



Quarterly Report
to the 173rd Meeting of the
Committee of Permanent Representatives
(1 October – 31 December 2025)

ADVANCE UNEDITED VERSION

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INTRODUCTION

This report provides the Committee of Permanent Representatives to the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) with an overview of global, regional, and national developments during the fourth quarter of 2025. As the concluding quarterly update under UNEP's Medium-Term Strategy (2022-2025) and Programme of Work for 2024-2025, it reflects UNEP's sustained commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Report highlights the essential alignment between programmatic delivery and the ongoing implementation of resolutions adopted by the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA).

The report covers the period (1 October to 31 December 2025) and is organised 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, biodiversity and nature loss, and pollution and waste.

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 subprogrammes (Digital transformations, Finance and economic transformations), 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

AMCEN	African Ministerial Conference on the Environment
APAN	Asia Pacific Adaptation Network
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
BoA	Board of Auditors
BRS	Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm Conventions
BTR	Biennial Transparency Report
CAMRE	Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment
CCAC	Climate and Clean Air Coalition
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species
COP	Conference of the Parties
CPR	Committee of Permanent Representatives
EbA	Ecosystem-based Adaptation
ESG	Environmental, Social and Governance
ESSF	Environmental and Social Safeguards Framework
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FCAS	Fragile and Conflict-Affected States
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GEDSGEDs	Global Environmental Data Strategy
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GEO	Global Environment Outlook
GEO-7	Global Environment Outlook 7
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
HFC	Hydrofluorocarbon
HLCP	High-level Committee on Programmes
ICBC	Intergovernmental Council for Buildings and Climate
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMEO	International Methane Emissions Observatory
IPMR	Integrated Programme Management and Reporting
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
JIU	Joint Inspection Unit
KM-GBF	Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework
MEA	Multilateral Environmental Agreement
MRV	Monitoring, Reporting and Verification
MTS	Medium-Term Strategy
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
NCD	Non-Communicable Disease
NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution
NZAOA	Net-Zero Asset Owner Alliance
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OECPR	Open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives
OIOS	Office of Internal Oversight Services
PAGE	Partnership for Action on Green Economy
POPs	Persistent Organic Pollutants
PoW	Programme of Work
PRB	Principles for Responsible Banking
PSI	Principles for Sustainable Insurance

REDD+	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
ROPME	Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SPP	Sustainable Public Procurement
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEA	United Nations Environment Assembly
UNEA-7	United Nations Environment Assembly, Seventh Session
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNEP FI	United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNGA	United Nations General Assembly
VISC	Voluntary Insurance Sustainability Commitment
WESR	World Environment Situation Room
WHO	World Health Organization
WWF	World Wildlife Fund for Nature

1 Significant Developments

A. Global Developments

80th Session of the United Nations General Assembly

During the opening weeks of the 80th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), UNEP actively engaged in the consideration of environment and sustainable development issues under agenda item 18, “Sustainable Development”. Within the Second Committee, UNEP provided substantive Secretariat support for the resolution on strengthening cooperation for Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM). Furthermore, UNEP collaborated with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) to provide Secretariat support for the resolution on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP), building on the foundations of Agenda 21. These efforts contributed to the negotiation and adoption of a large number of resolutions addressing the environmental agenda, including biodiversity, climate change, and disaster risk reduction.

UNEP’s active participation in the (25 September 2025) high-level meeting was instrumental in the UNGA’s adoption of the political declaration on non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and mental health. Titled [“Equity and integration: transforming lives and livelihoods through leadership and action on noncommunicable diseases and the promotion of mental health and well-being,”](#) the resolution formally integrates World Health Organization (WHO) air quality guidelines and climate-related considerations while recognising the critical role of environmental determinants of health. By championing these priorities, UNEP successfully secured a stronger emphasis on the health impacts of chemicals and pollution within the declaration. This outcome directly reinforces the relevance of integrating environmental and health approaches as a core component of global policy.

High-Level Committee on Programmes (HLCP) Fiftieth Session

Under the leadership of the UNEP Executive Director as Chair, the HLCP held its fiftieth session on (2–3 October 2025) in Vienna. UNEP facilitated the approval of deepened United Nations (UN) system programmatic collaboration, including the adoption of a common approach to prevent and address transnational organized crime and common messages on policy responses to demographic changes. Additionally, UNEP led reflections on employing the HLCP to deliver tangible impact and maximise the group’s relevance in light of the UN80 initiative. All reports of HLCP are available at: <https://unsceb.org/>

UN80 Initiative

UNEP provided strong support to the UN80 Initiative, aimed at improving the UN’s efficiency and responsiveness to global challenges. This included UNEP contributing to the discovery phase of the mandate review implementation and sharing the experience from the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA) regarding the provision of technical notes by the secretariat in support of negotiations as well as monitoring of the implementation of resolutions. Significantly, UNEP and the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) were designated as the lead entities responsible for conducting an assessment of current arrangements and proposing structural changes and programme realignments on environmental issues across the UN system further to the Secretary-General’s observation that “environmental responsibilities are dispersed across UN entities” (paragraph 47 of the report [Shifting Paradigms: United to Deliver](#)).

UN Task Force on Critical Energy Transition Minerals (CETM)

On (10 December 2025), UNEP, represented by the Executive Director, co-launched the [UN Task Force on Critical Energy Transition Minerals](#) during a press event on the sidelines of UNEA-7 in Nairobi. Working alongside the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the Executive Office of the Secretary-General, UNEP is steering this Task Force to support global coordination, knowledge development, and capacity building aligned with the Secretary-General's guiding principles for critical energy transition minerals.

The seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-7)

UNEP hosted and facilitated the seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-7) at its headquarters in Nairobi from (8 to 12 December 2025). Centred on the theme “Advancing sustainable solutions for a resilient planet”, the Assembly adopted [11 resolutions](#), 8 decisions, and a [Ministerial Declaration](#). Through this declaration, Member States committed to:

- Driving sustainable solutions to address contemporary global environmental challenges.
- Implementing obligations under multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and other international frameworks with collective resolve.
- Advancing equity and inclusive participation while ensuring accessible means of implementation for all generations.
- Promoting coherent international environmental governance in strict adherence to international law.

For the second time, the Assembly held a session on “Cooperation with multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs)” (10 December 2025) which championed integrated solutions and collective action while celebrating successful environmental initiatives.

Between 10 and 12 December 2025, UNEP facilitated a comprehensive series of sessions, comprising of three leadership dialogues on the intersections of environment with health, industry, and finance, and two high-level dialogues focused on the implementation of MEAs and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). The programme also featured a UNEP-coordinated multistakeholder dialogue on inclusive partnerships. Furthermore, the organization hosted specialised fora for youth and major groups, involving over 1,800 combined participants, to ensure that diverse perspectives informed the Assembly’s outcomes.

Participant Statistics

Category	Details
Total Attendance	4,971 participants representing 178 nationalities
High-level Officials	2 Heads of State or Government and 76 ministers and vice ministers
Institutional Representatives	1,136 UN representatives and 12 MEA Secretariats
Stakeholders	1,198 representatives from major groups

Gender Distribution	48% female and 52% male
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UNEP Leadership in Major Groups and Stakeholders (MGS) Engagement

UNEP served as the central platform for inclusive environmental governance, managing a series of high-level engagements and formal processes. The organization facilitated the 10th meeting of the Group of Friends (7 October 2025) to coordinate stakeholder involvement and oversaw global consultations (22 and 23 October 2025) to align civil society priorities in advance of UNEA-7. UNEP's commitment to diverse representation was further evidenced by its convening of the 3rd Global Youth Environment Assembly (29 and 30 November and 7 December 2025) and the 21st Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum (6 and 7 December 2025).

During the session itself, UNEP held hybrid “Green Room” side events and dedicated dialogues with the Executive Director and the UNEA-7 President. UNEP also convened specialised sessions, such as the dialogue on the role of Indigenous Peoples (8 December 2025) and a high-level multistakeholder dialogue under the theme “Resilience through inclusive partnerships: Catalysing solutions across sectors” (11 December 2025). Furthermore, UNEP continued to expand its global network by processing the accreditation of seven new organizations, bringing the total number of accredited organizations to 1,322 (as of 30 November 2025). The [full list of accredited organizations](#) is maintained online.

Data in Sight: Scaling Global SDG Monitoring with Big Earth Data

UNEP reinforces its role as the global authority in scientific monitoring through the international adoption of its robust, science-based methodologies. At the World Science and Technology Development Forum (27 October 2025), the International Research Centre of Big Data for Sustainable Development Goals (CBAS) launched the [Global-Scale Sustainable Development Scientific Monitoring Report: A Decade of Progress through the Lens of Big Earth Data](#). This report specifically utilises the methodology developed for the UNEP Measuring Progress series, demonstrating UNEP's leadership in setting the standards for evidence-based decision making across environmental and socio-economic domains.

UNEP drives the environmental dimension of Agenda 2030 by providing the harmonised analytical frameworks necessary to track SDG progress. By applying UNEP's established monitoring standards, the latest scientific reporting strengthens the global ability to translate complex data into comparable, policy-relevant insights. Through these methodological contributions, UNEP affirms its central role in supporting countries with the data-driven tools required to inform effective action and monitor progress over time.

Strengthening the 2030 Agenda through UNEP's role as custodian for SDG indicators

At the [sixteenth meeting of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators \(IAEG-SDGs\)](#) (5–7 November 2025), UNEP utilised its expertise in methodology development and capacity building to ensure data comparability across the 2030 Agenda. By driving the development of robust monitoring frameworks, UNEP provides the essential technical foundation required for Member States to track and report on environmental progress effectively.

UNEP champions policy coherence and technical innovation to streamline international reporting frameworks. During the meeting, UNEP achieved a significant milestone by harmonising distinct reporting tools into a single UNEP/OECD questionnaire for SDG Indicator 17.14.1. Furthermore, UNEP advanced the global data architecture by defining new data and metadata structures for the [Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange \(SDMX-SDG\)](#),

reinforcing its role in facilitating efficient and transparent information sharing across the UN system.

GEO-7

UNEP launched the seventh edition of [the Global Environment Outlook \(GEO-7\)](#) (9 December 2025) during UNEA-7. The Assembly formally recognised this achievement through its Ministerial Declaration, which expressed appreciation for the report's scientific contributions. The launch garnered extensive international attention, resulting in 1,273 articles across 83 countries and 33 languages within the first month of its release.

Strengthening Regional Governance: UNEP's Role in African Biodiversity and Climate Finance

UNEP supported the convening of African biodiversity consultations in Naivasha, Kenya (28–30 October 2025) and facilitated the first African Biodiversity Summit in Gaborone, Botswana (2–5 November 2025). These sessions expedited the adoption of the Gaborone Declaration, which reaffirms regional commitment to the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the African Union's Agenda 2063. Through UNEP's technical guidance, the Summit called for an African Biodiversity Fund, urging countries to allocate at least 1% of GDP towards biodiversity. These actions provide critical momentum for Africa's Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (2023–2030) and the Maputo Convention.

46th Session of the Committee of the Chief Statisticians of the United Nations System (CCS-UN)

UNEP drove the environmental data agenda at the 46th session of the Committee of the Chief Statisticians of the United Nations System (CCS-UN) meeting and the 46th Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (CCSA) session (1–3 October 2025) in Luxembourg. These were attended by UN entities like UNSD, UNCTAD, UNICEF, FAO, and others including the World Bank and OECD, to advance coherent UN statistical actions on data governance, AI-readiness, SDG lessons, Statistical Commission reporting, and UN80 impacts.

Roadmap Report for UN High-Level Committee on Programmes (HLCP)

UNEP, alongside UNCTAD, UNIDO, UNDP, and ITU, acted as a key technical contributor to the [roadmap report for the HLCP](#), ensuring that emerging standards incorporate environmental dimensions. Through these interventions, UNEP is actively shaping the "[Beyond GDP](#)" and "[UN 2.0 Quintet of Change](#)" initiatives by providing the statistical foundations required for a digital-age response to the three planetary environmental crisis.

UNEP Publications

UNEP, as at January 2026, released 27 publications between 1 October and 31 December 2025 that were approved by the Publications Board, and approved a further 43 publication concepts for release during the 2025–2026 period. A comprehensive listing of released publications and approved concepts is available [here](#).

B. Regional Developments

i. Africa

Strengthening Regional Governance: UNEP's Role in African Biodiversity and Climate Finance

Building on this momentum, UNEP hosted a [high-level ministerial breakfast during UNEA-7](#) (11 December 2025), leveraging milestones from the G20 and the 30th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP30) to prioritise financing for climate and biodiversity action. Ministers pledged to champion land restoration, while a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was unveiled between UNEP and the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) to reinforce the region's leadership in environmental sustainability.

ii. Asia and the Pacific

UNEP Digital Foresight Platform

UNEP piloted efforts to integrate anticipatory science into regional policy through the Asia-Pacific Regional Consultation for its Digital Foresight Platform in Bangkok, Thailand (24 November 2025). As the lead facilitator and substantive designer, UNEP delivered the context-setting frameworks and co-design sessions necessary to refine the platform's prototype. By convening a diverse range of UN Resident Coordinators (Thailand, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and Myanmar) and experts from the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), and the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), UNEP ensured that the tool meets complex cross-sectoral needs, from human rights to economic transformation. This resulted in formal interest from UN Country Teams (UNCTs) and the ILO to partner with UNEP, while providing the organization with critical technical insights into data architecture and visualisation.

UNEP Scales Regional Partnerships for Global Environmental Leadership

UNEP accelerated environmental action in Asia by strengthening strategic partnerships with China and Japan at the [seventh Japan–UNEP Policy Dialogue](#) (14 October 2025) in Tokyo, Japan. UNEP led high-level discussions to advance regional cooperation and strengthen synergies among UNEA resolutions. Through these strategic engagements, UNEP prioritised the establishment of the Intergovernmental Science–Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution in Nairobi and the implementation of the [Global Circularity Protocol for Businesses](#).

During the 2025 Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development (CCICED) (15–16 October 2025) in Beijing, China, UNEP convened the fourteenth UNEP–China Consultation to [advance cooperation on biodiversity targets and the reduction of non-carbon dioxide \(non-CO₂\) emissions](#). UNEP further advanced the global environmental rule of law by signing a landmark Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Supreme People's Court of China, while engaging with national leadership to increase the ambition of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) ahead of COP30 to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

iii. Europe

Environmental Assessments and Policy Governance

UNEP strengthened regional environmental governance by delivering actionable policy recommendations for Uzbekistan's [fourth Environmental Performance Review](#) (26–29 November 2025). UNEP finalised Turkmenistan's National State of Environment Report (December 2025) to establish a baseline for SDG monitoring, which is expected to be formally launched at the [2025 United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia \(SPECA\) Economic Forum](#) in January 2026.

UNEP further provided science- and evidence-based insights during the [30th session of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe \(UNECE\) Committee on Environmental Policy \(CEP\)](#) (26–28 November 2025) in Geneva, Switzerland. UNEP leveraged the session as a strategic platform to exchange views on UNEA-7 and coordinate regional environmental commitments.

Regional Pollution and Waste Management

To address systemic environmental risks, UNEP conducted the [first city-level air quality assessment](#) for Termez, Uzbekistan (December 2025) and presented the findings at UNEA-7. In the Western Balkans, UNEP delivered specialised training in Rome, Italy (early October 2025) through the Southeastern European Pollution Platform. UNEP also contributed strategic expertise to the [Zero Waste Forum](#) (18–19 October 2025) in Istanbul, Turkey to promote the global transition towards circular economy practices, emphasising the adoption of zero-waste approaches within the textile sector.

Regional Climate Resilience

UNEP launched the [Western Balkans Climate Proofing Platform](#) (24 October 2025) in Vienna, Austria to establish a regional foundation for climate-resilient decision-making. Supported by the Austrian Development Agency, UNEP designed this platform to serve as a centralised hub for harmonized climate data. Additionally, UNEP launched the [Atlas of Environmental Change for Uzbekistan](#) (25 November 2025) in Tashkent, utilising historical data and satellite technologies to provide a comprehensive assessment of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, streamlining reporting requirements under various Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs).

iv. Latin America and the Caribbean

Regional Workshop on the Implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF)

UNEP convened a regional workshop in Panama City (26–28 November 2025) to advance the analysis of country needs for the implementation of the KM-GBF. The workshop led to the validation of a regional assessment of gaps and opportunities, coordinating inputs from representatives of 18 countries across Latin America and the Caribbean. This process reinforced UNEP's role in fostering technical cooperation with the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAP) Accelerator Partnership and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Technical Support and Regional Partnership

UNEP reinforced regional data governance through its leadership during the 13th Statistical Conference of the Americas (25–27 November 2025) in Santiago, Chile. The [official meeting records](#) detail UNEP's role as the Technical Secretariat for the Working Group on

Environmental Statistics (WGES) and the Working Group on Environmental-Economic Accounting.

The XXIV Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean

UNEP provided comprehensive secretariat services to the XXIV Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean (29 September–2 October 2025) in Lima, Peru. It facilitated the adoption of regional initiatives, including the Regional Cooperation Programme for the Reduction of Methane Emissions from Organic Waste, supported by the UNEP-hosted Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC); the [Action Plan for Regional Cooperation on Chemicals and Waste 2026-2029](#); and the [Regional Action Plan on Air Quality 2026-2029](#).

v. West Asia

UNEP's Strategic Integration of Data and Regional Policy Dialogues

UNEP, in collaboration with the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), delivered a [capacity-building webinar](#) (10 November 2025) for Member States of the Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment (ROPME). This session provided training on data collection for SDG 14.

Finally, UNEP facilitated programmatic briefings during the [36th session of the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for Environmental Affairs \(CAMRE 36\)](#) and the 4th Arab Forum for Environment (AFEN 4) (October 2025) in Nouakchott, Mauritania, helping to shape unified regional positions in multilateral processes.

2 Programme of Work Implementation

A. Climate stability

Brazil's National Climate Plan 2025–2035

UNEP provided technical support for the development of eight sectoral plans and the overall coordination of the mitigation component of Brazil's National Climate Plan 2025–2035. Approved by the Interministerial Committee on Climate Change (15 December 2025) in Brasília, this strategic framework organises the national response to climate change and facilitates the implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC 3.0). UNEP helped to establish clear targets for greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reductions and reinforced the country's capacity to manage extreme weather events based on the principles of climate justice to deliver Brazil's NDC 3.0 (a reduction of 59%–67% in net GHG emissions relative to 2005 levels by 2035).

Aligning financial activities with net-zero objectives

The UNEP Finance Initiative (UNEP FI) developed technical guidance to support the banking sector in aligning financial activities with net-zero objectives. UNEP provided banks with the frameworks necessary to move from initial target setting to full implementation. These resources facilitate an orderly transition to a net-zero economy by standardizing practices across lending, investment, and capital markets. Key publications in this area include: the [Guidance for Climate Target Setting for Banks – Version 4](#) (2 October 2025) and [A Guide to Transition Plans for Banks: The path from targets to implementation](#) (25 November 2025).

Enhancing climate risk management and impact measurement frameworks

UNEP FI strengthened climate risk management by establishing specialised stress testing and impact measurement frameworks. In collaboration with the SAS Institute Inc, UNEP identified methodological improvements to enhance financial stability. Furthermore, UNEP FI facilitated the tracking of adaptation and resilience impacts by delivering a practical toolkit for financial institutions. This work improves the capacity of the finance sector to assess and report on climate-related risks and resilience-building activities. Publications supporting these initiatives included: [Climate Stress Testing Methodologies for Banks: Current Practices, Challenges, and the Road Ahead](#) (15 October 2025) and [Adaptation and Resilience Impact Measurement Toolkit: A practical framework for financial institutions](#) (11 December 2025).

Mobilising Finance and Tracking Portfolio Decarbonization

UNEP FI oversaw the development of strategic reports for the UN-convened Net-Zero Asset Owner Alliance (NZAOA) to mobilise finance and track portfolio decarbonization. By supervising these research outputs, UNEP established recommendations for carbon market strengthening and the integration of climate risk into fiduciary duties. The 2025 progress reporting showed that asset owners have invested over US\$ 743 billion in climate solutions, reflecting a 6% reduction in portfolio emissions. Publications delivered included: [How to Get to the Net? A discussion paper on carbon dioxide removal](#) (15 October 2025) and [Addressing Climate Impacts: An overview of NZAOA asset owners' long-term interests and responsibilities](#) (15 November 2025).

Strategic Policy Guidance from the 2025 Gap Reports

UNEP galvanised global climate accountability by delivering the [Emissions Gap Report 2025: Off Target](#) (4 November 2025) and the [Adaptation Gap Report 2025: Running on Empty](#) (29 October 2025) to track progress toward the Paris Agreement. Through these authoritative assessments, UNEP alerted the international community that current policies put the planet on a dangerous 2.8°C warming trajectory, necessitating a rapid increase in the ambition of NDCs. By identifying an urgent adaptation finance requirement of USD 310 billion per year by 2035, UNEP supported developing countries in bridging the implementation gap. With significant global attention and media coverage, these reports have become the main scientific reference for international climate action and the environmental priorities of the 2030 Agenda.

Buildings and Cooling Pavilion through the Cool Coalition at COP30

UNEP co-hosted the Buildings and Cooling Pavilion through the Cool Coalition at COP30 to showcase innovative solutions and advance stakeholder ambition. The [2025 Global Cooling Watch Report](#) (11 November 2025) proposed a ‘Sustainable Cooling Pathway’ capable of reducing emissions by 97% when coupled with power decarbonization, in response to a finding that cooling demand could more than triple by 2050. To operationalise this pathway, UNEP and partners launched the [Beat the Heat Implementation Drive](#) to mobilise cities and finance for nature-based cooling solutions. This initiative secured commitments from over 180 cities and 72 countries to integrate cooling into adaptation frameworks, effectively reducing heat risks for 3 billion people. To solidify the political commitment, UNEP convened [the second Ministerial Dialogue on the Global Cooling Pledge](#) (18 November 2025), facilitating the establishment of an Intergovernmental Committee on Cooling and reaffirming targets to cut cooling emissions by 68% by 2050.

Advancing Sustainable Construction: The Intergovernmental Council for Buildings and Climate (ICBC) Ministerial

UNEP and the Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction (GlobalABC) convened the first ministerial meeting of the Intergovernmental Council for Buildings and Climate (ICBC) (11 November 2025) in Belém, Brazil. UNEP engaged over 60 members and observers to accelerate the transition toward a sustainable built environment, resulting in the endorsement of the [ICBC Belém Call for Action on Sustainable and Affordable Housing](#). Under UNEP’s leadership, the council delivered new technical guidance on [sustainable procurement](#), [timber use](#) and [energy efficiency](#).

Progress in Methane and Super Pollutant Action

Momentum in the fight against super pollutants accelerated with the publication of the International Methane Emissions Observatory’s (IMEO) annual report, [An Eye on Methane 2025 \(22 October 2025\)](#), where UNEP highlighted the critical transition from measurement to active abatement. At COP30, UNEP further advanced this agenda by launching the Super Pollutant Country Action Accelerator to fast-track methane and hydrofluorocarbon (HFC) abatement across 30 developing nations by 2030 and commitments under the Fossil Fuel Methane Statement. Complementing these efforts, technical insights from the [Global Methane Status Report](#) (17 November 2025) established that only full-scale implementation of proven control measures will bridge the gap to the [Global Methane Pledge’s](#) target (a 30% cut from 2020 levels by 2030).

UNEP Financing Forests

Addressing the nature investment gap, the inaugural [State of Finance for Forests](#) report warned that annual investments must triple by 2030 to realise the forestry sector's full potential. Leadership continued at COP30 as the UNEP-hosted UN-REDD Secretariat unveiled a new coalition, Scaling Jurisdictional-REDD+, to boost enabling environments, finance, and demand for high-integrity carbon credits. UNEP also organized a carbon markets event, convening over 200 participants at the UNEA-7 to align these market trends with global environmental governance.

New Global Environment Facility (GEF) funding for Biennial Transparency Reports (BTRs)

A significant milestone in climate accountability was realised with UNEP securing USD 34.6 million from GEF (17 December 2025) to facilitate BTRs for 25 countries. By leading this global project, UNEP ensures that Member States develop the necessary capacity to deliver 50 reports under the Paris Agreement, thereby strengthening long-term climate governance.

Paris Agreement Transparency and Article 6 Readiness in West Asia

In West Asia, UNEP strengthened national reporting and market readiness through targeted technical workshops in Qatar (5–6 October 2025) and Kuwait (15–16 October 2025). Co-organised with the UNEP Copenhagen Climate Centre and UNEP Regional Office for West Asia, these dialogues were designed to accelerate readiness for Article 6 mechanisms and the Enhanced Transparency Framework. These actions ensure that regional roadmaps are technically sound and that Member States are prepared to submit their first BTRs.

Restoration Factory Incubation Cycles

Green entrepreneurial solutions for nature gained ground as UNEP concluded Restoration Factory incubation cycles in Brazil, Rwanda, and Bangladesh (October to December 2025). Through strategic co-implementation, UNEP mentored 110 restoration ventures, fostering gender-responsive innovation and green entrepreneurship ecosystems.

Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) for Coastal Resilience

UNEP advanced regional climate resilience by launching a USD 54 million Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) project to provide technical leadership and capacity building for a sustainable blue economy in Moroni, the Comoros (11 December 2025). The following targets define the expected impact of this project across ecological and socio-economic dimensions:

- Restoration of 6,200 hectares of vital coastal ecosystems to mitigate climate risks (SDG 14).
- Training for 10,000 community members in adaptation techniques and technical leadership (SDG 13).
- Support for 300 micro, small and medium enterprises to foster blue economy growth (SDG 8).

Strategic Facilitation: Asia-Pacific Adaptation Network (APAN) Forum and E-Mobility Forums in Africa and Latin America

UNEP enhanced global environmental cooperation by facilitating a series of high-level forums across the Asia-Pacific, Africa, and Latin America during late 2025. In Bangkok, UNEP convened 700 participants for the ninth APAN Forum (29 September–3 October 2025) to strengthen the integration of climate resilience into national planning. The forum advanced a shared understanding of transformational adaptation with the theme “Resilience for all: catalysing transformational adaptation,” moving beyond incremental changes toward deep systemic shifts that integrate science, local wisdom, and youth leadership into national planning. This momentum extended to E-Mobility Forums in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (14–16 October 2025) and Santiago, Chile (4–7 November 2025), where UNEP provided strategic policy guidance to 350 delegates. By harmonising investment strategies across 33 countries, these forums accelerated regional collaboration on sustainable transport technology and climate adaptation.

Deliver-E Coalition and Electric Mobility

Industry-led decarbonisation of urban logistics advanced further with UNEP assuming the Secretariat role for the newly launched [Deliver-E Coalition](#) (14 October 2025). In this capacity, the organization provides the essential research, coordination, and governance support required to accelerate zero-emission two- and three-wheeler deliveries across 96 countries.

At the national level, this commitment to sustainable transport was mirrored as UNEP deployed a USD 2 million GEF-funded project in Madagascar (7 December 2025) to provide the policy frameworks and technical assistance necessary to improve air quality through electric mobility.

Net-Zero Nature-Positive Accelerator Integrated Programme

UNEP initiated the groundwork for systemic transformation in 12 countries through the launch of the USD 100 million [Net-Zero Nature-Positive Accelerator Integrated Programme](#) (16 October 2025). Leading the implementation alongside partners like the Development Bank of Latin America (CAF) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the organization coordinates a global platform to align climate and biodiversity goals. This integrated approach ensures that national projects deliver cross-sectoral resilience by mainstreaming nature-based solutions into climate mitigation.

2025 Champions of the Earth: Mobilising Global Climate Action

In its 20th year, UNEP's [2025 Champions of the Earth](#) award was unveiled during UNEA-7 (10 December 2025). The award recognises five climate trailblazers addressing critical technical and social barriers to the Paris Agreement, including climate justice, methane emissions, sustainable cooling, resilient buildings, and forest conservation.

To translate this recognition into tangible impact, UNEP launched a global advocacy campaign designed to mainstream these innovations into national climate strategies. Through in-depth technical features, multilingual social media outreach, and a dedicated exhibition at UNEA-7, the rollout plan provides a continuous evidence base for climate action throughout 2026. This strategic rollout ensures that the Champions' expertise informs global policymaking and inspires cross-sectoral investment in nature-positive and net-zero pathways.

B. Living in harmony with nature

Standardizing Nature-Related Risk Management in Banking and Insurance

UNEP FI advanced the integration of biodiversity into the financial sector by delivering technical guidance and practical assessment tools for banks and insurers. This effort focuses on removing barriers to nature-positive finance by providing a structured methodology for the private sector to identify, assess, and manage their environmental dependencies.

The following publications establish the technical framework for this transition:

- [Client Engagement on Nature: Prototype Tool](#) (2 October 2025): A UNEP Finance Initiative (UNEP FI) led initiative that refines how banks assess client-related environmental risks. By providing a structured approach for nature-related inquiries, the tool supports the alignment of global financial flows with international biodiversity objectives.
- [Breaking Ground: Getting practical with nature-related assessments for insurers](#) (15 October 2025): Delivered by the Principles for Sustainable Insurance (PSI) Working Group for Nature, this report offers early insights and examples for applying the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD) LEAP approach—Locate, Evaluate, Assess and Prepare—specifically for the insurance industry.

To ensure broad adoption of these methodologies, UNEP FI convened the "Nature Uncovered for Insurers" webinar (11 November 2025), which outlined approaches for assessing nature-related dependencies, impacts, risks and opportunities across both non-life and life & health lines of business.

Accelerating the Implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF)

UNEP spearheaded the regional transition toward the KM-GBF by co-convening [a high-level implementation workshop](#) (7–9 October 2025) in Bangkok, Thailand. This provided the technical leadership to identify regional priorities, specifically targeting policy coherence, cross-sectoral integration, and the advancement of robust monitoring data systems. Through this facilitation, with financial support from China and the GEF, UNEP delivered strategic recommendations to align the KM-GBF with other related MEAs, ensuring that regional cooperation and knowledge exchange drive synergistic progress. To address subregional needs, UNEP further supported a specialized session for Pacific Island countries to pinpoint priority areas for future programming and resource mobilisation.

The Second One Health Workshop for Asia

Furthering the integration of environmental and human health, UNEP co-convened the second Quadripartite One Health Workshop for Asia (25–27 November 2025) in Bangkok, Thailand. UNEP, as a leading partner of the Quadripartite—consisting of UNEP, FAO, WHO and the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH)—drove the inclusion of environmental dimensions into national strategies while overseeing the continued alignment of the One Health Joint Plan of Action (OH JPA). These programmatic actions directly strengthened regional collaboration, resulting in enhanced coordination across human, animal, plant, and environmental health sectors. The technical dialogues ensured that UNEP successfully harmonised partner support to scale up national actions and maximise the collective impact of integrated health and environmental governance.

UN World Restoration Flagships

UNEP and the FAO expanded the global ecosystem healing agenda by announcing four new [World Restoration Flagships \(15 October 2025\)](#) during a high-level announcement in Rome, Italy. These new flagships range from rangeland revitalization in Jordan to post-fire resilience of forests and bamboo-based restoration across Africa and Asia, serving as UNEP's primary means of demonstrating how landscape restoration can support the SDGs.

Collaborative conservation in the Wider Caribbean Region

UNEP facilitated [the third meeting of the Marine Protected Area \(MPA\) Networks](#) (28 October 2025) in Cartagena, Colombia. At this meeting, MPA managers and regional representatives received guidance on the identification of priority areas for alignment, specifically focusing on sustainable funding mechanisms and management strategies for marine and coastal protection.

Open access learning for Disaster and Climate Resilience

UNEP concluded its highly successful global online learning initiative on Nature-based Solutions (NbS) for Disaster and Climate Resilience (October 2025), integrating policy-relevant science into the international narrative. Available in seven languages, the [Massive Open Online Course \(MOOC\)](#) provided essential applications to a global audience, reinforcing UNEP's leading role in environmental education. Leveraging these accessible tools for risk reduction, UNEP has effectively empowered a diverse global community of over 100,000 learners to apply nature-based methodologies to urgent climate and disaster challenges.

Advancing Global Marine Monitoring through the State of Marine and Coastal Environment

UNEP modernised global marine monitoring by [launching a standardised indicator framework](#) (5 November 2025) in Bangkok to ensure coherent environmental assessments across the Regional Seas Conventions. By adopting 22 new common indicators, UNEP established a unified, evidence-based mechanism for regional reporting and decision-making. This technical leadership extended into the high seas as UNEP secured GEF approval for a second Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) enabling project (14 November 2025), targeting 14 additional countries to facilitate the treaty's early entry into force. Through these dual initiatives, the organization provides the essential governance platforms and scientific benchmarks required to protect marine biological diversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction.

Sustainable Water Governance and Risk Management

UNEP catalysed sustainable water governance in Brazil by deploying the [Sustainable Watershed Management Project](#) (13 November 2025) in Barra do Garças. Strategic facilitation by the organization in Barra do Garças enabled an integrated, participatory approach that directly aligns local conservation with international environmental commitments. Alongside these efforts, UNEP convened global experts in Nairobi (19 November 2025) to mainstream "Sponge Cities" as a transformative solution for urban disaster risk reduction. This technical groundwork for water-responsive urbanism drives a systemic shift in how municipalities manage climate-related water risks.

Accelerating Progress Toward Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) Targets

UNEP actively supports all 38 fragile and conflict-affected states (FCAS) with 157 projects totalling a \$403 million budget, comprising 23.5% of its total project portfolio. Strategic investment has been pronounced in the context of nature and land action with a 47% allocation to address environmental drivers of instability, with major, high-priority interventions in countries including the Democratic Republic of Congo, Timor Leste, Cameroon, South Sudan, Nigeria, Zimbabwe, Comoros, Central African Republic, and Sudan.

During the reporting period, UNEP played a central role at the [23rd Session of the UNCCD Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention \(CRIC 23\)](#) in Panama City (1–5 December 2025), where Parties assessed global progress toward achieving Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) targets. Throughout the session, UNEP illustrated the urgency of reversing land degradation trends and highlighted the Organization's expanded technical and financial assistance to 112 countries in preparation for the 2026 National Reporting cycle. UNEP's collaboration with the UNCCD and the GEF Secretariats has also been instrumental in strengthening [PRAIS](#) and other reporting tools, significantly improving countries' ability to generate more accurate, timely, and actionable data. This enhanced support has accelerated readiness in many countries, positioning UNEP as a leading driver in advancing LDN implementation and elevating land degradation as a critical global environmental and development priority.

Strengthening Coordination for Sand and Dust Storms (SDS) Risk Reduction

On the margins of UNEA-7, UNEP convened the high-level workshop [Airborne Risks, Grounded Responses: A Workshop on Sand and Dust Storms](#) (9 December 2025), signalling a renewed push to address the escalating risks and cross-boundary impacts of SDS. The workshop provided a strategic platform for Member States, regional organizations, and technical partners to advance coherent policy approaches, improve early-warning capacities, and promote joint action to mitigate SDS-related health, environmental, and economic impacts. UNEP also presented its strengthened SDS priorities - shaped through an earlier [UNEP-led consultative meeting](#) in Nairobi (1 October 2025) - helping to build momentum for a more coordinated global response. The event reinforced UNEP's leadership in elevating SDS as an urgent and multidimensional environmental challenge requiring sustained international cooperation.

The UNEP-led Restoring Landscapes in South Africa (ReLISA) Consortium has reached two pivotal milestones in its mission to coordinate restoration activities that advance national environmental and developmental objectives. Following its strategic launch ReLISA launch at the G20 Environment and Climate Sustainability Working Group (ECSWG) on 16 October 2025, the partnership established a framework for coordinated monitoring and implementation of national restoration targets under UNEP's technical guidance. This was formalized through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between UNEP and the South African Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, signed on 5 December 2025.

C. Towards a pollution-free planet

Bilateral cooperation and country support on waste management

Through the [Zero Waste in the Caribbean Project](#), UNEP facilitated a study visit between Cuba and the Dominican Republic (26 October–2 November 2025) to strengthen cooperation on waste management and circular solutions. The visit showcased legislation and financing models, recovery facilities, and community projects, while highlighting common challenges on logistics and closing dumpsites and agreeing on opportunities for continued collaboration.

Parallel subnational engagement in Latin America and the Caribbean expanded the [Circular Cities Beyond Plastics](#) initiative, integrating Mexico City and Playa del Carmen into the project on circular plastics management. To further reinforce these systemic shifts, UNEP and UNITAR delivered [specialised e-waste training](#) in Saudi Arabia to align national management policies with the country's economic objectives of Vision 2030 (21–23 October 2025).

Scaling wastewater surveillance and circular solutions through regional engagement

Extensive engagement at UNEA-7 positioned [Wastewater as a Solution](#) to drive climate action and ecosystem restoration, supported by the launch of three Global Wastewater Initiative publications (10 December 2025). Technical delivery extended to institutionalising wastewater surveillance for six Northern African nations during a [Cairo-based workshop](#), providing the policy-relevant insights required to protect freshwater and marine environments (19–21 October 2025).

Raising awareness and building cooperation on pharmaceutical pollution

By delivering solution showcases and high-level stakeholder consultations to inform the Global Framework on Chemicals, UNEP drove further strategic oversight of the pharmaceutical value chain. These initiatives, supported by virtual events on [green chemistry](#) and [sustainable innovations](#), highlight practical pathways for mitigating the environmental impact of persistent pharmaceutical pollutants. A [hybrid consultation in Bogota](#) further enabled Latin American and Caribbean stakeholders to synchronize national priorities with the Global Framework on Chemicals (29–30 October 2025).

Second call for funding applications under the Global Framework on Chemicals Fund

The Global Framework on Chemicals Fund opened its [second global call](#) (30 September–15 December 2025) for country-driven initiatives to implement the framework, supported by extensive [virtual](#) outreach and webinars¹ led by UNEP as Secretariat. Over 190 concept notes were submitted, reflecting strong demand; shortlisting is expected at the Executive Board [meeting](#) in March 2026.

¹ Including [technical highlights](#) and social media dissemination via [LinkedIn](#) and [Facebook](#), resulting in amplification by external platforms such as [IISD](#), [Funds for NGOs](#) and [The Star \(Kenya\)](#).

On 19 November, the [Open-ended ad hoc group on Measurability and Indicators](#) held its seventh meeting and advanced progress towards an indicator framework to be adopted at the first International Conference of the Global Framework on Chemicals.

Supporting action to implement MEAs

The UNEP-led GEF-8 Programme “[Global Chemicals Monitoring Programme](#)” received GEF approval and will be implemented from 2026 to 2030 across 54 countries in the Africa, Asia-Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean regions to support data generation and capacity building on monitoring of POPs and mercury, contributing to the effectiveness evaluation mechanisms of the Stockholm and the Minamata Conventions.

UNEP is supporting more than 30 countries to update their national implementation plans under the Stockholm Convention. As part of this work, several countries have held national validation meetings, with six already completed². The updated plans are expected to be submitted to the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm conventions (BRS) Secretariat in 2026.

At Minamata COP-6 (2–7 November 2025), UNEP used [storytelling](#) and public engagement to raise awareness about mercury in skin-lightening products and the harmful beauty norms that fuel their use. In partnership with the City of Geneva and photographer Angélica Dass, UNEP presented the [Humanæ exhibition](#), which celebrated human diversity and emphasised that mercury has no place in cosmetics. UNEP also organised policy and [public events](#) featuring GEF-funded initiatives in Gabon, Sri Lanka, and Jamaica, and hosted Senegalese filmmaker Adama Binetta Sow for a discussion on toxic beauty standards.

The momentum generated at COP-6 is helping to prepare an expanded phase of UNEP’s work in 2026, supporting 18 more countries in transitioning toward mercury-free and inclusive self-care practices.

Regional consultation on lead sources

UNEP, with support of the European Union and in collaboration with the Global Alliance on Health and Pollution, facilitated a [consultation](#) on lead sources and management in countries in Latin America and Caribbean region (30 October, online). Key takeaways to reduce lead exposure were tailored national strategies, stronger multistakeholder collaboration, better regulation and enforcement, improved data access, and increased awareness among communities, health workers, and policymakers.

Supporting environmental recovery and debris management in Gaza

In line with [UNEA Resolution 6/12](#), UNEP completed its contribution to the environmental chapter of the Gaza Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment (December 2025), which found

² Georgia - 22 October 2025 in Kakheti, Georgia (GEF project 10785); Kazakhstan - 12 November 2025 in Astana, Kazakhstan (GEF project 10924); Montenegro - 17 December 2025 in Podgorica, Montenegro (GEF project 10875); Cote d’Ivoire- 15-19 December 2025 in Jacque Ville, Cote d’Ivoire (GEF project 10785); Dominica- 13 October 2025, Dominica (GEF Project 10785); The Bahamas- 23 October 2025, The Bahamas (GEF project 10785)

that debris from the conflict accounted for most environmental losses and recovery needs, estimated at USD 2.56 billion.

As part of the UNEP and UNDP-led Gaza Emergency Debris Management pilot, two recycling sites³ have cleared over 200,000 tonnes of debris since October 2024, reopening access routes and supporting humanitarian operations, with 21,000 tonnes of this waste recycled to date, to rehabilitate roads and lay foundations for temporary shelters.

Strengthening cooperation on sustainable nutrient management

To promote continued action on sustainable nutrient management, UNEP and the [International Nitrogen Management System](#) (7 October 2025) presented new guidance documents and tools for sustainable nitrogen management at a [webinar](#), aimed to help governments integrate nitrogen management into policies, promote best practices, and improve coordination among stakeholders.

UNEP convened the second meeting of the [Global Partnership on Nutrient Management](#) (5–6 November 2025). The only meeting focused on mobilising action for sustainable nutrient management, which discussed nutrient finance, governance, and the supply of mined nutrients, helping to raise awareness of emerging issues and strengthen global cooperation.

Mobilising science for global action on marine pollution

At UNEA-7 (10 December, Nairobi), UNEP and UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission hosted an [event](#) to advance a proposed joint programme under the UN Ocean Decade focused on tackling marine pollution through science-based action. Marking the 30th anniversary of the Global Programme of Action, the partners presented a vision centred on a recurring Global Ocean Pollution Assessment, a digital Ocean Pollution Action Hub, and strong communication efforts. Consultations with governments, Regional Seas organizations, civil society, Indigenous Peoples, and other stakeholders showed broad support, highlighted needs for better pollution data and integrated platforms, and generated offers of collaboration to help move the initiative forward.

Advancing circular solutions and evidence-based action on plastic pollution

UNEP, serving as the lead implementing agency alongside World Wildlife Fund (WWF), coordinated the first annual Plastic Reboot Conference (22–24 October 2025) in Salvador, Brazil, to provide the strategic framing for the GEF Integrated Programme. Through the organization's facilitation of technical and reporting-related discussions, over 120 participants from 15 countries aligned their national projects with circular solutions to plastic pollution. This programmatic intervention successfully increased the readiness of national teams to advance concrete circular initiatives and established clearer priorities for 2026. During UNEA-7, UNEP launched an updated [Action Planning Tool](#) under the [Global Plastics Hub](#). UNEP also convened knowledge-sharing events⁴ throughout the year,

³ Deir El-Balah and Khan Younis

[Utilization of monitoring data and database related to marine plastic pollution](#) (04 November 2025); [SEA of Solutions 2025](#) (15 - 17 December 2025)

strengthening cooperation, harmonised monitoring, and data-driven action on plastic pollution.

Turning policy into action for circular textiles

As part of [UNEP's Global Textile Policy Dialogues](#) which included a [UNEA-7 high-level event](#) (11 December 2025), governments, producers, startups, and NGOs continued to work together to advance sustainability and circularity in the textile value chain and reviewed a [roadmap](#) with priorities for future work. These priorities included Extended Producer Responsibility, product design standards, digital product information systems, and support for circular business models.

Navigating Pollution: A Blueprint for the Banking Sector

UNEP FI developed and released the strategic publication [Navigating Pollution: A Blueprint for the Banking Sector](#) (30 December 2025) to define pollution as a critical financial risk under the principle of double materiality. The technical framework provides the banking sector with a definitive starting point to align internal risk management with the Global Framework on Chemicals (GFC) and relevant multilateral environmental agreements. This programmatic contribution ensures that the financial sector possesses the necessary evidence-based tools to transition toward resource-efficient and low-pollution lending practices, thereby strengthening the private sector's role in global environmental governance.

Twenty-fifth Session of its Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC25)

UNEP orchestrated a critical review of scientific progress and research activities for the [Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia \(EANET\)](#) by convening the Twenty-fifth Session of its Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC25) (20–22 October 2025). Through its lead role in the Secretariat, it provided the technical framework necessary for representatives from participating countries to adopt key reports and evaluate monitoring data. These sessions culminated in the formulation of strategic scientific recommendations for the Draft Medium-Term Plan (2026–2030), ensuring that regional air quality management remains informed by a robust, evidence-based foundation. The scientific groundwork proved essential for bridging the gap between technical monitoring and future intergovernmental policy.

Twenty-seventh Session of the EANET Intergovernmental Meeting

UNEP solidified regional air quality governance in Bangkok by co-convening the Twenty-seventh Session of the EANET Intergovernmental Meeting (IG27) (27–28 November 2025). High-level discussions enabled 13 participating countries to reach a consensus on the future activities of the network. This culminated in the formal adoption of the new Medium-Term Plan (2026–2030), providing a coordinated roadmap for transboundary environmental action, including systemic solutions to air pollution across the region.

Clean Air Week 2025

UNEP spearheaded high-level dialogues and specialized technical exchanges during [Clean Air Week 2025](#) (24–28 November 2025) to identify practical solutions for air quality challenges in the Asia-Pacific. By providing oversight for sessions on next-generation monitoring, clean air financing, and the health impacts of pollution, UNEP led a diverse group of partners including the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), WHO, the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit

(GIZ), the Clean Air Fund, and the Chinese Research Academy of Environmental Sciences (CRAES). This programmatic leadership facilitated the exchange of knowledge among experts and government officials, effectively translating complex scientific data into actionable strategies. Altogether, it laid a strong foundation for integrated climate and air quality solutions designed to scale from urban clean air zones to broader national policy frameworks.

Training Programme on Strengthening Sustainable Production and Consumption

UNEP enhanced regional technical capacity for plastic circularity by delivering a specialized [training programme on sustainable production and consumption](#) (4–7 November 2025) in Osaka, Japan. Policy developers and implementers from Thailand and Malaysia were introduced to systemic circularity approaches, specifically eco-design and Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), through targeted technical sessions. Site visits and interactive dialogues with Japan's governmental, academic, and industrial sectors enabled participants to observe real-world applications of reusable, refillable, and returnable packaging systems. Key outcomes included improved awareness of regulatory and institutional frameworks supporting circular economy transitions, as well as the identification of practical policy actions to reduce single-use plastics and improve plastic packaging sustainability.

Towards a Circular Economy of Plastics in the Asia-Pacific Region

Building on a regional knowledge-sharing event, "Towards a Circular Economy of Plastics in the Asia-Pacific Region" (15 December 2025), funded by the China Trust Fund and the UN Peace and Development Trust Fund, UNEP spearheaded the [6th SEA of Solutions Forum](#) in Bangkok, Thailand (16–17 December 2025) under the theme "Partnerships and Solutions for Plastic Pollution". Through this programmatic leadership, UNEP convened over 150 diverse stakeholders from 15 governmental agencies and 45 organizations to advance systemic circular economy transitions. The forum, supported by partners including GIZ and the Government of Japan, successfully showcased innovation in eco-design and EPR while ensuring that discussions on plastic pollution remained inclusive. By integrating gender considerations and the perspectives of youth and coastal communities, UNEP facilitated the identification of practical policy actions and institutional frameworks necessary to scale up sustainable packaging solutions across the Asia-Pacific.

Driving cleaner air and safety through used vehicle regulations

Since 2023, UNEP has worked with the European Commission to develop export standards for used vehicles, proposing a ban on exporting wrecks, mandatory roadworthiness certificates, and enforcement at the point of export. These measures were incorporated into the [new EU End-of-Life Vehicles Directive](#) on 19 December 2025. The adoption of similar rules by other major exporters would be an important next step.

D. Foundational subprogrammes

i. Science-Policy

Launch of the Global Environment Outlook (GEO) Brazil 2025

UNEP supported the dissemination and policy positioning of major national assessment products to reinforce the role of science-based policy in high-level forums. A primary achievement included the presentation of [GEO Brazil 2025](#) during COP30 in Belém (10–21

November 2025) and its subsequent official launch in Brasília. In line with GEO-7, UNEP strengthened coherence among national and global assessment processes and reinforced the role of science-based policy in high-level forums.

The event at the UN Brazil Pavilion featured dialogue between scientists and UNEP senior leadership to strengthen evidence-based decision-making. Supported technically and financially by the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (ROLAC), the launch coordinated media outreach that achieved prominent coverage in major national outlets including *Exame* and *UOL Ecoa*. This strategic communication amplified key findings on environmental investment and governance gaps during the conference.

By launching the report at the UN Brazil Pavilion during COP30 with leading scientists and UNEP senior leadership, the event elevated evidence-based discussions on environmental governance and financing, reinforcing UNEP's role as a trusted convener at the science-policy interface.

International Workshop Series on Electronic Waste (E-waste) Statistics

UNEP strengthened e-waste monitoring to support circular economy transitions through a specialized training programme as part of the [International Workshop Series on E-waste Statistics](#) (29–30 October 2025) in Bangkok, Thailand. Delivered in partnership with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), the programme provided the technical expertise required for the ongoing development of Thailand's national E-waste Monitor. The technical outputs will directly support country-level SDG Voluntary National Reviews upon request, ensuring that waste management strategies are grounded in regularised data collection. The workshop secured diverse representation from the public and academic sectors, achieving an inclusive participation rate of 57% female and 43% male.

Regional Workshop on Ecuador's experience in EW-MFA and knowledge exchange

UNEP organised a [regional workshop](#) in Quito (1–2 December 2025) with the Ministry of Environment and Energy of Ecuador to strengthen technical capacities for Economy-Wide Material Flow Accounts (EW-MFA). By facilitating this peer-learning forum, the organization highlighted Ecuador's progress in constructing its first national EW-MFA using UNEP's methodology and compiler tools. This engagement built upon methodological work initiated by the organization in 2024 to support government experts across the Latin American and Caribbean region.

This initiative facilitated a regional agreement to consolidate a community of practice and prepare practical follow-up actions for 2026. Strategic steps included strengthening data-governance arrangements and improving methodological harmonisation to advance a coherent regional vision for sustainable material management. Through a high-level segment, UNEP convened more than 100 participants to reflect on the policy value of material flow accounting for circular economy planning and the tracking of SDGs 8.4 and 12.2.

ii. Environmental Governance

Environmental Human Rights and Justice

UNEP advanced the regional protection of Environmental Human Rights Defenders (EHRDs) and the formalization of human rights standards by co-convening the [4th Asia EHRDs Forum](#) (27–29 October 2025) and supporting the landmark [Association of Southeast Asian Nations \(ASEAN\) Declaration](#) on the Right to a Safe, Clean, Healthy and Sustainable Environment (28 October 2025). Shaping the agenda alongside the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), UNEP provided the strategic platform to examine the legal nexus between biodiversity and human rights in this forum. Technical stewardship at the 47th ASEAN Summit, delivered through long-term collaboration with the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR), further culminated in Southeast Asia's first soft law instrument, the ASEAN Declaration on the Right to a Safe, Clean, Healthy and Sustainable Environment, articulating the right to a healthy environment in alignment with global mandates.

Advancing Legal Instruments Across the Globe

UNEP's strategic support was fundamental to environmental rights across the Pacific, while redefining global jurisprudence through authoritative legal assessments. Technical inputs provided during consultations on Advancing Environmental Rights in the Pacific in Vanuatu (3–4 November 2025) ensured that environmental rights were interwoven into the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent. Complementing these regional efforts, UNEP released [The Right to a Healthy Environment in Practice](#) (8 October 2025) and the [Global Climate Litigation Report: 2025 Status Review](#) (3 October 2025), providing the legal community with an unprecedented evidence base covering over 3,000 climate-related cases across 55 jurisdictions.

Inclusive Implementation of Environment Law

UNEP empowered a new generation of environmental leaders by delivering specialized technical expertise for the Council of Europe's [Human Rights Education for Youth \(HEY\) course](#) (3–30 November 2025) and [targeted webinars for women leaders in Latin America and the Caribbean](#) (16–18 December 2025). Providing thematic guidance on environmental governance and human-rights-based approaches allowed these groups to master the development and enforcement of international environmental law. Both initiatives translate high-level governance principles into practical skills for diverse stakeholders, ensuring that the implementation of environmental law remains inclusive and robust.

In addition to that, UNEP steered the advancement of the environmental rule of law by presenting global knowledge products at the National Law Forum (4–5 December 2025) in Vientiane, Lao PDR. These technical dialogues in Vientiane centred on clinical legal education, allowing the organization to bridge the gap between international legal standards and national judicial practice.

Addressing Transboundary Environmental Crime

UNEP convened the virtual [Asia Environmental Enforcement Recognition of Excellence \(AEEE\) Award Ceremony](#) (17 October 2025). Recognising the leadership of key institutions and individuals, the platform fostered a culture of excellence and accountability in addressing transboundary environmental crime across Asia.

Expert inputs at the Inter-Parliamentary Union

To advance technical oversight of global climate commitments, UNEP provided expert inputs to the [Inter-Parliamentary Union \(IPU\) during COP30](#) (14 November 2025) in Belém, Brazil. Interventions directly informed high-level discussions on the role of legislatures in delivering NDCs. The meeting's Outcome Document, which was circulated to the IPU's global membership, highlighted the significance of sustainable climate policies within global legislative frameworks.

Regional Legislative Alignment for Electronic Waste (E-waste) and Climate Action

Central to this effort was a workshop co-convened in Thailand with the BRS Conventions Secretariat, where the organization provided the technical platform for ASEAN government experts and focal points to refine e-waste management frameworks (11–12 November 2025). Programmatic delivery further expanded through the Montevideo Programme, which facilitated an online exchange on the Chilean climate legislation (3 December 2025) and [specialised negotiation training \(13–15 October 2025\) in Eswatini](#). These interventions empower national officials with the legal architecture required to operationalize international environmental commitments within their domestic systems.

Technical architecture for biosafety and biodiversity governance across the Global South

Through leading legal diagnostics and stakeholder validation processes in [Seychelles](#) (28 November 2025) and [Saint Lucia](#) (9 December 2025), UNEP drove the national implementation of the Cartagena Protocol. Technical guidance provided in [Uganda](#) (26–28 November 2025) further facilitated the integration of chemical pollution considerations into NBSAPs.

Mobilization of the African legal community

UNEP organized the [Summit of African Bar Association Presidents](#) (8–9 October 2025), facilitated alongside the Law Society of Kenya, and enabled bar leaders and legal experts to address the judicial complexities of climate change and public interest litigation. This strategic assembly prioritised the identification of capacity needs for the continent's legal practitioners to ensure they are equipped to defend environmental rights.

Regional and Global Cooperation on Multilateral Environmental Agreement (MEA) Synergies

During [the Asia-Pacific Workshop on Integrated KM-GBF Implementation](#) (7–9 October 2025), UNEP delivered specialised webinars for the Latin American and Caribbean region that synchronized the implementation of the Rio Conventions (16 October 2025) to translate global mandates into local realities. This technical bridge-building dismantled policy barriers

between biodiversity, chemicals and waste focal points during a subregional workshop in Nairobi (11–13 November 2025), ultimately providing the architecture for integrated environmental regimes through the launch of the White Paper [From Silos to Synergies](#) (17 November 2025).

MEAs Engagement at the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-7)

The UNEA-7 served as a high-level hub for inter-treaty synergy by orchestrating a dedicated [MEAs Day](#) (10 December 2025). Alongside a high-level MEA synergies side event, these efforts allowed Member States and secretariats to move beyond traditional silos and exchange evidence-based strategies for national implementation. Programmatic leadership during this period also facilitated the successful completion of an African Elephant Fund project in Cameroon, which significantly optimised monitoring protocols and community capacity.

InforMEA and Digital Knowledge Tools

Digital environmental governance reached a new phase of accessibility as UNEP delivered a comprehensive suite of [InforMEA](#) capacity-building initiatives. This included a workshop for youth (15 October 2025), the Rio Conventions synergies for the Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) Region (16 October 2025), and a [Knowledge Lab session at the 6th Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention \(COP-6\) for the Africa Region](#) (4 November 2025). The launch of the [Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora \(CITES\) e-learning course](#) (27 November 2025), and the Minamata Convention Knowledge Lab (4 November 2025) further accelerated the appreciation of InforMEA as a practical tool, lowering technical barriers to authoritative information.

United Nations (UN) System Coordination and Sustainability

UNEP advanced UN Common Approaches to biodiversity and pollution-free through the Environment Management Group (EMG). A cross-mapping exercise aligned the Global Framework on Chemicals with the common approach towards a Pollution-Free Planet. This culminated in a report to UNEA-7 on EMG cooperation across the UN system. The release of the [Greening the Blue Annual Report 2025](#) (5 December 2025), through UNEP's Sustainable UN facility, provided further assessment of the environmental performance of 60 UN entities, setting the stage for further engagements on sustainable energy in displacement settings.

Regional Technical Support

Advancing Africa's biodiversity agenda at the First Africa Biodiversity Summit, UNEP delivered the technical and financial oversight required for the adoption of the landmark African Leaders Gaborone Declaration on Biodiversity (2–5 November 2025). Strategic engagement with Arab ministerial processes, specifically the [36th Session of CAMRE](#) and the 4th Session of the Arab Forum for Environment (AFEN), further strengthened intergovernmental alignment in West Asia. To ensure national officials are equipped for global environmental processes, UNEP also provided the technical architecture for a specialized Negotiators' Training Programme in Saudi Arabia (27 October 2025).

Targeted legal and technical assessments delivered a critical boost to bilateral compliance and enforcement across three regions. UNEP's programmatic leadership focused on the implementation of the BRS and Minamata Conventions in Kazakhstan while providing authoritative air quality governance support to the Kyrgyz Republic and the Comoros. Waste management reform in Nigeria and directing enforcement coordination under Operation DEMETER XI in Kenya (November 2025) were also key achievements in this regard.

In collaboration with the Clean Air Institute, UNEP drove the technical application of the [UNEP Guide on Ambient Air Quality Legislation](#) through regional air quality governance events for the LAC Region (24–26 November 2025). Technical oversight of a comprehensive regulatory review in the Dominican Republic allowed for the synchronization of national standards with international best practices. This process concluded with a high-level validation workshop in Santo Domingo (10 December 2025) for the draft regulations.

UNEP launched [Safeguarding Space: Environmental Issues, Risks and Responsibilities](#) (10 December 2025), highlighting environmental risks linked to the rapid growth of space activities across the atmosphere. The review also identified critical gaps in monitoring and governance in cross-sectoral risks within the global context.

E. Enabling subprogrammes

i. Finance and Economic Transformations

Sustainable Public Procurement (SPP) for Climate Action

UNEP established Sustainable Public Procurement (SPP) as a central pillar of climate mitigation with the development and launch of the [Plan to Accelerate Solutions \(PAS\): Harnessing Public Procurement in High-Impact Sectors to Drive Climate Action](#) and a Just Transition in Belém, Brazil (November 2025). In partnership with Brazil's Ministry of Management and Innovation and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), it provided the technical framework necessary to harness procurement in high-impact sectors to drive a just transition.

It further accelerated the transition to a circular built environment by launching the [Circularity and Whole-Life Cycle Case Study Platform](#) via the One Planet Network (November 2025). This digital knowledge tool provides national and local actors with the technical guidance and country-specific examples required to translate policy commitments under the [Buildings Breakthrough](#) into actionable implementation. By facilitating access to these "evidence-based policy options", the organization strengthens the science-policy interface and promotes systemic shifts in global industry standards.

As the custodian agency for SDG Indicator 12.7.1, UNEP led the 2025 global reporting cycle to monitor the implementation of SPP policies (Quarter 4, 2025). Moreso, it provided the methodological oversight.

Financing the Transition and Principles for Responsible Banking (PRB)

UNEP facilitated the strategic realignment of the global banking sector by documenting the sustainability milestones of 299 signatory banks in the [Principles for Responsible Banking \(PRB\)](#) Third Biennial Progress Report (15 October 2025). Highlighting that environmental, social and governance (ESG) integrated institutions consistently outperform their peers on

cost of capital, it provided the transparency required for the financial industry to move beyond aspirational pledges. The programmatic oversight offers member States verified evidence of how private capital is operationalising specific climate and financial inclusion targets to support SDG 10.

UNEP operationalised net-zero pathways for global trade and risk management with systemic frameworks for export credit agencies and the insurance industry. Through the release of the [Net-Zero Export Credit Agencies Alliance \(NZECA\): First Progress Report](#) (25 November 2025), UNEP established the methodologies necessary to align USD 338 billion in export finance with climate-resilient trajectories. Parallel to these efforts, the Global Sustainable Insurance Summit in Belém, Brazil (15 November 2025) showcased the launch of the "A Total Balance Sheet Transition" report.

Technical expertise from UNEP catalysed national sustainable finance frameworks and systemic circularity through the design of the Brazilian Sustainable Taxonomy (3 November 2025). Developing this taxonomy in direct support of the Brazilian Ministry of Finance positioned the nation as a global leader in aligning investments with climate and development goals. The organization further expanded the economic transition toolkit by launching Transformational Finance for Climate (5 November 2025) to reorient financial flows for systemic impact. At UNEA-7, the subsequent release of [Unlocking Circular Economy Financing](#) (2 December 2025) – co-produced with the Global Alliance on Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency (GACERE) – provided the structured approach necessary for Member States to embed circularity into the business models that underpin the global economy.

Global Fiscal Policy and the African Circular Economy

UNEP led the strategic update of the 2026 Guide for the [Coalition of Finance Ministers for Climate Action](#) to enhance global fiscal stability. To ensure the Guide addresses diverse economic realities, UNEP supported foundational prioritization exercises for European stakeholders in Luxembourg (1–3 December 2025) and African representatives in Lusaka (15–18 December 2025). By facilitating these sessions, UNEP establishes a robust evidence base for the next generation of fiscal tools designed to manage climate-related risks.

UNEP drove the development of practical governance instruments by co-authoring the annotated outline for the 2026 Guide. UNEP designed the framework to serve as a practical tool for budget preparation, fiscal risk management, and policy prioritisation. Through continued engagement with over 100 Ministries of Finance leading up to the scheduled launch (mid-2026), UNEP reinforces its role as a global authority in aligning financial systems with the 2030 Agenda.

UNEP facilitated the transition to a circular economy across Africa by spearheading technical guidance and sectoral coordination for regional market integration. During the [2025 Annual Meeting of the Africa Circular Economy Alliance \(ACEA\)](#) (14–16 October 2025), UNEP led high-level discussions in Addis Ababa to advance the implementation of the African Union's Continental Circular Economy Action Plan. By providing strategic framing for this regional forum, UNEP advanced the dialogue necessary to catalyse green investment and embed circularity into the continent's broader economic transformation.

UNEP strengthened institutional capacity and evidence-based decision-making by providing science-based tools for policy evaluation. This entailed the delivery of a dedicated technical session on Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) for policymaking to address critical data deficits and promote the use of standardised environmental processes. Through its leadership

within the Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE), UNEP ensures that regional efforts to bridge infrastructure gaps and integrate Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) into value chains are supported by robust data and policy coherence.

Green Economy Transitions: Thailand and Mexico

UNEP led Thailand's transition toward an inclusive green economy by facilitating strategic financial flows and policy alignment within the waste management sector. Through PAGE, UNEP spearheaded a high-level stakeholder consultation in Bangkok, Thailand (8 October 2025), to accelerate the mobilisation of green bonds, Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs), and carbon market tools. By convening over 100 key actors in collaboration with the National Institute of Development Administration (NIDA), UNEP facilitated the coordination necessary to direct investment into circular economy solutions and sustainable infrastructure.

UNEP reinforced national environmental governance by providing the robust evidence base required to reform Thailand's waste management strategies. During the consultation (8 October 2025), UNEP presented the findings of a [PAGE-supported national study](#) that mapped the country's waste profile and analysed existing financing structures. These policy-relevant insights serve as the foundational roadmap for the Subcommittee on Financing Mechanisms for Sustainable Waste Management, directly informing upcoming government consultations, parliamentary advocacy, and public outreach for the 2030 Agenda.

UNEP steering committees and technical dialogues identify priority sectors and risk-mitigation strategies to address systemic barriers to climate finance. To maximise the mitigation impact of national policies, UNEP FI facilitated a focused examination of the energy sector – responsible for 67% of national emissions – as a primary area for private sector engagement. Through this platform, UNEP FI provided the expertise required for participants to analyse risk-mitigation instruments and overcome structural bottlenecks, ensuring that financial systems are equipped to support an orderly and resilient transition to a net-zero economy.

Green Jobs for Youth in Latin America

UNEP, in partnership with the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), launched the first Green Jobs for Youth Academy in Latin America to equip young professionals with the skills necessary for a circular and low-carbon economy. By co-organising this six-week initiative, UNEP managed the delivery of a comprehensive curriculum that combined online learning (29 September – 26 October 2025) with an in-person session in Guanajuato, Mexico (27–31 October 2025). Through this strategic engagement, UNEP directly supports workforce development in high-impact sectors, ensuring that the next generation of leaders is prepared to drive the regional transition toward sustainability. By establishing a replicable model for green employability, UNEP strengthens inter-agency coordination in youth empowerment in the context of global climate and circularity agenda and provides a science-based foundation to scale up green employability and climate leadership.

ii. Digital Transformations

The Strategic Advancement of a Global Environmental Data Framework

UNEP reinforced its leadership in environmental governance by completing and formally submitting the Global Environmental Data Strategy (GEDS) to UNEA-7. Developed through

the Office of the Chief Digital Officer, UNEP designed the GEDS as an [Information Document \(UNEP/EA.7/INF/5\)](#) to provide a shared strategic framework for a trusted, inclusive and interoperable data ecosystem. By aligning the strategy's priority actions and phased pilot pathways with its Medium-Term Strategy, UNEP established a practical governance instrument intended to directly improve the availability and quality of environmental data used in global decision-making.

UNEP harnessed its expertise in high-level convening and targeted policy framing to support the implementation of the GEDS. Transitioning the strategy into action, UNEP led a series of UNEA-7 engagements, including an Open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives (OECPR) side event [on “Artificial Intelligence \(AI\) for the Planet: Advancing Environmental Data Standards for Sustainable AI”](#) (3 December 2025) and a high-level ministerial breakfast (10 December 2025) organized with Estonia, Italy and Kenya. Through its role in delivering keynote interventions and moderating technical discussions, UNEP successfully convened Member States, scientific networks, and standards bodies to ensure that the environmental data ecosystem remains a priority on the international agenda.

UNEP drives global technical alignment across international standards bodies to strengthen the interoperability of environmental data systems. By facilitating coordination between organizations such as the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), and the Committee on Data of the International Science Council (CODATA), UNEP ensures that global data priorities are harmonized for phased implementation and pilot actions. Through these leadership actions, UNEP reinforces the use of interoperability as a fundamental governance tool, generating the concrete support necessary for sustained capacity building and effective data-driven action across the UN system.

Digital Innovation through the World Environment Situation Room (WESR) Pilot

UNEP leads the digital transformation of environmental data through the pilot launch of the [World Environment Situation Room \(WESR\)](#) during the seventh session of the UNEA-7. As a state-of-the-art, AI-ready platform, UNEP designed the WESR to provide a federated data and applications environment that integrates authoritative datasets with user-centred visualisation tools. Through this pilot, users can independently explore environmental datasets and utilise applications like the Environmental Policy Tracker (EPT) to bridge the gap between scientific evidence and policy action.

UNEP validates the design and policy relevance of its digital infrastructures through direct engagement with Member States and global partners. By conducting live demonstrations during UNEA-7, UNEP gathered the critical feedback necessary to ensure the WESR meets real-world policy requirements. The successful pilot reinforces UNEP's role in implementing the GEDS and positions the WESR as the core digital infrastructure underpinning the global science-policy interface.

UNEP Strengthens the Science–Policy Interface through Responsible AI: EnvironmentGPT

UNEP reinforces its leadership in sustainable digital governance through the launch of EnvironmentGPT, a responsible artificial intelligence tool for authoritative environmental knowledge. During the UNEA-7, UNEP released the public beta of this digital public good to provide global stakeholders with trusted and cited environmental information. Led jointly by the Office of the Chief Digital Officer and the Office of Science, UNEP managed the end-to-end design, governance, and deployment of the platform, ensuring the curation of approved content to support evidence-based decision making.

UNEP demonstrates the practical application of trustworthy AI principles by lowering technical barriers to accessing cited environmental information. By integrating transparency features—including retrieval-augmented generation (RAG) architecture and confidence indicators—UNEP ensures that artificial intelligence serves as a reliable asset for environmental sustainability. Through this initiative, UNEP provides the essential digital tools required for resilient transformations in environmental policy, further bridging the gap between scientific evidence and impactful action.

UNEP Leads Global Dialogue on Sustainable Digital Governance

UNEP drives the alignment of artificial intelligence and digital governance with environmental sustainability goals through high-level international coordination. During UNEA-7, UNEP organised as a side [event on “Implementing the Global Digital Compact \(GDC\)”](#) (10 December 2025) in partnership with Belgium, France, Germany, Kenya, Mexico, Sweden and Zambia. This allowed for a shared global understanding of the requirement to embed environmental objectives across all GDC priorities, reinforcing its visibility as a leader in sustainable digital policy.

UNEP champions the integrated use of AI to enhance the impact and cooperation of MEAs. By convening senior MEA leadership (9 December 2025), UNEP spearheaded discussions on utilising AI as a strategic tool for environmental reporting, analysis, and monitoring.

UNEP Modernises Operational Support Through Digital Transformation

UNEP optimised the operational efficiency of the UNEA-7 by driving internal digital transformation for high-level meeting support. To streamline Assembly proceedings, UNEP implemented a customised digital booking application in November 2025 that automated the reservation and management of meeting spaces. This initiative reinforces UNEP’s commitment to providing modern, transparent, and reliable operational solutions to enhance service delivery and support Member State engagement during high-demand conference periods.

F. Cross-cutting issues

i. Gender

Policy and Institutional Advancement

UNEP facilitated a significant shift in regional energy governance on 16 October 2025, when the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Ministers endorsed the [ASEAN Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation \(APAEC\) 2026–2030 framework](#). This represents the first regional energy agreement to include explicit social inclusion and gender commitments.

Capacity Building and Workforce Transformation

The organization led intensive capacity-building initiatives in late 2025 to bridge the skills gap in the renewable energy sector. In Indonesia, 400 women innovators were trained in financial literacy and low-carbon technologies between November and December 2025. Simultaneously, UNEP delivered specialized training in Cambodia for 36 representatives from financial institutions, focusing on integrating gender into environmental, social and governance (ESG) frameworks for banking and microfinance.

Advocacy and Grassroots Impact

UNEP leveraged high-level forums and local events to amplify the role of women in environmental implementation. During a [side event for the seventh session of UNEA-7](#) (5 December 2025), the programme convened civil society networks to produce joint policy briefs on participatory implementation of MEAs. This global advocacy was mirrored at the national level in Bangladesh, where UNEP showcased 55 entrepreneurs generating biodegradable alternatives to plastics, awarding the Women Entrepreneur of the Year to *Ecolery* for its contribution to green job creation.

Gender Mainstreaming Performance

UNEP maintains a high standard for gender integration through the rigorous application of the Gender Marker. In the fourth quarter of 2025, the organization reviewed 86 project documents, with 94% achieving a 2A rating. This score indicates that gender equality is not a secondary consideration but is embedded into the theory of change, results framework, and resource allocation of each project. By ensuring compliance with the Programme and Project Management Manual (PPMM), UNEP delivers environmental outcomes that are both gender-responsive and impactful.

Empowering Green Entrepreneurs

Through the Climate Finance Unit and the [United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration](#), UNEP catalyses green entrepreneurship across diverse regions. In Brazil, the organization showcased 50 socio-environmental entrepreneurs, with nearly half of the businesses led by women. This effort was mirrored in Rwanda, where women-led green business models received catalytic capital and recognition for innovative solutions in bioconversion. These initiatives increase market visibility and provide the financial incentives necessary to scale sustainable business models globally.

Workforce Development in Africa

[The Africa Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Cooling and Cold-Chain \(ACES\)](#), co-led by UNEP, strengthened the technical capacity of over 2,000 professionals in 2025. Training focused on energy-efficient and climate-friendly cooling solutions, with women representing 40% of the graduates. This programme ensures that the transition to sustainable cold-chain systems is supported by a skilled and inclusive workforce.

Driving Gender-Inclusive Transport

UNEP is leading the transition to sustainable transport by fostering professional networks and technical skills for women. In Kenya, UNEP provided vocational training in partnership with WEIHub Victoria Limited, enabling five women to secure employment as technicians and attendants within the e-mobility sector. On a regional scale, the establishment of the Africa E-Mobility Network has strengthened the participation of women in the transport sector during Africa E-Mobility Week, "Women Driving Change", ensuring they are central to the continent's shift toward electric two- and three-wheelers.

Regional Pollution Platforms

At the [SEA of Solutions 2025](#) forum in Bangkok (15–17 December 2025), UNEP facilitated stakeholder engagement on the integration of gender and the informal sector within waste management systems. This regional forum ensures that pollution strategies are socially inclusive and acknowledge the contributions of marginalized communities in the transition to a circular economy.

Global Thematic Events and Advocacy

During the reporting period, UNEP leveraged international forums to elevate the gender-environment nexus. Key milestones included the successful integration of gender into the Global Framework on Chemicals (GFC) Gender Action Plan and the delivery of the "Ask an Expert: Gender" session during the 37th Meeting of the Parties (MOP-37) to facilitate gender mainstreaming in ozone policy. On 3 December 2025, UNEP supported the Women's Major Group at the OECPR, enabling civil society to advocate for gender-responsive resolutions.

Institutional awareness was further bolstered through the 16 Days of Activism and high-level dialogues at UNEA-7 regarding critical energy transition minerals. Furthermore, the launch of the PAGE inclusive green economy e-course provided learners with the policy tools needed to ensure gender considerations remain at the heart of global economic transitions.

ii. Environmental and Social Safeguards (ESS)

Institutional Risk Management

UNEP ensures the integrity of its global portfolio through the Environmental and Social Sustainability Framework (ESSF). This framework mandates that all projects undergo rigorous screening to mitigate potential risks. During a mission to The Gambia (8–11 December 2025), UNEP strengthened risk management protocols within its landscape planning and restoration initiatives. The intervention focused on improving the visibility of grievance mechanisms and developing stakeholder-led monitoring tools to enhance partner implementation.

In the final quarter of 2025, UNEP conducted 35 project and concept reviews to ensure technical alignment between managers and specialists. These identification efforts have improved the quality of management plans, though the organization continues to prioritise enhanced project-level communication and accountability.

Q4 2025 Safeguard Performance Metrics

Metric Category	Performance Detail
Reviews	29 projects and 6 concepts assessed
Risk Levels	45% of projects and 33% of concepts rated as moderate risk
Consistency	86% alignment between project managers and specialists

Strengthening Institutional Capacity and Compliance

To ensure technical excellence, UNEP convened an institutional dialogue on ESSF operations during the fourth quarter of 2025. These sessions equipped 231 participants with the methodology needed to select appropriate safeguard instruments during the risk identification stage. The training received a helpfulness rating of 3.5 out of 4, reflecting a successful effort to mainstream compliance and provide transparent pathways for grievance and remediation across all operations.

iii. UN Reform

UNEP leads the development of foundational guidance to empower UN leadership in leveraging the growing potential of global carbon markets. In partnership with the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), it produced a Carbon Markets Brief specifically designed to provide Resident Coordinators and UN Country Teams with a robust evidence base for climate finance engagement. By establishing consistent messaging on sector risks and opportunities, UNEP ensures that UN leadership is equipped to provide the sustained technical assistance required for developing countries to translate market participation into climate-positive outcomes.

Further to this, UNEP co-hosted a strategic webinar on Advancing Climate Finance through Carbon Markets (16 October 2025) to clarify the operational distinctions between voluntary and compliance markets in collaboration with the Development Coordination Office (DCO), the UNFCCC and UNDP. Through this initiative, UNEP championed the implementation of robust monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) systems, transparent registries, and safeguards to prevent double counting, reinforcing its role as a global authority in standard-setting for environmental governance.

iv. South-South Cooperation

UNEP Catalyses South–South Cooperation on Methane Emissions

UNEP drives the transition to sustainable waste management in Latin America and the Caribbean by facilitating a landmark regional agreement to eliminate methane emissions. At the [XXIV Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment](#) (1–2 October 2025) in Lima, Peru, UNEP provided the strategic and technical support required for all 33 countries in the region to launch a unified initiative to shut down unsafe dumpsites. By acting as a lead coordinator alongside the [CCAC](#), UNEP enabled the approval of the Regional Cooperation Programme for Reducing Methane Emissions from Organic Waste and Closing Dumpsites, moving the region toward a circular economy.

UNEP reinforces national capacities to meet ambitious climate targets through the implementation of harmonized waste-sector frameworks. Through the newly established Regional Cooperation Programme, UNEP supports signatory countries in achieving a 30% reduction in waste-sector methane emissions by 2030 and diverting 30% of organic waste from landfills by 2035. By providing the necessary evidence base and institutional coordination, UNEP empowers countries to replace fragmented waste management efforts with concrete actions that target potent short-lived climate pollutants to curb near-term warming.

G. Opportunities, challenges, and lessons learned

Science–Policy interface

Opportunities: The launch of GEO-7 and GEDS at the seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-7) provides a transformative governance instrument to scale science-based policy and decouple economic growth from environmental degradation. By shifting toward Solutions Pathways, UNEP strengthens its role as the custodian of 26 SDG indicators, which ensures data drives transformative changes in ecosystems, climate action, and chemicals and waste management while fostering partnerships that enhance evidence-based decisions. UNEP utilises integrated platforms and horizon scanning to assist in the identification of emerging trends and priorities for action. This strategic approach is vital for ensuring global scientific assessments are translated into evidence-backed decisions for a resilient planet.

Challenges: Gaps in data availability, analysis, and integration continue to limit the effectiveness of UNEP’s science–policy efforts. These are most pronounced in developing countries, where insufficient technical capacity weakens monitoring systems and constrains the translation of global assessments into actionable decisions. Despite the clear demand for stronger foundational data systems, progress is often hindered by ongoing funding shortfalls, which remain a critical barrier to advancing evidence-based Solutions Pathways across thematic pillars. However, UNEP is addressing these through targeted capacity building and regional cooperation.

Lessons learned: UNEP has initiated efforts to consolidate and better align activities to strengthen delivery under the One Impact Framework. This includes maintaining coherence and using iterative feedback loops, which are essential for sustaining impact. Furthermore, regularly tracking indicators strengthens accountability and supports more effective management. Significant work has also advanced on establishing more balanced funding approaches and developing a coherent knowledge management system, with both areas targeted for full implementation by the end of 2026.

Regional Governance Opportunities

Opportunities: Milestones like the XXIV Meeting of the Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) Forum of Ministers allow UNEP to serve as a key regional governance platform for advancing coordinated environmental action, aligning regional priorities with global commitments. By enabling countries to articulate shared positions, the Forum promotes regionally driven solutions and enhance coherence between regional priorities and global environmental agendas.

The adoption of regional action programmes on ecosystem restoration, methane reduction, air quality, and chemicals and waste management provides concrete entry points for implementation to shift from simple coordination toward the facilitation of high-impact nature-based investment. This strategy strengthens institutional cooperation and reinforces the role of UNEP in supporting coordination, partnerships, and resource mobilization.

Challenges: The process of turning shared positions into continuous implementation can be difficult, particularly as current resource constraints may limit the shift from pure coordination toward enabling high-impact, nature-based investment. These gaps place pressure on the capacity of UNEP to maintain institutional cooperation, partnerships, and follow-through across the region. However, these constraints serve as a clear prompt for UNEP to diversify its funding strategies and strengthen inter-ministerial technical support.

Lessons Learned: The XXIV Meeting of the LAC Forum of Ministers demonstrated that well-prepared, inclusive, and timely regional processes play a decisive role in strengthening countries' ability to build shared regional positions and engage effectively in global environmental negotiations. A key lesson from the meeting was the critical importance of sustained intersessional work. Proactive engagement, particularly through the Bureau of the Forum and the High-Level Officials Meetings, proved essential for advancing substantive discussions and providing strategic guidance for the LAC Office. This groundwork ensured that ministers arrived with a high degree of readiness, proving that regular intersessional coordination is indispensable to maintaining momentum between ministerial cycles.

Climate Stability through Climate Finance Delivery

Opportunities: Following UNFCCC's COP30 "Mutirão" decision to mobilise \$1.3 trillion annually, UNEP is shifting toward "finance-ready" programming. This utilises BTRs as a strategic gateway for the \$1.3 trillion global finance goal, allowing UNEP to sharpen implementation support and help unlock finance for enhanced NDC delivery. By helping Member States convert BTR data into "investable" NDCs 3.0, UNEP ensures that transparency directly unlocks public and private capital flows for the 1.5°C pathway.

By leveraging consolidated, comparable insights on progress, gaps and barriers to implementation, UNEP can clearly highlight where implementation is lagging and targets are missing. This empowers it to target technical assistance and convene partners to address priority implementation bottlenecks and investment needs, facilitating the tripling of adaptation finance and the operationalization of the Loss and Damage Fund.

MEA Integration and "Super-Year" Synergies

Opportunities: The second MEA Day at UNEA-7 cemented the "tapestry of governance," allowing UNEP to harmonise the outcomes of the Rio Conventions into unified national plans (NDCs 3.0 and NBSAPs). This integration is supported by scalable digital solutions, strengthened partnerships, and cost-effective parliamentary engagement, ensuring that global frameworks are translated into enforceable national policies.

By leveraging expanded Montevideo Programme collaboration and stronger regional and subregional platforms, UNEP successfully advances MEA synergies under UNEA resolutions. This approach further drives United Nations Country Team (UNCT) engagement, fostering a "whole-of-UN" delivery model that bridges the gap between international environmental law and local implementation.

Challenges: While there has been significant progress in advancing MEA synergies and aligning national plans, resource and capacity limitations continue to hinder effective implementation. Duplication risks emerge when synergies initiatives are not fully coordinated, and fragmented institutional arrangements across countries complicate efforts to sustain coherent action. These barriers are further reinforced by uneven national data availability, which constrains monitoring and weakens the translation of integrated MEA approaches into consistent and enforceable policies.

Lessons Learned: Experience showed that early prioritisation and a modular, user-driven approach made governance tools more adaptable and effective for countries. Regular engagement with MEA Secretariats and UNCTs, supported by stronger internal coordination, improved coherence across frameworks. Regional exchanges helped tailor solutions to local contexts, while Environmental Performance Review (EPR)-based analysis and country-level testing provided the evidence and validation needed to refine approaches before scaling.

Actions Taken: UNEP advanced implementation through phased delivery and targeted capacity building, while integrating lessons into analytical work to strengthen support for UNEA resolutions. In parallel, it extended efforts to conduct follow-up consultations to refine priorities and has begun planning new capacity-building on MEA synergies to sustain coordinated national implementation. These actions ensure that UNEP is moving beyond simple coordination toward a more robust model of operational support that empowers national governments to meet their international obligations.

Catalysing Finance and Investments for Resilient and Circular Economies

Opportunities: UNEP will position the 2026 Guide for Finance Ministers as a practical decision-support tool for fiscal officials, bridging the gap between environment and treasury. This enables the integration of adaptation, nature, and debt into macro-fiscal policymaking, providing a clear framework for catalysing investments toward resilient and circular economies.

Challenges: Persistent implementation gaps continue to limit progress in SPP, with procurement officers requiring clearer operational guidance and measurement systems remaining uneven across countries. In the broader effort to catalyse finance for resilient and circular economies, geopolitical uncertainty and weakened policy signals have slowed momentum and made it harder to embed sustainability considerations into fiscal and financial decision-making. While these factors present significant hurdles, they reinforce UNEP's mandate to provide stable, evidence-based frameworks that can withstand market volatility and provide clarity for both public and private financial actors.

Lessons Learned: Across both SPP and finance workstreams, strong country leadership and high-level political engagement (such as at COP30) proved essential for driving commitment to SPP and accelerating uptake. Co-leadership models and region-specific, early engagement helped tailor approaches and strengthen ownership. Notably, in the finance agenda, country-driven implementation emerged as a key success factor, with ministries increasingly shifting from explaining why sustainability matters to focusing on how to integrate climate action and resilience into fiscal and economic decision-making.

Actions Taken: In response to existing challenges, UNEP has shifted focus toward strengthening the business case for sustainability, highlighting benefits such as improved risk management and economic resilience, while also addressing sector-specific gaps—for example, through pilot training under the Principles for Sustainable Insurance to help close insurance protection gaps in Africa. Simultaneously, UNEP has advanced its SPP efforts by rolling out 2026 capacity-building initiatives, including the development of five online training modules with the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) and the co-design of regional programmes in Africa and Latin America. These actions move UNEP beyond conceptual support toward the delivery of practical tools that empower national authorities.

Amplifying Africa's Voice and Inclusive Green Economy

Opportunities: UNEP remains vital in amplifying Africa's environmental agenda by provisioning dedicated strategic and technical support to the African group through the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) and the African Group of Negotiators. Moving into 2026, this support ensures the continent presents a unified voice in actions to curb threats posed by climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution, while enhancing the role and viability of regional forums as essential pillars of multilateral governance.

Inclusive Green Economy

Opportunities: The [PAGE e-course](#) serves as a low-cost, high-reach platform to influence how inclusive green economy concepts are understood globally. This initiative creates the necessary space to mainstream gender-responsive economic policy thinking across country programming and donor engagement, specifically addressing the rising demand for practical links between economic tools and social outcomes to ensure a truly equitable transition. By leveraging these digital platforms, UNEP is able to democratize access to technical knowledge, ensuring that the foundations of a green economy are accessible to a global audience of policymakers and practitioners.

Challenges: Despite the PAGE e-course's wide reach, translating inclusive green economy and gender-responsive transition concepts into practical, universally relevant guidance remained difficult. The varied technical backgrounds of the learners and country contexts made it challenging to ensure that high-level ideas connected clearly to real policy and planning needs. UNEP recognises that a "one-size-fits-all" approach to global education has limitations in the face of diverse national economic structures. This challenge serves as a strategic catalyst for UNEP to develop more modular and localised training content that can be adapted to specific regional requirements.

Lessons Learned: Experience from the PAGE e-course showed that learners engage most when complex inclusive green economy and gender concepts are presented in clear, accessible language supported by concrete and policy-relevant examples. This affirmed the need to move beyond theory-heavy content and focus on practical application. Similarly, in the area of Environmental and Social Safeguards, UNEP's executing partners continue to face limited familiarity with ESSF and its role in managing risk across UNEP-implemented projects. These findings underscore the necessity of moving beyond compliance-based training toward a model that emphasises operational competency and risk mitigation.

Actions Taken: Going forward, UNEP will further embed gender and distributional analysis across PAGE capacity-building products and country trainings, ensuring these dimensions are integrated into core transition planning rather than treated as standalone topics. To bridge the identified knowledge gaps, UNEP is also prioritising sustained capacity-building efforts to strengthen partners' understanding, competencies, and ability to apply safeguarding requirements effectively throughout project cycles. These actions ensure that UNEP's technical assistance remains relevant, inclusive, and grounded in the practical realities of national implementation.

3 Resources and Management Issues

A. Financial Resources

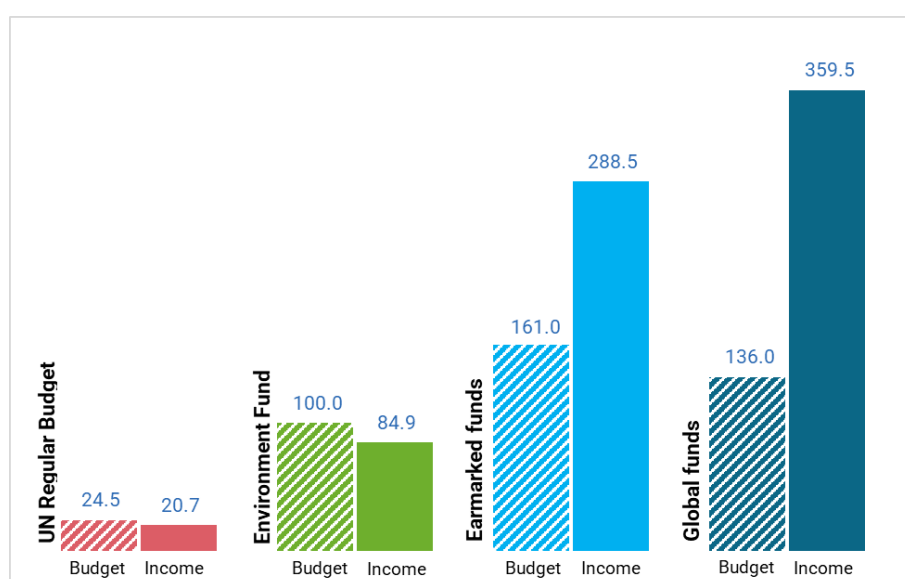
i. Financial Update as at 15 January 2026⁵

a. Overview of income⁶

The UN Regular Budget and Environment Fund provide UNEP's core funding, enabling the organization to respond to the crises of climate change, nature and biodiversity loss, land degradation and desertification, and pollution and waste, and implement the programme of work as approved by the Member States.

As at 31 December 2025, the total income recognized was US\$753.6. Core funding (Environment Fund and Regular Budget) accounted for 14% of total funding, while Earmarked and Global Funds accounted for 86%.

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

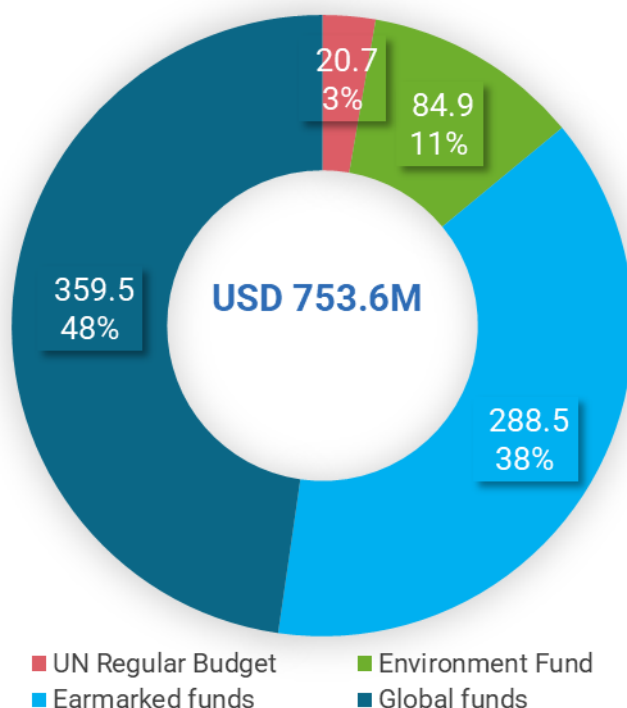


Note: For Earmarked and Global Funds, income for multi-year agreements is recognized in the year the agreement is signed.

⁵ The Income figures reported are as at 15 January 2026 and remain provisional pending the completion and closure of 2025 financial accounts.

⁶ 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.

Graph 2: Income per source of funding (in million US\$); January – December 2025



b. Core funding

(i) United Nations Regular Budget

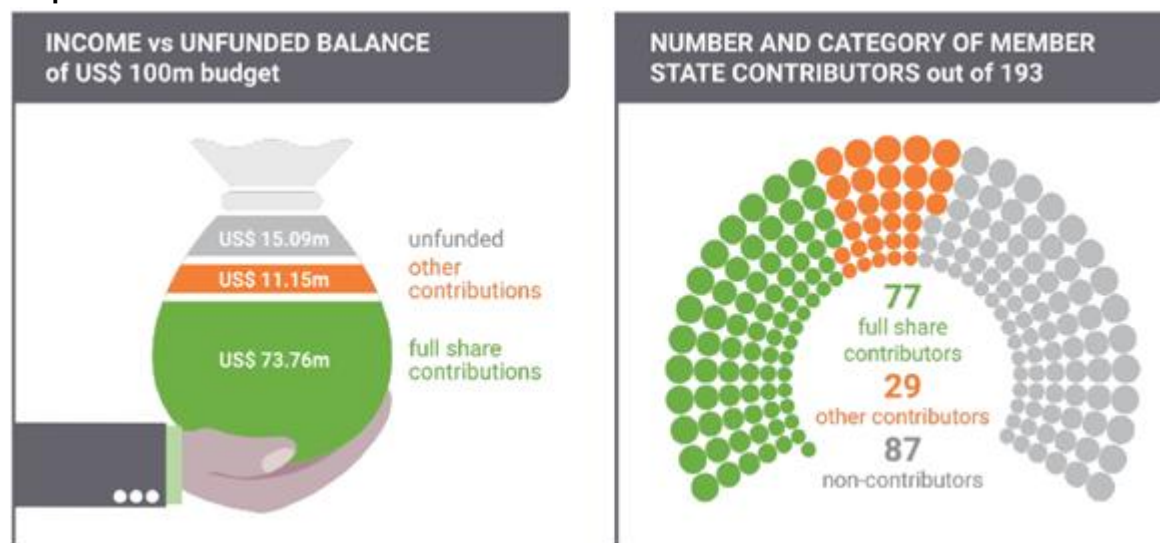
The United Nations Regular Budget provides core resources to UNEP to cover strategic fundamental programme activities. Due to liquidity challenges, the 2025 allotment issued was US\$20.7 million which is lower than the approved budget of US\$24.5 million.

(ii) The Environment Fund

The Environment Fund is the backbone of UNEP's financing architecture, providing the core resources essential for results-oriented, balanced, and accountable programme delivery. It enables UNEP to respond swiftly to emerging environmental challenges, maintain robust oversight, and implement its mandate effectively across all programme areas.

The Environment Fund income for 2025 amounted to US\$84.9 million representing 85% of the approved 2025 budget of US\$100 million. The contributions were received from 106 Member States, which represents 55% of the total membership of 193 nations. Out of 106 Member States 77 (73%) contributed their full share as per the voluntary indicative scale of contributions (VISC). One hundred and four (104) Member States have paid their 2025 pledges as at 15 January 2026.

Graph 3: Status of the Environment Fund in 2025



UNEP extends its sincere appreciation to all contributing Member States. UNEP adds its special thanks to the 77 Member States that have provided their full share and, in particular, to the top 15 Member States who have provided 90% of the income to the environment fund.

UNEP also values the increased stability and predictability provided by multi-year agreements/ pledges from Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, and South Africa, which amounted to a total of US\$39.7 million, or 46% of the 2025 Environment Fund income.

Table 1: Top15 contributors to the Environment Fund in 2025

Member States	Million USD
Norway	13.0
Netherlands (Kingdom of the)	10.2
Germany	9.9
Denmark	7.8
France	7.6
Sweden	5.1
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	4.7
Belgium	4.7
Switzerland	3.9
Canada	2.2
Spain	2.1
Finland	1.8
China	1.4
Japan	1.3
Saudi Arabia	1.2

Table 2: Full share contributors to the Environment Fund in 2025

Albania	Gabon	Mauritius	Slovenia
Armenia	Gambia	Micronesia	Solomon Islands
Azerbaijan	Georgia	Monaco	Somalia
Barbados	Germany	Mongolia	Spain
Belgium	Grenada	Montenegro	Sri Lanka
Belize	Honduras	Morocco	Sudan

Bhutan	Iceland	Nauru	Sweden
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Iraq	Netherlands	Switzerland
Cabo Verde	Ireland	New Zealand	Tajikistan
Cambodia	Jordan	Norway	Timor-Leste
Côte d'Ivoire	Kenya	Oman	Tonga
Cyprus	Latvia	Panama	Tuvalu
Czechia	Liberia	Peru	United Kingdom
Denmark	Libya	Philippines	Uruguay
Dominican Republic	Lithuania	Rwanda	Vanuatu
Egypt	Luxembourg	Saint Kitts and Nevis	Yemen
Eritrea	Madagascar	San Marino	Zambia
Eswatini	Maldives	Saudi Arabia	
Fiji	Malta	Serbia	
France	Mauritania	Seychelles	

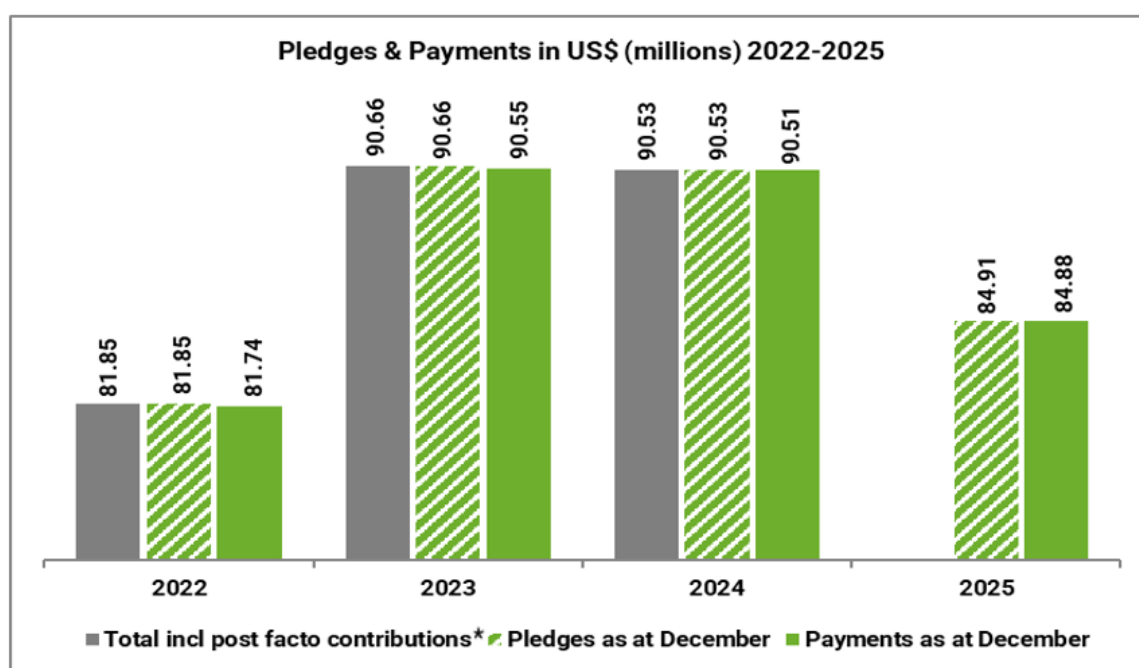
(iii) Comparison with previous years

UNEP celebrates the increase in total number of Member States contributing and those providing their full share. The number of contributors has increased from 76 in 2015 to 107 in 2024 and 106 in 2025. The share of full share contributors has almost quadrupled from 20 to 77 during the same period. The end of 2025 amounted to a record 73% of total contributors contributing their full share, which reflects strengthened confidence in the Environment Fund.

However, in reflection of the challenges faced by the global economy, the decade-long upward trend in income turned downwards in 2025. The total contributions amounted to US\$84.9 million, US\$ 5.5 million or 6% lower than in 2024.

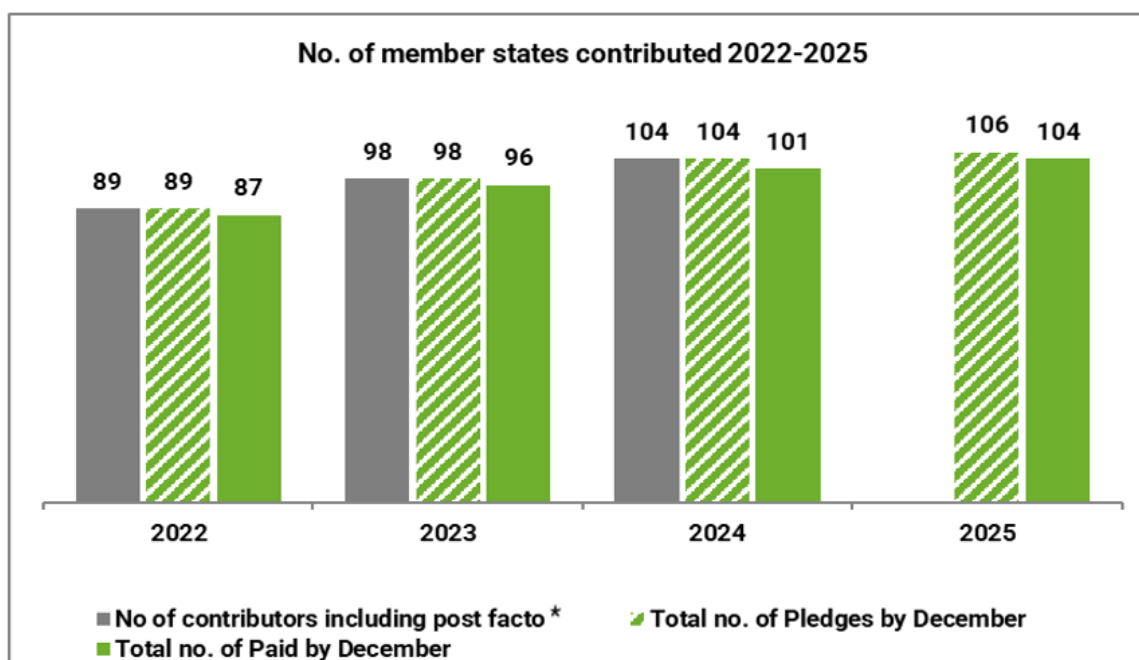
As UNEP's financing remains a collective responsibility of all 193 Member States, their continued commitment is essential to enabling UNEP to deliver impact for people and planet.

Graph 4 Pledges and payments to the Environment Fund 2022-2025



* Post facto – Includes contributions received after the end of the respective financial year against pledges of that year.

Graph 5: Number of contributors to the environment fund 2022-2025



* Post facto – Includes contributions received after the end of the respective financial year against pledges of that year.

c. Earmarked contributions

(i) Earmarked funds

Of the US\$288.5 million received, 97% was tightly earmarked and 3% was softly earmarked funding. By comparison, in 2024 UNEP received US\$281.8 million, with 95% tightly earmarked and 5% softly earmarked. To enhance flexibility and effectiveness in the use of funds, UNEP encourages Member States to consider shifting from tightly to softly earmarked contributions through Planetary Funds. **Planetary Funds** closed 2025 on a positive note, with US\$5.98 million contributed by Norway, Denmark, and the Philippines to the Pollution Fund.

(ii) Global funds

The funds provided by GEF and the Green Climate Fund (GCF) are earmarked to specific programmes and projects. As at 15th January 2026, GEF had received US\$227.4 million and GCF US\$132.1 million bringing the total 2025 income from Global Funds to US\$359.5 million.

Table 3: Top 15 contributors of earmarked funds in 2025

Funding Partners	USD
UN Entities*	48.7
Germany	41.1
Italy	39.9
Denmark	22.9
Financial Initiative**	22.4
European Commission	22.3
Foundation/NGO	20.1
United Kingdom	19.4
Japan	9.4
Norway	7.8
Sweden	6.9
Australia	6.0
Private Sector	4.8
Switzerland	4.5
Canada	3.0

*Funding received through Multi-Partner Trust Funds and other collaboration agreements with UN entities.

**Partnership between UNEP and the global financial sector to mobilize private sector finance for sustainable development.

ii. Status of allocations and expenditures as at 31 December 2025⁷

a. Environment fund

The approved budget for the Environment Fund for the 2024–2025 biennium amounts to US\$200 million. The total approved allocation for the biennium currently is US\$182 million and the expenditure matched the allotment.

⁷ The expenditure figures were run on 31 January 2026 and remain provisional, pending the completion and closure of 2025 financial accounts towards the end of March 2026.

2024-2025 Core Budgets - Programme of Work Budget as of 31 December 2025				
Environment Fund (EF)				
	Functional Area Name	Budget	Allotment	Expenditure
A	Policymaking organs	4,000,000	4,139,068	3,884,883
B	Executive direction & management	8,000,000	7,938,305	7,881,585
	Subtotal A + B	12,000,000	12,077,373	11,766,469
C	Programme of work			
1.	Climate action	24,000,000	18,739,434	18,615,847
2.	Digital transformations	14,000,000	14,442,237	14,737,565
3.	Nature action	24,000,000	24,933,366	24,650,033
4.	Environmental governance	26,000,000	26,812,442	27,950,962
5.	Chemicals and pollution action	24,000,000	18,803,335	19,032,809
6.	Finance and economic transformations	26,000,000	20,419,774	21,263,099
7.	Science-policy	26,000,000	24,988,806	25,542,877
	Subtotal C	164,000,000	149,139,395	151,793,192
D	Fund programme reserve	10,000,000	5,966,605	2,821,497
	Subtotal C + D	174,000,000	155,106,000	154,614,690
E	Programme support and other items			
	Programme support	14,000,000	14,821,666	15,282,942
	Subtotal E	14,000,000	14,821,666	15,282,942
	Total (A+B+C+D+E)	200,000,000	182,005,039	181,664,101

b. Programme Support Costs

Income from programme support costs is earned through extrabudgetary project implementation. It is used to cover essential administrative and operational expenses. The allotment for the 2024-2025 biennium is US\$52.9 million, in comparison to the biennium budget of US\$32 million. This reflects a high volume of extrabudgetary project implementation in the biennium, which generated a higher amount of programme support costs and enabled a larger allotment for the biennium. As of 31 December 2025, expenditure was 97.4% of the allotment.

2024-2025 Core Budgets - Programme of Work Budget as of 31 December 2025				
Programme Support Cost (PSC) Fund				
	Functional Area Name	Budget	Allotment	Expenditures
A	Policymaking organs	20,000	68,560	40,145
B.1	Executive direction & management	-	-	-
B.2	United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects on Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR)	-	25,550	17,367
	Subtotal A + B	20,000	94,110	57,512
C	Programme of work			
1.	Climate action	4,500,000	5,435,412	6,035,753
2.	Digital transformations	1,300,000	656,084	394,622
3.	Nature action	2,400,000	3,208,269	3,737,772
4.	Environmental governance	1,300,000	4,164,573	4,323,708
5.	Chemicals and pollution action	3,100,000	3,738,213	3,379,336
6.	Finance and economic transformations	2,500,000	2,369,885	1,961,755
7.	Science-policy	700,000	992,919	797,754
	Subtotal C	15,800,000	20,565,354	20,630,700
D	Fund programme reserve	-	-	-
	Subtotal C + D	15,800,000	20,565,354	20,630,700
E	Programme support and other items			
	Programme Support	16,200,000	33,849,914	32,421,809
	Subtotal E	16,200,000	33,849,914	32,421,809
	Total (A+B+C+D+E)	32,020,000	54,509,379	53,110,020

c. Regular budget

The total regular budget allotment by UNHQ for 2024 and 2025 amounted to US\$40.6 million, which is US\$5.9 million short from the General Assembly approved total budget of US\$46.5 million due to liquidity challenges. As of 31 December 2025, the combined expenditure of the two years amounted to US\$42.3 million. The recruitment freeze and other spending restrictions remain in place.

2024-2025 Core Budgets - Programme of Work budget as of 31 December 2025				
Regular Budget (RB)				
	Functional Area Name	Budget (GA approved)	Allotment	Expenditure
A	Polymaking organs	940,600	578,150	661,422
B.1	Executive direction & management	6,266,400	6,694,038	6,659,636
B.2	United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects on Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR)	2,216,200	1,716,325	1,544,797
	Subtotal A + B	9,423,200	8,988,513	8,865,854
C	Programme of work			
1.	Climate action	4,196,900	3,691,465	4,443,231
2.	Digital transformations	3,049,000	2,399,892	1,895,133
3.	Nature action	5,000,600	4,091,271	4,371,563
4.	Environmental governance	9,137,600	8,209,855	8,701,494
5.	Chemicals and pollution action	3,431,400	3,135,991	3,415,639
6.	Finance and economic transformations	3,858,500	3,212,709	3,130,493
7.	Science-policy	6,219,000	4,926,692	5,325,405
	Subtotal C	34,893,000	29,667,876	31,282,958
D	Fund programme reserve	-	-	-
	Subtotal C + D	34,893,000	29,667,876	31,282,958
E	Programme support and other items			
	Programme support	2,175,100	1,959,211	2,235,664
	Subtotal E	2,175,100	1,959,211	2,235,664
Total (A+B+C+D+E)		46,491,300	40,615,600	42,384,476

d. Earmarked and Global Funds

Expenditures of earmarked and Global Funds comprise actual funds spent during the biennium, including commitments pertaining to future years and expenses against unspent balances of previous budgets. The unspent budget balances of previous periods are not included in the current budget period. The budget for earmarked contributions and global funds is based on estimates of contributions and planned activities in support of the approved programme of work, while the income received is multi-year in nature, hence the variance between the estimated budget, the income received, and the expenditures incurred on an annual basis as displayed in the table.

2024-2025 Core Budgets - Programme of Work Budget as of 31 December 2025			
Earmarked and Global Funds			
	Functional Area Name	Budget	Expenditure
A	Polymaking organs	500,000	220,449
B	Executive direction & management	1,400,000	1,243,097
	Subtotal A + B	1,900,000	1,463,545
C	Programme of work		
1.	Climate action	194,400,000	491,081,521
2.	Digital transformations	26,800,000	1,910,059
3.	Nature action	173,200,000	332,376,068
4.	Environmental governance	27,100,000	89,121,791
5.	Chemicals and pollution action	94,400,000	182,531,044
6.	Finance and economic transformations	49,700,000	69,467,901
7.	Science-policy	16,700,000	14,674,034
	Subtotal C	582,300,000	1,181,162,418
D	Fund programme reserve	-	-
	Subtotal C + D	582,300,000	1,181,162,418
E	Programme support and other items		
	Programme Support	9,600,000	21,012,444
	Subtotal E	9,600,000	21,012,444
Total (A+B+C+D+E)		593,800,000	1,203,638,408

e. Planetary Funds

The three Planetary Funds aim at strategically supporting UNEP towards the delivery of the strategic objectives of its Medium-Term Strategy (MTS) 2022-2025 and Programme of Work (PoW) 2024-2025 and beyond, with focuses on Climate Stability, Living in Harmony with Nature, and Towards a Pollution-Free Planet.

The authorised budget is in line with the funds received to date for the funds. The allotments are approved by the Budget Steering Committee based on input from the Sub-Programme Coordinators. Implementation rates are carefully monitored and adjusted to ensure that disbursements are utilised within a maximum expenditure period of 24 months.⁸

Status of allocations and expenditures - Planetary Funds (biennium 2024 - 2025 as at 31st December 2025)					
	Thematic Area	Authorised Budget	Allotments	Expenditure	Utilisation %
A	Climate	12,625,585	12,462,372	12,462,576	99%
B	Nature	8,035,599	7,988,819	7,992,250	99%
C	Pollution	8,674,183	7,624,785	7,666,762	88%
	Total A+B+C	29,335,367	28,075,976	28,121,587	96%

Utilisation rate against Pollution Fund is lower than for other Funds due to USD 1 million to be allocated and spent in 2026.

⁸ The utilisation rate for the Pollution Fund appears lower than for other funds because USD 1 million has been earmarked for 2026 expenditures.

iii. Resource mobilization strategy

In 2025, the implementation of UNEP's resource mobilization strategy took place amid an increasingly complex geopolitical landscape and shifting national priorities. These dynamics influenced funding decisions and created challenges in sustaining contributions.

Nevertheless, the importance of predictable and flexible core funding through the Environment Fund was highlighted in all regional ministerial meetings held in Asia and the Pacific, Africa, and Latin America and the Caribbean and other bilateral meetings with Member States. Member States across regions reaffirmed the central role of core funding in enabling UNEP to deliver on its mandate and programme in a balanced and impactful manner.

The evolving global context presents new opportunities for UNEP to broaden engagement with a wider range of Member States and other partners. Strengthened regional collaboration and targeted outreach have opened new avenues for mobilizing resources, particularly from Member States that are increasing their environmental commitments and seeking greater participation in UNEP's work.

Continuous and inclusive engagement with both traditional and emerging funding partners remains important. Diversifying the funding base and exploring innovative financing mechanisms such as partnerships with the private sector, and the use of Planetary Funds remain essential for building resilience and reducing overreliance on the top 15 Member States. UNEP recognised all 106 of the 2025 contributors to the Environment Fund including 77 full-share contributors, the top 15, and those contributing other amounts through social media.

To enhance internal capacity, UNEP is developing a resource mobilization training module aimed at equipping staff with the skills and knowledge required to strengthen engagement with partners, mobilise new funding, and sustain collaboration with Member States and other funding partners. These efforts align with UNEP's Medium-Term Strategy (2026-2029) and aim to reinforce the organization's ability to deliver results and impact on the ground by advancing global environmental action.

iv. Management of Trust Funds and Earmarked Contributions

UNEP continues to strengthen the governance and management of its trust fund portfolio in line with UNEA-7 Decision 7/5 on the management of trust funds and earmarked contributions. Progress on the rationalization of inactive trust funds remains on track, with closure processes for those scheduled for 2026 advancing as planned. These efforts reflect UNEA's continued emphasis on maintaining an active, coherent, and efficiently governed trust fund portfolio consistent with earlier UNEA decisions.

UNEP has further reinforced internal procedures for establishing new contribution agreements, ensuring full alignment with the governance, financial, and administrative requirements of the respective trust funds. In addition, new trust funds are now established only after a thorough assessment of alternative mechanisms available in Umoja, thereby addressing the concern previously raised by the governing bodies regarding the proliferation of multiple trust funds. This enhanced scrutiny strengthens compliance with the UN Financial Regulations and Rules and supports coherent fiduciary management across all earmarked contributions.

In line with the priorities set by Member States at UNEA-7, UNEP continues to implement measures to reinforce financial oversight, streamline administrative processes, and ensure the transparent and consistent application of cost-recovery provisions across all trust funds.

B. Human Resources

General overview

As of 31 December 2025, the United Nations Environment Programme employed 1,327 staff members, reflecting a decrease of 59 positions from the previous quarter. The workforce is comprised of:

- 820 staff (62%) in the professional and higher categories
- 10 staff (<1%) in the National Professional Officer (NPO) category
- 497 staff (37%) in the general service category

The UNEP Secretariat employs 1,035 staff members (78% of UNEP's total workforce), while the MEAs employ 292 staff members (22%) of the total. This structure underscores UNEP's dual administrative and programmatic framework, where the Secretariat manages core operational and policy functions, while the MEAs serve as entities supporting international environmental agreements under the authority of their respective Conference of the Parties. This emphasises the clear distinction between the UNEP Secretariat and the MEAs.

i. Senior level staff (UNEP Secretariat and MEAs)

At the **P-5 level and above**, the number of staff decreased from **180 in the third quarter to 176 in quarter 4 of 2025**. The Secretariat holds 136 of these positions, while MEAs account for 40 senior roles as of 31 December.

Level	USG	ASG	D2	D1	P5	Total
Number of Staff (Q4-2025)	1	3	11	48	113	176
Number of Staff (Q3-2025)	1	3	10	49	117	180

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

ii. Appointments – P5 and above

In the fourth quarter of 2025, UNEP appointed 7 senior-level positions across its divisions and offices, enhancing its leadership capacity and operational effectiveness. Many of these job openings were initiated from 2024. All the selected candidates were internal candidates.

Position Title	Grade	Geographical Group	Internal/ External
SENIOR PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT OFFICER	P-5	Latin America & Caribbean	Internal
CHIEF OF SECTION; LEGAL AFFAIRS	P-5	Western European & Others	Internal
SENIOR PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT OFFICER	P-5	Western European & Others	Internal
SENIOR PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT OFFICER	P-5	Western European & Others	Internal
SENIOR PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT OFFICER	P-5	African Group	Internal
SENIOR PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT OFFICER	P-5	African Group	Internal
SENIOR LEGAL OFFICER	P-5	African Group	Internal

iii. Gender distribution

a. Gender distribution: UNEP status (October to December 2025)

As of December 31, 2025, UNEP employed 1,327 staff members, with 63% (842) female and 37% (485) 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 59% (481) of staff, while men represent 41% (339). In the General Service category, female staff make up 72% (358), while male staff account for 28% (139).

UNEP Gender Parity Status												
Gender	USG	ASG	D2	D1	P5	P4	P3	P2	Total P+	Total NO	Total GS	Total Staff
Female	1	3	8	27	63	145	153	81	481	3	358	842
Male			3	21	50	119	105	41	339	7	139	485
Totals	1	3	11	48	113	264	258	122	820	10	497	1327

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

b. UNEP Secretariat

Within the UNEP Secretariat, females occupy 59% (381) of professional and higher-level positions (P+), while males make up 41% (263). The gender distribution in the general service category is composed of 70% (267) female and 30% (114) male representation.

UNEP SECRETARIAT												
Gender	USG	ASG	D2	D1	P5	P4	P3	P2	Total P+	Total NPO	Total GS	Total
Female	1	2	5	21	47	117	124	64	381	3	267	651
Male			2	20	38	99	79	25	263	7	114	384
Total	1	2	7	41	85	216	203	89	644	10	381	1035

c. Multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs)

Within the MEAs, women make up 57% (100) of staff at the professional and higher levels (P+), while men account for 43% (76). At the General Service level, 78% (91) of GS staff are women while men account for 22% (25).

MEAs											
Gender	USG	ASG	D2	D1	P5	P4	P3	P2	Total P+	Total GS	Total
Female		1	4	6	16	28	29	17	100	91	191
Male			1	1	12	20	26	16	76	25	101
Total		1	5	7	28	48	55	33	176	116	292

iv. Geographical representation

a. Geographical representation: progression over the years

As of 31 December 2025, UNEP staff members represent a range of nationalities, reflecting the organization's commitment to geographical balance and global representation.

Region	Total as at 30 September 2025	Total as at 31 December 2025	Variation
African Group	460	425	-35
Asia Pacific Group	257	252	-5
Eastern European Group	69	71	2
Latin American and Caribbean Group	140	136	-4
Stateless	1	1	0
United States of America	37	33	-4
Western European and Others Group	422	409	-13
Total	1386	1327	-59

Following the functional review conducted at UNEP in 2025, there were a total of 59 separations by December 31, 2025. Out of these, 42 separations resulted from the downsizing exercise and agreed separations, while 17 were due to regular separations.

b. Geographical representation at Professional Levels

The table below provides an overview of the regional representation of UNEP staff at the professional level and above as of December 31, 2025.

UNEP regional representation of staff – Professional level and above											
Regional Distribution	USG	ASG	D2	D1	P5	P4	P3	P2	Total Dec 2025	Total Sep 2025	Variation
African Group		1	4	4	26	55	50	18	158	163	-5
Asia Pacific Group		1	3	12	19	51	61	33	180	183	-3
Eastern European Group				4	12	16	13	12	57	54	3
Latin American & Caribbean Group			2	6	16	21	33	12	90	93	-3
Stateless								1	1	1	0
United States of America				6	5	8	10	1	30	34	-4
Western European & Others Group	1	1	2	16	35	113	91	45	304	307	-3
Total	1	3	11	48	113	264	258	122	820	835	-15

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

Region	P5 and above in UNEP Secretariat	P5 and above in MEAs	Total UNEP
Africa Group	24	11	35

Asia Pacific Group	24	11	35
Eastern European Group	13	3	16
Latin American Caribbean Group	18	6	24
United States of America	8	3	11
Western European & Others Group	49	6	55

v. Funding of staff positions

As of 31 December 2025, UNEP's staffing structure demonstrates a strategic approach to resource management and operational efficiency, with 1,327 staff members funded through four main sources: the Environment Fund, Earmarked Contributions, Programme Support Costs (PSC), and the Regular Budget. This funding distribution emphasises UNEP's ability to balance flexibility with targeted resource allocation to deliver its mandate effectively.

Of the 1035 staff in the Secretariat, the Environment Fund supports 301 (23%), Earmarked Contributions support 550 (53%), Programme Support Cost support 101 (10%) and Regular Budget, 83 (8%).

Of the 292 staff in MEAs, Extra budgetary funds support 257 (88%) and programme support costs support 35 (12%).

Funding	USG	ASG	D-2	D-1	P-5	P-4	P-3	P-2	Total P+	Total NO	Total GS	Total
Secretariat												
Environment Fund		1	23	3	45	61	37	7	177	2	122	301
Earmarked Contributions			8	2	29	101	142	78	360	7	183	550
Programme Support Costs			1		6	17	9	6	39	1	61	101
Regular Budget	1	1	10	4	16	29	10	0	71	0	12	83
MEA												
Extra Budgetary Funds*		1	8	4	27	45	52	31	168	0	89	257
Programme Support Costs					1	4	2	2	9	0	26	35
Total	1	3	50	13	124	257	252	124	824	10	493	1327

* 'Assessed MEA trust funds are classified as Extra Budgetary for the purpose of this report.

vi. UNEP talent management strategy

In the fourth quarter of 2025, UNEP engaged in three online career events in three official UN languages, Chinese, Spanish, and Arabic, attracting 190 participants in total, and targeting Africa, Asia Pacific, and Latin America and Caribbean regions.

UNEP delivered several targeted learning initiatives to strengthen staff capabilities. A blended career transition program supported staff affected by the comparative review exercise that was conducted due to the budgetary constraints faced. In addition, over 50 supervisors completed the training on mitigating unconscious bias. In partnership with the UNSSC, Data Analytics and Knowledge Management courses were delivered to the Young Talent Pipeline cohorts. Two learning pathways on Career Transition and AI in the workplace were launched.

C. Audits

i. United Nations office of internal oversight services (OIOS)

a. Implemented audits

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

- Audit of cyber-security preparedness at UNEP
- Audit of the UNEP Secretariat of the Convention of the migratory species of wild animals (CMS)

b. Audits in progress and planned

The planning phase of the Audit of UNEP Secretariat functions provided to the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR) has well advanced. The audit is scheduled for official launch, with its objectives to be announced in early 2026.

ii. United Nations board of auditors (BoA)

a. Completed audits

The BoA carried out the interim audit of 2025 financial year for UNEP headquarters and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological diversity (SCBD) in Nairobi and Montreal from 17 October to 16 November.

Preliminary results point to key priorities for UNEP: strengthening project performance monitoring, improving data governance in the IPMR system, and enforcing stricter due diligence for implementing partners, especially high-risk agreements. The audit also calls for stronger accountability in grant management, faster closure of expired donor agreements, and better use of unspent balances. Additionally, UNEP should update its Resource Mobilization Strategy for greater flexibility and revise its Data and Digital Governance Framework to ensure organization-wide standards and compliance.

b. Audits in progress and planned

The BoA will conclude the final audit of the 2025 financial year from April to May 2026.

iii. Joint Inspection Unit (JIU)

a. Completed reviews

The following JIU system-wide reviews applicable to UNEP have been published during the reporting period:

- Donor-led assessments and the UN single audit principle
- Policies and practices for determining the rates of programme support costs
- Health Services in the UN system

The recommendations applicable to the UN Secretariat and UNEP call for UN System organizations to enhance transparency, strengthen assurance and cost-recovery practices

for voluntary contributions, define clear rules on sharing investigative information. They also encourage the integration of health and occupational risks into enterprise risk management and to work collectively, to provide strategic, system-wide guidance on health-related management issues. UNEP has committed to aligning its actions with the guidance and leadership of the UN Secretariat and the relevant governing bodies in implementing these measures.

b. Reviews in progress

The following system-wide reviews have been launched in 2025 and are still in progress:

1. Strategic Planning function
2. Recruitment policies and practices
3. Travel arrangements
4. Data governance frameworks
5. Decentralised evaluation function

iv. Challenges

UNEP continues to experience audit fatigue due to overlapping audit, inspection, and donor requirements that often target similar areas. This often results in delays in implementation of the recommendations.

v. Opportunities

UNEP has accepted the new recommendations and welcomes the findings, which build on previous efforts to strengthen project performance monitoring, data governance, and grant management. Several actions are already underway, including improvements to data quality and financial closure processes in UNEP's the integrated planning, monitoring, and reporting (IPMR) system. Other actions may require phased implementation over time. Implementation plans for all of the preliminary audit results have been drafted and implementation has been prioritized.

vi. Lessons learned and actions taken

UNEP has successfully implemented several recommendations by embedding systemic improvements, including stronger risk-based controls and expanded oversight in partnership management. A comprehensive review of performance indicators was conducted, leading to the One Impact Framework with a clear hierarchy of impact, outcome, and output indicators that link UNEP's strategic objectives with measurable environmental change. UNEP also completed a root cause analysis of uncompleted indicators and introduced corrective measures such as a Project Management Community of Practice and updated guidance in the Programme and Project Management Manual.

D. Evaluations

a. UNEP evaluations

During the reporting period, UNEP completed 11 independent project evaluations and provided independent validation for four management-led project Terminal Reviews. At the subprogramme level, UNEP finalized one strategic evaluation of Chemicals and Pollution Action, while one strategic evaluation of Nature Action remains ongoing. At the same time, UNEP is currently managing 20 active project evaluations, with an additional six project evaluations progressing through the consultant recruitment stage.

b. Completed Independent Terminal Evaluations (TE)

PROJECT TITLE	PERFORMANCE RATING	NO. REC'S	REPORT LINK
UNEP/GEF Project "Initial Steps for the Establishment of the National Protected Areas Network in Iraq" (GEF ID 5392) (2015-2023)	Moderately Satisfactory	8	https://wedocs.unep.org/20.500.11822/48725
UNEP Project: "Strengthening the environmental management of the oil and gas sector in fragile and developing countries" (PIMS ID 1957– SMA ID 30586) (2016 - 2024)	Highly Satisfactory	4	https://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/48750
UNEP/GEF Project "Conserving, Enhancing and Managing Carbon Stocks and Biodiversity in the Chernobyl Exclusion Zone" (GEF ID 4634) (2015-2024)	Moderately Satisfactory	7	https://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/48997
UNEP/GEF Project Sustainable Pathways – 'Protected Areas and Renewable Energy' (SPPARE) (GEF 5390) (2015–2023)	Unsatisfactory	4	https://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/49093
UNEP/GEF Project "Building Climate Resilience through Innovative Financing Mechanisms for Climate Change Adaptation" GEF ID 5523 (2016-2023)	Moderately Satisfactory	5	https://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/49094
UNEP/GCF Project "REDD+ Results-based Payments in Paraguay for the period 2015-2017" (Paraguay + Verde Project) UNEP SB-OL 6313 (2015-2017)	Moderately Satisfactory	8	https://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/49005
UNEP/GEF Project "Piloting Innovative Investments for Sustainable Landscapes" GEF ID 9719 (2018-2022)	Moderately Satisfactory	3	https://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/49082
UNEP Project: Land Use Finance Project: Leveraging private finance to systematically transition to sustainable land use decoupled from deforestation, climate, and ecosystem impacts (PIMS ID 2009, 113.4, SMA ID 37605.	Moderately Satisfactory	6	https://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/49081
UNEP Project: "Interfaith Rainforest Initiative, Phase 2" (2021-2024), SMA ID 99286	Satisfactory	5	https://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/49096
UNEP/GEF Project "Adapting coastal zone management to climate change considering ecosystems and livelihoods" (a.k.a. PAZC) GEF ID 4568 (2014-2023)	Satisfactory	4	https://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/49048
UNEP Project: "631.1 Accelerating the shift to sustainable public procurement and monitoring progress," SMA ID 43577 (2020-2023)	Moderately Unsatisfactory	0	https://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/49074

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

PROJECT TITLE	PERFORMANCE RATING	NO. REC'S	REPORT LINK
UNEP/GEF Project "Strengthening climate services and early warning systems in the Gambia for climate resilient development and adaptation to climate change" (GEF ID 5071) (2017–2022)	Moderately Satisfactory	6	https://wedocs.unep.org/20.500.11822/48722
UNEP/GEF Project 'Strengthening Argentina's Transparency Framework on GHG Inventories and Mitigation' (GEF ID 9955) (2019–2024)	Moderately Satisfactory	3	https://wedocs.unep.org/20.500.11822/48785
UNEP/GEF Project Strengthening Lao PDR's Institutional Capacity to Comply with the Enhanced Transparency Framework under the Paris Agreement (GEF ID: 10039) (2020–2024)	Satisfactory	5	https://wedocs.unep.org/20.500.11822/48786

UNEP/GEF Project Strengthening Trinidad and Tobago's capacity in transparency for climate change mitigation and adaptation (GEF ID: 10596) (2021–2024)	Highly Satisfactory	3	https://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/49009
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d. Opportunities, challenges, lessons learned, and actions taken

Evaluations:

The project-level evaluations completed in the final quarter of 2025 are indicative of the geographic (e.g. Iraq, Ukraine, Antigua and Barbuda, Madagascar, and Brazil) and technical breadth (protected areas, oil and gas, green finance, ecosystem-based approaches, and working with faith-based constituencies) of UNEP's portfolio. This poses a challenge in deriving learning that is both technically specific and elevated to an aggregate level at the same time.

Whether UNEP's work is innovative (e.g. land-use finance) or more familiar (capacity development to meet national commitments), similar concerns emerge around how to sustain post-project momentum and effort. The answers lie as much in *how* project work is carried out as in *what* work is carried out. Factors such as strong country ownership, committed stakeholder engagement and effective capacity development that truly enables independent action are key in sustaining the benefits achieved by projects at the outcome level after projects reach their completion.