

UNEP – your partner for people and planet

Introduction



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UNEP - your partner for people and planet

This booklet presents an overview of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) – its mission, vision, strategy and action for tackling the triple planetary crisis. It chronicles environmental highlights from the past five decades, shows how UNEP works in partnerships, and explains why it is crucial that funding provided to UNEP keeps pace with the growing expectations placed on the organization to deliver results in support of people and planet. It also gives evidence of UNEP being a trusted and relevant partner on the journey towards planetary sustainability.

Share the journey



**António Guterres,
UN Secretary-General**

“When UNEP was founded in 1972 the planet was already showing signs of buckling under the weight of humanity. UNEP offered the world a new way forward based on a vision for a better, healthier earth built on the pillars of international cooperation.

In the following decades, UNEP and its partners would work with Member States to combat air pollution, restore the ozone layer, protect the world seas, promote a green and inclusive economy, and raise the alarm about biodiversity loss and climate change.

It has shown that multilateralism works and can deliver solutions for people and the planet. UNEP science, policy work, coordination and advocacy has helped to right environmental wrongs around the world and raise awareness of the critical importance of the environmental dimension of sustainable development.

The work you do has never been more important.”

**Quote from the UN Secretary General’s speech at the UN
Environment Assembly Special Session on UNEP@50, March 2022**

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Introduction

UNEP - your partner on the journey to tackle the triple planetary crisis

For five decades, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has been the leading global authority on the environment. Since 1972 UNEP has informed, enabled and inspired countries, communities and people to come together to tackle the most urgent environmental challenges facing the planet and humankind.

UNEP is a steadfast partner, a passionate advocate and a trusted advisor.

UNEP monitors the state and health of the planet, ensures that science remains at the centre of decision-making processes, and that environmental rule of law continues to underpin global environmental governance.

Together with its partners, UNEP has made significant progress, but more is needed.

The world is navigating what the UN Secretary General has called the “number one existential threat”. Unsustainable patterns of consumption and production have led to

the triple planetary crisis of climate change, nature and biodiversity loss, and pollution and waste.

We must urgently transform our economies and societies - and our relationship with nature.

UNEP is here to lead this transformation with its 193 Member States, and in partnership with other UN agencies and stakeholders. We must take decisive actions now to address the triple planetary crisis – and to strengthen resilience to existing and emerging environmental issues.

With its experience, expertise, dynamic programmes and forward-thinking strategy, and with its dedicated staff, **UNEP is uniquely positioned to be your partner and guide on the journey towards planetary sustainability.**





Inger Andersen, Executive Director, United Nations Environment Programme

The history of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is one of global cooperation and our collective commitment to protect our planet.

As the leading global environmental authority, UNEP has been at the forefront of the environmental movement for over five decades, and together with our partners we have achieved remarkable successes – many of them highlighted in this booklet.

UNEP is driving transformational change by drilling down on the root causes of the triple planetary crisis we are facing. The crisis of climate change, the crisis of nature and biodiversity loss, and the crisis of waste and pollution.

Our work champions science that guides countries as they transition to low-carbon and resource-efficient economies, strengthens environmental governance and law, safeguards ecosystems and provides evidence-based data to inform policy decisions.

Our vision is a world where everyone, everywhere can thrive while living in harmony with nature, on a pollution-free, climate-stable planet.

We know that this future is possible – but only if we act now and work together. We invite you to share the journey with us.

