

# QUARTERLY REPORT

to the 151<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the  
COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES



## Highlights



### COVID-19

**COVID-19** response and impact remained a critical factor for this period. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) responded to the Secretary-General's message on building back better by formulating a building-block strategy for the COVID-19 response. The response is backed by extensive communication and the involvement of stakeholders to develop a road map for recovery. The response outlines four areas: the medical and humanitarian emergency phase; transformational change for nature and people; investing to build back better; and modernizing global environmental governance. COVID-19 has also created challenges for portfolio delivery.



### United Nations Development System (UNDS) reform

At the 2020 Economic and Social Council Operational Activities for Development Segment (9–27 May 2020), the UNEP Executive Director highlighted the opportunities the repositioning of the UNDS creates for UNEP to provide scientific understanding and policy guidance for key environmental challenges and their linkages to the 2030 Agenda.



### International Day for Biological Diversity

The International Day for Biological Diversity on 22 May 2020 saw the virtual launch of the report **The State of the World's Forests 2020: Forests, Biodiversity and People**, jointly produced by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and UNEP.



### World Environment Day

Celebrated annually on 5 June, the 2020 World Environment Day brought into sharp focus the importance of fundamentally shifting humanity's relationship with nature to preserve our societies and prevent future pandemics. Despite the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, Colombia hosted the 2020 main World Environment Day celebrations in partnership with Germany.



### World Oceans Day

The report **Out of the Blue: The Value of Seagrasses to the Environment and to People** was launched virtually on World Oceans Day, which took place on 8 June 2020.



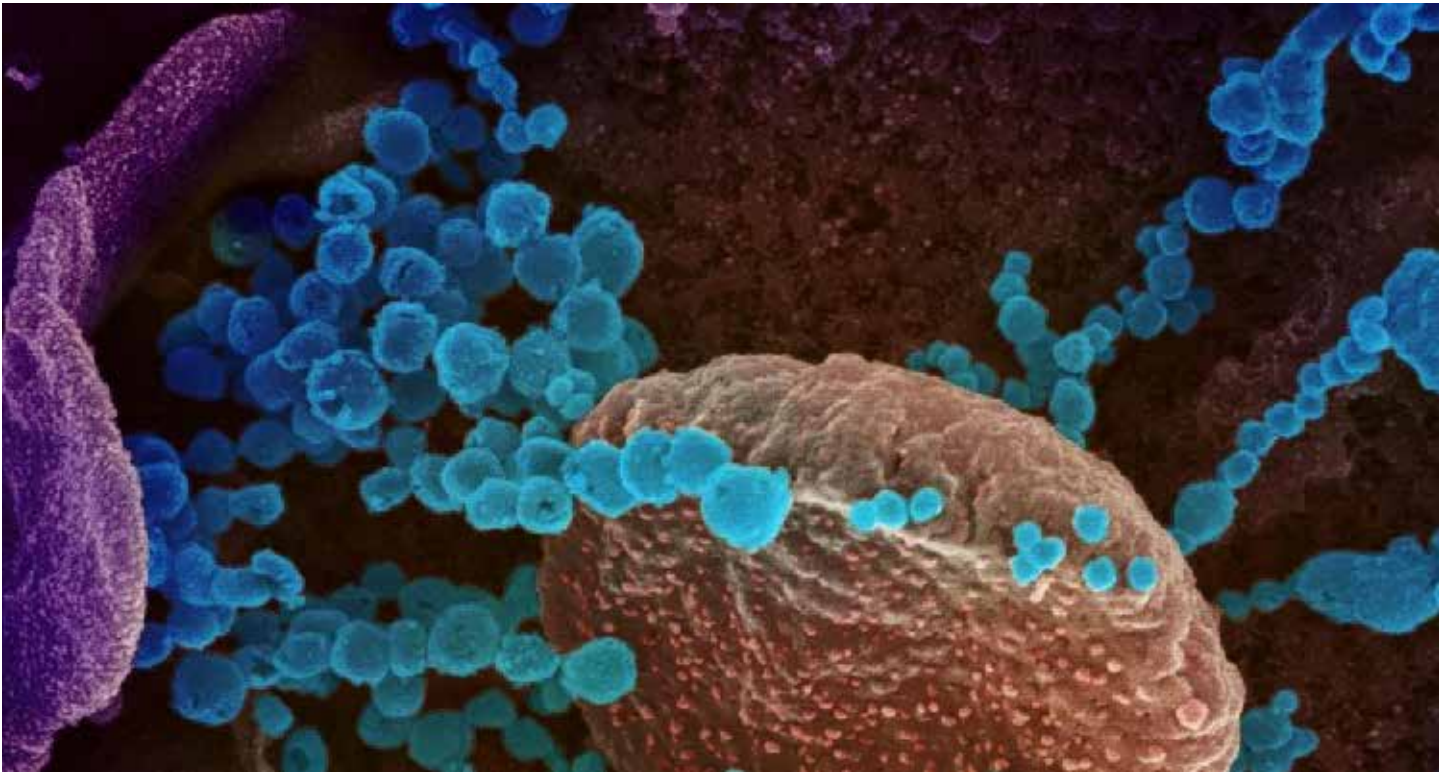
### Launch of the International Gender Champions Nairobi hub

On 26 June 2020, Inger Andersen, Executive Director of UNEP, Maimunah Mohd Sharif, Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), and Zainab Hawa Bangura, Director-General of the United Nations Office at Nairobi officially launched the International Gender Champions hub in Nairobi.

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# 1. SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS



## COVID-19 RESPONSE

COVID-19 response and impact remained a critical factor during this period. There were opportunities for innovation and there was a greater appreciation of the importance of nature-based solutions and the link between health and environment. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) responded to the Secretary-General's message on building back better by formulating a building-block strategy for the COVID-19 response. The response is backed by extensive communication and the involvement of stakeholders to develop a road map for recovery. It is structured around four areas<sup>1</sup>:

1. **The medical and humanitarian emergency phase:** UNEP focuses on country capacity assessments for the management of medical waste, covering policy and legal frameworks for managing COVID-19 contaminated waste (including segregation, sorting, storage and stockpiling), in addition to new infrastructure and

capacity. As part of these efforts, UNEP produced a factsheet on policy and legislation for dealing with increased volumes of contaminated waste linked to COVID-19 and pandemics.<sup>2</sup> A webinar organized by UNEP on the management of waste linked to COVID-19 received 2,500 registrations from 125 countries.<sup>3</sup> The Joint Environment Unit (our partnership with United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs) has also developed online training on the environment and emergencies in the context of COVID-19.<sup>4</sup>

2. **A transformational change for nature and people:** UNEP focuses on improved science and policy options to better understand and respond to zoonotic threats; investment in nature for improved human health, sustainable socioeconomic recovery, poverty reduction and livelihood recovery; science, technical support and advocacy to ensure progress on environmental issues through global processes; raising awareness of the links between

nature, health and sustainable living; and continued learning. As part of these efforts, during the quarter, UNEP and the International Livestock Research Institute ran a session entitled **Building Back Better: Taking a One Health approach for healthy landscapes, people, animals and wildlife.**<sup>5</sup> UNEP also worked with leaders in environmental education to create Earth School, an innovative set of lessons hosted on TED-Ed.<sup>6</sup> Since its launch on 22 April 2020, over 700,000 young people have visited the site and over 200,000 have taken the “quests”. In India, the Government has shared the lessons with the country’s 167,000 eco-schools and pupils from every country on the planet have engaged in the initiative.

3. **Investing to build back better:** UNEP focuses on reaching actors in the real economy to rebuild, scale up and accelerate sustainable consumption and production and to create new green jobs; linking recovery efforts to the clean energy transition, nature-based solutions and the Paris Agreement; and supporting governments to build the next generation of social, ecological and productive infrastructure. As part of these efforts, during the quarter, the United Nations Sustainable Development Group has used the Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE) for greening COVID-19 economic stimulus policies. PAGE also contributed to several United Nations briefs.<sup>7</sup> The UNEP paper **Building Resilient Societies after the COVID-19 Pandemic** contains policy recommendations to drive a resource-smart recovery.<sup>8</sup> A PAGE data observatory<sup>9</sup> was launched to track the impact of COVID-19 lockdown on air quality by comparing PM<sub>2.5</sub><sup>10</sup> levels and the average density of NO<sub>2</sub><sup>11</sup> over the period March–June 2019 to the same period in 2020 in 20 cities. UNEP also supported the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, ensuring the inclusion of environmental dimensions into socioeconomic response plans and enhancing the development and distribution of knowledge products on issues such as medical waste management. In the Asia–Pacific region, India and the Maldives included an environmental sustainability section in their plans and mainstreamed environment or climate risks with UNEP support and input. UNEP

has supported response planning in Colombia, South Africa, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago.

4. **Modernizing global environmental governance:** UNEP is reviewing the implications of the transition of environmental governance and multilateralism towards the virtual environment (e.g. meeting platforms), which would lower its environmental footprint. As part of these efforts, during the quarter, UNEP has adapted to working through virtual platforms and devised innovative delivery models, leveraging digital technologies. Major international conferences, events and activities have been organized virtually.

## GLOBAL

### United Nations Development System (UNDS) reform

The 2020 Economic and Social Council Operational Activities for Development Segment<sup>12</sup> took place virtually from 19-27 May 2020. COVID-19 was a frequent point of reference, as the first test of the new United Nations coordination system at the country level.

The Executive Director highlighted the opportunities the repositioning of the UNDS creates for UNEP to provide scientific understanding and policy guidance for key environmental challenges and their linkages to the 2030 Agenda.

PAGE contributed to the United Nations Sustainable Development Group Cooperation Framework companion piece on economic transformation and aligned the PAGE narrative with the green economy and climate agenda.

### Summit on biodiversity

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 73/234<sup>13</sup>, preparations are being made for a virtual summit on biodiversity at the levels of Heads of State and Government on 30 September 2020.<sup>14</sup> UNEP co-chaired an Inter-Agency Task Force for preparing the concept note for the summit. The first meeting of the task force was on 29 April 2020. UNEP is also contributing to the preparatory process for the biodiversity summit convened by the Office of the President of the General Assembly.



**The Prime Minister of Ethiopia, Dr. Abiy Ahmed, at the second launch of an initiative to plant 5 billion trees during World Environment Day 2020, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.**  
*(Photo credit: Office of the Prime Minister, Ethiopia)*

## International Day for Biological Diversity

The International Day for Biological Diversity<sup>15</sup> on 22 May 2020 marked the virtual launch of the report **The State of the World's Forests 2020: Forests, Biodiversity and People** (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations [FAO] and UNEP 2020a).<sup>16</sup>

## World Environment Day

Despite World Environment Day 2020 facing unprecedented challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the global campaign was highly successful and attracted considerable attention to nature and momentum towards both the Fifth United Nations Environment Assembly, as well as the Conference of the Parties to the Convention of Biological Diversity.

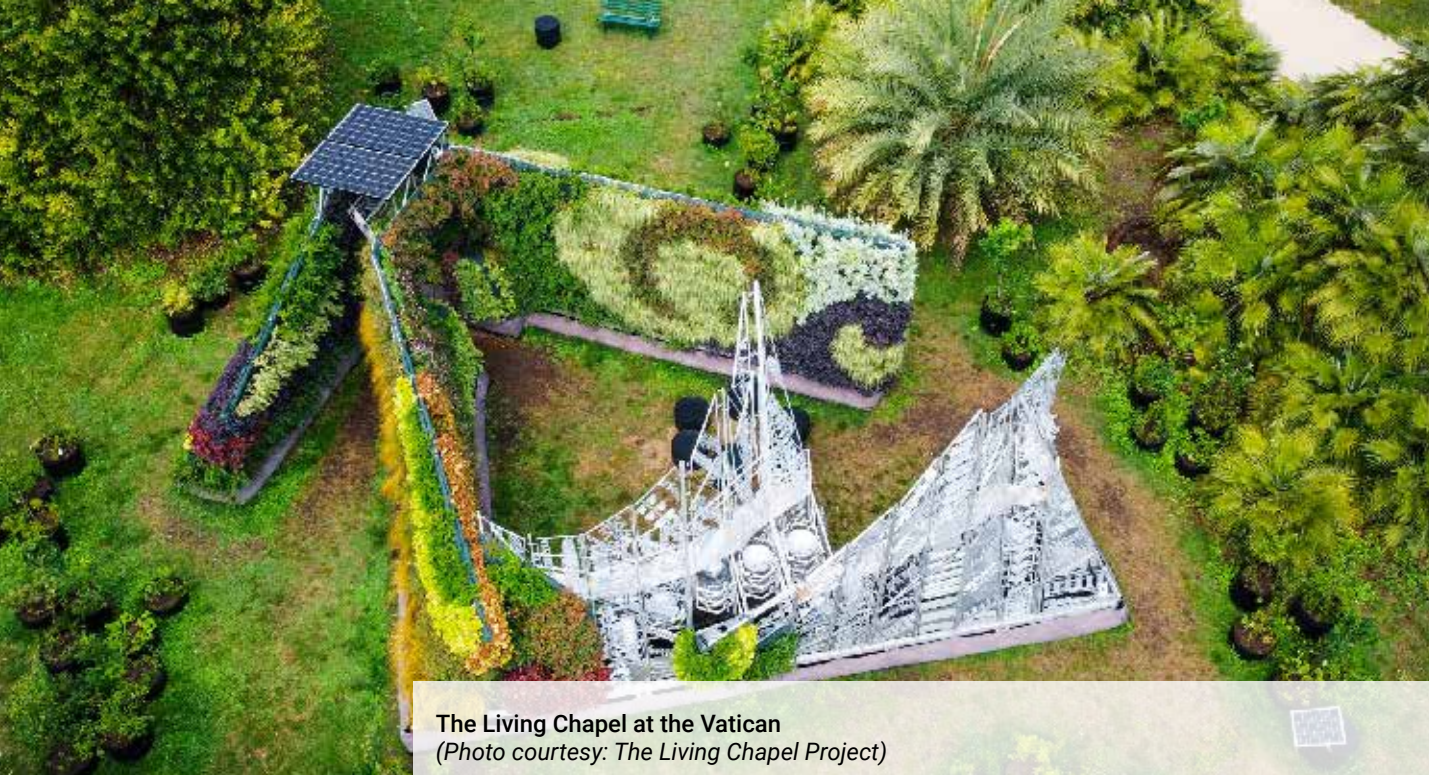
In 2020, the day brought into sharp focus the importance of fundamentally shifting humanity's relationship with nature to preserve our societies and prevent future pandemics. Despite the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, Colombia hosted the 2020 main World Environment Day<sup>17</sup> celebrations in partnership with Germany. The President of Colombia led a seven-hour programme on biodiversity, which was webcasted in English and Spanish

and received over 232,000 live views across different channels and platforms.

The pandemic forced UNEP to redesign its plans to celebrate the day. In late May, UNEP launched its **Time for Nature** campaign to educate the public about the importance of biodiversity and inspire people to act and make their voices heard. The campaign had unprecedented reach and engagement on digital media.

UNEP produced 32 videos in eight languages. Topics ranged from the protection of the Amazon rainforest to a sustainable cooking class. They were viewed on social media by over 23 million people across the world and attracted a further 10 million views on traditional media. The #WorldEnvironmentDay hashtag in English was trending number one globally on Twitter for six hours. Posts on the UNEP social media channels across eight languages for World Environment Day were seen over 100 million times and received over 2.3 million engagements. The World Environment Day website received 1 million views – almost double the number last year.

A number of important commitments were made around the world to mark World Environment Day. The Government of Ethiopia



**The Living Chapel at the Vatican**  
 (Photo courtesy: The Living Chapel Project)

launched the 2020 Green Legacy Programme, pledging to plant 5 billion trees. In Kenya, legislation banning single-use plastics in protected areas came into force, covering national parks, beaches, forests and other conservation areas.

The Faith for Earth initiative co-organized dialogues on biodiversity<sup>18</sup>, climate change<sup>19</sup> and environmental justice.<sup>20</sup> On 4 June 2020, the initiative co-convened global faith leaders to explore the role of faith groups in advocating for green recovery in a post-COVID world.<sup>21</sup> The first living chapel was also launched on 5 June 2020 in collaboration with the Vatican.<sup>22</sup>

The Scouts launched a new Earth Tribe initiative as part of World Environment Day<sup>23</sup> which saw them move all their environmental education content online to mitigate the impact of COVID-19. UNEP will support the scaling-up of this initiative to provide environmental education content to their community of 50 million people.

A policy-response paper entitled **COVID-19: Ten Priority Options for a Just, Green & Transformative Recovery** was launched on World Environment Day and provides Member States with policy options for a fast, fair and green economic recovery.<sup>24</sup>

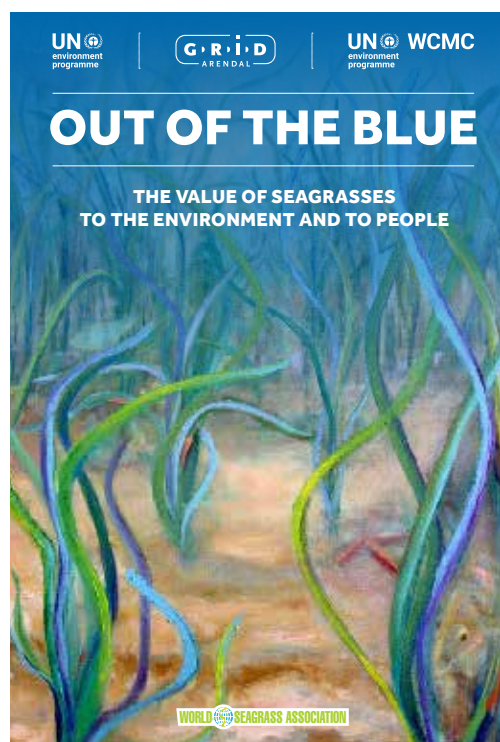
### 2020 Human Development Report

A joint Policy Symposium on the 2020 Human Development Report by the United Nations

Development Programme UNDP and UNEP took place on 1–4 June 2020 to discuss potential pathways to take into account the role of the environment on human capabilities in economic policy development.

### World Oceans Day

The report *Out of the Blue: The Value of Seagrasses to the Environment and to People*<sup>25</sup> was launched virtually on World Oceans Day, which took place on 8 June 2020.<sup>26</sup>



## AFRICA

The Bureau of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment met on 28 May 2020 and discussed Africa's response to COVID-19.<sup>27</sup> It agreed on the development of a green stimulus recovery programme that will contribute to response and recovery initiatives in African countries.

## ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

During the seventy-sixth session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,<sup>28</sup> which was held virtually on 21 May 2020, the Executive Director highlighted the importance of capacity-building on ocean data and the enforcement of conventions, norms and standards for sustainable oceans. The report *Changing sails: Accelerating Regional Action for Sustainable Oceans in Asia and the Pacific*<sup>29</sup> was also launched at the session.

The Thirty-Sixth Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Summit took place on 26 June 2020.<sup>30</sup> The summit reiterated commitments to operationalize the ASEAN Framework of Action on Marine Debris. UNEP has been working with ASEAN to address marine debris through implementation of the Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter.

The United Nations Inter-Agency Issue-Based Coalition on Environment and Climate Change for Europe and Central Asia<sup>31</sup> held its first virtual meeting of Resident Coordinators and United Nations Country Teams for Central Asia on 12 May 2020. The meeting was co-organized by UNEP, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe. Details of the meeting can be found in the meeting report.<sup>32</sup>

## EUROPE

UNEP participated in a panel discussion on 26 June 2020 alongside European Commission officials, representatives of the finance sector and members of think tanks organized by the pan-European media platform Euractiv.<sup>33</sup> Discussions focused on how to achieve a digital and sustainable recovery from the COVID-19 crisis.

## LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

In May 2020, the Bureau of the Forum of Latin American and Caribbean Ministers of Environment agreed to advance a regional declaration on the priorities and role of environmental authorities on the COVID-19 response and recovery. A revised regional workplan, budget and projects now identify ways to address issues arising from the pandemic.

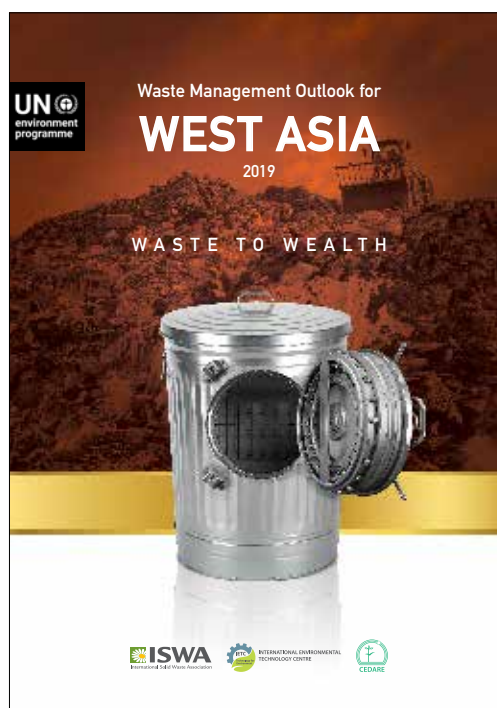
## NORTH AMERICA

COVID-19 exposed the social inequalities of air pollution in North America, with poor, minority and indigenous communities the most vulnerable to long-term exposure.

The Government of Canada announced over 60 conservation projects, moving the country closer to its goal of protecting 25 per cent of land and oceans by 2025.

## WEST ASIA

The **Waste Management Outlook for West Asia** was launched 1 June 2020 (UNEP 2019).<sup>34 35</sup>



## ENDNOTES

- 1 <https://www.unenvironment.org/resources/working-environment-protect-people-uneps-covid-19-response>
- 2 <https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/32777/FS4.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y> Contributes to the Emergency Phase of UNEPs strategic response to the social economic impacts of Covid-19.
- 3 <https://www.genevaenvironmentnetwork.org/events/uneep-webinar-waste-management-during-covid-19-pandemic/>
- 4 <https://www.eecentre.org/training/>.
- 5 <https://events.globallandscapesforum.org/agenda/bonn-2020/4-june/building-back-better-taking-a-one-health-approach-for-healthy-landscapes-people-animals-and-wildlife>
- 6 <https://ed.ted.com/earth-school>.
- 7 Including the International Labour Organization brief on COVID-19 (<https://unsdg.un.org/resources/policy-brief-world-work-and-covid-19>) and the world of work (United Nations 2020) and the brief of the United Nations Secretary-General on COVID-19 and employment, available at ([https://www.ilo.org/buenosaires/noticias/WCMS\\_749681/lang-es/index.htm](https://www.ilo.org/buenosaires/noticias/WCMS_749681/lang-es/index.htm)).
- 8 <https://www.resourcepanel.org/reports/building-resilient-societies-after-covid-19-pandemic>
- 9 The observatory can be accessed at [datastudio.google.com/reporting/fda0ecd7-f29c-4d0d-87a2-47cb6f91c852/page/XunTB](https://datastudio.google.com/reporting/fda0ecd7-f29c-4d0d-87a2-47cb6f91c852/page/XunTB).
- 10 <https://datastudio.google.com/reporting/fda0ecd7-f29c-4d0d-87a2-47cb6f91c852/page/sS7TB>
- 11 <https://datastudio.google.com/reporting/fda0ecd7-f29c-4d0d-87a2-47cb6f91c852/page/kEyTB>
- 12 <https://www.un.org/ecosoc/en/node/25553384>
- 13 <https://www.cbd.int/article/Summit-on-Biodiversity-2020>
- 14 Details of the summit can be found at <https://www.cbd.int/article/Summit-on-Biodiversity-2020>.
- 15 <https://www.cbd.int/idb/>
- 16 [http://www.fao.org/state-of-forests/en/?utm\\_source=twitter&utm\\_medium=social+media&utm\\_campaign=fao](http://www.fao.org/state-of-forests/en/?utm_source=twitter&utm_medium=social+media&utm_campaign=fao)
- 17 <https://www.worldenvironmentday.global/>
- 18 <https://www.unenvironment.org/faith-and-biodiversity>
- 19 <https://www.unenvironment.org/events/symposium/earth-day-2020-virtual-dialogue>
- 20 More information on the biodiversity dialogue can be found at <https://www.unenvironment.org/faith-and-biodiversity>; more information on the climate change dialogue at <https://www.unenvironment.org/events/symposium/earth-day-2020-virtual-dialogue>; and a recording of the dialogue on environmental justice can be watched at <https://www.kaiciid.org/dialogue-knowledge-hub/webinars/faith-earth-climate-change-and-environmental-justice>.
- 21 Details of the event can be found at <https://www.unenvironment.org/events/symposium/role-faith-organizations-green-recovery>.
- 22 For more information, see the chapel website: [livingchapel.com/](http://livingchapel.com/).
- 23 For more information, see the initiative website: <http://earthtribe.scout.org/>.
- 24 Green Economy Coalition 2020 <https://www.greeneconomycoalition.org/assets/reports/GEC-Reports/PIGE-COVID-PriorityOptionsforaJustGreenTransformativeRecovery.pdf>
- 25 UNEP 2020c <https://www.unenvironment.org/resources/report/out-blue-value-seagrasses-environment-and-people>
- 26 See the World Oceans Day website for more information: <https://unworldoceansday.org/>
- 27 More information is available on the conference website: <https://www.unenvironment.org/regions/africa/african-ministerial-conference-environment/about-amcen>.
- 28 Details of the event can be found at <https://www.unescap.org/commission/76/>.
- 29 <https://www.unescap.org/publications/changing-sails-accelerating-regional-action-sustainable-oceans-asia-and-pacific#:~:text=Produced%20in%20line%20with%20the,rally%20interdisciplinary%20and%20cross%2Dsectoral>
- 30 <https://asean.org/chairmans-statement-36th-asean-summit-26-june-2020-cohesive-responsive-asean/>
- 31 The terms of reference for the agency are available at [https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/sustainable-development/RFSD\\_2020/Terms\\_of\\_Reference-IBC\\_on\\_Environment\\_and\\_Climate\\_Change.pdf](https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/sustainable-development/RFSD_2020/Terms_of_Reference-IBC_on_Environment_and_Climate_Change.pdf).
- 32 The meeting report is available online : [https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/RCM\\_Website/IBCs/IBC\\_Environment/IBC\\_Env\\_and\\_CC\\_meeting\\_Central\\_Asia\\_final\\_report\\_12052020.pdf](https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/RCM_Website/IBCs/IBC_Environment/IBC_Env_and_CC_meeting_Central_Asia_final_report_12052020.pdf).
- 33 A recording of the event is available online: <https://events.euractiv.com/event/info/achieving-a-digital-and-sustainable-recovery>.
- 34 UNEP/EA.4/Res.7: Environmentally sound management of waste.
- 35 <https://www.unenvironment.org/ietc/resources/publication/waste-management-outlook-west-asia>



## 2. PROGRAMME OF WORK IMPLEMENTATION

### 2.1 CLIMATE CHANGE<sup>36</sup>

#### 2.1.1 Key highlights

##### **Mainstreaming adaptation into planning:**

UNEP supported Zimbabwe to develop a manual on mainstreaming climate change adaptation into national and subnational development planning.<sup>37</sup>

##### **Adaptation to support COVID-19 recovery efforts:**

UNEP supported Ghana to develop a national adaptation plan to build the country's resilience as part of the COVID-19 response.<sup>38</sup>

**Ecosystems-based adaptation:** In June, UNEP and UNDP launched consultations on the development of guidelines for integrating ecosystems-based adaptation into national adaptation plans at a session organized by the International Conservation Centre.

**Carpathian convention:** The Carpathian Convention working group on adaptation to climate change held its seventh meeting in May.<sup>39</sup> The key highlight from the meeting was the decision to proceed on a long-term vision for 2030 to combat climate change in the Carpathians, together with the corresponding workplan for the period 2021–2023.

**Sustainable cooling and cold chain:** UNEP supported the development of the Africa Centre of Excellence in Energy for Sustainable Development<sup>40</sup>, to help farm produce reach markets with minimal waste and reduce emissions from energy and food waste



**Non-motorized transport strategy:** In collaboration with the Institute for Transport and Development Policy, UNEP assisted Indonesia in developing a new non-motorized transport strategy to create safe, inclusive and sustainable walking and cycling spaces.<sup>41</sup>

**Nationally determined contribution:** Chile, a partner of the Climate and Clean Air Coalition, submitted its revised nationally determined contribution updating its commitments, which include reducing black carbon emissions by 25 per cent in 2030, compared to the 2016 level.<sup>42</sup>

**Access to finance for the promotion and restoration of forests:** UNEP collaborated with the &Green Fund to provide a financial incentive for sustainable land use.<sup>43</sup> Under the collaboration:

- The &Green Fund secured investment of \$10 million in low-emissions cattle and soy production at scale with Grupo Roncador in Mato Grosso State Brazil.<sup>44</sup>
- The &Green Fund signed a 10-year loan facility with a value of \$30 million with PT Dharma Satya Nusantara Tbk. for sustainable palm oil production.<sup>45</sup>





**People riding bicycles on concrete road, Cincinnati, USA**  
(Photo courtesy: UN Environment Programme/Ecosystems Division/pexels.com)

### 2.1.2 Main opportunities and challenges and response measures

COVID-19 was a major challenge for portfolio delivery during the quarter. Government restrictions aiming to contain the spread of COVID-19 resulted in delays and changes to the mode of delivery. UNEP adapted by leveraging digital technologies to facilitate programme

delivery. For example, the United Nations Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (UN-REDD) produced a series of webinars to engage the private sector on mitigation measures.<sup>46</sup>

## 2.2 RESILIENCE TO DISASTERS AND CONFLICTS

### 2.2.1 Key highlights

**Disaster reduction:** UNEP has continued to strengthen its ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction (DRR) work. It worked with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction to make progress on the drafting of guidance for Member States to implement the Sendai Framework with nature-based solutions and Eco-DRR tools, preparing consultations on the guide. UNEP has also contributed to the development of United Nations guidance on mainstreaming DRR and climate change adaptation into the United Nations Common Country Analysis and the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework, with a focus on the environmental dimensions of risk and nature-based solutions. Methodological guidelines have also been developed on Eco-DRR in Lebanon and Jordan. Other risk reduction work has included the initiation of collaboration with the Government of Somalia to provide technical assistance services on strengthening environmental governance and management and better informing development of the oil and gas sector in the country.

**Recovery:** In its recovery work, UNEP has provided further support to Nigeria for the clean-up of Ogoniland. UNEP is also involved



in a second phase of debris clean-up work in northern Iraq and has mobilized new resources for environmental policy support for Afghanistan.

### 2.2.2 Main opportunities and challenges and response measures

UNEP has seen increased requests for support on issues related to COVID-19 in complex operating contexts from both United Nations partners and Member States, particularly on the best way to manage health care waste to avert an additional environmental crisis. UNEP has been adapting its delivery strategies to ensure more effective delivery of its normative expertise on waste management issues, including to humanitarian partners.



## 2.3 HEALTHY AND PRODUCTIVE ECOSYSTEMS

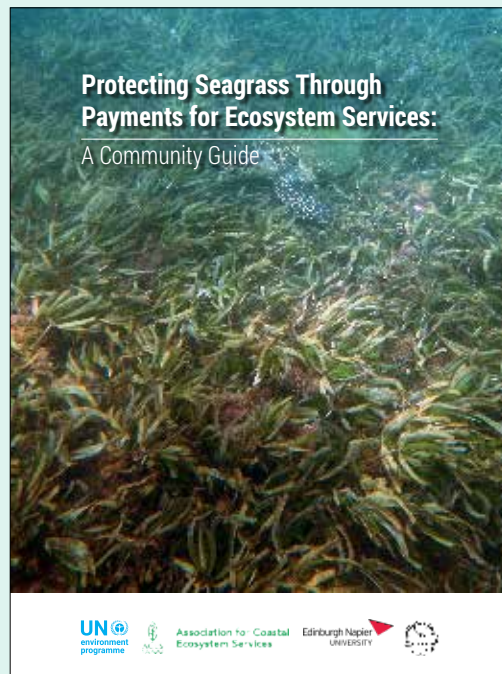
### 2.3.1 Key highlights

**Northwest Pacific Action Plan:** The Member States of the Northwest Pacific Action Plan approved the biennial workplan and budget to strengthen marine and coastal environmental protection in the region at a virtual meeting on 21 May 2020.

**Awareness-raising campaign: Not all Animals Migrate by Choice:** UNEP launched an awareness-raising campaign on the illegal trafficking of endangered species on 21 May 2020.<sup>47</sup>

**Safeguarding the world's oceans:** As of May 2020, 26 governments and 69 businesses and organizations had endorsed the Ocean Plastics Charter, committing to more sustainable approaches to producing, using and managing plastics and to reduce plastic pollution in the oceans.

**Management of seagrass ecosystems:** On 14 May 2020, a guide was published for the



protection of seagrasses in coastal ecosystems through payment for ecosystem services.<sup>48</sup>

**Biodiversity and finance:** In April 2020, the UNEP Finance Initiative held webinars on nature-related financial risks, highlighting approaches to identifying the impacts of economic sectors on nature and related economic risks, and raising awareness of the potential role of the financial sector in implementation the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.<sup>49</sup>

On 30 June 2020, the UNEP Finance Initiative, the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre and Global Canopy published the report Beyond Business as Usual: Biodiversity Targets and Finance.<sup>50</sup>

### 2.3.2 Main opportunities and challenges and response measures

**Inter-agency cooperation:** At a virtual meeting on 14 May 2020, echoing the Secretary-General's call to build back better, the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination agreed to develop a common approach to integrating biodiversity and nature-based solutions for sustainable development into United Nations policy and programme planning and delivery.<sup>51</sup>

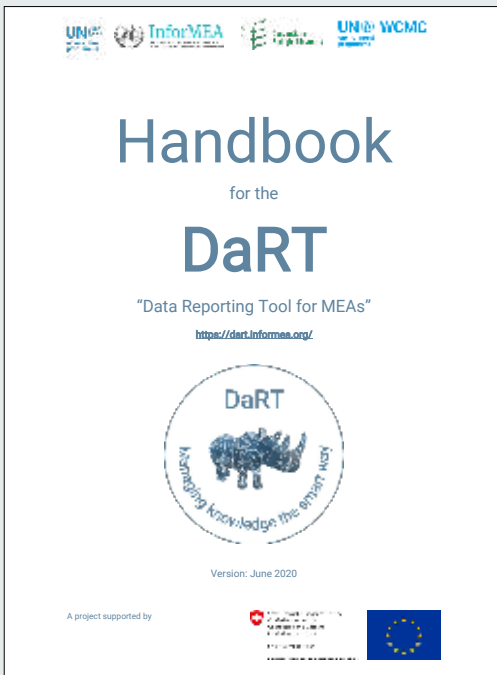


## 2.4 ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE<sup>52</sup>

### 2.4.1 Key highlights

#### Digital and knowledge management products:

UNEP updated the InforMEA E-learning platform<sup>53</sup> and launched the website for the Poverty-Environment Action for Sustainable Development Goals project in June 2020.<sup>54</sup>



UNEP and FAO published the book *Legislative Approaches to Sustainable Agriculture and Natural Resources Governance* on 4 June 2020.<sup>55</sup> publication can be used to assist requesting countries in updating legislation related to natural resources.

### 2.4.2 Main opportunities and challenges and response measures

Zoonoses have become an environmental priority, leading to enquiries on new knowledge products to address this issue.



COVID-19 impacted project activities that normally take place in person. For example, in Colombia, consultations on the draft law on the elimination of single-use plastics have not yet taken place due to limitations on physical meetings.

To address this, the Environment Management Group developed a guidance tool to identify and manage potential environmental and social risks and impacts in existing and new programmes, including projects in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.



## 2.5 CHEMICALS, WASTE AND AIR QUALITY

### 2.5.1 Key highlights

The publication **National Plastic Waste Reduction Strategic Actions for Indonesia**<sup>56</sup> produced in partnership with the UNEP International Environmental Technology Centre, was launched by the country's Ministry of Environment and Forestry in June 2020.

The **UNEP Sustainability Action** platform<sup>57</sup> was launched on 1 June 2020 to reduce plastic use and raise consumer awareness, with support from **Seven & i Holdings Co.**<sup>58</sup> and **Fast Retailing Co. Ltd.**<sup>59</sup>



## Chemicals, Waste and Air Quality



Online launch of UNEP Sustainability Action with our partners

**UNEP guidance on plastic use and production** identified changing procurement practices and triggers for behaviour change as key levers to eliminate unnecessary plastic packaging and

shift to alternatives that are reusable, recyclable and compostable or have a high recycled content.<sup>60</sup>



Member States are invited to take part in the online survey,<sup>61</sup> which captures country-specific air quality actions for the **Actions on Air Quality** update.<sup>62</sup>

The Global Environment Facility approved a project in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan to **demonstrate non-thermal treatment of dichloro-diphenyl-trichloroethane waste in Central Asia**.

The Global Environment Facility **continuing regional support for the persistent organic pollutants global monitoring plan under the Stockholm Convention** in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean reported persistent organic pollutant levels in human milk samples to the Stockholm Convention.

**China strengthened national standards that reduce the lead limit** for woodenware and architectural paint to 90 ppm total lead and tightened the standard for vehicle and industrial protective coatings to 1,000 ppm total lead. Paint market analyses have been completed in six countries namely: China, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Indonesia and Nigeria; and paint has been reformulated in a company in Jordan. Fifty participants from governments, civil society and industry in Africa joined a webinar on the environmentally sound management of waste lead-acid batteries.<sup>63</sup>

## Implementation plan: towards a pollution-free planet<sup>64</sup>

UNEP recently launched its new **Beat Pollution** website<sup>65</sup> to provide Member States and stakeholders with information on efforts to address pollution in all its forms. It also presents solutions for addressing the challenges and capacity gaps identified in the implementation plan.

### 2.5.2 Main opportunities and challenges and response measures

The **International Environmental Technology Centre** and the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies are developing guidelines on the management of medical waste and potentially infectious household waste in response to the pandemic.

The COVID-19 pandemic meant the **Fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management**, originally planned to take place in October 2020 in Bonn, Germany, was rescheduled to 5–9 July 2021. To the maximum possible extent, under the guidance of the conference bureau, the intersessional work on the new global chemicals and waste management framework to be adopted at the conference is taking place digitally.

## 2.6 RESOURCE EFFICIENCY

### 2.6.1 Key highlights

**Sustainable living and education:** UNEP launched environmental start-ups to support sustainable lifestyles, with an initial focus on plastics, mobility, energy and housing in Asia and the Pacific.

The Innovation for Sustainable Lifestyles Contest was launched in Colombia, Costa Rica and Mexico.<sup>66</sup>



#### **The circular economy and eco-innovation:**

The **Green Jobs**<sup>67</sup> factsheet explains how eco-innovation and approaches based on the circular economy help small and medium enterprises strengthen sustainable value chains. The Costa Rica accreditation body reviewed its carbon footprint accreditation programme, 11 companies in Colombia and Costa Rica received training on implementing the product sustainability guidelines<sup>68</sup> and two reports were released and presented in webinars (UNEP 2020; UNEP and Consumers International 2020).<sup>69 70</sup>

to 12.9. UNEP has been tracking and analysing this progress through the SWITCH-Asia Regional Policy Advocacy component.<sup>71</sup>

#### **Catalysing science-based policy action on sustainable consumption and production:**

For a strengthened science-policy interface, the task group adopted the systemic and value chain approach,<sup>72</sup> whose effectiveness was illustrated by the preliminary results for food, textiles and construction.

**Sustainable Development Goal 12:** In Asia and the Pacific, countries have made progress on reporting, stakeholder engagement, awareness-raising and capacity-building on indicators 12.1





**Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE):** PAGE completed capacity-building programmes in Argentina and the Kyrgyzstan.<sup>73</sup>

**Sustainable infrastructure:** The draft **Good Practice Guidance Framework for Sustainable Infrastructure** was circulated for review by experts and Member States.<sup>74</sup>

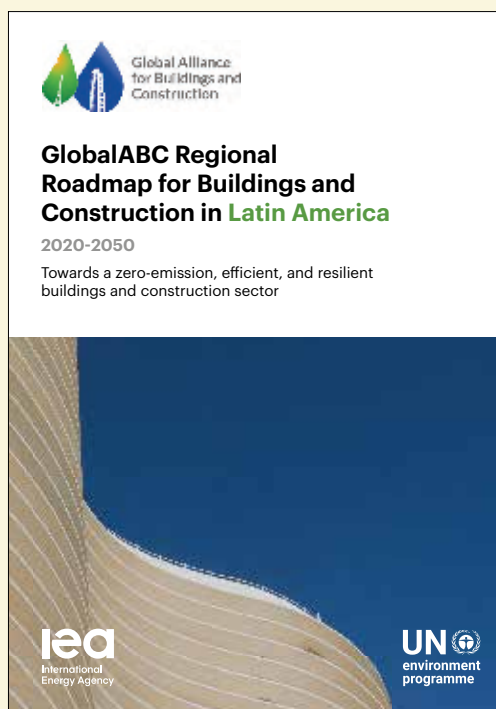
**Sustainable buildings and construction:** The GlobalABC Regional Road Map for Buildings and Construction in Latin America defined pathways to decarbonize the buildings and construction sector by 2050.<sup>75</sup>

**Mineral resource governance:** Progress on the mineral resource governance implementation plan<sup>76</sup> included a discussion paper to support regional consultations<sup>77</sup>, a dedicated web page,<sup>78</sup> a newsletter to broaden engagement<sup>79</sup> and a survey system to collect regional inputs, with a database of studies and podcasts.<sup>80</sup>

### 2.6.2 Main opportunities and challenges and response measures

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted subprogramme delivery. Activities were adjusted to take into account the new context (where relevant and needed) to support Member States and stakeholders. Travel and health restrictions, the reliability of digital and energy infrastructure, time zones and

the interest in virtual interactions pending resumption of on-site activities after the pandemic have shaped both substantive work and activity delivery. The new normal has encouraged creative and innovative delivery models, involving virtual approaches and providing an opportunity to highlight the risks of unsustainable value chains among policymakers, the private sector and civil society to advance the greening of recovery agendas, economies and societies.



## 2.7 ENVIRONMENT UNDER REVIEW

### 2.7.1 Key highlights

Through the **Global Environment Facility** cross-cutting capacity development portfolio and the **Shared Environmental Information System**, UNEP supported:

- Six new State of Environment reports<sup>81</sup>.
- The first virtual regional workshop for the 14 Pacific Inform countries to discuss COVID-19 implementation challenges and the response.
- The fourth virtual Pacific Inform regional project steering committee.

#### **New environmental data portal for Kyrgyzstan:**

UNEP provided technical support to improve sharing of environmental data in Kyrgyzstan. The national State of Environment interactive data portal<sup>82</sup> created in close cooperation with the State Agency for Environmental Protection and Forestry, provides vital indicators and data to inform decision makers and the public on a variety of environmental topics. These activities were made possible through a project funded by the European Union.

#### **Reporting on the environmental dimension of the Sustainable Development Goals in the Maldives:**

In partnership with the Government of the Maldives, UNEP developed a database to facilitate reporting on the environmental aspect of the SDGs and other processes, including a State of the Environment report and the sharing of environmental data with relevant stakeholders and the public. The launch has been delayed due to COVID-19.



### 2.7.2 Main opportunities and challenges and response measures

Our capacity-building projects faced substantial implementation challenges as a result of COVID-19:

- Since Green Climate Fund Readiness projects are approved for short delivery time frames of 1-2 years, UNEP promptly negotiated approval of automatic six-month extensions for approved projects.
- Planned expert review/validation workshops for the Botswana draft State of Environment report were delayed.
- The South Sudan and Iraq Global Environment Facility projects did not hold the inception workshops initially planned for the second quarter of 2020.



## 2.8 CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

### Gender

#### Launch of the International Gender

**Champions hub in Nairobi:** On 26 June 2020, the Executive Director joined Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif, Executive Director of UN-Habitat, and Mrs. Zainab Hawa Bangura, Director-General of the United Nations Office at Nairobi to officially launch the International Gender Champions hub in Nairobi, Kenya.<sup>83</sup> International Gender Champions is a leadership network that brings together female and male decision makers determined to break down gender barriers and make gender equality a working reality in their spheres of influence.

**Mainstreaming of gender in projects:** From April to June 2020, a number of reviews on gender responsive project planning and development were conducted. A review of 13 project documents using the Gender Marker found that seven projects had partially mainstreamed gender (53.8 per cent) and six had fully mainstreamed gender (46.2 per cent). A review of eight concept reviews and feedback was provided in a Gender Comments report. Lastly, a total of nine publications were submitted for gender review and feedback was shared with those involved.

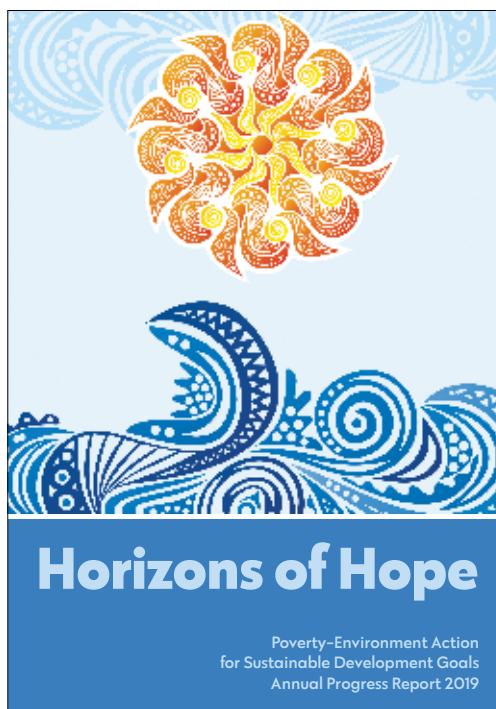
**Webinar: How to integrate gender in project development:** On 18 June 2020, UNEP hosted a customized one-hour webinar<sup>84</sup> for over 60 staff members on how to integrate gender in project development. It provided an overview of the key aspects of gender mainstreaming in project development and implementation.

## 2.9 IMPLEMENTATION OF UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT ASSEMBLY (UNEA) RESOLUTIONS OUTSIDE PROGRAMMATIC UPDATES

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

UNEP worked with the Chinese Academy of Sciences to develop the CropWatch agricultural data monitoring system, which aims to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 on food insecurity and alleviate poverty in Africa and Asia and the Pacific. UNEP and UNDP also published

**Horizons of Hope: Poverty-Environment Action for Sustainable Development Goals Annual Progress Report 2019** and launched a new website.<sup>85</sup>



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

UNEP continued work on the UNEA monitoring and reporting portal, following guidance provided by Member States. Coding is now 60 per cent complete and the portal has been presented to internal stakeholders for feedback. Work on content included cleaning and integrating existing data on the implementation of outcomes from past UNEA sessions in preparation for population of the portal.

## ENDNOTES

- 36 Linked to UNEP resolution UNEP/EA.2/Res.6 and SDGs 13.1, 13.2, 13.3.2, 13.a and 13.b; UNEP/EA.3/Res.8 (SDGs 7.1.1, 7.1.2, 7.2.1, 7.3.1, 7.a.1, 7.b.1, 9.4.1, 12.c.1, 13.3.2, 13.a, 13.b, 17.17.1); and 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.
- 37 A draft of the manual is available online: [https://www.dropbox.com/s/1hxndi7stbqdoxx/Activity\\_1.3.1%20Draft%20Climate%20Change%20Integration%20Training%20Manual.docx?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/s/1hxndi7stbqdoxx/Activity_1.3.1%20Draft%20Climate%20Change%20Integration%20Training%20Manual.docx?dl=0).
- 38 <https://www.unenvironment.org/news-and-stories/press-release/covid-19-wake-call-ghana-develop-national-plan-climate-adaptation>
- 39 Details of the meeting are available online: <http://www.carpathianconvention.org/eventdetailwg-124/events/id-7th-meeting-of-the-carpathian-convention-working-group-on-adaptation-to-climate-change-online-meeting.html>.
- 40 <https://www.unenvironment.org/news-and-stories/press-release/centre-excellence-rwanda-aims-support-african-farmers-and-rural>
- 41 <https://www.unenvironment.org/news-and-stories/story/indonesia-approves-new-non-motorized-transport-strategy>
- 42 <https://ccacoalition.org/en/news/chile-increases-climate-change-ambition-targets-simultaneously-improve-air-quality-and-health>
- 43 [https://www.unenvironment.org/explore-topics/forests/what-we-do/financing-sustainable-land-use/why-financing-sustainable-land-use?fbclid=IwAR2E9jXnjUTtIJ638BB1Ex3AbU20prxtUbBpmtsBGGiC\\_VXcPJ4R7POUNgE](https://www.unenvironment.org/explore-topics/forests/what-we-do/financing-sustainable-land-use/why-financing-sustainable-land-use?fbclid=IwAR2E9jXnjUTtIJ638BB1Ex3AbU20prxtUbBpmtsBGGiC_VXcPJ4R7POUNgE)
- 44 <https://www.andgreen.fund/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Joint-Green-Roncador-Press-Release-1.pdf>
- 45 [https://www.environmental-finance.com/content/news/blended-finance-fund-invests-\\$40m-in-forests-and-agriculture.html](https://www.environmental-finance.com/content/news/blended-finance-fund-invests-$40m-in-forests-and-agriculture.html)
- 46 <https://www.un-redd.org/post/despite-covid-19-climate-change-continues-to-be-a-priority>
- 47 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1rErXZ2lv3U>, <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1572277>
- 48 <https://www.unenvironment.org/resources/toolkits-manuals-and-guides/protecting-seagrass-through-payments-eco-system-services>
- 49 One of the webinars is available at <https://www.unepfi.org/events/webinars/webinar-nature-related-financial-risks/>.
- 50 <https://www.unepfi.org/publications/banking-publications/beyond-business-as-usual-biodiversity-targets-and-finance/>
- 51 In addition, as a response to decisions by the EMG, senior officials and the United Nations Chief Executives Board for Coordination launched the first draft of phase two of the strategy for sustainability management in the United Nations System for 2020–2030, expanding the scope of the current strategy to cover commitments related to sustainability in programmes and projects, as well as corporate management practices (United Nations System Chief Executives Board of Coordination 2019).
- 52 Highlights support for the implementation of UNEA resolutions 2/2, 2/5, 2/17, 2/19, and 2/21.
- 53 <https://elearning.informea.org/>.
- 54 [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VjQma\\_eTILA&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VjQma_eTILA&feature=youtu.be)
- 55 <https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/32567/LASANRG.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y#page=1&zoom=auto,-157,663>
- 56 <https://www.unenvironment.org/ietc/resources/publication/national-plastic-waste-reduction-strategic-actions-indonesia>
- 57 More information is available at <https://www.unenvironment.org/ietc/what-we-do/unep-sustainability-action>.
- 58 Seven & i Holdings Co. is the parent company of the 7-Eleven chain, which has 71,000 stores in 17 countries.
- 59 Fast Retailing Co. Ltd. is the parent company of the brand UNIQLO, with over 2,200 stores worldwide.
- 60 UNEP/EA.4/Res.6: Marine plastic litter and microplastics.
- 61 See <https://www.unenvironment.org/explore-topics/air/what-we-do/taking-stock-global-efforts/actions-air-quality-report-update>.
- 62 UNEP/EA.3/Res.8: Preventing and reducing air pollution to improve air quality globally.
- 63 UNEP/EA.3/Res.9: Eliminating exposure to lead paint and promoting environmentally sound management of waste lead-acid batteries.
- 64 UNEP/EA.4/Res.21: Implementation plan "Towards a pollution-free planet".
- 65 <https://www.unenvironment.org/beatpollution/>.
- 66 UNEP post: Innovation for Sustainable Lifestyles Contest. View in [English](#) or [Spanish](#). Twitter: [https://twitter.com/unep\\_espanol/status/1283816467872583684?s=20](https://twitter.com/unep_espanol/status/1283816467872583684?s=20); Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/unep.es/posts/1823222891135190>; Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/tv/CCtj1PKA7JR/?igshid=16wjnw8gmgnp6>; YouTube: <https://youtu.be/1r099U0MTpE>
- 67 The factsheet is available at <https://www.unenvironment.org/resources/working-environment-protect-people-covid-19-response>.
- 68 UNEP/EA.4/Res.4: Addressing environmental challenges through sustainable business practices.
- 69 The webinars can be watched at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sm1ueHb8H1s> and [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ID0Bw5\\_IGPc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ID0Bw5_IGPc).
- 70 Can I recycle this? – A global mapping and assessment of labels, standards and claims on plastic packaging (<https://www.oneplanetnetwork.org/resource/can-i-recycle-global-mapping-and-assessment-standards-labels-and-claims-plastic-packaging>)
- 71 [https://www.switch-asia.eu/site/assets/files/1426/background\\_technical\\_document-asias\\_reporting\\_on\\_sdg12\\_asof-14nov2019.pdf](https://www.switch-asia.eu/site/assets/files/1426/background_technical_document-asias_reporting_on_sdg12_asof-14nov2019.pdf)
- 72 UNEP/EA.4/Res.1: Innovative pathways to achieve sustainable consumption and production, Operative Paragraph 12.
- 73 <https://www.kg.undp.org/content/kyrgyzstan/ru/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2020/05/on-the-implementation-of-the-green-economy-model-in-the-developm.html>
- 74 UNEP/EA.4/Res.5: Sustainable Infrastructure.
- 75 [https://globalabc.org/sites/default/files/inline-files/2.%20GlobalABC\\_Regional\\_Roadmap\\_for\\_Buildings\\_and\\_Construction\\_in\\_Latin\\_America\\_2020-2050.pdf](https://globalabc.org/sites/default/files/inline-files/2.%20GlobalABC_Regional_Roadmap_for_Buildings_and_Construction_in_Latin_America_2020-2050.pdf)
- 76 UNEP/EA/4.19: Mineral Resource Governance Implementation Plan.
- 77 <https://greengrowthknowledge.org/resource/discussion-paper-regional-consultations-implementation-united-nations-environment-assembly>
- 78 <https://greengrowthknowledge.org/initiatives/unea-4-mineral-resource-governance-resolution>.
- 79 Available online at [http://www.vision6.com.au/v/36185/1334729/email.html?k=iRKDfQUlaQWxikNphygrD\\_KQo8bnf-cEG5PgavFL\\_0M](http://www.vision6.com.au/v/36185/1334729/email.html?k=iRKDfQUlaQWxikNphygrD_KQo8bnf-cEG5PgavFL_0M).
- 80 The podcasts are available at <https://soundcloud.com/user-431178782/sets/the-mineral-governance-podcast>.
- 81 Tonga, Cook Islands, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Botswana, and Uganda
- 82 The portal can be accessed at <http://nd-new.at.kg/>.
- 83 <https://genderchampions.com/>.
- 84 [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jDd\\_uyl4DYw&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jDd_uyl4DYw&feature=youtu.be)

# 3. RESOURCES AND MANAGEMENT ISSUES

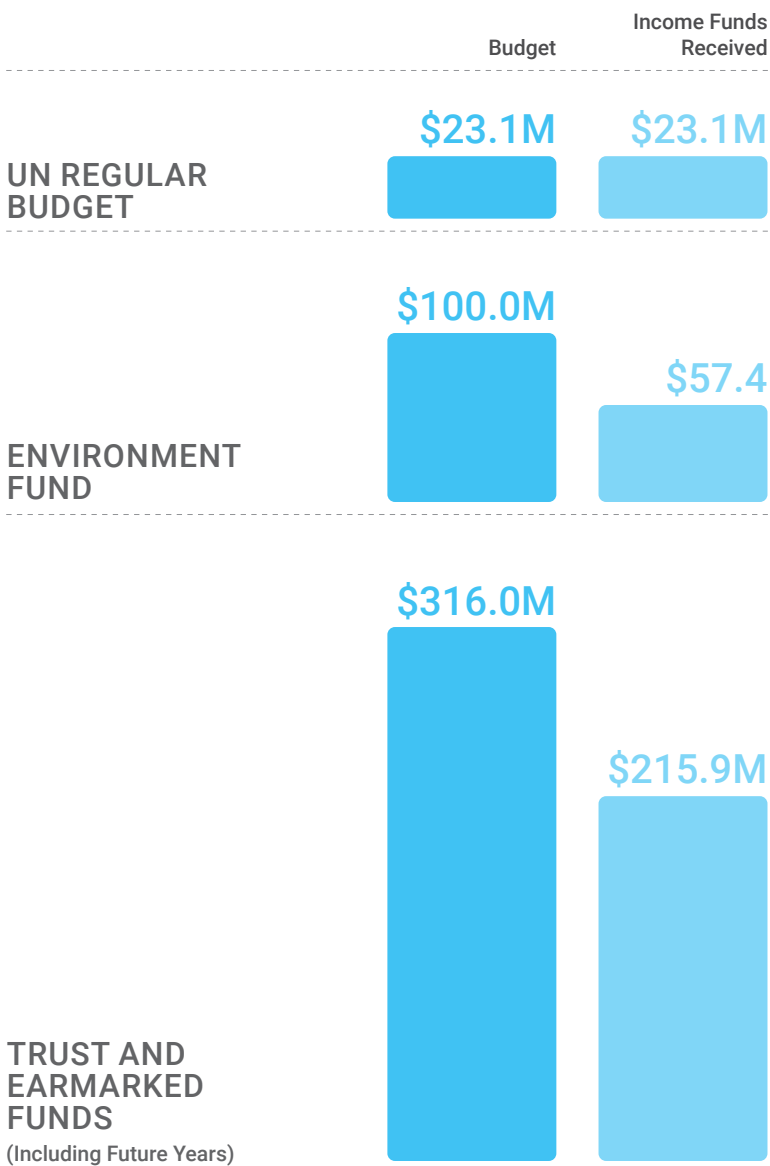
## 3.1 FINANCIAL UPDATE AS AT 30 JUNE 2020

### Overview of income

By the end of the second quarter, as at 30 June 2020, the organization had received income of \$296.4 million, which represents 65 per cent of the total annual budget of \$458.1 million. The income comprises the annual

funds of the United Nations Regular Budget and the Environment Fund and earmarked contributions, which include multi-year funding.<sup>86</sup>

**FIGURE 1** Budget and income January 2020 - June 2020



## Core funding

The core funding of UNEP comprises the Environment Fund and the United Nations Regular Budget, enabling UNEP to deliver on its core mandate. Core funding made up 27 per cent of total income as at the end of the second quarter, mainly because the Regular Budget allocation is received for the whole year in advance. The income for the Environment Fund increased by 30 per cent compared to the same time last year, making up 57 per cent of the approved 2020 budget.

The Environment Fund enables UNEP to lead on solutions for science policy; identify emerging environmental threats and innovate to address them; advocate and raise awareness; and build capacity. It also ensures robust oversight and

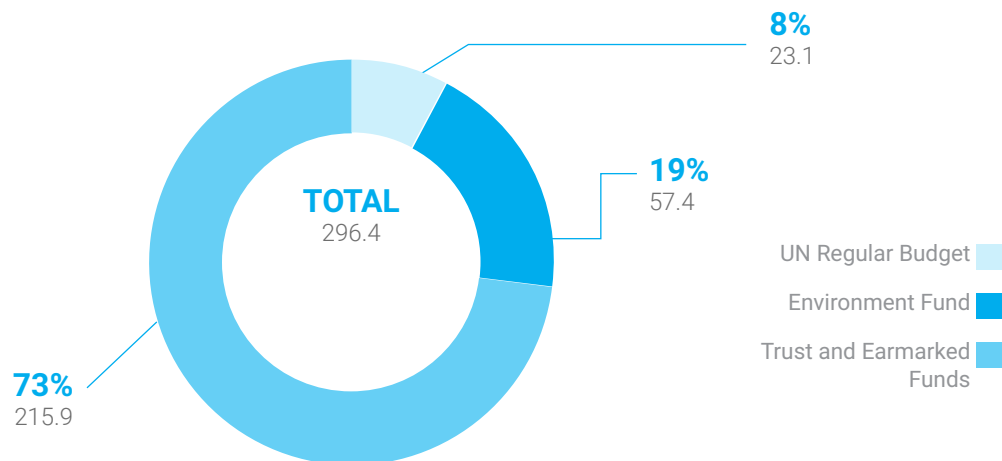
accountability and supports the convening of UNEP power to bring all stakeholders together to advance the global environmental agenda.

## Earmarked contributions

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

As at 30 June 2020, the organization had received \$215.9 million in earmarked funds, including trust funds, for the year 2020 (also including funds for future years), against a budgeted amount of \$316 million.

FIGURE 2 Income by funding source (\$ million) January 2020 - June 2020



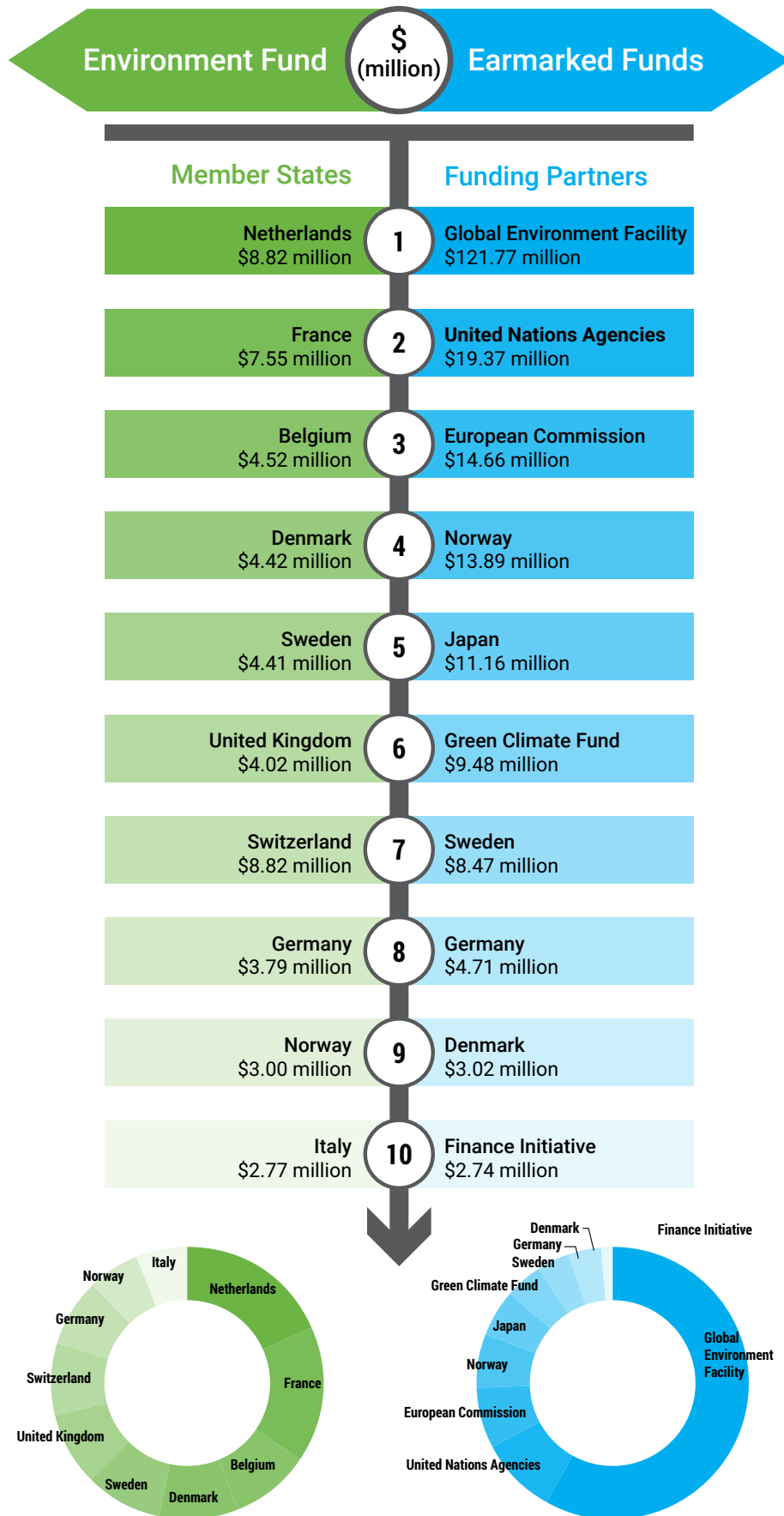
## Funding partners

UNEP is grateful to all contributing Member States and other funding partners for their commitment and support to the organization, especially the 10 largest financial supporters.

UNEP appreciates the 42 Member States that have pledged to the Environment Fund,

especially those that contributed their “fair share”, as determined by the voluntary indicative scale of contributions. However, the number of Member States is 18 per cent less than last year and represents just 22 per cent of the universal membership. To address this, UNEP has sent renewed invitations to Member States to contribute.

FIGURE 3 Top 10 contributors (\$ million) January 2020 - June 2020



### 3.2 STATUS OF ALLOCATIONS AND EXPENDITURES AS AT 30 JUNE 2020

2020 core budgets – Programme of Work budget (\$)					
	Functional area name	Environment Fund	Overhead trust account	Regular Budget	Grand total
<b>A</b>	<b>Policymaking organs</b>	<b>2,000,000</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>8,500</b>	<b>2,018,500</b>
B. 1	Executive direction and 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
<b>Subtotal A + B</b>		<b>5,600,000</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>4,214,500</b>	<b>9,824,500</b>
<b>C</b>	<b>Programme of Work</b>				
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
<b>Subtotal C</b>		<b>83,400,000</b>	<b>9,400,000</b>	<b>17,933,100</b>	<b>110,733,100</b>
<b>D</b>	<b>Fund programme reserve</b>	<b>5,000,000</b>			<b>5,000,000</b>
<b>Subtotal C + D</b>		<b>88,400,000</b>	<b>9,400,000</b>	<b>17,933,100</b>	<b>115,733,100</b>
<b>E</b>	<b>Programme management and other</b>				
	Programme support (UNEP Office for Operations; United Nations Office at Nairobi/ United Nations Office at Geneva bills; after-service health insurance provision)	6,000,000	9,590,000	1,214,600	16,804,600
<b>Subtotal E</b>		<b>6,000,000</b>	<b>9,590,000</b>	<b>1,214,600</b>	<b>16,804,600</b>
<b>Total (A+B+C+D+E)</b>		<b>100,000,000</b>	<b>19,000,000</b>	<b>23,362,200</b>	<b>142,362,200</b>



2020 core budgets – expenditures as at 30 June 2020					
	Functional area name	Environment Fund	Overhead trust account	Regular Budget	Grand total
<b>A</b>	<b>Policymaking organs</b>	<b>783,356</b>	-		<b>783,356</b>
B. 1	Executive direction and management	1,564,940	-	1,474,485	3,039,424
B. 2	United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR)	-	-	341,691	341,691
<b>Subtotal A + B</b>		<b>2,348,296</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,816,176</b>	<b>4,164,472</b>
<b>C</b>	<b>Programme of Work</b>				
1.	Climate change	4,401,388	238,885	990,077	5,630,350
2.	Resilience to disasters and conflicts	2,363,274	196,543	639,392	3,199,210
3.	Healthy and productive ecosystems	3,613,799	322,553	1,066,523	5,002,876
4.	Environmental governance	3,817,082	158,591	2,062,628	6,038,301
5.	Chemicals, waste and air quality	4,039,721	649,688	889,547	5,578,957
6.	Resource efficiency	4,247,243	444,639	810,073	5,501,955
7.	Environment under review	3,198,393	88,666	1,057,310	4,344,368
<b>Subtotal C</b>		<b>25,680,900</b>	<b>2,099,566</b>	<b>7,515,551</b>	<b>35,296,017</b>
<b>D</b>	<b>Fund programme reserve</b>	<b>558,298</b>	-	-	<b>558,298</b>
<b>Subtotal C + D</b>		<b>26,239,197</b>	<b>2,099,566</b>	<b>7,515,551</b>	<b>35,854,314</b>
<b>E</b>	<b>Programme management and other</b>				
	Programme support	2,928,389	4,652,237	556,909	8,137,535
<b>Subtotal E</b>		<b>2,928,389</b>	<b>4,652,237</b>	<b>556,909</b>	<b>8,137,535</b>
<b>Total (A+B+C+D+E)</b>		<b>31,515,883</b>	<b>6,751,803</b>	<b>9,888,636</b>	<b>48,156,322</b>

2020 core budgets – allocations as at 30 June 2020 (\$)					
	Functional area name	Environment Fund	Overhead trust account	Regular Budget	Grand total
<b>A</b>	<b>Policymaking organs</b>	1,472,816	-	1,413	1,474,229
<b>B. 1</b>	<b>Executive direction and management</b>	3,076,585	-	3,355,217	6,431,802
B. 2	United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic radiation (UNSCEAR)	-	-	724,855	724,855
<b>Subtotal A + B</b>		<b>4,549,401</b>		<b>4,081,485</b>	<b>8,630,886</b>
<b>C</b>	<b>Programme of Work</b>	-			
1.	Climate change	8,553,191	744,757	2,172,800	11,470,749
2.	Resilience to disasters and conflicts	4,602,565	691,702	1,482,750	6,777,017
3.	Healthy and productive ecosystems	7,071,228	1,189,191	2,551,738	10,812,157
4.	Environmental governance	8,665,409	980,987	4,435,350	14,081,746
5.	Chemicals, waste and air quality	6,612,107	525,685	1,713,948	8,851,740
6.	Resource efficiency	7,532,166	836,577	1,876,002	10,244,745
7.	Environment under review	5,953,599	137,176	2,914,995	9,005,770
<b>Subtotal C</b>		<b>48,990,265</b>	<b>5,106,075</b>	<b>17,147,583</b>	<b>71,243,923</b>
<b>D</b>	<b>Fund programme reserve</b>	1,538,462	-	-	1,538,462
<b>Subtotal C + D</b>		<b>50,528,727</b>	<b>5,106,075</b>	<b>17,147,583</b>	<b>72,782,385</b>
<b>E</b>	<b>Programme management and other</b>				
	Programme support	4,921,873	12,549,808	1,202,029	18,673,710
<b>Subtotal E</b>		<b>4,921,873</b>	<b>12,549,808</b>	<b>1,202,029</b>	<b>18,673,710</b>
<b>Total (A+B+C+D+E)</b>		<b>60,000,000</b>	<b>17,655,883</b>	<b>22,431,097</b>	<b>100,086,980</b>

### 3.3 RESOURCE MOBILIZATION STRATEGY

With reference to UNEA decision UNEP/EA.4/1,<sup>87</sup> and as part of the ongoing discussions on the funding challenges facing UNEP, Member States were invited to participate in a survey to express their views on the factors that encourage or discourage contributions. Based on the results, a proposal will be included in the action plan for the implementation of paragraph 88b of the Rio+20 outcome document to be presented at the annual subcommittee meeting in October 2020.

To make the funding challenges and the importance of core and flexible funding more visible, the Secretariat will conduct a communication and outreach campaign with the aim of increasing funding to the Environment Fund and encouraging more Member States to contribute at their “fair share” or voluntary indicative scale of contributions level.

### 3.4 HUMAN RESOURCES OVERVIEW

#### General overview

As of 30 June 2020, UNEP employed 1,246 members of staff, comprising 742 (59.5 per cent) in the professional and higher categories, six national professional officers (0.5 per cent)

and 498 (40 per cent) in the general service category. In terms of gender 764 (61 per cent) members of staff are female and 482 (39 per cent) are male.

#### Senior staff for the Secretariat and Multilateral Environment Agreements

Total staff members at grade P-5 and above, as of 30 June 2020

Level	USG	ASG	D-2	D-1	P-5
No. of staff	1	3	8	50	137

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

#### Senior appointments

The following senior appointments were made from April to June 2020.

Position title	Grade	Gender	Nationality	Division/office
Executive Secretary	ASG	Female	Tanzania	Secretariat for the Convention on Biological Diversity
Senior Programme Management Officer	P-5	Female	Sweden	Office of the Chef de Cabinet
Chief of Section, Public Information	P-5	Female	India	Communications Division

Note: ASG=Assistant Secretary-General; P=Professional

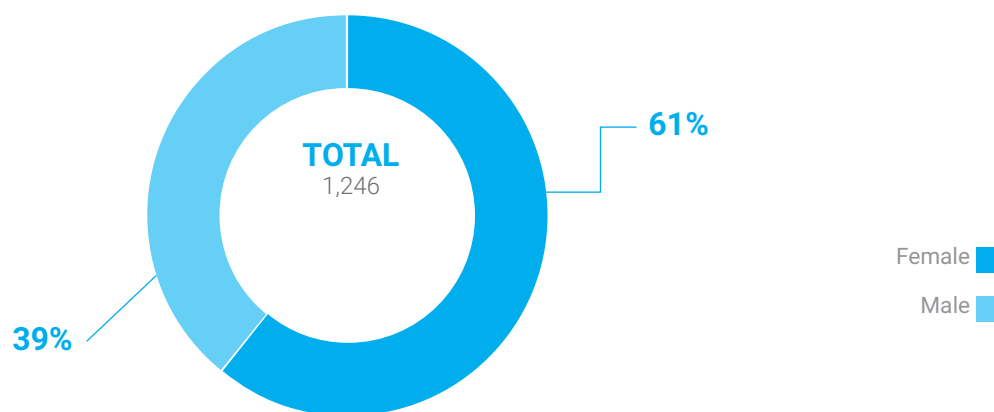
## Gender parity status

The gender parity status for the first and second quarters of 2020 remains the same.

Secretariat												
Gender	USG	ASG	D-2	D-1	P-5	P-4	P-3	P-2	Professional and above	NPO	GS	Grand total
Female	1	1	3	14	43	78	99	57	296	3	259	558
Male		1	1	26	57	96	58	24	263	3	92	358
Multilateral Environmental Agreements												
Gender	USG	ASG	D-2	D-1	P-5	P-4	P-3	P-2	Professional and above	NPO	GS	Grand total
Female		1	2	5	16	29	28	14	95	0	111	206
Male			2	5	21	24	21	15	88	0	36	124
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>742</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>498</b>	<b>1246</b>

Note: USG=Under-Secretary-General; ASG=Assistant Secretary-General; D=Director; P=Professional; NPO=National Professional Officer; GS=General Service

FIGURE 4 UNEP Gender Distribution



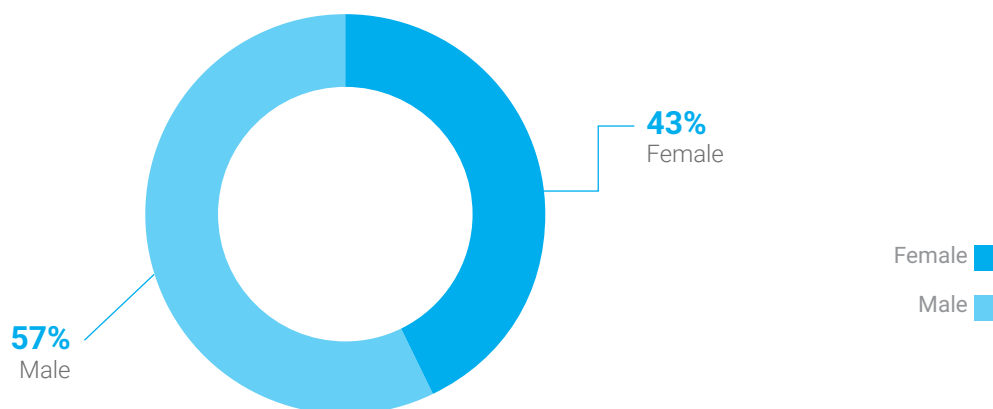
## Gender status for P-5 and above for the UNEP Secretariat and Multilateral Environmental Agreements as of 30 June 2020

Gender	USG	ASG	D-2	D-1	P-5	Grand Total
Female	1	2	5	19	59	86
Male		1	3	31	78	113
<b>Total</b>	1	3	8	50	137	199
Female	100%	67%	62%	38%	43%	43%
Male	0%	33%	38%	62%	57%	57%

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

## Gender breakdown: P-5 and above as of 30 June 2020

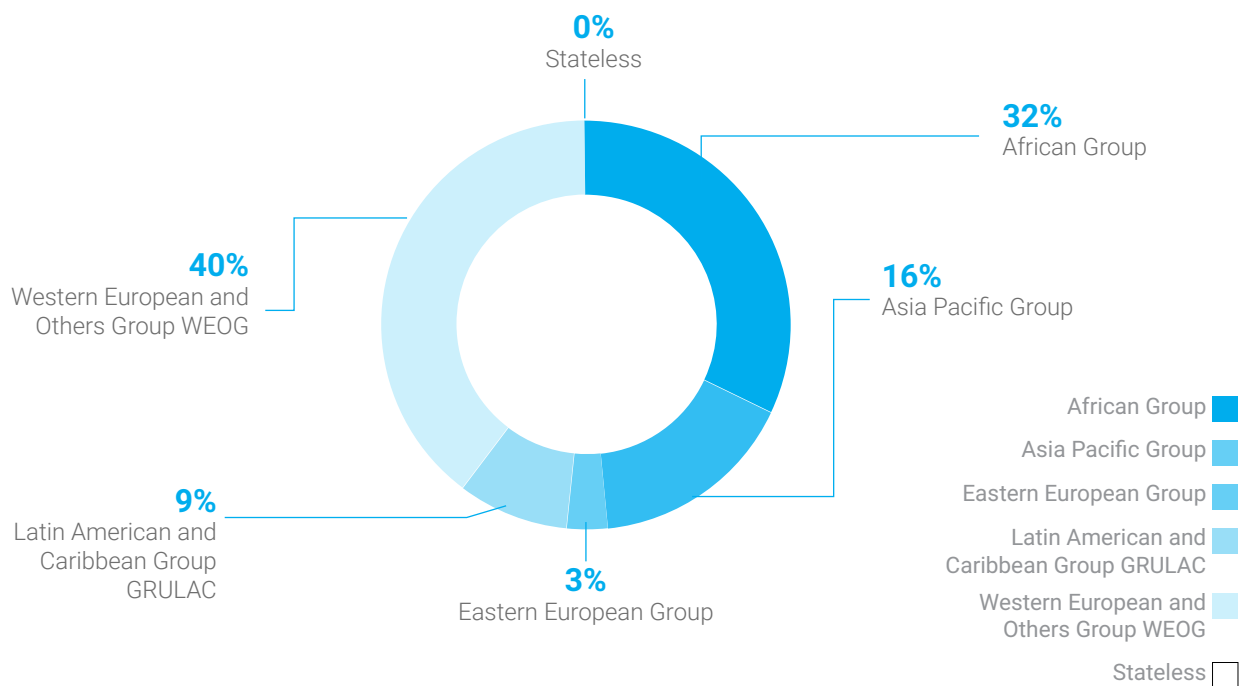
FIGURE 5 UNEP P-5 and above gender breakdown



## Regional representation of staff (UNEP and Multilateral Environmental Agreements) as of 30 June 2020

Region	Total
African group	399
Asia-Pacific group	203
Eastern European group	40
Latin American and Caribbean group (GRULAC)	109
Stateless	1
Western European and Others group (WEOG)	494
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,246</b>

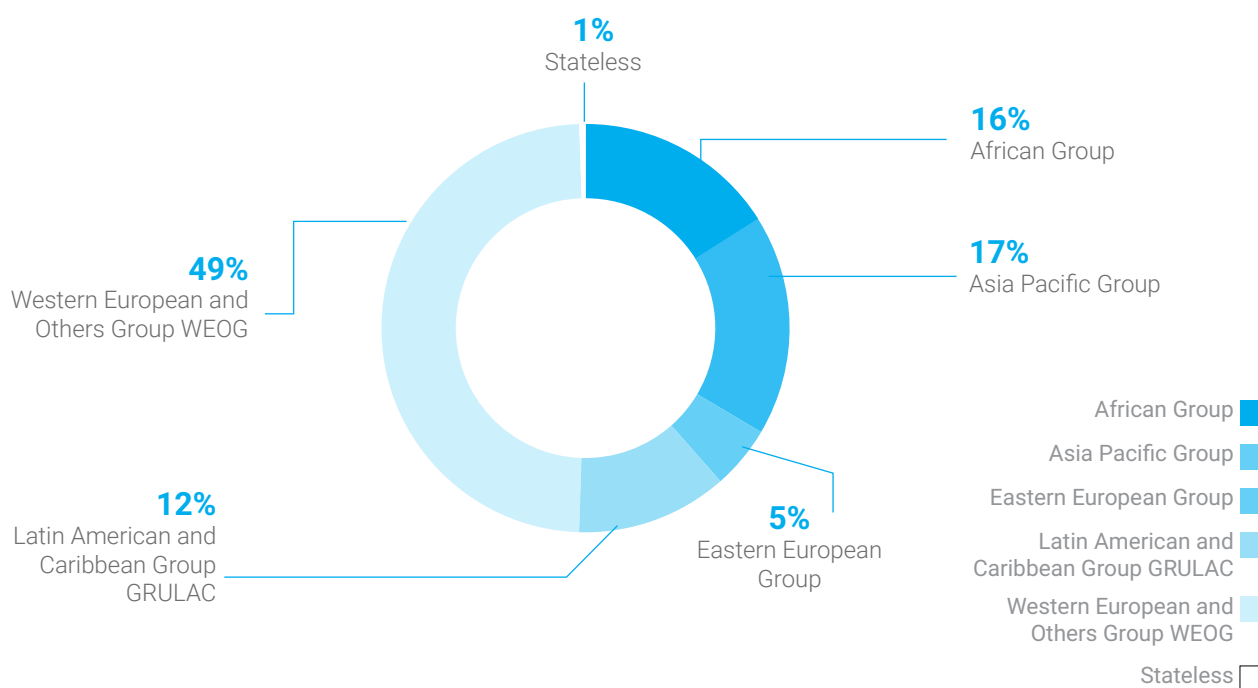
FIGURE 6 UNEP Regional Representation



## Regional representation P-5 and above (Secretariat and Multilateral Environmental Agreements)

Region	Total
African group	32
Asia–Pacific group	35
Eastern European group	10
Latin American and Caribbean group (GRULAC)	24
Western European and Others group (WEOG)	98
Stateless	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>

FIGURE 6 UNEP P-5 and Above Staff by Region as of 30 June 2020



## Key human resources risk and issues

Progress has been made in line with the system-wide strategy of the Secretary-General on gender parity and the UNEP Gender Parity Implementation Plan and the female to male ratio remains at 61:39. Recruitment at both the

senior level (42:58 female to male ratio) and for general service staff (74:26 female to male ratio) within the Secretariat needs to be further balanced.

## 3.5 AUDITS

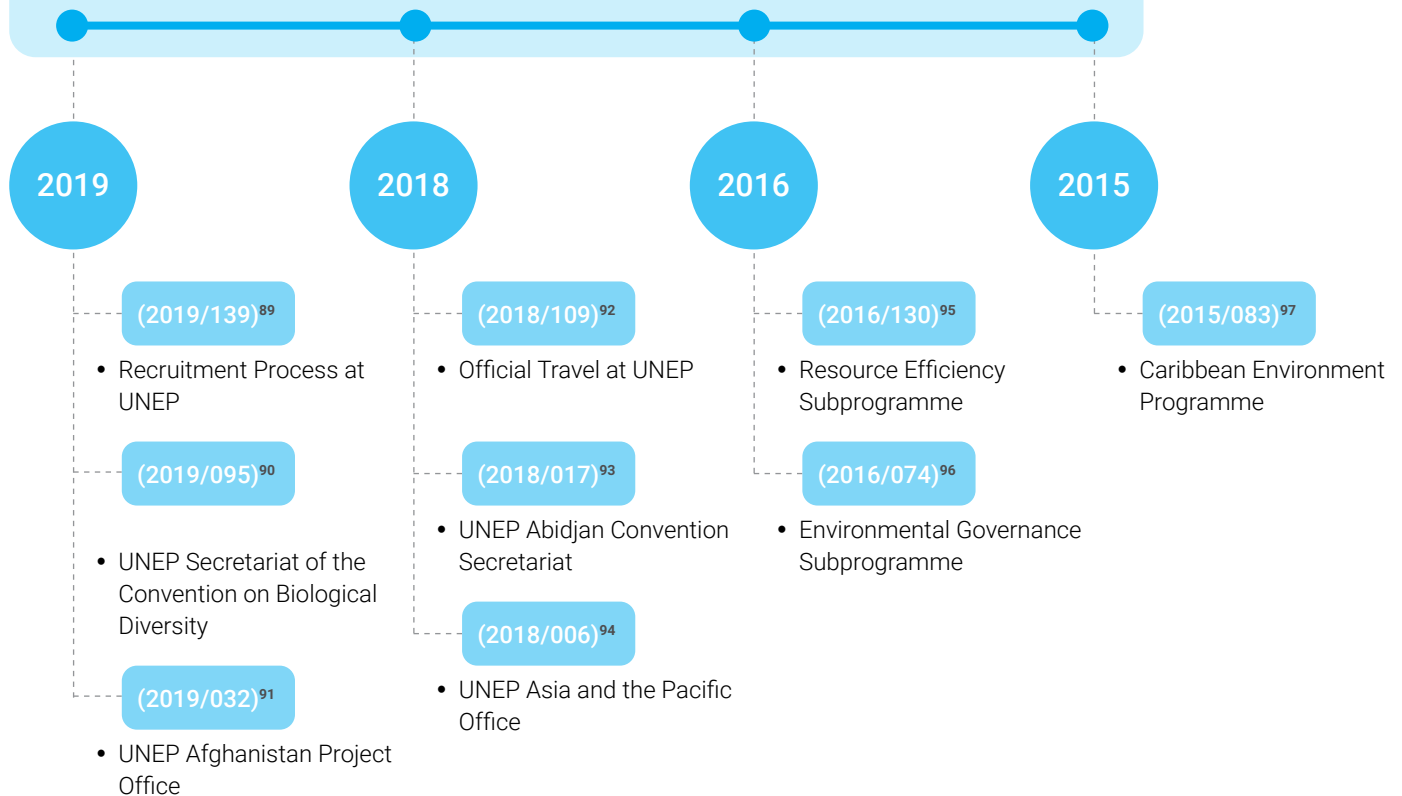
### Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS)

The implementation of the recommendations of audits already completed by OIOS and the development of audit assignments planned for 2020 are ongoing.

#### A. Ongoing OIOS audits:

1. Management of Partnerships at UNEP
2. Management of Data Classification and Data Privacy at the United Nations Office at Nairobi, UNEP and UN-Habitat
3. Grant Management at the United Nations Office at Nairobi, UNEP and UN-Habitat

#### B. Implementation of recommendations of completed OIOS audits<sup>88</sup>



#### Board of Auditors

The Board of Auditors team from China will start the 2020 interim audit of the UNEP headquarters in September.

The audit of the UNEP financial statements started on 13 April 2020 and was completed in May 2020. The final report for 2019 has been provided to UNEP and is now being published as an official report to the United Nations General Assembly.

The implementation of the recommendations of audits already completed by OIOS and audit assignments planned for 2020 are ongoing.



## 3.6 EVALUATIONS

### Ongoing and completed evaluations

During the reporting period:

- **Three** project evaluations were completed
- **25** project evaluations are currently active and ongoing

In the context of the current pandemic, desk-based evaluations or those that had completed their field mission or data-collection phases prior to COVID-19 travel restrictions have continued as normal. Other project evaluations have been postponed until public health conditions improve or are proceeding in a limited manner, with only desk-based preparatory work taking place before placing the evaluation on hold pending the field mission/ data-collection phases.



#### Key findings

Selected findings and learning points from completed past strategic evaluations of relevance to the Medium-Term Strategy 2022–2025 preparation process were distilled and communicated in-house during the reporting period. The issues and lessons included:

#### Strengthening the theory of change of subprogrammes to help them better inform strategic thinking and operational planning by:

- Making longer term results levels in the theory of change consistent with levels in outcome mapping for the current medium-term strategy.
- Continuing to establish strong alignment/links in causal pathways with the SDGs.
- Ensuring causal pathways on the science–policy interface are properly articulated.
- Incorporating thinking on disruptive innovation approaches.
- Including communication and capacity-building more explicitly in the subprogramme theory of change.

#### Strengthen the clarity of purpose and the shared cross-UNEP understanding of and approach to:

- The regional strategic presence and how each subprogramme works with regional, subregional and country offices.
- Communications at the corporate, programme and project levels.
- Knowledge management at the corporate, programme and project levels.
- Innovation and attitudes to risk in the UNEP Programme of Work.

## ENDNOTES

- 85 <https://pea4sdgs.org/>.
- 86 In line with the United Nations Secretariat interpretation and application of the International Public Service Accounting Standards (IPSAS), Umoja does not allow this income to be disaggregated into annual figures.
- 87 UNEP/EA.4/1. Programme of work and budget for the biennium 2020–2021.
- 88 Reports can be accessed via the OIOS portal at <https://oios.un.org/audit-reports>.
- 89 <https://oios.un.org/file/8450/>.
- 90 <https://oios.un.org/file/8094/>.
- 91 <https://oios.un.org/file/7508/>.
- 92 <https://oios.un.org/file/7283/>.
- 93 <https://oios.un.org/file/7019/>.
- 94 <https://oios.un.org/file/6986/>.
- 95 <https://oios.un.org/file/6365/>.
- 96 <https://oios.un.org/file/6197/>.
- 97 <https://oios.un.org/file/5675/>.
- 98 Reports can be accessed via the OIOS portal at <https://oios.un.org/audit-reports>.
- 99 <https://oios.un.org/file/8450/>.
- 100 <https://oios.un.org/file/8094/>.
- 101 <https://oios.un.org/file/7508/>.
- 102 <https://oios.un.org/file/7283/>.
- 103 <https://oios.un.org/file/7019/>.
- 104 <https://oios.un.org/file/6986/>.
- 105 <https://oios.un.org/file/6365/>.
- 106 <https://oios.un.org/file/6197/>.
- 107 <https://oios.un.org/file/5675/>.





# QUARTERLY REPORT

to the **151<sup>st</sup>** Meeting of the

COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES

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