

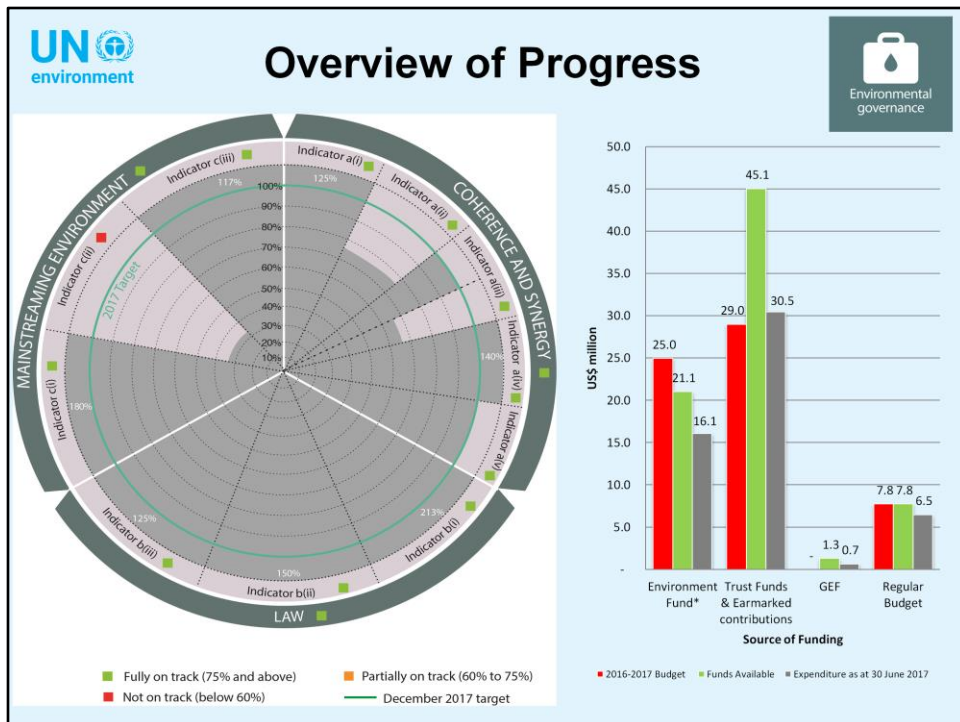


The objective of the programme is to strengthen synergies and coherence in environmental governance to facilitate the transition towards environmental sustainability in the context of sustainable development. Embedding environmental choices and better environmental management practices into institutions and in law ensures that development and economic efforts are sustainable.

Notwithstanding the foundational and cross-cutting nature of environmental governance, our work becomes very specific when we address pressing environmental issues, such as pollution, biodiversity and wildlife and climate.

Our work focuses on three expected accomplishments:

- 1) Promoting **policy coherence** and leveraging synergies, especially at the international level where many actors are making environment-related decisions that risk fragmentation and ineffectiveness. It is important that international efforts are aligned to have greater impact than they can otherwise have in isolation
- 2) Strengthening **laws and institutions**
- 3) **Mainstreaming environment into development planning** and decision-making



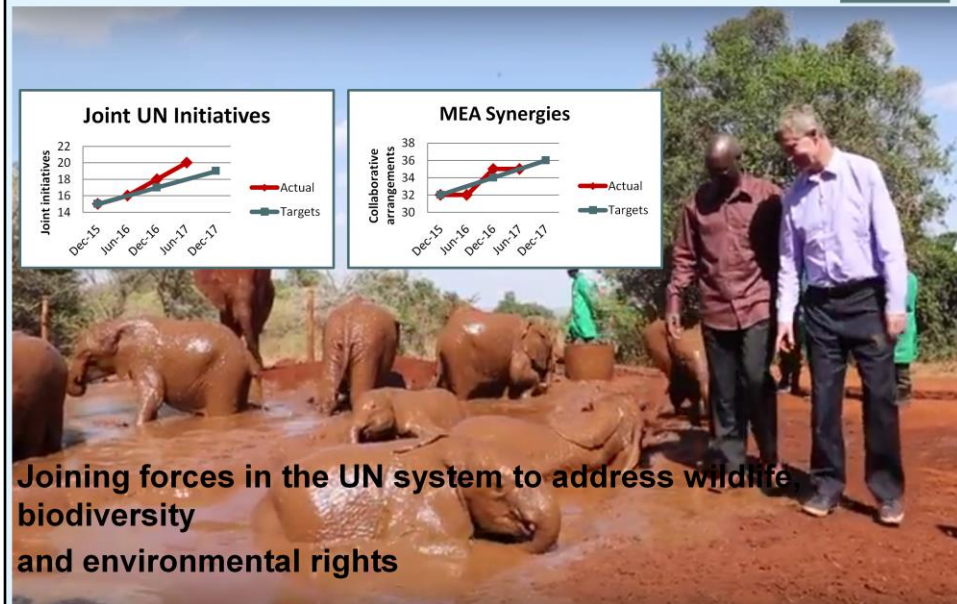
We have made **good progress**, with additional targets met for eight out of our 11 indicator targets. On nine indicators, we have cumulatively achieved the expected results for the current reporting period.

The indicator on building stronger synergies with Multilateral Environmental Agreements (indicator a(ii)) shows slower progress than targeted. However, efforts are ongoing for further synergies in the area of biodiversity and we are likely to meet the overall target for the biennium.

Regarding indicator c (ii), measuring the movement of countries supported through the Poverty Environment Initiative in the direction of stronger integration of poverty - environment objectives into institutional practices, plans and budgets, which appears red in the pie chart, the target is likely to be achieved by the end of the biennium. The reason why performance appears low, is that data available at the moment are not definitive and need to be further analyzed before being reported on.

Highlights of progress include stronger collaboration and coordination in the UN system on global issues, particularly on biodiversity and wildlife with the **establishment of the Taskforce on Illicit Trade on Wildlife and Forest Products**. The Environment and Justice link is further strengthened through the establishment of a **Global Judicial Institute on the Environment**. Many

countries are undertaking measures to **prevent pollution from plastic, with several countries having regulated plastics** (Cabo Verde, Colombia, Israel, Jordan, Kenya, Marshall Islands, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Seychelles, Tunisia) and others in the process of doing so (including Panama, Tanzania, Uruguay) (not a direct result of UN Environment support). Progress in strengthening the reflection of the environment in the implementation of 2030 agenda and more broadly in placing the environment at the core of development was also observed, with regional political fora expressing **commitment to address global pollution**, the link between environment and health and other global priorities.



Our portfolio to enhance coherence and synergies at the international level includes work related to:

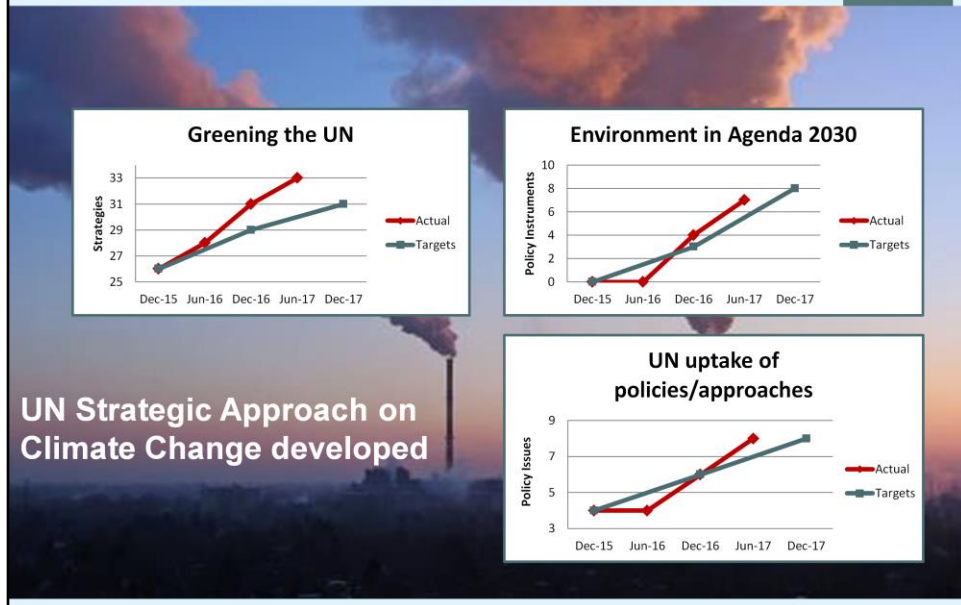
- The Environment Management Group
- Sustainable United Nations, targeting more environmentally sustainable UN facilities
- Greening peacekeeping operations
- Synergies across biodiversity conventions, and,
- Work on transboundary management of resources such as transboundary air pollution in Asia Pacific, the management of the Caspian Sea and the Carpathians, and management of the Caribbean biological corridor

Our programme of work has five indicators to measure our results on coherence and synergy, the majority showing good progress towards the December 2017 targets. Some highlights include:

- **A United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on Illicit Trade in Wildlife and Forest Products** was created to better integrate ongoing efforts across the UN system and create a dynamic platform to coordinate mandates, priorities and undertake joint interventions. UN Environment is the chair of the Task Force for 2017, while UNDP hosts the task force for the same period. Hosting and chairing are expected to rotate annually. The Task Force responds to the call of the Secretary General and Member States of

the United Nations for an integrated and holistic response to the rapid increase of poaching, and the illicit trade in wildlife and forest products. Member agencies: UN Environment with the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, UN offices of DESA, DPA, DPI, DPKO, UNDP and UNODC .

- Through a joint initiative of UN Environment and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, a set of policy and operational messages on **Human Rights and the Environment** to support UN Country Teams in integrating human rights into SDG implementation was developed.
- UN Environment continues to work with the secretariats of relevant agreements to align programmes of work and undertake joint efforts especially in the area of biodiversity, with for instance an agreement with the Convention on Migratory Species focusing on reviewing national implementation of the Convention.



The other indicators in the programme of work focusing on coherence and synergy all show good indication of achieving the December 2017 targets.

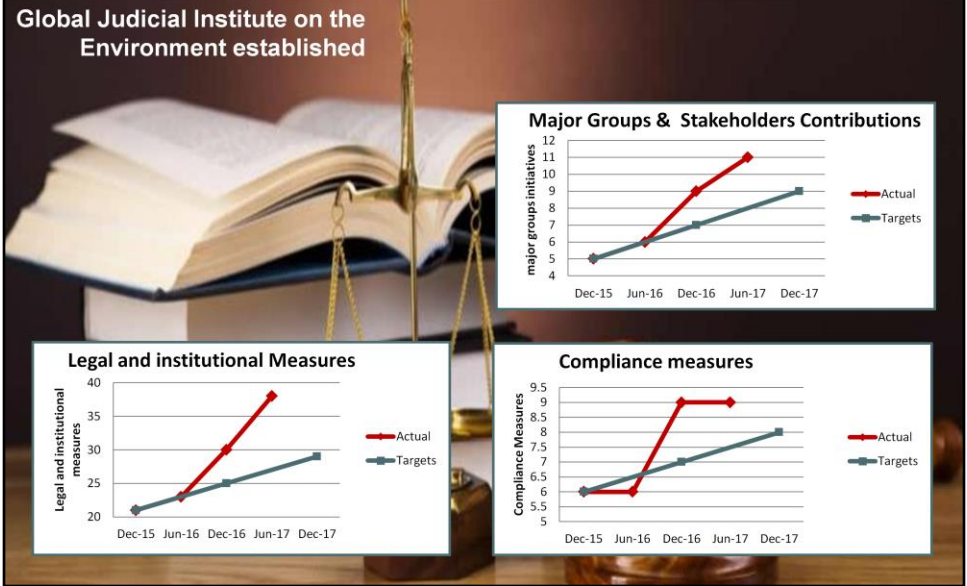
In **greening the operations of the UN system** (Indicator EA A. iv in the programme of work), progress is observed through two additional UN agencies having adopted a revised environmental policy in the first part of 2017, bringing the total to 33 UN agencies.

On **integrating environment into the implementation of Agenda 2030** (Indicator EA A. iii in the programme of work), a recent declaration, the Cancun declaration, reemphasizes the need for synergies in implementing multilateral environmental agreements and the Sustainable Development Goals. At country level, progress is seen through the culmination of an outcome document from inter-parliamentary engagement with Sustainable Development Goals in Africa

On **influence on the UN system**, a **Human Rights Council Resolution on inter-linkages between the Environment and Human Rights** was established, recalling the outcomes of the UN Environment Assembly (resolution 34/L.33). In addition, a **'United Nations System Strategic Approach on Climate Change'**, developed under the High-Level Committee on Programmes (HLCP), and approved by the UN Chief Executives Board,

integrates UN Environment policy advice as a result of the involvement of UN Environment in its development.

Global Judicial Institute on the Environment established

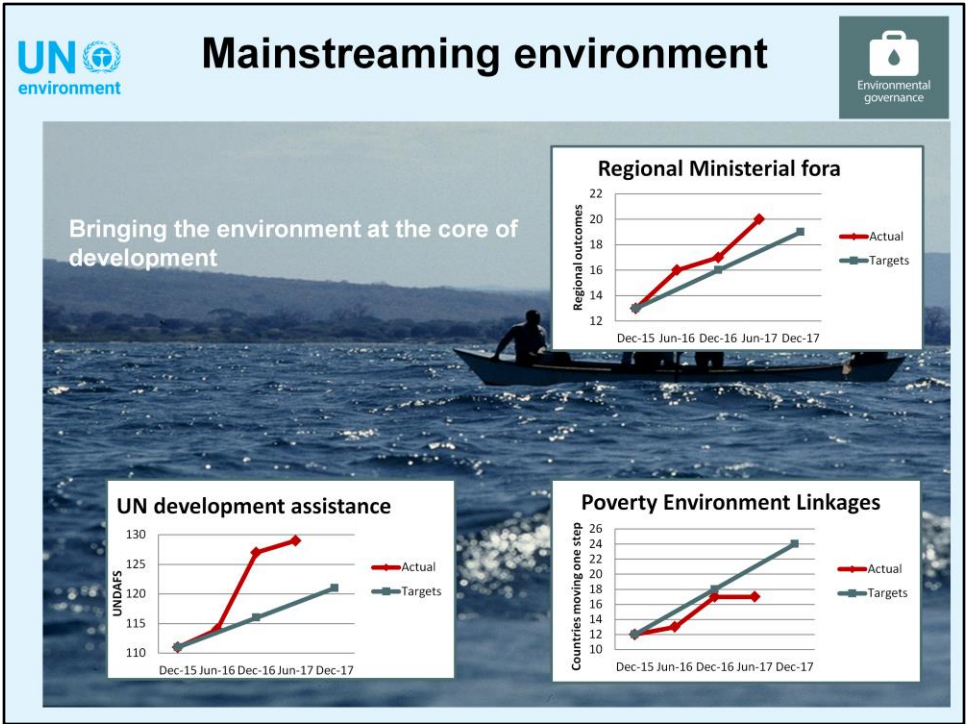


To **strengthen institutional capacities and legislation**, our portfolio includes work to develop and strengthen framework and sectoral laws and institutions while also assisting on **special topics such as the illicit trade in wildlife**. For example we undertake studies to identify trends and gaps, develop guidance documents, assist countries in developing legislation (e.g. on wildlife, pollution), and facilitate collaborative platforms to strengthen enforcement (e.g. regional enforcement network in Asia). We also deliver training programmes for various legal stakeholders and we help national institutions make the law work for the people, through the involvement of a chain of stakeholders.

Some highlights include the **establishment of the Global Judicial Institute on the Environment**, which was established through UN Environment's leadership. The Institute is a forum to unify on-going efforts of various national and international organizations to enhance the capacity of judges on environmental issues. Chief Justices and other judges from 25 countries across the world have already committed to promoting the environmental rule of law by signing its Statute in May 2017.

The **Johannesburg Plan of Action on Judicial Education on Environmental Law in Africa** was adopted by **20 countries** in January 2017 to integrate environmental law in judicial training institutions. At country level, an interesting highlight is that Ghana's Chief Justice has designated 9 special

courts on environment, illegal mining, environmental pollution and degradation matters and will train trainers and build capacity of 100 judges in 2017-2018.



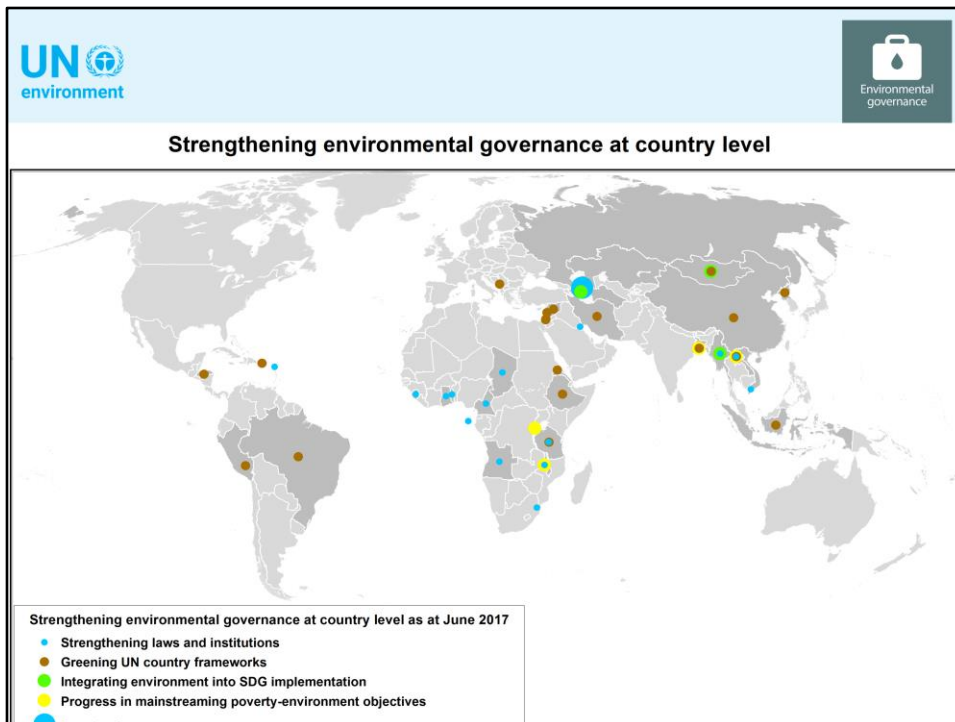
To mainstream environment into development, UN Environment’s work includes establishing an integrated approach to sustainable development and convening of ministerial fora at the regional level. UN Environment also works, together with United Nations Country Teams, to ensure that the frameworks that are developed in a given country for assistance from the UN system embed environmental considerations. We also work in more than 20 countries to ensure that institutional practices, policies and budgets concurrently promote environmental and poverty reduction objectives. We do this through a UNDP-UN Environment poverty-environment initiative.

Through our support, 18 United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs) were completed by December 2016 (Caribbean countries, Bangladesh, China, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Honduras, Indonesia, Iran, Lao PDR, Lebanon, Mongolia, Montenegro, Panama, Peru, Syrian Arab Republic, and Tanzania) and two more by June 2017 (Brazil and Palestine). This work is recurrent, as national UN plans last 4 to 5 years.

Good progress was achieved on two indicators for the programme of work, with several new One UN country frameworks finalized during the reporting period and three environmental **ministerial forums outcomes** strongly embedding environmental priorities, including on **pollution and health and environment (Libreville Declaration, Ostrava Declaration, Arab Strategy**

on Health and Environment).

Regarding the promotion of poverty-environment mainstreaming, during the first year of implementation we have reported that four countries (Bangladesh, Lao PDR, Malawi, and the Philippines) have achieved progress. While conclusive data on progress will be available only at the end of the biennium, preliminary data not reflected in the graph indicate likelihood of meeting the target by the end of the biennium.



This map summarizes across the overall environmental governance portfolio where specific measures were undertaken with UN Environment’s support. It sums up the results highlighted in previous slides, to the extent that they are country specific.

In summary, countries where we have helped strengthen laws and Institutions, include:

Antigua & Barbuda, Angola, Cameroun, Chad, Ghana, Kuwait, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Malawi, Myanmar, Sao Tome & Principe, Sierra Leone, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Vietnam

Countries which have greened their UN country Frameworks are: Bangladesh, Brazil, China, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Honduras, Indonesia, Iran, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Mongolia, Montenegro, Palestine, Peru, Syrian Arabic Republic, Tanzania. Multi-country UN development assistance framework for the Caribbean.

Countries that have integrated environment into implementation of the sustainable development goals are:

Azerbaijan, Mongolia, Myanmar

Progress in mainstreaming Poverty-Environment Objectives is seen in this reporting period in:

Bangladesh, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Malawi, Rwanda

Challenges and Opportunities

- Reduced Environment Fund
- Need to strengthen country level support - through partnerships, financing (Depth of engagement with a given country is commensurate to funding available)
- Partnerships
- Efforts to reform the UN system

To support a positive transition to the 2018-19 Programme of Work, which focuses on the governance foundations of implementing Agenda 2030 and its goals, including at country level, UN Environment needs to strengthen its country level support, through enhanced internal coordination, stronger partnerships, and a stronger financial base. Substantial investment of staff time is being devoted to developing the full project portfolio and fundraising for the next biennium.

Considering that Environment Fund is the primary source for covering staff costs under this programme, and considering that a considerable part of the programme heavily relies on staff time, if Environment Fund levels continue to reduce, this may become a greater challenge in the near future. Resource mobilization efforts need to substantially increase to address not only diminishing funds from existing sources but also the greater ambition of the programme for the next medium-term strategy, to help countries put in place the transformational changes they need to achieve the sustainable development goals and address global environmental challenges. Because governance is at the core of enabling long-term change, it is important to heighten efforts to access global funding mechanisms that target specific thematic areas.

Work to promote coherence and synergy is not carried out by UN environment

alone, but in partnership with other UN agencies, interagency mechanisms, and Multilateral Environmental Agreements. To a certain extent, what we measure as progress does not depend solely on UN Environment's efforts but from efforts by a wider set of institutions: stronger evidence of results will be provided at the end of the biennium on the basis of a survey which will allow us to receive information directly from other entities especially on the uptake of UN Environment's policy advice in their own policies and action (indicator A(iv)).

Supporting countries with technical assistance requires both substantial staff investment into methodology and expert advice, and funding to support national level efforts. The depth of engagement with a given country is commensurate to funding available, among other things. One of the very concrete challenges is the difficulty to respond to all requests for support in the development of national legislation, and the limited capacity to operate in national languages in some cases. However, stronger partnerships with global, regional and national institutions help address these challenges.

The core of this expected accomplishment is to place environment at the core of development, and it will therefore take an even more central place in the 2018-21 Medium Term Strategy and in the associated portfolio. The plan is to create greater synergies among various country focused efforts and to align them to the common objective of helping countries put in place the governance related transformational changes needed to implement the 2030 Agenda with a strong environmental lens. This shift needs to be based on a stronger financial basis, wider partnerships and alignment of internal efforts. This is already occurring as part of developing the portfolio for the next biennium, where a number of existing initiatives are being consolidated into broader programmes.