

**Validated Terminal Review of the EC grant
'Enhanced capacity for measuring progress towards the
Environmental Dimension of the Sustainable Development
Goals' (2020-2023)**

The EC grant was implemented under the UNEP project '*Informing Policy through strengthening national, regional and global data and indicator frameworks and integrated analysis on the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs*' (PIMS ID 2082)



UNEP EARLY WARNING AND ASSESSMENT DIVISION

Validation date: April 2024



This report has been prepared by an external consultant as part of a Terminal Review, which is a management-led process to assess performance at the project's operational completion. The UNEP Evaluation Office provides templates and tools to support the review process and provides a formal assessment of the quality of the Review report, which is provided within this report's annexed material. In addition, the Evaluation Office formally validates the report by ensuring that the performance judgments made are consistent with evidence presented in the Review report and in-line with the performance standards set out for independent evaluations. As such the project performance ratings presented in the Review report may be adjusted by the Evaluation Office. The findings and conclusions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the views of Member States or the UN Environment Programme Senior Management.

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Enhanced capacity for measuring progress towards the Environmental Dimension of the
Sustainable Development Goals
(03/24)
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This Terminal Review was prepared for UNEP by David Lyth.

The reviewer would like to express their gratitude to all persons met and who contributed to this review, as listed in Annex II.

The review team would like to thank the project team and in particular Ms. Therese El Gemayel (Project Manager) for their contribution and collaboration throughout the review process. Sincere appreciation is also expressed to the Project Board who took time to provide comments to the draft report.

The review consultant(s) hopes that the findings, conclusions, and recommendations will contribute to the successful finalisation of the current project, formulation of a next phase and to the continuous improvement of similar projects in other countries and regions.

BRIEF EXTERNAL CONSULTANT(S) BIOGRAPHY

Mr. David Lyth is an environmental consultant with over 30 years of experience in Monitoring and Evaluation and consulting in sustainable development, circular economy, solid waste management, water, and sanitation in both in developed and in developing countries.

Review team
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ABOUT THE REVIEW

Joint Review: No

Report Language(s): English.

Review Type: Terminal Review

Brief Description: This report is a management-led Terminal Review of a UNEP/European Commission project implemented between July 2020 and December 2023. The project's overall development goal was to strengthen national capacity for designing coherent and integrated policies for sustainable development, monitoring and reporting on the environmental dimension of the Sustainable Development Goals. The work was implemented as part of the UNEP project entitled: *Informing policy through strengthening national, regional and global data and indicator frameworks and integrated analysis on the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs* (PIMS ID 02082). The review sought to assess project performance (in terms of relevance, effectiveness, and efficiency), and determine outcomes and impacts (actual and potential) stemming from the project, including their sustainability. The review has two primary purposes: (i) to provide evidence of results to meet accountability requirements, and (ii) to promote learning, feedback, and knowledge sharing through results and lessons learned among UNEP, the European Commission and the relevant agencies of the project participating countries.

Key words: Material Consumption; Capacity; Circular Economy, UNITAR; Waste; Policy Coherence

Primary data collection period: January – March 2024

Field mission dates: No field missions undertaken

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	3
ABOUT THE REVIEW	4
TABLE OF CONTENTS.....	5
LIST OF ACRONYMS.....	6
PROJECT IDENTIFICATION TABLE.....	7
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	9
I. INTRODUCTION	12
II. REVIEW METHODS	13
III. THE PROJECT	16
A. Context.....	16
B. Objectives and components	17
C. Stakeholders	17
D. Project implementation structure and partners	18
E. Changes in design during implementation.....	19
F. Project financing.....	20
IV. THEORY OF CHANGE AT REVIEW	21
V. REVIEW FINDINGS	23
A. Strategic Relevance.....	23
B. Quality of Project Design	25
C. Nature of the External Context	27
D. Effectiveness	27
E. Financial Management.....	41
F. Efficiency.....	42
G. Monitoring and Reporting	42
H. Sustainability	44
I. Factors Affecting Performance and Cross-Cutting Issues	45
VI. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	49
A. Conclusions	49
B. Summary of project findings and ratings	49
C. Lessons learned	56
D. Recommendations	57
ANNEX I. REVIEW FRAMEWORK/MATRIX.....	61
ANNEX II. PEOPLE CONSULTED DURING THE REVIEW.....	67
ANNEX III. KEY DOCUMENTS CONSULTED	69
ANNEX IV. PROJECT BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES.....	71
ANNEX V. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT.....	72
ANNEX VI. BRIEF CV OF THE REVIEWER	74
ANNEX VII. REVIEW TORS (WITHOUT ANNEXES)	75
ANNEX VIII. IMPLEMENTATION PLAN OF RECOMMENDATIONS	80
ANNEX IX. QUALITY ASSESSMENT OF THE REVIEW REPORT	85

LIST OF ACRONYMS

2030 Agenda	The United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
BRS	Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation
EA	Expected Accomplishment
EC	European Commission
EOU	Evaluation Office of UNEP
IA	Implementing Agency
IP	Implementing Partner
Logframe	Project Logical Framework
MTS	Medium-Term Strategy
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
PoW	Programme of Work
PRC	Project Review Committee (internal UNEP committee that approves new projects)
ProDoc	Project Document
SD	Sustainable Development
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
ToC	Theory of Change
ToR	Terms of Reference
UCL	University College London
UNEG	United Nations Evaluation Group
UN-Habitat	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
UNITAR	United National Institute for Training and Research
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNSD	United Nations Statistics Division
UNSIAP	United Nations Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP).
WRAP	The Waste and Resources Action Programme

PROJECT IDENTIFICATION TABLE

Table 1. Project Identification Table

UNEP PIMS ID/SMA ¹ ID:	PIMS: 02082 SMA: 46807 715.102082	Grant ID ² (if applicable):	S1-32ECL-000043
UNEP Management (Division/Branch/Unit):	Early Warning and Assessment Division		
Implementing Partners:	UNITAR, SIAP		
Sources of Funding:	<i>Country³(ies):</i>	<i>Institution⁴ Name/Type: Other</i>	
Relevant SDG(s):	6.6.1 Change in the extent of water-related ecosystems over time 12.1.1 Number of countries developing, adopting, or implementing policy instruments aimed at supporting the shift to Sustainable Consumption and Production. 12.2.1 Material Footprint, material footprint per capita, and material footprint per GDP 12.2.2 Domestic Material Consumption, domestic material consumption per capita, and domestic material consumption per GDP 12.6.1 Number of companies publishing sustainability reports 12.7.1 Number of countries implementing sustainable public procurement policies and action plans 12.3.1 Food Waste 12.4.2 Hazardous waste generated per capita and proportion of hazardous waste generated, by type of treatment 12.5.1 National recycling rate, tons of materials recycled 12.c.1 Amount of fossil-fuel subsidies per unit of GDP (production and consumption) and as a proportion of total national expenditure on fossil fuels 14.1.1 Index of coastal eutrophication and floating plastic debris density 17.7.1 Total amount of approved funding for developing countries to promote the development, transfer, dissemination and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies 17.14.1 Number of countries with mechanisms in place to enhance policy coherence of sustainable development		
MTS (all that apply):	2022-2025	UNEP approval date:	20 October 2020
POW Output(s) number/reference (<i>applicable for projects approved pre-2022</i>)	<i>POW Output:</i> SP-7 PoW Output 5: Capacity development and indicator support to SDG follow-up and review, including environmental inputs to UN	POW Expected Accomplishment(s) number/reference (<i>applicable for projects approved pre-2022</i>):	<i>POW Expected Accomplishment:</i> SP-7 EA(a): Governments and other stakeholders use quality open environmental data, analyses and participatory processes that strengthen the science-policy interface to generate evidence-based environmental assessments, identify

¹ SMA refers to the ID provided by the Integrated Planning, Management and Reporting Solution (IPMR) system, which was introduced by UNEP in July 2023.

² For example, ID references from EC, IKI, UNDA, Adaptation Fund, GCF.

³ Where applicable, list countries who have provided project funds and/or co-finance.

⁴ Indicate where funding institutions are any/all the following: Foundation/NGO; Private Sector; UN Body; Multilateral Fund; Environment Fund; Other.

	reports and policy fora		<i>emerging issues and foster policy action</i>
Sub-programme:	Environment under review	Programme Coordination Project:	
<i>Expected start date:</i>	30/07/20	<i>Actual start date:</i>	16/10/20
<i>Planned completion date:</i>	31/12/22	<i>Actual operational completion date:</i>	31/12/23
<i>Planned total project budget⁵ at approval:</i>	1,294,700	<i>Actual total expenditures reported as of 31 December 2023</i>	1,242,912
<i>Planned Extra-budgetary Funds⁶:</i>	<i>Cash:</i> <i>In-kind:</i>	<i>Secured Extra-budgetary Funds:</i>	<i>Cash:</i> <i>In-kind:</i>
		<i>Actual Extra-budgetary Funds expenditures reported as of [date]:</i>	<i>Cash:</i>
<i>First disbursement:</i>	12 November 2020	<i>Planned date of financial closure:</i>	<i>Estimated 1 year after operational completion.</i>
<i>No. of formal project revisions:</i>	1	<i>Date of last approved project revision:</i>	18 March 2022
<i>No. of Steering Committee meetings:</i>		<i>Date of Last Steering Committee meeting:</i>	
<i>Mid-term Review/ Evaluation (planned date):</i>	N/A	<i>Mid-term Review/ Evaluation (actual date):</i>	N/A
<i>Terminal Evaluation (planned date):</i>	December 2022	<i>Terminal Evaluation (actual date):</i>	January 2024
<i>Coverage – Implementing Country(ies):</i>	Senegal, Uganda, Ghana, India, Kazakhstan, Jordan	<i>Coverage – Implementing Region(s):</i>	Africa, Asia
<i>Dates of previous project phases:</i>		<i>Status of future project phases:</i>	N/A

⁵ Total budget may include: Regular Budget, Environment Fund, Extra-Budgetary, including 'softly-earmarked' etc.

⁶ Extra-budgetary funds may include co-finance (cash/in-kind)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Project background

The project stems from the main conclusion of the 'Measuring Progress Report' (UNEP, 2019) that found that of the 93 environment related SDGs indicators, 68 per cent lack sufficient data to assess progress and hence the need to improve the availability of and access to data and statistics related to these SDGs.

The project's main objective was to strengthen national capacity for designing coherent and integrated policies for sustainable development, monitoring and reporting on the environmental dimension of the SDGs.

The project was implemented by UNEPs Early Warning and Assessment Division, together with implementing partners UNITAR and the United Nations Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP).

The project received approval in 2019, started on 30 July 2020 and was initially expected to last until 31 December 2022, however, due to the global COVID-19 pandemic the project was extended to 31 December 2023, having an overall project duration of 41 months. The total planned budget was USD 1,502,672, of which the European Commission contributed USD 1,294,700 and the UN contributed (in-kind) USD 208,000.

This Review

This Terminal Review (TR) has two primary purposes: (i) to provide evidence of results to meet accountability requirements, and (ii) to promote operational improvement, learning and knowledge sharing through results and lessons learned among a target audience that includes UNEP, European Commission and the relevant agencies of the project participating countries.

The review was based on project documents, the project progress reports, final report, as well as virtual/online interviews, with the project implementing partners and the project beneficiaries. The main limitation and challenge for the review was low respondent rate in the interviews with project beneficiaries. At inception phase, the Theory of Change (ToC) was evaluated and made more project specific.

Key findings

Strategic Relevance: The review showed that project was highly relevant and well suited to the priorities and policies of the main donor - European Commission, the implementing regions (Africa and Asia) and countries (6 target countries), and the target beneficiaries. The project was also relevant to UNEP's mandate and its alignment with UNEP's policies and strategies at the time of project approval.

Project Design: The project design was satisfactory and is part of the UNEP CPR approved 715.1 project: *Informing policy through strengthening national, regional and global data and indicator frameworks and integrated analysis on the environmental dimension of the Agenda 2030* and works towards the same outcome as the project under review.

Nature of External Content: The project during its implementation did not experience any conflicts or political upheavals, however its operations were affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. From the evidence in the progress reports, final report and from the interviews, the impact from COVID-19 was largely mitigated using virtual and re-planning of activities, as well as additional activities.

Effectiveness including availability of Outputs, achievement of the outcome and likelihood of impact: There were two output components supported by several activities and linked results and milestones, and a full set of documentary evidence of the project's outputs was

available. The project's planned targets - outputs and outcome were achieved, and exceeded, through an additional 8 activities and associated outputs and milestones, all supported by project documents, project deliverables, the project's progress reports, the project's website and the final project report. Several quality documents in the Measuring Progress series were published, and technical assistance in six target countries for the target SDG indicators helped to equip them with the necessary statistical capacity to report and disseminate on these SDG indicators. The main outcome of the project was also achieved and there is a high likelihood of impact.

Efficiency: The project planned to finish on 31 December 2022, however it was extended to 31 December 2023, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. A no-cost extension was approved, and 8 complimentary activities were added to the existing project, at no-extra cost, and by using cost-effective approaches, exceeded the originally planned project targets.

Financial management: Overall, financial management was highly satisfactory with compliance with UNEP's financial policies and procedures, review procedures and the expenditure were within the revised budget. There was completeness of financial information. The project incurred a financial expenditure of 1,242,912 USD out of the 1,294,700 USD project budget, giving an expenditure of 96%, with 100% of project activities completed.

Monitoring and reporting: The project included an adequate monitoring plan and the progress reporting addressing how the project addressed challenges, i.e. COVID-19 and its mitigation, as well as progress towards achieving the outputs and outcome indicators was well developed and disseminated.

Sustainability: There appears to be a strong ownership, interest, and commitment among UNEP to sustain results in the future, with direct examples of such. Additional funding is required however, to achieve the project outcome fully. Institutional structures seem to be largely in place regarding reporting on the environmental SDGs and for those SDGs not reported, mechanisms to develop the data needed to report on SDGs is planned in several countries, i.e. for the waste sector. Partnerships at the UN level have been established on the project subject, including UN Statistics Division (UNSD), UNITAR and the UN SIAP.

Factors Affecting Performance: Preparation and readiness were satisfactory, with a slight delay in the start of the project and the need to use virtual means in its implementation at the beginning due to COVID-19. Project management and supervision was rated as highly satisfactory, with high quality project management throughout the project's implementation. At the beneficiary level, there were some logistical issues that emerged in some countries, and it is recognised that planning of workshops is required well in advance. The use of SDG focal points at both regional and national levels, via for example the UN Regional Offices also assisted the project management in the implementation of the project. Stakeholder cooperation was deemed to be effective and participatory at both regional and national levels. Moreover, with communications and public awareness, the project delivered extensive communication and visibility/public awareness actions throughout the project's implementation, including a project web page and numerous publications, online and in-person events. Gender inclusive measures were included in the project's implementation, with a good gender balance of the project team and at the beneficiary level.

Criterion Rating: A. Strategic relevance: **HS**; B. Quality of Project Design: **S**; C. External Context: **MF**; D. Effectiveness: **HS**; E. Financial Management: **HS**; F. Efficiency: **HS**; G. Monitoring and reporting: **HS**; H. Sustainability: **L**; I. Factors Affecting Performance: **HS**.

Conclusions

Based on the findings from this review, the project demonstrates performance at the '**Highly Satisfactory**' level (a table of ratings against all review criteria is found in the Conclusions

section, below). The project has demonstrated strong performance in the areas of relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, monitoring and reporting, project management and gender inclusion. Further attention is required on supporting regions and countries on data acquisition, analysis and reporting on the target environmental dimension SDGs.

Lessons Learned

Lesson 1: Improve the quality of the data collection and reporting.

Lesson 2: Institutional arrangements, structures and working relationship between UNEP, the main beneficiaries, and the implementing partners.

Lesson 3: Flexible project implementation and management.

Lesson 4: High quality and effective dissemination and visibility products.

Lesson 5: Planning of capacity building activities.

Lesson 6: The mix between virtual and face to face capacity building and knowledge exchange.

Recommendations

Recommendation 1: Secure additional funding for continuing support to target countries.

Recommendation 2: Reporting on the selected (target) SDG indicators will require institutionalisation of the process to compile information for countries.

Recommendation 3: Support on methodology to compile data on the SDG indicator 8.4.1/12.2.1 - Material Footprint.

Recommendation 4: Support governments to strengthen the level of participation to ensure a higher level of participation of all inter-agencies concerned in environmental dimension of SDGs.

Recommendation 5: Enhance baseline data collection to allow the analysis of waste generation and recycling (i.e. hazardous waste, municipal recycling, etc.) to be able to report on related SDGs.

Recommendation 6: Showcasing project achievements.

Validation

The report has been subject to an independent validation exercise performed by UNEP's Project Team. The performance ratings for this project, set out in the Conclusions and Recommendations section, have been adjusted as a result. The overall project performance is validated at the '**Highly Satisfactory**' level. Moreover, the Evaluation Office has found the overall quality of the report to be '**Satisfactory**' (see Annex IX).

I. INTRODUCTION

This is the Terminal Review (TR) Report of the **Enhanced capacity for measuring progress towards the Environmental Dimension of the Sustainable Development Goals** (the project).

The project stems from the main conclusion of the 'Measuring Progress Report' (UNEP, 2019) that found that of the 93 environment related SDGs indicators, 68 per cent lack sufficient data to assess progress and hence the need to improve the availability of and access to data and statistics related to these SDGs.

The project contributes to the objective of the Environment under Review Sub-programme that *"By 2030, Governments and other stakeholders use quality open environmental data, analyses and participatory processes that strengthen the science-policy interface (e.g. GEO, SDG, CoPs) to generate evidence-based environmental assessments, identify emerging issues and foster policy action"*.

The project's main objective was to **strengthen national capacity for designing coherent and integrated policies for sustainable development, monitoring and reporting on the environmental dimension of the SDGs**. The project's expected outcome was national, regional, and global level reporting by member states on the 2030 Agenda and SDGs includes the environmental dimension, and two linked outputs.

The project was implemented by UNEPs Early Warning and Assessment Division, together with implementing partners UNITAR and the United Nations Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP).

The project received approval in 2019, started on 30 July 2020 and was initially expected to last until 31 December 2022, however, due to the global COVID-19 pandemic the project was extended to 31 December 2023, having an overall project duration of 41 months. The total planned budget was USD 1,502,672, of which the European Commission contributed USD 1,294,700 and the UN contributed (in-kind) USD 208,000.

In line with the **UNEP Evaluation Policy** and the **UNEP Programme and Project Management⁷ Manual**, the TR is undertaken at operational completion of the project to assess project performance (in terms of relevance, effectiveness, and efficiency), and determine outcomes and impacts (actual and potential) stemming from the project, including their sustainability.

This TR has two primary purposes: (i) to provide evidence of results to meet accountability requirements, and (ii) to promote operational improvement, learning and knowledge sharing through results and lessons learned among a target audience that includes UNEP. The project has not been reviewed/evaluated in the past.

⁷ UNEP Programme and Project Management Manual, 2023

II. REVIEW METHODS

This TR was conducted by an external consultant and used a theory-based approach, based on project documents, the project progress reports, final report, as well as virtual/online interviews, with the project implementing partners and the project beneficiaries. The TR was conducted in three consecutive phases: 1) inception and desk review phase; 2) data collection and analysis phase; and 3) synthesis, reporting and dissemination phase – which includes the resulting analysis, findings, conclusions, overall lessons learned and recommendations.

The review was based on project documents, the project progress report, final report, as well as virtual/online interviews, with the project implementing partners and the project beneficiaries. The main limitation and challenge for the review was low respondent rate in the interviews with project beneficiaries. At inception phase, the Theory of Change (ToC) was evaluated and made more project specific.

Phase 1: Inception and desk review

The inception phase took place during January 2024. A full review of all the key project documents to design the review, including the Project Document (ProDoc), and Theory of Change (ToC), Project log frame, annual project progress reports; and Partner Agreements (e.g. Agreement of Cooperation), etc., was undertaken. Further activities included:

- Reconstruction of the wider umbrella ToC into a project specific ToC;
- Development of the Review Framework (see Annex I);
- Selection of the implementing partners and beneficiaries for interview, with the UNEP (see Annex II); and
- Development of data collection methods and tools (two questionnaires).

The Inception report was issued on 30 January 2024, with the third version was approved on 12 February 2024.

Phase 2: Data collection and analysis

The main data and analysis phase took place in February 2024. It involved data triangulation - the collection and analysis of data using various methods and from different sources to enhance the credibility of the review, by comparing and cross-checking information, products, and results of the project with findings from interviews with key actors, including:

- Review of narrative and financial reports, and deliverables under the Agreements provided by the Partner; other reports of implemented activities, including meeting minutes and review reports findings;
- Workshops, training sessions, missions, guidance developed as part of the project - briefings, workshop report/summaries, mission reports, etc.;
- Other guidance, publications developed in the framework of the project; and
- Annual Progress reports (for 2020, 2021 and 2022), and the final project report issued in mid-February 2024. Annex III shows the documents consulted.

Stakeholder interviews: Further data collection and gathering of new evidence was gained by undertaking a review survey of the implementing partners and project beneficiaries. The review survey of key informant interviews and consultations with key stakeholders focused on:

- In-depth interviews with the implementing partners, UNEP, UNITAR and other contractors and consultants, i.e. WRAP; and

- Interviews with the main beneficiaries, mainly from the target countries: Ghana, India, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Senegal, Uganda and across the target regions of Africa and Asia Pacific.

The interviews were conducted to obtain qualitative information on answer the review questions in context of effectiveness, efficiency, financial management, impact, sustainability, and factors affecting project performance. Feedback on cross-cutting issues was also discussed, such as gender.

The representative interviewees from the implementing partners, beneficiaries and other stakeholders' groups and their representatives were selected in conjunction with the main implementing partner, UNEP. The criteria for the main beneficiaries included a representative selection of received technical assistance across the target regions and countries, also addressing a representative gender balance.

A series of review questions were captured in two questionnaires – one for the project beneficiaries and one for the implementing partners (see Annex II for the list of consulted stakeholders).

The interviews (as shown in Annex II) and receipt of the questionnaires in writing were realized with a total of 17 persons, as follows:

- UNEP, UNITAR and contractors and consultants - 8 interviews (50:50 gender split); and
- Project beneficiaries - 9 persons (5 women, 4 men), including written response to the questionnaire - 2 persons.

The interviews were guided by a questionnaire and were approximately 30 - 60 minutes in duration. Annex I shows the semi-structured interviews guidance and questionnaires.

Phase 3: Synthesis, reporting and dissemination

This phase entailed the analysis of the data collected during the desk review, data collection and analysis, finalising the answers to the review questions, and preparing the synthesis report that includes the conclusions, lessons learned and recommendations of the review .

A review report (draft and final) summarised the findings, conclusions, lessons learned, recommendations of the TR, a response to comments (prepared by the UNEP evaluation office).

Data Collection and Review Limitations

There were several data collection and review limitations, which are summarised below.

The interviews with the project beneficiaries of the regional, national and in-country technical assistance training primarily focused on effectiveness, efficiency, and sustainability areas.

As most of the interviewees had only participated in one technical assistance mission at the national level or two days virtual regional or sub-regional workshops, responses to invitation to interview was rather low. 21 invitations were issued, with 9 responding and conducting interviews or replying with completed questionnaires. To an extent this was mitigated by interviewing all the focal points from the technical assistance missions to the national target countries.

The IP were collaborative and transparent in terms of providing the evaluator with the required data, information, and documents. The final report and financial documents did not include the spent expenditure per project component.

The evaluator considers that these limitations did not affect the reliability and usefulness of the TR and the provided information was sufficient to develop the findings, lessons learned and recommendations for this TR.

During the TR, the evaluator and IP (Project Manager) held bi-weekly progress meetings, which proved advantageous in the implementation of the TR.

III. THE PROJECT

A. Context

The importance of improving the availability of and access to data and statistics related to the environment was recognized through the adoption of a wide range of environmentally Sustainable Development Goals, targets, and indicators. The *'Measuring Progress Report'* (UNEP, 2019) found that of the 93 environment related SDGs indicators, 68 per cent lack sufficient data to assess progress.

UNEP project 715.1: *Informing policy through strengthening national, regional and global data and indicator frameworks and integrated analysis on the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs* was initiated in 2017 and as Phase I, focused on the methodological development of Goals 12 and 17 indicators, and consequently those SDG indicators were reclassified to tier 2 by the inter-Agency and Expert Group on SDGs. Reporting for the indicators which were reclassified has already begun but requires further dissemination and capacity development to improve the data availability, quality, and comparability.

When the project finished at the end December 2019, the key lessons learned highlighted:

- Pilot testing of the methodologies revealed a significant lack of data at the national level, as well as lack of capacity in relation to environment statistics. Nevertheless, pilot countries have reiterated their motivation to implement the global methodologies to measure and report on SDGs;
- For SDG indicators for which some data already exist at the national level, the methodology should imply different levels of precision. A high level of precision for countries already advanced in the topic to encourage them to keep on their efforts. A basic level of precision for countries which have not started to collect data in order not to discourage them, and an intermediate level; and
- For SDGs for which data do not exist at the national level, the methodology should remain simple and focus on proxies in order not to discourage the national focal points. There is no need to ask for an extensive amount of data if the national focal points are not able to collect data and report.

The *'Enhanced capacity for measuring progress towards the Environmental Dimension of the Sustainable Development Goals'* project focused on:

- Enhancing capacity on environment statistics through training programmes at the regional level;
- Ensuring dissemination and uptake of the global methodologies through targeted capacity development for key SDG indicators at national levels; and
- Deepening UN Environment's analysis of trends at the global and regional levels, including interlinkages between the various goals, targets, and indicators.

The project was approved in 2019, and started on 30 July 2020, with the planned completion date of 31st December 2022. However, with the COVID-19 pandemic in early 2020, the project faced disruptions and had one no-cost extension, eventually concluding on 31st December 2023.

B. Objectives and components

The key objective of the project was to strengthen national capacity for designing coherent and integrated policies for sustainable development, monitoring and reporting on the environmental dimension of the SDGs.

The project's impact was that: **policy-making and stakeholder action are guided by environmental data and information and fully integrate the environmental dimension of sustainable development contributing to the advancement of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development.**

The project's expected outcome was **national, regional, and global level reporting by member states on the 2030 Agenda and SDGs includes the environmental dimension.**

The initially approved project had two main outputs, with a series of activities and milestones as outlined in Table 2 (a more detailed presentation and analysis of the project's outputs and outcome is in **III. Review Findings, D. Effectiveness**).

Table 2: Project outputs and activities

Outputs	Activities
A) Output 1. Tools are developed and training for capacity building to measure, monitor and report on the environmental dimension of the SDGs is delivered in the target countries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Activity 1.2: Developing training materials for regional workshops ▪ Activity 1.1: Promoting the uptake of the global methodologies through technical capacities and dissemination at the regional level (Africa: 2 workshops with 25 participants (Francophone and Anglophone); Asia: 2 workshops with 25 participants) ▪ Activity 1.3: Dissemination, capacity development and uptake of policy-related indicators (3 countries: national workshop, adaptation and translation of materials, and technical support) ▪ Activity 1.4: Dissemination, capacity development and uptake of the circular economy-based indicators (3 countries: national workshop, adaptation and translation of materials, and technical support)
B) Output 2. Multidisciplinary integrated analysis of progress towards agenda 2030 is carried out and published	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Activity 2.1: Develop the Measuring Progress Report II – nature and the SDGs - 2021 Edition ▪ Activity 2.2: Develop the Measuring Progress Report III – 2022 Edition

The expected results were:

- The project countries will gather data and report on the environmental dimension of Agenda 2030, including the policy-related and circular economy related SDG indicators;
- The project countries have mechanisms in place for horizontal and vertical coherence of policies; and
- Policies in project countries are informed by knowledge on interlinkages between SDGs and targets.

C. Stakeholders

The ProDoc provided an overview of the project stakeholders, which was reviewed at the Inception phase. It provided sufficient level of detail to identify the various levels of stakeholder types (A-D).

Based on the stakeholder analysis in the ProDoc, the primary and secondary stakeholders identified are shown respectively in Table 3. Primary stakeholders are classed as those that have high interest and high influence in the project. The main aim the project is to strengthen the national capacity of key stakeholders active in designing and integrating policies for sustainable development and monitoring and reporting on the environmental dimension of the SDGs. Secondary stakeholders were identified as having moderate or lower interest and influence.

Table 3: Main and secondary stakeholders

Stakeholder	Level of Interest	Level of Influence	Role in Project
National Statistical Offices/ Departments of Statistics Office of Prime Minister	High - as main producer/compiler of environment statistics, and policy leader in SDGs	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Production of country data for SDG indicators based on guidelines developed by the project ▪ One of the main receivers of technical assistance/training ▪ Monitoring and reporting of country implementation of the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda ▪ Open access of data
Ministry of Environment/Climate and other related organisations, i.e., National Environment Protection Agency; also Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Resources or equivalent	High - as main producer of environment statistics	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Production of country data for SDG indicators based on guidelines developed by the project ▪ One of the main receivers of technical assistance/training ▪ Monitoring and reporting of country implementation of the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda ▪ Open access of data
Ministries of Finance, Planning and Environment/Climate; and other national stakeholders	High - as users of national statistics	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Strengthened understanding of environment statistics and the SDGs in support of integrated policies ▪ Improved understanding and use of available evidence for gender analysis ▪ One of the main receivers of technical assistance/training
International and regional users of environmental data, including MEAs, all UNEP stakeholders, including the GRID network and the Earth Alliance, UNITAR, SIAP	High - as collaborative partners in promoting the use of environment statistics and SDGs	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Raised awareness of the types of environmental statistics and their importance in the SDG process and other processes ▪ Agreed technical guidance and ontologies on environmental statistics
Academia, Research Institutes, Non-governmental international Organizations	High - providing area specific expertise that is not available in UNEP	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ High quality environment and Sustainable development research based on data and statistics
Media and Public	Low - by raising public awareness and accountability	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Change in lifestyle based on awareness of environmental issues

D. Project implementation structure and partners

The project implementation context of the project centred on UNEP's Early Warning and Assessment Division, SDG and Environment Statistic Unit, Capacity Development, and Innovation Branch. A two-way process of support from and support to on tools and training for capacity building by Regional Commissions; UNEP's Regional Office for Africa, Regional Office for Asia Pacific, Regional Office for West Asia, Regional Office for Europe; United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), UN Habitat and OECD. Similarly, on monitoring, reporting

and analysis on the environmental dimension of the SDGs, support and advice was also provided from/to UNSD, United Nations Environment Assembly and UN’s Global Sustainable Development Report Team. Moreover, advice was provided by, and capacities enhanced to UNEP’s Basel, Stockholm, and Rotterdam (BRS) Conventions Focal Points, within the BRS Secretariat and other UNEP Divisions, i.e. Economic and Law.

The project management structure is shown below in Figure 1. The project was implemented by UNEP’s SDG and Environment Statistics Unit, Capacity Development and Innovation Branch, Early Warning and Assessment Division, primarily with support from other functions in UNEP, UNITAR, the UN Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP), UN Regional Commissions for Western Asia and Europe, together with several contractors and consultants.

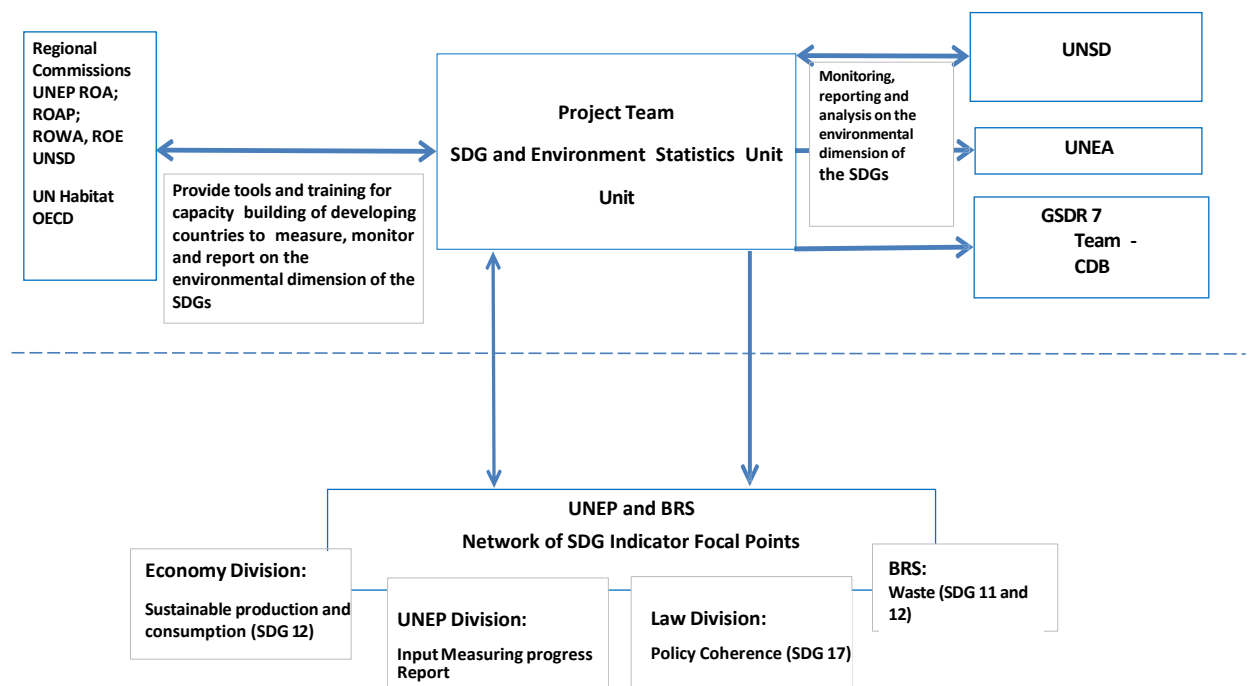


Figure 1: Organigram of the Project with key project key stakeholders

The IP contracted several contractors and consultants during the project’s implementation including, Waste Resources Advisory Group (WRAP, UK); University College London (UCL); CSIRO and several independent consultants.

E. Changes in design during implementation

There were no changes in the design of the project during its implementation. However, due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, during 2022, the procedures for a no-cost extension were initiated. A no-cost extension was approved (by the EC) on 18 March 2022, and extended up to 31 December 2023.

The launch of the project coincided with the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, which meant that many of the activities were implemented virtually or online. As a result of this, less budget was utilised for the planned travel and in-person meetings. The resulting savings were allocated for 8 additional activities.

These additional activities were included in the existing Activity 1.3, and a revised Activity 4 in Output A, and additional Activity 2.3 in Output B. A full description is shown on the IV.

THEORY OF CHANGE AT REVIEW and the activities in V. REVIEW FINDINGS, Effectiveness, availability of Outputs.

F. Project financing

The total approved budget for the project's implementation was 1,502,672 USD, which included an EC grant allocation of 1,294,700 USD (84%). The remaining in-kind funding was 208,000 USD or 16%, which was provided by the UNEP Environment Fund post costs and the OTA Fund post costs.

Table 4: Budget by funding source

Funding source	Planned funding	% of planned funding	Secured funding ⁸	% of secured funding
<i>All figures as USD</i>				
Cash				
Funds from the Environment Fund				
Funds from the Regular Budget:				
Extra-budgetary funding (listed per donor): European Commission	1,294,700	83.94		83.94
Sub-total: Cash contributions	1,294,700			
In-kind				
Environment Fund staff-post costs	200,232	16.06		16.06
Regular Budget staff-post costs	7,740			
Extra-budgetary funding for staff-posts (listed per donor)				
Sub-total: In-kind contributions	208,000			
Co-financing*				
Co-financing cash contribution				
Co-financing in-kind contribution				
Sub-total: Co-financing contributions				
Total	1,502,672	100		100

*Funding from a donor to a partner which is not received into UNEP accounts but is used by a UNEP partner or collaborating centre to deliver the results in a UNEP – approved project.

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, less budget was required for travel, supplies, commodities and materials and operating costs and direct costs. These costs were re-allocated mainly to staff and personnel costs and contractual services, to support the additional activities.

According to the project's financial reports, the total expenditure was 1,242,912 USD, as of 31 December 2023.

The financial details are presented in **Annex IV: Project Budget and Expenditure**.

⁸ Secured funding refers to received funds and does not include funding commitments not yet realised.

IV. THEORY OF CHANGE AT REVIEW

A Theory of Change (ToC) was developed for the wider UNEP project 715.1: *Informing policy through strengthening national, regional, and global data and indicator frameworks and integrated analysis on the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs* and work towards the same outcome of the project under review, with the highlighted activities indicating were Phase I and Phase II of the overall project contributes to the project outputs.

The ToC sets out appropriate outcome indicators and how the outcome will be specifically achieved. The two main outputs from the project are adequately described, together with the four activities for Output 1 and two activities for Output 2. Appropriate output indicators and assumptions were also developed.

Whilst the project logframe includes a main assumption: *'Governments have the capacity to deliver on the policies in project countries which are informed with interlinkages between SDGs and targets'*, the assumptions in the ProDoc are also deemed relevant:

- *'Countries want to make use of the tools and methodologies provided to make reporting and assessments more efficient';*
- *'Government are willing to provide access to the key environmental and related socio-economic data';*
- *'Institutions responsible for environmental monitoring and data collection exist and governance arrangements are in place, particularly at national level, for UNEP to partner with and strengthen their capacity';*
- *'UNEP has a data strategy and global platform for environmental data for the keeping the environment under review';* and
- *'Data and information that is available and accessible influence policymaking and stakeholders will use it in policymaking processes'.*

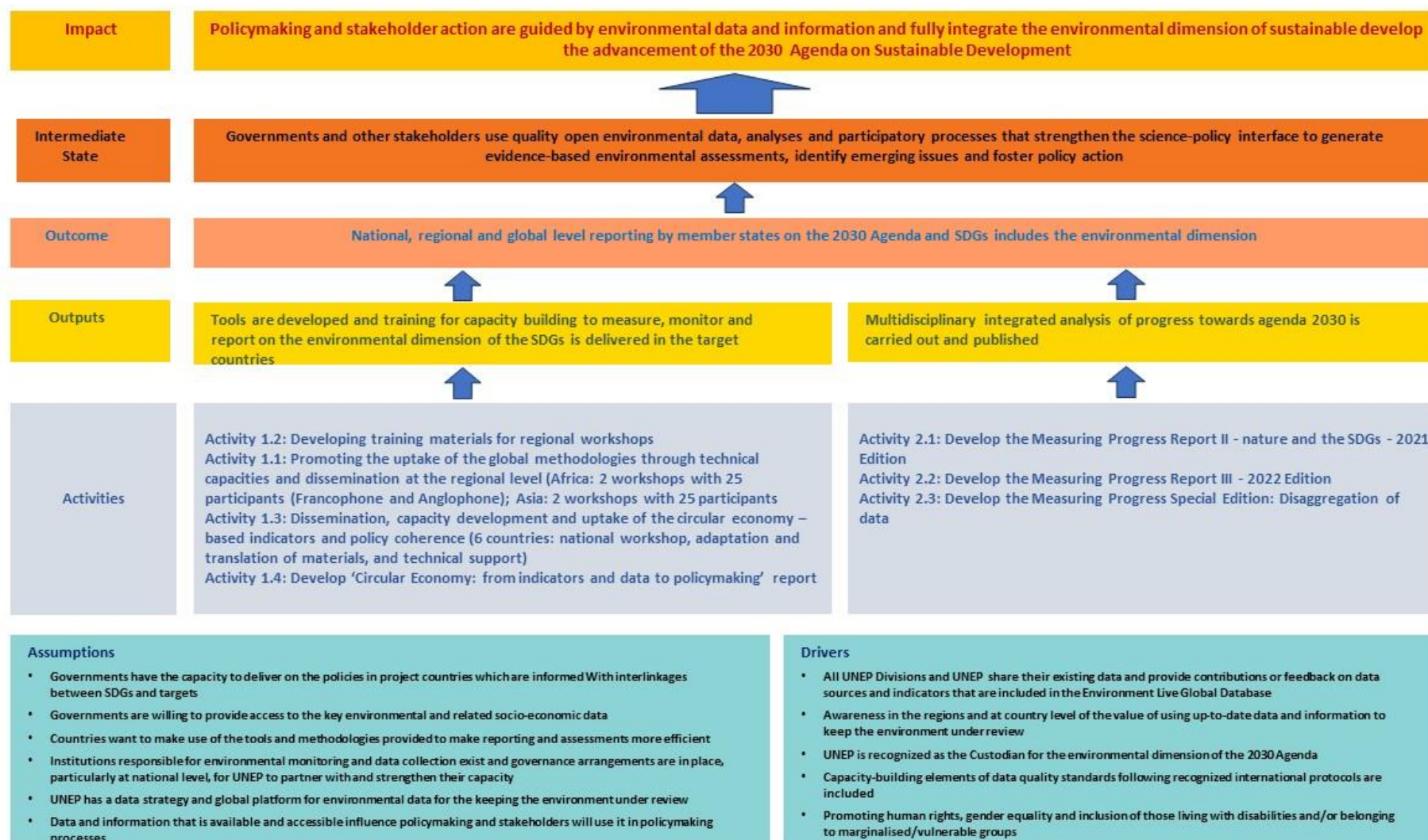
The drivers of the project matched the overall drivers of the wider project, with one exception: *'Innovative communications and information technologies exist or, as appropriate, are developed to engage, inform, and empower a broad range of key stakeholders to use available data and information on environmental issues'.*

The project's effect on equality (i.e. promoting human rights, gender equality and inclusion of those living with disabilities and/or belonging to marginalised/vulnerable groups) was included as a driver.

Several general comments were made by the evaluator about the ToC during the inception phase, including the project's assumptions and drivers, and these have been found to remain true throughout the review. Due budgetary savings because of the COVID-19 pandemic, a no-cost extension was approved by the EC, allowing 8 additional activities to be planned, meaning revisions to Activity 1.4 and a new Activity 2.3.

For the context of the review, a project specific ToC was developed incorporating the above changes, as shown in Figure 2.

Figure 2: ToC at Review



V. REVIEW FINDINGS

A. Strategic Relevance

Alignment to UNEP's Medium-Term Strategy⁹ (MTS), Programme of Work (POW) and Strategic Priorities

The project contributed to UNEP's Programme of Work (PoW) and more specifically the Environment under Review Sub-programme that *"By 2030, Governments and other stakeholders use quality open environmental data, analyses and participatory processes that strengthen the science-policy interface (e.g. GEO, SDG, CoPs) to generate evidence-based environmental assessments, identify emerging issues and foster policy action"*. The programme is an enabler for the integration of SDG indicators among internal and external stakeholders. The purpose of the subprogramme is to provide the SDG indicator methodologies used to harmonize country data for international comparability and produce estimates through transparent mechanisms for 26 environment-related SDG indicators and to assure the quality of UNEP submissions of data and analysis on environmental indicators to the Global SDG Indicators Database and the Secretary General's SDG progress report.

Rating for Alignment to UNEP MTS, POW and Strategic Priorities: HS

Alignment to Donor/GEF/Partners Strategic Priorities

Clearly, the project is directly aligned to the SDGs and Agenda 2030.

The project contributes to DG ENV ENRTP Strategic Cooperation Agreement (SCA); ENRTP Priority 3.1 External environment policy; SCA General Objective 'Global environmental sustainability knowledge, tools and capacity building as well as transparency and efficiency of natural resources management'; and ENV ER 4: Enhanced global and regional environmental monitoring and assessment for policymaking.

With regard to DG ENV GPGC (GPGC) Programme Cooperation Agreement 2018-2020 (PCA II); the project contributes to GPGC Policy Area: Environment and Climate Change Component 4: International environment and climate governance; SO 2: Capacities of countries to develop evidence-based policies and decisions, ownership and implementation of the environmental dimension of the SDGs and the Multilateral Environmental Agreements is strengthened through the provision of advisory services, information and knowledge products, tools, methodologies and guidelines; ER 2.6: Governments and other stakeholders use quality open environmental data, analyses and participatory processes that strengthen the science-policy interface to generate evidence-based environmental assessments, identify emerging issues and foster policy action.

Rating for Alignment to Donor/GEF/Partners Strategic Priorities: HS

Relevance to Global, Regional, Sub-regional and National Priorities

At the global level, the ProDoc highlighted that project would draw on existing mechanisms and established partnerships with national and international statistical agencies, under the Inter-Agency Expert Group on SDG Indicators and the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and similar governance and coordination bodies at regional level.

⁹ UNEP's Medium-Term Strategy (MTS) is a document that guides UNEP's programme planning over a four-year period. It identifies UNEP's thematic priorities, known as Sub-programmes (SP), and sets out the desired outcomes, known as Expected Accomplishments (EAs), of the Sub-programmes. <https://www.unenvironment.org/about-un-environment/evaluation-office/our-evaluation-approach/un-environment-documents>.

The ProDoc also highlighted that the project would have a regional focus, targeting Africa, Central Asia, South Asia and West Asia. In Africa, the project supported the implementation of the Agenda 2063, which shares a strategic framework for inclusive growth and sustainable development, within the UN SDGs structure, and includes specific reference to the environmental dimension of sustainable development. In South Asia, the project was aligned to supporting the implementation of the data priority under the regional road map for implementing the 2030 Agenda, through Resolution 73/9 adopted during ESCAP's 73rd Commission Session.

At the national level, the ProDoc highlighted that there needs to be more institutional collaboration, interoperability and integration across the various national data information systems and platforms that exist. This is particularly true for data related to people and place – environment statistics, environment economic accounting, and Earth observations for policy formulation, decision-making and innovation. Essential data management policies, practices, integration, and analytical capacities are currently limited in many countries and are a significant challenge in developing countries, including low capacity in mapping the SDGs with National Monitoring Framework.

Specifically, at the national level and the target countries of Ghana, India, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Senegal and Uganda, the ProDoc summarised key factors on their need to be included in the project, based on level of capacity and availability of data to report on the environmental dimension of SDGs, demonstrated capacity and availability of data to report on the environmental dimension of SDGs, alignment with other UN Environment programmes of relevance, in order to complement and optimise efforts in the country.

Evidence from the project documents, progress report and final report shows that the capacity development and knowledge-sharing on data and indicators for the target SDGs (review and monitoring processes) was apparent at both a regional, sub-regional and national levels - specifically for Ghana, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Senegal, and Uganda. In addition, India and Bangladesh also benefitted directly on the food waste indicator activity.

Rating for Relevance to Global, Regional, Sub-regional and National Priorities: HS

Complementarity with Existing Interventions/Coherence

The project is part of the UNEP Project 715.1: *Informing policy through strengthening national. Regional and global data and indicator frameworks and integrated analysis on the environmental dimension of the Agenda 2030* and works towards the same outcome.

The project was also aligned with the EC project entitled "*Building national capacities to strengthen the science-policy interface through improved access to environmental data and the production of indicators to meet reporting obligations – based on SEIS principles (SEIS II)*". It is managed by UNEP Europe office and covers the regions of Africa, Asia Pacific, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean and West Asia.

As highlighted previously, the project aimed to develop national capacities of government officials of Ghana, India, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Senegal, and Uganda in developing, monitoring, and disseminating SDG environmental indicators, through identifying gaps and tailoring national assistance plans.

Evidence from the project documents, shows that the project also enabled partnership with other UN agencies, such as the UNSD, Regional Commissions, as well as other Divisions in UNEP.

Rating for Complementarity with Existing Interventions/Coherence: HS

Rating for Strategic Relevance: Highly Satisfactory

B. Quality of Project Design

The project was designed under the context of the UNEP umbrella project 715.1: *Informing policy through strengthening national, regional and global data and indicator frameworks and integrated analysis on the environmental dimension of the Agenda 2030*.

The overall rating for the quality of the project design was Satisfactory, with the main strengths in the project design including: a clear and coherent problem and situation analysis; a full analysis of the relevance for the project; good overall project preparation; developed outcome, outputs, milestones via planned activities and adequate risk analysis, good governance, and partnership arrangements; and well-developed communications and visibility.

The main weakness in the project design was in the Intended Results and Causality, with the ToC included for wider umbrella project and not project specific. The full range of assumptions were included in the project specific ToC, as well as the project's effect on equality – gender, also being included as one of the drivers of the project.

However, for the purpose of the TR a quality of design is shown in Table 5 below.

Table 5: Quality of Design Review

	Section	Comments	Rating (1-6)	Weighting	Total (Rating x Weighting)/10
A	Operating Context	In the ProDoc, several risks associated with the Project outcome and outputs were identified. COVID-19 and its impact was highlighted.	6	0.4	0.24
B	Project Preparation	Good level of project preparation, with the project being part of umbrella project 715.1.	6	1.2	0.72
C	Strategic Relevance	Complies with all the criteria.	6	0.8	0.48
D	Intended Results and Causality	Project outputs and milestones adequately described and appropriate. Outcome linked to intermediate state and impact. ToC included for wider umbrella project and not project specific. Some drivers and assumptions had to be included in project specific ToC.	4	1.6	0.64
E	Logical Framework and Monitoring	The logical framework has the output level results that can be considered appropriate and "Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-oriented".	5	0.8	0.4

F	Governance and Supervision Arrangements	The ProDoc presented a comprehensive, clear and appropriate governance and supervision model. UNEP roles and responsibilities have been clearly defined.	6	0.4	0.24
G	Partnerships	Evidence from the project documents, shows that the project also enabled partnership with other UN agencies, such as UNSD, Regional Commissions, as well as other Divisions in UNEP.	5	0.8	0.4
H	Learning, Communication and Outreach	High levels, as part of project, including web site, online documents and various awareness and visibility events.	6	0.4	0.24
I	Financial Planning / Budgeting	Financial planning and allocations of funds included.	5	0.4	0.2
J	Efficiency	Outputs, activities, and deliverables expected are appropriate in relation to the duration and/or levels of secured funding. Efficient project management and implementation.	5	0.8	0.4
K	Risk identification and Social Safeguards	Risk assessment included in ProDoc, with low overall risk. Considered COVID-19 pandemic impact.	6	0.8	0.48
L	Sustainability / Replication and Catalytic Effects	Institutional sustainability, and catalytic and replication evident with follow-on work and driver for further work, i.e. Circular Economy. Could have been more detail.	5	1.2	0.6
M	Identified Project Design Weaknesses/Gaps	Project design addressed comments and amended subsequently.	5	0.4	0.2
					5.24

Rating scores: 6=highly satisfactory, 5=satisfactory, 4=moderately satisfactory, 3=moderately unsatisfactory, 2=unsatisfactory, 1=highly unsatisfactory, 0=not applicable

Rating for Project Design: Satisfactory

C. Nature of the External Context

The project during its implementation did not experience any conflicts or political upheavals, however its operations were affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

From the evidence in the progress reports, final report and from the interviews, the impact from COVID-19 was mitigated using virtual and re-planning of activities, as well as additional activities. Further explanations are provided under the remaining criterion.

Rating for Nature of the external context: Highly Favourable

D. Effectiveness

Availability of Outputs

There were two output components supported by several activities and linked results and milestones. **A full set of documentary evidence of the project's outputs was available.**

Evidence from the project progress report, the deliverables themselves, the project final report, as well as feedback from the TR interviews shows that the planned outputs (A and B) were achieved as proposed in the ProDoc in terms of quality and quantity. Additional outputs meant that the output level targets were exceeded; these outputs were also of good quality.

For each output, the associated activities, planned and achieved results and planned and achieved milestones are shown in Table 6 below. It should be noted that the target date for the outputs and some milestones were adjusted and added, in line with the project extension to 31 December 2023.

Table 6: Availability of Outputs

Project Outputs	Indicators	Achieved Results/ Observations by Reviewer
A) Tools are developed and training for capacity building to measure, monitor and report on the environmental dimension of the SDGs is delivered in the target countries	Output Indicator (i) Number of SDG indicators for which UNEP is the Custodian Agency that have been reported to the UN SDG Global Database that have data for 1 or more project countries Baseline: 13 SDG indicators Target: 20. Achieved Target: 21 Note: This indicator contributes the 715.1 indicator: Number of SDG indicators for which UN Environment is the Custodian Agency for which country data is reported to the UN SDG Global Database Group on SDGs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The development of training tools, such as the Environmental SDG indicators Online Course and manuals, training material, workshops, and seminars, published and available in multiple UN Official languages, has contributed to enhancing the statistical capacities of countries in measuring, monitoring, and reporting on more environmental indicators. An online course on Economy Wide Material Flow Accounting was also prepared and launched in 2022. 3 project countries have 20 or more SDG indicators that UNEP is Custodian Agency for reported to the UN SDG Global Database.
Project Output Milestone		Expected Milestone (1 per reporting period: June and December of each year)
MA:1 Training materials for regional workshops		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training materials for regional workshops developed and translated into Arabic, French and Russian.
MA:2 2 Sub-Regional Workshops organized (1 in Africa and 1 in Asia)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Four sub-regional workshops on Strengthening Coordination for Measuring Progress on Responsible Consumption and Production and Policy Coherence were implemented in (i) West Africa, (ii) South Asia, (iii) Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia, and (iv) East Africa.
MA:3 4 Sub-Regional Workshops organized (2 in Africa and 2 in Asia)		
MA:4 National Workshops organized in 3 countries		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Technical assistance was provided to 6 project beneficiary countries in the areas of material flow accounts (SDG 8.4.1/12.1.1 and
MA:5 National Workshops organized in 3 additional countries		

		8.4.2/12.2.2), waste (SDG 12.4.2 and 12.5.1), food waste (SDG 12.3.1b) and policy coherence (SDG 17.14.1).
MA:6 French SDG Environmental Indicators Online Course		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> French version of the SDG Environmental Indicators Online Course was launched.
B) Multidisciplinary integrated analysis of progress towards agenda 2030 is carried out and published.	<p>Output Indicator (ii) Increase in the number of relevant global, regional or national forums or institutions using data on environmental trends identified through UNEP for environmental assessment, early warning on emerging issues and/or facilitation of policy action</p> <p>Baseline (July 2020): 0 Target (December 2023): 6. Achieved Target: 8</p> <p>Note: This indicator contributes the 715.1 indicator: Documents showing strengthening of the science-policy interface based on the use of data, information, and policy analysis in the areas such as air quality, water quality, ecosystems, biodiversity, waste and hazardous chemicals, the marine environment and emerging issues, among others</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The development of integrated analysis and measuring progress towards achieving the agenda 2030 should strengthen the use of data and information in developing evidence-based policies to allow for better science-policy interface. The Measuring Progress report series should provide innovative information whether in providing disaggregated information and its link to policymaking or through multivariate statistical analysis to better understand the interlinkages. Such analyses lead to the development of evidence-based policies. The Measuring Progress reports were disseminated at several events - see Output A below. Additionally, the Measuring Progress reports were used in 8 journal articles and 14 media articles and published on the project webpage.
Project Output Milestones:		Expected Milestone (1 per reporting period June and December of each year)
MB1: Methodology for Measuring Progress report II developed		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Measuring Progress: Environment and the SDGs methodology was developed and approved.
MB2: Measuring progress report II outreach events organized		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNEP co-hosted the International Forum on Big Data for Sustainable Development Goals (FBAS), in September 2021, and organized a Roundtable on big data use for environment-related SDGs.
MB3: Methodology for Measuring Progress report III developed		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The methodology for the 3rd edition of the Measuring Progress report was prepared and presented to the Expert Consultation Meeting, attended by 66 international experts in June 2022.
MB4: Approved statistical analysis of the Measuring Progress report III by the Expert Group		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The methodology for the statistical analysis of the Measuring Progress report III was approved. Results on statistical analysis were also implemented through an Expert Consultation meeting.
MB5: Launch of the Measuring Progress report III		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The report was launched in March 2023, virtually, prior to the 2023 UN Water Conference in New York.
MB6: Measuring Progress report III outreach events organised		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presented findings of the Measuring Progress 3rd edition at the international forum on big data for sustainable development goals, September 2023, Beijing, China. Other inputs by UNEP and the European Commission via the side-event on "Strong data for science-based circular water solutions" as part of the High-Level Political Forum in July 2023 in New York, USA.
MB7: Measuring Progress Special Edition: disaggregation of data		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First draft of the report was completed by the end date of the project and will be published in 2024.

Output A: Tools are developed and training for capacity building to measure, monitor and report on the environmental dimension of the SDGs is delivered in the target countries

As part of Output A, numerous outputs were delivered including reports, training and technical assistance reports, webinars, articles, contributions to newsletters, amongst others. A selection of the main outputs and milestones are highlighted below.

Environment SDG Indicators Online Course

Launched at the beginning of 2021, with co-financing and in partnership with the UN SIAP and developed by UNITAR, a new course consists of 10 modules was developed, which provides users with in-depth knowledge about SDG environment indicators, focusing on waste, ocean, policy coherence, land and water accounts, material flows, SCP, measuring gender, need for environment statistics, and using environment statistics for national policies. The online course is currently disseminated on 3 platforms: UNITAR, SIAP and UNSD and is available in 3 languages (EN, FR and RU).

Box 1: Environment SDG Indicators Online Course



The aim of the course was to build the capacity of countries – representatives of National Statistical Office, Ministries of Environment, and other stakeholders – to compile and use data on the environment-related SDGs for evidence-based decision-making and to promote cross-cutting data analysis to better understand the environment dimension of development.

The participation in the online course was high, with over 6,862 participants completing the EN, RU and FR courses between 2021-2023.

Evidence from course review analysis shows that participants who completed the course increased their knowledge to describe key concepts relevant for environmental monitoring and SDG indicators, discuss key challenges the participants' countries may be facing in compiling these indicators and actions that can be taken to address them, and raise their awareness on the subject.

Respondents to the online course highlighted that 88% would recommend the course; 91% increased their knowledge and skills for integrated and coherent policy design; 91% increased awareness levels about Environmental SDG indicators; and 86% responded they found the course useful.

Box 2: EW-MFA E-Learning Course



In addition, an e-learning course on Economy Wide Material Flow Accounting (EW-MFA) was also developed and delivers a very comprehensive overview of natural resource extraction, trade in natural resources, waste disposal and emissions. These flow accounts track the environmental pressures resulting from the use of natural resources, and headline indicators based on EW-MFA have been used as a stand-in for the overall environmental pressure and impact of a country's economy.

Regional and sub-regional Workshops on Strengthening Coordination for Measuring Progress on Responsible Consumption and Production and Policy Coherence

Four two-day regional and sub-regional workshops were implemented in 2021- 2022: as follows:

- West Africa: 23 - 25 November 2021;
- South Asia: 30 November - 2 December 2021;
- Eastern Europe, Caucasus, and Central Asia: 7 - 9 December 2021; and
- East Africa; 11-13 January 2022.

The aim of the workshops was to enhance member states statistical capacities by hosting data producers and users together to emphasize the need for cooperation and coordination, as well as improving understanding of the efforts made to collect data. Furthermore, the workshops underlined the importance of sound data collection and dissemination including the need for data disaggregation for targeted and evidence-based policy making.

The workshops were attended by 112 participants from 27 countries.

Feedback from the evaluation of the workshops, highlighted that they enhanced member states statistical capacities by hosting data producers and users together to emphasize the need for cooperation and coordination, as well as improving understanding of the efforts made to collect data. Furthermore, the workshops raised awareness on the importance of sound data collection and dissemination including the need for data disaggregation for targeted and evidence-based policy-making. 86% of participants that responded to evaluations related to the sub-regional workshops on strengthening coordination for measuring progress on responsible consumption and production and policy coherence stated that the overall value of the workshop was excellent or good.

One of the interview respondents from the implementing partners highlighted that whilst the workshops were good value, in identifying key issues and challenges being experienced by participants, on a virtual platform more interactive measures need to be used to maintain participants' interest.

National Activities to Enhance Statistical Capacity of Countries to Measure SDG Indicators on Material Flow, Waste and Policy Coherence

One of the major activities of Output A, six technical assistance missions were implemented in 5 beneficiary countries (Ghana, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Senegal and Uganda), focusing on SDG indicators 8.4.1/12.2.1, 8.4.2/12.2.2 (material flow indicators), 12.4.2, 12.5.1 (waste indicators) and 17.14.1 (policy coherence indicator), and an out-country- training in Paris, France focusing of SDG indicator 12.3.1b (food waste), and targeting participants from India, Bangladesh, Kazakhstan and Senegal. A typical agenda for the workshop (in this for Kazakhstan) is shown below in Table 7.

Table 7: Availability of Outputs

Date	Session	Lead/Presenter
22 May 2023	Opening	Bureau of national statistics
	Introductions	
	Objectives of the workshop	Consultant - UNEP
	National Context	Bureau of national statistics
	Overview of the selected indicators 12.2.1 on material footprint 12.2.2 on domestic material consumption 12.4.2 on hazardous waste generated 12.5.1 on national recycling rate	Consultant - UNEP
	Part A: Economy-Wide Material Flow Accounts	
	Introduction Economy-Wide Material Flow Accounts	Consultant - UNEP



	Overview of data needed for the economy-wide material flow accounts and their potential sources	Consultant – UNEP
	Overview of data available in Kazakhstan	Bureau of national statistics
23 May 2023	Introduction to the compiler <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Domestic extraction (DE) • Imports and export of materials • Material outflows • Balancing items • Headline indicators 	Consultant – UNEP
	The compiler, step-by-step Domestic extraction (DE) - Table_A A.1 Biomass, A.2 Metal ores, A.3 Non-metallic minerals, and A.4 Fossil fuels	Consultant – UNEP
24 May 2023	Imports and export of materials – Table_B, Table_C	Consultant – UNEP
	Material outflows – Table_D	Consultant – UNEP
	Balancing items – Table_E	Consultant – UNEP
	Headline indicators – Table_F	Consultant – UNEP
25 May 2023	Using the compiler - Hands-on	Consultant – UNEP
26 May 2023	Using the compiler - Hands-on <i>continued</i>	Consultant – UNEP
	Next steps and closing	Bureau of national statistics


Date	Time	Session	Lead/Presenter
		Part B: Hazardous waste and recycling	
29 May 2023		Opening	Bureau of national statistics
		Introductions	
		Objectives of the workshop	Consultant - UNEP
		National Context	Bureau of national statistics / Ministry of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources
		Indicator 12.4.2 on hazardous waste generated	Consultant - UNEP
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hazardous waste generated (in tonnes, per km sq. of land area and per capita) • Hazardous waste generated by type, including e-waste • Proportion of hazardous waste treated • Environmentally sound treatment of own generated hazardous waste • Hazardous waste intensity of production 	Consultant - UNEP
30 May 2023		Indicator 12.4.2 on hazardous waste generated - <i>continued</i>	Consultant - UNEP
		Indicator 12.5.1 on national recycling rate	Consultant - UNEP
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National recycling rate • Total Waste Generated (excluding construction, mining and agriculture) by type, including e-waste • National recycling rate by type of waste, including e-waste (other possible disaggregation include, metals and packaging waste) • Waste intensity 	Consultant - UNEP
31 May 2023		Indicator 12.5.1 on national recycling rate - <i>continued</i>	Consultant - UNEP
		Introduction to the worksheets	Consultant - UNEP
01 June 2023		Using the worksheets – Hands-on	Consultant - UNEP


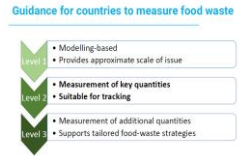
02 June 2023		Using the worksheets – Hands-on <i>continued</i>	Consultant – UNEP
		Next steps and closing	Bureau of national statistics / Ministry of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources

Further details are shown on the national workshops on Table 8.

Table 8: Scope and results of national workshops

Country	Scope and Aim of Workshop	Conclusions and Observations
Jordan	<p>4 -15 June 2023. 14 participants.</p> <p>Capacity building to better understand the adopted methodologies develop for national statistics for SDG Indicators 12.2.1 on material footprint, 12.2.2 on domestic material consumption, 12.4.2 on hazardous waste generated and treated, 12.5.1 on national recycling rate and 17.14.1 on policy coherence.</p> 	<p>Participants from Department of Statistics (DoS), Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Local Administration, Ministry of Environment and Jordan Customs.</p> <p>Jordan does not have an emission inventory for air pollutants relevant to MFA. Data is collected under the territorial principle and guidance is needed to change to the residential principle. Overall, Jordan has enough data to calculate MFA indicator (12.2.2) and report on indicator's 12.4.2 and 12.5.1 but not able to estimate the raw material equivalents.</p> <p>For the waste indicators, there are large gaps in waste generation rates and this recording of the relevant streams.</p> <p>The second two-day workshop was on SDG indicator 17.14.1 on policy coherence.</p> <p>Keen interest in continuing progress from training received.</p> <p>Participants improved their knowledge to identify the necessary information to publish data for SDG indicator 17.14.1.</p> <p>Willingness to finalise work and officially report of the SDG indicator.</p> <p>Improved and willingness to continue stakeholder engagement in developing data for the SDG indicator in question.</p> <p>Participants highlighted that training enabled them to be able to complete the SDG questionnaire and that a national committee will be formed responsible for collecting and publishing data on the SDG.</p>
Ghana	<p>17 July - 2 August 2023. 21 participants.</p> <p>Capacity building to better understand the adopted methodologies develop for national statistics for SDG Indicators 12.2.1 on material footprint, 12.2.2 on domestic material consumption, 12.4.2 on hazardous waste generated and treated, 12.5.1 on national recycling rate and 17.14.1 on policy coherence.</p> 	<p>Participants from a wider range of data producers, compilers, and users: Ghana Statistical Service (GSS), Energy Commission, Environmental Protection Agency, Ghana Education Service, Minerals Commission, Ministry of Environment, Science, technology and Innovation, Ministry of Food and Agriculture, National Development Planning Commissions and Public Procurement Authority.</p> <p>First 10-day workshop focused on material flow accounts (MFA) and completing the Economy-wide-Material Flow Accounts compiler for 2021 data.</p> <p>The results were far lower than from the Global Materials Flow database, which may be due to missing data, underestimated quantities such as for extraction materials, or inaccurate import/export quantities.</p> <p>Some data exists on greenhouse gas reporting, however, there is a lack of data generally on waste arisings, with no formal method of recording data, or for recycling. Some data is available on hazardous waste imports and exports as part of the Basel Convention reporting.</p>

		<p>GSS is well positioned to complete its MFA reporting obligations. UNEPs International Resource Panel could assist Ghana to finalise its MFA reporting obligations.</p> <p>UNEP could explore ways in which it could support Ghana establish the systems needed to collect data on municipal and hazardous wastes.</p> <p>Second two-day workshop focused on SDG indicator 17.1.4.1 on policy coherence.</p> <p>Evaluated country's progress towards policy coherence, based on the 8 dimensions of the SDG indicator. i.e. institutional political commitment, long-term considerations in decision making, inter-ministerial and cross-sectoral coordination, participatory approaches, consultation and coordination across government, monitoring and reporting for policy coherence and financial resources and tools.</p> <p>Six recommendations were developed to enhance policy coherence development in Ghana, including: strengthening inter-ministerial consultation, enhancing data collection and monitoring, involving more civil society organisations, private sector and other stakeholders in policy making, identifying and addressing barriers to policy implementation that may hinder progress towards the SDGs, ensuring that economic incentives are aligned with sustainable development objectives and the global urgency of climate change encourages for the prioritization of policies that address environmental protection, climate resilience, etc.</p>
<p>Senegal</p>	<p>31 July – 11 August 2023. 10 participants for MFA and 9 participants for waste. 5 participants for 17.14.1.</p> <p>Capacity building to better understand the adopted methodologies develop for national statistics for SDG Indicators 12.2.1 on material footprint, 12.2.2 on domestic material consumption, 12.4.2 on hazardous waste generated and treated, 12.5.1 on national recycling rate and 17.14.1 on policy coherence.</p> 	<p>Participants from a wider range of data producers, compilers and users: National Agency for Statistics and Demography (ANSD), Ministry of Finance and Budget, Ministry of Livestock and Animal Production, Ministry of Environment, Sustainable Development and Ecological Transition, and the Ministry of Oil and Energy, as well as Planning and Cooperation, Ministry of Urban Renewal, Housing and Living Environment, Senegal Numerique (e-waste and SONAGED attended the waste and recycling workshop.</p> <p>First 10-day workshop focused on material flow accounts (MFA) and completing the Economy-wide-Material Flow Accounts compiler for 2021 data.</p> <p>The results were far lower than from the Global Materials Flow database, with several data requiring further verification, i.e. mineral extraction; and other data on waste, sewage sludge being from 2005 need updating, amongst others.</p> <p>Generally, there is a lack of data on hazardous waste and recycling in Senegal. There is some data on e-waste and particularly in the government sector. On hazardous waste some data is available from the Basel Convention imports and exports reporting. The Zero Waste project (implemented by SONAGED) from December 2022 should provide more data on waste arisings soon.</p> <p>Senegal should be able to complete its MFA reporting obligations once data gaps are completed, and report to UNEP. Assistance could be given when the methodology for deriving raw material equivalents for export and imports is available.</p> <p>The responsible authority, Senegal Numerique should be commissioned to report on e-waste arisings and recycling. SONAGED should foster the collection of data required to complete the data for indicators 12.4.2 and 12.5.1.</p> <p>Second two-day workshop focused on SDG indicator 17.1.4.1 on policy coherence.</p>

		<p>Evaluated country's progress towards policy coherence, based on the 8 dimensions of the SDG indicator. i.e. institutional political commitment, long-term considerations in decision making, inter-ministerial and cross-sectoral coordination, participatory approaches, consultation and coordination across government, monitoring and reporting for policy coherence and financial resources and tools.</p> <p>Two recommendations were developed specifically for ANSD, to validate the data recorded during the training and subsequently to submit the results to UNEP and for ANSD to organise and hold meetings once every two years on the SDG 17.14.1.</p>
Kazakhstan	<p>22 May – 2 June 2023. 6 participants for MFA. 9 participants for hazardous waste and recycling.</p> <p>Capacity building to better understand the adopted methodologies develop for national statistics for SDG Indicators 12.2.1 on material footprint, 12.2.2 on domestic material consumption, 12.4.2 on hazardous waste generated and treated and 12.5.1 on national recycling rate.</p>	<p>Participants from Institute of Economic Research, Department of National Accounts of the Bureau of National Statistics, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources and Joint Stock Company 'Zhasyl Damu'.</p> <p>First 10-day workshop focused on material flow accounts (MFA).</p> <p>The workshop included a review of the data included in the MFA, focusing on crop residues and fodder crops, amongst others. On material outflows assistance is underway for air emissions.</p> <p>On hazardous waste, data is available, but it is not in correct international definitions.</p> <p>Data exists for hazardous waste and municipal waste, as well as landfilling and treatment of waste, but there are discrepancies in definitions which make it difficult to report on these indicators.</p> <p>On MFA, Kazakhstan lacks the capacity to estimate its raw material equivalents of import and exports. Support will be required to be able to fully estimate emissions based on the residential principle and calculate their material footprint.</p>
Uganda	<p>2-3 November 2023. 13 participants.</p> <p>Capacity building to better understand the adopted methodologies develop for national statistics for SDG indicator 17.14.1 on policy coherence.</p> 	<p>Participants included Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS), the Office of the Prime Minister and National Environmental Management Authority.</p> <p>Two-day workshop focused on SDG indicator 17.1.4.1 on policy coherence.</p> <p>Evaluated country's progress towards policy coherence, based on the 8 dimensions of the SDG indicator. i.e. institutional political commitment, long-term considerations in decision making, inter-ministerial and cross-sectoral coordination, participatory approaches, consultation and coordination across government, monitoring and reporting for policy coherence and financial resources and tools.</p> <p>Two recommendations were developed specifically for UBOS, to validate the data recorded during the training and subsequently to submit the results to UNEP, and for UBOS to expand the number of stakeholders involved in the SDGs, i.e. 20 Programme Lead entities.</p> <p>Further discussions also took place on UNEP providing additional capacity building for other SDG indicators.</p>
Paris, France	<p>28-29 November 2023. 7 participants</p> <p>Training on SDG Indicator 12.3.1b on Food Waste</p> 	<p>Participants from Ministry of Planning, Bangladesh; National Institute of Urban Affairs and Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, India; Bureau of National Statistics of the Agency for Strategic Planning and Reforms and Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, Kazakhstan; and National Agency for Statistics and Demography, Senegal.</p> <p>To-day workshop on SDG indicator 12.3.1b on food waste.</p> <p>Focused on introductory elements of this SDG indicator, definitions: food, sectors, measurement methods; approaches to sampling and designing representative samples; household measurement planning exercise; Main types of food waste: edible/inedible, destinations, other useful information for</p>

		strategies; diaries, causes and drivers of waste; food service and retail subsectors; defining priority subsectors; working on a measurement strategy in your country; and mapping stakeholders, identifying responsibility and putting the systems in place to make the most of data.
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Overall, the evidence from the project documents, progress reports and final report shows that the technical assistance raised 75 government officials' knowledge of the adopted methodologies for the target SDG indicators and equipped them with the necessary statistical capacity to report and disseminate on these indicators. As these indicators require data from multiple national stakeholders, it also engaged stakeholders and improved their coordination for future collaboration in the production of SDG indicators and data flows.

99% of participants that responded to evaluations of the tailored national capacity building activity stated that the overall value of the training was excellent or good.

The gender balance in the national workshops was around 60% male and 40% female.

In several countries, they also gained knowledge and know-how and the commitment to develop national statistics related to relevant SDG indicators under goals 12 and 17. Feedback from the mission reports and interviews, indicate that Ghana, Jordan, Kazakhstan and Senegal lack data on hazardous waste and (municipal waste) recycling rates and need more effort to address this situation. In Ghana and Senegal, efforts are planned/underway to improve waste generation data and to engage with relevant stakeholders to develop mechanisms accordingly. All countries need additional support in the waste area, including Jordan and Kazakhstan to be able to develop the reporting needs for SDGs under goal 12.4.2 and 12.5.2.

Feedback from the beneficiary interviews shows that the national activities were well appreciated, organised well, of high technical quality, with good knowledge of the subject matter and well presented. Several respondents highlighted that the training should be planned earlier, there should be more examples related to Africa and there should be more reference to case studies. Several respondents from Ghana and Senegal also highlighted the need to 'top-up' training soon.

Webinars in Arab Region

The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA), in collaboration with UNEP and UNSD organized a webinar on advancing SDG 12 indicators with a focus on waste-related indicators (SDGs 12.4.1 and 12.4.2) and SEEA (SDG 15.9.1b) in May 2022. The webinar targeted 57 participants from 15 countries from the Arab region, and enhanced understanding of metadata and nature of data, improved statistical capacities to invigorate production and use of comparable SDG indicators, strengthened inter-institutional coordination and shared and discussed country challenges in measuring SDG indicators.

UNEP and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA) held 2 training webinars in May and June 2021 targeting the Arab Region, of which one beneficiary country is part of. The webinars enhanced the understanding of metadata of SDG indicators, improved the statistical capacities to invigorate production and use of comparable SDG indicators, strengthened inter-institutional coordination to spearhead production of SDG indicators and data flows, and shared and discuss country challenges in measuring SDG indicators. The webinars targeted 70 representatives from 19 national statistical offices namely: Bahrain, Comoros, Egypt, France, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Switzerland, Tunisia, United Arab of Emirates and Yemen.

Output B: Multidisciplinary integrated analysis of progress towards agenda 2030 is carried out and published

As part of Output B, a selection of the outputs and milestones are highlighted below.

Project webpage

The project webpage, as part of the UNEP website, holds all the main deliverables from the project and acts as a vehicle for communications, outreach, and visibility, as shown on Figure 3.



Figure 3: Project web site

Evidence from the interviews shows that the project website is well used.

Measuring Progress Series Reports



A major part of Output B was the production, publishing, and dissemination of the Measuring Progress Reports on the environmental dimension of the SDGs, combining a series of new products and gains in knowledge, abilities, and awareness of individuals from key stakeholders and other interested parties.

The 'Measuring Progress: Environment and the SDGs' was launched in May 2021, and as the second Measuring Progress Report analyses the progress

made in 92 environment related SDG indicators, exploring the potential and limitations of using a statistical correlation analysis between indicator pairs (state of the environment and divers of change indicators; and state of the art environment and state of society indicators) to improve the understanding of the interlinkages between SDG indicators. It also sets out progress being made for those SDG indicators UNEP identified as environment-related since December 2018, based on data from the SDG Global Indicators Database.

Box 4: measuring Progress: Water-related Ecosystems



The publication was launched online, coinciding with the International Day on Biological Diversity and in cooperation with the Convention on Biological Diversity and widely disseminated through a webpage, short video, and e-book, with executive summaries translated into the 5 UN official languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish). The 'Measuring Progress: Water-related ecosystems and the SDGs' was published in March 2023 and provides a general

overview of progress made on the 92 environment related SDGs, focusing on water resources, freshwater and marine, and their interlinkages with social and economic dimensions of sustainable development. The main findings of the report related to freshwater and marine related ecosystems, identified strong interlinkages related to policies that integrate land and water conservation, ensure suitable water infrastructure in urban areas, provide mitigation of pollution and address impacts from water withdrawals associated with economic activity; and the inclusion of global and national levels in the statistical analysis provided an opportunity to verify global interlinkages.

Of note is that the report is UNEP's first report that is fully digital, interactive, user-friendly, and visually impaired friendly (text to speech, text size, background, and font colour changes). The 'Measuring Progress: Water-related ecosystems and the SDGs', report was widely disseminated through several events, including a side event on 'Strong data for science-based circular water solutions' as part of the High-Level Political Forum on 18 July 2023 in New York, and in the 3rd edition of the international forum on big data for sustainable development goals, Beijing, September 2023, where findings of the report were presented in the session on big earth data in support of land degradation neutrality, together with other related participation.

The report on 'Circular Economy: from Indicators and Data to Policy-making' was developed and finalized by the end of the project, and was published online in February 2024. The report aims to map data at national, regional, and global levels, for core Circular Economy

Box 5: Circular Economy: from Indicators and Data to Policy-making



Indicators based on the Guidelines for measuring circular economy to assess the availability and accessibility of circular economy indicators, between operational indicators (highly relevant and highly relevant and already measurable and countries have a willingness to report in the short or medium term (and aspirational indicators (highly relevant but are not yet measurable and methodologies are still required).

The report also evaluates the importance of core indicators in targeted policy making

to advance the shift towards a circular economy and presents country examples of what has been achieved in selected countries.

The ‘Measuring Progress Special Edition: Disaggregation’ report has been prepared. The first draft was completed by the end of this project. The report will be peer reviewed, finalized and published in 2024.

The report focuses on exploring potential disaggregation with the purpose of developing evidence-based targeted policies and the impact such policies might have on societies, the environment, and the economy.

By mid-February 2024, there has been the following pageviews, users and downloads of the three documents, as shown in Table 9.

Table 9: Measuring Progress Reports views

Report	Page views	Users	Downloads	Top countries
Measuring Progress Environment and the SDGs	20,984	17,507	3,752	1. USA 2. India 3. UK
Measuring Progress: Water-related ecosystems and the SDGs	4,385	2,496	2,994	1. India 2. Italy 3. USA

Rating for Availability of Outputs: HS

Achievement of Project Outcomes

There was one main project outcome - **national, regional, and global reporting by member states on the 2030 Agenda and SDGs includes the environmental dimension**, indicated by one key indicator: **number of countries with mechanisms in place to enhance policy coherence of sustainable development in the 2 target regions (Africa and Asia)**. The achievement of the outcome is highlighted on Table 10.

Table 10: Achievement of Outcomes

Project Outcome	Indicators	Expected Accomplishment and Indicator	Achieved Results/ Observations by Reviewer
National, regional and global level reporting by member states on the 2030 Agenda and SDGs includes the environmental dimension	<p>Outcome indicator (i) Number of countries with mechanisms in place to enhance policy coherence of sustainable development in the 2 target regions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Baseline (July 2020): 0 ▪ Target (December 2023): 6 countries (3 in Africa and 3 in Asia) Achieved Target: 5 ▪ Note: This indicator contributes to the 715.1 indicator: Documents showing strengthening of the science-policy interface based on the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ SP-7 Environment under review ▪ EA (1) Governments and other stakeholders use quality open environmental data, analyses and participatory processes that strengthen the science policy interface to generate evidence-based environmental assessments, identify emerging issues and foster policy action. ▪ Indicator (i) Number of SDG indicators for 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Five beneficiary countries are capable of reporting on mechanisms in place to enhance policy coherence. This has increased from one country due to the capacity building activities that the project has implemented in four beneficiary countries. By the end of the capacity building activities, all countries were able to report on the mechanisms in place to enhance policy coherence and were awaiting validation and official reporting to UNEP. ▪ The sixth project country, India, did not respond to the request for capacity building and hence no capacity building activities were implemented. ▪ Countries have open access to all methodologies and manuals published to

	use of data, information, and policy analysis in the areas such as air quality, water quality, ecosystems, biodiversity, waste and hazardous chemicals, the marine environment, and emerging issues, among others	which UN Environment is the Custodian Agency for which data is available on the UN Global SDG.	strengthen their statistical capacities in relation to SDG environment-related indicators.
Project milestones that show progress towards achieving the project outcome		Expected Milestones (1 per reporting period: June and December of each year)	
M1: SDG indicator guidelines published		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All methodologies have been published on the SDG Global Database, Metadata repository at the UNEP SDG website. UNEP finalized three manuals providing detailed methodological information on SDG waste, material flow accounts and ocean indicators data. 	
M2: Measuring Progress report II informed deliberations at UNEA-5 and COP-15 of Biodiversity Convention		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the postponement of UNEA-5 and COP-15 and the delay in finalizing and publishing the report, UNEP co-hosted the International Forum on Big Data for Sustainable Development Goals (FBAS) in September 2021, that was attended by nearly 800 participants from 50 countries in a hybrid format. 	
M3: SDG 12 Hub launched		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SDG 12 Hub was launched virtually at a side-event the High-Level Political Forum in July 2021. This one-stop shop allows government officials, public and academia to access all information related to Sustainable Consumption and Production, including data, methodologies, manuals and contact people. Government officials will be able to use IRIS for SDGs to report on SCP indicators. 	
M4: Data reported to the UN SDG Global database on 18 SDG indicators for 6 project countries		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> From 2022, UNEP was able to report on all SDG indicators under its custodianship. 	
M5: All project countries received tailored capacity building addressing their needs		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Five target countries (Ghana, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Senegal and Uganda) benefited from direct technical assistance to enhance their capacities in collecting and reporting on the target SDG indicators, and one beneficiary country (India) raised its capacity specifically on the food waste indicator. This was discussed in the Outputs sub-section. 	
M6: Publicize case studies illustrating impact of the project		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Due to delays in implementing the national activities, the development of case studies about the impact of the project was not possible. A Report on National Activities to Enhance Statistical Capacity of Countries to Measure SDG Indicators on Material Flow, Waste and Policy Coherence: Challenges and lessons learnt, was published in February 2024. The review of the project carried out between January – March 2024 will highlight the likelihood of impact of the project (see Likelihood of Impact in Effectiveness). 	
M7: 'Circular Economy: from indicators and data to policy making' report published		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final report completed by the end date of the project, with the report published in February 2024. 	

Based on the Table above and given the evidence, the project outcome has been achieved, enabling the governments and other stakeholders to use quality open environmental data, analyses and participatory processes that strengthen the science-policy interface to generate evidence-based environmental assessments, identify emerging issues and foster policy action.

The main assumptions about capacity of governments and their willingness to use tools and methodologies, commitment, and interest of key stakeholders to allow progress from project outputs to the outcome could hold in most cases. Six countries raised their knowledge and capacities in reporting on all or some of the target SDGs, as well as improving coordination mechanisms amongst the key players in producing/compiling and using national environmental statistics and SDGs.

The main drivers to support transition from outputs to project outcomes were in place at the outset, including that UNEP is recognised as the custodian for the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda.

The beneficiary interviewees highlighted that the national workshops were informative, practical, and increased their knowledge in developing and reporting on the target SGD indicators.

Rating for Achievement of Project Outcome: HS

Likelihood of Impact

Evidence shows that the achieved project outputs led to the overall project outcome being achieved. Moreover, it is highly likely that because of the project, the Intermediate State: Governments use quality open environmental data, analyses and participatory approaches in policy making processes will be achieved, although the full impact of the project may take longer to materialise and fully assess.

There is evidence from the interviews of increased awareness of the environmental dimension of SDGs and specifically in the target topics and in the gaps and challenges being faced in collecting and analysing data on these topics. This has been observed by the increase in the number of downloads (between 2022 and 2023) of reports (41% increase for *'Measuring Progress: Environment and the SDGs'*), guidelines – *'Global Chemicals and Waste Indicator Review Document'* (218% increase for English, 288% increase for Arabic and 345% increase for Russian) as well as enrolment in online courses (74% increase for English, 80% increase for Russian).

Evidence from the project documents and beneficiary interviews, suggest that the national level technical assistance was a catalyst for countries to compile the data required to derive SDG indicators 8.4.2/12.2.2, 12.3.1b and 17.14.1, provided an opportunity to strengthen inter-agency collaboration at the national level and to identify gaps in available data that could be completed in the future, in some cases with the need for additional technical assistance (Jordan and Kazakhstan). The trainings also increased confidence in their ability to derive the indicators. Countries are following up on the training, finalising the results, and have indicated their intent to submit their indicators data to UNEP soon.

For SDG indicators 12.4.2 and 12.5.1 (waste indicators), there are larger gaps in data collection, as there is a low level of good quality data on waste generation, treatment, and disposal and, hence recycling rates. Some improvements are underway in Ghana and Senegal to remedy the collection of waste related data.

There is evidence from the beneficiary interviews of increased awareness of the environmental dimension of SDGs and specifically in the target topics and in the gaps and challenges being faced in collecting and analysing data on these topics. The recognition of

gaps in data and how to plug these gaps, through for example inter-agency collaboration was also a positive driver from the project.

The evidence from the progress reports and final reports, suggests there is a degree of triggering additional actions (catalytic effect) and replication with regards to the '*Measuring Progress: Water-related ecosystems and the SDGs*', including (a) show of interest from the US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) to further research some topics identified as part of the report, and (b) request to partner on a joint research project with Nanjing Normal University (China) and Chouaib Doukkali University (Morocco) to research the '*SDGs interaction prediction and pathways optimisation for Water-Food-Ecology Synergy in Typical Coastal Urban Agglomerations*'. The joint research project was approved by the Chinese government in December 2023.

In terms of the intended project impact, it was expected to show that policymaking and stakeholder action are guided by environmental data and information and fully integrate the environmental dimension of sustainable development, contributing to the advancement of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development.

Achievement of Likelihood of Impact: L

Rating for Effectiveness: Highly Satisfactory

E. Financial Management

Adherence to UNEP's Financial Policies and Procedures

Evidence from the project documents, progress reports, financial information and final report showed that expenditure reports were submitted regularly, and that expenditure was within the planned annual budgets and subsequently revised budgets. The revised budget was justified because of savings for planned expenditure on travel and in-person meetings (which was re-allocated to 8 additional activities).

The UNEP Fund Management Officer (FMO) reviewed the project budget before submission to the EC (for approval) to ensure the requested budget and respective budget codes are aligned with the planned activities.

The review found that procurement of services through small scale funding agreements and the UN-to-UN Transfer agreement (for UNITAR) were justified and done appropriately.

Rating for Adherence to UNEP's Financial Policies and Procedures: HS

Completeness of Financial Information

The receipt of EU funds was late (16 October 2020) and the UNEP co-funding had to be used to initiate the project activities, although due to COVID-19 many activities were re-planned for 2021.

As shown on in Annex V, the completeness of financial information was rated as **Highly Satisfactory**. Most of the key information related to the financial management of the project was available for review. Documents included the original Umoja based project budget and the breakdown for years 1-3, as well as the new proposed budget for 2023. The Agreements of Co-operation were also available. See Annex IV: PROJECT BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES.

The project incurred a financial expenditure of 1,242,912 USD out of the 1,294,700 USD project budget, giving an expenditure of 96%, with 100% of project activities completed.

Rating for Completeness of Financial Information: HS

Communication Between Finance and Project Management Staff

The communication between the finance and project management staff was found to be **Satisfactory**, as project management had strong awareness of UNEP's financial reporting requirements and of the project's financial status. The Fund Management Officer (FMO) had a good level of awareness of the overall project progress when financial disbursements were made, and there was regular contact between at the Project manager and the FMO. There was also evidence of quality review of progress reports, including financial aspects.

Rating for Communication Between Finance and Project Management Staff: HS

Rating for Financial Management: Highly Satisfactory

F. Efficiency

The project was originally planned to be completed by 31st December 2022, however, due to the COVID-19 pandemic it was completed on 31st December 2023. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a no-cost extension until 31 December 2023 was requested and approved by the EC. As a significant budget was allocated for travel and in-person meetings, the COVID-19 pandemic meant that in-person activities were replaced by virtual ones, which resulted in savings in the project budget. An additional 8 complimentary activities were added to the existing project activities, with the corresponding budget re-allocated. Hence, the project was implemented a revised timeframe and adjusted results framework.

Evidence suggests that the project utilised cost-effective approaches to exceed the project targets, such as 3 countries have 20 or more SDG indicators that UNEP is Custodian agency for reported to the UN SDG Global Database, and the Measuring Progress report series provides innovative information and approaches to the development of evidence-based approaches. The Measuring Progress report series were used in 8 journal articles, 14 media articles and 1 webpage. Of note was the 3rd Measuring Progress report - Measuring Progress: Water-related ecosystems and the SDGs which is both fully digital, interactive, user-friendly, and visually impaired friendly, together with using an innovative statistical method to provide improved knowledge about SDG indicators interlinkages (synergies and trade-offs).

The involvement of existing and previous partnerships with the likes of UNITAR for the online training, as well as technical assistance and topic providers, consultants, contractors on food waste, water ecosystems, materials flow and policy coherence all enabled a high project efficiency to be attained.

There was a delay in securing the consultant for the national technical assistance activities (mainly due to the long UN procurement procedure) meaning that the activities were postponed for 2023.

Evidence in the project progress reports and final report highlighted the need to plan for national based technical assistance activities well in advance, both development of training material and logistics.

Rating for Efficiency: Highly Satisfactory

G. Monitoring and Reporting

Monitoring Design and Budgeting

The project's monitoring plan (in the ProDoc) covered all the outcome and outputs indicators in the logical framework, and identified baselines, targets, variables, data sources, data collection methods, budget, and persons responsible for monitoring progress.

The indicators included for outcome were:

- Number of countries with mechanisms in place to enhance policy coherence of sustainable development in the 2 target regions.

The indicators included for outputs were:

- Number of SDG indicators for which UNEP is the Custodian Agency that have been reported to the UN SDG Global Database that have data for 1 or more project countries; and
- Increase in the number of relevant global, regional, or national forums or institutions using data on environmental trends identified through UNEP for environmental assessment, early warning on emerging issues and/or facilitation of policy action.

The monitoring plan did not specifically include indicators disaggregated by relevant stakeholder groups or including gender.

The project allocated adequate funding for the final evaluation, which was indicated in the Project Document.

Rating for Monitoring Design and Budgeting: HS

Monitoring of Project Implementation

In the three progress reports and final report, complete and relevant baseline data was collected and used to highlight the results of the project against the outputs and outcome indicators, allowing targets to be reached.

A complete and relevant set of monitoring data was included in the progress reports and final report, with indicators set for the outcome and two sets of the project's outputs – with a baseline of 13, a target of 20 and an achieved result of 20 for the number of SDG indicators for which UNEP is the Custodian agency that have been reported to the UN SDG Global Database that have data for 1 or more project countries.

The progress reports and final report also included disaggregated data focusing on gender for participation in the online project training courses.

Challenges and lessons learnt specifically from the national technical assistance activities on measuring SDG indicators on Material Flow, Waste and Policy Coherence (Ghana, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Senegal and Uganda) were highlighted and published in a standalone report, highlighting several ideas around a way forward and potential for improvement, such as using the residential principle as opposed to the territorial approach for collecting data on material flows and raising awareness on collecting information for the indicators targeted.

Rating for Monitoring of Project Implementation: HS

Project Reporting

Project reporting included yearly progress reports (2020, 2021 and 2022) and a final report, also including 2023 activities and results. The progress reports were of high-quality on project progress at the time and included overall project performance; output performance; challenges, management actions and risk mitigation plan; outcome performance; inter-linkages and synergies with other projects; resources and budget; visibility; the way forward; and final remarks on reporting for each year. A series of annexes were also attached, including some key deliverables and project visibility actions. There we are also direct links to key deliverables and visibility actions within the progress reports.

In the 2020 and 2021 progress reports, the challenges around the COVID-19 pandemic were specifically highlighted and a good level of contingency planning in identifying risk to the project implementation.

Project reporting supported outcome level results, linked to the Log frame indicators, target vs actual results as well as to how the project milestones were met.

The data reported in the progress reports included gender-based (and geographical) participation in online training developed by the project, i.e. Environmental SDG Indicators online course, disseminated on 3 platforms – UNITAR, UN SIAP and UNSD.

Rating for Project Reporting: HS

Rating for Monitoring and Reporting: Highly Satisfactory

H. Sustainability

Socio-political Sustainability

The commitment to the Agenda 2030 by the target regions and national levels is acknowledged and hence the project outcome has a moderate to low degree of dependency on social/political factors. Evidence from the beneficiary interviews substantiates this (see Institutional Sustainability).

The evidence suggests that there is strong ownership, interest and commitment among UNEP and other stakeholders to sustain results in the future. Some highlights include the launch of the SDG 12 Hub at the High-Level Political Forum, the development, and continuing Environment SDG Indicators online course, which is now running in 3 languages (EN, FR, RU) on three platforms (UNITAR, SIAP and UNSD), and numerous publications such as two Measuring Progress for Environment SDGs series.

Rating for Socio-political Sustainability: HL

Financial Sustainability

Feedback from the beneficiary interviews highlights that there is a need for additional funding to achieve the project outcome fully. However, feedback from the interviews, shows that there are plans to finance (from their own sources) a survey in Ghana on environmental goods and services, which will also include environmental protection expenditure and waste.

Projects are being funded by other UN agencies, i.e. UN Habitat, UNDP, and other donors, i.e. EC, World Bank to promote environment related SDGs such as circular economy, fish and aquatics, marine pollution, amongst others. There is, however, a need to raise awareness and provide training on how to compile information and report on material flow accounting indicators.

Rating for Financial Sustainability: L

Institutional Sustainability

With regards to the main outcome – to strengthen national capacity for designing coherent and integrated policies for sustainable development, monitoring and reporting on the environmental dimension of the SDGs, evidence suggests that there is a low degree of sensitivity to institutional support and a robust mechanism is in place to sustain it. Evidence from the project documents, i.e. workshop reports, mission reports, show that institutional structures are largely in place with regards to reporting on environmental SDGs, often with focal points as the responsible person for data collection and in some cases, i.e. for waste data, greater efforts, and mechanisms to develop the data needed to report on SDG indicators is planned, i.e. Ghana and Senegal.

Feedback from the beneficiary interviews, complements the above comment and the creation of key stakeholder groupings/committees to spearhead the institutional requirements to report on SDG indicators. Interviews also highlighted the need for additional support and guidance on reporting on SDG indicators. One respondent from Ghana highlighted the need for “top-up” training for the material flow and waste indicators.

The sustainability of the multidisciplinary integrated analysis of progress towards Agenda 2030 is carried out and published. It is evident from the progress reports and final report, in terms of downloads and views for the SDG 12 Hub and the SCP-Hat tool, as well as expanding partnerships with the UNEP Life-Cycle Initiative and One Planet Network.

At the UN/UNEP level, further evidence shows that multiple partnerships have been established because of the project, such as UNITAR, in collaboration with the UN Statistical Institute for Asia and Pacific (SIAP) to further develop and implement the Environmental SDG indicators online course in multiple languages; and collaboration with the UN Regional Commissions for Western Asia and Europe.

Evidence from the beneficiary interviews, shows that individuals directly active in compiling, producing, and using environment statistics in context of the target SDGs have enhanced their capacities and may have an increased influence in support of the project outcomes.

Rating for Institutional Sustainability: L

Rating for Sustainability (Likelihood): Likely

I. Factors Affecting Performance and Cross-Cutting Issues

Preparation and Readiness

Whilst there was a delay in receiving EC funds (16 October 2020) and UNEP used the co-funds to initiate the project activities, together with the impact of COVID-19, evidence shows that the project mobilised as planned in the Project Document.

At the beginning of the project due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many of the activities were implemented by virtual means, until well into 2021. Technical, training and communication activities were initiated but were managed on a virtual basis, with methodological information related to the SDG environmental indicators, the manual on waste published and the development of the e-learning materials (by UNITAR) launched, and after 2.5 months, there had been a low level of achieving the project outcome.

Rating for Preparation and Readiness: S

Quality of Project Management and Supervision

Whilst there was no formal Project Steering Committee, the project included a project management/team structure with a dedicated project manager, supervisor project manager and fund management officer, as well as supporting staff from UNEP. Good links were developed with the main project partners, UNITAR and UN SIAP in the development and implementation of the online training.

At the beneficiary level, there were some logistical issues that emerged in some countries, and it is recognised that planning of workshops is required well in advance. Overall, evidence from the progress reporting and interviews suggest that the project was managed effectively. The use of SDG focal points at both regional and national levels, via for example the UN Regional Offices also assisted the project management in the implementation of the project.

There was some minor turnover of staff within the UNEP project coordination/support structure, however this process was well-managed and there appeared to be a smooth transition of new staff directly involved in the project.

Regarding providing leadership towards achieving the planned outcomes, evidence shows that all the activities were completed and planned actions and outputs delivered. There were over 20 individuals from other UNEP, UN agencies (i.e. UNITAR, UNESCWA), consultants, contractors directly contributing to the project, as both trainers, preparing training and main contributors to reports. In addition, there were numerous contributors to the main reports as indicated in reports themselves.

Feedback from the evaluation survey, highlights the high quality of project management during the project implementation period.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the high potential negative risk to the project implementation and outcome of the project, as well as some problems with logistics in the national workshops, excellent adaptive management was employed from the outset of the project. This included using virtual means and interactive platforms to communicate on organising training and developing products, i.e. publications, as well as recognising the need to use project savings for additional complimentary activities.

Rating for Quality of Project Management and Supervision: HS

Stakeholders Participation and Cooperation

As highlighted in the Inception Report, a stakeholder analysis was conducted and reported in the Project Document, providing the power and level of influence of the various project stakeholders, both in context of implementing partners at the UN level and supporting level, as well as the beneficiary type stakeholders at regional and national levels.

The project succeeded in reaching and involving all relevant stakeholders (including at the regional and national levels) to mobilize sufficient support for the achievement of the outputs and outcomes. Actions to ensure the appropriate level of engagement were also part of the communication and visibility/public awareness actions. Evidence from the progress report, final report and project documents shows a good range of stakeholders participating in the regional and national workshops, workshop on food waste in Paris, including lead ministries in compiling statistics such as National Statistical Offices; main contributors - Ministry of Environment and other related organisations, i.e. National Environment Protection Agencies and users of statistics – Ministries of Finance, Planning and Environment.

For the national based workshops (5 in number in Ghana, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Senegal and Uganda) to enhance statistical capacity of countries to measure indicators on material flow, waste and policy coherence, a report on challenges and lessons learnt highlighted *“the trainings were a catalyst for countries to compile the data required to derive SDG indicators in the targeted SDGs and provided an opportunity to strengthen inter-agency collaboration at the national level and to identify gaps in available data in the future”*.

Overall, 112 participants participated in the regional and sub-regional workshops and 70 participants attended the national technical assistance workshops (50% of them were women).

The project was also effective in promoting stakeholder ownership, through several materials, guides, and manuals, as previously highlighted.

Rating for Stakeholders Participation and Cooperation: HS

Responsiveness to Human Rights and Gender Equality

During the project design process of project 715.1, a Gender Marker Assessment was conducted focusing on the Context, Log frame, Budget, and Implementation plan of the project. This revealed that gender was reflected in the project and gender specific activities and their budget were then added to have Gender well mainstreamed in the project. In addition, the project was rated low risk according to UNEP Environment, Social and Economic Sustainability Screening Decision.

Evidence from the progress reports, final report and project documents shows that the project incorporated gender inclusive measures during project implementation.

The core project team was gender balanced, with 100% being women by the end of the project. In addition, 73% of consultants, 60% of trainers (regional and national activities) and 48% of report reviewers were women. 43%, 42% and 40% of participants in online courses, national activities and reports authors were women respectively.

Of note, was the project's inclusion of social responsibility measures, with the '*Measuring Progress: Water ecosystems and SDGs*' report produced in a visually impaired friendly format (text to speech, text size, background, and font colour changes).

Rating for Responsiveness to Human Rights and Gender Equality: HS

Environmental and Social Safeguards

The project design process included an Environmental Social and Economic Review Note for the overall 715.1 which indicated that the project is of low risk to all Safeguard Standards Triggered by the Project. This was confirmed by the Safeguard Advisor's screening decision and recommended that the team share the monitoring and reporting tools with relevant stakeholders, which was fully implemented.

Rating for Environmental and Social Safeguards: HS

Country Ownership and Drivenness

The project and particularly the regional, sub-regional and national technical assistance workshops, enjoyed a broad range of government agencies involved in the project. In five out of the six target countries, they included a mix of main producers and compilers of data for reporting on environment SDGs, such as Statistics Institutes, the main producers of environmental statistics, such as Ministries of Environment/Climate, National Environmental Protection/Planning agencies, as well as users of the data, including National Planning ministries, Office of the Prime Minister.

The evidence suggests that further efforts are required for government agencies to improve the quality of data collection and reporting, with them needing additional technical assistance, better coordination for the collection of data and a higher degree of inter-agency collaboration.

Except for India, the national technical assistance and knowledge transfer workshops (Ghana, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Senegal, and Uganda), evidence from the evaluation feedback from the workshops and from the interviews shows a high level of engagement of the beneficiaries in the project.

Rating for Country Ownership and Drivenness: S

Communication and Public Awareness

Box 6: HLPF Side Event



Evidence shows that the project included extensive communication and visibility/public awareness actions throughout the project implementation period, and both existing and new communication channels and networks were of an interactive nature and were used effectively.

Evidence also indicates that communication actions also actually raised public awareness of the project subject areas. Communication activities and visibility/public awareness is highlighted by:

- The project developed a dedicated web page for all project activities, technical materials and implemented workshops. By the middle of February 2024, the project web site has received 1,089 visitors and 202 unique downloads.
- Contribution to six editions of the UN Statistics Division Environment Statistics Newsletters.
- Participation in the Task Force on Measuring Circular Economy within the framework of the Conference of European Statisticians and its Bureau between 2021-23, which has been renewed for an additional 2 years.
- Extensive visibility actions around the Measuring Progress reports and Global Chemicals and Waste Indicator Review Document – which are now available in Arabic, English and Russian. For the Measuring Progress: Environment and the SDGs, there have been nearly 21,000 downloads by mid-February 2024. Dissemination of the 'Measuring Progress 3rd Edition' at the "Strong data for science-based circular water solutions" as part of the High-Level Political Forum on 18 July 2023 in New York – see photograph above.
- Participation in numerous virtual and in-person events, in which evidence indicates 11 events. Several highlights include participation in Visualize 2030 Data Camp between 16 November and 18 December 2020, which allowed 100 youths from 13 West Asian and North African countries to participate in UNDP's Data Camp – which gave a platform to transform their ideas about the SDGs and the impact of COVID-19; and more recently participation in the 3rd Regional Ocean Policy Dialogue – Addressing Common Challenges in Data, Policy, Coherence and Financing to Tackle Marine Plastic Pollution between 3-4 May 2023 in Bali, Indonesia, amongst others.

Rating for Communication and Public Awareness: HS

Rating for Factors Affecting Performance: High Satisfactory

VI. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Conclusions

The project was very relevant, both in context of the main donor, the European Commission and UNEP's mandate and its alignment with their policies and strategies, together with a satisfactory design.

The 41-month project was managed efficiently, with sound financial management and reporting, by a dedicated project team led by UNEP, with supporting partners UNITAR and UN SIAP, which needed one no-cost extension due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The project's main targets - outputs and outcome were exceeded, through an additional 8 activities with linked outputs. Several key documents in the 'Measuring Progress' series were developed and published, and six countries extended their capacities in target SDG indicators and equipped them with the necessary statistical capacity to report and disseminate on these indicators.

Countries still need more support in the process of data collection and there is a specific weakness in data availability and hence reporting in the waste sector in the project's case hazardous waste and the national recycling rate. Overall, there is high degree of likelihood of impact.

It is considered that sustainability is likely, with a strong ownership, interest, and commitment among UNEP to sustain results in the future, albeit with the need for additional funding. Institutional structures seem to be largely in place regarding reporting on the environmental SDGs and for those SDGs not reported, mechanisms to develop the data needed to report on SDGs is planned in several countries, i.e. waste.

Stakeholder cooperation was deemed to be effective and participatory at both regional and national levels, and the project delivered extensive communication and visibility/public awareness actions.

Gender inclusive measures were included in the project's implementation, with a good gender balance of the project team and at the beneficiary level.

It can be concluded that the project achieved a rating of **Highly Satisfactory**.

B. Summary of project findings and ratings

The table below provides a summary of the ratings and finding discussed in Chapter V. Overall, the project demonstrates a rating of **Highly Satisfactory**.

UNEP Evaluation Office Validation of Performance Ratings:

The UNEP Evaluation Office formally quality assesses (see Annex VIII) management led Terminal Review reports and validates the performance ratings therein by ensuring that the performance judgments made are consistent with evidence presented in the Review report and in-line with the performance standards set out for independent evaluations.

The Evaluation Office assesses a Terminal Review report in the same way as it assesses the initial draft of a Terminal Evaluation report. It applies the following assumptions in its validation process:

- That what is being assessed is the contents of the report and the extent to which it makes a consistent and justifiable case for the performance ratings it records.
- That the consultant has, within the report, presented all the evidence that was made available to them.
- That the Review has been based on a robust Theory of Change, reconstructed where necessary, which reflects UNEP's definitions at all levels of results.
- That the project team and key stakeholders have already reviewed a draft version of the report and provided substantive comments and made factual corrections to the Review Consultant, who has responded to them. The Evaluation Office assumes, therefore, that it has received the Final (revised) version of the report.

In this instance the Evaluation Office assesses the quality of the Report at the Satisfactory level and validates the overall project performance rating at the **'Highly Satisfactory'** level.

Table 11: Summary of project findings and ratings¹⁰

Criterion	Summary assessment	Rating	Justification for any ratings' changes due to validation (to be completed by the UNEP Evaluation Office – EOU)	EOU Validated Rating
Strategic Relevance		HS	The rating is validated.	HS
1. Alignment to UNEP MTS, POW and strategic priorities	Full alignment.	HS	The rating is validated.	HS
2. Alignment to Donor/Partner strategic priorities	Full alignment.	HS	The rating is validated.	HS
3. Relevance to global, regional, sub-regional and national environmental priorities	Full alignment.	HS	The rating is validated.	HS
4. Complementarity with relevant existing interventions/coherence	Complementary	HS	The rating is validated.	HS
Quality of Project Design	Design included all the required elements, although a project specific ToC was developed with some additional project drivers incorporated.	S	The rating is validated.	S
Nature of External Context	No major events that affected the project, apart from being affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.	MF	The prolonged and disruptive nature of COVID should not be underrated, especially at personal levels. It is noted that the project was able to easily adapt to new delivery modalities.	MU
Effectiveness		HS	The rating is a weighted average of the three sub-categories below.	S
1. Availability of outputs	All outputs achieved, with additional outputs also achieved.	HS	The rating is validated.	HS

¹⁰ Most criteria will be rated on a six-point scale as follows: Highly Satisfactory (HS); Satisfactory (S); Moderately Satisfactory (MS); Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU); Unsatisfactory (U); Highly Unsatisfactory (HU). Sustainability and Likelihood of Impact are rated, also on a six-point scale, from Highly Likely (HL) down to Highly Unlikely (HU) and Nature of External Context is rated from Highly Favourable (HF) to Highly Unfavourable (HU).

Criterion	Summary assessment	Rating	Justification for any ratings' changes due to validation (to be completed by the UNEP Evaluation Office – EOU)	EOU Validated Rating
2. Achievement of project outcomes	Project outcome achieved.	HS	<p>The outcome refers to the environmental dimension being included in national, regional and global reporting. However, the indicator, and the evidence provided, only relates to beneficiary countries 'being capable of reporting on mechanisms in place to enhance policy coherence'. Without evidence that the environmental dimension is now being reported, the outcome is not fully achieved.</p> <p>The limitation of the indicator to provide evidence of the outcome should have been addressed through triangulation with other evidence of the environmental dimension being included in beneficiary country reports.</p>	S
3. Likelihood of impact	High level of likelihood of impact, even though improvements are needed.	L	The rating is validated	L
Financial Management		HS	The rating is validated	HS
1. Adherence to UNEP's financial policies and procedures	Adherence to UEP's financial policies and procedures.	HS	The rating is validated	HS
2. Completeness of project financial information	Mostly complete	S	There is some inconsistency in the recording of this rating within the text (HS), in Annex V (S) and in the Ratings Table (S). The Evaluation Office validates performance at the Satisfactory level in accordance with the detail provided.	S
3. Communication between finance and project management staff	Good cooperation between UNEP staff.	HS	There is some inconsistency in the recording of this rating within the text (HS and S), in Annex V (S) and in the Ratings Table (HS). The Evaluation Office validates performance at the Satisfactory level in accordance with the detail provided.	S
Efficiency	The project was extended by 12 months due to COVID-19 but was overall efficient.	HS	The rating is validated	HS

Criterion	Summary assessment	Rating	Justification for any ratings' changes due to validation (to be completed by the UNEP Evaluation Office – EOU)	EOU Validated Rating
Monitoring and Reporting		HS	Rating based on a weighted aggregation of the sub-categories below.	S
1. Monitoring design and budgeting	ProDoc included monitoring and budget.	HS	<p>There is only one outcome statement for this project and it is supported by one indicator. However, the indicator (enhanced mechanisms in place) does not measure the outcome (environmental dimension reported). This is a significant weakness in the design of the monitoring system. Nor were disaggregated data incorporated in the design as late as 2020 and despite this being a project about recording global progress in reporting environmental dimensions of development.</p> <p>It is also unclear how the indicator and low target for the first output (SDG indicators where UNEP is the custodian have data for 1 or more project countries) relates to that output statement (Tools are developed and training for capacity building to measure, monitor and report on the environmental dimension of the SDGs is delivered in the target countries). Similarly for the second output (Multidisciplinary integrated analysis of progress towards agenda 2030 is carried out and published) is not well indicated by the number of forums or institutions using data on environmental trends.</p>	MS
2. Monitoring of project implementation	Good monitoring of project implementation, with identification of risks.	HS	The performance rating for this sub-category is limited by the poor suitability of the indicators to confirm the delivery of outputs and achievement of outcomes. However, disaggregated data and lessons learned were captured.	S
3. Project reporting	Progress report and final report captured requirements and indicator based.	HS	The rating is validated	HS

Criterion	Summary assessment	Rating	Justification for any ratings' changes due to validation (to be completed by the UNEP Evaluation Office – EOU)	EOU Validated Rating
Sustainability		L	The rating is validated	L
1. Socio-political sustainability	Strong ownership, interest, and commitment among UNEP to sustain results in the future. Commitment to Agenda 2030.	HL	The rating is validated	HL
2. Financial sustainability	Need for additional funding and raise further awareness to assist in the target SDGs.	L	The rating is validated	L
3. Institutional sustainability	Institutional structures seem to be largely in place or mechanisms are being developed, and partnerships at UN level are evident.	L	The rating is validated	L
Factors Affecting Performance		HS	The rating is validated	HS
1. Preparation and readiness	Project was well developed and used previous partnerships.	HS	The rating is validated	HS
2. Quality of project management and supervision		HS	The rating is validated	HS
2.1 UNEP/Implementing Agency:	UNEP managed project efficiently.	HS	The rating is validated	HS
2.2 Partners/Executing Agency:	Good coordination between agencies.	S	The rating is validated with the reservation that no detail is provided as to why there is a difference in performance rating between the implementing and executing partners.	S
3. Stakeholders' participation and cooperation	Good level of participation, particularly by relevant stakeholders at national levels.	HS	The rating is validated	HS
4. Responsiveness to human rights and gender equality	Activities encouraged participation of women at all levels of project implementation and delivery.	HS	While the report mentions 'gender inclusive measures during project implementation' no examples are provided. Only gender disaggregated participation is reported and the Evaluation Office cannot, therefore, endorse the Highly Satisfactory rating.	S
5. Environmental and social safeguards	The project is directly linked to the Agenda 2030	HS	The rating is validated	HS
6. Country ownership and driven-ness	Overall good, with target regions/sub-regions and five out of six countries fully engaged in project.	S	The rating is validated	S

Criterion	Summary assessment	Rating	Justification for any ratings' changes due to validation (to be completed by the UNEP Evaluation Office – EOU)	EOU Validated Rating
7. Communication and public awareness	Extensive communication, visibility, and public awareness measures throughout project.	HS	The rating is validated	HS
Overall Project Performance Rating		HS		HS

C. Lessons learned

The boxes below summarise the lessons learned.

Lesson Learned #1:	Improve the quality of the data collection and reporting
Context/comment:	The national based technical assistance and knowledge transfer allowed countries to compile data required to derive SDG indicators in the target SDGs. To further improve data compilation, evidence shows that it is essential to obtain input from experts and stakeholders to improve the accuracy and relevance of the national data collected. The assignment and resourcing of a focal point is commonly practiced in UNEP projects, with responsibility for coordinating data collection, as well organising inter-agency collaboration at the national level - to improve mechanisms to collect data. This is considered as best practice and maintained on future projects.
Lesson Learned #2:	Institutional arrangements, structures and working relationship between UNEP, the main beneficiaries, and the implementing partners
Context/comment:	These arrangements worked extremely well, between UNEP, UNITAR and SIAP, with dedicated and committed staff, developing, and implementing contingency arrangements due to the COVID-19 pandemic crucial for the delivery of the project's outputs and outcomes. Successful knowledge transfer requires leadership, responsiveness, and cooperation on the part of the providers of the knowledge and should be carried out in a way that is acceptable to the beneficiaries. It is also important for beneficiaries to accept the guidance at an organization-wide level and apply it appropriately to the operating environment. The long-standing technical competence and knowledge of the operating environment by the implementing partners have been crucial in the delivery of the project. This shows the need to have a tried and tested and technically competent partnership in implementing a project.
Lesson Learned #3:	Flexible project implementation and management
Context/comment:	There have been some serious challenges to the implementation of the project with the COVID-19 pandemic. The flexible approach that was adopted in implementing the project allowed it to be adjusted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Additional activities and work plans were developed and approved including extended timescales for the key activities and direct technical assistance and knowledge transfer through online training and direct technical assistance. The importance of planning and flexibility in project management is therefore crucial when such external events occur.
Lesson Learned #4:	High quality and effective dissemination and visibility products
Context/comment:	As UNEP's role is, amongst others, to produce and share knowledge in a transparent and accessible manner, the translation of technical material into the main UN languages, which was done for many of the produced reports, is essential to help people better understand technical information and use it. In addition, it is acknowledged that the

	production of new information and knowledge needs to be well designed to be suitable to the different types of readers, for example, Measuring Progress: Water ecosystems and SDGs, which used a visually impaired friendly format. This approach to visibility and communications is regarded as good practice.
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Lesson Learned #5:	Planning of capacity building activities
Context/comment:	Many of the capacity building activities moved towards a virtual setting, which has both positive and negative impacts on participants. Whilst participants enthusiastically engaged in virtual meetings, webinars, workshops, the actual number of capacity building activities increased, overburdening some participants. Moreover, due to some issues with logistics of national training activities, in planning and implementing national activities, an important lesson learned is to involve countries in the implementation of the activities well in advance. For example, if national activities are planned for Year 3 of the project, it is important to start planning and communicating with relevant country(ies) during Year 1 to ensure better planning and implementation of activities.

Lesson Learned #6:	The mix between virtual and face to face capacity building and knowledge exchange
Context/comment:	The project combined on-site and virtual methods of knowledge transfer and capacity building, which worked well and offered a higher degree of cost-effectiveness. This combination of capacity building and knowledge transfer is considered good practice. New working methods, such as virtual (online) mechanisms have become the norm due to the COVID-19 pandemic and other dual or hybrid mechanisms may be the way forward in some cases. However, one of the key findings of the 'Capacity Development Benchmarking Report' (UNEP 2023): <i>'Both Member States and Major Groups and Stakeholders indicated that while in the past webinars were the most frequently implemented capacity development instrument, in the future other tools should be prioritised, such as face-to-face in-country support, technology support and learning by doing / experiential learning. This calls for strong UNEP engagement at the country level, which could be achieved through closer cooperation with the UN Country Teams (UNCTs) and implementing partners'</i> .

D. Recommendations

The boxes below list the recommendations for the project, for new similar projects and for UNEP.

Recommendation #1:	Secure additional funding for continuing support to target countries
Challenge/problem to be addressed by the recommendation:	Whilst countries can compile the data required to derive the target SDG indicators and are planning to submit their indicators data to UNEP, there are still data gaps in some SDGs, i.e. waste, further 'top-up' training or new training for any updated and new methods is required. Efforts are needed to secure funding to support such training and support, via

	existing partners and donors and new donors. Other solutions could be partnering with other UN agencies and donors.
Priority Level:	Important
Type of Recommendation	Project
Responsibility:	UNEP, Early Warning and Assessment Division
Proposed implementation time-frame:	2024 onwards

Recommendation #2:	Reporting on the selected (target) SDG indicators will require institutionalisation of the process to compile information for countries
Challenge/problem to be addressed by the recommendation:	It is acknowledged that greater awareness of the benefits of compiling the selected (target) indicators to evaluate the implementation of national programmes and policies, as well as to guide their improvements, is needed to support institutionalisation. UNEP could incorporate (country) examples in training materials of how SDG indicators have been used to guide development and implementation of national programmes and policies. This could provide countries with additional incentive to compile and report on the SDG indicators.
Priority Level:	Important
Type of Recommendation	Project
Responsibility:	UNEP, Early Warning and Assessment Division, UNEP Regional Offices
Proposed implementation time-frame:	2024 onwards

Recommendation #3:	Support on methodology to compile data on the SDG indicator 8.4.1/12.2.1 – Material Footprint
Challenge/problem to be addressed by the recommendation:	As the adaptation of the Eurostat methodology for calculating raw material equivalent of imports (RME _{IM}) and raw material equivalents of exports (RME _{EX}) is not yet available, the data for this indicator were not compiled during the national based technical assistance workshops. Material flow accounts use the residential principle. However, most national data are compiled using a territorial approach. More guidance and support (available in different languages) on how to adjust national data from territorial to residential principle is needed if these significantly impact the results of the MFA. Additionally, more awareness, support and guidance are also needed on how to compile MFA indicators.
Priority Level:	Important
Type of Recommendation	Project
Responsibility:	UNEP, Early Warning and Assessment Division
Proposed implementation time-frame:	2024 onwards

Recommendation #4:	Support governments to strengthen the level of participation to ensure a higher level of participation of all inter-agencies concerned in environmental dimension of SDGs
Challenge/problem to be addressed by the recommendation:	In the regional/sub-regional and national workshops, there was good engagement of government agencies and other relevant stakeholders. However, this still needs strengthening with more involvement from civil society, private sector and other stakeholders in policy making, as well as formalising national inter-agency forums. The use of focal points at the lead government agency, which is common practice, is recommended as a good approach to strengthen national inter-agency consultation. UNEP Regional Offices and UN Resident Coordinators' Offices could be used to assist in this process.
Priority Level:	Important
Type of Recommendation	Project
Responsibility:	UNEP, Early Warning and Assessment Division; UNEP Regional Offices
Proposed implementation time-frame:	2024 onwards

Recommendation #5:	Enhance baseline data collection to allow the analysis of waste generation and recycling (i.e. hazardous waste, municipal recycling, etc.) to be able to report on related SDGs
Challenge/problem to be addressed by the recommendation:	In most of the countries targeted, there is a lack of data on hazardous waste and recycling rates, mainly due to waste generation not being recorded, different definitions of waste types, not reporting on the Basel Convention for imports and exports of hazardous wastes. Whilst there are improvements planned or underway, i.e. Zero Waste project and reporting on e-waste generation and recycling in Senegal, and a survey of environmental goods and services in Ghana, support is required to improve data collection in the waste sector. Many of the beneficiary interviewees stressed the need for support, possibly through UN circular economy technical assistance and other donors in this increasingly active topic.
Priority Level:	Important
Type of Recommendation	Project
Responsibility:	UNEP, Early Warning and Assessment Division
Proposed implementation time-frame:	2024 onwards

Recommendation #6:	Showcasing project achievements
Challenge/problem to be addressed by the recommendation:	The importance of outreach activities and developing high quality dissemination and visibility products, such as the project web page, newsletters, the Measuring Progress reports, and events should be fully considered when developing project concepts. The dissemination and visibility practices from this project should be considered as best practice and included in UNEP guidance, and future ToRs.

Priority Level:	Opportunity for Improvement
Type of Recommendation	Project
Responsibility:	UNEP, Early Warning and Assessment Division and UNEP generally
Proposed implementation time-frame:	2024 onwards

ANNEX I. REVIEW FRAMEWORK/MATRIX

Review questions	Data/Information Collection Methods	Data/Information Sources
Strategic Relevance		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To what extent is the project aligned with UNEP’s Medium-Term Strategy (MTS) and Programme of Work (POW)? 2. To what extent is the project aligned with donor/partner strategic priorities? 3. To what extent is the project consistent with respective country SDGs and environmental priorities? 4. To what extent does the project have complementarity with other existing initiatives? 	Document review, interviews	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. UNEP, Donors, and Country (Global, Regional, and national/country) strategy documents 2. Project Documents 3. Project team and key stakeholders at global, regional and national/country levels
Nature of External Context		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. To what extent did climatic events, security issues, economic conditions and the overall political context affect project implementation? How did COVID-19 affect the project? 6. What were, if any, the adaptive management measures planned and implemented in response? 	Document review, interviews	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Project Documents 2. Project team and key stakeholders at global, regional and national levels
Effectiveness		
Availability of outputs		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. What results have been achieved and which ones have not been achieved? 8. What were the factors influencing the delivery of outputs – both facilitating and hindering factors, such as quality of project management and supervision, preparation, and readiness, etc.? 9. How successful was the project in delivering the planned outputs and in a timely manner? In the event of delays or modifications to the outputs, what were the reasons? 10. How useful and relevant were the delivered outputs for the intended beneficiaries/key stakeholders? 	Document review, interviews	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Project documents (Activity and output documentation) 2. Project team and key stakeholders at global, regional and national levels
Achievement of project outcomes		

<p>11. To what extent were capacities built by stakeholders at global, regional and national/country levels to be able to use data and information to implement the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda?</p> <p>12. To what extent did the project achieve the intended outcomes?</p>	<p>Document review, interviews</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Project documents (Activity and output documentation, ToC) 2. Project team and key stakeholders at global, regional and national levels
<p>Likelihood of impact</p>		
<p>13. To what extent is the project likely to result in positive impacts and attain intermediate states?</p> <p>14. Are the assumptions and drivers and support transition from outputs to the project outcome fully in place.</p> <p>15. How has the project resulted in or promoted scaling up or replication of the interventions related to environmental SDGs?</p>	<p>Document review, interviews</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Project documents (Activity and output documentation, ToC) 2. Project team and key stakeholders at global, regional and national levels
<p>Financial Management</p>		
<p>16. To what extent did the financial management (approvals, disbursements, etc.) of the project adhere to UNEP’s financial policies and procedures?</p> <p>17. Were any financial challenges affecting the project and its timely delivery? Were there any budgetary constraints due to COVID-19?</p> <p>18. How complete was the financial information and reporting of the project?</p> <p>19. To what extent was there adequate budget planning and execution and communication between financial and project management staff?</p>	<p>Document review, interviews</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Project documents (Progress reports, financial information) 2. Project team and key stakeholders at global, regional and national levels
<p>Efficiency</p>		
<p>20. Was the project implementation as cost-effective as originally proposed (planned vs. actual)?</p> <p>21. To what extent was the project implemented within the original plan, both with regards to time and financial budget? Were any challenges affecting the project and its timely delivery, i.e. COVID-19?</p> <p>22. To what extent did the project make use of pre-existing institutions, agreements, partnerships, data sources, synergies, and complementarities with other initiatives, programmes, projects, etc. to increase project efficiency?</p>	<p>Document review, interviews</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Project documents (Activity and output documentation, Progress reports, financial information) 2. Project team and key stakeholders at global, regional and national levels
<p>Monitoring and Reporting</p>		
<p>Monitoring design and budgeting</p>		

<p>23. How adequate was the project’s monitoring plan, including key factors, i.e. indicators, indicator definitions (SMART), frequency of data collection, a dedicated budget, responsibilities for monitoring, gender specific indicators, etc.?</p> <p>24. To what extent were the project’s indicators and methods for data collection relevant and appropriate for tracking progress?</p>	<p>Document review, interviews</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Project documents (Activity and output documentation, Progress reports, financial information) 2. Project team and key stakeholders at global, regional and national levels
<p>Monitoring of project implementation</p>		
<p>25. To what extent was the monitoring system operational - indicators measured timely, with indicated frequency and methods of data collection - throughout the project’s implementation?</p> <p>26. To what extent was the monitoring of the representation and participation of disaggregated groups (incl. women, marginalized, vulnerable groups) in project activities conducted?</p> <p>27. What was the quality of the information generated by the monitoring system and how it was used to adapt and improve project execution, achievement of outcomes and for ensuring sustainability?</p>	<p>Document review, interviews</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Project documents (Activity and output documentation, Progress reports, financial information) 2. Project team and key stakeholders at global, regional and national levels
<p>Project reporting</p>		
<p>28. To what extent was the project progress documentation complete and of high quality at all levels (PIMs, donor and partner reporting) and supported the outcome level results?</p> <p>29. To what extent was there evidence of highly effective collaboration and communication with and between appropriate UNEP colleagues?</p> <p>30. To what extent was monitoring data reported disaggregated by vulnerable/marginalized groups, including gender?</p>	<p>Document review, interviews</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Project documents (Activity and output documentation, Progress reports, financial information) 2. Project team and key stakeholders at global, regional and national levels
<p>Sustainability</p>		
<p>Socio-political sustainability</p>		
<p>31. To what extent do social/political factors support the continuation and further development of the project outcome?</p> <p>32. To what extent is there ownership, interest and commitment among government and other stakeholders in the target countries to sustain the outcome?</p> <p>33. To what extent are there adaptive mechanisms in place to respond to changes in the social/political context, should it become necessary)?</p>	<p>Document review, interviews</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Project documents (Activity and output documentation, Progress reports, financial information) 2. Project team and key stakeholders at global, regional and national levels

Financial sustainability		
34. To what extent is the project outcome financially sustainable?	Document review, interviews	1. Project documents, project team, interviews with key stakeholders
Institutional sustainability		
35. To what are mechanisms in place to support the sustainability of project outcomes? 36. Was the capacity of individuals (in the key stakeholders) enhanced for them to be able to sustain the project outcome? Are they still in the respective institutional structures? 37. To what extent are measures in place to institutionally support the project outcome?	Document review, interviews	1. Project documents 2. Project team and key stakeholders at global, regional and national levels
Factors Affecting Performance		
Preparation and readiness		
38. What changes were made to the project's design after the project approval? 39. To what extent were key documents proposed in the design developed, i.e. work plan, stakeholder engagement plan, partner agreements staff mobilization plan, etc.?	Document review, interviews	1. Project documents (Activity and output documentation, Progress reports, financial information) 2. Project team and key stakeholders at global, regional and national levels
Quality of project management and supervision		
40. How effective was the management of the project in terms of leadership towards achieving the planned outcomes, managing team structures, project steering, overall communication within the project and managing risks? 41. How adequate was adaptive management executed, in context of communication on key challenges/issues, adequacy of management response to any financial shortfalls and frequency and relevance of advice provided by the project manager etc. to deal with known problems, risks or challenges? 42. What challenges did the project face during implementation? How were these challenges managed?	Document review, interviews	1. Project documents (Activity and output documentation, Progress reports, financial information) 2. Project team and key stakeholders at global, regional and national levels
Stakeholders' participation and cooperation		

<p>43. To what extent did the project involve and communicate with all the relevant stakeholders in its implementation?</p> <p>44. How effective were the mechanisms for stakeholder participation and cooperation, i.e., stakeholder plan, exchanging learning and expertise)?</p> <p>45. To what extent were linkages to poverty alleviation or impact on economic livelihoods considered and addressed?</p>	<p>Document review, interviews</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Project documents (Activity and output documentation, Progress reports, financial information) 2. Project team and key stakeholders at global, regional, and national levels
<p>Responsiveness to human rights and gender equality</p>		
<p>46. To what extent has the project applied the UN Common Understanding in the human-rights based approach (HRBA) and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People?</p> <p>47. To what extent does the intervention adhere to UNEP’s Policy and Strategy for Gender Equality and the Environment?</p> <p>48. To what extent has project implementation and monitoring taken into consideration: (i) possible inequalities (especially those related to gender) in access to, and the control over, natural resources; (ii) specific vulnerabilities of disadvantaged groups (especially women, youth and children) to environmental degradation or disasters; and (iii) the role of disadvantaged groups (especially those related to gender) in mitigating or adapting to environmental changes and engaging in environmental protection and rehabilitation?</p>	<p>Document review, interviews</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Project documents (Activity and output documentation, Progress reports, financial information) 2. Project team and key stakeholders at global, regional and national levels
<p>Environmental and social safeguards</p>		
<p>49. To what extent did the project address environmental and social safeguards primarily through the process of environmental and social screening at the project approval stage, risk assessment and management of potential environmental and social risks and impacts associated with project and programme activities?</p> <p>50. To what extent did the project meet and address UNEP requirements on safeguarding, review(s) of risk ratings, monitoring of project implementation for safeguarding issues, response (where relevant) to safeguarding issues and reporting on safeguarding issues/reporting that no safeguarding issues arose?</p> <p>51. To what extent did the management of the project minimize the project’s environmental footprint?</p>	<p>Document review, interviews</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Project documents (Activity and output documentation, Progress reports, financial information) 2. Project team and key stakeholders at global, regional and national levels
<p>Country ownership and drivenness</p>		

<p>52. To what extent are the Government ministries / public sector agencies able to take the outputs from outcomes to intermediate states and impacts? Consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic guidance of project delivery • Driving or advocating for change to achieve higher level results • Endorsing / accepting project results • Initiating non-cost complementary or additional activities • Provision of in-kind and / or cash co-financing contributions; making provisions in forward-looking budgetary plans or securing additional external resources 	<p>Document review, interviews</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Project documents (Activity and output documentation, Progress reports, financial information) 2. Project team and key stakeholders at global, regional and national levels
<p>Communication and public awareness</p>		
<p>53. To what extent were the communication efforts effective in driving change towards results beyond outputs?</p> <p>54. To what extent was there a strong and comprehensive learning and experience sharing between project partners and other stakeholders?</p> <p>55. How did the public awareness activities that were undertaken during the implementation of the project influence attitudes or shape behaviour among wider communities and civil society at large?</p> <p>56. To what extent were the communication activities well-targeted towards all key audiences, continuous over the life of the project, interactive / responsive to audience feedback, monitored for evidence of effect and budgeted/financed?</p>	<p>Document review, interviews</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Project documents (Activity and output documentation, Progress reports, financial information) 2. Project team and key stakeholders at global, regional and national levels

ANNEX II. PEOPLE CONSULTED DURING THE REVIEW

Organisation	Name	Position	Role in the project	Gender
Implementing Partners				
UNEP	Dr. Ludgarde Coppens	Head, SDG and Environment Statistics Unit	Project team member/	F
UNEP	Ms. Therese El Gemayel	Programme Management Officer, SDG and Environment Statistics Unit	Project Manager, with overall responsibility for supervision of the project	F
UNEP	Ms. Sophia Groll	Project Management Associate, SDG and Environment Statistics Unit	Project coordination from May 2023	F
UNEP	Mr. Ralf Heidrich	Project Management Associate	Project coordination between January 2020- January 2023	M
UNITAR	Ms. Madina Imaralieva	Associate Programme Officer	Prepared and developed e-learning courses on SDG indicators	F
WRAP	Mr. Hamish Forbes	Senior Analyst	Prepared and delivered a two day in-person session in Paris, France to representatives of 3 to 5 countries: India, Bangladesh, Senegal, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan	M
Consultant	Mr. Ronald Macfarlane	Consultant	Prepared technical material for national activities and delivered training on MFA and waste indicators	M
Contractor	Mr. Jose Vila	Contractor	Prepared the statistical analysis results for Measuring Progress: Water-related ecosystems and the SDGs	M
Beneficiaries				
Ministry of Environment, Environmental Information & Decision Support, Jordan	Ms. Esraa Ali Harasis	Head of Section	Technical Assistance Mission on EW-MFA, Waste and Policy Coherence	F
Ministry of Environment, Hazardous Waste and Substances Division	Mr. Maha Al-Sowi	Engineer	Technical Assistance Mission on EW-MFA, Waste and Policy Coherence	M

Organisation	Name	Position	Role in the project	Gender
Department of International Cooperation and Sustainable Development, Bureau of national Statistics, Kazakhstan	Ms Ainur Dossanova	Head of Department, Focal Point	Technical Assistance Mission on EW-MFA and Waste	F
Bureau of National Statistics, Agency for Strategic Planning and Reforms, Kazakhstan	Ms. Dinara Sadvakassova	Head, Environment Statistics	Technical Assistance Mission on EW-MFA, Waste and training on SDG 12.3.1b on Food Waste	F
Ghana Statistical Service, Agriculture & Environment Services, Ghana	Ms. Bernice Serwah Ofori-Baadu	Head of Section, Focal Point	Technical Assistance Mission on EW-MFA, Waste and Policy Coherence	F
Bureau des Comptes annuels et sectoriels, Agence Nationale de la Statistique et de la Demographie, Senegal	Ms. Ndeye Khoudia aye Seve	Engineer Statistics and Economic, Focal Point	Technical Assistance Mission on EW-MFA, Waste and Policy Coherence and training on SDG 12.3.1b on Food Waste	F
Chef du Bureau de échanges extérieurs, Agence Nationale de la Statistique et de la Demographie, Senegal	Mr. Abdou Aziz Diouf	Engineer Statistics and Economic	Technical mission on waste	M
Government of Uganda, SDG – Office of the Prime Minister, Uganda	Mr. Stephen Mawejje	Statistician	Technical Assistance Mission on Policy Coherence	M
Bureau of Statistics, Department of Production and Environment Statistics, Uganda	Mr. Keith Ahumuza	Senior Statistician, Focal Point	Technical Assistance Mission on Policy Coherence	M

ANNEX III. KEY DOCUMENTS CONSULTED

Project planning and reporting documents

1. Project Document 715.1 Informing Policy through strengthening national, regional, and global data and indicator frameworks and integrated analysis on the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs - Enhanced capacity for measuring progress towards the Environmental Dimension of the Sustainable Development Goals, UNEP DG ENV GPGC PCA
2. Implementation Plan and Budget, 2020
3. EC Budget Reallocation Final, 2022
4. Annual Progress Report 2020 + Annexes
5. Annual Progress Report 2021 + Annexes
6. Annual Progress Report 2022 + Annexes
7. Project Final Report, February 2024
8. Evaluation Summary Report_Paris_Final
9. Evaluation Summary Report_Ghana_Final
10. Evaluation Summary Report_Jordan_Final
11. Evaluation Summary Report_Kazakhstan_Final
12. Evaluation Summary Report_Senegal_Final
13. Evaluation Summary Report_Uganda_Final
14. Mission Report-WE-MFA_Jordan_July 2023_FINAL
15. Mission Report-WE-MFA_Senegal_July-August 2023_FINAL
16. Mission Report-WE-MFA_Ghana_July 2023
17. Mission Report_ Kazakhstan_EW-MFA
18. Mission Report_ Uganda_November 2023

Project outputs – Overall

20. Project website (<https://wesr.unep.org/article/enhancing-capacity-measuring-progress-towards-environmental-dimension-sdgs>) – contains all project output
21. Environmental SDG Indicators inline course (English version), UNITAR

Project outputs - Output A: Tools and training for capacity building to enable developing countries to measure, monitor and report on the environmental dimension of the SDGs

20. Food Waste Indicator Training_November 2023.pptx (Paris)
21. Household Food Exercise Document

Technical Assistance Mission, Ghana, 17 - 28 July 2023

20. UNEP Global Chemicals and Waste Review Document, 2021
21. UNEP The use of natural resources in the economy - A Global Manual on Economy-Wide Material Flow Accounting, 2023
22. Indicator Review Document
23. Ghana-SDGs and waste indicators objectives
24. Ghana 2a_SDG Indicators_12.1.1 and 12.2.2 Objectives presentation
25. Ghana 2b_SDG Indicators_12.4.2 and 12.5.1 Objectives presentation
26. Ghana 3_Material Flow Accounts
27. Ghana EW-MFA UNEP Compiler

28. Reviewed similar presentations and methodologies for workshops in Jordan, Kazakhstan, and Senegal.

Technical Assistance Mission, Jordan 14-15 June 2023

29. Introduction to methodology for SDG indicator 17.14.1 (Powerpoint presentation)
30. Domian 1 - 8 for SDG indicator 17.4.1 (Powerpoint presentations)
31. VNRs and Policy Coherence in Jordan

32. Reviewed similar presentations and methodologies for workshops in Ghana, Kazakhstan, Senegal and Uganda.

Project outputs – Output B: Analytical research and tools for policymakers to improve understanding of the environmental dimension of sustainable development, including vulnerability and interlinkages

33. Measuring Progress Special Edition: Disaggregation, 2023
34. Measuring Progress: Water-related Ecosystems and the SDGs, 2023
35. Measuring Progress: Environment and the SDGs, 2022
36. Circular Economy from indicators and data to policy-making, 2024

Reference documents

37. UNEP Global Chemicals and Waste Indicators Review Document, 2021
38. The use of natural resources in the economy A Global Manual on Economy-Wide Material Flow Accounting, 2021
39. UNEP Evaluation Manual
40. Various tools, templates and guidance notes for independent evaluations, including: 01_Evaluation Criteria; 05_Project_Identification_Table_ONLY; 06_Inception Report_Structure_and_Contents; 08_TOC Reformulation Justification Table ONLY; 10_Stakeholder Analysis Guidance Note; and 11_Gender_Methods_Note_for_Consultants; 07_Main_Evaluation_Report_Structure_and_Contents; 13_Use_of_Theory_of_Change_in_Project_Evaluation; and 20_Evlauation Methodology Structure.

ANNEX IV. PROJECT BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES

Revised Project Budget
Title: Enhanced capacity for measuring progress towards the Environmental Dimension of the Sustainable
(all amounts in USD)

Output	1. Staff and Other Personnel Costs				2. Contractual Services (FT30_120)				3. Operating and Other Direct Costs				4. Supplies Commodities and Materials				5. Transfers and Grants Issued to IP (SSFAs)				6. Travel (FT30_160)				Total Programmable Amount	7. PSC				Total
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2020	2021	2022	2023	2020	2021	2022	2023	2020	2021	2022	2023	2020	2021	2022	2023	2020	2021	2022	2023		2020	2021	2022	2023	
A) Tools and training for capacity building to enable developing countries to measure, monitor and report on the environmental dimension of the SDGs	0	144,854	229,725	221,069	0	0	77,760	10,500	0	17,227	0	10,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	70,000	70,000	0	0	96,000	0	947,135	-	11,345.68	33,144	21,810	1,013,435
Activity 1.1.1 Promoting the uptake of the global methodologies through technical capacities and dissemination at the regional level	0		39,200	154,069	0	0	47,760	10,500	0		0	5,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	70,000	0	0	0	0	326,529	-	-	6,087.20	16,769.83	349,386	
Activity 1.1.2 Dissemination of the global methodologies through targeted capacity development in a select number of countries for uptake of the global methodologies	0		190,525	67,000	0	0	30,000	0	0		0	5,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	70,000	0	0	96,000	0	458,525	-	-	27,056.75	5,040.00	490,622	
B) Analytical research and tools for policymakers to improve understanding of the environmental dimension of sustainable development, including vulnerability and	0		47,081	20,000	0	4,410	96,500	4,500	0	26,873	39,000	0	0	0	3,000	1,500	0	0	0	0	0	15,000	5,000	262,864	-	2,189.81	14,040.67	2,170.00	281,264	
Total Programmable Amount	0	144,854	276,806	241,069	0	4,410	174,260	15,000	0	44,100	39,000	10,000	0	0	3,000	1,500	0	0	70,000	70,000	0	0	111,000	5,000	1,209,999	0	13,535	47,185	23,980	1,294,699

Original planned Total costs per year (USD)		Total	2020	2021	2022	2023
Staff and Other Personnel Costs		662,729	0	144,854	276,806	241,069
Contractual Services		193,670	0	4,410	174,260	15,000
Operating and Other Direct Costs		93,100	0	44,100	39,000	10,000
Supplies Commodities and Materials		4,500	0	0	3,000	1,500
Equipment Vehicles and Furniture		0	0	0	0	0
Transfers and Grants Issued to IP (SSFAs)		140,000	0	0	70,000	70,000
Travel		116,000	0	0	111,000	5,000
Sub-total direct costs		1,209,999	0	193,364	674,066	342,569
Indirect costs (7%)		84,700	0	13,535	47,185	23,980
Total eligible costs of the Action		1,294,699	0	206,900	721,251	366,549

Final Approved Total costs per year (USD)		Total	2020	2021	2022	2023
Staff and Other Personnel Costs		482,449	40,000	206,211	236,238	
Contractual Services		69,000	12,500	30,000	26,500	
Operating and Other Direct Costs		68,551	0	6,357	62,194	
Supplies Commodities and Materials		50,000	0	25,000	25,000	
Equipment Vehicles and Furniture		0	0	0	0	
Transfers and Grants Issued to IP (SSFAs)		160,000	0	70,000	90,000	
Travel		380,000	0	290,000	90,000	
Sub-total direct costs		1,210,000	52,500	627,568	529,932	
Indirect costs (7%)		84,700	3,675	43,930	37,095	
Total eligible costs of the Action		1,294,700	56,175	671,498	567,027	

ANNEX V. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Financial Assessment

Financial management components:		Rating	Evidence/ Comments
3. Adherence to UNEP's/GEF's policies and procedures:		HS	
Any evidence that indicates shortcomings in the project's adherence ¹¹ to UNEP or donor policies, procedures or rules		No	
4. Completeness of project financial information¹²:			
Provision of key documents to the evaluator (based on the responses to A-H below)		S	
A.	Co-financing and Project Cost's tables at design (by budget lines)	Yes/No or N/A	Sufficient details provided in Project Document.
B.	Revisions to the budget	Yes	Due to COVID-19, planned expenditure on travel and in-person meetings was re-allocated to 8 additional activities to complement the planned ones. The EC approved the extension along with the reallocation of funds.
C.	All relevant project legal agreements (e.g. SSFA, PCA, ICA)	Yes	The project was part of the Programme on Global Public Goods and Challenges 2014-2020 Multi-Annual; Indicative Programme 2018-2020, including the Agreement.
D.	Proof of fund transfers	No	Approval transfer of funds from EC to UNEP confirmed by correspondence between EC Task Manager and UNEP FMO. Other proof/report of disbursement of funds not made available.
E.	Proof of co-financing (cash and in-kind)	Yes	Original Implementation Plan and Budget and EC Budget – Reallocation Final.
F.	A summary report on the project's expenditures during the life of the project (by budget lines, project components and/or annual level)	Yes	Annual Progress Reports contained details on project's expenditures.
G.	Copies of any completed audits and management responses (where applicable)	NA	No audits carried out on the project.
H.	Any other financial information that was required for this project (list):	No	
5. Communication between finance and project management staff		S	
Project Manager's level of awareness of the project's financial status.		HS	Project manager was fully aware of project's financial status throughout implementation period.

¹¹ If the evaluation raises concerns over adherence with policies or standard procedures, a recommendation maybe given to cover the topic in an upcoming audit, or similar financial oversight exercise.

¹² See also document 'Criterion Rating Description' for reference

		leading the budget re-allocation. Confirmed during interview.
Fund Management Officer's knowledge of project progress/status when disbursements are done.	HS	Traffic light system reporting (every 4 months) and annual reporting by FMO. Financial reporting for annual progress reports conducted by FMO.
Level of addressing and resolving financial management issues among Fund Management Officer and Project Manager.	HS	Regular dialogue between Project Manager and FMO on all financial issues confirmed.
Contact/communication between by Fund Management Officer, Project Manager during the preparation of financial and progress reports.	HS	Financial reporting for annual progress reports conducted by FMO and incorporated into annual progress reports.
Project Manager, Task Manager and Fund Management Officer responsiveness to financial requests during the evaluation process	HS	Good level of responsiveness to financial requests during the evaluation process, with copies of correspondence between Project Manager and FMO forwarded to the Evaluator.
Overall rating	HS	

ANNEX VI. BRIEF CV OF THE REVIEWER

Name

Profession	Environmental Consultant
Nationality	British
Country experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Europe: Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Montenegro, Romania, Poland, Slovakia, Serbia, UK, • Africa: Egypt, Kenya, Uganda, Zambia • Asia: China, Myanmar
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MSc Environmental Resources Management and Planning • BA (Hons) Geography

Short biography

Mr David Lyth is an independent environmental consultant with over 30 years' experience. He is a results-based dedicated and self-motivated programme and director and manager with proven ability in directing, managing, and delivering technical cooperation/assistance and monitoring and evaluation programmes and projects in economic development, urban development, and poverty reduction with a combined fee value of over €100 million and staffed by over 400 consultants. He has extensive experience in OECD DAC, EIB, DfID and other results monitoring and evaluation methodologies for EU, EIB, UNDESA, UNECE, UN-Habitat and DfID. Includes reviewing programming documents, policies and strategies and feasibility studies, cost benefit analyses, design specifications and documents, tender documents, etc. He has established excellent working relationships to the highest level within Governmental and beneficiary institutions to facilitate attainment of UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Key specialties and capabilities cover:

- Monitoring and evaluation
- Environmental management
- Sustainable Development Goals
- Solid Waste Management
- Water Supply and Sanitation

Selected assignments and experiences

Independent reviews/evaluations:

- End of Term Project Evaluation for the Urgent Improvement of Solid Waste Management in Yangon City, Myanmar
- Sector Performance review of investments in the waste sector in the Turkish Cypriot community (TCC)
- SD2015: Delivering on the promise of the Sustainable Development Goals
- Cities and Infrastructure for Growth (CIG) Programme Results Management and Learning
- UN Development Account - Strengthening Governments' and water operators' capacity ensure equity of access to water and sanitation in countries with economies in transition in the Economic Commission for Europe region
- EU Programme LIFE Climate Action – Climate Action and EU Programme LIFE Environment and Resource Efficiency – Energy, Water and Waste. Supported evaluation of LIFE Climate Action Programme (€56 million - 110 total proposals) and LIFE Environment and Resource Efficiency Programme (€185 million - 600 proposals).

ANNEX VII. REVIEW TORS (WITHOUT ANNEXES)

Standard Format for Terms of Reference (ToR)

Request for: Consultant Individual contractor

Organizational Unit: UNEP / Early Warning and Assessment Division

Location of consultancy: Home-based

Duration: 3 months

Title: Evaluation Consultant

1. Purpose (justification for request)

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is the United Nations system's designated entity for addressing environmental issues at the global and regional level. UNEP is the custodian for 25 SDG indicators which cover topics related to water, ocean, land, natural resources, protected areas, and environmental policy.

UNEP's Early Warning and Assessment Division is the lead division for the Environment Under Review Sub-programme (SP-7) that aims at empowering stakeholders in their decision making with quality data and assessments made available on open platforms. Through this, the Early Warning and Assessment Division works to provide timely, scientifically credible, policy-relevant environmental assessments, data and information for decision-making and action planning for sustainable development. It also spearheads UN-wide monitoring and reporting on the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda and SDGs.

This consultancy is in the SDGs and Environment Statistics Unit, of the Capacity Development and Innovation Branch of the Early Warning and Assessment Division. The SDGs and Environment Statistics Unit acts as the coordinator for work related to the SDG indicators and official environment statistic within UNEP.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has elevated the profile of the environmental dimension of development and how to monitor this dimension. UNEP began to implement the European Commission funded project on Enhancing Capacity for Measuring Progress towards the Environmental Dimension of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

As the EC funded project is reaching operational completion, an independent evaluation is necessary, as per UNEP's Evaluation Policy, to assess the project's performance and determine outcomes and impacts stemming from the project.

1.1 Explain the requirement for a consultant/individual contractor

In line with UNEP's Evaluation Policy and the UNEP Programme Manual, the management-led evaluation is undertaken at operational completion of the project to assess project performance (in terms of relevance, effectiveness and efficiency), and determine outcomes

and impacts (actual and potential) stemming from the project, including their sustainability. The Evaluation has two primary purposes: (i) to provide evidence of results to meet accountability requirements, and (ii) to promote operational improvement, learning and knowledge sharing through results and lessons learned among UNEP.

1.2 Qualifications / special skills or knowledge

- **Degree level and Type of Degree:** A bachelor's degree in environmental sciences, international development or other relevant political or social sciences area is required. An advanced degree (Master's or equivalent) in the same areas is desirable.

Years of work experience:

- At least 7 years of progressively responsible experience in project/programme monitoring and evaluation is required. Experience in evaluating projects/programmes in the UN system and in a government/intergovernmental setting is desirable.
- Proven expertise and experience in evaluating the impact of projects/programmes is required.
- Proven expertise and experience in assessing projects/programmes related to sustainable development goals is desirable.

Language:

- English and French are the two working languages of the United Nations Secretariat. For this post, fluency in English (both oral and written) is required. Fluency in Arabic, French or Russian is desirable.

1.3 Ultimate result of services

The consultant will submit a concise evaluation report.

1.4 Legislative authority reference

UNEP Programme of Work 2022-2023

1.5 Title and identification number of programme/project:

The foundational subprogramme on science-policy of the MTS 2022-2025, direct outcome of the PoW 2022-2023 DO 3.13 on sound science, data and statistics, analysis, information and knowledge are generated, and shared expected accomplishment.

1.6 Duration: 3 Months

- Start date approximately 02 January 2024
- End-date approximately 01 April 2024

2. Funding

2.1 Source of Funds Regular Budget Extra-budgetary

2.2 Allotment Account / Budget Line:

Fund: 32ECL

Grant: S1-32ECL-000043

Funding Source: SB-014525.02.03.04

Budget Period: M99

Fund Center: 11215

WBSE: SB-014525.02.03.04

Functional Area: 14AC0007

2.3 Indicative level of remuneration: Level "C"

The consultant's level is "C" due to the focused nature of the tasks that require specialized expertise in project assessment of activities and evaluation. The total remuneration is USD 30,000 for a period of three months payable in three instalments as follows:

Terms of payments:

1st Payment: USD 9,000 upon submission of **output 1** (31 January 2024)

- Approved Inception Report

2nd Payment: USD 9,000 upon submission of **output 2** (15 March 2024)

- Approved Draft Main Evaluation Report

3rd Payment: USD 12,000 upon submission of **output 3** (01 April 2024)

- Approved Final Main Evaluation Report

3. Travel involved – No

Travel will be organized by Substantive Office Selected candidate

4. Workplan

Output	Expected Period
Activity 1: Prepare and submit the inception report, incorporating comments until approved by the project manager	31 January 2024
Activity 2: Prepare a draft main evaluation report	15 March 2024
Activity 3: Submit the final evaluation report, including the two 2-page evaluation and impact briefs	01 April 2024

4.1 Objectives, output expectations and performance indicators

The main objective of this consultancy is to assess project performance (in terms of relevance, effectiveness and efficiency), and determine outcomes and impacts (actual and potential) stemming from the project, including their sustainability.

The consultant is expected to deliver the main evaluation report of the project.

4.2 Specific duties and Responsibilities

Under the direct supervision of Ms. Ludgarde Coppens, Head of the SDGs and Environment Statistics Unit (UNEP/Early Warning and Assessment Division) and Ms. Therese El Gemayel, project manager, the role of the consultant includes the following activities:

Inception phase of the evaluation:

- Preliminary desk review and introductory interviews with project staff;
- Draft the reconstructed Theory of Change of the project;
- Prepare the evaluation framework using the UNEP Programme Manual;
- Develop the desk review and interview protocols;
- Draft the survey protocols (if relevant);
- Plan the evaluation schedule;
- Prepare the Inception report, attending to feedback/comments received

Data collection and analysis phase of the Evaluation, including:

- Assess the activities of the project based on the below categories:
 - National activities implemented during the project duration;
 - Regional activities implemented during the project duration;
 - Technical reports/manuals developed;
 - Analytical reports.
- Conduct further desk review and in-depth interviews with project implementing and executing agencies, project partners and project stakeholders;
- Identify, liaise and interview project partners and stakeholders. Ensure independence of the Evaluation and confidentiality of evaluation interviews.
- Regularly report back to the project manager on progress and inform of any possible problems or issues encountered and;
- Keep the Project Manager informed of the evaluation progress.

Reporting phase, including:

- Draft the Main Evaluation Report, ensuring that the evaluation report is complete, coherent and consistent with guidelines provided by the project manager, both in substance and style;
- Liaise with the project manager on comments received and finalize the Main Evaluation Report, ensuring that comments are taken into account until approved by the project manager;
- Prepare a Response to Comments annex for the main report, listing those comments not accepted by the Evaluation Consultant and indicating the reason for the rejection; and
- Prepare an Evaluation Brief (2-page summary of the evaluand and the key evaluation findings and lessons)
- Prepare an Impact Brief (2-page summary of the impact of the project on targeted countries)

Managing relations, including:

- Maintain a positive relationship with evaluation stakeholders, ensuring that the evaluation process is as participatory as possible but at the same time maintains its independence;
- Communicate in a timely manner with the Evaluation Manager on any issues requiring its attention and intervention.

The Evaluation Consultant shall have had no prior involvement in the formulation or implementation of the project and will be independent from the participating institutions.

The consultant will sign the Evaluation Consultant Code of Conduct Agreement Form.

4.3 Reporting lines

The consultant shall work under the direct guidance of Ms. Ludgarde Coppens, Head of the SDGs and Environment Statistics Unit and Ms. Therese El Gemayel, project manager, of the Capacity Development and Innovation Branch of the Early Warning and Assessment Division, UNEP.

Administrative Arrangements

- All administrative costs (supplies, telecommunications, equipment, etc.) are to be borne by the consultant.
- All documentation must be produced on software compatible with that of the United Nations (*i.e.*, MS Word, MS PowerPoint, MS Excel, etc.)
- All materials developed remain property of UNEP.

ANNEX VIII. IMPLEMENTATION PLAN OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Project Title and Reference No.: Enhanced capacity for measuring progress towards the Environmental Dimension of the Sustainable Development Goals, PIMS ID 2082

Contact Person (TM/PM): Ludgarde Coppens, Head of SDG and Environment Statistics Unit
Therese El Gemayel, Programme Management Officer

	PLANS			
RECOMMENDATIONS	ACCEPTED (YES/NO/PARTIALLY)	WHAT WILL BE DONE?	EXPECTED COMPLETION DATE	REPOSIBLE OFFICER/ UNIT/ DIVISION/ AGENCY
1. Secure additional funding for continuing support to target countries	Partially	A newly funded project (2024-2026) on enhancing the capacities of countries to measure their transition to circular economy includes Africa and Asia. As part of this project, regional workshops will be implemented to assist countries in Africa and Asia, and continue the support for the target countries that were part of the previous project.	Q1 2025	SDG and Environment Statistics Unit, Early Warning and Assessment Division, UNEP
2. Reporting on the selected (target) SDG indicators will require institutionalisation of the process to compile information for countries	Yes	It is acknowledged that greater awareness of the benefits of compiling the selected (target) indicators to evaluate the implementation of national programmes and policies, as well as to guide their improvements, is needed to support institutionalisation. UNEP could incorporate (country) examples in training materials of how SDG indicators have been used to guide development and	Q1 2025	SDG and Environment Statistics Unit, Early Warning and Assessment Division, UNEP UNEP Regional Offices

	PLANS			
RECOMMENDATIONS	ACCEPTED (YES/NO/PARTIALLY)	WHAT WILL BE DONE?	EXPECTED COMPLETION DATE	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER/ UNIT/ DIVISION/ AGENCY
		implementation of national programmes and policies. This could provide countries with additional incentive to compile and report on the SDG indicators.		
3. Support on methodology to compile data on the SDG indicator 8.4.1/12.2.1 – Material Footprint	Yes	UNEP is developing the Material Footprint Tool that allows countries to calculate their Material Footprint. A user-guide will be published to guide the countries representatives on how to use the Tool.	Q3 2024	SDG and Environment Statistics Unit, Early Warning and Assessment Division, UNEP
4. Support governments to strengthen the level of participation to ensure a higher level of participation of all inter-agencies concerned in environmental dimension of SDGs	Yes	A review of the SDG indicators under UNEP’s custodianship will be made to identify which indicators do not have focal points from the targeted countries. UNEP will liaise with the line national institutions to ensure nominations and coordinate with the focal points to strengthen the level of participation.	Q4 2024	UNEP Regional Offices UN Resident Coordinators’ Offices
5. Enhance baseline data collection to allow the analysis of waste generation and recycling (i.e. hazardous waste, municipal recycling, etc.) to be able to report on related SDGs	Yes	UNEP is planning the development of tools that target waste streams specifically as part of its ongoing project. These tools will be available to countries with the aim of using them to enhance their data collection methods.	Q1 2026	SDG and Environment Statistics Unit, Early Warning and Assessment Division, UNEP
6. Showcasing project achievements	Yes	The newly launched project will be having a webpage and all activities, as part of this	On-going/ no end date	SDG and Environment Statistics Unit, Early Warning and

	PLANS			
RECOMMENDATIONS	ACCEPTED (YES/NO/PARTIALLY)	WHAT WILL BE DONE?	EXPECTED COMPLETION DATE	REPOSIBLE OFFICER/ UNIT/ DIVISION/ AGENCY
		<p>project, will be available online and shared with the unit mailing list.</p> <p>This recommendation could also benefit UNEP generally, in terms of adding requirements in future TORs and project activities.</p>		<p>Assessment Division, UNEP</p> <p>UNEP generally</p>

The following is a summary of lessons learned from some of the project’s experiences and based upon explicit findings of the review. They briefly describe the context from which the lessons are derived, and the potential for wider application:

Lesson Learned #1:	Improve the quality of the data collection and reporting
Context/comment:	The national based technical assistance and knowledge transfer allowed countries to compile data required to derive SDG indicators in the target SDGs. To further improve data compilation, evidence shows that it is essential to obtain input from experts and stakeholders to improve the accuracy and relevance of the national data collected. The assignment and resourcing of a focal point is commonly practiced in UNEP projects, with responsibility for coordinating data collection, as well organising inter-agency collaboration at the national level - to improve mechanisms to collect data. This is considered as best practice and maintained on future projects.

Lesson Learned #2:	Institutional arrangements, structures and working relationship between UNEP, the main beneficiaries, and the implementing partners
Context/comment:	These arrangements worked extremely well, between UNEP, UNITAR and SIAP, with dedicated and committed staff, developing, and implementing contingency arrangements due to the COVID-19 pandemic crucial for the

	<p>delivery of the project's outputs and outcomes. Successful knowledge transfer requires leadership, responsiveness, and cooperation on the part of the providers of the knowledge and should be carried out in a way that is acceptable to the beneficiaries. It is also important for beneficiaries to accept the guidance at an organization-wide level and apply it appropriately to the operating environment. The long-standing technical competence and knowledge of the operating environment by the implementing partners have been crucial in the delivery of the project. This shows the need to have a tried and tested and technically competent partnership in implementing a project.</p>
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Lesson Learned #3:	Flexible project implementation and management
Context/comment:	<p>There have been some serious challenges to the implementation of the project with the COVID-19 pandemic. The flexible approach that was adopted in implementing the project allowed it to be adjusted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Additional activities and work plans were developed and approved including extended timescales for the key activities and direct technical assistance and knowledge transfer through online training and direct technical assistance. The importance of planning and flexibility in project management is therefore crucial when such external events occur.</p>

Lesson Learned #4:	High quality and effective dissemination and visibility products
Context/comment:	<p>As UNEP's role is, amongst others, to produce and share knowledge in a transparent and accessible manner, the translation of technical material into the main UN languages, which was done for many of the produced reports, is essential to help people better understand technical information and use it. In addition, it is acknowledged that the production of new information and knowledge needs to be well designed to be suitable to the different types of readers, for example, Measuring Progress: Water ecosystems and SDGs, which used a visually impaired friendly format. This approach to visibility and communications is regarded as good practice.</p>

Lesson Learned #5:	Planning of capacity building activities
Context/comment:	<p>Many of the capacity building activities moved towards a virtual setting, which has both positive and negative impacts on participants. Whilst participants enthusiastically engaged in virtual meetings, webinars, workshops, the actual number of capacity building activities increased, overburdening some</p>

	<p>participants. Moreover, due to some issues with logistics of national training activities, in planning and implementing national activities, an important lesson learned is to involve countries in the implementation of the activities well in advance. For example, if national activities are planned for Year 3 of the project, it is important to start planning and communicating with relevant country(ies) during Year 1 to ensure better planning and implementation of activities.</p>
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Lesson Learned #6:	The mix between virtual and face to face capacity building and knowledge exchange
Context/comment:	<p>The project combined on-site and virtual methods of knowledge transfer and capacity building, which worked well and offered a higher degree of cost-effectiveness. This combination of capacity building and knowledge transfer is considered good practice. New working methods, such as virtual (online) mechanisms have become the norm due to the COVID-19 pandemic and other dual or hybrid mechanisms may be the way forward in some cases. However, one of the key findings of the '<i>Capacity Development Benchmarking Report</i>' (UNEP 2023): '<i>Both Member States and Major Groups and Stakeholders indicated that while in the past webinars were the most frequently implemented capacity development instrument, in the future other tools should be prioritised, such as face-to-face in-country support, technology support and learning by doing / experiential learning. This calls for strong UNEP engagement at the country level, which could be achieved through closer cooperation with the UN Country Teams (UNCTs) and implementing partners</i>'.</p>

ANNEX IX. QUALITY ASSESSMENT OF THE REVIEW REPORT

Review Title: Enhanced capacity for measuring progress towards the Environmental Dimension of the Sustainable Development Goals (EC Grant implemented under PIMS 02082/SMA 46807)

Consultant: David Lyth

All UNEP Reviews are subject to a quality assessment by the UNEP Evaluation Office. This is an assessment of the quality of the review product (i.e. Main Review Report).

	UNEP Evaluation Office Comments	Final Review Report Rating
Report Quality Criteria		
<p>Quality of the Executive Summary Purpose: acts as a stand alone and accurate <u>summary</u> of the main review product, especially for senior management. To include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • concise overview of the review object • clear summary of the review objectives and scope • overall review rating of the project and key features of performance (strengths and weaknesses) against exceptional criteria • reference to where the review ratings table can be found within the report • summary response to key strategic review questions • summary of the main findings of the exercise/synthesis of main conclusions • summary of lessons learned and recommendations. 	<p>Final report;</p> <p>The Executive Summary is written in a concise style and covers all the necessary elements. No strategic questions were posed in the TOR for this review. Even though only a summary of lessons learned and recommendations is asked for, these are on the briefest side in the Summary – the reader is advised to see the full version in the Conclusions section.</p>	5
<p>Quality of the 'Introduction' Section Purpose: introduces/<u>situates</u> the evaluand in its institutional context, establishes its main parameters (time, value, results, geography) and the purpose of the review itself. To include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • institutional context of the project (sub-programme, Division, Branch etc) • date of PRC approval, project duration and start/end dates • number of project phases (where appropriate) • results frameworks to which it contributes (e.g. POW Direct Outcome) • coverage of the review (regions/countries where implemented) • implementing and funding partners • total secured budget • whether the project has been reviewed/evaluated in the past (e.g. mid-term, external agency etc.) • concise statement of the purpose of the review and the key intended audience for the findings. 	<p>Final report:</p> <p>The introduction continues in a concise style and covers most of the required elements.</p> <p>The section would have benefited from mention of the geographic coverage of the project, with the following countries being mentioned in the Project Identification Table: Senegal, Uganda, Ghana, India, Kazakhstan, Jordan</p> <p>The role of WRAP should have been made clear as it is into mentioned in the Introduction, but appears in Annex II as an Implementing Partner.</p>	5

<p>Quality of the 'Review Methods' Section</p> <p><u>Purpose:</u> provides reader with clear and comprehensive description of review methods, demonstrates the <u>credibility</u> of the findings and performance ratings.</p> <p>To include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • description of review data collection methods and information sources • justification for methods used (e.g. qualitative/ quantitative; electronic/face-to-face) • number and type of respondents (<i>see table template</i>) • selection criteria used to identify respondents, case studies or sites/countries visited • strategies used to increase stakeholder engagement and consultation • methods to include the voices/experiences of different and potentially excluded groups (e.g. vulnerable, gender, marginalised etc) • details of how data were verified (e.g. triangulation, review by stakeholders etc.) • methods used to analyse data (scoring, coding, thematic analysis etc) • review limitations (e.g. low/ imbalanced response rates across different groups; gaps in documentation; language barriers etc) • ethics and human rights issues should be highlighted including: how anonymity and confidentiality were protected. Is there an ethics statement? E.g. <i>'Throughout the review process and in the compilation of the Final Review Report efforts have been made to represent the views of both mainstream and more marginalised groups. All efforts to provide respondents with anonymity have been made.'</i> 	<p>Final report:</p> <p>In general, this section provides a good overview of the review process and methods of data collection used.</p> <p>The Evaluation Office assumes that proper ethics procedures were followed although there is no explicit statement within this section.</p> <p>However, there is a lack of clarity on what coverage of the possible respondents the review process achieved. The section would have benefited from a table summarising the potential respondents approached and those who participated in the data collection phase (UNEP Evaluation Office provides a proposed table template for this). Without this, there is scope for confusion over which voices are missing. The text indicates a total of 17 respondents, confirmed in Annex II, however on page 14, additional respondents are mentioned as mitigating the low rate of acceptance to be interviewed. This suggests more people would have been available for interview and it is not clear if the SDG Focal Points are the people named among the 17 respondents.:</p> <p><i>As most of the interviewees had only participated in one technical assistance mission at the national level or two days virtual regional or sub-regional workshops, responses to invitation to interview was rather low. 21 invitations were issued, with 9 responding and conducting interviews or replying with completed questionnaires. To an extent this was mitigated by interviewing all the focal points from the technical assistance missions to the national target countries.</i></p> <p>Pages 18 and 19 refer to a two-way process of capacity development involving regional commissions, regional offices of UNEP, other UN agencies and other conventions. However, none of these appear in the list of respondents and it is hard to believe that they were (or would have been) unresponsive to the review request for interview. The exclusion of this group appears to be a weakness in the review methods.</p> <p>Note that page 13 and page 46 mentions a 'survey' but the rest of the report suggests that respondents were interviewed and no survey data is provided.</p>	<p>3.5</p>
<p>Quality of the 'Project' Section</p> <p><u>Purpose:</u> describes and <u>verifies</u> key dimensions of the evaluand relevant to assessing its performance.</p> <p>To include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Context:</i> overview of the main issue that the project is trying to address, its root causes and consequences on the 	<p>Final report:</p> <p>All elements are covered and some detail is provided on partnerships, such as with WRAP, UCL and CSIRO.</p> <p>The exact nature of the two way relationships in the diagram on implementation structure would have been</p>	<p>5</p>

<p>environment and human well-being (i.e. synopsis of the problem and situational analyses)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Results framework</i>: summary of the project's results hierarchy as stated in the ProDoc (or as officially revised) • <i>Stakeholders</i>: description of groups of targeted stakeholders organised according to relevant common characteristics • <i>Project implementation structure and partners</i>: description of the implementation structure with diagram and a list of key project partners • <i>Changes in design during implementation</i>: any key events that affected the project's scope or parameters should be described in brief in chronological order • <i>Project financing</i>: completed tables of: (a) budget at design and expenditure by components (b) planned and actual sources of funding/co-financing 	<p>beneficial as it is not clear how these relationships contribute to the project's results frameworks and whether they had a cost dimension.</p>	
<p>Quality of the Theory of Change</p> <p><u>Purpose</u>: to set out the TOC at Review in diagrammatic and narrative forms to support consistent project performance; to articulate the causal pathways with drivers and assumptions and justify any reconstruction necessary to assess the project's performance.</p> <p>To include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • description of how the <i>TOC at Review</i>¹³ was designed (who was involved etc) • confirmation/reconstruction of results in accordance with UNEP definitions • articulation of causal pathways • identification of drivers and assumptions • identification of key actors in the change process • summary of the reconstruction/results re-formulation in tabular form. <i>The two results hierarchies (original/formal revision and reconstructed) should be presented as a two-column table to show clearly that, although wording and placement may have changed, the results 'goal posts' have not been 'moved'</i>. This table may have initially been presented in the Inception Report and should appear somewhere in the Main Review report. 	<p>Final report:</p> <p>Despite being introduced (pg 21) as a project specific TOC, neither the narrative nor the diagram illuminates the casual dimensions of the project and remains at the level of a depiction of the logframe. Based on this TOC the outcome was expected to be achieved solely through knowledge-based activities (i.e. training workshops, provision of tools etc). However, bringing about change at national, regional and global levels, as the outcome suggests, is rarely so linear or simple.</p> <p>There is no indication of any other causal pathways such as any regional effects, any political change processes, interplay between this project and other initiatives etc. In particular, the way in which integrated analysis was expected to be instrumental in driving change, is not evident. The Drivers and Assumptions are provided as a list but there is no indicator of where in the TOC these would be most effective.</p> <p>Earlier in the report there is a suggestion of a more complex relationship with other parties but this is not illustrated in the TOC, nor reflected in the results: Pages 18 and 19: <i>A two-way process of support from and support to on tools and training for capacity building by Regional Commissions; UNEP's Regional Office for Africa, Regional Office for Asia Pacific, Regional Office for West Asia, Regional Office</i></p>	<p>3</p>

¹³ During the Inception Phase of the review process a *TOC at Review Inception* is created based on the information contained in the approved project documents (these may include either logical framework or a TOC or narrative descriptions), formal revisions and annual reports etc. During the review process this TOC is revised based on changes made during project intervention and becomes the *TOC at Review*.

	<p>for Europe; United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), UN Habitat and OECD. Similarly, on monitoring, reporting and analysis on the environmental dimension of the SDGs, support and advice was also provided from/to UNSD, United Nations Environment Assembly and UN's Global Sustainable Development Report Team. Moreover, advice was provided by, and capacities enhanced to UNEP's Basel, Stockholm, and Rotterdam (BRS) Conventions Focal Points, within the BRS Secretariat and other UNEP Divisions, i.e. Economic and Law.</p> <p>The Evaluation Office notes that the result statements were not reformulated to comply with UNEP standards, especially at the output level. In fact, the two output statements read as deliverables (i.e., completed activities) and are not formulated from the beneficiaries' perspective.</p>	
<p>Quality of Key Findings within the Report</p> <p><u>Presentation of evidence:</u> nature of evidence should be clear (interview, document, survey, observation, online resources etc) and evidence should be explicitly triangulated unless noted as having a single source.</p> <p><u>Consistency within the report:</u> all parts of the report should form consistent support for findings and performance ratings, which should be in line with UNEP's Criteria Ratings Matrix.</p> <p><u>Findings Statements (where applicable):</u> The frame of reference for a finding should be an individual review criterion or a strategic question from the TOR. A finding should go beyond description and uses analysis to provide insights that aid learning specific to the evaluand. In some cases a findings statement may articulate a key element that has determined the performance rating of a criterion. Findings will frequently provide insight into 'how' and/or 'why' questions.</p>	<p>Final report:</p> <p>The report provides detail in key parts, especially in the delivery of outputs, and is consistent in its content. There is a minor inconsistency in the financial management performance ratings.</p> <p>There are no separate findings, but findings are implied in all the performance ratings and further, in the recommendations</p>	<p>4.5</p>
<p>Quality of 'Strategic Relevance' Section</p> <p><u>Purpose:</u> to present evidence and analysis of project strategic relevance with respect to UNEP, partner and geographic policies and strategies at the time of project approval.</p> <p>To include:</p> <p>Assessment of the evaluand's relevance vis-à-vis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alignment to the UNEP Medium Term Strategy (MTS), Programme of Work (POW) and Strategic Priorities • Alignment to Donor/GEF/Partners Strategic Priorities • Relevance to Regional, Sub-regional and National Environmental Priorities • Complementarity with Existing Interventions: complementarity of the project at design (or during 	<p>Final report:</p> <p>The section provides useful contextual information and the detail provided supports the high performance rating.</p> <p>More detail on the nature of the partnerships within UNEP would have been helpful, especially the names of any other UNEP projects which collaborated with this project. In particular, UNEP has a series of regional projects on the environmental dimension of the SDGs and it would have been useful to know if these were involved in this project.</p>	<p>5</p>

<p>inception/mobilisation¹⁴), with other interventions addressing the needs of the same target groups.</p>		
<p>Quality of the 'Quality of Project Design' Section Purpose: to present a summary of the strengths and weaknesses of the project design, on the basis that the detailed assessment was presented in the Inception Report.</p>	<p>Final report: This section provides an overview of the project (i.e. UNEP-Approved project, 715.1), in a summarised fashion, supported by detail within Table 5.</p>	<p>5</p>
<p>Quality of the 'Nature of the External Context' Section Purpose: to describe and recognise, when appropriate, key <u>external</u> features of the project's implementing context that limited the project's performance (e.g. conflict, natural disaster, political upheaval¹⁵), and how they affected performance. While additional details of the implementing context may be informative, this section should clearly record whether or not a major and unexpected disrupting event took place during the project's life in the implementing sites.</p>	<p>Final report: The report correctly identifies the COVID-19 pandemic as a key external feature of the context that was unexpected. Given the extent and duration of the pandemic, the Highly Favourable rating is considered high. This does not, however, affect the overall performance rating of the project. NOTE: The text report records Highly Favourable, while the table of ratings in the Conclusions section records Moderately Favourable.</p>	<p>5</p>
<p>Quality of 'Effectiveness' Section (i) Availability of Outputs: Purpose: to present a well-reasoned, complete and evidence-based assessment of the outputs made available to the intended beneficiaries. To include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a convincing, evidence-supported and clear presentation of the outputs made available by the project compared to its approved plans and budget • assessment of the nature and scale of outputs versus the project indicators and targets • assessment of the timeliness, quality and utility of outputs to intended beneficiaries • identification of positive or negative effects of the project on disadvantaged groups, including those with specific needs due to gender, vulnerability or marginalisation (e.g. through disability). 	<p>Final report: In this section, both summary level (Table 6) and more in-depth descriptive detail is provided. This builds to a comprehensive and detailed section with high utility to UNEP in terms of institutional memory. The geographic scope of this project does not come out clearly in this report. The Project Identification Table lists 6 countries: Senegal, Uganda, Ghana India, Kazakhstan, Jordan and no further geographic detail is provided. However, page 30 refers to regional and sub-regional workshops in West Africa, South Asia, Easter Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia and East Africa and involved 112 participants from 27 countries. This suggests the geographic scope of this project was far larger than the 6 named countries. The detail provided in Table 8 on the scope and results of national workshops is much appreciated.</p>	<p>6</p>

¹⁴ A project's inception or mobilization period is understood as the time between project approval and first disbursement. Complementarity during project implementation is considered under Efficiency, see below.

¹⁵ Note that 'political upheaval' does not include regular national election cycles, but unanticipated unrest or prolonged disruption. The potential delays or changes in political support that are often associated with the regular national election cycle should be part of the project's design and addressed through adaptive management of the project team.

	<p>It appears that the online course was a collaborative activity benefiting from the partnership with UNSIAP and UNITAR. Similarly UNEP worked with UNESCWA on webinars targeting the Arab region. This suggests that some outputs were directly delivered by this project and it contributed to other outputs through collaboration.</p>	
<p>ii) Achievement of Project Outcomes: <u>Purpose:</u> to present a well-reasoned, complete and evidence-based assessment of the uptake, adoption and/or implementation of outputs by the intended beneficiaries. This may include behaviour changes at an individual or collective level. To include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a convincing and evidence-supported analysis of the uptake of outputs by intended beneficiaries • assessment of the nature, depth and scale of outcomes versus the project indicators and targets • discussion of the contribution, credible association and/or attribution of outcome level changes to the work of the project itself • any constraints to attributing effects to the projects' work • identification of positive or negative effects of the project on disadvantaged groups, including those with specific needs due to gender, vulnerability or marginalisation (e.g. through disability). 	<p><u>Final report:</u></p> <p>The outcome refers to the environmental dimension being included in national, regional and global reporting. However, the indicator, and the evidence provided, only relates to beneficiary countries 'being capable of reporting on mechanisms in place to enhance policy coherence'. Without evidence that the environmental dimension is now being reported, full achievement at outcome level is not supported.</p> <p>The limitation of the indicator to provide evidence of the outcome should have been addressed through triangulation with other evidence of the environmental dimension being included in beneficiary country reports.</p>	<p>4</p>
<p>(iii) Likelihood of Impact: <u>Purpose:</u> to present an integrated analysis, guided by the causal pathways represented by the TOC, of all evidence relating to likelihood of impact, including an assessment of the extent to which drivers and assumptions necessary for change to happen, were seen to be holding. To include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an explanation of how causal pathways emerged and change processes can be shown • an explanation of the roles played by key actors and change agents • explicit discussion of how drivers and assumptions played out • identification of any unintended negative effects of the project, especially on disadvantaged groups, including those with specific needs due to gender, vulnerability or marginalisation (e.g. through disability). 	<p><u>Final report:</u></p> <p>This section meets the requirements. Although the outcome is not considered to have been fully achieved, given the global focus on, and support for, the SDGs and concern over the state of the environment, a rating of Likely, is supported.</p>	<p>5</p>
<p>Quality of 'Financial Management' Section <u>Purpose:</u> to present an integrated analysis of all dimensions evaluated under financial management and include a completed 'financial management' table (may be annexed).</p>	<p><u>Final report:</u></p> <p>There is inconsistency between the ratings of sub-categories under Financial Management in the Ratings Table in the Conclusions and Annex V. Supporting detail is provided across the report and the overall</p>	<p>5</p>

<p>Consider how well the report addresses the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>adherence</i> to UNEP's financial policies and procedures • <i>completeness</i> of financial information, including the actual project costs (total and per activity) and actual co-financing used • <i>communication</i> between financial and project management staff 	<p>rating for Financial Management is not affected.</p>	
<p>Quality of 'Efficiency' Section</p> <p><u>Purpose:</u> to present an integrated analysis of all dimensions evaluated under efficiency (i.e. the primary categories of cost-effectiveness and timeliness).</p> <p>To include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • time-saving measures put in place to maximise results within the secured budget and agreed project timeframe • discussion of making use, during project implementation, of/building on pre-existing institutions, agreements and partnerships, data sources, synergies and complementarities with other initiatives, programmes and projects etc. • implications of any delays and no cost extensions • the extent to which the management of the project minimised UNEP's environmental footprint. 	<p>Final report:</p> <p>The report supports its performance rating with the justification for the one no cost extension (i.e. COVID-19) and the fact that the budget was redistributed, leaving to more complementary activities being carried out.</p> <p>A note of caution is sounded for future planning and design, in that some respondents noted some limitations and/or areas of improvement in virtual training (pg 30). This means that, although more cost-efficient, more deliberation may be required before fully adopting the virtual modalities introduced during COVID-19.</p>	<p>5</p>
<p>Quality of 'Monitoring and Reporting' Section</p> <p><u>Purpose:</u> to present well-reasoned, complete and evidence-based assessment of the evaluand's monitoring and reporting.</p> <p>Consider how well the report addresses the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • quality of the monitoring design and budgeting (<i>including SMART results with measurable indicators, resources for MTE/R etc.</i>) • quality of monitoring of project implementation (<i>including use of monitoring data for adaptive management</i>) • quality of project reporting (<i>e.g. PIMS and donor reports</i>) \ 	<p>Final report:</p> <p>The report is not sufficiently critical of the suitability of the indicators to support proof of the results being achieved. In particular, given the limitation in the indicators, the Review Report should include detail on how other evidence (e.g. documentation, interview responses) was brought to bear to confirm the achievement of the outcome.</p>	<p>4</p>
<p>Quality of 'Sustainability' Section</p> <p><u>Purpose:</u> to present an integrated analysis of all dimensions evaluated under sustainability (i.e. the endurance of benefits achieved at outcome level).</p> <p>Consider how well the report addresses the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • socio-political sustainability • financial sustainability • institutional sustainability 	<p>Final report:</p> <p>This section covers all the required elements.</p>	<p>5</p>
<p>Quality of Factors Affecting Performance Section</p> <p><u>Purpose:</u> These factors are not always discussed in stand-alone sections and may be integrated in the other performance criteria as appropriate. However, if not addressed substantively in this section, a cross reference must be given to where</p>	<p>Final report :</p> <p>All the elements are discussed, some with more detail than others. More detail on the gender inclusive measures taken in project implementation would have been</p>	<p>4</p>

<p>the topic is addressed and that entry must be sufficient to justify the performance rating for these factors.</p> <p>Consider how well the review report, either in this section or in cross-referenced sections, covers the following cross-cutting themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • preparation and readiness • quality of project management and supervision¹⁶ • stakeholder participation and co-operation • responsiveness to human rights and gender equality • environmental and social safeguards • country ownership and driven-ness • communication and public awareness 	<p>appreciated and an indication of why the project management and supervision ratings differed between the implementing and executing partners.</p>	
<p>Quality of the Conclusions Section</p> <p>(i) Conclusions Narrative:</p> <p><u>Purpose:</u> to present summative statements reflecting on prominent aspects of the <u>performance of the evaluand as a whole</u>, they should be derived from the synthesized analysis of evidence gathered during the review process.</p> <p>To include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • compelling narrative providing an integrated summary of the strengths and weakness in overall performance (achievements and limitations) of the project • clear and succinct response to the key strategic questions • human rights and gender dimensions of the intervention should be discussed explicitly (e.g. how these dimensions were considered, addressed or impacted on) 	<p>Final report:</p> <p>The report provides a succinct conclusion that reads as an accurate and useful narrative on the performance of the project.</p> <p>No strategic questions were posed in the TOR.</p>	5
<p>ii) Utility of the Lessons:</p> <p><u>Purpose:</u> to present both positive and negative lessons that have potential for wider application and use (replication and generalization)</p> <p>Consider how well the lessons achieve the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • are rooted in real project experiences (i.e. derived from explicit review findings or from problems encountered and mistakes made that should be avoided in the future) • briefly describe the context from which they are derived and those contexts in which they may be useful • do not duplicate recommendations 	<p>Final report:</p> <p>While the lesson statements (as presented in the Executive Summary) are too brief to be particularly insightful, the full versions (Context/Comment) are well-formulated, clearly written and useful.</p>	6
<p>(iii) Utility and Actionability of the Recommendations:</p>	<p>Final report:</p>	5

¹⁶ In some cases 'project management and supervision' will refer to the supervision and guidance provided by UNEP to implementing partners and national governments while in others, specifically for GEF funded projects, it will refer to the project management performance of the executing agency and the technical backstopping provided by UNEP. This includes providing the answers to the questions on Core Indicator Targets, stakeholder engagement, gender responsiveness, safeguards and knowledge management, required for the GEF portal.

<p>Purpose: to present proposals for specific action to be taken by identified people/position-holders to resolve concrete problems affecting the project or the sustainability of its results.</p> <p>Consider how well the lessons achieve the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • are feasible to implement within the timeframe and resources available (including local capacities) and specific in terms of who would do what and when • include at least one recommendation relating to strengthening the human rights and gender dimensions of UNEP interventions • represent a measurable performance target in order that the UNEP Unit/Branch can monitor and assess compliance with the recommendations. <p>NOTES:</p> <p>(i) In cases where the recommendation is addressed to a third party, compliance can only be monitored and assessed where a contractual/legal agreement remains in place. Without such an agreement, the recommendation should be formulated to say that UNEP project staff should pass on the recommendation to the relevant third party in an effective or substantive manner. The effective transmission by UNEP of the recommendation will then be monitored for compliance.</p> <p>(ii) Where a new project phase is already under discussion or in preparation with the same third party, a recommendation can be made to address the issue in the next phase.</p>	<p>The recommendations are thoughtful, clearly written and provide helpful actions for the project team to adopt in similar future work.</p>	
<p>Quality of Report Structure and Presentation</p> <p>(i) Structure and completeness of the report:</p> <p>To what extent does the report follow the UNEP Evaluation Office structure and formatting guidelines? Are all requested Annexes included and complete?</p>	<p>Final report:</p> <p>The report follows UNEP's guidance and is well-written, including all requested annexes.</p>	<p>6</p>
<p>(ii) Writing and formatting:</p> <p>Consider whether the report is well written (clear English language and grammar) with language that is adequate in quality and tone for an official document? Do visual aids, such as maps and graphs convey key information?</p>	<p>Final report:</p> <p>The report is well written and includes visual material as appropriate. Paragraph numbering would have aided referencing specific parts of the report and is common good practice.</p>	<p>6</p>
<p>OVERALL REPORT QUALITY RATING</p>		<p>4.8</p>

A number rating 1-6 is used for each criterion: Highly Satisfactory = 6, Satisfactory = 5, Moderately Satisfactory = 4, Moderately Unsatisfactory = 3, Unsatisfactory = 2, Highly Unsatisfactory = 1. The overall quality of the review report is calculated by taking the mean score of all rated quality criteria.