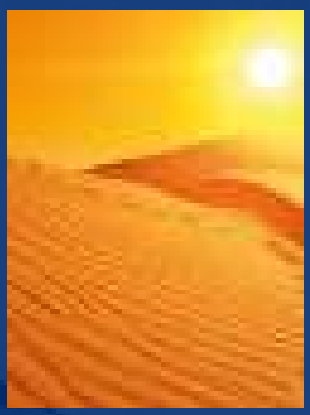
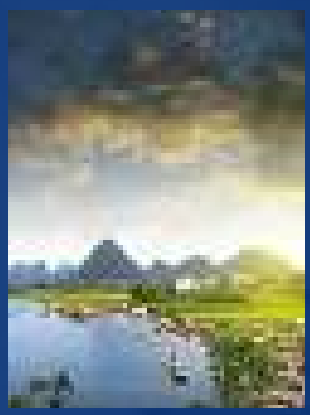

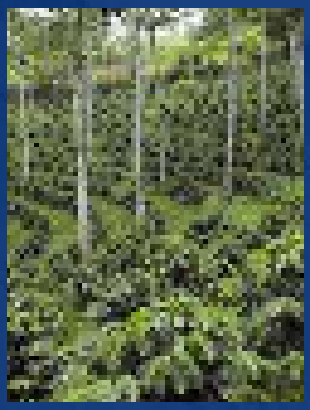

UNEP

UNITED NATIONS
ENVIRONMENT
PROGRAMME

PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE REPORT 2014–2015

2014-2015

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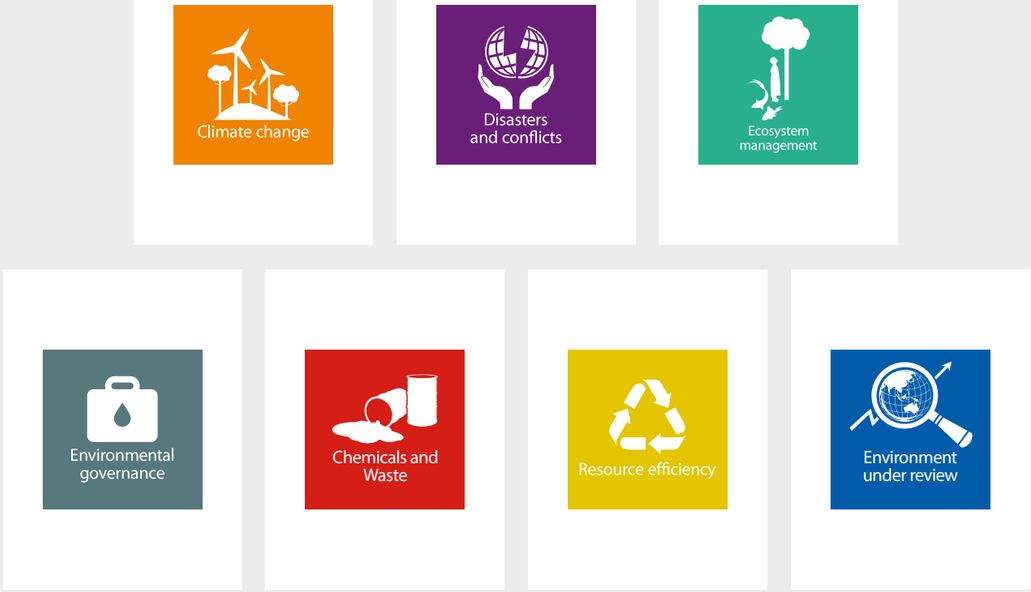
UNEP

UNITED NATIONS
ENVIRONMENT
PROGRAMME

Programme Performance Report



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We partner with United Nations sister agencies, secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements and other strategically placed institutions, driven by the potential impact leveraged from each opportunity.

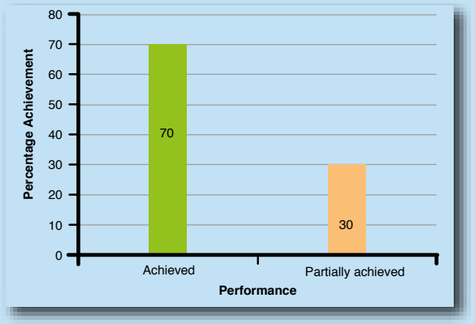
UNEP is the lead organization to coordinate environmental matters within the United Nations system. We produce environmental assessments and analyses, norms, guidelines and methods for use by stakeholders looking for guidance on how to effectively manage the environment for their sustainable development and economic growth. With a global remit, some 850 staff and a biennial expenditure of $795.8 million, our ability to achieve significant impact is based on partnerships—integral to the organization's strategy to place environment and sustainable development, at the heart of everything we do.

Our products and services give us a broad array of tools to catalyse change in response to demand.

We are committed to strengthening our operations to enforce results-based management.

OVERALL PERFORMANCE METRICS

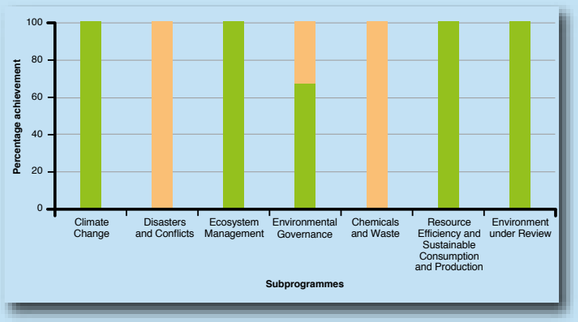
Overall performance



70 per cent of expected accomplishments have achieved the targets for the 2014-2015 biennium

Target achieved
Target partially achieved

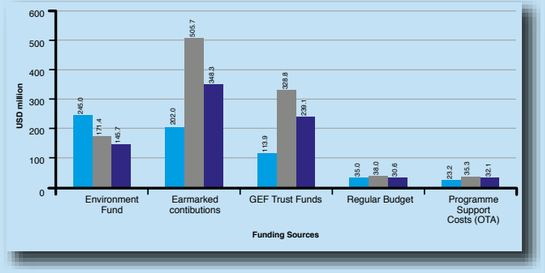
Status of Achievement of Expected Accomplishments in the Programme of Work



The majority of results in each subprogramme have been achieved. Where not, adaptive measures have been taken to improve future performance.

Target achieved
Target partially achieved

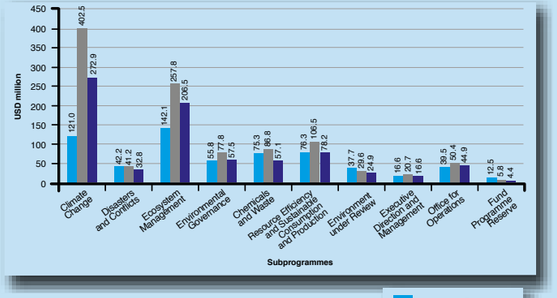
2014-2015 Budget performance by funding source



Overall income is higher than the total planned budget

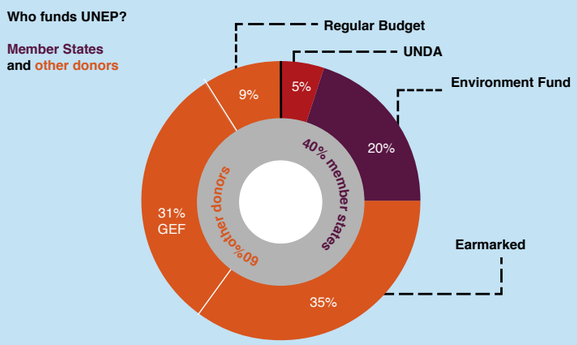
2014-2015 Budget
Allocations as at 31 October 2015
Expenditures as at 31 October 2015

Analysis of 2014 - 2015 budget, allocations and expenditures



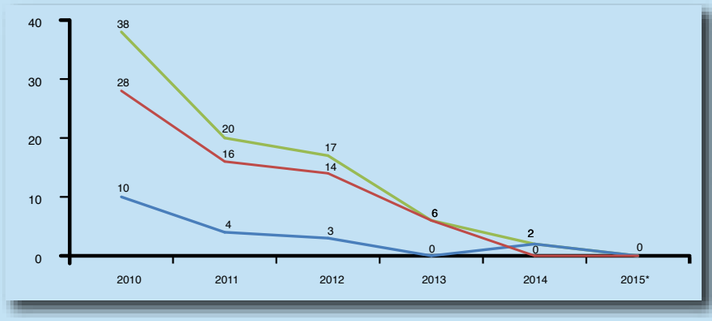
2014-2015 Budget
Allocations as at 31 October 2015
Expenditures as at 31 October 2015

2014-2015 Member States and other donors funding of UNEP by fund type and donor type



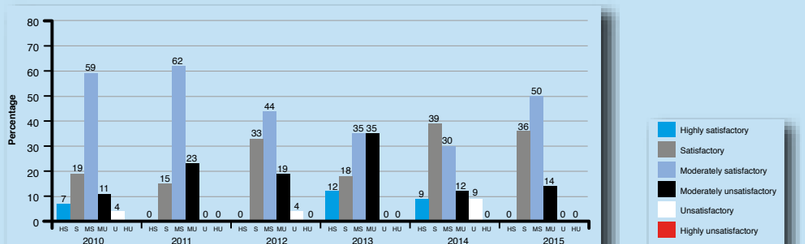
* Percentages values of contributions for fund source

Trends in Audit recommendations



UNEP has progressively improved operations as evidenced from the reduction of 'critical' and 'important' OIOS recommendations.

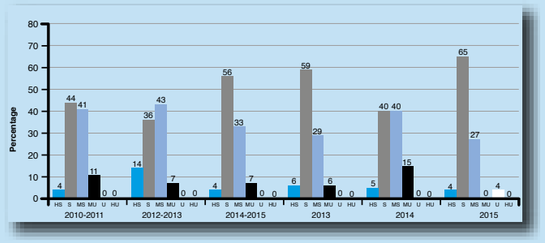
Evaluation findings showing overall sustainability of outcomes by year 2010-2015



*Figures may slightly differ from total due to rounding off

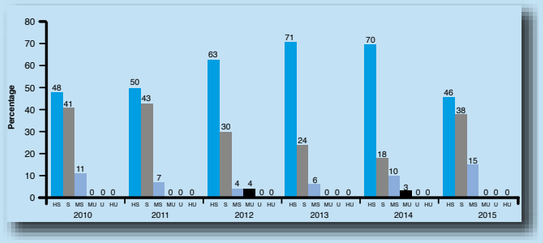
Evaluation findings show that most projects there is a likelihood (moderately satisfactory) that outcomes from UNEP's portfolio will be sustained

Evaluation findings showing overall performance by year



Evaluation findings show that most projects have an overall performance rating between moderately satisfactory to highly satisfactory

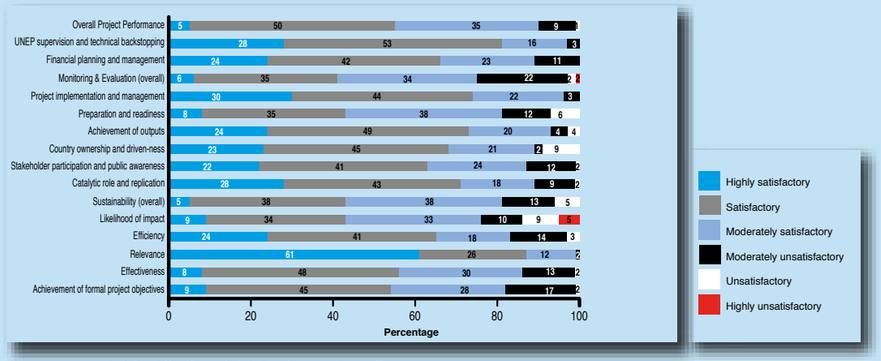
Evaluation findings showing project relevance by year



*Figures may slightly differ from total due to rounding off

Evaluation findings show that most projects have an overall rating between satisfactory to highly satisfactory for project relevance

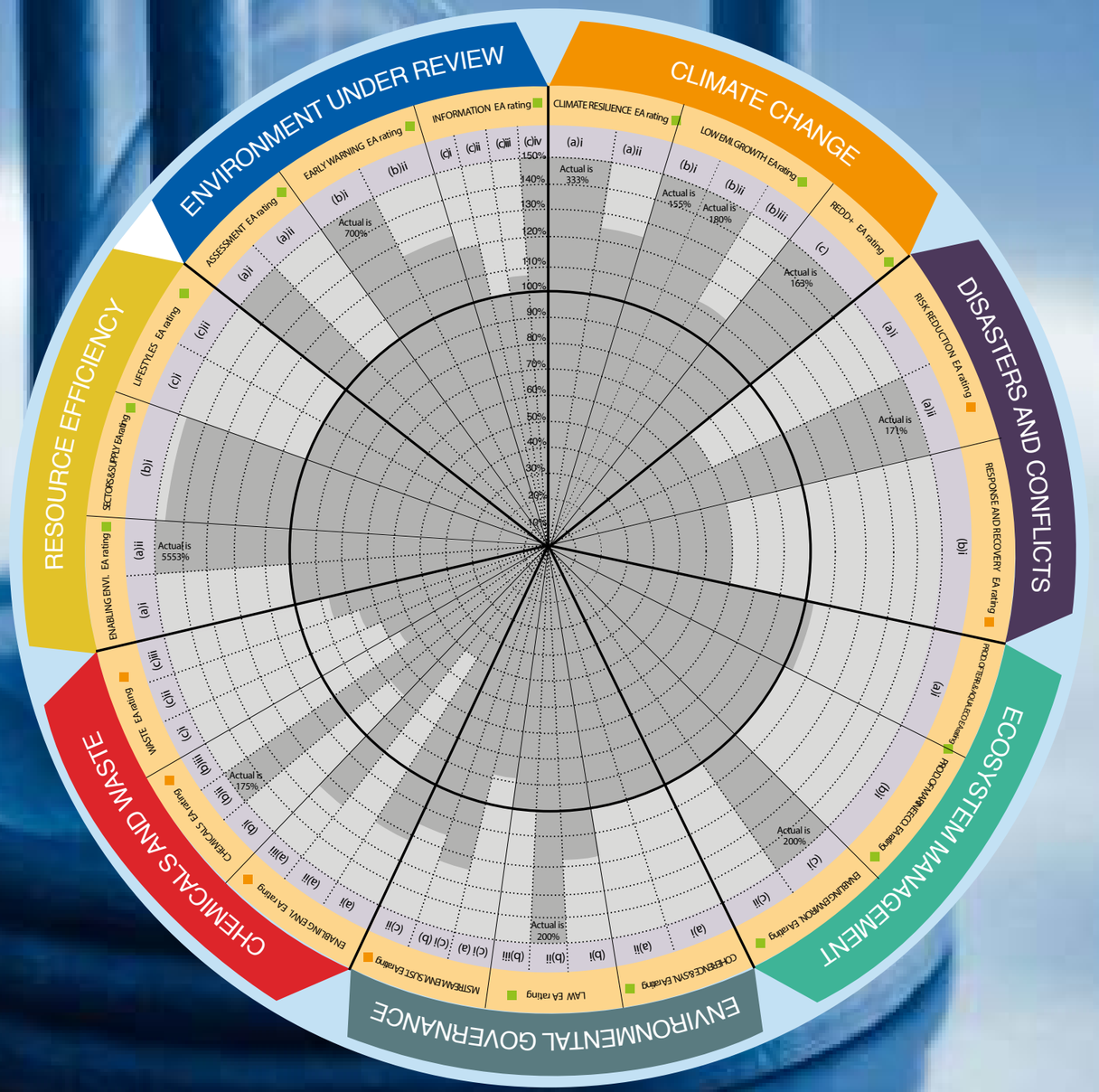
Evaluation findings showing project performance 2014-2015



*Figures may slightly differ from total due to rounding off

Evaluation findings show that the majority of projects recently evaluated are rated between the range of moderately satisfactory to highly satisfactory for the criteria reviewed

Status of Achievement of Expected Accomplishments in the Programme of Work



OVERVIEW

The biennium 2014-2015 marks the end of the first half of the UNEP Medium-Term Strategy for the period 2014-2017 and the implementation of the Programme of Work for 2014-2015. UNEP's performance review shows that as of December 2015, **70 per cent of expected accomplishments** (i.e. planned outcomes) in the Programme of Work for the biennium 2014-2015 had been **achieved, and 79 per cent of the targeted indicators had been achieved** (see Figures 1 and 2). This result was based on a **total expenditure of $795.8 million,** 128.6 per cent of the biennium's projected budget (see Figure 3). Income exceeded the projected budget.

Three major conclusions can be drawn from the performance report:

- UNEP met most of its targets for 2014-2015, generally achieving its objectives in the Programme of Work 2014-2015 and is on track to achieve the outcomes planned in the Medium-Term Strategy for the period 2014-2017.
- Where results were not fully achieved, and in continuing to improve its results-based approach, UNEP has **developed and strengthened the capacity** needed. In cases where indicators were not adequate, UNEP has refined the indicators and means of measurement for the next Medium-Term Strategy for the period 2018-2021 and the associated Programme of Work. UNEP has also continued to improve business processes to ensure the **efficiency, effectiveness** and **impact** of UNEP's work is further enhanced.
- For countries to achieve sustainable development, UNEP's support will need to be intensified to ensure that **environmental sustainability becomes integral to economic progress and development while also being essential to achieving social gains.** UNEP's support to countries can also leverage change at an ambitious scale if its strategy and regional presence builds on the **partnership approach that UNEP has embraced in 2014-2015** to deliver on its commitments pursuant to the Rio +20 outcome – *The Future we Want.*

Figure 1: Overall performance

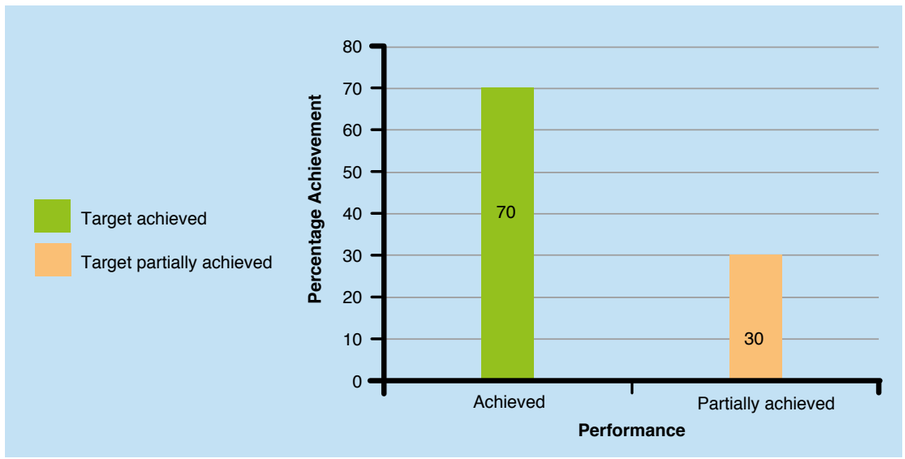


Figure 2. Status of achievement of expected accomplishments in the Programme of Work

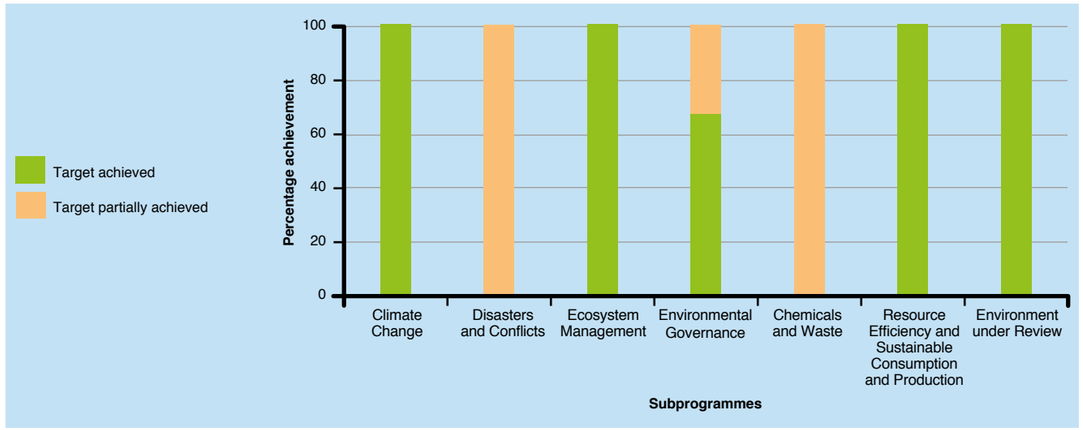
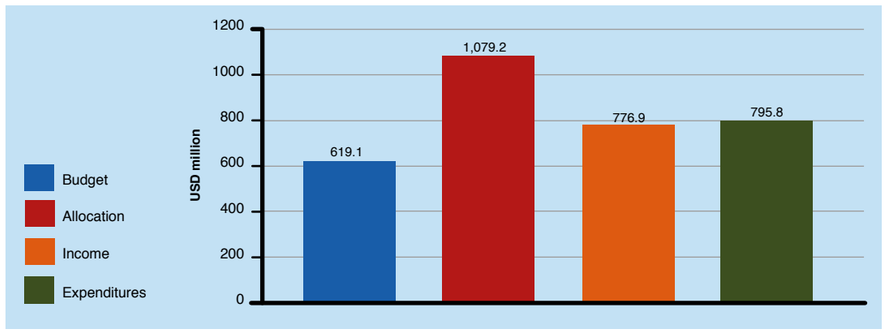


Figure 3. Overall budget performance* (2014-2015)



*Allocation and income figures include funds received for multiple years.

THE GLOBAL LANDSCAPE IN 2014-2015

The 2014-2015 period has been pivotal for the international community, and for UNEP's role within it. Member States reached agreement on several major international frameworks, each of which provides an important platform for addressing a critical global environmental challenge.

The foundation was laid for an integrated approach to sustainable development with the adoption of the ***2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,*** **which fully integrates the environmental dimension** into its goals and targets. In 2014-2015, four countries have already piloted an integrated approach to strengthening policies to enhance sustainability.

UNEP played an active role in the development of the proposed indicator framework for reviewing progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). A new portal, hosted on **UNEP Live,** visualizes the linkages from indicators to goals and targets and demonstrates how the environment is connected with the social and economic dimensions of the 2030 Agenda.[1]

The ***Paris Agreement on Climate Change,*** adopted in December 2015, is a historic milestone in the world's efforts to avert dangerous impacts on the world's climate system. UNEP has the critical ability to **tackle this environmental challenge while also ensuring economic and social benefits.** Multi-stakeholder partnerships such as the **Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN),** hosted

1. See http://uneplive.unep.org/portal

by UNEP with UNIDO, are key vehicles for bringing such change. Such partnerships are able to deliver customized assistance to many more countries than UNEP could handle on its own. CTCN, for instance, supports more than 40 countries – building agricultural resilience in Mali, developing an early warning system in the Dominican Republic, supporting transportation efficiency in Bhutan, and improving waste management in Indonesia, among many other projects.[2]

The Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC), which has grown to 110 partners with combined pledges worth $75 million,[3] is another key vehicle for leveraging change at an ambitious scale. Under the CCAC, 11 high-impact initiatives are being implemented in the agriculture, brick production, cooking, heating, diesel vehicles, oil and gas production and municipal solid waste sectors. While helping to **curb greenhouse gas emissions,** CCAC's work will also **reduce the health impacts of air pollution.** The WHO estimates that around **7 million people died prematurely** because of air pollution in 2012.

With outdoor air pollution responsible for half these deaths and global data coverage limited, UNEP with partners embarked on a ground-breaking effort to enable more developing countries to monitor air quality and estimate health effects. In August 2015, UNEP unveiled a **low-cost air quality unit** for measuring major air pollutants. The blue print will be made available as a global public good to enable countries to cost-effectively build such units and monitor air quality.

The ***Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction,*** agreed in March, affirms that **sound environmental management is crucial to reducing the impacts** of natural disasters and industrial accidents, including their economic and social effects. In 2014-2015, 21,000 people died as a result of disasters, and another 1.3 million were displaced. During the same period, **UNEP experts joined humanitarian response teams in 22 crisis-affected countries,** advising the countries on how to cope with the environmental aspects of the emergency. Building countries' resilience is critical to reducing the negative economic and social impacts of disasters.

2. See https://www.ctc-n.org/news/ctcn-presents-its-progress-report
3. See http://www.ccacoalition.org/en

Figure 4: Global consumption of Ozone Depleting Substance (ODS) - 1990

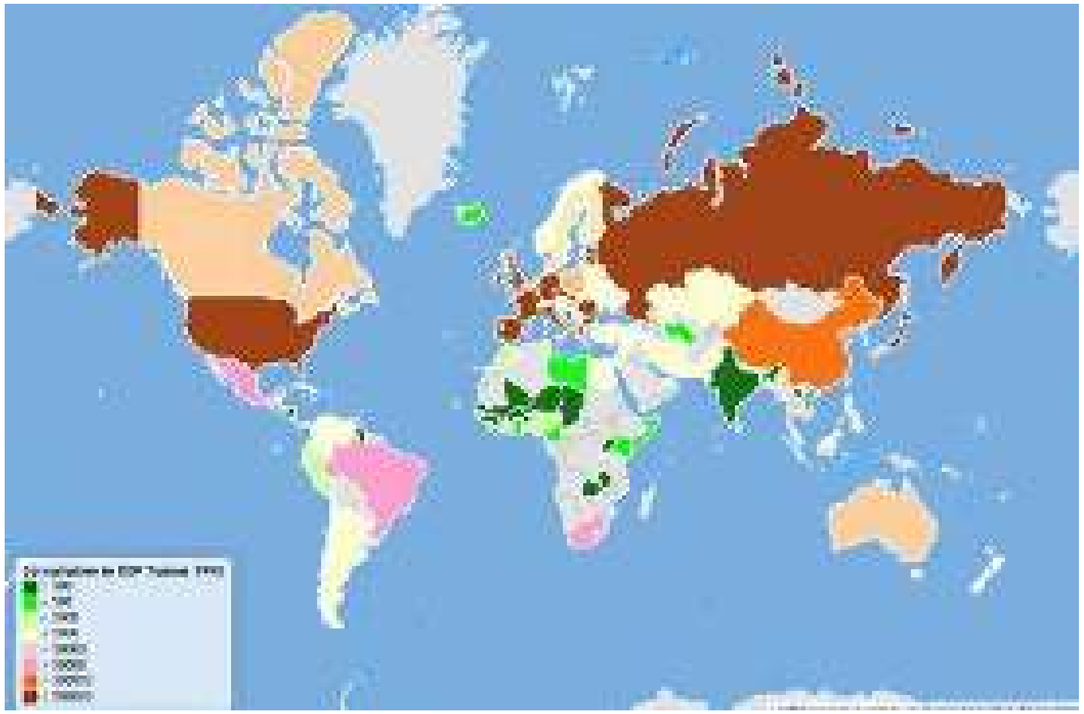


Figure 5: Global consumption of Ozone Depleting Substance (ODS) - 2000

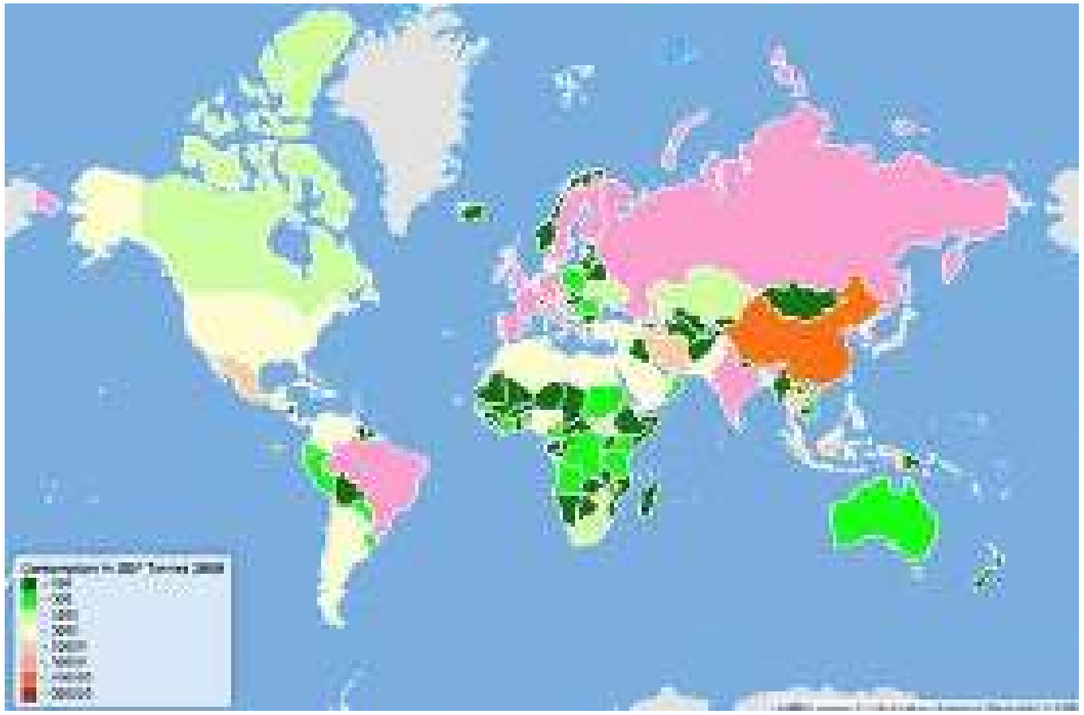


Figure 6: Global consumption of Ozone Depleting Substance (ODS) - 2010

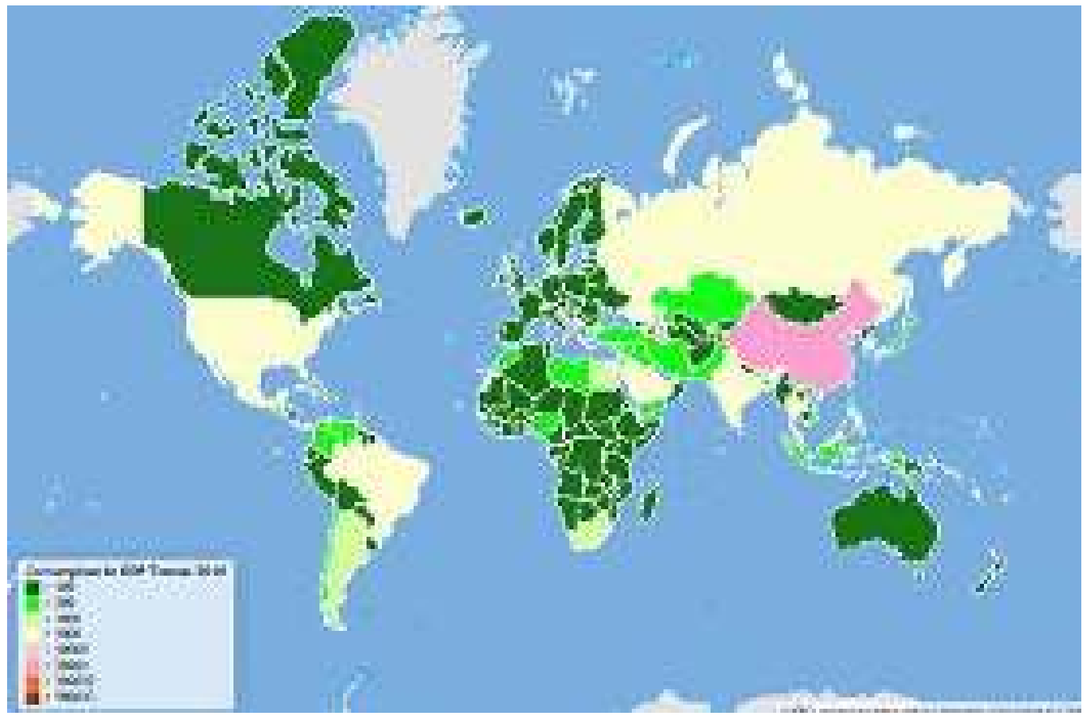
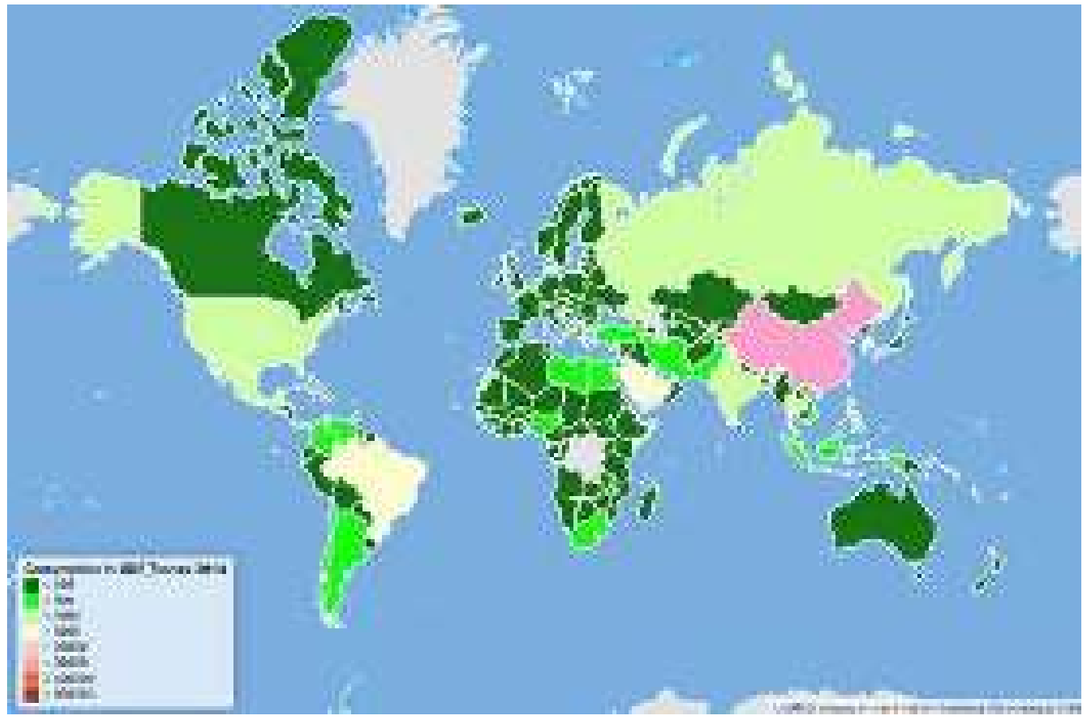


Figure 7: Global consumption of Ozone Depleting Substance (ODS) - 2014



GEO 6
GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT OUTLOOK
HEALTHY PLANET HEALTHY PEOPLE

With UNEP's support, **17 countries valued their ecosystems** in 2014-2015. **Seven of these countries have since used that valuation data in their national accounting and budgeting processes.** Such efforts will increase countries' resilience to climate change and other disasters, a key component of sustainable development.

Another key component of sustainable development is access to adequate financial resources. In 2014 and 2015, UNEP carried out an **inquiry into the design of a sustainable financial system**.[4] *The Financial System We Need*[5] was launched in October at the World Bank/IMF Annual meeting with UNEP's Executive Director, the Governor of the Bank of England, the Deputy Governor of the People's Bank of China, and the Governor of the Bank of Bangladesh. The report identifies a number of ways that **central banks, financial regulators and standard setters** can incorporate sustainability into **the rules that govern the financial system.** The Portfolio Decarbonization Coalition, for instance, mobilizes institutional investors to decarbonize their investment portfolios; the coalition has already attracted **more than $600 billion in commitments to decarbonize assets under management.**[6]

UNEP'S LESSONS LEARNED

Several **lessons have been learned over the 2014-2015 biennium.** The first lesson comes from efforts to protect the ozone layer. Governments and the international community have worked hard to reduce the use of ozone-depleting chemicals and find suitable replacements. The *Scientific Assessment of Ozone Depletion*[7] in 2014 showed the **Earth's protective ozone layer is on track to recovery,** a result of efforts of a number of partners, of which UNEP is one (see Figures 4-7). After decades of effort, humanity's biggest-ever planetary repair job has started to pay off. Millions of cases of skin cancer will now be avoided every year.[8] The lesson learned is that planning processes should take into account long-term impacts, even if they may be decades in the making. UNEP has thus embedded **a longer-term vision** for all of its work in its new Medium-Term Strategy for the period 2018-2021. This vision aligns with the goals and targets set in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

4. See: http://www.unepinquiry.org
5. Available at http://web.unep.org/inquiry/publications
6. See http://unepfi.org/pdc/
7. https://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/arep/gaw/ozone_2014/ozone_asst_report.html
8. See http://unep.org/newscentre/Default.aspx?DocumentID=26854&ArticleID=35539&l=en

Performance indicators that measure outcomes in each biennium and a longer-term impact in 2030 now underpin UNEP's future strategic plans. Another key lesson learned is that, at an operational level, **UNEP should concentrate its resources in fewer but more ambitious initiatives** that draw on the expertise of strategic partners and expertise across the organization. Such efforts will be key to achieving tangible environmental, economic and social gains.

As UNEP strengthens its results-based management, it must also align its human and financial resources with the results outlined in its programme of work. The programme of work for 2018-2019 will see a transition to **results-based budgeting**. The aim of this shift is to better harness skill sets across the organization to deliver results, especially in the regions. This will increase UNEP's efficiency and ability to scale up results around the world.

To continue to strengthen UNEP's ability to achieve measurable outcomes, results-based management continues to be emphasized across the organization. UNEP's **Evaluation Office,** which works independently of UNEP´s operational divisions, evaluates all completed projects with a budget of $1 million or more. According to UNEP's overall project performance to date, the majority of the organization's work has been given a rating of **"satisfactory" or higher** and performance has been improving over the years (see Figures 8-11). Two particular areas, ***relevance and sustainability,*** which have been a concern in the past, have also shown **improvements in 2015.** The organization will continue to emphasize the need to ensure a solid causal relationship between UNEP's work and the targeted outcomes and impacts. Such an approach will help the organization continuously review its progress towards its longer-term vision.

Figure 8: Evaluation findings showing project performance 2014-2015

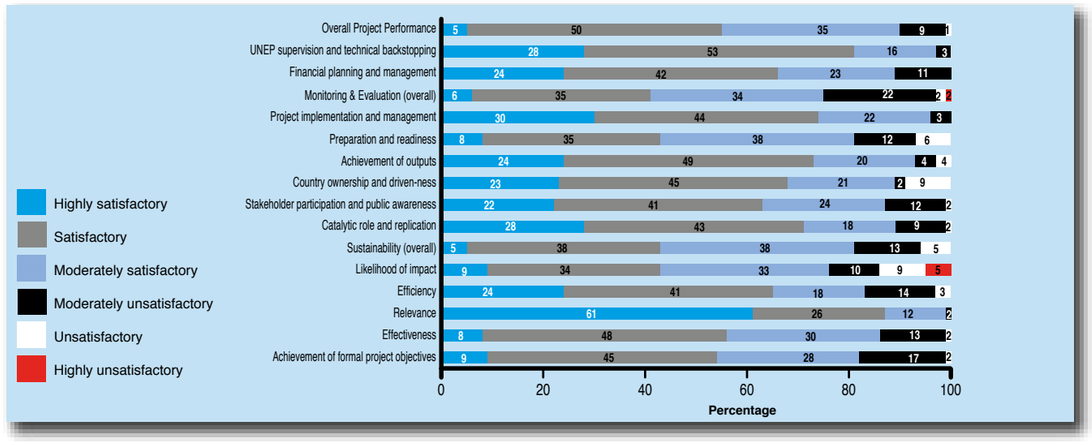


Figure 9: Evaluation findings showing overall sustainability of outcomes by year 2010-2015

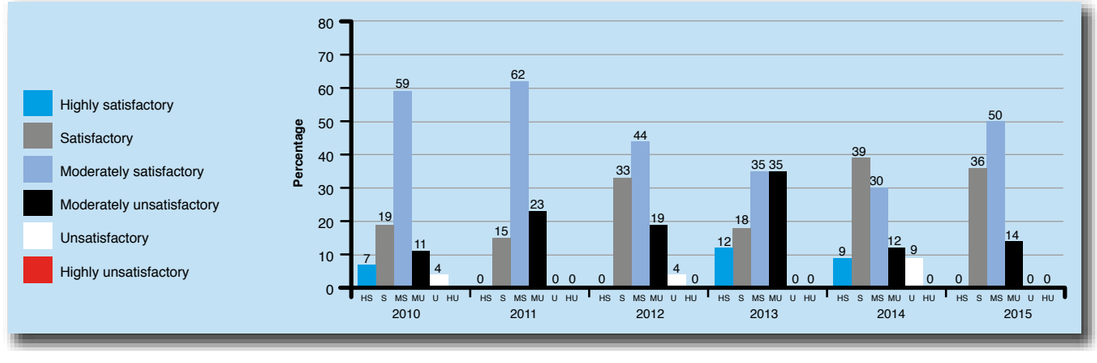


Figure 10: Evaluation findings showing project relevance by year

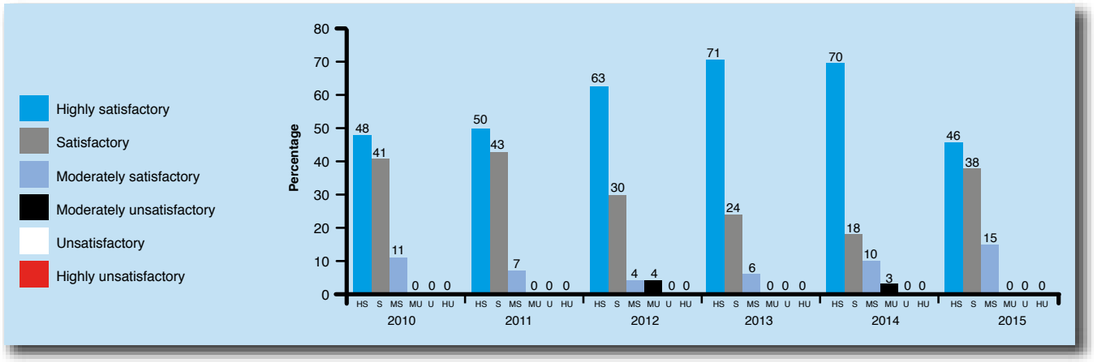
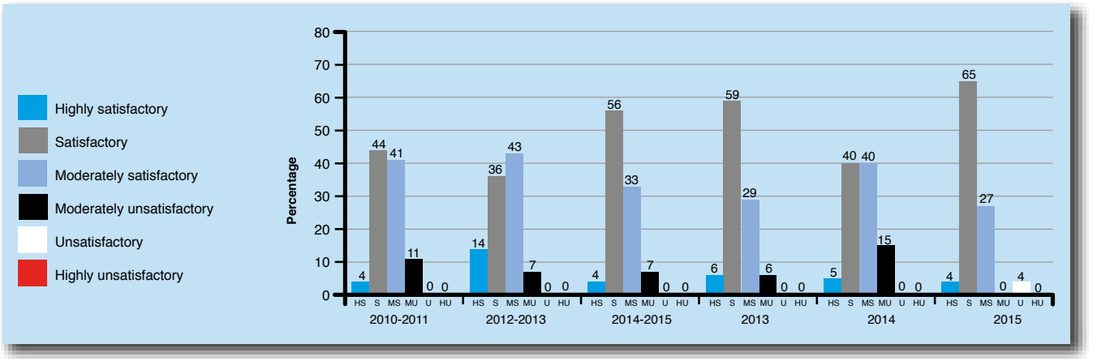
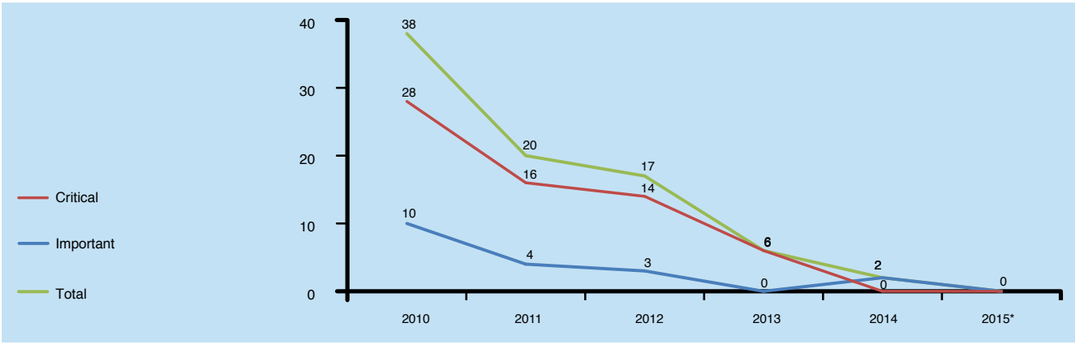


Figure 11: Evaluation findings showing overall performance by year



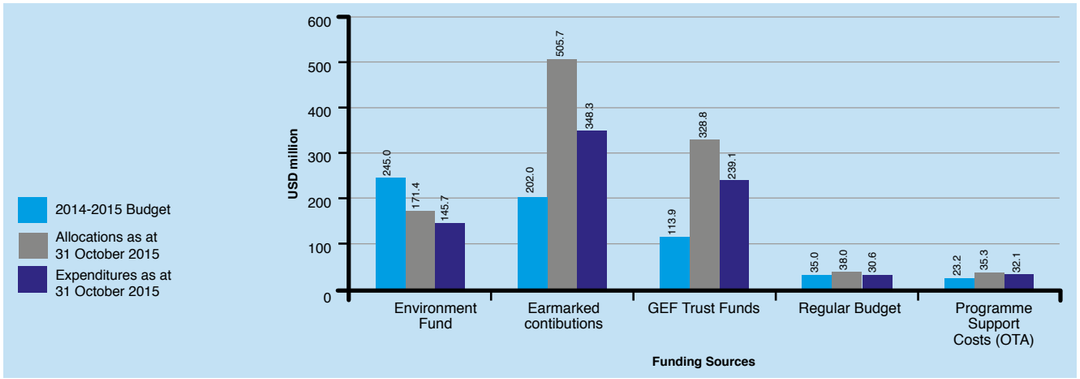
Complementing UNEP's own monitoring of performance were reviews and **audits** of the UN Office of International Oversight Services (OIOS). UNEP has been able to progressively reduce the number of "critical" OIOS recommendations from 28 in 2010 to zero in 2015 and "important" OIOS recommendations from ten in 2010 to zero in 2015 (see Figure 12).

Figure 12: Trends in audit recommendations



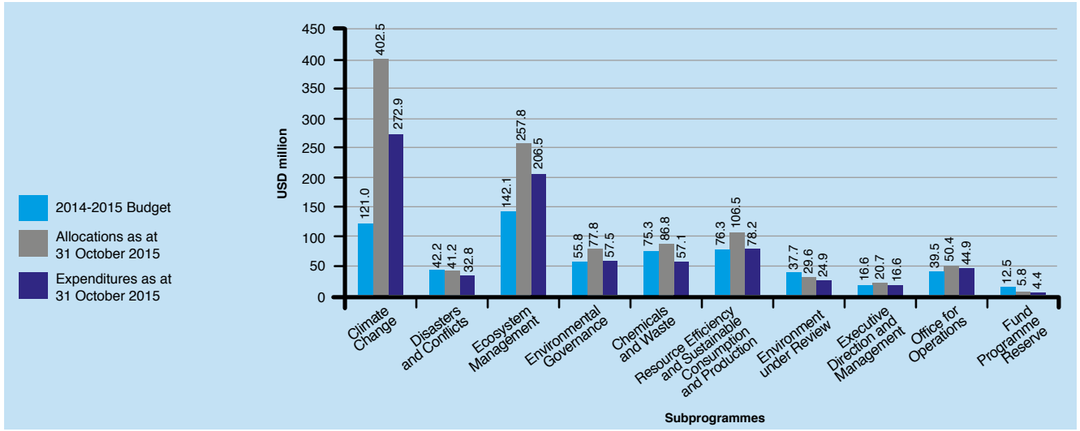
UNEP has progressively improved operations as evidenced from the reduction of 'critical' and 'important' OIOS recommendations.

Figure 13: 2014-2015 budget performance by funding source



* Figures may slightly differ from totals due to rounding off

Figure 14: Analysis of 2014-2015 budget, allocations and expenditures



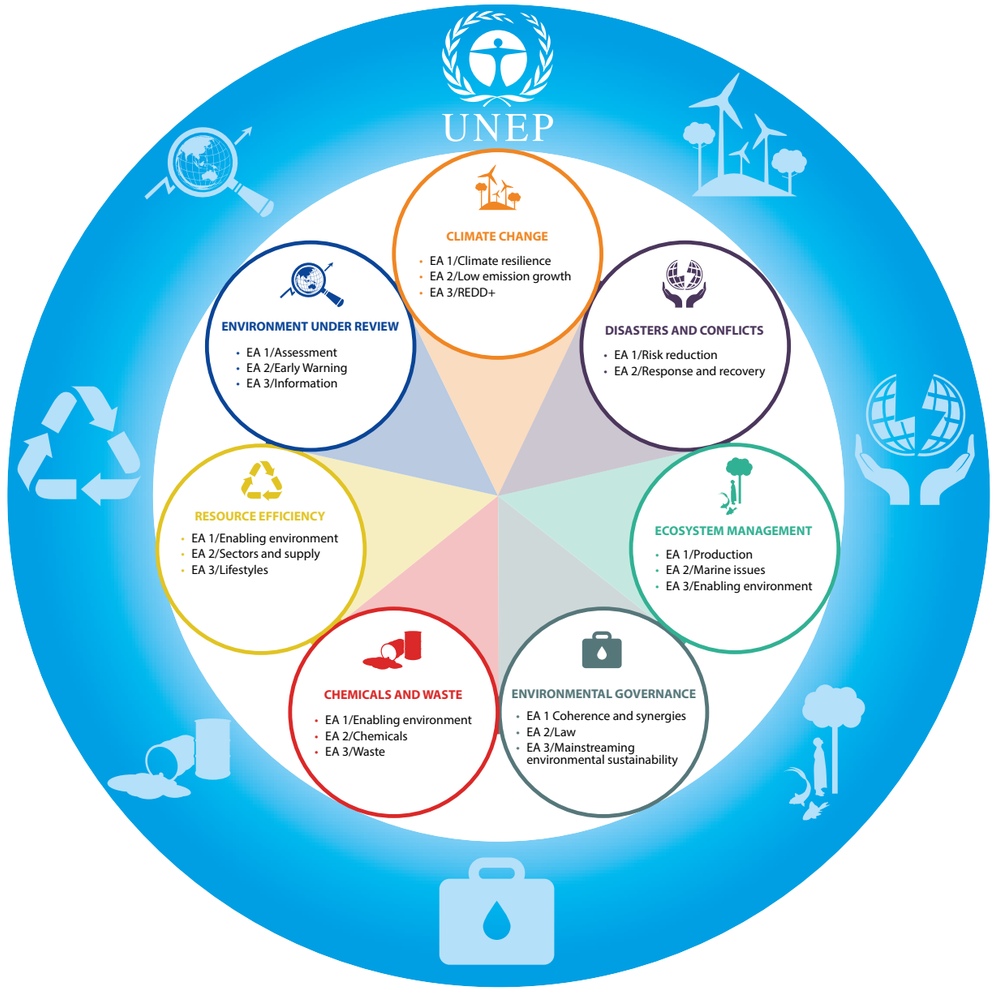
2014-2015 in numbers

Total planned budget	Total actual income	Total expenditures
USD million	USD million	USD million
619	777	796*
245 Environment fund	154 Environment fund	146 Environment fund
202 Earmarked contributions	346** Earmarked contributions	348 Earmarked contributions
35 Regular budget	39 Regular budget	31 Regular budget
114 GEF	238 GEF	239 GEF
23 Programme support		32 Programme support

*Expenditures were able to exceed income as a result of balances brought forward from the past biennium that were to be spent in the 2014-2015 biennium.

**Income inclusive of programme support.

Figure 15. UNEP's results framework



The next section provides an overview of the extent to which UNEP achieved its targets within its seven priority areas (see Figure 15), taking into account the budget available for delivery of results (see Figures 13 and 14):

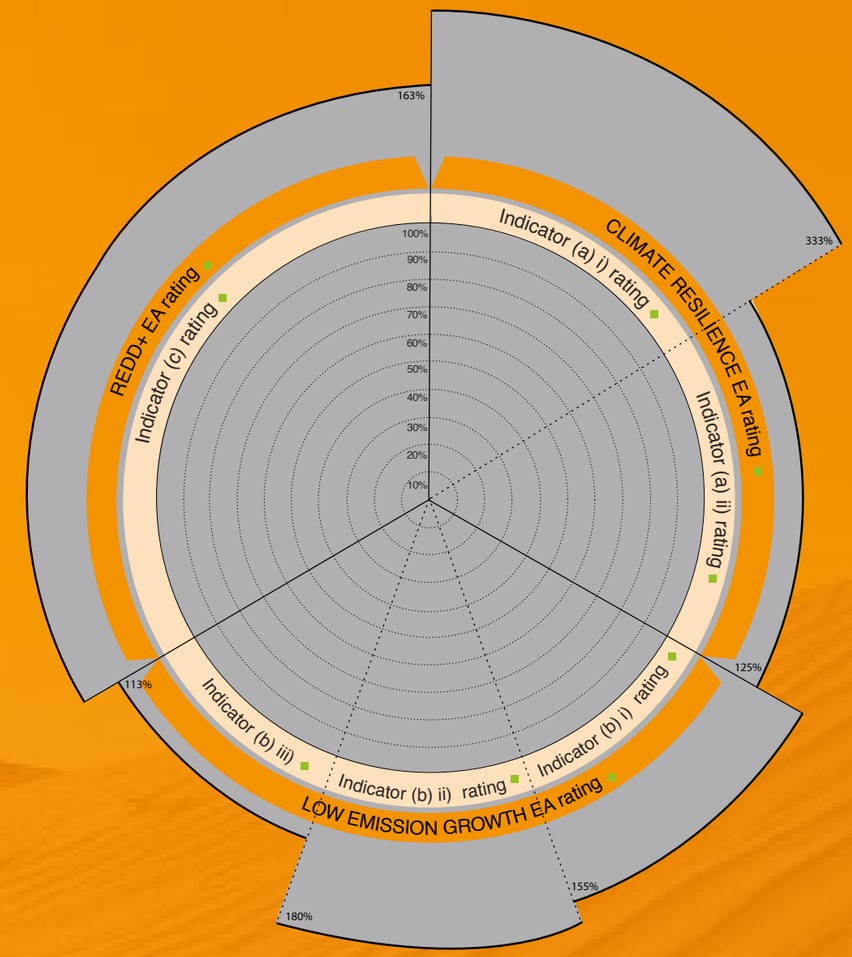
- Climate change
- Disasters and conflicts
- Ecosystem management
- Environmental governance
- Chemicals and waste
- Resource efficiency and sustainable consumption and production
- Environment under review

CLIMATE CHANGE

In its work on climate change, UNEP focuses on achieving results in three areas:

- ***Climate resilience*** where UNEP supports countries in using ecosystem-based approaches to adapt and build resilience to climate change
- ***Low-emission growth*** where UNEP supports countries to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, adopt renewable energy, scale up energy efficiency measures, and reduce air pollution
- ***REDD+*** where UNEP enables countries to capitalize on investment opportunities that reduce greenhouse emissions from deforestation and forest degradation with adequate social and environmental safeguards

UNEP exceeded its 2014-2015 targets on climate change. UNEP was able to deliver at a higher level than planned due to the additional income received from extra-budgetary sources and the effectiveness of its partnerships.



Target achieved

Target partially achieved (60% and above)

Target not achieved (below 60%)

— Actual progress as at December 2015 against December 2014–2015 target

INDICATORS OF ACHIEVEMENT

CLIMATE RESILIENCE

(a) i) Increase in the number of countries implementing ecosystem-based and other supporting adaptation approaches as a result of UNEP support.

(a) ii) Increase in number of countries incorporating ecosystem-based and supporting adaptation approaches in key sectoral and development plans, with the assistance of UNEP

LOW EMISSION GROWTH

(b) i) Increase in the number of countries implementing new renewable energy and/or energy efficiency initiatives with the assistance of UNEP.

(b) ii) Increase in the number of finance institutions demonstrating commitment of resources to clean technology investments as a result of UNEP's supports.

b) iii) Increase in number of implemented programmes/projects by countries on transfer of advanced technologies in the area of renewable energy/or energy efficiency with the assistance of UNEP'. Performance against this indicator will be measured at the end of 2015

REDD+

(c) Increase in the number of countries adopting and implementing REDD+ strategies incorporating multiple benefits with the assistance of UNEP.

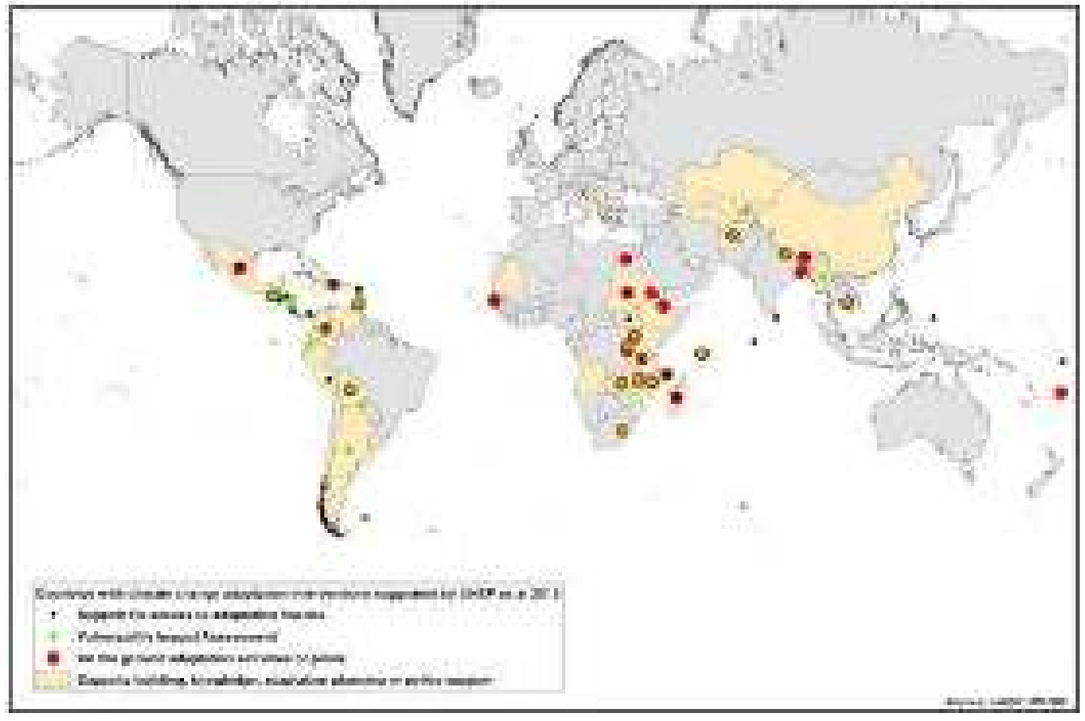
CLIMATE RESILIENCE

UNEP enabled **20 countries** to **implement ecosystem-based and other adaptation approaches in 2014-2015.** Figure 16 shows the kind of support UNEP provides to countries and the geographic spread of the portfolio across regions. Of these countries, **10 progressed in 2014-2015 to the level of incorporating ecosystem-based (EbA) and other supporting adaptation approaches in key sectoral and development plans** bringing the cumulative total to 19 countries,[9] which exceeded UNEP's target for December 2015 (see Figure 17).

The implementation of such plans requires financing. According to UNEP's second *Global Adaptation Gap Report,* the costs of adaptation are likely to be two-to-three times higher than current global estimates (see Box 1). UNEP's support to countries therefore includes assistance in accessing adaptation finance. In 2014-2015, UNEP supported 10 countries[10] with their **accreditation process to the Adaptation Fund,** of which four countries (Costa Rica, Mexico, Namibia and Peru) became accredited and can now access finance directly.

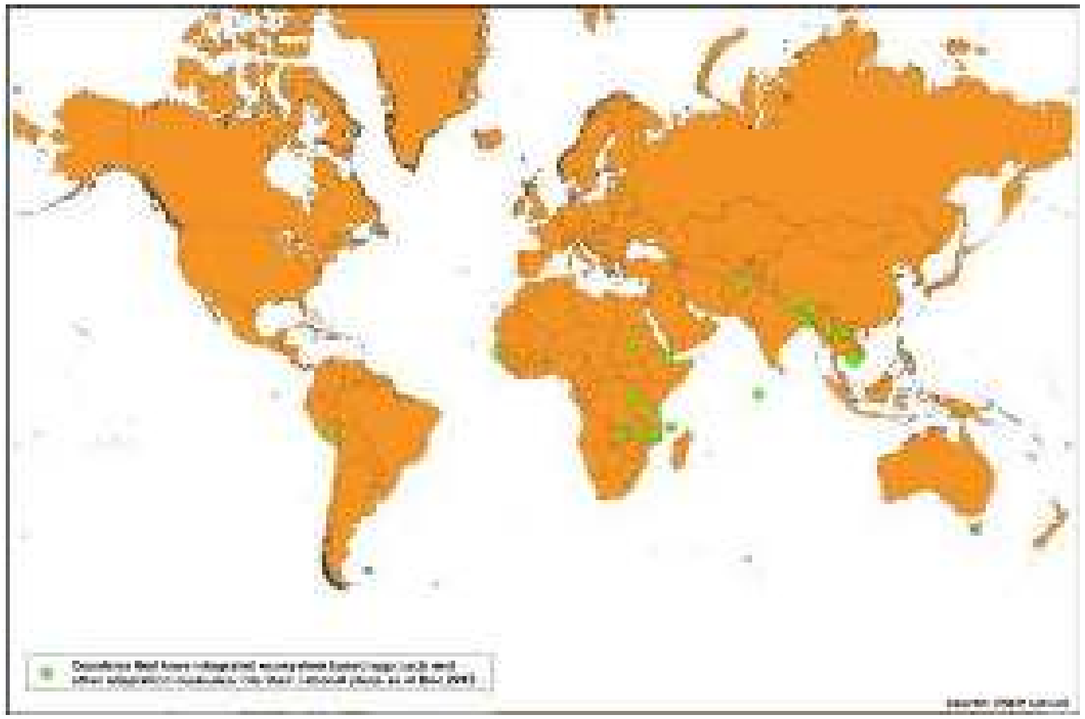
In addition, UNEP helped countries increase the **availability of micro-finance** for adaptation. During 2014-2015, five microfinance institutions in Colombia and Peru delivered 1,300 EbA-oriented micro-finance pilots ranging from finance for drip-irrigation to sustainable forest management. These pilots will inform larger scale work of the partner institutions that have committed to deliver loans worth $19 million over the next five years to local farmers to reduce vulnerability to climate change.

Figure 16: Countries with climate change adaptation interventions supported by UNEP as of 2015



9. Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Comoros, Djibouti, Gambia, Laos PDR, Malawi, Maldives, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Peru, Rwanda, Sudan, Tanzania, Viet Nam and Zambia.
10. Bhutan, Comoros, Madagascar, Maldives, Palau, Sri Lanka, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania and Tuvalu.

Figure 17: Countries that have integrated the ecosystem based approach and other adaptation measures into their national plans as of 2015



Box 1: The 2015 UNEP Global Adaptation Report

The second ***Global Adaptation Report*** highlights that while adaptation finance is increasing, the distribution across countries is unbalanced. Much more is known about international public finance for adaptation than about national public finance. Moreover, little is known about the volume of private financing for adaptation. The total bilateral and multilateral financing targeting climate change adaptation in developing countries in 2014 is estimated at $18.4 billion, representing an 8-9 per cent increase over the past five years. This shows that the total finance for adaptation needs to grow significantly by 2030 if adaptation needs are to be met.

LOW-EMISSION GROWTH

UNEP's *Emissions Gap Report*[11] for 2015 assessed 119 Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) submitted to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The findings indicate that efforts to tackle climate change could cut up to 11 gigatonnes of CO_2 emissions ($GtCO_2e$) by 2030. However, this is only half of the reduction required to have a likely chance (>66 per cent) of staying below the 2°C target in 2100. The challenge is to bend the emissions trajectory down as soon as possible so that the net-zero emissions goal by 2060-2075 is within reach. The report notes that enhanced energy efficiency in buildings, industry and transport and expanded use of renewable energy technologies for power production are critical to closing the gap. These sectors account for around 40 per cent of global energy use and associated greenhouse gas emissions.

UNEP's target in the 2014-2015 biennium was to support 20 countries to implement new renewable energy or energy efficiency initiatives. UNEP provided assistance in 2014-2015 to **31 countries that in turn implemented initiatives to improve energy efficiency or invested in renewables, thereby exceeding the target set for December 2015** (see Box 2).

11. Available at http://www.unep.org/newscentre/Default.aspx?DocumentID=26854&ArticleID=35542&l=en#sthash.hgXPIopH.dpuf

Box 2: Highlight of results in 2014-2015 on energy efficiency	
Sector	**2014-2015 Results Achieved**
Lighting	Twenty-four countries[12] completed their national efficient lighting strategies in 2014-2015, bringing the total to 38 countries (see Figure 18).
Appliances and Equipment	Thirteen countries[5] are in the process of adopting efficient appliances strategies under a partnership on appliances and equipment launched in 2014 (see Figure 19).
Transport	Four countries[14] in 2014-2015 adopted fuel efficiency policies, bringing the total number of countries with cleaner vehicle and fuel efficiency policies to 10 (see Figure 20).

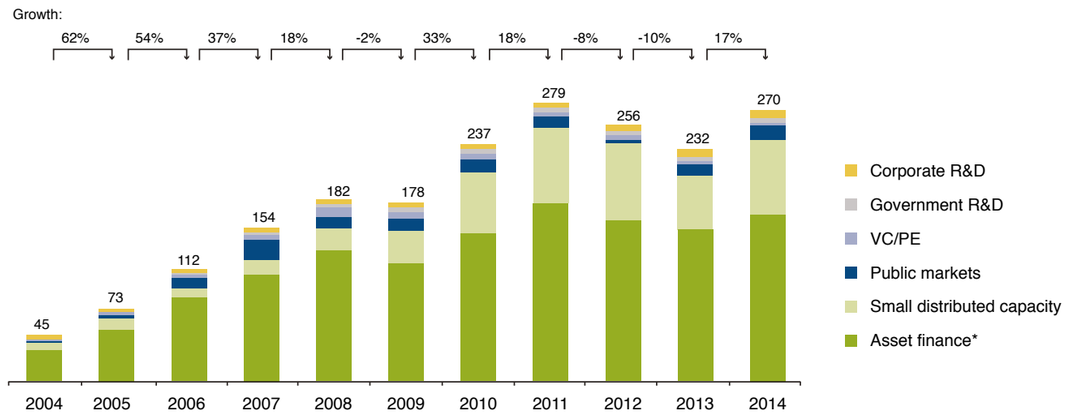
Figure 18: UNEP supported countries with regard to energy efficiency-efficient lighting as of 2015

Figure 19: Countries with efficient appliances and equipment strategies as of 2015

Figure 20: UNEP supported countries with regard to energy efficiency as of 2015

12. Benin, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Pakistan, Cambodia, Cape Verde, Cote d'Ivoire, Fiji, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Lao PDR, Liberia, Malaysia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, the Gambia, Togo, United Arab Emirates and Viet Nam.
13. Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Haiti, Honduras, Maldives, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Sierra, Leone and Tonga.
14. Chile, Kenya, Mauritius and Viet Nam.

Figure 21: Global trends in renewable energy investment—2015[15]



*Asset finance volume adjusts for re-invested equity. Total values include estimates for undisclosed deals.
Source: UNEP, Bloomberg New Energy Finance

Source: UNDP, Strategic Planning and Action to Strengthen Climate Resilience of Rural Communities (SPARC)

15. Available at http://apps.unep.org/publications/pmtdocuments/-Global_trends_in_renewable_energy_investment_2015-201515028nefvisual8-mediumres.pdf.pdf Published by Frankfurt School, a UNEP Collaborating Centre

Box 3: Major partnership initiatives to leverage change

The 1 Gigaton Coalition	Launched at the climate conference in Lima in 2014, this initiative enables **countries to measure and report emission savings resulting from renewable energy and energy efficiency.** So far, 25 countries and 40 organizations make up the Coalition.
Portfolio Decarbonization Coalition	Launched at the UN Secretary-General's Climate Summit in September 2014, this initiative aims to **mobilize institutional investors, such as pension funds to decarbonize their portfolios. The target is to decarbonize $100 billion worth of investment portfolios by 2020.** The coalition has grown from two members in 2014 to 25[16] in 2015, with commitments to decarbonize over $600 billion in assets under management.[17] One member, leading by example, is Fourth Swedish National Pension Fund (AP4), whose dynamic investment strategy to decarbonize its US equities and emerging markets portfolios, is lowering carbon intensity by 50 to 80 per cent with no negative impact on financial returns. Another is Amundi Asset Management, which has developed solutions to lower the carbon exposure of passively managed portfolios and is engaging with major institutional investors to lower their carbon exposure.
The Climate and Clean Air Coalition	This multi-stakeholder partnership has now **grown to 110 partners and pledges worth $75 million.** Eleven high-impact initiatives are being implemented to catalyze and scale-up action to reduce black carbon, methane and avoid hydrofluorocarbon in agriculture, brick production, cooking, heating, diesel vehicles, oil and gas production, and municipal solid waste. Of the 14 countries receiving institutional support, six are completing their national action plans for short-lived climate pollutants.
The Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN)	The CTCN, which UNEP manages in partnership **with UNIDO,** is the operational arm of the UNFCCC Technology Mechanism. It provides **technical assistance to countries on their climate technology challenges.** Ten countries are receiving technology assistance, which includes waste and energy efficiency in Colombia, refrigerant technologies in Namibia and Mauritius, and efficient lighting in the Dominican Republic.

UNEP complements these efforts with major partnership initiatives to enable a broader reach than would be possible on its own (see Box 3).

On clean energy finance, **over the biennium 2014-2015, 27 finance institutions[18] committed to decarbonizing over $600 billion worth of assets,** bringing the total to 67 institutions, thus exceeding UNEP's cumulative target of 55 such institutions committing to clean technology investments.

16. PDC members include A Capital, ABP, Allianz, Amundi Asset Management, AP4, Australian Ethical, BNP Paribas Investment Partners, Caisse des Dépôts (CDC), Church of Sweden, Environment Agency Pension Fund (UK), Fonds de réserves pour les retraites, Hermes Investment Management (UK), Humanis, Inflection Point Capital Management, KLP, Le Régime de Retraite additionnelle de la Fonction publique (ERAFP), Local Government Super (Australia), Mandatum Life, Mirova Natixis, MN, Robecco SAM, Sonen Capital, Storebrand, Toronto Atmospheric Fund and University of Sydney. See http://unepfi.org/pdc/members/
17. See http://www.unepfi.org/fileadmin/climatechange/PDC2015pressrelease.pdf
18. This includes the 25 PDC members plus two other institutions, African Biofuel and Renewable Energy Co. and Evolution one Fund.

REDD+

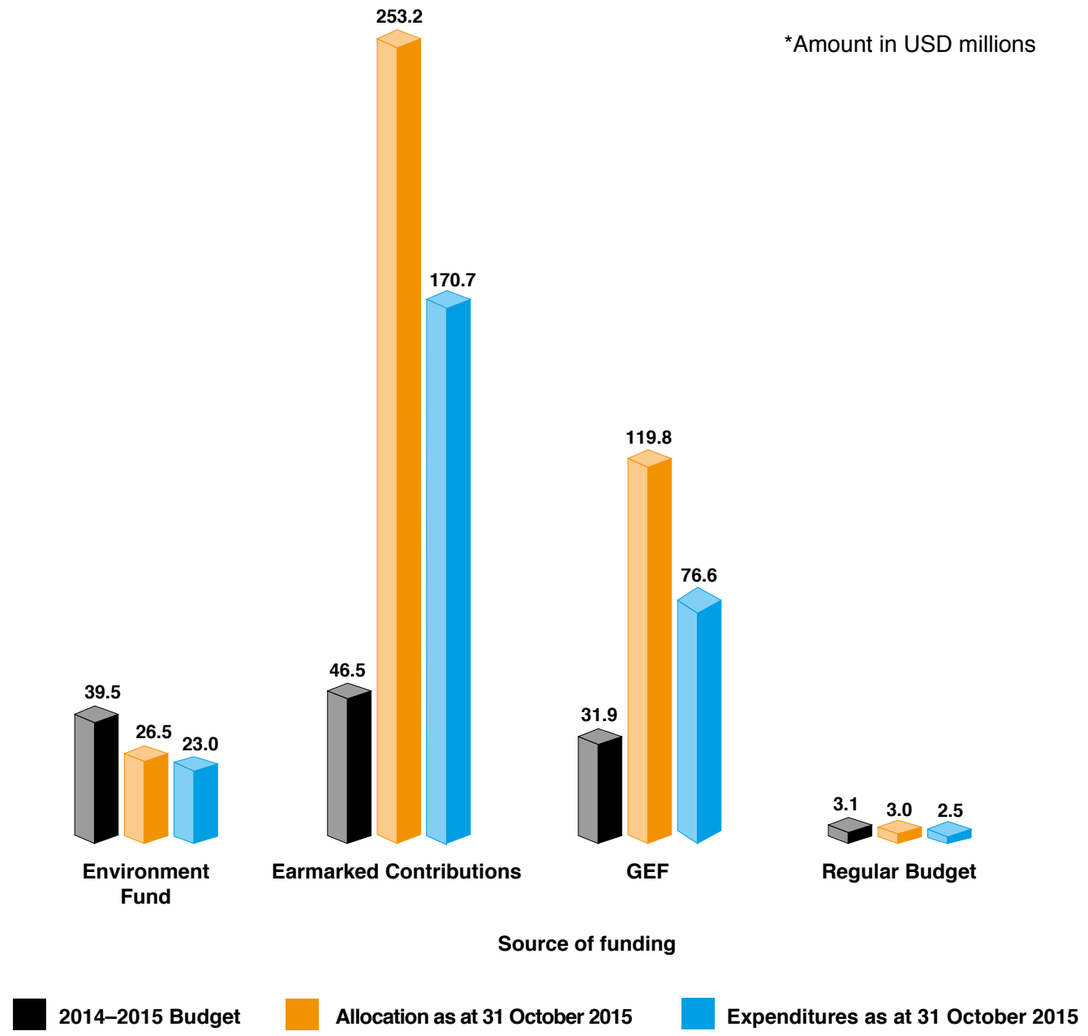
Global attention to cut natural forest loss increased, with the UN Secretary-General's Climate Summit in 2014 adopting the New York Declaration on Forests. The Declaration aims to reduce the rate of loss of natural forests by half by 2020 and end forest loss by 2030. **The UN-REDD Programme, jointly implemented by UNEP, FAO and UNDP,** scaled up support to 64 countries to help them become REDD+ ready, up from 48 in December 2013. Twenty-six of these countries had national programmes; half of those went on to develop or adopt national REDD+ strategies in 2014-2015 (see Figure 22). This means that, since the start of the REDD programme, a total **of 20 countries[19] have begun the process of developing, adopting or implementing national REDD+ strategies. That exceeds the UNEP's target of 15 countries by December 2015.**

The programme is drawing important lessons from an external evaluation[20] completed in 2015, which include strengthening country ownership, enhancing collaboration across sectors, broadening stakeholder participation, and increasing focus on land tenure, social and environmental safeguards and gender equality. Five countries have hosted national academies on REDD+ as part of the REDD+ Academy,[21] with more to follow.

Figure 22: Countries that are launching the development of or have adopted national REDD+ as of 2015

19. Argentina, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Bolivia, Cambodia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ecuador, Kenya, Mexico, Mongolia, Nigeria, Panama, Paraguay, Sri Lanka, Uganda, Viet Nam and Zambia.
20. Available at http://www.un-redd.org/Portals/15/documents/UN-REDD%20Evaluation%20Final%20Report%20Volume1%20June2014%20EN.pdf
21. Available at http://www.un-redd.org/REDDAcademy/tabid/132073/Default.aspx

Figure 23: Budget performance—climate change

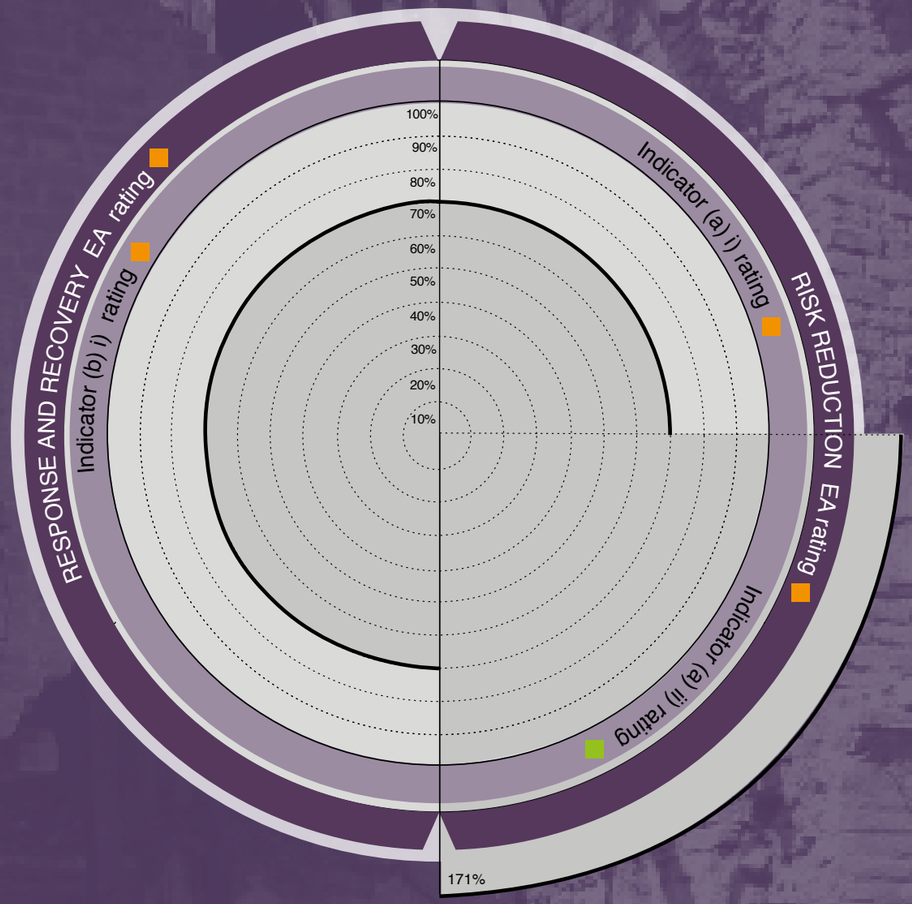


DISASTERS AND CONFLICTS

In its work on disasters and conflicts, UNEP focuses on achieving results in two areas:

- ***Risk reduction*** where UNEP improves the capacity of countries to use environmental management to prevent and reduce the risks of natural hazards, industrial disasters and conflict.
- ***Response and recovery*** where UNEP supports countries in the aftermath of a disaster or conflict to identify and address environmental risks that could have serious social and economic impacts.

UNEP enabled the UN system to integrate environmental risk reduction into its support to countries by influencing some **12 significant UN policies, guidelines and programmes,** thus exceeding the target for the end of 2015. However, progress to develop **post-crisis environmental governance capacity** in two of the five countries in which UNEP provides long-term support was slower than hoped due to circumstances largely outside UNEP's control.



- **Target achieved**
- **Target partially achieved (60% and above)**
- **Target not achieved (below 60%)**
- Actual progress as at December 2015 against December 2014–2015 target

INDICATORS OF ACHIEVEMENT

RISK REDUCTION

a) i) Increase in the percentage of countries vulnerable to natural and man-made disasters that progress at least two steps in the country capacity framework for natural resource and environmental management, with the assistance of UNEP.

a) ii) Increase in the number of UN policies, guidelines, programmes and training courses on crisis risk reduction that integrate best practices in the sustainable management of natural resources in fragile States and vulnerable regions, based on UNEP reports and inputs.

RESPONSE AND RECOVERY

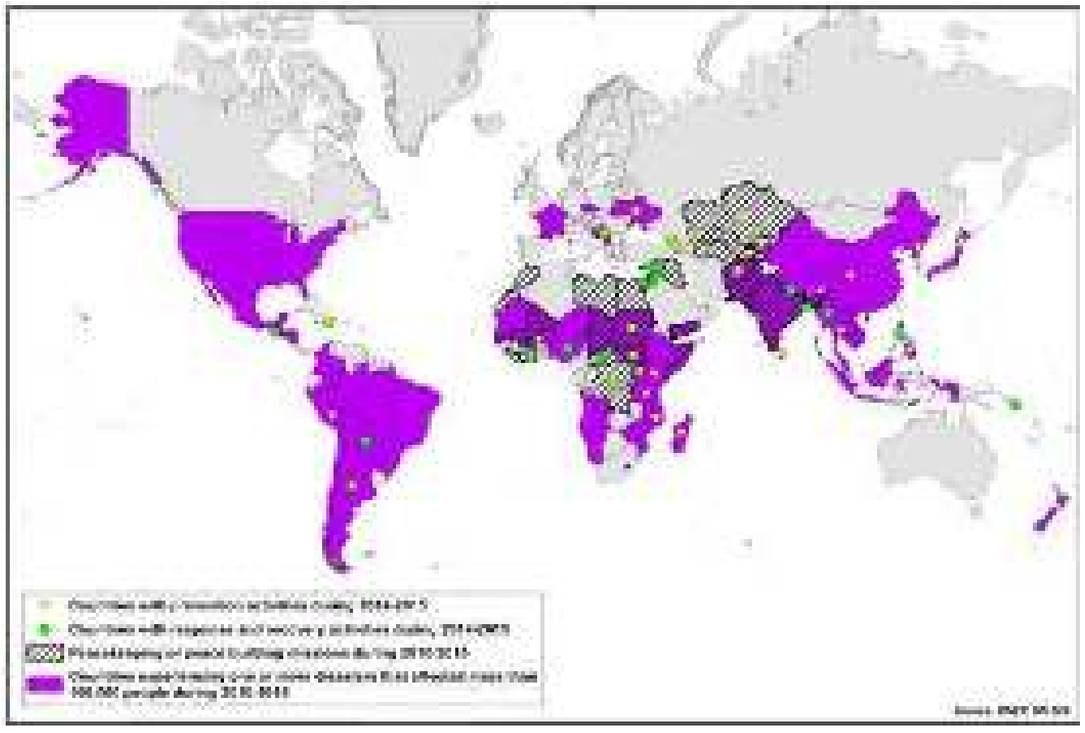
(b) i) Increase in the percentage of countries affected by natural and man-made disasters that progress at least two steps in the country capacity framework for natural resource and environmental management, with the assistance of UNEP.

RISK REDUCTION

Over the course of the 2014-2015 biennium, **UNEP supported 28 countries to reduce the risks of natural disasters, industrial accidents and conflicts** (see Figure 24).[22] Box 4 presents highlights of this work.

At the global level, one of the subprogramme's indicators of success is the extent to which it can integrate ecosystem-based solutions for disaster risk reduction (DRR) and peacebuilding into the wider UN's guidelines, policies and programmes. **Ten significant UN policies, guidelines and programmes in 2014-2015 now reflect best practice in sustainable natural resource management** (see Box 5, which highlights some of these results), bringing the total number to 23 since 2010. This exceeds UNEP's target of 20 for the end of 2015.

Figure 24. UNEP work on disasters and conflicts as of December 2015



22. Afghanistan, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Burkina Faso, China, the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Georgia, Ghana, Haiti, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Madagascar, Moldova, Mozambique, Peru, Serbia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, Uganda and Ukraine.

Box 4. Risk Reduction: Highlights of UNEP support in 2014-2015

Country	Result
Afghanistan, Sudan	Community-based natural resource management programmes built resilience to disaster resilience and addressed resource conflicts.[23]
Madagascar	UNEP conducted an assessment of major risk posed by hazardous ammonia storage in an industrial site. The containers were safely removed and neutralized.
Peru, Thailand	Emergency preparedness was improved through regional (Asia-Pacific and Latin America) training of trainers in the Awareness and Preparedness for Emergencies at Local Level (APELL) methodology.
Syria	The UN team and the Organization for Prevention of Chemical Weapons jointly applied guidelines in the transportation and destruction of 700 tonnes of chemical weapons with no negative environmental impacts.
Tajikistan	Environmental emergency preparedness training; support to dam safety; training and support in the safe management of debris and asbestos waste; training in ecosystem approaches to Disaster Risk Reduction (eco-DRR)

UNEP has provided remote and real-time advice to the Government of Nepal, international agencies, and the UN system on dealing with the environmental issues linked to the the earthquake. UNEP also actively participated in a Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) completed in June 2015.

23. More information available at http://www.unep.org/disastersandconflicts/portals/155/dnc/docs/qpr/BPR_Dec_14_Chapter_04.pdf

Box 5: Illustrative UNEP policy influence on crisis reduction in 2014-2015

Who we influenced	What we influenced	What we did	Why it's important
Member States, the humanitarian and development communities	The Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR)	UNEP worked closely with the international community to ensure that the environment was appropriately included as a key factor in disaster risk and taken into account as a solution.	The Sendai Framework sets the goals for disaster risk reduction policies for the next 15 years.
The UN, World Bank and EU	Post Disaster Needs Assessments (PDNA)	UNEP led the environmental segment of the development of the PDNA guidelines, including a guideline on environmental issues within PDNA.	The PDNA is the principal framework used by the UN, the World Bank and the EU to gauge post disaster needs. Getting the environment systematically included in PDNA should result in a more sustainable spending of billions of dollars of post-disaster assistance.
The High-level Independent Panel on UN Peace Operations	Landmark report, *Uniting our Strengths for Peace* (the HIPPO report)	UNEP provided technical inputs on the environmental impacts caused by peacekeeping operations and the positive opportunities from green technology.	This high-level review will shape the future of UN peace operations.
International Law Commission	Report on *The protection of the environment in relation to armed conflicts*	UNEP encouraged the International Law Commission to launch a work programme on this issue. UNEP provided technical inputs and policy reports on natural resources, conflict and peacebuilding.	The International Law Commission's work helps to focus the world's attention on the inadequate provisions for the protection of the environment in times of armed conflict.

RESPONSE AND RECOVERY

UNEP responded to crises and supported recovery in 22 countries[24] in 2014 and 2015. UNEP's work involves **responding to acute environmental emergencies** as part of humanitarian response teams. It also includes **conducting post-crisis assessments** to assess more comprehensively the environmental damage and recovery needs, and **providing guidance to those involved in recovery.**

UNEP responded to **acute environmental emergencies in six countries in 2014 and four countries in 2015,**[25] meeting **all** national requests for assistance (Box 6 highlights some of these results). This brings the number of post-crisis or rapid environmental assessments to 29 countries since 2010. **Between 2010 and 2014, in 88 per cent of the post-crisis or environmental emergency assessments where UNEP identified serious risks, national governments or the UN took remedial action to mitigate those risks.**

24. Afghanistan, Argentina, Bangladesh, the Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Georgia, Guatemala, Haiti, Jordan, Lebanon, Myanmar, Nepal, Nigeria, Paraguay, the Philippines, Serbia, the Solomon Islands, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria and Ukraine.
25. 2014: Bangladesh, Georgia, Madagascar, Serbia, the Solomon Islands and Ukraine. 2015: Argentina, Guatemala, Nepal and Paraguay.

Box 6: Highlights of UNEP emergency response to crisis situations in 2014-2015

Country	UNEP support	Result
Bangladesh	Fuel oil spill assessment in the Sundarbans UNESCO World Heritage site	An action plan was developed on the basis of the assessment. The UN and the government are conducting follow-up activities including the creation of an emergency operational centre and the revision of the national DRR strategy.
Nepal	UN-World Bank Post Disaster Needs Assessment	A multi-year programme to support green recovery and environmental resilience is under development.
Serbia	Assessment of flood-related risks of chemical leaks and landslides	Follow-up activities have been conducted by the Serbian government to implement the recommendations from the assessment.
Solomon Islands	Assessment of flood-weakened gold mining tailings dam	The government is using UNEP's assessment to pursue a claim against the previous mine owner. Plans and the necessary equipment to safely lower the level of water in the dam are now in place.
Ukraine	Recovery and post-conflict needs assessment as part of the UN team with the EC and the World Bank	The assessment informed the development of the Donbas Recovery Programme, which was the basis for €1.4 billion in loans.

While UNEP provides environmental assessments immediately after a crisis on request from the country or UN system, the organization also supports those countries that require **more sustained environmental assistance for recovery,** which has meant longer-term support in several post-crisis countries.

UNEP currently provides such support in five countries: **Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Haiti, South Sudan** and **Sudan.** UNEP's performance in these countries is measured against the extent to which it has increased environmental governance capacity in the form of a Country Capacity Framework, which measures the emerging capacity to address environmental challenges.[26] This is the second key indicator of the success of the subprogramme. Figure 26 provides some highlights of work in these countries during the reporting period.

UNEP's 2015 target was for all countries receiving long-term support to have progressed two steps in the country capacity framework by the end of 2015. Three of these five countries (Haiti, South Sudan and Sudan) progressed at least two steps on the country capacity framework. Afghanistan moved one step along the capacity framework. This can be considered a success considering the continuing conflict and political instability during the reporting period. The Democratic Republic of Congo, meanwhile, did not progress overall in the capacity framework, which was partially a consequence of a more limited UNEP country presence due to difficulties securing the necessary resources (See Figure 25). As a result the subprogramme has achieved 70% of its target of all supported countries moving two steps along the framework by the end of the reporting period.

26. The country capacity framework aims to provide an objective assessment of the extent to which UNEP has built overall country-level capacity for environmental governance in six dimensions: 1/. Access to information and availability of data for informed decision-making; 2/. Enhanced planning and policy development skills; 3/. Improved regulatory frameworks; 4/. Stronger environmental institutions; 5/. Implementation and enforcement capacity; and 6/. Public participation in decision-making. Each dimension has six components or steps. Country project teams, in collaboration with national partners, assess the level of environmental governance across each of these components at the end of each year and decide the extent to which they have been achieved (incomplete, partially met, mostly met, or complete). A cumulative equivalent score of two components progressing from incomplete to complete is needed to meet the expected accomplishment. The original indicator anticipated baseline information being available from 2010 and across a wider group of countries. However, it was felt that the indicator would appropriately apply to only those countries in which UNEP is providing long-term support (currently five). In addition, full baseline information for these five countries was collected in 2013, thereby reducing the time for the achievement of the indicator and skewing the percentage necessary for full achievement of the indicator.

Figure 25: Highlights of UNEP's country presence, 2014-15

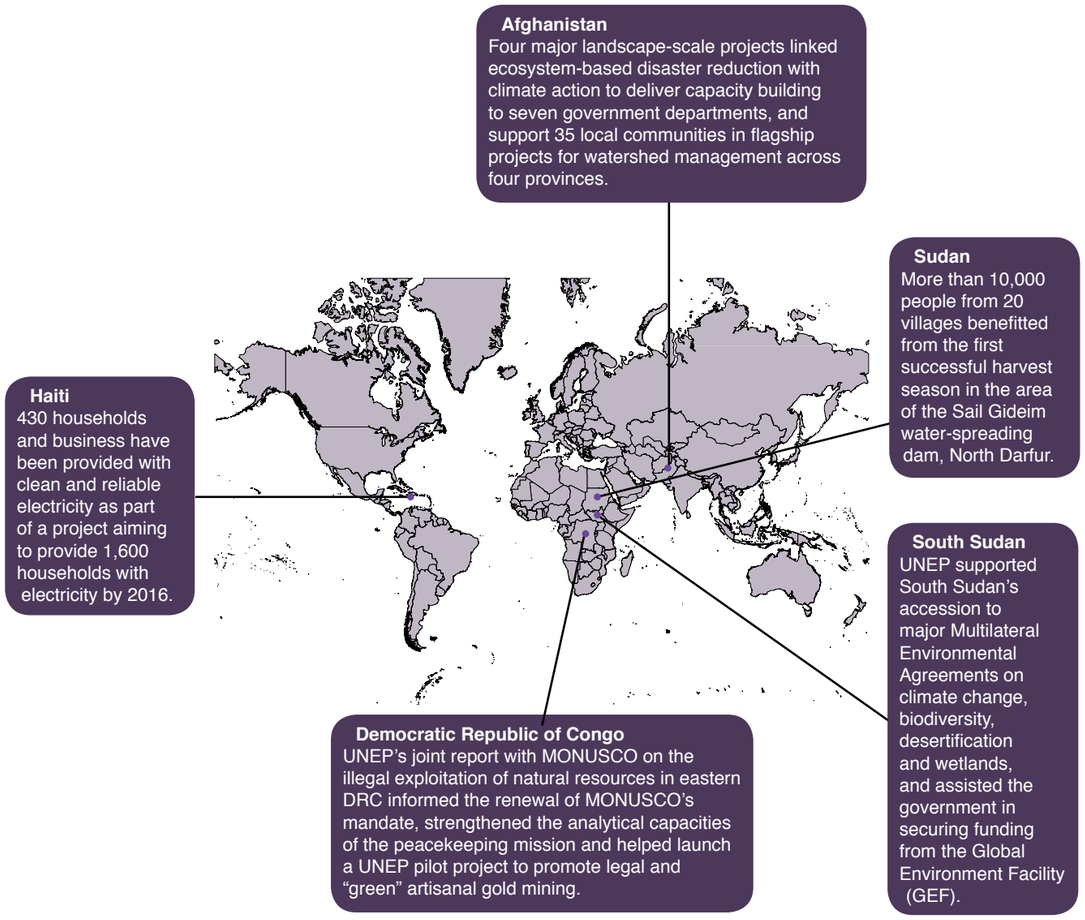


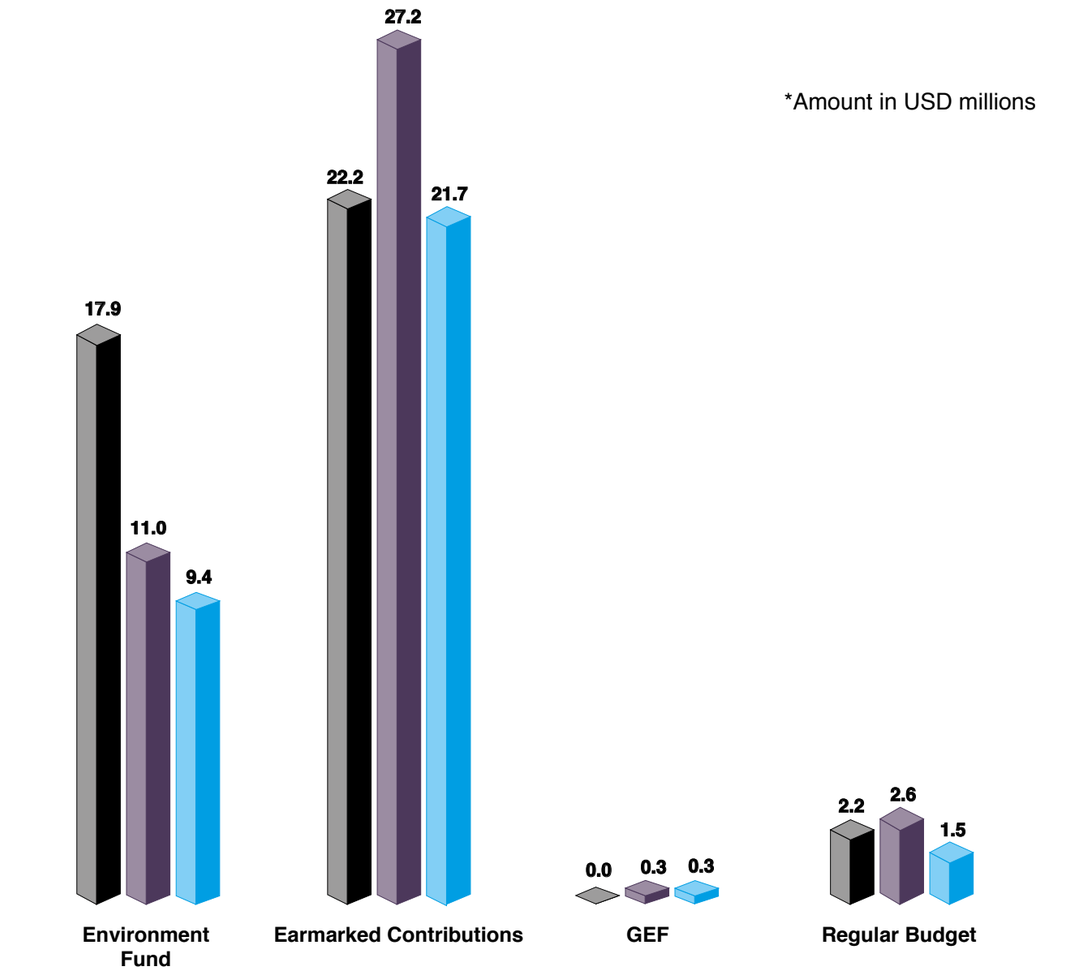
Figure 26: Country capacity framework

	Afghanistan		DR Congo		Haiti		South Sudan		Sudan	
	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015
Access to information, data availability	↗	→	→	↗	↗	→	↗	→	↗	→
Policy and planning	→	→	→	→	↗	→	↗	→	↗	→
Legal environment	→	→	→	→	↗	→	→	↗	→	→
Institutions	→	↗	→	→	↗	→	→	↗	↗	→
Implementation and enforcement capacity	→	→	→	→	↗	→	→	↗	↗	→
Public participation	→	↗	↗	←	→	→	←	↗	↗	→
Total	↗	↗	↗	→	↑	↑	→	↑	↑	→
	1 STEP PROGRESS		SLIGHT PROGRESS		STRONG PROGRESS		STRONG PROGRESS		STRONG PROGRESS	

→ No progress ↗ Slight progress ↑ Strong progress ← Setback

Figure 27: Budget performance—disasters and conflicts

*Amount in USD millions

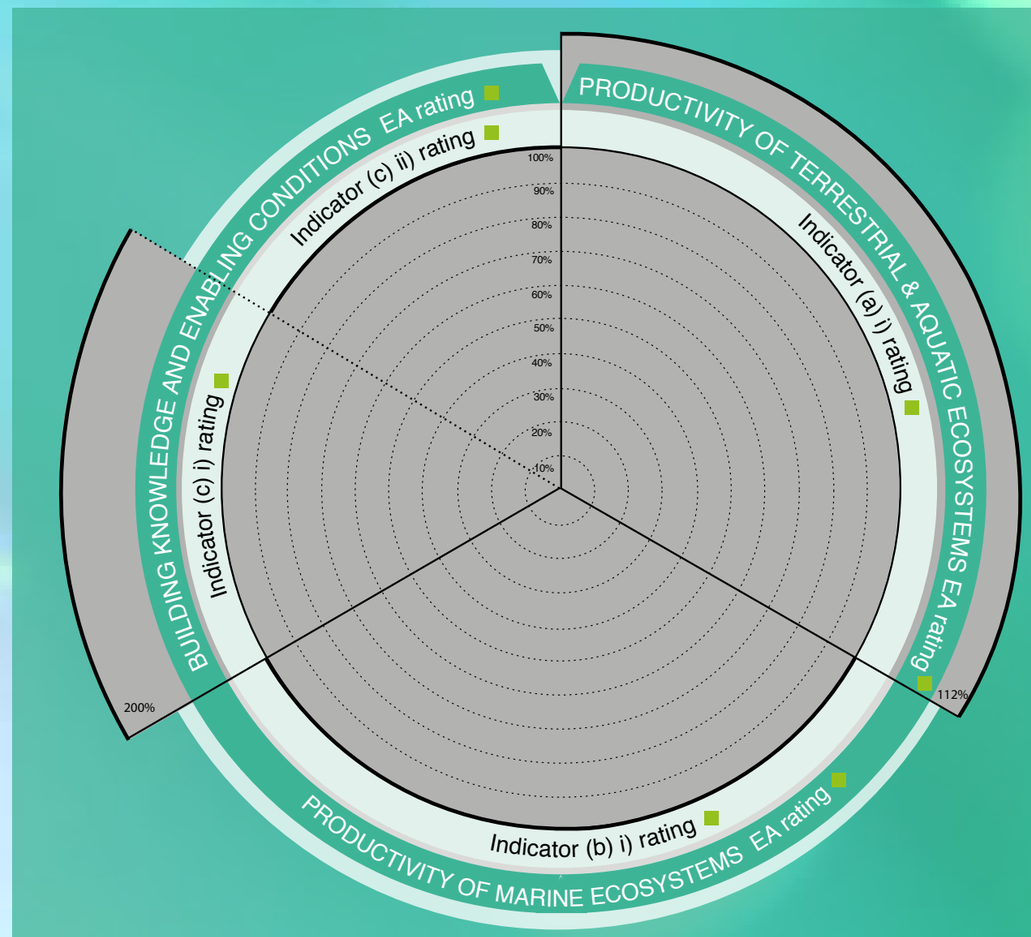


ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT

In its work on ecosystem management, UNEP focuses on achieving results in the following areas:

- ***The enabling environment*** where UNEP assists countries in incorporating the value and the long-term functioning of ecosystems in planning and accounting frameworks to meet multiple objectives
- ***The productivity of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems*** where UNEP helps countries use an ecosystem approach to managing terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems
- ***The productivity of marine ecosystems*** where UNEP helps countries use an ecosystem approach in marine ecosystem management

UNEP met its targets in 2014-2015 on ecosystem management.



- **Target achieved**
- **Target partially achieved (60% and above)**
- **Target not achieved (below 60%)**
- Actual progress as at December 2015 against December 2014–2015 target

INDICATORS OF ACHIEVEMENT

PRODUCTIVITY OF TERRESTRIAL AND AQUATIC ECOSYSTEMS
(a) i) Increase in the number of countries integrating the ecosystem approach with traditional sector-based natural resource management, with the assistance of UNEP.

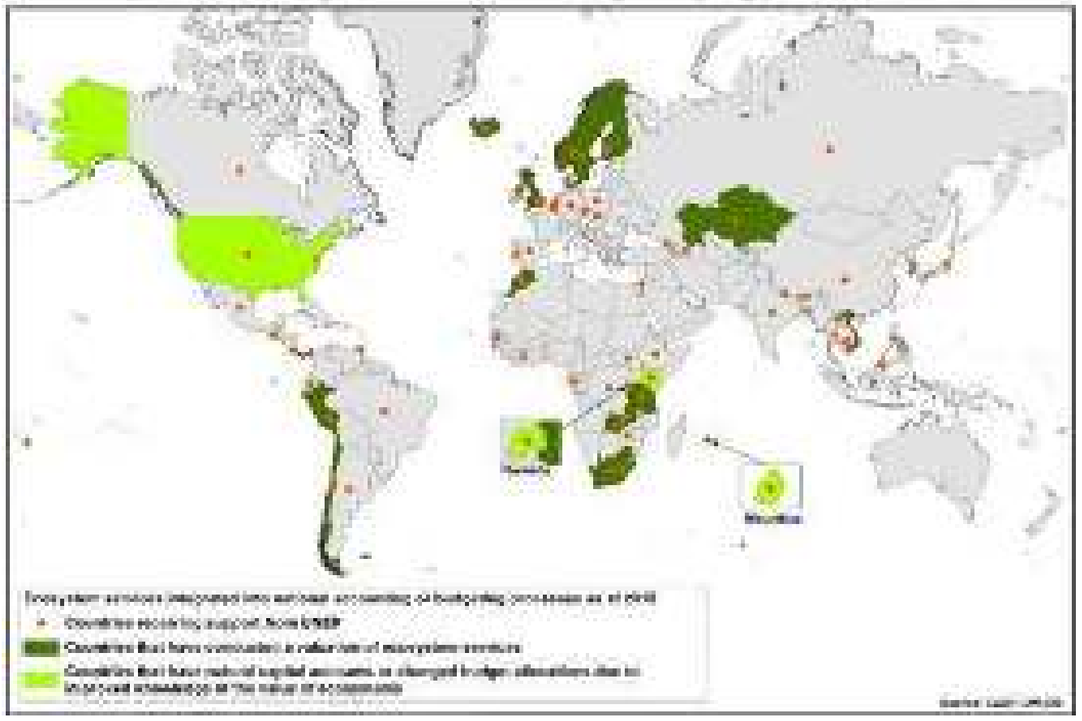
PRODUCTIVITY OF MARINE ECOSYSTEMS
(b) i) Increase in the number of countries using the ecosystem approach to sustain ecosystem services from coastal and marine systems, with the assistance of UNEP.

BUILDING KNOWLEDGE AND ENABLING CONDITIONS
(c) i) increase in the number of countries that integrate the ecosystem approach in development planning, with the assistance of UNEP.
(c) ii) Increase in the number of countries that integrate priority ecosystem services into their national accounting and budgeting processes, with the assistance of UNEP capacity framework for natural resource and environmental management, with the assistance of UNEP.

BUILDING KNOWLEDGE AND ENABLING CONDITIONS

To help create an ***enabling environment*** for countries to deliver on multiple needs for services and goods from ecosystems, UNEP has helped countries understand the value of the services from ecosystems and how to best use that information in their national decision-making processes. In 2014-2015, **17**[27] **countries** – from a total of 61[28] working on the subject with UNEP – **completed a valuation of their ecosystems.** Seven countries[29] were able to use valuation data on priority ecosystem services in their national accounting and budgeting processes, meeting the target set for December 2015 (see Figure 28).

Figure 28: Ecosystem services integrated into national accounting or budgeting processes as of 2015

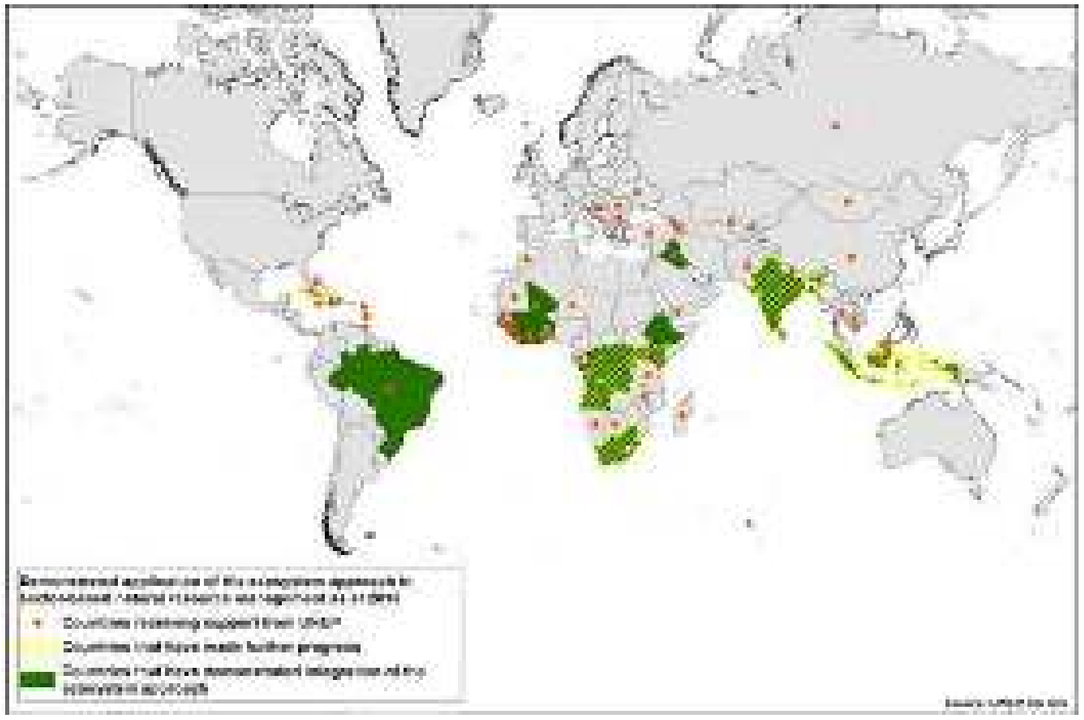


27. Chile, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Kazakhstan, Lesotho, Morocco, Norway, Panama, Peru, South Africa, Sweden, Tanzania, Trinidad Tobago, the United Kingdom, Viet Nam and Zambia.
28. Argentina, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bhutan, Brazil, Canada, Cambodia, Czech Republic, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Denmark, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Finland, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Guatemala, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Ivory Coast, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Lao PDR, Lesotho, Liberia, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, Norway, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Congo, Republic of Korea, Russia, Rwanda, Senegal, Slovakia, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Tanzania, Thailand, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Viet Nam, Zambia and Zimbabwe.
29. Guatemala, Kenya, Mauritius, Morocco, Rwanda, Tonga and the United States of America.

PRODUCTIVITY OF TERRESTRIAL AND AQUATIC ECOSYSTEMS

UNEP provided support to **58**[30] **countries** to enable different sectors to use an ecosystem approach so as to meet multiple needs of services and goods from terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems. The result of this support is that eight countries, in the 2014-2015 biennium, have taken steps to integrate the ecosystem approach into sector-based natural resource management, bringing the total to **25 countries,** in line with targeted results (see Figure 29 and Box 7).

Figure 29: Demonstrated application of the ecosystem approach in sector-based natural resource managment as of 2015



30. Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei, Bulgaria, Cambodia, China, Congo Brazzaville, Croatia, Cuba, Democratic Republic of Congo, Dominican Republic, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Ghana, Guinea-Conakry, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Mongolia, Morocco, Namibia, Nepal, Niger, Pakistan, Philippines, Romania, Russian Federation, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sri Lanka, St. Lucia, Tanzania, Thailand, The Bahamas, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Viet Nam and Yemen.

Box 7: Highlights of results in 2014-2015 of UNEP support to countries to use an ecosystem approach

Country	Result
Angola	In conjunction with the Mayombe transboundary conservation agreement, Angola gazetted its first protected area.
Benin, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Mali, Togo	Finance was secured for the implementation of the Strategic Action Plan for Volta Basin.
Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Uganda	The Treaty of the Greater Virunga Transboundary Collaboration was signed.
Indonesia	The ecosystem approach was used in Sumatra to establish a spatial plan and a strategic landscapes document.
South Africa	The country increased its investment by $4 million to restore the water catchment area of the Ntabelanga Dam.

PRODUCTIVITY OF MARINE ECOSYSTEMS

Country action towards addressing marine litter increased substantially in 2014-2015 with the Barcelona, Cartagena, Helsinki and OSPAR Conventions agreeing upon marine litter action plans and the G7 agreeing on an action plan to combat marine litter. At national and sub-national levels, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Nigeria, Panama and Samoa are working on action plans on marine litter. UNEP also enabled **14[31] countries** to use an ecosystem approach to sustain ecosystem services from coastal and marine systems (see Box 8). UNEP's **Regional Seas Programmes and the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities (GPA)** are the main vehicles UNEP utilizes to support countries in integrating the ecosystem approach in their efforts to sustain coastal and marine ecosystems.

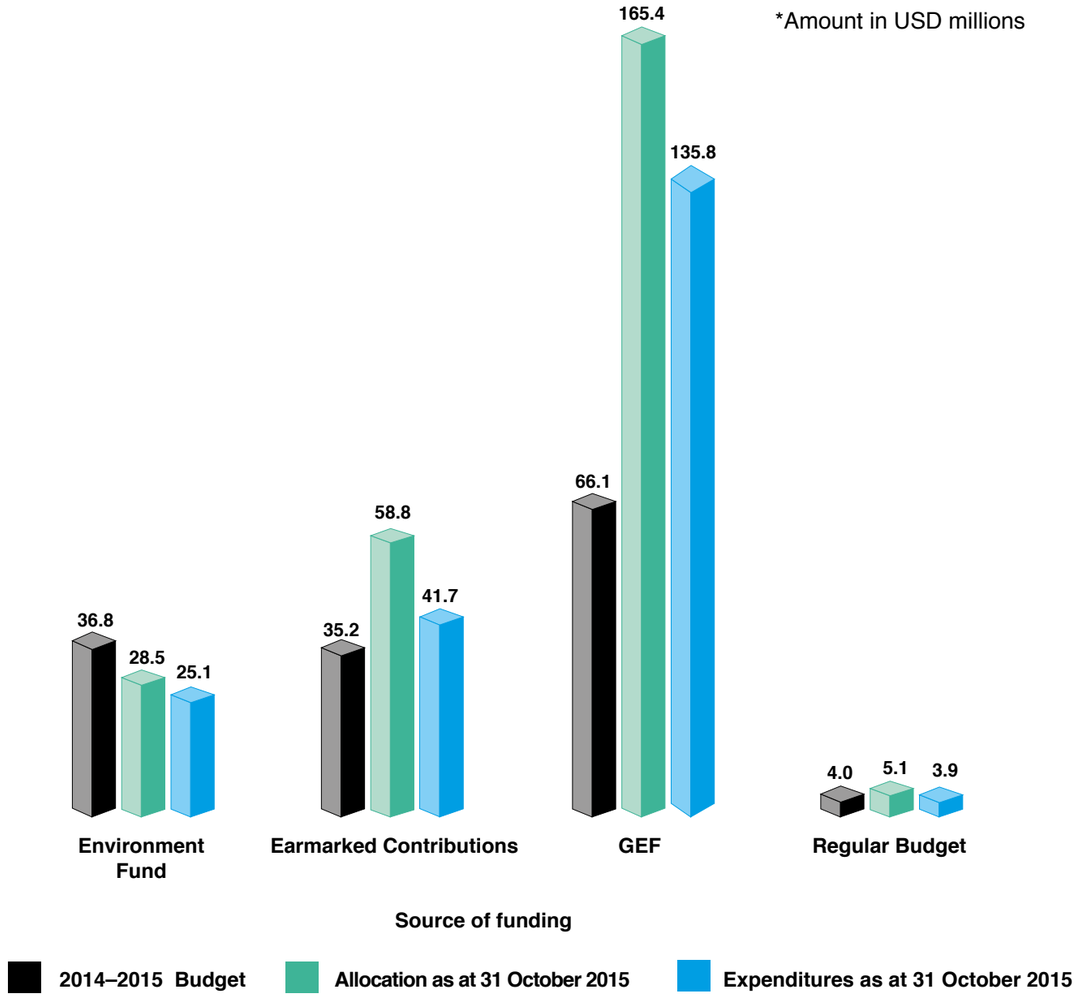
One highlight was the **adoption of the Biodiversity Protocol by the parties to the Tehran Convention,** which obliges the Parties to work together beyond national borders in the conservation and restoration of the **Caspian Sea.** Governments also agreed to establish a permanent Secretariat of the Convention, under the administration of UNEP.

Box 8: Highlights of results in 2014-2015 of UNEP support to countries to use an ecosystem approach in the marine environment

Country or groups of countries	Result
Barcelona (Mediterranean), Cartagena (Eastern Caribbean), Helsinki, OSPAR Conventions	New or updated marine litter action plans
G7	Action plan to combat marine litter
Palau	Creation of the Palau Marine Sanctuary
Viet Nam	Launch of the National Integrated Coastal Zone Management Strategy

31. Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Fiji, Grenada, Guadalupe, Haiti, Nicaragua, Palau, Puerto Rico, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia and Viet Nam.

Figure 30: Budget performance—ecosystem management

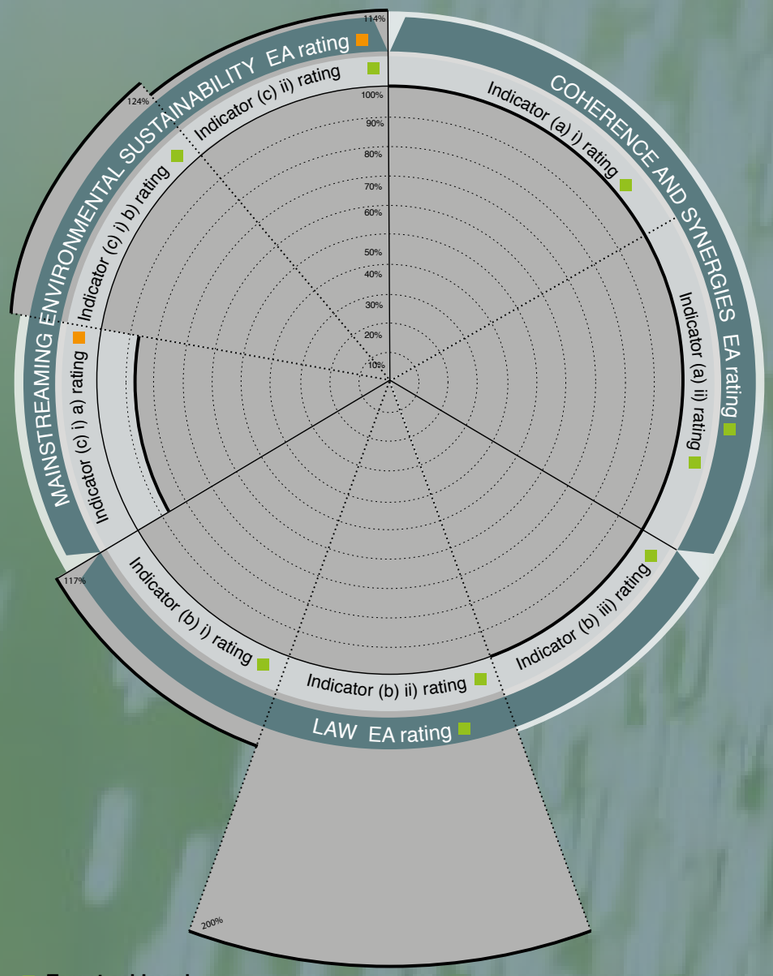


ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE

In its work on environmental governance, UNEP focuses on achieving results in 3 areas:

- ***Coherence and synergy*** where UNEP aims to improve the manner in which the UN system and multilateral environmental agreements achieve policy coherence;
- ***Law and institutions*** where UNEP enhances the capacities of countries to establish and enforce legal frameworks to address environmental priorities; and
- ***Mainstreaming the environment into development processes*** where UNEP helps countries integrate environment into sectoral and development processes and plans including those on poverty reduction.

UNEP has met almost all its targets for December 2015 with the exception of one indicator target, which just missed the target .



Target achieved

Target partially achieved (60% and above)

Target not achieved (below 60%)

Actual progress as at December 2015 against December 2014–2015 target

INDICATORS OF ACHIEVEMENT

COHERENCE AND SYNERGIES

(a) i) Increase in the number of joint initiatives to handle environmental issues in a coordinated manner across the United Nations system and by multilateral environmental agreement bodies

(a) ii) Increase in the number of collaborative arrangements with the secretariats of selected multilateral environmental agreements which result in increased coherence and synergy between the UNEP programme of work and the programme of work of those agreements

LAW

(b) i) Increase in the number of legal and institutional measures taken by countries to improve the implementation of internationally agreed environmental goals and objectives

(b) ii) Increase in the number of initiatives taken by countries to monitor and achieve compliance with, and enforcement of, international environmental obligations

(b) iii) Increase in the number of initiatives and partnerships of major groups and stakeholders in support of the development and implementation of national and international environmental law

MAINSTREAMING ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

(c) i) a Increase in the number of UNDAFs in targeted countries that incorporate the principles of environmental sustainability with the assistance of UNEP

(c) i) b Increase in the number of national development plans that incorporate the principles of environmental sustainability with the assistance of the joint UNDP-UNEP Poverty and Environment Initiative (PEI)

(c) ii) Increase in the number of policies and plans from sub regional and regional forums that incorporate the principles of environmental sustainability

COHERENCE AND SYNERGY

In a complex international context where a multitude of actors work on issues that affect the environment, UNEP promotes **coherence and synergy** in how the multilateral system addresses environmental issues. In 2014-2015, coherence became observable in the way the UN system and multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) handled environmental issues, resulting in four joint initiatives in line with UNEP's target (see Box 9).

The UN system, through the Environment Management Group (EMG),[32] is **developing system-wide strategies on the environment** to enhance coherence in environmental activities undertaken by the United Nations system, collaboration and partnership. A zero draft of a system-wide framework of strategies was prepared by organizations that are part of the EMG for consideration of the EMG technical segment in 2016. The aim is to have a framework for aligning agencies' respective strategies on the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Box 9: Achieving coherence and synergy in the UN system

Issue	Extent to which coherence and synergy is achieved
The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development	Environment is a key component of the Agenda and in specific Sustainable Development Goals, targets and indicators. Governments agreed to an integrated approach, which will require environmental issues to be addressed as part of a wider agenda for change that includes social and economic aspects.
Environmental sustainability and climate neutrality in the UN system	Heads of UN agencies adopted a common approach on environmental management systems as most systematic measure to reduce emissions and environmental impacts. Further, embers of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) committed to become climate neutral by 2020 and follow the system-wide roadmap for UN Climate Neutrality. Twenty-one UN organizations are actively pursuing climate neutrality, up from six in 2013, of which 18 organizations have an emission reduction strategy and five an Environmental Management System. The General Assembly requested the UN Secretary-General to submit a plan for sustainable and climate-neutral UN Secretariat facilities and operations including peacekeeping operations.
Human rights and the environment	A resolution was adopted at the 28th session of the Human Rights Council, strengthening the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on human rights and the environment thus encouraging further coordination with UNEP on the human rights-environment inter-linkages. The UNDG Working Group on Human Rights issued a system-wide guide on supporting human rights at the country level, which includes human rights and environment linkages.
Chemicals management	The EMG's Issue Management Groups continued promoting coherence and collaboration of chemicals management, which will include integration of sound management of chemicals in the implementation of SDGs. The UN system also decided to establish a system-wide Issue Management Group on electronic waste.

32. The EMG is the UN-wide system coordination body on the environment, for which UNEP provides the secretariat and chairmanship.

In line with UNEP's target, collaborative arrangements with the secretariats of MEAs on five issues resulted in the following:

- An **online reporting system for harmonized reporting of biodiversity-related MEAs was tested** for one multilateral agreement, the Africa-Eurasia Waterbirds Agreement.
- A **set of options to enhance synergies on programmatic, institutional and administrative areas of work across six biodiversity-related MEAs** is being considered in the respective institutions' policy processes.
- MEA secretariats and UNEP partner organizations agreed on a **common multi-stakeholder thesaurus for the field of environmental law and conventions.** This resulted in enhanced integration of information and knowledge products available to users through INFORMEA,[33] across over 50 global and regional multilateral environmental agreements.
- A **Regional Seas Strategic Directions 2017-2020** adopted at the 17th regional seas conventions and action plans meeting to synergize regional seas implementation across the seven UNEP serviced regional seas conventions and action plans.[34]
- An **Arctic Migratory Birds Initiative** (AMBI) Americas flyway working group and the development of the Arctic Migratory Birds Initiative work plan 2015-2019, adopted in 2015. The plan identifies work across four main flyways: Africa-Eurasia, Americas, Circumpolar and East Asia-Australasia and will help governments meet their commitments under several regional MEAs.

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

Convention on Biological Diversity CBD

CMS Convention on Migratory Species

WHC United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization · World Heritage Convention

Ramsar

ITPGRFA International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

33. See http://www.informea.org.
34. Caribbean Region, Caspian Sea, East Asian Seas, Eastern Africa Region, Mediterranean Region, North-West Pacific region, Western Africa Region.

LAW

In 2014-2015, UNEP's target was exceeded with 21 countries having established new legal and institutional measures to improve implementation of internationally agreed environmental goals (See Figure 31). An additional **four countries undertook initiatives to monitor and achieve compliance and enforcement of international environmental obligations** (see Figure 31).

Additional work in 2014-2015 to strengthen laws and institutions is presented in Box 10.

Partnerships with regional and global organizations, such as the Organization of American States (OAS) and Globe International (a global legislators' organization), have helped to scale up UNEP's work on law, leading to the uptake of the concept of environmental rule of law in regional contexts and to more systemic approaches to the engagement of parliamentarians.

Figure 31: Countries strengthening environmental laws and institutions with UNEP support as of December 2015

A mid-term review of the Montevideo Law programme on the development and periodic review of environmental law recommended that the international law community and UNEP should contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and their targets guided by the rule of law and good governance. It also identified emerging issues and the need to take into account recent developments such as the UNEA Resolution 1/7 on air quality.

UNEP also aimed to increase the number of initiatives and partnerships of major groups and stakeholders in support of the development and implementation of national and international environmental law. UNEP's target was achieved with the conclusion of partnership agreements with the Stakeholder Forum and the Konrad Adenauer Foundation. UNEP's partnership with the Stakeholder Forum aimed at embedding the perspectives of major groups and stakeholders in the work of UNEP, including access to information, justice and public participation in environmental matters. UNEP's partnership with the Konrad Adenauer Foundation aims to enhance the capacities of judges and legal stakeholders in the field of environmental rule of law, particularly in Africa.

Box 10: Strengthening laws and institutions in 2014-2015

Transboundary freshwater governance	Environmental rule of law, principle 10, environment and human rights	Air Quality (UNEA resolution 1/7)	Illegal Trade in Wildlife (UNEA resolution 1/3)
25 transboundary water basin organizations around the world shared experiences on strengthening the governance and implementation of basin-level agreements. Regional forum in Panama for Latin America and the Caribbean to share practices. Further regional fora to cover regional priorities on transboundary freshwater governance	100+ good practices on human rights and the environment made available in partnership with OHCHR and the UN Independent Expert on Human Rights and the Environment Negotiations of a regional agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Principle 10). Partnerships developed, regional colloquia held and a global report planned on the environmental rule of law.	Partnership initiatives planned: with WMO and WHO; UNEP hosting the Asia Pacific Clean Air Partnership (APCAP). The World Health Assembly adopted a resolution on Health and the Environment: Addressing the health impact of air pollution. Regional air quality policy gap assessments. Air Quality Policy Catalogue.[35] Air quality data made accessible via UNEP Live. Regional plans adopted e.g. Latin America and Caribbean.	30 projects totaling USD 2 million funded from African Elephant Fund. Initiatives with CITES, UNDP, UNODC, Interpol, World Bank, the World Customs Organization. Analysis of environmental impacts of illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products initiated. The Environmental Crime Crisis published. UNSG's Policy Committee Decision toward effective and coherent UN response to security, political, economic, environmental and social aspects of IWT

35. http://unep.org/Transport/Airquality/ (available for Member States' review)

MAINSTREAMING ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

UNEP promotes the ***integration of the environment into development processes*** at the national and regional levels. Twenty countries developed UN Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs) that incorporated the principles of environmental sustainability, falling just below the 2014-2015 target of 23 countries (see Figure 32). The **Poverty-Environment Initiative,** which UNEP runs in collaboration with UNDP, resulted in the integration of environment objectives into a total of 21 national general and sectoral policies, plans and processes in 2014-2015 focusing on poverty reduction. This exceeded UNEP's target of 17 policies, plans and processes. These changes were evident in the 26 countries currently covered by the initiative.

Eight sub-regional and regional fora incorporated the principles of environmental sustainability in 2014-2015, slightly exceeding UNEP's target. These intergovernmental sessions, which covered several regions and sub-regions (Africa, Arab States, Asia and the Pacific, Central Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean and Small Island Developing States), provided a strategic link between global and regional priorities. The fora promoted the uptake of global environmental priorities at the regional and national levels; they also came up with messages that fed into global processes, including the run-up UNEA 2.

Figure 32: UNEP supported environmental sustainability mainstreaming in UNDAFs and UN country programmes as of December 2015

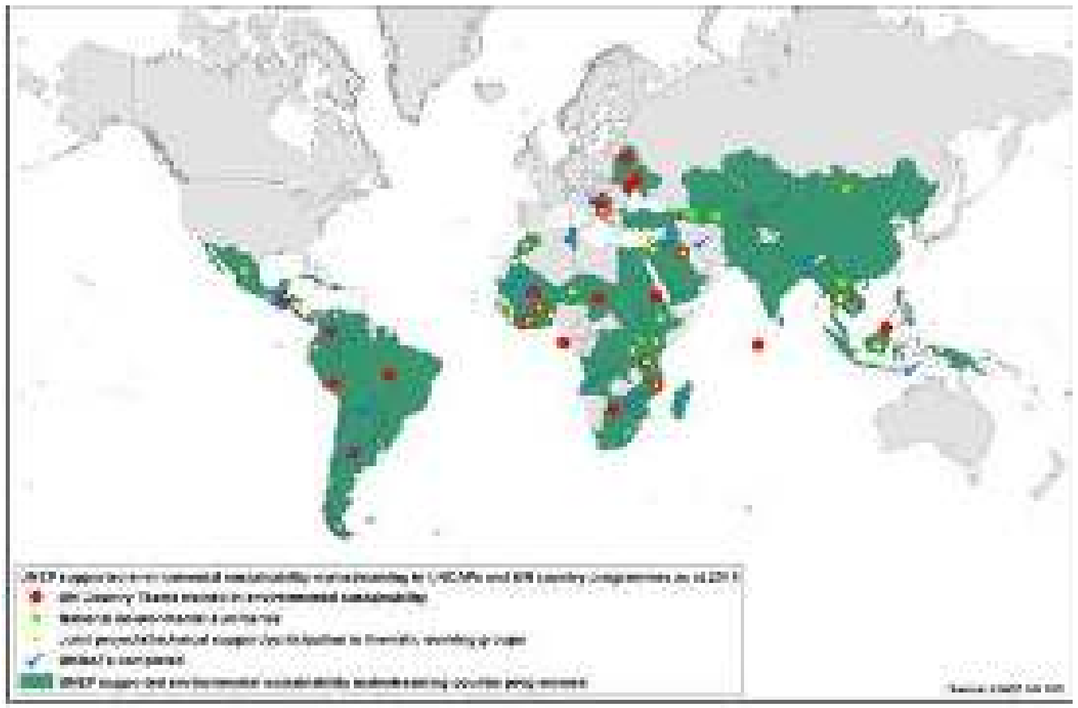
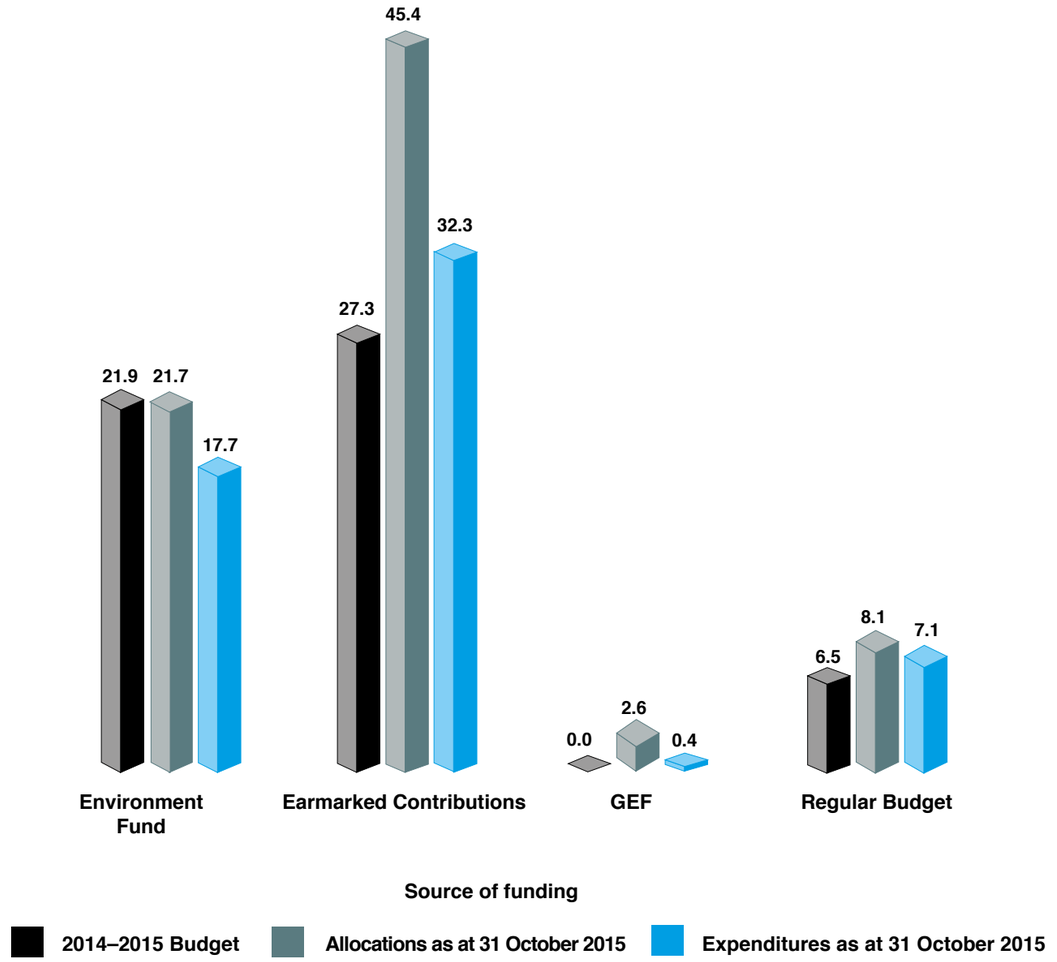


Figure 33: Budget performance—environmental governance

*Amount in USD millions



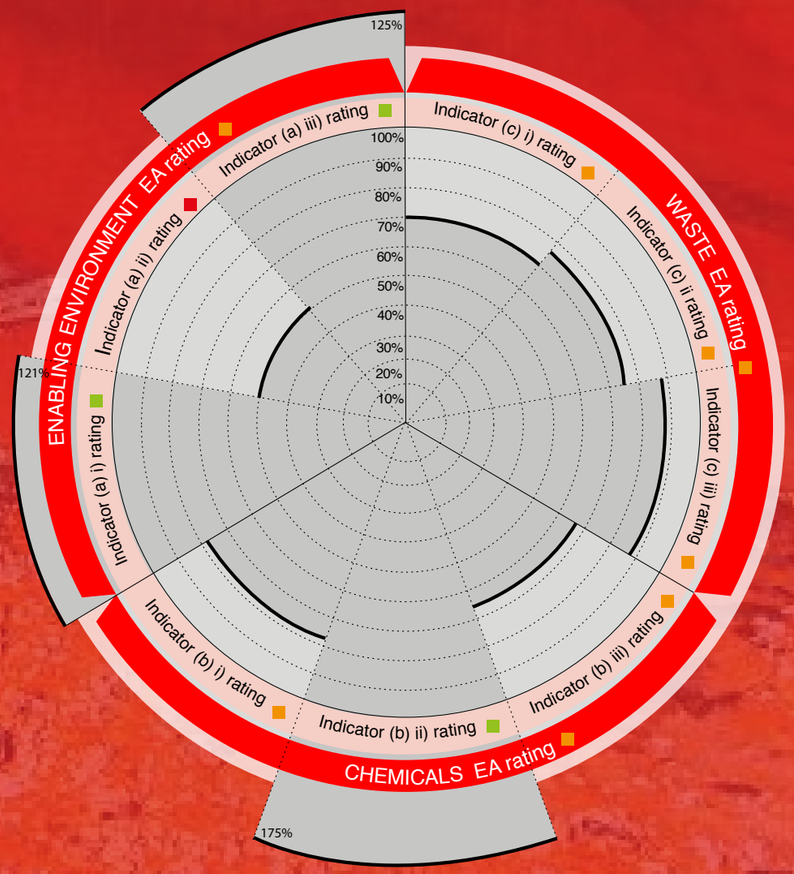
CHEMICALS AND WASTE

In its work on chemicals and waste, UNEP focuses on achieving results in three areas:

- ***The enabling environment*** where UNEP supports countries to have the institutional capacity and policy to manage chemicals and waste soundly
- ***Chemicals*** where UNEP helps countries, major groups and stakeholders implement sound chemicals management and the related MEAs
- ***Waste*** where UNEP helps countries, including major groups and stakeholders, implement sound waste management and the related MEAs

At the end of 2015, UNEP's work on chemicals and waste has in certain areas achieved or exceeded the expectations set out for the biennium, while in other areas it partially met the targets set for December 2015. Funding has mostly been earmarked to advance international policy consensus and partnerships (e.g. mercury and SAICM), which are expected to further lead to country level results in the future.

Concerning its implementation capacity, UNEP has taken action by building results-based management and implementation capacity, filling vacant positions (particularly at senior levels), and mobilizing financial resources for currently underfunded priority areas, such as country implementation support.



- **Target achieved**
- **Target partially achieved (60% and above)**
- **Target not achieved (below 60%)**
- Actual progress as at December 2015 against December 2014–2015 target

INDICATORS OF ACHIEVEMENT

ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

(a) i) Increase in the number of countries reporting the adoption of policies for the sound management of chemicals and waste

(a) ii) Increase in the number of countries reporting the use of economic and market-based incentives, business policies and practices that promote the sound management of chemicals and waste

(a) iii) Increase in the number of countries reporting the use of industry reporting schemes that promote take-up of the sound management of chemicals and waste

CHEMICALS

(b) i) Increase in the number of governments addressing priority chemical issues, including their obligations under the chemicals MEAs, through the use of risk assessment and management tools provided by UNEP

(b) ii) Increase in the number of businesses and industries addressing priority chemical issues through the use of risk assessment and management tools provided by UNEP

(b) iii) Increase in the number of civil society organizations addressing priority chemical issues under the chemicals MEAs through the use of risk assessment and management tools provided by UNEP

WASTE

(c) i) Increase in the number of Governments addressing priority waste issues, including their obligations under the related MEAs, through the use of tools and methodologies provided by UNEP

(c) ii) Increase in the number of civil society organizations addressing priority waste issues under the waste-related MEAs through the use of risk assessment and management tools provided by UNEP

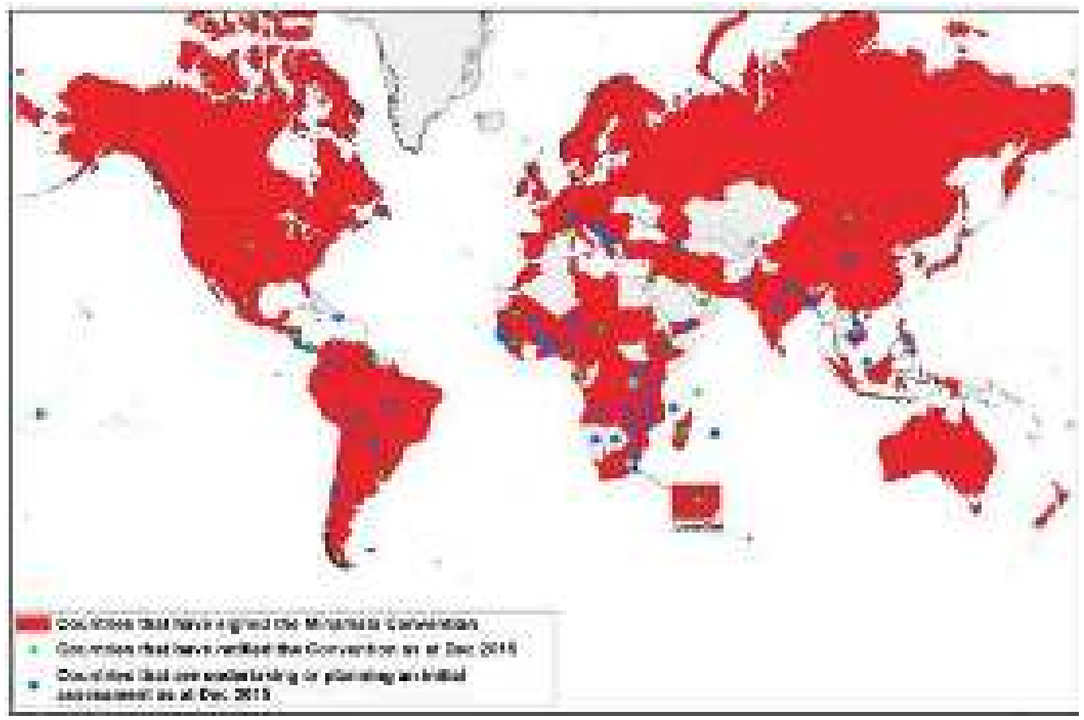
(c) iii) Increase in the number of civil society organizations addressing priority waste issues under the waste-related MEAs through the use of risk assessment and management tools provided by UNEP

THE ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

In **2014-2015, 17 countries adopted policies promoting sound management of chemicals and waste, exceeding UNEP's target for December 2015.** This increase stemmed from countries that ratified the **Minamata Convention on Mercury.** This Convention, which governments adopted in 2013 with assistance from UNEP, now has **128 signatories and 20 Parties,**[36] up from 94 signatory countries and only one Party in 2013 (see Figure 34).

The Global Mercury Partnership and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) serve as important mechanisms for supporting countries to create the appropriate enabling environment for action (See Boxes 11 and 12). They facilitate multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder action to achieve specific results with direct benefits to human health and the environment. In addition, UNEP advanced work with partners to continue efforts to recover the Earth's protective ozone layer.[37]

Figure 34: Minamata Convention on Mercury: Global status



36. Chad, Djibouti, Gabon, Guinea, Guyana, Jordan, Kuwait, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mauritania, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Nicaragua, Panama, Samoa, Seychelles, United Arab Emirates, the United States of America and Uruguay.
37. See Scientific Assessment of Ozone Depletion published by UNEP and WMO in 2014.

Box 11: The Global Mercury Partnership – a vehicle to support implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury

Mercury levels in open-ocean fish are keeping pace with current increases in anthropogenic inputs of mercury to the ocean. Recent data show that mercury contamination has reached levels that would make certain fish unsafe for consumption. For this reason, amongst others, the Minamata Convention on Mercury was adopted in late 2013. Ratification and early implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury is facilitated by UNEP's Global Mercury Partnership—a multistakeholder alliance that enables countries address the adverse effects of mercury. **By December 2015, 50 countries were carrying out initial assessments (MIAs) for the convention;** another four had MIAs in the pipeline, supported by UNEP, UNDP, or UNIDO.

A voluntary trust fund known as the Special Programme on Institutional Capacity Strengthening that is meant to support national institutional strengthening for SAICM and the Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm (BRS) and Minamata Conventions was adopted during the first session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-1) in June 2014. The Secretariat of the Special Programme is fully operational with €11 million from the European Union, $180,000 from the government of Sweden, €200,000 from the government of Finland and $750,000 from the government of the United States of America.

Box 12: The Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM)

A key mechanism to help countries improve the management of chemicals is SAICM for which UNEP provides the Secretariat. Its goal is to promote chemical safety around the world.

Since its establishment in 2006, **SAICM's trust fund, the Quick Start Programme (QSP), has mobilized more than $120 million, including $39.4 million in cash contributions.** With **184 approved projects in operation as of December 2015,** the QSP has been supporting capacity building for sound chemicals management in 108 countries, of which 54 are Least Developed Countries or Small Island Developing States.

All projects funded by the QSP Trust Fund contribute to the achievement of the 2020 goal of sound chemicals management by building capacity on sound chemicals management. The recent impact evaluation of the QSP concluded that the programme had met, and in many cases exceeded, its objective of establishing enabling environments for sound management of chemicals at the national level. QSP projects have been successful in raising awareness and building institutional capacity for the sound management of chemicals.

CHEMICALS

UNEP aimed to increase the number of governments, businesses and industries, and civil society organizations addressing priority chemical issues using its ***risk assessment and management tools*** (see Box 13). In 2014-2015, 14 governments,[38] 21 businesses and industries and 12 civil society organizations addressed priority chemical issues with UNEP's support. For instance, Lesotho, Swaziland and Viet Nam conducted national mercury inventories, while Madagascar identified alternatives for mercury free products. Several mining companies in Chile and Peru implemented best practices in mining operations, while dental associations in Tanzania and Uganda promoted the phasing out of dental mercury amalgam. Furthermore, several NGOs promoted and advocated for the UNEP-supported DDT Road Map, which focuses on phasing out this harmful persistent organic pollutant (POP).

A key highlight has been UNEP's work on the metal *lead.* **Lead exposure** is estimated to account for 0.6 percent of the global burden of disease, with the highest burden in developing regions. According to

38. Cambodia, China, Germany, Ivory Coast, Kyrgyz Republic, Lesotho, Madagascar, Netherlands, Nepal, Indonesia, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Swaziland, and Viet Nam.

Figure 35: Leaded Petrol Phase-out: Global status as at 2002

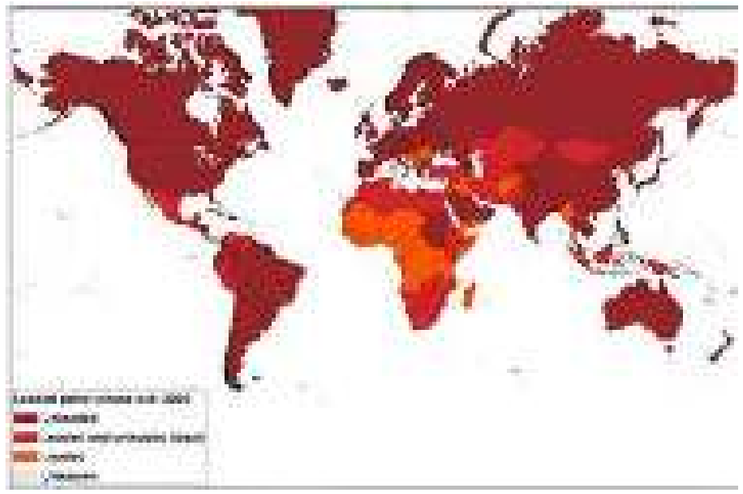


Figure 36: Leaded Petrol Phase-out: Global status as at 2013

Figure 37: Leaded Petrol Phase-out: Global status as at 2015

Box 13: The PCB Elimination Network (PEN) – a mechanism to address some persistent organic pollutants (POPs)

Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) are carbon-based chemical substances that persist in the environment, accumulate through the food web in the fatty tissue of living organisms including humans, and pose a risk of causing adverse effects to human health and the environment. In the past PCBs were used as coolants and insulating fluids (transformer oil) for transformers and capacitors, such as those used in old fluorescent light ballasts.

Today, up to 9.3 million tonnes still needs to be eliminated, with the largest amounts found in Africa and the Asia-Pacific region. UNEP has helped to establish the PCB Elimination Network (PEN), for which it serves as the secretariat.[39] With support from UNEP and the BRS Secretariat, a preliminary assessment was made of efforts to eliminate PCBs; this showed an increased need to speed up our efforts to achieve the 2025/2028 goals of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants.

WHO,[40] **childhood lead exposure is estimated to contribute to about 600,000 new cases of children with intellectual disabilities every year.** Researchers' estimates of reduced cognitive potentials (loss of IQ points) due to preventable childhood lead exposure equal 98.2 million points in Africa, 283.6 million in Asia, and 24.4 million in Latin America and the Caribbean. This translates into economic losses of more than $900 billion around the globe ($137 billion in Africa, $142 billion in Latin America, and $700 billion in Asia).

In 2002, lead was used in fuels in 82 countries. **Today, with UNEP and its partners' support, only three countries[41] still have lead in fuels** (see Figures 35-37). The same success is targeted for lead in paints. To help countries in their phase-out of leaded paint, UNEP and WHO are working with partners to support them to put in place the legal and regulatory frameworks to control the manufacture, import, export, sale and use of lead paints and products coated with lead paints. In 2014-2015, 23 countries[42] had put in place the relevant regulatory framework, bringing **the total number of countries with legal and regulatory frameworks on lead in paints to 58.**

39. Several national governments are now committed to addressing priority chemical issues, including their obligations under the chemicals MEAs, through the use of risk assessment and management tools provided by UNEP, as outlined under Expected Accomplishment (b), Indicator (i). For instance, in 2014-2015 Ecuador, Egypt, Lebanon, Nigeria and Tunisia joined the PCB Elimination Network (PEN), which develops and disseminates a number of risk assessment and management tools for the environmentally sound management (ESM) of PCBs. Members of the network declare that they will make determined effort toward achieving ESM of PCBs.
40. http://www.who.int/ipcs/assessment/public_health/lead/en/
41. Algeria, Iraq and Yemen.
42. Algeria, Australia, Belarus, Canada, China, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Guyana, Jordan, Liechtenstein, Macedonia, Mexico, Montenegro, Nepal, New Zealand, Oman, Panama, Philippines, Russia, Sri Lanka, South Africa and Switzerland.

Figure 38: Countries with legally-binding controls over lead in decorative paint as of 2015

WASTE

UNEP is working with governments, businesses and industries, and civil society organizations to help them address priority waste issues through the use of tools and innovative methodologies. In 2014-2015, seven national and local governments,[43] nine businesses and industries, and seven civil society organizations addressed priority waste issues, bringing the total number of countries doing so to 22. Although good progress was made – an increase from 15 at the end of 2013 up to 22 in December 2015 – the target set at 25 countries was not met.

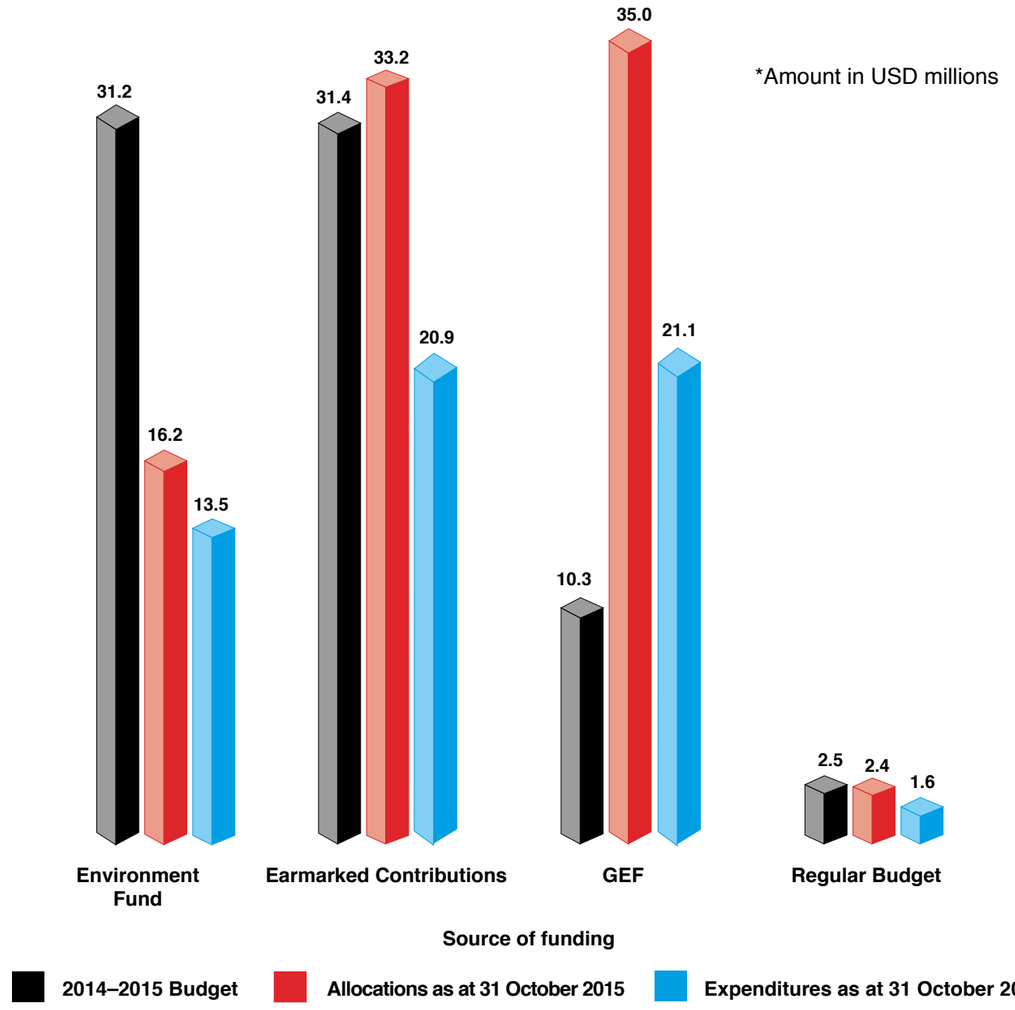
A key component of UNEP's successful approaches in the field of waste management is the promotion of the **use of waste agricultural biomass as a source of renewable energy.** Globally, 140 billion metric tonnes of biomass waste is generated every year from agriculture; when converted into energy, that's **equivalent to approximately 50 billion tonnes of oil.** Agricultural biomass waste can substantially displace fossil fuels, reduce emissions of greenhouse gases and provide renewable energy to some 1.6 billion people in developing countries.

With help from UNEP, countries such as **Cambodia, Costa Rica and India** generated energy and resources from **agricultural waste** in 2014-2015. Cambodia, for instance, generates 8.3 million tonnes of agricultural biomass waste annually, equivalent to 3.6 million tonnes of oil, while India generates 415.5 million tonnes, equivalent to 103.9 million tonnes of oil. Meanwhile, Costa Rica's 27 million tonnes is equivalent to 86,487 terajoules of primary energy (base year 2012). Working with UNEP, these nations developed strategies to enhance the conversion of agricultural biomass waste into energy, with businesses putting in place appropriate technologies with the aim of scaling up results elsewhere.

UNEP has also placed a sharper focus on 'waste as a resource' and the 'circular economy' paradigm. A good foundation for these approaches was laid in the publication of the **Global Waste Management Outlook,** launched in Antwerp, Belgium, in September 2015. Together with other key elements, such as the development of an academic consortium for the elaboration of a waste management curriculum and the preparation of guidelines for a legislative framework on waste management, this helps to constitute the basis for UNEP's future work. Though progress has been made in a variety of areas UNEP was not able to meet the waste management targets set for December 2015.

43. National governments: Cambodia, Costa Rica, India and Mongolia. Local governments: Ho Chi Minh City (Viet Nam), Kota City (India) and Penang State (Malaysia).

Figure 39: Budget performance—chemicals and waste

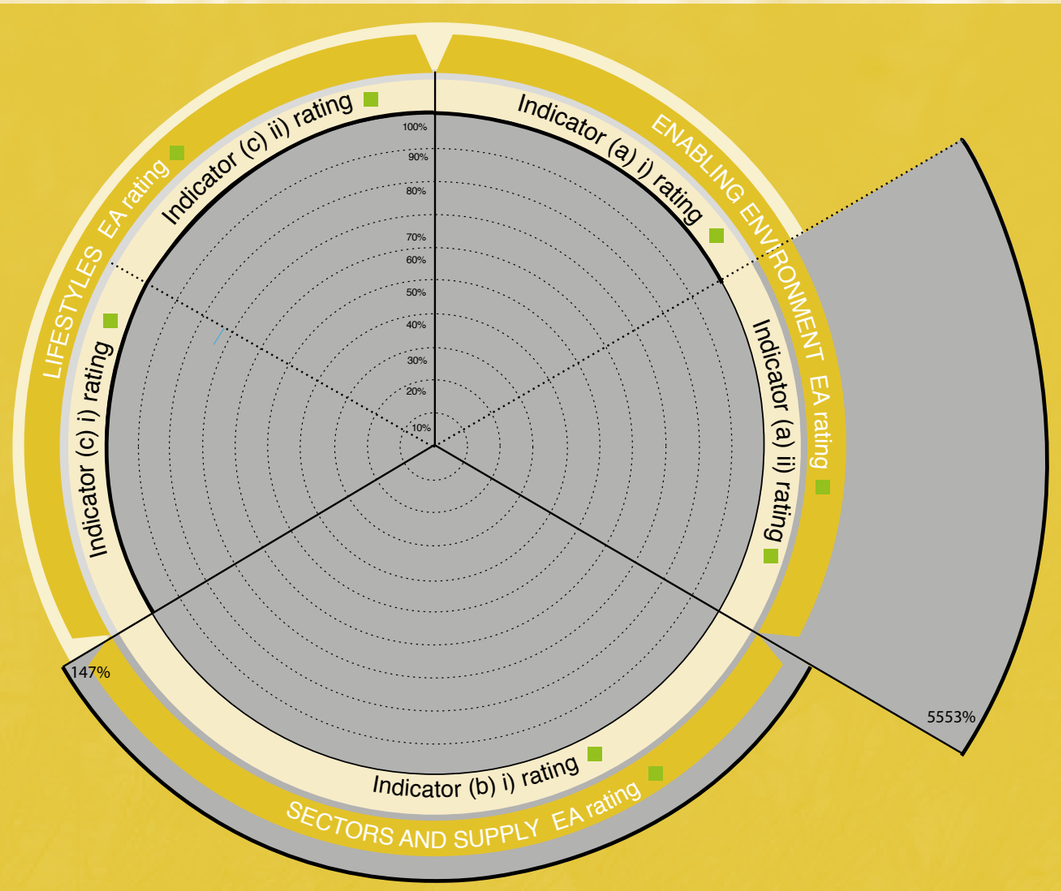


RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

In its work on resource efficiency and sustainable consumption and production, UNEP focuses on achieving results in three areas:

- ***Enabling environment*** where UNEP supports countries in creating an enabling policy environment that promotes resource efficiency, sustainable consumption and production and transition to green economy pathways
- ***Sectors and supply*** where UNEP enhances the ability of governments, businesses and other stakeholders to adopt sustainable consumption and production practices across global supply chains in key sectors
- ***Lifestyles and consumption*** where UNEP enhances the ability of countries, businesses, civil society and individual consumers to make informed choices for sustainable consumption and lifestyles

UNEP achieved all targets set for December 2015, exceeding some of the targets.



Target achieved

Target partially achieved (60% and above)

Target not achieved (below 60%)

Actual progress as at December 2015 against December 2014–2015 target

INDICATORS OF ACHIEVEMENT

ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

(a) i) Increase in the number of cities and countries that develop and integrate into policies, within the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, the green economy and sustainable consumption and production approaches and tools.

(a) ii) Increase in the number of references to UNEP assessments and reports in documents by Governments, companies and academics.

SECTORS AND SUPPLY

(b) i) Increase in the number of stakeholders reporting improved management practices and adoption of more resource-efficient tools and instruments in sectoral policies.

LIFESTYLES

(c) i) Increase in the number of public institutions and private sector organizations that develop and implement policies and measures conducive to more sustainable consumption patterns.

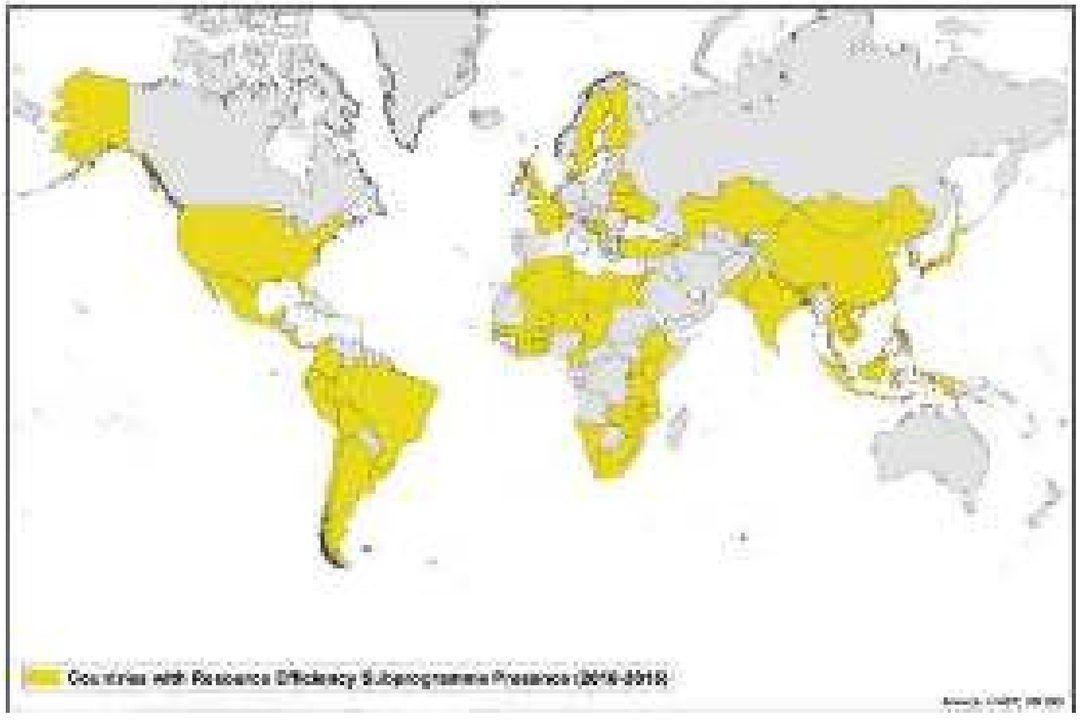
(c) ii) Increase in the number of projects initiated by stakeholders to promote more sustainable lifestyles that are catalyzed by UNEP.

ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

UNEP supports countries and regions to **integrate green economy and sustainable consumption and production approaches into national and sub-national policies.** Green economies are defined as low-carbon, resource efficient and socially inclusive economies that create employment and enhance human well-being. Country assessments, specific planning and implementation tools and knowledge platforms enable policy makers and businesses to actively pursue green economy pathways as shown in Figure 40.

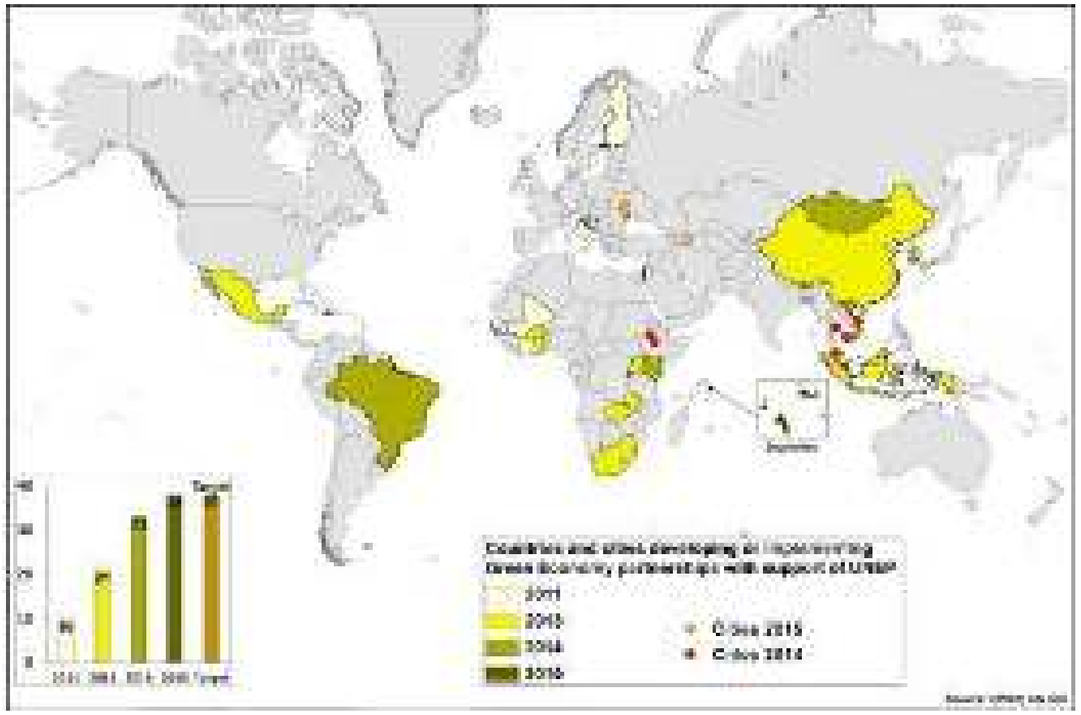
In 2014-2015, with UNEP's support, eight countries and nine cities[44] developed or started implementing sustainable consumption and production and green economy policies, meeting UNEP's target for the 2014-2015 biennium (see Figure 41). Box 14 highlights these policy changes in countries and cities. This brings the total to **29 countries and nine cities[45] that have adopted or started the implementation of sustainable consumption and production and green economy pathways** since 2010.

Figure 40. Geographic presence of the resource efficiency Subprogramme



44. Countries: Bhutan, Brazil, Israel, Kenya, Mongolia, Rwanda, Seychelles and Viet Nam; Cities: Baku (Icheri Sheher), Azerbaijan; Kampot, Cambodia; Addis Ababa and Bahir Dar, Ethiopia; Eco Town Penang, Malaysia; Balti, Moldova; Pathum Thani, Thailand; Vinnystsia, Ukraine; and Da Nang, Viet Nam.
45. Countries: Barbados, Bhutan, Brazil, Burkina Faso, China, Cote d'Ivoire, Croatia, Dominica, Finland, Ghana, Haiti, Indonesia, Israel, Kenya, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritius, Mexico, Moldova, Mongolia, Republic of Korea, Rwanda, Saint-Lucia, Senegal, Seychelles, South Africa, Uganda, Viet Nam and Zambia; Cities: Baku (Icheri Sheher), Azerbaijan; Kampot, Cambodia; Addis Ababa and Bahir Dar, Ethiopia; Eco Town Penang, Malaysia; Balti, Moldova; Pathum Thani, Thailand; Vinnystsia, Ukraine; Da Nang, Viet Nam.

Figure 41: Countries and local governments that have developed and/or are implementing Green Economy pathways



Box 14: Illustrative results in countries and cities on policy change

Country/City	Result
Addis Ababa and Bahir Dar (Ethiopia)	The cities mainstreamed sustainable consumption and production and green economy approaches into urban policy instruments.
Da Nang (Vietnam)	The city defined its resource footprint and established targets to become more resource efficient.
Mongolia	Mongolia has adopted a Green Development Strategy with UNEP's assistance (PAGE).
Rwanda and Brazil	The countries started the implementation of sustainable consumption and production plans.

SECTORS AND SUPPLY

At the core of UNEP's work is **enhancing the capacity of governments, businesses and other stakeholders to adopt sustainable production and consumption practices** in global supply chains in **building and construction, food and agriculture, finance and tourism sectors.** In 2014-2015 with UNEP's support, 140 countries, institutions and businesses improved management practices or sectoral strategies in these sectors, bringing the total number of stakeholders reporting improved management practices and the use of more resource-efficient tools and instruments in sectoral policies to 222, exceeding the target of 177. Box 15 illustrates changes in practices resulting from UNEP support.

Box 15: Changes in practices resulting from UNEP support in 2014-2015

Country	Sector/Area of support	Result
Brazil, Chile, Denmark, France and South Africa	Sustainability standards and reporting	The countries analyzed the impact of, and improved, their respective corporate sustainability reporting policies.
Cape Verde, Samoa and South Africa	Tourism	The countries strengthened the sustainability dimensions of their tourism development plans.
France	Tourism	34 professionals and eight businesses achieved environmental certification labels and standards. Certified businesses decreased their energy and water consumption. The city of Nantes became the first European city to have eco-certified rooms.
Ghana	Agriculture	A cocoa processing company reduced energy consumption through substitution of two mills and increased revenues by selling a process by-product; waste reduced by 60 percent.
Global	Eco-Innovation and Supply Chains	175 stakeholders exposed to UNEP's operational approach to eco-innovation to boost profitability and sustainability in three supply chains (agri-food, metals and chemicals). Eleven countries were selected for implementation.
India	Buildings and Construction	A social housing developer involved in slum re-development adopted sustainable design standards increasing energy efficiency.
Sweden	Buildings and Construction	A construction company changed its sourcing and selection of construction materials from its 50,000 suppliers. As a result overall sustainability of its products has increased.
Thailand	Tourism	A major tourism service provider implemented UNEP guidance for water management.

LIFESTYLES AND CONSUMPTION

UNEP aims to provide enabling conditions for promoting more **sustainable consumption choices and lifestyles.** Progress on this front is demonstrated by the number of public and private sector institutions that put in place policies and measures conducive to more sustainable consumption patterns. Supporting **sustainable public procurement** is one way to stimulate demand for, and supply of, sustainable products. In 2014-2015, UNEP supported 20 countries[46] on sustainable public procurement of which six governments[47] are developing or implementing action plans on the subject in close coordination with the related 10YFP programme.

With UNEP's support, 27 companies – based in Brazil, Cameroon, Colombia, India, Peru and Uganda – have increasingly used **life cycle-based approaches and tools.** Box 16 illustrates these results.

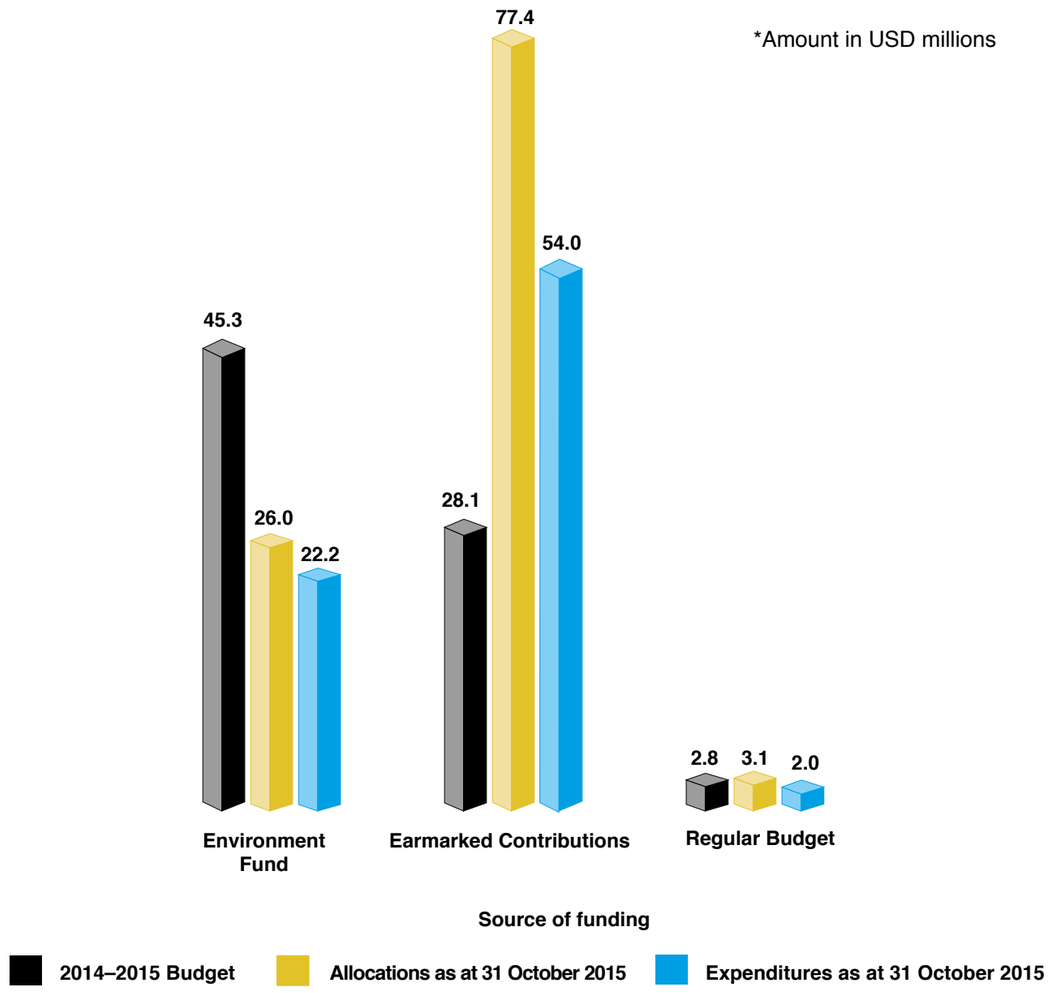
Education and awareness-raising are important enabling conditions for more sustainable lifestyles. In 2014-2015, UNEP supported activities that catalyzed engagement of 18 stakeholders into the promotion of sustainable lifestyles, bringing the total to 28 stakeholders. This brings the cumulative total to 82 supported stakeholders, in line with the December 2015 target.

Box 16: Illustration of results in 2014-2015 from UNEP's support on lifestyles and consumption

City, Country	Result
Bogota, Colombia	Twenty-two companies organized in a Life Cycle Management (LCM) network completed training in compliance. They are now implementing environmental management systems using Life Cycle approaches.
Kashipur, India	A company in the chemicals sector integrated life cycle approaches into its management practices.

46. Argentina, Belarus, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, India, Ivory Coast, Maldives, Mauritius, Moldova, Mongolia, Morocco, Panama, Peru, Sri Lanka, Togo, Ukraine and Viet Nam.
47. Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Mauritius, Moldova and Ukraine.

Figure 42: Budget performance—resource efficiency and sustainable consumption and production

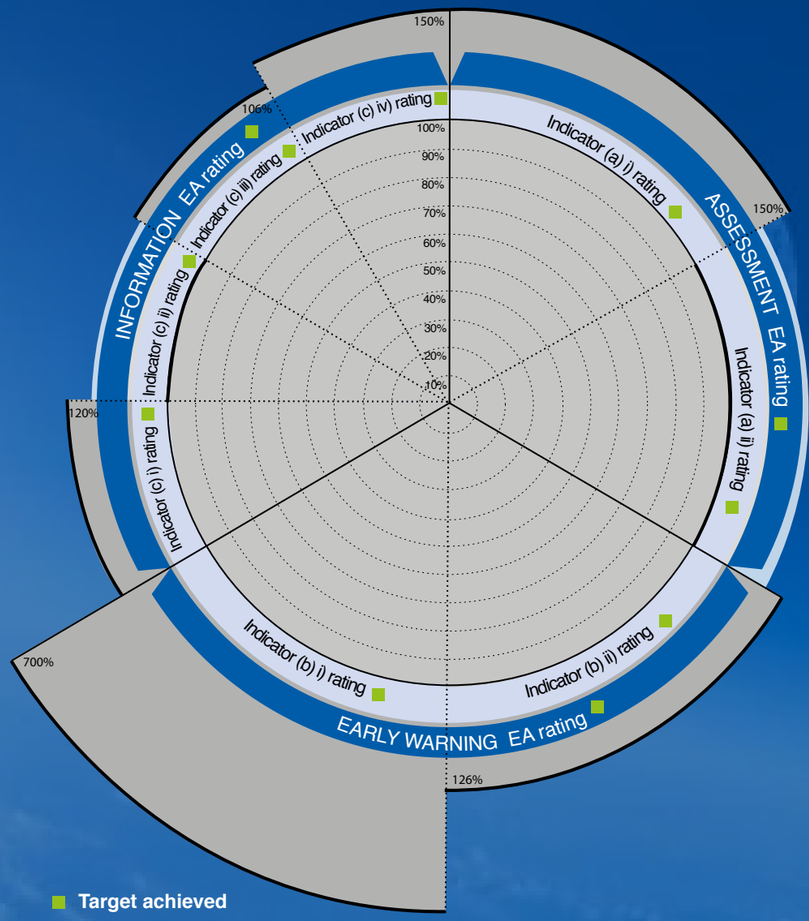


ENVIRONMENT UNDER REVIEW

In its work to keep the environment under review, UNEP focuses on bridging the gap between the producers and users of environmental information, better linking science with policy and achieving results in the following areas:

- ***Assessment*** where UNEP facilitates global, regional and national policy-making from environmental information made available on open platforms
- ***Early warning*** where UNEP enables better policy planning that incorporates information on emerging environmental issues
- ***Information management*** where UNEP enhances the capacity of countries to generate, access, analyze, use and communicate environmental information and knowledge

UNEP has met all its targets for December 2015.



- **Target achieved**
- **Target partially achieved (60% and above)**
- **Target not achieved (below 60%)**
- Actual progress as at December 2015 against December 2014–2015 target

INDICATORS OF ACHIEVEMENT

ASSESSMENT

(a) i) Increase in the number of United Nations agencies and MEAs using data on environmental trends identified through UNEP to influence policy

(a) ii) Increase in the number of national, regional and global forums and institutions using data on environmental trends identified through UNEP to influence policy

EARLY WARNING

(b) i) Increase in the number of stakeholders surveyed that acknowledge the uptake of scenarios and early warning on emerging environmental issues in their assessment and policy development processes

(b) ii) Number of registered participants in organizations for children and young people, sports organizations and World Environment Day that undertake activities on the UNEP website or report through UNEP networks as a result of targeted messaging on emerging environmental issues

INFORMATION

(c) i) Increase in the number of countries that take the lead in generating, analysing, managing and using environmental information in comparable formats and making such information and knowledge available to the public and policy-makers

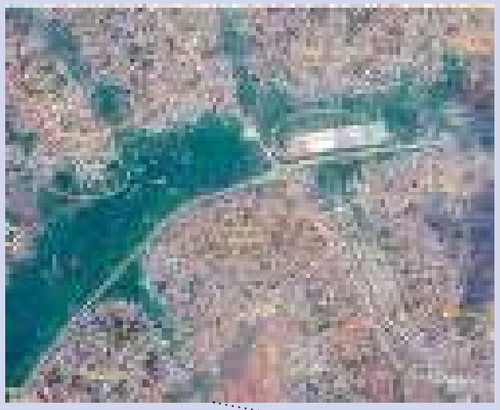
(c) ii) Increase in the number of countries making available credible, nationally generated data and providing access to country-specific environmental information in comparable formats on public platforms

(c) iii) Increased number of major groups and stakeholders surveyed that acknowledge their involvement in the generation of, access to and use of environmental information available on public platforms

(c) iv) Increase in the number of major UNEP publications in languages other than English made accessible through UNEP-developed online platforms

Box 17: The Uganda Wetlands Atlas

By comparing satellite change pairs and validation of storylines at field level, the Uganda Wetlands Atlas identified areas where wetlands are threatened or lost over the past decade to inform policy action.



ASSESSMENT, EARLY WARNING AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

In 2014 and 2015, UNEP's work in this area built a strong foundation for the next generation of integrated environmental assessments and enabled access to **near real-time environmental data** for analysis and decision-making. The sixth **Global Environment Outlook (GEO-6)**, due in 2017, is now able to benefit from **data flows from 192 countries** available in UNEP Live[48] (see Figure 43).

UNEP Live— an innovative online platform designed to support assessments by making available global, regional and national data and knowledge. It can also assist countries with reporting using the National Reporting System to generate, access, analyze, use and communicate environmental knowledge. UNEP Live includes national data flows from 192 countries, lists global environmental reporting obligations for each country, and hosts an SDG portal and nine Communities of Practice with over one thousand five hundred members. Near real-time data and maps available in UNEP Live cover a range of themes from air quality and sea level rise to resource efficiency indicators, the Antarctic ozone hole, the Ebola situation, marine plastics and threatened species.

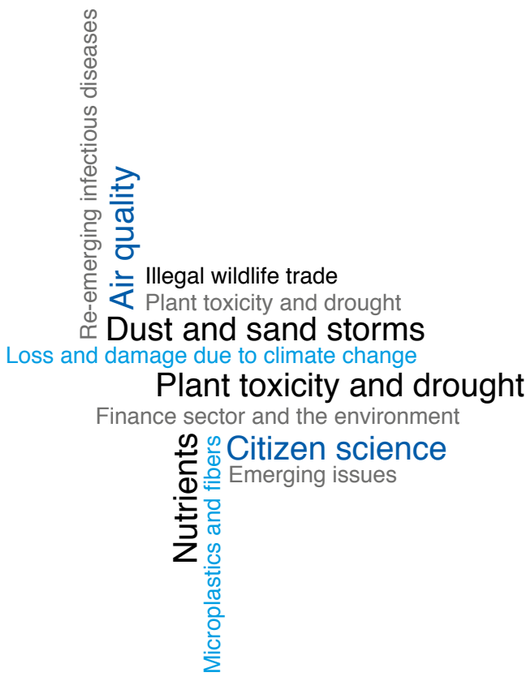
Figure 43: By December 2015 national data flows from 192 countries were available in UNEP Live up from 3 in March 2014

Source: Adapted from Bill Schmarzo and Shutterstock

48. http://www.unep.org/uneplive

UNEP Live has evolved from a source of data and knowledge for a few countries into a distributed knowledge platform that enables access to live data and information about the environment from all over the world. The **UN's Chief Executives Board (CEB)** in its session of 29 April 2015 recognized the innovative contribution that UNEP Live is making to harness the data revolution.

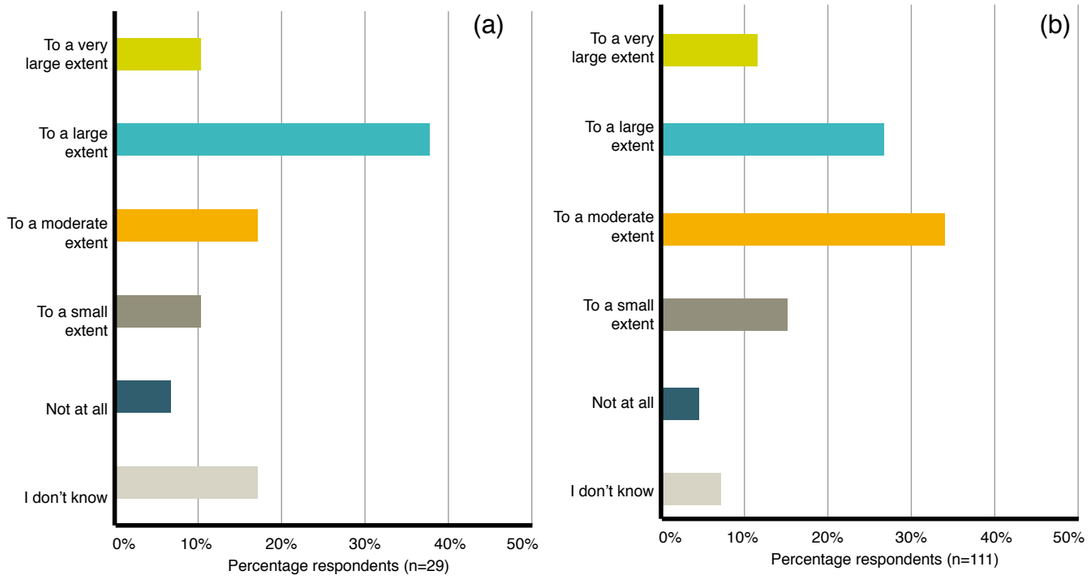
By strengthening the science policy interface, UNEP aims to increase the number of UN agencies and MEAs, as well as national, regional and global fora that use data on environmental trends. **UNEP exceeded its target for December 2015** for UN agencies and MEAs and met the target set for use by fora and institutions. For example, the **Uganda Wetlands Atlas** led to the initiation of an agreement on a wetlands restoration programme (see Box 17). Six **Regional Environmental Information Network (REIN)** conferences were convened to identify key priorities and emerging issues to inform the regional GEO-6 assessments and to discuss open access and data sharing in the context of UNEP Live and open data platforms.



UNEP is assisting countries to strengthen national reporting, which it foresees will improve the access and quality of key data flows available for decision-making. A **National Reporting System** (NRS) was developed by UNEP with support from the Abu Dhabi Global Environmental Data Initiative (AGEDI) to streamline data collection and facilitate information sharing for multiple purposes. The NRS was demonstrated in 20 countries and readiness for NRS deployment was assessed. With the reporting tool piloted in the United Arab Emirates, with three countries (Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan) exploring the NRS and open data platforms for use nationally, and with Chile and Kuwait generating environmental information through the preparation of national state of the environment reports, the total number of countries taking the lead in facilitating data collection, sharing and reporting **exceeded the target that had been set for December 2015.** Samoa is leading the charge among SIDS.

UNEP also aimed to increase the number of stakeholders that are taking up scenarios and early warning on emerging environmental issues in their assessment and policy development processes. UNEP's early warning work, such as the UNEP Year Book 2014, **creates attention and fosters timely action on emerging environmental issues**

Figure 44: Extent of influence of UNEP information on emerging issues and/or environmental scenarios on assessment and/or policy development processes of Member States (a) and stakeholders (b)



that threaten sustainable development. Forty-eight per cent of member states and 39 per cent of UNEP partners and stakeholders surveyed in 2015 recognized that **UNEP's information on emerging issues or environmental scenarios has influenced to a large or very large extent their agencies' assessment work or policy development processes** in the past five years (see Figure 44). The GEO and Emission Gap reports were specifically mentioned in this regard.

Twenty-eight per cent of stakeholders and partners surveyed acknowledged being involved to a large or very large extent in the generation of environmental information made available by UNEP (see Figure 45). **Thirty seven per cent of respondents noted that they had accessed or used environmental information generated by UNEP** (see Figure 46), exceeding the target for December 2015.

Figure 45: Extent of stakeholder involvement in the generation of environmental information by UNEP

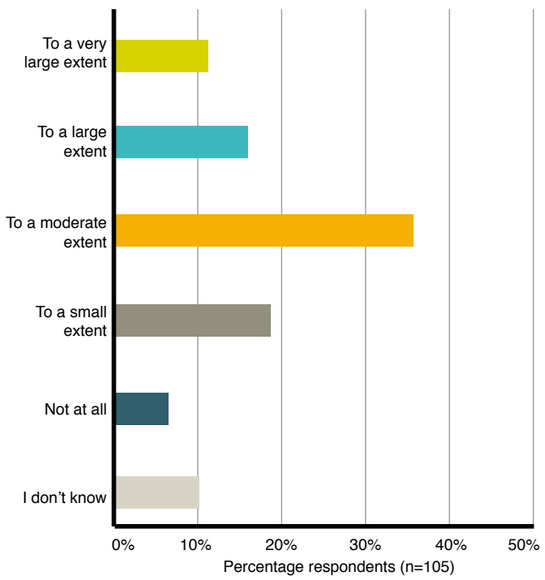
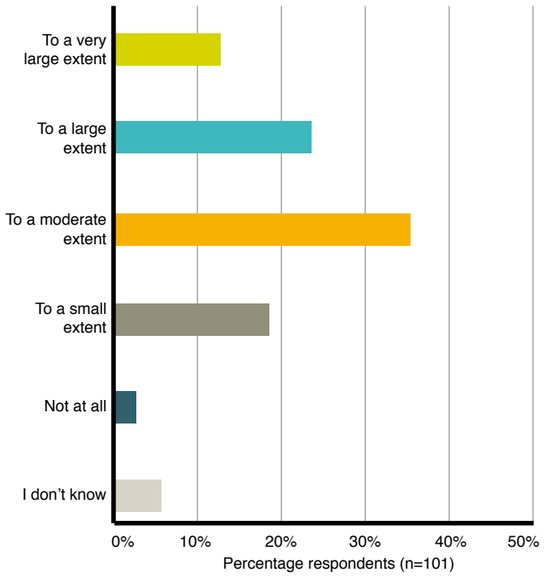


Figure 46: Extent of access and/or use by stakeholders of environmental information generated by UNEP



Box 18: SDG Portal on UNEP Live

A new portal, hosted on UNEP Live, visualizes the linkages between indicators (light green), SDG targets (dark green) and goals (blue) and provides related ontologies, maps and analysis of data availability. It also includes multilingual web intelligence tools that continuously assimilate information from online resources to track emerging trends in key environmental areas.

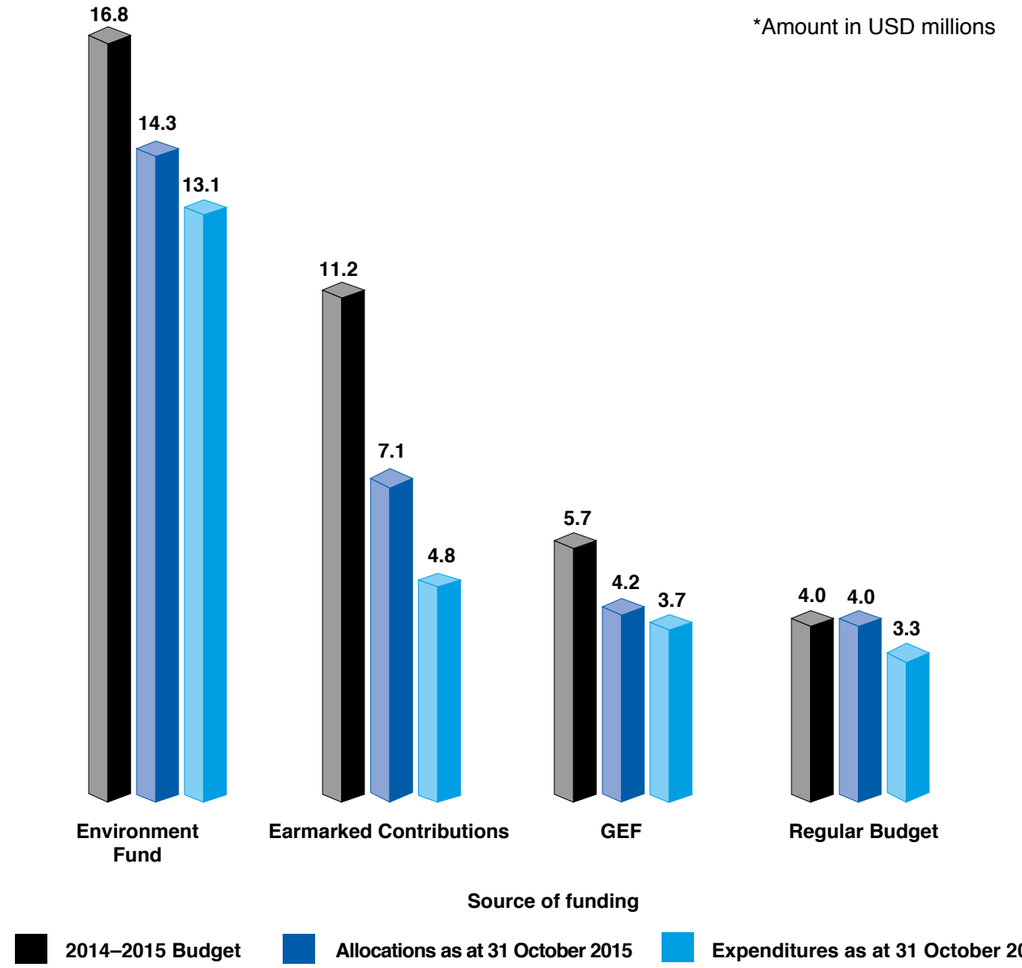
Source: http://uneplive.unep.org/portal

A new **Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) portal** hosted on UNEP Live visualizes the linkages from the proposed indicators to SDG targets and goals (Box 18). To track progress towards the implementation of the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, countries need to be empowered to monitor trends and manage data. UNEP therefore supports initiatives to make credible nationally generated data with country-specific environmental information accessible in comparable formats on public platforms. In the frame of the GeoSUR programme, the geographic services of Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico and Uruguay, are now sharing spatial environmental data and information using web mapping services.

Earth observation offers new opportunities to keep the environment under review. At the 2015 **Eye on Earth summit**, which brought together all major players in environmental data, partnerships were strengthened with global earth observation networks and several special interest groups were established on priority issues related to data delivery, information access and knowledge to support SDGs. UNEP is committed to working with partners in the framework of the **Global Earth Observation System of Systems,** including on SDG indicators based on remote-sensing data, to ensure that countries have access to the relevant data flows that allow them to undertake regular indicator-based assessments and to report on progress towards relevant SDG targets.

Progress towards sustainability can only be achieved if women and men are equally involved in development. UNEP is working with others on the first Global Gender and Environment Outlook. *Credit: Shutterstock/Lucian Coman*

Figure 47: Budget performance—environment under review



BUDGET PERFORMANCE

UNEP's projected overall budget for the 2014-2015 biennium was $619 million. This budget comprises the Environment Fund, Trust Funds and Earmarked Contributions,[49] the GEF, the Regular Budget of the UN, including UNSCEAR and UN Development Account allocations, and Programme Support Costs (PSC).

The overall budget allocation for the biennium was $1,079.2 million.[50] The budget allocation comprises three elements. First, it includes income received and recorded in the biennium, even if the contributions received were not all meant for use in the same biennium (some donors targeted their contributions for use in projects that will extend beyond 2015.) Second, the budget allocation includes disbursements that were already in the pipeline late in the last biennium (i.e. late 2013) but that had not been made by the end of that year and thus had to be recorded as allocations in 2014. Third, the budget allocation includes unspent fund balances from the latter part of the last biennium that were brought forward as allocations in 2014-2015. These factors make it difficult to draw a direct comparison with the projected budget. UNEP is developing a contributions management tool to better analyze actual annual income against the targeted budget, taking into account the international public sector accounting standards (IPSAS), to which UNEP now adheres.

UNEP had available more resources than its projected budget for the 2014-2015 biennium, which resulted in a **total expenditure for the biennium of $795.8 million,**[51] **approximately 128.6 per cent of the year's targeted budget.**

As in previous years, a significant part of contributions that UNEP received is earmarked for specific projects and thus unavailable for meeting demands for services in other areas for which results are envisaged. Similar to the last biennium, for instance, UNEP's work on chemicals and waste has tended to emphasize mercury and SAICM where donors have earmarked their contributions, while other areas of focus in relation to chemicals and waste are much less well resourced.

INCOME ANALYSIS

The income received by UNEP in 2014-2015 amounted to $777 million[52] for the 2014-2015 biennium and future years against a projected overall budget of $619 million. This income is divided into three main sources of funding: (1) the Regular Budget of the UN, including the UN Development Account, that supports the core functions of the secretariat, servicing of the Governing Bodies and some core elements of the Programme of Work; (2) the Environment Fund, which facilitates implementation of the Programme of Work; and (3) earmarked contributions, including the Global Environment Facility (GEF), which deliver programmes and projects that are aligned with the Programme of Work.

49. Trust Funds and Earmarked Contributions for Conventions, Protocols and Regional Seas Action Plans, and the Multilateral Fund are not included in this report.
50. Financial figures in this report are preliminary, based on data as of 31 October 2015.
51. Figure based on data reported as of 31 October 2015.
52. Gross income as per IPSAS accounts for 2014 -2015 excluding exchange gains & losses and excluding the prior-year income from the GEF (the latter had been included in the budget performance data reported in the programme performance review for Jan. 2014-Jun. 2015)

Since the Rio+20 Summit, the joint focus of the Committee of Permanent Representatives and the UNEP Secretariat has been on fortifying the financial foundation of the organization through the principles of **secure, stable, adequate, and increased financial resources (SSAIFR),** as mandated by the Member States at the General Assembly, in order to enable UNEP to effectively implement its PoW.

SECURE

Security in funding is based on a broad range of consistent donors and financial partners. This is especially important for UNEP as it is 95 per cent funded by voluntary contributions. Only 5 per cent comes from the Regular Budget of the UN, including the UN Development Account (UNDA). Contributions from member states are the core of the organization's funding, alongside contributions from other important financial partners, such as GEF and European Commission (EC). However, the efforts to broaden the donor base must continue in line with UNEA decision EA1/15, as the top 15 donors still provide over 90 per cent of the organization's funding.

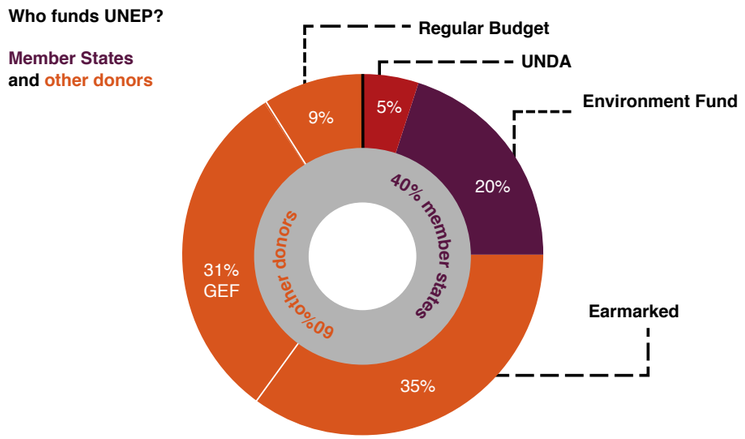
STABLE

Stable funding is achieved through early receipt of contributions and by steady contributions across the years in number, length, and value.

Over the past four years (2012 to 2015), 40 Member States have contributed annually to the Environment Fund. The donors leading the way, in multi-year pledges, were Austria, Belgium (2013-2015), Canada (2014-2017), Denmark and the Netherlands (2014-2015); together, these countries contributed a total of $45.5 million for 2014-2015. With regard to early contributions, the 2014 pledges received prior to 1 January 2014 amounted to 27 per cent of the total for the biennium. Early contributions for 2015 were slightly higher, at 33 per cent of the biennial total.

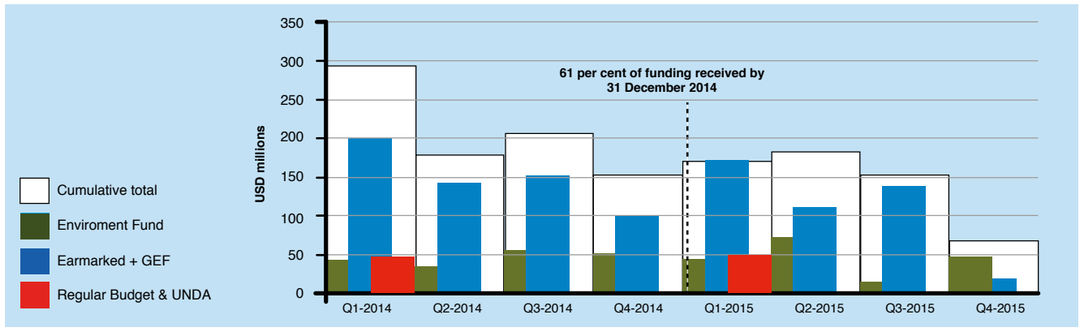
China, the EU and Sweden lead the way for multi-year agreements in earmarked funding, with commitments totaling $88 million for 2014-2015. The stability of GEF project funding is built into an 18-month lead period from the approval of the project concept and set-aside of funding to the start of implementation, provided that the full project document is approved during this period.

Figure 48: 2014-2015 Member States and other donors funding of UNEP by fund type and donor type (as at November 2015)



* Percentages values of contributions for fund source

Figure 49: Payments received in 2014-2015 by quarter (as at November 2015)



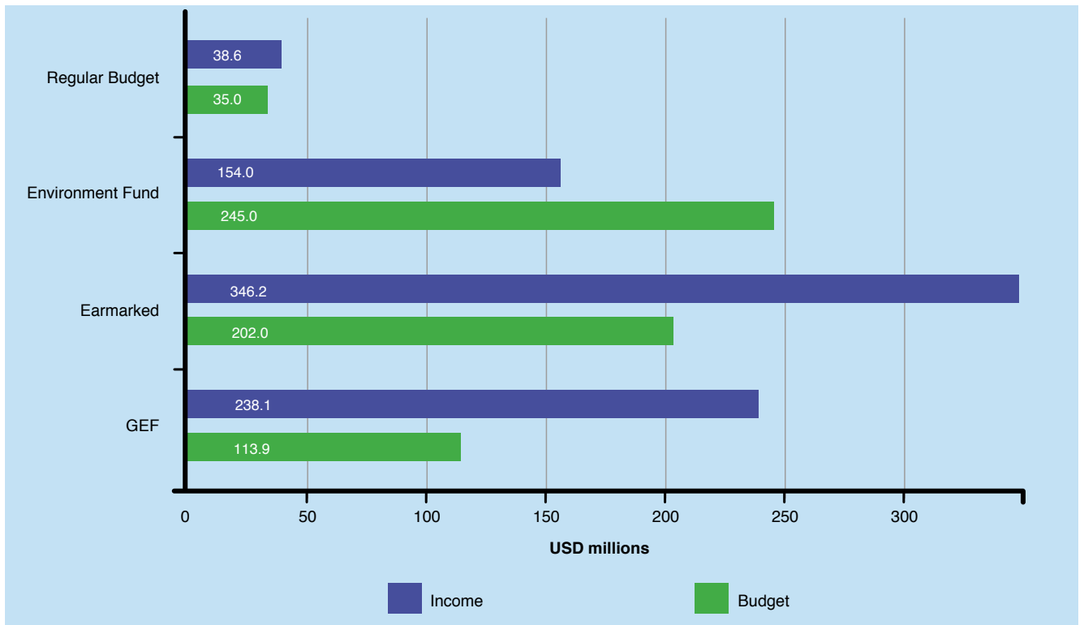
The Regular Budget of the UN is the most predictable source of UNEP's funding. Although determined just before the start of the biennium, the amounts are confirmed for the entire biennium.

ADEQUATE

The adequacy of funding levels is measured by comparing actual funding provided against the annual budgets, by funding source. The unearmarked funding through the Environment Fund is particularly important for the balanced delivery of the Programme of Work as it enables a flexible allocation of funds based on need, while earmarked funding prioritizes only some aspects of the Programme of Work over others, hence the continued call for a shift towards increased unearmarked and softly earmarked funding. The Voluntary Indicative Scale of Contributions (VISC) continues to positively support these efforts.

For the Regular Budget of the UN, no funding gaps emerge because the budget approved by the UN General Assembly is followed by disbursements from assessed contributions to the UN. However, an increase in the Regular Budget of the UN from 2016, as proposed to the General Assembly (GA), is needed for better coverage of core secretariat functions.

Figure 50: Budget and income by source of funding (as at November 2015)



The biannual budget for GEF is only indicative and based on annual expenditure trends, while the actual amounts are dependent on the successful submissions of multi-year project proposals within each GEF cycle. A new cycle started in 2015 (GEF 6).

INCREASED

Increased financial resources are necessary for UNEP, as the leading global environmental authority, to continue to deliver its universal mandate and play a key role in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. They are also critical to supporting the organization's progressively ambitious programmes of work. UNEA 1 set a target for the global community to achieve the SSAIFR funding for UNEP by 2016.

EXPENDITURE ANALYSIS

Total expenditure for the biennium 2014-2015 was $795.8 million.[53] Of this total, Environment Fund expenditures for the biennium were $145.7 million, or 85 per cent of the $171.4 million in allocations. The total expenditures from the regular budget of the UN were $30.6 million against appropriations of $38.0 million. The appropriations included $3.7 million for the UN Development Account. Expenditures against trust funds and earmarked contributions for the biennium were $348.3 million, or 68.9 per cent of the total allocations of $505.7 million (see Figure 3). With a large proportion of funds committed by donors that are meant for the duration of the entire life-cycle of projects, extending beyond the biennium into many more years, allocations made in the biennium from trust funds and earmarked contributions are not meant to be spent in their entirety in the same biennium. This is the reason why expenditures are not aligned closely with allocations when budget performance against trust funds and earmarked contributions are analyzed.

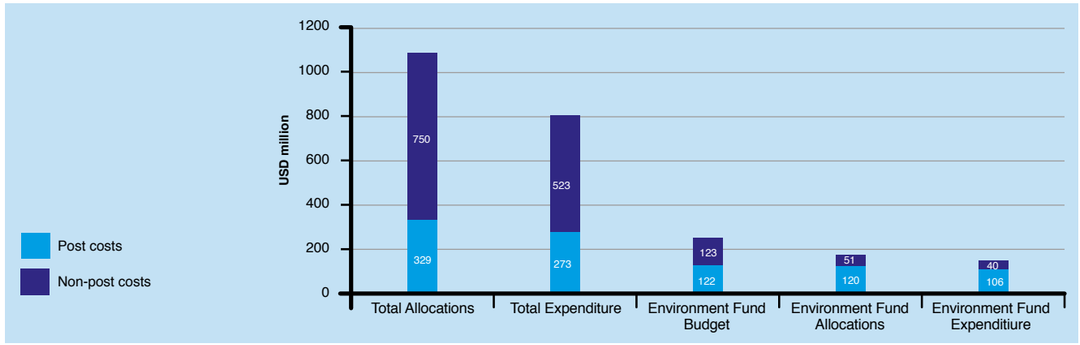
UNEP has transitioned from United Nations System Accounting Standards (UNSAS) to applying International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) and is now using a new enterprise resource planning (ERP) system named Umoja. The organization aims to improve its business intelligence as the organization becomes familiar with the use of the system and its abilities.

UNEP allocated $39.5 million for activities from the Environment Fund, versus $106 million for covering post costs, for the biennium. Figure 50 provides an analysis of post and non-post costs for budget, allocations and expenditures, both for the Environment Fund and for total funding. When reviewed in totality with other funding sources, UNEP was able to ensure a significant percentage of financial resources was dedicated to activities. Expenditures showed a 52 per cent ratio of post-costs to non-post costs.

The General Assembly approved a regular budget of the UN to UNEP of $34.9 million for the biennium 2014-2015. In addition, 37 additional posts may be funded from the regular budget in 2016-2017. This change will have a direct effect on the availability of the Environment Fund budget for activities in the future.

53. Expenditures cover the period Jan 2014-October 2015.
54. Figures are as of October 2015

Figure 51: Overview of posts and non-post costs for 2014-2015[54]



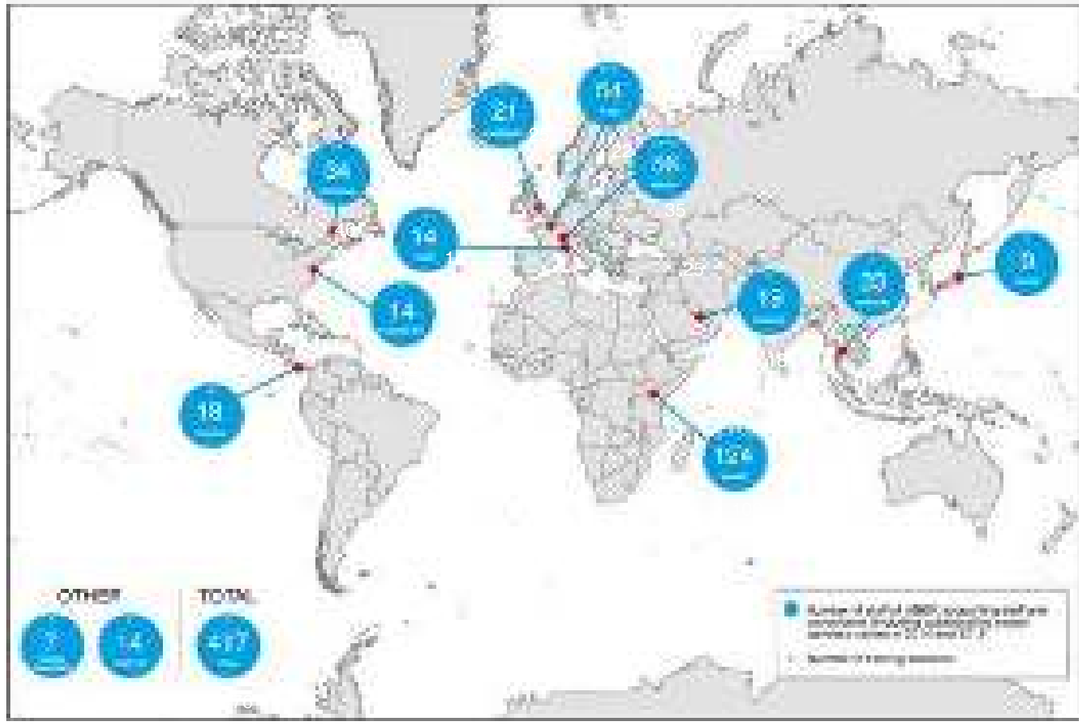
ORGANIZATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

In 2014-2015, UNEP continued to ensure its services are relevant to the needs and priorities of countries and the UN system. In a survey of partners in government, the UN system and major groups and stakeholders, 70 per cent of respondents rated UNEP's products and programmes as relevant or even extremely relevant. Just over half (53 per cent) of surveyed members of the Committee of Permanent Representatives and relevant UNEP partners, including UN partners, other intergovernmental bodies, major groups and stakeholders and the private sector, specifically noted the quality and level of engagement in the development of UNEP programme planning documents was good or even excellent.

UNEP works in several ways to ensure that its efforts remain relevant. First, UNEP works at the UN system-wide level to promote greater coherence and complementarity on environmental issues. Second, UNEP ensures that its work is grounded in credible and coherent science to inform decision-making. And third, the organization demonstrates tangible, country-level outcomes through the support it provides in response to the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity Building. Table 1 and 2 shows UNEP's performance against these indicators. To further improve its performance at the UN system-wide level, UNEP is engaging with the UN system to ensure the effectiveness of the Environment Management Group for which it provides secretariat support. Links with the Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) will be further improved.

To ensure that its work leads to demonstrable and tangible outcomes, UNEP has strengthened the processes underpinning its results-based management. For instance, project evaluations complement UNEP's evaluation of its Mid-Term Strategy and the associated subprogrammes. Over 60 project evaluations are undertaken each year. Previously, projects did not always include a budget for evaluation. In addition, projects bundled together under one umbrella caused timing challenges as parts of the 'umbrella projects' finished ahead of others causing challenges in scheduling the evaluations. This is why only 65 per cent of projects over $1 million were evaluated. UNEP is now amending this situation by ensuring that all projects reviewed by UNEP's Project Review Committee include a budget for an independent evaluation.

Figure 52. Roll-out of results-based management training across UNEP



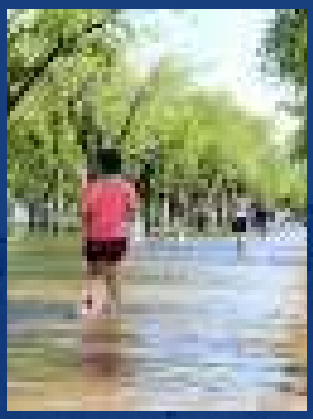
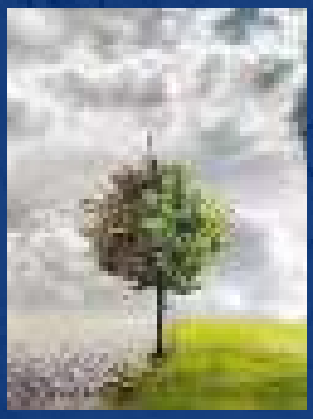
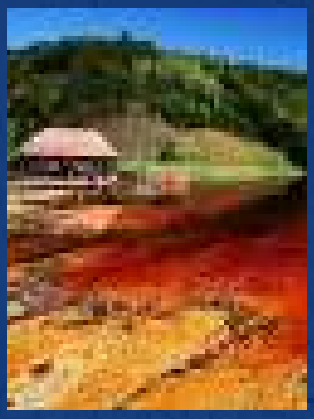
Evaluations of completed projects show that UNEP has surpassed its targets, with an increasing percentage of projects rated as "satisfactory" or above when evaluated for quality and an increasing percentage of the portfolio having integrated gender considerations (see Table 1). Part of this improvement is attributable to training that UNEP has provided to its staff on gender and results-based management (see Figure 52). As with audit and investigations, evaluation recommendations are also being implemented within appropriate timeframes and with assigned responsibilities.

Lastly, a key pillar of UNEP's work is increasing the efficiency of its operations. While the new ERP known as UMOJA will be an important tool to improve efficiency and accountability, several other initiatives are underway, which include increasing delegations of authority while strengthening the organization's accountability framework. There is also an improved process for allocating unearmarked extra-budgetary resources. However, not all fronts have seen the progress UNEP envisaged. It takes an average of 221 days to fill a vacant post, a situation that UNEP has flagged to the UN Office for Human Resources Management given that some critical steps in the recruitment process are outside UNEP's control. In addition, the percentage of women appointed to senior-level posts in the professional and management categories is still lower than targeted (See Table 1). Despite these challenges, recruitments that have been completed have proven to be satisfactory, with performance of newly recruited staff meeting or exceeding performance expectations.

With these actions underway, UNEP is ensuring it is fit for purpose to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Table 1: Executive direction and management—results against expected accomplishment

Expected Accomplishments	Baseline (2013)	Actual (Dec 2015)	Target (Dec 2015)	Assessment of performance
EA (a) Relevance of UNEP's work				
(a) i)Percentage of surveyed UNEP partners in Government and in the UN system that rate the relevance of UNEP's products and programmes as satisfactory	0	70%	65%	**Target achieved**
EA (b) Environmental leadership in UN System				
(b) i) Number of subjects of global environmental concern where the UN system has joint actions as a result of UNEP's engagement	6	8	9	**Target partially achieved**
EA (c) Use of science				
(c) i) Increased number of initiatives targeted at strengthening the science-policy interface where UNEP can demonstrate positive outcomes	0	2	3	**Target partially achieved**
EA (d) Accountability				
(d) i)Percentage of accepted audit and investigation recommendations on UNEP performance that are acted upon	80%	86%	85%	**Target achieved**
EA (e) Geographical representativeness and gender balance of staff				
(e) i) Percentage of women appointed to senior level posts in the Professional and management categories	45%	36%	45%	**Target partially achieved**
(e) ii) Percentage of personnel from underrepresented member States in posts in the Professional and management categories	15%	17%	15%	**Target achieved**
EA (f) Efficiency in staff recruitment				
(f) i) Average number of days taken to fill a vacant extrabudgetary post (measured by the time between the announcement to the appointment)	180	221	170	**Target partially achieved**
(f) ii) Percent of staff who have been recruited over the past two years that achieve a rating of successfully meets performance expectations or exceeds performance expectations on their performance appraisal	0	100%	80%	**Target achieved**
EA (g) Efficiency in servicing governing bodies meetings				
(g) i) Percentage of UNEP-organized meetings of the CPR and GC where Member States receive the document four working days or more in advance of each meeting	0	90%	80%	**Target achieved**
EA (h) Evaluations in accordance with the Evaluation Policy and Plan				
(h) i) Percentage of projects above $1,000,000 completed in the biennium that are independently evaluated	100%	65%	100%	**Target partially achieved**
(h) ii) Percentage of evaluations providing a rating of 'Satisfactory' or above for quality Performance measures	70%	83%	70%	**Target achieved**
(h) iii) Percentage of accepted evaluation recommendations implemented within the time frame efined in the implementation plan	70%	94%	70%	**Target achieved**

Table 2: Programme support—results against expected accomplishment

Expected Accomplishments	Baseline (2013)	Actual (Dec 2015)	Target (Dec 2015)	Assessment of performance
EA (a) UNEP's programme driven by a strong customer-focus				
(a) i)Level of satisfaction expressed by surveyed members of the Committee of Permanent Representatives and relevant partners of UNEP on the relevance of UNEP programme planning documents	0	53%	70%	**Target partially achieved**
EA (b) Use of risk information in decision-making				
(b) i) Percent of significant risks identified by UNEP pertaining to programmatic, financial, human, information technology and partnership issues, which could affect the delivery of results, that receive management actions	0	not available	70%	**UN Secretariat-wide risk management being rolled out first before UNEP embarks on its own**
EA (c) Use of performance information in decision-making				
(c) i) Percent of accepted programme and budget performance issues and evaluation recommendations identified in UNEP's programme performance reports and in evaluations that receive management action	0	66%	80%	**Target partially achieved**
(c) ii)Percent of UNEP projects that can demonstrate the integration of gender considerations in project implementation	0	64%	50%	**Target achieved**
(c) iii)Percent of unearmarked extrabudgetary resources allocated that are based on the use of performance information	80%	96%	90%	**Target achieved**