Global Major Groups and Stakeholder Forum, 9 - 11 February 2021

UNEP Programme of Work 2022-23

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Background

UNEP’s mandate and strategic planning cycle

• Established in 1972 - UNGA Resolution 2997
• Part of the UN Secretariat
• United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) is the main governing body and priority-setting mechanism of UNEP.

• The **Medium-Term Strategy** describes how UNEP will implement its mandate over a four-year. The **Programme of Work** covers a two-year period, and each Medium-Term Strategy is delivered through two Programmes of Work
A Medium-term strategy and Programme of Work founded on collaboration and inclusivity

One year with consultations led to the development of the MTS and PoW

- Five discovery sessions with Member States
- 18 discovery sessions with UNEP staff
- Four discovery sessions with Multilateral Environmental Agreements
- Discovery Session with Major Groups and Stakeholders
- Discovery session with Faith Based Organizations
- Discovery Sessions with Private Sector
- Discovery Session with Youth
Seven subprogrammes delivering the Medium-term strategy

A response to the three planetary crises: climate change, nature loss and pollution

A Planetary and Human Crisis caused by Unsustainable Patterns of Consumption and Production

What the science says
Seven subprogrammes delivering the Medium-term strategy

A response to the three planetary crises: climate change, nature loss and pollution
Towards the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals
“For people, prosperity and equity”

A Planetary and Human Crisis caused by Unsustainable Patterns of Consumption and Production
Towards the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals
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Multilateral Environmental Agreements

Thematic Subprogrammes
- Climate Action
- Nature Action
- Chemicals & Pollution Action

Foundational Subprogrammes
- Climate Stability
- Living In Harmony with Nature
- Pollution Free Planet

Enabling Subprogrammes
- Science - Policy
- Environmental Governance
- Digital Transformations
- Finance & Economic Transformations

A Planetary and Human Crisis caused by Unsustainable Patterns of Consumption and Production
A new and more focused approach to capture the most important results of UNEP’s work

The purpose of the UNEP results framework is twofold: to measure the results of UNEP work and to guide the design of projects and programmes.

Three theories of change map out a path for UNEP to achieve its strategic objectives of climate stability, living in harmony with nature and towards a pollution-free planet.

The programme of work demonstrates how the UNEP subprogrammes come together in an integrated manner to deliver interconnected and mutually beneficial results.

The allocation of the Environment Fund is based on a review of core mandates and the earmarked funds and global trust funds are distributed across the subprogrammes based on historical trends in expenditures.
Theory of Change: Climate Action

Planetary sustainability for people, prosperity and equity

2030 Outcome: Government and non-government development action are compatible with the Paris Agreement long-term objectives of “holding the increase in global average temperatures to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C” and “increasing the ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change”

2026-2029 Outcomes
Climate change mitigation and adaptation goals incorporated in all decision-making for UNEP target audiences

- **2025 Outcome**: Decision makers at all levels adopt decarbonization, dematerialization and resilience pathways
- **2025 Outcome**: Countries and stakeholders have increased capacity, finance and access to technologies to deliver on the adaptation and mitigation goals of the Paris Agreement
- **2025 Outcome**: State and non-state actors adopt the enhanced transparency framework arrangements under the Paris Agreement

Policy/decision-making for climate action is informed by the latest science-based analysis and data generation

Carbon neutrality and resilience are integrated into climate planning and policy/regulatory frameworks at all levels

Sectoral partnerships and access to technologies for decarbonization, dematerialization and resilience are enhanced

Private and public finance flows are aligned with the goals of the Paris Agreement

Transparency and accountability of government and non-government climate action, including from the private sector and finance community is strengthened

Sustainability and climate friendly standards and norms are applied by the private sector and financial market as a core value of the economy

Public support and political engagement for climate action are catalyzed

Societal choices shift towards lower carbon products and services and sustainable lifestyles

Drivers
- Transparency around climate change, air quality and health risks enhanced through digital means to catalyse public pressure for action
- Synergies with global and regional MEAs and other relevant frameworks
- Science drive policy and public opinion
- Public opinion influences climate action
- COVID recovery investments
- Youth & Private Sector Leadership

Assumptions
- Governments ensure that the private sector internalizes the full costs of climate change
- Research and education institutions generate data & know-how in support of climate stability
- Government willingness to follow through on global resolve and obligations

External risks
- Economic and social impacts of COVID-19
- Insufficient political commitment

Legend
- Direct outcomes
- Science-Policy contribution
- Environmental governance contribution
- Finance & economic transformations contribution
- Digital Transformations contribution

2/10/2021
2030 Outcome: Recovery of nature occurs and contributes positively to ecosystem stability and human well-being.

2026-2029 Outcomes:
- Net increase in the extent of natural and productive landscapes and seascapes that are healthy, resilient and sustainably managed.
- Sustainable value chains adopted, product comparability enhanced, and circularity maximized.
- Sustainable ocean and coastal economy contributes to prosperity and pollution-free development.
- Oceans governed sustainably and holistically at regional and global levels.
- Food systems support biodiversity and environment sustainability.
- Fair and equitable access and benefit sharing frameworks are advanced.

Drivers:
- MEAs and other relevant international frameworks operate in synergy and coherence.
- Advocacy, outreach and communication for sustainable use and management of nature is raised and inspire action.
- Strong, long-term, political commitment to safeguard nature is secured and translated into policies.
- Digital technologies are used to monitor, value and predict risks to natural capital.

Assumptions:
- Governments apply strengthened accountability measures and adopt ambitious frameworks.
- Governments ensure that the private sector internalizes the full costs of environmental degradation.
- Feasible pathways to ensure sustainable economic prosperity and reduced inequalities can be found.
- Failure to adopt an ambitious and comprehensive Post 2020 Global Biodiversity framework.
- Economic and social impacts of COVID-19.
- Insufficient political commitment.

Legends:
- Data and scientific knowledge are persuasively translated into feasible policy instruments and action plans.
- Advocacy, outreach and communication for sustainable use and management of nature is raised and inspire action.
- Strong, long-term, political commitment to safeguard nature is secured and translated into policies.
- Multi-stakeholder, issue-driven alliances and partnerships are mobilized.
- Active youth movement is mobilized.

External risks:
- Nature integrated in national and international public health decision making.
- Institutional capacity enhanced and accountability frameworks strengthened to adopt and act on national and international commitments.
- Consumer awareness and behaviors shifted towards products and services with lower environmental and nature footprints through digital nudging, green filtering, product labelling, certification schemes and value-chain indices.
- Improved science and indigenous and local traditional knowledge contribute to sustainable management of Nature.
Environmental governance contribution

Finance & economic transformations contribution

Digital Transformations contribution

2025 Outcome

Waste management improved including through circular processes, safe recovery of secondary raw materials and progressive reduction of open burning and dump sites

2026 - 2029 Outcomes

Science-based sound management of chemicals and waste throughout their lifecycle increased

Waste discharged into the environment declined in volume

Land-based sources of pollution reduced in freshwater and ocean, including marine litter and nutrients

Resilient waste and wastewater systems and infrastructure upscaled

Environmental quality improved by pollution prevention and action

Reduced releases of pollutants to air, water, soil and the ocean

Human health and environment outcomes optimized through enhanced capacity and leadership on the sound management of chemicals and waste

2026 - 2029 Outcomes

Waste management improved including through circular processes, safe recovery of secondary raw materials and progressive reduction of open burning and dump sites

2026 - 2029 Outcomes

Significant progress made towards a pollution-free planet

MTS 2030 outcome: Significant progress made towards a pollution-free planet

Drivers

Clean technologies and digital applications deployed to reduce waste and pollution

Advocacy, outreach, awareness raising and communication

Multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral partnerships and policy frameworks

Synergies with global and regional MEAs and other relevant frameworks

Assumptions

Access to private sector and scientific data are improved in support of a pollution-free planet

Governments ensure that the private sector internalizes the full costs of pollution

All stakeholders are engaged and committed to an ambitious and comprehensive global framework for chemicals and waste

Government willingness to follow through on global resolve and obligations under global agreements

Economic and social impacts of COVID-19

Political instability and illegal trade activity

Failure to adopt an ambitious and comprehensive global framework for chemicals and waste beyond 2020

Insufficient political commitment

External risks

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Legend

Direct outcomes

Science-Policy contribution

Environmental governance contribution

Finance & economic transformations contribution

Digital Transformations contribution
## Indicator framework – new elements

### Qualitative indicators

The qualitative indicators will capture the influence and uptake of UNEP normative and standard-setting work. Together with the impact stories, they complement the quantitative indicators, which mainly capture the impact of direct intervention by UNEP, and provide a more complete picture of UNEP results for the three thematic subprogrammes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(v) Positive shift in public opinion, attitudes and actions in support of biodiversity and ecosystem approaches</th>
<th>2A, 2B, 2C</th>
<th>2.2, 2.13/2.15, 2.16</th>
<th>Progress expected by December 2023. The public takes action and has a positive attitude in support of biodiversity and ecosystem approaches.</th>
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<td>(vi) Positive shift in the private sector in support of biodiversity and ecosystem approaches</td>
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<td>Progress expected by December 2023. The private sector takes impacts on biodiversity and ecosystem services into consideration in decision-making.</td>
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<td>Surveys on public opinion</td>
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<td>Formal and informal educational curricula</td>
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<td>UNEP Finance Initiative reports</td>
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<td>UNEP Land Use Finance Programme report on the state of finance and investment into nature-based solutions</td>
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<td>UNEP Land Use Finance Programme briefings</td>
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### Capturing UNEP results at different levels

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<th>Level of results</th>
<th>Reporting structure</th>
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<tr>
<td>UNEP direct support</td>
<td>Quantitative indicators for each subprogramme (results within the control of UNEP)</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNEP enabling interventions</td>
<td>Qualitative indicators and selected impact stories for each subprogramme (focus on the influence and uptake of the normative and standard-setting work of UNEP)</td>
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<td>UNEP influencing interventions</td>
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*a* This approach is aligned with the guidance provided by the General Assembly through the annual resolution on programme planning, which sets out the legal foundation for the reporting of the Secretary General on the annual proposed programme budgets for secretariat entities. See in particular General Assembly resolutions 71/6 and 74/251.
Looking forward: driving change towards the future we want

Based on the latest science, this strategy provides the focus needed for transformative actions that target the drivers of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution.

It sets out the actions needed to reshape consumption and production patterns for sustainability, so that human well-being and the health of the planet’s ecosystems are no longer threatened by a deteriorating environment.

This strategy sets out a focused and cohesive path for UNEP to curate solutions that can contribute to achieving the aspirations of the 2030 Agenda and implementing paragraph 88 of “The future we want”

UNEP will leverage the decade of action and help Member States deliver on the Sustainable Development Goals by being a catalyst and facilitator of ambitious action on climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution.
Looking forward: driving change towards the future we want

It will leverage the United Nations development system reform to engage the wider United Nations system in stronger, more coordinated and mutually supportive environmental action while solidifying its ability to meet individual country needs.

UNEP will engage the multilateral environmental agreements to amplify their impact and bring about more coherence in how they cooperate and benefit from each other.

UNEP will operate on the basis of an inclusive multilateralism that reaches beyond governments and supports systemic shifts, with the help and collaboration of the private sector and business community, youth, civil society at large and faith-based organizations.

UNEP will elevate its partnerships by building transformative partnerships (including public-private partnerships) that contribute to the achievement of the organization’s key transformational goals in the thematic areas of climate, nature and pollution.