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Reducing the scale and impact of climate change



UNEP's Climate Change Subprogramme helps countries to pursue low-emission development pathways and boost their adaptation and resilience capacities. We provide this support by addressing the different elements of the climate continuum – science, policy, technology and finance. UNEP's work supports the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly Goal 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy) and Goal 13 (Climate Action).

Reducing climate vulnerability & building resilience

We help countries integrate climate change risk into their national policies and development strategies. We also support countries to identify adaptation measures, including ecosystem-based approaches, and access funding to put those measures into action.

Promoting low-emission development


We help countries transition to renewable energy sources, adopt energy efficiency measures, reduce air pollution, and access clean energy finance.

Protecting forests & enhancing forest carbon stocks

Working through the UN-REDD Programme (FAO, UNDP and UNEP) and with other partners, we empower countries to seize new investment opportunities that reduce greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation and forest degradation.

 **20**
COUNTRIES
IMPLEMENTED
ECOSYSTEM-BASED AND
OTHER ADAPTATION
APPROACHES

**INTERNATIONAL
COMMUNITY
PLEGED
OVER
\$10 BILLION
TO UNEP-SUPPORTED
AFRICA
RENEWABLE ENERGY
INITIATIVE**

25 
**INSTITUTIONAL
INVESTORS
PLEGED TO DECARBONIZE
\$600 BILLION OF ASSETS
UNDER PORTFOLIO**

Driving clean energy investments

Entrepreneurs can transform markets, but the environment for entrepreneurship is unfavourable in many countries, particularly in the energy sector. This means that many renewable energy projects – even those with huge potential – often develop slowly. UNEP’s Seed Capital Assistance Facility (SCAF) tackles this challenge head-on by linking commercial private equity funds with renewable energy project developers. SCAF has already leveraged close to \$350 million for fully developed projects, and mobilized an additional \$18 million of seed investment for projects in development.

Promoting energy efficiency

Improving energy efficiency – in lighting, appliances, buildings and transport – could reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 40% by 2020. A global switch to efficient lighting alone would save more than \$140 billion and reduce CO₂ emissions by 580 million tonnes every year. UNEP, through its en.lighten initiative, is helping 66 countries phase out inefficient lighting technologies. In Latin America, this work has reduced electricity consumption by 2.4 GWh and energy costs by more than \$400 million. In 2014 UNEP initiated the Efficient Appliances and Equipment Partnership, which is designed to accelerate the transition to more efficient air-conditioners, refrigerators, electric motors and other appliances. In Southern Africa alone, such a transition could result in \$2 billion of reductions in electricity bills by 2030.

Helping countries adapt to climate impacts

In the past two years, UNEP has worked with more than two dozen countries to help them adapt to the changing climate. This support included on-the-ground activities in countries such as Afghanistan and Mexico; vulnerability impact assessments in places like Ecuador and Zambia; and capacity building and policy support in Angola and Kazakhstan. UNEP also helps countries access funding to put their adaptation plans into action. In 2014 and 2015, UNEP supported 10 countries with their accreditation to the Adaptation Fund; four of those countries have completed the process and can now access funds directly. UNEP and its partners also help countries’ access the Green Climate Fund.

Our Plan

With \$20 million, we can support at least 10 countries to advance the NDC process towards implementation. And with another \$20 million, we can support at least five countries to formulate and start implementing the first cycle of National Adaptation Plans, encouraging them to use ecosystem-based adaptation approaches. With \$40 million, UNEP can scale up of its activities and services to the Climate Technology Center and Network (CTCN) in response to developing countries’ growing demands for climate technology. And with another \$30 million, UNEP can support at least an additional 10 countries to develop and implement REDD+ strategies.



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Making the Paris Agreement a reality

UNEP contributed to the Paris Agreement by bringing science to policy-makers, playing a leading role in developing transformative global partnerships, and helping 36 countries develop and finalize their Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs). We also mobilized institutional investors, who committed to decarbonize \$600 billion of investments under the Portfolio Decarbonization Coalition, and facilitated over \$10 billion in pledges to the Africa Renewable Energy Initiative.

Contact:

Ermira Fida
Coordinator, Climate Change
Subprogramme
ermira.fida@unep.org
+254.207.623.113

www.unep.org/climatechange