

QUARTERLY REPORT

to the 167th Meeting of the
COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES



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TWENTY-SECOND ISSUE

April – June 2024

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1. SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS

A. Global developments

World environment day 2024

Led by UNEP and marked annually on 5 June since 1973, [world environment day](#) (WED) has grown to become one of the biggest global platforms for environmental outreach, with millions of people across the world engaging to protect the planet. The 2024 WED focused on land restoration, desertification, and drought resilience, given that up to 40% of the planet's land is degraded, directly affecting half of the world's population, and threatening roughly half of global GDP (US\$ 44 trillion). Moreover, the number and duration of droughts have increased by 29% since 2000 which without urgent action may affect over three-quarters of the world's population by 2050. WED aims to support accelerated progress on global commitments, which include protecting 30% of land and sea for nature and restoring 30% of the planet's degraded ecosystems.

Hosted by Saudi Arabia, which will also host the sixteenth session of the conference of the Parties ([COP16](#)) of the United Nations convention to combat

desertification (UNCCD) in December, the event showcased the Kingdom's initiatives in land restoration and rehabilitation, as well as efforts to enhance vegetation cover, combat desertification, protect natural habitats and reduce carbon emission, including a pledge to plant 50 billion native trees across the region through both the [Saudi green initiative](#) and [Middle East green initiative](#). Addressing government officials and industry leaders at the Riyadh event, UNEP executive director Inger Andersen stressed the need for urgent action to make the UN decade on ecosystem restoration goals a reality by 2030.

A record of more than 4,000 associated events in more than 150 countries were registered on the WED platform, held by governments, cities, civil society, universities, schools, and businesses. During WED, [six new cities](#) stretching from Africa to Latin America, positively responded to UNEP's calls to join the [generation restoration cities](#) cohort of 22 cities. Collectively, these urban areas representing 45 million inhabitants, 2.1 million hectares of land and 600 kilometres of waterways, are now seeking to replicate and scale up ecosystem restoration initiatives using [nature-based solutions](#).



WED 2024 celebrations, 5 June, Riyadh
(Photo credit: UNEP)



Tens of millions of people joined the online global conversation, with UNEP WED content seen 480 million times across social media and #WorldEnvironmentDay being the top trending hashtag on X (formerly Twitter) on 5 June, amplifying the global rally to restore the land that humanity and countless other species depend on for survival. The 2024 WED was successful, in large part, owing to the early identification of the theme and the spreading of report launches throughout the year.

4th international conference on small island developing states (SIDS4)

UNEP participated in [SIDS4](#) (27-30 May, Antigua and Barbuda) which culminated in the adoption of the Antigua and Barbuda agenda for SIDS ([ABAS](#)). The ABAS represents a pivotal commitment by governments to prioritize climate action, sustainable energy, ocean management, economic diversification, and partnerships to enhance resilience, foster

inclusive economic growth, and safeguard the unique environments and cultures of SIDS communities. While the SIDS accelerated modalities of action (SAMOA) pathway of 2014 maintains continued applicability as a blueprint, setting out the sustainable development priorities of SIDS, the ABAS is a renewed declaration for resilient prosperity which will also serve as the foundational strategy guiding UN entities, including UNEP, in the delivery of support to SIDS over the next decade.

At the meeting, UNEP [expressed](#) full support and commitment to promoting sustainable development in SIDS through its medium term strategy (MTS) and the MEAs it hosts. UNEP engaged as an Observer and participated in numerous side events, conducted over a dozen bilateral meetings with island ministries, and delivered a Plenary intervention. This engagement built upon a strategic review of UNEP's existing work portfolio on SIDS across the Caribbean, the Pacific, and the Atlantic, Indian Ocean, and South China Sea (AIS). The conference also marked a significant turning point in recognizing the distinct requirements of SIDS and underscores the need to ensure effective support for these vulnerable states.

UN general assembly sustainability week

UNEP contributed to the [sustainability week](#) (15-19 April, New York) by highlighting the need to expand access to clean, efficient and affordable energy and not only closing the energy gap and slowing climate change, at high-level events on sustainable tourism, transport and infrastructure. UNEP served as a panellist in the thematic debate on "closing the energy access gap and transitioning to decarbonized energy systems." Member states and stakeholders welcomed the call to action by the president of the general assembly (PGA) to further the implementation of SDG7 on affordable and clean energy.



UN secretary general's panel on critical energy transition minerals

UNEP is co-leading the provision of technical support to a newly launched [Panel](#) (26 April, New York) that will develop a set of common and voluntary principles to build trust, guide the transition and accelerate the race to renewables. The panel brings together governments, intergovernmental and international organizations, industry, and civil society. It held its first meeting in April followed by a series of online working sessions in May and June.

Environmental dimension of SDG16 on peace justice and strong institutions

As a contribution to the in-depth review of SDG16, to be discussed during the 2024 HLPF, UNEP co-organised the SDG16 high-level conference on peace, justice and inclusive societies for sustainable development (6 May) and the expert group meeting (7 May), [highlighting](#) the environmental dimension of SDG16. UNEP highlighted the contributions of environmental rule of law in supporting the achievement of SDG16 and contributed to the discussion by sharing the latest findings and recommendations of UNEP's global assessment on environmental rule of law and the interdependence with SDG16, during one of the high-level panels.

High-level meeting on antimicrobial resistance (AMR)

UNEP's contribution to [preparatory events](#) to the high-level meeting on antimicrobial resistance (AMR) to be held in September 2024, highlighted the importance of environment and the one health approach in addressing AMR and the work of UNEP to support member states in these efforts. The events included the multistakeholder partnership platform (2 May) and the launch of the youth manifesto on AMR (14 May).

UNEP@ECOSOC

At the operational activities for development segment (14-16 May, New York) which reviewed UN's operations and support to member states in the implementation of the 2030 agenda, UNEP illustrated how it is reorienting its work to do more to support UN resident coordinators, with a focus on increased core and pooled funding and access to technical expertise, and integration of environmental considerations in programming. This was done in a [panel discussion](#) (15 May) with UN executive heads.

UNEP highlighted, inter alia, the actions and finance needed to address the climate crisis and deliver meaningfully on topics at UNFCCC COP29, through an intergenerational justice lens, as well as ways to



2024 ECOSOC youth forum, 16-18 April, UN headquarters, NY
(Photo credit: UN ECOSOC)

include youth voices in the climate finance discourse at the [youth forum](#) (16-18 April) which provides a platform for dialogue on youth issues. UNEP co-led a session entitled “financing our future: road to a robust climate finance system for present and future generations” which highlighted youth perspectives on the topic. The outcome of the forum, an informal summary of the proceedings by the president of ECOSOC, informs and builds on UNEP’s work on youth and duties to the future; and served as inputs to the preparations for the 2024 high-level political forum, the high-level segment of the council in July 2024, and the summit of the future in September 2024.

Marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction

UNEP shared its experience in supporting member states on biodiversity-related policy and implementation and highlighted the opportunities to ensure synergies between the biodiversity MEAs and the BBNJ agreement, and to strengthen the linkages to work under existing biodiversity-related MEAs at the [organizational meeting](#) (24-26 June, New York) of the preparatory commission for the entry into force of the agreement under the UN convention on the law of the sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ) and the convening of the first meeting of the conference of the parties to the agreement.

Together with partners across the UN system, UNEP is supporting early preparedness for ratification and implementation. This includes support to countries to expedite BBNJ ratification and preparedness for early action through GEF international waters, and training to support legislative preparation for ratification through the Montevideo environmental law programme. The regional seas programme also offers an effective vehicle for early action.

23rd session of UN permanent forum on indigenous issues

UNEP participated in a dialogue with UN agencies and in all sessions of the [forum](#) (15-26 April, New York) which focussed on ‘enhancing indigenous peoples’ right to self-determination in the context of the un declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples: emphasizing the voices of indigenous youth. the session highlighted that indigenous peoples worldwide face multiple intersecting crises, including environmental challenges and that their engagement including at UNEA-6 was crucial for upholding the right to a healthy environment. UNEP delivered a statement during the session. In addition, UNEP values indigenous contributions to sustainable lifestyles and ecosystem restoration, integrates indigenous knowledge in global environmental outlooks and supports their involvement in international negotiations.



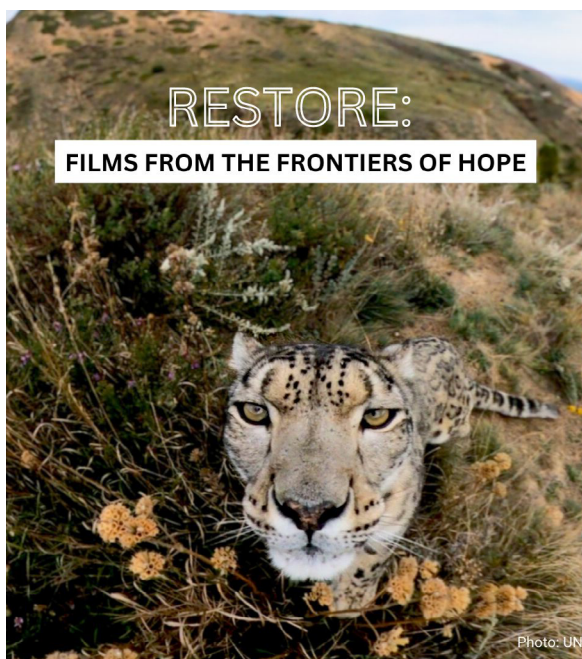
23rd session of UN permanent forum on indigenous Issues
(Photo credit: UN DESA)

Quintet of change initiative

UNEP continued to enhance its anticipatory and futures focus and its capacity to navigate uncertainty in line with the secretary general's [quintet of change](#) initiative. In this context, it launched the second part of its [delphi survey](#), in April 2024, to help determine and examine differences in perception about 20 signals of change to assess the likelihood, severity and timeframe for potential impacts associated with each signal. UNEP has since been working to analyse and compile the data and information collected during the course of its foresight and horizon scanning exercise with the view to reflecting the final outcomes and recommendations in the upcoming global foresight report.

UN decade on ecosystem restoration

The documentary series *restore: films from the frontiers of hope*, known for its high-impact storytelling, showcases successful, inspiring, and ambitious global restoration efforts chosen as [UN world restoration flagships](#). Advocacy on the UN decade advanced with the launch of seven new episodes.



Follow-up to UNEA-6 and initial work on the UNEA-7 theme

UNEP introduced the UNEA-6 report to the ECOSOC management segment (5 June), sharing a set of recommendations with a view to fully utilize existing institutional links between UNEA, ECOSOC and the HLPF.

The UNEA bureau briefed members (16 May) on assessment and lessons learned from UNEA-6, and the process of defining the theme for UNEA-7, including agreement on guiding principles, criteria, and timeline for consultations. A subsequent UNEA and CPR bureaux meeting (26 June) provided preliminary comments and inputs on [proposals](#) for the theme.

To strengthen collaboration and information-sharing on global environmental issues and emerging challenges, and to enhance inclusive and meaningful participation by major groups and stakeholders (MGS) in UNEA processes and UNEP-led events, UNEP convened a first informal meeting (3 May) between delegates and MGS. The meeting proposed to establish an informal "group of friends" that will ensure improved and more regular contact between interested delegates and MGS in an informal setting.

UNEP kipepeo awards

UNEP's efforts to celebrate staff achievements through its [kipepeo award](#) was recognized through the agency winning the UN secretary general's award for 2023 for the category of "staff recognition and rewards". The Kipepeo Awards aim to foster a collaborative culture and celebrate UNEP work to address the three planetary environmental crises by supporting countries to deliver on their environmental commitments. Teams across UNEP are nominated and honoured for their collaboration, innovation, and environmental impact.

Accreditation to UNEP

During the reporting period, 43 new organizations were accredited to UNEP and its governing bodies, representing business and industry (5), children and youth (1), indigenous peoples and communities (1), farmers (2), scientific and technological community (3), NGOs (29), local authorities (1) and one intergovernmental organization. The list of accredited organizations can be found [here](#). The list of accredited IGOs can be found [here](#). As of 30 June, there were 1,173 organizations accredited to UNEP.

B. Regional developments

i. Africa

10th session of Africa regional forum on sustainable development (ARFSD-10)

UNEP contributed to shaping conversations on the agenda of [ARFSD-10](#) (23-25 April, Addis Ababa) which highlighted the need for increased momentum on the African Union's agenda 2063 and the 2030 agenda for sustainable development. As chair of 'opportunity and issue based coalition-4' on climate action ([OIBC-4](#)) under the Africa regional collaborative platform, UNEP hosted an event on carbon markets to address critical issues concerning climate action in Africa. UNEP also co-prepared a background paper on SDG 13 (climate action) for the ARFSD.

The Forum provided a platform for sharing knowledge, best practices, and policy solutions for greener, more inclusive, resilient growth strategies and emphasised the crucial role of the African region in scaling up action on [critical transitions and investment pathways](#) to accelerate progress. The Forum also held a roundtable that considered options for strengthening environmental sustainability and climate action at the country level through the UN development system.

Implementing UNEA-6 resolutions - African perspective

UNEP co-organized a [webinar](#) (30 April) entitled "charting the path forward: an African perspective towards implementing the resolutions of UNEA-6" which focussed on the significance and implications of these resolutions for environmental governance and strategies for their effective implementation. The webinar helped to raise awareness about the importance of UNEA resolutions and advocated for their swift and effective implementation at local, national, and international levels. The African major groups identified priority areas for action and collaboration, that could help translate the UNEA resolutions into actionable strategies for implementation.

ii. Asia and the Pacific

4th meeting of the working group for the association of southeast Asian nations (ASEAN) environmental rights framework

UNEP, together with partners, provided technical support to the [4th meeting](#) of the working group (6-8 May, Jakarta, Indonesia) for the development of an ASEAN declaration on environmental rights. The meeting concluded with an amended draft text of the



10th ARFSD
(Photo Credit: UNECA)



4th meeting of ASEAN ERF working group, 6-8 May, Jakarta
(Photo credit: ASEAN)

instrument which will advance environmental rights in the region. The next meeting (1-3 July) will discuss the scope and structure of the regional implementation plan to supplement the ASEAN declaration. It presents an opportunity for UNEP to further support member states to advance [principle 10](#) of the Rio declaration and implementation of the [Bali guidelines](#).

80th session of ESCAP

UNEP provided support to strengthening the environmental dimension of the [session](#) (22-26 April, Bangkok) by delivering a [formal statement](#) sharing UNEP's perspective on digital innovations for achieving the SDGs. The statement highlighted areas where leveraging digital innovation can help to accelerate environmental sustainability and the work of the coalition for digital environmental sustainability ([CODES](#)). The UNEP administered coordinating body on the seas of east Asia (COBSEA) joined an official [side event](#) entitled accelerating ocean-based climate action (OBCA) to discuss ongoing developments on the subject matter across the region and to identify the thematic elements of OBCA dialogue. The outcome document called for increased cooperation for fostering digital innovation for sustainable development and promoting inclusive digital economies and societies by making full use of the potential of United Nations agencies.

55th international centre for integrated mountain development (ICIMOD) board of governors' meeting and the 34th ICIMOD support group meeting

At the [joint](#) 55th ICIMOD board of governors' meeting and the 34th ICIMOD support group meeting (30 April - 2 May, Thimphu, Bhutan), the board approved the progress of the medium-term action plan 2023-2026 and other policy documents which will be the basis for UNEP's collaboration with ICIMOD in Hindu Kush Himalaya. UNEP presented its activities in Hindu Kush Himalaya, in collaboration with ICIMOD, towards promoting science-policy frameworks, mountain biodiversity and ecosystems restoration, and high-altitude climate change adaptation.

16th meeting of the governing council of the south Asia co-operative environment programme (SACEP)

UNEP updated the [meeting](#) (24-26 June, Thimphu) on pertinent upcoming events including INC-5 on plastic and provided inputs to SACEP's draft workplan 2024-26 which was approved by the governing council. Seven south Asian member states attended the governing council and endorsed the institutional, programme and financial matters of SACEP. UNEP will support the SACEP secretariat and its member states to implement activities related to the three planetary environmental crises under the new workplan for 2024-26.

iii. Europe

3rd international conference on water for sustainable development

The [conference](#) on the international decade for action 2018-2028 themed water for sustainable development (10-13 June, Dushanbe, Tajikistan) supported the [water action agenda](#), promoting partnerships and accelerating actions for SDG 6 on clean water and sanitation and other water-related goals by 2030. The conference's [final declaration](#) emphasized the need for urgent international cooperation on water, aligning with UNEA resolution [6/13](#). UNEP engaged in a policy dialogue on glacier preservation, delivered interventions during a plenary session and conducted bilateral meetings with partners.

Sub-regional workshop on integrated planning for climate and air

The climate and clean air coalition (CCAC) convened within UNEP, organized the [workshop](#) (11-13 June, Astana, Kazakhstan) where UNEP's air quality initiatives were presented, increasing visibility and awareness among key stakeholders in Central Asia. UNEP discussed further partnerships with the CCAC on tackling air pollution in Central Asia. A follow-up will be a joint UNEP-CCAC regional workshop on air quality management, focusing on knowledge management, to be held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, in December 2024.

Building a clean air future in central Asia

UNEP co-organized the first high level [policy dialogue](#) (19 June, Tashkent, Uzbekistan) on building a clean air future in central Asia. The dialogue convened policy and decision-makers, stakeholders and air quality

experts to jointly review air quality management (AQM) policies and practices to deepen regional cooperation and to strengthen policies and practices to improve air quality in the region. UNEP shaped the agenda, supported national delegations, delivered presentations on UNEA-6 resolutions and regional policy responses on air pollution, and moderated a session on air quality management.

EU green week

UNEP participated in the [EU green week](#), the EU's annual flagship event on environmental policy, which looked into what was needed to make the bloc more water resilient. At the [Brussels conference](#) (29-30 May), UNEP joined a [panel discussion](#) entitled [from growing global crisis to global opportunity](#), sharing its plans to boost water resilience, and engaged with participants at [a joint UN stand](#). As an EU green week partner, UNEP co-hosted (4 June) a [public film screening](#) on global water resilience, linking world environment day and EU green week themes.



Water and glacier festival, Dushanbe, Tajikistan 10 June
(Photo Credit: Dushanbe Water Process)

20th anniversary celebration of secretariat of Carpathian convention

As host to the convention's secretariat, UNEP participated in the [celebration](#) (18 June, Vienna, Austria) which gathered representatives from the convention parties and other stakeholders to mark two decades of fostering international cooperation and driving sustainable development across the Carpathians, western Balkans, and mountain regions globally. The event reaffirmed commitment to environmental cooperation and support to UNEP's work in the region.

Platform for action on the green recovery of Ukraine

UNEP [co-announced](#) the establishment of the platform for action on the green recovery of Ukraine at the Ukraine recovery conference in Berlin (11-12 June). The platform will provide a forum for Ukrainian and international partners to support actions to prioritize and accelerate reform of policies and legislation, practices, and institutions and to mobilize whole-of-government commitment and engagement for greening the post-war recovery and reconstruction of Ukraine. It also aims to support the development of amendments to the financial constitution and financial instruments which can facilitate the implementation of the green recovery strategy.

iv. Latin American and the Caribbean

7th regional forum on sustainable development for LAC

UNEP took part in the [forum](#) (15-18 April, Santiago, Chile), providing substantive contributions on opportunities to accelerate climate action in LAC, and also on synergies between climate action and SDG 1 on ending poverty, SDG 2 on zero hunger, SDG 16 on peaceful and inclusive societies, and SDG 17 on partnerships and means of implementation. UNEP also participated in several activities of the regional task force on sustainable food systems, helping to raise awareness on the critical role of the environment in food production and nutrition in the region. The forum's outcome document welcomed the multiple environmental and sustainable development events in 2023 (CoP28, 18th UN Forum on Forests, UNEA-6), highlighted upcoming events in 2024 and called for the enhancement of synergies among international processes, considering regional intergovernmental priorities such as those agreed by the [forum of ministers of environment](#) of LAC.



Forum of LAC countries on sustainable development 2024, panel 3: goal 13 – climate action (Photo credit: ECLAC)

Third conference of the parties (Cop-3) to the regional agreement on access to information, public participation, and justice in environmental matters in Latin America and the Caribbean (Escazu agreement)

UNEP co-organized [CoP-3](#) (22-26 April, Santiago) which focused on access to information, public participation, and access to justice in environmental matters. UNEP facilitated discussions, shared expertise, and emphasized international cooperation and the implementation of article 11 of the Escazu agreement. State parties endorsed the [action plan](#) on human rights defenders in environmental matters, highlighting priority areas and proposing strategic measures to advance full implementation of Article 9 of the Agreement.

Ocean forum of the Caribbean biological corridor (CBC)

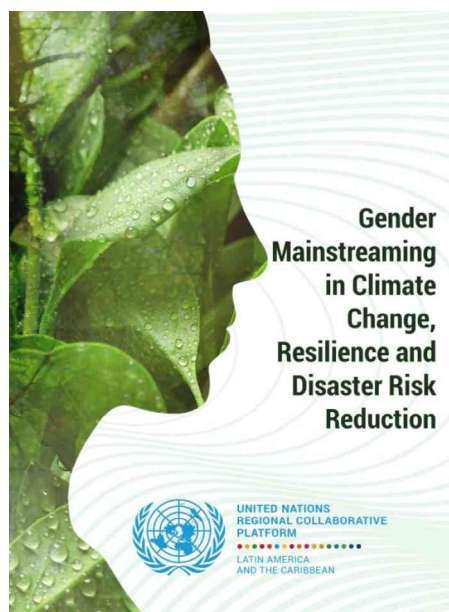
The [forum](#) (4-5 May, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic) presented analyses of conservation priorities in the Caribbean, gathered insights to achieve global biodiversity goals, and addressed emerging marine threats. UNEP presented extensive work on strengthening the CBC and emphasized the importance of collective action for sustainable sargassum management and prevention. Key outcomes included the identification of research gaps and conservation priorities in the CBC's marine realm, recommended actions, and enhanced regional cooperation for marine conservation.

Integrating gender approach in climate change, resilience and DRR

UNEP co-organized a webinar (25 June) to launch a [regional summary](#) produced by the issue-based coalition (IBC) for climate change and resilience in LAC. The summary highlights challenges and opportunities for promoting gender equality in environmental agendas and provides recommendations to resident coordinators and UN country teams on how to support LAC countries in mainstreaming gender into sustainable development, biodiversity, climate change, pollution, waste, and disaster risk reduction, with an aim towards alignment.

Environmental rule of law in LAC

A UNEP organized online [event](#) (12 June) on the environmental rule of law in LAC addressed key trends, gaps and opportunities, including those identified in the UNEP's second environmental rule of law [report](#). Leading experts identified regional priorities in promoting such law, with focus on environmental and racial justice, institutions, and rights.



v. West Asia

Environmental impact of the conflict in Gaza

UNEP issued (18 June) a preliminary assessment report on the [environmental impact of the conflict in Gaza](#). This report, which was prepared in response to an official request from the State of Palestine, provides a summary of what is known about the environmental impacts of the ongoing conflict, including impacts on environmental management and waste disposal systems; energy, fuel and associated infrastructure; destruction of buildings and conflict-related debris;



marine and terrestrial environments; and air quality. In addition to describing known, and in many cases visible, environmental impacts, this assessment highlights conflict-related environmental issues that are of serious concern but about which the UN has limited information at this stage. In issuing the report, UNEP noted that some conflict-related impacts – such as the likely contamination of soil and the coastal aquifer by chemicals and heavy metals – can only be fully understood through more detailed sampling and analysis, which should be undertaken as soon as conditions permit.

Third Arab forum for environment (AFEN)

The UNEP co-organized [forum](#) (3-4 June, Riyadh) focussed on land degradation challenges and solutions in the Arab region with sub-themes on food and water security, environmental compliance, and terrestrial ecosystems restoration initiatives. Additionally, a high-level segment addressed policies, financing, and capacity-building. The forum concluded with preliminary recommendations calling for enhancing regional cooperation, policy development, financial support, and capacity building to combat land degradation, among others. The forum also featured an

accompanying exhibition where national, regional, and international institutions from the public and private sectors, as well as civil society, showcased prominent environmental projects, initiatives, and the latest technologies.



2 PROGRAMME OF WORK IMPLEMENTATION

A. Climate stability

60th session of subsidiary body for implementation (SBI 60)

UNEP participated in [SBI 60](#) (3-13 June, Bonn, Germany) by engaging in more than 70 official events, side events, workshops and bilateral meetings focusing on several topics ranging from climate finance, adaptation, mitigation, resilient buildings and sustainable cooling, nationally determined contributions (NDCs) and implementation of the global stocktake (GST). UNEP presented its coordinated and integrated offer to support countries in their NDCs revision and collaborated with partners, including UNFCCC, UNDP and NDC partnership, on the announcement of the [NDCs 3.0 regional fora](#).

11th ministerial meeting of the coalition of finance ministers for climate action

UNEP participated in the [meeting](#) (17 April, Washington DC), the objective of which was to engage finance ministries in the revision of nationally determined contributions. UNEP contributed expertise on integrating climate considerations into financial policies. The meeting resulted in a renewed commitment from over 40 countries to incorporate climate risk into economic planning.

Global stocktaking on sustainable energy

UNEP participated in a [global stocktaking](#) on sustainable energy (19 April, New York) held under the auspices of the UN general assembly as part of the [sustainability week](#) organized by the president of the general assembly. UNEP called for a tripling of renewables and doubling of energy efficiency by 2030 and highlighted the need to adopt passive strategies to reduce cooling demand, achieve higher energy efficiency standards and an accelerated phasedown of hydrofluorocarbon refrigerants under the [Kigali amendment](#).

Adaptation & resilience impact: a measurement framework for investors

UNEP FI released (16 April) a [report](#) which provides a clear, consistent, and robust framework for measuring the impact of investments on climate adaptation and resilience. Designed for development finance institutions, multilateral development banks, and impact investors, the report demonstrates how the metrics framework can be embedded in the investment cycle and outlines a set of impact metrics examples that can be used for individual investments or aggregated across portfolios.

UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY SUSTAINABILITY WEEK

15-19 April 2024
[#UNGASustainabilityWeek](#)



Climate risk landscape report 2024

The UNEP finance initiative (UNEP FI) produced and released (4 April) the [report](#) which serves as a comprehensive resource delving into the available tools for financial institutions to assess physical and transition climate risks and boost their resilience to related impacts. The report provides best practices for tool utilisation, case studies, and recommendations to navigate the dynamic climate risk tools market. It also offers insights into the rapidly evolving regulatory developments around climate-related disclosure frameworks and recent market developments.



Forum for insurance transition for net zero (FIT)

The creation (25 April) of the UN-led and convened structured dialogue and multistakeholder [forum](#) will support the necessary acceleration and scaling up of voluntary climate action by the insurance industry and key stakeholders. Chaired by UNEP, the FIT will work with insurance market participants and engage with insurance regulators and other key stakeholders to advance net-zero insurance thinking and practices globally.

UNEP-FI protocols, papers, briefs, and manuals

UNEP FI released a [protocol](#) (18 April) to inform asset owners committed to net-zero emissions across portfolios by 2050 on setting intermediate climate targets; a [paper](#) (2 May) on emerging practices in



climate target setting for steel sector financing to inform banks on setting targets for emissions associated with their financing of the steel sector; a [paper](#) (23 May) on climate target setting for oil & gas financing to inform banks on setting targets to reduce emissions associated with their financing of the sector; a [brief](#) (14 May) on climate risks in the transportation sector; a [brief](#) (2 May) on climate risks in the metals and mining sector; and a [manual](#) (9 May) on banks' climate mitigation journey to provide a step-by-step approach for banks to align with the Paris agreement goal of 1.5°C temperature increase and net zero.

Climate data challenge - role of open-source and neutral data platform

UNEP FI released (28 May) *the climate data challenge: the critical role of open-source and neutral data platform* as a [technical supplement](#) to a climate risk landscape report. The supplement explores options for financial institutions to address data challenges in order to develop effective climate risk assessments and mitigation and adaptation strategies. It explores how the development of free, open-source and neutral data platforms could enhance the quality of climate risk data and its integration into business decision-making.

Fossil fuel subsidies – success stories and challenges of reform

At a [virtual event](#) hosted on 12 June by the International Monetary Fund, UNEP shared insights on fossil fuel subsidies. The event aimed to discuss experiences and challenges in fossil fuel subsidy reforms among finance ministers from various

countries. UNEP's contributions emphasized the environmental and economic benefits of subsidy reforms, promoting strategies for reducing fossil fuel subsidies to mitigate climate change and foster sustainable development.

Global national adaptation plan expo 2024

The UNEP-supported Asia-Pacific adaptation network (APAN) organized a [session](#) at the [expo](#) (22-25 April, Dhaka, Bangladesh) on richness and gaps towards the global goal on adaptation. Key messages include the need for NAP development to include the global goal on adaptation structural approaches, reduce reporting burden to countries, enhance the science behind NAPs, further strengthen cross-sectoral integration and mainstream adaptation actions into relevant national plans, and accelerate innovation to initiate and facilitate adaptation investments from various stakeholders. During the session, APAN launched the [publication](#) resilience for all: enabling transformative implementation which offers recommendations, entry points and pathways on developing strategies and approaches to achieve transformative adaptation in the Asia-Pacific region.

APAN information brief on loss and damage fund

The UNEP supported APAN published an [information brief](#) (6 June) titled "how should we tackle the loss and damage fund?" which highlights outcomes and

recommendations gathered from a webinar on tackling the loss and damage fund, with a focus on fund operationalization, challenges and opportunities.

10th anniversary of climate technology centre and network (CTCN)

As part of events to mark its 10th anniversary on 19 April, UNEP's [CTCN](#) released a [report](#) highlighting its work to foster climate resilience and innovation over the past decade. CTCN has over the years funded over 300 technical assistance projects across 112 developing countries to help them meet their sustainable development commitments under the Paris Agreement.

17th regional workshop on capacity development for climate change negotiations for Arab countries

The UNEP co-organized [workshop](#) (13-15 May, Kuwait) built on the outcomes of COP 28 and focused on agenda items most relevant to the Arab region, including mitigation, adaptation, and means of implementation (finance, technology, capacity building). Discussions covered progress on new or updated NDCs, net-zero commitments, and NAPs. The workshop facilitated the development of regional positions and priorities for action in preparation for the upcoming Bonn climate change conference and COP 29.



Arab regional workshop on adaptation planning

UNEP co-convened a technical [workshop](#) (9-10 June, Amman, Jordan) for climate adaptation specialists to better understand adaptation challenges faced by Arab regional states and communities and explore process solutions that would help stakeholders to overcome challenges to adaptation planning in practice, both at local and national levels, and with a transboundary lens.

Asia-Pacific regional training workshop on NAP development process

The UNEP supported APAN co-delivered a [workshop](#) (11-13 June, Bangkok) focussed on strengthening capacity for multi-sectoral involvement in the NAP Process. Attended by 26 participants from governments and academic institutions across eight Asian countries, the training program supported governments by enhancing capacities and providing practical, internationally tested models and tools.

Latin America and the Caribbean urban shift forum

The UNEP co-led urban shift initiative hosted its [LAC forum](#) (16-19 April, Belem, Brazil) dedicated to exploring the pivotal role of cities in the effort to transition to an equitable, sustainable, and liveable

future for all. The initiative aims to implement innovative urban solutions that facilitate the shift toward sustainable, low-carbon development in collaboration with city officials and urban practitioners. UNEP participated in the Forum's capacity building activities, focused on understanding, engaging with, and contributing to the financing of transformative initiatives shaping the cities of tomorrow.

Innovative climate-resilient housing in Bangladesh

UNEP's NDC action project and a Bangladeshi NGO BRAC joined forces (4 June) on a [project](#) to showcase a new way to build climate-resilient housing in Mongla, Bangladesh. As the devastating cyclone Remal hit the country, the results of this work were clear, when around 183 families took shelter in the [climate-resilient buildings](#).

ASEAN centre for energy - UNEP cooperation agreement

UNEP signed a memorandum of understanding ([MoU](#)) (19 June) with ASEAN-ACE to collaborate on just transitions to low-carbon and resource-efficient economies and support the implementation of the programme area under the ASEAN plan of action for energy cooperation. The plan serves as the regional blueprint for energy cooperation in ASEAN.



NDC action: climate resilient housing in Bangladesh
(Photo credit: Dhaka Tribune)

Mitigating climate risks for smallholder farmers in Uganda

Led by UNEP's NDC action project, an innovative insurance solution to mitigate climate risks for smallholder farmers [project](#) was launched (9 May) in Uganda. The project will introduce a picture-based insurance (PBI) product delivered and verified through smartphones, ensuring that banana smallholders can recover quickly and fully whenever extreme climate events occur, preventing financial losses that could threaten their livelihoods and food security.

B. Living in harmony with nature

Global training session on the BBNJ agreement

UNEP organized, hosted and facilitated a comprehensive [global training session](#) on the agreement (6 June, Nairobi) which brought together experts from various UN bodies to provide in-depth insights into the BBNJ agreement and strategies for its implementation. Key outcomes included enhanced understanding of the agreement, clarification on ratification processes, identification of support mechanisms, improved coordination between UN bodies, MEAs, and member states, and development of implementation strategies.

International day for biological diversity

On the international day for biological diversity (22 May), UNEP's executive director [interviewed](#) Dr. Jane Goodall and discussed the critical need to save the great apes. The interview highlights UNEP's great apes survival partnerships ([GRASP](#)) project which works to ensure the long-term survival of gorillas, chimpanzees, bonobos and orangutans in their natural habitat. Additionally, during the international symposium on environment and one health (16 May, Guangxi, China) UNEP contributed to the commemoration of the international day by delivering a presentation on the interlinkages and synergies between biodiversity conservation, one health and sustainable development.

Sustainable diving dialogue: transforming business for a blue economy

UNEP chaired a [dialogue](#) (14 April, Singapore) where panellists representing examples of sustainable business models from dive centres, liveaboards,

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UN Environment Programme

UK
CHLOE HARVEY
Executive Director at
The Reef-World Foundation,
Green Fins International
coordinator

14 APRIL (SUNDAY), 12:30PM – 1:30PM
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SUNTEC CONVENTION & EXHIBITION CENTRE, SINGAPORE

CHAIRED BY UN COBSEA
ORGANIZED BY THE REEF-WORLD FOUNDATION
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manufacturers, media, training agencies and conservationists discussed concrete ways that scuba diving supports sustainable ecotourism, raising awareness and identifying possible best examples that can be explored in future marine ecotourism efforts.

National food systems convenors regional meeting for Asia Pacific

UNEP participated in the [meeting](#) (29 April, Bangkok) which discussed the progress of food systems transformation by countries, financing for food systems transformation, as well as the nexus between the food systems and climate change.

2nd UN ocean decade regional conference for Asia Pacific

UNEP's COBSEA participated in the [conference](#) (22-25 April, Bangkok) focused on accelerating ocean science solutions for sustainable development. COBSEA also co-led a [workshop](#) on upscaling ocean observation, monitoring, and modelling for early warning in the east Asian seas where experts highlighted critical gaps, challenges, and recommendations to enhance ocean observation, assessment, monitoring and prediction for sustainable ocean management.



ASEAN one health network and ASEAN one health joint plan of action

UNEP supported the development of the ASEAN one health network (AOHN) and the ASEAN one health joint plan of action (OH-JPA), which were officially [launched](#) on 19 June (Jakarta). Both will significantly enhance ASEAN’s capacity to mitigate biological threats and improve prevention, preparedness and response to outbreaks and emerging infectious diseases, as well as other aspects relevant to the environmental sector through a one health approach.



Launch of AOHN and ASEAN OH JPA
(Photo credit: UNEP)

Saudi Arabian protected areas forum (HIMA)

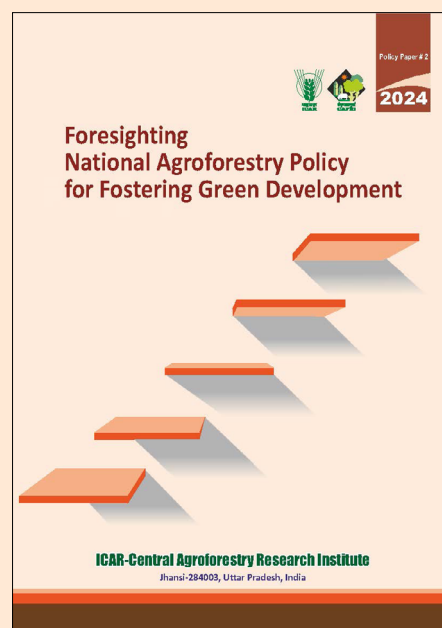
UNEP delivered a keynote statement to the [forum](#) (21-24 April, Riyadh) highlighting the importance of protected areas in achieving the targets of the Kunming-Montreal global biodiversity framework. The forum brought together global and regional experts to support the preservation of natural habitats, sustainable development goals, the concept of protected areas, and the environmental and social criteria for site selection. UNEP further organized a booth in an exhibition parallel to the Forum, showcasing its work on the UN decade for ecosystem restoration, protected areas, and world environment day 2024.

Saudi national greening forum

UNEP participated in a panel discussion during the inaugural edition of the [forum](#) (6 May, Riyadh) which is to serve as an annual platform to enhance partnerships for the development of vegetation cover, in realization of the goals of the Saudi green initiative. UNEP highlighted the role of the UN decade on ecosystem restoration and shared lessons from largescale restoration projects across the various UN decade flagships.

National agroforestry policy of India

UNEP supported India in organising a [workshop](#) (5 April, New Delhi) on national agroforestry policy on making the economic case for food systems transformations; specifically scenarios that upscale agroforestry and organic production in three states. A [policy paper](#) *scientific social responsibility in agroforestry* was released and an [outcome document](#) *foresighting national agroforestry policy for fostering green development* has been prepared.



C. Towards a pollution-free planet

9th executive board meeting of the special programme

The [meeting](#) (8-10 April, Geneva) to support institutional strengthening at the national level for implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the Minamata convention, the strategic approach to international chemicals management (SAICM) and the global framework on chemicals, reviewed the eligible and completed applications submitted for the seventh round of applications for funding from the [special programme](#) and considered launching arrangements of the eighth round of applications. The executive board approved [eight projects](#) amounting to US\$ 1.9 million, taking into account the project's merits, regional balance and priority to countries with least capacity, including the special needs of least development countries and small island developing states.

Legally binding instrument on plastic pollution (INC-4)

The fourth session of the intergovernmental negotiating committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment ([INC-4](#)) (23-29 April, Ottawa) advanced the [draft text](#) of the instrument and agreement on intersessional work ahead of [INC-5](#) in November. Delegates discussed emissions and releases, production, product design, waste management, problematic and avoidable plastics, financing, and a just transition. INC members also agreed on intersessional work to catalyse convergence on key issues. In addition, members decided to create an open-ended legal drafting group to form at INC-5, serving in an advisory capacity by reviewing elements of the draft revised text to ensure legal soundness.

Global forum on artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM)

The [forum](#) (3-5 June, Batangas, Philippines) of the UNEP-led planetGOLD programme brought together a wide range of stakeholders to exchange knowledge, experiences, and spur actions towards advancing a mercury-free and responsibly managed ASGM sector. The forum explored the most critical issues in the ASGM sector, including technologies for mercury-free gold processing, opportunities to improve financial access for the sector, strategies to protect vulnerable people, gender equity and taxation policies. The

[planetGOLD programme](#) partners with governments, the private sector, and ASGM communities all over the world to make small-scale gold mining safer, cleaner, and more profitable.

Finance statement on plastic pollution

In implementation of UNEA resolution [5/14](#), engagement with the financial sector on plastics has strengthened as part of UNEP FI's contribution to the negotiation process of a future international instrument to end plastic pollution. UNEP convened 160 financial institutions from all regions representing US\$15.5 trillion in combined assets to sign a [finance statement on plastic pollution](#) calling for an ambitious international instrument ahead of INC-4. Signatories acknowledge that the finance sector has an important role in mitigating financial risks related to plastic pollution and they are taking this opportunity to share with negotiators what a robust instrument would include from their perspective.

Organizing and delivering national spill exercises in Africa

UNEP delivered a regional training (5-7 June) on organizing and delivering national spill exercises to government representatives from Kenya, Mozambique, Tanzania, and Uganda. The country teams presented lessons and experiences in conducting national spill exercises. This was the last of 11 regional training courses dating back to 2017 benefiting 313 participants from 11 countries including from the Nairobi convention. As a result of these trainings, several partner countries have either developed and/or enhanced their respective national oil spill contingency plans, including Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique, Somalia, Tanzania/Zanzibar and Uganda.

Unlocking and future-proofing air quality management in Asia

UNEP co-organized a regional [workshop](#) (27-28 May, Bangkok) for improved multilateral and international cooperation on air pollution, in line with UNEA resolution [6/10](#) on promoting regional cooperation on air pollution to improve air quality globally. The workshop enhanced regional cooperation and stakeholder engagement for air quality management in Asia, resulting in better promotion of air quality initiatives and improved knowledge of the stakeholders involved.



Regional workshop unlocking and future-proofing air quality management in Asia, 27-28 May, Bangkok (Photo credits: UNEP/EANET)

Regionalization of waste management in LAC

UNEP, in the framework of the [coalition](#) for the closure of dumpsites in LAC, co-organized and disseminated a webinar (7 May) for the exchange of experiences on the importance of inter-municipal agreements for the achievement of regionalization of waste management.

Air quality and health integrated management in Central America

UNEP supported the launch of a course (21 June) addressed to professionals from health and environment ministries from Central America and the Dominican Republic to strengthen their capacities on air quality and health integrated management and implement the regional integrated programme on climate change, air quality and health.

Sound debris management in Gaza

UNEP is co-chairing the Gaza debris management working group (DWG) established in April 2024, and involving some 15 UN agencies, mine action NGOs and local municipalities, following a workshop in Amman in mid-April 2024 to coordinate the safe removal and sustainable management of debris from the Gaza conflict. One of the first actions carried out by the DWG under UNEP's initiative was to develop a debris management framework that outlines the guiding principles and minimum requirements to ensuring

sustainable debris management in Gaza, emphasizing circularity. The framework is meant to help prepare both the UN and partners in pursuing a coherent and coordinated approach to managing debris once a ceasefire is in place, focusing on sustainable recovery and reconstruction efforts.

Nigeria hydrocarbon pollution remediation project (HYPREP)

UNEP provided advisory support to the Nigerian ministry of environment's [HYPREP](#) to clean up oil-contaminated sites in Ogoniland, Niger delta. UNEP's involvement included improving oversight of remediation projects through systematic reviews of proposed scopes of work and reviewing site characterization reports and remediation action plans (RAPs) for ongoing medium-risk remediation works. Additionally, UNEP supported HYPREP in establishing the centre of environmental excellence in remediation, aiding in the development of a draft legal bill and academic programme.

Thailand 4th national forum on antimicrobial resistance (AMR)

UNEP, with partners, participated in the [forum](#) (12-13 June, Bangkok) where it emphasized the importance of addressing the environmental dimension of AMR and the need for tangible commitments and actions at global, regional, national, sub-national and district levels.



Thailand 4th national forum on AMR
(Photo credit: Department of Livestock Development, Thailand)

Use of recycled debris in earthquake-affected areas of north-west Syria

UNEP collaborated with UNDP from January to May and provided technical advisory support on the use of recycled debris in earthquake-affected areas of north-west Syria, based on laboratory material testing results. UNEP provided technical recommendations to improve and upgrade UNDP's debris management programme in Syria and explored opportunities to address remaining debris from the 2023 earthquake. UNEP's support has led to improved debris management practices and plans for ongoing recovery efforts and scale-up in the region.

Seeding a nutrient pollution reduction strategy for the coastal waters of Thailand

UNEP's COBSEA co-organized an inception [workshop](#) (30 May, Bangkok) to kick-start the project preparation grant (PPG) phase of the GEF child project in Thailand under the [GEF-8](#) clean and healthy oceans integrated programme. The workshop launched the project and gathered inputs and suggestions from key stakeholders. COBSEA expects to develop a full project document amounting to US\$ 3.5 million for a duration of five years 2025-30, under the PPG phase for submission to the GEF Secretariat by January 2025.

D. Foundational subprogrammes

i. Science-policy

Science-policy panel to help secure a pollution-free world

UNEP convened the [third session](#) of the open-ended working group (OEWG-3) to prepare proposals for a science-policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution (17–21 June, Geneva). Governments agreed to continue negotiations to further develop the proposals for this body at a resumed session preceding the intergovernmental meeting expected to establish the panel. The new panel is to support governments and other stakeholders by providing science-based advice and co-creating solutions for the sound management of chemicals and waste to prevent pollution.

Regional environmental information network (REIN) of LAC

REIN officially commenced its activities on 1 May. An executive committee, consisting of six members from all sub-regions and two co-chairs from Mexico and Belize will oversee the coordination of the biennial work plan. This plan includes REIN's role as the scientific advisory board for the forum of ministers of LAC and activities conducted through four working groups focused on statistics, data, and science-policy. Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), International Science Council (ISC) and others have expressed support for REIN's initiatives.



IEA and SOE training in west Asia

UNEP organized a training of trainers workshop on integrated environmental assessment (IEA) and state of the environment (SoE) reporting (24-26 June, Manama, Bahrain). The training was tailored for professionals actively involved in environmental assessment and reporting processes within the west Asia region, and aimed to equip trainees with the essential tools and knowledge needed to conduct IEA and produce SoE reports effectively. The training will enhance the regional contribution to the GEO7 preparation process as well as environmental reporting at the country level.

Interactive Africa environmental information system (Africa EIS) training

UNEP co-organized technical training on the [Africa EIS](#) (28-29 May, Cairo, Egypt) for representatives from ministries of environment and national statistics offices of 35 African countries, to enhance capacity for strategic information packaging for decision support using emerging technology advancement including AI. Hands-on training was provided for both backend and frontend management of an interactive web-based tool co-developed by UNEP to strengthen the science-policy interface through enhanced data flows.

UNEP Mercociudades memorandum of understanding

UNEP and Mercociudades signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) (21 June, São Paulo, Brazil) to promote collaborative efforts in environmental data and information management. This includes the production of GEO-cities reports, science-policy integration, and effective management of pollution and waste in urban areas. Mercociudades is an association of 380 cities across Latin America, representing 11 countries and a total population of 120 million.

Launch of GEO-Belize

UNEP provided technical and financial support to the development of the [GEO-Belize](#) report and its related data platform launched on world environment day (5



June, Belmopan, Belize). The first such report since 2010, GEO Belize 2024 provides a comprehensive diagnosis on the state of Belize's environment. It recommends more work on forest cover which has been depleted over the years and greater focus on the protection of the mangrove forest. The GEO Belize 2024 also recommends the use of five key data points: driver, pressure, state, impact and response which are necessary to reduce the impacts on ecosystems and human health.

Sustainable consumption and production hotspot analysis tool (SCP-HAT) training in Brazil

UNEP organized a training session (27 April) for the Brazilian ministries of industry, environment and finance to use UNEP's sustainable consumption and production hotspot analysis tool ([SCP-HAT](#)) as an analytical tool to support the development of a national strategy on circular economy for Brazil.

Capacity development for inclusive science-policy interface project for Pakistan

UNEP held a kick-off meeting (6 June) with the ministry of climate change and environmental coordination, and the sustainable development policy institute (SDPI) of Pakistan to enhance the country's capacity for an

inclusive science policy interface. The project aims to: integrate and provide accessible environmental data and information online to enhance informed planning and policymaking; develop digital state of environment report (SoERs); and link UNSDCF results to the SDG targets and indicators prioritized by national institutions, as well as country actions on Paris agreement and Kunming-Montreal global biodiversity framework.

Sri Lanka strategy for the development of statistics (SLSDS, 2024-2030)

Sri Lanka's department of census and statistics (DCS) is developing a framework to strengthen the national statistical system, ensuring reliability and accessibility of data for informed decision-making in partnership with UNFPA and the World Bank. On 29-30 May, a workshop on natural resources and environmental management was held, and UNEP contributed through a presentation on measuring progress on the 92 environment related SDG indicators in Sri Lanka, including the 25 indicators under UNEP custodianship.

ii. Environmental governance

Second global meeting of national focal points for Montevideo programme V

UNEP hosted the [meeting](#) of national focal points for the fifth programme for the development and periodic review of environmental law (Montevideo programme V) (3-5 June, Nairobi) with 162 participants from 67 countries. The meeting reviewed progress on programme implementation, provided strategic

advice on priority areas, discussed emerging areas in environmental law, and addressed organizational matters. UNEP presented reports on implementation progress, activities, and funding and led discussions on partnerships and stakeholder engagement. Key outcomes included enhanced understanding of the programme's implementation status and strategic guidance for future priorities.

UNEP also hosted a [side-event](#) (5 June) on 'environmental rule of law and human rights: strategic litigation against public participation (SLAPPs) and procedural environmental rights'. It resulted in increased understanding among duty-bearers and other stakeholders of SLAPPs as well as how this links to public participation in environmental decision-making, access to justice in environmental matters, environmental human rights defenders and civic space globally. The event discussed procedural environmental rights and support for environmental defenders, with several member states indicating the need to bolster access to information, public participation and access to justice in environmental matters.

UNEP also co-organized a [side event](#) (4 June) on regional multilateralism to implement access rights, which sought to raise international awareness of the Escazú agreement. It shared insights and good practices from the region and facilitated dialogue among national focal points and other stakeholders on the implementation of the agreement's provisions related to access rights and the protection of environmental defenders.



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Symposium on emerging issues in environmental rule of law

UNEP co-organized a [symposium](#) on emerging issues in environmental rule of law (30-31 May, Nairobi and online) focusing on contributions from academia and civil society to the Montevideo environmental law programme. The event fostered dialogue and debate on key emerging issues of environmental rule of law, including ecocide, rights of nature, environmental rule of law indicators, behaviour change and governance.

Bern III conference on cooperation among the biodiversity-related conventions for the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal GBF

Following the organization of the [Bern III](#) conference, UNEP submitted the final [report](#) to the 4th meeting of the subsidiary body on implementation ([SBI-4](#)) (21–29 May, Nairobi) of the convention on biological diversity (CBD). SBI recommendations to CBD COP-16 included calls for UNEP to continue the Bern process promoting synergies among parties and secretariats in implementing the Kunming-Montreal global biodiversity framework (GBF) and making the report available to inform relevant MEA governance processes.

14th InforMEA steering committee

The [14th steering committee](#) of the InforMEA initiative (11-13 June, Montreux, Switzerland) discussed technological innovations for environmental protection including technical and semantic interoperability, generative artificial intelligence (AI) applications, joint efforts on online learning and capacity building, new governance mechanisms as well as outreach and partnerships. [Recommendations](#) established new

governance arrangements for the Initiative, priorities guiding future AI applications, next online courses to be developed on InforMEA, better documentation of interoperability solutions, and continued fruitful engagement with partners including academia, GEF, IISD and WTO.

Faith for earth youth council

UNEP [launched](#) the faith for earth youth council 2024-2026 (15 April), a global initiative aimed at empowering young leaders to address pressing environmental and social issues. Comprising 23 members supported by seven advisors, the council is committed to tackling



challenges such as climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution, waste management, ocean advocacy, and UN civil society engagement. The council's two-year [action plan](#) includes organizing workshops, implementing community outreach programs, and leading advocacy campaigns to foster youth engagement and drive meaningful change.

Third edition of MEAs negotiators handbook

UNEP co-organized the 18th joint UNEP/university of eastern Finland [MEA course](#) (27 May – 6 June, Helsinki) to impart essential skills in negotiations and environmental diplomacy while marking twenty years since the course's inception. UNEP played a pivotal role in planning, scheduling, and conducting the course, which included the completion and dissemination of the [third edition of the MEA negotiators handbook](#).

Response mechanism on protecting EHRDs

UNEP's Executive Director released a [statement](#) (11 April) regarding the situation of environmental human rights defenders (EHRDs) in the Philippines and welcomed the recent release of two EHRDs. The case had been submitted under the [UNEP response mechanism on protecting EHRDs](#). EHRDs in Asia-Pacific remain key partners and champions in addressing the three environmental planetary crises.

UN staff training on human rights and environmental rule of law

UNEP and OHCHR collaborated to train UN staff on the human rights and environment nexus under a [joint MoU](#). UNEP led a session on environmental rights within a [briefing](#) (29 May) on "integrating human rights in programming: experiences and reflections"

for all staff from the three Pacific multi-country offices involved in programming and participating in the UNSDCF structures and processes, namely Fiji, Micronesia and Samoa. UNEP co-led a session (3 May) for the Indonesia UN country team on human rights and the environment in a workshop on 'human rights-based approach, gender equality, and women's empowerment, leaving no one behind: theory to practice'. The participants gained increased awareness and capacity on the human rights and environment nexus in the context of Indonesia.

Climate justice and climate change training in Thailand

In celebration of earth day, UNEP delivered a technical presentation to a [forum](#) on "climate justice and climate change: the roles of the judiciary" (22 April, Bangkok, Thailand) setting out global and regional trends on climate litigation attended by more than 100 judges. There continues to be a crucial need to support judges to adjudicate environmental cases and there are [opportunities](#) for UNEP to deliver training through UNEP's [global judicial programme](#) at the request of judiciaries around the region.

Regional DaRT workshop for COMIFAC countries

UNEP delivered a regional [workshop](#) to operationalize the data reporting tool for multilateral environmental agreements (DaRT) for Central African forest commission (COMIFAC) countries (23-25 April, Mbankomo, Cameroon). UNEP conducted practical and interactive sessions on the functionalities of DaRT for national MEA focal points and trained participants in using DaRT for aligning national biodiversity strategies



and action plans (NBSAPs) to the global biodiversity plan and how to make DaRT operational for reporting to MEAs.

Cambodia and UAE assisted under Montevideo programme V

UNEP provided technical legal assistance to Cambodia and UAE (May) by reviewing and improving their environmental legislation, offering solutions and areas for enhancement in draft laws related to land management and integrated environmental protection and development. For Cambodia, the focus was on land law, while in the UAE, the assistance centred on environmental law. The objective was to strengthen national environmental legal frameworks and ensure their alignment with international environmental standards.

Environmental rule of law and climate change litigation training in Lao PDR

UNEP provided support through technical contributions and an expert lecture to a legal professional training on “seeking climate justice: environmental rule of law and climate change litigation” (30 April, Vientiane, Lao PDR). The seminar resulted in training at least 35 lawyers in environmental rule of law and climate change.

E. Enabling subprogrammes

i. Finance and economic transformations

UNEP finance initiative risk centre

UNEP FI has launched a [risk centre](#) (17 April) to assist financial institutions to enhance their capabilities to assess climate- and nature-related financial risk and disclosure. It also provides opportunities for them to engage with experts, regulators, and peers on risk-related topics.

Sustainable finance taxonomies

UNEP joined forces with the principles for responsible investment and climate bonds initiative to support global interoperability and implementation of sustainable finance taxonomies and other frameworks. UNEP FI virtually announced the [collaboration](#) on 27 June. The initiative aims to build consensus on taxonomy definitions and concepts among standard setters, policymakers, and taxonomy users, support the development of taxonomies and provide tools for implementation. UNEP FI implements mandates for sustainable finance taxonomy development and implementation in Brazil, Costa Rica, the EU and Panama as part of the European Commission’s platform on sustainable finance.



Position on governmental carbon pricing

The UNEP-convened net-zero asset owner alliance virtually released (23 May) a [position](#) on governmental carbon pricing. The paper reiterates the call of 89 asset owners representing US\$ 9.5 trillion to policymakers to follow through on their Paris agreement commitments and integrate carbon pricing into their climate policies.

Environmental and social risk analysis online course

UNEP FI delivered an [online course](#) on environmental and social risk analysis between April and June in English and Spanish. The course aimed to help participants recognize and analyze environmental and social risks from clients’ activities, improve risk management procedures, and identify market opportunities. The course aided financial institutions in establishing effective risk management systems. The feedback was positive, with 100% of the 84 participants recommending the course to colleagues.

Development of financeable NBSAP targets

UNEP FI is co-delivering a support programme to 132 GEF-eligible countries on how to engage with the financial sector in the development of financeable national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAP) targets. With seed funding from the GEF early action support programme, additional support has been leveraged to expand the offering based on country demand and in four languages.

Bogotá declaration on sustainable insurance

UNEP organized a kickoff meeting (28 June) with signatories of the [Bogotá declaration on sustainable insurance](#) to officially launch the implementation phase of the declaration. UNEP offered guidance, expertise, and resources to engage signatories in advancing sustainable insurance in LAC. The outcomes included clear objectives, roles, challenges, a collaborative roadmap, strengthened commitment and collaboration among signatories and stakeholders.

Green economy modelling framework

UNEP presented the integrated framework at the [forum](#) on macroeconomics of green and resilient transitions (22-23 April, Washington, D.C.) which discussed economic modeling tools for green transitions. UNEP's contribution facilitated collaboration among 27 finance ministries and over 20 institutions, enhancing the adoption of sustainable economic models.

Annual world circular economy forum (WCEF)

During [WCEF 2024](#) (15-16 April, Brussels) the objective of which was to promote circular economy solutions, UNEP showcased global conservation and sustainable practices and launched the circularity and used textiles trade project to create science-based guidelines for used textiles and promote sustainable trade.

Extended producer responsibility (EPR) for LAC

The UNEP-led circular economy coalition for LAC organized a [session](#) (23 May) to explore the impact and potential of EPR in addressing environmental challenges and promoting sustainability in LAC. The session highlighted case studies from Chile and Brazil and emphasized EPR as pivotal for innovation, promoting circular economy principles, and enhancing waste management.

LAC regional strategy on sustainable consumption and production 2024-2030

UNEP provided technical support to the development of the strategy which was launched on 29 May following official approval by the council of government experts on SCP of LAC. The strategy aims to

harmonize a regional shift towards sustainability and emphasizes the need for an inclusive approach, engaging governments, the private sector, civil society, youth, indigenous peoples, and UN entities. Key pillars include promoting sustainable practices, enhancing resource efficiency, and fostering regional and global movements towards SCP.

Working group on national circular economy strategies in LAC

The UNEP-led [circular economy coalition](#) co-launched a new working group (13 June) to foster national circular economy strategies through peer-to-peer exchanges. UNEP provides expertise to guide development, facilitating dialogue among partners to promote comprehensive circular development strategies across the LAC region.

Sustainability reporting for small and medium enterprises in Argentina

UNEP participated in a session on sustainability reporting for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Argentina (21 May) as part of the Argentine industrial union's new programme on sustainable production. The session aimed to educate and support SMEs in adopting robust sustainability reporting practices. UNEP's role included providing expertise, sharing best practices, and facilitating discussions on national and international environmental regulations impacting productive development.

National bioeconomy strategy of Brazil

UNEP provided technical support to the Brazilian government in developing the strategy which was formally established through the signing of a presidential [decree](#) (5 June) which outlines the directives and objectives of the strategy and mandates the establishment of an interministerial commission to develop a national bioeconomy plan. UNEP supported consultations with civil society, academia and experts by providing technical advice on bioeconomic principles and also facilitated the communication of the strategy.



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National circular economy strategy of Brazil

UNEP provided technical support to the Brazilian government in developing the strategy which was formally established through the signing of a presidential [decree](#) (27 June) which outlines the directives and objectives of the strategy and mandates the establishment of a consultative committee to support, monitor and evaluate its implementation.

PAGE inclusive and green economy forum 2.0 in Guatemala

The [national inclusive green economy forum 2.0](#) (7-8 May, Guatemala City) aimed to promote fiscal policies supporting sustainable development. UNEP led sessions on green fiscal reform, engaging stakeholders to discuss incentives for sustainable practices and low-carbon development. Outcomes included raised awareness, strengthened partnerships, and a roadmap for regional sustainable growth.

Environmental and social sustainability of food sector in Uruguay

The results of a joint UNEP project to support Uruguay's shift to a green economy by improving sustainable production and waste management were presented at "expo Uruguay sostenible" (6 June, Montevideo) which aimed to promote environmental and social sustainability in Uruguay's food sector as part of the PAGE initiative. Outcomes included demonstrating sustainable practices, strengthening partnerships, and establishing practical sustainability guidelines for the food sector.

Saudi food show

UNEP's [recipe of change initiative](#) partnered with YouthX during the [Saudi food show](#) (22 May, Riyadh) to showcase environmentally friendly practices in the culinary sector. A zero-waste cooking competition was organized, featuring young chefs from four prominent



Saudi Food Show
(Photo credit: UNEP/West Asia Office)

hotels in Saudi Arabia. The collaboration aimed to raise awareness about food waste reduction.

ii. Digital transformations

Digital accelerator lab

Following the physical exhibition of the [digital accelerator lab](#) at UNEA6, UNEP proceeded to launch the lab on its website in May. The lab aims to showcase digital solutions, prototypes, reports, and resources that align with the objectives of the global environmental data strategy (GEDS) to enhance effective environmental data management and use. The digital accelerator lab includes early-stage tools available for testing and feedback, such as a chatbot that utilizes advanced machine learning algorithms to aggregate and synthesize authoritative scientific knowledge on various environmental topics. This digital space is continuously updated with new solutions, demonstrating UNEP's commitment to leveraging digital technology and data to achieve environmental goals.

Digital public infrastructure for environmental sustainability report

UNEP launched the new technical [report](#) at a side event to the AI for good summit (30-31 May, Geneva) to examine common information challenges stakeholders face when making decisions related to

environmental sustainability and explores the role that digital public infrastructure (DPI) can play as a key part of the solution. This report identifies six categories of technology innovations that could help tackle information challenges.

Digital technologies for environmental peacebuilding report

UNEP launched the new technical [report](#) at a side event to the third international conference on environmental peacebuilding (19-21 June, Hague). The report delves into how digital technologies can be harnessed to manage environmental and natural resource risks that contribute to insecurity and social conflict, as well as the opportunities they present for peacebuilding, cooperation, and social cohesion. The report examines relevant use cases spanning the peace and security continuum and concludes with a set of important policy and governance recommendations. The report is designed to inform and contribute to significant upcoming frameworks addressing digital technologies, including the summit of the future and the global digital compact, among others.

F. Cross-cutting issues

i. Gender

Gender-responsive renewable energy technologies in Vietnam

UNEP's EmPower II programme identified gender-responsive renewable energy technologies and their market potential in Vietnam (21 June). A list of women-led clean-tech start-ups to investors was identified. Additionally, UNEP and the ASEAN centre for energy (ACE) signed a cooperation agreement for a just energy transition and energy efficiency. In collaboration with the Vietnam Women Entrepreneurs Council (VWEC), UNEP promotes women's economic empowerment through the green transition, integrating gender equality into green economy initiatives, particularly focusing on international ESG standards.

Uruguay Nature4Cities

UNEP's Uruguay Nature4Cities project conducted a dialogue (21 June) to collect inputs for reviewing the national action plan on gender and climate change. This dialogue raised awareness of the impact of climate threats on cities and the differential impacts in terms of gender and generations.





UNEP's Uruguay Nature4Cities project dialogue, 21 June, Rivera City, Uruguay
(Photo credit: UNEP)

ii. Repositioning of the UN development system (UNDS)

SG's QCPR report on operational activities for development of the UN system

The [report](#) (19 April) details how the UN development system (UNDS) has worked to realign coordination mechanisms, working modalities, tools, expertise and resources to make a concerted push as we near 2030, including insight on how well the UN system is addressing member state's environmental issues. This includes an increase in uptake of the common approach to biodiversity by UN entities (from 59% in 2022 to 68% in 2023) and a marginal decrease in uptake of NDCs, NBSAPs and other MEAs.

Country-specific support to accelerate SDG implementation

As part of the [second module](#) of the 2024 QCPR training series for the sharing of member states' perspectives, UNEP illustrated how the three planetary environmental crises is being integrated in the work of the UN development system at a panel session (13 June, New York) on leveraging global, regional and national assets to provide country-specific support to accelerate SDG implementation and leave no one behind.

iii. South-south cooperation

Sustainable bamboo utilization

UNEP facilitated intra and inter regional cooperation on sustainable bamboo utilization, including organizing an [exchange visit](#) between the Governments of Thailand and China (27-31 May) aimed at sharing experiences and transferring technologies related to bamboo life cycle management for socio-economic and ecological benefits.



Visiting bamboo scrimber factory in Zixi County
(Photo credit: UNEP-IEMP)

Restoring riverbanks for flood buffering

UNEP [co-launched](#) a pilot project (10 June) in the Lake Victoria basin to restore riverbanks for flood buffering. The project intends to leverage China's success in ecological restoration and its bamboo industry to support the Kenyan government and communities in bamboo plantation and bamboo resource utilization.

G. Opportunities and lessons learned

i. Opportunities

Climate resilient housing

In climate vulnerable coastal areas, climate-resilient housing projects present an opportunity for integrating renewable energy and water solutions to enhance overall resilience and sustainability. UNEP can provide technical expertise, leverage partnerships to mobilize investment, and share best practices to optimize this housing model.

Innovative insurance solutions

Replicating innovative insurance solutions to mitigate climate risks for smallholder farmers presents an opportunity for UNEP to provide technical assistance, mobilize funding, and facilitate knowledge sharing to enable replication in other countries facing similar risks.

Antigua and Barbuda agenda for SIDS (ABAS)

The ABAS will significantly impact UNCT programming and the role of UNEP's focal point within the UNCT. The special circumstances faced by SIDS necessitate tailored support. The SIDS4 conference marked a significant turning point in



recognizing the distinct requirements of SIDS, which UNEP's focal points will need to incorporate into their role within the UNCT to ensure effective support for these vulnerable states.

Implementing the one health joint plan of action at ASEAN level

The one health quadripartite alliance (FAO, UNEP, WHO and WOH) secured funding from the UK to roll out activities to support ASEAN member states in implementing the one health joint plan of action for the next five years. In total, quadripartite partners received US\$ 6 million, of which US\$ 1.3 million will be allocated to UNEP. This provides an opportunity for UNEP to strengthen the environmental dimension of one health in the ASEAN member states.

ii. Lessons learned

Lessons learned from UNEA-6

UNEP initiated work on lessons learned and recommendations from UNEA-6 and OECPR-6 following the conclusion of the Assembly. The paper factored in recommendations made by the CPR bureau (19 March), recommendations made by the co-facilitators and by the CPR at its subcommittee meetings held on 18 April and 2 May. During the reporting period, two informal exchanges on the subject were held on 4 June and 10 June.

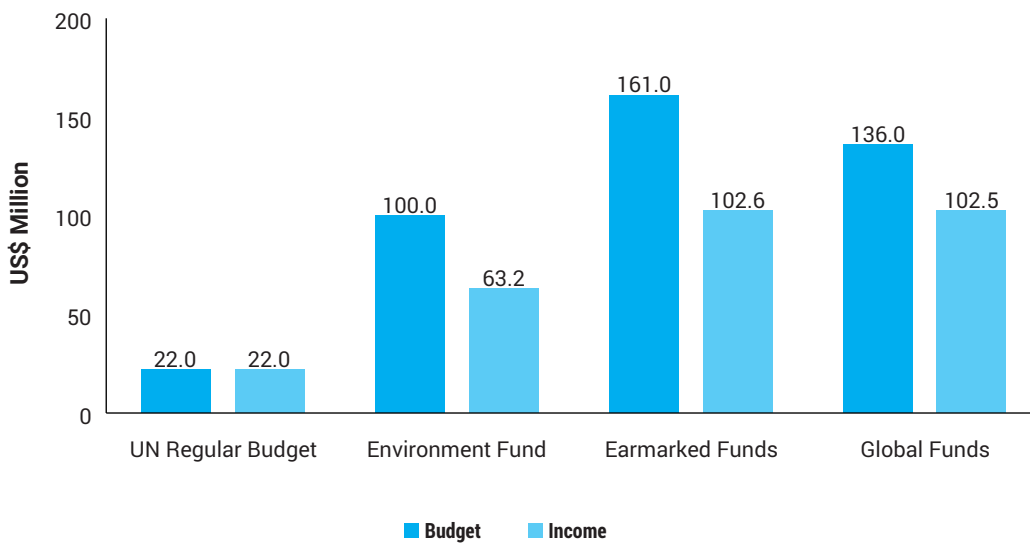
3 RESOURCES AND MANAGEMENT ISSUES

A. Financial resources

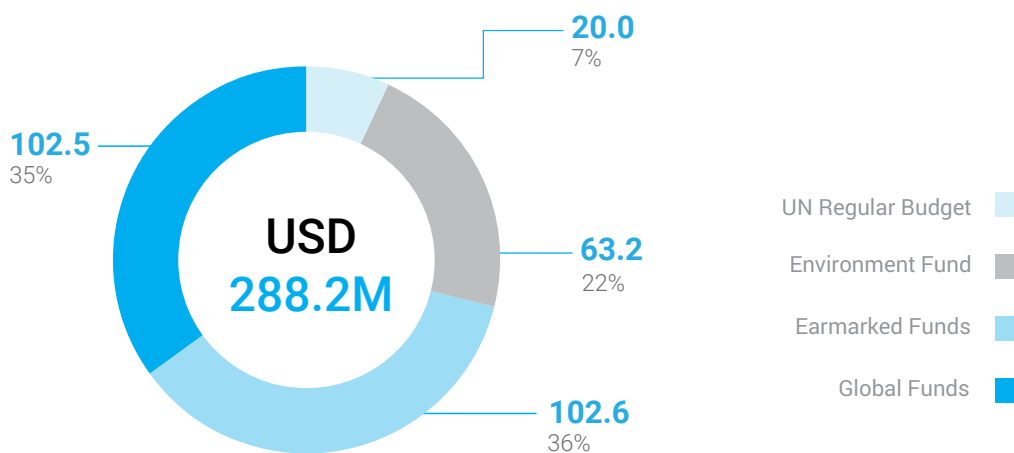
i. Financial update as at 30 June 2024

a. Overview of income¹

Annual budget 2024 vs income (in million \$)/January 2024 – June 2024



Income per source of funding (in million \$)/January 2024 - June 2024



1. The figures do not include conventions or protocols administered by UNEP. Per the United Nations secretariat interpretation and application of the international public service accounting standards (IPSAS), the financial and administrative management platform, Umoja, does not allow for a breakdown of multi-year contributions into annual figures for income.

b. Core funding

The UN regular budget and the environment fund provide the core funding for the organization which gives UNEP the flexibility to respond to the three planetary environmental crises of climate change, nature and biodiversity loss, and pollution and waste, and implement the programme of work as agreed by the member states. The income from core funding as of June 2024 is US\$ 83.2 million which represents 29% of total income.

United Nations regular budget

The United Nations regular budget provisions a portion of the UNEP secretariat to cover fundamental programme activities. Due to liquidity challenges, the 2024 allotment issued was restricted to US\$ 20 million which is lower than the approved budget of US\$ 22 million. Corporate services division, in consultation with UN headquarters, continues to manage expenditures within the allocation as instructed by the office of the UN controller. This includes a hiring freeze on 20 vacant posts out of a total of 113 approved posts.

Environment fund

The environment fund provides UNEP the essential capacity for results-focused and balanced programme delivery with robust oversight. It invests in providing scientific evidence and solutions on the state

of the global environment and finances UNEP's convening power in bringing together policy makers, the private sector and civil society to advance the global environmental agenda. It enables UNEP to support countries in meeting their environmental commitments.

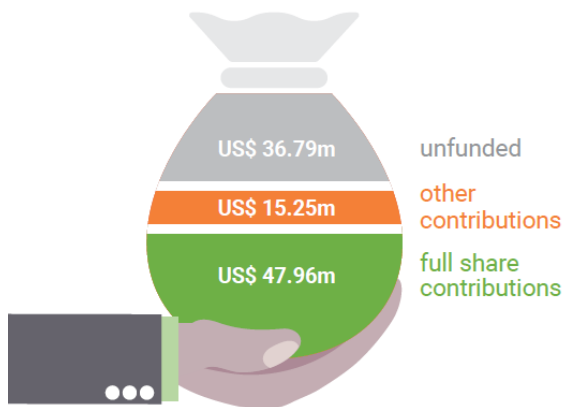
By 30 June 2024, the environment fund income amounted to US\$ 63.21 million which is 63% of the approved 2024 budget of US\$ 100 million. These contributions were received from 53 member states, which represents 27% of the 193 member states. Out of the 53 member states, 30 (57%) contributed their full share as per the voluntary indicative scale of contributions (VISC). Forty-three (43) member states had paid their pledges as at 30 June 2024.

UNEP is grateful to all of these contributors, with special thanks to the 30 member states that have provided their full share and to the top 10 member states who have provided 94% of the income to the environment fund.

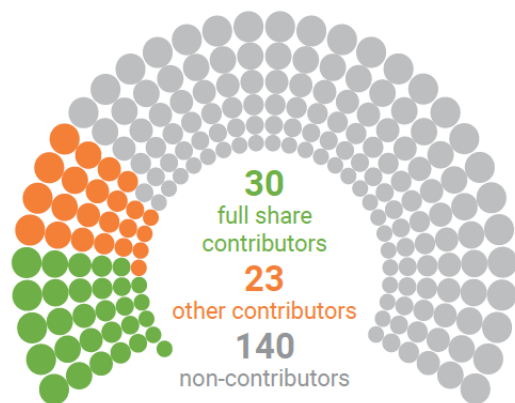
Furthermore, UNEP appreciates the increased stability and predictability provided by multi-year agreements/pledges from Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Monaco, Netherlands, and South Africa, which amounted to a total of US\$ 24.32 million or 38% of the environment fund income as at 30 June 2024.

Status of environment fund in 2024 (as at 30 June 2024)

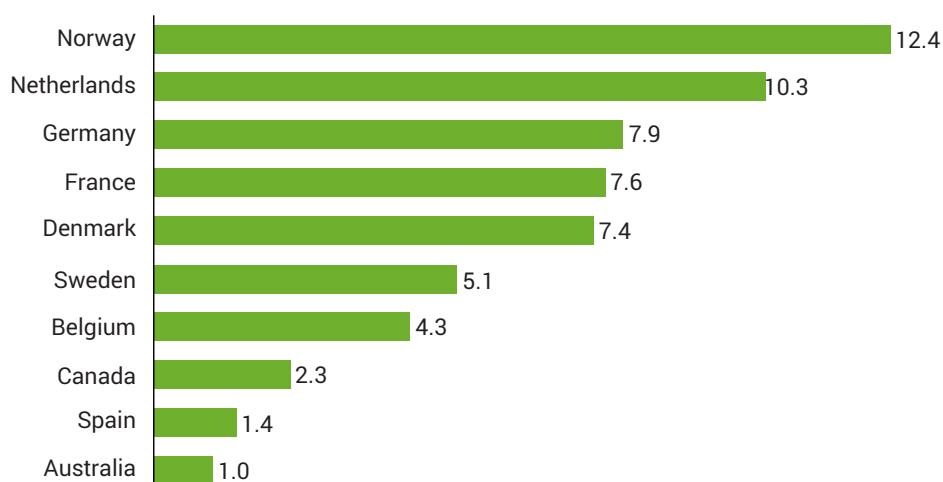
Income vs unfunded balance of US\$ 100m budget



Number and category of member state contributors out of 193



Top 10 contributors to Environment Fund (in million \$) as at 30 June 2024



*Amount is based on pledges. Final amount to be confirmed at the time of payment due to possible exchange rate changes.

Member states that contributed their full share as represented by the VISC (as at 30 June 2024)

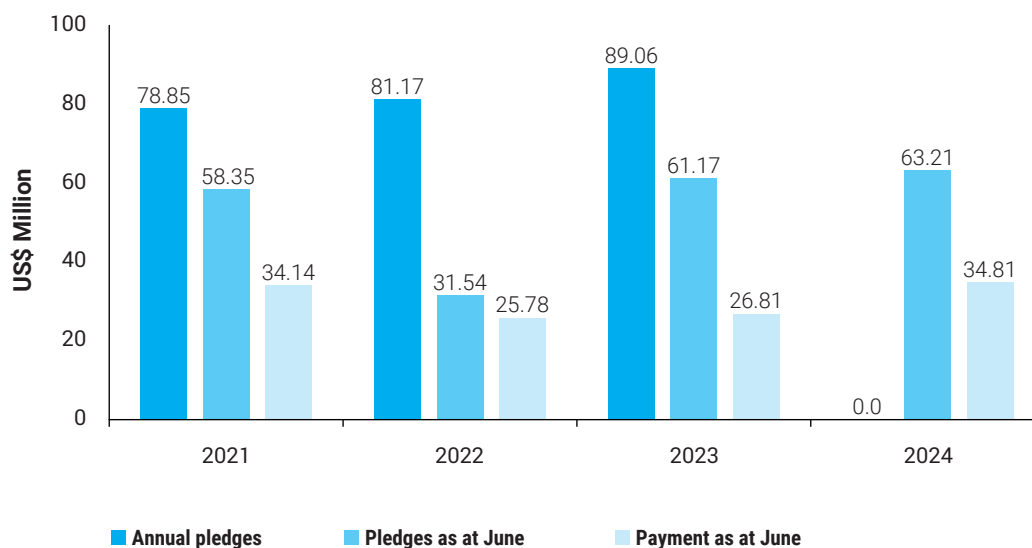
Paid				Pledged
Armenia	Fiji	Mauritius	Saint Kitts and Nevis	France
Belgium	Iceland	Mongolia	Saint Lucia	Gambia
Belize	Kenya	Nauru	Slovenia	Monaco
Denmark	Latvia	Netherlands	Somalia	Norway
Dominica	Lithuania	Palau		Sweden
Dominican Republic	Maldives	Peru		
Eswatini	Malta	Philippines		

Comparison with previous years

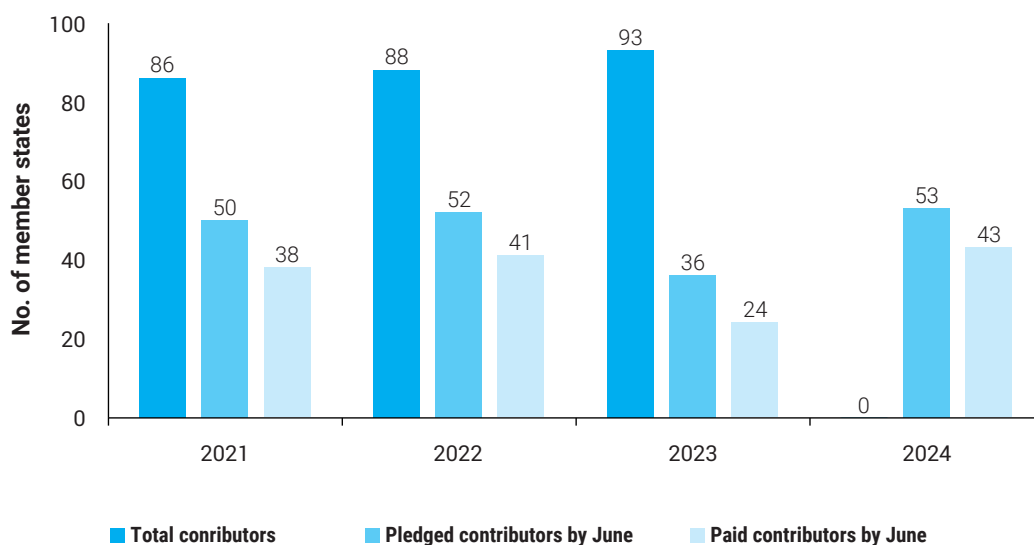
The total pledges as at end June totalled US \$63.21 million which is US\$ 2.04 million or 3% higher compared to the same time last year. Fifty-three (53) member states have pledged by the end of June 2024 which is

an increase of 17 member states or 47% from June 2023. Funding of UNEP is the shared responsibility of its 193 member states, and the support of member states is critical to allow UNEP to fulfil its mandate and to implement the programme of work.

Pledges and payments to the environment fund as at June of each respective year



Number of member states contributing to the environment fund as at June of each respective year



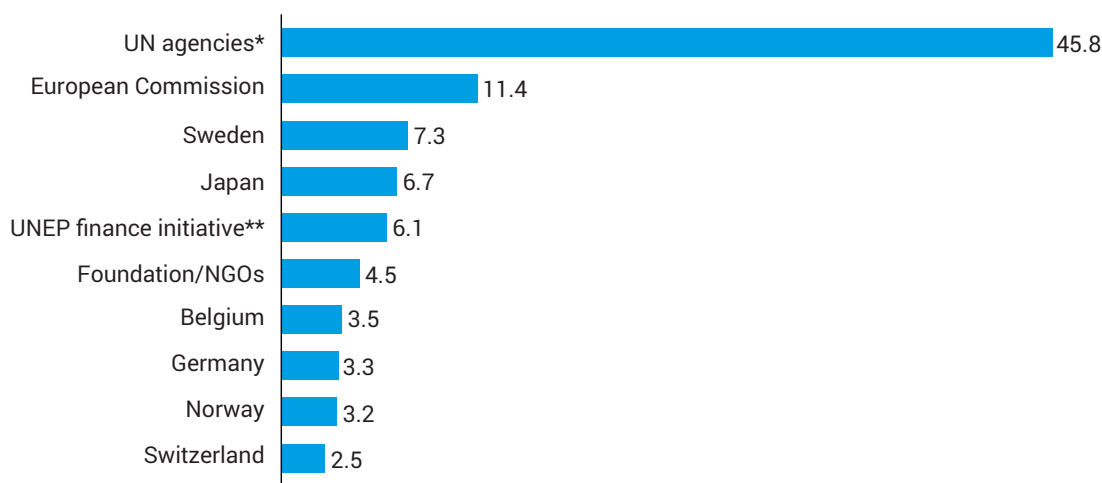
c. Earmarked contributions

Earmarked contributions are important to UNEP’s work and help to scale up and replicate the core work of UNEP, including capacity-building in more countries and with more partners. They also provide a means to leverage and direct resources towards priority areas. To provide greater flexibility and effectiveness in the use of funds, UNEP encourages member states to consider softly earmarking, especially at a thematic level.

Earmarked funds

As at 30 June 2024, UNEP had received 64% of its total budgeted amount for the year, of which 88% was tightly earmarked and 12% was softly earmarked funding received through the thematic funds and other softly earmarked funding agreements (SIDA programme cooperation agreement).

Top 10 funding partners for earmarked funds (in million \$) as at 30 June 2024



*Funding received through multi-partner trust funds and other collaboration agreements with UN entities.

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

The support to the three thematic funds has grown by US\$ 6 million in 2024, thanks to Belgium (EUR 3 million), Norway (NOK 30 million) and the Philippines (US\$ 10,000), which brings the total to US\$ 30 million from their initiation in 2022.

Global funds

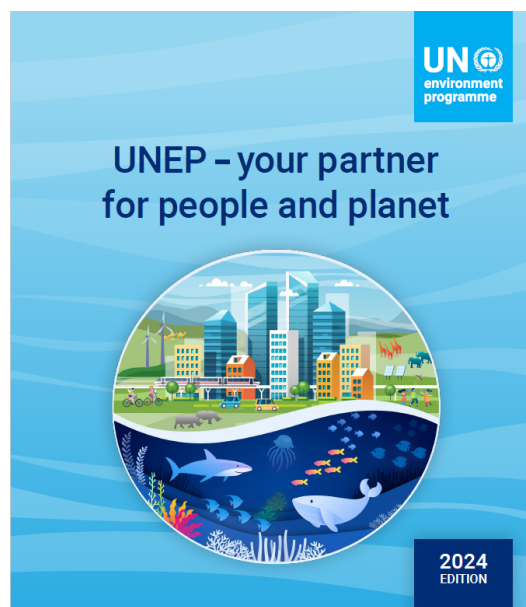
The funds provided by the global environment facility (GEF) and the green climate fund (GCF) are earmarked to specific programmes and projects. By the end of June 2024, GEF had received US\$ 96.8 million and GCF US\$ 5.6 million bringing the total income from global funds to US\$ 102.4 million. The income received was 75% of the budgeted income for the year 2024.

ii. Resource mobilization strategy

As part of the outreach that the member states have requested the secretariat to enhance at global, regional and national level, UNEP invited all member states who had not yet pledged to the environment fund in 2024 to do so in line with their indicative scale of contributions. In the second quarter of 2024, the secretariat also continued appreciating its funding partners in social media while preparing more comprehensive outreach materials on those funding partners who have contributed their full share.

The booklet [UNEP - your partner for people and planet](#), which is available in [Arabic](#), English, [French](#), [Russian](#) and [Spanish](#), continues to be the go-to document to provide an overview of the value of UNEP, its mission, vision, strategy, action and results achieved.

In the second quarter, UNEP continued developing a corporate-level strategy on engaging the philanthropic sector in order to (a) diversify funding, (b) leverage the capacity of the sector to tackle the three planetary environmental crises and (c) provide co-investments as well as single investments to deliver on the MTS.



UNEP played a key role in the GEF council, to ensure alignment with the global environmental agenda, including its medium-term strategy. The GEF-8 programming proposed eleven integrated programmes to address the drivers of degradation at a global scale. UNEP is leading four of them and is set to assist member states in benefiting from an additional five.

Challenges

UNEP faces a significant challenge with the current liquidity crisis. Close coordination with the programme planning and budget division in New York ensures ongoing updates and facilitates the future allocation of remaining resources as the liquidity situation of the UN secretariat improves. The allocated regular budget (RB) resources are currently below the approved levels set by the general assembly (GA). UNEP is prioritizing non-staffing allocations towards fulfilling the mandates of the United Nations environment assembly (UNEA) and the global environment outlook (GEO).

iii. Status of allocations and expenditures as at 30 June 2024

2024 core budgets - programme of work budget					
	Functional area name	Environment fund	Overhead trust account	Regular budget	Grand total
A	Policy making organs	2,000,000	10,000	463,300	2,473,300
B. 1	Executive direction & management	4,000,000		2,859,600	6,859,600
B. 2	United Nations scientific committee on the effects on atomic radiation (UNSCEAR)			1,022,400	1,022,400
	Subtotal A + B	6,000,000	10,000	4,345,300	10,355,300
C	Programme of work				
1.	Climate action	12,000,000	2,250,000	1,985,900	16,235,900
2.	Digital transformations	7,000,000	650,000	1,451,400	9,101,400
3.	Nature action	12,000,000	1,200,000	2,446,400	15,646,400
4.	Environmental governance	13,000,000	650,000	4,321,100	17,971,100
5.	Chemicals and pollution action	12,000,000	1,550,000	1,613,400	15,163,400
6.	Finance and economic transformations	13,000,000	1,250,000	1,856,200	16,106,200
7.	Science-policy	13,000,000	350,000	3,010,800	16,360,800
	Subtotal C	82,000,000	7,900,000	16,685,200	106,585,200
D	Fund programme reserve	5,000,000			5,000,000
	Subtotal C + D	87,000,000	7,900,000	16,685,200	111,585,200
E	Programme management & other				
	Programme support	7,000,000	8,100,000	959,700	16,059,700
	Subtotal E	7,000,000	8,100,000	959,700	16,059,700
Total (A+B+C+D+E)		100,000,000	16,010,000	21,990,200	138,000,200

2024 core budgets - allotments as of 30 June 2024					
	Functional area name	Environment fund	Overhead trust account	Regular budget	Grand total
A	Policy making organs	4,568,581		460,769	5,029,350
B. 1	Executive direction & management	1,918,442	-	2,771,124	4,689,566
B. 2	United Nations scientific committee on the effects on atomic radiation (UNSCEAR)			828,577	828,577
	Subtotal A + B	6,487,023	-	4,060,470	10,547,493
C	Programme of work				
1	Climate action	10,361,788	2,325,500	1,814,804	14,502,092
2	Digital transformations	8,929,210	-	1,338,018	10,267,228
3	Nature action	13,334,197	1,585,540	2,255,296	17,175,033
4	Environmental governance	15,764,241	2,023,467	4,059,689	21,847,397
5	Chemicals and pollution action	12,861,883	1,590,485	1,455,268	15,907,636
6	Finance and economic transformations	13,545,959	784,716	1,678,190	16,008,865
7	Science-policy	13,651,359	348,975	2,379,138	16,379,472
	Subtotal C	88,448,637	8,658,683	14,980,403	112,087,723
D	Fund programme reserve	4,700,000		-	4,700,000
	Subtotal C + D	93,148,637	8,658,683	14,980,403	116,787,723
E	Programme management & other				
	Programme support	9,864,340	15,841,895	915,527	26,621,762
	UNCT engagement	5,000,000			
	UNEA resolutions implementation	500,000			
	Subtotal E	15,364,340	15,841,895	915,527	26,621,762
Total (A+B+C+D+E)		115,000,000	24,500,578	19,956,400	153,956,978

2024 core budgets - expenditures as of 30 June 2024					
	Functional area name	Environment fund	Overhead trust account	Regular budget	Grand total
A	Policy making organs	1,888,322	-	454,030	2,342,351
B. 1	Executive direction & management	1,535,139	-	1,614,634	3,149,773
B. 2	United Nations scientific committee on the effects on atomic radiation (UNSCEAR)			360,139	360,139
Subtotal A + B		3,423,461	-	2,428,803	5,852,264
C	Programme of work				
1.	Climate action	4,883,702	644,497	1,027,886	6,556,085
2.	Digital transformations	3,727,108		335,220	4,062,328
3.	Nature action	5,095,518	840,405	1,071,550	7,007,473
4.	Environmental governance	6,142,605	612,007	2,211,932	8,966,544
5.	Chemicals and pollution action	4,992,717	645,393	783,153	6,421,262
6.	Finance and economic transformations	4,686,826	264,502	681,140	5,632,468
7.	Science-policy	5,181,862	26,570	1,294,386	6,502,818
Subtotal C		34,710,338	3,033,374	7,405,266	45,148,978
D	Fund programme reserve	440,449	-	-	440,449
Subtotal C + D		35,150,787	3,033,374	7,405,266	45,589,427
E	Programme management & other				
	Programme support	4,051,209	4,260,266	319,973	8,631,448
Subtotal E		4,051,209	4,260,266	319,973	8,631,448
Total (A+B+C+D+E)		42,625,457	7,293,640	10,154,042	60,073,138

B. Human resources

General overview

As of 30 June 2024, UNEP employed 1,367 staff members consisting of 830 (61%) in the professional

and above categories, 11 (1%) in the national professional officer (NPO) category, and 526 (38%) in the general service category. Of these, 849 (62%) are female, while 518 (39%) are male.

i. Senior level staff (UNEP secretariat and MEAs)

Total number of staff at grade P-5 and above as of 30 June 2024

Level	USG	ASG	D2	D1	P5	Total
Number of Staff	1	2	9	51	125	188

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

ii. Appointments – P5 and above

Appointments in the first quarter (April to June) 2024

Position Title	Grade	Gender	Nationality	Internal/ External	Division/Office/MEA
Chief of branch, Programme	D-1	Female	Indonesian	External	Industry and economy division
Senior programme management officer	P-5	Male	British	Internal	Ecosystems division
Senior legal officer	P-5	Male	Peruvian	External	Secretariat for the Vienna convention for the protection of the ozone layer

The above information excludes temporary job openings.

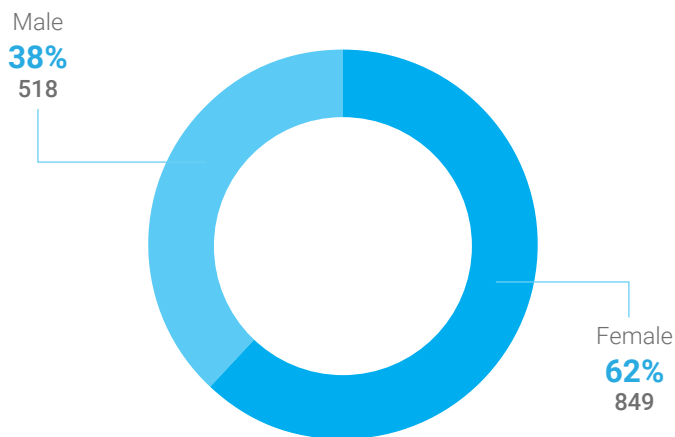
iii. Overall gender parity status

The table below shows the overall gender parity status for the second quarter (April to June) of 2024.

Overall gender parity status												
Gender	USG	ASG	D2	D1	P5	P4	P3	P2	Total P+	Total NO	Total GS	Total Staff
Female	1	2	7	29	62	146	158	70	475	4	370	849
Male			2	22	63	136	95	37	355	7	156	518
Total	1	2	9	51	125	282	253	107	830	11	526	1367

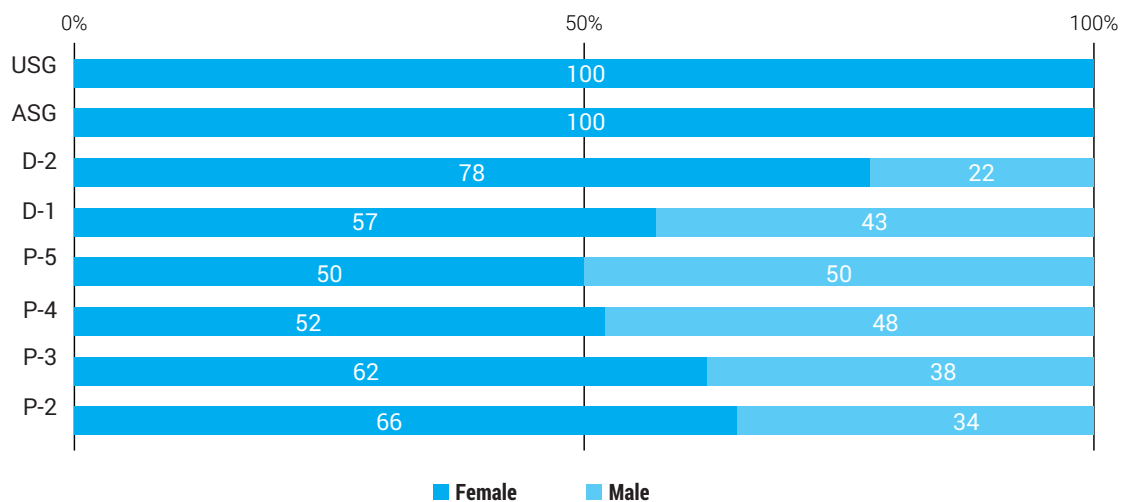
Note: USG=Under-Secretary-General; ASG=Assistant Secretary-General; D=Director; P=Professional

Gender Status all UNEP Staff



iv. Overall gender parity status for professional and above levels

UNEP Gender Parity Status Professional Level and Above

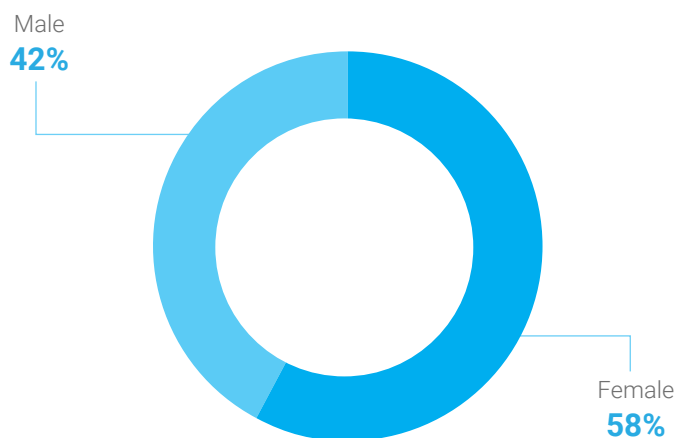


The overall gender parity status in UNEP at the professional and above levels is 42% to 58% (male to female) ratio. The gender data below includes

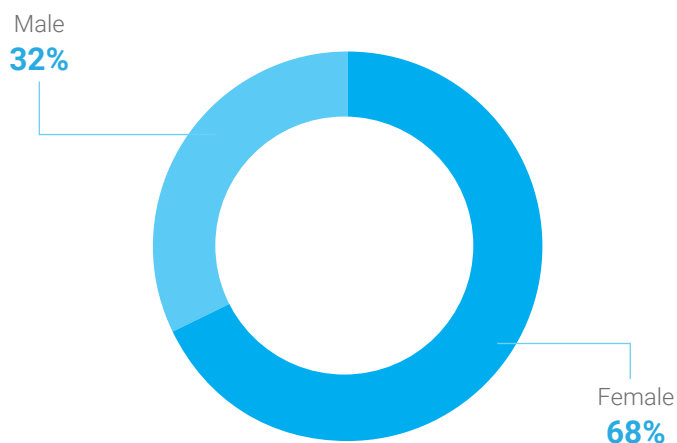
personnel on temporary contracts, temporary assignments, and junior professional officers.

The charts below display the gender ratios for UNEP secretariat staff.

Gender Status - Professional Level and Above - UNEP Secretariat



Gender Status - General Service Staff - UNEP Secretariat



v. Gender distribution - UNEP secretariat and MEAs

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

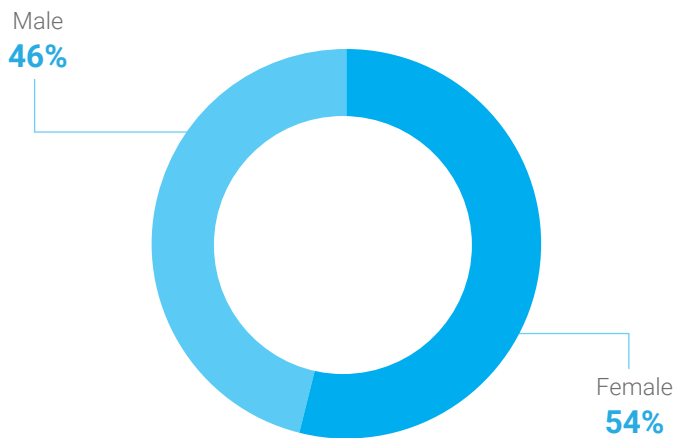
UNEP secretariat												
Gender	USG	ASG	D2	D1	P5	P4	P3	P2	Total P+	Total NPO	Total GS	Total
Female	1	2	4	23	48	118	131	53	380	4	283	667
Male			1	20	50	114	72	19	276	7	131	414
UNEP MEAs												
Gender	USG	ASG	D2	D1	P5	P4	P3	P2	Total P+	Total NPO	Total GS	Total
Female			3	6	14	28	27	17	95		87	182
Male			1	2	13	22	23	18	79		25	104
Total	1	2	9	51	125	282	253	107	830	11	526	1,367

vi. Gender parity status for P5 and above – UNEP secretariat and MEAs

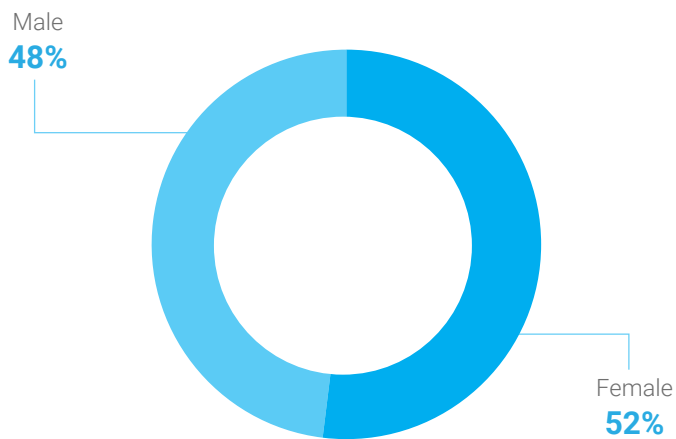
Gender	USG	ASG	D2	D1	P5	Total
Female	1	2	7	29	62	101
Male			2	22	63	87
Total	1	2	9	51	125	188
Female %	100%	100%	78%	57%	50%	54%
Male %	0%	0%	22%	43%	50%	46%

The charts below show the overall gender ratio at P5 and above level and those of the UNEP secretariat.

Overall gender status - P5 and above



Gender status P5 and above UNEP secretariat

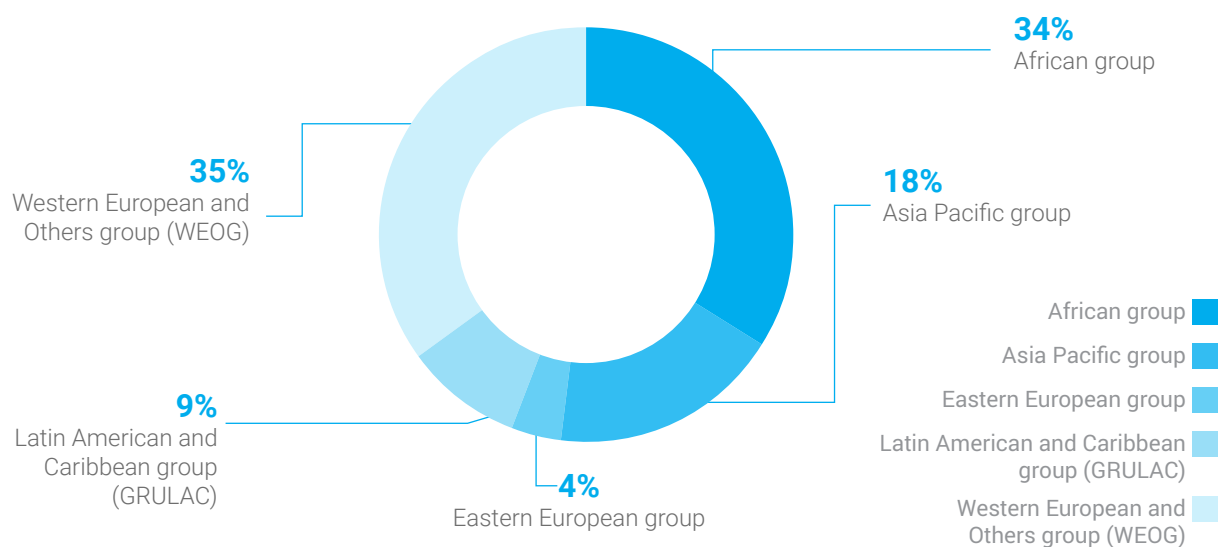


vii. Overall regional representation of staff (UNEP and MEA secretariats)

The table below disaggregates the regional representation of all UNEP staff.

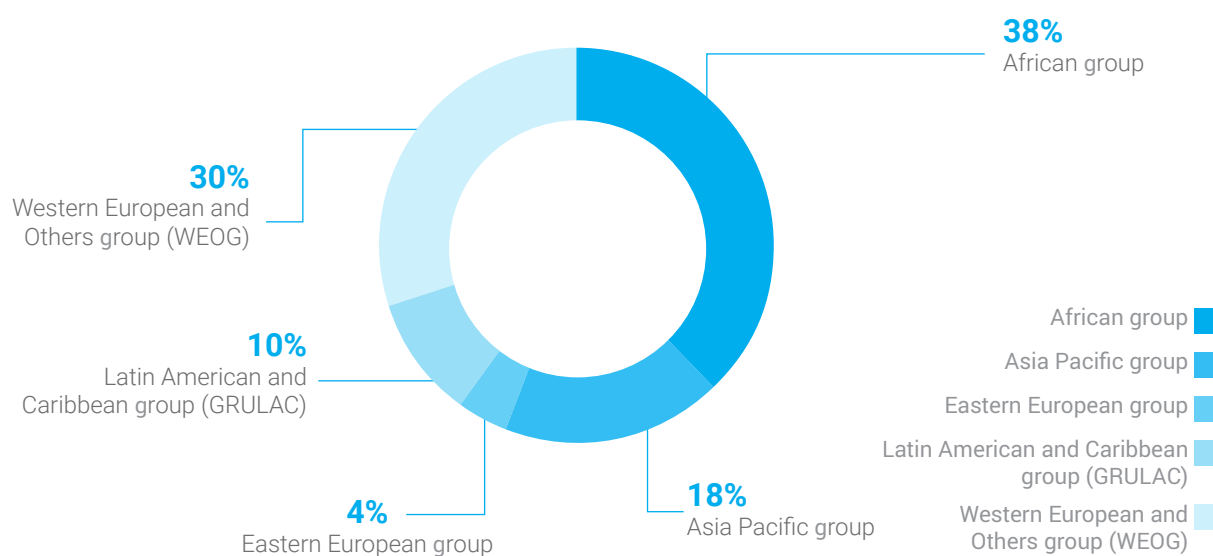
UNEP overall regional representation	
Region	Total
African group	459
Asia Pacific group	240
Eastern European group	55
Latin American and Caribbean group	129
Western European and others group	484
Total	1,367

UNEP overall regional representation



Regional representation - UNEP secretariat	
Region	Total
African group	414
Asia Pacific group	192
Eastern European group	41
Latin American and Caribbean group	104
Western European and others group	330
Total	1,081

Regional representation - UNEP secretariat



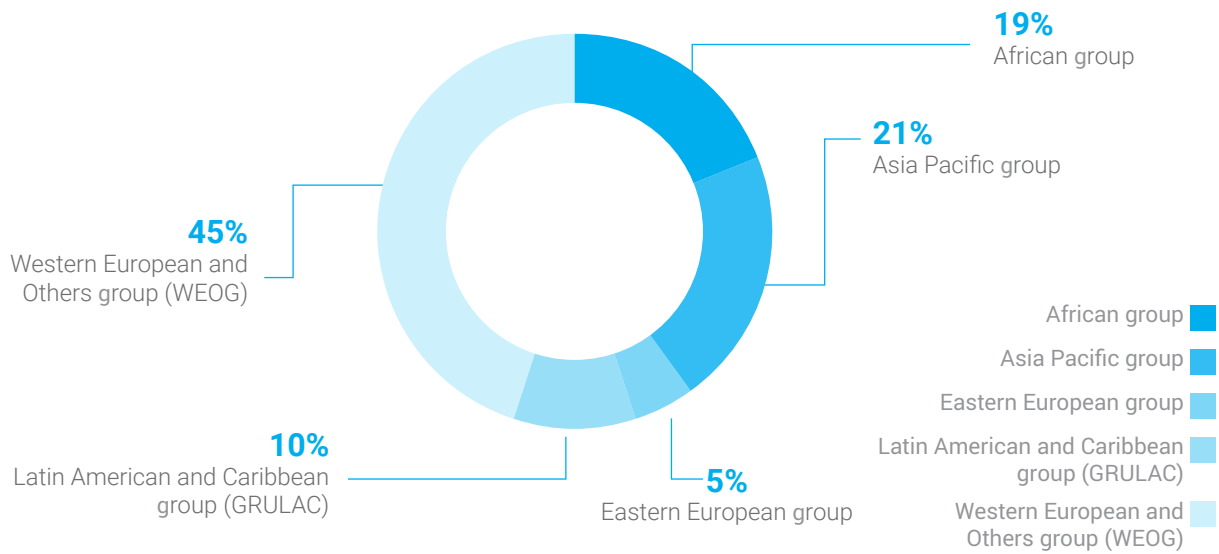
The table and chart below present the overall regional representation of UNEP's staff at the professional level and above as of 30 June 2024.

Overall regional representation - professional level and above

Regional distribution	Professional & above level								Total
	USG	ASG	D2	D1	P5	P4	P3	P2	
African group		1	3	4	30	54	54	13	159
Asia Pacific group		1	2	10	20	57	51	30	171
Eastern European group				5	7	12	9	9	42
Latin American and Caribbean group			2	6	14	26	30	7	85
Western European and others group	1		2	26	54	133	109	48	373
Total	1	2	9	51	125	282	253	107	830

Overall regional distribution professional and above level by gender					
Regional groups	Female	Male	Total	Female %	Male %
African group	75	84	159	47%	53%
Asia Pacific group	105	66	171	61%	39%
Eastern European group	30	12	42	71%	29%
Latin American and Caribbean group	57	28	85	67%	33%
Western European and others group	208	165	373	56%	44%
Total	475	355	830	57%	43%

Overall regional representation - professional level and above

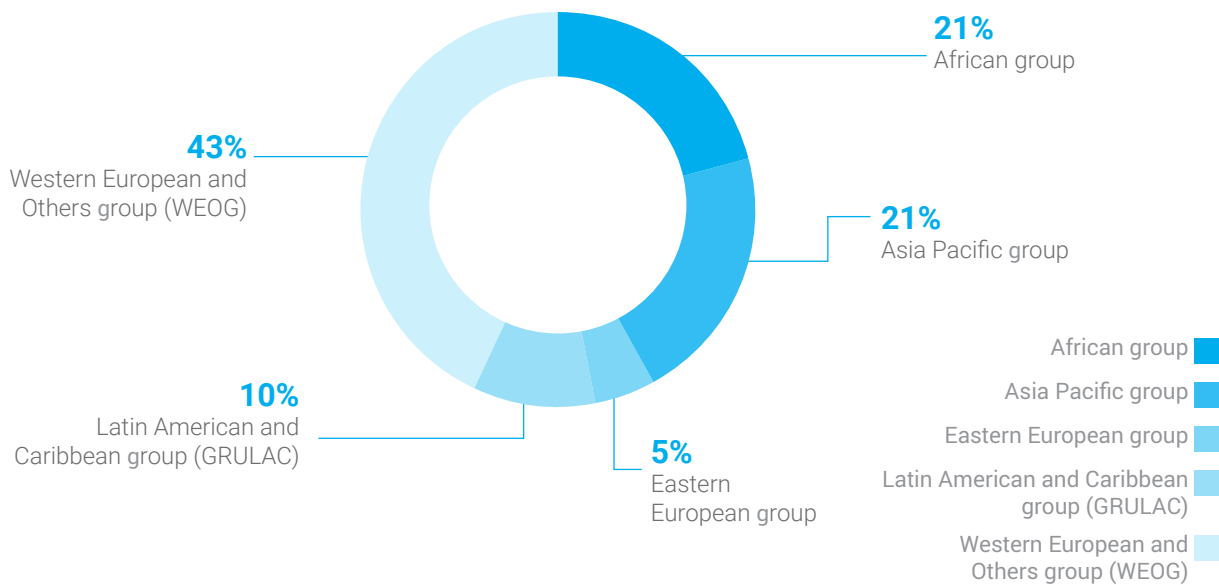


The table and chart below present UNEP secretariat staff regional representation excluding the MEAs.

Regional representation – professional level and above – UNEP secretariat

Regional representation	Professional and above level - secretariat								Total
	USG	ASG	D2	D1	P5	P4	P3	P2	
African group		1	2	4	22	48	48	10	135
Asia Pacific group		1	1	7	14	51	43	21	138
Eastern European group				4	6	10	7	8	35
Latin American and Caribbean group			1	5	10	21	25	3	65
Western European and others group	1		1	23	46	102	80	30	283
Total	1	2	5	43	98	232	203	72	656

Regional representation – professional level and above – UNEP secretariat



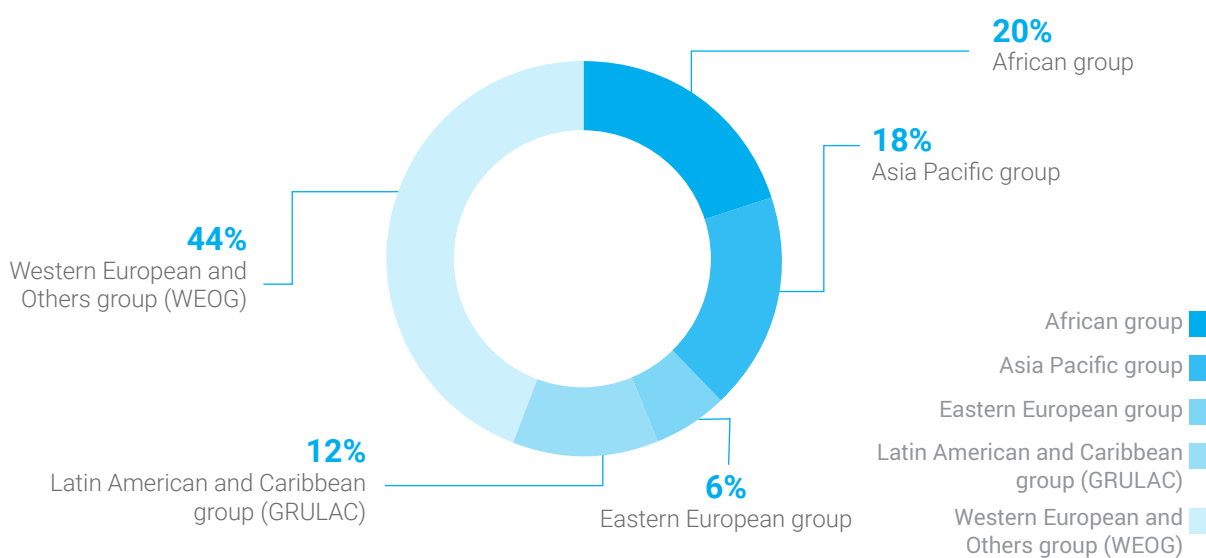
The table and charts below present the regional representation of staff at the P5 and above level within UNEP.

Overall regional representation P5 and above - 30 June 2024

Regional distribution	P-5 & above					Total
	USG	ASG	D2	D1	P5	
African group		1	3	4	30	38
Asia Pacific group		1	2	10	20	33
Eastern European group				5	7	12
Latin American and Caribbean group			2	6	14	22
Western European and others group	1		2	26	54	83
Total	1	2	9	51	125	188

Overall regional distributional - P5 and above level by gender					
Regional groups	Female	Male	Total	Female %	Male %
African group	21	17	38	55%	45%
Asia Pacific group	19	14	33	58%	42%
Eastern European group	10	2	12	83%	17%
Latin American and Caribbean group	14	8	22	64%	36%
Western European and others group	37	46	83	45%	55%
Total	101	87	188	54%	46%

Overall regional representation - P5 and above

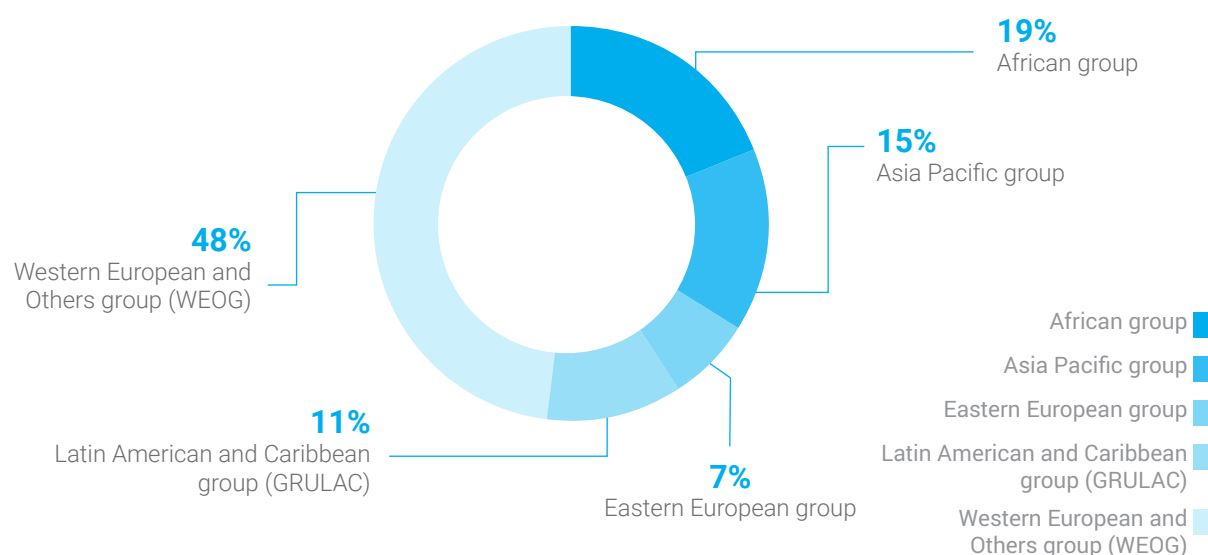


The following table and charts present the regional representation of staff within the UNEP secretariat at the P5 and above level.

Regional representation – P5 and above – UNEP secretariat

Regional distribution	P5 and above level - secretariat					Total
	USG	ASG	D2	D1	P5	
African group		1	2	4	22	29
Asia Pacific group		1	1	7	14	23
Eastern European group				4	6	10
Latin American and Caribbean group			1	5	10	16
Western European and Others group	1		1	23	46	71
Total	1	2	5	43	98	149

Regional representation – P5 and above – UNEP secretariat



viii. Human resources issues

In the second quarter of 2024, UNEP continued to make progress towards improving regional geographical diversity through the four-point plan of UNEA resolution 5/13. In this regard, at professional and above levels, 82% of external selections originated from historically less represented regions. This marked a 16% increase compared to Q1/2024 for external selections at professional level and above.

In this quarter, UNEP organized eight targeted talent outreach events, including three in-person meetings, attracting over 1,400 participants. Two of the in-person events were targeted to nationals from the Latin American and Caribbean region, with one of these being led by the executive director. Four online talent outreach events were targeted to Eastern European

nationals. These interactions allowed potentially qualified applicants to ask questions directly to people who work for the organization, and in some cases, UNEP's leaders, which increases the viability of UNEP as a future employer for potential candidates.

The insights gained from the organization's talent outreach shows that, aside from personal considerations, there are knowledge gaps about the application process and the profiles sought by UNEP which often diverge from the actual procedures and selection criteria in place. This lesson underscores the need to enhance strategic communication efforts aimed at dispelling misconceptions surrounding employment at UNEP, clarifying job opportunities for young professionals, and tailoring talent outreach initiatives to address the specific information requirements of potential applicants.

Despite these targeted and personalized interactions with potential candidates from less represented regions, there are still factors that may discourage them from applying to UNEP positions. Some of these may be alleviated through the provision of information on employment benefits and entitlements, however, there are still some personal situations that may not be resolved.

In addition to these outreach efforts, UNEP's young talent pipeline programme of internationally recruited UN volunteers aims to attract young professionals from less represented regions to work for UNEP. The 12 young talent pipeline participants will gain the knowledge, work experience and networks necessary to ensure they are well positioned to apply to staff positions for which they are qualified.

The first cohort, selected in 2023 and onboarded in Q1 of 2024 have settled into their roles. While all the positions are based in Nairobi to benefit from the wide support network at UNEP headquarters, some of these participants have supervisors who are based in offices outside of headquarters and this has resulted in varying experiences in the onboarding and settling in process within the cohort.

Based on the experience of the recruitment process of the first cohort, UNEP launched the second cohort of the young talent pipeline on 25 June 2024, with an additional 12 positions across the organization. Like the first cohort, these positions are all based in Nairobi but with all supervisors also based in the same duty station. The recruitment process is ongoing, specifically targeting young professional candidates from Latin America and Caribbean, Eastern European group, Afro-descendants from the diaspora, and French-speaking nationals from Africa group.

C. Audits

i. United Nations office of internal oversight services (OIOS)

a. Completed audits

OIOS completed the field work for the audits of the industry and economy division and the secretariat of the convention on the conservation of migratory species of wild animals (CMS). The final reports are yet to be received.

b. Audits under implementation (15)

- Procurement (4)
- Convention on biological diversity (1)
- Convention on international trade in endangered species of wild fauna and flora (CITES) (1)
- Ecosystems division at UNEP (1)
- Delegation of authority (3)
- Cyber-security preparedness (2)
- Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm conventions (3)

c. Audits in progress

Audit of the projects in the industry and economy division

The objective of the just concluded audit of projects in the industry and economy division was to assess the adequacy and effectiveness of governance, risk management and control processes in ensuring the effective implementation of projects in the division. The audit covered high and medium-risk projects, with the following scope: (a) project planning and design; (b) performance monitoring; (c) project reporting; and (d) evaluation.

Audit of UNEP secretariat of convention migratory species of wild animals (CMS)

The just concluded audit of the UNEP secretariat of CMS was based on an activity-level risk assessment and covered high and medium-risk areas, including: (a) implementation of decisions of the conference of the parties (COP) and meetings of the parties (MOP); (b) financial management; (c) project implementation and monitoring; (d) partnership management; (e) evaluation; and (f) human resources management.

d. Planned audits for 2024:

Audit of climate change subprogramme at UNEP

ii. United Nations board of auditors (BoA)

The board of auditors concluded the interim audit in November 2023 and the final audit for the 2023 financial statements in May 2024. Both audits were conducted in Nairobi. The draft audit report outlined 18 observations, of which UNEP accepted 16. Of the 39 outstanding recommendations from the prior financial periods pending after the interim audit, further 12 recommendations were closed as implemented, and one recommendation was assessed as being overtaken by events. The remaining 26 prior year recommendations were all assessed as being under implementation. Implementation plans for the outstanding and new observations have been drafted and monitoring is ongoing.

iii. Challenges

Audit management challenges:

UNEP encounters various challenges in managing audits conducted by various bodies, such as the external board of auditors (BoA), the office of internal oversight services (OIOS), and the joint inspection unit (JIU). Despite UNEP's efforts to minimize overlap in audit scopes, the organization has limited control over this aspect. Consequently, similar audit areas have been targeted repeatedly in recent years. This not only impacts the affected sections and units but also leads to reporting back to member states on the same topics in multiple reports, creating the perception of numerous recommendations on a single issue when, in fact, there may be only one.

The process of closing prior-year recommendations can be prolonged as the numerous requirements placed on programme, project, and task managers can lead to challenges in maintaining focus on actions required to implement recommendations. Furthermore, no additional resources are approved or available for implementation plans, placing all efforts on top of existing workplans.

Implementation specific challenges:

UNEP faces specific challenges in implementing certain recommendations. For instance, several recommendations have targeted the transition to the integrated planning, management, and reporting (IPMR) system in Umoja. This system, managed by the UN secretariat, has experienced delays beyond UNEP's control, causing these audit recommendations to remain outstanding for extended periods. Enhancements to the system are still ongoing, and for large portfolios, such as GEF, additional resources were needed to complete the full transition.

Some recommendations were related to the UNEP programme and project management manual and the partnership policy and updates of these required extensive consultations and approvals across the organization, prolonging the implementation process. Both the manual and the policy have now been approved. Implementing recommendations for the multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) can be challenging, as they are governed by their own bodies. Approvals for actions such as resource allocation can only be made when the parties meet, resulting in naturally extended timelines.

In some instances, assigning the work required to implement a recommendation to a specific division or unit has been challenging, necessitating new recruitment processes. The creation, approval of posts, and hiring processes are inherently lengthy within the secretariat. Additionally, recommendations involving collaboration with external service providers, such as UNON and the UN secretariat, often take longer to implement due to dependencies on other parties.

iv. Opportunities

In light of the challenges faced in audit management and implementation, UNEP has identified several opportunities to enhance efficiency and collaboration. Strengthening our briefings and engagements with senior management can solidify our efforts and stimulate greater collaboration among divisions. This proactive approach will ensure that leadership is well-informed and can support the seamless implementation of audit recommendations.

Additionally, the development of new or consolidated oversight platforms, such as those by JIU, OIOS, or BOA, could significantly enhance documentation, analysis, and collaboration both internally and with auditors. These platforms, which are under discussion within the UN secretariat, hold the potential to streamline processes and improve coordination, although they are beyond UNEP's direct control.

Improving monthly reporting mechanisms will better flag any delays in implementation. By capitalizing on these opportunities, UNEP aims to address the challenges more effectively, fostering a more resilient and responsive audit management process.

v. Lessons learned and actions taken

Some recommendations could have been implemented with quick-fix solutions. However, such amendments do not always target the root causes of the identified risks. Assessing full processes and drafting holistic mitigation measures, rather than adding layers of compliance/ reporting requirements, benefits the organization in the long run, despite being time-consuming.

UNEP acknowledges the complexity introduced by multiple layers of requirements for programme, project, and task managers, which can lead to non-compliance with internal controls. Instead of addressing each control issue separately, UNEP is implementing change management practices that enhance training, oversight and guidance. These measures support managers in effectively fulfilling their roles and responsibilities.

In response to the challenge of outstanding recommendations, UNEP has intensified efforts to close audit recommendations promptly. Enhanced negotiation strategies with auditors to agree on clearer implementation requirements are expected to accelerate closure rates further, while ensuring more effective audit outcomes.

To streamline audit management processes, UNEP established the operations and risk management unit. This unit has enhanced tracking mechanisms to facilitate internal collaboration among staff and external communication with auditors, monitoring of the status of implementation of audit recommendations and compliance reporting. The unit also provides induction, refresher courses, and lessons learned sessions for staff.

Additionally, UNEP engages in proactive discussions with auditors to calibrate observations and maximize organizational value. Negotiation sessions are planned to detail implementation progress on prior recommendations and address new observations, aiming to increase closure rates effectively. Quarterly and management reporting mechanisms have been implemented to promptly escalate and address stagnant or incomplete recommendations, ensuring timely resolution and accountability.

D. Evaluations

i. UNEP evaluations

During the reporting period, six independent project evaluations were completed, nine management-led project terminal reviews were independently validated by the evaluation office, and 31 project evaluations are currently ongoing.

Completed independent terminal evaluations included:

[Joint UNEP-UNIDO programme to host and manage the climate technology centre and network](#) and [support to climate technology transfer services and partnership \(EU Contract DCI-ENV/2016/377-145\)](#)

Overall performance rating: “moderately satisfactory”

Key findings: The project demonstrated strong performance in the areas of relevance, availability of outputs, communication between finance and project management staff, adherence to UNEP’s financial policies and procedures, socio-political sustainability, and stakeholders’ participation and cooperation.

CTCN was found to adapt well to changes in the external context. Gender dimensions were well recognized with a related gender policy developed in 2019. CTCN contributed to the main outcome “capacity and capability of developing countries to identify technology needs/prepare and implement technology projects.”

The outcome is considered partially met, as the delivery is uneven, and the assumptions and drivers hold only partially. The CTCN technical assistance (TA) projects were also often designed in a way that they could lead to bigger transformations and impact. The strong country interest towards TAs and the TA alignment with national climate priorities was found to enable sustainability.

TA results were often dependent on additional financial resources for their sustainability, however, instances where TAs have contributed to leveraging additional financial resources did also exist. In other instances, TA results (such as those related to policies) did not depend on the immediate mobilization of financial resources to be sustained.

Areas that would have benefited from further attention were financial sustainability and responsiveness to human rights and gender equality. CTCN has worked in different ways in different contexts with high level of diversity.

The different stakeholder groups also had different expectations of the CTCN. While this diversity was a benefit in terms of being able to respond to the needs of the countries, it also created challenges in systematizing processes.

[Sustainable water and air quality monitoring and assessment systems in Africa \(PIMS ID 2062\)](#)

Overall performance rating: “moderately satisfactory”

Key Findings: The project’s main aim to support African countries / cities in Nairobi, Addis Ababa, and Cape Town in their efforts to improve air and water quality was extremely relevant. Some weaknesses hindered the project effectiveness and potential sustainability and impact. These notably include an undifferentiated approach to the selected cities, and to the two of air and water components, despite obvious differences in readiness and in governance systems.

The initial goals were particularly ambitious, considering the wide scope of the project, the national and international funding gaps on air and water quality issues, and the differences in legal mandates across the three cities. Eventually, activities mostly focused on air quality issues, however, the project was unable to reach its initial objectives on both air and water components.

[Advancing sustainable resource management to improve livelihoods and protect biodiversity in Palau \(GEF ID 5208\)](#)

Overall performance rating: “moderately satisfactory”

Key findings: The project objective was to effectively and sustainably use biodiversity and maintain ecosystem goods and services in Palau by building institutional capacity to integrate the Palau protected area network (PAN) with the sustainable land management (SLM) initiative and fostering a ridge-to-reef approach across and within these initiatives.

The project partially delivered its outputs and partially achieved its outcomes. Government administrations impacted on some aspects of sustainability. Overall, the project had limited management capacity and oversight and weaknesses in monitoring and reporting, but despite this, had significant achievements for results sustainability and progress towards impact.

[Enabling transactions – market shift to deforestation free beef, palm oil and soy \(GEF ID 9696\)](#)

Overall performance rating: “moderately satisfactory”

Key findings: Key agricultural commodities, being part of global markets, are influenced by decisions made in financial centres far from the actual areas of production, affecting land use and deforestation.

National stakeholders, including policymakers, often face tensions between preserving forests and fostering economic development through land conversion, frequently missing potential synergies between the two. This situation is compounded by a lack of awareness, knowledge, and conflicting incentives, leading to approaches that result in permanent deforestation.

The project was implemented in Brazil, Indonesia and Paraguay, project activities foreseen for Liberia could not be implemented, except for partial implementation of output 3, when it was determined that further work would have little effectiveness.

This was mainly due to the lack of suitable counterparts and beneficiaries that would be in a position to absorb the capacity building support provided. Design flaws within the programme and its projects have limited their full potential. The absence of specific functions for coordination and resource sharing among GEF ‘child projects’ has hindered the ability to leverage synergies.

Despite these issues, the project benefited from being part of a broader programmatic approach, which provided a more favourable operating context. There was a notable lack of effort to address gender and indigenous people’s concerns effectively in the project’s implementation.

[Climate change and security \(PIMS ID 01970\)](#)

Overall performance rating: “highly satisfactory”

Key findings: The project aimed to establish a collaboration to develop integrated approaches to climate-conflict analysis and deliver actions on the ground to address compound climate-conflict risks. The project was excellently managed and had excellent partnerships.

The project successfully engaged Sudan and Nepal, and all (25) piloted communities in both countries improved their natural resources management practices in a climate-sensitive and conflict-sensitive manner.

Globally the project is contributing to reduction of climate change-related disputes and increased security in fragile states where natural resource is more resilient to natural and human induced shocks and stresses and livelihoods and natural assets are less vulnerable to climate change risks.

Capacity was well developed, and replication in more countries and regions already started in 2022 with a second phase funded to the tune of EUR 6 million.

[Desk-based study of the UNEP/GEF project “addressing marine plastics – a systemic approach” \(GEF ID 9681\)](#)

Overall performance rating: “satisfactory”

Key findings: The project’s objective was to capitalize on a growing baseline of knowledge on marine plastics sources, pathways, and environmental impacts to inform the GEF and the application of a systemic approach to global plastic issues. The project achieved all the planned outputs and outcomes and exceeded expectations with over 90% of end-of-project targets exceeded/fully achieved.

Among the notable achievements are the mobilization of unprecedented levels of commitment from stakeholders across the plastics value chain to the new global plastics commitment with its time-bound targets; a public-private sector blended finance partnership and ocean fund with more than US\$ 100 million for financing of waste management and circular economy start-ups in South and Southeast Asia; strategic recommendations and innovative solutions; and strengthened knowledge including on the role of gender in waste management in India, Indonesia, The Philippines and Vietnam.

The results provided the building blocks for a strategic roadmap—addressing marine plastics - a roadmap to a circular economy— to be used by the GEF, UNEP and others in prioritizing their investments and interventions to address marine plastics.

Completed management-led terminal reviews (ratings validated by the evaluation office)

[Global support for the ratification and entry into force of the Nagoya protocol on access and benefit sharing \(ABS\) \(GEF ID 5172\)](#)

Overall performance rating: “satisfactory”

[Technology needs assessment phase III \(TNA III\) \(GEF ID 9452\)](#)

Overall performance rating: “satisfactory”

[EC grant ‘enhanced capacity for measuring progress towards the environmental dimension of the sustainable development goals’ \(2020-2023\) \(PIMS ID 2082\)](#)

Overall performance rating: “highly satisfactory”

[Strengthening low carbon energy island \(LCEI\) strategies in Maldives \(GEF ID 4629\)](#)

Overall performance rating: “satisfactory”

[Consolidation of national capacities for the full implementation of the Cartagena protocol on biosafety in Panama \(GEF ID 3631\)](#)

Overall performance rating: “moderately satisfactory”

[Georgia’s integrated transparency framework for implementation of the Paris agreement \(GEF ID 10028\)](#)

Overall performance rating: “highly satisfactory”

[Costa Rica’s integrated reporting and transparency system \(GEF ID 9652\)](#)

Overall performance rating: “satisfactory”

[Implementation of the national biosafety framework of Ecuador under the biosafety programme \(GEF ID 3405\)](#)

Overall performance rating: “moderately unsatisfactory”



QUARTERLY REPORT

to the **167th** Meeting of the

COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES

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