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**142<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives  
to the United Nations Environment Programme**

Nairobi, 10 May 2018

10:00 a.m to 1:00 p.m and 2:30 p.m to 5:30 p.m.

Conference Room 1

**Quarterly report to the 142<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives**

The Secretariat is pleased to present the attached quarterly report to the Committee of Permanent Representatives key developments during the first quarter of 2018, in support of discussions under agenda item 4: *Report of the Executive Director during the 142<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives*.

The report is comprised of three sections as follows:

- 1) Highlights of some significant global and regional developments;
- 2) Programmatic updates, including challenges and opportunities;
- 3) Current financial and human resource situation and highlights of developments in other important management areas.

Kindly note that the figures on the status of allocation and expenditures (page 26) are still tentative; these figures are expected to be updated and corrected in the coming weeks and will be communicated to member States and Stakeholders once confirmed.

# **QUARTERLY REPORT**

**to the 142<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the**

**COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT  
REPRESENTATIVES**

**January-March 2018**

### INTRODUCTION

This report aims to provide the Committee of Permanent Representatives to the UN Environment Programme with an update on key developments during the first quarter of 2018.

The UN Environment Programme Medium Term Strategy 2018-2021 is the first to sit squarely in the era following the launch of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in September 2015. The 2018-2021 strategy thus permits us to focus our fullest energy – starting in 2018 – on helping our Member States achieve the 17 goals and 169 targets of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In total, 26 of the 244 Sustainable Development Goal indicators are under the responsibility of UN Environment Programme to track and provide feedback on to our Member States. Our own efforts to support the implementation of Agenda 2030, through the umbrella of the Medium-Term Strategy, is done through our Programme of Work.

It is this Programme of Work on which we are reporting through this first Quarterly Report for the current Biennium. Through it, we also speak about the way we are implementing the decisions of the Environment Assembly.

The report covers 1 January to 31 March 2018 and is organized into three sections.

- The first section highlights some significant global and regional developments.
- The second section provides programmatic updates, including challenges and opportunities.
- The third section presents the current financial and human resource situation and highlights developments in other important management areas.

## **SECTION 1: SIGNIFICANT GLOBAL AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS**

- **KEY EVENTS:** During the quarter, we engaged in several key platforms which allowed us to further position the environmental agenda across a range of leadership events. These will have a substantial bearing on the way we work in the future. Important international meetings, like the World Economic Forum (Davos, January), the Munich Security Conference (Munich, February) and the third meeting of the Global Peatlands Initiative (Brazzaville, March), provided important spaces for UN Environment Programme to raise the profile of environmental issues, strengthen partnerships and take forward its work in critical areas like climate change, resource efficiency, ecosystem management and environmental security. We launched the third International Year of the Reef which we hope will galvanize action for the conservation and sustainable use of coral reefs. At the ninth World Urban Forum in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in February, we highlighted the environmental focus in the New Urban Agenda.
- **UN REFORM:** In the context of the UN reform, in January 2018, the Secretary-General presented his [second Report](#) on the [Repositioning the UN Development System to deliver on the 2030 Agenda](#) to the General Assembly. The [Secretary-General's report](#) outlines a 'mutually reinforcing, indivisible' package of proposed reforms in seven key areas of transformation. Member States then held a series of consultations on the proposals put forward by the Secretary-General. These were followed by negotiations on a [draft UN General Assembly](#) resolution. At the request of Member States, the Secretariat issued a series of [explanatory notes](#) providing more details on various aspects of the proposed reforms. This process is part of the Secretary-General's broader **reform agenda**, which also includes [shifting the management paradigm in the United Nations](#) and [restructuring of the United Nations peace and security pillar](#). In March, the Secretary-General presented to Member States his [Report on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace](#). It aims to "forge a common vision and common systems and capacities across the United Nations to consistently and adequately support Member States in their endeavour to sustain peace and build resilient and prosperous nations in line with their commitments to leave no one behind". UN Environment Programme is staying abreast of the developments as the discussions on the various reform processes are taking place among Member States. A briefing by the Executive Director, UN Assistant Secretary General Office of Human Resources Management Martha Helena-Lopez (ASG OHRM) and UN Assistant Secretary General/Director Enterprise Resource Planning and Umoja, Mr Chandramouli Ramanathan, was provided to the Committee of Permanent Representatives at the Sub-Committee meeting of 24 April 2018.
- **CLIMATE CHANGE AND SECURITY:** The security implications of climate change are being recognized at the very highest levels.
  - The **Secretary General** has put climate change at the heart of his conflict prevention agenda, recently calling it "[the most systemic threat to humankind](#)". And the **President of the General Assembly** memorably said recently that, "[climate change is waging an invisible war, across new battlegrounds...](#)"
  - In addition, recent United Nations Security Council Resolutions 2349 and 2408 contain the first recognition by the Security Council (Council) that there is a clear correlation between the effects of climate change, and regional and national stability. By specifically addressing climate change the Council confirmed its willingness and competence to deal with the issue and for the first time encouraged governments to take active measures to manage the adverse effects of climate change. The Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme has referred to the resolutions as "a breakthrough in the fight against climate change."
  - There appears to be growing political momentum for collective work to address what this all means on the ground. UN Environment Programme can do this through interlinkages with our activities.

- **ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENDERS:** UN Environment Programme now has an agreed common and coherent approach to promote greater protection for environmental defenders through its policy on Environmental Defenders, adopted in January 2018.
- **UN ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME AT THE HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM 2018:**
  - The UN Environment Programme has submitted a proposal for a side event on the interlinkages between water and land, entitled *City, Swamp, Forest: Building resilience through nature*. By using positive examples of several major cities worldwide, this event will highlight good practices and case studies for how protection and restoration of nature are providing positive, cost-effective benefits to societies, economies and the environment. We hope to demonstrate the co-benefits of green solutions and linkages to the achievement of other SDGs – such as those relating to cities, health, biodiversity, sustainable consumption and production, oceans and food security. To support the examples and stories presented during this event, evidence and information will be presented by several stakeholders: city mayors, the private sector, national Governments, NGOs, financing mechanisms and others leading restoration efforts.
  - In addition, we will co-host, or participate in, the following side events in the margins of the 2018 High-Level Political Forum including:
    - **General Assembly High-Level Event on Sand and Dust Storms** organized by the President of the General Assembly,
    - High level event on **Transforming our economies and lifestyles: Greener & fairer for future generations** organized by the Partnership for Action of Green Economy (PAGE) and the German Government,
    - **High-level event on biodiversity in the context of SDG 15 “Life on Land”**, organised by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and
    - **Ministerial Breakfast: Achieving SDG 12 with the One Planet Network**, organised by the Secretariat of the 10 Years Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production (10YFP).
    - We are also planning to exhibit some of our work in some of the above events.

## AFRICA

- **Protecting the Congo Basin Peatlands:** The third meeting of Partners to the Global Peatlands Initiative (21-23 March, Brazzaville, Republic of Congo) provided another significant platform for engagement. At the meeting, the Brazzaville Declaration was signed. The governments of the Republic of Congo and the Democratic Republic of Congo made commitments to protect the Congo Basin Peatlands. In this, they received strong encouragement from the Indonesian Minister of Environment and Forest. Indonesia said it would continue to share its experience in managing peatlands with the Republic of Congo and the Democratic Republic of Congo, in the spirit of South-South cooperation. At the event, the Executive Director discussed with principals the protection and sustainable exploitation of the Congo Basin Peatlands. He reaffirmed UN Environment Programme’s readiness to help both countries to implement their national plans and strategies, share their experience with other countries, and raise attention and resources.
- **Strategic partnerships to implement the 2030 Agenda:** During 27-28 February, the Executive Director visited Ethiopia. He held discussions with the **African Union Commission** on how to strengthen cooperation with and support African countries’ efforts to address major environmental challenges. During his meetings, the Executive Director discussed and agreed upon concrete priorities with the African Union Commission and United Nations Economic Commission for Africa. He also discussed strategic partnerships with the **UN Economic Commission for Africa, private sector, members of the diplomatic corps** and other relevant stakeholders on support to African countries, and the **implementation of Agenda 2030**. UN Environment Programme signed a country agreement with the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change of the **Federal Republic of Ethiopia**, firming up commitment to build resilience to climate change especially in the water sector, greening and restoring landscapes, and beating pollution.

## ASIA-PACIFIC

- **Protecting reefs and wetlands:** During 14-20 January, the Executive Director was on mission in Fiji, where he launched, with the Prime Minister of Fiji and UN Special Envoy on Oceans, the **International Year of the Reef** to highlight the state of the world's reefs and their importance. The Fijian Cabinet approved the nomination of a new Ramsar site under the Convention on Wetlands, to ensure its management and protection for future generations. One of the most precious national assets, the Great Sea Reef is the third longest continuous barrier reef in the world, after Australia's Great Barrier Reef and the Mesoamerica reef off Central America. In Australia, he conducted dialogues with political leadership and key partners on issues related to oceans and coral reefs, including the upcoming chairmanship of Australia on the International Coral Reef Initiative.
- **Myanmar:** UN Environment Programme has a growing portfolio in Myanmar in the areas of sustainable energy, climate change adaptation, waste management, mangrove restoration and greening the belt and road initiative. During the Executive Director's Mission to Myanmar (5-7 February), the strategy for UN Environment Programme's presence in Myanmar was further developed. It aims to provide continuous support to the country in relation to environmental challenges and the need to coordinate the growing portfolio.
- **Bahrain and United Arab Emirates:** The Executive Director was on mission in Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates (28 February to 2 March). Bahrain officially joined the CleanSeas campaign and will focus on awareness raising to mobilize different sectors to advocate for reducing single use plastics and plastics packaging. Bahrain is home to valuable marine biodiversity and recently declared the Northern Herat a nature reserve – its large dugong (medium-sized marine mammal) population is being adversely affected by marine litter. The Executive Director, with Mr. Zayed Al Zayani, the Minister of Industry, Commerce and Tourism of Bahrain, and Dr. Mohamed Bin Daina the Chief Executive of the Supreme Council for Environment in Bahrain, officially inaugurated the country's first Refrigerants Reclamation Facility in Manana. Established under the national Hydrochlorofluorocarbon (HCFC) Phase-out Management Plan and funded by the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol, the reclamation facility will manage a local recovery network amongst servicing contractors and large end-users of refrigeration and air-conditioning applications.

## EUROPE

- **World Economic Forum:**
  - The World Economic Forum (Davos 23-26 January) provided us with a significant opportunity to take forward our work programme in critical areas like climate change, resources efficiency and conflict. As reflected in the relevant subprogramme updates (see below), the Executive Director contributed to dialogue and action on areas such as the **circular economy, forest protection, sustainable agriculture** and partnerships for better managements of the **oceans**.
  - UN Environment Programme co-hosted a meeting in Davos on Forest Protection and Sustainable Agriculture with **Rabobank** to broaden our partnership, following the announcement in October 2017 of a US\$1 billion credit facility between UN Environment Programme and Rabobank. The Executive Director, the CEO of Rabobank, and the Minister of Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation of the Netherlands, Sigrid Kaag, gave opening remarks.
  - We also hosted a meeting at the World Economic Forum on transforming agriculture through natural farming in **Andhra Pradesh**, India. The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Mr. Chandrababu Naidu, outlined his vision for improving the well-being of 6 million farmers and strengthening smallholder agriculture based on higher yields, lower risks and fair prices through the State's Zero budget natural farming initiative.

- At a meeting on green trade hosted by **Costa Rica and Argentina**, the Executive Director Erik Solheim and Director General of World Trade Organisation, Robert Azevedo, sensitized participants on how international trade can have a positive impact on the environment, using examples of regulation of sustainable fisheries and the use of subsidies.
- Still in Davos, the Executive Director and Ellen MacArthur signed a memorandum of understanding between UN Environment Programme and the **Ellen MacArthur Foundation** in a common effort to stimulate public-private sector engagement with circular economy solutions. The agreement will enable the Foundation to work alongside the International Resource Panel to scientifically assess circular economy strategies that enable the decoupling of economic development from environmental degradation, in public and private centres of influence, using science-based systems thinking and life cycle approaches.
- Ambassador Wolfgang Ischinger, Chairman of the **Munich Security Conference**, and the Executive Director signed a Memorandum of Understanding for cooperation in Davos. The agreement focuses on joint events and sharing of knowledge and expertise.
- UN Environment Programme hosted its first event at the **Munich Security Conference** in February, aiming to bring attention to the environmental dimension of security and have a strategic dialogue on this. On this auspicious basis, we plan to engage further with the Munich Security Conference on environment and security.
- At an event on the International Year of the Reef 2018 hosted by the Prince of Wales in London on 14 February 2018, the Executive Director gave a keynote address on increasing **coral reef resilience** through new collaborative models.

### LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

- The ninth meeting of the negotiating committee of the regional agreement on Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration adopted the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean (4 March 2018, Escazú, Costa Rica). The agreement, which is the first legally binding instrument on human rights and the environment in the region, makes history as the first legally binding instrument to protect environmental human rights defenders. It will be open for signature on 27 September 2018, during the General Assembly. 11 ratifications will be needed for its entry into force.

### NORTH AMERICA

- On 7 March, UN Environment Programme together with the **Mississippi River Cities and Towns Initiative** convened a roundtable on “Disaster Vulnerability and Resilience along the Mississippi River”. It brought together mayors from 23 cities and towns along the Mississippi River with leaders from the global and North American insurance industry, and other key stakeholders (including state and federal officials, philanthropic organizations, city networks and initiatives). The aim was to discuss how to reduce vulnerability and build resilience to natural disasters within the Mississippi River corridor. The roundtable provided an opportunity to promote the work of the Principles for Sustainable Insurance, a UN Environment Programme-Finance Initiative special programme.

### PRIVATE SECTOR ENGAGEMENT

- UN Environment Programme has been working with private sector representatives and associations in the following sectors: finance, oil and gas, waste, water, cooling chains, food and beverages, agriculture and fisheries, forestry, electric power, tire and transport, mining and metals, tourism, building and construction, chemicals including plastics and cosmetics, manufacturing including textiles and leather, Information and Communication Technology, and retail.

- Since January of this year, eight new private sector partnerships have been established, with:
  - Clarity Movement,
  - Coca Cola Company,
  - Ethiopian Airlines,
  - Honeywell,
  - Majid Al Futtaim Holding,
  - Nippon Television Network Cooperation,
  - PayTm, and
  - Rabobank.

Additional information is included under the programmatic updates. Risk management for the organization has been improved by working with Sustainalytics and RepRisk (due diligence service providers).

- The **planned outcomes** of the enhanced private sector engagement include:
  - **More transparent and simpler processes** for creating public-private partnership agreements.
  - **Broadening the partnership base** in sectors and regions, especially where there has previously been limited engagement (such as in our Latin America and the Caribbean, and West Asia operations).
    - For example, in our West Asia operations, this will include developing and signing agreements with private sector entities representing critical sectors in the region, such as energy, finance, communications, infrastructure and urbanization.
    - Partnerships will also be developed with Chambers of Commerce to enable direct interaction with smaller companies that can contribute to a collective movement of positive change within countries of the region.
  - Scaling-up partnerships in support of the implementation of the **UN Environment Assembly's** mandates (pollution, clean seas, environmental education, and extractive industry, among others).
  - Environmental rule of law, governance and business: preparation of a dedicated report is envisaged in partnership with the **Global Compact**.
  - Organization of events engaging the private sector in the run-up to and at the following events:
    - **High-Level Political Forum** in New York in July,
    - the Ministerial Conference of the **Partnership for Action on Green Economy** in South Africa in September, and
    - the fourth session of the **UN Environment Assembly** in March 2019.
  - **Sustainable consumption and production**: national policies and legal frameworks, possible work on national-level guidelines and specific approaches related to sustainable tourism and wildlife conservation.



## **SECTION 2: PROGRAMMATIC UPDATE**

During the quarter, UN Environment Programme delivered on all seven Sub-Programmes:

1. Climate change,
  2. Resilience to disasters and conflicts,
  3. Healthy and productive ecosystems,
  4. Environmental Governance,
  5. Chemicals, waste and air quality,
  6. Resource efficiency and,
  7. Environment under review.
- We present below key programmatic activity highlights in relation to the Expected Accomplishments of the **Programme of Work 2018-2019**, as well as progress on strategic partnerships or engagement. We also highlight key opportunities and challenges as well as some key risks.
  - **Campaigns** which are a critical part of our advocacy and delivery work are also reflected.
  - The implementation of **Environment Assembly resolutions** is also addressed.
  - Significant contributions from the **Special Initiatives** are also highlighted as they pertain to the Subprogrammes or cross-cutting areas.
  - A section on **cross-cutting areas** summarizes these contributions and provides information on gender and safeguards.

Note: in the sections below, the subheadings in blue correspond to the Expected Accomplishments of the Programme of Work 2018-2019.

### **1. CLIMATE CHANGE**

<b>Objective: Countries increasingly make the transition to low-emission economic development, and enhance their adaptation and resilience to climate change.</b>
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#### *Key Programmatic Activities*

#### **Countries increasingly advance their national adaptation plans which integrate ecosystem-based adaptation<sup>1</sup>**

- With our support, Swaziland and Zimbabwe each received approval of the Green Climate Fund for US\$ 300,000 for Readiness Support to build the capacity of their respective National Designated Authority.
- During 20-21 March, we organized the Second Global Adaptation Network Forum in Abu Dhabi, in partnership with United Arab Emirates Ministry of Climate Change and Environment and Zayed University. It had over 120 participants.
- We also out-posted a staff member to help strengthen our partnership with the Global Centre of Excellence on Climate Adaptation.

#### **Countries increasingly adopt and/or implement low greenhouse gas emission development strategies and invest in clean technologies<sup>2</sup>**

- **Climate and Clean Air Coalition:** UN Environment Programme made a submission to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in response to COP23 Decision 4 on the “Koronivia joint work on agriculture” with the Climate & Clean Air Coalition.
  - Our submission highlights the potential of agriculture control measures to reduce methane emissions.
  - In the same period, Viet Nam has joined the Coalition. Methane emissions from agriculture constitute one-third of Viet Nam’s greenhouse gas emissions.

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<sup>1</sup> SDGs 13.1, 13.2, 13.3.2, 13.a, 13.b

<sup>2</sup> SDGs 7.2, 7.3, 7a, 7b, 17

- The Coalition continued supporting Mongolia on air quality, cleaner fuels, waste management, district heating and the #BreatheLife campaign.
- **Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction** aims at gathering countries, cities and public and private organizations in the building sector value chain to scale up action to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. Its annual Assembly gathered members during 19-20 February in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, approving its co-chairs (France and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development) and the planned action for 2018.
- The Advisory Board of the **Climate Technology Centre and Network** met in Copenhagen in March to discuss progress, strategic direction and draft “Management Response” to recommendations made in the independent external review of the centre.

### Countries increasingly adopt and implement forest-friendly policies and measures that deliver quantifiable emissions reductions as well as social and environmental benefits<sup>3</sup>

- **Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+)** - In addition to what was reported on this topic under the Davos meeting (see Section 1), the Government of Malaysia requested UN Environment Programme support for a US\$1 million proposal for the Green Climate Fund’s readiness window to develop a safeguards information system as well as a private sector engagement strategy for REDD+.
- **Green Climate Fund:** In Banjul, an inception workshop for UN Environment Programme’s first Green Climate Fund project, in The Gambia, took place from 23-24 January. The Green Climate Fund approved the Honduras Readiness proposal to support strategic planning for the land use, land use change, and forestry (LULUCF) sector.

#### *Main opportunities and/or challenges encountered:*

- Our knowledge products are popular and are being used both in climate change negotiations and by media. But we continue to experience a chronic funding gap for our flagship reports. We are seeking long-term stable funding for the reports on:
  - Emissions Gap,
  - Adaptation Gap,
  - Investment Trends.
- Mobilizing and scaling-up climate action and investments remains a key focus area and more resources are needed to create the enabling conditions for private sector investment into:
  - Adaptation and REDD+,
  - Prioritization of staff input and core resource allocation, and
  - Strengthening of partnerships with financial institutions.
- UN Environment Programme will increase its people-centred and positive “climate communication” as a response to the seemingly-growing degree of climate pessimism around governments’ ability to address climate change.
- Women represent an average 35% of the workforce in renewable energy. This provides significant opportunities for their empowerment to contribute solutions to address climate change.

## 2. RESILIENCE TO DISASTERS AND CONFLICTS

**Objective: Countries increasingly prevent and reduce the environmental impacts of disasters and conflicts, while building resilience to future crises.**

#### *Key Programmatic Activities*

### Countries and international partners integrate environmental measures for risk reduction in key policies and frameworks

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<sup>3</sup> SDGs 12.c.1, 13.3.2, 13.a, 13.b, 15.1.1, 15.2.1, 15.3.1, 15.6.1, 17.17.1

- A **massive open online course** on [‘Environmental Security and Sustaining Peace’](#) was launched on 1 March, with UN Environment Programme as a key partner. The course already has over 8,500 participants from nearly all countries.
- In collaboration with **South Sudan’s** Department of Meteorology of the National Ministry of Transport, UN Environment Programme organized the very first South Sudan National Workshop on Climate Information Services and Weather during 21-23 February in Juba.
- We also undertook a 12-day mission on capacity development for risk management in the oil and gas sector in **Mozambique** to carry out an Institutional Capacity Needs Assessment on Environmental Management in the Oil and Gas Sector, on behalf of the Government of Mozambique and Norway’s Oil for Development Programme.
- In cooperation with the **Palestinian** Environment Quality Authority, UN Environment Programme led a 3-day workshop introducing ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation in the State of Palestine. The workshop was attended by over 30 participants from relevant government authorities and contributed to mapping opportunities for Eco-Disaster Risk Reduction activities throughout the West Bank.

### Emergency response and post-crisis recovery plans integrate environmental considerations to increase the sustainability of recovery

- **Toxic waste:** The Environmental Audit of the Sites Affected by the Dumping of the Toxic Wastes from the ‘Probo Koala’ report was launched in **Abidjan** on 30 January, in the margins of the Second Conference of the Parties to the Bamako Convention.
- **Debris management:** UN Environment Programme continued to support the Government of **Iraq** in addressing conflict pollution and debris management in areas retaken from the so-called Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant. We organized two key workshops in Iraq: the first on contaminated site assessments and remedial action planning in Baghdad, and a second on debris management in Mosul. UN Environment Programme’s debris assessment study showed that the conflict generated around 11 million tonnes of debris.
- **People movement:** UN Environment Programme assessed the environmental challenges surrounding the large-scale movement of tens of thousands of **Venezuelans into Colombia and Brazil**. To assess environmental challenges in the Kakuma refugee camp in northern **Kenya**, the Environmental Management Group organized a peer review mission to review the camp’s environmental management.

### Crisis-affected countries adopt key environmental and natural resource governance policies and sustainable practices as a contribution to recovery and development

- **Drought impact:** Using an innovative UN Environment Programme platform – called MapX – UN Environment Programme worked with partners to support a Drought Impact and Needs Assessment in **Somalia** and to help them maximize the impact of the data collected for the assessment.
- **Resilient livelihoods:** The first phase of the Almassar East Darfur project, **Sudan**, was officially concluded. UN Environment Programme was one of the project partners. The project, funded by the European Union, addressed natural resource management for sustainable livelihoods challenges, focusing primarily on improving governance through community-based approaches.
- **Implementation of UN Environment Assembly resolutions:** The subprogramme is responsible for implementing two resolutions:
  - UN Environment Assembly 2/15 on the “Protection of the environment in areas affected by armed conflicts”, and
  - UN Environment Assembly 3/5 “Pollution prevention and control in areas affected by terrorist operations and armed conflicts”.
  - The implementation of both resolutions is on-track, with on-going collaboration and discussions with the International Law Commission, the International Criminal Court, the International Committee of the Red Cross as well as the existing support being provided to conflict affected countries including Afghanistan, Iraq, South Sudan, and Sudan.

***Main opportunities and/or challenges encountered:***

- The nature of our work in post-conflict and disaster-management means that we face several sorts of challenges:
  - One of our principal concerns is staff safety given that we have teams working in often extremely difficult conditions.
  - In addition, our work is often inherently reactive – as we cannot easily predict where crises are likely to happen. This means that our work can be very hard to plan.
  - Finally, it can be very difficult to prove the effectiveness of prevention, where if success has been achieved nothing happens.
- Nevertheless, we are also building on several opportunities.
  - There is a growing demand for UN Environment Programme’s support, as demonstrated by a trend for more Member State requests for assistance. To meet this demand, we are tapping into teams across UN Environment Programme to leverage the expertise that we can deploy in situations of emergency.
  - Finally, the focus in the UN in New York on the importance of prevention and sustaining peace provides a platform to ensure that environmental security is fully integrated into these discussions. Please see the comment in Section 1 above on Climate Change and Security.

### 3. HEALTHY AND PRODUCTIVE ECOSYSTEMS

**Objective: Marine, freshwater and terrestrial ecosystems are increasingly managed through an integrated approach that enables them to maintain and restore biodiversity, ecosystems’ long-term functioning and supply of ecosystem goods and services.**

**The health and productivity of marine, freshwater and terrestrial ecosystems are institutionalized in education, monitoring and cross-sector and transboundary collaboration frameworks at the national and international levels.**

#### **Integrated marine ecosystem management**

- **Launch of new assessment studies in the Mediterranean:** The 2017 Mediterranean Quality Status Report<sup>4</sup> was launched at the 20<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (COP 20, Tirana, Albania, 17-20 December 2017). Following this, the Mediterranean Action Plan – Barcelona Convention Secretariat started work on the State of the Environment and Development in the Mediterranean (2019) report, and on phase one of the MED2050 foresight (prospective) study on the environment and development in the Mediterranean region.
- **Non-Indigenous Species / Fisheries Sub-Regional process:** To ensure the successful implementation of SDG 14, the Mediterranean Action Plan – Barcelona Convention is collaborating closely with the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean. A successful Non-Indigenous Species Fisheries Sub-Regional Meeting was held in Chania, Greece, on 5 March, where countries agreed to strengthen the work towards a sub-regional monitoring plan for Non-Indigenous Species in line with the objectives of the Joint Sub-Regional Pilot Study for the Eastern Mediterranean for Non-Invasive Species and the respective Mid-Term Strategies of both the Commission and Mediterranean Plan.
- **Mediterranean Sea Programme:** Following the successful outcomes of the First Regional Consultation for the Global Environment Facility funded **Mediterranean Sea Programme: Enhancing Environmental Security** (Athens, 7-8 March), Mediterranean stakeholders are one step closer to initiating a comprehensive set of priority actions to increase environmental security in the region. Representatives from the GEF-eligible countries validated the proposed national and regional activities, and agreed with the partners on a course of action for

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<sup>4</sup> <https://www.medqsr.org>

completing the preparatory phase of this ground-breaking programme, the first GEF-funded multi-focal area programmatic approach in support of the Regional Seas Programme.

- **Biodiversity conservation and integrated ecosystem management:** The Global Environment Facility approved a US\$ 2 million project for Sri Lanka on *Healthy Landscapes: Managing Agricultural Landscapes in Socio-ecologically Sensitive Areas to Promote Food Security, Well-being and Ecosystem Health*. The project will mainstream biodiversity using an integrated land management approach to ensure development, health and environmental co-benefits.

### **Ecosystems Health and Wildlife**

- On 27 February, UN Environment Programme, in partnership with the International Union for Conservation of Nature and the International Institute on Environment and Development, launched a report proposing more action and stronger community voice on approaches to involve indigenous peoples and local communities in the fight against wildlife crime, including the illegal wildlife trade. The report “*Wildlife, Wild livelihoods*”<sup>5</sup> outlines eight action points to improve the community-based approach, and is part of the follow up action for UN Environment Assembly Resolution 2/14.
- Coinciding with the launch of the report, we hosted a meeting of the **Convention on international Trade in Endangered Species of wildlife fauna and flora ITES** Standing Committee’s Working Group on Rural Communities and its recommendations will be presented to the 70<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the CITES Standing Committee in Sochi, Russian Federation in October 2018.
- In March 2018, we hosted a technical expert meeting of representatives of the six-member countries of the East African Community and development and conservation partners, which discussed priorities for the implementation of the **East African Community’s Strategy to Combat Poaching and the Illegal Trade in Wildlife and Wildlife Products**.

**Policymakers in the public and private sectors test the inclusion of the health and productivity of ecosystems in economic decision-making.**

### **Economics and Ecosystems**

- The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity for Agriculture and Food (TEEBAgriFood) focusses on assessing the hidden impacts and externalities (positive and negative) across the agri-food value chain. During 21-22 January, the National Museums of **Kenya** hosted the TEEBAgriFood workshop for the German International Climate Initiative funded project, to evaluate the policy priorities of future agricultural scenarios. The Steering Committee, to be co-chaired by the Environment and Agriculture Ministries, will decide between policy options, including the assessment of the Tana River Basin and the Masai Mara.

## **4. ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE**

**Objective: Policy coherence and strong legal and institutional frameworks increasingly achieve environmental goals in the context of sustainable development.**

**The international community increasingly converges on common and integrated approaches to achieve environmental objectives and implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.**

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<sup>5</sup> A press release and link to the report can be found at <https://www.unenvironment.org/news-and-stories/press-release/wild-life-wild-livelihoods-involving-communities-sustainable>



- To heighten the potential for impact through strategic interagency collaboration, the **Environment Management Group** scaled-up strategic collaboration for agencies to tackle e-waste and revitalized its work on biodiversity. It established a new Issue Management Group on Environment in Humanitarian Action. Highlighting the costs of inaction and the benefits of integrating environment in humanitarian action, this will help the UN system make more informed decisions on its humanitarian interventions.
- 24 **Latin American and Caribbean** countries adopted a legally binding agreement for the region to promote access to information, public participation and access to justice in environmental matters (4 March, San Jose, Costa Rica)<sup>6</sup>. UN Environment Programme provided technical support for the negotiations<sup>7</sup> and will now focus on supporting ratification efforts, as a further step towards more inclusive environmental governance.

**Institutional capacities and policy and/or legal frameworks enhanced to achieve internationally agreed environmental goals, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals.**

- We have worked with several countries (including **Argentina, Eritrea, Solomon Islands** and **Somalia**) to strengthen their legislation on wildlife management and two countries (**Botswana** and **Maldives**) on climate laws.
- We also continued to support capacities to implement biodiversity and chemicals and waste related multilateral environmental agreements through a multi-partner capacity building programme for the **African, Caribbean, and Pacific** countries.
  - For example, a Regional Biodiversity Strategy for the **Caribbean** is being developed through the Caribbean Community CARICOM secretariat.
- UN Environment Programme also started implementing a project to support five countries/territories (**Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Colombia, Guyana** and **Palau**) for the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of the Sustainable Development Goals.
- We also continued to engage with **UN country teams in all regions** to promote the integration of environment-related issues in UN Development Assistance Frameworks.
  - For example, in Africa, two new frameworks were signed in **Egypt** and **Mauritania** and several more are at an advanced stage.
- Several African countries<sup>8</sup> agreed to ensure that environmental law is included in the curricula of training institutes for police and prosecutors, at a meeting held in Entebbe, **Uganda** in January.
- In February 2018, UN Environment Programme convened a judicial colloquium for the Asia-Pacific region in Lahore, **Pakistan** to sensitise judges on constitutional environmental rights. The colloquium was the third in a series, with two previous meetings covering the African and Latin America and the Caribbean regions. The process has thus far sensitized and strengthened the capacities of over 300 judges and legal stakeholders across these regions.
- In March, UN Environment Programme launched the Environmental Rights Initiative on the margins of the 37<sup>th</sup> session of the **Human Rights Council**. The Council also adopted a Resolution on Human Rights and the Environment<sup>9</sup> requesting continued cooperation with the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and the Environment.
- All these highlights contribute to **UN Environment Assembly Resolutions** focusing on various governance issues including the Rio Principle 10, Illegal trade in wildlife, Regional Ministerial

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<sup>6</sup> Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean: <https://www.cepal.org/en/subsidiary-bodies/acuerdo-regional-acceso-la-informacion-la-participacion-publica-acceso-la-justicia>

<sup>7</sup> Negotiations were undertaken under the aegis of the the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

<sup>8</sup> List the countries or provide a weblink to the Agreement.

<sup>9</sup> Resolution A/HRC/37/L.19: <http://undocs.org/A/HRC/37/L.19>

Fora, Multilateral Environmental Agreements, the Montevideo Programme on the progressive development of environmental law, the 2030 Agenda, Pollution and Biodiversity.

- Our work contributed to both environment-specific Sustainable Development Goals, and Goals 16 and 17, which are at the core of more effective and inclusive governance.

***Main Opportunities and Challenges encountered:***

- A key challenge is being able to expand the resource base to increase our reach, including on strengthening national legislation and implementing the Sustainable Development Goals, to be able to meet growing country needs and meaningfully engage with country partners including in the context of the UN Secretary General’s reform.

## 5. CHEMICALS, WASTE AND AIR QUALITY

**Objective: Sound management of chemicals and waste and improved air quality contribute to a healthier environment and better health for all.**

**Policies and legal, institutional and fiscal strategies and mechanisms for sound chemicals management developed or implemented in countries within the framework of relevant multilateral environmental agreements and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management.**

- **Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management:** In the first two months of 2018, the secretariat organized five regional consultations in the lead up to the second intersessional meeting on the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020:
  - [Asia Pacific](#) 23-25 January (Bangkok, Thailand)
  - [Latin American and Caribbean](#) 29-31 January (Panama City, Panama)
  - [Africa](#) 6-8 February (Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire)
  - [EU-JUSSCANNZ](#) 9 February 2018 (Paris, France)
  - [Central and Eastern Europe](#) 19-21 February (Lodz, Poland).
- **Second meeting of the intersessional process:** The meeting considered the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 (13-15 March, Stockholm, Sweden). The Strategic Approach secretariat and UN Environment Programme played a key role in preparing and facilitating the meeting, and in participating as a stakeholder in the ongoing multi-stakeholder discussions on developing a policy approach for sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020.
- **UN Environment Assembly:** UN Environment Programme is developing a roadmap for the implementation of the outcome of the 3<sup>rd</sup> UN Environment Assembly on pollution. As follow-up to the Environment and Health resolution, we are taking an integrated approach to overcome silos between the environment and health and other sectors, and increasing our collaboration with other UN Agencies, in particular with the World Health Organization with which we signed a cooperation agreement in early 2018. The development and implementation of integrated institutional strengthening and capacity-building tools and methodologies was spearheaded in Africa with funding from the Global Environment Facility to develop integrated health and chemicals observatories. The first scientific and technical committee meeting of ‘**African ChemObs**’ took place in Dakar, Senegal (27-29 March).
- UN Environment Programme, in cooperation with the **International Sustainable Chemistry Collaborative Centre**, also kicked off a series of regional meetings on sustainable chemistry innovation and the Global Chemicals Outlook II. During 7-9 March, African stakeholders explored in Nairobi, Kenya, how megatrends create risks but also opportunities for chemicals management and sustainable chemistry innovation.

- Further workshops were organized in Frankfurt (26-28 March), Panama City (12-14 April) and Bangkok (25-27 April). The outcomes inform priority work streams in sustainable chemistry and feed into the Global Chemicals Outlook II. This key chemicals assessment, capturing the current state of scientific, management and policy knowledge to support policy makers, is expected to be finalized by the end of 2018.
- UN Environment Programme convened the second Meeting of the Expert Group for the development of further guidance for **chemicals control** in Geneva, Switzerland from 22-23 March. The meeting brought together experts from governments, civil society, industry and intergovernmental organizations to review and finalize four guidance documents related to chemicals control. The guidance document will support countries in the development of national legislation on chemicals management.

### **Policies and legal and institutional and fiscal strategies and mechanisms for waste prevention and sound management developed or implemented in countries within the framework of relevant multilateral environmental agreements.**

- UN Environment Programme's **waste-to-resource approach** and **waste prevention efforts** contribute to Sustainable Development Goals 6 (clean water and sanitation), 11 (sustainable cities and communities) and 12 (responsible consumption and production).
- The **International Environmental Technology Centre** in collaboration with Regional Offices and other partners provided knowledge and technical support for the development of national- and municipal-level waste management policies, strategies and action plans.
- During January, [Mandalay's City Waste Management Strategy and Action Plan](#) was launched in Myanmar, the first ever initiative aimed at improving the city's waste management in a holistic and integrated manner.
- **Marine debris:** The 6<sup>th</sup> International Marine Debris Conference, co-organized by UN Environment Programme and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration from the United States, was successfully held from 12-16 March – with 750 registered participants present, and 300 more remaining on the waiting list, showing the continued great interest in this topic.
- **UN Environment Assembly:**
  - In line with the resolution of the Second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, the International Environmental Technology Centre is producing a collection of regional and theme specific **Waste Management Outlooks**.
  - As of March, two regional outlooks (Asia and Central Asia) and one thematic waste management outlook (for **mountains**) have been completed and four more regional waste management outlooks are under development for **Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, Small Island Developing States, and West Asia**.
  - Building on the outcomes of the Third session of the United Nations Environment Assembly and [Resolution 2/5](#) on 'Delivering on the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#)', two national workshops were held in **Georgia** and **Moldova** to raise awareness and build human and institutional capacities in partnership with the Ministries of Environment and other partners for accelerating actions on environment and health at the national level in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

### **National emissions sources identified, policies, legal, regulatory, fiscal and institutional frameworks and mechanisms for the reduction of air pollution developed, institutional capacity built for improved air quality, and air quality assessments done by countries with UN Environment Programme support.**

*This section should be read in conjunction with the section on the Climate Change Subprogramme under the Expected Accomplishment on mitigation.*



- **Clean mobility:** The *Africa Clean Mobility Week* was held in Nairobi, Kenya (12-16 March 2018) and provided a platform for governments, private sector, civil society, and development partners in the fields of environment and transportation to discuss *cleaner* mobility and its impacts on health, *environment* and economic growth *in Africa* – providing the opportunity for the continent to develop a set of measures to move to cleaner mobility leveraging on good experiences and case studies from within and outside the region.
- **Clean air:** The Asia-Pacific Clean Air Week held in Bangkok, Thailand (March 19-23 2018), brought together celebrities, government officials, cities and financiers to focus on solutions: cleaner vehicles and fuels, bike sharing systems changed household energy sources, improved waste management and incentives to stop open burning. Mongolia's Minister made a call to all countries in the region to follow their lead to install the Green Passport for youth and schools as a powerful way to change behaviour for a cleaner, more sustainable future.

## 6. RESOURCE EFFICIENCY

*Objective: Countries transition to sustainable development through multiple pathways, including inclusive green economy and trade, and the adoption of sustainable consumption and production patterns, increasingly decoupling economic growth from unsustainable resource use and environmental impacts while improving human well-being.*

**Science-based approaches that support the transition to sustainable development through multiple pathways, including inclusive green economy and sustainable trade, and the adoption of sustainable consumption and production patterns at all levels.**

- **International Resource Panel:** The summary for policy makers of the International Resource Panel report "The Weight of Cities: Resource Requirements of Future Urbanization" was launched on 10 February at the World Urban Forum, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, together with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations regional summary on Sustainable Urban Infrastructure Transitions.
- **Environment and Trade Hub:** The Environment and Trade Hub facilitated two key meetings at the sidelines of the 2018 Davos World Economic Forum meeting: UN Environment Programme Executive Director Erik Solheim and World Trade Organization Director-General Roberto Azevêdo, announced that both organizations will join forces to launch a new dialogue on promoting innovative ways of using trade to generate greater opportunities to strengthen our economies and our environments at the same time. The two organisations aim to provide a platform for interested stakeholders from all sectors of society to exchange ideas and improve understanding of how trade can more effectively help bring about inclusive and sustainable development, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals.
- **Sustainable trade:** On the side lines of the World Economic Forum, UN Environment Programme and Costa Rica brought together **environment and trade champions** from the public and private sectors to discuss joint leadership to make trade work better for environmental sustainability while creating jobs and more inclusive growth. Trade, Production and Foreign Affairs Ministers from Costa Rica, Argentina, Norway and Guyana, respectively, attended the meeting as well as World Trade Organization Ambassadors from Korea, the European Commission, Japan, Pakistan, Nigeria, Canada, Switzerland and Heads of Organization from World Trade Organization, International Chamber of commerce, HSBC and UN Environment Programme. The group discussed key partnerships and transformations needed to unlock sustainable trade, the role of the private sector and how the public sector can best be engaged and policies and support mechanisms needed to stimulate trade in clean technologies.
- **10 Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production / One Planet Network:** The mid-term review of the 10 Year Framework of Programmes on

Sustainable Consumption and Production was completed, enabling the start of the drafting of the 2018-2022 strategy. This strategy will define a common vision and will outline common objectives, strategic principles and approaches across the One Planet network.

- The vision is articulated as: The development of societies is driven by sustainable consumption and production patterns that are resource efficient, generate economic growth, environmental benefits and human well-being.
  - The main challenge remains securing the funding for necessary scale of implementation at regional and national levels.
  - Reporting on the programme's 2017 indicators, including on human well-being, has been completed for inclusion in the annual report to the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.
- **Resource Efficient Cities:** At the World Urban Forum 9, held in February in Kuala Lumpur, UN Environment Programme conducted and participated in over 25 sessions, reflecting the relevance of environmental issues for the implementation of the **New Urban Agenda** and through this, delivery against the Sustainable Development Goals. We focused on climate, pollution, natural resources, resilience and circular economy, key sectors including building and construction, energy, and transport, as well as monitoring and reporting against the Sustainable Development Goals. Implementation of city pilots for integrated delivery across UN Environment Programme projects are progressing in Bartica, Guyana, and Sao Paulo, Brazil.

### Public, private and financial sectors increasingly adopt and implement sustainable management frameworks and practices.

- **Platform for Accelerating the Circular Economy:** In Davos, in January, the Leadership Meeting of the Platform for Accelerating the Circular Economy drew together 40 chief executives, ministers and heads of international organizations to take a critical look at what public-private efforts are required to push progress on the circular economy and review progress to date. The platform is a global, public-private, collaboration platform and project accelerator co-chaired by the UN Environment Programme Executive Director. The International Resource Panel acts as one of the knowledge partners. The meeting reviewed progress of a portfolio of collaborative actions focusing on accelerating the circular transformation in the areas of plastics and electronics across China, Asia and Africa.
- **Sustainable Infrastructure:** The Geneva Forum for Sustainable Infrastructure was co-hosted by UN Environment Programme, the International Union for Conservation of Nature, the World Wide Fund for Nature, and the University of Geneva (22-23 March, Gland, Switzerland). The forum brought together infrastructure investors, national stakeholders, and institutions interested in the delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals to share experiences, tools, and approaches to making infrastructure projects contribute to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The focus of the forum was on case studies and how various scientific and policy tools, guidelines, principles, and approaches have been applied to infrastructure planning and development. The aim of the forum was to create a community of interested partners around the sharing of best practices and lessons learned. The forum was attended by representatives of 48 different organizations and institutions and produced a “Call for Sustainable Infrastructure” that lays the groundwork for ongoing engagement.
- **Green economy:** The Programme on the Promotion of Green Economy in the Republic of Moldova for the years 2018-2020 and the [Action Plan](#) for its implementation were approved by the Government of the Republic of **Moldova** on 21 February. The development of the Programme was supported under the “Greening Economies in the Eastern Neighbourhood” (EaP GREEN) Project, carried out by UN Environment Programme and other partners.

### Public and private sectors increasingly aware of and support the adoption of sustainable lifestyles and sustainable consumption patterns

- **Food Waste:** UN Environment Programme, in partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and several key global expert partners, are progressing well in the development of the indicator methodology for the food waste element of Sustainable Development Goal target 12.3.
- A kick-off workshop was held in January attended by inter alia the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, World Resources Institute, and Waste and Resources Action Programme to plan and finalize methodology development including pilots by November 2018. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, as overall custodian of Sustainable Development Goal target 12.3, is working closely with UN Environment Programme, as custodian of the food waste element of that target, to ensure that methodologies for both **food loss** (Food Loss Index) and **food waste** (Food Waste Index) are coherent for Member States.
- UN Environment Programme will ensure that lessons learnt in the development of other waste related SDG indicator methodologies are applied to ensure that the food waste index is developed in a practical and meaningful way that relates to existing and established waste measurement methodologies. Through this, a contribution is made to the following element of the 2<sup>nd</sup> session of the **UN Environment Assembly** resolution 2/9 – Prevention, reduction and reuse of food waste: ‘Governments to participate in existing international efforts regarding improved methodologies to better measure food loss and waste generation and benefits of achieving efficient and sustainable food systems’.
- **Consumer Information Programme (One Planet Network):** During 21-22 March, the fourth annual meeting of the multi-stakeholder advisory committee of the One Planet Consumer Information Programme was held in Berlin, Germany (hosted by the German Ministry of Environment). The Programme developed its annual work plan around topics such as eco-labelling, circular economy, block chain, social impacts, climate change and new economies, and discussed next steps around the Guidelines for Providing Product Sustainability Information. The latter contributes to the implementation of the 3<sup>rd</sup> session of the **UN Environment Assembly** Environment and Health Resolution and responds to the Ministerial Declaration. The Guidelines have been downloaded over 550 times to date and are recognized by Programme members as a key tool to drive consumer information globally.
- **Product sustainability:** On 20 March 2018, a workshop on "Communicating Product Sustainability" based on the Guidelines for Providing Product Sustainability Information was held in Berlin, Germany. Participants were introduced to the Guidelines’ principles and analysed a hypothetical advertising for hands on experience.
- **Sustainable Public Procurement:** During February, the Government of **India** constituted a Task Force on Sustainable Procurement with the mandate to develop a national Sustainable Procurement Action plan. The Task Force consists of representatives from various ministries and institutions, and has the flexibility to consult academia, industries and their associations, multilateral agencies, while making recommendations. The setting up of the Task Force is the culmination of a long awareness raising process supported by UN Environment Programme and aimed at demonstrating the potential of sustainable procurement to drive markets towards sustainability and advance the 2030 development agenda.

### Implementation of resolutions

- The report by the International Resource Panel “**Assessing global resource use: A systems approach to resource efficiency and pollution reduction**” was submitted to the 3<sup>rd</sup> session of the UN Environment Assembly in December 2017 as the interim response to UNEP/EA.2/Res.8 (paragraph 13). The Panel is currently developing its full response – namely, a “Global Assessment on Natural Resource Use and Management” – to the previously mentioned 2<sup>nd</sup> session of the UN Environment Assembly resolution. The response will be submitted to 4<sup>th</sup> session of the UN Environment Assembly in 2019. This will be the first in a recurrent series of

this International Resource Panel flagship publications, which will be made available to the UN Environment Assembly on an ongoing basis (as per UNEP/EA.3/Res.4 paragraph 37).

**Main Challenges and Opportunities encountered:**

- **Programme alignment:** At the concept level, UN Environment Programme’s project outcomes are well aligned with and linked to the respective Expected Accomplishments, their indicators as well as to the relevant sustainable development goals’ indicators. It is expected, going forward into the development of the Programme of Work 2020-2021, that there will be an even stronger alignment to the Sustainable Development Goal indicators.
- **3Ds – Decoupling, Detoxification, Decarbonization:** Moving forward, to better integrate the work streams around the 3D’s, various additional areas of cooperation and integration are being explored.
- **HLPF 2018:** The High Level Political Forum 2018 will review Sustainable Development Goals 11 and 12 (among others) in July. Preparatory work is ongoing on Sustainable Development Goal 12 reporting (we are custodian for most of the Sustainable Development Goal 12 indicators), 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production progress reporting to ECOSOC that will be presented during the High Level Political Forum including a monitoring and indicator framework to monitor the adoption of Sustainable Consumption and Production patterns.
- **Anchoring “Circularity” in our Programme:** Sustainable production has, to a considerable extent, acquired a momentum with the focus on circular economy or the 3Rs – Reduce, Reuse, Recycle – driven by climate mitigation, resource scarcity and pollution concerns. The market is picking up the signals towards more sustainable production especially with circular economy strongly emphasizing the business case of resource efficiency. We intend to better leverage the growing interest of the private sector in sustainable production, circular economy, eco-innovations, small enterprises and value chains to strengthen partnership and collaboration in the context of the sustainable consumption and production work.
- **Resource mobilization:** Resource mobilization for the Sub-Programme including diversification of the donor base, is a key priority since funding for some key initiatives has already expired (10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production; Eco-innovation, Sustainable Public Procurement).
- **Resource implementation:** Resources for implementation of key UN Environment Assembly resolutions also remains an issue.

## 7. ENVIRONMENT UNDER REVIEW

*Objective: Governments and other stakeholders are empowered with quality assessments and open access to data and information to deliver the environmental dimension of sustainable development.*

**Governments and other stakeholders use quality open environmental data, analyses and participatory processes that strengthen the science-policy interface to generate evidence-based environmental assessments, identify emerging issues and foster policy action.**

- Despite a continuing funding gap, progress on the development of the sixth **Global Environment Outlook** is well on track for delivery at the fourth UN Environment assembly. An update on GEO6 was provided to the Committee of Permanent representative on 19 April. All authors’ meetings have been concluded and the last major meeting was held in Singapore in February 2018. All chapters are now drafted, and the process of review and of formulation of the Summary for Policy Makers has started.

- Our **Environment Live** project, through the development of the World Environment Situation Room, is supporting transparent access to country data on indicators and information on the Sustainable Development Goals and International Obligations. We have prepared a strategy for the UN Environmental Statistics and provided timely inputs to the UN Secretary-General report 2018 on Achieving Agenda 2030 and Sustainable Development Goals.
- Under the cross-cutting capacity development portfolio funded by the Global Environment Facility, UN Environment Programme obtained approval of a project concept for **South Sudan** and embarked on the project preparation phase with the aim of building core capacity for environmental management in a fragile state. Full projects were finalized for **Benin, Botswana and Mauritania**. While these are separate projects, a joint approach is followed for knowledge sharing and implementation planning.

### *Main Opportunities and Challenges encountered:*

- Although good progress has been made on the sixth Global Environment Outlook, funding levels for its completion remain below needs, with a US\$ 2.4 million funding gap. This is a major risk for the organization, as the report is our major flagship product and is to be presented at 4<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN Environment Assembly.

### **IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE 3<sup>RD</sup> SESSION OF THE UN ENVIRONMENT ASSEMBLY**

- The development of the Implementation Plan for the 3<sup>rd</sup> session of the UN Environment Assembly, “Towards a Pollution-Free Planet”, has been initiated. An initial presentation was delivered during the CPR subcommittee of 15 March and was also discussed in the Major Groups and Stakeholders meeting on 21 March as well as in the retreat of the Joint Bureaux of UN Environment Assembly and Committee of Permanent Representatives on 22 March.
- Consultations with various stakeholder groups – including private sector – will take place in the next two months.
- Further consultations took place with Member States at a subcommittee of the Committee on 24 April. This consultative design aims at ensuring that the Implementation Plan will get ownership from Member States and all relevant stakeholders and keep the momentum to accelerate action to prevent and address pollution.

Specific action taken to implement resolutions have been highlighted under the different Sub-Programmes.

### **CAMPAIGNS**

#### **WildforLife**

- The campaign has already reached more than 1.2 billion people around the world and engaged 5 million in a deeper level of involvement through morphs, pledges and social media interactions.
- The campaign has created a **Communication Handbook to Combat Wildlife Crime** for use by governments at the national level, which has been tested in Hanoi and Malawi.
- **World Wildlife Day** (March 3) was all about Big Cats and a competition among celebrities to generate pledges of action for their favourite big cat. The winner was announced on Earth Day 22 April and witnessed a cash contribution to their project. Three runner-up prizes were awarded. Project beneficiaries include Rainforest Connection (jaguars), Snow Leopard Trust, Project Cat (tigers) and Mara Predator Project (lions).
- New to the Wild for Life Campaign are Ellie Goulding (lion), and Dia Mirza (snow leopard). Youth Ambassador Aidan Gallagher is representing jaguars and UNDP Ambassador Michelle Yeoh the tiger.

- Since its launch on 3 March, the global campaign push has generated 4,000 pledges which require a deep level of engagement and yielded 420,000 social media interactions.
- In China, where 6 celebrities are participating with accompanying exhibitions in Beijing and Shenzhen Airports, the Big Cat Challenge has ranked as the #1 trending topic on social media and generated nearly 3 million social media interactions.

### **CleanSeas**

- The CleanSeas campaign is the UN's most ambitious effort to tackle marine pollution to date.
- Since the campaign launched in February 2017, more than 40 governments have joined and committed to specific measures to tackle marine plastic pollution – the latest addition being Bahrain at the end of February 2018. New Zealand is expected to join soon.
- The campaign has also struck several partnerships with key private sector and institutional players, including DELL, Volvo Ocean Race, 11<sup>th</sup> Hour Project, Musto, Volvo Car and the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums.
- Finally, our recent video about breaking up with single-use plastic – “It’s not me, it’s you” – has been viewed by more than three million people, and helped to gather over 72,000 individual pledges to act across different platforms connected with the campaign.

### **BreatheLife**

- Since the launch of the campaign, which UN Environment Programme runs together with the World Health Organization and the Climate and Clean Air Coalition, more than 100 cities and 11 regions have signed on and set ambitious goals for clean air.
- Five national governments have also joined: Bulgaria, Colombia, Ethiopia, Mongolia and Singapore. These governments have committed to over 150 actions to reduce air pollution, improving the health and environment for 130 million people.
- The campaign is promoted by major regional city networks like Clean Air Asia, Clean Air Institute, ICLEI, C40, nrg4SD and other partners including Mobike, Clarity Movement, Formula E, and Global Action Plan.
- The hashtag #BreatheLife recorded a reach of 96 million users on multiple platforms and 27,000 pledges were signed for clean air on the Environment Assembly platform.

### **World Environment Day**

- In February, Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, India, and Erik Solheim jointly announced that India will be hosting the global World Environment Day celebrations on 5 June 2018.
- **“Beat Plastic Pollution”**, the theme for World Environment 2018, urges governments, industry, communities, and individuals to come together and explore sustainable alternatives and urgently reduce the production and excessive use of single-use plastic polluting our oceans, damaging marine life and threatening human health.
- The Government of India has committed to organizing and promoting the World Environment Day 2018 celebrations through a series of engaging activities and events generating strong public interest and participation.
- From pan-Indian plastic clean-up drives in public areas, national reserves and forests to simultaneous beach clean-up activities, India will lead the initiative by setting an example.

### **Champions and Young Champions**

- In 2018, seven young people – selected from every global region – will be named Young Champions of the Earth.
- These winners receive seed funding, intensive training, and tailored mentorship to help them bring their big environmental ideas to life.
- The 2018 cycle of Young Champions of the Earth was launched on 27 February.
- Applicants can register for consideration until mid-April.

## CROSS CUTTING AREAS / SPECIAL INITIATIVES

### 1. FAITH AND ENVIRONMENT

- This initiative contributes to:
  - The Environmental Governance Sub-Programme’s Expected accomplishment (b) – Institutional capacities and policy and/or legal frameworks enhanced to achieve internationally agreed environmental goals, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,
  - The Sustainable Development Goals target (iii), and
  - The Climate Change Sub-Programme’s expected accomplishment (c) “Countries increasingly adopt and implement forest-friendly policies and measures that deliver quantifiable emissions reductions as well as social and environmental benefits”.
- During the first quarter of 2018, the Faith and Environment Initiative developed a **Corporate Strategy** for Engaging with Faith-Based Organizations and faith leaders. The strategy builds on the 5 principles (People living on a healthy Planet, enjoying Prosperity and Partnerships in Peaceful societies), with three overarching goals: 1) Leadership for policy impact; 2) Financing to support SDGs; and 3) Knowledge-based decision support system. Success in attaining the three goals will largely depend on mobilizing local communities; coordinating communications and advocacy; fostering south-south cooperation; engaging in faith-Environment thematic conversations and empowering UN Environment Programme corporate engagement.
- The strategy was vetted by a global meeting that was organized during the UN Environment Assembly with 40 representatives of organizations representing ten faiths.
- The Faith initiative along with UNEP Finance Initiative has been working with several partners on **engaging with faith-based organizations** such as the Responsible Finance and Investment Foundation (RFI), Islamic Development Bank, World Council of Churches, the Church of England and many others, on organizing a **roundtable on responsible financing** with a focus on Islamic Financing during the period 25-27 April in Zurich, Switzerland. The roundtable will link responsible financing to **impact financing by faith-based investment bodies** and discuss faith-consistent investment criteria that integrate environmental stewardship and care for the creation. The Initiative has also been working with **GreenFaith**, a global interfaith organization, on a global campaign on faith-based sustainable living.
- As reported under the Climate Change Subprogramme, UN Environment Programme has launched the **Interfaith Rainforest Alliance** as a new initiative designed to bring moral attention and spiritual commitment to ending tropical deforestation. It is an international, multi-faith partnership that will rally spiritual and religious communities to act for the protection of rainforests and the rights of the indigenous peoples who safeguard them. The alliance will be a shared platform for the world’s religions to unite in their efforts to end deforestation and to work within their respective faith to make rainforest protection a moral and ethical priority. The initiative is led by United Nations Environment, Norway’s International Climate and Forest Initiative (NICFI) and Rainforest Foundation Norway. The Interfaith Rainforest Alliance has just received 35 M Krone (approximately US\$6 million).
- The Faith and Environment Special Initiative participated in the **UN Task Force on Religion and Development** held in March in Amman, Jordan, with 20 faith-based organizations setting the goals for engagement over the next year where some initiatives have been identified for inter UN agency work.

#### ***Main Opportunities and Challenges encountered:***

1. The momentum it is creating and the expectations it is building represent both opportunities and challenges.
2. Dedicated resources and capacity must be provided to enable it to deliver on its objectives, and to mobilize donor support and resources.

## 2. GREENING THE BELT AND ROAD

- The engagement of the UN Environment Programme in the “Greening the Belt and Road Initiative” directly supports the implementation of the Programme of Work and its **Subprogramme on Resource Efficiency** – as well as other Subprogrammes. During the next several years, this special initiative will help advance the **UN Environment Programme’s Medium Term Strategy 2018-2021** and 2030 Impact goals by contributing to the Subprogramme’s Expected Accomplishment (a) “Science-based approaches that support the transition to sustainable development through multiple pathways, including inclusive green economy and sustainable trade, and the adoption of sustainable consumption and production patterns at all levels” and (b) “Public, private and financial sectors increasingly adopt and implement sustainable management frameworks and practices”.
- The engagement helps the counties along the Belt and Road to create the enabling policy environment to **adopt green, sustainable, and inclusive pathways**. The Special Initiative also works with the public and private sectors to develop their capacity for adopting sustainable management frameworks and practices such as economic, social, and environmental safeguards, and green investment and financing frameworks.
- The project contributes primarily to **Programme of Work Output 2** for Expected Accomplishment (a) of Subprogramme 6 Resource Efficiency: “Economic and fiscal policy research, analysis, methodologies, tools and knowledge products developed and shared to support Governments and other stakeholders in developing and implementing multiple pathways to sustainable development”.
- The engagement also responds to **UN Environment Assembly Resolution 2/5**: “Delivering on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” by enhancing the coordinated and integrated delivery of the 2030 Agenda through fostering multi-stakeholder partnerships and cooperation, engaging with regional coordination mechanisms, building institutional and human capacity, and engaging with the financial sector.
- It also responds to **UN Environment Assembly Resolution 2/8 on “Sustainable Consumption and Production”** by improving the availability of information that enables investors, companies, and governments to make informed decisions, inviting the private sector to adopt sustainable practices, promoting public procurement practices that are sustainable, and engaging both public- and private-sector interests, to collaborate and to initiate partnerships in order to find innovative ways of achieving resource-efficient societies. The project supports South-South cooperation as mandated under the Bali Strategic Framework for Technology-support and Capacity Building.
- Finally, this project supports the achievement of the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** as a whole and, in particular, Sustainable Development Goals 8, 9, 12 and 17. With this broad scope, the engagement contributes to the objectives of several Sub-Programmes such as climate change, environmental governance and healthy and productive ecosystems.
- During the quarter, UN Environment Programme has worked closely with the Chinese Ministry of Ecological Environment to plan the launch of the **International Coalition for Green Development on the Belt and Road** (Coalition). In March, the new Policy and Programme Division Director led a mission to Beijing for the first working meeting of the Coalition planning. The two partners agreed on a roadmap towards the official Coalition launch in the second half of 2018, and on potential Coalition partners.



### 3. ARCTIC AND ANTARCTIC

- Detailed planning consultation between the Principal Advisor (Jan Dusik, formerly Europe Office Director, and who began his new assignment on 1 January 2018) and GRID-Arendal Polar Unit was held on **strategic engagement for the Arctic**, reviewing the potential for cooperation between UN Environment Programme and GRID-Arendal, and avenues for programmatic work and mobilising resources for the Arctic work.
- UN Environment Programme is engaged, together with its collaborating centre Grid Arendal, in preparing a principal publication for the **Arctic Environment Ministers** meeting (11-12 October, Rovaniemi, Finland) – production of vital Arctic graphics to highlight global / Arctic connections on environmental matters. The graphics will be organised along the three themes of the meeting – pollution, biodiversity and climate change. At the event, UN Environment Programme will present its updated Arctic Strategy and discuss further pathways of engagement for the Arctic.
- UN Environment Programme, through the World Conservation Monitoring Centre, is engaged in shaping the agenda for the **Arctic Biodiversity Congress** (9-11 October 2018, Rovaniemi, Finland). This will take place back-to-back with the Arctic Environment Ministers meeting.
- UN Environment Programme, with GRID-Arendal, also submitted its contribution toward the second **Arctic Science Ministerial Meeting** (Berlin, to be held October 2018), and is actively engaged in preparations.

### 4. EXTRACTIVES

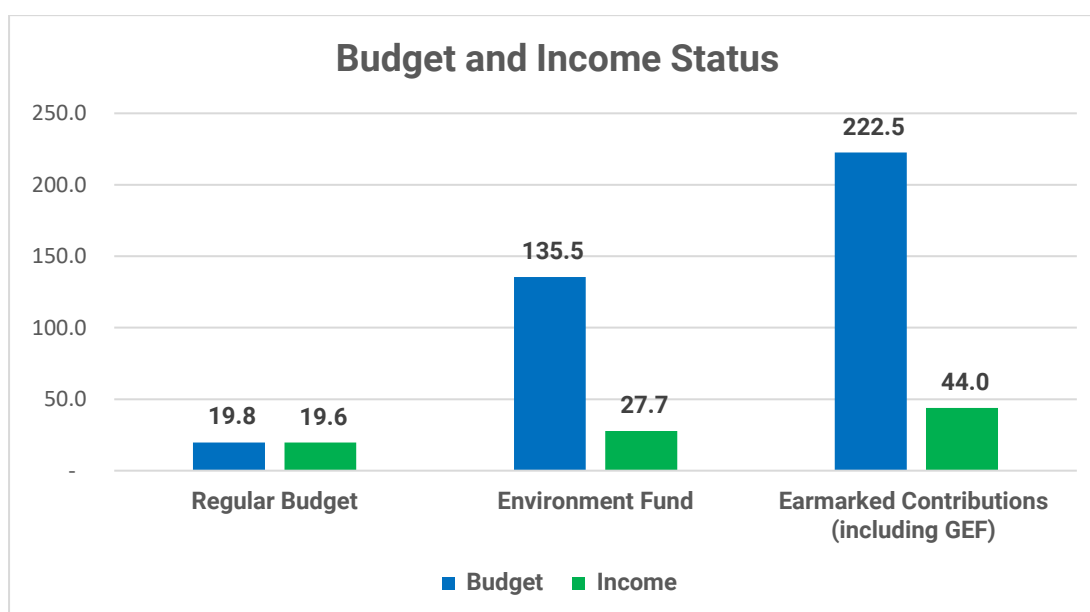
- Many activities of the **Extractive Hub**, such as the institutional capacity needs assessment for Mozambique and Uganda, are closely linked to the Disasters and Conflict Sub-Programme.
- Under the **Oil for Development Programme** and, together with the Norwegian Environment Agency, UN Environment Programme-World Conservation Monitoring Centre, worked in **Myanmar** to strengthen the use of biodiversity data in the impact assessment process, and in **Ghana** to support development of an environmental sensitivity atlas for oil and gas development.
- In response to a request from the Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development of **Colombia**, a joint UN Environment Programme-UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs mission was deployed to support the Government in the evaluation of the environmental and humanitarian impact of the oil spill that occurred in La Lizama oilfield in March 2018.
- As part of the **Global Mercury Partnership's** technical support to countries developing National Action Plans for the Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining sector, in February, UN Environment Programme assisted the government of **Zimbabwe** to deliver a capacity building training that included a visit to the mining community. It provided hands-on experience for the team that will conduct a field study and collect baseline information on the sector in Zimbabwe, and aiming to produce a national Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining inventory.
- The **Green Fiscal Policy** team conducted and presented a study on “Funds and Mechanisms for the management of oil and gas revenues to support sustainable development: insights from country experiences and lessons for **Senegal**.” The study provides policy options to the Government of Senegal and other countries on fiscal revenue management in oil and gas sectors to support sustainable development.

## **SECTION 3: RESOURCES AND MANAGEMENT ISSUES**

This section of the report focuses on financial and human resources. It also highlights important management issues. It provides an update on evaluation work highlighting lessons for future work.

### **1. Financial Resources**

- The table below presents the status of income received as at 31 March against the annual budget for the three main sources of funding. The UN Regular Budget and the Environment Fund constitute the organization’s core funding and are received on an annual basis.
- Earmarked resources are current and multi-year funds that complement the implementation of the programme of work. While the amount of UN Regular Budget is known from the outset for the calendar year, the remainder of our income is voluntary and fluctuates during the year. We encourage Member States and other funding partners to contribute as early in the year as possible, in order to increase predictability of our funding. This will result in more efficient and effective implementation of the organisation’s programme.
- By end of first quarter of 2018, the Environment Fund had received 20% of its approved annualized budget. The estimate for the total Environment Fund income in 2018 amounts to US\$ 74 million.



*\*Earmarked contributions include income for current and future years.*

- A total of 34 Member States contributed to the Environment Fund by the end of the first quarter of 2018. This broadening of our financial base promotes the funding stability. The top ten contributions were provided by France, Belgium, Germany, Norway, Canada, Denmark, China, Russia, Austria and Australia (see below). The other 24 funding partners were Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Chile, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Malaysia, Monaco, Mongolia, Nicaragua, St. Lucia, Singapore, Slovak Republic, South Africa, United Arab Emirates and Zimbabwe.

**Top 10 Contributors to the Environment Fund - Q1 2018** (in US\$ Million)

	<b>Country</b>	<b>Contributions</b>
1	France	7.6
2	Belgium	4.8
3	Germany	4.2
4	Norway	3.0
5	Canada	2.4
6	Denmark	1.6
7	China	1.5
8	Russian Federation	0.9
9	Austria	0.5
10	Australia	0.4

- For earmarked contributions, the major funding partners for the first quarter of 2018 include the Global Environment Facility, Japan, European Commission, Norway, Germany, United Kingdom, Switzerland, UN Development Programme, the Finance Initiative and Sweden.
- Another 21 funding partners have also contributed to earmarked funding, enabling scaling up and replication of the core activities of the Programme of Work.

**Top 10 Contributors to Earmarked Funds - Q1 2018** (in US\$ Million)

	<b>Country/Institution</b>	<b>Contributions</b>
1	Global Environment Facility	19.6
2	Japan	7.5
3	European Commission	6.4
4	Norway	3.2
5	Germany	3.0
6	United Kingdom	1.0
7	Switzerland	0.7
8	United Nations Development Programme	0.6
9	Finance Initiative*	0.5
10	Sweden	0.3

*\*Finance Initiative is a collective contribution by various financial institutions globally.*

**2. Status of Allocations and Expenditures as at 31 March 2018**

Corporate Budgets (US\$) - Allocations as at 31 March 2018				
Sub Programme	Environment Fund	Overhead Trust Account	Regular Budget	Grand Total
Executive Direction & Management	4,359,049		3,590,800	7,949,849
Policy Making Organs	1,556,371		47,000	1,603,371
Climate change	7,008,074	421,050	1,839,300	9,268,424
Resilience to disasters and conflicts	5,231,948	592,250	1,296,500	7,120,698
Healthy and productive ecosystems	10,957,501	972,900	2,170,700	14,101,101
Environmental governance	9,646,193	891,550	3,818,500	14,356,243
Chemicals, waste and air quality	5,072,716	221,950	1,499,900	6,794,566
Resource efficiency	11,852,043	2,218,000	1,659,300	15,729,343
Environment under review	6,713,047	270,300	2,710,400	9,693,747
Programme Support	2,603,058	11,330,000	936,400	14,869,458
<b>Total</b>	<b>65,000,000</b>	<b>16,918,000</b>	<b>19,568,800</b>	<b>101,486,800</b>

Corporate Budgets (US\$) - Expenditures as at 31 March 2018				
Sub Programme	Environment Fund	Overhead Trust Account	Regular Budget	Grand Total
Executive Direction & Management	1,111,379		920,403	2,031,782
Policy Making Organs	233,906		1,991	235,896
Climate change	2,255,597	373,559	472,037	3,101,193
Resilience to disasters and conflicts	1,098,504		203,190	1,301,694
Healthy and productive ecosystems	2,012,283	67,820	407,301	2,487,404
Environmental governance	2,353,237	248,060	931,960	3,533,257
Chemicals, waste and air quality	1,504,196	109,519	336,273	1,949,988
Resource efficiency	2,397,755	27,058	409,968	2,834,781
Environment under review	952,651	20,924	529,641	1,503,215
Programme Support	695,141	1,492,152	191,871	2,379,164
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,614,649</b>	<b>2,339,091</b>	<b>4,404,634</b>	<b>21,358,375</b>

**3. Resource Mobilisation**

- A new Resource Mobilisation Strategy<sup>10</sup> was developed towards the end of 2017 by a Resource Mobilisation Task Team through an organisation-wide consultative process. It was approved by the Executive Director in November 2017.
- It will now be subject to discussion with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, as stipulated in Resolution UNEA2/20. This will be followed by an implementation plan and then action.

<sup>10</sup> [www.unenvironment.org/about-un-environment/funding/why-invest-us/resource-documents](http://www.unenvironment.org/about-un-environment/funding/why-invest-us/resource-documents)

#### 4. Human Resources Overview

##### 1. General Overview

- As at 31 March, United Nations Environment Programme had a total staff component of 1,180, comprising 704 professional and 476 General Service personnel. The complete staff numbers include the United Nations Environment Programme Secretariat and the Multilateral Environmental Agreements Secretariats. There is a total of 194 staff at the P5 and above level, and the breakdown is as follows:

Total staff at P5 and above levels as of 31 March					
Level	USG	ASG	D2	D1	P5
No. of Staff	1	2	7	54	130*

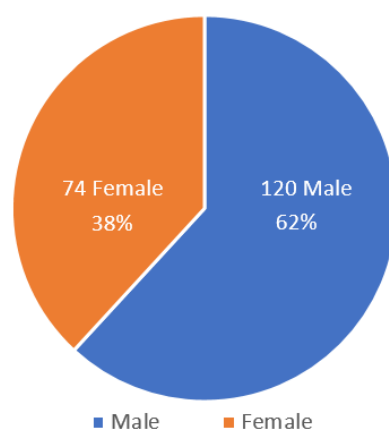
\*Includes 9 P4 staff on SPA P5 posts

##### 2. Gender parity

- In line with the Secretary General’s UN System-Wide Gender Parity Strategy and UN Environment Programme’s Implementation Plan, considerable effort is being made towards meeting the gender parity targets set by the Office of Human Resource Management in New York.
- The trend in gender parity as at 31 March 2018 seems to have improved slightly over the situation in 2017 with the selection of seven women and six men. As the following chart and table demonstrates, much more work needs to be done to achieve sustainable gender parity at UN Environment Programme. This is currently being addressed through the implementation of the UN System-Wide Gender Parity Strategy launched in February.

##### Gender Parity Breakdown by Job Level:

Gender Parity Breakdown for P5 and Above as at March 31, 2018



Gender Breakdown of P5 and above level staff as at March 31, 2018

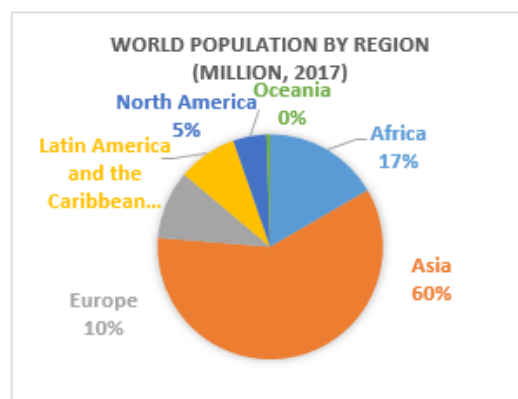
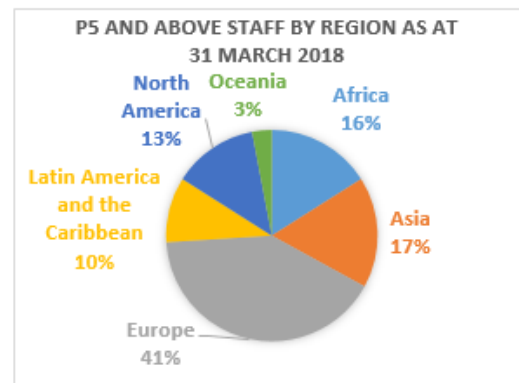
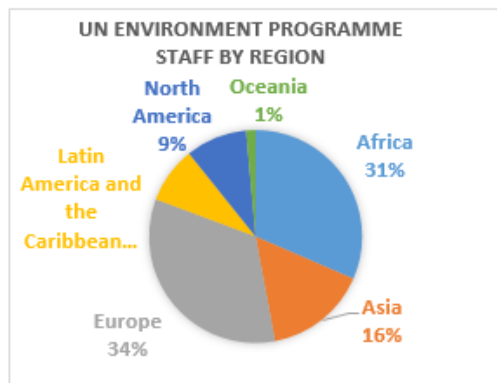
Level	USG	ASG	D2	D1	P5
Male	1	1	3	36	79*
Female	0	1	4	18	51*

\*Includes 5 P-4 male sitting on P5 SPA positions

\*Includes 4 P-4 female staff sitting on P5 SPA positions.

### 3. Geographic Distribution – including an analysis of the P5 and Above Level Staff

- The following self-explanatory graphs depict geographical representation among the staff of UN Environment Programme. For comparison, world population statistics comes from UN Population Division.
- Regarding staff at the P5 and above levels, Europe has the largest number of staff occupying senior P5 and Above positions at UN Environment Programme. There are 79 European senior members who make up 41% of the P5 and above staff population. Africa and Asia are a distant second with 32 senior staff members, at 16% and 17% respectively. North America has 26 staff (13%) followed by Latin America and the Caribbean (19 staff) with 10% and Oceania who have five senior members representing 3% of UN Environment Programme senior staff.



#### Key Human Resources risks and issues:

- Aside from gender parity reform, there will need to be consistent application of talent management and workforce planning to ensure a balance in the types of appointments made including promotions, initial appointments, reassignments and temporary assignments.
- It will be necessary to ensure that the vitality and quality of talent is managed proactively to preserve and enhance UN Environment’s human capital for the organization’s future growth.
- In addition, further in-depth study will be required to scrutinize the current spread of vacancies at all levels to ensure that they support a healthy, well-balanced talent pipeline that can adequately feed the near and long-term needs of the organization in the context of the Secretary General’s management and gender reforms.

## 5. Audits

- The financial statements for 2017 were signed by the Executive Director on 29 March 2018. The Board of Auditors (the Tanzanian team) is undertaking the audit on the 2017 financial statements during the period 9 April to 9 May 2018. The incoming Board of Auditors for UN Environment Programme is the Chilean team and the briefing session is planned in the middle of April. As of 18 April 2018, the status is as follows:

### **A. Ongoing audits:**

- Contract Management at UN Office at Nairobi, UN Environment Programme and UN Habitat.
- Audit of the official travel at UN Environment Programme.

### **B. Completed audits under implementation in 2018:**

- Audit of the United Nations Environment Programme Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific.
- Audit of the United Nations Environment Programme Secretariat of the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the West and Central African Regions and its Protocol. (Abidjan Convention).

### **C. Key findings:**

- The Audit of the United Nations Environment Programme **Secretariat of the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the West and Central African Regions and its Protocol** (Abidjan Convention) included the review of the Convention's governance mechanism, Conference of the parties' meetings, risk management, resource mobilization and financial management, programme and project management and regulatory framework.
  - The UN Office for Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) made 14 recommendations and noted that UN Environment Programme provided secretariat services to the Abidjan Convention in accordance with its mandate. However, the Secretariat needed to enhance controls to ensure effectiveness of Convention activities to achieve its objectives and goals.
- The Audit of the United Nations Environment Programme **Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific** included a review of implementation of UN Environment Programme's strategies and work plans, risk management, project management, partnership management and resource mobilization.
  - OIOS made 8 recommendations and noted that the effectiveness of the Regional Office's strengthened regional presence needed to be enhanced by establishing specific performance indicators, adequate capacity and delegation of authority, and appropriate monitoring mechanisms.

### **D. Planned audits for 2018 according to OIOS work plan:**

1. Climate change sub-programme
2. Mediterranean Action Plan
3. Management of trust funds
4. Afghanistan Project Office

## 6. Evaluations

- The Evaluation Synthesis Report 2016-2017 has been completed and was circulated to the Committee on 26 April 2018.
- The Sub-Programme Evaluation for Resource Efficiency is at draft report stage.
- A forward-looking strategy workshop on "Transition Management" was held with the Resources and Markets Branch, Economy Division, as part of the process.
- During the first quarter, we completed six project evaluations.

- Fifty-four project evaluations are currently ongoing.
- The Office for Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) is now launching an organisation-level Evaluation of UN Environment Programme that will be active from July 2018 through to January 2019.

**Key Findings:**

- The overall performance of more than two thirds (67%) of the projects evaluated in 2016-2017 achieved a rating of ‘Satisfactory’ or better, a 12% increase on the previous biennium.
- The proportion of projects evaluated that received a ‘Satisfactory’ or better rating for the extent to which project outcomes are sustained / replicated was 39% in 2016-2017.

**Key Recommendation from an Evaluation Completed in this Quarter:**

- “UN Environment Programme should clarify, and confirm to all relevant parties, what procedures are followed in the event that unsatisfactory progress or substantial risks are identified in successive annual Global Environment Facility (GEF) Project Implementation Reports.”
- As illustrated by this report, UN Environment Programme has made a head-start in implementing activities towards the attainment of its goals and targets for the 2018-2019 biennium.