UN environment programme

UNEP – your partner for people and planet

Part 4 Funding of UNEP

2025 EDITION

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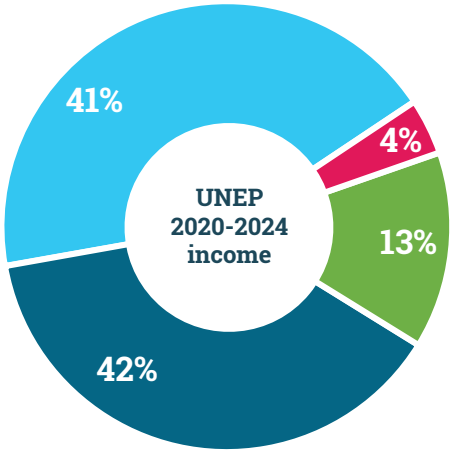
How is UNEP funded?
UNEP relies on voluntary contributions for over 95 per cent of its operations. There are four main sources of funding for UNEP.

The success of the work of UNEP depends on the financial contributions made by Member States and other partners. UNEP thanks you.

EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS
earmarked for specific projects, themes or countries, enable expansion and replication of programme and results in more countries with more partners.

- **Earmarked Funds**
From Member States, the European Commission, the UN family, the Multilateral Fund (Montreal Protocol) etc. ($1,275.6M/41 per cent*)

- **Global Funds**
From GEF and GCF ($1,284.7M/42 per cent*)



** combined income in five-year period (2020-2024) as at 31 Dec 2024*

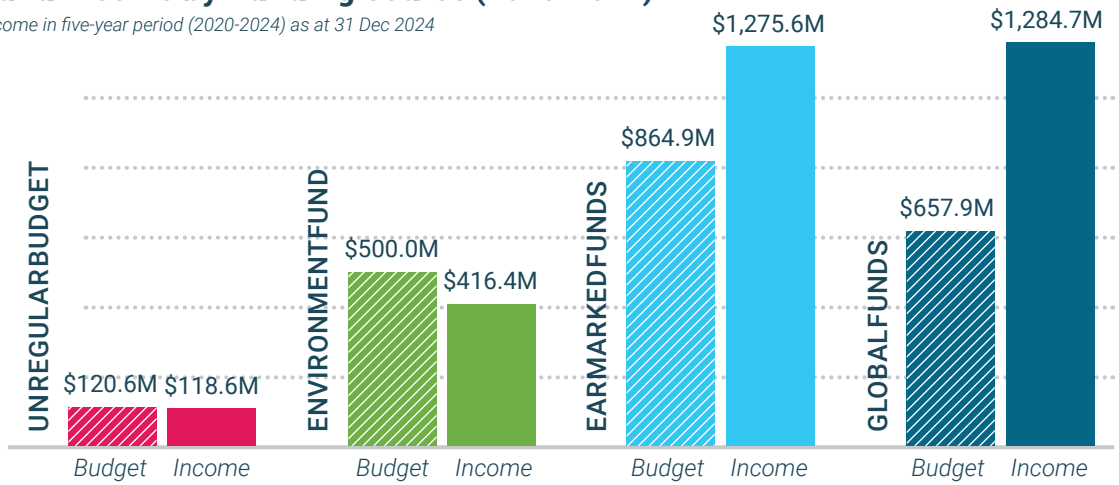
CORE CONTRIBUTIONS
gives flexibility to implement programme of work as approved by all Member States.

- **UN Regular Budget**
supports functions of UNEP Secretariat, including the Governing Bodies, coordination in the UN system, and cooperation with global scientific communities. ($118.6M/4 per cent*)

- **Environment Fund**
the core fund, supports essential capacity needed for balanced and efficient delivery of programme approved by Member States. ($416.4M/13 per cent*)

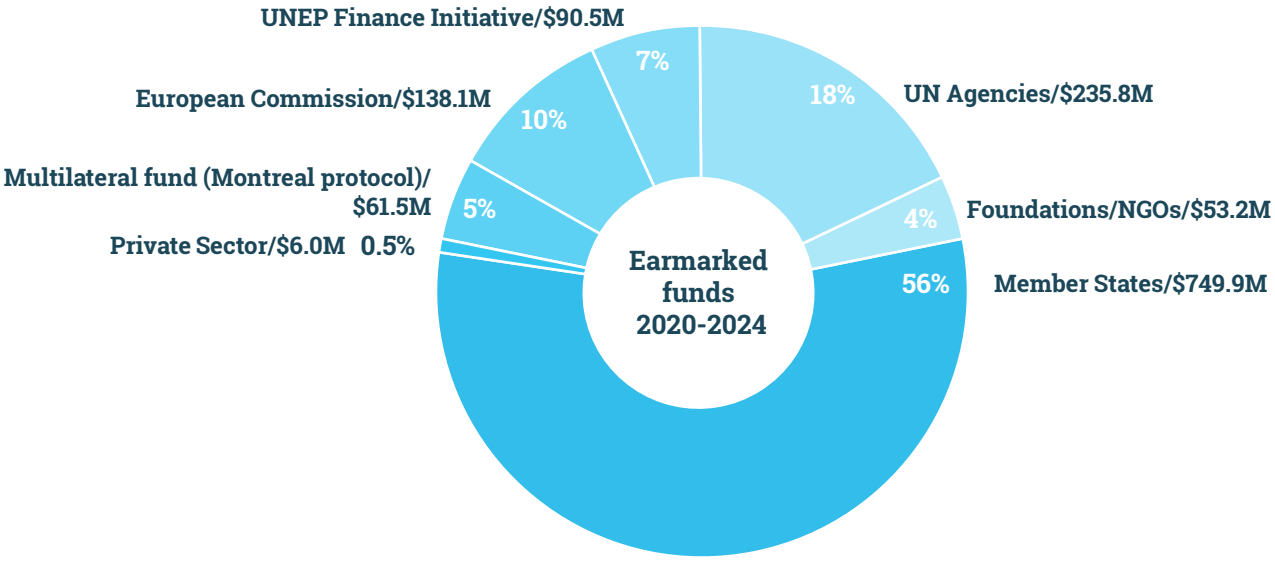
Budget and Income by Funding Source (2020-2024)

** combined income in five-year period (2020-2024) as at 31 Dec 2024*



Earmarked funds 2020-2024

** combined income in five-year period (2020-2024) as at 31 Dec 2024*



Flexibility in funding supports agility in programming

UNEP remained open for business throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, but rapidly adjusted some of its programming. This kind of agility is only possible thanks to the flexibility of core funding, which gives the organization the ability to adjust to emerging threats (see p.25).

Towards better and stronger funding of UNEP

The Environment Fund

The **Environment Fund** was established in 1973 by the UN General Assembly as the core financial fund of UNEP.

The fund is used to provide scientific evidence on the state of the global environment; to identify emerging environmental issues and innovative solutions; to raise awareness and advocacy; and to build capacity. It invests in results-focused programme management and robust oversight. It also finances UNEP's convening power in bringing together governments, the private sector and civil society to advance the global environmental agenda, for example through UNEA.

Core funding gives UNEP the flexibility to implement the programme of work as approved by its Member States, and to strategically respond to emerging challenges, such as COVID-19. Earmarked funds complement core funding and support upscaling and replicating of results of the core work – including building capacity in more countries and with more partners. However, if earmarked very strictly, the funding risks steering the organisation away from the commonly agreed goals to addressing symptoms rather than root causes.

The Environment Fund – a green investment that benefits all countries.

Securing contributions to the Environment Fund, as well as softly earmarked funding, is indispensable for UNEP to deliver results effectively and efficiently, and to support countries to deliver on the environmental dimensions of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Three planetary funds

To shift the balance away from rigidly earmarked funding of individual projects towards improved income distribution and resource allocation for bigger impact, UNEP in 2022 launched **three planetary funds** that provide flexible softly earmarked funding streams to achieve the MTS objectives of Climate Stability, Living in Harmony with Nature, and a move Towards a Pollution Free Planet.

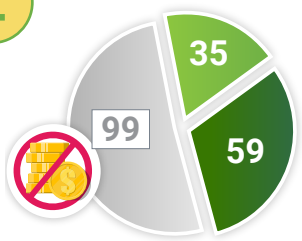
Contributions to the planetary funds will enable a comprehensive, science-based approach, which will further position UNEP in its role as the global environmental authority.

How to strengthen UNEP's funding

1

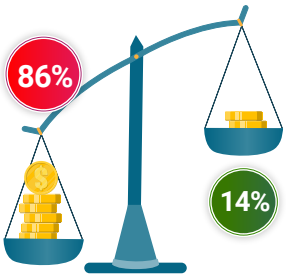
Fund the Environment Fund at the level of the budget approved by Member States. In 2024 income was at 90 per cent of the approved budget of US$ 100 million.

2



Contribute your full share – all UNEP Member States (193) have the responsibility to fund UNEP. In 2024, 94 Member States contributed to the Environment Fund, 59 of whom contributed their full share as per the indicative scale established by Member States.

3



When core funding to the Environment Fund is not possible, **support the three Planetary Funds.** Currently almost 86 per cent of the funding received by UNEP is tightly earmarked. More effective delivery of results needs more flexibility in funding.

Funding UNEP is a global, shared responsibility

In 1972 the founders of UNEP envisioned that annual core funding to the Environment Fund would be at the level of US$ 100 million, which in today's value would amount to around US$ 760 million. As a comparison, in 2024 UNEP's Environment Fund received US$ 90 million – or some 12 per cent of the original vision.

At the same time, UNEP's mandate has grown tremendously since 1972. It is clear that funding has not kept up with the requests placed on UNEP.

In 2012, following the Rio+20 UN Conference, the General Assembly reaffirmed and strengthened the role of UNEP. To enable it to deliver on its strengthened mandate, world leaders committed to ensure secure, stable, adequate and increased financial resources to UNEP. Subsequent UNEAs have reiterated this commitment.

Funding the Environment Fund is a responsibility to be shared by all Member States.

All 193 Member States are encouraged to contribute their full share to the Environment Fund.

A Call to Partners

Investing in UNEP means investing in the health of the environment for people and planet.

More than ever, it is vital to ensure that UNEP has the financial resources it needs to create a lasting impact and deliver the results partners expect.

Every contribution matters.

Help fund UNEP – for people and planet.

Top-15 Environment Fund Contributors 2020-2024

1	Netherlands	$47.5M
2	Germany	$41.2M
3	France	$37.8M
4	Norway	$37.6M
5	USA	$37.1M
6	Denmark	$30.4M
7	Sweden	$24.6M
8	Belgium	$23.4M
9	United Kingdom	$22.4M
10	Switzerland	$19.9M
11	Italy	$14.7M
12	Canada	$12.2M
13	Finland	$12.2M
14	Japan	$7.4M
15	China	$6.8M

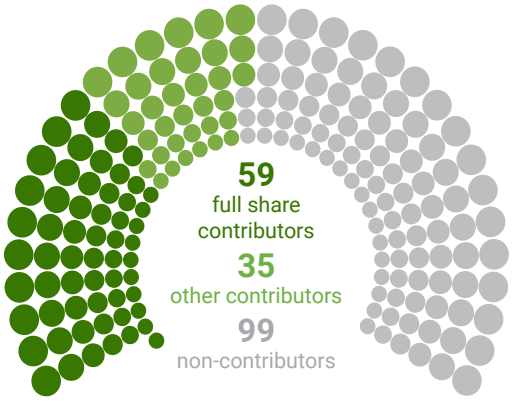
Top-15 Earmarked Fund Contributors 2020-2024

1	UN Agencies	$235.8M
2	Germany	$219.7M
3	European Commission / EU	$138.1M
4	Norway	$113.2M
5	UNEP Finance Initiative*	$90.5M
6	Multilateral Fund (Montreal Protocol)	$61.5M
7	Foundation/NGO	$53.2M
8	United States of America	$51.6M
9	Sweden	$50.9M
10	Denmark	$43.3M
11	Japan	$42.6M
12	United Kingdom	$39.4M
13	Switzerland	$33.8M
14	Canada	$20.8M
15	Finland	$16.3M

** Partnership between UNEP and the global financial sector to mobilize private sector finance for sustainable development (see p.18).*

Environment Fund (2024)

Out of 193 Member States, in 2024:



15 of the 193 Member States provide almost 90 per cent of UNEP's income.

While the top-15 contributors to the Environment Fund are large economies, many other contributors that pay their full share of the approved budget are Small Island States and Least Developed Countries, demonstrating that every country has the capacity to contribute.

Contributors to the Environment Fund in 2024

as at 31 December 2024

CONTRIBUTIONS ABOVE AND EQUAL TO FULL SHARE**

Albania	Denmark	Iceland	Madagascar	Netherlands	Serbia
Armenia	Dominica	Iraq	Maldives	New Zealand	Slovenia
Bahamas	Dominican Republic	Ireland	Malta	Norway	Somalia
Barbados	Eswatini	Italy	Mauritius	Oman	Sri Lanka
Belgium	Fiji	Jamaica	Monaco	Palau	Sweden
Belize	France	Jordan	Mongolia	Peru	Tajikistan
Bhutan	Gambia	Kenya	Montenegro	Philippines	United Kingdom
Bosnia & Herzegovina	Georgia	Latvia	Morocco	Saint Kitts & Nevis	Uruguay
Cabo Verde	Grenada	Lithuania	Nauru	Saint Lucia	Vanuatu
Cyprus	Guyana	Luxembourg	Nepal	Saudi Arabia	

OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS

Andorra	Cambodia	Germany	Malaysia	Republic of Korea	Thailand
Australia	Canada	Hungary	Mexico	Singapore	Trinidad and Tobago
Austria	China	Indonesia	Micronesia	Slovakia	Uganda
Bangladesh	Croatia	Japan	Pakistan	South Africa	USA
Botswana	Czechia	Kazakhstan	Paraguay	Spain	Viet Nam
Bulgaria	Finland	Kuwait	Portugal	Switzerland	

*** The full share according to the Environment Fund voluntary indicative scale of contributions (VISC), established by the UN Member States. Please note the United States does not participate in the VISC.*