

QUARTERLY REPORT

to the 161st Meeting of the
COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES



SEVENTEENTH ISSUE

October – December 2022

Table of Contents

1	Significant Developments.....	3
A.	Global Developments.....	3
B.	Regional Developments.....	8
2	Programme of Work Implementation.....	12
A.	Climate Stability.....	12
B.	Living in Harmony with Nature.....	13
C.	Towards a pollution-free planet.....	14
D.	Foundational Subprogrammes.....	16
E.	Enabling Subprogrammes.....	17
F.	Cross-cutting Issues.....	19
G.	Challenges, Opportunities and Lessons Learned.....	20
3	Resources and Management Issues.....	22
A.	Financial Resources.....	22
B.	Resource Mobilization Strategy.....	27
C.	Human Resources.....	28
D.	Audits.....	36
E.	Evaluations.....	36

1 SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS

A. Global Developments

UN Climate Change Conference (COP27)

The 27th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP27) (Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, 6-18 November) culminated in the adoption of the [Sharm el-Sheikh Implementation Plan](#), with one of the key outcomes of the Conference being the decision to establish and operationalize a [loss and damage fund](#), which is expected to support developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to losses arising from droughts, floods, rising seas and other disasters that are attributed to climate change.

Various UNEP initiatives were launched in the lead-up to or during COP27, some of which are highlighted below.

- Climate and Clean Air Ministerial Declaration

The [Climate and Clean Air Ministerial Declaration](#) adopted at COP27 re-emphasized the importance of and commitment to the reduction of short-lived climate

pollutants (SLCP), tasking the UNEP-hosted Secretariat with developing concepts for a new Clean Air Flagship, and a technical and economic assessment panel for SLCP reduction technologies and solutions.

- Global Methane Pledge Ministerial

The [Global Methane Pledge Ministerial](#) (17 November), designed as a stock take at the end of year one of the goals of cutting anthropogenic methane emissions at least 30 percent by 2030 from 2020 levels, gained momentum with 150 countries having joined and over 50 countries having submitted - or working on - methane action plans.

- Global Peatlands Assessment

UNEP launched the flagship product of the [Global Peatlands Initiative - the Global Peatlands Assessment \(GPA\)](#) aiming to establish the State of the Worlds Peatlands. The Assessment provides an updated Global Peatland Map supported by hotspots and global case studies, answers questions on peatland distribution, trends, and pressures, closes knowledge gaps, compiles relevant data and presents the best available science for strategic decision-making for the



The UNEP Executive Director at the 27th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP27), held on 6-18 November 2022, Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt (Photo credit: UNEP)

conservation, restoration and sustainable management of peatlands.

- Science for adaptation

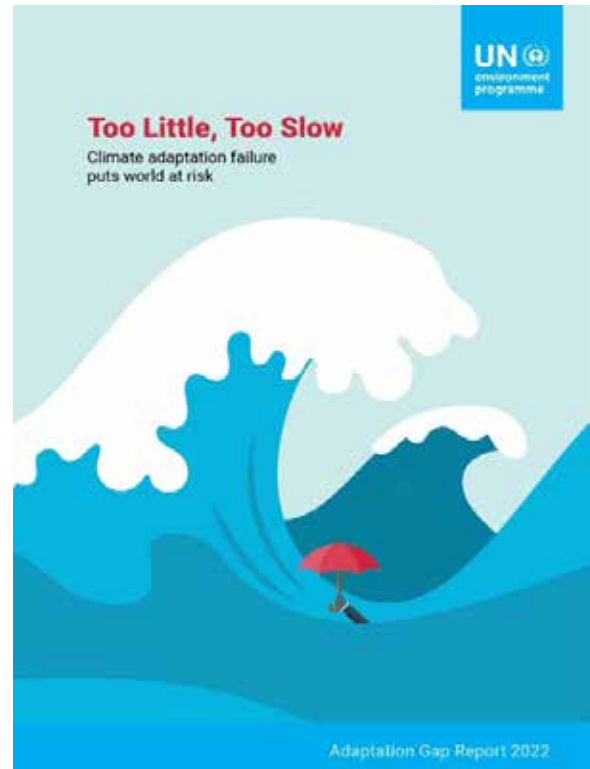
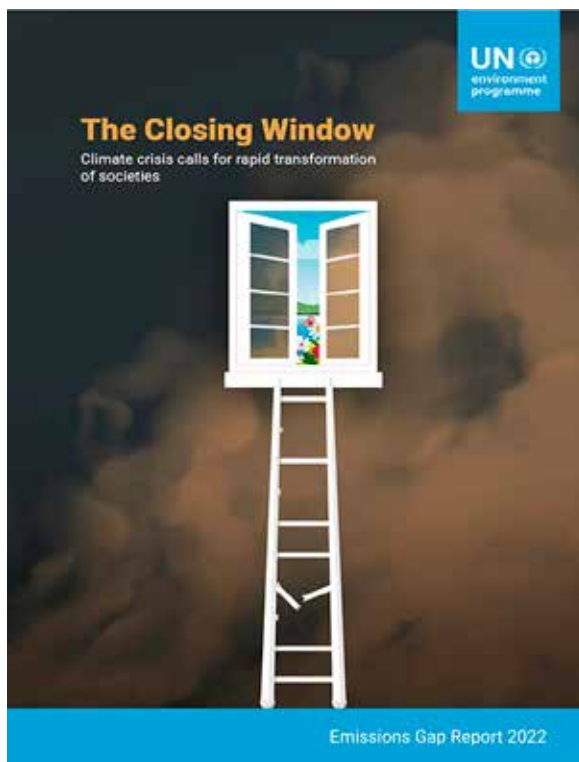
The World Adaptation Science Programme ([WASP](#)) – published by seven UN agencies including UNEP - launched (14 November) the science for adaptation [policy brief](#) on the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) at COP27, which sets the scene for discussion on the status of the GGA and country driven approaches building on existing tools and reports to operationalize the GGA.

- Work programme on the global goal on adaptation

A [workshop](#) on the Global Goal on Adaptation at COP27 (5 November) focused on Communicating and Reporting on Adaptation Priorities, bringing together Member States, UN agencies, youth groups and more. UNEP provided [inputs](#) to the workshops, including findings from the [Adaptation Gap Report](#) and from across its adaptation portfolio.

- Institutional Series

Ahead of COP27, UNEP released its two Institutional Series on climate science: the [Emissions Gap Report 2022: The Closing Window](#) and the [Adaptation Gap Report 2022: Too Little, Too Slow](#). The reports informed negotiations and were cited in the [Sharm el-Sheikh Implementation Plan](#) adopted by Member States.



United Nations Biodiversity Conference (CBD COP15)

The 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 15) to the Convention on Biological Diversity ([CBD COP15](#)) (Montreal, Canada, 7-19 December) involving the participation of 188 out of 196 parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity ([CBD](#)), adopted the [Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework](#) with four goals and 23 targets to slow biodiversity loss by 2030. The targets, many of which highlight the importance of strengthening the rights of indigenous peoples, include, among others:

- Effective conservation and management of at least 30% of the world's lands, inland waters, coastal areas and oceans;
- Reduce to near zero the loss of areas of high biodiversity importance;
- Halve food waste and significantly reduce overconsumption and waste generation; and
- Phase out or reform subsidies that harm biodiversity by at least US\$ 500 billion per year.



COP15 - Adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework on 19 December 2022
(Photo credit: UNEP)

Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Japan, UK and the US announced (12 December) the launch of the [Sustainable Critical Minerals Alliance](#) on the sidelines of COP15 pledging to drive the global uptake of environmentally sustainable and socially inclusive and responsible mining, processing and recycling practices and responsible critical minerals supply chains.

UNEP and its partners under the [UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration](#) launched (13 December) the [first ten World Restoration Flagships](#) at COP15. The initiatives are eligible to receive UN-backed promotion, advice or funding and are designed to prevent and reverse the degradation of natural spaces. The 10 initiatives collectively aim to restore more than 68 million hectares and create nearly 15 million jobs.

INC on legally binding instrument on plastic pollution

To further the implementation of UNEA [resolution 5/14](#) "End plastic pollution: Towards an international legally binding instrument", the [first meeting](#) of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) to develop the instrument (Punta del Este, Uruguay, 28 November - 2 December) brought together over 2,500 participants from 147 countries, and deliberated on the scope, objectives and structure of the instrument

and its potential elements, standard articles on final provisions, sequencing and recommended further work.

The Committee elected Gustavo Meza-Cuadra (Peru) as INC Chair by acclamation and [concluded](#) by requesting the INC Secretariat to prepare a document outlining options for elements of the instrument, based on a comprehensive approach that addresses the full lifecycle of plastics. This includes objective, substantive provisions including core obligations, control measures and voluntary approaches, implementation measures and means of implementation, including both legally binding and voluntary measures.

The deliberations were preceded by a Multi-Stakeholder Forum hosted by UNEP (26 November) that brought together around 900 participants to exchange information and activities related to plastic pollution. UNEP, the Global Judicial Institute on the Environment (GJIE), the IUCN World Commission on Environmental Law (WCEL), and the [Ministry of Environment of Uruguay also organized a hybrid dialogue](#) (1 December) to highlight the essential role of law and justice to tackle plastic pollution.



Plastics Pollution Negotiations (Plastics Diplomacy) Training and Africa Regional Consultations on the Inter-governmental Negotiating Committee Process held on 7 – 10 November 2022, Naivasha, Kenya
(Photo credit: UNEP/Africa Office)

In preparation for the INC meeting, UNEP supported the [Plastics Pollution Negotiations \(Plastics Diplomacy\) Training](#) and [Africa Regional Consultations](#) on the INC Process (online - 26-27 October; in-person, 7–11 November), which paved the way for the African Group of Negotiators to make informed decisions and offer perspectives on plastics from the African context.

General Assembly resolutions pertinent to UNEP

The General Assembly adopted multiple resolutions (14 December) pertinent to the work of UNEP, including resolution [77/168](#) calling for the full implementation of resolutions and decisions of UNEA's fifth resumed session; and resolution [77/162](#) welcoming the decision of the Board of the 10 Year Framework of Programmes (18-19 October) to adopt the [Global Strategy for Sustainable Consumption and Production \(SCP\) 2023–2030](#) and calling upon stakeholders to support its implementation and resource mobilization.

9th Annual Subcommittee of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR)

During the [9th Annual Subcommittee of the Committee of Permanent Representatives \(CPR\)](#) (Nairobi, Kenya, 24- 28 October), Member States and stakeholders were briefed on: UNEP in the context of UN reform and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; the implementation of the Programme of Work and Budget for 2022-2023; the implementation of UNEA outcomes in the context of the Programme of Work; UNEP's

organizational effectiveness, financial outlook and funding challenges; and the status of implementation of outcomes of the consensual process for review by the CPR as well as the first formal consultation on the theme for UNEA 6. The outcomes of the meeting are elaborated upon in the [Chair's Summary](#).¹

Greening the Blue Report

The [Greening the Blue report](#) on the UN system's environmental footprint and efforts to reduce it was published on 14 December, covering the 2021 environmental impact areas and management functions, as identified in the [Strategy for Sustainability Management in the United Nations System 2020 – 2030](#). The report reflects data from 307,000 personnel in 53 reporting UN entities across headquarters, field offices and ground operations.

2023 UN Water Conference preparation

The [Preparatory Meeting of the 2023 UN Water Conference](#), convened by the President of the General Assembly (New York, 25 October), adjourned underlining the interlinkages between water and the triple planetary crises and called for transboundary collaboration and transformative innovation including

¹ The UNEA Bureau held an online meeting on 9 December 2022, to consider a revised options paper on the theme for the 6th UNEA session. The Bureau provided further guidance and requested the Secretariat to provide a revised version to be discussed at the CPR subcommittee meeting on 19 January 2023 and at the Joint Bureaus meeting on 30 January 2023.

sustainable consumption and production. UNEP is assisting with technical advice and inputs to the preparatory process of the Conference, both directly and through its participation in [UN Water](#). UNEP is also collaborating with the Ministry of Environment and Forestry of Indonesia to organize a side event (UNHQ, New York) on taking action to implement UNEA resolution 5/4 on sustainable lake management, as a catalyst to accelerate global commitment on the Water Action Agenda.

Mapping exercise on UN efforts to transform the extractive sector

Under UNEP's chairmanship of, the [Secretary-General's Working Group on Transforming the Extractive Industries](#), a comprehensive [mapping and dashboards](#) of UN efforts to transform the Extractive Industries for Sustainable Development was produced, the results of which were presented to the Secretary General's Executive Office (October). Additionally, the Working Group organized [side events](#) at the 2022 Intergovernmental Forum on Mining, Minerals, Metals and Sustainable Development ([IGF](#)) (Geneva, 7-10 November) and COP27 focusing on critical minerals and metals. These initiatives collectively support the implementation of UNEA resolution 5/12 "Environmental aspects of minerals and metals management",

Ramsar CoP 14, CITES CoP 19, 79th Session of MEPC

UNEP provided leadership, support and technical advice to: [Ramsar CoP 14](#) (Geneva, Switzerland and Wuhan, China, 5-13 November) resulting in the adoption of the [Wuhan Declaration](#) - a statement of political will reaffirming the principles of the [Convention on Wetlands](#); to [CITES CoP 19](#) (Panama City, Panama, 14-25 November) resulting in the inclusion of over 450 species into CITES trade controls; and to the [79th session](#) of the Marine Environment Protection Committee (London, UK, 12-16 December) resulting in the adoption of the Mediterranean Sea Emission Control Area for Sulphur Oxides and Particulate Matter ([Med SOx ECA](#)) which will take effect on 1 May 2025 to further limit air pollution from ships, pursuant to Annex VI to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships ([MARPOL](#)).

Accreditation to UNEP

During the period of 1 October to 31 December, 2022, 45 organizations were newly accredited to UNEP, representing mostly NGOs (37) as well as Business and Industries (2), Scientific and Technological Communities (2), Children and Youth (1), Farmers (1), Women (1) and Workers and Trade Unions (1). 18 were from Western European and Others Group (WEOG), 14 are from the Africa Group, 8 from the Asia-Pacific Group and 5 from the Latin American and Caribbean Group. As of 31 December, there are 869 accredited organizations. A complete list of accredited organizations can be found [here](#).

UNEP Publications

A list of UNEP publications released between 16 September 2022 – 1 February 2023, as well as concepts approved by the Publications Board for future release dates, can be found [here](#). Upon release, select publications are made available [here](#).



Significant Developments: The 8th Africa Animal Welfare Conference
(Photo credit: UNEP/Africa Office)

B. Regional Developments

i. Africa

African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN)

AMCEN convened a [consultative meeting](#) during COP27 to consolidate a common African negotiating position on priorities such as adaptation, finance, loss and damage. As the Secretariat of AMCEN, UNEP supported the convening of the meeting and re-iterated its readiness to support the Africa Group to take climate action through provision of the relevant science and technical support.

6th Africa Animal Welfare Conference

The [6th Africa Animal Welfare Conference](#) (Gaborone, Botswana, 31 October - 2 November) on the theme, "Animals, People and the Environment in a rapidly changing 21st Century", brought together 30 Member States and covered animal welfare, engagement with UNEP and human actions and sustainable development impacts on animals and the environment. On the Conference's margins, UNEP, Member States, and other interested parties discussed the implementation of UNEA Resolution 5/1 on "Animal welfare environment and sustainable development nexus". UNEP also attended a bilateral meeting (December 2022) with friends of the resolution on outcomes of the Conference.

ii. Asia and the Pacific

Environmental Dimension of the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) in Asia-Pacific

UNEP and the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies ([IGES](#)) conducted a regional review of 50 Voluntary National Review (VNR) reports on SDGs from 36 Asia-Pacific countries from 2016 to 2021 to assess environmental dimension implementation and reporting on SDGs. The findings of the [report](#) reconfirm the need for urgent action, including by building public awareness and ensuring stakeholder participation, to address the triple planetary crisis while accelerating efforts on the SDGs.

7th Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific

During the [7th Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development](#) for the Asia-Pacific (Bangkok, Thailand, 29 November - 1 December), UNEP highlighted key regional environmental priorities, while also organizing two side events on strengthening health and the environment-health nexus in the region. These events were aimed at reviewing and discussing multiple opportunities for countries in the region to manage environment-health risks and deliver co-benefits for advancing multiple SDGs using a One Health lens. [A policy guide](#) for enhancing health, climate change, biodiversity and food system action at the national and regional level was also launched.



Asia Environmental Enforcement Awards

The 7th [Asia Environmental Enforcement Awards](#) ceremony (Bangkok, 30 November) publicly recognized and celebrated excellence in environmental enforcement by government officials and institutions/teams combatting transboundary environmental crime in Asia. The Awards, a side event to the Wildlife Inter-regional Enforcement Initiative (WIRE), recognized the exemplary performance of men and women from China, India, Indonesia and Maldives in combatting the illegal trade in wildlife, chemicals and waste.

Environmental Law Training

UNEP and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) trained 109 legal education professionals in the [Philippines](#) (27-28 October) and 37 environmental lawyers, judges and academics in [Cambodia](#) (8-9 December) on teaching environmental law.

iii. Europe

Carpathian Ministerial Conference

UNEP participated in the Ministerial Conference of the Carpathian Convention (Rzeszów, Poland, 21 – 22 November) which adopted two Ministerial Declarations on [Carpathian Commitments](#) for the implementation of the new post 2020 global biodiversity framework implementation and on the [impact of war](#) on the environment in Ukraine and the need for cooperation and assistance.

Strengthening Multilateralism through Science

UNEP and the Czech Presidency of the Council of the European Union (EU) organized a high-level event titled "[Strengthening Multilateralism through Science](#)" (Brussels, Belgium, 29-30 November) which highlighted

the role of science in tackling climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution. As a follow up to [UNEP@50](#), [Stockholm+50](#) and [UNGA77](#), it addressed the importance of science diplomacy in navigating different geopolitical contexts, global cooperation to deliver the SDGs, and science-based actions against pollution.

Contaminated Site Assessment support to Ukraine

UNEP in cooperation with [Spiez Laboratory of the Swiss Federal Office for Civil Protection](#) and with financial support from the European Union, organized a one-week training [workshop](#) (21- 25 November) on 'Contaminated Site Assessment' for the Government of Ukraine. The training investigated pollution incidents caused by the conflict and helped in ensuring that assessment approaches applied complied with international best practice.

GEF-8

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) Secretariat organized a [regional consultation meeting for Europe constituencies](#) (Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, 6-9 December) to guide country focal points and agencies on programming opportunities under GEF-8. UNEP highlighted the growing urgency of the triple planetary crisis, good practices and ongoing initiatives in the Europe region, its strategic direction for 'a healthy planet and healthy people' and offered technical assistance solutions focusing on achieving impact and driving transformational change.

iv. Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC)

Forum of LAC Ministers of Environment

The Bureau [meeting](#) of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of LAC (San Jose, Costa Rica, 20 October) approved the proposed workplan 2022-2023 and highlighted the need to continue strengthening the Forum as a tool for collaboration in the region. Participants also discussed issues such as the INC-1 on plastics and ocean pollution, UNFCCC COP27, and CBD COP 15, with the participation of the Executive Secretaries of the UNFCCC and CBD. The proposed creation of a Regional Oceans Commission was well received, and a more elaborated proposal will be presented at the next meeting.

The Forum's 1st [Meeting](#) of the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Working Group (Trinidad and Tobago, 5-6 October) elaborated on the Caribbean SIDS Programme II to implement the environmental dimension of the SIDS sustainable development agenda. It was agreed that the 14 themes articulated in the [SAMOA Pathway](#) would be used in the discussion to articulate priorities. There was consensus that the themes of the triple planetary crisis were the most efficient way of organizing the priorities of the region.

Regional Forum on Human Rights Defenders in Environmental Matters

The [First Annual Forum](#) aimed at generating a platform for reflection and dialogue on the situation of on Human Rights Defenders in Environmental Matters in LAC (Quito, Ecuador, 22-23 November) was jointly organized by the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), UNEP, and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). The Forum's participants agreed to prepare a report as an input to the development and revision of a plan of action for 2024. In preparation for the Forum, UNEP and the [Latin American Alliance of Environmental Legal Clinics](#) convened a working session, facilitating a dialogue on the legal nature and protection mechanisms for environmental human rights defenders and provided inputs to the Forum.

Workshop on takeaways from COP27

UNEP organized a workshop (24 November) to share and discuss the [key takeaways](#) from COP27 for the LAC region. The panellists, ranging from national delegations to media, offered different perspectives, and the progress seen on the topic of loss and damage was highlighted as a particularly important development.

International workshop on clean air

UNEP and the [Environmental Defence Fund](#) organized an [international workshop on clean air](#) (Bogota, Colombia, 5-6 October) in support of the Intergovernmental Network on Air Pollution in LAC. The workshop fell within the framework of their [new partnership](#) aiming to promote clean air solutions in 33 LAC countries over the next four years.

v. West Asia

First Arab Forum for the Environment

UNEP, the League of Arab States and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) organized the [first Arab Forum](#) for the Environment (Cairo, Egypt, 18-19 October) on the side lines of the 33rd Session Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment (CAMRE). The Forum addressed synergy among the Rio Conventions, COP27 and investing in the environment, and resulted in a set of [recommendations](#) that were adopted by the Arab States. The Ministers also adopted [a set of resolutions](#) among which three were directly linked to UNEP's Programme of Work and UNEA 5 resolutions, notably on "ending plastic pollution". The 33rd session was presided over by the Kingdom of Morocco, coinciding with the same presidency of UNEA 6.





Plastics Pollution Negotiations (Plastics Diplomacy) Training and Africa Regional Consultations on the Inter-governmental Negotiating Committee Process held on 7 – 10 November 2022, Naivasha, Kenya
 (Photo credit: UNEP/Africa Office)

Source apportionment of desert dust

UNEP in collaboration with the [Environment Agency of Austria](#) organized a [capacity building workshop](#) (on 18-19 October) to strengthen the capacities of West Asian countries in establishing methods to identify and quantify the contribution of desert dust to levels of Particulate Matter (PM) and to help regulatory agencies with implementing and monitoring air quality goals.

Net-Zero Carbon Scenarios for the Energy Sector in West Asia

UNEP, with the support of the [Islamic Development Bank](#), the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA), launched the [Net-Zero Carbon Scenarios for the Energy Sector in West Asia](#) report on 11 November, 2022, at a [COP27](#) side event. The report analyses mitigation actions defined in Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), Economic Diversification Plans, and green growth strategies of countries in West Asia and presents three possible scenarios for climate change mitigation in the region namely, the Business-as-Usual, Current Policy, and the Enhanced Climate Action.

Management of wastes generated from disasters and conflicts

UNEP in collaboration with International Solid Waste Association organized a [capacity building workshop](#) for West Asia (Beirut, Lebanon, 23-25 November) with a focus on management of waste generated from disasters and conflicts. Six countries (Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, State of Palestine, Syria, and Yemen) participated to enhance the capacity of national authorities to respond to, and treat waste caused by disasters and conflicts as well as prevent subsequent pollution.

2 PROGRAMME OF WORK IMPLEMENTATION

A. CLIMATE STABILITY

Lowering Emissions by Accelerating Forest Finance (LEAF)

UNEP, through the [UN-REDD Programme](#) supported the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ecuador, Ghana, Papua New Guinea, Uganda and Viet Nam to meet safeguards requirements for accessing potential results-based finance from [the Lowering Emissions by Accelerating Forest Finance \(LEAF\) Coalition](#). In addition, Colombia and Peru were supported to advance towards accessing results-based finance outside the LEAF opportunity. The total climate change mitigation potential, represented by these countries equates to over US\$ 1 billion of potential results-based finance, and is more the 10 percent of the one gigaton, CO₂e per year target.

Gigaton of emissions reductions from forests

UNEP, through the UN-REDD Programme, launched a [Report](#) (on 7 November, 2022) emphasizing that we are not yet on track to make good on the [Glasgow Climate Pact](#) to achieve one gigaton of emissions reductions from forests between 2020 and 2025. The report reiterated the need for straightforward access to adequate finance, a strong public sector demand for emissions reductions from forests at a higher carbon

price and upfront finance from the private sector.

Urban Planning Law for Climate Smart Cities

UN-Habitat released the [Urban Law Module](#) of the Law and Climate Change Toolkit (in October), an innovative online tool designed to help countries establish legal frameworks necessary for effective domestic implementation of the Paris Agreement. The Module stems from a successful collaboration with core partners of the [Law and Climate Change Toolkit](#), namely UNEP, the Commonwealth Secretariat and the UNFCCC Secretariat.

EmPower: Women for Climate-Resilient Societies (Phase II)

UNEP and UN Women will implement a US\$ 7.7 million [project](#) approved (on 25 November) by SIDA which over the next five years will leverage women's knowledge, capacities and skills towards adapting to and mitigating climate change with a focus on Bangladesh, Cambodia and Viet Nam. Up to 5,000 women will be better equipped to run renewable energy businesses for climate-resilient livelihoods. The project will also drive further investment for gender-responsive climate action, emission reductions and ensuring that policymakers implement and report on the gender-responsive results they have committed to.



A Rainforest in Gunmaku-Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, Colombia (Photo credit: UNEP)

B. LIVING IN HARMONY WITH NATURE

Nature-based Solutions (NbS): Opportunities and Challenges for Scaling Up

UNEP and the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC) released a [report](#) (on 12 October) outlining recent developments on NbS, with a focus on global, regional and national commitments, and key issues and concerns, and builds on the new multilaterally agreed definition of NbS, which was agreed upon by UNEA in March 2022. The report lays out recommendations for actions by governments, business, finance players and wider communities and civil society to ensure the rapid and equitable deployment of NbS at scale around the world.

State of Finance for Nature

The [second edition of the State of Finance for Nature report](#) launched by UNEP with partners (on 1 December) revealed that NbS are still significantly under-financed and that if the world wants to halt biodiversity loss, limit climate change to below 1.5C and achieve land degradation neutrality by 2030, current finance flows to NbS must urgently double by 2025 and triple by 2030.

Intergovernmental consultations on nature-based solutions (NbS)

To further the implementation of UNEA Resolution 5/5 “NbS for supporting sustainable development”, the President of UNEA appointed (on 31 October) officials from Costa Rica and Nigeria as the Co-Chairs of the intergovernmental consultations on NbS. UNEP Focal Points have been meeting regularly with the Co-Chairs, developing a plan for implementation of the consultations in 2023.

Biodiversity and Health

Progress was made on the implementation of UNEA Resolution 5/6 “Biodiversity and Health” through the [Nature for Health \(N4H\) Initiative](#) - a Multi-Partner Trust Fund established by UNEP in partnership with seven other organizations and with financial support from Germany. The Initiative aims at improving understanding, policy, action and capacity on the links between biodiversity and health. The first six countries to receive support from N4H were announced at CBD CoP15 (December), namely Ecuador, Ghana, Mongolia, Rwanda, Vietnam and Zambia.

Integrating Urban and Peri-urban Agriculture into Urban Planning

UNEP, [Fundação Getulio Vargas](#) and the Brazilian Ministry of Citizenship (MdC) launched [guidelines](#) on “How to Integrate Urban and Peri-urban Agriculture into Urban Planning” (on 8

November) to address requests from Brazilian municipalities to increase their cities’ wellbeing through the enhanced provisioning of ecosystem services.

Caribbean Biological Corridor

The ministerial committee [meeting](#) of the [Caribbean Biological Corridor Initiative](#) approved (on 15 December) its 2030 strategic action plan, incorporated [Jamaica](#) as a full-fledged member and drew up priorities aimed at ensuring that the initiative remains financially sustainable. Two new funding sources for the initiative and an ecosystem-based adaptation project, focusing on Cuba and Haiti with a ridge-to-reef approach were also approved.

Faith for Earth

During CBD COP15, the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), [Trillion Trees](#) and UNEP launched a [publication guide to tree growing](#) outlining a straightforward and informative step-by-step approach to assist faith groups in planning and implementing tree-growing initiatives and engaging in restoration of the local environment for the benefit of people, nature, and the climate. Additionally, the [Faith & Biodiversity UN Coordination Group](#) rallied 20 plus faith-based organizations (FBOs) to identify multifaith priorities within the [Global Biodiversity Framework](#) and engage around [raising ambition to halt biodiversity loss](#) in the official-side event hosted by the UNEP Faith for Earth team.

Sustaining an Abundance of Forest Ecosystems (SAFE) Initiative

A donor agreement between the Korea Forest Service (KFS) and UNEP for Sustaining an Abundance of Forest Ecosystems (SAFE Initiative) was signed during COP27 (on 9 November). The US\$ 5 million Initiative will run from 2023 to 2030, with the aim of supporting and accelerating local action for the conservation and restoration of vulnerable forest ecosystems with high biodiversity value in Bhutan, Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Viet Nam.



Urban and Peri-urban Agriculture in Brazil
Photo credit: Mr. Fellipe Abreu

C TOWARDS A POLLUTION-FREE PLANET

New Plastics Economy Global Commitment

The 2022 New Plastics Economy Global Commitment annual progress [report](#) released by UNEP in partnership with the [Ellen MacArthur Foundation](#) (2 November) reinforces the urgency for businesses to accelerate action, particularly around reuse, flexible packaging and decoupling business growth from packaging use. The report also calls for governments to take immediate action to accelerate progress and take the opportunity to promote a high ambition level in upcoming negotiations for a legally binding instrument on plastic pollution.

Single-use supermarket food packaging and its alternatives

UNEP, with financial support from the United States Environmental Protection Agency ([EPA](#)), launched (on 11 October) a life cycle assessment (LCA) meta-study titled "[Single-use supermarket food packaging and its alternatives: recommendations from life cycle assessments](#)" which suggests what packaging options have the least environmental footprint for supermarket food. The report is part of a [series of LCA Meta-studies](#) conducted in response to [UNEA4/Res 9](#) on addressing single-use plastic products pollution.

Shift to low sulphur fuels

UNEP hosted a high-level petroleum ministers [meeting](#) (Nairobi, 29-30 November) to discuss the continental shift to low sulphur fuels. Twenty-four countries attended the meeting which recommended that all fuel importing countries transition to low sulphur fuels by 1 July 2023. UNEP in conjunction with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe ([UNECE](#)) also conducted an East African Community ([EAC](#)) [regional training](#) (30 August – 1 September) on implementation of used vehicles standards as well as a used vehicles importers and exporters meeting.

COVID-19 and the Water Sector

UNEP and the [Asian Institute of Technology](#) launched (on 9 December) a technical report entitled "[COVID-19 and the Water Sector](#)" which analyses and describes ways in which the pandemic has affected the water sector, and how wastewater has the potential to act as a sentinel to detect ongoing and future pandemics.

Sound management of chemicals and waste

To further the implementation of UNEA resolution 5/7 "Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste", the Executive Board of the Special Programme held an [intersessional meeting](#) (5 December) to discuss the question of eligibility for funding under the Special Programme. A set of [19 factsheets](#) were published (December), highlighting key findings from the 2020 UNEP [Assessment Report on Issues of Concern: Chemicals and Waste Issues Posing Risks to Human Health and the Environment](#) and the 2019 [Global Chemicals Outlook II](#) (GCO-II) in relation to heavy metals, antimicrobials, pesticides, endocrine disrupting chemicals, chemicals in products amongst others.

To further the implementation of UNEA resolution 5/8 "Science-Policy Panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution", stakeholders outlined their [vision](#) for the new panel during the [first part](#) of the first session of [the Open-Ended Working Group \(OEWG\) on a Science-Policy Panel](#) (Nairobi, Kenya, 6 October).

Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia

The 24th Intergovernmental Meeting on the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia ([IG24](#)) (Manila, 24-25 November) approved eight projects on the effects of atmospheric deposition on ecosystems, volatile organic compounds, low-cost sensors, particulate matter source apportionment in major cities, training on monitoring, emission inventory and funding of research fellowships.

National Action Plan on marine litter for Panama 2022-2027

The National Action Plan on marine litter for Panama 2022-2027, [launched](#) on 25 October, 2022 with support from UNEP, analyses the current situation of marine litter in the country and generates recommendations on its prevention, reduction and proper management, with the aim to reduce and eliminate the sources of waste generation that threaten Panama's biodiversity and ecosystems.

Lead Poisoning Prevention Week

UNEP, the World Health Organization (WHO), University of Nairobi (Kenya), and Paint Manufacturers sensitized and educated the public on the dangers of lead in paint in an [Awareness Walk in Nairobi](#) (on 29 October) to mark the [International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week](#).



Antibiotics
Antivirals
Antifungals
Antiparasitics

Anti-Microbial Resistance (AMR)

With UNEP's support, youth representatives from the International Veterinary Students' Association ([IVSA](#)), the International Federation of Medical Students Association ([IFMSA](#)), and the International Pharmaceutical Students' Federation ([IPSE](#)) made commitments to combat AMR during the [third High-level Ministerial Conference on AMR](#) (Muscat, Oman, 24-25 November).

Waste, Gender and Climate Change Project

UNEP's International Environmental Technology Centre ([IETC](#)) concluded the Waste, Gender and Climate Change Project under the [International Climate Initiative](#) with a virtual Global Workshop for Lesson Sharing in December 2022. The project published the report [Gender and waste nexus: Experiences from Bhutan, Mongolia and Nepal](#), and a video series, [Gender and Waste Nexus](#). It also delivered gender

mainstreaming workshops in the three participating countries. On the occasion of the [International E-waste Day](#) on 14 October, UNEP published a web-story on ['Why gender dynamics matter in waste management'](#).

Salvage waste management

In December, the UNEP/OCHA Joint Environment Unit deployed two experts to provide technical advisory support to the Government of Mauritius to salvage a fishing vessel, which went aground in a highly sensitive environmental area. UNEP is also providing advisory support on the development of a salvage waste management plan for the stricken vessel.

UNEP Working Group on Nitrogen

To further the implementation of UNEA resolution 5/2 "Sustainable Nitrogen Management", the UNEA President announced (31 October) the appointment of two co-chairs from India and Romania to lead the UNEP Working Group on Nitrogen.

D FOUNDATIONAL SUBPROGRAMMES

i. Science-Policy

Global Environment Outlook (GEO-7)

Progress has been made in the implementation of UNEA resolution [5/3: Future of the Global Environment Outlook](#). The second open ended expert [meeting](#) on GEO-7 (Nairobi, 17-20 October) focused on its [scoping](#). The first in-person meeting of the Intergovernmental and Multi-stakeholder Advisory Committee (IMAG) was convened (21 October) to advise the Executive Director on the policy relevance of the GEO-7 process. Following these meetings, the Secretariat outlined a roadmap and planned next steps, including the nomination processes for the Multidisciplinary Expert Scientific Advisory Group (MESAG), authors and collaborating centres. The MESAG nomination period ended on 15 December following which the Secretariat worked with IMAG on its constitution.

ii. Environmental governance

Montevideo Programme Updates

UNEP convened (on 7 October) the fourth [steering committee](#) meeting of the Intergovernmental Montevideo Programme to discuss the implementation of the [Fifth Montevideo Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law](#), including proposed priority areas for implementation and roadmaps, proposed partnerships and stakeholder engagement strategy and a proposed resource mobilization strategy.

Human Right to a Healthy Environment

The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women adopted (in October 2022) a [general recommendation](#) on the rights of indigenous women and girls which specifically refers to the right to a healthy environment. This is the first time a treaty body has referenced this right in its general recommendation. In addition, UNEP contributed to the inclusion of the right to a healthy environment in the resolutions of the Human Rights Council on the [human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation](#) (6 October) and [national human rights institutions](#) (7 October).

Environmental Human Rights Defenders (EHRDs)

UNEP launched (5 October) a [microsite](#) of good practices for environmental defenders, developed with inputs from environmental defenders from all UNEP regions and highlighting good practices in 183 UN Member States. The aim of the microsite is to help change the narrative and highlight contributions and support systems for defenders to address the triple planetary crisis. This microsite is also complemented by an advance executive summary of a forthcoming publication titled "[Protecting the Frontline: Good practices for supporting Environmental Human Rights Defenders.](#)"

Following the [2022 Asia-Pacific EHRD Forum](#) (Bangkok, 25 – 27 October) convened by UNEP and OHCHR, over 200 EHRDs from the region gained increased knowledge to access justice and participate in environmental matters.

UNEP also supported the development of a [toolkit](#) for EHRDs (launched on 9 December) which provides a set of resources to enable them to protect, promote and realize the right to a healthy environment. It provides a practical reference to support EHRDs work in promoting environmental rights and to prevent and mitigate security issues.

E. ENABLING SUBPROGRAMMES

i. Finance and Economic Transformations

Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE)

In implementation of UNEA [resolution 5/11](#) “Enhancing Circular Economy as a contribution to achieving sustainable consumption and production”, PAGE co-organized a high-level side event with UN partners during COP27 (10 November) to [discuss](#) how circular economy principles and practices can gear action to promote human well-being, preserve nature, cut pollution and make economies more competitive. At COP27, the Minister of Environment of the Republic of Korea and the UNEP Executive Director also signed an agreement to further deepen collaboration on green economy through PAGE with the aim to tackle the triple planetary crisis.

Kyrgyzstan, with the help of PAGE, hosted the [Bishkek Investment Forum and the Green Economy Forum](#) (10-11 November) which boosted regional cooperation by fostering corporate ties and developed common positions for the promotion of the green economy in Central Asia.

The G20 Leaders’ Summit (Bali, Indonesia, 15-16 November) delivered the [G20 Bali Leaders’ Declaration](#), which includes references to the green and blue economy. PAGE supported the Development Working Group (DWG) throughout the Indonesian Presidency of the G20, through the provision of technical assistance, including substantive inputs to the G20 [Roadmap](#) for Stronger Recovery and Resilience in Developing Countries and the G20 Chair’s [Summary](#) on Multilateralism for SDGs.

During the 2022 [World Circular Economy Forum](#) (Kigali, Rwanda, 6-8 December) UNEP, on behalf of the Global Alliance on Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency (GACERE), organized a [session](#) on “partnerships for a global circular economy”. PAGE also engaged with Rwanda to strengthen coordination and use circular economy practices to promote well-being, preserve nature and boost economic competitiveness.

Sustainable Finance

The UNEP Finance Initiative held its [17th Global Roundtable](#) (in October) which coincided with the initiative’s 30th anniversary. The event saw the launch of the [Principles for Responsible Banking Academy](#), a new, online training programme designed to upskill banking professionals on sustainability. Further, [UNEP Finance Initiative’s Leadership Council](#) met in

November to reinforce the commitment to scaling up sustainable finance by reinforcing the integrity of sustainable finance and aligning private finance with the Sustainable Development Goals.

Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP)

To further the implementation of UNEA resolution 5/11, the [Results Framework](#) of the Global Strategy for SCP, which details key activities for implementing its pillars, was discussed by the 10YFP Board (18-19 October). UNEP also supported various sessions of the 16th Asia Pacific Roundtable for [Sustainable Consumption and Production](#) (APRSCP) (Bangkok, 21-23 November), including a keynote presentation on “Bridging Net Zero Transition by SCP and Circular Economy”. The Roundtable enhanced and strengthened cooperation in the development and implementation of SCP policies and practices in the Asia Pacific.

Sustainable and Resilient Infrastructure

To further the implementation of UNEA [resolution 5/9](#) “Sustainable and Resilient Infrastructure”, UNEP published (December) a [global impact assessment report](#) for planned road and rail infrastructure, along with an [online data viewer tool](#). The assessment used an innovative methodology for capturing impacts to nature from infrastructure development and compared environmental risks vs. potential socio-economic benefits to create a “hotspot” map that can help countries and development partners to prioritize sustainable infrastructure-related interventions.

UNEP and GIZ launched (December) a new [case study module](#) on the [Sustainable Infrastructure Tool Navigator](#) that includes six new case studies demonstrating the use of sustainable infrastructure tools available in the navigator database. This is intended to help guide policymakers and practitioners in the use of available tools for integrating sustainability and resilience into infrastructure development.

Fashion Industry Target Consultation

UNEP in partnership with Global Fashion Agenda launched a public [Fashion Industry Target Consultation](#) during COP27 to identify and consolidate existing industry-aligned targets (on smart material choices, circular systems) and formulate new targets (on criteria for purchasing practices, circular design) to establish a holistic industry route towards a net-positive fashion industry.

Future Labs for Innovation and Policy

UNEP in collaboration with [SEED](#) organized the [Future Labs for Innovation and Policy](#) (13 October), a platform for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) stakeholders to share their sustainability experiences and discuss the critical next steps. The event focused on green SMEs in the agri-food sector of LAC and on the textile-fashion sector of Asia and West Asia.

ii. Digital Transformations

Digital4Sustainability

UNEP and the UN System Staff College (UNSSC) jointly launched the [Digital4Sustainability](#) e-learning course during COP27, which explores the transformational role that digital technologies and innovations can play in advancing environmental and social sustainability while also considering potential risks. 1300 participants enrolled in the course in December.

Methane Alert and Response System (MARS)

The [Methane Alert and Response System](#) (MARS) was [launched](#) at COP27 (on 11 November) and is the first publicly available global system that leverages satellite observations to provide rapid, actionable, and transparent data on methane emissions, notifies relevant stakeholders and supports and tracks mitigation progress. Implemented in partnership with the [International Energy Agency](#) and the UNEP-hosted [Climate and Clean Air Coalition](#), MARS will facilitate near-term action on the biggest contributors to methane emissions globally (including the energy sector), build a comprehensive understanding of where emissions are coming from and how they change over time.



**Online course on
Digital4Sustainability**

by UNEP and the UN System Staff College

What is the role digital technologies can play in advancing sustainable outcomes and what steps will be needed to get us there?

You will learn:

- Key concepts, including digitalization, digital transformation, and digital sustainability
- The role of digital transformation in countering the triple planetary crisis
- How to leverage the potential of digital transformation in advancing sustainability using a systems approach
- The negative impacts of digital transformation and how to mitigate them

UN
environment
programme

**UNITED NATIONS
SYSTEM
STAFF COLLEGE**

F. CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

i. Gender

Gender Based Violence (GBV)

To enhance the knowledge and understanding of UNEP personnel on what behaviors constitute unsatisfactory conduct in the context of the UN and to highlight UNEP's zero tolerance for sexual harassment and each person's obligation and responsibility in maintaining a workplace free of any form of discrimination, harassment (including sexual harassment) and abuse of authority, UNEP organized activities in support of the annual global campaign, 16 Days of Activism (25 November to 10 December) against Gender Based Violence (GBV). This included a video message from the Executive Director on Zero Tolerance for sexual harassment, social media messages, a brown bag meeting addressing sexual harassment at the workplace and in conservation work. The events also addressed the gap in understanding the interlinkages between sexual harassment and GBV and the triple planetary crisis and how to integrate these perspectives in UNEP's projects.

International Gender Champions (IGC)

The Steering Group of the Nairobi IGC - a leadership network that brings together male and female leaders to break down gender barriers and is co-directed by the Executive Director of UNEP and the Permanent

Representative of Switzerland – met in November and proposed to implement activities that would support feminist and female leadership in Nairobi and that would empower women and girls to fight against GBV in 2023. The [Nairobi Hub](#) of IGC is coordinated by UNEP and had agreed earlier (in July) to establish an Impact Group to tackle gender-based violence in the context of climate change within Nairobi.

ii. Environmental and Social Safeguards (ESS)

The GEF Secretariat examined UNEP's compliance with key GEF policies on Minimum Fiduciary Standards, Gender Equality, ESS and Stakeholder Engagement. The result of the third-party review ([GEF/C.63/09](#)) in November confirmed that UNEP is fully compliant with all standards related to implementation capacity and effectiveness across the four aforementioned policies.

iii. UN Reform

UNEP collaborated with the UN Development Coordination Office (DCO) and other UN agencies toward the development of a country level Output Indicator Framework that was released in December. The Framework aims to facilitate the design and implementation of UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (UNSDCFs) by providing a list of inter-agency agreed, methodologically unified, quality-assured, and SDG-focused output indicators to measure and report on joint work plans.



Watamu Beach Clean up, Kenya. (Photo credit: UNEP)

G. CHALLENGES, OPPORTUNITIES AND LESSONS LEARNED

i. Challenges

Global Goal on Adaptation

One challenge for climate adaptation is that there is no globally agreed framework for a Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA), despite the modest progress witnessed on this topic at COP27. The lack of agreed targets and metrics makes it challenging to track adaptation progress, and many experts believe a GGA would spur ambition and action. In efforts to operationalize the GGA, the [World Adaptation Science Programme \(WASP\)](#) - which UNEP is part of - is calling for collective efforts from global to sub-national levels of government to identify qualitative and/or quantitative indicators of adaptive capacity, resilience and vulnerability that can be monitored to assess progress in achieving the GGA.

ii. Opportunities

Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)

The lesson learned from UNEP's engagement with Parties to the CBD and its Protocols during the process of GBF development and its negotiations is that the Agency is well placed to provide technical support to Parties and to facilitate GBF implementation and delivery through developing strategic alliances with partners and the broader UN system. Three programmes that UNEP is developing as part of its Programme of Work - Conservation, Restoration and Sustainable use of Biodiversity, Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Sectors and Systems, and Governance and Accountability for Biodiversity - are designed to contribute to the implementation and delivery of the post 2020 global biodiversity framework (GBF).

Updating Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) commitments

Under the purview of Issue-Based Coalition on Raising Ambitions on Climate Action, UNEP, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and UNICEF released (on 1 November) an [assessment report](#) for the Asia-Pacific region revealing that even with full implementation of current greenhouse gas reduction commitments, emissions will be 16% higher compared to 2010 levels. However, with 39 countries in the region pledging to carbon neutrality and net-zero by 2050-2060, this presents an opportunity to update current NDC commitments and update Long-term Greenhouse Gas Emission

Development Strategies (LT-LEDS) to create a clear pathway to net-zero by 2050-2060.

Lead Agency for GEF-8 Programmes

The GEF Secretariat approved (on 29 November) its Council Decision - contained in the [Report on Lead Agency Selection Process for the Integrated Programs](#) - confirming UNEP as the lead agency for the GEF-8 Integrated Programme on Elimination of Hazardous Chemicals from Supply Chains. UNEP will also co-lead with WWF the GEF-8 Plastics Integrated Program '[Circular Solutions to Plastic Pollution Integrated Program](#)' to further upstream measures to reduce plastic production and consumption, private sector engagement, and single-use packaging in the food and beverage sector. The Programme will also implement GEF regional projects on [circular economy of plastics in Latin American and Caribbean cities](#) and [reducing chemicals in plastics products in Africa](#).

The One-UNEP Plastics initiative, starting 2023, will galvanize UNEP's work on plastic pollution in a coherent, systemic and strategic way. By joining all UNEP efforts with partners, the initiative can trigger a systems change to accelerate the transition towards a circular economy of plastics and shift the needle of plastic pollution, with concerted actions by key stakeholders across the plastics life cycle towards four strategic goals, [informed](#) by the latest scientific assessments.

Common Approach to Pollution

UNEP will co-lead with FAO and WHO the development of a UN system common approach to pollution in 2023. The international community will work to produce a Beyond 2020 Framework for sound management of chemicals and waste at the [Fifth session](#) of the International Conference for Chemicals Management (ICCM5) in September 2023. In total, 11 inter-governmental meetings concerning chemicals and pollution are expected in 2023, offering opportunities to accelerate the processes that had slowed down during the pandemic. In addition, UNEP and UN-Habitat have been asked to support the implementation of General Assembly resolution [77/161](#) to promote zero waste initiatives to advance the 2030 Agenda. The resolutions also proclaim 30 March as [International Day of Zero Waste](#) – an opportunity that faces the challenge of resource availability.

iii. Lesson Learned

Need for more sector specific commitments and partners to beat pollution

Even with increasing awareness of the global pollution crisis and the human right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment as per General Assembly resolution [76/300](#), pollution spreads in all forms affecting more cities and populations. Action to prevent and/or reduce pollution is either absent or given low priority in most UN sustainable development cooperation frameworks at the country level, complicating UNEP's efforts to ensure pollution-free development and progress. Shifting the needle by creating more systemic change through identifying and leapfrogging key industry sectors is necessary to change the current trajectory, with a focus on sectors with a higher pollution footprint such as energy, transport, buildings, construction, infrastructure, extractives, electronics, agriculture, food and textiles.

Utilizing data on water quality

Advocating the utility of water quality data to find local/scalable solutions to global issues, especially for policy use and decision making remains a challenge.

The lesson learned for UNEP's Science Policy subprogramme is to explore innovative pathways, specifically through the World Water Quality Alliance ([WWQA](#)), an incubating platform and service provider for countries that helps to identify and upscale solutions. By working closely with UN Country Teams, this will enable access to information and to co-design actions at scale.

Enhancing engagement with UN Country Teams

Engaging with the UN system at the regional and country levels has allowed UNEP to increase its visibility and the impact of its PoW in the regions. By working with Resident Coordinators and UN Country Teams (UNCT), UNEP has been able to participate in national development dialogues as well as to mobilize and leverage funds. However, to further amplify UNEP's voice and visibility at the country level, more resources are needed. As per UNEP's Delivery Model, Regional Offices will represent UNEP in the regions and thus lead dialogue with Member States and, within UNEP, provide strategic and programmatic direction, thought leadership, technical input and coordination for UNEP's work as it relates to regional and national priorities, guiding the project design and implementation process.



Aerial view of UNEP Headquarter walkway
(Photo credit: UNEP)

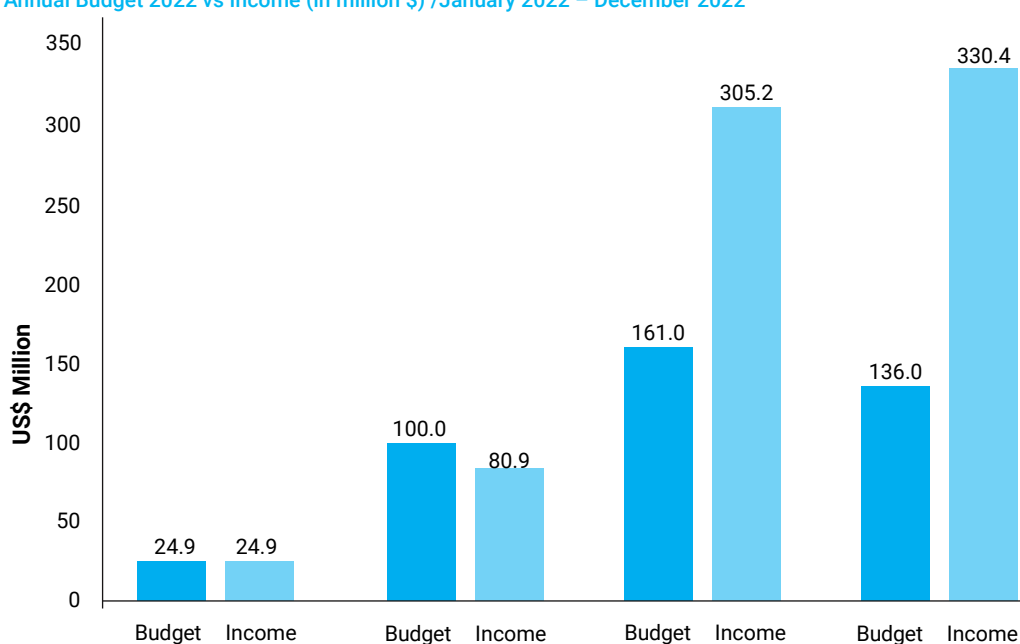
3 RESOURCES AND MANAGEMENT ISSUES

A Financial Resources

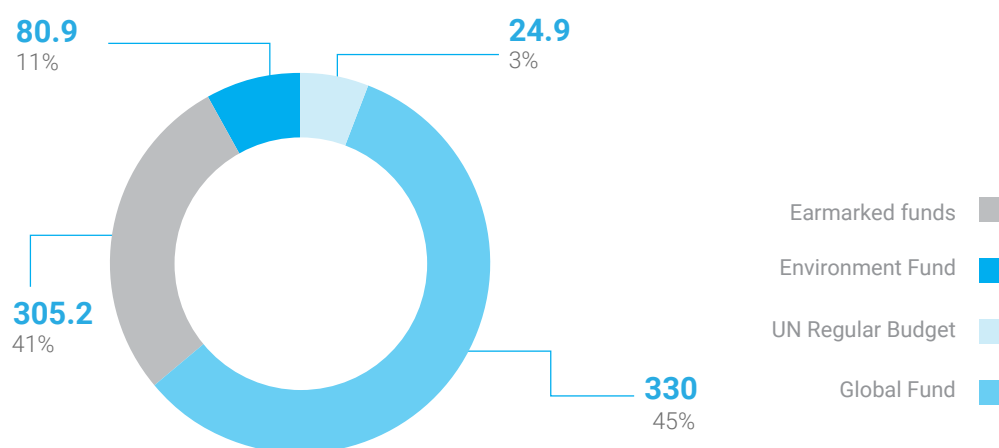
i. Financial Update as at 31 December 2022

a. Overview of income²

Annual Budget 2022 vs Income (in million \$) / January 2022 – December 2022



Income per source of funding (in million \$) / January 2022 – December 2022



² The figures do not include conventions and protocols administered by UNEP. Per the United Nations Secretariat interpretation and application of the International Public Service Accounting Standards (IPSAS), the financial and administrative management platform, Umoja, does not allow a breakdown of multi-year contributions into annual figures for income.

b. Core funding

United Nations Regular Budget

The United Nations Regular Budget supports a small part of the UNEP Secretariat to cover fundamental programme activities. It mainly funds core staff tasked with delivering on substantive issues approved by the General Assembly. The Office of the Controller made progress in managing the liquidity situation and therefore the 2022 allotment was released in full.

The Environment Fund

Together with the UN Regular Budget, the Environment Fund provides the core funding for the organization which gives UNEP the flexibility to implement the programme of work as agreed by the Member States. The core funding supports UNEP's essential capacity to:

- Provide science-policy interface;
- Convene stakeholders for global decision making;
- Innovate and advocate for solutions to environmental challenges;

- Build capacity of Member States and other partners; and
- Respond to emerging challenges, such as Covid-19.

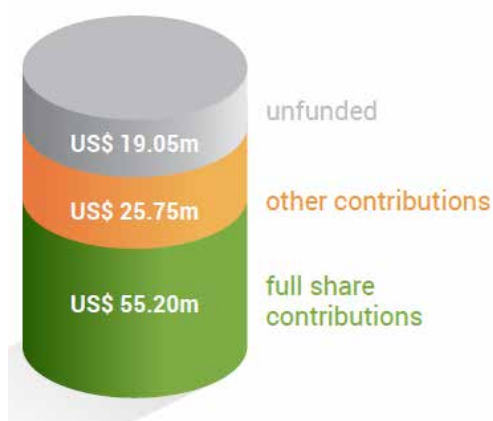
And critically, the Environment Fund also provides for the leadership, stewardship and direction as well as robust oversight for the organization.

By 31 December 2022, the Environment Fund income amounted to US\$ 80.95 million which is 81% of the approved 2022 budget. The continued upward trend for increased income to the Fund led 2022 to be the best year of performance since 2014. The 3 percent income increase from 2021 would have been even higher if it was not for the 20-year high of US\$ which resulted in reduced US\$ value of contributions made in most local currencies.

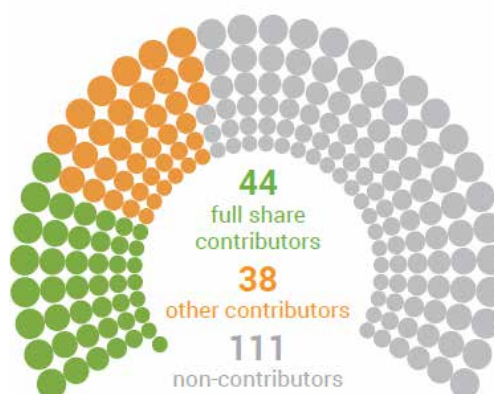
Eighty-two (82) Member States pledged to contribute to the Environment Fund, which represents 42% of the 193 Member States, out of which 44 (54%) contributed their full share as per the voluntary indicative scale of contributions (VISC). Contributions from Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Norway and South Africa were based on multi-year funding agreements/pledges.

Status of Environment Fund in 2022 (as at 31 Dec 2022)

INCOME vs UNFUNDED BALANCE of US\$ 100m budget

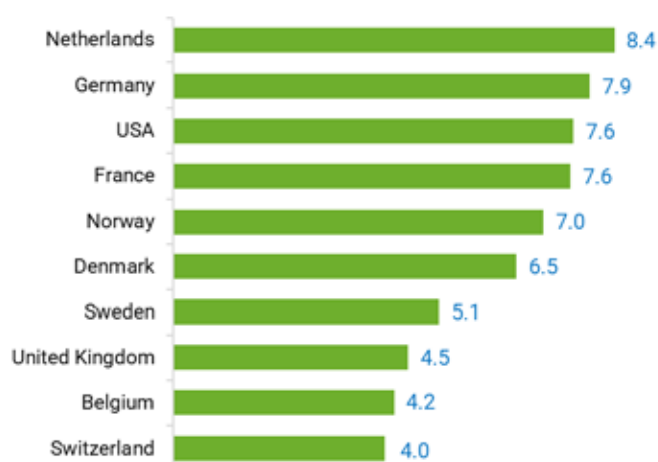


NUMBER AND CATEGORY OF MEMBER STATE CONTRIBUTORS out of 193



2. The video explaining the relevance of the contributions to Environment Fund for the global action on environment can be viewed at: <https://www.unep.org/funding-partnerships>

Top 10 contributors to Environment Fund (in million \$) as at 31 December 2022



Member States that contributed their full share as represented by the VISC (January – December 2022)

Paid			Pledged
Albania	Finland	New Zealand	Barbados
Angola	France	Norway	Dominican Republic
Antigua and Barbuda	Georgia	San Marino	Micronesia (Federated States of)
Armenia	Guyana	Serbia	
Belarus	Iceland	Seychelles	
Belgium	Ireland	Slovenia	
Belize	Italy	Sri Lanka	
Bhutan	Jordan	Sweden	
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Latvia	Switzerland	
Botswana	Luxembourg	Timor-Leste	
Cyprus	Mauritius	United Kingdom	
Denmark	Mozambique	United Republic of Tanzania	
Eritrea	Myanmar	Uruguay	
Fiji	Netherlands		

c. Earmarked contributions

Earmarked funds

Earmarked funds enable the scaling-up and replication of results of UNEP's core work, including capacity-building in more countries and with more partners.

By 31 December 2022, the organization had received 190% of the budgeted amount for the year 2022. The substantive difference is due to budgeting done based on annual needs and the actual income including multi-year contributions. Of the income received 93% was tightly earmarked at programme or project level and 7% was softly earmarked funds at thematic or subprogramme level.

To encourage a shift towards soft earmarking, UNEP established three Thematic Funds in 2022 which are now fully operational. During their first year of their existence, Norway provided US\$ 10.4 million as the first contributor across the Funds followed by Belgium with US\$ 3.1 million to the Thematic Fund on

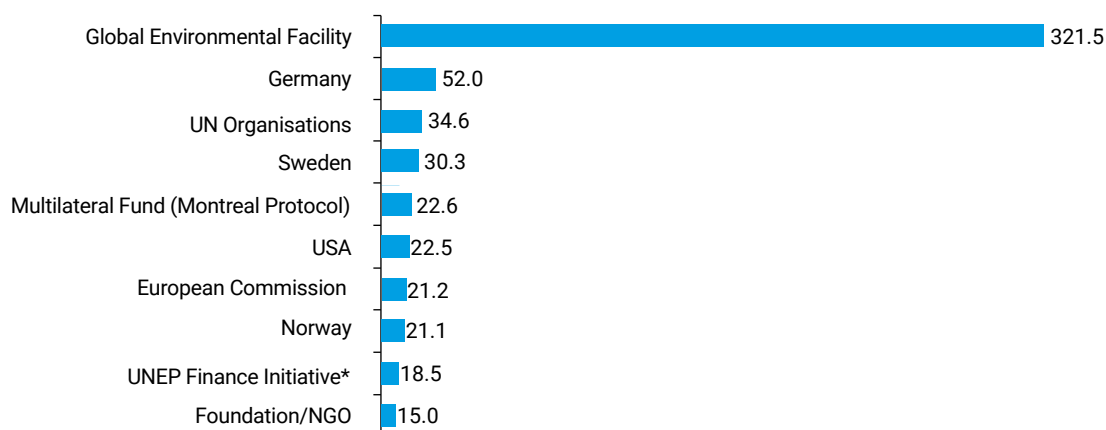
Climate. More contributions to the Thematic Funds are expected in 2023. Sweden (SIDA) continued provision of softly earmarked funding at sub-programme-level and also signed a new three-year agreement for 2023-2025.

As to the UNEP-European Commission Framework Agreements, UNEP and the DG Environment signed a third Framework Agreement (Programme Cooperation Agreement - PCA III) in December 2022 with a first US\$11.5 million envelop to support the strengthening of the international action on climate change, biodiversity and pollution.

Global funds

The funds provided by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Green Climate Fund (GCF) are earmarked to specific programmes and projects. By the end of December 2022, the income received was 243% of the budgeted income for the year 2022.

Top 10 earmarked funds by category (in million \$) as at 31 December 2022



*Partnership between UNEP and the global financial sector to mobilize private sector finance for sustainable development.

ii. Status of Allocations and Expenditures as at 31 December 2022

2022 Core Budgets - Programme of work budget					
	Functional Area Name	Environment Fund	Overhead Trust Account	Regular Budget	Grand Total
A	Policy Making Organs	2,000,000	10,000	8,100	2,018,100
B. 1	Executive Direction & Management	4,000,000	-	3,304,200	7,304,200
B. 2	United Nations Scientific Committee on the effects on Atomic radiation (UNSCEAR)	-	-	806,900	806,900
	Subtotal A + B	6,000,000	10,000	4,119,200	10,129,200
C	Programme of Work				-
1.	Climate action	12,000,000	2,250,000	2,181,300	16,431,300
2.	Digital transformations	7,000,000	650,000	1,532,400	9,182,400
3.	Nature action	12,000,000	1,200,000	2,564,000	15,764,000
4.	Environmental governance	13,000,000	650,000	4,547,300	18,197,300
5.	Chemicals and pollution action	12,000,000	1,550,000	1,780,000	15,330,000
6.	Finance and economic transformations	13,000,000	1,250,000	1,969,000	16,219,000
7.	Science-policy	13,000,000	350,000	3,081,100	16,431,100
	Subtotal C	82,000,000	7,900,000	17,655,100	107,555,100
D	Fund Programme Reserve	5,000,000			5,000,000
	Subtotal C + D	87,000,000	7,900,000	17,655,100	112,555,100
E	Programme Management and Other				-
	Programme Support (Office for Operations; UNON/UNOG bills; After-service health insurance provision)	7,000,000	8,100,000	1,138,100	16,238,100
	Subtotal E	7,000,000	8,100,000	1,138,100	16,238,100
	Total (A+B+C+D+E)	100,000,000	16,010,000	22,912,400	138,922,400

2022 Core Budgets - Allotments as at 31 December 2022*					
	Functional Area Name	Environment Fund	Overhead Trust Account	Regular Budget	Grand Total
A	Policy Making Organs	1,889,393	-	8,100	1,897,493
B. 1	Executive Direction & Management	4,105,990		3,304,200	7,410,190
B. 2	United Nations Scientific Committee on the effects on Atomic radiation (UNSCEAR)	-	-	806,900	806,900
	Subtotal A + B	5,995,383		4,119,200	10,114,583
C	Programme of Work				
1	Climate action	12,465,654	2,331,267	2,181,300	16,978,221
2	Digital transformations	7,505,857	-	1,532,400	9,038,257
3	Nature action	10,874,669	1,500,539	2,564,000	14,939,208
4	Environmental governance	13,550,559	783,525	4,747,300	19,081,384
5	Chemicals and pollution action	11,410,002	809,165	1,780,000	13,999,167
6	Finance and economic transformations	11,457,582	319,635	1,769,000	13,546,217
7	Science-policy	12,305,420	279,313	3,081,100	15,665,833
	Subtotal C	79,569,742	6,023,444	17,655,100	103,248,286
D	Fund Programme Reserve	4,431,033	-	-	4,431,033
	Subtotal C + D	84,000,775	6,023,444	17,655,100	107,679,319
E	Programme Management and Other				
	Programme Support	7,003,842	13,275,375	1,138,100	21,417,317
	Subtotal E	7,003,842	13,275,375	1,138,100	21,417,317
	Total (A+B+C+D+E)	97,000,000	19,298,819	22,912,400	139,211,219

* The year 2022 budget was issued in multiple tranches during the year in order to align with programmatic priorities.

2022 Core Budgets - Expenditures as at 31 December 2022					
	Functional Area Name	Environment Fund	Overhead Trust Account	Regular Budget	Grand Total
A	Policy Making Organs	2,029,332	-	7,100	2,036,432
B. 1	Executive Direction & Management	3,731,335	-	3,162,115	6,893,450
B. 2	United Nations Scientific Committee on the effects on Atomic radiation (UNSCEAR)	-	-	680,110	680,110
	Subtotal A + B	5,760,666	-	3,849,325	9,609,992
C	Programme of Work				
1.	Climate action	8,971,401	812,620	1,941,907	11,725,928
2.	Digital transformations	5,457,385	-	1,087,981	6,545,366
3.	Nature action	10,601,313	1,497,577	2,455,997	14,554,887
4.	Environmental governance	10,513,288	823,059	4,602,774	15,939,121
5.	Chemicals and pollution action	8,390,583	1,001,504	1,760,732	11,152,820
6.	Finance and economic transformations	8,262,991	792,368	1,458,201	10,513,560
7.	Science-policy	9,990,665	34,218	3,070,086	13,094,969
	Subtotal C	62,187,625	4,961,347	16,377,679	83,526,651
D	Fund Programme Reserve	1,873,913	-	-	1,873,913
	Subtotal C + D	64,061,538	4,961,347	16,377,679	85,400,564
E	Programme Management and Other				
	Programme Support	4,373,370	11,520,122	801,004	16,694,496
	Subtotal E	4,373,370	11,520,122	801,004	16,694,496
	Total (A+B+C+D+E)	74,195,574	16,481,469	21,028,008	111,705,051

B Resource Mobilization Strategy

UNEP made progress during the first full year of implementation of the revised [UNEP Resource Mobilisation Strategy](#), aimed at adequately resourcing the [2022-2025 Medium-Term Strategy \(MTS\)](#) and delivering on the approved [Programme of Work and Budget 2022-2023](#), highlights of which are outlined below.

To accelerate the shift from tightly earmarked to softly earmarked funding and to provide Member States and other funding partners an avenue to invest more strategically in tackling the triple planetary crisis, UNEP launched [three Thematic Funds](#). As of December 2022, the Thematic Funds have attracted investments totalling US\$ 14 million in the first year.

Increased information on VISC and outreach to Member States as well as collaboration between Headquarters and Regional Offices led to increased contributions to the Environment Fund from all regions, and more Member States contributing their full share, an increase from 39 Member States in 2021 to 44 Member States in 2022.

Increased strategic communication and the publication of a booklet titled "[UNEP – Your Partner for People and Planet](#)" brought together the continued efforts to increase messaging on UNEP's mandate, mission and strengths, as well as results achieved throughout its five decades of existence.

Recognizing the urgent need to amplify efforts to accelerate transformation in the private sector, UNEP is developing a strategy to engage with the philanthropic sector. UNEP sees the philanthropic sector as a natural and necessary partner to advocate for solutions to tackle the triple planetary crisis.

Finally, increased strategic dialogue with Members States culminated in the first annual structured funding dialogue titled "Financial Outlook and Funding Challenges for UNEP" held as part of the 9th Annual Subcommittee Meeting of the CPR. UNEP will continue this work. The recommendations from this session will inform further action on improved resource mobilization of the organisation in 2023 and support UNEP's work towards greater efficiency and effectiveness, while increasing investments in the organization.

C Human Resources

As of 31 December 2022, UNEP employed 1330 staff members consisting of 810 (61 percent) in the professional and above categories, 13 (1 percent) in the National Professional Officer (NPO) category and 507 (38 percent) in the General Service category. Of these 826 (62 percent) are female and 504 (38 percent) are male.

i. Senior Level Staff (UNEP Secretariat and MEAs)

Total staff at grade P-5 and above as of 31 December 2022

Level	USG	ASG	D2	D1	P5
No. of Staff	1	3	11	53	130

Note: USG = Under Secretary -General; ASG = Assistant Secretary-General; D = Director; P= Professional

ii. Senior Appointments

Senior appointments in the fourth quarter (October to December) 2022

Position Title	Grade	Gender	Nationality	Division/Office/MEA
*CHIEF OF SERVICE, PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT	D-1	Female	Filipino	Ozone Secretariat
*CHIEF OF SERVICE, PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT	D-1	Female	Egyptian	Executive Office
CHIEF OF BRANCH, PROGRAMME	D-1	Male	South African	Ecosystems Division
*CHIEF OF SECTION, PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT	P-5	Female	Tanzanian	Ecosystems Division
*SENIOR PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER	P-5	Female	Indian	Communication Division
*SENIOR COORDINATION OFFICER	P-5	Female	Fijian	Asia and the Pacific Office
*SENIOR PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT OFFICER	P-5	Female	Swedish	Asia and the Pacific Office
*SENIOR PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT OFFICER	P-5	Male	Guyanese	Corporate Services Division

Above information excludes Temporary Job Openings

*Staff members to assume office after 31 December 2022

iii. Overall, Gender Parity status

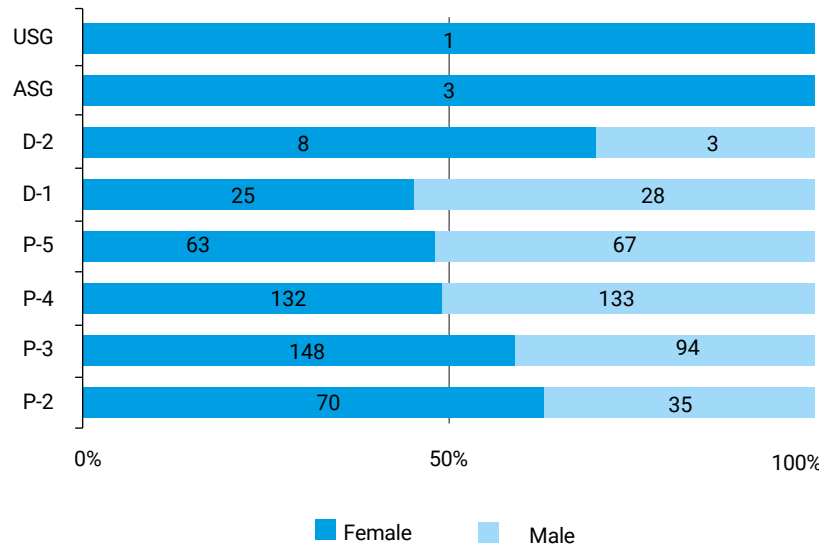
The table below shows overall gender parity status for the fourth quarter of 2022.

Gender	USG	ASG	D2	D1	P5	P4	P3	P2	Total P+	Total NO	Total GS	Total Staff
Female	1	3	8	25	63	132	148	70	450	6	370	826
Male	0	0	3	28	67	133	94	35	360	7	137	504
Totals	1	3	11	53	130	265	242	105	810	13	507	1330

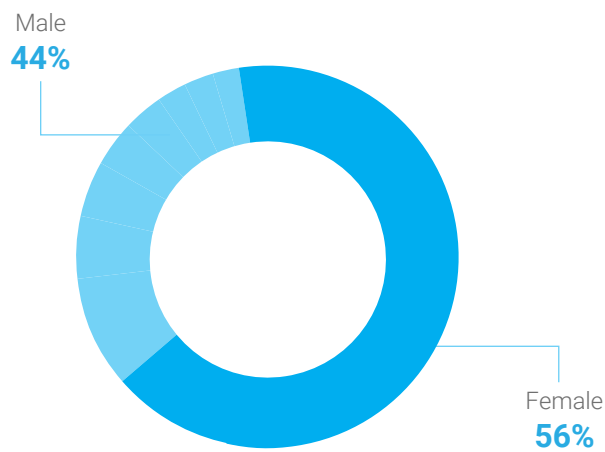
Note: USG=Under-Secretary-General; ASG=Assistant Secretary-General; D=Director; P=Professional

UNEP Overall Gender Parity Status Professional Level and Above

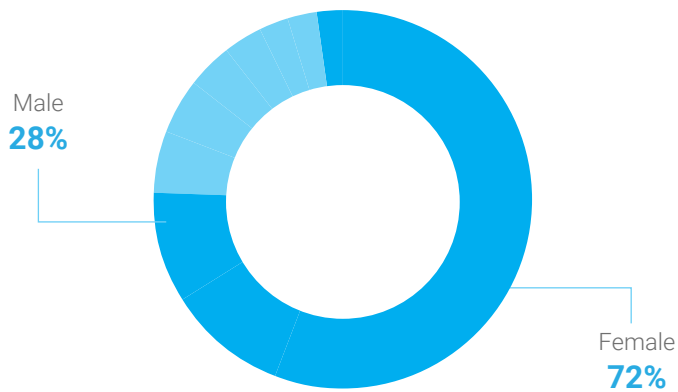
Professional Level and Above



Gender Status Parity- Professional Level and Above - UNEP Secretariat



Gender Parity Status - General Staff UNEP Secretariat



UNEP overall Gender Distribution

OVERALL UNEP												
Gender	USG	ASG	D2	D1	P5	P4	P3	P2	Total P+	Total NPO	Total GS	Total
Female	1	3	8	25	63	132	148	70	450	6	370	826
Male	0	0	3	28	67	133	94	35	360	7	137	504
Total	1	3	11	53	130	265	242	105	810	13	507	1330

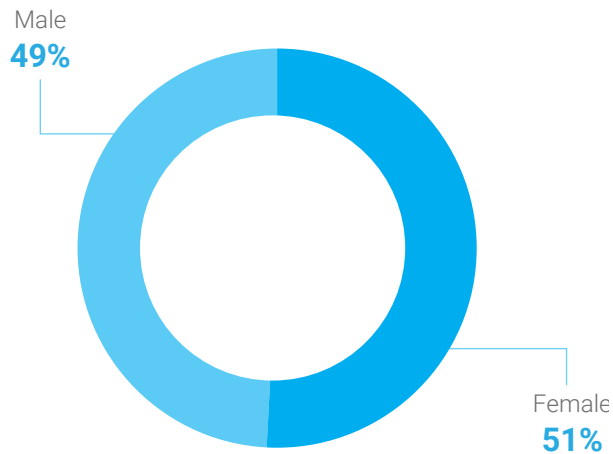
Gender Distribution – UNEP Secretariat

UNEP SECRETARIAT												
Gender	USG	ASG	D2	D1	P5	P4	P3	P2	Total P+	Total NPO	Total GS	Total
Female	1	2	5	21	47	102	123	54	355	6	276	637
Male	0	0	2	24	52	112	72	22	284	7	110	401
Total	1	2	7	45	99	214	195	76	639	13	386	1038

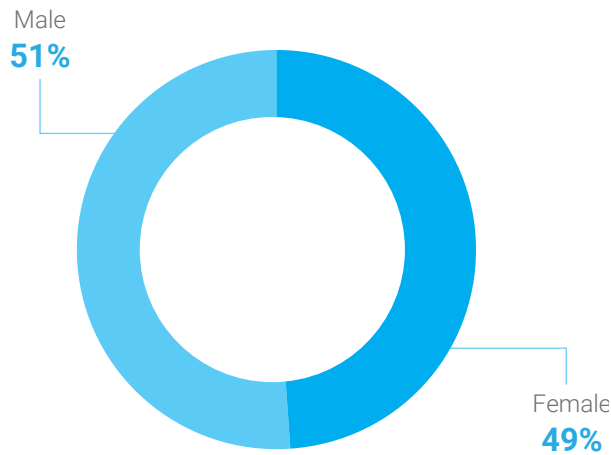
iv. Overall Gender Parity Status for P5 and above levels– 31 December 2022

Gender	USG	ASG	D2	D1	P5	Total
Female	1	3	8	25	63	100
Male	0	0	3	28	67	98
Total	1	3	11	53	130	198
Female %	100%	100%	73%	47%	48%	51%
Male %	0%	0%	27%	53%	52%	49%

Overall Gender Parity Status - P5 and Above



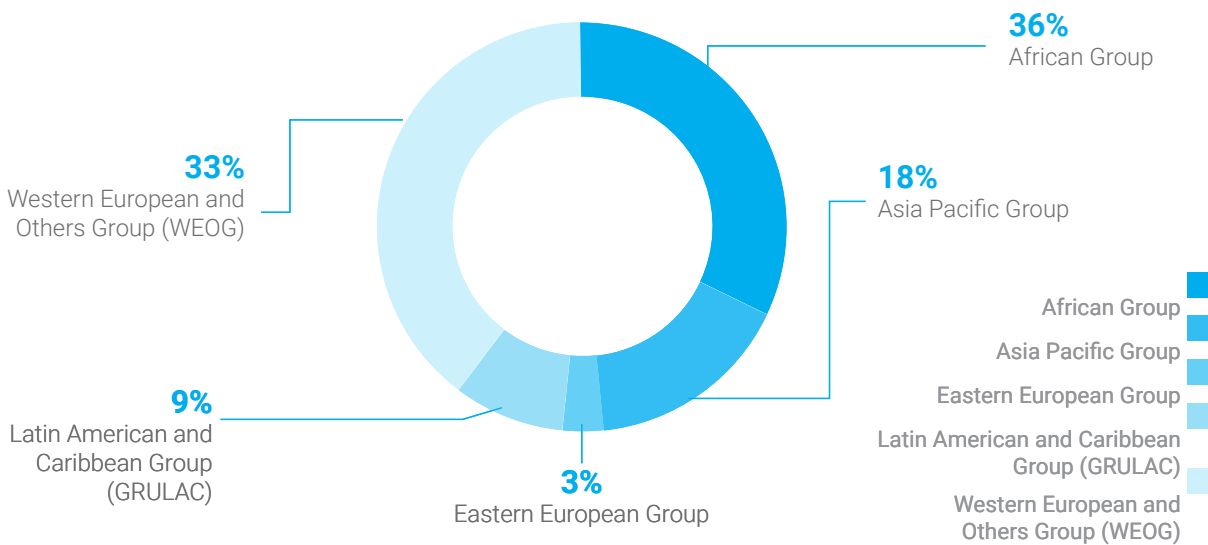
Gender Parity Status P5 and Above UNEP Secretariat



v. Overall Regional Representation of staff (UNEP and MEA Secretariats) as of 31 December 2022

Region	Total
African Group	413
Asia Pacific Group	243
Eastern European Group	46
Latin American and Caribbean Group	125
Western European and Others Group	503
Total	1330

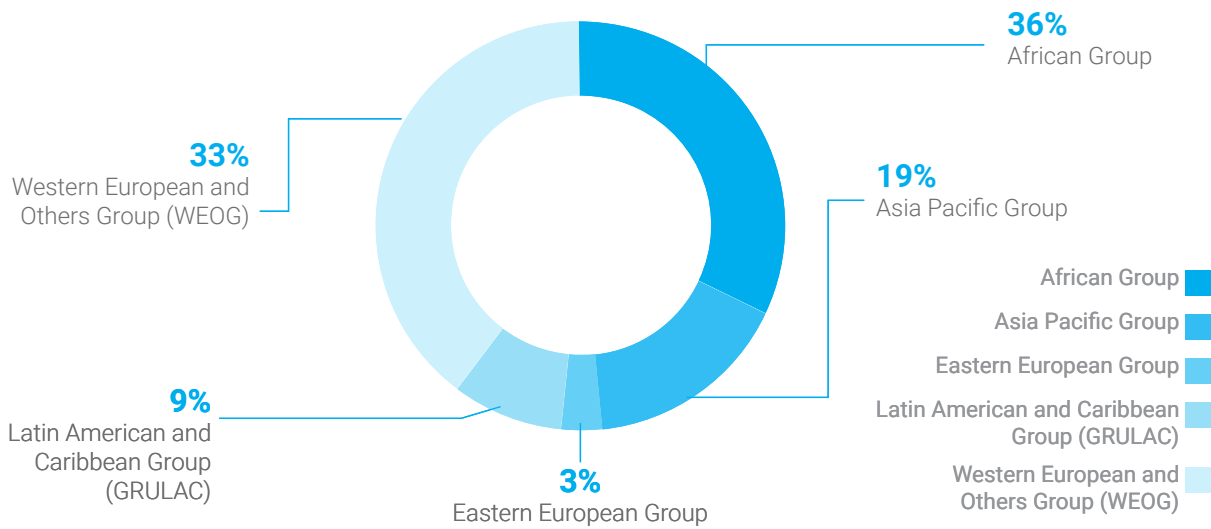
UNEP Overall Regional Representation



Regional Representation – UNEP Secretariat

Region	Total
African Group	373
Asia Pacific Group	195
Eastern European Group	34
Latin American and Caribbean Group	97
Western European and Others Group	339
Total	1038

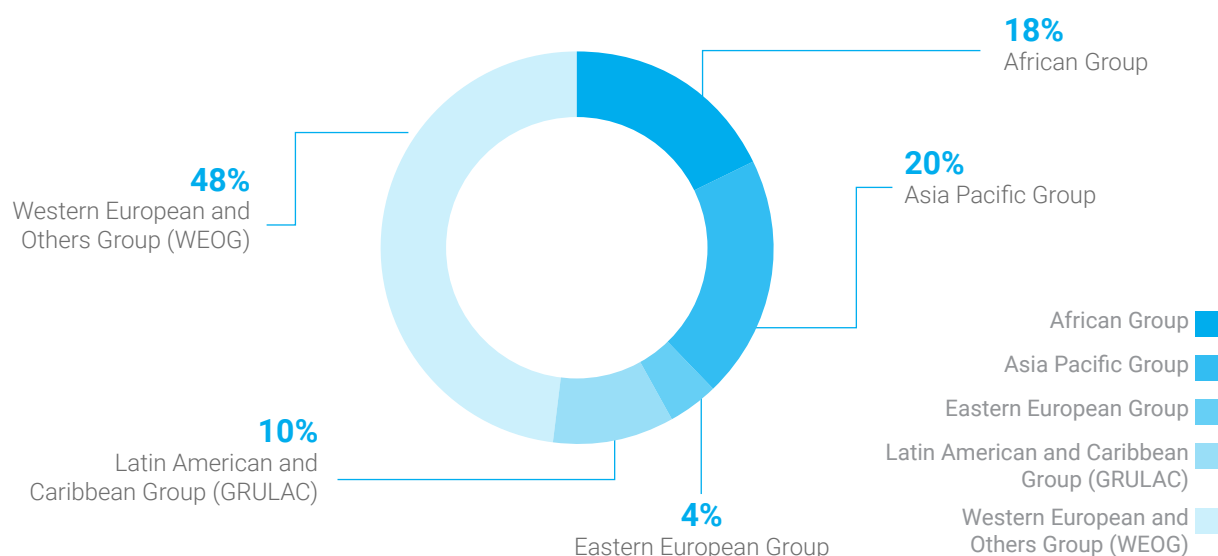
Regional Representation - UNEP Secretariat



Regional Distribution	Professional & Above Level								Total
	USG	ASG	D2	D1	P5	P4	P3	P2	
African Group		1	3	6	30	51	42	10	143
Asia Pacific Group		1	3	8	25	54	50	26	167
Eastern European Group				5	5	9	8	7	34
Latin American and Caribbean Group			2	5	18	23	24	8	80
Western European and Others Group	1	1	3	29	52	128	118	54	386
Total	1	3	11	53	130	265	242	105	810

vi. Overall Regional Representation of UNEP's Professional level and above – 31 December 2022

Overall Regional Representation - Professional Level and Above

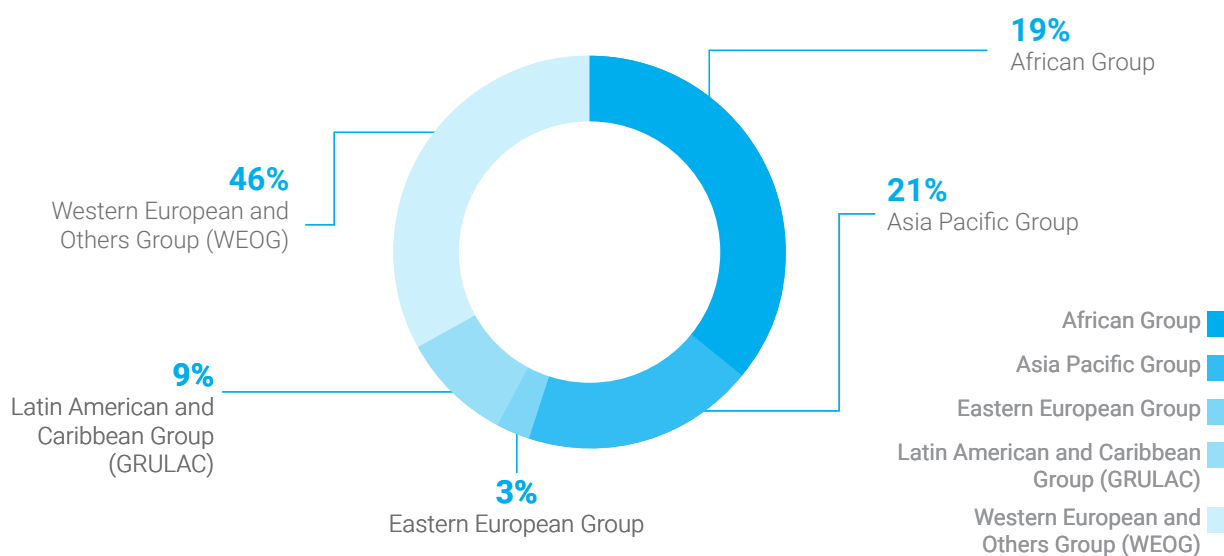


In 2022, there was an overall increase (compared to 2021) of over 35 per cent in the selection of candidates from less represented regional groups for positions in the Professional and above categories. Within that context, the professional and above categories saw an increase – between January and December 2022 – of approximately 10 percent of staff from Latin America and the Caribbean, 12 per cent of staff from the Asia Pacific Group, and approximately 20 per cent of staff from the Eastern European Group.

Regional Representation – Professional Level and Above – UNEP Secretariat – 31 December 2022

Regional Representation	Professional and Above Level - Secretariat								Total
	USG	ASG	D2	D1	P5	P4	P3	P2	
African Group			2	5	22	47	38	9	123
Asia Pacific Group		1	2	6	18	46	44	20	137
Eastern European Group				4	4	8	7	6	29
Latin American and Caribbean Group			1	4	13	17	18	6	59
Western European and Others Group	1	1	2	26	42	96	88	35	291
Total	1	2	7	45	99	214	195	76	639

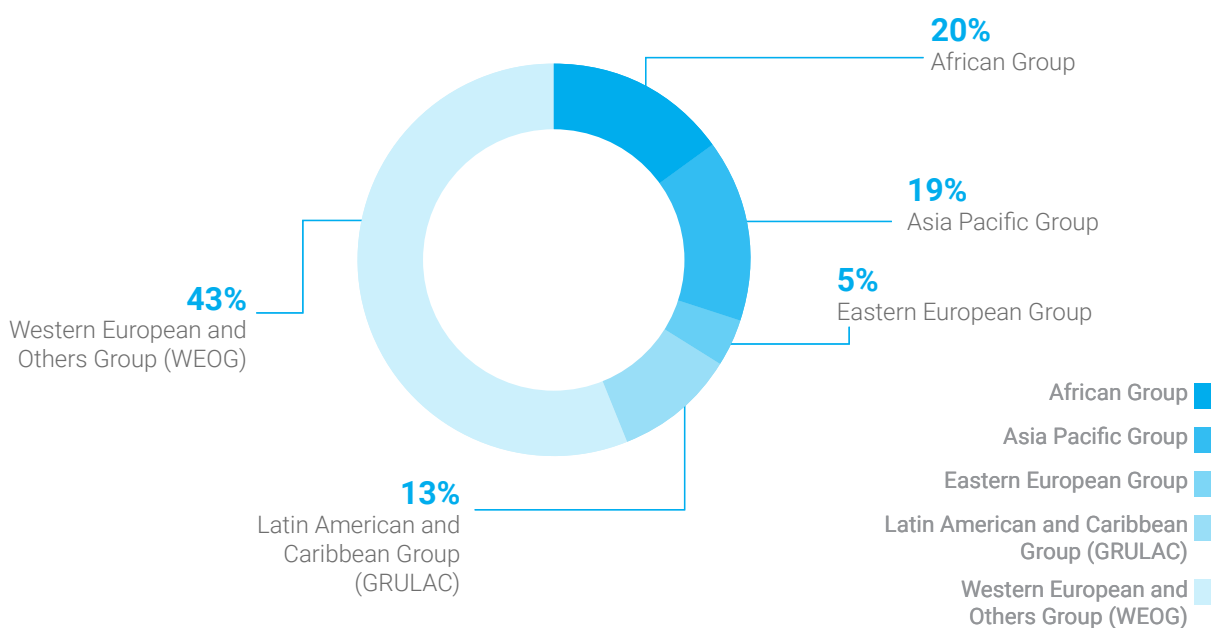
Regional Representation – Professional Level and Above – UNEP Secretariat



vii. Overall Regional representation P5 and above as of 31 December 2022

Regional Distribution	P-5 & Above					Total
	USG	ASG	D2	D1	P5	
African Group		1	3	6	30	40
Asia Pacific Group		1	3	8	25	37
Eastern European Group				5	5	10
Latin American and Caribbean Group			2	5	18	25
Western European and Others Group	1	1	3	29	52	86
Total	1	3	11	53	130	198

Overall Regional Representation - P5 and Above

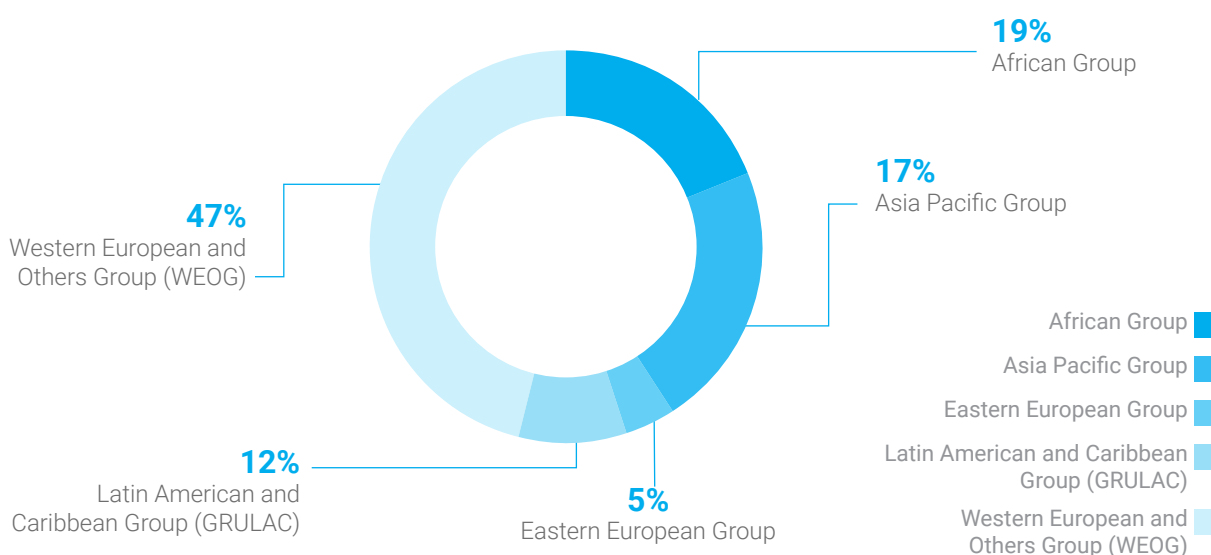


Regional Representation – P5 and Above – UNEP Secretariat

Regional Distribution	P5 and Above Level - Secretariat					Total
	USG	ASG	D2	D1	P5	
African Group			2	5	22	29
Asia Pacific Group		1	2	6	18	27
Eastern European Group				4	4	8
Latin American and Caribbean Group			1	4	13	18
Western European and Others Group	1	1	2	26	42	72
Total	1	2	7	45	99	154

In 2022, there was an overall increase (compared to 2021) in the UNEP Secretariat in the selection of candidates from less-represented regional groups for positions in the P5 and above levels. Within that context, the P5 and above levels saw an increase – between January and December 2022 – of approximately 20 percent of staff from Latin America and the Caribbean, 10 per cent of staff from the Africa Group, and approximately 13 per cent of staff from the Eastern European Group.

Regional Representation – P5 and Above – UNEP Secretariat



viii. Human Resources Risks and Issues

In the fourth quarter of 2022, UNEP launched a new human resources dashboard and a monthly staffing report with the purpose of providing senior managers across the organization updated workforce data and metrics to enhance and facilitate management information and decision making, HR monitoring of new trends/challenges/opportunities, tracking problem areas in a transparent way, and strengthen corporate oversight and accountability systems. These new data management tools increase internal direction, guidance, monitoring and awareness targeting top management and operations, by providing further insight on staffing resources disaggregated in

critical areas such as staffing overview, geographical representation, gender parity, duty station overview, age analysis and retirement, vacancy and recruitment overview, mandatory training, and performance compliance.

UNEP maintained gender parity and had a female representation of 47% percent or higher in all levels of the professional category and above, which is within the margins set in Phase 1 of the [UN System-Wide Strategy on Gender Parity](#) of the Secretary-General.

UNEP continues to implement the Executive Director's four-point plan as set out in UNEP/EA.5/26, para. 29. In 2022 there was an overall increase (compared to 2021)

of over 35 per cent in the selection of candidates from less represented regional groups for positions in the Professional and above categories.

During the reporting period, UNEP conducted three outreach activities in partnership with other UN organizations and international organization networks – two events on-line and one in person - to promote jobs and increase employer branding. Two of these events were directly targeted to nationals from countries in less represented regional groups, namely Eastern Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean. One event was delivered in English, one was delivered in Spanish, and one was delivered in both English and French. UNEP signed an agreement with the world's largest professional network on the internet (LinkedIn) with the purpose of promoting jobs and positioning UNEP as an employer of choice, especially among suitable candidates from less represented regional groups.

D Audits

Reports [published](#) from audits conducted in 2022

- Audit of the UNEP Ecosystems Division
- Audit of the UNEP Mediterranean Action Plan for the Barcelona Convention

2022 OIOS audit completed but report not yet published

- Cybersecurity preparedness

Closed

- Regional Office for Africa

Under implementation (outstanding recommendations)

- Accounts Receivable and Payable (1)
- Grants Management (2)
- Partnerships Management (5)
- Response to COVID 19 (2)
- Convention on Biological Diversity (2)
- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) (7)
- Convention for Cooperation in the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Atlantic Coast of the West, Central and Southern Africa Region (Abidjan Convention) (2)

Planned/ongoing

- Procurement
- Projects in Cameroon

Board of Auditors (BoA)

The Board of Auditors remotely conducted the interim 2022 audit of UNEP Headquarters, West Asia Office, Europe Office and the Ozone Secretariat from 17 October to 20 November, 2022. During the audit, a total of five recommendations from the previous year were closed as implemented, while 47 recommendations were categorized as under implementation. Implementation plans for all outstanding and new observations have been drafted and monitoring is ongoing.

E Evaluations

During the reporting period, three project evaluations were brought to completion, bringing the cumulative total for 2022 to 17, while 28 project evaluations are currently ongoing. The [revised Evaluation Policy 2022](#) and the [Evaluation Operational Strategy 2022-25](#) were approved by the Executive Director. The evaluation of the [Environmental Governance Sub-Programme](#), the [Terminal Evaluation of the UNEP Inquiry into the Design of a Sustainable Financial System](#) and the evaluation of the Environment Management Group were all completed.

Selected lesson from the Terminal Evaluation of the UNEP Inquiry into the Design of a Sustainable Financial System:

The Inquiry model is available to UNEP and other organizations to be applied to a new set of challenges and opportunities in sustainable finance and related areas. The essence of the Inquiry design entailed an ambitious, even audacious goal and level of change: a time-bound, rapidly moving set of activities; leverage on public-sector regulation; strong advocacy and communications; top-level networking and support; learning across developed and developing economies; and both internal and external funding. Potential derivations of this model could be used by UNEP to advance transition investments in key verticals such as plastics, chemicals, or methane; to accelerate and increase the quantum of private sustainable investments by institutional investors in emerging and developing markets through blended finance instruments and vehicles; and/or to step up its cooperation with the countries and groups most vulnerable to climate change.



QUARTERLY REPORT

to the **161st** Meeting of the

COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES

United Nations Avenue, Gigiri
PO Box 30552, Nairobi 00100, Kenya

e-mail: unep-policyprogramme-pps@un.org