

Reference: EWAD/SAB/GEO/2024-08/13

13 August 2024

Dear Expert,

The Global Environment Outlook (GEO) is the flagship report of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) providing an integrated assessment of the drivers of environmental change, the current state of the environment, the effectiveness of policy response and the options for achieving different possible futures in the medium to long term. As requested by Member States in [Resolution EA.5/3](#), UNEP initiated the preparation of the seventh edition of the Global Environment Outlook (GEO-7) assessment and its accompanying Summary for Policymakers, to be launched at UNEA-7 in December 2025.

To launch the preparation of GEO-7, the [scope and annotated outline of GEO-7](#) were reviewed and adopted by Member States, stakeholders and experts at the Ad Hoc Open-Ended meeting in Nairobi in October 2022. GEO-7 assesses the state and trends of the global and regional environment (climate, air, oceans, freshwater, biodiversity, pollution, and land degradation) and the implications for human well-being (e.g., the SDGs), provides outlooks that assess the environmental and socio-economic implications of business as usual, and two target-seeking scenarios that incorporate the transformational changes needed to achieve an environmentally sustainable world by 2050. GEO-7 then assesses solutions pathways, globally and regionally, that could transform the interdependent global economics, financing, energy, food and materials/waste systems that are needed to solve the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, together with land degradation. It also assesses ways to manage environmental systems.

It is against this backdrop that we are seeking external reviewers to provide feedback including identifying any issues, data, or information that you believe should be included in the report. Your feedback is critical for the comprehensive review of GEO-7 Second Order Draft (SOD) and the First-Order Draft (FOD) of the Summary for Policy Makers (SPM). Annex I lists the sections and the chapters of the report.

You are invited to apply for a Peer Reviewer role for the GEO-7 main report SOD and the SPM FOD through the link [Reviewer application portal](#) by **30 September 2024**.

The GEO-7 SOD and FOD SPM peer review period is currently planned for **01 November 2024-15 January 2025**. The terms of reference, ethical responsibilities and management of review comments for this role are included in Annexes II, III and IV. Webinar sessions on how to conduct the review will be organized prior to the peer review period. Further details will be communicated via email to nominated experts from the mailboxes unep-ewad-geohead@un.org or georead@cedare.int.

Our colleague, Mr. Pierre Boileau (pierre.boileau@un.org), Head of the Global Assessments Unit, Early Warning and Assessment Division, will serve as the focal point and stand ready to provide further information as needed.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jian Liu".

Jian Liu
Director

Early Warning and Assessment Division
United Nations Environment Programme

Annex I List of the Sections and the Chapters of GEO-7

Part A: Overview and Context	
Chapter 1	Introduction
Chapter 2	Historical, Current and Projected Drivers and Pressures of Environmental Change
Part B: State and Trends of the Environment	
Chapter 3	Air
Chapter 4	Land and Soils
Chapter 5	Oceans and Coasts
Chapter 6	Freshwater
Chapter 7	Implications of Environmental Change on the SDGs, and Internationally Agreed Environmental Goals
Chapter 8	Interlinkages Across Environmental Changes, Scales and Geographic Regions and Sub-regions
Part C: System Transformation and Outlooks	
Chapter 9	What Are the Elements and Levers of Transformative Change?
Chapter 10	Approaches, Methodology and Philosophy
Chapter 11	Staying on the Path We Are on – Global Implications
Chapter 12	Transformation Pathways – Global Implications
Part D: Solutions Pathways Towards Transformation	
Chapter 13	Methodological Approach to Solutions-focused Pathways
Chapter 14	Solutions Pathways for Transformation of Economic Systems
Chapter 15	Solution Pathways for Transformation Towards Circularity
Chapter 16	Solution Pathways for Transformation of Energy Systems
Chapter 17	Solution Pathways for Transformation of Food Systems
Chapter 18	Solution Pathways for Transformation of Environmental Systems
Part E: Implications for Regions and Groups of Countries Driving the Transformations	
Chapter 19	Implications for Different Economic Development Context
Chapter 20	Regional Similarities and Differences
Chapter 21	Driving the Transformations

Annex II: Terms of Reference for GEO-7 Peer Reviewers

The main tasks of the GEO-7 expert and government peer review will be to:

- Suggest specific remedies for identified shortcomings of the draft report.
- Point out other priorities, emerging and cross-cutting issues or evidence that may not have been highlighted but would be considered a serious omission if these were left out of the final report and include details of appropriate sources/references.
- Point out any errors, inconsistencies, and/or contradictions in facts/data within and between sections/chapters.
- Indicate any information that you consider should be moved to another Chapter.
- Indicate any information that you consider would be particularly appropriate for graphical presentation rather than as text.
- Indicate any information that you consider could be better placed in a box rather than in the main text (and vice versa).
- Indicate any information that you consider should be moved to the technical annex of the chapter.
- Point out non-essential material that could be deleted, with appropriate explanations about why a change is needed.
- Indicate where additional referencing/citing or cross-referencing between sections is needed.
- Provide additional source documents (with full reference details), information and data to fill data gaps or update existing data, if necessary.
- Provide suggestions for alternative boxes and illustrations.

Annex III. Ethical Responsibilities of Reviewers

- **Competence:** Reviewers should accept responsibility for reviewing a chapter only if they have adequate expertise to provide an authoritative assessment of the chapter. It is the reviewer's responsibility to make his/her degree of competence known to the Secretariat.
- **Confidentiality:** Draft chapters/manuscripts of the GEO-7 Assessment are confidential materials; the reviewer may not share or discuss the content of the chapters with anyone outside the review process unless necessary and approved by the Secretariat and the coordinating lead authors.
- **Conflict of interest:** A potential reviewer with a conflict of interest or risk of biases must either decline the role or disclose the conflict of interest to the UNEP Secretariat. Where in doubt, reference should be made to the criteria for selecting reviewers coordinated by the Secretariat.
- **Constructive critique:** Reviewers are required to provide comments that will help authors improve the contents of the chapters. Positive aspects of the material under review should be acknowledged and negative aspects identified constructively, with an indication of needed improvements. It is important to note that comments are intended to be suggestions to authors to improve the chapters; hence should be in an encouraging tone.
- **Specificity:** Reviewers must be as specific as possible in their comments. Their judgments must be explained and supported clearly, such that the editors and authors can understand the basis for the comments.
- **Integrity:** All comments should be impartial, written with integrity in mind, and capable of withstanding public scrutiny – all reviews will be made publicly available at the conclusion of the GEO-7 process.
- **Timeliness:** Reviewers are expected to respond to the request for review and submit their comments in accordance with the overall GEO-7 Workplan and production schedules.

Annex IV. Managing Review Comments

You can submit your written comments on the whole draft report, the chapter(s) assigned to you or other chapters that you would like to review, on the GEO-READ review portal, the details of which will be provided to you later. In doing so, please note the following:

- 1) **Consult and follow the guidance that will be shared with the reviewers on how to use the GEO-READ review portal.**
- 2) Submit your review comments in English in the GEO-READ review portal.
- 3) In case of general or overview comments on the entire report or chapter please **clearly label the chapter(s) that they refer to by number and name** or indicate if they refer to the entire report.
- 4) Specific comments on the material in the chapter should follow any general comments and **must be labeled by page number and line number.**
- 5) Comments that refer to a table or figure must identify the page number and the table or figure number. In the case of tables, please also identify the row and column to which the comment refers.
- 6) ***Please refrain from commenting on grammar, spelling, or punctuation, unless it affects the meaning or clarity of the presentation. Professional editing will be done in the final draft.***

NB: You may not cite or quote the draft report other than in your review. You may not represent any material in the draft report as reflecting the preliminary findings of GEO-7.