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## Supporting healthy environments, clean air and water, and productive land for resilient sustainable development



**UNEP in  
WEST ASIA**

**UNEP's Regional Office in West Asia (ROWA) empowers the countries of the region to achieve their visions for the environment and sustainable development. By providing leadership and encouraging partnership in caring for the environment, we inspire and enable the region's governments and peoples to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations.**

ROWA acts as the link between the various units and centres of UNEP and the countries in West Asia, and promotes collaboration and partnerships with organizations active in sustainable development in the region. In all of our work, we aim to build resilient communities; support healthy environments; ensure the availability of productive land and clean air and water; and enable all people in the region to live sustainably in peace and prosperity.

Our work, which addresses a broad range of issues across the region, directly contributes to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in West Asia.

Set up the Centre of Excellence for Resource Efficient Cities, serving **22 Arab countries**

Mobilized **\$5 million** for climate change communications in Qatar, Iraq, Kuwait and Oman

Facilitated West Asian countries' **full compliance** with the Montreal Protocol

## Delivering on the SDGs



We provide countries with post-conflict assistance to ensure the health of people and the environment in the aftermath of a crisis.



We empower young people through Green Universities Networks and other innovative approaches to youth engagement.



We assess water vulnerability and help countries develop strategies to boost water security.



We help countries implement national plans on waste management and sustainable consumption and production.



We help governments track their greenhouse gas emissions, adapt to climate change and move towards a low-carbon development path.



We build institutional capacity on environmental laws and policies, assist in monitoring, help countries fulfill their obligations under UN Conventions and multilateral environmental agreements, and support regional fora in setting priorities and formulating strategies.



Our programmes restore ecosystems and combat desertification and sand and dust storms.



We support the development of regional strategies to protect oceans and coastal zones.

### Snapshot: The Marshlands of Mesopotamia

The Marshlands of Mesopotamia, located in Southern Iraq, were once home to several hundred thousand inhabitants, the Ma'dan, a people whose way of life has been preserved for over 5,000 years. But since the 1970s, the Marshlands have been damaged by dam construction, drainage for agriculture, oil exploration, war, drought and climate change.

UNEP and its partners have been working in the Marshlands for more than a decade despite Iraq's unstable security situation. With UNEP's support, the Iraqi Government has developed a management plan to ensure a steady water flow, prevent pollution and provide a sustainable environment for local communities.

### Our Plan

- We are looking for \$1.5 million to support the follow-up to the recommendations from UNEP's Desk Studies on the environment in Palestine, an area that has undergone a series of conflicts that have seriously affected natural resources and the environment.
- We aim to scale up our support to countries to implement the Paris Agreement and participate in cooperation mechanisms on technology, capacity building and finance. We plan to attract roughly \$25 million in new funding from the GEF and the Green Climate Fund for the coming five years.
- We plan to help 12 countries implement their strategies on climate change, desertification, biodiversity, and chemicals by encouraging investments of at least \$3 million in pilot projects.
- We are looking to secure \$2 million over the next two years to help Arab countries green their economies by enhancing South-South cooperation and empowering youth.

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