

Towards a Pollution-Free Planet

Background report

UN 
**environment
assembly**

The 3rd United Nations
Environment Assembly
of the United Nations
Environment Programme

unep.org/environmentassembly



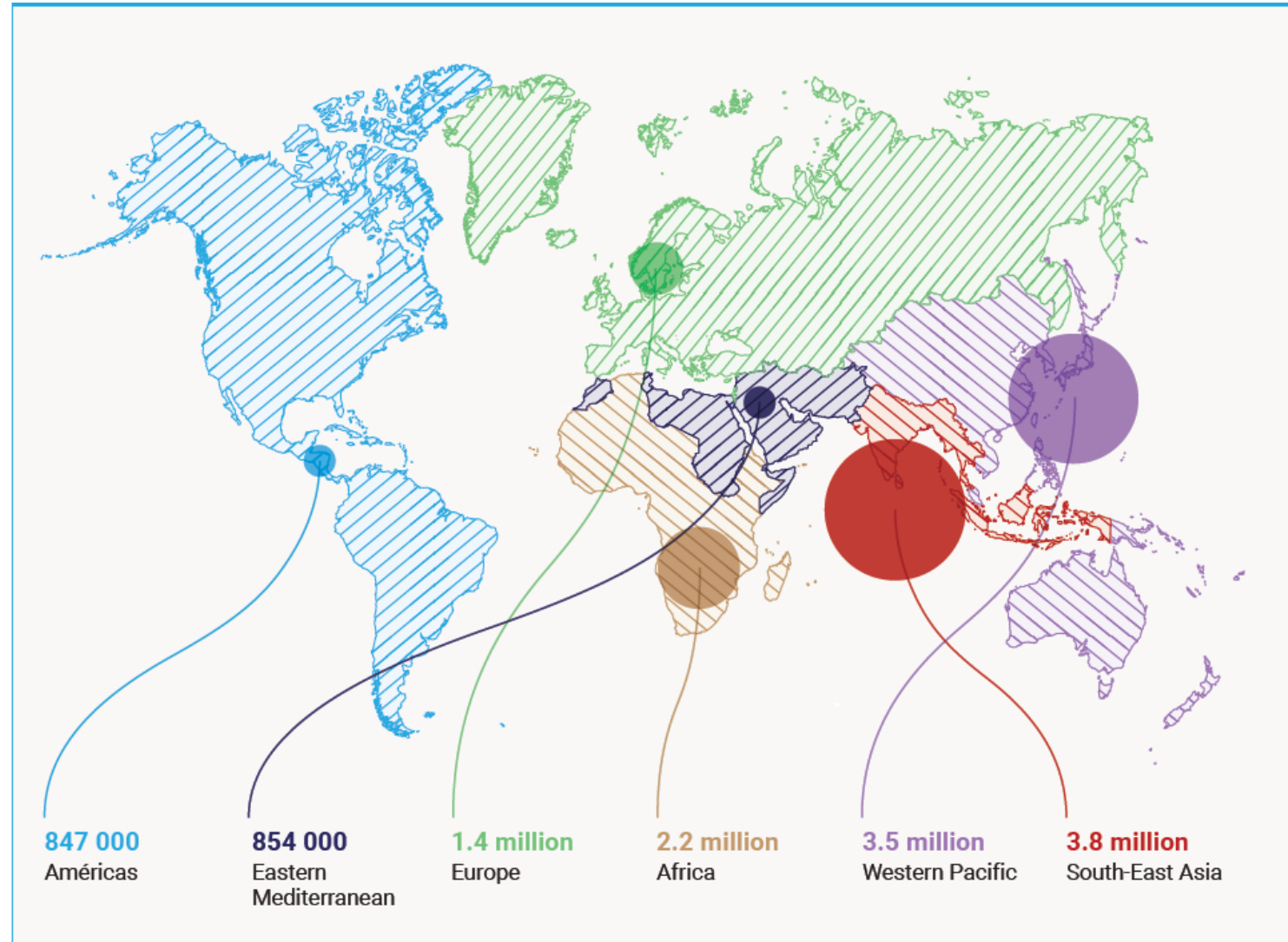
Process

- Initial outline to Member States -March 2017
- Assessment of the latest science on all forms of pollution
- Presentations to the CPR at regular intervals
- Advance report - June 2017
- Consultations with a large constituency
- Collecting and responding to more than 600 comments received from all over the world
- Launch – Minamata COP1, 28 September 2017

Section 1: Evidence of a polluted planet: the science, impacts and economic costs

- Based on the GEO regional reports, GEO-6 thematic drafts, and other sources
- Combining state, trends and impact analysis per pollution theme
- Indicating economic costs of inaction

Number of deaths attributable to environment factors, in 2012, by WHO region



TACKLING POLLUTION, A GLOBAL THREAT

Every year:

AIR



6.5 million people die from air pollution

CHEMICAL



Lead poisoning in children costs the world some \$977 billion

FRESHWATER



80% of global wastewater enters the environment without proper treatment

WASTE



1/3 of food produced worldwide is lost or wasted

LAND & SOIL



As many as 25 million agricultural workers experience unintentional pesticide poisoning

MARINE










And all year long, marine litter is found in 100% of sea turtles

#BEATPOLLUTION

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Major sources of today's pollution

	Agriculture and food	Land-based farming, food and agro-industry, fisheries and aquaculture
	Energy	Combustion plants, fossil fuels, biomass, nuclear, domestic solid fuel heating
	Industrial	Chemicals, mineral extractives, forestry and paper products, cement
	Manufacturing	Information technology, home electronics, construction and home-building products, batteries, textiles, apparel, footwear, and luxury goods, pharmaceuticals (for example antibiotics)
	Services	Retail, hospitality and tourism, hospitals and health-care services
	Transport	Automobiles, fuel use and supply, engine emissions, road (tyres, surface), shipping, aviation, urban
	Waste	Improper management of municipal solid waste (which includes e-waste, plastics, food waste, organic waste and open burning), industrial waste (which includes e-waste, construction and demolition waste), hazardous waste (which includes e-waste), sewerage effluents, landfills (leachates)

Costs of pollution

Pollution	Costs (2015 billion US\$)	% of Gross Domestic Product
Indoor and outdoor air pollution	5 322	7.2
Chemicals (volatile organic compounds, lead, mercury)	480	0.4
General waste	216	0.3
Land degradation and desertification in Africa (42 countries)	127	12.3
Land degradation in Asia (46 countries) at 2013 price	Not available	6.6

Section 2: Addressing pollution: Governance frameworks, challenges and opportunities in the context of the 2030 Agenda

- Analysing environmental governance framework in relation to pollution
- Highlighting the central role of multistakeholder and multi-level engagement
- Demonstrating how addressing pollution is contributing to achieving multiple Sustainable Development Goals and targets
- Identifying main challenges and gaps for impactful action

Gaps and Challenges identified

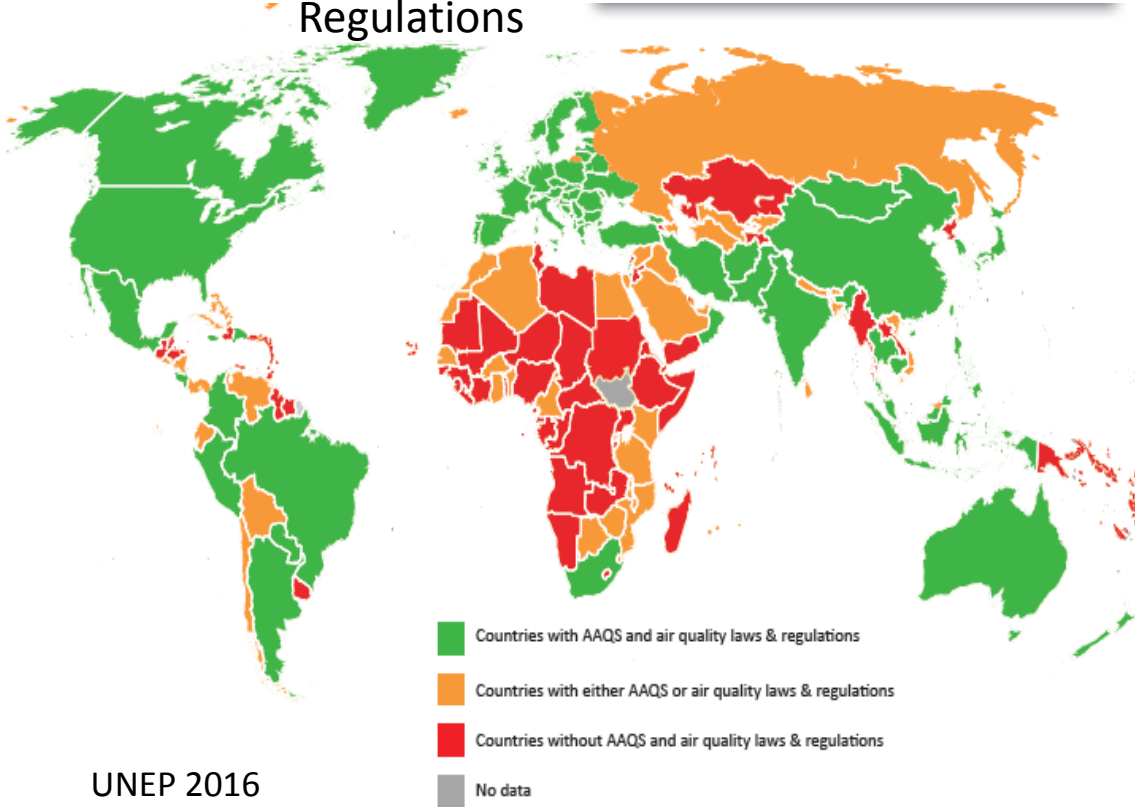
- ✓ Implementation gaps
- ✓ Knowledge gaps
- ✓ Infrastructure gaps
- ✓ Limited leadership by financial institutions and industry
- ✓ Mispricing, the invisibility of ecosystem values and externalization of pollution costs
- ✓ Insufficient recognition by different actors that consumer choices have pollution consequences.

Action on pollution can contribute to achieve many Sustainable Development Goals

 <p>1 NO POVERTY</p>	<p>Cleaner environments improve health and worker productivity and work days</p>	 <p>2 ZERO HUNGER</p>	<p>Growing food on non-contaminated soils helps to fight hunger and ensure the provision of safe food round</p>	 <p>3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING</p>	<p>Actions on pollution substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination</p>
 <p>4 QUALITY EDUCATION</p>	<p>A clean environment enables quality education and education enables acquisition of knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles</p>	 <p>5 GENDER EQUALITY</p>	<p>Pollution reduction as well as equality, for example through reduced burden of fetching clean water, cleaner indoor air quality and better health enable gender equality</p>	 <p>6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION</p>	<p>Better managed freshwater ecosystems and cleaner water significantly reduce the number of deaths from diarrhoeal diseases</p>
 <p>7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY</p>	<p>Access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy can cut air pollution indoors, which will particularly benefit women and children</p>	 <p>8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH</p>	<p>Reduced exposure to pollution leads to improved health and well-being of workers and therefore increased productivity and economic growth</p>	 <p>9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE</p>	<p>Pollution avoidance through adoption of green technologies and ecosystem based solutions fosters innovation and sustainability in industry and infrastructural sectors</p>
 <p>10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES</p>	<p>Pollution governance and actions can ensure that no group or community is made to bear a disproportionate share of the harmful effects of pollution</p>	 <p>11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES</p>	<p>Sustainable transport, waste management, buildings and industry lead to cleaner air in cities</p>	 <p>12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION</p>	<p>Resource efficiency and circularity in materials and input use reduce pollution and waste and contribute to sustainable consumption and production</p>
 <p>13 CLIMATE ACTION</p>	<p>Clean energy and low carbon policies reduce air pollution and mitigate climate change impact at the same time</p>	 <p>14 LIFE BELOW WATER</p>	<p>Action on marine pollution reduces potential bioaccumulation of toxic substances as well as habitat destruction, and help maintain healthy fisheries and ecosystems</p>	 <p>15 LIFE ON LAND</p>	<p>Integrating ecosystem and biodiversity values into development plans and poverty reduction strategies supports better land management and avoids pollution</p>
 <p>16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS</p>	<p>Good 'pollution-related' governance reduces environmental burdens and injustices and can enhance availability of 'saved' resources for the underserved</p>	 <p>17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS</p>	<p>Global partnerships to address pollution can have positive implications to health, jobs, worker productivity, planet and well-being</p>		

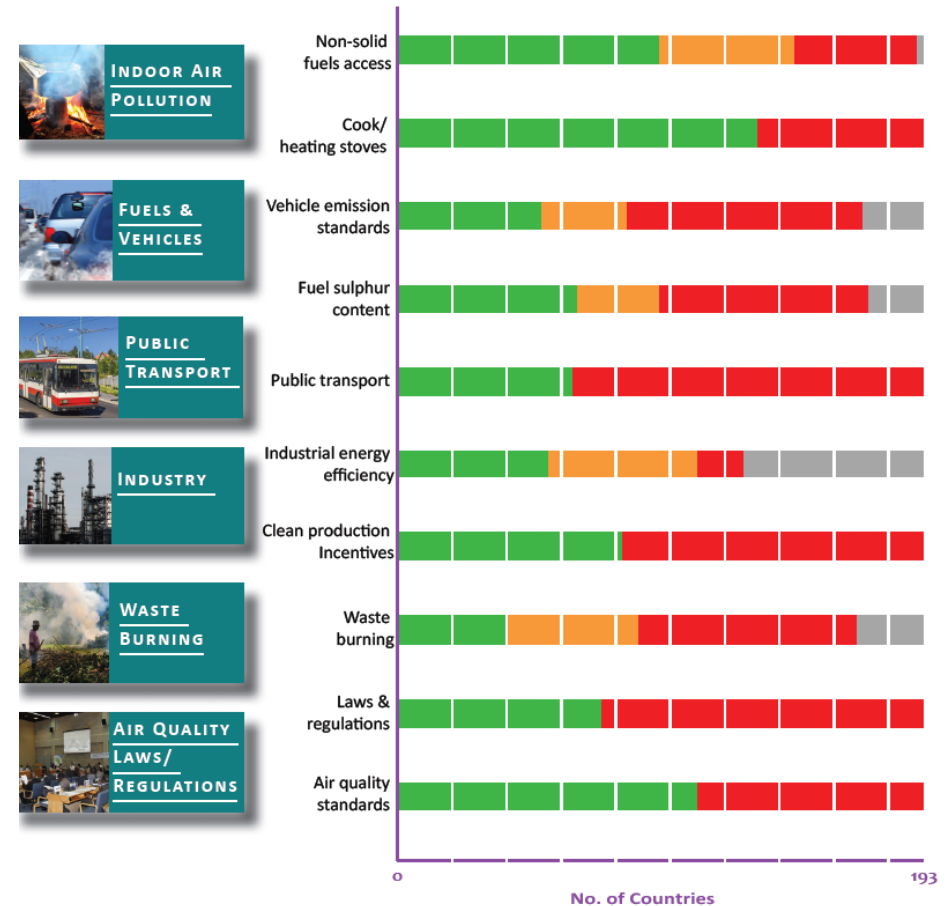
Example: National actions on improving air quality in the world

Standards and Regulations



UNEP 2016

Where is the world in taking action to improve air quality?



Source: UNEP 2016. Actions on Air Quality

Section 3: A Framework for a Transition to a Pollution Free Planet

- Highlighting key Principles for Action
- Identifying Enablers and System – Wide Transformations required
- Highlighting targeted interventions by pollution areas

A Framework of Actions is proposed

- **Targeted interventions**, based on risk assessments and scientific evidence of impacts, to address: i. 'hard-hitting' pollutants; ii. Areas of pollution (air, water, marine and coastal, land/soil) including cross-cutting categories (e.g. chemicals, waste)
- **System-wide transformations** at the economy level

guided and underpinned by:

Principles : universality, sustainability, integration, precaution and inclusiveness

Enablers, or broader supporting actions, that aim to shift incentives, correct market and policy failures and address some of the gaps and issues that make pollution so pervasive and persistent.

We need to work together towards system-wide transformations

- ✓ **Multiple benefits:** health, economic productivity, environmental justice
- ✓ **Ensuring rights of people to a healthy environment**
- ✓ **Markets are changing and expanding opportunities to grow but also be clean:**
 - Competitiveness and first mover advantages
 - Green technologies, ecosystems-based solutions
 - Innovative project finance
- ✓ **Social perceptions are changing and demands for a healthy environment are increasing**
 - Civil society
 - Non governmental organizations
 - Media

In conclusion: Five overarching messages from the report

- ✓ A global compact on pollution would make pollution prevention a priority for all
- ✓ Environmental governance needs to be strengthened at all levels
- ✓ Sustainable consumption and production needs to be promoted with waste reduction and management prioritized
- ✓ Investment in cleaner production technologies would help to counter pollution, alongside increased funding for pollution monitoring, infrastructure, management and control
- ✓ Multi-stakeholder partnerships/coalitions and collaborations would facilitate the addressing of gaps