



# **Global Environment Outlook (GEO)**

## **Scoping of the Seventh Edition of the Global Environment Outlook: Action for a Healthy Planet<sup>1</sup>**

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1. Working title

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# 1 Scope, rationale, timeline, geographic coverage and methodological approach

## 1.1 Background

The sixth Global Environment Outlook (GEO-6) and other major global assessments<sup>2</sup> have established several key policy findings which will be further explored in GEO-7, namely:

- A healthy environment is a fundamental foundation for human health, well-being and economic prosperity.
- Current policies and their implementation cannot keep pace with the rate of environmental degradation we face today.
- With current policies all analyses conclude that none of the environmental dimension SDGs<sup>3</sup> will be achieved nor will the main internationally agreed environmental goals (e.g. Paris Agreement, Aichi Targets, etc.).
- Because of this we face a triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, negatively affecting human well-being.
- Land degradation, desertification and drought are significant environmental impacts caused primarily by human activity<sup>4</sup> and exacerbated by climate change.
- Policies which address the human systems that are the root cause of environmental degradation should contribute to the transformational changes needed to achieve an environmentally sustainable world by 2050.
- The transformation of three interdependent human systems<sup>5</sup> of energy, food and materials/

waste<sup>6</sup>, as well as their supporting economic and financial models, is critical in this timeframe.

- By transforming these human systems, governments, societies and businesses would likely contribute significantly to creating a world with a stable climate, that is nature rich (biodiverse) and which achieves a near-zero-waste<sup>7</sup> (circular) economy for current and future generations.

## 1.2 Scope

GEO-7 proposes to build on these findings, and those of other major assessments to explore the solutions pathways that are available for the transformation of the interdependent global energy, food and materials/waste systems and their supporting economic and financing models. In addition, to maintaining a link with past GEOs, GEO-7 will:

- Assess the current economic, social and environmental drivers of environmental change and the pressures on the environment that they create, focused primarily on population and demographics, economic development, technological change, urbanization climate change, and lifestyles and values.
- 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<sup>8</sup>), demonstrating how they are impacted by the climate change, biodiversity loss as well as pollution and waste crises, together with land degradation. The section will also highlight the environmental impact of

<sup>2</sup> Includes Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), UNEP Making Peace with Nature Report (MPWN), Global Resources Outlook (GRO), Global Land Outlook (GLO), Global Biodiversity Outlook (GBO), Global Chemicals Outlook (GCO), other assessments undertaken as part of relevant conventions, for example the effectiveness evaluation under the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, etc.

<sup>3</sup> A list of acronyms used in previous GEOs can be found at: [https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/40802/GEO6\\_Acronyms.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y](https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/40802/GEO6_Acronyms.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y)

<sup>4</sup> The types of human activity include but are not limited to: land-use change, overexploitation and invasive alien species.

<sup>5</sup> The three human systems referred to here are meant to encompass the provisioning systems that meet societal needs for energy, food, mobility, shelter as well as the resources that are used throughout the economy and that generate waste.

<sup>6</sup> References to 'waste systems' in this context refer to the current extractive economic model which generates significant amounts of waste at all stages of the current economic model. This is in contrast to proposed circular economy models, which are designed to significantly reduce resource extraction and waste.

<sup>7</sup> Waste is defined by the Basel Convention as substances or objects which are disposed of or are intended to be disposed of or are required to be disposed of by the provisions of national law

<sup>8</sup> A glossary of terms used in previous GEOs can be found at: [https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/40803/GEO6\\_Glossary.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y](https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/40803/GEO6_Glossary.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y)

different shocks such as pandemics, disasters and conflicts. This section will also highlight impacts on human health and well-being, provisioning systems (e.g. food, energy, mobility and shelter) and the SDGs. This will be done in a non-duplicative manner with regard to existing assessments.

- Assess the solutions pathways and policy approaches that can be used to transform the human systems of energy, food and materials/waste as well as their supporting economic and financial models that are at the root cause of the triple planetary crisis together with land degradation. The report will focus on the interdependencies of these crises and the need to adapt unavoidable environmental change within all these systems.
- Provide environmental outlooks with milestones in 2030 and 2050, with regional and subregional specificities, including: (a) business-as-usual scenario, where possible, with and without policy commitments (e.g. Internationally Agreed Environment Goals, the Nationally Determined Contributions or NDCs) and (b) target-seeking scenarios of the interdependent systems and models (energy, food, materials/waste and supporting economic and financial models) showing how they can be successfully transformed in the timeframe from 2025 to 2050 to achieve the Internationally Agreed Environmental Goals. These target-seeking scenarios will quantify, to the extent possible, the socio-economic challenges that might be faced but also the possible socio-economic benefits (e.g. reduced global conflict, reduced migration, better food security, improved water security, improved energy security) that could result from these transformations and broader environmental outcomes of relevance to Multi-lateral Environment Agreements (MEA).

### 1.3 Rationale

All major UN-led and UN-supported assessments<sup>9</sup> have highlighted that degradation of our environment continues at an accelerating rate. Several non-UN

assessments<sup>10</sup> have also highlighted the link between the interdependent human systems (energy, food, materials/waste) as well as economic and financial models and their environmental impacts. The current goals-based-diplomacy approach in major multi-lateral environmental agreement processes typically identifies the internationally-agreed environmental goals that must be reached to attain the environmental dimension of sustainability in the period from 2025 to 2050 but does not provide sufficient guidance on the best policy, governance, technology or behavioural approaches to achieve these targets taking into account socio-economic contexts. This sometimes is described as identifying the 'what' without providing guidance on the 'how'.

GEO-6 and other major assessments have also highlighted that societies have failed to achieve the Aichi biodiversity goals and are not on track to achieve any of the other internationally agreed environmental and development goals (SDGs, Paris Agreement, etc.) that have been set by Member States. These assessments have highlighted the possibility of a '3 degrees' world, with more pollution and less biodiversity if societies do not achieve major transformations quickly. UNEP Member States recognize that we are facing a triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, together with land degradation, and that urgent action is needed to address these.

GEO-7 will focus on assessing solutions pathways for policymakers, providing them with sufficient guidance on the practical steps for policy development and adoption, implementation, timing, potential challenges, ways to assess and manage synergies, trade-offs, unintended consequences and harness the potential socio-economic benefits of these transformations. The rationale for this focus is that Member States have stressed in the GEO-6 Summary for Policymakers and other assessments that urgent and sustained action is needed to change the trends on these critical environmental issues, but many Member States may be blocked by certain barriers (e.g. political economy context, lack of financing for environmentally sustainable actions, economic policies with substantial environmental impacts, education/habit barriers or lack of coordination in

<sup>9</sup> For example recent IPCC, IPBES, IRP reports along with the Making Peace with Nature synthesis report.

<sup>10</sup> World Resources Institute, Creating a Sustainable Food Future, <https://files.wri.org/d8/s3fs-public/wrr-food-full-report.pdf>, and Worldwide Fund for Nature, Living Planet Report 2020, <https://f.hubspotusercontent20.net/hubfs/4783129/LPR/PDFs/ENGLISH-FULL.pdf>, [https://wwflpr.awsassets.panda.org/downloads/lpr\\_2022\\_full\\_report.pdf](https://wwflpr.awsassets.panda.org/downloads/lpr_2022_full_report.pdf).

multi-level governance settings) and may need more practical guidance before moving forward.

GEO-7 will also continue to assess the state and trends on the global environment as well as providing an outlook that provides useful guidance on the possible environmental and socio-economic implications of the needed transformational changes. GEO-7 will also consider key elements such as equity, gender, impacts on livelihoods, etc.. This will ensure continuity with previous GEOs and also allow GEO-7 to provide some perspective on the environmental impact of recent and possible future pandemics, disasters and conflicts. For the outlook, GEO-7 should be able to provide modelling and scenarios analysis of the socio-economic impacts (possibly both positive and negative) of different solutions pathways.

#### 1.4. Timeline and geographic coverage

The timeline for production of GEO-7 is defined by the Resolution EA.5/3, which specifies that the main assessment report and its accompanying Summary for Policymakers (SPM) be prepared every 4 years and that GEO-7 should be submitted to a future session of UNEA for endorsement no sooner than 2025. Additional detail on the proposed initial timeline for the different meetings and activities are outlined in Section 3. This enables key initial findings from GEO-7 to support the development of UNEP's MTS 2026-2029 scheduled for approval in 2025 (in line with UNEA decision 5/4), taking into account that these timelines can be adjusted, if necessary, following the decisions on the dates of UNEA-7 at UNEA-6.

The main geographic scope of the assessment is also defined by the Resolution EA.5/3. GEO-7 must be a global assessment with regional specificities<sup>11</sup>. These regional specificities can be integrated in the state of the environment section of the GEO, the policy section, including through the production of case studies, and in the outlooks section through globally and regionally specific pathways.

#### 1.5 Methodological and procedural approach

Recent GEOs have been conducted using the Drivers, Pressures, State, Impact, Response (DPSIR) framework, which is well accepted and is familiar

to Member States. For this reason, it is important to continue with the use of this framework, but with more emphasis on the Response component, with both a global, regional and subregional perspectives, where the solutions-pathways and outlooks can be presented. GEO-7 will also use other assessment frameworks, such as the levers and entry points framework of GSDR 2019 or the IPCC's sustainable pathways and IPBES's nature futures framework. Indicators for establishing trends in the state of the environment could be used for monitoring the solutions pathways and for identifying the near-term outcomes (i.e. 2030) of the Outlook.

The number of chapters and their content cannot be fully defined at this stage, since these may change as the analytical approach and assessment process is guided by the co-chairs, vice-chairs and experts involved in the process. The innovative and iterative nature of this assessment and its solutions-based approach needs to allow for some adjustment and flexibility during the process so that the advice and guidance received from the Intergovernmental and Multi-stakeholder Advisory Group (IMAG) and the Multidisciplinary Expert Scientific Advisory Group (MESAG) can be integrated as the assessment process evolves.

The assessment report will include a Summary for Policymakers, subject to the approval by Member States, which will be focused on the most policy-relevant findings of each chapter and suggested roles for different stakeholders.

GEO-7 will also include an assessment of key knowledge and data gaps and how they might be addressed.

The assessment will also draw from key findings from major global assessment, regional and country-level assessments, while not duplicating their analysis, as well as peer reviewed literature, information from other credible data sources, such as the World Environment Situation Room and elements of knowledge generation within and outside UNEP, including Indigenous knowledge, and where possible local knowledge, citizen science and grey literature, which will be identified as such, in line with the procedures document for the preparation of GEO assessments. The Secretariat will guide experts preparing this assessment to work with relevant experts engaged in other major assessments through the Adhoc Global Assessments Dialogue to avoid duplication.

<sup>11</sup> GEO-7 will work with the five regions defined by the United Nations, making reference, as necessary, to subregions within.

The work will be carried out by an interdisciplinary team of experts, including practitioners with expertise in interdependencies within and across energy, food, materials/waste (circularity) systems, and their supporting economic models as well as interlinkages with climate change, biodiversity loss as well as pollution and waste, together with land degradation. The analysis will likely consider those sectors and provisioning functions most directly dependent on the environment, and that impact the environment, (e.g., forestry, agriculture, fisheries, industry and commerce, tourism, energy and mining). The expert team will draw from a diversity of backgrounds, disciplines and regions (e.g., academic, business and industry, government, civil society, indigenous peoples, from all UN regions and with expertise in, natural and social sciences, humanities, economics, finance, policy and regulations, laws, Indigenous knowledge, local knowledge, citizen science, management, metrics and indicators, and monitoring) as well as likely data providers such as the GRID centres and the World Environment Situation Room (WESR).

The UNEP experts on knowledge and data, in particular from the World Environment Situation Room and the GRID centres, will support authors and experts in their work on data and information and in their identification of knowledge gaps, and following the approval of the assessment, promote knowledge generation to address the identified gaps.

The approach to recognizing and working with Indigenous knowledge, and local knowledge in GEO and other relevant guidance (e.g. from IPBES) will be factored into the assessment. The approach to working with citizen scientists will draw on the guidance on citizen science contained in the UNESCO resolution on open science.

The solutions pathways approach will strive to use appropriate tools and methodologies to assist in identifying and assessing relevant solutions-focused approaches to increase the policy relevance of the assessment and its use in decision-making once the scoping document is approved.

The Summary for Policymakers (SPM) will be approved by governments at a final session. The

underlying report will at the same time be accepted by governments.

The SPM will be available in all official languages of the United Nations and will be printed on demand, resources permitting. The main GEO report will also be translated into all official languages of the United Nations, as per UNEP publishing guidelines.

The length of the SPM should remain within a word limit of approximately 10,000 words (indicative). Indicative word limits are also provided for the chapters in the proposed annotated outline below.

Communication and outreach will be undertaken from the outset and during the development of the assessment, also actively using the WESR, to build engagement with the wider policy community and other end users of the assessment. A detailed outreach strategy will be developed for this purpose ensuring that it is also aligned with the supporting functions of Resolution EA.5/3 and the GEO Fellows programme.

Prior to the launch of the drafting process, UNEP will build digital collaboration tools that will improve the efficiency of the assessment process. These tools will be focused on improving online collaboration in the drafting process, allowing online creation of graphics and maps using 'live' data sources, streamlining the peer review and review editor processes. By moving these processes online, the creation of glossaries, terminology and definitions will be improved, through the creation of an online platform for glossary experts to work from as will the creation of an online, interactive platform for presentation of the final GEO report. To enhance the online, interactive nature of the publication, all modelling and datasets used in this assessment will be made publicly available on this platform, where this is possible.

Technical support will be provided in house and by collaborating centres, such as the GRID centres, which will work in close collaboration with the GEO teams.

## 2 Proposed Annotated Outline<sup>12</sup>

### Overview and context

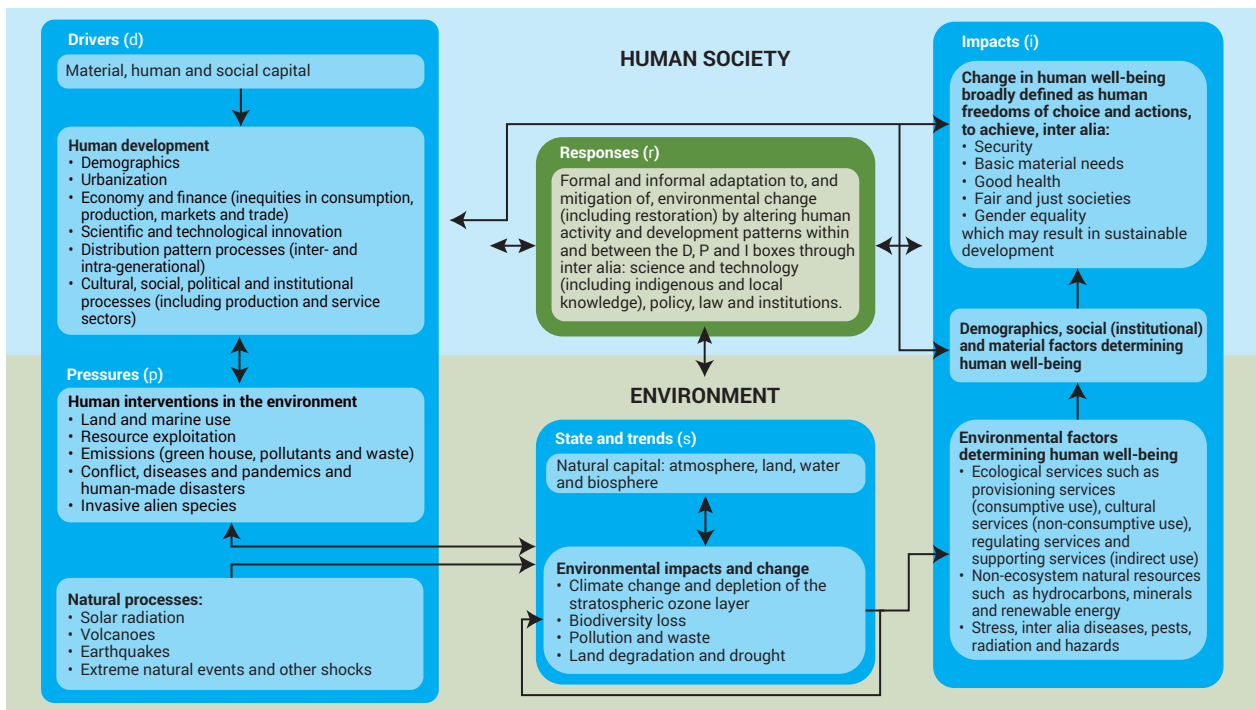
**Introduction:** This chapter will include a review of the main findings of the GEO-6, IPCC, IPBES, IRP, GSDR MPWN and other reports (including an explanation of the value-added of GEO-7), explanation of the solutions-focused approach and the rationale for why this is needed now. It will also discuss the innovative nature of this GEO including its digital transformation, the analytical approach and the assessment frameworks to be used, the wider policy context and the relative progress on environmental goals. Finally, it will discuss the likely relevance of GEO findings for other multilateral environmental agreements and processes, a description of the GEO-7 conceptual and methodological approach for the pathways analysis and finally the chapter structure (5,000 words)

### Drivers and pressures of environmental change

**Historical, current and projected drivers and pressures of environmental change:** an assessment of human-environment interactions using the DPSIR framework (Figure 1). The drivers include: demographic; economic and financial; urbanization; science and technology; cultural, social; political and institutions; and shocks.

Figure 1 provides examples of pressures on the environment, including, land-use change; resource exploitation; emissions of GHGs; pollution (including chemicals); conflict, diseases and pandemics as well as human-made disasters and invasive alien species.

Figure 1: Key elements of the DPSIR+ framework



<sup>12</sup> All work lengths are indicative. 1 page equals approximately 500 words. Anticipated page length from the proposed outline below is 400 to 500 pages.



This section will assess current and potential future interactions among and between the drivers and the pressures. Diverse knowledge systems, including Indigenous knowledge and local knowledge, will be used within this framework. This DSPIR framework will be applied in conjunction with other frameworks, (e.g., the United Nations Secretary General's Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR) levers and entry points, IPCC's sustainability framework, IPBES's nature futures framework, among others) when assessing the opportunities and barriers for transformational change. (10,000 words)<sup>13</sup>

## State and trends of the environment

**State of the global environment and progress towards internationally agreed environmental goals and targets:** the analysis will be organized according to the four natural systems (Air, Land and soils, Oceans and coasts, Freshwater) and the impact of the triple planetary crisis together with land degradation on these systems, building on previous GEOs. Chapter 1 will focus on the atmosphere (Air) and how it is impacted by the triple planetary crisis together with land degradation. Chapter 2 will focus on terrestrial ecosystems (Land and soil) and how these are impacted, considering the need to adapt to a changing climate. Chapter 3 will focus on marine ecosystems and how these are impacted. Finally, Chapter 4 will focus on freshwater ecosystems and how these are impacted. In Chapters 2-4 the impact on biodiversity and nature's provisioning, regulating and cultural services will be assessed. (4 chapters here, 10,000 words each)

**Interlinkages across environmental changes, scales and geographic regions and sub-regions:** The analysis will provide the regional specificities and interlinkages across these environmental issues, including: environmental changes that are intertwined as well as the priority issues for the five UN regions and sub-regions within these. (1 chapter with sub-sections by region, 5000 words each)

**Implications of environmental change on the SDGs, including:** poverty, food production and hunger and related cross-cutting issues, e.g. migration, water quantity and quality, human health and well-being, rehabilitating land and soil, affordable and clean energy, decent work and economic growth, gender equality and socioeconomic equity, peace

and security, environmentally sustainable cities and communities. (10,000 words)

## Policy responses and solutions pathways

**What are the elements and levers of transformative change?** This chapter will introduce the concepts of levers and entry points presented in GSDR 2019 and other assessments and explain the issues involved in the transformations that are needed to implement environmentally sustainable sectoral and cross-sectoral planning and management approaches for interdependent systems of energy, food as well as materials/waste and their supporting economic and financing models, especially as they affect the global environment and other SDGs. Some actions are transformative, while other enabling actions are not in themselves transformative but lead to transformation, for example incentivizing innovations and development of new technologies. This section will also highlight the opportunities and barriers for transformative change, the transformative potential of the concepts embedded in a circular economy, and address issues such as lock-ins and the various levers, synergies and trade-offs identified in different reports, including:

- economic and financial: e.g., identifying and eliminating, phasing out or reforming environmentally harmful subsidies embedded in current economic models, alignment of investments of financial institutions and the private sector with principles of environmental sustainability, use of inclusive wealth in decision-making (built, human and the diverse values of nature), internalization of externalities, embracing a circular economy, international trade, and transitioning to an environmentally sustainable green and blue economy, e.g., payment for ecosystem services
- scientific and technological: e.g., technologies that facilitate the transition to a low-carbon economy, environmentally sustainable practices in natural resources use and agriculture, nature-based solutions, digital transformation and circular economy and accessibility to promote their use in low- and middle-income countries.
- institutional and political: e.g., polycentric governance and inclusiveness
- social, cultural and behavioral: e.g., poverty, demography, employment, consumption patterns, gender, equity, justice, preferences and lifestyles
- diverse knowledge systems: e.g., Indigenous

<sup>13</sup> Authors will likely need some flexibility to build in bridging text in key parts of the assessment to create a coherent narrative.

knowledge and local knowledge, citizen science, as well as other scientific and business data and information sources and avoidance of greenwashing (15,000 words)

**Methodological approach to solutions-focused**

**pathways:** this chapter will describe the methodology that GEO-7 will use for assessing policy gaps in meeting internationally agreed environmental goals, potential successful policy approaches, with examples of how scarce resources can be mobilized, policy coherence, identifying synergies and trade-offs, aligning commitments to meet multiple policy drivers, policy development in different political/development contexts, i.e., adapting policies, technologies and behavior changes to regional / national context, and applicability at sub-national scales for different sectors. (7,500 words)

**Pathways for transformation of economic models:**

This chapter will present solutions pathways that consider economic and financial risks associated with environmental change and policies to address them, including, but not limited to: addressing vested interests, considering shareholder activism and the flexibility afforded to state-owned enterprises, incorporating natural capital in decision-making, embracing a circular economy which promotes environmentally sustainable consumption and production patterns, internalizing externalities in the prices of goods and services, removing environmentally harmful subsidies, shifting investments towards environmentally sustainable structures and practices. (15,000 words)

**Energy system transformation pathways:** this chapter will present solutions pathways for transitioning to a net-zero-carbon economy in the production and use of energy, while considering availability, accessibility and affordability, including the required technological transitions and their possible trade-offs and benefits, e.g. renewable energy, electrification and clean fuels, end-use efficiency in transportation, industry and buildings and supporting communities in their efforts to decarbonize, as well as the need for energy systems to adapt to a changing climate. Different policy approaches such as the circular economy, carbon pricing and carbon trading will likely also be explored. The chapter will also explore end-of-pipe approaches such as carbon dioxide capture and storage and other negative emissions technologies (e.g. direct air capture), while also assessing the socio-economic transformations that are needed in different regional contexts, including, but not limited to: shifting fossil fuel, mining,

agricultural and transportation subsidies to less environmentally harmful practices, fostering the jobs transition, shifting finance to low-carbon economy activities. (15,000 words)

**Food system transformation pathways:** this chapter will explore solutions pathways, from food production to consumption (farm to fork). It will explore food production transformations (crops, livestock, and fisheries), including, but not limited to: regenerative agriculture, agroforestry, animal husbandry transformations, including pastoralism / small holders, environmentally sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, permaculture and indigenous food systems, circular economy, food distribution and marketing as well as the need to adapt to environmental change. The subsection will also explore the expected socio-economic transformations, including, but not limited to: shifting agricultural and fisheries subsidies and their impacts on natural resources, fostering the jobs transition, shifting finance to environmentally sustainable agriculture and fisheries practices, and reducing food loss and waste through policies, technologies and behavioral changes. The subsection will also assess the potential for transformational change related to food consumption, for example through dietary changes, including, but not limited to: shifting to plant-based protein or cultured meat and seafood, thus promoting health and nutrition co-benefits, food security co-benefits, and greater geopolitical stability. (15,000 words)

**Circularity transformation pathways:** this chapter will assess links between resource extraction and waste and explore solutions pathways for transforming linear economic models to circular ones, including, but not limited to: shifting resource extraction to resource recovery, systems and operations for tracking and recovering resources. The chapter will also assess to shift economic and financing incentives towards resource recovery and environmentally sustainable chemistry, re-designing products for extended life or disassembly, produce stewardship and extended producer responsibility, use and reuse of wastewater, rethinking ownership and moving towards service provision as well as the need to adapt to a changing climate. The chapter will also assess the socio-economic and health co-benefits from circular economy practices, including: geopolitical stability, ending the 'resource curse' and conflict minerals. (15,000 words)

**Environmental systems transformation pathways:**

This chapter will explore solutions pathways where efforts to improve or restore environmental

systems can be used to solve the triple planetary crisis together with land degradation, including, but not limited to: addressing the need for adaptation to climate change as well as conservation and restoration of biodiversity in terrestrial, marine and freshwater systems, harnessing nature to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes, land-based carbon sequestration (soils, reforestation and afforestation), restoration of degraded lands and freshwater systems and rehabilitation of ecosystem services. In addition, the subsection will look at solutions pathways for restoration of marine and freshwater ecosystems, oceans and coasts, air, land and soils, site remediation, environmentally sound management of chemicals and waste<sup>14</sup>, micro-application technologies, use of eco-friendly materials (e.g., to replace single-use plastics). (15,000 words)

## Outlooks

**Approaches, methodology and philosophy:** this chapter will outline the methodological approaches supporting the GEO-7 outlooks. (5000 words)

**Staying on the path we are on – global implications:** this chapter will present the business-as-usual scenarios, including ‘with and without policy commitments’ scenarios, including the environmental and socioeconomic impacts of inaction. (10,000 words)

**Multiple pathways that achieve environmental sustainability – global implications:** this chapter will present the target-seeking scenarios and their environmental and socio-economic implications. (10,000 words)

**Disaggregated solutions pathway scenarios:** this chapter will present the solutions pathways for countries with different economic, resource and environmental situations. (10,000 words)

**Regional similarities and differences:** this chapter will assess the likely regional and sub-regional implications of the different solutions pathways. (5 subsections here, with sub-regional analysis where possible, 5000 words each)

## Driving the transformations

This final chapter will bring together insights from the Outlooks (pathway analyses) and the policy response sections to discuss ‘how’ these transformations could happen and also the role of different stakeholders in the transformations, explaining ‘the who’. (10,000 words)

<sup>14</sup> Environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes or other wastes’ means taking all practicable steps to ensure that hazardous wastes or other wastes are managed in a manner which will protect human health and the environment against the adverse effects which may result from such wastes.

### 3 Work plan and budget

GEO-7 will follow a work plan very similar to GEO-6, with an equivalent number of meetings and activities. This proven approach will ensure production of GEO-7 within the 4 year time frame specified in the resolution EA.5/3 and within the anticipated budget. UNEP has committed more than USD 6.8 million from core

funding (EF, thematic funds and Regular Budget. A detailed projection of each type of fund is included in the budget table *funding availability and projections*. The anticipated funding gap at this early stage of the project is USD 4.1 million over the 3-year production timeline in the essentials scenario.

#### 3.1 Multiyear GEO Work plan

	ACTIVITIES	2022				2023				2024				2025				2026				2027					
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
<b>Preparatory Stage</b>																											
GEO-7 PREPARATORY STAGE	GEO Resolution signed (March 2 <sup>nd</sup> )	■																									
	IMAG Selection		■	■																							
	Convening open-ended meetings, expert and advisory groups and holding meetings		■	■		■				■			■			■				■							
	Procedures and Supporting services meeting (Sept 19-22)		■																								
	Scoping, IMAG Meeting (Oct 17-21)			■																							
	Resource Mobilization		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
	MESAG Selection (Nov)			■																							
	Authors Selection (Dec 2022 - Jan 2023)			■	■																						
	Call for Collaborating Centers (Dec 2022 - Jan 2023)			■	■																						
<b>Production Stage</b>																											
GEO-7 PRODUCTION	Coordinating the drafting process of GEO report					■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
	1 <sup>st</sup> Authors writers sprint					■																					
	IMAG, MESAG Meeting					■																					
	Solutions pathways Workshop						■																				
	Modelling and scenarios workshop						■																				
	Prepare first order draft						■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Authors writers sprint							■																			
	Expert review								■																		
	Address peer review comments									■																	
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Authors writers sprint									■																	
	IMAG, MESAG meeting									■																	
	Prepare 2 <sup>nd</sup> order draft									■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
	Document quality control and production										■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
	UNEA-6 GEO progress report (Feb 2024)										■																
	Intergovernmental and expert review											■															
	Address peer review comments												■														
	Review editors meeting													■													
	MESAG meeting														■												
4 <sup>th</sup> Authors Meeting to address review comments															■												

	ACTIVITIES	2022				2023				2024				2025				2026				2027			
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
<b>SPM and Finalization</b>																									
	Production of first order draft FOD of SPM																								
	Intergov'l and peer review of FOD of SPM																								
	Production of SOD of SPM																								
	Finalize draft SPM meeting (IMAG, MESAG, Authors)																								
	Intergovernmental review of SOD of SPM																								
	Embargoed version of GEO-7																								
	Review and endorsement of SPM																								
	Endorsement of GEO-7 at UNEA 7																								
	Outreach and awareness raising																								
	Terminal Evaluation																								
DIGITIZATION OF GEO	Creation of digital presentation platforms																								
	Build platform for Digitization of GEO																								
	Creation of author collaboration, glossary, peer review and graphing and mapping tools																								
SUPPORTING SERVICES	Delivery of technical assistance for the development of national SoE reports																								
	Creation and delivery of science-policy seminars and materials																								
	Creation of educational materials and an enhanced fellowship programme																								
	Creation of in person or virtual workshops (depending on budget) for scientific experts to increase awareness and production of science-based reports																								
	Convening the <i>Adhoc</i> Global Assessments Dialogue using in person or virtual means (depending on budget)																								

**KEY:**
■ Quarter 1: January - March

■ Quarter 2: April - June

■ Quarter 3: July - September

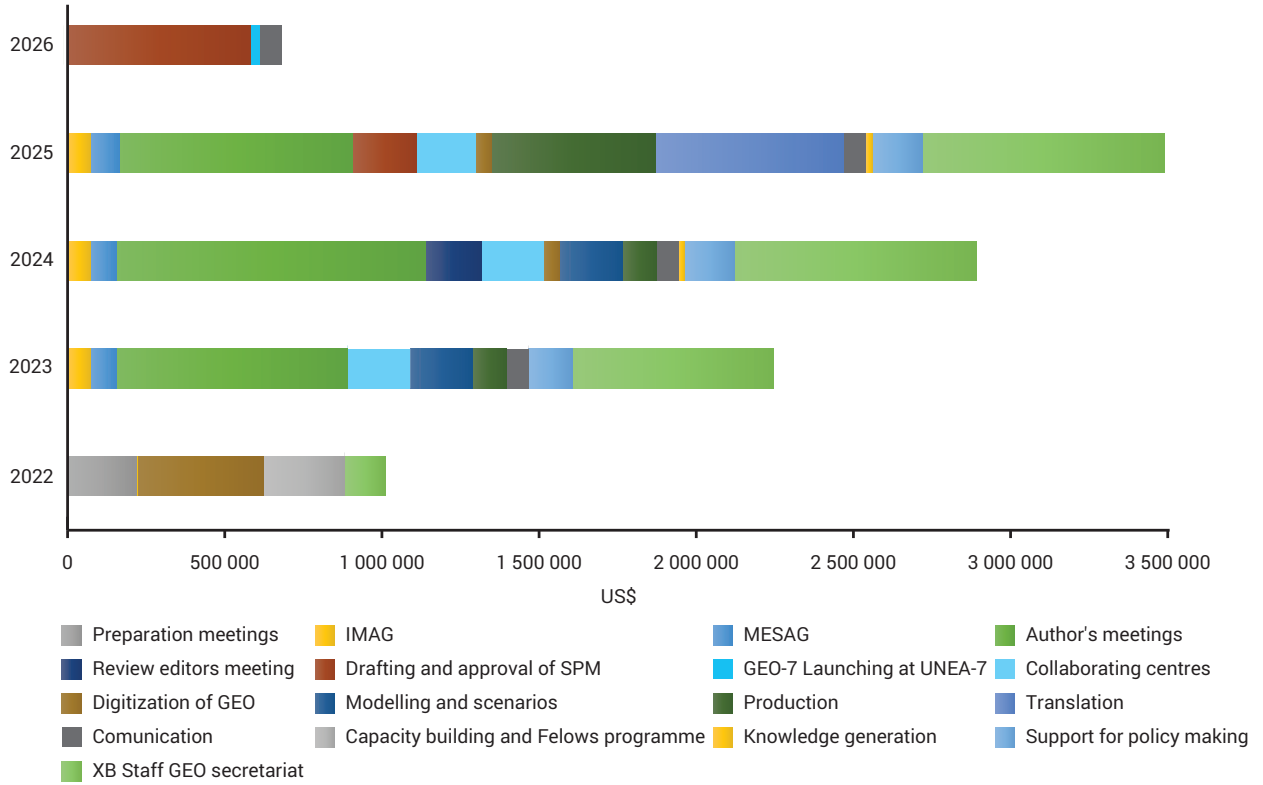
■ Quarter 4: October - December

## 3.2 Summary budget and scenarios

Figures may change based on budgetary allocation processes.

### 3.2.1 GEO-7 main scenario

GEO-7 COST						
	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	
Preparation meetings	\$218,000					
IMAG	\$4,000	\$73,000	\$73,000	\$73,000		
MESAG		\$82,500	\$82,500	\$93,700		
Author's meetings		\$734,000	\$981,800	\$738,300		
Review editors meeting			\$178,500			
Drafting and approval of SPM				\$204,700	\$582,000	
GEO-7 Launching at UNEA-7					\$30,000	
Collaborating centres		\$200,000	\$200,000	\$190,000		
Digitization of GEO	\$400,000		\$50,000	\$50,000		
Modelling and scenarios		\$200,000	\$200,000			
Production		\$107,000	\$107,000	\$520,000		
Translation				\$600,000		
Communication		\$70,000	\$70,000	\$70,000	\$70,000	
Capacity building and Fellows programme	\$260,000					
Knowledge generation			\$20,000	\$20,000		
Support for policy making		\$139,000	\$160,000	\$160,000		
XB Staff GEO secretariat	\$130,000	\$640,000	\$770,000	\$770,000		
<b>Total (year)</b>	<b>\$1,012,000</b>	<b>\$2,245,500</b>	<b>\$2,892,800</b>	<b>\$3,489,700</b>	<b>\$682,000</b>	
<b>Grand Total</b>					<b>\$10,322,000</b>	
FUNDING AVAILABILITY AND PROJECTIONS						
	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	
EF	\$510,000	\$510,000	\$510,000	\$510,000		
EF- Thematic Funds		\$800,000	\$800,000	\$800,000		
RB	\$390,000	\$350,000	\$350,000	\$350,000	\$350,000	
Norway	\$222,871					
EC	\$302,324					
Other XB						
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,425,195</b>	<b>\$1,660,000</b>	<b>\$1,660,000</b>	<b>\$1,660,000</b>	<b>\$350,000</b>	<b>Total gap</b>
<b>Funding gap</b>	<b>-\$413,195</b>	<b>\$585,500</b>	<b>\$1,232,800</b>	<b>\$1,829,700</b>	<b>\$332,000</b>	<b>\$3,566,805</b>



## 3.2.2 GEO-7 downsized scenario

GEO-7 COST						
	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	
Preparation meetings	\$218,000					
IMAG	\$4,000	\$73,000	\$73,000	\$73,000		
MESAG		\$82,500	\$82,500	\$93,700		
Author's meetings		\$734,000	\$981,800	\$738,300		
Review editors meeting			\$178,500			
Drafting and approval of SPM				\$204,700	\$582,000	
GEO-7 Launching at UNEA-7						
Collaborating centres						
Digitization of GEO	\$400,000		\$50,000	\$50,000		
Modelling and scenarios		\$200,000	\$200,000			
Production		\$107,000	\$107,000	\$520,000		
Translation				\$600,000		
Communication						
Capacity building and Fellows programme	\$60,000					
Knowledge generation						
Support for policy making		\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000		
XB Staff GEO secretariat	\$130,000	\$507,000	\$507,000	\$507,000		
Total (year)	<b>\$812,000</b>	<b>\$1,723,500</b>	<b>\$2,199,800</b>	<b>\$2,806,700</b>	<b>\$582,000</b>	
<b>Grand Total</b>					<b>\$8,124,000</b>	
FUNDING AVAILABILITY AND PROJECTIONS						
	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	
EF	\$510,000	\$510,000	\$510,000	\$510,000		
EF- Thematic Funds		\$800,000	\$800,000	\$800,000		
RB	\$390,000	\$350,000	\$350,000	\$350,000	\$350,000	
Norway	\$222,871					
EC	\$302,324					
Other XB						
Total	<b>\$1,425,195</b>	<b>\$1,660,000</b>	<b>\$1,660,000</b>	<b>\$1,660,000</b>	<b>\$350,000</b>	<b>Total gap</b>
Funding gap	-\$613,195	\$63,500	\$539,800	\$1,146,700	\$232,000	\$1,368,805



