

UN

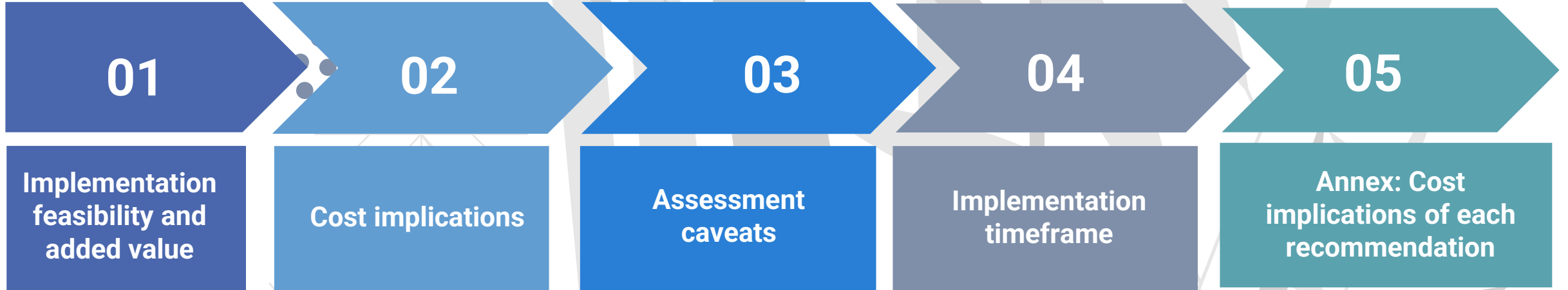
environment programme

Internal validation:

Assessment of cost implications of proposed recommendations emanating from the 11th Annual Subcommittee Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives



Contents



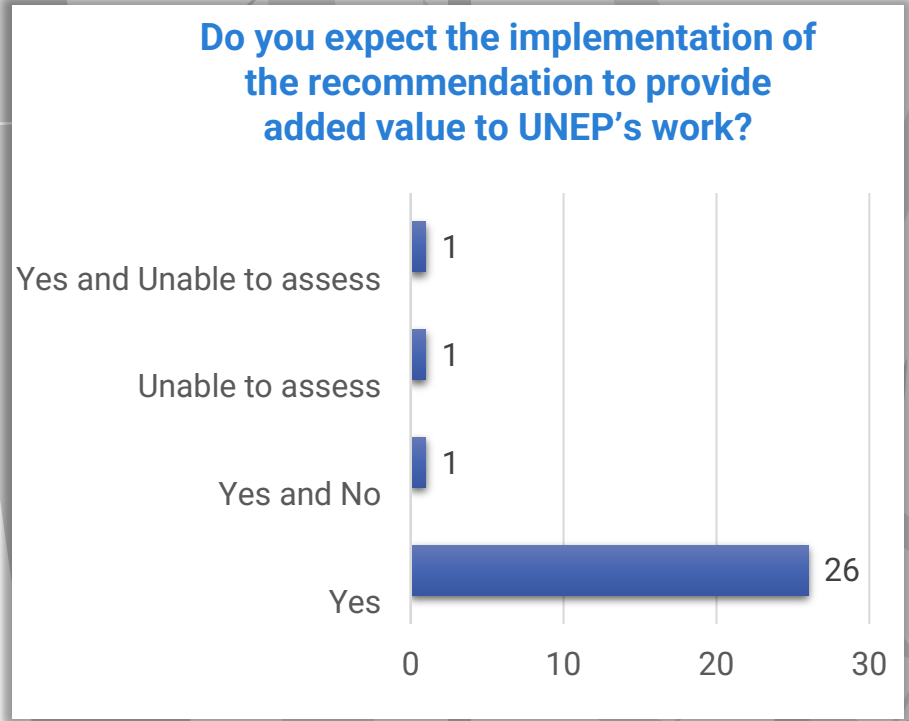
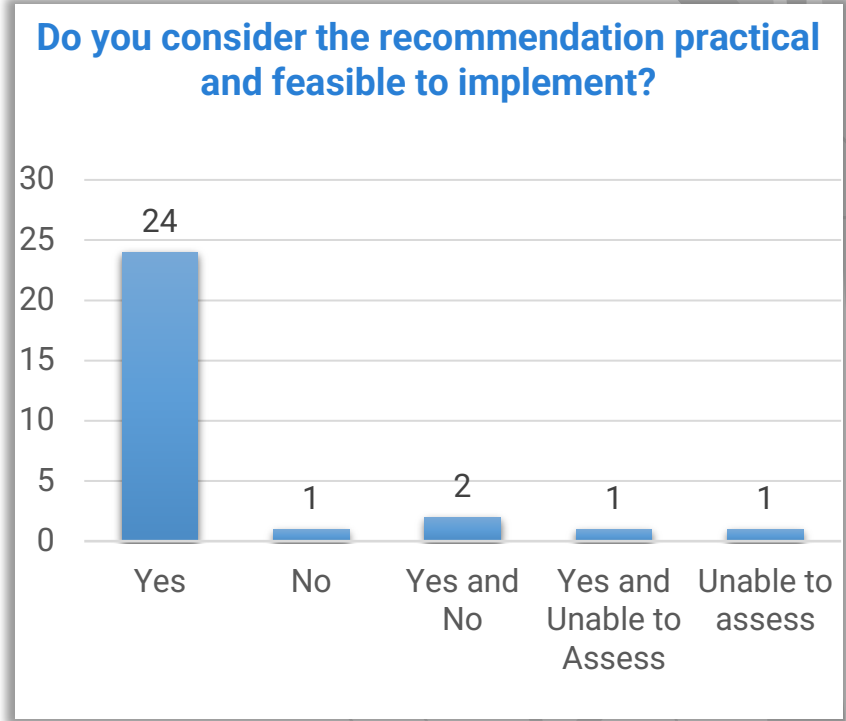
Cost assessments were undertaken by designated Divisions and Regional Offices for each recommendation and subsequently cleared by the pertinent Director(s) prior to submission.

**Responsible Division/Office for cost assessments:
(see Annex for responsible entity by recommendation)**

- Corporate Services Division (CSD)
- Early Warning and Assessment Division (EWAD)
- Ecosystems Division
- Environment Management Group (EMG) Secretariat
- Evaluation Office
- Governance Affairs Office (GAO)
- Industry and Economy Division (IED)
- Law Division
- Policy and Programme Division (PPD)
- Regional Office for Africa (ROA)
- Regional Office for Asia Pacific (ROAP)
- Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (ROLAC)



1. Implementation feasibility and added value

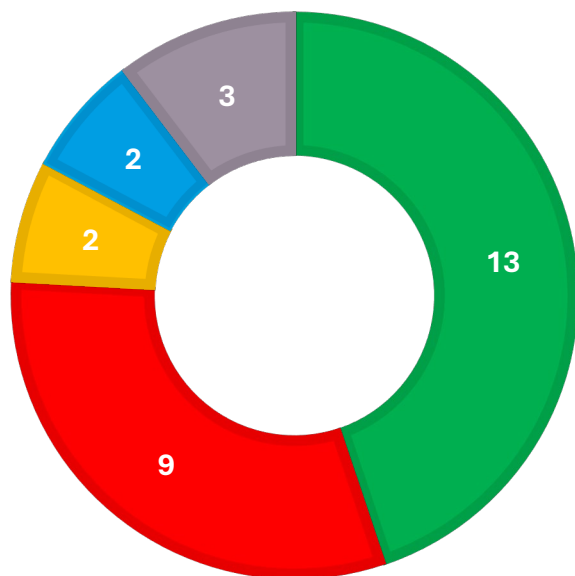


Over 80% of recs: practical and feasible to implement and will add value to UNEP's work.

A vast desert landscape with rolling sand dunes under a bright sun in a hazy sky. The sun is positioned in the upper left quadrant, casting a warm glow over the scene. The dunes are layered, creating a sense of depth and perspective. The overall color palette is dominated by soft blues and oranges, giving it a serene and expansive feel.

2. Cost Implications

Can the recommendation be implemented within existing resources?



■ Yes

■ No

■ Yes and No

■ Yes and Unable to determine

■ Unable to determine

13 proposed recommendations can be implemented within existing resources.

11 proposed recommendations carry additional cost implications.

5 proposed recommendations: unable to determine whether they can be implemented within existing resources.

A vast desert landscape with rolling sand dunes under a bright sun in a hazy sky. The sun is positioned in the upper left quadrant, casting a warm glow over the scene. The dunes are layered, creating a sense of depth and perspective. The overall color palette is dominated by soft blues and oranges, giving it a serene and ethereal feel.

3. Assessment caveats

1

Complex exercise – first instance of such an undertaking by UNEP.

2

Some proposed recommendations may not fall within the mandate of the CPR.

3

Some recommendations are vaguely worded.

4

Comprehensive cost-assessment may require additional resources.

5

Staff cost time has not been factored in for recs where UNEP has indicated no additional cost.

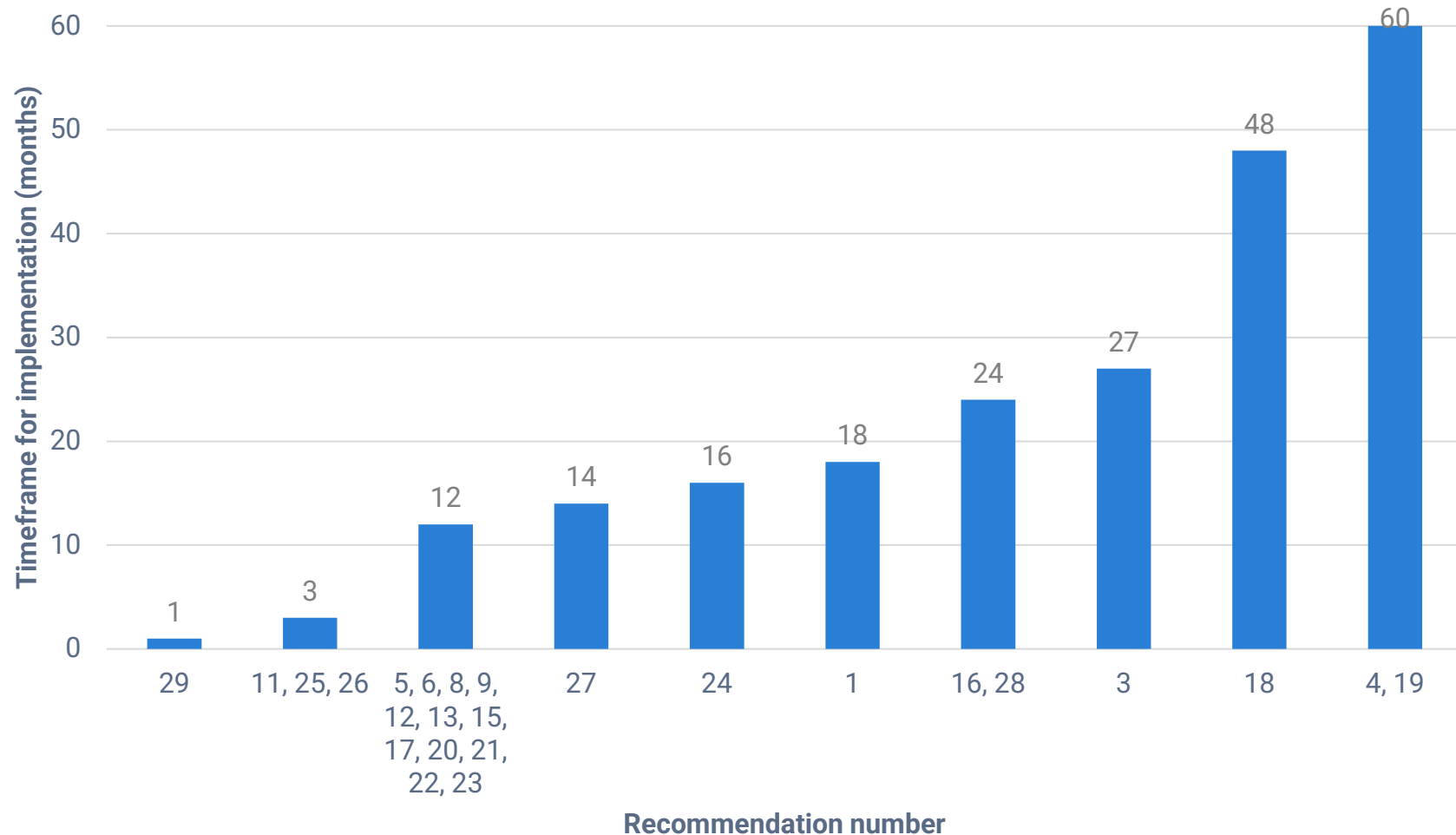
6

For some recs, UNEP is unable to determine if there are any additional cost implications.

A desert landscape with sand dunes under a bright sun, overlaid with a blue gradient. The sun is in the upper left, and the dunes stretch across the horizon. The text "4. Implementation timeframe" is centered in white with a slight shadow.

4. Implementation timeframe

Estimated numbers of months needed to implement the recommendation



- 21 recs have timeframes ranging from 1-2 years.
- 3 recs have timeframes ranging from 4-5 years.
- 2 recs (# 2, 29) are under implementation.
- 5 recs (#10, 11, 12, 16, 20) are partially or fully of an open-ended / recurring nature.
- 1 rec (#7) can only be implemented from 2026 onwards.
- 1 rec (#14) has no timeframe specified.



5. Annex

Annex: Cost implications of each recommendation

| No | Proposed Recommendation (entity undertaking cost assessment indicated in brackets) | Additional cost implication | Timeframe to implement | Feasibility* and added value** | Supplementary narrative |
|----|--|--|-----------------------------------|--|---|
| 1 | Requests the Secretariat to identify challenges and explore opportunities to enhance sustainable finance for climate adaptation, for biodiversity action and the implementation of the KM-GBF and for pollution action. (IED) | Yes | 18 months | <div style="background-color: #00b050; color: white; padding: 2px;">Practical & feasible: Yes</div> <div style="background-color: #00b050; color: white; padding: 2px;">Added Value: Yes</div> | |
| 2 | Requests that the Secretariat strive to avoid duplication with other science policy processes such as IPCC and IPBES, IRP, the future panel whose establishment was called for in UNEA 5/8 and the subsidiary body of relevant MEAs, when developing the GEO-7. (EWAD) | Can be implemented within existing resources | Currently executing GEO 7 | <div style="background-color: #00b050; color: white; padding: 2px;">Practical & feasible: Yes</div> <div style="background-color: #00b050; color: white; padding: 2px;">Added Value: Yes</div> | |
| 3 | Welcomes the proposed changes to strengthen delivery of the MTS through its programmes on Pollution and Health, Towards Zero Waste and Circularity in Sectors and requests the Secretariat to increase efforts on circularity, sustainable patterns of consumption and production and health with full respect of the mandates of UNEP and WHO. (IED) | Yes | 27 months | <div style="background-color: #666666; color: white; padding: 2px;">Practical & feasible: Unable to assess</div> <div style="background-color: #00b050; color: white; padding: 2px;">Added Value: Yes</div> | Health dimension: Financial resources to support WHO-led efforts; implementation of outcomes from regional interministerial fora; development of cost of inaction; dedicated P3/P4. Circularity in waste sector: guidance; thematic studies; exchange of good practices; waste related circularity action; two P-4s. Circularity and SCP in high impact sectors: P3/P4; assessment of health implications. |
| 4 | Recommends that the new POW and MTS reaffirms and highlights the work of UNEP's Foundational Subprogrammes (Science-Policy and Environmental Governance), ensuring that concrete results and defined actions are implemented and also recommends that the Secretariat allocates sufficient budget and reinvigorates the efforts to mobilize resources for the foundational subprogrammes. (EWAD, Law) | Yes (EWAD – Science Policy) | 60 months (EWAD - Science Policy) | <div style="background-color: #ff0000; color: white; padding: 2px;">Practical & feasible: No (SP); Yes (EG)</div> <div style="background-color: #00b050; color: white; padding: 2px;">Added Value: Yes (SP & EG)</div> | |

* Do you consider the recommendation practical and feasible to implement? ** Do you expect the implementation of the recommendation to provide added value to UNEP's work?

Annex: Cost implications of each recommendation

| No | Proposed Recommendation (entity undertaking cost assessment indicated in brackets) | Additional cost implication | Timeframe to implement | Feasibility* and added value** | Supplementary narrative on additional costs |
|----|---|--|---------------------------------|---|--|
| 5 | Reiterates UNEA decision 6/7 that the new MTS is prepared through open, transparent and inclusive consultation with Member States and fully taking into account the views of Member States. (PPD) | Can be implemented within existing resources | 12 months | Practical & feasible: Yes Added Value: Yes | Consultant fee for facilitating discussions with Member States, generating reports, and providing recommendations to the Secretariat. |
| 6 | Requests the Secretariat to consistently include in all future iterations of the Programme Performance Report an overview of challenges, opportunities and lessons learned for all sub-programmes, management and financial matters. Lessons learnt should be strategic and analytic and relate to both context and partners, as well as to programmatic and institutional lessons as relevant for UNEP to improve its operations and performance. (PPD) | Can be implemented within existing resources | 12 months | Practical & feasible: Yes Added Value: Yes | Additional resources could improve the quality and speed of the consultation process, ensuring it remains open, transparent, and inclusive. |
| 7 | Requests the Secretariat to present at a future CPR Subcommittee meeting changes it will make in the implementation of the programme of work and budget for the period 2024-2025 following the lessons learned and the inputs provided at the 11 th ASC meeting. (PPD) | Unable to determine | PoW and MTS for 2026 onwards. | Practical & feasible: No Added Value: Unable to assess | The pro-rated programme of Work 2024-2025 is already an UNEA decision and therefore there is limited flexibility to make any substantive changes. Any assessments or changes realized would likely not be realized until mid-2025 when UNEP would already be close to the completion of the 2024-2025 PoW. It would make more sense to undertake the factoring in of the lessons learned as part of the development of the MTS and PoW for 2026 onwards. |
| 8 | Recommends the Secretariat to better integrate and link information on policy work, results, available financial resources and expenditures in future Program Performance Reports. (PPD) | Can be implemented within existing resources | 12 months | Practical & feasible: Yes Added Value: Yes | None specified. |
| 9 | Recommends that the Secretariat briefs the CPR Subcommittee on geographical distribution and on an updated Gender Strategy, as well as on the implementation of the evaluation recommendations regarding gender. (CSD & PPD) | Yes | 12 months (for gender strategy) | Practical & feasible: Yes Added Value: Yes | |

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Annex: Cost implications of each recommendation

| No | Proposed Recommendation (entity undertaking cost assessment indicated in brackets) | Additional cost implication | Timeframe to implement | Feasibility* and added value** | Supplementary narrative |
|--|--|--|--|---|--|
| 10 | Requests the Secretariat to accelerate action and increase ambition in restoring degraded lands, building drought resilience and promoting sustainable land management practices. (Ecosystems) | Unable to determine | Ongoing | Practical & feasible: Yes Added Value: Yes | The work currently undertaken by UNEP regarding restoring degraded land, building drought resilience and promoting sustainable land management practices have mainly been undertaken through the secretariat of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration and the GEF land degradation portfolio. The acceleration of action and increased ambition as requested by the recommendation are underlying objectives of the Decade and of the GEF projects, but we are unable to determine at this stage whether this will be sufficient to fully implement the recommendation. |
| 11 | Requests the Secretariat to follow up on the decision of the CPR to include evaluations and audits, as a standing item on the agenda of the quarterly meetings of the CPR and to present in preparation for the CPR quarterly meetings, the relevant audit and evaluations reports, including related management responses, to a CPR subcommittee meeting for review and possible recommendations. (CSD & Evaluation) | Unable to determine (Audit) Can be implemented within existing resources (Evaluation) | Audit: Not specified Evaluation: 3 months | Practical & feasible: Yes (Audit & Evaluation) Added Value: unable to assess (Audit); Yes (Evaluation) | Audit: Presenting to the Sub-Committee meetings and the Quarterly meetings can be performed within current resources. Additional resources may be needed in the future to establish a permanent staff position in order to sustain this exercise. |
| 12 | Requests the Secretariat to prioritize the implementation of all outstanding recommendations contained in audits, investigations and evaluation reports. (CSD & Evaluation) (no inputs received on investigations) | Yes (Audit) Unable to determine (Evaluation) | 12 months to show any improved implementation but continuously over coming years (Audit) | Practical & feasible: No (Audit); Yes (Evaluation) Added Value: No (Audit); Yes (Evaluation) | Audit: The additional costs are based on estimate of consultancy contracts of about 6 months to support in specific audit recommendation implementations (this does not cover investigation and evaluation). Implementation of audit recommendations has already been prioritized for the last couple of years and results are now evident from the reduction in open recommendations. Evaluation: Some recommendations will inevitably have cost implications associated with their implementation – this cannot be estimated in advance. |
| 13 | Requests the Secretariat to develop concrete steps to improve on the Executive Direction and Management performance related indicators and present them during a future subcommittee meeting of the CPR. (PPD) | Yes | 12 months | Practical & feasible: Yes Added Value: Yes | Contracting of consultant to assess underlying factors contributing to under-performance on certain EDM indicators and delineating time-bound remedial measures that can be taken by responsible entities to address them. |
| * Do you consider the recommendation practical and feasible to implement? ** Do you expect the implementation of the recommendation to provide added value to UNEP's work? | | | | | |

Annex: Cost implications of each recommendation

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|----|---|--|--------------------------------|--|--|
| 14 | Reiterates the decision of the CPR at its 164th meeting (164/1, paragraph 4) on prevention on sexual exploitation and abuse, and sexual harassment. (CSD) | Unable to determine | None specified | Practical & feasible: Yes Added Value: Yes | Regarding the recommendation, this work is being conducted in coordination with UN Headquarters. Therefore, we need to cross-check before estimating any costs. |
| 15 | Strongly encourages UNEP to strengthen the 'likelihood of impact', 'achievement of project outcomes' and 'sustainability' dimensions of projects. (PPD) | Yes | 6-12 months | Practical & feasible: Yes Added Value: Yes | To implement the recommendation, additional support in the form of a consultancy is needed to systematically extract, monitor and analyse components of the project documents including project objectives and the associated indicators, relevance of UNEP's comparative advantages, sustainability and the progress of project performances including the achievements of set outcomes. The consultant should also establish a robust tracking system, set parameters to assess the impact of projects, identify lessons learned and make recommendations for areas of improvement to strengthen and scale up the impact of UNEP projects and the related interventions. |
| 16 | Encourages UNEP to strengthen institutional learning through strong feedback loops between evaluations and the development of new policies and project designs. (Evaluation Office, PPD) | Can be implemented within existing resources (Evaluation) | Open-ended (Evaluation) | Practical & feasible: Unable to assess (Evaluation) Practical & feasible: Yes (PPD) | Evaluation: The recommendation has no specific 'end point' when UNEP will be able to say this has been implemented. Institutional learning will always be an ongoing need. |
| | | Yes (PPD) | 12-24 months (PPD) | Added Value: Yes (Evaluation and PPD) | PPD: Additional support in the form of a consultancy is needed to formulate business requirements and work with relevant colleagues in the enterprise solution team to establish a digital platform to support systematic monitoring and generating analytics through interactive dashboards in analyzing project design and development related findings/recommendations of evaluations including corporate level evaluations of Subprogramme and PCPs, the mid-term and terminal project evaluations as well as management-led reviews, the related management responses and status of implementations in collaboration with the Evaluation Office. The consultant should also identify lessons learned and make recommendations for areas of improvement to contribute to the development of new policies and corporate quality assurance mechanism as well as to support the continuously learning initiative of the project management engagement series for all UNEP project management personnels. |

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Annex: Cost implications of each recommendation

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|----|---|--|--|---|--|
| 17 | Invites the EMG Secretariat to work with the EMG members to consider the topic of land degradation and desertification for a possible Common Approach. Further invites the EMG to consider the topic of climate change within existing Common Approaches or alternatively consider the development of a UN Common Approach to Climate. (EMG Secretariat) | Can be implemented within existing resources | 12 months | Practical & feasible: Yes Added Value: Yes | None specified |
| 18 | Recommends that the UN Common Approaches be integrated within the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks at country level. (Ecosystems, IED) | Yes | 48 months (Design of UNSDCF - given that each covers 4 years period) Ongoing (Implementation of UNSDCF) | Practical & feasible: Yes Added Value: Yes | Support to UNSDCF design: An average of 15 UNCTs in 15 countries per year will be assisted to integrate the UN Common approaches (Cas) into UNSDCFs. The cost estimate includes support for workshops/seminars (online and in person as appropriate) including travel and technical support. The travel cost estimate is based on the assumption that in 7 out of 15 targeted countries one in person meeting will be conducted annually. This will include the travels of one UNEP UNCT Focal point and 2 technical staff (one with biodiversity experience and one with chemicals and pollution expertise). The estimate for technical support is based on the contractual cost for 5 IUNV (one in each of UNEP Regional offices). Support to rolling out CAs implementation: An average of 3 countries in 5 UNEP regions (total 15) will be supported in CAs implementation. The cost estimate includes contractual cost, implementing partners grants cost, in country travel and operational costs totaling over four years. |
| 19 | Requests the Secretariat, in the context of the UNDS Reform, to ensure optimal use of the EMG and the comparative advantages of other UN entities for mainstreaming environmental approaches throughout the UN system. (EMG Secretariat) | Yes | 60 months (until 2030) | Practical & feasible: Yes Added Value: Yes | Costs are expected to arise in relation to consultancy services, the development of technical tools and practical guidance and the enabling of knowledge sharing with a view to support environmental mainstreaming at country level through UN Common Approaches. The estimate is based on envisaged interventions in five regions over five years. |

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Annex: Cost implications of each recommendations

| No | Proposed Recommendation (entity undertaking cost assessment indicated in brackets) | Additional cost implication | Timeframe to implement | Feasibility* and added value** | Supplementary narrative |
|----|---|--|--|---|---|
| 20 | Highlights the importance of regular briefings on the work of the EMG in the future CPR subcommittee meetings. (EMG Secretariat, GAO) | Can be implemented within existing resources | EMG: every 12 months (once per year) (EMG); GAO: Three months | Practical & feasible: Yes (EMG & GAO) Added Value: Yes (EMG & GAO) | None specified. |
| 21 | Requests the Secretariat to revise the roadmap to better reflect involvement of Member States in the development of the draft MTS, including through subcommittee meetings and other type of meetings. (PPD) | Can be implemented within existing resources | 12 months | Practical & feasible: Yes Added Value: Yes | Additional resources could improve the quality and speed of the consultation process, ensuring it remains open, transparent, and inclusive. |
| 22 | Requests the Secretariat to fully reflect the implementation of the outcomes of UNEA in the draft MTS. (PPD) | Can be implemented within existing resources | 12 months | Practical & feasible: Yes Added Value: Yes | Additional resources could improve the quality and speed of the consultation process, ensuring it remains open, transparent, and inclusive. |
| 23 | Requests the Secretariat to focus the draft MTS on the full range of environmental challenges, including desertification and land degradation. (Ecosystems) | Yes | 12 months | Practical & feasible: Yes Added Value: Yes | Organize a workshop of Land Degradation experts and practitioners to develop recommendations on how desertification and land degradation are fully captured in the draft MTS. |
| 24 | Welcomes the results of the lessons learned from new evaluations and audits and requests the Secretariat to include an explicit focus on poverty eradication, inequality and leaving no one behind in the draft MTS. (PPD) | Can be implemented within existing resources | 16 months | Practical and Feasible: Yes Added Value: Yes | None specified. |

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Annex: Cost implications of each recommendations

| No | Proposed Recommendation (entity undertaking cost assessment indicated in brackets) | Additional cost implication | Timeframe to implement | Feasibility* and added value** | Supplementary narrative |
|----|---|--|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| 25 | Requests the Secretariat to indicate clearly and early in the process how lessons learned from the implementation of current MTS and PoW will be taken into account on the development of the MTS 2026-2029 and further iterations of PoW. (PPD) | Can be implemented within existing resources | 3 months | Practical and Feasible: Yes | Additional resources could improve the quality and speed of the consultation process, ensuring it remains open, transparent, and inclusive. |
| | | | | Added Value: Yes | |
| 26 | Recommends that the Secretariat highlights in the roadmap the regional consultations on the MTS and PoW. (GAO, PPD) | Within existing resources (GAO & PPD) | 1 month (GAO); 3 months (PPD) | Practical and Feasible: Yes | Additional resources could improve the quality and speed of the consultation process, ensuring it remains open, transparent, and inclusive. |
| | | | | Added Value: Yes | |
| 27 | Recommends that the Secretariat underlines the importance of the contributions of the regional Forums to the work of UNEP, specifically to the development of the MTS and its PoW, in line with resolution 6/3. (ROA, ROAP, ROLAC) | Can be implemented within existing resources | 14 months | Practical and Feasible: Yes | Delegates may take note of paragraph 5 of resolution 6/3 which requests UNEP to develop a report on the role and viability of the regional forums of ministers of the environment and environment authorities in tackling prevalent environmental challenges. The development of such a report would incur an additional cost. |
| | | | | Added Value: Yes | |
| 28 | Recommends that the Secretariat puts more emphasis on the private sector in its resource mobilization strategy. (CSD) | Yes | 24 months | Practical and Feasible: Yes | Additional cost would cover intensive fundraising efforts, including focus on communications, resource mobilization, data analytics skills and networks, and organizing major fundraising events. |
| | | | | Added Value: Yes | |
| 29 | Recommends that the Secretariat schedules more meetings at the level of the subcommittee, including informal meetings that should serve the purpose of forging a consensus on a robust and efficient roadmap. (GAO) | Can be implemented within existing resources | 1 month/ already done | Practical and Feasible: Yes | None specified. |
| | | | | Added Value: Yes | |

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