UN environment
United Nations Environment Programme

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INTRODUCTION

Purpose of this report: UN Environment Programme's Medium-Term Strategy (2018-2021) is well aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and allows the organization to focus on supporting Member States to achieve this ambitious vision. The environment is a key theme running throughout the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and UN Environment Programme is responsible for tracking and providing feedback on 26 of the 232 SDG indicators.

UN Environment Programme supports the implementation of the 2030 Agenda thorough its Medium-Term Strategy and derived Programmes of Work.
This quarterly report for the current biennium (2018-2019) focuses on the implementation of this Programme of Work. It also shares progress made in implementing decisions of the United Nations Environment Assembly.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The findings of the latest **global environmental assessments** are alarming. They add to the weight of evidence already published by the UN on such matters, including the IPCC 1.5-degree report and the Emissions Gap Report, both of which were released in late 2018. The **6th Global Environment Outlook (GEO-6)** explores the drivers and impacts of 5 aspects of the world's environmental situation: air, biodiversity, oceans, freshwater and land. GEO-6 shows that planet earth is displaying declines in all areas at a rapid rate. Human development indicators are set to improve overall by 2030, but not at a rate sufficient to meet the 2030 targets. Environment indicators are not on track. In only 23 per cent of cases (according to another UN Environment Programme subsidiary report **Measuring Progress**) are the 2030 "environment indicators" likely to be met. GEO-6 argues that the incremental approach to environmental solutions is not enough. Urgent action on an unprecedented scale is needed. It notes that pathways exist to produce the transformative change required – especially in the area of sustainable consumption and production. It urges deliberate and scaled-up action on policies, finance, innovation, knowledge and lifestyle changes.

- Both these reports were released at the 4th session of the **United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-4)** which successfully took place in March 2019. It was the most widely attended session and registered the greatest degree of media (and social media) coverage of any UNEA to date. It adopted one Ministerial Declaration, and 23 resolutions and 3 decisions. UNEP's Programme of Work and Budget 2020-2021 was also adopted. It welcomed the implementation plan "Towards a Pollution-Free planet". The event was environmentally friendly: it was once again climate neutral and, for the first time, was plastic and paper-free.

- Three other science-based reports were also launched at UNEA-4. These are the summary for policymakers of the **Global Chemicals Outlook II** and the first **Small Island Developing States Waste Management Outlook.** These provide a set of clear messages for Member States and inform the organization's advocacy strategy for 2019-2020. In addition, the **Global Resources Outlook 2019** highlights that the use of natural resources has more than tripled since 1970 and continues to grow. It also notes that no significant improvements have been made worldwide to reduce the amount of materials needed for producing, processing and disposing goods or services.

- UN Environment Programme remains fully committed to and is actively engaged, from the highest level, in the UN system wide discussions on **the reforms of UN development system and management**.

- UN Environment Programme is actively contributing to the preparations for the **Secretary-General's Climate Summit,** particularly its nature-based solutions track.

- UN Environment Programme presented a draft background paper on the linkages between climate change, adaptation and security, commissioned by the Global Commission on Adaptation, to the **Planetary Security Conference** in The Hague.

- The **Exploring Natural Capital Opportunities, Risks and Exposure (ENCORE) tool** allows users to identify dependencies from the perspective of the economic sector, an ecosystem service or natural capital assets to understand natural capital risks.

- The first **Environmental Rule of Law** global report points to weaknesses in the design of existing laws, as well as major gaps in implementation and opportunities to strengthen the environmental rule of law.

- By the end of March 2019, the organization had received $93.7 million in **funding**. This represents 24 per cent of the total approved annual budget of $397.8 million and comprises funding from the United Nations Regular Budget and Environment Fund, as well as earmarked contributions, which include multi-year funding.

- As at 31 March 2019, UN Environment Programme and its multilateral environmental agreement (MEA) Secretariats comprised 1,211 **staff** members – 730 professional and 481 general service personnel.

SECTION 1: Significant Global and Regional Developments

GLOBAL

UNEA-4: The fourth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly successfully took place from 11 to 15 March, under the theme "Innovative Solutions for Environmental Challenges and Sustainable Consumption and Production". The Assembly brought together governments, civil society, citizens, the private sector and academia to build policies, partnerships and a culture of innovation that will support the solutions and systemic change needed for sustainability to thrive. The approved Ministerial Declaration, entitled "Innovative Solutions for Environmental Challenges and Sustainable Consumption and Production" (UNEP/EA.4/HLS.1)[1] includes concrete actions to scale-up efforts to overcome common environmental challenges. It aims to do so in a balanced and integrated manner by identifying and developing innovative solutions. It also places emphasis on fostering sustainable and efficient resource management. All this will require concerted follow-up by the international community and UN Environment Programme. UNEA-4 adopted 23 resolutions and 3 decisions, the outcomes of which are reflected throughout this report. Implementation of these resolutions will in part be supported by the current Programme of Work, but many would require extrabudgetary resources. An overview of the results of the Assembly's advocacy and outreach efforts is also provided in Section 2. The Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum and the Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue included discussions with the UNEA-4 President and the acting Executive Director as well as exchanges with Ministers on the need to mirror innovative technical solutions with changes in behaviour, social, cultural and business practices as well as in public policy.[2] The **UNEA Monitor tracked** the most important negotiations and events and delivered the daily news through the lens of civil society.[3] The 2019 Sustainable Innovation Expo focused on **Eco-Innovation and Sustainable Financing**. More than 500 representatives participated in activities on big data, law and legal empowerment, plastic pollution management, sport and electronic gaming, sustainable financing, food systems, fashion and tourism and faith-based initiatives.

One Planet Summit – Africa Pledge: On 14 March, the Summit brought together high-level officials, CEOs, youth, and civil society to showcase concrete achievements and breakthrough initiatives as well as trigger new coalitions and commitments. The participants announced the 'Africa Pledge', which is a series of commitments to develop renewable energy projects and to protect biodiversity in Africa.

Wrap-up session, UNEA-4, 15 March 2019. Nairobi, Kenya. Ms. Joyce Msuya, acting Executive Director, United Nations Environment Programme. (Photo credit: UN Environment Programme/Cyril Villemain)

Repositioning of the United Nations development system: UN Environment Programme remains fully committed to reforming the United Nations development system and to implementing the 2016 quadrennial comprehensive policy review and United Nations General Assembly resolution 72/279.[4] As outlined in UN Environment Programme's February note on United Nations reforms to the Committee of Permanent Representatives, the organization remains actively engaged, from the highest level, in UN system discussions on unpacking and operationalizing the different components, while assessing and taking programmatic and management measures in-house to align fully with the reforms.[5] This includes considering optimal modes of service delivery in support of the new generation of the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) and the reinvigorated Resident Coordinator system, which was launched on 1 January. The new system is supported by a Special Purpose Trust Fund.[6] The organisation's engagement includes:

- Active contribution as part of the **United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework** (UNSDCF) – formerly the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) – Redesign Team to produce new UNSDCF guidelines. The UNSDCF will be the most important instrument for planning and implementation at the country level. A diverse UN Environment Programme team is focused on ensuring that the environmental dimensions, as well as the organization's perspectives and service offerings – especially since UN Environment

1 Available at http://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/27925/K1901029%20-%20UNEP-EA.4-HLS.1%20-%20Advance.pdf?sequence=4&isAllowed=y
2 All proceedings and reports are available here: https://www.unenvironment.org/events/unea/fourth-session-un-environment-assembly.
3 https://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/27678
4 https://undocs.org/A/RES/72/279
5 Document UNEP/CRP/145/6, Agenda Item 6: Update on the UN Development System Reforms, available at https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/27434/Note%20on%20UN%20reform%20CPR%20145.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y
6 https://soc.un.org/SPTF/

One Planet Summit, UNEA-4, 14 March 2019, Nairobi Kenya. High-level dignitaries. (Photo credit: UN Environment Programme/Communications Division)

Programme is primarily a non-resident entity – are well reflected and drawn upon. The guidelines focus on strategic development results delivered, jointly or individually, by entities from across the United Nations system (irrespective of their physical presence in countries) to respond more directly to national priorities and needs.

- Contributions as part of the team drafting the new **Management and Accountability Framework** (MAF), which seeks to provide a clear and unambiguous framework for management and accountability at all levels of the United Nations development system. This is tightly linked to the design of the new UNSDCF, where United Nations entities on the ground will also be accountable to Resident Coordinators for their contributions to UNSDCF outcomes.

- Active participation as a member of an **Internal Review Team** working on the second phase of the regional review. The review is analysing existing regional assets, evaluating the effectiveness of the United Nations regional response and seeking to establish a new architecture adapted to Member States' national, transboundary and regional priorities. UN Environment Programme has helped map regional assets and actively engaged in the regional consultations that were undertaken in order to share its perspectives. The regional review is also closely linked to the **Multi-Country Office** (MCO) review which is assessing the configuration, capacity, resource needs, role and development services of the existing MCOs and will propose options for adjusting MCO models as appropriate. We continue to provide policy advice and support to the different Regional UN Sustainable Development Group Teams and thereby to countries on national sustainable development issues.

- Support as part of the team drafting the **system-wide strategic document**, which is considering concrete and targeted actions to address identified gaps and overlaps in the United Nations development system, such as linking outcomes of ongoing UN reform workstreams. It will also highlight successful areas of programmatic convergence that could serve as a basis for delivering system-wide support (Delivering as One) to Member States.

The Secretary-General will report on the United Nations reforms at the Operational Activities Development Segment of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) (21-23 May).[7] The report will include a formal submission of the **Funding Compact**, which was finalized in February, following a Funding Dialogue between Member States. The Funding Compact seeks to improve the quantity and quality of both core and non-core or extrabudgetary resources for United Nations development operations. One element of the Funding Compact, the **Joint Fund for the 2030 Agenda**, is already operational and a first Call for Proposals has been launched. After extensive consultations with United Nations development system entities and Member States, the final guidelines for the **1 per cent Coordination Levy**

7 https://www.un.org/ecosoc/en/events/2019/2019-operational-activities-development-segment

were sent to all Member States on 14 March for immediate implementation.

Support to the President of the General Assembly (PGA): Environment protection and climate change are among the priorities of the PGA, María Fernanda Espinosa:

- UN Environment Programme is supporting the PGA's campaign to raise political awareness and ambition to **reduce plastic pollution,** through United Nations Headquarters initiatives and advocacy with Member States and United Nations agencies. The PGA is raising the profile of #BeatPlasticPollution through a campaign launched in collaboration with Antigua and Barbuda, Costa Rica, Norway, Sweden and other Member States.

- A high-level meeting on the issue of the protection of the global climate for present and future generations of humankind in the context of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development took place on 28 March at the United Nations Headquarters. The meeting highlighted the interlinkages between climate and the 2030 Agenda and called for enhanced ambition regarding climate action.[8]

Towards a Global Pact for the Environment: UN Environment Programme provided technical and substantive support to the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group and its Co-Chairs.[9] Two substantive sessions of the Working Group were held, in January and March 2019, to discuss the Secretary-General's gap report. [10] The third session is planned for 20 to 22 May and is expected to adopt final recommendations made to the General Assembly.[11]

United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration: On 1 March, the General Assembly adopted a resolution proclaiming a United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030,[12] which aims to massively scale-up the restoration of degraded and destroyed ecosystems as a proven key measure to fight the climate crisis and enhance food security, water supply and biodiversity. UN Environment Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) are the lead organizations.

8 Mandated by United Nations General Assembly resolution 72/219, available at https://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/72/219
9 Pursuant to United Nations General Assembly resolution 72/277 entitled "Towards a Global Pact for the Environment".
10 https://www.unenvironment.org/news-and-stories/story/member-states-debate-need-global-pact-environment
11 Information on the process is available at https://www.unenvironment.org/events/conference/towards-global-pact-environment
12 https://www.unenvironment.org/news-and-stories/story/new-un-decade-ecosystem-restoration-inspire-bold-un-environment-assembly

AFRICA

African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN):

- The extraordinary meeting of the Bureau held on 13 March, in Nairobi, re-affirmed that South Africa will host the 17th regular session of AMCEN (19-23 August) and proposed the theme "Taking action for environmental sustainability and prosperity in Africa".

- Unfortunately, contributions to the AMCEN General Trust Fund continue to decline. A detailed report on the status of the contributions – and arrears – of each Member State will be circulated at the 17th regular session of AMCEN. The Bureau agreed on the need to identify innovative solutions to finance AMCEN activities, while also reminding Member States to pay their contributions.

- The Africa Group submitted 6 draft resolutions to UNEA-4 for consideration. These built on the priorities identified at the 7th special session of AMCEN. Five of the draft resolutions were adopted.

On 21 February, a **briefing for the Kenyan NGOs attending UNEA-4** was held at the UN Nairobi compound and chaired by the Acting Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme.

ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

6th Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development: At the Forum, held on 27-29 March in Bangkok, UN Environment Programme co-hosted a round table on SDG 13, with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) and the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), resulting in 6 policy recommendations, which were included in the Chair's summary and submitted to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.[13,14,15] UN Environment Programme contributed to the development of SDG profiles for SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth) and SDG 13 (climate action), among the selected SDGs under review in 2019. These SDG profiles were developed to support common regional understanding of the options for integrated policy approaches.

Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)-China Environmental Cooperation Week: The aim of the event, held on 25-29 March in Beijing, was to exchange knowledge and experience on eco-friendly city development, and cooperation and action on climate change adaptation and mitigation among ASEAN Member States and China.[16] UN Environment Programme supported activities and shared good practices during the event.

13 https://www.unisdr.org/
14 https://unfccc.int/
15 https://www.unescap.org/apfsd/6/
16 http://gobor.org/asean-china-environmental-cooperation-week-2019

Third Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities of Asia Pacific co-hosted by the Singaporean Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources and UN Environment Programme, 23-25 January, Singapore. (Photo credit: UN Environment Programme/Asia and the Pacific Office.)

3rd Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities of Asia Pacific: The Forum was co-hosted by the Singaporean Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources and UN Environment Programme on 23-25 January in Singapore.[17,18] It reviewed the implementation of UNEA resolutions, discussed regional challenges, priorities and solutions related to policies and financing on sustainable consumption and production, and provided regional inputs to the UNEA-4 theme, draft declaration and resolutions. The Forum was preceded on 23 January by a Major Group and Stakeholders' Forum which resulted in input to the Forum and a regional Major Group and Stakeholders' input to UNEA-4.[19]

EUROPE

Collaboration with the European Union: The acting Executive Director, Ms. Msuya, undertook her first official visit to Brussels during 28-30 January, to exchange with the European Union institutions on the need for partnerships and discuss areas of collaboration between the European Union and UN Environment Programme. Ms. Msuya also engaged with civil society to prepare for their participation in UNEA-4, and addressed topics such as supporting circular economies.

The mission highlighted the importance of political will to build upon and mainstream the biodiversity agenda, as well as the need to engage with different sectors on innovative solutions to tackle environmental challenges.

Convention on Biological Diversity: Over 30 countries from the Western European and Others Group attended the Convention's Regional Consultation on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework during 19-21 March in Bonn. It was mutually agreed that the post-2020 framework should build on the current plan and that there was a need for simple, realistic targets with well-established indicators that were easy to communicate, simple and transparent, and that allowed for stronger ownership by Member States. The need to work closely with key actors beyond the biodiversity community and other processes was also highlighted.

2019 Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for Europe: The Forum was held on 21-22 March in Geneva. UN Environment Programme contributed to the organisation of the Forum, co-organized four roundtables for the goals under review. The Forum emphasized the need to design and implement policies in a synergetic and integrated manner.

Ban on single-use plastic products: On 27 March, the European Parliament approved a directive to ban, by 2021, the 10 single-use plastic products most often found on European beaches, as well as abandoned fishing gear and oxo-degradable plastics. The Single-Use Plastics Directive places more responsibility on plastic producers and has

17 https://www.unenvironment.org/events/conference/third-forum-ministers-and-environment-authorities-asia-pacific
18 https://www.unenvironment.org/news-and-stories/press-release/41-countries-meet-singapore-3rd-forum-ministers-and-environment
19 Reclaiming Peoples Solutions: Addressing Systemic Challenges in Environmental Protection and Sustainable Consumption and Production. Asia Pacific Major Groups and other Stakeholders Statement to the Third Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities for Asia Pacific and the 4th UN Environment Assembly: https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/27415/Asia%20Pacific%20Regional%20CSO%20Statement%20to%20UNEA4%20FINAL.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y

established new recycling targets for European Union Member States. A European Union directive to curb single-use plastic bags has been in place since 2015.

Mountain Heroes campaign: The famous ice climber Will Gadd joined the UN Environment Programme's Mountain Heroes campaign to raise awareness of shrinking mountain glaciers, with the aim of increasing the momentum around promoting sustainability practices and mountain sports.

Ministerial Conference on Regional Climate Action in the Western Balkans: This conference, held on 6 April in Tirana, Albania, identified common climate priorities for the Western Balkan region to help ensure that the region's most transformative ideas are leveraged, while also facilitating access to funding for climate action.

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Mexico: The new National Development Plan 2019-2024 has prompted several programmes on issues of national priority, such as poverty and inequality, strengthening the internal market or renewable energies. The development of the new UNDAF (2020-2025) is under way, for which UN Environment Programme has collaborated to develop the common country assessment (CCA) and promoted the inclusion of green economy and climate change as an area of cooperation. Mexico is promoting UN Environment Programme's global campaigns, with 30 entities joining the ***#Clean Seas campaign,*** and 6 state and city governments the ***#BreatheLife Campaign.***

NORTH AMERICA

UN Environment Programme hosted two distributed virtual consultations in preparation for UNEA-4 on the themes of **Innovations to Address the Challenges of Food Waste and Single-Use Plastics in the Region**, on 22 January and 5 February, respectively.[20] The aim of the distributed consultation model was to enable a broad range of geographically dispersed stakeholders from across the region to participate and provide inputs into the Assembly, while decreasing overall carbon emissions associated with related travel.

WEST ASIA

Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment (CAMRE): UN Environment Programme facilitated the extraordinary session of the Council in preparation for UNEA-4, in cooperation with the Government of Jordan and League of Arab States. This session, held on 9-10 January in Amman, requested the League of Arab States and UN Environment Programme: (1) to support the formation of an Arab negotiating team for UNEA-related matters, and (2) to follow up on the implementation of resolutions of previous UNEA sessions, including resolution 2/15 and in particular the impact of the Syrian refugees' crisis on neighbouring countries, such as Jordan and Lebanon.[21] The League of Arab States tabled, for the first time, two draft resolutions on innovative solutions for curbing food loss in hot climates and on innovative solutions for solid waste management. Both were subsequently adopted, following the negotiations.

20 The outcomes of these consultations formed part of the overall Information document: UNEP/EA.4/INF/4: Compilation of Statements and Recommendations by Major Groups and Stakeholders for Consideration by the United Nations Environment Assembly at its Fourth Session: Note by the Executive Director, available at https://papersmart.unon.org/resolution/uploads/unea-4-final_inf_4_doc_26-2-19_revised.pdf#overlay-context=pre-session-unea-4

21 United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 2/15 available at http://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/11189/K1607252_UNEPEA2_RES15E.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y

SECTION 2: Programmatic Update

During the reporting period, UN Environment Programme continued to deliver on the seven following subprogrammes:

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

Key programmatic activity highlights in relation to the Expected Accomplishments of the approved **Programme of Work 2018-2019** are presented below, with key opportunities, challenges and risks highlighted. Interwoven into the elements of the Programme of Work are developments related to:

- **Environment Assembly resolutions** and how they are being implemented
- **Partnerships**
- **Campaigns**
- **SDGs and UNDAF** linkages to the subprogrammes
- **Cross-cutting** areas, such as gender and safeguards.

1.CLIMATE CHANGE

SUB PROGRAMME OBJECTIVE:

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

Expected Accomplishment – 1a

"Countries increasingly advance their national adaptation plans which integrate ecosystems-based adaptation."[22]

Myanmar – Climate Change Policy: The climate change policy, strategy and sectoral master plan, developed under the Myanmar Climate Change Alliance (MCCA) project, were approved.

National Adaptation Planning: The Government of **Mongolia** began a process to formulate a national adaptation plan (NAP) in March. Meanwhile, UN Environment Programme is enhancing the capacity of countries to develop **NAPs** that are responsive to current climate and socioeconomic situations. For example, in **Zimbabwe**, meteorological services are being restructured to provide refined data that can inform investments in key socioeconomic sectors, such as agriculture.

Appraisal and Prioritization Tools: 23 national experts from 3 least developed countries (LDCs) in the Pacific, namely **Kiribati, Tuvalu** and **Vanuatu**, have learned about different appraisal and prioritization tools, including multicriteria analysis (MCA). These countries have benefited from the experiences of other countries that have used the tools.

Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA):

- In **Kenya,** under the Ecosystem Based Adaptation for Food Security in Africa (EBAFOSA) project, youth with skills in clean energy, marketing and information and communications technology (ICT) have been guided to forge partnerships, invest their skills and time, and develop a climate action ICT application called **EBAgroPamoja.** Through this application, actors involved in the agro-value chain are linked, creating opportunities and providing access to services, such as organic fertilisers and inputs, through which producers can increase their yields while enhancing their ecosystems.
- Funded by the Green Climate Fund (GCF), for **the Gambia**, the development of EbA protocols for 25 community forests was completed, and for **Benin** a $9 million grant project was approved.

22 Linked to United Nations Environment Assembly resolution UNEP/EA.2/Res.6 (SDGs 13.1, 13.2, 13.3.2, 13.a, 13.b).

Expected Accomplishment – 1b

"Countries increasingly adopt and/or implement low greenhouse gas emission development strategies and invest in clean technologies."[23]

Global electric mobility (e-mobility) programme: UN Environment Programme, in collaboration with the International Energy Agency, Asian Development Bank, United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), has developed this programme, for which the Global Environment Facility has allocated $26.5 million.

Climate and Clean Air Coalition: The Coalition launched its African Integrated Assessment, which is instrumental in guiding climate and clean air policies; and approved the implementation plan and budget for its Action Programme. In addition, it assessed the global health impacts of transport sector emissions in 2010 and 2015 to evaluate progress and assess trends at the city, national and international levels. This information will be used to determine where policies are succeeding. Work on short-lived climate pollutants has also progressed, with 14 countries developing their national black carbon emission inventories. The Regional Symposium on Combating Black Carbon Air Pollution took place from 26-27 March in Amman.[24]

Supporting UNFCCC processes: Kuwait validated the results of its second National Communication (NC) during a national workshop on 16 January. The Subregional Capacity-building Workshop on the **Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) Framework** took place during 4-7 March in Bahrain.

Women and Climate: The implementation of the regional project **EmPower – Women for Climate-Resilient Societies** started in January.[25] The key results in its first months have been the outreach video on women's critical role in scaling-up renewable energy programmes launched at UNEA-4, strengthened capacity for gender and climate change at the Ministry of Environment in **Cambodia**, technical inputs contributing to a gender-inclusive Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) process in **Viet Nam**, and events on **gender and climate change** during the third Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities of Asia Pacific in Singapore, in January.[26]

23 Resolution UNEP/EA.3/Res.8 (SDGs 7.1.1, 7.1.2, 7.2.17.3.1, 7.a.1, 7.b.1, 9.4.1, 12.c.1, 13.3.2, 13.a, 13.b, 17.17.1).
24 Participants were from Bahrain, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Palestine, Syria and Yemen, and private sector and non-governmental entities.
25 https://spark.adobe.com/page/REdR6j0PCPkl2/
26 EmPower outreach video available at https://spark.adobe.com/page/REdR6j0PCPkl2/

Sok Sopheap, of Tropang Thom village in Cambodia, uses biogas.[27]

Bioenergy sustainability: Indicators have been developed to ensure the sustainable use of biomass energy in **Ethiopia** and **Kenya**. Thirty experts were trained thereon. These indicators have equipped the countries with analytical tools that can inform their policies on investment and use of biomass energy.

Expected Accomplishment – 1c

"Countries increasingly adopt and implement forest-friendly policies and measures that deliver quantifiable emissions reductions as well as social and environmental benefits."[28]

Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD):

- New **geographic information systems (GIS) tutorials** have been developed and published on the United Nations Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (UN-REDD) workspace.[29]
- A remote bilateral exchange took place between **Peru** and **Chile** on 5 March 2019 with 15 participants. Responding to a request from the UN-REDD team in Peru for further information and country experiences on benefits distribution mechanisms for REDD+, the coordinator of the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility in Chile presented the country's approach and progress in developing such a mechanism for their National Strategy on Climate Change and Vegetation Resources. The inception mission of a new Green Climate Fund (GCF) readiness project to support **Malaysia** in accessing REDD+ results-based payments took place.

Tropical Landscape Finance Facility: Key performance indicators were developed for the Facility's eight core objectives, which will be integrated into a revised environmental and social **impact management policy** for the facility.

Vulnerable Mountain Species: Implementation of UN Environment Programme's new **Vanishing Treasures** programme has started.[30] The programme supports climate change adaptation of vulnerable mountain species, such as the Royal Bengal tiger, the snow leopard and the mountain gorilla.

Peatlands: The Dutch-funded livelihoods and natural capital sustained and knowledge to accelerate peat restoration project was launched in **Indonesia** to promote peat governance. UN Environment Programme is working on this project in collaboration with Wageningen University, the Indonesian Ministry of Environment and Forestry and the non-governmental organization (NGO) Kemitraan.

Subprogramme 1: Main opportunities and challenges, and response measures

- UN Environment Programme received positive interest from the Swiss Development Cooperation to continue to work towards strengthening regional cooperation and climate change adaptation in mountain regions.
- Resources need to be mobilized in order to avoid straining internal resources for initiatives such as the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, the Secretary-General's Climate Summit and nature-based solutions, and UNEA-4 resolutions.[31]
- According to the Emissions Gap report 2018, the ambition level has to increase by three times for the world to stay within the 2-degree target and by five times for the 1.5-degree target.

27 Story available at https://www.unenvironment.org/news-and-stories/story/cambodia-finding-solutions-climate-change-empowering-women

28 United Nations Environment Assembly resolution UNEP/EA.2/Res.6 (SDGs 12.c.1, 13.3.2, 13.a, 13.b, 15.1.1, 15.2.1, 15.3.1, 15.6.1, 17.17.1).

29 https://www.unredd.net/global/683-multiple-benefits/2289-exploring-multiple-benefits-mapping-toolbox-now-updated-for-arcgis-10-0-and-10-1.html

30 https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/27166/Treasures.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y

31 UNEA-4 resolutions UNEP/EA.4/ RES.10 entitled "Innovations on biodiversity and land degradation", UNEP/EA.4/ RES.16 entitled "Conservation and sustainable management of peatlands" and UNEP/EA.4/ RES.3 entitled "Sustainable mobility".

2. RESILIENCE TO DISASTERS AND CONFLICTS

SUB-PROGRAMME OBJECTIVE:

"Countries increasingly prevent and reduce the environmental impacts of disasters and conflicts, while building resilience to future crises."[32]

Expected Accomplishment – 2a

"Countries and international partners integrate environmental measures for risk reduction in key policies and frameworks."

Risk reduction: Between January and March, UN Environment Programme has carried out risk reduction activities in 12 countries.[33]

Climate Change and Security:

- On International Women's Day, UN Environment Programme launched the final report of its pilot project on **gender, climate and security in Sudan**. [34,35]
- UN Environment Programme participated in the **Planetary Security Conference** in The Hague and presented a draft background paper on the linkages between climate change, adaptation and security, which had been commissioned by the Global Commission on Adaptation.

Environment in humanitarian action:

- The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and UN Environment Programme are, together, developing **environmental assessment and humanitarian action management tools.** Environmental considerations are also being integrated in processes led by the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) of **Nigeria.**
- Based on the Turkish component of an **environment and displacement** project, guidelines for addressing the negative environmental impact of humanitarian action were produced and distributed during the Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Week. [36]

Capacity development of petroleum sector: The UN Environment Programme and Oil for Development (OfD) partnership received positive feedback on their work in the project's midterm review carried out by the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD).[37] The OfD partnership also conducted an **Institutional Capacity Needs Assessment in Mozambique** to strengthen environmental management in the country's emerging oil and gas sector, with a report launched on 15 March in Maputo.[38]

Environmental Security: The second iteration of UN Environment Programme's Environmental Security and Sustaining Peace **massive open online course** started on 11 February. The course is the SDG Academy's most enrolled course for 2019.[39]

Expected Accomplishment – 2b

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

Emergency response:

- The Joint Environment Unit of UN Environment Programme and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) conducted 2 emergency response missions during the reporting period. The first, to the **Solomon Islands**, followed a request for technical assistance in response to the oil spill resulting from the grounding of the MV Solomon Trader bulk carrier near the East Rennell UNESCO World Heritage Site. A 4-person environmental response team was also deployed during 20 March to 13 April. The team provided advice to national authorities on how to manage the response and is informing a detailed assessment.
- The second emergency response mission was to **Mozambique** following Cyclone Idai.[40] The EU Civil Protection Mechanism mobilized and deployed an environmental expert during 25 March to 13 April to provide daily support to national authorities on operations at cyclone-affected dams.
- UN Environment Programme contributed an environmental and humanitarian analysis to the inter-agency analysis of needs in **Venezuela.**

32. The programme is relevant to achieving all 17 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as external shocks, such as natural disasters, industrial accidents and especially armed conflict, have proven to be challenging barriers to development. However, the organization is aiming to help deliver on SDGs 1 (poverty), 11 (cities), 13 (climate action) and 16 (peace).
33. Afghanistan, Colombia, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Kenya, Mexico, Mozambique, Nigeria, Philippines, Sudan
34. https://postconflict.unep.ch/publications/Sudan_Gender_NRM2019.pdf
35. https://www.unenvironment.org/news-and-stories/story/empowering-sudans-women-and-promoting-peace-through-equitable-use-natural
36. Quick Guides available at https://ehaconnect.org/resource/un-environment-quick-guides-on-how-humanitarian-action-can-minimize-environmental-impacts/
37. The partnership aims to enhance environmental management of the petroleum sector, mostly through capacity needs assessments, basic trainings in environmental management of the petroleum value chain, Environmental Impact Assessments, as well as support to national dialogue and awareness raising.
38. Institutional Capacity Needs Assessment for Strengthening Environmental Management in the Oil and Gas Sector in Mozambique available at https://postconflict.unep.ch/mozambique/Mozambique_Gas_2018.pdf
39. Environmental Security and Sustaining Peace course available at https://www.edx.org/course/environmental-security-and-sustaining-peace-0
40. https://www.unenvironment.org/news-and-stories/story/cyclone-idai-why-disaster-awareness-and-preparedness-matters

Destruction from Cyclone Idai. March 2019. Beira, Mozambique. (Photo credit: Beira Municipality.)

State of Environment Report – Palestine: In February and March, UN Environment Programme led a delegation of technical experts for consultations with Palestinian and Israeli Ministries of Foreign Affairs and the Environment, and conducted 4 days of field visits to sites of environmental concern in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. This mission formed the basis for work being carried out to produce a State of the Environment Report for Palestine, planned for release in mid-2019.

Recovery - Iraq: UN Environment Programme helped the Government to identify the cause of **mass fish deaths** that occurred in late 2018 estimated to include the loss of 8 million farmed carp. Test results confirmed that the incident was caused by disease, rather than pollution. In addition, UN Environment Programme has continued its work on war **debris recycling** in Kirkuk, in collaboration with the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) and local authorities.

Expected Accomplishment – 2c

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

Environmental support - Somalia:

- UN Environment Programme, in collaboration with the IOM, initiated the development of a study on climate adaptive solutions to displacement in the country.
- As part of the implementation of the Joint Programme for **Sustainable Charcoal Reduction and Alternative Livelihoods** (PROSCAL) for Somalia, UN Environment Programme drafted the country's first national policy on charcoal production, use and trade and developed awareness raising outreach tools.

Adaptation in humanitarian situations: In **Chad** and **Sudan**, UN Environment Programme launched the project Adaptation to climate change in sub-Saharan African humanitarian situations.[41] The project aims to strengthen the countries' capacity to help displaced populations and vulnerable communities adapt to climate change.

Natural resources management:

- In **Sudan,** the inception of the second phase of the **Wadi El Ku Catchment Management Project** took place on 10 February.[42] Three facilitator teams from UN Environment Programme's El Fasher Office and Practical Action have started to implement the project's Community Environmental Action Plans (CEAPs). UN Environment Programme also provided technical inputs and offered its expertise throughout the revision process of the **Darfur Development Strategy** (DDS).
- In January, UN Environment Programme's inception mission to Port Harcourt, **Nigeria,** initiated a project to strengthen the country's **Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project** (HYPREP) to manage the clean-up of oil contamination in Ogoniland in the Niger Delta. UN Environment Programme will assist HYPREP with technical support and capacity-building.

Subprogramme 2: Main opportunities and challenges, and response measures

- The outcome of the upcoming **United Nations leaders training programme** on the environment, peace and security, will permit the possible expansion of such engagement as a UN Environment Programme contribution to horizon-scanning capacity for the UN leadership on the ground. Focus areas will include the impact of climate change, environmental degradation and competition over natural resources.

- The United Nations Office of Internal Oversight Services **(OIOS)** has completed an audit of the **Afghanistan Project Office.** The audit provides an opportunity to evaluate UN Environment Programme's post-conflict and post-disaster presence in the country and is informing an ongoing internal assessment of the subprogramme and its delivery model.

41. https://www.unenvironment.org/news-and-stories/story/humanitarian-crises-and-climate-change-preparing-challenges-ahead

42. https://www.unenvironment.org/news-and-stories/story/building-resilience-and-peace-resource-scarce-darfur

3. HEALTHY AND PRODUCTIVE ECOSYSTEMS

SUB-PROGRAMME OBJECTIVE:

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

Expected Accomplishment – 3a

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

Monitoring ecosystems: A new platform for **monitoring changes to water-related ecosystems** (SDG indicator 6.6.1), run by Google, the European Commission's Joint Research Centre and UN Environment was launched at UNEA-4.[43,44]

Wild for Life: On 3 March, World Wildlife Day was celebrated, adopting the theme "Life below water: for people and planet". Under the tagline "Saving seas just got personal", the Wild for Life and Clean Seas campaigns joined forces, supported, inter alia, by nine global champions with a combined total of 373 million social media followers.[45] The total engagement on social media (likes, comments, shares and views) of these champions was 9.5 million.

Marine resources:

- At the request of the governments of Canada, the United States and Mexico, UN Environment Programme is helping to revitalize the **North American Marine Protected Areas Network** to strengthen the conservation of biodiversity in critical marine habitats throughout the region and to facilitate information exchanges among marine protected area (MPA) experts and managers.
- The meeting between UN Environment Programme and the Regional Economic Communities of the African Union held during 18-22 March, resulted in the development of an outline for an **Ocean Governance Strategy** for the Western Indian Ocean region.

Partnerships: UN Environment Programme signed **new memorandums of understanding (MOUs)** with Plant-for-the-Planet Foundation on ecosystem restoration outreach and youth engagement, FarmStrong Foundation on environmental and social impact analysis, and Mirova on sustainable investment management.

Watamu Beach clean-up in Kenya. (Photo credit: UN Environment Programme/Ecosystems Division.)

43. https://www.unenvironment.org/news-and-stories/story/eye-sky-life-ground
44. https://www.unenvironment.org/news-and-stories/story/plugging-data-gap-google-european-commissions-joint-research-centre-and-un
45. https://www.unenvironment.org/news-and-stories/story/saving-seas-just-got-personal-join-fight-world-wildlife-day

Local fishermen haul in their catch of sardines on the coast of Nui Chua National Park in Viet Nam. This coastline and its ecosystems were previously under threat from harmful fishing practices and poor management capacity. (Photo credit: UN Environment Programme/Lisa Murray.)

Expected Accomplishment – 3b

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

TEEB - The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity: TEEB for Agriculture & Food (TEEBAgriFood) International Symposium, was held in Nairobi during 26-27 February.[46] Participants shared lessons learned from implementing the **TEEBAgriFood Evaluation Framework** and were provided with training on media and communications strategies, categorizing trade-offs in ecosystem service provisioning, scenario analysis and assessing changes in human and social capital.

Natural Capital Risks: UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Centre, in partnership with the UN Environment Programme-Finance Initiative and the Natural Capital Finance Alliance, developed the **ENCORE tool.**[47] It allows users to explore dependencies from the perspective of the economic sector, an ecosystem service or natural capital assets to understand natural capital risks.

Sustainable Livelihoods: On 4 January, a demonstration site was launched in Lijiang, Yunnan Province, China, as part of the study Sustainable Livelihood and Green Development Strategies in Environment-Economic Vulnerable Areas.

Ocean, marine and coastal management:

- From February to early-March, UNEP-WCMC delivered a training session in **Myanmar** on improving the availability and use of **marine and coastal biodiversity data** relevant to decision-making.
- UN Environment Programme was part of the International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange (IODE) meeting held during 18-19 February in Tokyo, Japan.[48] The meeting reviewed scientific preparedness and needs for the **United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development** (2021-2030).
- UN Environment Programme participated in the Third Meeting of the Management, Science and Technical Panel and the Interim Commission Council of Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem (YSLME) in Qingdao, China, during 12-14 March. The meeting approved setting up the **YSLME Clean Beach City Alliance.**

Poverty-Environment Initiative: In January, UN Environment Programme published the document Strengthening the Environmental Dimensions of the Sustainable Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific: Tool Compendium.[49]

Subprogramme 3: Main opportunities and challenges, and response measures

- The United Nations General Assembly adopted United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021–2030, with UN Environment Programme and FAO as the lead organizations. This will require a joint planning and **fundraising exercise**.

46. http://teebweb.org/agrifood/home/meetings-events/symposium-feb2019/
47. https://encore.naturalcapital.finance/
48. https://www.iode.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=583&Itemid=100394
49. https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/publication/481446/environmental-dimensions-sdgs-tool-compendium.pdf

4. ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE

SUB-PROGRAMME OBJECTIVE:

Policy coherence and strong legal and institutional frameworks increasingly achieve environmental goals in the context of sustainable development. [50]

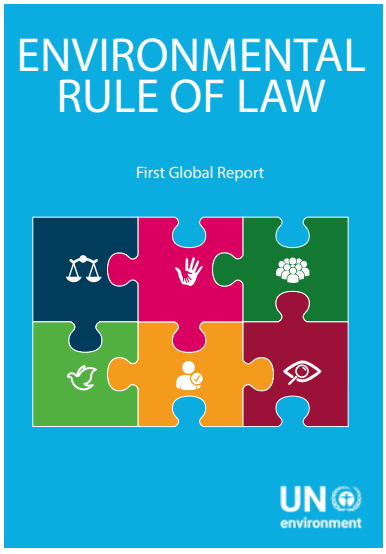
Expected Accomplishment – 4a

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

The integration of environmental objectives into the agenda of the broader United Nations system has further progressed, thanks to actions including:

- the adoption of resolution 40/11 at the **fortieth session of the Human Rights Council,** which recognizes the contribution of environmental human rights defenders to the enjoyment of human rights, environmental protection and sustainable development
- the endorsement of the system-wide Strategy for Sustainability Management in the UN System 2020-2030 by the High-level Committee on Management, which is the first of two steps to have a complete sustainability strategy for the United Nations by 2020.[51]

The first **Environmental Rule of Law** global report was launched in January. It points to weaknesses in the design of existing laws, as well as major gaps in implementation and opportunities to strengthen the environmental rule of law. It also proposes an indicator framework to enable regular assessments of the state of environmental rule of law.[52]



A UN Environment Programme-led inception experts meeting was held in February 2019 in Nairobi to present the preliminary outline and key elements of the **Natural Resource Governance Framework** in preparation for discussion at a consultative meeting during the upcoming AMCEN session.

Expected Accomplishment – 4b

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

Environmental laws:

- With the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), UN Environment Programme has strengthened the capacity of parliamentarians in **Burundi** and **Zimbabwe** to formulate environmental legislation and provide implementation oversight for MEAs.[53]
- UN Environment Programme supported the **Chilean** Ministry of the Environment and the Senate to advance its national discussion on the draft bill for a national biodiversity system.
- UN Environment Programme collaborated with the first Forum on Environmental Law and Justice for Sustainable Development in **Paraguay**, organized by the World Bank (6-7 March), thus strengthening key **partnerships for implementing the environmental law agenda** in the Latin America and Caribbean region.

Multilateral Environmental Agreements:

- The Secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury joined the Green Customs Initiative, allowing **customs officers** to benefit from stronger capacities to monitor and facilitate legal trade and also detect and prevent illegal trade in mercury.[54]
- The Government of **Rwanda**, in collaboration with UN Environment Programme and the Center for Governance and Sustainability at the University of Massachusetts Boston, analysed its performance in implementing biodiversity and chemicals and wastes conventions.
- UN Environment Programme provided technical and legal assistance to the negotiations of the Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) Protocol to the **Nairobi**

50. Highlights support implementation of United Nations Environment Assembly resolutions 2/2, 2/5, 2/17, 2/19 and 2/21.
51. The strategy is focused on management and is one of two phases towards developing a complete United Nations sustainability strategy by 2020. The strategy is being submitted for endorsement by the Chief Executives Board in early May 2019. The Committee's procurement network has also endorsed a United Nations-wide framework of sustainable procurement indicators.
52. https://www.unenvironment.or/resources/assessment/environmental-rule-law-first-global-report
53. UN Environment Programme published Shades of Green: an introduction to the green economy for parliamentarians, focusing on green economy policies. Available at https://ipu.org/resources/publications/reports/2019-03/shades-green-introduction-green-economy-parliamentarians

Faith leaders representing 56 faith-based organizations and 12 faiths and congregations gathered at UNEA-4 as part of the Faith for Earth Dialogue. March, Nairobi, Kenya. (Photo credit: UN Environment Programme/Timothy Shitagwa.)

Convention. A final agreed text has been prepared and is ready for adoption at a Conference of Plenipotentiaries.[55]

Environmental Dimension of SDGs:

- A workshop was held in **Colombia** in March, focusing on the development of a network analysis of SDGs at the national level, as part of measures to strengthen delivery on the environmental dimensions of the SDGs.
- **Poverty-Environment Action** participated in a high-level panel on the impact of climate change on the displacement of women during the thirty-third pre-summit meeting on mainstreaming gender equality convened by the "Gender is My Agenda" campaign. Contributions from the high-level panel formed part of key recommendations that were presented at the main African Union summit.

One UN country programming:

- UN Environment Programme engaged with **UNCTs** to better integrate environment into UN programming frameworks.
- UNDAFs for **Bhutan** and **Viet Nam** were concluded. Environmental reporting and other substantive inputs were provided to UNCTs in **Mongolia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Thailand** and the **United Arab Emirates**.
- Support was also provided to UNCTs and the United Nations Compensation Commission (UNCC) programming processes (UNDAFs and action plans, and One United Nations initiatives) to strengthen the mainstreaming of environmental sustainability and MEA priorities in several African countries.[56]

Faith for Earth: As part of UNEA-4, UN Environment Programme convened a multi-session dialogue, which led to the creation of working groups on youth, energy and education.[57]

Subprogramme 4: Main opportunities and challenges, and response measures

- UNEA-4 resolutions adopting the Montevideo Programme V on environmental law, promoting gender equality, human rights and the empowerment of women and girls, and covering the poverty-environment nexus offer excellent opportunities to work towards more effective and inclusive environmental governance. National-level support continues to be a challenge due to limited funding for certain areas, such as the environmental dimensions of SDGs, as well as engagement with UNCTs.

54. https://www.greencustoms.org/news/introducing-new-partner-gci-minamata-convention
55. Nairobi Convention for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Western Indian Ocean. https://www.unenvironment.org/nairobiconvention/news/news/states-agree-final-draft-integrated-coastal-zone-management-protocol-and-other-news
56. At the request of the Resident Coordinator for Liberia, UN Environment Programme provided technical support to the Liberia UNCT during their UNDAF prioritization retreat (3–8 February 2019, Monrovia). UN Environment Programme also supported the UNDAF development process in Niger and participated in signing the UNDAF. The total contribution of UN Environment Programme within this UNDAF cycle (2019–2021) is estimated to be $5.5 million. Support was also provided for the 2018 annual activity reporting and 2019 annual activity workplan for UNCTs in Cabo Verde, Gabon and Mauritius.
57. Faith leaders representing 56 faith-based organizations and 12 faiths and congregations gathered at UNEA-4 as part of the Faith for Earth Dialogue, focusing on environmental justice, circular economy, global ethics, rainforests, sustainable tourism, agriculture and lifestyles. http://web.unep.org/environmentassembly/faith-earth-dialogue

5. CHEMICALS, WASTE AND AIR QUALITY

SUB-PROGRAMME OBJECTIVE:

"Sound management of chemicals and waste and improved air quality contribute to a healthier environment and better health for all increasingly make the transition to low-emission economic development and enhance their adaptation and resilience to climate change."

Expected Accomplishment – 5a

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

Global Chemicals Outlook II: The summary for policymakers was launched on 4 March for UNEA-4.[58]

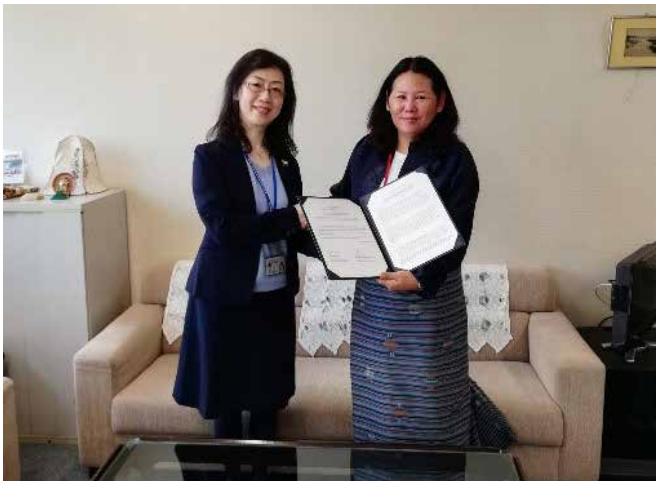
Lead in paint:

- **Israel** adopted a specific lead paint law, bringing the total to 72 countries.
- Under the lead paint project for **Central and Eastern Europe and Asia,** funded by the Global Environment Facility, a regional workshop was conducted in Almaty, Kazakhstan, where participants agreed that:
  - lead paint is hazardous and a problem
  - legally binding controls are needed in all countries
  - work will be continued with stakeholders towards establishing prohibitions
  - work will be carried out to lower the limits in the draft standard (Eurasian Economic Union countries).

Report on pesticides and fertilizers: Information was gathered on the development of this report as requested for the forthcoming 5th United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-5) and an annotated table of contents was prepared.

Special Programme: The 4th meeting of the Executive Board of the Special Programme that took place in January approved 18 projects with geographical balance and capacity needs prioritized.[59,60,61]

Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM): The 3rd meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group was hosted by the Government of Uruguay in Montevideo from 2 to 4 April to discuss SAICM implementation progress towards the 2020 goal, as well as the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020.



Ms. Tamami Umeda, Director General of the Environmental Health Department of the Japanese Ministry of the Environment and Ms. Dechen Tsering, UN Environment Programme Regional Director of Asia and the Pacific, signed the meeting minutes on the regional project Promoting the Minamata Convention on Mercury by making the most of Japan's knowledge and experiences. Tokyo, 20 February. (Photo credit: UN Environment Programme/Asia and the Pacific Office.)

Mercury: A new regional project to promote the Minamata Convention on Mercury by making the most of Japan's knowledge and experiences, has been approved. It aims to establish the first ever **regional network of mercury monitoring laboratories** in Asia and the Pacific and to provide training to boost national capacity for monitoring.

Dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane (DDT): UN Environment Programme and the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change of India, signed a cooperation agreement to reduce the manufacturing and use of DDT in India.

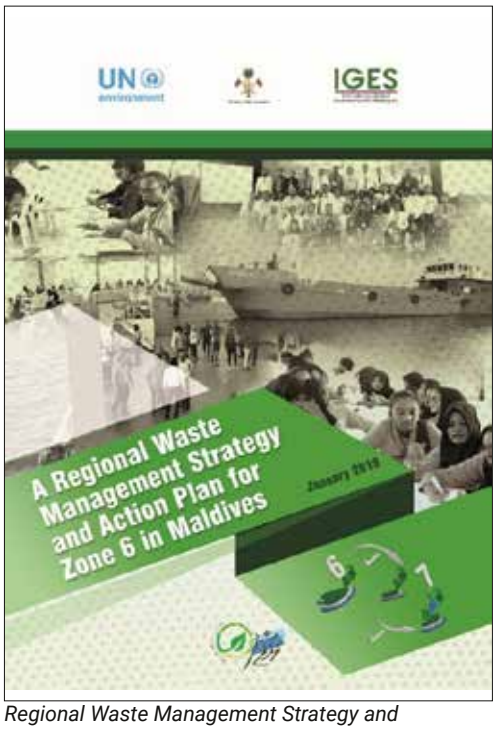
Expected Accomplishment – 5b

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

Waste Management Outlook: The first **Small Island Developing States Waste Management Outlook** was launched at UNEA-4. The outlook was developed as a follow-on to the Global Waste Management Outlook. It provided an overview of the

58. https://papersmart.unon.org/resolution/uploads/k1900123.pdf#overlay-context=pre-session-unea-4
59. The Special Programme to support institutional strengthening at the national level in order to enhance the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, the Minamata Convention and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management.
60. The countries include Albania, Angola, Bolivia, Cambodia, El Salvador, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Iran, Kazakhstan, Micronesia, Nauru, Pakistan, Palau, South Africa, State of Palestine, Tajikistan and Tunisia.
61. The advanced version of the meeting report is available on the Special Programme website at https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/27772/SPEB4rep.docx?sequence=1&isAllowed=y

current challenges and opportunities for waste management in small island developing States (SIDS). This outlook is relevant to all 58 SIDS, as well as all countries that have inhabited offshore islands.[62]



Regional Waste Management Strategy and Action Plan for Zone 6 in Maldives.

Waste Management: In January, the Government of the **Maldives** launched its Regional Waste Management Strategy and Action Plan, which was prepared with the support of UN Environment Programme in partnership with the Institute for Global Environment Strategies (IGES) Centre Collaborating with UNEP on Environmental Technologies (CCET).[63]

Marine litter:

- The regional project **Reducing marine litter by addressing the management of the plastic value chain in Southeast Asia** completed its inception phase and identified value chains and packaging types (polyethylene terephthalate (PET) bottles and food packaging) to target in order to reduce the amount of plastic entering rivers and oceans.
- The Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and UN Environment Programme announced a new initiative entitled Promotion of countermeasures against marine plastic litter in Southeast Asia and India, which aims to develop **a simulation model for plastic leakage** in order to determine leakage hotspots along the Mekong, Ganges and Yamuna rivers, and also along the coast line of Mumbai.
- The Singaporean Ministry of the Foreign Affairs and the Embassy of Norway in Singapore organized **the Singapore-Norway Third Country Training Programme** (TCTP) on Sustainable Waste Management and Marine Litter Reduction during 18-22 March.
- Six countries in the Caribbean introduced **bans on single-use plastic** at the start of 2019, and 18 territories in the Wider Caribbean Region have already definitively **banned single-use plastic and/or Styrofoam products.**

Flipflopi Expedition campaign: In January, UN Environment Programme and the ***#CleanSeas Campaign*** joined forces with the Flipflopi project to create the **CleanSeas Flipflopi Expedition** to campaign against plastic pollution.[64]

Sailing the Flipflopi, a traditional dhow made from recycled plastic. (Photo credit: UN Environment Programme/Communication Division/Michael Booth.)

62. https://www.unenvironment.org/ietc/publication/sids-waste-management-outlook
63. https://www.ccet.jp/publication/Maldives_Regional_Strategy_English
64. http://web.unep.org/environmentassembly/flipflopi-dhow-wins-hearts-and-inspires-plastic-heroes-it-sails-along-kenyan-coast
65. For further information, watch the video Charting a Course – The Flipflopi docks in Zanzibar, available at https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=5&v=GCMqWVdQx8w

Highlights include:

- Sailing the Flipflopi, a traditional dhow made from recycled plastic, from Lamu to Zanzibar
- The participation of more than 3,000 children in the CleanSeas Plastic Challenge, which taught them how to address marine plastic in their communities
- Increased action on the ground as a result of the expedition: 38 businesses in Kenya and Tanzania pledged to end the use of plastic bottles and straws and the local government in Mombasa closed a local dumpsite.[65]

The Flipflopi boat was then displayed during UNEA-4 to inspire attendees, including President Uhuru Kenyatta, who visited the boat twice.

Expected Accomplishment – 5c

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

E-mobility in India: Energy Efficiency Services Limited of India and UN Environment Programme jointly organized the e-mobility workshop in Lucknow, India, to support the Government's efforts in this area, and specifically to develop e-mobility policies in Uttar Pradesh, the country's most populous state.

Air quality and transport: UN Environment Programme is now a member of the United Nations Interagency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases for Thailand, which is led by the Government and the United Nations Resident Coordinator. **Thailand** is the first country in the region whose task force engages UN Environment Programme's expertise on air quality and transport.

Subprogramme 5: Main opportunities and challenges, and response measures

- UNEA-4 provided an excellent opportunity to raise the political profile of chemical and waste issues, with several high-level events held and resolutions adopted on the matter, including on the environmentally sound management of chemicals and waste, and marine plastic litter and microplastics. Meeting the timeline for some of the specific requests in the resolutions, such as those requested by April 2020 in Resolution UNEP/EA.4/RES 8, Sound management of chemicals and waste, will likely be challenging. In response, an internal prioritization and planning exercise will be undertaken for the subprogramme and resource mobilization efforts will be increased.

6. RESOURCE EFFICIENCY

SUB-PROGRAMME OBJECTIVE:

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

Expected Accomplishment – 6a

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

Global Resource Outlook: The 2019 Global Resource Outlook report was launched during UNEA-4 as official document UNEP/EA.4/INF/17. [66,67] Resolution UNEP/EA.4/RES.1, Innovative pathways to achieve sustainable consumption and production, invites Member States to consider the report's findings and calls for regular reporting on the use and management of natural resources. The report notes that:

- The use of natural resources has more than tripled from 1970 to 2017 and is continuing to grow.
- The global extraction of materials for the same period has risen from 27 billion tons to 92 billion tons per year.
- There have been no significant improvements globally to reduce the quantity of materials needed for producing, processing and disposing units of goods or services (i.e., material intensity).

Mineral Resource Governance in the 21st Century: The International Resource Panel's (IRP) launched the Summary for Policy Makers in February.[68]

Hotspots Analysis Tool: The Secretariat of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns, the Life Cycle Initiative and the IRP jointly launched the sustainable consumption and production hotspots analysis tool, which analyses the environmental and socioeconomic performance of 171 countries over the past 25 years.[69]

Trade in Environmentally Sound Technologies: The Trade in Environmentally Sound Technologies report, developed in collaboration with the University of Oxford and Norwegian University of Science and Technology, was launched for UNEA-4 and presented at the Africa Carbon Forum in Ghana.[70]

Nexus Dialogue on Sustainable Infrastructure for the SDGs: The UN Environment Programme co-hosted this Environment Management Group dialogue on 26 February in Geneva. The dialogue produced an outcome statement, which called for more integrated approaches for developing sustainable and resilient infrastructure.[71]

National SCP policy: The **SWITCH-Asia** Regional Policy Support Component entered into legal agreements with implementing partners in **China, India and the Maldives** to support the mainstreaming of sustainable consumption and production into national policy.[72]

Food waste: UN Environment Programme, in collaboration with the United States' Environmental Protection Agency, launched a new report on food waste at a UNEA-4 side event on 13 March, entitled Waste Not, Want Not: Reducing Food Loss and Waste in **North America** through Life Cycle-Based Approaches, which examines how life-cycle thinking and related tools, such as life-cycle assessments, can be used to inform effective policymaking for food waste reduction.[73]

Green Economy - Guyana: UN Environment Programme held a Green Economy Week in Georgetown, Guyana, during 9-13 March. It was organised by the **Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE)** and the Government of **Guyana**. This week was part of capacity-building and awareness-raising activities for implementing the Green State Development Strategy: Vision 2040 – Guyana's new 20-year development plan.

Expected Accomplishment – 6b

"Public, private and financial sectors increasingly adopt and implement sustainable management frameworks and practices."

Partnership of Action on Green Economy (PAGE):

- The 3rd PAGE Ministerial Conference hosted by the Department of Environmental Affairs of South Africa on 10-11 January, in Cape Town, focused on strategies for **accelerating the transition** to a global green economy.[74]
- On 25 January, PAGE, together with the UN Environment Programme-Finance Initiative and the Government of Korea organized a side event to the third Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities of Asia Pacific. The

66. https://www.unenvironment.org/news-and-stories/press-release/un-calls-urgent-rethink-resource-use-skyrockets
67. Global Resources Outlook 2019 available at https://papersmart.unon.org/resolution/uploads/unep_252_global_resource_outlook_2019_web.pdf#overlay-context=pre-session-unea-4
68. Mineral Resource Governance in the 21st Century available at http://www.resource-panel.org/reports/mineral-resource-governance-21st-century
69. http://scp-hat.lifecycleinitiative.org/
70. Available at https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/27595/TradeEnvTech.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y
71. Available at https://unemg.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/EMG-Nexus_Sustainable-Infrastructure_Outcome-Statement.pdf
72. https://www.switch-asia.eu/
73. Available at http://www.oneplanetnetwork.org/resource/wastenotwantnot
74. https://page2019.itcilo.org/

Lookie Waste: an application for monitoring food waste and packaging.

event explored **best practices of innovative financing** to tackle environmental challenges and support sustainable consumption and production.

Sustainable Public Procurement: The March **Pan-European Regional Workshop** brought together policymakers, procurement practitioners, businesses and civil society representatives from 20 countries and facilitated the exchange of good practices in implementing sustainable public procurement policies and practices.

Lookie Waste: an application for monitoring food waste and packaging – A life cycle-based carbon footprint application that measures the environment impact of food, food waste and packaging named ***Lookie Waste*** is being rolled out in **Thailand**.[75] Designed for individuals and businesses, it provides a tool to monitor and plan sustainable diets and menus using robust life-cycle assessment methodology.

SWITCH-Asia: Under this project, UN Environment Programme:

- Organized the **Sustainability Reporting: Thinking Circular Economy by Businesses workshop**,[76] as a side event on sustainability reporting at the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development, which brought together business leaders to discuss how sustainability reporting can support the SDGs.
- Entered into a legal agreement with partners in Pakistan to apply the 2017 **sustainable building code guidelines** into government housing procurement.[77]

75. https://www.mtec.or.th/en/news-event/26308/
76. https://www.switch-asia.eu/events/sustainability-reporting-thinking-circular-economy-by-businesses/
77. http://www.switch-asia.eu/countries/pakistan/

Construction - Mongolia: In February, the Cabinet approved a national construction sector policy to integrate inclusive green economy principles in the sector. In recent years, PAGE has supported Mongolia in advancing its green development agenda, including on green construction.

Expected Accomplishment – 6c

"Public and private sectors increasingly aware of and support the adoption of sustainable lifestyles and sustainable consumption patterns."

Consumer Information:

- In February, a workshop was held in Costa Rica to promote the **Guidelines for Providing Product Sustainability Information**.[78] The guidelines have been downloaded over 1,800 times to date and are recognized by members of the One Planet Network's Consumer Information Programme as a key tool for improving consumer information globally.
- On 11 March, at UNEA-4, the report **Ready to Drive the Market** – Experiences from Road Testing the Guidelines for Providing Product Sustainability Information was launched.[79]

Asia-Pacific Low-Carbon Lifestyles Challenge: The challenge, funded by the Japanese Ministry of Environment, is a start-up competition for entrepreneurs in Asia and the Pacific that are aiming to foster energy-efficient, low-waste and low-carbon lifestyles. During the first quarter of 2019, the project rolled out a series of awareness-raising videos on innovative solutions that enable sustainable lifestyles in Asia and the Pacific. [80,81,82,83,84,85,86,87,88,89] The videos were posted across social media platforms, generating national media and policy interest and attention.

78. Available at http://www.oneplanetnetwork.org/sites/default/files/guidelines_for_providing_product_sustainability_information_10yfp_ci-scp_2017.pdf
79. http://www.oneplanetnetwork.org/ready-drive-market-experiences-road-testing-guidelines-providing-product-sustainability-information
80. Asia-Pacific Low-Carbon Lifestyles Challenge, available at https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=417750038959676:
81. Natural cooling, India, available at https://www.facebook.com/unenvironment/videos/2220620268176379/
82. Electric tuk-tuks, Sri Lanka, available at https://www.weibo.com/1709157165/HI2hu6N2R?from=page_1001061709157165_profile&wvr=6&mod=weibotime&type=comment
83. Waste oil to biodiesel, China, available at https://www.facebook.com/unenvironment/videos/1075825865959665/
84. Reusable female hygiene products, Samoa, available at https://www.facebook.com/unenvironment/videos/370316923556427/
85. Recycled plastic helmets, Indonesia, available at https://www.facebook.com/unenvironment/videos/2061314954113968/
86. Less plastic waste in food delivery, Thailand, available at https://t.co/81YidTnAC1
87. Low-cost energy-efficient housing, Pakistan, available at https://www.facebook.com/287683225711/posts/10157245783350712/
88. Ride Share, Pakistan, https://twitter.com/UNEnvironment/status/1106519038702833665
89. Entrepreneurs #SolveDifferent, available at https://www.facebook.com/unenvironment/videos/537361090086127/

Blockchain for solar-powered electric vehicles, Thailand.[90]

Subprogramme 6: Main opportunities and challenges, and response measures

- SDG 12 has been widely acknowledged as the most underfunded SDG. In addition, implementing relevant UNEA resolutions under this subprogramme has considerable implications in terms of human and financial resources.

90. https://www.facebook.com/unenvironment/videos/387821288700310/

7.ENVIRONMENT UNDER REVIEW

SUB-PROGRAMME OBJECTIVE:

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

Expected Accomplishment – 7a

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

During UNEA-4, three reports developed under this Sub-Programme were presented:

- The **6th Global Environment Outlook (GEO-6)**. This was endorsed with very positive feedback and received the greatest amount of global media coverage of all the GEO reports to date.[91,92]
- **Measuring Progress: Towards Achieving the Environmental Dimension of the SDGs**. This explores progress made on all environment-related SDGs indicators linked to the state of the environment, resources, human health, food security, policies, financial and institutional processes and data availability.[93]
- **Gender and environment statistics: Unlocking information for action and measuring the SDGs.** This seeks to provide a framework to measure the nexus between gender and the environment.[94]

The **2018/2019 Frontiers** report underpinned the discussion on several UNEA-4 resolutions (e.g., on the nitrogen cycle and on peatlands).[95,96,97]

"The Global Environment Outlook-6: Healthy Planet, Healthy People (GEO-6), released on March 13, 2019, covers all environmental issues and their link to human health.

91. Available at https://www.unenvironment.org/resources/global-environment-outlook-6
92. https://www.unenvironment.org/news-and-stories/press-release/human-health-dire-straits-if-urgent-actions-are-not-made-protect
93. Available at https://www.unenvironment.org/resources/report/measuring-progress-towards-achieving-environmental-dimension-sdgs
94. Available at http://genderandenvironment.org/resource/gender-and-environment-statistics-unlocking-information-for-action-and-measuring-the-sdgs/
95. Available at https://www.unenvironment.org/resources/frontiers-201819-emerging-issues-environmental-concern
96. Resolution UNEP/EA.4/RES14 on sustainable nitrogen management.
97. Resolution UNEP/EA.4/ RES16 on conservation and sustainable management of peatlands

Science and SDGs:

- During the Science-Policy-Business Forum in March, the United Nations water-related ecosystems platform, or **SDG661.app**, was launched.
- The Environmental **SDG Indicator Methodologies workshop** was held in Moscow by UN Environment Programme in partnership with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the Russian Federal State Statistics Service, during 19-21 March.

Country support:

- Under the scope of the third UNECE Environmental Performance Review (EPR) of Uzbekistan, UN Environment Programme assessed the country's **environmental monitoring and information systems** from 25 February to 5 March.
- The first project partners meeting of UN Environment Programme's **new capacity development project in Central Asia** (Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan), funded by the Russian Federation, was held on 22 March.

Environmental Information:

- A draft annotated structure for an **Africa Rangelands Atlas** was developed in collaboration with the Regional Centre for Managing of Resources for Development (RCMRD).
- A comprehensive review on **biomass (wood fuel and charcoal) production and utilization in Africa** was published and will be presented to the Africa Union for adoption.
- The **State of the Environment Report for Uganda**, supported under the Shared Environmental Information System initiative, was launched and presented to the national parliament.
- An online platform was developed for engaging public and private stakeholders in environmental and agricultural issues in order to generate awareness of the importance of, and demand for, **integrated solutions**.

Subprogramme 7: Main opportunities and challenges, and response measures

- The process for continued innovation in the design of the **next Global Environment Outlook** was set in motion by resolution UNEP/EA.4/RES.23, Keeping the World Environment under Review: Enhancing UNEP's Science-Policy Interface and Endorsement of the Global Environment Outlook .

8. CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT ASSEMBLY AND #SOLVEDIFFERENT

Young Champions and Youth to Power event, held as part of UNEA-4. March, Nairobi, Kenya. (Photo credit: UN Environment Programme/Natalia Mroz.)

The global #SolveDifferent campaign, under the tagline "Think Beyond, Live Within", fostered excitement for the United Nations Environment Assembly and its theme. Powerful storytelling, engaging multimedia content and effective journalist engagement harnessed the power of audiences worldwide, both online and offline. UNEA-4 had the highest media and social media coverage.[98]

- A total 76 #SolveDifferent stories were published.
- Over 40 videos were produced, with the most popular video **Planet in Focus – Global Environment Outlook** receiving 1.1 million views across all platforms.[99]
- Through the #SolveDifferent interactive **Habit Planner**, over 3 million commitments were made.[100]
- **#SolveDifferent** was mentioned 53,000 times and engaged 124,000 people.
- **#UNEA-4** received 54,000 mentions and engaged 98,000 people.
- The Assembly was covered in 26,500 news articles (an increase of 128 per cent from the previous Assembly), in 6,000 outlets across 160 countries.
- All seven **2018 Young Champions** had speaking roles in 11 different panels and sessions.
- In the Young Champion's Youth to Power event, a dialogue led by selected United Nations Young Champions of the Earth and other inspiring young voices saw youth pose tough questions to a high-level audience with political leaders, top executives and leaders from civil-society groups, and other people in power.[101]

In Nairobi, 15 exhibitions were set up, including a 3D-printed ecological pavilion, a virtual reality fashion experience and an interactive world situation room.

98. https://spark.adobe.com/page/z18SM2Zjl68Hv
99. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3dyhAcGyd20&feature=youtu.be
100. https://www.solvedifferent.eco/get-involved/habit-planner
101. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NPtFhMkhkm8&list=PLZ4sOGXTWw8EbXWgNm_n4IR4fqJNr1S95&index=2&t=0s

Memorial candles for the victims of Ethiopian Air lines crash, during the closing session of the UNEA. 15 March, Nairobi, Kenya. (Photo credit: UN Environment Programme/Cyril Villemain.)

GENDER

Annual Breakfast Meeting of the Network of Women Ministers and Leaders for the Environment: This meeting, held on 13 March, explored the possibility of establishing a second Global Platform for Action as a framework for implementation to accelerate progress towards environment-related SDGs (especially SDG 12) by addressing existing gaps in gender equality. The meeting also discussed the For All Coalition, which is a joint initiative between the Government of Costa Rica, UN Women and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) to promote gender equality and human rights in MEAs. It examined the resolution on women and the environment, which has been proposed for adoption by the Government of Costa Rica.

Round-table discussions at the Women's Ministerial Breakfast Meeting, held as part of UNEA-4. 13 March, Nairobi, Kenya. (Photo credit: UN Environment Programme/Natalia Mroz.)

Faith for Earth and Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Innovation Talk, side event held alongside UNEA-4, 15 March. Nairobi, Kenya. (Photo credit: UN Environment Programme/ Timothy Shitagwa.)

International Women's Day: On 8 March, the day was commemorated in Nairobi as a joint initiative between UN Environment Programme, the United Nations Office at Nairobi and the United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UN-Habitat), under the theme "Think equal, build smart, innovate for change". The Report on the Status of Women in the UN Office in Nairobi was also launched.

Report on Status of Women in the UN Office in Nairobi officially launched by representatives from UNON, UN Environment Programme, UNDP, UN Women and UN-HABITAT. 8 March, Nairobi, Kenya. (Photo Credit: UN Environment Programme/ Communication Division.)

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS

The internal safeguard-related Standard Operating Procedure is being revised for improved compliance to the Environmental, Social and Economic Sustainability Framework. Grievance redress cases are handled within the Corporate Services Division.

UN Environment Programme side event during the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, which took place from 20 to 22 March in Buenos Aires, Argentina. (Photo credit: Magdalena De Lucca.)

SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION [102]

UN Environment Programme held a side event during the second **High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation** in Buenos Aires from 20 to 22 March, highlighting the role of such cooperation in environmental management and governance, as well as the opportunities for further strengthening it in order to attain the SDGs and targets. The event created a platform for the discussions on issues related to South-South cooperation, such as definitions, measurement indicators, use of technology for scaling up and engaging the private sector, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises, for wider impact.

During the Science-Policy-Business Forum on 9 March, a thematic session discussed the role of South-South cooperation in attaining affordable and clean energy in Africa. The discussion came up with recommendations on how South-South Cooperation can be used to further support Africa's efforts in the renewable energy sector.

UN ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME'S SUSTAINABILITY EFFORTS

UN Environment Programme's internal sustainability efforts aim to address greenhouse gas emission, waste and water.[103,104,105,106]

Based on the annual UN Environment Programme inventory for climate emissions, the organization procured **Certified Emission Reductions** to maintain its climate neutrality. In addition, water usage and waste generation data were reported in the inventory.

A presentation on **UN Environment Programme's climate performance (2010-2017)** was made in February to the members of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, to expand on the analysis of the OIOS report that touched on UN Environment Programme travel. UN Environment Programme climate emissions grew 15 per cent against the baseline, most of which (63 per cent) was due to greater participant travel to attend events. It was also due in part (37 per cent) to air travel by staff members. UN Environment Programme has since amended its travel rules and is looking to work with partners to minimize travelling where possible, for example, by using online tools.

The **waste inventory** was completed by 65 per cent of offices, while **water data** were provided by 30 per cent of offices in UN Environment Programme. A baseline for these two parameters is still being developed, so no analytics have been carried out yet.

As in previous years, UNEA-4 was a climate neutral green event, and, for the first time, was also **plastic-free** and **paper-free.** A report of the event's environmental impact and sustainability measures will be disseminated.

102. UN Environment Programme works on South-South and triangular cooperation under the framework of Governing Council decisions (UNEP/GC/24/12; UNEP/GC/25/9; UNEP/GC/26/16) and United Nations General Assembly decisions (2002: A/RES/56/202; 2005: A/RES/66/288; 2007: A/RES/62/209; 2009: A/RES/64/1; 2009: A/RES/64/222; 2014: A/RES/69/239; 2017: A/RES/72/237). The importance of South-South cooperation is also emphasized in the following documents: 1978 Buenos Aires Plan of Action, 2005 Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building, 2012 Rio+20 Conference outcome document The Future We Want, and 2015 Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

103. http://greeningtheblue.org/sites/default/files/GtB%20report%202018%20poster%20-%20mobile.pdf
104. http://greeningtheblue.org/gtbreport/2018/ghgs
105. http://greeningtheblue.org/gtbreport/2018/waste
106. http://greeningtheblue.org/gtbreport/2018/water

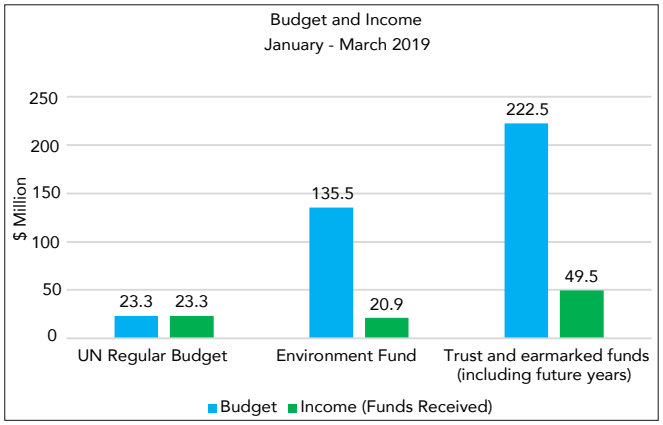
SECTION 3: Resources and Management Issues

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

3.1 FINANCIAL UPDATES AS AT 31 MARCH 2019

Overview of income

By the end of the first quarter of 2019, the organization had received $93.7 million in income (24 per cent) against the total annual budget of $397.8 million. It comprised the annual funds of United Nations Regular Budget and the Environment Fund, as well as earmarked contributions, which include multi-year funding.[107]

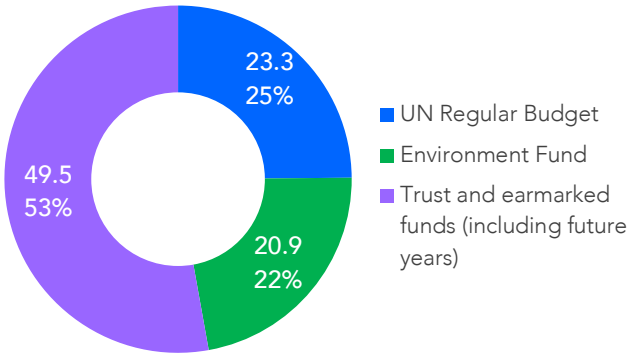


Core and non-core funding

Core funding – from the Environment Fund and United Nations Regular Budget – enables the organization to deliver its core mandate, including global policymaking and coordination of environmental programmes in the United Nations system, as well as to identify emerging environmental issues and innovative solutions. In addition, it also allows the organization to carry out advocacy, awareness-raising and capacity-building work. Earmarked contributions facilitate scaling up and replication of the core activities.

By end of the first quarter, core funding comprised 47 per cent of the organization's total income, due to the early receipt of its United Nations Regular Budget allocation. This is likely to decline to around 20 per cent by the end of 2019, as was the case in 2018, unless Member States adjust their funding patterns to increase core funding and soften their earmarked contributions.

Income per Source of Fund ($ Million) January-March 2019



Funding partners

UN Environment Programme thanks the 10 largest contributors to the Environment Fund and of earmarked contributions and appreciates all 28 Member States that contributed in early 2019. Increased contributions from a wider base of Member States are needed to increase the security and stability of the organization's funding.

Top 10 contributors Q1 2019 – Environment Fund

No.	Member States	Contributions in US$ million
1	Belgium	4.55
2	United Kingdom	4.39
3	Germany*	3.91
4	Norway	3.00
5	Canada	2.36
6	Russian Federation	0.90
7	Republic of Korea	0.56
8	Austria	0.34
9	Kuwait	0.20
10	Slovenia	0.14

This comprises 98 per cent of the total Environment Fund income as at 31 March 2019. Total number of contributors=28.

*First instalment

Top 10 contributors Q1 2019 – Earmarked contributions

No.	Funding partner	Contributions in US$ million
1	Global Environment Facility	27.39
2	European Commission	7.89
3	Japan	5.89
4	Germany	3.45
5	China	0.90
6	United States of America	0.69
7	Italy	0.59
8	Private sector	0.49
9	Switzerland	0.46
10	France	0.28

107. As per the United Nations Secretariat interpretation and application of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS), Umoja does not breakdown this income into annual figures.

3.2 STATUS OF ALLOCATIONS AND EXPENDITURES AS AT 31 MARCH 2019

2018–2019 core budgets – allocations as at 31 March 2019 (US$)					
	Functional area name	Environment Fund	Overhead trust account	Regular Budget	Grand total
A	Policymaking organs	3,394,771	10,400	85,845	3,491,016
B. 1	Executive direction and management	7,982,480		6,286,692	14,269,172
B. 2	United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR)	-	-	913,985	913,985
	Subtotal A + B	**11,377,251**	**10,400**	**7,286,522**	**18,674,173**
C	Programme of Work				
1.	Climate change	16,249,657	1,757,156	3,400,669	21,407,481
2.	Resilience to disasters and conflicts	10,442,059	608,718	2,623,465	13,674,242
3.	Healthy and productive ecosystems	20,611,300	2,076,759	4,335,220	27,023,279
4.	Environmental governance	17,463,403	865,021	7,671,094	25,999,519
5.	Chemicals, waste and air quality	16,518,624	2,405,489	2,865,782	21,789,895
6.	Resource efficiency	19,971,374	1,980,609	3,170,402	25,122,385
7.	Environment under review	14,730,366	449,765	5,261,927	20,442,059
	Subtotal C	**115,986,783**	**10,143,518**	**29,328,558**	**155,458,858**
D	Fund programme reserve	3,078,000	-	-	3,078,000
	Subtotal C + D	**119,064,783**	**10,143,518**	**29,328,558**	**158,536,858**
E	Programme management and other				
	Programme support	9,888,566	25,035,928	1,961,375	36,885,869
	Subtotal E	**9,888,566**	**25,035,928**	**1,961,375**	**36,885,869**
Total (A+B+C+D+E)		**140,330,600**	**35,189,846**	**38,576,455**	**214,096,901**

2018–2019 core budgets – expenditures as at 31 March 2019 (US$)					
	Functional area name	Environment Fund	Overhead trust account	Regular Budget	Grand total
A	Policymaking organs	1,722,449	-	18,164	1,740,613
B. 1	Executive direction and management	4,869,448	-	3,681,569	8,551,017
B. 2	UNSCEAR	-	-	836,306	836,306
	Subtotal A + B	**6,591,897**	**-**	**4,536,039**	**11,127,936**
C	Programme of Work				
1.	Climate change	9,804,760	573,477	2,687,002	13,065,239
2.	Resilience to disasters and conflicts	5,411,668	702,142	1,631,474	7,745,284
3.	Healthy and productive ecosystems	11,886,927	1,070,461	2,825,155	15,782,544
4.	Environmental governance	9,939,991	639,706	5,392,357	15,972,054
5.	Chemicals, waste and air quality	8,972,177	1,311,028	2,059,031	12,342,236
6.	Resource efficiency	13,159,387	1,242,884	2,363,272	16,765,543
7.	Environment under review	8,415,884	264,411	3,458,700	12,138,995
	Subtotal C	**67,590,794**	**5,804,108**	**20,416,993**	**93,811,895**
D	Fund programme reserve	757,868	-	-	757,868
	Subtotal C + D	**68,348,662**	**5,804,108**	**20,416,993**	**94,569,763**
E	Programme management and other				
	Programme support	5,043,516	13,110,249	1,135,528	19,289,293
	Subtotal E	**5,043,516**	**13,110,249**	**1,135,528**	**19,289,293**
Total (A+B+C+D+E)		**79,984,075**	**18,914,358**	**26,088,559**	**124,986,992**

3.3 RESOURCE MOBILIZATION STRATEGY

With reference to the UNEA-4 decision 4.1 on the Programme of Work and budget for 2020-2021,[108] ongoing work includes strengthening outreach and communication of the organization's value for money and funding needs, e.g. using the booklet Invest in a Healthy Planet, Invest in UN Environment Programme,[109] and increasing the visibility of the Member States that are the strongest core funding contributors, both in terms of the amount provided and their application of the voluntary scale.

3.4

HUMAN RESOURCES OVERVIEW

General overview

- As at 31 March, UN Environment Programme staff totalled 1,211 people, comprising 730 professional and 481 general service personnel. These numbers include the UN Environment Programme Secretariat and the Secretariats of MEAs. There is a total of 193 staff at grade P-5 and above as depicted in the table below.

Level	ASG	D-2	D-1	P-5
No. of staff	3	9	51	130

* P = Professional, D = Director, ASG = Assistant Secretary-General.

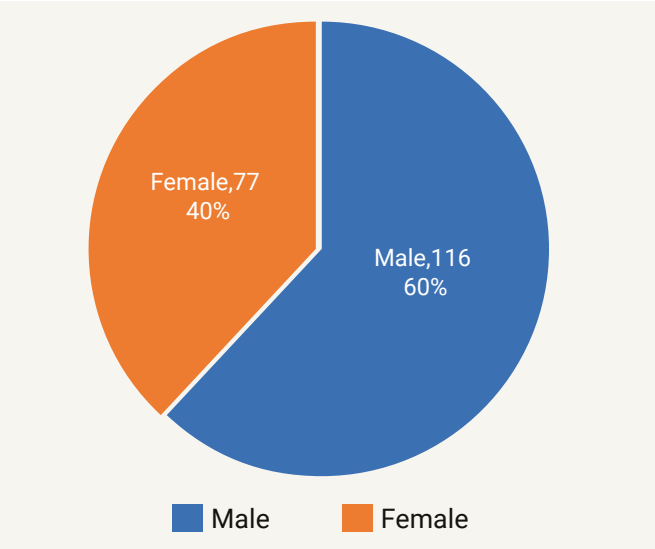
Gender parity

- Considerable efforts are being made towards achieving the gender targets set by the Office of Human Resource Management in New York, in line with the Secretary-General's United Nations System-Wide Strategy on Gender Parity and UN Environment Programme's Gender Parity Implementation Plan.

- Recent guidance on implementing administrative instruction ST/AI/1999/9 on Special measures for the achievement of gender equality further emphasizes the new delegation given to the heads of entities to monitor and report on the representation of women at all levels, irrespective of the source of funding.

- On cultural change initiatives, UN Environment Programme has delivered unconscious bias workshops, which sensitize participants to biases, including those in recruitment. Senior management and the wider staff have benefited from these workshops.

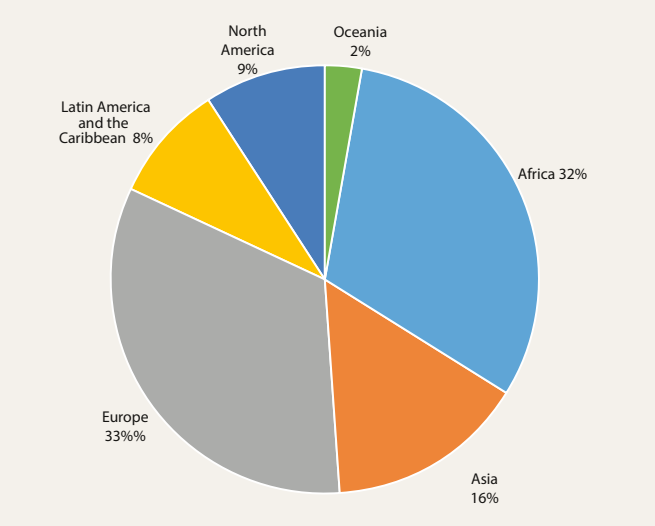
Gender parity breakdown for staff at grade P-5 and above as of 31 march 2019



Geographic distribution, including an analysis of staff at grade P-5 and above

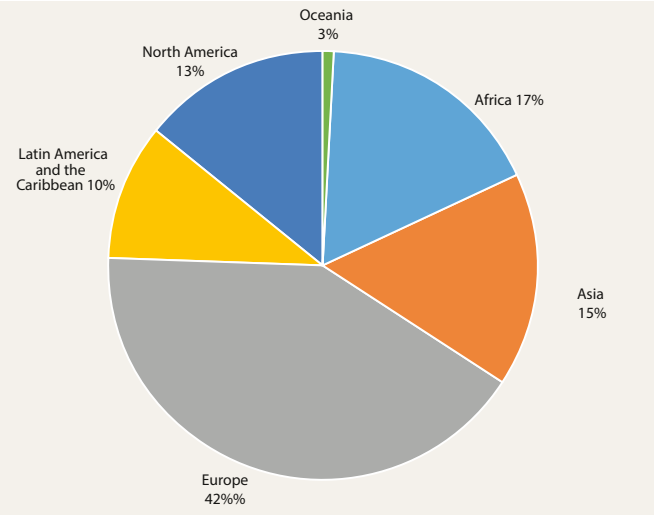
- UN Environment Programme continues to monitor and commit to the objective of achieving a geographical diverse workforce. This commitment is further corroborated by the Secretary-General's March 2019 message on diversity and geographic representation of its workforce.

UN Environment Programme staff by region



108. UNEA-4 decision UNEP/EA.4/1 entitled "Programme of work and budget for 2020–2021", which encourages the Executive Director to implement the resource mobilization strategy in close consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives.
109. The electronic version is available at https://www.unenvironment.org/resources/policy-and-strategy/invest-healthy-planet-invest-un-environment

Grade P-5 and above staff by region as at 31 March 2019



The following graphs depict geographical representation of UN Environment Programme staff and those at grade P-5 and above.

- As regards staff at grade P-5 and above, Europe has the largest number occupying senior positions at UN Environment Programme. There are 78 senior staff members from the region representing 42 per cent of grade P-5 and above positions. Asia and Africa are second and third, with 34 (17 per cent) and 30 (15 per cent) senior staff members, respectively. North America has 26 staff members (13 per cent), followed by Latin America and the Caribbean with 20 staff members (10 per cent) and Oceania with six senior staff members (3 per cent).

3.5 AUDITS

The 2019 planning process of the OIOS Internal Audit Division has been completed and communicated to the UN Environment Programme's management. The planning is a risk-based process and aims to allocate resources to the organization's highest risk areas and activities where it is anticipated that the internal audit review may add value. The management team's views and requests for specific areas to be audited have been considered in the development of the workplan.

A. Ongoing OIOS audits

1. UN Environment Programme's Afghanistan Project Office
2. Mediterranean Action Plan (delayed)
3. Programme Evaluation

B. Implementation of recommendations of completed OIOS audits

1. Contract management
2. Official travel at UN Environment Programme
3. UN Environment Programme's Asia and the Pacific Office
4. UN Environment Programme's Abidjan Convention Secretariat
5. Environmental Governance subprogramme
6. Disasters and Conflicts subprogramme

C. Planned audits to commence in 2019 as per the OIOS workplan

1. Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity
2. Management of partnerships at UN Environment Programme
3. Management of data classification and data privacy at the United Nations Office at Nairobi, UN Environment Programme and UN-Habitat
4. UN Environment Programme recruitment process
5. Grants management at the United Nations Office at Nairobi, UN Environment Programme and UN-Habitat

The United Nations Board of Auditors has issued the management letter on the interim audit of the United Nations Environment Programme, including the offices in Geneva for the financial year that ended on 31 December 2018. The appropriate management responses have been provided. The final audit of UN Environment Programme's financial statements for the financial year that ended 31 December 2018 is planned for 15 April to 10 May in Nairobi. The implementation status of the recommendations made by the Board of Auditors will be reviewed during the final audit and included in the final report, expected to be issued by 31 July.

3.6 IMPLEMENTATION OF MANAGEMENT REFORMS

UN Environment Programme will implement a back-to-basics foundational concept to strengthen and establish control and oversight mechanisms that support the achievement of excellence in processes and operations.

Some strategies being considered include mapping the organization's systems with the aim of building capacities at multiple levels to ensure rapid reinforcement or re-engineering of processes, as well as running a diagnostic to identify urgent system failures that require strengthening. Another strategy is to identify quick wins in the reform process, as these will form a basis for re-engineering.

UN Environment Programme has identified five key lines of defence in implementing management reforms:

(i) Re-establishing the tone of management at the top level.
(ii) Re-sensitizing and training staff on their role as gatekeepers and custodians of policies.
(iii) Benchmarking best practices across United Nations organizations and the public sector.
(iv) Partnering with auditors and evaluation offices to

benefit from external views.

(v) Focusing on communicating results and improving transparency.

3.7 EVALUATIONS

During the period 1 January to 31 March 2019 inclusive:

- **19** project evaluations were completed.
- **23** project evaluations were active and ongoing.

The summary findings from the **36 evaluations completed in 2018** were presented to the Open-Ended Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives on 5 March 2019.

The inception phase of the **Environment Under Review** subprogramme evaluation began and the draft inception report was prepared.

The evaluation of the Strategic Cooperation Agreement between the European Commission Directorate-General for Environment and UN Environment Programme is in its inception phase.

Key learning points from the evaluation of the SAICM Secretariat:

- Human rights and gender equity will not be adequately addressed unless they are high political priorities. As regards programme design, human rights and gender equity organizations should be included in steering groups, decision-making and oversight bodies of such programmes.
- Institutions responsible for hosting complex international programmes should undertake comprehensive reviews of management, contracting, financial and human resources systems, identifying and addressing capacity constraints before embarking on such programmes.
- Bodies responsible for oversight, the selection of project proposals, progress reviews and financial accountability should not be beneficiaries of project funds.
- Generating research, information and guidelines alone will not lead to effective uptake by stakeholders. Strategies are as equally important to producing knowledge, since these enable stakeholders to use it effectively.

UN Environment Programme's results framework

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