

Committee of Permanent Representatives
Subcommittee Meeting
Thursday 31 October 2019
9.00 a.m. to 12.00 p.m.
United Nations Office in Nairobi, Gigiri
Conference Room 4

**Background document for Agenda Item 4:
The development of a new UN Environment Programme Strategy for South-South and
Triangular Cooperation.**

This note serves as a background document for the consideration of Agenda Item 4: on the development of a new UN Environment Programme Strategy for South-South and Triangular Cooperation. The strategy was initially considered by the Committee of Permanent Representatives during a briefing by the Secretariat held on 5 September 2019 and has been further developed and revised based on guidance received from member States.

Member States are invited to give additional guidance to the Secretariat on the basis of the revised draft, with a view to finalizing the Strategy by the next regular meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives scheduled for 10 December 2019.

Update on development of a new UN Environment Programme Strategy for South-South and Triangular Cooperation

Background

Following the Briefing by the Secretariat on 5 September 2019, whereby Member States considered the Initial Draft of the Strategy and provided initial comments, the Secretariat has developed a *Revised Draft UNEP Strategy for South-South and Triangular Cooperation*, which is presented as Annex I to this note. IN addition, a *Secretariat Response to Member States' Questions and Comments* is presented as Annex II to this note, and a list of *UNEP South-South and Triangular Cooperation Projects* is presented as Annex III.

The Strategy builds on extensive internal consultations within the Secretariat, considers all relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations General Assembly, UNEP's governing bodies, and the recent Second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation. It is also aligned with UNEP's Programme of Work, Medium Term Strategy, and other relevant policy guidelines and strategies, with the overall aim to enable UNEP to better support Member States through South-South and triangular cooperation and to consolidate relevant activities within UNEP and other UN Systems. To this end, the Strategy builds on established UN guidance as outlined in the "Framework of operational guidelines on United Nations support to South-South and triangular cooperation"¹ (2016) and the "Nairobi outcome document of the High-level United Nations conference on South-South Cooperation"² (2009).

The Strategy aims to ensure that the opportunities for South-South and triangular cooperation are systematically considered within UNEP, that related activities in projects and programmes are appropriately funded and designed in a deliberate and structured manner, and that relevant results and outcomes are visible, measurable and replicable.

It is anticipated that enhanced South-South and triangular cooperation will contribute to Member States' achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals under the UN 2030 Agenda.

Revisions undertaken to the initial draft Strategy

The Initial Draft Strategy presented to Member States on 5 September 2019 has been revised in line with comments received from Member States during the Briefing by the Secretariat and written comments provided by Member States following the session. An additional round of consultations with the South-South cooperation Community of Practice within UNEP also led to further inputs and subsequent adjustments to the Strategy.

Proposed Next Steps

The Revised Draft Strategy will be presented to Member States at the Meeting of the Subcommittee of the Committee of Permanent Representatives scheduled for 31 October 2019, with the opportunity to provide comments on the revised content as well as on the process for further consultation. Member States will be invited to provide further comments in writing by 15 November 2019.

¹ <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/826679>

² <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/673444>

A Final Draft of the Strategy, revised in line with comments received from Member States, will be made available for the consideration by Member States ahead of the regular meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives scheduled for 10 December 2019.

Annex I: *Revised Draft UNEP Strategy for South-South and Triangular Cooperation*

Annex II: *Secretariat Response to Member States' Questions and Comments*

Annex III: *UNEP South-South and Triangular Cooperation Projects*

Annex 1:

UNEP Strategy for South-South and Triangular Cooperation

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BACKGROUND

Cooperation among countries from the Global South has grown significantly over the last four decades and continues to expand. This cooperation is witnessed in almost all sectors but is focused primarily on trade, agriculture, health, education, communication, research, energy and development. Developing countries are increasingly working together to address their respective, common, and transboundary development challenges.

Since 1978, when the delegations from 138 states adopted a Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (the Buenos Aires Plan of Action), South-South cooperation (SSC) has been recognized as an important means of development cooperation and technology transfer.

Over the years, cooperation among developing countries – or South-South cooperation – has been endorsed as a mechanism for capacity development and technology transfer in numerous forums and through several resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) and UNEP's governing bodies.¹ (See: [Annex I: List of key resolutions that call for/endorse South-South and Triangular Cooperation.](#))

In 2005, the Bali Strategic Plan (BSP) on Technology Support and Capacity Building (UNEP/GC.23/6/Add.) recognised SSC as a means of supporting capacity-building efforts in developing countries and countries with economies in transition through systematic partnerships and the exchange of expertise, experiences, best practices and knowledge among experts and institutions of the Global South.

The Nairobi outcome document of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation (2009) requested the United Nations system to help developing countries to establish or strengthen South-South centres of excellence, within their respective areas of competence, and enhance closer cooperation among such centres of excellence, especially at the regional and interregional levels, with a view to improving South-South knowledge sharing, networking, mutual capacity-building, exchanges of information and best practices, policy analysis and coordinated action among developing countries on major issues of concern.

The Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (Addis Ababa Action Agenda) states that “South-South cooperation is an important element of international cooperation for development as a complement, not a substitute, to North-South cooperation.”²

The UN-wide “Framework of operational guidelines for UN support to South-South and triangular cooperation”³ (2016) calls upon UN agencies to take on the role of convener/advocate, knowledge

¹ First Governing Council and then the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA).

² Resolution 69/313 adopted by the General Assembly on 27 July 2015. Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (Addis Ababa Action Agenda).

³ [“Framework of operational guidelines on United Nations support to South-South and triangular cooperation”](#) (2016).

broker, partnership builder, analyst and progress monitor of South-South and triangular cooperation (SSTC⁴).

In March 2019, during the Second United Nations High-Level Conference on South-South Cooperation (BAPA+40), the international community reaffirmed its commitment to SSC and called for greater South-South cooperation for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In the 2030 Agenda, Goal 17: “Revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development”, places particular emphasis on the critical role of South-South and triangular cooperation as a means for capacity-building in developing countries (Target 17.9), and access to science, technology and innovation and enhanced knowledge sharing on mutually agreed terms (Target 17.6).

SECTION I: Purpose of the Strategy

This Strategy provides a framework through which UNEP’s support to Member States on SSTC will be enhanced during the coming decade (2020-2030). The Strategy is aligned to other corporate policy documents and guidelines such as the Medium-Term Strategy (MTS) and the Programme of Work (PoW), Resource Mobilisation Strategy (2018), the Private Sector Engagement Strategy (2019), UNEP’s Programme Manual’s partnerships section, Gender Equality and the Environment Policy and Strategy (2016) and the Environmental, Social and Economic Sustainability Framework⁵ (2014).

This Strategy has been developed to respond to the following:

1. Resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly and UNEP’s governing bodies (see footnote 1);
2. The Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-Building (2005);
3. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (2015);
4. The Nairobi Outcome Document of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation (2009);
5. The 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals;
6. The Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) Report on South-South and Triangular Cooperation (2009);
7. The Outcome Document of the Second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation (BAPA+40);⁶
8. Other relevant UN General Assembly resolutions and Resolutions of the UNEP Governing Council and UN Environment Assembly.

⁴ South-South and triangular cooperation (SSTC) includes both cooperation among developing countries exclusively (SSC) and triangular cooperation between developing countries supported by a developed-world partner (see definitions Section II).

⁵ Note: UNEP is currently developing a new “UNEP Environmental and Social Sustainability Framework” which will be referred to and complied with in place of the 2014 Framework once adopted.

⁶ BAPA+40 called for establishment of focal points in UN System organizations, development of strategies or frameworks for SSTC and for enhanced efforts in provision of support to countries with regard to SSTC among other instructions.

The Strategy follows the Framework of operational guidelines on United Nations support to SSTC issued by the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation in 2016 as a guide to UN agencies (and others) in mainstreaming SSTC into their work. It is developed based on lessons learned and consultations with staff from different offices and divisions as well as external counterparts.

It is anticipated that the implementation of the Strategy will result in better design, implementation, coordination, monitoring and reporting of SSTC in UNEP and that Member States will benefit from enhanced, coordinated and coherent SSTC support from the organisation towards the attainment of the SDGs and multilateral environmental agreements.

The Strategy will also enable UNEP to be fit for purpose in engaging with UN country Teams and Regional Platforms under a reformed UN Development System. A priority of the reform is the renewed focus and emphasis on UN

Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (UNSDCF or “Cooperation Frameworks”, formerly UN Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs)) which consider South-South cooperation as an effective means to address development challenges. As stated in the UNSDCF Guidance: “there is **explicit recognition of regional and transboundary elements** within the UN country analysis and the UNSDCF” which “includes and contributes to regional, sub-regional and transboundary strategies and partnerships, both external and internal to the UN. It **actively facilitates South-South cooperation and contributes to Triangular cooperation.**”⁷

This Strategy is meant for project managers, project team members, supervisors, sub-programme coordinators, division directors and all staff involved in the design, implementation, monitoring, reporting and evaluation of projects and/or the programme of work.

“Innovative forms of knowledge exchange, technology transfer, emergency response and recovery of livelihoods, led by the South, are transforming lives”

Secretary-General in November 2018, during the inauguration of the 10th South-South Development Expo at UN Headquarters in New York.

SECTION II: Definition, Principles and Forms of South-South and Triangular Cooperation

Definition of South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation

UNEP adopts the definition of SSC as outlined in the 2016 “Framework of operational guidelines on United Nations support to South-South and triangular cooperation” which states that **South-South cooperation** is: “A process whereby two or more developing countries⁸ pursue their individual and/or shared national capacity development objectives through exchanges of knowledge, skills, resources and technical knowhow, and through regional and interregional collective actions, including partnerships

⁷ [Sixth Draft: United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework \(UNSDCF\) – Guidance](#) (2019).

⁸ Within this strategy countries with economies in transition will fall under the broad category of developing countries and are therefore included in the Global South.

involving Governments, regional organizations, civil society, academia and the private sector, for their [...] mutual benefit within and across regions.” SSC is not a substitute for, but a complement to, North-South cooperation.

Triangular cooperation involves Southern-driven partnerships between two or more developing countries supported by a developed country(ies) and/or multilateral organisation(s) to implement development cooperation programmes and projects.

Within these definitions, UNEP works to support and facilitate SSTC among Member States in areas related to its mandate on the environment.

In alignment with the Nairobi outcome document of the High-Level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation (2009), UNEP considers that SSTC embraces a multi-stakeholder approach, including non-governmental organisations, the private sector, civil society, academia and other actors that contribute to meeting development challenges and objectives in line with national development strategies and plans.

Principles of South-South and Triangular Cooperation

UNEP further adopts the following normative and operational principles of SSC outlined in the 2009 Nairobi outcome document of the High-Level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation. These principles will guide UNEP’s support to both South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation.

(a) Normative principles

- Respect for national sovereignty and ownership
- Partnership among equals
- Non-conditionality
- Non-interference in domestic affairs
- Mutual benefit

(b) Operational principles

- Mutual accountability and transparency
- Development effectiveness
- Coordination of evidence - and results-based initiatives
- Demand-oriented (initiated or requested by one or several countries from the South)

UNEP’s involvement in any project will be aimed at raising and upholding environmental and socio-economic standards and will be guided by the principles outlined in paragraph 14 of the BAPA+40 Outcome Document: “We underline the need to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for achieving sustainable development, and to build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels. Good governance, rule of law, human rights, fundamental freedoms, equal access to fair justice systems, and measures to combat corruption and curb illicit financial flows will be integral to our efforts.”

Forms of South-South and Triangular Cooperation

SSTC initiatives undertaken by UNEP may take various forms including:

- **Sharing knowledge, experiences and good practices:** one or more developing countries with experience and expertise in a certain domain exchange(s) this experience and expertise with one or more other developing countries.
- **Development/strengthening of networks:** several institutions from different developing countries form a network and work together within this network.
- **Capacity-building:** delivered from stakeholders of one or more developing countries to actors in one or more other developing countries, increasing their ability to promote development within a southern country.
- **Partnership development:** developing countries start a partnership and set up a common project to build on development.
- **Peer-to-peer learning.**
- **Technical cooperation.**
- **Technology transfer and matchmaking between needs and available solutions.**

For any of the above-mentioned forms, to be considered as SSTC, activities should include:

- a. **Exchange** (of knowledge, best practice, technology, etc),
- b. **Application** (of knowledge, best practice, technology, etc, gained from the exchange),
- c. **Transformation** (in the country/countries taking part in the exchange).

UNEP's role is primarily that of facilitation of partnerships, provision of technical assistance and capacity building, and knowledge provider.

SECTION III: South-South and Triangular Cooperation in UNEP and the UN system

South-South and Triangular Cooperation in UNEP

UNEP has for many years used South-South and triangular cooperation as a key mechanism in the delivery of its Programme of Work and Medium-Term Strategy through its projects across all subprogrammes. UNEP's various SSTC initiatives have enabled wide-ranging progress on environmental challenges in developing countries.

The "Integrating South-South Cooperation in the UNEP Programmes of Work: Policy Guidance" developed in 2011 has been the guiding document for the delivery of recent South-South and triangular cooperation efforts within UNEP. Based on this guidance document, UNEP has endeavoured to integrate SSTC into its projects and programmes so that SSTC is not seen as a stand-alone initiative or programme but rather as an integral cross-cutting delivery mechanism that should be systematically integrated into the Programme of Work.

The importance of SSTC in environmental management and governance is evidenced by its use in the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements and the existence of various South-South and/or regional centres of excellence established at the request of Member States.

However, since SSTC is a mechanism or tool to achieve impact and not a goal in itself, collaboration among countries in the Global South does not always have the visibility which reflects these achievements. For example, although the environmental governance part of the current PoW does not refer directly to SSTC, this type of cooperation is embedded in projects where outcomes have been delivered by providing fora for developing countries to learn from each other's experiences and expertise and to generate good practices that can address environmental concerns. As a number of larger projects incorporate SSTC in their design and use it as a core mechanism for their implementation, there is a considerable untapped opportunity to improve the capturing of lessons learnt and reporting on South-South and triangular cooperation at corporate level.

Knowledge-sharing on results and experiences of projects among staff and with Member States could help avoid duplication of efforts, leapfrog development through use of appropriate technologies and existing solutions, helping to create new synergies among projects.

Further efforts can be made to optimise the potential for countries to benefit from the numerous successful initiatives that have been undertaken with UNEP support over the years and the learnings extracted from these experiences. A more systematic and targeted use of SSTC in the organisation will help ensure that SSTC activities are deliberate, well thought out and that their resulting outcomes are made visible and measurable.

"... the multilateral development system must be better positioned to support South-South cooperation and implement the 2030 Agenda. South-South cooperation has evolved significantly over the last decades — but multilateral institutions, including the United Nations, have not kept up."

Remarks by UN Secretary-General António Guterres to the Second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 20 March 2019.

South-South and Triangular Cooperation in the UN System

The Framework of operational guidelines on United Nations support to South-South and triangular cooperation released by the Secretary-General in May 2016 provided “priority actions and performance indicators for United Nations organizations and agencies, including regional commissions, towards mainstreaming their support for South-South and triangular cooperation at the global, regional and national levels.” It is a “tool and reference manual on ways to mainstream South-South and triangular cooperation in the development planning and programming of United Nations funds, programmes, specialized agencies and regional commissions at the global, regional and country levels.” It states that: “for South-South and triangular cooperation to have its intended impact, it is necessary to improve overall system-wide policy frameworks, governance, coordination, structures, mechanisms and dedicated resources. Some specific actions to help to bolster the mainstreaming of South-South cooperation in United Nations policies and programmes are (a) working with a common definition; (b) setting up intra-agency support structures, such as a dedicated South-South and triangular cooperation unit in each agency, and focal points at all levels; (c) systematically applying guidelines and guidance; (d) systematically using reporting mechanisms; (e) ensuring, where appropriate, adequate funding from agency budgets; (f) taking effective action at the regional level; (g) matching resources to the United Nations mandates regarding South-South cooperation; (h) developing a coherent strategy for triangular cooperation; and (i) strengthening coordination at the regional and country levels.”

Several UN programmes and specialised agencies, including UNDP, UNEP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNIDO, FAO, and ILO, have dedicated South-South cooperation strategies and specific programmes⁹, units, guidelines and tools for promoting South-South exchanges.

SECTION IV: UNEP South-South and Triangular Cooperation Objectives

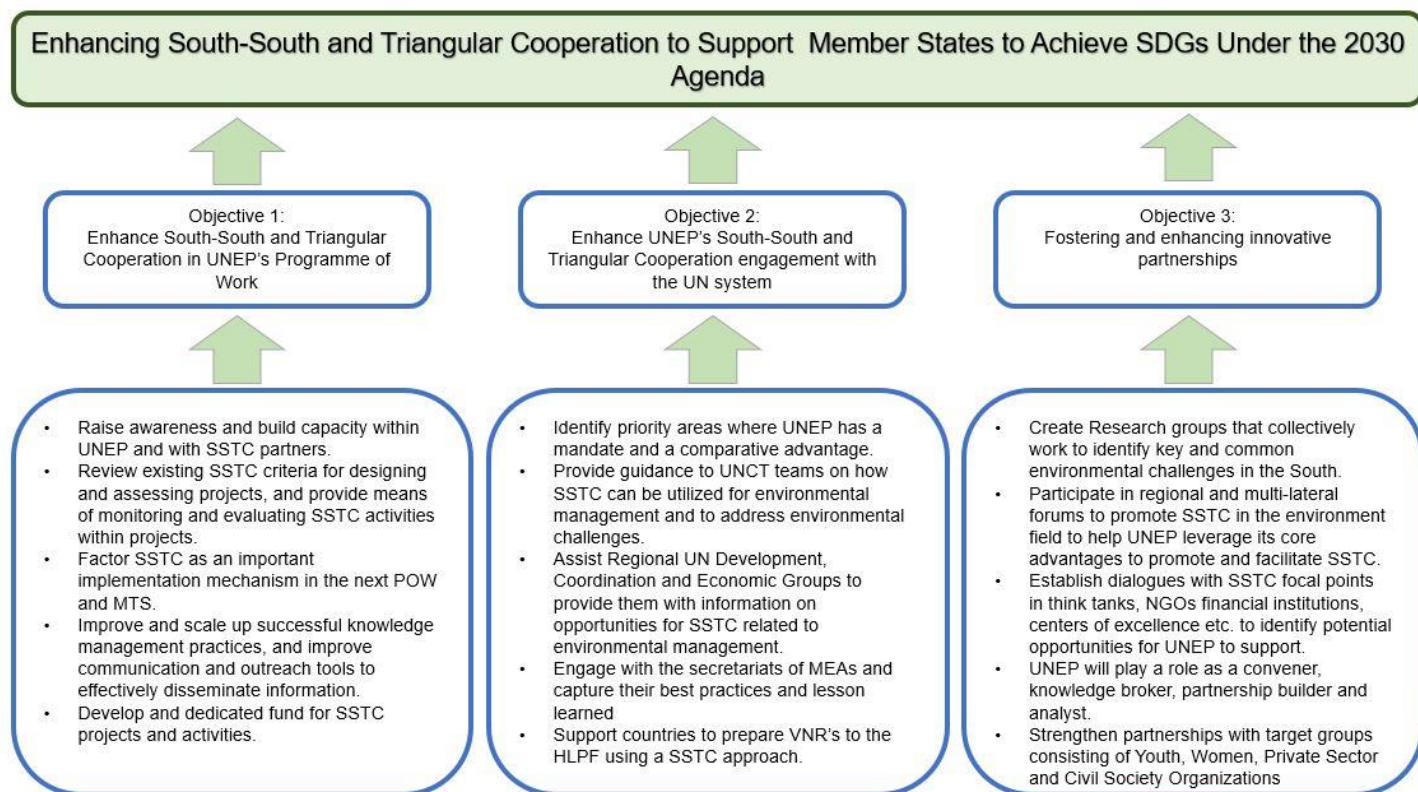
The aim of this Strategy is to enhance the application of SSTC in the delivery of UNEP’s mandate in order to help Member States achieve the SDGs and incorporate the environmental dimension of sustainable development in national and regional policies, plans and initiatives. It forms a broad framework that will help to reinvigorate SSTC in the organisation and inform the related programmatic and operational processes and procedures.

This will be done through enhancing three main areas:

1. UNEP’s Programme of Work (PoW).
2. Engagement with the UN system.
3. Partnerships and strategic initiatives.

⁹ United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific – [South-South Cooperation in Asia and the Pacific – A brief overview \(2018\)](#)

It is anticipated that enhancement of SSTC in these areas will result in more efficient and targeted support to Member States and other stakeholders in environmental governance and management efforts ad in achieving the SDGs.



Objective 1: Enhanced South-South and Triangular Cooperation in UNEP's Programme of Work

Adjustments will be made in the different stages of the project and programme cycle, within UNEP to allow for better delivery of SSTC. Efforts will be made to ensure that SSTC is promoted as a mechanism for project implementation and that it is used in a deliberate and structured manner. The implementation of SSTC activities will be better monitored and reported on, and the learning and best practices that emerge from these activities will be shared among staff, with Member States and partners. To achieve this, the following priority actions will be undertaken.

i) Awareness and capacity

- Awareness-raising activities within UNEP and with partners on the potential for SSTC to advance the environment agenda at global, regional and national levels through experience sharing forums and dialogues, and online platform and publications.
- Development of guidance material (guidelines, short videos) for staff and project teams within UNEP on how to better integrate SSTC in their projects (criteria, approaches, examples, knowledge products, capacity building tools).

- Capacity-building of countries to implement SSTC including through supporting departments responsible for coordination of SSTC in countries to ensure that the environment is incorporated in their SSTC strategies, and that environmental impacts and management are assessed when large South-South initiatives are being developed for economic, social or other objectives.

ii) Project design, assessment, monitoring and evaluation

At the project level

UNEP will foster the strategic use of SSTC in implementation of the PoW, through enhanced focus on SSTC in project design and implementation and analytical monitoring and reporting of SSTC activities at all levels. Some key actions to ensure this occurs are:

- Review and adjustment of existing criteria for SSTC in the project document template;
- Outlining of SSTC indicators in project documents where possible;
- Provision of means for systematic monitoring and reporting of SSTC activities within projects, even if SSTC is not featured as an outcome, output or milestone in project documents;
- Consider means of tracking financial resources dedicated to SSTC project activities;
- Review and adjustment of fields in the Project Information Management System (PIMS);
- Develop an SSTC marker similar to the gender marker;
- Develop evaluation criteria for SSTC projects;
- Featuring of SSTC in Project Performance Reviews;
- Create/enhance awareness among evaluators of projects so they understand the objectives of SSTC and incorporate this in their evaluations;
- Promoting South-South cooperation in Fora of environment and other regional bodies;
- Promoting South-South cooperation in UNEP's regional and sub-regional thematic meetings.

Note: The UN system-wide South-South and Triangular Cooperation Strategy that will be released in 2021 will include "guidelines on quantitative and qualitative indicators" (according to the outline). UNEP will ensure alignment these guidelines. Similarly, within the UN system-wide Strategy a "monitoring and evaluation process will be established that will regularly report the progress in implementing the strategy against the set targets and results". UNEP's evaluation mechanism for SSTC will be aligned with this.

At the programme level

- Factor in SSTC as an important implementation mechanism in the next PoW and MTS;
- Each sub-programme should integrate SSTC into its programme framework.

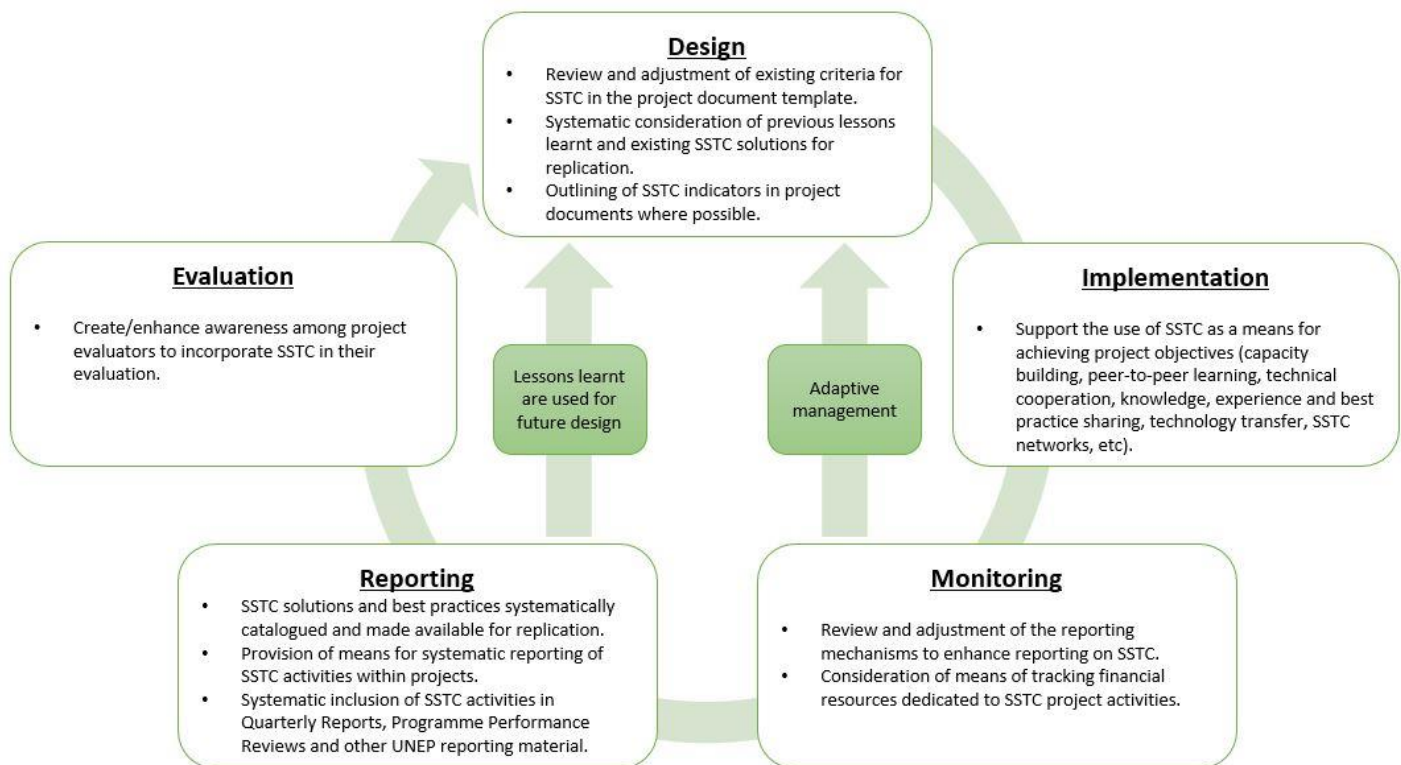
iii) Knowledge Management, Communication and Outreach Tools

- Catalogue and disseminate best practices to make use of knowledge and lessons learnt from programme implementation over the years for the benefit of Member States. Generating this

information for use by Member States who can benefit from it will serve as a multiplier of the benefits accrued from projects already implemented;

- Development of a digital platform (website) that also links to the UN system wide SSTC platform and other external SSTC portals. A public platform will increase countries' awareness of existing solutions they could replicate domestically (Note: the UNEP platform will feature UNEP projects and development solutions related to its mandate and will link to the global UN system platform on SSC – Galaxy- which will cover broader topics. The platforms will be complimentary and there will be no duplication);
- Convene dialogues/high-level policy meetings on thematic topics that are pertinent to needs of countries in the South;
- Revive the UNEP SSTC community of practice;
- Disseminate SSTC materials and information at UNEA and UN system meetings;
- Include criteria on SSTC in the publication approval guidelines;
- Support countries preparing Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) to the High-Level Political forum (HLPF) using a SSTC approach;
- Strengthen learning across regions through platforms such as the regional ministerial fora and take forward their inputs to RCPs, UNEA and the HLPF;
- Develop process indicators that demonstrate progress towards the outlined goal (e.g. number of people trained, number of institutions engaged or whose capacity has been improved, number of activities conducted) and progressively start to measure outcome and impact level (e.g. number of policies and regulations adopted, technologies and methodologies adapted).

Strengthening South-South and Triangular Cooperation in the Project Cycle



Objective 2: Enhanced Collaboration and Engagement on South-South and Triangular Cooperation with the UN system

UNEP has a wide range of collaborative work with Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), UN Country Teams, the Environment Management Group (EMG), regional UN mechanisms, and project level partnerships with other UN agencies. These can be further harnessed for enhanced SSTC, in line with the guidance from the outcome of BAPA+40 conference. The UN Development System reform guidelines also call for increased collaboration among UN agencies and renewed focus on delivery of support at the country level. In order to step up its collaboration with UN agencies in support of SSTC UNEP will focus on the following actions.

- Identify priority areas in which UNEP has the mandate and comparative advantage to establish collaborative arrangements with relevant UN agencies, enhancing SSTC in these areas.
- Provide guidance to UNCT teams on how SSTC can be used for environmental management and to address environmental challenges. This includes guidance on how environment and SSTC should be incorporated in the Common Country Analysis (UN CCA) process for the development of UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (UNSDCFs).
- During the Common Country Analysis, identify lessons from other countries or projects that can be used to support programmes being developed in the country in which the Corporation Framework is being developed.
- Work closely with Regional UN Sustainable Development Groups and Regional Coordination Mechanisms and Regional Economic Commissions on SSTC and provide them with information on opportunities for SSTC related to environmental management in their respective regions. This should include analysis of opportunities on both the demand (instances where countries lack capacity and need support in certain sectors, environmental issues,) and supply (where there is experience, knowledge, technical capacity, that can be shared with others) sides.
- Participate in and lead where appropriate Issue Based Coalitions under the Regional Collaborative Platforms (RCPs).
- Collaborate with the UN Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) and other UN agencies through active engagement in the UN System interagency SSC mechanisms and related activities. Recruit friends and champions in other UN agencies and Country Teams. Select a few topical themes to focus on (e.g. the UN Climate Action Summit).
- Engage with the secretariats of MEAs and centres of excellence to capture their best practices and lesson learned.
- Engage in thematic UN agency fora such as the United Nations Forum on Sustainability Standards (UNFSS), to support further SSTC objectives.

Objective 3: Innovative partnerships fostered and enhanced

The UNDP report “South-South Cooperation in Sub-Saharan Africa : Strategies for UNDP Engagement” (2017) indicated that poor communication/knowledge management and lack of awareness about SSTC at all levels is a challenge that needs to be addressed and suggests that increased networking, platforms

and partnerships that include a broad range of stakeholders for experience sharing should be stepped up.

Under this objective, UNEP will aim to facilitate the development of innovative platforms and networks for SSTC knowledge and solution sharing. This will enhance rigour and advance the sharing of solutions and best practices among countries and stakeholders of the Global South. Through these platforms, countries and stakeholders will be able to share cutting-edge innovations/solutions and practices and gain access to knowledge and advisory services.

- Several organisations conduct research, have implemented projects, or are thought leaders in specific thematic areas related to development and environmental challenges experienced by developing countries. UNEP will seek to develop or join networks which bring the holders of such knowledge and information together with those who are able to benefit from it. Much research has been done by research institutes and think tanks and this is not informing policy. This will be a way to link existing and emerging solutions to environmental challenges with the policy makers who can help adopt them for within respective contexts.
- Systematically establishing dialogues with SSTC focal points in international organizations, think tanks, thematic centres of excellence, other SSTC organizations, civil society, private sector, financial institutions, NGOs, etc, to identify existing and potential opportunities for UNEP to support SSTC partnerships.
- Hosting policy thematic dialogues among stakeholders for exchange and lesson sharing. Bringing together stakeholders around key topics that are relevant to them to facilitate the sharing of experiences and solutions particularly where there are shared/similar challenges as in the case of transboundary challenges.

In line with the UN-wide “Framework of operational guidelines for UN support to South-South and triangular cooperation” (2016), UNEP’s role in developing innovative partnerships will be as follows:

- Convener: bringing parties together and facilitating dialogue.
- Knowledge broker: linking supply and demand of Southern development solutions.
- Partnership builder: organizing forums, meetings and events and facilitating developing countries’ participation in global events.
- Analyst and progress monitor: gathering and analysing data with regards to the effectiveness of South-South cooperation in achieving the 2030 Agenda.

UNEP’s work in enhancing and fostering innovative partnerships will be carried out in line with other existing UN and UNEP guidelines for such activities including the 10 principles of the UN Global Compact¹⁰, UNEP’s Private Sector Engagement Strategy (2019) and UNEP Programme Manual’s partnerships section.

Target groups for collaborative partnerships

¹⁰ [The Ten Principles of the UN Global Compact](#)

UNEP's role in SSTC is to enable and strengthen partnerships and capacity of developing countries, including but not restricted to research and technical organisations such as research institutes and universities. Target groups for collaborative partnerships should include national institutions with the institutional capacity for sustaining partnerships and initiatives after the end of UNEP involvement, and that conform to the guiding principles for SSTC, as summarised below. Other key groups to target are:

Private sector: The private sector (including private companies, trade and investment promotion agencies, chambers of commerce) is a major source of innovation, technological solutions, financial resources, job creation and has knowledge and reach beyond those of UNEP, all of which cannot be neglected if the SDGs are to be achieved. The Agenda 2030, Paris Agreements and Addis Ababa Action Agenda, among other international agreements, recognise and call for a strengthened relationship with the private sector to promote private sector sustainability and transformation.

The private sector is evolving fast, away from corporate social responsibility (CSR) as a mere obligation and towards business models which attempt to incorporate sustainability to their core, providing UNEP with increasing opportunities for engagement. Private sector engagement initiatives already exist within UNEP.

Emerging markets of the Global South are where growth is the most rapid and change the most fast-paced. Through early engagement with the private sector, major drivers of this transformation, and by facilitating SSTC, UNEP can encourage the early adoption of innovation and solutions enabling both long-term profitability and sustainability. The private sector drives the most frequently cited environmental realities, such as climate change, loss of biodiversity, and generation of plastic waste and is therefore a crucial group to engage with in order to reverse the trend.

- **Youth:** There are 1.3 billion young people aged 15 to 24, accounting for 16 per cent of the global population¹¹. As pointed out in the 2018 “Youth and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” report¹², young people are of major importance in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Active engagement of youth in sustainable development efforts is central to achieving sustainable, inclusive and stable societies by 2030, and to averting the worst threats and challenges to sustainable development and environmental matters. SSTC can serve a crucial means of involving youth in the developing countries, through innovative partnerships which leave no one behind.
- **Women:** Efforts will be made to ensure gender equality in UNEP's partnerships and that the role of women in improving environmental sustainability in the Global South is emphasised. UNEP will purpose to engage with organisations that empower women by building their capacity, providing knowledge, and technology that supports their innovations to unlock potential which successfully transform our social, environmental, and economy dimensions.

¹¹ United Nations – [World Population Prospects](#).

¹² United Nations World Youth Report (2018) – [Youth and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#).

To ensure that UNEP's projects are intentionally designed for gender responsiveness, a gender perspective has been incorporated into UNEP's project concept notes. Gender perspectives and the role of women will be monitored in SSTC activities.

- **Civil society organisations:** Through the provision of valuable research, expertise and advocacy functions, civil society organisations are major allies of UNEP in advancing the international environmental priorities and for the delivery of UNEP's programme of work. By taking early account of the views of civil society organizations, governments can strengthen the recognition and support for national and intergovernmental decisions on environmental matters, enabling greater impact.

Engaging civil society is key to creating mutual benefits where civil society is empowered to voice its perspectives and share experience and expertise, strengthening South-South cooperation networks and the dissemination of international best-practice among developing countries. Grassroot organizations, networks/associations of NGOs and civic movements on the environment are important groups that UNEP may partner with.

It is important to note that **governments** (national and local) are a critical partner for all UNEP's SSTC partnerships. In UNEP's engagement with the above-mentioned target groups, government support and engagement will be crucial to achieving positive change.

Guiding principles for the development of strategic and innovative partnerships

Any partnerships developed for SSTC will be guided by UNEP's partnership policy (Programme Manual, partnership section) as well as the guiding principles for the development of strategic and innovative SSTC partnerships and initiatives outlined in the Framework of operational guidelines on UN support to South-South and triangular cooperation, issued by the High-level Committee on South-South cooperation in 2016.

As mentioned in Section II, these principles include respect for national sovereignty and ownership; partnership among equals; non-conditionality; non-interference in domestic affairs; mutual benefit; mutual accountability and transparency; development effectiveness; coordination of evidence- and results-based initiatives; and a multi-stakeholder approach.

In addition to these principles, any partnership established shall:

- Be aligned to UNEP programme objectives and the SDGs. The SSTC partnerships should have a clear linkage to the Medium-Term Strategy and contribute to UNEP Programme of Work.
- Have clearly identified benefits/outcomes. The benefits of engaging the partnership should be clearly defined, such as resource accesses, technology transfer and capacity building.
- Be demand-oriented. UNEP's engagement should respond to requests from Member States.
- Be based on the availability of funds to support the planned activities.
- Have a multi-stakeholder and inclusive approach.

SECTION V: Governance

UNEP will consult with Member States on key developments related to the implementation of South-South and triangular cooperation activities.

Within UNEP, governance responsibilities will be as follows:

Project teams are responsible for project design, implementation, monitoring and reporting of SSTC within projects.

Sub-programme Coordinators are responsible for ensuring cohesive SSTC in respective sub-programmes.

Divisional and Office South-South cooperation focal points¹³ are responsible for liaison between divisions, regional offices and the South-South Cooperation Secretariat at various stages of programme of work cycle including facilitating and promoting sharing of South-South cooperation experiences and lessons learnt within their respective divisions. Focal points are responsible for creating awareness of need for strategic SSTC planning and monitoring within their respective offices.

SSTC Community of Practice (CoP) members act as SSTC champions in their respective offices, contribute to knowledge management, outreach and communications on SSTC. CoP members may be called upon by the South-South Cooperation Secretariat for consultations related to SSTC within UNEP.

The South-South Cooperation Secretariat, housed in the Policy and Programme Division, is responsible for the overall coordination of SSTC activities within UNEP including:

- Developing, disseminating and continuously updating guidance material to help project managers understand the role that SSTC can play in their existing or upcoming projects, and help project managers reach out to SSC Secretariat for possible funding to execute SSTC features;
- Coordination of corporate level initiatives;
- Establishing impact criteria for SSTC projects;
- Monitoring and reporting of corporate developments;
- Coordinating CoP activities;
- Developing and disseminating knowledge products;
- Developing and disseminating communication and outreach material;
- Ensuring SSTC related material is available and updated on UNEP's website;
- Digital management of SSTC knowledge through a hosted platform and contribution to UN system-wide platform (working with the Project Review Committee secretariat, Corporate Services and other relevant staff within the organisation to implement changes to internal documents and resources, as implied by the actions set out in this Strategy);
- Overall corporate reporting on SSTC and the progress of implementation of this Strategy to Member States (Programme Performance Review, Quarterly Reports, Annual Reports) and Secretary General reports;

¹³ The Framework guidance on United Nations support to South-South and triangular cooperation (2016) recommends UN agencies to have dedicate SSTC focal points within their organisations.

- Serving as the focal point for engagement with UN SSC interagency mechanism and UNOSSC, and guiding regional, sub-regional and country offices in their engagement with regional fora and UNCTs at this regard. UNEP will ensure that the environmental dimension is well understood and integrated at country and regional levels.

In order to undertake the proposed activities, the staff complement of the South-South Cooperation Secretariat will comprise at minimum one full-time professional staff at P-4 or P-5 level supported by two full-time junior staff and appropriate administrative support. Additional technical support may be required to establish and maintain the digital knowledge management platform.

SECTION VI: Funding for South-South and Triangular Cooperation

Dedicated resources for SSTC are required for the effective implementation and coordination of SSTC activities. A Partnership Development and South-South Cooperation Fund was established in 2014 to support projects that were exclusively focused on development of new partnerships or South-South cooperation as the primary mechanism for implementation. The cycle of funding under this Fund was completed in December 2017. Dedicated funds for South-South cooperation support have been received from Brazil, the UNEP-China Trust Fund for South-South Cooperation and the China South-South Cooperation Assistance Fund over the past five years.

Projects which include SSTC components currently receive funding from various sources, and this mostly takes place on an ad-hoc and uncoordinated basis. In order to ensure coordinated and sufficient funding is available for the implementation and coordination of SSTC activities, UNEP will take the following action:

- Comply with the Joint Inspection Unit’s recommendation to allocate 0.5% of core funding to South-South cooperation.
 - Recommendation 9 of The Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) report (JIU/REP/2011/3) calls for each UN agency “to apportion a specific percentage – not less than 0.5 per cent – of core budget resources for the promotion of South-South cooperation (SSC) in their respective areas of competence [...] and to agree with donor countries to use a specific portion of extrabudgetary resources to finance SSC and triangular cooperation initiatives”.¹⁴
 - Since many SSTC activities are embedded in projects as actions or components, UNEP is currently unable to determine the percentage of the core budget utilised for South-South and triangular cooperation activities. UNEP will consider ways to better measure resource allocation to specific SSTC activities in projects and programmes in order measure this aspect and ensure compliance with the Joint Inspection Unit’s recommendation (See Section IV, Objective 2, ii).

¹⁴ Joint Inspection Unit (2011) – [South-South and Triangular Cooperation in the United Nations System](#)

- Develop a dedicated SSTC Fund for projects that primarily focus on SSTC and/or for rapid support of small-scale SSTC activities following requests from developing countries.
 - The above-mentioned Partnership Development and South-South Cooperation Fund was established targeting projects which met at least 5 of the following 6 requirements: *Involves cooperation among countries of the South; Involves technology transfer, capacity building or knowledge/experience sharing; Replicable; Scalable; Sustainable; Linkages to other implementation approaches.* UNEP aims to re-establish and sustain a similar fund in the future.
 - During consultations prior to the Strategy development, the lack of a mechanism for rapid support for low-cost SSTC activities that have potential for greatly improving impact was raised as a current gap in UNEP's support to SSTC. Activities which include (among others) enabling an expert from the Global South to deliver training following another country's request could be financed via a dedicated SSTC fund. Access to financing would be restricted to activities meeting criteria to be defined.
- Allocate appropriate funding support to facilitate the implementation of other aspects the Strategy (e.g. support key centres of excellence and Southern partners to attend UNEP dialogues and share good examples on SSTC, production of knowledge products).
- Support UN Country Teams and regional groups on SSTC based on specific demands.
- Intensify resource mobilisation efforts and explore new opportunities available including.
- Assist implementation partners apply for funding if UNEP is not eligible for application according to fund criteria.

Funding for the South-South Cooperation Secretariat

Appropriate funding will be required to support the following activities of the Secretariat:

- Participate in UN system wide SSTC events (e.g. South-South Cooperation Expo, High-Level events).
- Support and participate in regional fora and other SSTC events within UNEP.
- Support UNEP regional and country offices.
- Organising consultation and training events related to SSTC within UNEP (e.g. workshops and other events involving the SSTC Community of Practice).
- Develop SSTC knowledge products and communication material (including physical publications).
- Hosting of thematic dialogues and other related meetings with partners.

Funding will also be required to cover the cost of Secretariat staff.

Note: An estimate of financial resources required to support the South-South Cooperation Secretariat and SSTC within UNEP will be included in the next version of the Strategy based on agreed content and activities to be undertaken.

Annex I: List of key resolutions that call for/endorse SSTC

Time	Resolution Number	Resolution Name	Description Relating to South-South Cooperation
1972	2997 (XXVII) General Assembly	Resolution adopted by the General Assembly 2997 (XXVII)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “to provide, at the request of all parties concerned, advisory services for the promotion of international co-operation in the field of the environment”. This includes providing guidance and advice on how investment and business practices can be made more sustainable.
2002	A/RES/56/202 General Assembly	Adopted by General Assembly ‘Economic and Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries’	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calls upon all relevant United Nations organizations and multilateral institutions to consider increasing allocations of human, technical and financial resources for South-South cooperation, and in this context takes note of decision 2001/2 of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Population Fund,11 in which the Board requested the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to consider reviewing, in the context of the successor programming arrangements, the allocation of additional resources for activities involving technical cooperation among developing countries, taking into account the overall financial situation and the need for appropriate resources for other activities; • Requests the Secretary-General, through coordination of the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries of the United Nations Development Programme and in consultation with relevant organizations and agencies of the United Nations system and other relevant institutions in the South, to include in the report to be submitted to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session concrete measures for promoting and facilitating South-South cooperation, taking into account all relevant initiatives and proposals in this regard; • Stressing that South-South cooperation, as an important element of international cooperation for development, offers viable opportunities for developing countries in their individual and collective pursuit of sustained economic growth and

			<p>sustainable development, in accordance with relevant General Assembly resolutions and recent United Nations conferences, and for ensuring their effective and meaningful participation in the newly emerging global economic system,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognizing that developing countries have the primary responsibility for promoting and implementing economic and technical cooperation among themselves, and reiterating the need for the international community to support the efforts of the developing countries to expand South-South cooperation through the modality of economic and technical cooperation among developing countries
2005	UNEP/GC.23/6/Add.1 Bali Strategic Plan	Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides an effective strategy for strengthening technology support and cooperation by supporting the creation of an enabling environment for innovation and transfer through the enhancement of international cooperation conducive to innovation and the development, transfer and dissemination of technologies, with the protection of intellectual property rights, involving all relevant partners, including the private sector. Emphasis should be given to identifying and disseminating best practices and fostering entrepreneurship and partnerships • The Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum will regularly review and provide policy guidance for the plan, acting pursuant to its mandate to review the global environment and to promote international cooperation. • The plan underscores the importance of South-South cooperation and stresses the need to intensify efforts directed towards institutional capacity-building, including through the exchange of expertise, experiences, information and documentation between the institutions of the South in order to develop human resources and strengthen the institutions of the South, and places emphasis on the important role for economic and social development played by scientific knowledge and technology, which have a

			major influence on the way in which the earth's resources are used and shared among its inhabitants.
22 December 2005	A/RES/60/212 General Assembly	60/212 South-South cooperation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urges all relevant United Nations organizations and multilateral institutions to intensify their efforts to effectively mainstream the use of South-South cooperation in the design, formulation and implementation of their regular programmes and to consider increasing allocations of human, technical and financial resources for supporting South-South cooperation initiatives, and in this regard takes note of the initiatives contained in the Havana Programme of Action adopted by the first South Summit,⁵ the Marrakesh Framework for the Implementation of South-South Cooperation and the Doha Plan of Action; • Recalling further its resolution 59/250 of 22 December 2004, which, inter alia, called on organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to mainstream, in their programmes and through their country-level activities and country offices, modalities to support South-South cooperation, • Invites the United Nations Development Programme to rename the Voluntary Trust Fund for the Promotion of South-South Cooperation, which was established in accordance with General Assembly resolution 50/119 of 20 December 1995, as the United Nations Fund for South-South Cooperation, while maintaining its mandate and voluntary nature, and to designate it as the main United Nations trust fund for promoting and supporting South-South and triangular initiatives; • Welcomes the report of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation at its fourteenth session² and the decisions taken at that session;³ • Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the state of South-South cooperation • Stresses that South-South cooperation, as an important element of international cooperation for development, offers viable opportunities for developing countries in their individual and collective

			<p>pursuit of sustained economic growth and sustainable development;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognizes that regional integration initiatives between developing countries constitute an important and valuable form of South-South cooperation and that regional integration is a step towards beneficial integration into the world economy
20 December 2006	A/RES/61/215 General Assembly	61/215 Industrial Development Cooperation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognizes the importance of South-South cooperation in the area of industrial development, and in this regard encourages the international community, including the international financial institutions, to support the efforts of developing countries, inter alia, through triangular cooperation; • Recognizes the importance of information in the replication of best practices in processing, design and marketing, and also recognizes the importance of and encourages South-South cooperation in this respect;
19 December 2007	A/RES/62/209 General Assembly	62/209. South-South cooperation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reaffirming its resolution 33/134 of 19 December 1978, in which it endorsed the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries • Highlights the fact that, in spite of progress achieved in this area, further efforts are required to better understand the approaches and potential of South-South cooperation to enhance development effectiveness, including through national capacity development; • Encourages the initiatives and arrangements, including public-private mechanisms, undertaken in the efforts to enhance cooperation between developing countries, including, inter alia, in the areas of the fight against poverty and hunger, access to information and communications technologies, science and technology, environment, culture, health, education and human development;
2009	Report of the Governing Council Decision 25/9	Decision 25/9: South-South cooperation in achieving	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recalling also decision SS.X/3 on the United Nations Environment Programme medium-term strategy 2010–2013, and welcoming the medium-term strategy, in

	(United Nation Environment Governing Council)	sustainable development	<p>particular to enhance delivery of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stressing the particular importance of South-North cooperation and the complementary role of South-South cooperation in the field of sustainable development, • Stressing the need to continue to develop innovative mechanisms to mobilize resources for South-South and triangular cooperation initiatives, • Requests the Executive Director to build on the current work and follow-up activities on South-South cooperation and to broaden external consultations to develop strategic partnerships and alliances in support of capacity-building and technology support activities using South-South cooperation arrangements; • 2. Also requests the Executive Director to develop further and refine the existing strategic and operational guidelines and also to develop a policy guidance for the coherent and coordinated implementation of South-South cooperation approaches across the programme of work of the United Nations Environment Programme; • 3. Further requests the Executive Director to deepen the cooperation of the United Nations Environment Programme with related United Nations agencies, regions, subregions and existing South-South cooperation initiatives to develop joint activities and synergies of capacity in advancing South-South cooperation in support of capacity-building and technology support in the context of the Bali Strategic Plan and as reflected in the medium-term strategy 2010–2013, • 4. Requests the Executive Director to initiate efforts towards establishing formal
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			<p>cooperation arrangements with existing mechanisms and centres of excellence active in South-South cooperation, such as the Non-Aligned Movement Centre for South-South Technical Cooperation, to foster cooperation in the field of the environment;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5. Urges the Executive Director to strengthen the United Nations Environment Programme coordination mechanism and structure for South-South cooperation, including its regional presence, with a view to enhancing its role and function; • 6. Invites Governments and other relevant organizations to provide the necessary adequate resources for the work of the United Nations Environment Programme in South-South cooperation and encourages the Executive Director to develop further and implement high-profile demonstrable projects in South-South cooperation in the field of the environment; • 7. Requests the Executive Director to contribute to the Secretary-General's report to the forthcoming high-level United Nations conference on South-South cooperation and to participate in that Conference; • 8. Also requests the Executive Director to present a report on the progress in implementing the present decision to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its twenty-sixth session.
6 October 2009	A/RES/64/1 General Assembly	64/1 High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requests the Secretary-General to prepare a comprehensive report, consistent with the overarching theme of the Conference, reviewing the trends in South-South cooperation, including triangular cooperation, reviewing also the progress made by the international community, in particular the United Nations, in supporting and promoting such cooperation and identifying new

			<p>opportunities, as well as challenges and constraints and measures to overcome them;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invites United Nations organizations, including the specialized agencies, regional commissions and funds and programmes, to provide input to the preparations for the Conference; • Invites international and regional organizations, international financial institutions, non-governmental organizations and business sector entities to participate in the Conference, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the General Assembly; • Invites intergovernmental organizations and entities that have observer status with the General Assembly to participate in the Conference; • Taking note of the growing importance of South-South cooperation, and recognizing the increased role undertaken by the United Nations to support economic cooperation activities among developing countries, • Taking note of the growing importance of South-South cooperation, and recognizing the increased role undertaken by the United Nations to support economic cooperation activities among developing countries, • Invites United Nations organizations, including the specialized agencies, regional commissions and funds and programmes, to provide input to the preparations for the Conference; • Encourages Member States and their partners, including non-governmental organizations, to consider preparing reports on South-South and triangular cooperation for the purpose of the Conference, on a voluntary basis, taking into account the themes of the Conference and the outcomes of regional, subregional or sectoral United Nations meetings prior to the Conference;
2017	A/RES/72/237 General Assembly	Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 20 December 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6. Welcomes the increased contributions of South-South cooperation to poverty eradication and sustainable development, encourages developing countries to voluntarily step up their efforts to

		(72/237) South-South Cooperation	<p>strengthen South-South cooperation and to further improve its development effectiveness, in accordance with the provisions of the Nairobi outcome document of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation,¹⁰ and welcomes commitments to strengthen triangular cooperation as a means of bringing relevant experience and expertise to bear in development cooperation;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8. Acknowledges the progress made and encourages the continued integration of South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation into the policies and strategic frameworks of the funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, and requests those funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system that have not yet integrated South-South and triangular cooperation into their policies to do so, taking into account the Nairobi outcome document of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development¹¹ and the complementary nature of South-South to North-South cooperation; • 21. Requests the United Nations system to enhance its support in the areas where South-South cooperation has proved effective, namely capacity-building, regional integration, interregional linkages, infrastructure interconnectivity and the development of national productive capacities through exchanges of knowledge, technological innovations and technology transfer on mutually agreed terms, and in several areas of sustainable development such as poverty eradication and gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls; • 22. Welcomes the support provided by developing countries to South-South and triangular initiatives aimed at improving nutrition and food security, and invites the replication of this approach in other relevant areas, drawing on the technical expertise of various United Nations organizations;
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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 26. Urges the United Nations system to continue its support to regional and subregional organizations, enabling their member countries to build more partnerships and cross-border frameworks, with a view to promoting and scaling up best practices with the potential to benefit a large number of developing countries; • 27. Welcomes the growing number of forums convened for Governments and other policymakers to discuss, in a participatory and inclusive manner, South-South cooperation initiatives and their contribution towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including addressing challenges, lessons learned and good practices in key areas; • 29. Recognizes the need to mobilize adequate resources for enhancing South-South and triangular cooperation, and in this context invites all countries in a position to do so to contribute, in support of such cooperation, to the United Nations Fund for South-South Cooperation and to the Pérez-Guerrero Trust Fund for South-South Cooperation, in accordance with its resolution 57/263 of 20 December 2002, and to support other initiatives for all developing countries, including technology transfer among developing countries on mutually agreed terms
2019	UNEA 4/Decision 4/1	Programme of work and budget for the biennium 2020–2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 28. Requests the Executive Director to ensure that South-South, South-North and triangular cooperation initiatives are effectively implemented in the spirit of accountability and transparency;
2019	A/73/L.80 General Assembly	Buenos Aires outcome document of the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation	

Annex 2:

Secretariat Response to Member States' Questions and Comments following the Secretariat Briefing on 5 September 2019.

Some Member States have indicated they view the South-South and the triangular cooperation aspects of SSTC as closely linked, emphasising the importance that both are under the oversight of the CPR.

South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation are closely linked, hence the single UNEP "South-South and Triangular Cooperation Strategy" addressing both forms of cooperation. Following Member States' approval of Strategy, the organisation's work supporting both South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation will be carried out in line with the Strategy and therefore under the guidance and oversight provided by the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

Some Member States have highlighted the importance differentiating between South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation in the Strategy Document.

However closely linked, South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation also do present differences. UNEP's Strategy therefore identifies these differences and provides individual definitions for both forms of cooperation.

Member States requested further information regarding the recommendation to allocate 0.5% of core funding to South-South cooperation.

Recommendation 9 of The Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) report (JIU/REP/2011/3) calls for each UN agency "to apportion a specific percentage – **not less than 0.5 per cent – of core budget resources** for the promotion of South-South cooperation (SSC) in their respective areas of competence [...] and to agree with donor countries to use **a specific portion of extrabudgetary resources** to finance SSC and triangular cooperation initiatives".¹

Due to the structure of UNEP's reporting, the organisation is currently unable to estimate the core budget utilised for South-South and triangular cooperation activities. UNEP is considering ways to better measure resource allocation to South-South cooperation specific activities in projects and programmes.

Member States requested further information regarding the foreseen South-South cooperation fund, rationale for it, operationalisation and activities it may finance.

In 2014, the "Partnership Development and South-South Cooperation Fund" was established targeting projects which met the following requirements: *Involves cooperation among countries of the South; Involves technology transfer, capacity building or knowledge/experience sharing; Replicable; Scalable; Sustainable; Linkages to other*

¹ Joint Inspection Unit (2011) – [South-South and Triangular Cooperation in the United Nations System](#)

implementation approaches. Whereas this approach to funding SSTC activities was discontinued, UNEP's suggestions is to reestablish and sustain a similar fund in the future.

A South-South cooperation fund could also be used for rapid support to small-scale South-South cooperation initiatives following requests from developing countries. This would include enabling an expert from the Global South's delivery of a training following another country's request. Access to the fund would be restricted to activities meeting criteria to be defined.

The Strategy identifies youth (among others) as a target group for collaborative partnerships. Member States requested to see women and girls added to the specific target groups for collaborative partnerships.

UNEP has taken note of this comment. A section of the Strategy on the role of women and girls has been developed in the revised Draft Strategy.

Some Member States indicated they support the Guiding principles for the development of strategic and innovative partnerships mentioned in the document and request UNEP to ensure that these principles are reflected in UNEP's Partnership Strategy as well and that the two Strategies are aligned.

UNEP has taken note of this comment and ensured that its South-South and Triangular Cooperation Strategy is fully aligned with UNEP's Partnership Strategy.

One Member State indicated that if UNEP is involved in a project, it should help raise environmental and socioeconomic standards and expressed concern that the principles of "respect for sovereignty" and "non-interference" could be used as an excuse to overlook, ignore, or even harm environmental and/or social considerations. Paragraph 14 of the BAPA+40 outcome document was suggested to be included among guiding principles.

UNEP has taken note of this comment.

The draft Strategy notes that many UN agencies have prepared South-South cooperation strategies. Were these strategies consulted as possible models for lessons learnt for UNEP's Strategy and how these have been taken into account?

As part of the desk review ahead of the strategy development process, UNEP has consulted policy and guidance documents of other UN agencies such as FAO, IFAD, UNFPA. UNEP has sought to consider lessons learnt and best practices from other UN agencies with regards to South-South cooperation. It is important to note that different UN agencies' South-South and triangular cooperation strategies are specific to their mandate and activities and may at times largely differ from one to another.

Member States emphasised the importance of consulting all Member States prior to any engagement in politically or otherwise highly significant cooperation initiatives.

UNEP has taken note of this comment and will ensure that any future engagement is carried out in a fully transparent manner. Engagement in all cooperation initiatives will be done in line with UNEP's guidance documents including the Programme of Work and Medium-Term Strategy. South-South and triangular cooperation initiatives will also be carried out in line with the SSTC Strategy as approved by the Committee of Permanent Representatives. Cooperation initiatives will therefore be fully aligned with UNEP's mandate and its Member States' prior guidance.

How will countries with economies in transition be incorporated in the South-South and triangular cooperation Strategy?

Countries with economies in transition remain developing countries as opposed to developed countries and are therefore included in the Global South.

What will be UNEP's role with regards to the creation of new research groups as a part of fostering and enhancing innovative partnerships (Section III Objective 3 – page 8)?

In line with the UN-wide "Framework of Operational Guidelines for UN Support to South-South and Triangular Cooperation" (2016), UNEP's role will be as follows:

- Convener: bringing parties together and facilitating dialogue.
- Knowledge broker: linking supply and demand of Southern development solutions.
- Partnership builder: organizing forums, meetings and events and facilitating developing countries' participation in global events.
- Analyst and progress monitor: gathering and analysing data with regards to the effectiveness of South-South cooperation in achieving the 2030 Agenda.

The above-mentioned is applicable to partnerships and research groups which include partners from academia, industries, think tanks and communities from the Global South. Research groups will work collectively to identify key environmental challenges for developing countries and South-South cooperation, develop solutions and highlight opportunities for progress on the environmental dimension of sustainable development in the Global South.

Member States enquired about UN Environment Programme's engagement with the UN Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), and whether UN Environment Programme assessed it was able to mainstream environmental priorities within the UN system-wide South-South and Triangular Cooperation Strategy.

UNEP is actively participating in the development of UN system-wide South-South and triangular cooperation Strategy. UNEP has been assigned the responsibility (alongside other UN agencies) of drafting the second section of the Strategy: "Key Objectives, Outcomes and Guiding Principles".

In the close communication with the UN Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), it has been made clear that the system-wide Strategy will provide general guidance about the

work of the UN on South-South and triangular cooperation, without specifying any particular area of work. The UN Strategy will cover the cross-cutting elements which will serve as a basis for other UN entities' respective work on South-South and triangular cooperation.

Member States requested further information about the "demand-driven" principle of South-South and triangular cooperation.

The demand-driven principle indicates UNEP's South-South and triangular cooperation activities will be carried following requests from developing countries for assistance.

UNEP South-South and Triangular Cooperation Projects (as of October 2019)

	Project / Initiative	Start Date	End Date	Status	Countries Involved	Interregional / Intra-regional	Subprogramme(s) / GEF Focal Area(s)	Description	Funding Source
1	Generating and sharing knowledge for influencing decision-making on sound management of chemicals and waste	2018.10.23	2021.12.31	Under Implementation	Asia region: tentatively Mongolia, Vietnam, China, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.	Intra-regional	Chemicals and Waste	<p><u>Objective(s):</u> Governments, the private sector and civil society organizations in selected Asian countries have strengthened capacities to enhance their sound chemicals management through introduction of safe and sustainable chemistry alternatives.</p> <p><u>South-South Cooperation:</u> Regional capacity-building and knowledge exchange.</p>	China Trust Fund
2	Sharing Experience and Knowledge for a Sustainable Belt and Road	2018.02.01	2020.12.31	Under Implementation	Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan.	Interregional	Resource efficiency	<p><u>Objective(s):</u> This project aims to increase public and private sector Belt and Road stakeholders' awareness and understanding of the sustainable development opportunities and challenges associated with Belt and Road investments, and policy conditions required to enable and address them.</p> <p><u>South-South Cooperation:</u> Collecting and disseminating case studies, making integrated environmental data available, and providing capacity building seminars for Belt and Road stakeholders from selected Belt and Road countries. In addition to delivering training, the seminars will provide a forum for dialogue between public and private sector Belt and Road stakeholders.</p>	China Trust Fund
3	Improving Ecosystem Management for Sustainable Livelihoods in the Framework of Lancang-Mekong Cooperation	2018.04.09	2020.12.31	Under Implementation	Cambodia, China, Lao People's Democratic Republic.	Intra-regional	Ecosystems Management	<p><u>Objective(s):</u> The project aims at increasing awareness, institutional, technical and financial capacity of countries in the Lancang-Mekong region to adopt an integrated ecosystem management approach, with demonstrated ecosystem management for sustainable livelihood through pilot activities at selected transboundary areas.</p> <p><u>South-South Cooperation:</u> Given the transboundary nature of many Lancang-Mekong natural ecosystems, as well as the common threats that economic development and climate change pose to a diverse group of people across the region, there is a need and opportunity for South-South cooperation among the countries of the Lancang-Mekong to share knowledge and technologies for ecosystems management.</p>	China Trust Fund

4	SWITCH Africa Green Phase II	2019.02.01	2022.12.30	Under Implementation	Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Mauritius, South Africa, Uganda.	Intraregional	Resource Efficiency	<p><u>Objective(s):</u> The overall objective of SWITCH Africa Green is to support countries in Africa to achieve sustainable development by engaging in transition towards an inclusive green economy, based on sustainable consumption and production patterns, while generating growth, creating decent jobs and reducing poverty.</p> <p><u>South-South Cooperation:</u> Capacity building, policy development, technology transfer through networking forums, policy dialogues.</p>	Environment Fund, European Union.
5	Accelerating Climate Action in Latin America under EUROCLIMA+	2017.12.22	2020.12.22	Under Implementation	Argentina, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Chile, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela.	Intraregional	Climate Change	<p><u>Objective(s):</u> UN Environment's climate work in Latin America focusses on strengthening capacities of countries to ensure the effective implementation of the goals of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. Activities are mainly directed to promoting action on adaptation planning, access to finance, climate technology deployment, transparency, electric mobility, sustainable energy and policy dialogue.</p> <p><u>South-South Cooperation:</u> UN Environment will promote regional policy dialogue and exchange of information to advance climate change action.</p>	European Union
6	SwitchMed	2012	N.A.	Under Implementation	Israel, Tunisia, Morocco, Algeria, Egypt, Palestine, Jordan, Lebanon.	Interregional	Resource Efficiency	<p><u>Objective(s):</u> SwitchMed is an initiative that supports and connects stakeholders to scale-up social and ecological innovations in the Mediterranean.</p> <p><u>South-South Cooperation:</u> A community of stakeholders linking similar initiatives and networks, exchanging information.</p>	European Union
7	Capacity Building Related to Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEA) in African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Countries (Phase III)	2019.01	2022	Under Implementation	Countries in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean.	Intraregional	Environmental Governance	<p><u>Objective(s):</u> 1) strengthening institutions in the regions through regional hubs that support countries; 2) working at the national level to build national capacity, endogenously; 3) bringing an integrated and synergistic approach in the implementation of MEAs.</p> <p><u>South-South Cooperation:</u> Capacity building through South-South cooperation, engaging the three regional intergovernmental organisations for long-term impact and relevance.</p>	European Union (DG Devco)

8	Strengthening resource efficiency and sustainable consumption and production policy frameworks in Asia Pacific	2017.07.13	2022.12.31	Under Implementation	Countries in Asia and the Pacific	Interregional	Resource Efficiency	<p><u>Objective(s):</u> Improving sustainability of consumption and production patterns in Asia and the Pacific region.</p> <p><u>South-South Cooperation:</u> Policy exchange and partnership development. Regional Forum on five areas of innovation: policy, finance, technology, business models and culture.</p>	European Union (Switch Asia Programme).
9	Global Peatlands Initiative	2019.06.27	2022.12.31	Under Implementation	Indonesia, DRC, Republic of the Congo, Peru.	Interregional	Ecosystems Management	<p><u>Objective(s):</u> Following the Brazzaville Declaration (March 2018), Indonesia, the Republic of the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Peru will be engaging in deep collaboration over effective management of the Congo peatlands (establishment of the International Tropical Peatlands Centre).</p> <p><u>South-South Cooperation:</u> Indonesia, the country in the world with the most experience on peat management issues, will step up as a valuable partner in South-South development cooperation, sharing its expertise.</p>	German Federal Government International Climate Initiative (IKI)
10	Integrated Health and Environment Observatories and Legal and Institutional Strengthening for the Sound Management of Chemicals in Africa (African ChemObs)	2016.09.01	2023.05.31	Under Implementation	Ethiopia, Gabon, Kenya, Madagascar, Mali, Senegal, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe.	Intraregional	Chemicals and Waste	<p><u>Objective(s):</u> Contribute to improved health and environment through strengthening national and regional institutions, and implementing priority chemicals and waste related interventions.</p> <p><u>South-South Cooperation:</u> Promotion of collective management of transboundary water systems and implementation of the full range of policy, legal, and institutional reforms and investments contributing to sustainable use and maintenance of ecosystem services. Enhance capacity of countries to implement MEAs (multilateral environmental agreements) and mainstream into national and sub-national policy, planning financial and legal frameworks.</p>	Global Environment Facility (GEF)
11	Implementing the Strategic Action Programme for the South China Sea	N.A.	N.A.	CEO Endorsed	China, Indonesia, Cambodia, Philippines, Vietnam.	Intraregional	International Waters	<p><u>Objective(s):</u> Assist countries in meeting the targets of the approved Strategic Action Programme (SAP) for the marine and coastal environment of the South China Sea (SCS) through implementation of the National Action Plans in support of the SAP.</p> <p><u>South-South Cooperation:</u> Strengthening regional coordination for SCS SAP implementation.</p>	Global Environment Facility (GEF)

12	Disposal of PCB Oils Contained in Transformers and Disposal of Capacitors Containing PCB in Southern Africa	2016.09.01	2022.01.31	Under Implementation	Botswana, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mauritius, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe.	Intraregional	Persistent Organic Pollutants	<p><u>Objective(s):</u> Reduce environmental and human health risks from PCB releases through the demonstration of a regional approach to the introduction of cost-effective and socially acceptable environmentally sound management (ESM) of PCB oils, equipment and wastes held by electrical utilities and other PCB owners in participating countries.</p> <p><u>South-South Cooperation:</u> Regional harmonisation of national regulatory infrastructure and sustainable mechanisms, enhanced regional capacity for ESM of PCB containing equipment in service and regional mechanism for ESM of decommissioned PCB liquids and equipment.</p>	Global Environment Facility (GEF)
13	Establishment and Operation of a Regional System of Fisheries Refugia in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand	2016.11.01	2020.12.31	Under Implementation	Cambodia, Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand, Malaysia, Vietnam.	Intraregional	International Waters	<p><u>Objective(s):</u> Operate and expand the network of fisheries refugia in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand for the improved management of fisheries and critical marine habitats linkages in order to achieve the medium and longer-term goals of the fisheries component of the Strategic Action Programme for the South China Sea.</p> <p><u>South-South Cooperation:</u> Information Management and Dissemination (South-South Cooperation Network). Foster regional cooperation in the establishment and operation of a regional system of fisheries.</p>	Global Environment Facility (GEF)
14	Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme for the Protection of the Western Indian Ocean from Land-based Sources and Activities (WIO-SAP)	2016.08.15	2021.06.30	Under Implementation	Kenya, Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, Tanzania, South Africa.	Intraregional	International Waters	<p><u>Objective(s):</u> Reduce Impacts from Land-Based Sources and Activities and Sustainably Manage Critical Coastal-Riverine Ecosystems Through the Implementation of the WIO-SAP Priorities with the Support of Partnerships at National and Regional Levels.</p> <p><u>South-South Cooperation:</u> Catalyse multi-state cooperation to balance conflicting water uses in transboundary surface and groundwater basins while considering climatic variability and change.</p>	Global Environment Facility (GEF)
15	Generating Enhanced Political Will for Natural Resource Management and Conservation	2017.01.24	N.A.	Under Implementation	Colombia, Mexico, Peru.	Intraregional	Biodiversity	<p><u>Objective(s):</u> Create and strengthen conservation caucuses of Members in national congresses of Colombia, Mexico, and Peru to build political will for enhanced management of natural resources for development and conservation.</p> <p><u>South-South Cooperation:</u> Sharing of best practice on biodiversity conservation.</p>	Global Environment Facility (GEF)

16	Global Project to Leapfrog Markets to Energy Efficient Lighting, Appliances and Equipment	2018.03.15	N.A.	CEO Endorsed	Global	Interregional	Climate Change	<p><u>Objective(s):</u> Mitigate climate change by transforming national and regional markets to energy-efficient products.</p> <p><u>South-South Cooperation:</u> The project will promote South-South collaboration in order for best practices and lessons learned to be disseminated from countries that have already taken action.</p>	Global Environment Facility (GEF)
17	Healthy Ecosystems for Rangeland Development (HERD): Sustainable Rangeland Management Strategies and Practices	2018.01.10	N.A.	CEO Endorsed	Jordan, Egypt.	Interregional	Land Degradation	<p><u>Objective(s):</u> Strengthen restoration and sustainable management of pastoral rangelands for the provision of ecosystem services and protection of biodiversity in Egypt and Jordan and catalyzing scale-up regionally and globally.</p> <p><u>South-South Cooperation:</u> South-South learning, knowledge sharing, capacity building and inspiration. Particular emphasis will be given to creating a Communal Rangelands Leadership network for South-South learning and cooperation, which will build on the strong cultural and economic history of the Arab region in relation to pastoralism.</p>	Global Environment Facility (GEF)
18	Preventing COSTS of Invasive Alien Species (IAS) in Barbados and the OECS Countries	N.A.	N.A.	CEO Endorsed	Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, St. Kitts and Nevis and Regional (Commonwealth of Dominica, Grenada, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines).	Intraregional	Biodiversity	<p><u>Objective(s):</u> Prevention, early detection, control and management frameworks for invasive alien species (IAS) that emphasize a risk management approach by focusing on the highest risk invasion pathways of Barbados and OECS countries.</p> <p><u>South-South Cooperation:</u> Collaboration among Caribbean states to tackle invasive alien species.</p>	Global Environment Facility (GEF)
19	Technology Needs Assessments - Phase III (TNA Phase III)	N.A.	N.A.	CEO Endorsed	Afghanistan, Antigua and Barbuda, Central African Republic, Chad, Djibouti, Dominica, Eritrea, Fiji, Guinea, Haiti, Jamaica, Liberia, Malawi, Nauru, Niger, Myanmar, Sao Tome and Principe, Suriname, Trinidad & Tobago and Uganda.	Interregional	Climate Change	<p><u>Objective(s):</u> Provide participating countries targeted financial and technical support to prepare new or updated and improved TNAs, including Technology Action Plans (TAPs), for prioritized technologies that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, support adaptation to climate change, and are consistent with Nationally Determined Contributions and national sustainable development objectives.</p> <p><u>South-South Cooperation:</u> The project will ensure up-to-date information dissemination, such as lessons learned and knowledge exchange between country teams and experts through South-South cooperation.</p>	Global Environment Facility (GEF)

20	Mainstreaming Biodiversity Information into the Heart of Government Decision Making	2016.08.18	2021.06.30	Under Implementation	Global	Interregional	Biodiversity	<p><u>Objective(s):</u> Ensure biodiversity is taken into account in decision-making across government sectors by improving end-users' access to and use of biodiversity information and embedding biodiversity information within national development decision making processes.</p> <p><u>South-South Cooperation:</u> Knowledge, experience and biodiversity-related information sharing.</p>	Global Environment Facility (GEF)
21	Closing the Gaps in Great Green Wall: Linking Sectors and Stakeholders for Increased Synergy and Scaling-up	2016.06.13	2019.07.31	Under Implementation	Regional (Great Green Wall Countries).	Intraregional	Land Degradation	<p><u>Objective(s):</u> Greater implementation of policies for sustainable land management in the Sahel (Great Green Wall (GGW) countries) through enhanced investment, intersectoral coordination, and engagement of marginalised groups.</p> <p><u>South-South Cooperation:</u> The project aims to inspire South-South learning, partnership and cooperation more broadly across the region and beyond, by providing a platform for disseminating and duplicating best practices and lessons learned on financing SLM.</p>	Global Environment Facility (GEF)
22	Continuing Regional Support for the POPs Global Monitoring Plan under the Stockholm Convention in the Pacific Region	2015.03.18	2020.03.31	Under Implementation	Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Niue, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Vanuatu.	Intraregional	Chemicals and Waste	<p><u>Objective(s):</u> Strengthen the capacity for implementation of the updated POPs Global Monitoring Plan (GMP) and to create the conditions for sustainable monitoring of POPs in the Pacific Islands Region.</p> <p><u>South-South Cooperation:</u> Exchange of information, experiences and results at regional and international level including through participation in workshops and thus, enhancing South-South cooperation.</p>	Global Environment Facility (GEF)
23	Ratification and Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol in the Countries of the Pacific Region	2016.09.20	2021.06.01	Under Implementation	Cook Islands, Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu.	Intraregional	Ecosystems Management	<p><u>Objective(s):</u> Support ratification of the Nagoya Protocol and implementation of key measures to make the Protocol operational in Pacific Island countries.</p> <p><u>South-South Cooperation:</u> South-South capacity-building, sharing of expertise and lessons learnt.</p>	Global Environment Facility (GEF)

24	UNEP GEF Project for Sustainable Capacity Building for Effective Participation in the Biosafety Clearing House (BCH)	2016.10.01	2020.09.30	Under Implementation	Global (76 developing countries).	Interregional / Intra-regional	Biodiversity	<p><u>Objective(s):</u> Provide support to countries in order to sustain and build capacity for effective participation in the Biosafety Clearing House (BCH).</p> <p><u>South-South Cooperation:</u> Global and sub-regional South-South networking, knowledge and information sharing.</p>	Global Environment Facility (GEF)
25	Continuing Regional Support for the POPs Global Monitoring Plan under the Stockholm Convention in the Latin American and Caribbean Region	2015.09.02	2020.03.31	Under Implementation	Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Barbados, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Jamaica, Mexico, Peru and Uruguay.	Intra-regional	Chemicals and Waste	<p><u>Objective(s):</u> Strengthen the capacity for implementation of the updated POPs Global Monitoring Plan (GMP) and create the conditions for sustainable monitoring of POPs in the Latin American and Caribbean Region.</p> <p><u>South-South Cooperation:</u> Exchange of information, experiences and results, South-South cooperation workshops and trainings.</p>	Global Environment Facility (GEF)
26	Continuing Regional Support for the POPs Global Monitoring Plan under the Stockholm Convention in the Africa Region	2015.03.18	2020.03.31	Under Implementation	DR Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Morocco, Mauritius, Nigeria, Senegal, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia.	Intra-regional	Chemicals and Waste	<p><u>Objective(s):</u> Strengthen the capacity for implementation of the updated POPs Global Monitoring Plan (GMP) and create the conditions for sustainable monitoring of POPs in the African Region.</p> <p><u>South-South Cooperation:</u> Exchange of information, experiences and results, South-South cooperation workshops and trainings.</p>	Global Environment Facility (GEF)
27	Continuing Regional Support for the POPs Global Monitoring Plan under the Stockholm Convention in the Asian Region	2015.03.18	2020.03.31	Under Implementation	Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Mongolia, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam.	Intra-regional	Chemicals and Waste	<p><u>Objective(s):</u> Strengthen the capacity for implementation of the updated POPs Global Monitoring Plan (GMP) and create the conditions for sustainable monitoring of POPs in the Asian Region.</p> <p><u>South-South Cooperation:</u> Exchange of information, experiences and results, South-South cooperation workshops and trainings.</p>	Global Environment Facility (GEF)
28	Demonstration of Effectiveness of Diversified, Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Interventions, and Strengthening National Capacity for Innovative Implementation of Integrated Vector Management (IVM) for Disease Prevention and Control in the WHO A	2016.06.24	2021.02.28	Under Implementation	Botswana, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Ethiopia, Gambia, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Senegal, Tanzania, Uganda.	Intra-regional	Chemicals and Waste	<p><u>Objective(s):</u> Strengthen national capabilities for implementation and scaling up of evidence-based, innovative, diversified and environmentally sound disease vector control interventions (with special emphasis on malaria) with multi-stakeholder participation within context of IVM.</p> <p><u>South-South Cooperation:</u> Dissemination of knowledge and sharing of experiences to all stakeholders at national, sub-regional and regional level in order to influence decision-makers.</p>	Global Environment Facility (GEF)

29	Building Capacity for LDCs to Participate Effectively in Intergovernmental Climate Change Processes	2015.01.14	2019	Under Implementation	Global, Least Developed Countries (LDCs)	Interregional	Climate Change	<p><u>Objective(s):</u> To strengthen institutional and technical capacities in LDCs for more effective participation in intergovernmental climate change negotiations and coordination of climate change efforts.</p> <p><u>South-South Cooperation:</u> Increasing capacity through South-South exchanges of existing technical capacity, creation of knowledge platforms for South-South cooperation exchanges and strengthening of existing platforms.</p>	Global Environment Facility (GEF)
30	Delivering sustainable environmental, social and economic benefits in West Africa through good governance, correct incentives and innovation	N.A.	N.A.	CEO Endorsed	Côte d'Ivoire, Cabo Verde, Senegal.	Intraregional	International Waters, Biodiversity.	<p><u>Objective(s):</u> Strengthen fisheries governance, management and value chains, through the implementation of an ecosystem approach to fisheries, of relevant international instruments and of innovative governance partnerships in three countries in West Africa (Cabo Verde, Cote d'Ivoire and Senegal).</p> <p><u>South-South Cooperation:</u> Policy coordination to ensure coherence of fisheries policies and aquaculture development.</p>	Global Environment Facility (GEF)
31	Global Learning, Finance, and Partnerships project under TRI (The Restoration Initiative)	N.A.	N.A.	CEO Endorsed	Global	Interregional / Intraregional	Multi Focal Area	<p><u>Objective(s):</u> Strengthen overall delivery of TRI by establishing and supporting structures and processes for coordination, monitoring, and adaptive management of the Program, while providing key supports to TRI country projects in the areas of policy identification and uptake, knowledge generation and dissemination, and mobilization of new/additional finance for FLR, to generate enhanced programmatic benefits and support the achievement of country FLR objectives.</p> <p><u>South-South Cooperation:</u> South-South knowledge and best practice sharing, regional South-South exchange visits.</p>	Global Environment Facility (GEF)

32	Capacity building initiative for transparency (CBIT) Global Coordination Platform	N.A.	N.A.	CEO Endorsed	Global	Interregional / Intra-regional	Climate Change	<p><u>Objective(s):</u> Establish a global CBIT coordination platform to support the implementation of the Paris Agreement.</p> <p><u>South-South Cooperation:</u> Information exchange including South-South exchange and lessons learned through topic-specific and expert moderated online discussions, South-South exchanges amongst practitioners including through global workshops.</p>	Global Environment Facility (GEF)
33	Poverty-Environment Action for Sustainable Development Goals	2018.08.23	2022.08.31	Under Implementation	Bangladesh, Lao PDR, Malawi, Mauritania, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Rwanda and Tanzania.	Interregional	Environmental Governance	<p><u>Objective(s):</u> The joint UNDP-UNEP Poverty-Environment Initiative (PEI) is a global programme that supports country-led efforts to mainstream P-E linkages into national development policy, planning and budgeting processes. P-E mainstreaming involves establishing the links between environment and poverty, and then identifying which policies, planning and budgeting processes can bring about better pro-poor environmental management in order to help achieve the SDGs.</p> <p><u>South-South Cooperation:</u> South-South knowledge transfer and joint activities.</p>	Poverty-Environment Initiative currently funded by the Governments of Norway, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the European Union.
34	Global District Energy in Cities Initiative	2016.12.13	2019.10.31	Under Implementation	Chile, China, India and Serbia (pilot countries); Argentina, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Colombia, Egypt, Malaysia, Mongolia, Morocco, Russia, the Seychelles and Tunisia (replication countries).	Interregional	Climate Change	<p><u>Objective(s):</u> Address urban heating and cooling as well as electricity consumption and production for climate and energy transition. Reduce the energy demand through the development of modern (energy-efficient and climate resilient) and affordable district energy systems in cities.</p> <p><u>South-South Cooperation:</u> Exchange of experiences between city/country partners on district energy innovation and best practice through a 'cities for cities' twinning process.</p>	Unspecified

35	Capacity building for national and regional environmental information and knowledge management	2018.07.04	2022.06.30	Under Implementation	Global	Interregional / Intra-regional	Environment under Review	<p><u>Objective(s):</u> Provide technical support to countries for the collection, management, analysis and use of environmental data and information.</p> <p><u>South-South Cooperation:</u> At regional and sub-regional levels, the establishment of multisectoral and interdisciplinary regional environmental information networks can be instrumental in the exchange of knowledge and lessons learned, streamlining data flows, improving the regional knowledge base of environmental reporting and assessments, and ultimately catalyse evidence-informed environmental policy-making.</p>	Unspecified
36	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+)	2018.10.11	2020.12.31	Under Implementation	Countries in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean.	Interregional	Climate Change	<p><u>Objective(s):</u> Implemented by three agencies (UNEP, UNDP, FAO), the project's objectives include addressing drivers of deforestation (national REDD+ strategy), measuring countries' achievements (Forest Reference Level), monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV), ensuring REDD+ activities effectiveness (safeguard information system). The project contributes towards the Paris Agreements and SDGs 13 (Climate Change) and 15 (Life on Land).</p> <p><u>South-South Cooperation:</u> Regional workshops, cross-country exchanges, digital South-South Cooperation.</p>	Unspecified
37	Towards coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of the Sustainable Development Goals	2018.02.17	2021.12.31	Under Implementation	Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Colombia, Guyana, Palau	Interregional	Environmental Governance, Environment Under Review	<p><u>Objective(s):</u> Strengthen the capacities of the national institutions towards coherent and integrated implementation and monitoring of the environmental dimensions of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.</p> <p><u>South-South Cooperation:</u> MEAs for Strengthening the environmental dimension of SDGs, policy coordination, support to inter-ministerial meetings, multi-stakeholder workshops, sharing of knowledge and lessons learned through South-South cooperation.</p>	Unspecified

38	Joint UNEP-UNIDO Programme to host and manage the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN)	2013.06.27	2019.12.31	Under Implementation	China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam	Intraregional	Climate Change	<p><u>Objective(s):</u> The mission of the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN) is to stimulate technology cooperation and to enhance the development and transfer of technologies and to assist developing country Parties at their request, consistent with their respective capabilities and national circumstances and priorities, to build or strengthen their capacity to identify technology needs, to facilitate the preparation and implementation of technology projects and strategies taking into account gender considerations to support action on mitigation and adaptation and enhance low emissions and climate-resilient development.</p> <p><u>South-South Cooperation:</u> Promoting technology transfer between countries of the Global South.</p>	Unspecified
39	Climate and Clean Air Coalition to Reduce Short-Lived Climate Pollutants	2012.09.18	2022.12.31	Under Implementation	Global	Interregional	Climate Change	<p><u>Objective(s):</u> UNEP is one of the founding partners of the Climate and Clean Air Coalition to Reduce Short Lived Climate Pollutants. The main objective of the Coalition is to reduce short-lived climate pollutants (SLCPs) to significantly reduce the rate of global warming over the next two to four decades, prevent millions of premature deaths and avoid the annual loss of more than 30 million tons of crops.</p> <p><u>South-South Cooperation:</u> Enhancing and developing new national and regional actions, promoting best practices and showcasing successful efforts, promoting knowledge networks.</p>	Unspecified
40	Global and Regional Integrated Environmental Assessments	2014.08.28	2019.12.31	Under Implementation	Global	Interregional	Environment Under Review	<p><u>Objective(s):</u> This project will deliver a series of policy-relevant, comprehensive, integrated environmental assessments (IEAs) that provide the current state and trends of the environment at global and regional scales, as well as providing policy options and an outlook, to inform UNEA, support UNEP's strategic direction, and provide the evidence base for sound decision-making at multiple scales. The assessments will draw from the substantive body of relevant scientific information being produced both within UNEP from its programme of work, and also from external partners, institutions and relevant processes.</p> <p><u>South-South Cooperation:</u> Sharing of international best practice for assessment through an inclusive process involving collaboration between experts from various countries.</p>	Unspecified

41	Global Coral Reef Partnership: Towards an Ecosystem Approach to Coral Reef Management	2015.01.09	2019.12.31	Under Implementation	Barbados, Belize, Cape Verde, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Fiji, Indonesia, Madagascar, Maldives, Mozambique, Myanmar, Palau, Philippines, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Seychelles, Sri Lanka, United Arab Emirates, Tanzania, Vietnam.	Interregional / Intra regional	Ecosystems Management	<p><u>Objective(s):</u> This project provides the framework for mobilizing UNEP, tropical Regional Seas Programmes, UNEP-WCMC, GRID-Arendal, other organizations and private sector entities in coral reef partnership activities.</p> <p><u>South-South Cooperation:</u> Global exchange of best practice and lessons learned, regional intergovernmental mechanisms for policy guidance.</p>	Unspecified
42	Great Apes Survival Partnership (GRASP) (Project Preparatory Phase)	2018.12.31	2019.12.31	Under Implementation	Angola, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Indonesia, Liberia, Malaysia, Mali, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Uganda, Tanzania.	Interregional / Intra regional	Ecosystems Management	<p><u>Objective(s):</u> The Great Apes Survival Partnership (GRASP) was launched in 2001 by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to help ensure the permanent survival of gorillas, chimpanzees, bonobos, and orangutans and their habitat in Africa and Asia. GRASP is a unique alliance of national governments, research institutions, United Nations (UN) agencies, conservation organizations, and private sector supporters.</p> <p><u>South-South Cooperation:</u> Sharing of best practices and lessons learned, cooperation over transboundary issues.</p>	Unspecified

43	Strengthening of the Caribbean Biological Corridor	2017.05.25	2021.12.31	Under Implementation	Cuba, Dominican Republic, Haiti.	Intraregional	Environmental Governance	<p><u>Objective(s):</u> Strengthening the Caribbean Biological Corridor (CBC) seeks to build a strong and sustained collective, institutionalised regional approach to the conservation, management and governance of terrestrial and marine biodiversity in the Caribbean Islands hotspot.</p> <p><u>South-South Cooperation:</u> Sustainable and integrated knowledge management system on biodiversity and biological connectivity, joint and harmonised policies and instruments, adequate and compatible capacity among participating countries and institutions, as well as sustained cooperation mechanisms between countries and institutions at political, scientific, technical and civil society levels.</p>	Unspecified
44	Transitioning to sustainable food systems for better lifestyles and food security and nutrition	2018.03.07	2021.12.31	Under Implementation	Brazil, Cambodia, India, Pakistan, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Thailand, Uganda, United States of America, Vietnam, Zambia.	Interregional / Intraregional	Resource Efficiency	<p><u>Objective(s):</u> a) implement a food systems approach that encompasses sustainable agricultural production, supply chain efficiency including food waste and nutrition/health; b) tackle unsustainable resource-inefficient, environmentally heavy agricultural production.</p> <p><u>South-South Cooperation:</u> Multi-stakeholder platforms such as the Sustainable Rice Platform, co-convened by UN Environment and the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), and including international organisations, governments, research institutes, environmental and social NGOs, rice traders, input suppliers, food industry players and producer groups from the Global South.</p>	Unspecified

45	Interfaith Rainforest Initiative	2018.09.05	2020.12.31	Under Implementation	Brazil, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Indonesia, Peru (priority countries).	Interregional	Ecosystems Management	<p><u>Objective(s):</u> The Interfaith Rainforest Initiative is a new initiative designed to bring moral attention and spiritual commitment to ending tropical deforestation. It is being developed as an international, multi-faith partnership that will rally spiritual and religious communities to act for the protection of rainforests and the rights of the indigenous peoples who safeguard them. The initiative will be a shared platform for the world's religions to unite in their efforts to end deforestation and to work within their respective faith traditions, networks and institutions to make rainforest protection a moral and ethical priority.</p> <p><u>South-South Cooperation:</u> A Country Coordination Working Group will be convened to coordinate and oversee country level work among the five priority countries and act as a bridge between the global level of the initiative and the country programmes. The Country Coordination Working Group will facilitate exchange of experiences and lessons learned among the country facilitators and their teams in each of the five partner countries to ensure that lessons extracted from the implementation of the initiative are shared in other countries.</p>	Unspecified
46	Up-Scaling Community Resilience through Ecosystem-based Disaster Risk Reduction (Eco-DRR)	2018.09.12	2021.06.30	Under Implementation	Colombia, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Mali, Oman, Philippines, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Uganda.	Interregional / Intra-regional	Disasters and Conflicts	<p><u>Objective(s):</u> Prevent and reduce the impacts of disasters on vulnerable communities and countries through improved ecosystems management.</p> <p><u>South-South Cooperation:</u> Global platforms, international and regional workshops, roundtable discussions.</p>	Unspecified
47	Generating and sharing knowledge for influencing decision-making on sound management of chemicals and waste	2018.10.23	2021.12.31	Under Implementation	Bangladesh, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Sri Lanka, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Vietnam.	Interregional	Chemicals and Waste	<p><u>Objective(s):</u> Ensure countries, businesses and civil society organisations are using cutting-edge policy, relevant knowledge on selected chemicals and waste topics, that their level of awareness is enough so that they can assess the magnitude of problems, and make the needed decisions for possible action to minimize the adverse impacts on human health and the environment at the global, regional, national and local levels.</p> <p><u>South-South Cooperation:</u> The regional components of this project specifically aim at supporting South-South cooperation applying information and knowledge in a localised context. In doing so, it is expected that the capacity of countries and relevant stakeholders to interact, learn from each other, and positively influence policy will further increase.</p>	Unspecified

48	Opportunities for Mountain Area Integrated Development – Community Conservation and Resilience Initiative	2018.11.20	2020.09.30	Under Implementation	Afghanistan, Tajikistan.	Intraregional	Disasters and Conflicts	<p><u>Objective(s):</u> The proposed intervention will therefore assess the environmental situation in the Badakhshan area so as to design optimal ecosystem-based responses to climate change and extreme events.</p> <p><u>South-South Cooperation:</u> Transboundary/regional collaboration: document good practices in Tajikistan and see how some of them could be transferred to Afghanistan. By bringing technical experts from the two countries together, the project also hopes to improve the management of the transboundary Panj-Amu watershed which has not only resilience benefits but also peacebuilding significance.</p>	Unspecified
49	Partnership for Action on Green Economy – Phase II	2018.12.04	2021.12.31	Under Implementation	Burkina Faso, Ghana, Mauritius, Mongolia, Peru, Senegal, South Africa, China (Jiangsu Province), Barbados, Kyrgyz Republic, Brazil (Mato Grasso State), Guyana and Uruguay; New countries starting in 2nd half from 2018: Argentina, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan; Additional 2 countries to be selected in the course of the project.	Interregional / Intraregional	Resource Efficiency	<p><u>Objective(s):</u> PAGE seeks to put sustainability at the heart of economic policies and practices to advance the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and supports nations and regions in reframing economic policies and practices around sustainability to foster economic growth, create income and jobs, reduce poverty and inequality, and strengthen the ecological foundations of their economies.</p> <p><u>South-South Cooperation:</u> South-South Cooperation among partner and non-partner PAGE countries is an important element in the implementation of the PAGE programme. PAGE – with 13 partner countries engaged at different stages of a green economy transformation, including policy development at national and sectoral level, capacity building and awareness rising – provides an ideal platform to initiate South-South Cooperation and exchanges among countries at different stages of the transformation. PAGE is promoting South-South Exchanges through bi-annual Ministerial Conferences, yearly on campus study programmes (referred to as Green Economy Academies at regional or international level), interactive on-line training programmes, regular webinars and peer-to-peer learning.</p>	Unspecified
50	Strengthening Human Rights and Gender Equality through Climate Change Action and Disaster Risk Reduction (EmPower)	2019.06.12	2022.12.31	Under Implementation	Bangladesh, Cambodia, Vietnam.	Intraregional	Climate Change	<p><u>Objective(s):</u> Strengthen Human Rights and Gender Equality through Climate Change Action and Disaster Risk Reduction.</p> <p><u>South-South Cooperation:</u> Regional knowledge sharing and exchange, learning about the experiences from different streams of work to enable countries to learn good practices and what works in different contexts beyond country level.</p>	Unspecified

51	Providing support to countries and cities in improving air quality	2019.07.01	2022.06.30	Under Implementation	Cambodia, Costa Rica, Ethiopia, India, Peru, Uganda.	Interregional / Intraregional	Chemicals and Waste	<p><u>Objective(s):</u> Upscaling UNEP's support to governments on air quality through a global air quality programme.</p> <p><u>South-South Cooperation:</u> Strengthening global and regional cooperation and partnerships to address air pollution, South-South learning bringing together partners from Africa and Asia Pacific.</p>	Unspecified
52	Climate resilient mountain ecosystems for resilient livelihoods and key flagship mountain species	2019.02.21	2022.09.30	Under Implementation	Bhutan, Kyrgyzstan, Rwanda, Tajikistan, Uganda.	Interregional / Intraregional	Climate Change	<p><u>Objective(s):</u> The goal of this project is to generate maximum synergy between climate change adaptation and biodiversity conservation with a particular focus on mountain flagship species.</p> <p><u>South-South Cooperation:</u> Sharing of experience, knowledge and best practice between countries and regions.</p>	Unspecified
53	Valuing the Essentials	2018.10.16	2022.06.30	Under Implementation	Brazil, China, Colombia, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Malaysia, Mexico, South Africa, Thailand, Tanzania.	Interregional / Intraregional	Ecosystems Management	<p><u>Objective(s):</u> The project objective is to mainstream ecosystem services economics into decision-making through enhancing national capacity to value and account for ecosystem services.</p> <p><u>South-South Cooperation:</u> Learning exchanges, sharing of experience, South-South cooperation workshops, capacity building.</p>	Unspecified
54	The Life Cycle Initiative: enabling global use of life cycle knowledge to support decision making for Sustainable Consumption and Production	2018.01.18	2021.12.31	Under Implementation	Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Egypt, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Lebanon, Mexico, Morocco, Peru, Philippines, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Turkey, Uganda, Tanzania.	Interregional	Resource Efficiency	<p><u>Objective(s):</u> Current approaches to Sustainable Consumption and Production are sub-optimal because a holistic system perspective is regularly lacking in decision making processes by governments, the private sector and individuals. Life Cycle Thinking (LCT) provides this systems perspective and helps identifying priorities and opportunities to improve production and consumption systems, while avoiding unintended trade-offs in environmental, social and economic impacts.</p> <p><u>South-South Cooperation:</u> The project will ensure that knowledge is exchanged between all stakeholders to support a global consensus-building process. In particular developing countries will benefit from the knowledge transfer and access to know-how through South-South cooperation.</p>	Unspecified

55	Building high-level support and national capacities to enhance climate and ozone protection through cooling efficiency	2017.11.30	2021.11.30	Under Implementation	Global	Interregional	Climate Change	<p><u>Objective(s):</u> The project objective is to significantly increase and accelerate the climate and development benefits of the Montreal Protocol refrigerant transition by maximizing a simultaneous improvement in the energy efficiency of the cooling sector. Participating countries will receive guidance on how to pursue this transition in an environmentally-sound manner so that old products that get replaced are properly handled and processed.</p> <p><u>South-South Cooperation:</u> Sharing of experiences, good practices and lessons learnt between countries.</p>	Unspecified
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