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**United Nations Environment  
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**144th meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives  
to the United Nations Environment Programme**

Nairobi, 8 January 2019

10:00 a.m. to 1:00p.m; 2:30 p.m. to 5:00p.m.

Conference Room 1

**Agenda Item 5: Report of the Executive Director**

The annexed report of the Executive Director provides an update on key developments relevant to the UN Environment Programme for the period August to October 2018.

The report is organized into four sections, as follows:

**Executive Summary:** key takeaways from the report.

**Section One** highlights some significant global and regional developments. It also includes some high-level political engagements with countries by UN Environment Programme's leadership in support of the implementation of our Programme of Work.

**Section Two** provides programmatic updates according to each Expected Accomplishment under our seven Sub-Programmes:

1. Climate Change
2. Resilience to Disasters and Conflicts
3. Healthy and Productive Ecosystems
4. Environmental Governance
5. Chemicals, Waste and Air Quality
6. Resource Efficiency
7. Environment under Review

For each, we review challenges and opportunities as well as information on cross-cutting areas, campaigns and initiatives that support the implementation of our Programme of Work.

**Section Three** section covers resources and management issues. It focuses on the financial and human resource situation and highlights developments in other important management areas.

A re-designed and formatted version of this report will be finalized and made available to member States and stakeholders through the UN Environment Programme website shortly after the meeting of the Committee.

# **QUARTERLY REPORT**

**to the 144<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the**

**COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT  
REPRESENTATIVES**

**August – October 2018**

## INTRODUCTION

**Purpose of this report:** The UN Environment Programme's Medium-Term Strategy (2018-2021) is well-aligned to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and permits us to focus our fullest energy on supporting Member States in achieving this ambitious vision. Environment is a key thread running through the Sustainable Development Goals and the UN Environment Programme is responsible for tracking and providing feedback on 26 of the 244 Sustainable Development Goal indicators.

UN Environment supports the implementation of Agenda 2030, through the umbrella of the Medium-Term Strategy and our Programme of Work. It is this Programme of Work on which we are reporting through this third Quarterly Report for the current Biennium (2018-2019). This Report also shares progress on implementation of the decisions of the Environment Assembly.

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### KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- The launch of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change **Report on Global Warming 1.5° C** sounded the alarm bells on the significant impacts of even a 1.5 degree-warmer world when compared with its 2-degree variant. This has properly reignited media and political attention to climate action.
- **Climate and Clean Air Coalition:** UN Environment has worked closely with the Climate and Clean Air Coalition to support the integrated approach, developed by the Coalition, to help countries deliver on the **2030 Agenda**, and increase ambition to meet the **Paris Agreement** goal to limit warming to 1.5° C.
- **Agri3 Fund launched:** UN Environment, Rabobank, and other partners launched the 'Agri3 Fund' comprising over US\$ 1 billion capitalization in Singapore. The Fund will invest in sustainable landscapes management, sustainable agricultural commodity production, and ecosystem restoration.
- **Global Climate Action Summit:** UN Environment contributed to the Global Climate Action Summit where 29 philanthropic organizations announced a \$4 billion commitment over five years to address climate change. This represents the largest-ever philanthropic investment focused on climate.
- **Global Landscapes Forum:** The Global Landscapes Forum including more than 30 partners organizations and 800 participants, deliberated over two days on how to scale up ecosystem restoration in Africa.
- **TEEB – The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity:** UN Environment's TEEB for Agriculture and Food (TEEB-AgriFood) was awarded the prestigious 2018 Future Policy Vision Award.
- **Global Plastics Platform:** On the sidelines of the General Assembly, UN Environment launched the Global Plastics Platform inviting governments to join this network that will encourage new commitments to reduce plastic pollution and explore innovative ways to change the habits of design, production, consumption and disposal of plastics around the world, supporting the transition to a more circular economy.
- **New Plastics Economy Global Commitment:** UN Environment, the Ellen MacArthur Foundation and partners launched the New Plastics Economy Global Commitment, signed by 250+

organizations aiming to eliminate plastic waste and pollution at source. The Commitment will be a major driver towards a circular economy.

- **Tracking progress on fossil fuel subsidy reform under the SDGs:** As custodian agency for the SDG 12 (c) 1 indicator, UN Environment and others have developed a methodology to measure fossil fuel subsidies. This data will feed into the SDG Global Database and provide inputs to the UN Secretary General's progress report on the SDGs.
- **GEO-6 – Sixth Global Environment Outlook:** The full GEO-6 report and its *Summary for Policy Makers* were completed and are ready for inter-governmental review and approval in January 2019.
- **Arctic: Last Game at the North Pole:** The 'Last Game' remains on track to take place near the North Pole in April 2019.
- **Funding:** As at 31 October 2018, the organization received US\$ 337 million. This represents 89% of our total approved budget of US\$ 377.7 million – comprising the annual funds of UN Regular Budget and Environment Fund as well as Earmarked Contributions.

## SECTION 1: SIGNIFICANT GLOBAL AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

### GLOBAL

**Repositioning of the UN Development System:** In accordance with General Assembly [Resolution 72/279](#) on the repositioning of the UN Development System, the Secretary-General's Implementation Plan for the Inception of the Resident Coordinator System was presented to Member States on 11 September 2018. The new role of the Resident Coordinator, the UN Country Team and the role of the UN Development Assistance Framework will be extremely relevant to UN Environment's presence and profile – especially on the ground in areas facing important environmental challenges. It also offers UN Environment an important opportunity to elevate the profile of the environment in the development agenda of countries.

**Towards a Global Pact for the Environment:** The pact aims to consider a technical and evidence-based efforts to identify and assess possible gaps in international environmental law and environment-related instruments with a view to strengthening their implementation. The Open-Ended Working group (operating under UN General Assembly Resolution 72/277) met from 5-7 September in New York. It was agreed to hold the first substantive meeting between 14 and 18 January 2019 in Nairobi. A provisional agenda was adopted. Dates for two additional sessions in Nairobi were agreed for March and May. The Report of the Secretary General of the United Nations 'Gaps in International Environmental Law and Environment-Related Instruments: Towards a Global Pact for the Environment' is available online: <https://globalpact.informea.org/report>.

**Arctic: Last Game at the North Pole:** The 'Last Game' is scheduled to take place near the North Pole in April 2019. This important advocacy event aiming to draw attention to the impact of climate change on one of the world's most fragile ecosystems.

### **UN Environment Management Group:**

- The Nexus Dialogue on *Greening with Jobs: A Just Transition to Sustainability*, organized in collaboration with the International Labour Organization (ILO) (23 Oct) in Geneva produced 10 policy messages relevant for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on climate change. They can be used in policy debates, implementation and for reporting purposes.
- The 24<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the UN Environment Management Group was held on the sidelines of the High-Level Segment of the UN General Assembly on 24 September in New York. The meeting approved a proposal by UN Environment Programme on a UN coalition to combat sand and dust

storms calling for greater cooperation at global, regional, and national levels. The meeting agreed to engage the UN system on enhancing collaboration on greening the Belt and Road Initiative.

- The Environment Management Group released a draft The Model Approach to environmental and social standards for UN programming for public comment.
- The Executive Director also co-chaired a meeting of the Environment Management Group (22 Sep) in New York aimed at building better coordination and synergies on environmental priorities across the UN. The meeting focused on sustainable finance, pollution, circular economy and plastics management, and global initiatives such as the Young Champions of the Earth Awards.

## **AFRICA**

**South Africa:** During the Executive Director's mission, South Africa announced the country's intention to introduce a ban on single use plastics and other products such as straws, ear buds, plastic cutlery, stirrers, and other packaging products by January 2019. A tax on waste separation at source and landfill disposal will be also established and implemented.

**China-Africa Environmental Cooperation Centre:** The Interim Secretariat of the China-Africa Environmental Cooperation Centre was launched in Nairobi (17 Aug). The Centre aims to further technical cooperation between 53 African countries and China. The launch was featured prominently at the 2018 Forum on China-Africa Cooperation Summit in Beijing. UN Environment Programme briefed the annual subcommittee meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (4 Oct).

**The Africa Environment Partnership Platform Launched:** The inaugural Session of the Africa Environment Partnership Platform (AEPP) was held in Nairobi during 20-21 September. This initiative is being held in collaboration with the New Partnership for Africa's Development. The Platform will become a regular event convened by NEPAD in close collaboration with the African Union and UN Environment Programme. It will promote the exchange of country experiences to accelerate sustainable environmental practices in Africa.

**7<sup>th</sup> Special Session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment:** The need to invest in innovative solutions and interventions and promote sustainable consumption and production was top of the agenda at the seventh special session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment. Ministers also deliberated on key messages for forthcoming events such as: (1) the 14<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of Parties to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity and the African Biodiversity Summit; (2) the 24<sup>th</sup> session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change; (3) Sustainable Blue Economy Conference; (4) Outcomes of the Global Landscapes Forum regional conference (5) UN Environment Assembly-4.

**Tanzania:** The Deputy Executive Director's mission to Tanzania aimed at strengthening coordination and collaboration on the country's environmental priorities; expanding entrepreneurship and innovation for the environment; supporting the Fourth Environment Assembly; and sharing information on the Blue Economy Conference hosted by the government of Kenya.

## **ASIA AND PACIFIC**

**Republic of Korea:** The Executive Director's mission to South Korea (2 Sep) prioritized sustainable development. The peace process on the Korean Peninsula is a critical priority for the region and a tremendous opportunity for the region to focus on environmental cooperation and protection of its incredible natural wealth.

**People's Democratic Republic of Korea:** The Executive Director met with the Minister of Environment and Foreign Affairs on Inter-Korean environmental cooperation (22 Aug) in North Korea. He also met with the Vice President of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly and called on the embassies of key donor countries to discuss environmental challenges facing the country. The mission focused on Multilateral Environmental Agreements, including the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol, and the Minamata Convention on Mercury, as well as other international environmental initiatives.

**China:** At the invitation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China, the Executive Director attended the Beijing Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) (3 Sep).

**Japan:** The Executive Director met with Mr. Masaharu Nakagawa, Minister of the Environment, Government of Japan (4 Sep) and focused on Japan's efforts to propose practical and effective implementation plans in line with its role as host of the G20 in 2019. The Minister reported high expectations for UN Environment Assembly -4 to advance: (1) collective work on marine litter (including the global partnership on marine litter); (2) sustainable consumption and production, and; (3) the circular economy.

**North-East Asian Clean Air Partnership:** The 22nd North-East Asian Sub-Regional Programme for Environmental Cooperation (NEASPEC) Senior Officials' Meeting took place in Beijing (26 Oct). It officially launched the North-East Asian Clean Air Partnership, a cooperation mechanism to reduce air pollution in the region.

**Australia:** Australia's Environment Ministry announced two initiatives aimed at protecting seas and oceans, including AUD 5 million to clean up Great Barrier Reef waterways, and AUD 500 million for the reef itself. Australia, in the side lines of the Our Ocean conference in Bali, became the 56<sup>th</sup> country to sign up to the #CleanSeas campaign. Their target is to make 100% of plastics reusable by 2025 and 70% recycled or composted by 2025. Please see link.

**Mongolia:** The Environment and Tourism Ministry of Mongolia launched its first Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) Partnership Plan to combat the impacts of climate change and mitigate desertification, deforestation and biodiversity loss.

**Pakistan:** Pakistan's new Government led by Prime Minister Imran Khan launched a country-wide 'Clean and Green Pakistan' drive. This is a 5-year initiative to educate and motivate people and local governments to deal with environmental cleanliness and sanitation. It forms part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

**Malaysia:** Malaysia announced an initiative to label buildings called the "building energy intensity (BEI) labelling". It will rate buildings between a range of 1 to 5 stars based on their measured energy efficiency.

**Palau:** The Government of Palau has announced its ban on sunscreen import and sale that will take effect from 1 January 2020. It is part of Palau's new Responsible Tourism Education Act. The legislation is part of a much wider attempt by the Government to protect its environment, particularly from tourism. Sunscreen is known to damage inshore reef life.

**Indonesia:** The Executive Director's mission to Indonesia (21 Aug) focused on greater collaboration between UN Environment Programme and the Government of Indonesia on the following topics: Marine Litter, Pollution, Green Economy, Illegal Fishing, Peatland Management and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

## **EUROPE**

**Joint Retreat of the Bureaus of UN Environment Assembly and Earth Innovation Forum in Estonia (5-7 Sep):** Under the leadership of the government of Estonia which holds the Presidency of the next Environment Assembly, Member States deliberated on key focus areas including: (1) environmental challenges related to poverty and natural resources management (2) life-cycle approaches to resource efficiency, energy, chemicals and waste management; and (3) innovative sustainable business development at a time of rapid technological change. The Earth Innovation Forum addressed how innovation can help us live sustainably.

**France:** The Executive Director met with President Macron, in France (17 Sep) and discussed recent environmental and climate developments, including the One Planet Summit and the road ahead for implementing GA resolution 72/277 on the Global Pact for the Environment. In meetings with French officials and NGOs in Paris (1 Oct), he discussed France's envisaged contribution to the forthcoming

Climate Convention of the Parties, the 2019 Secretary-General Climate Summit, the Global Pact process and the 2020 Biodiversity Summit.

### **LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN**

**Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean:** The 21<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Forum took place in Buenos Aires (10-12 Oct). It served as a regional dialogue in preparation for the UN Environment Assembly-4. It followed up on the implementation of decisions adopted at the previous session and, adopted decisions on key issues related to: (1) Chemicals, Marine Litter and Waste Management; (2) Climate Change; (3) Sustainable Consumption and Production: decoupling economic growth from resource use and environmental impact; and (4) Innovative solutions to enhance the benefits of biodiversity and ecosystems. At the event, the Deputy Executive Director invited Latin America and the Caribbean to provide inputs to UN Environment Assembly-4.

### **NORTH AMERICA**

While on mission to the USA (5-8 Oct), the Deputy Executive Director met World Bank officials to deepen collaboration between UN Environment Programme and the World Bank Group (World Bank and IFC) in the following areas: (1) Inclusive Wealth and Natural Capital; (2) Country level work on environment; (3) Green Financing; (4) Sustainable Blue Economy Conference in Nairobi (Nov 2018); (5) GEF-7 Congo Basin Impact Programme; (6) Climate business with the IFC; (7) Potential joint analytical work leading up to 2020 Biodiversity CoP in Beijing; (8) Poverty and Environment – forward-looking opportunities; (9) Potential partnerships in marine litter/plastics through Trust Funds; and (10) Follow-up on oil field issues along the Benin coast.

### **WEST ASIA**

**Council of Arab Ministers responsible for the Environment (CAMRE):** The 30<sup>th</sup> Session of the Council adopted a series of decisions tackling a wide range of issues including the preparations of the Arab group for the UN Environment Assembly and strengthening the institutional relationship between the League of Arab States and UN Environment Programme.

## SECTION 2: UPDATE ON PROGRAMME OF WORK

During the reporting period, UN Environment Programme continued delivering on all 7 Sub-Programmes:

1. Climate change,
2. Resilience to disasters and conflicts,
3. Healthy and productive ecosystems,
4. Environmental governance,
5. Chemicals, waste and air quality,
6. Resource efficiency and,
7. Environment under review.

We present below the key programmatic activity highlights in relation to the Expected Accomplishments of the approved Programme of Work 2018-2019. We also report on progress on partnerships and engagement. We highlight key opportunities, challenges and risks. Interwoven into the elements of the Programme of Work are developments related to:

- **Campaigns** (which are a critical part of our advocacy).
- **Environment Assembly resolutions** and how they are being implemented.
- **Special Initiatives** at a time when these are being merged into the work of the Sub-Programmes more systematically.
- **Cross-cutting areas** summarizes provides information on gender and safeguards.
- **Multilateral Environmental Agreements** – we also include highlights from these.

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### 1. CLIMATE CHANGE

#### **Programme of Work objective:**

**“Countries increasingly make the transition to low-emission economic development and enhance their adaptation and resilience to climate change.”**

#### **Expected Accomplishment – 1a**

**“Countries increasingly advance their national adaptation plans which integrate ecosystems-based adaptation.”<sup>1</sup>**

**Global Commission on Adaptation:** The Global Commission on Adaptation was launched in The Hague (16 Oct) and will deliver a flagship report to the UN Secretary General’s Climate Summit in September 2019. It will initiate 8 Action Tracks to tackle pressing adaptation challenges. UN Environment Programme supports this work.

**Supporting UNFCCC processes:** UN Environment Programme concluded cooperation agreements with Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi and South Sudan during the quarter under review. The support will cover enhancing national climate change information management, coordination systems and strategies for effective participation in the UNFCCC.

**Adaptation Fund:** The Adaptation Fund selected the UN Development Programme (UNDP) and UN Environment Programme to serve as the multilateral implementing entity (MIE) aggregator(s) for small grants for innovation. This facility will comprise \$10 million over 2-3 years starting in 2019.

**Technical Support for adaptation across the globe:** UN Environment Programme provided 163 experts with technical support to advance their near-term and long-term national adaptation plans, especially through ecosystem-based adaptation efforts). The emphasis was on appraisal and prioritization of

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<sup>1</sup> Linked to UNEP/EA.2/Res.6 (SDGs 13.1, 13.2, 13.3.2, 13.a, 13.b).

adaptation options, adaptation finance and innovation for adaptation. The regional breakdown of the support was: 49 African countries, 17 Latin American countries, and 7 in Asia and the Pacific. Of the experts receiving the training 81 were from least developed countries and 82 were not.

**Zambia – Eco-system-based adaptation:** An inception workshop (13 Sep) helped build the resilience of local communities in Zambia using Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) approaches in priority ecosystems, including wetlands and forests.

**Asia Pacific Adaptation Network:** The Asia Pacific Adaptation Network brought together over 1,000 adaptation experts (3 Oct) to share their experiential learning and knowledge to an event entitled “Enabling resilience for all: avoiding the worst impacts”.

### Expected Accomplishment – 1b

**“Countries increasingly adopt and/or implement low greenhouse gas emission development strategies and invest in clean technologies.”<sup>2</sup>**

#### **Climate and Clean Air Coalition:**

- On the sidelines of the UN General Assembly, a group of Ministers and representatives from 12 countries and 7 organizations, gathered to discuss their vision for ambitious action to reach the Paris Agreement temperature goals.
- More countries signed onto the Climate and Clean Air Coalition’s Talanoa Statement, which was launched at the **Global Climate Action Summit** in San Francisco.
- The Global Climate Action Summit honoured a group of climate heroes with Climate and Clean Air Awards for actions they had taken to reduce short-lived climate pollutants and protect the climate.
- The benefits of integrating climate action and air quality efforts were at the core of side-events hosted by the Climate and Clean Air Coalition in **Uruguay**.
- Representatives from various regions discussed how an integrated approach, developed by the Coalition, could help countries maximise national benefits, help deliver the **2030 Agenda**, and increase ambition to meet the **Paris Agreement** goal to limit warming to 1.5° Celsius.

**Air Pollution in Asia and the Pacific:** A report on Air Pollution in Asia and the Pacific [URL link] <http://www.ccacoalition.org/en/content/air-pollution-measures-asia-and-pacific> was launched at the WHO’s first Global Conference on Air Pollution and Health. It represents the first comprehensive scientific assessment of the air pollution outlook in Asia and the Pacific. The report is published by UN Environment and the Clean Air Coalition a key partner in this field.

**Bangladesh – National Action Plan on pollutants:** With support from UN Environment Programme, Bangladesh finalized its National Action Plan for Reducing Short-Lived Climate Pollutants (SLCPs).

**Mongolia – low-carbon heating systems:** The Ministry of Energy was supported to develop an investment strategy and funding proposal to scale-up implementation of low carbon district heating systems.

**Pakistan – energy-efficient lighting:** The Ministry of Energy was assisted to scale-up the use of energy-efficient lighting appliances. A roadmap was developed to implement policies, regulations, and a financial support mechanism.

**Lao PDR – Green Climate Fund readiness:** The Lao People’s Democratic Republic was supported to develop and submit a Green Climate Fund Readiness proposal to access US\$ 341,000 for an action plan promoting transformation to LED lighting.

**Uganda – national development plan:** The National Planning Authority of Uganda received assistance to develop its 3<sup>rd</sup> National Development Plan. The plan prioritizes clean energy and sustainable Ecosystem-based Adaptation for agricultural enterprises.

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<sup>2</sup> UNEP/EA.3/Res.8 (SDGs 7.1.1, 7.1.2, 7.2.17.3.1, 7.a.1, 7.b.1, 9.4.1, 12.c.1, 13.3.2, 13.a, 13.b, 17.17.1).

**African countries – modelling climate scenarios:** Mozambique, Zambia, Ghana and Kenya have been supported to model climate scenarios and the socioeconomic impacts of their Nationally Determined Contributions. Mozambique has produced an integrated modelling tool to inform investments in the agriculture and energy sectors.

#### **Expected Accomplishment – 1 (c):**

**“Countries increasingly adopt and implement forest-friendly policies and measures that deliver quantifiable emissions reductions as well as social and environmental benefits.”<sup>3</sup>**

**Agri3 Fund launched:** UN Environment Programme, Rabobank, and other partners launched the ‘Agri3 Fund’ comprising over US\$ 1 billion capitalization in Singapore (24 Oct). The Fund will invest in sustainable landscapes management, sustainable agricultural commodity production, and ecosystem restoration. (Note: This outcome also contributes to Sub-Programme 3 on Healthy and Productive Ecosystems.)

**International Tropical Peatland Centre:** The International Tropical Peatland Centre in Bogor, Indonesia, was launched during the reporting period (30 Oct). The centre operates under the patronage of Indonesia and the Republic of Congo at ministerial level. Indonesia and the Republic of Congo signed the first ever agreement on the protection and management of peatlands between an African and an Asian country. Between 26-30 Oct, Indonesia and the Global Peatlands Initiative hosted a high-level South-South Exchange on Tropical Peatlands.

**UN-REDD+:** The UN-REDD Programme had a successful **Executive Board** meeting. The Board approved US\$ 11 million for its 2019 work programme. UN Environment Programme was praised for its work on financing, safeguards and communications. The meeting also discussed the future of the UN-REDD Programme post-2020. The first phase of the **Viet Nam REDD+ National Safeguard Information System** was finalised, with a released date planned for end 2018. The UN-REDD Programme convened its yearly **Regional Knowledge Exchange for Africa** (2-3 Oct) in Nairobi. The focus was on “REDD+ Implementation at Scale: emerging lessons on Jurisdictional Approaches & linkages with National Policy Frameworks”. A south-south exchange between **Colombia and Mexico** was organized to raise awareness of Colombia's progress on carbon tax implementation issues and its use in the implementation of the REDD strategy. **El Salvador** has formally proposed the initiative of *United Nations Decade of Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030* and requested UN Environment Programme to take a lead among UN agencies to support the Decade. UN Environment Programme Addis Office and UNREDD+ team supported the study “*Scoping private sector opportunities in Ethiopia*”. The study has already been finalized. It shows how to stimulate both economic development and REDD+ implementation in Ethiopia.

#### **Sub-Programme 1: Main opportunities and challenges and response measures**

**IPCC 1.5-degree Report:** The launch of the IPCC 1.5-degree report sounded the alarm bells on the significant impacts of even a 1.5-degree-warmer world, when compared with its 2-degree aspirational variant. This has properly reignited media and political attention to climate action. The resulting attention intensified dramatically following the release of the Emission Gap (27 Nov) and Adaptation Gap (2 Dec) reports – which were launched in the following quarter, and are beyond the scope of the present report.

**Global Climate Action Summit:** The Executive Director’s visit to California (10-13 Sep) focused on the state’s leadership on climate, its convening power as a hub of global action and the role of its tech giants in saving our planet. The Executive Director also attended The Global Climate Action Summit where 29 philanthropic organizations announced a \$4 billion commitment over five years to address climate change. This represents the largest-ever philanthropic investment focused on climate and the Executive Director was able to discuss with several philanthropists on potential partnerships with UN Environment Programme.

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<sup>3</sup> UNEP/EA.2/Res.6 (SDGs 12.c.1, 13.3.2, 13.a, 13.b, 15.1.1, 15.2.1, 15.3.1, 15.6.1, 17.17.1)

## 2. RESILIENCE TO DISASTERS AND CONFLICTS

### **Sub-Programme objective<sup>4</sup>:**

**“Countries increasingly prevent and reduce the environmental impacts of disasters and conflicts, while building resilience to future crises.”**

### **Expected Accomplishment – 2a**

**“Countries and international partners integrate environmental measures for risk reduction in key policies and frameworks.”**

**Risk reduction in 11 countries:** Between August and October 2018, UN Environment Programme carried out risk reduction activities in 11 countries.<sup>5</sup>

**Joint Climate Change and Security Initiative mechanism:** At the global level, UN Environment Programme has initiated – working closely with UNDP and the UN Department for Political Affairs (DPA) – a new coordination mechanism within the UN system on climate-related security risks. It is funded by Sweden. The joint Climate Change and Security Initiative mechanism comprises 3 officers – one each from the DPA, UNDP and UN Environment Programme – tasked with conducting horizon scanning for climate and security risks and incorporating such analysis into the Secretary-General’s reports to the Security Council. The mechanism will contribute to the UN’s political analysis for early warning and prevention.

**Global Network for Environment and Oil and Gas:** UN Environment Programme also launched a new Global Network for Environment and Oil and Gas which aims to create a global community of advocates and practitioners to strengthen environmental management and risk reduction in countries with oil and gas development activities.

**Environmental Security:** Years of patient UN Environment Programme research and programming on the links between environment/natural resources and security came to fruition on 16 October when the UN Security Council convened a meeting on the root causes of conflict and the role of natural resources. This meeting, chaired by Bolivia (then-chair of the Security Council) featured UN Environment Programme’s work prominently. The Secretary-General highlighted in his opening remarks UN Environment Programme’s collaboration with DPA on the mediation of natural resource conflicts, and the UN Environment Programme -led Joint Programme on Women, Natural Resource and Peace.

### **Expected Accomplishment – 2b**

**“Emergency response and post-crisis recovery plans integrate environmental considerations to increase the sustainability of recovery.”**

**Response:** During the reporting period, UN Environment Programme provided such assistance in 5 countries.<sup>6</sup> Examples: UN Environment Programme was part of the UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) team responding to serious floods in **Nigeria**. We also supported a Post-Disaster Needs Assessment for the Indian state of **Kerala**, which was also hit by severe flooding. The full report included UN Environment Programme’s estimates of the damage and loss to the environment caused by the disaster and environmental issues are now integrated in Kerala’s vision for recovery.

**Turkey – mass population movements:** In October, UN Environment Programme organized a workshop on the environmental impacts of mass population movements in Gaziantep, Turkey, with the participation of more than 20 organizations. This was part of a UN Environment/UNDP project which aims to increase awareness, understanding and knowledge for government institutions and NGOs on the importance of

<sup>4</sup>The programme is relevant to the achievement of all 17 of the Sustainable Development Goals, as external shocks such as natural disasters, industrial accidents and especially armed conflict have proven to be extremely powerful ‘brakes’ on development. However, the organization in particular aims to deliver on SDGs 1 (poverty), 11 (cities), 13 (climate action) and 16 (peace).

<sup>5</sup> Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Colombia, Ghana, Germany, Haiti, Kenya, Nepal, Sudan, Thailand and Uganda.

<sup>6</sup> Guatemala, India, Iraq, Nigeria and Lebanon.

incorporating environmental issues into the refugee and resilience response plans to displacement in Turkey. As a result of the workshop, the methodology developed to assess the environmental impacts of mass population movements was improved with local knowledge and experience. Similar approaches are being, or have been, developed and implemented in **Guatemala, Lebanon, Nigeria and Vanuatu**.

**Emergency response – the Joint Environmental Unit:** UN Environment Programme has also been engaged in building capacity systematically for partners to be able to integrate environmental issues into crisis response. For example, in September the UN Environment Programme /OCHA Joint Environmental Unit and the European Union’s Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), held a training course on environment and emergencies in **Slovenia**. Twenty-two participants were trained on environment and emergencies issues to foster readiness for deployment as environmental experts in emergency response missions. Also, in September, the Joint Unit signed a new project to investigate climate vulnerability and adaptation options in select humanitarian hotspots in **Burundi, Chad and Sudan**. The project will be jointly implemented by WFP (lead agency), UNHCR, UNICEF and UN Environment Programme, with funding from Germany’s International Climate Initiative.

### Expected Accomplishment – 2c

**“Crisis-affected countries adopt key environmental and natural resource governance policies and sustainable practices as a contribution to recovery and development.”**

**Recovery:** During the reporting period UN Environment Programme provided multiple forms of technical assistance to 7 countries as part of long-term efforts to promote post-crisis recovery.<sup>7</sup>

**Oil-contaminated sites:** In September, as part of its joint work with **Norway’s Oil for Development programme**, UN Environment Programme organized a five-day training workshop specifically targeting oil contaminated site assessment in **Iraq** given that oil installations were the main pollution source resulting from the ISIL conflict.<sup>8</sup> As an immediate follow-up to the workshop, a field-based mapping survey of oil-contaminated sites in the four conflict-affected governorates (Nineveh, Salah El-Deen, Kirkuk and Diyala) was initiated by a joint team from Iraq’s ministries of environment and oil, with financial and technical support from UN Environment Programme.

**Strategic partnerships:** Aside from the new partnership with UNDP and DPA on the Climate Security Initiative (mentioned above), another example would be the partnership with the **African Union’s Panel of the Wise** and DPA to support the AU’s efforts to better mediate and resolve resource-based conflicts. The reporting period saw a technical review meeting in Addis Ababa which brought together international and regional experts from the AU, McGill University and the UN Department of Political Affairs’ Mediation Support Unit (MSU).

### **Sub-Programme 2: Main opportunities and challenges and response measures**

As ever, this Sub-Programme faces challenges in terms of managing activities in fragile and dangerous contexts, sustaining operational flexibility and working with partners outside of the environmental field. However, it also offers important opportunities to embed environmentally sustainable management in countries at a critical moment when development trajectories can be influenced to support peace, sustainable development and resilience.

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## **3. HEALTHY AND PRODUCTIVE ECOSYSTEMS**

### **Sub-Programme objective:**

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<sup>7</sup> Afghanistan, Colombia, Haiti, Iraq, Somalia, South Sudan and Sudan

<sup>8</sup> Supports implementation of UN Environment Assembly resolutions 2/15 and 3/6.

**“Marine, freshwater and terrestrial ecosystems are increasingly managed through an integrated approach that enables them to maintain and restore biodiversity, ecosystems’ long-term functioning and supply of ecosystem goods and services.”**

### **Expected Accomplishment – 3a**

**“The health and productivity of marine, freshwater and terrestrial ecosystems are institutionalized in education, monitoring and cross-sector and transboundary collaboration frameworks at the national and international levels.”**

**Global Landscapes Forum:** The **Global Landscapes Forum** was co-organized, together with over 30 partners organizations, in Nairobi (29-30 Aug). More than 800 participants debated over the two days how to scale up ecosystem restoration in Africa. The government of El Salvador has formally proposed the initiative of **United Nations Decade of Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030** and requested UN Environment Programme to take a lead among UN agencies to support the Decade. The first flagship report of forum **“Restoring Forests and Landscapes: The Key to a Sustainable Future”** was launched (29 Aug).

**Marine and Coastal Environment:** The Nairobi Convention Secretariat convened its 9<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties (30-31 Aug) in Mombasa, Kenya. The Conference of Parties reviewed the status of implementation of the Convention for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Western Indian Ocean Region and its Protocols. The main objectives of this COP were to foster collaboration between international, regional and national organizations as well as to secure partnerships between key regional players and the Contracting Parties in implementation of its 2018-2022 Work Programme.

**Green Development:** A study on “Sustainable Livelihood and Green Development Strategies in Environment-Economic Vulnerable Areas” was launched in Lijiang, Yunnan Province (10-16 Aug). The study is framed under the project “Pan-Third-Pole Environmental Change Study for Green Silk Road Development,” sponsored by the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

**TEEB – The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity:** TEEB for Agriculture and Food (TEEB-AgriFood) was awarded the prestigious 2018 Future Policy Vision Award. This award is co-sponsored by FAO, the World Future Council and IFOAM Organics International. The award ceremony took place at FAO Headquarters in Rome. The citation for the award says: “The Vision Award goes to TEEB-AgriFood, an initiative of “The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity” (TEEB) by UN Environment Programme. TEEB-AgriFood has developed a comprehensive evaluation framework for food systems that helps decision-makers to compare different policies and the market to value food more accurately.” The TEEB-AgriFood Evaluation Framework is soon to be implemented in over a dozen countries with support from EU, German and Global Alliance for the Future of Food funding.

**Collaboration with NASA to support water monitoring:** UN Environment Programme is contributing to a new MoU with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration in the United States (NASA) on the use of Earth Observations to support water monitoring, especially with regard to some parameters of water quality, namely total suspended solids and Chlorophyll-a.

**2018 Conference on Illegal Wildlife Trade:** The 2018 Conference on Illegal Wildlife Trade took place in London (11-12 Oct). Delegations recognised the significant detrimental economic, environmental, security and social impacts of illegal trade in wildlife. The conference declaration committed to address illegal trade in wildlife as a serious organised crime, work in partnership across countries and sectors, and to undertake efforts to reduce the demand for illegally traded wildlife. At the Conference, the Executive Director’s message was that we can win the fight for wildlife and people. It is important to start by making wildlife a legitimate and viable land use option. The objective should be a triple-win: (a) put wildlife at the centre of delivering jobs for people (b) health for society and (c) wealth for generations.

**Arctic Biodiversity Congress:** UNEP-WCMC worked in partnership with the Arctic Council to provide new insights to the second Arctic Biodiversity Congress (9-12 Oct) in Rovaniemi, **Finland**. The Congress,

organized by the Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF) working group of the Arctic Council, and the Ministry of the Environment, Finland, is designed to promote the conservation and sustainable use of Arctic biodiversity. It brought together scientists, indigenous peoples, policy makers, government officials, students, and representatives from industry and civil society.

**Biodiversity Convention and the post-2020 process:** This UN Environment Programme strategy proposes 5 areas of focus – raising the political ambition; a new narrative and ask for governments, private sector and public support; working with allies to deliver a global deal for nature; aggregating our work; and ensuring that the Beijing COP is a success. It is currently being discussed within the organization.

**United States – engaging with the International Conservation Caucus:** The Executive Director met (21 Sep) with the Congressional staff from both the Republican and Democratic parties on conservation. It was hosted by the International Conservation Caucus Foundation, a long-standing partner of UN Environment Programme. The Foundation directly supports the International Conservation Caucus, the second largest caucus in the U.S. Congress and one of the places where strong bipartisan action is taking place. The Executive Director applauded the Foundation and the Caucus for their ability to work effectively ‘across the aisle’ on critical issues such as conservation and combatting the illegal trade in wildlife which remains a big source of concern in many countries.

**Oceans:** In Oslo, the Executive Director met with Crown Prince Haakon and the Crown Princess Mette-Marit of **Norway** (7 Sep), to explore potential cooperation with UN Environment Programme on key areas of interest, including oceans. He also participated in the 2018 Our Ocean Conference held in Indonesia (29 Oct) and supported a number of key initiatives led by UN Environment Programme including: (1) a high-level forum on Coral Reefs; (2) Declaration of Blue Economy Finance Principles with the European Commission; (3) an MoU signing with Centre of the Ocean and the Arctic; and (4) a side-event with Ellen MacArthur Foundation on the Plastic Commitment.

**#WildforLife Campaign:** UN Environment Programme launched the WildforLife campaign in 2016<sup>9</sup> to raise awareness and to promote behavioural change in consumer markets for illegally traded wildlife and its products. As a follow-up, the following activities took place during the reporting period:

- The UK government hosted the London Conference on Illegal Wildlife Trade (11-12 Oct). Several UN Environment Programme’s Goodwill Ambassadors participated (Lewis Pugh, Ben Fogle, Nadya Hutagalung, Ellie Goulding and Aidan Gallagher).
- Heathrow Airport launched the Wild for Life exhibition. Six different videos featuring Goodwill Ambassadors were shown on the digital screens across all terminals. This is an opportunity to raise awareness among travellers, a key demographic for the reduction of demand for illegal wildlife products.

**Arctic and Antarctic:** Engagement focused on two work streams. First is engagement in the work of the Arctic Council. Second is the climate change communication project contributing towards the 2019 Climate Change Summit. Highlights on preparations of the **Last Game at the North Pole** are provided in section one. Regarding our engagement with the work of the Arctic Council, the following has occurred. UN Environment Programme provided a keynote presentation about “**The Global Arctic**” (in the areas of pollution, climate change and biodiversity) to the **meeting of Arctic Environment Ministers**, underpinned by the research of global – Arctic connections by UN Environment Programme together with our collaborating centre GRID-Arendal. It also submitted its observer report to the meeting. UN Environment Programme also delivered a keynote presentation on **opportunities for circular economy in the Arctic** at the meeting of the Sustainable Development Working Group of the Arctic Council, positively received and follow up is envisaged. UN Environment Programme was also actively engaged (led by our World Conservation Monitoring Centre), in steering the proceedings of the **Arctic Biodiversity Congress**. Work has been ongoing to prepare the **UN Environment Programme 2016-2018 Observer Report to the Arctic Council** through the reconstituted UN Environment Programme Polar Group. UN Environment Programme also provided contributions to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Arctic Science Ministerial Meeting.

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<sup>9</sup>Implements UN Environment Assembly Resolutions 1/3 and 2/14.

### Expected Accomplishment – 3b

“Policymakers in the public and private sectors test the inclusion of the health and productivity of ecosystems in economic decision-making.”

‘Agri3 Fund’: (See above under the section on Sub-Programme 1.)

#### **Global Universities Partnership on Environment and Sustainability (GUPES):**

Nanjing University (China) and the University of Gloucester (UK) have joined the GUPES Network. Other potential partners from the Middle East, Africa and Asia Pacific have expressed interest in joining.

**Coral Reefs:** The second meeting of the international coral reef policy advisory committee took place in Bangkok (8-9 Oct) and reviewed the main findings and recommendations of a global coral reef policy analysis.<sup>10</sup> The report and recommendations will be presented at UN Environment Assembly-4.

### **Sub-Programme 3: Main opportunities and challenges and response measures**

**Global biodiversity framework:** UN Environment Programme sought to use the opportunity of the 14<sup>th</sup> UN Conference of the Parties of the Convention of Biological Diversity held in Sharm El-Sheikh (17-29 Oct) to define UN Environment’s engagement and support to the development of a post-2020 global biodiversity framework over the next 2 years.

**Africa’s biodiversity priorities:** The Government of Egypt, in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the African Union, the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment and other partners, planned to organize an African Biodiversity Summit (13 Nov) under the theme “Land and ecosystem degradation and restoration: Priorities for increased resilience in Africa”. All such opportunities should be taken to bring together environment ministers and key partners to discuss and provide policy and strategic guidance on Africa’s biodiversity priorities and future work programmes.

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## **4. ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE**

### **Sub-Programme objective:**

**Policy coherence and strong legal and institutional frameworks increasingly achieve environmental goals in the context of sustainable development.<sup>11</sup>**

### Expected Accomplishment – 4a

“The international community increasingly converges on common and integrated approaches to achieve environmental objectives and implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.”

**Environment Management Group (EMG):** Various system wide coordination efforts through the EMG have taken place. See Section 1 “Global”.

**Regional Ministerial Forums:** Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the West Asia regions held their Regional Ministerial Forums, in preparation for UN Environment Assembly -4 and in line with UN Environment Assembly Resolution 2/2. These included: the Seventh Special Session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, the XXI Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean and the 30<sup>th</sup> session of the Council for Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment. The latter adopted a series of decisions including the preparations of the Arab group for UN Environment Assembly 4. This aimed to strengthen the institutional relationship between the League of Arab States and UN Environment Programme. More details are provided under the regional highlights under Section One. Information about the outcomes of the other planned meetings in the Europe and Asia Pacific regions is available here.

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<sup>10</sup> Implements UN Environment Assembly Resolution 2/12.

<sup>11</sup> Highlights support implementation of UN Environment Assembly Resolutions, 2/2 , 2/5, 2/17, 2/19, and 2/21.

**Multilateral environmental agreements:** Through its Memorandum of Understanding (2016-2018) with the **Ramsar Convention**, UN Environment Programme participated in the 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention. New resolutions adopted by the Conference included aspects that are mutually supportive of UN Environment Programme's objectives, resolutions and programmes. Examples include wetlands sustainability, synergies with other environmental conventions, environmental governance and climate change adaptation.

**Periodic Review of environmental law:** In preparation for UN Environment Assembly -4, UN Environment Programme organized a global meeting of national focal points nominated as part of implementing Resolution 2/19<sup>12</sup>, which followed a series of regional consultations. The future programme should seek to reduce these gaps and challenges. Future emphasis will be placed on implementation structure. More information can be found here: <https://www.unenvironment.org/explore-topics/environmental-governance/what-we-do/strengthening-institutions-0>. The meeting, held in Geneva (12-15 Sep), contributed to finalizing the assessment of the Montevideo Programme IV. More information on this and on progress in the development of the programme can be found here.

**Ensuring integration of environmental issues into the UNDAF:** The United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) is a strategic, medium term results framework for UN development operations at country level. It describes the collective vision and response of the UN system to national development priorities and results based on normative programming principles. UN Environment Programme is helping countries to ensure that the environment dimension is integrated into these tools. During the reporting period, **Mauritius** and **Republic of Congo** received technical assistance for UNDAF prioritization. **Senegal, Seychelles** and **Burundi** received support for UNDAF review. **Liberia** has been supported for the UN visioning exercise and **Kenya** has received technical support for capacity building on programming principles to ensure stronger UNDAF implementation. **Comoros, Lesotho** and **Rwanda** have also received support for UNDAF result matrix development.

#### Expected Accomplishment – 4b

**Institutional capacities and policy and/or legal frameworks enhanced to achieve internationally agreed environmental goals, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals**

**Strengthening legal frameworks and capacities:** UN Environment Programme is assisting the **Maldives** in the development of a climate change bill and **Lesotho** with a draft law on the implementation requirements under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). Several capacity building efforts, aimed at enhancing knowledge, strengthening MEA negotiation capacities and advancing legal frameworks development and implementation and enforcement capacities took place during the period August-October 2018. As follows:

- A Symposium on Strengthening Legal Frameworks to Combat Wildlife Crime in **Central and West Africa**, convening 38 countries to advance efforts to strengthen legal frameworks to combat wildlife crime and improve their implementation. It highlighted the need for further assistance including to strengthen penalties in these regions.
- 15th University of Eastern Finland-UN Environment Programme course on multilateral environmental agreements took place in Joensuu, **Finland**, from 20 to 30 August 2018.
- Joint UN Environment Programme, Arab Organization for Agricultural Development and UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) training for government officials in environmental diplomacy and negotiations, held in **Cairo** (8-10 Oct) in preparation for the upcoming session of the Convention's Committee for the Review of Implementation.
- 13<sup>th</sup> Partners Meeting of the **Green Customs Initiative**, hosted by the Organization for Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, committed to work more closely with the national training institutes for customs officers and to increase their efforts to promote the knowledge tools developed by the partnership.

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<sup>12</sup> Midterm review of the Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environment Law (Montevideo Programme IV).

- Asia-Pacific Judicial Conference on Environmental and Climate Change Adjudication, delivered by UN Environment Programme in full partnership with the Supreme Court of Myanmar and the Asian Development Bank, was designed to build sustainable judicial capacity of judges in **Myanmar and other countries in Asia-Pacific** concerning environmental and climate change adjudication.

**Environmental governance in Africa:** UN Environment Programme helped to convene the Second *Regional Symposium* on Environmental Rule of Law under the theme ‘*Greening Judiciaries in Africa*’, in Maputo, Mozambique on 1-3 August 2018. 39 African countries committed to develop and integrate environmental law into their judicial training programmes, through adoption of *The Maputo Declaration*.

**Demonstrating poverty-environment linkages:** The Poverty-Environment Initiative (PEI) presented its poverty-environment mainstreaming tools and lessons learnt at the OECD Development Assistance Committee Peer Learning exercise on mainstreaming environment in development cooperation activities, in **Paris** (24 Oct). In **Mozambique**, the PEI and the Ministry of Planning and Budget showcased the importance of the Initiative’s support and potential areas for further partner support. During its inception phase, the new Poverty-Environment Action for Sustainable Development Goals (2018-2022) approved new country programmes in **Mauritania, Malawi, Mozambique, Myanmar, Rwanda, and Tanzania**. The PEI Africa programme supported countries to identify how improved environmental and natural resources sustainability can help reduce poverty in multi-dimensional terms, and to design projects to that effect. In addition, the PEI Africa programme will provide capacity building to apply these methodologies, which help demonstrate clear linkages between the environment-focused SDGs.<sup>13</sup>

**The Faith for Earth Initiative:** In order to support greening assets and mobilizing faith-consistent financing, UN Environment Programme’s Faith for Earth Initiative contributed to the global Conference on Faith in Finance held in **Zurich** (17-18 Sep). Linkages between private sector companies, faith-based organizations and entrepreneurs were made to contribute to financing sustainable development.

The Executive Director met with **Pope Francis** (19 Sep) at the Vatican to secure his support for several key UN Environment Programme initiatives such as the Arctic or the Interfaith Rainforest Initiative. Advancing global partnerships and enhancing the role of faith-based organizations on environmental issues, cooperation between the **World Council of Churches** and UN Environment Programme was discussed with the Secretary General of the Ecumenical Centre in a meeting that took place in Geneva (20 Sep). Both organizations agreed to map out mutual interests for joint implementation. Opportunities of investing in innovation and innovative approaches for the implementation of the SDGs by faith-based organizations was discussed at the **Arabia CSR Forum** held in Dubai (2-3 Oct). A website for the initiative was launched in September highlighting resources and stories. The Faith for Earth Initiative has also engaged with the chairs of UN Environment Programme’s Regional CPR groups.

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## 5. CHEMICALS, WASTE AND AIR QUALITY

### **Sub-Programme objective:**

**Sound management of chemicals and waste and improved air quality contribute to a healthier environment and better health for all.**

### **Expected Accomplishment – 5a (Chemicals)**

**“Policies and legal, institutional and fiscal strategies and mechanisms for sound chemicals management developed or implemented in countries within the framework of relevant multilateral environmental agreements and the Strategic approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM).”**

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<sup>13</sup> SDG 13, 14 and 15 as well as SDG 1.

**Lead in Paint:**<sup>14</sup> UN Environment Programme, in cooperation with the World Health Organization, the United States Environment Protection Agency and other partners, developed a model law and guidance in order to assist countries in establishing and implementing regulation on lead paint. Since the beginning of 2018, there are 3 additional countries with some form of lead paint laws (limits, controls, regulation, legislation). This brings a total of 71 countries which now a lead paint law. Kazakhstan is the latest. The other two countries are Iraq and Ethiopia (to be gazetted). The Lead Paint Alliance also released the latest Update of the Global Status of lead Paint. The Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint (Lead Paint Alliance) is a voluntary partnership formed by UN Environment Programme and the World Health Organization to prevent exposure to lead, while promoting the phase-out of paints containing lead.

**African Countries commit to push for legislation to phase out lead paint:** UN Environment Programme held a side event on lead in paint during the Special Session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) that took place in Nairobi (17-19 Sep). Over 40 delegates representing African countries attended the side event and committed to push for legislation to regulate the use of lead in paint in their countries.

**Mercury – artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM):** As a part of mercury ASGM national action plans assistance programme, UN Environment Programme published a document called Handbook: Developing National ASGM Formalization Strategies within National Action Plans. This handbook aims to assist countries to develop ASGM formalization strategies as part of their National Action Plans under the Minamata Convention on Mercury. Also, it will help countries to improve governance, and ultimately reduce mercury use and improve livelihoods for miners and their communities.

**Pesticides and Fertilizers:** The first expert consultative meeting was held (12 Oct) in the lead-up to a report by the Executive Director on the environmental and health impacts of pesticides and fertilizers and ways of minimizing them.<sup>15</sup>

#### [Expected Accomplishment – 5b \(Waste\)](#)

**“Policies and legal and institutional strategies and mechanisms for waste prevention and sound management developed or implemented in countries within the framework of relevant multilateral environmental agreements.”**

**Environmentally Sound Management of Waste:** The Waste Management Outlook for Latin America and the Caribbean was launched during the XXI Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean in October. Acknowledging the Outlook, the meeting approved the Action Plan for Regional Cooperation in Chemicals and Waste Management 2019-2020. This is intended to serve as a technical cooperation tool to strengthen the capacity of countries in the effective and coordinated implementation of the international agreements on chemicals and wastes, and their sound management beyond 2020. The Executive Director signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the CEO of the Norwegian Plastic Fund to help fight plastic pollution (14 Aug) in Norway. He also held meetings with key players in the private sector including the CEO of Norges Bank Investment Management and the Manager of Norway’s Sovereign Wealth Fund.

UN Environment Assembly -3 **Implementation Plan on Pollution:** Progress towards development of the Implementation Plan ‘Towards a Pollution-Free Planet’ was discussed during the Joint Bureaux Retreat that was held in Tallinn, Estonia (6-7 Sep). The Implementation Plan was requested as part of the UN Environment Assembly -3 Ministerial Declaration.

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<sup>14</sup> Links to UN Environment Assembly 3 resolution on lead paint.

<sup>15</sup> Links to the UN Environment Assembly resolution EA.3/4.

**CleanSeas Campaign:** The Clean Seas campaign continues to engage governments, the general public, civil society and the private sector in the fight against plastic pollution,<sup>16</sup> through awareness-raising and mobilizing action. During the reporting period, the Back to School Plastic Challenge was launched in ten languages and activated through networks and regional offices. The Challenge presents schools and youth groups with an opportunity to learn more about plastic pollution and calls on them to take concrete action in their schools and communities. UN Environment Programme’s social media promotion for the Challenge reached 1.3 million people, and the videos were viewed 340,000 times.

**Plastics pollution:** Two additional countries (Australia and Guatemala) joined the campaign with policy commitments to reduce plastic pollution. This brings our total to 56 countries.

**New Zealand’s efforts on plastic pollution:** On plastics, New Zealand has announced several environmental priorities. These include plans to boost the recycling rate by 2020. It also intends to force landfill companies to report on landfill composition, and apply increased enforcement of illegal dumping. Finally, there is a plan to ban single use plastic bags by July of 2019. The Ministry of Environment also announced a 5-year plan to improve the quality of New Zealand’s waterways. Most of these efforts will aim at managing run-off waste from farmlands. The new rules, which limit pollution, will come into effect in 2020.

### Expected Accomplishment – 5c (Air pollution)

**“National emissions sources identified, policies, legal, regulatory, fiscal and institutional frameworks and mechanisms for the reduction of air pollution developed, institutional capacity built for improved air quality assessments done by countries with UN Environment Programme support.”**

**Air Quality:** In Africa, UN Environment Programme and the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) supported the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to organize a technical workshop (2-4 Oct) to review the implementation of the 2009 **Abidjan Better Air Quality Agreement** and define a roadmap over the next four years. Two main outcomes of this meeting included an evaluation report of the draft assessment and a roadmap to accelerate the implementation of the Abidjan Agreement on the Improvement of Air Quality for the next five years. Under the UN Environment Programme’s **Air Quality Operational Programme**, which provides support to air quality management in cities a number of initiatives were undertaken: (a) a one-day inception workshop was held in **Nairobi** (Sep) and, (b) a capacity-building programme was jointly organised with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in **Addis Ababa** (Sep) educating air quality managers to better assess and understand the main sources of air pollution in the city and its health impacts. The Executive Director attended the first World Health Organisation (WHO) global **Conference on Air Pollution and Health** to support enhanced effort, in addition to bilateral meetings in Geneva (31 Oct). A new report of Climate and Clean Air Coalition, United Nations Environment and Asia-Pacific Clean Air Partnership outlined air pollution measures that can save millions of lives.

**Cleaner mobility:** UN Environment Programme supported Mozambique to analyse the fuel economy of their vehicle fleet as part of the global programme on **Global Fuel Economy Initiative**. The programme aims to support countries to import cleaner and more efficient vehicles as a mitigation strategy for local air pollution and climate change. A national workshop was held (3-4 Sep) to discuss the main findings of vehicle analysis in Mozambique and recommend next steps to cleaner vehicle importation. UN Environment Programme organized (2 Oct) together with the Ministry of Environment of **Cote d’Ivoire** a national workshop to develop a roadmap to low-sulphur fuels. The roadmap also includes recommendations for refinery upgrading to produce low sulphur fuels. The implementation of low sulphur fuels in Cote d’Ivoire will impact not only Cote d’Ivoire, but also the sub-region as the Cote d’Ivoire refinery exports fuel to 12 countries in the sub-region. Low sulphur fuels have been identified as key to reducing small particulates that are both short-lived climate pollutants and harmful to health. UN Environment Programme supported a national workshop (4-5 Oct) in **Uganda** to discuss policy recommendations for import of fuel-efficient vehicles, and to launch an electric 2- and 3-wheeler programme. Countries that have cleaner vehicle policies such as **Mauritius** and **Sri Lanka**, that were present at the workshop, made a case for government intervention through policy to ensure that only cleaner vehicles are imported into their countries. UN Environment Programme organized a Regional

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<sup>16</sup> Supporting delivery of UN Environment Assembly Resolutions 1/6, 2/11 and 3/7.

Workshop/Study Tour (8-11 Oct) on **Public Bike Share for African Cities**. Gender considerations for bike-use and bike-sharing were discussed at that event.

**BreatheLife Campaign:** Through the BreatheLife campaign, that mobilizes governments, leaders and individuals, UN Environment Programme aims to tackle air pollution by building public awareness and seeking the political will to make new commitments and action plans to reduce air pollution.<sup>17</sup> During the reporting period, two regions (Caldas in Colombia, and Morelos in Mexico) and seven cities (Mexico City, Accra, Santa Rosa, Santo Domingo, Vancouver, Santiago de Cali, and Malé) joined the BreatheLife campaign. Athletics legend Paula Radcliffe, the world record holder for the women’s marathon, has joined UN Environment Programme’s work to beat air pollution as UN Environment Programme Advocate for Clean Air. She will allow the messages on public health and environmental risks of air pollution to reach new audiences.

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## 6. RESOURCE EFFICIENCY

### **Sub-Programme objective:**

**Countries transition to sustainable development through multiple pathways, including inclusive green economy and trade, and the adoption of sustainable consumption and production patterns, increasingly decoupling economic growth from unsustainable resource use and environmental impacts while improving human well-being.**

### **Expected Accomplishment – 6a**

**“Science-based approaches that support the transition to sustainable development through multiple pathways, including inclusive green economy and sustainable trade, and the adoption of sustainable consumption and production patterns at all levels.”**

**Making Trade Work for the Environment, Prosperity and Resilience:** The World Trade Organization and UN Environment Programme co-hosted a high-level event (2 Oct), titled ‘Making Trade Work for the Environment, Prosperity and Resilience’, within the context of the WTO’s Public Forum. The event featured a high-level segment, multi-stakeholder discussions on themes such as subsidies and the circular economy, a sustainability exhibition and a leadership dialogue. The high-level dialogue called for actions from countries, civil society and the private sector to bring trade into closer alignment with a healthier, sustainable, resilient and prosperous world. The event and the joint publication ‘Making Trade Work for the Environment, Prosperity and Resilience’ form an integral part of the enhanced partnership between UN Environment Programme and the WTO to make trade work for a better environment.

**Global Plastics Platform:** Numerous countries have taken bold steps to address plastics pollution, through national initiatives and regional/global efforts (including the Plastics Strategy of the European Union and the Ocean Plastics Charter). At the UN General Assembly (25 Sep), during a side event co-hosted with the European Commission, UN Environment Programme announced the **Global Plastics Platform** to beat plastic pollution. The Platform is a partnership between the UN Environment Programme, national governments and regional organizations. It aims to explore innovative ways to change the habits of design, production, consumption and disposal of plastics around the world, thereby supporting the transition to a more circular economy, and enabling a higher pace of progress in addressing plastics pollution.

**New Plastics Economy Global Commitment:** At the “Our Ocean Conference” (29 Oct), the Ellen MacArthur Foundation in collaboration with the UN Environment Programme launched the New Plastics Economy Global Commitment. This presents a unique opportunity for businesses and governments to step forward as global leaders working on solutions addressing the root causes of plastic waste and pollution and transitioning to a circular plastics economy. The Commitment will be a major driver towards a circular plastics economy. The Global Plastics Platform will be instrumental in supporting governments’

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<sup>17</sup> Supports delivery of UN Environment Assembly Resolution 1/7.

commitments, by facilitating dialogue and exchange on their experiences, successes and lessons learned in addressing plastics pollution through a circular economy approach.

**Regional Forum on Innovative Solutions, Circular Economy and Sustainable Lifestyles:** UN Environment Programme is implementing regional activities on sustainable consumption and production. Under the SWITCH-Asia programme, it leads on the Regional Policy Advocacy component, which organized a series of capacity building and policy engagement activities including a Regional Forum on Innovative Solutions, Circular Economy and Sustainable Lifestyles.

**Consumer Information and Eco-labelling:** The ‘Guidelines for Providing Product Sustainability Information’, developed under the One Planet network Consumer Information Programme, offer 10 high-level principles on how to communicate product sustainability performance to consumers. Three capacity development workshops on the Guidelines have been held in the reporting period (Sustainable Fashion Summit Hong Kong, Trade for Sustainable Development Forum Geneva, Sustainable Brands Bangkok).

**International Resource Panel:** At the request of Argentina, G20 President for 2018, the International Resource Panel prepared a paper *Resource Efficiency for Sustainable Development: Key Messages for the Group of 20* to serve as scientific input for the discussions of the G20 Resource Efficiency Dialogue. The International Resource Panel’s report *Re-defining Value: The Manufacturing Revolution* was launched at the World Circular Economy Forum in Yokohama, Japan, in October 2018. A coordinating group was established comprising the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, UN Environment Programme’s Global Environment Outlook, UN Global Sustainable Development Report, and International Resource Panel. The first meeting took place in Paris (19 Oct). The International Resource Panel is developing the first in a series of a flagship publication, *Global Resource Outlook* that will be made available to UN Environment Assembly-4 and serve as a key background document for the fourth session of the Assembly.

**Progress on UN Environment Assembly Resolutions and links to SDGs:** A comprehensive update on the progress on the implementation of UNEA resolution 2/8 on Sustainable Consumption and Production was provided as secretariat brief to the 143<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representations (28 Sep).

**The Green Economy Transition in Africa:** The latest Rebranding Africa Forum was held (5-6 Oct) in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, to discuss challenges and opportunities of the Green Economy in Africa. Three Heads of State attended the Forum: H.E. Brigi Rafini, Prime Minister of the Republic of Niger; H.E. Nana Akufo Addo, President of the Republic of Ghana; and H.E. Roch Marc Christian Kaboré, President of Burkina Faso. SWITCH Africa Green supported its partners to participate in this meeting and network with other Green Economy stakeholders in attendance.

### **Expected Accomplishment – 6b**

**“Public, private and financial sectors increasingly adopt and implement sustainable management frameworks and practices.”**

### **Launch of the Flagship Report of the United Nations Forum on Sustainability Standards:**

The United Nations Forum on Sustainability Standards – a collaboration between UN Environment Programme and four other UN agencies – co-hosted (17 Sep) with India the International Convention on Sustainable Trade and Standards in New Delhi. The Forum launched the new report “Voluntary Sustainability Standards, Trade and Sustainable Development” which explores how trade can shape the influence of voluntary sustainability standards on developing countries’ market access.

**Tracking progress on fossil fuel subsidy reform under the SDGs:** Fossil fuel subsidy reform is a key means of implementation for delivering the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement. As custodian agency for the SDG 12 (c) 1 indicator, UN Environment Programme has developed a methodology to measure fossil fuel subsidies, together with the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development and Global Subsidies Initiative based on a consultation with an International Expert Group on Fossil Fuel Subsidies. In September, this methodology was approved by the Inter-Agency Expert

Group on SDGs and provides the first internationally agreed methodology to measure fossil fuel subsidies. Based on this methodology, UN Environment Programme will start collecting data on fossil fuel subsidies from 193 UN member countries between 2020 and 2030. This data will feed into the SDG Global Database and provide inputs to the UN Secretary General’s progress report on the SDGs.

**Sustainable infrastructure:** Noting the centrality of infrastructure to the 2030 Agenda, UN Environment Programme, Fujian Normal University, and University of Geneva convened an expert group meeting on sustainable infrastructure, in Fuzhou, China (22-23 Oct). The objective of the meeting was to develop an integrated, upstream planning approach to sustainable infrastructure. Participants identified the need to adapt existing tools and approached for use in upstream planning and developing country contexts, and the need to build stakeholder and institutional capacity to apply such approaches.

### Expected Accomplishment – 6c

**“Public and private sectors increasingly aware of and support the adoption of sustainable lifestyles and sustainable consumption patterns.”**

**Sustainable Public Procurement:** During the “Transform Asia Low-Carbon week”, a training event was organized on Sustainable Public Procurement, in partnership with the South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP). The training was attended by 24 representatives from 10 South Asian and Southeast Asian countries.<sup>18</sup> It provided participants with expert knowledge and tools to initiate and progress on Sustainable Public Procurement policies in their countries.

**Greening the Belt and Road:** The project *Sharing Experience and Knowledge for a Sustainable Belt and Road* has leveraged US\$1 million for activity implementation. During 8-10 October, the first Greening the Belt and Road capacity building course was held in Turin, Italy. The course was designed to help policymakers from Central Asia develop expertise for strengthening the capacity of green investment and sustainable development opportunities, while managing environmental risks. UN Environment Programme briefed (4 Oct) the annual subcommittee meeting of Committee of Permanent Representatives on engagement on Greening the Belt and Road Initiative. Member States reviewed the matter and provided comments and guidance on this engagement.

**International Solar Alliance:** UN Environment Programme and the International Solar Alliance signed a Joint Declaration in India (3 Oct). The two parties committed to work together towards promoting solar energy and especially off-grid solar energy system and solar cook stoves in rural areas.

### **Main opportunities and challenges and response measures**

The **fourth session of UN Environment Assembly-4** with its theme on ‘*Innovative Solutions for Environmental Challenges and Sustainable Consumption and Production*’ is a key opportunity for the Sub-Programme. It will help to position resource efficiency and sustainable consumption and production as a key driver for sustainable development and poverty reduction and enable us to showcase existing solutions that can support circularity, promote food security and create green and decent jobs. The assembly will also enable to identify innovative solutions to increase resource efficiency and – most importantly – to identify innovative mechanisms to take sustainable consumption and production to scale and to mobilize the required financing. Innovate financing models will play a key role in this regard.

Also during UN Environment Assembly-4, the **International Resource Panel** will present its flagship report entitled ‘*Global Resource Outlook 2019: Natural Resources for the Future We Want*’. It will provide the scientific grounding and latest update on global resource trends as well as the potential increased resource efficiency has when it comes to tackling climate change, pollution and other environmental challenges. It will inform possible solutions and make policy recommendations for member states to consider.

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<sup>18</sup> Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Republic of Korea and Sri Lanka.

## 7. ENVIRONMENT UNDER REVIEW

### **Sub-Programme objective:**

**Governments and other stakeholders are empowered with quality assessments and open access to data and information to deliver the environmental dimension of sustainable development.**

### **Expected Accomplishment – 7a**

**“Governments and other stakeholders use quality open environmental data, analyses and participatory processes that strengthen the science-policy interface to generate evidence-based environmental assessments, identify emerging issues and foster policy action.”**

**Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):** The Sustainable Development Goal **Indicator 12 (c) 1** was reclassified from a Tier III (no methodology) to Tier II by the Interagency and Expert Group on SDGs. UN Environment Programme organized an Expert Group meeting on **SDG 14.1**, where scientists discussed how to advance the global methodology on eutrophication and plastic debris assessment.

**Fossil-fuel subsidies:** The publication *Measuring Fossil Fuel Subsidies in the Context of the Sustainable Development Goals* (UN Environment Programme, OECD and Global Subsidies Initiative) was finalized.

**Global and Regional Capacity Building:**<sup>19</sup> The Global Environment Facility-funded cross-cutting capacity development (CCCD) portfolio held successful project inception workshops with country stakeholders for new projects in Mauritania<sup>20</sup> and Iraq.

**Big Data on Environment Initiative:** External outreach of the Big Data Initiative has progressed in mobilizing stakeholders. The Science Policy Business Forum, in Paris, was held back to back with the Eye on Earth Symposium, in Dubai.

**Water Monitoring:** The Global Environmental Monitoring Systems Water discussed a SWOT (Strengths-Weaknesses-Opportunities-Threats) on Water Strategy. The team is mobilizing partnerships and resources for Air Quality monitoring.

**GEO-6 – Sixth Global Environment Outlook:** The full GEO-6 report and its *Summary for Policy Makers* were completed and are ready for inter-governmental review and approval in January 2019. The scientific credibility and peer review process of GEO-6 were externally reviewed and fully endorsed by the advisory bodies. The Mid-Term Evaluation of the UN Environment Programme’s Project Global and Regional Integrated Environmental Assessments (GEO-6) had been completed in July 2018, and an in-depth scoping study on the future of the GEO process is ongoing. The next step in the preparation of the GEO-6 Summary for Policy Makers is the negotiation of the text by Member States. This meeting will take place in Nairobi (21-24 January 2019). The GEO-6 team is also working on enhancing synergies among all major global assessments, including: GEO-6, the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES); the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC); the UN Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR) and the International Resource Panel (IRP). During 16 to 18 October, UN Environment Programme, in collaboration with the Commission of the Economic Community of West African States organized a regional meeting on preparation of the State of the Environment and Outlook report for the sub-region. To catalyse actions by public and private sectors with evidence-based policies in Asia Pacific, UN Environment Programme worked with the region’s foremost environmental policy think tanks, including Institute for Global Environment Strategies of Japan, Tsinghua University of China, and The Energy and Resource Institute of India, to conduct *GEO-6 for Industry in Asia Pacific*.

**Emerging Issues Science – The Frontiers Report 2018:** The development of the 2018 edition of the Frontiers report is advancing well, covering a series of key emerging issues along the environmental

<sup>19</sup> UN Environment Assembly -2 Res 2/5; 3/8.

<sup>20</sup> <https://www.radiomaauritanie.mr/node/3889> , <http://fr.ami.mr/Depeche-46547.html>, and <http://www.environnement.gov.mr/fr/index.php/que-faisons-nous/99-cccd-workshop>

dimension of the sustainable development agenda. Topics being covered include; governance of climate geo-engineering, peatland and permafrost, landscape connectivity for biodiversity conservation.

**Climate Change Mitigation:** The *Emissions Gap Report 2018* was readied for launch in November just before the 24<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). In September, an advance chapter on the role of non-state actors in addressing the emissions gap and goals of the Paris Climate Accord, was launched in California at the Global Climate Action Summit.

**Climate Change Adaptation Science:** The renewed World Adaptation Science Programme (PROVIA), is being launched by UN Environment Programme and the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI), to support members states' climate change adaptation efforts with sound and innovative science-based approaches.

**Ocean Science:** UN Environment Programme continues to support the World Oceans Assessment and the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment.

**Marine Plastic Litter Hotspot Assessment:** A draft Methodology for Marine Plastic Litter Hotspot Assessment was developed to implement UN Environment Assembly resolutions on "Marine litter and microplastics", in partnership with East China Normal University, Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA) and Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP).

**Science-Policy Interface:** A one-day event in Estonia for the 'Earth Innovation Forum', was organized by the Science Policy Business Forum as mentioned under Section One of this report.

**Promoting Action for SDGs:** A special dynamic and participatory session on *UN Environment Programme's Role in Promoting Action for SDGs*, organised with Youth GEO was held (3 Aug) in Bangkok to catalyse young students' actions on environmental sustainability.<sup>21</sup>

**Main opportunities, challenges and adaptation:** By supporting countries in strengthening environmental and climate information for decision-making and response actions, the project portfolios funded by the Global Environment Facility and Green Climate Fund provide a critical opportunity to achieve concrete results at country level.

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## CAMPAIGNS

### Champions of the Earth and Young Champions of the Earth

- The **Champions of the Earth Award** is the highest environmental honour of the United Nations. It celebrates outstanding figures from the public and private sectors and from civil society whose actions have had a transformative positive impact on the environment.
- The **Young Champions of the Earth** is a forward-looking prize designed to breathe life into the ambitions of brilliant young environmentalists. The annual Award programmes strengthen UN Environment Programme's reputation as being a leader in environmental issues and agenda-setting.
- Along the sidelines of the UN General Assembly (26 Sep), UN Environment Programme announced the 2018 Champions of the Earth and celebrated the second cohort of Young Champions at an award ceremony. With an entirely plant-based menu, conceived by **Celebrity Chef Elizabeth Falkner**, the gala was hosted by actor and environmental activist **Alec Baldwin** and model, actress, producer and UN Goodwill Ambassador **Dia Mirza**. More than 450 guests, including world leaders, influencers, celebrities and UN leadership, celebrated momentum for change in defence of our planet.
- Watch the inspirational one-minute compilation highlighting quotes from UN Environment Programme's Champions of the Earth for 2018, and highlights of the ceremony evening or view all pictures or a selection of pictures on UN Environment Programme's Flickr account.

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<sup>21</sup> Supports implementation of UNEA resolution 1/4.

- The Executive Director joined United Nations Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres in New Delhi, India to honour the 2018 Champion of the Earth, **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** (3 Oct).

### **Beat Plastic Pollution Campaign**

- UN Environment Programme’s Beat Plastic Pollution campaign won at the 2018 African Excellence Awards, taking the top prize in the “Campaign and Idea of the Year (small budget)” category. The Excellence Awards are hosted by Communication Director magazine and its partners, recognizing regional stand-out work in communication, public relations, and public affairs.

## **CROSS CUTTING ISSUES**

### **GENDER AND SAFEGUARDS**

- For the past 5 years, UN Environment Programme – like other UN Agencies – has been implementing the **UN System Wide Action Plan for Gender Equality**. This plan aims to harmonize gender mainstreaming actions within the UN system. It also enables agencies to develop results-oriented actions that will contribute towards gender equality and women’s empowerment. During the reporting period, the final agency assessment for the period 2012-2017 was released by UN Women, which coordinates implementation of the Action Plan. The assessment report shows that by the end of 2017, UN Environment Programme had **met and exceeded 12 out of 15 indicators**.<sup>22</sup> We have thus, for the third year running, outperformed the aggregate performance indicators of the UN System (by 6%) and the UN Secretariat (by 3%). Overall, UN Environment Programme’s ratings for performance indicators have increased from 7% to 80%. This notable progress has not gone unrecognized. On 8 October, UN Women awarded UN Environment Programme with a Certificate of Achievement.
- The UN Environment Programme organized a High-Level luncheon on: “**Business Opportunities for Women in a changing Energy Value Chain in Africa**” during the 7th Special Session of AMCEN. Its aim was to enhance private sector engagement in implementing innovative environmental solutions in the areas of policy, skills, knowledge, technology and finance to empower women in the energy sector. A total of 100 participants including over 30 Environment Ministers and deputy Ministers, Women entrepreneurs, representatives from African Union, NEPAD, Regional Economic Communities, private sector, banks, civil society, and NGOs attended this Luncheon.

### **SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS**

- The e-learning video on how to identify the safeguard risks and the risk level is now available. Face-to-face training sessions on safeguards were conducted in the context of Results Based Management (RBM) training in early October.
- The UN Environment Management Group (EMG) has disseminated the “Draft Model Approach to Environmental and Social Standards in UN Programming” in which UN Environment Programme actively participated as highlighted in Section One of this report.

## **MULTILATERAL ENVIRONMENT AGREEMENTS**

### **CITES – The Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna**

- Ms. Ivonne Higuero has been appointed as the new Secretary-General of CITES, succeeding John Scanlon who left in April 2018. She assumes her new post on 3 December.

<sup>22</sup> Performance Indicators are: Policy/plan, Performance Management, Strategic planning, Monitoring/reporting, Evaluation, Audit, Programme review, Resource tracking, Resource allocation, Gender architecture/parity, Organisational culture, Capacity assessment, Capacity development, Knowledge generation/communication, Coherence.

- The CITES Standing Committee took place in Sochi (1-5 Oct). The two main themes were: (1) preparation of proposals on interpretation and implementation of the Convention to be addressed at the upcoming 18<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Colombo, Sri Lanka, 23 May-3 June 2019) and (2) measures taken to achieve long-term and sustained compliance with the Convention, thereby ensuring the survival of the species in the wild.

#### **CMS – Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals**

- **Review Mechanism:** The Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) Standing Committee met (23-24 Oct), in Bonn, Germany for the first time in the 2018-2020 triennium. The meeting laid the foundation for a new compliance regime that will support Parties in delivering their obligations under the Convention. The Review Mechanism is designed to support Parties that may be facing difficulties in meeting their commitments under the Convention. It established the procedures which will allow for the submission of a review process. It also identifies the measures and steps that may be taken if a Party is not fulfilling its obligations, such as failing to prohibit the taking of certain migratory species.
- **National Report:** Another key outcome of the Standing Committee meeting was the adoption of a new simplified format for CMS National Reports, which will provide critical input to the review mechanism and the assessment of progress towards the achievement of the targets contained in the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species (SPMS), the Aichi Targets and the Sustainable Development Goals.

#### **CBD – Convention on Biological Diversity**

- **Contributions to the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework:** The Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals and its family of daughter agreements, have set the course for developing its contributions to the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework with a view to raise the visibility of migratory wildlife and promote its conservation. The Standing Committee endorsed the establishment of a Working Group on the development of contributions to the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. This Working Group will aim to provide an interface between science and policy. The forthcoming 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Parties to the African Eurasian Agreement is planned to endorse the participation of the AEWA<sup>23</sup> Secretariat in the Working Group and its contributions to the process.

#### **Basel Convention (hazardous waste)**

- At its 11<sup>th</sup> meeting (3-6 Sep) in Geneva, the **Open-ended Working Group (OEWG-11)** adopted 15 decisions relating to strategic issues, scientific and technical matters and legal, governance and enforcement matters under the Basel Convention.
- Progress was made on the development of several technical guidelines, including on persistent organic pollutants, e-waste, incineration on land and specially engineering landfill.
- There was progress on guidance documents including those on ensuring environmentally sound management in the informal sector, recycling and recovery and extended producer responsibility.
- The meeting agreed to recommend to the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP-14) to consider the development of practical guidance on the development of inventories of plastic waste, obsolete pesticides and waste batteries containing lithium.
- The decisions adopted by OEWG-11 are available on the Basel Convention website.
- A side-event of the Bamako Convention, was held during the OEWG-11. The Convention came into force in 1998, is a treaty of African nations prohibiting the import into Africa of any hazardous (including radioactive) waste. A regional statement developed will be incorporated into the regional statements by civil society for the fourth UN Environment Assembly.
- The **Basel Convention Implementation and Compliance Committee** held its 13<sup>th</sup> meeting (7-10 Sep) in Geneva, and through a supplementary online session on 31 October. Please see the following links for more information on the meeting and the intersessional work of the Committee.

#### **Rotterdam Convention (chemical pesticides)**

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<sup>23</sup> African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) is an intergovernmental treaty dedicated to the conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats.

- The 14<sup>th</sup> meeting of the **Chemicals Review Committee** under the Rotterdam Convention was held (11-13 Sep) at FAO headquarters in Rome. The Chemical Review Committee adopted draft decision guidance documents for acetochlor, hexa-bromo-cyclo-dodecane and phorate, and decided to forward them to the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties, together with a recommendation to list these chemicals in Annex III to the Convention on Prior Informed Consent procedures for chemicals.
- The Committee also agreed on updates to the Handbook of Working Procedures and Policy Guidance for the Chemical Review Committee. Under the procedures for banned or severely restricted chemicals (Article 5, Paragraphs 5 and 6), the Committee reviewed notifications of final regulatory action on hexabromocyclododecane, methyl-parathion and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), its salts and PFOA-related compounds.
- The Committee recommended their listing in Annex III to the Convention. A draft decision guidance document will be developed in the intersessional period.

### **Stockholm Convention (persistent organic pollutants)**

- The 14<sup>th</sup> meeting of the **Persistent Organic Review Committee** under the Stockholm Convention was held (17-21 Sep) at FAO headquarters in Rome. The Persistent Organic Review Committee adopted the risk profile on perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS), its salts and PFHxS-related compounds moving the chemical to the next review stage requiring a risk management evaluation, that includes an analysis of possible control measures, to be prepared by an intersessional working group established for this purpose. The Committee also adopted the addendum to the risk management evaluation on perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), its salts and PFOA-related compounds and recommended to the Conference of the Parties (COP) that it consider listing the chemicals in the Convention's Annex A (elimination of use and production), with specific exemptions specified in the decision.

## **SECTION 3: RESOURCES AND MANAGEMENT ISSUES**

This section of the report focuses on financial and human resources. It also highlights important management issues. It provides an update on evaluation work highlighting lessons for future work.

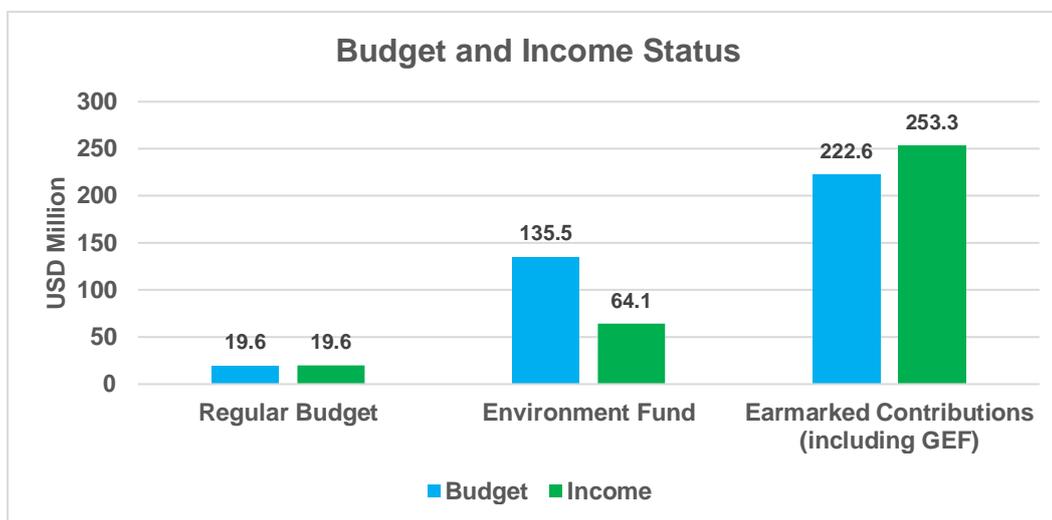
### **1. FINANCIAL RESOURCES**

#### **Income versus budget as at 31 October 2018**

As at 31 October 2018, the organization received US\$ 337 million. This represents 89% of our total approved budget of US\$ 377.7 million – comprising the annual funds of UN Regular Budget and Environment Fund as well as Earmarked Contributions. It includes multi-year funding.<sup>24</sup>

Financial contributions to UN Environment Programme demonstrate our stakeholders' trust in our stewardship of these resources. We are determined to offer value-for-money to our funding partners, taxpayers and investors. We will achieve this by delivering results and partnering for increased impact. We will ensure robust oversight and accountability.

<sup>24</sup> Umoja does not enable the breakdown of budget and income of multi-year earmarked contributions into annual figures.



Regular Budget and Environment Fund form our core funding, which is received on an annual basis and enables the organization to deliver on its core mandate.

The **UN Regular Budget** covers part of the cost of UN Environment Programme's governing bodies, coordination of environmental programmes in the UN system and securing effective cooperation with relevant scientific and professional communities. As per the budget approved by the General Assembly, the organisation received US\$ 19.6 million for 2018.

The **Environment Fund** finances the essential capacity needed for the delivery of the Programme of Work, including identifying emerging environmental issues, innovating solutions, advocacy, awareness raising and capacity building. It also supports the organization's convening power to bring together governments, the private sector and civil society in advancing the global environmental agenda. As at 31 October 2018, the organisation received US\$ 64.1 million, or 47% of the target budget valued at US\$ 135.5 million.

We thank our ten largest contributors to the Environment Fund (table below) as well as the 59 other Member States who have contributed so far. As part of our efforts to give due recognition to our funding partners, not only for their financial contributions but also their environmental actions and political support, a series of videos and editorial pieces are being featured on the organization's website and other online platforms.

#### Top 10 Contributors to the Environment Fund (as at 31 October)

	Country	Contributions in US\$ million
1	Netherlands	9.2
2	Germany	8.9
3	France	7.6
4	USA	6.1
5	Sweden	5.1
6	Belgium	4.6
7	United Kingdom	4.3
8	Norway	3.0
9	Canada	2.4
10	Finland	1.7

**Earmarked contributions:** A significant part of the income received by the organisation is earmarked for specific projects. These funds enable scaling-up and replication of the core activities of the Programme of Work, but they also have a tendency of skewing the balanced and efficient delivery of the full Programme of Work decided by all 193 Member States. As at 31 October 2018, Earmarked Contributions for current

and future years amounted to 114% of the annual target budget. We extend appreciation to our ten largest contributors as well as other partners who have provided earmarked funding.

**Top 10 Contributors to Earmarked Funds – 31  
October 2018**

	<b>Country/Institution</b>	<b>Contributions in US\$ million</b>
1	Global Environment Facility (GEF)	112
2	Private Sector	26
3	UN Agencies	26
4	Green Climate Fund	25
5	European Commission	13
6	Sweden	10
7	Japan	9
8	France	6
9	Norway	5
10	Germany	5

**2. STATUS OF ALLOCATIONS AND EXPENDITURES AS AT 31 OCTOBER 2018**

**Corporate Budgets – Allotments as at 31 October 2018**

<b>Corporate Budgets - Allotments as at 31 October 2018</b>					
	<b>Functional Area Name</b>	<b>Environment Fund</b>	<b>Overhead Trust Account</b>	<b>Regular Budget</b>	<b>Grand Total</b>
<b>A</b>	Policy Making Organs	1,668,371	-	47,000	1,715,371
<b>B. 1</b>	Executive Direction & Managemnet	4,416,550		2,833,300	7,249,850
<b>B. 2</b>	United Nations Scientific Committee on the effects on Atomic radiation (UNSCEAR)	-	-	757,500	-
	<b>Subtotal A + B</b>	<b>6,084,921</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,637,800</b>	<b>8,965,221</b>
<b>C</b>	<b>Programme of Work</b>				
1.	Climate change	8,116,052	617,956	1,839,300	10,573,307
2.	Resilience to disasters and conflicts	5,213,354	357,918	1,296,500	6,867,772
3.	Healthy and productive ecosystems	10,152,860	1,399,859	2,170,700	13,723,419
4.	Environmental governance	8,705,603	344,021	3,818,500	12,868,125
5.	Chemicals, waste and air quality	8,380,974	1,187,889	1,499,900	11,068,763
6.	Resource efficiency	10,101,984	1,162,509	1,659,300	12,923,793
7.	Environment under review	7,181,066	362,765	2,710,400	10,254,231
	<b>Subtotal C</b>	<b>57,851,893</b>	<b>5,432,918</b>	<b>14,994,600</b>	<b>78,279,411</b>
<b>D</b>	<b>Fund Programme Reserve</b>	2,000,000	-	-	2,000,000
	<b>Subtotal C + D</b>	<b>59,851,893</b>	<b>5,432,918</b>	<b>14,994,600</b>	<b>80,279,411</b>
<b>E</b>	<b>Programme Management and Other</b>				
	Programme Support (Corporate Service Division/SPPD)	4,393,786	11,647,582	936,400	16,977,768
	UNON/UNIG Bills	-	-	-	-
	After Service Health Insurance Provisio	-	-	-	-
	<b>Subtotal E</b>	<b>4,393,786</b>	<b>11,647,582</b>	<b>936,400</b>	<b>16,977,768</b>
	<b>Total (A+B+C+D+E)</b>	<b>70,330,600</b>	<b>17,080,500</b>	<b>19,568,800</b>	<b>106,222,400</b>

## Corporate Budgets – Expenditures as at 31 October 2018

Corporate Budgets - Expenditures as at 31 October 2018					
	Functional Area Name	Environment Fund	Overhead Trust Account	Regular Budget	Grand Total
A	Policy Making Organs	1,155,705	-	1,993	1,157,698
B. 1	Executive Direction & Management	3,669,833	-	2,515,259	6,185,092
B. 2	United Nations Scientific Committee on the effects on Atomic radiation (UNSCEAR)	-	-	613,412	-
	<b>Subtotal A + B</b>	<b>4,825,538</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,130,664</b>	<b>7,342,790</b>
C	<b>Programme of Work</b>				
1.	Climate change	6,162,560	373,178	1,816,784	8,352,522
2.	Resilience to disasters and conflicts	3,337,885	572,358	977,868	4,888,111
3.	Healthy and productive ecosystems	7,622,349	588,166	1,841,693	10,052,207
4.	Environmental governance	6,503,443	174,283	3,413,673	10,091,400
5.	Chemicals, waste and air quality	5,929,978	720,372	1,402,032	8,052,382
6.	Resource efficiency	8,144,510	846,177	1,501,591	10,492,277
7.	Environment under review	5,103,927	161,142	2,382,094	7,647,162
	<b>Subtotal C</b>	<b>42,804,652</b>	<b>3,435,676</b>	<b>13,335,734</b>	<b>59,576,062</b>
D	<b>Fund Programme Reserve</b>	64,320	-	-	64,320
	<b>Subtotal C + D</b>	<b>42,868,971</b>	<b>3,435,676</b>	<b>13,335,734</b>	<b>59,640,381</b>
E	<b>Programme Management and Other</b>				
	Programme Support (Corporate Service Division)	3,141,361	6,929,507	599,443	10,670,312
	UNON/UNIG Bills	-	-	-	-
	After Service Health Insurance Provision	-	-	-	-
	<b>Subtotal E</b>	<b>3,141,361</b>	<b>6,929,507</b>	<b>599,443</b>	<b>10,670,312</b>
	<b>Total (A+B+C+D+E)</b>	<b>50,835,871</b>	<b>10,365,184</b>	<b>17,065,841</b>	<b>77,653,483</b>

### 3. RESOURCE MOBILISATION STRATEGY

The Deputy Executive Director has been assigned to direct the organisation's resource mobilisation efforts with support of the Director, Corporate Services Division, who will be in charge of the implementation of the resource mobilization strategy. Preparatory work is under way while the new Director, Corporate Services Division, is expected to assume her office in December 2018.

### 4. HUMAN RESOURCES OVERVIEW

#### 1. General Overview

- As at 31 October 2018, United Nations Environment Programme had a total staff component of 1199, comprising 717 Professional and 482 General Service personnel. The complete staff numbers include the United Nations Environment Programme Secretariat and the Multilateral Environmental Agreements Secretariats. There is a total of 196 staff at the P5 and above level, and the breakdown is as follows:

Total staff at P5 and above levels as at 31 October

Level	USG	ASG	D-2	D-1	P-5
No. of Staff	1	2	6	55*	132*

\*Includes 2 P5 staff on D1 SPA positions

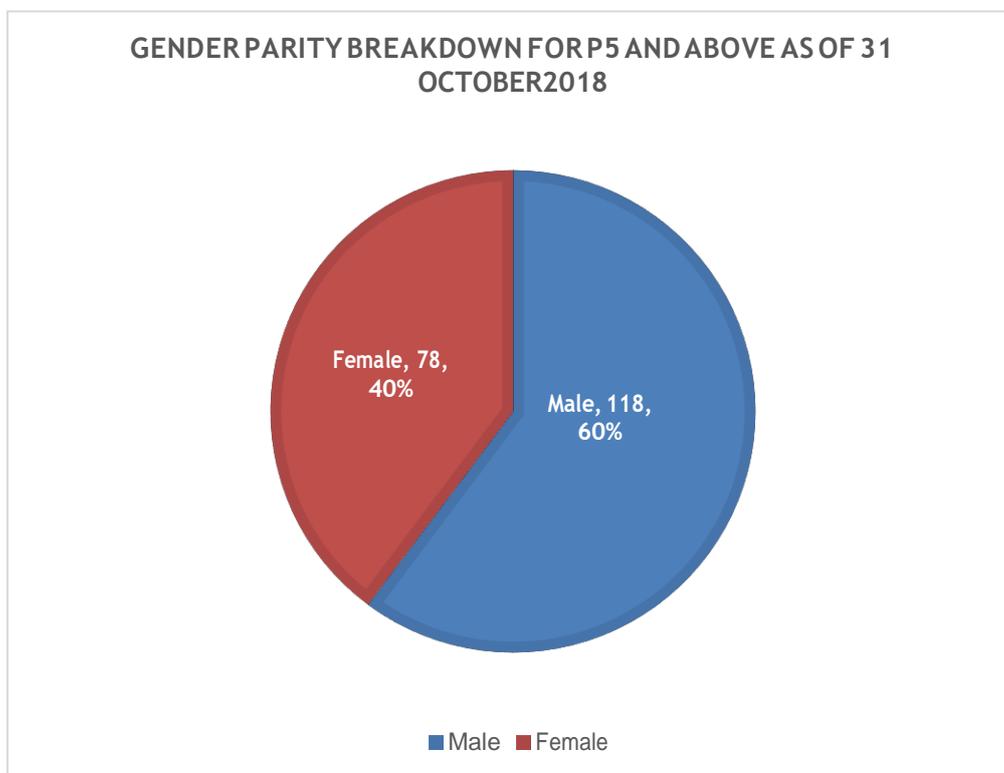
\*Includes 6 P4 staff on P5 SPA positions

#### 2. Gender parity

- In line with the Secretary General's UN System-Wide Gender Parity Strategy and the UN Environment Programme's Gender Parity Implementation Plan, considerable efforts are being made towards meeting the gender parity targets set by the Office of Human Resource Management, New York. Notably, the Organization has also embarked on cultural change initiatives through the recently delivered

‘Unconscious Bias Workshops’ for Senior Management staff and the wider staff population which also addresses recruitment biases.

- The trend in gender parity as at 31 October 2018 seems to have improved slightly over the period in 2017 with the selection of 78 women and 118 men at the P5 and above levels. As the following chart and table demonstrates, much more work needs to be done to achieve sustainable gender parity at UN Environment Programme.

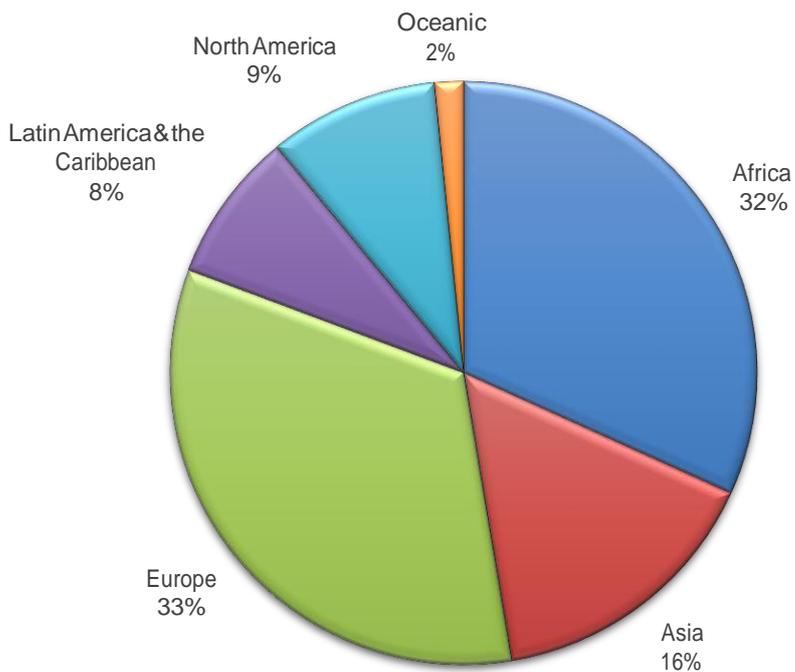


Level	USG	ASG	D-2	D-1	P-5
Female		2	3	19	54
Male	1		3	36	78
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>132</b>

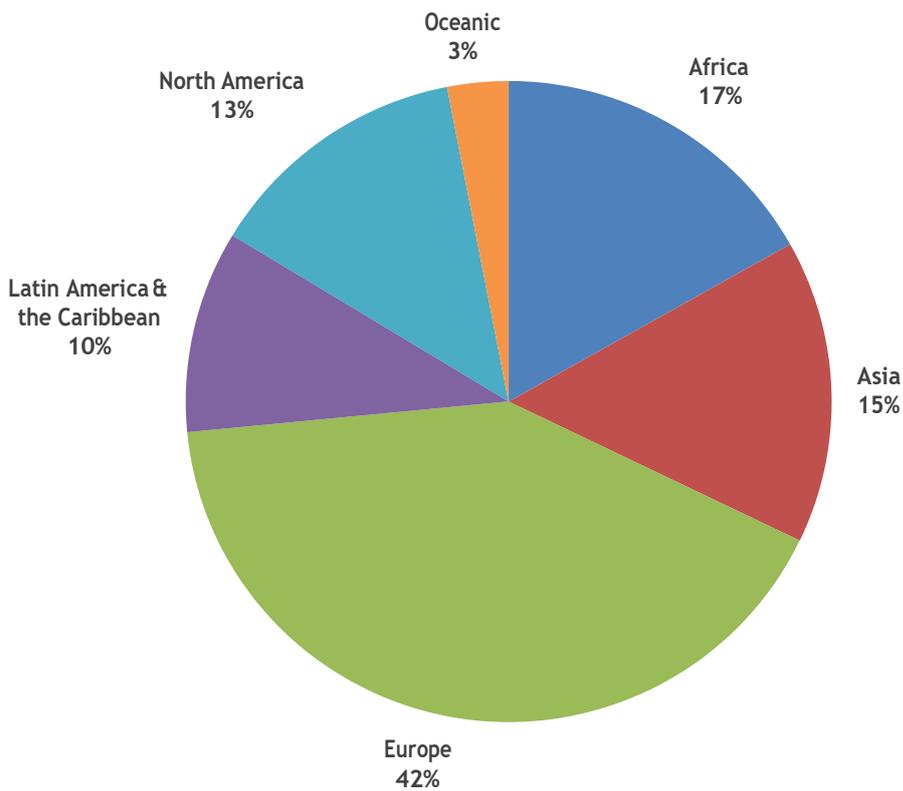
### 3. Geographic Distribution – including an analysis of the P5 and Above Level Staff

- The following graphs depict geographical representation among the staff at UN Environment Programme. For comparison, world population statistics come from UN Population Division.
- Regarding staff at the P5 and above levels, Europe has the largest number occupying senior P5 and above positions at the UN Environment Programme. There are 81 European senior members who make up 42% of the P5 and above staff population. Africa and Asia are a distant second with 33 and 30 Senior staff members, at 17% and 15% respectively. North America has 26 staff (13%) followed by Latin America and the Caribbean (20 staff) with 10% and Oceania who have 6 senior members representing 3% of UN Environment Programme Senior Staff.

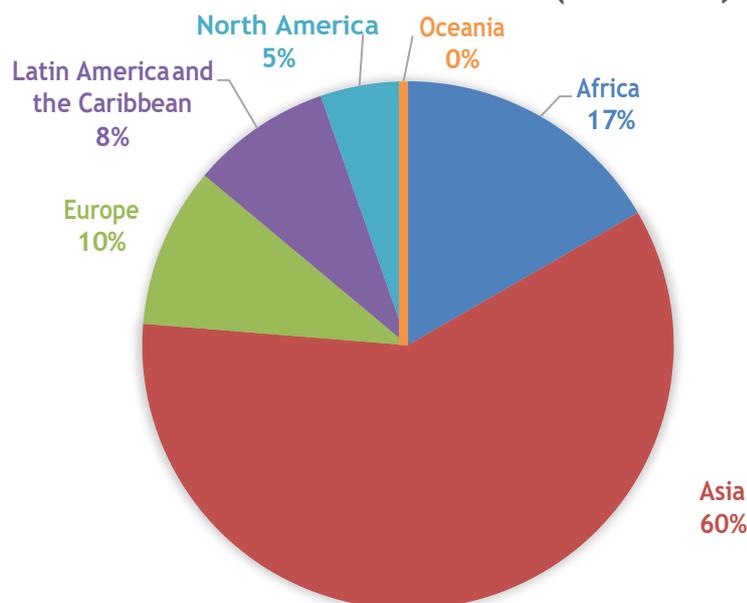
### UN ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME STAFF BY REGION



### P5 AND ABOVE STAFF BY REGION AS AT 31 OCTOBER 2018



## WORLD POPULATION BY REGION (MILLION, 2017)



### Key Human Resources Risks and Issues

- In addition to ongoing gender parity and geographical distribution reform efforts, consistent application of talent management, workforce and succession planning processes will be strengthened to ensure a balance in the types of appointments made including promotions, initial appointments, reassignments and temporary assignments.
- It is necessary to ensure that the vitality and quality of talent is managed proactively to preserve and enhance UN Environment Programme's human capital to respond to the Organization's vision, priorities and mandate.

In addition, further in-depth study will be required to scrutinize the current spread of vacancies at all levels to ensure that they support a diverse, well balanced talent pipeline that can efficiently respond to the Organization's commitment to the Secretary General's management and gender reforms.

## 5. AUDITS

The final report of the audit of the financial statements for the year 2017, concluded by the United Nations Board of Auditors (UNBOA), is available at <http://www.un.org/en/auditors/board/auditors-reports.shtml>. We are in the process of implementing the recommendations made by the Board of Auditors. In addition, below is an overview of the status of other audits:

### A. Ongoing audits:

- a. Contract Management
- b. Mediterranean Action Plan
- c. Afghanistan Project Office
- d. Internal Controls by UN Board of Auditors including one field office (Geneva)

### B. Implementation of recommendations of completed audits:

- a. Audit of the United Nations Environment Programme Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific.
- b. Audit of the United Nations Environment Programme Secretariat of the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the West and Central African Regions and its Protocol. (Abidjan Convention).
- c. Audit of official travel at UN Environment by the Office of Internal Oversight Services.

### C. Planned audits for 2018 per OIOS work plan:

- a. Climate change sub-programme

## 6. EVALUATIONS

- The report on the Sub-Programme Evaluation for **Resource Efficiency** was finalised and will be publicly disclosed after discussions with staff of the Economy Division on the response to the evaluation recommendations are finalized.
- The **Evaluation Office has completed the Assessment of Montevideo IV** and it will be presented at UN Environment Assembly in 2019.<sup>25</sup>
- The inception of Sub-Programme Evaluation for **Environment Under Review** began, with the Terms of Reference discussed with staff and finalised.
- The ToRs for the evaluation of EC DG Environment-UN Environment Programme **Strategic Cooperation Agreement** under the EU Thematic Programme for Environment and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources including Energy (**ENRTP**) have been agreed. The evaluation is now in its inception phase.

During this reporting period:

- 8 project evaluations were completed.
- 29 project evaluations are currently ongoing.
- The recruitment of the P4 level post in the Evaluation Office was completed, resulting in a new vacancy at the P3 level.
- The Evaluation Office assisted the OIOS Evaluation Department in the collation of documents and scheduling of interviews for their ongoing evaluation of UN Environment Programme. The OIOS Evaluation team visited Nairobi from 24<sup>th</sup> October-2<sup>nd</sup> November 2018.

Key Learning Points from completed evaluations:

- **Terminal evaluation of the UN Environment Programme ‘s project for Secretariat Support to the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to the Minamata Convention on Mercury**
  1. Countries greatly value the sharing of good practice experiences. This can create an emulation process stimulating concrete movement towards change.
  2. SMART outcome indicators are essential.
  3. Secretariat leadership role in global coordination bodies facilitates effective implementation.
  4. Partnerships are a good means to ensure access to best available expertise.
  5. Pilot projects or interventions need to be designed, well planned and executed.
  6. An inclusive collegial approach favours the quality of outcomes in a structured process.
  7. Reporting needs to be simple for countries.

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<sup>25</sup> Response to UN Environment Assembly resolution 2/19.