

# 9th Annual subcommittee meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives

Implementation of the Programme of work and budget  
2022-2023

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Presentation by Regional Offices (Rev. 1)

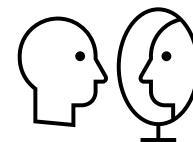
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# Regional Office for Europe January to June 2022 Programme Implementation

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UNEP Europe Office Director

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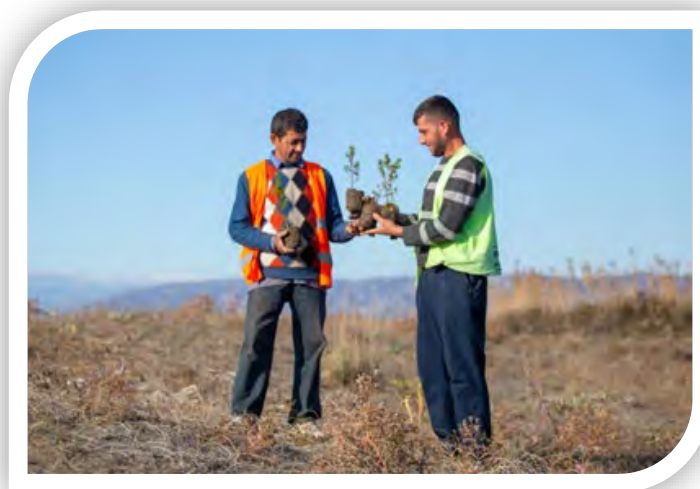
## What does the Europe Office do?

Provides guidance to national governments at various levels.

Takes part in the dialogue on environmental issues between governmental authorities, civil society, the private sector and other stakeholders.

Works closely with the European Union (EU) institutions to increase policy dialogue and build strategic partnerships.

Encourages closer cooperation between the main actors in the region.



Implements projects and provides scientific and legal expertise on challenges facing Europe's environment.



## Significant Regional Developments

- 2022 Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (RFSD): UNEP organized three peer-learning roundtables on SDG 4, SDG 14 and SDG 15, and contributed to an additional session on advancing inclusion policies and strategies on the future of education.
- Adoption of the Regional Environmental Programme for Sustainable Development in Central Asia until 2030.

## Coverage

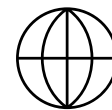
- 55 countries

## Contact

- UNEP Europe Office Director



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



## Locations

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Vienna and Carpathian Convention,  
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## UNEP Europe Office hosts

- The Framework Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea (Tehran Convention)
- The Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians (Carpathian Convention)
- The Geneva Environment Network





# Climate Stability Results



## The Science-Policy Interface (SPI)

UNEP-EU policy dialogue on the SPI and follow-up to UNEP@50 with EU in Brussels have been conducted (with UNEP's Chief Scientist).

## High-level policy engagements on climate

A UNEP-UNDRR-European Parliament exchange on “Accelerating Action to Reduce Climate-Related Disasters – The Road to COP27”.

## Green Climate Fund (GCF) Readiness and NAP

- Fully implemented in 4 countries to give them access to GCF funds.
- GCF National Adaptation Plan Georgia readiness submitted.
- Preparation of GCF projects: early warning for Azerbaijan.





## Western Balkans

- Two regional trainings on financial mechanisms for climate-proofing investments and on practical applications on nature-based solutions and green infrastructures in the roads sector.
- Finalized Guidelines for Financing of Climate-proofing measures.
- Finalized Regional Strategy for Climate-proofing Road Investments in the Western Balkans.
- UNEP-EU policy dialogue on the SPI and follow-up to UNEP@50 with EU in Brussels have been conducted (with UNEP's Chief Scientist).

## Tehran Convention

- Finalization and launch of the publication of the Proceedings of the Scientific Conference on Climate Change in the Caspian Sea region.
- Finalization and submission of the full-fledged project proposal "Urbanization and Climate Change Adaptation in the Caspian Sea region" jointly developed by IOM, UNEP and UN-Habitat.



# Climate Stability Results



## Mountains

Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia have increased access to innovative NbS to deliver on the adaptation goals through the creation of an online platform for knowledge and experience exchange and published mountain solutions booklets under the Adaptation at Altitude project, funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation.

Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan and stakeholders have increased capacity, finance and access to tools and methods enabling them to implement ecosystem-based adaptation measures and improve the uptake of such measures at the local and landscape levels through the Vanishing Treasures programme (Luxembourg financed).







# Living in Harmony with Nature

## Results



UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration kick-off project, Europe Office, called “European Restoration Flagships Project” implemented with UNEP-WCMC

- Report of evidence-based benefits of restoration projects.
- Training on ecosystem restoration benefits, capacity building, financing and upscaling initiatives to a variety of different stakeholders.



## Art, Communication & Youth Activities around the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration

- #GenerationRestoration Podcast (ongoing activity): Prepare and broadcast a podcast hosting and targeting youth on ecosystem restoration.
- Google Arts & Culture (ongoing activity): Partnership with Google Arts & Culture for creation of educational content related to the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration.





# Living in Harmony with Nature

## Results



### UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration – participation in workshops and conferences

Enhance the visibility of UNEP and of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration as well as goals and actions during public events, conferences and workshops.

### Senior management's bilateral conversations with Member States to position and promote the UN Decade

The Regional Director and Deputy Director conducted several bilateral calls (since 2021) with Members States promoting the Decade.

### The 5 Seas Ecosystem Restoration Initiative

Creation of a joint programme consisting of the Secretariats of regional conventions covering the European Seas, as well as other relevant stakeholders.

### Ecological connectivity and nature-based solutions in pan-European region

Applied research project of the Graduate Institute of Geneva with UNEP ROE support.



# Living in Harmony with Nature

## Results



### Events in Brussels

- The World Environment Day: Only One Planet celebrations in Brussels – events with EU and Belgian partners.
- UN Brussels Celebration of the World Oceans Day in conjunction with 5 UN agencies, gathered, many stakeholders, including EC officials.
- BlueTalks: Managing Protecting Conserving Oceans focused on multilateral cooperation for marine protection.

### Environmental Assessment

Capacity of 55 national experts from the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan increased to use global environmental databases and improve skills on GIS-mapping to assess natural hazards, the impact of climate change on glaciers, glacier hazards and water resources in mountainous regions.





# Living in Harmony with Nature

## Results



### Support to implementation and progress review of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework

Preliminary set of templates for Moldova, Ukraine and Uzbekistan have been drafted by UNEP-WCMC for the design of an information system, a database and indicators.

### Tehran Convention

- Update of the Environment Monitoring Programme commenced in 2022.
- Holding the Alpha/Bravo exercise under the Aktau Protocol Concerning Regional Preparedness, Response and Co-operation in Combating Oil Pollution Incidents.

### National State of Environment Reporting (NSoER) & assessments

- EC-funded project supporting NSoER development in Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan.
- Training in Kazakhstan on the use of online portals for communicating NSoER findings.

### Food systems workstream

Organization of preliminary consultations with internal stakeholders to create a vision for the work ahead.



# Living in Harmony with Nature

## Results



### Health

- Support to Regional One Health Coordination Mechanism to strengthen awareness and understanding of One Health approach to address health threats in the human, animal and environment.
- Support preparation towards 7<sup>th</sup> European Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health to address health dimensions of global environment threats.
- Organized webinar for Resident Coordinators with FAO, WHO and WOAHP to strengthen awareness and understanding of One Health approach to address health threats in the human, animal and environment interface.

### GEF project on biodiversity conservation in the Western Balkans



- North Macedonian and Montenegrin stakeholders capacitated on the financing mechanisms for sustainable management of protected areas, integrated landscape management and sustainable land-use within the protected areas.
- Finalized development of protected areas management plans for 4 new PAs in North Macedonia and Montenegro.

# Towards a Pollution Free Planet

## Results



### Engagement with EU

- Contribution to delivery of regional implementation of Chemicals and Pollution Action, including plastics via EU-UNEP policy discussion conducted on zero pollution and identification of strategic priorities.
- Strategic engagement with EU on new Global Strategy for SCP and SDG 12 and Global Alliance for Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency.
- Bringing regional and global voice to EC Zero Pollution Stakeholder Forum to implement relevant UNEA 5.2 resolutions.
- Clean up with EU Officials of 400 kgs of litter from forest near Brussels to raise awareness on plastic pollution.
- Advocacy on One Health in Brussels.

### Western Balkans

- Finalized Waste Management in the Western Balkans report.
- Regional training delivered on IT system for waste data collection, monitoring and reporting.



# Air Pollution

- Co-chairing (with UNECE, WHO) of Regional IBC Task team on Air Pollution with support provided to UNCT Serbia to address air pollution from residential heating sector.
- Assessment of air pollution from landfill fires in Serbia.
- Enhanced regional cooperation with Forum for International Cooperation on Air Pollution, supported by UNECE LRTAP, Sweden and UK.
- Analysis of public health protection and air quality nexus in Serbia.

- Support to establishment of Central Asian Regional Air Quality Dialogue Platform.
- Assessment of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Kyrgyz Republic's performance in air protection, in collaboration with UNECE Environmental Performance Review (EPR) Programme.
- Joint UNEP-UNDP assessment of Air Pollution in Kyrgyz Republic's capital Bishkek, in collaboration with Finnish Meteorological Institute.
- Launching of new project on NbS for improved urban air quality in Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan and Serbia.

# Cross Cutting Issues

## Governance



### Human Rights and the Environment

- The Geneva Environment Network organized a series of multistakeholder events to advance progress on the Right to a Healthy Environment (on the occasion of Stockholm +50).
- Addressing Human Rights, Health and Well-being when Transitioning to Clean Energy for Sustainable Development (at 23<sup>rd</sup> European Energy Transition Conference).
- The Rights Holders' Challenges Facing Climate Change (At HRC 50).
- Environmental Rights in Latin America and the Caribbean (at Escazu Agreement COP1).







### Judicial Colloquium on air quality and climate change adjudication

Organized jointly with UNECE, the Colloquium brought together over 40 senior judges, representatives of judicial training institutions and other review bodies from 24 countries to discuss progress and challenges and exchange views on the effective handling of cases related to climate change and air quality. The justices also discussed ways and methods for more effective judicial cooperation and networking on environmental litigation.

### 2022 Regional Forum on Sustainable Development

In partnership with sister UN agencies, UNEP organized several peer-learning sessions on SDGs 4, 14 and 15. Held in hybrid mode, each session engaged over 300 participants and the outcomes of the discussions fed into the Forum's report and the regional input to the HLPF.





# Cross Cutting Issues

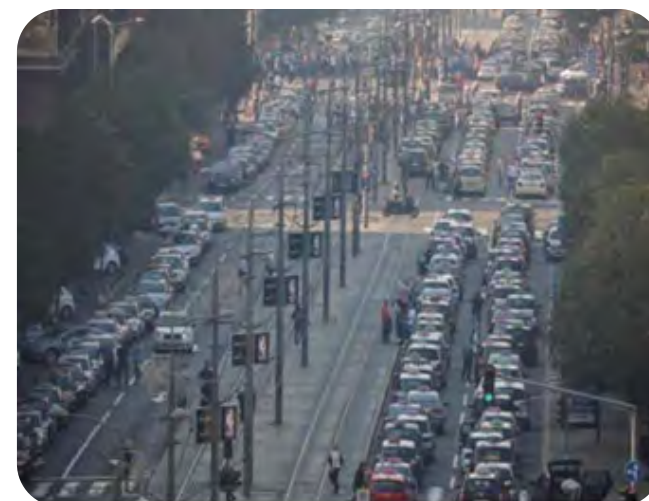


## Interactive Country Fiches (ICFs)

Development of ICF platform completed with GRID-Geneva (upon request from DG INTPA) and presentations delivered to EC and EU delegations. Second phase of ICF project approved by DG INTPA to improve and expand platform to additional countries, and to carry out capacity building on platform with EU Delegations.

## Environmental Performance Reviews (EPRs)

UNEP participated in preparation of UNECE EPRs of Armenia and Kyrgyz Republic, including formulation of policy recommendations on environmental governance, ESD, environmental monitoring and assessment and air pollution. This will contribute to mainstreaming of environmental considerations into national development policies.



# Cross Cutting Issues



## Green and Circular Economy

- Facilitate experience sharing among Caucasus, Eastern and Western Europe.
- Cross sub-regional collaboration: Central Asia, West Balkans, Eastern and Western Europe.
- Close collaboration and partnership established through inter-agency regional project implementation with EU, OECD, UNECE, UNIDO, and World Bank.

## Support to the Sports and Nature Initiative

Partnership between CBD, IOC, IUCN and UNEP aimed at securing commitments from sport on the nature agenda. The resulting Sports for Nature report will be launched in November, offering a first attempt to explore how sports' dependency on nature might be leveraged for conservation and restoration efforts.



# Cross Cutting Issues

## Issue-Based Coalition (IBC) on Environment and Climate Change



IBC convened 3 sub-regional training webinars on approaches and tools for mainstreaming environment and climate change into UNSDCF processes, based on IBC Guidance on the same and provided follow-up support to UNCT Kyrgyz Republic to develop environment section of CCA, and to UNCT in Montenegro on draft Results Framework for new UNSDCF (2023-27).

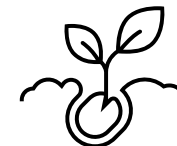
- IBC drafted a set of IBC climate change messages for use by RCs.
- IBC will organize a webinar on common challenges and possible solutions to water access and availability for the five Central Asian States.

- IBC organized roundtable on SDG 15 as a contribution to 2022 Regional SD Forum.
- IBC designed training programme on Green Transition (9/22 to 11/22) will focus on Finance, Energy, Plastics, Circular Economy and Enabling policies.

Upon request from UNCT Serbia, Regional IBC Task team on Air Pollution delivered inter-agency training webinar on air pollution from domestic heating, triggering development of new UNCT joint programme under Results Group on Environment.

# Finance and Economic Transformation

## Green and Circular Economy



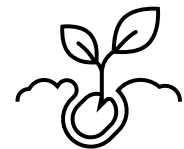
- Legal provision for Sustainable Public Procurement developed/drafted in Georgia, Kyrgyz Republic, Moldova and Ukraine.
- Sustainability criteria integrated into procurement tenders in Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Moldova and Ukraine.
- National waste management programme and action plan with specific targets developed in Georgia, Kazakhstan and Moldova.
- Development of laws and national system of 'extended producer's responsibility' scheme for packaging waste supported in Azerbaijan, Belarus and Ukraine.

Civil servants from a wide range of ministries trained on green economy policy analysis and development in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine.



# Finance and Economic Transformation

## Green and Circular Economy



- Investment analysis for new national policy implementation in Armenia.
- Contribute to Ukraine's post conflict green recovery and training of civil servants on contaminated sites assessments (Nov 2022).
- Inter-ministerial working group for green economy established and bi-annual meetings supported in Moldova.
- Introductory Green Economy course in Russian and national languages for public and civil servants in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine.

- Strategic framework on Green Economy for pan-European region adopted and monitored (till 2030).
- Development of Green Economy assessment/ strategy/programme supported in Georgia, Kazakhstan, Moldova and Ukraine.
- Sustainable finance roundtables in Azerbaijan, Russia and Turkey.
- Sustainable lifestyle campaign for the public in Georgia and Moldova (on-going).
- Georgia and Moldova: eco-innovation policy landscape assessed and capacity and business strategy development for eco-innovation in 18 SMEs.



# Support on the Implementation of MEAs

## Geneva Environment Network (GEN)

- In support to the End Plastic Pollution Agenda and the related INC process, 10 Geneva Beat Plastic Pollution Dialogues were organized by GEN and its partners during Semester 1 of 2022; 1800 participants joined one or more sessions since its launch. The sessions involved various actors that contribute to the negotiations. These also included various side events during the negotiations hosted in Geneva. Four additional sessions target preparations of UNEA-5 and GEF-8.
- In preparation of the UNFCCC, CBD, CITES, BRS or Minamata COPs and their subsidiary bodies, 16 sessions were organized or co-organized in Geneva by GEN, involving various actors that contribute to these negotiations. These also included various side events during negotiations hosted in Geneva. Four additional sessions target preparations of UNEA-5 and GEF-8.

## Western Balkans

- Assisting North Macedonia to develop its 6th National Report to the UNCCD.
- Assisting Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, and Serbia in executing Global Biodiversity Framework Early Action Support for the implementation of the UNCBD.

# Support on the Implementation of MEAs

Support to countries' reporting on environmental dimension of SDGs



- Engagement with the Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) on MEAs implementation in the ACPS region.
- Briefing by UNEP's Executive Director to the European Parliament (ENVI Committee) on the plastics treaty negotiations.

- Support to the UNRC Office in Serbia and to the Statistical office of Serbia on environmental statistics for improved SDG reporting.
- Production and launching of Russian language version of joint UNEP/UNSD/ UNITAR online course on environmental SDG indicators.

- Regional training on SDG indicator 12.c.1 (Fossil Fuel Subsidies).
- Sub-regional training of Western Balkan countries for the production of e-waste statistics in the context of SDG 12, in collaboration with ITU and UNITAR.

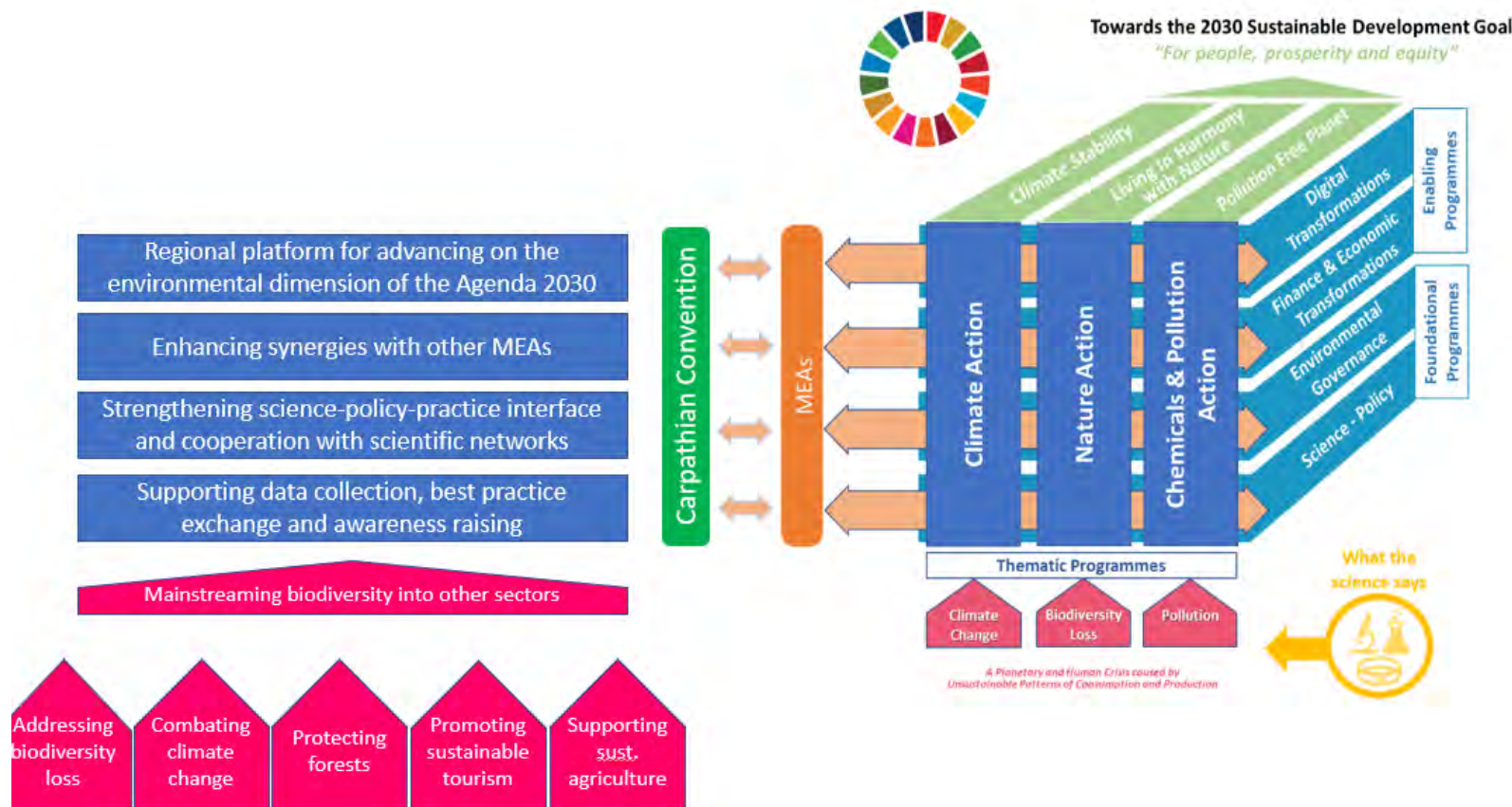






# Support on the Implementation of MEAs

## Carpathian Convention contribution to MTS



Contact: Harald Egerer, Head UNEP Vienna and Carpathian Convention, [harald.egerer@un.org](mailto:harald.egerer@un.org)



# Support on the Implementation of MEAs

## The Framework Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea (Tehran Convention)

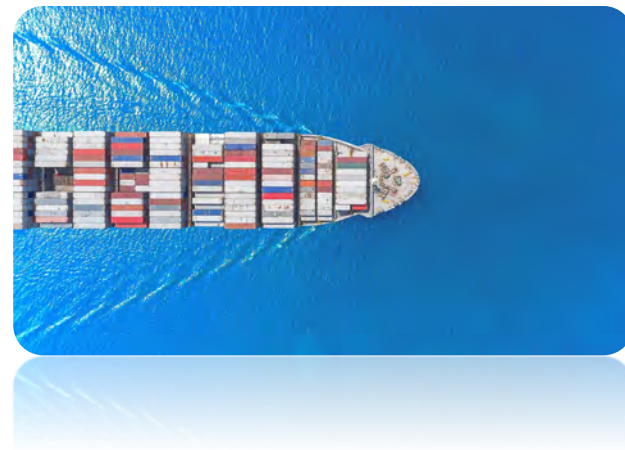


The Tehran Convention is a legally binding regional agreement signed by all five Caspian littoral States, the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation and Turkmenistan.

It serves as an umbrella legal instrument which does not only aim at protecting the Caspian environment from all sources of pollution, but also targets the preservation, restoration and protection of the Caspian Sea species and habitats.

Four ancillary Protocols to the Convention have been developed covering priority areas of concern namely the:

- Protocol on the Conservation of Biological Diversity;
- Protocol on the Protection of the Caspian Sea against Pollution from Land based Sources and Activities;
- Protocol concerning Regional Preparedness, Response and Co-operation in Combating Oil Pollution Incidents;
- Protocol on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context.



# Support on the Implementation of MEAs

## Tehran Convention



- UNEP Europe Office provides the functions of the Convention Secretariat ad interim. It supports the Conference of the Parties (COPs) and the implementation of the Tehran Convention and its Protocols in organizational, administrative and technical matters.
- It assists the littoral states in the preparation and servicing of the COPs and other regional meetings.

The Secretariat oversees and promotes the implementation of the Decisions of the COP and contributes to the coordination with partners and donor organizations.

The Tehran Convention Secretariat collaborates with the Regional Seas Coordination Unit which sits in the Ecosystem Division.

### Contacts:

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# Opportunities



Cooperate with NGOs on mainstreaming benefits of ecosystem restoration to a broad range of stakeholders, including every level of society and focusing on youth involvement.

Ministerial statement from upcoming regional Environment for Europe (EfE) ministerial meeting will potentially help set the tone for addressing pertinent and emerging environmental challenges in the region (i.e., sustainable tourism and sustainable infrastructure).

Work more closely with other UN Agencies in the spirit of the UN Reform to advance the environmental agenda in the region.

Enhance the visibility of UNEP and of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration as well as their goals and actions during public events, conferences and workshops.

Enhance synergies with regional MEAs for global processes deriving from UNEA5



# Opportunities

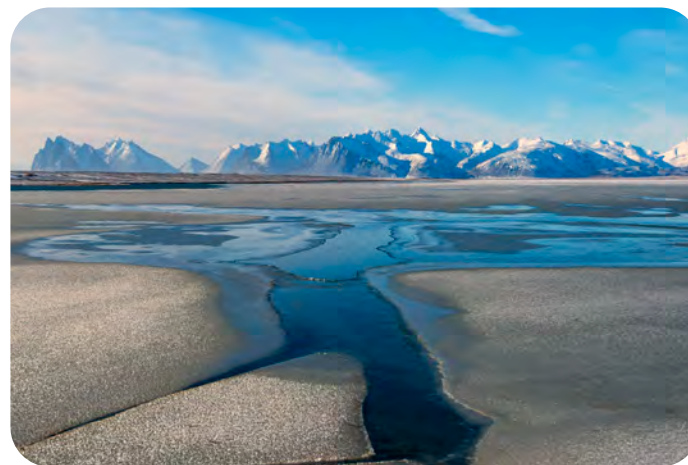


Use momentum of International Year of Sustainable Mountain Development 2022 to gain political momentum among Member States to support the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (e.g., Bonn challenge for mountains) future GBF and fight against triple planetary crisis in mountains (including the problematic sources of pollution).

Engagement with private sector in particular finance sector.

Contribute to reform of food systems in the region.

Promotion of the digitalization agenda.



# Risks



For the UN Decade, challenges in creating a continual and sustainable workflow in the long-term due to lack of funding.

Current economic and financial crisis may hamper policy shifts towards sustainable development and achievement of the 2030 Agenda.



Revival of intensive agriculture practices due to financial crisis.

Global and regional shocks and conflicts continue to pose challenges in terms of prioritization of resources for environmental interventions.



# Lessons Learned



The importance of studying and mainstreaming benefits of ecosystem restoration in order to strengthen restoration actions at every scale.

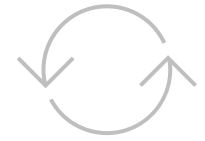
Continued project delivery and presence in Central Asia reinforced UNEP's positioning in the sub-region in the fields of environmental assessment and reporting, and of air pollution.

Engagement of UNEP Europe Office in the UN Reform process has significantly increased interaction with UNCTs in the region, notably through the Regional IBC on Environment and Climate Change, co-led by UNEP Europe Office with UNESCO and UNECE.

Continued partnership with UNITAR and ITU through in-country joint projects on e-waste statistics has led to increased delivery capacity to deliver tailored technical training on e-waste statistics and related SDG indicators in the Western Balkans.



# Lessons learned and changes made



## Lessons Learned

Importance of getting feedback from partners and recipients of a particular training/activity.

The importance of continuing collaboration with key UN agencies in the region and provide science-based considerations for policy making (e.g., collaboration with UNECE in the EPR process to share policy recommendation at country level; collaboration with UNECE, UNESCO and other UN partners to support the UN reform process through the IBC).

## Changes Made

Focus on potential high impact interventions.

Tailoring communication to civil society and youth.

Creation of surveys to understand satisfaction levels and attain feedback and suggestions.





# Looking Ahead



- Work to enhance ecosystem restoration in the political agenda of pan-European countries.

- Work to broaden audience and stakeholders of UNEP's work, to reach different a diverse audience thanks to innovative means of spreading information, giving light to good stories and inspiring young people to act and take part in the changes needed for this decade and beyond.

- Air quality and pollution remains a serious concern in the Pan-European region and UNEP needs to continue positioning itself as a reliable technical partner to support member states, in collaboration with other relevant partners such as UNECE and EEA.

- Work to increase the discussion on food systems at the national and international level in Europe.

- Ministerial Conference of Carpathian Convention (21-22 Nov. 2022) will discuss: The future implementation of the post 2020 Biodiversity Framework in the Carpathians; the situation in Ukraine, its impacts on the environment and how to address them.

- Struggling to provide support to achieve fast-approaching objective for 2030.



**Thank you**

UNEP Europe Office Director

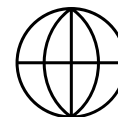


**Regional Office for North America  
January to June 2022 Programme Implementation**

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Barbara Hendrie, Regional Director

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## What does the North America Office do?

Support UNEP's work by fostering cooperation and building partnerships between North American stakeholders and the broader international community to address pressing environmental issues.

**Coverage:** Canada, United States of America

**Contact:** Barbara Hendrie,  
Regional Director

## Significant Regional Developments

- U.S. Inflation Reduction Act, US\$ 370 billion political commitment and investment in climate action.
- U.S. CHIPS Act, US\$ 70 billion for science and innovation for future climate solutions.
- Canada-U.S. economic cooperation to push global markets towards Paris goals.
- Canada implementing single-use plastics bans.



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# Climate Stability

## 1.A. Adopting decarbonization, dematerialization and resilient pathways



Key UNEP climate initiatives maintained and strengthened with support from North American stakeholders – government and non-governmental, e.g., International Methane Emissions Observatory and Climate and Clean Air Coalition.

Marginalized and under-represented communities in North America increasingly connected to national, regional and global climate change agendas.

Increased public awareness of UNEP's science products and role in advancing the climate action agenda.



# Living in Harmony with Nature

## 2.C. Enhanced nature conservation and restoration



Local restoration initiatives featuring the work of local communities and grassroots organizations across North America highlighted through the Restoration Road Trip social media campaign, under the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration.

The first ever interactive map of marine protected areas (MPAs) across North America to facilitate knowledge sharing, created through the North American Marine Protected Areas Network (NAMPAN).

Regional actions to halt and reverse the ongoing loss of biodiversity and degradation of land promoted as part of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration.



# Towards a Pollution Free Planet

3.A. Human health and environmental outcomes are optimized through enhanced capacity and leadership in the sound management of chemicals and waste



North American stakeholders mobilized and fully engaged in the plastics INC process and the establishment of the OEWG for the Science Policy Panel on chemicals and pollution launched at UNEA 5.2.

UNEP's *report Actions on Air Quality in North America*: regional conditions, trends, and policy responses to air pollution highlighted in response to UNEA Resolution 3/8.

Through the Mississippi River Plastic Pollution Initiative, communities along the Mississippi River mobilized to generate a baseline of data on plastic pollution: new phase launched in June in Greenville, MS to collect data and include communities that are vulnerable and overburdened by environmental challenges.



# Opportunities and Risks



## Opportunities

Strong leadership from US and Canadian federal governments on climate and environment agendas.

New actors (e.g., climate justice agenda).

Canada's commitments on climate and environment.

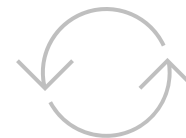
## Risks

The U.S. has approved hundreds of billions of dollars in domestic climate investment, yet the ability to generate domestic consensus to finance global funds for environment and climate work is challenging.





# Lessons learned and changes made



## Lessons learned

Change in the prevailing discourse on climate and environment.

## Changes made

Regional Office Strategy 'Refresh' approved by the Executive Director in July 2021:

- Collect
- Connect
- Convene
- Communicate



# Looking Ahead

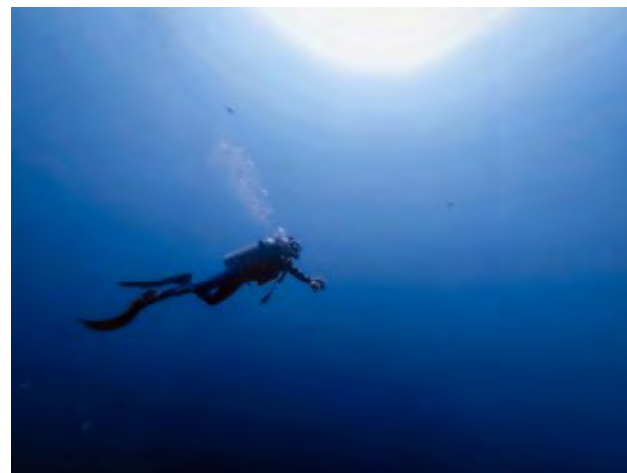


Ramping up collaboration with a newly-invigorated Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) on areas such as NBs for climate, marine protected areas.

Engaging with the philanthropic sector and the private sector on plastic pollution.

Digital science/technology and expertise in the US & Canada harnessed in support of UNEP's Digital Transformation Strategy (and the UN digital strategy).

UNEP assessment processes strengthened, drawing upon the expertise and knowhow of the North American science and technology community (e.g., GEO).





**Thank you**

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Barbara Hendrie  
Regional Director  
North America Office  
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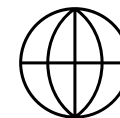
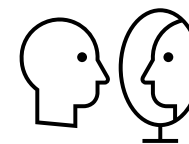


Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean  
January to June 2022 Programme Implementation

Jacqueline Álvarez  
LAC Director and Representative



# UNEP LAC Office



## What does the LAC Office do?

- Enhance regional capacities for effective response to LAC's most urgent environmental challenges.
- Support coordination and strengthen partnerships to promote the achievement of regional environmental goals

**Coverage:** 33 countries

**Contact:** Jacqueline Álvarez,  
Regional Director

Gustau Mániz - Deputy  
Regional Director (a.i.)

Regina Cavini - Brazil

Vincent Sweeney -  
Caribbean

Dolores Barrientos –  
Mexico

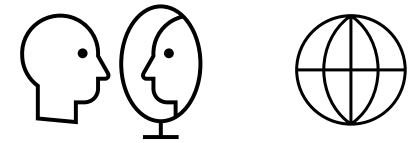
Juan Bello - Colombia

Alberto Pacheco -  
Southern Cone

Fabien Monteils – Haiti



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



## Significant Regional Developments

- Special session in the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of LAC.
- Multi-Stakeholder Consultation for Stockholm+50.
- 1<sup>st</sup> COP of Escazu Agreement.
- TEBBAgrifood Reg. Symposium LAC.



# Climate Stability Results



Mexico and Honduras received technical support to develop National Electric Mobility Strategies. Support includes development of climate finance strategies to attract investments.

5 countries received technical support for the development of their National Adaptation Plans, delivering on one of the goals of the Paris Agreement.

11 countries strengthened their capacities through the development of methodological frameworks to enhance the implementation of climate pledges to meet their NDCs and Long-Term Strategies.

A National Green Jobs Promotion Strategy developed in support of Argentina.

Guyana supported to develop a Public expenditure classification guide and a guide to access green and climate finance.





# Climate Stability Results



7 countries received technical support through the implementation of EbA & NbS in 15 LAC cities.

All LAC countries can track their COVID-19 recovery investments/ policies alignment with Paris goals through the online Recovery Tracker. Prospective policies modeled in five countries to determine economic, social & climate benefits to inform decision-making.

A UNEP-led regional coalition is developing a guide to undertake national sustainable finance taxonomies – with the goal to increase finance flows to meet the Paris Agreement.

10 countries received support to implement Art. 13 of the Paris Agreement (climate transparency & reporting).







# Living in Harmony with Nature

## Results



A technical support unit for the implementation of the Action Plan for the Decade of Ecosystem Restoration in LAC was established.

Jamaica joined the Caribbean Biological Corridor of 4 countries, working together to enhance biodiversity conservation.

Capacity building on:

- Triple planetary crisis – TikTok employees.
- [Ecosystem Restoration Olympics – WWF Brazil](#)
- [UNEP's BCO YouTube](#)

Launch of the Regional Flagship for the Dry Corridor in Mesoamerica in collaboration with FAO & regional partners.

UNEP supported response on Peru's oil spill (Jan. 2022) and sent a mission to strengthen government clean-up efforts.





# Towards a Pollution Free Planet

## Results



The LAC report on financial and technical mechanisms to address marine litter and microplastics was completed.

The LAC Action Plan on Air Quality 2022-25 was adopted by the region's Intergovernmental Network on Atmospheric Pollution. 4 LAC regional trainings for government officials conducted on priority air quality management topics.

Action Plan on Marine Litter for the Northeast Pacific Region 2022-2026 finalized and launched with UNEP's technical assistance.

As part of the LAC Coalition for the Progressive Closure of Dumpsites, a baseline report and a roadmap for the Province of Santa Fe (Argentina) was completed.



© DW/B. Oster

# Cross Cutting Issues

## Gender



Tools and gaps' analysis developed at national level to ensure the integration of gender perspectives into initiatives/projects as well in public policies and strategies at its different stages.

The UNEP LAC climate team adopted a project delivery approach which ensures gender equality and just transition considerations are mainstreamed throughout all climate projects and initiatives.



The Gender & Environment working group of the LAC Forum of Ministers adopted its annual work-plan including training, capacity-building and knowledge management activities.

LAC guidelines developed to support countries in their efforts to mainstream gender in the national environmental policies and strategies.



# Cross Cutting Issues

## Environment and Social Safeguards Results



The UNEP LAC REDD+ team started providing support to develop Environment & Social safeguards for results-based payments in Argentina and Paraguay.

Paraguay has started to receive support to put in place safeguard frameworks (Paraguay's own national safeguards, GCF's, and UNEP's), while Argentina is being supported on the GCF, FAO and UNFCCC safeguard frameworks.



# Cross Cutting Issues

## South-South Cooperation



The GEF-Capacity-Building Initiative Transparency (CBIT) initiative shared knowledge, lessons learnt and experiences among 10 LAC countries reinforcing climate information by reaching indigenous groups in compliance with the Transparency Framework of the Paris Agreement (Art. 13)

Within the framework of the Caribbean Biological Corridor (CBC) project, concept notes and project proposals for South-South cooperation have been prepared to ensure robust conservation measures & sustainability.

Technical Working Groups of the LAC Forum of Ministers acted as South-South cooperation mechanisms to enhance collaboration for the implementation of Decisions of the Bridgetown Forum (2020).



# Support on the Implementation of MEAs



The Special Session of the Forum of Ministers (Costa Rica, Jan. 2022) convened Executive Secretaries of the Rio Conventions and BRS Conventions, next to LAC Ministers, to discuss how to enhance synergies for better implementation.

Support for the LAC preparatory meeting for the face-to-face segment of the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm Conventions COPs (Montevideo, Uruguay 3-5 May 2022).

Support to UNFCCC for the organization of the LAC Climate Week (jointly with UNDP and World Bank)

At the request of countries, preparation has commenced on discussion papers to facilitate finding common positions on climate finance and loss and damage ahead of UNFCCC COP27





# Opportunities



Multilevel, multisectoral and systemic approach can strengthen the Forum of Ministers by integrating stakeholders into dialogues needed to support the actions carried out by the MoE (e.g., sub-national governments, private sector, etc.)

New political changes in the region may send positive signals for increased environmental action and meeting the SDGs.

The challenges in relation to climate risk, vulnerability and the widespread urgency to enhance access to new and additional climate finance presents a good opportunity to unite the region ahead of COP 27 (GRULAC approach).

Establishment of a robust science-policy interface operational /accessible to LAC Ministers to enable enhanced and informed decision-making.

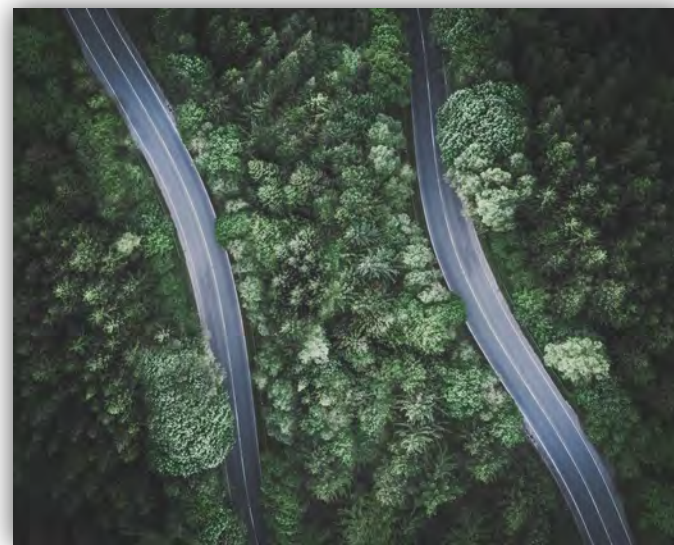




# Risks



The global food and energy crises, next to high levels of public debt after the pandemic, pose a huge risk for the stability of LAC countries and sustained environmental action – environmental regression is a real risk.



Social impact of the crises in the disadvantaged populations creates unrest and puts at risk meeting the SDGs.



# Lessons learned

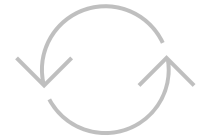


The various LAC intergovernmental networks and working groups of the Forum of Ministers are perceived as critical mechanisms to facilitate South-South cooperation, coordination, and information exchange to inform decision-making.

Agencies of the UN system need to speed up their attention services to the requests of countries and can act efficiently according to the contexts of each country, requiring a *decentralized UN system that can adapt to multiple territorial and cultural contexts* in a highly vulnerable region.



# Changes made



Definition of common vision on key regional priorities, leading to regional action plans to reduce atmospheric pollution and address sound management of chemicals and waste.

Better understanding of the situation of waste management in the region led to the establishment of a Coalition for the progressive closure of dumpsites, with a vision to phase-out dumpsites in the region by 2030.

Activities focused on emergency preparedness and the adoption of a regional action plan on environmental emergencies, knowledge sharing, capacity-building activities and field missions on topics related to environmental emergencies.

Since the inception of the EEP Network, countries have been better prepared and have better understood the environmental dimensions of emergencies in the region.



# Looking Ahead



The Forum of Ministers bureau will meet in the last quarter of 2022 to define a pathway to enhance regional cooperation (Costa Rica, Sep. 2022)

A special session will discuss the implementation of the decision for SIDS (Trinidad & Tobago, Oct. 2022)

Several regional initiatives are being discussed to support action on common ecosystems under threat (Central American Dry Corridor, Mesoamerican great forests, Caribbean islands adaptation, Amazon, Andes mountains, the Great Chaco, etc.).




**Thank you**

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Jacqueline Álvarez  
Director and Representative, UNEP LAC Office  
[jacqueline.alvarez@un.org](mailto:jacqueline.alvarez@un.org)

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Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific  
January to June 2022 Programme Implementation

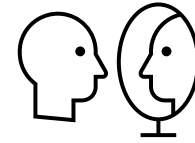
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Dechen Tsering  
Regional Director and Representative for Asia and the Pacific

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# UNEP Asia Pacific Office



## What does the Asia Pacific Office do?

- Support prosperity, builds resilience and boosts resource efficiency across the region. Maintains political relations with Member States, the UN regional and country level systems, and implements projects and initiatives within all sub-programmes defined in UNEP's Programme of Work.
- Coverage: 41 countries



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



## Significant Regional Developments

- 78<sup>th</sup> session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (23 to 27 May 2022, Bangkok).
- 2022 Annual General Meeting of the China Council of International Cooperation on Environment and Development (13 – 16 June 2022).

- Regional Office, Bangkok (Dechen Tsering)
- India Office, New Delhi (Head-Atul Bagai)
- China Office, Beijing (Head- Ruihe Tu)
- Pacific Office, Samoa (Head- Subrata Singha a.i.)
- UNEP Advisors in Resident Coordinators Offices:
  - Indonesia (Nico Marhehe)
  - Vietnam (Phuong Nguyen)



# Climate Stability

## UN System Engagement: UNEP co-chaired Issue-based Coalition on Raising Climate Ambition



Piloting a new collaborative effort with UNRC for Mongolia to bring an integrated offer of support to complement country-level climate mitigation efforts.

Subregional dialogue series on regional cooperation on clean air in Asia and the Pacific.



Provided support to UNCTs in Thailand and Cambodia to adopt Geographic Information System technology to track and forecast air pollution levels and develop associated mitigation strategies.

UNRC India launched a project in Gujarat, solar power technology training for women workers under UNEP and ReNew Power and the Self-Employed Women's Association partnership.

Report on 1.5°C Ambition Gaps and Potential to Raise Nationally Determined Contributions - Commitments of the Asia-Pacific Countries - shared with UNCTs pre- 26th Convention of the Parties.



# Climate Stability

## Other Highlights



A Roadmap to Accelerate Renewable Energy Deployment through Gender-Responsive Energy Policy was released with Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

Climate and Clean Air Coalition project on paddy rice. A study found a) in Thailand revenues from a carbon offset program alone might not be sufficient to promote adoption of low methane rice practices; b) financial mechanisms as well as technical and capacity support should be designed as a package to promote and scale up low emission rice production in Thailand and Pakistan.

276 government officials in four cities of Bhutan, Cambodia and Laos received training to integrate ecosystem-based adaptation into urban planning.

Asia Pacific Adaptation Network enhanced understanding and knowledge of loss and damage of over 270 participants.

National Adaption Plan Summary for Policy Makers for Nepal presented at the 26th Convention of the Parties; full draft prepared.

# Living in Harmony with Nature

## UN System Engagement



UNEP led preparation of Joint UN SDG 15 brief prepared as input into regional High-Level Political Forum.

Joint triple planetary crisis briefing by the Regional Collaborative Platform to all Resident Coordinators in Asia Pacific (UNEP led Nature presentation).

Supported an ASEAN regional webinar on Sustainable Blue Economy.



# Living in Harmony with Nature

## Other Results



The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity's AgriFood modelling results showed that it makes economic sense to promote a switch from conventional to organic rice production in Northeastern Thailand between now and 2030, in terms of health, biodiversity, and carbon sequestration.

Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme conducted a workshop on traditional knowledge for Biodiversity for the Pacific, in Fiji, 30 – 31 May 2022 – through the Regional Access and Benefit Sharing Project funded by Global Environment Facility and implemented by UNEP.

UNEP organized a regional briefing Session for Asia, on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework process, June 2022.

Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme, with support of UNEP, launched a Geographic Information Systems E-learning Module, to assist 14 Pacific countries to improve capacities on the basic functions and components of Geographic Information Systems.

UNEP supported the Government of India in submission of six flagship programmes under the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration.

# Towards a Pollution Free Planet

## UN System Engagement and other results



### UN Engagement

UNEP working with UNRCs and UNCTs to prepare national briefs on plastics pollution in Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam to catalyze joint UN work on plastics and increase awareness of International Negotiating Committee processes.

ASEAN Sustainable Consumption and Production Framework was developed and endorsed.

UN Ocean Conference Side Event “Collective Efforts to End Plastic Pollution in South-East Asia” gathered 310 participants to discuss preparation for the International Negotiating Committee negotiations to tackle plastic pollution in Southeast Asia.

Scientific knowledge for reducing river plastic pollution in Ganges and Mekong Rivers is available with Government of Japan’s support for the CounterMeasures Project.

A webinar on “From Data to Policy: The State of Acid Deposition in East Asia” attracted participants from 17 different countries to discuss the biggest challenges and successes in acid deposition management in East Asia in the last 20 years.

# Cross Cutting Issues

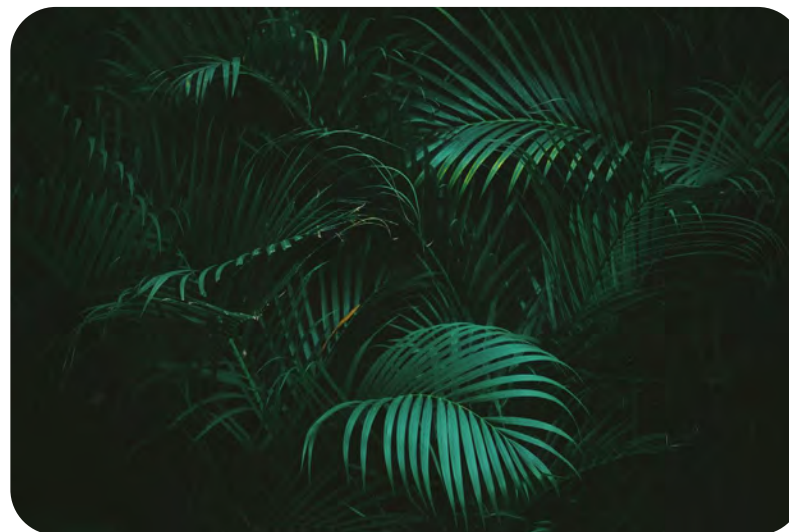
## UN Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE) Country Level Policy Support: Indonesia



Indonesia's Green Economy Index was launched by Ministry of National Development Planning in 2022 that builds on the Partnership's Green Economy Progress Index methodology.

Technical inputs for Indonesia's Green Recovery Roadmap.

UNEP has been working with the Ministry of National Development Planning on developing national inclusive green economy policies and accelerating the green economic transition.



# Cross Cutting Issues

## UN Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE) Country Level Policy Support: India and Thailand



### India

- Green Jobs and Just Transition Policy Readiness Assessment- Draft Study completed.
- Sustainable Public Procurement workshop held with Ministry of Finance and reports presented on Writing and Printing Paper and Green Room Air Conditioners.
- Mainstreaming green economy principles in Smart City Mission (Consultations completed in five Smart Cities).

### Thailand

- Supported greening of Thailand's socio-economic projects funded under the government's 400 billion Baht Rehabilitation Fund through technical assistance and capacity building.
- Supported conduct of green economy stocktaking study informed National Economic and Social Development Plan for 2022-26.



# Cross Cutting Issues

## UN Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE) Group of Twenty Support



### Indonesia G20 Presidency 2022

- Through the Ministry of National Development Planning the Partnership is providing expertise acquired from supporting 20 emerging and developing countries in green economy, low carbon development, and circular and blue economy to inform the development of the “G20 Roadmap for Stronger Recovery and Resilience in Developing Countries, LDCs and SIDS”.
- This roadmap will be developed under the auspices of the Indonesian G20 Development Working Group.

### India G20 Presidency 2022

- Facilitating continuity of progress made under Indonesia’s Presidency into India’s stewardship by promoting exchanges between government officials for both countries throughout 2022.
- Supporting technical briefing notes for G20 in following thematic areas:  
1) Strengthening of Circular Economy  
2) Restoration of degraded lands.

# Cross Cutting Issues

## Strengthening the Environmental Dimension of Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs)



UNEP and Institute for Global Environmental Strategies reviewed 50 VNRs produced by 36 Asia-Pacific countries with findings shared during two side events on Asia-Pacific Regional Reviews of knowledge and experiences on environmental dimension of VNRs on SDGs (July 2022) and side event on Children and Environment Related SDG Indicators: adoption, gaps and sources (August 2022).

UNEP supported Tuvalu Department of Environment in capacity development on formulation of environmental dimension indicator framework for and contributions to the 1<sup>st</sup> VNR submitted to the High-Level Political Forum 2022, and engagement with local communities and youth to raise awareness on the 2030 agenda and climate change.





# Cross Cutting Issues

## Strengthening the Environmental Dimension of Regional High-Level Political Forum and Regional Economic Commission Sessions



### Regional High Level Political Forum

- UNEP led organization of Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development roundtable on Goal 15 and prepared joint UN briefs on Goals 15, 14, and 5.
- UNEP, as part of Issue Based Coalition on Human Rights and Gender, organized a side event on Environmental Human Rights Defenders.
- Ensuring outcomes of Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities presented at Roundtables and in plenary.

### UN-ESCAP annual session

- Joint UNEP, Government of Japan, Regional Commission High Level Dialogue on Plastic Pollution.
- Ensuring outcomes of Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities presented at the Commission.



# Cross Cutting Issues

## Gender



ASEAN Secretariat and Committee on Women, UN Women and UNEP - with support from Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) - launched a Report on the State of Gender Equality and Climate Change.

UNEP contributed to the recommendations and consolidated inputs gathered from Asia-Pacific informing the 66<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on the Status of Women, including challenges and opportunities in the region for achieving gender equality and empowering women and girls in the context of climate change, environment and disaster risk reduction.

Renewable Energy and Women Entrepreneurship Programmes guidebook provide practitioners and stakeholders with a step-by-step methodology to design or fund and implement renewable energy women enterprise projects.



# Cross Cutting Issues

## Environment and Social Safeguards Results



With UNEP's support, the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights agreed on key steps towards preparation of a Regional Declaration on Environmental Rights.

UNEP regional office is providing environment and human rights training to UN Country Teams.

UNEP, OHCHR and UNICEF launched a video on children's rights to a healthy environment.



# Cross Cutting Issues

## South-South Cooperation



### UNEP hosted platforms

- The Asia Pacific Clean Air Partnership.
- Regional network meetings for implementation of Montreal Protocol.
- Asia Pacific Adaptation Network on climate change.
- SEA of Solutions to address plastic waste.
- Regional Ministerial Forum on Environment and Health.
- East Asia Acid Deposition Network.
- Coordinating body for the Seas of East Asia.

UNEP's Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities of Asia Pacific held in alternate years is a platform for member states, UN organizations, donors, and major groups and stakeholders, and youths to discuss the regional priorities, and provide inputs to global processes including UN Environment Assembly.

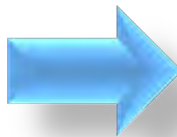
A roundtable on network for South-South Cooperation in the Asia Pacific was organized by ESCAP and UNOSSC, on 24 March 2022 in Bangkok. UNEP attended and shared examples on South South cooperation.

# Scaling up visibility and impact of PoW priorities through UN system engagement: Actions

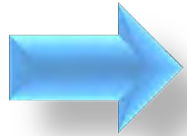
- UN Country Team Focal Points scale up engagement with Resident Coordinators, UN Country Teams.
- Environmental dimension of Common Country Assessments, UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks strengthened (including w/ Multilateral Environmental Agreements, UN Environment Assembly, Forum of Ministers) and through training of UN Country Team staff.

- Support joint UN strategies, plans and projects on environment through UN Country Teams, Regional Collaborative Platform.
- Support development of normative UN reform policy through inputs to Headquarters, Development Coordination Office.

- Integration of environmental priorities into UN led regional intergovernmental mechanisms e.g. Asia Pacific Forum for Sustainable Development, UN Regional Economic and Social Commission and Committees.



# Scaling up visibility and impact of PoW priorities through UN system engagement: Outcomes

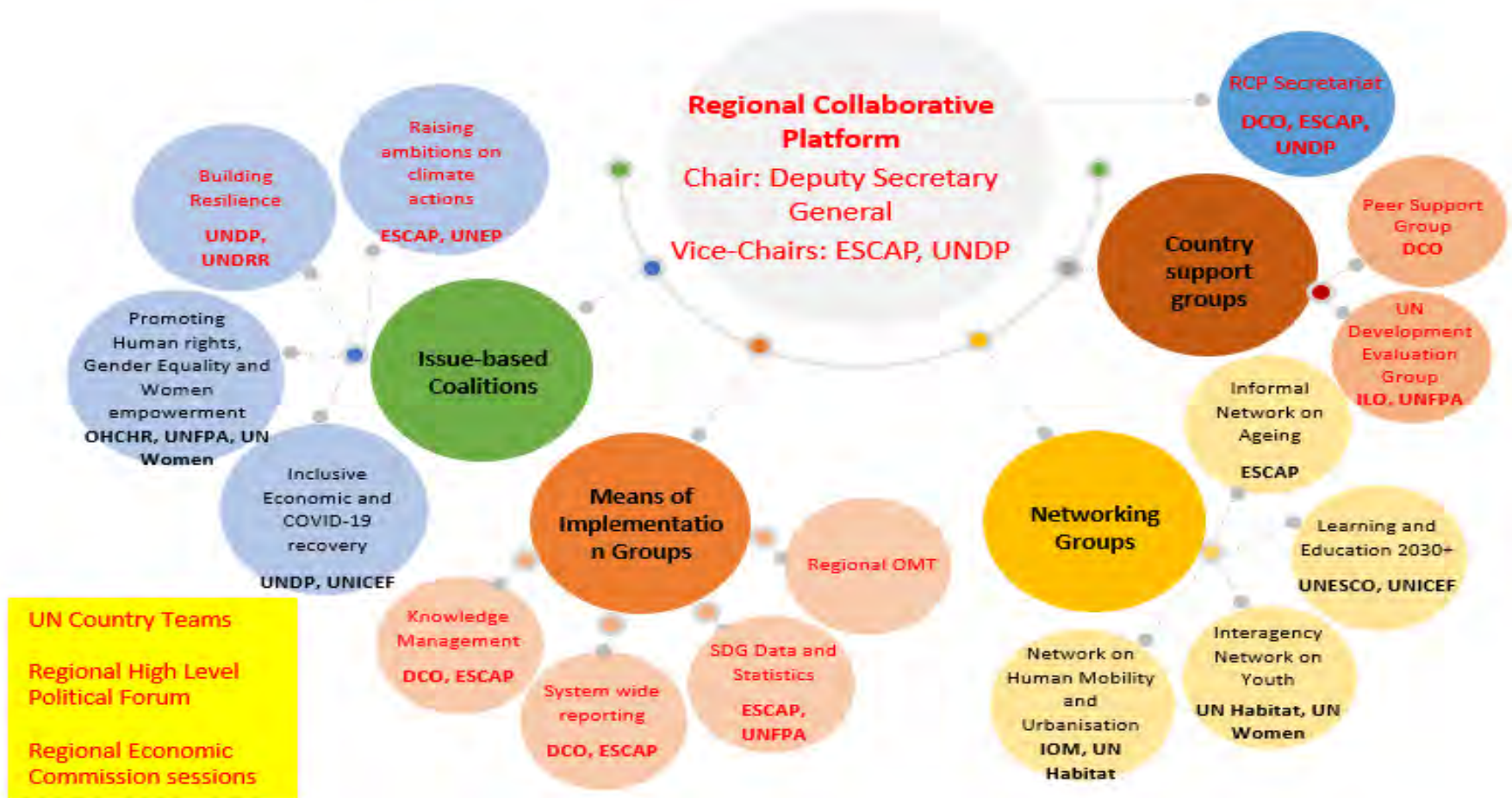


**Sub-Outcome:**  
Strengthened regional level UN capacity to address environmental dimension of the 2030 agenda.

**Sub-Outcome:**  
Strengthened country level UN capacity to address environmental dimension of the 2030 agenda.

**Outcome:**  
UN development system at regional and country level provides increased advisory and programmatic support to Member States on strengthening the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda.

# Regional UN Development System Organigram and UNEP's role



# UNEP, Resident Coordinators (RC) and UN Country Teams: Actions to address triple plenary crisis

- UNEP Focal Points in 25 UNCTs.
- RC supported mobilization of a new JPO post in RC Office (RCO) in Lao PDR to support UNEP engagement. Aiming to replicate this in other RCOs.

- UNEP co-chairs UN environment groups in India and Lao PDR.
- UNEP part of newly finalized Cooperation Frameworks (UNSDCF) for Maldives, Pacific, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam.

- Support to UNSDCF roadmap development in Cambodia, India, Iran, Maldives, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan and Papua New Guinea.
- Inputs to Common Country Assessments for Cambodia, Nepal, Pacific, Papua New Guinea.

- Asia Pacific regional and national consultations informed Stockholm +50 events.
- UNEP Finance Initiative provided advisory support with RCOs to support green financing strategy for national 5-year plan in Lao PDR and to sustainable financing initiatives in Thailand on mobilizing private finance.



# Support on the Implementation of MEAs



MEA briefs being prepared for RCs and to inform CCA for 20 countries jointly with Institute for Global Environmental Strategies, Japan. Drafts will be shared with MEA Secretariats for review and input. Objective is to catalyze UN system action on MEA commitments

Briefs cover key triple planetary crisis agreements:

- Climate: Paris Agreement.
- Nature: Convention on Biodiversity and Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.
- Pollution: Basel, Rotterdam & Stockholm Conventions and Minamata Convention.



# Opportunities and Risks



## Opportunities

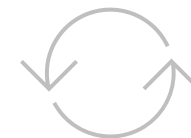
- Potential to scale up Programme of Work outputs' visibility and impact through increased engagement with Regional Collaborative Platforms and Resident Coordinators, UN Country Teams i.e. by leveraging UN system knowledge and resources.

## Risks

As a non-resident agency, UNEP may be unable to respond quickly to the increasing demands of Issue Based Coalitions, Resident Coordinators and UN Country Teams.



# Lessons learned and changes made



## Lessons learned

- Engaging in Regional HLPF and Regional Commission sessions provides an opportunity to guide discussions based on Regional Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities.
- Engaging in UN system provides fund mobilization opportunities i.e. UN SDGs Joint Fund project in Indonesia.
- Issue Based Coalitions provide a concrete mechanism for catalyzing UN system wide action on environment.

## Changes made

- Regional Office now engages systematically in annual Regional HLPF and Regional Commission sessions.
- Scaled up UNEP staff engagement with IBCs, Resident Coordinators, UNCTs.



# Looking Ahead



7<sup>th</sup> regional UN Economic and Social Commission's Committee on Environment and Development at ministerial level on the theme of "Protecting our Planet through Regional Cooperation and Solidarity in Asia and the Pacific" from 29 November – 1 December 2022.

Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities of Asia Pacific 2023.



Thank you

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Dechen Tsering  
Regional Director and Representative  
for Asia and the Pacific

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Regional Office for Africa  
January to June 2022 Programme Implementation

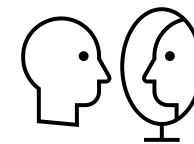
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Frank Turyatunga  
Director and Regional Representative for Africa

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# UNEP's Africa Office



## What does the Africa Office do?

Represent UNEP and coordinate its work in the Africa region by fostering cooperation and building partnerships on key regional priorities to address pressing environmental issues.

Ensure the effective and efficient delivery of interventions in response to regional, sub-regional and national needs.

Ensure better coherence and coordination in the effective delivery of environmental capacity-building at all levels in response to country needs and priorities.



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## Significant Regional Developments

- COP27 takes place in Egypt from 7-18 Nov 2022.
- Launch of the African Union Climate Change and Resilient Development Strategy and Action Plan to harmonize the continent's approach to climate change in June 2022.
- The resumed 18<sup>th</sup> regular session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) to be held on 12-16 September 2022 in Dakar, Senegal.



## Country and Sub-regional Representatives

- Abidjan: Mohamed Atani.
- Addis Ababa: Margaret Oduk.
- Dar es Salaam: Clara Makenya.
- Khartoum: Atila Uras.
- Mogadishu: Christophe Matthew Hodder.
- Nairobi: Cyrille-Lazare Siewe.
- Pretoria: Meseret Teklemariam Zemedkun.



# Climate Stability Results



Engaged UNCT on technology transfer and knowledge sharing in delivering nature-based solutions to climate-proof food systems and mitigation in delivering clean energy to transform agro-value chains to curb post-harvest losses towards UNSDCF implementation.



# Climate Stability Results



Countries supported in translating their NDCs into implementation investment tools.

Climate Change National adaptation plans are informing implementation processes in Eswatini, Lesotho, Nigeria and Zimbabwe.

Countries supported in integrating EBA & clean energy into NDCs implementation.

Youth guided to retool skills to take up climate solutions as source of creating enterprise opportunities.

Investment models developed to transition communities from unclean cooking (charcoal, firewood) to clean, accessible, renewable energy sources of waste recovery to biogas & fuel briquettes.



Countries guided to invest in waste recovery actions e.g. waste recovery to compost, waste recovery to biogas, waste recovery to biofertilizer, waste recovery to briquettes.



Normative support to countries on new knowledge in clean transport and just energy transition pathways.



# Living in Harmony with Nature

## Results

Supported countries to integrate ecosystems accounts into national accounts. The ecosystem service accounts were applied in a policy scenario analysis study called “Potential costs and benefits of addressing land degradation in the Thukela catchment, KwaZulu-Natal South Africa”.



Initiatives set up to improve biodiversity outcomes of restoration initiatives.



IGAD groundwater programme with support from UNEP is implementing catchment management of transboundary waters.

Biodiversity & ecosystem services integrated in food systems in Ethiopia and Ghana & agri-foods systems in Kenya.



Decision support tool developed & trialed by policy makers in Botswana & Zimbabwe to test scenarios of different policy options.

# Towards a Pollution Free Planet

## Results



Digital tools and services have been developed to accelerate pollution actions- example: an online platform for Africa region's air quality monitoring and reporting, with links to real-time data centers.



Digital billboard in Nairobi, Kenya – projecting data from air quality sensors deployed in various parts of the city. In June 2022, with UNEP's support, Nairobi City authorities adopted a local government's legislation on air quality





# Towards a Pollution Free Planet

## Results



### Support to Countries

Zambia supported to implement low sulphur diesel fuels (50ppm fuels).

Ghana & Sierra Leone supported in developing Air Quality Regulations.

Kenya supported in developing Nairobi Air Quality Act.

Review conducted of electric vehicle charging in electric mobility sector in Kenya.

- Report developed on “Review of electric vehicle charging & battery swapping infrastructure in Kenya and international best practices” in the electric mobility sector.
- Implementing the EPR Concept in Policies and Regulations for the sound management of E-waste - Circular Economy for Electronics, in Botswana, Gambia, Namibia and Rwanda.
- Lesotho developed an integrated waste management strategy, a waste management bill and plastics control regulations.
- Development of Integrated Solid Waste Management Approach for the Government of Sudan.



# Cross Cutting Issues

## Gender



Capacity of young women & men enhanced in International Environmental Governance.



17 young women & men trained on biodiversity negotiating skills for global processes.



EbA mainstreamed into countries National Adaptation Plans.



Data generated in uptake of environmental solutions focused on areas that impact women more- clean cooking etc. and the lessons are taken up by UNCTs.

Capacity building of young women & men to engage in MEAs & global processes.

# Cross Cutting Issues

## Environmental and Social Safeguards



Evidence-based environmental data, information & analytics provided to Cameroon, Kenya, Senegal, Togo & Tunisia through UNSDCF processes, including CCA.

National environment summaries (NES) & SDG profiles of selected countries produced for Botswana, Cote d'Ivoire, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Senegal, Somalia, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia.

Atlas of Africa's Natural Capital developed jointly with African Development Bank, helping inform countries to integrate national capital accounting into national budgets.



Integration of environmental sustainability & resilience in the different stages of UNSDCF & national policies to tackle triple planetary crisis.

Capacity building of UNCTs & Africa Office staff on integration of environmental dimensions in the new UNSDCF.

Enhanced UNEP engagement through national focal point system.



# Cross Cutting Issues



## Cross cutting Issues

Malawi developed procedural rules for Environment Tribunal to support access to justice for environment matters.

30 judges from Sierra Leone trained on environmental law.

Sierra Leone operationalized a training manual on compliance and enforcement.

Action plans for Africa Group developed on environment diplomacy.

50 judges from Kenya Land & Environment court trained on environmental law.

Opportunity Issue-Based Coalition -5 (OIBC-5).

Ethiopia developed a training manual & curriculum on environmental crimes.



# Cross Cutting Issues

## South-South Cooperation



Through the UNCT, empirical data and lessons from application of climate solutions of EBA and clean energy to enhance productivity of cassava value chains in Cameroon, Nigeria and Uganda have been taken up by WFP to inform regional centers of excellence on cassava for the Central Africa region.

Green financing mechanism guidelines developed to support uptake of green business and circular economy principles and practices across Africa.

Share information and knowledge on key areas such as climate change, loss of biodiversity and pollution with Member States, civil society and other stakeholders including private sector across Africa.

Data, lessons, experiences from Cameroon, Nigeria, Uganda on skills retooling of young people to decentralize clean energy for agro-value addition as a trajectory for youth environment action enterprises taken up by non-state actors in Zimbabwe to develop programme on “opportunities for youth employment”



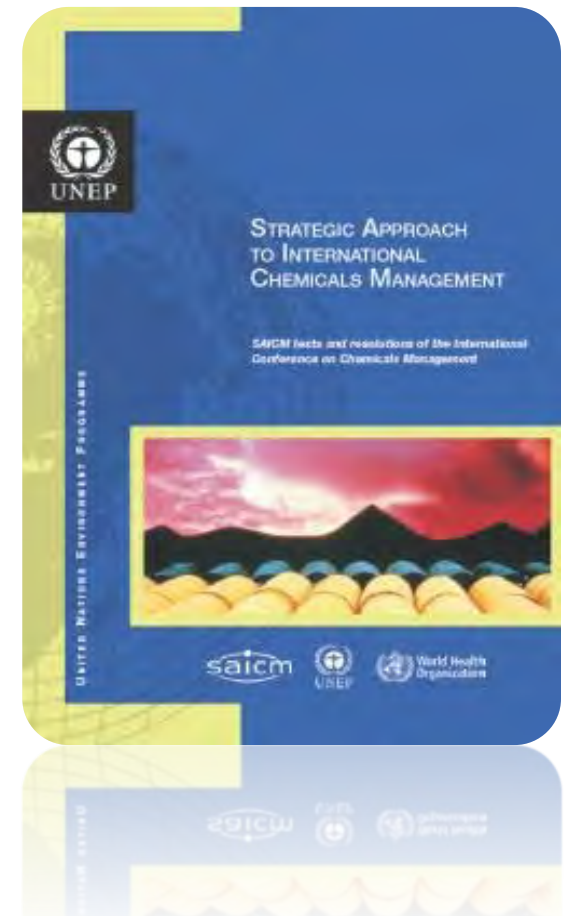
# Support on the Implementation of MEAs



Ratification and early implementation of the Minamata Convention is facilitated using scientific and technical knowledge and tools by national stakeholders in participating countries (Angola, Burundi, Central African Republic, Republic of Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Malawi and Zimbabwe).

Assisted countries adopt lead paint laws, as part of the Strategic Approach for International Chemicals Management (SAICM) Global Environment Facility (GEF) project lead in paint component (Benin, Burkina Faso, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Niger, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo, Uganda).

Supported partners to enhance effective management of protected areas and facilitation of MEA process such as Global biodiversity framework preparedness in Africa, the UNCCD Abidjan Legacy programme.





# Opportunities





# Risks



# Lessons learned



The region is experiencing a growing demand for up-to-date, quality-assured, credible, and relevant environmental data, statistics, and environmental economic accounts to support integration efforts across the UN system, as well as at national and regional levels. This demands for enhanced agility and retooling of UNEP's capacity to provide timely responses.

Unlocking multiple environment related SDGs uptake by UNCTs in countries can also be achieved through thought leadership and non-monetary contributions.

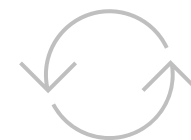
UNEP can partner with other UN agencies to better support countries.

Working through the informal sector and tapping into youth demographic offers a conduit for uptake of UNEP work by two of Africa's largest constituency of operational actors.

Enterprising narrative of environment action provides incentive for uptake by diverse actors.



# Changes made



Structured engagement in UNCT processes in countries through UNEP focal persons to support UNEP inputs in UNSDCF processes and CCAs enables UNEP to support many countries.

Building synergies with national partners and stakeholders for transformation of science-policy approaches, especially in the areas of joint programming and resource mobilization to support implementation of UNSDCF.

Narrative on environment action changed to premise it as an investment and source of productive solutions + UNEP developing projects with other UN agencies at country level (e.g., Mauritius and Seychelles) through the UNCT, each bringing their strength to better support countries meet their SDG targets.

New knowledge that projects investment opportunities on the environment, catalyzing participation of different actors to take up environmental dimensions from enterprise dimension.



# Lessons Learned and changes made - Finance Perspective



Resource mobilization: close focused engagement with member states has yielded positive outcomes in payment of outstanding arrears under Environment Fund, AMCEN Trust Fund and Bamako Convention.



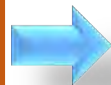
Africa office management has taken a proactive approach to engage member states not just via various methods of correspondence, but also via focused meetings during major events such as UNEA, AMCEN and at COPs.

Consolidation of various contributions due from Member States into one annual invoice from UNEP may be helpful for member states in budgeting funds due to UNEP.



Africa office is working with the Public Sector Partnerships & Resource Mobilization to explore the feasibility of this proposal.

Close collaboration with other UN Agencies in the UNCT and the RC system has opened avenues to ensure that not only is UNEP agenda mainstreamed but also opened opportunities for various funds under joint programs.



Africa Office management has assigned each of the 54 Member States a focal point among its program officers to ensure close collaboration on UNSDCF.

# Looking ahead



Enhance collaboration with divisions at the programmatic level to deliver the environment agenda for the region.

Enhance operationalization of the UNEP focal points to strengthen delivery of environmental sustainability in countries through the UNDS.

Continue support to countries to translate their NDCs to implementation investments driving uptake of nature-based solutions and clean energy.

Strengthen partnerships with multiple actors and stakeholders in the region, including the non-state actors.

Guiding youth & informal sector operators to take up climate solutions into their enterprise actions and generate empirical data to inform pro-SDGs policy implementation trajectories in different sectors.





**Thank you**

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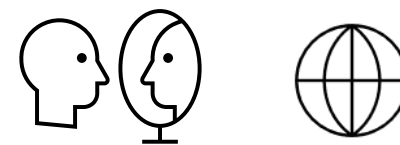
Frank Turyatunga  
Director and Regional Representative for Africa

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# Regional Office for West Asia January to June 2022 Programme Implementation

Sami Dimassi, Representative and Regional Director



## What does the West Asia Office do?

Mobilize actions and raise awareness towards environment sustainability and climate resilience.

Enhance national capacities to address pressing environmental issues, including access to financing.

Generate data and science to inform policy decisions.

Support the UN System at the regional and country level to integrate environmental dimension into development cooperation frameworks and programmes.

## Significant Regional Developments

- COP-27 – COP28 in the Arab Region (Egypt & UAE) - significant increase in bi-lateral regional cooperation to make sure both COPs are successful.
- Major events organized such as MENA Climate Week in March 2022 and Arab Forum for Environment and Development (AFSD) in April 2022.
- Two mega initiatives (Saudi and Middle East Green Initiatives) launched and under development.



## ROWA covers 12 countries

- GCC countries: 6
- Levant *countries*: 6
- Project presence in Iraq, Qatar and Saudi Arabia.

Contact: Sami Dimassi, Regional Director



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

# Climate Stability Results



- Final draft of the Net-Zero Carbon Pathways for Energy Sector in West Asia.
- Kuwait Low Carbon Development Strategy approach and plan agreed.
- Green Growth Assessment for Oman completed.

- Climate Public Expenditure and Investment Review and Climate Risk Assessment for Iraq concluded.
- Improved Jordan's readiness for NDCs implementation through enhanced national consultation mechanism on regulatory landscape and preparation of bankable projects.

- Organized the first MENA Climate Week and the 14th Arab Climate Negotiators in UAE, March 2022.
- Developed a Manual and conducted regional training workshop on Urban Adaptation.
- Conducted Technical Training on Climate Modelling for Iraq.



# Living in Harmony with Nature

## Results



- Two Protected Areas (Teeb & Dalmaj) declared increasing areas under protection in Iraq by 211, 200 ha.
- Manual for Coastal Dredging in the GCC reviewed and finalized.

UN Decade for Ecosystem Restoration in the MENA Region launched on 21 March 2022 by UNEP & FAO.



- West Asia Recipe of Change Campaign launched to raise awareness on food waste, facilitated by 10 leading Arab chefs.
- Foodwaste baseline for household in Doha completed.



# Towards a Pollution Free Planet

## Results



- National Chemical Profile and Integrated Pollution Control Strategy for Iraq completed.
- Unified Guidelines for Chemicals for GCC reviewed and finalized.

- Waste minimization guidelines for Oman produced.
- The West Asia Sustainable Fashion Academy for the region was launched and the Zero-Waste Fashion and Eco-design Marathon organised in Lebanon in June 2022.

- Two low-cost air quality monitoring stations installed in Palestine.
- Guidelines for Air Quality Data Management for GCC reviewed and finalized.
- National Strategy on Chemicals Safety for Kuwait under development.

- Inventories for Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) prepared for Bahrain and Iraq.
- Draft National Implementation Plans for POPs in Bahrain and Iraq.

# Cross Cutting Issues

## Gender



UNEP organized the West Asia Regional Multi-Stakeholder meeting for Stockholm + 50 on 11 and 12 May. The consultations attracted more than 130 participants, where 50% were women. Out of 20 speakers from government representatives, civil society, youth, women associations, UN agencies and others, 10 were women.

Most participants in the West Asia Sustainable Fashion Academy were women and youth - indicating a high level of motivation vis-à-vis sustainability among future generations.

UNEP ROWA brings on board staff, UN Volunteers, interns and consultants - 50% of Beirut, Iraq and Saudi based staff are women and youth.





# Cross Cutting Issues

## Environmental and Social Safeguards



All our projects follow the Environmental and Social Safeguards (ESS) Policy.

Stakeholders' discussion were held prior to the announcement of the “Teeb” protected area in Iraq to ensure a non-controversial process in terms of the interests of key stakeholders and does not pose social and environmental risks.

During projects implementation in the first six months, all workshops and trainings were paper-free and only water in multiple-use dispensers was distributed among participants. Catering and lunch breaks had minimal food and water waste, and this is a policy UNEP ROWA has been following in the last years.



# Cross Cutting Issues

## South-South Cooperation



The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) brought together all Gulf countries, in cooperation with UNEP, to share knowledge and experience through workshops on MEAs and develop Guidelines that are linked to air quality, dredging and chemical management.

Technical resources (experts and researchers) from the Levant countries and GCC have been involved in training experts and participants from West Asian countries on the GCC outlook report and in supporting drafting.

Civil society organizations and youth shared knowledge and information with partners in West Asia through partnerships with UNEP on reforestation and rehabilitation of ecosystems.

Academic institutions shared knowledge with youth and countries' representatives on sustainable fashion and circularity.



# Support on the Implementation of MEAs



UNEP ROWA supported the Gulf Cooperation Council secretariat in organizing a workshop on biodiversity-related MEAs, mobilizing four experts from the CBD, CMS and CITES to build capacities of at least 30 participants from GCC countries on MEAs processes and upcoming COPs.

UNEP supported the Government of Iraq in establishing a Functional Environmental Information System for the Synergistic Implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs); the EIS Centre was inaugurated with the Ministry of Environment of Iraq on 22 March 2022.

UNEP in partnership with the League of Arab States is launching a series of workshop/training programme for Arab negotiators representing countries in Biodiversity-related MEAs.

UNEP supported three countries in developing their PoP NIPs, MIAs under the BRS MEAs.

UNEP negotiated with two countries to start working on reports (SNCs/TNCs/BUR) within the framework of the UNFCCC.

UNEP supported countries in West Asia in their HCFC Phase-out Management Plans (HPMPs) under Ozone secretariat and finalized projects under Kigali protocol.



# Opportunities



UNEP has established strong partnerships with national counterparts and the UN system at national, sub-regional and regional levels.

UNEA-5 resolutions may drive additional action on critical topics such as plastics, nitrogen management, minerals, air quality.

Increased demand for UNEP support in advancing environment and climate action at the national level (more country-oriented projects).

Increased climate action momentum in the region (net-zero pledges, COPs, NDCs, etc.)

The awareness and campaigns launched by West Asia Office will serve as a good foundation for accelerated actions on food-waste, fashion, circularity, etc.



# Risks



Operational challenges with regard to project implementation, dialogue and sustaining environmental results in the region.

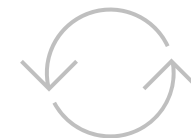
Shortage in funding for some countries in the region and its implications on complying with COPs decisions and resolution.

Limited expertise pool in the region.

Political instabilities and financial crisis delaying PoW implementation



# Lessons learned and changes made



## Lessons learned

- Setting priorities should be driven by countries as was evident from the regional and country-level consultations held to develop the West Asia work plan for 2022 and beyond.
- UNEP served as a convening agent for regional programmes that promoted more regional cooperation, exchange of information and expertise.
- More engagement with UN Country Team enhanced the environment dimension and brought about joint UN initiatives, projects and activities.

## Changes made

- Adopting systematic approach to programming of activities at the national and regional level.
- Applying regular mapping of national and regional needs to adjust plans as necessary.
- Securing additional resources to support the Office engagement in the UN Reform

# Looking ahead



Climate ambitions under the NDC and Paris Agreement are supported.

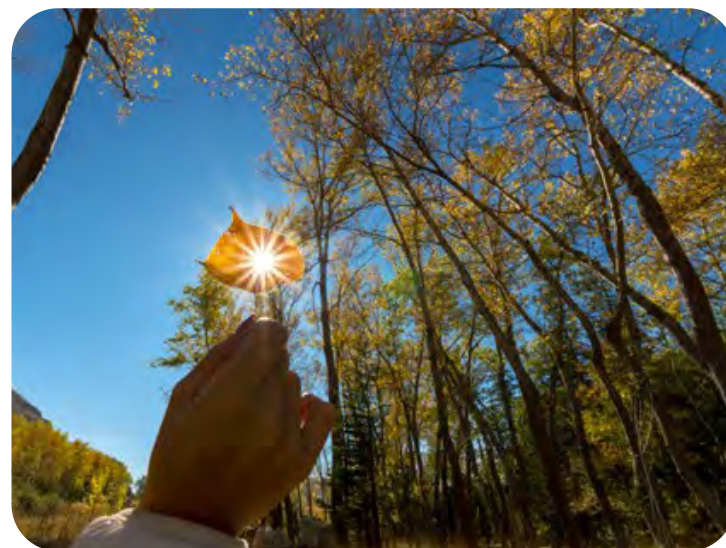
Scaling up the flow of environment and climate finance to the region through accessing global funds (GEF, GCF, AF, MLF, etc.).

Plastic pollution addressed through the INC and Arab States participation.

The Middle East Green Initiative supported through technical assistance.

Science-Policy intergovernmental panel on chemicals and pollution.

COPs for climate change (COP27 & 28), Biodiversity (COP15), and CITES COP 19 are supported through national and regional engagements.





Thank you

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Sami Dimassi  
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[Sami.dimassi@un.org](mailto:Sami.dimassi@un.org)

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Thank You

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