



GEO-7 assessment cochairs and SPM authors, representing the GEO-7 author team met in Jeju Island, Republic of South Korea on 2-6 June 2025 for the SPM drafting meeting of the Summary for Policymakers (SPM).

The objective of the meeting included:

1. Advance the drafting of the SPM document to achieve a near final draft of the SPM by:
 - Ensuring the SPM meets the word count limit (Part 1, Part 2, Part 3, Key Messages)
 - Ensuring line of sight and confidence statements are included
 - Discuss potential visuals to be included in the document
 - Incorporate elements of IK&LK, BSC, CCA
2. Discuss potential sensitive issues ahead of the SPM review and approval meeting in October 2025.
3. Agree on a timeline and broad workplan to deliver the SOD of the SPM for the intergovernmental peer-review period in August.
4. Advance the development of the visuals to be included in the SPM.

On these items the meeting decided:

1. To produce a table of defensible numbers that can be used in the SPM.
2. The language from the Executive summary does not need to be the same in the SPM but the meaning has to be the same.
3. Consistency in the confidence statements from the main report and the SPM is important and line of sight references must be included
4. The SPM should be policy relevant and not policy prescriptive
5. To have only one annex in the SPM on the regional priorities
6. Embed issues of trust and hope into the narrative
7. Ensure the key messages include incentives to trigger action from policymakers
8. To include 11 figures into the document.

Meeting Summary

Day 1, Monday 2 June 2025

Plenary session

The SPM core drafting team met to discuss the priorities for the week and allocated time slots to discuss various pending issues. It was proposed that by the end of the meeting, there should be a near final draft that addressed all the concerns raised on the current version including addressing CLAs comments from the internal review and the comments from the FOD review of the SPM.

Official opening session

The official opening session saw opening remarks from:

- UNEP's Executive Director, Inger Andersen (video message)
- KEI's President, Hongkyun Kim (video message)
- Chief of UNEP's Scientific Assessment Branch and Head of the GEO Secretariat, Maarten Kappelle
- Head of KEI's Global Cooperation Team, Jun Hyun Park
- GEO-7 Assessment Co-chairs, Sir. Robert Watson and Dr. Edgar Gutiérrez-Espeleta
- GEO-7 Multidisciplinary Expert Scientific Advisory Group (MESAG) Cochairs, Dr. Maria del Mar Viana Rodriguez and Prof. Nicholas King
- Head of UNEP's Global Assessment Unit, Ignacio Sanchez Diaz

Plenary session (continued)

The Co-Chairs underscored the importance of the SPM being written in a way that engages policy makers (and the wider body of decision makers in general) through clear language that is policy relevant but not policy prescriptive. They emphasised that the one of the main messages of this GEO was the interconnectedness between the natural environment systems, and the interconnectedness between the human systems which rely on the natural environment systems. It therefore follows that the global crises of climate change, biodiversity loss, land degradation and desertification, and of pollution and waste are not just environmental crises but also social and economic crises too. There was support for a summary narrative of this type based on the key messages at the front of the SPM. Authors stressed that GEO was being prepared against a backdrop of environmental policy regression and failure of trust and multilateralism.

After the opening session, the whole group reconvened for a presentation on “writing for policymaker audiences” delivered by Dr. Jordan Harold, Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research, followed by a Q&A.

Breakout sessions

After plenary, the whole group split into various break out rooms to discuss specifics on the different parts of the SPM.

Day 2, Tuesday 3 June 2025

The three groups worked separately to advance their drafts with some key objectives in mind:

1. Addressing the review comments
2. Ensuring consistency in language and how messages from the report are presented in the SPM
3. Reducing word count

4. Including line of sight with the main report
5. Adding numbers to the text to make it more actionable
6. Ensuring the language is understandable and helpful for policymakers.

The different teams also met with the graphic designer and expert from the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research to discuss the graphics to be included in the SPM.

During the day, the co-chairs also finalized an updated version of the key messages, that was shared with everyone for their review.

Day 3, Wednesday 4 June 2025

After some working session in the three different groups to advance the drafts, the whole group met in plenary to:

1. Review the key messages
2. Discuss potential sensitive issues for the SPM Review and approval meeting, to be held on 27 – 31 October 2025.
3. Remind the group to review the guidance on AI.

The team reviewed the key messages line-by-line providing comments and discussing potential solutions to the text. The co-chairs took note of the suggestions to provide an updated version of the text by the end of the day.

Day 4, Thursday 5 June 2025

The whole day was spent at the Jeju Booyoung Hotel and the International Convention Centre Jeju to participate in the KEI Global Forum and the celebrations of World Environment Day. Co-chairs of the assessment, MESAG and a few authors participated in a number of panel discussions on science to policy.

Day 5, Friday 6 June 2025

The morning started with a plenary that included the participation of Dechen Tsering, Director of the UNEP Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific. The Co-chairs, together with key authors from Part 3, presented some key messages from the SPM, especially those related to the region and the Director provided some inputs on how GEO-7 could be helpful to governments from Asia and the Pacific.

The team then continued discussions on the consistencies between Parts 2 and 3 and thereafter worked on the drafts, as they were requested to finalize the text by the end of the day so that it could be sent for review to the whole GEO-7 authors team.

The last session of the day, in plenary, was focused on:

1. Agreeing on a timeline to finalize the SPM by 15 August. The agreed timeline can be found in Annex 1.
2. Taking stock of the advancement of the week
3. Identifying any final issues to be fixed in the text.

The co-chairs then thanked the participants; the Secretariat and KEI and the meeting came to an end.

Key elements from the discussion of the different group throughout the week

Part 1

For Part 1, the group agreed that their priorities for the week were to: discuss all of the substantive comments received from the review, (minor editorial comments having been accepted); finalise through group discussion how to address each of these; add in light of sight references to all key statements; allocate writing tasks to individual authors; ensure all section headings were framed as

messages and reduce word count in line with guidance from the Co-Chairs to approximately 4000 words from 6300. The group also agreed to refresh and revise the structure of Part 1 in the following ways:

Section 1.1 would include a structure of three bold statements describing the state and trends of each global environmental crises and progress towards environmental targets including the insertion of a new diagram in the tipping points box: the subsection on pollution would be completely rewritten following reviewers' feedback.

Section 1.2 on how the global environmental crises interact with each other would be substantially revised to remove much repetition from the FOD. The new section would comprise a redrawn version of the diagram prepared by the Crises Group with explanatory text embedded in the diagram together with a box of examples of the interconnections between the global crises using the four natural systems as it was felt by the authors that the content of the four state and trends chapters were underrepresented in the SPM and this was a way to address this. The Co-Chairs agreed to this approach as long as it could be undertaken within word count restraints.

In Section 1.3 text would be edited to create a more coherent and connected narrative on drivers by grouping them into related themes; and a revised version of the Drivers and Pressures diagram would be included in this section.

In Section 1.4 on SDGs the text would be reduced through careful editing.

A clean version of Part 1 of the SPM taking into account all of the above was delivered on the close of the meeting Friday 6 June to the Co-Chairs and Secretariat.

Part 2

For part 2, the group worked on the following main issues: i) achieving harmony between the methodology text and the text on transformation from Chapter 21; ii) ensuring consistency in the way the systems and solutions pathways are presented; iii) adding a section on how the interlinkages between systems; iv) including line of sight with the main report; v) reducing text to meet the word count requirements.

A whole working session was spent discussing the "interlinkages figure" to ensure it portrayed all the different elements coming out of the text and this also influenced the text dealing with the same issues. The teams of chapter 14, 15, 16, 17 and 18 worked together on ensuring that the interlinkages were clearly highlighted in the text and that there was coherence in the way the solution pathways were presented. The teams of Chapter 12, 13 and 21 agreed on harmonizing the text on methodology and transformation to avoid duplication.

The Outlooks team (Chapters 10 and 11) updated their text based on the SPM comments and participated in the discussion about the whole part to ensure that the mentions of the scenario results were accurate and integrated well into the text.

The team also discussed with representative from the IK&LK Task Force and BSC Task Group to ensure elements of both were included in the text.

Part 3

For part 3, the group agreed to that the word count still needs to be reduced and allocated tasks for each of the systems while including perspectives from the BSC and IK&LK members that were present. The group agreed that priorities table from ch 8 that's to be included in part 3 of the SPM

should be standardized later and that the next draft of the SPM should be ready by end of day Tuesday. In order to ensure IK&LK messaging in Part 3, Jyotsna would go through chapter 20 to identify useful IK &LK statements and line of sight to include in the SPM.

The team agreed on the order of which the key policy finding would be presented and allocated the fellows tasks to ensure the correct line of sight was included for each paragraphs from the relevant sections in chapter 8 and 20.

The Part 3 team also had a session with the systems chapter authors to check for consistencies across the various systems and proposed solutions. For some systems, inconsistencies were identified and the system authors worked hand in hand to correct them as well as add the relevant line of sight to the system chapters themselves.

A figure to show the tailored solution pathways and system transformations that are needed withing regions for common and specific priorities was discussed with the design team and a draft figure shared by the end of week for comments and reflection before finalization. The expanded priorities table was moved into an annex and the draft figure inserted in the working version.

A clean version of Part 3 of the SPM considering all of the above including the allocated word count was delivered on the close of the meeting Friday 6 June to the Co-Chairs and Secretariat.

Annex 1: SPM Timeline

Date	Item
9 – 13 June	Authors respond to the SPM comments on GEO-READ.
9 June – 30 June	CLAs review SPM text. <i>LAs channel any comments through the CLAs.</i> <i>CLAs and convenors of the taskforce to filter the comments from the LAs and taskforce members and submit comments they agree with.</i>
30 June – 14 July	<i>CLAs review all the comments and provide recommendations to Co-chairs (what to include or reject)</i>
9 – 26 June	Reproduction of SPM graphics
30 June – 11 July	SPM Figures Survey with IMAG and MESAG.
10/11 July (TBC)	Feedback sessions with IMAG and MESAG on the SPM Figures (assessment co-chairs will participate).
14 July – 10 August	Visuals are finalized and included in the SOD of the SPM.
14 – 21 July	Assessment co-chairs and CLAs develop a new SPM version based on the comments from CLAs.
9-18 July	SPM Part calls to resolve any comments
22 July	SPM text to the Secretariat and copy editor.
29 July	SPM text from the copy editor to the Secretariat and assessment co-chairs.
29 July – 9 August	Final edits from assessment co-chairs and Secretariat.
10 August	SPM text with the Secretariat.
10 – 15 August	Secretariat prepare the SPM document for submission to Member States.
15 August	Secretariat send the SOD of the SPM to Member States
15 August – 12 October	Member States provide written comments to the SOD of the SPM
13 – 26 October	CLAs and assessment co-chair prepare responses to Member States comments
27-31 October	SPM review and approval meeting in Nairobi, Kenya. <i>Selected CLAs who are not able to join in person should be available to quickly reply to any issue raised in the room.</i> <i>CLAs who can fund their participation to the meeting should let the Secretariat know ASAP.</i>

Annex 2: Participants List

GEO-7 role	Title	First Name	Family Name	Affiliation
Assessment Co-chair	Dr.	Edgar E.	Gutierrez-Espeleta	Retired
Assessment Co-chair	Sir.	Robert	Watson	University of East Anglia
GEO-7 author	Ms.	Sarah-Lan	Mathez-Stiefel	Centre for Development and Environment, University of Bern (and Wyss Academy for Nature
GEO-7 author	Dr.	Audrone	Telesiene	Kaunas University of technology
GEO-7 author	Dr.	Ghassem	Asrar	Universities Space Research Association-Retired
GEO-7 author	Mr.	Paul	Lucas	PBL Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency
GEO-7 author	Dr.	Lindsay	Beevers	The University of Edinburgh
GEO-7 author	Dr.	Jacob	Park	(University of Johannesburg SA, Castleton University USA
GEO-7 author	Dr.	Jonathan	Davies	University of British Columbia
GEO-7 author	Dr.	Stephan	Harrison	Exeter University
GEO-7 author	Dr.	Erica	Gaddis	SWCA Environmental Consultants
GEO-7 author	Dr.	Mark	Elder	Institute for Global Environmental Strategies
GEO-7 author	Dr.	Jeff	Seadon	Seadon Consulting
GEO-7 author	Dr.	Vassilis	Daioglou	PBL Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency
GEO-7 author	Dr.	Bruno	Turnheim	Institut National de la Recherche en Agriculture, Alimentation et Environnement (INRAE)
GEO-7 author	Dr.	Henri	Rueff	Centre for Development and Environment, University of Bern
GEO-7 author	Dr.	David	Broadstock	National University of Singapore
GEO-7 author	Dr.	Patrick	Schroeder	Chatham House
GEO-7 author	Dr.	Deborah	Ley	United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, ECLAC
GEO-7 author	Dr.	Tek	Sapkota	International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT)
GEO-7 author	Dr.	Gail	Taylor	University of California, Davis/University of Southampton
GEO-7 author	Mr.	Binaya Raj	Shivakoti	Institute for Global Environmental Strategies
GEO-7 author	Dr.	Catalina	Turcu	Bartlett School of the Built Environment, UCL
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GEO-7 author	Ms.	Jyoti	Krishnakumar	Keystone Foundation
GEO-7 Fellow	Mr.	Tarik	Alkharusi	Imperial College London
GEO-7 Fellow	Ms.	Martina	Rotolo	University College London
GEO-7 Fellow	Mr.	Aseel Ibrahim Mohammed	Abo-Taleb	UNEP Major Group for Children and Youth
GEO-7 Fellow	Ms.	Shaneica	Leister	The University of the West Indies
GEO-7 author	Miss.	Marianna	Baslandze	SOGAZ
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Science editor	Ms.	Catherine	McMullen	Independent
Tyndall	Dr.	Jordan	Harold	School of Psychology and Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research
Secretariat	Mr.	Ignacio	Sanchez Diaz	UNEP
Secretariat	Mr.	Maarten	Kappelle	UNEP
Secretariat	Ms.	Martha	Stokes	UNEP
Secretariat	Ms.	Adele	Roccato	UNEP

Secretariat	Ms.	Yunting	Duan	UNEP
Secretariat	Ms.	Caroline	Kaimuru	UNEP
Secretariat	Ms.	Caroline	Mureithi	UNEP
Secretariat	Ms.	Brigitte	Ohanga	UNEP
Secretariat	Ms.	Hilary	Allison	UNEP