

QUARTERLY REPORT

to the 156th Meeting of the

COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES

UN 
environment
programme

50 
1972-2022



*Marine litter and plastic pollution
(Photo courtesy: unsplash)*

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1. SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS

DELIVERY IN THE COVID-19 CONTEXT

COVID-19 continued to impact some project implementation activities, particularly in relation to the ongoing Global Environment Facility (GEF) projects. UNEP is working to mitigate this impact. Having established remote-working modalities in duty stations, and increasingly hybrid modalities, UNEP continues to operate and deliver on its mandate. While mitigation measures have proven helpful, there are some limitations to virtual settings, including connectivity issues, challenges in evaluating the effectiveness of virtual trainings and loss of opportunity for building relationships.

GREENING RECOVERY

COVID-19 has reinforced existing inequalities within and between countries. The [Global Recovery Observatory](#) tracks and assesses the potential environmental (climate, nature and pollution), social and economic impacts of COVID-19 spending policies. It provides policymakers with inspiration and examples of green-recovery spending to build back better through a live database of COVID-19-related government spending in 89 economies, with over 7,500 policies. By July 2021, only 21 per cent of recovery spending and only 3 per cent of total spending had positive green characteristics. This contrasts with 2020, where 3,500 policies in the 50 largest economies demonstrated green characteristics in 18 per cent of recovery spending and 2.5 per cent of total spending.

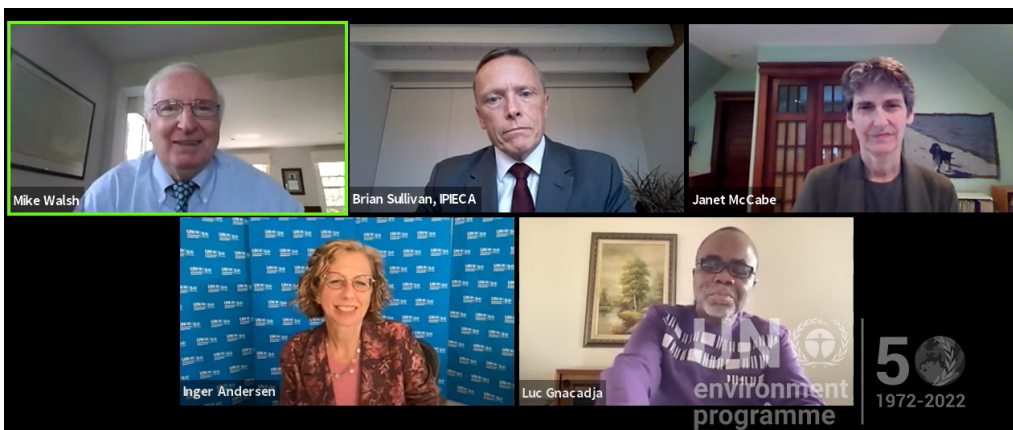
GLOBAL DEVELOPMENTS

High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

The High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), held from 6 to 15 July 2021, focused on a sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. The former President of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA), H.E. Mr. Sveinung Rotevatn, Minister of Climate and Environment of Norway, conveyed UNEA's main messages and presented its contributions to the HLPF. UNEP hosted six side events on sustainable consumption and production; public health and climate change; higher education for sustainability; a job-rich green recovery; and circularity and mineral governance. UNEP's strong presence drove home the environmental dimensions of recovery and the importance of integrated solutions to the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution.

The global end of leaded petrol

In July, Algeria became the last country in the world to phase out the use of lead additives in petrol. This important milestone, which marked the global elimination of leaded petrol, was officially announced at a high-level [press conference](#) on 30 August 2021. It is the culmination of a 20-year campaign led by UNEP and its partners. It is estimated that banning the use of leaded petrol will prevent more than 1 million premature deaths per year. More information is available [here](#).



Global end to leaded petrol - zoom meeting held in August 2021 (Photo courtesy: UNEP/ Economy Division).



International Day of Clean Air for blue skies highlights links between human and planetary health (Photo courtesy: pixabay)

International Day of Clean Air for blue skies

[International Day of Clean Air for blue skies](#)

took place on 7 September 2021. This year's commemoration was a [reminder](#) that healthy air and a healthy planet go hand in hand. UNEP hosted a [flagship event](#) in Nairobi, and events in Bangkok and New York. Over 62 partner activities were hosted across the world. UNEP launched its [Pollution Dashboard](#). Digital billboards around Nairobi started to live-stream [real-time air pollution](#) in an effort to increase air-quality awareness among the city's 4.7 million inhabitants, as part of an out-of-home media initiative by UNEP in collaboration with IQAir, Safaricom, Alpha and Jam Ltd, and Metropolitan Star Lite Ltd.

In the lead-up to the day, two reports were launched. The [First Global Assessment of Air Pollution Legislation](#) presents the findings of a study of air-quality legislation. It reveals that [one in three countries have no legally-mandated outdoor air quality standards](#). Meanwhile, [Actions on Air Quality](#) reveals that while more countries have adopted policies on all major polluting sectors, significant gaps remain [in implementation, financing, capacity and monitoring](#). In addition, during the [Regional Event of the International Day of Clean Air in Latin America and the Caribbean](#), the [Actions on Air Quality in Latin America and the Caribbean](#) report was presented.

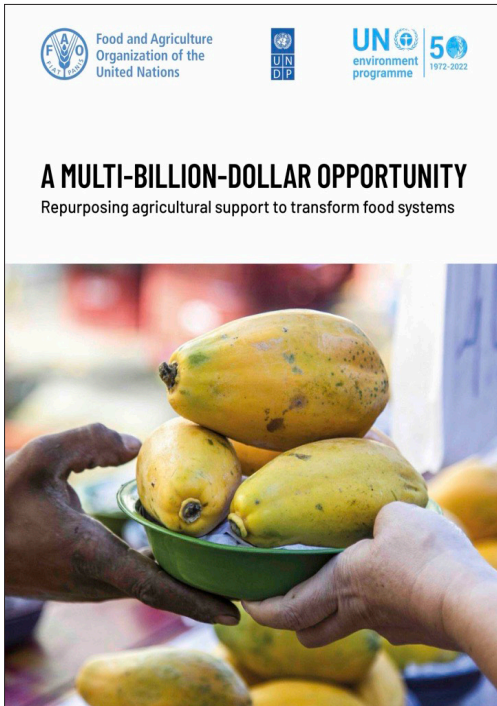
Stockholm+50: a healthy planet for the prosperity of all – our responsibility, our opportunity

On 10 September 2021, the UN General Assembly (UNGA) adopted resolution [A/RES/75/326: Stockholm+50: a healthy planet for the prosperity of all – our responsibility, our opportunity](#). UNEP will serve as the focal point for this landmark Stockholm+50 International Meeting scheduled for 2 to 3 June 2022. The Executive Director of UNEP was appointed Secretary-General of the meeting.

Seventy-sixth session of the UN General Assembly

At the seventy-sixth UNGA held from 14 to 30 September 2021, several prominent events drew world leaders, including the UN Food Systems Summit and the High-level Dialogue on Energy. UNEP attracted significant attention to environmental issues.

At the [UN Food Systems Summit](#), more than 100 Member States, companies and foundations committed to addressing the critical need for a complete overhaul of our food systems. The Secretary-General's Chair Summary and Statement of Action on the UN Food Systems Summit, *Inclusive and Transformative Food Systems Nourish Progress to Achieve Zero Hunger*, is available [here](#). As Chair of the UN System Task Team, UNEP will play an important role in the follow-up to the



International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste

As the world marked the second [International Day of Awareness on Food Loss and Waste](#) on 29 September 2021, the United Nations called for stronger action to end the culture of throwing away uneaten food and in doing so, help to address the triple planetary crisis of climate change, nature loss and pollution. UNEP developed [Q&As](#), and a [short video](#) with tips on how to prevent household food waste.

Ministerial Conference on Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution

The [Ministerial Conference on Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution](#) took place in Geneva from 1 to 2 September 2021, in the lead-up to the second part of the fifth session of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA). The Ministerial Statement of the meeting is available [here](#).

Circular economy

The [first high-level meeting of the Global Alliance on Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency \(GACERE\)](#) was held on 4 September 2021 as a side event of the World Circular Economy Forum. GACERE is an alliance of governments at the global level, supported by stakeholders, willing to work together on and advocate for a global, just circular economy transition and more sustainable management of natural resources, at the political level and in multilateral forums. GACERE is exploring circularity as a strategy to tackle biodiversity loss, climate change and support a green recovery.

Summit. During the Summit, a joint publication by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and UNEP, titled [A Multi-Billion-Dollar Opportunity: Repurposing agricultural support to transform food systems](#), was launched. It calls for governments to rethink the way agriculture is subsidized and presents six steps that policymakers can take to develop agricultural support repurposing strategies. At the Pre-Summit of the UN Food Systems Summit, held in July 2021, UNEP organized [different events](#) to present innovative practices for creating sustainable food systems.

Over 130 Heads of State and government and global leaders from business and other sectors participated in the [High-level Dialogue on Energy](#). It was the first global gathering on energy under the auspices of the UNGA since the UN Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy was held in Nairobi in 1981. As part of voluntary commitments called Energy Compacts, over \$400 billion in new finance and investment for clean energy was announced. A major outcome of the Dialogue is the [global road map](#) recently issued by UN Secretary-General António Guterres.



Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions

The [conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm conventions](#), met back-to-back and online from 26 to 30 July 2021 under the theme, “Global Agreements for a Healthy Planet: Sound management of chemicals and waste”. The online segment adopted interim programmes of work and budgets for 2022 for the three conventions, a decision to resume the meetings during a face-to-face segment in Geneva from 6 to 17 June 2022, and an agreement to continue intersessional work under the conventions in 2022.

Multi-Partner Trust Fund on Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 12

The Steering Committee of the Multi-Partner Trust Fund on [SDG 12](#), coordinated by the 10 Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns (10YFP) Secretariat, met in September to discuss the strategic positioning of the Fund beyond 2022, as a catalyst for global action on sustainable consumption and production. The Committee decided to develop a strategy to revitalize the fund as a key mechanism for supporting SDG 12, guided by the Member States, and for building on the experience of the pilot projects, focusing on a resource-intensive sector of food and agriculture as well as buildings and construction.

International Consultation for Major Groups and Stakeholders

The International Consultation for Major Groups and Stakeholders took place from 7 to 9 September 2021. Major groups and stakeholders prepared inputs, core

messages and positions for UNEA 5.2, UNEP@50 and Stockholm+50 and the eighth Annual Subcommittee meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR). The meeting report and statement is available [here](#).

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

AFRICA

The eighteenth session of the [African Ministerial Conference on the Environment \(AMCEN\)](#) was held virtually from 13 to 16 September 2021. It endorsed common regional positions for the [fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties \(COP\) to the Convention on Biological Diversity \(CBD\)](#) and [UNFCCC COP26](#); urged African Member States to participate in the resumed [fifth session of UNEA](#); and agreed to support [UNEP@50](#). An [online platform](#) for the [Africa Green Stimulus Programme](#) was launched. Prior to the meeting, major African groups and stakeholders convened on 10 September 2021 to discuss and finalize a statement to be presented to AMCEN.

The [African Union Green Recovery Action Plan](#) was launched on 15 July 2021. It aims to contribute to the realization of [recovery plans for African Member States](#) and regional programmes, including the [Africa Green Stimulus Programme](#).

ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

The commemoration of the second International Day of Clean Air for blue skies for Asia and the Pacific was observed on 7 September 2021, under the framework of the UN Issue-based Coalition (IBC) on Climate Change Mitigation and Air Pollution, in collaboration with the Republic of Korea Embassy in Thailand. Over 100 participants from 42 countries and organizations attended the event (590 views through livestreaming). The Executive Director of UNEP emphasized promoting the green economy and green recovery for mitigating polluted air. The UN agencies in the IBC on Climate Change Mitigation and Air Pollution are working on supporting Member States on a regional-level intergovernmental mechanism and a regional clean air fund to address air pollution.

The [100 Days to #BeatPlasticPollution Campaign](#) was launched in September in partnership with the **Clean Seas Campaign**. It

aims to raise awareness in South-East Asia on plastic pollution and public support for policies to change plastic value chain management. In the same month, the Clean Seas Campaign 2.0 [curtain-raiser](#) was launched for World Rivers Day to highlight the role of freshwater bodies in transporting plastic waste into the ocean.

EUROPE

Thanks to a GEF-funded UNEP project, [Achieving Biodiversity Conservation through Creation, Effective Management and Spatial Designation of Protected Areas and Capacity Building](#), initiated in 2016, the Shar Mountain National Park was created in Northern Macedonia. With a land area of 627.05 km², the national park is the final piece for one of the largest transboundary protected areas in Europe. Montenegro also approved the country's second marine protected area in September 2021.

A conference on sustainable finance with the support of UNEP, the [Ecumene 2021 Congress](#), took place in Moscow on 29 to 30 September 2021. Both high-level and technical discussions took place, tackling all relevant sustainable finance issues in the run-up to COP26. More information is available [here](#).

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Under the Presidency of Costa Rica, and with the support of UNEP as the Secretariat, high-level officers of all the Ministries of Environment of the region convened in September 2021, to discuss: advances in the implementation of the workplan of the Forum of Ministers of Environment; the proposal to hold UNEA 5.2 consultations at the regional level; and the celebration of a special session of the Forum in January 2022 prior to UNEA and the commemoration of UNEP@50. The outcome document for the meeting is available [here](#).

NORTH AMERICA

The [World Circular Economy Forum \(WCEF\)](#), hosted by Canada from 13 to 15 September 2021, drew nearly 9,000 participants from 160 countries. It focused on the “game changers” that businesses, policymakers, civil society, and others can pursue to unlock transformational change at the systemic level, and considered the perspectives of indigenous peoples, youth and informal workers. UNEP contributed to sessions on [climate and biodiversity](#), [small and medium-sized enterprises \(SMEs\)](#), and [plastics](#), and hosted Accelerator Sessions on [financing circular economy](#) and [accelerating sustainability in the textile value chain](#).

UNEP and the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) renewed their five-year memorandum of understanding in September 2021. The agreement strengthens environmental governance; the creation of healthy communities; the transition towards green economies; and responses to climate change and other global environmental challenges. The new agreement also established new areas of cooperation to address the disproportionate impacts of environmental challenges on underserved and vulnerable communities.

On 18 September 2021, the United States of America and European Union (EU) announced the Global Methane Pledge, an initiative to commit countries to reducing methane emissions by 30 per cent by 2030 compared with 2020 levels. The initiative also asks countries to improve methodologies for quantifying these emissions. The United States of America, EU and seven other countries currently supporting the Pledge account for more than 20 per cent of all fugitive methane emissions.

2. PROGRAMME OF WORK IMPLEMENTATION

2.1 CLIMATE CHANGE¹

2.1.1 Key highlights

UNEP, in partnership with UNDP, launched a new \$9 million GEF-funded project in South Sudan, [Strengthening the Capacity of Government and Communities in South Sudan to Adapt to Climate Change](#). The project will pilot disaster management, ecosystem-based adaptation, and climate-smart agriculture.

UNEP will support Uganda's Ministry of Water and Environment to implement a new GEF-funded climate adaptation project, [Reducing the Climate Change Vulnerability of Local Communities in Uganda through Ecosystem-Based Adaptation \(EbA\) in Forest and Wetlands Ecosystems](#). The project will improve the livelihoods of communities living in wetland systems.

The Government of Ghana, supported by UNEP through the [Nationally Determined Contribution \(NDC\) Action project](#), secured an additional \$250,000 of funding to take forward key adaptation finance recommendations on implementation of climate-resilient and low-carbon development.

The Adaptation Fund launched a [new programme](#) which will foster innovation of adaptation practices in vulnerable countries. The UNEP Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN) and UNDP are administering the grants. Also, in the CTCN, the third call for applications is now open until 30 April 2022.

In August 2021, UNEP launched a report on [The State of Gender Equality and Climate Change in Cambodia](#). It provides country-specific recommendations on how to enhance gender-responsive policy implementation and further



Climate change

bolster the integration of gender equality in climate-relevant policy areas.

UNEP successfully brought together about 100 experts and more than 900 participants during [Asia-Pacific Climate Week 2021](#). They discussed and developed a set of solution-oriented recommendations for seizing transformation opportunities for healthy urban environments, inclusive transport and mobility, and sustainable energy systems.

Uganda [joined the UNEP-hosted Climate and Clean Air Coalition \(CCAC\)](#). Uganda aims to improve air-pollution monitoring while heightening the ambition of their NDCs by reducing short-lived climate pollutants, with a focus on the transportation, energy and industry sectors.

The [First Assessment of Short-Lived Climate Pollutant \(SLCP\) Emissions and Mitigation Opportunities](#) in the Dominican Republic was published in September. The Dominican Republic, a partner under the UNEP Climate and Clean Air Coalition, updated its climate-change commitment of acknowledging the importance of actions on SLCPs and local air pollution, and the health benefits of climate-change action.





Uganda joined the UNEP-hosted Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) in August 2021 (Kampala, Uganda – Photo credit: Lauren Parnell Marino)

2.1.2 Main opportunities, challenges and responses

Opportunities and successes from diverse actors demonstrate that implementation of empirical NDCs provides a ready source of data that can enhance NDC implementation policies/incentives.

COVID-19 is still causing some delays and uncertainty in project implementation. The Myanmar National Adaptation Plan and National Designated Authority capacity-building project have been suspended due to political challenges.

2.2 RESILIENCE TO DISASTERS AND CONFLICTS

2.2.1 Key highlights

A Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) on [Climate Change, Peace and Security: Understanding Climate-Related Security Risks Through an Integrated Lens](#) was launched in August 2021. It covers interlinkages between climate change, peace and security, and opportunities for promoting inclusive climate action, conflict prevention and peacebuilding. The course was developed with the Climate Security Mechanism, a partnership comprising UNEP, UNDP and the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA).

UNEP also supported data analysis on climate security in Northern Central America (El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras), while climate security analysis work is under way in the Horn of Africa and thematic research on risks to the blue economy is being carried out for Somalia. An integrated environmental assessment for Mali, which UNEP is working on in partnership with UNDP, is also in development.

Following a response mission involving UNEP to assist Sri Lanka in managing [the X-Press Pearl shipwreck](#), a detailed assessment was submitted to national authorities. It covers the impacts on fisheries and wildlife, and actions on clean-ups and strengthening maritime disaster management capacity. It has also supported Sri Lanka's engagement with the shipowners and insurers over the incident, which is the biggest environmental catastrophe to hit Sri Lanka since the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami.

A UNEP-led team was dispatched to Haiti following the earthquake of 14 August 2021. The disaster came on top of a political crisis, ongoing humanitarian challenges and the COVID-19 pandemic, and impacted the same area hit by Hurricane Matthew in 2016. The team supported the UN Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator and national authorities with a joint needs assessment and analysis, and ensured



the integration of environmental considerations at the earliest stages of the humanitarian response.

As part of UNEP's environmental cooperation support to Afghanistan and Tajikistan, a study tour to the Panj/Upper Amu Darya basin was held for 12 experts from both countries in August 2021. The expedition covered biodiversity management initiatives in the Pamir Mountains, community-based livelihoods and ecosystem restoration, and renewable energy investments.

2.2.2 Main opportunities, challenges and responses

In Afghanistan, UNEP's support has included assisting the creation of a National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA) and the country's first protected areas, as well as pioneering adaptation work. UNEP is liaising with UN partners in efforts to safeguard development advances on the environment following recent developments in the country.

Work is in progress on the future mainstreaming of the current Resilience to Disasters and Conflicts subprogramme across the new programmatic pillars of Climate, Nature, Chemicals and Pollution, including the development of a new programme of work delivery framework.





A charred shipping container, one of more than 1,400 on-board the X-Press Pearl, is hauled off a beach in western Sri Lanka. Containers have surfaced up to 100km away from where the ship sank. (Photo credit: Sri Lanka Marine Environment Protection Authority)

2.3 HEALTHY AND PRODUCTIVE ECOSYSTEMS

2.3.1 Key highlights

In July 2021, a joint report by UNEP and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) titled [A Future for All: The Need for Human-Wildlife Coexistence](#) revealed that globally, conflict-related killing affects more than 75 per cent of the world's wildcat species, many other terrestrial and marine carnivore species such as polar bears and Mediterranean monk seals, and large herbivores such as elephants. The report calls on policymakers to consider the needs of communities when making decisions about conservation and land use, which would dramatically improve the prospects of several endangered species.

In July 2021, the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC)-coordinated [National Ecosystem Assessment Initiative \(NEA Initiative\)](#) organized a Lessons Learned workshop series, bringing together NEA countries such as Cambodia, Thailand and Viet Nam to share experiences and lessons in developing and implementing national ecosystem assessments.

In July 2021, UNEP organized a [discussion](#) on how Member States can support young people to learn, understand and develop an environmental mindset through formal and non-formal education. The event involved the Italian Presidency of the G20 and the Youth20 (Y20), and explored how higher education and capacity-building can accelerate the transition towards a green and circular economy and rewire the future.

[The Marine Protected Areas Outlook](#), a new publication by the Nairobi Convention and the Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association released in July 2021, documents progress made by countries in the region towards the achievement of SDG target 14.5, and provides lessons and opportunities to increase momentum for achieving post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework targets.



Healthy and Productive Ecosystems

In September 2021, UNEP and the International Coral Reef Initiative launched a [small grants programme](#) to support the conservation and restoration of coral reefs, mangroves and seagrass.

2.3.2 Main opportunities, challenges and responses

In response to Member States' call for UNEP to join the Tripartite Alliance for One Health (FAO, World Organization for Animal Health [OIE] and World Health Organization [WHO]), UNEP is increasingly engaged with the Tripartite Alliance in strengthening environmental dimensions of One Health approaches. On 8 September 2021, UNEP collaborated with FAO, OIE and WHO in organizing the Asia-Pacific Tripartite plus UNEP Webinar on ["Wildlife Health for One Health"](#). This was held in the lead-up to the ninth Asia-Pacific Workshop on Multisectoral Collaboration at the Animal-Human-Ecosystems Interface, scheduled for November 2021. Approximately 500 members of governments and other stakeholders engaged in discussing and sharing guidance, tools and experiences for improving wildlife health for One Health across the Asia-Pacific region.





Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



WORLD ORGANISATION
FOR ANIMAL HEALTH



World Health
Organization



UN
environment
programme

The Asia-Pacific Tripartite plus UNEP Webinar on Wildlife Health for One Health

8 September 2021 | 10:00 am (Bangkok time)



Register here:
<https://tinyurl.com/WildlifeHealth>

2.4 ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE²

2.4.1 Key highlights

At the [Inaugural International Union for Conservation of Nature \(IUCN\) Oceania Environmental Law Conference](#), UNEP presented its work on judicial capacity-building and an upcoming course for judges and lawyers. The conference also adopted an [outcomes statement](#) which will initially guide the environmental law agenda in the Pacific.

UNEP, the IUCN World Commission on Environmental Law and the Supreme Court of Justice of Mexico supported the organization of the [Inter-American Environmental Law Congress](#) held in preparation of the [IUCN World Environmental Law Congress](#).

UNEP issued a [thematic brief](#) that sets out the status of climate justice in Southeast Asia, and obstacles and opportunities for implementing climate justice in the subregion. During the [Southeast Asia's Challenges to Sustainable and Inclusive Development](#) event, UNEP disseminated the key messages on climate justice to its high-level panel on ensuring access to environmental justice for all.

Marine litter and plastics

In August 2021, UNEP initiated a [series of webinars on marine litter and plastics](#) aimed at gathering relevant stakeholders to share information and best practices and discuss challenges to address marine litter and plastic pollution in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Poverty-Environment Action for SDGs

In September 2021, Poverty-Environment Action and the German Corporation for International Cooperation (GIZ) jointly organized a webinar on "[How Green Bonds Are Financing Sustainable Development](#)". The [event](#) featured municipal and national leaders and experts from [Argentina](#), [Indonesia](#) and [South Africa](#) and



Environmental governance

focused on how green bonds are being accessed and utilized, and the importance of South-South Cooperation for exchange of best practices and lessons learned.

Faith for Earth

The Faith for Earth Initiative partnered with Yale University and the King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz International Centre for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue, resulting in the launch of a [comprehensive database](#) of faith-related projects and the issuance of a [policy brief on the role of faith in global environmental governance](#).

2.4.2 Main opportunities, challenges and responses

COVID-19 travel restrictions provided outreach opportunities through virtual events and meetings. This has largely increased participation. However, there are limitations to virtual capacity-building events, with impacts on networking and sharing of practical application of information.



2.5 CHEMICALS, WASTE AND AIR QUALITY

2.5.1 Key highlights

At its resumed sixth meeting held from 1 to 2 September 2021, the Executive Board of the Special Programme adopted a [recommendation](#) to UNEA to extend the duration of the Special Programme by five years, in accordance with paragraph 24 of the Terms of Reference adopted under UNEA resolution 1/5, and to include the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management and the sound management of chemicals and waste in the Special Programme beyond 2020. Such an extension would allow for contributions and applications for funding under the Special Programme to be submitted until September 2027, and, if approved by UNEA in 2022, would allow for disbursements to be made until 2030.

The Secretariat of the Bamako Convention supported Senegal to assess the impacts of importation of plastic waste by a German company, Hapag-Lloyd. Senegal ultimately decided to prevent the importation.

The Mercury Initial Assessment (MIA III) was completed in Burundi, Central African Republic, Congo Republic, Côte d'Ivoire and Gabon as part of implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury.

UNEP supported the [first-ever report of plastic pollution along the Mississippi River](#), which uses a citizen science approach to generate actionable information for policymakers and other stakeholders. The report was launched [on 15 September 2021](#).

On plastic pollution, [the Convention on Migratory Species-UNEP report on Impacts of Plastic Pollution on Migratory Species in the Asia and Pacific Region](#) concluded that species protected under the Convention on Migratory Species, including freshwater species, land



Chemicals, Waste and Air Quality

animals and birds, are impacted by plastic pollution. Migratory species are likely to be especially vulnerable given their increased chance of encountering and interacting with plastics during migration.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, the Expert Group on Marine Litter and Microplastics has been established following Decision 1 of the [Forum of Ministers of Environment](#). Nineteen governments have already joined. The [fourth International Course on Waste Management](#) was concluded, with 50 professionals from 18 countries in the region trained.

In July and August 2021, decision makers from Rwanda and Botswana committed to develop national e-waste management strategies, policies and regulations in meetings with UNEP and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) on the implementation of the circular economy for electronics project. Participating organizations included the Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA), the Rwanda Utilities Regulatory Authority (RURA), Rwanda's Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Infrastructure, Enviroserve, the Botswana Communications Regulatory Authority (BOCRA), and Botswana's Department of Waste Management and Pollution Control (DWMPC) and Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources Conservation and Tourism.





On clean air, over 500 delegates discussed how to build back better for healthy air and a healthy planet at the [third Asia Pacific Clean Air Partnership Joint Forum](#), held from 8 to 10 September 2021.

2.5.2 Main opportunities, challenges and responses

Enhanced partnerships between UNEP and the private sector supported the MIA III project on mercury, with the private sector contributing via stakeholder identification, national assessments and inventories.

The main challenge is the COVID-19 pandemic, which has made physical meetings impossible. Poor connectivity, power blackouts and other information technology-related issues have made virtual meetings difficult with some African countries.

Due to COVID-19, alternative approaches to data collection using technology are being used and events are being held virtually with designs to engage the audience.

2.6 RESOURCE EFFICIENCY

2.6.1 Key highlights

In September 2021, the Kuwait Environment Public Authority held a workshop where the country's **Sustainable Production and Consumption (SCP)** national assessment was adopted and its SCP national action plan was launched. UNEP supported the development of the national action plan.

On 13 to 17 September 2021, UNEP organized the [Sustainable Consumption Week of Latin America and the Caribbean](#). The [online event](#) involved sharing experiences on how to drive sustainable consumption and lifestyles by designing solutions to change consumer habits. The event attracted 1,365 participants from 45 countries within and outside the region. It provided useful intraregional and interregional peer exchange.

On 14 September 2021, a webinar on [Promoting Sustainable Food Consumption in Southeast and Northeast Asia through Farm-to-Fork Concept](#) was held under the SWITCH-Asia project. The webinar was live-streamed and attracted 1,750 attendees and viewers, of which 48 per cent were women and girls.



On 10 July 2021, a UNEP-supported report on [Primary Materials in the Emerging Circular Economy](#) was published, based on research by Canada's Smart Prosperity Institute. It focuses on mining and indicates that primary-material producers will need to better integrate themselves into the burgeoning circular economy. It also highlights the major barriers to promoting circularity in the industry; the need to develop policies and practices that support resource-producing countries to enhance sustainability across value chains; and the importance of partnerships for upstreaming circular economy innovation.

Sustainable Consumption Week of Latin America and the Caribbean

Transforming our consumption:
Promoting a sustainable recovery for the region

September 13-17, 2021

<http://semanadeconsumososteniblelac.com>

Logos: ONU, 50th Anniversary, UN Women, UN Women Foundation, **4 SDGs**, One planet, Donantes, and the European Union.

The banner features a grid of icons representing various sustainability themes: a hand holding a seedling, a bicycle, a lightbulb, a factory, a recycling symbol, a bicycle, a wind turbine, a lightbulb, a factory, a recycling symbol, a bicycle, a wind turbine.



Forty-four young professionals from 16 countries, of whom 23 were women, completed the training on "[Technology for a Circular Economy](#)" organized by UNEP from 6 to 8 September 2021.⁴

UNEP delivered [training](#) and supported the national procurement agencies in Georgia (29 July 2021), Ukraine (22 September 2021) and Moldova (29 September 2021) to make public procurement more sustainable through the EU4Environment project. The focus was on [prioritized products](#) to inform new legislation in Georgia, the [use of eco-labels for green public procurement](#) in Ukraine, and [green growth indicators](#) in Moldova.

2.6.2 Main opportunities, challenges and responses

Our unsustainable natural-resource use patterns and the economic systems which drive them are at the root of the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution. Worryingly, the [Global Recovery Observatory](#) shows that by mid-2021, only 21 per cent of recovery spending and 3 per cent of total spending had positive green characteristics. By favouring inclusive green-recovery approaches, the world can collectively and meaningfully accelerate the required transformation needed to achieve the SDGs.

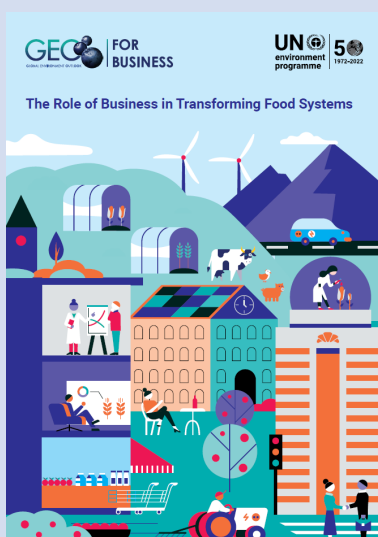
2.7 ENVIRONMENT UNDER REVIEW

2.7.1 Key highlights

On 22 September 2021, the [environmental indicators guidebook for Pacific Island countries](#) was launched with support from the UNEP and GEF Cross-cutting Capacity Development (CCCD) project under the Pacific Inform Project. The guidebook is a key resource that will help streamline the reporting Pacific Island countries' reporting obligations at the national, regional and international levels, particularly on Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), the state of the environment and the environmental dimension of SDGs.

The third Global Environment Outlook (GEO) for Business Brief entitled [The Role of Business in Transforming Food Systems](#) was launched on 16 September 2021 by UNEP and UNEP-WCMC.

UNEP supported **Maldives** to participate in the [Country Hydromet Diagnostics](#) assessment of the Maldives Meteorological Service, which informed the first [Hydromet Gap Report](#) launched by the [Alliance for Hydromet Development](#). The diagnostics allow for a more systematic approach to strengthening countries' hydromet capacity.



UNEP, together with the Institute of Geography of the Russian National Academy of Sciences (IGRAS), has rolled out the first in its series of [online training workshops](#). The capacity-building workshops focus on mapping and remote-sensing data interpretation. The four-day webinar trained participants from Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan on the principles and tools required for identifying different processes and skills required for Geographic Information System (GIS)-mapping and digital processing of remotely sensed data. The training involved practical exercises in GIS use, digital image processing, thematic mapping and data dissemination to the public.

UNEP also provided support for capacity development through the following training, events and webinars:

- the second Webinar on Data for Sustainable Development Goals dedicated to SDGs 13 and 14 organized on 21 September 2021 by UNEP and the Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Serbia;
- the review and integration of facets on environmental justice in the UN universal periodic review (UPR) report for the third cycle review of Uganda, with the final report culminating on 11 August 2021;

- a high-level presentation and technical training for English-speaking Caribbean countries on SDG indicator 12.c.1 (amount of fossil-fuel subsidies per unit of gross domestic product [GDP]), organized by UNEP in collaboration with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), on 23 and 24 September 2021;
- a [Digital Transformation Conference for Environmental Sustainability](#) in West Asia on 15 and 16 September 2021, exploring [clean technologies, digital tools and applications](#) that can be adopted in the region to tackle the triple planetary crisis;
- in Asia and the Pacific, the launch of the [Global Outlook on Ecology and Environment](#) curriculum in the fall semester of 2021 for undergraduate students at Tsinghua University, Beijing. The 32-hour course is based on GEO-6 and led by Tsinghua University, the Basel Convention and the Stockholm Convention Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific.

On September 2021, the United Nations launched its [United in Science 2021](#) report, a multi-organization high-level compilation of the latest climate science information. UNEP contributed to this report with a chapter on the greenhouse gas emissions gap, which provides a clear basis and way forward for helping countries make a difference at COP26.

The first phase of developing an **Atlas of Africa's Natural Capital**, got under way with the African Development Bank. Development of an annotated structure and content development of an **Africa Rangelands and Grasslands Atlas**, a flagship product request by AMCEN, also began.

2.7.2 Main opportunities, challenges and responses

An online consultation on the future of GEO was conducted from 4 to 15 October 2021, following a feasibility study that was conducted on options and alternatives for its financial, administrative and collaborative arrangements. This will inform the Steering Committee's final report which will be delivered to the resumed session of UNEA-5 (UNEA 5.2).

2.8 CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

Gender

Mainstreaming of gender in projects

From July to September 2021, the following reviews on gender-responsive project planning and development were conducted: 1) a review of nine project documents using the Gender Marker; of which six projects mainstreamed gender partially (66.7 per cent) and three mainstreamed gender fully (33.3 per cent); and 2) a review of 14 concept reviews and feedback provided through a Gender Comments report. Using the approved Checklist and Guidelines for mainstreaming Gender into UNEP publications, a total of 15 publications were reviewed for gender sensitivity and feedback was shared accordingly with the various proponents.

On 30 September 2021, at the Asia-Pacific Human Rights Working Group, UNEP co-led a briefing and discussion session on human rights, gender equality and COP26, in collaboration with UN Women and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).

UNEP and UN Women [brought together](#) experts from multiple segments of society during Asia-Pacific Climate Week 2021, who discussed and showcased examples of how science and policy can work together towards gender-responsive climate action, including examples of integrating gender in Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

Environmental and social safeguards

UNEP and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) launched the Child-centred Clean Air Solutions Guide for Asia and the Pacific Region in September 2021, at the [Third Asia Pacific Clean Air Partnership \(APCAP\) Joint Forum](#).

In July to September 2021, a total of 23 concepts and full projects were screened for environmental, social and economic types and levels of environmental, social and economic safeguards risks. Fifty-two per cent of the concepts/projects were rated moderate risk. Projects in the moderate-risk categories under the [UNEP Environmental, Social and Sustainability Framework](#) require risk mitigation measures and attention during the project implementation phase.



MAKING CONNECTIONS THAT MATTER: GENDER AND CLIMATE COMMITMENTS

JULY 9

6:45 AM Kathmandu
8:00 AM Bangkok, Hanoi, Phnom Penh
10:00 AM Tokyo

ENDNOTES

1. Linked to UNEP resolution UNEP/EA.2/Res.6, SDG targets 13.1, 13.2, 13.a and 13.b, and SDG indicator 13.3.2; UNEP/EA.3/Res.8, SDG targets 13.a and 13.b, and SDG indicators 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 and 17.17.1; and UNEP/EA.2/Res.6, SDG targets 13.a and 13.b, and SDG indicators 12.c.1, 13.3.2, 15.1.1, 15.2.1, 15.3.1, 15.6.1 and 17.17.1.
2. Highlights support for the implementation of UNEA resolutions 2/2, 2/5, 2/17, 2/19 and 2/21.
3. Germany, Argentina, Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Bahrain, Barbados, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Guatemala, Netherlands, Honduras, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Kenya, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Puerto Rico, Portugal, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Spain, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Trinidad and Tobago, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, and Venezuela.
4. Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam.

3. RESOURCES AND MANAGEMENT ISSUES

3.1 FINANCIAL UPDATE AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2021

Overview of income

FIGURE 1 Budget and Income January 2021 - September 2021

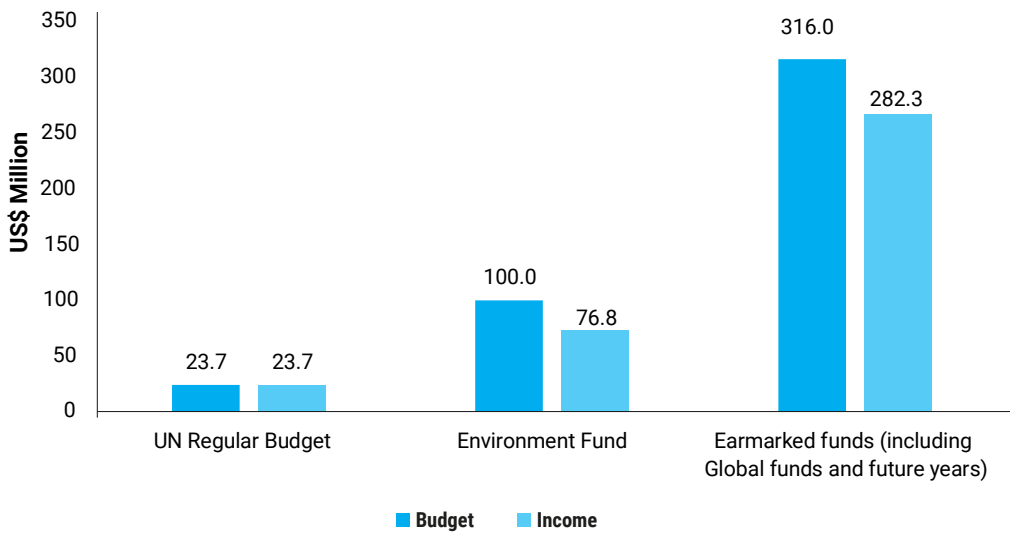
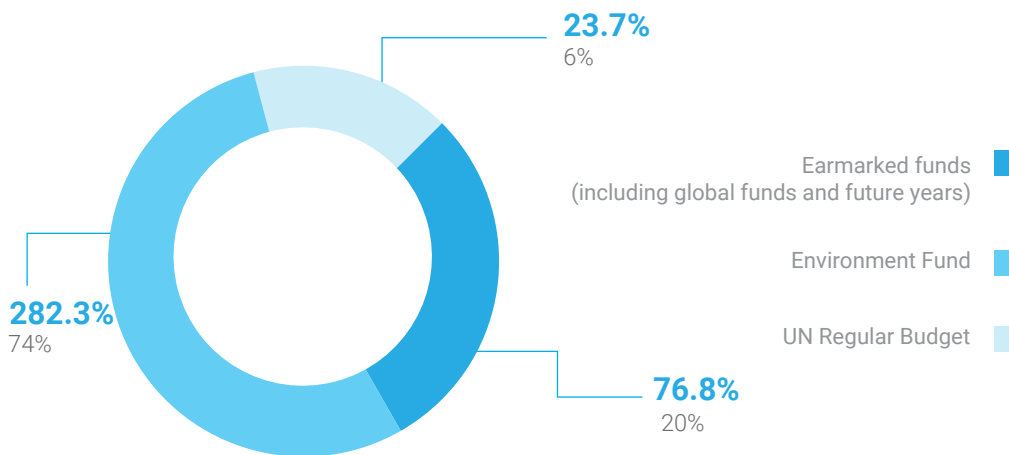


FIGURE 2 Income per Source of Fund (in US\$ Million) January 2021 - September 2021



Core funding

UN Regular Budget

The UN Regular Budget finances core work in science, capacity-building, management and oversight. Its appropriation is usually fully allotted in advance. However, due to continuing liquidity challenges, the allotments have been released in portions.

Environment Fund

The Environment Fund, the main source of unearmarked funds for UNEP, is critical to the organization's foundational work on science, policy and environmental law, which in turn supports work on addressing global climate, biodiversity and pollution challenges.

In the third quarter of 2021, the Environment Fund's income increased by 8 per cent compared with the same time in 2020 and amounted to 77 per cent of the approved 2021 budget.

The Environment Fund's budget is approved by the Member States, who are also responsible for its funding. Sixty-four Member States had pledged to the Environment Fund by 30 September 2021, with 32 having contributed their "fair share", as established by the Voluntary Indicative Scale of Contributions (VISC).

Between September 2020 and September 2021, the number of Member States contributing their "fair share" increased by 28 per cent, from 25 to 32 countries. Nevertheless, only 33 per cent of the total 193 Member States contributed.

Earmarked contributions

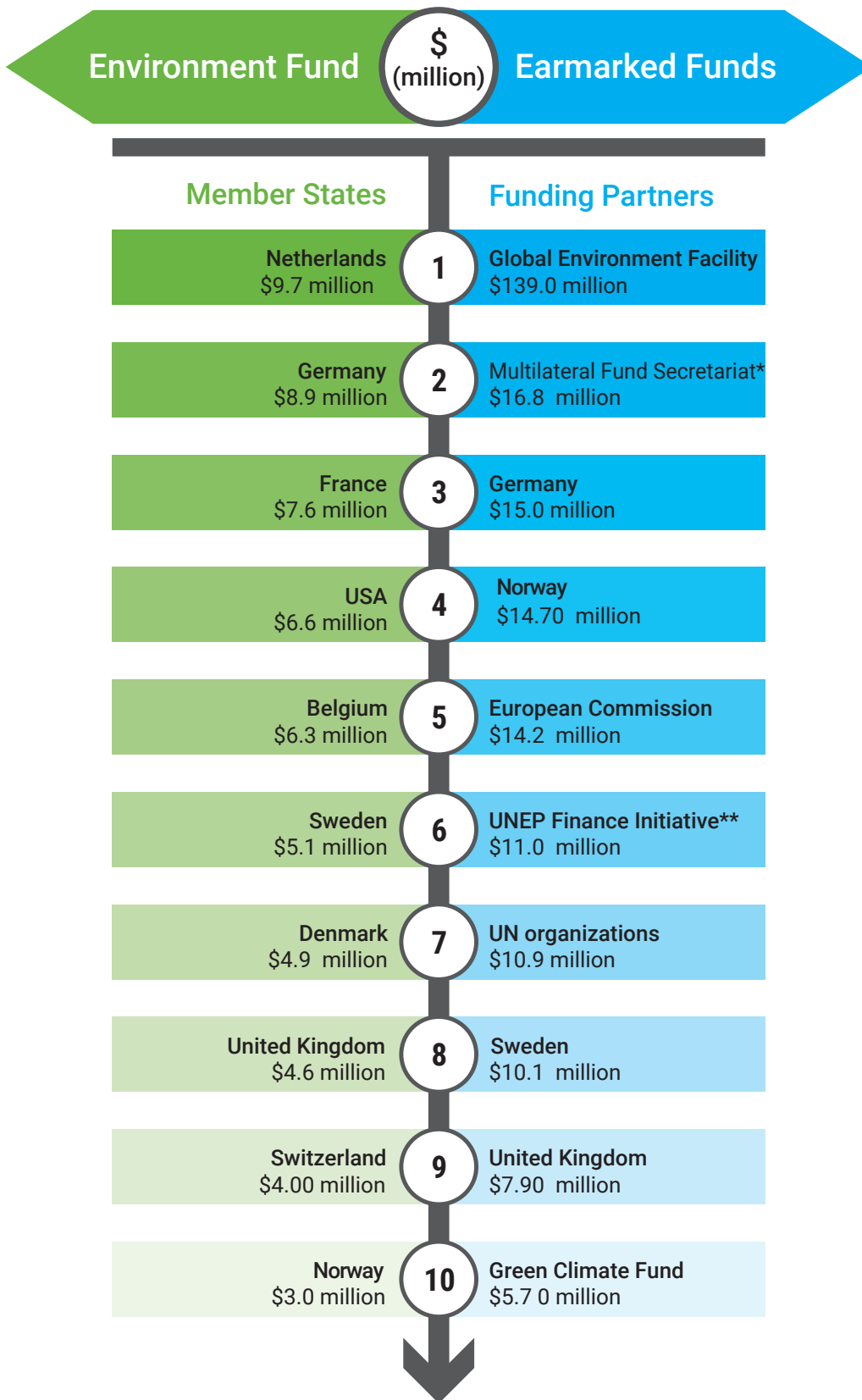
Earmarked contributions enable the scaling-up and replication of results of UNEP's core work, including capacity-building in more countries and with more partners. Where possible, UNEP encourages "soft earmarking" of funding, rather than tight earmarking, for example at the subprogramme level. This gives more flexibility in targeting funds to where they are most needed. It also reduces resources spent on administrative procedures and reporting requirements.

By 30 September 2021, the organization had received \$282.3 million in earmarked funds for the current and future years, against the budgeted amount of \$316 million. Nine per cent of this amount was "softly earmarked" funds provided mainly by Belgium, Norway and Sweden.

Member States that contributed their "fair share" as established by the VISC (January – September 2021)

| Paid | | | Pledged |
|----------|------------|--|----------------------------------|
| Albania | Georgia | Myanmar | Belgium |
| Bahrain | Germany | Norway | Brunei Darussalam |
| Barbados | Iceland | Slovenia | Dominican Republic |
| Belarus | Ireland | Somalia | Micronesia (Federated States of) |
| Cyprus | Jordan | Sweden | Netherlands |
| Denmark | Latvia | Switzerland | Saint Lucia |
| Fiji | Mauritius | Tuvalu | |
| Finland | Monaco | United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland | |
| France | Montenegro | | |

FIGURE 3 Top 10 Contributors to the Environment Fund (January 2021 - September 2021)



*These are funds from the Multilateral Fund Secretariat to implement Multilateral Fund activities.

**Partnership between UNEP and the global financial sector to mobilize private-sector finance for sustainable development.

3.2 STATUS OF ALLOCATIONS AND EXPENDITURE AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2021

| 2020-2021 core budgets – Programme of work (\$) | | | | | |
|---|--|--------------------|------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| | Functional area name | Environment Fund | Overhead trust account | Regular Budget | Grand total |
| A | Policymaking Organs | 4,000,000 | 20,000 | 423,200 | 4,443,200 |
| B. 1 | Executive Direction & Management | 7,200,000 | - | 6,751,900 | 13,951,900 |
| B. 2 | United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects on Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR) | - | - | 1,697,500 | 1,697,500 |
| | Subtotal A + B | 11,200,000 | 20,000 | 8,872,600 | 20,092,600 |
| C | Programme of Work | | | | - |
| 1. | Climate change | 22,200,000 | 7,200,000 | 4,522,300 | 33,922,300 |
| 2. | Resilience to disasters and conflicts | 15,600,000 | 1,000,000 | 3,089,400 | 19,689,400 |
| 3. | Healthy and productive ecosystems | 28,000,000 | 2,100,000 | 5,261,500 | 35,361,500 |
| 4. | Environmental governance | 26,200,000 | 2,100,000 | 9,197,800 | 37,497,800 |
| 5. | Chemicals, waste and air quality | 23,400,000 | 3,000,000 | 3,608,600 | 30,008,600 |
| 6. | Resource efficiency | 28,400,000 | 3,000,000 | 3,953,900 | 35,353,900 |
| 7. | Environment under review | 23,000,000 | 400,000 | 6,178,400 | 29,578,400 |
| | Subtotal C | 166,800,000 | 18,800,000 | 35,811,900 | 221,411,900 |
| D | Fund Programme Reserve | 10,000,000 | | | 10,000,000 |
| | Subtotal C + D | 176,800,000 | 18,800,000 | 35,811,900 | 231,411,900 |
| E | Programme Management and Other | | | | - |
| | Programme Support | 12,000,000 | 19,180,000 | 2,400,200 | 33,580,200 |
| | Subtotal E | 12,000,000 | 19,180,000 | 2,400,200 | 33,580,200 |
| | Total (A + B + C + D + E) | 200,000,000 | 38,000,000 | 47,084,700 | 285,084,700 |

| 2020-2021 core budgets – Allotments as at 30 September 2021 (\$) | | | | | |
|--|--|--------------------|------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| | Functional area name | Environment Fund | Overhead trust account | Regular Budget | Grand total |
| A | Policymaking Organs | 3,766,642 | - | 423,200 | 4,189,842 |
| B. 1 | Executive Direction & Management | 7,367,844 | | 6,436,387 | 13,804,231 |
| B. 2 | United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects on Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR) | - | - | 1,817,500 | 1,817,500 |
| | Subtotal A + B | 11,134,486 | | 8,677,087 | 19,811,573 |
| C | Programme of Work | - | | | |
| 1 | Climate change | 16,838,562 | 970,806 | 4,592,031 | 22,401,399 |
| 2 | Resilience to disasters and conflicts | 11,625,861 | 1,158,967 | 3,089,400 | 15,874,228 |
| 3 | Healthy and productive ecosystems | 21,072,040 | 2,468,581 | 5,267,636 | 28,808,257 |
| 4 | Environmental governance | 20,587,314 | 1,726,704 | 9,241,617 | 31,555,635 |
| 5 | Chemicals, waste and air quality | 17,631,885 | 1,613,122 | 3,684,429 | 22,929,436 |
| 6 | Resource efficiency | 21,080,938 | 2,471,155 | 3,953,900 | 27,505,993 |
| 7 | Environment under review | 17,135,161 | 504,405 | 6,178,400 | 23,817,966 |
| | Subtotal C | 125,971,761 | 10,913,740 | 36,007,413 | 172,892,914 |
| D | Fund Programme Reserve | 2,525,000 | - | - | 2,525,000 |
| | Subtotal C + D | 128,496,761 | 10,913,740 | 36,007,413 | 175,417,914 |
| E | Programme Management and Other | | | | |
| | Programme Support | 10,368,753 | 23,955,893 | 2,400,200 | 36,724,846 |
| | Subtotal E | 10,368,753 | 23,955,893 | 2,400,200 | 36,724,846 |
| | Total (A + B +C + D + E) | 150,000,000 | 34,869,633 | 47,084,700 | 231,954,333 |

| 2020-2021 core budgets – Expenditures as at 30 September 2021 (\$) | | | | | |
|--|--|--------------------|------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| | Functional area name | Environment Fund | Overhead trust account | Regular Budget | Grand total |
| A | Polycymaking Organs | 3,517,315 | - | 87,817 | 3,605,132 |
| B. 1 | Executive Direction & Management | 5,766,144 | - | 4,925,718 | 10,691,862 |
| B. 2 | United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects on Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR) | - | - | 1,472,794 | 1,472,794 |
| Subtotal A + B | | 9,283,459 | - | 6,486,328 | 15,769,787 |
| C | Programme of Work | | | | |
| 1. | Climate change | 14,262,897 | 1,086,674 | 3,643,702 | 18,993,272 |
| 2. | Resilience to disasters and conflicts | 9,339,162 | 997,523 | 2,313,106 | 12,649,791 |
| 3. | Healthy and productive ecosystems | 17,731,244 | 2,042,096 | 4,119,989 | 23,893,328 |
| 4. | Environmental governance | 15,764,624 | 1,551,801 | 7,498,917 | 24,815,343 |
| 5. | Chemicals, waste and air quality | 14,494,421 | 1,600,564 | 3,109,904 | 19,204,889 |
| 6. | Resource efficiency | 17,038,233 | 1,627,621 | 3,115,545 | 21,781,400 |
| 7. | Environment under review | 14,773,487 | 278,650 | 4,523,792 | 19,575,929 |
| | Subtotal C | 103,404,067 | 9,184,929 | 28,324,955 | 140,913,951 |
| D | Fund Programme Reserve | 1,261,058 | - | - | 1,261,058 |
| Subtotal C + D | | 104,665,126 | 9,184,929 | 28,324,955 | 142,175,009 |
| E | Programme Management and Other | | | | |
| | Programme Support | 8,595,475 | 18,899,304 | 2,061,079 | 29,555,858 |
| | Subtotal E | 8,595,475 | 18,899,304 | 2,061,079 | 29,555,858 |
| Total (A + B + C + D + E) | | 122,544,060 | 28,084,233 | 36,872,362 | 187,500,654 |

3.3 RESOURCE MOBILIZATION STRATEGY

The aim of UNEP's resource mobilization strategy is to secure funding for the implementation of the Medium Term Strategy (MTS) 2022-2025 and related programmes of work, including the work of the governing bodies, management, administration and oversight. The implementation plan for the strategy is built on strengthening the leadership and coordination of all resource mobilization functions in the Secretariat; focused action on various funding streams; and increased coordination, communication and reporting across all funding sources. The strategy and implementation plan are effective 1 July 2021.

3.4 HUMAN RESOURCES

General overview

As at 30 September 2021, UNEP employed 1,287 staff members consisting of 773 (60 per cent) in the professional and above categories, 8 (1 per cent) in the National Professional Officer (NPO) category and 506 (39 per cent) in the general-service category. These staff consist of 780 women (61 per cent) and 507 men (39 per cent).

Senior-level staff (UNEP Secretariat and MEAs)

Total staff at grade P-5 and above as at 30 September 2021

| Level | USG | ASG | D-2 | D-1 | P-5 |
|--------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| No. of staff | 1 | 3 | 10 | 51 | 129 |

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

Senior appointments

Senior appointments in the third quarter of 2021 (July to September)

| Position | Grade | Gender | Nationality | Division |
|-------------------------------------|-------|--------|-------------|--|
| Executive Secretary | D-2 | Female | French | Intergovernmental Platform for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) |
| Senior Programme Management Officer | P-5 | Male | Iraqi | UNSCEAR |
| Senior Programme Management Officer | P-5 | Female | Venezuelan | Corporate Services Division |

Note: This does not include temporary appointments.

Gender parity status

| UNEP SECRETARIAT and MEAs | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------|------------|--------------|
| Gender | USG | ASG | D-2 | D-1 | P-5 | P-4 | P-3 | P-2 | Total P+ | Total NPO | Total GS | Total |
| Female | 1 | 3 | 6 | 25 | 54 | 124 | 132 | 61 | 406 | 3 | 371 | 780 |
| Male | 0 | 0 | 4 | 26 | 75 | 130 | 93 | 39 | 367 | 5 | 135 | 507 |
| Total | 1 | 3 | 10 | 51 | 129 | 254 | 225 | 100 | 773 | 8 | 506 | 1,287 |
| % female | 100 | 100 | 60 | 49 | 42 | 49 | 59 | 61 | 53 | 37 | 73 | 61 |
| % male | 0 | 0 | 40 | 51 | 58 | 51 | 41 | 39 | 47 | 63 | 27 | 39 |

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

FIGURE 4 UNEP Secretariat P+ Gender Distribution

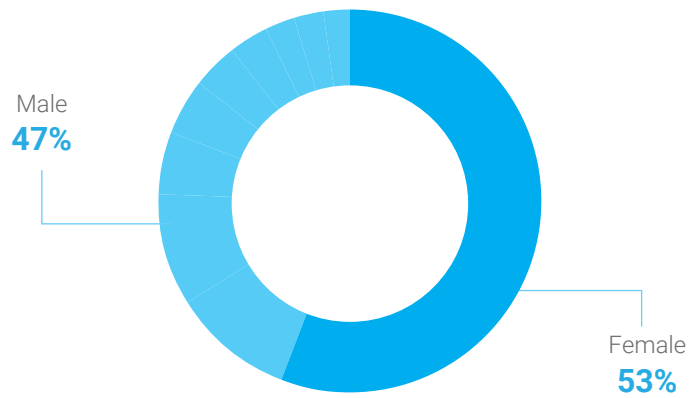


FIGURE 5 UNEP Secretariat Gs Gender Distribution

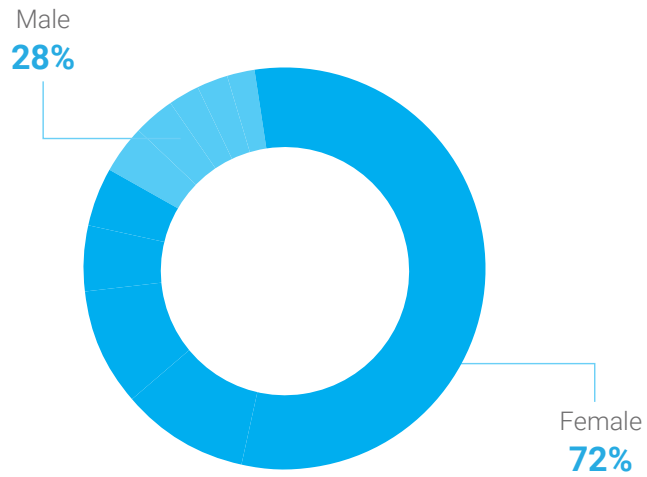


FIGURE 6 UNEP MEAs P+ Gender Distribution

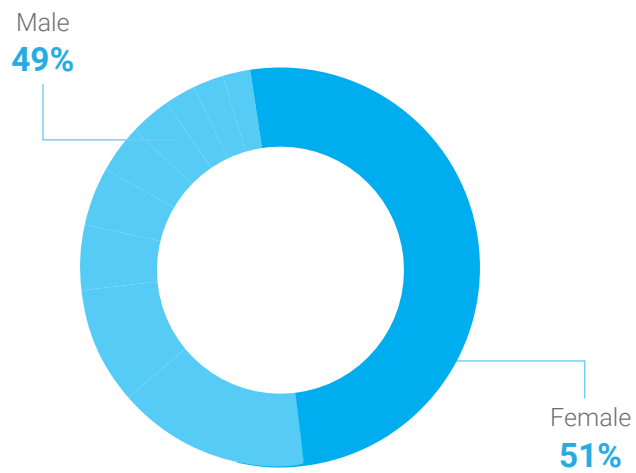
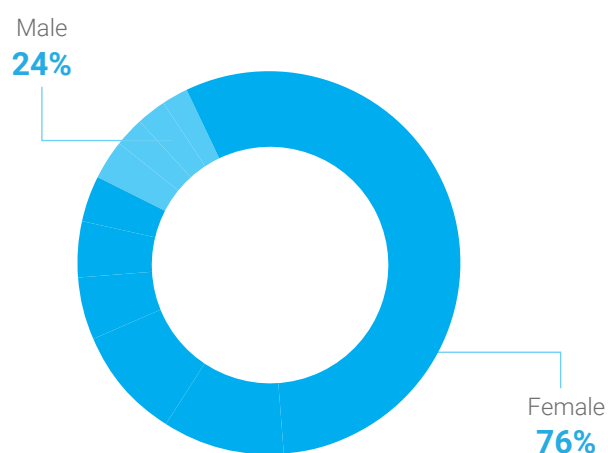


FIGURE 7 UNEP MEAs Gs Gender Distribution



Gender distribution – UNEP Secretariat and MEAs

The table below disaggregates the gender distribution between UNEP Secretariat and MEAs.

| UNEP SECRETARIAT | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------|------------|--------------|
| Gender | USG | ASG | D-2 | D-1 | P-5 | P-4 | P-3 | P-2 | Total P+ | Total NPO | Total GS | Total |
| Female | 1 | 2 | 4 | 19 | 40 | 94 | 102 | 50 | 312 | 3 | 259 | 574 |
| Male | 0 | 0 | 2 | 23 | 55 | 106 | 68 | 21 | 275 | 5 | 99 | 379 |
| MEAs | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Gender | USG | ASG | D-2 | D-1 | P-5 | P-4 | P-3 | P-2 | Total P+ | Total NPO | Total GS | Total |
| Female | 0 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 14 | 30 | 30 | 11 | 94 | 0 | 112 | 206 |
| Male | 0 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 20 | 24 | 25 | 18 | 92 | 0 | 36 | 128 |
| Total | 1 | 3 | 10 | 51 | 129 | 254 | 225 | 100 | 773 | 8 | 506 | 1,287 |

Gender status for P-5 and above – UNEP Secretariat and MEAs – 30 September 2021

| Gender | USG | ASG | D-2 | D-1 | P-5 | Total |
|--------------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|
| Female | 1 | 3 | 6 | 25 | 54 | 89 |
| Male | 0 | 0 | 4 | 26 | 75 | 105 |
| Total | 1 | 3 | 10 | 51 | 129 | 194 |
| % female | 100 | 100 | 60 | 49 | 42 | 46 |
| % male | 0 | 0 | 40 | 51 | 58 | 54 |

FIGURE 8 Gender Status for P5 and Above

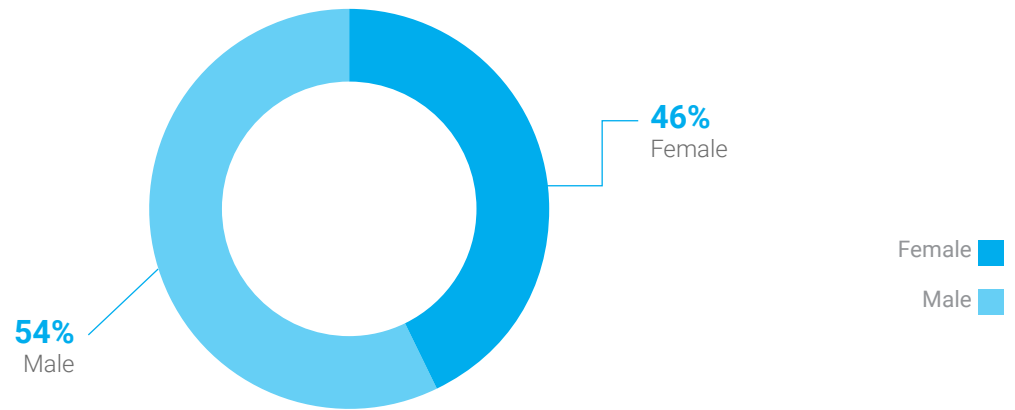


FIGURE 9 UNEP Secretariat P5 and above Gender Distribution

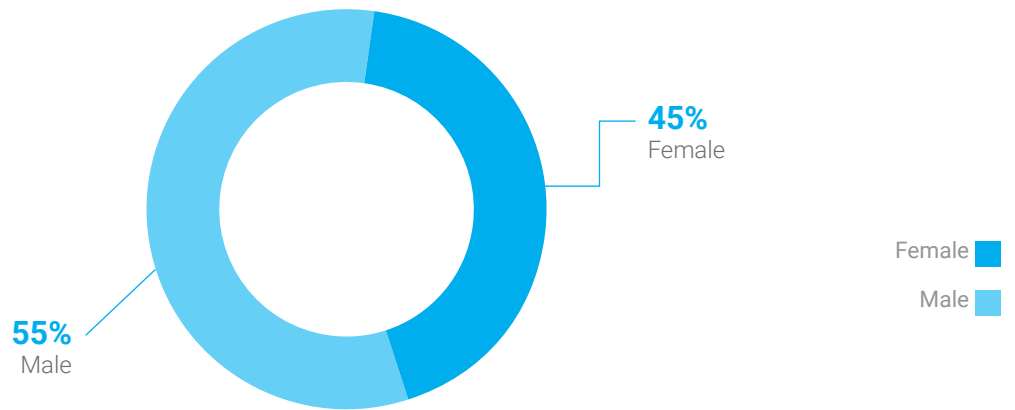
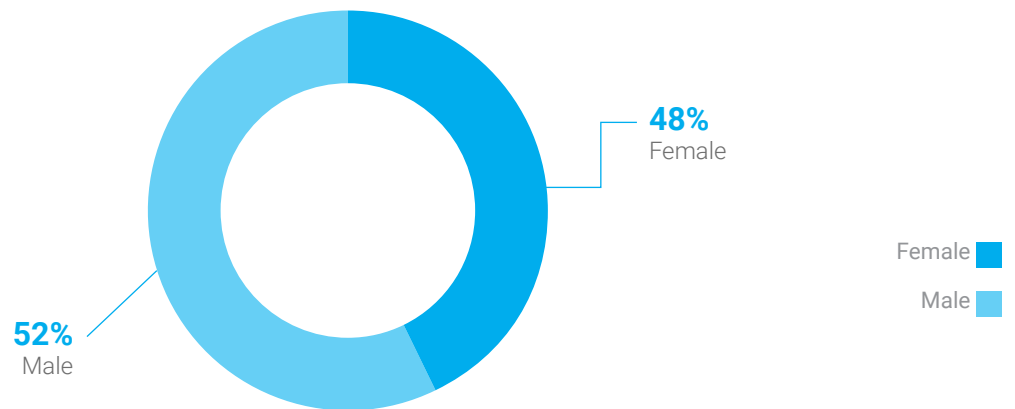


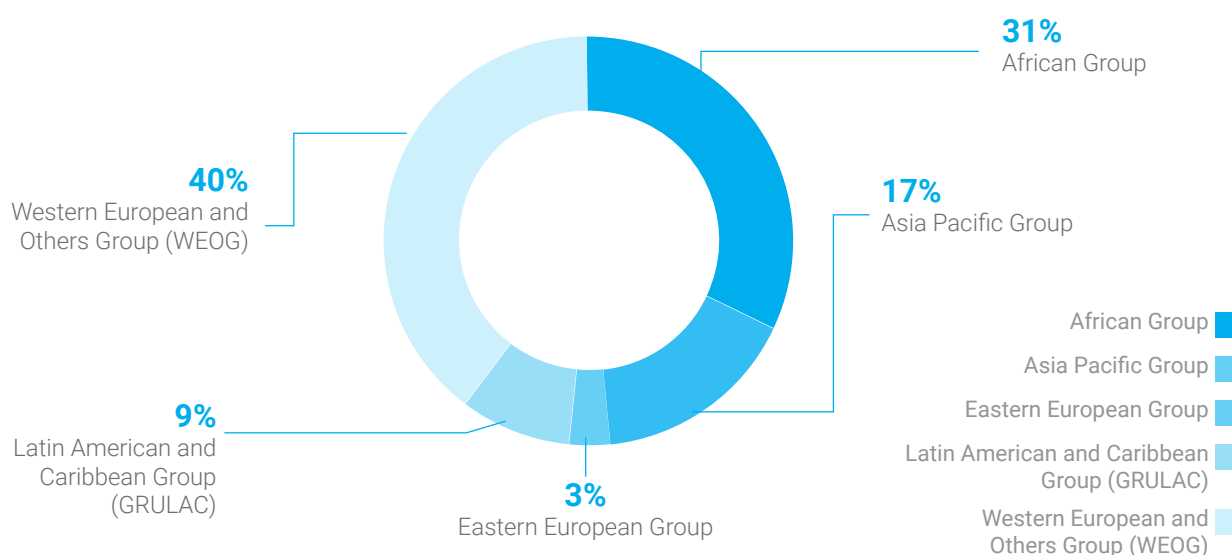
FIGURE 10 UNEP MEAs P5 and above Gender Distribution



Regional representation of staff (UNEP Secretariat and MEAs) as at 30 September 2021

| Region | Total |
|---|--------------|
| African Group | 401 |
| Asia and the Pacific Group | 215 |
| Eastern European Group | 37 |
| Latin American and Caribbean Group (GRULAC) | 113 |
| Stateless | 1 |
| Western European and Others Group (WEOG) | 520 |
| Total | 1,287 |

FIGURE 11 UNEP Regional Representation



Regional distribution of UNEP professional and above-level staff

| Region | Level | | | | | | | | Total |
|---|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | USG | ASG | D-2 | D-1 | P-5 | P-4 | P-3 | P-2 | |
| African Group | | 2 | 2 | 4 | 24 | 59 | 37 | 11 | 139 |
| Asia and the Pacific Group | | 1 | 2 | 7 | 23 | 43 | 35 | 26 | 137 |
| Eastern European Group | | | | 4 | 4 | 6 | 6 | 5 | 25 |
| Latin American and Caribbean Group (GRULAC) | | | 3 | 6 | 14 | 22 | 23 | 7 | 75 |
| Stateless | | | | | | | 1 | | 1 |
| Western European and Others Group (WEOG) | 1 | | 3 | 30 | 64 | 124 | 123 | 51 | 396 |
| Total | 1 | 3 | 10 | 51 | 129 | 254 | 225 | 100 | 773 |

Regional representation for P-5 and above-level staff as at 30 September 2021

| Region | Level | | | | | Total |
|---|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|
| | USG | ASG | D-2 | D-1 | P-5 | |
| African Group | | 2 | 2 | 4 | 24 | 32 |
| Asia and the Pacific Group | | 1 | 2 | 7 | 23 | 33 |
| Eastern European Group | | | | 4 | 4 | 8 |
| Latin American and Caribbean Group (GRULAC) | | | 3 | 6 | 14 | 23 |
| Western European and Others Group (WEOG) | 1 | | 3 | 30 | 64 | 98 |
| Total | 1 | 3 | 10 | 51 | 129 | 194 |

Key human resources risks and issues

UNEP's Gender Parity Implementation Plan is on track to meet the Secretary-General's UN system-wide Gender Parity Strategy. At the professional level, UNEP's staff is 53 per cent women to 47 per cent men overall. At the P-5 and above levels, it is 46 per cent women and 54 per cent men.

Under the Temporary special measures for the achievement of gender parity in support of the Strategy, parity is considered to be achieved within the 47 to 53 per cent margin. UNEP is monitoring and consistently evaluating its overall gender targets against those set out in the implementation plan.

UNEP currently employs staff members from 124 Member States. At the professional levels and above, staff members come from 114 countries.

UNEP has developed a talent acquisition and outreach strategy encompassing gender and geographical representation in 2022. UNEP started implementing scheduled outreach sessions through its regional offices to provide information on UNEP's scope of work and the types of employment opportunities available. Internal dashboards are available to heads of office, directors and hiring managers to monitor diversity indicators (geographic, gender) when screening and recruiting candidates.

UNEP has made some progress recently in senior positions, through the selection and appointment of professionals from the Middle East, Eastern Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Asia. The continued outreach currently under way is expected to attract qualified candidates from these regions.

As part of its outreach efforts, UNEP continues to participate in career fairs organized by Member States to raise awareness and interest from applicants from unrepresented and under-represented countries. UNEP is also engaging with talent management groups to improve the pool of candidates applying to vacancies.

3.5 AUDITS

Ongoing Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) audits:

- Recruitment process (1)
- CBD Secretariat (3)
- Afghanistan Project Office (1)
- Abidjan Convention Secretariat (8)
- Management of partnerships (10)
- Grants management (6)
- Evaluation of the prevention, response and victim support efforts against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) (2)
- UNEP evaluation (2)

Completed audits:

- Resource Efficiency Sub-Programme

Planned audits:

- Management of data classification and data privacy
- COVID-19 business continuity
- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) Secretariat

Board of Auditors (BOA)

The Board of Auditors is conducting the interim audit for 2021 of UNEP-HQ (including GEF), the CBD Secretariat and the UNEP North America Office (NAO) remotely from 11 October to 5 November 2021.

Out of 85 recommendations, 51 recommendations have been requested to be closed as implemented, leaving 34 recommendations still being implemented.

3.6 EVALUATIONS

- During the reporting period:
- Two project evaluations were completed, bringing the running total for 2021 to 10.
- 26 project evaluations are currently ongoing.

Evaluations continue as normal for fully desk-based approaches. Where field missions are required, the emerging more favourable COVID-19-related public health conditions are enabling the resumption of some evaluations that were put on hold.

Selected lesson from the terminal evaluation of the “Market Transformation for Energy Efficient Lighting in Morocco” project in October 2021.

Energy-efficient lighting projects in developing markets are controversial owing to the tension between activating electricity demand for socioeconomic development on the one hand, and the urgency to contain wasteful energy consumption via poor-performing (but affordable) appliances on the other. Disaggregated consumer impact studies are necessary to identify priority consumer segments for leapfrogging to higher-performing technologies or appliances. Ignoring this can be counterproductive and further hinder alleviation of groups that are often structurally or socially disadvantaged.

Fiscal incentives were well introduced into the policy framework through the project outcomes. Taxation on compact fluorescent lamp (CFL) light bulbs was reduced from 10 per cent to 2.5 per cent, which was a major incentive for increasing its presence in the market. However, the proposed progressive higher taxation of incandescent light bulbs was not received positively by the private sector, indicating that their apprehension about protecting their competitive market interest had not been adequately addressed. The commercial price of CFLs was significantly reduced to make the appliance more attractive.

QUARTERLY REPORT

to the **156th** Meeting of the

COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES

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