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Review of the implementation in Asia and the Pacific of the resolutions adopted by the United Nations Environment Assembly and secretarial functions

Discussion Document-Not for quotation or citation: The purpose of this document is to facilitate discussions during the Sixth Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities of Asia Pacific, 26-29 August 2025. Comments are welcome and should be sent to unep-apmf@un.org.

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I. Introduction

1. The Senior Officials' Meeting at the Sixth Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities of Asia Pacific (APMF6) will review progress of the implementation of United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) resolutions in Asia and the Pacific. This session will also review the progress of other regional forums where the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is the secretariat.
2. This background paper has four main sections. The first section is the introduction. The second section provides an update on the implementation of selected resolutions in the Asia Pacific region. The third section presents secretarial functions of UNEP Asia and the Pacific Office. The fourth section provides information on the seventh session of UNEA (UNEA-7), scheduled to be held on 8-12 December 2025.

II. Implementation of United Nations Environment Assembly Resolutions in Asia and the Pacific

3. This section outlines the follow-up on implementation in Asia Pacific of certain resolutions adopted by the United Nations Environment Assembly. These resolutions are grouped according to UNEP's mid-term structure and alignment with the Triple Planetary Crisis.

1.0 CLIMATE ACTION

4. This section of the report highlights UNEP's ongoing climate change initiatives in Asia and the Pacific, along with new projects and actions launched since January 2023 onward. UNEP's current climate change portfolio includes concrete on-ground adaptation actions (plantation, restoration, management of ecosystem and ecosystem services etc.) to build resilience and mitigation (e-mobility, installation of renewable energy and energy efficiency etc.) actions to reduce greenhouse gases. The portfolio further supports countries in strengthening early warning systems and institutional capacity building for informed decision-making as well as requirements to the Paris Agreement and the Convention. Current funding envelopes exceed USD 130 million and support more than 25 countries¹. These efforts also support the implementation of UNEA Resolution 4/3 on Sustainable Mobility, and 2/6 on Supporting the Paris Agreement.

1.1 Resolution 4/3 Sustainable Mobility

Cleaner Fuels and Vehicles

¹ Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Cook Islands, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Kiribati, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Nauru, Nepal, Niue, Pakistan, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Sri Lanka, Thailand, The Philippines, The Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Viet Nam.

5. UNEP undertook a capacity-building initiatives in Mongolia in November 2023 and organized a total of four workshops during 2023 to 2025 in Cambodia that have strengthened regulations on used vehicles, with ongoing stakeholder engagement ensuring smooth adoption.

Non-motorized Transport

6. UNEP supported the “Empowering Sustainable Mobility: Low Emission, Inclusive and Active Transport in Indonesia” workshop in July 2024 under the ACTIVE programme (funded by the Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management), which featured sessions on global perspectives on active mobility, capacity building for walking and cycling, and integrated approaches linking active mobility with public transport. UNEP is collaborating with GIZ to establish a baseline of the status of active mobility in Asian countries by assessing road fatalities, infrastructure quality, access to public transport, modal share, and policy frameworks.

Electric Mobility

7. UNEP has mobilized USD 12.18² million from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) since January 2023 to support the governments of India, Fiji, the Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, and Vanuatu, using these funds to strengthen policies and standards for electric vehicle adoption, enhance waste management frameworks for batteries, pilot innovative e-mobility solutions (such as e-buses, e-bikes, and renewable energy-based charging infrastructure), and partner with major financing institutions. UNEP has secured approximately USD 8³ million to support a global programme on the management of end-of-life electric vehicles and end-of-life EV batteries, thereby promoting safe disposal practices and circular economy principles within the e-mobility sector.
8. UNEP has provided targeted support to Vietnam, the Philippines, Malaysia, and Thailand for the electrification of two- and three-wheelers by assessing national vehicle fuel efficiency baselines and uptake projections, developing policies focused on technical standards, manufacturing, and fiscal and policy incentives, demonstrating electric two- and three- wheelers, and integrating these projects into the national framework for Measuring, Reporting, and Verifying (MRV).
9. UNEP has initiated an ASEAN project targeting capacity building and the development of a regional roadmap for electric heavy-duty vehicles (HDVs) to transition high-emitting vehicles to cleaner alternatives across the region in collaboration with the Land Transport Working Group with Thailand as the lead country of the project. UNEP is implementing an Electric Mobility and Gender project to support Indonesia and Vietnam in promoting better availability of gender-disaggregated data on electric mobility and enhancing female representation in the e-mobility sector.

² For 2024 – 2029 period.

³ For 2025 – 2029 period.

10. Additionally, UNEP has engaged with key clean fuel vehicle stakeholders (including industry associations and the private sector) and supported the development of a proposal for the East Africa Vehicle Emission Control Environmental Management Project, submitted to the Global Development and South-South Cooperation Fund (GDF) under China's International Development Cooperation Agency.

1.2 Resolution 2/6 Supporting the Paris Agreement

National Adaptation Plan (NAP)

11. In Asia and the Pacific region, UNEP has mobilized funds from the Green Climate Fund (GCF) (USD 11.75⁴ million) and GEF (USD 4⁵ million) to support the formulation of National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) aimed at reducing vulnerability and integrating climate change into planning and budgeting processes, including the development of a financing strategy for implementation of NAP.
 - a. Nepal (in 2021) and Mongolia (in 2025) have successfully formulated and submitted their NAPs to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
 - b. Pakistan, Lao PDR (supported by GEF), and the Maldives are in the process of formulating their NAPs and are expected to submit them to the UNFCCC in 2025 and 2026.
12. Since January 2023, UNEP has mobilized funds from the GEF (USD 14.2⁶ million) to implement ecosystem-based adaptation approaches aimed at reducing the vulnerability of communities, agricultural systems, and land management practices.
 - a. In Tuvalu (USD 4.4 million), the initiative focuses on introducing climate-resilient agricultural practices, including raised concrete beds for pulaka and other crops, intercropping, soil remediation, the introduction of salt-tolerant crop species, and the restoration and conservation of degraded ecosystems.
 - b. In Timor-Leste (USD 9.8 million), the project aims to enhance national and sub-national adaptation planning, restore ecosystems in water catchments, develop and implement sustainable agricultural management systems, and expand climate-smart agribusiness initiatives.
13. In addition, UNEP has mobilized funds⁷ from the GEF and GCF to support the implementation of ecosystem-based adaptation in Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Nepal, Thailand, and Vietnam. Some key achievements of these projects include:
 - a. In Nepal, UNEP has supported the restoration of 476 hectares of degraded forest, 208 hectares of rangeland, and 148 hectares of terraced land. In addition, a pilot rainwater harvesting and groundwater recharge system was installed in a public building in Kathmandu.

⁴ For 2018 – 2025 period.

⁵ For 2021 – 2027 period.

⁶ For 2024 – 2028 period.

⁷ For 2020 – 2027 period.

- b. UNEP's support has benefited 32 income-generating groups by fostering community livelihoods through various activities, including potato chip processing, beekeeping, farming, and bamboo handicraft production across rural municipalities.
- c. An urban ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) technical guideline has been developed to support the planning, design, implementation, and maintenance of urban EbA initiatives in the Kathmandu Valley. This guideline is intended to build the capacity of government officials, stakeholders, and partners.

Climate Information and Early Warning Systems

- 14. Since January 2023, UNEP has been supporting Kiribati, the Maldives, the Kingdom of Bhutan, Timor-Leste, Nauru, and Nepal in accessing USD 41.4⁸ million from the Systematic Observations Financing Facility (SOFF) to support the generation and international sharing of basic weather and climate observations, of which funding for the Maldives, Bhutan, and Kiribati has already been approved and under implementation. UNEP has also supported countries' access to finance from GCF. This includes USD 21.7⁹ million for Timor-Leste (July 2022); as well as USD 49.9¹⁰ million for the Cook Islands, Niue, Palau, Republic of the Marshall Islands, and Tuvalu (September 2021). These funds support countries to:
 - a. Enhance the availability of reliable scientific climate data and information for better assessment and improved decision-making.
 - b. Deliver timely and relevant information on weather and climate hazards, enabling people to make informed decisions and take action to reduce disaster risks.
- 15. In addition, UNEP has accessed project preparatory funding (USD 345K) and secured approximately USD 25¹¹ million from the Green Climate Fund for the Maldives to strengthen climate services and impact-based multi-hazard early warning systems. All the above initiatives are actively contributing to the UN Secretary General's Early Warning for All¹² initiative.

Gender responsive climate policy actions

- 16. UNEP and UN Women mobilized USD 29.15¹³ million for the EmPower: Women for Climate-Resilient Societies Phase II¹⁴ project from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), New Zealand, and Germany for Bangladesh, Cambodia, Vietnam, Indonesia, and the Philippines. The initiative aims to increase gender-responsive action on climate change adaptation and mitigation, build the capacity of women and key environmental actors in climate and disaster risk reduction (DRR) decision-making, and secure climate-resilient livelihoods for women and marginalized groups. Key Results:

⁸ For 2024 – 2029 period.

⁹ For 2021 – 2027 period.

¹⁰ For 2021 – 2027 period.

¹¹ For 2025 – 2029 period.

¹² <https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/early-warnings-for-all>

¹³ For 2023 – 2027 period.

¹⁴ <https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/focus-areas/humanitarian-action-and-disaster-risk-reduction/gender-and-climate-change>

- a. Conducted market assessments in Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Vietnam to identify appropriate low-carbon technologies for scaling climate-resilient livelihoods in the Asia-Pacific region.
- b. Identified 20 renewable energy or low-carbon technologies and systems across six categories: biomass, fuel switching, energy efficiency, solar PV, solar thermal, and other emerging technologies.
- c. As of 2024, successfully mobilized USD 19.45 million for clean technologies, including contributions from financial institutions in Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Vietnam. The program has also benefited from engaging the UN Resident Coordinator system to promote the initiative, particularly in Vietnam.
- d. The program is expected to result in a potential reduction of 300,000 tonnes of CO₂ equivalent emissions over the expected lifetime of the interventions.

United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (UN-REDD Programme)

- 17. In 2023 and 2025, through UN-REDD Programme, UNEP has supported Indonesia, Cambodia, Viet Nam, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, and Lao PDR at both national and subnational levels strengthening the institutional arrangements and capacities to access REDD+ results-based finance. This support includes technical assistance on safeguards, options to access results-based finance, and Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) implementation, including capacity building on Article 6. Dedicated support has also been provided to small and medium-sized enterprises in the forestry and land use sector to grow their business and access finance.
- 18. Moving forward, efforts need to be scaled up to fully realize the mitigation potential of forests by halting and reversing deforestation by 2030. These efforts include addressing degradation, promoting conservation, and managing carbon stocks, thereby contributing to averting climate crises and related planetary crises. Specifically, the goal of UN-REDD is to continue supporting countries and other key actors in achieving systemic and transformative changes in governance, policies, and incentives in the forest and land sector to fulfill this vision.

Net-Zero Nature Positive

- 19. UNEP has mobilized approximately USD 24 million for Thailand and Indonesia from the GEF for a Net Zero, Nature-Positive Transition, along with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) respectively. These initiatives have been approved by the GEF, and activities are likely to commence during 2025 and 2026.

Sustainable Cities

20. UNEP mobilized USD 19.1¹⁵ million in collaboration with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in November 2021 for India to promote the scale-up of integrated planning practices and enhance action and ambition in sustainable urban development through knowledge sharing and capacity-building across all Indian cities. UNEP partnered with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) and the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) to implement this project.
21. Additionally, UNEP has mobilized USD 1.16 million for Bangladesh and India to deliver integrated solutions aimed at reducing carbon emissions and increasing resilience in buildings. This initiative will enhance collaboration and coordination among stakeholders in the buildings and construction value chain while raising the ambition for decarbonizing the building sector through national strategies and policies.

Finance Mobilization

22. UNEP's Financial Initiative (UNEP FI) works with a network of over 100 financial institutions in Asia Pacific to build capacities and awareness on the Principles for Responsible Banking (PRB) and the Principles for Sustainable Insurance (PSI). Under this initiative: UNEP facilitated dialogue: on the fourth edition of the Global Ethical Finance Initiative (GEFI)'s Ethical Finance ASEAN 2025 in Jakarta with the ASIAN Institute of Chartered Banker on Online Summit (19 February), The theme explored the themes of inclusive economic growth, resilience and sustainability in regional finance, green innovation and climate financing, and ASEAN's role in global economic stability. Ms. Gita Sabharwal, UN Resident Coordinator, Indonesia and Ms. Rima Dwi Permata Sari, the Head of ESG Division – Bank Syariah Indonesia chaired the sessions; Workshop on Green and Climate Financing – Experience Sharing on Issues, Challenges and the Way Ahead with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) addressing the significant challenge faced by India in its transition to a low-carbon and climate-resilient economy through strategies for mobilizing green and climate finance in India, drawing on international best practices and addressing the specific challenges and opportunities within the Indian context. The panel featured practitioners from Standard Chartered, Maybank, MUFG Bank Ltd (MUFG), the Development Bank of Singapore Limited (DBS) and Société Générale to share their experiences and insights.
- UNEP mobilized funds for incubating 50 commercially viable, climate resilient, and socially responsible early-stage SMEs under the Restoration Factory Bangladesh project. A call was launched for entrepreneurs and mentors on March 24th, 2025, to incubate SMEs focused on climate mitigation, climate adaptation, and ecosystem restoration impact. The initiative is being implemented in partnership with Bridge for Billions and iDE (International Development Enterprises) Bangladesh. The Restoration Factory Bangladesh will provide mentoring, technical expert sessions, business development tools, entrepreneurial ecosystem (e.g. investors) connection to the entrepreneurs, and thus strengthen climate finance pipelines. An online workshop session is planned for April 15th to inform interested entrepreneurs.

¹⁵ For 2022 – 2027 period.

- UNEP under its Tropical Landscapes Grant Fund (TLGF) initiative helps sustainable land use ventures to improve their chances of securing private sector financing. UNEP, through funds provided by Government of Canada, and in partnership with BPSKL Maluku Papua, has supported Sinar Hijau Ventures (SHV) in connecting Laturake villagers to sustainable markets for marketing non-timber forest products. The village helps protect 477 hectares of social forestry, preserving its rich natural resources. The project also supported the establishment of solar dryers to ensure better crop preservation. Further, Training programs will further equip farmers with sustainable practices.

Capacity Building for Transparency

23. UNEP has mobilized USD 7.7¹⁶ million from the GEF for Thailand, Maldives, Fiji, Laos, and Malaysia to:
 - a) Enhance countries' Measurement, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) capacity to track and transparently report on NDC implementation, resultant GHG emissions, and climate finance received.
 - b) Strengthen institutional and human capacity to enable countries to regularly prepare accurate sectoral GHG inventories and transparently track and report on their mitigation and adaptation actions.
24. In 2025, GEF has approved approximately USD 3.0¹⁷ million capacity building for transparency for Cook Islands and Tonga and similar projects are being developed in response to requests from Samoa, Palau, Tuvalu, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands, with implementation expected to begin in 2025.

Biennial Transparency Report/National Communication

25. Since January 2023, UNEP mobilized USD 6.56¹⁸ million for Bangladesh, Fiji, Kiribati, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Vietnam to develop and submit biennial transparency Report/National Communication and support national governments in fulfilling their essential communication requirements to the Convention.

Decarbonization

26. UNEP within the framework of the Cool Coalition with its partners including United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) and others has been supporting ASEAN countries particularly Vietnam, Cambodia and Indonesia. Support includes piloting National Cooling Action Plan Methodology, passive cooling in buildings, urban design and Nature based Solutions in cities to tackle extreme heat and mobilize finance. UNEP has also been supporting Vietnam and Cambodia to integrate cooling into their updated NDCs.

¹⁶ For 2020 – 2027 period.

¹⁷ For 2025 – 2029 period.

¹⁸ For 2023 – 2028 period.

2.0 NATURE ACTION

2.1 **Resolution 6/14 Strengthening international efforts to combat desertification and land degradation, restore degraded land, promote land conservation and sustainable land management, contribute to land degradation neutrality and enhance drought resilience; Resolution 5/6 Biodiversity and Health**

27. In October 2021 during the 15th Conference of Parties to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP15), China announced an initiative to establish the KBF, taking the lead by investing 1.5 billion yuan (\$233 million). In this context, the Kunming Biodiversity Fund (KBF) was launched in Beijing in May 2024¹⁹ to support biodiversity conservation in developing countries and contribute to the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF). The fund is co-led by China and UNEP. UNEP has also been supporting efforts of member states in the region in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, including through a GEF Global Biodiversity Framework Early Action Support Programme, GEF Enabling Support project, as well as the NBSAP Accelerator Partnership, led by Germany and Colombia with UNEP, UNDP and the CBD Secretariat. UNEP collaborated with CBD, SPREP the Government of Fiji, as well as FAO in organizing the sub-regional Dialogue on National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) for Pacific Island countries, in Nadi, Fiji from 18-26 March 2024. The dialogue, which was attended by 15 countries from the Pacific region, facilitated the sharing of experiences and mutual learning related to the updating and revision of NBSAPs in alignment with the Kunming-Montreal GBF, as well as providing information to countries on existing tools and initiatives that can support their efforts towards implementing the GBF.
28. UNEP, in collaboration with the World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), FAO, UNDP, WHO and other partners have developed an approach and draft materials to support countries in better integrating and aligning policies for biodiversity, health, food systems and climate change. This approach is being piloted in Lao PDR and Indonesia. In 2024, a policy alignment mapping exercise and a multi-stakeholder workshop were conducted in Lao PDR, bringing together representatives from biodiversity, environment, agriculture, food systems, public health, and climate change sectors.
29. In the Asia-Pacific region, UNEP is actively engaged, as part of the Asia-Pacific Quadripartite Alliance for One Health (together with FAO, WHO and the World Organization for Animal Health), in the efforts towards strengthening environmental dimensions of One Health initiatives. Specifically, the Asia-Pacific Quadripartite Alliance partners have been supporting member states in the region in the roll out of the One Health Joint Plan of Action, which partly focuses on the integration of environmental dimensions into One Health. The support also contributes to the implementation of the CBD's Global Action Plan on Biodiversity and Health, adopted at CBD COP16 in 2024. As part of the collective efforts of the Asia-Pacific Quadripartite Alliance, a project focused on supporting ASEAN member states on the implementation of One Health

¹⁹ <https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/statements/investing-nature-through-kunming-biodiversity-fund>

initiatives, funded by the UK FCDO was initiated in 2024 and will be implemented for the coming years.

30. One Health Meetings for Pacific Island Countries were co-convened by the Pacific Community (SPC), the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Quadripartite partners (FAO, UNEP, WHO and WOA) in Nadi, Fiji from 5 to 9 August 2024. Three meetings were held back-to-back, including: 1) One Health and Security for the Pacific (led by ADB); 2) Quadripartite-Pacific Community One Health workshop (led by Quadripartite Partners); and 3) Climate and Health Workshop (led by SPC). In total, representatives of 11 countries from human health, animal health and environment sectors, including environment ministry representatives of 7 countries, supported by UNEP, attended the meeting. The meeting resulted in enhanced understanding of the Pacific Island Countries on the One Health Joint Plan of Action and the environmental dimension of One Health. The workshop also generated key recommendations, which will serve as a basis for the further efforts of One Health in the Pacific region.
31. UNEP has also supported countries in the region in strengthening the environmental dimensions of the efforts towards sustainable food systems. A Workshop on “Concretizing actions toward agrifood systems transformation for Pacific Small Island Developing States” was held jointly by UNEP and FAO on 24-26 July 2024 in Nadi, Fiji. The workshop was attended by 11 Pacific Island Countries, including environment ministry representatives from six countries (Fiji, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Palau, Nauru and Cook Island), who discussed how to translate food systems national pathways into action plans, with a strong focus on environmental dimensions and strengthened nexus with climate and nature actions. Furthermore, the UN Food Systems Summit (UNFSS+4) Regional Preparatory Meeting for Asia and the Pacific was held from 3-5 March at the UN Conference Centre in Bangkok. The meeting was held by the UN Food Systems Coordination Hub, Economic Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), and FAO, supported by the members of the Asia-Pacific UN Coordination Group on Food Systems including UNEP. The meeting was attended by food systems national conveners from 24 countries in the region, as well as representatives of civil society and other partners including international financial institutions. It is the first regional preparatory meeting held as a lead up to the UNFSS+4 to be held in Addis Ababa in July 2025, and contributed to developing a strong regional narrative, which will be compiled into a comprehensive regional report to feed into the UNFSS+4. UNEP’s contributions specifically focused on scaling-up financing for agrifood systems transformation and strengthening the convergence between food systems and nature action.
32. Supported by the International Climate Initiative (IKI), UNEP-WCMC and the ASEAN Center for Biodiversity are working with countries to strengthen national capacities for monitoring the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. A capacity needs assessment was initiated with Lao PDR in 2024, one of the pilot countries for the project.
33. Bhutan, Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Vietnam have received support under the Sustaining an Abundance of Forest and Ecosystems (SAFE) Initiative, funded by the Korea Forest

Service (KFS), to pilot forest restoration efforts. This includes the development of country-specific forest restoration implementation plans and site-specific Community Forest Management Plans to guide restoration activities on the ground.

2.2 Resolution 6/15 Strengthening Ocean efforts to tackle climate change, marine biodiversity loss and pollution; Resolution 4/11 Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities

34. Building and Enhancing Sectoral and Cross-Sectoral Capacity to Support Sustainable Resource Use and Biodiversity Conservation in Marine Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ) aims to strengthen the capacity of national governments, as well as relevant regional and global entities, to address shared challenges in ABNJ. The project promotes cooperation, coordination, and effective exchange of knowledge to support sustainable resource use and biodiversity conservation. This includes the application of cross-sectoral approaches, area-based management tools, and the conduct of environmental and strategic environmental assessments, in alignment with existing and emerging legal frameworks and global processes, such as the new Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) Agreement.
35. As part of the global National Ecosystem Assessment Initiative—coordinated by UNEP-WCMC in collaboration with UNESCO, UNDP, and the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Network (BES-Net)—Thailand’s national ecosystem assessment (NEA) is being led by Chulalongkorn University in partnership with the Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning. In 2024, the team released the Scoping Report and began drafting the first assessment report, which synthesizes knowledge and evidence on marine and coastal biodiversity and ecosystem services and provides policy recommendations to guide future conservation, restoration, and management efforts.
36. UNEP has been supporting India, Thailand, Maldives, Philippines and Viet Nam to develop and implement Global Environment Facility-funded initiatives that focused on sustainable management of natural capital and sustainable blue economy transition processes, through the application of natural capital accounting. In Maldives, a GEF-funded project has been implemented, which aims to support a blue economic growth model through natural capital assessment and valuation in Laamu Atoll. In the Philippines, a project has been developed, which applies natural capital accounting to improve the financial sustainability of protected areas and landscapes by mainstreaming the values of biodiversity and natural capital in government planning, especially for eco-tourism development. In Vietnam, a GEF-funded project has been developed which focuses on developing the national institutional system, data and monitoring for application of natural capital accounting for supporting a sustainable blue economy with focused interventions in Quang Ninh Province. Similar efforts are ongoing, funded the GEF, in India and Thailand as well.

2.3 Resolution 5/4 Sustainable Lake Management

37. UNEP has made notable progress in advancing sustainable lake management (SLM). Key activities included the launch of the Sustainable Lake Management (SLM) portal on World Water Day 2023, providing valuable resources, including a Massive Open Online Course (MOOC), technical notes, and videos on sustainable lake management. Additionally, UNEP has engaged in strategic collaborations with the International Lake Environment Committee Foundation (ILEC) and the World Water Quality Alliance (WWQA), facilitating knowledge sharing and capacity-building. UNEP's involvement in the World Water Forum 2024 in Bali provided a platform to advocate lake protection and to share best practices. A major opportunity is Indonesia's announcement of a Centre of Excellence for Water and Climate Resilience, which will help facilitate collaboration in the region.

2.4 Resolution 5/5 Nature-based Solutions for supporting sustainable development; Resolution 4/12 Sustainable Management for Global Health of Mangrove; Resolution 4/13 Sustainable coral reefs management; Resolution 4/16 Conservation and Sustainable Management of Peatlands

38. UNEP-WCMC is collaborating with the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) and Yangzhou City, one of the Model Cities under the Generation Restoration initiative. CAS and Yangzhou City, with technical support from UNEP-WCMC, are studying the impacts and potential of urban ecological restoration in the city, with a focus on organic waste management and Nature-based Solutions (NbS).
39. COBSEA, through the Reef World Foundation and Coral Triangle Center, implemented the Blue Natural Capital Financing Facility project entitled "Unlocking Sustainable Marine Tourism Businesses Using Green Fins as a Resource for Marine Protected Area (MPA) Conservation." in Bali, Indonesia. The project has provided training to 6 locals in conducting assessments of scuba dive resorts in compliance with global sustainable tourism standards called Green Fins. As a result, 22 dive operators being assessed as Green Fins compliant, 3 of which are gold standard compliant. Over 230 individuals also attended public awareness campaigns in scuba dive tourism standards. The project is currently improving practices in scuba diving and therefore preventing harmful physical damage to the industry to coral reefs on the island.
40. Since 2017, the UNEP/GEF project entitled "Implementing the Strategic Action Programme for the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand" has been implemented in Cambodia, China, Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam, with regional dimensions on cooperation and governance. The project aims to ensure sustainable management of 860,000 hectares of mangroves, 110,000 hectares of coral reefs, 15,000 hectares of seagrass, and 783,000 hectares of coastal wetlands. As of December 2024, the project has achieved ~61% of the mangrove targets, ~63% of coral reef targets, ~81% of seagrass targets, and ~44% of coastal wetland targets.

2.5 Resolution 2/4 Role, functions and modalities for UNEP implementation of the SAMOA Pathway as a means of facilitating achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals

41. UNEP, in partnership with Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), the Pacific Community (SPC), the UN country Team (UNCT) Pacific and other partners, enhanced its support and services to the Pacific Islands Countries. UNEP in partnership with UNDP, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), SPREP, SPC and Government of Samoa co-organized a Pacific Workshop on National Determined Contributions 3.0 (NDC3.0)²⁰ to support Pacific Island countries in developing their NDC3.0 and preparation of Biennial Transparency Report, in August 2024 in Apia, Samoa.
42. Cook Islands, Niue, Palau, the Republic of the Marshall Islands and Tuvalu are supported by UNEP, GCF and partners to build climate resilience by generating high quality climate information²¹ and improve early warning systems²² for multiple hazards. Kiribati, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) and Nauru are being supported by UNEP, UN Systematic Observation Financing Facility (SOFF), and partners to strengthen national capacity on weather data and climate resilience to achieve their national priorities in the context of the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent.
43. The FAO-UNEP Pacific Consultation on Agrifood Systems Transformation was held in July 2024, Nadi, Fiji, with a theme on “Concretizing actions toward agrifood systems transformation for Pacific Small Island Developing States²³”. The Workshop was to support Pacific Islands Countries in translating food systems national pathways into action plans. 11 Pacific Islands Countries participated in the meeting (including Cook Islands, Fiji, FSM, Kiribati, Nauru, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu), as well as representatives from UNCT Pacific, World Food Programme (WFP) and SPC.
44. With support from UNEP and SPREP, the Cook Islands²⁴ and Marshall Islands²⁵ developed their respective Minamata Convention Mercury Initial Assessment, which were submitted to the Secretariat of the Minamata Convention in 2024. The Government of Samoa approved and launched its National Environmental Sector Plan 2023-2027 in September 2024²⁶, also with support from UNEP and SPREP. UNEP contributed to the implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) Pacific 2023-2027²⁷ across all 14 Pacific Small Island Developing States (SIDS), with a focus on the Planet component, the right to a safe and clean environment, and active engagement with civil society organizations. Collaboration with

²⁰ <https://www.unep.org/events/conference/ndcs-30-regional-forum-pacific>

²¹ <https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/story/climate-storm-gathers-pacific-islands-race-set-warning-systems>

²² <https://www.unep.org/topics/climate-action/climate-transparency/climate-information-and-early-warning-systems>

²³ [https://www.fao.org/asiapacific/events/events-detail/workshop-on-concretizing-actions-toward-agrifood-systems-transformation-in-the-pacific-\(sids\)/en](https://www.fao.org/asiapacific/events/events-detail/workshop-on-concretizing-actions-toward-agrifood-systems-transformation-in-the-pacific-(sids)/en)

²⁴ https://minamataconvention.org/sites/default/files/documents/minamata_initial_assessment/MIA-Cook-Islands-2024.pdf

²⁵

https://minamataconvention.org/sites/default/files/documents/minamata_initial_assessment/MIA%20Report_Republic%20of%20the%20Marshall%20Islands.pdf

²⁶ <https://www.samoagovt.ws/2024/09/press-release-launching-of-the-samoa-state-of-environment-2023-and-the-national-environment-sector-plan-2023-2027/>

²⁷ https://pacific.un.org/sites/default/files/2023-07/9669_UNSDCF_pacific_A4_5.7.23_SHORT_FINAL_version_low_res_0.pdf

SPREP and other regional partners was further strengthened to align with national development priorities and the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent, while also advocating for the voices and needs of Pacific SIDS on global platforms and at international forums.

3.0 POLLUTION ACTION

3.1 Resolution 6/7 Combating sand and dust storms

45. UNEP's Early Warning and Assessment Division (EWAD), in collaboration with the UN Coalition on Combating Sand and Dust Storms and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), is coordinating efforts to address the growing challenges posed by sand and dust storms (SDS). Key initiatives include the launch of an International Sand and Dust Storm Monitoring Initiative by the UNCCD COP16 Presidency, aimed at strengthening regional early warning systems. Guidelines have also been developed to support the integration of SDS management into national and regional policy frameworks. Looking ahead, a workshop will be held during UNEA-7 in December 2025 to identify knowledge gaps and resource needs for effective SDS management. Additionally, the Disasters and Conflicts Branch will participate in a technical workshop organized by the UN Resident Coordinators of Iran and Iraq in April 2025.
46. The UNEP China Office supported and participated in the Policy and Technology Exchange Meeting on Deepening Environmental Cooperation for sand and dust storms control in Northeast Asia, held on 17–18 October 2024 in Hohhot, Inner Mongolia, China. During the meeting, UNEP delivered a keynote speech highlighting its work on combating sand and dust storms in line with UNEA Resolutions 6/7 and 6/14, ongoing cooperation within the UN system to address SDS challenges, and the relevance of these efforts within the broader context of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration.

3.2 Resolution 6/9 Sound management of chemicals and waste

47. UNEA resolution 6/9 builds further momentum for the sound management of chemicals and waste. The resolution set out several requests to the Executive Director of UNEP, in particular to continue supporting the implementation of the Global Framework on Chemicals (GFC); to facilitate coordination between the GFC Fund, the Specific International Programme of the Minamata Convention on Mercury and the Special Programme; to prepare a report, building on existing measures and initiatives to address lead, cadmium, arsenic and organotin, and to continue the work of UNEP in supporting Member States in their actions. The resolution also recalls the provision of UNEA resolution 5/7 urging Member States and inviting other stakeholders to take further action to reduce or eliminate the risks associated with the issues discussed in the report entitled "An Assessment Report on Issues of Concern: Chemicals and Waste Issues Posing Risks to Human Health and the Environment".

48. During the current reporting period, UNEP has continued to work on issues of concern, by generating and sharing knowledge and supporting countries. UNEP is also supporting the implementation of MEAs as well as the Global Framework on Chemicals, in close collaboration with IOMC and other relevant stakeholders, bringing in circular approaches, lifecycle thinking and building on the unique multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral engagement, while ensuring complementarity with the work undertaken under the Special Programme.
49. The Integrated Programme (IP) on eliminating hazardous chemicals from supply chains in the fashion and construction industries led by UNEP and co-implemented by UNDP, UNIDO and FAO, this multi-agency programme consists of 4 country projects in Cambodia, India, Pakistan and Mongolia (and 4 more in Latin American and Caribbean region). It aims to tackle environmental degradation by transforming fashion and construction supply chains to be green and sustainable, achieving zero pollution and zero waste, integrating nature-based solutions, and becoming carbon neutral. In December 2024 the programme was launched in Cambodia. Inception events for each of the country's projects will be held throughout 2025²⁸.
50. A global baseline assessment on regional differences in lead exposure and sectoral approaches to lead pollution was developed with the financial support from the Ministry of Environment of Japan. The information included in this assessment is meant to inform the report prepared by UNEP for UNEA-7 on lead, cadmium, arsenic and organotin. Additionally, UNEP is providing technical support to the Kingdom of Cambodia for conducting a market survey on the presence of lead in selected products (e.g. paints, toys, and cookware), development of a national regulation on lead in paint using the UNEP Model Law and raising public awareness of the impacts of lead on health and environment.
51. UNEP is driving actions to reduce mercury pollution in the Asia-Pacific by addressing regional priorities. This includes strengthening capacity for regulate mercury trade (through a Japan-funded project)²⁹ and providing regulatory, technical, and awareness support to phase out mercury-containing products (through a GEF-funded project). Pilot projects focus on medical devices in India³⁰, skin lightening products in Sri Lanka³¹, and dental amalgam in Thailand³². These pilot activities lay the foundation for stronger responses and regional collaboration to tackle mercury pollution in the health sector and cosmetics value chains.

²⁸ <https://www.unep.org/topics/circularity-sectors/eliminating-hazardous-chemicals-supply-chains-integrated-program>

²⁹ <https://www.unep.org/topics/chemicals-and-pollution-action/chemicals-management/pollution-and-health/heavy-metals>

³⁰ <https://www.unep.org/globalmercurypartnership/Mercury-Containing-Medical-Measuring-Devices>

³¹ <https://www.unep.org/globalmercurypartnership/our-work/mercury-products/eliminating-mercury-skin-lightening-products>

³² <https://www.unep.org/globalmercurypartnership/our-work/mercury-products/phasing-down-the-use-of-dental-amalgam>

3.3 Resolution 6/10 Promoting regional cooperation on air pollution to improve air quality globally; Resolution 4/21 Implementation Plan “Towards a Pollution-free Planet”; Resolution 3/4 Environment and Health

52. At UNEA-6, Resolution 6/10 called for increased regional cooperation on air quality. In Asia Pacific, continued strong commitment to clean air was demonstrated, in support of the resolution. UNEP is working closely with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) to support implementation of the Regional Action Programme on Air Pollution (RAPAP)³³. In May 2024, a regional workshop³⁴ was held in Bangkok, Thailand, to help develop RAPAP's online coordination platform. In December 2024, partners organized a South Asia workshop³⁵ in Kathmandu, Nepal to identify opportunities to address transboundary air pollution.
53. UNEP is working in close collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO) to advance the air quality and health agenda. This includes supporting the first meeting of the Thematic Working Group (TWG) on Air Quality and Health, co-chaired by the Republic of Korea and Cambodia, held in June 2024 in Osaka, Japan. The TWG, under the Asia Pacific Regional Forum on Health and Environment³⁶ discussed a new workplan for 2025 to 2029 which was adopted at the 5th Ministerial Meeting³⁷ in September 2024 in Jakarta, Indonesia.
54. UNEP organized the Asia Pacific Commemoration of the 5th International Day of Clean Air for blue skies with UNESCAP and UNICEF Thailand office, in collaboration with the Embassy of Korea in Thailand, Clean Air Asia and Thailand's Hub of Talents on Air Pollution and Climate (4-6 September 2024, Bangkok), under the theme of 'Invest in #CleanAirNow'. Over 200 participants (onsite and online) highlighted the importance of multi-dimensional benefits of investing in clean air to address air pollution as a global health and development priority.
55. UNEP organized a regional workshop on Developing National Air Pollutant Emissions Inventories (23 September 2024, Jakarta)³⁸ together with Asian Institute of Technology, Institut Teknologi Nasional Bandung (Itenas) with support from the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Korea, the Ministry of Environment and Forestry of Indonesia and the Ministry of Health of Indonesia. The workshop was a pre-event to the Fifth Ministerial meeting of the Regional Forum on Health and Environment of Asia Pacific.

³³ <https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/d8files/2023-09/RAPAP-flyer-30-Aug-2023.pdf>

³⁴ <https://www.eanet.asia/unlocking-and-future-proofing-air-quality-management-in-asia-registration/>

³⁵ https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/d8files/event-documents/RAPAP%20Kathmandu%20Workshop_concept%20note_8Dec2024%20v2.pdf

³⁶ <https://www.unep.org/asia-pacific-regional-forum-health-and-environment>

³⁷ <https://www.unep.org/meetings-asia-pacific-regional-forum-health-and-environment#12HLOM5MM>

³⁸ <https://www.unep.org/events/conference/regional-workshop-developing-national-air-pollutant-emissions-inventory>

56. UNEP has been supporting the Beijing municipality in its efforts to tackle air pollution in recent years and participated in the 2024 Beijing International Forum for Metropolitan Clean Air and Climate Action³⁹, which was held in Beijing on 14-15 September 2024. The good practices of air pollution control implemented by the city of Beijing have also been shared at regional platforms such as EANET.
57. UNEP organized a themed event in Beijing on 5 September 2024 to mark the fifth anniversary of the International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies. The event attracted active participation of line ministries, Beijing municipal environmental authority, WHO, academia, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), students with full media coverage of major media agencies⁴⁰ in China. The event showcased the decades-long efforts of China including Beijing in combatting air pollution, underscored the shared responsibility, and called upon all stakeholders – from governments and corporations to civil society and individuals to Invest in #CleanAirNow.

3.4 Resolution 6/13 Effective and inclusive solutions for strengthening water policies to achieve sustainable development in the context of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution

58. As part of the Regional Seas Programme, COBSEA is implementing its Strategic Directions 2023-2027 which are underpinned by three thematic programmes in line with the three planetary environmental crises: (1) Marine pollution prevention, reduction and control; (2) Marine and coastal biodiversity, ecosystem conservation and management; and (3) Climate action. To enable effective implementation of the Strategic Directions, two cross-cutting components (knowledge management and capacity building), and supporting foundational and enabling components (governance, institutional structures and regional mechanisms, monitoring and evaluation, funding and resource mobilization, partnership development) are also being implemented by the COBSEA Secretariat to protect the marine and coastal environment of the East Asian Seas region.

3.5 Resolution 5/2 Sustainable Nitrogen Management

59. The 9 COBSEA participating countries adopted a Collaborative Action Framework on Nutrient Management during the 26th Intergovernmental Meeting during 23-25 October 2024. COBSEA is also assisting Thailand with the finalization of a child project titled “Seeding a Nutrient Pollution Reduction Strategy for the coastal waters of Thailand⁴¹”, under GEF’s Clean and Healthy Oceans Integrated Programme (CHO IP)⁴². This 5-year project, valued at USD3.5 million, aims to tackle nutrient pollution in Thailand’s coastal waters.

³⁹ <https://sthjj.beijing.gov.cn/bjhrb/index/ztzl/543398444/543398450/index.html>

⁴⁰ <https://news.cgtn.com/news/2024-09-05/VHJhbnNjcmlwdDgwNjgw/index.html>

⁴¹ <https://www.unep.org/cobsea/events/workshop/validation-workshop-seeding-nutrient-pollution-reduction-strategy-coastal-waters>

⁴²

<https://www.fao.org/gef/GEF8/choip/en#:~:text=The%20objective%20of%20the%20Clean,and%20regulatory%20measures%20and%20infrastructure>

3.6 Resolution 5/14 End plastic pollution: Towards an international legally binding instrument; Resolution 4/6 Marine Plastic Litter and Microplastics

60. UNEP has been working on monitoring and evaluating plastic pollution, particularly in rivers, since 2019, with funding from the Government of Japan. The project titled “Strengthening Plastic Pollution Management in the Mekong and Pacific,” launched in 2023, focuses on capacity development for implementing monitoring and evaluation systems for plastic pollution in rivers. Under the project, UNEP organized over ten regional and seven national capacity-building workshops/trainings on monitoring, evaluation, and management of plastic pollution. These workshops engaged more than 1,000 participants from countries across Asia and the Pacific, including national and local governments, academia, research institutions, and the private sector, addressing plastic pollution across various fields and the entire plastic value chain.

4.0 SCIENCE POLICY

4.1 Resolution 5/3 Future of Global Environment Outlook

61. The seventh edition of the Global Environment Outlook (GEO-7) ⁴³ process is progressing steadily, with the aim of launching the report at UNEA-7. GEO-7 is assessing the state of the global environment and the interdependencies among global environmental crises, including climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution and waste, and land degradation. The assessment will include scenarios that explore the significant negative consequences of continuing current trends, as well as the environmental, social, and economic benefits of transformative pathways to achieve internationally agreed environmental goals. In addition, GEO-7 will evaluate how key human systems, such as global economics and finance, energy, food, and materials/waste systems, can be transformed to support these goals effectively. GEO-7 will include regional specificities in two regionally focused chapters on the state of the environment and the outlook for their future.

4.2 Resolution 4/23 Keeping the World Environment under Review: Enhancing United Nations Environment Programme’s Science-Policy Interface and Endorsement of the Global Environment Outlook

62. Under the European Commission (EC) funded project “Building National Capacities to Strengthen the Science-Policy Interface through Improved Access to Environmental Data and the Production of Indicators to meet Reporting Obligations - Based on Shared Environment Information System (SEIS) Principles”, national level activities are completed in Viet Nam and Lao PDR. With UNEP support, both countries successfully established an online Environmental Information System and developed technical guidelines following training workshops. The project interventions addressed specific

⁴³ <https://www.unep.org/geo/global-environment-outlook-7>

country's demands for technical support on generation and use of environmental data and information, allowing countries to strengthen capacity and the evidence base for sound decision making.

63. With the new phase of the EC funded project titled “Capacity development for an inclusive science-policy interface using environmental information and knowledge systems at regional and country levels”, UNEP is supporting Pakistan in developing its National State of the Environment Report (NSoER). On 5 Dec 2024, in Islamabad, UNEP organized the inception workshop in collaboration with the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination and the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) of Pakistan, where participants from government, academia, NGOs, and the UN system gained a deeper understanding of the use of monitoring, data and indicators in assessment, as well as insights into the Driver-Pressure-State-Impact-Response (DPSIR) framework and scenario development.
64. In response to the Member States’ requests to develop and prioritize a long-term data strategy, UNEP has been developing Global Environmental Data Strategy (GEDS) with the overarching goal of ensuring that timely and trustworthy environmental data, information and knowledge are available for use at national, regional and global levels to achieve a more sustainable world. From November to December 2024, UNEP facilitated consultations with the Asia and the Pacific region, as part of the regional consultations. These sessions focused on enhancing data governance, accessibility, and sustainability, capturing diverse perspectives, and making actionable recommendations to inform the GEDS and address global data challenges.

5.0 ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE

5.1 Resolution 6/4 Promoting synergies, cooperation or collaboration for national implementation of multilateral environmental agreements and other relevant environmental instruments

65. UNEP organized a consultative workshop for the Hindu Kush Himalayan region (climate nature nexus) through a policy coherence perspective⁴⁴. Additionally, a Pacific regional workshop is planned for June 2025, focusing on aligning target-setting and reporting mechanisms under NDCs and NBSAPs across 8–12 Pacific Island countries.

5.2 Resolution 6/5 Environmental aspects of minerals and metals

66. UNEP supported the Secretariat of the UN Secretary-General’s Critical Energy Transition Minerals Panel and provided technical input to its Technical Advisory Group. UNEP leveraged the outcomes of the UNEA 5/12 intergovernmental process and the mandate from UNEA 6/5, ensuring the integration of concepts related to life cycles, value chains, traceability, transparency, accountability, material efficiency, and circularity into the Actionable Recommendations. This also facilitated the inclusion of environmental

⁴⁴ <https://www.unep.org/events/conference/strengthening-science-policy-interface-between-biodiversity-and-climate-change>

rights, the three planetary environmental crises, and the concept of "beyond doing no harm" into the Panel's seven guiding principles. The Panel published its report⁴⁵ in September 2024. UNEP hosted the second meeting of the Panel in Nairobi and the UNEP-Executive Director (ED), with UNDP and Executive Office of the Secretary-General (EOSG), briefed the Committee of the Permanent Representatives (CPR) in August 2024.

67. UNEP contributed to policies derived from written submissions by Member States of the region during the UNEA 5/12 resolution on the Environmental Aspects of Minerals and Metals Management in 2023. These policies are being integrated into the Trade in Critical Minerals database developed by the Asian Development Bank in collaboration with the World Trade Organization. Additionally, UNEP is developing a Digital Knowledge Hub, informed by inputs from 70 governments and stakeholders through a survey, to guide its design. On the issue of sand, over 80 global experts are contributing to the 2025 Sand & Sustainability Report. The Marine Sand Watch has also been updated to assess the potential impacts of dredging on high-biodiversity areas and global dredging volumes.

5.3 Resolution 4/17 Promote gender equality, and the human rights and empowerment of women and girls in environmental governance

68. UNEP participated in the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on the Beijing+30 Review where it was emphasized that women and girls in Asia and the Pacific are disproportionately impacted by climate change. UNEP and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) have continued to collaborate to train Government Officials on human rights, gender equality and environment nexus under the joint Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). In August 2024, a training on the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment for Government Officials in Lao PDR⁴⁶ was organized to raise awareness and increase capacity to prevent and redress the adverse impacts on human rights, caused by environmental degradation and climate change, especially of the marginalized and vulnerable populations.
69. In September 2024, UNEP, together with OHCHR and civil society partners, successfully organized the Human Rights Dialogue on Rights-based Pathways to Climate Mitigation & Just Energy Transition in Asia Pacific⁴⁷. The dialogue gathered over 100 environmental human rights defenders (EHRDs), including women EHRDs, and civil society advocates and contributed to increased awareness of current challenges and opportunities to promote and protect human rights in the context of climate mitigation and energy transition as well as fostered network building in the region.

⁴⁵ https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/report_sg_panel_on_critical_energy_transition_minerals_11_sept_2024.pdf

⁴⁶ <https://www.facebook.com/OHCHRAsia/posts/pfbid033x8QstcwUBnm2GCrQgKFTDo4Mhs24gFL2BqfnZj6YfR4d33kQA6HHVG8LA2VK5tel?rdid=F9heNQDxChfwS2IE#>

⁴⁷ <https://www.facebook.com/OHCHRAsia/posts/pfbid033x8QstcwUBnm2GCrQgKFTDo4Mhs24gFL2BqfnZj6YfR4d33kQA6HHVG8LA2VK5tel?rdid=F9heNQDxChfwS2IE#>

70. Member States showed strong commitment to advancing gender equality at the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on the Beijing+30 Review. UNEP has a newly established Gender Focal Point Network with an ordinary and alternate focal point for Asia and the Pacific. UNEP Asia and the Pacific Office has developed a Staff Capacity Building Plan on Protection and Promotion of Human Rights, Gender Equality and Leaving No One Behind (2024-2027) (phase II) after successful results in 2021-2023⁴⁸. The plan also emphasizes sensitivity around promoting the inclusion of people with diverse sexual orientations, gender identities, gender expressions, and sex characteristics (SOGIESC) within the gender equality and environmental agenda.
71. Since 2023 Phase II of the EmPower: Women for Climate Resilient Societies Programme⁴⁹ has been scaling up activities in Asia and the Pacific. Regional efforts promoted women's leadership in climate discussions, access to climate finance, and a gender-responsive approach to climate solutions. EmPower partnered with the Asian-Pacific Resource & Research Centre for Women (ARROW), a regional Civil Society Organization (CSO) and research organization to host a two-day regional event – “Asia-Pacific Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue on Gender Equality and Climate Action”. The objective of the event was to strengthen capacities on the nexus between gender equality and climate action at the regional, national, and local levels. The session led to the development of a Call to Action⁵⁰ to guide advocacy efforts at the 29th session of the Conference of Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP29), the 30th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (Beijing+30) among other global to local-level policy events. The dialogue convened over 120 representatives from governments, women's rights organizations, civil society organizations, youth, and development partners across the Asia-Pacific region.
72. EmPower co-organized the “Regional conference highlighting the voices of Indigenous Women and Youth for just and sustainable energy transition”, together with 3 CSOs. It provided an exchange platform between development partners and 30 Indigenous Women and Youth representatives to highlight their specific concerns and recommendations for a just energy transition. These concerns and recommendations were captured in a declaration⁵¹ and roadmap⁵² that were presented at New York climate week.

5.4 Resolution 4/20 Fifth Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law (Montevideo V) “Delivering for People and the Planet”-

⁴⁸ <https://unitednations.sharepoint.com/sites/UNEP-AsiaandPacific/Shared%20Documents/Forms/default.aspx?id=%2Fsites%2FUNEP%2DAsiaandPacific%2FShared%20Documents%2FHuman%20Rights%20and%20Gender%20Equality%2FCapacity%20Building%20Plan%2F2021%2D2023%2F2023%20and%20Final%20Monitoring%20Report%5FUNEP%20Capacity%20Building%20Plan%20Human%20Rights%20and%20Gender%20Equality%20%282021%2D2023%29%2Epdf&parent=%2Fsites%2FUNEP%2DAsiaandPacific%2FShared%20Documents%2FHuman%20Rights%20and%20Gender%20Equality%2FCapacity%20Building%20Plan%2F2021%2D2023>

⁴⁹ <https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/focus-areas/humanitarian-action-and-disaster-risk-reduction/gender-and-climate-change>

⁵⁰ <https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2024/10/gender-equality-and-climate-action-multi-stakeholder-dialogue-call-to-action#view>

⁵¹ <https://rightenergypartnership.org/declaration-of-regional-conference-highlighting-the-voices-of-indigenous-women-and-youth/>

⁵² <https://rightenergypartnership.org/asia-indigenous-women-and-youth-roadmap-for-a-just-and-sustainable/>

73. Activities done to support implementation of the Montevideo Programme include.

- a. The launch of an online webinar⁵³ for the publication on Enhancing the Role of Environmental Public Interest Litigation to Advance Environmental Rights in Southeast Asia⁵⁴ was held on 25 January 2024 with over 60 participants, including lawyers, judges, academics and government representatives, from across the region. This publication advances UNEP work on access to justice and environmental justice in the region. This briefing report focuses on environmental public interest litigation as a potentially transformative mechanism that can empower communities across Southeast Asia to play a significant role in ensuring that environmental laws are complied with, and that the precious ecosystems of the region and the communities that depend on them are protected. The report provides an overview of the various forms of environmental public interest litigation, including an overview of some of the recent progress on burgeoning environmental public interest litigation systems in Southeast Asia.
- b. On 14 March 2024 UNEP held a regional seminar⁵⁵ online showcasing the Global Environmental Rule of Law report Tracking Progress and Charting Future Directions⁵⁶, with leading experts on environmental rules of law, including contributors to the Report. There were over 140 participants from over 30 countries registered from across Asia and Pacific representing lawyers, judges and other legal stakeholders.
- c. UNEP and the Supreme People's Court of China recognized their on-going collaboration and commitment to strengthen environmental rule of law both in China and globally in particular, in sharing judicial cases and legislation through UNEP's legal databases, namely, Judicial Portal and ECOLEX. The renewal of the Memorandum of Understanding between two parties is under preparation and an in-personal signing ceremony will be organized in 2025. New partnership is being developed with the Supreme People's Procuratorate of China on possibility of UNEP developing a global prosecutors programme and development of a Memorandum of Understanding to share good practices on the training of prosecutors.

6.0 CROSS-CUTTING

6.1 Resolution 6/8 Promoting Sustainable Lifestyles

74. The UNEA resolution on sustainable lifestyles submitted by India was adopted by all participating Member States. The concept Lifestyle for Environment coined by India gave a clarion call to rekindle a global pursuit to adopt environment-friendly lifestyles and practices. In support of its fulfilment, UNEP cooperates with the India on Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) to ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature. UNEP's contribution includes the work of 10-Year Framework Programme (10YFP), including the One Planet Network Programme on Sustainable Lifestyles and

⁵³ <https://www.unep.org/events/webinar/webinar-launch-report-environmental-public-interest-litigation-southeast-asia>

⁵⁴ <https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/44605/EPIL%20Report%20%28FINAL%29.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>

⁵⁵ <https://www.unep.org/events/webinar/asia-pacific-regional-seminar-environmental-rule-law>

⁵⁶ Recording available at: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1UR-3Xqvp-7iEsjGxZjSkDU4uPxxwO6d4u/view?usp=sharing>

Education, and notes that successful work in India can serve as a model to be replicated elsewhere. UNEP's support consists in 1) nudging individuals to practice simple yet effective environment-friendly actions in their daily lives; 2) encouraging industries and markets to respond swiftly to the changing demand; 3) supporting policy development and implementation for sustainable consumption and production (SCP).

75. UNEP's Tide Turner Plastic Challenge (TTPC) initiative has been instrumental in promoting traditional alternatives to plastic in rural and peri-urban areas, strengthening circular solutions to single-use plastics, and influencing sustainable consumption behaviors. The governments of Tamil Nadu and Delhi have integrated TTPC as a core extracurricular offering. With UNEP's support, the initiative has successfully engaged 211,457 youths, of whom 53% are female.
76. UNEP has also supported the implementation of the resolution under the Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE), delivering actions for advancing transition towards green and inclusive economic growth, in partnership with six-line ministries in India. One of the PAGE activities in India intends to provide a unique lens on country's Inclusive Green Economy transition by engaging youth views on the future that they want through an innovative communication tool on changing values and consumption patterns/ lifestyles choices. Analytical studies conducted by UNEP under PAGE including review of the Ecomark Scheme 1991, review of global and national best practices of ecolabels, and comparative assessment of national and international ecolabels for different product categories contributed to development of Ecomark Rules 2024, notified by the Government of India in November 2024.
77. UNEP also supported the China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development (CCICED) in its policy studies and formulation of policy recommendations on green consumption and green lifestyle. Building on UNEP's previous support to CCICED's taskforce for the Special Policy Study on Green Transition and Sustainable Social Governance in 2019, UNEP supported in 2024 the [CCICED Discussion Paper on Sustainable Consumption](#)⁵⁷. In 2024 and early 2025, UNEP China Office also supported UNEP's sustainable textile team in linking with CCICED's policy study on "Promoting High-Quality Development with Circular Economy" to offer perspectives from UNEP's existing work on sustainable textile as a high impact sector. The project is led internationally by the Federal Ministry of Germany for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection and Ellen MacArthur Foundation.
78. China's 2025 government workplan, released in early March, highlights "boosting incentives for eco-friendly consumption" as a key priority to advance its goal of promoting green and low-carbon production and lifestyles. This marks a significant outcome of UNEP's sustained engagement with China through initiatives such as PAGE, Switch Asia, and the One Planet Network (YFP), supporting the country's focus on green

⁵⁷ [P020241125391103545394.pdf](#)

consumption as a critical entry point for building a low-carbon economy. It also opens new avenues for collaboration and knowledge exchange.

6.2 Resolution 5/9 Sustainable and Resilient Infrastructure

79. One case study from Asia and the Pacific was produced to illustrate the International Good Practice Principles for Sustainable Infrastructure⁵⁸ (recognized in the resolution). The case study documented logistics and e-commerce infrastructure in Malaysia⁵⁹ to illustrate Guiding Principle 7 (Enhancing Economic Benefits). UNEP also produced three thematic publications with relevance to/examples from countries in the region: one on nature-based infrastructure⁶⁰, one on decent work in nature-based solutions⁶¹ and one on digital public infrastructure⁶².
80. The region holds many examples of good practices with respect to sustainable and resilient infrastructure. Member States value learning from the experiences of other countries (through case studies), though limited funding and capacity constrain the extent of knowledge exchange. UNEP aims to support implementation of the resolution through wider use of analytical tools such as the recently developed “EnABLE⁶³” tool, and by focusing further on the topic of financing and investment. Recommendations and suggested actions to Member States and other Parties to implement the resolution in the region: Consider how the International Good Practice Principles for Sustainable Infrastructure⁶⁴ relate to national policy frameworks and plans and engage with UNEP to help translate them into local contexts
81. UNEP China Office provided focal point support from Beijing for UNEP’s Sustainable Infrastructure Team’s engagement with the Mechanism for International Sustainable Infrastructure Promotion (MISIP). UNEP is a co-initiator along with Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), World Wildlife Fund (WWF), the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ) and the China International Contractors Association.

6.3 Resolution 5/11 Enhancing Circular Economy as a contribution to achieving sustainable consumption and production

82. In collaboration with 10YFP and the Global Opportunities for Sustainable Development Goals (GO4SDGs), a series of hybrid events and webinars were organized with engagement of UNCTs, UN agencies, SCP focal points and key stakeholders to foster science-based SCP policies to mainstream SCP and circular economy intervention in Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and high-impact sectors. Two regional workshops in Bangkok (October) and Bali (December) were organized to promote

⁵⁸ <https://www.unep.org/resources/publication/international-good-practice-principles-sustainable-infrastructure>

⁵⁹ <https://www.greenpolicyplatform.org/case-studies/greening-first-and-last-mile-delivery-infrastructure-malaysia>

⁶⁰ <https://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/44022;jsessionid=8EFD155024FF2091F2CA07D1BEF4BA50>

⁶¹ <https://www.unep.org/resources/report/decent-work-nature-based-solutions-2024>

⁶² <https://www.unep.org/resources/report/digital-public-infrastructure-environmental-sustainability>

⁶³ <https://sustainable.unops.org/>

⁶⁴ <https://www.unep.org/resources/publication/international-good-practice-principles-sustainable-infrastructure>

science-based SCP tools and to enhance capacity to minimize plastic pollution at source, generated by tourism activities through circular economy solutions engaged more than 100 participants representing national and MEAs focal points, academia, businesses, UNCTs and UN agencies. UNEP welcomed participation of SCP focal points from Indonesia, Lao PDR, Nepal, Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam, UNCTs from Malaysia, Viet Nam, Indonesia and Philippines, businesses and science-partners. These efforts demonstrate increasing cross-sectoral collaboration and knowledge exchange to advance SCP implementation.

83. The first assessment report developed using the Sustainable Consumption and Production Hotspots Analysis Tool (SCP-HAT) for the Asia region was launched, together with its booklet in Oct 2024⁶⁵. The launch was attended by representatives from governments, PAGE, ASEAN Biodiversity Centre and regional partners. Interactions and exchanges between UNCTs and countries were enhanced, and science/technical partners had more opportunities to promote tools for science-based SCP policy development and intervention.
84. The InTex India project was officially launched in February 2024 during Bharat Tex, India's largest textile event. Funded by Denmark and implemented by UNEP in partnership with the Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, the project will run from December 2023 to September 2027. InTex India aims to accelerate the Indian textile sector's transition to circularity by applying life cycle thinking. Drawing on global expertise and practical approaches, the project will support the Ministry in developing policies that promote circularity and work closely with Indian brands and manufacturing SMEs in key textile clusters—Surat, Karur, Salem, Dindigul, and Perundurai—to adopt circular business models and reduce their product environmental footprints using life cycle assessment (LCA) techniques.
85. The sixth edition of the Circular Design Challenge, organized in collaboration with the United Nations India, concluded on 10 October in New Delhi during the Sustainable Fashion Day at Lakmē Fashion Week in partnership with the Fashion Design Council of India. This year's winner was the *Rkive City* collection by New Delhi-based Ritwik Khanna. Drashti Modi and Rashmik Bose's Lafaani brand were declared runners-up. UNEP's Claudia Giacobelli, Programme Officer, Industry and Economy Division, and Jalal Moughraby, Sustainable Fashion Consultant, delivered a Masterclass on *Circular Design and Life Cycle Approaches* to the seven finalists of this year's Circular Design Challenge.

6.4 Resolution 2/5 Delivering on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

86. UNEP plays a role in strengthening the environmental dimension of the Asia Pacific Forum for Sustainable Development (APFSD), which is the regional mechanism to inform the annual global High Level Political Forum. UNEP supported the 11th APFSD⁶⁶

⁶⁵ <https://www.oneplanetnetwork.org/knowledge-centre/resources/regional-assessment-applying-scp-hotspots-analysis-tool-booklet>

⁶⁶ <https://www.unescap.org/events/apfsd11>

(20-23 February 2024 in Bangkok, Thailand) by co-leading the development of an SDG 13⁶⁷ (Climate Action) profile reviewing progress in Asia Pacific, as well as co-organizing an SDG 13 multi-stakeholder roundtable as part of the APFSD. UNEP also jointly developed SDG Goal Profiles on SDG 2⁶⁸ (Zero Hunger), SDG 16⁶⁹ (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions), and SDG 17⁷⁰ (Partnerships) and supported two other Round Table Discussions on SDG 16, and SDG 17 by collaborating with UN agencies and multi-stakeholders. UNEP co-organized four APFSD side events covering sustainable transport, Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, green and just economy transition, and climate-health nexus and contributed to the APFSD Youth Forum. A formal statement⁷¹ was delivered to update member states on the fifth Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities of Asia Pacific, regional INC consultations and UNEA 6. UNEP's involvement strengthened the environmental dimension of the APFSD. By 2025, UNEP is co-leading the review of SDG 14 on Oceans.

III. Secretarial Functions for Regional Forums and Flagship Events

A. Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities of Asia Pacific (AP Forum)

87. In response to UNEA Resolution 6/3 and 2/2, UNEP has been organizing the Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities of Asia Pacific, since 2015. The Forum is a platform for governments, intergovernmental organizations, major groups and other stakeholders to discuss environmental priorities and contribute regional perspectives to the UNEA and its intersessions. These forums were held in Bangkok, Thailand (2015, 2017), Singapore (2019), Suwon, Republic of Korea (2021), and most recently in Colombo, Sri Lanka (3–6 October 2023). The 6th Forum is scheduled to be held on 26–29 August 2025 in Nadi, Fiji, jointly organized by the Government of Fiji and UNEP. The key objectives of the Forum are:

- Review progress on implementation of UNEA resolutions in Asia and the Pacific.
- Review progress of regional forums and platforms where UNEP is the secretariat, including Asia Pacific Clean Asia Partnership, Asia Pacific Adaptation Network, and Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia, and Asia-Pacific Regional Forum on Environment and Health.
- Discuss challenges and opportunities to strengthen the regional environmental agenda for delivering the sustainable development goals and regional commitments to the Multilateral Environmental Agreements.
- Facilitate dialogue and contribute to preparation of UNEP's next Medium-term Strategy 2026-2029 and Programme of Work 2026-2027.
- Provide regional inputs to the draft UNEA-7 outcome documents, including ministerial declaration and draft resolutions; and
- The Forum is also an occasion for UNEP partners, UN organizations, private sector representatives, scientists, academia, and civil society including youths to bring their

⁶⁷ https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/d8files/event-documents/SDG%2013_5032024_11Mar24_FINAL.pdf

⁶⁸ <https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/d8files/event-documents/ESCAP-2024-PB-SDG2-goal-profile.pdf>

⁶⁹ <https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/d8files/event-documents/ESCAP-2024-PB-SDG16-goal-profile.pdf>

⁷⁰ <https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/d8files/event-documents/ESCAP-2024-PB-SDG17-goal-profile.pdf>

⁷¹ https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/d8files/event-documents/8.UNEP_intervention%20APFSD2024final.pdf

perspectives and ideas to achieve the environmental dimension of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.

B. Asia Pacific Regional Forum on Health and Environment (APRFHE)

88. At the 5th Ministerial Meeting of the Asia Pacific Regional Forum on Health and Environment (APRFHE) held in September 2024 in Jakarta, Indonesia, countries adopted the Jakarta Declaration on Cooperation on Health and Environment as a collective call for the region to enhance international cooperation in addressing complex health and environment issues, including air pollution. The declaration also underlined the need to collaborate with existing regional initiatives such as the ASEAN Leaders Declaration on One Health Initiatives and Quadripartite One Health. Its further request to UNEP and WHO assist member countries in accessing funding from international financial institutions to advance the development of health and environmental initiatives.
89. The meeting provided input on revisions to the Framework of Cooperation for the Regional Forum which will be further finalized and submitted at the 13th HLOM by the Secretariat together with the next Chair. The meeting agreed to establish a task force for sustainable financing mechanism for the forum and took note of the recommendation to accelerate the work of the task force. It also took note of new workplans from the six Thematic Working Groups namely Health Impact Assessment, Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene, Air Quality and Health, Chemical Waste and Health, Climate Change and Health, and One Health. Indonesia offered to co-chair the TWG on Climate Change and Health. Six countries (Maldives, Nepal, Timor Leste, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu) informed the meeting that they are interested in becoming a full member of APRFHE.

C. The Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET)

90. EANET supports the implementation of UNEA Resolution 6/10 "Promoting regional cooperation on air pollution to improve air quality globally". It is the only intergovernmental body encompassing 13 countries in Northeast and Southeast Asia that have air quality, acid deposition and impacts on the environment, and meteorological data that are all government approved since 2001. It has supported the capacity building of, primarily, national government officers and researchers in the member states to better understand atmospheric environmental problems. Since 2021, it has established the EANET Project Fund mechanism to promote partnerships and develop more projects and activities to support member states. It has also been able to work more in support of science-policy initiatives, for example it is supporting the development of policies and standards for Volatile Organic Compounds, characterization of particulate matter, emissions inventories, and developing guidelines for integrating low-cost sensors into conventional air quality monitoring. It is closely coordinating with other governmental initiatives like the Regional Action Programme on Air Pollution of the ESCAP, and regional projects with Clean Air Asia, the French Development Agency, and many others, supporting the UNEA call to promote regional cooperation.

D. Asia Pacific Clean Air Partnership (APCAP)

91. The Asia Pacific Clean Air Partnership (APCAP) was established in 2015 as a mechanism to promote coordination and collaboration among various clean air initiatives in the Asia and Pacific region, following Resolution 1/7 'Strengthening the role of the UNEP in promoting air quality' and recently the Resolution 6/10 'Promoting regional cooperation on air pollution to improve air quality globally.' APCAP provides a platform for sharing best practices, promoting knowledge exchange, and fostering innovation in air pollution control and mitigation. The APCAP focuses on several key areas, including, (a) strengthening national and local capacities for air quality management; (b), supporting the development and implementation of policies and regulations for air pollution control; (c) promoting the use of clean technologies and sustainable practices in industry, transport, and other sectors; (d) raising public awareness of the impacts of air pollution and promoting individual actions to reduce pollution.
92. In 2024, the partnership's support focused on developing clean air interventions in high impact sectors for potential funding schemes and facilitating the development of bankable project proposals, with focus on Cambodia⁷², India⁷³, and Sri Lanka. In addition, APCAP together with partners, supported a Workshop titled Strengthening Regional Actions to Address Transboundary Haze and Plastic Pollution in Southeast Asia⁷⁴ in 10-12 December, Vientiane, Lao PDR as part of Lao PDR's ASEAN 2024 Chair's deliverables. APCAP also contributes to the Issue-Based Coalition on Raising Climate Ambition and the ESCAP Regional Action Programme on Air Pollution (RAPAP). As part of the next steps, the 5th APCAP Joint Forum will be organized on 20-21 March 2025 in Yokohama, Japan. The discussions are expected to contribute to the development of the global cooperation network on air quality requested to be established by UNEP under Resolution 6/10.

E. Asia Pacific Adaptation Network (APAN)

93. UNEP Asia and the Pacific Office organized the 8th Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Forum from 28 August to 1 September 2023 in Songdo, Republic of Korea, hosted by the Ministry of Environment Korea. The Forum had over 350 participants from more than 60 countries in the region. The Forum captured insights on transformative adaptation to achieve resilience for all. UNEP Executive Director delivered her Closing Keynote to conclude the event. Forum has a) enhanced understanding of climate change adaptation issues, approaches, and policies for effective planning; b) provided a comprehensive report on actions taken and progress made to address knowledge, policy, and funding gaps since the last APAN Forum; c) served as a platform for accelerating action and implementing adaptation knowledge and programmes, offering actionable guidelines for communities, practitioners, and policymakers; d) formulated

⁷² <https://www.unep.org/events/conference/national-workshop-unlocking-finance-support-clean-air-solutions-cambodia>

⁷³ <https://www.unep.org/events/workshop/national-workshop-unlocking-finance-support-climate-and-clean-air-solutions-india>

⁷⁴ <https://www.unep.org/events/conference/capacity-building-workshop-strengthening-regional-actions-address-transboundary>

recommendations to expand adaptation efforts in the Asia-Pacific region, guiding contributions to COPs and other global/regional initiatives; and, e) promoted climate change adaptation and resilience through knowledge sharing, collaboration, and amplification of messages from local to global levels.

94. UNEP organized the webinar on “Tackling the Loss and Damage Fund: Dialogue on the Funds Operationalization, Challenges and Opportunities,” on 19 March 2024⁷⁵ in collaboration with the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change – Regional Collaboration Center (UNFCCC-RCC) and Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Program (SPREP). The webinar supported enhanced understanding of more than 200 UN, government and civil society actors on different elements and considerations in operationalizing the Loss and Damage Fund. Key issues related to the work of the Loss and Damage Fund Board, including operational modalities, were highlighted. The dialogue also identified essential considerations necessary to enhance the Fund’s impact in the region, which include access to modality recommendations and policy and capacity-building.

F. Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA)

95. The Twenty-sixth Intergovernmental Meeting (IGM 26) of the Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA)⁷⁶ was held from October 23 to 25, 2024 in Siem Reap, Cambodia, which was hosted by the Ministry of Environment, Kingdom of Cambodia. IGM 26 was preceded by Working Group Meetings on Marine Litter (WGML-6) and on Marine and Coastal Ecosystems (WGMCE-2) during 21-22 October, which was attended by nearly 100 participants, both in-person and online. IGM 26 took note of UNEP Executive Director’s report on the implementation of COBSEA activities over 2023-2024 and adopted COBSEA’s new biennial workplan and budget for 2025-2026. UNEP also presented an independent strategic and functional review of the COSBEA Secretariat towards supporting the effective implementation of COBSEA’s new Strategic Directions 2023-2027⁷⁷.
96. Additionally, IGM 26 approved the biennial workplan and activities of the COBSEA Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAP MALI)⁷⁸, as well as the biennial workplan on Marine and Coastal Ecosystems (MCE)⁷⁹. The meeting endorsed the report ‘Towards a Regional Assessment on Marine Litter in the East Asian Seas (Cambodia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam)⁸⁰’, adopted the Strategic Action Plan for COBSEA’s first Regional Activity Centre on Marine Litter (RC3S in Bali) and a new ‘COBSEA Collaborative Action Framework on Nutrients Management’. UNEP’s Deputy Executive Director led the UNEP delegation at IGM26, supported by colleagues from UNEP HQs, outposted offices, and the COBSEA Secretariat.

⁷⁵ <https://www.asiapacificadapt.net/news/asia-pacific-tackles-the-loss-and-damage-fund-shares-insights-on-the-fund-operationalisation/>

⁷⁶ <https://www.unep.org/cobsea/events/intergovernmental-meeting/26th-intergovernmental-meeting-cobsea-igm-26>

⁷⁷ <https://www.unep.org/resources/policy-and-strategy/cobsea-strategic-directions-2023-2027>

⁷⁸ <https://www.unep.org/cobsea/resources/policy-and-strategy/cobsea-regional-action-plan-marine-litter-2019-rap-mali>

⁷⁹ <https://www.unep.org/cobsea/resources/policy-and-strategy/cobsea-marine-and-coastal-ecosystems-framework>

⁸⁰ <https://www.unep.org/cobsea/resources/reports/towards-regional-assessment-marine-litter-east-asian-seas-cambodia-malaysia>

97. COBSEA continues to support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework throughout 2024. The 2nd Working Group on Marine and Coastal Ecosystems and the 26th Intergovernmental Meeting of COBSEA adopted the first biennial workplan for Marine and Coastal Ecosystems, which includes initiatives on marine and coastal spatial planning, marine protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and coral reefs, and other habitats. COBSEA also participated in the ongoing Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Plastic Pollution, with COBSEA participating countries making opening statements on behalf of the region. Throughout the year, COBSEA and the South China Sea Strategic Action Programme (SCS-SAP) Project have collaborated in several conferences targeting the ocean, including the 2nd UN Ocean Decade Regional Conference for Asia Pacific, the International Water Conference, the East Asian Seas Congress, with the aim of increasing collaboration and regional efforts in addressing the triple planetary crises.
98. The Sixth Meeting of COBSEA's Working Group on Marine Litter ⁸¹ held on 21-22 October 2024 reviewed progress on the Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAP MALI), discussed the role of the Regional Activity Centre on marine pollution and the hosting arrangements of the GPML East Asia Regional Node, and identified priorities for the next biennial workplan for implementation of the RAP MALI 2025-2026. Key decisions included the development of a Regional Statement for INC-5⁸², reflecting collective priorities and commitments to advancing action on marine litter in the East Asian Seas region.

G. Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP)

99. According to MTS, NOWPAP focuses on four main areas: ecological health assessments, pollution monitoring, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable development. Key projects include:

- monitoring and addressing marine litter issues,
- marine biodiversity conservation approaches,
- assessing eutrophication and state of marine environment,
- improving oil spill and hazardous substances (HNS) response capabilities.

These initiatives result in comprehensive reports, regional environmental databases, and best practices for sustainable marine resource use. The outcomes include enhanced intergovernmental collaboration, increased stakeholder awareness, and improved capacities of member states to address marine environmental issues.

100. NOWPAP leverages the advanced capabilities of its member states by using innovative tools and methods, such as satellite-based eutrophication assessment tools and environmental DNA analysis. These technologies enhance ecosystem health assessments and improve pollution monitoring, directly contributing to pollution

⁸¹ [Sixth Meeting of the Working Group on Marine Litter \(WGML-6\) | Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia \(COBSEA\)](#)

⁸² https://resolutions.unep.org/incres/uploads/cobsea_joint_regional_statement_to_inc5_0.pdf

reduction. Effective regional cooperation has led to significant achievements in these areas.

101. To further its impact, NOWPAP is committed to implementing UNEA-6 resolutions by strengthening decision-making frameworks and expanding scientific research. The upcoming MTS for 2025-2030 will emphasize comprehensive regional cooperation through regular sharing of best practices, building resilience, and better integration of marine and coastal management at the national level. Sustainable development and addressing the triple planetary crisis remain central to its agenda.
102. NOWPAP aims to enhance data sharing, harmonize legal standards with modern regulatory frameworks, and undertake joint capacity-building initiatives. Engaging public and private sectors in conservation activities is encouraged to introduce new funding streams and innovative solutions. Regular assessments and adaptation of action plans are recommended to remain responsive to changing environmental conditions and global policies. By engaging in collaborative, evidence-based actions, NOWPAP continues to play a crucial role in protecting the Northwest Pacific marine environment. Member states are encouraged to actively participate and support NOWPAP's agenda, ensuring sustainable resource management for future generations.

IV. Processes and mechanisms for promoting Asia Pacific priorities in the seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA)

103. The seventh session of UNEA, the world's highest-level decision-making body on the environment, will convene in Nairobi, Kenya from 08 December to 12 December 2025 under the theme "[Advancing sustainable solutions for a resilient planet](#)". In the lead up to 2025 UNEA, important timeline and events are the following:
 - The Youth Environment Assembly, on 29 and 30 November 2025.
 - 01-05 December 2025: The seventh meeting of the Open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives will serve as the main preparatory meeting for the Environment Assembly.
 - The Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum (GMGSF), on 6 and 7 December 2025; and
 - 08 December – 12 December 2025: The seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly under the theme "[Advancing sustainable solutions for a resilient planet](#)".
104. The 6th Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities of Asia Pacific will take place from 26 to 29 August 2025 in Nadi, Fiji. The meeting will be jointly organized by the Government of Fiji's Ministry of Environment and Climate Change and UNEP. The Forum is a platform for governments, intergovernmental organizations, major groups and other stakeholders including youth, to discuss the regional environmental priorities and provide regional inputs to the outcome of UNEA 7 and other regional and global processes, including the Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development, and the Multilateral Environmental Agreements.

Annex – Supplementary Information

1.0 CLIMATE ACTION

Gender responsive climate policy actions

Key Events

The ASEAN Centre for Energy, in collaboration with UNEP and Oxfam, co-hosted a half-day event focusing on a just and inclusive energy transition on the sidelines of the joint 42nd ASEAN Ministers on Energy Meeting (AMEM) and the 24th ASEAN Energy Business Forum. The side-event sought to highlight strategies to promote gender and social inclusiveness in ASEAN energy development plans. This included strategies that are captured in the policy brief – “Mainstreaming Gender in ASEAN Energy Policy and Planning”⁸³ that EmPower supports. The event contributed to the endorsement of the theme “Advancing Regional Cooperation in Ensuring Energy Security and Accelerating Decarbonization for a Just and Inclusive Energy Transition.” A total of 67 NGOs, governments and other development partners attended the event.

2.0 NATURE ACTION

2.1 Resolution 6/14 Strengthening international efforts to combat desertification and land degradation, restore degraded land, promote land conservation and sustainable land management, contribute to land degradation neutrality and enhance drought resilience; Resolution 5/6 Biodiversity and Health

Key events:

UNEP China Office organized the 2024 World Environment Day (WED) event, themed combating desertification, engaged Chinese stakeholders including Ministry of Natural Resources and local authorities, foundations etc., as well as UN Resident Coordinator Office and FAO. The showcased China’s practices to combating desertification at national and local level.

3.0 POLLUTION ACTION

3.3 Resolution 6/10 Promoting regional cooperation on air pollution to improve air quality globally; Resolution 4/21 Implementation Plan “Towards a Pollution-free Planet”; Resolution 3/4 Environment and Health

Key events:

To support Lao PDR as ASEAN Chair 2024 and in support of the new Haze-Free Roadmap⁸⁴, UNEP organized a Regional Workshop on Regional Actions to Address Transboundary Haze and Plastic

⁸³ <https://aseanenergy.org/publications/mainstreaming-gender-in-asean-energy-policy-and-planning/>

⁸⁴ https://hazeportal.asean.org/media_release/media-release-of-17th-asean-ministerial-meeting-on-the-environment-and-18th-meeting-of-the-conference-of-the-parties-to-the-asean-agreement-on-transboundary-haze-pollution/

Pollution in Southeast Asia⁸⁵ in December 2024 in Vientiane, Lao PDR. These developments and ongoing work by regional initiatives, including UNEP-supported mechanisms such as the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET) and the Asia Pacific Clean Air Partnership (APCAP), will contribute to the forthcoming global cooperation network on air quality to be established under Resolution 6/10.

The UNEP-convened Climate and Clean Air Coalition launched an Air Quality Management Exchange Platform. In addition, UNEP and partners with support from Republic of Korea and Republic of Indonesia organized the Regional Workshop on Developing National Air Pollutant Emissions Inventory⁸⁶.

5.0 ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE

5.4 Resolution 4/20 Fifth Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law (Montevideo V) “Delivering for People and the Planet” -

Key events:

The second global meeting of national focal points⁸⁷ for the Fifth Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law (Montevideo Programme V) was held at the headquarters of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in Nairobi from 3 to 5 June 2024. Prior to the global meeting, a preparatory online meeting was held for Asia Pacific Focal Points on 23rd May. An informal Pacific preparation meeting and briefing was held for Pacific Focal Points in attendance at the Global Meeting on 3 June 2024. On 5 June 2024, during the Second Global Meeting of National Focal Points for the Montevideo Programme V, a side event Environmental Rule of Law and Human Rights: Strategic Litigation against Public Participation (SLAPPs) and Procedural Environmental Rights was held. This event 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, EHRDs and civic space. Increased understanding of anti-SLAPP measures and how duty-bearers can mitigate the negative effect of SLAPPs.

- a. Technical legal assistance was provided to Thailand on air quality legislation and Cambodia on its environment and natural resources code.
- b. Capacity building programmes on environmental law were delivered to lawyers and judges from over 20 countries in Asia and the Pacific.
- c. The National Environmental Judges Training Program was organized by the Supreme People’s Court of China, UNEP and ClientEarth on 5-6 November 2024 in Beijing. This event attracted top environmental judges and legal experts from China and trained over 300 Chinese environmental judge trainees on environmental law.
- d. The High-Level International Workshop on Environment Rule of Law and Green Development⁸⁸ was organized by the Supreme People’s Court of China, UNEP and ClientEarth on 8 November 2024 in Chengdu, China.

6.0 CROSS-CUTTING

⁸⁵ <https://www.unep.org/events/conference/capacity-building-workshop-strengthening-regional-actions-address-transboundary>

⁸⁶ <https://www.unep.org/events/conference/regional-workshop-developing-national-air-pollutant-emissions-inventory>

⁸⁷ <https://leap.unep.org/en/about/meetings/second-global-meeting-national-focal-points>

⁸⁸ https://english.court.gov.cn/2024-11/21/c_1047071.htm

6.1 Resolution 6/8 Promoting Sustainable Lifestyles

Key events:

In alignment with the 'LiFE' (Lifestyle for Environment) Mission of the Government of India, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, India, notified the Ecomark Rules on 26th September 2024⁸⁹. It replaces the Ecomark scheme of 1991. The scheme aims to encourage the demand for environmentally friendly products, aligning with the principles of 'LiFE', promote lower energy consumption, resource efficiency and circular economy.

After UNEA 6, in March 2024, UNEP co-organized the Green Jobs for Youth for Circularity Workshop in Xian, China in collaboration with UNITAR and with participation of ILO, UNDP, UN WOMEN, to support China's journey towards a sustainable and inclusive green economy through green jobs creation and green skills building. The Workshop builds on the legacy of the Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE) in China, which was implemented in Jiangsu province from 2015-2022.

The UNEA 6.8 resolution on lifestyles requested UNEP to run a series of "regional dialogues on sustainable lifestyles practices in the context of, inter alia, the diversity of nature's values and approaches, including, eco-centric approaches of individuals and communities including that of Indigenous Peoples, and local communities, for living in harmony with Nature, or Mother Earth". UNEP, through the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns (10FYP), Secretariat in partnership with Consumers International successfully organized online regional dialogues in Asia on 11 March. The dialogue received honors from government of India as a champion of the UNEA resolution on lifestyles. Eminent speakers, representing high-impact sectors, shared their views on sustainable lifestyles and their thoughts on values promoting lifestyles for sustainable development. Key message included sustainable lifestyles is indeed deeply embedded in various cultures and has been passed down through generations and indigenous and local communities have long practiced sustainable living, often focusing on cooperation, reciprocity, and a deep respect for nature. This regional dialogue was also an effort to establish the coherence between consumers' right and sustainable lifestyles & skills for establishing a strong shift to more sustainable practices and systems of consumption and production in high-impact sectors. The dialogue received more than 100 registrations and 100 views on YouTube.

6.3 Resolution 5/11 Enhancing Circular Economy as a contribution to achieving sustainable consumption and production

Key events:

As part of the UNEP 10FYP Secretariat, UNDP and UNFCCC Secretariat project *Building circularity into Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)*, Viet Nam are being supported to pilot the building circularity into NDCs toolbox⁹⁰ platform through the UNDP Climate Promise.

UNEP organized a panel discussion at Bharat Tex 2024⁹¹ on "Accelerating the Transition of the Indian Textile and Apparel Sector towards Circularity." Bharat Tex, India's largest textile event, is a unique

⁸⁹ <https://www.un-page.org/news/new-eco-mark-rules-a-significant-advancement-for-indias-sustainability-effort/>

⁹⁰ <https://www.learningfornature.org/en/building-circularity-into-nationally-determined-contributions/stage-1/>

⁹¹ https://www.linkedin.com/posts/embassy-of-denmark-in-india_bharattex2024-textileexpo-greenstrategicpartnership-activity-7168913085301186560-95OB

platform to showcase India's textile value chain and highlight strengths and advances in fashion, traditional crafts, and sustainability initiatives in the textiles sector. This was implemented under the InTex project, being implemented with Ministry of Textiles, India, launched in February 2024.

UNEP mobilized 1.4 USD to implement InTex Indonesia project objective is to promote the shift to circular textile value chains, this includes enhancing knowledge and technical capacity of government and businesses (mainly SMEs) in Indonesia on life cycle thinking and circular business model. The project will be implemented from Q1 2025 to Q4 2027. It funded by Denmark. The Focal Ministry is BAPPENAS and will work closely with the Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Industry.

UNEP is implementing the Circularity and Used Textile Trade Project with the objective of transitioning toward a sustainable and circular textile value chain. The project is implemented in Pakistan in Asia (Ghana, Tunisia, Kenya in Africa). The project aims to identify key policy, financing, investment and regulatory priorities for trade and policy reforms and financing options, which enable transformative change. It is implemented over Q4 2024 – Q3 2025 and is funded by the European Union. The results of analysis are under finalization and will be presented at a workshop on the 16th April 2025.

UNEP has mobilized 8,8 million USD resources from GEF to implement a project titled "Reducing uses and releases of chemicals of concern, including POPs, in the textiles sector (GEF 7)". Main objective is to support countries in significantly reduce the use, releases, and exposure to chemicals of concern (CoCs) including POPs in the textiles sector Indonesia, Vietnam, Pakistan, Bangladesh. The project will be implemented from 2023 till Q4 2026. The project partners are Basel & Stockholm Convention Regional Centre Southeast Asia (BCRC-SEA) and Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC).

UNEP, through 10YFP, and in collaboration with UNDP and UNFCCC Secretariat supported countries in the region to include project Building circularity into Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) through a toolbox. 2 regional sessions and 3 national sessions for Indonesia, the Philippines and Viet Nam were organized for providing training on use of the toolbox.

A regional workshop was organized in Bangkok (October 2024) to launch the first assessment report developed by using the Sustainable Consumption and Production Hotspots Analysis Tool (SCP-HAT) for the Asia region⁹². The launch was participated by representatives from governments, PAGE, ASEAN Biodiversity Centre and regional partners.

6.4 Resolution 2/5 Delivering on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Key events:

UN China Youth Environment Forum was hosted by UNEP on 27 October 2024. The forum, focused on engaging youth in climate action, attracted 266 in-person attendance of youth, teachers, experts and

⁹² <https://www.oneplanetnetwork.org/knowledge-centre/resources/regional-assessment-applying-scp-hotspots-analysis-tool-booklet>

policy makers. The forum attracted media attention from leading outlets nationwide such as CCTV News⁹³ and People's Daily⁹⁴.

⁹³ https://content-static.cctvnews.cctv.com/snow-book/video.html?item_id=3157444361298164551&t=1730337195861&toc_style_id=video_default&track_id=D32C4D27-4235-40C1-9C94-5C7891AF3C85_752036406007&share_to=wechat

⁹⁴ <https://www.peopleapp.com/column/30047142107-500005869924>