

Digital Transformations

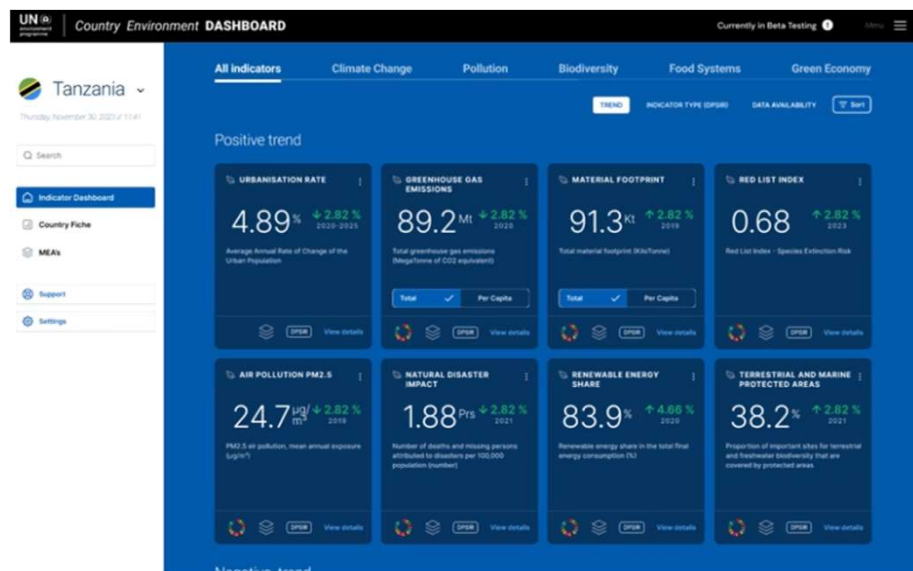
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A. Background: Programme Direction



Country Environment Dashboards – prototype

Programme Objective:

- Enabling the design and development of digital products and services that align with human-centered design principles to support countries and regions in achieving their environmental sustainability goals.
- Addressing and mitigating the potential negative environmental impacts associated with digital technologies.

Programme Outputs (key areas of work):

- Intergovernmental and interagency processes.
- Multistakeholder advocacy and outreach.
- Generation of digital solutions and supporting the dissemination of science-based knowledge products.
- Technical support, capacity building and country-specific advisory services

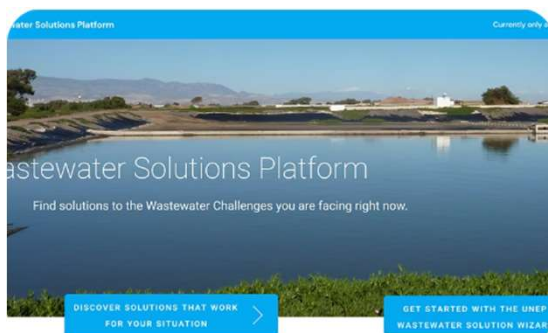
A. Background: Envisaged Impact and Strategic Coherence

Envisaged impact of programme:



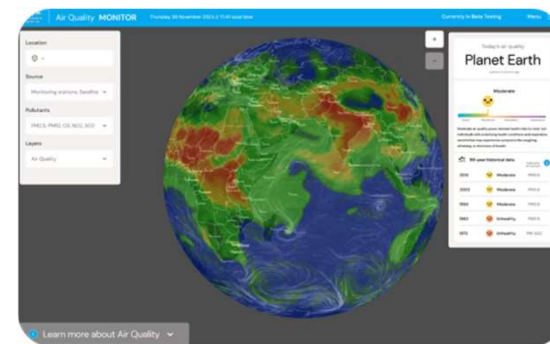
More timely, open and transparent monitoring and insights

More timely, open and transparent monitoring of environmental change, progress and solutions that drive data-driven decision making and enable accurate planning.



Strategic integration of environmental data

Strategic integration of environmental data, analytics, and norms by public and non-state actors within platforms, apps and algorithms that influence markets, supply chain and consumer behaviors.



Improved capacity & adoption

Strengthened capacity to use and govern digital technologies, AI and environmental data by member states to achieve their environmental objectives, SDGs and MEA commitments.



A. Background: Contribution to MTS and PoW

Contribution to MTS Outcomes (PoW 2025 Outcomes):

As an enabling sub-programme Digital Transportations contributes to all 9 Outcomes of the PoW 2025.

Contribution to PoW Direct Outcomes:

Climate action: 1.1; 1.3; 1.5; 1.7; 1.6; 1.8

Nature action: 2.1; 2.2; 2.7; 2.9; 2.10; 2.14; 2.15

Chemicals and pollution action: 3.4; 3.11; 3.12; 3.13

B. Project Portfolio: Overview

Key Digital Transformation Projects



World Environment Situation Room (WESR)

Global platform providing environmental data and applications for informed decision-making.



Global Environmental Data Strategy (GEDS)

Framework for standardizing and integrating environmental data across international systems.



Capacity Building

Training programs enabling countries to harness digital tools for environmental sustainability.



Transboundary Environmental Data Project – East Africa

Cross-border initiative facilitating environmental data sharing and collaboration in East Africa.



SDG Digital Joint Programme – Kenya

Collaborative initiative using digital solutions to advance sustainable development goals in Kenya.

Programme Integration and Synergies

- The Digital Transformation Programme works across UNEP with 51 projects containing digital components.
- It provides guidance on innovative technologies while maintaining close alignment with all environmental programmes to address the three planetary crises.

B. Project Portfolio: Illustrative Examples



WESR landing page mock-up 1

Global Environment Data Strategy (GEDS)

- Strategy highlighting global perspectives, best practices, and key recommendations for environmental data.
- Stakeholder consultations and 1st draft completed.
- 2nd draft due for ASC meeting in September.

World Environment Situation Room (WESR)

- UNEP's data and applications platform.
- Pilot launch at UNEA-7.
- Continuous addition of datasets, use cases, and AI capabilities.
- Finalizing WESR/UNEP data policies.

Capacity Building (Digital Accelerator Lab)

- Showcases 10 prototypes for user feedback and 12 digital applications, along with reports and resources.
- Digital Product Management course in development.
- Provides technical support, and user-centered design services.

B. Project Portfolio: Illustrative Examples



Ministry of ICT and Digital Economy Cabinet Secretary Dr Margaret Ngun'u and other top UN and UNESCO officials during the launch of DigiKen in Nairobi on October 7, 2024

SDG Digital Joint Programme – Kenya

Project co-led by UNESCO with UNEP, UN Women, and UNCDF

Objective: empowering women and youth in green businesses, enhancing public sector digital competencies, and advancing digital policy dialogues.



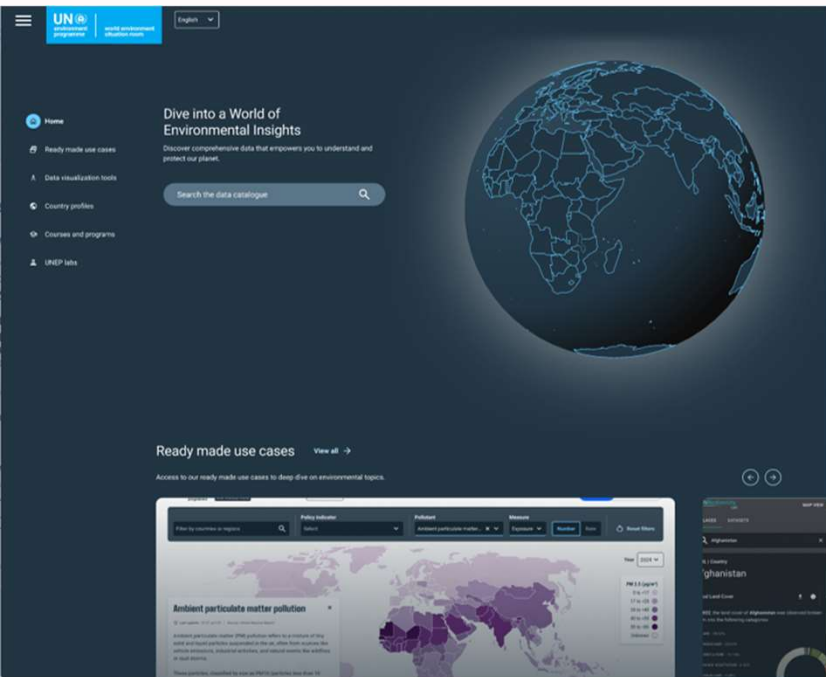
Joint SDG Fund – Twitter post

GIZ Transboundary Environmental Data Project – East Africa

Partnership with GIZ involving Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, and Rwanda.

Objective: co-develop transboundary environmental data-sharing framework.

C. Results Achieved



WESR landing page mock-up 2

Result – WESR and GEDS, Capacity Building

- Finalized new **WESR platform architecture** and initiated pilot implementation.
- Started development of **WESR and UNEP data policies** based on GEDS principles.
- **Prototyped 4 WESR use cases**: AI Sandbox, EnvironmentGPT, Environmental Policy Tracker, Country Environment Dashboards.
- **GEDS first draft** completed, second draft in preparation.
- **Launched the Coalition for Environmentally Sustainable Artificial Intelligence** - over 100 partners—including 37 tech companies, 11 countries, and 5 international organizations.
- **Digital Product Management** course in review, launch in Q3.
- **Identified 9 new digital use case ideas**, currently testing requirements.
- **Data and Digital Governance Group** adopted its operationalization document.

Result – East Africa - Transboundary, DigiKen

- **Partnership established** with Kenya School of Government to develop training curriculum
- MoUs signed with **15 digital innovation hubs**.
- **Training for MSMEs commenced** in May 2025. Out of 100 planned (over 2 years), 40 MSMEs trained as of now.
- Copernicus LAC Panama Center Presentation delivered.
- National **consultations held in Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, and Rwanda**.
- **Joint regional workshop** planned for June 2025.

D. Lessons Learned

Lessons Learned

- **Knowledge Exchange Facility** on Digital and Artificial Intelligence for Environment.
- **More “operational” focus** for GEDS v2.
- **Need for sustainable financing** and capacity building for GEDS implementation in Global South.
- **Data ownership and sovereignty** important for Member States.
- **Co-creation with Member States** ensures quicker scaling and effective implementation of digital transformation (DT) solutions.
- **Leveraging US System Expertise** creates catalytic impact beyond DT.

Changes Made

- GEDS consultations included **comprehensive survey** in addition to on-line consultation sessions.
- **Additional regional consultation** sessions introduced for GEDS draft revisions.
- **Expansion** of UNEP's digital learning portfolio.
- **Continuous improvement of WESR** use cases ensures alignment with dynamic user requirements.
- **WESR evolves** from a basic webpage aggregator **into a robust, modern, and fully integrated data platform.**

COALITION FOR
SUSTAINABLE AI

Coalition for Sustainable Artificial Intelligence

community of stakeholders to advance concrete initiatives
making Artificial Intelligence beneficial to our environment

LEARN MORE

JOIN THE COALITION

SHARED

the Coalition? Why become

E. Way Forward

- ◆ A: Digital Solutions – WESR pilot and use-cases
- ◆ B: Data Access and Governance – GEDS
- ◆ C: Emerging Technologies - AI
- ◆ D: Capacity Building
- ◆ E: Focus on direct support to Member States



Five pillars of GEDS

Thank you

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