

Validated Terminal Review of the UNEP Project Environment, Health and Pollution (PIMS 02021)

2018 – 2023



UNEP Industry and Economy Division

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Sincere appreciation is expressed to all the people who took time to be interviewed, provide further information and to comment on the draft report.

The reviewer hopes that the findings, conclusions and recommendations will contribute to current related projects, inform the potential formulation of subsequent phases if any, and contribute to the improvement of similar projects in other countries and regions.

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ABOUT THE REVIEW

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Brief Description:

This report is a management-led Terminal Review of the UNEP Environment, Health and Pollution Project implemented from 2018 to 2023. The project's overall goal was to enhance capacity of member states, stakeholders and citizens to prevent and address pollution in an integrated manner to improve environmental quality and the health of all. The review sought to assess project performance (relevance, effectiveness and efficiency) and determine outcomes stemming from the project, including their sustainability. The review has two primary purposes: (i) to provide evidence of results to meet accountability requirements, and (ii) to promote learning, feedback, and knowledge sharing through results and lessons learned among UNEP, donors and relevant agencies participating in this project. In addition, the review assessed how the project deliverables and the policy work advanced by the project can be sustained beyond its duration.

Key words: environment and health nexus, pollution prevention, chemicals management, one health approach, integrated policy, environmental governance, pollution-free planet.

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Source(s) of Funding by Institution Type:

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Private Sector	No
UN Body	Yes
Multilateral Fund	Yes
Environment Fund	Yes

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

AMCEN – African Ministerial Conference on the Environment
AMR – Antimicrobial Resistance
BRS – Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm (Conventions)
CCAC – Climate and Clean Air Coalition
DIM – Direct Implementation Modality
EA – Expected Accomplishments
EMG – Environment Management Group
FAO – Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GCF – Green Climate Fund
GEF – Global Environment Facility
IDB – Inter-American Development Bank
ILK – Indigenous and Local Knowledge
ISP-CWP – Intergovernmental Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution
IPBES – Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services
JPA – Joint Programming Agreement
LAC – Latin America and the Caribbean
MEA – Multilateral Environment Agreement
MoU – Memorandum of Understanding
MTS – Medium Term Strategy
OH – One Health
PIMS – Programme Information Management System
PMU – Project Management Unit
POW – Programme of Work
PRODOC – Project Document
SDG – Sustainable Development Goal
UNDP – United Nations Development Programme
UNEA – United Nations Environment Assembly
UNEP-FI – UNEP Finance Initiative
UNSDCF – United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
UNIDO – United Nations Industrial Development Organization
WHO – World Health Organization
WOAH – World Organisation for Animal Health

PROJECT IDENTIFICATION TABLE

Table 1: Project Identification Table

UNEP SMA ¹ ID:	PIMS 02021	Grant ID ² (if applicable):	N/A
UNEP Management (Division/Branch/Unit):	Economy Division Chemicals and Health Branch Pollution and Health Unit		
Implementing Partners:	Pure Earth, WHO, FAO, SEI, BRS.		
Sources of Funding:	Country ³ (ies): France, Japan, Sweden, EC, UK	Institution ⁴ Name/Type: Bilateral organisations such as SIDA	
Relevant SDG(s):	SDG 3 - Good Health and Well-being, Target 9: Indicator 3.9.1 SDG 6 - Clean Water and Sanitation, Target 3: Indicator 6.3.1 SDG 7 - Affordable and Clean Energy, Target 7: Indicator 7.1.2 SDG 11 Sustainable Cities, Target 6: Indicator 11.6.2 SDG 12 - Responsible Consumption and Production, Target 4: Indicator 12.4.1 SDG 17 - Partnerships for the Goals, Target 9: Indicator 17.9.1 SDG 17 - Partnerships for the Goals, Target 17: Indicator 17.17.1		
MTS (all that apply):	Chemicals, Waste and Air Quality (MTS 2018-2021) Chemicals and Pollution Action (MTS 2022-2025)	UNEP approval date:	N/A
POW Direct Outcome(s) number/reference ⁵ (applicable for projects approved from 2022): OR POW Output(s) number/reference ⁵ (applicable for projects approved pre-2022):	POW Direct Outcome: POW Output: SP 5 - Advisory and support services promote the sound management of chemicals at national level; including mainstreaming into national policies and programmes, instruments and schemes for the governance of chemicals production, use, trade and release.	MTS 2025 Outcome(s) number/reference ⁵ (applicable for projects approved from 2022): OR POW Expected Accomplishment(s) number/reference ⁵ (applicable for projects approved pre-2022):	MTS 2025 Outcome: POW Expected Accomplishment: EA (a) Policies, legal, and institutional strategies for sound chemicals management developed and implemented in countries. EA (c) National emissions sources identified, policies, legal, regulatory and institutional frameworks for the reduction of air

¹ SMA refers to the ID provided by the Integrated Planning, Management and Reporting Solution (IPMR) system, which was introduced by UNEP in July 2023. Previously, it was referred to as a PIMS ID number.

² For example, ID references from EC, IKI, UNDA, Adaptation Fund, GCF.

³ Where applicable, list countries who have provided project funds and/or co-finance.

⁴ Indicate where funding institutions are any/all of the following: Foundation/NGO; Private Sector; UN Body; Multilateral Fund; Environment Fund; Other.

⁵ For these items do not include full text; only enter the number or reference.

			pollution developed, and capacity built.
Sub-programme:	Chemicals, Waste & Air Quality	Programme Coordination Project (if relevant):	N/A
Expected start date: ⁶	01/07/2018	Actual start date: ⁷	01/07/2018
Planned completion date: ⁶	31/06/2022	Actual operational completion date:	30/06/2023
Planned project budget ⁸ at approval:	Planned Core Funding (regular budget, Environment Fund, etc.):		
	Planned Extra-budgetary Funds ⁹ : Cash: 1,215,537 In-kind: N/A		
	Total Planned Budget: 5,134,686		
Secured budget ¹⁰	Secured Core Funding (regular budget, Environment Fund, etc.):		
	Secured Extra-budgetary Funds: Cash: 2,987,065 In-kind: N/A		
	Total secured budget as of June 2023:		
Actual expenditures reported (cash only):	Actual Core Funding expenditures reported as of November 2023: 2,703,992.90		
	Actual Extra-budgetary Funds expenditures reported as of June 2023: N/A		
	Total actual expenditures reported as of June 2023: 2,703,992.90		
First disbursement:	2018	Planned date of financial closure:	Estimated 1 year after operational completion
No. of formal project revisions:	2	Date of last approved project revision:	27/10/2022
No. of Steering Committee meetings:	N/A	Date of Last Steering Committee meeting:	N/A
Mid-term Review/ Evaluation ¹¹ (required or not required):	UNEP requirement:	Y	Mid-term Review/ Evaluation actual date: 30/9/2022
	Donor requirement:	Y	
Terminal Evaluation (planned date):	31/12/2022	Terminal Review actual date:	11/10/2025
Coverage - Country(ies):	Burkina Faso, India, Tanzania, Thailand, Indonesia, Lao PDR	Coverage - Region(s):	Africa, Asia-Pacific, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, North America, West Asia.
Dates of previous project phases:	N/A	Status of future project phases:	N/A

⁶ Expected/planned dates are listed in the Project Document (ProDoc).

⁷ Actual start date is the date of project approval by the Division Director.

⁸ Total budget may include: Regular Budget, Environment Fund, Extra-Budgetary, including 'softly-earmarked' etc.

⁹ Extra-budgetary funds may include co-finance (cash/in-kind).

¹⁰ From last project/budget revision.

¹¹ UNEP projects of four or more years duration require an MTR unless there is an exceptional circumstance. See the *Evaluation in the Project Cycle* section in the [Evaluation Office's operational manual](#). Donor requirements may vary and should be considered in conjunction with UNEP's requirements.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Project background

1. The UNEP Environment, Health and Pollution project (PIMS 02021) was approved in 2018 and implemented by the Pollution and Health Unit of the Chemicals and Health Branch until 2023. The project's overall goal was to enhance capacity of countries to prevent and address pollution in an integrated manner to improve environmental quality and the health of all. The initiative had a global scope, encompassing six regions: Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, North America and West Asia.
2. The project was structured on five workstreams addressing the environment, health and pollution nexus: (i) generating scientific information for better policymaking; (ii) supporting countries to implement integrated tools and policies for pollution and health action; (iii) strengthening global and regional cooperation; (iv) enhancing communications and public awareness through global campaigns; and (v) supporting UNEA 3 implementation plan *Towards a Pollution-Free Planet*.
3. The total planned budget was USD 5,134,686, scheduled for the initial duration of 48 months. The total actual expenditure by the end of the project in 2023 was USD 2,703,992.90. Funding sources included the Environment Fund (EF), Regular Budget (RB), and Extra-Budgetary (XB) contributions from Japan, Sweden, France, Norway, the European Commission, and the United Kingdom.
4. This review covers the total period of the project, from July 2018 to June 2023, which has been extended to 60 months. The research sought to assess project performance and the sustainability of the project's results. Performance was assessed against nine review criteria¹² applying a score from a six-point scale¹³. The review had two primary purposes, aligned with the Terms of Reference:
 - To provide evidence of results to meet accountability requirements.
 - To promote operational learning and knowledge sharing through results and lessons learned among UNEP and the main project partners.
 - In addition, this review examined how the project deliverables and the policy work advanced by this project can be sustained beyond its duration.
5. The review adopted a mixed-methods approach to ensure a comprehensive assessment. Stakeholder engagement was prioritised throughout the process to capture diverse perspectives from project partners, implementing organisations, regional coordinators, and beneficiaries. Qualitative and quantitative data sources were used, drawing on primary data from bilateral interviews conducted virtually, and secondary data from an extensive review of project documentation. The evidence collected was triangulated and methodologically analysed against UNEP's standard review criteria.

¹² (1) Strategic Relevance, including Complementarity; (2) Quality of Project Design; (3) Nature of External Context; (4) Effectiveness (incl. availability of outputs; achievement of outcomes and likelihood of impact); (5) Financial Management; (6) Efficiency; (7) Monitoring and Reporting; (8) Sustainability and (9) Factors Affecting Project Performance and Cross-Cutting Issues.

¹³ The six-point scale is as follows: Highly Satisfactory (HS); Satisfactory (S); Moderately Satisfactory (MS); Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU); Unsatisfactory (U); Highly Unsatisfactory (HU). Sustainability and Likelihood of Impact are rated from Highly Likely (HL) down to Highly Unlikely (HU) and Nature of External Context is rated from Highly Favourable (HF) to Highly Unfavourable (HU).

Key findings and performance ratings

Structural Challenges

6. The project outcome, as defined in the Theory of Change (ToC), was to strengthen the capacity of “Member States, stakeholders, and citizens” to take action on pollution, improving environmental quality and health. The project targeted a wide range of actors and included six regions¹⁴, reflecting its global, regional, and national ambition, presenting a broad scope. Its design was aligned with the implementation of United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) resolutions, which are also directed at a wide constituency of Member States.
7. While the project's objective was strategically relevant at the policy level, the project's design presented challenges. As outlined in the Project Document (2018), the initial planned budget in 2018 was USD 5,134,686. Therefore, the planned scale of funding was not commensurate with the ambition of the project's objective to “provide the needed understanding, capacity development and tools” at that large scale.

Project Achievements

8. Despite the challenging context of limited financial inputs, the project delivered five outputs that were critical to achieving the high-level outcome. To enhance efficiency, the project team prioritised resources on enabling interventions, leveraged partnerships to support actions on pollution and health, and implemented activities aligned with UNEP's areas of added value, including support to UNEA mandates.
9. With regards to Output 5, the project directly contributed to the development and adoption of the UNEA3 Implementation Plan Towards a Pollution-Free Planet, endorsed through resolution 4/21, in response to a request from Member States. The Plan was subsequently integrated into UNEP's Medium-Term Strategy 2022-2025 and the Programme of Work, under the Chemicals and Pollution Action Subprogramme and the Pollution and Health Programme. Interviews conducted with respondents from five regional offices indicated that the project improved internal knowledge and understanding of the environment-health nexus. Moreover, the project contributed to building a more coherent internal narrative framing the linkages in the economic development context. Respondents indicated that the strategic direction introduced by this project continued to influence UNEP's programming after the project concluded in 2023.
10. Regarding Output 4, which aimed to strengthen communication on the impacts of pollution, the project used the momentum leading up to UNEA-3 to enhance outreach through existing global campaigns, such as *Beat Pollution* and *BreatheLife*. Interview data indicated that the project supported the consolidation of previously siloed initiatives, such as those on plastics, air quality, chemicals, and waste, under a common brand. This contributed to better coherence in UNEP's external messaging on environment and health and enabled more coordinated advocacy efforts. To improve resource efficiency and avoid duplication, a project revision conducted in 2021 removed activities related to educational materials. This adjustment aligned the project with existing initiatives at UNEP and optimised the use of resources.

¹⁴ The regions covered by the project are: Africa, Asia-Pacific, Europe, LAC, North America and West Asia. (Prodoc, 2018)

11. The project delivered results particularly under Output 3, which focused on cooperation to address environment, health, and pollution. Project implementation was delivered through strategic partnerships, including with WHO, UNICEF, and the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm Conventions. In 2022, UNEP also signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in partnership with WHO, FAO, and WOA, formalising the Quadripartite Alliance for One Health.
12. Project documentation and media sources indicate that the project leveraged existing regional fora and ministerial platforms to deliver its objectives. Examples include: The Interministerial Conference on Health and Environment held in Libreville in November 2018, which adopted a ten-year Strategic Plan of Action; the December 2018 Ministerial Conference on Innovative Solutions to Pollution in South East and Southern Europe, which resulted in a Joint Regional Vision; and the High-Level Officials Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Regional Forum on Health and Environment in Manila in September 2019, which launched the Collaborative Research Action on Climate, Environment, and Health.
13. Regarding Outputs 1 (scientific information) and 2 (capacity building), the project produced knowledge products on priority topics, demand-led by Member States, such as the *Report on the Environmental and Health Impacts of Pesticides and Fertilizers* (UNEP, 2020). It also released the *Guidance Manual for Policymakers and Regulators for the Environmentally Sound Management of Waste or Used Lead Acid Batteries in Africa* (UNEP, 2021), in line with UNEA resolution 3/9, and contributed to the release of the *Summary for Policymakers on the Environmental Dimensions of Antimicrobial Resistance* (UNEP, 2022) ahead of UNEA 5.2. Under Output 2, the project enhanced Member States' capacities by providing five decision-support tools, such as the *Economic Cost of Inaction Calculator* and the *Relative Risk and the Vulnerability Calculator*. According to regional feedback, these tools helped countries prioritise actions to reduce pollution.

Areas of improvement

Project Design

14. The project focused resources on five levers: enhancing the science base, building capacities, communications, partnerships, policy and environmental governance, aligned with UNEP's areas of expertise. However, the project design did not include a dedicated component on sustainable financing for pollution and health action, an important leverage intervention for achieving the project's outcome. Evidence from UNEP, including *The State of Finance for Nature report* (2023), and *UNEP Adaptation Gap Report* (2023) indicates that implementation gaps in environment and pollution action often arise from limited access to financing, rather than from technical constraints alone. In the absence of appropriate financing mechanisms and economic incentives, Member States may face barriers to implementing the UNEA resolutions and tools supported by the project, as reported by interviewees.
15. Future projects could therefore include a dedicated output on financing. Innovative financing instruments and economic incentives, such as blended finance, output-based payments, pollution-themed bonds, and sustainability-linked instruments, are increasingly being piloted in regions such as Latin America and the Caribbean (IDB, 2022). Additionally, projects could benefit from collaboration with UNEP's Finance Initiative (UNEP-FI), active in this field. In 2024, UNEP-FI published *Navigating Pollution: A Blueprint for Banks* alongside the *Needs Mapping framework*. In 2023, UNEP-FI and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) also released the report

Unlocking Circular Economy Finance in LAC: The Catalyst for a Positive Change.

Therefore, a project component on sustainable financing, including the mapping of innovative financing instruments, economic incentives and regional programmes, could help Member States advance from awareness to action.

16. Another area for improvement in the project's design was the alignment of financial resources with the project's level of ambition. The project relied on effective project management and oversight to use the limited resources strategically, delivering the outputs via complementary projects (e.g., ChemObs) and partnerships (e.g., WHO). Data from interviews indicated that the project was strategically managed as a coordination platform for action on pollution, linking complementary projects. Nonetheless, more systematic resource planning would have been required to fully support the achievement of results.
17. The project was closely aligned with UNEA resolutions, pursuing a global policy agenda. The project intentionally addressed an existing gap by implementing activities at global, regional, and local levels, in the context of policy coherence efforts. However, operating simultaneously across the three levels likely dispersed resources and diluted the project's overall influence, as reported by interviewees. This multi-level approach also hindered the development of realistic indicators, constraining the project's ability to monitor and measure performance more effectively.

Conclusions summary

18. Overall, the project achieved a satisfactory level of performance, demonstrating high strategic relevance, and delivering results under challenging conditions. The project addressed a clear gap from 2018 to 2023, fulfilling a critical role in supporting the implementation of UNEA resolutions, and initiating actions at the three geographic levels. The project's timing was particularly relevant, contributing to UNEP's positioning on the environment and health agenda during the COVID-19 pandemic.
19. At the operational level, the project delivered all five outputs and achieved good Value for Money (VfM)¹⁵. Despite financial constraints and the pandemic, implementation was completed efficiently, using coordinated initiatives. Contributing factors included the quality of project management, the use of partnerships, and leveraging existing regional fora, events and platforms.
20. On the development side, improvements included the need for stronger alignment between resources and the project's ambition, enhancement of indicators, and refinement of the analysis and assumptions in project design, to identify and fill in intervention gaps in the Theory of Change.
21. The ratings are summarised in Table 2. The overall rating for the Environment, Health and Pollution project is Satisfactory. The project achieved a Highly Satisfactory rating for Strategic Relevance and Efficiency, and a Satisfactory rating for Effectiveness and Financial Management. A Moderately Satisfactory rating was assigned for the Quality of Project Design and Monitoring and Reporting, which has

¹⁵ Value for Money (VfM) refers to the optimal use of resources to achieve intended outcomes, ensuring that project resources are used to maximise impact and sustainability, not just cost reductions. It builds on the "3Es" framework: economy, efficiency and effectiveness. (ICAI Review, 2018; UK FCDO, 2021).

been impacted by broad outcome indicators established at the design phase. A detailed analysis of each criterion is provided in Table 17 (p.54).

Table 2: Summary of project ratings

Criterion	Rating
Strategic Relevance	Highly Satisfactory
Quality of Project Design	Moderately Satisfactory
Nature of External Context	Unfavourable
Effectiveness	Satisfactory
Financial Management	Satisfactory
Efficiency	Highly Satisfactory
Monitoring and Reporting	Moderately Satisfactory
Sustainability	Moderately Likely
Factors Affecting Performance	Satisfactory
Overall Project Performance Rating	Satisfactory

Lessons learned

22. The project has generated lessons on project design and implementation at global and regional level. The following lessons have potential for application in future UNEP projects.

Lesson 1

23. The project was directly implemented by UNEP. At the operational level, the project team included 20 staff members from different sections, as indicated in the Prodoc (2018). In this group, a core team was responsible for project management (1 P5, 1 P2, 1 UNV and 1 GS staff member), while others contributed to the delivery of technical outputs. This project did not operate with a lean Project Management Unit (PMU). According to interview respondents, this arrangement created coordination challenges in day-to-day management and added complexity to the team integration.
24. In addition, despite the large size of the project team, it did not include a dedicated specialist for resource mobilisation and partnerships, a strategic function in project delivery of global projects. Furthermore, assigning a communications expert 100% allocated to this project could have helped amplify project results across digital media platforms, enhance knowledge management, monitor the project's impact across regions, and support the preparation of impact reports for donors. For future initiatives, a leaner and more targeted PMU structure could be considered, complemented by technical contributions delivered through product-based modalities.

Lesson 2

25. The ministerial collaboration created by this project at global and regional fora generated valuable networks and experiences to inform future programmatic projects on environment, health, and pollution. Interviewees recommended involving regional office staff early in the design of future initiatives to better reflect local challenges and opportunities. They also highlighted the importance of engaging regional beneficiaries, particularly vulnerable groups and women, early in the project planning to design more inclusive and locally relevant outputs.

Lesson 3

26. Regarding the Quadripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed in 2022 by UNEP, WHO, FAO, WOA, respondents noted that following its signature, more concrete programmatic collaboration, dedicated funding and structured actions would improve the long-term value of the partnership. This feedback was raised by internal and external interviewees.

Recommendations

27. As the project concluded in 2023, the recommendations below respond to the review question about the sustainability of results achieved. Additionally, they identify good practices for UNEP to consider in future Environment, Health and Pollution projects.

Recommendation 1: expand country-level engagement

28. UNEP to expand engagement at the country level, building on the local partnerships initiated by this project, to help translate Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and UNEA resolutions into concrete local action.
29. In this regard, there are disparities across countries, including knowledge gaps, limited infrastructure, and policy fragmentation. A targeted selection of countries, representing diverse sectors, ecosystem services, implementation challenges, and case studies could be considered in future projects. Entry points for mainstreaming environment and health actions include the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (UNSDCFs) agreed at country level, and UNEP's network of national and regional offices. For instance, to support implementation of the One Health Joint Plan of Action, UNEP could initiate pilot projects in selected countries, using the Guide to Implementing of the OH JPA at National Level (2023). This could provide clarity on what One Health means in different regions and countries, to advance action on environment and health.
30. To sustain engagement of regional offices in future projects, a mix of funding sources and UN technical cooperation project modalities could be explored by UNEP. In upper-middle-income countries such as Brazil, national governments allocate resources to environment, health, and pollution action (e.g., the Task Force for the Yanomami People). Some UN agencies (e.g., UNDP, UNIDO) implement Direct Implementation Modality (DIM) projects, with UN country teams, as Project Management Units, funded by national budgets.

Recommendation 2: expand sectoral and thematic projects

31. Drawing on the experience of this global umbrella project, future UNEP projects may benefit from adopting a clearly defined thematic and sectoral focus. This approach could enhance the depth of technical engagement and facilitate uptake at regional and national levels, in key economic sectors. The current project was deliberately broad in scope, supporting the implementation of multiple Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and encouraging integrated policy development on environment, health and pollution. This design was aligned with the normative priorities and coordination efforts taking place in 2018 (see page 32 for contextual background).
32. However, considering the evolving context, with the adoption of the Global Framework on Chemicals (UNEP, 2023) and the establishment of the

Intergovernmental Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution (UNEP, 2025), there are opportunities for UNEP to collaborate across key economic sectors to advance this agenda. Relevant sectors include food safety and food systems, land use change, and challenges in sustainable cities, such as waste management and circular economy transitions. Thematic priorities such as financing climate-health action, strengthening emergency preparedness, and promoting climate justice in health systems were prominently discussed at COP30 in Belém during the Climate Change and Health Day (WHO, 2025).

33. Moreover, A sector-specific project design could enhance the capacity of UNEP to engage with technical ministries, mobilise local budgets, and co-develop local solutions at country level. It may also support more robust monitoring frameworks and facilitate scaling-up of results. It is therefore recommended that future UNEP projects in this area consider thematic and sectoral opportunities, while remaining consistent with UNEP's integrated mandate.

Recommendation 3: expand partnerships with the Private Sector

34. Concerning Output 2, it is recommended to expand partnerships with the private sector, a critical stakeholder for advancing environment, health, and pollution actions (UNEP-WCMC, 2023; WHO, 2023). The project reported initial engagement with private sector actors (Chapter 4). This engagement could be expanded through existing private sector networks, particularly those linked to UN sister agencies delivering the same goals (SDGs 3, 6, 7, 11, 12, and 17).
35. For instance, UNIDO supports Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development (ISID) in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC). It is currently implementing The Green Fertilizer Project (2024-2028), funded by the Mitigation Action Facility (MAF). This initiative promotes circular economy, resource efficiency (waste), and a low-carbon fertilizer value chain, in collaboration with the private sector. Environment and health linkages could be integrated into green value chains in key economic sectors. Additional opportunities for private sector engagement include liaising with the UN Global Compact Forward Faster Platform and UNDP's Philanthropy Platform.
36. These networks can facilitate UNEP's access to companies already aligned with sustainability goals. In addition, some initiatives are connected to financial instruments, such as public-private partnerships (PPPs) for improved waste management, air quality, and pollution reduction. Therefore, there are entry points in the UN system to advance UNEP's private sector engagement and the integration of environment and health linkages.

Recommendation 4: scale up technical tools developed by this project

37. Concerning Output 3, UNEP could scale up the capacity-building tools developed by the project for use in additional regions. According to interview respondents, governments are seeking cost-effective and scalable policy tools to support the implementation of complex UNEA mandates. In this context, the tools developed by this project should not be viewed in isolation but rather as complementary or integrated with existing global knowledge platforms (WHR, UNITAR, ClimaHealth Coalition). Expanding the tools' accessibility, usability, and integration into national systems could increase their impact. Additionally, respondents emphasised the importance of democratising access to data to support more inclusive decision-making at the regional level. Finally, scale-up efforts should be grounded in realistic assessment of implementation capacity, project budget and cost-effectiveness.

Recommendation 5: engage marginalised groups as a target audience

38. Regarding the project's overall design, future projects could include marginalised groups (women, youth, indigenous peoples and local communities) more intentionally in the project outputs and activities as a key audience contributing to environment, health and pollution actions. As outlined in the project context analysis (Prodoc, p. 36), these groups are disproportionately exposed to chemicals and pollution. At the same time, they hold Indigenous and Local knowledge¹⁶ (ILK) about their territories, biodiversity, food systems, traditional medicine, waste practices, weather patterns, and early warning signals. Such knowledge can inform more effective and locally relevant project interventions (IPBES, 2022). The IPBES Global Assessment Report (2019) recognises ILK as essential for strengthening knowledge systems and informing policy decisions.
39. For instance, under Output 1 (information on critical issues of the environment, health and pollution agenda), future projects could promote the co-production of knowledge by engaging these groups in research activities and policy development. UNEP is well positioned to facilitate the integration of ILK into global science-policy platforms, including the recently established Intergovernmental Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution (ISP-CWP). UNEP could support the use of participatory methodologies, the establishment of a dedicated task force on ILK, the organisation of consultation workshops, and the integration of inclusive mechanisms from the outset. This approach could be particularly relevant for thematic and sector-focused projects, where the integration of marginalised groups and ILK can refine project outputs and policy impact.
40. This intervention is consistent with UNEP's principle to leave no one behind, the UN's rights-based framework, and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). It would strengthen the participation of marginalised groups in global decision-making and improve the relevance of scientific and policy outcomes.

Recommendation 6: apply Systems Thinking to refine the Theory of Change (ToC)

41. During project design, it is recommended to complement the Theory of Change (ToC) with a systems thinking approach (Meadows, 2008) to enhance the analysis of drivers, assumptions, and stakeholder interdependencies. This approach can reveal additional leverage points for more targeted and cost-effective interventions for UNEP. For example, the inclusion of a dedicated output on financing, which could be co-designed with UNEP-FI, could strengthen project logic and increase the likelihood of delivering impact.
42. The existing ToC diagram presented only one assumption (Prodoc, p. 24), despite the project operating in a complex system with multiple interacting stakeholders. A systems thinking approach could help map enabling conditions, reveal additional stakeholders, feedback loops, and reinforcing interactions often overlooked by linear

¹⁶ Indigenous and Local Knowledge (ILK) refers to cumulative bodies of knowledge, practices, and beliefs developed by Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs) through adaptive processes and transmitted across generations. Recognised by IPBES as a distinct and complementary knowledge system to science, ILK provides context relevant insights for biodiversity governance, ecosystem management, and sustainability (IPBES, 2022).

models. This may improve the project's capacity to respond to complex realities and identify cost-effective interventions.

43. Importantly, this does not require a highly technical process. A basic systems-mapping workshop, facilitated by trained staff, could refine the ToC at the design and mid-term review stages. The workshop could support reviewing assumptions, adjusting causal pathways, and refining implementation strategies, including new stakeholders, and cost-effective interventions.

Recommendation 7: expand and systematise the resource mobilisation strategy

44. The planned project budget was limited in relation to the project's multi-level ambition and planned outcome. To improve the likelihood of success in future initiatives of similar scope, UNEP could develop a structured resource mobilisation strategy, commensurate with the project's ambition, during the design phase.
45. Environment, health, and pollution are interlinked domains that also intersect with other global challenges on climate change and biodiversity loss (UNEP, 2022; IPBES-IPCC, 2021; Landrigan et al., 2017). This integrated framing may create opportunities to mobilise complementary funding, including from sources not traditionally associated with chemicals and pollution (e.g., the Green Climate Fund, Global Environment Facility). Therefore, multilateral funding allocated for climate action and biodiversity protection could also be explored, particularly from Official Development Assistance (ODA) funding in developing countries.¹⁷
46. Strategic entry points for cross-sectoral financing could include climate adaptation, urban resilience (where climate change, air and water pollution, and public health crises converge), sustainable food systems, waste and plastic pollution, and nature-based solutions with co-benefits for health.
47. UNEP could also expand the categories of potential donors to include local governments, philanthropic foundations, and impact investment platforms. To illustrate, in November 2025, At COP 30, a pledge of USD 300 million was announced by philanthropic organisations (the Climate and Health Funders Coalition) to support climate-health research (CCAC, 2025). International financial institutions have also piloted relevant innovative financing instruments to unlock environment actions. For example, the World Bank's Program-for-Results approach has supported air pollution control action in China, and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) has launched Green Finance Facilities in countries across LAC.
48. For future projects, UNEP should consider developing a resource mobilisation strategy at the design stage, structured around funding targets, timelines, and an expanded set of donor categories. Allocating dedicated staff on resource mobilisation to lead the strategy could facilitate results. It should also consider co-financing arrangements, including in-kind contributions from local governments, to reinforce ownership and build donor confidence.
49. These recommendations aim to sustain the results achieved and capture key learning to inform future project design and implementation.

¹⁷ ODA recipient countries are outlined in this link: <https://www.oecd.org/en/topics/sub-issues/oda-eligibility-and-conditions/dac-list-of-oda-recipients.html>

Validation

The report has been subject to an independent validation exercise performed by UNEP's Evaluation Office. The performance ratings for the Environment, Health and Pollution project (PIMS ID 02021), set out in the Conclusions and Recommendations section, have been adjusted as a result. The overall project performance is validated at the '**Moderately Satisfactory**' level. Moreover, the Evaluation Office has found the overall quality of the report to be Satisfactory (see Annex XI).

I. THE PROJECT

A. Context

Intervention context

50. The project Environment, Health and Pollution was developed in view of the global challenge posed by pollution and its impacts on human health and environmental quality. According to the World Health Organization (2016), environmental factors, including pollution, were associated with 23% of global deaths in 2012, with disproportionate impacts on low and middle-income countries and vulnerable populations. The Lancet Commission on Pollution and Health (Landrigan et al., 2018) estimated the welfare losses linked to pollution-related diseases at USD 4.6 trillion annually. Additional literature linking pollution and health impacts includes *Pollution and Health: A Progress Update* (Fuller et al., 2022), *The Report of the Lancet Countdown: The Imperative for a Health-Centred Response* (Romanello et al., 2023), and the *State of Global Air Report*, which has estimated that, in 2021, air pollution contributed to approximately 8.1 million deaths, corresponding to more than one in eight deaths globally.
51. Evidence linking pollution to health impacts has expanded, but its integration into health and development planning remains limited. At the policy level, fragmentation between environment and health sectors continued to hinder coordinated responses. Resolutions adopted by the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) and the Ministerial Declaration from UNEA-3 highlighted the urgency of transitioning towards a pollution-free planet, and called for the development of integrated action plans, strengthened science-policy linkages, and better coordination (UNEP, 2017).
52. In this context, the project aimed to strengthen institutional and technical capacities to address pollution-related risks to health and well-being in six regions (Africa, Asia Pacific, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean North America and West Asia). The objective was to support countries with scientific assessments, tools to improve integrated health and environment decision making, targeted policy, technical guidance and strategic partnerships. Contextual factors shaping the intervention included the absence of integrated policy frameworks, insufficient pollution and health data, limited economic analysis, and low public awareness of health risks caused by pollution.
53. The project document also identified barriers at the country level, including institutional and political constraints such as fragmentation between environment and health ministries in target countries. In addition, the project was affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, which began in late 2019 and escalated globally in 2020.

Institutional context

54. The project was coordinated by the Pollution and Health Unit within the Economy Division of UNEP. It was framed under UNEP's Medium-Term Strategy (MTS) for 2018-2021 and implemented in alignment with the Programme of Work (PoW) for the 2018-2019 and 2020-2021 biennia. The project contributed to Expected Accomplishment (a), which focused on the development and implementation of national policies and strategies for the sound management of chemicals, and Expected Accomplishment (c), which supported countries in reducing air pollution and strengthening institutional capacity.

55. The project directly contributed to mandates from the third United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-3), including the Ministerial Declaration Towards a Pollution-Free Planet. In addition, it was aligned with several targets under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-Being), SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).
56. Approved by the UNEP Review Committee in 2018, the project was initially planned for a duration of four years. However, implementation was affected by the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. A formal revision was approved in 2021 to reflect an expanded scope and additional funding. Moreover, the project end date was extended to 30 June 2023. A Mid-Term Review (MTR) was conducted in September 2022 (data available in Annex IX).
57. The total planned budget amounted to USD 5,134,686. Funding sources included the Environment Fund (EF), Regular Budget (RB), and Extra-Budgetary (XB) contributions from Japan, Sweden, France, Norway, the European Commission, and the United Kingdom (data available in Annex VI Budget Summary).
58. Implementation was carried out in collaboration with key partners, including the World Health Organization (WHO), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Pure Earth, the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, and the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI). UNEP's regional and sub-regional offices also contributed to project delivery.

B. Results Framework

59. The project is structured according to a Theory of Change (ToC) that connects five outputs to one outcome, one intermediate state, and a long-term impact. The impact is defined as "reduced global pollution and related risk to the environment and human health." This is expected to materialise as a result of an intermediate state described as "a significant increase in action on health, environment, and pollution by the UN and other stakeholders, including citizens, towards achieving a pollution-free planet."
60. To reach this intermediate state, the project aims to deliver a single outcome: "enhanced capacity of member states, stakeholders and citizens to prevent and address pollution in an integrated manner in order to improve environmental quality and the health and well-being of all." This outcome is supported by five interconnected outputs, each addressing specific barriers identified in the problem analysis (Prodoc, 2018, pp. 23-35) and intended to generate change through defined causal pathways.
61. Output 1 addresses the lack of data and knowledge by generating scientific information on environment, health, and pollution, and making it accessible to decision-makers and stakeholders. Output 2 responds to gaps in tools and institutional capacities by developing integrated methodologies and economic assessment tools, and by enhancing stakeholders' capacities. Output 3 targets fragmentation in responses by strengthening global and regional partnerships and coordination mechanisms. Output 4 supports awareness and behaviour change by promoting UNEP-led campaigns and disseminating educational and communication tools. Output 5 focuses on implementation through the development and execution of the UNEA-3 "Towards a Pollution-Free Planet" Implementation Plan. These outputs

collectively aim to strengthen the ability of stakeholders to address pollution challenges in an integrated way.

Table 3 outlines the outcomes and outputs of the project as set out in the approved project document.

Table 3: Summary of project's latest approved results framework

Source: *Project Document*, 2018.

	Results Statement
Project objective	The project's Theory of Change does not include a line on project objective. However, the project is aligned with UNEP's strategic objectives described on page 24.
Impact	Reduced global pollution and related risk to the environment and human health.
Intermediate state	A significant increase in action on health, environment, and pollution by the UN and other stakeholders, including citizens towards achieving a pollution-free planet.
Project outcome	Enhanced capacity of member states, stakeholders and citizens to prevent and address pollution in an integrated manner in order to improve environmental quality and the health and well-being of all.
Outputs	Output 1: Scientific information is collected and made available to decision-makers and relevant stakeholders on critical issues of the environment, health and pollution agenda. Output 2: Integrated methodologies and tools on environment and health, including on economic costs and benefits of addressing pollution - are developed and capacity of stakeholders is enhanced. Output 3: Strengthened global and regional cooperation and partnerships to address environment, health and pollution. Output 4: Increased number of stakeholders are promoting UN Environment led campaigns, through enhanced communication and awareness-raising tools and education materials. Output 5: UNEA3 Implementation plan "Towards a Pollution-Free Planet" is developed and being implemented.

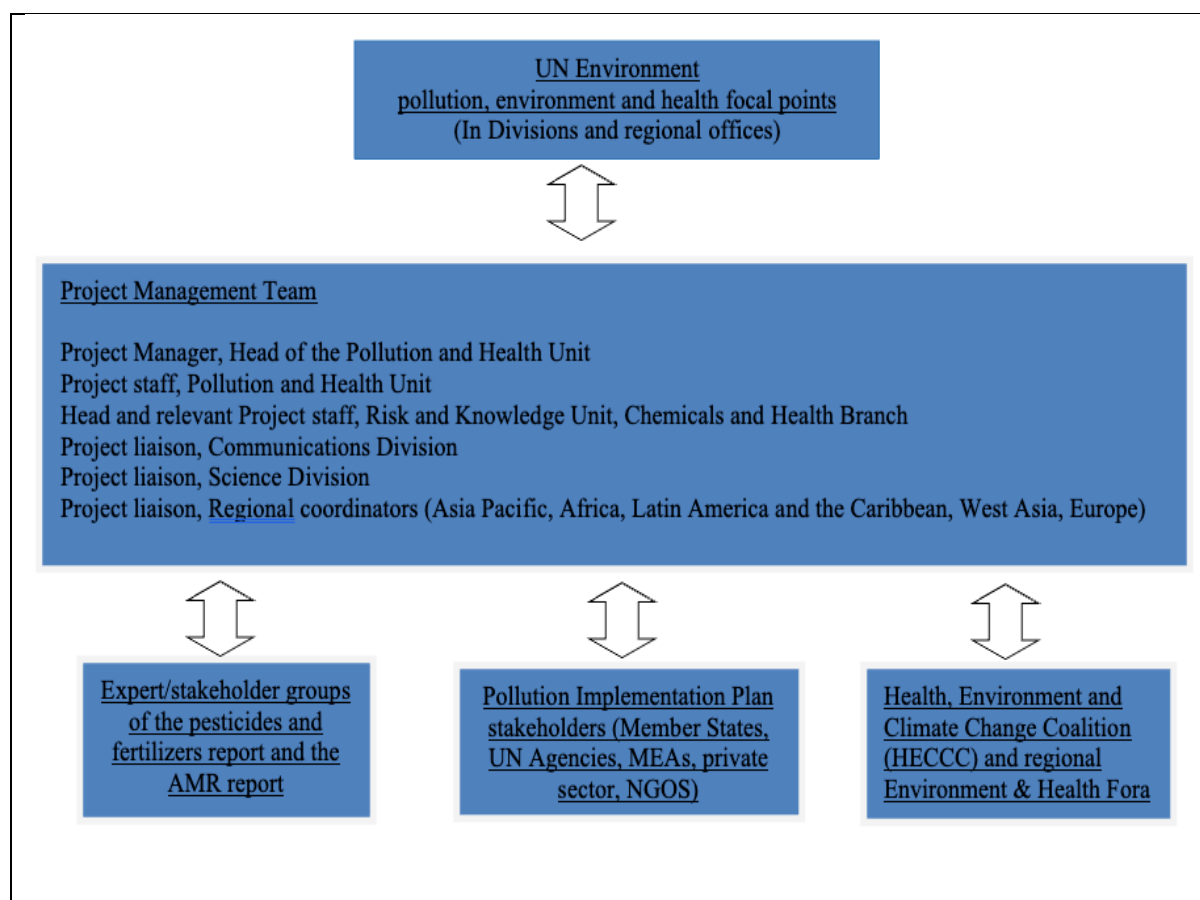
C. Project Implementation Structure and Partners

62. The project was implemented directly by UNEP through the Chemicals and Health Branch. Execution was led by a dedicated project team, coordinated by a senior project manager within the Pollution and Health Unit. The project document outlined an implementation structure with a "light coordination mechanism" (Prodoc 2018). The structure did not include a formal steering committee. Oversight and accountability were integrated into UNEP's internal governance mechanisms and maintained through regular coordination with key partners, including interagency working groups and thematic discussion. Regional coordination was carried out through focal points in UNEP's regional offices, each contributing with a defined share of time and budget to project delivery.
63. In addition to UNEP's internal divisions and regional offices, the project included critical external partnerships. These included the World Health Organization (WHO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH). The project has also been connected to important regional ministerial platforms such as the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN), the Asia-Pacific Regional Forum on Environment and Health, and the Environment and Health Process in Europe, to facilitate regional engagement.

The implementation arrangement is illustrated in Figure 1:

Figure 1: Organigram of the project with key project stakeholders

Source: *Project Document*, 2018.



D. Stakeholders

64. The project's stakeholder analysis draws on prior collaboration (since 2017) and regional consultation t carried out by UNEP in preparation of UNEA-3. It included contributions from UN agencies such as WHO, FAO, UNDP, UNICEF, UNITAR, the Environmental Management Group and MEA secretariats.
65. In the project document, stakeholders were organised into three main types according to their expected contributions and level of influence: Type A, with implementation partners; Type B, with policy and technical actors; and Type C, with the broader community.
66. Type A stakeholders included UN agencies such as WHO, FAO, WOA, and UNEP regional offices. These actors held high influence, serving as technical leads and delivery partners across thematic areas, with relevant participation for mobilising institutional resources, delivering methodologies, and ensuring cross-sectoral collaboration.
67. Type B stakeholders comprised national ministries of health and environment and regional policy platforms such as the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) and the Asia-Pacific Regional Forum on Environment and Health. With medium to high influence, these actors were expected to advance

political uptake, strengthen inter-ministerial dialogue, and integrate project findings into regional and national frameworks.

68. Type C stakeholders included research institutions, NGOs, and the broader public. While their influence on project decisions was reduced, they contributed by supporting visibility, awareness and capacity development.
69. The project's stakeholder mapping primarily focused on institutional actors and did not detail specific engagement tools for marginalised or under-represented groups. Integrating more explicit considerations for gender equality and social inclusion could have enhanced the project's ability to reach vulnerable populations and increase potential co-benefits. Chapter 4 (table 5) of the inception report presents more details on the list of stakeholders.

E. Changes in Design During Implementation

70. The project was subject to two formal revisions. The first one, approved in December 2021, adjusted the project's end date, budget, and outputs. In 2019, the COVID-19 pandemic further affected implementation, particularly regional activities planned across different continents. As a result, the project was extended from 30 June 2022 to 31 December 2022, increasing its overall duration from 48 to 54 months.
71. Additional funding was mobilised during implementation, including USD 150,000 from Norway, USD 200,000 from the United Kingdom, and USD 553,600 from the European Commission. These resources were allocated to complement existing funds and ensure delivery of the project's activities, specifically:
 - Preparation of the report on Pesticides and Fertilizers, required under UNEA Resolution 3/4 and due for UNEA-5 (Output 1).
 - Development of the Pollution Summary Report and communications materials, linked to the Implementation Plan Towards a Pollution-Free Planet adopted through UNEA Resolution 4/21 (Output 5).
 - Capacity-building activities on the sound management of waste lead-acid batteries in Africa, in response to UNEA Resolution 3/9 (Output 2).
 - Dissemination of the UNEP report on the environmental dimension of antimicrobial resistance.
72. The revised project also discontinued activities on education (output 4), as these were covered by other initiatives. In addition, due to overlaps in activities, Output 6 from the original project document (2018) was removed to avoid duplication with Outputs 2 and 5.
73. The second revision was a non-cost extension approved in October 2022. It adjusted the project's end date to 30 June 2023, totalling 60 months of project duration. The extension allowed for the completion of remaining activities and the approval of projects closely aligned with the MTS 2022–2025.
74. Overall, the revisions helped optimise the use of resources, reduce duplication, and strengthen the project's strategic focus. Although implementation was delayed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the crisis highlighted the importance of health-environment linkages, which in turn reinforced the project's relevance.
75. A Mid-Term Review (MTR) was conducted in August 2022 to provide an independent assessment of project performance from 2018 to 2022. It assessed progress against objectives, identified implementation challenges, and recommended actions to

strengthen results and sustainability. The Project Team responded through adaptive management actions, which are summarised in Annex IX.

F. Project Financing

76. The project was primarily financed through bilateral contributions that supported UNEP's overarching objectives on Environment, Health and Pollution (see page 29 for alignment with strategic objectives). These contributions were cash donations from France, Japan, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the European Commission, as detailed in Table 4. The project also received supplementary funding from the Environment Fund (EF) and the Regular Budget (RB), amounting to USD 185,949.00.
77. Co-financing was not specified in the original 2018 budget at project inception. However, in-kind contributions were later recorded in the first budget revision (2022), as presented in Table 4.

Table 4: Project funding sources

Funding source <i>All figures as USD</i>	Planned funding	% of planned funding	Secured funding¹⁸	Expended
Cash				
Funds from the Environment Fund			185,949	182,926
Funds from the Regular Budget				
Extra-budgetary funding:				
UK Contribution: M1-32CPL-000551			202,136	159,926
SIDA: M1-32SEL-000049			367,772	334,152
Japan Contribution: S1-32CPL-000518			233,345	64,152
European Commission: S1-32ECL-000032			553,600	537,399
French: M1-32CPL-000395			126,569	114,124
French: M1-32CPL-000479			54,456	50,435
French: M1-32CPL-000412			111,188	110,931
Norway: M1-32NFL-000089			443,606	443,306
Norway: M1-32NFL-000094			496,400	494,179
Norway: M1-32NFL-000095			212,044	211,728
Planned budget at approval	5,134,686 ¹⁹			
Sub-total: Cash contributions			2,987,065	2,703,506
In-kind			2,905,584	
Environment Fund staff-post costs			Division in three categories was not specified.	
Regular Budget staff-post costs				
Extra-budgetary funding for staff-posts (listed per donor)				
Sub-total: In-kind contributions			2,905,584	
Co-financing*				
Co-financing cash contribution				
Co-financing in-kind contribution				
Sub-total: Co-financing contributions			Not specified.	
Total (Cash contributions + in kind)			5,892,649	

Source: project closure financial report of March 2024.

¹⁸ Secured funding refers to received funds and does not include funding commitments not yet realised.

¹⁹ Annex VII (Budget Summar) provides the detailed breakdown of the planned funding in 2018.

Component/Output All figures in USD	Estimated cost at design	Actual Expenditure	Expenditure ratio (actual/planned)
Output 1	964,243	954,583	0.98
Output 2	1,022,113	1,001,618	0.98
Output 3	300,587	281,842	0.94
Output 4	201,950	181,368	0.90
Output 5	270,911	264,481	0.98
Output 6	76,275	22,372	0.29
Output 7	6,247	6,243	1

Source: project closure financial report of March 2024.

II. REVIEW METHODS

A. UNEP's Review Approach

78. In line with UNEP Evaluation Policy and the UNEP Programme and Project Management Manual, the review was undertaken at operational completion of the project to assess performance and determine outcomes and impacts stemming from the project, including their sustainability. The review has two primary purposes: (i) to provide evidence of results to meet accountability requirements, and (ii) to promote operational improvement, learning and knowledge sharing through results and lessons learned. In addition, the review will examine how the project deliverables and the policy work advanced by the project can be sustained beyond its duration.
79. The main target audiences for the review findings are UNEP, project partners such as WHO, FAO, Pure Earth, and project donors, including Sweden, Norway, the UK and EC.
80. In line with the UNEP Evaluation Policy and the UNEP Programme Manual, the review has been carried out using a set of 9 commonly applied review criteria which include: (1) Strategic Relevance, (2) Quality of Project Design, (3) Nature of External Context, (4) Effectiveness (incl. availability of outputs; achievement of outcomes and likelihood of impact), (5) Financial Management, (6) Efficiency, (7) Monitoring and Reporting, (8) Sustainability and (9) Factors Affecting Project Performance and Cross-Cutting Issues (see Annex II: Review Framework for more details on each review criterion).
81. Most review criteria are rated on a six-point scale as follows: Highly Satisfactory (HS); Satisfactory (S); Moderately Satisfactory (MS); Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU); Unsatisfactory (U); Highly Unsatisfactory (HU). Sustainability and Likelihood of Impact are rated from Highly Likely (HL) down to Highly Unlikely (HU) and Nature of External Context is rated from Highly Favourable (HF) to Highly Unfavourable (HU). The ratings against each criterion are 'weighted' to derive the Overall Project Performance Rating. The greatest weight is placed on the achievement of outcomes, followed by dimensions of sustainability.
82. The UNEP Evaluation Office has developed detailed descriptions of the main elements required to be demonstrated at each level (i.e. Highly Satisfactory to Highly Unsatisfactory) for each review criterion. The reviewer has considered all the evidence gathered during the review in relation to this matrix to generate review criteria performance ratings.
83. In addition to the 9 review criteria outlined above, the review addresses strategic questions that were formulated in the Terms of Reference.
84. This review adopted a participatory approach, consulting with project team members and partners at several stages throughout the process. Central to the review was the analysis of the project's ToC. Consultations were held during the review inception phase to arrive at a nuanced understanding of how the project intended to drive change and what contributing conditions ('assumptions' and 'drivers') would need to be in place to support such change. The Theory of Change, supported by a graphic representation and narrative discussion of the causal pathways, was discussed further with respondents during the data collection phase, and refined as

appropriate. The final iteration of the Theory of Change is presented in this final review report and has been used throughout the review process.

B. Data Collection

85. Two primary methods have been applied: a desk review and virtual semi-structured interviews. Concerning the desk review, the evaluator assessed the project documentation and relevant external sources provided by the project team, including the Project Document, annual and progress reports, Project Implementation Reports (PIRs), financial statements, meeting minutes, technical outputs, national strategic plans, and communication or knowledge products. It provided contextual understanding and preliminary evidence for answering the review questions (available in Annex I).
86. Regarding the semi-structured interviews: virtual calls have been conducted with representatives from UNEP, executing partners, collaborating organisations, regional stakeholders, and selected beneficiaries. A purposive sampling strategy ensured coverage across stakeholder categories, regions, institutional types, and gender balance. Questions were open-ended and aligned with the review criteria to capture perspectives on achievements, challenges, and roles in the project. Ethical protocols, including confidentiality and informed consent, will be applied as described in the Ethical Considerations section.

Table 5: Review respondents and field visits

Stakeholders - Individuals			A. Total number involved (M/F)	B. Number contacted (M/F)	Sample size (% B/A) ²⁰	C. Total number responded Total (M/F)	Response rate (% C/B) ²¹
Project Team	Project Team (with management responsibilities e.g. Project Management Unit)	Implementing agency	4/11	4/11	100%	3/10	86.7%
		Executing agency(ies)	0	0	0	0	0
Beneficiaries	Direct Beneficiaries: (e.g. duty bearers, gatekeepers, training participants, etc.)		0	0	0	0	0
	Indirect Beneficiaries: (e.g. household members, civil society representatives, group members, etc.)						
Stakeholders - Entities			A. Total number involved	B. Number contacted	Sample size (% B/A) ²²	C. Total number responded	Response rate (% C/B) ²³
Partners	Project implementing/ executing partners (receiving project funds)		0/1	1	100%	0/1	100%
	Project collaborating/ contributing partners ²⁴ (not receiving project fund)		0/2	2	100%	0/2	100%

²⁰ Percentage of people involved in the project who were contacted.

²¹ Percentage of people contacted who responded.

²² Percentage of entities involved in the project who were contacted.

²³ Percentage of entities contacted who responded.

²⁴ Contributing partners may be providing resources as either cash or in-kind inputs (e.g. staff time, office space etc.).

Field Visits	Region / country / locality ²⁵	A. Total number sites	B Number sites visited	Sample Size (%B/A) ²⁶
only online interviews	Africa	1/0	0	The interview was online.
	Asia and the Pacific	1/0	0	The interview was online.
	Europe	1/0	0	The interview was online.
	Latin America and the Caribbean	1/0	0	The interview was online.
	North America	0		
	West Asia	0		

C. Data Analysis

87. Multiple analysis methods have been used to ensure robust findings:

- Descriptive analysis to summarise project components, activities, outputs, partnerships, and delivery modalities.
- Content analysis of project and contextual documents to identify trends, themes, and patterns under each criterion, including evidence from the desk review.
- Thematic analysis of interview responses to detect recurring topics and patterns of meaning.
- Quantitative analysis to verify indicator values and other numerical data, supporting findings with statistical outputs where applicable.
- Contribution analysis to examine plausible links between project activities and observed results, based on the approved design, logical framework, and Theory of Change.
- Triangulation to cross-verify findings from at least two independent sources, combining evidence from documents and interviews.

88. Review criteria have been applied according to UNEP's Terminal Review scale: six-point for most criteria (Highly Satisfactory to Highly Unsatisfactory), four-point for Sustainability and Likelihood of Impact, and a scale from Highly Favourable to Highly Unfavourable for Nature of External Context. The overall project performance rating was calculated from weighted scores, with unsatisfactory ratings flagged for corrective action.

89. Ethical considerations: the review has followed UNEG Ethical Guidelines and UNEP's Evaluation Policy (2022). Informed consent will be obtained from all participants. All procedures followed UN Standards of Conduct and human rights principles.

90. Cross-Cutting Issues: the review has assessed how gender equality, social inclusion, and other cross-cutting issues were addressed in design and implementation. It has examined the extent to which diverse groups were engaged and benefited, using gender-disaggregated data when available.

D. Limitations and Mitigation Strategies

91. Given the project was implemented a few years ago, between 2018 and 2023, personnel engaged during the project's design and early implementation phases were no longer available for interviews. This reduced access to some institutional memory and limited first-hand insights, requiring more extensive use of project

²⁵ In case of a global project, the unit of analysis is 'region'. In case of a regional or multi-country project, the unit of analysis is 'country'. In case of a single country project, the unit of analysis is 'locality', which could refer to a city, town, village, etc.

²⁶ Percentage of total number project sites in each region, country or locality that were visited.

documentation to understand narratives and assess some outputs. In addition, some external sources, such as media coverage and project web links, were no longer accessible at the time of the review, limiting opportunities to triangulate some information about outreach and visibility.

92. The absence of a field visit limited the ability to assess on-the-ground results and sustainability through direct engagement with beneficiaries. To mitigate this limitation, the evaluator conducted remote interviews with UNEP regional officers and selected implementing partners. While these consultations did not fully substitute for direct engagement with beneficiaries, they provided relevant supplementary evidence to inform the assessment.
93. These limitations have been mitigated by triangulating available evidence from documents and interviews, and by validating findings through internal consistency checks and alignment with UNEP's results frameworks.

E. Ethical Considerations

94. Throughout this review process and in the compilation of the final review report, efforts have been made to represent the views of both mainstream and more marginalised groups. Data were collected with respect for ethics and human rights issues. Supporting data and photos were gathered after prior informed consent from people, all discussions remained anonymous, and all information was collected according to the UN 'Standards of Conduct'.

III. THEORY OF CHANGE AT REVIEW

95. The Theory of Change (ToC) for the Environment, Health and Pollution project has not been reconstructed. The original Project Document (2018) already presents results categories aligned with *UNEP's Results Glossary* (2023), outlining the project's Impact, Intermediate State, Outcome, and Outputs. However, the number of drivers and assumptions has been expanded, as presented in Table 8. Additionally, recommendations to refine the ToC have been presented on page 25.

Table 6: Justification for reformulation of results statements

Formulation in original project document(s)	Formulation for reconstructed ToC at review (RTOC)	Justification for reformulation
(LONG LASTING) IMPACT		
Reduced global pollution and related risks to the environment and human health (Prodoc, 2018)	No changes.	
INTERMEDIATE STATES		
A significant increase in action on health, environment, and pollution by the UN and other stakeholders, including citizens, towards achieving a pollution-free planet.	No changes.	
PROJECT OUTCOMES		
Enhanced capacity of member states, stakeholders and citizens to prevent and address pollution in a integrated manner in order to improve environmental quality and the health and well-being of all.	No changes	
OUTCOME INDICATORS [comment if relevant]		
Increased numbers of governments, private sector entities, civil society organisations and citizens which are committing to prevent and address pollution and are developing and applying measures and policies contributing to improve environmental quality and human health and well-being, through the use of information, methodologies, tools, data, analysis or guidance provided by UN Environment.	No changes.	
OUTPUTS		
Output 1 Scientific information is collected and made available to decision-makers and relevant stakeholders on critical issues of the environment, health and pollution agenda.	No changes.	
Output 2 Integrated methodologies and tools on environment and health, including on economic costs and benefits of addressing pollution, are developed and capacity of stakeholders is enhanced.	No changes.	
Output 3 Strengthened global and regional cooperation and partnerships to address environment, health and pollution.	No changes.	
Output 4 Increased number of stakeholders are promoting UN Environment led campaigns, through enhanced communication and awareness-raising tools and education materials.	No changes.	
Output 5 UNEA3 Implementation plan "Towards a Pollution-Free Planet" is developed and being implemented.	No changes.	
OUTPUT INDICATORS		
<u>Output 1 Indicators</u> Report on "pesticides and fertilizers" and "antimicrobial resistance" developed (Baseline: 0 report; target: 2)	No changes.	
<u>Output 2 Indicators</u> # of integrated methodologies and tools developed (baseline: 0; target 2) # of stakeholders who have received capacity development with integrated tools (baseline 0; target 10)	Mo changes.	
<u>Output 3 Indicators</u>	No changes.	

Formulation in original project document(s)	Formulation for reconstructed ToC at review (RTOC)	Justification for reformulation
# of global or regional ministerial, high-level or technical meetings on environment, health and pollution organized in cooperation with WHO, other UN Agencies and relevant partnership and stakeholders (baseline 0; target 6 (2 global, 2 Asia-Pacific, 1 Latin America, 1 Africa, 1 West Asia))		
<u>Output 4 Indicators</u> # of local and national governments raising awareness on pollution (baseline 0; target 20) # of partnerships that lead to raising awareness on pollution/air quality issues (baseline 3; target 9) # of schools in countries using education material produced (baseline 0; target 20) # of education material produced (baseline 0; target 1)	No changes.	
<u>Output 5 Indicators</u> # of countries and stakeholders which are reporting on progress on the voluntary commitments made at UNEA3 and after (Baseline: 0 Target 15 countries and 30 stakeholders)	No changes.	

Table 7: Justification for reformulation / expansion of drivers and assumptions

Formulation in original project document(s)	Formulation for reconstructed ToC at review inception (RTOC)	Justification for reformulation and/or consultant's explanatory notes on the interpretation ²⁷
DRIVERS		
One driver was described in the original document: Stakeholders across sector and at all levels are keen on taking on action to address pollution in light of the effect on environment and human health (Prodoc p. 24).	No changes.	
Additional driver 1	Access to finance and incentives: availability of financial mechanisms and incentives to support pollution and health-related interventions.	Without adequate funding, even well-designed tools and policies may face implementation challenges. Financial levers such as green finance, blended finance, and economic incentives are relevant to move from awareness to action, especially in resource-constrained settings.
Additional driver 2	Cross-sectoral coordination: Collaboration between environment, health, finance, planning, and education sectors at national and subnational levels.	Many pollution-health challenges are interlinked. Integrated solutions require alignment across policy domains and institutional mandates to prevent fragmented or contradictory actions.
ASSUMPTIONS		
One assumption was described in the original document: Political will to move forward on the pollution agenda. (Prodoc p. 24).		
Additional assumption 1	From outputs to outcomes: Stakeholders have the capacity and incentives to adopt and apply tools and knowledge.	Without this, even well-developed outputs (toolkits, training, reports) may not be used effectively.

²⁷ In some instances, the drivers or assumptions may not need to be reformulated, but implied meanings need to be made explicit or understanding clarified. In other cases, it may be necessary to add driver and assumptions that were not previously identified in the original TOC or results framework.

Formulation in original project document(s)	Formulation for reconstructed ToC at review inception (RTOC)	Justification for reformulation and/or consultant's explanatory notes on the interpretation ²⁷
Additional assumption 2	From outcomes to intermediate states: Cooperation continues between regional bodies and UN agencies (e.g., WHO, FAO, regional forums)	Regional and global partnerships are critical to scale action.
Additional assumption 3	From intermediate states to impact: Policies are adopted and enforced by national and subnational authorities.	This assumption clarifies that the adoption and enforcement of relevant policies by national and subnational authorities lies outside the project's direct control but is essential for achieving higher-level results.
Additional assumption 4	Communication and awareness-raising efforts (including education materials and campaigns) will reach and influence target groups, including women, youth, and marginalised communities.	Without effective outreach, uptake of tools and behaviour change may remain limited.

Analysis of the Theory of Change (ToC)

Monitoring and Evaluation Challenges

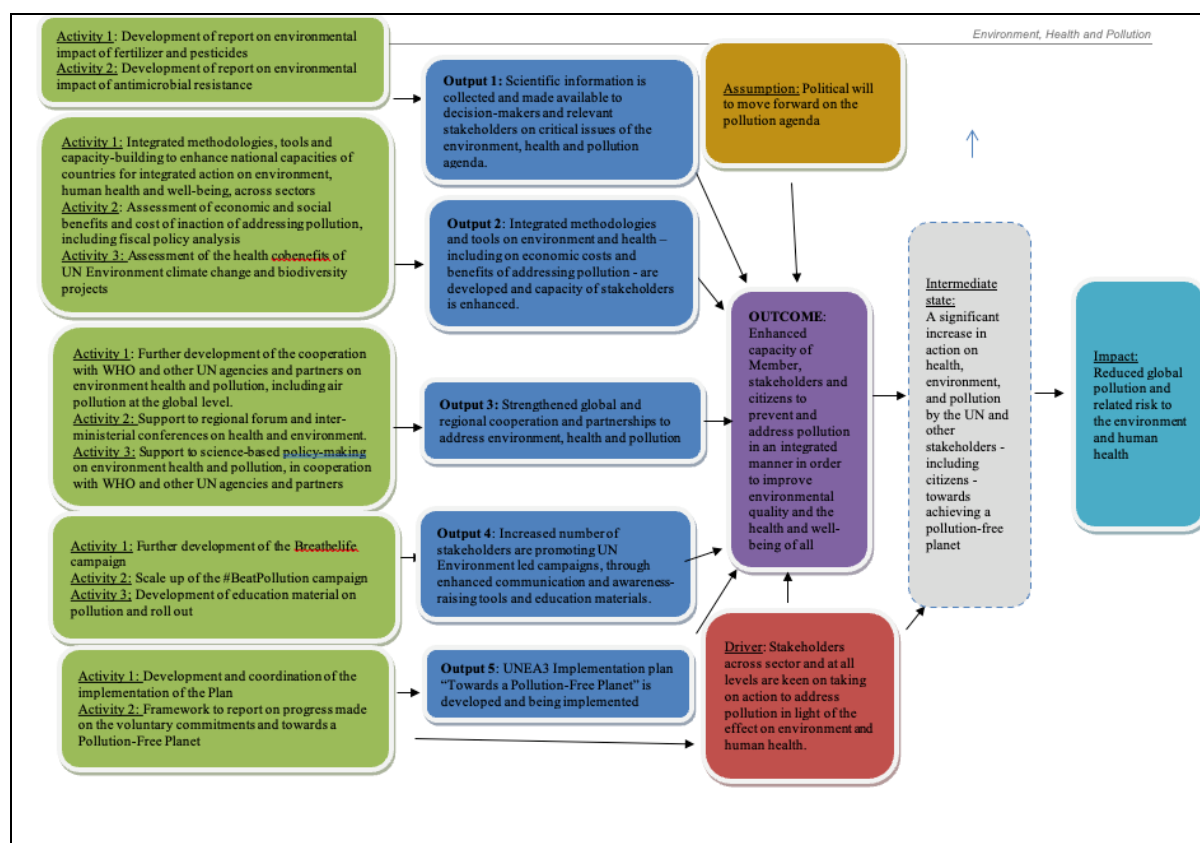
96. It is important to situate the Theory of Change (ToC) within the policy context in which the project was designed in 2017-2018. At that time, the project was conceived to strategically support UNEA resolutions and advance global policy on pollution, health, and environment. The ToC reflected this ambition, framing the project's contribution at an overarching policy level and aligning with global advocacy objectives.
97. However, the project's wide scope, with activities implemented simultaneously at global, regional, and national levels, resulted in an equally broad outcome statement and a wide target audience encompassing "Member States, stakeholders, and citizens." This framing reflected the project's ambition but also created challenges in tracking progress and assessing results, as the outcome's evaluability was reduced.
98. The Theory of Change (ToC) identified only one outcome indicator, which was broad in scope: "Increased numbers of governments, private sector entities, civil society organisations, and citizens committing to prevent and address pollution and developing and applying measures and policies contributing to improved environmental quality and human health and well-being, through the use of information, methodologies, tools, data, analysis, or guidance provided by UN Environment." Breaking it down into SMART²⁸ indicators would have strengthened the project's result framework, improving clarity and measurability of the intended result.
99. The ToC would also be refined with the inclusion of additional drivers and assumptions to make its logic clearer. Examples were presented in Table 8. In this

²⁸ SMART indicators are performance measures that are Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound, used to assess progress toward defined goals in development planning and results-based management frameworks. They help ensure clarity, accountability, and alignment with expected outcomes (UNDP, 2011).

regard, the Theory of Change could have been complemented by a systems thinking approach (Meadows, 2008). It would help the project team map enabling conditions, additional stakeholders, feedback loops, and reinforcing interactions that are often overlooked in linear models. Recommendation 6 on page 30 elaborates on this further.

100. Furthermore, the project design could have more intentionally integrated marginalised groups, such as women, youth, Indigenous Peoples, and local communities, into project outputs and activities, as a key audience contributing to environment, health, and pollution actions. The potential opportunities and benefits of this approach are discussed in Recommendation 6 on page 8.
101. Despite these limitations, the original ToC was broadly coherent with the project's purpose at the design stage. It reflected UNEP's strategic positioning and mandate under the MTS 2018-2021.
102. Looking ahead, future projects of similar scope would benefit from (i) adopting a modular ToC that distinguishes results at global, regional, and national levels; (ii) ensuring that assumptions and risks are systematically mapped, expanded and monitored; and (iii) incorporating mechanisms to periodically revisit the ToC during implementation, as part of adaptive management. These improvements would support more robust performance monitoring, facilitate learning, and increase the evaluability of complex, multi-level interventions.

Figure 2: Theory of Change at review



Note: Original Theory of Change from the Project Document (2018).

IV. REVIEW FINDINGS²⁹

A. Strategic Relevance

103. The project directly contributed to the development and adoption of the UNEA3 Implementation Plan Towards a Pollution-Free Planet, endorsed through resolution 4/21, in response to a request from Member States. The Plan was subsequently integrated into UNEP's Medium-Term Strategy 2022-2025 and the Programme of Work, under the Chemicals and Pollution Action Subprogramme and the Pollution and Health Programme. Moreover, the project contributed to building a more coherent internal narrative framing these linkages in the economic development context.
104. Given the cross-cutting nature of pollution, the project's work indirectly contributed to several subprogrammes: SP1 through links between air quality and climate; SP3 through connections between health and biodiversity; SP4 through governance aspects of project implementation; and SP7 through the generation of knowledge and assessments. In addition, SP6 actions to promote circularity and sustainable consumption and production (SCP) support pollution reduction.
105. It has also contributed to donor, regional, and national objectives by supporting policy dialogue and technical cooperation. It engaged regional platforms such as the Asia-Pacific Regional Forum on Environment and Health and the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, promoting integration of pollution and health considerations into regional policies. At the national level, its tools and training informed frameworks including India's NCAP (2019), Vietnam's Air Quality Plan (2016-2025), and Ghana's Health and Pollution Action Plan, reflecting donor priorities on pollution reduction and environmental governance (Norway, Sweden, Japan, EU). Tables 9, 10, 11 and 12 provide details on the high strategic relevance of the project for UNEP, donors, regional and national governments.
106. In summary, the project responded to a strategic gap in UNEP's approach to environment, health, and pollution (EHP). It supported the implementation of UNEA Resolutions 3/4 and 3/9 and contributed to the development of the Implementation Plan "Towards a Pollution-Free Planet," later adopted under Resolution 4/21. These actions helped to enhance coherence to UNEP's internal narrative on EHP and strengthened its capacity to engage with Member States and partners through intergovernmental processes and technical cooperation.
107. Additionally, regarding the project's timing, its implementation between 2019 and 2023 coincided with growing international attention to pollution-related health risks and supported UNEP in advancing its normative and programmatic agenda in this area, including through integration into the Medium-Term Strategy 2022–2025 and related subprogrammes.

²⁹ Refer to the TOR for descriptions of the nature and scope of each criterion.

Table 8: Alignment to the UNEP Medium Term Strategy (MTS), Programme of Work (POW), and Strategic Priorities

UNEP strategic document	Alignment with UNEP's mandate and thematic priorities	Level of alignment
MTS (2018-2021)³⁰ MTS (2022-2025)	The Project was implemented from 2018 to 2023, and it was aligned with the MTS for the entire period. On the MTS 2018-2021, under the Subprogramme on Chemicals, Waste and Air Quality, the project contributed to Expected Accomplishment (EA) (a) on sound chemicals management and EA (c) on air quality improvements. It supported evidence-based policy formulation, intersectoral approaches, and public awareness to reduce pollution-related health impacts. It also contributed indirectly to other subprogrammes including Environmental Governance, Resource Efficiency, and Environment Under Review. Although the project was designed under the previous MTS cycle, it continued to be relevant under the Chemicals and Pollution Action Subprogramme of MTS 2022–2025, on Outcome 3A (health and environmental outcomes), 3B (waste and circularity), and 3C (reduction of pollutant releases). The project was created in the context of supporting UNEA mandates, particularly 3/4 on Environment and Health, 3/9 on Eliminating exposure to lead painting and improving sound management of waste lead-acid batteries and 4/21 on Implementation Plan <i>Towards a Pollution-Free Planet</i>, filling a gap to enhance action on environment, pollution and health, from 2018 to 2023.	full
PoW (2018-2019) PoW (2020-2021)³¹ PoW (2022-2023)	Regarding the first one (2018-2019), the project contributed to EA (a) and (c) of the Chemicals, Waste and Air Quality subprogramme. Specifically, it supported countries with policy, legal and institutional frameworks and with awareness raising on air quality. The project also generated guidance, tools, and training to address environmental health risks, directly linked to PoW outputs 5-a-5 (advisory support). On the second one (2020-2021), The project continued contributing to the same EA (a) and EA (c), and to EA (b) on waste prevention and management. On the third one, the project was aligned with the Chemicals and Pollution Action Subprogramme. It contributed to direct outcomes (3.1, 3.5, 3.11, 3.13, 3.14), such as strengthening national capacity, catalysing global advocacy (e.g., BeatPollution campaign), generating knowledge (e.g., reports on pesticides, fertilizers, AMR), and promoting economic analysis of pollution reduction. Given the cross-cutting nature of pollution, the project's work indirectly contributed to several subprogrammes: SP1 through links between air quality and climate; SP3 through connections between health and biodiversity; SP4 through governance aspects of project implementation; and SP7 through the generation of knowledge and assessments. In addition, SP6 actions to promote circularity and sustainable consumption and production (SCP) support pollution reduction.	full
Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity Building³²	The project supported the Bali Strategic Plan by building national capacities through training, webinars, and technical support aimed at pollution reduction in developing countries. It also facilitated regional knowledge exchange to strengthen institutional and individual capabilities in managing pollution-related health risks.	Full

30 Refer to the MTS under which the project was approved.

31 Refer to the POW under which the project was approved.

32 If applicable.

UNEP strategic document	Alignment with UNEP's mandate and thematic priorities	Level of alignment
South-South Cooperation³³	The project integrated South-South cooperation by engaging ministries of health and environment from developing regions, facilitating regional dialogues, and promoting shared learning. It supported the exchange of experiences and good practices across countries through webinars, joint technical sessions, and regional platforms, such as the Third Interministerial Conference on Health and Environment in Africa (2018) and the Tenth High Level Officials Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Regional Forum on Health and Environment (2019). These actions reflected UNEP's strategic objective of advancing intergovernmental cooperation and institutional capacity across regions to address pollution-related health risks.	Full

Alignment to Donor Partners Strategic Priorities

Table 9: Alignment to Donor/GEF/Partner Strategic Priorities

Donor or partner strategic document	Alignment with donor or partner strategic priorities	Level of alignment
Norway	The project was aligned with Norway's support for environmental governance and pollution control. Also supporting common SDGs (Goals 3, 6, 12 and 17). Norwegian Development Policy on Environment and Climate Change (2018–2021)	Full
Sweden	Aligned with Sweden's priorities on sustainable chemicals and waste management, addressed through capacity development, knowledge transfer, and regional engagement, particularly in LMICs. Strategy for Sweden's Global Development Cooperation in Environment and Climate (2018–2022)	Full
Japan	Aligned with Japan's emphasis on international environmental cooperation, particularly in Asia and Africa. Environmental Cooperation Initiatives in Asia and Africa; TICAD Declarations.	Full
France	France's focus on the environment as a determinant of health aligns with project outcomes, especially those enhancing policy responses to pollution-related illnesses and regional collaboration. French Strategy for Global Health (2017–2021).	Full
UK	The project addressed UK's strategic themes of pollution control and global health security. UK FCDO Integrated Review (2021); 25 Year Environment Plan; UK Chemicals Strategy.	Full
EC	The project contributed to environmental health governance and sustainable chemicals management. EU Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability (2020); EU Environment and Health Strategy (2014–2020)	Full

Relevance to Global, Regional, Sub-regional and National Priorities

Table 10: Relevance to Global, Regional, Sub-regional and National Environmental Priorities

Strategic document or agreement	Alignment with global, regional, sub-regional, national environmental priorities	Level of Alignment
2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDGs)	The project contributed directly to SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being), SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), and SDG 17 (Partnerships), through actions that reduce pollution exposure and strengthen multisectoral cooperation.	Full
UNEA Resolutions 3/4, 3/9, 4/21	These resolutions mandate action on pollution-related health risks and integrated health and environment approaches. The project was designed to support these mandates by supporting tools, partnerships, and knowledge platforms.	Full
Libreville Declaration on Health and	The project aligned with regional policy directions in Africa and Asia-Pacific by engaging ministries of health and environment, promoting	Full

³³ If applicable.

Strategic document or agreement	Alignment with global, regional, sub-regional, national environmental priorities	Level of Alignment
Environment in Africa; Framework for Scaling Up Investments in Health-Environment Interventions (2019-2029); Manila Declaration on Health and Environment (Asia-Pacific, 2018); WHO AFRO Regional Strategy on Environmental Determinants of Health (2022–2023)	intergovernmental cooperation, and supporting regional dialogues and technical sessions. These efforts reinforced implementation of regional frameworks such as the IMCHE3 Strategic Framework in Africa and the Manila Declaration in Asia-Pacific. In other regions (e.g. Latin America), explicit frameworks were less referenced in the project.	
Country policies on pollution control, air quality, environmental health; National implementation of SDG targets; Country reports to UNEA.	The project aligned with national efforts such as India's National Clean Air Programme (NCAP, 2019), Ghana's Health and Pollution Action Plan (HPAP), and Jordan's National Environmental Health Strategy (2019-2022). In addition, countries like Sri Lanka and Kenya addressed pollution, air quality, and health-environment linkages in their Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) and UNEA submissions, reinforcing the relevance of the project's objectives to their national priorities.	Full

Complementarity with Existing Interventions/Coherence

Table 11: Complementarity with existing interventions/coherence

Other initiatives by UNEP or other organisations	Complementarity	Level of Alignment
UNEP initiatives under the Chemicals, Water and Air Quality subprogramme, including the Science and Knowledge Project, Environmental Governance activities, and Ecosystem-related Pollution projects.	The project complemented ongoing UNEP work under the Chemicals, Water and Air Quality subprogramme. It shared data and technical outputs with the Science and Knowledge Project and supported coherence with Environmental Governance and Ecosystem-related Pollution initiatives addressing chemicals, waste, and air quality. Coordination with these projects reduced overlap and ensured that results contributed to UNEA mandates on pollution and health.	Full

Rating for Strategic Relevance: HS

Rating for Alignment to UNEP MTS, POW and Strategic Priorities: HS

Rating for Alignment to Donor/Partner Strategic Priorities: HS

Rating for Relevance to Global, Regional, Sub-regional and National Priorities: HS

Rating for Complementarity with Existing Interventions/Coherence: HS

B. Quality of Project Design

108. The Theory of Change outlined a general results pathway that supported the overall project logic. Its utility could have been enhanced by incorporating additional intermediate states and more clearly articulating the underlying assumptions, key drivers, and stakeholder roles within the results framework. The absence of gender-disaggregated indicators limited the project's ability to capture differential impacts. Although financial planning included a component-based budget and referenced co-financing expectations, information on financial risks and the status of co-financing at the design stage was not specified. Similarly, provisions for replication, an exit strategy, and the monitoring of scaling effects were relatively limited.
109. Nevertheless, the design offered a functional foundation to guide project implementation and address core aspects of the environment, health, and pollution nexus within UNEP's programmatic context. Complementary analysis on the project design is available on page 23. Table 13 presents a detailed overview:

Table 12: Summary of quality of project design assessment ratings

	SECTION	RATING (1-6)	Summary Assessment
A	Project Preparation	5	The project document provided a comprehensive analysis of the environment-health nexus, highlighting the impacts of pollution on water, soil, and public health. It mapped key stakeholders, including sister agencies (e.g. WHO, FAO), government ministries, research institutes, and NGOs, with differentiated roles (e.g., governments as capacity-building recipients, agencies offering technical input, academia contributing knowledge). The workplan and budget demonstrated clear planning, though elements like a procurement plan were not fully detailed.
B	Risk identification and Safeguards	4	The Theory of change included one assumption on sustained political will to advance the pollution agenda, reflecting awareness that lack of commitment could refrain progress. There were additional high impact assumptions to be included (outlined in chapter 2). The project's environmental and social safeguard screening categorised it as Low Risk, with no safeguard standards triggered. A risk management log was prepared, covering operational risks and mitigation measures (e.g., stakeholder cooperation, resource availability).
C	Governance and Supervision Arrangements	5	The governance and supervision arrangements in the Prodoc are consistent with UNEP guidelines, with clearly defined roles, internal oversight structures, and regional engagement channels. The absence of a formal multi-partner steering or advisory body leaves some room for strengthening the governance model in future design.
D	Partnerships	5	Partnerships were a core element of the project design and were articulated with strategic intent. The Prodoc outlined collaboration with UN agencies, particularly WHO, and included multilateral environmental agreement (MEA) secretariats. The design leveraged prior collaboration, including joint inputs to UNEA reports.
E	Strategic Relevance	6	The project was well aligned with UNEP's mandate and strategic priorities. It was integrated into the 2018–2021 Medium-Term Strategy under the Chemicals, Waste and Air Quality Sub-programme and remained consistent with the 2022–2025 strategy under Chemicals and Pollution Action. The design linked outcomes to expected accomplishments in the Programme of Work, such as strengthening policies and institutions for chemicals management. It responded to several UNEA resolutions calling for action on pollution and health, including mandates to develop reports and an implementation plan for a pollution-free planet. The project also addressed regional and national gaps, particularly in data and capacity in low- and middle-income countries.
F	Logical Framework and Causality	4	The project's original Theory of Change (ToC) outlined a general pathway from outputs to outcomes and impact. However, it did not include enough intermediate states, which are important for illustrating systemic transitions between short and long-term results. The articulation of drivers and assumptions was limited, with only one of each included and framed in broad terms. While indicators and targets were defined for the outcome and most outputs, baseline data was not consistently provided, and no indicators were disaggregated by gender or vulnerable groups. Stakeholder roles were discussed in the narrative but not clearly linked to the results framework. Overall, the ToC conveyed the intended change logic but would have benefited from increased integration of gender equality and vulnerable/marginalised groups explicitly in the ToC.
G	Financial Planning	4	The project's financial design met UNEP's requirements, presenting a component-based budget and a clear alignment between planned activities and associated costs. The integration of the budget with the workplan supported planning over the project

	SECTION	RATING (1-6)	Summary Assessment
			duration. However, the Prodoc did not indicate whether co-financing was secured at the design stage and lacked detail on financial risks.
H	Efficiency	5	The project design considered efficiency by building on existing initiatives and partnerships, including the Africa ChemObs project, the Libreville Declaration, and outputs from the preparation phase. It emphasised synergies with sister agencies work and regional health-environment fora rather than creating new mechanisms. Activities were sequenced logically, with scientific assessments informing an implementation plan and subsequent tools, and the design drew on momentum from UNEA3 outcomes. These measures ensured that resources were allocated in a structured and efficient manner.
I	Monitoring	4	The project's monitoring design included a dedicated budget for mid-term and terminal reviews, as well as a performance framework with output-level indicators, baselines, and targets. Roles and responsibilities were assigned to UNEP and executing partners, with references to annual work plans and reporting mechanisms. The framework fulfilled UNEP's requirements and enabled milestone tracking. However, it provided limited detail on indicators, particularly for outcome-level results, and did not include provisions for disaggregating data by gender or vulnerable groups.
J	Sustainability / Replication and Catalytic Effects	5	The project design incorporated elements to support sustainability and impact, including alignment with UNEA resolutions and anchoring the Implementation Plan within a formal intergovernmental process. However, the design did not include a formal exit strategy. Replication and uptake were acknowledged in the Prodoc, but the project did not specify mechanisms for tracking scaling.
K	Learning, Communication and Outreach	5	The project included a structured communications and outreach approach, with a dedicated output and alignment to the UNEA "Towards a Pollution-Free Planet" Implementation Plan. The project aimed to build on existing campaigns such as #BeatPollution and WHO-UN's <i>BreatheLife</i> and planned to share knowledge products through forums and UNEP platforms. Refinements could include defining in more detail target audiences and adding mechanisms to monitor outreach.
	Total (Weighted) Score:	4,3	(Full analysis in the Inception Report, available from the Project/Task Manager)

Rating for Project Design: MS

C. Nature of the External Context

110. The COVID-19 pandemic affected the project's implementation context between 2020 and 2022. Planned regional and in-person activities were delayed or cancelled due to travel restrictions and shifts in institutional priorities. Technical support to countries was impacted by limited access to health and environment focal points, affecting the delivery and uptake of some tools and guidance materials. The project adapted by shifting to virtual modalities and revising timelines, but the disruption constrained broader stakeholder engagement and country-level follow-up.
111. At the same time, the pandemic brought increased policy attention to the links between pollution and public health. This context aligned with the project's focus and contributed to renewed interest in integrated environment-health approaches. The project's framing and outputs informed discussions on post-COVID recovery, and this alignment supported the development and approval of UNEP's Pollution and Health Programme in 2023. While implementation was affected by pandemic constraints, the topic gained relevance in the policy agenda, enhancing visibility of project knowledge products.
112. Externally, geopolitical tensions and economic slowdowns in several regions (including Asia and Africa) affected the ability of governments to allocate attention and resources to pollution-health initiatives. In some partner countries, institutional restructuring and leadership turnover slowed national follow-up to UNEA resolutions. Despite these constraints, the project benefited from a growing international emphasis on integrated health and environment policies, which created new

opportunities for collaboration with WHO, FAO, and regional ministerial forums such as AMCEN and the Asia-Pacific Forum on Environment and Health.

Rating for Nature of the external context: Unfavourable

D. Effectiveness

Availability of Outputs

113. Concerning Output 5, the project directly contributed to the development and adoption of the UNEA3 Implementation Plan Towards a Pollution-Free Planet, endorsed through resolution 4/21, in response to a request from Member States. The Plan was subsequently integrated into UNEP's Medium-Term Strategy 2022-2025 and the Programme of Work, under the Chemicals and Pollution Action Subprogramme and the Pollution and Health Programme. Moreover, the project contributed to building a more coherent internal narrative framing these linkages in the economic development context.
114. Regarding Output 4, the project used the momentum leading up to UNEA-3 to enhance outreach through existing global campaigns, such as *Beat Pollution* and *BreatheLife*. Interview data indicated that the project supported the consolidation of previously siloed initiatives, such as those on plastics, air quality, chemicals, and waste, under a common brand. This contributed to better coherence in UNEP's external messaging on environment and health and enabled more coordinated advocacy efforts.
115. The project delivered results particularly under Output 3, which focused on cooperation to address environment, health, and pollution. Project implementation was delivered through strategic partnerships, including with WHO, UNICEF, and the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm Conventions. In 2022, UNEP also signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in partnership with WHO, FAO, and WOA, formalising the Quadripartite Alliance for One Health.
116. About Outputs 1 (scientific information) and 2 (capacity building), the project produced knowledge products on priority topics, demand-led by Member States, such as the *Report on the Environmental and Health Impacts of Pesticides and Fertilizers* (UNEP, 2020). It also released the *Guidance Manual for Policymakers and Regulators for the Environmentally Sound Management of Waste or Used Lead Acid Batteries in Africa* (UNEP, 2021), in line with UNEA resolution 3/9, and contributed to the release of the *Summary for Policymakers on the Environmental Dimensions of Antimicrobial Resistance* (UNEP, 2022) ahead of UNEA 5.2. Under Output 2, the project enhanced Member States' capacities by providing five decision-support tools, such as the *Economic Cost of Inaction Calculator* and the *Relative Risk and Vulnerability Calculator*. According to regional feedback, these tools helped countries prioritise actions to reduce pollution.
117. Although the project engaged youth through regional activities, it lacked systematic attention to disadvantaged groups, including women, and other marginalised populations, in output design and monitoring. International best-practice guidelines for inclusive development emphasise the need for disaggregated data (by gender, age, disability) and participatory feedback mechanisms to assess whether vulnerable populations benefit from interventions, including the capacity building activities provided by this project.

Table 13: Availability of outputs

	Narrative Assessment	Sources of Information/Evidence
Output 1: Scientific information is collected and made available to decision-makers and relevant stakeholders on critical issues of the environment, health and pollution agenda.	Output 1 produced three global and regional assessments aligned with the environment-health-pollution nexus: (i) Environmental and Health Impacts of Pesticides and Fertilizers: Synthesis Report for Policy Makers (UNEP, 2020); (ii) Africa Guidance Document on Environmentally Sound Management of Used Lead-Acid Batteries (ULABs) (UNEP, 2021); and (iii) Bracing for Superbugs (UNEP, 2023). They were disseminated through UNEP's digital platforms and used in ministerial-level and technical forums, enabling knowledge uptake and agenda-setting. The timing aligned with global AMR concerns, enhancing relevance. Fully achieved Output 1 Indicator Report on "pesticides and fertilizers" and "antimicrobial resistance" developed (Baseline: 0 report; target: 2)	- PMR Progress Report (2023) - ProDoc (2018) - UNEP (2020). Environmental and Health Impacts of Pesticides and Fertilizers - UNEP (2021). Africa Guidance on Used Lead-Acid Batteries (ULABs) - UNEP (2023). - UNEA Resolution 4/21 and Implementation Plan Towards a Pollution-Free Planet (2019) - Interviews, PIRs, IPMR
Output 2: Integrated methodologies and tools on environment and health, including on economic costs and benefits of addressing pollution, are developed and capacity of stakeholders is enhanced.	Output 2 led to the development and pilot use of five integrated decision-support tools such as the <i>Cost of Inaction Calculator</i> and the <i>Relative Risk and Vulnerability Calculator</i>, which were positively received by pilot countries, according to regional feedback. Fully achieved Output 2 Indicators Number of integrated methodologies and tools developed (baseline: 0; target 2) Number of stakeholders who have received capacity development with the integrated tools (baseline 0; target 10)	- UNEP. (2022). ChemObs synthesis report: Results of calculator's pilot testing (Cost of Inaction and Risk & Vulnerability Calculators). - Interviews, PIRs, IPMR and online news.
Output 3 Strengthened global and regional cooperation and partnerships to address environment, health and pollution.	Multiple events supported across regions (e.g., Libreville Conference, Manila HLOM 2019), and formal partnerships strengthened (e.g., WHO, FAO, WOAQ Quadripartite MoU). Number of high-level/ministerial/regional technical meetings (Target: 6) At least 7 meetings held: 2 global (UNEA side events), 5 regional (Asia-Pacific, Latin America, Africa, West Asia). Co-organized with WHO and regional bodies. Enhanced cooperation was observed, e.g., through joint declarations and follow-up actions in Asia-Pacific and Africa. Contributed to regional science-policy dialogues and ministerial commitments (e.g., Manila 2019, Bonn 2023). Fully achieved	- Meeting records, MoUs, interviews, project reports (PIRs, IPMR), online news.

	Narrative Assessment	Sources of Information/Evidence
	Output 3 Indicators Number of global or regional ministerial, high-level or technical meetings on environment, health and pollution organized in cooperation with WHO, other UN Agencies and relevant partnership and stakeholders (baseline 0; target 6 (2 global, 2 Asia-Pacific, 1 Latin America, 1 Africa, 1 West Asia)	
Output 4: Increased number of stakeholders are promoting UN Environment led campaigns, through enhanced communication and awareness-raising tools and education materials.	Project supported Beat Pollution and BreatheLife campaigns. Coherence improved across UNEP communications. Activities on educational materials were removed in project revision to avoid overlap and optimise resources. Partially achieved due to removal of education materials, as registered in the Review of 2021. Number of local and national governments raising awareness on pollution (baseline 0; target 20) Number of partnerships that lead to raising awareness on pollution/air quality issues (baseline 3; target 9) Number of schools in countries using education material produced (baseline 0; target 20) Number of education material produced (baseline 0; target 1)	-Meeting records, interviews, project reports (PIRs, IPMR), online news.
Output 5: UNEA3 Implementation plan “Towards a Pollution-Free Planet” is developed and being implemented. UNEA 3 implementation Plan developed and endorsed by Member States.	The project provided inputs to UNEA resolution 4/21 and supported UNEP’s development of the Implementation Plan Towards a Pollution-Free Planet (2019), referenced in the Medium-Term Strategy (2022–2025). As of 2023, 17 countries and 35 stakeholders reported on voluntary commitments. The project also supported air quality data dissemination and convened stakeholders to discuss environmental determinants of health. Fully achieved Number of countries and stakeholders which are reporting on progress on the voluntary commitments made at UNEA3 and after (Baseline: 0 Target 15 countries and 30 stakeholders)	-Meeting records, interviews, project reports (PIRs, IPMR), online news.

Achievement of Project Outcomes

118. As discussed in Chapter III p.25, the ToC design was focused on the strategic project purpose to support UNEA resolutions at the global, regional and local levels, pursuing global policy coherence. This rationale contributed to a broadly defined outcome and a general outcome indicator. Within this framing, the project achieved its intended outcome and delivered results across all five outputs, as outlined above. However, in the context of a potential second phase, the review recommends enhancing country-level implementation, increasing engagement with the private sector, including marginalised groups as target beneficiaries within project outputs, and addressing gaps in the intervention logic, as detailed on page 6.

Table 14: Achievement of project outcomes

Outcome 1:	Enhanced capacity of member states, stakeholders and citizens to prevent and address pollution in an integrated manner to improve environmental quality and the health and well-being of all.
Performance Indicator(s) and Target(s):	Increased numbers of governments, private sector entities, civil society organisations and citizens which are committing to prevent and address pollution and are developing and applying measures and policies contributing to improve environmental quality and human health and well-being, using information, methodologies, tools, data, analysis or guidance provided by UN Environment.
Sources of Information /Evidence:	Meeting records, interviews, project reports (PIRs, IPMR), online news.
Narrative Assessment:	The outcome was achieved through the implementation of five interlinked outputs contributing to UNEA resolutions on pollution. The project supported global and regional platforms, produced science-policy reports (e.g., on pesticides and fertilizers, lead-acid batteries, and antimicrobial resistance), and developed tools to support decision-making. UNEP also facilitated policy dialogues and contributed to the adoption of the Implementation Plan Towards a Pollution-Free Planet (UNEA Resolution 4/21). However, the outcome statement and indicator were broad, and the project did not include a structured results-monitoring system at the outcome level. Gaps remained in private sector engagement, country-level uptake, and the inclusion of marginalised groups as beneficiaries. These limitations are noted for consideration in any future phase.
Level of Achievement:	Achieved

Likelihood of Impact

119. The project achieved its stated outcome within the framing of its Theory of Change, contributing to enhanced capacity among Member States, stakeholders, and citizens to address pollution and its related health impacts. The planned outputs, including science-policy assessments, technical tools, partnership platforms, and communication activities, were delivered and applied to advance the implementation of UNEA resolutions across global, regional, and national levels. These results established a policy and knowledge foundation that can inform continued action on the environment-health nexus beyond the project's implementation period.

120. Knowledge products and tools were applied by countries to inform policy processes, and UNEP's convening role contributed to elevating pollution-related issues in intergovernmental fora. However, assumptions regarding a linear progression from strengthened capacity to behavioural or systemic change were only partially realised. The transition toward intermediate states depended on conditions beyond the project's direct control, including national political priorities, institutional coordination, and the availability of financial resources. Although policy attention and institutional awareness increased, the extent to which these changes translated into implementation varied across regions.
121. The likelihood of achieving long-term impact is rated as Moderately Likely. Realising systemic change will depend on sustained political commitment, adequate financing, and national implementation capacity. The project established a foundational basis for progress toward reduced pollution and improved health outcomes. A future phase that expands country-level implementation, enhances private sector engagement, and explicitly includes marginalised groups as beneficiaries could further strengthen the conditions for sustained impact.

Table 15: Likelihood of impact

Factors influencing likelihood of impact	Assessment	Justification
Drivers to support transition from Outputs to the Project Outcomes	In place Categories: in place/partially/not in place	Outputs were implemented as planned and informed policy platforms, technical reports, and tools. Key drivers included UNEP's convening power and partnerships with WHO, FAO, BRS Conventions, and governments, enabling policy influence across regions.
Assumptions for the change process from Outputs to Project Outcomes	Partially hold Categories: hold/partially/do not hold	The project assumed that knowledge products and policy guidance would lead to increased action by Member States and stakeholders. While several outputs were taken up (e.g. UNEA Resolution 4/21), uptake varied at the national level.
Proportion of Project Outcomes fully or partially achieved	Some Categories: all/some/none	The project achieved its stated outcome within the scope of its Theory of Change (enhancing the capacity of Member States, stakeholders, and citizens to address pollution). Progress reports, interviews and media coverage indicated that awareness increased, new policy instruments were developed, and voluntary commitments were made. However, the extent and depth of these changes differed across regions, and progress was influenced by external factors such as political priorities and resource availability.
Drivers to support transition from Project Outcomes to Intermediate States	Partially in place Categories: in place/partially/not in place	Interviews indicated that regional and global policy dialogues and resolutions created favourable conditions for collaborative action on pollution and health. However, respondents noted that mechanisms to ensure sustained uptake, replication, and institutionalisation of project results at the country level were not systematically established yet.
Assumptions for the change process from the Project Outcomes to Intermediate States	Partially hold Categories: hold/partially/do not hold	It was assumed that Member States and stakeholders would integrate UNEP guidance into policy and practice. Some did (e.g. voluntary commitments reported under UNEA), but systemic change was constrained by gaps in financing, incentives, and implementation capacity.
Proportion of Intermediate States achieved	Some Categories: all/some/none	Some progress was made (e.g. uptake of the UNEA4 Plan and recognition of AMR as a One Health issue), but systemic change in environmental health and pollution

Factors influencing likelihood of impact	Assessment	Justification
		control remains limited, particularly at national and local levels.
Drivers to support transition from Intermediate States to Impact	Partially in place Categories: in place/partially/not in place	UNEP's programmatic strategy and partnerships positioned the project well at the global level. However, scaling mechanisms, financial instruments, and national policy integration are not yet fully in place.
Assumptions for the change process from Intermediate States to Impact	Partially hold Categories: hold/partially/do not hold	The impact pathway depends on stakeholders maintaining voluntary action, governments adopting policies over the long term, and sufficient financing being available. Interview evidence suggests that without dedicated implementation and monitoring mechanisms, achieving lasting improvements in environmental quality and human health is uncertain.

Rating for Effectiveness: S*Rating for Availability of Outputs: HS**Rating for Achievement of Project Outcomes: S**Rating for Achievement of Likelihood of Impact (Use 'Likely' scale): Moderately Likely***E. Financial Management****Adherence to UNEP's Financial Policies and Procedures**

122. As the project was initiated seven years ago, in 2018, some staff members who had been involved in the project's day-to-day financial management were no longer available to be interviewed. However, UNEP's enterprise resource planning (ERP) system Umoja, had already been adopted, providing a complete record of financial operations online. Based on this source, along with documents from the Mid-Term Review and UNEP's project folder, including the Operational Financial Closure Report signed off by the Fund Management Officer (FMO) in 2024, the project demonstrated financial management aligned with UNEP's Policies and Procedures. The project complied with requirements for annual financial revisions, progress reporting, expenditure monitoring, and procurement processes in accordance with UNEP's thresholds and the applicable delegation of authority.

Completeness of Financial Information

123. The completeness of financial information for the project was rated as satisfactory. Financial documentation followed a centralised approach through UNEP's enterprise resource planning system, complemented by the project folder with signed documents. The Mid-Term Review (2022) identified no discrepancies or gaps in the financial records. The main documents were made available to the reviewer, including the project's cost tables at design, budget revisions (2021 and 2022), legal agreements (SSFAs, PCAs), records of fund transfers, and supporting documentation on financing and expenditure. Expenditure data disaggregated by output was also accessible. According to interviewees, some delays in contracting and disbursements were linked to UNEP's institutional procedures rather than project-level inefficiencies. Regarding Human Rights, Gender Empowerment and Social Inclusion (GESI), there was no information with disaggregated data or budget targets dedicated to GESI actions in the 2018 Prodoc.

Table 16: Financial management

Financial management components:		Rating	Evidence/ Comments
1. Adherence to UNEP's policies and procedures:		Satisfactory	Evidence gathered from MTR (2022) and UNEP's UMOJA system ³⁴ .
Any evidence that indicates shortcomings in the project's adherence ³⁵ to UNEP or donor policies, procedures or rules		No	
Was first disbursement carried out within 9 months of UNEP's project approval date.		Yes	Data from UMOJA ERP system.
Were the procurement policies of UNEP and the donor(s) followed? (<i>where applicable</i>)		Yes	Data from UMOJA ERP system and UNEP project folder.
2. Completeness of project financial information³⁶:			
Provision of key documents to the evaluator (based on the responses to A-H below)			
A.	Co-financing and Project Cost's tables at design (by budget lines)	yes	Available from Prodoc (2018) and MTR (2022).
B.	Revisions	Yes	Two revisions (2021 and 2022) available in UNEP's project folder.
C.	All relevant project legal agreements (e.g. SSFA, PCA, ICA)	Yes	UNEP project folder.
D.	Proof of fund transfers	Yes	UNEP project folder.
E.	Proof of co-financing (cash and in-kind)	Yes	UNEP project folder.
F.	A summary report on the project's expenditures during the life of the project (by budget lines, project components and annual level)	Yes	expenditure per output available in Annex VII.
G.	Copies of any completed audits and management responses (<i>where applicable</i>)	N/A	
H.	Procure documents ³⁷ , including the approved requisition document and Source Selection Plan	N/A	
I.	Any other financial information that was required for this project (list):	No	
Overall rating			Satisfactory

Rating for Financial Management: Satisfactory*Rating for Adherence to UNEP's Financial Policies and Procedures: Satisfactory**Rating for Completeness of Financial Information: Satisfactory*

³⁴ UMOJA is UNEP's enterprise resource planning (ERP) system used to manage finance, procurement, and project operations to provide efficiency and transparency (UNEP, 2016).

³⁵ If the evaluation raises concerns over adherence with policies or standard procedures, a recommendation may be given to cover the topic in an upcoming audit, or similar financial oversight exercise.

³⁶ See also document 'Criterion Rating Description' for reference.

³⁷ Relevant for procurement action over USD 10,000 in value.

F. Efficiency

124. The efficiency of the project is rated Highly Satisfactory. This rating is based on the project's use of existing partnerships, coordination mechanisms, and regional platforms to deliver planned outputs within a constrained budget. Project activities were integrated into established fora, such as the Interministerial Conference on Health and Environment (Libreville, 2018) and the Asia-Pacific Forum on Health and Environment (2019), reducing the need for creating new events and enabling outreach through institutional channels already in place. Project outputs were also timely aligned with UNEA demand for contributions. The project was implemented directly by UNEP, with support from UNEP's technical team working across units. This reduced costs and ensured delivery of outputs, particularly on output 1 (reports) and output 2 (tools and methodologies), which required a dedicated team to finalise these products in time for UNEA.
125. The project also worked through coordination mechanisms with WHO, UNICEF, FAO, and the BRS Conventions, particularly under Output 3 (UNEP, 2023). UNEP's regional offices supported implementation by facilitating engagement with national governments and aligning activities with existing processes. Given the COVID-19 impact on events, the project reduced costs with online events and decreased the carbon footprint. Project revisions removed duplicative activities (e.g., educational materials under Output 4) to optimise the use of resources and avoid overlap with other UNEP initiatives.
126. The project was implemented with fewer financial resources than originally planned, yet delivering the five core outputs, reflecting efficient use of available funds. Contributing factors included the integration of delivery in existing UNEP structures, the leveraging of complementary initiatives, and the alignment of project activities with donor priorities and regional strategies.

Type of project extension (cost/no-cost)	Duration (# months)	Reason for no-cost extension
Cost (adding project funding)	From 48 to 54 months	Additional funding mobilised (details on page 15)
No-cost	From 54 to 60 months	Time for completion of remaining activities, Covid-19 delayed activities (details on page 16)

Rating for Efficiency: HS

G. Monitoring and Reporting

127. The monitoring and reporting arrangements presented in the Project Document, approved in 2018, were consistent with UNEP's requirements at that time. These included a results framework (pp. 38–41), provisions for annual and biannual reporting (p. 57), and an outline for evaluation activities (p. 58). Collectively, the elements set out in the Prodoc provided a basic foundation for implementation oversight and accountability.

128. However, when viewed in relation to the evolving UNEP Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) framework, particularly the UNEP Evaluation Policy (2022) and Evaluation Manual (2023), aspects of the project’s design, monitoring, and reporting could be strengthened. Specifically, there remain opportunities to enhance the use of monitoring data for adaptive management, to incorporate disaggregated reporting, and to better document changes resulting from project activities.

Monitoring of Project Implementation

129. Monitoring of project implementation was conducted using UNEP’s established procedures, including biannual progress reports, Project Implementation Reviews (PIRs), and internal oversight by the responsible unit. These mechanisms enabled standard tracking of project activities and outputs and informed two formal project revisions to optimise implementation (described in p.15). A Mid-Term Review was conducted in 2022; the corresponding table of recommendations with actions taken is presented in Annex IX).
130. The project’s monitoring and evaluation structure provided general oversight. However, the limited specificity of some indicators, referring generically to outputs such as the “number of countries supported” or “number of reports produced”, reduced the potential to assess progress toward outcome achievement. The results framework did not clearly explain the causal pathway from outputs to outcomes, making it difficult to demonstrate the project’s contribution to longer-term results. For instance, the indicator for Outcome 1 refers to the “extent to which key stakeholders report increased awareness,” but it does not specify a baseline or a method of measurement.
131. Although the Project Document (2018) acknowledged the disproportionate impacts of pollution on vulnerable groups, such as women and children (p. 7), this dimension was not integrated in the monitoring and reporting system. The results framework did not include gender-disaggregated indicators or provisions to systematically track the project’s effects on marginalised groups.

Rating for Monitoring and Reporting: MS

Rating for Monitoring of Project Implementation: MS

Rating for Project Reporting: MS

H. Sustainability

132. The likelihood of sustaining results from the project is moderately likely, based on UNEP’s integration of the topic into its programmes, the project’s links to global policy processes, and the continued relevance of pollution-health risks. While the project contributed to long-term systems change, the extent to which these contributions will endure depends on several external and institutional factors, including political commitment, financing, and local prioritisation of the agenda. Sustainability remains uneven across outputs and depends on follow-up actions that were not fully built into the project design in 2018. Continued UNEP engagement and targeted investment will be required to consolidate and expand these results.
133. On socio-political sustainability, the project responded to country priorities, including those articulated in UNEA Resolutions 3/4 and 4/8. Several scientific outputs under Output 1, such as the report on pesticides and fertilizers, and antimicrobial resistance (AMR), were developed through stakeholder consultations and addressed

regional and national needs. According to respondents, these contributions enhanced UNEP's visibility and relevance in the field and were a contributing factor to the invitation for UNEP to host the new Intergovernmental Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution, established by UNEA Resolution 5/8.

134. At the regional level, the project fostered policy dialogues and partnerships, including in Southeast Europe and South Asia, and promoted inter-ministerial collaboration in selected countries. Under Output 3, the project also supported the One Health agenda by participating in the Quadripartite and contributing to the development of the Implementation Guide for National Action on Environment, Health and Pollution (2023), which offers a further entry point for sustaining results.
135. On financial sustainability, the project did not include a dedicated strategy or formal provisions for post-project resource mobilisation. While some activities, such as the continued availability of open-access tools, publications, and technical guidance, can be maintained with reduced resources, other outputs (e.g., support for national planning processes or cross-sectoral coordination mechanisms) require ongoing institutional capacity and targeted funding. The limited financial planning at design stage reduces the likelihood of sustaining these more resource-intensive components.

Rating for Likelihood of Sustainability (use 'Likely' scale): Moderate Likely

Rating for Socio-political Sustainability: Moderate likely

Rating for Financial Sustainability: moderate likely

I. Factors Affecting Performance and Cross-Cutting Issues

These critical factors affecting the project's performance have been discussed throughout the review. However, the paragraphs below complement the information.

Quality of Project Management and Supervision

136. The quality of project management and supervision was a key factor in enabling the delivery of all five project outputs despite limited financial resources and external disruptions. Management decisions contributed directly to maintaining coherence with UNEP priorities and supporting UNEA resolutions. The project was managed as a coordination platform, linking complementary initiatives, policy processes, and technical partnerships. Supervision enabled the use of existing regional fora and partnerships to deliver activities without creating parallel structures. This contributed to efficient resource use and sustained institutional visibility.
137. Revisions were overseen to adapt to delays, reallocate funds, and refocus activities. These adjustments helped maintain delivery momentum and facilitated uptake of outputs in UNEP programming and intergovernmental processes. Strategic supervision also ensured collaboration with key partners such as WHO, FAO, and WOA, leveraging actions on EHP.

Stakeholder Participation and Cooperation

138. The project engaged UN agencies and strategic partners such as WHO, FAO, WOA, UNICEF, and UNITAR, as well as regional ministries of health and environment through platforms including AMCEN, the Asia-Pacific Forum on Environment and

Health, and the European Environment and Health Process. Collaboration under Output 3, including the interagency working groups on pollution and the One Health Quadripartite, enabled technical contributions to shared products such as the Implementation Guide for National Action on Environment, Health and Pollution (2023). Engagement levels varied across regions, partly due to differing national priorities and disruptions caused by COVID-19. While institutional actors were consistently reached, participation by marginalised groups and civil society remained limited, as engagement tools for these groups were not well defined in the project design. Nonetheless, the cooperation achieved with technical institutions and regional bodies contributed directly to the delivery and dissemination of outputs.

Responsiveness to Human Rights and Gender Equality

139. Responsiveness to human rights and gender equality was moderately satisfactory. The Prodoc (2018) acknowledged differential pollution impacts on vulnerable populations, including women and children (Prodoc p. 7), but this recognition was not translated into a structured gender or human rights strategy during implementation. The results framework lacked gender-disaggregated indicators, and reporting did not systematically capture benefits or barriers for disadvantaged groups. Some activities, such as awareness-raising under Output 4 and national consultations under Output 1, included women and youth indirectly. The lack of monitoring provisions limited the project's ability to demonstrate contributions to gender equality or rights-based outcomes. Interviews confirmed interest among stakeholders in stronger integration of gender and vulnerable-group considerations in future projects.

Environmental and Social Safeguards

140. Environmental and social safeguards were managed in line with the project's low-risk classification. No safeguard concerns or incidents were recorded during implementation, and no risk mitigation measures were triggered. In light of the project's scope and risk profile, safeguard monitoring remained limited but consistent with UNEP requirements in 2018. Since then, UNEP has strengthened its safeguards through the 2020 Environmental and Social Sustainability Framework (ESSF), which requires more systematic risk screening across eight safeguard standards. Future projects, even those considered low-risk, are expected to apply these more structured procedures from the design stage.

Country Ownership and Driven-ness

141. Country ownership was demonstrated primarily through government engagement in selected project activities and participation in technical consultations, particularly in the Asia-Pacific and African regions. For example, member states contributed to regional discussions on environmental determinants of health (Output 2) and took part in capacity-building events and workshops linked to Outputs 3 and 4. However, national-level uptake and policy integration of project outputs remained at an early stage, pointing to opportunities for deeper engagement in future phases.

Communication and Public Awareness

142. Communication and public awareness were embedded as a core component of the project's strategy, particularly under Output 4. The project contributed to global

campaigns such as Beat Pollution and BreatheLife, enhancing UNEP's visibility and aligning messaging across divisions. The project supported high-level regional events, including ministerial forums in Asia-Pacific, Latin America, and Africa. Future projects could enhance impact by integrating clearer frameworks for tracking communication outputs and outcomes at the country level.

Rating for Factors Affecting Performance and Cross-Cutting Issues: S

Rating for Quality of Project Management and Supervision: HS

Rating for Stakeholders Participation and Cooperation: S

Rating for Responsiveness to Human Rights and Gender Equality: MS

Rating for Environmental and Social Safeguards: S

Rating for Country Ownership and Driven-ness: S

Rating for Communication and Public Awareness: S

V. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Conclusions

143. This review sought to answer the following main questions: (i) What was the project's performance regarding its relevance, effectiveness, efficiency and impact? (ii) How can the project outputs and the policy work at the outcome level advanced by this project be sustained beyond its duration?

Overall Performance

144. The project context included three major challenges affecting the realisation of the project's outcome. First, the planned scale of funding (USD 5,134,686) was not aligned with the project's level of ambition, which included global, regional, and national deliverables across six regions. Second, the COVID-19 pandemic challenged the implementation of project activities at regional and country levels, as well as the timely delivery of outputs. Third, the project's thematic focus on the health and environment nexus was still emerging on the global agenda, in contrast to more established environmental themes (IISD, 2022).

Strengths

145. Despite these challenges, from 2018 to 2023, the project managed to deliver results across the five planned outputs (see availability of outputs, page 34). To achieve this, the project focused resources on UNEP's areas of expertise, producing scientific knowledge, through demand-led studies requested by Member Countries on strategic topics (page 35), and action at the policy level with UNEA resolutions. The main project results were delivered at the normative policy and global levels.
146. On output 5, the project directly contributed to the development and adoption of the UNEA3 Implementation Plan Towards a Pollution-Free Planet, endorsed through resolution 4/21, in response to a request from Member States. The Plan was subsequently integrated into UNEP's Medium-Term Strategy 2022-2025 and the Programme of Work, under the Chemicals and Pollution Action Subprogramme and the Pollution and Health Programme. Additionally, the project contributed to building an internal narrative for action on EHP in the economic context. Interview respondents from 4 regions indicated that the strategic direction introduced by this project continued to influence UNEP's programming after the project concluded in 2023.
147. To achieve results with limited funding, the project also focused on expanding partnerships, to deliver the project's outputs through other organisations. On output 3, project implementation was delivered through partnerships, including with WHO, UNICEF, and the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm Conventions. In 2022, UNEP formalised the Quadripartite Alliance for One Health, with WHO, FAO, and WOA. Internally, interview data indicated that the project was strategically managed as a coordination platform for action on environment, health and pollution (EHP), linking complementary projects.
148. Despite the challenges of the pandemic, the project reduced the cost of events and increased carbon offsetting by implementing online events. The project leveraged existing regional fora and platforms (page 36) and used UNEP country offices. The

project also built on the momentum created by the pandemic to increase the visibility of deliverables (studies highlighting the environment-health nexus).

149. In summary, the project strengths included its strategic relevance, efficiency in delivering project outputs with limited funding, and the quality of project management, particularly on partnership building, internal coordination, and strategic positioning of UNEP's work on EPH.

Development

150. Project records of meetings (workshops held in 2017 to design the project) and the original project document (2018) demonstrate efforts to produce a robust project proposal. These included the articulation of a Theory of Change, identification of risks to project delivery, and thorough stakeholder mapping.
151. However, the analysis of drivers and assumptions could have been further developed. The Theory of Change diagram in the Prodoc (p. 24) presented only one assumption, despite the project operating within a complex system involving multiple interacting actors. A more detailed analysis could have supported the identification of intervention gaps and levers, including the integration of a financing pillar (page 8). Furthermore, improved output-level indicators would have made it easier to evaluate progress toward the intended outcomes.

Projects sustainability and future opportunities

Resource mobilisation

152. The planned project budget was limited relative to the project's multi-level ambition and intended outcome. To enhance the likelihood of success in future initiatives of similar scope, UNEP could consider developing a structured resource mobilisation strategy during the design phase, commensurate with the project's scale and objectives.
153. Strategic entry points for cross-sectoral financing may include climate adaptation, urban resilience (where climate change, air and water pollution, and public health crises converge), sustainable food systems, waste and plastic pollution, and nature-based solutions with co-benefits for health.

Sector projects

154. Building on the experience of this global umbrella project, future UNEP initiatives may benefit from adopting a more defined thematic and sectoral focus. Given the evolving policy landscape, including the adoption of the Global Framework on Chemicals (UNEP, 2023) and the establishment of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution (UNEP, 2025), UNEP has an opportunity to collaborate across key economic sectors to advance this agenda (page 7). A sector-specific project design could enhance the capacity of UNEP to engage with technical ministries, mobilise local budgets, and co-develop local solutions at country level. It may also support more robust monitoring frameworks and facilitate scaling-up of results.

Human Rights

155. UNEP is encouraged to more intentionally engage marginalised groups (women, youth, Indigenous Peoples, and local communities) as stakeholders in future project design and implementation. These groups face disproportionate environmental health risks yet hold Indigenous and Local Knowledge (ILK) relevant to formulate effective interventions. For instance, there are opportunities for UNEP to support the inclusion of ILK in the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution (ISP-CWP), through the co-production of knowledge using participatory methods, inclusive policy processes, and engagement in research.
156. Overall, the project achieved good Value for Money³⁸ (VfM), delivering five outputs at the global policy level in the context of limited funding and constrained circumstances. It has also coordinated wider UNEP activities into a coherent framework for action on EHP in the upcoming MTS period.

B. Summary of Project Findings and Ratings

157. The table below provides a summary of the ratings and finding discussed in Chapter V. Overall, the project has been rated as **Satisfactory**.

UNEP Evaluation Office Validation of Performance Ratings:

The UNEP Evaluation Office formally quality assesses (see Annex XI) management led Terminal Review reports and validates the performance ratings therein by ensuring that the performance judgments made are consistent with evidence presented in the Review report and in-line with the performance standards set out for independent evaluations.

The Evaluation Office assesses a Terminal Review report in the same way as it assesses the initial draft of a Terminal Evaluation report. It applies the following assumptions in its validation process:

- That what is being assessed is the contents of the report and the extent to which it makes a consistent and justifiable case for the performance ratings it records.
- That the consultant has, within the report, presented all the evidence that was made available to them.
- That the Review has been based on a robust Theory of Change, reconstructed where necessary, which reflects UNEP's definitions at all levels of results.
- That the project team and key stakeholders have already reviewed a draft version of the report and provided substantive comments and made factual corrections to the Review Consultant, who has responded to them. The Evaluation Office assumes, therefore, that it has received the Final (revised) version of the report.

In this instance the Evaluation Office assesses the quality of the Report at the 'Satisfactory' level and validates the overall project performance rating at the '**Moderately Satisfactory**' level.

³⁸ Value for Money (VfM) refers to the optimal use of resources to achieve intended outcomes, ensuring that project resources are used to maximise impact and sustainability, not just cost reductions. It builds on the "3Es" framework: economy, efficiency and effectiveness. (ICAI Review, 2018; UK FCDO, 2021).

Table 17: Summary of project findings and ratings³⁹

Criterion	Summary assessment	Rating	Justification for any ratings' changes due to validation (to be completed by the UNEP Evaluation Office – EOU)	EOU Validated Rating
Strategic Relevance	The project was closely aligned with UNEP priorities, external donor's priorities, and global and regional priorities, as described below.	HS	The rating is validated.	HS
1. Alignment to UNEP MTS, POW and strategic priorities	The project directly contributed to the development and adoption of the UNEA3 Implementation Plan Towards a Pollution-Free Planet, endorsed through resolution 4/21, in response to a request from Member States. The Plan was subsequently integrated into UNEP's Medium-Term Strategy 2022-2025 and the Programme of Work, under the Chemicals and Pollution Action Subprogramme and the Pollution and Health Programme.	HS	The rating is validated.	HS
2. Alignment to Donor/Partner strategic priorities	The project demonstrated full alignment with the strategic priorities of the six bilateral donors and partners. It supported shared goals related to pollution control, environmental health governance, and chemicals and waste management. Strategic fit was confirmed across country frameworks, including those of Norway, Sweden, Japan, France, the UK, and the European Commission, reflecting support for the SDGs (particularly Goals 3, 6, 12, and 17) and multilateral environmental cooperation, as described on page 30.	HS	The rating is validated.	HS
3. Relevance to global, regional, sub-regional and national environmental priorities	The project engaged regional platforms such as the Asia-Pacific Regional Forum on Environment and Health and the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, promoting integration of pollution and health considerations into regional policies. At the national level, its tools and training informed frameworks including India's NCAP (2019), Vietnam's Air Quality Plan (2016-2025), and Ghana's Health and Pollution Action Plan.	HS	The rating is validated.	HS

³⁹ Most criteria will be rated on a six-point scale as follows: Highly Satisfactory (HS); Satisfactory (S); Moderately Satisfactory (MS); Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU); Unsatisfactory (U); Highly Unsatisfactory (HU). Sustainability and Likelihood of Impact are rated, also on a six-point scale, from Highly Likely (HL) down to Highly Unlikely (HU) and Nature of External Context is rated from Highly Favourable (HF) to Highly Unfavourable (HU).

Criterion	Summary assessment	Rating	Justification for any ratings' changes due to validation (to be completed by the UNEP Evaluation Office – EOU)	EOU Validated Rating
4. Complementarity with relevant existing interventions /coherence	The project complemented UNEP's work under the Chemicals, Water and Air Quality subprogramme. It shared data and outputs with the Science and Knowledge Project and supported coordination with other initiatives on environmental governance and pollution.	HS	The rating is validated.	HS
Quality of Project Design	The Theory of Change outlined a general results pathway that supported the overall project logic. Its utility could have been enhanced by incorporating additional intermediate states and more clearly articulating underlying assumptions, key drivers, and stakeholder roles within the results framework. The absence of gender-disaggregated indicators limited the project's ability to capture differential impacts. Similarly, provisions for replication, an exit strategy, and the monitoring of scaling effects were limited. Page 32 provides a detailed assessment.	MS	The rating is validated.	MS
Nature of External Context	The COVID-19 pandemic delayed activities, limited in-person engagement, and reduced access to country-level stakeholders. There were also geopolitical and economic disruptions, along with institutional changes in partner countries, out of the control of UNEP. Despite the challenges of the pandemic, the project reduced the cost of events and increased carbon offsetting by implementing virtual events. The project leveraged existing regional fora and platforms (page 36) and used UNEP country offices. The project also built on the momentum created by the pandemic to increase the visibility of deliverables (studies highlighting the environment-health nexus).	U	The rating is validated.	U
Effectiveness	As described below.	S		MS

Criterion	Summary assessment	Rating	Justification for any ratings' changes due to validation (to be completed by the UNEP Evaluation Office – EOU)	EOU Validated Rating
1. Availability of outputs	Despite the financial constraints, five outputs were delivered: key assessments and decision-support tools were produced and used; cooperation on environment, health, and pollution was strengthened through multiple regional events and the Quadripartite One Health MoU; and the UNEA3 Implementation Plan "Towards a Pollution-Free Planet" was developed and integrated into UNEP's Medium-Term Strategy. Output 4 was optimised, including cancelling education materials that were no longer needed to be funded by this project. Factors contributing to the achievement of outputs despite limited funding include delivering through partnerships, such as WHO, reducing event costs during the pandemic, and using UNEP regional offices.	HS	The rating is validated. The EOU notes that the results for output 2 and 4 are not explicitly demonstrated by comparing targets and achievements.	HS
2. Achievement of project outcomes	The project achieved its intended outcome of enhancing capacity to address pollution through five interlinked outputs that delivered science-policy reports, decision-support tools, policy dialogues and contributions to the Implementation Plan Towards a Pollution-Free Planet. While the outcome statement and indicator were framed in broad terms and not supported by a fully articulated results-monitoring system, a next phase could refine these elements and place greater emphasis on private sector engagement, country-level uptake and the explicit inclusion of marginalised groups as beneficiaries.	S	The rating has been adjusted from S to 'MS' in line with UNEP's criteria ratings matrix. The EOU notes that, although the section indicates the result as 'achieved', it does not clearly address whether it is fully achieved or partially achieved. However, the review notes that 'some' outcome have been achieved and that drivers and assumptions are partially in place and held (Table 15).	MS
3. Likelihood of impact	The project's likelihood of long-term impact is rated Moderately Likely. The project established a policy and knowledge foundation and increased capacity and awareness on the environment-health-pollution nexus, but progression from capacity gains to systemic and behavioural change has been uneven and remains influenced by factors such as political will, financing, and national implementation capacity. Further country-level implementation and enhanced scaling mechanisms could help consolidate and sustain impact over time.	ML	The rating is validated.	ML
Financial Management	As described below.	S	The rating is validated.	S

Criterion	Summary assessment	Rating	Justification for any ratings' changes due to validation (to be completed by the UNEP Evaluation Office – EOU)	EOU Validated Rating
1. Adherence to UNEP's financial policies and procedures	The project complied with UNEP's financial guidelines and donor's requirements as recorded in the mid-term review and UMOJA documentation, with transparency.	S	The rating is validated.	S
2. Completeness of project financial information	The project provided standard financial information extracted from the EPR system, including annual expenditure reports by budget line and funding source.	S	The rating is validated.	S
3. Communication between finance and project management staff	Based on interviews and records of meetings, there was a standard communication between the finance support staff and the project management staff, with regular contact in budget reviews, annual planning and procurement. No major coordination issues were reported.	S	In the latest tools and guidance, this criterion is no longer considered.	N/A
Efficiency	The project's efficiency is rated highly satisfactory. It made effective use of existing partnerships, coordination mechanisms, and regional platforms to deliver five planned outputs within a limited budget. Activities were implemented through established forums and aligned with UNEA timelines, avoiding duplication and expanding reach through institutional channels. Regional offices played a key role in engaging national governments and integrating efforts into ongoing processes. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the project maintained delivery through management adjustments and virtual modalities without increasing costs.	HS	The rating has been adjusted from HS to 'S' in line with UNEP's criteria ratings matrix. There were one cost-extension and one no-cost extension.	S
Monitoring and Reporting	As described below.	MS	The rating is validated.	MS
1. Monitoring design and budgeting	The monitoring arrangements outlined in the 2018 Project Document met UNEP's standards at the time, including a results framework, provisions for biannual reporting, and planned evaluation activities. However, the framework lacked specificity in outcome-level indicators and did not clearly articulate the causal link between outputs and intended results. There was no dedicated budget line for monitoring beyond standard reporting functions, and the design did not include provisions for disaggregated data or adaptive learning mechanisms.	MS	In the latest tools and guidance, this criterion is no longer considered.	N/A

Criterion	Summary assessment	Rating	Justification for any ratings' changes due to validation (to be completed by the UNEP Evaluation Office – EOU)	EOU Validated Rating
2. Monitoring of project implementation	Project implementation was monitored through UNEP's regular mechanisms, including annual progress updates, Project Implementation Reviews (PIRs), and internal oversight by the implementing unit. These tools supported timely adjustments, including two formal project revisions. While the system allowed tracking of activities and outputs, the limited precision of some indicators constrained the assessment of progress toward longer-term change.	S	The EOU notes that the rating is MS in the narrative. The rating 'MS is validated	MS
3. Project reporting	The project complied with UNEP's reporting requirements, producing regular progress reports and the Mid-Term Review. Key outputs and activities were documented, and reporting contributed to accountability and implementation tracking. However, reporting did not fully capture qualitative or institutional changes and lacked data disaggregation to assess the project's impact on vulnerable or marginalised groups, despite such considerations being referenced in the original design.	MS	The rating is validated.	MS
Sustainability		S	The rating has been adjusted from S to 'MU' following the adjustment of sub-criteria rating.	MU
1. Socio-political sustainability	On socio-political sustainability, the project responded to country priorities, including those articulated in UNEA Resolutions 3/4 and 4/8. Several scientific outputs under Output 1, such as the report on pesticides and fertilizers, and antimicrobial resistance (AMR), were developed through stakeholder consultations and addressed regional and national needs. According to respondents, these contributions enhanced UNEP's visibility and relevance in the field and were a contributing factor to the invitation for UNEP to host the new Intergovernmental Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution.	S	The EOU notes that the rating is ML in the narrative. The rating 'ML is validated	ML

Criterion	Summary assessment	Rating	Justification for any ratings' changes due to validation (to be completed by the UNEP Evaluation Office – EOU)	EOU Validated Rating
2. Financial sustainability	Regional policy engagement and the project's contributions to the One Health agenda offer entry points for sustaining results. However, in the absence of a dedicated post-project resource mobilisation strategy, maintaining outputs, particularly those linked to national planning and cross-sectoral coordination, depend on the availability of international and local funding.	S	The Evaluation Office notes that the rating is 'ML' in the narrative. The rating has been adjusted from ML to 'MU' in line with UNEP's criteria ratings matrix. The evidence presented indicates that maintaining the outputs depends on the availability of international and local funding. Evidence in the report indicates that there was no exit strategy at design and there is no explicit mention of whether the exit strategy for financial sustainability was developed during the project implementation or afterwards. The report also addressed the limited future funding has been secured.	MU
3. Institutional sustainability	The likelihood of sustaining results is moderately likely. The project's contributions remain relevant, and UNEP has integrated environment-health-pollution linkages into its programmes and global policy engagement. However, sustainability varies across outputs and depends on external factors such as political commitment, financing and national prioritisation.	MS	The EOU notes that the rating is 'ML' in the narrative. The rating 'ML' is validated.	ML
Factors Affecting Performance		S	The rating is validated.	S
1. Preparation and readiness		S	In the latest tools and guidance, this criterion is no longer considered.	N/A

Criterion	Summary assessment	Rating	Justification for any ratings' changes due to validation (to be completed by the UNEP Evaluation Office – EOU)	EOU Validated Rating
2. Quality of project management and supervision	The quality of project management and supervision was a key factor in enabling the delivery of all five project outputs despite limited financial resources and external disruptions. Management decisions contributed directly to maintaining coherence with UNE 'priorities and supporting UNEA resolutions. The project was managed as a coordination platform, linking complementary initiatives, policy processes, and technical partnerships.	HS	The rating has been adjusted from HS to 'S' in line with UNEP's criteria ratings matrix. The EOU notes that overall rating of 'quality of project management and supervision' did not use the weighted rating method.	S
2.1 UNEP/Implementing Agency:	UNEP was leading implementation of this project.	S	The rating is validated.	S
2.2 Partners/Executing Agency:	There was no executing agency, but partners supporting delivery of outputs such as WHO and FAO.		The EOU notes that it is not assessed as there is no EA for this project.	N/A
3. Stakeholders' participation and cooperation	The project engaged key agencies and regional ministries of health and environment through platforms such as AMCEN and the Asia-Pacific and European Environment and Health processes. These partnerships, particularly under Output 3, facilitated joint technical outputs. However, engagement varied across regions due to local priorities. While collaboration with institutional actors was strong, participation of civil society and marginalized groups was limited due to gaps in inclusive engagement strategies. Nonetheless, the project's strategic partnerships significantly supported output delivery and dissemination.	S	The rating is validated.	S
4. Responsiveness to human rights and gender equality	The project's responsiveness to human rights and gender equality is rated Moderately Satisfactory. Although the ProDoc recognised the disproportionate impact of pollution on vulnerable groups, this awareness did not translate into a dedicated strategy or gender-responsive results framework. Indicators were not gender-disaggregated, and reporting did not systematically capture outcomes for disadvantaged groups. Some inclusion occurred indirectly through consultations and awareness activities, but limited monitoring hindered assessment of impact. Stakeholders expressed interest in strengthening gender and inclusion considerations in future phases.	MS	The rating is validated.	MS

Criterion	Summary assessment	Rating	Justification for any ratings' changes due to validation (to be completed by the UNEP Evaluation Office – EOU)	EOU Validated Rating
5. Environmental and social safeguards	Environmental and social safeguards were managed in accordance with the project's low-risk classification. No incidents or mitigation actions were recorded during implementation. Monitoring was limited but aligned with UNEP's 2018 requirements. However, UNEP's 2020 Environmental and Social Sustainability Framework (ESSF) now calls for more structured risk screening, even for low-risk projects. Future initiatives are expected to apply these updated safeguard standards from the design stage.	S	The rating is validated.	S
6. Country ownership and driven-ness	Country ownership was reflected through government engagement during activities and technical consultations, especially in the Asia-Pacific and African regions. Member states participated in discussions on environmental determinants of health and in regional workshops. National-level uptake and policy integration of outputs showed initial progress, with room for consolidation in future projects, particularly those with thematic and sectoral focus, as priorities vary in regions.	S	The rating is validated. However, the EOU notes that evidence related to forward-looking budgeting/plan, and the provision of in-kind and cash co-financing are neither explicitly presented nor addressed in the section.	S
7. Communication and public awareness	Communication and public awareness were central to the project's strategy, especially under Output 4. The project supported global campaigns like Beat Pollution and BreatheLife, improving UNEP's visibility and coherence of messaging. It also backed regional ministerial forums across Asia-Pacific, Latin America, and Africa.	S	The rating is validated.	S
Overall Project Performance Rating	Overall, the project achieved a satisfactory level of performance, demonstrating high strategic relevance, and delivering results under challenging conditions. The project addressed a clear gap from 2018 to 2023, fulfilling a critical role in supporting the implementation of UNEA resolutions, and initiating actions at the three geographic levels.	S	The overall rating has been adjusted from S to 'MS' due to the adjustment of ratings of sub-criteria based on the evidence presented and in line with UNEP's criteria ratings matrix.	MS

C. Lessons learned

Lesson Learned #1:	Future initiatives could benefit from a leaner Project Management Unit (PMU)
Context/comment:	The project was directly implemented by UNEP, with a team of 20 staff members drawn from multiple divisions (Prodoc, 2018). In this group, a core team was responsible for project management, while others contributed to the delivery of technical outputs. While this arrangement brought diverse technical expertise, the absence of a traditional lean Project Management Unit (PMU) created coordination challenges and increased complexity in team integration. Future initiatives could benefit from a leaner structure, supported by products/deliverables, instead of individuals.
Cross-reference(s) to relevant paragraphs	Page 5.

Lesson Learned #2:	The project demonstrated that (1) ministerial-level collaboration provided important inputs for future work on environment and health, and (2) early involvement of regional staff and beneficiaries in project design is essential to enhance relevance and ownership.
Context/comment:	In the context of project implementation, the project facilitated ministerial-level collaboration on environment and health, generating important insights and networks for future programming. In the context of project preparation, the opportunity for a more inclusive design process was identified, with early involvement of regional staff and local beneficiaries.
Cross-reference(s) to relevant paragraphs	Page 5.

Lesson Learned #3:	To maximise the long-term value of formal agreements such as the 2022 Quadripartite MoU, more concrete programmatic collaboration and structured actions are needed.
Context/comment:	At the strategic level, respondents noted that following the 2022 Quadripartite MoU, structured actions could maximise the partnership's long-term value, a view shared by both internal and external interviewees.
Cross-reference(s) to relevant paragraphs	Page 5.

D. Recommendations

Recommendation #1:	<u>Expand country-level engagement</u>
	Expand engagement at the country level by building on local partnerships initiated by the project. This would help translate UNEA resolutions and MEAs into concrete actions. Entry points include leveraging UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (UNSDCFs) and UNEP's network of national and regional offices. A targeted selection of countries could be used to pilot implementation of the One Health Joint Plan of Action.
Challenge/problem to be addressed by the recommendation:	The project contributed tangibly at global and regional levels, but there is room to enhance engagement at the national level. Closer collaboration with country stakeholders could strengthen uptake of results and support lasting impact.
Cross-reference(s) to relevant paragraphs	Page 6.
Priority Level:	High
Type of Recommendation	Strategic/Design Level
Responsibility:	UNEP Programme Manager and Regional Offices
Proposed implementation time-frame:	Design and Implementation phase of new /revised projects focusing on Environment, Health and Pollution related topics, and aligned to 2026-29 Medium Term Strategy and Programme of Work. On average 9 months.

Recommendation #2:	<u>Expand sectoral and thematic projects</u> UNEP is advised to explore sectoral and thematic focus in future projects to strengthen technical engagement, facilitate national and regional uptake, and leverage opportunities including the Global Framework on Chemicals and the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution. This may include exploring sectors such as food security, waste management and circular economy transitions.
Challenge/problem to be addressed by the recommendation:	The broad scope of the current umbrella project may have limited the depth of technical engagement at the sectoral level and constrained opportunities to mobilise local actors and resources. The evolving international context suggests the need for more targeted interventions that align with sector-specific needs and national priorities to improve uptake, ownership, and impact.
Cross-reference(s) to relevant paragraphs	Page 7.
Priority Level:	Medium
Type of Recommendation	Strategic/Design Level
Responsibility:	UNEP Programme Manager and Regional Offices
Proposed implementation time-frame:	Design and Implementation phase of new projects with an Environment, Health and Pollution focus. On average 9 months.

Recommendation #3:	<u>Expand partnerships with the Private Sector to increase pollution and health action</u> UNEP can build on existing UN networks, such as the UN Global Compact and UNDP's Philanthropy Platform.
Challenge/problem to be addressed by the recommendation:	Although the project recognised the value of private sector involvement, this dimension was not fully explored. Broadening partnerships with the private sector could enhance the project's reach and unlock expertise and resources. Page 5 provides directions and entry points on how to expand engagement with the Private Sector.
Cross-reference(s) to relevant paragraphs	Page 5.
Priority Level:	High
Type of Recommendation	Partnership Development
Responsibility:	UNEP Programme Manager and Partnerships/Fundraising Officer
Proposed implementation time-frame:	Design and Implementation phase of new/revised projects related to Environment, Health and Pollution. 9 months.

Recommendation #4:	<u>Scale up technical tools developed by this project</u> Scale up the technical and capacity-building tools developed under the project by improving their usability, accessibility, and integration into national systems. Expand data access and promote participatory approaches to enhance their relevance for decision-making.
Challenge/problem to be addressed by the recommendation:	The project developed useful technical tools and knowledge products, yet their application beyond pilot contexts has been limited. Expanding access and tailoring these tools for broader use and link with national systems could increase their relevance and utility.
Cross-reference(s) to relevant paragraphs	Page 6.
Priority Level:	Medium
Type of Recommendation	Capacity Development
Responsibility:	UNEP colleagues in the Chemicals and Health Branch working on knowledge management efforts.
Proposed implementation time-frame:	6-12 months.

Recommendation #5:	<u>Engage marginalised groups as a target audience in project activities</u> Future projects to engage marginalised groups more intentionally, recognising their high exposure and risks to pollution, and their knowledge to contribute to the solutions. This includes opportunity to use participatory approaches and incorporate Indigenous and Local Knowledge (ILK) into data and policy processes, in line with UNEP's equity and rights-based principles. UNEP is well positioned to facilitate the integration of ILK into global science-policy platforms, including the recently established Intergovernmental Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution (ISP-CWP).
Challenge/problem to be addressed by the recommendation:	Marginalised groups (women, youth, Indigenous Peoples, and local communities) were not consistently engaged as target audiences in the project's outputs and activities, despite being disproportionately impacted by pollution.
Cross-reference(s) to relevant paragraphs	Page 8.
Priority Level:	High
Type of Recommendation	Social Inclusion, Human Rights, Gender Empowerment
Responsibility:	UNEP Programme Managers working on environment, health and pollution related issues, Safeguards Officer, Human Rights and Gender Specialist
Proposed implementation time-frame:	9 months.

Recommendation #6:	<u>Apply Systems Thinking to refine the Theory of Change</u> Complement the Theory of Change (ToC) with systems thinking methodologies during project design and mid-term review. This includes mapping drivers, assumptions, feedback loops, and interdependencies to identify and address potential intervention gaps.
Challenge/problem to be addressed by the recommendation:	The Theory of Change provided a helpful foundation, but it could benefit from greater attention to complex interactions among drivers, stakeholders, and enabling conditions. A more systems-oriented approach may strengthen project design and adaptive management. Details are provided on page 8.
Cross-reference(s) to relevant paragraphs	Pages 8, 30 and 31.
Priority Level:	High, as cost-effective interventions and additional partnerships can be identified with this methodology.
Type of Recommendation	Project Design
Responsibility:	UNEP Programme Managers working on environment, health and pollution - related issues, the team engaged in the project design exercise, evaluation office.
Proposed implementation time-frame:	9 months or according to UNEP's project development internal planning.

Recommendation #7:	<u>Expand and systematise the resource mobilisation strategy</u> The project budget was limited in relation to its multi-level ambition. Looking ahead, there is an opportunity to develop a more structured resource mobilisation strategy during the design phase. This could help identify a broader range of funding sources, including those linked to climate, biodiversity, and health, and strengthen the financial basis for implementation. Allocating dedicated staff on resource mobilisation to lead the strategy could facilitate results. It should also consider co-financing arrangements, including in-kind contributions from local governments, to reinforce project ownership.
Challenge/problem to be addressed by the recommendation:	The project had an ambitious scope, yet its resource base was relatively modest. A more structured and diversified resource mobilisation strategy could help secure the necessary funding to sustain and scale future initiatives.
Cross-reference(s) to relevant paragraphs	Page 9.
Priority Level:	High
Type of Recommendation	Financial/Resource Mobilisation
Responsibility:	UNEP Programme Managers and colleagues supporting Resource Mobilisation efforts
Proposed implementation time-frame:	Ongoing.

ANNEX I. REVIEW FRAMEWORK

GUIDING QUESTIONS	METHODS	SOURCES OF INFORMATION
Strategic relevance		
- What is the project's relevance to UNEP's mandate, and how does it align with UNEP's policies and strategies at the time of project approval (MTS and POW)? What is the scope of any contributions made to the MTS and POW? - To what extent did the project, either at the design stage or during inception/mobilisation, take into account ongoing and planned initiatives (within the same sub-programme, across other UNEP sub-programmes, or implemented by other agencies in the same country, sector, or institution) that address similar needs of the same target groups? - To what extent is the project aligned with the priorities and policies of the donors? - To what extent is the project aligned with the priorities and policies of the regional countries and target beneficiaries? Additional question: - Did the project address priority health-pollution linkages identified by national or regional members?	Document analysis, triangulation with stakeholder interviews. Comparative review of national/regional health agendas.	Prodoc, UNEP strategies, national health/environment plans, interviews with UNEP, WHO, regional offices.
Quality of Project Design		
- See quality of design matrix attached (Annex II)	Use of UNEP's quality and design matrix. Document analysis (Theory of Change), interviews.	Prodoc, stakeholder consultations (inception, planning docs).
Nature of External Context		
- Does the project document identify any particularly challenging operational factors that could negatively affect project performance? - Did the project face conflict, natural disasters, or political upheaval? If so, what were the implications, and how were the impacts mitigated? - How has COVID-19 affected project implementation?	Stakeholder interviews, risk log analysis.	Risk logs, PIRs, COVID-19 response notes/revision, interviews with project partners.
Effectiveness		

GUIDING QUESTIONS	METHODS	SOURCES OF INFORMATION
Availability of Outputs		
- How successful has the project been in producing or progressing towards the programmed outputs (products and services delivered by the project) and milestones, as per the Prodoc, in terms of quantity, quality, usefulness, and timeliness? - What are the key factors contributing to the success or failure of the project in producing its outputs and meeting expected quality standards? - Were key stakeholders appropriately involved in producing the programmed outputs?	Output tracking, triangulated with stakeholder interviews and product review.	Logframe, PIRs, final report, deliverables, interviews with project teams and stakeholders.
Achievement of Project Outcomes		
- To what extent has the project contributed to the achievement of planned outcomes? - To what extent has the project contributed, and is it likely to continue contributing, to intermediate states, and what is the likelihood that these will lead to positive changes in the natural resource base, benefits derived from the environment, and human well-being? - What is the likelihood that the intervention could result in unintended negative effects, as reflected in project documentation relating to environmental, social, and economic safeguards? Additional questions: - To what extent has the project contributed to replication or upscaling, including through regional fora, South-South cooperation, or the use of project tools in new contexts? - To what extent have the project's risk assessment tools, environmental health profiles, and capacity-building methodologies been used to inform national or local decision-making on environment, health and pollution?	Outcome tracking, semi-structured interviews with partners and beneficiaries.	Logframe indicators, environmental health profiles, PIRs, national data sources, stakeholder interviews.
Likelihood of impact		
- What is the actual or likely contribution of the project to its overall objective and intended impact? - What factors have affected, or are likely to affect, the project's success in achieving its objectives? Additional question: - What is the likelihood that project knowledge, tools, and results will be used beyond the project's direct partners or regions, contributing to systemic change?	Review of ToC pathways, systems analysis to track intermediate states.	Theory of Change, final PIR, national planning documents, interviews.
Financial Management		

GUIDING QUESTIONS	METHODS	SOURCES OF INFORMATION
- Have UNEP's financial policies and procedures been adhered to? Have proper standards, such as clarity, transparency, and audit requirements, been applied? - Has financial documentation been complete, accurate, and available in a timely manner to ensure that sufficient and timely financial resources were available to the project and its partners? - Has there been effective communication between financial management staff and project management staff? - How have administrative processes, such as recruitment of staff, procurement of goods and services, and preparation and negotiation of cooperation agreements, affected project performance (positively or negatively)? - What resources has the project leveraged since inception, and how have these resources contributed to achieving the project's ultimate objective?	Review of reports, financial statements, FMO documentation. Interviews with finance/admin teams.	UMOJA records, co-financing reports, audit records, Prodoc budget, interviews.
Efficiency		
- Has project execution been cost-effective and timely? - Have any cost or time-saving measures been implemented to help the project achieve its results within the secured budget and timeframe? - How have any delays affected project execution, costs, and effectiveness? - To what extent could the need for a project extension have been avoided through stronger project management? - How have project teams utilised or built upon pre-existing institutions, agreements and partnerships, data sources, and synergies/complementarities with other initiatives, programmes, and projects to increase efficiency? Additional questions: - Was the planned project timeframe sufficient to design and execute the project? Would it have been more effective to focus resources on fewer regions, given the varied levels of engagement? - To what extent did COVID-19 affect project implementation?	Efficiency analysis (inputs vs outputs/outcomes), timeline review, workplan analysis.	PIRs, partner reports, logframe vs budget expenditure, Prodoc.
Monitoring and Reporting		
Monitoring of project implementation		

GUIDING QUESTIONS	METHODS	SOURCES OF INFORMATION
- Was the M&E system operational, and did it facilitate timely tracking of results and progress towards project objectives throughout the implementation period? - How was monitoring information used to adapt and improve project execution, achieve outcomes, and ensure sustainability? - Adequacy of baseline information: To what extent was baseline information on performance indicators collected and presented clearly? Was the methodology for baseline data collection explicit and reliable? - Is risk monitoring, including safeguard issues, regularly documented? - Were the funds allocated for monitoring used for this activity? Additional questions: - Have the project's data, methodologies, and knowledge products (e.g. GEO, ChemObs, toolkits) been institutionalised or integrated into external platforms to ensure long-term usability?	Evaluation of M&E design and implementation. Review of data collection systems, validation of reporting indicators.	M&E Plan (if available), PIRs, progress reports, stakeholder interviews.
Project reporting		
- To what extent have UNEP and donor reporting requirements been fulfilled in accordance with agreed timelines and formats? - To what extent has project reporting addressed and documented the effects of the initiative on disaggregated groups (e.g., by gender, age, or vulnerability)?	Review of submitted reports against donor/UNEP formats, assessment of completeness and gender-disaggregation.	Annual reports, donor reports, interviews.
Sustainability		
Socio-political sustainability		
Financial sustainability		
- To what extent are project outcomes dependent on further financial inputs, and are such resources available? - Are adequate financial resources available to utilize and maintain the capacities built by the project? - Are there any financial risks that may jeopardize the sustainability of project results and continued progress towards impact? Additional questions:	Review of financial exit strategy, assessment of resource mobilisation efforts	National budgets, co-financing reports, donor commitments, interviews with regional ministries.

GUIDING QUESTIONS	METHODS	SOURCES OF INFORMATION
- Did governments in the regions express interest in sustaining or scaling project tools, e.g., by funding related assessments?		
Institutional Sustainability		
- How robust are the institutional achievements, such as governance structures and processes, policies, sub-regional agreements, and legal and accountability frameworks, needed to sustain project results and contribute to impacts on human behaviour and environmental resources, goods, or services? - Are institutional capacity development efforts likely to be sustained? - Additional questions: - How strong were the partnerships in regions with local governments and research institutes, and are these partnerships sustainable? - Has the project contributed to creating or sustaining a more integrated approach, within governments and among other stakeholders? Additional question: - To what extent have academic institutions or national research centres contributed to sustaining and further developing the project's methods or data beyond the life of the project?	Institutional mapping, review of legal/policy changes linked to the project.	Legislation passed, sub-regional agreements, Prodoc outputs, interviews.
Factors affecting project performance and cross cutting issues		
Quality of project management and supervision		
- To what extent have the project implementation mechanisms outlined in the project document been followed, and how effective have they been in delivering project milestones, outputs, and outcomes? - Have productive and collaborative relationships with project partners been maintained throughout implementation? - How effective and efficient has project management been, and how well has it adapted to changes and challenges during the life of the project? - Were roles, responsibilities, and decision-making processes clearly defined and adhered to? - To what extent did project management ensure compliance with UNEP rules, policies, and safeguards? - How effectively were cross-unit coordination mechanisms used to support implementation? - Were corrective actions taken in a timely manner when implementation risks or delays emerged?	Project governance assessment, document review, interviews.	Prodoc, partner feedback, interviews with UNEP PMU.

GUIDING QUESTIONS	METHODS	SOURCES OF INFORMATION
Assessment Focus - Quality of coordination between UNEP, executing partners, and other stakeholders. - Responsiveness and flexibility of management in addressing operational challenges. - Evidence of proactive risk management and adaptive learning.		
Stakeholder participation and cooperation - How effective have communication and consultation with stakeholders been throughout the life of the project? - How has the project sought to maximise collaboration and coherence among various stakeholders (e.g., sharing plans, pooling resources, exchanging learning and expertise), and how successful has this been? - Has the project engaged all differentiated groups, including those defined by gender and other relevant social characteristics? Additional questions: - Stakeholder engagement appears to have varied widely between countries—what factors explain this variation? - Inclusiveness and representativeness of stakeholder engagement across project phases. - Effectiveness of stakeholder coordination mechanisms and technical committees. - Evidence of collaboration with other agencies and cross-sectoral ministries. - Extent to which engagement supported project ownership, coherence, and achievement of results.	Stakeholder mapping and level of participation across the project cycle.	Stakeholder list, gender disaggregated reports, workshop records, interviews.
Responsiveness to human rights and gender equity - To what extent does the intervention adhere to UNEP’s Policy and Strategy for Gender Equality and the Environment? - To what extent have project implementation and monitoring taken into consideration: a. possible inequalities, especially those related to gender, in access to and control over natural resources. b. the specific vulnerabilities of disadvantaged groups (particularly women, youth, children, and persons with disabilities) to environmental degradation or disasters. c. the role of disadvantaged groups, especially those related to gender, in mitigating or adapting to environmental changes and engaging in environmental protection and rehabilitation?	GESI analysis, HRBA review, inclusion of vulnerable groups.	UNEP Gender Policy, project safeguards, ToC assumptions, interviews with women/youth groups.

GUIDING QUESTIONS	METHODS	SOURCES OF INFORMATION
- Is the project's effect on equality (i.e., promoting human rights, gender equality, and inclusion of marginalised groups) reflected within the Theory of Change (ToC) as a general driver or assumption?		
Environmental and social safeguards		
- Were UNEP requirements met, including: regular review of risk ratings; monitoring of project implementation for possible safeguard issues; responding, where relevant, to safeguard issues through risk avoidance, minimisation, mitigation, or offsetting; and reporting on the implementation of safeguard management measures taken? - How, and to what extent, has project management minimised environmental footprint?	Safeguards compliance, risk logs, UNEP safeguard checklist review.	UNEP safeguard tracker, risk monitoring logs, interviews.
Country ownership and drivenness		
- To what extent have government and public sector agencies been engaged in the project, and how likely are they to ensure the continued momentum of the project's results after completion? - Is the cooperation of all official bodies required for change evident (e.g., representatives from multiple sectors or ministries beyond the Ministry of Environment)? - To what extent have government institutions influenced country-level planning, budgeting, and implementation? - To what extent does ownership extend to all genders and marginalised groups? Assessment focus - Degree of active government involvement and commitment throughout the project lifecycle. - Influence on national planning, policy, and budgeting processes. - Inclusiveness of ownership across gender and marginalised populations.	Analysis of government engagement, cross-sectoral support, and continuity strategy.	MoUs, government reports, involvement in technical committees, national planning docs.
Communication and public awareness		
- How effective have public awareness activities been in communicating the project's objectives, progress, outcomes, and lessons learned? - Did the project identify and make use of existing communication channels and networks used by key stakeholders? - Use of established networks to disseminate information and lessons	Communications strategy review, output review (videos, media, press), stakeholder feedback.	Communication outputs, social media data, interviews with communication officers, campaign records.

Sources: Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Terminal Review; UNEP Evaluation Policy (2022) and UNEP Evaluation Manual (2023); OECD-DAC evaluation criteria (2019) and additional questions based on the review of project documents.

ANNEX II. STAKEHOLDERS CONSULTED DURING THE REVIEW

People consulted during the Review

Organisation	Position	Role in the project	Gender
UNEP Industry and Economy Division (IED)	Chief of Branch	Oversight	F
UNEP IED	Global Programme Coordinator COA	Contributed to implementation	F
UNEP IED	Head, Pollution and Health Unit	Contributed to implementation	F
UNEP IED	Programme Officer, Pollution and Health Unit	Contributed to implementation	M
UNEP IED	Project Officer	Contributed to implementation	M
UNEP CSD	Finance Officer	Finance and Budget management	F
UNEP IED	Admin Officer	Finance and Admin support	F
UNEP PDD	Asia Pacific Regional Coordinator	Regional Coordination	F
UNEP ROLAC	LAC Regional Coordinator CPA	Regional Coordination	M
UNEP ROE	Regional Coordinator CPA	Regional Coordination	M
UNEP ROAP	Regional Coordinator CPA	Regional Coordination	M
BRS Secretariat	Programme Officer	Contributed to implementation	F
UNEP IED, Knowledge and Risks Unit	Programme Officer	Contributed to implementation	F
UNEP EWAD	Programme Officer	Contributed to implementation	
WHO	Technical Officer	Contributed to implementation	F
Pure Earth	Programme Manager	Contributed to implementation	F
UNEP	Admin Officer	Finance and Admin Support	F

ANNEX III. KEY DOCUMENTS CONSULTED

Project outputs – Overall

- Review Terms of Reference
- UNEP Evaluation Manual (2023), UNEP Evaluation Policy (2022)
- Glossary of Key Terms in Evaluation and Results-Based Management (2023)
- Original Project Document (2018)
- Project agreements and amendments thereof
- PIRs/progress reports (annual)
- IPMR generated report (2023)
- Project budget and expenditure tracking reports (2023)
- Project reprogramming (2019)
- Co-financing documentation (2022)
- UNEP organigramme tables
- UNEP MTS 2018-2021, UNEP MTS 2022-2025
- Programmes of Work (PoW) 2018-2019, 2020-2021, 2022-2023

Project outputs work package 1:

- UNEP. (2020). *Environmental and health impacts of pesticides and fertilizers and ways of minimizing them: Summary for policymakers.*
- UNEP. (2021). *Africa guidance document on environmentally sound management of used lead acid batteries (ULABs).*
- UNEP. (2023). *Bracing for superbugs: Strengthening environmental action in the One Health response to antimicrobial resistance.*

Project outputs work package 2:

- UNEP. (2022). ChemObs synthesis report: Results of calculator's pilot testing (Cost of Inaction and Risk & Vulnerability Calculators).

Project outputs work package 3:

- Quadripartite MoU (2022)
- FAO, UNEP, WHO & WOA. (2022). One Health Joint Plan of Action (2022–2026): Working together for the health of humans, animals, plants and the environment.
- Media publication: The third Inter-Ministerial Conference on Health & Environment: Working at the intersection of health and environment, November 2018, Libreville.
- UNEP. (2023). *Guide to implementing the One Health Joint Plan of Action at the National Level.*

Project outputs work package 4:

- BeatPollution Campaign - <https://www.unep.org/beatpollution/>
- Breathe Life global campaign - <https://breathelife2030.org/>

Project outputs work package 5:

- UNEA Resolution 3/4 (Environment and Health)
United Nations Environment Assembly (2017).
(UNEP/EA.3/Res.4)
- UNEA Resolution 3/9 (Eliminating exposure to lead paint and promoting environmentally sound management of waste lead-acid batteries). United Nations Environment Assembly (2017).
(UNEP/EA.3/Res.9)

- UNEA Resolution 4/2 - Health, Environment and Pollution United Nations Environment Assembly. (2019). (UNEP/EA.4/Res.2)
- Pollution Summary Report, Expert session for Chapter 4 (2021)

Previous reviews/evaluations:

- Project Revision 1 (2021) and Revision 2 (2022)
- Mid Term Review Report of August 2022

Others:

- UNEP Power Point presentations on the Implementation Plan shared in webinars.
- Global Environment Outlook 6: Summary for policymakers. UNEP (2019).
- Declaration of the Seventh Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health (2023)
- UNEP. (2023). UN System common approach to pollution: Toward a pollution-free planet (UNEP/EMG).
- UNEP. (2023). Global Framework on Chemicals: For a planet free of harm from chemicals and waste (Adopted at ICCM5, Bonn, Germany). United Nations Environment Programme.

ANNEX IV. REVIEW TERMS OF REFERENCE



Terms of reference

<i>Job Opening number</i>	:	24-United Nations Environment Programme-248697-Consultant
<i>Job Title</i>	:	Evaluation Consultant
<i>General Expertise</i>	:	Environmental Affairs
<i>Category</i>	:	Evaluation
<i>Department/ Office</i>	:	United Nations Environment Programme
<i>Organizational Unit</i>	:	UNEP ODED IED CHEM P&H

Purpose

The Pollution and Health Unit is seeking the services of an external expert to undertake a management led terminal review of a project on Environment, Health and Pollution, that has been implemented by the Unit. The consultant will report to the Head of the Pollution and Health Unit, and work under the guidance of the Evaluation Office.

Duties and Responsibilities

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system and serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment.

The overall objective of the UNEP's Economy Division is to encourage decision makers in government, local authorities and industry to develop and adopt policies, strategies and practices and technologies that promote sustainable patterns of consumption and production, make efficient use of natural resources, ensure safe management of chemicals and contribute to making trade and environment policies mutually supportive. It promotes the development, use and transfer of policies, technologies, economic instruments, managerial practices and other tools that assist in environmentally sound decision making and the building of corresponding activities.

The Pollution and Health Unit of the Chemicals and Health Branch leads the implementation of the Pollution and Health coordination project, and provides a coordinating hub within UNEP for addressing environment and health nexus issues. The Unit also coordinates the Air Quality Programme of UNEP. In its coordination role, the Unit promotes a common narrative, enhanced visibility and prioritization of action to address pollution and the environment and health nexus to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

The objective of the contract is to conduct a final evaluation of the project "Environment, Health and Pollution" implemented by the Pollution and Health Unit. Soraya Smaoun, O.i.C

Pollution & Health Unit Coordinator – Air Quality, Industry and Economy Division, UNEP**Outputs (3 reports in total):**

1. Inception Report (as per document: 05_TR Inception Report Structure and Contents).
2. Draft Terminal Review Report (as per document: 06_TR Main Review Report Structure and Contents) shared with Evaluation Office and Head, Pollution and Health Unit.
3. Final Terminal Review Report.

Performance indicators:

The consultant will be assessed in their ability to deliver expected results in line with contract expectations and timelines.

1. All outputs and reports are to be provided to relevant project staff electronically.
2. All reports should be approved by the Head of the Pollution and Health Unit.
3. The final report should also be provided to the evaluation office for approval.

Ultimate result of service

Terminal review report completed and approved by the evaluation office.

Travel Details

N/A

Travel	Per Diem	Other	Total
0	0	0	0

Output/Work Assignments

1. Date: 30 June 2025: USD5,000.00

Submission of inception report and presentation of preliminary findings and recommendations based on interviews, review of documents and other methods

2. Date: 15-August 2025 USD10,000.00

Draft terminal review report shared with project manager, evaluation office, and wider group of stakeholders

3. Date 30-September-2025 USD10,000

Final terminal review report approved by evaluation office and shared with all respondents

Contract Duration

Overall Contract Duration: 4 months

ANNEX V. ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS ASSESSMENT

ESS PLANNING AT PROJECT DESIGN	
List any ESS issues identified at project design (e.g. SS 1.7, SS 2.3, etc.) ⁴⁰	N/A The project was categorised as low risk given its focus on knowledge generation, capacity building, and coordination to prevent pollution for better environment quality and the health and well-being of all.
For any ESS issues identified at project design, were <u>mitigation strategies</u> developed (Y/N)? (If yes, briefly describe)	N/A
Were any <u>gaps</u> in ESS issues identified at the review inception phase (Y/N)? (If yes, briefly describe)	N/A The MTR conducted in 2022 did not flag any additional ESS concerns beyond the low risk category.
ESS MONITORING AT PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION	
Is there evidence that the potential emergence of ESS issues was actively <u>monitored</u> during project implementation (Y/N)? ⁴¹ (If yes, briefly describe)	No. Low risk category.
Is there a justification for the absence of ESS monitoring (Y/N)? (If yes, briefly describe) ⁴²	N/A
MANAGEMENT RESPONSIVENESS DURING PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION	
Identify the ESS issues/events <u>triggered</u> ⁴³ by the project. ⁴⁴	N/A
Describe <u>consequences</u> of ESS issues/events during project implementation.	N/A
Describe the management response and identify supporting documentation. ^{45, 46}	N/A
Were negative ESS effects offset by management response (Y/N)? (If yes, briefly describe)	N/A

⁴⁰ Select from the list of Environmental and Social Safeguards Risks in Table 1 of the template (tool 14, Safeguards Assessment Template).

⁴¹ **Low risk:** Negative impacts minimal or negligible: no further study or impact management required.

Moderate risk: Potential negative impacts, but limited in scale, not unprecedented or irreversible and generally limited to programme/project area; impacts amenable to management using standard mitigation measures; limited environmental or social analysis may be required to develop an Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP). Straightforward application of good practice may be sufficient without additional study.

High risk: Potential for significant negative impacts (e.g. irreversible, unprecedented, cumulative, significant stakeholder concerns); Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) (or Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA)) including a full impact assessment may be required, followed by an effective comprehensive safeguard management plan.

⁴² For instance, during COVID, access to the field may have been restricted

⁴³ 'Triggered' refers to environmental or social issues/events that are caused or exacerbated—directly or indirectly—as a result of the project's activities, interventions, or presence.

⁴⁴ Select from the list of Environmental and Social Safeguards Risks in Table 1 of the template (tool 14, Safeguards Assessment Template).

⁴⁵ For most low-moderate risk projects, good practice approach may be sufficient. Project should demonstrate safeguard management approach in the project activities, budget, risks management, stakeholder engagement or/and monitoring segments of the project document to avoid or minimize the identified potential risks without preparing a separate safeguard management plan.

⁴⁶ E.g., GEF Project Implementation Report (PIR), Progress Report, Minutes, etc.

ANNEX VI. COMMUNICATION AND OUTREACH TOOLS

- The results of this review will be disseminated via the UNEP Evaluation Office website and a PowerPoint presentation with the review findings to UNEP and project partners, such as WHO, as required.
- United Nations Environment Programme. (n.d.). *Evaluation Office*. UNEP. <https://www.unep.org/evaluation-office>

ANNEX VII. BUDGET SUMMARY (2018)

The following budget describes the breakdown of planned costs, the regional budget and the divisional budget (Prodoc, 2018).

TYPE OF FUNDING	SOURCE OF FUNDING	Details	Year 1 (2018)	Year 2 (2019)	Year 3 (2020)	Year 4 (2021)	Year 5 (2022)	Total
CASH	Environment Fund (EF) activity budget			-				
	Regular Budget (RB) activity budget							
	Extra Budgetary Funding (XB) (posts + non-post + Programme Support Cost (PSC))	Secured	180,626	404,060				584,686
		Left from PPP on NFL						
		\$ 146,000 NFL (envt and health) (PSC 8%)	30,240	115,760				146,000
		\$147,000 NFL (economics of pollution) (PSC 8%)	43,200	103,800				147,000
		\$147,000 NFL (toxic pollution exposure of the most vulnerable) (PSC 8%)		147,000				147,000
		\$75,000 NFL (BreatheLife) (PSC 8%)	37,500	37,500				75,000
		\$ 69,686 French (PSC 13%)	69,686					69,686
		Programme Support Cost on Secured funds	16,235	29,930				46,165
		Unsecured XB funding	180,000	770,000				4,550,000
		\$110,000 USD Sweden (PSC 13%)	110,000					110,000
		\$340,000 EC (PSC 7%)	70,000	270,000				340,000
		Other unsecured		500,000	1,200,000	1,200,000	1,200,000	4,100,000
		XB Sub-total	360,626	1,174,060	1,200,000	1,200,000	1,200,000	5,134,686

Regional budget	Africa			100,000	150,000	150,000	150,000
	Europe						
	Asia Pacific			100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
	West Asia			20,000			
	Latin America and the Caribbean				40,000		40,000
	North America						
Divisional budget	Science		20,000	60,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
	Ecosystems		16,200	58,800			
	Law						
	Communications		41,600	83,400	50,000	50,000	50,000
	Economy						

Source: Prodoc 2018.

ANNEX VIII. BRIEF CV OF THE REVIEWER

Name	Marcia Sumire
Profession	Independent Consultant, International Development Expert
Nationality	Brazilian
Country experience	• Europe: Russia, UK • Africa: South Africa • Americas: USA, Costa Rica, Dominica, and Amazon Countries (Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname, and Venezuela) • Asia: China, Thailand
Education	• Master's in Global Development Practice, Harvard University. • Master's in Project Management, Fundação Getulio Vargas. • PRINCE2Agile certified professional.

Short biography

Marcia Sumire is an international development professional with 17 years of experience implementing projects in developing countries to advance Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs).

The consultant's main areas of work include sustainable production and consumption, circular economy, low-carbon agriculture, sustainable cities, resource efficiency, reducing food waste, and increasing food security. In addition to her role as project evaluator, Marcia works as a fundraising and partnerships officer.

Selected assignments and experiences: Marcia has worked with UNIDO as a Policy Expert on the *Sustainable Fertilizers Project*, and with UNEP as a Programme Manager. She has also contributed to UNDP's *Green Economy Programme*, and the UK FCDO's initiatives on *Improving Waste Management and Sustainable Cities*. Marcia has conducted evaluations of environmental projects for UNESCO, the UK Prosperity Fund and the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO), apart from UNEP.

In summary, Marcia has worked on environment projects for 11 years for the UK FCDO and 6 years for UN agencies, including projects funded by the Green Climate Fund (GCF), Global Environment Facility (GEF), Mitigation Action fund (MAF), and the UK International Climate Fund (ICF).

ANNEX IX. MID-TERM REVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTIONS

Synthesis of the 2022 MTR recommendations and actions taken by the PHU.

MTR Recommendation	Response/Action Taken
1. The recommendations from the pesticides and fertilizers report and the antimicrobial resistance report should be translated into a set of activities that could be implemented at country and regional levels to help government make greater use of the research.	Work in this area has been integrated into new project document on Chemicals, Environment and Health, into a new UNEA resolution on Highly Hazardous Pesticides (6/11) and into the work of the Source to Sea Pollution, particularly by being considered in implementation of activities on sustainable nitrogen management.
2. While the Beatpollution and Breathelife campaigns have been getting traction globally, the project should implement a system to monitor the implementation of government and city commitments with the awareness campaigns.	This did not take place for BeatPollution commitments – which included those made under Breathelife - given that they were not comparable among each other and more communication than policy-oriented.
3. To better build the case against on environmental pollution and its impact on health, selecting a group of UN Environment Programme biodiversity projects across the globe could be beneficial and assessing their effects on health. The projects used for that purpose will serve as case studies when drafting a strategy to scale up the initiative across all relevant projects.	The links between biodiversity and health and climate and health have been explored in many reports, briefing notes, web articles. The links between climate, biodiversity and pollution are highlighted in UNEA Resolutions (e.g. 5/6), UNEP MTS/POW and are the basis of many projects (e.g. extreme clear and air pollution, Climate and Clean Air Coalition, nitrogen management, pesticides, one health etc.)
4. Because this is a capacity-building project, it involves many institutional but also individual beneficiaries. Therefore, a database of those stakeholders as well as pre the project should be kept in post-training reports for future verification purposes and inventory reasons in case UNEP would like to determine the outreach of its interventions and identify the places that have not been covered at a given point.	Stakeholders were kept in UNEP records.
5. The project should design and implement a strategy to scale up the use of the ChemObs calculator, and countries should be accompanied to use them in the next phase of the project.	This is part of discussions within GEF programming. In general, funding for environment and health collaboration has been limited, thus making work in this area challenging.
6. The project results framework is quite gender-blind. It is recommended that UNEP tries to better streamline gender in its work by explaining how activities and results will enrol and benefit both men and women.	UNEP has made efforts to integrate gender more strongly in all new projects. New initiatives such as GFC include a dedicated gender strategy.
7. In several instances, the target countries and cities that are reported in the PIMS and other project documents have not been explicitly targeted in the project document. The determination of the project targets should be more systematic. UNEP should think more	Implemented in new projects which clearly list countries of actual focus.

MTR Recommendation	Response/Action Taken
about what it plans to do based on a thorough analysis.	
8. UNEP's work in raising awareness among young people through a package of educational materials has not yet been completed. Because this is important in supporting the young generations to adopt recommended attitudes, the project could, in this or its next phase, complete that task and spearhead its implementation across the globe.	Youth has become a more dedicated focus of UNEP overall. Pollution, including AMR, have been addressed during a youth assembly before UNEA6- including.
9. While the private sector was identified as a critical player during the project design phase, very little seems to have been completed with them. The project should identify more critical ways and activities to enrol private sector actors in the overall strategy to beat environmental pollution.	The UNEP overall strategy (MTS 2022-25 and 2026-29) has a strong focus on private sector. UNEP projects on plastics, electronics, textiles among others work closely with the private sector.

ANNEX X. IMPLEMENTATION PLAN OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Project Title and Reference No.: Environment Health and Pollution Project PIMS 02021

Contact Person (TM/PM):

RECOMMENDATIONS	PLANS			
	ACCEPTED (YES/NO/ PARTIALLY)	WHAT WILL BE DONE?	EXPECTED COMPLETION DATE	REPOSIBLE OFFICER/ UNIT/ DIVISION/ AGENCY
Recommendation 1: UNEP to expand country-Level engagement in future EHP projects. UNEP to expand engagement at the national level by leveraging partnerships established under the current project to support the translation of MEAs and UNEA resolutions into local action. Future initiatives could prioritise a targeted set of countries that reflect a range of implementation contexts, ecosystem services, and sectoral challenges. Entry points include existing coordination mechanisms such as UNSDCFs and UNEP's regional and national office networks.	Yes	Recommendation will be considered for future projects, including exploring UN coordination mechanisms at the country level such as the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (UNSDCF).	This project was finalized in 2023. Therefore, the recommendations apply to future projects.	Industry and Economy Division (IED) Pollution and Health Unit (PHU) Unit Coordinator
Recommendation 2: to expand sectoral and thematic focus Building on the experience of this global umbrella project, UNEP to adopt a more defined sectoral and thematic focus in future initiatives. This would strengthen technical engagement, support policy uptake at regional and national levels, and facilitate collaboration with ministries and stakeholders in priority economic sectors. Additionally, a more focused project design could enhance UNEP's capacity to mobilise co-financing, develop local relevant solutions, and establish more robust monitoring frameworks. Relevant thematic and sectoral areas include food systems, land use change, and sustainable cities (waste management, circular economy).	Yes	Future projects can explore these opportunities while remaining aligned with UNEP's integrated mandate.	An ongoing learning. Deadline not applicable.	IED PHU Unit Coordinator

RECOMMENDATIONS	PLANS			
	ACCEPTED (YES/NO/ PARTIALLY)	WHAT WILL BE DONE?	EXPECTED COMPLETION DATE	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER/ UNIT/ DIVISION/ AGENCY
Recommendation 3: expand partnerships with the Private Sector UNEP to expand partnerships with the private sector, a critical stakeholder for advancing environment, health, and pollution action). The project reported initial engagement with private sector actors (Chapter 4). This engagement could be expanded through existing private sector networks, particularly those linked to UN sister agencies delivering the same goals (SDGs 3, 6, 7, 11, 12, and 17). Entry points include liaising with the UN Global Compact Forward Faster Platform and UNDP's Philanthropy Platform.	Yes	Recommendation will be considered for future projects, including exploring entry points in the UN system and new philanthropic organisations supporting this topic such as the Climate and Health Funders Coalition.	Deadline not applicable.	IED PHU Unit Coordinator
Recommendation 4: scale up technical tools developed by this project. UNEP is encouraged to scale up the capacity-building tools developed under Output 3 by extending their use to additional regions. Interview feedback informed that governments are seeking cost-effective and scalable policy tools to support the implementation of complex UNEA mandates. These tools should be positioned as complementary to global platforms such as WHR, UNITAR, and the ClimaHealth Coalition, rather than stand-alone resources.	Yes	Recommendation will be considered for future projects.	Deadline not applicable.	IED PHU Unit Coordinator
Recommendation 5: engage marginalised groups as a target audience UNEP is encouraged to more intentionally engage marginalised groups (women, youth, Indigenous Peoples, and local communities) as stakeholders in future project design and implementation. These groups face disproportionate environmental health risks yet hold Indigenous and Local Knowledge (ILK) relevant to formulate effective interventions. In outputs such as knowledge generation (e.g., Output 1), UNEP could promote co-production of knowledge through participatory methods, inclusive policy processes, and engagement in research. UNEP is also well	Yes	Recommendation will be considered for future projects.	Deadline not applicable.	IED PHU Unit Coordinator

RECOMMENDATIONS	PLANS			
	ACCEPTED (YES/NO/ PARTIALLY)	WHAT WILL BE DONE?	EXPECTED COMPLETION DATE	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER/ UNIT/ DIVISION/ AGENCY
positioned to support ILK inclusion in the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution (ISP-CWP).				
Recommendation 6: apply Systems Thinking to refine the Theory of Change (ToC) During project design, it is recommended to complement the Theory of Change (ToC) with a systems thinking approach (Meadows, 2008) to enhance the analysis of drivers, assumptions, and stakeholder interdependencies. This approach can reveal additional leverage points for more targeted and cost-effective interventions for UNEP. For example, the inclusion of a dedicated output on financing, which could be co-designed with UNEP-FI, could strengthen project logic and increase the likelihood of delivering impact.	Yes	Adding a systems thinking exercise during project design will be considered for future projects.	Deadline not applicable.	IED PHU Unit Coordinator
Recommendation 7: expand and systematise the resource mobilisation strategy The planned project budget was limited relative to the project's multi-level ambition and intended outcome. To improve the likelihood of success in future initiatives of similar scope, UNEP could develop a structured resource mobilisation strategy, commensurate with the project's ambition, during the design phase. Strategic entry points for cross-sectoral financing could include climate adaptation, urban resilience (where climate change, air and water pollution, and public health crises converge), sustainable food systems, waste and plastic pollution, and nature-based solutions with co-benefits for health.	Yes	Recommendation will be considered for future projects.		IED PHU Unit Coordinator

ANNEX XI. QUALITY ASSESSMENT OF THE REVIEW REPORT

Quality Assessment of the Terminal Review Report

Review Title: Terminal Review of the UNEP Project Environment, Health and Pollution (ID PIMS 02021) 2018 – 2023

Consultant: Marcia Sumire

All UNEP Reviews are subject to a quality assessment by the UNEP Evaluation Office. This is an assessment of the quality of the review product (i.e. Main Review Report).

Report Quality Criteria	UNEP Evaluation Office Comments	Final Report Rating
Section A: Executive Summary	Assessment	
1. Does the <i>Executive Summary</i> act as a concise, accurate standalone section, especially to inform decision-making? Consider how clearly and concisely the report presents: - a clear summary of the review object - review objectives, scope and methodology - the overall project review rating - a summary of main review findings, including key features of performance (strengths and weaknesses) - summary responses to key strategic review questions - summary of main conclusions, lessons learned and recommendations	<u>Coverage/omissions:</u> The executive summary covers all key components except for the summary response to key strategic review questions. <u>Strengths/weaknesses:</u> What has been done well is that the section is clearly articulated, including key elements of the executive summary. However, the section is overly lengthy, and a more concise summary of the conclusions - particularly the lessons learned and recommendations - would have strengthened the section. In addition, providing the summary of the response to key strategic review questions or at least cross-reference, would have been beneficial.	5
Section B: The Project	Assessment	
2. Does the report clearly describe the <i>key parameters, scale and complexity of the evaluation</i>? Consider how well the report presents: - an overview of the main issue that the project is trying to address - timeline, including dates of project approval, duration and number of phases (where appropriate) - geographic coverage (regions/countries) - total secured budget and project financing, including a table with funding sources - implementing and funding partners - institutional context (i.e. UNEP sub-programme, Division, Branch etc) - implementation structure with diagram - UNEP results frameworks to which it contributes (e.g. PoW Direct Outcome) - summary of results framework as stated in the ProDoc (or as officially revised)	<u>Coverage/omissions:</u> The section addresses all key elements. <u>Strengths/weaknesses:</u> All sub-sections are succinctly and clearly articulated, including the key information relevant to each sub-section, as well as supporting diagrams and tables. However, the stakeholder analysis does not address the beneficiaries. Although the Limitation section later explains the limited engagement with beneficiaries due to the absence of a field visit, the stakeholder analysis itself could have acknowledged their role and relevance.	5.5

Report Quality Criteria	UNEP Evaluation Office Comments	Final Report Rating
- stakeholder groups organised according to relevant common characteristics - whether the project has been evaluated in the past (e.g. mid-term, by an external agency, etc.) - substantive or significant changes in design during implementation		
Section C: Review Methods and Theory of Change	Assessment	
3. Does the report present a clear, comprehensive and adequate description of the review methodology? Consider how well it presents the following elements, and their adequacy based on the scope of the review: - statement of the purpose of the review and the key intended audience for the review findings - data collection methods and information sources - justification for methods used (e.g. electronic/face-to-face interviews, qualitative/quantitative analysis) - criteria and sampling strategies used to select stakeholders for consultations, and for sites/countries visited - number and types of respondents (<i>including in a table broken down by gender</i>) - strategies used to increase stakeholder engagement and response rate - methods used to include the voices/experiences of different and potentially excluded groups (e.g. women, marginalised) - data verification methods (e.g. triangulation) - data analysis methods (e.g. scoring, thematic analysis) - review limitations and mitigation measures (e.g. how these were addressed by the evaluator) - consideration for ethics and human rights issues, including how anonymity and confidentiality were protected	<u>Coverage/omissions</u> : The section covers all key elements except for methods to ensure the inclusion of the voices/experiences of different and potentially excluded groups. <u>Strengths/weaknesses</u>: The section clearly outlines most of key elements for the review methodology, including data collection methods, a table of respondents, data analysis, ethics as well limitations. However, justification for not conducting field visits and for not sampling beneficiaries for semi-structured could have been more explicitly described under the sub- section (B.Data collection).	5.5
4. Does the report describe an assessment and reformulation of the Theory of Change, and present an adequate articulation of the TOC causal pathways that were used to assess project performance (<i>narratively and diagrammatically</i>)? Consider how well the report presents: whether the project design included a TOC	<u>Coverage/omissions</u>: The section covers key components, including description and analysis of the ToC, including standard tables. However, the articulation of causal pathways and the identification of key actors in the change process are missing. <u>Strengths/weaknesses</u>: The review notes that the original ToC was broadly coherent with the project's purpose at the design stage despite some limitations, thus it was retained for this review. Some drivers and assumptions have been expanded, and they are clearly presented in	3.5

Report Quality Criteria	UNEP Evaluation Office Comments	Final Report Rating
- how the <i>TOC at review</i> ⁴⁷ was designed (e.g. who was involved, etc) - confirmation/reconstruction of results in accordance with UNEP definitions (<i>including reformulation table, which may have initially been presented in the Inception Report and should appear in the Main review report.</i>) - articulation of causal pathways - identification of drivers and assumptions - identification of key actors in the change process	Table 15. However, the expanded drivers and assumptions could have been reflected by restructuring the ToC. In addition, human rights and gender equality dimensions are not reflected in the expanded assumptions. The review also could have considered certain adjustments or improvements to align the ToC with UNEP's glossary of result definitions. Several original results in particular most of outputs appear to reflect outcome-level changes or mixed-level such as behavioural changes and uptake, which should have been clarified. Furthermore, as the report acknowledges the need for the SMART outcome indicators, given the broad original outcome indicator, it would have been more useful to propose potential indicators rather than simply stating that no changes were made. Finally, an analysis on missing elements would have further enhanced the section.	
Section D: Evidence and Analysis	Assessment	
5. Is the report based on <i>sufficient and adequate data</i> and <i>clear and credible evidence</i>? Consider how well the report presents: - sufficient evidence that is consistent throughout the report - evidence that is supported by data sources (e.g. quotes, reports, etc) - evidence that is explicitly triangulated, unless noted as having a single source - gaps in data are explained and justified - data sources that are reliable, adequate, sufficient for the scope of the review	<u>Coverage/omissions:</u> The finding section covers all criteria by presenting evidence triangulated in multiple sources. <u>Strengths/weaknesses:</u> The analysis is succinctly and clearly articulated across the finding sections. The report presents analytical findings and evidence based on triangulation of the sources that are reliable, adequate, and sufficient. It also explains gaps in data such as general and broad outcome and its indicator has been explained. However, a more discussion on pilot country-level analysis would have further strengthen the findings.	5
6. Does the report include <i>rigorous analysis</i> and <i>logical findings</i>? Consider the extent to which the findings are: - supported by clear analysis that is consistent with the evidence presented - logical, clear and coherent - aligned with UNEP's Criteria Ratings Matrix - aligned with the review framework - more than descriptions and provide insights into 'how' and/or 'why' the	<u>Coverage/omissions:</u> No omitted sub-sections or criteria are not identified across the finding section. <u>Strengths/weaknesses:</u> The report is supported by clear analysis that is consistent with the evidence presented. The analysis generally logical, clear, and coherent while ensuring balanced presenting both strengths and weaknesses. However, some criteria could have been revisited to better align with UNEP's criteria	4.5

⁴⁷ During the Inception Phase of the Review process a *TOC at Review Inception* is created based on the information contained in the approved project documents (these may include either logical framework or a TOC or narrative descriptions), formal revisions and annual reports etc. During the review process this TOC is revised based on changes made during project intervention and becomes the *TOC at Review*.

Report Quality Criteria	UNEP Evaluation Office Comments	Final Report Rating
- project performed a certain way - balanced, presenting both successes and weaknesses	rating matrix. For instance, overall rating for criteria should be determined based on ratings of sub-criteria in accordance with the weighted rating scale. Some criteria would have been enhanced by explicitly presenting based on rating matrix as well.	
Section E: Review Findings	Assessment	
7. Does the report present evidence and analysis of project Strategic Relevance with respect to UNEP, partner and geographic policies and strategies at the time of project approval? Consider how well the report addresses: - Alignment to the UNEP Medium Term Strategy (MTS), Programme of Work (POW) and Strategic Priorities - Alignment to Donor/GEF/Partners Strategic Priorities - Relevance to Regional, Sub-regional and National Environmental Priorities - Complementarity with Existing Interventions: complementarity of the project at design (or during inception/mobilisation⁴⁸), with other interventions addressing the needs of the same target groups.	<u>Coverage/omissions:</u> The section presents findings for the key criteria including standard tables for the section. <u>Strengths/weaknesses:</u> The section is clearly and succinctly articulated based on evidence. The ratings in the narrative text and the summary table should be consistent, and the overall rating for the section should be determined in accordance with the weighted rating scale.	6
8. Does the report present a summary of the strengths and weaknesses of the Quality of Project Design, based on the detailed assessment presented in the Inception Report?	<u>Coverage/omissions:</u> The section covers all sub-sections including a summary rating table. <u>Strengths/weaknesses:</u> The section is well articulated and presents an evidence-based analysis for each element of project design, including summary of strengths and weaknesses.	No rating
9. Does the report recognise and describe, when appropriate, key features of the Nature of the External Context under which the project was implemented that limited the project's performance (e.g. conflict, natural disaster, political upheaval⁴⁹), and how they affected performance?	<u>Coverage/omissions:</u> The section presents the nature of the external context <u>Strengths/weaknesses:</u> The report identifies several external contextual factors, such as COVID-19 pandemic, geopolitical tensions and economic slowdowns in several regions. However, a more explicit pilot country-level analysis would have strengthen this section	No rating
10. Does the report present a well-reasoned, complete and evidence-based assessment of the Availability of Outputs to the intended beneficiaries? Consider how well the report presents:	<u>Coverage/omissions:</u> The section addresses all outputs including Table 14. <u>Strengths/weaknesses:</u>	5

⁴⁸ A project's inception or mobilization period is understood as the time between project approval and first disbursement. Complementarity during project implementation is considered under Efficiency, see below.

⁴⁹ Note that 'political upheaval' does not include regular national election cycles, but unanticipated unrest or prolonged disruption. The potential delays or changes in political support that are often associated with the regular national election cycle should be part of the project's design and addressed through adaptive management of the project team.

Report Quality Criteria	UNEP Evaluation Office Comments	Final Report Rating
- a convincing, evidence-supported and clear presentation of the outputs made available by the project compared to its approved plans and budget - assessment of the nature and scale of outputs versus the project indicators and targets - assessment of the timeliness, quality and utility of outputs to intended beneficiaries - identification of positive or negative effects of the project on disadvantaged groups, including those with specific needs due to gender, vulnerability or marginalisation (e.g. through disability).	The section is succinctly articulated and presents evidence by triangulating different sources. In addition, the assessment addresses the identification of limited systematic attention to disadvantaged groups. However, the quantitative information against targets for Output 2 and Output 4 would have improved the clarity. In addition, more discussion on the quality of outputs would have further strengthened the section.	
11. Does the report present a well-reasoned, complete and evidence-based assessment of the Achievement of Outcomes, as a result of the uptake, adoption and/or implementation of outputs by the intended beneficiaries? This may include behaviour changes at an individual or collective level. Consider how well the report presents: - a convincing and evidence-supported analysis of the uptake of outputs by intended beneficiaries - assessment of the nature, depth and scale of outcomes versus the project indicators and targets - discussion of the contribution, credible association and/or attribution of outcome level changes to the work of the project itself - any constraints to attributing effects to the projects' work - identification of positive or negative effects of the project on disadvantaged groups, including those with specific needs due to gender, vulnerability or marginalisation (e.g. through disability).	<u>Coverage/omissions:</u> The section addresses the outcome achievements including Table 14. <u>Strengths/weaknesses:</u> The report presents evidence demonstrating the achievement of one outcome, while explaining the limitation resulting from the broad indicator and limitation of structured results-monitoring system at the outcome level. The report also identified constraints to contributing effects to the project's work. However, although the report indicates that the outcome result as 'achieved', the lack of target information makes it impossible to clearly determine the level of outcome achievement, either partially or fully achieved in Table 1. In Table 15, however, achievement level is indicated as 'some'	5
12. Does the report present an integrated analysis, guided by the causal pathways represented by the TOC, of all evidence relating to Likelihood of Impact? Consider how well the report presents: - an explanation of how causal pathways emerged and the resulting change processes - an explicit discussion of how drivers and assumptions played out - an explanation of roles played by key actors and change agents - identification of any unintended negative effects of the project, especially on disadvantaged groups, including those with specific needs due to gender, vulnerability or marginalisation (e.g. through disability).	<u>Coverage/omissions:</u> The section includes the narrative assessment and Table 15. <u>Strengths/weaknesses:</u> The section clearly demonstrated the findings including level of achievements of outputs, outcomes and intermediate states. However, assumptions and drivers could have been more explicitly analysed, in alignment with expanded assumptions and drivers identified and proposed in Table 8.	4

Report Quality Criteria	UNEP Evaluation Office Comments	Final Report Rating
13. Does the report present an integrated analysis of all dimensions evaluated under Financial Management and include a completed 'financial management' table? Consider how well the report addresses the following: • <i>adherence</i> to UNEP's financial policies and procedures • <i>completeness</i> of financial information, including the actual project costs and actual co-financing used and explanation of any variances between planned and actual expenditures	<u>Coverage/omissions:</u> The report addresses all key sub-criteria. <u>Strengths/weaknesses:</u> The section succinctly and clearly presents the findings, demonstrating triangulation of multiple sources. In addition, the section includes the analysis on budget targets dedicated to GESI actions. However, the report could have been improved by addressing timeliness of financial procedures (e.g. submission of financial reports, disbursements, etc.).	5.5
14. Does the report present an integrated analysis of all dimensions evaluated under Efficiency? Consider how well the report presents: • cost-effective or time-saving measures put in place to maximise results within the secured budget and agreed project timeframe • implications of any delays and no cost extensions • discussion of making use, during project implementation, of/building on pre-existing institutions, partnerships and complementarities with other initiatives, programmes and projects etc. • the extent to which the management of the project minimised UNEP's environmental footprint.	<u>Coverage/omissions:</u> The section addresses key elements required; however, analysis of UNEP's environmental footprint and implications of any delays and no-cost extensions, could have been included. <u>Strengths/weaknesses:</u> The section demonstrates the cost-effectiveness through evidence-based analysis. In particular, the report clearly explains how the project leveraged existing partnerships, coordination mechanisms, and regional platform, resulting in reduced costs, delivery of outputs with fewer finance resources than originally planned. However, the section could have been strengthened by addressing the components that were omitted from the analysis.	4.5
15. Does the report present a well-reasoned, complete and evidence-based assessment of the project's Monitoring and Reporting? Consider how well the report addresses the following: • the quality of <i>monitoring of project implementation</i> (including use of monitoring data for adaptive management) • the quality of <i>project reporting</i> (e.g. PIMS and donor reports)	<u>Coverage/omissions:</u> The section covers all key components, quality of monitoring of project implementation and quality of project reporting. <u>Strengths/weaknesses:</u> The section is clearly articulated and demonstrates evidence-based analysis, acknowledging strengths and limitations of monitoring and reporting. However, a deeper analysis on the limitations on baseline data and or project implementation data would have been beneficial.	5.5
16. Does the report present an integrated analysis of all dimensions evaluated under Sustainability (i.e. the endurance of benefits achieved at outcome level)? Consider how well the report addresses the following: • socio-political sustainability • financial sustainability • institutional sustainability	<u>Coverage/omissions:</u> The section addresses all sub-criteria. <u>Strengths/weaknesses:</u> The section is succinctly articulated and presents evidence across all required perspectives on sustainability. In particular, the analysis of socio-political sustainability is well developed, covering both regional and country level analysis dimensions.	4.5

Report Quality Criteria	UNEP Evaluation Office Comments	Final Report Rating
	However, the section could have been further strengthened by including more pilot country-specific analysis and evidence. In addition, deeper discussion on national ownership in the context of socio-political sustainability, as well as the inclusion of exit strategies related to financial and sustainability, would have provided a more comprehensive assessment.	
17. Does the report present a well-evidence analysis of the <i>Factors Affecting Performance</i>, either in this section or in cross-referenced sections? <i>These factors are not always discussed in stand-alone sections and may be integrated in the other performance criteria as appropriate. However, if not addressed substantively in this section, a cross reference must be given to where the topic is addressed, and that entry must be sufficient to justify the performance rating for these factors.</i> Consider how well the report addresses the following cross-cutting issues: • quality of project management and supervision⁵⁰ • stakeholder participation and co-operation • responsiveness to human rights and gender equality • environmental and social safeguards • country ownership and driven-ness • communication and public awareness	<u>Coverage/omissions:</u> The section addresses all sub-factors affecting performance, with no omitted finding, and is broadly aligned with the latest reporting template and guidance. However, Table 17 does not reflect the most recent criteria, by including other criteria in the previous format. <u>Strengths/weaknesses:</u> The section is well articulated and presents an evidence-based analysis supported by triangulation. However, several sub-factors could have been improved. For instance, the overall rating for quality of project management and supervision should be derived from two relevant sub-factors. In the area of responsiveness to human rights and gender, the analysis would have been improved by including information on related project expenditure and the gender marker/score. Lastly, more analysis on country ownership and driven-ness, particularly forwarded looking budget/plan, and provision of in-kind & cash co-financing would have further enhanced the quality of the section.	4.5
Section F: Conclusions, Lessons Learned and Recommendations	Assessment	
18. Do the <i>Conclusions</i> present a summative assessment of the evaluand as a whole, reflecting on prominent aspects of the project's performance? Consider how well the conclusions: • provide a compelling narrative and integrated assessment of project project's performance (i.e. achievements and limitations) • add deeper insights and analysis beyond the findings under each individual criterion • are derived from the synthesized analysis of evidence gathered during the review process • provide clear and succinct response to the key strategic questions • address the human rights and gender	<u>Coverage/omissions:</u> The conclusion section covers key components such as summary of synthesized analysis of the project's performance, ratings, and lessons learned. <u>Strengths/weaknesses:</u> The conclusion comprehensively articulate summary of the overall performance, strengths, weaknesses, providing deeper insights and analysis beyond findings. However, the section could have included the succinct response to the key strategic questions. In addition, lessons learned could have included more information of cross-references to the relevant paragraphs, not	4.5

⁵⁰ In some cases, 'project management and supervision' will refer to the supervision and guidance provided by UNEP to implementing partners and national governments while in others, specifically for GEF funded projects, it will refer to the project management performance of the executing agency and the technical backstopping provided by UNEP. This includes providing the answers to the questions on Core Indicator Targets, stakeholder engagement, gender responsiveness, safeguards and knowledge management, required for the GEF portal.

Report Quality Criteria	UNEP Evaluation Office Comments	Final Report Rating
dimensions of the intervention explicitly (e.g. how these dimensions were considered, addressed or impacted on) provide lessons that are rooted in real project experiences, describe the context from which they are derived, and do not duplicate recommendations	referencing the executive summary page or wrong pages.	
19. Does the report present <i>Recommendations</i> for specific action to be taken by identified people/position-holders to resolve concrete problems affecting the project or the sustainability of its results? Consider how well the recommendations: - are clearly formulated and logically derived from the findings and/or conclusions - are feasible to implement within the timeframe and resources available (including local capacities) and specific in terms of who would do what and when - include at least one recommendation relating to strengthening the human rights and gender dimensions of UNEP interventions - represent a measurable performance target in order that the Evaluation Office can monitor and assess compliance with the recommendations. NOTES: (i) In cases where the recommendation is addressed to a third party, compliance can only be monitored and assessed where a contractual/legal agreement remains in place. Without such an agreement, the recommendation should be formulated to say that UNEP project staff should pass on the recommendation to the relevant third party in an effective or substantive manner. The effective transmission by UNEP of the recommendation will then be monitored for compliance. (ii) Where a new project phase is already under discussion or in preparation with the same third party, a recommendation can be made to address the issue in the next phase.	<u>Coverage/omissions:</u> The recommendations section addresses most of key elements required for formulation recommendations. <u>Strengths/weaknesses:</u> The proposed recommendations are clearly formulated and logically derived from the findings and conclusions. However, the type of recommendation and cross-reference information could have been articulated to align with the recommendation guidance. The several recommendations (e.g. R1,R2, and R3) would have been presented in a more measurable manner.	5
Section G: Report Structure and Presentation	Assessment	
20. Is the report <i>well-structured and complete</i>? Does it: - follow the Evaluation Office structure and formatting guidelines - include all required sections and annexes, as applicable - not exceed 50 pages in length from the Executive Summary to the end of the Conclusion Does the report present information clearly and appropriately? Is it written:	<u>Coverage/omissions:</u> The report covers all sections including required Annexes in line with the latest review template while Table 17 includes several criteria and ratings (e.g. communication between finance and project management staff, monitoring design and budgeting, preparation and readiness)that are no longer included in the latest version. <u>Strengths/weaknesses:</u>	5

Report Quality Criteria	UNEP Evaluation Office Comments	Final Report Rating
• in clear and accessible language • largely free from grammar, spelling and punctuation errors • in an adequate and professional tone • with the use of visual aids, such as maps, graphs tables and photos	The report is well articulated in clear and accessible language, ensuring an easy flow of information. However, use of visual aids would have been useful. In addition, the relevant tools and tables and the version of the report template should be applied consistently throughout the document.	
OVERALL REPORT QUALITY RATING		5

A number rating 1-6 is used for each criterion: Highly Satisfactory = 6, Satisfactory = 5, Moderately Satisfactory = 4, Moderately Unsatisfactory = 3, Unsatisfactory = 2, Highly Unsatisfactory = 1. The overall quality of the review report is calculated by taking the mean score of all rated quality criteria.

Rating the Report Quality Criteria

Rating (1–6)	Description
6	Provides all content with high quality.
5	Provides all content with minor weaknesses.
4	Provides most content with minor weaknesses.
3	Provides most content with significant weaknesses.
2	Omits substantive content with significant weaknesses.
1	Omits almost all content with major weaknesses.