

# Executive Director's Update to the Committee of Permanent Representatives

137<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, 16<sup>th</sup> January 2017

## Special Highlights

### **Executive Director's Official Mission to India**

- The [World Sustainable Development Summit](#) took place in Delhi from 5 to 8 October 2016. The Executive Director addressed the audience at its high-level events on 5 and 6 October.
- Prior to his visit to Delhi, the Executive Director participated in a one-year anniversary event of the [Versova Beach Clean-up in Mumbai](#) organized by the Versova Resident Volunteers.

### **The United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), Quito, Ecuador**

- [Habitat III](#) took place from 17 to 20 October in Quito Ecuador.
- The Executive Director participated in the High-Level Roundtable discussion on Ecological, Climate Change, Resilient and Disaster Responsive Cities.
- During the Conference, the [Breathe Life SOS Campaign](#) was launched by the [Climate Clean Air Coalition](#) and the [World Health Organization](#).

### **Executive Director's Official Mission to Colombia and Argentina**

- On 20 October, the Executive Director visited Bogota, Colombia to meet with President Juan Manuel Santos and to offer support to Colombia's efforts to address environmental issues during the peace building process.
- He also visited Tumaco and Choco, accompanied by Mr. Luis Gilberto Murillo, Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development, as well as by Mr. Rafael Pardo, Senior Advisor for Post-Conflict, Human Rights and Security, to meet with local private sector community and discuss sustainable production of local businesses.
- On 23 October, the Executive Director visited Buenos Aires, Argentina to meet with the Argentinian Authorities, including the Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Foreign Affairs to discuss how UN Environment can support the sustainable development efforts in Argentina.

### **Ban Lead in Paint Campaign**

- UN Environment launched the [#BanLeadPaint](#) campaign during the [International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week of Action](#), from 23 to 30 October 2016, with an informative video showing progress so far and urging people to take action to #BanLeadPaint.
- #BanLeadPaint reached over 1,200,000 users on social media. 5,789 tweets were posted on twitter with #BanLeadPaint or #LPPW2016. The videos prepared for the campaign were viewed over 50,000 times.

### **UN Environment welcomes Private Sector Partnerships in Asia Pacific**

- On 22 and 23 November 2016, the Executive Director attended two high level events in Asia Pacific focused on green and sustainable business.
- As a high level and eminent speaker at the [Asian Development Bank's first Green Business Forum for Asia held in Manila](#), Philippines and at the [Responsible Business Forum on Sustainable Development](#) hosted by the [United Nations Development Programme](#) and [Global Initiatives](#) in Singapore, the Executive Director stressed to a combined 1,000 participants comprising private sector, government, media and civil society, the importance of harnessing the financial power and innovative capacity of the private sector as a means to achieve sustainable development.

### **Cooperation with the European Union and its Member States on the 2030 Agenda**

- The Executive Director visited Brussels from 19 to 20 December for a series of high-level events with the [European Union Environment Council](#) and the [European Commission](#).
- The discussions with the European Union Environment Ministers and several European Commissioners was based on a recent European Commission Communication regarding the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#), to which UN Environment provided extensive inputs. Common priorities and future collaboration, including ocean governance and Green Economy were also discussed.
- The Executive Director also participated in a high-level panel at a major stakeholder conference organized by the European Commission entitled "*Delivering on the UN Sustainability Agenda: Next steps for Europe*".

### **United Nations Conference on Biodiversity, the 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of Parties, Cancun, Mexico**

- The [United Nations Conference on Biodiversity and the 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of Parties](#) took place in Cancun, Mexico from 2 to 17 December 2016.
- The Executive Director addressed the participants at the Opening Session where the appointment of the new [Executive Secretary to the Secretariat to the Convention of Biological Diversity](#) was announced.
- At the side-lines of the High-Level Segment, an awards ceremony of UN Environment's [Champions of the Earth 2016](#) took place. where he together with the Deputy Executive Director awarded the 6 nominees.

### **Emissions Gap Report 2016**

- The [Emissions Gap Report 2016](#) was launched in London on 3 November 2016, a day before the Paris Agreement entered into force.
- Over 200 participants attended the launch, representing top entities from the business and finance sectors, think tanks, Government and the media, including the [City of London](#), [The World Economic Forum](#), [Credit Suisse](#), The Sustainability Project, [Chatham House](#), the [UK Department of International Development](#) and the [Stakeholder Forum](#)<sup>1</sup>.

### **22nd Conference of the Parties (COP 22) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Marrakech**

- The [22<sup>nd</sup> Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change](#) took place in Marrakech, Morocco from 7 to 18 November 2016. Both the Executive Director and Deputy Executive Director attended.
- The Executive Director attended the [High-Level Segment](#) and other key events that included the [Sustainable Innovation Forum](#), the High-Level Event on Environment and Health and the [National Development and Reform Commission](#) event on 'Climate Finance', among other events.
- The Deputy Executive Director also took part in key events such as the [High-Level Forum of the South-South Cooperation](#) on climate change where he delivered opening remarks, the [High-Level event of the Climate and Clean Air Coalition](#) as a panelist and attended the formal launch of the [Emissions Gap Report](#).

### **2016 China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development, Beijing**

- The annual [China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development](#) meeting took place in Beijing, China from 7 to 9 December 2016 under the theme "Ecological Civilization: China and the World" and was attended by the Executive Director and China Vice Premier H.E. Zhang Gaoli.
- The meeting adopted policy recommendations for the Chinese Government. UN Environment, as a partner agency has been supporting China Council on various policy analysis and recommendations. This year, China Council timely considered its policy contributions to uplifting the Oceans agenda, taking notice of the importance of ocean system as basis for civilization.

## UN Environment in the Regions

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### **UN Environment to Increase Assistance for Implementation of Sustainable Development Goals in the Pacific**

[The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme](#) Officials met on 19 to 21 September 2016 in Alofi, Niue followed by a meeting of Ministers on 22 September 2016 where the new Strategic Priorities for UN Environment in the Pacific was approved. The events identified the following issues:

- Addressing climate resilience;
- Decoupling economic growth from resource use and pollution;
- Maintaining biodiversity;
- Managing chemicals and waste; and
- Strengthening governance for the delivery of the [Sustainable Development Goals](#).

Two new Pacific regional capacity building projects and multilateral agreements were also approved by the [Global Environment Facility](#) to be implemented by UN Environment in partnership with the Secretariat for the Pacific Regional Environment Programme. The partnership will focus on protecting the oceans, as a central theme for the new initiatives.

### **Strengthening UN Environment's Agenda and Values in West Africa**

UN Environment and the [Commission of the Economic Community of West African States](#) took concrete steps to strengthen their partnership in advancing environmental sustainability in the West Africa region. After discussions held in Abuja, Nigeria from 26 to 28 September, they agreed to a formal cooperation framework that will guide their work in support of Member States' efforts to implement the environmental dimension of [Vision 2020; the African Union Agenda 2063](#); and the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#). A stronger cooperation and a more strategic engagement between the two parties will create synergies, coherence and concerted actions towards a transformative environmental agenda in the sub region. The collaboration will be deployed in 4 main areas:

- i. Enhanced policy dialogue among the Member States in follow-up of key regional and the United Nations Environment Assembly decisions relating to the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda;
- ii. Policy influence and assistance to the Member States in the implementation of the Multilateral Environmental Agreements;
- iii. Strengthening regional environmental governance through harmonization of legislation and regular environment assessments; and
- iv. The development of joint regional programmes and projects on air quality monitoring, electronic waste and sustainable ecosystem management.

### **#WildforLife Campaign**

[The Wild for Life campaign](#) (#WildForLife) delivers towards the 2<sup>nd</sup> Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly's mandate to increase awareness about the social, environmental and economic implications of the illegal trade in wildlife. In the last quarter of this year, [the Born Free Foundation](#) and [Wild Aid](#) have joined the #WildForLife campaign as collaborators.

### **Drafting Workshop of the new interim United Nations Development Assistance Framework Guidance Document, New York, 18-21 October**

Further to the adoption of the [2030 Sustainable Development Agenda](#) by Member States of the United Nations, a new interim [United Nations Development Assistance Framework Guidance Document](#) was initiated in May 2016, suggesting new mechanisms and new programme implementation arrangements that could make it possible for the United Nations to assist countries to successfully implement the [Sustainable Development Goals](#). In order to deliver the final guidance document, the [United Nations Development Operations Coordination Office](#) organized a drafting workshop to facilitate this supported by UN Environment.

### **Caspian Sea Convention Prepares for 6<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties**

On 7 to 10 November, littoral countries to the Caspian Sea met in Geneva to prepare for the [Tehran Convention](#)'s 6th Conference of the Parties to take place in 2017. Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Russia and Turkmenistan made progress in agreeing on institutional arrangements for the Convention's permanent Secretariat, which is planned to be established in the region on a 4-year rotational basis. National representatives and experts also reviewed steps for ensuring that the Convention's [Aktau Protocol](#), which entered into force in July this year, can become a reality on the ground.

### **Ministers in the Asia-Pacific Region Endorse Manila Declaration at the Fourth Regional Forum on Environment and Health in Southeast and East Asian Countries**

UN Environment co-organized the [Fourth Regional Forum on Environment and Health](#) with the [World Health Organization](#), hosted by the Philippine Government in Manila, Philippines from 6 to 8 October 2016.

On 8 October 2016, High-Level Ministers and Officials from 14 countries in Southeast and Northeast Asia signed the [Manila Declaration on Health and Environment](#).

### **Integrating Sustainable Consumption and Production in South Asia**

South Asia Member States, namely, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka met in Sri Lanka on 20 to 22 October 2016 to establish the [South Asia Forum on Sustainable Consumption and Production](#). Hosted by the [South Asian Co-operative Environment Programme](#) with support from UN Environment under the European Union-funded [SWITCH-Asia Programme](#), the inaugural forum included round-table discussions, identification of priority sectors, sharing of good practices and the creation of a summary statement which will be presented to the South Asian Co-operative Environment Programme's Governing Council. The forum will serve as a sub-regional platform to further strengthen the implementation of sustainable consumption and production-related activities in South Asia.

### **9<sup>th</sup> Global Conference on Health Promotion was held on 21-24 November 2016 in Shanghai, China**

Jointly organized by the [National Health and Family Planning Commission of China](#) and the [World Health Organization](#) and hosted by the [Municipal Government of Shanghai](#), the [9<sup>th</sup> Global Conference on Health Promotion](#) was held on 21-24 November 2016 in Shanghai, China. The Executive Director was one of the speakers of the Conference's opening plenary. In his speech, he singled out pollution as both a health and an environment issue and proposed to work closely with the World Health Organization in delivering a package of proposals to support governments and in creating partnerships to drastically reduce air pollution as fast and as urgently as possible.

## **UN System-Wide Cooperation and Coherence**

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### **Resolutions negotiated at the 71<sup>st</sup> Session of the Second Committee of the General Assembly**

Throughout the course of its [71<sup>st</sup> Session the Second Committee of the General Assembly](#), informal negotiations on a number of resolutions of relevance to UN Environment were conducted, of which in particular two are noteworthy. For both resolutions UN Environment provided substantive secretariat services:

- **Resolution on the Report of the UN Environment Assembly ([A/C.2/71/L.45](#)):**  
In addition to welcoming the holding of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Session of the [United Nations Environment Assembly](#), the most relevant element of the resolution is its focus on the consolidation of the linkages between the work of the United Nations Environment Assembly and the follow-up and review of the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) at the global level. In this regard, Member States decided to encourage the participation of the President of the United Nations Environment Assembly in the sessions of the [High Level Political Forum](#).
- **Resolution on Combating Sand and Dust Storms ([A/C.2/71/L.53](#)):**  
In the follow-up to the preceding year's resolution the Secretary-General had circulated the [global assessment on sand and dust storms](#) prepared by UN Environment in collaboration with the [World Meteorological Organization](#) and [United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification](#), to the General Assembly. The three main outcomes of the resolution are:
  - i. The organization of a high-level interactive dialogue of the General Assembly during its 72nd Session, to discuss the issue;
  - ii. The organization of an international conference hosted by Iran, with t potential contribution by UN Environment, the [United Nations Development Programme](#), the [Department of Economic and Social Affairs](#) and other relevant entities; and
  - iii. Request for a Secretary-General report on the implementation of the resolution. The resolution was adopted by the Second Committee on 30 November 2016.

### **UN Collaboration on Freshwater**

UN Environment holds the Vice-Chairmanship of [UN-Water](#) and is actively engaged in integrated monitoring and reporting of the [Sustainable Development Goal 6](#) ([www.unwater.org/gemi](http://www.unwater.org/gemi)). UN Environment took the lead on producing a [UN-Water Analytical Brief on a World Water Quality Assessment](#) which was launched at the [Budapest Water Summit on 30 November](#). UN Environment is also taking a lead role in the World Water Development Report 2017 on the topic of “wastewater,” and for both the 2018 [World Water Day](#) and the 2018 World Water Development Report, which will be on the topic of “Nature-based solutions for water.”

### **Joint UN Programme on Gender, Natural Resources and Peacebuilding**

The joint [UN Programme on Gender, Natural Resources and Peacebuilding](#), collaboration between UN Environment, [UN Women](#), [United Nations Development Programme](#) and the [UN's Peacebuilding Support Office](#) is now starting. The programme looks at promoting gender-responsive approaches to natural resource management for peacebuilding. The programme's initial pilot project is taking place in North Kordofan in Sudan. The multi-agency team that will be implementing the project is now in place.

### **UN System Chief Executives Board for Coordination**

During the Secretary-General's last session as Chair of the [UN System Chief Executives Board for Coordination](#) from 9 to 10 November 2016, Executive Heads reflected on major accomplishments and lessons learned over the past 10 years in UN system-wide coordination and coherence, which have delivered lasting results for people and planet; identified new frontiers and emerging challenges for collaboration and joint action over the coming decade, and considered the role of leadership to guide the UN System towards these new horizons. The Secretary-General will relay these key observations and

The Executive Director's Progress Update to the 136<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR) recommendations, particularly those that relate to UN inter-agency coordination and system-wide coherence, to his successor.

The [Chief Executives Board](#) also addressed steps the UN system can take to affect the transformational changes required for reaching the [Paris Agreement](#) and the [2030 Sustainable Development Agenda](#) objectives, in unison. Furthermore, the Board endorsed the reports and recommendations of its three sub-committees: the [High-Level Committee on Programmes](#), the [High-Level Committee on Management](#) and the [United Nations Development Group](#).

These results include: a 'Shared UN Framework for Action on Combatting Inequalities and Discrimination'; a [UNDG Business Operations Strategy Guidance](#), and the [UNDG 2015 Results Report](#). The new [UN Development Assistance Frameworks Guidance](#) for UN Country Teams is being finalized for adoption by the [United Nations Development Group](#). The new guidance, which was developed by the United Nations Development Group's Programme Working Group, co-chaired by UN Environment, captures the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development's core context and content, and facilitates integrated analysis, planning and results monitoring across its development, humanitarian, peacebuilding, and human rights dimensions. The environment dimension of sustainable development is strongly reflected and integrated throughout the guidance, especially through the core programming principle of 'sustainability and resilience'.

### **Strengthening Partnerships and Collaboration between the UN Environment and the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands**

Aiming to improve the condition of wetlands of international importance the Memorandum of Understanding between the UN Environment and [Ramsar Convention on Wetlands](#) was signed on 2 December 2016 in Cancun during the [High-Level Segment of the UN Conference on Biodiversity](#). The Memorandum of Understanding strengthens the work of the UN Environment and the [Ramsar Convention](#) in facilitating collaboration and synergies among biodiversity-related conventions and the implementation of the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) and relevant [Sustainable Development Goals](#).

### **Memorandum of Understanding between UN Environment and the Ministry of Environmental Protection of the People's Republic of China**

On 9 December, the Executive Director signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the [Ministry of Environmental Protection of the People's Republic of China](#) whereby it was agreed that both entities will work together to enhance international cooperation in greening the "[Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road](#)" initiative, also known as the "Belt and Road" initiative.

### **Memorandum of Understanding between UN Environment and the Center for International Forestry Research**

In Jakarta, the Executive Director also signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the [Center for International Forestry Research](#) that will foster joint action on preserving tropical landscapes. This supports UN Environment's support to the establishment of the [Tropical Landscapes Finance Facility](#), which is a purely private financing mechanism to support small holders shift to sustainable livelihood income that does not destroy important forest ecosystems

## **Corporate Management and Management Reform**

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### **Global Environment Facility**

The Work Program approved by the [Global Environment Facility](#) Council at its [51st Meeting](#) from 25 to 27 October 2016 included two new program concepts for UN Environment Programme, namely:

- The Mediterranean Sea Program, co-implemented with the [European Bank for Reconstruction and Development](#), valued at US \$46.1 million, with US \$ 33.6 million in project grant to UN Environment; and
- The Global Opportunities for Long-Term Development of the Artisanal and Small Scale Gold Mining Sector, co-implemented by [Conservation International](#), the [United Nations Industrial Development Organization](#), the [United Nations Development Program](#) and UN Environment, valued at US \$ 49.3 million, with US \$ 15.8 million in project grant for UN Environment activities.

In addition, the [Council for the Least Developed Countries Fund](#) approved three UN Environment project concepts to work on ecosystem-based adaptation in Lesotho, Mozambique and Rwanda valued at US \$17 million.

The Global Environment Facility Chief Executive Officer and Chairperson have endorsed almost US\$ 200 million worth of projects developed from concepts previously approved by the Council.

The Executive Director of UN Environment and the Chief Executive Officer and Chairperson of the Global Environment Facility met on 8 November 2016 to discuss UN Environment's programming ideas for the 7th replenishment cycle. While UN Environment intends to continue many of the same kinds of initiatives that they are already delivering through the Global Environment Facility portfolios, it has been now agreed to propose initiatives in the areas of Green Finance and Environmental Security.

### **Green Climate Fund**

UN Environment's work under the [Green Climate Fund](#) has strengthened considerably this quarter. To-date, a total of 6 proposals approved by the Green Climate Fund Secretariat under the readiness window have been received, including approval of the first of the Green Climate Fund's grants in support of processes to develop National Adaptation Plans for Nepal.

The Board has also approved a project in Gambia for large scale Ecosystem based Adaptation.

In addition, 58 countries have requested support for Readiness work. Of those, 18 proposals are under development and 40 proposals are under discussion. Under the full sized project window, 18 countries have asked to work with UN Environment and the proposals are in various stages of development; a further 24 proposals are at very initial stages of discussion.

### **Financing of the Third session of the United Nations Environment Assembly**

UN Environment continues its resource mobilization effort for the financing of the third session of the [United Nations Environment Assembly](#). To date, in addition to the European Commission confirmed contribution of US \$500,000, the [Nordic Council](#) has pledged US \$120,000. It is expected that Member States and others in a position to do so will contribute funds to convene of the meetings of the 2017 Assembly's session and the 2017 Open-Ended Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives. In accordance with Article 4 of [Resolution 2/22](#) on the review of the cycle of the United Nations Environment Assembly adopted by the second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, the Secretariat will be requesting each Member State to help.

### **Budget Status**

- The 2016 annual projection for the Environment Fund stood at US \$68.44 million as at end October which is a US \$1.3 million, or 2%, net decrease from the 1 January 2016 estimate.
- US \$62.88 million of pledges has been received, therefore, 92% of the projected total for 2016. US \$48.65 million was paid by end October.

The Executive Director's Progress Update to the 136<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR)

- 66 member states, or 53%, of the projected total of 126 Member States, have pledged for 2016. 51 member states had paid their pledges by end of October. The funds availability (opening balance + revenue comprising all pledges paid and unpaid) stands at US \$74 million, or 55% of the approved annual budget of US \$135 million.
- Letters from the Executive Director to Member States that have not yet contributed to the Environment Fund in 2016 were sent out in October inviting them to pledge before the end of the year. This communications, together with follow up from Regional Offices and United Nations Headquarters, are expected to generate contributions from 60 countries with total value of US \$ 5.6 million as per the remaining estimate.
- The total of US \$266 million is the estimated revenue for 2016 from other extra-budgetary funding sources, including the [Global Environment Facility](#), of which US \$190 million has been received from the donors by end of October.

### **Information and Communications Technology Governance Framework**

UN Environment has established an Information and Communications Technology Governance Framework document. The objective of this document is to provide a framework for harmonising organizational governance on the Information and Communications Technology implementation for UN Environment as a whole. It does this by:

- Defining the scope of the Information and Communications Technology governance framework;
- Providing a clear description of the roles and responsibilities among all the different UN Environment entities globally, including the Multilateral Environment Agreement secretariats administered by UN Environment; and
- Describing the operational functions affected by the Information and Communications Technology governance.

### **Standard Operating Procedure for the Access-to-Information Policy**

The objective of the Standard Operating Procedure for the Access-to-Information Policy is to guide UN Environment staff in implementing UN Environment's Access-to-Information Policy. The Standard Operating Procedure will ensure that staff members will uphold the commitment to ensure access to information and implement the Policy in their day to day work.

### **Progress on Gender**

In the spirit of enhancing accountability, UN Environment continues to outperform other UN agencies and the overall UN Secretariat in the [UN System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment](#).

### **Bilateral Consultations held with Switzerland and the Nordic Countries**

- During the last quarter of 2016, UN Environment held consultative meetings in Nairobi with high-level representatives of Switzerland (10-11 October), and in Copenhagen with representatives from the Ministries of Environment and Foreign Affairs from Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden (22-23 November).
- The consultations provided a valuable opportunity to have focused discussions and presentations on UN Environment's programme of work and priorities and their relation to policy priorities and actions of the Nordic countries.

### **UN Environment's Engagement with the Private Sector is Being Scaled Up**

UN Environment organised dynamic discussions with 35 key players from both the public and private sectors in the Nordic region on 24 to 25 November in Copenhagen. The discussions will feed into further discussions at other regional consultative meetings with the private sector that will contribute to preparations for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly and are part of UN Environment's programme to expand partnerships with the private sector.



## **Annex: Programme Activities**

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### **CLIMATE CHANGE**

#### **The Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol: Another Global Commitment to stop Climate Change**

On 15 October 2016 at the [28th Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer](#) held in Kigali, Rwanda, following seven years of continuous consultations, Parties to the Montreal Protocol struck a landmark legally binding deal to reduce the emissions of powerful greenhouse gases in a move that could prevent up to 0.5 degrees Celsius of global warming by the end of this century, while continuing to protect the ozone layer.

#### **The Secretary General's Climate Resilience Initiative: Anticipate, Absorb, Reshape (A2R).**

The first two meetings of the [A2R](#) Leadership Group were held on 24th September in New York and 14th November in Marrakech. UN Environment, Food and Agriculture Organization and the Executive Office of the Secretary General provide secretariat services to A2R.

#### **22nd Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Marrakech, 7-18 November 2016**

##### **Highlights:**

UN Environment ensured a live coverage of the interviews, photos and videos of the Meeting, showing an active side of the Conference, by developing a dedicated website:

<http://web.unep.org/climatechange/cop22/> with an emphasis on the [Green Passport campaign](#).

- On 15 November 2016 Ministers and Officials of the [Climate and Clean Air Coalition](#) committed to speed up action to reduce short-lived climate pollutants and reduce global warming and improve air quality. In a [communiqué](#) released at the Climate and Clean Air Coalition High Level Assembly during the [22nd Meeting of the Conference of Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change](#) in Marrakech, Morocco, Coalition partners noted that effective action on pollutants like methane, black carbon and hydrofluorocarbons had strong potential to slow the increasing rate of climate change.
- On 17 November the [Global Peat lands Initiative](#) was launched. The initiative, led by UN Environment, is the largest collaborative effort on peat so far and is supported by the following partners: Governments of Indonesia, Peru, Republic of Congo, the [Food and Agriculture Organization](#), [Joint Research Centre of the European Commission](#), [Center for International Forestry Research](#), [Wetlands International](#), [UN Environment World Conservation Monitoring Centre](#), [GRID-Arendal](#), [Ramsar Convention on Wetlands](#), [European Space Agency](#), [World Resources Institute](#), [Greifswald Mire Centre](#) and SarVision/Satelligence.
- [The International Resource Panel](#) presented its findings on [Green Energy Choices](#) on 11 November 2016. Specialists from the [European Commission](#) and the [International Resource Panel](#) discussed the dynamics and the environmental and health consequences of future energy systems in the context of the Paris climate agreement, both globally and for Africa.

##### **Key Reports Launched**

- The [1 Gigaton Coalition](#) launched its second report '[Renewable energy and energy efficiency in developing countries: Contributions to reducing global emissions](#)' on 3 November in London. (<http://www.1gigatoncoalition.org/news/second-report-of-1-gigaton-coalition-released/>)
- The [Climate and Clean Air Coalition's Oil and Gas Methane Partnership](#) released its [first annual report](#) at this year's Oil and Money conference, one of the largest annual gatherings of global oil and gas executives that took place in London on 18 October 2016.

### **BreatheLife Campaign**

The [BreatheLife campaign](#) was launched at the [United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development](#) in Quito, Ecuador, on October 20, 2016. It calls on people and leaders to imagine a future without air pollution. This solutions-oriented campaign aims to inspire action and will offer practical policy measures that cities can implement to improve air quality. BreatheLife is jointly run by the [World Health Organization](#) and the [Climate and Clean Air Coalition](#).

### **Global Strategy to Introduce Low Sulphur Fuels and Cleaner Diesel Vehicles**

On 15 November 2016, at the [Climate and Clean Air Coalition](#) High-level Assembly and Partners endorsed the Coalition's [Global Strategy to Introduce Low Sulphur Fuels and Cleaner Diesel Vehicles](#) to adopt, maintain, and enforce world-class diesel fuel quality and tailpipe emissions standards for on road light and heavy-duty vehicles. The Global Strategy is the first global roadmap detailing how small particulate and black carbon emissions from the global on-road diesel fleet can be reduced by over 90%.

### **Meeting on Climate Change and the Environment of Eastern European Partnership Countries, Luxembourg, 17-18 October 2016**

Ministers from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine met with their counterparts from the European Union Member States as well as with the European Commissioners for the [Environment and Neighbourhood Policy](#) and international and non-governmental organizations in Luxembourg on 17-18 October, to reflect on the benefits of decoupling economic growth from environmental degradation. The meeting was held back-to-back with the [European Union Environment Council](#) and UN Environment with partners presented the results of the regional "Greening Economies in the European Union's Eastern Partnership Countries" [project](#). In the first Declaration adopted by Eastern Partnership countries and the European Union and its Member States, both sides committed to pursue regional cooperation on environment, climate action and sustainable development within the framework of this partnership.

### **Trilateral Partnership for the European Region**

In response to the organizations' mandates on green economy and environment emanating from the [8<sup>th</sup> Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference](#) and the increasing request of countries and donors to maximize synergies and enhance collaboration among international organizations, UN Environment together with the [UN Economic Commission for Europe](#) and the [Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development](#) launched a new trilateral partnership for the European region. This cooperation builds upon the work that has taken place under the Environmental Action Programme Task Force.

### **Oman National Greenhouse Gas Inventory System, Bahrain, 1-3 November 2016**

The prototype National Greenhouse Gas Inventory System for the Sultanate of Oman was developed and presented to core team of experts in a workshop held in Bahrain from 1 to 3 November 2016. This has been developed in partnership with Dubai Carbon Centre of Excellence, a [Climate Technology Centre and Network](#) member, [Sultan Qaboos University](#) under the policy guidance of the [Ministry of Environment and Climate Affairs of Oman](#). The National Inventory System is an electronic platform for systematic collection, storing and calculating Greenhouse Gas data to track emissions from all key sectors according to [the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change 2006 Guidelines](#). This is the first National Inventory System prototype to be tested and perhaps replicated in other countries in the region.

### **Resilience and Adaptation Planning for Communities in Protected Areas**

This is a manual prepared by [UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre](#) with support from the [Mava Foundation](#) provides the practical tools needed to effectively engage with communities living in, and around, Protected Areas regarding appropriate strategies to deal with the negative impacts of climate change. It offers step-by-step guidance for a pragmatic community-based resilience and adaptation planning process and is available in [English](#) and [French](#).

**Fifth Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Forum, 17-19 October 2016, Colombo, Sri Lanka**

Gaps and opportunities such as harnessing more local involvement in integrated adaptation plan, providing access to relevant financing, and tapping knowledge networks for replicable adaptation activities, collective learning and coherent capacity building were identified and discussed at the [Fifth Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Forum](#), held on 17-19 October 2016 in Colombo, Sri Lanka. Over 900 participants including policymakers, scientists, donors, youth, and representatives from over 50 countries pledged, through the [Colombo Outcome](#), to collaborate on solutions and integrated approaches, and extended an invitation to new partners, especially the private, technology and finance sectors to build a climate-resilient Asia Pacific.

**South-South Collaboration Training to Advance National Adaptation Plans**

On 19- 20 October 2016, 60 participants from 18 Asia Pacific countries gathered in Colombo, Sri Lanka [Asia Pacific Regional Training Workshop on National Adaptation Plans](#), which was framed as a South-South collaboration opportunity where countries with experience in planning for climate adaptation were paired with those requiring support and to learn from one another. Participating countries came up with an action plan to advance their National Adaptation Plans outlining strengths and weaknesses as well as support needs for the next two to three years, as a result of the workshop.

## DISASTERS AND CONFLICTS

### **Environment security: From Post-Conflict to Integrated Strategic Environmental Assessment in Cote d'Ivoire**

After the [Post-Conflict Environmental Assessment](#) was presented to President of Cote d'Ivoire in 2015 with key recommendations for targeted actions to address the deforestation; clean up and development of the Ebrié Lagoon; and advice to ensure sustainable mining. UN [Environment](#) has engaged in a new phase aimed at strengthening the consistency and effectiveness of its operations in Côte d'Ivoire in relation to the implementation of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework for 2017-2020 and in line with the priorities of the country's National Development Plan for 2016-2020, the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) and its related [Goals](#). While the independent environmental audit of the Probo Koala toxic waste dumping sites is underway, UN Environment conducted a training for experts on 24-25 November, from different line ministries and key stakeholders on [Integrated Strategic Environmental Assessment](#). This initiative aims to equip Cote d'Ivoire with appropriate skills, tools and methods to consolidate its institutional framework to better manage the complex interrelationship between environment and development, for sustainable socio-economic and environmental results.

### **Post-Hurricane Matthew Support to Haiti**

Hurricane Matthew hit Haiti's 'Grand Sud' region on 4 October 2016, where the majority of [UN Environment's work in Haiti](#) is concentrated, causing severe damage to the region. Prior to the hurricane, UN Environment [helped evacuate the most vulnerable communities](#). During the emergency response phase, in collaboration with partners, UN Environment has supported activities including re-establishing safe drinking water and helping coordinate and distributes emergency aid.

### **International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict**

The annual [International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict](#) took place on 6 November 2016. This year marks the 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of UN General Assembly [resolution 56/4](#) creating the observance of the day. Communications efforts took place around the globe with the aim of raising awareness on the fundamental importance of protecting the environment during conflict. Reach through the UN Environment social media channels alone was 771,505 and engagement was 12,611. [More information here](#).

### **Rapid Environment and Climate Technical Assistance Facility**

UN Environment and the [UN Department of Field Support](#) have formed a partnership to improve the environmental performance of peacekeeping operations worldwide. Through the programme, UN Environment will provide a range of support, from high-level strategic advice down to detailed technical and field level input on energy and environmental engineering infrastructure. The technical assistance at field-level element of the project has now commenced.

## ECOSYSTEMS MANAGEMENT

### **The Apes Seizure Database**

The [Apes Seizure Database](#) was officially launched at the [17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora](#) in Johannesburg. The database was developed by [UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre's](#) Informatics and Species Programmes in collaboration with the [Great Apes Survival Partnership](#). The database will become the definitive home for records of great apes seized around the world. For the first time these global records will be consolidated into one central, secure and up-to-date database of standardized records, with new reports able to be added quickly and easily directly into the system as soon as they happen by key users, such as sanctuary workers or law enforcement officials. New records will then be validated by a panel of great ape experts to ensure the high quality of data being added into the system.

### **UNEP World Conservation and Monitoring Centre provides new regional insights into wildlife trade**

An analysis of [Southern Africa's wildlife trade](#) was launched at the [17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora](#). The trade analysis was undertaken by [UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre](#) in collaboration with South Africa and the [Southern African Development Community](#) region, with the results presented to the region earlier this year as part of a capacity building workshop.

In support of the Amazonian region, the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre is also working with the [German development organisation \(GIZ\)](#) and with country members of the [Amazonian Cooperation Treaty Organisation](#) to undertake the first comprehensive analysis of illegal wildlife trade for the Amazonian countries. A [report](#) providing a snapshot of the trade from the Amazonian region was presented at the 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora. Further results will be presented in 2017. This work complements the publication of a [report](#) on wildlife trade produced for the Ecuadorian Government.

### **The United Nations Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation - Country Progress**

Many [United Nations Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation \(REDD+\)](#) programme partner countries are developing approaches to ensure that their REDD+ plans take account of the Cancun safeguards, including through enhancing social and environmental benefits. This involves identifying and mapping the values of forest, and the potential for specific REDD+ actions to retain or restore those values. Reports have been released on the potential for REDD+ to achieve multiple benefits in Kenya ([English](#)), Republic of Congo ([French](#)) and Paraguay ([Spanish](#)). (More information available at <http://bit.ly/mbs-redd>)

### **The Economics of Ecosystem Services of the Tana River Basin**

In October, UN Environment launched [The Economics of Ecosystem Services of the Tana River Basin](#) – a study produced together with [Kenya's Water Resources Management Authority](#), the [National Museums of Kenya](#), [Wetlands International](#), the [Netherlands Ministry of Economic Affairs](#), the Universities of Amsterdam and Nairobi, and the Institute for Environmental Studies, which helped inform Kenya on tradeoffs involved in implementing parts of its Vision 2030 and the creation of catchment area strategies for the basin.

### **Regional Seas**

The [Annual Meeting of Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans](#) was held in Korea. The meeting aimed for a global dialogue between [Regional Seas](#) Organizations and [Regional Fishery Bodies](#), and

The Executive Director's Progress Update to the 136<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR) decided to enhance cooperation and coordination. Preparations are underway for the 23rd Intergovernmental Meeting of the [Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia](#) in February 2017 where the new strategic direction will be adopted. The Strategic Action Programme for the South China Sea project was approved by the [Global Environment Facility](#) Council at the level of US \$15 million. [The Northwest Pacific Action Plan](#) intergovernmental meeting was held in Korea from 23 to 24 November 2016.

### **Coral Reefs**

UN Environment and France have decided to collaborate on priority actions, through implementation of the [International Coral Reef Initiative](#). Long-term coral reef monitoring datasets from 15 Pacific island countries and territories have been collated towards the preparation of a regional coral reef status report. A summary will be presented at the UN Conference for [Sustainable Development Goal 14](#) in June 2017.

### **UN Environment and France Partnering for Sustainable Coral Reefs Management**

UN Environment and France will collaborate on priority actions requested in Resolution 12 of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, regarding 'Sustainable Coral Reefs Management', through implementation of the [International Coral Reef Initiative](#) Secretariat Action Plan adopted at the it's General Meeting that took place from 2 to 4 November 2016 in Paris, France. This includes analysis of global and regional governance mechanisms and policy instruments relevant to coral reefs; strengthening the [Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network](#) as a network for ocean observation; enhancing public communication and outreach on coral reefs; and implementation of climate change resilience activities through the [Global Coral Reef Partnership](#) of UN Environment and Regional Seas.

## ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE

### **The 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefits Sharing of the Genetic Resources, Cancun, 2-17 December 2016**

#### **Highlights:**

- [The 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefits Sharing of the Genetic Resources](#), discussed "Mainstreaming biodiversity across sectors and agencies" in the context of the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) and [Sustainable Development Goals](#).
- The meeting adopted the [Ministerial Declaration](#) that laid down the roadmap for discussing the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Agenda, mainstreaming biodiversity across sectors in cooperation with the Parties and broad spectrum of partners.
- The Conference assessed the progress made in achieving the [Strategic Plan of Biodiversity and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets \(2011-2020\)](#) and respective strategic plan under the [Cartagena Protocol](#). They provided guidance to the financing mechanism for future prioritization, decided on the road map in enhancing cooperation among the biodiversity related conventions. The challenges were discussed and the ways out identified for capacity building in implementation, including the clearing house mechanisms.

#### **Hanoi Conference on Illegal Wildlife Trade**

[The 2016 Hanoi Conference on Illegal Wildlife Trade](#) took place on 17 and 18 November 2016 and attracted high level delegates from around the world. It was the third convening of this conference which was originally launched by Prince Charles in London in 2014 with a second conference hosted by Botswana in 2015.

[The Wild for Life campaign](#) is acknowledged in the Hanoi Statement and was a featured exhibition.

#### **European Union Parliament welcomes UN Environment's work on environmental crime**

On 24<sup>th</sup> November 2016, the European Union Parliament adopted a [resolution](#) on the European Union Action Plan against Wildlife Trafficking. The resolution specifically welcomes UN Environment's expert review process, which seeks to create a universally recognized definition of environmental crime noting that the legal boundaries between different types of environmental crimes are sometimes unclear, which can reduce opportunities for effective prosecution and punishment. The resolution further acknowledges UN Environment's '[Global Judges Programme](#)' and the '[Green Customs Initiative](#)' as models to follow in enhancing Member states judicial, prosecutorial and custom management capacity. Adoption of the resolution follows extensive engagement and consultation between UN Environment and the European Union Parliament.

#### **Poverty-Environment Initiative in Asia Pacific pilots the application of the Poverty-Environment Accounting Framework in Bangladesh**

The Poverty-Environment Accounting Framework was presented at the "Expert Group Training Workshop on the situation analysis of environmental statistics for developing the Bangladesh Environmental Statistics Framework 2016-2030" held on the 6th of November in Dhaka by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics. From this workshop, [Poverty-Environment Initiative](#) is supporting the Bureau to better link poverty data to environment, climate, and disaster data to inform poverty reduction policies and programmes by applying the Poverty Environment Accounting Framework.

**The Minamata Convention**

35 ratifications have been deposited as of 28 November 2016, while 15 more are required for the Convention to enter into force. Africa leads with 17 ratifications (with Benin and the Gambia are the most recent ratifications), followed by eight ratification from the Latin America and the Caribbean region, seven ratifications from the Asia Pacific region (including China, Japan and Mongolia), and three from Monaco, Switzerland and the United States of America.



## CHEMICALS AND WASTE

### **Special Programme on Institutional Strengthening at the National Level for Chemicals and Waste**

At its first meeting in October 2016, the Executive Board of the [Special Programme](#) approved 7 projects during the pilot round, amounting to US \$1.75 million, taking into consideration regional balance and the special needs of the least developed countries and small island developing states (Benin, Tanzania, Iraq, Kyrgyz Republic, Ukraine, Argentina and Dominican Republic). The Board agreed that the second round of applications would be launched in February 2017. The third Executive Board meeting is scheduled for October/November 2017.

### **Initiatives launched in Africa funded by the Global Environment Facility**

Two major initiatives have been launched in Africa funded by the [Global Environment Facility](#) on “Demonstration of non-chemical alternatives to dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane in control of Malaria” and “Disposal of polychlorinated biphenyls in Southern Africa. Both aim to eliminate the use of these two major types of persistent organic pollutants and prevent pollution as a result of poor management of chemicals.

### **Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint**

UN Environment is cooperating with the [World Health Organization](#) to lead the [Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint](#) to phase out the use of lead in paint by 2020. UN Environment hosts a number of workshops, the recent ones being in Dar es Salaam in September 2016, Beijing in October 2016, and Yaounde in December 2016. <http://web.unep.org/chemicalsandwaste/leadpaintalliance/>

### **Regional Enforcement Network Considers Gender-Sensitive Approaching Combating Illegal Chemicals and Waste**

50 Customs Officials, environment agencies and civil society organizations met on 8-9 November 2016 in Bangkok for the annual workshop organized by UN Environment. Participants also considered the implementation of a gender-sensitive approach in delivering on the networks activities and plans. This was part of the discussions and sharing on the progress of the [Regional Enforcement Network](#) activities and trends in illegal trade of chemicals and waste, and consideration of pathways to improve regional and inter-regional cooperation in combating such trade.

### **The 18th Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting on the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia**

UN Environment, as the Secretariat Service for the [Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia](#), hosted the [18<sup>th</sup> Intergovernmental Meeting](#) in Bangkok, Thailand from 22 to 23 November 2016, and attended by representatives of Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russia, Thailand and Vietnam, as well as experts from the [Secretariat of Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution](#), [United Nations Economic Commission for Europe](#), [Regional Resource Centre for Asia and the Pacific](#), [Asian Institute of Technology](#) and [Kanazawa University](#). Important issues highlighted in the Meeting include the programme of work and budget for 2017; the acid deposition periodic assessment report; and the Framework Document of UN Environment Asia Pacific as Secretariat of the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia.

## RESOURCE EFFICIENCY

### **Consultations for strengthened Private Sector Engagement**

UN Environment has initiated a series of four consultations aiming at developing UN Environment's strategy for a strengthened private sector engagement. These events included: UN Environment Finance Initiative Global Roundtable, Dubai, 25-27 October (details below); the UN Environment Assembly Retreat, Nairobi, 27-28 October; the High level Dialogue between Scientists and Industry Leaders, Paris, 18 November; and the Business Roundtable and Dinner-in-Conversation, Copenhagen, 24 November. The discussions during these meetings increased the understanding of how UN Environment and the private sector can jointly contribute to enhanced environmental sustainability, and more specifically to the [Paris Agreement](#) and to the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) (including the [Sustainable Development Goals](#)).

### **Adoption of the Dubai Declaration on Sustainable Finance**

At a global roundtable in Dubai on 24-25 October 2016, an event hosted by the United Arab Emirates and the UN Environment [Finance Initiative](#), different ways for the finance community to become catalysts for sustainable, climate resilient development were discussed. The discussions resulted in the adoption of the [Dubai Declaration on Sustainable Finance](#).

### **Launch of the Tropical Landscapes Finance Facility in Indonesia**

[The Tropical Landscapes Finance Facility](#) was launched on 26 October 2016 in Jakarta under the auspices of the Government of Indonesia together with key partners which include [BNP Paribas](#), [ADM Capital](#) and the [World Agroforestry Centre](#). The facility, consisting of a loan fund amounting to US \$1 billion and a grant fund, will use public funding to unlock private finance in renewable energy production and sustainable landscape management. It is an example of a scalable private sector partnership and a model for leveraging long-term private sector finance to accelerate green growth and improve rural livelihoods while combating climate change and deforestation.

### **International Resource Panel**

[The International Resource Panel](#) presented the report '[Resource Efficiency: Potential and Economic Implications](#)' as part of the [Third European Resources Forum](#) which took place from 9 to 10 November 2016. Over four hundred participants from around fifty countries attended the conference.

The International Resource Panel also held its biannual meeting in Paris, France from 14 to 18 November 2016. The meeting, hosted by the [French Ministry of Environment, Energy and the Sea](#), took important decisions on the ongoing research of the panel, including on its response to the [UNEA-2 Resolution 2/8](#) on Sustainable Consumption and Production.

Also in response to [UNEA-2 Resolution 2/8](#), the International Resource Panel is currently preparing a scientific assessment on the state of natural resources, projected scenarios for future resource use in the context of sustainable development and business as usual, drivers of change, and policy-relevant options for reaching stated sustainability objectives. The report will be launched at the Third Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly and will serve as a succinct pre-cursor to a more expansive document slated for Fourth Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly.

### **Adapting Sustainable Consumption and Production in South Asia**

In partnership with [South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme](#), UN Environment organized the [First South Asia Forum on Sustainable Consumption and Production](#) held on 20-22 October 2016 in Sri Lanka which gathered 35 participants representing government agencies, private sector and civil society from South Asian countries. The Forum was established to contribute to [Sustainable Development Goal 17.16](#), to enhance the global partnership for sustainable development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources to

The Executive Director's Progress Update to the 136<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR) accelerate the shift to sustainable consumption and production. Participants learnt approaches in designing and implementing policies and activities that can accelerate the shift to sustainable consumption and production.

**Responsible Business Forum Panel on Sustainable Development Goal 12**

UN Environment led the panel on [Sustainable Development Goal 12](#) during the [Responsible Business Forum](#) held in Singapore on 22-24 November 2016. Facilitated by James Lomax, Programme Management Officer for Sustainable Food and Agriculture, the session focused on halving food waste and reducing food loss across the supply chain by 2030. Panelists include representatives of the private sector which contributed to a dynamic exchange on the role businesses play in the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 12, particularly on efforts made in reducing food loss and waste in their operations as well as in influencing better behavior of their suppliers and customers.

## ENVIRONMENT UNDER REVIEW

### **Supporting progress on the Sustainable Development Goals**

[UNEP World Conservation and Monitoring Centre](#) recently completed an analysis of relationships among the [Sustainable Development Goals](#), focusing on human-environment interactions, plus reviews of progress on related research of relevant conceptual frameworks since the [Millennium Assessment](#). Developed in collaboration with the University of Sussex, these highly praised reports form background materials for a '[Bellagio Convening](#)' from 7 to 11 November 2016, that aimed to draft a narrative and identify priorities for an international research agenda to support achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

### **United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development, Quito, 17-20 October 2016**

UN Environment was actively involved in the preparatory process for the [United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development](#). UN Environment contributed to the negotiation process and provided substantive comments on all drafts of the [New Urban Agenda](#), as part of the UN Task Team. In the implementation of the Agenda, UN Environment, together with other parts of the UN system, will support action on low-carbon, resource efficient and resilient housing and infrastructure, sustainable transport with an emphasis on public and non-motorised transport options, green space and ecosystem-based solutions, renewable energy, energy efficiency and district energy systems, waste management and circular economy, short-lived climate pollutants and improved health.

[The UN Environment – UN Habitat Greener Cities Partnership](#) was presented at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development and will be further strengthened to contribute to the implementation.

### **Sixth Global Environment Outlook**

With an overall theme '[Health Planet, Healthy People](#)', the [Sixth Global Environment Outlook](#) considers land, air, water and biota as well as the social and economic drivers and policy responses that are influencing environmental change. The six regional environmental assessments launched at the [2016 United Nations Environment Assembly](#) form the foundation of the global assessment. The global assessment will also be informed by the [Sustainable Development Goals indicators](#), emerging issues identified through the Frontiers series, and other assessments, including the Global Gender and Environment Outlook.

### **Sand and Dust Storm**

As a follow-up to the [Global Assessment of Sand and Dust Storms](#), which was made available at UN [General Assembly](#), an economic assessment of mitigation measures and a technical guide are being planned in partnership with the [UN Convention to Combat Desertification](#), [World Meteorological Organization](#) and other partners.

### **Air Quality Monitoring and Assessment**

The Heads of UN Environment, [World Health Organization](#) and [World Meteorological Organization](#) agreed on a partnership to be launched in 2017 on delivering jointly in countries in the areas of environment and health/air quality.

### **Data and Information related to the Sustainable Development Goals**

[The Inter-Agency Expert Group on the Sustainable Development Goals Indicators](#) met from 16 to 18 November 2016 in Geneva. UN Environment submitted detailed work plans for over 20 [Sustainable Development Goals indicators](#) for discussion at the meeting.

UN Environment is now also a member of the [Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics](#), and a member of the Advisory Group that will review the core set of gender statistics to ensure the core set includes indicators relevant to the gender environment nexus.

**New Guidelines developed for Environmental Impact Assessment in the Gulf Countries Council**

The [Kuwait Environment Public Authority](#) is leading an effort at the Gulf Countries Council level to develop sub-regional guidelines for an Environmental Impact Assessment. This initiative is based on the successful project supported by the World Bank under which guidelines for the [Environmental and Social Impacts Assessment for Kuwait](#) was developed and endorsed by the Kuwaiti government in 2015. The guidelines have been developed with the support of UN Environment and submitted to the Gulf Countries Council for adoption by the end of 2016.

**New Mountain Waste Outlook is Launched**

A new publication led by UN Environment identifies challenges and solutions related to waste management in mountain areas. The Mountain Waste Outlook was launched on [International Mountain Day](#) on 11 December at the 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of Parties in Cancún.

**The Global Environment Outlook Seminar for Graduate Students**

On 18 November 2016, a seminar was organized for the graduate students of Environment Development and Sustainability Program of Chulalongkorn University, Thailand, to present and discuss the Key Findings and Policy Messages of the sixth Global Environment Outlook Regional Assessment for Asia and the Pacific. The seminar focused its discussions on current progress and future scenarios of smart cities and green infrastructure in the region.

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<sup>1</sup> City of London, The World Economic Forum, Credit Suisse, British Telecom, British Petroleum, Unilever, Shell, Hermes Fund Managers, Walgreens Boots, Thomas Lloyd Group Ltd, Prince Accounting, Inflection Point Capital Management Ltd, The Carbon Disclosure Project, Thomson Reuters Foundations, WWF, The Nature Conservancy, The Sustainability Project, the UK Overseas Development Institute, the UK Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, the UK Department of International Development, Chatham House, The Institute of Commonwealth Studies, The International Fertilizer Association, Climate and Development Knowledge Network, British Standards Institution, Plan B Project, ET Index Research, World Future Council, and the Stakeholder Forum.