
2016 Annual Report

Empowering People to
Protect the Planet

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* All dollar (\$) amounts refer to US dollars.
* The term 'one billion' in this report refers to one thousand million.

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We hope you enjoy these highlights of our work in 2016. For more details, please visit our combined Annual Report and Programme Performance Report online.
<http://web.unep.org/annualreport>

Cover photo by Dhilung Kirat

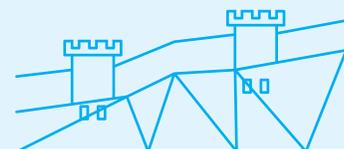
Lava from Mount Kilauea flows into the Pacific Ocean in Hawaii Volcanoes National Park in the United States. The rare "firehose" phenomenon was triggered by the collapse of a lava delta that spanned more than 10 hectares before it fell into the sea on 31 December 2016, producing explosions and giant waves in the area. The park, which celebrated its 100th birthday in 2016, attracts roughly 2.6 million visitors every year.

Highlights



Kigali Amendment delivers a win for the climate

In October, nearly 200 countries struck a landmark deal to reduce the emissions of powerful greenhouse gases, hydrofluorocarbons, in a move that could prevent up to 0.5°C of global warming by the end of this century. The amendment to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, which is hosted by UN Environment, is the single biggest step the world has taken to limit global warming.



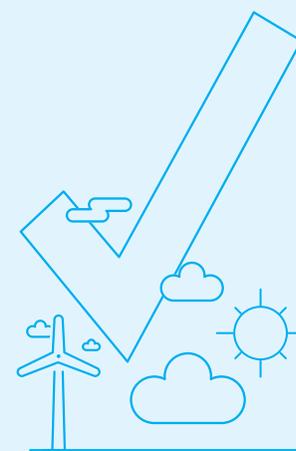
G20 embraces Green Finance

World leaders meeting at the G20 Summit in Hangzhou, China, in September issued a communiqué recognizing the importance of scaling up green finance. They also welcomed options put forward by the G20 Green Finance Study Group, whose secretariat is hosted by UN Environment. "Green finance is vital to a green future, and we at UN Environment are proud to build on our work in this area in supporting the G20," said UN Environment Executive Director Erik Solheim.



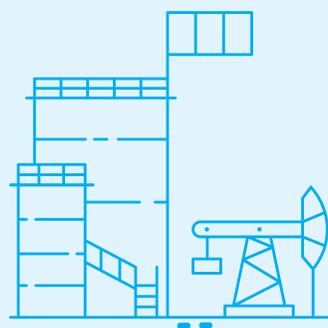
Paris Agreement comes into force

On 4 November – less than a year after it was adopted – the Paris Agreement on Climate Change came into effect after it was ratified by 55 Parties that account for 55 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions. This fast-track ratification is a powerful confirmation of countries' understanding of the urgency of the climate change challenge. UN Environment is working with countries around the world to help them achieve the Agreement's ambitious goal of keeping global warming well below 2°C.



UN Environment earns top marks

In an extensive external review, UN Environment earned "highly satisfactory" ratings in strategic management, operational management, performance management, and relationship management. The review, which was conducted by the Multilateral Organisation Performance Assessment Network, concluded that UN Environment "shows continued strength in terms of being a global authority on environmental issues and providing a robust evidence base for advocacy and policy dialogue".



Nigeria launches Ogoniland clean-up

In June, the Government of Nigeria set in motion a \$1 billion clean-up and restoration of the Ogoniland region in the Niger Delta, with UN Environment guidance. The region has been subject to a succession of oil spills over the last 50 years, with devastating effects on both the environment and public health. The restoration efforts, which are based on UN Environment recommendations, could prove to be the world's biggest-ever environmental clean-up.



UN kicks off massive campaign to end the illegal wildlife trade

In May, UN Environment led the launch of a global campaign, *Wild for Life*, to tackle the illegal trade in wildlife. The campaign, which has been rolled out in eight languages, has already reached over 1 billion people, inspired 12,000 pledges of action, and been named among the top 10 most influential advocacy campaigns of 2016 by Weibo (Chinese Twitter). In late 2016, several of the campaign's key species were afforded greater international protections and China announced a total ban on commercial ivory. *Wild for Life* is UN Environment's most successful digital campaign to date.

Message from António Guterres

UN Secretary-General



Once again, the past year was the hottest ever. Sixteen of the 17 warmest years on record have occurred during this young century. This trend not only threatens the world's ecosystems and biodiversity but poses a serious risk for peace, security and sustainable development.

Many conflicts are triggered, exacerbated or prolonged by competition over scarce natural resources; climate change will only make the situation worse. That is why protecting our environment is critical to the founding goals of the United Nations to prevent war and sustain peace.

Nations and the international community spend far more time and resources responding to crises than avoiding them. We need a new common-sense approach that emphasizes prevention. Environmental care must be at its heart.

By helping countries to mitigate and adapt to climate change, we can lower the risk of floods, droughts, famine and instability. By ending the illegal trade in wildlife, we can cut off a critical source of funding for organized crime and non-state armed groups. And by promoting a shift to a green economy, we can create jobs, spur inclusive

economic growth and make societies more resilient. These are all critical to sustainable development and a peaceful future.

As the leading environmental authority, UN Environment is promoting the changes the world needs. This Annual Report profiles how the organization is working with a multitude of partners, including governments, United Nations entities, civil society, the private sector and communities on the ground. I commend it to all who are committed to working for a healthy planet and a safer, more peaceful world.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to be "António Guterres".

Message from Erik Solheim

UN Environment Executive Director



If the United Nations exists on behalf of “we the peoples”, then UN Environment’s mission must be to improve those people’s lives by radically changing the way we treat this planet. Globally, we have enough money to support this fight. In most cases, we are not short of technical solutions, many of which could create jobs and economic growth. The only raw material we lack is political will and, sometimes, public engagement.

That’s why people must always, always, be front and centre in our work to protect the planet.

This was the approach embraced by my predecessor, Achim Steiner. His decade of leadership saw UN Environment triple its budget and multiply its impact around the globe. Following in the footsteps of talented predecessors, he built a strong team – each determined to leave this world better than they found it. When I took the reins in June 2016, I promised to build on that legacy. It is a real adventure to be part of a team striving every day to engage all the world’s citizens in our work to protect the planet.

That means empowering people like the politicians who can create policies to cut pollution and protect our oceans and landscapes. People like the company bosses who can help us change the way the world produces and consumes. And people like the students, youth leaders and individual citizens, who can inspire important lifestyle changes in their communities.

In fact, if there is one lesson to draw from the many unexpected political developments of 2016, it’s that we need to listen to and connect directly with all these people. We need to speak to their gut and to their heart. That means whether we’re talking to a young farmer in Kenya’s Rift Valley, a factory worker in Shanghai, a mayor in the United States, or an industrialist in Germany, we must deliver words and actions with real meaning. We must show why the environment matters to them– from the air they breathe, to the water they drink, to the way they earn a living and feed their families.

Sometimes people ask me: can I change the world? I always tell them: Who else? Who else but you will change the world?

As you will see in this report, UN Environment and its partners are taking huge strides to protect our world. We are working with local leaders in Morocco to promote energy-efficient lighting and helping the people of Haiti build their resilience to hurricanes, earthquakes and other natural disasters. We are bringing political leaders together to phase down the use of hydrofluorocarbons, which could save the world from half a degree in warming. We are helping to drive the fight against the illegal trade in wildlife, which now benefits from a ban on ivory trade in China. And thanks to the "Speedo diplomacy" of our Oceans Patron, Lewis Pugh, Antarctica's Ross Sea is now a protected area.

This shows that we are already connecting with people and helping them make the transition to a greener, more sustainable world. But I know that we can – and we must – do even more.

Sometimes people ask me: Can I change the world? I always tell them: Who else? Who else but you will change the world?

All of humanity's most important struggles – the anti-slavery movement, the feminist movement, the civil rights movements – all started with a small but dedicated group of people who clung to their goals and principles in the face of fierce resistance and formidable challenges.

Change starts with you. Change starts with us. We must refuse to be daunted by the scale of the problems we face. We must take bold steps to build a better, healthier, more sustainable future for ourselves, our children and our grandchildren.



GONZALO FUENTES / REUTERS



Climate Change



In our work on climate change, we focus on achieving results in three areas:

- **Climate resilience**, where we support countries in using ecosystem-based and other approaches to adapt and build resilience to climate change;
- **Low-emission growth**, where we support countries to adopt energy efficiency measures, access clean energy finance, and reduce their emissions of greenhouse gases and other pollutants by transitioning to renewable sources of energy; and
- **REDD+**, where we enable countries to capitalize on investment opportunities that reduce greenhouse emissions from deforestation and forest degradation with adequate social and environmental safeguards.

Through our climate resilience work in 2016, we enabled Albania, Angola and Antigua and Barbuda to access finance for implementing ecosystem-based adaptation, bringing the total number of countries who have done so with our assistance to 45. We also supported Lesotho and Uganda to integrate ecosystem-based and other adaptation approaches into their national plans, bringing the total to 21 countries.

In our work to promote low-emission growth, we supported six East African countries to explore their potential for geothermal energy, enabled the installation of 3 million square meters of solar water heating panels in five countries, and helped eight countries access technologies related to renewable energy and energy efficiency, among many other results.

The UN-REDD Programme, jointly implemented by UN Environment, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN



Morocco embraces efficiency

UN Environment is partnering with the Government of Morocco to reduce the country's electricity consumption by promoting a nationwide switch to Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFLs). Since the project was launched, 9 million CFLs have been installed in homes and businesses across the country. That translates into significant cost savings for thousands of people, and reduced climate emissions for the country as a whole. The project is expected to avoid more than 4 million tons of carbon dioxide emissions by 2022.

and the UN Development Programme, is supporting 64 countries to become "REDD+ ready", or prepared to welcome relevant investment opportunities. In 2016, Chile, Congo, Ecuador, Peru and Sri Lanka finalized or adopted national REDD+ strategies.

Disasters and Conflicts



In our work on disasters and conflicts, we focus on achieving results in two areas:

- **Risk reduction**, where we improve countries' abilities to use environmental management to prevent and reduce the risks of natural hazards, industrial disasters and conflict; and
- **Response and recovery**, where we support countries in the aftermath of a disaster or conflict to identify and address environmental risks that could have serious social and economic impacts.

Over the course of 2016, we supported 22 countries – including Afghanistan, Georgia, Peru and South Sudan – to reduce the risks of natural disasters, industrial accidents and conflicts. At the global level, one of our key measures of success is the extent to which we can integrate environmental solutions for risk reduction across the UN system. As in previous years, we exceeded our target on this measure for 2016.

We responded to crises and supported recovery in 19 countries in 2016. Some of this work involved deploying teams to the scenes of acute environmental emergencies, such as the fires around Iraq's Mosul Dam and a 7.8 magnitude earthquake in Ecuador. We also conducted post-crisis assessments of environmental damage and recovery needs and provided guidance to those involved in recovery. These missions provide important opportunities for us to address both immediate and long-term environmental challenges.

We also support four countries – Afghanistan, Haiti, South Sudan and Sudan – that require sustained environmental assistance in the wake of conflict or other crises. In these countries, our aim is to help

Weathering the storm

Helping locals reduce their vulnerability to hurricanes and other disasters is a key focus of UN Environment's work in Haiti, the poorest country in the Western hemisphere and one that is frequently struck by storms, earthquakes and floods. That's why UN Environment has integrated disaster risk reduction across all of its programming in the country, reforesting vulnerable land, restoring mangroves, and teaching locals about the value of a healthy environment. Fishermen and others who take part in UN Environment trainings learn how marine and coastal ecosystems can buffer the effects of extreme weather, such as Hurricane Matthew, a Category 4 storm that hit the country in October.



the governments develop the capacity to address environmental challenges on their own.

Ecosystem Management



FLICKR / SUWANDONO WAWAN

In our work on ecosystem management, we focus on achieving results in three areas:

- **The enabling environment**, where we help countries incorporate the value and long-term functioning of ecosystems in planning and accounting frameworks;
- **The productivity of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems**, where we help countries use an ecosystem approach to managing terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems; and
- **The productivity of marine ecosystems**, where we help countries use an ecosystem approach in marine ecosystem management.

We help countries take account of ecosystem services, assess water quality and incorporate ecosystems into their policy frameworks. By the end of 2016, 11 countries – including Brazil, Kenya and the Philippines – had operational ecosystem accounts in place. Thirteen countries had taken steps to

update their water quality frameworks, and 44 countries had incorporated the health and productivity of ecosystems in at least two of their policy frameworks.

With our support, 33 countries enabled different sectors of their economies to use an ecosystem approach, and five water basins took steps to secure their terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems. We also supported ecosystem restoration and the establishment of protected areas in Bolivia, China and Zambia, among other countries.

Action on marine litter and wastewater continued to increase in 2016, with another eight countries, sub-national governments and private sector entities agreeing on marine litter or wastewater action plans in 2016. Meanwhile, 11 out of 18 of our Regional Seas Conventions or Action Plans or their member states used an ecosystem approach to improve the management of the marine environment.



MUDHAFAR SALIM

Reviving Iraq's "Garden of Eden"

Since 2004, UN Environment has been working with civil society and the Government of Iraq to restore the Marshlands of Mesopotamia, which scholars say could be the site of the Biblical Garden of Eden. The partners have trained Iraqi decision-makers, monitored marsh conditions, and worked in collaboration with local communities to develop a plan to manage the Marshes sustainably. In 2016, with UN Environment support, the Marshes were granted World Heritage status by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

Environmental Governance



Environmental governance comprises the rules, practices, policies and institutions that shape how humans interact with the environment. We work to strengthen institutions and improve environmental governance in three ways:

- **Improving coherence and leveraging synergies**, where we aim to help the UN system and multilateral environmental agreements work together more coherently;
- **Strengthening laws and institutions**, where we support national efforts to develop and enforce laws and strengthen institutions to achieve environmental objectives; and
- **Mainstreaming the environment into development**, where we help countries integrate environmental sustainability into their development planning.

One of our objectives is to green the operations of the entire UN system. In 2016, with our support, the World Bank, the Department for Field Support, and three other UN bodies adopted environmental management systems or strategies. In 2016, we worked even more closely with our colleagues in the secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements, with three new cooperative agreements established.

Strong environmental rule of law is the bedrock of environmental governance and a cornerstone of the 2030 Agenda. In 2016, as a result of our engagement, Sierra Leone ratified five multilateral environmental agreements, Tanzania developed a rapid response manual for prosecuting wildlife crime, and Antigua and Barbuda introduced a ban on plastic bags, among many other results.

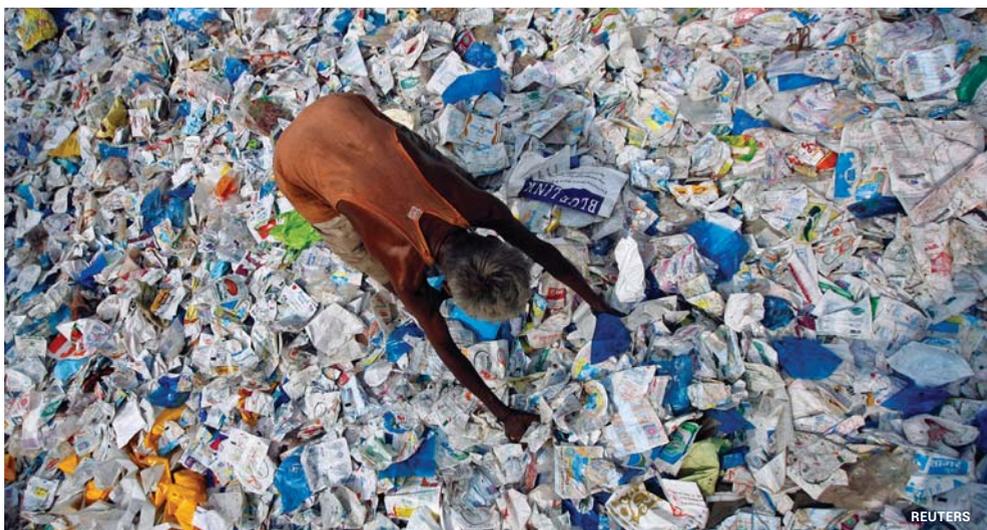
We worked with more than 80 countries to help them assess the state of their natural environments. At the regional level, ministers meeting at the 8th “Environment for Europe” conference endorsed a Strategic Framework for Greening the Economy in the Pan-European region, also with our support. Ministers from other regions also reached consensus on air pollution and other priority issues.

Good riddance to plastic bags

Antigua and Barbuda has increasingly faced a pernicious threat, both to its idyllic coastline and the health of its citizens: The plastic bag. The country’s supermarket chains were going through nearly 50 million plastic bags every year, many of which ended up on the beaches and in the ocean. The situation became so critical that, in early 2016, the government announced a blanket ban on plastic bags. UN Environment responded quickly, offering technical support and connecting the government with experts from other countries. The ban has been an enormous success, with widespread public support from day one.



Chemicals and Waste



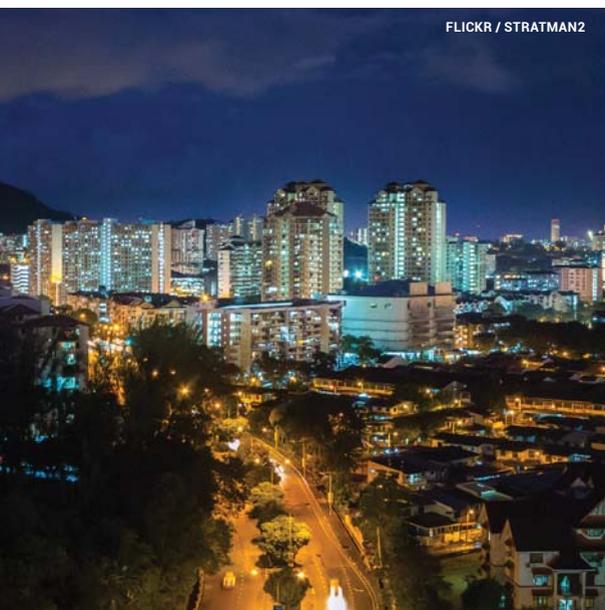
In our work on chemicals and waste, we focus on achieving results in three areas:

- **The enabling environment**, where we support countries to develop the policies and institutional capacity to manage chemicals and waste soundly;
- **Chemicals**, where we help countries and other stakeholders manage chemicals and implement related multilateral environmental agreements; and
- **Waste**, where we help countries and other stakeholders manage waste and implement related multilateral environmental agreements.

By the end of 2016, with our assistance, 15 countries had ratified the Minamata Convention on Mercury, meaning that only 15 additional ratifications are needed to ensure the Convention's early entry into force. Also in 2016, seven countries reported putting in place policies to control lead in paint, raising the global total to 66.

Over the course of the year, three governments, nine businesses and industries, and one civil society organization addressed priority chemical issues with our support. The International Olympic Committee used certified gold in the production of Olympic Laurels for the Olympic Games in Rio, with support from the UN Environment-led Global Mercury Partnership.

In 2016, one government, two private companies, and three civil society organizations addressed priority waste issues with our help. Following Nepal's devastating earthquake in 2015, we supported the government in the development of a strategy to manage almost 4 million tons of earthquake debris. We also helped the country create a framework for sustainable and resource-efficient reconstruction.



Penang goes green

Since 2005, UN Environment has supported Penang's efforts to green the city – helping the local government access financing, connect with private sector partners, and develop sound waste management policies. These efforts have empowered Penang to tackle its pollution challenges and helped the city become a regional leader in “green” urban development. As part of these efforts, local leaders have made a big bet on composting, requiring residents to separate their waste at source and installing Bio-Regen Food Processing machines at sites across the city.

Resource Efficiency



In our work on resource efficiency, we focus on achieving results in three areas:

- **The enabling policy environment**, where we help countries make the transition to inclusive green economies;
- **Sectors and supply**, where we work with governments, businesses and other stakeholders to make global supply chains more sustainable; and
- **Lifestyles and consumption**, where we empower countries, businesses, civil society and individuals to live and consume sustainably.

In 2016, with our support, ten countries and one region adopted or started to implement green economy or sustainable consumption and production plans, exceeding our target. This work is key to our efforts to promote a global transition to a low-carbon, resource-efficient and socially inclusive economy.

In our work on sustainable supply chains, we focus on four key sectors: finance, tourism, buildings and construction, and food systems, as well as small and medium enterprises. In 2016, with our support, 27 countries, institutions and businesses took concrete steps to make those sectors more sustainable. Using our analytical tools, for example, ten hotels in Morocco were able to earn the national eco-tourism certificate. Our Eco-Innovation project worked with 12 companies – from a chemicals company in Egypt to an agri-food business in Viet Nam – to help them examine their value chains and develop new and sustainable business strategies or models.

In 2016, we also worked with five countries to help them make their government



A triple win for business

Working with UN Environment and partners, Galco S.A.S., a Colombian metal-mechanical company, scored a triple win in 2016: Earning more profits, reducing its environmental impact, and delivering benefits to the local community. With support from our Eco-Innovation Project, which is working with companies and governments around the world, Galco examined its entire production process to identify “sustainability hotspots” – areas where small adjustments could deliver big gains in terms of sustainability. The resulting changes have seen the company develop a profitable new service line, reduce their hazardous discharges, and create jobs for members of the local community.

purchases more sustainable. This is a powerful way to stimulate demand for sustainable products and services.

Environment under Review



In our work to keep the environment under review, we focus on bridging the gap between the producers and users of environmental information, so that science can be better linked with policies. We focus on achieving results in three areas:

- **Assessments**, where we support global, regional and national policymaking using environmental information accessible on open platforms;
- **Early warning**, where we provide planning authorities with information on emerging environmental issues of global importance; and
- **Information management**, where we strengthen the capacity of countries to generate, access, analyse, use and communicate environmental information and knowledge.

We are working with partners to coordinate global efforts to generate data on progress toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. In 2016, we reported to the UN Secretary-General on six of the Goals' indicators, where global data sets were available. We also joined hands with the UN Statistical Division, the regional economic commissions and other UN entities to help countries develop their capacity in environmental statistics and report on internationally agreed goals.

In 2016, we launched the world's first Global Gender and Environment Outlook. We also published six regional environment outlooks, which are the building blocks of the next Global Environment Outlook, to be released in 2019.

In response to a 2016 stakeholder survey, the vast majority of respondents confirmed



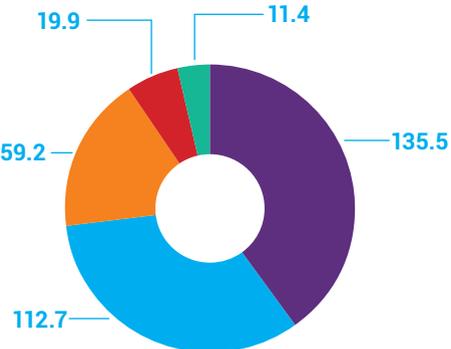
A line in the sand

Major sand and dust storms have increasingly been appearing in the news, calling international attention to their destructive impacts. In northern China alone, sand and dust storms caused economic losses of nearly \$1 billion between 2010 and 2013. In 2016, UN Environment and partners published the world's first global assessment of sand and dust storms. The report describes the sources of dust, key trends, and offers specific policy recommendations. "This first global assessment... gives us the scientific grounding we need to develop strong policies and take effective action," says UN Environment's Gemma Shepherd, lead author of the report.

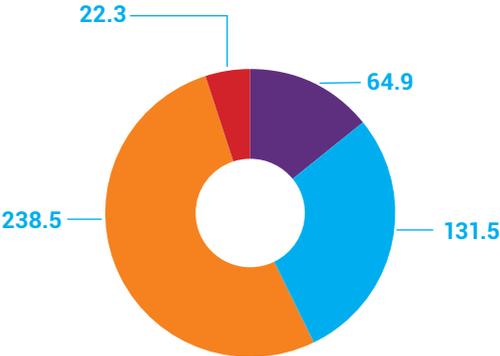
that they had accessed our environmental information. They mainly used the information to educate, provide guidance, and conduct analyses. In over 40 per cent of cases, stakeholders had used the information to influence policy.

Key Financials

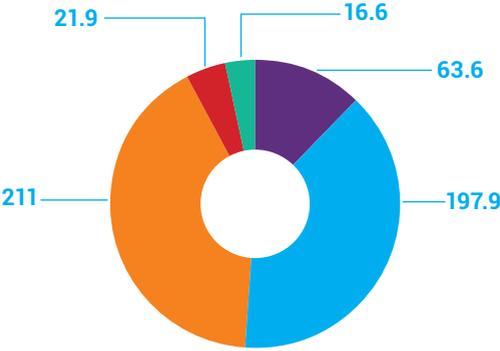
Budget, Expenditures & Income



Total Budget
\$339 Million



Total Income
\$457 Million



Total Expenditures
\$511 Million

- Environment Fund
- Earmarked Contributions
- Global Environment Facility
- Regular Budget
- Programme Support

Top 10 Environment Fund contributors

Germany	\$8,405,033
France	\$7,550,550
Netherlands	\$6,358,200
United States of America	\$6,063,730
Sweden	\$5,054,036
Belgium	\$4,440,800
United Kingdom	\$4,050,090
Switzerland	\$4,000,000
Norway	\$3,000,000
Japan	\$2,492,632

The World's Parliament of the Environment



The United Nations Environment Assembly is the world's highest-level decision-making body on the environment. In 2016, UN Environment hosted the second gathering of the Assembly in Nairobi from 23 to 27 May.

Thousands of delegates from 174 countries took part in the Assembly and its side events, which also attracted 27 heads of UN agencies, 250 scientists and 320 journalists. Nearly 300 civil society representatives participated in the Global Major Groups and Stakeholder Forum, as well as many more in a large variety of side events and in the Assembly itself. Expert contributions from civil society were crucial to the Assembly's success.

The Assembly adopted 25 resolutions that will drive action on sustainable finance, marine ecosystems, waste management, land degradation, the illegal trade in wildlife, and the protection of the environment during armed conflict, among many other critical challenges. Addressing these issues is integral to implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Climate Agreement.

The next UN Environment Assembly, which will focus on the theme of pollution, will be held in Nairobi from 4 to 6 December 2017.



"The time has come for ambitious proposals and bold solutions. We have a mission to generate a renewed world alliance."

Edgar Gutiérrez Espeleta,

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY OF COSTA RICA AND PRESIDENT OF THE 2ND UN ENVIRONMENT ASSEMBLY

Partnerships

In our increasingly interconnected world, environmental challenges are too complex and far-reaching to be addressed by any single entity. That's why UN Environment is working hand in hand with forward-thinking businesses and civil society groups to protect the planet, end poverty, and ensure sustainable prosperity for all.



Business

The private sector is critical to promoting innovation, creating green jobs, and fostering sustainable economic development. In the years ahead, we will continue to expand these partnerships, especially in priority areas such as oceans, pollution, conservation, green finance, and the circular economy.

A few of our initiatives

Through the **UN Environment Finance Initiative**, more than 200 institutions – including banks, insurers and investors – work with UN Environment to bring about systemic change in finance to support a sustainable world.

The **Global Programme of Action (GPA) for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities** partners with businesses to address the connections between terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems.

The **Partnership for Action on Green Economy** works with businesses and governments to reframe economic policies and practices around sustainability.



2016 Highlights

UN Environment hosted the **Sustainable Innovation Expo**, which brought together policymakers, civil society and the business community to discuss critical environmental challenges.

The **UN Sustainable Stock Exchanges Initiative** – a peer-to-peer learning platform for stock exchanges, of which UN Environment is an organizer – grew to 60 partners, representing over 70 per cent of listed equity markets around the world.

The **UN Environment Finance Initiative Global Roundtable** in Dubai brought together nearly 400 participants from all parts of the financial system to develop new pathways in sustainable finance.



Civil Society

UN Environment has a strong and active relationship with civil society, which represents our most important gateway to the citizens of the world. These partners advocate for important causes, provide expertise that enriches UN Environment's decisions, and channel the voices of those most likely to be affected by environmental challenges and policies.

In 2016, most meetings of the **Committee of Permanent Representatives**, UN Environment's governing body, were open to accredited civil society groups, allowing them to actively engage with Member States. This has strengthened stakeholder participation in the UN system by promoting transparency, participation and access to information.

Multilateral Environmental Agreements

Global conventions hosted by UN Environment

Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer

The **Kigali Amendment** was adopted by the 28th Meeting of Parties to the Montreal Protocol. The Amendment adds hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) to the list of substances controlled under the Protocol to be phased down. HFC phasedown is expected to avoid up to 0.5°C of global temperature rise by 2100, while continuing to protect the ozone layer.

Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions

700 people took part in the BRS Conventions' first-ever Massive Open Online Course, which covered the topic of e-waste.

The **10th Anniversary** of the "synergies process" to promote collaboration among the conventions was celebrated in June.

Minamata Convention on Mercury

15 governments ratified the Convention, including China and Mali, bringing the total number of Parties to 35. **15 additional ratifications** are required before the Convention will come into force.

Convention on Biological Diversity

183 5th national reports have been submitted, indicating a submission rate of 93 per cent. The reports track countries' progress towards achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity.

7,000 participants, including 4,000 delegates from 170 countries and over 400 organizations, attended the UN Biodiversity Conference in Cancun, Mexico. **41 decisions** were adopted at the meeting.

The **Nagoya Protocol** on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization gained 23 new Parties.

Congo, Liberia, Togo, Mali and Swaziland ratified the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress to the **Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety**.

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

3,500 participants attended the **17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES**, where **152 governments** took decisions on 62 proposals on the wildlife trade.

Over 500 species of animals and plants gained new protections thanks to the resolutions and decisions adopted at the conference.

Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

The **United Arab Emirates and Iraq** ratified, bringing the total number of Parties to 124.

The **Intergovernmental Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean** was launched in May.



Ambassadors and Allies



In April, the IMAX documentary film *A Beautiful Planet* premiered in New York in partnership with UN Environment. Narrated by Academy Award winner **Jennifer Lawrence** and with footage collected from astronauts on board the International Space Station, the film provides a unique perspective on humans' impact on the planet. At the premier, Lawrence joined IMAX CEO **Rich Gelfond**, who announced IMAX's commitment to a new partnership with UN Environment. "Our hope is that by launching this campaign, we will change minds and hearts and make a greater impact across the world," Gelfond said.



In July, the Solar Impulse aircraft touched down in Abu Dhabi, marking the completion of the first round-the-world flight in a solar-powered aircraft. UN Environment Goodwill Ambassador **Bertrand Piccard** and his partner **André Borschberg** broke 19 official aviation records as they piloted the aircraft, which carries 17,000 solar cells on its wings, across more than 42,000 kilometers. "The future is clean. The future is you. The future is now. Let's take it further," Piccard said to a cheering crowd in Abu Dhabi after completing the final leg.



After five years of negotiations and tireless "Speedo diplomacy" from endurance swimmer and UN Environment Patron of the Oceans **Lewis Pugh**, Antarctica's Ross Sea was finally declared a Marine Protected Area in October. The Ross Sea, known as the "Polar Garden of Eden", is widely considered to be the last great wilderness area on Earth. The 1.57 million square-kilometre region is now the world's largest protected area on land or sea. The designation means that the Ross Sea will be safe from industrial fishing, which can devastate marine ecosystems.



UN Environment Goodwill Ambassadors **Gisele Bündchen**, **Ian Somerhalder**, **Li Bingbing** and **Yaya Touré**, alongside more than two dozen other celebrities, were key to the successful launch of the UN's *Wild for Life* campaign, which aims to put an end to the illegal trade in wildlife. The campaign's celebrity partners – who also include Bollywood actress **Jacqueline Fernandez**, Vietnamese performer **Thu Minh**, and Brazilian football player **Neymar Jr.** – have a combined social media reach of 350 million. With their help, *Wild for Life* has already reached more than 1 billion people around the globe.

Champions of the Earth

Six inspirational environmental leaders were awarded the UN's highest environmental accolade, the Champions of the Earth Award, at a ceremony on the sidelines of the UN Biodiversity Conference in Cancún, Mexico in December 2016.

The annual prize honours outstanding leaders from government, civil society and the private sector whose actions have had a positive impact on the environment.

UN Environment Executive Director Erik Solheim and Deputy Executive Director Ibrahim Thiaw both congratulated the 2016 laureates. "This year's champions have demonstrated the vision and engagement needed at all levels to improve our stewardship of the planet, to develop it sustainably, and secure the prosperity of all of its people," Solheim said.

The 2016 Laureates

FOR POLICY AND LEADERSHIP



HE Paul Kagame, President of Rwanda, for outstanding leadership in fighting climate change and in national environmental action.

FOR SCIENCE AND INNOVATION



Leyla Acaroglu, founder of Disrupt Design, New York; Eco Innovators, Melbourne; and UnSchool, for dedication to positive change through design, innovation, communication and human connection.

FOR ENTREPRENEURIAL VISION



Masen, the Moroccan Agency for Sustainable Energy, for its commitment to advancing solar power, making solar energy affordable and innovative approaches to green financing.

FOR INSPIRATION AND ACTION



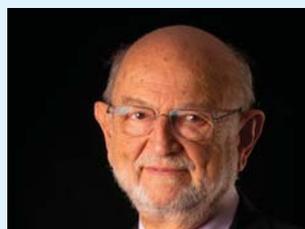
Afroz Shah, for outstanding leadership and initiative in mobilizing large-scale public support to remove 3,000 tonnes of litter from Versova beach in Mumbai.

FOR INSPIRATION AND ACTION

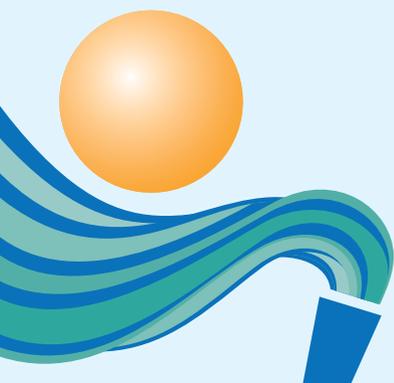


Berta Cáceres, recognized posthumously for her tireless campaigning for the rights of indigenous people in Honduras and the protection of their natural environment.

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



José Sarukhán Kermez, for a lifetime of leadership and innovation in the conservation of biodiversity in Mexico and around the world.



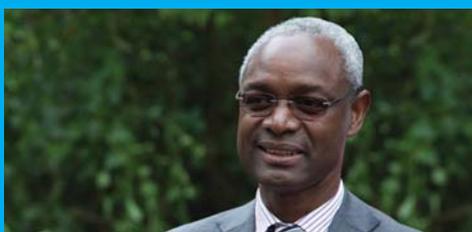
CHAMPIONS OF THE EARTH

Senior Management Team



ERIK SOLHEIM

UN Environment Programme Executive Director and Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations



IBRAHIM THIAW

UN Environment Programme Deputy Executive Director and Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations



IYAD ABUMOGHLI

Director, West Asia Office



PATRICIA J. BENEKE

Director, North America Office



JULIETTE BIAO KOUDENOUKPO

Director, Africa Office



MICHELE CANDOTTI

Director, a.i. Policy and Programme Division



JAN DUŠÍK

Director, Europe Office



ELLIOT HARRIS

Director, New York Office and Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations



LEO HEILEMAN

Director, Latin America and the Caribbean Office



JORGE LAGUNA-CELIS

Secretary, Secretariat of Governing Bodies and Director, Governance Affairs Office



ISABELLE LOIUS

Director, Asia and the Pacific Office



METTE LØYCHE WILKIE

Director, Ecosystems Division



JACQUELINE MCGLADE

Director, Science Division
Chief Scientist



ANNE LE MORE

Chief of Staff a.i.



ELIZABETH MREMA

Director, Law Division



LIGIA NORONHA

Director, Economy Division



THERESA PANUCCIO

Director, Corporate Services Division



NAYSÁN SAHBA

Director, Communication Division



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