

# Environment Fund Facts

## How is the UN Environment Programme funded?

**5 per cent UN regular budget**  
supports the Governing  
Bodies, coordination in the UN  
system and cooperation with  
global scientific communities

**15 per cent Environment  
Fund**  
supports core programme  
functions

**80 per cent earmarked  
resources**  
enables expansion and  
replication in more countries  
and with more partners

***"We [Germany] believe  
that UN Environment  
is a powerhouse of  
knowledge about the state  
of the environment. It's a  
broker of best practices  
among Member States  
and an organization that  
triggers debate about our  
environment."***

Jochen Flasbarth,  
State Secretary, Germany

## What is the Environment Fund?

The fund finances the UN Environment Programme, allowing it to carry out its mission of inspiring, informing and enabling nations and peoples to care for the environment while improving their quality of life. The fund ensures that UN Environment Programme can maintain its position as an international environmental leader with the power to positively influence government policies and drive the global conversation. Here is a sample of how this is done:

### Set and influence global environmental agenda

- Thirteen resolutions, three decisions and one ministerial declaration were passed at the 3rd UN Environment Assembly to address a range of environmental issues.
- Helped establish the Global Business Alliance for the Environment to encourage greater business participation in the Environment Assembly and an integrated approach to sustainable development
- The convening power of the Global Partnership on Forest and Landscape Restoration brings together governments, the academe, private sector and communities to restore 150 million hectares of deforested and degraded land by 2020.

### Identify new and emerging environmental issues and support innovative solutions

- Scientific publications such as the Global Environmental Outlook and Emissions Gap Report provide detailed analysis and key findings that support environmental policy and governance.
- Relevant environmental data from 192 countries, including over 11,500 scientific journals, 27,000 e-books, and 40 databases is provided through open access.
- The Minamata Convention to protect human health from mercury entered into force August 2017 after nearly a decade of negotiations.

### Inform and raise awareness

- Advocacy campaigns such as Breathe Life, Beat Pollution, Wild for Life, and World Environment Day reached 1.3 billion people, and collected over 7.6 million pledges globally.
- 1.5 million tonnes of illegal waste were discovered and 226 waste crimes and 413 administrative violations reported by a global operation targeting illegal shipment and disposal of waste.

### Build capacity and transfer technology

- Through the Green Customs Initiative and Regional Enforcement Network for Chemicals and Waste, 360 national enforcement officers from customs, police and environmental authorities were trained to better detect and prevent illegal trade streams in environmentally-sensitive commodities.

## How is the Environment Fund being used?

The Environment Fund **invests in people to deliver the work** Member States mandate UN Environment to do.

- **85 per cent funds the seven sub-programmes:** climate change, disasters and conflicts, ecosystem management, environmental governance, chemicals and waste, resource efficiency and sustainable consumption and Production, and environment under review
- **15 per cent supports strategic direction, management and programme support,** which are critical for implementing the organization's vision and ensuring robust oversight

*"The good thing we have been doing with UNEP is to be able to show that local action is the way towards sustainable development."*

Sasha Gabizon,  
Executive Director,  
Women in Europe for  
Common Future

**Invest in a planet that prospers. Invest in UN Environment.**

- Created the Partnership for Regional Ocean Governance, advancing regional cooperation for the conservation and sustainable use of marine ecosystems.

### Ensure accountability

- UN Environment Programme undertakes robust independent evaluations, promoting accountability and learning while encouraging staff, partners and other stakeholders to reflect on the strengths and weaknesses of past performances and incorporate these lessons into future programme strategies.
- The overall performance of more than two thirds (67 per cent) of the projects evaluated achieved a rating of 'satisfactory' or better, a 12 per cent increase from the previous biennium—Evaluation Synthesis Report 2016 – 2017.
- In 2018, began publishing data with the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) which seeks to improve transparency of development resources.

Environment Fund expenditure	Amount in USD Million	Percentage
Climate Change	3.41	14.5%
Disaster and Conflicts	2.02	8.6%
Ecosystem management	4.25	18.0%
Environmental Governance	3.52	14.9%
Chemicals and Wastes	3.33	14.1%
Resource Efficiency	4.56	19.3%
Environment Under Review	2.5	10.6%

### Top 15 Contributors to the Environment Fund

Member States	Amount in USD million	Member States	Amount in USD million
1 Netherlands	9.1	9 Norway	3.0
2 Germany	8.9	10 Canada	2.4
3 France	7.6	11 Japan	2.4
4 United States of America	6.1	12 Finland	1.7
5 Sweden	5.1	13 China	1.5
6 Belgium	4.6	14 Russian Federation	0.9
7 United Kingdom	4.3	15 Ireland	0.6
8 Switzerland	3.8		

### What is the status of the Environment Fund?

Despite Member States' commitment to provide secure, stable, adequate and increased financial resources...

Income is only **50** per cent of the approved Environment Fund Budget.

**83** of **193** Member States contribute to the Environment Fund

**40** of **193** Member States contribute according to the Voluntary Indicative Scale of contributions.

**93** per cent of the Environment Fund income comes from 15 biggest contributors.

### What is our call to action?

Address the gap – contribute to the Environment Fund!

Protecting the planet and its people is at the core of our mandate. Your contribution to the Environment Fund is necessary to provide the essential capacity and know-how to deliver on this mandate. To contribute to the Environment Fund, please view our online **guidelines**.

The planet has no borders, every investor is a beneficiary. A prosperous planet depends on all of us.