UNEP in the context of the UN Reform and the 2030 Agenda

9th Annual subcommittee meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UNEP
Agenda item 3
Delivering on the Medium-term strategy at country level through the UN Resident Coordinator System

Outline:

1. Climate, biodiversity and pollution in UN system planning at the country level
2. Addressing the knowledge needs to mainstream environment at the country level
3. Extending UNEP’s country level impact for a strengthened response to the triple planetary crisis
4. Strengthening the contribution of the UN Development System for increased environmental results at country level
5. Looking ahead
Climate, biodiversity and pollution in UN system planning at the country level
Environment is weakly mainstreamed in the Common Country Analyses, limiting its uptake in solutions and actions of the Cooperation Frameworks.

From UNEP review 2022 of how the triple planetary crisis is addressed in CCAs and CFs.
Biodiversity and Pollution are under-addressed, resulting in a low uptake of actions on biodiversity and pollution in the Cooperation Frameworks.

From UNEP review 2022 of how the triple planetary crisis is addressed in CCAs and CFs
Actions to deliver on Multilateral Environmental Agreements are largely absent from Cooperation Frameworks.

From UNEP review 2022 of how the triple planetary crisis is addressed in CCAs and CFs

NDCs - Nationally Determined Contributions
NBSAPs - National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans
MEAs - Multilateral Environmental Agreements
Economic sectors are key entry points to mainstream actions to address the Triple Planetary Crisis.

Mainstreaming of environment in economic and social priorities

From UNEP review 2022 of how the triple planetary crisis is addressed in CCAs and CFs
Less than half of the UN Development System entities address Biodiversity in their strategies and policies.

Does your entity’s strategic plan substantively address the drivers of biodiversity loss?

- No: 52%
- Yes: 48%

Does your entity’s strategic plan substantively address the drivers of climate change?

- Yes: 96%
- No: 4%

Has your entity adjusted its strategies, policies and programmes to align to the Common Approach to Biodiversity?

- Yes: 50%
- No: 21%
- Not Applicable: 29%

From the 2022 report on the implementation of the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR) – A/77/69 – E/2022/47
Environmental SDGs have the lowest expenditure by the UN Development System.

From the UN CEB data 2020 - https://unsceb.org/expenses-sdg
The Resident Coordinators system highlighted the need for strengthened integration of environmental data with economic development, peoples' lives and potential solutions.

### CCA Data Processing & Evidence-Based Analysis

**01 UNCT Roadmap**
Discussion on the steps and modus operandi

**02 CCA Outlines**
Working Groups/PMT sharing responsibilities across the UNCT

**03 Data Collection**
Collect data and information trying to start a narrative and gathering elements needed

**04 Analysis**
Data gathering & generating pertinent information, drafting the narrative

**05 Quality Assurance**
PSG/R-DCO conducts a quality review of the draft and the UNCT finalize the process

**06 CCA Key Findings**
The UNCT provides a sounded analysis that is useful for the RC/UNCT to engage with the Government in view of the UNSDCF

### Key Challenges

**Faced by UNCT/RCO/RCs**

1. Lack of reliable data & evidence-based information
2. Over abundant & inconsistent data
3. Strong political influence/interference
4. Data gathering & analysis in silos
5. Lack of integrated analysis that identifies 3-6 key findings
6. Lack of tools for systemic thinking & analysis
7. High Income Countries can obtain the best strategic advisory services in. What would be the added value of the UN?
8. High level of expectations in a limited time frame
9. Focusing on issues rather than opportunities
UN Resident Coordinators requested increased support by the UNDS to respond to the triple planetary crisis.

- Establish a specialist triple planetary crisis response team
- Develop country-specific solutions
- Invest in the business case
- Consolidate data for multi-level environmental governance
- Resource and scale-up foresight efforts
- Coordinate priorities around country typologies
- Use results groups to ensure integration delivers
- Develop and use a crisis prevention and preparedness toolbox

UNEP Regional Offices are experiencing increasing demands for engagement from Resident Coordinators

*From UNU report 2021, Beyond Opportunism: The UN development system’s response to the triple planetary crisis*
2. Addressing the knowledge needs to mainstream environment at the country level
Strengthening analytics on environment to inform Common Country Analyses and UN country team processes.

World Environment Situation Room –
environmental data for sustainable development

Spotlight publications –
key issues supporting countries and UN Agencies

Enhancing the Science-Policy Interface --
evidence-based environmental policies for implementation and tracking progress

Strategic Foresight, Horizon scanning, Futures thinking
Strengthening data & analytics on environment to inform Common Country Analyses and UN country team processes.

**WESR-CCA Workshop with UNEP and selected RCs was held to assess/identify:**
- Existing data needs of and use by UNCTs & success criteria in integrating environment in CCAs
- Effectiveness of the WESR-CCA platform as a tool to influence the CCAs through data
- Model(s) for successful engagement with the CCA process

**Key recommendations:**

**Standardized data**
1. Produce standardized data to UNCTs/RCOs
2. Strengthen integrated approach on the triple planetary crisis and SDGs
3. Transform the CCA into an environmental decision-making tool which can, in turn, inform the formulation of a robust Cooperation Framework

**WESR-CCA site improvements**
4. Incorporate risk and policy analysis with data provided
5. Improve interoperability and data completeness
6. Improve accessibility and data accuracy

**UNEP engagement**
7. Allocate more UNEP staff time, including Division staff, to support CCA and CF processes
8. Facilitate access to funds and relevant technical expertise
Leveraging the Finance & Economic transformations to enable mainstreaming in Cooperation Frameworks.

- Sustainable value chains
- Fiscal policy
- Macroeconomic modelling

Targeted country level support (Argentina, Indonesia, Morocco, Thailand)

UN Economist network & RCO economists' engagement

Dialogues & trainings

A planetary and human crisis caused by unsustainable patterns of consumption and production

Towards the Sustainable Development Goals
“For people, prosperity and equity”
Leveraging commitments made under the Multilateral Environmental Agreements for action in Cooperation Frameworks.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Climate</th>
<th>Pollution</th>
<th>Biodiversity</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Global</strong></td>
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<td>The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)</td>
<td>Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm Conventions on the sound management of Chemicals throughout their lifecycle</td>
<td>Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)</td>
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<td>Minamata Convention</td>
<td>Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)</td>
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<td>Under development: a legally binding agreement on Plastic Pollution.</td>
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<td><strong>Regional</strong></td>
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<td>Bamako Convention on the Ban of the Import into Africa and the Control of the Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within Africa -Africa</td>
<td>Regional Seas - Conventions for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal environment:</td>
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<td>• Abidjan Convention - Atlantic Coast of West, Central. Southern Africa</td>
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<td>• Cartagena Convention - Wider Caribbean Region</td>
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Increasing awareness and initiating dialogue with Resident Coordinators on key topics to address the triple planetary crisis.

**DCO policy webinars for Resident Coordinators**

Strengthening the ecosystem of climate action: the Role of Resident Coordinators

Bridging the Conventions on Climate & Environment for national SDG integration

**Dialogues with RCO Economists**

**Resident Coordinator retreats**

Asia Pacific retreat: collaborative leadership on the triple planetary crisis
Sharing knowledge with UN system and UN Resident Coordinators by leading Issue-Based Coalitions on environment.

Europe
Co-chair: Environment & Climate Change
Support: Health & Well-being
Gender
Displacement & resilience

West Asia
Co-convener: Urbanisation
Food security, climate action and environment

Africa
Co-convener: Fostering Climate Action & Resilience
Support: Displacement & Migration

Latin America & Caribbean
Co-chair: Climate Change & Resilience
Support: Crime & Violence

Asia and Pacific
Co-chair: Raising ambition on Climate action
Support: Building resilience
Human rights, Gender equality and women’s empowerment
3. Extending UNEP’s country level impact for a strengthened response to the triple planetary crisis
Strengthening programmatic coherence of country level activities by upgrading UNEP’s means of delivery.

Programmatic Line of Sight
- Country Focal Points: UNCT engagement
- Regional Offices: regional and national priorities
- Divisions: Technical engagement and global strategic direction

UNEP Actions
- Influencing: Global Norms and Standards
- Enabling: Support to policy making and initiating systemic change, catalysing UN system wide action on env/cc
- Direct Support: Technical support, capacity development and upscaling

Delivery through UN Reform
- Data and analysis for integration of environment in CCAs and UNSDCF design
- Contributing to UNCT results groups
- Guidance & knowledge through Issue-based Coalitions
A network of focal points to represent UNEP on UN country teams.

- A network of focal points in over 90 countries.
- Act as the first port of call for requests.
- Represent UNEP in UNCTs.

The UNEP delivery model facilitates the engagement of staff capacity and time towards this effort – however it will require some stocktaking in terms of results and cross-organizational support.
Mainstreaming environment throughout the UN Country Team programming cycle.

**Input and contribution to Cooperation Framework Development in 41 countries**

- Data, analysis and inputs provided to Common Country Analyses in 48 countries
- National Development Plans
- Common Country Analysis
- Other analytic inputs

**UNCT programming cycle**

- Development of the Cooperation Framework
- Funding framework and SDG financing strategy
- Agency specific documents
- Joint workplans
- Annual review + one UN country results report

**Influencing Joint CF workplans on environment in 26 countries**

**Co-chairing environment results group in 11 countries**

**Feedback loop into new cycle (*4)**

- Evaluation management response
- (Penultimate year) Cooperation Framework evaluation

**Notes:**
- The above is not necessarily a linear process. Overlap among some steps may be necessary to ensure optimal preparation.
- The assumption for this diagram is that the cooperation framework is for a five-year period. This could be different per country.
Mobilizing UNEP-wide efforts to engage with the Resident Coordinator System: an advisory group leveraging Divisions and Regional offices.
Mobilising UNEP-wide efforts to engage with UNCTs through strengthened knowledge, exchange and awareness.

**UNDS Reform - Knowledge Needs Survey across UNEP**

**Findings:**

- More exchanges across units and internal collaboration.
- Access to expertise, guidance, resources and best practice from other countries to better support UNCT processes.
- In depth analysis for particular cases & standard engagement packages for countries.
4. Strengthening the contribution of the UN Development System for increased environmental results at country level
Developing and implementing an UN-system wide response to the triple planetary crisis, with DCO and UNDP.

1. A system-wide response tailored to the needs of RCOs and UNCTs by establishing a direct feedback loop
2. Opportunities to strengthen how the triple planetary crisis is addressed in Common Country Analyses and Cooperation Frameworks
3. Strengthened awareness, knowledge and capacity on key entry points for integrated programming
4. Approaches are tested and operationalized in select UNCTs Initial proposed selection of UNCTs for dedicated support
5. Global interagency collaboration and coherence is strengthened through the UN Environment Management Group
Developing and operationalizing UN-wide strategies on environment across the UN system.
Strengthening impact-oriented partnerships with UN entities in critical investment areas to leapfrog on key SDGs.
5. Looking ahead
Further build and strengthen actions in three main areas:

1. **Address knowledge needs**
   - Tailored knowledge products for application by RC system.
   - Integrated analytics on environment-people-economy.
   - Internal knowledge network for UN reform engagement.

2. **Extend country level reach**
   - Proposed joint UNEP-DCO regional advisors on climate & environment (building on the ongoing pilot in the Asia Pacific).
   - Increase coherence of country level engagement (standard engagement package, comprehensive engagement plans, etc.).
   - Enhance UNEP Technical Division and Regional collaboration for UNEP delivery.

3. **Enhance the UN system's capacity to deliver on environmental results**
   - UN system-wide response to the triple planetary crisis.
Thank you

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