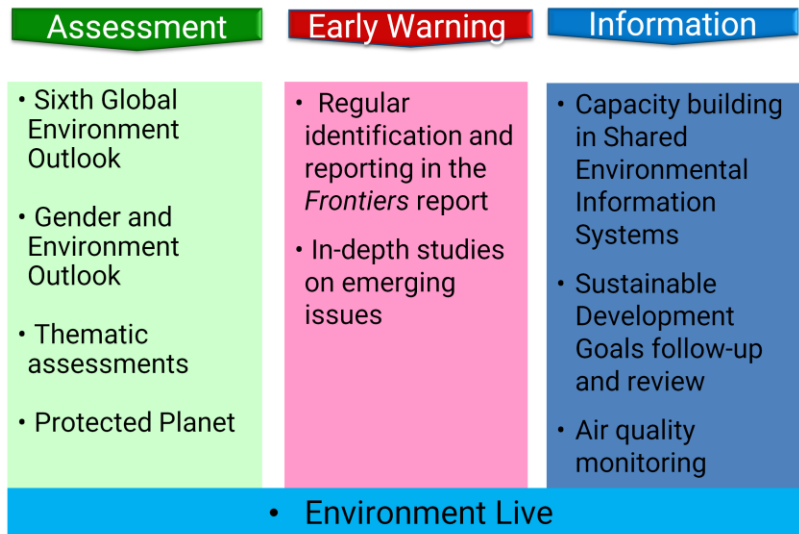


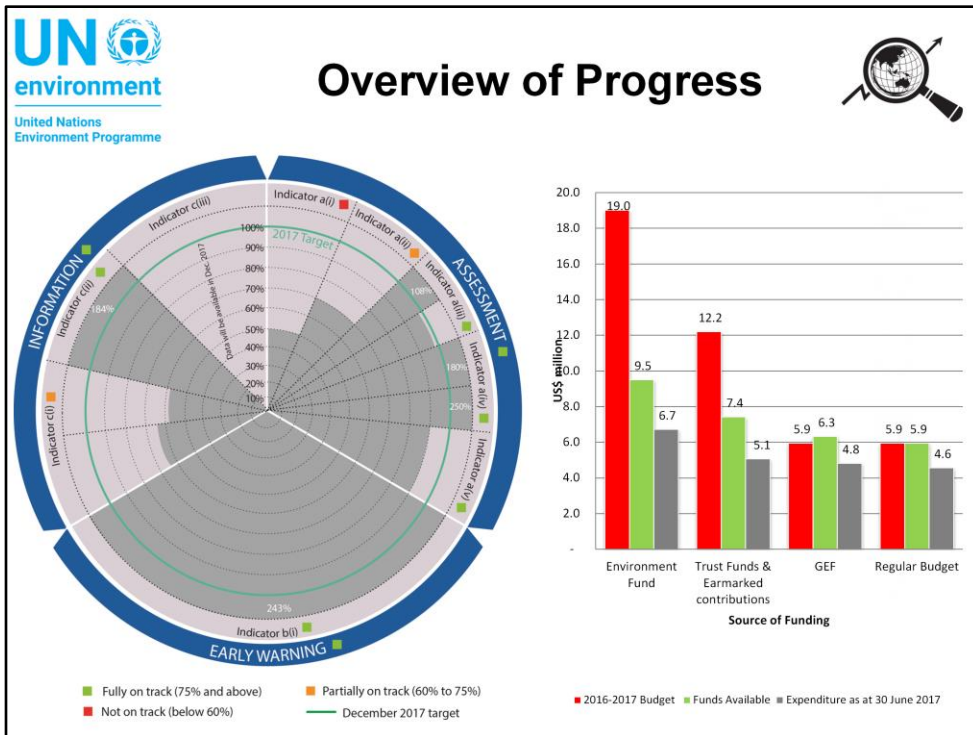
Our work on the Environment under Review programme focuses on strengthening the interface between science, policy and governance by bridging the gap between the producers and users of environmental information and better linking science with policy.



To empower stakeholders in their policy and decision making, the programme focuses on providing scientific information and knowledge and keeping the world environment under review. The three main areas of work are:

- **Assessment:** to facilitate global, regional and national policy making by making environmental information available on open platforms
- **Early warning:** to support agenda setting and enable better policy planning that incorporates information on emerging environmental issues
- **Information management:** where UN Environment enhances the capacity of countries to generate, access, analyze, use and communicate environmental information and knowledge

The three work streams are strongly interrelated and 'Environment Live', UN Environment's online global knowledge platform that provides open access to data and information, is supporting all three areas of work.



The performance review for the period January 2016-Jun 2017, visualized in the diagram, shows that the programme is generally on track to achieve the performance targets set for the 2016-2017 biennium. Five indicators are fully on track or have achieved the targets, and three are partially on track to achieve the target by December 2017. These areas requiring further attention and efforts will be further discussed in the following slides.

The figure shows the funding situation for the subprogramme by funding source. Blue bars indicate the budget, red bars the available resources and green bars the expenditure as at 31 December 2016.

In terms of budget performance, the programme has received less funding compared to what was budgeted for the various funding sources, with the exception of the regular budget and the funding coming from the Global Environment Facility. With its core mandate to keep the environment under review, the programme has in the past been strongly supported by the Environment Fund. Unlike other programmes, however, the significant reduction in availability of the Environment Fund has not been compensated by additional income from extra-budgetary funding. This has in particular impacted the support to the work on emerging issues, integration of Earth Observation data in processes and products, and the (limited) capacity of the organization to reach our with the findings of assessments and other information products through

targeted outreach and campaigns.



The sixth Global Environment Outlook is well on track for delivery by the fourth UN Environment Assembly in 2019. The second authors' meeting was held in Bangkok, Thailand, in May 2017, and the third authors' meeting will be hosted by Guangzhou, China, from 9-13 October. The second draft of the state, trends and policy chapters are currently under review. With its overarching theme, 'Healthy Planet, Healthy People', the early drafts have helped to inform the development of the background document on pollution for the third UN Environment Assembly .

Whereas evidence on the use of our assessments by other UN agencies and multilateral environmental agreements (50 per cent of the indicator target reached) as well as other fora and institutions (70 percent of the indicator target reached) is mounting, more needs to be done to achieve the December 2017 target. Currently, progress towards the target on use of assessments and environmental information by 18 UN and multilateral environmental agreements stands at 50 per cent whereas the performance review shows 70 per cent progress towards the target of use of assessments by other fora and institutions. To accelerate progress, the programme has stepped up its support related to outreach in the regions in the last six months.

To better support the development of the Global Environment Outlook, a revamped Environment Live website was launched in February 2017 during the first authors meeting in Frascati, Italy. Usability tests show significantly improved website performance. By June 2017, nearly 80 per cent of users that responded to the online user survey were reasonably to fully satisfied with the relevance of Environment Live to respond to their needs and its usefulness – showing that indicator progress almost achieved its target. At the end of the year, the corporate biennial performance survey (required in our indicator targets) will also seek your views on the use of our products and the usability of Environment Live platform. We look forward to hearing your views by December 2017.


**Early Warning on Emerging Issues**




**Various topics in *Frontiers* picked up by the media, professional journals and institutions, including the European Food Safety Authority**



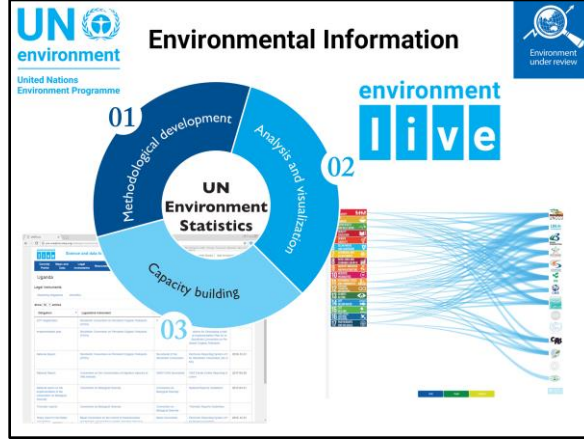
The work under early warning, as captured in *Frontiers 2016* \*, received a lot of attention in the media and publications. Various topics in *Frontiers* picked up by the media, professional journals and institutions, including the European Food Safety Authority. The next *Frontiers*\*\* will be launched at the Science-Policy-Business Forum organized by UN Environment prior to the third UN Environment Assembly in December 2017.

According to the proxy indicator used for tracking progress in this area of work, the target for this biennium has already been exceeded. A survey will be held by the end of the biennium targeting all governments and stakeholders to confirm the use of our emerging issues work.

*\*The Frontiers series is UN Environment's annual highlight of emerging issues relevant to the environment. In 2016, the report focused on the increase in zoonotics (diseases that transfer from organisms to men), microplastics, the role of the financial sector, trade in live animals, loss and damage, and plant toxicity induced by climatic changes.*

*\*\*For the 2017 report, the following six issues have been identified as emerging issues requiring attention: anti-microbial resistance; preventative measures against sand and dust-storms; off-grid distributed solar power; marine protected areas; environmental dimension of displacement, and technological*

*developments in nano-materials and chemicals*



Progress was made in our efforts to enhance the capacity of countries to generate, access, analyze, use and communicate environmental information and knowledge. Strengthening national and regional environmental information networking and reporting will be an area of focus in the last half of 2017 in Africa, Asia, Central Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean – with support from the governments, the UN Development Account, the Global Environment Facility and the European Commission, among other contributors.

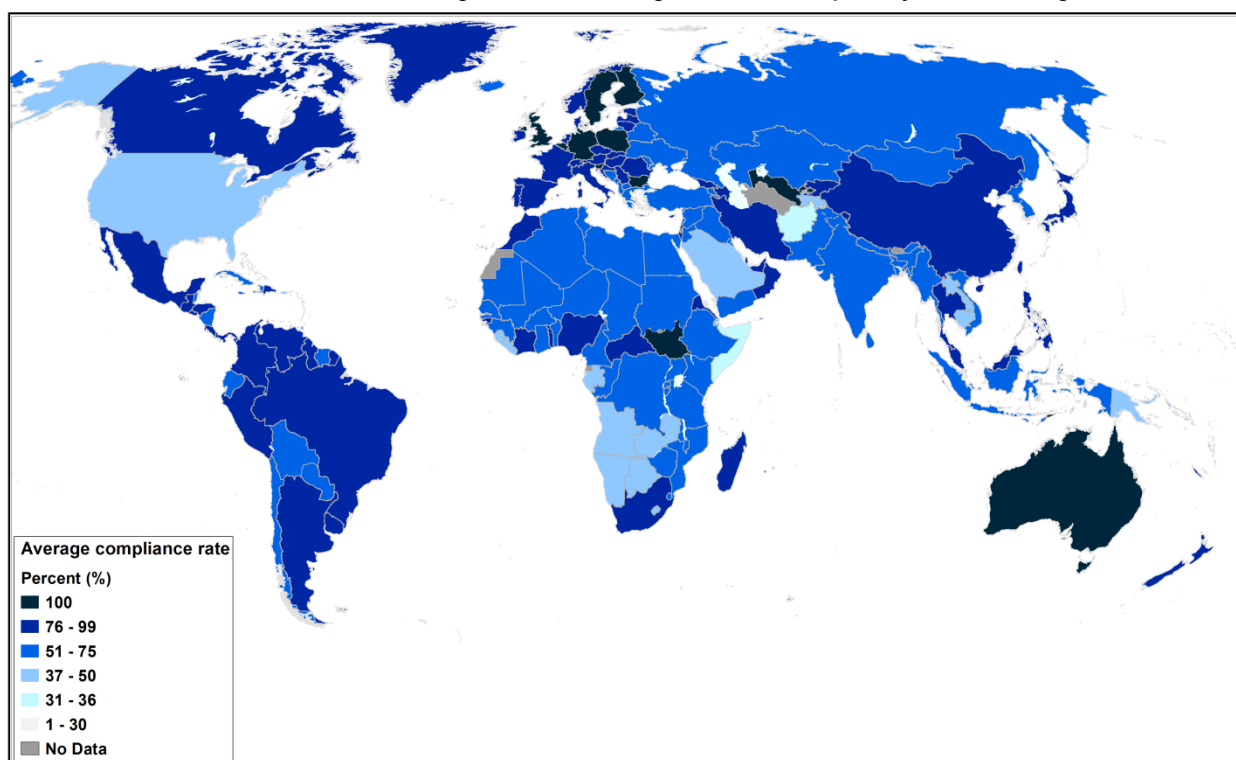
The United Nations Secretary-General’s global progress report on Sustainable Development Goals benefitted from UN Environment’s inputs on 8 indicators ranging from decent jobs and economic growth (material footprint) to life on land (protected areas). For another 18 indicators, methodologies are still being developed with partners, such as for the extent of freshwater ecosystems using Earth Observation technology (indicator 6.6.1).

UN Environment successfully continues to develop partnerships that contribute data to assessments (indicator target exceeded) and has also been working with a number of the multilateral environmental agreement on methodologies to track progress towards Sustainable Development Goals. Three Conventions are now in the process of revising the questionnaires for the national reporting to ensure that reporting to the multilateral environmental agreement is being adjusted to take into account Sustainable Development Goals indicator reporting.

Where we continue to see lack of progress is the disaggregation of environmental data by gender (progress at 58 per cent). If we are to leave no one behind, it is important that the gender dimension is monitored and reported on. UN Environment has initiated work with partners on the gender disaggregation of data and the development of gender-sensitive indicators to support countries in their efforts.



**Indicator 12.4.1: Number of parties to international multilateral environmental agreements on hazardous waste, and other chemicals that meet their commitments and obligations in transmitting information as required by each relevant agreement**



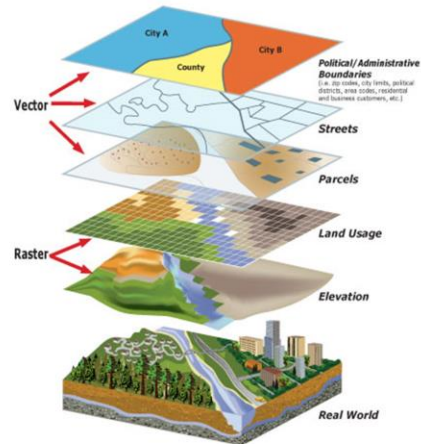
Countries continue to address air, soil and water pollution, and exposure to toxic chemicals, under the auspices of various multilateral agreements, including the new Minamata Convention on Mercury that entered into force on 16 August 2017. Whereas all Parties reported to the Montreal Protocol between 2010 and 2014, only 51 per cent of Parties to the Stockholm Convention, 57 per cent of Parties to the Basel Convention, and 71 per cent of Parties to the Rotterdam Convention provided the requested data and information. Many countries still fail to fully meet their reporting commitments under key global environmental agreements on chemical and hazardous waste and therefore on progress in responsible consumption and production under the Sustainable Development Goals.

In partnership with the UN Economic Commissions and other UN agencies, UN Environment helps countries to build statistical capacity to report on the

## Challenges and Opportunities



- Quick analyses and access to environmental **knowledge and options for action required**, linking science to **policy and business opportunities**
- Relationships between **gender** and environment need attention; data gaps need to be addressed
- Consolidation of UN Environment as the **online hub for open access** to environmental data and knowledge
- Harness the potential of **earth observation partnerships** to inform policy action
- Funding gaps and bringing the programme to a higher level of ambition



Whereas core activities are being delivered, the shortfall in income hampers full roll out and upscaling of the programme's strategy. This limits the uptake of our work.

It also limits opportunities to fully realize the potential of taking on board new technologies, such as Earth Observation.

Rapid changes and pressing environmental issues demand quick analyses, access to available environmental knowledge and options for action, linking science to policy and business opportunities

The relationships between gender and environment need further attention, and data gaps need to be addressed

UN Environment will consolidate its position as the online hub for open access to environmental data and knowledge within the UN and globally

Further strengthening of our work with government, partners and donors is needed to address the funding gaps and bring the programme to a higher level

of ambition

In particular, enhanced capacity and partnerships in earth observation have great potential to timely inform policy action by keeping the environment under review