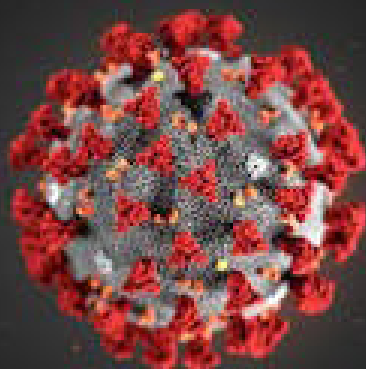


QUARTERLY REPORT

to the 150th Meeting of the

COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES

E I G H T H I S S U E – F E B R U A R Y T O M A R C H 2 0 2 0



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FOREWORD

The period between February and March 2020 has been both unusual and tragic, with the global pandemic of COVID-19 resulting in unimaginable devastation and hardship. COVID-19 has brought our way of life to a complete halt and it is clear that the outbreak will have profound social and economic consequences in every corner of the globe. In the face of such turmoil, as the UN Secretary-General has indicated, COVID-19 will require a response like none before – a “war-time” plan in times of human crisis.

Despite such turmoil, I am deeply proud that UNEP, and indeed the UN at large, is very much “open-for-business.” Our staff have swiftly adapted, working virtually as we continue to deliver on our mandate of environmental governance for Member States. Staff well-being has been of paramount importance at this time. I assure you that we have left no stone unturned in supporting our outstanding colleagues in UNEP offices around the world.

Prior to travel restrictions being introduced, I was pleased to host our annual High-level Meeting with the European Commission in Brussels aimed at identifying key priorities in the context of the external dimensions of the European Green Deal and deepening cooperation in Africa in support of green, inclusive and just transformation in partner countries. While much has changed in the world since this meeting, the Green Deal and partnerships such as this, will be vital to kick-starting global engines of growth as we seek to “build back better.”

As we explore how to address planetary instability, there are fewer more positive scientific forces than the UNEP and WMO-sponsored Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) which consistently sounds the alarm on the future we face. At the opening of the 52nd session of the IPCC, outlining amongst other things, areas of continued support from UNEP. My speech is online. Pushing the relevance of science for people, for policy and for opportunity is now more critical than ever before.

Third March is World Wildlife Day. I was honoured to join HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco and Virginijus Sinkevičius, EU Commissioner for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries, and accept the stewardship of the Aquaria Coalition, a great initiative to spread awareness on the plight of plastic pollution in our oceans. In my speech, I reflected on the need for a greater understanding of the role of the living world in sustaining societies, peoples, and cultures. That our relentless move into the natural world has come at the expense of human health is well articulated in UNEP’s Frontiers Report in 2016. The report showed that 75 per cent of emerging infectious diseases are zoonotic, that is transmitted between humans and animals.

This is but a snapshot of the results reported here. We look forward to your collective feedback, as we look to strengthen our work on the environmental dimensions of COVID-19, on waste management, green stimulus packages to build back better, and transforming humanity’s relationship with nature.

Inger Andersen,
Executive Director, UNEP



INTRODUCTION

Purpose of this report: This quarterly report focuses on the implementation of the Programme of Work for the current biennium (2020–2021). It also shares progress made in implementing the decisions of the United Nations Environment Assembly. The report covers the period from 1 February to 31 March 2020. However, its Section Two: Programmatic Update and Section Three: Resources and Management Issues cover the period from 1 January to 31 March 2020, to align with the start of the ongoing Programme of Work.

HIGHLIGHTS

COVID-19

The World Health Organisation declared COVID-19 a public health emergency of international concern on 30 January 2020, and a pandemic on 11 March 2020. Despite movement restrictions in many of the duty stations of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the organization remains open for business while observing guidelines issued by national authorities and the World Health Organisation. Notwithstanding mitigation measures and the implementation of business continuity plans, including working remotely, the prevailing environment has had an impact on UNEP's project delivery during this first quarter. Our collective global priority is currently on saving lives. UNEP has an important role to play on elevating the links between planetary and human health. In addition to immediate evaluation of how our existing project portfolio may be able to assist member states to respond to COVID-19, UNEP will be working with Member States and partners to explore how to "build back better".

What started as a public health crisis, has evolved into a global socio-economic crisis of unprecedented proportions affecting almost every country and every sector. The environmental dimension of the pandemic is significant. To help prevent further outbreaks of zoonotic viruses like COVID-19, the illegal wildlife trade and the destruction of habitats must stop. We cannot go back to business as usual. We need to rebuild by working *with* nature, not against it. We will also need to address inadequate waste management practices and infrastructure in many developing countries to reduce the spread of such diseases.

Through a statement¹ issued on 6 April, the Executive Director extended UNEP's gratitude to millions of healthcare professionals and members of the UN family who are working around the clock to protect us as we face humanity's biggest crisis since World War II. Because the health of people and the health of our planet are intimately connected, UNEP remains deeply committed to our core mandate of facilitating global environmental governance by adopting virtual channels to hold many of its discussions.

By continuing to degrade ecosystems, we endanger human health. In fact, 75 per cent of all emerging infectious diseases are zoonotic, that is, transferred from animals – whether domesticated or wild – to humans. In this regard, UNEP is working closely with building scientific knowledge on the links between ecosystem stability, the environment, and human health including into zoonotic diseases.

Meanwhile, in the post-crisis setting, as governments approve stimulus packages to support job creation, poverty reduction, development and economic growth, UNEP will continue to support Member States and partners to "build back better". UNEP will support member states to seize opportunities for leap-frogging to green investments, such as renewable energy; smart housing; green public procurement; public transport; sound management of hazardous medical and chemical waste; and strong and global stewardship of nature and biodiversity. All this work will remain guided by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sustainable Development Goals and the future we all want.

UNEP's programmatic response to COVID-19 includes an ongoing assessment of the pandemic related to project delivery. An exercise is underway to identify where existing projects could perhaps be retrofitted to be COVID-19 responsive. UNEP is also exploring exchange with other UN agencies on possible joint responses, UNEP-wide discussions on a post COVID-19 green recovery approach.

The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in the postponement or modification of a significant number of meetings and events, including on biodiversity, climate and chemicals. It is also impacting project implementation in most countries due to movement restrictions. Despite these challenges, we have seen increased cooperation on identifying synergies, for example between the chemicals and waste cluster and the biodiversity cluster and their respective post-2020 frameworks.²

¹ <https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/statement/unep-statement-covid-19>

² <https://s3.amazonaws.com/cbdocumentspublic-imagebucket-15w2zyxk3pr18/a426992b24d9968973e92a2878b5ad5f>

SECTION 1: Significant Global and Regional Developments

GLOBAL

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

The Executive Director addressed the opening of the 52nd session of the UNEP and WMO-sponsored Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) on 24 February 2020, in Paris, France³. UNEP announced an increase in its contribution to the IPCC Trust Fund as well as the appointment of a new Deputy Secretary, Ms. Ermira Fida. UNEP will also work with the IPCC to consolidate the Global Assessment Dialogue (IPCC, IPBES, Global Environment Outlook, International Resource Panel and Global Sustainable Development Report) as requested by the Fourth UN Environment Assembly through resolution 23. UNEP also confirmed that it will host the next session of the IPCC in Nairobi.

Buildings and Construction

Under the umbrella of the UNEP-hosted Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction (GlobalABC), and in partnership with the International Energy Agency, regional roadmaps for zero emission, efficient and resilient buildings and construction were developed for Africa, Asia and Latin America, involving some 700 stakeholders across the regions.

UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration

The draft strategy for the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030 has been posted online for global public consultation⁴ and is open for comments until 30 April.



³ <https://www.unenvironment.org/news-and-stories/speech/52nd-session-intergovernmental-panel-climate-change>, https://twitter.com/andersen_inger/status/1231970312121614337?s=20

⁴ <https://www.decadeonrestoration.org/>

UN Development System Reform (UNDS)

- ➔ UNEP has actively participated in the Regional Review, where it provided proposals to promote better coordination and use of the regional resources from the UNDS and provide more coherent and consistent support to the Regional Coordinators, UN Country Teams and Member States.
- ➔ UNEP also participated in the Multi-Country Office (MCO) review where it looked at various models to increase coverage in the regions, sub-regions, and countries.
- ➔ It continued to support the Regional Review and MCO Review discussions with Member States, led by the Deputy Secretary General. The recommendations will be discussed during the ECOSOC Operational Activities Segment.

AFRICA

Mitigation in the transport sector:

- ➔ In February 2020, West African Ministers adopted cleaner fuels and vehicles standards. The regulations adopted by the ministers were a culmination of several years of work by UNEP towards improving the standards of fuels and vehicles in the region.⁵ This will contribute significantly to reduce short-lived climate pollutants and to improve air quality in the sub-region as further elaborated under the Chemicals, waste and air quality subprogramme.
- ➔ Environment Ministers from the sub-region adopted the first ever Africa regional vehicle fuel economy roadmap. The roadmap outlines measures for countries in the region to transition to more fuel-efficient vehicles including electric mobility. It is a culmination of UNEP's support through the Global Fuel Economy Initiative (GFEI), with 11 of the 15 ECOWAS countries being assisted to analyze the fuel efficiency of vehicles imported over time, and in some cases also develop policy options for improved fuel economy.

DED missions to Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana and the African Development Bank

- ➔ From 5-11 March, the Deputy Executive Director visited Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire, and Accra, Ghana, to engage in high level dialogues with Ministers on waste management, air and land-based pollution, sanitation, implementation of

⁵ <https://www.unenvironment.org/news-and-stories/story/west-african-ministers-adopt-cleaner-fuels-and-vehicles-standards>

Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) as well as to engage with the private sector. Meetings with the UN Country Teams provided the opportunity to strengthen UNEP's coordination and contributions to the Decade of Action on the Sustainable Development Goals, through the Common Country Assessments and UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks in both countries. High-level meetings with the African Development Bank strengthened the existing partnership by identifying common priority areas linked to strategic programmatic areas of the Bank's High Five namely: Light up and Power Africa; Feed Africa; Industrialize Africa; Integrate Africa (infrastructure) and; Improve the quality of life for the people of Africa.

Climate action vital to silencing the guns

- The 33rd African Union (AU) Summit, held from 8-9 February in Addis Ababa set climate action as a top priority for political leaders and development partners in Africa. UNEP provided technical expertise on climate and environmental sustainability matters to the AU Panel of the Wise, the African Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN)⁶ and to the African Group of Negotiators on Climate Change⁷ in the region. These efforts have helped strengthen the Committee of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change (CAHOSCC).⁸
- The Summit adopted enhanced commitments, including plans to allocate 25% of public procurement to women-owned businesses, and the launch of the African Women Leadership Fund.⁹

ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Harmonizing Energy Efficient Lighting and Appliances

UNEP's United for Efficiency (U4E) initiative¹⁰ and the ASEAN Centre for Energy (ACE)¹¹ held the "ASEAN Inception Meeting on Product Registration Systems and Lighting National Roadmaps" in February. Ten¹² ASEAN member countries discussed a proposal for implementing the lighting policies on the national level. U4E will provide technical expertise to support the countries in developing National Roadmaps for Energy Efficient Lighting.

6 <https://www.unenvironment.org/regions/africa/african-ministerial-conference-environment>

7 <https://www.unenvironment.org/regions/africa/african-ministerial-conference-environment>

8 <https://au.int/en/newsevents/20190209/meeting-committee-african-heads-state-and-government-climate-change-cahoscc>

9 <https://www.uneca.org/stories/africa%E2%80%99s-female-fund-managers-receive-major-boost-through-launch-multi-million-dollar-fund>

10 <https://united4efficiency.org/>

11 <https://aseanenergy.org/>

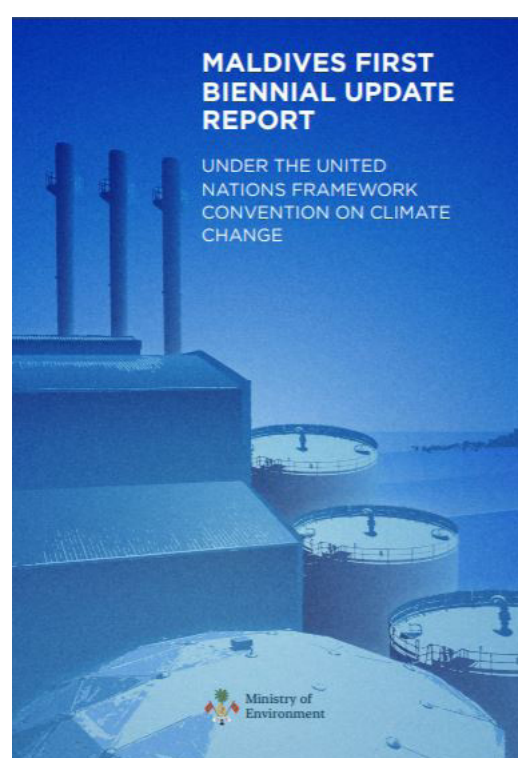
12 Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam.

Environmental governance and health in China

- China banned the consumption of all wildlife on the protection list of the existing Wild Animal Protection Law or other laws, and all terrestrial wildlife, including those artificially bred and farmed as of 24 February.
- China's Ministry of Ecology and Environment announced on 10 March that environmental protection, supervision, monitoring and services will cover all health care and medical facilities in China. All medical waste and sewage in the country will be collected, transferred and treated timely and effectively after COVID-19 outbreaks. Epidemic medical solid waste accounts for about 20 percent of the country's total medical solid wastes.
- On 3 March, China issued guidelines¹³ aimed at establishing a sound environmental governance system by 2025.

Maldives launches first Biennial Update Report (BUR)

The report,¹⁴ launched on 3 March, provides updates on actions undertaken to implement the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), including updates of national Greenhouse Gas (GHG) inventories, a national inventory report and information on mitigation actions.



13 http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/latestreleases/202003/03/content_WS5e5e60a5c6d0c201c2cbd75a.html

14 <http://www.environment.gov.mv/v2/en/news/9918>

EUROPE

First Regional issues-based Coalition on Environment launched

- ➔ The first Issue-Based Coalition on the Environment and Climate Change for Europe and Central Asia¹⁵ was launched on 20 March 2020¹⁶. The coalition – co-Chaired by UNEP, UNECE and UNESCO – will provide a regional platform for UN agencies to promote coordinated support to all member states in Europe and Central Asia in their implementation of the 2030 Agenda. It will also support UN Country Teams in Europe and Central Asia on environmental and climate change issues.
- ➔ The coalition will jointly address activities dedicated to strengthening environmental and climate change governance, improving environmental management, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and promoting the sustainable management of natural resources. It is launched ahead of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, where 350 million hectares of degraded ecosystems are targeted for restoration between 2021 and 2030.

UNEP-European Commission High-Level Meeting

The 2020 annual high-level meeting between UNEP and the European Commission (EC) took place on 2 March 2020. The objective of this meeting was to identify key strategic policy priorities for collaboration in view of the global environment agenda in 2020 and beyond, as well as the new policy context of the European Green Deal and its external dimension. It took place within the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding between the EC and UNEP.

World aquariums against plastic pollution

On 3 March, World Wildlife Day, the UNEP Executive Director joined HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco and Virginijus Sinkevičius, European Commissioner for Environment,



High-level ceremony to celebrate the coalition of “World aquariums against plastic pollution” at the Oceanographic Museum of Monaco on 3 March 2020 (Photo credit: European Commission)

¹⁵ <https://www.unece.org/runcwelcome/issue-based-coalitions/environment-and-climate-change.html>

¹⁶ <https://www.unenvironment.org/events/un-environment-event/un-coalition-launched-environment-and-climate-change-europe-and-central>

Oceans and Fisheries, at the high-level ceremony to celebrate the coalition of “World aquariums against plastic pollution” at the Oceanographic Museum of Monaco. She accepted stewardship of the Aquaria Coalition on behalf of UNEP to be hosted under the Clean Seas campaign.

Climate and environment

UNEP signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the European Investment Bank¹⁷ on 2 March 2020, to deepen cooperation on climate change, conservation, protection, enhancement and support of nature and natural resources, including biological diversity worldwide and circular economy. A particular priority will be the identification of a new pipeline of investment projects in the field of environment and climate change.



Signing of MoU between UNEP Executive Director Inger Andersen and European Investment Bank Vice President responsible for Climate Action and Environment Emma Navarro on 2 March 2020, Brussels, Belgium (Photo credit: UN Environment Programme/Europe Office)

Cooperation Agreement

UNEP signed a Framework Agreement on Strategic Cooperation with the Principality of Monaco on 3 March 2020, in Monaco. The overall objective of the Agreement is to further strengthen the institutional dialogue, strategic partnership, mutual support and cooperation between UNEP and the Government of Monaco.

¹⁷ <https://www.unenvironment.org/news-and-stories/press-release/eib-and-unep-strengthen-their-cooperation-enhance-climate-and>

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Lead in paint standard in Jamaica

The government of Jamaica, in conjunction with stakeholders, convened a workshop on Lead in Paints in Jamaica on 27 February 2020 in Kingston. The workshop discussed and agreed on the need for a national compulsory standard for lead in decorative paint (of 90 parts per million) and that it should be included in law. The responsible Ministry will now work with the Bureau of Standards for the standard to be officially introduced. A decision on this standard was catalysed by UNEP over a three-year period, within the framework of the Global Lead Paint Alliance.

WEST ASIA

Gulf Green initiative

At the second board meeting of the Gulf Green initiative which took place in Bahrain in February, UNEP and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) reviewed the overall direction and activities of the initiative. UNEP and the GCC agreed that the initiative would contribute to the achievement of the GCC environment strategy agreed by Heads of States.

World Urban Forum (WUF10)

At the 10th session of the World Urban Forum (WUF 10) held on 8-13 February, in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, UNEP's contributions to the WUF 10 focused on two pillars:

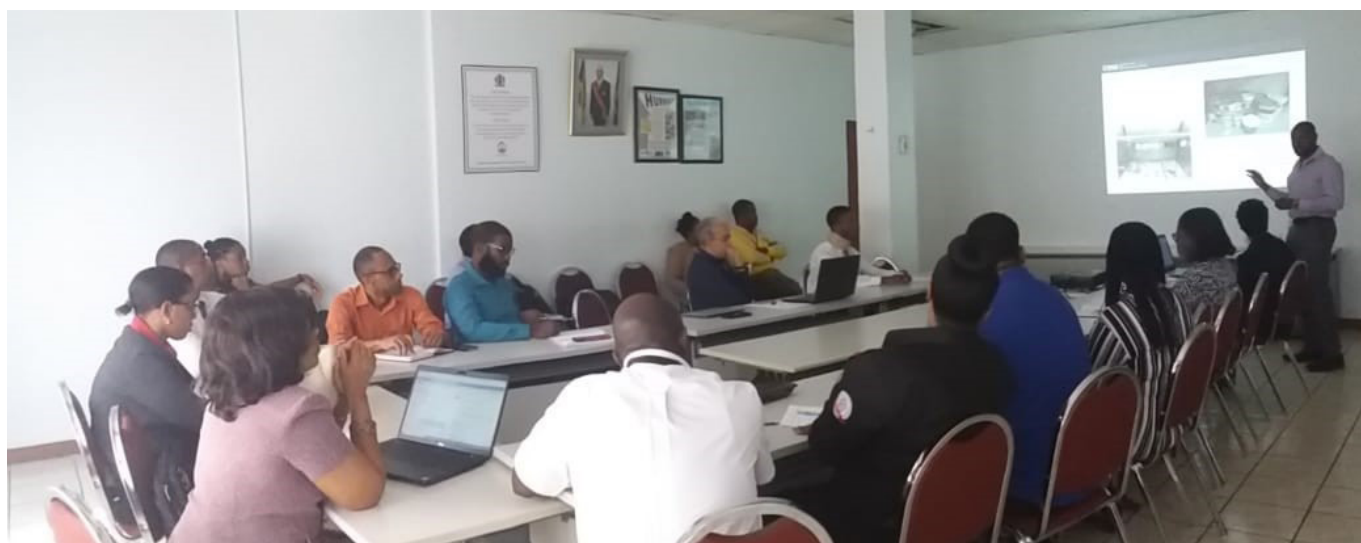
Implementing integrated urban solutions and how they accelerate climate action and biodiversity conservation, and Importance of data for decision making and the implementation of the New Urban Agenda. The Deputy Executive Director participated in High-Level Dialogues, Youth Assembly, Special Sessions and the launch of the following UNEP initiatives: a) Urban Air Action Platform; b) Indicator Reporting Information System.

During WUF 10, the Climate & Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) Waste Initiative was presented. There were other side events on waste management including: Circular economy, the Waste Wise Cities Campaign, plastic waste and the informal sector, innovative technologies on waste management in slums in Bangladesh and Ghana and waste and wastewater management in Accra. The World Environment Situation Room (WESR) was also presented.

The Abu Dhabi Declared Actions on Cities of Opportunities: Connecting Culture and Innovation¹⁸ welcomed and recognized the diverse commitments made by international organizations, national governments, local and regional governments, the private sector, civil society, youth and other groups.

Oman bans single-use plastic bags

On 15 March, Oman announced a ban on single-use plastic bags with fines of up to OMR 2,000 (about US \$5,340) for violations as from next year. This decision is pursuant to its commitments to the UNEP CleanSeas campaign, which Oman joined in 2018.



Workshop on Lead in Paint held on 27 February 2020, Kingston, Jamaica (Photo credit: UN Environment Programme/Latin America and the Caribbean Office)

¹⁸ https://wuf.unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2020-02/WUF10_final_declared_actions.pdf

SECTION 2: Programmatic Update

Key programmatic activity highlights in relation to the Expected Accomplishments of the approved **Programme of Work for 2020–2021** are presented below, with key opportunities, challenges and risks highlighted. The

reporting period starts on 1 January 2020 to align to the start of the biennium. Interwoven into the elements of the Programme of Work are developments related to UNEA Resolutions and SDGs.



1. CLIMATE CHANGE

SUBPROGRAMME OBJECTIVE:

“Countries increasingly make the transition to low-emission economic development and enhance their adaptation and resilience to climate change.”

Expected Accomplishment – 1a

“Countries increasingly advance their national adaptation plans which integrate ecosystem based adaptation.”¹⁹

Ecosystem-based Adaptation: In January 2020, UNEP and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) launched a Global Fund for Ecosystem-based Adaptation. The Fund will provide targeted and rapid support mechanisms through seed capital for innovative approaches to ecosystem-based adaptation.²⁰

Investment: UNEP guided Uganda and Ghana to select the most representative investment sectors. Land-based actions in agriculture and forestry were identified as the high-level sectors that will unlock the realization of their respective national development blueprints.

National Adaptation Planning (NAP): Iraq started to develop its National Adaptation Plan (NAP) under its recently approved *Green Climate Fund GCF NAP readiness* project. This readiness project was developed with UNEP support.

Regional projects:

- ➔ The *Regional Transparency and Long-Term Strategy Cooperation* project aims at providing support to Chile, Costa Rica, Colombia, Argentina and Uruguay to develop harmonized Long-Term Strategies through a commonly agreed methodology.
- ➔ The *regional approach to electric mobility advances in Latin America* project,²¹ launched in February 2020, supports 10 countries²² in the region to develop common policies and investment pipelines on electric mobility, serving to implement the initiative of the Buenos Aires 2018 Forum of Ministers of Latin America and the Caribbean on electric mobility.

Expected Accomplishment – 1b

“Countries increasingly adopt and/or implement low greenhouse gas emission development strategies and invest in clean technologies.”²³

Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs):

The Kigali Cooling Efficiency Programme, a co-lead of the Cool Coalition, launched a \$12 million NDC Support Facility²⁴ to help countries that wish to integrate commitments on efficient, climate-friendly cooling into their NDCs. The Cool Coalition is hosted by UNEP.

- ➔ Through the NDC Partnership’s Climate Action Enhancement Package²⁵ (CAEP), UNEP is supporting 15 countries²⁶ in the first round. UNEP has also been selected to support another five²⁷ countries in the second round. This programme contributes to the UNEP and UNDP strategic discussions for reinforcing their collaboration on climate.
- ➔ UNEP and the UNEP-Danish University of Technology (DTU) Partnership kicked off the *NDC Action* project in Jordan with a scoping mission on 10-13 February to help government, financial sector and non-government entities to implement the country’s NDC in two selected sectors: water (with focus on agriculture) and waste (municipal solid waste and energy technology).

Short-lived Climate Pollutants (SLCPs):

- ➔ Mexico launched a National Strategy to Reduce Short-Lived Climate Pollutants (SLCP) for climate change, air quality and human health. It outlines concrete actions to reduce black carbon and methane from major sources. Implementing the strategy will achieve Mexico’s climate change goal to reduce black carbon emissions by 51% in 2030 and substantially contribute to achieving its greenhouse gas reduction target. Mexico is one of 12 countries that is developing National SLCP Action Plans as part of the Climate and Clean Air Coalition’s Supporting National Action & Planning (SNAP) Initiative.²⁸

19 Linked to UNEP resolution UNEP/EA.2/Res.6 and SDGs 13.1, 13.2, 13.3.2, 13.a and 13.b.

20 <https://sdg.iisd.org/news/iucn-unesp-launch-eba-fund/>

21 <https://movelatam.org/10-paises-de-america-latina-y-el-caribe-avanzan-hacia-la-movilidad-electrica-con-un-enfoque-regional/>

22 Argentina, Costa Rica, Cuba, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay and Uruguay

23 UNEP/EA.3/Res.8 (SDGs 7.1.1, 7.1.2, 7.2.17.3.1, 7.a.1, 7.b.1, 9.4.1, 12.c.1, 13.3.2, 13.a, 13.b, 17.17.1).

24 <https://www.k-cep.org/ndc-support-facility/>

25 <https://ndcpartnership.org/caep>

26 Argentina, Belize, Benin, Chile, Dominican Republic, Eswatini, Guatemala, Jamaica, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Nigeria, Sudan, Uganda, and Zimbabwe.

27 Cote d’Ivoire, Honduras, Panama, and Papua New Guinea

28 <https://www.ccacoalition.org/en/initiatives/snap>

- ➔ The first measurements of methane emissions from oil and gas platforms in the Gulf of Mexico were released. On 9 March 2020, the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) supported ground-breaking research that governments and the oil and gas industry can use to target effective methane emissions reductions, combating a critical short-lived climate pollutant.
- ➔ Ukraine joined the CCAC and endorsed meaningful action on short-lived climate pollutants. It plans to support all the Coalition's efforts, particularly in transport, agriculture, waste, efficient cooling, and household energy.

District energy in cities:

- ➔ The Bitten & Mads Clausen's Foundation has renewed its support to the UNEP-led District Energy in Cities Initiative with a \$1.3million grant to accelerate the deployment and investments in district energy systems globally.
- ➔ In Chile, the cities of Coyhaique and Temuco recently announced commitments to invest up to \$18 million in district heating to improve air quality in their cities. The Ministry of Energy is developing an enabling regulatory framework to accelerate district energy projects throughout the country. This is the result of UNEP support to Chile on district energy, focusing on district heating, since 2017.

Expected Accomplishment – 1c

"Countries increasingly adopt and implement forest-friendly policies and measures that deliver quantifiable emissions reductions as well as social and environmental benefits."²⁹

- ➔ **Financing sustainable agriculture and forestry:** At the World Economic Forum in Davos, on January 23, the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced that it will become an anchor public investor in the AGRI3 Fund³⁰ by contributing \$40 million – an amount matched by Rabobank. Together these contributions will mobilize commercial finance, which can be used to finance sustainable agriculture and accelerate forest protection. Agri3 is a blended finance initiative to support the transition to sustainable agriculture.
- ➔ **Financing small farmers for agroforestry:** UNEP provided sustainable financing solutions for zero deforestation cocoa in Cote d'Ivoire. It helped build sustainable cocoa production by engaging the private sector and technical partners and encouraging farmers to use high quality seedlings and the right agroforestry techniques to take care of their plantations. UNEP helped to set up mechanisms that will enable the small farmer to access finance.

²⁹ UNEP/EA.2/Res.6 and SDGs 12.c.1, 13.3.2, 13.a, 13.b, 15.1.1, 15.2.1, 15.3.1, 15.6.1 and 17.17.1.

³⁰ https://www.rabobank.com/en/images/AGRI3Fund_leaflet.pdf

2. RESILIENCE TO DISASTERS AND CONFLICTS

SUBPROGRAMME OBJECTIVE:

“Countries increasingly prevent and reduce the environmental impacts of disasters and conflicts, while building resilience to future crises.”³¹

Expected Accomplishment – 2a

“Countries and international partners integrate environmental measures for risk reduction in key policies and frameworks.”

Risk reduction: UNEP held a webinar on Chemicals and Waste Management in the Oil and Gas sector on 12 March. The course informs on key environmental considerations to reduce risks of pollution at the different stages of exploration and production. It also presented international guidelines and best practices related to the industry. The webinar recorded a total of 704 registrants from 77 countries. These webinars³² are part of in-country capacity development support being provided by UNEP to strengthen environmental governance and management in the sector in developing countries.

Nature-based Solutions for humanitarian purpose: On 19 March, UNEP organized a webinar entitled *Nature-Based Solutions for Enhanced Humanitarian Action: What are the next steps?* The webinar³³ followed the recent Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Week in Geneva and introduced examples to support the uptake of Nature-based Solutions by humanitarian actors.

Eco-disaster risk reduction: In the West Asia/Middle East region, the Partnership for Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction Network was launched to support Eco-DRR and Climate Change Adaptation integration in development, risk reduction and biodiversity programmes at the regional and national levels. The DRR strategies for Iraq and Jordan are under review to mainstream nature-based solutions. UNEP made agreements with several universities in the region (Bahrain, Oman, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Palestine) on integrating Eco-DRR courses.

Expected Accomplishment – 2b

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

³¹ The programme is relevant to the achievement of all 17 Sustainable Development Goals, as external shocks such as natural disasters, industrial accidents and especially armed conflict have proven to be extremely powerful ‘brakes’ on development. However, UNEP specifically aims to deliver on SDGs 1, 11, 13 and 16.

³² https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=global+network+on+environment+and+oil+and+gas

³³ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aiWVJhgF9-c>

Humanitarian partnerships:

- ➔ The UNEP/OCHA Joint Environment Unit (JEU) supported the Myanmar Humanitarian Fund (MHF) in January 2020 to mainstream environmental risk, including in all strategic documents and all 2020 project proposals. In addition, 70 MHF partners were trained in addressing environmental risks in their ongoing and upcoming work.
- ➔ Environment and climate issues took a prominent role at the 2020 Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Week on 3-7 February in Geneva. The event drew 2,268 participants from more than 100 countries and over 450 organizations. The JEU organized sessions on the humanitarian implications of the climate crisis, asbestos, environment and conflict, and on tackling humanitarian plastic packaging waste, in addition to holding the annual meetings of the Environment and Humanitarian Action Network and the Strategic Advisory Group on Environment and Emergencies.

Expected Accomplishment – 2c

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

National Environment Policy: In Afghanistan, UNEP supported the National Environment Protection Agency (NEPA) to convene a multi-Ministerial and multi-agency Roundtable in support of the development of Afghanistan’s first National Environment Policy (NEP). Participants from 17 institutions debated NEP content, priorities and approaches. NEPA and UNEP now have a clear pathway forward and multi-ministerial commitment to the development phase of the NEP.

National environmental management: In Haiti, work has commenced on the second phase of the development of the National Environmental Information System to be managed jointly between the Ministry of the Environment and the Ministry of Planning. In February 2020, UNEP launched a Methodological Guide for Sustainable Reforestation of Riverbanks, complete with a training workshop for Ministry staff and other partners in the field.

3. HEALTHY AND PRODUCTIVE ECOSYSTEMS

SUBPROGRAMME 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.”

Expected Accomplishment – 3a

“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.”

Coral Reefs:

- ➔ UNEP launched an awareness campaign on coral fluorescence due to climate change³⁴ in collaboration with the Ocean Agency,³⁵ a non-profit which raises the awareness and support necessary to help fast-track ocean conservation action.
- ➔ UNEP supported the G20 Saudi Presidency in the preparation of a policy paper on coral reefs.



(Photo credit: Unsplash/@marc0521)

Species protection: UNEP in collaboration with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) supported the Republic of North Macedonia in the development of the country’s first national Red List³⁶. These lists have 32 species of reptiles and 14 species of amphibians, categorized from ‘Endangered’ to ‘Least Concern’. Red Lists provide detailed information on the population and distribution of species, as well as the extinction risk. They can be used by countries to inform national species protection legislation and policy, as well as to report on their contribution to global biodiversity targets.

34 <https://www.unenvironment.org/news-and-stories/story/unep-launches-glowing-gone-campaign-loss-coral-due-climate-change>

35 <https://theoceanagency.org/>

36 <http://redlist.moepp.gov.mk/>



Species protection: Adder (*Vipera berus*), assessed as “Endangered” (Photo credit: UN Environment Programme/Andrej Mihajlov)

World Wildlife Day: For the World Wildlife Day on 3 March 2020, people around the globe celebrated how biodiversity, in all its varied forms, *Sustains All Life on Earth*. To raise the alarm on the plight of some of the most biodiverse places on earth, coral reefs, UNEP’s #WildForLife and #GlowingGone campaigns joined forces to raise awareness



Celebrity morph (Jane Goodall) created for the World Wildlife Day celebrated on 3 March (Photo credit: UN Environment Programme/ Communications Division)

of the value and importance of these underwater ecosystems, and the magnificent creatures that inhabit them. The interactive game *Reef Rider Journey*³⁷ gave users the opportunity to experience a coral reef through the eyes of a sea turtle to understand its unique role in maintaining nature's balance. Campaign champions with a combined reach of 307 million people through their social media platforms amplified the campaign. Engagement, through likes, comments and shares reached over 4.2 million. Page views for the Wild for Life website increased ten-fold over the campaign period.

Expected Accomplishment – 3b

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

Financing biodiversity: In January 2020, UNEP and partners received funding from the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment FOEN to further enhance ENCORE (Exploring Natural Capital Opportunities, Risks and Exposure) - a web-based tool that will enable financial institutions to align their portfolios with global biodiversity targets.³⁸

³⁷ <https://wildfor.life/reefriderjourney#/introduction>

³⁸ <https://www.unep-wcmc.org/news/encore>

4. ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE

SUBPROGRAMME OBJECTIVE:

“Policy coherence and strong legal and institutional frameworks increasingly achieve environmental goals in the context of sustainable development.”³⁹

Expected Accomplishment – 4a

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

Policy coherence and interagency collaboration:

- ➔ The Second meeting of the EMG Consultative Process⁴⁰ on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) took place in Rome on 27 February, where EMG members agreed on the guiding principles, approach, and structure for the EMG outcome report on the post-2020 GBF. This will showcase the links of different UN activities and policy sectors to biodiversity and provide recommendations and identify new opportunities for cooperation to further support and enhance biodiversity mainstreaming in the 2020-2030 period.
- ➔ The UN E-waste Coalition met and agreed on the Coalition’s governance structure, terms of reference and objective to collaborate with governments and the private sector in setting a joint vision for circular electronics and in supporting countries in tackling e-waste.

Human Rights: In February 2020, UNEP supported the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) to develop a cooperation proposal for the preparation of a Framework Instrument on Environment Impact Assessment.

Expected Accomplishment – 4b

“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.”

Environmental Law:

- ➔ UNEP published the French version of *Strengthening legal frameworks for licit and illicit trade in wildlife and forest products*,⁴¹ which examines the illicit trade in wildlife and forest products through the combined lenses of natural resources law, trade law and criminal law.

- ➔ UNEP also published the French translation⁴² of the *Legal Readiness for Climate Finance: Private Sector Opportunities*, designed to increase the discussions of the area of climate finance at a global level.
- ➔ At the World Urban Forum, UNEP’s Law and Climate Change Toolkit⁴³ was presented with an expanded module on Urban Planning and Land Use Law; designed to promote climate-smart urbanization by assessing the relative strength of existing urban planning legal frameworks, identifying gaps, and providing the tools to fill these gaps.
- ➔ UNEP supported Vietnam to review its draft Law on Environmental Protection.

Rights of children: UNEP co-hosted a session at the Extraordinary 84th session of the Committee on Rights of the Child (CRC) in March 2020 on the impacts of Climate Change on the Rights of Children (CRC) and Vulnerable Groups. The event brought Pacific child and youth activists together with CRC members and judges to build shared understanding of impacts of climate change on children and youth and opportunities for human rights-based approaches to climate action and policies.

Environmental rights: In February, UNEP co-hosted, with OHCHR, a regional operational meeting to advance environmental rights and strengthen cooperation building upon the cooperation agreement signed by the two agencies in August 2019. The exchange identified shared goals and objectives related to human rights and the environment and future activities to support rights-based approaches across all sub-programmes.



³⁹ Highlights support for the implementation of UNEA resolutions 2/2, 2/5, 2/17, 2/19, and 2/21.

⁴⁰ <https://unemg.org/our-work/emerging-issues/biodiversity/>

⁴¹ <https://www.unenvironment.org/fr/resources/publications/renforcement-des-cadres-juridiques-lies-au-commerce-licite-et-illicite-des>

⁴² <https://www.unenvironment.org/fr/resources/rapport/preparation-juridique-au-financement-de-l'action-climatique-possibilites-offertes>

⁴³ <https://climatelawtoolkit.org/>

5. CHEMICALS, WASTE AND AIR QUALITY

SUBPROGRAMMES OBJECTIVE:

“Sound management of chemicals and waste and improved air quality contribute to a healthier environment and better health for all.”

Expected Accomplishment – 5a

“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 (SAICM).”

Ozone-depleting substances:

- ➔ The Government of Bahrain, on 13 January, adopted a decision to establish a national system for the sound management of refrigerants and certification schemes of refrigeration technicians. The decision is a result of ongoing cooperation between Bahrain and UNEP in support of implementing the obligations of the Montreal protocol to phase out ozone-depleting substances and adopt best practices and technologies that are friendly to the climate and ozone layer.
- ➔ The Trade Ministers Forum meeting on 13 February 2020 in Suva, Fiji, endorsed a Trade and Environment paper on the Kigali Amendment and its obligations, jointly prepared by UNEP and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat. This will enhance high-level intergovernmental support and advocacy for meeting the Kigali Amendment initial obligations.

Environment and health: The Deputy Executive Director and Dr. Henk Bekedam, WHO Representative in India, participated in a consultation on 19 February 2020 on the strategy of the UNEP-WHO joint environment and health initiative in partnership with the Government of India. The meeting was co-chaired by the Secretaries of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, and of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India. The strategy and action plan for the joint initiative is now being finalized for submission to the Government of India.

Expected Accomplishment – 5b

“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.”

Marine Litter Expert Group in Peru:

The Ad Hoc Open-ended Expert Group on Marine Litter and Microplastics that was scheduled for early May 2020 has been postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Marine Plastic Litter in Southeast Asia and India:

- ➔ The work of the *Promotion of Countermeasures Against Marine Plastic Litter in Southeast Asia and India (CounterMEASURE)* project with the Mekong River Commission made headlines in the regional media⁴⁴ after a press tour was organized on the occasion of the Regional Technical Workshop on Assessment and Monitoring of Plastic Pollution in the Mekong River, held on 11-12 February 2020 in Vientiane, Laos PDR.



Marine plastic litter in Vientiane, Laos PDR (Photo credit: UN Environment Programme/Asia and the Pacific Office)

⁴⁴ For example, the news from ThaiPBS, “Waste Management in Vientiane released on 19 February 2020 had 130,000 views as of 13 March 2020”. Thai version at <https://www.facebook.com/teeneethaipbs/videos/195200314892790/>.

➔ The outreach activities of the India component in four cities (Mumbai, Allahabad, Haridwar, and Agra) also received extensive local media coverage⁴⁵. UNEP organized a press tour from 19-21 February 2020 in Agra, India, to showcase the work by an outreach partner, Chintan, and microplastics research by the National Productivity Council. Media included Fuji TV and Mainichi Newspaper from Japan as well as NDTV India (in Hindi) who have produced stories to be broadcasted on World Water Day on 22nd March 2020. This work is supporting India's commitment to beat plastic pollution, as stated by the Prime Minister in his Independence Day speech last year.

Marine pollution: The Deputy Executive Director participated in a high-level dialogue on global responses to marine pollution, jointly organized by the Norwegian Embassy in Delhi and the UNEP India office on 17 February 2020. It was attended by Mr. Sveinung Rotevatn, Minister of Climate and Environment, Norway, and Mr. C K Mishra, Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, India. The discussions focussed on the need and framework for a global response to marine pollution. The Project Steering Committee meeting of the India-Norway Marine Pollution Initiative was held on 19 February 2020. UNEP will provide technical and policy support to the newly constituted Marine Litter Cell in the Government of India.

Marine Litter and Microplastics: On 21 January, a briefing took place in Geneva on Marine Litter and Microplastics,⁴⁶ with the participation of the Chair of the Ad Hoc Open-Ended Expert Group on Marine Litter and Microplastics established under the UN Environment Assembly.

Expected Accomplishment – 5c

“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 UNEP support.”

Clean air:

Cambodia is committed to address air pollution and by implementing 25 clean air measures that are recommended in the report “Air Pollution in Asia and the Pacific: Science-based Solutions” developed by CCAC and UNEP Asia Pacific Clean Air Partnership (APCAP). The inception workshop to start the process of a Clean Air Plan development took place on 21 February 2020 in Phnom Penh with about 50 representatives from provincial environmental departments and other key stakeholders. The process of identifying roles and responsibilities of stakeholders began. The workplan and the working group for the National Clean Air Plan for Cambodia were agreed with the Ministry of Environment.

45 Some of the media coverage can be accessed here: <https://www.jagran.com/uttar-pradesh/agra-city-single-use-plastic-boycott-message-will-be-given-at-taj-mahotsav-19952964.html>; <https://www.jagran.com/uttar-pradesh/agra-city-taj-mahotsav-2020-will-give-themessage-of-save-environment-jagran-special-20035400.html>; <https://www.aninews.in/videos/national/cleanliness-drive-underway-agra-slums-ahead-trumps-visit-residents-call-move-temporary/>; <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/agra/amc-councillors-plan-postcard-drive-to-focus-on-irregularities-in-door-to-door-garbage-collection/articleshow/73090738.cms>

46 <https://www.genevaenvironmentnetwork.org/21jan2020.html>



6. RESOURCE EFFICIENCY

SUBPROGRAMME 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."

Expected Accomplishment – 6a

"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."

Green economy: The Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE)⁴⁷ finalized its 2021-2030 Strategy to provide demand driven, joint assistance with other UN Agencies to countries for economic planning. PAGE will offer a Country Support Package for deeper economic reframing and mobilizing finance, and a Global Services Package for capacity building, South-South and Triangular Cooperation and supporting global policy debates to highlight the role of national economic planning in addressing climate and nature crises. PAGE can help countries in greening their post Covid-19 recovery.

Sustainable consumption and production (SCP) in West Asia: UNEP launched an initiative on Mainstreaming Consumption and production in the Upcycling Fashion Industry. The aim of this initiative is to increase public awareness and demonstrate the impact that the fashion industry can have on the planet. It will encourage fashion consumers to be wary of their purchasing decisions' impact.

Regional Coalition on Circular Economy for Latin America and the Caribbean: A first technical meeting was held on 3-4 March in Lima, Peru, with the strategic partners of the Coalition (Climate Technology Centre and Network, Environmental Management Framework, World Economic Forum, Konrad Adenauer Foundation, UNEP, UN Industrial Development Organisation, World Economic Forum). The meeting led to defining the vision, mission, objectives and organizational structure of the Coalition, which is planned to be launched late 2020.

SCP in Asia-Pacific: The Asia and the Pacific region is focusing on sustainable consumption and production to support economic growth, urbanization, food sufficiency, global production hub to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Under the regional project *"Mainstreaming Sustainable Consumption and Production in*

Asia and the Pacific", through 10YFP/One Planet, the right enabling environment is being created for start-ups focusing on sustainable and low-carbon lifestyles in three sectors – plastics, mobility and energy. The support from UNEP during the first quarter of 2020 involved connecting start-ups with policymakers and businesses to leverage scaled-up solutions and comprised:

- ➔ Engaging and reaching the private sector as partners – resulting in Mitsui Chemicals joining as the first partner.
- ➔ Start-ups were short-listed for a training boot camp - due to the current Covid-19 situation, the initially planned face to face boot camp has been postponed and will now be held virtually.
- ➔ Working with the partners to design capacity building for the selected start-ups.

Expected Accomplishment – 6b

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

Addressing single-use plastic products pollution:

- ➔ UNEP focused on upstream life cycle action on the design of alternatives and prevention of plastic waste.⁴⁸ For example, communication materials⁴⁹ to support tourism destinations and the hospitality sector in addressing problematic single-use plastics items (posters, social media cards and videos)⁵⁰ were delivered by UNEP with the One Planet Network Sustainable Tourism Programme.
- ➔ In March, the Life Cycle Initiative, hosted by UNEP, published the *Review of existing Life Cycle Assessment studies of single use plastic bags (SUPB) and their alternatives*.⁵¹

⁴⁷ <https://www.un-page.org/>

⁴⁸ UNEA4 Resolution 9

⁴⁹ <https://www.oneplanetnetwork.org/posters-simple-ways-eliminate-plastics>

⁵⁰ <https://www.oneplanetnetwork.org/posters-simple-ways-eliminate-plastics>

⁵¹ <https://www.lifecycleinitiative.org/single-use-plastic-bags-and-their-alternatives-recommendations-from-life-cycle-assessments/>

Expected Accomplishment – 6c

“Public and private sectors increasingly aware of and support the adoption of sustainable lifestyles and sustainable consumption patterns.”

Better product information and design for sustainable consumption in Latin America

- ➔ To strengthen the national labelling infrastructure and support the regional ecolabelling programme of the Environmental Alliance of America, UNEP and the Costa Rica trained 25 participants on ecolabelling on 3-7 February, in San Jose, Costa Rica.
- ➔ UNEP organised the “Sustainable Consumption and Production Workshop” (SCP) for the private sector on 10 March, in Mexico, to strengthen the private sector’s knowledge on SCP and circular economy to encourage them to adopt SCP in their practices.
- ➔ UNEP trained 36 participants from 12 countries at the ‘Green Coffee in Latin America and the Caribbean’ workshop, held on 19 March, in Bogota, Colombia. It supported the Latin American and Caribbean Coffee Network and the Environmental Alliance of America (regional ecolabel) to align to the Product Environmental Footprint methodology proposed by the European Union.

- ➔ The 3rd meeting of the Environmental Alliance of America was held on 20-21 March in Bogota, Colombia, with 18 participants from Colombia, Mexico, Costa Rica, Ecuador and Paraguay. UNEP is supporting the Alliance to further consolidate its first regional ecolabel programme.



7. ENVIRONMENT UNDER REVIEW

SUBPROGRAMME 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.”

Expected Accomplishment – 7a

“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.”

Gender, environment and statistics

UNEP and IUCN, together with the Department of Statistics and the Ministry of Environment in Jordan, conducted a workshop on measuring gender and the environment in Jordan on 28-30 January 2020. The workshop brought together stakeholders working on gender, environment and statistics for the first time. It reviewed the applicability of the set of gender and environment indicators developed by UNEP and IUCN in Jordan and determined which indicators were a priority. The workshop resulted in a commitment from the Department of Statistics to explore work with the Ministry of Environment on 3-4 priority indicators related to gender and climate change vulnerability, waste management and land management.

2nd Arab Environment Outlook Report

UNEP led a Regional Expert Consultation Meeting on the 2nd Arab Environment Outlook Report that was held on 11-13 February, in Cairo, Egypt. This meeting responded to the decision of the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment (CAMRE) to support the preparation of this report. The meeting resulted in a structure and outline of the Outlook report. This is part of UNEP’s role on keeping environment under review at the regional level.

Accelerating SDG Implementation

On 19 March 2020, UNEP organized the 2020 Regional Forum on Sustainable Development⁵², held in Geneva together with UNECE and other UN agencies and partners, to mobilize action from countries to accelerate implementation of the SDGs. UNEP contributed to the multi-stakeholder discussions on green and inclusive change as well as on economic transformation for SDG acceleration. The conclusion and results of the forum will feed into the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) through the Chair’s summary, which will be the region’s official input for the HLPF.



Participants at the Preparatory Meeting for developing the second Arab Environment Outlook Report held on 11-12 February 2020, Cairo, Egypt (Photo credit: League of Arab States)

⁵² <https://www.unece.org/rfsd.html>

IMPLEMENTATION OF UNEA RESOLUTIONS NOT INCLUDED IN PROGRAMMATIC UPDATES

Decision UNEP/EA.4/2: Provisional agenda, date and venue of the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly

At its meeting on 18 February, the CPR considered the 50-year commemoration of UNEP and the offer by the Government of Sweden to host a High-Level meeting in 2022 to commemorate the first UN Conference on the Human Environment in 1972. Member States highlighted that the commemorations provide a unique opportunity to take stock of progress and to consider how to strengthen efforts to effectively promote the environmental dimension of sustainable development and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. They also expressed views and preliminary positions on possible options, formats and outcomes for the commemoration in 2022, and agreed to continue discussions.

The process for review by the CPR is advancing under the leadership of two co-facilitators. So far, four subcommittee meetings have been held, covering a) the preparation, working arrangements, and scheduling of sessions of UNEA and its subsidiary bodies, b) the roles and responsibilities of the UNEA and CPR Bureaus, and c) criteria, modalities and timing for presenting and negotiating draft UNEA resolutions and decisions.

Member States have also provided guidance to the Secretariat in view of the development of an action plan to implement Paragraph 88 of the Outcome document of the Rio + 20 conference based on a Secretariat synthesis report on progress made to date.

Decision UNEP/EA.4/3: Management of Trust Funds and Earmarked Contributions

There were 26 inactive Trust funds as at 31 December 2018 out of which 21 were closed by 30 September 2019 and the process to close another three has been initiated. Closure of one other dormant Trust Fund is in progress and will be finalized within 2020. One Trust Fund was re-activated. Below is a summary table of actions taken.

Closure of Trust Funds

Details	No of Trust Funds
UNEA decision	26
Actions taken	
Closed	21
Re-activated	1
In process (by year-end)	3
Pending decision in October 2020	1
Total	26

The establishment and extension of various Trust Funds referred to in the resolution has been implemented as decided by UNEA.

Resolution UNEP/EA.4/Res.18: Poverty Environment Nexus

During the first quarter of 2020, Executive Members of the UNDP-UNEP Poverty – Environment Action for Sustainable Development Goals agreed to proceed with the implementation of four Technical Assistance projects on Gender, Green Bonds, Blue Economy and The Millennium Institute.

These were in addition to the 10 on-going country projects in Africa and Asia-Pacific which focus on policy reforms on sustainable fisheries, agriculture, management of extractives, forest resources and energy solutions, including consideration of environmental factors affecting migration and displacement.

Resolution UNEP/EA.4/Res.22: Implementation and follow-up of UNEA Resolutions

UNEP continued work on an improved reporting framework and monitoring and reporting mechanism for the implementation of UNEA resolutions. On 27 February 2020, the Secretariat presented a consolidated proposal for an improved reporting framework for UNEA resolutions to a CPR Sub-Committee meeting. Member States considered and approved the proposal, which includes an online monitoring and reporting portal. The Secretariat continues work to finalize the design of the portal and to develop content in line with the revised roadmap.

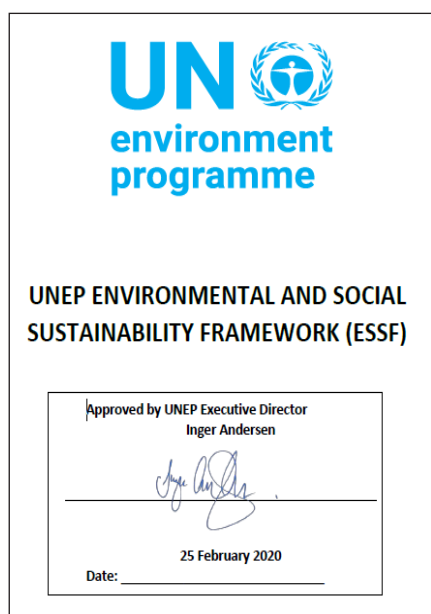
CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

Gender

An Interagency Manual (UNEP, UNDP, UN Women) on the integration of a gender approach in environmental programmes was presented at the Regional Women's Conference⁵³ held on 30 January 2020, in Santiago de Chile.

Environmental and social safeguards

The revised UNEP Environmental and Social Sustainability Framework (ESSF) was approved by the Executive Director in February 2020. It is aligned with the 2030 Agenda and captures lessons learned from organizational experiences to date in order to align with key international standards. The ESSF complies with the latest GEF and GCF standards. Gender equality and women's empowerment are further embedded as guiding principles further making it mandatory for all projects to address and integrate gender concerns at the inception stage.



South-South Cooperation

UNEP released a publication entitled "*South-South Cooperation in Action – Stories of Success*".⁵⁴ The publication is a collection of case studies highlighting successful cooperation between countries of the Global South to overcome environmental challenges.

UNEP also shared a number of good practices with the UN Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) to feature in the third volume of the publication series "*Good Practices in South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Sustainable Development*" and on the global knowledge platform South-South Galaxy⁵⁵, for broader dissemination and potential further replication.



53 <https://conferenciamujer.cepal.org/14/en>

54 https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/31239/SSC_2020.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y

55 <https://www.southsouth-galaxy.org/>

MULTILATERAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENTS

Bamako Convention

The 3rd Meeting of the Conference of Parties (COP-3) to the Bamako Convention on the Ban of the Import into Africa and the Control of Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within Africa,⁵⁶ was held in Brazzaville on 12-14 February. The meeting's theme was "From decisions to action: working for Africa with a safe chemicals and waste future". It adopted nine decisions that covered issues such as a proposed list of hazardous substances to be considered hazardous waste and Action to prevent plastic waste pollution and trade in and surrounding the continent of Africa.



Bamako Convention: Time for Africa to move from decisions to action on hazardous waste (Photo credit: Pixabay)

Basel Convention

The new Plastic Waste Partnership⁵⁷ convened its first meeting⁵⁸ in Seychelles on 2-5 March 2020, with more than 100 government representatives, to discuss ways to prevent, minimize, and soundly manage plastic waste from across the world. The Partnership was established by the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal. The meeting outcomes included agreement on the activities the Partnership working group will tackle, including to prevent and minimize plastic waste, facilitate its proper collection and recycling, prepare for entry into force of the Plastic Waste Amendment, address transboundary movement of plastic waste, and promote outreach and awareness raising. During the meeting a Plastic Waste Photo Contest⁵⁹ raised awareness on plastic pollution.

56 <https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/32131/BamakoCOP3Report.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>

57 <http://www.basel.int/Implementation/Plasticwaste/PlasticWastePartnership/tabid/8096/Default.aspx>

58 <http://www.basel.int/Implementation/PublicAwareness/PressReleases/1stmeetingofthePlasticWastePartnership/tabid/8365/Default.aspx>

59 <http://www.basel.int/Implementation/Plasticwaste/PlasticWastePartnership/Photocontest/tabid/8348/Default.aspx>

Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions

Pursuant to a series of decisions adopted by the conferences of the Parties to the three conventions, including the roadmap to further engage the Parties and other stakeholders in an informed dialogue for enhanced science-based action, the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions organized a sub-regional workshop⁶⁰ in Lagos, Nigeria, from 28-30 January 2020. The workshop aimed at strengthening the Parties' capacity to assess and promote science-based decision-making and science-policy-industry interaction in the implementation of the conventions at the national level.

As part of the Secretariat's technical assistance programme, a sub-regional training⁶¹ to enhance the skills of negotiators under the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and enhancing the effectiveness of the Rotterdam Convention was held from 4-6 February 2020, in Dakar, Senegal. Government representatives from 22 country Parties participated and gained knowledge of the listing process under the Rotterdam Convention, including the work of the subsidiary scientific committee.

Stockholm Convention

In the context of the Stockholm Convention, key elements and strategies for sustainable monitoring of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) towards future capacity assistance were developed through a multi-stakeholder consultation. These are part of the final phase of UNEP/GEF project on Continuing Regional Support for the POPs Global Monitoring Plan⁶² in the Africa, Asia, Pacific, and Latin America and Caribbean Regions.

Vienna Convention

The 11th meeting of the Ozone Research Managers under the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and its Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, previously scheduled for the beginning of April in Geneva was postponed. It will be held immediately prior to the 42nd meeting of the Open-ended Working Group of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol, which is planned for 13-17 July 2020, in Montreal, Canada. The Ozone Research Managers address research and systematic observation related to ozone, controlled substances and ultraviolet radiation. Other technical meetings of panels and committees will be held virtually.

60 <http://www.brsmeas.org/Implementation/TechnicalAssistance/Workshops/WorkshopLagos,NigeriaJan2020/tabid/8290/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

61 <http://www.brsmeas.org/Implementation/TechnicalAssistance/Workshops/WorkshopDakar,SenegalFeb2020/tabid/8231/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

62 <https://www.pops-gmp.org/>

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)



The CBD Second Open Ended Working Group meeting held on 24-29 February 2020, Rome, Italy (Photo credit: UN Environment Programme/ Ecosystems Division)

➔ Post-2020 global biodiversity framework:

- The co-chairs of the Open Ended Working Group (OEWG) of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework released the zero-order draft⁶³ on 13 January 2020. The 2nd meeting of the open-ended working group held in Rome, Italy, on 24-29 February, considered the zero draft as well as the preliminary draft monitoring framework⁶⁴ for the goals and targets. The meeting was also informed by the thematic Workshop on Resource Mobilization for the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework which was held in Berlin, Germany, in January 2020.
- UNEP's contribution and the UN Environment Management Group Consultative Process on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework provide an opportunity for a high-level political commitment for a common narrative on biodiversity which would serve all UN entities, respecting the roles and responsibilities and governing bodies in delivering on biodiversity goals and the SDGs.
- UNEP provided inputs to the zero Draft of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework on indicators and targets, Access and Benefit Sharing, Food Systems, Nutrition and Dietary Health, and linkages with the chemicals agenda at the CBD Second Open Ended Working Group meeting, February 2020.

➔ Consultation with Biodiversity-Related Conventions:

Due to the evolving situation of COVID-19 and the exceptional measures being taken globally to contain its spread, UNEP decided to postpone a Consultation Workshop of Biodiversity-Related Conventions on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (Bern II). The Workshop aimed to engage the secretariats and regional members of the governing bodies of the biodiversity and chemicals and wastes-related conventions as well as the Rio conventions, to enable dedicated consultations

63 <https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/cf51/57c8/0908ef199af5bfe2e236009e/wg2020-02-03-en.pdf>

64 <https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/3539/9fe5/d712e35051986addba4ec258/wg2020-02-03-add1-en.pdf>

to achieve more concrete results towards the Post 2020-global biodiversity framework. In order to maintain momentum and further prepare for an outcome-oriented workshop, an online briefing of the Bern II workshop⁶⁵ will take place with the participants.

Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)

The 13th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals⁶⁶ (CMS COP13) concluded in Gandhinagar, India, on 22 February 2020, after an intense week of negotiations. New and Extended Concerted Actions with targeted conservation plans were approved for 14 species. The Deputy Executive Director led UNEP's delegation. While in India, the DED had high level meetings on marine pollution, environment and health, and monitoring of air quality.



The CMS COP13 hit several records. It was the first CMS COP to be inaugurated by a host-country Head of Government, it was the largest ever in the history of the Convention, with 2,550 people attending and it considered the first ever report on the Status of Migratory Species.⁶⁷ The report showed that despite some success stories, the populations of most migratory species covered by CMS are declining.

Significant resolutions and decisions to address the conservation needs and threats facing migratory species around the globe were adopted including the listing of ten new species. Some such as the Asian Elephant, the Jaguar and the Great Indian Bustard, will receive full protection. CMS COP13 also adopted the Gandhinagar Declaration,⁶⁸ which sent a message to the first negotiating session of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, 24-29 February, Rome, Italy. The Declaration calls for migratory species and the concept of 'ecological connectivity' to be integrated and prioritized in the new Framework.

65 <https://www.unenvironment.org/events/workshop/postponed-bern-2-consultation-workshop-biodiversity-related-conventions-post-2020>

66 <https://www.cms.int/newsroom/?title=cop13>

67 <https://www.cms.int/en/news/cms-present-preliminary-review-conservation-status-migratory-species>

68 https://www.cms.int/sites/default/files/document/cms_cop13_crp1_rev2_gandhinagar-declaration_e.docx

Regional Seas Programme

The 18 Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans, provided input to the preparations for the UN Ocean Conference 2020, highlighting SDG 14 efforts.

➔ **Barcelona Convention:**

- The Mediterranean Action Plan of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP/MAP) received the Excellence in the Mediterranean Award, conferred by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean, in recognition of the commitment to the protection of the marine and coastal environment and to sustainable development in the region, in February 2020.
- The Mediterranean Action Plan of the UNEP (UNEP/MAP) was instrumental in the introduction of a decree banning single-use plastic bags in supermarkets in Tunisia,⁶⁹ that entered into force on 1 March 2020. It prohibits the manufacturing, import and use of conventional single-use plastic bags. A comprehensive ban will be extended to all producers and suppliers of plastic bags by 1 January 2021. UNEP/MAP supported the elaboration of the legal and technical framework required for the enforcement of the decree, including through the revision of industrial norms regulating plastic bag manufacturing.

➔ **Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA):**

- Under the regional marine litter initiative SEA circular, implemented by UNEP and COBSEA, stakeholder consultations took place in Malaysia on 11 February in Petaling Jaya and 27 February in Penang to demonstrate and share good practices for plastic value chain management. Eighty businesses in Malaysia have signed up for a training on 23 March on plastic footprint reporting, held virtually.
- In February 2020, COBSEA and UNEP contributed to the chapter on marine litter of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) thematic study, prepared for its 76th Session.

➔ **Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP):** The 24th Intergovernmental Meeting of NOWPAP that was scheduled for 11-13 February, in Beijing, China, was postponed until late 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. A virtual discussion was organised by the Regional Coordinating Unit (RCU) to approve the Programme of Work 2020-2021 and hence avoid delays in the planned activities.

69 <https://web.unep.org/uneppmap/ban-single-use-plastic-bag-introduced-tunisia-uneppmap-support>

SECTION 3: Resources and Management Issues

This section focuses on financial, human resource and management issues. It evaluates previous work and provides lessons for future work. It covers the period from 1 January to 31 March 2020 except for Subsection 3.4 on Human resources overview, which covers the period from 1 January to 15 March 2020.

COVID-19 PANDEMIC

UNEP took several measures in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. A Crisis Management Group (CMG) was formed. It leads COVID-19 preparedness, decision making and implementation of preventative measures. A CMG hotline has also been established for personnel to reach out on COVID-19 related issues and directives. The Group meets daily to address issues at the global level. The Group has a sub-committee in Kenya to target the issues specific to the country. UNEP has designated COVID-19 focal points in

different countries. They serve as liaisons with relevant UN Country Teams and national authorities on preparedness and implementation of decisions.

Regular broadcasts are shared with all personnel including UNHQ guidance from Department of Operational Support and Office of Human Resources. In collaboration with the UN Joint Medical Services, staff members are advised on what they need to do to ensure safety and what steps to take in case they are sick.

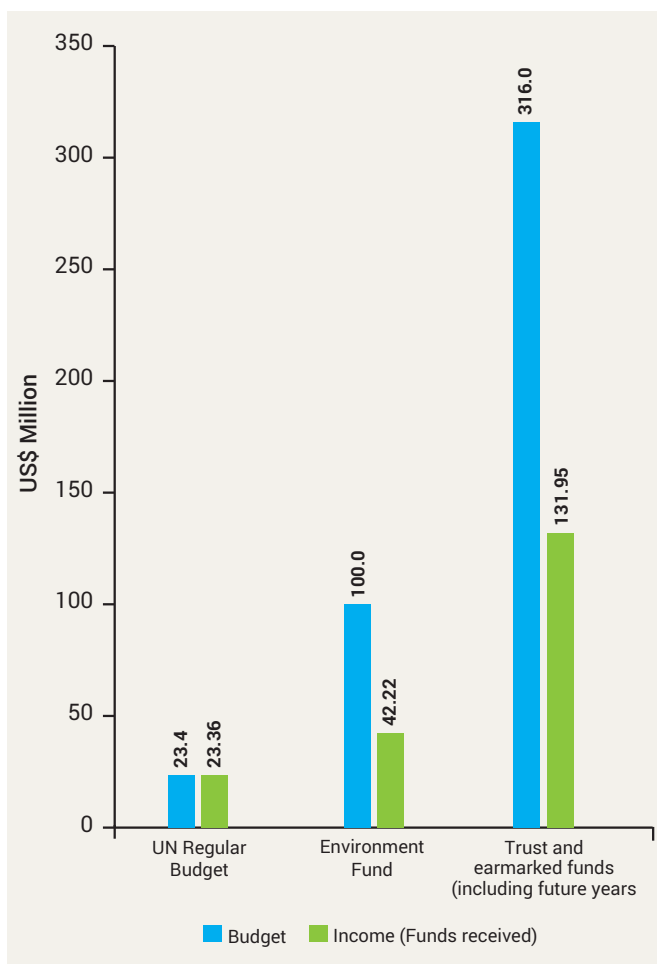
Alternate working arrangements (telecommuting) were activated. All personnel are working remotely. UNEP is consulting with UNON, UN-Habitat, Resident Coordinator and WHO on preparedness, challenges, solutions and coordinating with host countries. UNEP has established the Business Continuity Plan and preparedness checklists for its duty stations.

3.1 FINANCIAL UPDATE AS AT 31 MARCH 2020

Overview of income

By the end of the first quarter of 2020, UNEP received \$197.5 million in income, which constitutes 43 percent of the total annual planned budget of \$458.4 million. UN Regular Budget and the Environment Fund were the two sources of the \$197.5 million. Earmarked contributions are another source. They include multi-year funding⁷⁰.

Budget and Income – January–March 2020



Core funding

The Environment Fund and the UN Regular Budget jointly form UNEP’s core funding and enable UNEP to deliver on its core mandate. The income from the Environment Fund doubled compared to same time last year and amounted to 42 percent of the approved 2020 budget of the Programme of Work 2020-2021.

⁷⁰ As per the UN Secretariat interpretation and application of the International Public Service Accounting Standards (IPSAS), Umoja does not enable breakdown of this income into annual figures.

On the other hand, the UN Secretariat Regular Budget continues to face unprecedented liquidity challenges. Through a letter to the heads of Departments, the Controller addressed the financial and human resource ramifications of the current liquidity crisis. In brief, the Regular Budget contributions as of today stands at 42 percent, compared to 50 percent by this time in earlier years.

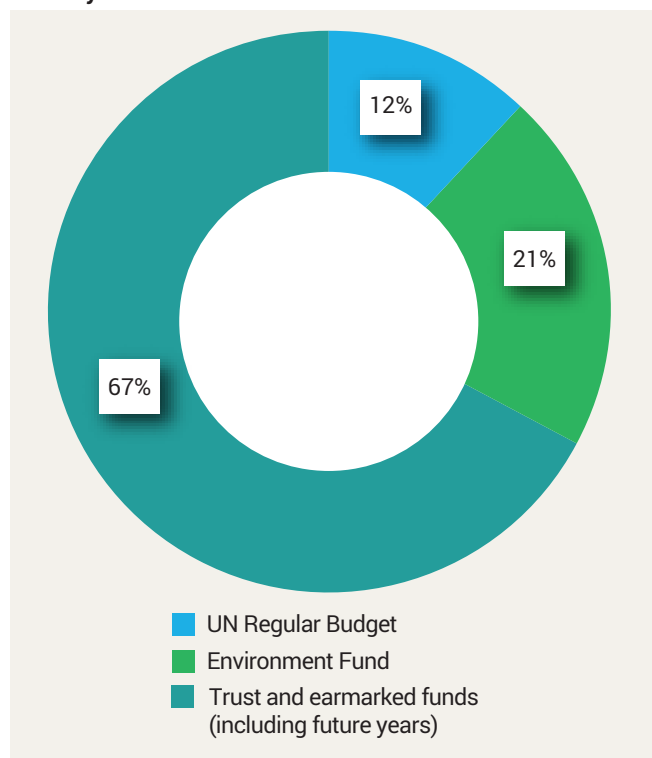
Under the circumstance, Controller has taken measures for the Regular Budget. These include (i) temporarily suspending all hiring of Regular Budget vacancies until the situation improves, and (ii) limiting all non-post expenses and postponing all discretionary spending. These measures delay the recruitment of few vacant positions in UNEP and the release of the full allotment for the Regular Budget non-staff resources that currently stand at \$630 thousand (38%) of the full appropriation of \$1.68 million.

Earmarked contributions

Earmarked contributions (including trust funds) enable the scaling-up and replication of results of core work, including capacity-building in more countries with more partners.

By 31 March 2020, the organization had received \$132 million in earmarked funds, including trust funds, for the year 2020 (also including funds for future years), against a budgeted amount of \$316 million in the approved Programme of Work.

Income per Source of Fund (in US\$ million) January-March 2020



Funding partners

We are grateful to all the contributing Member States and other funding partners for their commitments and support to the organization.

Regarding the funding base for the Environment Fund, we appreciate the 25 Member States that have pledged

and extend a special thank you to those that contributed their share of the Environment Fund budget, as per the Voluntary Indicative Scale of Contributions (VISCI). However, the number of Member States decreased by 11 per cent compared to same time last year and represented only around 13 per cent of the Universal Membership of 193 Member States.

Top 10 Contributors to the Environment Fund (January 2020–Mar 2020)

	Member States	\$ million
1	Netherlands	8.82
2	France	7.55
3	Denmark	4.54
4	Belgium	4.52
5	Germany	3.79
6	Norway	3.00
7	Italy	2.77
8	Finland	2.76
9	Canada	2.25
10	Russian Federation	0.90

Top 10 Contributors to the Earmarked Funds (January 2020–Mar 2020)

	Member States	\$ million
1	Global Environment Facility	87.41
2	Norway	13.60
3	Japan	8.94
4	Sweden	7.55
5	Germany	3.82
6	Green Climate Fund	2.95
7	Denmark	2.94
8	Switzerland	1.80
9	Finance Initiative	1.50
10	European Commission	0.75

3.2 STATUS OF ALLOCATIONS AND EXPENDITURES AS AT 31 MARCH 2020

2020 Core Budgets - Programme of Work budget (\$)					
	Functional Area Name	Environment Fund	Overhead Trust Account	Regular Budget	Grand Total
A	Policy Making Organs	2,000,000	10,000	8,500	2,018,500
B. 1	Executive Direction & Management	3,600,000	-	3,383,300	6,983,300
B. 2	United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR)	-	-	822,700	822,700
	Subtotal A + B	5,600,000	10,000	4,214,500	9,824,500
C	Programme of Work				
1.	Climate change	11,100,000	3,600,000	2,267,800	16,967,800
2.	Resilience to disasters and conflicts	7,800,000	500,000	1,543,500	9,843,500
3.	Healthy and productive ecosystems	14,000,000	1,050,000	2,649,600	17,699,600
4.	Environmental governance	13,100,000	1,050,000	4,547,000	18,697,000
5.	Chemicals, waste and air quality	11,700,000	1,500,000	1,809,200	15,009,200
6.	Resource efficiency	14,200,000	1,500,000	1,979,500	17,679,500
7.	Environment under review	11,500,000	200,000	3,136,500	14,836,500
	Subtotal C	83,400,000	9,400,000	17,933,100	110,733,100
D	Fund Programme Reserve	5,000,000			5,000,000
	Subtotal C + D	88,400,000	9,400,000	17,933,100	115,733,100
E	Programme Management and Other				
	Programme Support (Office for Operations; UNON/UNOG bills; After-service health insurance provision)	6,000,000	9,590,000	1,214,600	16,804,600
	Subtotal E	6,000,000	9,590,000	1,214,600	16,804,600
	Total (A+B+C+D+E)	100,000,000	19,000,000	23,362,200	142,362,200

2020 Core Budgets - Allocations as at 31 March 2020* (\$)					
	Functional Area Name	Environment Fund	Overhead Trust Account	Regular Budget	Grand Total
A	Policy Making Organs	1,472,815	-	413	1,473,228
B. 1	Executive Direction & Management	3,076,585	-	3,353,407	6,429,992
B. 2	United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR)	-	-	711,702	711,702
	Subtotal A + B	4,549,400		4,065,522	8,614,922
C	Programme of Work	-			
1.	Climate change	6,602,896	1,159,825	2,155,900	9,918,620
2.	Resilience to disasters and conflicts	4,532,988	416,352	1,473,200	6,422,540
3.	Healthy and productive ecosystems	8,444,392	855,910	2,537,000	11,837,302
4.	Environmental governance	8,207,714	619,678	4,420,050	13,247,442
5.	Chemicals, waste and air quality	6,915,650	1,143,041	1,699,626	9,758,316
6.	Resource efficiency	8,406,084	649,569	1,860,973	10,916,627
7.	Environment under review	6,772,697	261,700	2,893,133	9,927,530
	Subtotal C	49,882,420	5,106,075	17,039,882	72,028,376
D	Fund Programme Reserve	1,538,462	-	-	1,538,462
	Subtotal C + D	51,420,881	5,106,075	17,039,882	73,566,838
E	Programme Management and Other				
	Programme Support	4,029,719	12,568,716	1,196,850	17,795,285
	Subtotal E	4,029,719	12,568,716	1,196,850	17,795,285
Total (A+B+C+D+E)		60,000,000	17,674,791	22,302,254	99,977,045

*Figures as per the recently finalized BSC deliberations.

2020 Core Budgets - Expenditures as at 31 March 2020 (\$)					
	Functional Area Name	Environment Fund	Overhead Trust Account	Regular Budget	Grand Total
A	Policy Making Organs	373,121	-		373,121
B. 1	Executive Direction & Management	744,010	-	762,938	1,506,948
B. 2	United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR)	-	-	200,173	200,173
	Subtotal A + B	1,117,131	-	963,110	2,080,242
C	Programme of Work				
1.	Climate change	2,136,238	302,967	499,209	2,938,414
2.	Resilience to disasters and conflicts	1,047,149	144,148	299,271	1,490,567
3.	Healthy and productive ecosystems	1,904,521	164,111	536,318	2,604,950
4.	Environmental governance	1,906,088	65,403	1,021,842	2,993,334
5.	Chemicals, waste and air quality	2,098,653	303,504	450,202	2,852,359
6.	Resource efficiency	2,461,348	114,091	405,910	2,981,349
7.	Environment under review	1,688,702	43,693	504,821	2,237,216
	Subtotal C	13,242,699	1,137,917	3,717,573	18,098,189
D	Fund Programme Reserve	399,978	-	-	399,978
	Subtotal C + D	13,642,676	1,137,917	3,717,573	18,498,167
E	Programme Management and Other				
	Programme Support	1,477,845	1,469,373	262,456	3,209,674
	Subtotal E	1,477,845	1,469,373	262,456	3,209,674
Total (A+B+C+D+E)		16,237,652	2,607,290	4,943,140	23,788,082

3.3 RESOURCE MOBILIZATION STRATEGY

By the end of the first quarter, UNEP started to revise and update its resource mobilization strategy. In support of this work, and with reference to UNEA Decision 4/1. Programme of work and budget for the biennium 2020–2021, the Secretariat continues discussions with the Member States to address the key funding challenges identified, notably how to:

- (1) improve the ratio between core and earmarked funding, especially to increase Environment Fund income;
- (2) broaden the donor base by increasing the number of Member States that contribute to the Environment Fund;
- and (3) encourage Member States to increase softly earmarked funding.

The Secretariat has also continued to strengthen its communication and outreach to provide more visibility and appreciation of UNEP's strongest funding partners for the core and softly earmarked funds and to improve communication on the value added of UNEP, the funding status and the ramifications of insufficient core resources. The Secretariat is pleased to note that reference to the Voluntary Indicative Scale of Contributions (VISIC) as each Member State's respective share of the Environment Fund budget has been well received by the Member States.

3.4 HUMAN RESOURCES OVERVIEW

General Overview

As at 15 March 2020, UNEP employed 1240 staff members consisting of 740 (59.7%) in the Professional and higher categories, 7 (0.6%) in the National Professional Officer category (NPO), and 493 (37.8%) in the general service category. The female staff account for 752 (61%) and 481 (39%) are male.

Senior level staff for secretariat and multilateral environment agreements

Total staff members at grade P-5 and above as of 15 March 2020.

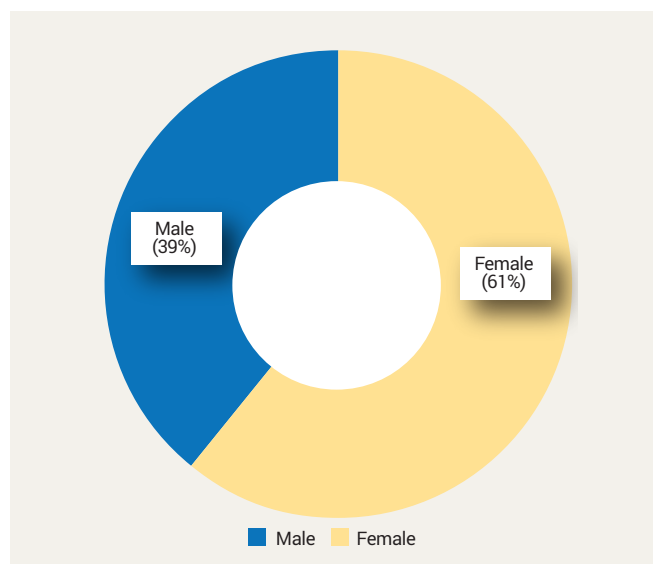
Level	USG	ASG	D2	D1	P5
No. of Staff	1	2	9	49	140

USG = Under-Secretary-General; ASG = Assistant Secretary-General; D = Director; P = Professional

Gender Parity Status

Secretariat												
Gender	USG	ASG	D-2	D-1	P-5	P-4	P-3	P-2	Prof and higher categories	NPO Total	GS Total	Total
Female	1	1	4	14	44	75	104	52	295	4	257	556
Male	0	1	1	25	59	92	58	25	261	3	93	357
Multilateral Environmental Agreements												
Gender	USG	ASG	D-2	D-1	P-5	P-4	P-3	P-2	Prof and higher categories	NPO Total	GS Total	Total
Female	0	0	2	5	16	27	29	15	94	0	109	203
Male	0	0	2	5	21	24	21	17	90	0	34	124

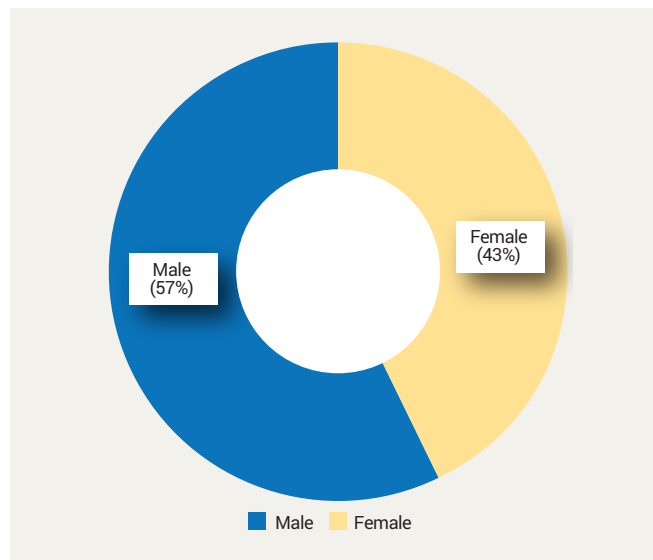
UNEP overall gender distribution



Gender status for P5 and above for UNEP Secretariat as at 15 March 2020.

Gender	USG	ASG	D-2	D-1	P-5	Total
Female	1	1	4	14	44	64
Male	0	1	1	25	59	86
Grand Total	1	2	5	39	103	150
Female	100%	50%	80%	36%	43%	43%
Male	0%	50%	20%	64%	57%	57%

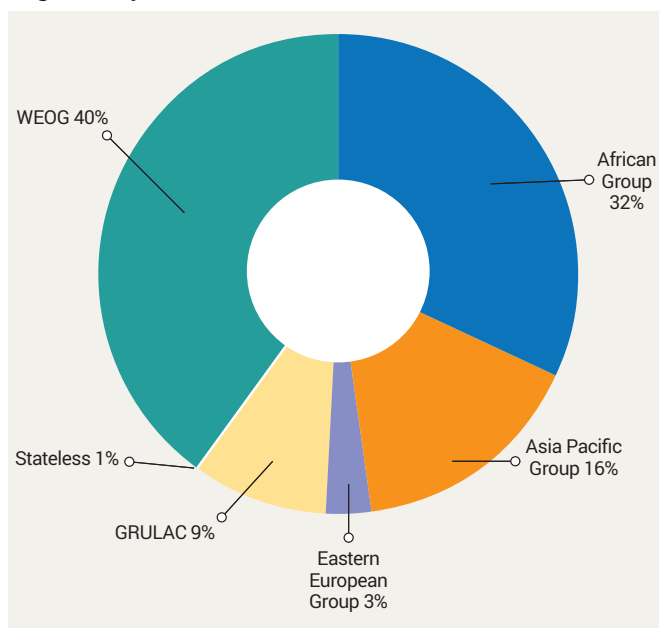
Gender breakdown P5 and above as at 15 March 2020



Regional Representation of staff (UNEP and MEAs) as at 15 March 2020

Region	Grand Total
African Group	398
Asia Pacific Group	200
Eastern European Group	40
Latin American and Caribbean Group (GRULAC)	108
Stateless	1
Western European and Others Group (WEOG)	493
Grand Total	1240

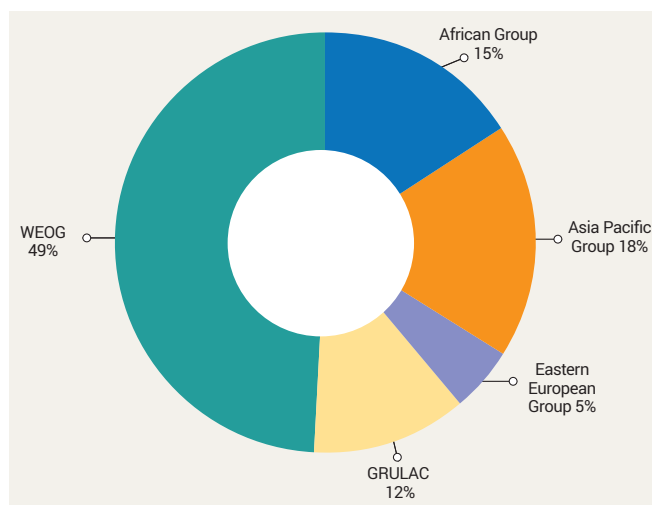
Regional representation



Regional representation P5 and above (Secretariat and Multilateral Environmental Agreements).

Region	No. of Staff
African group	32
Asia Pacific Group	36
Eastern European Group	10
Latin America and the Caribbean Group (GRULAC)	24
Western European and other Groups (WEOG)	99
Grand Total	201

P5 and above staff by region as at 15 March 2020



Key human resources risks and issues

In line with the Secretary-General's system-wide Gender Parity Strategy and UNEP's Gender Parity Implementation Plan, progress has resulted and remains in a 61:39 female to male ratio. There is the need to further balance recruitment of both senior level and general service staff.

3.5 AUDITS

Office of Internal Oversight Services

Implementation of recommendations of Audits is already completed by the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS). The development of audit assignments planned for 2020 are ongoing.

A. Audits to commence and be completed in 2020

1. UNEP Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)
2. Procurement at UNON, UNEP and UN-Habitat
3. UNEP Africa Regional Office

B. Ongoing OIOS audits

1. Management of Partnerships at UNEP
2. Management of Data Classification and Data Privacy at UNON, UNEP and UN-Habitat
3. Grants Management at UN Office at Nairobi, UNEP and UN-Habitat

C. Implementation of recommendations of completed OIOS audits

1. Recruitment process at UNEP⁷¹
2. UNEP Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity⁷²
3. UNEP Afghanistan Project Office⁷³
4. Official travel at UNEP⁷⁴
5. Contract management at United Nations Office at Nairobi, UNEP and UN-Habitat (Office at Nairobi Lead)⁷⁵
6. UNEP's Asia and the Pacific Office⁷⁶
7. UNEP's Abidjan Convention Secretariat⁷⁷
8. Environmental Governance Sub-programme⁷⁸
9. Resource Efficiency Sub-programme⁷⁹
10. Caribbean Environment Programme⁸⁰

All audits listed above can be accessed online.⁸¹

Board of Auditors

The United Nations Board of Auditors have submitted recommendations of the 2019 Interim Audit and UNEP has reviewed and made comments. The Board of Audit visit to Nairobi for the review of the 2019 Financial Statements is scheduled for April 2020, however this is subject to review based on the changed working arrangements due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

3.6 EVALUATIONS

During the reporting period:

- ➔ Two project evaluations were brought to completion in this reporting period.
- ➔ Forty-four project evaluations are currently active.
- ➔ The Biennial Evaluation Synthesis Report 2018-19 was completed and shared with UNEP Senior Managers and the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

Key selected finding and learning point from Biennial Evaluation Synthesis Report 2018-19

Does the quality of a project design influence a project's Effectiveness ratings?

Our study found, based on a sample of forty-nine project evaluations carried out in 2018 and 2019, that there was no statistical correlation between quality of design (QoD) and any aspect of effectiveness. There are several factors influencing effectiveness and QoD alone is not a strong enough factor to determine effectiveness.

Frequency patterns show that the predictive power of QoD ratings increases in relation to outputs and gradually decreases in relation to the likelihood of impact. The study examined exceptional cases, particularly the projects with low QoD yet high Effectiveness ratings, and vice versa. The pattern showed that political will and country ownership are critical factors. In one case, the project design lacked a complete logical framework, had no theory of change and no stakeholder analysis, the government was a strong driving force throughout the project and strong results were achieved.

On the other hand, a project with a solid design failed to reach the expected level of effectiveness largely because the project's ambitions do not suit the country's capacity and there was instability and a lack of coherent support from government parties.

71 <https://oios.un.org/file/8450/download?token=mMcoejJM>.

72 <https://oios.un.org/file/8094/download?token=blwEwsg>.

73 <https://oios.un.org/file/7508/download?token=AGngDa7P>.

74 <https://oios.un.org/file/7283/download?token=FVPPFxu2>.

75 <https://oios.un.org/file/7424/download?token=rqeSewZD>.

76 <https://oios.un.org/file/6986/download?token=SNM9Eu-S>.

77 https://oios.un.org/file/7019/download?token=nz-_Ehs1.

78 https://oios.un.org/file/6197/download?token=oWmAWD_Q.

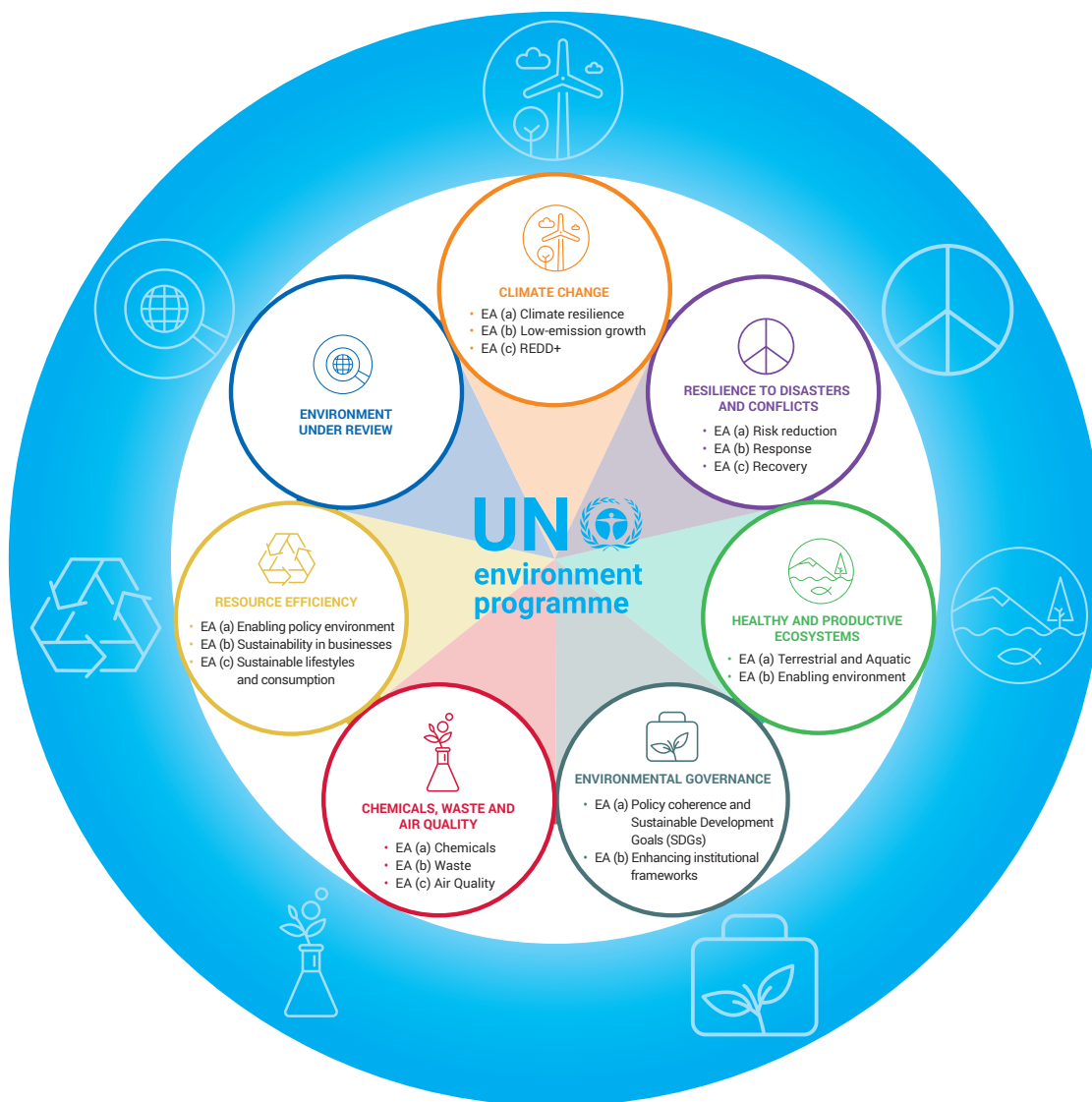
79 <https://oios.un.org/file/6365/download?token=J0EsYS9L>.

80 <https://oios.un.org/file/5675/download?token=VUSKBY5t>.

81 <https://oios.un.org/audit-reports>.



UN Environment Programme's results framework



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