

UNEP Offer 2021

The Environmental Dimension of Sustainable Development
*UNEP Support to United Nations Country Teams
and Regional Collaborative Platforms*

CONTENTS

1	Who we are	Page 1
2	What do we do	Page 1
3	What we have to offer	Page 2
4	Core Expertise	Page 4
5	Deployment Model	Page 5
6	How we partner	Page 7
7	Accessing UNEP	Page 8
8	Programme Implementation and Financing	Page 8
9	Annexes	
	Annex 1: UNEP Contacts	Page 9
	Annex 2: Areas of Expertise	Page 11
	Annex 3: UNEP's Regional and Country Presence	Page 16

1- Who we are

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system, and serves as an [authoritative advocate for the global environment](#).

UNEP's mission is to provide leadership and encourage partnerships in caring for the environment by informing, enabling and inspiring nations and peoples to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations.

Headquartered in Nairobi, Kenya, UNEP works through [regional, sub-regional and country offices](#) (Annex I) as well as a growing network of collaborating centres of excellence. UNEP also hosts several environmental convention secretariats and inter-agency coordination bodies.

UNEP works within a four-year strategic planning cycle, which is underpinned by two biennial Programmes of Work that are aligned to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). UN Member States come together in Nairobi every two years for the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA) to provide political and strategic guidance on key environmental issues and approve the organization's strategic plans, programme of work and budget.

UNEP's current Programme of Work will end in 2021. A new UNEP Medium Term Strategy for 2022-2025 and a new Programme of Work 2022-2023 will be implemented from January 2022.

2 - What do we do

UNEP's work includes assessing global, regional and national environmental conditions and trends, facilitating the development and implementation of international and national environmental instruments and strengthening institutions for the wise management of the environment. UNEP strives to put the environment at the centre of economic and social decision-making. Within that context, the [SDGs](#) undergird all the work that [UNEP does](#).

UNEP works closely with Member States as well as representatives from the UN system, regional organisations, civil society, businesses, financial sector and other major groups and stakeholders. We are always looking for new ways to leverage partnerships to drive transformational change towards sustainable development.

UNEP's work is organized into [seven broad thematic areas](#):



Climate Change



Resilience to Disasters
and Conflicts



Ecosystems
and Biodiversity



Environmental
Governance



Chemicals, Waste
and Air Quality



Resource Efficiency



Environmental Science
for Policy Making

3 - What we have to offer

UNEP provides environmental data, technical support, policy advice and capacity building support to member states to address various environmental issues, challenges and gaps. This is done through:

- > **Technical Implementation**

UNEP often with partners undertakes to provide direct technical assistance at the country level.
- > **Enabling Activities**

Providing scientific, technical and legal guidance and backstopping at the global, regional or national level, in support of national efforts.
- > **Promoting Regional Dialogue and Cooperation**

Facilitating regional discussions on environmental issues, challenges and gaps, supporting the development and implementation of regional action.
- > **Catalytic Action**

Designed to stimulate and advocate for change and drive or up-scale transformational impact. This includes using its convening power to influence global and national governance and legislation to integrate environmental considerations.

UNEP facilitates and ensures that integrated approaches and interlinked actions are made between environment and other development objectives, such as human rights, gender equality, economic growth, employment, socio-ecological systems and human well-being. The challenges experienced by landlocked developing countries, least developed countries and small island developing states are taken into consideration when designing interventions where this is relevant and possible. South-South and Triangular Cooperation is supported as a key tool in programme implementation.

The [types of support that UNEP provides](#) can be broken down into eight general groups:

1 Advocacy and Communication, Global outreach and Knowledge Management

The development and implementation of communication initiatives and campaigns to bring behaviour and social change. Development, safeguarding, management and communication of global, regional and national climate, biodiversity, pollution and other environmental databanks and associated software platforms. Analysis and synthesis of emerging regional/global environmental issues and implications for sustainable development at national levels.

2 Support to Parties of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs)

In addition to providing secretariat services to 22 global and regional MEAs, UNEP supports Member States in the implementation of MEAs through technical support, capacity building and legislative and policy support.

3 Strategic and Science-based Policy Analysis

The investigation and analysis of environmental and climate-linked situations, issues and challenges, to develop a deeper understanding and support the formulation of policy options leading to solutions. This includes techniques such as root cause analysis, trade-off analysis and scenario development.

4 Thematic Technical Assistance

The provision of targeted technical expertise and advice on over 100 topics/themes (see Annex II) to support the delivery of nationally owned initiatives, programmes and projects. This includes work on improving sustainability in a range of economic sectors, such as infrastructure, manufacturing, energy, mining and finance.

5 Capacity Development

The provision of training, learning and guidance material, legal and institutional development, financial and other support to increase the capacity and awareness of national stakeholders on key environmental and climate issues. UNEP also helps countries to strengthen governance and institutions.

6 Environmental Scientific Data, Assessments and Evaluations

UNEP supports countries to conduct an array of standardized and tailored assessments. These include national reports generated from UNEP-facilitated global platforms and datasets such as World Environment Situation Room (WESR) and national, subnational and project specific assessments entailing field data collection. Depending on the context, the assessments can be either participatory and joint efforts (with joint outputs), or fully independent processes with UNEP-managed outputs.



7 Project Development and Implementation Support

Technical and project management expertise is focused on the creation, financing and mobilization of multi-partner environmental projects. Support is provided via a range of roles and levels of intensity, including in the following areas: independent expert, co-designer/developer, seed financing, resource mobilization support, and strategic and technical oversight. The preferred approach is to catalyze and strongly support both demonstration and large flagships projects via partnerships for in-country/field level project management role.

8 Access to Global Funds

As an accredited implementation partner for the Global Environmental Facility (GEF), the Green Climate Fund (GCF), the Adaptation Fund and the Montreal Protocol Multilateral Fund, UNEP assists countries to access these global funds and partners. Through these Funds, UNEP is currently supporting 150 countries and has helped them to access more than US\$ 1.4 billion in finance to address critical environmental issues including biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, land degradation, climate change mitigation and adaptation, chemicals and waste management, international waters, and ozone protection among others. Funding from these sources is generally co-financed from a range of multi-lateral, bilateral and national sources.

4 - Core Expertise

The combined skillset of UNEP and its key partners spans many topics within the seven thematic and interlinked fields noted above.

In the selected areas, this expertise has evolved into flagship programmes and initiatives, which can be efficiently rolled out and tailored to individual countries to meet their SDGs and national development plans, while taking into consideration each regional and country context.

UNEP's core areas of expertise are listed in more detail in (Annex II) and on the [UNEP's website](#).



5 - Deployment Model

UNEP's business model is one of serving as a global pool of world-class expertise on climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution and other key environmental issues. The talent pool is spread across the headquarters in Nairobi and regional, sub-regional and country offices. UNEP's expertise is made available in the ways described below.



Global Programmes Agreements and Platforms

UNEP is the implementer or secretariat for an array of global programmes, agreements and platforms. A crosscutting theme for such work is enabling national access to these platforms and generating national benefits that arise from them.

This occurs both at a political level: such as by supporting national representation at global forums and the working level: such as by building technical capacity among government personnel and other stakeholders



Regional and Transboundary Initiatives and Platforms

Strong regional networks and platforms have long served to help address common environmental issues.

Examples include, climate change, ecosystem degradation, air pollution, marine ecology and pollution, transboundary river basin management, migratory species, wildfires, sand and dust storms and ozone depletion. UNEP hosts and supports national participation in such initiatives and platforms.



Remote Support

UNEP provides a significant amount of normative and technical support remotely. It will continue to take advantage of the fact that business operations are shifting increasingly towards digital platforms and at a time when access to low-cost high-reliability videoconferencing becomes near universal.



Country Missions

Both short and extended-duration missions by our experts and partners are a routine part of our service. In countries with challenging logistics we sometimes call on our UN partners to support such visits.



Seconded Expertise

Some support may require on-site physical presence to effectively deliver support to Resident Coordinators, UN Country Teams and governments. UNEP may place individual experts and small teams in-country from six months to three years as appropriate. They could be hosted by either the national government or UN partners.



UNEP's Physical Country Presence

UNEP operates from its headquarters in Nairobi and through six regional offices around the world. These regional offices, supported by sub-regional, country offices, liaison and projects offices, are available to support UN Country Teams in their work (see Annex III for our current locations).



Planning Support at Country Level

CCAs, UNSDCFs and national planning processes: The integration of environment, climate-science and nature-based solutions as well as international obligations under Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) into national and multilateral policy, decision and planning processes, with a particular focus on Common Country Analyses (CCAs), National Development Plans, Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs), Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs), UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (UNSCDFs), Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and sector development strategies.

This includes the presentation and interpretation of climate, biodiversity, pollution and other environmental datasets from multiple global datasets to inform planning and policy. Through its regional offices, UNEP engages with CCA and UNSDCF processes which identify key entry points for UNEP and determine the relevant expertise that should be deployed to address specific country issues and needs.



6 - How we partner

UNEP implements its programme both directly and through partnerships at the global, regional and country levels. We have an established and growing network of [over 400 partner organizations](#), which include:



Government Authorities and Specialized Institutions.



Regional and Subregional Organisations.



Professional and Industry associations and (selected) multi-national companies.



Research, Tertiary education and Technical/vocational institutes.



International and National Non-Governmental Organisations.



Major Groups and Stakeholders including Faith-Based Organizations and the youth.



Other UN Agencies particularly the UN Development Programme and the UN Office for Project Services. We have long-term MOUs and partnership agreements with many UN entities.



The Private Sector through industry associations on topics of mutual interest and individual companies on projects of mutual interest. This is subject to a rigorous process of due diligence and analysis.

7 - Accessing UNEP

The most efficient way to access UNEP is to contact the relevant Regional Office. The Regional Office staff will assess the request and establish links to the relevant UNEP expertise. UNEP also has focal points based in several countries and regional hubs, who can act as entry points for service requests and general queries. On matters directly related to [UNEP administered MEAs](#) (governing bodies, implementation, compliance and enforcement matters, etc.) contact the respective Secretariat offices. Some MEAs have regional presence.

Our current (April 2021) contact list is provided in Annex I.

8 - Programme Implementation and Financing

UNEP is a voluntarily funded organization. It receives less than five percent of its annual budget from assessed contributions from the United Nations Secretariat.

The substantive support that UNEP provides to countries is delivered in the form of projects and programmes with dedicated financing. UNEP commonly works with donors on long-term partnerships and multi-country programmes. This enables it to provide some support directly to multiple countries without the need to develop and independently finance each package of support.

UNEP uses various funding sources and streams to support its Member States. They vary from Environment Fund, Extra budgetary funds that are sometimes dedicated funds, global funds, and in some cases, from jointly mobilized funds with government and other UN entities:

- The majority of substantive requests will be serviced with dedicated funding. If the countries or the implementation partners have funds at hand, then UNEP can develop an agreement and proceed directly to implementation.
- If funding needs to be secured, then UNEP will work with the government, and other UN agencies and partners to design and plan the project and jointly mobilize the necessary resources.
- Ongoing liaison, representation and limited short-term support to countries is self-financed by UNEP itself via the Environment Fund.
- Some topics and flagship programmes are financed in whole or in part at the global level. Countries can request inclusion in these multi-country efforts, which is best done at the formative stage to ensure funding is earmarked. UNEP's focal points will signal at an early stage whether the request can be financed in part or in whole at the global level.

More detailed information on the full package of UNEP's products and services is available at www.unep.org



9 - Annex I UNEP Contacts

Regional Offices

Africa

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Secretariats of the Multilateral Environmental Agreements



Secretariat of the Basel and Rotterdam and Stockholm (BRS) Conventions

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Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

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

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Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)

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Secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury

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Secretariat of the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of Montreal Protocol (MLF)

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Annex II UNEP's Areas of Expertise

In cooperation with its partners and networks, UNEP works in its thematic areas through a strategic approach founded on the latest scientific evidence and focused on delivering transformational results that tackle environmental issues in an integrated and systemic way. UNEP's interventions benefit from the organization's comparative advantage and expertise to secure greater effectiveness and delivery. UNEP's approach enables countries and partners to deliver on multiple SDGs, spanning the environmental, social and economic dimensions of sustainable development.

1. Climate Change

- **Adaptation**

- Development of National Adaptation Plans that integrate ecosystem-based adaptation.
- Ecosystem-based adaptation demonstration projects and initiatives.

- **Mitigation**

- Preparation of plans and policies for low-emission development.
- Support to Paris Agreement implementation - national actions to deliver Nationally-Determined Contributions (NDCs), Long-Term Strategies (LTS) among others.
- Climate technology transfer.
- Reducing emissions of short-lived Green House Gases (GHGs) including the oil sector and industrial methane.

- **Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency**

- Clean energy sector-level development.
- Re-investment planning and flagship project promotion for fragile states.
- Development, implementation and scale-up of energy efficiency initiatives in the areas of:
 - a. Lighting
 - b. Appliances
 - c. Vehicle fuel economy
 - d. District energy systems
 - e. Buildings

- **Climate Finance, access to Technology and Capacity Building**

- Accessing and utilizing climate finance instruments, including clean energy and resilience funds.
- Facilitating technology solutions and accelerated access to climate technologies for low-emission and climate-resilient development.
- Facilitating inter-institutional capacities at national and subnational levels.
- REDD+ (Reduced emissions from deforestation and forest degradation)
- Development and implementation of REDD+ national strategies and related action plans.

2. Resilience to Disasters and Conflicts

• Risk Reduction

- Environment-disaster risk assessments.
- Institutional and legal frameworks to improve national and local preparedness to mitigate environmental risks from disasters and conflicts.
- Communication on the environmental causes and consequences of crises, and promotion of sound management of natural resources as a tool for crisis prevention and recovery.

• Response

- Post disaster and conflict environmental assessments and action plans.

• Recovery

- Integration of environmental sustainability into disaster recovery and peacebuilding programmes.

• Environmental Security

- Foster UN capacity to address climate-related risks and conflict over natural resources, working with partners including through the Climate Security Mechanism.

3. Ecosystems and Biodiversity

• Ecosystem Services

- Ecosystem health and productivity data collection, assessment and monitoring.
- Ecosystem service valuation.
- Integrating environmental resilience and sustainability into planning and budgeting processes.
- Ecosystem management decision tools.
- Water quality monitoring and management.

• Protected Area Management

- Creation, gazettement and sustainably financing terrestrial and marine protected areas.
- Integrated approach to great apes species survival.

• Outreach, Education and Finance

- Tertiary education curriculum development for ecosystem management.
- Outreach campaigns and public engagement to shift knowledge, attitudes and behaviors to address biodiversity loss.
- Integration of biodiversity considerations in financial and economic decision making.
- Support access to finance for biodiversity and ecosystems management.

4. Environmental Governance

• **Environmental Legislation, Policies and Institutions**

- Development, gazettement and implementation of environmental laws, policies and standards.
- Environmental governance institutional development.
- Developing and defending environmental rights and national environmental champions.

• **Environmental Crime**

- National environmental crime prevention, investigation and prosecution support.
- Programmes on illegal international trade of environmental resources including wildlife.

• **Transboundary Cooperation**

- Support to bilateral and multi-lateral cooperation on transboundary issues related to natural resources management and other environmental issues.

• **Greening the Blue: UN operations and programmes environmental and climate performance**

- Supporting the development and gazettement of UN entity environmental and climate policies, standards and procedures.
- Data collation, communication and benchmarking of UN entity environmental and climate performance.
- Coordination and support to the network of 70+ UN entity climate and environment focal points.
- Planning and implementation of joint environment and climate footprint reduction projects and programmes.

• **Faith Organizations**

- Facilitating faith-based environmental and climate issue initiatives.

• **Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) whose Secretariats are hosted by UNEP:**

- The Convention on Biological Diversity.
- The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.
- The Minamata Convention on Mercury.
- The Basel Convention on Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal.
- The Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade.
- The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants.
- The Vienna Convention for the Protection of Ozone Layer and the Montreal Protocol - control of ozone depleting substances.
- The Convention on Migratory Species.
- The Carpathian Convention - sub-regional treaty on the Carpathian mountain region.
- The Bamako Convention on hazardous waste importation into Africa.
- The Tehran Convention on protection of the Caspian Sea region.
- The Nagoya Protocol on access to and equitable management of natural genetic and biodiversity resources.
- The Cartagena Protocol on biosafety.

5. Chemicals, Waste and Air quality

• Chemicals and Waste

- Capacity building and technical support for sound and strategic management of chemicals and waste.
- Chemical and waste spill and hotspot site and issue assessment and solution development.
- Integration of circular processes across waste flows.
- Capacity building to identify and land-based sources of marine pollution.

• Air Quality

- Air quality monitoring and improvement programmes.
- Dust storm mitigation.
- Support to bilateral and multi-lateral cooperation on transboundary issues related to air pollution.

6. Resource Efficiency

• Green Economy, Blue Economy and Sustainable Trade

- Natural resource use and value addition assessments and policies.
- Sustainable marine economic development.
- Sustainable trade and investment policies and programmes.
- Sustainable food management and agriculture policies and programmes.
- Sustainable urban development and city environmental and climate footprint management.
- Sustainable tourism.
- Sustainable and resilient infrastructure.
- Sustainable mobility.
- Sustainable public procurement.

• Green Finance, Economic Decarbonization and Detoxification

- Fiscal policy development for the green economy.
- Green jobs – sector employment development.
- Green and responsible banking and insurance/reinsurance.
- Investment portfolio alignment with SDGs and 1.5-degree Celsius global targets.

• Sustainable Consumption and Production

- Support countries in their response to SDG 12 through development, implementation and monitoring national policy frameworks.
- Promote innovative business models, initiatives and policies for accelerating responsible and circular patterns of consumption and production for high resource intensive and highly polluting value chains (e.g. food, building, tourism, textiles, mining, plastics etc.) with specific attention to small and medium enterprises.
- Encourage sustainable lifestyles, consumer choices and behavioral change for sustainable consumption

7. Environmental Science for Policy Making

- **UN Common Country Analysis and Thematic Assessments**

- Integration of environmental and climate components in Common Country Analyses.
- Development of environment, "climate-broad", thematic- and site-specific assessments.

- **Environmental Statistics and Sustainable Development Goals**

- Monitoring and progress reporting on national environment and climate statistics and associated SDG indicators.

- **Climate Information and Early Warning**

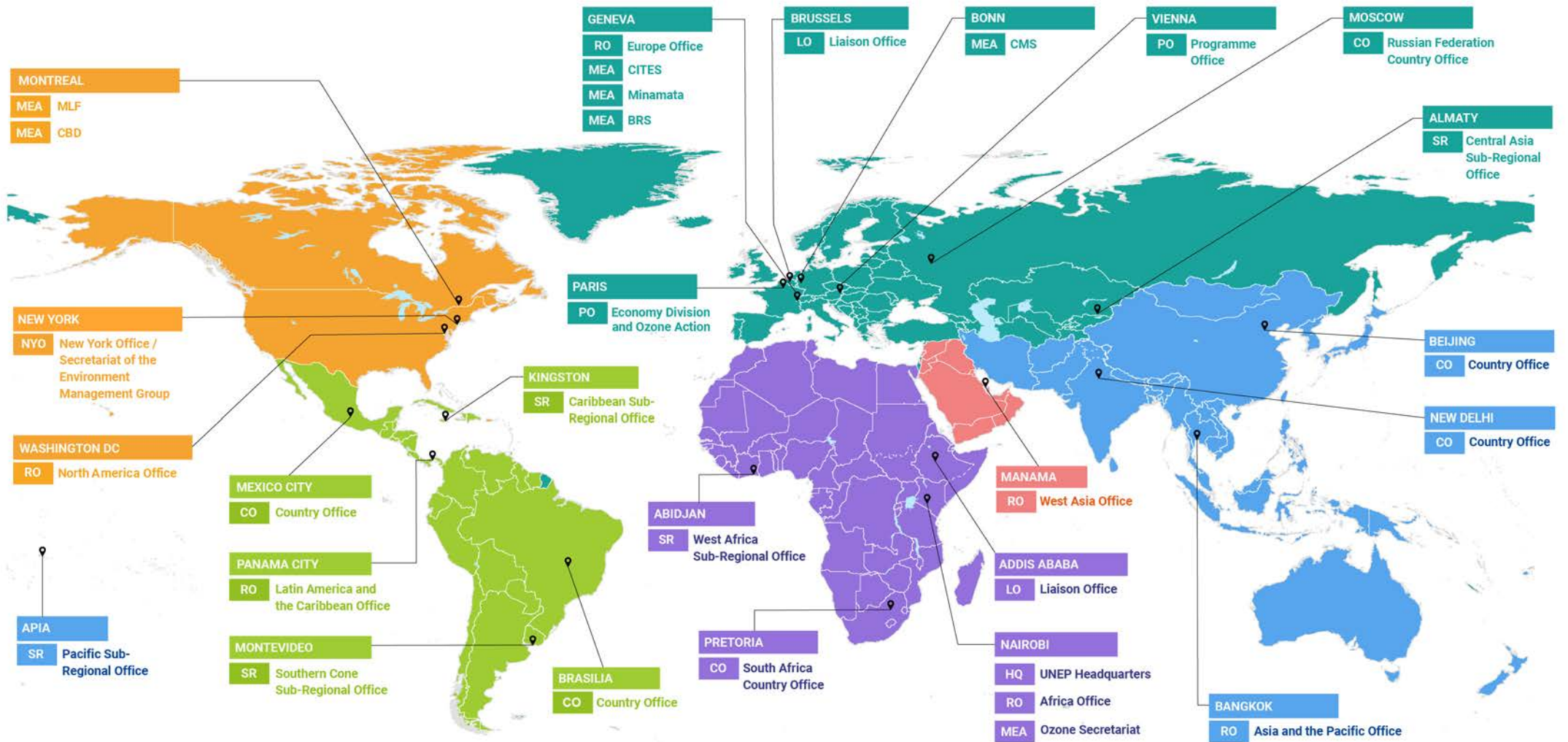
- Observations, monitoring, modelling and forecasting climate impact.
- Establishment of multi-hazard early warning systems.

- **Environment and Climate Knowledge Management and Outreach**

- Providing access to national, regional and global reporting systems via the World Environment Situation Room (WESR).
- Providing access to 85,000+ articles via the Online Access to Research on the Environment platform.
- National statistical and knowledge management capacity support.



Annex III UNEP's Regional and Country Presence



HQ	Headquarters	NYO	New York Office
RO	Regional Office	SR	Sub-Regional Office
CO	Country Office	PO	Programme Office
LO	Liaison Office	MEA	Multilateral Environmental Agreement

Global Multilateral Environment Agreements Secretariats

BRS	: Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions
CBD	: Convention on Biological Diversity
CMS	: Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals
CITES	: Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species
MLF	: Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of Montreal Protocol
Minamata	: Minamata Convention on Mercury
Ozone Secretariat	: Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer

