

For People and Planet

HOW YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS
CAN HELP BUILD A MORE
SUSTAINABLE WORLD



THE OPPORTUNITY

The Earth is teetering on the precipice of disaster. The triple planetary crisis of climate change, nature and biodiversity loss, and pollution and waste is pushing the natural world – the very foundation of life on Earth – to the breaking point.

But there is good news. Humanity still has time to repair much of the environmental damage it has done and to create a better, fairer, more sustainable world.

As the leading global authority on the environment, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) helps its 193 Member States to live in harmony with nature, supporting the achievement of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. We are doing this by tackling the root causes of the triple planetary crisis.

This work builds on our 50-plus-year history. Since its creation in 1972, UNEP has been behind many environmental milestones, including efforts to save the ozone layer, phase out toxic leaded fuels and protect a range of species, from

mountain gorillas to sea turtles. UNEP co-founded the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and hosts the Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services.

Despite these successes, UNEP's work on the triple planetary crisis requires additional financial support. This is why we have launched three new thematic funds: the Climate Stability Fund, the Living in Harmony with Nature Fund and the Towards a Pollution-Free Planet Fund.

These new funds provide UNEP with a crucial source of flexible funding that will help people improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations.



“We are losing our suicidal war against nature.”

ANTÓNIO GUTERRES
UN Secretary-General

WHO CAN INVEST IN UNEP?

While national governments are key UNEP supporters, providing crucial financing to the organization's core Environment Fund, there are no limitations on who can make contribution to the UNEP thematic funds. We accept contributions from all levels of government, multilateral development banks, regional organizations, international financial institutions, philanthropies, foundations and individuals.

THE THREE THEMATIC FUNDS

The Climate Stability Fund, the Living in Harmony with Nature Fund, and the Towards a Pollution-Free Planet Fund are designed to provide UNEP with flexible sources of funding, to be more responsive to countries' needs and to better respond to the triple planetary crisis.

Launched in March 2022 during UNEP's 50th anniversary celebrations, the thematic funds represent an entirely new financing model for the organization. They are shifting UNEP's funding balance away from narrowly defined projects and towards more holistic programmes. As more predictable sources of funding, they

help UNEP focus more easily on high-level objectives and multi-year agreements.

The thematic funds will help UNEP more easily allocate resources to where they are needed the most, driving innovation, supporting science-based decision making and spurring economy-wide action.



"We must transform societies and economies to protect Planet Earth, our only home, so that this small blue vibrant planet, alone in the universe, may sustain everyone, everywhere."

INGER ANDERSEN
UNEP Executive Director



WHAT IS THE TRIPLE PLANETARY CRISIS?

Three interconnected environmental crises are unfolding before our eyes across climate, nature and pollution. Tackling these crises is the defining challenge of our times – and could determine the survival of our species.

Climate change: The average global temperature has risen between 1.1°C and 1.2°C since pre-industrial times, sparking heatwaves, droughts and floods around the world. Unless greenhouse gas emissions fall dramatically, warming could pass 2.8°C this century, which would have catastrophic consequences for life on this planet.

Nature and biodiversity loss: Human activities – such as deforestation, overfishing, and pollution – are upsetting the Earth's delicate ecological balance and pushing 1 million species towards extinction. If the web of life continues to fray, the fallout could be devastating for humanity, impacting everything from jobs to food supplies.

Pollution and waste: Pollution is one of the gravest threats to human health. Air pollution alone causes almost 7 million premature deaths every year – as many as smoking. Unsustainable consumption and production patterns – from the use of hazardous pesticides to the dumping of single-use plastics – damages ecosystems and violates the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment.

THE TRIPLE PLANETARY CRISIS IN NUMBERS

3.3 billion

people are highly vulnerable to climate change

1 million

of the world's estimated 8 million species of plants and animals are threatened with extinction

Air pollution causes almost

7 million

premature deaths a year

The world produces

430 million

tonnes of plastic annually, two-thirds of which soon becomes waste.

75 per cent

of the Earth's land surface has been significantly altered by human actions



UNEP'S STRATEGY

UNEP's Medium Term Strategy, which runs from 2022-2025, is dedicated to finding solutions to the triple planetary crisis. Given the immense scale of the challenge, we are supporting the wholesale transformation of economies and societies. UNEP's work helps humanity live more in harmony with nature and move beyond the practices pushing the planet to the breaking point. This is essential for realizing the Sustainable Development Goals.

Here is a closer look at how UNEP is tackling each pillar of the triple planetary crisis.

Climate Action: UNEP is one of the world's leading authorities on climate change, working for more than three decades to address the defining challenge of our times. We help countries lower their greenhouse gas emissions by transitioning to low-carbon economic models and live up to their commitments under the landmark Paris Agreement on climate change. We also help countries adapt to rising seas, severe storms and the other harsh realities of an already-changing climate. We are particularly focused on climate justice and helping the world's most-vulnerable people cope with climate change, securing their basic rights to food, water and well-being.

Nature Action: UNEP has spent five decades helping to protect the web of life on Earth. To do that, we deliver science-based solutions to halt the loss of natural spaces while bringing damaged ecosystems back to life. This provides havens for plants, animals and other living things, and protects the natural resources and ecological processes underpinning humanity. In particular, UNEP helps countries to reduce ecosystem degradation; build sustainable economies; combat the trade in endangered species; sustainably manage natural seascapes and landscapes; mainstream biodiversity considerations; and reduce the environmental fallout from resource extraction.

"The one UN agency that is absolutely critical to us as we fight this crisis is in fact the United Nations Environment Programme."

MIA MOTTLEY
Prime Minister of Barbados



Chemicals and Pollution Action: UNEP works closely with governments, industry and civil society organizations to limit the destructive impact of pollution. Our programmes are helping to counter the degradation of the Earth from plastic, nitrogen, mercury and a range of other toxic substances, including persistent organic pollutants. UNEP is also focused on limiting air pollution, the greatest environmental risk to human health. We are working to upend the culture of waste that pervades many societies to create more circular economies and lessen the toll of industries such as electronics, plastics and food production.

UNEP, PAST AND PRESENT

UNEP was founded in 1972 to help address the world's most-pressing environmental challenges. Since then, it has produced cutting-edge science, advised governments on planet-friendly policies, helped nations forge environmental accords and showcased the importance of the natural world to the public.



“(UNEP has) an indispensable role in the promotion of environmental sustainability globally, as well as in developing socially and environmentally sound and sustainable cities.”

WILLIAM RUTO
President of Kenya

1973

States sign an agreement to regulate, and in some cases ban, the trade of more than 38,000 animals and plants, including a host of endangered species. UNEP has administered the pact for nearly 40 years.

The UN General Assembly creates the Environment Fund, UNEP's core source of flexible financing.

1987

After more than a decade of work by UNEP (and other UN agencies) the world adopts a landmark treaty to save the ozone layer, preventing the Earth from being bombarded by deadly UV rays.

1991

UNEP and partners launch the Global Environment Facility, which has helped marshal more than US\$140 billion in funding for some 5,000 environment-related projects.

2013

States adopt a global treaty to rein in the use of mercury, a toxic chemical used in everything from cosmetics to gold mining. UNEP hosts the convention's secretariat.

2022

UN Member States agree on a resolution to end plastic pollution. UNEP is hosting the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee charged with developing a legally binding instrument that turns the resolution into action.

States sign a sprawling agreement to protect the web of life on Earth through 2030 and beyond. The pact falls under the auspices of the Convention on Biological Diversity, which is hosted by UNEP.

1988

UNEP and the World Meteorological Organization launch the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to provide authoritative science on the state of the climate crisis. The panel would win a Nobel Prize in 2007.

1997

UNEP releases the first Global Environmental Outlook, an ambitious report that examines the state of the planet. Today, it combines with the annual Emissions Gap and Adaptation Gap reports to provide a scientific basis for policy action.

2021

The global sale of leaded fuel for passenger vehicles officially comes to an end following a 20-year campaign backed by UNEP. The fuel's demise saves an estimated 1.2 million lives annually.

WHAT WILL THE THREE THEMATIC FUNDS DO?

Here is a closer look at what donations to the three funds will support.

Climate Stability:

- Provide policy-relevant science that measures how close countries are progressing towards net zero emissions and how prepared they are for changes to the climate;
- Offer policy support and capacity building to national governments, helping them to live up to their commitments under the Paris Agreement;
- Promote technologies and business models that help states reduce emissions and adapt to extreme weather, like droughts, floods and storms;
- Help people reduce their greenhouse gas footprint and adopt more sustainable lifestyles.

Living in Harmony with Nature:

- Produce the science and data necessary to support policies that protect and restore nature;
- Help countries develop the laws they need to live up to their obligations under a host of Multilateral Environmental Agreements, including those designed to safeguard biodiversity
- Support financing mechanisms that roll back biodiversity loss, relieve pressure on nature and create green jobs;
- Scale up the development of sustainable technologies.

Towards a Pollution-Free Planet:

- Generate science and knowledge to inform on the impact of pollution and waste on the environment;
- Build the capacity of states to meet their obligations to reduce the release of pollutants into the air, soil and water, improving health and human well-being;
- Showcase the true cost of pollution, encouraging companies and governments to redirect investments to cleaner economic activities;
- Spur the development of more circular economies where useful products and materials are reused instead of thrown away.



“The United Nations – two of the most important words in any language – are more important now than they have ever been.”

DAVID ATTENBOROUGH
Naturalist and presenter

WHY DONATE TO UNEP?

With its experience, expertise, dynamic programmes, forward-thinking strategy and 1,300 dedicated staff, UNEP is uniquely positioned to be your partner on the journey towards planetary sustainability.

We have a 50-plus-year track record of success, spearheading everything from the effort to save the ozone layer to the campaign against deadly leaded fuels. When you invest in UNEP, you are supporting an organization with robust reporting, low overhead costs, advanced due diligence practices and the checks and balances that only come with multilateral governance.

HOW TO DONATE TO UNEP

For information on contributing to UNEP, please contact the UNEP Secretariat of the Thematic Funds at unep-csd-thematicfunds@un.org

