



**INVEST IN A  
HEALTHY PLANET**  
INVEST IN  
UN ENVIRONMENT



**UN**   
**environment**

United Nations  
Environment Programme



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UN Environment Programme, March 2019



UN Environment  
promotes environmentally  
sound practices globally  
and in its own activities. Our  
distribution policy aims to reduce  
UN Environment's carbon footprint.

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"UN Environment has been, and will continue to be, a crucial actor in supporting nations to deliver on their environmental commitments.

In 2019, I fully expect the organization to continue this transformative work and help steer the world towards a more sustainable track."

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**António Guterres,**  
Secretary-General  
of the United Nations

# INTRODUCTION

The United Nations Environment Programme (the UN Environment Programme) is the **leading global authority on the environment**. Since 1972, we are a powerful advocate, setting the global environmental agenda, providing leadership and delivering scientific solutions on some of the most urgent challenges facing the planet and humankind.

Around the world, we work in partnerships with governments, the scientific community, the private sector, civil society and other United Nations entities and international organizations. We bring together all partners to agree on solutions to our common challenges.

Through our normative work, and by facilitating and hosting intergovernmental platforms, we have a long history of contributing towards the development and implementation of environmental law and policies.

Working under the umbrella of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, we identify and address the most relevant environmental issues of our time. We are people-centred and envisage a world where humanity lives in harmony with nature.

Our headquarters in Nairobi, our six regional offices – in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Europe,

Latin America and the Caribbean, North America, and West Asia – and other offices located around the world including our centres of excellence, are instrumental in translating the UN Environment Programme's global mandate to local action.

Our medium-term strategy (2018-2021) guides us in our support to countries in their efforts to balance the environmental, economic and social dimensions of sustainable development. In all our programmes and operations, we strive to incorporate a gender lens.

We are committed to efficiency and effectiveness to ensure best value for money. We work with multiple oversight bodies to help us achieve this.

Since 2008, we have been climate neutral, offsetting our greenhouse gas emissions.

We aim to be globally coherent and regionally responsive. While priorities and trends differ from region to region, there are also many issues that are relevant and urgent across all regions. In our strategy, Member States have identified seven thematic areas for our work in the coming years.



### **CLIMATE CHANGE**

Transitioning to low-emission economic development, enhancing adaptation and building resilience to climate change.



### **RESILIENCE TO DISASTERS AND CONFLICTS**

Preventing and reducing the environmental impact of disasters and conflicts, while building resilience to future crises.



### **HEALTHY AND PRODUCTIVE ECOSYSTEMS**

Managing ecosystems to protect and restore their long-term functioning and supply of goods and services.



### **ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE**

Promoting effective and inclusive environmental governance, underpinned by policy and legislation, and informed and empowered institutions.



### **CHEMICALS, WASTE AND AIR QUALITY**

Promoting the sound management of chemicals and waste, and improving air quality for a better environment and human health.



### **RESOURCE EFFICIENCY**

Promoting sustainable consumption and production, and supporting the transition to inclusive green economies.



### **ENVIRONMENT UNDER REVIEW**

Monitoring the state of the planet's health to empower stakeholders to deliver the environmental dimension of sustainable development.



## UN ENVIRONMENT ASSEMBLY

The universal 'parliament for the environment' brings together all 193 United Nations Member States, as well as representatives from civil society and the private sector. It is the world's highest-level environmental decision-making body and meets biannually in Nairobi. The Assembly sets the global environmental agenda and agrees on joint priorities and action to tackle the most pressing environmental challenges. We, the UN Environment Programme, host the UN Environment Assembly – this is what we call our **unique convening power**.



Photo: © UN Environment

The UN Environment Assembly was created in June 2012, and embodies a new era in which the environment is at the centre of the international community's focus, and is given the same level of prominence as issues such as peace, poverty, health and security.

# HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR WORK

Our ambition is to **inform, enable** and **inspire** nations and peoples to improve their quality of life – without compromising that of future generations. Here are some illustrative results and highlights of our work.

Photo: © Neil Palmer Photography

## WE INFORM.

Science is fundamental in providing answers to some of the most pressing sustainability issues of the 21st century, and to ensure evidence-based decision-making. Informing society of the risks as well as the opportunities of new developments is at the heart of our work. We keep the global environment under review and improve access to information and knowledge-sharing, with the ultimate goal being the transformation of humanity's relationship with our environment.

As an example, the UN Environment Programme's flagship scientific publications such as the Global Environment Outlook and the Emissions Gap Report provide detailed analysis and key findings that support enhanced environmental policymaking and governance. These reports help bridge the gap between science and policy by turning the best available scientific knowledge into information relevant for decision makers, who then can turn policy into action.

On a global level, we highlight the most compelling, effective and replicable environmental policies and practices, no matter their source. We keep a finger on the environmental pulse and identify global emerging environmental issues.

With our dedicated team of scientists and experts, the UN Environment Programme is the only Member State-led organization that has both the mandate and the capacity to assess the world's environmental resources.

The information and knowledge gained from our work is discussed and shared through a range of scientific assessments and reports, as well as information and knowledge portals such as InforMEA, which provides a bird's-eye view of all major environmental treaties across key topics.

The science and its implications for policymakers is discussed and negotiated through convening platforms, such as the UN Environment Assembly.



Photo: © UN Environment | Rodrigo Garrido



## SCIENCE-POLICY PLATFORMS

We have been instrumental in creating several science-policy platforms that bring together scientists, governments, industrial and international organizations, and civil society. The objective of these platforms is to assess environmental issues such as climate change, biodiversity and sustainable use of resources, and to inform about risks and opportunities. These platforms support policymakers and decision makers with scientific, evidence-based information upon which to base their action. Some of these platforms are:

**The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)** is the UN body for assessing the science related to climate change. Created in 1988 by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the UN Environment Programme, the objective of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change is to provide governments with regular scientific assessments of climate change, its impacts and future risks, and options for adaptation and mitigation. Its latest landmark report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above the pre-industrial levels has been highly referred to in international negotiations and debates in 2018.

**The International Resource Panel (IRP)**, established by the UN Environment Programme in 2007, fills an important gap by providing decision makers and other interested parties with scientific assessments on the sustainable use of resources and their environmental impacts over their full life cycles. In 2018, one important contribution was the piece "Resource Efficiency for Sustainable Development: Key Messages for the Group of 20" as an input to the climate-related discussions of the Group of 20.

**Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES):** More than one thousand scientists around the world contribute to this forum. It promotes the effective use of science in decision-making for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, for long-term human well-being and sustainable development. It produces fast-track assessments on issues such as pollination and food production, land degradation and invasive species. The UN Environment Programme was instrumental in its establishment, including facilitating the negotiations and hosting the secretariat.

**The Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC):** Launched in 2012, the Coalition addresses short-lived climate pollutants such as methane, black carbon and hydrofluorocarbons. We host the secretariat and helped create the Coalition, which now has more than 130 state and non-state members, and hundreds of local actors carrying out activities across economic sectors. The fast hydrofluorocarbons phasedown prescribed in the Montreal Protocol's Kigali Amendment came partly as a result of advocacy by the Coalition and Member States.

To date, 48 countries benefit from increased institutional capacity to reduce short-lived climate pollutants; 27 new or improved laws and regulations have been supported in 17 countries on waste management, heavy-duty diesel vehicles and bricks production; and over 100 policies and plans including improved waste management plans in 70 cities have been developed.

## ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENTIFIC ASSESSMENTS

UN Environment Programme's flagship publications help bridge the gap between science and policy, and provide guidance to policy makers and decision makers.



### Global Environment Outlook (GEO)

This flagship UN Environment Programme publication is a periodic analysis and assessment of the state of the environment, linking science to policy, and informing decision makers at multiple levels. The first publication was in 1997 and was originally requested by Member States.

It is the largest effort by the UN system to assess the state of the environment, with contributions from the whole UN family and governments' nominees of over 1,200 scientists and academics. The publication's summary for policymakers, negotiated at governmental level, is a key tool for decision makers on environmental matters.

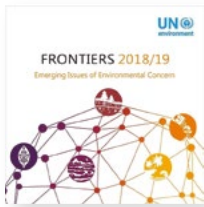
The sixth Global Environment Outlook (2019) is the most comprehensive report on the global environment since 2012. It shows that a healthy environment is a prerequisite and foundation for economic prosperity, human health and well-being.



### Emissions Gap Report

Our Emissions Gap Report presents an annual assessment of the so-called emissions gap – the gap between anticipated emission levels of greenhouse gases in 2030, compared to levels consistent with the temperature rise of 2°C / 1.5°C target of the Paris Agreement on climate change. Every year, the report also features ways to bridge the existing emissions gap. The report is prepared by an international team of leading scientists, assessing all available information.

The 2018 report was a wake-up call to the world, stating that in order to avoid a catastrophic rise of more than 2°C in global temperatures, countries will need to triple their emissions-reducing commitments. The 2018 full report and executive summary in different languages has been downloaded 25,000 times. The report also featured in 6,000 editorial headlines in 30 countries, compared with 1,000 in 2017.



### Frontiers – emerging issues of environmental concern

Our work on emerging environmental issues, communicated through our new Frontiers series, provides decision makers from government, business and civil society with the knowledge and options to act quickly.

Issues highlighted in Frontiers have the potential to hugely impact society, economy and the environment. Some are long standing, but have not been paid enough attention, like land mismanagement and desertification causing sand and dust storms and displacement. Some are persistent, for which new solutions and tools are emerging, like protection of marine and coastal resources, or reliable, affordable energy solutions. And some are emerging from the new scientific findings that warrant urgent intervention, like the rapid uptake of nanomaterials, the growing resistance to antibiotics, and synthetic biology.

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"We believe that UN Environment is a powerhouse of knowledge about the state of the environment. It's a broker of best practices among Member States and an organization that triggers debate about our environment."

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Jochen Flasbarth,  
State Secretary, Germany



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"UN Environment identifies emerging environmental issues and innovates to tackle challenges."

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Edna Molina,  
Minister, South Africa

## WE ENABLE.

Governments turn to us for guidance and solutions, and for support in building their capacity. We help countries integrate environmental sustainability into development and investment planning. Thanks to our support, many countries have stronger environmental institutions, better legal instruments, enhanced technical capacity, greater knowledge, greener investments and better cross-border collaboration.

By bringing people from governments, civil society, academia and the private sector together, we encourage discussions and enable the sharing of ideas, technology, innovations and lessons learned.

With our support, including as an implementing agency, many countries benefit from substantial contributions from major environmental funds such as the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Green Climate Fund (GCF).

We are also appreciated for the free access to environmental information, for providing tools such as integrated environmental assessments, for enabling South-South cooperation, and for education and awareness-raising campaigns.

One of the major achievements of the UN Environment Programme since our creation in 1972 has been the initiation, negotiation and implementation of a large number of multilateral environmental agreements, bringing together nations and the environmental community to tackle the challenges of our time. These global environmental agreements, or conventions, complement and guide national legislation and bilateral or regional agreements by forming the overarching international legal basis for global efforts to address particular environmental issues.

We provide the secretariat for 14 multilateral environmental agreements. These conventions concern a wide range of environmental issues such as emissions, hazards of chemicals, protection of biodiversity, protection of endangered and migratory species, protection of oceans, protection of the ozone layer, and more. They enable countries to put in place sound and effective environmental policies and legislation. In addition, we provide programmatic support to several other conventions.



Photo: © CIFOR



A report from the Montreal Protocol in 2018 shows that the Antarctic ozone hole is scheduled to recover in the 2060s.

## HEALING THE OZONE LAYER AND CURBING CLIMATE CHANGE

A global deal that has the potential to both protect the ozone layer and contain global warming was struck in October 2016 and entered into force on 1 January 2019. The Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer could contribute to preventing as much as 0.4°C in temperature rise by the end of the century by reducing the emissions of powerful greenhouse gases, hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs).

The UN Environment Programme hosts the secretariat of the Montreal Protocol, which is one of the most successful multilateral environmental treaties, with universal ratification by 197 parties. Agreed in 1987, the Montreal Protocol entered into force in 1989. As a result, the ozone layer is slowly recovering. With the Kigali Amendment in force, the Montreal Protocol continues to be crucial also for curbing climate change. The magnitude of the avoided temperature rise due to the Kigali amendment is substantial in the context of the global 2°C limit agreed at the Paris climate conference.

## PROTECTING PEOPLE FROM MERCURY

Mercury contamination poses serious health risks given its negative impact on the nervous system. The UN Environment Programme has played a crucial role in raising global awareness about mercury and its threats to human health and the environment. In 2002, we released a scientific report on this issue. We have since facilitated and driven the process of intergovernmental negotiations. After many rounds of consultations and intergovernmental negotiations, the Minamata Convention on Mercury entered into force in 2017, signalling that the world had reached an agreement on effective, concerted global action to protect human health and the environment from emissions and releases of mercury and mercury compounds caused by human activity.

The UN Environment Programme's Global Mercury Partnership, initiated in 2005, works closely with stakeholders to assist in the effective implementation of the Minamata Convention. In 2018, the UN Environment Programme, as a contribution to the Partnership, assisted 24 countries to develop national action plans for reducing mercury use in artisanal and small-scale gold mining, the largest source of mercury pollution in the world.



Human activity contributes to the largest portion of mercury release. The largest source is from artisanal and small-scale gold mining.



Photo: © Ben Evans

Cuvette Centrale, in addition to being a storage for greenhouse gases, is also home to 14 globally threatened species including bonobos, gorillas and chimpanzees. This peatland is a global treasure that deserves global attention and efforts.

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“The good thing we have been doing with UN Environment is to be able to show that local action is the way towards sustainable development.”

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**Sascha Gabizon,  
Executive Director,  
Women in Europe  
for Common Future**

## GLOBAL PEATLANDS INITIATIVE

While peatlands cover only 3 per cent of the global land surface, they store nearly 550 billion tonnes of carbon – twice as much as all the world's forests. They also provide valuable ecosystem services. The Global Peatlands Initiative, led by us and a group of more than 20 partners, is an effort by renowned experts and institutions to save peatlands as the world's largest terrestrial organic carbon stock, and to prevent it being emitted into the atmosphere.

In 2018, at the third partnership meeting of the Initiative, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and the Republic of Congo released the Brazzaville Declaration. The Declaration promotes better management and conservation of the Cuvette Centrale region in the Congo Basin, the world's largest tropical peatlands. There is a lot at stake in the protection of these peatlands: the equivalent of three years of global greenhouse gas emissions are stored in the Congo Basin, emissions that could be released if the peatlands are degraded or the natural wetlands drained.

The Declaration commits the two countries to cooperate on peatland preservation and develop land use plans to promote their conservation and protection, and prevent drainage and degradation. Indonesia, a pioneer country in peatland restoration, also signed the Declaration. As a part of a South-South exchange, best practices and lessons learned from Indonesia's efforts to restore peatlands will benefit the two Congos.

## RECYCLING RUBBLE FROM CONFLICT

The UN Environment Programme uses dynamic partnerships and draws on its expertise to deliver innovative and efficient environmental solutions following natural and man-made crises.

In the newly liberated Mosul, Iraq, after months of devastating warfare at the hands of ISIL fighters, we carried out a rapid scoping mission with partners to identify all environmental hazards. Aside from oil and sulphur pollution, satellite-based analysis revealed conflict-related debris of 11 million tonnes. Based on the findings, we modelled scenarios

and provided leading technical expertise to clear up the town. In partnership with other UN agencies, the Iraqi government, Mosul municipality and local experts, we assessed the volume and distribution of the rubble, planned how debris removal could be done in a structured manner, and provided technical guidance in designing and implementing debris recycling projects in collaboration with Mosul local authorities.

These recycling initiatives will support the United Nations Development Programme's and the International Organization for Migration's efforts in creating cash-for-work activities for local communities and returnees while at the same ensuring that the work is carried out in an environmentally sound and safe manner. This will also be the first time that debris recycling projects are implemented in Iraq, with the potential to replicate them in other areas of the country.

Our work has also helped change the way Mosul municipality and UN agencies deal with debris – from dumping it in an uncontrolled manner to recycling the rubble to support Mosul's reconstruction, livelihoods, and to reduce resource extraction.



Photo: © GEF | Lisa Murray

As part of creating a new green economy, we support countries in their move towards using more energy efficient equipments and products.

## PARTNERSHIP FOR ACTION ON GREEN ECONOMY

Since the start of its activities in 2014, the Partnership for Action on Green Economy has grown into a prominent alliance of five UN agencies, including the UN Environment Programme, eight funding partners and 18 countries that work together to foster economic growth, create income and jobs, reduce poverty and inequality, and strengthen the ecological foundations of their economies by transforming investments and economic policies. The Partnership is increasingly recognized as a model to deliver coordinated support to countries for achieving Sustainable Development Goals and targets of the Paris Agreement. More than 60 countries are benefiting from capacity building services of the Partnership and have initiated their own actions, while over 95 countries have participated in knowledge events and over 2,500 people have been trained. Thirteen countries are receiving multiyear support on macroeconomics and green finance, green jobs, poverty reduction, green industry and trade, and green economy learning.



Al-Nineveh Street, the commercial centre of Mosul's Old City, lies in complete ruin. Debris recycling in Mosul can realize significant cost savings, create jobs and reduce environmental pressure for new raw materials



An innovative finance project in Indonesia is providing jobs while preserving the habitat of endangered species.

## FINANCING FOR SUSTAINABLE LAND USE

Forests and agriculture hold more than 30 per cent of the solution to the climate crisis but receive less than 3 per cent of climate finance. To feed a growing population and stop catastrophic climate change at the same time, it is critical that we transition to sustainable, deforestation-free agriculture. However, the path has been obstructed by prohibitive cost and financial risk for lenders and investors when financing this transition. By combining the capabilities of banks, governments and agri-businesses through blended financial instruments, the UN Environment Programme and partners such as Rabobank and BNP Paribas have now set out to overcome this hurdle and trigger a transformational shift in unlocking and scaling up private finance to save forests, restore landscapes, create jobs and transition to climate-smart agriculture.

A landmark example is the world's first landscape bond of over US\$95 million, issued by the Tropical Landscape Finance Facility and developed by BNP Paribas and ADM Capital, which is financing a sustainable rubber plantation on degraded land in Indonesia and creating 16,000 fair-wage jobs. In addition, concession areas form a buffer zone, protecting one of the last places in Indonesia

where elephants, tigers and orangutans co-exist.

The UN Environment Programme is now scaling up this experience, including through a new privately financed US\$1 billion fund, the Agri3 Fund, to finance sustainable agriculture investments in developing countries.

## PARTNERING WITH THE FINANCIAL SECTOR

The UN Environment Programme's Finance Initiative is a global partnership with the global financial sector, created in the wake of the 1992 Earth Summit, with a mission to promote sustainable finance. More than 230 financial institutions, including banks, insurers and investors, work with us to understand today's environmental, social and governance challenges, why they matter to finance, and how to actively participate in addressing them. The Finance Initiative has been working for 26 years to bridge the gap between global financial institutions and the environmental agenda, for the benefit of both people and the planet. It includes a strong focus on policy by facilitating country-level dialogues between finance practitioners, supervisors, regulators and policymakers. At the international level, it promotes the involvement of the financial sector in processes such as the global climate negotiations.



Our activities help mobilize additional investments in clean energy.



The Investor Agenda brings together the Finance Initiative with six of its key strategic partners from around the globe to implement and promote actions that meet the goals of the 2015 Paris Agreement and accelerate action for a low-carbon world. At the Conference of Parties (COP) 24 in 2018, the Investor Agenda – 415 investors representing US\$32 trillion in assets under management – delivered the largest policy intervention to date from investors on climate change, where they called on governments around the world to step up action to address climate change.



## STRENGTHENING ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

Environmental law, coupled with effective institutions to ensure its implementation, is critical to achieve the 2030 Agenda and its Goals. In the last four decades, through four consecutive iterations of our 10-year programme for the progressive development of environmental law, known as the Montevideo Programme, our efforts have led to the development of international legal frameworks, stronger institutions and legal frameworks at national level, and enhanced knowledge and understanding of emerging legal issues.

Our first ever global assessment of environmental rule of law, released on January 2019, identifies substantive global achievements, such as the ones mentioned above. However, the report also found that despite a 38-fold increase in environmental laws put in place since 1972, failure to fully implement and enforce these laws is one of the greatest challenges to mitigating climate change, reducing pollution and preventing widespread loss of species and habitat.

Building on the lessons learned, we aim to invest more in strengthening environmental law frameworks and capacities worldwide, on the basis of a country-driven, closely monitored and focused new programme that will address emerging and pressing issues, particularly those highlighted by UN Environment Assembly resolutions.

Through our Finance Initiative we are working to bridge the gap between global financial institutions and the environmental agenda.

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“The UN Environment Programme is a very people-centric entity. It believes in inclusivity and bringing all stakeholders on board”

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**Raza Bashir Tarar,**  
High Commissioner, Pakistan

## WE INSPIRE.

We raise awareness and advocate for effective action on pressing environmental challenges. We communicate directly with decision makers and citizens worldwide – both within and beyond the environmental community – to inspire positive change in households, businesses, cities and countries around the globe.

Our thematic campaigns inform, inspire and commit people around the globe to act on behalf of the planet. They support delivery on UN Environment Assembly resolutions, our programme of work, and, ultimately, the Sustainable Development Goals.

By harnessing the power of prominent voices and social media, these efforts have seen considerable success, on issues ranging from the pollution of our oceans to the illegal trade in wildlife.

For example, World Environment Day is the UN's most important day for encouraging worldwide awareness and action for the protection of our environment. Since it began in 1974, it has grown to become a widely celebrated, global platform for public outreach.



World Environment  
Day 2018  
—  
Planting trees at  
Kibera informal  
settlement, Nairobi  
Kenya.

Photo: © UN Environment



Photo: © Shutterstock

## WILD FOR LIFE

The illegal trade in wildlife is driving species such as elephants, rhinos, tigers, orangutans, helmeted hornbills and pangolins to the brink of extinction. At the heart of illegal trade is the unsustainable demand for wildlife and wildlife products, which in turn motivates both opportunistic poaching and harvesting, and organized crime.

The Wild for Life campaign aims to mobilize individuals, businesses and governments around the world to use their sphere of influence to help end the illegal trade in wildlife products. The campaign also engages with celebrities from different countries, who speak up against the illegal trade in wildlife. The Wild for Life campaign has reached 1.5 billion people since 2016 and mobilized support from millions of individuals, businesses and governments to use their influence to help end this trade. In 2018, the campaign grew to 16 species, including the lion, the jaguar and the snow leopard.

Orangutans are called the 'people of the forest'. They love their alone time, and are known to forge strong bonds of friendship. They are among the most endangered species in the world.



## DEFENDING THOSE WHO DEFEND OUR PLANET

Environmental rights have grown more rapidly than any other human right and are enshrined in over 100 constitutions. However, while the right to a healthy environment is increasingly recognized, it is also increasingly violated. On average, four environmental defenders are being killed every week. Around 40–50 per cent of all victims come from indigenous and local communities who are defending their lands and access to the natural resources they depend on for their survival and livelihoods. Women environmental defenders are especially vulnerable.

Through the UN Environmental Rights Initiative, we are building on two decades of our work, on outcomes of past projects and key UN Environment Assembly and Human Rights Council resolutions. The Initiative is bringing environmental protection nearer to the people by helping them better understand their rights and how to defend them,

working with media to improve coverage of rights issues, calling on the private sector to move beyond a culture of compliance to one where environmental rights are championed and assisting governments to fulfil their environmental rights obligations.

Since 2017, we have strengthened awareness of environmental rights among media from Kenya, Brazil, the United Arab Emirates and Qatar. We have enabled inspiring environmental defenders to share their stories on a global platform through international media, and a photo exhibition. We continue with the judicial, legal and prosecutorial work we do to strengthen rights and defend those who defend our planet.



Indigenous leaders from all over the world pray as they sail on the Seine in Paris during a gathering demanding true climate solutions, while the 2015 climate change conference (COP21) was convened.



Photo: © UN Environment

The FlipFlopi, a traditional dhow sailing boat made entirely from plastic trash from Kenya's beaches and towns, on its maiden voyage in 2019 from Lamu in Kenya to Zanzibar in Tanzania.

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“UN Environment has been a megaphone for marine litter and microplastics. Norway is particularly proud to have partnered with UN Environment to put this issue on the global environmental agenda.”

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Ola Elvestuen,  
Minister, Norway

## CLEANING UP OUR OCEANS

Marine litter is a global concern affecting all the oceans of the world. It poses environmental, economic, health and aesthetic challenges. To address this, strong coordinated action is needed.

The Regional Seas Programme, launched in 1974, is one of our most significant achievements in the protection of the coastal and marine environment in the past four decades. The Programme implements many of our marine-related policies. It addresses the accelerating degradation of the world's oceans and coastal areas by engaging neighbouring countries in comprehensive and specific actions to protect their common marine environment. Today, more than 143 countries have joined 18 Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans for the sustainable management and use of the marine and coastal environment. Of these 18 Regional Seas Conventions, seven are hosted by us and 13 have, or are developing, Regional Action Plans on Marine Litter.

We also host the secretariat for the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities since 1995. Roughly 80 per cent of marine pollution originates on land. The Global Programme aims at preventing the degradation of the marine environment

from land-based activities by facilitating the realization of the duty of States to preserve and protect the marine environment. It is unique in that it is the only global initiative directly addressing the connectivity between terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems. It also provides secretariat services for the Global Partnership on Marine Litter since 2012.

Zooming in on the type of marine litter, our Year Book in 2011 identified microplastics as an emerging environmental concern – with more than 8 million tonnes of plastic entering the oceans every year, they could contain more plastic than fish by 2050. So far, the UN Environment Assembly has adopted 3 resolutions on marine litter and microplastics.

To raise awareness and engage governments, the public and the private sector in the fight against marine plastic pollution, we launched the Clean Seas campaign (#CleanSeas on social media) in 2017. It is the UN's most ambitious effort yet to tackle marine pollution and address the root cause of marine litter by targeting the production and consumption of non-recoverable and single-use plastics. In 2018, #CleanSeas reached 35.7 million people. The website received over 600,000 page views and 56 countries are now part of the campaign.

## INNOVATION FOR GREENER FINANCES

The UN Environment Programme's Inquiry into the Design of a Sustainable Financial System, commonly known as "the Inquiry", recently completed its four-year mandate during which it inspired innovative thinking about sustainable and green financial and monetary policies, standards and regulations. The Inquiry was a collaboration between the G20, the G7, the United Nations and the Financial Stability Board, with involvement of the private sector, as well as international financial institutions and multilateral development banks.

During the four-year mandate of the Inquiry, green bond issuance grew from US\$11 billion in 2013 to US\$155 billion in 2017, while policy measures to advance sustainable finance doubled over four years to 300.

## INSPIRING SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

Adopted in 2012 at the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production, hosted by us, is a global commitment to accelerate the shift towards sustainable consumption and production in both developed and developing countries.

To implement the commitment of the Framework, partners formed the One Planet Network, a multi-stakeholder partnership for sustainable development. It aims to generate collective impact through its six programmes: Public Procurement, Buildings and Construction, Tourism, Food Systems, Consumer Information, and Lifestyles and Education. The Network supports the global shift to Sustainable Consumption and Production and the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 12.

## THE GOOD LIFE GOALS

In parallel to the macro strategies aimed at advancing the 2030 Agenda, a global movement for sustainable lifestyles is underway – a drive for a redefined "good life" involving individuals, brands, community groups and educators. In 2018, to bridge the gap between the Sustainable Development Goals and the sustainable lifestyles movement, we developed Good Life Goals together with partners. They are a set of personal lifestyle actions that people around the world can take to help support the Sustainable Development Goals. Their aim is to help policy-makers, businesses, civil society groups, educators and creative professionals inspire enthusiasm, connection and action from the public in support of the Goals.



Photo: © CIFOR | Marlon del Aguila Guerrero

# OUR STRATEGY AND PROGRAMME

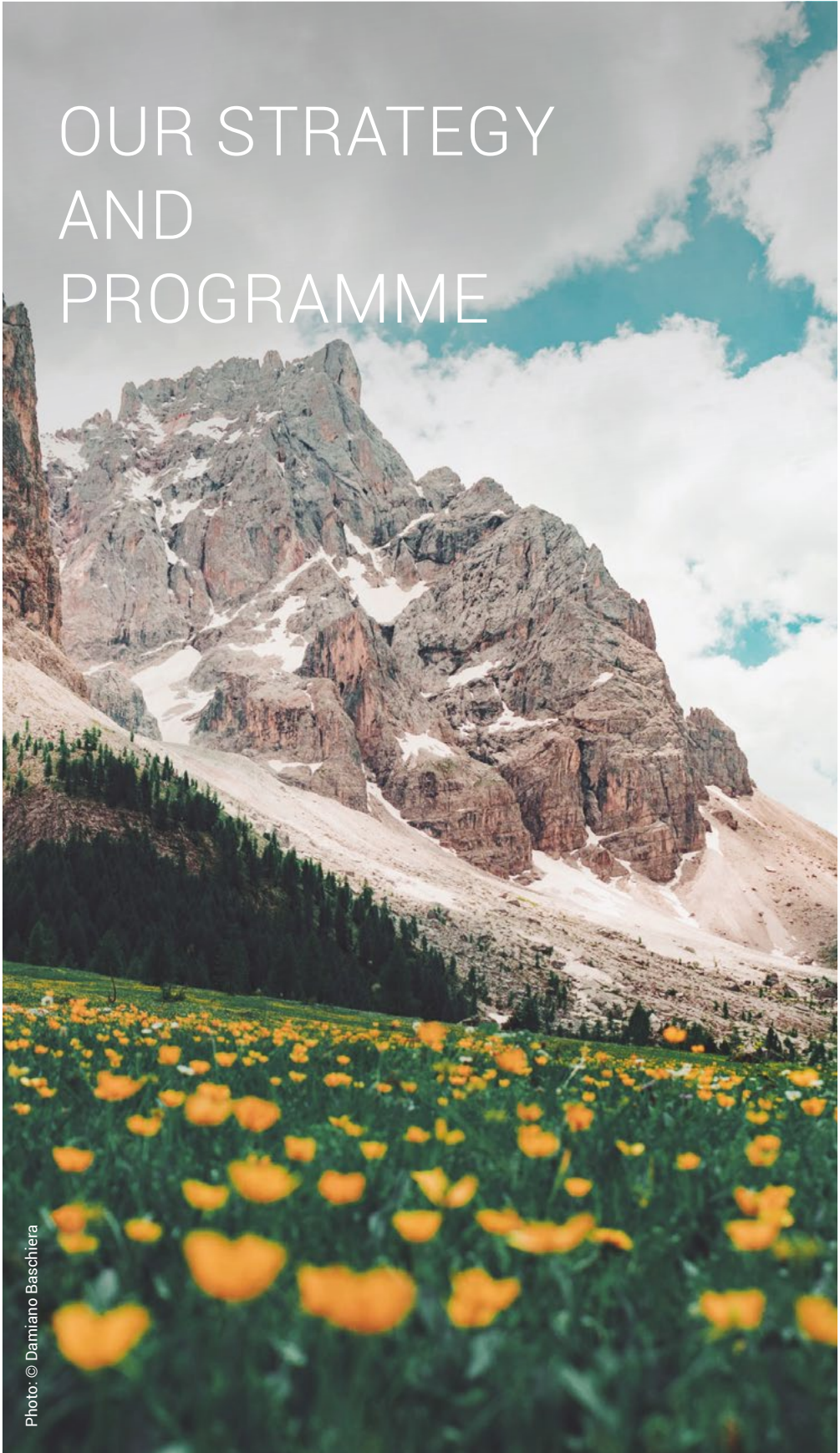


Photo: © Damiano Baschiera

## OUR CONTRIBUTION TO THE SDGS

Achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development requires a new paradigm in which work on issues such as health, education and, critically, the environment, is no longer carried out in silos, but is intrinsically linked.

The UN Environment Programme, building on our substantive work on science and evidence-based policymaking, has contributed to ensuring that environmental concerns are integrated into all the Sustainable Development Goals, instead of developing separate specific Goals for the environment.

About half of the 17 Goals address the sustainable management of natural resources. Over 86 of the 169 targets concern environmental sustainability, including at least one in each of the 17 Goals.

As the custodian agency for 26 of the 230 agreed indicators, we are well placed to support countries to track their progress. The UN Environment Programme is committed to the UN Development System Reform, and we work with 48 other UN agencies on a system-wide framework to align their programmes and strategies to the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda.

Our medium-term strategy (2018-2021) outlines the chain of results to move from the current situation to outcomes and impacts in line with the 2030 Agenda. The strategy guides our biennial programmes of work, which in turn contribute to supporting our Member States achieve all 17 Goals. The programme of work and budget are reviewed and endorsed by Member States every two years.

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“UN Environment is a powerful platform to promote social, economic and environmental development.”

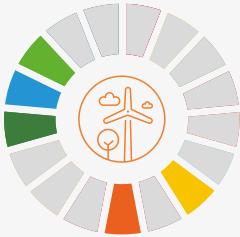
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**Alexander Teabo,**  
Minister, Kiribati

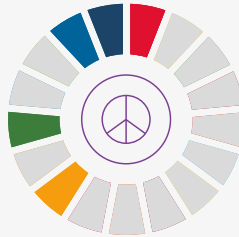




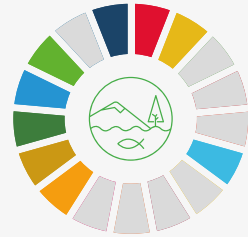
## OVERVIEW OF SDGs TARGETED BY UN ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME SUBPROGRAMMES



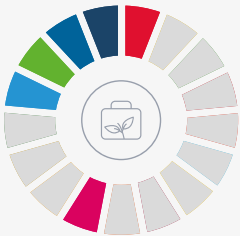
CLIMATE CHANGE



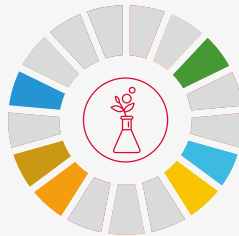
RESILIENCE TO DISASTERS AND CONFLICTS



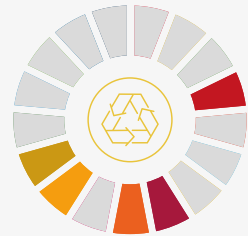
HEALTHY AND PRODUCTIVE ECOSYSTEMS



ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE



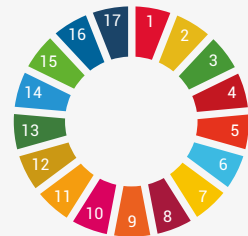
CHEMICALS, WASTE AND AIR QUALITY



RESOURCE EFFICIENCY



ENVIRONMENT UNDER REVIEW



THE 17 SDGs



## TRUSTED PARTNER

We apply a strong focus on results-based programming and learning lessons from our work. This is mirrored by our approach to evaluations – our independent Evaluation Office assesses our performance against the planned use of resources in our projects and programmes, providing accountability back to our funding partners.

Our evaluations also enable us to continuously improve performance through the feedback and learning opportunities they provide, and by tracking the implementation of evaluation recommendations. This ensures that we are better positioned to address environmental challenges and ultimately contribute substantially to a healthier, more sustainable world for all.

We collaborate closely with the United Nations Board of Auditors, the Office of Internal Oversight Services and other oversight mechanisms that provide independent expert advice and recommendations for improved efficiency, effectiveness, transparency and compliance with our regulations and rules. They also report on the health of our finances.



Our annual Programme Performance Report provides a transparent overview of our programme implementation and budget expenditure; demonstrates key results and successes; as well as outlines challenges faced.



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“Each investor, that means, each country, is at the same time a beneficiary”

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Ydalia Acevedo Monegro,  
Vice Minister,  
Dominican Republic



## FUNDING

The UN Environment Programme depends on voluntary contributions for 95 per cent of the income. Voluntary contributions consist of both flexible, unearmarked or softly earmarked funds, and funds that are earmarked to specific projects, themes or countries.

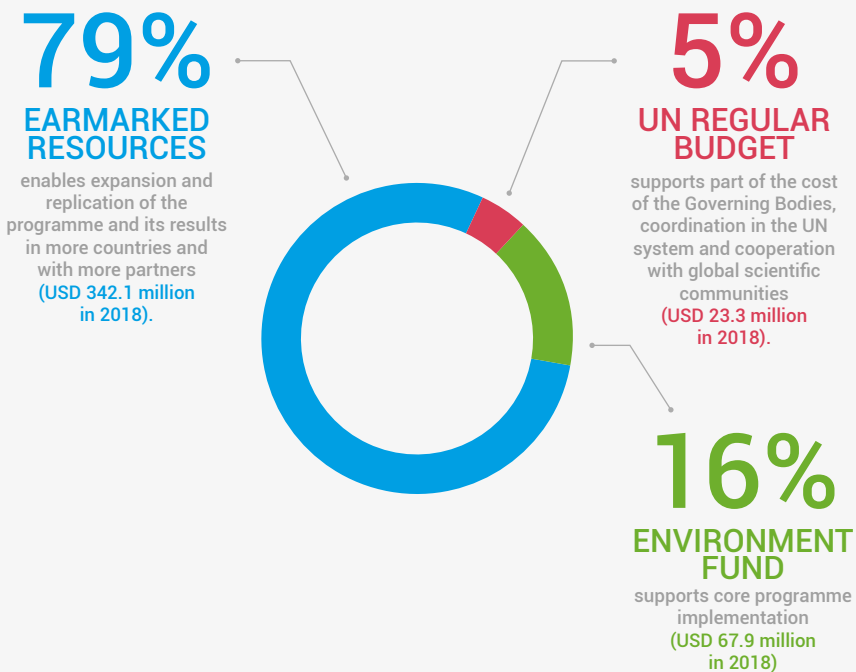
The Environment Fund is our core source of flexible funds, complemented by softly earmarked funding provided by some Member States. It supports the bedrock of our work worldwide, by providing for the essential capacity to implement our programme of work, which is endorsed by our Member States. It enables identification of emerging issues, innovative solutions, advocacy and awareness raising, capacity building, results-focused programme management and oversight. It also supports our convening power to bring together governments, the private sector and civil society in advancing the global environmental agenda. These

funds are critical as we support countries to deliver on the environmental dimensions of the 2030 Agenda.

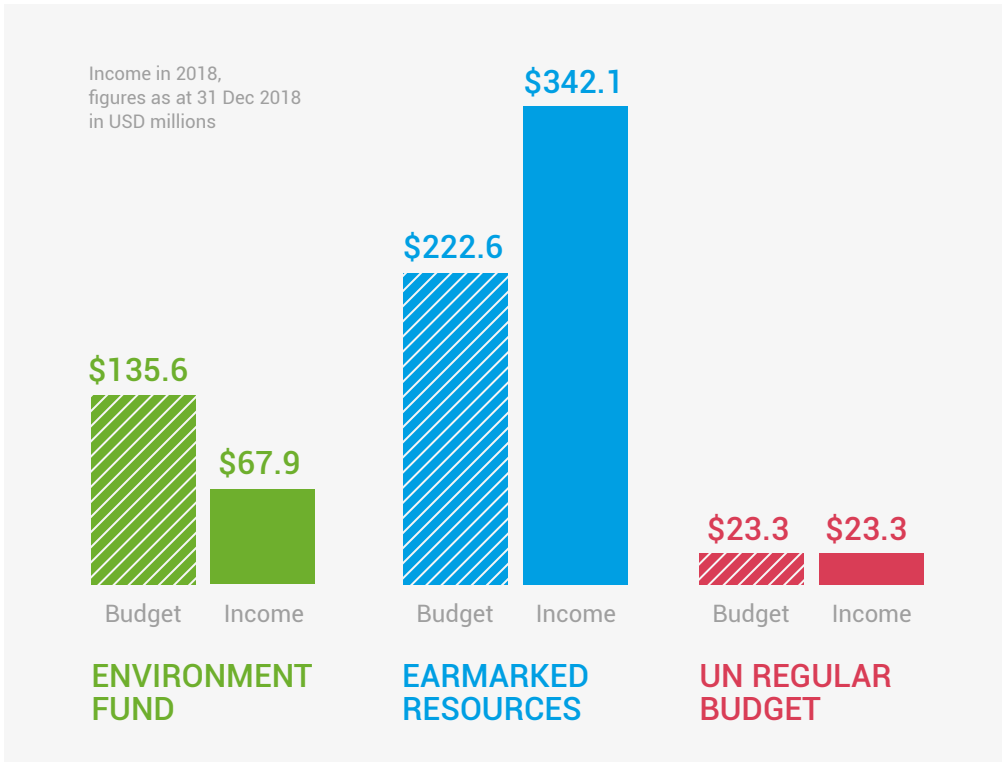
The Environment Fund invests in essential capacity and expertise to deliver the work that Member States mandate the UN Environment Programme to do. Of the fund, 85 per cent is used for the seven thematic sub-programmes. The rest supports strategic direction, management and programme support, which are critical for implementing the organization's vision and ensuring robust oversight and delivery.

The Environment Fund and the softly earmarked funds that provide for our core capacity also enable us to leverage earmarked funds for upscaling and replicating the results of our core work – including building capacity in more countries and with more partners.

### HOW IS THE UN ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME FUNDED?



Income in 2018, figures as at 31 Dec 2018



### TOP 15 CONTRIBUTORS TO THE ENVIRONMENT FUND

NETHERLANDS	\$9.1
GERMANY	\$8.9
FRANCE	\$7.6
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	\$6.1
SWEDEN	\$5.1
BELGIUM	\$4.6
UNITED KINGDOM	\$4.3
SWITZERLAND	\$3.8
NORWAY	\$3.0
CANADA	\$2.4
JAPAN	\$2.4
FINLAND	\$1.7
CHINA	\$1.5
RUSSIAN FEDERATION	\$0.9
IRELAND	\$0.6

### TOP 15 CONTRIBUTORS TO EARMARKED FUNDS

GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY (GEF)	\$126.7
UN SISTER ORGANISATIONS	\$48.4
PRIVATE SECTOR	\$26.6
GREEN CLIMATE FUND	\$26.4
EUROPEAN COMMISSION	\$21.4
DENMARK	\$16.7
NORWAY	\$15.4
SWEDEN	\$10.0
JAPAN	\$9.8
GERMANY	\$8.2
FRANCE	\$6.6
LUXEMBOURG	\$3.4
FINANCE INITIATIVE	\$3.0
ITALY	\$2.8
SWITZERLAND	\$2.5

Income in 2018, figures as at 31 Dec 2018 in USD millions

# OUR CALL FOR ACTION



Photo © CIFOR | Olivier Girard

## A GLOBAL, SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

In 2012, at the Rio+20 UN Conference, the General Assembly adopted a resolution that reaffirmed and strengthened the governance and the role of the UN Environment Programme in the UN system.

We went from having a Governing Council of 58 Member States to an Environment Assembly, with universal membership that encompasses all 193 UN Member States.

To enable the organization to deliver on its strengthened mandate, the world leaders also committed to ensure secure, stable, adequate and increased financial resources to the UN Environment Programme.

A global, shared responsibility calls for an increased and un-earmarked investment in the UN Environment Programme.

The success of the UN Environment Programme's work highly depends on the contributions made by Member States and other partners. Multi-year commitments, increased and adequate resources, and timely payments are therefore extremely critical. In particular, increased core contributions to the Environment Fund enable us to deliver our expected results more effectively.

We are grateful to our partners for the contributions they give to the UN Environment Programme.



## OUR CALL FOR ACTION

Funding the UN Environment Programme is the responsibility of all 193 Member States. Currently, only 83 Member States contribute to the UN Environment Programme.

We need your support to deliver the mandate you expect from us.

**Fulfil the commitment made in the Rio+20 Summit – close the funding gap.**

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“Environmental challenges faced by the world have never been greater than today. Now it is time to act together. I encourage all countries to join in and help to build a strong UN Environment, including by financial contributions to the Environment Fund.”

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**Kimmo Tiilikainen,  
Minister, Finland**





[unenvironment.org](https://unenvironment.org)

