

QUARTERLY REPORT

to the 163rd Meeting of the

COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES



NINETEENTH ISSUE

April – June 2023

Table of Contents

1. Significant Developments	3
A. Global Developments	3
B. Regional Developments.....	8
2. Programme of Work Implementation	14
A. Climate Stability	14
B. Living in Harmony with Nature.....	17
C. Towards a pollution-free planet	21
D. Foundational Subprogrammes	25
E. Enabling Subprogrammes.....	28
F. Cross-cutting Issues	32
G. Challenges and Opportunities.....	33
3. Resources And Management Issues.....	36
A. Financial Resources	36
B. Human Resources	41
C. Audits	49
D. Evaluations	50

1. SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS

A. Global Developments

World Environment Day (WED)

Led by UNEP and marked annually on 5 June since 1973, World Environment Day has grown to become one of the biggest global platforms for environmental outreach, with millions of people across the world engaging to protect the planet. Given that an estimated 19-23 million tonnes of plastic waste are dumped in lakes, rivers and seas annually causing harm to human health, the economy, the environment and threatening sustainable development, the 2023 [WED](#) focused on raising the volume on the call for governments, cities and businesses to invest in and implement solutions to ending plastic pollution.

Hosted by Côte d'Ivoire in partnership with the Netherlands, the [event](#) included a panel on experience-

sharing to fight plastic pollution in Côte d'Ivoire, a panel on circular economy in Africa with a focus on solutions to plastic pollution in the continent, a meeting with representatives of plastic waste pickers and a beach clean-up. The meeting culminated in the announcement of a national strategy to combat plastic pollution by Cote d'Ivoire.

In West Asia, UNEP partnered with Rafic Hariri International Airport (Lebanon) and Kuwait International Airport to raise awareness on the WED theme of plastic pollution, through displays of communication materials within the airport concourses. In Saudi Arabia, in collaboration with the UN Global Compact, Ministries and public/private enterprises, UNEP launched a National Campaign on *Beat Plastic Pollution*. Other activities and events such as beach clean-ups and awareness raising took place in Bahrain, Kuwait, Lebanon and Yemen.



World Environment Day 2023, Cote d'Ivoire
(UNEP/Florian Fusstetter)



Poster of WED 2023 in Kuwait International Airport (UNEP)

In North America, during the United Nations Association of the United States of America (UNA-USA) [Leadership Summit](#) (4-6 June, Washington DC), UNEP highlighted actions that stakeholders can take to #BeatPlasticPollution, including a virtual booth with relevant WED materials such as multimedia assets, messaging documents, calls to action and the [Beat Plastic Pollution Practical Guide](#).

With UNEP support, [Live Nation Worldwide, Inc.](#) - one of the world's leading live entertainment companies - and the Green Sports Alliance, launched on WED the [TURN](#) Reusable Cup Systems for eventual nation-wide and global expansion, encouraging change by others in the sports, entertainment and hospitality industries. The [TURN systems](#) include reusable cups, collection bins and washing systems powered by technology that incentivizes customers to return their cups for rewards.



UNA-USA Leadership Summit 2023 (UNA-USA website)

In Asia-Pacific, UNEP and Chulalongkorn University organized a WED [event](#) (27 June, Bangkok) attended by 50 participants focused on the role of campus-level actions in driving behavioral change to end plastic pollution. Universities shared their best practices, and challenges followed by a deep dive workshop with students on green nudges.

Globally, Environment Day was mentioned in 53,000 news articles, while the content was seen more than 300 million times across social media platforms in all six official UN languages plus Portuguese and Kiswahili. Users engaged with UNEP content 18 million times and there were 2.6 million visits to UNEP's dedicated WED website and the [Beat Plastic Pollution Practical Guide](#) (issued in May) was downloaded 63,000 times.

International Day for Biological Diversity

From April to May, in the lead-up to [International Day for Biological Diversity](#) (22 May), the [RESTORE documentary series](#) was screened on the remaining five of the first ten World Restoration Flagships. Collectively, the series received over 1.2 million views on YouTube between January and June. A retro jump and run game "[Score for Nature](#)" launched on 22 May attracted over 70,000 people to the website on the [UN Decade for Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030](#) and provided further information on restoration.



Conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ)

Since the [establishment](#) of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group to study issues relating to BBNJ in 2006, UNEP has provided expert inputs into the process which culminated in the adoption of an [Agreement](#) under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea ([UNCLOS](#)) on 19 June. The Agreement is key to the implementation of both the 2030 Agenda and the [Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework](#). Important, particularly for developing countries, the Agreement aims to address existing inequalities in access- and benefit-sharing from the organisms or areas beyond national jurisdiction and associated digital sequence information.

Integrating environmental perspectives into new Programme of Action for LLDCs

At the [Regional Review Meeting](#) of the Vienna Programme of Action (VPoA) for Land Locked Developing Countries (LLDCs) 2014 - 2024 (29-30 May, Botswana), UNEP contributed to ensuring that environmental aspects are properly reflected and taken onboard when the new Programme of Action for LLDCs is taken up by the LLDC summit in 2024. UNEP's interventions focussed on key challenges African LLDCs face in advancing their sustainable development and



Global Biodiversity Festival
(CBD website)

the growing risks and challenges associated with global warming and biodiversity loss. The meeting's [Outcome Document](#) focuses, inter alia, on debt relief, reform of the international financial architecture and financial support.

Environmental human rights at UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

At the [22nd session](#) of the Forum (17-28 April, New York), UNEP presented its work and approach on environmental human rights defenders during an Interactive Dialogue with the Forum Members and UN entities. The Dialogue's purpose was to share information with the Permanent Forum Members and to identify challenges and opportunities in the UN's approach to working with indigenous peoples, many of whom are also environmental human rights defenders. Reference to UNEP's work to ensure a safe space for Indigenous Peoples' participation in UN meetings, including a recommendation to UNEP related to the plastics crisis, were included in the [report](#) of the meeting.

Aligning environmental and international finance agendas at WB & IMF

UNEP participated in the 2023 spring [meetings](#) of the World Bank Group and IMF (10-16 April, Washington

D.C.) to assess and discuss ways in which the environmental and international finance agendas can be better aligned, to deliver on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and address the planetary crises. The Meetings touched upon a wide [variety of topics](#) impacting the global economy including the economic outlooks for Europe and sub-Saharan Africa, and central banks' strategies to reduce inflation.

Environmental perspective at ECOSOC sessions

UNEP brought environmental perspectives into several sessions of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) including on [Financing for Development](#) (FFD) (17-20 April); [Youth](#) (25-27 April), [Science, Technology, and Innovation](#) (3-4 May) for the SDGs, [Operational Activities for Development](#) (23-25 May) and Management. UNEP participated in preparatory meetings and provided written and oral inputs to draft documents for the consideration of Member States. As a result, environmental perspectives are included in the [outcome document](#) of the FFD Forum and the [presidential statement](#) of the ECOSOC Youth Forum.



UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
(UNDESA website)



2023 ECOSOC operational activities for development segment
(UN website)

Nature-based solutions for DRR

UNEP participated in the 8th annual meeting of the UN Senior Leadership Group on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) for Resilience (18-19 May, New York) along with 23 other senior UN agency leaders and highlighted the importance of Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) for DRR during the Leaders' Roundtables session. The meeting resulted in a [Political Declaration](#) highlighting four priorities: understanding disaster risk; strengthening disaster risk governance; investing in DRR for resilience; and enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to "Build Back Better" in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction.

Coordinated and integrated policies for social justice

At the *World of Work Summit: Social Justice for All* (14-15 June, Geneva) organized by ILO, UNEP highlighted the importance of coordinated and integrated policies to achieve social justice and just transitions and provided examples of different UNEP-UN joint initiatives such as [PAGE](#), [Green Jobs for Youth Pact](#), and the [Global Accelerator](#) on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transition as integrated initiatives towards just transitions. The Summit's main outcome was the [proposal](#) to forge a Global Coalition for Social Justice.

Child rights, environment and climate change

The [93rd session](#) of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) (9 - 26 May, Geneva), adopted [General Comment No. 26](#) on Child Rights and the Environment with a special focus on Climate Change (official [launch](#) on 18 September). The development involved extensive engagement with States, UN entities, civil society organizations, and over 16,000 children participating in thematic regional consultations alongside field experts. UNEP served on the Committee's Advisory Board and supported consultations with children.

UN System Common Principles on Future Generations

The United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) [endorsed](#) (May) the [Common Principles on Future Generations](#), developed by the UNEP co-led Core Group on [Duties to the Future](#) of the High-level Committee on Programmes (HLCP). The eight Principles seek to ensure greater clarity on terminology and agree on a set of common values across the UN system for use across various contexts. Principle 3 states that an integrated and interdisciplinary approach will help accelerate support to urgently address the three environmental planetary crises, which undermines the abilities of future generations to fulfil their needs and interests and threatens their survival.

UNEP Publications

A list of UNEP publications released between 2nd February and 14th August, 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](#).

Accreditation to UNEP

During the reporting period, 78 new organizations were accredited to UNEP and its governing bodies representing Business and Industry (16), Children and Youth (1), Indigenous Peoples and Communities (1), Local Authorities (1), Scientific and Technological Community (4), Women (1) and NGOs (54). The list of accredited organizations can be found [here](#). As of 30 June, there were 1015 accredited organizations.

B. Regional Developments

i. Africa

African Group of Negotiators (AGN) on plastic pollution

With financial and technical support from UNEP, and in implementation of UNEA [resolution 5/14](#), the African Group of Negotiators (AGN) (16-18 May, Accra, Ghana) reinforced Africa's stance and negotiation plan

prior to the second meeting of the INC in Paris. UNEP organized the consultations to enhance multilateral negotiations skills on the proposed plastic pollution instrument, develop a common position and key messages for Africa's engagement in INC-2, and discuss the operationalization aspects of the AGN on plastic pollution.

The AGN meetings underlined crucial points ranging from implementing a circular economy, setting objectives for the forthcoming agreement, establishing national action plans and financial mechanisms, monitoring programs, technology transfer, and education awareness, to aligning a unified African approach. A noteworthy focus was the involvement of informal waste pickers who collect about 60% of Africa's waste, making their participation crucial in combating plastic pollution and formulating waste management strategies.

ii. Asia and the Pacific

Engagement in Group of 20 (G20) meetings

UNEP engaged and provided substantive inputs into a number of G20 processes including:

- Written comments on high-level principles on blue economy during 3rd Environment and Climate Sustainability [Working Group](#) (21-23 May, Mumbai, India);



Africa Regional Consultations on the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee Process held on 16-18 May 2023, Accra, Ghana
(Photo credit: UNEP/Africa Office)

- Inputs to Goa [Roadmap for Tourism as a Vehicle for Achieving SDGs](#) and Tourism Ministers' Communique and co-organization of [side event](#) on Global Tourism Plastics Initiative during 4th Tourism Working Group [meeting](#) and Ministerial (19-22 June, Goa, India);
- Co-convening the *Enabling a Global Transition to Sustainable Cooling* [side event](#) during the 2nd Energy Transitions Working Group [meeting](#) (2-4 April, Gandhinagar, India);
- Presentation on Cooling Pledge during the 3rd Energy Transition Working Group [meeting](#) (15 – 17 May, Mumbai);
- Co-convening the *Increasing application of Ecosystem-based Approaches to Disaster Risk Reduction* [side event](#) during the 2nd DRR Working Group [meeting](#) (25 May, Mumbai); and
- Comments on outcome documents on *high level principles on LiFE (Lifestyles for Sustainable Development)* and *G20 2023 action plan to accelerate progress on the SDGs* during the Development Working Group [meeting](#) and Ministerial (9-12 June, Varanasi, India).

Accelerating climate action through youth engagement

The UNEP co-chaired UN Issue-based Coalition (IBC) on Raising Climate Ambition organized a [side event](#) on *Acceleration of Climate Action: Engagement and empowerment of Youth for the future* (17 May, Bangkok) during the 79th Session of UNESCAP where UNEP raised awareness of UNEA and the Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities of Asia Pacific.

Sustainable Cooling

During the [79th Session of Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific \(ESCAP\)](#), the [UNEP Cool Coalition](#) co-organized a [side event](#) *Cooling - the unseen climate challenge* where the UAE presented the Global Cooling Pledge, Cambodia announced its adoption of the [National Cooling Action Plan](#) developed by UNEP and ESCAP, and Australia, Cambodia, China and India highlighted the importance of sustainable cooling for the energy transition and SDGs. The event aimed to foster awareness, facilitate knowledge sharing, and promote collaboration on sustainable cooling, with participant feedback shaping the Global Cooling Pledge to align better with the Asia-Pacific region's needs and priorities.



iii. Europe

Strengthening cooperation with Benelux and France

UNEP discussed common priorities, ongoing and future cooperation during its bilateral consultations with France (12 June) and Benelux countries (20-21 June, The Hague, Netherlands). An update on UNEP's portfolio and cooperation between Benelux countries was provided and the UNEP Executive Director addressed the Dutch Parliament and participated in a livestreamed [Hague Talk](#) with youth groups on fighting the three environmental planetary crises.

Enhancing environment monitoring in Central Asia

A five-day UNEP [training course](#) (17-21 April, Almaty, Kazakhstan) on *Methods and tools for mapping and remote sensing data interpretation* provided capacity development training to government nominated specialists in the field of environmental protection, environmental management and cartography and geodesy in the generation and use of data and information in support of monitoring the environment in Central Asia.

Furthering inter-agency cooperation on the environment in the Western Balkans

The UNEP Executive Director led consultations with Resident Coordinator Offices and United Nations Country Teams in Albania, [North Macedonia](#), and

Serbia (29 May- 3 June) focused on strengthening cooperation to respond to requests from the Governments for assistance on preserving healthy ecosystems through biodiversity conservation, prevention of land degradation and adaptation to climate change, air pollution and waste management, and the implementation of the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans.

Enhancing Russian private sector engagement in sustainable development

UNEP organized an online seminar (25 June) to further the active engagement of the private sector in the implementation of sustainable development. Through the event, more than 70 Russian companies from the Association of UN Global Compact Russian National Network were informed on UNEP's Private Sector Strategy.

Integrating GBF into Cooperation Frameworks in Europe and Central Asia

The UNEP co-chaired UN inter-agency Issue-based Coalition ([IBC](#)) on Environment and Climate Change for Europe and Central Asia convened a [webinar](#) (27 June) to raise awareness and build capacity of UN Country Teams to support countries in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), including through its incorporation into the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) processes.



UNEP Executive Director meeting with representatives of UN agencies in North Macedonia to discuss instilling environmental issues in all UN programmes
(UN North Macedonia website)

iv. Latin American and the Caribbean

Extraordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP) of the Escazú Agreement

The [second meeting](#) (19 – 21 April, Buenos Aires) of the Conference of Parties to the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in LAC ([Escazú Agreement](#)) adopted the [Buenos Aires Declaration](#) which includes the launch of a Voluntary Fund with contributions announced from Mexico and Chile.

The meeting adopted [Decision II/1](#) formalizing the election of seven Committee members to support the implementation of and compliance with the Agreement. Member countries were called upon to deepen implementation through cooperation to strengthen national capacities. Testimonies of human rights defenders on environmental matters increased expectations and urgency to address the issue with a gender perspective during the second regional forum of environmental defenders (26-28 September, Panama).

UNEP and partners regionally launched an [information note](#) during the meeting on the right to a healthy environment, including a [version](#) in Spanish. UNEP is actively working with the Secretariat of the Agreement (ECLAC) and OHCHR in supporting countries to strengthen their national capacities for the implementation of the Agreement.

Environmental dimensions in 6th LAC Forum on Sustainable Development

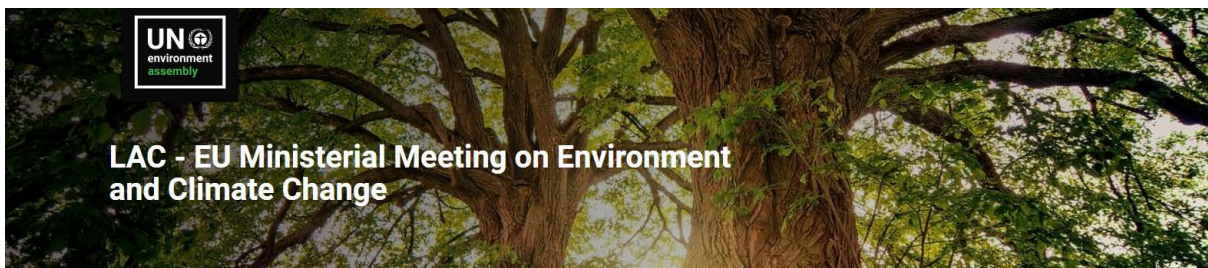
UNEP's engagement in the Forum (25-28 April, Santiago, Chile) which considered the environmental dimension of sustainable development, focused on the participation of youth in the environmental agenda, food systems, mountain ecosystems, green jobs, and climate and desertification. The [outcome document](#) called for alignment and synergies in different environmental forums with the priorities defined by the Forum of LAC Ministers of Environment (and the implementation of decisions adopted at its [XXII Meeting](#)), recalled the need to renew and enhance efforts in the sound management of chemicals and waste, and recognized the [Action Plan](#) for Regional Cooperation on Chemicals and Waste Management.

Bureau of Forum of LAC Ministers of Environment

As the Forum's Secretariat, UNEP supported the convening of the Bureau [meeting](#) (4 May, Costa Rica) which addressed the key outcomes of COP 15 and COP 27, upcoming COP 28 preparations and the status of the INC on Plastic Pollution. The meeting discussed water security, desertification, meteorological services and early warning systems, migration, the dichotomy between the energy transition and the extraction of minerals, and biodiversity protection, debt swaps for environmental action, sustainable finance taxonomies and oceans. The Bureau approved a regional working group on oceans and decided to incorporate water security into the Forum's agenda.



Second meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 2)
(acuerdodeescazu.cepal.org)



2nd LAC–EU Ministerial Meeting on Environment and Climate Change

The UNEP and European Commission co-organized [meeting](#) (San Jose, Costa Rica, 5 May) served a key milestone in the preparation of the EU – CELAC Summit of Heads of State (Brussels, 17-18 July) and was part of the “Road to 2023” roadmap agreed by the Foreign Affairs Ministers of the two regions in 2022. Participants discussed opportunities for enhanced cooperation on environment, biodiversity, climate action, and the green economy, factoring in the results of relevant international processes (UNEA5, UNFCCC COP 27, CBD COP 15, INC-2) and emphasized the importance of prioritizing environmental action in the Summit declaration and subsequent cooperation actions.

Climate change in the Interparliamentary Meeting on LAC Integration

The [meeting](#) (21 May, Panama City, Panama) of the four regional parliaments of the LAC region - LAC Parliament (PARLATINO), Central American Parliament (PARLACEN), Mercosur Parliament (PARLASUR),

and Andean Parliament – addressed migration, food security, climate change and gender. UNEP advised the meeting on climate change, emphasizing the responsibility of parliamentarians to develop solid regulatory frameworks vis-a-vis channeling financial resources for adaptation, mitigation and reparation policies; electricity supply; green transport; and transformation of industrial, development and consumption models.

v. North America

UNEP- Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) MoU

UNEP and the [CEC](#) – an entity funded by the Governments of Canada, Mexico and the United States to facilitate effective cooperation and public participation to conserve, protect and enhance the North American environment in support of sustainable development - signed a five-year [Memorandum of Understanding](#), on the eve of the [30th regular session](#) (28-29 June, Victoria, B.C., Canada) of the CEC Council.



Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) Signing Ceremony between UNEP and CEC (UNEP)

The new MOU will focus on pollution, nature, and climate action, as well as finance and economic transformation. The CEC and UNEP will also collaborate on several cross-cutting issues including: enhancing the role of Indigenous Peoples and traditional knowledge in Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) for climate and resilience; strengthening current efforts on environmental justice for the protection of the health and environment of all communities; engaging creative and innovative North American youth leaders, entrepreneurs, and educators in an inclusive dialogue on global and regional environmental challenges; and working in partnership with the private sector.

vi. West Asia

Regional Collaborative Platform (RCP) for Arab States

UNEP participated at the [RCP meeting](#) (8 June, Beirut) which discussed the configuration of [IBCs](#) for 2023, work plan and requests/needs from Resident Coordinators. UNEP was invited to remain the co-

convener of the IBC on Climate, Food Security and Environment along with FAO and ESCWA. The IBC co-conveners agreed to deliver a set of outputs, including an analysis report on just transitions in the Arab region, a policy paper on interplay between regional and national strategies for mitigation and adaptation, and a regional dialogue on transboundary sand and dust storms to develop coordination mechanisms.

MoU with Oman on environmental protection

UNEP and the Environment Authority of Oman signed a [Memorandum of Understanding](#) (9 May) to strengthen cooperation for environmental protection in the areas of biodiversity, ecosystems, pollution and capacity building.

2. PROGRAMME OF WORK IMPLEMENTATION

A. Climate Stability

Aligning Climate Policy Engagement with Net-Zero Commitments

The UNEP [Finance Initiative](#) (FI) convened the [Net-Zero Asset Owner Alliance](#) and drafted a [discussion paper](#) (released 4 April) on *Aligning Climate Policy Engagement with Net-Zero Commitments: A foundation for asset owner engagement of asset managers to support private sector voluntary action to decarbonize investment portfolios*. This is important for private investment to contribute to the achievement of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and Member States' NDCs. It also contributes to the implementation of [UNEA Resolution 4/4](#) on addressing environmental challenges through sustainable business practices, since asset managers have the potential to influence the sustainability practices of the businesses that they invest in. They are also expected to contribute to achieving the net-zero commitments through their portfolio companies.

Enhancing compliance with climate-related disclosure standards

UNEP FI provided global briefings on [climate risks in the oil and gas sector](#) and [industrials sector](#) (April), as well as a global [Technical Supplement on the Climate Risk Landscape](#) and Climate Risk Tool dashboard (June) to help financial institutions comply with emerging climate-related disclosure standards. This could help Member States monitor potential financial stability effects from climate change.

Advisory Opinions on the Obligations of States with respect to Climate Change

UNEP's [submission](#) (16 June) - in response to a [request](#) from the President of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) regarding the advisory opinion on climate change and the protection of the marine environment – highlights, among others, conclusions from climate science relevant to the interpretation and application of States' obligations under international law to protect and preserve the marine environment.



Prime Minister Alatoi Ishmael Kalsakau of Vanuatu briefs reporters on the draft resolution sponsored by his country and other Member States requesting an advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on the obligations of States in respect
(UN Photo/Manuel Elías)

Further, in relation to UN General Assembly resolution [77/276](#) (29 March) which requested the International Court of Justice to render an advisory opinion on States' obligations in respect of climate change, the UN Secretariat has submitted a [contribution](#). UNEP collaborated with the UN Secretariat on the identification of relevant documentation to shed light on the questions posed to the ICJ.

Ecosystems-based adaptation in South Sudan

The Government of South Sudan launched a US\$ 9 million [initiative](#) in April to help communities adapt to climate change by strengthening climate early warning systems and restoring the country's ecosystems in two of the 10 states. Funded by the Global Environment Facility, the project represents the largest ever ecosystem-based adaptation project in the country. UNEP, the implementing agency for the project, and UNDP will support the Ministry of Environment and Forestry in the execution of the project.

Flood water diversion in Sudan

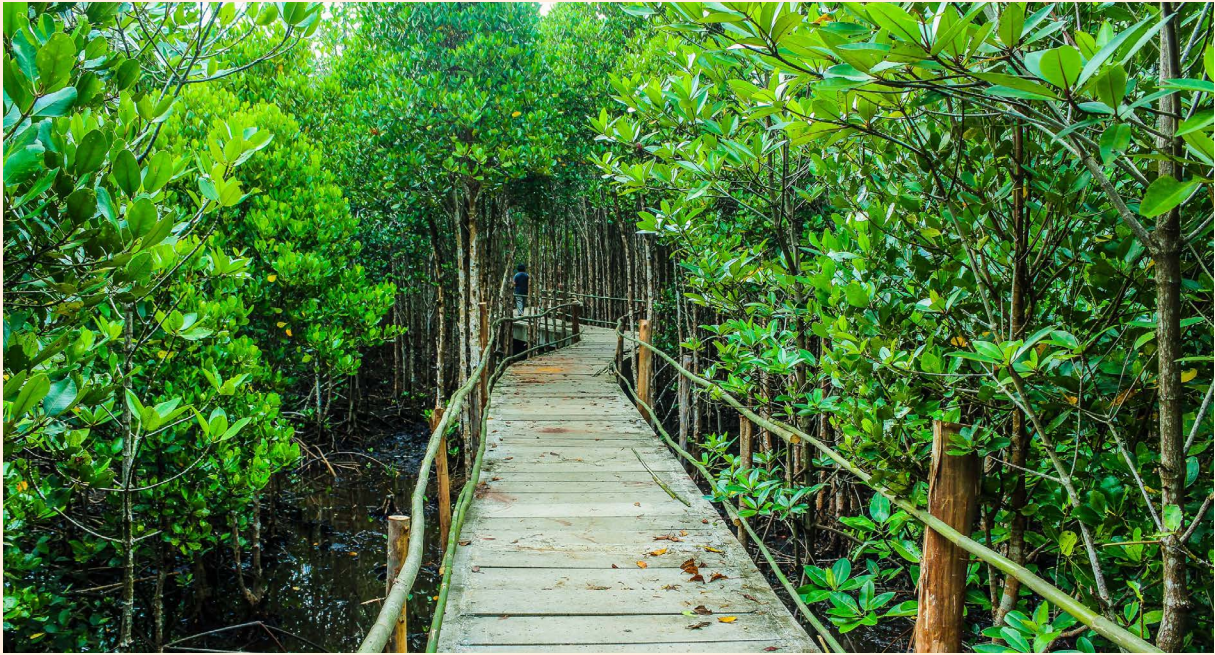
Despite the on-going armed conflict in Sudan, UNEP, together with beneficiary communities, continued the construction and rehabilitation of flood water diversion weirs in the Wadi El Ku catchment in North Darfur. By end-June, a weir rehabilitation had been successfully completed and a new Kusa weir effectively diverted flood waters and distributed it to an arable area covering approximately 40 km². These weirs are expected to have positive impacts on communities' livelihoods by enhancing their resilience to climate change and food insecurity, while also contributing to conflict resolution and peace building in the area.

Uganda National Adaptation Plan

A new US\$ 2.9 million [initiative](#) was launched in Uganda (20 June) to address the growing impacts of climate change by developing a National Adaptation Plan (NAP). Backed by the Green Climate Fund, the project will be executed by Uganda's National Climate Change Department with support from UNEP in NAP development. The project will increase skills, awareness and knowledge for long-term climate adaptation planning in the country.



Communities and Wadi El Ku Catchment Management Project team celebrating the successful water harvest at Wadaa' dam following this year's rainy season
(Photo credit: Practical Action)



Use of biodiversity and ecosystem services as part of an overall adaptation strategy to help people to adapt to the adverse effects of climate change
(Pexels.com)

Panama National Adaptation Plan

The Government of Panama launched (20 May) a new US\$3 million-dollar [project](#) to increase the climate resilience of the country through the development and implementation of a National Adaptation Plan (NAP). The [project](#): *Building capacities for the development of the NAP in the context of the NDCs adaptation themes in Panama* will strengthen the governance and institutional coordination needed to accelerate adaptation action. It will particularly enhance the knowledge base regarding climate risks throughout the country, enabling better planning and implementation of effective adaptation strategies. UNEP as the official implementing entity and delivery partner of the project, will support Panama's Ministry of Environment in project execution.

Illegal rosewood and forest trade in the Lower Mekong

A [press conference](#) and media junket (23 May) on the *Current state of illegal rosewood and forest trade in the Lower Mekong*, shared results of the UN-REDD's Sustainable Forest Trade in the Lower Mekong Initiative – trends, solutions, likely impacts, and links to forest carbon markets and examined the interplay between forest governance, sustainable value chain, forest carbon markets and the protection of the Lower Mekong region's forests. Over 20 regional journalists participated in the event, resulting in extensive media coverage of the issue.

Mangrove mapping, biodiversity and restoration in Myanmar

In Myanmar, UNEP and UNEP-WCMC organized a [series of technical webinars](#) on mangrove mapping, biodiversity, and restoration between March and June, to better understand the implications of changes in Myanmar's mangrove forests. The series examined approaches for mapping trends and impacts in mangroves, as well as the findings of relevant research and analyses.

Exploring emission reduction options in Kuwait

UNEP and the Environment Public Authority in Kuwait [launched](#) three separate projects (24 May) on the Third National Communication (TNC), the Second Biennial Update Report (BUR2) and the 2050 National Low Carbon Strategy. By using the TNC's updated greenhouse gas inventory as a baseline, the strategy explores feasible emission reduction options and develops alternative pathways. It generates projections using The Integrated MARKAL-EFOM System ([TIMES](#)) software, an optimization tool that identifies the least costly combination of technologies to achieve low-emission targets. Kuwait will be one of the first countries in the region to develop such modelling, setting an inspiring example for the Arab region in utilizing data and science for climate policy action.

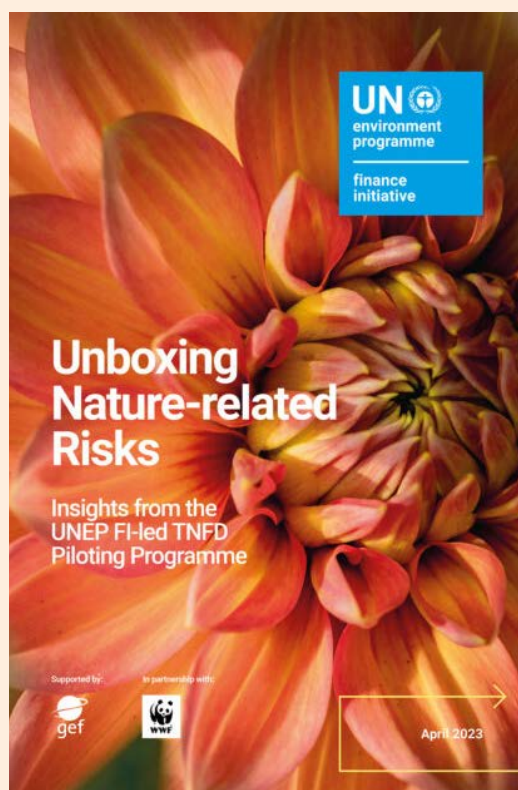
B. Living in Harmony with Nature

Unboxing nature related risks

UNEP released a [report](#) (April) presenting the results from the financial sector pilot testing of the draft risk management and disclosure framework, which aims for organisations to report and act on evolving nature-related risks, to ultimately shift global financial flows from nature-negative to nature-positive outcomes. Findings showed the need for standardization of data, metrics, and methodologies, alongside building of consistency and comparability. Enhancing the readiness of financial institutions to apply the draft framework could help Member States establish the reporting frameworks needed to monitor information on nature-related dependencies, impacts, risks and opportunities in the private sector.

Intergovernmental consultation on Nature-Based Solutions (NBS)

UNEP organized the first global intergovernmental [consultation](#) on NBS (16-17 May) followed by regional consultations for LAC (22-23 June) and Western Europe and other States (27-28 June). The objective of these consultations - requested in UNEA [resolution 5/5](#) (NBS for supporting sustainable development) - is to support the implementation of NBS, which is cognizant of and in harmony with the concept of ecosystem-based approaches.



Measurement of Business Dependencies on Nature

The UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC) and UNEP FI published [guidance](#) *Towards a Robust Measurement of Business Dependencies on Nature* (29 May). The guidance outlines the importance of measuring business dependencies on nature and highlights insights and gives a clear process for components that need to be assessed to measure the full scope of nature dependencies.

Working with Nature for Resilience

A UNEP co-organized Risk Reduction Hub [side event](#) *Working with Nature for Resilience* (19 May, New York) stressed the importance of shifting from pilot demonstrations to large-scale implementation of NBS through evidence and funding. Localization, community and youth involvement and use of indigenous knowledge are key to advancing the nature agenda for resilience-building. The event was organized in connection with the [high-level meeting](#) of the General Assembly on the Midterm Review of the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.



Stepping Up on Biodiversity: What the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework means for responsible investors

The UNEP produced [report](#) (April) outlines the implications for investors of the GBF's goals and targets, to support them in managing associated risks and preparing for anticipated policy developments. To address risks and opportunities, the report recommends that investors integrate biodiversity into investment decision-making, invest in innovative financial solutions and disclose nature-related dependencies, impacts, risks and opportunities.

Banking on nature: What the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework means for responsible banks

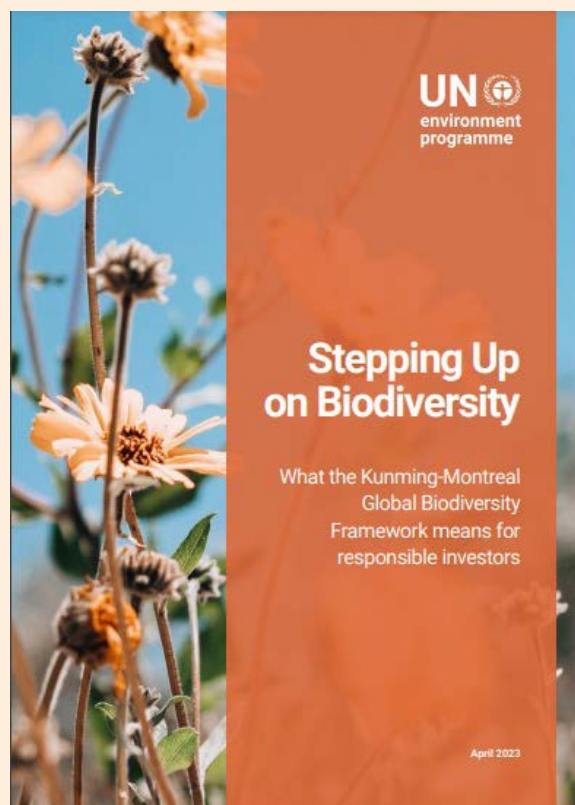
The UNEP produced [report](#) (May) outlines the implications for banks of the GBF's goals and targets, to support decision-making processes and portfolio alignment with the GBF, further stakeholder engagement and scale-up financing for solutions. These activities support implementation of [UNEA Resolution 4.4](#) on addressing environmental challenges through sustainable business practices.

Integrating Human Rights in National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans

Following extensive consultations among relevant UN system entities, UNEP updated the [Guidance on integrating human rights in National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans](#) (April) factoring in the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal GBF. The guidance purports to support UN Country Teams, Member States, policymakers, and stakeholders in integrating human rights into their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

Potential of seaweed to deliver climate benefits

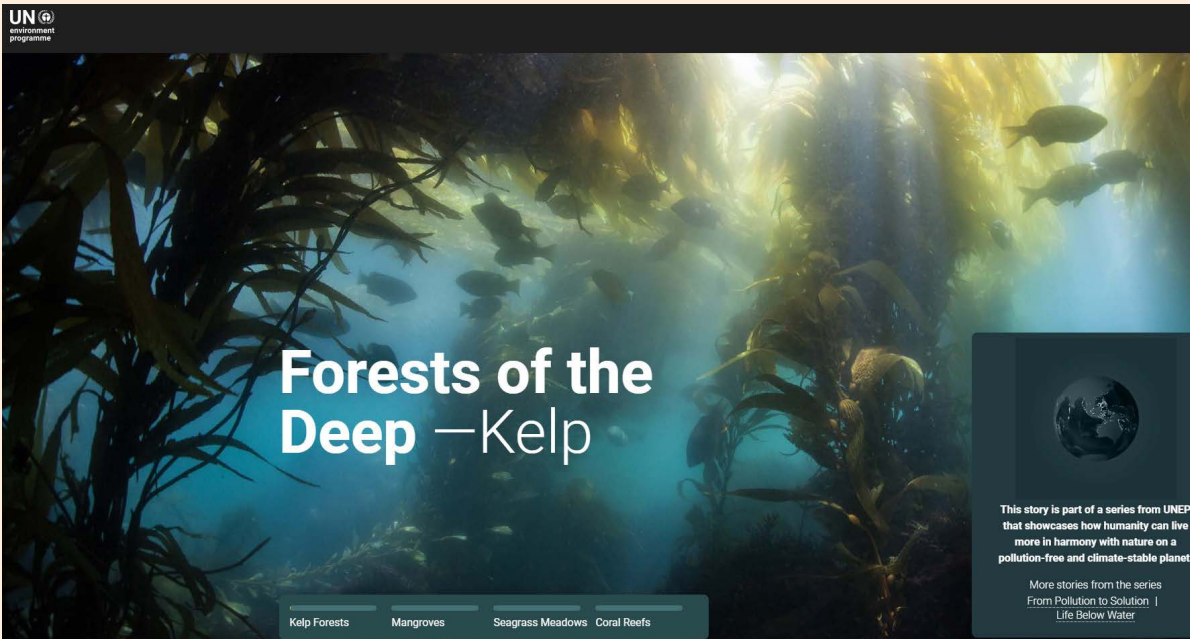
The UNEP launched (8 June) [report](#) *Seaweed Farming: Assessment on the Potential of Sustainable Upscaling for Climate, Communities and the Planet* (8 June)



reviews and collates existing literature and delivers the first comprehensive assessment on the potential of seaweed to deliver climate benefits with minimal environment and social risks, feeding into the evolution of a sustainable and equitable blue economy.

Why Blue Ecosystems matter - visual interactives

As part of the [Why Blue Ecosystems Matter](#) digital series, UNEP released (8 May) visual interactives on the *Decades of Mangrove Forest Change: What does it mean for nature, people and the climate?* [report](#) and the *Into the Blue: Securing a Sustainable Future for Kelp Forests* [report](#). These interactives showcase the report findings and translate complex scientific data into visually appealing features, to share the latest and most relevant scientific knowledge regarding blue ecosystems, the threats they encounter and available solutions.



Why Blue Ecosystems matter
(UNEP)

Climate, Ecosystems and Livelihoods (CEL) Africa conference

The UNEP - International Ecosystem Management Partnership ([UNEP- IEMP](#)) hosted the CEL Africa [conference](#) (26-27 June, Nairobi) which brought together representatives from China, Africa and other regions to discuss achieving the SDGs and climate targets while protecting their ecosystems and improving livelihoods, and encouraged cross-sector and multi-stakeholder collaboration with experts and researchers from fields in natural science, economics and social science. It also encouraged cross-sector and multi-stakeholder collaboration with experts and researchers from fields in natural science, economics and social science.

Caribbean Biological Corridor (CBC)

The UNEP hosted Caribbean Biological Corridor's (CBC) participated in the [XIV Environment and Development Convention](#) (3-7 July, Cuba) where it highlighted the potency of the [CBC 2030 Strategic Plan](#) as a tool to facilitate the achievement of international commitments on biodiversity and SDGs by Member States. The event raised the profile of the CBC initiative, allowing for closer integration of Member States' plans with the CBC Strategic Plan.

In implementation of UNEA [Resolution 5.5](#) (NBS for sustainable development), the CBC organized a [Workshop](#) (8 June, Jamaica) where it presented the project *Strengthening Ocean governance in the CBC*, established a baseline for conservation activities in the marine realm, and conducted a comprehensive marine survey which enabled it to pinpoint suitable local partners for implementation. The CBC further organized a [workshop](#) to establish consensus on priorities for research and marine monitoring (20-21 June, Dominican Republic), set the stage for forthcoming marine projects and conceptualized a vision for the CBC's work in the marine environment in the Dominican Republic.

Accelerating One Health implementation in the Eastern Mediterranean

UNEP, as part of its concerted efforts to strengthen the environmental dimension of One Health, participated in the Quadripartite regional [meeting](#) to accelerate the implementation of One Health in the Eastern Mediterranean Region (8-11 May, Oman) and contributed to the Environmental Health, Biodiversity, and ecosystem segment of the meeting. The meeting recommended finalizing the establishment of the regional quadripartite One Health platform and a regional mechanism to bring together all relevant stakeholders, in implementation of [UNEA resolution 3/4](#), which states that human, animal, and plant health and the environment are interconnected and must be addressed using the One Health approach.

Wetlands monitoring in the Pacific region

The Pacific Regional Environment Programme ([SPREP](#)) - a component of UNEP's Regional Seas Programme - supported the First Global Ecosystem Convening [Meeting](#) (17-18 May, Geneva) to strengthen ecosystem monitoring and management with the aim to enhance the Pacific region's capacity to carry out wetlands monitoring.

COBSEA Marine and Coastal Ecosystems Framework

As part of the efforts of the UNEP administered Regional Seas Secretariats to work with Member States to adopt, implement, and monitor ecosystem conservation and restoration to implement the Kunming-Montreal GBF, East Asian Member States [adopted](#) (10 April) the *COBSEA Marine and Coastal Ecosystems Framework* which aims to integrate and harmonize all programmes, projects, and activities for the conservation and management of the marine and coastal environment.

Post-earthquake damage assessment in Syria

The UNEP/OCHA Joint Environment Unit (JEU) mobilized environmental experts in north-west Syria to provide both remote and in-person technical advice to local authorities regarding the earthquake (February) affected Medanky dam. The damages to the dam and the dam's safety were assessed during in person inspections (11-12 July) of appurtenant structures, a topographic survey of the dam crest (optical levelling) and surveys of the filtration water



pressures, discharges and turbidities. Interviews were conducted with local engineers and local authorities (Afrin) and recommendations were provided to the Syrian authorities. Dam operators were provided with monitoring equipment to enable the resumption of a minimal level of monitoring.

Lamu Blue Carbon Initiative

In May 2023, the UNEP and UN-Habitat co-implemented [Go Blue project](#) launched a Blue Carbon facility in Lamu (Kenya), through a partnership with the Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute



The launch of Lamu Blue Carbon Initiative in Lamu, Kenya

(KMFRI). The Lamu Blue Carbon initiative builds upon the success of the [Mikoko Pamoja project](#), one of the world's first community-led endeavours to restore and protect mangrove forests through the sale of carbon credits. This facility aims to integrate Blue Carbon into coastal development programs, leading to climate benefits and improved livelihoods in coastal Kenya.

Faith for Earth Empathy Leadership (FEEL) Programme

UNEP in collaboration with Shrimad Rajchandra Mission Dharampur (SRMD) launched the *Faith for Earth Empathy Leadership Programme (FEEL)* (22 April to 3 May) to instill environmental leadership among children and youth globally. The curriculum empowers participants with actionable skills and values, fostering a 'Culture of Compassion.' With support from leaders, the programme has already engaged over 800 volunteers who are helping to impart the curriculum across 250 SRMD centers and partner schools worldwide.

Green Games

The UNEP-facilitated annual [Green Game Jam](#) (5 June) of the [Playing for the Planet Alliance](#) challenged gaming studios to take action to introduce environmental impact into their games. 41 games joined the challenge under the theme of 'Wildlife' raising US\$ 600,000 and reaching 85 million players worldwide. Gaming studios and their players were taken on an adventure to conserve the wildlife found in three unique ecosystems: harlequin toads in the Amazon, snow leopards in the Himalayas, and manta rays in the Western Indian Ocean.

C. Towards a pollution-free planet

Resolution on impact of chemicals, waste and pollution on human health

The 76th World Health Assembly (21-30 May, Geneva) approved a landmark [resolution](#) on the impact of chemicals, waste and pollution on human health. UNEP's contributions are recognized in the resolution through the information provided by the [Global Chemicals Outlook II](#) as well as its membership of the One Health Quadripartite that generated the [One Health Joint Plan of Action](#) (2022 – 2026). The resolution, among others, highlights the need for the engagement of the health sector on plastic pollution and sound management of chemicals and waste and pertinent WHO-UNEP collaboration in such realms.

Enhancing coordination on Sustainable Nitrogen Management (SNM)

In implementation of UNEA [resolution 5/2](#) (Sustainable Nitrogen Management), UNEP facilitated a [Nexus Dialogue](#) to spur further understanding of SNM (20 April, Geneva) amongst UN system entities and pave the way for a system-wide approach to the topic and further synergies and policy coherence. The dialogue addressed the linkages between nitrogen and food systems as well as climate change, biodiversity loss and environmental pollution. It also looked at the strengths of the UN system to mobilize and support countries to address the topic and the potential for improved policy coordination and scaling up of integrated approaches contributing to SNM.

Finance Leadership Group on Plastics

UNEP FI established a [Finance Leadership Group on Plastics](#) (May), with the goal of mobilizing financial resources from all sources towards Member States' implementation of the international instrument on plastic pollution being developed by the INC in implementation of UNEA [Resolution 5/14](#).

Combating single-use plastics in the food and beverage industry

15 countries joined (May) the UNEP co-led and GEF-funded [Plastics Integrated Program](#) (IP) worth US\$ 107 million, to transition to a circular economy in the food and beverage sector by combating pollution resulting from single-use plastic packaging.

Eliminating Hazardous Chemicals from Supply Chains

UNEP has been chosen to lead the IP on [Elimination of Hazardous Chemicals from Supply Chains Integrated Program](#) to create clean, circular, regenerative, and transparent supply chains that are free from harmful chemicals and drive innovations in new materials, methods, and policy.

Climate and Clean Air Conference 2023

The UNEP co-organized [Conference](#) (29 May - 2 June, Bangkok) brought together 400 participants from 57 countries to network and build capacity for [integrated clean air and climate action](#). During the event, UNEP launched a [Guide on Ambient Air Quality Legislation - Air Pollution Series](#) to assist national lawmakers and policymakers to develop or enhance ambient air quality legislation. UNEP also signed an MoU with the



Climate and Clean Air Conference 2023
(ccacoalition.org website)

Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Korea to jointly support preparations for the International Day of Clean Air for blue skies and to promote cooperation in the fields of technology, industry, finance, science and policy to promote action to improve air quality.

Eliminating and restricting problematic plastic products in LAC

UNEP participated in the LAC workshop (28 April) - *Exploring provisions to eliminate and restrict specific plastic polymers, chemicals, and problematic plastic products* - aimed at strengthening regional collaboration and coordination to contribute to the INC negotiation process on a legally binding instrument on plastic pollution. UNEP moderated a panel on progress and challenges of LAC regulatory frameworks on plastic polymers, chemicals and plastic products of concern and opportunities for the international plastic pollution instrument.

Reducing short-lived climate pollutants in LAC

A UNEP co-hosted LAC regional [workshop](#) (26-27 April, Bogota) on reducing short-lived climate pollutants (SLCPs) identified 14 national and subnational projects and transformative regional actions to reduce emissions of SLCPs and improve air quality.

Cooperation on waste management in the Caribbean

UNEP co-organized through the [project](#) *Zero Waste in the Caribbean: New ways, new waves* a regional technical exchange [towards zero waste through new circular economy policies](#) (18-20 April, Belize City). 24 representatives from 13 countries gathered to strengthen the Central American Integration System and Caribbean Community cooperation on waste management through regional harmonization of legislation, public-private partnership models (EPR) and evidence-based decision-making processes based on regionally harmonized information, indicators and data.

Reducing food waste in West Asia

The UNEP-led Recipe of Change Sustainable Ramadan [campaign](#) to reduce food loss and waste (mid-March to end April) – undertaken in collaboration with Hilton's Travel with Purpose [strategy](#) in Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE, and Winnow's artificial intelligence technology - digitally tracked waste from production to plate. The campaign [concluded](#) with a 61 per cent reduction in food waste - equating to 8,600 meal servings - preventing 4.8 tonnes of waste and 14 tonnes of CO2 emissions.



PET bottle manufacturing plant in Argentina
(UNEP)

Rapid assessment of impact of dam breach in Ukraine

In response to Kakhovka Hydroelectric Dam breach in Ukraine (6 June) UNEP mobilized 23 experts from across 13 organizations to support a rapid assessment of the impact of the breach on the environment - hydrological and geomorphic impacts, including sediment mobilization; chemical contamination;

disaster waste; and ecology, including protected areas. The report is expected to be finalized by end of October 2023.

Oil spill preparedness regional training

UNEP and partners brought together 10 Nairobi Convention countries for a regional training (9-12 May, Nairobi) on strengthening National Incident Command



Laying the foundation stone of the medical waste treatment in the Logistics Brigade of the Lebanese Armed Forces on 15 June in Beirut
(Photo credit: Lebanese Armed Forces)

Systems (ICS) for oil spill preparedness and response. Training content included lectures, role plays and desk top exercises with oil spill scenarios. The training enabled countries to better understand and establish stronger ICS in responding to oil pollution, guided by the National Oil Spill Contingency Plan. At the end of the training, participating country teams developed an action plan where they identified priorities for action.

Medical waste treatment in Lebanon

To address the hazards that medical materials from hospitals have on human health and the environment, UNEP and partners laid the foundation for a [medical waste treatment project](#) in Lebanon (15 June, Beirut). UNEP will support technically the establishment of a treatment and training facility and develop an upscaling strategy that will ensure a long term safe and sustainable management of healthcare waste across the country

Combating illegal waste in Oman

A UNEP co-organized training (28-29 May, Muscat, Oman) focused on [training](#) environmental inspectors and customs officials in effectively managing hazardous waste at border crossings, thus advancing sound waste management practices.

Sustainable Waste Management in Kenya

UNEP hosted a consultation on Sustainable Waste Management (SWM) (24-29 April, Naivasha), in which Extender Producer Responsibility (EPR) schemes are explicitly provided in the [SWM Bill of 2021](#) (Section 13) for 47 counties in Kenya to develop a County Model Act as a framework for sustainable waste management at the county level, through practical planning and implementation of EPR regulations and circular economy principles.

Sound management of hazardous waste in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan

UNEP organized trainings on raising awareness on the risks of POPs pesticides for public health and the environment for local NGOs in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. The trainings (5-9 June, Dushanbe; 12-15 June, Bishkek) were held in support of the development of national and local campaigns carried out in both

countries for [sound management](#) of POPs pesticides and behavioural awareness among vulnerable groups living close to the critical sites of concern.

Designing the plastic value chain in rural Kyrgyzstan

Following a UNEP-supported event in the touristic village of Jyrgalan (11-13 May), local guest houses have started composting food waste, while receiving moderate revenues from plastics processing. The event is part of a UNEP [initiative](#) to design the plastic value chain, allowing for collecting, sorting and transporting waste from the village to the nearest processing plant to produce plastic goods for household needs.

Assessment of clean air initiatives in Republic of Korea

The UNEP report [Achieving Clean Air for blue skies in Seoul, Incheon, and Gyeonggi in the Republic of Korea](#) (16 May) summarises the effectiveness of initiatives such as the [Clean Air Conservation Act](#) and the [National Fine Dust Reduction Plan](#) and recommends measures targeting air pollution and the climate change nexus to further reduce air pollution.



Addressing diaper waste in Vanuatu

The [43rd issue](#) of *Perspective* (5 April 2023) – a UNEP publication series which provides an opportunity to Major Groups and Stakeholders to present their views on important issues to contribute to the policy-making processes – focuses on beating plastic pollution, with [Engineers Without Borders Australia](#) seeking to provide a sustainable and easy alternative to the disposal of diaper waste in Vanuatu.

D. Foundational Subprogrammes

i. Science-Policy

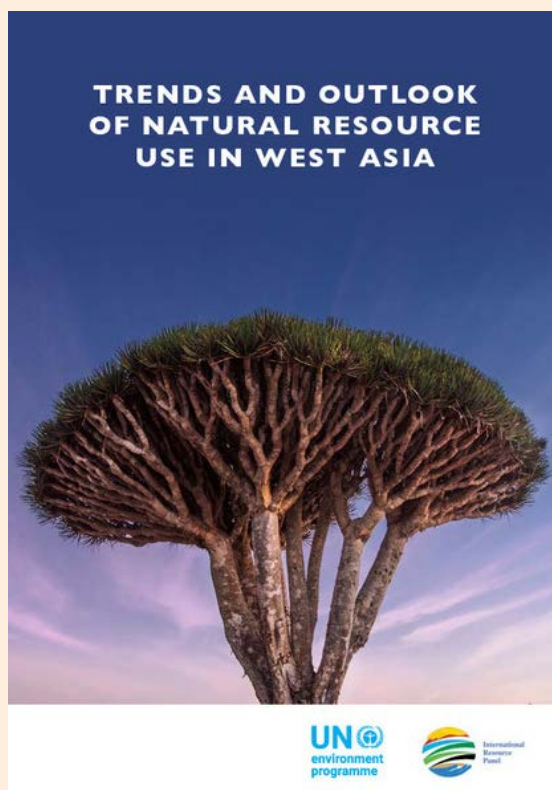
Systematic Observations Financing Facility (SOFF)

Co-founded by WMO, UNDP and UNEP to close critical weather and climate data gaps in least developed countries (LDCs) and small island developing states (SIDS), the readiness phase work of [SOFF](#) advanced rapidly during the reporting period in 26 countries programmed for the first batch, with UNEP serving as an implementing entity for seven (Bhutan, Cabo Verde, Kiribati, Maldives, Nepal, Timor-Leste, Tuvalu). Under the readiness phase, beneficiary countries and advanced meteorological offices supporting them as peer advisors are developing key documents to assess the state of their hydrometeorological services which will form the basis for the investment phase run by the implementing entities.

During the [5th SOFF Steering Committee](#) (21-22 June, Copenhagen, Denmark), readiness phase funding requests were approved for 10 countries programmed in the second batch, out of which UNEP is an implementing entity for two countries (Guinea-Bissau, Nauru). Other UN agencies and multilateral development banks are serving as the implementing entity for the other eight countries. The Committee additionally approved the investment phase framework and funding request template, which will inform further work of the implementing entities.

Trends and Outlook of Natural Resource Use in West Asia

The UNEP established IRP developed a [report](#) (27 June) to provide insights on natural resource use and environmental impacts in West Asia. The report translates the methodology of the [Global Resources Outlook 2019](#) into the West Asian regional context and introduces the “Towards Sustainability” pathway, merging Resource Efficiency, SCP, and climate mitigation policies. The report finds that Green House Gas (GHG) emissions in West Asia – significantly above the global average – are set to increase from



1.6 billion (2015) to 5 billion (2060) tCO₂ eq. Per capita material extractions in most West Asian countries will peak by 2040 and decrease slightly thereafter.

Responsible and sustainable mining

The Intergovernmental Consultation on UNEA [Resolution 5.2](#) and the UNEP established International Resource Panel (IRP) held an in-person side event ‘Towards responsible and sustainable mining’ (15 June, Bangkok, Thailand) to share science-based and policy-relevant outcomes of IRP research on minerals and metals management and explore avenues to enhance international cooperation to promote environmental sustainability of minerals and metals, in implementation of UNEA Resolution 5.2. The outcome of the event was the sharing of science-based knowledge on mining and a consensus that current mining practices represent a common problem and collaboration – especially between the Global South and North – will be key in addressing it.

Human Migration and Natural Resources

The UNEP established IRP developed a [report](#) (published in June) which informs on linkages between natural resources and migration and provides tangible guidance to operationalize international efforts to govern human mobility through instruments such as the Global Compact on Migration. The report advocates focusing on the complex adaptive system where resource drivers and impacts of human mobility are considered as part of a connected system of feedback loops.

Integration of Indigenous and Local Knowledge in GEO-7

In UNEA [Resolution 5/3](#), (Future of the Global Environment Outlook) (GEO) Member States [requested](#) the integration of Indigenous and Local Knowledge (ILK) throughout GEO-7. The request was raised during a [scoping meeting](#) in October 2022, following which a call was issued to over 70 experts with expertise on ILK. The inclusion of ILK had also been reiterated by the Inter-governmental and Multi-stakeholder Advisory Group ([IMAG](#)) and the Multidisciplinary Expert Scientific Advisory Group ([MESAG](#)).

UNEP, in collaboration with the GEO-7 co-chairs selected (8 May) ILK experts based on their experience in previous assessments as well as their geographic and gender balance. The experts selected are expected to cover ILK on two fronts: the systematic integration of ILK into the assessment; and the selection of authors/reviewers to support the development of content. From the selection process, a Task Force of 12 experts was convened and has met virtually several times to develop their Terms of Reference and work plan.

GEO-7 Authors Online Collaboration

The GEO-7 Authors Online Collaboration [meeting](#) (26-29 June) reviewed the current draft of each chapter, identified opportunities for cross-chapter collaboration and synergies across chapters. They also discussed the upcoming review of the zero-order draft (to be completed in September) and achieving synergies in the narrative across the four parts of the report (Introduction/Context, State of the Environment, Effectiveness of Policy Response, Outlook for the Future).

ii. Environmental Governance

Scaling up African Elephant Fund impact

The UNEP hosted 12th African Elephant Fund ([AEF](#)) Steering Committee meeting (29–30 June, Nairobi) focused on strategic discussions on the structure and operations of the Fund, with the objective of potentially scaling-up the impact of the Fund at the regional and global levels and expanding the funding base. Several major decisions that will impact the future of the Fund were made, including conducting a mapping study of elephant conservation initiatives being undertaken in Africa. Since its inception, the AEF has funded the implementation of 61 projects across Africa.

Bern Process on synergies for Kunming-Montreal GBF

In response to the mandate given by CBD COP-15 [decision 15/13](#), UNEP continued to build on the [Bern Process](#) to strengthen cooperation and collaboration among biodiversity-related conventions and to contribute to effective and efficient implementation of the Kunming-Montreal [GBF](#), by facilitating a process for cooperation among Parties to the relevant biodiversity-related conventions.

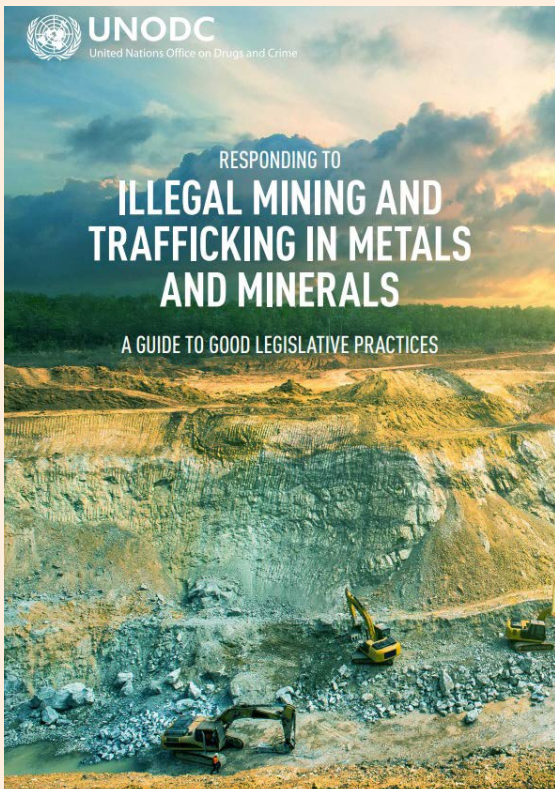
The Bogis-Bossey Expert [Meeting](#) (27-30 June, Switzerland) enhanced cooperation among such conventions, in preparation for the Bern III Conference. The meeting shaped the objectives, scope, agenda, participation and expected inputs and outputs of the conference, building on lessons learned from the 2021 [Bern II Consultations](#). Based on the outcomes, UNEP will organize an inclusive and action-oriented Bern III Conference for the efficient and effective implementation of the GBF through synergies and cooperation at the global and national levels, facilitating joint planning and programming as well as knowledge tools developed under its Environmental Treaties Programme.

Integrating MEAs into UN Cooperation Frameworks

UNEP organized two consultative meetings in Togo (27 June – 1 July) and Ethiopia (25 – 28 July) bringing together 15 African countries, UN Country Teams and national Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) focal points to discuss ways and means to integrate planning of priorities through the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (UNSDCFs), paving the way for enhancing links between achieving SDGs and MEA objectives at the national level. As a result, Djibouti is preparing to focus on MEA issues as a part of ongoing discussions to update the cooperation framework at national level.

Responding to Illegal Mining and Trafficking in Metals and Minerals

UNEP, as part of an international expert group, contributed to the preparation and regional launch (13 June) of a [guide](#) outlining good legislative practices on responding to illegal mining and trafficking in metals and minerals.



#WikiforHumanRights: Ensuring access to information

A UNEP co-organized [webinar](#) (18 April) on human rights, toxics and pollution brought together speakers from Member States, Minamata Convention Secretariat, and civil society organizations to elaborate on the human rights impacts of pollution and potential solutions.

Environmental negotiations training for the Arab Region

A UNEP co-organized training - first in a series - on environmental negotiations for biodiversity related MEAs (14 May, Cairo, Egypt) brought together 48 participants from 13 Arab States and 10 Arab regional organizations to learn more about MEAs processes, negotiation techniques and other related subjects.

Environmental Rule of Law and Human Rights in Asia Pacific

The UNEP co-launched a [Working Paper](#) on *Environmental Rule of Law (EROL) and Human Rights in Asia Pacific* (27 April, Bangkok) presents regional trends in the application of EROL and human rights, with special emphasis on the protection of environmental human rights defenders (EHRDs). The paper establishes that realizing human rights and EROL are necessary for achieving the SDGs.

Green Customs training for Asia-Pacific

Through the Green Customs Initiative ([GCI](#)), UNEP organized a capacity-building [workshop](#) (21-23 May, Malé, Maldives) convening customs officers from six South Asian countries, China and Iran. The workshop provided comprehensive training on key multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), the [Green Customs Guide to MEAs](#), and covered practical aspects such as risk management, health and safety protocols, and clearance processes.



Arab negotiations programme training in Cairo
(Secretariat of the League of Arab States)

Role of Environmental Legal Clinics in environmental justice in Asia

UNEP delivered a [keynote](#) address (26 May, Chiang Mai, Thailand) on the role of Environmental Legal Clinics in advancing environmental justice and supporting environmental rule of law at the [2nd Asia Clinical Legal Education](#) conference. The session shared knowledge and experience on how to set up and sustainably operate an environmental legal clinic within a law school.

Environmental Impact Assessment in ASEAN

UNEP chaired a panel discussion on a rights-based approach to Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in the ASEAN region during the [International Impact Assessment Forum](#) (8-9 May, Kuching, Malaysia). The discussions assessed the transformative potential of a rights-based framework for the environment in ASEAN to support robust EIA, and the role of EIA to address transboundary environmental governance issues.

Combating waste trafficking in ASEAN

A UNEP-UNODC regional [meeting](#) (14-16 June) under project [Unwaste](#) gathered 70 plus legal experts, policymakers, law enforcement personnel and researchers to address [waste trafficking challenges](#) in the ASEAN region. The meeting yielded valuable insights and recommendations, and enhanced partnerships and policy dialogues between European Union and Southeast Asian nations to facilitate a successful transition toward a circular economy.

Advancing environmental justice in the Philippines

UNEP and partners convened the [Public Interest Environmental Law Conference](#) (30 June – 1 July, Cebu City, Philippines) attended by environmental lawyers, scientists, and environmental advocates, with the theme of advancing environmental justice in the Philippines. UNEP moderated a session on the State of Public Interest Environmental Litigation.

Recognizing environmental advocates in the Philippines

UNEP supported the Normandy Chair for Peace and Good Stories movement [award](#) (19 April, Manila) which [recognized](#) and celebrated the powerful contributions of 40 environmental advocates including judges, lawyers, and community members for their work on education, solid waste, conservation, eco-governance, and international environmental law.

E. Enabling Subprogrammes

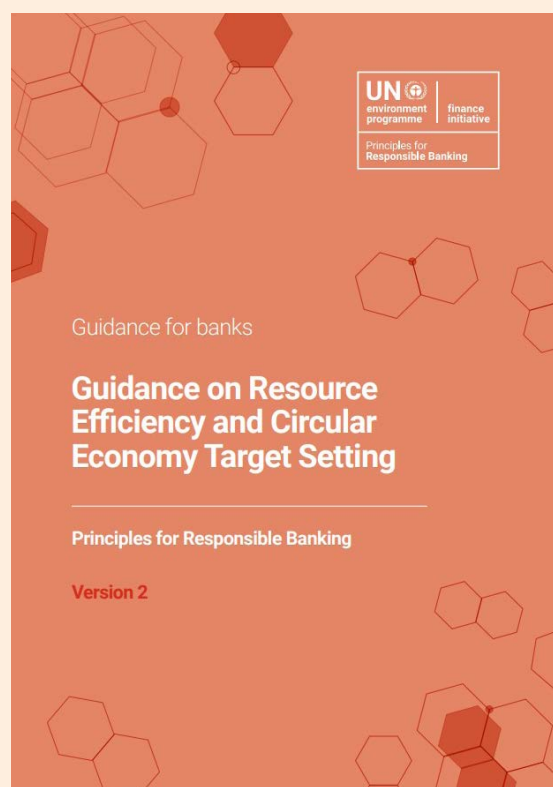
i. Finance and Economic Transformations

Guidance on Resource Efficiency and Circular Economy

UNEP FI released (April) the [second version](#) of the *Guidance on resource efficiency and circular economy target setting* with the aim of helping financial institutions to contribute to Members States pathways towards resource-efficient and circular economies to address pollution, climate and biodiversity loss. The guidance supports the implementation of UNEA Resolutions [4/1](#) (SCP) and [5/11](#) (enhancing circular economy) by enabling banks to set targets covering lending and investment activities and design action plans to enhance the resource efficiency of companies in their portfolios and finance solutions that contribute to the transition to circular economy.

Aligning private finance with the Paris Agreement

UNEP organized Regional Roundtables for around 600 participants in [Asia Pacific](#) (24-25 May, Seoul, South Korea) and [Africa & Middle East](#) (14-15 June,



Windhoek, Namibia) to align private finance with the Paris Agreement and the SDGs. These events raised awareness of emerging sustainable finance policy, regulatory and market practices in taxonomies, decarbonizing portfolios and financing NBS. Technical capacity building workshops were also organized alongside the roundtables, where financial institutions had the opportunity to exchange learnings and best practices.

Nexus Dialogue on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP)

A UNEP organized (17 May, Geneva) Environment Management Group (EMG) [nexus dialogue](#) on SCP brought together experts and thought leaders from across the UN system to discuss the transformative power of digital technologies in advancing SCP practices and promoting decent and green employment opportunities for youth. The Dialogues will lay the ground for the creation of a UN Alliance for SDG12 (Responsible Consumption and Production) to accelerate its implementation and the 10 Year Framework of Programmes on SCP Patterns.

Strengthening evidenced-based SCP in Asia-Pacific

UNEP and partners organized a regional [workshop](#) for the Asia-Pacific (15-16 June, Bangkok) on strengthening evidence-based SCP policies as a vehicle for socio-economic transformation. The workshop enhanced knowledge of how SCP, circularity and the green economy contribute to economic and social transformations to achieve the SDGs in the region. Participants tested resource consumption assessment tools including [Global Material Flows Database](#) on national material flow and the hotspot analysis tool for SCP ([SCP-HAT](#)) to support science-based national policy frameworks.

Scaling up insurance industry contributions

UNEP FI continued to support finance and economic transformation through its work with banks, insurers and investors to support alignment of portfolios with the Paris Agreement and SDGs. UNEP produced a global [paper](#) (June) on how life and health insurers can drive better health outcomes and address the protection gap. The aim is to help scale up the insurance industry's contribution to addressing poverty, inequality and health goals in Member States.

Financing for a sustainable food system

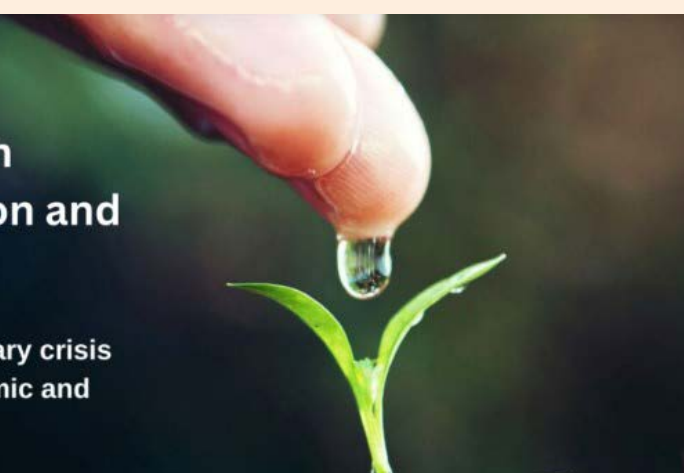
The UNEP FI Roadmap (April) *Driving finance for a sustainable food system* highlights the need for financial institutions to identify positive and negative impacts of loans, investments, and operations across environmental, social and economic impact areas. The report supports the implementation of [UNEA Resolution 4.4](#) by highlighting ways in which financial institutions can support sustainable business practices in the food value chain.

Green Jobs for Youth in LAC

UNEP co-organized a [side event](#) (27 April, New York) on Green Jobs for Youth in LAC countries during the [10th ECOSOC Youth Forum](#). LAC countries collectively offered a comprehensive view of green job prospects, underscoring the importance of collaboration, youth engagement, and aligning education with the green job market.

Advancing sustainable finance frameworks in Central Asia

UNEP and [GO4SDGs](#) supported the [Bishkek International Finance Forum 2023](#) (25 May) which brought together participants from banks, Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and public finance



EMG Nexus Dialogues on Sustainable Consumption and Production

a vehicle to address the triple planetary crisis and to promote a sustainable economic and social transformation

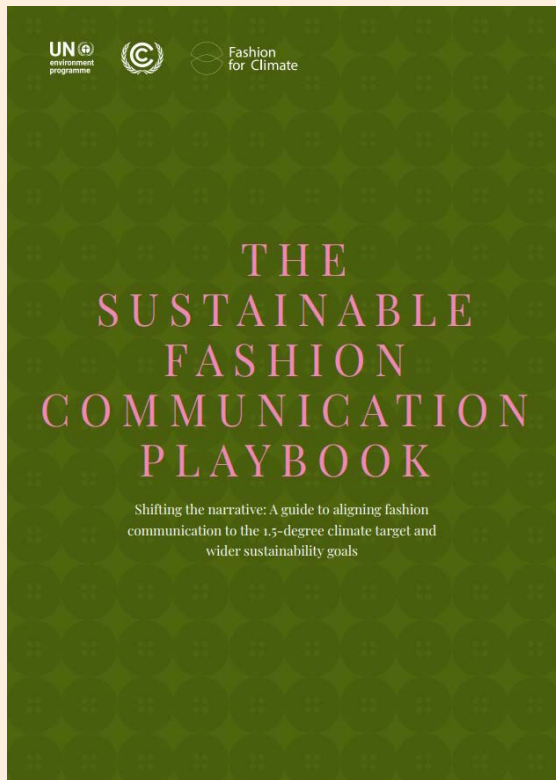
organizations from Central Asia and the Caucasus to showcase advancements and strategies in sustainable finance and generate recommendations on advancing sustainable finance frameworks at regional and national levels. UNEP contributed by presenting the Principles for Responsible Banking (PRB) Academy and the Net-Zero Banking Alliance (NZBA), alongside the Green Growth Knowledge Partnership (GGKP) which focused on enhancing SME access to green finance and promoting resource efficiency.

Moldova Green Economy Promotion Program

UNEP supported the organization an Inter-ministerial Working Group Consultation (23 May) on the advancement of Moldova's Green Economy Promotion Program and the finalization of the 2023-2027 Action Plan.

Sustainable Fashion Communication Playbook

UNEP co-published a [Playbook](#) (19 June) providing a shared vision, principles and guidance on how to align consumer-facing communication across the global fashion industry with sustainability targets. Within the first month of launch, the Playbook received 15,000 downloads and circa 100 pieces of key press globally.



Faith and Sustainable Lifestyles Course

A UNEP launched (9 May) four-module [course](#) on *Faith and Sustainable Living* highlights the vital role of faith-based organizations in promoting sustainable living. Combining text, imagery and videos from the UNEP Faith for Earth [Coalition](#), the course explores global environmental challenges, the importance of sustainable lifestyles, UNEP initiatives, and diverse religious perspectives on care for creation. The course has engaged over 1500 participants and continues to foster collaboration and knowledge exchange to protect oceans, responsibly manage marine resources and achieve sustainable economic growth.

Sustainable Lifestyles Festival Kazakhstan

During the Sustainable Lifestyles Festival (13-14 June), the UNEP-initiated [Sustainable Lifestyles University Network](#) was launched with 20 universities that have shown keen interest in adopting and championing sustainability both within their campuses and beyond, in the domains of food, mobility, housing and leisure among others.

Sustainable Public Procurement Kazakhstan

UNEP and the Ministry of Finance of Kazakhstan organized a national Sustainable Public Procurement (SPP) Roundtable (30 June) bringing approximately 60 participants to deliberate on the draft law on Public Procurement, to foster interagency collaboration through the establishment of a working group and to showcase exemplary instances of interagency SPP collaboration.

ii. Digital Transformations

Global Environmental Data Strategy

In response to UNEA [resolution 4/23](#), UNEP is actively developing a Global Environmental Data Strategy (GEDS) to facilitate (by 2025) the discovery, harmonization, sharing, and application of environmental data in addressing the three environmental planetary crises. During the reporting period, UNEP took substantial foundational steps to advance GEDS.

This included a comprehensive technical review of the [World Environment Situation Room](#), exploring the application of advanced language models for environmental science, and conducting a thorough inventory of existing environmental databases and data management frameworks. During the same period, UNEP also engaged in focused outreach efforts to UN Resident Coordinators. These efforts aimed to enhance the sharing and visualization of environmental data and analysis within the Common Country Assessment process.

Global Digital Compact

UNEP engaged with the Office of the Secretary General's Envoy on Technology to contribute technical inputs on digital sustainability to the Global Digital Compact. UNEP's [submission](#) (28 April) called for digital technologies to be "sustainably by design" and for digital technologies to be harnessed to accelerate efforts towards decarbonization, dematerialization, detoxification, and a circular economy. UNEP's contributions were [reflected](#) in *Our Common Agenda - Policy Brief 5: A Global Digital Compact*.

Digital partnership with FAO on climate-security analysis (STRATA)

UNEP and FAO embarked on a [new partnership](#) (June) to support the full-scale development of the [Strata](#) platform within the Earth Map ecosystem. Strata serves as an accessible, web-based data and analytics platform, purpose-built to empower practitioners and policymakers in conducting in-depth climate-security analyses and identifying emerging hotspots. UNEP's active involvement in this collaboration guarantees meaningful engagement with global and regional practitioners and stakeholders, further amplifying the platform's effectiveness in addressing pressing environmental concerns.

Extraordinary InforMEA Working Group Meeting

A UNEP convened meeting of the [InforMEA](#) Working Group (20-22 June, Montreux, Switzerland) focussed on the strategic integration of data and digital transformation, with a particular emphasis on fostering collaboration among diverse MEA Secretariats. The discussions were comprehensive, spanning crucial topics including data standards, semantic interoperability, APIs, progress dashboards, large language models, and the development of InforMEA-supported applications tailored to empower UN Country Teams in navigating the complexities of MEAs.

F. Cross-cutting Issues

i. Gender

UNEP Gender Policy and Strategy revision

A High-Level Task Force (HLTF) formed (13 April) to oversee the revision of the UNEP Gender Policy and Strategy met (20 June) to discuss the outline of the new policy and strategy guided by the recommendations from the independent [evaluation](#) of the [current policy and strategy](#) concluded in 2022. The HLTF also provided guidance on revising UNEP's gender architecture.



ii. Environmental and Social Safeguards (ESS)

UN Accountability Mechanism Network (UNAMnet)

UNEP joined (23 June) the UNDP-established (May) UNAMnet whose primary focus is to share best practices among UN system agencies and enhance institutional capacity to deal with compliance and grievance-related issues. While UNEP has already established its own [Stakeholder Response Mechanism](#), through the exchange of experiences and knowledge with other UN system agencies via UNAMnet, UNEP aims to effectively reduce and address any complaints that may arise from its projects.

iii. UN Reform

UNEP UN Country Team (UNCT) Engagement Network

UNEP launched (3 May) an internal knowledge exchange network on UN Country Team (UNCT) engagement to facilitate the internal exchange of ideas, resources and opportunities, and to bring together UNEP UNCT Focal Points and UNEP technical personnel - matching country "demand" with UNEP "supply" in support of country delivery.

The internal online platform is comprised of information and resources related to UN Reform and Resident Coordinator System engagement and processes, such as the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (UNSDCFs), Common Country Analysis (CCAs) and opportunities to connect and exchange among UNEP UNCT Focal Points through monthly Country Dialogues.

Global Retreat of Heads of Resident Coordinator Offices

UNEP served as a resource during subject-centric clinics on food systems, delivering on biodiversity and climate commitments during the virtual Global Retreat (20 June) of the Heads of Resident Coordinator Offices (HRCOs) purported to advance integrated policy approaches and share good practices. UNEP helped to identify solutions to challenges posed; highlighted resources available in UNEP and the wider governance architecture that RCOs can use; and brainstormed with the RCOs on related issues.

Support requested by the HRCOs included: documentation of good practices; policy advice and recommendations; dedicated capacity on environment regarding design and implementation of Cooperation Frameworks; provision of technical expertise and assistance in specific technical areas; and integration of issues and use of systems approaches.

UNEP Regional Development Coordinators (RDC) Workshop

The workshop (30-31 May, Nairobi) focused on strengthening internal coordination in response to requests from Resident Coordinators and in engaging with UNCTs; exploring a model approach to engaging the technical support of Divisions; strengthening UNEP's reach through advocacy and the network of UNCT focal points; envisaging a methodology for integrated analysis to mainstream environment in CCAs; and optimizing advocacy through UNEP's knowledge products for Resident Coordinators.

Launch of the UNEP Offer to the Resident Coordinator System

The UNEP Offer (8 June) explains to UNCTs, RCOs and DCO's Regional Collaboration Platforms (RCPs) how UNEP can provide support and add value to the UN work taking place within countries and regions. It communicates the substantive focus of UNEP, practicalities of its operations as an organization and how it can work with the Resident Coordinator System. It highlights areas and ways in which UNEP can support the design and implementation of CCAs and CFs for each country and provides guidance and information to RCs and UNCTs that can be used in the development of CCAs and subsequently feed into CFs.

Support to UN Country Teams

During the reporting period, UNEP provided technical and strategic support to six UN Country Teams (Cabo Verde, Egypt, Mauritius, Namibia, Seychelles, Tanzania, Uganda) towards strengthening the integration of environment and climate action into their respective

UNSDCFs and CCAs. The CCA and/or UNSDCF interventions of these UNCTs incorporated elements of South-South Cooperation, in the context of UN Reforms and the Resident Coordinator System, as well as cross-border issues and building resilience to shocks.

iv. South-South Cooperation

High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation (SSC)

UNEP participated in the [21st Session](#) of the Committee (30 May – 2 June, New York) where it provided updates on: UNEP's South-South cooperation [strategy](#); projects that promote SSC; UNEP support to regional entities to develop and implement environment related policies, frameworks and activities; and its engagement in the [interagency mechanism for SSC](#).

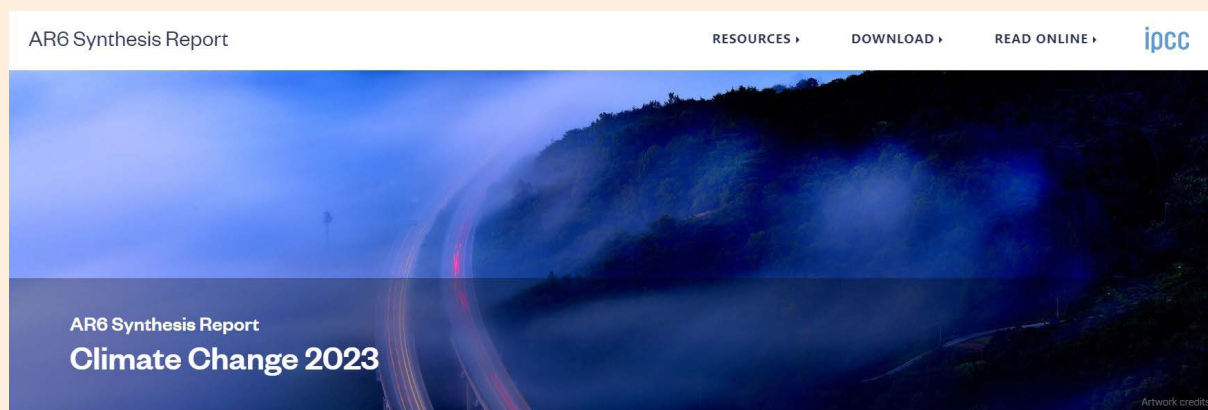
G. Challenges and Opportunities

i. Challenges

Undermining voluntary action on climate change in the financial sector

Some actors have misused the threat of anti-trust legislation to undermine voluntary action on climate change in the financial sector. This has led to the withdrawal of some insurers from the UN-convened Net-Zero Insurance Alliance, which could decelerate the private sector's contribution to national climate commitments. The UN Secretary-General has stated that Governments must provide clear reassurance that collective climate action does not violate anti-trust, but rather upholds the public trust.

The recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) [AR6 Synthesis Report](#) has reiterated that the climate emergency is an unprecedented global crisis that requires urgent and ambitious action by all actors in society in order to protect lives, livelihoods,



and assets; and to protect communities, cities, and countries. UNEP would welcome affirmation from Member States that in order to successfully tackle the climate emergency, there is an urgent need for collaboration across the public and private sectors, not just individual action to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement.

ii. Opportunities

Furthering science-based decision-making

UNEP can further facilitate access and discussion about knowledge pieces and publications of the International Resource Panel (IRP) through relevant fora and platforms, to integrate more of their work into intergovernmental and governmental policies and ensure mechanisms for informing policy making according to science-based evidence. Carrying out studies at regional level based on the insights of global reports may facilitate the uptake in the regional processes. [The Trends and Outlook of Natural Resources Use in West Asia](#) is an example of tailoring to a specific region the methodology used for developing the Global Resources Outlook 2019, to amplify the regional perspectives from the insights of the global projections.

Furthering collaboration with private sector on food waste

Through its [Recipe of Change](#) campaign which aims to maximize visibility on the rampant global food waste problem and create real behavioural change, UNEP can further engagement with hotels, restaurants and cafés to trigger action on food waste by piloting activities and showcasing results with great potential for replication and scale up.

Enhancing engagement in Regional Commissions sessions

Engagement in the sessions of UN Regional Commissions and regional High Level Political Forum's (HLPF) provide useful opportunities for UNEP to

update Member States on the outcomes of UNEA and the meetings of Regional Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities. Additionally, the preparation of joint briefs, reports and side events with other UN agencies and Regional Commissions can serve to inform intergovernmental meetings of regional environmental priorities and challenges. Through co-chairing the regional Issue Based Coalition on Climate Ambition and leading or co-leading SDG roundtables to review progress of environmental SDGs during the regional HLPF, UNEP is better able to catalyze UN system wide action on the environment.

Enhancing pollution action through regional mechanisms

Cooperation on pollution action with regional institutions such as CARICOM and SICA is on the ascendancy, with UNEP benefiting from their access to region-specific platforms for dialogue and priority-setting, as well as their access to sub-national and in-country partners. These institutions provide UNEP with valuable opportunities to mainstream global issues that require regional and national attention and action. UNEP can also benefit from regional mechanisms for enhanced coordinated action among UN system entities, such as Issue-based coalitions, particularly in the realms of air quality and circular/green economy, including sound waste management.

Strengthening positioning on pollution negotiations

Convening the meeting of the African Group of Negotiators (AGN) on plastic pollution prior to the INC allowed the Group to formulate a coordinated and shared position. This proactive approach provided the AGN a strategic advantage, enabling them to align regional perspectives and priorities effectively. By conducting these preparatory meetings, the group was able to foster consensus and present a unified front during the INC sessions, ultimately amplifying its influence and enhancing effectiveness in the negotiation process.

Recipe of Change Campaign





Africa Regional Consultations on the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee Process, Accra, Ghana
(UNEP)

Utilizing country presence to further G20 engagement

The presence of a UNEP Country Office in the [G20 Presidency](#) country (India) and its existing relationships with Government of India across sectors helped to significantly facilitate UNEP's engagement across G20 processes. This includes shaping the Presidency's agenda and the preparation of technical documents and thematic side events, resulting in UNEP's priorities being reflected across outcomes beyond just the Environment and Climate Sustainability Working Group ([ECSWG](#)).

Furthering reach through hybrid / interactive programme delivery

UNEP's experience and expertise in designing and executing programmes, activities and events through highly interactive modalities increased during the pandemic. The enhanced capability to design and execute events and programmes – be it online, in-person or in a hybrid format - has proven to be successful in ensuring more active and wider engagement of stakeholders. As larger and more diverse groups get to know UNEP's work and strategies, it is hoped that this will lead to more resource mobilization and partnership opportunities.

Enhanced engagement with Brazil and Colombia

With new governments in Brazil and Colombia, new requests for support have emerged to collaborate with national and sub-national counterparts on nesting,

accessing high-integrity climate finance and markets, and safeguard initiatives. UNEP has been responding to urgent requests, providing inputs for decision-making on regulatory and legal aspects of carbon markets in Brazil. In Colombia, support is underway for emissions reductions accounting, credit options, and financial decisions involving various national actors. Engaging with new counterparts and adapting communication approaches based on their needs has been essential.

Shift to high-value technical assistance to Indonesia

In Indonesia, UNEP's close coordination with the Ministry of Environment and Forestry and the Indonesia Environment Fund (IEF) has led to high-level technical assistance requests focusing on mobilizing new financial resources from the domestic capital market through a collective investment contract modality aimed at supporting the IEF to widen its available instruments to enable Indonesia to meet its forest and land-use net sink 2030 targets.

This approach is different from the traditional UN-REDD approach as UNEP shifts towards high-value technical outputs instead of conventional training and documentation. These experiences offer learning and capacity-building opportunities for UNEP and contribute to national decision-making and accelerating achievements of international commitment as outlined in the 2021 Nationally Determined Contributions.

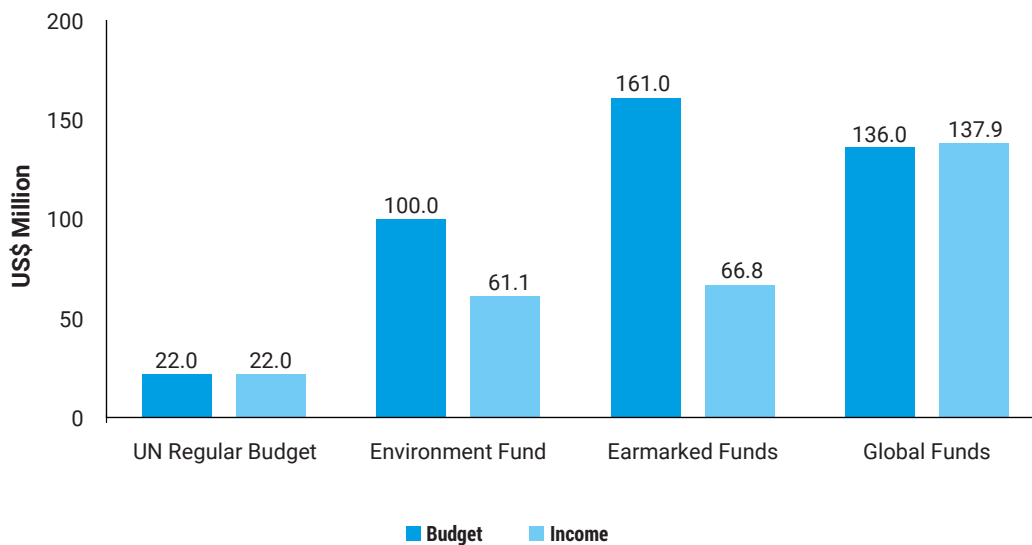
3. RESOURCES AND MANAGEMENT ISSUES

A. Financial Resources

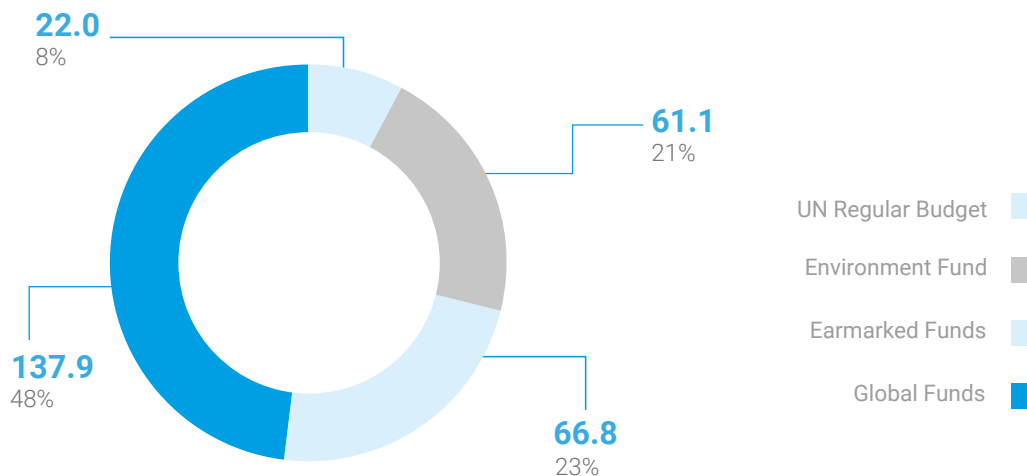
i. Financial Update as at 30 June 2023

i.a. Overview of income¹

Annual Budget 2023 vs Income (in million \$) /as at 30 June 2023



Income per source of funding (in million \$) /as at 30 June 2023



¹ The figures do not include Conventions and Protocols administered by UNEP. Per the UN 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.

1.b Core funding

United Nations Regular Budget

The UN 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. Due to the deteriorating liquidity situation of the Regular Budget, hiring against this funding source has temporarily been suspended. The suspension is initially through mid-October 2023, and may potentially continue until the liquidity situation eases. UNEP is assessing the potential impact on its operations and may keep the Committee of Permanent Representatives informed as necessary.

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:

- Respond to the three environmental planetary crises;
- Improve global environmental governance;

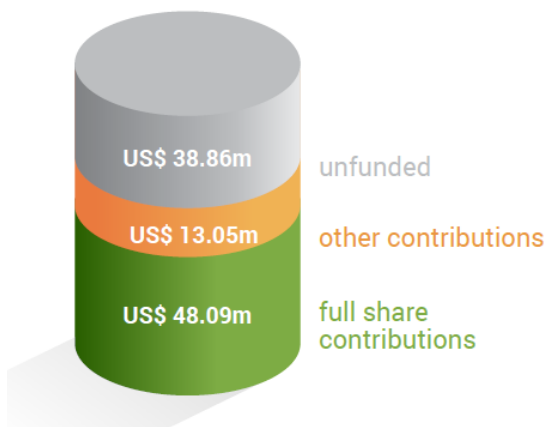
- Provide science-policy interface;
- Convene stakeholders for global decision making;
- Innovate and advocate for solutions to environmental challenges;
- Embed gender equality and human rights in environmental policies, strategies and programmes;
- Build capacity of Member States and other partners; and
- Respond to emerging environmental challenges

The core funds play a pivotal role in supporting the organization by enabling effective leadership, stewardship and strategic direction. They also serve as the foundation for robust oversight, ensuring the organization's activities are carried out with diligence and effectiveness.

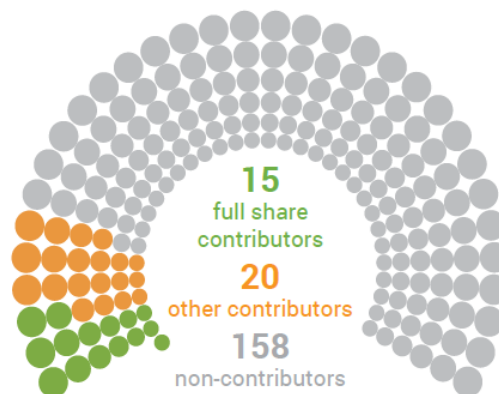
The approved budget for the year 2023 remains at US\$ 100 million. By 30 June 2023, the Environment Fund income amounted to US\$ 61.14 million, which is 61% of the approved 2023 budget. These contributions were received from 35 Member States, which represent 18% of the total 193 Member States. Out of the 35 Member States, 15 (43%) contributed their full share as per the voluntary indicative scale of contributions (VISC).

Status of Environment Fund in 2023 (as at 30 June 2023)

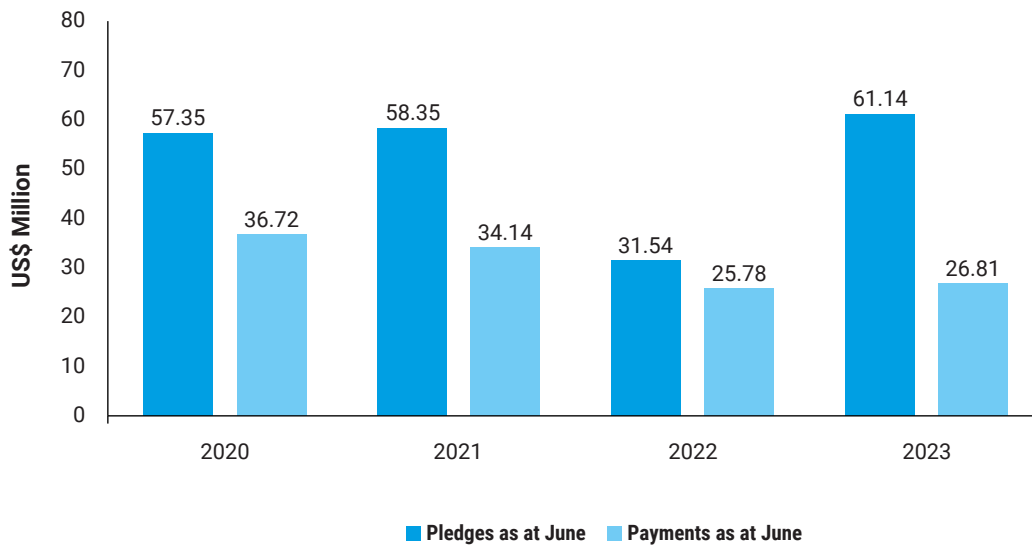
INCOME vs UNFUNDED BALANCE of US\$ 100m budget



NUMBER AND CATEGORY OF MEMBER STATE CONTRIBUTORS out of 193



Pledges and Payments to the Environment fund 2020 -2023

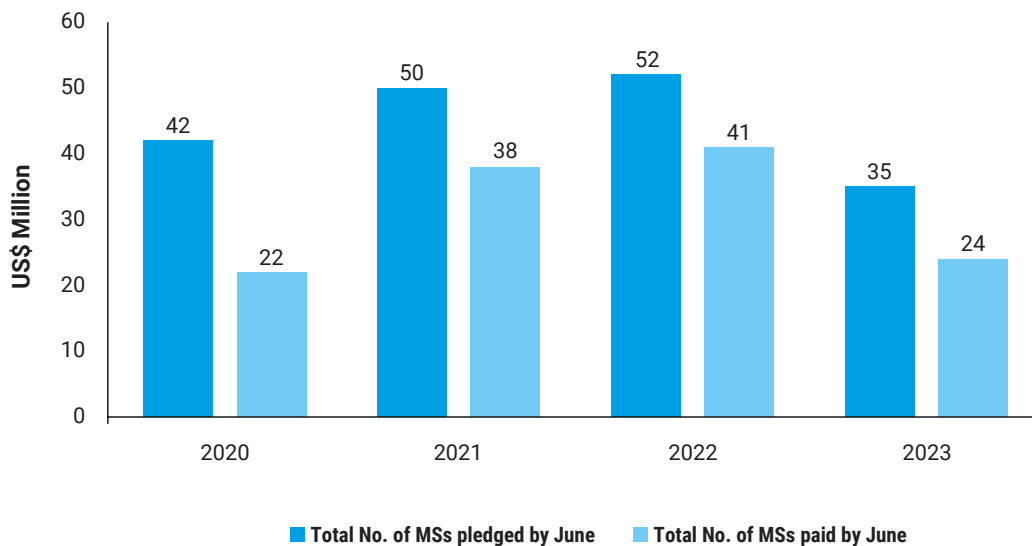


UNEP appreciates the additional stability and predictability provided by multi-year agreements/pledges from Belgium, Canada, Denmark, the Netherlands and South Africa, which amounted to a total of US\$ 23.16 million or 38% of the Environment Fund income.

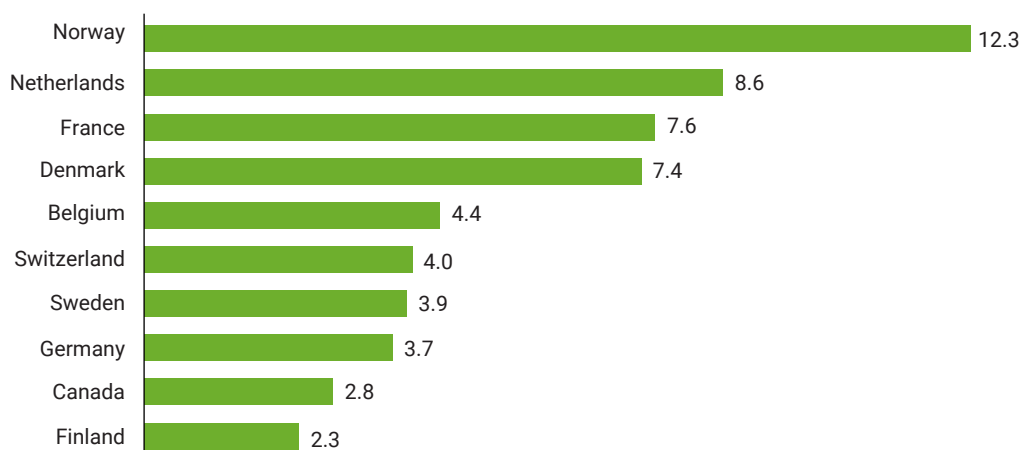
35 Member States had pledged by the end of June 2023. It is lower than that of June 2022 by 33% and lower than that of June 2021 by 30%. 24 Member States have paid their pledges as of June.

UNEP recognizes and is grateful for the continued support of the 10 Member States who provided 93% of the income to the Environment Fund.

Number of Member States contributing to the Environment Fund (2020-2023)



Top 10 contributors to Environment Fund (in million \$) as at 30 June 2023



Member States that contributed their full share as represented by the VISC (as at June 2023)

Paid			Pledged	
Canada	Ireland	Netherlands	Belgium	Norway
Fiji	Latvia	Peru	Denmark	Switzerland
Guyana	Mauritius	Slovenia	France	United Republic of Tanzania

1.c Earmarked contributions

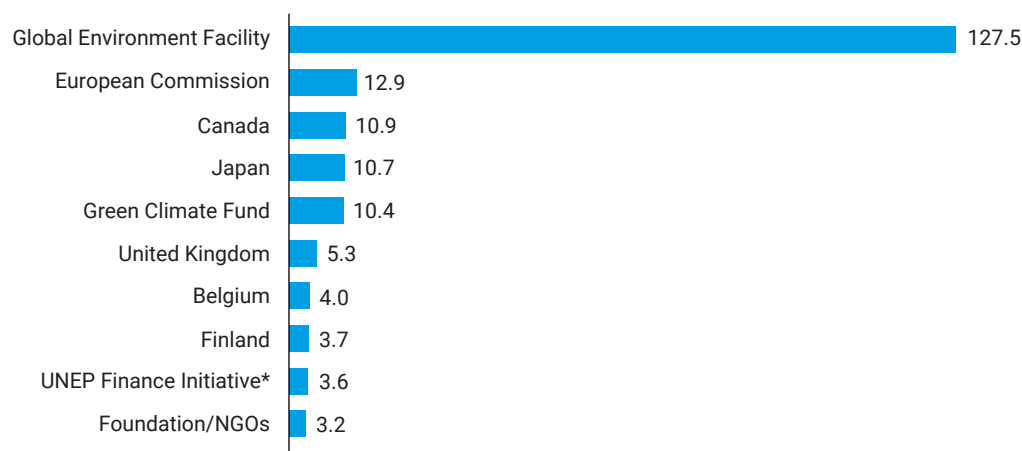
Earmarked funds

Earmarked funds are critical to UNEP's work and provide a means to leverage and direct resources towards priority areas. They also help to scale up and replicate the core work of UNEP, including capacity-building in more countries and with more partners. While hard earmarking has its benefits, UNEP encourages Member States to consider soft

earmarking, especially at a thematic level, to provide greater flexibility in the use of funds.

The organization has established three Thematic Funds on Climate Stability, Living in Harmony with Nature and Pollution-Free Planet to support the increase in softly earmarked funding and improved income distribution and resource allocation for bigger impact. A total of US\$ 18 million has been received, of which US\$ 6.7 million has been allocated as of the end of June 2023.

Top 10 earmarked contributions by category (in million \$) as at 30 June 2023



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

As of 30 June 2023, UNEP had received 42% of its total budgeted amount for the year, of which 93% was tightly earmarked, and 7% was softly earmarked funds. UNEP is grateful for the trust and confidence shown by Member States who contribute to UNEP through multi-year flexible funding.

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 June 2023, the income received matched the budgeted income for the year 2023. Of the total US\$ 137 million received, GEF contributed US\$ 127 million (92%) while GCF contributed US\$ 10 million (8%).

ii. Status of Allocations and Expenditures as at 30 June 2023

2022-2023 Biennium Core Budgets - Programme of work budget					
	Functional Area Name	Environment Fund	Overhead Trust Account	Regular Budget	Grand Total
A	Policy Making Organs	4,000,000	20,000	16,900	4,036,900
B. 1	Executive Direction & Management	8,000,000	-	6,274,100	14,274,100
B. 2	United Nations Scientific Committee on the effects on Atomic radiation (UNSCEAR)	-	-	1,588,600	1,588,600
	Subtotal A + B	12,000,000	20,000	7,879,600	19,899,600
C	Programme of Work				-
1.	Climate action	24,000,000	4,500,000	4,157,700	32,657,700
2.	Digital transformations	14,000,000	1,300,000	2,693,500	17,993,500
3.	Nature action	24,000,000	2,400,000	5,034,500	31,434,500
4.	Environmental governance	26,000,000	1,300,000	8,735,300	36,035,300
5.	Chemicals and pollution action	24,000,000	3,100,000	3,395,900	30,495,900
6.	Finance and economic transformations	26,000,000	2,500,000	3,810,200	32,310,200
7.	Science-policy	26,000,000	700,000	6,075,700	32,775,700
	Subtotal C	164,000,000	15,800,000	33,902,800	213,702,800
D	Fund Programme Reserve	10,000,000			10,000,000
	Subtotal C + D	174,000,000	15,800,000	33,902,800	223,702,800
E	Programme Management and Other				-
	Programme Support	14,000,000	16,200,000	2,163,600	32,363,600
	Subtotal E	14,000,000	16,200,000	2,163,600	32,363,600
	Total (A+B+C+D+E)	200,000,000	32,020,000	43,946,000	275,966,000

2022-2023 Core Budgets - Allotments as of 30 June 2023					
	Functional Area Name	Environment Fund	Overhead Trust Account	Regular Budget	Grand Total
A	Policy Making Organs	4,503,490	-	16,900	4,520,390
B. 1	Executive Direction & Management	7,811,632	-	6,274,100	14,085,732
B. 2	United Nations Scientific Committee on the effects on Atomic radiation (UNSCEAR)	-	-	1,588,600	1,588,600
	Subtotal A + B	12,315,122		7,879,600	20,194,722
C	Programme of Work				
1	Climate action	21,905,127	2,189,046	4,157,700	28,251,873
2	Digital transformations	13,875,312	-	2,693,500	16,568,812
3	Nature action	21,487,917	2,815,544	4,956,625	29,260,086
4	Environmental governance	24,837,309	2,824,749	8,933,175	36,595,232
5	Chemicals and pollution action	22,594,355	2,883,600	3,395,900	28,873,854
6	Finance and economic transformations	22,937,962	1,866,188	3,610,200	28,414,349
7	Science-policy	22,779,218	789,417	6,155,700	29,724,335
	Subtotal C	150,417,199	13,368,543	33,902,800	197,688,542
D	Fund Programme Reserve	5,365,771			5,365,771
	Subtotal C + D	155,782,970	13,368,543	33,902,800	203,054,313
E	Programme Management and Other				
	Programme Support	13,401,908	29,857,675	2,163,600	45,423,183
	Subtotal E	13,401,908	29,857,675	2,163,600	45,423,183
	Total (A+B+C+D+E)	181,500,000	43,226,218	43,946,000	268,672,218

2022-2023 Core Budgets - Expenditures as of 30 June 2023					
	Functional Area Name	Environment Fund	Overhead Trust Account	Regular Budget	Grand Total
A	Policy Making Organs	3,071,473	-	15,080	3,086,553
B. 1	Executive Direction & Management	5,574,028	-	4,550,875	10,124,903
B. 2	United Nations Scientific Committee on the effects on Atomic radiation (UNSCEAR)	-	-	1,112,301	1,112,301
	Subtotal A + B	8,645,500	-	5,678,256	14,323,757
C	Programme of Work				
1.	Climate action	14,870,489	1,380,852	3,099,691	19,351,031
2.	Digital transformations	8,607,710		1,666,260	10,273,970
3.	Nature action	15,741,323	2,332,591	4,137,798	22,211,712
4.	Environmental governance	16,236,024	1,471,444	6,636,662	24,344,129
5.	Chemicals and pollution action	14,496,828	1,732,201	2,537,514	18,766,543
6.	Finance and economic transformations	12,099,743	1,183,933	2,085,878	15,369,554
7.	Science-policy	14,760,868	277,061	4,638,013	19,675,942
	Subtotal C	96,812,984	8,378,082	24,801,815	129,992,881
D	Fund Programme Reserve	2,476,022	-	-	2,476,022
	Subtotal C + D	99,289,006	8,378,082	24,801,815	132,468,903
E	Programme Management and Other				
	Programme Support	8,184,943	19,883,743	1,217,970	29,286,656
	Subtotal E	8,184,943	19,883,743	1,217,970	29,286,656
	Total (A+B+C+D+E)	116,119,449	28,261,825	31,698,041	176,079,315

iii. Resource Mobilization Strategy

Following discussion under agenda item "Financial Outlook and Funding Challenges for UNEP" at the 9th Annual Subcommittee Meeting held in October 2022, the Secretariat prepared a [report](#) summarising the session and capturing the recommendations. The report was submitted to the 162nd meeting of the CPR (June). Due to time and technical constraints, the discussion of this report will resume at the 163rd CPR meeting (October).

As part of continued efforts to improve the balance between core/flexible funding and earmarked funding, the [Thematic Funds](#) continue to be a viable option for certain Member States. UNEP has engaged funding partners across platforms to promote the new flexible giving modality. By 30 June, the total received amounted to over US\$ 18 million thanks to Member States such as Belgium, Finland and Norway.

To strengthen the narrative of UNEP as the partner of choice in tackling the three environmental planetary crises, the booklet [UNEP – Your Partner for People](#)

and the [Planet](#) was updated (2023 edition) and its translation into Arabic, French and Spanish was concluded in June.

B. Human Resources

As of 30 June 2023, UNEP employed 1330 staff members consisting of 818 (61 percent) in the professional and above categories, 12 (1 percent) in the National Professional Officer (NPO) category and 500 (38 percent) in the general service category. 838 (63 percent) of these are female, while 492 (37 percent) are male.

i. Senior Level Staff (UNEP Secretariat and MEAs)

Total staff at grade P-5 and above as of 30 June 2023

Level	USG	ASG	D2	D1	P5
No. of Staff	1	3	12	50	133

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

ii. Appointments

Appointments in the second quarter (April to June) 2023

Position Title	Grade	Gender	Nationality	Internal/ External	Division/Office/MEA
Principal Programme Management Officer	D-1	Female	Venezuelan	Internal	Corporate Services Division
Senior Programme Management Officer	P-5	Male	Pakistani	Internal	Industry and Economy Division
Senior Programme Management Officer	P-5	Male	Spanish	Internal	Ecosystems Division
Senior Coordination Officer	P-5	Male	Moroccan	Internal	Africa Office

The above information excludes Temporary Job Openings
*Staff members to assume office after 30 June 2023

iii. Overall, Gender Parity status

The table below shows the overall gender parity status for the second quarter (April to June) of 2023.

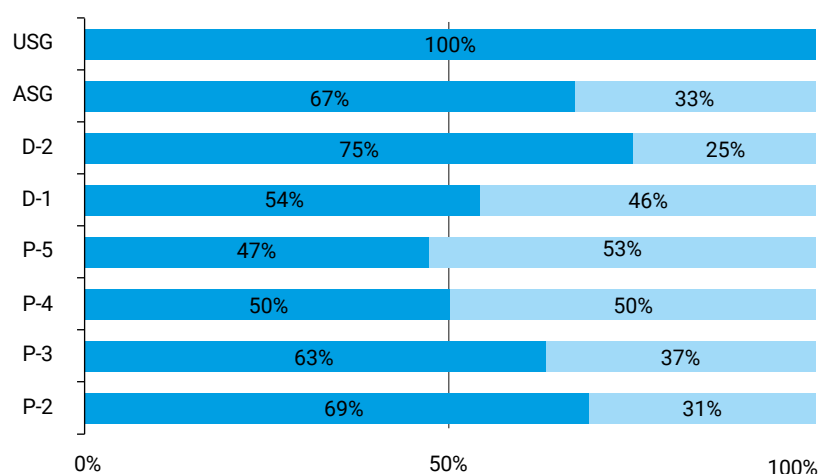
Gender	USG	ASG	D2	D1	P5	P4	P3	P2	Total P+	Total NO	Total GS	Total Staff
Female	1	2	9	27	62	134	154	74	463	6	369	838
Male		1	3	23	71	132	91	34	355	6	131	492
Totals	1	3	12	50	133	266	245	108	818	12	500	1330

Note: USG=Under-Secretary-General; ASG=Assistant Secretary-General; D=Director; P=Professional
UNEP Overall P+ Gender Parity Status

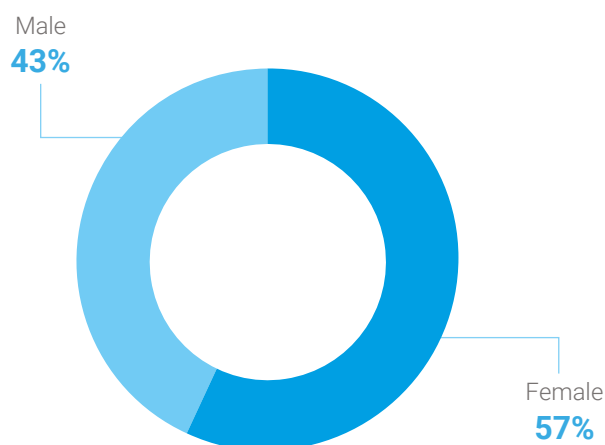
The overall gender parity status in UNEP at the professional and above levels is within the 47% to 53% (male to female) margins. The gender data below

includes personnel on temporary contracts, temporary assignments and Junior Professional Officers.

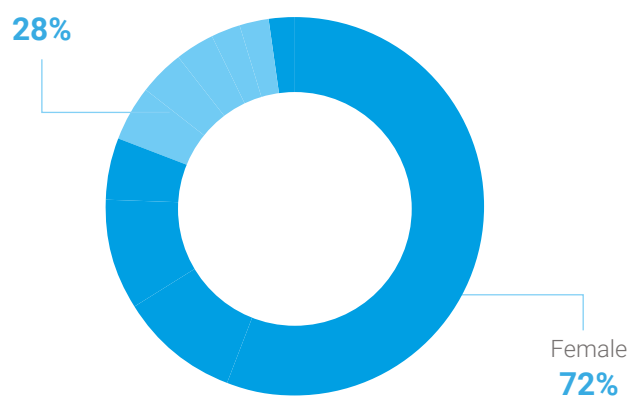
UNEP Gender Parity Status Professional Level and Above 30 June 2023 (Percentages %)



Gender Status Parity- Professional Level and Above - UNEP Secretariat



Gender Parity Status - General Staff UNEP Secretariat



Gender Distribution - UNEP Secretariat and MEAs – 30 June 2023

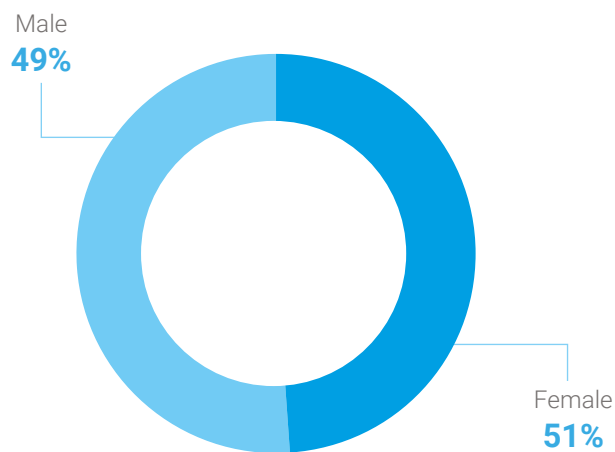
The table below disaggregates the gender distribution between UNEP Secretariat and the MEAs.

UNEP SECRETARIAT												
Gender	USG	ASG	D2	D1	P5	P4	P3	P2	Total P+	Total NPO	Total GS	Total
Female	1	2	6	22	45	108	127	58	369	6	278	653
Male			2	21	56	110	70	20	279	6	107	392
UNEP MEAs												
Gender	USG	ASG	D2	D1	P5	P4	P3	P2	Total P+	Total NPO	Total GS	Total
Female			3	5	17	26	27	16	94		91	185
Male		1	1	2	15	22	21	14	76		24	100
Total	1	3	12	50	133	266	245	108	818	12	500	1330

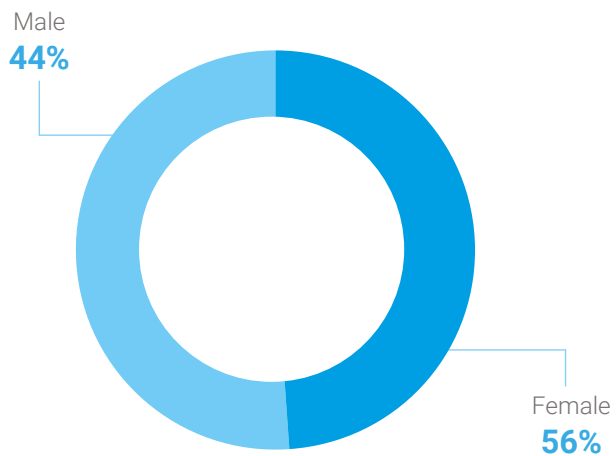
iv. Gender Parity Status for P5 and above level – UNEP Secretariat & MEAs

Gender	USG	ASG	D2	D1	P5	Total
Female	1	2	9	27	62	101
Male	0	1	3	23	71	98
Total	1	3	12	50	133	199
Female%	100%	67%	75%	54%	47%	51%
Male %	0%	33%	25%	46%	53%	49%

Overall Gender Status - P5 and Above



Gender Status P5 and Above UNEP Secretariat

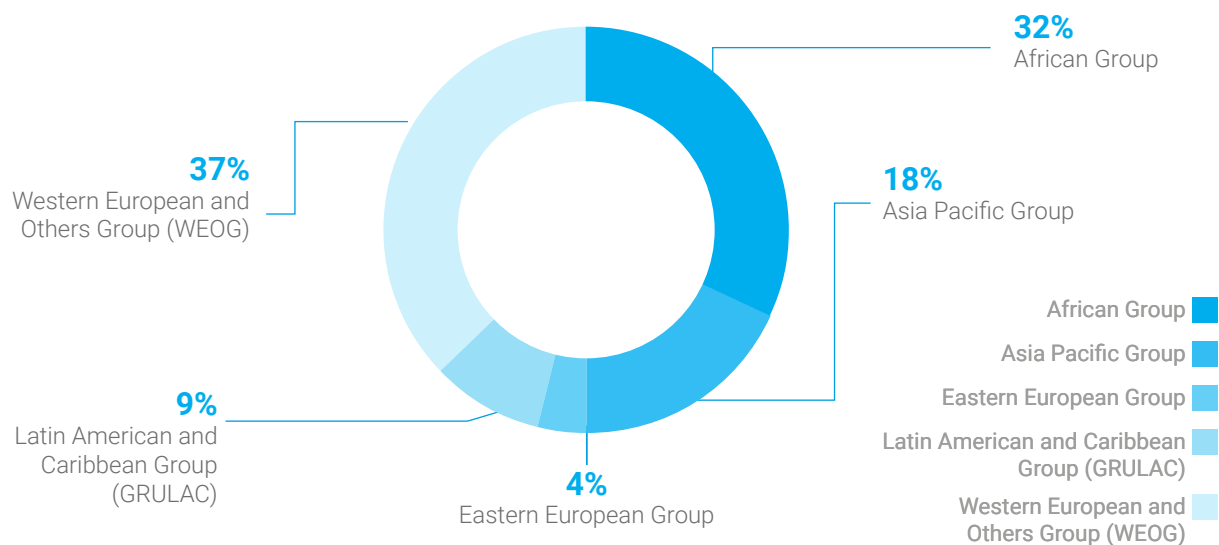


v. Overall Regional Representation of staff (UNEP and MEA Secretariats) - 30 June 2023

UNEP Overall Regional Representation

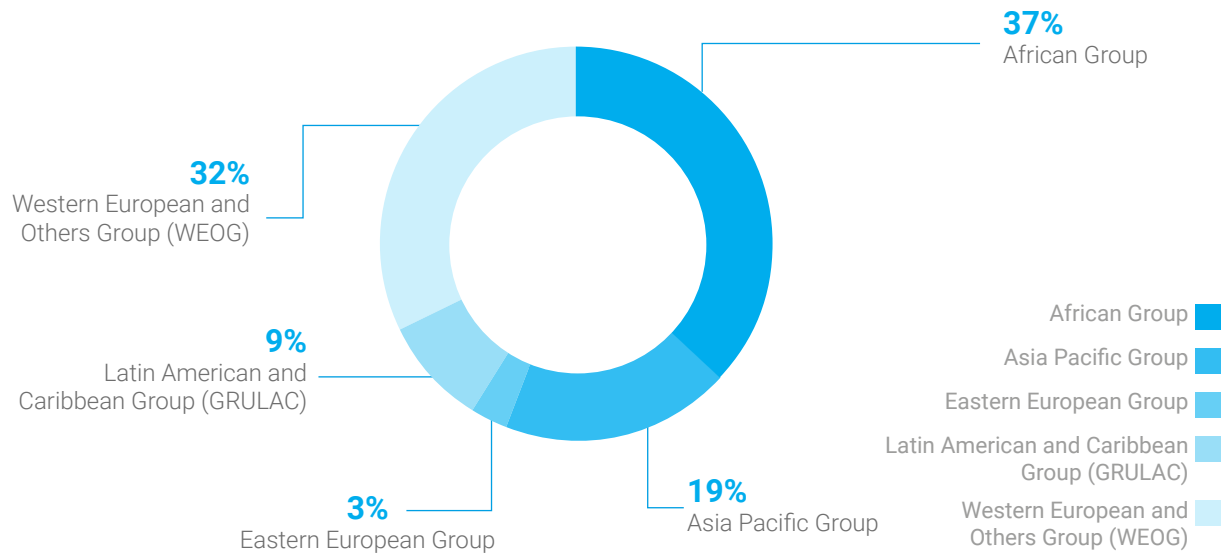
Region	Total
African Group	427
Asia Pacific Group	242
Eastern European Group	45
Latin American and Caribbean Group (GRULAC)	122
Western European and Others Group (WEOG)	494
Total	1330

UNEP Overall Regional Representation



Region	Total
African Group	390
Asia Pacific Group	192
Eastern European Group	34
Latin American and Caribbean Group (GRULAC)	96
Western European and Others Group (WEOG)	333
Total	1045

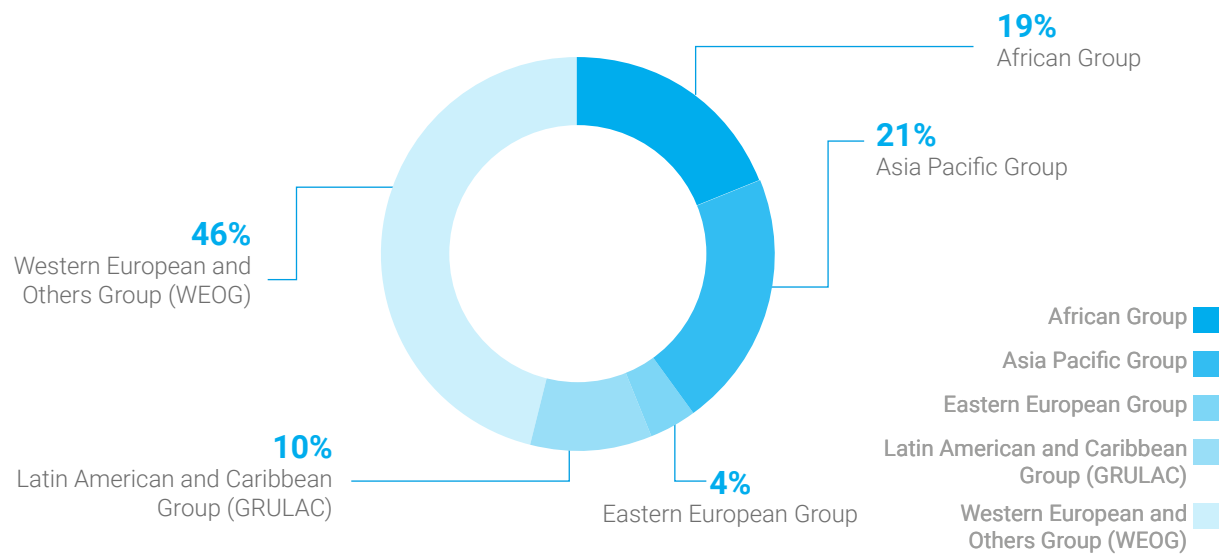
Regional Representation - UNEP Secretariat



vi. Overall Regional Representation of UNEP’s Professional level and above - 30 June 2023

Regional Distribution	Professional & Above Level									Total
	USG	ASG	D2	D1	P5	P4	P3	P2		
African Group		1	3	5	36	51	46	11	153	
Asia Pacific Group		1	3	9	22	56	48	32	171	
Eastern European Group				5	5	9	9	7	35	
Latin American and Caribbean Group (GRULAC)			2	6	16	24	23	9	80	
Western European and Others Group (WEOG)	1	1	4	25	54	126	119	49	379	
Total	1	3	12	50	133	266	245	108	818	

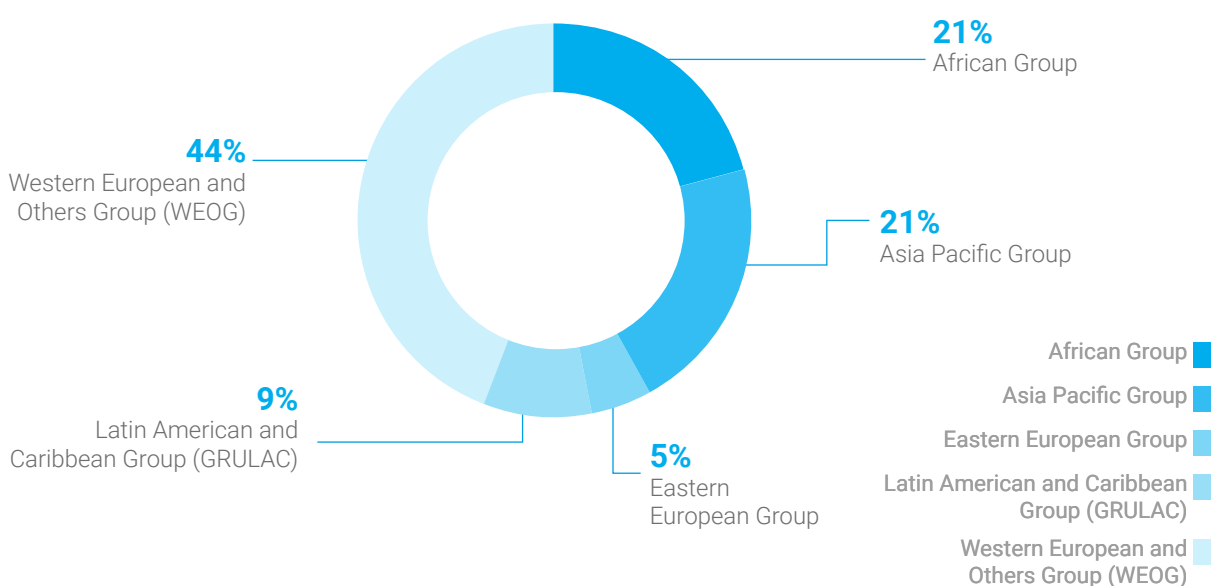
Overall Regional Representation - Professional Level and Above



Regional Representation – Professional Level and Above – UNEP Secretariat

Regional Representation	Professional and Above Level - Secretariat								Total
	USG	ASG	D2	D1	P5	P4	P3	P2	
African Group		1	2	5	27	48	42	10	135
Asia Pacific Group		1	2	6	15	49	40	24	137
Eastern European Group				4	4	8	8	6	30
Latin American and Caribbean Group (GRULAC)			1	5	11	20	17	6	60
Western European and Others Group (WEOG)	1		3	23	44	93	90	32	286
Total	1	2	8	43	101	218	197	78	648

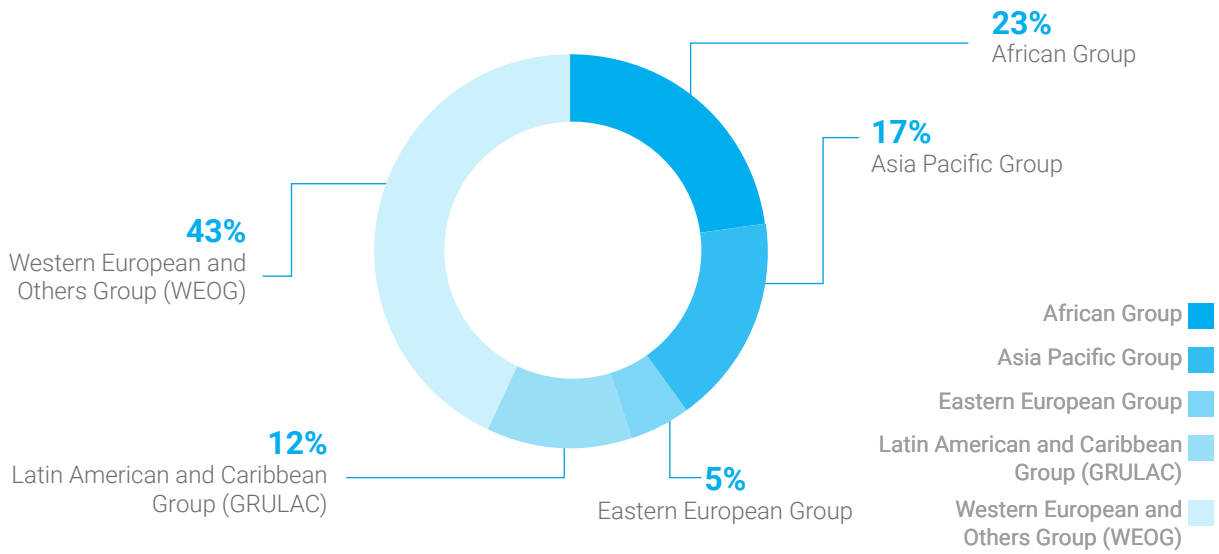
Regional Representation – Professional Level and Above – UNEP Secretariat



vii. Overall Regional Representation P5 and Above - 30 June 2023

Regional Distribution	P-5 & Above					Total
	USG	ASG	D2	D1	P5	
African Group		1	3	5	36	45
Asia Pacific Group		1	3	9	22	35
Eastern European Group				5	5	10
Latin American and Caribbean Group (GRULAC)			2	6	16	24
Western European and Others Group (WEOG)	1	1	4	25	54	85
Total	1	3	12	50	133	199

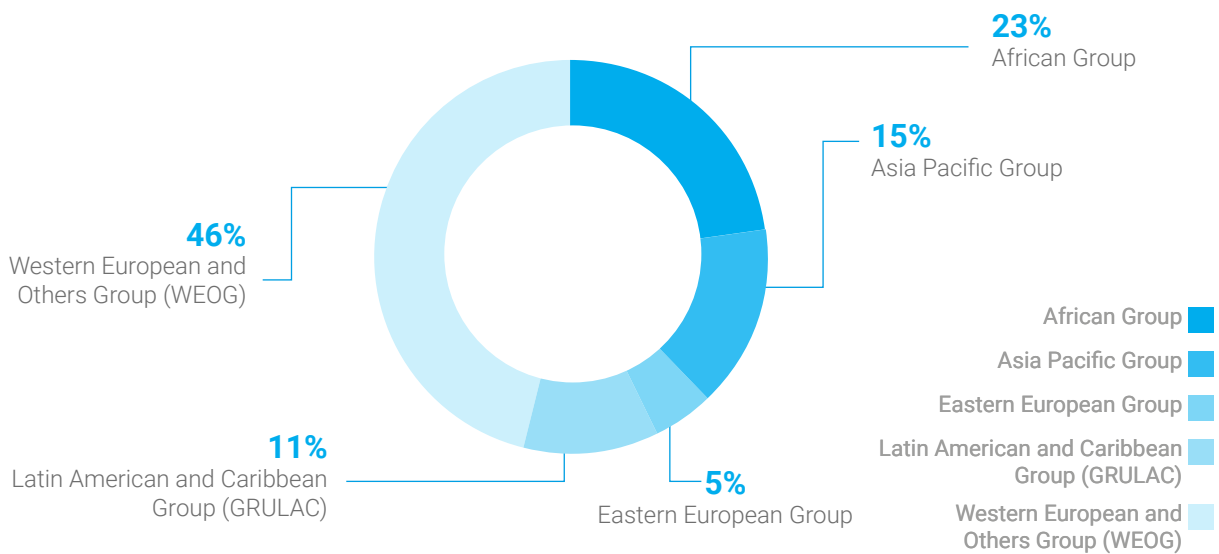
Overall Regional Representation - P5 and Above



Regional Representation – P5 and Above – UNEP Secretariat

Regional Distribution	P5 and Above Level - Secretariat					Total
	USG	ASG	D2	D1	P5	
African Group		1	2	5	27	35
Asia Pacific Group		1	2	6	15	24
Eastern European Group				4	4	8
Latin American and Caribbean Group (GRULAC)			1	5	11	17
Western European and Others Group (WEOG)	1		3	23	44	71
Total	1	2	8	43	101	155

Regional Representation – P5 and Above – UNEP Secretariat



viii. Human Resources Issues

UNEP maintained gender parity at all levels of the professional and above categories in the second quarter of 2023 and continued to closely monitor gender parameters to ensure they remained within the margins set by the Secretary-General's Strategy on Gender Parity. This achievement reflects UNEP's commitment to promoting gender equality and creating an inclusive work environment. The organization will continue its efforts to sustain this progress and address any potential gaps in gender representation.

UNEP continued to implement a variety of measures and initiatives intended to implement UNEA [resolution 5/13](#) on *Due regard to the principle of equitable geographical distribution, in accordance with paragraph 3 of Article 101 of the Charter of the United Nations*. During the second quarter of 2023, 71% of external candidate selections and 55% of internal candidate selections were of applicants from less represented geographical regions. UNEP remains fully committed to continuing its efforts towards achieving a more balanced and representative workforce. UNEP recognizes that a diverse workforce brings different perspectives and experiences, leading to more effective decision-making and better outcomes in addressing global environmental challenges.

In the second quarter of 2023, UNEP conducted seven outreach events that targeted less represented geographical regions and reached over 10,000 potential new candidates. The outreach consisted of a combination of online and in-person events, including three events conducted by the Executive Director in various Eastern European countries, further emphasizing UNEP's commitment to inclusivity and engagement with a more diverse and globally representative pool of candidates.

Also during this period, UNEP initiated direct candidate sourcing through a digital platform dedicated to job seekers (LinkedIn Recruiter), to reach additional potential candidates who meet the minimum qualifications for each Job Opening. This activity is performed for all published job openings at the Professional level, with a particular emphasis on the least represented regional groups in UNEP. By leveraging digital platforms, UNEP aims to ensure a more inclusive and diverse pool of candidates by actively targeting individuals from less represented geographical regions. This proactive approach aligns with UNEP's commitment to fostering equal opportunities and promoting global representation within its workforce.

C. Audits

i. United Nations Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS)

a. Completed Audits:

While the report on Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm (BRS) Conventions Secretariat, and the report on procurement are not published yet, they are expected to contain recommendations around the following areas:

Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm (BRS) Conventions Secretariat

has been advised to: strengthen management of the delegation of authority (DOA) and the Enterprise Risk Management (ERM); improve coordination mechanisms with UNEP Divisions as well as improve the public awareness and advocacy programme, ICT systems and mechanisms for reporting to the parties.

Procurement: It UNEP has been recommended that UNEP prepare acquisition plans, provide training on preparation of source selection plans, ensure timely provision of performance reports, periodically check the suitability of vendors invited to bid, ensure that all requests for payment to vendors in Umoja contain documentation for receipt of goods and services, enhance report on performance of procurement activities, and establish mechanisms to ensure complete contractor performance evaluation reports.

b. Audits Under implementation (21):

- Cyber-security preparedness (7)
- Grants Management (1)
- Partnerships Management (1)
- Convention on Biological Diversity (2)
- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (4)
- Convention for Cooperation in the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Atlantic Coast of West, Central and Southern Africa Region – (Abidjan Convention) (1)
- Audit of the Ecosystems Division (2)
- Audit of the UNEP Mediterranean Action Plan for the Barcelona Convention (3)

c. Audits closed-as-implemented:

- Response to COVID-19
- Accounts Receivable and Payable

d. Ongoing Audits:

Delegation of Authority (DOA): The DOA audit at UNEP aims to assess the adequacy and effectiveness of the DOA framework. The audit specific risk areas and the specific timeframe this audit covers are yet to be communicated.

e. Planned Audits:

Audit of projects in the Economy Division (2023/2024)

ii. United Nations Board of Auditors (BoA)

The Board of Auditors conducted the final audit for the financial statements of 2022 in Nairobi between 3 April and 7 May. As a result, the audit report was shared outlining 24 observations for the 2022 financial period, which UNEP has accepted, of which 4 recommendations have already been requested closed as implemented. For the prior financial periods, 20 recommendations are under implementation and 7 recommendations have been requested for closure. Implementation plans for all outstanding and new observations have been drafted and monitoring is ongoing.

D. Evaluations

i. UNEP Evaluations

During the reporting period eight project evaluations were brought to completion while 28 project evaluations are currently ongoing. Completed Evaluations include;

[Evaluation](#) of the *Implementation of the Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE) Interagency Programme 'Operational Strategy 2016-2020'* (4/2023)

- Overall Performance Rating: "Satisfactory"
- Key Findings: The strategic relevance of PAGE's Operational Strategy 2016-2020 is assessed as "highly satisfactory" based on its strong alignment with global/regional/sub-regional/national priorities, perceived value add, and the strategic priorities of the five participating UN agencies and its donors, although new directions towards specific development challenges (e.g. increased focus on climate and biodiversity issues) and actions on the ground had tested the PAGE delivery model in its later years of implementation (i.e. balance between the macro-economic/upstream focus of PAGE and support for downstream sectoral/thematic interventions).

[Terminal Evaluation](#) of the UNEP *Project Managing Wastewater Through Global Partnership* (PIMS ID 01663) (2014-2018) (4/2023)

- Overall Project Performance Rating: "Satisfactory"
- Key Findings: The expected Project Outcome was that wastewater is seen as a resource in the global agenda, and that this recognition is translated into declarations, policies, and national actions which reduce the negative impact of wastewater. The evaluation found that the Project exceeded four of its five targets; specifically, the project realized 10 (instead of the target 5) joint initiatives by Global Waste-water Initiative members to increase awareness about sustainable water management, and 107 countries (instead of the planned 10) developed and reviewed their National Plans of Action for the protection of marine environments from land-based activities.

[Terminal Evaluation](#) of the UNEP/GEF Project *Developing Core Capacity for Multilateral Environmental Agreement Implementation in Cameroon* (GEF ID #: 5060) (2014-2019) (5/2023)

- Overall Project Performance Rating: "Moderately Satisfactory"
- Key Findings: The project increased the level of awareness of MEAs and environmental problems at the national level and in the selected pilot areas. The project's participatory approach in addressing the capacity needs at many different levels was both a strength and a weakness. It managed to create awareness about the MEAs, environmental data and reporting and approaches to solving environmental problems with many stakeholders from community-based organisations, NGOs, private companies, media, civil servants, leaders in government institutions and parliamentarians. It was also a weakness because the effort was spread rather thinly across many different activities.

[Terminal Evaluation](#) of the UNEP/GEF Project *Increase St. Lucia's Capacity to Monitor MEA Implementation and Sustainable Development* (GEF ID #: 5197) (2015-2021) (5/2023)

- Overall Project Performance Rating: "Satisfactory"
- Key Findings: The project succeeded in setting up a functional online environmental information system. Moreover, the project successfully enhanced the commitment to interagency cooperation vis-à-vis environmental data collection and coordination, with an MoU on environmental

data sharing signed by 14 agencies being a significant milestone. The relevant agencies were capacitated to upload information to the system. However, uploading of data was uneven among the participating organisations and there is no evidence of agencies integrating the data uploading in their work plans. While the online database is still operational, it is not easily accessible as the main website is not fully functional.

[Terminal Evaluation](#) of the UNEP-GEF project *Capacity Development for the Integration of Global Environmental Commitments into National Policies and Development Decision Making in Bosnia and Herzegovina* (BiH) (GEF ID #: 5302) (2015-2021) (5/2023)

- Overall Project Performance Rating: “Moderately Unsatisfactory”
- Key Findings: The project addressed a well-founded need for a country-wide environmental management information system in line with MEA obligations and developed a set of nationally relevant indicators for MEA reporting, which the entity and state authorities adopted, potentially leading to wider benefits. The project improved the monitoring of air quality in BiH by purchasing and refurbishing air quality monitoring stations and linking them to the existing country’s systems for air quality reporting. However, the project did not achieve its prime aim of establishing and operationalizing the environmental management information system (EMIS) and no improvements in the quality of MEA reporting in BiH resulted from this project. The project did not deploy an online software solution explicitly in the results framework. Financial management was weak and a source of many delays.

[Terminal Evaluation](#) of the UNEP/GEF Project *Developing Core Capacity for MEA Implementation in Haiti* (GEF ID #: 5557) (2015-2021) (5/2023)

- Overall Project Performance Rating: “Satisfactory”
- Key Findings: The project developed three methodologies for riverbank protection, conducting Strategic Environment Assessment, and conducting Environmental Audits. The project supported the creation of the Haiti Biodiversity Fund/ Fonds Haitien pour la Biodiversité (FHB), but it is yet to finance projects. The project also trained 119 staff from public administration and civil society, but the training received may not have

been fully used due to a lack of resources and turnover. The project improved coordination for managing environmental data for Rio Conventions and supported the setting and strengthening of MEAs focal points. Implementation was severely affected by extreme natural events and the Haiti political context, and the project outcomes were only partly achieved. The sustainability of the project results is challenged by limited human and financial resources, as well as the lack of political commitment and changes in government departments with a heavy dependence on external financial resources.

[Terminal Evaluation](#) of the UNEP/GEF Project *Capacity Building for Information Coordination and Monitoring Systems/SLM in Areas with Water Resource Management Problems of Country Pilot Partnership Program on Sustainable Land Management* (GEF ID 8003) (2015 –2021) (4/2023)

- Overall Project Performance Rating: “Highly Satisfactory”
- Key Findings: The project’s results span from new policies, regulations and procedures, improved data management for SLM and a modernised hydrometric monitoring system, to increased yields, water use efficiency and crop diversity on farms, an enhanced educational offer in SLM, and a growing community of practice for SLM. The project’s conception as one of five projects under a 10-year country programme was a unique set-up in Cuba that had a significant influence on the project’s performance. This set-up created strong enabling conditions that undoubtedly contributed to its success in tackling land degradation and made sense in terms of the change processes needed to achieve SLM. By building on its predecessor project, it permeated more readily into national plans and programmes, land use planning processes, farm-level practices, schools and post-graduate programmes, and the general perception of project beneficiaries. In this project, state support has been consistent, coherent, and integral. Several SLM facets are being supported and stimulated directly by the Cuban state, with different competent authorities assisting with the technical, political, social, economic and financial aspects of SLM. Delivering SLM integrally is undoubtedly a best practice that has allowed the Cuban state to achieve significant results at scale.

[Terminal Evaluation](#) of the UNEP/GEF Project
*Enhanced cross-sectoral land management through
land use pressure reduction planning* (GEF ID: 5822)
(1/2023)

- Overall Project Performance Rating: “Satisfactory”
- Key Findings: The project built on the country’s existing efforts through some effective and necessary tools, but also through the prioritisation of sites list, the accreditation and capacity building of the Serbian Environmental Protection Agency

(SEPA) and on soil sampling and monitoring. Capacity development for the local level was also of excellent value. The project delivered products of high quality which are useful for application and for the building of the knowledge base on soil contamination and protection in Serbia. It will be up to the Government of Serbia to strategize, based on this information, how to move forward effectively (through requesting support from multi-lateral and bi-lateral partners) on the remediation of contaminated sites in Serbia.



QUARTERLY REPORT

to the **163rd** Meeting of the

COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES

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