently expected to take place at the Dead Sea Resort in Jordan. The Secretariat has requested a security assessment from the Resident Co-Ordinator Office. Meeting rooms have been booked in Nairobi for the same time period as a back-up option. Safety is a top priority when organizing author meetings.

The Secretariat received over 400 reviewer applications for First Order Draft review. A final selection of 234 external peer reviewers were selected based on expertise, gender and geographical balance. The First Order Draft review period runs from the 12th February until the 31st March 2024. The MESAG members have been invited to be reviewers. The review will take place on the GEO-READ platform.

Members of the Behavioural, Social, and Cultural (BSC) Task Group and the Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) Task Group will conduct a review of the chapters in parallel. These Task Groups will not conduct their review on GEO-READ. The Task Groups are made up of GEO-7 authors. The review taking place on the GEO-READ platform is for external experts only.

It was noted that authors are content with how to proceed with the GEO process using the GEO-READ platform, including how to access and respond to reviewer comments.

It was also noted that it has been a challenge to find reviewers from Eastern Europe. This region is typically under-represented, in part because it is relatively small. IMAG and Collaborating Centres may be able to help address this issue.

2. IK & LK Dialogues approach with virtual and in person dialogues

Several First Order Draft chapters, though not all, contain short sections (500-1000) on IK & LK. Discussions with the IK & LK Task Force are ongoing as to how to add IK & LK content to the Second Order Draft. Options include:

- Adding 10% additional IK & LK text to each chapter (as is currently the case)
- Adding an IK & LK chapter at the start of each of the five report sections
- Adding one separate IK & LK chapter into the GEO-7 report

The IK & LK Task Force has been working with the Secretariat to organize four IK & LK Dialogues throughout the GEO-7 process. The purpose of these Dialogues is to gather additional verbal inputs from members of Indigenous and communities. The first Dialogue will be held virtually due to funding limitations. The first call for Dialogue attendees received 82 nominations. The Secretariat is in the process of selecting 30 attendees for the First Dialogue. The second Dialogue will be held in May, the third in October 2024 and the final Dialogue in October 2025. It is expected that the second Dialogue will take place in Mexico. There will be interpretation into English from Spanish, though there will be global representation. It was suggested that 3 experts per North American country (Canada, USA, Mexico) may also attend. Logistics and funding still need to be agreed for the remaining two Dialogues.

The Secretariat will, additionally, open a call for relevant submissions of Indigenous Knowledge. These might include poems, art, songs, texts and other types of content.

It was noted that, despite strong support from governments to include IK & LK in the GEO-7 report, very little funding has been offered. As such, GEO-7 will not be able to include IK & LK in as much depth as IPBES does, and much of the activity will have to be online. It was clarified that one meeting requires about 100,000 USD. This covers the costs of transport for Indigenous knowledge holders and several members of the IK & LK Task Force to a specific as well as a room for 40-50 people over 2-3 days.

The IK & LK Task Force currently has 9-10 active members, but is looking to add several new members and Contributing Authors to be able to support the 21 GEO-7 chapters. The Secretariat is still accepting nominations of potential members from governments.

Four members of the MESAG currently support the IK & LK Task Force. The Secretariat has received good support from the MESAG regarding these Dialogues.

3. Existing literature on solution pathways to transform proposed systems

During the second authors meeting (Vienna, 15-19th January 2024), authors raised the issue that it had been difficult to find appropriate literature during the First Order Draft phase. This issue was of particular concern to authors and fellows of Chapters in Part D: solutions pathways towards transformation. As the focus of the GEO-7 is on *how* to achieve the system transformation required to meet politically agreed targets, and this focus is what

differentiates the report from other major global assessments, resolving this issue is of high importance.

It was noted that literature relating to ‘the how’ does exist, though much of it may be in the form of grey literature (e.g., reports from the World Bank, development agencies, regional banks) rather than academic literature. It was recommended by the assessment co-chairs that the solutions pathways chapters look beyond academic literature, and find examples of solutions that have and have not worked across the world.

It was further noted that, in addition to the perceived lack of literature, authors may not feel comfortable describing solutions, especially without clear academic references. Some authors have suggested that they felt that this style of writing was beyond their expertise.

Given the above, it was suggested that the MESAG could discuss how best to address the perceived lack of literature for the chapters referenced, and oversee the provision of guidance to these chapters as to how best proceed. This guidance may include information on literature review protocols to ensure that relevant grey literature is included, recommended journals (e.g., on political economy, political ecology, sociology), and other points.

4. BSC and CCA Task Groups and IK & LK Task Force approaches

Each of the Task Groups and Task Force now has two conveners as well as several members.

As discussed above, the IK & LK Task Force is arranging Dialogues and is in the process of agreeing how best to incorporate content into the GEO-7 report.

The BSC and CCA Task Groups will review the 21 chapters over the First Order Draft review period.

The Task Groups and Task Force will co-ordinate following the First Order Draft review to identify thematic areas of overlap (e.g., justice/equity) and discuss how best to address these.

The topic of gender is being addressed by the BSC Task Group, as this group has several gender experts as members.

5. AOB

The next Co-Ordination call is proposed to be held in three months’ time (exact date TBC).

The meetings document will be updated and shared.

Annex 1: Participants List

First Name	Last Name	Role in GEO-7	Geographic Region(s)
Bob	Watson	Assessment co-chair	Western Europe and Others Group
Anna	Mampye	IMAG co-chair, rapporteur of the ad-hoc open-ended meetings	African Group
Arthur	Ejlis	IMAG co-chair	Western European Group
Miroslav	Havranek	IMAG vice chair, vice-chair of the ad-hoc open-ended meetings	Eastern European Group
Ana Julieta	Calvo-Obando	IMAG Rapporteur	Latin American and Caribbean Group
Thuraya	Al Sariri	Co-chair of the ad-hoc open-ended meetings	Asia Pacific Group
Maria del Mar	Viana Rodriguez	MESAG co-chair	Western European Group
Ervin	Balázs	MESAG Vice-chair	Eastern European Group
Gian Carlo	Delgado	MESAG Rapporteur	Latin American and Caribbean Group
Alberto	Capra	Vice-chair of the ad-hoc open-ended meetings	Latin American and Caribbean Group
Pierre	Boileau	UNEP, Head of GEO Unit	
Ignacio	Sanchez-Diaz	UNEP, GEO team, MESAG Secretariat Support	
Martha	Stokes	UNEP, GEO Team, MESAG Secretariat Support	

Apologies

First Name	Last Name	Role in GEO-7	Geographic Region(s)
Nyovani	Madise	Assessment co-chair	African Group
Ying	Wang	Assessment co-chair	Asia and the Pacific
Edgar	Gutierrez-Espeleta	Assessment co-chair	Latin American and Caribbean Group
Nicholas	King	MESAG Co-chair	African Group
Rosemarie	Casimiro	MESAG vice-chair	Asia and the Pacific Group
Lorenzo	Ciccarese	Co-chair of the ad-hoc open-ended meetings, MESAG member	Western European Group
Rolenas	Baereleo	IMAG Vice chair	Asia and the Pacific Group