



**Quarterly Report to the 152nd Meeting of
the Committee of Permanent
Representatives**

(Advanced Unedited version)

July – September 2020

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1 Significant Developments

COVID 19 Response

With the ongoing global pandemic, UNEP continued to respond along the four building blocks of its strategy¹. This includes supporting science for greater understanding of zoonotic diseases as well as providing knowledge and guidance to Member States at the regional and national levels. COVID-19 has affected some project implementation with partners, particularly of ongoing GEF projects, which UNEP is working to mitigate. Nonetheless, with alternate working modalities in place in some duty stations, UNEP continues to operate and deliver on its mandate.

UNEP'S COVID-19 response focuses on four building blocks:

1. **The medical and humanitarian emergency phase**

On 13 August 2020, UNEP published a report on *Waste Management during the COVID-19 Pandemic: From Response to Recovery*,² with practical information and guidelines on healthcare and municipal solid waste management. As part of its work on COVID-19 response, UNEP supported training on medical waste management, providing technical advice to Afghanistan, Haiti, South Sudan, and Sudan, as well as to UN peacekeeping operations.

2. **A transformational change for nature and people**

On 6 July, UNEP together with the International Livestock Research Institute and partners, released: *Preventing the next pandemic - Zoonotic diseases and how to break the chain of transmission*.³ The Report presented a clear and unambiguous call for a “One Health” approach, one which integrates human, animal and environmental health. While the “One Health” concept is not a new one, its uptake has been uneven, and institutional support limited. However, investing in such an approach will cost only a fraction of the stimulus packages announced to reboot the global economy. Widely reported by the media, findings from this report were published in more than 400 outlets in 42 countries.

3. **Investing to build back better**

On 17 September, the Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE), launched the *Learning for a Green Recovery*, a global e-learning series to inform and shape the public policy debate around green economic reform and support countries in planning their responses to COVID-19. Through a webinar series⁴, UNEP is supporting the use of National Adaptation Plans to help countries build back better, Ghana⁵ provides a good example. UNEP and the African Development Bank hosted a webinar in September on, *Building back better after COVID-19 – Moving towards a more sustainable and inclusive fashion industry on the Continent*, with a panel of designers and fashion experts.⁶

¹ https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/32218/UNEP_COVID.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y

² <https://www.unenvironment.org/resources/report/waste-management-during-covid-19-pandemic-response-recovery>

³ <https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/32316/ZP.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>

⁴ <https://www.ctc-n.org/resources/adaptation-bulletin-3-un-environment-programme-unep-submission>

⁵ <https://www.unenvironment.org/news-and-stories/press-release/covid-19-wake-call-ghana-develop-national-plan-climate-adaptation>

⁶ <https://fashionomicsafrica.org/learn/webinars/13>

4. **Modernizing global environmental governance:**

UNEP supported the first virtual ministerial meeting⁷ on COVID-19 and the environment in West Asia in August 2020. The meeting brought together ministers of the environment from the region and adopted a ministerial statement⁸ that highlighted the importance of UNEP COVID-19 response and green recovery.

Global

UN Biodiversity Summit

Biodiversity took centre stage on 30 September 2020 at the 75th session of UN General Assembly as the President convened the United Nations Summit on Biodiversity, under the theme, *Urgent action on biodiversity for sustainable development*. More than 100 Heads of State and Government and other senior officials speaking on biodiversity, conservation, monitoring and accountability. Recognizing that the continued deterioration and degradation of the world's natural ecosystems were having major impacts on the lives and livelihoods of people everywhere, world leaders called for increased resolve to protect biodiversity. The summit⁹ demonstrated strong commitment and highlighted the need for urgent action at the highest levels in support of a post-2020 global biodiversity framework that contributes to implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and places the global community on a path towards making a reality of the goal of the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity, "Living in harmony with nature".

In the lead up to the Summit, UNGA President, UNEP, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and UN Secretariat launched the social media campaign #ForNature, to generate momentum around the event -- highlighting commitments, pledges, and actions to preserve biodiversity and nature. With UNEP's support for #Playing4thePlanet,¹⁰ the video gaming industry showcased actions taken around the issues of nature and biodiversity in games.

The *Nature for Life Hub*, a series of virtual events hosted by UNDP, UNEP, and CBD, took place from 24 to 29 September. Each day focused on thematic journeys - SDGs; business and finance; global ambition; and local action; which fed into the UN biodiversity discussions.

Ministerial Roundtable on Biodiversity

On 24 September, a Ministerial Roundtable on, "Biodiversity Beyond 2020: Building a Shared Future for All Life on Earth," deliberated on the road to Kunming and building ambition towards a post-2020 global biodiversity framework. The Executive Director called on countries to increase their ambitions and act now, especially amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Representatives welcomed the efforts and leadership of the People's Republic of China in preparing for the COP15 and expressed their willingness to work with China for an open, transparent process driver by the parties to the Convention.

Global Biodiversity Outlook 5

UNEP supported the launch on 15 September 2020, of the Global Biodiversity Outlook 5 published by the Convention on Biological Diversity. The Outlook, which reports that none of the Aichi targets will be met, outlined eight major transitions needed to slow, then halt nature's accelerating decline.

⁷<https://www.bna.bh/en/BahrainhostsfirstministerialmeetingonCOVID19andenvironmentinWestAsia.aspx?cms=q8FmFJgisl2fwlzON1%2BDo6gkVAkGSwBwkocqM3D%2FJk%3D>

⁸ https://unitednations.sharepoint.com/sites/UNEP-Law-EG-Team/_layouts/15/Doc.aspx?OR=teams&action=edit&sourcedoc={07D82D55-583D-4DB2-BFDC-1FF5C65AB3A1}

⁹ <https://www.cbd.int/events/unbiodiversitysummit/summary.pdf>

¹⁰ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UtexcajgYQ&feature=youtu.be>

Global Fund for Coral Reefs

The Global Fund for Coral Reefs¹¹ was launched on 16 September 2020 at a High-Level event in the margins of UNGA-75¹². The Fund is coordinated by the UN Multi-partner Trust Fund and co-developed by UNEP, UNDP, the Paul G Allen Family Foundation, and the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation. It will support businesses and finance mechanisms that improve the health and sustainability of coral reefs and associated ecosystems. The Fund will serve as a blended finance vehicle leveraging grants, debt and other financial instruments to facilitate private return-based investments for coral reef conservation and resilience.

High Level Political Forum 2020

The High-Level Political Forum¹³ (HLPF), held from 7-16 July 2020, emphasized that decisive actions are needed to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). There was also a strong call for a recovery, setting us on a path to achieve the 2030 agenda by fighting climate change and protecting biodiversity. UNEP organized, co-organized or participated in a number of special events and side-events on marine litter, water management, green economy, biodiversity and nature-based solutions and the HLPF thematic session on building back better with a special focus on the environmental 2020-targets of SDGs. The UN Environment Assembly President presented the main messages of the Assembly to the HLPF, the only representative of an intergovernmental forum with a dedicated segment in the HLPF.

Faith Action

Interfaith parallel sessions held during the HLPF, focused on climate action¹⁴, communal environment policy¹⁵ and decreasing the opportunity gap¹⁶. The Faith Action on the UN Sustainable Development Goals Progress and Outlook Report¹⁷ and Guidelines on Green Houses of Worship¹⁸ publications were also launched during the reporting period.

SDG Moment

During the first *SDG Moment* and the *SDG Action Zone* in September, UNEP, UNDP, and UN Women, showcased interventions to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The joint presentation focused on an integrated approach to poverty and inequality, climate change and a healthy planet, and gender equality. The heads of the three agencies also participated in a panel discussion during the *SDG Action Zone*.

Mineral Resource Governance

The Global Industry Standard on Tailings Management (the Standard), launched on 5th August 2020, is the first global standard of its kind. The Standard was developed through an independent process – the Global Tailings Review – which was co-convened in March 2019 by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI) and International Council on Mining and Metals (ICMM) following the tragic tailings facility collapse at Brumadinho, Brazil, in January 2019. It covers the entire tailings facility lifecycle, from site selection, design, and construction, through management and monitoring, to closure and post-closure.

International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies

¹¹ <https://www.conservationfinancealliance.org/gfcr>

¹² <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xbtmo4004B0&feature=youtu.be>

¹³ <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf>

¹⁴ <https://www.unenvironment.org/events/symposium/crnngo-cwg-parallel-event-un-respondent-info>

¹⁵ <https://www.unenvironment.org/events/symposium/religion-policy-and-global-environmental-crisis>

¹⁶ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PTPPnPR4fB8&feature=youtu.be>

¹⁷ <https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/33848/SDGR.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>

¹⁸ <https://www.unenvironment.org/resources/publication/guidelines-green-houses-worship>

On 7 September 2020, the global community celebrated the first *International Day of Clean Air for blue skies*¹⁹. UNEP led the global commemoration under the leadership of the Republic of Korea. The UNEP Executive Director hosted a *Planet Unplugged* with Dr. Tedros Ghebreyesus, Director-General of WHO, to discuss a move to a pollution-free planet. UNEP launched the 'Clear the Air' campaign in the run up to the International Day. A website²⁰ in all UN languages featured 61 events organized by UNEP, partners, and Member States. 590 articles covered the celebrations. UN ESCAP and UNEP held a regional conversation on air pollution on 8 September 2020, that emphasized accelerated decarbonization to achieve better air quality.

International Day of Awareness on Food Loss and Waste

Another first was the International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste, celebrated on 29 September. The [UNEP web page](#)²¹ was linked up with that of FAO for a joint platform. To raise awareness on food waste and its environmental impact, a [social media campaign #KitchenMemories](#)²² was launched that ran until World Food Day on 16 October. Chef and food system activist, Massimo Bottura, was appointed by UNEP as Goodwill Ambassador to educate people on food waste and its impact on climate and biodiversity.

Africa

The Flipflopi Expedition

On 22 September 2020, the *Flipflopi Expedition*²³ (featuring the world's first entirely recycled plastic sailing boat) was launched by the Kenya Government and will sail around Lake Victoria in early 2021. The expedition aims to raise awareness on pollution which affects freshwater ecosystem and its impacts on human health. This initiative is supported by Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, UNEP, UN Live, French Development Agency, and private sector entities.

Bureau of The Conference of The Parties to The Bamako Convention

Chaired by H.E. Ms Arlette Soudan-Nonault, President of the Conference of the Parties, the [Bamako Convention](#) Bureau meeting was held virtually on 10 September 2020. It took stock of the [third Conference of the Parties to the Bamako Convention](#), in addition to looking at the strategic, technical, institutional and financial matters relating to the implementation of the Convention, and implementation of decisions of the third Conference of the Parties. The meeting also took note of emerging hazardous waste associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. Other areas covered included the consideration of an Action Programme and Roadmap for the Bureau.

Asia and the Pacific

Parliamentary Roundtable on Climate Change

Parliamentarians from South Asia and Africa discussed pathways to achieve affordable renewable energy to address climate change at a roundtable, organized by the Climate Parliament and the Energy and Economic Growth (EEG) Research Programme on 28 July. The Deputy Executive Director highlighted the important role of legislators in setting up renewable energy targets and strengthening existing policy and regulatory frameworks.

Europe

Climate Change, Biodiversity and Sustainable Development

¹⁹ UN General Assembly resolution [A/RES/74/212](#), adopted on 19 December 2019

²⁰ <https://www.cleanairblueskies.org/>

²¹ <https://www.unenvironment.org/events/un-day/international-day-awareness-food-loss-and-waste>

²² <https://www.instagram.com/p/Cft1U3MDgvy/?igshid=24c35acjwhtr>

²³ <http://www.theflipflopi.com/>, #CleanSeas, [animation video](#), [press outreach](#), [story](#)

On 6 July, the European Parliament Intergroup on Climate Change, Biodiversity and Sustainable Development organized an event on, *A circular economy at the heart of climate action: how materials connect the dots in the EU Green Deal*. The event highlighted the need to address climate policies together with circular economy, as a concerted strategy for climate-neutral and resource-efficient economy. UNEP participated in the event and stressed that material efficiency offers untapped ready-to-implement mitigation solutions, emphasizing significant opportunities to reduce GHG emission associated with residential buildings and passenger cars. It shared the findings from the International Resource Panel on climate change and resource efficiency.²⁴

The Intergroup hosted another online event on 9 September 2020, addressing methane emissions from oil and gas to help the world reach the Paris Agreement targets. UNEP outlined its role²⁵ in addressing methane emissions and highlighted the, *Mineral Methane initiative*²⁶ under the Climate and Clean Air Coalition. The initiative seeks to promote significant reductions in methane and black carbon emissions from the oil and gas sector.

Latin America and the Caribbean

In August 2020, the Ibero-American Ministers of Environment Conference met in preparation of the Ibero-American President's Summit.²⁷ Twenty-two Ministers approved a high level declaration to advance regional environmental priorities, considering those agreed at the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean, for which UNEP provides the Secretariat.

North America

The World Circular Economy Forum Online took place in September. It included a substantive session on challenges facing North America in the journey to circularity. UNEP played an important role in shaping and co-organizing the North America plenary session at the World Circular Economy Forum online – in close collaboration with the Government of Canada. UNEP was also a partner and active participant in the event at which the Executive Director delivered two keynote addresses. The announcement by Canada on single-use plastic was aligned with the ambition of the Forum – to influence decision-makers and business leaders to take action on circularity.

West Asia

On 18 August, UNEP and Bahrain co-convened the first West Asia Ministerial Meeting on COVID-19 and the Environment. Ministers highlighted the triple planetary crises, linkages between nature and zoonotic diseases such as the COVID-19 pandemic, and the opportunity to build back better and greener.

Saudi Arabia which holds the current G20 Presidency, spearheaded two initiatives on land restoration/habitat loss and coral reefs with UNEP's contribution. UNEP delivered a statement to the G20 Ministers encouraging the adoption of ambitious commitments towards ecosystem restoration and greener recovery.

²⁴ <https://ebcd.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Webinar-report-A-circular-economy-at-the-heart-of-climate-action.pdf>

²⁵ <https://europa.eu/capacity4dev/unep/discussions/addressing-methane-emissions-oil-and-gas-towards-reaching-paris-agreement-targets>

²⁶ <https://ccacoalition.org/en/initiatives/oil-gas#:~:text=The%20Climate%20and%20Clean%20Air%20Coalition%20%28CCAC%29%E2%80%99s%20%E2%80%98Mineral,awareness%20on%20the%20issue%20among%20governments%20and%20companies.>

²⁷ <https://thediplomatinspain.com/en/2020/09/ibero-america-agrees-to-promote-an-environmental-agenda-for-the-region>

2 Programme of Work Implementation

2.1 Climate Change²⁸

2.1.1 Key highlights

Sustainable Development Awards:

In July 2020, Climate & Clean Air Coalition and Corporación Empresarial Ambiental (CAEM) *Mitigating black carbon and other pollutants from the bricks sector in Colombia* project received the Sustainable Development Goals Award.²⁹ The project mobilizes the sector towards implementation of a more sustainable production process.

Ecosystems Based Adaptation:

On 8 July 2020, Plants, People, Planet³⁰ published a paper that captured lessons and outcomes from UNEP's Ecosystems-Based Adaptation South Project and promoted South-South Cooperation. The project piloted restoration of mountains, desert and coastal ecosystems in Mauritania, Nepal, and Seychelles.

Business case for sustainable land use

UNEP and UN-REDD published a report to promote sustainable land use through sustainable coffee production in Vietnam on 2 July 2020.³¹ On 9 September, UNEP held a regional webinar³² to launch the business case analysis for low carbon-technology in Costa Rica, in collaboration with the UN-REDD programme.³³

Asset Decarbonization:

Cbus³⁴, the David Rockefeller Fund³⁵, and the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund (UNJSPF)³⁶ joined the UN-convened Net Zero Asset Owner Alliance, bringing membership to 29 owners managing over USD 5 trillion assets committed to align their portfolio to 1.5°C scenario. UNEP-Finance Initiative hosts the Alliance which aims to decarbonize assets worth 200 billion by end of the biennium.

Short-lived Climate Pollutants:

Togo's Minister of Environment endorsed the first National Plan to Reduce Air Pollutants and Short-Lived Climate Pollutants in September. The plan could lead to reduction of short-lived pollutants and greenhouse gases by over 45 per cent.³⁷ Togo is one of the 12 countries supported by Climate and Clean Air Coalition under the Strengthening National Action & Planning (SNAP) Initiative.

²⁸ Linked to UNEP resolution UNEP/EA.2/Res.6 and SDGs 13.1, 13.2, 13.3.2, 13.a and 13.b; UNEP/EA.3/Res.8 (SDGs 7.1.1, 7.1.2, 7.2.1, 7.3.1, 7.a.1, 7.b.1, 9.4.1, 12.c.1, 13.3.2, 13.a, 13.b, 17.17.1); and UNEP/EA.2/Res.6 and SDGs 12.c.1, 13.3.2, 13.a, 13.b, 15.1.1, 15.2.1, 15.3.1, 15.6.1 and 17.17.1.

²⁹ <https://www.ccacoalition.org/en/news/ccac-and-caem-project-mitigating-brick-sector-pollution-receives-sustainable-development-goals>

³⁰ <http://www.unep-iemp.org/file/upload/2020/07/15/1594872792.pdf>

³¹ <https://www.unenvironment.org/resources/case-study/addressing-smallholder-resilience-coffee-production-central-highlands-viet-nam>

³² <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oM2WFIWOOFY&feature=youtu.be>

³³ https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/33537/Beef_en.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y

³⁴ <https://www.unepfi.org/news/industries/investment/cbus-is-first-australian-asset-owner-to-join-un-convened-net-zero-asset-owner-alliance/>

³⁵ <https://www.unepfi.org/news/industries/investment/david-rockefeller-fund-joins-the-un-convened-net-zero-asset-owners-alliance/>

³⁶ <https://www.unepfi.org/news/industries/investment/un-joint-staff-pension-fund-joins-net-zero-asset-owner-alliance/>

³⁷ <https://www.ccacoalition.org/en/news/togo-s-minister-environment-endorses-first-national-plan-reduce-air-pollutants-and-short-lived>

Media for Planet Campaign

UNEP and Blue Life launched the first phase of the Media for Planet campaign on 14 September. This is an innovative media model to shift the neutral attitudes of mainstream public audience towards a positive opinion for climate action. This initiative, which brings together some of the biggest media owners and advertisers, allows companies to direct a part of their paid media advertising through the model and convert profit margin into a funding source for projects related to climate. UNEP has secured over 2 million euros of TV advertising space and will reach nearly 30 million adults aged between 35-59, and 68 million adults in total with a new TV spot.

2.1.2 Main opportunities, challenges, and responses

National Adaptation Plans can be utilized to help countries build back better as part of the post COVID-19 response. UNEP is seizing this opportunity through webinar series³⁸ that share knowledge and insights.

There is an opportunity to incentivize investments towards attainment of National Determined Contributions by non-state actors like youth, regional governments, and businesses, who have an opportunity to create solutions and contribute to Paris Agreement goals.

2.2 Resilience to Disasters and Conflicts

2.2.1 Key highlights

Disaster reduction

In July 2020, the Executive Director joined the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, in briefing³⁹ the UN Security Council on the potentially catastrophic environmental consequences⁴⁰ of a leak or explosion on the contested FSO SAFER, an oil tanker anchored 4.8 nautical miles off Ras Isa, Yemen. The Special Envoy of the Secretary-General, UNEP, the UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS) and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) remain ready to act, if access is secured to resolve the situation. Should a leak or explosion occur, this would have a devastating impact⁴¹ on the health, economy, and ecosystems of a country that after years of conflict is living one of the world's worst humanitarian crises. UNEP has been supporting the Regional Organisation for the Conservation of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden (PERSGA) and the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) in the development of the contingency and response plan to enhance preparedness for oil spill emergency.

Response and Recovery

In August, UNEP supported the UN's response to two environmental emergencies:

- In Beirut, a member of the UNEP/OCHA Joint Environment Unit was deployed to coordinate responses to the environmental impact following the explosion of a large quantity of ammonium nitrate stored at the port in Beirut, including providing expertise on hazardous debris and waste handling as well as medical waste treatment.
- In Mauritius, oil from the grounding of the bulk carrier MV Wakashio on a coral reef off the Southeastern coast of Mauritius, had the potential to cause devastating and widespread

³⁸ <https://www.ctc-n.org/resources/adaptation-bulletin-3-un-environment-programme-unep-submission>

³⁹ https://twitter.com/andersen_inger/status/1283695012765736961?s=20

⁴⁰ <https://www.unenvironment.org/news-and-stories/speech/briefing-security-council-situation-yemen>

⁴¹ <https://twitter.com/UN/status/1283567660329054208?s=20>

impacts⁴² on the country. United Nations support for government-led response efforts included the deployment of an oil spill expert mobilized by the UNEP/OCHA Joint Environment Unit.

2.2.2 Main opportunities, challenges, and responses

UNEP will review of its work in disaster- and conflict-affected states drawing from the conclusions of an independent external review of its engagement in this area undertaken by the Conflict Prevention and Peace Forum (CPPF) of the Social Science Research Council (SSRC).

2.3 Healthy and Productive Ecosystems

2.3.1 Key highlights

Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP)

A new project, “Development of a Near Real Time Monitoring System for Marine Coastal Eutrophication Using Google Earth Engine”, was submitted to GEO Google and approved. Implementation has started.⁴³ The Group on Earth Observations (GEO) and Google Earth Engine (GEE) awarded the project as a winning project in July 2020.⁴⁴ It is among 32 projects from 22 countries to address some of the biggest global challenges using open Earth Data.

Ecosystem Service Accounts

In July 2020, as part of an EU-supported project on natural capital accounting, South Africa launched pilot ecosystem service accounts for Kwa-Zulu Natal, in a report commissioned by UNEP in partnership with Statistics South Africa, the Department of Environmental, Forestry and Fisheries and the South African National Biodiversity Institute. And in South America, Brazil launched the biome extent accounts⁴⁵ from 2000 – 2018, showcasing the change in land cover and land use in the different Brazilian biomes.

Regional Seas

In August, the Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA) and the National University of Singapore, launched an online catalogue⁴⁶ of marine litter policy frameworks and a database⁴⁷ on marine litter research,⁴⁸ based on a review of nearly 400 scientific publications on marine plastic pollution in ASEAN+3 countries. These activities provide a foundation for regional knowledge management and networking to catalyze collaborative research.⁴⁹

Global Peatlands Initiative

The Global Peatlands Initiative was highlighted as a standout contribution to advancing SDG 15 - Life on Land, across the United Nations system, as an innovative initiative that has led to the cross-country transfer of knowledge and experience between countries of the South for overcoming common

⁴² <https://www.unenvironment.org/news-and-stories/story/oil-spill-mauritius-calls-more-efforts-safeguard-coral-reef-ecosystems>

⁴³ <https://www.unenvironment.org/nowpap/news-and-stories/press-release/kick-project-develop-monitoring-system-eutrophication-using-google>

⁴⁴ <https://www.unenvironment.org/nowpap/news-and-stories/press-release/group-earth-observations-and-google-earth-engine-support-develop>

⁴⁵ https://biblioteca.ibge.gov.br/visualizacao/livros/liv101753_folder.pdf

⁴⁶ <https://cil.nus.edu.sg/research/special-projects/#pollution-from-marine-plastics-in-the-seas-of-asean-plus-three>

⁴⁷ https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1r4aCVQeCS1cj_Rhip82yVTNNnxkWDgFwbEIHCR_oASK/edit#gid=0

⁴⁸ https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1r4aCVQeCS1cj_Rhip82yVTNNnxkWDgFwbEIHCR_oASK/edit#gid=0

⁴⁹ <https://www.unenvironment.org/cobsea/news/story/cobsea-and-national-university-singapore-launch-database-marine-litter-research-13-asian>

challenges and for their mutual benefits in the 2020 collection of Good Practices in South- South and Triangular Cooperation for Sustainable Development – Vol 3.50. The UNEP-led Initiative seeks to develop and adopt new approaches to the conservation, restoration, and sustainable management of peatlands, linking science to practice and policymaking with targeted support to the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Indonesia and Peru.

UNEP WildForLife – Peatlands Journey

The Wild for Life's interactive Peatlands journey⁵¹ was launched on 30 September. The interactive map, which is available in nine languages, gives the opportunity to discover 11 ancient peatlands across the planet and to learn how they serve human well-being. Several communications products,⁵² were produced to support the launch.

GlowingGone

UNEP, the Ocean Agency and Adobe Inc., launched the #GlowingGone campaign on 20 August. Users can download a free Photoshop Camera and bespoke underwater video filters. The collaboration invites audiences to take a pledge powered by Adobe Sign to support greater ocean protection and climate action. Celebrities with over 100 million in reach joined the campaign which garnered 184,500 downloads in its first week.

2.3.2. Main opportunities, challenges, and responses

The virtual 75th session of the General Assembly culminated in the UN Biodiversity Summit^{53 54} on 30 September 2020. More than 100 Heads of State, Governments and other senior officials spoke of biodiversity, conservation, monitoring and accountability. The challenge now is to translate this momentum into a stronger post-2020 biodiversity framework with commitment to implementation actions at all levels.

COVID-19 has affected project implementation in at least 80 per cent of the ongoing Global Environment Fund (GEF) supported projects under the portfolio, as well as impacted new project identification and development. All project evaluations are conducted on-line without field visits and on-site reviews.

2.4 Environmental Governance⁵⁵

2.4.1 Key highlights

Towards a Global Pact for the Environment

UNEP supported the first informal consultation meeting⁵⁶ on UN General Assembly resolution 73/333⁵⁷, held from 21 to 23 July 2020. Member States provided valuable inputs for the building blocks of a political declaration⁵⁸ to be discussed at the second consultation in November.

Judicial Capacity Building

⁵⁰ <https://www.unsouthsouth.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Good-Practices-in-SSTC-for-Sustainable-Development-Vol.-3-2020-Digital-Light-FINAL.pdf>

⁵¹ <https://wildfor.life/peatlands-journey>

⁵² <https://www.unenvironment.org/news-and-stories/story/new-virtual-journey-highlights-benefits-peatlands>

⁵³ <https://www.unenvironment.org/news-and-stories/press-release/historic-un-summit-biodiversity-sets-stage-global-movement-toward>

⁵⁴ https://twitter.com/andersen_inger/status/1311183161980850176?s=20

⁵⁵ Highlights support for the implementation of UNEA resolutions 2/2, 2/5, 2/17, 2/19, and 2/21.

⁵⁶ <https://globalpactenvironment.org/en/report-of-the-first-consultation-debates-july-2020/>

⁵⁷ Entitled "Follow-up to the report of the ad hoc open- ended working group established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 72/277"

⁵⁸ <https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/34020/Draft%20Building%20Blocks%20of%20a%20Political%20Declaration%20under%20UNGA%20resolution%2073%20333.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>

The first unit⁵⁹ of the environmental ethics and philosophy course to supplement support for judicial capacity building was launched on 2 September.

National Legislation

Two workshops were held in West Asia on the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). The first workshop, held on 21 July 2020, discussed national legislation and support to countries⁶⁰ in CITES implementation. The second, which focused on e-permitting systems, took place on 30 September. A regional consultation meeting was held, for Montevideo Focal points on 28 September, to discuss the outcomes of the global assessment on national air pollution legislation.

Human Rights

In the Asia Pacific region, UNEP supported the following:

- Human rights and gender equality stock take survey
- Webinar on challenges and way forward in the protection of the rights of environmental defenders.
- A joint UNICEF-UNEP-OHCHR Expert Group Meeting to draft 37 Guiding principles for children's right to a safe, clean, and healthy sustainable environment.

2.5 Chemicals, Waste and Air quality

2.5.1 Key highlights

Supported by its UNEP secretariat, the Bureau of the fifth International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM5), decided at its 11th meeting to maintain the momentum in support of completing the intersessional task. ICCM5 will prepare recommendations for the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020; including consideration of the need to develop measurable objectives in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development⁶¹. The Bureau agreed to establish four Virtual Working Groups to advance the work.⁶²

A *Waste Management Strategy and Action Plan*⁶³ for Negombo City, Sri Lanka (2020-2030) was completed, establishing major challenges and policy directions to transition towards a resource recycling, financially sustainable, and environmentally sound waste management system.

UNEP's International Environmental Technology Centre (IETC), along with the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), released a guidance on composting as a strategy for improving waste management at local level.⁶⁴ The guidance is part of a series that assists decision-makers and policy-makers at the local level, with limited technical background on composting, to evaluate the feasibility of introducing composting projects as an appropriate strategic option for improving waste management.

Air Quality

UNEP developed an *Air Pollution Emission Inventory and Dispersion Modelling Guidebook* for the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries. This guidebook facilitates harmonized compilation of anthropogenic and biogenic emissions by Member States and the region. Emission inventories are considered the basis for the design of control strategies to abate air pollution.

⁵⁹ https://rise.articulate.com/share/yNcMrXYQU_Zwx_YEr74kWwjMDslbKnjO#/

⁶⁰ Kuwait, Bahrain, Iraq, Jordan, Oman and Syria

⁶¹ Resolution IV/4 of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM)

⁶² More information can be found on the [SAICM website](#)

⁶³ https://www.ccet.jp/Waste_Management_Strategy_and_Action_Plan_for_Negombo_City_SriLanka

⁶⁴ <https://www.ccet.jp/publications/ccet-guideline-series-intermediate-municipal-solid-waste-treatment-technologies-composting>

Kigali Amendment

On 2 July 2020,⁶⁵ Liberia became the 100th nation to ratify the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer. This provides a major boost in climate action to reduce the use of climate-warming hydrofluorocarbons.

2.5.2 Main opportunities, challenges, and responses

As the restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic continue, some in-country support activities have been delayed, considerably limiting our work to what can be done remotely. Activities that include primary data collection and visiting project locations have been put on hold. Others have been fast-tracked to respond to COVID-19, such as the development of the report on *Waste Management during the COVID-19 Pandemic: From Response to Recovery*, to support countries in their efforts to deal with the influx of medical waste and potentially infectious waste resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

2.6 Resource Efficiency

2.6.1 Key highlights

Mainstreaming SDG 12

UNEP supported the People's Republic of China, India, Pakistan and Vietnam on SDG 12, circular economy and sustainable consumption and production under the SWITCH-Asia project funded by the European Commission. This included support at regional level through 10YFP/One Planet project for low-carbon lifestyle challenge through a Bootcamp and grants for start-ups, and ground work for ASEAN on sustainable consumption and production under the working group on environment and education initiated, with strong support from Indonesia and other ASEAN member states.

Life Cycle and Environmental Foot-printing

UNEP organised a workshop of the Latin American and Caribbean Network of the Environmental Footprint of Coffee in September to present the draft Product Environmental Footprint guidance, with the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. There are more than 400 environmental labels in the world, and 80 leading reporting methods and initiatives only for greenhouse gases. The guidance is intended to provide a common tool for measuring performance and create a level playing field for competition based on environmental performance.

A regional workshop on Construction of National Life-Cycle Databases in Latin America trained 39 public sector and academia participants. The aim was to use best practices to build the capacity of the participants while they are developing national databases in their countries.⁶⁶

Consumer Information

Drawing from the *Consumer Information Tools and Climate Change, Facilitating low-carbon choices in Tourism, Buildings and Food Systems - Guidance for Policy Makers and Business Leaders*, infographics, news articles and social media were released by UNEP between July and September to raise awareness of policy makers, business leaders and the public on how consumers can take low-carbon decisions.⁶⁷

⁶⁵ <https://www.unenvironment.org/news-and-stories/press-release/kigali-amendment-hits-milestone-100th-ratification-boosting-climate>

⁶⁶ From Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Peru, Argentina and Chile.

⁶⁷ Buildings <https://www.oneplanetnetwork.org/resource/infographic-consumer-information-tools-buildings>; Consumer Information Tools: Tourism <https://www.oneplanetnetwork.org/resource/infographic-consumer-information-tools-tourism>; Carbon Labels and Persuasive Communication <https://www.oneplanetnetwork.org/resource/infographic-carbon-labels-and-persuasive-communication>; Social Norms and Personal Choices <https://www.oneplanetnetwork.org/resource/infographic-social-norms-and-personal-choices-insights-aviation>; The CI-SCP Programme published a new Programme brochure <https://www.oneplanetnetwork.org/consumer-information-programme-new-brochure>

2.6.2 Main opportunities, challenges, and responses

It is vital that countries link stimulus packages with moves to decarbonize and enable a green transition. UNEP has been part of various regional and sub-regional discussions and initiatives to incorporate environmental protection and climate change strategies within the stimulus packages for economic recovery.

2.7 Environment under Review

2.7.1 Key highlights

Measuring the Circular Economy

UNEP co-authored the *In-depth review of Measuring the Circular Economy* for the Conference of European Statisticians (CES), together with UNECE, UNSD, OECD, EUROSTAT, the European Environment Agency, Statistics Finland (Lead), the National Statistical Committee of the Republic of Belarus, Statistics Canada, Statistics Netherlands, and the National Administrative Department of Statistics of Colombia. Its recommendations were to:

- Strengthen coordination and communication of work of international organizations and their expert groups related to measuring circular economies;
- Draft practical guidelines by a task force or expert group, in close collaboration with the UN Statistics Division and other relevant international organizations; and
- Provide platforms for exchange of experience and knowledge, including coordination of activities of international organizations.

Building air quality monitoring and management capacity in Central Asia

UNEP has partnered with the MoveGreen Public Foundation and KyrgyzHydromet in Kyrgyzstan, and the Association of Practicing Ecologists and KazHydromet in Kazakhstan, on a new project funded by the United States of America to:

- enhance capacity of government agencies to monitor air quality through deployment of low-cost PM2.5 and other sensors;
- support improvements in air quality regulatory structures for monitoring air quality;
- increase awareness of air pollution, its causes and consequences, among decision makers and the public; and
- enhance regional cooperation between Central Asian countries for tackling air pollution challenges, building upon synergies with regional cooperation activities promoted by the US EPA and the Secretariat of the UNECE Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (LRTAP).

The Future of GEO

The 'Future of GEO' process, launched at UNEA-4 through UNEP/EA.4/RES.23⁶⁸ was initiated⁶⁹ through broad on-line consultations for Member States and stakeholders that started in September and closed on 9 October 2020.

⁶⁸ UNEA Resolution 4/23: 4/23. Keeping the world environment under review: enhancing the United Nations Environment Programme science-policy interface and endorsement of the Global Environment Outlook

⁶⁹ <https://www.unenvironment.org/global-environment-outlook/future-geo>

2.8 Cross-Cutting Issues

Gender

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and UNEP co-hosted a sub-Saharan Africa virtual workshop on Integration of gender perspectives in national climate policies, plans, strategies and actions.⁷⁰ The workshop is part of a series of regional workshops organized by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change under the five-year enhanced Lima work programme on gender and its gender action plan (decision 3/CP.25)⁷¹.

Environmental and Social Safeguards

A new safeguard screening tool, the *Safeguard Risk Identification Form* was launched in July 2020. It is an important first step to avoid or mitigate potential safeguard risks of UNEP projects in compliance to the UNEP Environmental and Social Sustainability Framework, which was updated in January 2020. Related supporting and guiding materials, including a video on how to prepare the *Safeguard Risk Identification Form* were added in the UNEP intranet.

2.9 Implementation of UNEA Resolutions - outside programmatic updates

UNEP/EA.4/Res.17: Promote gender equality, and the human rights and empowerment of women and girls in environmental governance

A community of practice meets every six weeks to review progress in the implementation of UNEP and OHCHR joint activities. The first issue⁷² of the joint bulletin which aims to enhance awareness of the UNEP/OHCHR partnership, and the implementation of its work was released in September 2020.

UNEP/EA.4/Res.18: Poverty Environment Nexus

The Poverty-Environment Action with partner governments⁷³ integrated socio-economic responses and recovery strategies in post-COVID-19 responses; prepared Voluntary National Reviews for Sustainable Development Goals; built capacity on national climate change financial frameworks; designed national land-use masterplans; developed soil loss mitigation plans; instituted technical assistance programmes; and promoted gender-sensitive agriculture in sub-Saharan Africa.⁷⁴

UNEP/EA.4/Res.22: Implementation and follow-up of UNEA Resolutions

In July, UNEP organized a virtual session explaining the UNEA Monitoring and Reporting Portal. About 30 representatives from all regional and political groups participated. Feedback included requests: for information open to the public on the portal; for greater clarity on Member States voluntary reporting; to strengthen the links between resolutions and Programme of work implementation and with MEAs and for a calendar of events.

UNEP/EA.4/Decision 1: Proposed programme of work and budget for 2020-2021

The draft UNEP Medium Term Strategy 2022-2025 and Programme of Work and Budget 2022-2023 were discussed at a Subcommittee meeting of the CPR, on 14 July 2020, and the 151st CPR meeting, of 14 September. As part of the development process of the MTS, between August and September UNEP held consultations with Major Groups and Stakeholders, including Children and Youth and Faith-Based Organizations, and the private sector, in the form of 'Discovery' sessions.

⁷⁰ <https://unfccc.int/topics/gender/events-meetings/workshops-dialogues/virtual-workshops-gender-integration-into-national-climate-actions#eq-4>

⁷¹ https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cp2019_L03E.pdf

⁷² https://spark.adobe.com/page/djLcWfUOGI02P/?fbclid=IwAR2b-B1X-8aIRITBq1qf-GOv7IGpeDe_3Kvshv3prX7KPoUvsY4T3j26yfl

⁷³ PEA for SDG partner governments include Bangladesh, Indonesia, Laos PDR, Malawi, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Rwanda, South Africa and Tanzania

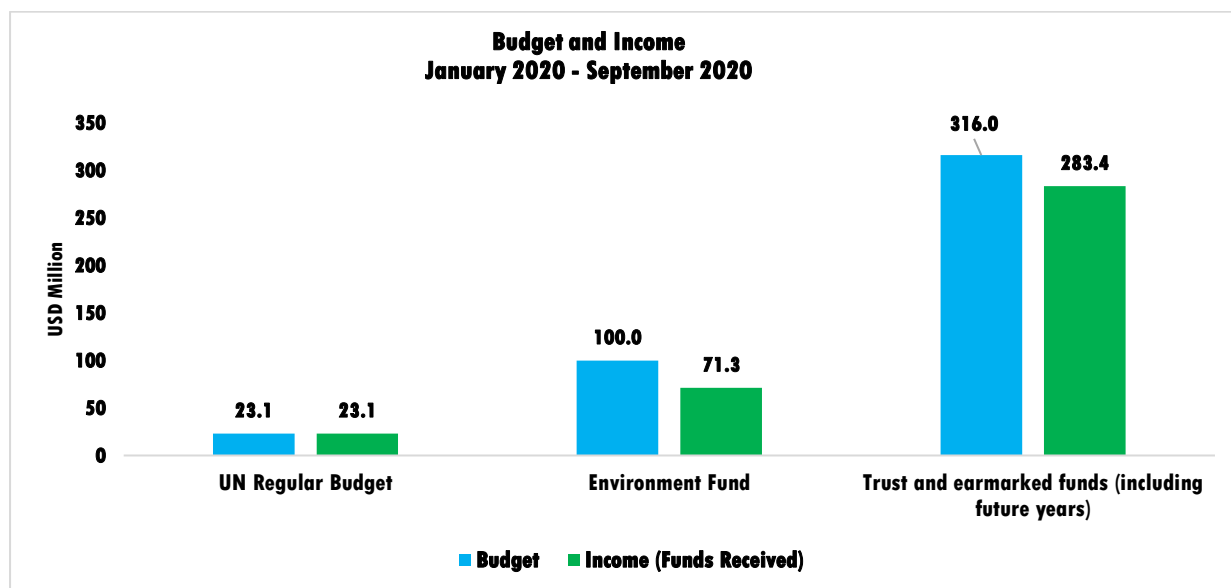
⁷⁴ <https://pea4sdgs.org>

3 Resources and Management Issues

3.1 Financial Update as of 30 September 2020

Overview of income

By the end of the third quarter, as of 30 September 2020, the organisation had received US\$ 377.8 million of income, or 82 per cent, against the total annual budget of US\$ 458.1 million. The income comprises the annual funds of the UN Regular Budget and the Environment Fund, as well as earmarked contributions which include multi-year funding⁷⁵.



Core funding

The Environment Fund and the UN Regular Budget jointly form UNEP's core funding and enable UNEP to deliver on its core mandate.

Because the Regular Budget allocation is received for the whole year in advance, its share is proportionately higher by end of the third Quarter than it will be by end of the year. However, due to the liquidity challenges facing the UN Secretariat, the approved regular budget for 2020 is only partially released. By end of September 2020, only 25% of the non-staff appropriation was allotted for spending. In addition, to manage the liquidity situation, a temporary freeze has been applied on the Regular Budget vacant staff positions.

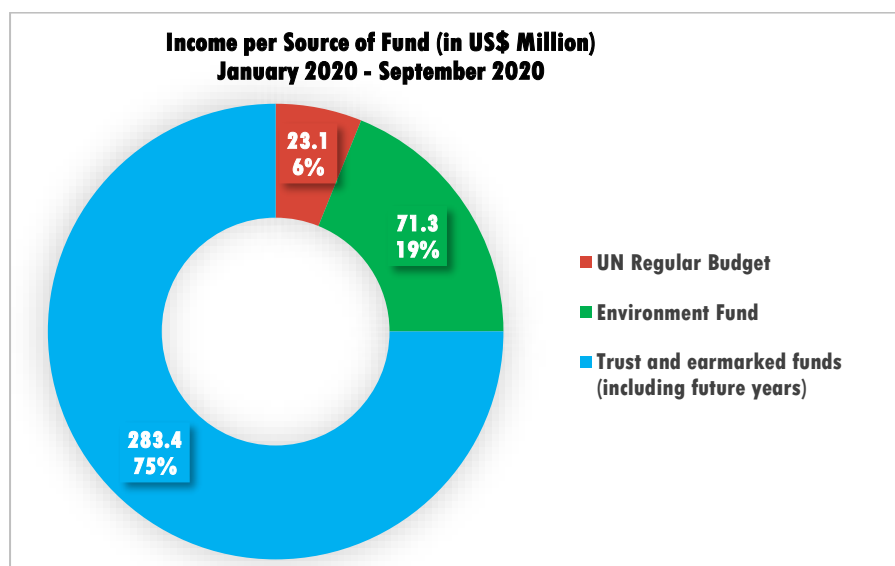
The income to the Environment Fund increased by 19 per cent compared to same time last year, surpassing the total 2019 income, and amounted to 71 per cent of the approved 2020 budget. The Environment Fund remains critical to enable UNEP to lead on science-policy solutions; identify emerging environmental threats and innovate to address them; advocate and raise awareness; and build capacity. The Environment Fund also ensures robust oversight and accountability and supports UNEP's convening power in bringing together all stakeholders to advance the global environmental agenda.

⁷⁵ As per the UN Secretariat interpretation and application of the International Public Service Accounting Standards (IPSAS), Umoja does not enable breakdown of this income into annual figures.

Earmarked contributions

Earmarked contributions (including trust funds) enable the scaling-up and replication of results of core work, including capacity-building in more countries with more partners.

By 30 September 2020, the organization received US\$ 283.4 million in earmarked funds, including trust funds, for the year 2020 (also including funds for future years), against a budgeted amount of US\$ 316 million.



Funding partners

63 Member States have pledged to the Environment Fund, with 27 having contributed their “Fair Share” as represented by the Voluntary Indicative Scale of Contributions (VISCI). However, the number of Member States contributing is 10 per cent less than at the same time last year and represent only 33 per cent of the universal membership. To address this, the Secretariat has sent renewed invitations to Member States to contribute. UNEP has also urged all 193 Member States to honour the commitment made at the Rio+20 Summit (para 88b of the outcome document) to ensure secure, stable, adequate, and increased financial resources to UNEP.

Top 10 Contributors to the Environment Fund (January 2020 - September 2020)

	Member States	\$(million)
1	Netherlands	8.82
2	Germany	8.28
3	USA	8.10
4	France	7.55
5	Belgium	4.52
6	Denmark	4.42
7	Sweden	4.41
8	United Kingdom	4.09
9	Switzerland	4.02
10	Norway	3.00

Top 10 Contributors to the Earmarked Funds (January 2020 - September 2020)

	Funding Partners	\$(million)
1	Global Environment Facility	147.73
2	UN Agencies	26.83
3	European Commission	25.51
4	Norway	13.89
5	Japan	12.08
6	Green Climate Fund	10.28
7	Sweden	8.65
8	Finance Initiative	6.66
9	Germany	6.48
10	Luxembourg	5.86

Member States that contributed their 'fair share' as represented by the VISC (Jan-Sep 2020)

Andorra	Finland	Myanmar
Barbados	France	Netherlands
Belgium	Georgia	Norway
Bhutan	Iceland	Saint Lucia
Brunei Darussalam	Latvia	Serbia
Cyprus	Liechtenstein	Slovenia
Denmark	Luxembourg	Solomon Island
Eritrea	Mauritius	Sri Lanka
Fiji	Montenegro	Switzerland

3.2 Status of Allocations and Expenditures as of 30 September 2020

2020 Core Budgets - Programme of Work budget (\$)					
	Functional Area Name	Environment Fund	Overhead Trust Account	Regular Budget	Grand Total
A	Policy Making Organs	2,000,000	10,000	8,500	2,018,500
B. 1	Executive Direction & Management	3,600,000	-	3,383,300	6,983,300
B. 2	United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects on Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR)	-	-	822,700	822,700
	Subtotal A + B	5,600,000	10,000	4,214,500	9,824,500
C	Programme of Work				
1.	Climate change	11,100,000	3,600,000	2,267,800	16,967,800
2.	Resilience to disasters and conflicts	7,800,000	500,000	1,543,500	9,843,500
3.	Healthy and productive ecosystems	14,000,000	1,050,000	2,649,600	17,699,600
4.	Environmental governance	13,100,000	1,050,000	4,547,000	18,697,000
5.	Chemicals, waste and air quality	11,700,000	1,500,000	1,809,200	15,009,200
6.	Resource efficiency	14,200,000	1,500,000	1,979,500	17,679,500
7.	Environment under review	11,500,000	200,000	3,136,500	14,836,500
	Subtotal C	83,400,000	9,400,000	17,933,100	110,733,100
D	Fund Programme Reserve	5,000,000			5,000,000
	Subtotal C + D	88,400,000	9,400,000	17,933,100	115,733,100
E	Programme Management and Other				
	Programme Support (UNEP Office for Operations; United Nations Office at Nairobi/United Nations Office at Geneva bills; after-service health insurance provision)	6,000,000	9,590,000	1,214,600	16,804,600
	Subtotal E	6,000,000	9,590,000	1,214,600	16,804,600
	Total (A+B+C+D+E)	100,000,000	19,000,000	23,362,200	142,362,200

2020 Core Budgets - Allocations as of 30 September 2020 (\$)					
	Functional Area Name	Environment Fund	Overhead Trust Account	Regular Budget	Grand Total
A	Policy Making Organs	1,907,198	-	413	1,907,611
B. 1	Executive Direction & Management	3,999,560	-	2,853,600	6,853,160
B. 2	United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects on Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR)	-	-	734,075	734,075
Subtotal A + B		5,906,758		3,588,088	9,494,846
C	Programme of Work	-			
1.	Climate change	8,578,171	744,757	2,164,150	11,487,078
2.	Resilience to disasters and conflicts	5,867,315	691,702	1,464,600	8,023,617
3.	Healthy and productive ecosystems	10,955,510	1,189,191	2,032,978	14,177,679
4.	Environmental governance	10,644,031	980,987	4,413,244	16,038,262
5.	Chemicals, waste and air quality	8,971,426	525,685	1,489,498	10,986,609
6.	Resource efficiency	10,897,553	836,577	1,567,117	13,301,247
7.	Environment under review	8,785,400	137,176	2,737,552	11,660,128
Subtotal C		64,699,406	5,106,075	15,869,139	85,674,620
D	Fund Programme Reserve	2,000,000	-	-	2,000,000
Subtotal C + D		66,699,406	5,106,075	15,869,139	87,674,620
E	Programme Management and Other				
	Programme Support	5,393,836	12,549,808	1,203,084	19,146,728
Subtotal E		5,393,836	12,549,808	1,203,084	19,146,728
Total (A+B+C+D+E)		78,000,000	17,655,883	20,660,311	116,316,194

2020 Core Budgets - Expenditures as of 30 September 2020					
	Functional Area Name	Environment Fund	Overhead Trust Account	Regular Budget	Grand Total
A	Policy Making Organs	1,472,060	-		1,472,060
B. 1	Executive Direction & Management	2,553,046	-	2,203,135	4,756,181
B. 2	United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects on Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR)	-	-	563,379	563,379
	Subtotal A + B	4,025,106	-	2,766,514	6,791,620
C	Programme of Work				
1.	Climate change	7,354,962	284,109	1,707,707	9,346,778
2.	Resilience to disasters and conflicts	3,964,522	311,864	995,982	5,272,368
3.	Healthy and productive ecosystems	6,096,572	665,277	1,704,531	8,466,381
4.	Environmental governance	5,859,699	509,880	3,407,325	9,776,903
5.	Chemicals, waste and air quality	6,439,388	797,401	1,357,700	8,594,490
6.	Resource efficiency	6,595,814	659,603	1,289,881	8,545,298
7.	Environment under review	5,340,902	199,029	1,847,942	7,387,873
	Subtotal C	41,651,860	3,427,163	12,311,068	57,390,092
D	Fund Programme Reserve	805,496	-	-	805,496
	Subtotal C + D	42,457,356	3,427,163	12,311,068	58,195,588
E	Programme Management and Other				
	Programme Support	3,877,094	7,226,657	884,386	11,988,137
	Subtotal E	3,877,094	7,226,657	884,386	11,988,137
	Total (A+B+C+D+E)	50,359,556	10,653,820	15,961,968	76,975,345

3.3 Resource Mobilization

With reference to UNEP/EA.4/Decision 1⁷⁶, the Secretariat continues the discussions with the Member States to address the key funding challenges identified. Key actions identified were presented to the Annual Sub-Committee in the draft Action Plan for the Implementation of Paragraph 88 of the Rio+20 Outcome document. The draft Action Plan was, among other things, informed by the results of the online Survey on the Funding of UNEP, which was shared with Member States in July and which closed at the end of August. Eighty respondents from all regional groups participated in the survey, providing information that informed the development of the draft 2022-2023 Programme of Work and Budget, and will contribute to the revision of the resource mobilisation strategy.

In the survey, reference to the Voluntary Indicative Scale of Contributions (VISC) as each Member State's "fair share" of the Environment Fund budget was well received by Member States. Out of the respondents, over 66% said that using 'fair share' rather than VISC made it easier to understand the concept and the tool. To provide more visibility to the funding challenges and the importance of core and flexible funding, the Secretariat is working on a communication and outreach campaign with the aim of increasing funding to the Environment Fund.

3.4 Human Resources

General Overview

As of 30 September 2020, UNEP employed 1,268 staff members consisting of 751 (59 per cent) in the professional and higher categories, 7 (1 per cent) in the National Professional Officer (NPO) category and 510 (40 per cent) in the general service category. There are 777 (61 per cent) female, and 491 (39 per cent) male staff members.

Senior level staff for Secretariat and Multilateral Environment Agreements.

Total staff members at grade P-5 and above as of 30 September 2020.

Level	USG	ASG	D-2	D-1	P-5
No. of staff	1	3	8	53	142

USG=Under-Secretary-General; ASG=Assistant Secretary-General; D=Director; P=Professional

Senior Appointments

The following senior staff appointments were made in the 3rd quarter of 2020 (July to September).

Position Title	Grade	Gender	Nationality	Division/Office
Principal Legal Officer	D-1	Male	South African	Law Division
Senior Programme Management Officer	P-5	Male	Namibian	Secretariat for the Convention on Biological Diversity
Senior Programme Management Officer	P-5	Female	South African	Secretariat for the Convention on Biological Diversity
Senior Programme Management Officer	P-5	Female	USA	Secretariat for the Convention on Biological Diversity

⁷⁶ UNEP/EA.4/Decision 1: Proposed programme of work and budget for 2020-2021 encourages the Executive Director to implement the resource mobilization strategy in close consultation with the CPR

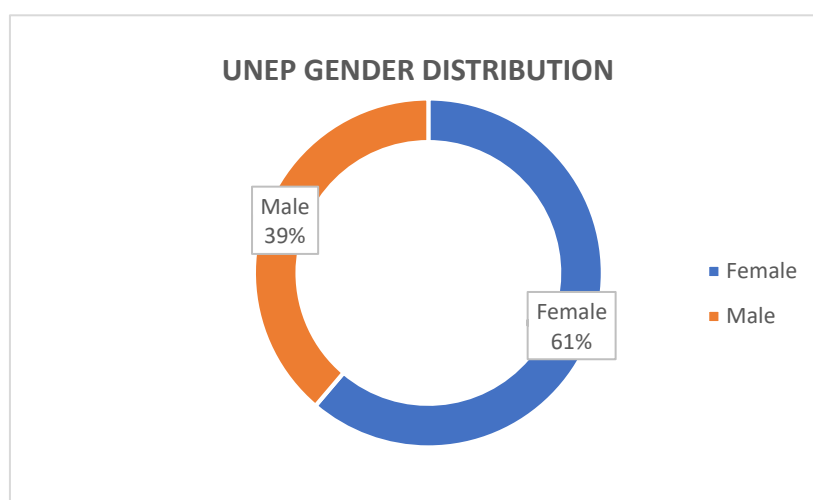
Gender Parity Status

The Gender Parity Status in the first, second and third quarter of the year 2020 remains the same.

Secretariat												
Gender	USG	ASG	D2	D1	P5	P4	P3	P2	Total P+	NPO	GS	Grand Total
Female	1	1	3	17	45	88	97	55	307	3	286	596
Male	0	1	1	28	64	100	62	22	278	4	103	385
Multilateral Environmental Agreements												
Female	0	1	2	4	14	29	27	12	89	0	92	181
Male	0	0	2	4	19	18	18	16	77	0	29	106
Total	1	3	8	53	142	235	204	105	751	7	510	1268

USG=Under-Secretary-General; ASG=Assistant Secretary-General; D=Director; P=Professional

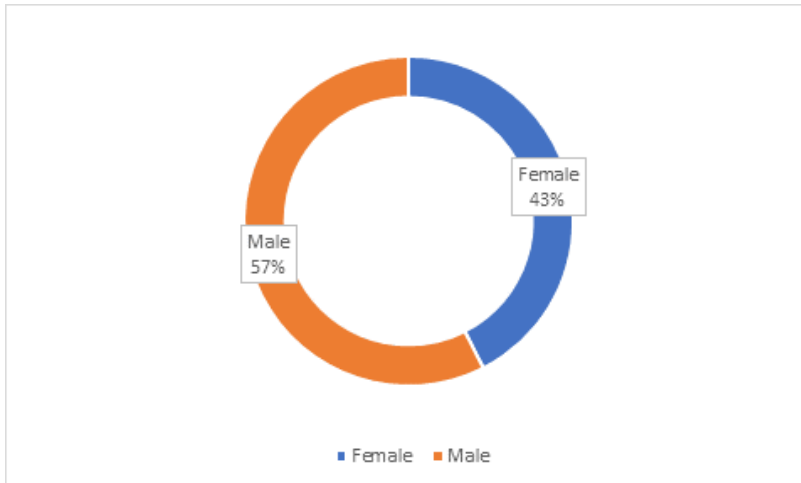
Overall gender distribution



Gender status for P5 and above for UNEP Secretariat and MEAs as of 30 September 2020.

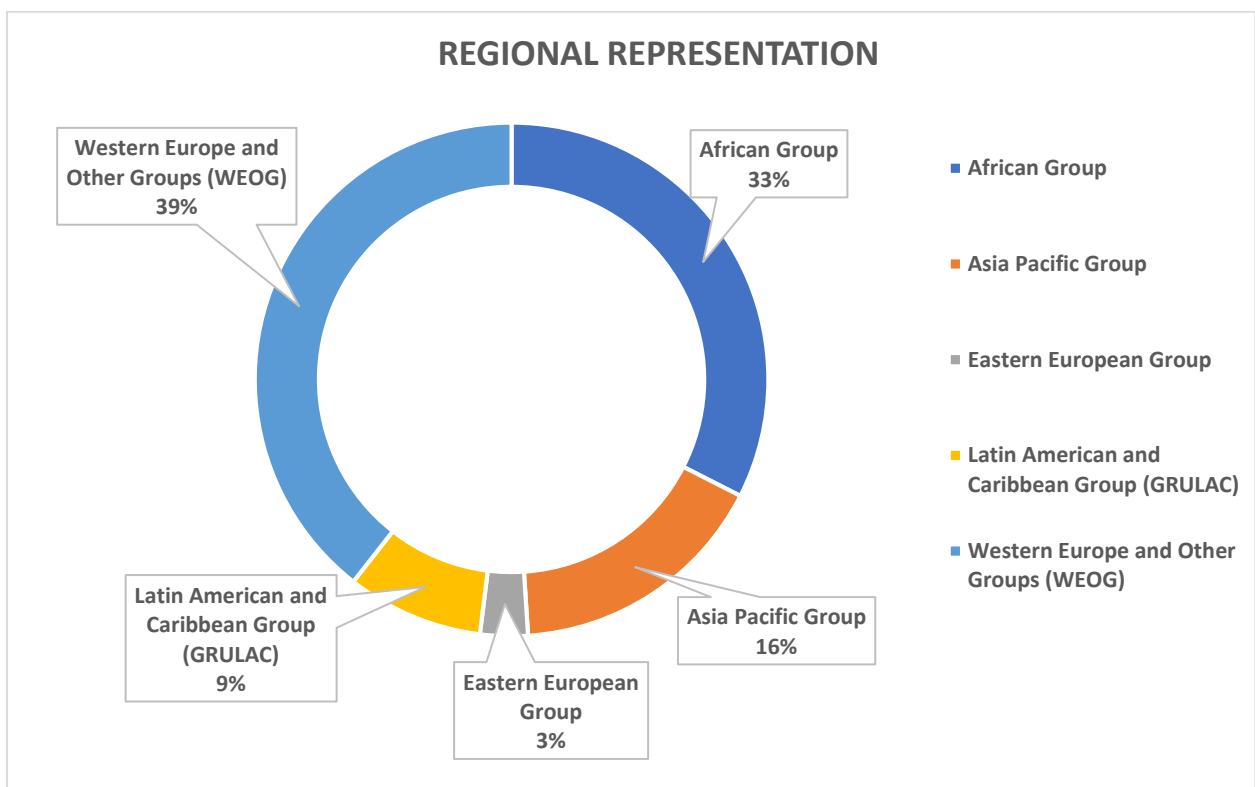
Gender	USG	ASG	D2	D1	P5	Total
Female	1	2	5	21	59	88
Male	0	1	3	32	83	119
Total	1	3	8	53	142	207
Female	100%	67%	62%	40%	42%	43%
Male	0%	33%	38%	60%	58%	57%

USG=Under-Secretary-General; ASG=Assistant Secretary-General; D=Director; P=Professional



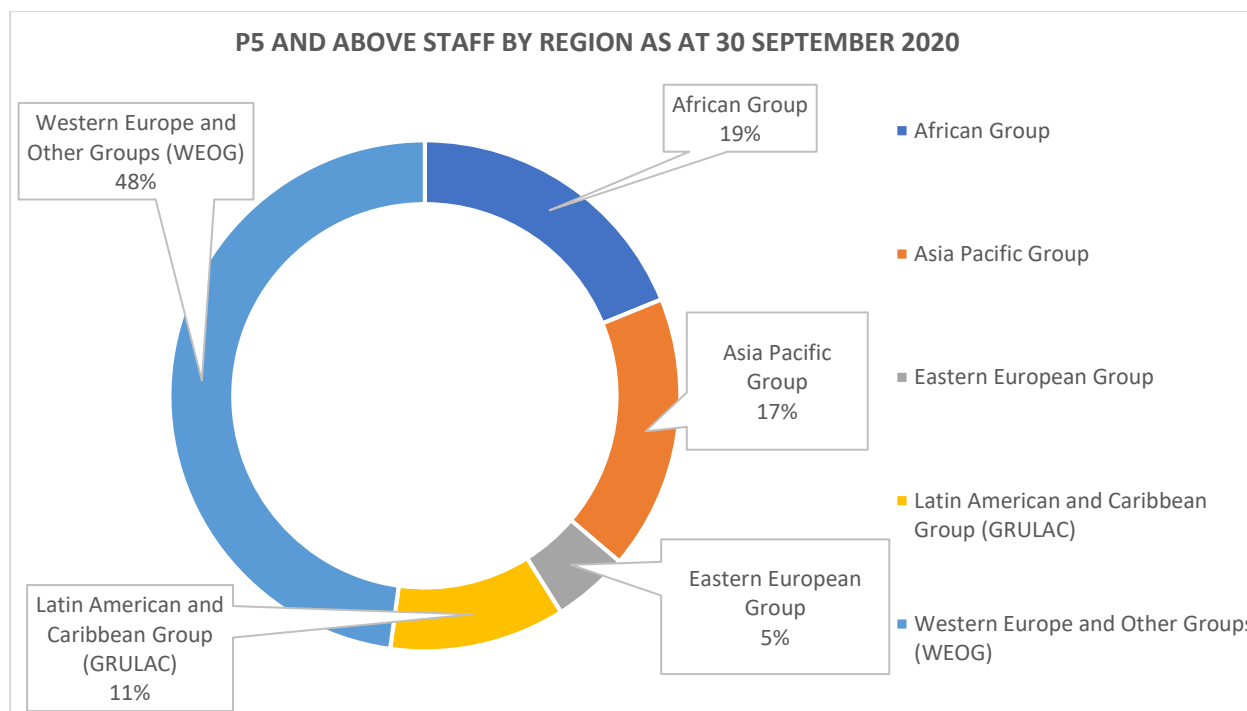
Regional Representation of staff (UNEP and Multilateral Environment Agreements) as of 30 September 2020

Region	Total
African Group	412
Asia Pacific Group	209
Eastern European Group	38
Latin American and Caribbean Group (GRULAC)	109
Western Europe and Other Groups (WEOG)	500
Grand Total	1268



Regional representation P5 and above (Secretariat and Multilateral Environment Agreements)

Region	Total
African Group	39
Asia Pacific Group	36
Eastern European Group	10
Latin American and Caribbean Group (GRULAC)	23
Western Europe and Other Groups (WEOG)	99
Total	207



Key human resources risk and issues

With relation to the Secretary-General's system-wide Gender Parity Strategy and UNEP's Gender Parity Implementation Plan, UNEP's gender ratio remains at 61:39 female to male. Whereas measures have been put in place to assist achieve parity, the ratio at the P5 and above levels is within parity range 43:57 female to male ratio. There is a need to further balance recruitment at the D1 and P5 levels and at general service level, to meet parity level at these specific levels. UNEP will make efforts to improve geographical distribution through concerted outreach efforts via regional forums and career development venues. It will explore enhancing dashboard reports and is committed to enhancing monitoring mechanisms to improve regional geographic distribution and representation of unrepresented and underrepresented countries.

3.5 Evaluations

During the reporting period:

- Four project evaluations were brought to completion.
- Twenty-Four project evaluations are currently ongoing.

In the context of the current pandemic, evaluations continued as normal if they were deemed suitable for a fully desk-based approach or had completed their field mission/data collection phases prior to COVID-19 travel restrictions.

Other project evaluations proceeded in a limited manner with only desk-based preparatory work being conducted before the evaluations were placed 'on hold' prior to the initiation of field mission/ data collection phases. The continuation of these evaluations awaits more favourable public health conditions.