

# QUARTERLY REPORT

to the 171<sup>ST</sup> Meeting of the  
COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES



## TWENTY-SIXTH ISSUE

April – June 2025

# Table of Contents

|                                                  |           |
|--------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>INTRODUCTION .....</b>                        | <b>3</b>  |
| <b>ACRONYMS .....</b>                            | <b>4</b>  |
| <b>1. SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS .....</b>         | <b>6</b>  |
| A. Global developments .....                     | 6         |
| B. Regional Developments.....                    | 10        |
| <b>2. PROGRAMME OF WORK IMPLEMENTATION .....</b> | <b>15</b> |
| A. Climate Stability .....                       | 15        |
| B. Living in Harmony with Nature.....            | 17        |
| C. Towards a Pollution-free Planet.....          | 20        |
| D. Foundational Subprogrammes .....              | 22        |
| E. Enabling Subprogrammes .....                  | 25        |
| F. Cross-cutting Issues .....                    | 29        |
| G. Opportunities and Lessons Learned.....        | 30        |
| <b>3. RESOURCES AND MANAGEMENT ISSUES .....</b>  | <b>33</b> |
| A. Financial Resources .....                     | 33        |
| B. Human Resources .....                         | 42        |
| C. Audits .....                                  | 45        |
| D. Evaluations .....                             | 45        |

# INTRODUCTION

This report aims to provide the Committee of Permanent Representatives to the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) with an update on key global, regional and national developments during the second quarter of 2025 in the implementation of UNEP's Medium-Term Strategy (2022-2025) and Programme of Work for 2024-2025, both of which are aligned to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The report further references linkages between programmatic delivery and progress on the implementation of resolutions adopted by the UN Environment Assembly.

The report covers the period 1 April to 30 June 2025. It is organized into three sections:

**Section One** highlights key (non-programmatic) global and regional developments (major inter-governmental meetings, other policy/political updates) in relation to the three planetary environmental crises of climate change, nature and land loss, and pollution.

**Section Two** provides results from the implementation of UNEP's 2024-25 PoW in accordance with the three strategic objectives of the Medium-Term Strategy (Climate Stability, Living in Harmony with Nature, Towards a Pollution-free Planet), the two foundational sub-programmes (Science Policy, Environmental Governance), the two enabling sub-programmes (Digital Transformation, Finance and Economic Transformation), cross-cutting issues (Gender, Environmental and Social Safeguards, Repositioning of the UN Development system, South-South Cooperation) and pertinent challenges, opportunities, lessons learned and actions taken.

**Section Three** provides updates on the financial and human resource situation of UNEP and developments in other important management areas including audits and evaluations.

# ACRONYMS

|            |                                                                                            |
|------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ACEA       | African Circular Economy Alliance                                                          |
| AEF        | African Elephant Fund                                                                      |
| AIT-RCC.AP | The Regional Resource Centre for Asia and the Pacific at the Asian Institute of Technology |
| AMCEN      | African Ministerial Conference on the Environment                                          |
| BBNJ       | Biodiversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction                                         |
| BoA        | United Nations Board of Auditors                                                           |
| BRS        | Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Secretariat                                                 |
| BTR        | Biennial Transparency Report                                                               |
| CBD        | Convention on Biological Diversity                                                         |
| CBIT       | Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency                                              |
| CCA        | Common Country Analysis                                                                    |
| CCAC       | Climate and Clean Air Coalition                                                            |
| CCC        | United NEP Copenhagen Climate Centre                                                       |
| CMS        | Convention on Migratory Species                                                            |
| COM:ES     | Council of Ministers on Environmental Sustainability                                       |
| COTED      | Council for Trade and Economic Development                                                 |
| CPR        | Committee of Permanent Representatives                                                     |
| CTCN       | Climate Technology Centre and Network                                                      |
| DOS        | United Nations Department of Operation Support                                             |
| EbA        | Ecosystem-based Adaptation                                                                 |
| ECLAC      | United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean                     |
| EHRD       | Environmental Human Rights Defender                                                        |
| EMG        | United Nations Environment Management Group                                                |
| EO         | Earth Observation                                                                          |
| EPR        | Extended Producer Responsibility                                                           |
| EROL       | Environmental Rule of Law                                                                  |
| ESA        | European Space Agency                                                                      |
| ESO        | Ecosystem Support Organization                                                             |
| ESMF       | Environmental and Social Management Framework                                              |
| ESS        | Environmental and Social Safeguards                                                        |
| EU         | European Union                                                                             |
| FAO        | Food and Agriculture Organization                                                          |
| GACERE     | Global Alliance on Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency                                |
| GAP        | Gender Action Plan                                                                         |
| GEDS       | Global Environmental Data Strategy                                                         |
| GEF        | Global Environment Facility                                                                |
| GEO        | Global Environment Outlook                                                                 |
| GESI       | Gender Equality and Social Inclusion                                                       |
| GFC        | Global Framework on Chemicals                                                              |
| GHG        | Greenhouse Gas                                                                             |
| IAWJ       | International Association of Women Judges                                                  |
| IETC       | International Environmental Technology Centre                                              |
| IFACC      | Innovative Finance for the Amazon                                                          |
| IMEO       | UNEP International Methane Emissions Observatory                                           |
| InforMEA   | United Nations Information Portal on Multilateral Environmental Agreements                 |
| IPBES      | Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services           |
| IPMR       | Integrated Planning, Management and Reporting                                              |
| IPP        | Indigenous Peoples Plan                                                                    |
| IRP        | International Resource Panel                                                               |
| ITC        | International Training Centre                                                              |
| IUCN       | International Union for the Conservation of Nature                                         |
| JPO        | Junior Professional Officer                                                                |

|          |                                                                        |
|----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| KMGBF    | Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework                         |
| KOE      | Korea Environment Institute                                            |
| LCA      | Life Cycle Assessment                                                  |
| MAP      | Mediterranean Action Plan                                              |
| MEA      | Multilateral Environmental Agreement                                   |
| MGS      | Major Groups and Stakeholders                                          |
| MoU      | Memorandum of Understanding                                            |
| MRV      | Monitoring, Reporting and Verification                                 |
| MTS      | Medium-Term Strategy                                                   |
| NDC      | Nationally Determined Contribution                                     |
| NGO      | Non-Governmental Organization                                          |
| NZNP     | Net-Zero Nature-Positive                                               |
| OCHA     | United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs     |
| OECS     | Organization of Eastern Caribbean States                               |
| OEWG     | Open-Ended Working Group                                               |
| OHCHR    | Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights        |
| OIOS     | United Nations Office of Internal Oversight Services                   |
| PAGE     | Partnership for Action on Green Economy                                |
| P4G      | Partnering for Green Growth and the Global Goals                       |
| PoW      | Programme of Work                                                      |
| RC       | United Nations Resident Coordinator                                    |
| RE       | Renewable Energy                                                       |
| REDD+    | Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation           |
| REIN     | Regional Environmental Information Network                             |
| RSCAP    | Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans                             |
| SACEP    | South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme                          |
| SCP      | Sustainable Consumption and Production                                 |
| SEI      | Stockholm Environment Institute                                        |
| SPM      | Summary for Policy Makers                                              |
| SPP      | Science Policy Panel                                                   |
| SPREP    | Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme              |
| SRM      | Solar Radiation Modification                                           |
| SUN      | Sustainable United Nations Facility                                    |
| UEMI     | Urban Electric Mobility Initiative                                     |
| UNCCD    | United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification                    |
| UNCT     | United Nations Country Team                                            |
| UNDP     | United Nations Development Programme                                   |
| UNECE    | United Nations Economic Commission for Europe                          |
| UNEP     | United Nations Environment Programme                                   |
| UNEP CCC | UNEP Copenhagen Climate Centre                                         |
| UNEP FI  | United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative                |
| UNFCCC   | United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change                  |
| UNIDO    | United Nations Industrial Development Organization                     |
| UNODC    | United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime                               |
| UNON     | United Nations Office at Nairobi                                       |
| UNOOSA   | United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs                          |
| UNSCEAR  | United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation |
| UNSDCF   | United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework           |
| WASP     | World Adaptation Science Programme                                     |
| WCEF     | World Circular Economy Forum                                           |
| WCMC     | World Conservation Monitoring Centre                                   |
| WED      | World Environment Day                                                  |
| WESR     | World Environment Situation Room                                       |
| WHO      | World Health Organization                                              |
| WMO      | World Meteorological Organization                                      |

# 1. SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS

## A. Global developments

### World Environment Day (WED) 2025

UNEP in collaboration with the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea, organized an event to commemorate World Environment Day in New York (5 June) on the theme of ending global plastic pollution. Held on the island of Jeju, Republic of Korea, with a significant number of associated events (including a Future Generations Forum; the GEO-7 Authors Meeting; and many public events), World Environment Day 2025 shone a light on the imperative of ending plastic pollution while showcasing solutions from across the world. With significant international Ministerial and high-level participation, the main celebratory event featured video messages from the President of the General Assembly, the UN Secretary-General and others, while the various panels featured ministers, GEO-7 authors and youth and civil society representatives.

UNEP's communications efforts around WED, under the theme #BeatPlasticPollution, achieved significant milestones across digital platforms, media coverage, global campaigns, and flagship events. UNEP's social media presence reached over 20 million users and garnered 5 million interactions, with videos viewed nearly 13 million times.

The hashtag #WorldEnvironmentDay trended globally on June 5 and was supported by prominent global leaders including President Lula of Brazil, Prime Minister Modi of India, and President Sheinbaum of Mexico. The President of United Arab Emirates, issued a [special message](#) on the occasion highlighting the country's commitment to protecting the environment and advancing sustainable development. Ministries, ministers and heads of environment authorities from [Bahrain](#), [Kingdom of Saudi Arabia](#), [Lebanon](#), [Palestine](#), [Qatar](#), and [United Arab Emirates](#) also engaged on their platforms. Awareness campaigns, some using UNEP's assets, were also shared by ministries in [Bahrain](#), [Jordan](#), [Kingdom of Saudi Arabia](#), [Kuwait](#) and [Qatar](#).

The WED website received 5.2 million views and registered 3,000 events across 155 countries. More than 56,000 news stories were published in 10,000 media outlets across 178 countries.

Additionally the Sustainable United Nations Facility (SUN) showcased the UN system's collective efforts to reduce its environmental footprint and minimize the use of avoidable single-use plastics at [the WED celebration event](#) in Geneva (5 June).



World Environment Day 2025, commemoration event by UNEP and the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea, 5 June, New York  
(Photo credit: UNEP)

## International Day for Biodiversity

UNEP in collaboration with One Health Quadripartite partners held a webinar, entitled “[Integrating Biodiversity and Health: Insights from the IPBES Nexus Assessment and One Health Approaches in Asia and the Pacific](#)” (22 May). The webinar highlighted key findings of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on [Biodiversity and Ecosystems Services \(IPBES\) 2024 Nexus Assessment](#) including the role of “One Health” in strengthening the nexus between biodiversity and health as well as the CBD Global Action Plan on Biodiversity and Health.

## BBNJ Agreement Ratification

At the first session of the Preparatory Commission for the Entry into Force of the Agreement under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction ([BBNJ](#)) and the Convening of the First Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Agreement (14-15 April, New York), UNEP Secretariat showcased its track-record in hosting Multilateral Environmental Agreements and presented the UNEP offer to be considered by Member States for the role of Secretariat. In parallel, UNEP continues to work in support of Member States who request technical support with their ratification process. UNEP also organized a side event highlighting synergies between biodiversity-related MEAs and the BBNJ Agreement.

## Multilateral action for a healthy planet and people

The Executive Director of UNEP and the Executive Secretary of the [Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services \(IPBES\)](#) briefed Member States (18 March, Nairobi and New York, 3 April) on the organizations’ work and opportunities to strengthen multilateral environmental action. The IPBES Chair presented findings of the IPBES [Thematic Assessment Report](#) on Interlinkages Between Biodiversity, Water, Food and Health (Nexus Report).

## Resource Efficiency and Circular Economy for a Sustainable Future

The Co-Chair of the [International Resource Panel \(IRP\)](#) delivered a presentation entitled “Natural Resources for a Prosperous, Equitable and Sustainable future: Insights from the IRP” at a briefing to Member States organized by UNEP (8 April, New York). The briefing outlined how greater resource efficiency, and a circular economy can deliver on Agenda 2030, alongside economic prosperity and planetary stability for all.

## ECOSOC Youth Forum

The [ECOSOC Youth Forum](#) (15-17 April, New York) brought a record number of youth delegates to discuss inclusive, science-based solutions to achieve the 2030 Agenda. UNEP contributed to the SDG 14 and SDG 17 sessions. The forum amplified the voices of youth



The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Youth Forum, 15-17 April, UN Headquarters, New York  
(Photo credit: UN Photo)

leaders through a series of co-organized side events, in addition to a session on science, technology and digital transformation.

The 24th Session of the [UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues](#) (21 April-2 May, New York) , focused on the implementation of the [UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#) within UN Member States and the UN system. UNEP underlined the key role of Indigenous Peoples in environmental conservation and sustainable development. During a thematic dialogue, UNEP highlighted the role of minerals in powering our societies and referred to the guiding principles of the report of the UNSG's [Panel on Critical Energy Transition Minerals](#).

### UN Forum on Forests

At the side event “Achieving the Global Forest Goals in the Context of UN Decade for Afforestation and Reforestation”, during the twentieth session of the [UN Forum on Forests](#) (5-9 May May, in New York) UNEP emphasized the importance of aligning with the [UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration](#), including forests in development plans, the centrality of Natural Capital Accounting and going beyond GDP to protect forests.

### Open Ended Working Group (OEWG) 3.2. on Science-Policy Panel (SPP)

In line with UNEA Resolution [5/8](#) to establish a science-policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution, the secretariat of the OEWG on SPP facilitated the resumed third session of the OEWG (15-19 June, Punta del Este, Uruguay) which aimed to finalize the proposals for a SPP. The Intergovernmental meeting adopted three decisions, the first establishing the Intergovernmental SPP on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution, the second, providing recommendations for consideration by the Plenary of the Intergovernmental SPP on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution at its first session, and the third on establishing arrangements for the interim period.

In the lead-up to OEWG 3.2, UNEP facilitated the engagement with Major Groups and Stakeholders (MGS). This included organizing a preparatory webinar for MGS (23 April) and convening a dedicated stakeholder day, featuring a Youth Consultative Meeting and the global preparatory meeting for MGS, (14 June, Punta del Este).



Participants attend the first plenary meeting of the 24th session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, 21 April-2 May, New York  
(Photo credit: UN Photo)

## Towards a Treaty on Plastic Pollution

In line with [UNEA Resolution 5/14](#) to convene an intergovernmental negotiating committee (INC) to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, UNEP provided substantive and logistical support to a series of activities and meetings. These included monthly INC Bureau meetings and the Bureau retreat (26–27 May, Geneva), as well as two Co-Chairs' meetings (28–29 May in Geneva and 3 July in Nairobi).

In support of regional engagement, UNEP facilitated consultations for Latin American and Caribbean States (3–5 June, Panama City), Asia-Pacific States (9–11 June, Bangkok), African States (3–5 July, Nairobi), and European States (3 August, Geneva). The secretariat further supported an informal in-person Heads of Delegation (HOD) meeting (30 June–2 July, Nairobi), followed by an online HODs meeting (18 July).

In the margins of key international events, UNEP facilitated a ministerial breakfast on the INC during the BRS COPs (1 May 2025), and a ministerial event during UNOC3 (10 June 2025). Additionally, the secretariat convened an Informal Observer webinar ahead of INC-5.2 (23 July).

## SRM Joint Consultative Workshop May 2025

UNEP and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) co-organized (19–20, May, Geneva) a joint Consultative Workshop and Science-Policy Dialogue on Solar Radiation Modification (SRM). The objective of this hybrid event was to foster an evidence-informed dialogue on the status of knowledge on SRM research and development for member states and stakeholders.

The workshop convened 200 participants: Member States (54), experts, UN agencies, and Major Groups and Stakeholders (MGS). The outcomes included: improved understanding of the science, uncertainties, and research needs. The discussions reinforced the need for transparent, multidisciplinary collaboration, trust, inclusiveness, and the acknowledgment of gaps in knowledge.

## Environmental Impact of Space Activities: Expert Meeting, May 2025

UNEP and the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) co-organized an Expert Meeting (22–23 May, Vienna) to assess existing knowledge and identify gaps concerning the terrestrial, marine and atmospheric environmental impacts risks, and benefits

of space activities, with an emphasis on advancing sustainability goals.

UNEP spearheaded expert coordination and research for the closed-door meeting. Outcomes included a consensus for multidisciplinary research and improved monitoring, and an agreement to produce a joint UNEP-UNOOSA Issue Note by September 2025. These discussions will inform future UN deliberations, including UNISPACE IV in 2027.

## Accreditation to UNEP

During the reporting period, 33 new organizations were accredited to UNEP and its governing bodies, representing NGOs (26), Scientific and Technological Communities (5), Business and Industry (1), and Indigenous Peoples and their Communities (1). The list of accredited organizations can be found [here](#). As of 30 June 2025, 1295 organizations were accredited to UNEP and its governing bodies. One intergovernmental organization<sup>1</sup> (IGO) has also been accredited to UNEP and its subsidiary organs. The list of accredited IGOs can be found [here](#).

## UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration

The UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration made significant strides during the United Nations Ocean Conference 2025 (9–13 June, Nice, France). UNEP and partners launched [three new UN World Restoration Flagships](#), focused on ocean and coastal restoration in Mexico, the Northern Mozambique Channel Region (Comoros, Madagascar, Mozambique and Tanzania), and Spain. This campaign garnered notable media coverage in India, Mexico, Spain and the USA.

## Open-ended Working Group of the Global Framework on Chemicals

UNEP convened the first meeting of the [Open-ended Working Group](#) (24–27 June, Punta del Este), bringing together 374 participants from 90 countries, including governments, civil society, industry, youth, academia, and international organizations. The Global Framework on Chemicals (GFC) provides a coordinated, universal approach to safely manage chemicals and waste, minimize harm to health and the environment.

The meeting advanced priority areas such as strengthening legal frameworks, building institutional capacity, engaging economic and industry sectors, and integrating chemicals and waste into sustainable development decision-making, including as part of implementation programmes being developed.

<sup>1</sup> Consortium of International Agricultural Research Centers (CGIAR)

Delegates also discussed progress on measurability indicators and were briefed on the Global Framework Fund, which was launched with US\$28 million and approved [four regional projects](#) benefiting 11 countries in Latin America and Africa. These projects focus on legislation, chemical classification systems, and reducing hazardous pesticide risks.

During the meeting, several technical and engagement opportunities were organized to address various aspects of the implementation of the Framework.

## B. Regional Developments

### i. Africa

#### The 11th Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development

UNEP was actively engaged in strengthening the environmental dimension of the 11th Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (9-11 April, Kampala, Uganda), under the theme: “driving job creation and economic growth through sustainable, inclusive, science-and evidence-based solutions for the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063”.

UNEP co-led the authorship of a background perspective for [SDG14](#) (life below water) and contributed to briefs for SDGs [3](#) (good health and well-being); [5](#) (gender equality); [8](#) (decent work and economic growth); and [17](#) (partnership), which were pivotal in the adoption of an outcome document,

dubbed [Kampala Declaration](#). The declaration urged the Member States and partners to increase financial support and investments towards integrated solutions for fast-tracking the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063.

UNEP also, at the forum's margins, co-chaired a multi stakeholder regional roundtable on carbon markets. This was pivotal in raising awareness on options for strengthening the integration of climate action in national policy priorities and programming processes while leveraging the Resident Coordinator system.

#### Strengthening Africa's Climate Negotiation Readiness for COP30

UNEP provided science-policy facilitation to the African Group of Negotiators on Climate Change (28-30 April, Zanzibar, Tanzania) at a meeting that sought to enhance Africa region's readiness for the upcoming Climate COP30 (10-21 November, Belém, Brazil). It called for enhanced availability and access to climate finance and an accelerated, just energy transition.

The African Group of Negotiators has been in existence for 30 years and is currently chaired by Tanzania and continues to play crucial technical and advocacy roles for the Africa region in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) processes and beyond. The group does this in collaboration with the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) and Committee of African Heads of State on Climate Change. This ensures that the region's priorities are consistently, coherently, and effectively articulated.



Participants at the 11th Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development, 9-11 April, Kampala (Photo credit: UNECA)

The group encompasses a technical body of the three-tier African negotiating structure that engages in the technical negotiations during COPs and the intersessional negotiations on Climate Change.

## ii. Asia and the Pacific

### **The Fourth Summit for the Partnering for Green Growth and the Global Goals (P4G)**

[The Fourth P4G Summit](#) (16–17 April 2025, Viet Nam), hosted by the Government of Viet Nam, brought together global leaders, experts, and key stakeholders from business and civil society to share insights, showcase innovations, and develop actionable strategies to support entrepreneurship, scale up climate finance, and advance country-level climate transitions.

UNEP highlighted the transformative role of digital technologies and artificial intelligence in addressing the interconnected challenges of climate change, pollution, and resource degradation. The Summit affirmed multilateralism and institutional partnership through [five key agreements](#) on finance, green innovation, sustainable food systems, inclusive workforce development, and just energy transition reflected in the [Hà Nội Declaration](#).

### **Sagarmatha Sambaad (Mt. Everest Dialogue)**

The [Sagarmatha Sambaad](#) (16–18 May 2025, Kathmandu, Nepal), organized by the Government of Nepal, convened global leaders, policymakers, scientists, and civil society to deliberate on the impacts of climate change on mountain ecosystems. UNEP highlighted the importance of integrating mountain priorities into international frameworks such as the **UNFCCC**, **SDGs**, and the **Global Biodiversity Framework**, and emphasized inclusive, ecosystem-based adaptation approaches.

The “[Sagarmatha Call for Action](#),” a 25-point outcome document, was adopted, emphasizing enhanced ambition, dedicated financing for mountain countries, recognition of ecosystem services, role of indigenous communities in climate actions, and the establishment of a global platform to amplify mountain voices in climate governance.

### **UNEP FI Regional Roundtable on Sustainable Finance**

[The 2025 Asia-Pacific Regional Roundtable on Sustainable Finance](#) (18–20 June 2025, Suzhou, China), organized by the UNEP Finance Initiative (UNEP FI), convened over 300 stakeholders from the financial sector, government, and civil society to accelerate sustainable finance in the region. The event focused

on transition finance, climate-related disclosures, and nature-risk integration.

The Roundtable contributed to strengthening regional cooperation, facilitated engagements with regulators from India, Japan, Australia, China, and the Philippines, and garnered strong stakeholder support for aligning financial systems with sustainability goals. The event also emphasized the importance of regional partnerships and financial innovation in supporting climate and development objectives.

### **Regional Workshop: Malé Declaration - Ambition to Action**

The [Malé Declaration](#) on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and its likely Transboundary Effects for South Asia, was adopted in 1998 by eight South Asian countries to establish a pioneering regional framework for strengthening cooperation, building capacity, and developing evidence-based policies to address transboundary air pollution and its impacts.

UNEP participated as a core team member alongside SACEP, the Regional Resource Centre for Asia and the Pacific at the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT-RRC.AP), Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI), Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC), and GIZ at a regional workshop (11–12, June, Bangkok) to revitalize regional cooperation on air pollution in South Asia. Representatives from seven member countries agreed to develop a Scoping Study commissioned by South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) to support the Declaration.

## iii. Europe

### **Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (RFSD2025)**

The 2025 [Regional Forum on Sustainable Development](#) (RFSD2025) (2–3 April, Geneva), featured the release of the [2025 SDG Progress Report](#) in the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UN ECE) region, offering up-to-date [assessment](#) of regional and country-level actions. UNEP co-organized and contributed to several peer-learning roundtables on SDGs [3](#), [8](#), [14](#) and [17](#); and organized three side events on [Environmental Risk Factors & NCDs](#); [Education for Biodiversity and SDGs](#); and [engage young people in policy and decision-making up to 2030](#).

### **Global Mountain Dialogue for Sustainable Development**

The Global [Mountain Dialogue for Sustainable Development](#) (24 April, Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic) was held to advance the integration of the mountain agenda into environmental conventions, international climate

negotiations and sustainable development narrative. UNEP shared its work on scientific assessments, policy support and on-the-ground projects, through the [Mountains Connect](#) platform.

### UNEP supports better air quality in Central Asia

UNEP in collaboration with the Finnish Meteorological Institute, conducted a three-day training [workshop](#) (21–23 May, Tashkent, Uzbekistan) on Air Quality Assessments and the Use of Satellite Data. The training strengthened the [capacity](#) of staff from the [Ministry of Ecology](#) (MEEPCC), [UzHydromet](#) and national experts in using satellite data to analyse air pollution events, including sand and dust storms.

A [new ecological corridor of around 800,000 hectares, or 8,000 km<sup>2</sup>](#), was announced by the Kyrgyz Republic (22 May). The corridor is set to link up existing conservation areas in a landmark move for biodiversity. UNEP provided ecological modelling to help define the corridor's borders.

### International Conference on Glaciers' Preservation

UNEP showcased its work on translating scientific knowledge into practical action as well as on climate resilience, glacier preservation, and transboundary water cooperation at the International Conference on Glaciers' Preservation (29-31 May, Dushanbe, Republic of Tajikistan) The conference adopted the Dushanbe Glaciers Declaration outlining key commitments and recommendations to be presented at COP30.

## iv. Latin America and the Caribbean

### Ministerial Water Summit

UNEP, as secretariat to the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean, provided political, technical and logistical support during the organization of the Ministerial Water Summit hosted by Peru in Lima (27-28 May, Lima, Peru). The Summit served as a regional platform to discuss and build a common agenda for water in LAC, integrating environmental, social, economic and technological perspectives and solutions. It also helped to discuss regional priorities and positions in preparation for the 2026 UN Water Conference.

One of the key outcomes was a regional roadmap for water action, with guiding principles for countries, and specific commitments towards improving water information and governance, sustainable use and resilience, and the enhancement of capacity building and collaboration.

### Meeting of the Bureau of the Forum of Ministers of Environment

The Bureau of the Forum of Ministers of Environment met (27-28 May, Lima), in the margins of the Ministerial Water Summit hosted by Peru. The UNEP Medium Term Strategy 2026-2029 and Programme of Work 2026-2027 were discussed and views on its development exchanged by Bureau members as they kick-started the preparations for the XXIV meeting of the Forum. The meeting assessed progress in the implementation of the Forum's priorities and work plan.



Air Quality data training workshop, 21-23 May, Tashkent, Uzbekistan  
(Photo credit: UNEP)

### **8th Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for LAC**

UNEP participated at the 8th Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for Latin America and the Caribbean (31 March–4 April, Santiago, Chile), as a member of the UN Regional Collaborative Platform. The annual forum aimed to assess progress on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, while exchanging knowledge, best practices, and policy solutions to support the Agenda in line with regional priorities. UNEP provided substantive input on opportunities to accelerate climate action in LAC, facilitated dialogue among stakeholders, moderated a session on reviewing progress towards SDG [14](#), and provided expertise on integrating environmental dimensions into the 2030 Agenda.

As the Secretariat of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean, UNEP also ensured continuity between environmental policy discussions and broader sustainable development goals, reinforcing multilateral cooperation and regional alignment on pressing environmental challenges.

### **Forum of Human Rights Defenders in Environmental Matters**

UNEP participated in the 3rd Forum on Human Rights Defenders in Environmental Matters (7–10 April, Basseterre, St. Kitts & Nevis) convened by United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) in 2025. The discussions focused on national and regional level progress and action planning on the implementation of the [Escazu Agreement](#).

UNEP engaged actively alongside ECLAC, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), UN Women and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and ensuring the integration of environmental issues within the document of the Forum. UNEP also participated in the ActionHub and commended Mexico's progress under Escazu and the continued support provided for implementation of the Action Plan "Multi-stakeholder dialogue for the protection of women environmental defenders in Mexico: building input for gender mainstreaming in Escazú". Additionally, UNEP facilitated the scheduled Caribbean participant working group sessions on prepared themes and for the consultation on a proposed implementation Guide, under preparation.

The Forum emphasized the need to focus on protecting environmental defenders (Article 9 of Escazu Agreement), highlighted gender-sensitive protection mechanisms, remarked the importance of capacity building actions to enhance defenders' safety and advocacy impact, and—most importantly—reinforced the idea that regional cooperation is key for the implementation of the Escazu Agreement.

### **Council of Ministers on Environmental Sustainability**

UNEP attended (29 April, Antigua & Barbuda) the 12th session of the Council of Ministers on Environmental Sustainability (COM:ES 12). The meeting, convened by the Commission of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) and hosted by the Government of Antigua and Barbuda, reviewed progress on the work of the OECS Commission regarding Environment and Sustainable Development. Discussions took place around six thematic areas: climate and disaster resilience; biodiversity and ecosystems; land and water; chemicals, pollution and waste; ocean governance and fisheries; and sustainable energy.

UNEP participated in this session, under the two themes of ocean, governance and fisheries; and chemicals, pollution and waste where it presented key achievements for OECS and opportunities for collaboration were identified based on strategic priority areas.

### **The 118th Special Meeting of COTED**

The 118th Special Meeting of the Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED) (30 April, Antigua & Barbuda), focused on strengthening biodiversity management, promoting sustainable ocean-based economic development, and preparing for upcoming global climate negotiations.

UNEP contributed by providing technical expertise and facilitating dialogue among CARICOM member states to align regional priorities with global environmental goals, particularly in the lead-up to COP30.

### **Strategic Environmental Engagement: UNEP and Mexico Deepen Cooperation**

During a high-level engagement between UNEP and the Government of Mexico (25 March, Mexico), held in Mexico in the facilities of the Secretariat of Foreign Affairs (SRE), both parties deepened mutual understanding of national environmental priorities and challenges, while identifying concrete opportunities for collaboration.

Key outcomes from this dialogue included the recognition of Mexico's flagship site under the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, with international dissemination efforts underway; the initiation of a UNEP-SADER (Secretaría de Agricultura y Desarrollo Rural) dialogue to define and advance identified priorities like sustainable agroecological practices and policy co-development; and the proposal of joint actions on regional ecosystem restoration, ocean governance, and blue economy initiatives.

The discussions laid the groundwork for near-term governance actions and long-term strategic partnerships, reinforcing UNEP's role in the country and its commitment to supporting Mexico's environmental leadership.

### **National Circular Economy Plan**

UNEP provided support to the Ministry of Development, Industry, Trade and Services (MDIC) of Brazil in developing the draft Plan and addressing contributions received during the public consultation. UNEP's input emphasized the importance of establishing incentives for circular business models, and ensuring a just, inclusive and equitable transition.

The plan was approved during the meeting of the National Circular Economy Forum and officially launched (8 May, Brasília, Brazil). UNEP's important work was recognized by government representatives. UNEP participates in the National Circular Economy Forum as an invited member and has taken part in strategic meetings with the MDIC and co-leaders to discuss progress in the plan's implementation.

## **v. West Asia**

### **Regional Consultation on Medium-Term Strategy (MTS) and Programme of Work (PoW)**

A regional consultation meeting (26 May) on the MTS 2026-2029 and PoW 2026-2027 preparation was conducted for West Asia, to reflect on the region's priorities and how they can be integrated into the strategy. The virtual meeting enabled the active participation and insights of 59 representatives from 10 different countries. A meeting report summarizing the comments and recommendations from the region's Member States was shared with the countries.

## 2. PROGRAMME OF WORK IMPLEMENTATION

### A. Climate Stability

#### Increasing Capacity, Finance, and Technology for the Paris Agreement

UNEP co-organized the first Caribbean Regional Electric Mobility Forum (7-10 April) in St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda. The objective was to promote [electric mobility](#) through policy and investment dialogues. UNEP contributed through its implementation of Global Environment Fund (GEF)-funded projects and co-hosting responsibilities, facilitating knowledge exchange and investment opportunities. As a result, Antigua and Barbuda received two electric vans and nine electric minibuses for emergency medical services and public transport, and Costa Rica received six electric taxis.

#### Adopting Decarbonization Pathways

Under the UNEP-led global Net-Zero Nature-Positive (NZNP) programme (April), Chile and Costa Rica launched their respective four-year Net-Zero Nature-Positive (NZNP) national initiatives. The objective was to accelerate climate and biodiversity action. UNEP implemented these GEF-funded projects and facilitated stakeholder engagement. Over 350 stakeholders attended, signalling strong cross-sectoral collaboration.

#### Adopting Enhanced Transparency Frameworks

UNEP Copenhagen Climate Centre (UNEP CCC) organized regional workshops (1 April-29 May) on climate transparency in [Grenada](#), [Peru](#), [Senegal](#), [Seychelles](#), [Fiji](#), and [Türkiye](#). The goal was to support countries with Biennial Transparency Report (BTR) preparation and Enhanced Transparency Framework implementation. UNEP provided technical training and facilitated peer-to-peer learning through the global support programme of the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT). The Solomon Islands and Pakistan subsequently submitted their third National Communications.

UNEP supported the approval of GEF-funded projects (March-June) including CBIT initiatives in the Cook Islands and Tonga; a BTR and National Communication project in Palau, and the third edition of the CBIT Global Support Platform. UNEP's role included project design and technical backstopping. These projects mobilized \$9.3 million for climate transparency and monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) capacities in small island developing states.



In Costa Rica, electric taxis open the road to cleaner mobility.  
(Photo credit: UNEP)

## 11th Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) Knowledge Day

UNEP and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) co-organized the [11th Ecosystem-based Adaptation \(EbA\) Knowledge Day](#) (21 June, Bonn, Germany). The objective was to generate political and financial momentum for EbA ahead of COP30. UNEP co-produced the event and led technical breakout sessions. The events were attended by 61 in-person participants from 46 organizations and several hundred online participants. Over nine hours of programming generated actionable recommendations to inform nature-based adaptation discussions in the run up to COP30.

## UNEP and Partners Release Adaptation Roadmap for Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) 3.0

UNEP and the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) Partnership launched the “[Advancing Adaptation in NDCs 3.0](#)” report (14 May) via a global webinar. The goal was to provide actionable guidance on adaptation ambition and implementation. UNEP co-authored the report, leveraging data from its Adaptation Gap Report.

Key outcomes include 12 policy recommendations, global knowledge sharing, and heightened visibility of adaptation within NDC processes. It reinforced UNEP’s leadership role in bridging science and policy for climate adaptation within multilateral partnerships and strengthened understanding among countries of how to integrate nature-based solutions, inclusive governance, and finance pathways into their adaptation strategies.

## Support for NDCs 3.0 and National Priorities

UNEP-CCC and the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (UNEP-CCAC) supported integration of [clean cooking](#) and air quality into NDCs 3.0 in Tanzania and [Uganda](#) (April-June). The objective was to align national development priorities with climate commitments. UNEP [contributed](#) through technical [guidance](#) and coalition convening. Countries advanced solar electric cooking as a climate-resilient development measure.

## Methane Mitigation Through Biodigesters in Africa

UNEP supported Cameroon, Nigeria, and Côte d’Ivoire (April-June) in quantifying methane mitigation from biodigester projects. The goal was to build evidence

for expanded biodigester investments. UNEP provided technical analysis and reporting. Results show significant annual greenhouse gas (GHG) reductions and income generation through biogas and biofertilizer.

## Strengthening REDD+ Safeguards in Latin America

UNEP, through its climate mitigation unit and UN-REDD team, supported the strengthening of REDD+ safeguards and institutional capacities across Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC). In Costa Rica (28 April), UNEP [contributed](#) to the enhancement of the national grievance redress mechanism via the UN-REDD LAC Working Group. In Peru, UNEP supported the improvement of safeguard frameworks for alignment with Architecture for REDD+ Transactions - REDD+ Environmental Excellency Standard (ART-TREES) and backed an indigenous-led Amazonian Jurisdictional REDD+ proposal. In Colombia UNEP helped align safeguards with Constitutional Court ruling T-248 and in Mexico (June 2025) UNEP developed technical guidance supporting harmonized safeguards reporting from subnational entities to the national system.

## Indonesia Launches Green for Riau and Climate Resilience Fund

Through UNEP and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) support under UN-REDD (8 May, Riau Province, Indonesia), the [Green for Riau initiative](#) was launched. The objective is to reduce forest and peatland emissions while enabling access to carbon finance. UNEP supported baseline development, investment planning, and REDD+ alignment. UNEP also supported the [launch](#) of the Climate Resilience Fund in Jakarta to support NDC financing with private and public sector partners. These initiatives aim to operationalize Article 6 markets and strengthen subnational climate finance systems.

## Local Latin American climate and resilience action

UNEP’s Environment Security Unit co-conducted community-led sessions on Vulnerability and Fragility Analysis in Mexico, El Salvador, Honduras, Ecuador, Guatemala, and Colombia. The Unit provided technical frameworks and regional coordination. Outcomes informed locally led, nature-based adaptation actions, embedding local knowledge and ownership in climate-security resilience programming.



UNEP co-conducted community-led sessions on Vulnerability and Fragility Analysis in Latin America  
(Photo credit: UNEP)

## Environmental action in Somalia

UNEP and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) Joint Environment Unit (JEU) led a 'Localization of Environment in Humanitarian Action' training (10–16 June, Mogadishu, Somalia) with 28 humanitarian staff.

UNEP developed technical modules and co-facilitated sessions. Results included increased local environmental capacity, open-source tools, and deeper collaboration with humanitarian actors for climate-sensitive emergency response.

## B. Living in Harmony with Nature

### Combating desertification

UNEP announced approval of a US\$11.3 million project supported by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to advance global efforts in combating desertification (19 May). The '[GEF Support to the 2026 UNCCD National Reporting Process](#)' project is providing crucial technical and financial assistance to 104 counties to facilitate the timely and effective preparation of 2026 National Reports to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).

## 10th Our Oceans Conference

UNEP held a side event (29 April) "[Strategic and Convening Roles and Contributions of UNEP's Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans – Addressing the Triple Planetary Crises in the Marine Environment](#)" during the [10th Our Ocean Conference](#). UNEP showcased contributions of the [Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans](#) (RSCAPs) in addressing the interconnected planetary crises of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution. At the event RSCAP coordinators shared best practices, promoted cross-governance collaboration, and reinforced the programme's global role in managing biodiversity within national jurisdiction under the regional seas programme.

### Unlocking private finance for ecosystem restoration

UNEP published the [Restoration Project Developers' Playbook on Private Finance \(Europe\)](#), (8 May) which aims to support project developers in overcoming some of the barriers to accessing private finance through practical guidance and useful case studies. The Playbook was produced by an expert Finance for Restoration Taskforce, which UNEP led as part of the [Convening for Restoration](#) project.

## Nature-based solutions and ecosystem services

UNEP launched a framework guide (15 May) which demonstrates how nature-based solutions can be incorporated into strategies to tackle interconnected water, energy, food and ecosystems (WEFE) challenges. [NbS in the WEFE Nexus](#) was produced under the [REXUS Project](#), a European Union (EU)-funded initiative which aims to drive the transition from 'nexus thinking' to 'nexus doing', focusing on five pilot areas located across Europe and Latin America.

## Abidjan Convention COP14

The [COP14](#) took place (21–23 May, Mauritania) under the theme "Towards a Resilient Atlantic Coast", with the objective of enhancing regional cooperation for the sustainable development and resilience of marine and coastal areas along the Atlantic coast of West, Central, and Southern Africa. Key outcomes included the [Nouakchott Declaration](#) and adoption of [COP14 Decisions](#). UNEP, as the administrative host of the convention, was represented at Director level. In the interventions and in side meetings, UNEP emphasized the urgent need for parties to pay their agreed contributions to the functioning of the Secretariat, in tandem with UNEP's continuous efforts to mobilize donor support for the critical work of the Convention.



(Photo credit: Unsplash)

## Fostering a Regional Water Agenda in Latin America and Caribbean (LAC)

As the presidency of the [Forum of Ministers of Environment of LAC](#), UNEP supported the Government of Peru to organize and host the [Latin America and the Caribbean Ministerial Water Summit](#) (27-28 May, Lima, Peru). The Summit strengthened regional dialogue and collaboration and resulted in the adoption of the [Water Roadmap for Latin America and the Caribbean](#), fostering knowledge exchange on sustainable water management, the promotion of innovative and integrated solutions, and a shared commitment to reducing vulnerability to water extremes while preserving the environmental quality of water bodies.

## Mainstreaming Biodiversity within the UN

UNEP, jointly with the Secretariat of the UN Environment Management Group (EMG), organized the workshop [Implementing the UN Common Approach to Biodiversity & Advancing Biodiversity Action in Latin America and the Caribbean](#) (30 May) in collaboration with the Issue-Based Coalition on Climate Change and Resilience. The session promoted awareness of the [UN Common Approach to Biodiversity](#), shared best practices and explored how it is being implemented across the region. The audience of the workshop was UN entities, focusing on UN Country Teams (UNCTs) and Resident Coordinator (RC) Offices in LAC.

## UNEP Champions Ocean Action and Resilience

UNEP, having played a major role in the preparation of the technical background papers that were made available for the conference, actively participated in high-level events (9–13 June, Nice, France), including the One Ocean Science Congress, Ocean Rise and Coastal Resilience Forum, Blue Economy and Financial Forum, and the Third UN Ocean Conference.

At UNOC3 themed "Accelerating action and mobilizing all actors to conserve and sustainably use the ocean" UNEP played a pivotal role in launching the Ocean Investment Protocol with the UN Global Compact and the [30x30 Ocean Action Plan](#) with the World Economic Forum and Friends of Ocean Action, initiatives that come amid rising marine heatwaves, ocean acidification, and plastic pollution.

Additionally, UNEP in collaboration with FAO announced [three new World Restoration Flagships](#) to restore almost five million hectares of marine ecosystems (11 June, Nice, France). The three new flagships comprise of restoration initiatives in the [coral-rich Northern Mozambique Channel Region](#), more than 60 of [Mexico's islands](#) and the [Mar Menor in Spain](#), Europe's first ecosystem with legal personhood.

UNEP also celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP), and the 30th anniversary of the Post-Rio Barcelona Convention, work that continues to protect a healthy Mediterranean Sea and Coast.

## 24th Global Meeting of the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans (RSCAP)

UNEP hosted the [24th Global Meeting of the Regional Seas Conventions](#) and Action Plans (11 June) that resulted in the approval of the [Regional Seas Strategic Directions \(2026–2029\)](#), submission of a [joint RSCAPs statement to UNOC3 Ocean Action Panel 8](#), agreement on practical partnership and resource mobilization strategies, and took note of the evolving [RSCAPs Vision and Roadmap towards the 30x30 biodiversity target under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework \(KMBGF\)](#).

## One health, one future conference

UNEP participated in the [One Health conference](#) (14–15 June, Tunis, Tunisia) jointly organized by the World Bank and One Health Quadripartite Organizations.

The conference brought together decision-makers and experts who discussed fostering collaboration at the intersection of human, animal, and environmental health.

UNEP emphasized how healthy ecosystems serve as vital buffers, limiting zoonotic transmission, underscoring the urgency of rethinking our relationship with nature and reinforcing the critical role of environmental protection in preventing disease outbreaks.

## UNEP-WCMC Impact Report

The UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC) launched its [2023-24 Impact Report](#) (18 June), demonstrating the breadth of the Centre's work with government, business and scientific communities. The report gives insight into UNEP-WCMC's key workstreams from developing high-profile reports informing global decisions, to guiding negotiations at international meetings and providing in-person support through training and workshops.

## Ecosystem Restoration in Mexico

UNEP co-hosted the [Mexico Ecosystem Restoration Summit](#) (25–26 June, Mexico City, Mexico) launching the [National Environmental Restoration Programme \(PNRA 2025–2030\)](#). The summit fostered the exchange of experiences in integrating biodiversity, water, and climate, promoted multisectoral action and consolidated new alliances among more than 60 national organizations, with over 500 people in attendance.



One health, one future conference, 14–15 June, Tunis, Tunisia  
(Photo credit: WOAH)

## Advancing synergies across MEAs

On 25 June, UNEP in collaboration with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Secretariat, and the Governments of Mexico, Sweden, and Switzerland, hosted the webinar “[From Bern to Action: Advancing Synergies Across the MEAs](#)”. The [webinar](#) presented key actions undertaken since the [Bern III Conference](#) in 2024, highlighting the [Bern Process](#) and its role in fostering synergies in the implementation of the KM-GBF and other MEAs.

## C. Towards a Pollution-free Planet

### Circular solutions to prevent plastic pollution

The [Global Plastics](#) Hub was launched (4 June) under the [Global Partnership on Plastic Pollution and Marine Litter](#), building on the Digital Platform and featuring expanded resources including a stepwise workflow for evidence-based action plans.

To increase uptake of plastic pollution solutions globally, the [Global Action Partnership for Extended Producer Responsibility](#)<sup>2</sup> organized an Accelerator Session (15 May), during the [World Circular Economy Forum 2025](#), highlighting experiences, hurdles, and opportunities faced by Latin American and Caribbean countries in implementing Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) systems. In the same region, the [GEF-funded project to address plastic pollution in Latin American and Caribbean cities](#) held an online meeting (19 June) to present and prepare the implementation of upstream interventions to address plastic pollution (bans of problematic plastic products, product design, reuse and refill systems) with 6 project cities<sup>3</sup>.

UNEP continued to support countries in tackling plastic pollution. In Ecuador UNEP assisted in reviewing the “*Ecuadorian Environmental Green Dot Certification*” regulation conducted (March-June 2025), analysing technical documents and regulatory frameworks on the biodegradability of plastics, reviewing international case studies and best practices and tailoring policy recommendations. Through the [India-Norway Marine Pollution Initiative](#) (6 April-18 June), UNEP also supported the implementation of a national single-use plastic ban, focusing on strengthening capacities and fostering sustainable packaging transitions, community engagement, and scalable reuse and recycling.

2 an initiative established by GIZ, OECD, UNEP, and WWF, with support from the Ellen MacArthur Foundation, and hosted by the PREVENT Waste Alliance.

3 Barranquilla and Cartagena from Colombia, Panama City and Colon from Panama, Kingston and Montego Bay from Jamaica.

## Driving circularity and addressing chemicals use in the textiles value chain

UNEP convened a [global consultation](#) (27 May) to refine criteria and guidelines for distinguishing reusable textiles from waste, as part of promoting a just, sustainable, and [circular textile value chain](#) globally, and developed a draft guideline informed by this and in-country consultations. During the [Global Framework on Chemicals \(GFC\) Open-ended Working Group \(OEWG\) meeting](#) (26 June, Punta del Este, Uruguay) UNEP co-organized sessions engaging the textile industry on aligning chemical use initiatives with GFC targets. Key organizations in the textiles sector committed to co-lead efforts to develop an industry engagement Implementation Programme.

UNEP launched a [textile policy knowledge hub](#) (4 April) and a [podcast series](#) ‘Transforming Textiles: The Policy Podcast with Global Leaders’, to amplify national textile policy efforts and identify ways to accelerate impact globally.

### Minerals and metals: strengthening collaboration for environmental sustainability

UNEP hosted a webinar through the [Geneva Environment Network](#), with the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm (BRS) Secretariat ([5 May](#)) on how the conventions foster circular models in mineral and metal management; and a side event ([1 July](#)) to the 59th Human Rights Council on ‘Just Transition and Human Rights: Reducing Dependence on New Mineral Resource Extraction’, with the Special Procedures of the UN Human Rights Council, Earthjustice, and the Geneva Climate Change Consultation Group.

UNEP supported the Environment and Climate Change Canada and the Global Alliance on Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency, to co-host (26 June) a G7 webinar on Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency for Critical Minerals, focusing on strengthening circular economy and resource efficiency in the critical minerals sector while identifying potential areas for G7 leadership.

### Promoting circularity in the electronics sector in Central Asia

UNEP held dialogues (7-11 April) with the Government of Kazakhstan, Almaty City and other stakeholders to further reinforce the Regional Alliance for Circular Electronics in Central Asia, a voluntary partnership launched in 2024 with UNEP support, bringing together manufacturers, importers, recyclers and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).



One of a series of interactive training session on eliminating mercury skin lightening products, 2-6 June, Sri Lanka  
(Photo credit: UNEP)

As a follow-up, UNEP is supporting the design of a framework for further advancing sustainability of this sector based on circular economy principles, including through extended producer responsibility, efficient resource use, and prolonged product life.

### Mercury action

UNEP kicked off a planned multi-country series of trainings with an event in Sri Lanka (2-6 June) on [Eliminating Mercury Skin Lightening Products](#) followed by an event in Mongolia (23-24 June) on [Enhancing Monitoring of Mercury Trade](#). The training improved coordination among environment, health, and customs authorities, bolstered enforcement, and supported the phasing out of mercury-containing cosmetics under the Minamata Convention.

At national level, with UNEP support the Sultanate of Oman as it [launched](#) (28 May) its National Minamata Initial Assessment Report, which identifies mercury sources, uses, emissions, and releases, and outlines national priorities and strategies for implementing the Minamata Convention on Mercury. Since 2016, UNEP and GEF have supported 82 developing countries in developing Minamata Convention Initial Assessments.

### Finalizing Sri Lanka's National Action Plan on Sustainable Nitrogen Management

In line with [UNEA Resolution 5.2](#), UNEP and its [Working Group on Nitrogen](#), further supported Sri Lanka's Ministry of Environment (March-June 2025) in convening workshops that brought together ministry

secretaries and key stakeholders to review, revise, and build consensus on the draft National Action Plan for sustainable nitrogen management. Sustainable nitrogen management is critical for reducing nitrogen losses while safeguarding food security.

### Wastewater surveillance in Eastern and Southern Africa

To strengthen such surveillance systems in line with the One Health approach, under the [Wastewater Surveillance for Africa Initiative](#). UNEP, World Health Organization (WHO) and the Health Emergency Preparedness and Response of the European Union convened two regional workshops in [Southern Africa](#) and [Eastern Africa](#) (8–10 April, Johannesburg, South Africa; 20–22 May, Nairobi, Kenya), which brought together governments, civil society, and research institutions and built capacity, supported assessments, and advanced a harmonized regional roadmap.

### Strengthening air quality governance in Uzbekistan

UNEP supported (May 2025) activities in Tashkent and Termez in Uzbekistan including a fact-finding mission with [UNECE Environmental Performance Review](#), a [national training workshop](#), and a technical field visit, aimed at strengthening air quality governance. UNEP provided training, policy review inputs and supported air quality monitoring and planning, strengthening capacities and aligning local actions with national goals.



National training workshop aimed at strengthening air quality governance, 21 – 23 May, Tashkent  
(Photo credit: Republic of Uzbekistan)

## Advancing debris management and recovery planning in Gaza

UNEP continued to co-lead (since 2024) the [Gaza Management Working Group](#) with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and advanced the development of procedures and guidance on health, safety, asbestos, and explosive ordnance management as part of debris management.

A Special Advisory Group with the Palestinian Ministry of Public Works and Housing and other partners, to support a risk-informed, cost-effective Debris Management Plan under the [Arab-Islamic plan](#) for Gaza's recovery and reconstruction is underway. Stakeholder consultations on the draft Environmental Impact Assessment were completed in June 2025.

## Promoting pollution prevention in Common Country Analyses and the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks

UNEP continues to promote the integration of pollution considerations into national planning in the context of both development and emergency response assistance. In Thailand, for example, UNEP, in collaboration with the UN Resident Coordinator's Office, led technical discussions at a stakeholder workshop (June 2025, Thailand) contributing inputs to the CCA and [UNSDCF 2027–2031](#). National commitment to addressing plastic pollution including as part of CCAs and UNSDCFs is key to promoting action to tackle plastic pollution.

## D. Foundational Subprogrammes

### i. Science-Policy

#### Seventh Global Environment Outlook (GEO-7)

UNEP and the Republic of Korea co-hosted the [Seventh Global Environment Outlook \(GEO-7\)](#) Summary for Policymakers (SPM) drafting meeting (2-6 June, Halla University on Jeju Island, Republic of Korea), with support from the [Korea Environment Institute](#) (KEI). The team of authors and co-chairs worked together to strengthen the narrative and key messages of the SPM. It also worked towards incorporating proposed visuals to enhance communication of key messages and initiated the integration of cross-cutting themes such as Indigenous Knowledge and Behavioural, Social and Cultural dimensions.

### ii. Environmental Governance

#### Legal Development in Housing and Chemicals

UNEP held a scoping meeting (15 April, Lilongwe, Malawi) to support the drafting of a [climate-resilient Housing Bill](#) and supported a scoping session (25 April, Accra, Ghana) to develop [Industrial and Consumer Chemicals Regulations](#) aligned with international best practices and the 2025 Environmental Protection Act, by providing technical assistance and legal expertise.

### Advancing environmental rule of law (EROL) in the Asia-Pacific

UNEP delivered a lecture on environmental law and governance during a [regional training](#) (11 April) for over 40 young lawyers.

UNEP participated (28 April, Philippines) in a consultation for the [World Justice Project's EROLI](#) and met with the Philippine Department of Environment and Natural Resources (29 April) to scope support for environmental law enforcement.

UNEP organized a panel session at a [conference](#) (24 May, Thailand), promoting environmental law clinics. UNEP convened a [workshop](#) (26 May, Thailand), bringing together 30 participants to co-develop a draft roadmap for the Asia Pacific Environmental Law Clinics Alliance's formal establishment. UNEP delivered a seminar on international environmental law during a [conference](#) at Thammasat University, (23- 25 June, Bangkok).

### Advancing Rights-Based Conservation

UNEP convened a [multistakeholder consultation](#) (4-6 June, Thailand), on implementing the Core Human Rights Principles for Private Conservation Organizations and Funders. It brought together funders, Indigenous Peoples, and other stakeholders to identify concrete actions for rights-based conservation and support implementation of the KMGBF.

### Capacity Development in Environmental Rights and Inclusion

An in-person staff training (12 May, Bangkok, Thailand) enhanced knowledge on human and environmental rights, gender equality, and the role of Environmental Human Rights Defenders (EHRDs). UNEP organized an internal session (10 June) on conservation, indigenous rights, duty bearer obligations, and due diligence. UNEP and the UNICEF held a webinar (11 June) on children's environmental rights involving over 50 participants.

UNEP [trained](#) the Thailand UN Country Team (UNCT) on integrating environmental governance, human rights and gender into cooperation frameworks (19 June, Bangkok). UNEP also supported the EHRD Toolkit training (21-23 June, Kathmandu), strengthening over 20 defenders' capacity in advocacy and access to international mechanisms.

### Combatting Waste Trafficking

UNEP supported the [Unwaste final project conference](#) (24-25 April, Malaysia), to consolidate achievements, lessons learned and define future steps in tackling waste trafficking.

### Promoting Policy Coherence and MEA Implementation

UNEP, the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), and the CBD Secretariat held a [workshop](#) (26-28 May, Samoa) to



Promoting Policy Coherence for Environmental Governance in the Climate and Nature Nexus Pacific Subregional Workshop, 26-28 May, Samoa (Photo credit: SPREP Pacific/Flickr)

strengthen policy coherence capacity in Pacific Island countries for integrated implementation of climate and biodiversity agendas and identified priorities for MEA implementation.

UNEP and the UNECE co-hosted a [workshop](#) (17–19 June, Kazakhstan) bringing together 30 representatives from five countries to promote synergies across chemicals, waste, air pollution, and human rights clusters, improve policy coherence, and enhance implementation of the UN Common Approach on Pollution while aligning with global commitments such as the [Global Framework on Chemicals and UNGA resolution 76/300](#).

### Strengthening Ocean Governance and Marine Conservation

UNEP and the Nairobi Convention, co-convened a [meeting](#) (1–4 April, Tanzania) to validate the [African Ocean Governance Strategy](#). The event gathered 70 participants from 33 countries and regional bodies promoting a unified, science-based governance framework and strengthened Africa's capacity to ratify and implement the Biodiversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) Agreement.

### Digital Law Tools

During the Basel Rotterdam and Stockholm (BRS) COPs in Geneva, UNEP hosted an [exhibition and side event](#) (8 May) which identified data gaps in Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) tracking for chemicals and waste governance, showcasing digital tools like UN Information Portal on Multilateral Environmental Agreements (InforMEA), and promoting data-driven

approaches to enhance compliance, stakeholder engagement, and data interoperability.

### Environmental Legal Education in Latin America and the Caribbean

UNEP supported the launch of the [Model Environmental Law Teaching Programme](#) during a hybrid meeting (25 April, Panama). UNEP contributed implementation guidelines and helped advance collaboration among legal educators in the region.

### System-wide Coordination by EMG

UNEP through the EMG key engagements, included a UNCT briefing in Armenia on the Common Approach to Biodiversity into the next UNSDCF (9 April), a [high-level roundtable during the BRS COPs](#) to advocate for integrated action across chemicals, waste, biodiversity, and climate (30 April), and a regional webinar for Latin America and the Caribbean to promote the Common Approach to Biodiversity (30 May).

UNEP launched a [Nexus Dialogue Series on Sustainable Bioeconomy](#) in May—hosting dialogues on [9 May](#) and [5 June](#). UNEP co-chaired the EMG midterm technical segment meeting (3 June), introducing a new interactive format to discuss enhancing synergies across UN initiatives. UNEP [briefed](#) Member States on [EMG developments](#) at the [CPR Subcommittee Meeting](#) (17 June).

### Greening the Blue Data Platform

UNEP and the UN Department of Operation Support (DOS) Global Service Centre launched the [GtB Data Platform](#) (April) to streamline UN environmental data reporting. The platform, now used by 41 organizations and over 430 individuals, improves data quality and enables focus on improving environmental performance.

### Arab Forum for Sustainable Development

UNEP supported the [Forum](#) (14–16 April, Lebanon) by contributing technical inputs on climate, oceans, and governance, shaping discussions on SDGs [13](#), [14](#), and [17](#), and helping craft regional messages to the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF). UNEP also engaged Member States on data, policy coherence, and institutional capacity.

### Launch of Qatar's Biodiversity Database

UNEP and Qatar's Ministry of Environment and Climate Change launched a [national Biodiversity Database](#) (June, Doha). The platform consolidates key biodiversity data to support evidence-based policymaking, enhance transparency, and strengthen compliance with the CBD.





US Engagement in Environmental Multilateralism: "What's at Stake?", 4 June, Washington DC  
(Photo credit: United States Council for International Business (USCIB)/Agnes Vinblad)

## U.S. Engagement in Environmental Multilateralism

UNEP supported an [event on environmental multilateralism](#) (4 June, Washington, DC), featuring leaders from MEA secretariats and highlighting the importance of U.S. participation in environmental multilateralism.

## The African Elephant Fund (AEF) Steering Committee

UNEP supported the 13th AEF Steering Committee meeting (6-7 May, Zimbabwe) where the committee approved nine projects worth \$707,503 and addressed strategic matters and resource mobilization.

## E. Enabling Subprogrammes

### i. Finance and Economic Transformations

#### Accelerating Circularity and Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) Policies and Initiatives

The [World Circular Economy Forum \(WCEF2025\)](#) (13–16 May 2025, São Paulo, Brazil), showcased UNEP global leadership in supporting countries with circular economy transitions. Through the [Circular Economy Coalition for Latin America and the Caribbean](#), UNEP co-organised [eight high-level sessions](#), and led "accelerator sessions" on circularity in [buildings](#), [food](#)



The circular economy as a tool for global development session at the World Economic Forum, 14 May, São Paulo, Brazil  
(Photo credit: Ayrton Vignola/Fiesp)

systems, SMEs, and [finance](#), fostering cross-regional collaboration and sharing policies and [digital tools to accelerate circular actions](#).

The Forum also highlighted UNEP's technical assistance to governments in developing circular economy policies, including: the [Brazilian National Circular Economy Plan](#), the [Guide for the Development of Circular Economy Roadmaps](#), and the [Toolbox: Building Circularity into Nationally Determined Contributions \(NDCs\)](#).

Preliminary findings were presented during the [International Biodiversity Day](#) (23 May). The paper emphasizes the importance of sustainable lifestyle in addressing biodiversity loss and offers policy recommendations through sustainable lifestyle interventions in food, mobility and consumer goods.<sup>4</sup>

UNEP launched the "[What is Your Recipe of Change?](#)" campaign to address 50% food waste reduction during Ramadan<sup>5</sup>. The initiative engaged 45 hotels across 14 countries, promoting zero-waste recipes, and providing technical tool for hotels.

### Catalysing Private Investments for Sustainable Consumption and Production

UNEP Finance Initiative (UNEP-FI) [UNEP FI](#) led [high-level panels](#) on finance, climate risk, and nature-based solutions at the [London Climate Action Week 2025](#) (24–28 June, London, United Kingdom). It also contributed to the [Climate Innovation Forum](#) and the [London Climate Resilience Finance Summit 2025](#), bringing together financial leaders, asset owners, and public institutions. As a result, five major banks committing USD 5 billion to circular economy and nature-positive investments in emerging economies and advancing sectoral financing guidelines for adaptation and resilience.

At the [Sustainable Finance Event for the Southern Cone and Peru](#) (17–19 June, Santiago, Chile), UNEP FI convened over 750 leaders from 23 countries, fostering dialogue between banks, governments, and multilateral organizations. This collaboration led to a [regional Sustainable Finance Working Group](#) to mobilize investments for climate mitigation and adaptation across Latin America.

UNEP FI's [Guidance for Climate Target Setting for Banks – Version 3](#) (15 April, launched virtually) is

4 <https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7331296596308934656>  
<https://www.cbd.int/api/v2013/documents/20CABBC9-CB79-8367-C8F4-1CDFF441C73D/attachments/617424/Submission%20of%20Hot%20or%20Cool%20Institute%20on%20notification%202025-005.pdf>

5 State of Food Waste in West Asia

transforming how financial institutions set science-based emissions targets. In Asia-Pacific, UNEP FI's [Climate-related Risks in Financial Regulation and Supervision in APAC](#) (17 June) supported regulators in 12 jurisdictions to integrate climate risks into banking supervision.

These initiatives are equipping financial systems to channel capital into resilient infrastructure, renewable energy, and climate-smart agriculture, turning climate pledges into measurable outcomes aligned with NDCs.

At the [UN Ocean Conference](#) (9 - 13 June, France), UNEP FI co-launched the [Ocean Investment Protocol](#), offering a global blueprint for unlocking investments in marine biodiversity and resilient blue economies. These efforts enable Member States to attract capital for sustainable fisheries, coastal restoration, and circular ocean industries. UNEP FI also strengthened financial institutions' capacity to engage on nature-related risks through its [Guidance on Responsible Policy Engagement](#) (1 April).

The UNEP-FI [Guidelines for Halting Deforestation](#) (18 June) assist investors in eliminating exposure to forest-risk commodities by 2030, and empower asset managers to shift portfolios towards sustainable supply chains while safeguarding ecosystems critical to climate stability.

### Unlocking the Power of Public Budgets and Fiscal Policies

UNEP in collaboration with United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) and Chile's Ministry of Public Works, is demonstrating how public budgets can drive sustainability. Using the [EnABLE tool](#), (11 June, virtually), UNEP supported Chile in integrating environmental criteria into its \$200 billion [National Public Infrastructure Plan \(2025–2055\)](#). This alignment is expected to reduce infrastructure-related emissions by 20% and has already attracted private sector interest in renewable energy and green construction materials.

### Landmark commitment on Plastic Pollution.

UNEP FI mobilized 180 financial institutions managing USD 17.2 trillion in assets to sign the [Finance Statement on Plastic Pollution](#). This landmark commitment signals a shift in financial flows toward plastic pollution solutions.

### Inaugural PAGE Regional Academy for Africa

The first Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE) [Regional Academy for Africa](#) (28 April - 9 May, Rabat, Morocco), co-organized by the [International Training Centre \(ITC\)](#) and [PAGE](#), brought together 150 policymakers from 10 African countries. The Academy



Participants of the PAGE Regional Academy for Africa, 28 April – 9 May, Rabat  
(Photo Credit: Lorenzo Franchi/UNITAR)

combined a two-week online phase with a three-day in-person session in Rabat, Morocco. Key outcomes included five countries committing to tax reforms and the launch of the PAGE Country Ambassadors Network to champion inclusive green economy transitions.

### Policy-Maker's Guide on Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) Spanish Edition

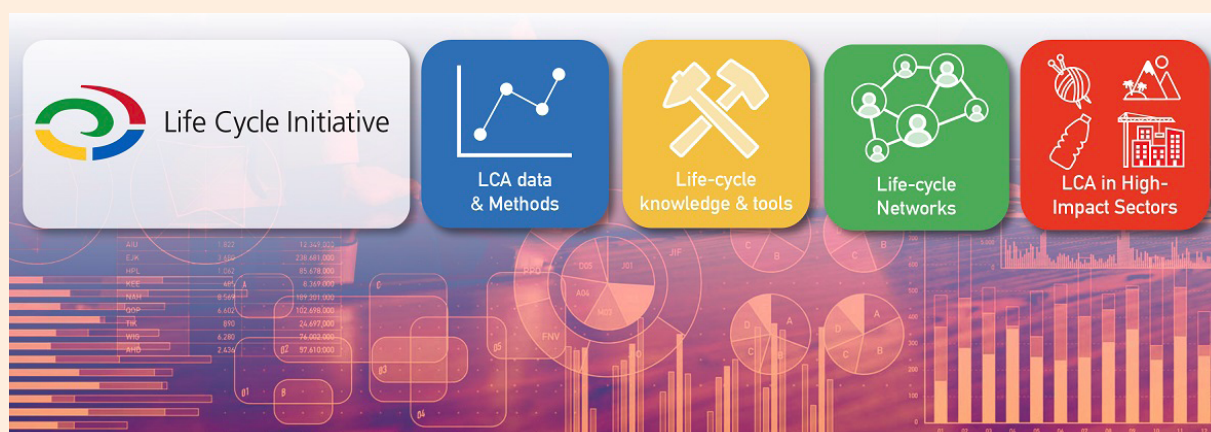
UNEP's [Life Cycle Initiative](#) launched the Spanish edition of the [Policy-Maker's Guide on Life Cycle Assessment \(LCA\)](#) (11 June) and hosted a regional seminar with the [Circular Economy Coalition for Latin America and the Caribbean](#). As a result, four countries committed to incorporating LCA into procurement and environmental policies in priority sectors (agriculture, waste, energy, and construction).

## ii. Digital Transformations

### Assessing deforestation and land degradation with MapBiomass

More than 40 representatives from governments and regional organizations of Latin America and the Caribbean participated in a virtual session (2 April) of the Geospatial Working Group of the Regional Environmental Information Network (REIN), where the MapBiomass initiative was presented. The Scientific Coordinator, and the Secretary of the [MapBiomass](#) Network, introduced the origins, methodology, and expansion of this collaborative initiative (now also including Indonesia), which has become a key tool for environmental monitoring in the region.

MapBiomass produces annual land use and cover maps, from 1985 to the present, using remote sensing, artificial intelligence, and cloud-based processing



through Google Earth Engine. With applications ranging from deforestation alerts to land degradation and water monitoring, MapBiomass offers open, standardized, and regularly updated data that can significantly enhance countries' capacities to report on the state of the environment and inform decision-making.

The session provided an opportunity to explore how institutions in LAC can further engage with MapBiomass and highlighted the initiative's relevance for strengthening geospatial monitoring capacities in support of national and regional environmental agendas.

### **Strengthening UNEP's collaboration with the European Space Agency (ESA) in LAC**

UNEP, in collaboration with the European Space Agency (ESA), the Government of Panama, Caribbean Community (CARICOM), and other key partners, convened a virtual information session (24 April) to support the implementation of the Copernicus Regional Center for Latin America and the Caribbean ([CopernicusLAC](#)), hosted in Panama City.

The session aimed at presenting Copernicus services to Caribbean countries, with a focus on applications for environmental management. Co-organized with CARICOM, the event brought together around 70 representatives from Caribbean governments and regional organizations, including environmental and geospatial experts. The initiative aligns with UNEP's support to the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean and reinforces its collaboration with CARICOM's Sustainable Development Programme.

The session was held under the Regional Environmental Information Network (REIN), as part of the 2024–2025 Work Plan of the Caribbean Working Group, with the support of ESA and the CopernicusLAC Panama Center.

### **Validating system barriers to environmental data sharing in East Africa**

UNEP convened a regional workshop (10 June, Nairobi, Kenya) bringing together 54 representatives from governments, academia, the private sector, and civil society organizations across Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda, and Zanzibar to validate East Africa (EA)-READY, a flagship cross-border flood early-warning system and outline a roadmap for operationalizing sustainable and trusted transboundary environmental data sharing in East Africa.

Key outcomes included:

- Endorsement of EA-READY as the flagship transboundary early warning use case for the region, with a focus on real-time flood alerts across Kenya, Tanzania, and Rwanda.
- Agreement on key barriers and challenge statements, validated through stakeholder dialogue (legal, institutional, technical, trust, access).
- Strong alignment of regional efforts with global digital environmental data strategies, reinforcing East Africa's position as a scalable model for other regions.



## Additional Regional Consultations on the Global Environmental Data Strategy (GEDS)

UNEP convened additional regional consultations (26 June–1 July, hybrid format) with Member States from the five UN regions to review and strengthen the revised draft of the Global Environmental Data Strategy (GEDS), developed under [UNEA Resolution 4/23](#). The consultations aimed to gather region-specific feedback on implementation priorities, budget estimates and capacity needs. Over 50 participants, including government representatives and technical experts shared insights on data quality, governance, interoperability, and equitable access.

UNEP facilitated the sessions, presented key updates in the revised draft, and captured targeted feedback to refine the priority actions and research on the challenges and best practices in the environmental data ecosystem. These inclusive consultations ensured that the final strategy is better aligned with regional contexts, reinforcing the relevance of GEDS as a global coordination framework for environmental data.

## Reinforcing UNEP and European Space Agency (ESA) Partnership

The [ESA's Living Planet Symposium'25](#) showcased the UNEP-ESA Partnership established under a Memorandum of Understanding, signed in 2023. At the symposium, UNEP representatives and the Secretary

General of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands participated in the Nexus Agora panel (June 24).

Panellists explored critical topics including citizen science and distributed data infrastructures, opportunities for Earth Observation (EO) to support the Global Biodiversity Framework and mountain ecosystem conservation, future priorities and achievements of UNEP the International Methane Emissions Observatory (IMEO), near-real-time data accessibility, and emerging impacts of artificial intelligence.

The event strengthened UNEP-ESA collaboration, resulting in an agreed way forward on enhanced data sharing, showcasing joint successes, and integrating EO data into IMEO, BiodiversityLab and World Environment Situation Room (WESR) priority use cases to advance global environmental goals.

## F. Cross-cutting Issues

### i Gender

#### Gender and Judicial Leadership on Environmental Law

UNEP co-hosted a [webinar](#) (5 June) to explore gender and environmental rule of law highlighting the role of women judges in environmental adjudication.



UNEP supported the *Symposium “Judges & Climate Change”* on [3 June](#) and [4 June](#) 2025, co-organized with the High Court of Brazil which focused on the role of judges in climate adjudication and enforcement of environmental law.

## ii. Environmental and Social Safeguards (ESS)

### Project Reviews on gender and safeguards

In the second quarter of 2025, a total of 30 concepts and projects were reviewed focusing on gender, safeguards, stakeholder consultations, and human rights considerations. Out of these 30 concepts/projects, 17% of the 6 concepts and 50% of the 24 full projects were classified as moderate risk, while the remaining were categorized as low risk.

Some of the moderate-risk projects have progressed with successful reviews and approvals of their Environmental and Social Management Frameworks (ESMFs) and Indigenous Peoples Plans (IPPs).

### G20 Framework Contribution

Contributed as knowledge partner to the South African G20 Presidency in shaping the Integrated Guiding Framework on Environmental and Socio-Economic Safeguards and Local Content Requirements under the Energy Transitions Working Group – a Presidency-led instrument guiding just transition policies in fossil fuel-dependent regions. UNEP’s engagement, through PAGE 2.0 project and collaboration with CSIR, ILO and UNIDO helped ensure that the framework reflects environmental sustainability, community resilience, and social inclusion as core principles of the transition

## iii. Repositioning the UN Development System

### Strengthening the Resident Coordinator System for tangible sustainable development results

The [Report of the Chair of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group](#) released in April 2025 highlights how Resident Coordinators have enabled a strengthened UNCT focus on SDG financing through partnerships and tools including the Joint Sustainable Development Goals Fund.

UNEP in partnership with UNDP, UNICEF and UNIDO has worked in Indonesia, to pioneer innovative financing solutions, unlocking over US \$4 billion in bonds, Islamic financing and other investments for sustainable fisheries, waste management, social and climate financing, and urban transport.

The regional teams in Europe and Central Asia, the Arab States and the Asia-Pacific region jointly facilitated high-level coordination for a transboundary climate adaptation project in the Euphrates-Tigris basin, mobilizing around US \$400,000 for UNEP-led research and regional climate resilience efforts.

The importance of environmental dimensions was reinforced also in the context of crisis response and recovery. The Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit and other partners responded to environmental emergencies in Ecuador and Myanmar (April-June). In Ecuador, following a major oil spill, UNEP delivered a [technical report](#) that shaped recovery efforts and led to certified water quality testing. In Myanmar, a post-earthquake assessments addressing dam safety and chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear risks were incorporated into UN coordination frameworks.

## iv. South-South Cooperation

### High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation

During a thematic discussion at the 22nd session of the [High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation](#) (27-30 May, New York) UNEP highlighted its commitment to South-South and triangular cooperation as enablers for knowledge exchange, capacity building and transformative environmental solutions.

## G. Opportunities and Lessons Learned

### i. Opportunities:

#### BBNJ Agreement Ratification

Ratification of BBNJ Agreement provides a significant opportunity for UNEP to leverage its five decades of leadership in ocean governance and extensive experience with Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) to actively shape and support the implementation of the BBNJ Agreement.

UNEP is providing support to requesting Member States as they process their ratification. This will help ensure effective early implementation of the convention. UNEP is also well placed to foster synergies between existing MEAs and the BBNJ to help parties deliver tangible, impactful results for the ocean and their coastal zones. Over the past 50 years, UNEP has both administratively hosted a significant number of the Regional Seas Conventions (today the totality of Regional Seas Conventions encompass a

total of 146 Member States), as well as substantially and programmatically supported the parties in their efforts to protect their biodiversity within national jurisdiction. In addition, of course, UNEP's hosting of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES) and the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions will enable a greater integration and synergy across the transversal aspects of these critical MEAs.

### **Science Policy**

Key opportunities that emerged during the reporting period included: leveraging Digital Technologies, strengthening global and regional Science-Policy Interfaces and addressing Emerging Issues proactively.

### **Environmental Governance**

The reporting period unlocked opportunities to strengthen collaboration and digital innovation, embed environmental priorities in national planning, and scale rights-based, gender-responsive approaches—delivering stronger governance frameworks and clearer pathways to sustainable progress.

### **Science policy panel on chemicals, waste and pollution**

The creation of a third major science-policy interface complements existing mechanisms and reinforces global efforts to address the triple planetary environmental crises.

### **Finance and Economic Transformation**

The focus on policies in high-impact sectors can maximize co-benefits (e.g. job creation, innovation, competitiveness, well-being). UNEP's new Medium-Term Strategy 2026–2029, currently under development, should therefore strengthen this work scaling up enabling policies and action for just transitions and maximizing co-benefits.

## **ii. Lessons Learned:**

### **Science policy panel on chemicals, waste and pollution**

In the context of the work in support of the Science Policy Panel, UNEP identified many lessons learned throughout the implementation of [Resolution 5/8](#), including the importance of early and sustained engagement with governments and stakeholders, which was instrumental in supporting informed and inclusive negotiations, particularly in the lead up to sessions. In response to this, UNEP facilitated structured informal consultations and regionally driven discussions to advance alignment on key elements

of the science-policy panel on chemicals, waste, and pollution.

### **Climate Action**

During the reporting period, UNEP's engagement underscored the power of community ownership, ecosystem-based adaptation rooted in local contexts, and inclusive multistakeholder partnerships. Impact was greatest when science-policy linkages guided action and when UNEP's convening role unlocked cross-sectoral finance and innovation. Building on these lessons, UNEP intensified efforts to mobilize public and private finance for NDC implementation.

### **Science Policy**

Lessons learned during the reporting period underlined the importance of inclusive and multi-stakeholder engagement, building capacity, partnerships and sharing best practices. The numerous assessments which continue to document that “things are bad and getting worse...” do not result in sufficient change to address the threats and concerns.

### **Environmental Governance**

Early engagement, policy alignment, cross-sector coordination, and knowledge-sharing proved essential for effectiveness. Clear messaging and inclusive dialogue were equally critical. Building on these lessons, UNEP established dialogue platforms, strengthened coordination mechanisms, and aligned technical support to advance coherent and inclusive environmental governance.

### **Finance and Economic Transformation**

Strategic policy focus on high-impact sectors is essential to unlock multiple co-benefits. By prioritizing areas with strong potential for green growth, countries can simultaneously drive job creation, stimulate innovation, enhance global competitiveness, and improve overall well-being. This integrated approach ensures that economic transformation is not only environmentally sustainable but also socially inclusive and resilient.

### **Enhanced Quality Assurance of Projects for Greater Impact**

UNEP's project review processes have traditionally focused on quality at entry, ensuring that project concepts and anticipated results are aligned with UNEP's Medium-Term Strategy (MTS) and Programme of Work (PoW). A key lesson learned, however, is the need to strengthen quality assurance consistently across the entire project life cycle, enhance agility and ensure that strategic priorities are effectively translated into programmes. Another lesson is the need to better reflect cost-effectiveness and trade-offs in our projects.

In May 2025, UNEP established a working group to improve the strategic effectiveness and efficiency of its project review processes. The group is mandated to strengthen UNEP's approval and quality assurance mechanisms for the design, implementation, and performance of its project portfolio. The reform will ensure that project planning, delivery, results reporting, partnerships, and resource mobilization are aligned with one another and with UNEP strategic objectives. Project concepts and proposals will be developed, submitted, reviewed, approved, monitored, and reported through the Integrated Planning, Monitoring and Reporting (IPMR) system to further enhance efficiency, transparency, and effectiveness.

### **Better Measurement**

UNEP is strengthening its capacity to identify, design, monitor, and report on sound indicators as it develops its MTS 2026–2029 and PoW 2026–2027. This includes developing new tools and measurement protocols that embed learning from project and programme implementation as well as innovations like the one impact measurement framework.

# 3. RESOURCES AND MANAGEMENT ISSUES

## A. Financial Resources

### i. Financial Update as at 30 June 2025

#### a. Overview of income<sup>6</sup>

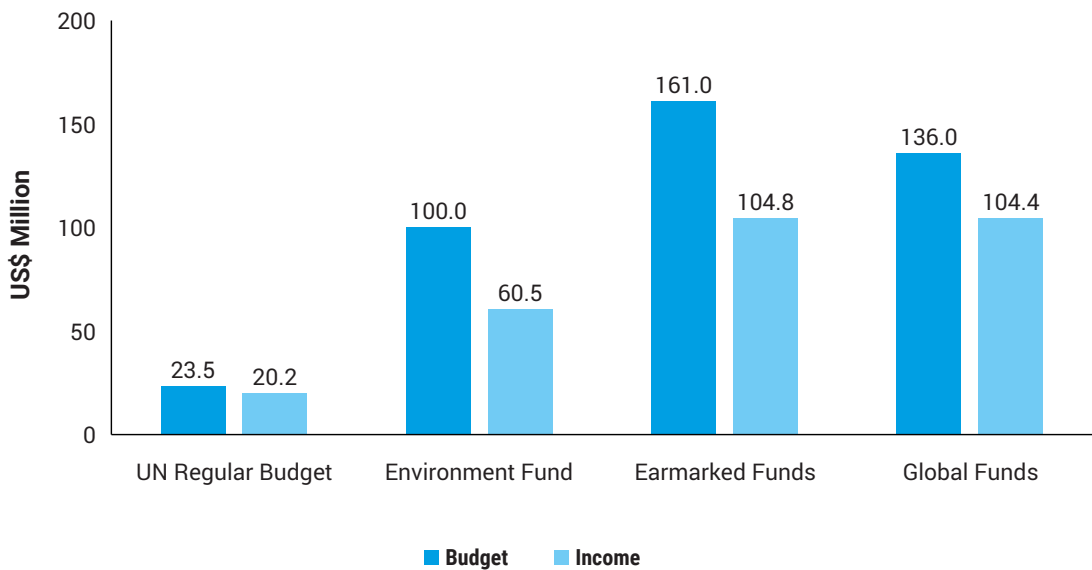
The UN Regular Budget and the Environment Fund provide UNEP's core funding, enabling the organization to respond to the triple planetary environmental crises of climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution and waste, and to implement the programme of work approved by Member States. As of 30 June 2025, core funding represented 28% of UNEP's total income, while earmarked and global funds accounted for 72%. Income from earmarked and global funds includes multi-year elements, such as unspent balances from previous years and funds received for future years' spending.

#### b. Core funding

##### (i) The United Nations Regular Budget

The United Nations Regular Budget provides core resources to UNEP to support fundamental programme activities. Due to ongoing liquidity challenges across the UN, the 2025 allotment was limited to US\$ 20 million, which is lower than the PoW budget of US\$ 23.5 million. In response, the Corporate Services Division, in close consultation with UN Headquarters, continues to manage expenditures within this reduced allocation in accordance with guidance from the Office of the UN Controller.

Graph 1: Annual Budget 2025 vs Income January 2025 – June 2025 (in million \$)



<sup>6</sup> The figures do not include Conventions and Protocols administered by UNEP. Per the United Nations secretariat interpretation and application of the international public service accounting standards (IPSAS), our financial and administrative management platform, Umoja, does not allow a breakdown of multi-year contributions into annual figures for income.

## (ii) The Environment Fund

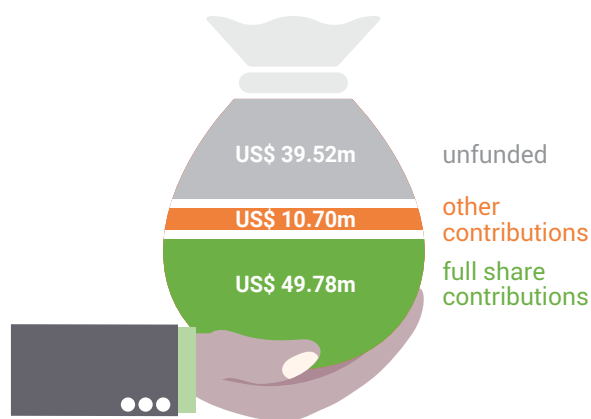
The Environment Fund remains a vital source of core, flexible financing for UNEP. It is essential for results-focused and balanced programme delivery with robust oversight. As at 30 June 2025, the Environment Fund income amounted to US\$ 60.48 million. This represents 60% of the approved 2025 budget of US\$ 100 million<sup>7</sup>, with actual cash received at \$37 million. These contributions were received from 55 Member States, accounting for 29% of the 193 UN Member States. Out of the 55 Member States, 37 (67%) contributed their full share as per the Voluntary Indicative Scale of Contributions (VISC). Fifty (50) Member States have paid their pledges as of 30 June 2025.

UNEP is grateful to all these contributors with special thanks to the 37 Member States that have provided their full share and to the top 15 contributors who have provided 97% of the total Environment Fund income received to date.

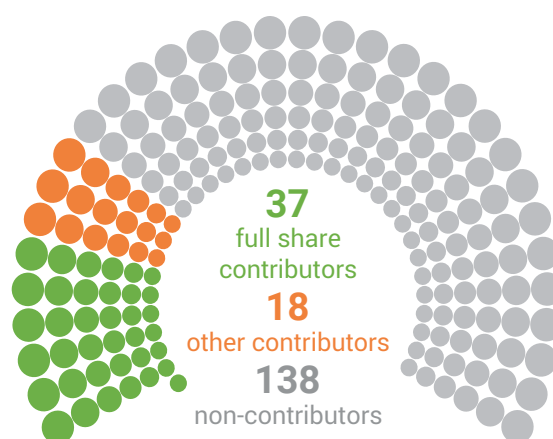
Furthermore, UNEP appreciates the increased stability and predictability provided by multi-year agreements/pledges from Denmark, Finland, Netherlands and South Africa, which amounted to a total of US\$ 19.84 million or 33% of the environment fund income as at 30 June 2025.

**Graph 2: Status of the Environment Fund in 2025 (as of 30 June 2025)**

### INCOME vs UNFUNDED BALANCE of US\$ 100m budget



### NUMBER AND CATEGORY OF MEMBER STATE CONTRIBUTORS out of 193



<sup>7</sup> Member States approved Programme of Work budget for 2024-2025 - \$200 million, within this, UNEP approved allotment was \$105 million in 2024 and \$70 million in 2025, total \$175 million.

Graph 3: Top 10 Contributors to the Environment Fund (as at 30 June 2025)

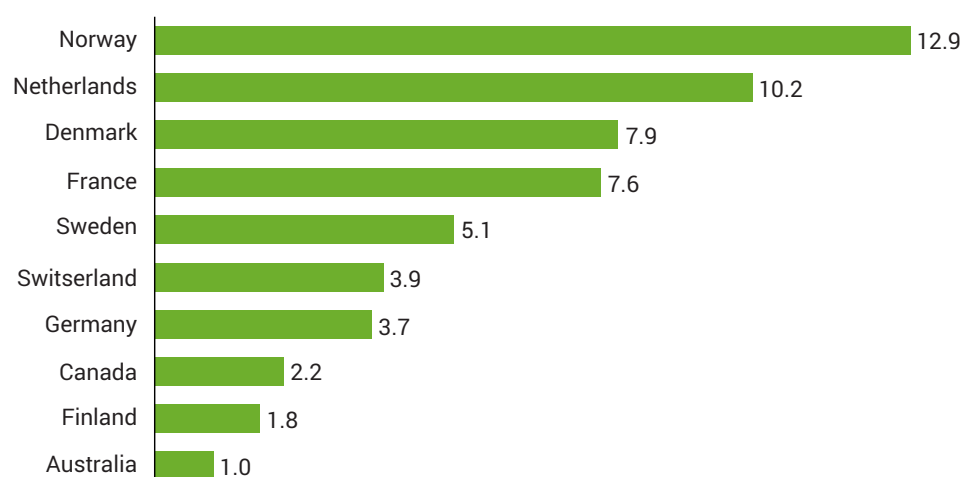


Table 1: Member States that contributed their full share as represented by the VISC (as at 30 June 2025)

| CONTRIBUTIONS ABOVE AND EQUAL TO FULL SHARE*** |                    |                  |             |             |
|------------------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Albania                                        | Dominican Republic | Ireland          | Mongolia    | Sweden      |
| Azerbaijan                                     | Fiji               | Kenya            | Netherlands | Switzerland |
| Barbados                                       | France             | Latvia           | Norway      | Tajikistan  |
| Bosnia & Herzegovina                           | Gabon              | Lithuania        | Oman        | Tonga       |
| Cabo Verde                                     | Gambia             | Luxembourg       | Philippines | Zambia      |
| Cambodia                                       | Grenada            | Malta            | San Marino  |             |
| Czechia                                        | Honduras           | Mauritius        | Slovenia    |             |
| Denmark*                                       | Iceland            | Micronesia (FSO) | Sudan       |             |

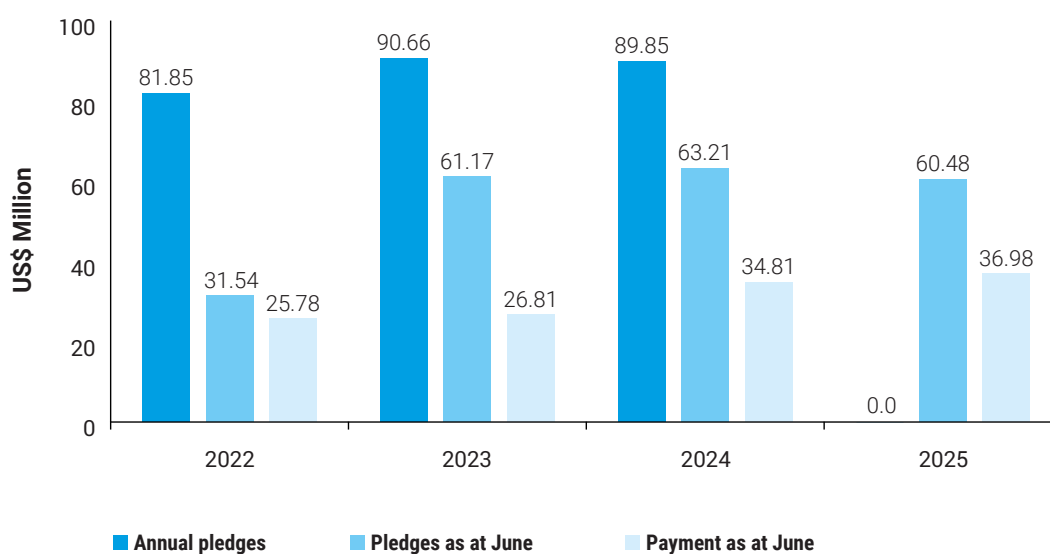
### (iii) Comparison with previous years

The total pledges as at the end of June totalled USD 60.48 million which is USD 2.73 million or 4% lower compared to the same time last year. Fifty-five (55) Member States have pledged by the end of June 2025 which is an increase of 2 Member States or 4% from June 2024. The funding of UNEP remains a shared responsibility among all 193 Member States, and their continued support is critical to enable UNEP to fulfil its mandate and to effectively implement its Programme of Work.

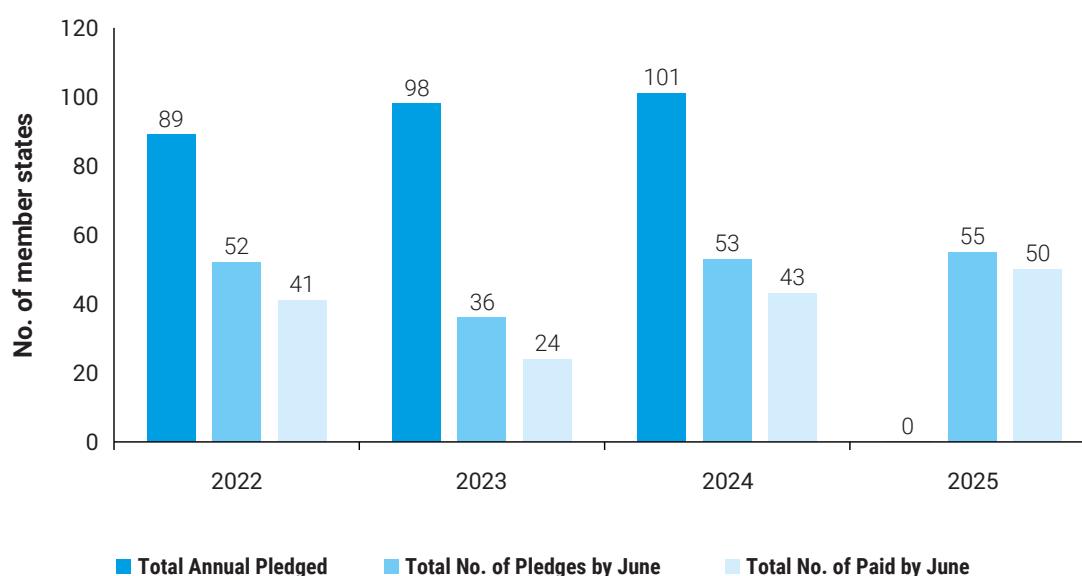
### c. Earmarked contributions

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

Graph 4: Status of Contributions and Payments as at 30 June (2022 - 2025)



Graph 5: Number of contributors to the Environment Fund as at June of each respective year



#### (i) Earmarked funds

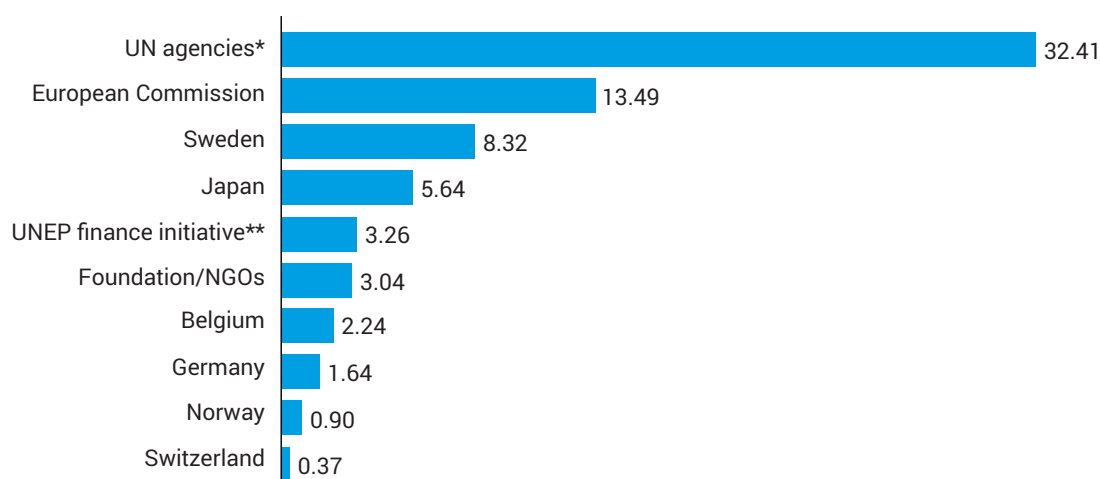
Earmarked income is recognized upon implementation. As at 30 June 2025, UNEP implemented \$792 million earmarked funds.

earmarked to specific programmes and projects. By the end of June 2025, GEF had received USD 98.5 million and GCF USD 5.94 million bringing the total income from global funds to USD 104.4 million.

#### (ii) Global funds

The funds provided by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Green Climate Fund (GCF) are

Graph 6: Top 10 Funding Partners for Earmarked Funds (as at 30 June 2025)



## ii. Status of allocations and expenditures as at 30 June 2025

### a. Environment fund

The approved budget for the 2024–2025 biennium amounts to US\$200 million. The final approved 2024–2025 allocation for the Environment Fund is US\$175

million. As of 30 June 2025, the utilization rate is 80% of the biennia allotment issued.

### b. Overhead trust fund

Status of allocations and expenditure – Overhead Trust Fund (biennium 2024–2025 as at 30 June 2025)

### Status of allocations and expenditure – Environment Fund (biennium 2024–2025 as at 30 June 2025)

| Environment Fund (US\$) |                                      |                    |                    |                                 |            |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------|------------|
|                         | Functional Area Name                 | Budget             | Allotments         | Expenditures as at 30 June 2025 | %          |
| A                       | Policymaking organs                  | 4,000,000          | 3,996,772          | 3,023,768                       | 76%        |
| B.1                     | Executive direction and management   | 8,000,000          | 7,889,893          | 6,502,930                       | 82%        |
| B.2                     | UNSCEAR                              | -                  | -                  | -                               |            |
|                         | <b>Subtotal (A+B)</b>                | <b>12,000,000</b>  | <b>11,886,665</b>  | <b>9,526,697</b>                | <b>80%</b> |
| C                       | Programme of work                    |                    |                    |                                 |            |
| 1                       | Climate action                       | 24,000,000         | 18,433,467         | 14,459,579                      | 78%        |
| 2                       | Digital transformations              | 14,000,000         | 12,296,510         | 10,824,292                      | 88%        |
| 3                       | Nature action                        | 24,000,000         | 24,689,101         | 19,447,184                      | 79%        |
| 4                       | Environmental governance             | 26,000,000         | 25,219,023         | 21,501,295                      | 85%        |
| 5                       | Chemicals and pollution action       | 24,000,000         | 17,971,917         | 15,197,245                      | 85%        |
| 6                       | Finance and economic transformations | 26,000,000         | 19,857,317         | 16,434,105                      | 83%        |
| 7                       | Science-policy                       | 26,000,000         | 23,280,399         | 19,075,685                      | 82%        |
|                         | <b>Subtotal C</b>                    | <b>164,000,000</b> | <b>141,747,735</b> | <b>116,939,385</b>              | <b>82%</b> |
| D                       | Fund Programme Reserve               | 10,000,000         | 4,766,505          | 838,264                         | 18%        |
|                         | <b>Subtotal (C+D)</b>                | <b>174,000,000</b> | <b>146,514,240</b> | <b>117,777,649</b>              | <b>80%</b> |
| E                       | Programme Support                    | 14,000,000         | 15,686,882         | 12,470,700                      | 79%        |
| 1                       | UNCT engagement                      |                    | -                  |                                 |            |
| 2                       | Emergency Fund                       |                    | 700,000            | 607,614                         | 87%        |
| 3                       | UNEA Implementation                  |                    | 500,000            | 267,006                         | 53%        |
|                         | <b>Subtotal E</b>                    |                    | <b>16,886,882</b>  | <b>13,345,320</b>               | <b>79%</b> |
| <b>Total A+B+C+D+E</b>  |                                      | <b>200,000,000</b> | <b>175,287,787</b> | <b>140,649,666</b>              | <b>80%</b> |

## Status of allocations and expenditures – overhead trust fund

| Overhead Trust Fund (US\$) |                                      |                   |                   |                                 |            |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|------------|
|                            | Functional Area Name                 | Budget            | Allotments        | Expenditures as at 30 June 2025 | %          |
| A                          | Policymaking organs                  | 20,000            | 68,560            | 5,209                           | 7.6%       |
| B.1                        | Executive direction and management   | -                 | -                 | 77,801                          |            |
| B.2                        | UNSCEAR                              | -                 | 25,550            | -                               |            |
|                            | <b>Subtotal (A+B)</b>                | <b>20,000</b>     | <b>94,110</b>     | <b>83,010</b>                   | <b>88%</b> |
| C                          | Programme of work                    |                   |                   |                                 |            |
| 1                          | Climate action                       | 4,500,000         | 5,435,412         | 2,920,412                       | 54%        |
| 2                          | Digital transformations              | 1,300,000         | 656,084           | 45,016                          | 0%         |
| 3                          | Nature action                        | 2,400,000         | 2,801,259         | 2,480,506                       | 89%        |
| 4                          | Environmental governance             | 1,300,000         | 3,968,113         | 3,396,576                       | 86%        |
| 5                          | Chemicals and pollution action       | 3,100,000         | 3,607,915         | 2,186,664                       | 61%        |
| 6                          | Finance and economic transformations | 2,500,000         | 2,369,885         | 1,691,179                       | 71%        |
| 7                          | Science-policy                       | 700,000           | 983,685           | 679,290                         | 69%        |
|                            | <b>Subtotal C</b>                    | <b>15,800,000</b> | <b>19,822,352</b> | <b>13,399,643</b>               | <b>68%</b> |
| D                          | Fund Programme Reserve               | -                 | -                 | -                               |            |
|                            | <b>Subtotal (C+D)</b>                | <b>15,800,000</b> | <b>19,822,352</b> | <b>13,399,643</b>               | <b>68%</b> |
| E                          | Programme Support                    | 16,200,000        | 33,071,656        | 22,416,030                      | 68%        |
| 1                          | UNCT engagement                      |                   |                   |                                 |            |
| 2                          | Emergency Fund                       |                   | -                 |                                 |            |
| 3                          | UNEA Implementation                  |                   |                   |                                 |            |
|                            | <b>Subtotal E</b>                    | <b>16,200,000</b> | <b>33,071,656</b> | <b>22,416,030</b>               | <b>68%</b> |
| <b>Total A+B+C+D+E</b>     |                                      | <b>32,020,000</b> | <b>52,988,119</b> | <b>35,898,682</b>               | <b>68%</b> |

Income in the Overhead Trust Fund is generated from programme support costs earned through extra-budgetary project implementation. It is used to cover essential administrative and operational expenses. The 2024-2025 allotment is US\$52.9 million, compared to the biennium budget of US\$32 million. This reflects a high volume of extra budgetary projects' implementation in the previous years, which generated a higher amount of programme support costs and enabled a larger allotment for the biennia. As of 30 June 2025, expenditure rate stands at 68% of the allotment.

### c. Regular budget

The total regular budget allotment released by UNHQ for the years 2024-2025 is US\$40 million compared to the budgeted amount of US\$ 46 million; US\$ 6million short from the General Assembly approved amount due to liquidity challenges in the recent years; this decrease necessitated careful expenditure management and strict austerity measures including a freeze on recruitments. As of 30 June 2025, the expenditure rate for the two years combined reached 77% of the total, comprising mainly staffing costs.

## Status of allocations and expenditure – Regular Budget Fund (biennium 2024-2025 as at 30 June 2025)

| Regular Budget (US\$)  |                                      |                   |                   |                                 |            |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|------------|
|                        | Functional Area Name                 | Budget            | Allotments        | Expenditures as at 30 June 2025 | %          |
| A                      | Polymaking organs                    | 940,600           | 578,150           | 463,300                         | 80%        |
| B.1                    | Executive direction and management   | 6,266,400         | 6,244,038         | 4,799,421                       | 77%        |
| B.2                    | UNSCAR                               | 2,216,200         | 1,716,325         | 1,065,554                       | 62%        |
|                        | <b>Subtotal (A+B)</b>                | <b>9,423,200</b>  | <b>8,538,513</b>  | <b>6,328,276</b>                | <b>74%</b> |
| C                      | Programme of work                    |                   |                   |                                 |            |
| 1                      | Climate action                       | 4,196,900         | 3,691,465         | 3,298,440                       | 89%        |
| 2                      | Digital transformations              | 3,049,000         | 2,399,892         | 1,354,777                       | 56%        |
| 3                      | Nature action                        | 5,000,600         | 4,091,271         | 3,179,564                       | 78%        |
| 4                      | Environmental governance             | 9,137,600         | 8,209,855         | 6,470,586                       | 79%        |
| 5                      | Chemicals and pollution action       | 3,431,400         | 3,135,991         | 2,461,887                       | 79%        |
| 6                      | Finance and economic transformations | 3,858,500         | 3,212,709         | 2,244,456                       | 70%        |
| 7                      | Science-policy                       | 6,219,000         | 4,926,692         | 4,189,379                       | 85%        |
|                        | <b>Subtotal C</b>                    | <b>34,893,000</b> | <b>29,667,876</b> | <b>23,199,090</b>               | <b>78%</b> |
| D                      | Fund Programme Reserve               | -                 | -                 | -                               |            |
|                        | <b>Subtotal (C+D)</b>                | <b>34,893,000</b> | <b>29,667,876</b> | <b>23,199,090</b>               | <b>78%</b> |
| E                      | Programme Support                    | 2,175,100         | 1,959,211         | 1,498,647                       | 76%        |
| 1                      | UNCT engagement                      |                   |                   |                                 |            |
| 2                      | Emergency Fund                       |                   | -                 |                                 |            |
| 3                      | UNEA Implementation                  |                   |                   |                                 |            |
|                        | <b>Subtotal E</b>                    | <b>2,175,100</b>  | <b>1,959,211</b>  | <b>1,498,647</b>                | <b>76%</b> |
| <b>Total A+B+C+D+E</b> |                                      | <b>46,491,300</b> | <b>40,165,600</b> | <b>31,026,013</b>               | <b>77%</b> |

### d. Earmarked funds

The budget for earmarked contributions and global funds is based on estimated expected contributions derived from historical data and planned activities in support of the approved programme of work. On the other hand, the income received is multiyear in nature, hence the variance between the estimated budget, the income received, and the expenditures incurred on an annual basis as it is shown in the table below. The table does not include the annual allotments due to limitations in the ERP/Umoja system, which does

not allow the division of the multiyear budget for earmarked and global funds into annual figures.

### e. Planetary funds

As single-agency pooled-funds, the Planetary Funds are allotted on a rolling basis in accordance with a pre-approved formula, which ensures strategic alignment with the MTS and other funding sources. Implementation rates are carefully monitored and adjusted to ensure that disbursements are utilized within a maximum expenditure period of 24 months.

## Status of budget and expenditure – Earmarked and Global Funds (biennium 2024-2025 as at 30 June 2025)

| Earmarked Budgets and Global Funds (US\$) |                                      |                    |                                 |             |
|-------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------|-------------|
|                                           | Functional Area Name                 | Budget             | Expenditures as at 30 June 2025 | %           |
| A                                         | Polycymaking organs                  | 500,000            | 1,084,214                       | 217%        |
| B.1                                       | Executive direction and management   | 1,400,000          | 220,449                         | 16%         |
| B.2                                       | UNSCEAR                              |                    | -                               |             |
|                                           | <b>Subtotal (A+B)</b>                | <b>1,900,000</b>   | <b>1,304,662</b>                | <b>69%</b>  |
| C                                         | Programme of work                    |                    |                                 |             |
| 1                                         | Climate action                       | 194,400,000        | 330,940,152                     | 170%        |
| 2                                         | Digital transformations              | 26,800,000         | 1,443,279                       | 5%          |
| 3                                         | Nature action                        | 173,200,000        | 189,548,556                     | 109%        |
| 4                                         | Environmental governance             | 27,100,000         | 67,112,621                      | 248%        |
| 5                                         | Chemicals and pollution action       | 94,400,000         | 141,025,383                     | 149%        |
| 6                                         | Finance and economic transformations | 49,700,000         | 36,768,263                      | 74%         |
| 7                                         | Science-policy                       | 16,700,000         | 12,070,893                      | 72%         |
|                                           | <b>Subtotal C</b>                    | <b>582,300,000</b> | <b>778,909,148</b>              | <b>134%</b> |
| D                                         | Fund Programme Reserve               | -                  | -                               |             |
|                                           | <b>Subtotal (C+D)</b>                | <b>582,300,000</b> | <b>778,909,148</b>              | <b>134%</b> |
| E                                         | Programme Support                    | 9,600,000          | 11,444,250                      | 119%        |
| 1                                         | UNCT engagement                      |                    |                                 |             |
| 2                                         | Emergency Fund                       |                    |                                 |             |
| 3                                         | UNEA Implementation                  |                    |                                 |             |
|                                           | <b>Subtotal E</b>                    | <b>9,600,000</b>   | <b>11,444,250</b>               | <b>119%</b> |
| <b>Total A+B+C+D+E</b>                    |                                      | <b>593,800,000</b> | <b>791,658,061</b>              | <b>133%</b> |

## Status of allocations and expenditures – planetary funds

| Level                  | Authorized Budget | Allotments        | Expenditure as at 30 June 2025 | %          |
|------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|------------|
| A Climate              | 12,749,155        | 8,249,095         | 68%                            | 74%        |
| B Nature               | 8,035,581         | 7,207,304         | 88%                            | 86%        |
| C Pollution            | 8,216,422         | 6,459,516         | 81%                            | 77%        |
| <b>Total A + B + C</b> | <b>29,001,158</b> | <b>21,915,915</b> | <b>78%</b>                     | <b>79%</b> |

### iii. Report on management of trust funds and earmarked contributions

The number of trust funds closed remains at 39, reflecting continued efforts to streamline UNEP's trust fund portfolio in line with UNEA decision 3/3 on the management of trust funds and earmarked

contributions. Since UNEA-6, UNEP has successfully closed several inactive trust funds, with seven more scheduled for closure in late 2025. Meanwhile, a new trust fund—the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund (GBFF) was established following its approval by the GEF Council in June 2023.

It should also be noted that when engaging with donors for the signing of agreements, it is essential to ensure that the structure and provisions of each agreement are fully aligned with the governance arrangements and specific requirements of the respective UNEP trust fund under which it is being established. Such alignment is critical to ensuring compliance with UNEP's financial and administrative frameworks, promoting coherence in fund management, and supporting the effective delivery of programme activities.

#### iv. Resource mobilization strategy

UNEP remains committed to implementing its [Resource Mobilization Strategy](#), while preparing a new Medium-Term Strategy (MTS) and updated resource mobilization strategy for 2026-2029. Current efforts focus on deepening funding dialogue with Member States, strengthening visibility, and broadening the funding base to deliver on its programme of work.

Funding dialogues through bilateral engagements with Member States remains a key component of UNEP's engagement approach to secure adequate core funding to the Environment Fund and other flexible funding, from the widest possible number of Member States, including enhanced efforts on less active and new donors.

UNEP also leverages regional ministerial fora to strengthen strategic partnerships in support of more secure financial resources. Funding dialogues are included in the agenda for [AMCEN-20](#) which took place in Nairobi from 14–18 July, the [6th Asia-Pacific Forum](#) in Nadi Fiji from 26–29 August, and the [XXIV LAC Forum of Ministers of Environment](#) in Lima, Peru to be held from 30 September–2 October.

At the global level, a dialogue on the [Funding base of UNEP](#) was presented at the 12th Annual Subcommittee Meeting of the CPR. The session built on discussions initiated at the 9th ASC in 2022, reaffirming the value of UNEP as a partner of choice and the importance of core and other flexible contributions, as well as encouraging all Member States to contribute.

## B. Human Resources

### General overview

As of 30 June 2025, UNEP employed 1,396 staff members, reflecting a decrease of 5 positions from the previous quarter. The workforce is comprised of:

- 843 staff (60%) in the professional and higher categories
- 11 staff (<1%) in the National Professional Officer (NPO) category
- 542 staff (39%) in the general service category

The Secretariat employs 1,100 staff members (79% of UNEP's total workforce), while the MEAs employ 296 staff members (21%) of the total. This structure underscores UNEP's dual administrative and programmatic framework, where the Secretariat manages core operational and policy functions, while the MEA Secretariats serve as entities supporting international environmental agreements under the authority of their respective Conference of the Parties. This emphasizes the clear distinction between the UNEP Secretariat and the Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs).

### Senior level staff (UNEP secretariat and MEAs)

At the P-5 level and above, the number of staff increased from **184 in the first quarter to 185 in the second quarter of 2025** due to an appointment at the P5 level.

| Level                      | USG | ASG | D2 | D1 | P5  | Total      |
|----------------------------|-----|-----|----|----|-----|------------|
| Number of Staff (Q2-2025)  | 1   | 3   | 11 | 48 | 122 | <b>185</b> |
| Number of Staff (Q1- 2025) | 1   | 3   | 11 | 48 | 121 | <b>184</b> |

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

The Secretariat holds 143 of these positions, while MEAs account for 42 senior roles as of 30 June.

|             | USG | ASG | D2 | D1 | P5 | Total |
|-------------|-----|-----|----|----|----|-------|
| Secretariat | 1   | 2   | 7  | 40 | 93 | 143   |
| MEAs        |     | 1   | 4  | 8  | 29 | 42    |

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

## i. Appointments – P5 and above

In the second quarter of 2025, UNEP filled four senior-level positions across its divisions and offices, strengthening its leadership capacity and operational effectiveness. All the selected candidates were internal candidates.

| Position Title                        | Grade | Geographical Group        | Internal/ External |
|---------------------------------------|-------|---------------------------|--------------------|
| D1 2170 Chief of Staff                | D-1   | Western European & Others | Internal           |
| D1 7563 Chief of Branch; Programme    | D-1   | Latin America & Caribbean | Internal           |
| D1 7562 Deputy Director; Programme    | D-1   | Asia Pacific              | Internal           |
| P5 6112 Senior Administrative Officer | P-5   | Africa                    | Internal           |

## ii. Gender distribution

### a. Gender distribution: UNEP status (April to June 2025)

As of June 30 2025, UNEP employed 1,396 staff members, with 63% (882) female and 37% (514) male representation across all categories. This overall distribution has remained stable compared to previous quarters.

At the professional and higher levels (P+), women account for 58% (491) of staff, while men represent 42% (352). In the General Service category, female staff make up 71% (387), while male staff account for 29% (155).

### b. UNEP Secretariat

Within the UNEP Secretariat, females occupy 59% (395) of professional and higher-level positions (P+), while males make up 41% (271). The gender distribution in the general service category is composed of 70% (296) female and 30% (127) male representation.

### c. Multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs)

Within the Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), women make up 54% (96) of staff at the professional and higher levels (P+), while men account for 46% (81). At the General Service level, 76% (91) of GS staff are women while men account for 24% (28).

| UNEP          |          |          |           |           |            |            |            |            |            |           |            |             |
|---------------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------|------------|-------------|
| Gender        | USG      | ASG      | D2        | D1        | P5         | P4         | P3         | P2         | Total P+   | Total NO  | Total GS   | Total Staff |
| Female        | 1        | 3        | 8         | 27        | 64         | 156        | 155        | 77         | 491        | 4         | 387        | <b>882</b>  |
| Male          |          |          | 3         | 21        | 58         | 123        | 106        | 41         | 352        | 7         | 155        | <b>514</b>  |
| <b>Totals</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>3</b> | <b>11</b> | <b>48</b> | <b>122</b> | <b>279</b> | <b>261</b> | <b>118</b> | <b>843</b> | <b>11</b> | <b>542</b> | <b>1396</b> |

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

| UNEP SECRETARIAT |          |          |          |           |           |            |            |           |            |           |            |             |
|------------------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|-----------|------------|-----------|------------|-------------|
| Gender           | USG      | ASG      | D2       | D1        | P5        | P4         | P3         | P2        | Total P+   | Total NPO | Total GS   | Total       |
| Female           | 1        | 2        | 5        | 21        | 48        | 127        | 129        | 62        | 395        | 4         | 296        | <b>695</b>  |
| Male             |          |          | 2        | 19        | 45        | 103        | 77         | 25        | 271        | 7         | 127        | <b>405</b>  |
| <b>Total</b>     | <b>1</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>7</b> | <b>40</b> | <b>93</b> | <b>230</b> | <b>206</b> | <b>87</b> | <b>666</b> | <b>11</b> | <b>423</b> | <b>1100</b> |

| UNEP MEAs    |          |          |          |          |           |           |           |           |            |            |            |
|--------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|
| Gender       | USG      | ASG      | D2       | D1       | P5        | P4        | P3        | P2        | Total P+   | Total GS   | Total      |
| Female       |          | 1        | 3        | 6        | 16        | 29        | 26        | 15        | 96         | 91         | <b>187</b> |
| Male         |          |          | 1        | 2        | 13        | 20        | 29        | 16        | 81         | 28         | <b>109</b> |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>4</b> | <b>8</b> | <b>29</b> | <b>49</b> | <b>55</b> | <b>31</b> | <b>177</b> | <b>119</b> | <b>296</b> |

### iii. Geographical representation

#### a. Geographical representation: progression over the years

As of 30 June 2025, UNEP staff members represent a range of nationalities, while the organization continues to be committed to geographical balance and global

representation. The total number of staff has reduced by 5 compared to the previous quarter.

#### b. Geographical representation at Professional Levels

The table on the next page provides an overview of the regional representation of UNEP staff at the professional level and above as of June 30, 2025.

| Region                             | Total as of 31 March 2025 | Total as of 30 June 2025 | Variation |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-----------|
| African Group                      | 470                       | 464                      | -6        |
| Asia Pacific Group                 | 262                       | 262                      | -         |
| Eastern European Group             | 65                        | 67                       | 2         |
| Latin American and Caribbean Group | 136                       | 136                      | -         |
| Stateless                          | 1                         | 1                        | -         |
| United States of America           | 40                        | 38                       | -2        |
| Western European and Others Group  | 427                       | 428                      | 1         |
| <b>Total</b>                       | <b>1401</b>               | <b>1396</b>              | <b>-5</b> |

| UNEP regional representation of staff – Professional level |                              |          |           |           |            |            |            |            |                |                 |           |
|------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|----------|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------|
| Regional Distribution                                      | Professional level and above |          |           |           |            |            |            |            | Total Mar 2025 | Total June 2025 | Variation |
|                                                            | USG                          | ASG      | D2        | D1        | P5         | P4         | P3         | P2         |                |                 |           |
| African Group                                              |                              | 1        | 3         | 4         | 30         | 53         | 53         | 18         | 166            | 162             | -4        |
| Asia Pacific Group                                         |                              | 1        | 4         | 12        | 20         | 56         | 60         | 35         | 187            | 188             | 1         |
| Eastern European Group                                     |                              |          |           | 4         | 11         | 15         | 14         | 10         | 52             | 54              | 2         |
| Latin American & Caribbean Group                           |                              |          | 2         | 5         | 17         | 24         | 32         | 9          | 89             | 89              | 0         |
| Stateless                                                  |                              |          |           |           |            |            |            | 1          | 1              | 1               | 0         |
| United States of America                                   |                              |          |           | 7         | 5          | 11         | 11         | 1          | 37             | 35              | -2        |
| Western European & Others Group                            | 1                            | 1        | 2         | 16        | 39         | 120        | 91         | 44         | 316            | 314             | -2        |
| <b>Total</b>                                               | <b>1</b>                     | <b>3</b> | <b>11</b> | <b>48</b> | <b>122</b> | <b>279</b> | <b>261</b> | <b>118</b> | <b>848</b>     | <b>843</b>      | <b>-5</b> |

**c. Data overview for P5 level and above by the UNEP Secretariat and MEAs by region.**

| Region                          | P5 and above in UNEP Secretariat | P5 and above in MEAs | Total UNEP |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|------------|
| Africa Group                    | 27                               | 11                   | 38         |
| Asia Pacific Group              | 26                               | 11                   | 37         |
| Eastern European Group          | 12                               | 3                    | 15         |
| Latin American Caribbean Group  | 18                               | 6                    | 24         |
| United States of America        | 8                                | 4                    | 12         |
| Western European & Others Group | 52                               | 7                    | 59         |

**iv. Funding of staff positions**

UNEP's staffing structure as of 30 June 2025 demonstrates a strategic approach to resource management and operational efficiency, with 1,396 staff members funded through four main sources: the Environment Fund, Earmarked Contributions, Programme Support Costs (PSC), and the Regular Budget. This funding distribution emphasizes UNEP's ability to balance flexibility with targeted resource allocation to deliver its mandate effectively.

The Environment Fund, UNEP's core flexible resource, supports the 29% of staff members, ensuring essential operational capacity. Earmarked Contributions, fund 55% of staff members, and provide targeted funding for specific projects and programmes. This demonstrates UNEP's success in mobilizing donor-restricted resources. The PSC mechanism funds 10% of staff members, while the Regular Budget supports 6% of staff members.

A closer look shows that the UNEP Secretariat employs 1,100 staff (79% of UNEP's total workforce), while Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) account for 296 staff (21%).

**v. UNEP talent management strategy**

UNEP is committed to implementing the four-point plan outlined in UNEA Resolution UNEP/EA.5/Res.13, with a clear focus on high performance, operational efficiency, and global representation. In the second quarter of 2025, UNEP staff represented 132 countries. UNEP continually monitors the geographic diversity of its workforce, most of the new selections at the Professional and above levels in this quarter were from the Latin America and the Caribbean (GRULAC), followed by the Asia-Pacific Group (APG), the Eastern European Group, the Western European and Others Group (WEOG) and Africa Group (AFG) and the United States of America, respectively.

In the second quarter, UNEP conducted six outreach activities, engaging over 2,600 participants. There were five outreach events conducted online and one in-person event. The in-person event was conducted at the invitation of a Member State represented by colleagues located at the duty station. This reflects UNEP's collaborative approach to outreach, engaging the support of Member States and their knowledge, resources and networks.

To ensure high performance and operational efficiency among its staff, UNEP continued to design and implement learning programs that equip leaders with the skills and resources needed to enhance creativity and innovation in their leadership roles. As part of this initiative, a blended learning program titled "Mitigating the Impact of Unconscious Bias on Creativity and Innovation" was delivered to UNEP managers at the P4 level and above.

**C. Audits**

**i. United Nations Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS)**

**a. Completed audits**

OIOS completed its audit on the Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) and recommended that the IPBES secretariat, in collaboration with UNEP, develop a plan to implement the Enterprise Risk Management and Internal Control Policy. UNEP should also provide guidance to the IPBES secretariat on the process for receiving and clearing the draft budget before submission to the Plenary for approval.

## b. Implemented audits

The following audits are now considered closed, with the implementation of all associated recommendations being completed:

1. Audit of UNEP Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD),
2. Audit of the UNEP Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions (BRS),
3. Audit of the Delegation of Authority at UNEP,
4. Audit of projects in the Industry and Economy Division of the United Nations Environment Programme (IED).

## b. Completed Independent Terminal Evaluations (TE)

| Project Title                                                                                                                                                                     | Performance Rating      | No. Rec's | Report Link                                                                                                       |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| UNEP-GEF Project "Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme for the protection of the Western Indian Ocean from land-based sources and activities (WIO-SAP)" (GEF ID 4940) | Satisfactory            | 3         | <a href="https://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/47407">https://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/47407</a> |
| UNEP Project 'Strengthening Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) for initiating clean-up from oil contamination in Ogoniland' (PIMS ID 2030/SMA ID 39243)           | Satisfactory            | 10        | <a href="https://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/47644">https://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/47644</a> |
| UNEP-GEF Project 'Strengthening the capacity of institutions in Zimbabwe to conform to the transparency requirements of the Paris Agreement' (GEF ID 10429)                       | Satisfactory            | 5         | <a href="https://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/47805">https://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/47805</a> |
| UNEP-GEF Project "Promoting Protected Areas Management through Integrated Marine and Coastal Ecosystems Protection in Coastal Area of Montenegro" (GEF ID 9762)                   | Moderately Satisfactory | 5         | <a href="https://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/47953">https://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/47953</a> |
| UNEP Project Generating and Sharing Knowledge for Influencing Decision-making on Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste (PIMS: 2029)                                             | Satisfactory            | 7         | <a href="https://wedocs.unep.org/20.500.11822/47998">https://wedocs.unep.org/20.500.11822/47998</a>               |

## D. Evaluations

### i. UNEP evaluations

- a. During the reporting period four independent project evaluations were completed, seven of which were management-led project Terminal Reviews that were independently validated by the Evaluation Office, two strategic evaluations of the Chemicals & Pollution Action and Nature Action Subprogrammes are ongoing. Meanwhile, 25 project evaluations are currently ongoing. A further five project evaluations are in the stage of hiring consultants.

### c. Evaluation Office Validations of Management-led Terminal Reviews (MLTR)

| Project Title                                                                                                                                                                      | Performance Rating      | No. Rec's | Report Link                                                                                                       |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| UNEP Project 'Sharing Experience and Knowledge for a Sustainable Belt and Road' (PIMS ID 1993)                                                                                     | Moderately Satisfactory | 3         | <a href="https://wedocs.unep.org/20.500.11822/47860">https://wedocs.unep.org/20.500.11822/47860</a>               |
| UNEP Project 'Environmental Treaties Programme – Realizing Synergies for Biodiversity' (PIMS ID 1988)                                                                              | Satisfactory            | 11        | <a href="https://wedocs.unep.org/20.500.11822/47408">https://wedocs.unep.org/20.500.11822/47408</a>               |
| UNEP-GEF Project 'Solar Water Heater Market Development and Energy Efficiency Project' (GEF ID 5287)                                                                               | Satisfactory            | 4         | <a href="https://wedocs.unep.org/20.500.11822/47402">https://wedocs.unep.org/20.500.11822/47402</a>               |
| UNEP-GEF Project 'Capacity Building for Peru's Transparency System for Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation' (GEF ID 9872)                                                     | Moderately Satisfactory | 4         | <a href="https://wedocs.unep.org/20.500.11822/47401">https://wedocs.unep.org/20.500.11822/47401</a>               |
| UNEP-GEF Project 'Ratification and Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol in the countries of the Pacific' (GEF ID 5634)                                                            | Moderately Satisfactory | 7         | <a href="https://wedocs.unep.org/20.500.11822/47634">https://wedocs.unep.org/20.500.11822/47634</a>               |
| UNEP-GEF Project 'Building and strengthening Sierra Leone's national capacity to implement the transparency elements of the Paris Agreement' (GEF ID 10027)                        | Satisfactory            | 5         | <a href="https://wedocs.unep.org/20.500.11822/47679">https://wedocs.unep.org/20.500.11822/47679</a>               |
| UNEP-GEF Project 'Mainstreaming agricultural biodiversity conservation and utilization in agricultural sector to ensure ecosystem services and reduce vulnerability' (GEF ID 5137) | Highly Satisfactory     | 2         | <a href="https://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/48041">https://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/48041</a> |

### d. Opportunities, challenges, lessons learned, and actions taken

#### a. Audits:

UNEP continues to strengthen its operational effectiveness through the systematic implementation of audit recommendations. Notably, the organization is expanding its Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) training and support to empower Risk Focal Points across UNEP and all UNEP-administered Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs). This initiative aims to support the establishment of tailored risk registers and the development of risk response plans in alignment with United Nations standards. A key milestone was achieved in June with the successful delivery of the first ERM workshop for the Secretariat of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS). The Ozone Secretariat is on track to finalize its risk register by August, while scheduling for the remaining MEAs is currently underway.

In parallel, the rollout of the Integrated Planning, Management and Reporting (IPMR) system has significantly improved project oversight and strategic planning. Additionally, operational efficiency has been

further enhanced through strengthened coordination with the United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON), contributing to more streamlined and responsive support services.

#### b. Evaluation:

An interesting evaluation of this reporting period is that of UNEP's technical support to the Project 'Strengthening Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) (#2, above). The context was challenging from a security perspective and environmental remediation is a complex, potentially sensitive, topic. The Evaluation Office carefully selected the evaluation team ensuring both technical and country expertise, ensured substantial field visits were undertaken and emphasised the need to assess, through sound evaluative methods, whether the project had any unexpected adverse effects.

In addition to performing well at the output level, the project demonstrated a substantive contribution to HYPREP's capacity to apply existing scientific oil pollution remediation methods to implement the clean-up operations. The needs of vulnerable communities in Ogoniland were also addressed through the project.



# QUARTERLY REPORT

to the **171<sup>st</sup>** Meeting of the

COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES

United Nations Avenue, Gigiri  
PO Box 30552, Nairobi 00100, Kenya

e-mail: [UNEP-PolicyProgramme-PMR@un.org](mailto:UNEP-PolicyProgramme-PMR@un.org)