ECOSYSTEMS DIVISION

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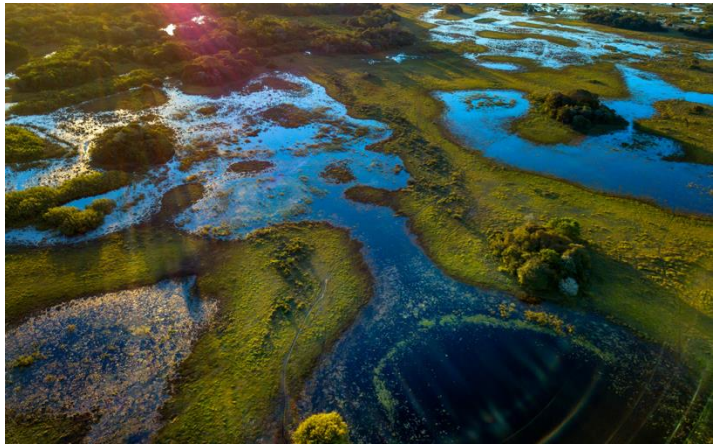
UN environment programme



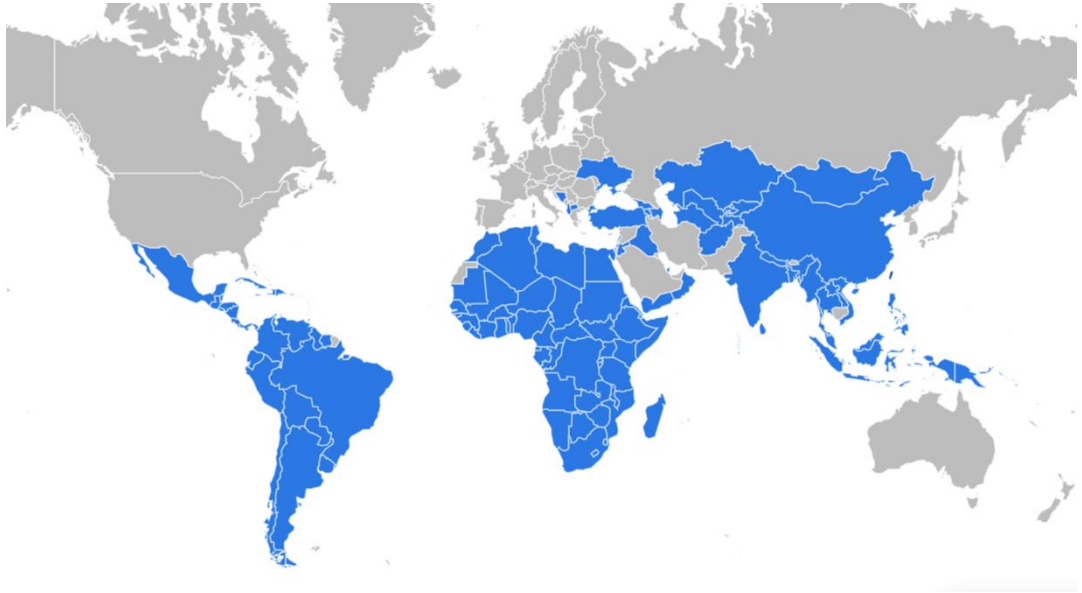
DEVELOPMENT WITH NATURE

We drive conservation, restoration and sustainable use of ecosystems to achieve benefits for nature and people: today and future generations.

The Ecosystems Division works with Member States and partners to strengthen resilience by providing policy and technical support to reduce land degradation and catalyze sustainable social and economic transformation for biodiversity, people and peace.

DIVISION'S WORK

- $1.3 billion portfolio, including (POW & GEF)
- Over 200 projects
- Over 160 countries
- Supporting Member States to meet their Biodiversity MEA commitments
  - CBD
  - UNCCD
  - Regional Seas
  - CMS
  - CITES
  - BBNJ



A GLOBAL DIVISION

435 staff and affiliates of over 62 nationalities for staff

50% at HQ in Nairobi

50% in 21 duty stations

ECOSYSTEMS DIVISION

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

UNEP–WCMC (UK)

UNEP–IEMP (China)

Operations & Programme Services

BIODIVERSITY & LAND

Biodiversity, People and Landscapes

Economics of Nature

Nature Frameworks Support Unit

GEF Biodiversity and Land

Nature and Health

UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration

Kunming Biodiversity Fund

DISASTERS & CONFLICTS

Disaster Risk Reduction

Policy & Analyses

Response / Recovery

Joint Environment Unit

MARINE & FRESHWATER

Source-to-sea pollution

Freshwater & wetlands

Marine and Coastal

GEF International Waters

UNEP–DHI (Denmark)

REGIONAL SEAS

Barcelona Convention/ MAP

North-West Pacific Action Plan

Cartagena Convention

Abidjan Convention

East Asian Seas Action Plan

Nairobi Convention

ENABLING ACTIVITIES

- CBD/ KMGBF: 70 countries for NBSAPS, 106 countries for Cartagena protocol, 97 countries for Nagoya protocol
    - assess gaps,
    - update and develop national biodiversity monitoring plans,
    - assess and update policy coherence and biodiversity finance frameworks.
- UNCCD: 122 countries to produce national reports
- BBNJ: Ratification and readiness

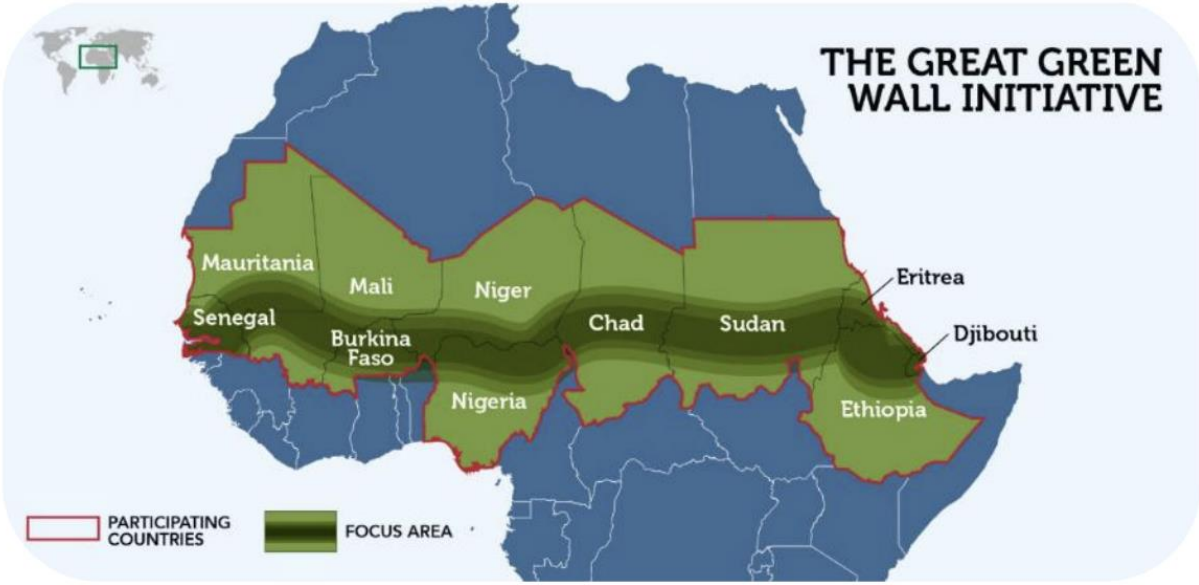
TACKLING LAND DEGRADATION: GREAT GREEN WALL INITIATIVE

With a GEF/LDCF grant of nearly $80 million, the project restores landscapes and ecosystems services for resilient communities living in arid and semi-arid environments across the Sahel.

It uses a transnational and integrated approach, supported by strengthened local capacity for sustainable land and natural resource management.

Targets:

- 2,621,000 ha protected areas created or under improved management
- 6,335,000 ha under sustainable land management in production systems
- Expected total beneficiaries: 5 million



REGIONAL SEAS CONVENTIONS AND ACTION PLANS

- For over 50 years, Regional Seas has been UNEP's most successful mechanisms for the conservation of the marine and coastal environment across 18 regions.
- 40% reduction in beach litter in the Mediterranean.
- Creation of over 50,000 square kilometers of marine protected areas in the Caribbean.
- The new 2026-2029 Strategic Direction aligns closely with GBF and other MEAs.

NATURE FOR PEACE

Nature-based Solutions in fragile and conflict-affected settings have reduced the risks of violent conflict and build more stable, resilient societies.

- **Haiti**: with the active participation of local communities 700 hectares of degraded mangroves have been restored, 600 hectares of agroforestry have been established, and 20 kilometres of riverbanks have been stabilised via reforestation.
- **Paraguay**: 670 indigenous families benefited from reforestation and sustainable land management activities to restore degraded lands, preventing forced migration due to environmental deterioration.
- **Tanzania**: the resilience of host communities and refugees has been enhanced through ecosystem restoration to peacefully manage the interconnected needs of these two communities.

THANK YOU