

# Table of contents

Acknowledgements .....	.vi
Secretary-General's Foreword .....	.xxvi
Acting UN Environment Executive Director's Foreword .....	.xxvii
Co-Chairs' Foreword .....	.xxviii
Co-Chairs' Message .....	.xxix
<b>SETTING THE STAGE</b>	
 <b>CHAPTER 1: Introduction and Context</b> .....	.03
1.1 GEO-6 healthy planet, healthy people – humanity's transformative challenge .....	.04
1.2 UNEP's flagship assessment to deliver the environmental dimension of the 2030 agenda .....	.07
1.3 GEO-6 in a changing global context .....	.08
1.4 Environmental governance .....	.11
1.5 The environmental dimension of the sustainable development goals, global environmental governance and multilateral environmental agreements .....	.11
1.6 GEO-6 in the context of other environmental assessments .....	.12
1.7 GEO-6 approach, theory of change and structure .....	.13
<b>References</b> .....	.17
 <b>CHAPTER 2: Drivers of Environmental Change</b> .....	.21
Executive summary .....	.22
2.1 Introduction and context .....	.24
2.2 Changes since the last assessment .....	.24
2.3 Population .....	.25
2.4 Urbanization .....	.31
2.5 Economic development .....	.36
2.6 Technology, innovation, and global sustainability .....	.40
2.7 Climate change .....	.43
2.8 Unravelling drivers and their interactions .....	.48
<b>References</b> .....	.52
 <b>CHAPTER 3: The Current State of our Data and Knowledge</b> .....	.57
Executive summary .....	.58
3.1 Introduction .....	.59
3.2 The demand for environmental statistics and data .....	.59
3.3 History of environmental statistics .....	.59
3.4 Better data for a healthy planet with healthy people .....	.60
3.5 Gender and social-environment intersectionality .....	.64
3.6 Equity and human-environment interactions .....	.66
3.7 Existing data systems .....	.68
3.8 Conclusion .....	.71
<b>References</b> .....	.72
 <b>CHAPTER 4: Cross-cutting Issues</b> .....	.75
Executive summary .....	.76
4.1 Introduction .....	.78
4.2 People and livelihoods .....	.78
4.3 Changing environments .....	.85
4.4 Resources and materials .....	.91
4.5 Conclusions .....	.97
<b>References</b> .....	.98

## PART A: STATE OF THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT



<b>CHAPTER 5: Air .....</b>	<b>107</b>
Executive summary.....	.108
5.1 Introduction.....	.109
5.2 Pressures: emissions .....	.110
5.3 State: atmospheric composition and climate.....	.117
5.4 Impacts .....	.125
5.5 Response: policies and governance.....	.129
<b>References .....</b>	<b>134</b>



<b>CHAPTER 6: Biodiversity.....</b>	<b>141</b>
Executive summary.....	.142
6.1 Introduction.....	.144
6.2 Further assessments since the fifth Global Environmental Outlook (GEO-5).....	.145
6.3 Drivers .....	.146
6.4 Pressures.....	.146
6.5 Global state and trends of biodiversity.....	.153
6.6 Impacts on the world's biomes .....	.158
6.7 Responses.....	.164
6.8 Conclusion.....	.167
<b>References .....</b>	<b>168</b>



<b>CHAPTER 7: Oceans and Coasts .....</b>	<b>175</b>
Executive summary.....	.176
7.1 Introduction.....	.178
7.2 Pressures.....	.180
7.3 State .....	.181
7.4 Impacts .....	.186
7.5 Response.....	.191
7.6 Conclusions.....	.193
<b>References .....</b>	<b>195</b>



<b>CHAPTER 8: Land and Soil.....</b>	<b>201</b>
Executive summary.....	.202
8.1 Land resources and the sustainable development goals.....	.204
8.2 Setting the stage for GEO-6: the GEO-5 legacy.....	.204
8.3 Drivers and pressures .....	.204
8.4 Key state and trends .....	.209
8.5 Key impacts .....	.217
8.6 Policy responses .....	.224
<b>References .....</b>	<b>229</b>



<b>CHAPTER 9: Freshwater .....</b>	<b>235</b>
Executive summary.....	.236
9.1 Introduction and priority issues.....	.238
9.2 Pressures on freshwater.....	.238
9.3 Water and land use .....	.240
9.4 Global state and trends of freshwater .....	.240
9.5 Water quality .....	.244
9.6 Freshwater ecosystems .....	.250
9.7 Water infrastructure.....	.252
9.8 Impacts .....	.255
9.9 Policy responses .....	.257
9.10 Conclusions .....	.263
<b>References .....</b>	<b>265</b>



## PART B: POLICIES, GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE: AN ASSESSMENT OF THEIR EFFECTIVENESS



<b>CHAPTER 10: Approach to Assessment of Policy Effectiveness .....</b>	<b>273</b>
10.1 The Context.....	274
10.2 Environmental policy and governance.....	274
10.3 Policy instruments.....	275
10.4 Policy mixes and coherence.....	275
10.5 Methodology adopted to assess policy effectiveness.....	277
10.6 Top-down evaluation methodology .....	278
10.7 Bottom-up evaluation methodology .....	279
10.8 Content of Part B .....	280
<i>References .....</i>	<i>281</i>



<b>CHAPTER 11: Policy Theory and Practice .....</b>	<b>283</b>
Executive summary.....	284
11.1 Introduction.....	285
11.2 Policy design.....	285
11.3 Policy integration .....	289
11.4 Effectiveness of international and multilevel governance .....	294
11.5 Conclusions.....	296
<i>References .....</i>	<i>297</i>



<b>CHAPTER 12: Air Policy.....</b>	<b>301</b>
Executive summary.....	302
12.1 Introduction.....	303
12.2 Key policies and governance approaches.....	303
12.3 Indicators.....	315
12.4 Discussion and conclusions .....	319
<i>References .....</i>	<i>320</i>



<b>CHAPTER 13: Biodiversity Policy .....</b>	<b>323</b>
Executive summary.....	324
13.1 Introduction.....	325
13.2 Key policies and governance approaches.....	326
13.3 Indicators: Biodiversity policy.....	338
13.4 Conclusions.....	342
<i>References .....</i>	<i>344</i>



<b>CHAPTER 14: Oceans and Coastal Policy .....</b>	<b>349</b>
Executive summary.....	350
14.1 Introduction.....	351
14.2 Key policies and governance approaches.....	351
14.3 Indicators .....	362
14.4 Discussion and conclusions .....	366
<i>References .....</i>	<i>367</i>



<b>CHAPTER 15: Land and Soil Policy .....</b>	<b>373</b>
Executive summary.....	374
15.1 Introduction.....	376
15.2 Key policies and governance approaches.....	377
15.3 Indicators .....	389
15.4 Conclusions.....	393
<i>References .....</i>	<i>394</i>



<b>CHAPTER 16: Freshwater Policy .....</b>	<b>399</b>
Executive summary.....	400
16.1 Introduction.....	401
16.2 Key policies and governance approaches.....	401
16.3 Indicators (link to SDGs and MEAs) .....	412
16.4 Discussion and conclusions .....	419
<i>References .....</i>	<i>420</i>

	<b>CHAPTER 17: Systemic Policy Approaches for Cross-cutting Issues .....</b>	<b>425</b>
Executive summary.....	426	
17.1 Cross-cutting policy issues and systemic change.....	428	
17.2 Key actors, policies and governance approaches .....	428	
17.3 Adapting socioeconomic systems to be more resilient to climate change .....	429	
17.4 Creating a sustainable agri-food system .....	432	
17.5 Decarbonizing energy systems .....	436	
17.6 Towards a more circular economy.....	439	
17.7 Conclusions.....	446	
<b>References .....</b>	<b>448</b>	

	<b>CHAPTER 18: Conclusions on Policy Effectiveness.....</b>	<b>453</b>
18.1 Overview of the outcomes .....	454	
18.2 Connections to future policy .....	456	
18.3 Gaps in knowledge.....	456	
18.4 Key lessons from the analysis.....	457	
<b>References .....</b>	<b>458</b>	

## PART C: OUTLOOKS AND PATHWAYS TO A HEALTHY PLANET WITH HEALTHY PEOPLE

	<b>CHAPTER 19: Outlooks in GEO-6.....</b>	<b>463</b>
Executive summary.....	464	
19.1 Introduction.....	465	
19.2 Important elements of future-oriented environmental outlooks.....	465	
19.3 A new framework for combining top-down and bottom-up analysis methods .....	466	
19.4 The role of scale.....	467	
19.5 Roadmap for Part C of GEO-6 .....	467	
<b>References .....</b>	<b>469</b>	

	<b>CHAPTER 20: A Long-Term Vision for 2050 .....</b>	<b>471</b>
Executive summary.....	472	
20.1 Introduction.....	473	
20.2 The environmental dimension of the SDGs.....	473	
20.3 An integrated view on the SDGs .....	473	
20.4 A long-term vision: selected targets and indicators.....	476	
20.5 Conclusions.....	481	
<b>References .....</b>	<b>482</b>	

	<b>CHAPTER 21: Future Developments Without Targeted Policies .....</b>	<b>485</b>
Executive summary.....	486	
21.1 Introduction.....	488	
21.2 Global environmental scenarios .....	488	
21.3 The achievement of SDGs and related MEAs in trend scenarios .....	490	
21.4 Are we achieving the targets? .....	502	
<b>References .....</b>	<b>506</b>	

	<b>CHAPTER 22: Pathways Toward Sustainable Development .....</b>	<b>511</b>
Executive summary.....	512	
22.1 Introduction.....	514	
22.2 Pathways definition .....	514	
22.3 Pathways towards achieving the targets.....	514	
22.4 An integrated approach.....	532	
22.5 Conclusions and recommendations.....	537	
<b>References .....</b>	<b>539</b>	



<b>CHAPTER 23: Bottom-up Initiatives and Participatory Approaches for Outlooks.....</b>	<b>545</b>
Executive summary.....	546
23.1 Introduction.....	548
23.2 Integrating global assessments and bottom-up analyses.....	548
23.3 Sub-global assessments in a multilevel context .....	549
23.4 Bottom-up futures based on existing local practices .....	550
23.5 Methodological rationale and approach .....	550
23.6 Investigating the broad landscape of bottom-up initiatives.....	551
23.7 GEO-6 participatory initiatives .....	552
23.8 GEO-6 Regional Assessments.....	553
23.9 Findings from a bottom-up approach .....	553
23.10 GEO Regional Assessment synthesis .....	566
23.11 Regional outlook interventions and bottom-up initiatives .....	570
23.12 Enabling conditions for transformations.....	572
23.13 Key messages .....	573
23.14 Key interventions and a critical need to recognize distributive justice given global inequities and inequality .....	576
<b>References .....</b>	<b>577</b>



<b>CHAPTER 24: The Way Forward.....</b>	<b>581</b>
Executive summary.....	582
24.1 Approaches for environmental policy: strategic and transformative.....	583
24.2 Transformative change .....	584
24.3 Building blocks for transformation .....	584
24.4 Healthy planet, healthy people: challenge and opportunity .....	587
<b>References .....</b>	<b>590</b>

## PART D: REMAINING DATA AND KNOWLEDGE GAPS



<b>CHAPTER 25: Future Data and Knowledge Needs.....</b>	<b>597</b>
Executive summary.....	598
25.1 Introduction.....	599
25.2 Emerging tools for environmental assessment .....	599
25.3 Environmental monitoring for the future .....	612
25.4 Conclusion: challenges, gaps and opportunities .....	615
<b>References .....</b>	<b>618</b>



<b>ANNEXES .....</b>	<b>619</b>
Annex 1-1: Mission of the sixth Global Environment Outlook .....	620
Annex 1-2: Range of integrated environmental assessments which the sixth Global Environment Outlook draws from ..	621
Annex 1-3: Theory of Change for the sixth Global Environment Outlook (GEO-6) .....	623
Annex 1-4: Structure and rationale for confidence statements used in the sixth Global Environment Outlook .....	625
Annex 4-1: Towards monitoring the environmental dimension of the SDGs .....	629
Annex 6-1: The principal biodiversity-related Conventions .....	637
Annex 9-1: Water contaminants and occurrences .....	638
Annex 13-1: Biodiversity conservation and International Environmental Agreements (IEAs) .....	641
Annex 13-2: Overview of key policy developments and governance responses at a global level .....	642
Annex 23-1: Bottom-up Initiative platforms and results .....	643



<b>THE GEO-6 PROCESS .....</b>	<b>661</b>
Timeline.....	664
Partnerships and collaboration.....	665
Review process .....	665
GEO-6 Advisory bodies .....	666
Consultation process .....	666
Appendix .....	668
Acronyms .....	670
Contributors .....	675
Glossary .....	687