



Environmental Governance

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A. Background: Programme Direction

Programme Objective:

Support countries to develop and effectively implement strong and coherent laws and policies to achieve environmental goals in the context of sustainable development.

Programme Outcomes:

1. Strengthened laws and policies
2. Strengthened institutional capacities
3. Uptake of common and integrated approaches

Key areas of work:

- Legal frameworks and policies (e.g. Montevideo)
- Institutional strengthening and capacities to implement (e.g ACP MEAs)
- Coherent decision-making (e.g. EMG)
- Engagement with MEAs (e.g. Treaties Programme)
- Science-policy interfaces.
- UN sustainability (SUN)



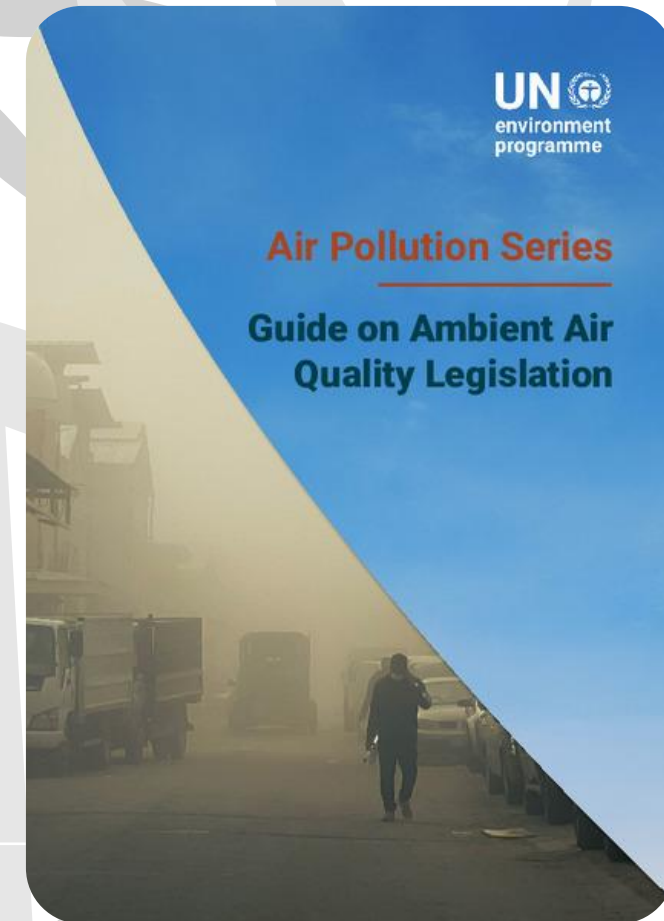
A. Background: Envisaged Impact and Strategic Coherence

Envisaged impact of programme:

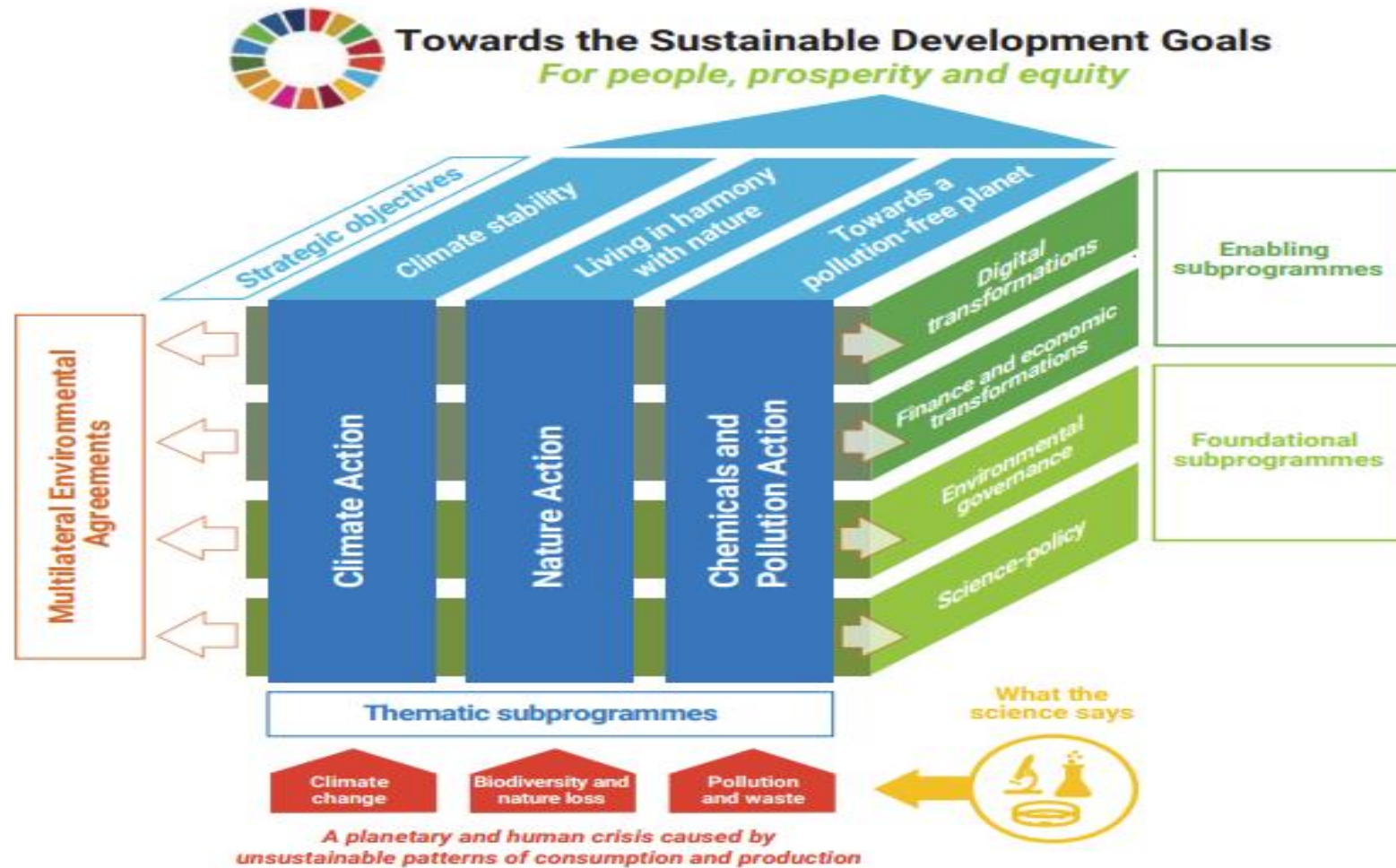
Strong policy, legal and institutional frameworks increasingly achieve environmental goals in the context of sustainable development.

Synergies with other programmes within MTS:

- Adaptation and Resilience.
- Decarbonization.
- Science and Transparency.
- Conservation and Restoration.
- Biodiversity Mainstreaming.
- Governance and Accountability.
- Towards Zero Waste.
- Circularity in Sectors.
- Pollution and Health.
- Science for Policy and Action.
- Finance and Economic Transformations.
- Digital Transformations.



A. Background: Contribution to MTS and PoW



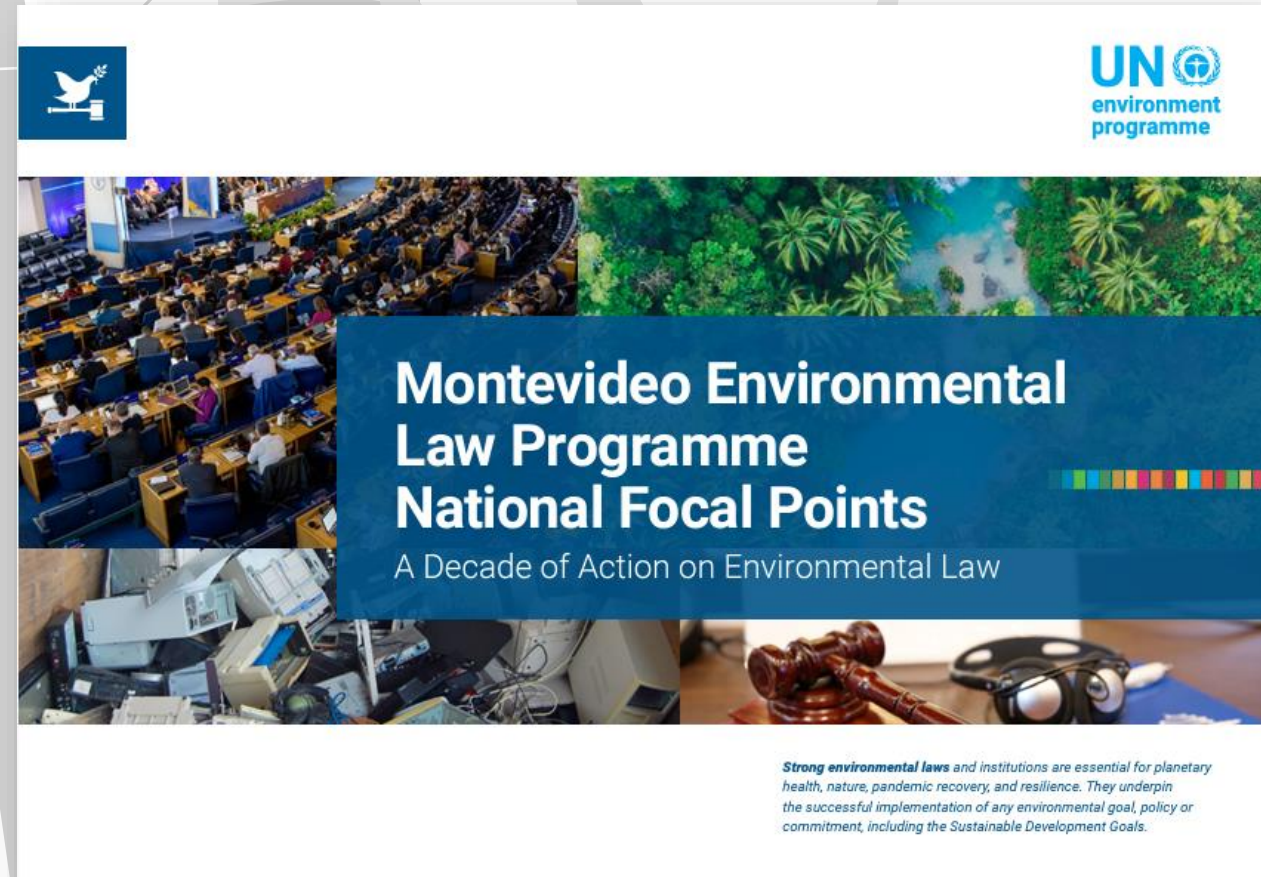
B. Project Portfolio: Overview

Description of Project Portfolio:

- 21 cross-cutting projects/programmes in the portfolio managed by different Divisions/Offices
- \$205.7 million (\$93 million OzonAction)

Examples:

- Progressive Development and Implementation of Environmental Law – Delivering Montevideo Programme V.
- Capacity building related to MEAs in African, Caribbean and Pacific Countries (ACP MEAs 3).
- InforMEA IV – Collective Intelligence for Environmental Governance.
- Leveraging transformational change through coherent and synergistic implementation of Environmental Treaties.
- Faith For Earth Initiative.
- Environment Management Group.
- Sustainable UN Facility 2022-2025.



The image shows the cover of a report titled "Montevideo Environmental Law Programme National Focal Points: A Decade of Action on Environmental Law". The cover features a collage of images: a large conference hall, a tropical landscape with a river, a desk with a computer monitor, and a gavel. The UN Environment Programme logo is in the top right corner. A quote at the bottom states: "Strong environmental laws and institutions are essential for planetary health, nature, pandemic recovery, and resilience. They underpin the successful implementation of any environmental goal, policy or commitment, including the Sustainable Development Goals."

UN
environment
programme

Montevideo Environmental Law Programme National Focal Points

A Decade of Action on Environmental Law

Strong environmental laws and institutions are essential for planetary health, nature, pandemic recovery, and resilience. They underpin the successful implementation of any environmental goal, policy or commitment, including the Sustainable Development Goals.

B. Project Portfolio: Overview

Project Name	Status	Type	Start Date	End Date	Project Manager
1 Effective National Implementation of Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) in accordance with the Nagoya Protocol and	Ongoing	GEF Project	07/05/2019	31/12/2024	Emilie Vauchel
2 Scaling Up Actions to Realize Synergies for Biodiversity	Ongoing	PRC Approved Project	01/03/2022	31/12/2024	Ms. Diane Klaimi
3 Driving Public and Private Capital Towards Green and Social Investments in Indonesia	Ongoing	PRC Approved Project	27/07/2021	31/12/2024	Mr. Jonathan Gilman
4 Ratification and Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol for the member countries of the Central African Forests	Ongoing	GEF Project	25/05/2015	01/04/2025	Ms. Tita Karvenoja
5 Saudi Arabia Environment sustainability Programme	Ongoing	PRC Approved Project	04/06/2020	30/05/2025	Mr. Ayman Eltalouny
6 PPP: Developing a project on Strengthening environmental resilience and governance to enhance institutional	Ongoing	PPP	01/09/2024	31/08/2025	Ms. Marisol Estrella
7 Capacity support for accession to and implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization in South Sudan	Ongoing	GEF Project	09/01/2022	24/12/2025	Ms. Monipher Musasa
8 OzonAction Programme	Ongoing	Programme	19/06/1991	30/12/2025	Mr. James Curlin
9 African Elephant Fund	Ongoing	Programmme	01/03/2000	30/12/2025	Ms. Tita Karvenoja
10 Regional Management Project - West Asia	Ongoing	Corporate project	20/06/2024	31/12/2025	Mr. Abdul Majeid Haddad
11 Regional Management Project - Latin America	Ongoing	Corporate project	21/06/2024	31/12/2025	Ms. Andrea Brusco
12 Regional Management Project - Europe	Ongoing	Corporate project	20/06/2024	31/12/2025	Mr. Mahir Aliyev
13 Regional Management Project - Asia Pacific	Ongoing	Corporate project	20/06/2024	31/12/2025	Mr. Jonathan Gilman
14 Regional Management Project - Africa	Ongoing	Corporate project	20/06/2024	31/12/2025	Ms. Divya Datt
15 UNEP-GEF Project for sustainable capacity building for effective implementation in the BCH	Ongoing	GEF Project	28/09/2016	31/12/2025	Alex Owusu Biney
16 ACP MEAs 3 Programme	Ongoing	PRC Approved Project	09/01/2020	31/12/2025	Ms. Monipher Musasa
17 Sustainable UN Facility 2022 - 2025	Ongoing	PRC Approved Project	01/03/2022	28/02/2026	Ms. Rie Tsutsumi
18 Collective Intelligence for Environmental Governance (InforMEA Phase IV)	Ongoing	PRC Approved Project	06/11/2023	05/05/2026	Ms. Angela Kariuki
19 Leveraging transformational change through coherent and synergistic implementation of Environmental Treaties.	Ongoing	PRC Approved Project	01/06/2023	30/06/2026	Ms. Diane Klaimi
20 Environment Management Group	Ongoing	PRC Approved Project	06/09/2022	17/07/2026	Ms. Jannica Pitkanen
21 Progressive Development and Implementation of Environmental Law – Delivering Montevideo Programme V	Ongoing	PRC Approved Project	01/01/2023	31/12/2026	Mr. Gracian Banda

B. Project Portfolio: Illustrative Examples

Delivering Montevideo (2023-2025)

- US\$11 million.
- Aims at strengthening laws, institutions, and associated capacity, and encouraging collaboration and coordination, and promoting environmental rule of law at national, regional, and global levels to address the triple planetary crises.
- UNEP Law and Environment Assistance Platform (UNEP LEAP).
- Four outcomes (climate, nature, pollution, cross-cutting).

ACP MEAs III Programme (2019 – 2025)

- US\$18 million.
- Aims to build capacity of 79 countries in Africa, Caribbean, and the Pacific (ACP) to implement MEAs (biodiversity, chemicals and waste and oceans).
- Has substantively contributed to a long-term institutionalization of MEA commitments and their implementation in the target countries by enhancing capacities at all levels.



B. Project Portfolio: Illustrative Examples

Environmental Treaties Programme (2017-2024)

- Phase I US\$ 3 million; Phase II US\$1.5 million.
- Aims at accelerating progress towards climate stability, nature action and pollution mitigation through enhanced policy coherence, synergies, and cooperation between the MEAs globally and at national level.
- Facilitated the Bern Process on synergies for effective implementation of the Kunming-Montreal GBF.
- Development of integrated knowledge tools such as the Data reporting tool (DaRT) for alignment with NBSAPs and reporting to MEAs.



B. Project Portfolio: Illustrative Examples

Environment Management Group

- US\$3.5 million.
- Internally implemented by UNEP and the broader UN family.
- Aims at promoting the integration of environmental issues in the policies, programs and management of the United Nations system and coherence in the implementation of the environmental dimensions of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Sustainable UN Facility 2022 – 2025

- US\$5.9 million.
- Internally implemented by UNEP and the broader UN family
- Aims at supporting implementation of policy and practices which reduce the UN system's impact on climate, biodiversity, and pollution in line with the 2030 goals.



C. Results Achieved

Strengthened laws and institutions

- 50 countries supported in developing legislation in areas on pollution, climate change and biodiversity.
- 55 capacity building initiatives on Montevideo priorities.
- 40 countries trained in negotiation skills and effective engagement in adoption of new international instruments (e.g. KM- GBF, BBNJ).
- 20 guidance materials, tool kits and model laws to assist countries and regional bodies in developing regulatory frameworks.
- Strengthened capacities of 70 national authorities in 3 ACP regions for effective implementation of MEAs.

Strengthened coherence in decision making and collective intelligence

- UNEP Law and Environment Assistance Platform launched.
- The Bern Process strengthened cooperation between 16 biodiversity/chemicals related conventions and Rio conventions, including parties, secretariats and stakeholders mapped with the GBF.
- DaRT established 150 national integrated digital working spaces and 45 countries received capacity building workshops.



C. Results Achieved

Strengthened institutions and capacities

- Strengthened capacity of judges and judicial institutions to adjudicate environmental cases.
- Two global reports on Environmental Rule of Law published.
- Three global reports on status of climate litigation published.
- Two ACP MEAs Partners selected as regional support centres to facilitate technical and scientific cooperation.
- 67 activities completed since the start of the African Elephant Fund.

Strengthened coherence in decision making and collective intelligence

- Launch of Handbook on Policy Coherence for SDG Indicator 17.14.1 at 2024 HLPF.
- InforMEA.
- Judicial Portal for the Global Judicial Institute on the Environment launched.
- The MEA Day organized in UNEA-6 under the agenda item on “Cooperation with MEAs”.



Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development Handbook on indicator 17.14.1 of the Sustainable Development Goals

C. Results Achieved

Advanced human rights obligations relating to a healthy environment

- Supported GA resolution 76/300.
- UN Guidance Note on Environmental Human Rights Defenders published.
- Collaborated with the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child to support the development of General Comment No. 26, which addresses children's rights related to the environment.
- Supported the establishment of an NHRI climate caucus.
- MOU with OHCHR.

Future generations

UNEP co-led the development of the UN System Common Principles on Future Generations.

Faith for Earth

Co-hosted a Global Faith Leaders' Summit leading up to the adoption of the Abu Dhabi Interfaith Statement.

Support to Regional Ministerial Fora

Support to different ministerial forums on the environment including the 19th AMCEN session which adopted the Addis Ababa Declaration in 2023 and the XXIII Meeting of the forum of Ministers of LAC in 2023, which adopted the San Jose Declaration.



D. Lessons Learned

Lessons Learned:

- Need for closer integration across the portfolio to ensure synergies and avoid any duplication, including with MEAs.
- Need for continuous engagement with other UN entities to advance environmental rule of law.
- Continued engagement with MEAs secretariats/parties through the MEAs cooperation agenda item in UNEAs and UNEA resolutions on MEAs synergies.



Changes Made:

- Improved coordination across project teams, but more to be done.
- Increased investment in additional P3 posts Law Division.
- Continuous outreach to other UN entities leading to more widespread adoption of environmental rule of law.

E. Way Forward

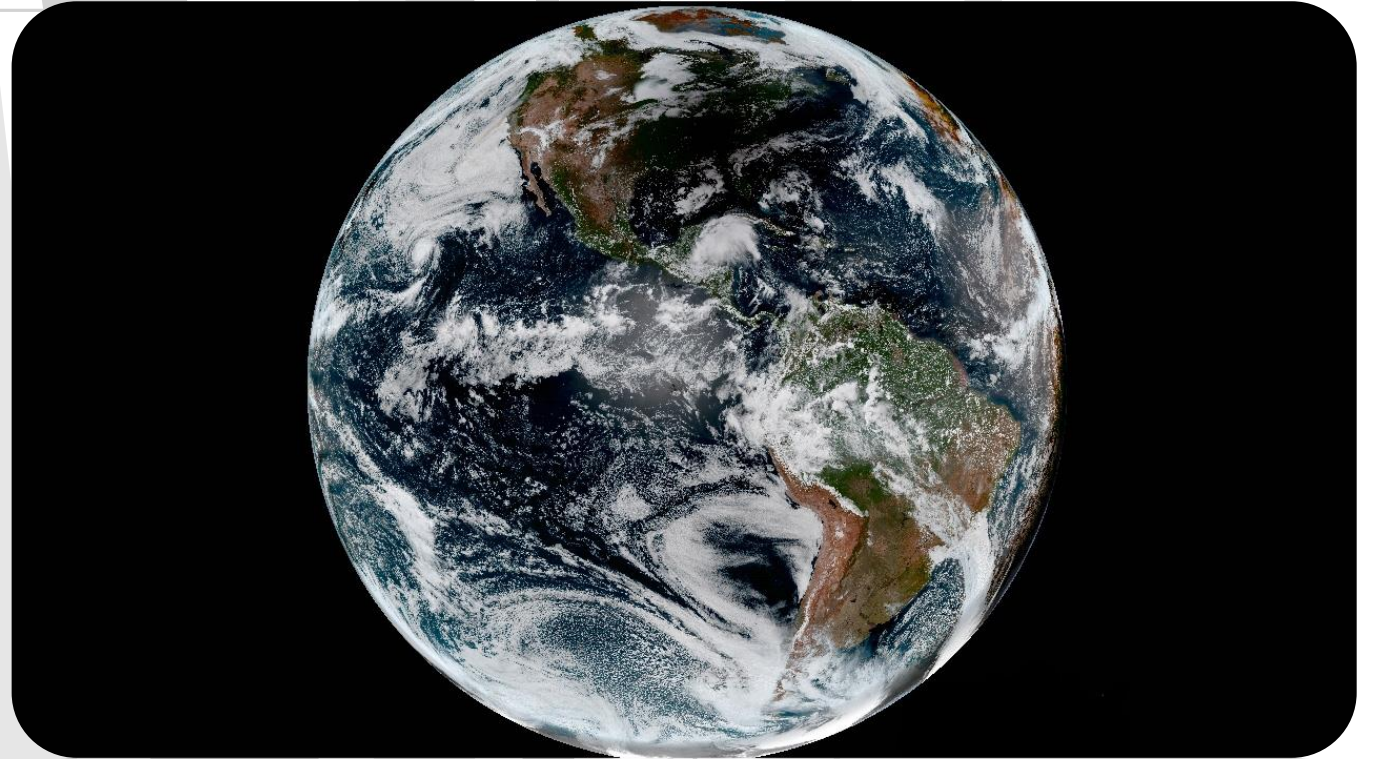
A: Expanding partnerships with environmental governance stakeholders.

B: Thought-leadership investment to engage in emerging issues.

C: Strengthen internal partnerships and coordination for joint initiatives (e.g. chemicals regulation, textiles).

D: Strengthen external partnerships for flagship initiatives and resource mobilization.

E: Explore consolidation of projects to enhance synergies.



Thank you

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