

Quarterly Report to the 151st Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (Advance unedited)

April – June 2020

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Highlights

COVID 19

- **COVID 19** response and impact remained a critical factor for this period. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) responded to the Secretary General's message on building back better by formulating a COVID-19 response building block strategy, backed by extensive communication, and involving stakeholders, to develop a roadmap on recovery. The response outlines four areas: medical and humanitarian emergency phase; transformational change for nature and people; investing to build back better and modernizing global environmental governance. COVID-19 raised challenges for portfolio delivery.

UN Development System (UNDS) Reform

- At the 2020 ECOSOC Operational Activities for Development Segment, (9-27 May 2020), the Executive Director highlighted opportunities the repositioning of UN Development System has offered for UNEP to provide scientific understanding of and policy guidance on key environmental challenges and their linkages to the 2030 Agenda.

International Day for Biological Diversity

- International Day for Biological Diversity on 22 May 2020 saw the virtual launch of the report 'The State of the World's Forests 2020: Forests, Biodiversity and People (SOFO 2020), jointly prepared by FAO and UNEP.

World Environment Day

- Celebrated annually on 5 June, this year's World Environment Day (WED) brought into sharp focus the importance of fundamentally shifting humanity's relationship with nature to preserve our societies and prevent future pandemics. This year – despite the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic – Colombia, in partnership with Germany, hosted the main World Environment Day celebrations.

World Oceans Day

- The report 'Out of the Blue: The Value of Seagrasses to the Environment and to People,' was launched on World Oceans Day held virtually on 8 June 2020.

Launch of the International Gender Champions (IGC) Nairobi Hub

- On 26 June 2020, Inger Andersen, Executive Director UNEP, Maimunah Mohd Sharif, Executive-Director of UN-HABITAT, and Zainab Hawa Bangura, Director-General UNON officially launched the International Gender Champions (IGC) hub in Nairobi.

1 Significant Developments

COVID 19 Response

COVID 19 response and impact remained a critical factor in this period. There were opportunities for innovation, a greater appreciation for the importance of nature-based solutions and the link between health and environment. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) responded to the Secretary General's message on building back better by formulating a COVID-19 response building block strategy, backed by extensive communication, and involving stakeholders, to develop a roadmap on recovery. The response[1], is articulated around four areas:

1. **The medical and humanitarian emergency phase:** UNEP focuses on country medical waste management capacity assessments, policy, and legal frameworks for management of COVID-19 contaminated waste, segregation, sorting, storage and stockpiling of COVID-19 waste, and new infrastructure and capacity. As part of these efforts, UNEP developed a factsheet on policy and legislation dealing with increased and contaminated waste[2] linked to COVID-19 and pandemics. A webinar[3] organized by UNEP on COVID-19-linked waste management attracted 2,500 registrations from 125 countries, while the Joint Environment Unit, our partnership with OCHA, has also developed online training[4] on Environment and Emergencies in the face of COVID-19.
2. **A transformational change for nature and people:** UNEP focuses on improved science and policy options to better understand and respond to zoonotic threats; investment in nature for improved human health, sustainable socio-economic recovery, poverty reduction and livelihood recovery; science, technical support and advocacy to ensure progress on environmental issues through global processes; raising awareness of the links between nature, health and sustainable living; as well as, continued learning. As part of these efforts, during the quarter, UNEP and the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) hosted a session on "Building Back Better: Taking a One Health approach for healthy landscapes, people, animals and wildlife"[5]. UNEP also worked with leaders in environmental education to create Earth School,"[6] an innovative set of lessons hosted on TED-Ed. Since its launch on 22 April 2020, over 700,000 young people have visited the site and over 200,000 take the quests on the website. The Indian Government has shared it with their 167,000 Eco-Schools and pupils from every country on the planet have engaged in the initiative.
3. **Investing to build back better:** UNEP focuses on reaching real economy actors to rebuild, scale up and accelerate sustainable consumption and production, and create new green jobs; linking recovery efforts with the clean energy transition, nature-based solutions and the Paris Agreement; as well as, supporting governments to rebuild the next generation of social, ecological, and productive infrastructure. As part of these efforts, during the quarter, the UN Sustainable Development Group is using the Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE) for greening COVID-19 economic stimulus policies. PAGE also contributed to several

[1] https://www.unenvironment.org/resources/working-environment-protect-people-uneps-covid-19-response
[2] https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/32777/FS4.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y Contributes to the Emergency Phase of UNEPs strategic response to the social economic impacts of Covid-19.
[3] https://www.genevaenvironmentnetwork.org/events/unep-webinar-waste-management-during-covid-19-pandemic/
[4] https://www.eecentre.org/training/
[5] https://events.globallandscapesforum.org/agenda/bonn-2020/4-june/building-back-better-taking-a-one-health-approach-for-healthy-landscapes-people-animals-and-wildlife
[6] https://ed.ted.com/earth-school

UN briefs.[7] UNEP's, *Building Resilient Societies after the Covid-19 Pandemic* paper, provides policy recommendations to drive a resource smart recovery.[8] A PAGE Data Observatory[9] was launched to track impact of COVID-19 lockdown on air quality by comparing $PM_{2.5}$ levels[10] and average density of NO_2[11] over March-June 2019 to the same period in 2020 in 20 cities. Likewise, UNEP supported the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, ensuring the inclusion of environmental dimensions into socio-economic response plans and enhancing the development and distribution of knowledge products on issues including medical waste management. In the Asia-Pacific region, India and Maldives included an environmental sustainability section in their plans and mainstreamed environment or climate risks with UNEP support and input. UNEP has supported response planning in Colombia, South Africa, Surinam and Trinidad and Tobago.

4. **Modernizing global environmental governance:** UNEP is reviewing the implications of moving environmental governance and multilateralism towards virtual, and thus lower environmental footprint, meeting platforms. As part of these efforts, during the quarter, UNEP has adapted to working through virtual platforms and devised innovative delivery models, leveraging digital technologies. Important international conferences, events and activities have been organized through virtual means.

Global

UN Development System (UNDS) Reform

The 2020 ECOSOC Operational Activities for Development Segment[12] took place virtually from 19-27 May 2020. COVID-19 was a frequent point of reference, as the first test of the new UN coordination system at the country level.

The Executive Director highlighted the opportunities that the repositioning of the UN Development System has offered for UNEP to provide scientific understanding of and policy guidance on key environmental challenges and their linkages to the 2030 Agenda.

Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE) contributed to the UNSDG's Cooperation Framework Companion Piece on "Economic Transformation" and aligned the Partnership's narrative with the green economy and climate agenda.

Summit on Biodiversity

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 73/234,[13] preparations are in place to convene a summit on biodiversity at the level of Heads of State and Government[14] to be held virtually on 30 September 2020. UNEP co-chaired an Inter-Agency Task Force for preparing the concept note for the summit on biodiversity. The first meeting of the Task Force was convened on 29 April 2020. UNEP also

[7] to the International Labour Organisation's brief on *COVID-19 and the world of work: Jump-starting a green recovery with more and better jobs, healthy and resilient societies (*https://unsdg.un.org/resources/policy-brief-world-work-and-covid-19), UN Secretary General's brief on *COVID-19 and Employment (*https://www.ilo.org/buenosaires/noticias/WCMS_749681/lang--es/index.htm)

[8] https://www.resourcepanel.org/reports/building-resilient-societies-after-covid-19-pandemic
[9] https://datastudio.google.com/reporting/fda0ecd7-f29c-4d0d-87a2-47cb6f91c852/page/XunTB;
[10] https://datastudio.google.com/reporting/fda0ecd7-f29c-4d0d-87a2-47cb6f91c852/page/sS7TB
[11] https://datastudio.google.com/reporting/fda0ecd7-f29c-4d0d-87a2-47cb6f91c852/page/kEyTB
[12] https://www.un.org/ecosoc/en/node/25553384
[13] https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/73/234
[14] https://www.cbd.int/article/Summit-on-Biodiversity-2020

contributes to the preparatory process of the Biodiversity Summit convened by the Office of the President of the General Assembly.

International Day for Biological Diversity

International Day for Biological Diversity[15] on 22 May 2020 saw the virtual launch of the report 'The State of the World's Forests 2020: Forests, Biodiversity and People (SOFO 2020),[16] jointly prepared by FAO and UNEP.

World Environment Day

Even though World Environment Day (WED) 2020 faced unprecedented challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the global campaign was highly successful and created considerable attention for nature and momentum toward both the 5th UN Environment Assembly as well as the Conference of the Parties to the Convention of Biological Diversity.

This year's WED[17] brought into sharp focus the importance of fundamentally shifting humanity's relationship with nature to preserve our societies and prevent future pandemics. Despite the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic – Colombia, in partnership with Germany, hosted the main World Environment Day celebrations. The President of Colombia led a 7-hour programming on biodiversity webcasted in English and Spanish languages. The live programming received over 232,000 live views across different channels and platforms.

Due to COVID-19 pandemic, UNEP had to redesign its entire plans for WED. In late May, UNEP launched its Time #ForNature campaign with the goal of educating the public about the importance of biodiversity and inspiring people to act and make their voices heard. The campaign had unprecedented reach and engagement on digital media.

UNEP produced 32 videos in eight languages. The topics ranged from the protection of the Amazon forest to a sustainable cooking class, viewed on social media by over 23 million people globally and a further 10 million views from traditional media. The #WorldEnvironmentDay hashtag in English was trending number 1 globally on Twitter for six hours. Posts on UNEP's social media channels across eight languages for World Environment Day were seen over 100 million times and users engaged with these posts over 2.3 million times. The World Environment Day website received 1 million views – almost double the number last year.

A number of important commitments were made around the world on the occasion of World Environment Day. As an example, the Government of Ethiopia launched the 2020 Green Legacy Programme, pledging to plant 5 billion trees. In Kenya, legislation that bans single use plastics in protected areas, including national parks, beaches, forests and other conservation areas came into force.

The Faith for Earth initiative co-organized dialogues targeting biodiversity[18], climate change[19] and environmental justice[20]. On 4 June 2020, the initiative co-convened[21] global faith leaders to explore the role of faith groups in advocating for green recovery in a post-COVID world and in collaboration with the Vatican, the first living chapel was launched[22] on 5 June 2020.

[15] https://www.cbd.int/idb/
[16] http://www.fao.org/state-of-forests/en/?utm_source=twitter&utm_medium=social+media&utm_campaign=fao
[17] https://www.worldenvironmentday.global/
[18] https://www.unenvironment.org/faith-and-biodiversity
[19] https://www.unenvironment.org/events/symposium/earth-day-2020-virtual-dialogue
[20] https://www.kaiciid.org/dialogue-knowledge-hub/webinars/faith-earth-climate-change-and-environmental-justice
[21] https://www.unenvironment.org/events/symposium/role-faith-organizations-green-recovery
[22] https://livingchapel.com/

Scouts[23] launched a new Earth Tribe initiative as part of World Environment day, which saw them move all of their environmental education content online to mitigate the impact of COVID-19. UNEP will support the scale-up of this initiative to provide environmental education content to their 50 million community.

A policy response paper entitled "COVID-19: Ten Priority Options for a Just, Green & Transformative Recovery,"[24] launched on the World Environment Day, presents policy options to Member States for a fast, fair and green economic recovery.

2020 Human Development Report

A **joint UNDP-UNEP Policy Symposium on the 2020 Human Development Report,** held 1- 4 June 2020, discussed potential pathways to take into account the role of the environment on human capabilities in economic policy development.

World Oceans Day

The report 'Out of the Blue: The Value of Seagrasses to the Environment and to People,'[25] was launched on World Oceans Day held virtually on 8 June 2020.[26]

Africa

The Bureau of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment[27] met on 28 May 2020 and discussed Africa's response to COVID-19. It agreed on the development of a *"Green Stimulus Recovery Programme"* that will contribute to response and recovery initiatives under development in African countries.

Asia and the Pacific

During the 76th ESCAP Commission[28] held virtually on 21 May 2020, the Executive Director highlighted the importance of building capacity on ocean data and enforcement of conventions, norms and standards for sustainable oceans. The report, 'Changing sails: Accelerating Regional Action for Sustainable Oceans in Asia and the Pacific'[29] was also launched.

The 36th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Summit[30] on 26 June 2020, reiterated commitments to operationalize the ASEAN Framework of Action on Marine Debris. UNEP has been collaborating with ASEAN to address marine debris through implementation of Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter.

The UN Inter-Agency Issue-Based Coalition on Environment and Climate Change for Europe and Central Asia[31] held its first virtual meeting of Resident Coordinators and UN Country Teams for

[23] http://earthtribe.scout.org/
[24] https://www.greeneconomycoalition.org/assets/reports/GEC-Reports/PIGE-COVID-PriorityOptionsforaJustGreenTransformativeRecovery.pdf
[25] https://www.unenvironment.org/resources/report/out-blue-value-seagrasses-environment-and-people
[26] https://unworldoceansday.org/
[27] https://www.unenvironment.org/regions/africa/african-ministerial-conference-environment/about-amcen
[28] https://www.unescap.org/commission/76/
[29] https://www.unescap.org/publications/changing-sails-accelerating-regional-action-sustainable-oceans-asia-and-pacific#:~:text=Produced%20in%20line%20with%20the,rally%20interdisciplinary%20and%20cross%2Dsectoral
[30] https://asean.org/chairmans-statement-36th-asean-summit-26-june-2020-cohesive-responsive-asean/
[31] https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/sustainable-development/RFSD_2020/Terms_of_Reference-IBC_on_Environment_and_Climate_Change.pdf

Central Asia on 12 May 2020 co-organized by UNEP, UNESCO and UNECE. Details of the meeting can be found in the Meeting Report.[32]

Europe

UNEP participated in a panel discussion held on 26 June 2020, together with European Commission officials, finance sector and think tank members organized by the pan-European media platform *Euractiv*.[33] Discussions focused on how to achieve a digital and sustainable recovery from the COVID-19 crisis.

Latin America and the Caribbean

In May 2020, the Bureau of the Forum of Latin American and Caribbean Ministers of Environment agreed to advance a regional declaration on the priorities and role of environmental authorities on the COVID-19 response and recovery. A revised regional workplan, budget and projects now identify ways to address issues arising from the pandemic.

North America

COVID-19 exposed social inequalities of air pollution in North America, with poor, minority and indigenous communities the most vulnerable to long term exposure.

The Government of Canada announced over 60 conservation projects which move Canada closer to its goal of protecting 25% of lands and oceans by 2025.

West Asia

On 1 June 2020, the **Waste Management Outlook for West Asia**[34] [35] was launched.

[32] https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/RCM_Website/IBCs/IBC_Environment/IBC_Env_and_CC_meeting_Central_Asia_final_report_12052020.pdf
[33] https://events.euractiv.com/event/info/achieving-a-digital-and-sustainable-recovery
[34] https://www.unenvironment.org/ietc/resources/publication/waste-management-outlook-west-asia
[35] UNEP/EA.4/Res. 7: Environmentally sound management of waste.

2 Programme of Work Implementation

2.1 Climate Change[36]

2.1.1 Key highlights

Mainstreaming Adaptation into planning: UNEP supported Zimbabwe to develop a manual on mainstreaming Climate Change Adaptation into National and Subnational Development Planning[37].

Adaptation to support COVID recovery efforts: UNEP supported Ghana to develop National Adaptation Plan in efforts to build country's resilience in an effort of COVID-19 response[38].

Ecosystems-Based Adaptation: In June, UNEP and UNDP launched Consultations on Development of Guidelines for Integrating Ecosystems-Based Adaptation into National Adaptation Plans at a session organized by the International Conservation Center.

Carpathian Convention: The Carpathian Convention Working Group on Adaptation to Climate Change conducted its seventh meeting in May[39]. The key meeting highlight is the decision to proceed on a Long-term Vision 2030 towards combating climate change in the Carpathians and its corresponding work plan for 2021-2023.

Sustainable cooling and cold chain: UNEP supported the development of the Africa Centre of Excellence in Energy for Sustainable Development[40], to help farmers get produce to the market with minimal waste while reducing emissions from energy and food waste.

Non-Motorized Transport Strategy: In collaboration with the Institute for Transport and Development Policy, UNEP assisted Indonesia to develop a new Non-Motorized Transport Strategy[41] to create safe, inclusive, and sustainable walking and cycling space.

Nationally Determined Contribution: Chile, a partner of Climate and Clean Air Coalition, submitted its revised Nationally Determined Contribution updating its commitments including reducing black carbon emissions by 25% in 2030 compared to 2016 emissions[42].

Access to Finance for Promotion and Restoration of Forests: UNEP collaborated with &Green Fund to provide financial incentive for sustainable land use[43]. Under the collaboration:

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[36] Linked to UNEP resolution UNEP/EA.2/Res.6 and SDGs 13.1, 13.2, 13.3.2, 13.a and 13.b.; UNEP/EA.3/Res.8 (SDGs 7.1.1, 7.1.2, 7.2.17.3.1, 7.a.1, 7.b.1, 9.4.1, 12.c.1, 13.3.2, 13.a, 13.b, 17.17.1) and UNEP/EA.2/Res.6 and SDGs 12.c.1, 13.3.2, 13.a, 13.b, 15.1.1, 15.2.1, 15.3.1, 15.6.1 and 17.17.1.

[37] https://www.dropbox.com/s/1hxndi7stbqdoxx/Activity_1.3.1%20_Draft%20Climate%20Change%20Integration%20Training%20Manual.docx?dl=0

[38] https://www.unenvironment.org/news-and-stories/press-release/covid-19-wake-call-ghana-develop-national-plan-climate-adaptation

[39] http://www.carpathianconvention.org/eventdetailwg-124/events/id-7th-meeting-of-the-carpathian-convention-working-group-on-adaptation-to-climate-change-online-meeting.html

[40] https://www.unenvironment.org/news-and-stories/press-release/centre-excellence-rwanda-aims-support-african-farmers-and-rural

[41] https://www.unenvironment.org/news-and-stories/story/indonesia-approves-new-non-motorized-transport-strategy

[42] https://ccacoalition.org/en/news/chile-increases-climate-change-ambition-targets-simultaneously-improve-air-quality-and-health

[43] https://www.unenvironment.org/explore-topics/forests/what-we-do/financing-sustainable-land-use/why-financing-sustainable-land-use?fbclid=IwAR2E9jXnjUTTlJ638BB1Ex3AbU20prxtUbBpmtsBGGiC_VXcPJ4R7POUNgE

- The &Green Fund sealed an investment amounting to USD 10 million with Grupo Roncador, for low-emissions cattle and soy production at scale in Mato Grosso State Brazil[44].
- The &Green Fund signed a USD 30 million - 10 year - loan facility with PT Dharma Satya Nusantara Tbk. ("DSNG") for sustainable palm oil production[45].

2.1.2 Main Opportunities and Challenges and Response Measures

COVID-19 posed a major challenge on portfolio delivery during the quarter. Government restrictions aimed to contain the spread of COVID-19 resulted in delay and changes in mode of delivery. UNEP adapted by leveraging digital technologies to facilitate programme delivery. For example, UN-REDD produced webinar series to engage private sector on mitigation action[46].

2.2 Resilience to Disasters and Conflicts

2.2.1 Key highlights

Disaster Reduction

UNEP has continued to strengthen its ecosystem-based Disaster Risk Reduction work. In partnership with United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), the drafting of guidance for Member States to implement the Sendai Framework with nature-based solutions and Eco-DRR tools has progressed, with the preparation of consultations on the guide. UNEP has also contributed to the development of UN guidance on mainstreaming DRR and Climate Change adaptation into UN Common Country Analysis and United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCFs), with a focus on the environmental dimensions of risk and nature-based solutions. Methodological guidelines have also been developed on Eco-DRR in Lebanon and Jordan. Other risk reduction work has included the initiation of collaboration with the Government of Somalia to provide technical assistance services on strengthening environmental governance and management and better inform the oil and gas sector development in the country.

Recovery

In its recovery work, UNEP has advanced further support to Nigeria in the clean-up of Ogoniland. UNEP is also developing a second phase of debris clean-up work in northern Iraq. It has also mobilized new resources for environmental policy support to Afghanistan.

2.2.2 Main Opportunities and Challenges and Response Measures

UNEP has seen increased requests for support on COVID-19 related issues in complex operating contexts from both UN partners and Member States, and particularly on the theme of how to best manage healthcare-related waste in order to avert an additional environmental crisis. UNEP has been adapting its delivery strategies to ensure more effective delivery of its normative expertise on waste management issues, including to humanitarian partners.

[44] https://www.andgreen.fund/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Joint-Green-Roncador-Press-Release-1.pdf
[45] https://www.environmental-finance.com/content/news/blended-finance-fund-invests-$40m-in-forests-and-agriculture.html
[46] https://www.un-redd.org/post/despite-covid-19-climate-change-continues-to-be-a-priority

2.3 Healthy and Productive Ecosystems

2.3.1 Key highlights

The Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP)
NOWPAP Member States approved the biennial Work Plan and Budget to strengthen marine and coastal environmental protection in the region, at a virtual meeting held on 21 May 2020.

Awareness campaign 'Not all Animals Migrate by Choice'
UNEP launched an awareness campaign on illegal trafficking of endangered species on 21 May 2020.[47]

Safeguarding world's oceans
As of May 2020, 26 governments and 69 businesses and organizations had endorsed the Ocean Plastics Charter, committing to more sustainable approaches to produce, use, and manage plastic and reduce plastic pollution in the oceans.

Management of seagrass ecosystems
On 14 May 2020, a guide[48] was published for protection of seagrasses in coastal ecosystems through payment for ecosystem services.

Biodiversity and Finance
In April 2020, UNEP FI held webinars on nature-related financial risks highlighting approaches to identifying the impacts of economic sectors on nature and related economic risks, and to raise awareness of the financial sector's potential role in contributing to implementation of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.[49]

On 30 June 2020, UNEP FI, UNEP-WCMC and Global Canopy published a report *Beyond Business as Usual: Biodiversity Targets and Finance*.[50]

2.3.2. Main Opportunities and Challenges and Response Measures

Interagency cooperation

At a virtual meeting held on 14 May 2020, the UN System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB), echoing the UN Secretary-General's call for building back better, agreed to develop a common approach to integrating biodiversity and nature based-solutions for sustainable development into UN policy and programme planning and delivery.[51]

[47] https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1rErXZ2Iv3U, https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1572277
[48] https://www.unenvironment.org/resources/toolkits-manuals-and-guides/protecting-seagrass-through-payments-ecosystem-services
[49] https://www.unepfi.org/events/webinars/webinar-nature-related-financial-risks/
[50] https://www.unepfi.org/publications/banking-publications/beyond-business-as-usual-biodiversity-targets-and-finance/

[51] In addition the EMG as a response to decisions by the EMG Senior Officials and the UN Chief Executives Board for Coordination launched the Phase the 1st draft of Phase II of the Strategy 2020-2030 for Sustainability Management in the UN System expanding the scope of the current strategy to cover commitments related to sustainability in programmes and projects as well as corporate management practices. ,https://unemg.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/INF_3_Strategy-for-Sustainability-Management-in-the-UN-System.pdf.

2.4 Environmental Governance[52]

2.4.1 Key highlights

Digital and knowledge management products
UNEP updated the inforMEA e-learning platform[53] and launched the Poverty-Environment Action for Sustainable Development Goals project website[54] in June 2020.

UNEP and FAO published the "Legislative Approaches to Sustainable Agriculture and Natural Resources Governance"[55] on 4 June 2020, to be used to assist countries upon request, in updating their natural resources related legislation.

2.4.2 Main opportunities and challenges and response measures

Zoonosis are now an environmental priority leading to inquiries on novel knowledge products to address this issue.

Covid-19 impacted project activities that ordinarily take place in person. For example, in Colombia, consultations on the draft law on the elimination of single-use plastics, are yet to happen due to limitations on physical meetings.

To address this, the EMG developed a guidance tool to identify and manage potential environmental and social risks and impacts in existing and new programmes, including projects in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

2.5 Chemicals, Waste and Air Quality

2.5.1 Key highlights

National Plastic Waste Reduction Strategic Actions for Indonesia,[56] developed in partnership with UNEP-IETC, were launched by the Ministry of Environment and Forestry in June 2020.

UNEP Sustainability Action[57] was launched on 1 June 2020 to reduce plastic use and raise consumer awareness with **7&i Holdings Co.**[58] and **Fast Retailing Co., Ltd.**[59] joining.

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[52] Highlights support for the implementation of UNEA resolutions 2/2, 2/5, 2/17, 2/19, and 2/21.
[53] https://elearning.informea.org/
[54] https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VjQma_eTILA&feature=youtu.be
[55] https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/32567/LASANRG.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y#page=1&zoom=auto,-157,663
[56] https://www.unenvironment.org/ietc/resources/publication/national-plastic-waste-reduction-strategic-actions-indonesia

[57] https://www.unenvironment.org/ietc/what-we-do/unep-sustainability-action
[58] parent company: 7-Eleven with 71,000 stores in 17 countries
[59] (parent company: UNIQLO with over 2,200 stores worldwide)

UNEP guidance on plastic use and production[60] identified changing procurement practices and triggering behaviour change as key levers for change to eliminate unnecessary plastic packaging and shift to reusable, recyclable, compostable packaging and those with high recycled content.

Member States are invited to take part in the online survey[61] capturing country-specific air quality actions for the **'Actions on Air Quality' update**[62]

GEF approved a project for Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan to **demonstrate non-thermal treatment of dichloro-diphenyl-trichloroethane (DDT) wastes in Central Asia**.

The GEF **Continuing Regional Support for the Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) Global Monitoring Plan under the Stockholm Convention** in Africa, Asia, the Pacific and Latin America and Caribbean reported POPs levels in human milk samples to the Stockholm Convention.

China strengthened national standards that reduce the lead limit for woodenware and architectural paints to 90 ppm total lead and lowered the standard for vehicle and industrial protective coatings to 1000 ppm total lead. Paint market analyses have been completed in six countries and paint reformulation in one small and medium enterprise (SME) in Jordan. Fifty participants from governments, civil society, and industry in Africa joined a webinar on environmentally sound management of waste lead-acid batteries[63]

Implementation plan "Towards a Pollution-free Planet"[64]
UNEP recently launched a new website on Beat Pollution to provide Member States and Stakeholders with information on efforts to address pollution in all its forms. It also presents solutions for addressing the challenges and capacity gaps as identified in the implementation plan.[65]

2.5.2 Main Opportunities and Challenges and Response Measures

IETC and the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies are developing guidelines on medical waste and potentially infectious household waste management in response to the pandemic.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Fifth Session of the **International Conference on Chemicals Management** (ICCM5) originally planned to take place in October 2020 in Bonn, Germany, has been rescheduled to 5 to 9 July 2021. The intersessional work on the new global chemicals and waste management framework to be adopted at ICCM5 is progressing virtually to the extent possible under the guidance of the ICCM5 Bureau.

2.6 Resource Efficiency

2.6.1 Key Highlights

Sustainable Living and Education

[60] UNEP/EA.4/Res.6: Marine plastic litter and microplastics.
[61] https://www.unenvironment.org/explore-topics/air/what-we-do/taking-stock-global-efforts/actions-air-quality-report-update https://www.unenvironment.org/explore-topics/air/what-we-do/taking-stock-global-efforts/actions-air-quality-report-update
[62] UNEP/EA.3/Res.8: Preventing and reducing air pollution to improve air quality globally.
[63] UNEP/EA.3/Res.9: Eliminating exposure to lead paint and promoting environmentally sound management of waste lead-acid batteries.
[64] UNEP/EA.4/Res.21: Implementation plan "Towards a pollution-free planet".
[65] https://www.unenvironment.org/beatpollution/

UNEP launched environmental start-ups to support sustainable lifestyles -- with an initial focus on plastics, mobility, energy and housing in Asia and the Pacific.
The Innovation for Sustainable Lifestyles Contest was launched in Colombia, Costa Rica and Mexico.[66]

Circular Economy and Eco-innovation:
The Green Jobs[67] factsheet explains how eco-innovation and circularity approaches help SMEs strengthen sustainable value chains. The Costa Rica Accreditation Body reviewed its carbon footprint accreditation programme. Eleven companies in Colombia and Costa Rica were trained to implement the Product Sustainability Guidelines.[68] Two reports were released and presented in webinars.[69,70]

SDG 12: In Asia and the Pacific, countries have progressed on reporting, stakeholders' engagement, awareness raising and capacity building on indicators 12.1 to 12.9. UNEP has been tracking and analysing this progress through the SWITCH-Asia Regional Policy Advocacy. [71]

Catalyzing Science-Policy action on Sustainable Consumption & Production: For a strengthened science-policy interface, the task group adopted the systemic and value chain approach,[72] whose effectiveness was illustrated by preliminary results for food, textiles and construction.

Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE):
PAGE completed capacity building programmes in Argentina and the Kyrgyz Republic.[73]

Sustainable Infrastructure: The draft *Good Practice Guidance Framework for Sustainable Infrastructure* was circulated for review by experts and Member States.[74]

Sustainable Buildings and Construction
The *GlobalABC Regional Roadmap for Buildings and Construction in Latin America* set pathways to decarbonize the buildings and construction sector by 2050. [75]

[66] UNEP post: Innovation for Sustainable Lifestyles Contest. View in English or Spanish. Twitter: https://twitter.com/unep_espanol/status/1283816467872583684?s=20 ; Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/unep.es/posts/1823222891135190 ; Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/tv/CCtj1PKA7JR/?igshid=16wjnw8gmgnp6 ; YouTube: https://youtu.be/1r099U0MTpE

[67] https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/32281/GJ.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y
[68] UNEP/EA.4/Res. 4 Addressing environmental challenges through sustainable business practices.
[69] Consumer Information Tools and Climate Change: Facilitating low-carbon choices in Tourism, Buildings and Food Systems (https://www.oneplanetnetwork.org/resource/consumer-information-tools-and-climate-change); webinars https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sm1ueHb8H1s and https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ID0Bw5_IGPc.
[70] Can I recycle this? – A global mapping and assessment of labels, standards and claims on plastic packaging (https://www.oneplanetnetwork.org/resource/can-i-recycle-global-mapping-and-assessment-standards-labels-and-claims-plastic-packaging) ; three global webinars (https://www.oneplanetnetwork.org/resource/can-i-recycle-global-mapping-and-assessment-standards-labels-and-claims-plastic-packaging)
[71] https://www.switch-asia.eu/site/assets/files/1426/background_technical_document-asias_reporting_on_sdg12_asof14nov2019.pdf
[72] UNEP/EA.4/Res. 1: Innovative pathways to achieve sustainable consumption and production, Operative Paragraph 12.
[73] https://www.kg.undp.org/content/kyrgyzstan/ru/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2020/05/on-the-implementation-of-the-green-economy-model-in-the-developm.html
[74] UNEP/EA.4/Res. 5 Sustainable Infrastructure
[75] https://globalabc.org/sites/default/files/inline-files/2.%20GlobalABC_Regional_Roadmap_for_Buildings_and_Construction_in_Latin_America_2020-2050.pdf

Mineral Resource Governance: Progress on the *Implementation Plan*[76] included a discussion paper to support regional consultations,[77] a dedicated webpage,[78] a newsletter to broaden engagement,[79] a survey system to collect regional inputs[80] with a database of studies and podcasts.[81]

2.6.2 Main Opportunities and Challenges and Response Measures

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted subprogramme delivery. Activities were adjusted with a COVID-19 lens, where relevant and needed, to support member states and stakeholders. Travel and health restrictions, digital and energy infrastructure reliability, time zones, and the interest in virtual interactions pending resumption of post-COVID-19 on-site activities, shaped both substantive work and modus operandi for activity delivery. The new normal encouraged creative and innovative delivery models, involving virtual approaches and an opportunity to elevate the risks of unsustainable value chains among policymakers, private sector and civil society to advance the greening of recovery agendas, economies and societies.

2.7 Environment under Review

2.7.1 Key Highlights

UNEP through the **Global Environment Facility (GEF) cross-cutting capacity development (CCCD)** portfolio and the shared environmental information system- SEIS projects supported:

- Production of six new State of Environment (SOE) reports[82];
- The first virtual regional workshop for the 14 Pacific Inform countries (to discuss COVID-19 inflicted implementation challenges and response);
- The 4th, virtual, Pacific Inform regional project steering committee;

New environmental data portal for Kyrgystan: UNEP provided technical support to improve environmental data sharing in Kyrgyzstan. A National State of Environment interactive data portal, (http://nd-new.at.kg/) created in close cooperation with the State Agency for Environmental Protection and Forestry, provides vital indicators and data to inform decision-makers and the public on a variety of environmental topics. These activities were made possible through a project funded by the European Union.

Reporting on environmental dimension of SDGs in the Maldives: In partnership with the Maldives Government, UNEP developed a database to facilitate reporting on the environmental aspect of the SDGs and other processes including development of a state of the environment report and sharing of environmental data with relevant stakeholders and the public. Operationalization has been delayed by COVID-19 related disruptions.

[76] UNEP/EA/4.19 Mineral Resource Governance Implementation plan

[77] https://greengrowthknowledge.org/resource/discussion-paper-regional-consultations-implementation-united-nations-environment-assembly

[78] https://greengrowthknowledge.org/initiatives/unea-4-mineral-resource-governance-resolution

[79] http://www.vision6.com.au/v/36185/1334729/email.html?k=iRKDfQUlaQWxIkNphygrD_KQo8bnnfcEG5PgavFL_0M

[80] https://survey.app.uq.edu.au/UNEA-MRG

[81] https://soundcloud.com/user-431178782/sets/the-mineral-governance-podcast

[82] Tonga, Cook Islands, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Botswana, and Uganda

2.7.2 Main Opportunities and Challenges and Response Measures

Our capacity building projects faced substantial implementation challenges as a result of COVID-19. For example, (i) since GCF Readiness projects are approved for short 1-2 years delivery timeframes, UNEP promptly negotiated for GCF approval of six-month automatic extensions for approved projects; (ii) planned expert review/ validation workshops for the Botswana draft State of Environment (SoE) report were delayed; and (iii) the South Sudan and Iraq GEF projects failed to hold inception workshops initially planned for Q2 of 2020.

2.8 Cross-Cutting Issues

Gender

Launch of the International Gender Champions (IGC) Nairobi Hub

On 26 June 2020, the Executive Director joined Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif, Executive-Director of UN-Habitat, and Mrs. Zainab Hawa Bangura, Director-General of the United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON) to officially launch the International Gender Champions (IGC)[83] hub in Nairobi, Kenya. The International Gender Champions (IGC) is a leadership network that brings together female and male decision-makers determined to break down gender barriers and make gender equality a working reality in their spheres of influence.

Mainstreaming of Gender into Projects

From April to June 2020, the following reviews on gender responsive project planning and development were conducted. Firstly, review of 13 project documents using the Gender Marker; seven projects mainstreamed gender partially (53.8%) and six mainstreamed gender fully (46.2%). Secondly, review of 8 concept reviews and feedback was provided through a Gender Comments report. Lastly, a total of nine publications were submitted for gender review and feedback was shared accordingly with the various proponents.

Webinar – How to integrate gender in project development

On 18 June 2020, UNEP hosted a customized one-hour webinar[84] for over 60 staff members on how to integrate gender in project development. It provided an overview of the key aspects of gender mainstreaming in project development and implementation.

2.9 Implementation of UNEA Resolutions Outside Programmatic Updates

[83] https://genderchampions.com/champions?chapters%5B%5D=6
[84] https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jDd_uyI4DYw&feature=youtu.be

UNEP/EA.4/Res. 18: Poverty Environment Nexus

UNEP with the Chinese Academy of Sciences developed an agricultural data monitoring system 'CropWatch', mitigating COVID-19 impacts on food insecurity and poverty alleviation in Africa and Asia-Pacific. UNEP and UNDP also published the 2019 Annual Progress Report on Poverty-Environment Action for Sustainable Development Goals 'Horizons of Hope' and launched a website.[85]

UNEP/EA.4/Res. 22: Implementation and follow-up of UNEA Resolutions

UNEP continued work on the UNEA Monitoring and Reporting Portal, following guidance provided by Member States. Coding work reached 60% and the portal was presented to internal stakeholders for feedback. Work on content included cleaning and integrating existing data on implementation of outcomes from past UNEA sessions in preparation for population of the Portal.

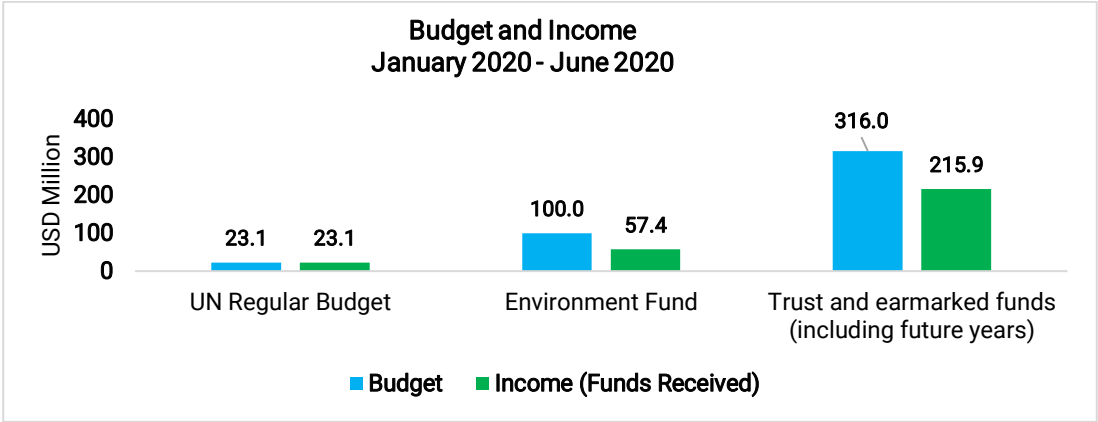
[85] https://pea4sdgs.org/

3 Resources and Management Issues

3.1 Financial Update as at 30 June 2020

Overview of income

By the end of the second Quarter, 30 June 2020, the organisation had received USD 296.4 million in income, or 65%, against the total annual budget of USD 458.1 million. The income comprises the annual funds of the UN Regular Budget and the Environment Fund, as well as earmarked contributions which include multi-year funding.[86]



3.1.1.1

Core funding

The Environment Fund and the UN Regular Budget jointly form UNEP's core funding and enable UNEP to deliver on its core mandate. Core funding comprised 27% of total income by the end of the second Quarter, mainly because the Regular Budget allocation is received for the whole year in advance. The income to the Environment Fund increased by 30% compared to the same time last year and amounted to 57% of the approved 2020 budget.

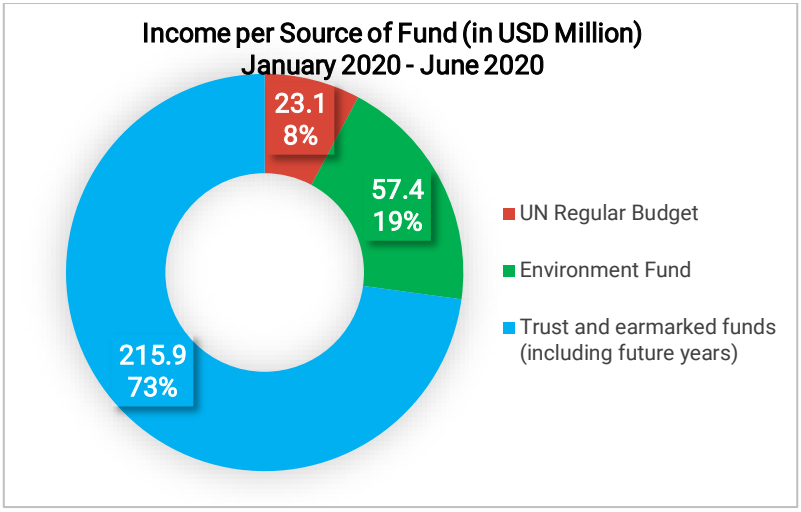
The Environment Fund enables UNEP to lead on science-policy solutions; identify emerging environmental threats and innovate to address them; advocate and raise awareness; and build capacity. It also ensures robust oversight and accountability and supports UNEP's convening power in bringing together all stakeholders to advance the global environmental agenda.

Earmarked contributions

Earmarked contributions (includes Trust Funds) enable the scaling-up and replication of results of core work, including capacity-building in more countries with more partners.

By 30 June 2020, the organization had received USD 215.9 million in earmarked funds, including trust funds, for the year 2020 (also including funds for future years), against a budgeted amount of USD 316 million.

[86] As per the UN Secretariat interpretation and application of the International Public Service Accounting Standards (IPSAS), Umoja does not enable breakdown of this income into annual figures.



Funding partners

UNEP is very grateful to all the contributing Member States and other funding partners for their commitment and support to the organization, especially the 10 largest financial supporters.

UNEP appreciates the 42 Member States that have pledged to the Environment Fund, especially those that contributed their "Fair Share" as represented by the Voluntary Indicative Scale of Contributions (VISC). However, the number of Member States is 18 per cent less than at the same time last year and represent only 22 per cent of the Universal Membership. To address this, UNEP has sent renewed invitations to Member States to contribute.

Top 10 Contributors to the Environment Fund (January 2020 - June 2020)				Top 10 Contributors to the Earmarked Funds (January 2020 - June 2020)		
	Member States	**$ (million)**			**Member States**	**$ (million)**
1	Netherlands	8.82		1	Global Environment Facility	121.77
2	France	7.55		2	UN Agencies	19.37
3	Belgium	4.52		3	European Commission	14.66
4	Denmark	4.42		4	Norway	13.89
5	Sweden	4.41		5	Japan	11.16
6	United Kingdom	4.10		6	Green Climate Fund	9.48
7	Switzerland	4.02		7	Sweden	8.47
8	Germany	3.79		8	Germany	4.71
9	Norway	3.00		9	Denmark	3.02
10	Italy	2.77		10	Finance Initiative	2.74

3.2 Status of Allocations and Expenditures as at 30 June 2020

2020 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	8,500	2,018,500
B. 1	Executive Direction & Management	3,600,000	-	3,383,300	6,983,300
B. 2	United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR)	-	-	822,700	822,700
	Subtotal A + B	**5,600,000**	**10,000**	**4,214,500**	**9,824,500**
C	**Programme of Work**				
1.	Climate change	11,100,000	3,600,000	2,267,800	16,967,800
2.	Resilience to disasters and conflicts	7,800,000	500,000	1,543,500	9,843,500
3.	Healthy and productive ecosystems	14,000,000	1,050,000	2,649,600	17,699,600
4.	Environmental governance	13,100,000	1,050,000	4,547,000	18,697,000
5.	Chemicals, waste and air quality	11,700,000	1,500,000	1,809,200	15,009,200
6.	Resource efficiency	14,200,000	1,500,000	1,979,500	17,679,500
7.	Environment under review	11,500,000	200,000	3,136,500	14,836,500
	Subtotal C	**83,400,000**	**9,400,000**	**17,933,100**	**110,733,100**
D	**Fund Programme Reserve**	5,000,000			5,000,000
	Subtotal C + D	**88,400,000**	**9,400,000**	**17,933,100**	**115,733,100**
E	**Programme Management and Other**				
	Programme Support (United Nations Environment Programme Office for Operations; United Nations Office at Nairobi/United Nations Office at Geneva bills; After-service health insurance provision)	6,000,000	9,590,000	1,214,600	16,804,600
	Subtotal E	**6,000,000**	**9,590,000**	**1,214,600**	**16,804,600**
	Total (A+B+C+D+E)	**100,000,000**	**19,000,000**	**23,362,200**	**142,362,200**

2020 Core Budgets - Allocations as at 30 June 2020 ($)					
	Functional Area Name	Environment Fund	Overhead Trust Account	Regular Budget	Grand Total
A	Policy Making Organs	1,472,816	-	1,413	1,474,229
B. 1	Executive Direction & Management	3,076,585	-	3,355,217	6,431,802
B. 2	United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic radiation (UNSCEAR)	-	-	724,855	724,855
	Subtotal A + B	**4,549,401**		**4,081,485**	**8,630,886**
C	**Programme of Work**	**-**			
1.	Climate change	8,553,191	744,757	2,172,800	11,470,749
2.	Resilience to disasters and conflicts	4,602,565	691,702	1,482,750	6,777,017
3.	Healthy and productive ecosystems	7,071,228	1,189,191	2,551,738	10,812,157
4.	Environmental governance	8,665,409	980,987	4,435,350	14,081,746
5.	Chemicals, waste and air quality	6,612,107	525,685	1,713,948	8,851,740
6.	Resource efficiency	7,532,166	836,577	1,876,002	10,244,745
7.	Environment under review	5,953,599	137,176	2,914,995	9,005,770
	Subtotal C	**48,990,265**	**5,106,075**	**17,147,583**	**71,243,923**
D	**Fund Programme Reserve**	1,538,462	-	-	1,538,462
	Subtotal C + D	**50,528,727**	**5,106,075**	**17,147,583**	**72,782,385**
E	**Programme Management and Other**				
	Programme Support	4,921,873	12,549,808	1,202,029	18,673,710
	Subtotal E	**4,921,873**	**12,549,808**	**1,202,029**	**18,673,710**
	Total (A+B+C+D+E)	**60,000,000**	**17,655,883**	**22,431,097**	**100,086,980**

	Functional Area Name	Environment Fund	Overhead Trust Account	Regular Budget	Grand Total
A	Policy Making Organs	1,472,816	-	1,413	1,474,229
B. 1	Executive Direction & Management	3,076,585	-	3,355,217	6,431,802
B. 2	United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic radiation (UNSCEAR)	-	-	724,855	724,855
	Subtotal A + B	**4,549,401**		**4,081,485**	**8,630,886**
C	**Programme of Work**	**-**			
1.	Climate change	8,553,191	744,757	2,172,800	11,470,749
2.	Resilience to disasters and conflicts	4,602,565	691,702	1,482,750	6,777,017
3.	Healthy and productive ecosystems	7,071,228	1,189,191	2,551,738	10,812,157
4.	Environmental governance	8,665,409	980,987	4,435,350	14,081,746
5.	Chemicals, waste and air quality	6,612,107	525,685	1,713,948	8,851,740
6.	Resource efficiency	7,532,166	836,577	1,876,002	10,244,745
7.	Environment under review	5,953,599	137,176	2,914,995	9,005,770
	Subtotal C	**48,990,265**	**5,106,075**	**17,147,583**	**71,243,923**
D	**Fund Programme Reserve**	1,538,462	-	-	1,538,462
	Subtotal C + D	**50,528,727**	**5,106,075**	**17,147,583**	**72,782,385**
E	**Programme Management and Other**				
	Programme Support	4,921,873	12,549,808	1,202,029	18,673,710
	Subtotal E	**4,921,873**	**12,549,808**	**1,202,029**	**18,673,710**
	Total (A+B+C+D+E)	**60,000,000**	**17,655,883**	**22,431,097**	**100,086,980**

2020 Core Budgets - Expenditures as at 30 June 2020					
	Functional Area Name	Environment Fund	Overhead Trust Account	Regular Budget	Grand Total
A	Policy Making Organs	783,356	-		783,356
B. 1	Executive Direction & Management	1,564,940	-	1,474,485	3,039,424
B. 2	United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR)	-	-	341,691	341,691
	Subtotal A + B	**2,348,296**	**-**	**1,816,176**	**4,164,472**
C	**Programme of Work**				
1.	Climate change	4,401,388	238,885	990,077	5,630,350
2.	Resilience to disasters and conflicts	2,363,274	196,543	639,392	3,199,210
3.	Healthy and productive ecosystems	3,613,799	322,553	1,066,523	5,002,876
4.	Environmental governance	3,817,082	158,591	2,062,628	6,038,301
5.	Chemicals, waste and air quality	4,039,721	649,688	889,547	5,578,957
6.	Resource efficiency	4,247,243	444,639	810,073	5,501,955
7.	Environment under review	3,198,393	88,666	1,057,310	4,344,368
	Subtotal C	**25,680,900**	**2,099,566**	**7,515,551**	**35,296,017**
D	**Fund Programme Reserve**	558,298	-	-	558,298
	Subtotal C + D	**26,239,197**	**2,099,566**	**7,515,551**	**35,854,314**
E	**Programme Management and Other**				
	Programme Support	2,928,389	4,652,237	556,909	8,137,535
	Subtotal E	**2,928,389**	**4,652,237**	**556,909**	**8,137,535**
	Total (A+B+C+D+E)	**31,515,883**	**6,751,803**	**9,888,636**	**48,156,322**

3.3 Resource Mobilisation Strategy

With reference to UNEA decision UNEP/EA.4/1[87], and as part of the ongoing discussions on UNEP's funding challenges, Member States were invited to participate in a survey to seek their views on the factors that encourage or discourage contributions. Based on the results, a proposal will be included in the Action Plan for the Implementation of Paragraph 88b of the Rio+20 Outcome document to be presented to the annual subcommittee meeting in October 2020.

To provide more visibility to the funding challenges and the importance of core and flexible funding, the Secretariat will roll out a communication and outreach campaign with the aim of increasing funding to the Environment Fund, and encouraging more Member States to contribute at their "fair share" or Voluntary Indicative Scale of Contributions (VISC) level.

3.4 Human Resources Overview

General Overview

As of 30 June 2020, UNEP employed 1246 staff members consisting of 742 (59.5%) in the professional and higher categories, 6 (0.5%) in the National Professional Officer (NPO) category and 498 (40%) in the general service category. There are 764 (61%) female, and 482 (39%) male. staff members.

Senior level staff for Secretariat and Multilateral Environment Agreements.

Total staff members at grade P-5 and above as of 30 June 2020.

Level	USG	ASG	D-2	D-1	P-5
No. of staff	1	3	9	49	137

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

Senior Appointments

The following senior staff appointments were made from April to June 2020.

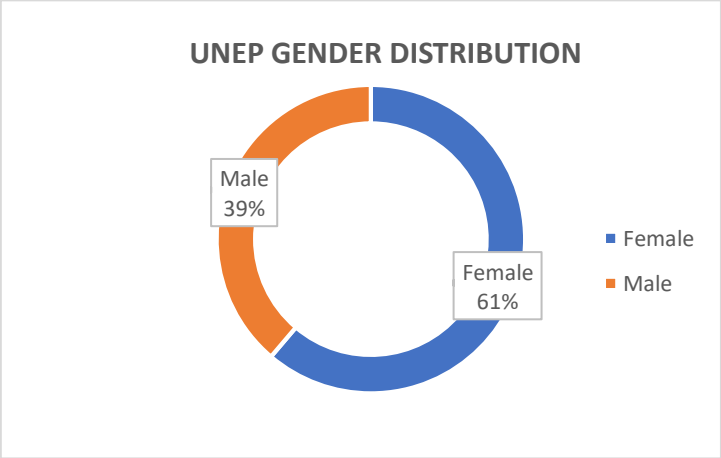
Position Title	Grade	Gender	Nationality	Division/Office
Executive Secretary	ASG	Female	Tanzania	Secretariat for the Convention on Biological Diversity
Senior Programme Management Officer	P-5	Female	Sweden	Office of the Chef de Cabinet
Chief of Section, Public Information	P-5	Female	India	Communications Division

[87] UNEP/EA.4/1: Programme of work and budget for the biennium 2020-2021.

Gender Parity Status

The Gender Parity Status in the first quarter and second quarter of the year 2020 remains the same.

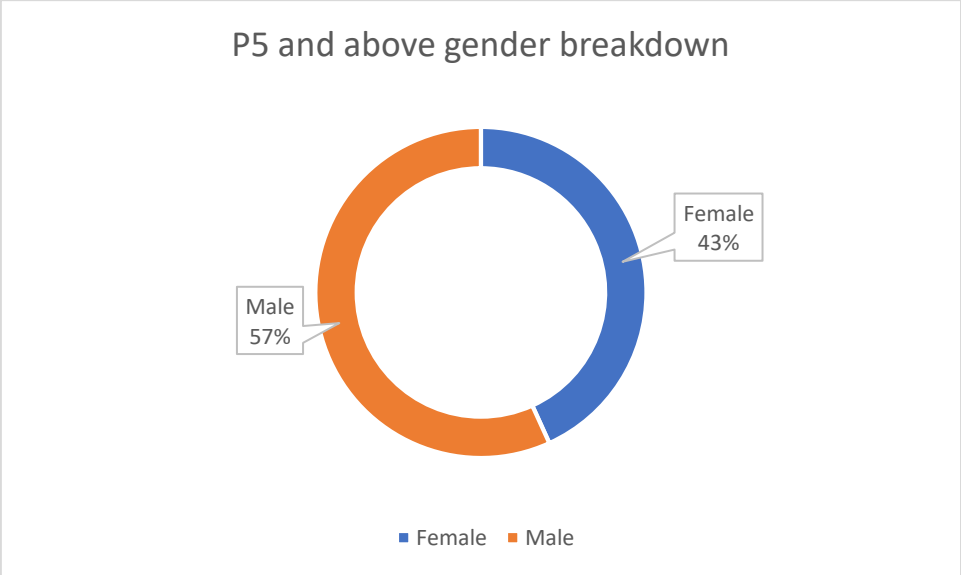
Secretariat												
Gender	USG	ASG	D-2	D-1	P-5	P-4	P-3	P-2	Professional & Above	NPO	GS	Grand Total
Female	1	1	3	14	43	78	99	57	296	3	259	558
Male		1	2	25	57	96	58	24	263	3	92	358
Multilateral Environmental Agreements												
Gender	USG	ASG	D-2	D-1	P-5	P-4	P-3	P-2	Professional & Above	NPO	GS	Grand Total
Female		1	2	5	16	29	28	14	95	0	111	206
Male			2	5	21	24	21	15	88	0	36	124
TOTAL	1	3	9	49	137	227	206	110	742	6	498	1246



Gender status for P5 and above for UNEP Secretariat and MEAs as at 30 June 2020

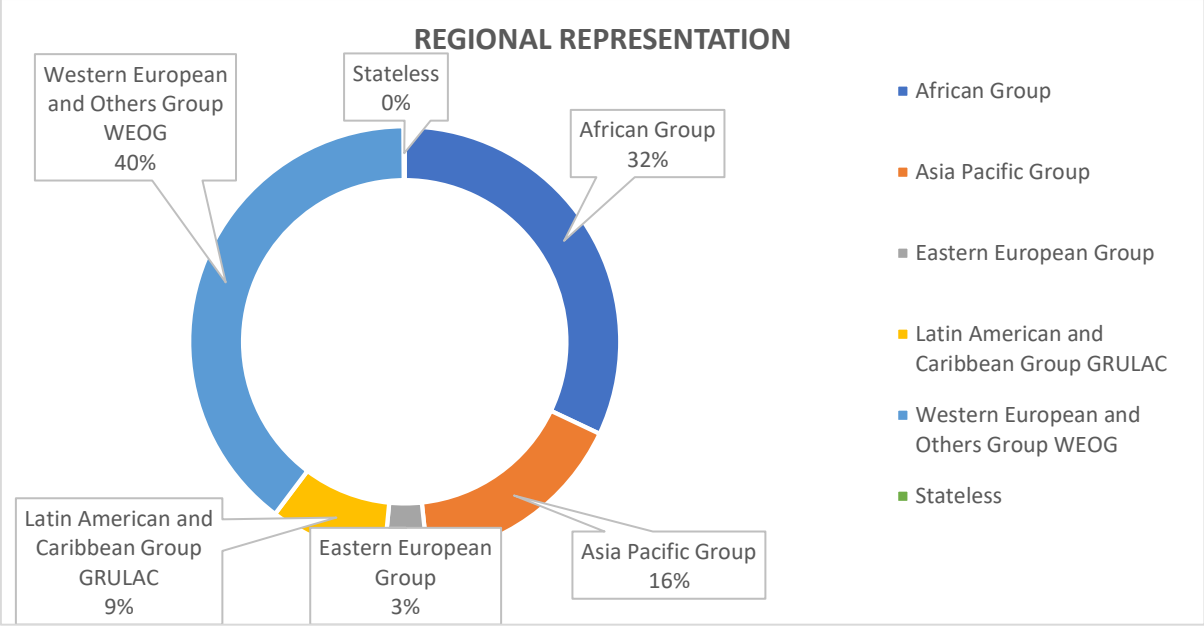
Gender	USG	ASG	D-2	D-1	P-5	Total
Female	1	2	5	19	59	**86**
Male		1	4	30	78	**113**
Total	**1**	**3**	**9**	**49**	**137**	**199**
Female	100%	67%	56%	39%	43%	**43%**
Male	0%	33%	44%	61%	57%	**57%**

Gender breakdown, P5 and above as of 30 June 2020



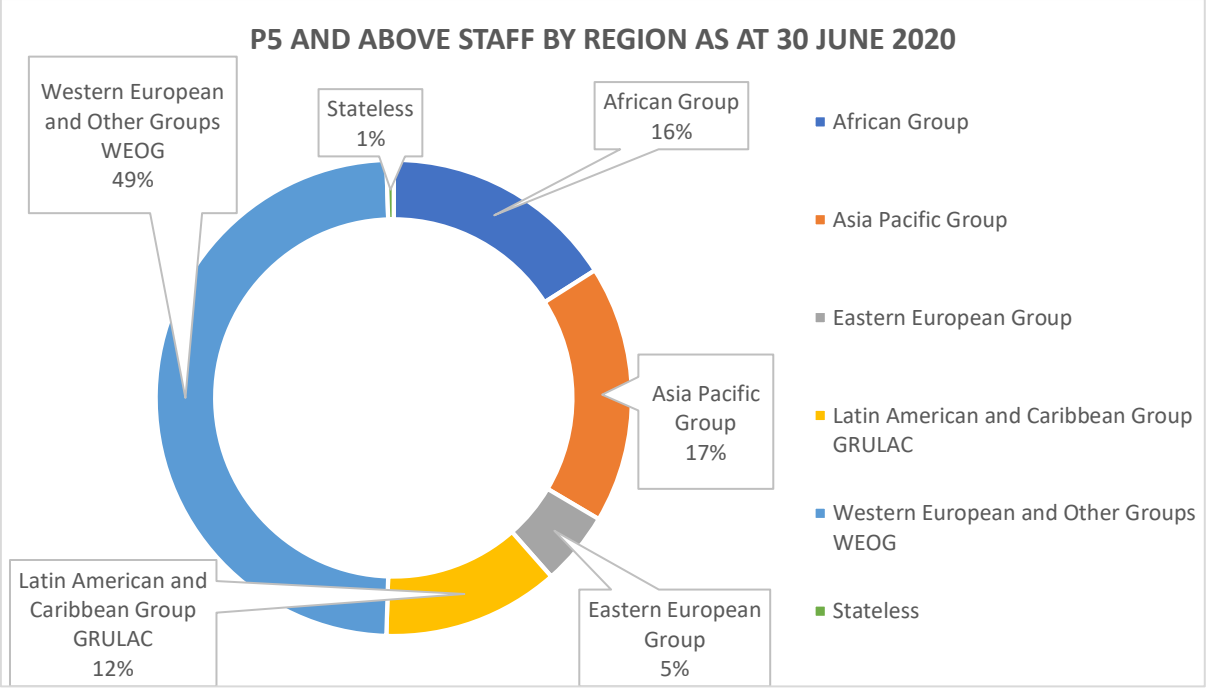
Regional Representation of staff (UNEP and MEAs) as of 30 June 2020

Region	Grand Total
African Group	399
Asia Pacific Group	203
Eastern European Group	40
Latin American and Caribbean Group (GRULAC)	109
Stateless	1
Western European and Others Group (WEOG)	494
Grand Total	**1246**



Regional representation P5 and above (Secretariat and MEAs)

Region	Total
African Group	32
Asia Pacific Group	35
Eastern European Group	10
Latin American and Caribbean Group GRULAC	24
Western European and Other Groups WEOG	98
Stateless	1
Grand Total	**199**



Key human resources risk and issues

In line with the Secretary-General's system-wide Gender Parity Strategy and UNEP'S Gender Parity Implementation Plan, progress has resulted and remains in a 61:39 female to male ratio. There is the need to further balance recruitment of both senior level (42:58 female to male ratio) and general service staff (74:26 female to male ratio) within the Secretariat.

3.5 Audits

Office of Internal Oversight Services

The implementation of the recommendations of Audits already completed by the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS), and the development of audit assignments planned for 2020 are ongoing.

A. Ongoing OIOS audits

1. Management of Partnerships at UNEP
2. Management of Data Classification and Data Privacy at UNON, UNEP and UN-HABITAT
3. Grants Management at UNON, UNEP and UN-HABITAT

B. Implementation of recommendations of completed OIOS audits[88]

1. Recruitment Process at UNEP [89]
2. UNEP Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity [90]
3. UNEP Afghanistan Project Office [91]
4. Official travel at UNEP [92]
5. UNEP's Abidjan Convention Secretariat [93]
6. UNEP's Asia and the Pacific Office [94]
7. Resource Efficiency Sub-Programme [95]
8. Environmental Governance subprogramme [96]
9. Caribbean Environment Programme [97]

Board of Auditors

The Board of Auditors team from China will conduct the Interim Audit (2020 Interim Audit) of UNEP Headquarters starting in September.

The audit of the UNEP financial statements commenced on 13 April 2020 and was completed in May 2020. The final report for 2019 has been provided to UNEP and is now being published as an official report to the UN General Assembly.

The implementation of the recommendations of Audits already completed by the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS), and the development of audit assignments planned for 2020 are ongoing.

[88] All UNEP specific reports can be found here, or via the OIOS reports section – select for UNEP.
[89] https://oios.un.org/file/8450/download?token=mMcoeJJM
[90] https://oios.un.org/file/8094/download?token=blwEvwsg
[91] https://oios.un.org/file/7508/download?token=AGngDa7P
[92] https://oios.un.org/file/7283/download?token=FiVPFxu2v
[93] https://oios.un.org/file/7019/download?token=nz-_Ehs1
[94] https://oios.un.org/file/6986/download?token=SNM9Eu-S
[95] https://oios.un.org/file/6365/download?token=J0EsYS9L
96 https://oios.un.org/file/6197/download?token=oWmAWD_Q
[97] https://oios.un.org/file/5675/download?token=VUSK8Y5t

3.6 Evaluations

Ongoing and completed evaluations

During the reporting period:

- **Three** project evaluations were completed.
- **Twenty-Five** project evaluations are currently active and ongoing.

In the context of the current pandemic, evaluations that are either desk-based or have completed their field mission / data collection phases prior to COVID-19 travel restrictions have continued as normal. Other project evaluations have been postponed awaiting more favourable public health conditions or are proceeding in a limited manner with only desk-based preparatory work being conducted; before the evaluation is placed on hold prior to the initiation of field mission/ data collection phases.

Key Findings

Selected findings and learning points from completed past strategic evaluations of relevance to inform the MTS 2022 - 2025 preparation process were distilled and communicated in-house during the reporting period. Some of the issues and lessons included:

Strengthen the Theory of Change of the Sub-Programmes so that they can better inform strategic thinking and operational planning by:

- Making longer term results levels in the Theory of Change consistent with levels in current Medium-Term Strategy Outcome Mapping.
- Continue to establish strong alignment/links in causal pathways with the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Ensure causal pathways on the science-policy interface are properly articulated.
- Incorporate thinking on disruptive innovation approaches.
- Include communication and capacity building more explicitly within the Sub-programme Theory of Change.

Strengthen the clarity of purpose, and the shared cross-UNEP understanding of and approach to:

- Regional strategic presence, and how each Sub-Programme works with regional, sub-regional and country offices.
- Communications at corporate, programme and project levels.
- Knowledge management at corporate, programme and project levels.
- Innovation and attitudes to risk in the UNEP Programme of Work.