

UNEP – your partner for people and planet

Part 4 Funding of UNEP



2024
EDITION

part 4

Funding of UNEP

How is UNEP funded?

UNEP relies on voluntary contributions for over 95 per cent of its operations. There are four main sources of funding for UNEP.

The success of the work of UNEP depends on the financial contributions made by Member States and other partners. UNEP thanks you.

EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS

earmarked for specific projects, themes or countries, enable expansion and replication of programme and results in more countries with more partners.

• Earmarked Funds

From Member States, the European Commission, the UN family, the Multilateral Fund (Montreal Protocol) etc. (\$1,203.6M/43 per cent*)

• Global Funds

From GEF and GCF (\$1,067.4M/38 per cent*)

CORE CONTRIBUTIONS

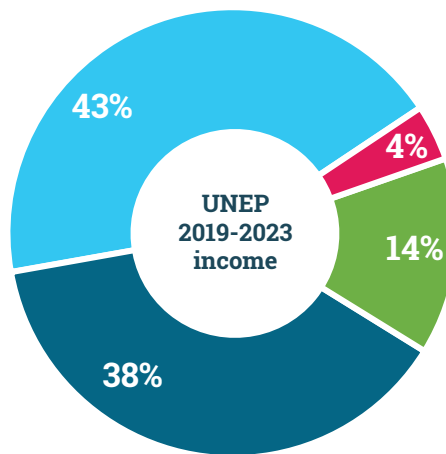
gives flexibility to implement programme of work as approved by all Member States.

• UN Regular Budget

supports functions of UNEP Secretariat, including the Governing Bodies, coordination in the UN system, and cooperation with global scientific communities. (\$120.0M/4 per cent*)

• Environment Fund

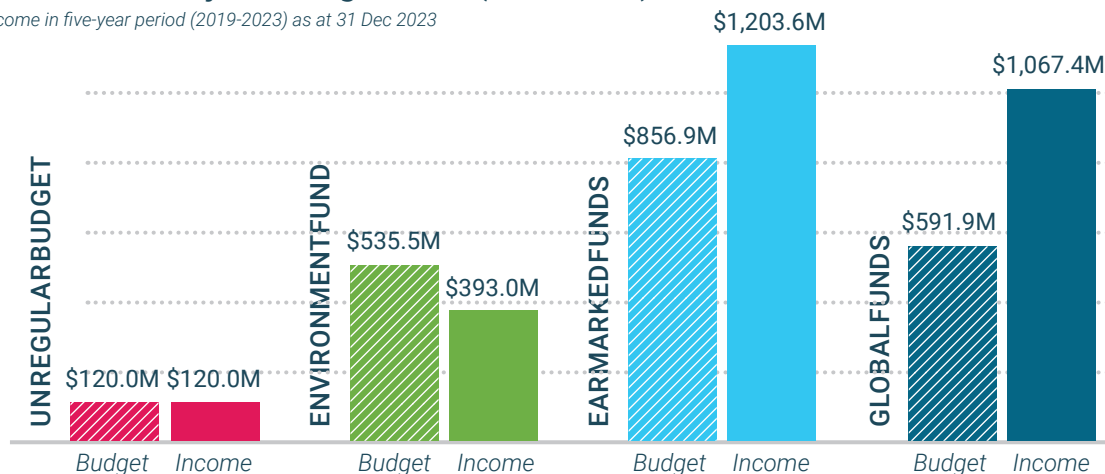
the core fund, supports essential capacity needed for balanced and efficient delivery of programme approved by Member States. (\$393.0M/14 per cent*)



* combined income in five-year period (2019-2023) as at 31 Dec 2023

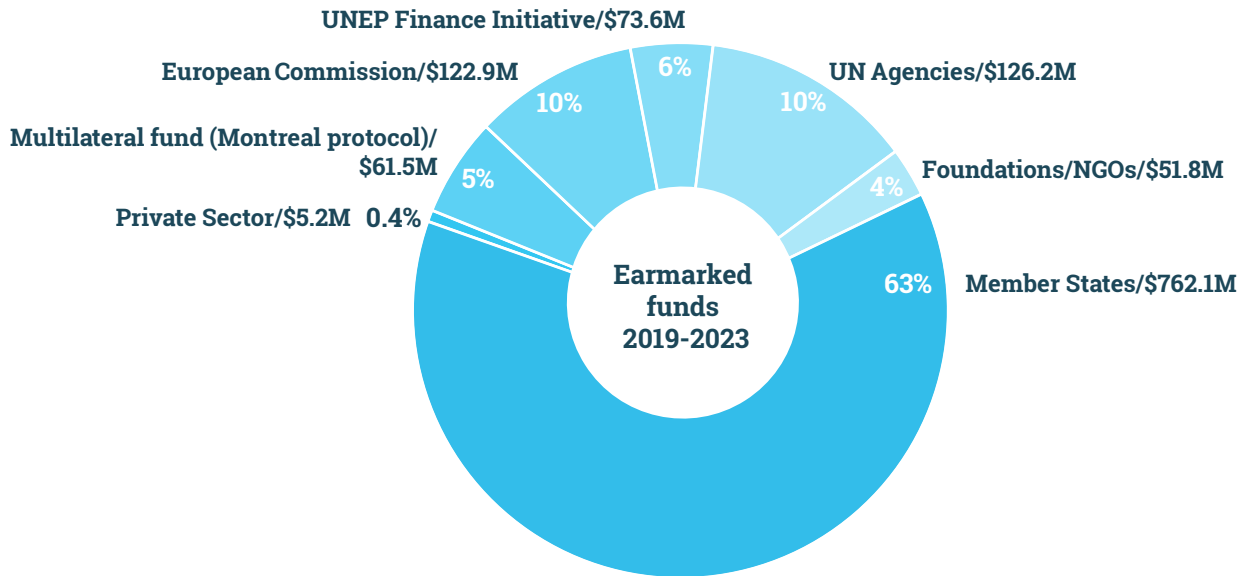
Budget and Income by Funding Source (2019-2023)

* combined income in five-year period (2019-2023) as at 31 Dec 2023



Earmarked funds 2019-2023

* combined income in five-year period (2019-2023) as at 31 Dec 2023



Flexibility in funding supports agility in programming

UNEP remained open for business throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, but rapidly adjusted some of its programming. This kind of agility is only possible thanks to the flexibility of core funding, which gives the organization the ability to adjust to emerging threats (see p.23).



Towards better and stronger funding of UNEP

The Environment Fund

The **Environment Fund** was established in 1973 by the UN General Assembly as the core financial fund of UNEP.

The fund is used to provide scientific evidence on the state of the global environment; to identify emerging environmental issues and innovative solutions; to raise awareness and advocacy; and to build capacity. It invests in results-focused programme management and robust oversight. It also finances UNEP's convening power in bringing together governments, the private sector and civil society to advance the global environmental agenda, for example through UNEA.

Core funding gives UNEP the flexibility to implement the programme of work as approved by its Member States, and to strategically respond to emerging challenges, such as COVID-19. Earmarked funds complement core funding and support upscaling and replicating of results of the core work – including building capacity in more countries and with more partners. However, if earmarked very strictly, the funding risks steering the organisation away from the commonly agreed goals to addressing symptoms rather than root causes.

The Environment Fund – a green investment that benefits all countries.

Securing contributions to the Environment Fund, as well as softly earmarked funding, is indispensable for UNEP to deliver results effectively and efficiently, and to support countries to deliver on the environmental dimensions of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Three thematic funds

To shift the balance away from rigidly earmarked funding of individual projects towards improved income distribution and resource allocation for bigger impact, UNEP in 2022 launched **three thematic funds** that provide flexible softly earmarked funding streams to achieve the MTS objectives of Climate Stability, Living in Harmony with Nature, and a move Towards a Pollution Free Planet.

Contributions to the thematic funds will enable a comprehensive, science-based approach, which will further position UNEP in its role as the global environmental authority.



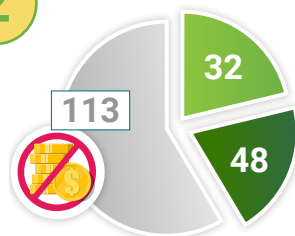
How to strengthen UNEP's funding

1



Fund the Environment Fund at the level of the budget approved by Member States. In 2023 income was at 89 per cent of the approved budget of US\$ 100 million.

2



Contribute your full share – all UNEP Member States (193) have the responsibility to fund UNEP. In 2023, 80 Member States contributed to the Environment Fund, 48 of whom contributed their full share as per the indicative scale established by Member States.

3



When core funding to the Environment Fund is not possible, **support the three Thematic Funds**. Currently almost 80 per cent of the funding received by UNEP is tightly earmarked. More effective delivery of results needs more flexibility in funding.

Funding UNEP is a global, shared responsibility

In 1972 the founders of UNEP envisioned that annual core funding to the Environment Fund would be at the level of US\$ 100 million, which in today's value would amount to around US\$ 740 million. As a comparison, in 2023 UNEP's Environment Fund received US\$ 89 million – or some 12 per cent of the original vision.

At the same time, UNEP's mandate has grown tremendously since 1972. It is clear that funding has not kept up with the requests placed on UNEP.

In 2012, following the Rio+20 UN Conference, the General Assembly reaffirmed and strengthened the

role of UNEP. To enable it to deliver on its strengthened mandate, world leaders committed to ensure secure, stable, adequate and increased financial resources to UNEP. Subsequent UNEAs have reiterated this commitment.

Funding the Environment Fund is a responsibility to be shared by all Member States.

All 193 Member States are encouraged to contribute their full share to the Environment Fund.



A Call to Partners

Investing in UNEP means investing in the health of the environment for people and planet.

More than ever, it is vital to ensure that UNEP has the financial resources it needs to create a lasting impact and deliver the results partners expect.

Every contribution matters.

Help fund UNEP – for people and planet.



Top-15 Environment Fund Contributors 2019-2023

1		Netherlands	\$46.1M
2		Germany	\$41.2M
3		France	\$37.8M
4		USA	\$36.0M
5		Norway	\$28.4M
6		Denmark	\$27.5M
7		Sweden	\$24.6M
8		Belgium	\$23.5M
9		United Kingdom	\$21.7M
10		Switzerland	\$20.1M
11		Finland	\$12.3M
12		Canada	\$12.3M
13		Italy	\$11.4M
14		Japan	\$7.9M
15		China	\$7.0M



Top-15 Earmarked Fund Contributors 2019-2023

1	Germany	\$262.5M
2	UN Agencies	\$126.3M
3	European Commission / EU	\$122.9M
4	Norway	\$111.4M
5	UNEP Finance Initiative	\$73.7M
6	Sweden	\$64.9M
7	Multilateral Fund (Montreal Protocol)	\$61.5M
8	Foundation/NGO	\$51.7M
9	United States of America	\$45.8M
10	Japan	\$42.0M
11	United Kingdom	\$39.5M
12	Denmark	\$36.2M
13	Switzerland	\$24.9M
14	Canada	\$23.6M
15	Belgium	\$13.2M

** Partnership between UNEP and the global financial sector to mobilize private sector finance for sustainable development (see p.16).*

Environment Fund (2023)

Out of 193 Member States, in 2023:



15 of the 193 Member States provide over 90 per cent of UNEP's income.

While the top-15 contributors to the Environment Fund are large economies, many other contributors that pay their full share of the approved budget are Small Island States and Least Developed Countries, demonstrating that every country has the capacity to contribute.

Contributors to the Environment Fund in 2023

as at 15 February 2024

CONTRIBUTIONS ABOVE AND EQUAL TO FULL SHARE**

Albania	Eritrea	Kenya	Montenegro	Slovenia
Armenia	Fiji	Latvia	Morocco	Sri Lanka
Barbados	France	Liechtenstein	Netherlands	Sweden
Belgium	Georgia	Lithuania	New Zealand	Switzerland
Bosnia & Herzegovina	Guinea	Luxembourg	Norway	Tajikistan
Bulgaria	Guyana	Maldives	Panama	Tanzania
Canada	Iceland	Malta	Peru	United Kingdom
Cyprus	Ireland	Mauritius	Saint Lucia	Uruguay
Denmark	Jamaica	Micronesia	Serbia	
Dominican Republic	Jordan	Monaco	Seychelles	

OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS

Andorra	Croatia	Indonesia	Kuwait	Republic of Korea	Trinidad and Tobago
Australia	Finland	Iran	Malaysia	Singapore	United States of America
Austria	Germany	Iraq	Mexico	Slovakia	
Chile	Honduras	Italy	Paraguay	South Africa	
China	Hungary	Japan	Philippines	Spain	
Costa Rica	India	Kazakhstan	Portugal	Thailand	

** The full share according to the Environment Fund voluntary indicative scale of contributions (VISC), established by the UN Member States. Please note the United States does not participate in the VISC.