



Integrated Environmental Assessment – the real world

Briefing to TIAS, June 14, 2019

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Thanks to funders and partners

- Not possible to conduct a project of this size without significant contributions from funders and partners
- We had contributions of expertise and time from many authors.
- Their institutions also allowed them time away from their main activities to assist us.


GEO-6 Funders

Producing an assessment of this scale requires many generous contributions. The following organizations provided funding directly or indirectly to the sixth *Global Environment Outlook*: The Government of Norway, the European Union, the Governments of Italy, Singapore, China, Mexico, Switzerland, Denmark, Egypt and Thailand. Together with UN Environment's Environment Fund and Regular Budget, these contributions allowed for the production of GEO-6 and its accompanying Summary for Policymakers, as well as subsequent outreach activities.

 Norwegian Ministry of Climate and Environment



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MINISTERO DELL'AMBIENTE
E DELLA TUTELA DEL TERRITORIO E DEL CLIMA

 Ministry of the Environment
and Water Resources



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 Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Federal Office for the Environment FOEN

 Ministry of Environment
and Food of Denmark
Environmental
Protection Agency



GEO-6 Partners

GEO-6 also benefited from the generous contributions of several partners, including: GRID-Arendal, World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC), The Centre for Environment and Development in the Arab Region and Europe (CEDARE), The Big Earth Data Science Engineering Program (CASEarth), the European Space Agency (ESA), the Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency (PBL), the Freie Universität Berlin and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

 GRID
ARENDAAL

 UN
environment

 WCMC

 CEDARE

 CASEarth

 esa
European Space Agency

 PBL Netherlands Environmental
Assessment Agency

 Freie Universität
Berlin

 MIT
CENTER FOR
COLLECTIVE
INTELLIGENCE

How we got here

Main report

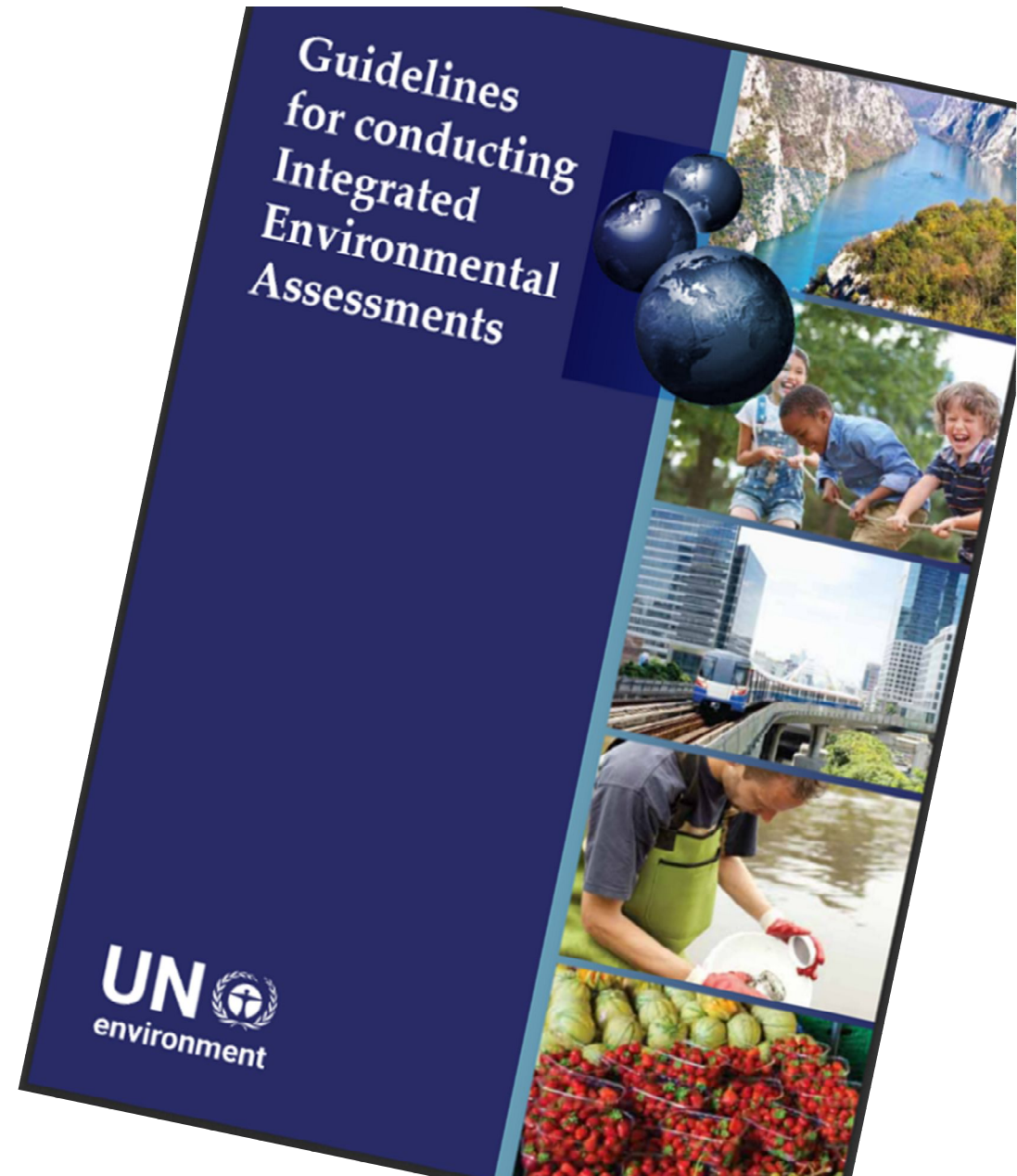
- 146 authors, 78 members of advisory bodies
- 41 review editors
- From more than 70 countries
- 301 UN reviewers
- More than 1,000 technical reviewers
- 364 Intergovernmental reviewers
- 5 review periods, 2 of which were intergovernmental reviews

Summary for Policymakers

- Negotiated in January, 2019
- 95 countries, 250 participants, 4 days
- 37 page summary plus 'Key Messages'

New IEA Guidelines developed in 2016/17

- Meant to support the production of GEO
- Built from expertise of practitioners, peer reviewed and 'road tested' through the GEO process
- Meant to help update the IEA training manual and course material
- Requested authors to use these guidelines, but much of the content is more applicable to the work of the Secretariat and the GEO advisory bodies
- New guidance developed through the GEO process on:
 - Interactions between advisory bodies and authors
 - Writing Executive Summaries and Summaries for Policymakers





Managing the Advisory Bodies

- Monthly calls to receive guidance from the advisory bodies
- Advisory bodies present at 3 of the 4 authors meetings
- Extra meeting of the Scientific Advisory Panel to assess the scientific integrity of the process (meeting was combined with final meeting of the Review Editors)
- Advice provided was extremely valuable, related to: policy relevance and scientific integrity
- Sometimes competing views from the High-level Group and Scientific Advisory Panel needed to be resolved.
- Co-chairs also acted as bridge

Drafting process was fluid

- Authors prefer peer-reviewed literature, although data tools and support were available
- Some authors left the process mid-stream. The practice of having more than one CLA at the top of chapter helped with this.
- CLA's and LA's had to reconcile views. Relationship between thematic authors and cross-cutting authors was sometimes difficult
- The Fellows helped enormously with data, research, reference lists, annexes.
- Social events were important to keep the spirits up.
- Deadlines for peer review periods were the most stressful.



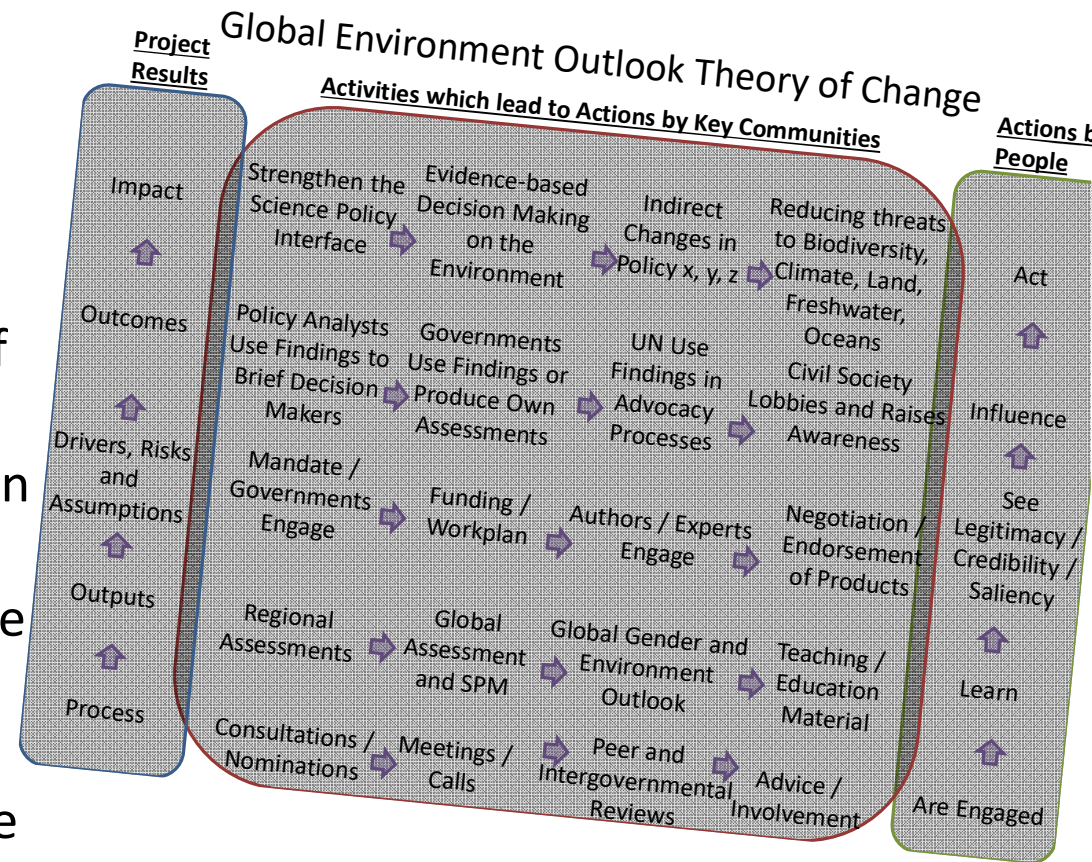


Drafting the Summary for Policymakers

- Authors requested to draft Executive Summaries for their chapters
 - Exec Sums were compiled into a document by the co-chairs
 - 2 additional authors, with past experience with SPMs, were asked to join the drafting team.
- High-level Group, co-chairs and CLAs met to review and improve the draft
- CLAs contributed extensively to the redrafting
 - Governments met in Nairobi from Jan. 21 – 24, 2019 to negotiate the final text
 - CLAs and co-chairs supported the negotiations and assisted in the redraft.

Main lessons learned

- The process for producing the document is as important as the document itself
- Speaks to the legitimacy and the credibility of the content
- Member States will not agree to the findings if they do not see themselves in the report
- The demands on the authors were greater than anticipated
- Countries who sponsored us for meetings were very supportive and happy to have us there
- 100s of virtual calls, 7 face to face meetings
- Some flexibility needed towards the end of the process to help authors focus on finishing their work
- Editorial work on this size of a document is crucial





Lessons learned, continued

- Role of Review Editors is important, but need a way to cycle back to the authors
- Contracting with a University Press is difficult but the result is worth it, both the Secretariat and the authors.
- Competent and flexible co-chairs are hugely important – cannot be stressed enough
- Building a ‘family’ atmosphere in the author teams makes the work more fun, more creative and more productive.
- Chapter coordinators within the Secretariat really helped create this collaborative atmosphere

The journey is half the fun of getting there.



Thank you

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