

Purpose of the snapshot survey is to gather initial insights from the Major Groups and other CSOs on a range of issues and will serve as a basis to initiate and structure debate on stakeholder engagement towards UNEP@50.

The results presented today set the scene for the upcoming four global consultations and the more thorough and substantive civil society survey to be conducted throughout the year. These outputs will feed into a report “The UNEP We Want” to be delivered at UNEA 5.2 for the high-level UNEP@50 commemoration.

Snapshot survey – summary of results

- 38 responses

50 years of UNEP

- most important achievements of UNEP over the last 50 years – most common responses are:
 - increased awareness which led to progress at all governance levels from local to global in tackling environmental challenges and climate change
 - Enhancing environmental discourse at the highest level and the role played in convening different parties around essential environmental topics
 - the creation of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the Implementation of the 1987 Montreal Protocol to protect the ozone layer and the 2012 Minamata Convention to limit toxic mercury
 - GEO reports
 - SDG environmental goals
- Areas in which UNEP could have done more to address global environmental challenges:
 - environment education
 - climate change
 - coordination of and strengthening the environmental law and governance
 - gathering of environmental impact data as many nations are still building capacities
 - mainstreaming human rights throughout all areas of work
- In relation to CSO involvement over the past 50 years:
 - 40% of respondents consider that it has been somewhat easy to get involved with UNEP activities as a CSO
 - 42% said that UNEP has slightly taken into account their input in its activities and 37% said ‘often’
 - 70% said that UNEP’s MGS and CSO engagement changed over time **for the better**
- When it comes to the importance that the international community has given to UNEP’s work, more than 50% of the respondents think that UNEP has not received enough importance.

Next 50 years

- Almost 80% of the respondents consider that UNEP should have had a stronger mandate, more authority and greater resources; 50% think that its mandate should be broadened; and 97% think that UNEP should have a stronger voice in coordinating the environmental programmes of other UN agencies, funds and programmes to reduce overlapping mandates and reduce duplication of activities.

- In relation to UNEP's Programme of Work 2020-2021, respondents consider **climate change, healthy and productive ecosystems and environmental governance** as the three main topics for UNEP's future work ;
- In relation to other topics and emerging issues that UNEP should prioritise in light of global trends and challenges, most common responses are:
 - Focus on critical links between development, the environment, and human's well-being;
 - Health and environment and the environmental aspects of One Health
 - Water & biodiversity conservation, preventing ecosystem degradation
- 97% of the respondent think that UNEP has a special role to play post-pandemic in a Green Recovery and amongst the programs, projects or activities UNEP would need to implement to address the challenges raised by the COVID-19 pandemic, the following have been identified:
 - focused program on pandemics incl. COVID-19 that is also looking at the socio-ecological impacts
 - build back greener; promoting the principles of green economies
 - promoting the One Health approach
- Respondents consider that UNEP could achieve the most in the future through **Education and public awareness, science-policy interface and stakeholder engagement**. However, more than 40% of respondent think that UNEP's current stakeholder engagement system is not adequate for the future.
- What should UNEP do to strengthen the Science-Policy Interface:
 - Ensure scientific input is verified and peer reviewed and hence reduce the inclusion of un-verified "scientific" input.
 - Greater focus on regional approach to Science-Policy interface could yield better results given the contextual issues that affect policy implementation in different parts of the world.
 - Leave businesses out as a way to avoid any conflicts of interest

The UNEP@50 Commemoration

- 89% of respondents agree with UNEP's current draft strategy on UNEP@50 stating that the commemoration should focus on UNEP's core mandates, including the science/policy interface. Other areas of focus and outcomes underscored are:
 - Building unity, solidarity and achieving a nature-inspired, harmonious relationship between humankind and the environment
 - steer the wheel towards lessons learned from COVID-19 and a clearer and more effective role of the agency; UNEP going back to being a lead scientific body on environmental issues.
 - A clear roadmap for the next 50 years, building on success of the last 50 and addressing deficiencies.
 - A clearer more committed role of UNEP, open to more CS participation
- 92% support the idea of a "legacy publication" on the science-policy interface to be presented in time for the UNEP@50 commemoration

- 97% of respondents are planning to participate in the UNEP@50 processes and stand ready to engage through outreach activities, organizing various events, sharing and exchanging with different stakeholders and organising dialogues on different topics