



Programme Performance Report

January 2020 to December 2021





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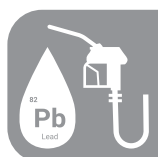


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Highlights



Leaded fuel eliminated

A UNEP 20 Year campaign that ended leaded petrol for land vehicles in 2021 will prevent about 1.2 million premature deaths annually and save US\$2.45 trillion.



Effective COVID-19 response

UNEP supported governments on **COVID-19** related **assessments and helped** address the **pandemic- related spike in waste**.



Healthy environment now a human right

UNEP **advocacy** culminated in **landmark** 2021 Human Rights Council resolution recognizing access to a **healthy and sustainable environment** as a **universal right**.



A Gender champion

UNEP met or exceeded **82%** of the 17 UN **Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women (UN-SWAP) performance indicators** in 2021.



Decarbonising investment portfolios

US\$ 10.4 trillion in assets now managed by the **UN-convened Net Zero Asset Owners Alliance (NZAOA)** which committed to net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.



Restoring Ecosystems

UNEP and ICRI **championed** community inclusive **sustainable coastal ecosystem conservation** and **restoration** approaches.



Shifting behaviors

135 universities used the **Little Book of Green Nudges** to shift behaviors towards sustainability.



Expansion of disaster response

UNEP rapidly responded to **disasters** - **maritime** accident in Sri Lanka, **volcanic explosions** in the Caribbean, **hurricanes** in Honduras, **oil spill** in Mauritius, **explosions** in Lebanon and Equatorial Guinea, **flooding** in Guyana.



Mobilizing sustainable finance

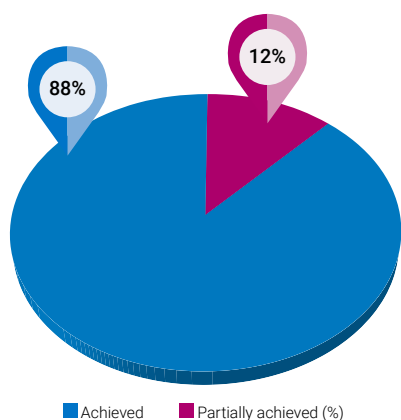
US\$2.3 trillion in sustainable finance mobilized by **Principles for Responsible Banking (PRB)** members as at Dec 2021.



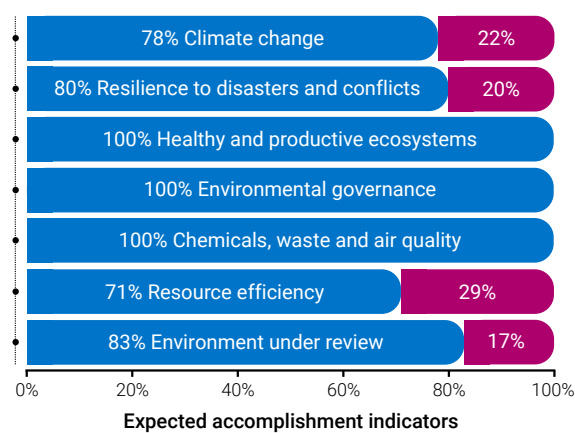
Uptake of groundbreaking science

Trailblazing scientific assessments by UNEP **informed** and **inspired action** at all levels.

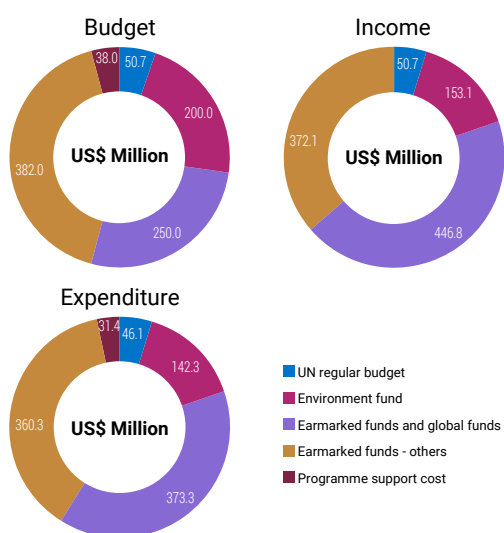
2020-2021 Performance overview achievement of indicator targets



2020-2021 programme performance summary



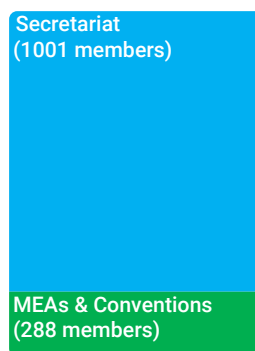
Financial Overview



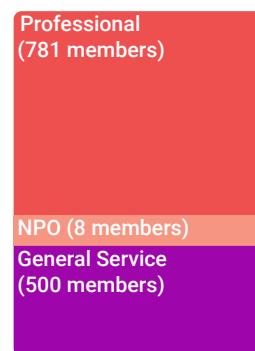
Human Resources

1289 Committed UNEP staff

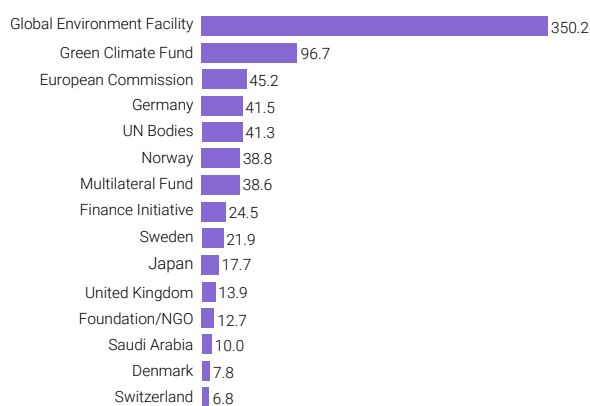
Distribution



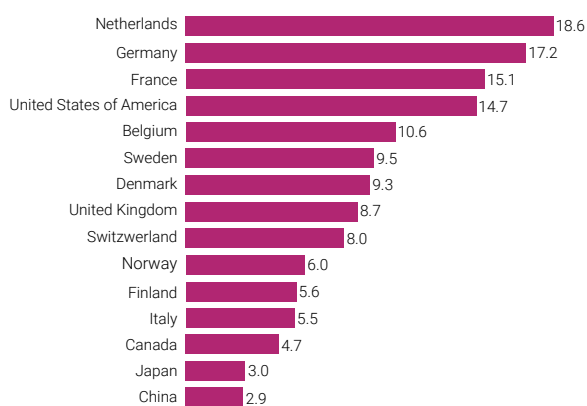
Categories



Top 15 contributors to earmarked funds



Top 15 contributors to the environment fund





1. A Bird's Eye View

Introduction

This 2020-2021 Programme Performance Report is a companion to the 2020 and 2021 UNEP Annual Reports. In this report, UNEP achievements during the two years of the 2020-2021 Programme of Work (PoW) are presented in greater detail, under the seven subprogrammes of:

- Climate Change
- Resilience to Disasters and Conflicts
- Healthy and Productive Ecosystems
- Environmental Governance
- Chemicals, Waste and Air Quality
- Resource Efficiency
- Environment Under Review

The 2020-2021 PoW represents the second half of UNEP's 2018-2021 Medium-Term Strategy (MTS). Alongside the programmatic work, the report highlights performance on organizational effectiveness, efficiency and accountability in the areas of: Policy Making Organs, Executive Direction as well as Management and Programme Management Support. During the period, UNEP's drive for improvement and commitment

to results-based management, led to more streamlined internal structures and processes, as elaborated in the "Fit for Purpose" section, while the "Investing in UNEP" section lays out the financial and human resources behind UNEP's achievements.

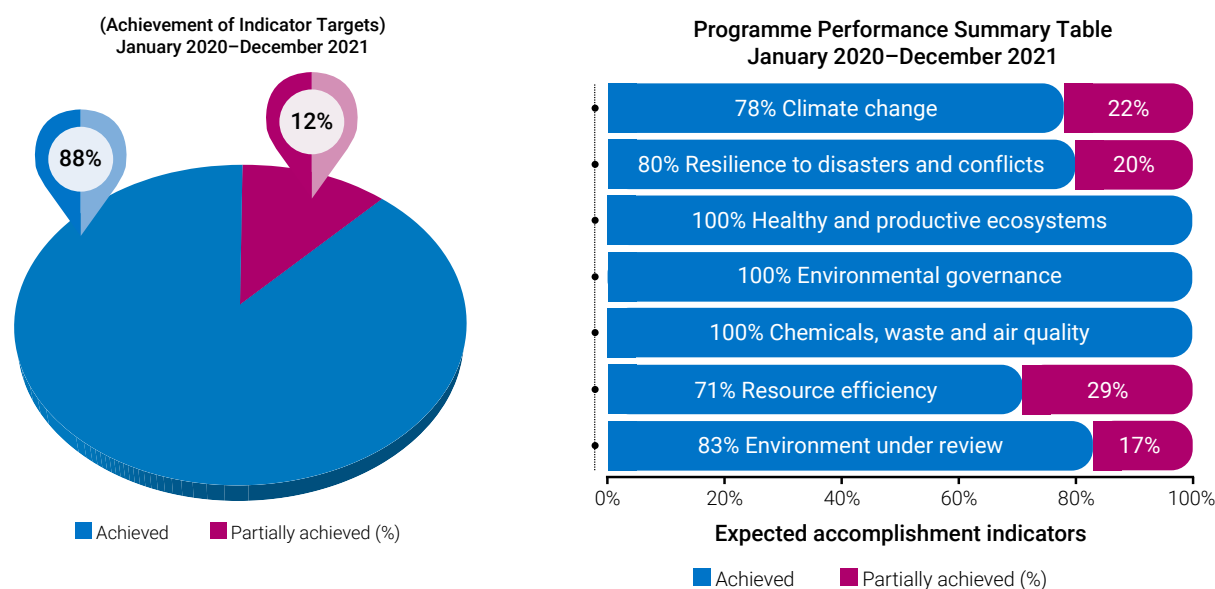
This report delves deeper into a lean and nimble organisation dedicated to working with diverse partners to promote sustainable development, while also addressing the multiple challenges our planet faces.

As this current period brings the previous PoW and the 2018-2021 MTS to a conclusion, the report provides an opportunity for UNEP and its stakeholders to reflect upon its successes and lessons learned.

2020-2021 Results at a Glance

UNEP's performance in 2020-2021 is assessed against the Expected Accomplishments in its PoW, enabling the organisation, its Governing Bodies, and its stakeholders to recognise its successes, find room for improvement, and provide guidance for future work.

Figure 1: 2020-2021 Performance Overview and Summary



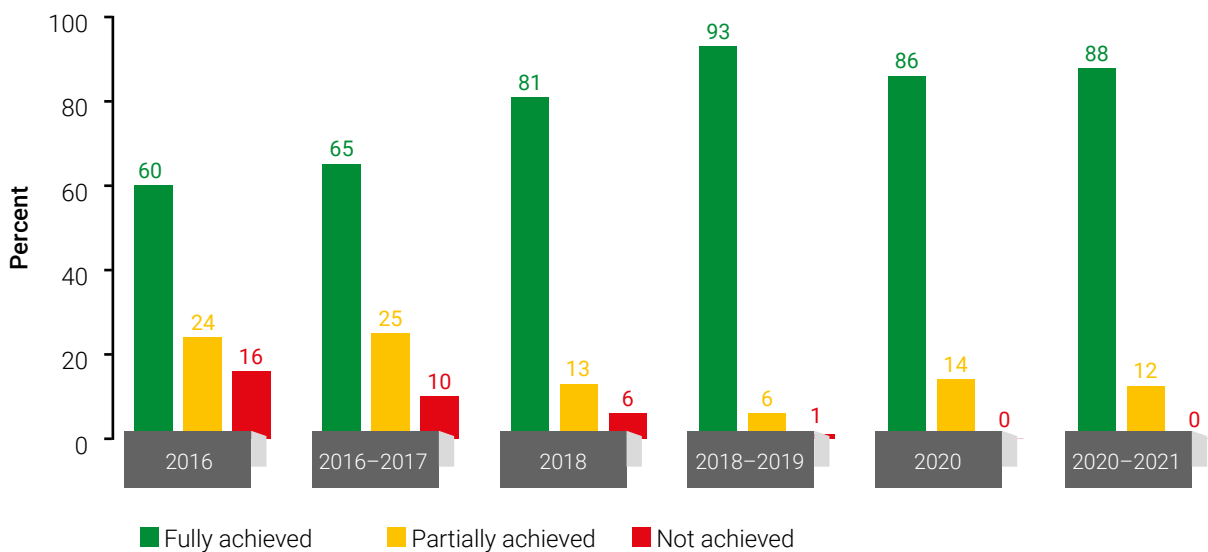
Thematic Performance

Overall, 88% of the indicator targets for 2020-2021 were achieved, and 12% were partially achieved. Three of the programmatic areas, (Healthy and Productive Ecosystems, Environmental Governance Chemicals, Waste and Air Quality) met 100% of their expected accomplishments. Details on UNEP's 2020-2021 subprogrammes indicator performance are available [here](#).

Organizational Effectiveness, Efficiency and Accountability

Under Policymaking Organs, Executive Direction and Management and Programme Management support, the PoW 2020-2021 includes a total of eight expected accomplishments with 20 indicators.

Figure 2: Performance Trends: Achievement of Indicator Targets - 2016-2021



Compared to similar points at the end of the last biennium, there is a decrease in performance from the previous period. Performance for the 2018-2019 period recorded 93% of indicator targets as fully achieved, 6% as partially achieved and 1% as not achieved. Reasons for the decrease include the inability to organize some activities because of restrictions in response to COVID-19.

For 2020-2021, out of a total of 50 subprogramme indicators, 44 were fully achieved while six were partially achieved. Ten indicators reflected an overachievement of more than 200%. Impediments to fully meeting the targets included the inability to organize some activities because of restrictions in response to COVID-19, insufficient funding, and difficulties in advancing national uptake in some areas.

Reasons for overachievement included effective partnerships, the culmination of projects such as UNEP's work on the SDGs in 2020, unanticipated opportunities at the global level as well as and careful attention to indicator design.

Overall, UNEP achieved 65% of its indicators on organizational effectiveness, efficiency and accountability, and partially achieved 25%. Data was unavailable for two indicators. Areas of strength included implementation of evaluation and audit recommendations, increase in gender actions in projects, management action on significant corporate risks and integration of environmental issues in the UN system-wide agenda. Some areas to strengthen were the evaluation rating for project performance and integration of environmental and social safeguards in project implementation. Details on UNEP's 2020-2021 organizational effectiveness and efficiency indicator performance are available [here](#).

Delivery in the COVID-19 Context

The world grappled with the devastating consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic during 2020-2021. It continues to unfold against the backdrop of our ongoing triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity and nature loss, and pollution and waste caused by unsustainable patterns of consumption and production.

Given the urgency of the pandemic, UNEP adapted and responded rapidly. In response to the [Secretary-General's message of building back better](#), UNEP implemented a COVID-19 response strategy that was built around four areas:

- The medical and humanitarian emergency phase
- A transformational change for nature and people
- Investing to build back better, and
- Modernizing global environmental governance

UNEP teams reviewed and repurposed existing work streams; and assessed emerging needs that were developing at the national level along with the rest of the UN System in coordination with UN Country Teams (UNCTs). A few examples of that nimble and efficient response are highlighted below.

Haiti, South Sudan and Sudan. It also provided governments with support on COVID-19 related assessments.

A Transformational Change for Nature and People

In July 2020, UNEP, together with the International Livestock Research Institute and other partners, released "[Preventing the next pandemic - Zoonotic diseases and how to break the chain of transmission](#)", which identified the root causes of zoonotic diseases such as COVID-19 and highlighted the fact that human, animal and planetary health must be treated together in policy-making. In 2021, UNEP worked with UN partners to strengthen the One Health approach, which recognizes the interconnection between people,

Figure 3: UNEP COVID-19 Response



The Medical and Humanitarian Emergency Phase

In August 2020 UNEP worked to address the spike in waste from the COVID-19 pandemic by publishing a report that was widely shared on "[Waste Management during the COVID-19 Pandemic: From Response to Recovery](#)". The report included practical information and guidelines on healthcare and municipal solid waste management. As part of these efforts, UNEP provided technical advice on medical waste management to UN peacekeeping operations and to efforts in Afghanistan,

animals and nature. UNEP also supported the [Global Leaders Group on Antimicrobial Resistance \(AMR\)](#) and a new One Health High Level Advisory Panel to advise on future pandemic prevention. These initiatives will help improve science for coordinated interventions to ensure strong global stewardship of nature and prevent health risks.

Additionally, in coordinated efforts to reduce the public health risks associated with the sale of live wild animals for food in traditional food markets, UNEP, the World Health Organisation (WHO) and

the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) issued [guidance](#) on actions to make traditional food markets safer while recognizing their central role in providing food and livelihoods for a significant portion of the global population.

Investing to Build Back Better

UNEP helped Member States cope with the impacts of COVID-19 and build back better by focusing on greening fiscal stimulus and finance packages to accelerate sustainable consumption and production in line with achieving the SDGs. [The Partnership for Action on Green Economy \(PAGE\)](#)¹, set up a support mechanism for a green economic recovery in its twenty partner states.

In March 2021, the [Global Recovery Observatory](#) and the [“Are we building back better?”](#) report were launched. The Observatory is a live database of all COVID-19 related government spending in the 50 largest economies, with over 3,500 policies recorded as of February 2021. It tracks and assesses the potential environmental, social and economic impacts of COVID-19 spending policies.

Modernizing Global Environmental Governance

In May 2020, UNEP undertook a study on the options, opportunities, and barriers to accelerating a transition to multilateralism, in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and in coordination with UNEP-administered Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs). The study provided general guidance on how interactive inter-governmental meetings can be conducted online or “virtually” in a manner that respects the legal framework for such meetings; and includes reviewing objections and identifying possible reforms.

COVID-19 Impact

UNEP recognizes the negative impact of COVID-19 and how it subsequently affected its PoW in areas pertaining to implementation and delivery. UNEP handled a few temporary interruptions in delivery, in particular with “on the ground” projects with partner implementation, including Global Environment Facility (GEF) projects. As a result of such interruptions UNEP experienced project delays in areas like disbursement of funds and human resources such as recruitment and staff onboarding.

To adapt to these unprecedented times UNEP leveraged the power of digital technologies as project managers embraced different mechanisms such as hosting virtual events. While these mitigation measures were helpful, there were some limitations to virtual settings, including challenges in evaluating the effectiveness of virtual trainings and loss of opportunity to network and build relationships outside structured discussion. Some regions faced challenges of limited Internet coverage, which had a direct impact on the delivery of work of staff members, while Member States and partners also struggled to communicate at times.

COVID-19 also affected the UNEP staff community, just as it did many workplaces around the planet. Many staff members and their families struggled with the virus personally and UNEP worked to mitigate this impact at multiple levels.

¹ PAGE, a Joint collaboration between ILO, UNDP, UNEP, UNIDO, and UNITAR, provides integrated and holistic support to countries on eradicating poverty, increasing jobs and social equity, strengthening livelihoods and environmental stewardship and sustaining growth



2. Thematic Results

Climate Change

UNEP's work on climate change focuses on three areas:

Climate resilience: supports countries in using ecosystem-based and other approaches to adapt and build resilience to climate change.

Low emission growth: supports countries in adopting energy efficiency measures, access clean energy finance, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions along

with other pollutants by transitioning to low carbon solutions.

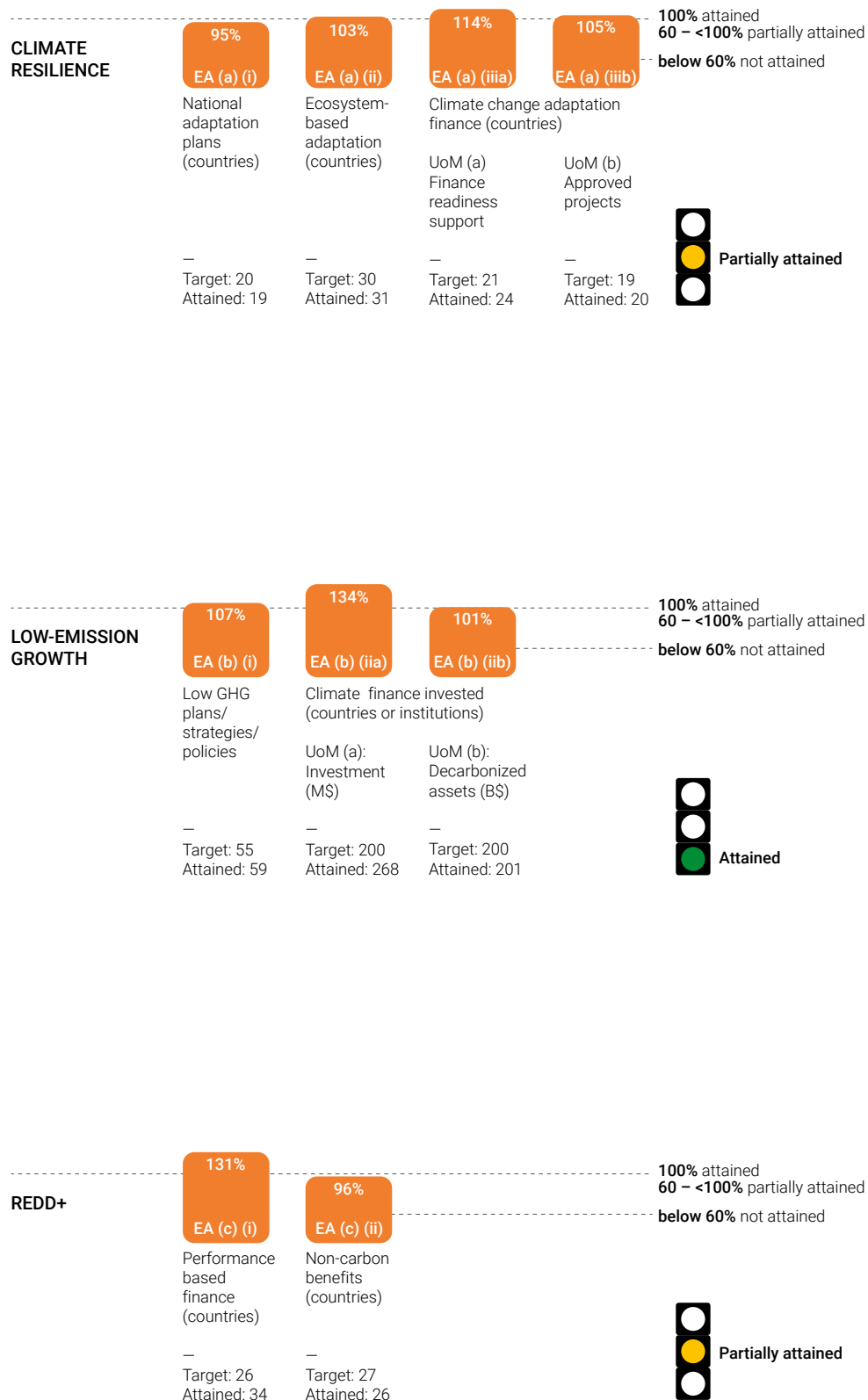
Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+): enables countries to capitalize on investment opportunities that reduce greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation and forest degradation with adequate social and environmental safeguards. By December 2021, the subprogramme had attained seven of its nine performance targets.



Adaptation solutions remain essential to tackling climate change (Photo credit: UNEP/Kadir van Lohuizen NOOR)

Indicators of Achievement Expected Accomplishment

Figure 4: Climate change results²



² UoM stands for Unit of Measure

Climate Resilience

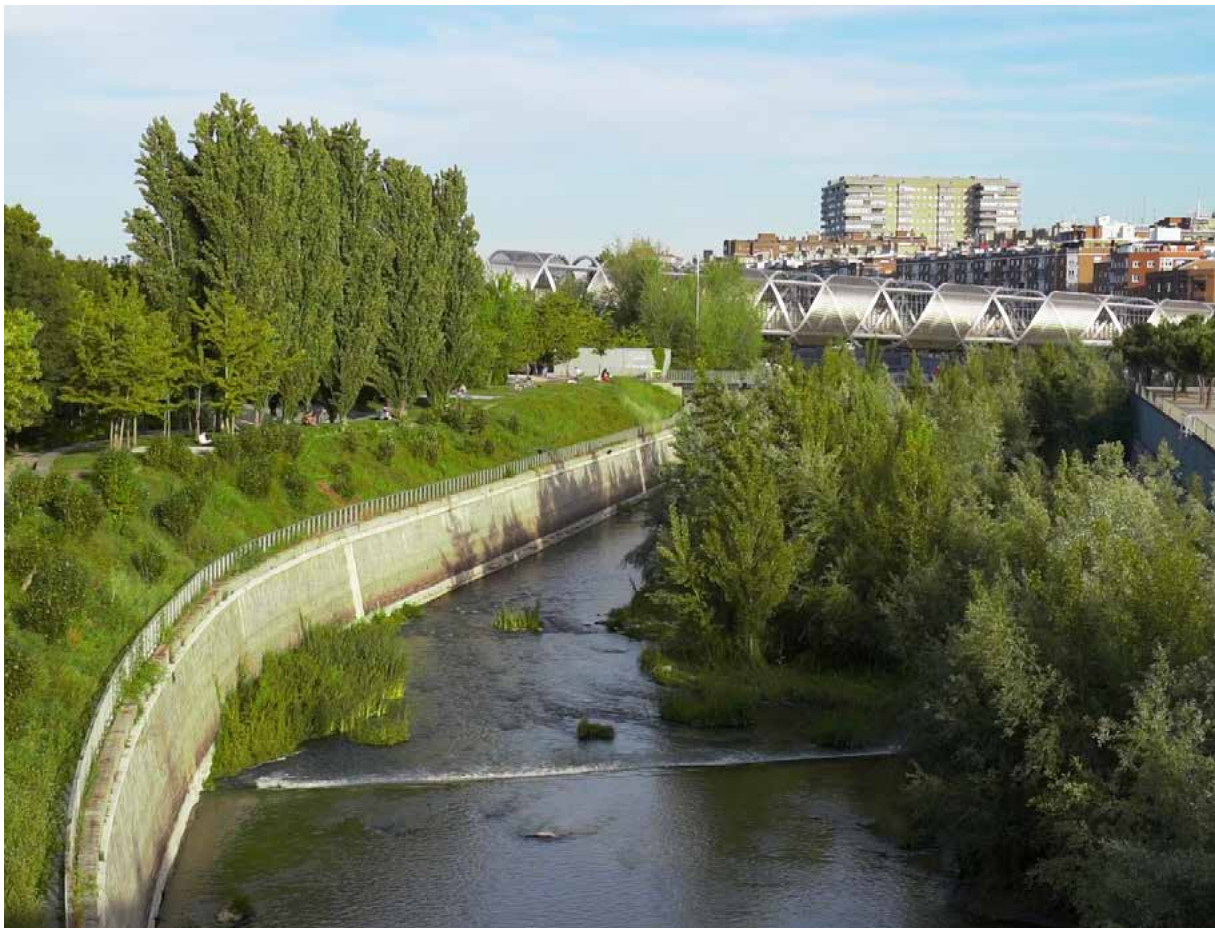
Even with 100% implementation of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and the Net Zero commitments, the world is on a path to a minimum temperature increase of 1.9 to 2.1°C above pre-industrial levels, underlining the importance of accelerating adaptation.

In 2021, UNEP worked with 44 countries on 67 projects to build climate resilience through the development of adaptation planning systems and field-based adaptation to support vulnerable communities on a range of ecosystems, from drylands, forests and mountains to coastal areas and urban areas. For example, in 2021, the Government of Nepal, launched a project to use ecosystem-based adaptation to build the resilience of urban communities in the Kathmandu Valley against negative climate impacts. The US\$6.2

million project, funded by the Least Developed Countries Fund, is working towards establishing and restoring urban green spaces and installing rainwater harvesting systems to improve water availability for vulnerable urban communities.

In 2021, with UNEP support:

- Two countries advanced their national adaptation plans, which integrated ecosystem-based adaptation;³
- Five countries increased their technical capacity to implement ecosystem-based adaptation and other adaptation approaches;⁴
- Three countries secured finance readiness support to implement adaptation plans;⁵ and
- Five countries received approvals for projects under different funds for adaptation.⁶



Rio Manzanares river view, Madrid (Photo credit: UNEP/Duncan Moore)

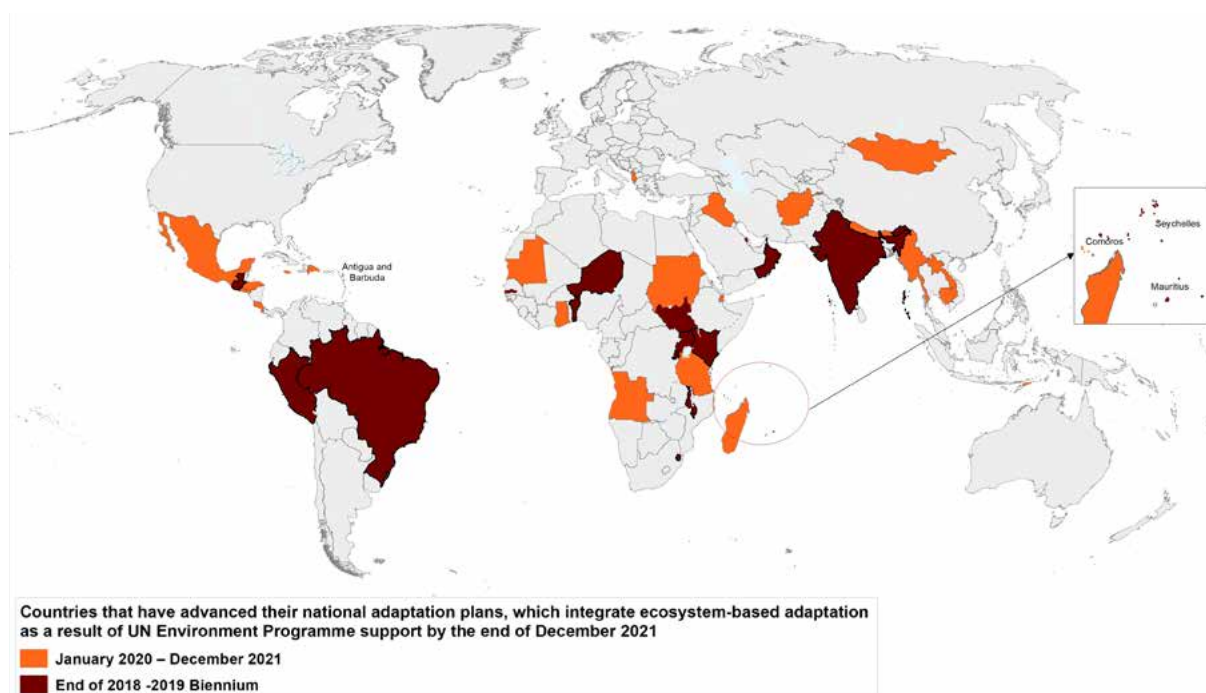
³ Ghana and Nepal.

⁴ Albania, Antigua and Barbuda, Costa Rica, Madagascar and Tanzania.

⁵ Haiti, Lao PDR and Timor Leste.

⁶ El Salvador, Mauritania, Mekong South (Thailand, Viet Nam) and Uganda.

Map 1: Climate change – Implementing ecosystem-based adaptation



Disclaimer: The boundaries and names shown, and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Low-emission Growth

UNEP’s 2021 Emission Gap Report warns that the new and updated NDCs and pledges for 2030 will only have limited impact on narrowing the emissions gap. They are projected to only reduce 2030 emissions by 7.5%, compared with previous NDCs, whereas to limit warming to 1.5°C, emissions need to be reduced by 55%. According to the 2021 Emissions Gap Report, global emissions dropped by 5.4% in 2020 because of COVID-19, but they are now bouncing back to pre-COVID-19 levels and concentrations of Green House Gasses (GHGs) in the atmosphere continue to rise. **It is now clear that most governments have failed to prioritize a low-carbon recovery.** As of May 2021, only 2.5% to 12.1% of US\$ 16.7 trillion in total COVID-19 spending has been low-carbon or had mitigation co-benefits, while of a total US\$ 2.25 trillion in announced COVID-19 ‘recovery’ spending,² only 17% to 19% has gone towards low-carbon spending. These numbers represent a woefully insufficient commitment to a low carbon recovery.

In 2021, with UNEP support:

- Eight countries adopted low-emission development plans, strategies and policies on energy efficiency, renewable energy and clean technology;⁷
- Countries and institutions invested US\$ 167 million in clean energy and energy efficiency; and
- US\$ 100 billion worth of assets were placed under low carbon investment mandates.

During 2020-2021, the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) supported 17 countries⁸ to enhance their NDCs; five new projects⁹ to support national planning in climate and clean air actions; and six countries¹⁰ to implement Short-lived Climate Pollutants (SLCP) mitigation actions. In 2021, the CCAC also supported Eswatini, Togo, Nigeria, Zimbabwe and Colombia to include new commitments to reduce hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) in their updated NDCs.

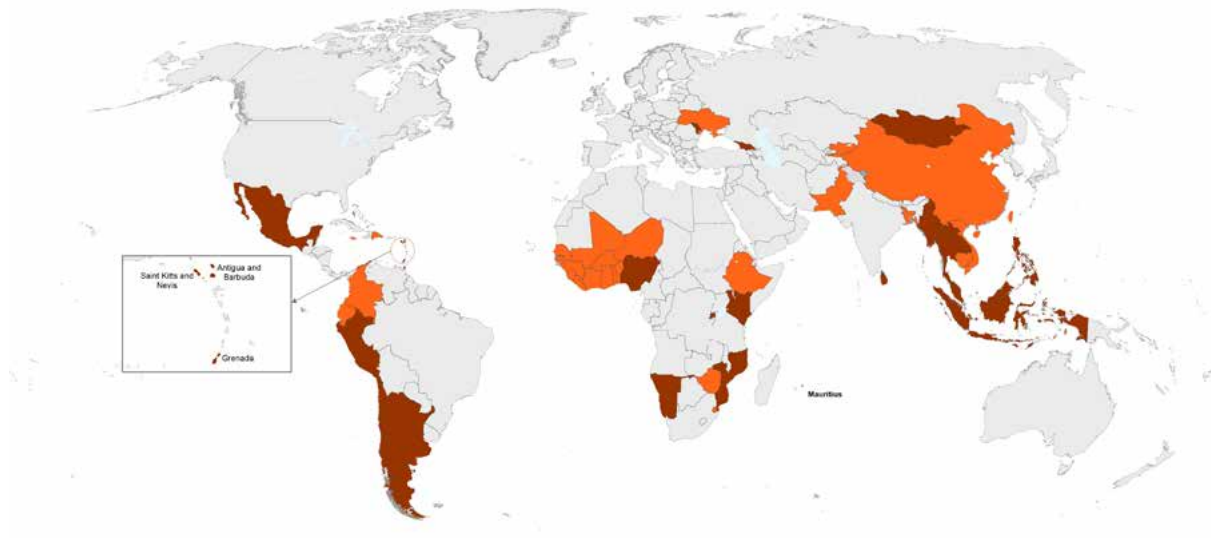
⁷ Cambodia, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Eswatini, Togo, Ukraine, Viet Nam and Zimbabwe.

⁸ Bangladesh, Benin, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cote d’Ivoire, Dominican Republic, Eswatini, Ghana, Liberia, Mali, Mexico, Mongolia, Nigeria, Togo, Uganda and Zimbabwe.

⁹ Kenya, Pakistan, Paraguay, Thailand and Uganda.

¹⁰ Benin, Cote d’Ivoire, Eswatini, Guatemala, Mongolia and Zimbabwe.

Map 2: Climate change - Progress towards low greenhouse gas emissions



Countries that have developed and/or implemented low greenhouse gas emissions development plans, strategies and policies as a result of United Nations Environment Programme support, December 2021
■ January 2020–December 2021
■ Baseline as at December 2019

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Industrial flare combustion (Photo credit: ©depositphotos)

Additionally, in 2021, the [UN Net-Zero Asset Owner Alliance](#), members doubled. They now have 71 institutional investors with over US\$10.4 trillion assets under management, delivering on a bold commitment to transition their investment portfolios to net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. UNEP managed finance alliances also played a central role in the Glasgow Financial Alliance for Net Zero announcements at COP26.

In 2021, with UNEP support:

- Two countries generated social and environmental non-carbon benefits from REDD+ implementation.¹¹

Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation

The goals of the Paris Agreement cannot be met without halting and reversing deforestation and forest degradation. Support for the sustainable management and conservation of the world’s forests was significantly boosted at COP26 with [financial pledges](#), technical progress and a [declaration by World Leaders and other stakeholders on ‘Forests and Land Use’](#).

¹¹ Chile, Mexico

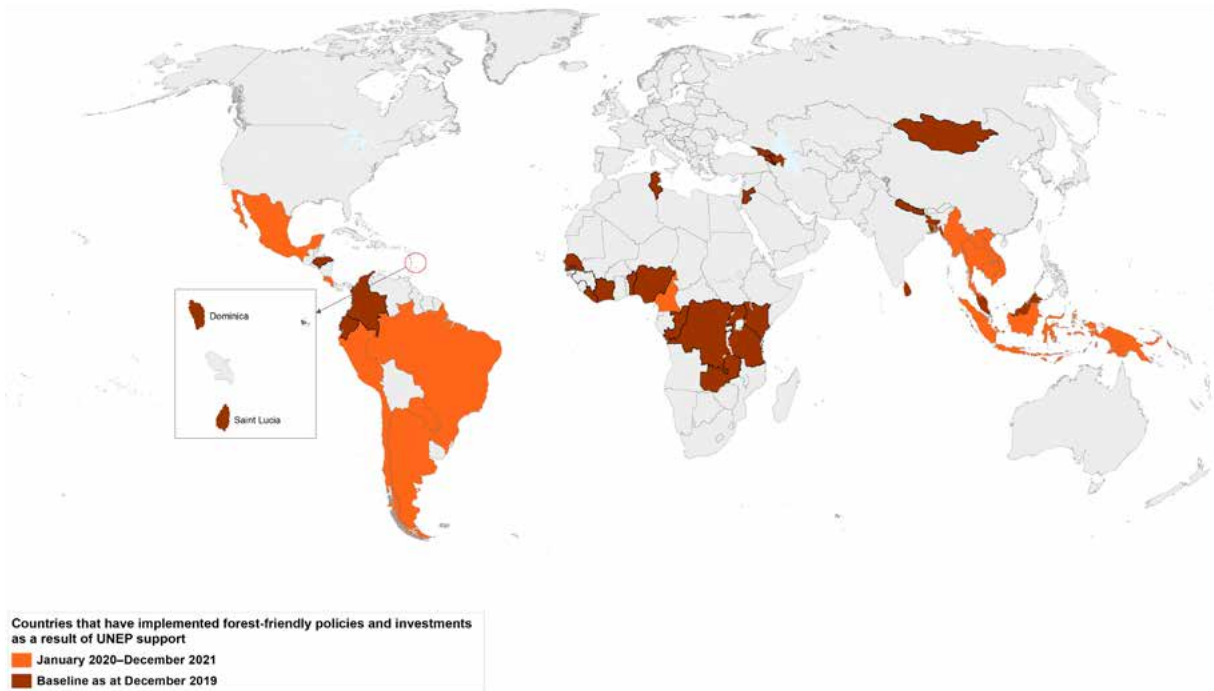


Dao villagers in Viet Nam reading the latest REDD+ publication produced by the UN-REDD Programme (Photo credit: Leona Liu)

In 2021, UNEP also worked to enhance social and environmental safeguards in Honduras, through the [Safeguards+ Honduras initiative](#) and our work helped develop their National Framework of Safeguards for Climate Change.

UNEP contributes to the work of the [UN-REDD Programme](#) by leading private sector engagements, safeguards, knowledge management and communication. Through the UN-REDD Programme, UNEP is helping the Lower Mekong countries engage financial institutions, and other stakeholders, in the design of a regional finance platform for collaborating on illegal and illicit logging activities in the sub-region. UNEP also assisted Lao PDR, Thailand and Viet Nam in the design of an 'enterprise incubation project'. Such projects include the identification of successful small and medium enterprises as well as forest community groups for the acceleration of sustainable forest business models in collaboration with the [Restoration Factory](#).

Map 3: Climate change – Adoption and implementation of forest-friendly policies and measures



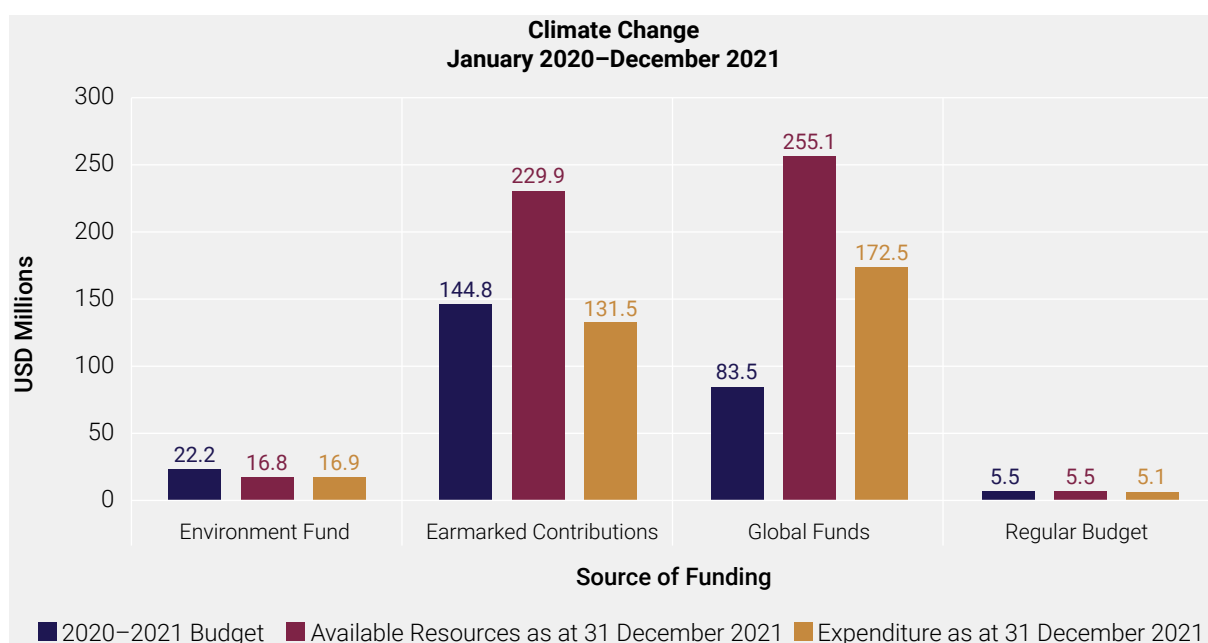
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Opportunities, Challenges, and Lessons Learned

- United Nations Climate Change Conference of Parties 26 (COP26) was delayed until November 2021 leading to the deferral of NDC submissions by a year. However, this presented an opportunity for parties to critically evaluate their positions and raise ambition in their commitments to climate action.
- With the current commitments, it is abundantly clear that the global community has not been ambitious enough in meeting the Paris Agreement targets. COP 27 in Egypt will provide the countries of the world an opportunity to revisit and strengthen their 2030 targets. This unique opportunity could be the best chance to enhance global climate ambitions and push them to be more ambitious in meeting the targets of the Paris Agreement.
- COP26 delivered important milestones, such as the agreement on the Paris Agreement rulebook, a roadmap for updating NDCs, Article 6 on transferrable mitigation outcomes, and Article 13 on transparency which provides further guidance for UNEP's technical support to countries.
- Following the events of COP26, it became more than evident that adaptation to climate change is equally important as reducing emissions and thus going forward on a balance should be struck between the two. In this regard, UNEP should strive to ensure global efforts are aligned towards achieving balanced progress in adaptation and mitigation.

Figure 5: Financial overview - Climate change

Climate Change (2020-2021)			
Fund type	2020-2021 budget (in million US\$)	Available resources (in million US\$) as at 31 Dec 2021 ¹²	Expenditure (in million US\$) as at 31 Dec 2021
Environment Fund	22.2	16.8	16.9
Earmarked contributions	144.8	229.9	131.5
Global funds	83.5	255.1	172.5
Regular Budget	5.5	5.5	5.1
Total	256	507.3	326



¹² Includes multi-year contributions beyond 2021

- COVID-19 was a missed opportunity to invest in adaptation measures. According to the 2021 Adaptation Gap Report, fewer than one-third of the 66 countries studied had funded COVID-19 measures to address climate risks. UNEP needs to drastically enhance its adaptation ambition for funding and implementation.
- Between 2020 and 2021, COVID-19 presented opportunities to regroup, reshape, and reposition the climate change programme, particularly in light of increasing pressure for accountability in reporting under the Transparency framework, both under the Paris Agreement and within UNEP's programmatic outcomes.
- UNEP's technical capacity to support countries is expected to grow as a result of the upcoming Global Stocktake and commitments under the Global Adaptation Goals and low emissions development efforts.
- Out of the planned Environment Fund budget for 2020-2021 of US\$ 22.2 million, US\$ 16.8 million was received. This was part of an overall trend whereby UNEP received a smaller amount of Environment Fund contributions than originally projected.
- Earmarked funds compensated to some degree for the Environment Fund shortfall. The subprogramme received US\$ 229.9 million (against a planned budget of US\$ 144.8 million) from Earmarked Funds contributions. However, as some of this amount represents multi-year contributions, only part of it can be counted against 2020-2021.
- The subprogramme received US\$ 255.1 million (against a planned budget of US\$ 83.5 million) from Global Funds.
- Overall expenditure for the biennium, therefore, stands at US\$ 326 million, which is 127.3% of the target budget of US\$ 256 million.

Success Story: How Wind Power is Transforming Communities in Viet Nam

Energy underpins development in any part of the world; however, the energy sector particularly electricity and heat production is estimated to have contributed 25% of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in 2021. UNEP research shows that this needs to be reduced dramatically and eventually eliminated to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement through the transition to renewables. Renewable energy, in all its forms, is one of humanity's greatest assets in the fight to limit climate change. Capacity across the globe continues to grow every year, lowering both GHGs and air pollution, but the pace of action must accelerate to hold global temperature rise to 1.5 °C this century.

To boost growth in renewables, companies need to access finance, and this is where the Seed Capacity Assistance Facility (SCAF) comes in. SCAF works through private equity funds and development companies to mobilize early-stage investment in low-carbon projects in developing countries.

In addition to supporting the decarbonization of the energy sector, this transition stands to empower people socio-economically through the creation of jobs and promoting efficiency in other sectors such as healthcare and education as well as contributing towards poverty eradication. It is in this regard that in two provinces of Viet Nam (Thien Nghiep and Ninh Thuan), a quiet transformation is taking place, driven by the power of renewable energy. A few hundred kilometres from Ho Chi Min City, in the 6000 strong Thien Nghiep Commune, people have relied largely on farming, fishing, and seasonal labour for their livelihoods. Thanks to a wind farm backed by the SCAF – a multi-donor trust fund led by UNEP, the people in the Thien Nghiep Commune are now accessing new jobs

and infrastructure and will soon benefit from cheaper and cleaner energy. The 40MW Dai Phong project, one of two wind farms run by SCAF's partner company the Blue Circle, has brought new hope to the community. While the wind farm is not yet online, a focus on local hiring and paying fair prices for land has already made an enormous difference to the community.

In Ninh Thuan Province, the Dam Nai wind farm is expected to generate approximately 100 GWh per year. In addition, Viet Nam will avoid over 68,000 tCO_{2e} annually and the project will create more than 300 temporary construction jobs and 13 permanent operation and maintenance jobs for the local community. Students from the local high school in Ninh Thuan Province will also have the opportunity to meet with engineers and technicians on the project, increasing their knowledge about how renewable energy works, while simultaneously opening new career paths.



Wind farms are often catalysts for transformational change (Photo credit: Unsplash/Zhang Fengsheng)

Resilience to Disasters and Conflicts

UNEP's work on resilience to disaster and conflicts focuses on three areas:

Risk Reduction: supporting best practices in the reduction of risks and impacts, in alignment with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) 2015-2030;

Response: assisting countries and international partners in addressing environmental priorities in the event of an emergency; and

Recovery: assisting post-crisis Member States with putting appropriate institutions, policies and tools in place.

By the end of the biennium, the subprogramme met, nearly met, or exceeded each of its 5 target indicators.

Risk Reduction

The reporting period included the publication and adoption of the [Guidance Note on Integrating Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation in Cooperation Frameworks](#), which supports Resident Coordinator Offices and UNCTs in ensuring Cooperation Frameworks are disaster and climate risk-informed.

UNEP's work has supported the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in the development and publication of its updated [Rules and Recommendations Relating to the Protection of the Natural Environment under International Humanitarian Law](#). As an important global framework for environmental protection, UNEP's support underpins its global expertise in the field.

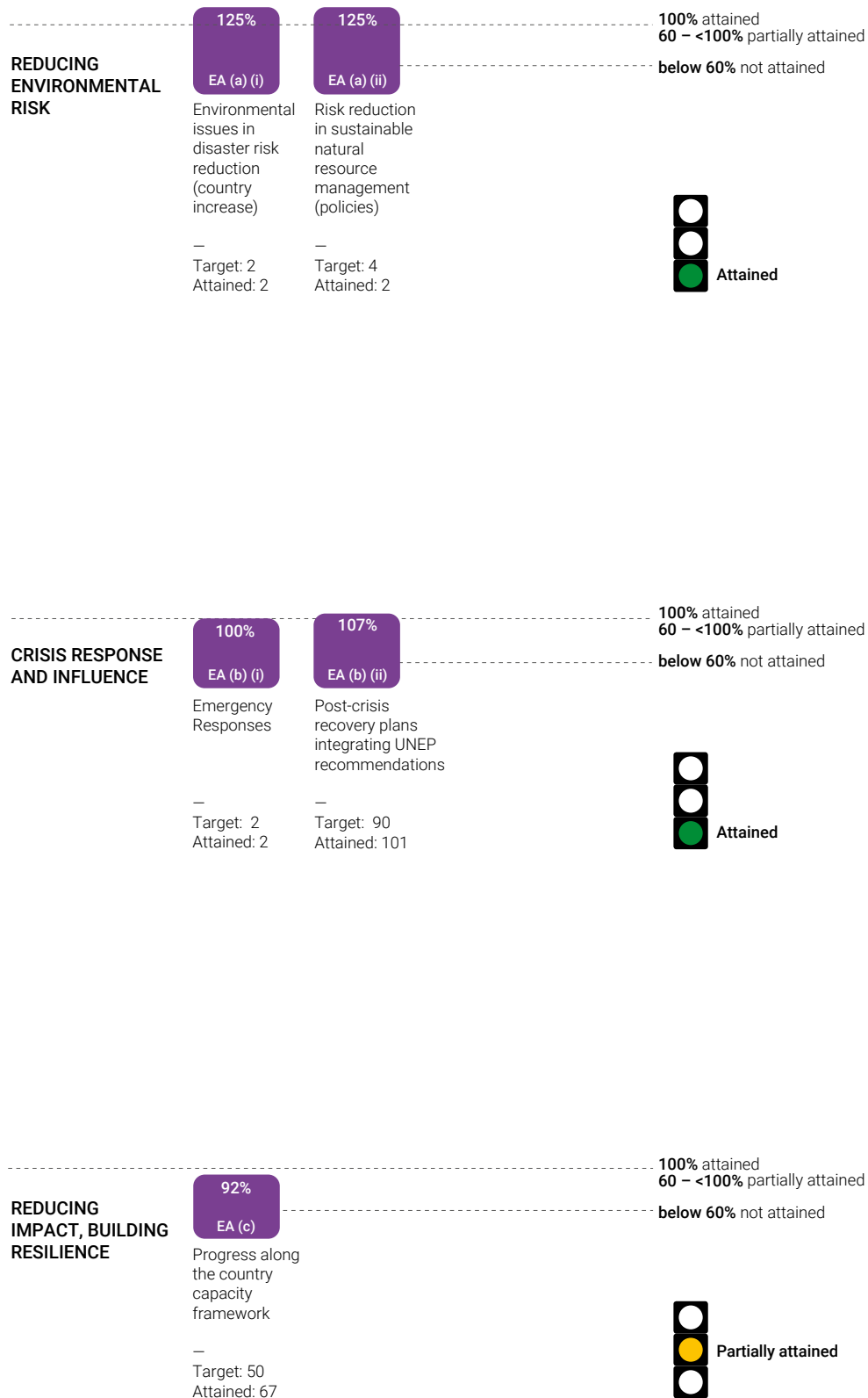


GUIDELINES ON THE PROTECTION OF THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT IN ARMED CONFLICT

RULES AND RECOMMENDATIONS RELATING TO THE PROTECTION OF THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT UNDER INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW, WITH COMMENTARY

Indicators of Achievement Expected Accomplishment

Figure 6: Resilience to disasters and conflicts results



During the reporting period UNEP also developed two influential educational tools: a new Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) on [Nature-based Solutions for Disaster and Climate](#) and the [Words Into Action Guidelines on Nature-based Solutions to Disaster Risk Reduction](#) guide which provides practical, how-to information on setting up and implementing nature-based solutions especially for disaster risk reduction.

The MOOC is hosted on the EdX platform, and currently has nearly 10,000 participants enrolled from over 180 countries thus proving the global reach and audience of UNEP's work. The Words into Action Guidelines, which were developed with the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, will become the foundation that enables Member States to enhance their national reporting on green infrastructure and Ecosystem-based Disaster Risk Reduction solutions under the Sendai Framework.

In Iraq, UNEP continued to support conflict debris management and recycling and also maintained support to the Government of Nigeria in managing the clean-up of oil pollution in Ogoniland.

Preventing future oil sector disasters is also part of our work. UNEP has been working in collaboration with the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the Norwegian Coastal Administration in providing the Government of Kenya, as well as other countries in the East Africa region, with technical training linked to oil spill preparedness. This work has led to the development of new national guidelines in several producer countries.

Response

An unplanned for by-product of COVID-19 was the rise in waste related to masks and other personal protective equipment (PPE) as well as a large increase in the amount of single use plastics being produced.

UNEP worked to address this spike in waste from the global emergency by providing technical advice on medical waste management to Afghanistan, Haiti, South Sudan, and Sudan, as well as to UN peacekeeping operations. Furthermore, UNEP published guidelines on healthcare and municipal solid waste management that reached more than 150 countries.

In India, Afghanistan, Haiti, Serbia, South Sudan, Sudan, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago, UNEP provided governments with support on COVID-19 related assessments. UNEP also supported a COVID-19 needs assessment which directly informed South Africa's national recovery strategy.



COVID-19 led to massive increase in waste (Photo credit: Global Times)

Several knowledge building webinars were also organized to increase capacity among partners in tackling the waste aspect of the pandemic. These included a global webinar on "COVID-19 Linked Waste Management", which drew 1300 participants from 125 countries, an Asia Pacific webinar that drew 450 participants from 46 countries, and a global webinar on "COVID-19 and Environmental Emergencies" that drew 1500 participants from 135 countries. This knowledge support has continued into 2021.

UNEP supported the UN's response to the August 2020 explosion at the port of Beirut, Lebanon. A United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination team, including a member of the UNEP/ United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) Joint Environment Unit, was deployed to coordinate the international response in support of national efforts. The support included the rapid identification and assessment of acute environmental risks. UNEP's work there also supported the safe handling of debris, which proved to be a critical issue in the aftermath of the explosion.

The UNEP/OCHA Joint Environment Unit, in cooperation with the IMO, deployed an oil spill expert to support authorities in Mauritius after a bulk carrier ran aground on the reef of Point d'Esny in Mauritius. In 2020, UNEP also supported the Government of Honduras in its response to the damage of hurricane Eta and hurricane Iota.

In 2021, a Joint Environment Unit-led team was deployed to the city of Bata in Equatorial Guinea following the detonation of ammonium nitrate and explosives for mining purposes. A 14-expert team was also deployed after a volcano eruption impacted Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Barbados. The team supported national authorities in dealing with the environmental dimensions of the emergency, including erosion and flood risk, ash management, and air, soil and water pollution.

A UNEP-led team was also deployed to support Sri Lanka and UN partners following the wrecking of the MV X-Press Pearl ship. The incident was classified as the biggest environmental catastrophe to hit Sri Lanka since the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami due to the ship's cargo, which included nitric acid, oil and tens of billions of small plastic pellets known as nurdles.

UNEP supported the UN's response to flooding in Guyana by sending an environmental expert to the country to lead an assessment of the mining sector. The work delivered recommendations to mitigate the humanitarian and environmental impacts that result from flooding in mining areas.

Recovery

UNEP's country-based recovery work in Sudan included the delivery of a [State of the Environment and Outlook Report](#) in November 2020. The report follows an earlier issue-based environmental report, the Sudan Post-Conflict Environmental Assessment, which compiled field studies on the environmental impacts of the conflict which ended with the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in 2005. The report assesses the biophysical, social and economic conditions in the country and presents them in an integrated way, ultimately pointing to pathways that will lead the country towards a future based on sustainable development.

In Haiti, UNEP's recovery support included the launch of a national environmental information system enabling policymakers to track land, ocean, coastal and other environmental health indicators more effectively.

UNEP was also in the advanced stages of supporting Afghanistan with the development of a National Environmental Policy. The work was interrupted following political shifts in the country in 2021.



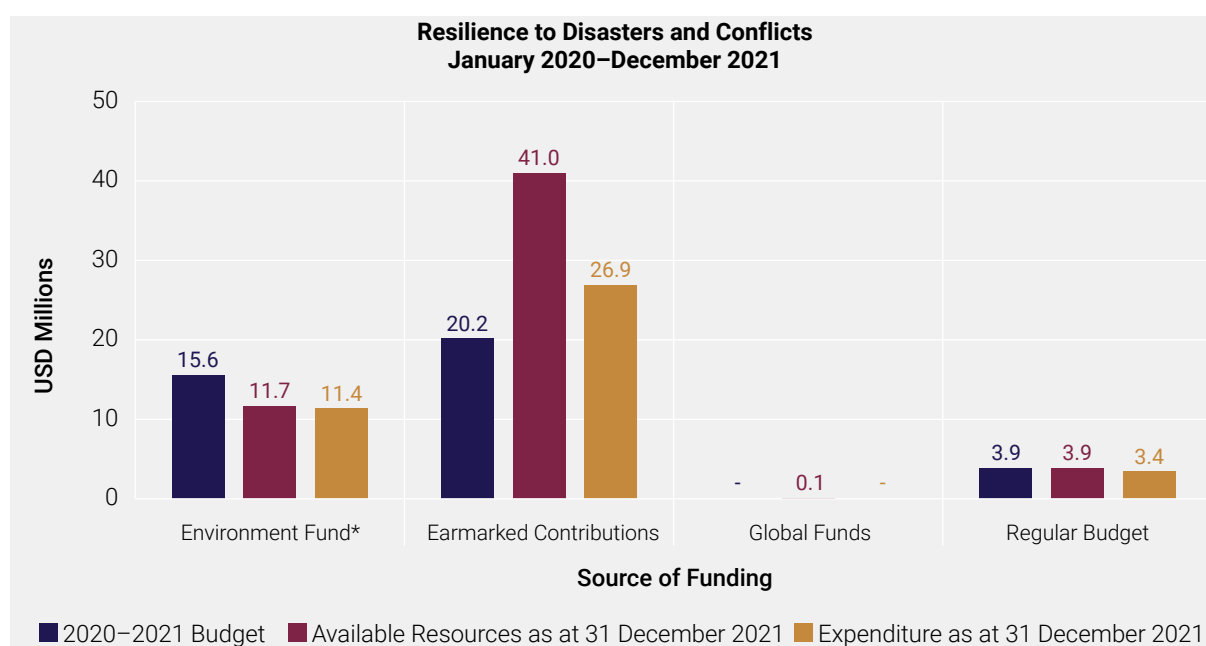
In Sudan UNEP delivered the State of the Environment and Outlook Report (Photo credit: UNEP)

Opportunities, Challenges, and Lessons Learned

- Following an extensive internal and external strategic review of UNEP's work on Resilience to Disasters and Conflicts, key lessons will be incorporated into future workstreams, particularly as the Subprogramme has been mainstreamed across UNEP's programmatic priorities in the 2022-2025 MTS.
- Moving forward, focus will be on enhanced delivery under the principle of "Leaving No One Behind", increased internal cooperation and more effective external partnerships, and greater normative, knowledge, policy and advisory support to the reformed UN system, Resident Coordinators and Missions, and Member States.
- Out of the planned Environment Fund budget for 2020-2021 of US\$ 15.6 million, US\$ 11.7 million was received. This was part of an overall trend whereby UNEP received a smaller amount of Environment Fund contributions than originally projected.

Figure 7: Financial overview – Resilience to disasters and conflicts

Resilience to Disasters and Conflict (2020-2021)			
Fund type	2020-2021 budget (in million US\$)	Available resources (in million US\$) as at 31 Dec 2021 ¹³	Expenditure (in million US\$) as at 31 Dec 2021
Environment Fund	15.6	11.7	11.4
Earmarked contributions	20.2	41.0	26.9
Global funds		0.1	-
Regular Budget	3.9	3.9	3.4
Total	39.7	56.7	41.7



- Earmarked funds compensated to some degree for the Environment Fund shortfall. The subprogramme received US\$ 41 million (against a planned budget of US\$ 20.2 million) from Earmarked Funds contributions. However, as some of this amount represents multi-year contributions, only part of it can be counted against 2020-2021.
- The subprogramme received US\$ 255.1 million (against a planned budget of US\$ 83.5 million) from Global Funds.
- Overall expenditure for the biennium, therefore, stands at US\$ 41.7 million, which is 105% of the target budget of US\$ 39.7 million.

¹³ Includes multi-year contributions beyond 2021

Success Story: From Disaster to Recovery in Sri Lanka



Current status of the wreck (Photo credit: UNEP/Hassan Partow)

More than a half-dozen UNEP experts supported Sri Lanka's government on how to contain the toxic fallout from the X-Press Pearl, which was carrying 81 containers of dangerous goods when it sank in June 2021.

The ship's cargo included 25 tonnes of nitric acid, 348 tonnes of oil and, according to independent estimates, up to 75 billion small plastic pellets known as nurdles that has created a pollution crisis that could plague Sri Lanka for years. The incident has been described as the biggest environmental catastrophe to hit the island nation since the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami.

For Sri Lankans, the nurdles, which are about the size of a lentil, have been the most visible sign of the sinking. Publicly available data estimates the ship contained 70-75 billion nurdles.

Unsurprisingly, the plastic has flooded onto beaches around Colombo. The beach at Sarukkuwa, was blanketed in meter-deep piles of plastic. The widespread environmental impact was keenly felt as the nurdles also turned up in the gills and guts of fish. Local fishers, who have been barred from the rich fishing grounds around Colombo, have blamed the nurdles for killing sea life and with it their livelihoods. The nurdles were also reported to have made their way to a turtle sanctuary 300km north of Colombo. It also appears likely that at least some of the highly corrosive nitric acid aboard the X-Press Pearl seeped into the ocean and experts are worried it may have scalded sea life at a nearby coral reef.

On 22 June 2021, Wildlife Department data showed 107 dead turtles, of which 57 were Olive Ridley species, 19 were Green Turtles, 2 Hawksbill, one Leatherback and others were unidentified at the time. Less than a month later on 7 July, the Sri Lankan government confirmed that 176 turtles, four whales, and 20 dolphins had died and washed ashore on Sri Lankan beaches. The cause of death cannot be unequivocally attributed to the toxic cargo of the X-Press Pearl, however, such high numbers of fatalities are unheard of, even during monsoon season.

The UNEP staff working on the X-Press Pearl sinking were part of a disaster response unit jointly run by the OCHA. The unit helped broker an agreement between the Sri Lankan government and the X-Press Pearl's owner to contain a potential offshore oil spill as well as clean-up the shoreline. Specialized equipment, including inflatable booms designed to trap oil, arrived in Colombo on 2 July.

UNEP supported Sri Lankan government engagement with the ship's owner and insurer to develop a road map for removing the X-Press Pearl and the stray containers on the ocean floor. UNEP delivered a final report on the disaster to Sri Lanka's government in July 2021, containing recommendations for the clean-up and suggestions for how Sri Lanka, a country vying to become a major shipping hub, can handle future disasters.

Healthy and Productive Ecosystems

UNEP's work on healthy and productive ecosystems focuses on two areas:

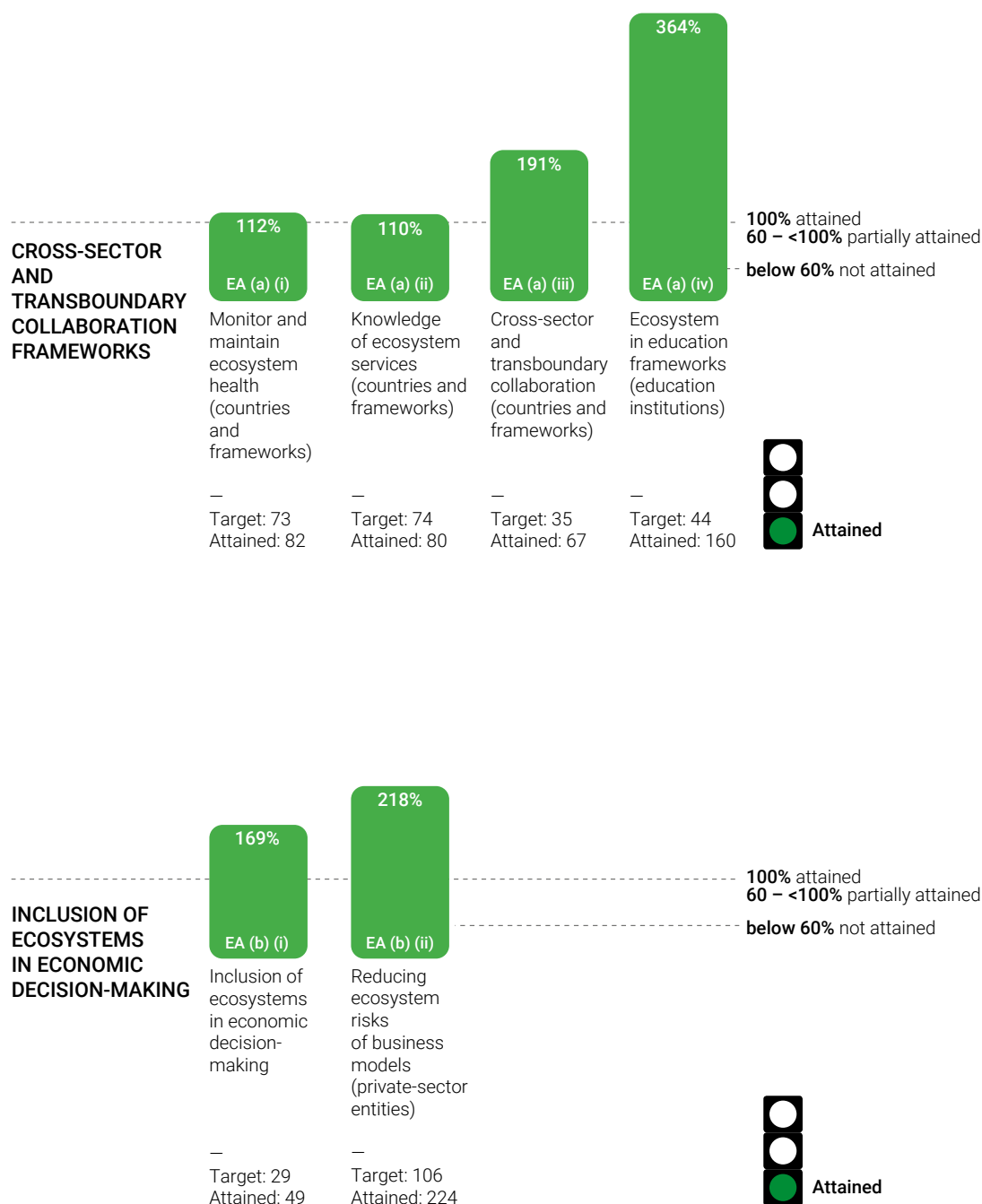
Cross-sector and transboundary collaboration frameworks: which helps countries institutionalize the health and productivity of marine, freshwater and terrestrial ecosystems in education, monitoring and cross-sector and transboundary collaboration frameworks.

Inclusion of ecosystems in economic decision-making: assisting policymakers in the public and private sectors to include ecosystems in economic decision-making.

By December 2021, the sub-programme had exceeded all 6 of its target indicators.

Indicators of Achievement Expected Accomplishment

Figure 8: Healthy and productive ecosystems results



Cross-Sector and Transboundary Collaboration Frameworks

UNEP continued to strengthen the capacity of countries to manage marine, freshwater and terrestrial ecosystems through an integrated approach to maintaining and restoring their biodiversity and long-term functioning of ecosystems and ensuring the supply of ecosystem goods and services.

In 2021, with UNEP support:

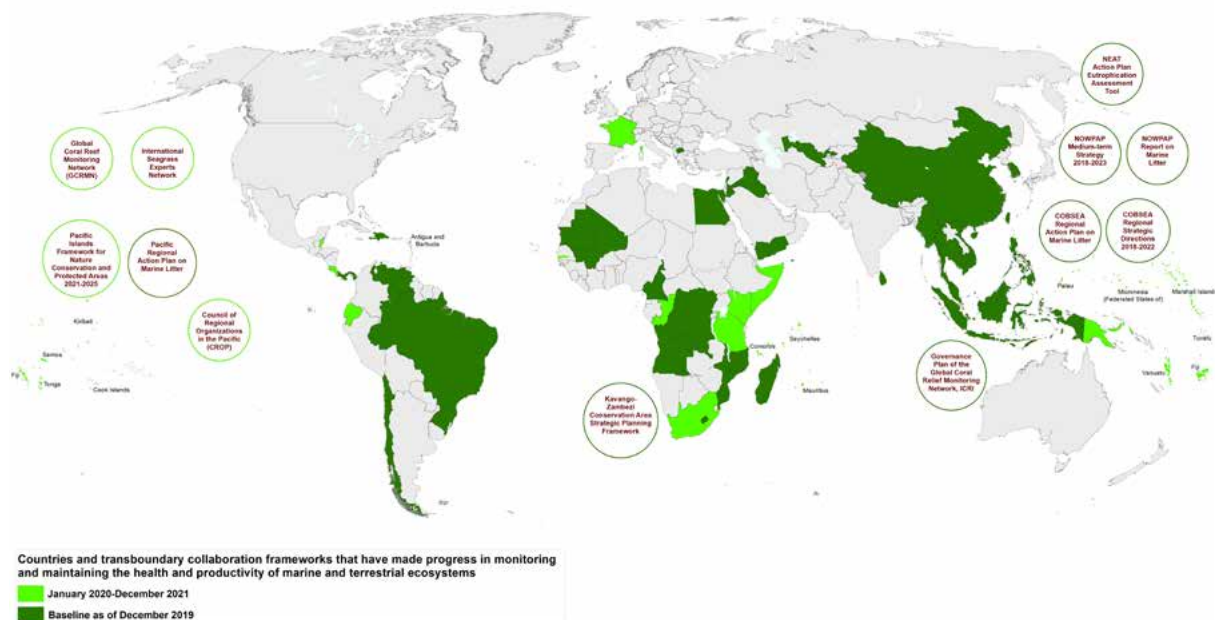
- 22 countries and the Cook Islands and six transboundary collaboration frameworks made progress in monitoring and maintaining the health and productivity of marine and terrestrial ecosystems.^{14,15}

UNEP also continued to develop and disseminate science-policy analysis and recommendations assisting countries to enhance the knowledge of the value of ecosystem services. In 2021, 10 countries and Niue demonstrated enhanced knowledge of the value and role of ecosystem services.¹⁶

For example, as part of the [TEEBAgriFood Framework](#) and in collaboration with the Nile Basin Initiative, UNEP supported the Government of Uganda to develop model scenarios to assess the impacts of urban and peri-urban agriculture conservation areas in the country and their critical ecosystem services.

UNEP supported by the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) in the creation of

Map 4: Progress in monitoring and maintaining the health and productivity of marine and terrestrial ecosystem



Disclaimer: The boundaries and names shown, and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

¹⁴ Belize, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Gambia, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, France, Kenya, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Seychelles, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Republic of South Africa, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, United Republic of Tanzania.

¹⁵ Council of Regional Organizations in the Pacific (CROP), Congo Basin, Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN), International Coral Reef Society (ICRS), One Health network, Pacific Islands Framework for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas.

¹⁶ Belize, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Gambia, Federated States of Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Grenada, Japan, Malawi, Marshall Islands, Oman, Sri Lanka, Tonga and Tuvalu

Map 5: Healthy and Productive Ecosystems – Enhanced knowledge of value and role of ecosystem services



Disclaimer: The boundaries and names shown, and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

The National Ecosystems Assessments (NEA) to support the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) report which was published with two complementary volumes that captured the lessons learned from national ecosystems assessments. The lessons learned offer practical insights into the national ecosystem assessment process and serve as valuable guidance to countries that are already embarking on this journey or those that are interested in doing so in the future.

Within the framework of the Global Peatlands Initiative, UNEP also published the *Economics of Peatlands Conservation, Restoration, and Sustainable Management* policy report which found out that undervaluation and underinvestment are the leading causes of peatland mismanagement. Filling key information gaps on peatlands, the report details the economic and environmental opportunities to boost public and private investments in peatland protection.

UNEP supported six countries and one transboundary framework to improve their institutional set-up to enhance cross-sector collaboration for terrestrial and marine ecosystem management.¹⁷



Investments in peatlands could lead to economic and environmental opportunities (Photo credit: Tompkins Conservation)

UNEP's support to the cross-sectoral and transboundary collaboration agenda for ecosystem management was marked by the establishment of a consortium with three UN entities: the CBD, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Health Organization (WHO), supported by Germany and three international

¹⁷ India, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Pakistan, Thailand, Viet Nam and Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC).

organizations: the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and EcoHealth Alliance. The Consortium supports the development and implementation of evidence-based, policy and actions to mainstream the biodiversity and ecosystems approach into One Health programmes in several countries and to provide capacity building, knowledge management, advocacy and awareness raising in preventative One Health approaches.

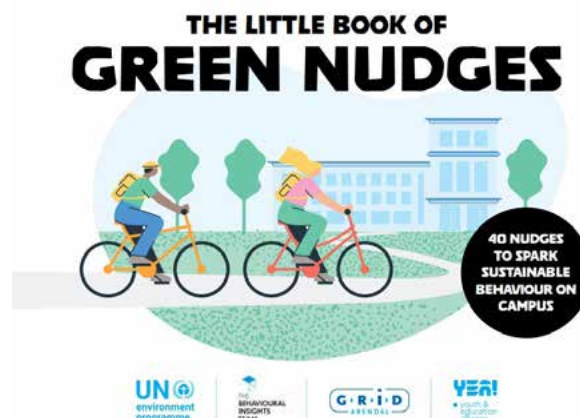
On 5 June, World Environment Day 2021, UNEP and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) launched the [UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration](#). UNEP and FAO have jointly established a Multi Partner Trust Fund for the implementation of core activities of the Ecosystem Restoration Decade.

In 2021, with UNEP's support, the assessment of the status of national biosecurity systems and measures in India, Lao People's Democratic Republic and Viet Nam was conducted. The objective of the assessment was to identify whether the current biosecurity systems and measures in the countries are sufficient to meet the requirements of biosafety and biosecurity standards; and to identify areas that require further enhancement to enable better readiness, early detection and rapid response for the pathogen pathways and risks.

UNEP continued to promote efforts to embed environmental considerations in financial decision-making by public and private sector entities. UNEP supported countries to mainstream the economics of ecosystem services into national decision-making through enhanced capacity for valuing and accounting of ecosystem services.

In 2021, the UN Statistical Commission adopted the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting – Ecosystem Accounting in what the UN Secretary-General António Guterres called “a historic step towards transforming how we view and value nature.” UNEP and United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), implemented a project through which South Africa became the first developing country to launch a 10-year strategy for Natural Capital Accounting.

UNEP continued to work with educational institutions and learning platforms to integrate the ecosystem approach into their curricula¹⁸. To date 135 universities are using the [Little Book of Green Nudges](#) on their campuses to shift behaviours towards sustainability. In partnership with The Alliance for Sustainability Leadership in Education and Second Nature, UNEP also



ran a campaign on the Race to Zero for Universities and Colleges which proved to be popular with both students and professors.

Also with UNEP support [the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics, the Mexican National Institute of Statistics and Geography, the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India, National Bureau of Statistics in China](#) in collaboration with the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region Bureau of Statistics, Guizhou Bureau of Statistics, developed and launched Ecosystem Accounts in 2021 as part of the Natural Capital Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services Project.

As part of its support to development of the post 2020 global biodiversity framework process, UNEP collaborated with financial sector institutions in creating an alignment of finance to nature and conservation, as well as to ensure efforts to enhance the sustainable use of biodiversity.

The [Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures \(TNFD\)](#) was officially launched in 2021 by an Informal Working Group of 75 banks, investors, companies, governments and regulatory bodies convened by UNEP. The Taskforce's mission is to support organizations to create a unified framework for identifying and managing ecosystem-related risks and impacts on nature.

In 2021 the [Guidance on Biodiversity Target-setting](#) was published, developed jointly by UNEP Finance Initiative (UNEP FI) and UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC) based on discussions and input from the working group of 30 Principles for Responsible Banking (PRB) signatories. The Guidance is designed for PRB signatories, allowing banks to take a systematic approach to setting and achieving biodiversity targets to reduce their ecosystem-related risks and negative impacts in terrestrial, freshwater and marine environments. 74 financial institutions signed a commitment to set portfolio targets to reduce their ecosystem-related risks and impacts on nature.

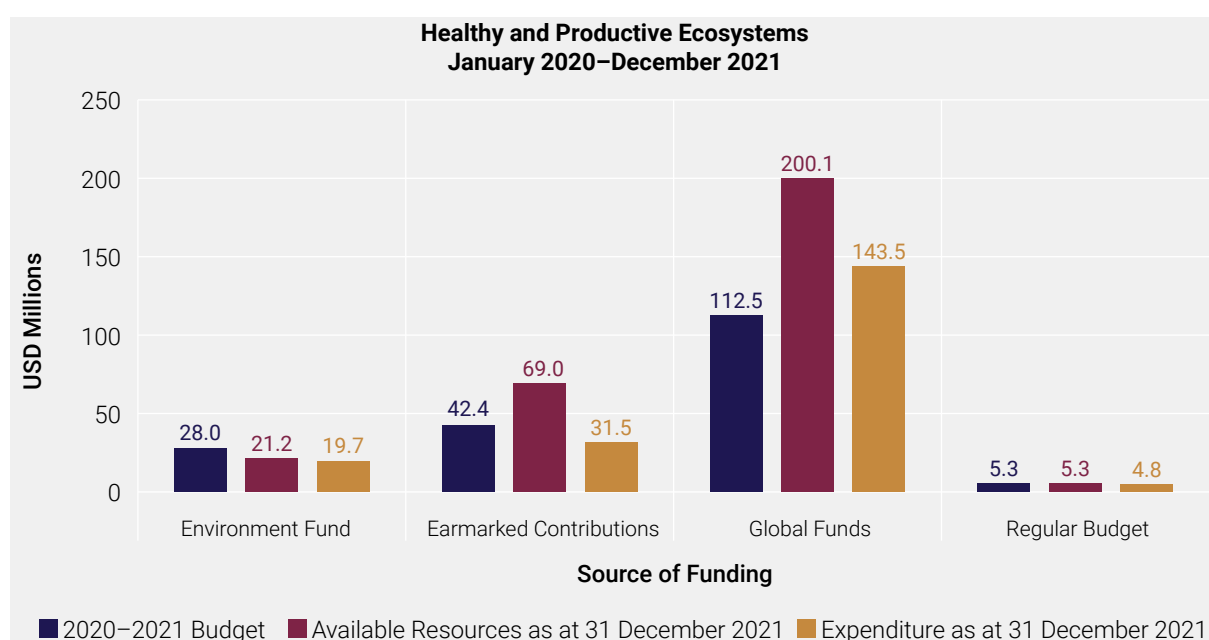
¹⁸ List of Universities and colleges- <https://reporting.secondnature.org>

Opportunities, Challenges and Lessons Learned

- Although COVID-19 delayed the process of the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and CBD COP15, attention to biodiversity grew significantly. This provided UNEP with an opportunity to play a key role in supporting member states in negotiations for the development of the framework. Triggered by the pandemic, UNEP adjusted ongoing activities and exceeded the subprogramme target indicators mainly due to increased global funds to the subprogramme.
 - UNEP continued to support Member States efforts to identify opportunities to mainstream biodiversity and ecosystems-based approaches.
- The mainstreaming biodiversity and ecosystem approach is the underlying foundation of the next MTS. A lesson learned is that addressing the ecosystems degradation and biodiversity loss requires an integrated focus on the drivers of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution.
- The implementation of the new MTS offers UNEP an opportunity to further support to Member States to address nature and biodiversity loss in relation to climate change and pollution challenges.
 - Out of the planned Environment Fund budget for 2020-2021 of US\$ 28 million, only US\$ 21.2 million was received. This was part of an overall trend whereby UNEP received a smaller amount of Environment Fund contributions than originally projected.

Figure 9: Financial overview- Healthy and productive ecosystems

Healthy and Productive Ecosystems (2020-2021)			
Fund type	2020-2021 budget (in million US\$)	Available resources (in million US\$) as at 31 Dec 2021 ¹⁹	Expenditure (in million US\$) as at 31 Dec 2021
Environment Fund	28.0	21.2	19.7
Earmarked contributions	42.4	69.0	31.5
Global funds	112.5	200.1	143.5
Regular Budget	5.3	5.3	4.8
Total	188.2	296.5	199.5



¹⁹ Includes multi-year contributions beyond 2021

- Earmarked funds compensated to some degree for the Environment Fund shortfall. The subprogramme received US\$ 69 million (against a planned budget of US\$ 42.4 million) from Earmarked Funds contributions. However, as some of this amount represents multiyear contributions, only part of it can be counted against 2020- 2021.
- The subprogramme received US\$ 200.1 million (against a planned budget of US\$ 112.5 million) Global funds contribution.
- Overall expenditure for the biennium, therefore, stands at US\$ 199.5 million, which is 106% of the target budget of US\$ 188.2 million.

Success Story: Enhanced Conservation and Restoration Efforts of Critical Marine Habitats

Critical marine and coastal habitats such as coral reefs, seagrass and mangroves are in decline around the world. This decline is happening despite the clear knowledge that these habitats provide valuable ecosystem goods and services to coastal communities locally, and greenhouse gas sequestration and climate change mitigation services globally. In 2021, to reverse this negative trend, UNEP, in collaboration with the International Coral Reef Initiative, rolled out a small grants programme dedicated specifically to the conservation and restoration of threatened and critical coastal habitats- coral reefs, mangroves and seagrass.

The small grants programme contributes to the implementation of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) resolutions [2/12](#) and [4/13](#) on sustainable coral reefs management along with resolution [4/12](#) on sustainable management for the global health of mangroves and the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) Plan of Action 2018-2021. UNEP supported government agencies and non-governmental organizations in developing innovative and sustainable approaches to coastal ecosystem conservation and restoration. This support had a special focus on marine protected areas, locally managed marine areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, as well as implementation of best practice guidelines that UNEP has developed on [coral reef restoration](#), [mangrove restoration](#), [seagrass restoration](#) and [marine protected area governance](#).

This round of small grants followed a first successful round of UNEP/ICRI Small Grants for coral reef protection and restoration in 2017 and aims to increase its ambitions in terms of types of ecosystems protected and conservation areas supported. These activities explicitly support member states in implementing the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, to address biodiversity loss and enhance conservation and restoration of ecosystems, as well as to provide support directly where it is most needed to coastal communities in developing countries.

The lesson learned was that supporting bottom-up ecosystem restoration and conservation approaches that are based on community inclusion, as well as co-management approaches with national or local government, can provide positive and sustainable social and ecological outcomes in coastal areas.



Tagging baby hammerheads in the Golfo Dulce Hammerhead Sanctuary (Photo credit: Edward Herrero)

Environmental Governance

UNEP's work on environmental governance, focuses on two areas:

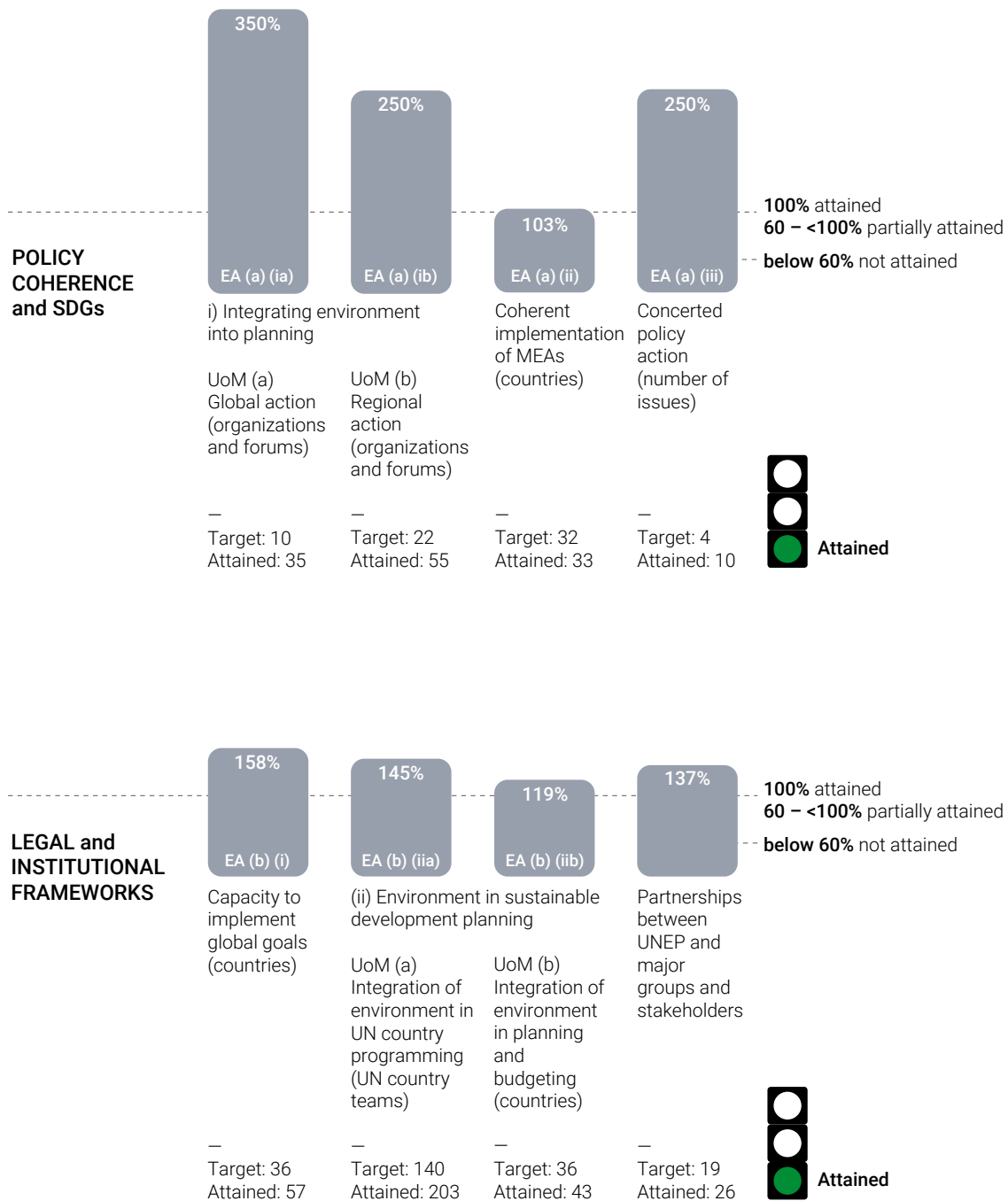
Policy coherence & Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Brings common and integrated approaches together to achieve environmental objectives and implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Legal and institutional frameworks: Enhances institutional capacities and policy and legal frameworks to achieve internationally agreed environmental goals, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs. As of December 2021, the Subprogramme exceeded the targets for all 8 of its indicators.



Indicators of Achievement Expected Accomplishment

Figure 10: Environmental governance results



Policy Coherence and SDGs

Promoting policy coherence for sustainable development supports effective policies at various levels of governments and institutions and ensures that they are mutually beneficial in different sectors and do not work against each other. During the MTS period, UNEP engaged with partners to influence the adoption of environmental sustainability into decisions, plans and policies at the national, regional, and global level. This was done through activities that supported the MEAs,

UN interagency collaborations and engagement at the regional level.

Regional Engagements

UNEP further engaged in the regions collaboratively with UNCTs, Economic Commissions, Ministerial Forums and other regional partners resulting in the following coordinated engagements.

Work Area	Result
UN Environmental Sustainability	In October 2021, the United Nations Chief Executives Board endorsed the Strategy for Sustainability Management in the United Nations System, 2020-2030. The Strategy was coordinated by of the Environment Management Group (EMG)
Barcelona Convention	During COP22 of the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment And the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean region and its Protocols; parties adopted a decision designating the Mediterranean sea, as a whole, as an emission control area for sulphur oxides pursuant to MARPOL Annex VI. The designation protects public health and the environment in the Mediterranean Sea, regional waters, and coastlines, and the communities of the Mediterranean coastal States by reducing exposure to harmful levels of air pollution resulting from these emissions.
Biodiversity	During the first part of the CBD COP 15, Ministers adopted the Kunming Declaration on Ecological Civilization: Building a shared future for all life on Earth. Through this declaration, nations, among others, committed to ensuring the negotiation, adoption and implementation of an effective post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and to supporting the negotiation, adoption and implementation of an effective post-2020 Implementation Plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biodiversity.
Environmental Crime²⁰	A resolution on Preventing and Combatting Crimes that affect the Environment was adopted by the United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. The resolution marks an important step towards the global recognition of illegal activities that have serious impact on the environment and their interrelationship with other serious transnational crimes including organized crimes and corruption.
Human Rights	The Human Rights Council adopted a resolution on the “Human Right to a Clean, Healthy, and Sustainable Environment”. This resolution is instrumental as it formally recognizes the right to a Clean, Healthy and Sustainable Environment as one of the rights recognized under international law. Further, the resolution helps crystallize the legal entitlement of rights holders, clarifies obligations of duty bearers and triggers accelerated environmental action. The resolution will also serve as a catalyst in addressing the triple planetary crisis.
Nairobi Convention	UNEP supported the conduct of COP 10 of the Nairobi Convention held in Madagascar. In Decision 4 of the Conference, Contracting Parties established an ad-hoc legal and technical working group to review the Protocol Concerning Protected Areas and Wild Fauna and Flora in the Eastern African Region. This decision will help further crystallize work geared towards the conservation of marine ecosystems and critically endangered and vulnerable species.
Knowledge Creation	With 2.8 million users, people from India, Kenya, Malaysia, Mexico, Peru Philippines and Tanzania were among the top 10 consumers who accessed the services of the Information Portal on MEAs (InforMEA). This includes the e-learning tool where 100,000 users from 195 countries including 183 Member States, enrolled in the programme with over 40,000 obtaining course certifications in the field of International Environmental Law and MEAs/ Conventions. This is a clear indication that UNEP has continued to build the capacities of different stakeholders on the different MEAs while also enhancing their capacity on International Environmental Law.

²⁰ This result also supports UNEA resolution 2/14, on Illegal Trade in Wildlife and Wildlife Products.

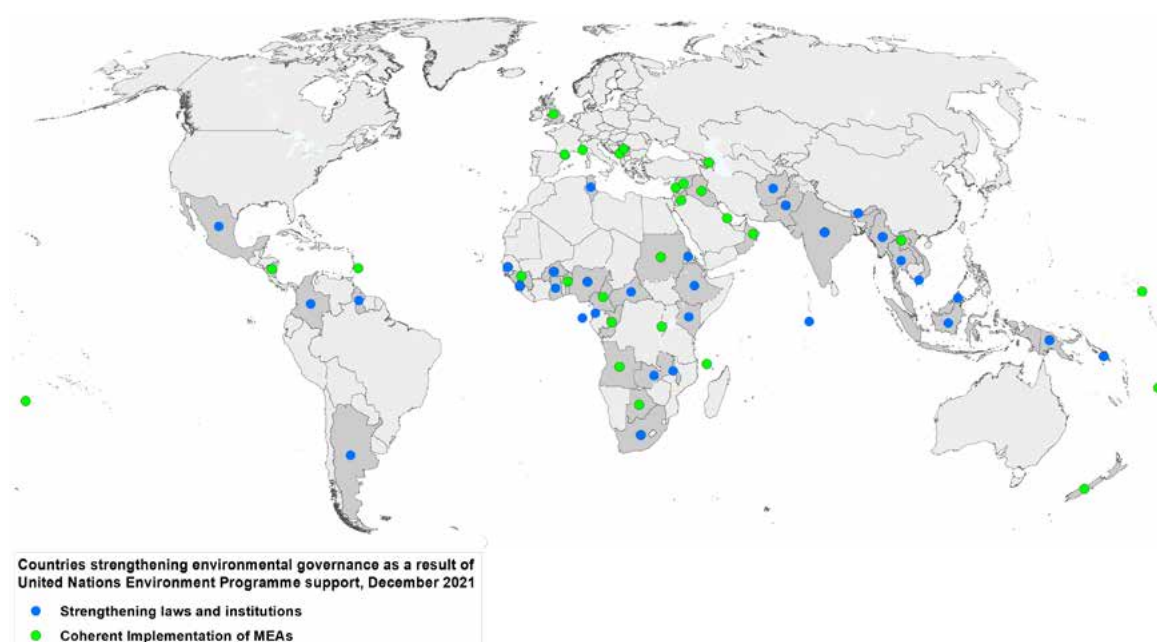
Region	Result
Europe	<p>UNEP supported the conduct of the 2021 European Development Days (EDD). EDD is Europe's Leading Global Forum for International Cooperation and Development organized by the European Commission. UNEP Supported a High-Level Discussion titled, A zero pollution ambition for a toxic-free environment during which panellists discussed the plans for the international community to develop a new framework for proper management of plastics, chemicals, and waste beyond 2020.</p> <p>UNEP's Inputs on sustainable Agriculture and Tourism were adopted by the 27th Committee on Environmental Policy Meeting for consideration by the 9th Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference.</p>
Asia Pacific	<p>UNEP supported the Asia Pacific Judicial Conference on Climate Change. The conference brought together judges from South Asia, Southeast Asia, Northeast Asia, the Pacific, and other regions to highlight the need for urgent action and continuation to address the climate crisis.</p> <p>UNEP also supported the 3rd Clean Pacific Roundtable. The conference called on Major Groups and Stakeholders to play an active role in waste reduction, prevention and non-hazardous waste management outcomes; and adopted a resolution encouraging member states to adopt an agreement on plastics at UNEA 5.2</p>
West Asia	<p>With UNEP's support, the Association of Environmental Law Lecturers in Middle East, and North African Universities (ASSELLMU), developed a Training Manual seeking to address gaps in Middle East and North Africa (MENA's) environmental legal education frameworks. The manual is instrumental in the Train-the-Trainers (TTT) Program in Environmental Law for MENA's higher education institutions. This program aims to examine and demonstrate innovative teaching methodologies, technologies, and approaches through which MENA environmental law academics can advance the effective design, delivery and implementation of environmental law courses.</p>
Africa	<p>UNEP supported the conduct of the Seventh Session of the African Regional Forum on Sustainable Development during which the Brazzaville Declaration was adopted.</p>
Latin America	<p>UNEP supported the XXII meeting of the forum of ministers of Latin America and the Caribbean during which the Bridgetown Declaration was adopted.</p>

Legal and Institutional Frameworks

Since the start of the 2018-2021 MTS, UNEP has supported over 31 countries in strengthening their laws

and institutions, as well as assisting 28 countries with enhancing their implementation of MEAs.

Map 6: Strengthening Environmental Governance



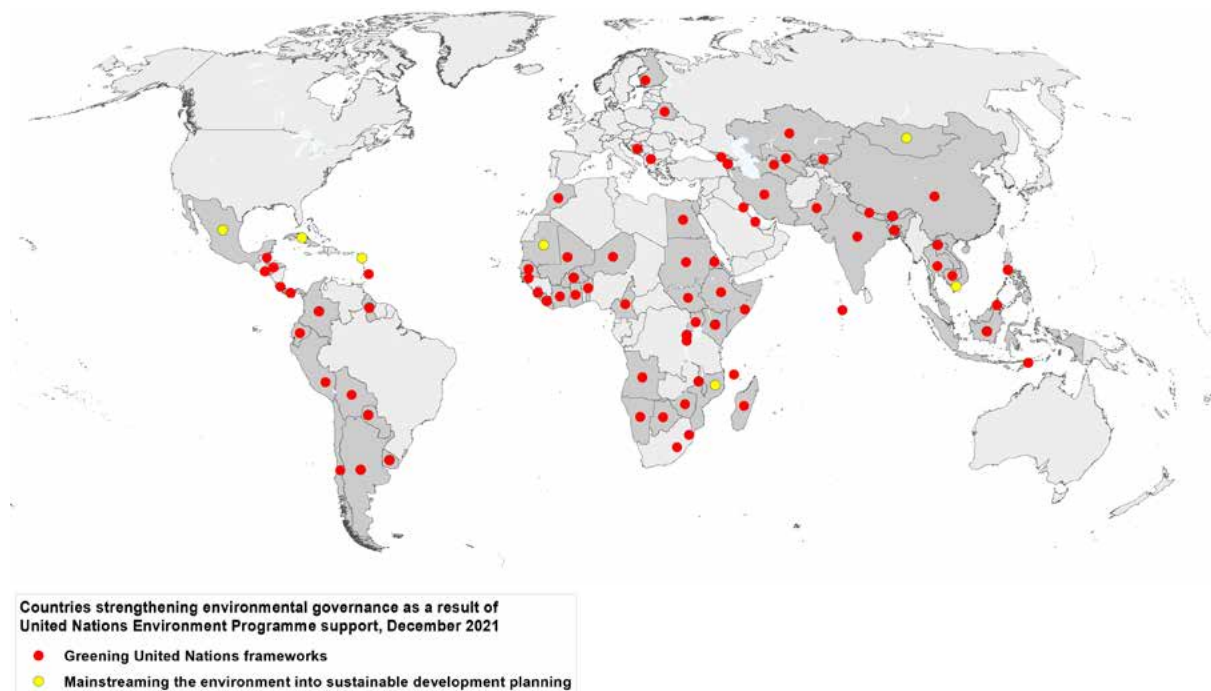
Disclaimer: The boundaries and names shown, and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Further, UNEP continued its support to countries in ensuring that an environmental dimension is mainstreamed into sustainable development plans such as: national budgets, sustainable development policies, strategies, action plans and UN cooperation frameworks.

can be slow. However, the time lag presents an opportunity to champion intensified knowledge sharing, targeted advocacy, and multi-sectorial partnerships which are key to increasing the uptake of UNEP tools and approaches.

- UNEP’s work also entails supporting national

Map 7: Strengthening Environmental Governance



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Opportunities, Challenges and Lessons Learned

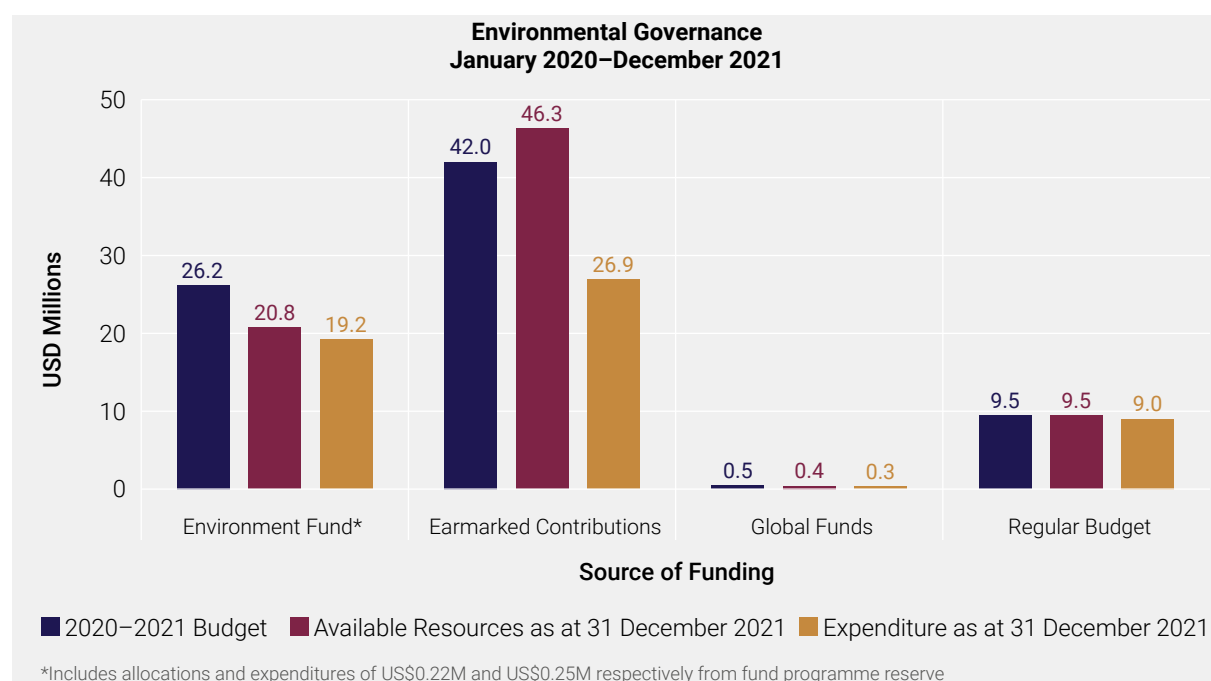
- The COVID-19 Pandemic delayed national-level work including in-person meetings of national focal points for the [Montevideo Environmental Law Programme](#), and further presented a challenge in the hosting of regional ministerial forums both at an operational and substantive level.
- UNEP’s work includes the development of tools, frameworks, and guidelines and while implementation eventually occurs, the process

entities to report on the SDGs through Voluntary National Reporting. To further amplify this, there is a need to build capacity to facilitate and enable decentralized and national entities to report on the SDGs through Voluntary National Reporting. There is also a need to build synergies with other UN entities at the country level and across regions to facilitate the continuous uptake of UNEP’s work.

- UNEP’s resource base necessitates expansion to increase its reach, including in relation to its efforts to strengthen national legislation, advocacy and interagency collaborations.

Figure 11: Financial overview- Environmental governance

Environmental Governance (2020-2021)			
Fund type	2020-2021 budget (in million US\$)	Available resources (in million US\$) as at 31 Dec 2021 ²¹	Expenditure (in million US\$) as at 31 Dec 2021
Environment Fund	26.2	20.8	19.2
Earmarked contributions	42.0	46.3	26.9
Global funds	0.5	0.4	0.3
Regular Budget	9.5	9.5	9.0
Total	78.2	77.0	55.4



- Out of the planned Environment Fund budget for 2020 - 2021 of US\$ 26.2 million, the Subprogramme received 20.8 million.
- Earmarked contributions compensated for the Environment Fund shortfall. The Subprogramme received US \$46.3 million against a projected budget of US\$ 42.0 million. However, since some of these amounts represent multi-year contributions, only part of it can be counted against 2020 -2021.
- For 2020-2021, the Environment Fund included allocations and expenditures of US\$ 0.5 million and US\$ 0.3 million respectively from Global Funds.
- Overall expenditure for the biennium, therefore, stands at US\$ 55.4 million, which is 71 per cent of the target budget of US\$ 78.2 Million.

21 Includes multi-year contributions beyond 2021

Success Story: Landmark UN Resolution Confirms Healthy Environment is a Human Right

For decades various communities across the globe have been fighting for the right to a clean and healthy environment. In the last few years, the work of the Maldives and its allied States, as well as the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and Environment and different NGOs, have been moving the international community towards the declaration of a new universal right.

Support for the UN recognition of this right grew during the COVID-19 pandemic. The idea was finally endorsed by UN's Secretary General Antonio Guterres and High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet, as well as more than 1,100 civil society organizations from around the world. Nearly 70 states on the Human Rights Council added their voices to a call by the Council's core group on human rights and environment for such action, and 15 UN agencies also sent a rare joint declaration advocating for it²².

On 8 October 2021, a historic resolution recognizing the access to a healthy and sustainable environment as a universal right was passed by the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva. A battle fought for decades by environmental activists and rights defenders finally paid off.

This monumental resolution is a catalyst for more ambitious action on every environmental problems that we face. The link between human rights and the environment is indisputable. Hence this resolution is a significant and meaningful step to mitigate the effects of the climate crisis and enhance actions on issues such as air pollution. The recognition of the right to a healthy environment at the global level will support efforts to address environmental crises in a more coordinated, effective and non-discriminatory manner, help achieve the SDGs, provide stronger protection of rights and of the people defending the environment, and help create a world where people can live in harmony with nature.

The impact of the climate crisis is immense, especially on the developing world and indigenous communities across the globe. This resolution recognizes the environmental justice issues that are usually overlooked in environmental policy. It helps give voice and a platform to those who are at the frontline of the climate crisis and provides an array of optimistic solutions. With this resolution, strong actions can be taken to create a healthy living environment especially in vulnerable communities. It encourages states to build capacities to protect the environment to: enhance cooperation; share good practices; adopt policies and to continue to take into account human rights obligations and commitments²³.



Landmark UN resolution confirms that access to a healthy and sustainable environment is a human right (Photo credit: Reuters/ Ueslei Marcelino)

²² UN News. 2022. The human right to a clean and healthy environment: 6 things you need to know. [online] Available at: <<https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/10/1103082>> [Accessed 31 March 2022].

²³ <https://undocs.org/A/HRC/RES/48/13>

Chemicals, Waste and Air Quality

UNEP work on chemicals, waste, and air quality focuses on three areas:

Chemicals: assisting countries and other stakeholders to implement sound chemicals management and the related MEAs.

Waste: assisting countries and other stakeholders to prevent waste and implement sound waste management and the related MEAs.

Air quality: helping countries develop strategies and policies to reduce air pollution.

Between January 2020 and December 2021, the subprogramme exceeded all 9 of its indicator targets.



Reducing harms from mercury in artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM) is a priority.(Photo credit: UNEP)

Indicators of Achievement Expected Accomplishment

Figure 12: Chemicals, waste and air quality results



Chemicals

UNEP works with governments and other stakeholders to ensure sound chemicals and waste management and to reduce pollution, including through the implementation of related MEAs²⁴. In this reporting period, 5 governments²⁵ ratified the Minamata Convention on Mercury, bringing the total number of Parties to the Convention to 137. 4 more governments²⁶ completed their Minamata Initial Assessment and/or National Action Plan on Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Mining. The number of the Parties to the Kigali amendment to the Montreal Protocol reached 134 with 7 more governments²⁷ joining. Four governments²⁸ and the European Union also updated their National Implementation Plans under the Stockholm Convention.

In 2021, we saw the end of leaded petrol after an almost 20-year campaign by the [UNEP Global Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles](#). Banning the use of leaded petrol in ground transport has been estimated to prevent more than 1.2 million premature deaths per year, increase children's IQs, save US\$ 2.45 trillion a year for the global economy, and decrease crime rates.

Through UNEP as the Secretariat of the Lead Paint Alliance and the implementing agency for the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) GEF project 'promoting adoption of lead paint laws', Lao PDR adopted a ministerial decree with a 90-ppm lead limit. Adopting a lead paint law is the most efficient way to prevent lead exposure from paint. These efforts have been amplified under a GEF project on [global best practices](#) leading to eight businesses²⁹ completing their paint reformulations with UNEP support. Lead in batteries is the next frontier that UNEP hopes to tackle.

Also, during this reporting period, the [Special Programme on Institutional Strengthening for the Chemicals Cluster](#) to support institutional strengthening at the national



UNEP prioritize closing dump sites and stopping open waste burning (Photo credit: UNEP/Jordi Pon)

level for implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, the Minamata Convention and the SAICM provided a total of US\$3.5 million to 13 countries.³⁰ These funds were used by national governments to enhance their sustainable institutional capacity to develop, adopt, monitor and enforce policy, legislation and regulation for the sound management of chemicals and waste.

UNEP's collaboration through the [Global Mercury Partnership](#) welcomed seven new members³¹ committing to raising awareness, data and science on the negative health and environmental effects of mercury.

24 These include the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, the Minamata Convention on Mercury, the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM).

25 Australia, Iraq, Poland, Spain and Zimbabwe.

26 Antigua and Barbuda, Botswana, Côte d'Ivoire and South Africa.

27 Cameroon, El Salvador, India, Serbia, St. Lucia, Tunisia and Turkey.

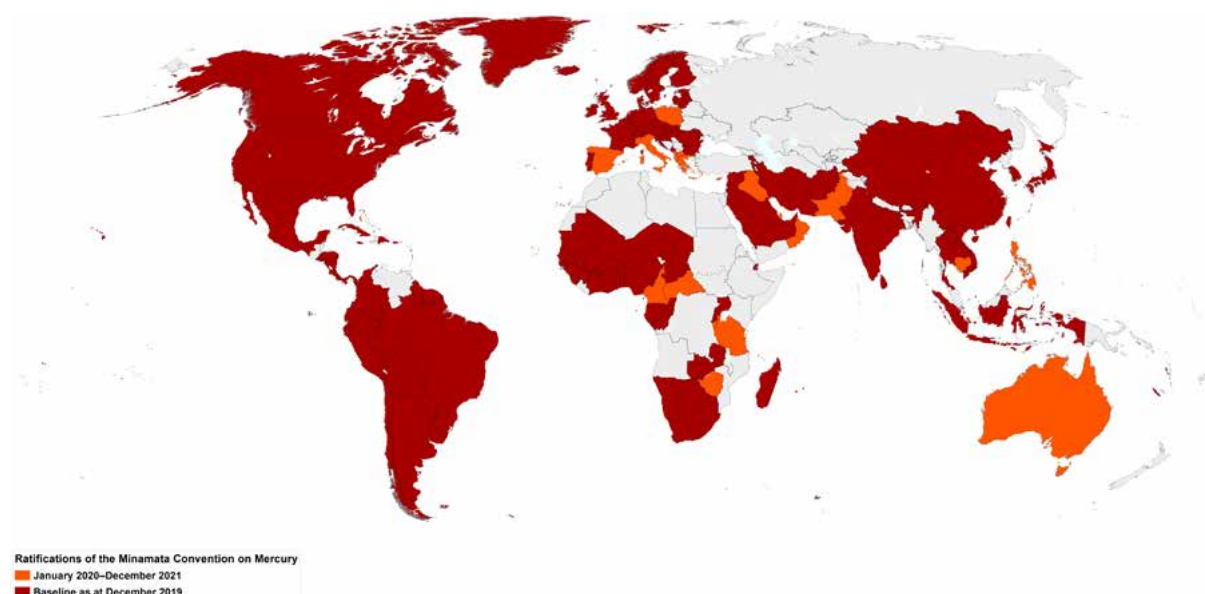
28 Belize, Croatia Indonesia and Samoa.

29 Blentech Limited, Pinturas Multitonos, Precious Paints Nigeria Limited, Prestige Paint, PT Mataram, PT Rajawali Hiyoto, Sorpin and Tameer Paints.

30 Belarus, Benin, China, Dominican Republic, India, Kiribati, Kyrgyz Republic, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Serbia, Tanzania, Uganda.

31 Atlantic Energy Associates LLC, Department of Physics of the University of the West Indies, EX Research Institute Limited, Population and Development Initiative (PDI), Mayasa, Mercury Free Mining (MFM), Ocean Films.

Map 8: Chemical, Waste and Air Quality - Countries that have ratified the Minamata Convention on Mercury



Disclaimer: The boundaries and names shown, and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Waste

UNEP works with governments, the private sector, and civil society organizations to develop and implement sound waste management policies and good practices, in accordance with global and regional MEAs and frameworks including SAICM.

This work included working with mayors along the Mississippi River in the United States to implement a second phase of the Mississippi River Plastic Pollution Initiative. Following a successful first round of data collection in three pilot cities, the initiative launched a second assessment round in four additional cities in October 2021.³²

Partnering with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Sri Lanka, UNEP supported the implementation of the “Surakim Ganga” (Conserve Rivers) nation environment programme by implementing the CounterMEASURE activities as agreed with the Government of Sri Lanka under the programme. In India, a declaration was passed by 18 legislators of more than five states acknowledging the urgent need for stringent policies and legislation against single use plastics in the fragile Himalayan ecosystem and resolving to commit to the vision of a Zero Waste Himalaya.

The local government in Penang, Malaysia demonstrated community-based waste management best practices as a result of a partnership between UNEP and the UNEP-Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA) in conjunction with the Malaysian Ministry of Environment and Water.

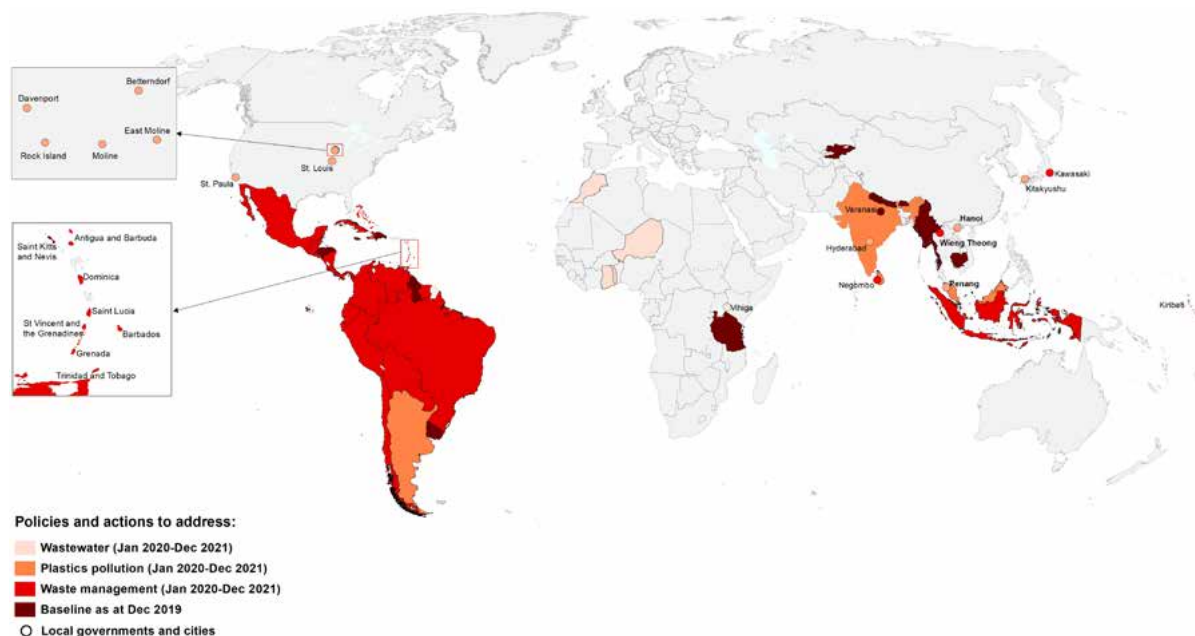
Further to this, UNEP supported the implementation of Directive 15/CT-UBND (Directive 15/2020) on “Strengthening State Management Measures for the Burning of Straw, Crop Residues and Other Wastes to Minimize Negative Impacts on the City Environment” issued by Hanoi.³³

In January 2021, within the framework of the Voluntary Coalition of governments and relevant organizations for the progressive closure of dumpsites in Latin America and the Caribbean, and with the support of UNEP, which serves as Secretariat of the Coalition, [the Roadmap for the gradual closure of dumpsites](#) was presented. Further, the momentum to have regional actions on improving waste management was cemented in the declaration of the 5th High-Level Forum for Caribbean Ministers Responsible for Waste in October 2021.

³² Bettendorf, Iowa; Davenport, Iowa; East Moline, Illinois; Moline, Illinois and Rock Island, Iowa.

³³ <https://khisachtroixanh.com/activities/vung-dot-rom-ra-nhieu-chua-chac-la-vung-chiu-muc-do-o-nhiem-lon/>

Map 9: Chemicals, Waste and Air Quality - Governments implementing waste prevention and sound management policies and good practices



Disclaimer: The boundaries and names shown, and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Air Quality

During this reporting period, UNEP assisted 52 policies and initiatives by national and local governments to improve air quality. For example, under the sustainable mobility project UNEP supported the government of Cambodia to develop strategies and policies to reduce air pollution leading to the adoption of Euro IV vehicle emission standards.

Building on UNEP support to governments in raising awareness on the importance of air quality and making air quality monitoring data and other information publicly available and easily understandable, four additional governments joined the [BreatheLife campaign](#).

In September 2021, UNEP’s first global assessment of air pollution legislation, which examined national air quality legislation in 194 States and the European Union, revealed that most countries embedded ambient air quality standards in legislation, but monitoring of the implementation was lacking. Also, the global ‘Actions on Air Quality’ report with regional level reviews were produced providing a status on policy actions responding to the UNEA resolution 3/8 on Preventing and reducing air pollution to improve air quality globally.

In June 2020, the Mayor of Almaty ordered the installation of 50 LED screens across the city, displaying air quality data drawn from citizens. This was a direct result of the recommendations issued by UNEP and the United

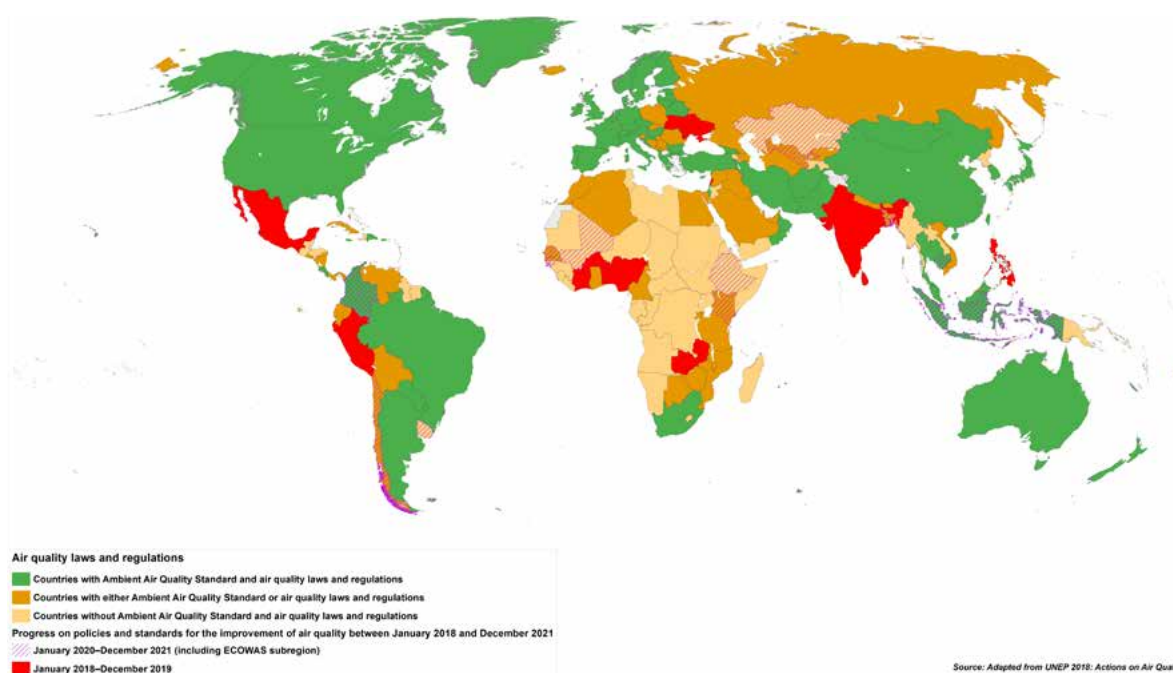
Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) in 2019. The recommendations were issued under the scope of UNECE’s 3rd Environmental Performance Review (EPR) of [Kazakhstan](#)³⁴ and sought to improve how the country raises awareness on air pollution and alerts the public of high pollution levels, including by involving citizen science. After having certified 10 citizen-run air quality monitoring devices for Almaty, Kazakhstan’s national hydrometeorological body, Kazhydromet, now uses the readings along with the official data it collects through the national air quality monitoring network.³⁵

In 2019 the United Nations General Assembly designated 7 September as the [International Day of Clean Air for blue skies](#), and the first two annual celebrations of the day took place during this reporting period. This follows the international community’s increasing interest in clean air and emphasises the need to make further efforts to improve air quality to protect human health. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) launched its [new online megacities platform](#) which will provide national and local policy makers with a framework by which to develop and implement comprehensive action plans to address air quality and improve public health in cities. This new platform enables cities to freely access a series of templates meant to provide guidance on air quality management processes.

³⁴ <https://unece.org/environment-policy/publications/3rd-environmental-performance-review-kazakhstan>

³⁵ <https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/story/dair-dream-cleaner-future-your-city>

Map 10: Air quality laws and regulations



Disclaimer: The boundaries and names shown, and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Opportunities, Challenges and Lessons Learned

- COVID-19 impacted the sub-programme implementation because it hindered the delivery of activities and results at the project level, requiring the postponement of some activities. Project results that are associated to field-based activities, such as data collection and organization of events, were most affected, and required UNEP to design and shift to alternative delivery modalities.
- The pandemic related setbacks also delayed the plans to adopt a new global framework for chemicals and waste, post SAICM. The stakeholders could not reach a consensus in advancing the discussion virtually as the fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM5) – originally planned in 2020 – and it had to be postponed.
- During this implementation period the subprogramme also experienced challenges due to political situations that led to projects prematurely closing or activities being forced to relocate. For example, the implications of political upheavals in Myanmar in 2021 required UNEP to revise its project plans.
- While all targets set for this reporting period were met, there is a need to recognize the slow and uneven pace of progress in overall sound management of chemicals and waste. Countries are behind or are even regressing in achieving SDG targets concerning the environment including sustainable consumption and production. A key lesson from having implemented a chemical-by-chemical approach is that UNEP needs to complement it with a more integrated approach to chemicals management, especially by working across the life chain of key high impact sectors, such as textiles, agriculture, electronics and extractives. Equally, waste prevention, reduction and sound disposal need to be part of a broader effort to achieve the pollution free value chains and the circular economy.
- For all pollution types, more concerted and targeted efforts need to be made to achieve measurable reductions in pollution levels, especially those from high impact sectors, while continuing with support towards monitoring, national planning, and outreach.
- Out of the planned Environment Fund budget for 2020-2021 of US\$23.4 million, only US\$17.6 million was received. This was part of an overall trend where UNEP received a smaller amount of Environment Fund contributions than originally projected.

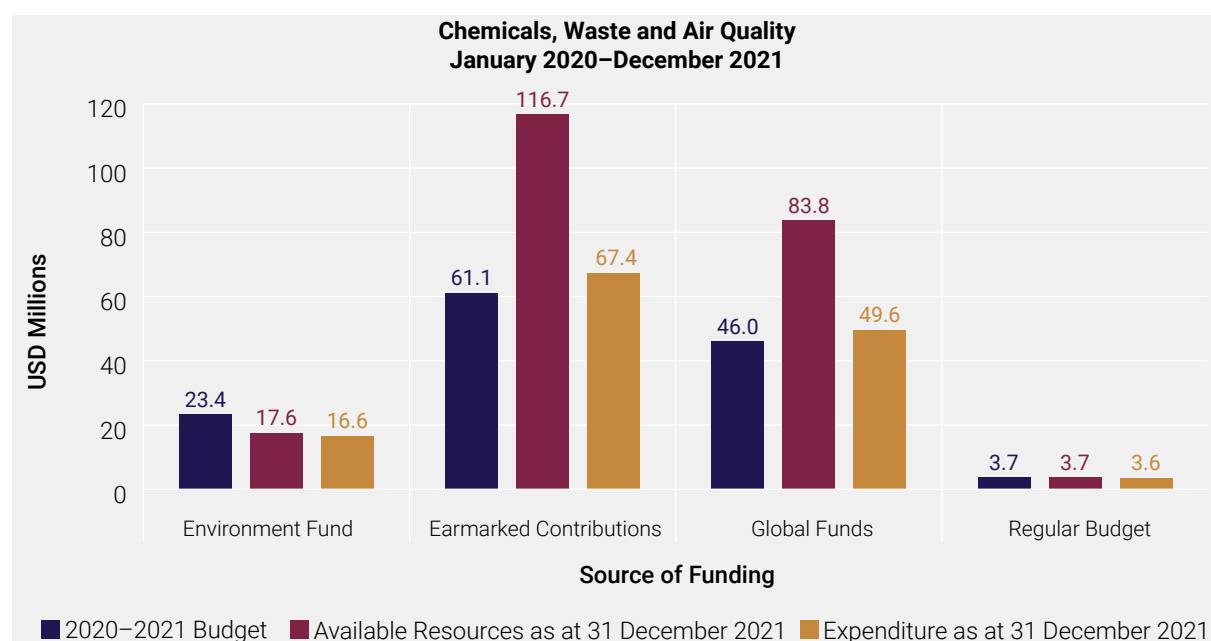
- Earmarked Contributions and Global Funds compensated for the Environment Fund shortfall, with the subprogramme receiving US\$116.7 million (against a planned budget of US\$61.1 million) from Earmarked Funds contributions and US\$83.8 million (against a planned budget of US\$46) from Global Funds.

However, as some of this amount represents multiyear contributions, only part of this can be counted against 2020-2021.

- Overall expenditure for 2020-2021, therefore, stands at US\$137.2 million, which is 102% of the target budget of US\$ 134.2 million.

Figure 13: Financial Overview – Chemicals, Waste and Air Quality

Chemicals, Waste and Air Quality (2020-2021)			
Fund type	2020-2021 budget (in million US\$)	Available resources (in million US\$) as at 31 Dec 2021 ³⁶	Expenditure (in million US\$) as at 31 Dec 2021
Environment Fund	23.4	17.6	16.6
Earmarked contributions	61.1	116.7	67.4
Global funds	46.0	83.8	49.6
Regular Budget	3.7	3.7	3.6
Total	134.2	221.8	137.2



³⁶ Includes multi-year contributions beyond 2021

Success Story: Era of Leaded Petrol is Over: Eliminating a Major Threat to Human and Planetary Health

When service stations in Algeria stopped providing leaded petrol in July 2021, the use of leaded petrol ended globally, as result of an almost two decades long campaign by the UNEP-led global Partnership for [Clean Fuels and Vehicles](#) (PCFV).

Since 1922, the use of tetraethyllead as a petrol additive to improve engine performance created a [catastrophe for the environment and public health](#). By the 1970s, almost all petrol produced around the world contained lead. When UNEP began its [campaign](#) to eliminate lead in petrol in 2002, it was [one of the most serious environmental threats to human health](#).

2021 marked the end of leaded petrol for land vehicles worldwide, after it contaminated air, dust, soil, drinking water and food crops for the better part of a century. Leaded petrol causes heart disease, stroke and cancer. It also affects the development of the human brain, [especially harming children](#), with studies suggesting it reduced up to 5-10 IQ points. Banning the use of leaded petrol has been [estimated](#) to prevent more than 1.2 million premature deaths per year, increase IQ points among children, save US\$ 2.45 trillion for the global economy, and decrease crime rates.

“The successful enforcement of the ban on leaded petrol is a huge milestone for global health and our environment,” said Inger Andersen, Executive Director of UNEP. “Overcoming a century of deaths and illnesses that affected hundreds of millions and degraded the environment worldwide, we are invigorated to change humanity’s trajectory for the better through an accelerated [transition to clean vehicles](#) and [electric mobility](#).”

The PCFV is a public-private partnership that brought all stakeholders to the table, providing technical assistance, raising awareness, overcoming local challenges and resistance from local oil dealers and producers of lead, as well as investing in refinery upgrades.

Despite this progress, the fast-growing global vehicle fleet continues to contribute to the threat of local air, water and soil pollution, as well as to the global climate crisis: the transport sector is responsible for [nearly a quarter](#) of energy-related global greenhouse gas emissions and is [set to grow to one third by 2050](#).

While many countries have already begun transitioning to electric cars, [1.2 billion new vehicles will hit the road in the coming decades](#), and many of these will use fossil fuels, especially in developing countries. This includes millions of poor-quality [used vehicles](#) exported from Europe, the United States and Japan, to mid- and low-income countries. This contributes to global warming and air pollution.

The Executive Director of UNEP urged stakeholders to take inspiration from the enormous achievement to ensure that that the world has cleaner fuels, while also adopting cleaner vehicles standards globally. The combination of cleaner fuels and vehicles can reduce emissions by more than 80%. While the largest source of lead pollution has been eliminated, urgent action is still needed to stop lead pollution from other sources – such as lead in paints, leaded batteries, and lead in household items.

The end of leaded petrol supports the realization of multiple [SDGs](#), including [good health and well-being \(SDG3\)](#), [clean water \(SDG6\)](#), [clean energy \(SDG7\)](#), [sustainable cities \(SDG11\)](#), [climate action \(SDG13\)](#) and [life on land \(SDG15\)](#). It also offers an opportunity to [restoring ecosystems](#), especially in urban environments, which have been particularly degraded by this toxic pollutant.



Elimination of lead (Pb) from fuels has major socio-economic and health benefits (Photo credit: UNEP/Jack Kavanagh)

Resource Efficiency

UNEP's work on resource efficiency focuses on three areas:

Enabling policy environment: collaborating with countries to make the transition to inclusive green economies while also supporting them in the adoption of sustainable consumption and production action plans.

Sustainability in businesses and value chains: working with governments, businesses, and other stakeholders towards making global supply chains more sustainable.

Sustainable lifestyles and consumption: empowering countries, businesses, civil society, and individuals to live and consume responsibly and sustainably.

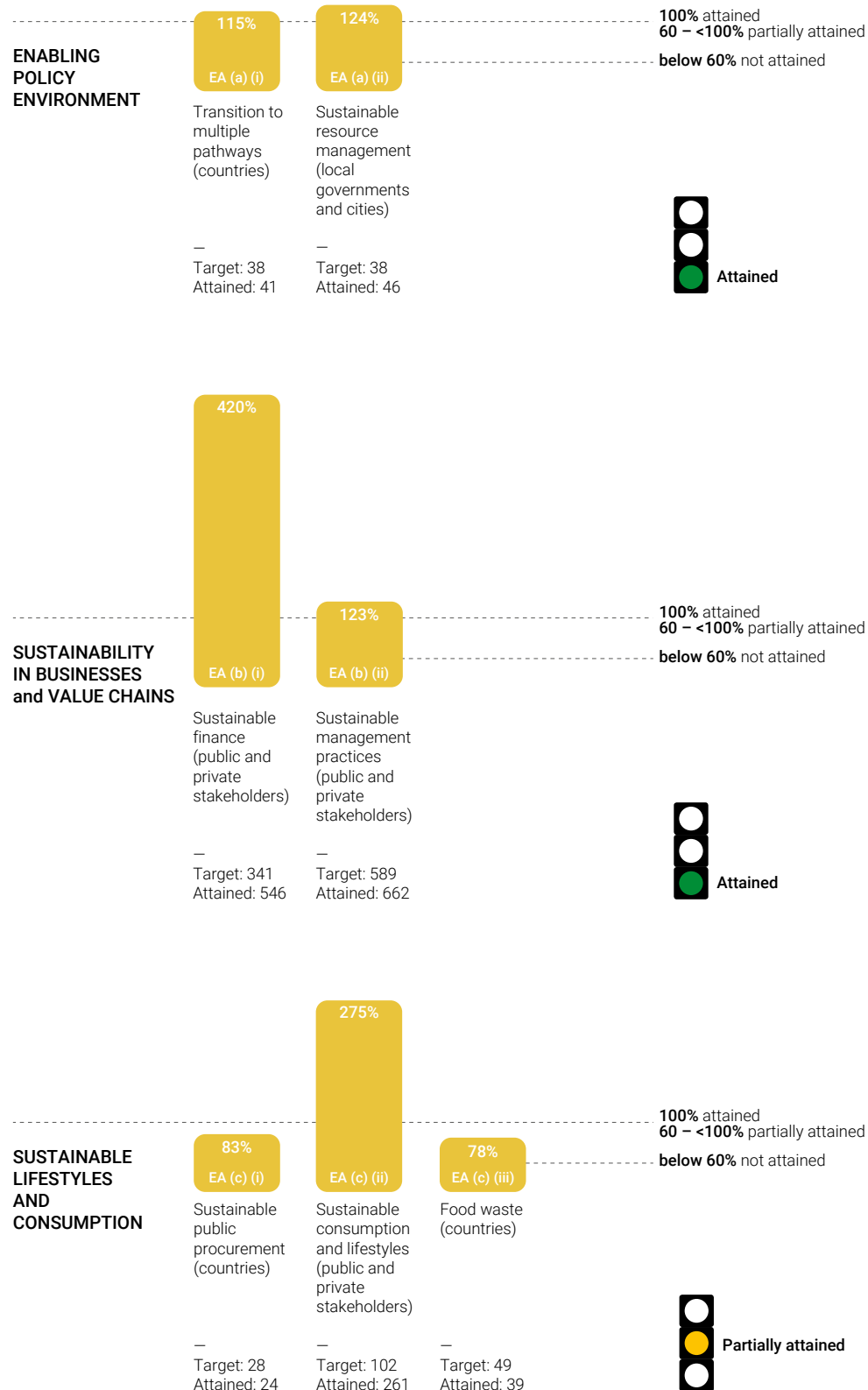
By December 2021, the subprogramme exceeded five of its seven target indicators and partially met two.



Stockholm +50 side event: Financing circularity for a sustainable recovery and green jobs (Photo credit: IISD)

Indicators of Achievement Expected Accomplishment

Figure 14: Chemicals, waste and air quality results



Enabling Policy Environment

Unsustainable resource extraction, transformation, use, and disposal are the primary causes of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution. Since the 1970s, while the world population has doubled and global Gross Domestic Product (GDP) has grown four-fold, the annual global extraction of materials has more than tripled and is predicted to further double from current levels to 180 billion tonnes by 2060. Furthermore, the [Global Recovery Observatory](#) showed by December 2021 that only 28% of recovery spending and 4% of total spending worldwide had positive green characteristics. Concerted resource-efficiency and sustainable resource-management measures can reduce resource extraction by 25 per cent, significantly mitigate negative impacts and boost the economy by 8 per cent by 2060 (IRP, 2019).

Against this global backdrop, UNEP continued to support countries and regions in their transition to sustainable development through multiple pathways using science-based approaches, the inclusive green economy and sustainable consumption and production action.³⁷

In 2020-2021, with UNEP support:

- 9 additional countries started implementing green economy approaches and,³⁸
- 20 local governments and cities were pursuing sustainable management practices³⁹

UNEP's support to Member States to cope with the impacts of COVID-19 and the Build Back Better COVID-19 response plan focused on public spending and the greening fiscal stimulus and finance packages to accelerate sustainable consumption and production, and work towards achieving the SDG targets. Examples include a study on fiscal policy reforms in the Kyrgyz Republic, assessing incentives for reducing food loss and waste in Indonesia, a Green Economy Policy Review in Mongolia, and webinars on the role of green bonds.

Leveraging the UN Reform for wider impact, UNEP through PAGE, is actively contributing to the hardwiring of sustainability principles in the United Nation's economic guidance documents to leverage the whole of the UN System for sustainability. This has occurred as a result of several measures taken including: setting the vision of the UN Economist Network,⁴⁰ a contribution to the formulation of various policy briefs such as on Innovative Finance as well as dialogues on "One UN for Accelerating a Fair and Green Economic Transformation", the UN Sustainable Development Group's (UNSDG) Guidance Note on Economic Transformation for UN Country Teams⁴¹ and [A UN framework for the Immediate Socio-economic Response to COVID-19](#). With the Office of the UN Chief Economist and economists across UN agencies, UNEP is engaging in efforts to achieve green economy transformation, that includes circular economy approaches, with UNCTs. For example, PAGE has been supporting Indonesia during its G20 Presidency,⁴² on green and blue economy transformation analysis to support developing countries with efforts to work towards recovery from COVID-19 and build resilience.

³⁷ Contributes to the implementation of [UNEP/EA.4/Res.1](#) innovative pathways to achieve sustainable consumption and production, and to [SDG12](#) ensures sustainable consumption and production patterns

³⁸ Argentina, Chile, China (Hainan province), Dominica, Kyrgyz Republic, Lebanon, Myanmar, Rwanda, South Africa

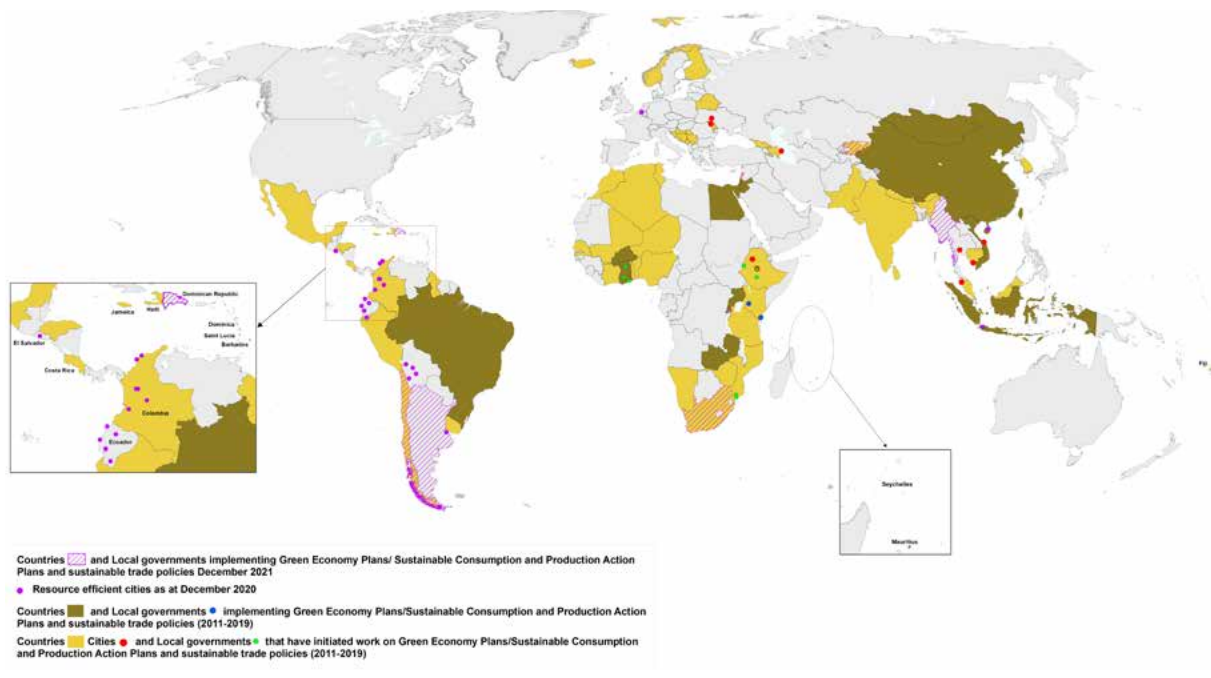
³⁹ Barranquilla, Bogor, Bogotá, Brussels, Buenos Aires, Cali, Cartagena, Cochabamba, Esmeraldas, Guayaquil, La Paz, Loja, Manta, Medellín, Potosí, Quito, San Salvador, Sucre, Sun Vicente, Ushuaia

⁴⁰ [Uniting Economic Expertise - UN PAGE - Partnership for Action on Green Economy \(page-annual-report.org\)](#)

⁴¹ https://www.un-page.org/files/public/economic_transformation_1.pdf

⁴² [Uniting Economic Expertise - UN PAGE - Partnership for Action on Green Economy \(page-annual-report.org\)](#)

Map 11: Enabling Policy: Regions, Countries and Local Governments that pursue Inclusive Green Economy Pathways and Sustainable Trade Policies



Disclaimer: The boundaries and names shown, and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Sustainability in Businesses and Value Chains

Businesses are seeking innovative ways to be both profitable and sustainable. The [Implications for Business Leaders, the Global Resources Outlook](#) publication highlights that for businesses, embracing decoupling through strategies of resource efficiency, circularity and sustainable resource management are key to facing the emerging disruptions of the global economy, save costs and enhance competitiveness. The Outlook report highlighted energy, buildings, food and agriculture, metals and minerals as some of the high impact sectors for focused action, which has informed UNEP business and industry engagement over the biennium as well as the 2022-2025 MTS. UNEP has continued to work with governments, businesses, and other stakeholders to make global supply chains more sustainable.⁴³

In 2020-2021, with UNEP support:

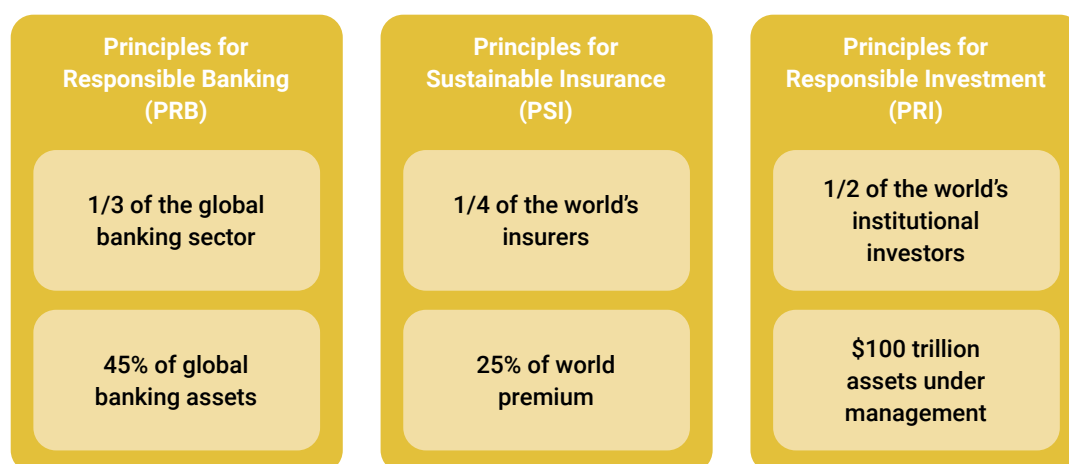
- 146 additional financial stakeholders adopted sustainable finance principles and frameworks.
- 193 public and private sector partners adopted sustainable management policies and practices.

During 2020-2021, UNEP worked with 339 public, private and finance sector actors to promote the inclusion of sustainability in their policies, practices, principles and frameworks.

The UNEP-Finance Initiative, 30 years after it was established, saw its numerous principles and alliances reaching increasingly critical mass. The overachievement witnessed for this indicator is the result of this private financial sector movement. This transition is facilitating access to private sustainable finance for business and industry, including for small and medium sized industries.

⁴³ The outcomes under this Expected Accomplishment have contributed to UNEP's post COVID response strategy under building block 3, as well as to the implementation of UNEA-4 resolutions 1, 4, 9 and 19.

Figure 15: UNEP-Finance Initiative led sustainable finance movement



The New Plastic Economy Global Commitment (NPEGC), led by the Ellen MacArthur Foundation in collaboration with UNEP, added 19 new business signatories during 2021.⁴⁴ Twenty-six entities⁴⁵ also committed to taking action to tackle plastic pollution under the aegis of the Global Tourism Plastic Initiative (GTPI). Six businesses⁴⁶ eliminated over 108 million plastic items and packaging in 2020, amounting to 804 metric tons. Seven entities⁴⁷ and two countries⁴⁸ worked with UNEP to integrate sustainability in their tourism policies.

In 2020-2021, with UNEP support:

- Seven new countries commenced implementation of sustainable public procurement processes;
- 194 private and public sector entities promoted sustainable consumption, production and sustainable lifestyles; and
- 22 additional countries started measuring food waste at a national level.

Sustainable Lifestyles and Consumption

UNEP has been at the frontline supporting and empowering countries, businesses, civil society, and individuals to live and consume responsibly and sustainably, advocating for sustainable lifestyles.

Public procurement represents 13% to 20% of GDP. Public bodies, as the largest consumers in a given economy, can significantly reduce their environmental footprints by favouring the purchase of more sustainable products. UNEP led the development of the methodology for the calculation of the SDG 12.7.1 indicator on Sustainable Public Procurement (SPP). The first data collection exercise for the indicator conducted in 2021 showed that a majority of developed countries were actively pursuing SPP policies, and that significant efforts are also underway in Asia and Latin America and are beginning to emerge in Africa.⁴⁹ In 2020-2021, UNEP supported seven countries⁵⁰ in Central Asia, Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean to develop draft decrees, action plans, market research and readiness, priority lists and model policies to promote SPP.

44 A.S. Watson, BASF, Beiersdorf, CCL Label, Dalmia Polypro Industries Private Limited, Driscoll's, Ferrara, Eastman Chemical Company, Freudenberg Home and Cleaning Solutions, Gemini Corporation N.V., Guang Dong Rhino New Material Technology Co. Ltd., Guolong, HORNG EN GROUP, McCain Foods, PAC Worldwide, Silafrica Plastics & Packaging Intl Ltd, SOVENA, Suzhou Jiulong Recycling and Umincorp.

45 Adventuretects, Alila Villas Uluwatu, Arcenciel, Blue Community, Clewat Ltd., Environment and Social Development Organization, Europamundo, Evaneos, Futouris, Hostelling International, Jaya House River Park, JJs Hotels, Lombok Tourism Polytechnic, Ocean Recovery Alliance, PHAEA Resorts, Secret Scotland, SEE Turtles, Siem Reap, Society for Sustainable Tourism, Sudima Hotels, Sustainable Hospitality Alliance, , Travel Bhutan, , Turama Pacific Travel Group, Visit Valencia, Worldwide Association of Diving Instructors and , Union of International Mountain Leaders

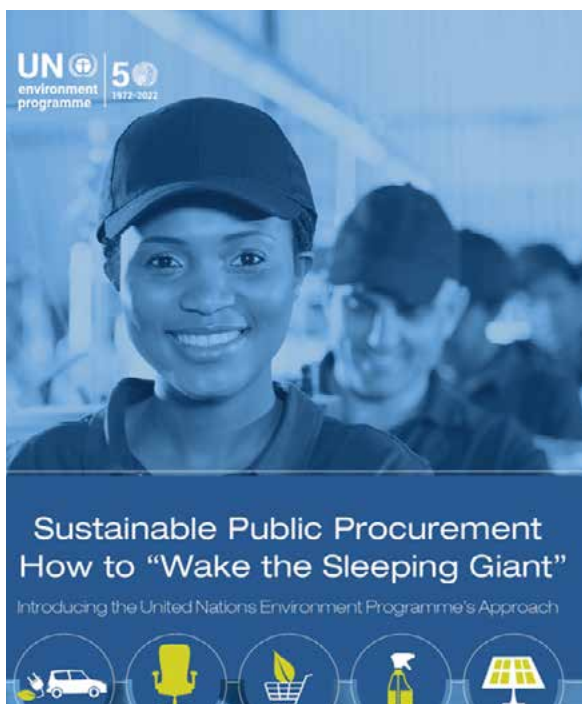
46 Accor, Club Med, Hong-Kong and Shangai Hotels, Iberostar, Melco and Six Senses.

47 AptarGroup Inc., BMW Group, Confetti Pelino s.r.l., International Copper Association, JAPFA Ltd., Product Social Metrics and Tata Steel Ltd.

48 Azerbaijan and India.

49 [Sustainable Public Procurement: How to "Wake the Sleeping Giant"](#), UNEP, 2021

50 Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Senegal and Uganda.



UNEP contributed to raising awareness on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) through a series of campaigns and events and provided technical assistance and guidelines on product sustainability to ten companies⁵¹ in Ecuador. Fifty-three organizations⁵² also participated in responsible consumption campaigns, and a further 30 studios⁵³ committed to green activation. **The overachievement of this indicator results from unprecedented interest and engagement of public and private stakeholders in solutions to address the environmental, food and energy crises.**

51 Asafrut S.A, Bioalimentar, Corporación Favorita, Difare, El Ordeño, Grupo, Moderna Alimentos S.A.J, Nirsa S.A, Pronaca, Prohubanco and Unilimpio,

52 Advertising Association UK, Aeeree, Aire, Alianza Suiza, Alpine Climate Board, ATIS, Attic Group, Bio Alimentar, Cacpeco, Caprodet, CIAT, Compliance Ecuodo, Comunicacione, Conservacion International, Coe Progreso, Cuencal Emac, Diners Club, Eco Shop, Ecuador 2030, Elements, Empresa Electrica, Escuela de Gastronomía, ESQUEL, GD Difawe, Getulio Vargas Foundation, Gira, Glasgow City Council, Global Shapers, Green Dependent Institute, Grupo 4, Herbalite Nutrition, Hot or Cool, ICLEI World Secretariat, IGES, Moderna Alimentos, Mingas por el mar, Moss, Munay, Perspectivas Ambientale, Plan International, Purpose Disruptor, Red Protectores, Radio Kscad, Robinski, Santo Domingo, 89 Simbiosis Industrial, Super Foods, Tandari, Universidad Hemisferos, Uteo, UTPL, WBCSD and WWF.

53 BANDAI NAMCO Entertainment America, Creative Mobile OU, E-Line Media, GameDuell, Goodgame Studios, Hinterland Games, MAG Interactive, Mojang Studios, NetEase Games, Niantic, PlayStation Studios Media Molecule, PlayStation Studios Team ASOBI, PerpGames, Rovio Entertainment, ShiftSpace, Sony Interactive Entertainment Platform Team, Space Ape Games, Supercell, Sybo, Tiramisu, Toppluva, Ubisoft Annecy, Ubisoft Barcelona Mobile, Ubisoft Future Games of London, Ubisoft Mainz, Ubisoft Paris, Ustwo Games, Wildworks, Wooga, Tribuna Ecoatoriana



UNEP led the development of the methodology for SDG 12.3.1 indicator on food waste, which was adopted with some COVID-19-related delays in 2021, thereby postponing many countries food waste reporting to mid-2022 and beyond. The Food Waste Index 2021 reports that food waste from households, retail establishments and the food service industry totals 931 million tonnes each year, with more than half occurring at the household level. The report also revealed that food waste is remarkably similar from lower-middle income to high-income countries, suggesting that most countries have room to improve. UNEP supported 22 countries to start measuring their food waste during the biennium.

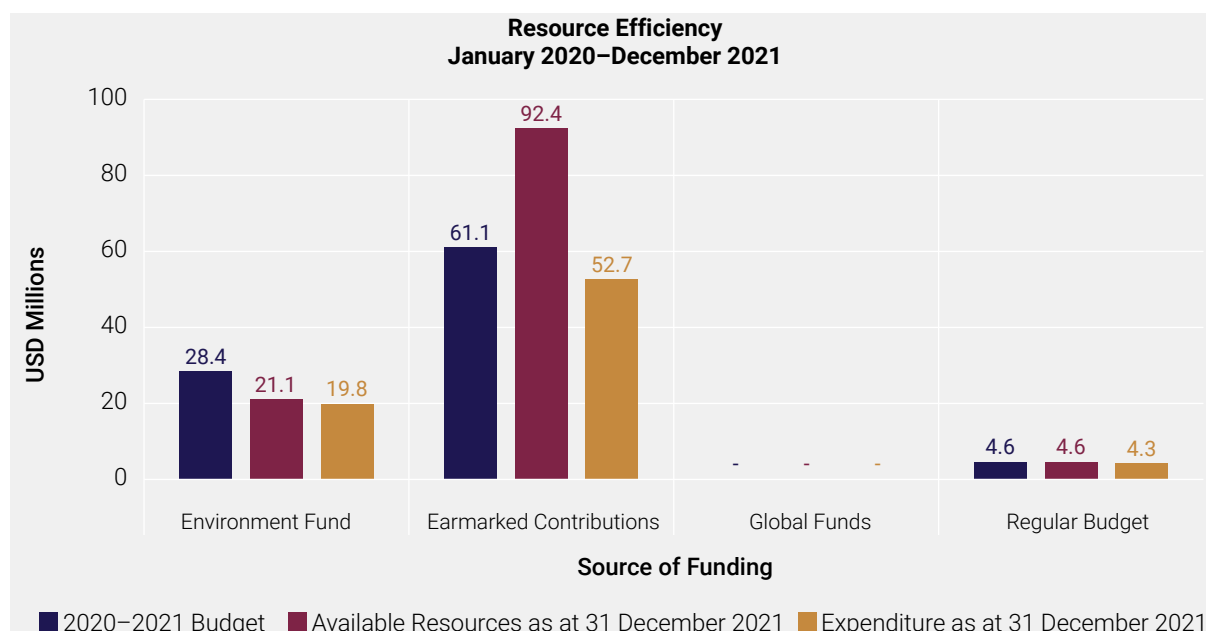
Opportunities, Challenges and Lessons Learned

- UNEP adjusted ongoing activities and designed new ones to be responsive to the COVID-19 pandemic, focusing on supporting Member States to identify opportunities to mainstream an inclusive green economy and build sustainable consumption and production approaches in economic stimulus packages and recovery plans.
- The main lesson learnt from the 2020-2021 biennium is for UNEP to support the transformation of value chains across high impact sectors to address the climate, nature and pollution crises, using a life cycle approach and by addressing key drivers of economic transformation and finance, as reflected in the 2022-2025 MTS.

- Despite the progress made under this subprogramme, natural resource management remains largely unsustainable and requires urgent and impactful action by Member States, businesses and society. UNEP will increasingly leverage science-based knowledge, UN Reform and strategic partnerships for better impact as this subprogramme transitions into the new Finance and Economic Transformations subprogramme.
- Of the planned Environment Fund budget for the 2020-2021 biennium of US\$ 28.4 million, only US\$ 21.1 million was received. This was part of an overall trend whereby UNEP received a smaller amount of Environment Fund contributions than originally projected.
- Earmarked funds compensated to some degree for the Environment Fund shortfall. The subprogramme received US\$ 92.4 million (against a projected budget of US\$ 61.1 million) from earmarked funds contributions. However, since part of this amount represents multi-year contributions, only a portion can be accounted for towards the 2020-2021 biennium.
- Overall expenditure for the biennium stands at US\$ 76.8 million, which is 82% of the target biennium budget of US\$ 93.7 million.

Figure 17: Financial overview - Resource efficiency

Resource Efficiency (2020-2021)			
Fund type	2020-2021 budget (in million US\$)	Available resources (in million US\$) as at 31 Dec 2021 ⁵⁴	Expenditure (in million US\$) as at 31 Dec 2021
Environment Fund	28.4	21.1	19.8
Earmarked contributions	61.1	92.4	52.7
Global funds	-	-	-
Regular Budget	4.6	4.6	4.3
Total	94.1	118.1	76.8



⁵⁴ Includes multi-year contributions beyond 2021

Success Story: Sustainable Private Finance is on the Move

The UNEP FI [Principles for Responsible Banking](#) are a unique framework for ensuring that signatory banks' strategies and practices align with the vision society has set out for its future in the SDGs and the Paris Climate Agreement. Created in 2019 through a partnership between founding banks and UNEP, the Principles are designed to bring purpose, vision and ambition to sustainable finance. Signatory banks commit to embedding these Principles across all business areas, at the strategic, portfolio and transactional levels. Over 250 banks from all regions and representing over 40% of banking assets worldwide, have joined this movement for change and embarked on their 4-year journeys of impact analysis, target setting and reporting.

Transparency and accountability are essential to providing long-term credibility to this movement. A new [Civil Society Advisory Body](#) was established in March 2021 as a unique forum for meaningful and constructive engagement between wider civil society and the collective of signatories. Composed of 12 organizations with each representing a region, a key sustainability topic and a key stakeholder group, the Body is designed to support signatory banks to implement the Principles and assess progress.

In 2021, the founding banks published their initial 1.5-year progress reports across their activities. A [report](#) published by the UNEP-FI with an independent view from the Civil Society Advisory Body, summarizes the progress made by banks who have signed the *Principles for Responsible Banking*.

The report finds early indications of impact on the real economy, with US\$2.3 trillion of sustainable finance being mobilized in 18 months.

Key findings from the report show early signs of progress, including that 94% of banks identify sustainability as a strategic priority for their organisation, 93% are analysing the environmental and social impacts of their activities, and 30% are setting targets, with a strong collective focus on climate and financial inclusion.

The UNEP FI Banking Board and Secretariat indicate continued and accelerated action is needed from signatories. Suggested areas of improvement include enhancing the availability and quality of data, setting targets in line with improved impact analysis, and increasing action on critical sustainability issues such as biodiversity loss, equality and human rights.

Environment under Review

UNEP's environment under review work focuses on four areas:

Developing policy-relevant environmental assessments

Identifying emerging issues and early warnings assessments

Using data to monitor SDG progress and shape future implementation

Providing the scientific basis for the environmental dimension of the Common Country Analyses and UN Sustainable Development Frameworks

By December 2021, the subprogramme attained five of its six indicator targets and fell behind on one target.

Enabling Policy Environment

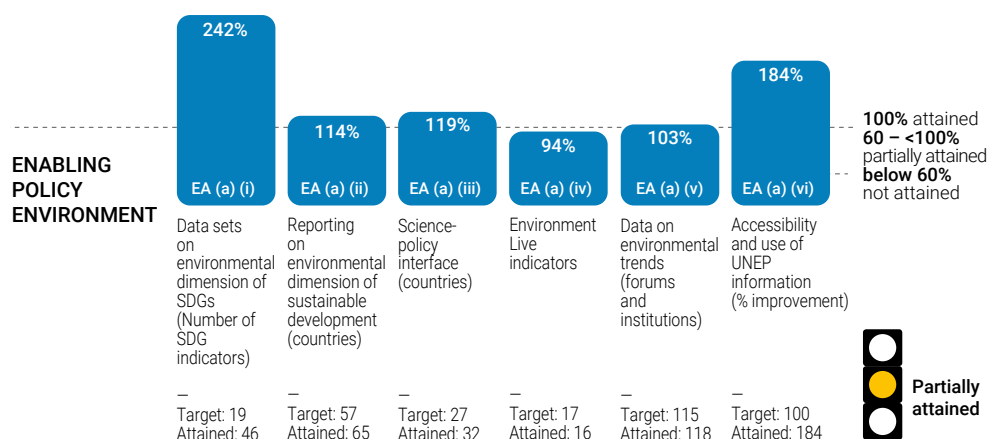
Data as a foundation for evidence-based action

Strengthening environmental data capacities and availability of science-based standards are needed for policymakers to improve understanding of the environmental priority actions required for achieving sustainable development. The 2nd report on [Measuring Progress: Environment and the SDGs \(2021\)](#) demonstrates progress achieved by 92 environment related SDG indicators. Furthermore, the report could potentially contribute to further studying of the links between the environmental and socio-economic SDG indicators by adopting statistical analysis. Even though 58% of environmental indicators have insufficient data to assess progress, trends show that general data availability has improved.

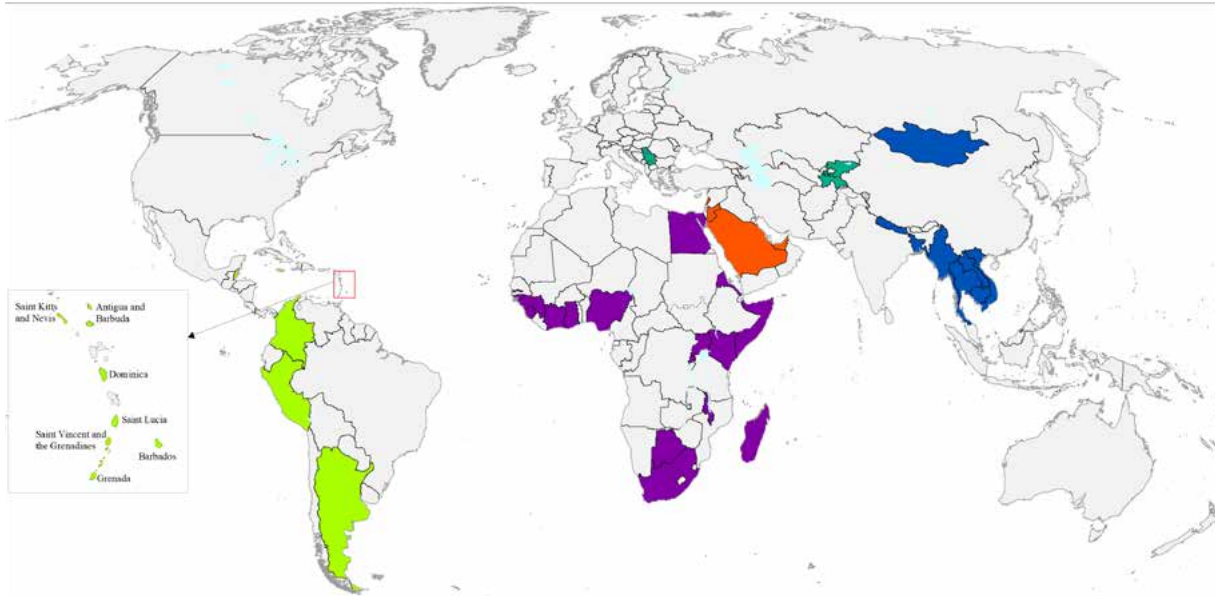
In 2021, UNEP supported stakeholders in their efforts to improve smart environmental data generation, monitoring and analysis through the World Environment Situation Room (WESR). This data underpins the UNCT's Common Country Analysis (CCA) and the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework. Additionally, UNEP engaged with UNCTs and UN Resident Coordinators in at least 15 pilot countries and provided outreach to 20 additional countries to enhance the [WESR platform](#).

Indicators of Achievement Expected Accomplishment

Figure 18: Environment under review results



WESR CCA Countries – Implementation



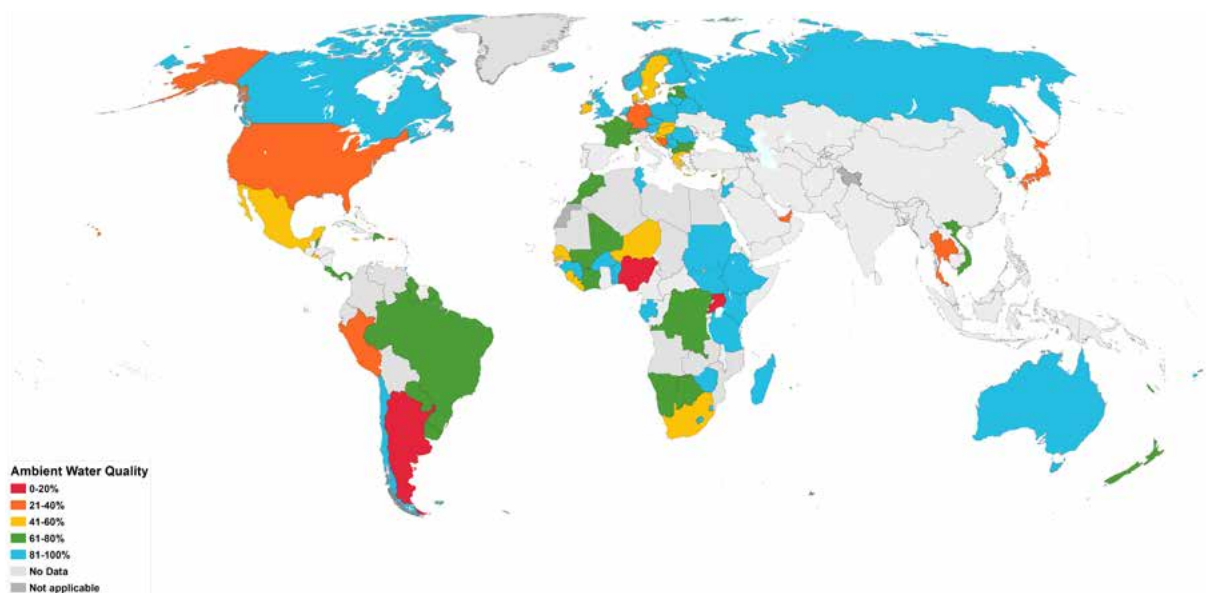
(Source: <https://wesr-cca.unepgrid.ch/>)

Disclaimer: The boundaries and names shown, and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Using disaggregated data to refine policy responses according to local contexts is important to meet the needs of specific ecosystems. In a 2020 data drive, 89 countries submitted data on SDG indicator 6.3.2 for

which UNEP is the custodian agency. This resulted in the publication of the report, [Progress on Ambient Water Quality in 2021](#) by the UN-Water Integrated Monitoring Initiative for SDG 6 (IMI-SDG6).

Map 12: Progress on Ambient Air Quality



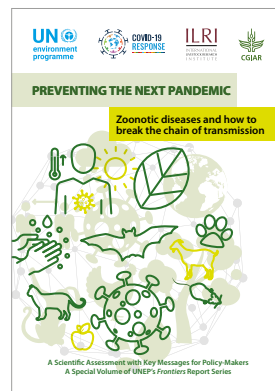
Disclaimer: The boundaries and names shown, and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.⁵⁵

⁵⁵ Source of Map 12: <https://sdg6data.org/indicator/6.3.2>

Promoting uptake of science for policy action

UNEP's science-oriented publications deliver information and knowledge in an effort to influence critical sustainable development processes as well as relevant stakeholders, including civil society, governments and non-governmental organizations, the business community and citizens. The scientific information from the emissions gap analysis done by UNEP helped countries make a difference at COP26.

In 2021, the Global Environmental Outlook (GEO) 6 was impactful in the areas of policy, biodiversity and human health as evidenced by its numerous citations in publications. The report also influenced further research and policy recommendations. In Algeria, at a meeting [organised by the National Economic and Social Council of Algeria](#), GEO-6 presented an opportunity to debate and exchange views on the dynamics of new environmental policies and propose recommendations aimed at better coherence and coordination of sustainable development policies at both national and international levels.



In 2020, UNEP published a special volume of Frontiers Report Series, entitled: [Preventing the next pandemic - Zoonotic diseases and how to break the chain of transmission](#). It offered a set of practical recommendations that has contributed to an enhancement of the level of awareness of the COVID-19 crisis, and the capacity of countries to prevent and respond to future zoonotic disease outbreaks and pandemics.

The [Emissions Gap Report 2021: The Heat Is On](#); released ahead of COP26, revealed that NDCs leave the world on track for a global temperature rise of at least 2.7°C this century. Following the EGR 2021, the [Adaptation Gap Report: The Gathering Storm](#); was released. The report found that around 79% of countries have adopted at least one national-level adaptation planning instrument – an increase of 7% since 2020.

Despite current obligations to regularly report data and information related to hazardous waste, persistent organic pollutants (POPs) and ozone depleting substances (ODS), many countries still fail to fully meet reporting commitments under the key global MEAs on chemical and hazardous waste. In December 2021, UNEP launched the [Global Chemicals and Waste Indicator Review](#). The review responds to the need for better information to empower stakeholders to act and support policy making aimed at sound management of waste.



Impact on knowledge exchange and capacity development

In 2021, UNEP increased the capacity for regions and nations to utilize environmental data, information, and policy analytics. Through the GEF-funded cross-cutting capacity development (CCCD) projects, UNEP supported 15 countries,⁵⁶ the Cook Islands and Niue to build capacity in implementation, monitoring and reporting of MEAs and relevant SDGs. For example, in Haiti, the development of the first operational public version of the [National Environmental Information System \(NEIS\)](#) platform was published and finalized in March 2021. This platform is intended to collect data on the environment in Haiti, to assess, inform and monitor the state of the environment of the country.

In Europe, a new knowledge sharing platform (KSP) on environmental information system (SEIS) principles of open access to data, was developed in close partnership with the UNECE. The platform offers users an opportunity to learn from good SDGs practices shared in South-Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the Caucasus” project.⁵⁷

In the Asia-Pacific region, the [inaugural regional session of the UNEP Science Policy Business Forum for Asia and the Pacific \(AP-SPBF\)](#) was held in October 2021. The outcome and recommendations of AP-SPBF 2021 were presented to the 4th session of the Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities of Asia Pacific on 6 October 2021. Some of the key recommendations included the need for urgent action at COP 26, the need to make use of available “environmental intelligence” and data, and the need to put nature at the heart of pandemic recovery.

⁵⁶ Benin, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Haiti, Kiribati, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Saint Lucia, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

⁵⁷ Countries covered under this project include Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, North Macedonia and Tajikistan.

Informing policymaking processes

UNEP assessments demonstrated impact in policymaking processes in 2021. For example, the [Adaptation Gap Report 2020](#) is referred to in the [EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change, 2021](#). The strategy aims at making the European Union resilient to the adverse effects of climate change by 2050.

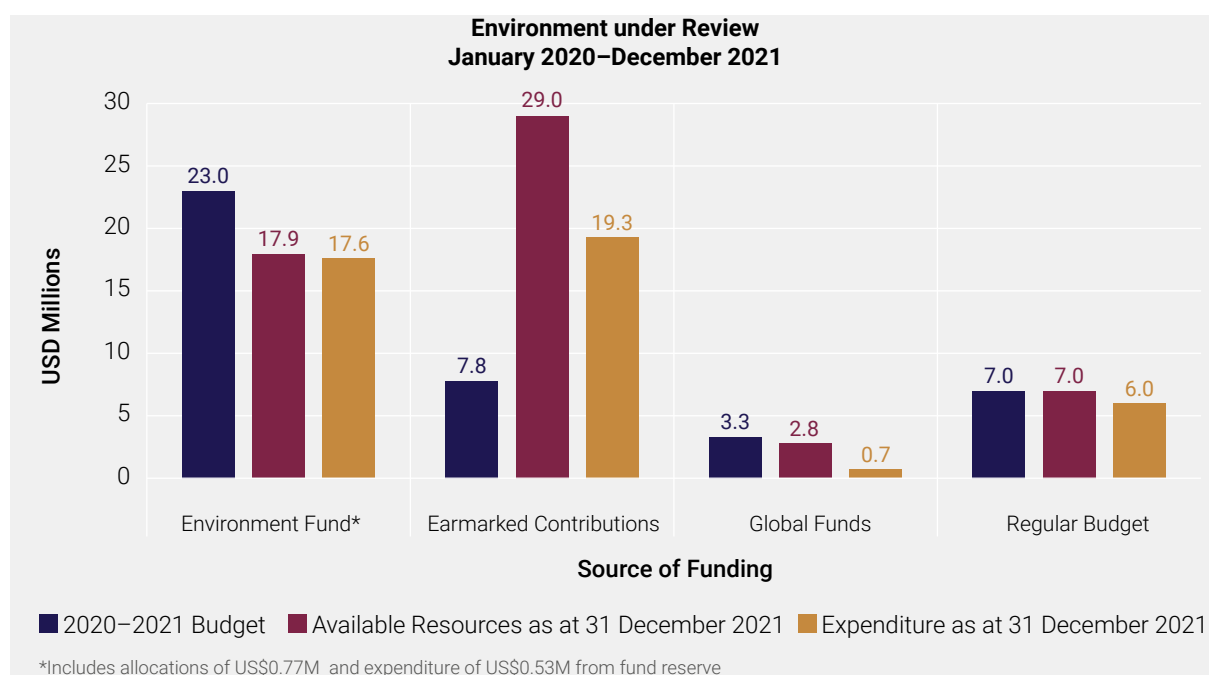
UNEP’s [Global guidance for life cycle impact assessment indicators](#) (2016), and [Global guidance principles for life cycle assessment databases](#) (2011) are cited in the [Commission Recommendation \(EU\) 2021/2279 of 15 December 2021](#) on the use of the Environmental Footprint methods to measure and communicate the life cycle environmental performance of products and organizations. The recommendation promotes the use of the Environmental Footprint methods in relevant policies and schemes.

Challenges, Opportunities and Lessons Learned

- There is a global emphasis on developing more refined and impact-oriented environmental indicators to improve future interventions. Through UNCTs, UNEP can seize the opportunity to bring the use of environmental statistics, indicators, and accounts to the economic and social level. This will equip policymakers to interpret environmental data, set targets, and mitigate environmental risk.
- In efforts to strengthen the Science-Policy Interface platform, UNEP is working on a robust Strategic Foresight framework with Horizon Scanning capabilities to influence public opinion to enable evidence-based policy making. This will be done by identifying, assessing and prioritizing innovations and environmental trends at an early stage so that they can influence public opinion and support evidence-based policy making.
- Out of the planned Environment Fund budget for 2020-2021 of US\$ 23 million, US\$ 17.9 million was received. This was part of an overall trend whereby UNEP received a smaller amount of Environment Fund contributions than originally projected.

Figure 19: Financial Overview - Environment under review

Environment under Review (2020-2021)			
Fund type	2020-2021 budget (in million US\$)	Available resources (in million US\$) as at 31 Dec 2021 ⁵⁸	Expenditure (in million US\$) as at 31 Dec 2021
Environment Fund	23.0	17.9	17.6
Earmarked contributions	7.8	29.0	19.3
Global funds	3.3	2.8	0.7
Regular Budget	7.0	7.0	6.0
Total	41.1	56.7	43.6



- Earmarked funds compensated to some degree for the Environment Fund shortfall. The subprogramme received US\$ 29 million (against a planned budget of US\$ 7.8 million) from Earmarked Funds contributions. However, as some of this amount represents multi-year contributions, only part of it can be counted against 2020-2021.
- The subprogramme received US\$ 2.8 million (against a planned budget of US\$ 3.3 million) from Global Funds. Overall expenditure for the biennium, therefore, stands at US\$ 43.6 million, which is 106% of the target budget of US\$ 41.1 million.

⁵⁸ Includes multi-year contributions beyond 2021

Success Story: Enhancing Early Warning Systems in Timor-Leste

Timor-Leste is a Least Developed Country (LDC), and a Small Island Developing State (SIDS) whose infrastructure and governmental systems were devastated by a 25-year war of independence. The country is highly vulnerable to both extreme climate and slow-onset events, with very limited capacity to prepare for, and recover from climate impacts. As the frequency and intensity of these events increases, Timor-Leste needs accurate, timely and actionable information and early warnings about local weather, water, climate and ocean conditions and related risks to human and environmental health.

Approved at the 30th meeting of the Green Climate Fund (GCF) Board, this US\$ 21.7 million Project (FP171) will address the urgent need for integrated and end-to-end climate information services and multi-hazard early warning systems (MHEWS) through comprehensive institutional, technical and technological capacity building from national to local level to generate and disseminate robust climate data and information at all stages of the climate services value chain.

This initiative is country-driven and responds to needs identified in Timor-Leste's 2021 National Adaptation Plan. It will deliver transformative impact to the entire population of Timor-Leste, including 1.03 million people as direct beneficiaries (80% of the population). **The initiative will directly contribute to the attainment of selected targets and indicators of Article 7 of the Paris Agreement, SDG 13 on Climate Action, SDG 3 on Good Health and Well-Being and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.**



Flooding in Timor-Leste, April 2021 (Photo: Machel Silveira)



3. Fit for Purpose

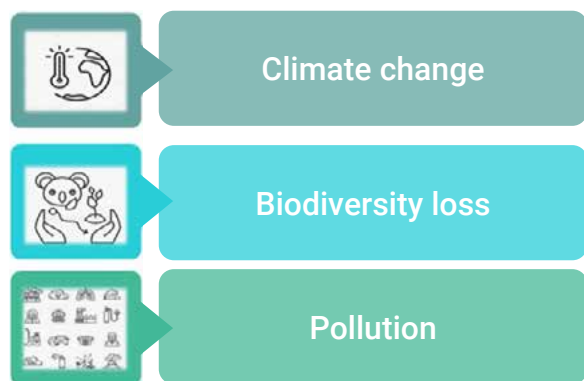
3.1 Leadership for the Planet

UNEP provided clear leadership in setting the global environmental agenda and in coordinating policy across the United Nations system during the 2020-2021 period.

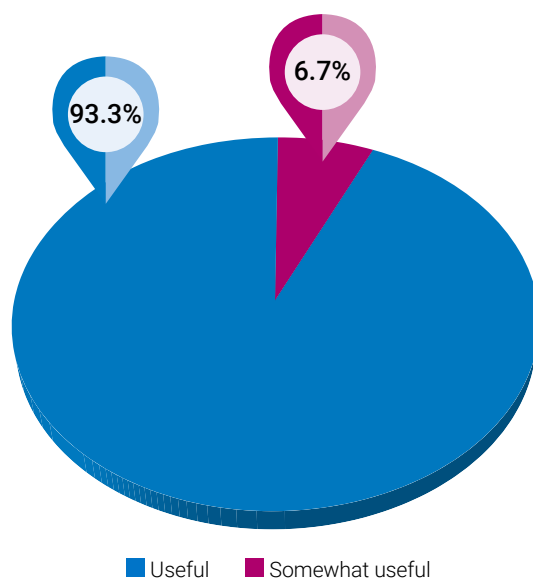
UN Environment Assembly

The first virtual UNEA session took place from 22 to 23 February 2021. UNEA 5.1 adopted a decision on a new transformative MTS for 2022-2025, and PoW and Budget for the biennium 2022-2023. This new MTS and PoW will work to tackle the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity and nature loss, and pollution and waste. The Assembly concluded with an urgent call for action to solve these three crises and also adopted a political message entitled '[Looking ahead to the resumed UN Environment Assembly in 2022](#)'.

Climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution remained the top three global environmental issues relevant to respondent countries in a mandated survey administered by UNEP in December 2021. In terms of the relevance of UNEA, 93.3% of Member State respondents indicated that it was useful in drawing attention to important global environmental issues relevant to their countries. This number was slightly lower than the 95.8% recorded in a similar survey issued in December 2020.



Top three global environment issues



Usefulness of UNEA in drawing attention to important global environmental issues

Leadership on the Environmental Dimension of Sustainable Development

UN Reform

UN Reform is one of the cornerstones of UNEP's 2022-2025 MTS adopted in 2021. Raising the environmental ambition within the UN system and delivering on the environmental dimension of sustainable development in collaboration with other UN entities is one of the MTS's four levers of change that will drive UNEP towards achieving transformative results. In 2021, through the development of its MTS, UNEP defined the key priorities and put in place the necessary building blocks to respond to the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR) of operational activities for development of the UN system.

UNEP continues to enhance its engagement with global, regional, and national processes and platforms convened under the umbrella of the Reform. At the UNCT level, UNEP provides sound environmental data and analyses, to incorporate environment and climate in the Common Country Analyses and Sustainable Cooperation Frameworks. At a global level, under the auspices of the UNSDG, UNEP together with UNDP and the Development Coordination Office (DCO) have been facilitating a system-wide response to the triple planetary crisis to leverage the full potential of the UN system by strengthening the capacities of and providing guidance and integrated advisory services to Resident Coordinators and UNCTs.

UNEP supported the integration of environmental sustainability into policy, programme and operational guidance within the United Nations system by engaging in the UNSDG, the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) and other processes, and by supporting the dissemination of their decisions and guidance tools through regional and country mechanisms. Examples include: UNSDG work on financing for SDGs and the implementation of the CEB Common Approach on Biodiversity. UNEP strengthened strategic bilateral partnerships with UN development entities, such as the partnership with FAO, UNDP and WHO, as well as multi-agency partnerships and initiatives, such as the Tripartite Alliance on One Health and PAGE, among others.

Environment Management Group

UNEP has strengthened its contribution to key intergovernmental and inter-agency coordination mechanisms through impact-oriented partnerships with UN entities. As chair of the EMG, UNEP developed United Nations system-wide coordination related to specific environmental issues, harnessing the Group's collective capacity to develop UN system responses for a more sustainable world, including in a post-COVID-19 scenario.

Greening the Blue

Within the larger UN system, UNEP continued to influence progress on the implementation of Phase I of the UN Strategy for Sustainability Management via the [Greening the Blue initiative](#). UNEP assisted 10 entities deliver environmental management, training modules on sustainable procurement, released advice on science-based targets and on the selection of sustainable common premises in collaboration with the UN task team on Common premises.

Since 2020, the [Greening the Blue Report](#) has been aligned with the strategy and provides information to the public about its implementation. The report focuses on the environmental impacts of over 315,000 personnel in Headquarters, field offices and operations on the ground with data from 56 UN system entities. The report points out that 19% of UN electricity comes from renewable sources and that the UN system was able to offset 99 per cent of its Green House Gas emissions. However, there is recognition that more needs to be done and the priority for the UN system remains emissions reductions and elimination. A new, stricter baseline was established in 2020 on environmental governance to align the UN system with international best practices in environmental management.

3.2 Strengthened Effectiveness, Efficiency and Accountability

Evaluations

Project Evaluations

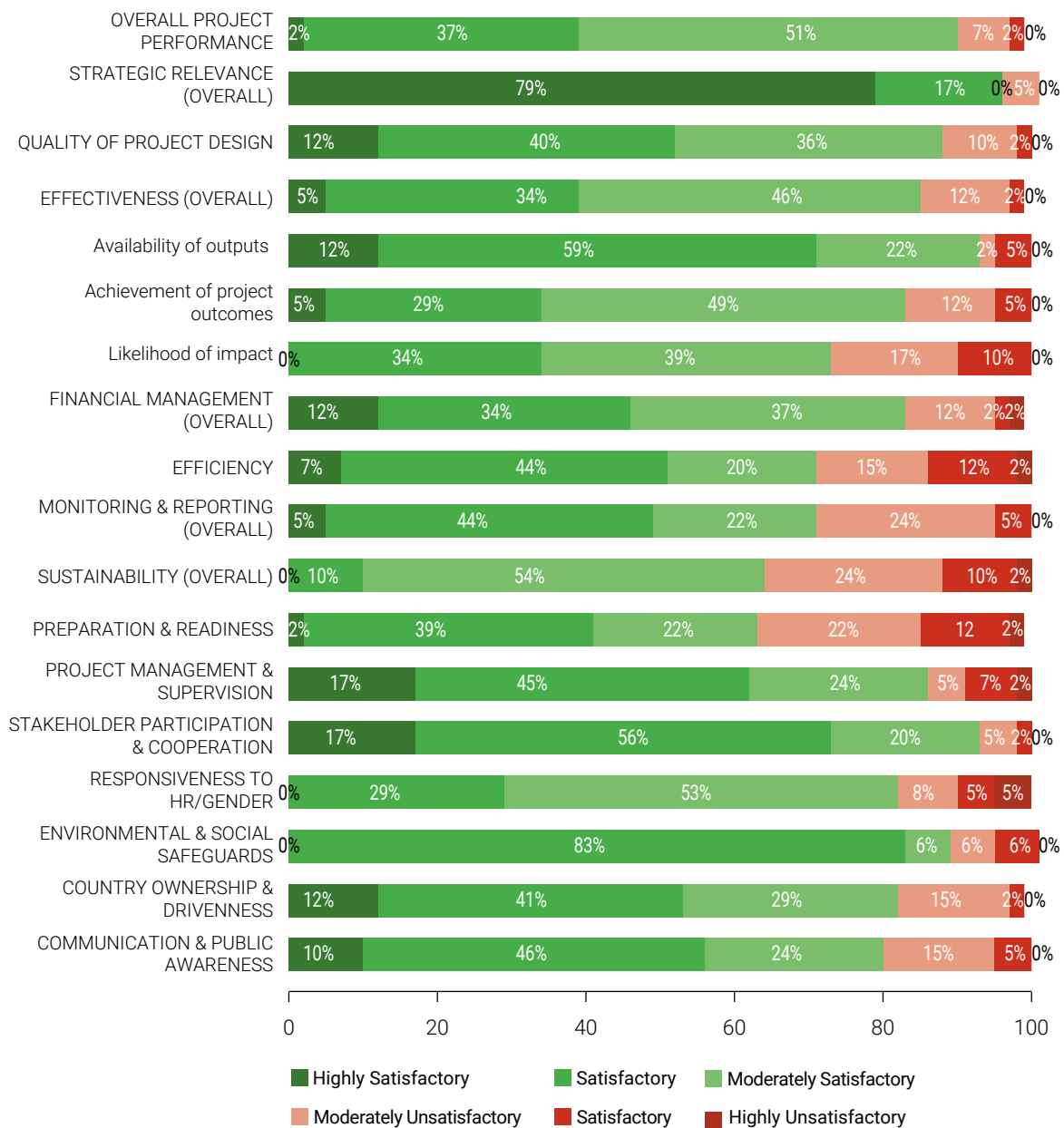
During 2021, the Evaluation Office completed 18 project level evaluations, mostly conducted through desk and telecommunication-based approaches. Several project-level evaluations requiring field-based data collection phases remained on-hold due to COVID-19 related public health restrictions affecting the feasibility of travel. Towards the year-end, some evaluation processes resumed using in-country national consultants to gather information from field locations.

Strategic Review on UNEP Poverty-related Results

The Evaluation Office completed a strategic review of UNEP's poverty-related results and the findings and recommendations were discussed with senior managers during 2021. The review found that UNEP evaluations often highlight the fact that poverty effects from projects are broad (e.g., generally targeting Less Developed Countries), implied (e.g., improving the environmental context and climate conditions) or indirect (e.g., healthier ecosystems can support more families living at subsistence level or on the margins of ecological sustainability). In this regard, many UNEP projects do include the interests and needs of poor and vulnerable groups. However, there is infrequent participation in project design and the needs of poor and vulnerable groups are not often informed by a more formal assessment on the multi-dimensional aspects of poverty. Additionally, stakeholder needs are not necessarily followed through in project implementation. Adequate baselines for parameters of relevance for poverty are often absent.

Nevertheless, higher-level strategy documents (such as the PoW) covering aspects of poverty and results related to poor and vulnerable groups are included in some cases, in terms of the impact expected to be achieved by 2030. However, there was no explicit focus on how to achieve these changes through the 2018-21 Medium Term Strategy period and beyond. At the project level, the relationship between environment-related objectives and poverty are not made explicit.

Figure 20: Project Performance by evaluation criteria in 2020-2021



*the UPPERCASE labels denote MAIN evaluation criteria, whereas lower case denote sub-criteria.

To ensure that stronger poverty reduction effects are realised there is a need to:

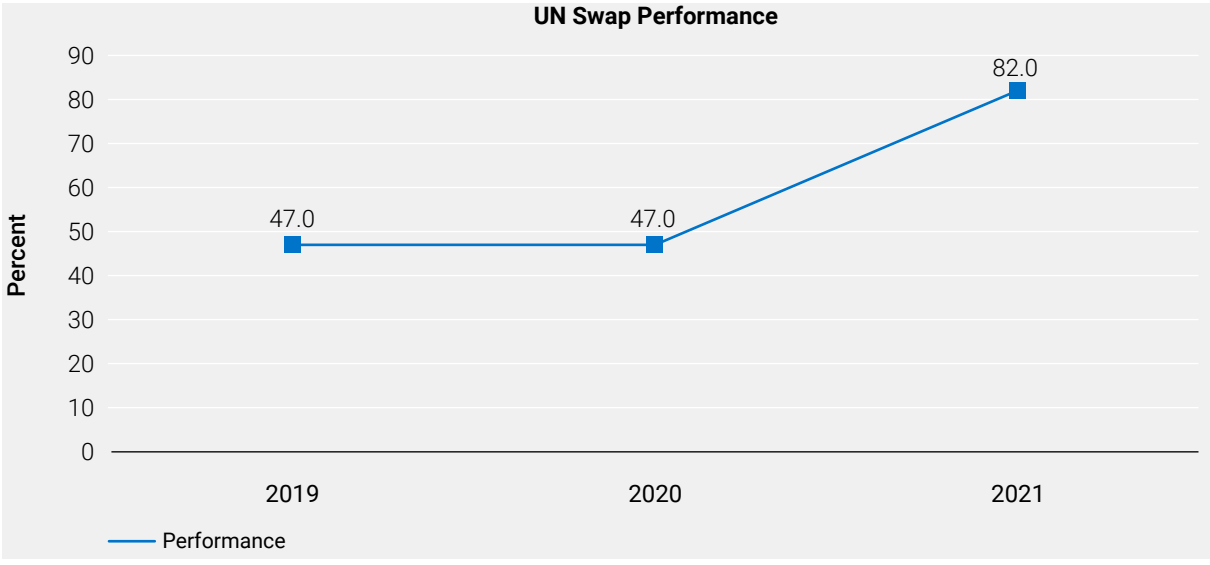
- make poverty reduction and social development concerns explicit in UNEP strategies and planning documents;
- provide guidance to support improved project designs (e.g., different poverty-related scenarios);
- improve in-house capacity to provide poverty reduction/social development advice to project and programme designers; and
- ensure that UNEP works with UNRCs and resident agencies to enhance the poverty-related effects of UNEP's work.

A Gender Champion

UN-SWAP Performance

The UN system-wide Action Plan (UN-SWAP) is a UN system-wide accountability framework designed to measure, monitor and drive progress towards a common set of standards to which to aspire and adhere for the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women. In 2021, UNEP met or exceeded 82% of the 17 UN-SWAP Performance Indicators (PIs). This achievement marked an overall 35-percentage point increase from 2020.

Figure 21: UNEP - UN SWAP Performance Trends - 2019-2021



Mainstreaming Gender

Between 2020-2021, a review on gender-responsive project planning and development using the UNEP Gender Marker system found that 106 out of 128

(82.8%) project documents mainstreamed gender, while 22 mainstreamed gender partially (17.2%). Additionally, a review of 83 concept reviews was carried out and feedback provided through a Gender Comments report.

Gender in Action

Women and Natural Resources: Breaking the Gender Barriers in Peacebuilding

Women and girls play a critical role in sustaining communities and managing natural resources. However, gender based-inequalities regarding access and control over vital natural resources still persist, particularly in conflict-affected-contexts that experience compound risks associated with climate change and environmental degradation.

The [Joint Programme on Women, Natural Resources, Climate and Peace](#) was established to promote natural resource-based interventions as a tool for strengthening women's participation in peacebuilding, mediation and conflict prevention. The programme carried out successful pilot projects in Colombia and Sudan that highlighted the value of natural resources and the environment as an entry point to empowering women in peacebuilding contexts. The intervention in Sudan resulted in a 20% increase in female membership in the local Conflict Mitigation and Peacebuilding Centre and a significant shift in community perception of the importance of women's roles in natural resource conflict resolution. The project also strengthened women's economic recovery by promoting climate-resilient and sustainable livelihood options. By the end of the project, 87 per cent of women who received livelihood support, including through home-based gardens and newly established cooperative farms, reported increased income.

Project interventions in Colombia strengthened the capacity of women and men in the department of Chocó to implement the unique Constitutional Court rule T-622, granting "rights" to the Atrato River, including rights to protection, conservation, and restoration. The 750 km river serves as a critical lifeline for communities, but following years of armed conflict, illegal activities, such as the trafficking of drugs and weapons and the exploitation of gold, wood and other natural resources have threatened the river ecosystem. Project activities aimed at capacitating local communities – and particularly women – with skills in mediation and dialogue led to the enhancement of women's leadership in the prevention of natural resource-related conflicts and strengthened relationships between women environmental and human rights defenders. These successful project outcomes highlight the intersecting nature of gender, environment, climate and peace, which cannot be ignored.

Reduction of Greenhouse Gas Emissions from UNEP

With significant worldwide travel restrictions and large portions of UN personnel working from home, the UN system generated approximately 25% fewer GHG emissions than that reported in 2019. The steep reduction reflects the sudden and dramatic adaptations in operations that had to be made throughout 2020, as a result of the global COVID-19 pandemic.

Additionally, UNEP implemented a post-pandemic sustainable meeting culture to reduce GHG emissions from travelling. A cross functional task force was formed to review several aspects including UNEP's travel patterns, current policies and guidelines; and identify training needs, infrastructure, platforms and user equipment requirement. A UNEP wide survey was launched to gather information to inform management on how to make virtual meetings and events more effective. The knowledge gained will be shared with other UN entities to push for a reduction in UN GHG emissions.

Beyond the mitigation efforts, UNEP has purchased Certificates of Emission Reduction (CERs) to offset and neutralize its climate footprint since 2008, when agency GHG measurements began. Because of unforeseen circumstances this year, UNEP decided to purchase CERs in bulk with the rest of the Secretariat for 2020 emissions. The total Secretariat emissions for offsetting are 959,681 tonnes CO₂eq. UNEP's share of the emissions to be offset are 2,589 tonnes CO₂eq.

Enhanced Risk Management

As of June 2021, UNEP's senior management team endorsed the Enterprise Risk Management and Internal Control framework and implementation plans. Following a top-down risk assessment approach based on internal and external audit reviews, senior-level discussions and various organizations assessments, 20 risk profiles were identified. This zero draft risk register was assessed and the top nine high level risks were validated. In November, 2021 the first UNEP Risk Register was endorsed. The business risk owners assigned to each risk drafted Treatment and Response Plans to be implemented and monitored in 2022. In June 2022, the ERM cycle will be repeated and the Risk register is expected to be expanded.

The Quarterly Business Review

In 2020-2021, UNEP anticipated the value of aggregating data collected through the years from project implementation and created an internal dashboard that is presented to the UNEP Senior Management (SMT) on a quarterly basis. It seeks to turn unrelated sources of data into coherent visually immersive and interactive insights.

The data presented to the SMT in the quarterly business report includes data on project performance, key donors, an assessment of human resources, such as gender and geographic balance and the current allocation of vacant versus encumbered positions across UNEP.

While human resources and funding are important to the delivery of UNEP's mandate, the Quarterly Business Review process connects these two elements with information on how projects are impacted by three project implementation indicators: time, budget, and scope of implementation.

Furthermore, analysis is also provided on active risks by audits and evaluation lessons learnt on projects. Risks include now active (formerly unanticipated) risks like COVID-19, and further analysis on pre-emptive risks generated by the Board of Auditors (BOA), OIOS audits and the lessons from project and subprogramme evaluations. After a trial run, the Quarterly Business Review process has now been mainstreamed into the internal UNEP programme implementation and management review process.

Policies and Standards for Oversight and Management

Several corporate policies, strategies, and plans were implemented to guide operations. These include:

- Environmental Management Strategy (EMS)- December 2020
- Enterprise Risk Management (ERM)- June 2021
- Statement of Internal Control- June 2021
- Delegation of Authority (for MEAs)- October 2021
- Partnerships Policy- September 2021

To support the implementation of administrative policies of UNEP and the UN Secretariat, UNEP approved and issued Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) on Recruitment. A number of other SOPs in relation to finance, procurement, budget and COVID-19 were also created and are currently in use. Since being put into practice there has been a reduction in errors, fewer HR related audit recommendations and detections of exceptions by the Business Transformation and Accountability Department. UNEP also issued other guidelines in response to the COVID-19 pandemic in areas such as business continuity, travel, events, flexible working arrangements and return to office.

Improving Environmental and Social Safeguards

In 2021, project managers' judgement in relation to the identification of higher risk projects improved. It shot up to 71.7% in December 2021 from 44.4% in 2020 and 8.5% in 2017. Project and safeguard information disclosure increased from 24% to 36% in one year, thanks to safeguard training and advocacy.

Despite steady integration of safeguard measures within the project management cycle, their management, monitoring, reporting and evaluation require further improvement and streamlining. A system that facilitates safeguards and gender risk management is currently being formulated to track the risk types, management, related challenges and adaptation. Through this system, UNEP will strengthen the capacity of its project staff and implementing partners at multiple levels, including areas covering safeguard risks identification, assessment, management planning, stakeholder engagement, monitoring, reporting and evaluation, and grievance response.

UNEA Monitoring and Reporting Portal

The UNEA Monitoring and Reporting Portal was officially launched on 16 October 2020. It was designed and developed by UNEP, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives in response to UNEA Resolution 4/22 on the implementation and follow

up of UNEA resolutions. It provides easily accessible information on the implementation of the decisions of the leading global authority on the environment, strengthening oversight. It also provides Member States with an opportunity for voluntary reporting on their implementation of UNEA outcomes.

Participatory Monitoring

UNEP's survey of stakeholders in December 2021 on the implementation of its PoW found that 86% of Member State and partner respondents considered UNEP programmes and products useful, a decrease from 91.7% in a similar survey conducted in December 2020. The survey also found that 86% of Member State respondents believed UNEP support to countries was of good quality, an increase from 83% in December 2020. Additionally, 72% of Member State respondents rated UNEP support to countries as coherent, a decrease from 83% in December 2020.

A Trusted Partner

UNEP and the Global Environment Facility

UNEP is a founding partner of the [Global Environment Fund](#) (GEF) along with UNDP and the World Bank, and has been actively developing and implementing GEF projects since 1992. Hosting and administering three of the five MEAs for which GEF serves as the financial mechanism (the CBD, Stockholm and Minamata Conventions), in addition to hosting the GEF Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP), UNEP recognizes its great synergies with GEF, and actively programmes finance and delivers results in all GEF focal areas (Biodiversity, Chemicals and Waste, Climate Change Mitigation, Climate Change Adaptation, International Waters and Land Degradation).

By the end of 2021, the final full year of the GEF-7 programming cycle, UNEP's portfolio of GEF-supported projects under implementation and approved concepts under development was valued at over US\$ 1.36 billion. The organisation had programmed 16% of GEF-7 funding to be released by the end of 2021, a 2% growth against the previous GEF cycle, with this figure expected to grow further as final GEF-7 funding approvals are expected to be announced in 2022.

The strong relationship between UNEP and the GEF is underlined by the selection of UNEP to lead a range of flagship GEF global initiatives, including the Congo Basin Sustainable Landscapes Impact Program, Global Opportunities for Long-term Development of artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM) Sector, the Global Programme to Support Countries with the Shift to Electric Mobility, Implementing Sustainable Low and Non-Chemical Development in Small Island Developing States (ISLANDS) and the Sustainable Cities Impact Program (UrbanShift).

With close alignment between GEF-8 Programming and UNEP's 2022-25 Medium-term Strategy, UNEP expects to further reinforce its partnership with the GEF, and the support this provides to Member States, in the upcoming GEF-8 funding cycle.

Green Climate Fund

Since 2015, UNEP has been an Accredited Entity and Delivery Partner of the GCF. UNEP envisions its partnership with the GCF to garner country-owned and country-tailored innovative solutions in niche areas to help achieve the climate objectives under the Paris Agreement, and ultimately accelerate climate action and ambition to deliver results for Member States.

From Jan 2020 to Dec 2021, 30 countries were supported and accessed US\$ 89.7 million for 29 proposals approved by the GCF. These proposals include 27 Readiness Projects which provide support towards reducing emissions through renewable energy and energy efficiency, REDD+ initiatives and climate technology solutions. Additionally, there are also two Funded Activities which support countries towards establishing science-based, data-driven climate information services and impact-based multi-hazard early warning systems. These activities underpin evidence-based policy, planning and decision making for climate action.

Two years since the onset of the global pandemic, UNEP notes that at the portfolio level, many projects continue to be impacted by the COVID-19 Pandemic, particularly due to new waves of the virus. While contingency and risk measures have been put in place by projects, operational challenges continue for stakeholder engagement, travel and workshops, particularly in countries where virtual modalities are challenging. UNEP continues to monitor the portfolio and keeps the Fund advised through regular progress reports.

UNEP is currently taking stock of its engagement with the Fund, and in 2022 will adopt UNEP's Strategy for Partnership with the GCF. This Strategy seeks to set a renewed direction for its engagement with the Fund, while also playing a stronger role in the network of GCF partners.



4. Investing in UNEP

4.1 Budget Performance

The UNEP projected overall budget for the biennium 2020-2021 was US\$ 920.7 million. This comprised the United Nations Regular Budget, including the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR) and United Nations Development Account allocations, the Environment Fund, earmarked funds, global funds and programme support costs.

The actuals for the biennium 2020-2021 as at 31 December 2021 were:

- Total income US\$ 1,022.7 million⁵⁹ including multi-year contributions to be applied against future years.⁶⁰
- Total expenditure US\$ 953.4 million
- Total available resources US\$ 1,424.2 million.

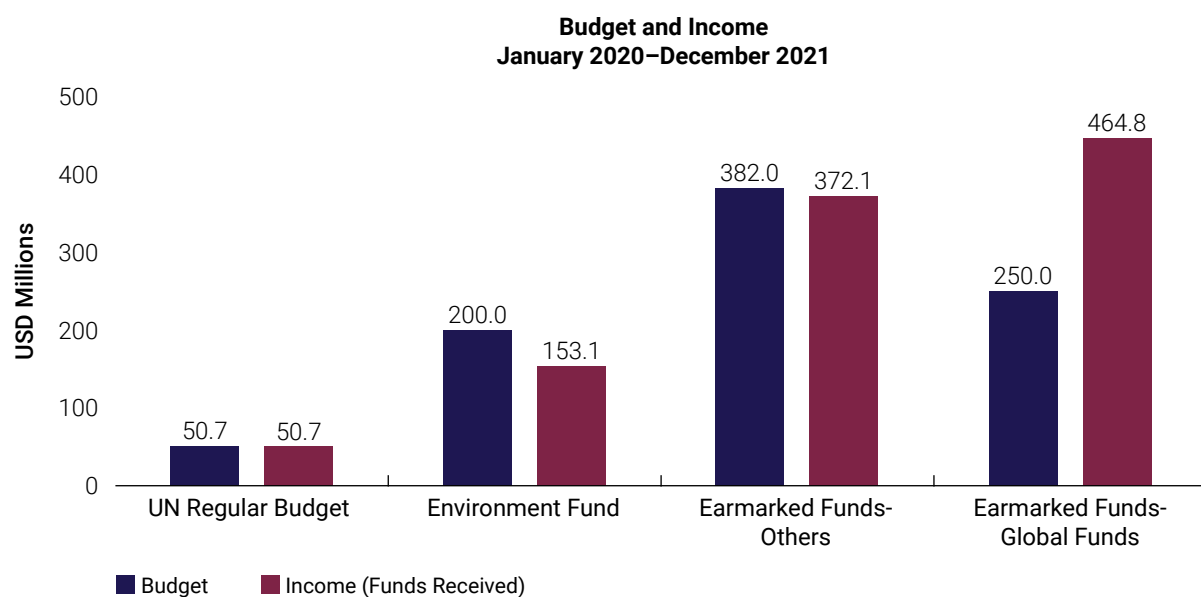
Overview of Income

Total income amounted to 111% of the budget due to global funds GEF and GCF exceeding their budgeted income amounts. Core resources from the United Nations Regular Budget and unrestricted voluntary contributions to the Environment Fund - both annual funds - made up only 20% of the total income received, while global funds amounted to 44% and earmarked funds to 36% of the total income.

Core Contributions

The Environment Fund and the UN Regular Budget jointly form UNEP's core funding that supports the delivery of the mandate and the approved PoW of the organization. The core funding gives UNEP the flexibility to implement the programme as agreed by the Member States and to strategically respond to emerging challenges, such as COVID-19.

Figure 22: Budget and Income



⁵⁹ The figures do not include conventions and protocols administered by the United Nations Environment Programme.

⁶⁰ Per the United Nations Secretariat interpretation and application of the International Public Service Accounting Standards (IPSAS), our financial and administrative management platform, Umoja, does not allow a breakdown of multi-year contributions into annual figures for income.

United Nations Regular Budget

The United Nations Regular Budget was in receipt of US\$ 50.7 million for the biennium 2020-2021 and constituted 5% of the total income, in line with previous years. It covers substantive support for the governing bodies and coordination of environmental programmes in the United Nations system. It also ensures effective cooperation with relevant global scientific and professional communities.

The UNEP Environment Fund

The Environment Fund is UNEP’s main source of flexible, unearmarked funds provided by the Member States. Its funding is critical for UNEP to implement its MTS and PoW, including to ensure that scientific evidence on the state of the global environment influences government policy and drives global action.

The funding of the Environment Fund is the precondition for UNEP to deliver on its mandate and programme as agreed by the Member States.

The fund pays for strategic direction, critical resources for programme delivery, robust oversight and accountability, and supports UNEP’s convening power in bringing together governments, the private sector and civil society to advance the global environmental agenda, for example through the UNEA.

In 2020-2021, the contributions received were US\$ 153.1 million out of an approved budget of US\$ 200 million, or 15% of UNEP’s total income. Whilst income increased from the previous biennium by 11%, a funding gap of 23% remained.

Additional stability and predictability were provided by multi-year agreements/pledges from Austria, Belgium, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Denmark, Italy, Monaco and the Netherlands amounting to US\$ 49.6 million (32%) of the Fund income.

Earmarked Contributions

Earmarked funds

Earmarked contributions are funds provided by funding partners that are either softly earmarked for a specific theme or sub-programme, or tightly earmarked at project or country level. The main purpose of earmarked contributions is to enable expansion and replication of results of UNEP’s core work, including building capacity in more countries and with more partners.

In 2020-2021, earmarked funds received amounted to 97% of the annual budget. However, this was 15% less than the previous biennium. Earmarked funds were provided by Governments (55%), the European

Commission (12%), United Nations bodies (11%), the Multilateral Fund (Montreal Protocol) (10%), private sector including the UNEP FI (8%) and foundations and NGOs (3%).

Earmarked funds provide a welcome complement to core funding, especially softly earmarked funds that give UNEP more flexibility in programming to meet the needs of the approved PoW. During the reporting period, softly earmarked funds received from Finland, Norway and Sweden amounted to US\$ 65.2 million (18%), while 82% was tightly earmarked funding. UNEP encourages partners to explore shifting their tightly earmarked funding to more softly earmarked funds.

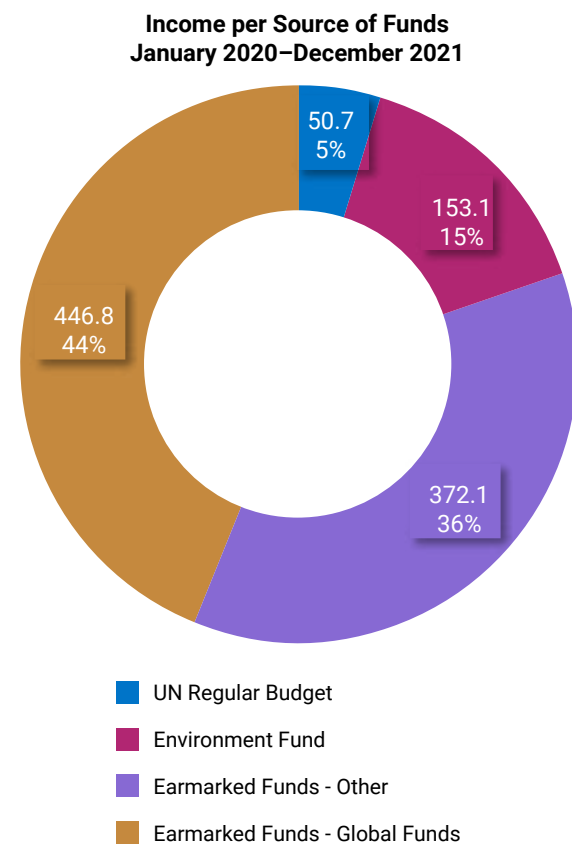
Global funds

The funds provided by the GEF and GCF are also earmarked for specific programmes and projects. GEF totalled 78% and GCF 22% of the global funds in 2020-2021.

Funding Partners

The success of UNEP depends on partners who champion and fund its mission. UNEP is grateful to all partners that provide financial support. Every contribution matters.

Figure 23: Income per Source of Fund



UNEP thanks the 91 Member States that contributed in 2020-2021 to the Environment Fund and extends a deep appreciation to the 45 who led by example and paid their full share or more of the approved budget as established by the [voluntary indicative scale of contributions \(VISC\)](#). UNEP recognizes and is grateful to the continued support of the 15 Member States who provided 91% of income to the Environment Fund.

Securing contributions to the Environment Fund, as well as softly earmarked funding, is indispensable if UNEP is to deliver results on the priorities agreed by Member States, and support countries to deliver on the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. All 193

Member States of UNEP are encouraged to contribute to the Environment Fund. UNEP also thanks all partners and groups that provided earmarked funding. Below are the top-15 funding partners and groups.

Resource Mobilization

UNEP continues collaboration and dialogue with Member States to identify and address its funding challenges. An online survey on funding of UNEP in 2020 confirmed wide support for the its mandate, strengths and comparative advantage. 80 Member State responders also agreed with the strategies proposed to address the funding challenges identified.

Figure 24: Top 15 Contributors to the Environment Fund and Earmarked Funds

Top 15 Contributors to the Environment Fund (January 2020 - December 2021)			Top 15 Contributors to Earmarked Funds (January 2020 - December 2021)		
Member States		US\$*	Funding partners		US\$*
1	Netherlands	18.6	1	Global Environment Facility	350.2
2	Germany	17.2	2	Green Climate Fund	96.7
3	France	15.1	3	European Commission	45.2
4	United States of America	14.7	4	Germany	41.5
5	Belgium	10.6	5	UN Bodies ⁶¹	41.3
6	Sweden	9.5	6	Norway	38.8
7	Denmark	9.3	7	Multilateral Fund (Montreal Protocol)	38.6
8	United Kingdom	8.7	8	Finance Initiative (UNEP FI) ⁶²	24.5
9	Switzerland	8.0	9	Sweden	21.9
10	Norway	6.0	10	Japan	17.7
11	Finland	5.6	11	United Kingdom	13.9
12	Italy	5.5	12	Foundation/NGO	12.7
13	Canada	4.7	13	Saudi Arabia	10.0
14	Japan	3.0	14	Denmark	7.8
15	China	2.9	15	Switzerland	6.8
*in US\$ Millions			*in US\$ Millions		

⁶¹ Funding received through Multi-Partner Trust Funds and other collaboration agreements with UN entities.

⁶² Finance Initiative (UNEP FI) is a partnership between UNEP and the global financial sector to mobilize private sector finance for sustainable development.

Member States that contributed at or above their "fair share" level as represented by VISC (Jan 2020 -Dec 2021)

Albania	Georgia	Myanmar
Armenia	Germany	Netherlands
Bahrain	Guyana	New Zealand
Barbados	Iceland	Norway
Belarus	Ireland	Panama
Belgium	Jordan	Saint Lucia
Bhutan	Kyrgyzstan	Serbia
Brunei Darussalam	Latvia	Slovenia
Cyprus	Liechtenstein	Solomon Islands
Denmark	Luxembourg	Somalia
Dominican Republic	Mauritania	Suriname
Eritrea	Mauritius	Sweden
Fiji	Micronesia (Federated States of)	Switzerland
Finland	Monaco	Tuvalu
France	Montenegro	United Kingdom

In 2021, UNEP revised its Resource Mobilization Strategy, with the objective of ensuring that funding is available for the implementation of the 2022-2025 MTS and related programmes of work and for the associated costs for the work of the Governing Bodies. The Resource Mobilization Strategy is accompanied by an implementation plan. To this effect, UNEP has developed outreach materials and tools to continue the messaging on the funding challenges, the importance of the Environment Fund and the "fair share" or "full share" (VISC) that each Member State is encouraged to contribute, and the need to shift from tight to soft earmarked funding.

Expenditure Analysis

Total expenditure as at 31 December 2021 was US\$ 953.4 million, against available resources of US\$ 1,424.2 million from all UNEP funding sources.⁶³ In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic impacted the Environment Fund allocations and expenditures. Most significantly, UNEP's expenditures reduced because of travel restrictions as well as the internally applied mitigation measures related to the recruitment freeze of non-critical positions. However, in 2021, with the relaxed global travel restrictions as well as a partial lifting of the internally applied recruitment freeze, the expenditure rates went back to normal.

Regular Budget

The approved appropriation by the General Assembly for 2020-2021 was US\$ 50.7 million, comprising of US\$ 47.1 million from the Regular Budget and US\$ 3.6

million from the United Nations Development Account. As at 31 December 2021, UNEP expenditure was US\$ 46.1 million.

Environment Fund

The authorized budget for 2020-2021 was US\$ 200 million. However, the approved allocation was US\$ 150 million based on the projected income. The total use of the funds as at 31 December 2021 was US\$ 142.3 million towards the core delivery of the PoW.

Programme Support Costs

The authorized budget for 2020-2021 was US\$ 38 million, with allocation of US\$ 34.9 million based on previous years' program support cost earned from earmarked funds. The expenditure as at 31 December 2021 was US\$ 31.4 million.

Earmarked Funds

The earmarked funds continue to make up the largest part of the UNEP budget. These contributions prioritize core activities that could be implemented over multiple years. As such the available resources include the allocation of 2020 and 2021 as at 31 December 2021 as well as balances of previous years. The approved budget for 2020-2021 was US\$ 382 million with available resources as at 31 December 2021 amounting to US\$ 633.6 million. The total expenditure as at 31 December 2021 amounted to US\$ 630.3 million.

⁶³ Excluding Multilateral Environment Agreements (MEAs)

Global Funds

The Global funds comprises the GEF and GCF with an authorized budget for 2020-2021 of US\$ 250 million. The available resources in 2022 includes balances from previous years and amounts to US\$ 555.2 million with expenditure level of US\$ 373.3 million as at 31 December 2021. The table below shows the budget, income, available resources and expenditure for the 24-month period from January 2020 to December 2021.

UNEP is committed to providing value for money by efficiently and effectively delivering results, partnering for increased impact, responding to global, regional and local challenges and ensuring robust oversight and accountability.

4.2 Human Resources

1. Overview

As of 31 December 2021, UNEP employed 1,289 staff members comprising 1001 (78%) in the secretariat and 288 (22%) in the MEAs and conventions. Of the 1,289 staff members, 781 (60%) were in the Professional Category, eight (1%) in the National Professional Officer category and 500 (39%) in the General Service category. There are 196 (15%) staff at the P5 and above level.

Figure 25: Budget, Income, Available Resources and Expenditure in US\$ millions 2020 January - December 2021

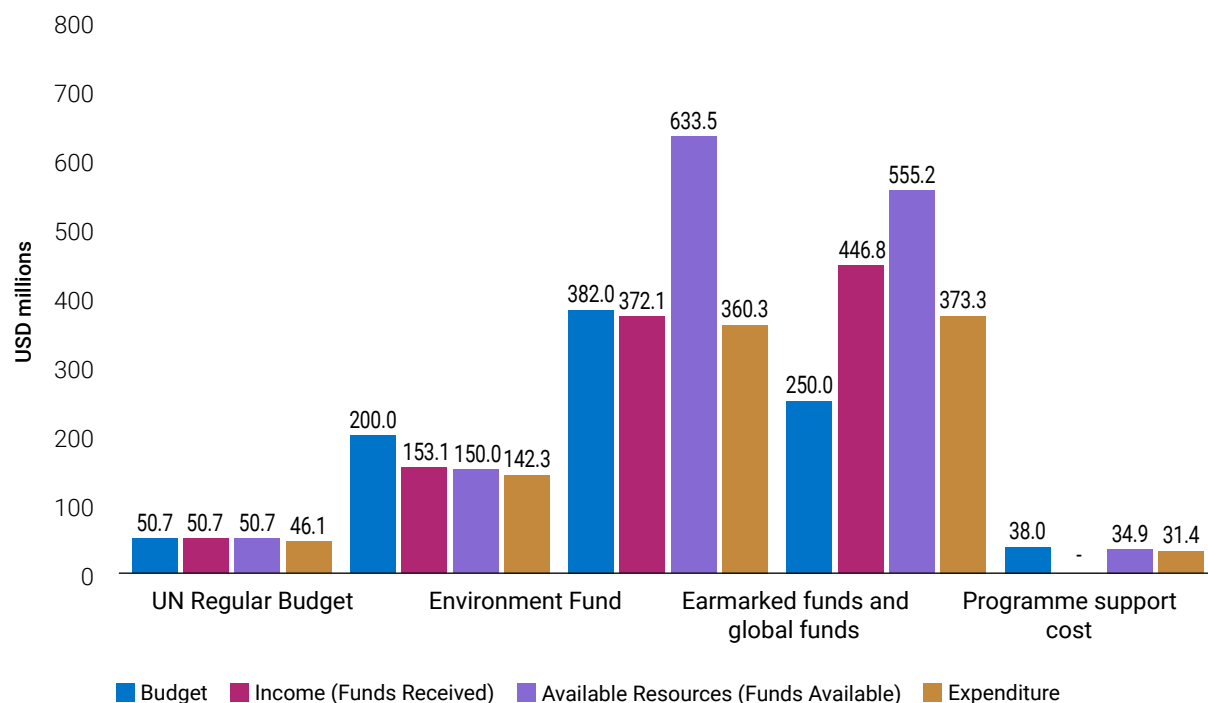


Figure 26: UNEP 2021 Staff Component

2021 Staff Component	USG	ASG	D-2	D-1	P-5	P-4	P-3	P-2	Total P+	Total NPO	Total GS	Total
Secretariat	1	2	7	41	101	207	181	73	613	8	380	1001
MEAs	0	1	4	7	32	47	47	30	168	0	120	288
Total	1	3	11	48	133	254	228	103	781	8	500	1289

Figure 27: UNEP 2020 Staff Component

2020 Staff Component	USG	ASG	D-2	D-1	P-5	P-4	P-3	P-2	Total P+	Total NPO	Total GS	Total
Secretariat	1	2	4	39	100	193	160	70	569	7	368	944
MEAs	0	1	3	10	36	53	49	28	181	1	144	325
Total	1	3	7	49	136	246	209	98	750	8	512	1269

Figure 28: UNEP 2019 Staff Component

2019 Staff Component	USG	ASG	D-2	D-1	P-5	P-4	P-3	P-2	Total P+	Total NPO	Total GS	Total
Secretariat	1	2	5	42	100	173	161	77	561	8	345	914
MEAs	0	1	4	10	37	47	51	39	179	0	149	328
Total	1	3	9	52	137	220	212	116	740	8	494	1242

2. Overall UNEP Gender distribution

As of 31 December 2021, the overall gender distribution in UNEP was 61% female and 39% male.

For UNEP, at the end of 2021, gender parity targets were met in 7 out of 8 professional level and above positions, an improvement from 2020 and 2019, when 6 out of 8 and 5 out of 8 gender parity targets were respectively met.

UNEP continues to assess and improve its overall Gender Parity Strategy results at all levels. UNEP met its gender parity targets for 2021 at the D1 level and above and is progressively working to meet targets at the P5 level. UNEP also continues to make a concerted effort to meet targets for the P4 level and below.

The overall female to male representation is presented in the profile below:

- at the professional level: 53% female and 47% male.
- at the general service level: 73% female and 27% male.

Female representation at the entry and mid management professional levels (P2 to P-4) in 2021 remains at 55%, down 3% compared to December 2019. At the senior management levels (P-5 to D-2), female representation was 44% in 2021 and 45% in 2020, up 6% from December 2019.

Figure 29: 2021 Gender Distribution

2021 Gender Distribution												
Gender	USG	ASG	D-2	D-1	P-5	P-4	P-3	P-2	Total P+	Total NPO	Total GS	Total
Female	1	3	7	24	59	122	136	63	415	3	367	785
Male	0	0	4	24	74	132	92	40	366	5	133	504
TOTAL	1	3	11	48	133	254	228	103	781	8	500	1289
Female%	100%	100%	64%	50%	44%	48%	60%	61%	53%	37%	73%	61%
Male%	0%	0%	36%	50%	56%	52%	40%	39%	47%	63%	27%	39%

Figure 30: 2020 Gender Distribution

2020 Gender Distribution												
Gender	USG	ASG	D-2	D-1	P-5	P-4	P-3	P-2	Total P+	NPO	Total GS	Total
Female	1	2	5	19	58	120	126	58	389	3	377	769
Male	0	1	2	30	78	126	83	40	360	5	135	500
Total	1	3	7	49	136	246	209	98	749	8	512	1269
Female%	100%	67%	71%	39%	43%	49%	60%	59%	52%	37%	74%	61%
Male%	0%	33%	29%	61%	57%	51%	40%	41%	48%	63%	26%	39%

Figure 31: 2020 Gender Distribution

2019 Gender Distribution												
Gender	USG	ASG	D-2	D-1	P-5	P-4	P-3	P-2	Total P+	NPO	Total GS	Total
Female	1	2	5	20	56	103	133	68	388	3	364	755
Male	0	1	4	32	81	117	79	38	352	5	130	487
Total	1	3	9	52	137	220	212	106	740	8	494	1242
Female%	100%	67%	56%	38%	41%	47%	63%	64%	52%	37%	74%	61%
Male%	0%	33%	44%	62%	59%	53%	37%	36%	48%	63%	26%	39%

Figure 32: P and Above Level - Gender Distribution 2019-2021

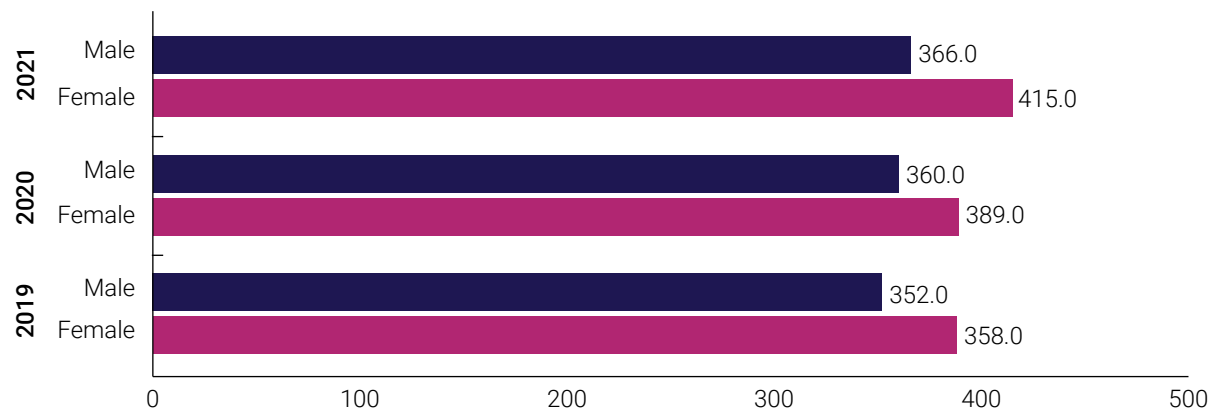
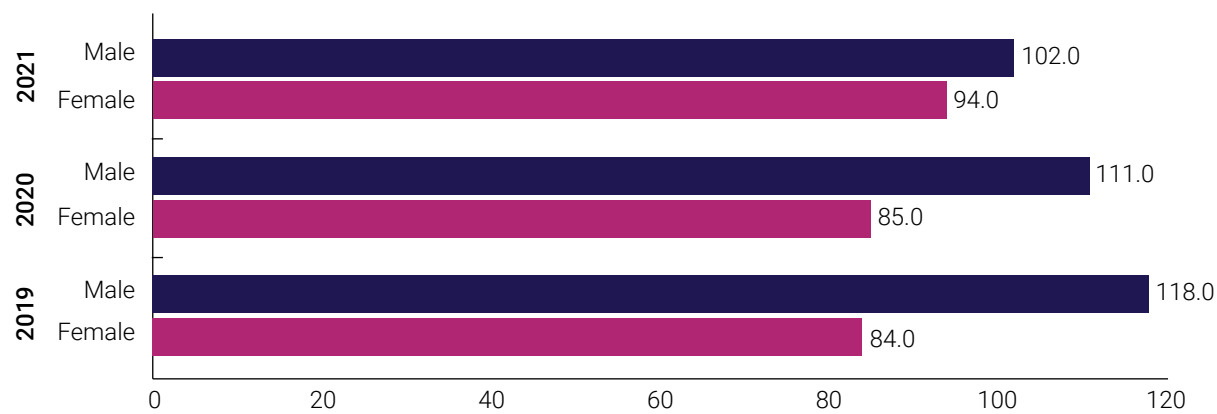


Figure 33: P5 & Above Level - Gender Distribution 2019-2021



In 2021, for the P5 and above level, UNEP was within parity level at 48% female and 52% male. In 2020 the parity levels were 43% female and 57% male; and in 2019 they were 42% female and 58% male respectively, showing a 6% improvement across two years.

3. Regional Representation

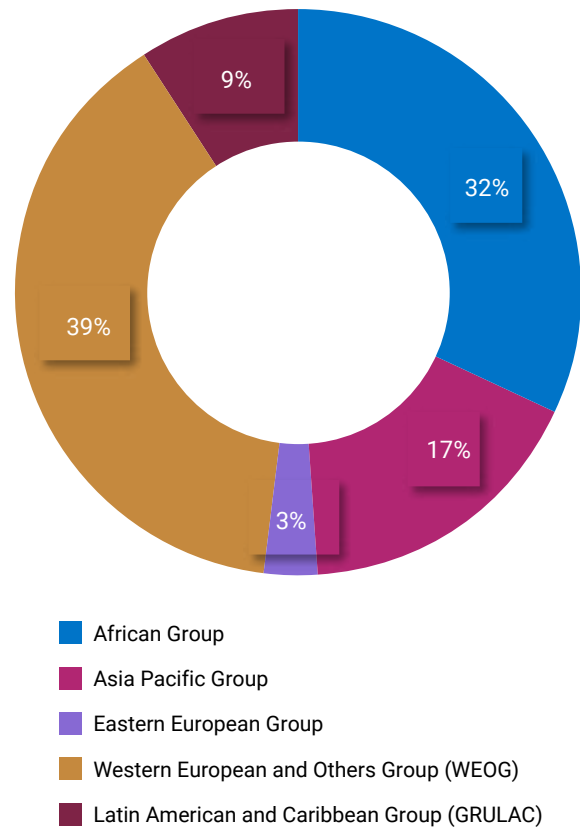
As at 31 December 2021, in the professional P5 and above level categories, UNEP employed staff members from 118 countries. UNEP remains committed to increasing both its geographical and regional representation.

UNEP continues to focus on recruiting staff members from as wide a geographical base as possible and is committed to improving upon both its regional representation and representation from unrepresented and under-represented countries. The profile for 2021 is presented below.

Figure 34: Regional Representation of UNEP Staff – 2021

Region	Total no. of staff
African Group	408
Asia-Pacific Group	224
Eastern European Group	36
Latin American and Caribbean Group (GRULAC)	114
Stateless	1
Western European and Others Group (WEOG)	506
Total	1289

Figure 35: Regional Representation of UNEP Staff - 31 December 2021



The figure below compares the regional distribution of all UNEP staff for 2019-2021.

Figure 36: UNEP Staff by Region - 2019-2021

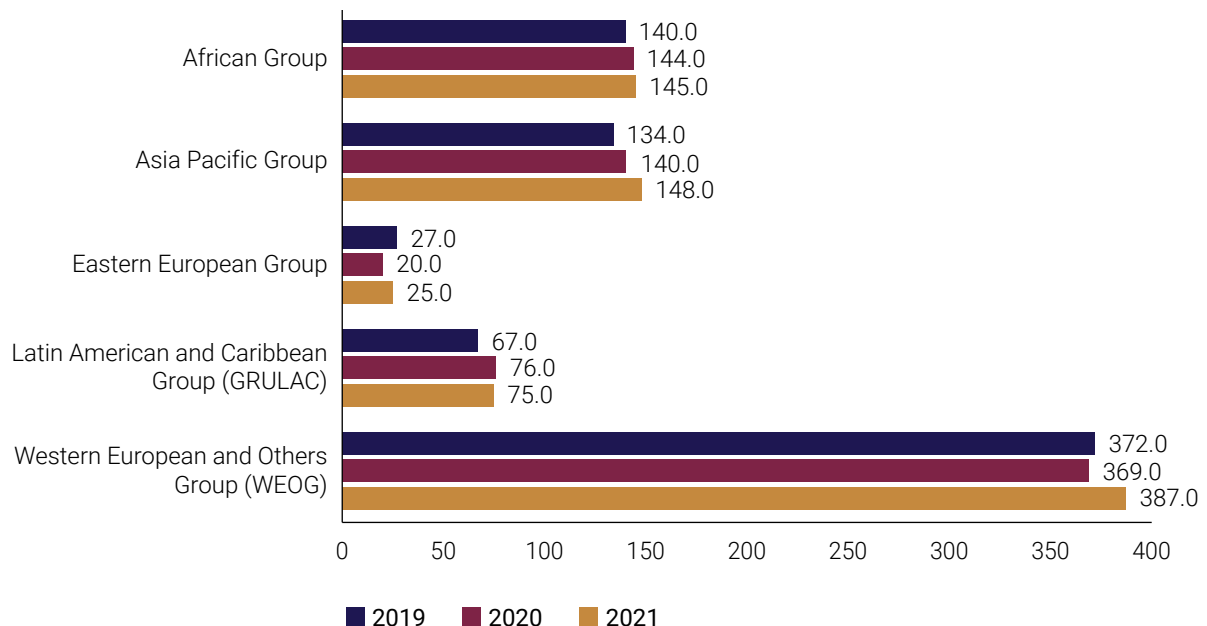


Figure 37: Regional Representation – P5 and above level 2021

Regional Representation – P5 and above level 2021						
Regional Distribution	USG	ASG	D-2	D-1	P-5	Total
African Group		2	3	4	25	34
Asia-Pacific Group		1	2	7	27	37
Eastern European Group				3	5	8
Latin America and Caribbean Group			3	6	15	24
Western European and Others Group	1		3	28	61	93
Total	1	3	11	48	133	196

Figure 38: P5 and Above Staff by Region as at 31 December 2021

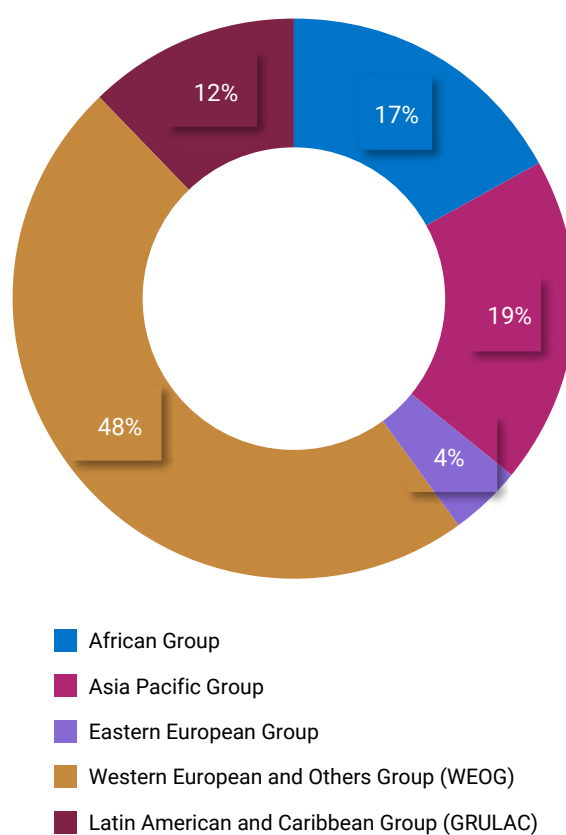
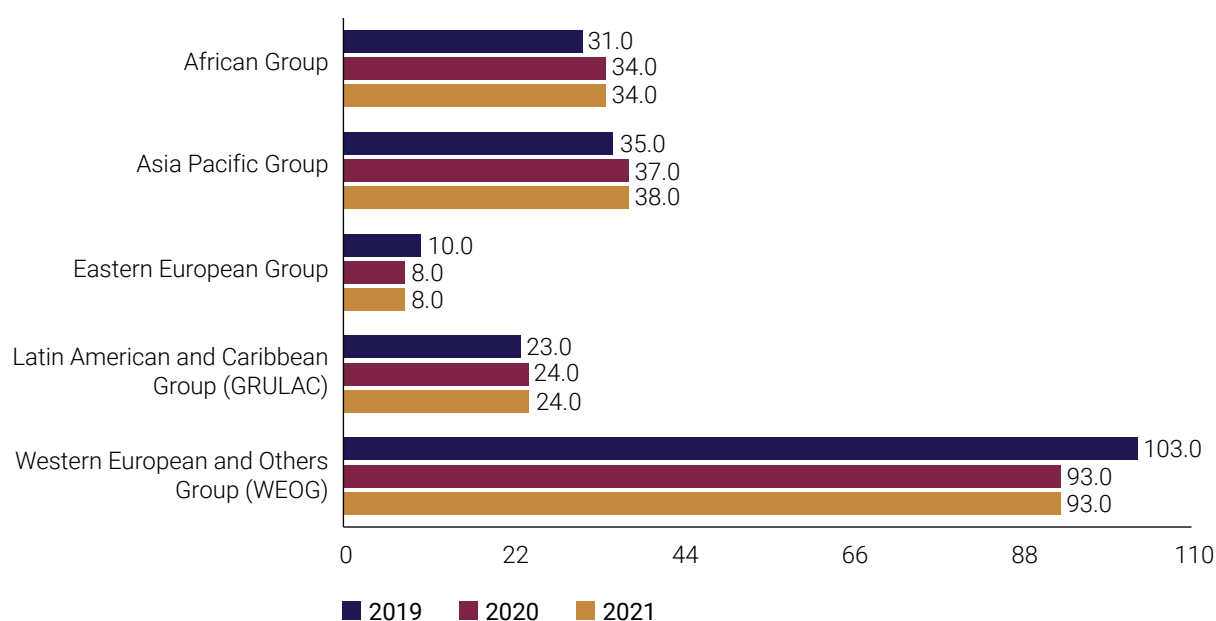


Figure 39: Regional Representation P-5 and Above



4. Age Distribution

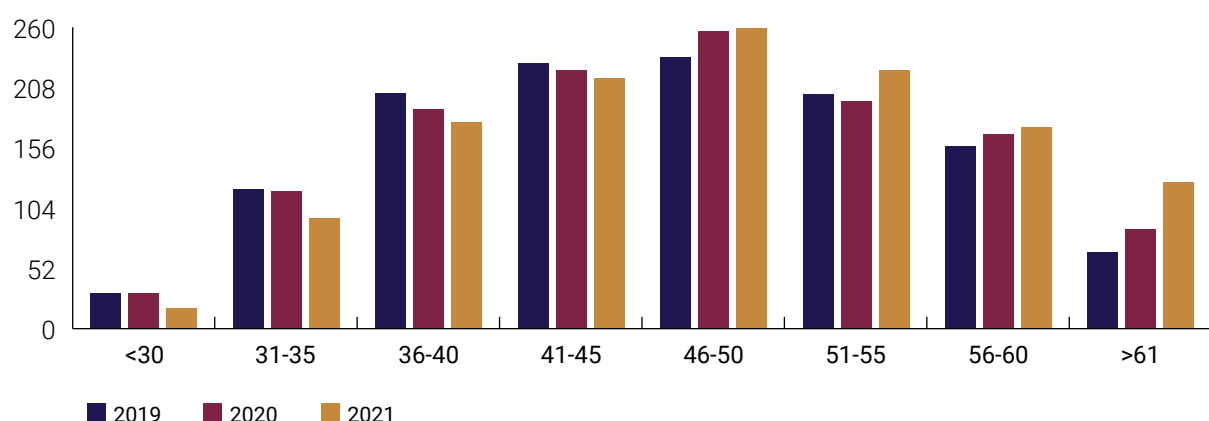
The overall age distribution changed from 2020 to 2021. As of 31 December 2021, 54% of UNEP staff were in the 41 to 55 age group, presenting an increase of 3%

whereas 23% of staff members 40 years and below reflected a decrease of 4%. Approximately 2% of the staff will reach the mandatory retirement period in the next four years.

Figure 40: Overall Age distribution of staff - December 2019 - 2021

Age Category	2021 No. of staff	2020 No. of staff	2019 No. of staff
<30	18	31	31
31-35	95	119	120
36-40	178	189	203
41-45	216	223	229
46-50	259	257	234
51-55	223	196	202
56-60	174	168	157
>61	126	86	66
Grand Total	1289	1269	1242

Figure 41: Age Distribution of UNEP Staff 2019-2021





5. Looking Ahead

Despite UNEP's achievements, there is recognition that the pace needs to be picked up to effectively address the triple planetary crisis of climate change, nature and biodiversity loss, and pollution and waste.

In February 2021, the Fifth Session of the UNEA 5.1 approved a transformative, *"Medium-term strategy 2022–2025 - For People and Planet and programme of work and budget for the biennium 2022–2023"*. It lays out the blueprint to tackle the triple planetary crisis and other global environmental challenges, raising the bar for environmental ambition within the UN system and delivering on the environmental dimension of sustainable development in collaboration with other UN entities.

To meaningfully plan for the future, UNEP must take bold and transformative actions that target the drivers of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution. As it currently stands, UNEP's reliance on tightly controlled earmarked contributions, which currently account for 80% of its financing, is hindering the ability of the organization to achieve transformational change. Such change requires a rethinking of the funding model to be more flexible. That is why three new thematic funds were created to address the streams of Climate Stability, Living in Harmony with Nature, and Towards a Pollution Free Planet.

Lessons from the implementation of the 2020-2021 PoW will strengthen UNEP as it embarks on this journey of transformation.



6. Annexes

Annex I: Subprogrammes Indicator Performance

Annex II: Management Indicator Performance

Annex III: Resolutions and Decisions of the First to Fifth Sessions of the UN Environment Assembly



