



UNEP@50

Toolkit



Join us in celebrating the 50th anniversary of the United Nations Environment Programme

At the online meeting of the [fifth United Nations Assembly](#) on 22-23 February 2021, [Member States decided](#) to convene a special session to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). UNEP was established as a result of the 1972 [UN Conference on the Human Environment](#) in Stockholm, which made the environment a pressing global issue for the first time.

This historic milestone, known as UNEP@50, will be commemorated from 3 to 4 March 2022, immediately after the resumed session of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA 5.2), which will take place from 28 February to 2 March.

Furthermore, from 2 to 3 June 2022, an international meeting called "Stockholm+50: a healthy planet for the prosperity of all – our responsibility, our opportunity" (Stockholm+50) will be convened in Stockholm, Sweden, [as decided by the UN General Assembly](#) at its 75th session. The General Assembly concluded that the international meeting should mutually reinforce UNEP@50, avoiding overlap and duplication.

In the lead-up to UNEP@50, we encourage Member States to join the commemoration by showcasing their solutions, activities and achievements on critical environmental issues.

Why take part?

For the past half-century, UNEP has coordinated a worldwide effort with our Member States to address the world's biggest environmental challenges.

We have come together to fix the ozone layer, phase out leaded fuel and stop endangered species from going extinct - to name just a few of our achievements. Our convening power has provided a platform for countries to engage, act boldly and advance the global environmental agenda.

Our Member States are vital partners in formulating UNEP's policy, implementing our programme and championing solutions to our shared environmental challenges.

[Member States](#) provide core funding to UNEP through the [Environment Fund](#) - the bedrock for our work worldwide, as we support countries to deliver on the environmental dimensions of the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#).

By contributing their fair share, countries honour their commitment to global environmental action in solidarity with their fellow nations and with nature.

UNEP@50 provides an opportunity to reinvigorate international cooperation and spur collective action to address the triple planetary crisis of climate change, nature and biodiversity loss, and pollution and waste.

No country or continent can solve the global crisis alone. But each nation has a crucial role to play in protecting our people and planet. We encourage you to tell your stories and inspire others to help transform our relationship with nature.



The focus for UNEP@50

UNEP@50 will focus on how to further strengthen UNEP's foundation of science and governance by strengthening:

- UNEP's work to promote the environmental science-policy interface to support the evidence needs of reinvigorated multilateral policies and systems, in line with the [Steering Committee's](#) recommendations on the future of the Global Environment Outlook.
- UNEP's role as a catalyst for implementing environment agreements as part of the 2030 Agenda by promoting an environmental governance system informed by multi-stakeholder partnerships to shape inclusive multilateralism where the power to change is shared across all sectors of society.
- UNEP's role as the global environmental authority within the UN system and elevating its Nairobi Headquarters as the global hub for the environment.
- UNEP's financial capacity to fulfil its mandate and carry out its approved [Medium-Term Strategy, mandate and Programme of Work](#).

What can YOU do to celebrate UNEP@50?

Get involved in UNEP@50 and show how your Government has been part of the global efforts to advance environmental protection by sharing your success stories.

Here is how you can join the commemoration and raise your voice for nature:

In the lead up to the UNEP@50 commemoration, you can:

- Use the hashtag #UNEP50 to join the online conversation.
- Post success stories on your website and social channels and share these with your UNEP Regional Information Officers (see Annex for contact details).

- Work with your UNEP Regional Information Officers to place feature articles, opinion pieces or expert interviews in local and global media outlets.
- Share stories on your web and social channels on how your country has partnered with UNEP and/or what UNEP has meant to your country these last 50 years.
- Produce factsheets, studies and other resources on critical environmental issues in your community, city, region or country. See UNEP's [resources](#) for the latest science and data.
- Develop and share social media cards featuring quotes from local or national celebrities, experts or Ministers on the importance of tackling the triple planetary crisis. Download the UNEP@50 templates [here](#).

During the UNEP@50 commemoration from 3 to 4 March 2022, you can:

- Follow the event virtually. More details will be shared closer to the date.
- Follow UNEP's social media accounts and [YouTube channel](#) for live updates on UNEP@50 and share the news on your digital accounts.
- Announce a commitment of funding or new environmental policy development in your city, region or country.



What UNEP will do to help spread the word

- UNEP will amplify your stories, testimonials and messaging on our digital platforms.
- Starting in October 2021, you will have access to social media assets, digital interactive tools and much more to help you spread the word on UNEP@50 in the lead-up to the event from 3 to 4 March 2022 and beyond. Visit the Trello board [here](#).
- UNEP has researched environmental milestones over the last 50 years and is producing a series of stories published bi-weekly on the UNEP website. These include video features, text pieces, interactives and other creative content. Check the UNEP@50 [webpage](#) regularly and share the stories on your digital platforms.

UNEP@50 logo

- Member States are encouraged to promote UNEP@50 using the official logo.
- The UNEP@50 logo in various languages and instructions on usage can be found [here](#).

Annex: UNEP@50 key messages

General

- Climate change, nature and biodiversity loss and pollution and waste add up to three self-inflicted [triple planetary crises](#) that are closely interconnected and put the well-being of current and future generations at unacceptable risk.
- Ambitious and coordinated action by governments, businesses and people globally can prevent and reverse the worst impacts of environmental decline by rapidly transforming key systems, including energy, water and food, so our use of the land and oceans becomes sustainable.

- Transforming social and economic systems means improving our relationship with nature, understanding its value and putting that value at the heart of our decision-making.
- Science is fundamental to providing answers to some of the most pressing sustainability issues of the 21st century and ensuring evidence-based decision-making and policies.

UNEP's role

- For 50 years, UNEP has provided leadership in caring for the environment by informing, enabling and inspiring nations and people to improve their quality of life – without compromising future generations.
- UNEP provides scientific solutions and guidance on sound policies and effective environmental laws to promote human and planetary health.
- UNEP builds the capacity of its Member States to achieve sustainable results across science-policy, law and governance and technological innovation.
- As the leading global authority on the environment, UNEP is the only global actor with the mandate and capacity to bring together nations, thought leaders, businesses and civil society to tackle the greatest environmental challenges of our time.
- Through its [campaigns](#), UNEP raises awareness and advocates for effective action on critical environmental challenges.
- Within the UN family, UNEP is the voice for the environmental dimension of sustainable development. UNEP will take the opportunity of [UN Development System Reform](#) to extend its reach as the global environmental authority to support all Member States in their pursuit of the [Sustainable Development Goals](#).



Unsustainable development is rapidly degrading Earth's capacity to sustain human well-being

Over the last 50 years, the global economy has grown nearly fivefold, due largely to a tripling in the extraction of natural resources and energy that has fueled growth in production and consumption.

The world is failing to meet its commitments to limit environmental damage

- The world is on track for warming of at least 3°C above pre-industrial levels by 2100. That means missing the Paris Agreement target to keep warming well below 2°C and try to limit the increase to 1.5°C in order to avoid the worst impacts.
- Urgent collective action is needed to tackle the triple planetary crisis the world faces of climate change, nature and biodiversity loss, pollution and waste.

Environmental decline is eroding progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals

- Environmental change is undermining progress on ending poverty and hunger, providing clean water and sanitation, reducing inequalities, promoting sustainable economic growth, and peaceful and inclusive societies.
- The right to a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment is legally recognized in 155 countries. A healthy environment is integral to the full enjoyment of a wide range of human rights, including the rights to health, food, water, and sanitation.

Earth's interrelated environmental emergencies must be addressed together

- The interconnected nature of climate change, biodiversity loss, land degradation, and air and water pollution means they must be addressed together to maximize benefits and minimize trade-offs.

Human knowledge, ingenuity, technology and cooperation can transform societies and economies and secure a sustainable future

- System-wide transformation can achieve well-being for all within the Earth's capacity to support life, provide resources and absorb waste. Transformation involves a fundamental change in the technological, economic and social organization of society, including world- views, norms, values and governance.

Transformed economic and financial systems can power the shift to sustainability

- Governments should incorporate full natural capital accounting into decision-making and incentivize businesses to do the same. Yardsticks such as inclusive wealth are superior to gross domestic product for measuring sustainable economic progress.
- Governments should include natural capital in measures of economic performance. They should put a price on carbon, phase out harmful subsidies, and redirect some of the more than US\$5 trillion in annual subsidies to fossil fuels; non-sustainable agriculture and fishing; nonrenewable energy; mining, and transportation to support low-carbon and nature-friendly solutions.

Everyone has a part to play in the transformation to a sustainable future

- All actors have individual, complementary and nested roles to play in bringing about cross-sectoral and economy-wide transformative change with immediate and long-term impact.
- Individuals can facilitate transformation by learning about sustainability, exercising their voting and civic rights, changing their diets and travel habits, not wasting food and resources, and reducing their water and energy consumption.

- Through international cooperation, policies and legislation, governments can lead the transformation of our societies and economies.
- The private sector, financial institutions, labour organizations, scientific and educational bodies, media, households and civil society groups can initiate and lead transformations in their domains.



Annex: Useful resources websites/tools

UNEP@50 web presence:

www.unep.org/unep-50

UNEP@50 timeline:

www.unep.org/who-we-are/about-us/environmental-moments-unep50-timeline

UNEP@50 anniversary video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GDfXFv6JIU8>

UNEP@50 Trello board with digital assets:

<https://trello.com/b/b6iULwv7/unep-50>

Stockholm+50 website:

<https://www.stockholm50.global/>

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