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Supporting human well-being through healthy and productive ecosystems



ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT

Humans depend on healthy and productive ecosystems to meet their basic needs, but many people's needs are not being met sustainably – if at all. An estimated 795 million people suffer from hunger and 1.2 billion live in water-stressed areas. At the same time, biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation are expected to continue, or even accelerate. The demand for ecosystem goods and services is predicted to further increase: By 2030, the world will require 40% more water, 50% more food, 40% more energy and 40% more timber and fibre.

UNEP's Subprogramme on Ecosystem Management empowers governments, the private sector and civil society to align the growing need for ecosystem goods and services with biodiversity conservation and the long-term functioning of ecosystems. All of this work directly supports the ecological foundations of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, specifically Goals 14 (Life Below Water) and 15 (Life on Land), as well as the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and other environmental goals.

The enabling environment

We support countries to quantify and understand the importance of their marine, fresh water and terrestrial ecosystems, then help them incorporate ecosystems into their national education and monitoring frameworks, plans and financial decision-making.

Institutions & sectoral integration

We support countries to integrate the ecosystem approach across sectors and address critical threats to ecosystems such as marine litter, wastewater and nutrient loss. We also support institutions that manage transboundary ecosystems by providing them with tools and capacity development to help them make better decisions about common resources.

58 COUNTRIES SUPPORTED TO
ENABLE
DIFFERENT SECTORS
TO USE AN
ECOSYSTEM
APPROACH



**17 COUNTRIES
COMPLETED A
VALUATION
OF THEIR
ECOSYSTEMS** ▲▲

**PROECOSERV PROJECT
IDENTIFIED ALMOST
\$1 BILLION
OF ANNUAL
ECOSYSTEM BENEFITS IN
4 COUNTRIES** ■■■■

Managing critical landscapes in Angola

The Mayombe Forest, which lies along the southern margin of the Congo Basin, is one of the world's most ecologically important ecosystems. Home to chimpanzees, lowland gorillas and forest elephants, the forest is also a critical carbon sink and an important source of livelihoods for local communities. But human pressures in the region have degraded or destroyed much of the landscape, hampering the forest's ability to provide critical ecosystem goods and services. In 2015, with UNEP support, Angola gazetted its first protected area in the Cabinda Province. If managed sustainably, these forests will provide critical goods and services – both locally and globally – for generations to come.



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Tackling marine litter

Plastic waste is one of the biggest threats to the world's oceans. Plastic production has increased rapidly from the 1950s, with global production reaching more than 300 million tonnes in 2014. Much of that plastic has ended up in the oceans, where it harms wildlife, damages marine ecosystems and causes adverse impacts to human health. But thanks to UNEP's work, the issue is gaining traction at the international level, with the G7 recognizing marine litter as a global challenge, as well as through UNEP's Regional Seas Programme, which operates in 143 countries. These and other efforts continue to spur national and local initiatives to reduce marine litter around the globe.



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Our partners



Our Plan

By using the approaches for integrated ecosystem management that UNEP and its partners have developed, governments, businesses and other partners can get a better return on their development efforts – achieving a sustainable impact and saving money at the same time. With an investment of between \$500,000 and \$3 million, UNEP can help a country establish key building blocks for integrated ecosystem management.

Through all of this work, the Ecosystem Management Subprogramme seeks to prepare for the forthcoming resource challenge, which will require both better ecosystem management and more sustainable patterns of consumption and production. By providing critical knowledge products and capacity development, UNEP helps public and private decision-makers support healthy and productive ecosystems and the critical goods and services they provide.

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